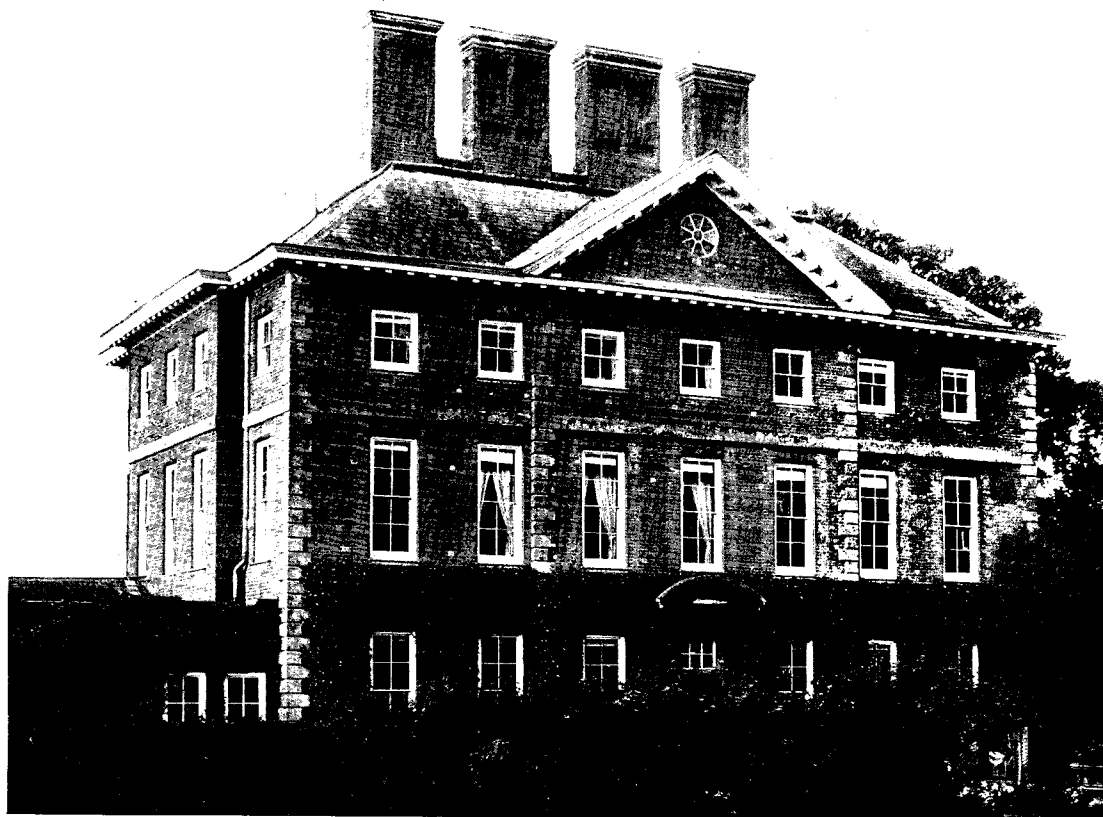


THE BUILDING OF WINSLOW HALL

The compression which Lysons had to apply to his "Magna Britannia" saved him from pitfalls; thus in speaking of Winslow he merely remarked: "Mr. Selby has a seat at Winslow which was built by Secretary Lowndes in the year 1700" (p. 668). When Lipscomb wrote forty years later he was less cautious, for after mentioning the "commodious plain brick edifice with a flight of several steps to the door, over which is the date of its erection, 1700, and the name of William Lowndes," he adds the fatal words "for whom it was built by Inigo Jones" (vol. III., p. 544). Sheahan blindly copied this blunder, Gibbs swallowed it in his usual easy way, the Dictionary of National Biography (art. Lowndes) fared no better, and a host of lesser lights went on repeating it until it occurred to someone that as Inigo Jones died in 1652 he could hardly have had much to do with the matter. Mr. A. Clear, Winslow's latest and best historian, saw the trap, and ascribed the house either to Wren or to Vanbrugh, who was brought into the neighbourhood when he designed the County Hall at Aylesbury.

The matter may have been brought nearer to a decision by the discovery of a full and most detailed account of the construction drawn up by, or for, the famous "Ways and Means Lowndes" himself. This is a foolscap book (14 inches by 9 inches), bound in the original parchment covers, with tape fastenings; the watermark of the paper is a fleur de lys surmounted by a crown, and with the initials W. R. (presumably referring to William III.) beneath. There are 79 pages numbered by hand and several blank leaves.

The book is in the possession of Mr. Norman McCorquodale, who has for many years been the owner of Winslow Hall, and the Society is indebted to him for permission to make use of the book, to prepare the plan, and to take the photographs which accompany this article.



WINSLOW HALL--NORTH FRONT.



WINSLOW HALL—SOUTH FRONT.

The first 56 pages consist of personal ledger accounts (as we should call them to-day). In the case of Richard Mapletoft, stonecutter, and John Yeomans, bricklayer, we have the full terms of the contracts under which they worked. The credit sides of these accounts contain the fullest possible details of the work carried out, and on several occasions there appears such an entry as the following:—

“M^d there was abated on this bill by judgm^t of St. Chritoph^r Wren, his ma^t Surveior Gen^{ll}.”

In one case (p. 31) the sum of £10 was deducted from a bill for £263:17:10; sometimes it was more. Thus a total of £1,155:15:6 due to Mr. Charles Hopson, his Ma^{ts} joyner, was reduced by £80; and a further £20 on the same page (36). On page 40 the great man condescends to knock 2s. 2d. off a smith's bill which was only for £1:0:2 originally. In a word, the very active interest taken by Wren in the construction is evident in many places. Whether this involved his responsibility for the design, or is merely evidence that he acted as a consultant, is not clear.

The account, being so full and complete and yet recording no payment to Wren himself, affords negative evidence against his responsibility—Lowndes and Wren were friends, and served together on a committee, in May, 1704, “to report upon the records in Cæsar's Chapel and to suggest means for their better presentation” (Dict. Nat. Biog. *sub* W. Lowndes). It is possible, therefore, that Wren merely looked through the accounts in a friendly way.

At All Souls College, Oxford, are three volumes of Wren drawings, and schedules have been published by the Wren Society. Most of the drawings relate to St. Paul's Cathedral, though some deal with domestic buildings. Mr. A. C. B. Whitaker, the sub-librarian, has kindly examined these plans with the photographs and plans of Winslow Hall, and has been unable to find anything resembling them in any way.

Nothing in the planning or details of building gives any clue; extreme symmetry, pushed to the utmost extent, is the most marked feature, as a glance at the photographs and conjectural restoration of the ground-plan will show. It will be seen that there was a passage through the house from front to back, with two rooms, approximately square, on each side.¹ Beyond these rooms were staircases at each end of the house, and rooms about 9 feet square filled the corners. Allowing for the fact that the passage was not needed on the upper floors, a similar "lay out" of four rooms with four small chambers at the corners occurs on each floor.

In order to give room for the staircases there is an offset in the E. and W. walls, and a much more shallow offset in the front and back, with stone quoins, gives the appearance of support to the great pediments in which a circular window affords the only light in the attic.

The chimney-stacks are extremely massive; from the ground they seem large, but from Granborough (a mile distant), where trees cut off most of the house to the top of the first-floor windows, they appear still larger. The elevation of the house is very similar to that engraved by Burghers for White Kennett's "Parochial Antiquities" (1695), which shows Sir John Walter's house at Sarsden, Oxon, except that there are only two storeys instead of three as at Winslow.

The various buildings are described in the accounts as "The Great House," "The kitchen buildings and ovens," "The brewhouse building and laundry," and "The coach-house, stables, and milk-house." Presumably, then, the kitchen block was at the W. end, and the brewhouse and laundry were at the E. end, both blocks communicating with the Great House by

¹ It is possible that there was never any eastern wall to the passage from the front door as shown by the dotted line on the south side of the plan; most of the space now occupied by the drawing-room would in that case have been the hall, and this view receives some support from the mention of a "large Chimney piece for ye hall" (see p. 417). This chimney piece has since been replaced by one of oak, brought from elsewhere.



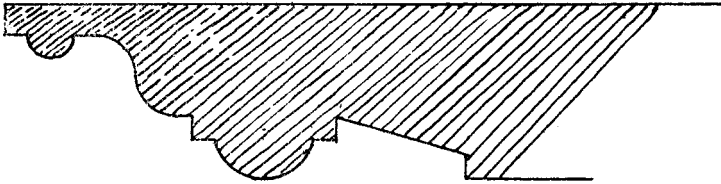
WINSLOW HALL—PANELLING IN DINING-ROOM.

covered passages, concealed by curtain walls which were almost in line with the main frontage, and concealed some of the domestic offices. The kitchen, with its large original chimney-shaft, remains in the same position, though various additions and alterations have been made in that wing. The brewhouse building has been considerably altered, and, with the communicating passage at the end of the house, has been expanded into a billiard-room, etc.

The main staircase at the E. end of the house is 3ft. 11ins. wide and the treads are 12ins., with risers 6ins. high; turned balusters support a moulded hand-rail. The staircase at the W. end of the house is about a foot narrower.

The principal fireplaces on the ground-floor are not original, but one room retains the corner-fireplace on the ground-floor, and on the upper floors they remain in several rooms. Corner fire-places are said to have been a feature in Wren's domestic work.

The measurements of the ground-floor corner fire-place are as follows:—4ft. 2ins. high, 4ft. 10ins. wide, with an internal opening nearly 3ft. 6ins. square. Jambs and lintels are 8ins. wide.



Moulding on oak panels in Dining Room.

($\frac{2}{3}$ full size)

A good deal of the original bolection-moulded panelling remains in various parts of the house. In the dining-room it is in excellent condition; the larger panels are 8ft. 4ins. by 2ft. 8ins. over all

measurement; beneath the moulded rail the dado panels are 21ins. high. Most of the doors retain the original brass locks in excellent order.

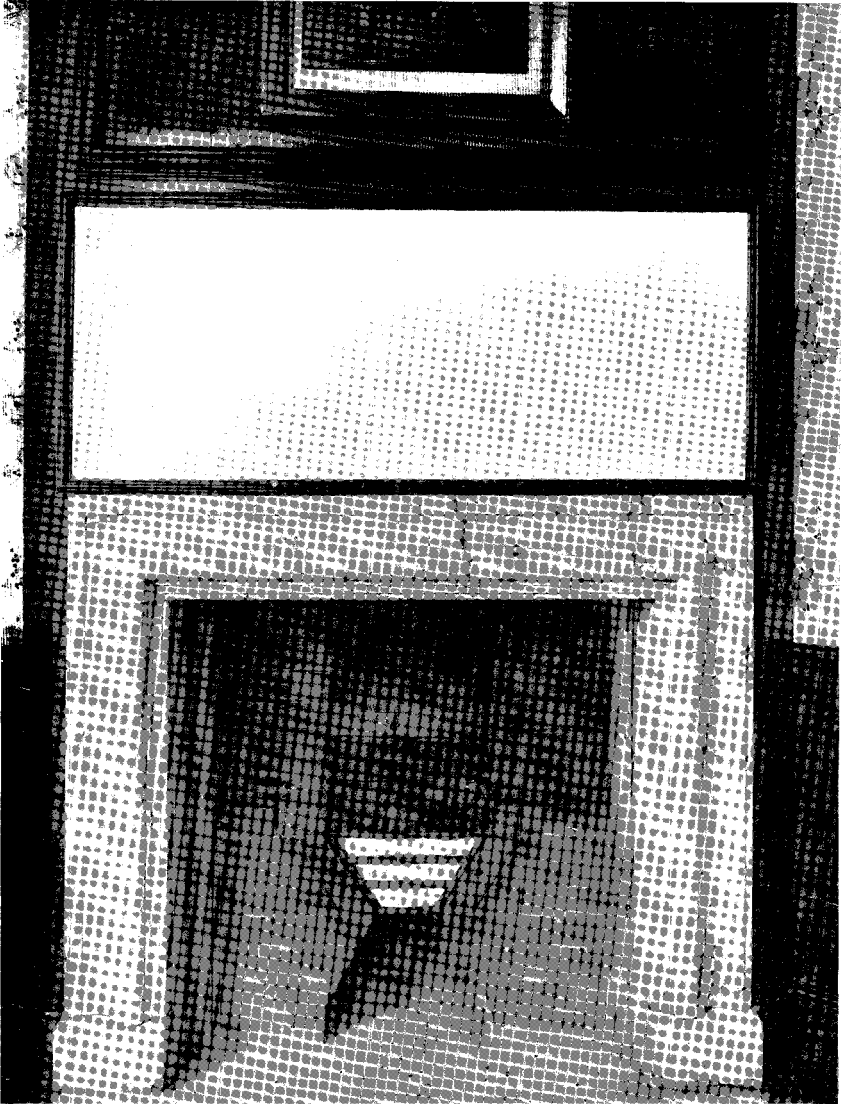
In the basement the chimney-stacks occupy the central area, and around them are brick-vaulted chambers of very fine construction. There are small chambers in the four corners just as in the case of the upper floors. In one of the larger basement chambers is a fireplace, which is 4ft. 11ins. high and 7ft. wide. This no doubt served the "kitchen in y^e cellar" which is mentioned in the accounts apart from the "great kitchen."

In the attic the chimney-stacks occupy the centre of the floor, which is otherwise undivided, though now partially occupied by water-tanks. Some of the principal rafters measure 8ins. by 9ins.

None of the original windows is *in situ*, but a screen at the top of the western staircase contains wide glazing-bars, and this may be one of the original windows.

Whatever was the source of the original plans, a study of the accounts shows that the work was carried out directly for the owner, who paid for materials and for workmanship separately, as a rule, employing various contractors for the main structural work. There were two immediate agents representing him at Winslow, the first of whom was Mr. Peter Lowndes, evidently a relative of some kind, and occupying property which belonged to the great Secretary, for the rent due from him was applied to the payment of carriage, the making "the biggest garden (sometimes called the New Orchard), the kitchen garden, florecourt, and gravelling y^e Street, viz^t digging gravel." One payment of 10s. was "towards the raysing dinner."

While it does not appear where Peter Lowndes comes in the family tree (if at all), the Lowndes family settled in Winslow early in the sixteenth century, and the famous "Ways and Means" Lowndes was born there 1st Nov., 1652; his father returned from America after the Civil War, and died at Winslow in 1683. Peter may be the same as the church-



WINSLOW HALL—CORNER FIREPLACE ON FIRST FLOOR.

warden and overseer mentioned by Mr. Clear (in his History of Winslow, p. 80); he had a son, also Peter, who signed a receipt in 1703, "his father being sick."²

In addition to Peter Lowndes there was another general agent for various kinds of work, Mr. John Wiatt; he disbursed £142:5:10½ against £276:12:4½ expended by Peter, but that was not all, for his account concludes with the following:—

Mem^d all other paym^{ts} made by John Wiat for the works & Use of the New Building at Winslow are comprehended in the proper Acc^{ts} of those persons to whom he made the same.

The scheme of the book is to devote the first 56 folios to personal accounts, whilst pages 58 to 78 are occupied with summaries, or "Abstracts," in which are grouped "the whole charge for Bricks, Tyles, Lyme, Mortar, and hair," "Timber, Boards, Laths, and Tile pinns," and carriage; concluding with a "General Abstract" which will be printed in full presently.

The great detail of the accounts enables one to follow the building from its earliest beginning, which involved the destruction of a house on a site immediately adjoining that of the Great House. Thus amongst the "promiscuous charges" of John Wiatt are the following items:—

	£	s.	d.
P. 9. "Paid for work in pulling downe Scotts house w ^{ch} stood in the street next that in y ^e tenure of Ben Sanders"	0	3	0
"Paid for digging the foundacõn of y ^e new house"	8	10	6

² "Ways and Means" Lowndes showed an infinite capacity for taking pains in his private accounts; several of his cash-book and ledgers are preserved at Whaddon Hall, and one at The Bury, Chesham. One of the Whaddon ledgers deals with tenants, and the signatures of Peter Lowndes Senior and Junior both appear there; it relates to the year 1704, and several tenants are credited at Lady-day of that year [N.S.] with sums for "repairs after ye storm." This refers to the famous tempest of November, 1703, of which Macaulay gives so brilliant an account in his essay on Addison.

“ Paid Ralph Bates for hedging the yard ”	...	...	...	...	...	0	1	3
“ Paid for digging and filling the draynes ”	...	...	...	...	...	12	13	4
“ Paid for digging the foundacōn of a side Building ”	...	...	...	...	...	3	5	0
“ Paid Labourers digging the foundacōns of the Stable & digging Looome and Sand for playsterers ”	...	...	...	...	...	6	7	4

P. 24. Again there are payments to Thomas Deely, bricklayer, £ s. d.

ffor work in taking down cleaning and stacking 60,000 bricks & 12,000 tiles from the old house of Mr. Lowndes at Winslow	...	...	...	...	...	7	4	0
ffor work in pulling down ye ceilings and partitions of ye same	...	...	...	...	...	0	12	8
ffor work in taking down the Roof	...	...	...	...	...	0	10	8

The work upon the structure itself may be considered under various heads.

P. 58. BRICKS, TILES, &c.—The total number of “bricks burnt in kilnes” was 1,040,850, and to this must be added 99,450 “rubbing bricks.” Most were made locally at Winslow itself, or the neighbourhood, and cost from 14s. to 18s. per thousand. The “old house on its taking downe” yielded 35,000 bricks, which were used and valued at 14s. per thousand. For the “rubbing bricks” they went further afield and purchased from Stony Stratford, Bletchley, and Dunshanger [Deanshanger] at prices which ranged between 23s. 6d. and 31s. 11d. per thousand. One of the Winslow brick-makers was John Stutsbery, and he was subsidized to the extent of £20 “for building y^e middle kilne in Norden.” The carriage of the bricks came to £81:3:3, and the entire cost of the bricks, with incidental expenses nicely allocated to the respective types, came out at 17s. 5½d. per thousand for the ordinary bricks, and 28s. 10½d. per thousand for the rubbing bricks.

P. 59. Most of the 49,110 tiles used came from Brill, and cost 17s. 9d. per thousand, though the “hyp tiles” cost 2½d. each; but “reckoning price,

carriage, and all charges," the tiles worked out at 27s. 8d. per thousand.

As to the lime, it was burned locally, and made of stone which came from Whitchurch and Thornborough. The total quantity of lime used was 2,387 quarters $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels, and the cost, including carriage of stone, burning, etc., came to 2s. 4d. per quarter.

Hair cost 7d. and 8d. per bushel.

P. 20. The contract of Mr. John Yeomans, the bricklayer, contains many interesting details in the specifications:—

“The House shall containe sixty three Foot in length, and forty two foot in breadth, or thereabouts, the Cellars to be nine foot high in the clear and vaulted over and strengthened with Brick Partitions, the Rooms in the first and second Floor each to be twelve foot high in the Clear and the next Story (instead of garrets) to be eight foot high in the Clear, and the Tyling to be nailed down between the Guttars and the Flatt intended to be on the Topp of the House.”

The Contractor's covenants include the following obligations:—

“All the Mortar to be used in the said Work to be well beat with a Beater and to be well made and prepared in all respects, and the Bricks to be well laid, and the walls to be well filled with Mortar in the upright Joints as well as in the Beds, and shall take care that the chimneys shall be made so as to carry the Smoak without offence to the House, and without endangering the House with Fire.”

The contractor was to set up the scaffolding and to “find the Cords and Nails to brace the scaffolding at his own charge.” The actual timber used was to be provided by Mr. Lowndes, who also undertakes to provide all the bricks, lime, and sand, and to pay “for every Rodd of y^e said Brickwork w^{ch} shall be performed in good substantiall & workmanlike Manner the sume of Twenty seaven shillings, and so

after that rate for more or less, y^e said Work being reduced to a Brick and a halfe in Thickness."

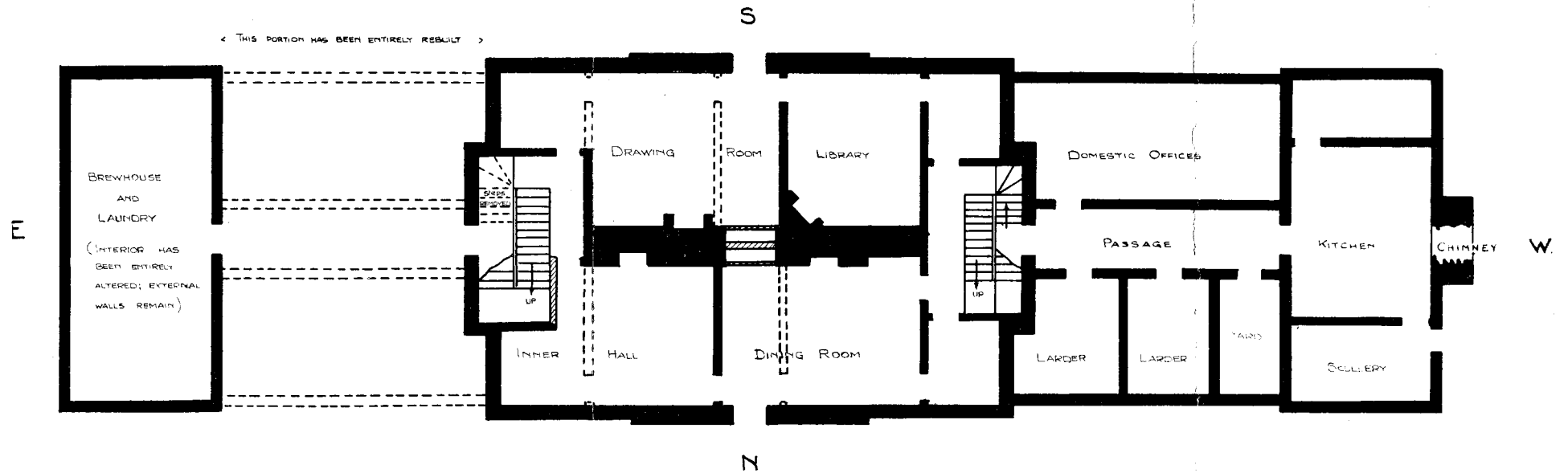
The contractor is to make "rubbed and gaged jambs and straight arches with staff moulding on the Outside of the Windows, and rough Splayes and scheme arches over each window in the inside of the said House"—for 15s. per window, "but reckoning two cellar windows as if they were one in the said price." Further, he is to "performe all the rubbed and gaged Brickwork in Quines, Fashaws [*i.e.* quoins and façias?] and Chimneys or elsewhere at y^e rate of six pence for every superficial foot."

The "Tyling, which is to be nailed upon a boarded roof," was paid for at 2s. 6d. "for every square of the said Tyling upon the Plane and finding the Tyles and mortar for y^e same." The "groining in the vaults" was "at the Rate of four pence p Foot running."

The final and formal covenants provide for payment for "Overwork performed in the said Building." This, as a matter of fact, only amounted to £6:5:0 in the year 1701. The particulars are as follows:—

			£	s.	d.
P. 21.					
1st Mar., 1700.	Paid James Herne, Brick-				
	laier, and Wm. Thomas,				
	Labourer, for picking				
	out bricks at Spratley's				
	Kiln	1	3	9	
5 Apr., 1701.	Pd. Wm. Thomas, labourer				
	for digging & levelling				
	foundaçons 9 days at				
	1s. 8d. a day	0	15	0	
19 ,, ,,	Pd. Jos. Big, Bricklaier 1				
	day & ½ at 2sh. 6d. a				
	day to cutt a doreway				
	thorow y ^e stairs in y ^e				
	Kitchen & working in				
	the dorecase	0	3	9	
20 ,, ,,	Pd. Jos. Big, Bricklaier &				
	Wm. Thomas, Lab ^r for				
	pointing round all y ^e				
	Shash windows with				

WINSLOW HALL.



CONJECTURAL GROUND PLAN ACCORDING TO ORIGINAL DESIGN.

- SIGNIFIES ORIGINAL WALLS &c REMAINING IN SITU.
- - - " " " " " NOW REMOVED
- ▨ WORK NOT ORIGINAL

		Lyme & hair before y ^e Joyners nailed on their Moldings	1	0	10
17 May,	,,	Pd. them for Stopping behind all the Shashes in the inside w th Lime & hair and Tillheads & bricking up y ^e fore- part of 6 chimneys to forme y ^e Joyners fire & taking downe y ^e brick- work in y ^e Laundry and putting in a dorecase ...	1	12	6
12 7br		Paid them for making good y ^e Garden walls to y ^e Quoins of y ^e house & to y ^e Kitchen & Brew- house Buildings	1	9	2

P. 22. The brickwork appears to have been "measured & cast up by Mr. John Churchill, Surveyr." ³ The price of 27s. p. rod was observed, but tiling ("76 squares and 23 foot") was paid for at 5s. 6d. per square; there were "76 squares & 23 foot of plain Tyling."

The plastering amounted to "1,226 yards Lathing & plastering on Ceilings and partiçons at 5½d. per yard for Workmanship and nails only." Then there were "1373 yards Rending at 3d. ye yard for workmanship only."

The total amount drawn by John Yemans was £570, some being paid by "notes on Sir ffra. Child." Other bricklayers were Joseph Big and Thomas Deely; they carried out small jobs only. One would think that James Hearne earned three guineas very well "by his care in taking y^e tale and keeping acco^t of y^e Bricks."

Amongst brickmakers were John Spratley and Margaret Deely, of Winslow; Richard Redel, of

³ Some smaller charges for brickwork were measured by Martin Row, Surveyor:—"ffor 7 rods 37ft. brickwork reduced to 1½ brick thick at 20sh ye rod."

Stony Stratford; Edward West, of Dunsanger [Deanshanger]; Richard Snag, of Tattenhall; John Baily, of Bletchley; and Thomas Edwards, of Stewkley. John Stutsbury was a brick-maker who rented "four acres of swerd ground at Dudslow" at 10s. per acre per annum—a low rent for grass-land. The tile-makers were Grant Hewet, of Winslow, and William Rose, of Brill. Hair, used in the mortar, was bought from Hugh Borral.

P. 15. MASONRY.—The contract for masonry was made with Richard Mapletoft, who undertakes to provide "good and serviceable free stone (being the best for the Purpose to be had at Cosgrave in the County of Northampton) . . . for the Quines . . . twenty one inches long and fourteen inches in the Head, and twelve inches thick, or so much as will make a good Bond with four Courses of Brick, and to be wrought clean after the best Rustick Fashion, . . . alwaies working and keeping Bond with the Bricklaer. . . . The said Quines shall in number be sufficient for the four corners of the said Building." Other quoins were to be provided "for the Breaks in the two fronts of the said House . . . twenty one inches long, and not under nine inches in the head, and of equall thickness with the Quines before mentioned." Then comes stone "for the ground Table to go round the Building, which is to be eight inches high, and nine inches in the bed at the least, wrought with a Moulding." Next there is "stone for the two Door cases of the two Fronts . . . wrought with an Arcatrave Mould and a Pilaster on the Sides and a Scrowle [scroll] at the Top with a Frees [frieze] and Cornish [cornice] and a Compass Pediment over the Doors." "The whole Jamb is to be seaventeen inches in the Front and to be of the best Stone at Cosgrave, or at Hanslop, the Dore four foot in the Cleare, and the height of the Dore to Range wth the windows." The "Fasha that goes round the Building to be twelve inches in height and seven inches in the Bed at the least, and stone for the Soyles [sills] of the windows except the cellar window, six inches thick and eight inches broad."

The tops of the chimneys are “to be wrought with a Cornish eleaven inches high and nine inches deep.” The floor of the hall is to be of stones fifteen inches square “layed Aris way and to be streight and even layed and well rubbed.” Then follow time limits and other formal covenants, and the prices are: For the ground table, 11d. p. foot running; for every one of the said Quines in the two Breaks 2s. 2d.; for the two doorcases in the two fronts £24; for the ‘fasha’ 1s. p. foot run; for the tops of the chimneys 1s. 6d. p. foot; for the pavement of the cellars 5d. p. foot square; for the pavement in the hall 8d. p. foot square; and for the window-sills 2s. 2d. each.

Some of the stone was provided, and the charges for working it are as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
ffor working 38 ft. 8 inches fire stone for y ^e hearths of y ^e 4 chimneys in y ^e first Story at 6d. y ^e foot it being Mr.			
P. 12. Lowndes owne stone	0	19	4
ffor working a large Chimney piece for y ^e hall w th a foot pace & slips of Mr. Lowndes owne stone			
	3	0	0

The hall pavement was actually charged at 14d. a foot, but it was made of “Ketton paving.” The chimney-pieces are very variable in price:—

	£	s.	d.
ffor 1 chimney piece in the Cellar of Denton stone conteyning 19 foot wrought w th a staff & Ojee with a			
P. 13. foot pace 9½ foot long 18 inches wide, finding stone	5	0	0
ffor 2 chimney pieces wrought out of Bedfordshire stone w th an Italian molding w th slabs & slips...	20	0	0
ffor 3 chimney pieces in y ^e upper story of Denton stone wrought with a staff & Ojee with slabs & slips at 35s. each	5	5	0

The various doorsteps are nicely defined:—

	£	s.	d.
ffor 9 foot of Ketton steps at the two front dorecases at 2s. 6d. y ^e foot	1	2	6
ffor 10 foot of Stone Step for y ^e			
P. 13. Soyles of the 2 dores at y ^e ends of ye house at 12d. p. ft.	0	10	0
ffor 50 foot of Astragal step 14 inch head at y ^e front dorecase next y ^e street at 13d. p. ft.	2	14	2
ffor 20 foot of workmanship onely in y ^e returns of those steps at 6d. y ^e foot runing	0	10	0

The entrance gate piers come in the following items:—

	£	s.	d.
ffor 83 ft. 6 inches Helmden stone in y ^e Capitals and Necks of the 3 pair of peers on the south side of y ^e great			
P. 15. house at 3s. per foot	12	10	6
for 2 pair of Balls of Ketton conteyning 14 foot at 5s. ye foot	3	10	0
for 3 pair of carved scrowles of Helmden stone at 30s. the pair	4	10	0

Over the front door (no longer used as a doorway) there still remains the stone which is the subject of this entry:—

P. 17. ffor cutting the Letters of Mr. Lowndes's name and date of the year	£0	5	0
---	----	---	---

At the end of it all comes an item which is equally creditable to employer and employed:—

P. 17. By so much allowed him exgratia (being above the rates in his Articles) because of the dearness of his stone and great trouble in getting it, and because he performed his work well	£40	0	0
--	-----	---	---

equivalent to nearly 10 per cent. upon his bill.

The rate of pay to a mason was 2s. 8d. per day.

The total payment to Mapletoft was £398:3:10, and the following note is attached to that sum in the ledger:—

The whole charge of soe much of the Mason's work as was furnished or performed by Ditto Mapletoft.

This use of "Ditto" where we should write "the said" is interesting.

WOODWORK.—There is no contract for the woodwork, part of which was carried out by "Matthew Banks Esq^r his Ma^{ts} Carpenter by his fforeman Mr. John Wright." Generally speaking, this seems to have been for timbers used in the construction, such as "centering in y^e vaults;" "bonds in y^e Roof 13ft. high 29ft. 10 inch wide in y^e middle at 20s. each;" "naked flooring;" "Modelian Cornice 2ft. 3 inches projection at 3s. 6d. y^e foot running;" "rail & baluster in staircases at 2s. 6d. y^e foot;" "Steps of Stairs at 3d. p. step;" "Oak dorecases in y^e Cellars 6ft. 10 high, 4ft. 4 wide wth compass heads wrought wth a staff at 5s. each;" "2 architrave dorecases each 8ft. high 4ft. wide—£1:0:0."

Banks was paid £651:19:3 in all.

Timber was obtained from various sources; the oak in the round came from Whittlewood, Stowe Park,⁴ Greenboro [Granborough], Padbury, and Lenborough. Altogether "111 timber trees of Oak cost in the whole £221:10:2."

From a variety of sources came 4,228½ feet of oak at about 1s. per foot. "Hew'd firrs," or deals, were apparently bought at £6 the hundred; this for both 12 and 22-foot lengths. As the other dimensions are not given this cannot be reduced to a price per cubic foot. Putlogs cost 32s. 6d. per hundred. Laths cost 10s. per thousand, if they were "heart laths;" but only 8s. if they were "sap laths."

The hewers of the timber received 1s. 6d. per day.

⁴ These must have been good "sticks," for Sir Richard Temple received £50 for ten of them. From Whittlewood forest came 64 oaks at the cost of £93:17:0; "these oakes (tho' the best in the forest) not proving very good served for Boards, and other such uses;" payment for them was made to "Phillip Ryley, Esq., Surveyor Gen'rl of his Magts Woods."

Some of the odd jobs are particularly interesting, thus:—

		£	s.	d.
“ For the Court before the house—				
	fframing a pair of Gates of Oak 4in. thick double morticed & tenanted w th			
P. 33.	double panels in y ^e lower part of oak & iron work in y ^e upper part, y ^e gates 8ft. high 9ft. 6in. wide w th lynings for shelters	4	10	0
	“ ffor making an Engine to break Apples & a press to presse them	1	0	0
The fitting of the stables is not uninteresting:—				
		£	s.	d.
29.	ffor 49ft. of Rack & Manger & litter-board, the Rack staves turn'd & with a back Rack, at 5 sh p. foot	12	5	0
	ffor 10 turn'd posts behind ye horses at 4 sh each	2	0	0
	ffor 8 turn'd bales behind ye horses at 2s. 6d. each	1	0	0
32.	ffor 17 yards of whole deal in two Binns for corn plain'd on both sides at 18d. p. yard	1	5	6
	ffor 14 foot of Oak 4in. sqr under them at 1½d. p. foot	0	1	9
	ffor 62 ft. of Timber partition bordered w th whole deal plained & shott (?) at 11 sh ye sq.	0	6	10
	ffor 20 clogs for the halters at 3d. each	0	5	0
“ In the Cellars of the Great House ” was fitted				
28.	One Bottle rack 15ft. long, 4ft. high, 1ft. 4 inches broad, 5 tire high	£1	0	0
That sounds like generous house-keeping.				
In the Great Kitchen and Larder are various dressers and shelves, to say nothing of a chopping-block and a Jack-board 3ft. long, 1ft. 6ins. wide, two inches thick, stuck with an O.G... £0 2 0				
One particular item in Banks's account is:—				
	To cover the vault in the Chancel, for 30 foot of 4-inch Oaken plank, at 4d. p. foot, when ye child was buried	£0	10	0

This is also referred to in one of Mapletoft's charges:
 ffor laying ye stone in the Chancel
 when the Vault was opened £0 2 6

No precise dates are assigned to these entries, but there is an entry in the Parish Registers which might refer to them; this is the burial, on 28th June, 1702, of Philip, son of William Lowndes, Armiger.

The total amount paid to Banks was £651:19:3. This was much exceeded, however, by the sum paid to "Mr. Charles Hopson, his Ma^{ts} Joyner," which was no less than £1,268:8:6, after Wren had knocked £100 off the bill. Hopson was responsible for the panelling. The following are examples:—

	£	s.	d.
ffor 1,178 yards 8 foot of right Wainscott wrought with a fair Bolection, the cornice & Dore Moldings measured in, at 11s. p. yard	648	7	10
ffor 403 yards 3 foot of right Wainscott wrought with a side round, ye Cornice & Dore Moldings measured in, at 10s. ye yard	201	13	4
ffor 2010 foot of very strong two Inches Sashes and frames; the frames made with double boxes and double pulleys for both Sashes to slide, with O.G.'s putt round ye frames, at 2s. ye foot	201	0	0

A local carpenter was "Robert Eden, ats Udding, of Winslow," and Sebastian Birch, of Chesham, Edward Tomlyn, and Wm. Beuce (presumably of Winslow), received small sums for sawing.

Timber was bought from Goodman Turnam, of Hogson [Hoggeston], Thomas Tomkins, Jonathan Jenkins, Thomas Busby, of Addington, John Durrant, Nathaniel Webb, John Joseph, Gray Thomas, Robert Adams, Richard Judge, William Swannel, John Wiat, of Greenborow [Granborough], Samuel Norman, Sir Edmund Denton [of Hillesden], Thomas Rand, of Cosgrove, Robert Gibs, jun., of Winslow, Matthew Hobs, Robert Eden, John and James Herne, John Rogers, of Lenborough, John Smith, Richard Seaton, "a tenant,"

William Nelson, Thomas Wright, John Worsley, and Gabriel Medley, of Padbury.

METALWORK, PAINTING AND GLASS.—The accounts for ironwork were rendered by Stephen Big, Smith; window-bars were charged at 2½d. and 3d. a lb.; spikes, bolts, and crumps (cramps?) were at 4d., and special work, such as “side hinges,” cost as much as 6d. the lb. “Two pott hangers, wt. 19 lbs.,” cost 5d. a lb.

The “ornament on ye front gate” weighed 75 lbs., and cost 9d. per lb. Ironwork for the cyder press, which appeared in the carpenter’s account, cost a guinea. “Ironwork for ye Coat of Armes in ye Chancel” weighed 27 lbs., and cost 13s. 6d. “A steele to strike fire” cost 4d.

The particulars of a few hinges are given as examples of some of the more expensive items:—

	£	s.	d.
ffor 16 pair of Inside dore hinges bright	8	0	0
ffor 16 pair of laye dore side hinges			
smooth filed	4	16	0
ffor 30 pair of large shutter hinges ...	4	10	0
ffor 128 pairs of middle shutter hinges..	14	18	8

Stephen Big’s total charges, which fill 4½ pages, amounted to £257:17:6¼.

Thomas Watts and Henry Hugh were ironmongers who supplied a few odds and ends.

Robert Greenway, locksmith, received £52:6:0 for “Locks, keys, and Bolts, as corrected by Sir Christopher Wren.” Twenty-eight brass locks accounted for £35 of this sum, and, considering that most of them are still performing their function properly, they were not dear.

Charles Coats and Robert Abbot were painters, and charged at the rate of 1s. per yard—“3 times done in oyle.” Their united bills only amounted to £70:5:4.

Matthew Roberts, plumber, received £363:4:8, but his bill included nearly 22 tons of lead, at 15s. per cwt., and over 3 cwt. of “soder” at 9d. the lb.

The bill of Robert Adams, the glazier, amounted to £106:7:7, and included “1,080 large squares of the best crown glass at 16d. ye square;” but “315

foot of new glass large squares in broad lead” was reckoned at 8d. the foot.

GARDEN.—These bills are sufficiently short to be transcribed *in extenso* :

George London and Henry Wise, his Ma^t's
Gardners

By their Bill for fruit trees furnished in Octr. & Novr. 1695 to plant the Garden then made, now next ye new house	5	17	0
By their Bill for fruit Trees, Greens, & furnish'd in febr. & March 1695/6 for the same Garden	19	15	0
By Mr. Henry Wise's Bill for fruit Trees, Greens, &c. furnishd by him between 12 Xbr 1701 & 9 th March following to plant the largest Garden, ye Kitchen Garden and the platt before ye house	20	7	10
	<hr/>		45 19 10

Michael Bough, Gardner (recomended p.
Mr. Wise)

By his Bill for petty disbursemts for ye Gardens before 7 Apr. 1702	1	16	10
By his Services for 26 weeks ended 8 th Apr. 1702 at 14s/- ye week	18	4	0
	<hr/>		20 0 10
By his bill for Garden work & disbursements in full to 27 May 1702 vizt. for 7 weeks labour at 14s/- ye week	4	18	0
for strawberry roots	0	2	0
for a Garden line	0	1	0
for Thime seed	0	4	0
	<hr/>		5 5 0
By his Bill for Labor & Garden charges in full to 6 Feb. 1702	9	5	10
	<hr/>		34 11 8

Other labourers in the garden received 12s. per week, and “Robert Gibs, a tenant” received £2 for 42 loads of dung for the garden.

The accounts for carriage furnish us with many local names. The total sum paid away was £619:4:4½.

Wm. Perkins, a tenant.
Simon Hogson, ..
Henry Townesend, ..
John Kynaston, ..
John Hendly, ..

George Elliot, ,,
 Wm. Townesend, ,,
 Robt. Gibs, ,,
 Thomas Hendly, ,,
 Wm. Edmonds, ,,
 Nich^s. Plested, ,, & coñon caryer.
 Thos. Tomlyn, a coñon carryer from London to
 Winslow.
 John Smith, ,, ,, ,, ,,
 William Kirby, a coñon carryer, of Winslow,
 from London to Winslow.
 Michael Yeaton.
 Wm. Swannell, carryer.
 John Turnor, ,,
 ffrancis James and Purden.
 John Junes, caryer.
 John Williat, ,,
 Wm. White, ,,
 Henry Wootton.

The rate from London to Winslow was 2s. per ft.
 for timber, from Hillesden it was 3d. per foot.

The book closes with:—

A General Abstract of the whole charge of Building
 the House, Offices, Stables, Brick walls, and other
 buildings, and making the Gardens at Winslow, Annis
 1699, 1700, 1701, and 1702, vizt.:

1. ffor Bricks, Tyles, Lime, Mortar, and
 hair

ffor 1,040,850 Kilne bricks at 17.5¼ p. thousand one with another for their price, Car- riage, & all other charges thereupon till layd downe at the Work	907 10 7¼
ffor 99,450 Rubbing bricks at £1-8-10¼ p. thousand one with another for their price, cari- riage, & all other charges thereupon till layd down at the Work	143 10 4¼

In all 1.140.300 Bricks cost

£1.051 : 1 : 0.

ffor 48,800 Tyles, 260 hyp Tyles,
 & 50 Ridg Tyles att the rate of
 £1-7-8 ye thousand one with
 another reckoning their price,

carriage, and all charges there- upon till used in ye work	68	4	1½	
for the Cost of all the Lime & Mortar (except Labour in making the Mortar by the Bricklaier,) To Wit, for Lime bought, and for Stone and Car- riage of Stone to make Lyme, and for burning of Lyme, and for diverse other charges, The whole making out 2.387 quarters 1 bushell & ½ of Lime att 2s./4d. p. quarter, one with another	279	3	9¼	
for hair used in this work	6	4	8	
for Tiles, Lyme, & Pavemt. Tyles, Served promiscuously ..	5	15	10	
	<hr/>			1,410 9 4¼

2. for Timber, Boards, Lath, &
Tile-pins, viz^t :

for 111 Timber Trees of Oak	221	10	2	
for 4,228 foot more of Oaken Timber bought by the foot, at 12d. ye foot ...	213	13	0	
for other kinds of Timber & Wood ...	23	4	1	
for diverse charges on the Timber ...	39	1	8	
	<hr/>			497 8 11
for boards	208	9	0	
for 50,200 Lath	18	9	0	
for Tile pins	0	12	6	
for a Jack to move Timber	1	8	0	
for Carriage of Timber, Boards, Lath, and other goods used by the Carpenter	194	4	8½	
	<hr/>			920 12 1½

3. for Mason's Work, viz^t :

for Workmanship, Stone & other Materials, p. Richard Maple- toft, Stone Cutter	398	3	10	
for Chimney pieces & Rygate Stone p. Mr. Edw. Chapman	39	15	0	
for a pair of plints, a pair of neck carved, & acornes, & 60 foot of Rygate paving p. Mr. franks, stone-cutter	16	10	0	
for Carriage of Stone & Stone- work for the Building	61	14	0	
	<hr/>			516 2 10

4. for Bricklaier's Work, viz^t :

for making 2 Wells	3	7	9	
--------------------------	---	---	---	--

ffor the workmanship of 210 rods 2 quarters 64 $\frac{7}{10}$ foot of Brick- work at 27s/- p. Rod, & for Ornamts for windows, Rubbd work, groyning, gaged work, Streight arch, & other work, performed by Mr. John Yeoman, Bricklaier, in the Great House, Offices, Stables, Brickwalls of the Great Gar- den, & Courts, Vaults, &c. £481-12-7 out of w'h abated £3-16-0 The rest is	477 16 7	
ffor the Workmanship of 7 Rods 37 foot of Brick work at 28s/- ye rod in Walling, and coping the old Garden walls & other works and Materials by Joseph Big, Bricklaier	26 12 0	
ffor the workmanship of two wells and coping a wall by Thos. Deely, Bricklaier	3 9 8	
		<u>511 6 0</u>
5. ffor Carpenter's Work, viz ^t . :		
paid by Peter Lowndes for a raysing dinner, sawing an Elme, digging a Sawpitt and post holes	0 15 6	
paid by John Wiat for sawing & squaring Timber at Whittlewd., mending wheelbarrows, Nails & hewing Timb.	12 19 6 $\frac{3}{4}$	
ffor all the Carpenters work per- formed by Matthew Banks Esq p. his fforeman Mr. John Wright	651 19 3	
ffor the like performed by Robt. Eden, carpenter	26 15 4 $\frac{1}{2}$	
ffor ye like by Sebastian Birch, carpenter	1 1 0	
ffor the like by Edw. Tomlyn & Wm. Bence, carpenters	1 8 0	
		<u>697 18 8</u>
		4,056 9 0 $\frac{1}{2}$
6. For Tylar's Work, viz ^t . :		
ffor the workmanship of 76 squares & 23 foot plain Tylng at about 5s./6d. ye square p. Mr. John Yeomans		20 15 6
7. For Plastrers work per- formed by him		45 5 2
8. For Joyners Work, viz ^t . :		
To Mr. Charles Hopson, Joyner, for Joyners Work he finding		

Stuff, workmanship, & all things (except Carriage & Iron-work, the latter being in the Smith's Accot.)	1,080	1	6	
paid by Peter Lowndes for Sope for y ^e Sashes	0	0	6	
paid for Carriage of Joyners Goods	99	7	1½	
				<u>1,179 9 1½</u>
9. For Glass Work, viz ^t : paid to Robert Adams, glasier (besides Carr.)	105	8	8	
paid by Peter Lowndes for putty	0	1	2	
paid for Carriage of Glass	2	10	0	
				<u>107 19 10</u>
10. For Smiths and Ironmongers Work, viz ^t : To Stephen Big, Smith	257	17	6½	
To Thomas Watts, Ironmonger	3	8	3	
To Henry Hughs, Ironmonger	1	15	11½	
				<u>263 1 8½</u>
11. For Plumbers Work, viz ^t : paid Mr. Mathew Roberts, plumber, for lead, solder, two pumps, and other Materials & Workmanship	363	4	8	
paid for carriage of Lead & Solder	45	6	8	
				<u>408 11 4</u>
12. For painters' Work, viz ^t : paid Charles Cotes, painter	56	5	4	
paid Robert Abbot, painter	14	0	0	
				<u>70 5 4</u>
13. For Locks, Keyes, & Bolts, viz ^t : paid Robert Greenway, his Mats. Locksmith	52	6	0	
paid for Carriage of Locks	0	3	0	
				<u>52 9 0</u>
14. For pitching the Sevrall Courts, Coach-yard & Stables, viz ^t : paid by Peter Lowndes for Loads of pebbles & for Bones, ⁵ and one to serve the pitchers (ultra 13s/4d. in the accot of Carriage)		4	11 0	

⁵ This word, both here and in the personal account, certainly seems to be "bones," not "bonds;" the charge was only 8d. however, so it was unimportant, whatever it was.

paid John Paradine for 7 loads of pebles	0 10 6
paid Tho. Deely for workmanship in pitching	15 9 5
paid for carriage of y ^e pebbles	3 4 4
	<hr/>

23 15

15. For Garden charges, ex-
clusive of the Brick-
walls, viz^t:

paid by Peter Lowndes for charges of the biggest Garden, the Kitchen Garden, Fore Court, & gravelling y ^e Street, viz ^t .	
ffor digging gravel	6 17 8
To Labourers to make these gar- dens	94 18 9
ffor dung for them	12 2 9
ffor garden seeds and plants	0 4 1
ffor digging post holes for kitchen garden	0 11 0
ffor digging its foundacons	1 0 3
ffor a Madock & Lock	0 4 3
	<hr/>
	115 18 9

paid by John Wiat, viz ^t .	
To Labourers in the Gardens	4 19 6
ffor a Line, broom, & Nailles	0 0 8
	<hr/>
	5 0 2

paid Mr. George London & Mr. Henry Wise for fruit Trees and Greens as well for y ^e old as the new gardens & ffore court	45 19 10
paid Michael Bough, Gardner, for Labour & Garden Stuff ...	34 11 8
paid diverse Labourers in the Gardens	1 6 11
pd Robt. Gibs for 42 Loads more Dung for them	2 0 0
paid Robt. Illes, Gardner, for his Labour	3 0 0
paid for Carriage for the Gardens	29 19 6
	<hr/>

237 16 10

16. For Sundry promiscuous
charges, viz^t:

paid by Peter Lowndes for ayring the house, clearing the Court Yards, & colouring the pump	0 10 8
--	--------

paid by John Wiat for work in pulling down Scotts house digging ffoundacons of new buildings, hedging, and for digging sand & Loome, filling the Terrace, digging ye draynes, Levelling ground, & to Labouring in the Yard	46	3	2	
paid by Mr. John Yeomans for digging & Levelling Foun- dacons, paying Labourers weekly, with an Overpaymt. of £1-1-8 to himselfe	23	18	2	
paid Thomas Deely for work in taking down ye old houses & about ye kilnes	9	15	4	
paid Tho. George for daywork on several Occasions	10	16	10	
Given several workmen to drink	6	13	0	
paid Mr. John Churchill for measuring ye work	6	9	0	
Allowed Benjamin Sanders for the use of his Barn	3	0	0	
paid for Carriage of Gravel & other things promiscuously ...	12	5	11	
				119 12 1
Total	6,585	10	24	

Wm. Lowndes 29th. Augst. 1705.

Memd. the value of the Timber Trees Sent from Mill-
fields [Chesham] to Winslow is not reckond in this
Accot.

The book concludes with an elaborate index of all the names, with the numbers of the pages on which they occur.

When one considers the small amount of alteration which the "Great House" has undergone in two and a quarter centuries, one feels that Mr. Secretary Lowndes spent his money wisely, and was well served by the craftsmen who wrought for him. The extent to which he was indebted to Sir Christopher Wren in designing the house is not clear, but this does not detract from the interest which attaches to such a detailed statement of the cost of erecting one of the best preserved houses in the county.