

A History and Catalogue of the British Riding House

by

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The importance of the riding house as a building type in Britain has almost entirely been forgotten. Introduced in the early seventeenth century for the practice of haute école, significant numbers of riding houses were built in the first decades of that century. With the decline of haute école after the Civil War few riding houses are then found until the eighteenth century when they were built first for cavalry barracks in London and then for private patrons involved in the mid-century revival in haute école. This revival did not last, but riding houses continued to be built in significant numbers in the nineteenth century for the exercise and training of horses, principally at country houses, cavalry barracks and for public riding schools in London and resort towns. The article concludes with a catalogue of all known extant, demolished and proposed private riding houses.

The riding house is one of the forgotten building types of architectural history.¹ Substantial covered spaces used for the exercise and training of horses, they were perhaps the largest independent structures associated with the country house, and a significant building type even in urban settings. They were also, with the real tennis court, one of the very first buildings designed specifically for a particular sport. But except for a handful of distinctive examples, in particular that at Bolsover Castle, Derbyshire, built by the Duke of Newcastle, riding houses have largely been ignored by architectural historians.

Riding houses were first built for the practise of *haute école*, the schooling of horses in a series of formalised movements that was developed in Italy, particularly in Naples, in the early sixteenth century. *Haute école*, which was associated principally with royal courts, swiftly spread across Europe. It was introduced into England at Henry VIII's court in about 1514.² During the sixteenth century *haute école* was practised in the open, either in tiltyards or in specially railed off areas such as the 'rode or manninge place' for the Queen's great horses at the Royal Mews in 1582-4.³ There is no evidence for riding houses in sixteenth-century Britain, although it has been tentatively suggested that the 'Hospice' at Ansty, Wiltshire,

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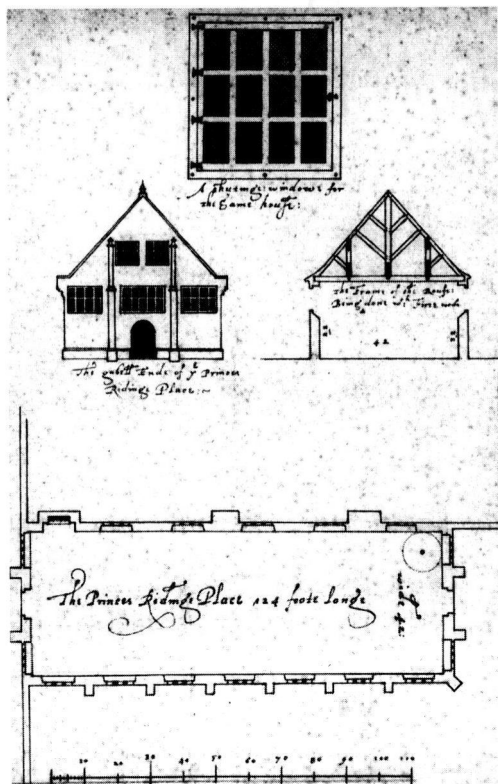


Fig. 1 (above)

Robert Smythson, survey plan, elevation, section and window detail of the riding house at St James's Palace, London, built 1607-9, probably drawn 1609
British Architectural Library

which is believed to date from the 1570s or the 1590s, may have been used as a riding house.

Haute école attained a position of particular importance at court under the first two Stuart monarchs through the patronage of Henry, Prince of Wales, and his brother Charles. The first firmly documented riding house was built for Prince Henry at St James's Palace, London, in 1607-11 (Fig. 1). The prince had another riding house at his palace in Richmond where M. de St Antoine ran an informal riding academy for the prince and his companions. Further royal riding houses were built in 1614-5 at Newmarket and at the Royal Mews in Charing Cross. Prince Henry's example was followed by a number of his companions. Riding houses were built for

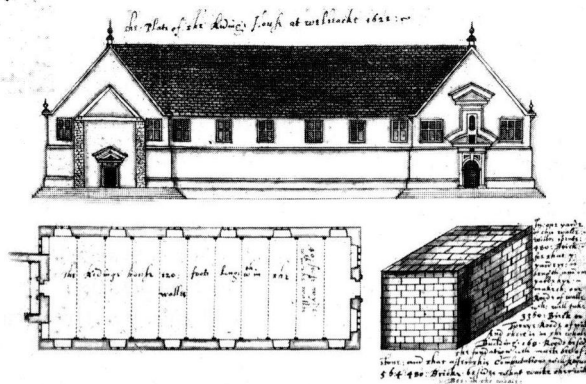
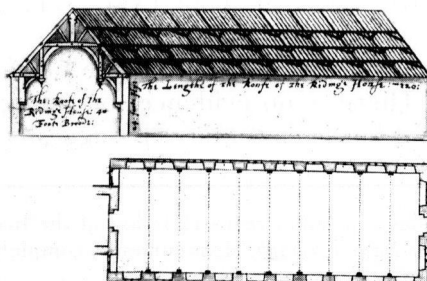


Fig. 2 (right)

John Smythson, elevation, plans and section of the riding house at Welbeck Abbey, Nottinghamshire, built 1623-5, drawn 1622
British Architectural Library



Lord Percy at Petworth, Sussex, for William Cavendish, later Duke of Newcastle, at Welbeck Abbey, Nottinghamshire (Figs. 2-3), and Bolsover Castle, Derbyshire (Fig. 15), and another was apparently designed, but not built, by Inigo Jones for Lord Cranborne at Hatfield House, Hertfordshire. The Earl of Northampton built two riding houses, at Castle Ashby, Northamptonshire (Fig. 4), and Ludlow Castle, where he was president of the Council of Wales. Of these the riding houses at Welbeck, Bolsover and Castle Ashby survive; only that at Bolsover has not been internally subdivided.

The outbreak of the Civil War brought an end to this flourishing period of *haute école*, although in December 1643, with the war still raging, Joseph Zinzano petitioned the House of Lords to build a riding school in the stable and yard of Winchester House.⁴ Nothing came of the request, but during the Interregnum the Duke of Newcastle's son-in-law the third Earl of Bridgewater built himself a riding house at Ashridge House, Hertfordshire, to while away his time.

No other private riding houses are known to have been built in the second half of the seventeenth century and only a handful in the first half of the eighteenth century. The most prominent of these was the semi-royal riding house built in 1705 at Dublin Castle for the second Duke of Ormonde when he was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. Another was erected for the Dukes of Bolton at Hackwood House, Hampshire, probably between 1699 and 1725. At Windsor an open manege

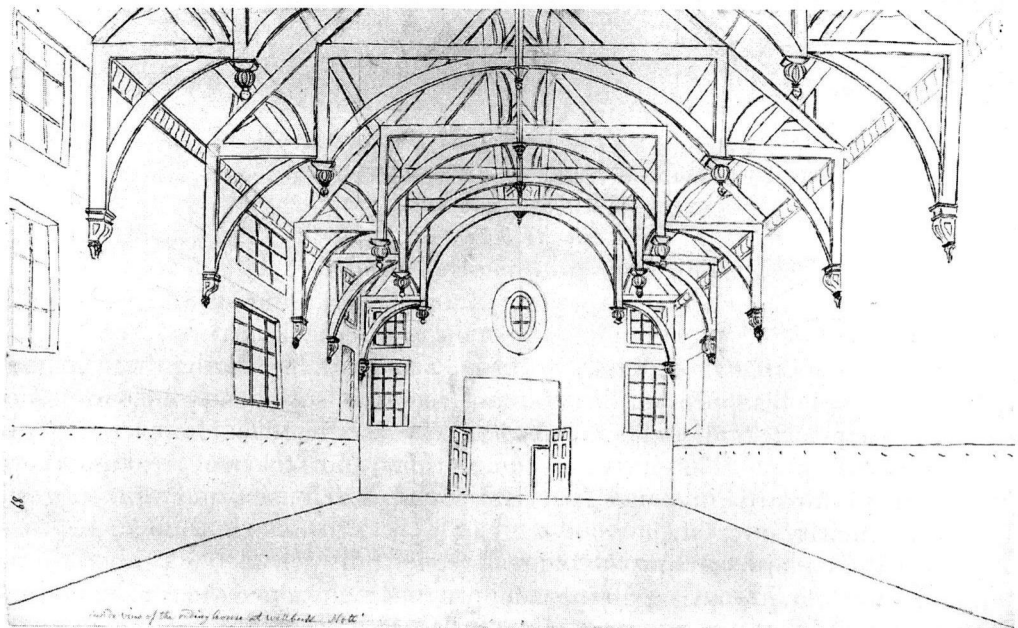


Fig. 3

S.H. Grimm, interior of the riding house at Welbeck Abbey, Nottinghamshire
by permission of The British Library



Fig. 4

The riding house at Castle Ashby, Northamptonshire, photographed 2000

William Curtis Rolf

was created at Ranger's Lodge, probably by the third Duke of Marlborough in about 1735.⁵

This suggests that though interest in *haute école* was low during these years it never completely disappeared. Sir William Hope was sufficiently encouraged to translate Jacques de Solleysell's *The Compleat Horseman* in 1696. However, the title of his second chapter – 'That it is a very foolish thing, and a token of great ignorance in the Art, to think the mannage useless' – sounds a defensive note that suggests his was a minority interest.

With the collapse of court-based *haute école*, and with so few private riding houses being built, it was the public academies that maintained the tradition. Even after the ability to cut a fine figure at court festivals ceased to be a passport to success, a thorough knowledge of horsemanship remained essential for a gentleman. As Lord Chesterfield pointed out to his son, whom he had sent to de la Gueriniere's academy in Paris in 1751: 'To ride well is not only a proper and graceful

accomplishment for a gentleman, but may also save you from a fall thereafter.⁶ Sir Balthazar Gerbier had a short-lived academy at Bethnal Green in 1649-50, and it is possible that the Duke of Newcastle considered creating another at his house at Clerkenwell after the Restoration,⁷ but the most successful of the academies was that founded by Henry Foubert, a French Huguenot riding master who fled to England in 1679.

Foubert made do with an open manege, probably in the fields adjoining Brewer and Sherwood Streets where he was visited by John Evelyn in 1683.⁸ His rival, Lewis Maidwell, was more ambitious.⁹ Establishing himself at King Street in Soho in 1687, Maidwell built a handsome brick house, stables and riding house for £2,000. This can be seen in the centre of the block between King Street, Cross Street, Carnaby Street and Tyler Street in a survey made by William Dickinson (probably as a potential site for one of the Fifty New Churches) now in Lambeth Palace Library.¹⁰ Dickinson's survey shows the riding house was 100 feet long by thirty-five feet wide. As well as the usual classics curriculum, Maidwell taught the sons of the nobility and gentry French, Italian, maths, accounts, navigation, astronomy, geography, history, chronology, dancing, fencing and horsemanship. However, despite its fashionable clientele the academy cannot have been profitable and in 1699 Maidwell petitioned the House of Commons to turn it into a public institution. Though the school was given a royal charter in 1702 as the Royal School of King William III, the idea was blocked by the universities. Frustrated, Maidwell closed the school in 1704.¹¹

Maidwell's site was sold to Henry Foubert, son of the émigré, who had tried unsuccessfully to obtain a grant of land to build a riding house near Old Spring Gardens in 1701. It was perhaps in Foubert's academy that the artist John Vanderbank, 'the better to execute his ideas was himself a disciple in our Riding Schools and purchased a fine Horse as Model for his pencil' while preparing *Twenty Five Actions of the Manege Horse*, published in 1729.¹² Henry Foubert continued to run his academy until his death in 1743. It was then taken over by his nephew Solomon Durrell, under whom it declined into an ordinary riding school. It was finally closed by his son-in-law Thomas Evans in 1778.¹³

Not far away from Foubert's academy Benjamin Timbrell contracted in 1728 to build a riding house for the Earl of Hertford, future seventh Duke of Somerset, behind Grosvenor Square, between Adam's Mews and Mount Street. This was to be eighty-six feet long and forty feet wide and was to be accompanied by stabling for thirty horses, for which Lord Hertford was to pay an annual rent of £80.¹⁴ As this was at some distance from Lord Hertford's house in Grosvenor Street, and provided an unusual quantity of stabling for a London house, and as Lord Hertford was Captain and Colonel of the Second Troop of Horse Guards from 1715 to 1740, it is possible that this was intended for military use. Ratebooks show that it was not built, but one was included in substantial new stables erected under Lord Hertford's colonelcy for the Second Troop of Horse Guards. These were built by Roger Morris in 1738 between Green Street, Park Street, Wood's Mews and Park Lane.¹⁵

Given the constraints on space in London it made sense for training to take

place under cover and Morris's riding house was one of a sequence built with new cavalry barracks in the city. A riding house had been included with the new stables erected in about 1730 for the First Troop of Horse Guards on the south side of Chapel (later Aldford) Street.¹⁶ Another was built in Curzon Street, just to the

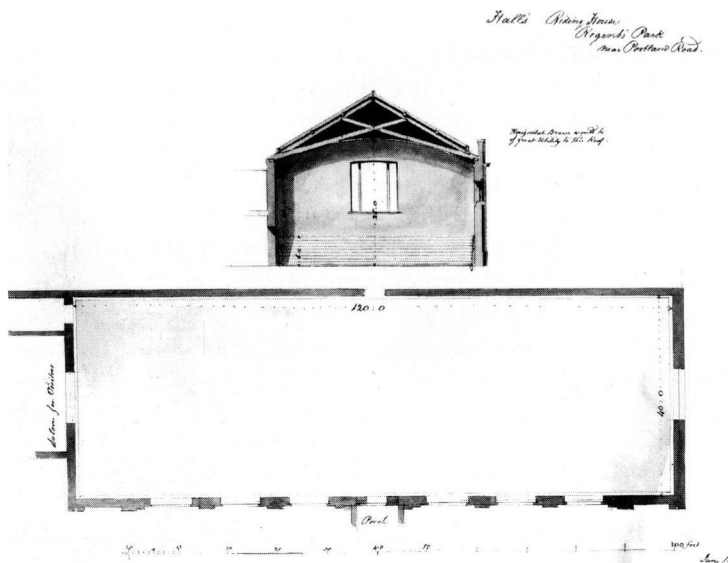


Fig. 5

Plan and section of the riding house of Hall's Riding School in Great Portland Street, London, formerly the riding house of the Guards Cavalry Barracks, drawn 1823
West Yorkshire Archive Services, Leeds

south of Chesterfield House, in 1751-2, and a fourth was erected for the First Troop of Grenadier Guards in Great Portland Street in 1752 (Fig. 5).¹⁷ A drawing in the Dashwood collection at West Wycombe reveals the Great Portland Street barracks to have had two ranges of stables flanking a riding house that was forty by eighty-six feet. This was subsequently extended to 120 feet, probably in the 1770s.¹⁸ The Curzon Street barracks lasted only a few years, disappearing from the ratebooks in 1756,

presumably when its occupants went off to fight in the Seven Years War. Its valuable site was swiftly redeveloped as housing. The Great Portland Street riding house survived the demolition of its barracks and in 1823 was being used as Hall's Riding School.¹⁹ Its presence is recorded in the name of Riding House Street. In Dublin the chapel built by Arthur Jones at the Royal Barracks was converted into a riding house in 1752.²⁰

The middle years of the eighteenth century saw a new wave of private riding houses thanks to a revival of interest in *haute école* in Britain. In 1771 Richard Berenger declared that the art of riding 'has so long been neglected and despised, that one would almost be prompted to conclude that a fatality had constantly attended it in this country...for a length of time it has been able to boast but a very few persons who have stood forth its avowed friends and protectors...but since the accession of his present Majesty, the prospect has brightened, and better times begin to dawn. Since this happy event the Art has raised itself a little, and given some signs of recovery; public riding houses have been opened, which are largely

encouraged and frequented by the youth of the nation...several private *Maneges* have likewise been erected by the *Princes* of the blood, some of the *Nobility* and *Gentry*; and to crown it all, his Majesty has erected one for his immediate use.²¹

The public riding houses Berenger refers to may have included two riding houses built on the edge of London, by William Rastall at Hyde Park Corner in 1738 and by James St Amour on the north side of Oxford Street, in 1740. The first of the new generation of private riding houses was probably that erected by the third Earl of Bute at Mount Stuart on the Isle of Bute in 1744. He later built a second riding house at his marine villa at Highcliffe, Hampshire. Other enthusiasts followed his example in the 1750s and 1760s, including Thomas Worsley at Hovingham Hall, Yorkshire (Fig. 6), Sir Henry Calthorpe at Elvetham Hall, Hampshire, George Pitt, first Lord Rivers, at Stratfield Saye, Hampshire, Philip



Fig. 6

The interior of the riding house at Hovingham Hall, Yorkshire, photographed in 1999

William Curtis Rolf

Meadows in Curzon Street, Mayfair, and the tenth Earl of Pembroke at Wilton House, Wiltshire, and Pembroke House, Whitehall. The second Duke of Bedford also built a riding house as part of his grand stable complex at Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire, presumably for his son, Lord Tavistock, who subsequently died after falling from his horse.

These enthusiasts had learnt their skill in foreign academies at a time of renewed development in *haute école* on the Continent, seen in the publication of three important treatises: Baron d'Eisenberg's *Description du Manege Moderne* in 1727, Francois de la Gueriniere's *École de la Cavalerie* in 1733 and Claude Bourgelat's *Le Nouveau Newcastle* in 1744. These sought to improve on the methods of the seventeenth century and crystallized much of *haute école* as it is practised today.

As Berenger noted, this surge of interest in *haute école*, and in riding houses, culminated in the riding houses built for George III at Buckingham House in 1763-6 (Figs 7-9) and for his brother the Duke of Gloucester in Hyde Park in 1768 (Fig. 10). It could also be seen in the foundation of a number of new academies. The first of these was founded by Thomas Marquois, Professor of Artillery and Fortification, in 1761 at Norlands, on the site of what is now Holland Park Avenue. Like Maidwell's academy before him, Marquois offered a wide curriculum, with

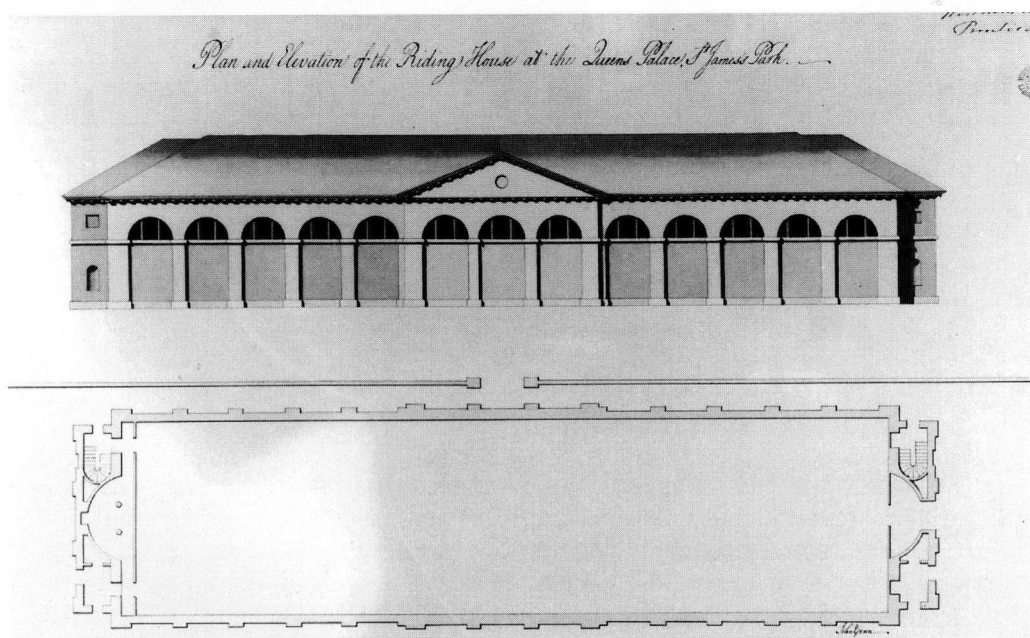


Fig. 7

John Yenn, survey plan and elevation of the riding house at Buckingham House, London, built 1763-6

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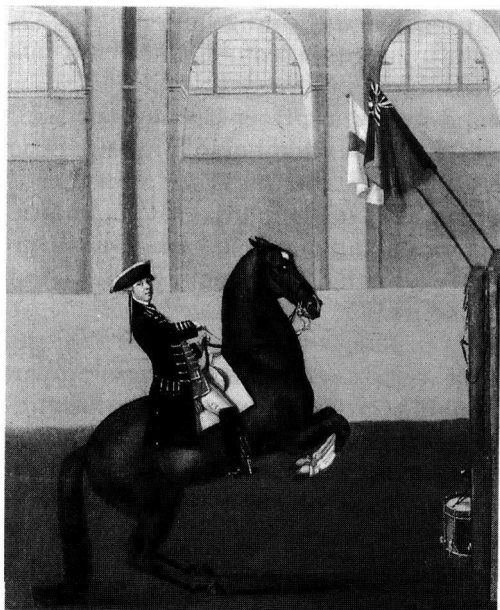


Fig. 8

David Morier, 'James Montagu in the riding house at Buckingham House', 1766

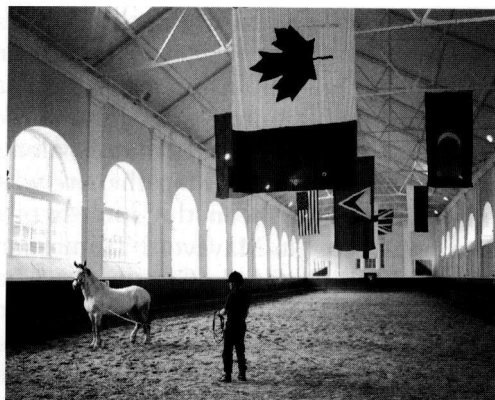
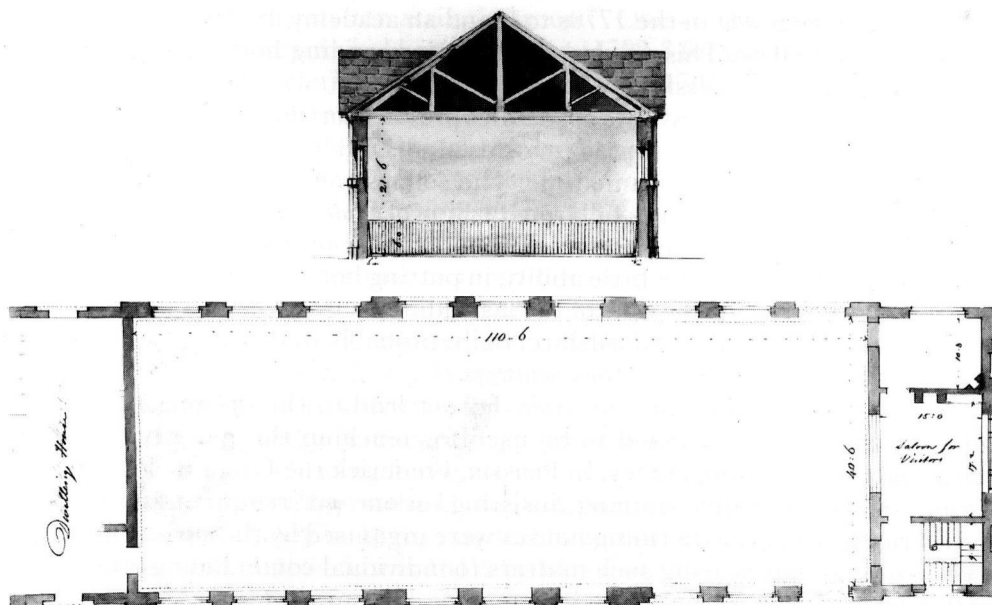


Fig. 9

The interior of the riding house at Buckingham House, London, photographed in 1999
William Curtis Rolf

Fig. 10 (below)
Plan and section of the Duke of Gloucester's riding house in Hyde Park, London, later Fozard's Riding School, drawn c.1823
West Yorkshire Archive Service, Leeds



riding at two guineas a month. The academy included a riding house eighty-six feet long by forty-two feet wide and an open manege or 'course where various exercises of horsemanship are occasionally exhibited'.

Marquois' academy was not a success and four years later he auctioned the lease of the academy and grounds, along with the horses and horse furniture. The school closed in 1792 when the site was redeveloped.²² Part of the reason for his failure may have been the success of another academy founded by an Italian, Domenico Angelo Mavevoli Tremamondo, more commonly known as Domenico Angelo, a pupil of de la Gueriniere, who came to England in about 1753. He first entered the service of the Earl of Pembroke and in 1758 was engaged to teach the future Dukes of Cumberland and Gloucester to fence and ride in the manege. With this royal patronage to recommend him Angelo set up his own academy in 1763 or 1764, renting the grand but unfashionable Carlisle House in Soho Square. Here he built a riding house in the back garden and lived in great style thanks to fees of 100 guineas a year. At the same time a publicly funded academy with a riding house designed by Robert Adam, was established in Edinburgh in 1763, on a site donated by the city council.²³

Another academy established in these years was the Military Academy at Little Chelsea on the Fulham Road, founded by a Belgian, Lewis Lochée, in 1773.²⁴ A letter to John Grimston of Kilnwick Hall in Yorkshire from Joseph Groves in 1777 explains the thinking behind these military academies, which were favoured by young men planning to join the army. Groves noted disapprovingly that though Lochée's cadets put on the greatest parade, with pupils wearing uniform, standing guard and setting up camp on Wimbledon Common in the summer, they had no riding house. That deficiency was corrected the following year.²⁵ An unsuccessful attempt was even made in the 1770s to found an academy in Oxford with a legacy left by Viscount Hyde. This would have included a riding house costing £450 but the attempt was unsuccessful.²⁶

The fashion for military-style academies proved short-lived. Angelo left Carlisle House in the 1780s, Lochée's academy closed in 1788/9 and the Edinburgh Royal Academy folded around the same time. The collapse of so many of the academies may have been hastened by the fall from fashion of *haute école* at this time. Although James Byng noted on visiting the riding house at Bolsover Castle in 1789 that he had 'ever the wish, and some little ability, in putting horses upon their haunches',²⁷ the art was in sharp decline. One of the last riding houses erected by an enthusiast was that at Fawley Court, Oxfordshire, built, probably in the 1780s, by Strickland Freeman, author of the *Art of Horsemanship*.

However, the decline in *haute école* did not lead to the disappearance of the riding house, which continued to be used for teaching the more basic skills of riding and for exercising horses. In Prussia, Frederick the Great had made riding houses central to cavalry training, insisting on one per regiment and in France cavalry riding schools with riding houses were organised by the state. The English were less organised, leaving such matters to individual commanding officers. The tenth Earl of Pembroke, appointed to command the newly formed First Regiment

of Light Dragoons in 1759, strongly favoured the use of riding houses to train military horsemen. He employed Domenico Angelo to teach recruits in his riding house at Wilton House, Wiltshire, and in 1762 published his *Method for Breaking Horse and Teaching Solders how to Ride*, which promoted the use of riding houses.

But though Pembroke's book formed the basis of British cavalry training for many decades, when in 1773 Colonel Blaquiere in Ireland enquired of the Commander-in-Chief what experience the army had in building riding houses he learnt that only two riding houses had recently been built in England. One had been built by the King's Own Regiment of Dragoons, the other by the Blues at Nottingham. Both had been built by the commander of the regiment at a cost of just over £400. A set of designs for riding house and drill hall to be used in dragoon encampments dated 1773 and made by Christopher Myers, an architect working in Ireland, may be the result of Blaquiere's enquiry. The proposed riding house was very plain, ninety feet by forty feet, and cost £616.²⁸

Military riding houses thus remained uncommon outside London. When Lord Pembroke's protégé Major Floyd was quartered in York for the winter of 1780 he was delighted to have the use of a riding house, the converted former tennis court of Ingram's Palace, for the first time. The following year he was in Manchester, from where he wrote that he had an excellent riding house that had been a great help.²⁹ Another riding house, which survives, was built in Oakham for the Rutland Fencibles in 1784.³⁰

It was not until the Napoleonic Wars that riding houses became commonplace in cavalry barracks outside London. In response to the threat of French invasion, and of domestic unrest at home, the early 1790s saw a concentrated campaign of barrack building, with a string of new cavalry barracks. All included a riding house, except those intended only for a single troop.³¹ One of the best examples was Hyde Park Cavalry Barracks in London, built in 1792-3 for the Life Guards, where a riding house with Diocletian windows was added in 1795.³² The riding houses of the Higher Barracks in Exeter and the Marabout Barracks in Dorchester, both of 1794, survive from this date.³³ One of the largest examples must have been the London Cavalry Riding House, off City Road, shown in Horwood's map of London of 1792-9. Meanwhile at the Royal Artillery Barracks at Woolwich, the largest single barracks in the country housing 3,492 men and 1,718 horses, no fewer than three riding houses, at least one of them designed by James Wyatt, were built between 1786 and 1808.³⁴

Most eighteenth-century military riding houses were demolished along with their barracks after the Napoleonic Wars and despite being a ubiquitous feature of Victorian cavalry barracks only five are known to survive from the nineteenth century.³⁵ Where eighteenth-century riding houses had been little larger than civilian examples – Myers's 1773 riding house was only ninety by forty feet, that in Riding House Lane, 120 by forty feet – the Hyde Park Barracks riding house (considered perfect by Thomas Cundy in 1816) was 180 by forty feet and the St John's Wood Riding House, built in 1824-5, was 184½ by 64½ feet. This seems to have become the regulation size for the military riding house, and indeed a standard model for

military riding houses was drawn up by the Office of the Inspector-General of Cavalry. This recommended that riding houses should be three times as long as they were broad, high enough for a lance to be carried and have a spectators' gallery for superior officers.³⁶ The St John's Wood Riding House is still used for its original purpose. Other surviving nineteenth-century military riding houses include those at Hillsborough Barracks in Sheffield, built in 1848-53; Northumberland Road, Newcastle, built in 1849, probably by John Dobson, for the Northumberland Yeomanry; a particularly grand example of 1854-9 at the Beaumont Cavalry Barracks in Aldershot (Fig. 11), now redundant and under threat; and the Le Cateau Cavalry Barracks in Colchester, built in the 1860s.³⁷ Only Thomas Earp's handsome tympanum sculpture survives from the riding house built in 1878-80 at Knightsbridge (formerly Hyde Park) Barracks (Fig. 12).



Fig. 11

Exterior of the riding house at Beaumont Barracks, Aldershot, Surrey, built 1854-9

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It was not only the army that appreciated the value of riding houses not for *haute école* but for ordinary riding. Under Thomas Durell, who succeeded Henry Foubert in 1743, Foubert's Academy had declined to a simple riding school. By 1776 the establishment no longer used Maidwell's original riding house but a long 'ride' running the length of nearby Swallow Street. By 1782 it was no more than a livery stable and all was demolished to make way for Regent's Street in 1820.³⁸ Other establishments never claimed to be anything but riding schools and were often set up in riding houses no longer needed for their original use. The Duke of Gloucester's riding house in Hyde Park ended up as Fozard's Riding School (Fig. 10) and that in Riding House Lane was used for a time as Hall's Riding School (Fig. 5).³⁹ In the nineteenth century Knightsbridge and South Kensington were popular sites for riding schools. The riding house of Nanning's riding school in Halkin Street off Belgrave Square was one of those surveyed for Lord Grantham in 1823,⁴⁰ and in Fulham Road J. A. Preece opened a riding school, with a new riding house, on the site of Lochée's academy in 1883.⁴¹ As long as riding in Hyde

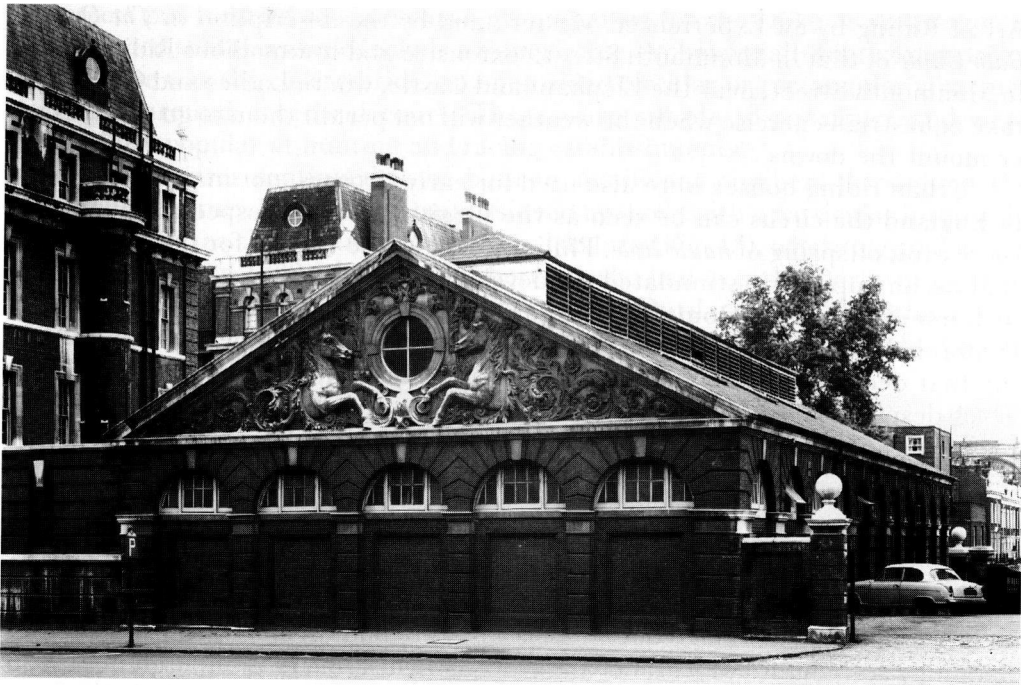


Fig. 12
Exterior of the riding house at Knightsbridge Barracks, London, built 1878-80,
photographed 1964. Demolished
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Park was one of the principal social amusements of the capital, the riding school, with its riding house, remained an essential adjunct to London society.

Outside London, riding schools were established in the fashionable resort towns of Bath, Brighton and Cheltenham. The first riding house in Bath was erected in 1772 in Montpellier Row, behind the New Assembly Rooms and by 1795 there were three rival riding schools in Bath.⁴² In Cheltenham, where there was considerable rivalry between the different spas, the Montpellier riding school, built at the same time as that spa, would have been considered part of its amenities. Likewise, in Brighton the planned development of Kemptown in 1825 included a large circular riding house among the regular squares and crescents. The development was not as successful as hoped and the riding house was never built, but it had clearly been intended as a draw for the new area.⁴³ In Brighton itself the Brunswick Market, built in 1828, was enlarged and converted into a riding house for a riding academy in 1840, which from 1875 was known as Mr Dupont's Riding Academy.⁴⁴

The function of such establishments was summed up by an advertisement for the original Montpellier Riding School in the *Bath Directory* of 1846: 'Carter's Riding School, Livery and Commission Stables...Ladies and Gentlemen taught the Polite

Art of Riding by an Experienced Master', and by the description in *The Original Bath Guide* of that in Monmouth Street: 'extensive and commodious Riding House in Monmouth Street, near the Elephant and Castle, where Ladies and Gentlemen take equestrian exercise when the weather will not permit them to go on the roads or mount the downs'.⁴⁵

Urban riding houses were also used for early circuses, not inappropriately as in England the circus can be seen as the illegitimate, less respectable but more successful, offspring of *haute école*. Philip Astley, whose talents for trick riding and skills as an impresario stimulated the development of the circus, had been trained in horsemanship by Domenico Angelo when he was serving in the Earl of Pembroke's regiment. Such was Astley's success that by 1779 he was able to build the first dedicated circus building in England, the Amphitheatre Riding House, which despite its name was not a conventional riding house but a circular building.⁴⁶ Astley often used existing riding houses on his tours, playing at Bristol and Manchester in this way. At Nottingham he used the Yeomanry's riding house built by William Stretton in 1798.⁴⁷

Riding houses proved inconvenient for the hippodrama, complete with plot, that became popular in the late eighteenth century.⁴⁸ To accommodate these, special equestrian theatres, similar in appearance to conventional theatres except for the ring that took much of the space in the stalls, were built in most of the major cities. Examples were built in Liverpool and Newcastle in 1789, in Edinburgh in 1790, in Bristol in 1791, in Manchester in 1793, in Brighton in 1808, in Glasgow by 1810, in Birmingham about 1830 and in Sheffield in 1836.⁴⁹ Between tours, or when the circuses fell on hard times, these were sometimes used by riding schools. In 1805 Elizabeth Chivers commented on a visit to Edinburgh that the amphitheatre served as a riding school as well as being used for dancing and tumbling.⁵⁰ Similarly, in Newcastle a plan of 1830 refers to a 'Circus and Riding School' near Forth Walk. On the other hand, a separate hall or riding house was added to the rear of Ginnett's Royal Hippodrome in Brighton to serve as a riding school in 1877.⁵¹

Throughout this period private riding houses continued to be built at country houses, not for the practice of *haute école* but for the ease of exercising and training horses, particularly hunters and racehorses, and for teaching riding. One of the first to be built for exercising thoroughbreds not *haute école* was that erected at Calke Abbey, Derbyshire, in 1768 for Sir Henry Harpur, an enthusiastic racehorse breeder. He was followed by the Duke of Richmond who built a riding house in 1783 at Itchenor House, Sussex, his marine villa and racing stables on the coast near Goodwood. But the most impressive riding house built at this date was that in the palatial stables at Wentworth Woodhouse, Yorkshire, built by the second Marquis of Rockingham, a fanatical horsebreeder, in 1780-6. This was 130 feet long and forty-six feet wide.

During the Regency period riding houses were principally built at particularly grand establishments, such as Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire, for the Duke of Bedford, Lowther Castle, Cumbria, for the Earl of Lonsdale or at Carlton House in London and the Royal Pavilion in Brighton for the Prince Regent. When young

architects put forward schemes for a grand palace for the Duke of Wellington it was assumed that this would include a riding house. A cheaper alternative developed at this time was the covered ride, an open-sided circular or rectangular structure arranged around a central court. These were simple to construct and were particularly popular at hunting and racing establishments.

Riding houses continued to be built in significant numbers throughout the nineteenth century. Some were commissioned by those with a particular interest in horsebreeding, as at Ladykirk House, Berwickshire (Fig. 13), where a grand riding house was built in 1850-3 by David Robertson who had won the Derby in 1840, or by the fifth Earl of Rosebery, at his Epsom stud Durdans in 1881. Others were erected by keen hunting men, like the sixth Duke of Leeds at Hornby Castle,



Fig. 13

Exterior of the riding house at Ladykirk House, Berwickshire, built 1850-3

Mark Fiennes

Yorkshire, or the seventh Earl of Guildford, who included one when building new hunt stables at Waldershare Park, Kent, in 1871. Many were just one, albeit substantial, extra in the well-appointed Victorian country house, as at Thoresby Hall, Nottinghamshire, where a riding house was included in the house built by Anthony Salvin for the third Earl Manvers in 1872-5, or at Ashwell Hall, Leicestershire, built in about 1879 by the wealthy gunmaker Westley Richards. None was as grand as the astonishing riding house, 396 feet long and 108 feet wide with a cast-iron interior and glass and iron roof built by the fifth Duke of Portland at Welbeck Abbey. This was part of a monumental set of offices that included a 422-yard covered ride and stables rebuilt on an epic scale with a tunnel

to the riding house.

The last riding house known to have been built for a country house was that at Moreton Hall, Warwickshire (Fig. 14), in *c.*1904-9, for Charles Tuller Garland, who turned the estate into a sporting showpiece and formed the Moreton Morrell Polo Club in 1905. In the twentieth century, with the decline in the prosperity of the country house, most old riding houses ceased to be used for their original purpose. Many were converted into barns or grain sheds. Others were used for general-purpose storage. Today they are sometimes used for tearooms, shops or exhibition galleries. English Heritage even considered converting the Duke of Newcastle's magnificent riding house at Bolsover Castle, Derbyshire, into a conference hall in the 1990s. Fortunately, it was dissuaded. Very few are used for their original purpose.

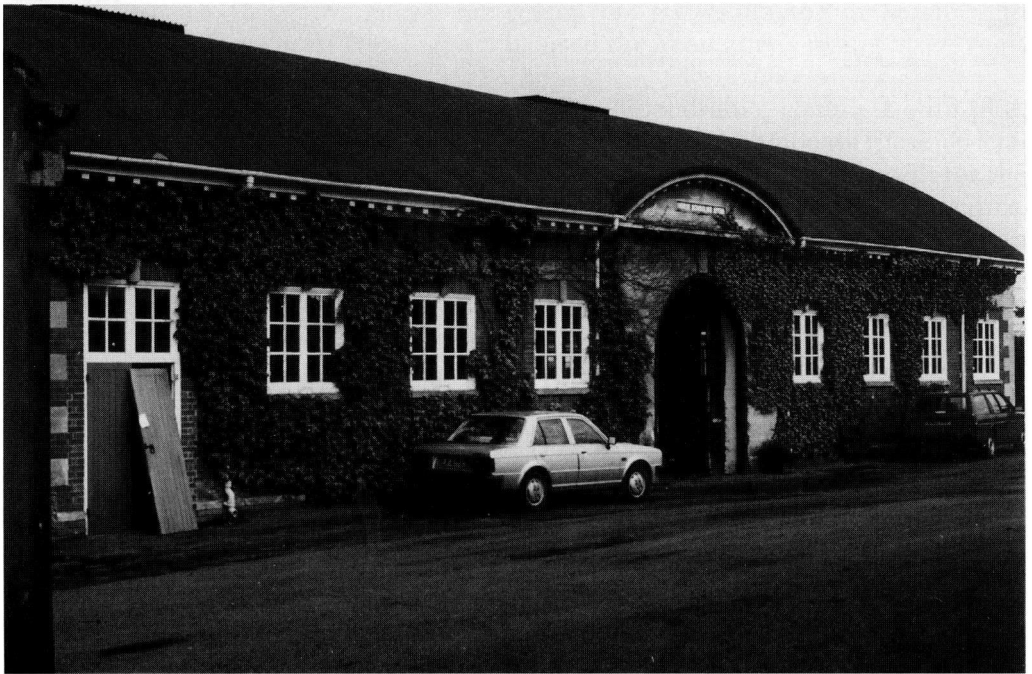


Fig. 14

Exterior of the riding house at Moreton Hall, Warwickshire, built *c.*1904-9, photographed 1984
Giles Worsley

Riding houses varied in size from about sixty-two by thirty-two feet to the fifth Duke of Portland's riding house at Welbeck Abbey, Nottinghamshire (Cover illustration), which at 396 feet long, 108 feet wide and fifty feet high was reputed to be the largest riding house in the world outside Moscow. They were often cheap, utilitarian buildings, erected for the lowest possible cost as at Firlie Place, Sussex,

but they could be treated with considerable architectural elaboration, as at Ladykirk House. They shared certain common characteristics. They tended to be about two-and-a-half to three times longer than they were wide and few were less than thirty feet wide. As they needed to be well-lit but to avoid direct sunlight dazzling the horses, they usually had tall, clerestory windows. They also had large doors to allow a mounted rider to enter. They often had matchboard panelling, sometimes sloped, along the lower part of the walls to protect the legs of horses and riders. And they commonly had a gallery 'pour les dames', as Lord Bute put it when planning his riding house at Mount Stuart.⁵²

CATALOGUE OF BRITISH AND IRISH RIDING HOUSES

Any attempt to establish the significance of riding houses must start with identifying how many were built, when and for whom, and how many survive. This catalogue of over eighty extant and demolished royal, country-house and private urban riding houses in the British Isles, together with a list of proposed riding houses, is offered as a preliminary list which it is hoped that others will add to and refine. Because riding houses were ubiquitous in cavalry barracks during the Napoleonic Wars and in the nineteenth century no attempt has been made to create a catalogue of military riding houses, or of commercial riding houses.

ASHRIDGE HOUSE, HERTFORDSHIRE

Built c.1651 for the third Earl of Bridgewater. Demolished.

Lord Bridgewater was the son-in-law of the Duke of Newcastle. In a defensive memorandum explaining how he built more at Ashridge than he could afford, the earl wrote: 'I will therefore begin with that, for which I have been more censured then for anyone thing, I meane my Riding house at Ashridge....[this] I made use of, for, not onely so innocent, but so noble a recreation, (& that, at a time too, when the troubles I was in, debarr'd me from going abroad with any Safety) that I hope the fault of that Expencc, will, with the assistance of a little Charity, be forgiven me, especially if it be consider'd to how many good & proper uses, that house may conveniently be put, although it should happen never againe to be made use of to that purpose for which it was built'.

Bridgewater succeeded his father in 1649 and was arrested on suspicion of conspiracy in April 1651. He was released on bail of £10,000 and it was presumably at this point that he built his riding house.

Huntingdon Library, San Marino, California, Bridgewater Mss 8117.

Dictionary of National Biography, XVII (London, 1889), 157.

ASHWELL HALL, LEICESTERSHIRE

Built c.1879 for Westley Richards. Extant.

Westley Richards, a gunmaker, bought Ashwell Hall from the eighth Viscount Downe in 1857. He built a large, conventional neo-Elizabethan house in 1879, together with a very large gabled stable court and riding house in coursed, squared ironstone with limestone dressings, buff brick linings and Collyweston slate.

Department of the Environment List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historical Interest.

ASKE HALL, NORTH YORKSHIRE

Built for the Marquess of Zetland, probably in the mid-to-late nineteenth century. 110 x 36 ft. Extant.

The riding house at Aske Hall is a very simple and cheap construction with a stone back

wall, twelve large windows to the south, end walls of timber and a light-weight metal roof. It is not clear when it was built but the Zetland Hunt was housed at Aske Hall with very substantial stables built in 1880 and kennels. The riding house, which is shown on the first edition twenty-five inch Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in 1891, was probably used to exercise hunters on frosty days when hunting was impossible.

BLENHEIM PALACE, OXFORDSHIRE

Built for the Duke of Marlborough, probably in the 1850s or 1860s. Extant.

The riding house, which was originally open on the courtyard side with a screen wall and cast-iron columns supporting a queen-post truss roof with a very long span, was probably built in the 1850s or 1860s as part of a general refitting of

the stables. The open elevation was filled with weather-boarding and metal windows during the Second World War.

BOLSOVER CASTLE, DERBYSHIRE

Built 1630s, possibly by Huntingdon Smythson, for the first Earl (late Duke) of Newcastle. 90 x 30ft. Extant (Fig. 15).

The riding house, which has been much altered, forms the south-east range of the Great Court, along with the stables. Built of stone, it is architecturally impressive with four large windows flanking a massive rusticated door based on Francini's *Architectura Moderna*. It seems to have been built in the 1630s but to have lost its original roof after the Civil War, after which a new, hammerbeam roof was installed in the early 1660s. The windows have been raised,

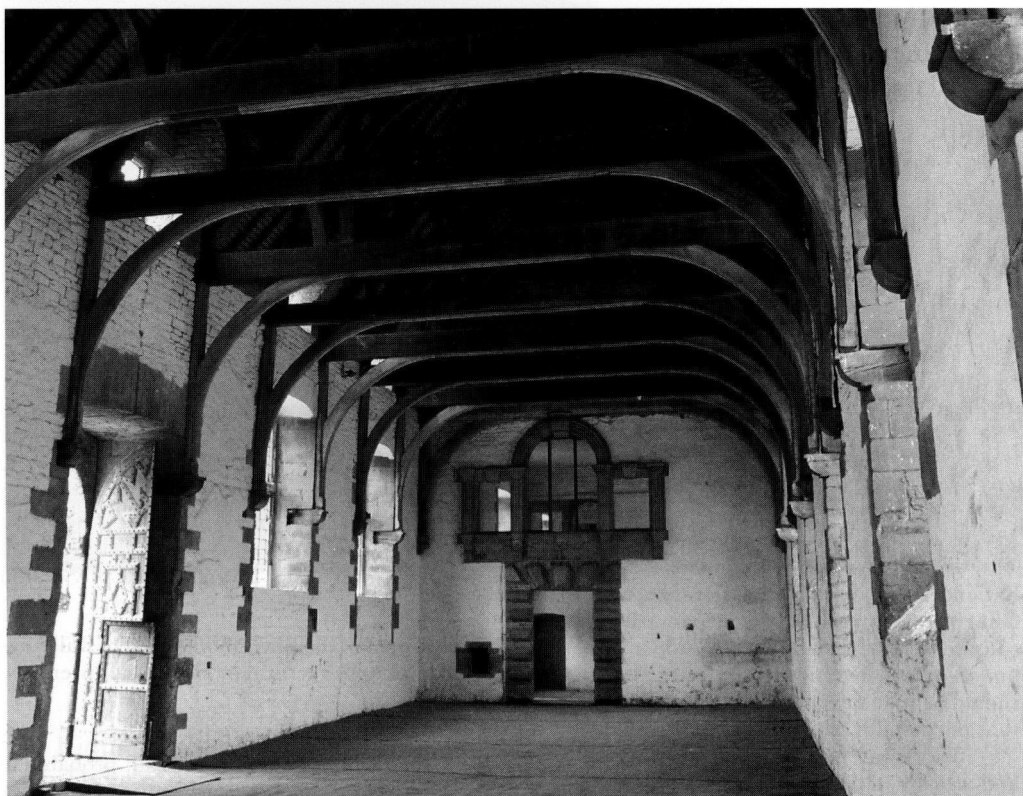


Fig. 15

The interior of the riding house at Bolsover Castle, Derbyshire, photographed in 1999

William Curtis Rolf

presumably to prevent direct sunlight in the riding house. A viewing gallery in the form of a Serlian window was also inserted at a later date, probably in the 1660s.

Nottingham Record Office, Portland Papers, DD4P, 70/1.

Alexandre Francini, *Livre d'Architecture* (Paris, 1631), pl. II.

Margaret Cavendish, *The Life of ... William Cavendish, Duke, Marquess and Earl of Newcastle* (London, 1667), 152.

Mark Girouard, *Robert Smythson and the Elizabethan Country House* (New Haven and London, 1983), 300-2, fig. 20, pls. 196-9.

Lucy Worsley, 'Riding houses and horses: William Cavendish's architecture for the art of horsemanship', *Architectural History*, 45 (2002), 194-229.

BUCKINGHAM HOUSE, LONDON

Built in 1763-6, probably by Sir William Chambers and Thomas Worsley, for George III. 203 x 50ft. Used by the Royal Mews (Figs 7-9).

George III was a keen enthusiast for *haute école* and the riding house was built as part of his improvements to Buckingham House after he acquired it in 1762. It cost £5,726 15s 7d and its authorship is uncertain. Chambers was responsible for most of the work at Buckingham House, but Worsley, Surveyor-General of the Office of Works as well as a keen amateur architect and horseman, was also closely involved in the work and is likely to have taken a leading part in the design of the riding house. Designs for a riding house by Worsley among the Hovingham archives may relate to that at Buckingham House.

After the king became incapacitated the riding house was used by the army's Riding Establishment or cavalry training school and subsequently was incorporated into the Royal Mews when that moved from Charing Cross. It was refaced in cement by James Pennethorne in 1859-60 who added the decoration of the cornice and arches. At the same time the pediment was filled by William Theed's *Hercules taming the horses of Diomedes*. In 1913-4 the riding house was re-roofed with a cast-iron structure at a cost of £3,890.

The riding house is thirteen bays long with blind arcading and Diocletian windows, and the central three bays are surmounted by a

pediment. An apse at the east end that originally held a viewing gallery has been filled in. The inside walls are decorated with Doric pilasters.

PRO, WORK 19/9/3650; 19/10; 34/530,1445, 1486.

Sir John Soane's Museum LXII/3/6.

Royal Library 29586; information from the Hon. Lady Roberts.

Westminster Public Library, Gardner Collection 39/30.

Blue Notes on Class VII Estimates, 1931 Revision, 14.

J.C. C. Sworder, 'The Wood', *Royal Artillery Journal*, LXXXIV (1957), 209-12.

John Harris, *Sir William Chambers* (London, 1970), 219, pl. 120.

Howard Colvin (ed.), *The History of the Kings Works*, 6 vols. (London, 1962-82), V, 137; VI, 303-7.

Giles Worsley, 'The Greatest Stable in London', *Country Life*, 24 July 1986.

BURTON CONSTABLE, YORKSHIRE

Built in 1842, by Charles Johnson, for Sir Clifford Constable. 150 x 47ft. Extant.

Constable was a keen horseman and built a racecourse in the park at Burton Constable. A dated estimate from Johnson to Constable, to build a riding house for £800, is on display at Burton Constable. The building was to be two bricks thick at the sides and one and a half at the ends; to have six windows on each side and eight skylights; the roof was to be good and substantial, of Welsh slate, secured with copper nails; the bottom of the interior was to be boarded.

CALKE ABBEY, DERBYSHIRE

Built in 1768, by Joseph Pickford, for Sir Henry Harpur. 90 x 40ft. Extant.

Harpur was an enthusiastic racehorse breeder. The Harpur Crewe papers record that Pickford was paid £200 on 12 June 1768 'on Account of ye Manage', and a further £191 12s 8d on 14 September 'in full for his Account for Building the Manage & other Things at Caulk'. The design of the roof was taken exactly from Price's *British Carpenter*, first published in 1735.

Brick with slate roof. The riding house was added at the rear of the early-eighteenth-century stables but is not entered through them. Plain, with a Thermal window at one end and a simple viewing gallery at the other.

Derbyshire Record Office, Harpur Crewe Papers, D 2375 M 171/56; information from Sir Howard Colvin.

Francis Place, *The British Carpenter* (London, 1735); information from Sir Howard Colvin.

Howard Colvin, 'Calke Abbey, Derbyshire - II', *Country Life*, 27 October 1983.

Howard Colvin, *Calke Abbey* (London, 1985), 45, 106.

CARLTON HOUSE, LONDON

Built in 1788-91, by Henry Holland, for the Prince Regent. 165 x 51ft, 30ft high. Demolished 1858.

Built over the coach houses and forge, approached by ramps from stables on the lower level. Lit by lunette windows. Viewing gallery in the middle of west wall. Details of decoration and of the roof structure can be found in Holland's record books in the RIBA.

Jill Lever, *Catalogue of the Drawings Collection of the Royal Institute of British Architects: G-K* (Farnborough, 1973), 136, H. Holland [4], sketchbook II, ff. 53v.

Dorothy Stroud, *Henry Holland* (London, 1966), 69-71.

Howard Colvin, *The History of the Kings Works*, VI (London, 1973), 321-3.

George Gate and Walter H. Godfrey (eds.) *Survey of London XX: Trafalgar Square and District* (London, 1940), 78.

CASTLE ASHBY, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Probably built after 1610 for William Compton, created first Earl of Northampton in 1618 (died 1630). c.75 x 30ft. Divided up into offices and garages (Fig. 4).

William Compton inherited a vast fortune from his father-in-law in 1610 and, according to John Pym, spent £72,000 in eight weeks 'most in great horses, rich saddles, and playe'. He founded an academy of horsemanship when President of the Council of Wales in 1618, for which he built a riding house at Ludlow Castle. He also did extensive building work at Castle Ashby and was probably responsible for the building in the stable court to the west of the house that appears to have been a riding house.

Originally single storey with a sharply pitched roof but now divided into two storeys with modern dormer windows. The front towards the house has mullioned and transomed windows inserted between stone piers. The pitch of the

roof is too high, and the building too wide, for it to have been a stable. If, as seems likely, the east wall was open it cannot have been a barn. The formal relationship to the house suggests it was a building of distinction and the dimensions and shape of the building are appropriate for a riding house. Documentary evidence for Castle Ashby at this date is scarce so this suggestion is impossible to prove, but given Northampton's passion for *haute école* and the riding house he built at Ludlow it seems probable. If so it would have been similar to the open riding house at the Royal Mews at Charing Cross.

W.D. Compton, *The History of the Comptons* (London, 1930), 54.

CRABBET PARK, SUSSEX

Built, possibly in 1878, by Wilfred Scawen Blunt for himself. Used by the Crabbet Park Equitation Centre.

William Scawen Blunt and his wife rebuilt Crabbet Park, where they kept a famous stud of Arabian horses, to their own designs in 1872-3. The riding house was probably built by them, possibly in 1878 when the stables were repaired and extended.

Mark Girouard, *The Victorian Country House* (New Haven and London, 1979), 403.

Rosemary Archer, *The Crabbet Arabian Stud* (Northleach, 1978), 30, 43.

CROFTON HALL, CUMBRIA

Built probably c.1860 for Sir Walter Brisco. Demolished by 1950.

The first series twenty-five inch Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in 1865-6, marks a riding school which was described in the sale catalogue of 1908: 'The Covered Riding School is large and lofty, it was built for the training and exercising of hunters, the centre forms a Covered Racket and Tennis Court'. It can probably be associated with the considerable improvements and enlargements by Sir Walter Brisco 'in recent years', noted in 1860.

The estate was sold to the Land Settlement Association in 1935 and the house pulled down. The riding house had been demolished by 1950.

Cumbria Record Office, DX/132/1906-1908/16; information from Mr David Bowark.

W. Whellan (ed.), *The History and Topography of*

the Counties of Cumberland and Westmorland (London, 1860), 253-4.

CROM CASTLE, CO. FERMANAGH

Built in 1860 for the third Earl of Erne. 70 x 45ft. Extant.

The third Earl of Erne did not hunt or own racehorses and was notoriously parsimonious, so it is unclear why he built a riding house, but it was presumably intended for his three sons, born between 1839 and 1844, all of whom were keen horsemen. In the late nineteenth century the riding house was used for the annual tenants' dance and for occasional grand banquets. It was converted into a sawmill in the 1950s and subsequently used as a machinery store.

The riding house, which is of stone with an ashlar entrance front and has a wide Tudor-arched doorway and five windows on each side, lies to the north-east of the stable block erected in 1832-5. The other elevations are rock-faced. It has a slate roof supported by metal structure with eight trusses made of wrought-iron bars and supporting cast-iron verticals. The gallery at the end was removed in the 1920s and a concrete floor was laid in the 1950s.

Crom Castle archives, Crom Expenses Book, 1847-8; Crom architectural drawings 1, 7, 8, 9; information from Terence Reeves-Smyth.

CURRAGHMORE, CO. WATERFORD

Built, before 1841, probably for the third Marquess of Waterford. c.180 x 90ft.

The Beresfords, owners of Curraghmore, were famed horsemen. The third Marquess of Waterford, who succeeded in 1826 and was killed hunting in 1859, was one of the most famous Masters of Foxhounds of his day. The stables at Curraghmore, which probably date from 1750-60, befitted their passion, forming long ranges flanking the entrance court with rusticated arches and pedimented archways. A riding house is marked on the first six inch Ordnance Survey map of 1841 and on the third edition of 1927. It was located on the north side of the courtyard in front of the main house and was approximately 180 x 90ft.

Information from Terence Reeves-Smyth. Mark Bence-Jones, *Burke's Guide to Country Houses: Ireland* (London, 1978), 97-8.

CURZON STREET, MAYFAIR, LONDON

Built for Philip Meadows, 1757. Demolished.

The ratebooks for St George's, Hanover Square, first record a riding house for Philip Meadows on Curzon Street, which was then being developed, in 1757. The riding house, which lay opposite Half Moon Street, became a fashionable place of resort. Earl Harcourt in a letter to Thomas Worsley in 1770 declared that he has a set of horses that would make a figure in the riding house in Curzon Street. Henry Angelo, who was taught there by Sir Sidney Meadows, recorded how Meadows exercised every morning in the riding house, where he was often visited by the nobility. Mrs Thrale after a visit compared the horses there to Kemble, Bernini and Pasiello: 'I have seen a high-dressed Horse in Sir Sidney Meadows Riding House guilty of the same Fault. Affectation is not confined to Man, educated Animals all have a Share'. In his obituary Sir Sidney Meadows was described as 'so extravagantly fond of horsemanship that he has been known to tire eleven horses in a day'.

Hovingham Hall, Worsley Archives, ZON 13/3/149.

Westminster City Archives, St George's Hanover Square Rate Book, C298.

Gentleman's Magazine, LXII (1792), ii, 1060-1.

Henry Angelo, *Reminiscences of Henry Angelo* (London, 1828 (or 1830)), II, 140.

Hester Lynch Thrale, *Thraliana* (ed. K.C. Balderston) (Oxford, 1942), 737.

DUBLIN CASTLE, DUBLIN

Built in 1705, by Thomas Burgh, for the Lord Lieutenant, the second Duke of Ormonde. Demolished.

The riding house, which was built as part of the Lord Lieutenant's court, was in the lower yard of the castle.

Rolf Loeber, *Biographical Dictionary of Architects in Ireland* (London, 1981), 34-45.

DURDANS, SURREY

Built in 1881, by George Devey, for the fifth Earl of Rosebery. 120 x 50ft. Extant (Fig. 16).

The riding house was built as part of Rosebery's racing stables. Working drawings by Devey in the RIBA, some more elaborate than the riding house as built, are dated from 21 October 1880 and the building bears a datestone



Fig. 16
Exterior of the riding house at the Durdans, Surrey, built 1881
© Crown Copyright. NMR

of 1881. Diaper-patterned brick walls, stone windows, buttresses, slate roof. Big window each end with high windows all round, boarded walls, viewing gallery.

Royal Institute of British Architects Drawings Collection, Devey drawings, unpublished catalogue; information from Dr Jill Allibone.

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON'S RIDING HOUSE, KNIGHTSBRIDGE, LONDON
Built in 1857, by Philip Hardwick, for the second Duke of Wellington. 142 x 61ft. Demolished c.1893.

The second Duke of Wellington, whose London home was Apsley House at Hyde Park Corner, built a private riding house on the north

side of Knightsbridge, adjacent to Hyde Park, in 1856. The architect, P. C. Hardwick, had already worked at Apsley House and the builders were Cubitts. The design was Classical with a prominent pediment onto Knightsbridge. The duke, who was Master of Horse, sought permission for direct access into Hyde Park, but was refused by the Queen.

The riding house was lit by a skylight that ran its whole length, with artificial lighting provided by gasoliers. The walls were lined with stained and varnished deal up to six feet and there was a gallery. The complex included a coach house, nineteen loose boxes and two harness rooms, with grooms' quarters above. The floor was made of compressed puddled clay, spread with a hard cement of 'iron scales' and bullocks' blood covered in sea sand. The riding house was

much used for public events, bazaars and meetings. The duke died in 1884 and in 1891 the riding house was sold for £60,000 and replaced by a block of flats.

Stratfield Saye Archives; information from Mrs J. Wilson.

Building News (2 January 1857), III, 21.

John Greenacombe (ed.), *Survey of London XLV: Knightsbridge* (London, 2000), 60-1, figs. 9, 14.

EATON HALL, CHESHIRE

Built in 1850, by William Burn, for second Marquess of Westminster. 83 x 43 ft. Extant.

Added to the rear of the Porden's stable quadrangle when it was remodelled by Burn. During Waterhouse's work it was the one element of the stables that was not rebuilt. It has a cast-iron and glass roof and the tan floor and sloping wooden boarding are intact.

Margaret Richardson, *Catalogue of the Drawings Collection of the Royal Institute of British Architects: B* (Farnborough, 1972), 128, W. Burn, Eaton Hall, 12-3.

Royal Institute of British Architects Drawings Collection, Waterhouse catalogue, unpublished, Wat A [19], 14, 22-4, 57.

EATON HALL STUD, CHESHIRE

Built c.1870 for the first Duke of Westminster. Extant.

The riding house is attached to the Eaton Stud, which is close to Stud Lodge and for which Douglas made ambitious but unexecuted designs in 1870.

Department of the Environment List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.

EAST SUTTON PARK, KENT

Built in 1846-8, by C.J. Richardson, for Sir Edward Filmer. 62 x 32ft. Used as a prison gymnasium.

Brick, on coursed stone plinth with external buttresses. Lit entirely from above. Barrel-vaulted roof with central ventilation louvre. Viewing gallery at one end.

Jill Lever, *Catalogue of the Drawings Collection of the Royal Institute of British Architects: O-R* (Farnborough, 1976), 129, C.J. Richardson, [1], 7-11.

ELVETHAM HALL, HAMPSHIRE

Built, probably c.1738-48, for Sir Henry Calthorpe. Demolished, probably c.1859.

Calthorpe, who was born in about 1717 and succeeded his father three years later, went mad in 1748 and died in 1788. In his *Tour of the West of England* in 1788 Stebbing Shaw noted that Elvetham was quite dilapidated and that Calthorpe had built a large riding house close to the house. It is not clear whether he built this riding house before he went mad or whether his madness took the form of a passion for *haute école*. In 1762 he was described as in great physical health but like a child in his understanding. Elvetham Hall and its stables were rebuilt in 1859-62.

Hampshire Record Office 26M62, Calthorpe of Elvetham Papers.

Stebbing Shaw, *Tour of the West of England* (London, 1789), 601.

Romney Sedgwick (ed.), *The History of Parliament: The House of Commons 1715-54* (London, 1970), I, 517-8.

FAWLEY COURT, OXFORDSHIRE

Built c.1782-94, by Samuel Wyatt, for Strickland Freeman. 120 x 40ft. Altered in the nineteenth century. Extant.

Freeman was a keen enthusiast for *haute école* and published *The Art of Horsemanship* in 1806. Two designs for a riding house in Samuel Wyatt's hand survive. This was described in 1794 in Boydell's *History of the River Thames* as 'a riding house on a large scale and consequently accompanied with the best apparatus for the amusement and practice of horsemanship'. One of Wyatt's drawings, which shows the riding house and a pillar used in *haute école*, is a measured drawing prepared for an engraving used in the book.

Harris and Robinson associate the drawings with James Wyatt's work at Fawley for Strickland's uncle Sambrooke Freeman in about 1771. Given Strickland's passion for *haute école* and his inclusion of the drawing in the book it is more likely to date from after his succeeded in 1782. He is known to have carried out extensive building projects on his house and estate.

The riding house is unusual for its alternately blank thermal windows, off-centre doorway and rounded end. All these features were advocated in Freeman's book. The roof has

an unusual form of queen-post truss that covers a widespread span with relatively small lengths of timber.

Gloucester Record Office, D1245 FF38/1/A4.

William Combe, *The History of the River Thames* (London, 1794), I, 258-9

Strickland Freeman, *The Art of Horsemanship altered and abbreviated, according to the principles of the late Sir S. Meadows* (London, 1806), pl. II.

Geoffrey Tyack, 'The Freemans of Fawley and their Buildings', *Records of Buckinghamshire*, 24 (1982), 140.

Eileen Harris and John Martin Robinson, 'New Light on Wyatt at Fawley', *Architectural History*, 27 (1984), 263-5, pls. 2a & b.

FIRLE PLACE, SUSSEX

Built, probably in the early nineteenth century, for the fourth Viscount Gage. *c.* 90 x 45ft. Used for storing estate materials.

Lord Gage, who succeeded as a minor, came of age in 1812. According to Nimrod he was 'an excellent friend to fox-hunting, and one to whom the East Sussex hunt stood greatly indebted'. The riding house is attached at one end of the stables of 1801 but is not shown on the original design nor mentioned in the accounts. It was shown on the first series twenty-five inch Ordnance Survey Map in 1874, so must have been built by Lord Gage, who died in 1877. He probably built it as a young man to exercise hunters.

Architecturally undistinguished, with five thermal windows on each side wall, the riding house is built in the local vernacular flint and brick and was always intended to be hidden by trees.

Sussex Record Office, Gage Mss, C/ACC 741; information from Mr C.R. Davey.

C.J. Apperley, *Nimrod's Sporting Tours* (London, 1926), 128.

GARENDON PARK, LEICESTERSHIRE

Built probably *c.* 1800 by Thomas March Phillipps. Used as a grain store.

Little is known about the former riding house at Garendon Park, but it was reputedly built by Thomas March Phillipps who succeeded to the estate in 1796 and died in 1817. It is now a grain store.

Information from Mr Gerard de Lisle.

Department of the Environment List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.

GLOUCESTER HOUSE, PARK LANE, LONDON

Built in 1768 for William, Duke of Gloucester. 110 ft 8 in x 40 ft 9 in. Demolished in 1824 (Fig. 10).

The riding house was built for the Duke of Gloucester, younger brother of George III, in Hyde Park, facing Gloucester House. Earl Grosvenor acquired Gloucester House after the duke's death and in 1807 sought to demolish the riding house. He was not permitted to do so as it was being used by the Westminster Volunteer Cavalry. It was subsequently used by Fozard's Riding School and a survey of 1816, when there were plans to build stables for Princess Charlotte on the site, survives in the Sir John Soane Museum. It was demolished not long after.

Eleven bays long, with an arcaded façade with thermal windows and a three-bay centrepiece with pediment, the design of the riding house bore a strong resemblance to that of Buckingham House and may be attributable to Sir William Chambers. As at Buckingham House there was an apse at one end with a viewing gallery. The building also housed stabling for twenty horses.

Sir John Soane's Museum, VIII/2/7-8.

West Yorkshire Archives Service, Leeds, NHC 12/2/3.

Thomas Smith, *Recollections of Hyde Park* (London, 1836), 26n.

F.H.W. Sheppard (ed.), *Survey of London XXXIX: The Grosvenor Estate in Mayfair* (London, 1977), pl. 13a; XL, 240, pl. 67a.

GRIMSTHORPE CASTLE, LINCOLNSHIRE

Of uncertain date.

The building is shown by Knyff in 1708, but as stables, apparently not as a riding house. The building as it survives today has definitely been a riding house but the Ancaster Papers shed no light as to when.

Leonard Knyff, *Nouveau Théâtre de la Grande Bretagne* (London, 1708), pls. 20, 22.

Nikolaus Pevsner, John Harris and Nicholas Antram, *The Buildings of England: Lincolnshire* (London, 1989), 351.

GRIMSTON PARK, NORTH YORKSHIRE

Built, probably *c.* 1840-7, by Decimus Burton for second Lord Howden. *c.* 120 x 40ft. Subdivided.

The riding house was probably built at the same time as the major remodelling of the house by Decimus Burton. Nine bays long with thermal windows, a three-bay centrepiece and pediment and wide eaves it forms one composition with the stables

Christopher Hussey, *English Country Houses: Late Georgian* (London, 1958), 238, pl. 453.

GROVE HOUSE, CHISWICK, MIDDLESEX

Built between 1772 and 1782 for Sir Humphry Morrice. Demolished by 1923.

Built during the ownership of Morrice, who left for Italy in 1782 and died in 1785. Morrice, who was a very indulgent owner – ‘The honours shown by Mr Morris to his beasts of burden were only inferior to those which Caligula lavish’d on his charger’ – even employed a boy to flap the flies from the horses’ hides during the summer. He built a large riding house and stabling for thirty horses. On his death he left Grove House to a Mrs Luther on the condition that the horses and other animals be looked after until their natural deaths. The riding house had been ‘long since demolished’ by 1923.

P Lysons, *Environs of London* (London, 1790), II, 197.

George Colman, *Random Records* (London, 1830), I, 280.

Thomas Faulkener, *The History and Antiquities of Brentford, Ealing and Chiswick* (London, 1845), 484-5.

Warwick Draper, *Chiswick* (London, 1923), 145. *Victoria County History: Middlesex*, VIII (London, 1982), 77.

Dictionary of National Biography, XXXIX (London, 1894), 44-6.

HACKWOOD HOUSE, HAMPSHIRE

Probably built *c.* 1699-1725 for the second or third Duke of Bolton. Demolished by 1817.

A large estate plan, undated but probably of 1725, formerly at Hackwood and illustrated by *Country Life*, shows a building marked manege by the stableyard, to the north-west of the house. This is confirmed by the 1807 plan and survey of Hackwood which shows the same building marked riding house and by a 1765 inventory

which refers to a riding house. The building is not shown on the 1683 estate map. This suggests the riding house was built either by the first Duke of Bolton, who died in 1699, aged sixty-eight, or, more plausibly, by his son the second duke, who died in 1722, aged sixty, or even his son the third duke.

After the death of the fifth Duke of Bolton in 1765 Hackwood was greatly neglected and the riding house may have fallen into disrepair. It must have been demolished in or before 1817 when a covered ride was built as part of new stables by Lewis Wyatt.

Hampshire County Record Office, Bolton Mss, 11M49/204.

Victoria County History: Hampshire, IV (London, 1911), 122.

Roger White, ‘John Vardy’ in Roderick Brown (ed.), *Architectural Outsiders* (London, 1984), 213. Richard Haslam, ‘Hackwood Park, Hampshire – II’, *Country Life*, 17 December 1987.

HAMILTON PALACE, LANARKSHIRE

Built in 1837-8, by David Hamilton, for the tenth Duke of Hamilton. Used as a museum.

Hamilton rebuilt the north front of Hamilton Palace for the tenth Duke of Hamilton in 1822-8. Dressed stone, three by six bays, semi-circular windows set in blank arcading.

Hamilton Mss, Ledger of Crops 1836-41; information from Mrs Margaret Walker.

HATFIELD HOUSE, HERTFORDSHIRE

Built in 1840 for the second Marquess of Salisbury. Extant.

The riding house was built, along with an adjacent real tennis court, beside the stables at Hatfield House, facing the Old Palace. Red brick and tiled, it is in a Tudor style and is currently used for exhibitions.

Department of the Environment List of Buildings of Special Architectural and Historic Interest.

HEWELL GRANGE, WORCESTERSHIRE

Built probably *c.* 1815-6 by Thomas Cundy for the sixth Earl of Plymouth. Extant.

A great early-nineteenth-century riding house worthy of St Petersburg survives at Hewell Grange. This was probably part of the major alterations at Hewell Grange carried out by

Thomas Cundy in 1815-6. Cundy was a keen exponent of riding houses, building one at Syon Park, Middlesex and designed one, which was not executed, at Middleton Park, Oxfordshire. Hewell Grange is now an open prison.

Information from Mr John Harris.

Margaret Richardson (ed.), *Catalogue of the Drawings Collection of the Royal Institute of British Architects: C-F* (Farnborough, 1972), 56, T. Cundy, record book, 3.

HIGHCLIFFE HOUSE, HAMPSHIRE

Built c.1773 for the third Earl of Bute. Demolished.

The Earl of Bute, a keen enthusiast for *haute école*, built himself a marine villa at Highcliffe on the south coast near Christchurch in 1773. After his death in 1792 the property was offered at auction on 17 June 1795 by Skinner and Dyke. The sale particulars include 'an excellent Riding House'. Like much of the rest of Bute's creation this was probably demolished soon after.

Skinner and Dyke, Particulars of Highcliffe Mansion House, 17 June 1795; information from Mr Francis Russell.

Christopher Hussey, 'Highcliffe Castle, Hampshire', *Country Life*, 24 April 1942.

HINTON HOUSE, SOMERSET

Built by 1797, probably for the second or third Earl Poulett. 82 x 31ft. Subdivided.

The riding house was incorporated in new work by Sir John Soane when he remodelled Hinton in 1797. It may have been built by Matthew Brettingham who carried out unspecified work for the second Earl Poulett, who succeeded in 1743. Alternatively, it may have been built by his brother, who succeeded in 1765 and died in 1788.

Brick, six bays, thermal windows at ground level and casement windows above to match externally with the rest of the stable quadrangle, the riding house had a plain timbered roof with no ceiling and was attached in 1797 to one end of the billiard room, which connected with the rest of the house.

Sir John Soane's Museum, VI/3/1 & 6.

Howard Colvin, *Biographical Dictionary of British Architects* (New Haven and London, 1995), 157. *Victoria County History: Somerset*, IV (London, 1978), 42-3.

HORNBY CASTLE, YORKSHIRE

Probably built before 1838 by Ignatius Bonomi for the sixth Duke of Leeds. 76 x 39ft. Used as a cattle shed.

An undated memorandum by Bonomi entitled 'Estimate for Building the Riding House which is to be carried as far as the four Stall stable...' survives among the papers of the Duke of Leeds at the Yorkshire Archaeological Society. The total cost was to be £360. It was probably intended for the sixth Duke of Leeds who was a constant follower of the Bedale Hunt until his death in 1838. A plain, barn-like structure of no architectural pretensions, of stone and slate, the riding house is attached to the west end of the stables.

Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Leeds, Duke of Leeds Papers, DDS/11/Bundle 6; information from Mr Peter Meadows.

Victoria County History: Yorkshire (London, 1912), II, 484.

HOVINGHAM HALL, NORTH YORKSHIRE

Built in 1767-9 by Thomas Worsley for himself. 75 x 35ft. Extant (Fig. 6)

Worsley was a passionate exponent of *haute école*, a keen horse breeder and an amateur architect. The riding house was built as the formal entrance to Hovingham Hall, which combined stables and domestic quarters in a single complex. Before building a permanent riding house Worsley built a temporary one thirty-seven-feet square in 1755 on the site of the current dining room.

Stone with a slate roof, lit by six tripartite windows. A gallery at the west end is supported by two Roman baseless Doric columns and a vaulted ceiling. This is matched at the east end by further columns and vaulting but with three grisaille panels in place of windows. Tarmac floor.

British Library, Add Mss 41197 ff.101v-102.

Mount Stuart Mss, third Earl of Bute correspondence, 1755-9.

Hovingham Hall, Worsley Mss, ZON 3/6 and ZON 17/2/22, 26.

Giles Worsley, 'Hovingham Hall, Yorkshire', *Country Life*, 15-22 September 1994.

HYDE PARK ROAD, LONDON

Built 1738 for William Rostall. Demolished.

A riding house is first recorded in the

ratebooks on Hyde Park Road, just by Hyde Park Corner, in 1738, when the rates were paid by a Mrs Rodsen. The following year it was occupied by William Rastall, who remained there until 1752, after which it was occupied by Thomas Gooch. It is not clear if the riding house was intended for personal or public use, but probably served as a riding school.

Westminster City Archives, St George's, Hanover Square ratebooks, C129, 241, 291.

ITCHENOR, WEST SUSSEX

Built in 1783, probably by James Wyatt, for the third Duke of Richmond. Used as a barn.

Itchenor was a maritime villa and stud a few miles from Goodwood. A new house was built there in 1787. The stud buildings and riding house are now used as farm buildings.

Department of the Environment List of Buildings of Special Architectural and Historic Interest.

KEW PALACE, RICHMOND, SURREY

There must have been a riding house at Kew in the late 1750s or early 1760s as Henry Angelo described his father Domenico Angelo teaching Princes Edward and William, the future Dukes of Cumberland and Gloucester, to ride in the manege at Kew. Mrs Papandiek later recorded that George III rode every day in the riding house at Kew. It is not clear when this riding house was built, where it was or when it was demolished. It is not mentioned in Chambers's account of his work at Kew and no riding house is mentioned in Rocque's survey of 1748 or that by Richardson in 1771.

John Rocque, *Plan of the House, Gardens and Park... at Richmond*, 1748 (British Library, King's Maps, Top. 41/16).

T. Richardson, *The Royal Gardens of Richmond and Kew*, 1771 (British Library, King's Maps, Top. 41/6).

William Chambers, *Plans, Elevations, Sections and Perspective Views of the Gardens and Buildings at Kew in Surrey* (London, 1763).

Henry Angelo, *Reminiscences of Henry Angelo* (London, 1828), II, 34.

Charlotte Papendiek, *Court and Private Life in the time of Queen Charlotte* (London, 1887), II, 49.

John Harris, *Sir William Chambers* (London, 1970), 213-4.

KIRBY HALL, NORTH YORKSHIRE

Built in the early nineteenth century by Richard Thompson. *c.* 87 x 27ft. Used as a barn.

Brick, of nine bays, with thermal windows set in arcades, following the pattern of John Carr's earlier stables. The riding house was built by Richard Thompson who succeeded in 1814 and died in 1853.

National Monuments Record, unpublished memoirs of the Dowager Lady Meysey-Thompson.

LADYKIRK HOUSE, BERWICKSHIRE

Built in 1850-3, by H.S.Ridley, for David Robertson. *c.* 190 x 50ft. Extant (Fig. 13).

Robertson was a keen horsebreeder who won the Derby in 1840. The riding house is attached to handsome stables of 1844-52 built by George Tattersall and cost £2,764 5s 1½d. Very large, with dressed stone, semi-circular windows set in blank arcading and circular windows above.

Scottish Record Office, GD413/20, building accounts.

W.V. Jones, *The Derby* (London, 1979), 194.

LEYSWOOD, WITHYAM, EAST SUSSEX

Built *c.* 1890, by Percy Gingham, for James Temple. Extant.

Leyswood was built for Temple by Richard Norman Shaw in 1866. Temple subsequently commissioned Percy Gingham, Norman Shaw's chief clerk from 1889, to build a riding house, also in the Arts and Crafts style. The riding house, which is lit by clerestory windows, is flanked by stabling on either side under a slightly lower sloping roof. It was subsequently adapted as a cattle shed.

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LISMORE CASTLE, CO. WATERFORD

A riding house is marked on the third edition of the Ordnance Survey map, though it was not shown on the first, 1841, edition. It was located south-east of the castle, close to the castle avenue and the east boundary wall with the town.

Information from Mr Terence Reeves-Smyth.

LOWTHER CASTLE, CUMBRIA

Built in 1806-10, by Robert Smirke, for the first Earl of Lonsdale. 89 x 40ft. Demolished by 1859.

According to Robert Smirke, Lord Lonsdale was a passionate hunting man: 'His favourite amusement is hunting and he keeps above fifty hunters'. A detailed plan of Lowther Castle in the RIBA, which differs from the house as built only in the dimensions of some of the rooms, shows a riding house on the south side of the stable court. This is confirmed by two surveys made soon after the castle was built, by J. Buckler in 1815 and by C.R. Cockerell in 1823. It had been replaced by a circular exercising ring behind the east court by 1859 when the first series Ordnance Survey map was made.

British Library, Add Ms 36390, ff.149v-50, 155v. Margaret Richardson (ed.), *Catalogue of the Drawings of the Royal Institute of British Architects: S* (Farnborough, 1976), 68, R. Smirke, [19], 5. John Harris, 'C.R. Cockerell's 'Ichnographica Domestica'', *Architectural History*, 14 (1971), fig. 16b.

Howard Colvin and others, 'Architectural Drawings from Lowther Castle, Westmorland', *Architectural History Monographs* (1980), 16, pl. 32. Joseph Farington, *The Diary* (ed. K. Cave) (New Haven and London, 1982), IX, 3280.

LUDLOW CASTLE, SHROPSHIRE

Built in 1618 for the first Earl of Northampton, President of the Council of Wales. Demolished.

In 1618 Lord Northampton, President of the Council of Wales, wrote to the Deputy Lieutenants of Flintshire about an academy of horsemanship that he intended to establish at the seat of the Council of Wales at Ludlow Castle. He planned to build a riding house in the castle and to hire a gentleman to teach horsemanship. This was to be financed by the Deputy Lieutenants and those assessed to supply a horse in the trained bands within the presidency.

The riding house is referred to in a letter of 1631 listing all the rooms in the castle and again in the parliamentary survey of the castle in 1650. After the dissolution of the presidency in 1689 Ludlow Castle was placed under the charge of a governor, for whom the post was a sinecure. Part of the castle continued to be occupied but the mass of the buildings fell into decay.

There is no reference to a riding house in Thomas Pritchard's survey of the castle in 1771,

but it can probably be identified with the tennis court, which would appear to have the right dimensions for a riding house on the accompanying plan. This lay on the north side of the outer gateway, with the stables on the other side of the gateway. At the far end of the riding house was the bowling green house and the bowling green. The stables lay on the other side of the gateway. These all belonged to Hill the tenant's house, which was described as in a bad condition. It is not known when the riding house was demolished.

Catherine Skeel, 'Ludlow Castle in 1631', *Shropshire Archaeological and and Natural History Transactions*, fourth series, V (1915), 123.

L. Mostyn and T. A. Glenn, *History of the Family of Mostyn* (London, 1925), 116.

'Ludlow Castle', *Archaeologia Cambrensis*, third series, XIV (1868), 142-6.

PRO MR 54 RC/1753; information from Mrs Julia Ionides.

MENTMORE, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Built 1869-70, by George Devey, for Baron Mayer Amschel de Rothschild. c. 120 x 35ft. Used as a carpark.

The riding house, of brick with a wooden cupola and modern corrugated iron roof, is an integral part of the stables built for Mentmore House.

Rothschild's daughter and heir married the fifth Earl of Rosebery, a keen horsebreeder, in 1878. In 1887 Rosebery considered converting the riding house to stables and building a new riding house. Devey prepared a series of designs, including a Classical and a half-timbered scheme. These were not executed. Nor were further schemes made in 1892. These included a proposed glazed riding house designed by Messenger and Company and schemes by Williams, West and Slade and M.P. Manning, all of which would have had central heating.

Rothschild Archives, 1869-70 accounts; information from Dr Jill Allibone.

Buckinghamshire County Museum, Mentmore Architectural Drawings, uncatalogued; information from Dr Jill Allibone.

Royal Institute of British Drawings, George Devey collection, unpublished catalogue; information from Dr Jill Allibone.

MORETON HALL, WARWICKSHIRE

Built c.1904-9, by W.H. Romaine-Walker, for Charles Tuller Garland. 85 x 65ft. Used as a riding house by the Warwickshire College of Agriculture (Fig. 14).

Garland was an extremely wealthy American who bought the Moreton estate in 1904 and rebuilt the house in 1907-8. He formed the Moreton Morrell Polo Club in 1905 and was an enthusiastic hunter. The riding house, which was adjacent to the stables, was probably built just before or at the same time as the house. It was probably used for the breaking and schooling of polo ponies.

Nine bays with a central door. Large windows on two sides. Red brick with stone centrepiece and details. Barrel-vaulted, iron-framed roof with central louvres.

Information from Mrs V. Watson, Warwickshire College of Agriculture Librarian.
Geoffrey Tyack, *Warwickshire Country Houses* (Chichester, 1994), 138-40.

MOUNT STUART, ISLE OF BUTE

Built in 1744 for the third Earl of Bute to his own designs. 90 x 40ft. Demolished.

In August 1743 the third Earl of Bute wrote to Thomas Worsley announcing that he had contracted to build a manege the following spring. He was unable to get beams wide enough so the roof had to be angled. He considered having the bottom three feet of the wall project one foot to provide protection against a horse crushing the horseman's leg against the wall and planned a gallery 'pour les Dames'. The riding house, which was to be attached to the stables, was to cost £300. It was eleven bays long with a Serlian window at the end.

Hovingham Hall, Worsley Mss, ZON 13/3/4-5.

NEWMARKET PALACE, SUFFOLK

Built in 1615-7, for the Prince of Wales. 108 x 36ft. Demolished c.1650.

When Inigo Jones was appointed Surveyor-General of the King's Works in 1615 one of his first tasks was to enlarge the King's House at Newmarket by the addition of a Prince's Lodging and various other buildings for Charles, Prince of Wales. Among the buildings erected were 'a faire large new stable for the great horse' and a

riding house. The riding house was built of timber with galleries raised on columns and cost £78. It was probably demolished under the Commonwealth.

Public Record Office, E351/3251.

John Harris, 'Inigo Jones and the Prince's Lodgings at Newmarket', *Architectural History*, 2 (1959), 33.

Howard Colvin (ed.), *History of the King's Works*, six vols. (London, 1962-82), IV, 175-9.

John Harris and Gordon Higgott, *Inigo Jones: Complete Architectural Drawings* (London, 1989), 101-2.

NOSTELL PRIORY, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Built in 1772-3, by Robert Adam, for Sir Rowland Winn. Used for functions.

Jonathan Rose sent Thomas Worsley a sketch of the riding house in November 1772. Failure of Rose's external stucco led to half its cost being deducted from Rose's final account in 1777. The riding house forms the south side of the stable quadrangle, of which only the south and west sides were completed under Adam's direction. Stone with a slate roof. Columned gallery in the centre of the south wall.

Hovingham Hall, Worsley Mss, ZON 13/3/192.
Leeds District Archives, Nostell Mss C3.1.5.4.2.

NUTWELL COURT, DEVON

Built c.1800, probably by S.P. Cockerell for the second Lord Heathfield. 150 x 50ft. Extant.

Nutwell Court was transformed for Lord Heathfield by S.P. Cockerell in 1802. The riding house, which is part of the Home Farm complex, was built c.1800 and is very large, of brick, with projecting eaves and pedimented gable ends with lunettes.

Department of the Environment List of Buildings of Special Architectural and Historic Interest.
Bridget Cherry and Nikolaus Pevsner, *The Buildings of England: Devon* (London, 1989), 552.

OLDWAY HOUSE, PAIGNTON, DEVON

Built 1873, by George Bridgeman, for Isaac Merritt Singer. Extant.

Circular riding house with clerestory windows encircled by stables. First-floor balcony. Red brick with Portland stone dressings. A

wooden floor could be laid for other entertainments. Oldway House is now council offices.

The Architect, 27 June 1874.

Anon guidebook, *Oldway Mansion, Paignton* (n.d.).

OSMASTON MANOR, DERBYSHIRE

Built c.1846-9, probably by Henry Isaac Stevens, for Francis Wright. Extant.

Osmaston Manor was a new house built on a massive scale by Stevens for Francis Wright, the son of a Nottingham banker in 1846-9. The house was demolished in 1965 but the riding house survived and was subsequently used as a cattle shed.

Maxwell Craven and Michael Stanley, *The Derbyshire Country House* (Derby, 1991), 158-60. Information from Mr T.R. Baker, agent at Osmaston.

OXFORD STREET, LONDON

Built in 1740 for James St Amour. Demolished c.1759.

Ratebooks first record a riding house for James St Amour in Oxford Street between Berners Street and Winsley Street. The site was not a fashionable one, which suggests this was intended for commercial use. It ceases to appear in the ratebooks in 1758 and was presumably demolished.

Westminster City Archives, Marylebone ratebooks 1740-59.

PEMBROKE HOUSE, WHITEHALL, LONDON

Built in 1756-8 for the tenth Earl of Pembroke. 76 x 35ft. Demolished.

Lord Pembroke demolished Old Pembroke House in 1756 and an account for masonry work measured in July-September 1758 included £522 for the manege and stables. The riding house was built with seven windows facing the river on Queen Mary's Terrace, projecting into the Thames, which explains the curved corners at the north-east end.

The flat roof over the riding house had to be renewed by Sir William Chambers in 1773 because of rot. This has led to suggestions that the riding house was built that year. Designs for a riding house by Vallin Delamothe in the

Pembroke archives cannot have been intended for Pembroke House as they would not have fitted the cramped site.

Wiltshire Record Office, Pembroke Archives A2/5, H3/14b.

British Library, Add. Mss. 31133 f.111. 111v. 116; 31135 f. 14.

Survey of London, XIII (London, 1930), 168-70, pl. 68.

John Harris, *Sir William Chambers* (London, 1970), 63, 235.

PENDLEY MANOR, HERTFORDSHIRE

Built in 1878, presumably by Walter F. K. Bryan, for Joseph Grant Williams.

Williams bought Pendley Manor in 1864 and employed W. F. K. Bryan to rebuild the house c.1874. The riding house, which is dated 1878, is part of the contemporary complex of stables and was presumably built by Bryan and has since been altered.

Department of the Environment List of Buildings of Special Architectural and Historic Interest.

PETWORTH HOUSE, SUSSEX

Built probably between 1609 and 1623, possibly between 1616 and 1623, for the ninth Earl of Northumberland. Demolished c.1714.

Northumberland's son, Lord Percy, learnt *haute école* under M. de St Antoine at the Royal Mews. In 1635 Hammond referred to a 'Stately Riding House for the great horse to ride in in all weathers and seasons whatsoever' at Petworth. It was part of renowned quadrangular stables that were demolished c.1714.

Lieutenant Hammond, 'Relation of a short survey of the Western Counties', *Camden Miscellany*, XVI, *Camden third Series*, LII (1936), 37.

J. Macky, *A Journey through England* (London, 1714), I, 67.

G.R. Batho (ed.), 'The Percies at Petworth', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* (1957), 18-9.

RABY CASTLE, COUNTY DURHAM

Built by 1835, either c.1770, by John Carr, for the second Earl of Darlington, or by Ignatius Bonomi for the first Duke of Cleveland. Extant.

Nimrod mentions 'a most spacious riding-school attached [to the stables] for exercise in

bad weather' at Raby in his *Sporting Tours* published in 1835. This may be the 'riding shed to be built against the garden wall', for which a section drawn by John Carr survives, possibly intended to be built at the same time as the stables of c.1770. Alternatively, it could have been built for the Duke of Cleveland, a fanatical hunting man, who succeeded his father in 1792. If so the architect was probably Ignatius Bonomi who built a hunting box with extensive stabling for the duke at Londonderry, Yorkshire, in 1822.

In 1870 the Duchess of Cleveland described the riding house as 'large, dark, with small unglazed windows on each side; no horses are ever exercised there now, and it is used only as a receptacle for the numberless waifs and strays that accumulate so rapidly in a great house'.

C.J. Apperley, *Nimrod's Sporting Tours* (London, 1835), 492.

Catherine Vane, *Handbook for Raby Castle* (London, 1870), 205.

Alistair Rowan, 'Gothick Restoration at Raby Castle', *Architectural History*, 15 (1972), 48.

RICHMOND PALACE, RICHMOND, SURREY
Built, probably in 1610 or 1611, for Henry Prince of Wales. Demolished during the Commonwealth.

In July 1611 Johann George Dehn-Rotsfeler, who was visiting England in the train of the Landgrave of Hesse, referred in his diary to a riding house at Richmond Palace in 'an old monastery called Sheen'. This must have been in the stables for Richmond Palace which were in the adjoining former Carthusian monastery at Sheen. He described witnessing Prince Henry and Prince Charles receiving instruction there at the hands of M. de St Antoine.

Prince Henry was probably living at Richmond from 1604-5, but it is unclear when the riding house was built. It is likely to have been between June 1610 and November 1612 when at least £10,000 was spent on the palace following Prince Henry's investiture as Prince of Wales. Much of this work was paid for by the Prince's own Office of Works, from which no detailed accounts survive. A reference in the Calendar of State Papers to digging and levelling in the ground at the Friars between November 1610 and June 1611 may be connected with its erection.

Landesbibliothek Kassel, MS Hass.18, f/79v.

Public Record Office, E317 Surrey 46.

Calendar of State Papers, Domestic, James I, 1611-8, 1858, 50.

Howard Colvin (ed.), *History of the King's Works*, six vols. (London, 1962-82), IV, 231.

Roy Strong, *Henry Prince of Wales* (London, 1986), 65, 94.

RIGMADEN PARK, CUMBRIA

In a *Country Life* advertisement of 1897 Rigmaden Park was described as having a covered riding school, as well as stabling for seventeen horses. No trace remains on the ground and it was not included in the original plans for building the house in 1825. No reference has been found to it in the Wilson papers in the Cumbria Record Office, which are not yet fully catalogued.

Country Life, 8 January 1897.

Information from Dr J.M. Robinson and R. Hall.

ROYAL MEWS, CHARING CROSS, LONDON
Built in 1614-5 for Prince Charles. Demolished.

An open 'riding place 300-ft long with post and rails' was formed at the Royal Mews in 1576. In 1582 a new 'Rode or manninge place' was created for the Queen's 'Great Horses'. In 1614-5 an eighty-foot-long riding house, only partially enclosed, with timber pillars supporting a tiled roof, was built. A similar, though slightly smaller riding house is shown in a survey of the Royal Mews made before 1725. In a plan that post-dates Kent's remodelling of 1732 this riding house is shown entirely walled in, which suggests at least a partial rebuilding. One of Kent's drawings for a new riding house notes that 'the present is 66 x 31ft'.

A. Stratton, 'The King's Mews at Charing Cross', *Architectural Review*, XXXIX (1916), 120-1, ill.

Howard Colvin (ed.), *History of the King's Works*, six vols. (London, 1962-82), IV, 162-4; V, fig. 12, pl. 69.

ROYAL PAVILION, BRIGHTON

Built in 1804-8, by William Porden, for the Prince Regent. 178 x 58ft. Used for dances and exhibitions.

The riding school formed a wing flanking the stables. The corresponding tennis court was never built and its site was used instead for

stabling. Vaguely Indian decoration with large windows and a wooden vaulted ceiling that used the same techniques as the roof of that of the Halle au Blé in Paris. Later used as a Corn Exchange.

J.B. Nichols, *Illustrations of Her Majesty's Palace at Brighton* (London, 1838), 15-7, pls. II, XXIX, XXXI, XXXIII.

H.D. Roberts, *A History of the Royal Pavilion* (London, 1939), 57-65.

ST ALBANS HOUSE, BRIGHTON, SUSSEX

Built for the Count de St Antonio, before 1830.

In 1830 the Duke and Duchess of St Albans rented No. 1 Regency Square, which was subsequently known as St Albans House. The property included very extensive stables and a large riding house, which the *Sussex Advertiser* of 6 October 1834 claimed was 'with the exception of Westminster Abbey, the largest room in England whose roof is not supported by pillars, and the dome which surmounts the stables is inferior only to that of St Paul's in circumference'. The riding house had originally belonged to the Count de St Antonio, who occupied a house close to St Albans House, and stood directly behind the Bedford Hotel. Soon after the death of the Duchess of St Albans the riding house was converted into a real tennis court, for which it was used from at least 1853 to 1939. It was demolished after the Second World War to make way for a garage for the Bedford Hotel.

Antony Dale, *Fashionable Brighton 1820-1860* (Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 1967), 46; information from Dr Neil Bingham.

ST JAMES'S PALACE, LONDON

Built in 1607-9 for Prince Henry. 128 x 43ft. Demolished c.1735 (Fig. 1).

Building accounts for the new riding house survive in the Public Record Office and it was drawn soon after its completion by Robert Smythson. It can also be seen clearly in John Kip's 'Prospect of the City of London, Westminster and St James's Park' of 1710. It was of brick, with a roof of fir that was the first known example of a king-post roof common in Italy but not in France. A similar roof was used by Inigo Jones at the Banqueting House in Whitehall. A wooden viewing gallery can be deduced from the chimneybreast at the far end on one wall. The

riding house was still standing in 1729 and must have been demolished when the adjoining range of lodgings was extended for the Prince of Wales in 1735. A scheme for moving the royal mews to St James's Palace after the Restoration included a riding house c. 45 x 50ft, with the two longer walls open and supported by columns.

Public Record Office, E351/3243.

British Library, King's Maps, 26.21.

Howard Colvin (ed.), *History of the King's Works*, six vols. (London, 1962-82), IV, 244-5.

Mark Girouard, 'The Smythson Collection of the Royal Institute of British Architects', *Architectural History*, 5 (1962), 76.

David Yeomans, 'Inigo Jones's roof structure', *Architectural History*, 29 (1986), 85-101.

SETTRINGTON HOUSE, NORTH YORKSHIRE

Built in 1793 for Henrietta Masterman. c. 100 x 35ft. Extant.

The riding house is dated 1793 on two downpipes and the adjoining stables are dated 1791. Henrietta Masterman was the daughter and heiress of Henry Masterman who died in 1772. She married Mark Sykes in 1795. Of stone, with blank arcading, it is unusual for the twin central columns, which may have been added later for structural support. Converted into a grain store in the 1940s but restored as an orangery by Francis Johnson in the 1980s, when the blank arcading was opened up and glazed.

STAPLEFORD PARK, LEICESTERSHIRE

Probably built for the fifth Earl of Harborough in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. 76 x 38ft. Converted into an orangery in the 1960s.

The riding house is shown on an 1834 survey of Stapleford. Stylistically, it is unlikely to have been added during the alterations of the third and fourth Earls of Harborough in the 1760s and 1770s and the sixth earl, who succeeded in 1807, was fanatically anti-hunting and unlikely to have built a riding house. It was therefore probably built for exercising hunters by the fifth earl, who succeeded in 1799.

Stone, five-bay, cast-iron structure, thermal windows in blank arcading. The arcades have subsequently been opened up to make windows.

Leicestershire Record Office, Gretton (Sherard) Papers, 636; Braye Papers, 23D57/1731-1811. Giles Worsley, 'Stapleford Park, Leicestershire', *Country Life*, 23 June 1988.

STONELEIGH ABBEY, WARWICKSHIRE

Built in 1820, possibly by C.S. Smith, for James Henry Leigh. c. 120 x 40ft. Extant.

Leigh considered building a circular covered ride in 1819 but instead added a riding house to the south side of Smith's D-shaped stables.

Sandstone main façade with battlements. Side walls of red brick with stone detailing. Slate roof. Three by nine bays. Windows of medieval design. Gallery at one end with metal balcony. Originally linked to the house by a covered way.

Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, Stratford, Leigh Papers, DR 18/17/17/18; 18/17/46; 18/25 bn. 58.

STRATFIELD SAYE, HAMPSHIRE

Built after 1745 for first Lord Rivers. Demolished c.1827.

According to Lord Rivers's steward, writing c.1810, Lord Rivers, who succeeded in 1745, 'considerably enlarged his Stables and Offices, and built a noble menage [*sic*] 150 feet in length. There he studied and indeed brought to perfection the noble exercise of Horsemanship'. The first Duke of Wellington replaced it with a tennis court, using the same walls, which was demolished in the 1950s. A circular exercising ring was built at Stratfield Saye in about 1862. It was this that was being referred to when Griffith wrote in 1892 of 'the present riding school'.

Stratfield Saye Archives. Ms Recollections by Mr Brooke; information from Mrs Joan Wilson. C.H. Griffith, *A History of Stratfield Saye* (London, 1892), 30.

SYON HOUSE, BRENTFORD, MIDDLESEX

A 'booke of computations of buildings' of c.1615-25 in the Petworth Archives refers to the cost of roofs for a stable, riding house and tennis court intended to be built at Syon. This would have been intended by the ninth Earl of Northumberland for his son, Lord Percy, who had been taught *haute école* at the Royal Mews. It is not known if this work was carried out, but new stables were built to the north-west of the house in 1616-9.

Petworth Archives, 1630, 30-1.

Alnwick Castle, Syon Ms U 13, 4.

Victoria County History: Middlesex, III (1962), 99.

SYON HOUSE, BRENTFORD, MIDDLESEX

Built in c.1819-26, possibly by Thomas Cundy, for the third Duke of Northumberland. c. 144ft x 48ft. Currently used as a garden centre.

According to Williams the riding house was built by the third duke, who succeeded in 1817 and recased Syon House in 1819-26 using Thomas Cundy. It is not shown on a map of 1818 but is on a plan of 1833. The riding house is of nine bays, brick and castellated. The roof is modern.

Syon MSS, BXIII, 1d, 2c.

Thomas Williams, *Historical and Descriptive Notes of Syon House and vicinity* (unpublished, 1872), 45, 52.

THORESBY HOUSE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Probably built after 1816 and before 1860 for the second Earl Manvers. Demolished after 1872, by 1884.

An estate map of 1872, just before the old stable quadrangle was demolished, shows an attached rectangular building, which would appear from its position and dimensions to be a riding house. This must have been built after 1805 as it is not mentioned in a memorandum by John Bristowe listing all building work at Thoresby between 1767 and 1804, nor in a survey by Calver of 1802. It was probably therefore built for the second Earl Manvers, who succeeded in 1816 and died in 1860. It was still standing in 1872, when the new stables were built, but must have been demolished soon after with the old stables. It is not shown on the first series twenty-five inch Ordnance Survey map of 1884.

Nottingham University Library, Manvers Papers, Ma 2x2/2a, 2p125/1 and Accession 396.

THORESBY HALL, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Built in 1872-5, by Anthony Salvin, for the third Earl Manvers. 88 x 40ft 6 ins. Extant.

The riding house was built as part of the large stable complex designed by Salvin to complement the new house built for Lord Manvers. It was built of brick (the stables are of stone) with a tiled roof and timber roof structure

supported by brick arches springing from the wall.

Clive Aslet, 'Thoresby Hall, Nottinghamshire - III', *Country Life*, 2 August 1979.

Nottingham University Library, Manvers Papers, Ma 2P125/2.

TRENTHAM PARK, STAFFORDSHIRE

Built in 1840, by Sir Charles Barry, for the second Duke of Sutherland. Demolished.

Built at the east end of the orangery as part of a complex of offices including the sculpture gallery, dairy and larder. Tall building, higher than the gallery, with pitched roof and obelisk pinnacle at one end.

Staffordshire Record Office, D593/H.13/2, 20-1.

WALDERSHARE PARK, KENT

Built in 1871 for seventh Earl of Guildford. Extant.

Lord Guildford built new hunting stables, kennels and riding house at a distance from Waldershare Park, which had its own stable court. Built of yellow brick with red brick dressings and a slate roof, the stable and large riding house are dated 1871.

Department of the Environment List of Buildings of Special Architectural and Historic Interest.

WELBECK ABBEY, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Built in 1623-5, by John Smythson, for Sir William Cavendish (later first Duke of Newcastle). 120 x 40ft. Converted into a library and chapel (Figs. 2-3).

An eighteenth-century drawing by S.H. Grimm shows an internal doorway dated 1623. Vertue confirms this and records an inscription over the door: 'Jo. Smithson curatore fabriciensis'. Smythson's elevation, section and two alternative ground plans, the unexecuted one with more windows, are shown on a drawing in the Smythson collection in the RIBA dated 1622. A viewing gallery was added after the Restoration, presumably in 1665 when the duke sent a letter to his agent at Welbeck ordering him to 'gett Mr Marshe to come to Welbeck, - and make a draughte, for the makinge of a good stare to my Ridinge house Chamber'. A view of the riding house is included in Newcastle's *Methode et Invention Nouvelle*. A hammerbeam roof is shown in Smythson's and Grimm's drawings.

British Library, Add Mss, 15545, ff. 64, 68, 69.

Margaret Cavendish, *The Life of ... William Cavendish, Duke, Marquess and Earl of Newcastle* (London, 1667), 8.

S.A. Strong, *Catalogue of Letters and other Historical Documents exhibited in the Library at Welbeck* (London, 1903), 56.

A.S. Turberville, *A History of Welbeck Abbey and its Owners* (London, 1938), I, 56, illus.

Vertue Notebooks II, *Walpole Society*, XX (1932), 32.

Mark Girouard, 'The Smythson Collection of the Royal Institute of British Architects', *Architectural History*, 5 (1962), 153.

Mark Girouard, *Robert Smythson and the Elizabethan Country House* (New Haven and London, 1983), 251-2, figs. 165-6.

WELBECK ABBEY, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Built in 1869 for the fifth Duke of Portland. 396 x 108 ft. Extant (cover photograph).

The fifth Duke of Portland, who succeeded in 1854 and died in 1879, was considered one of the best judges of horses in the country. His riding house was reputed the largest in the world outside Moscow and had a stone exterior, cast-iron interior and glass and iron roof. As well as the riding house the duke built a 422-yard-covered ride and rebuilt the stables on an epic scale with a tunnel to the riding house.

Charles Edwardes, *Historic Houses of the United Kingdom* (Cassell, 1892), 12-24, illus. 13.

A.S. Turberville, *A History of Welbeck Abbey and its Owners* (London, 1938), II, 399, 436, illus.

Anthony Lambert, *Victorian and Edwardian country-house life from old photographs* (London, 1981), n.p.

WENTWORTH WOODHOUSE, WEST YORKSHIRE

Built in 1780-6, by John Carr, for the second Marquis of Rockingham. 130 x 44ft. Extant.

The Marquis of Rockingham was a great breeder of racehorses. In 1780 he wrote to his steward enquiring whether the riding-house roof was to be raised, but the building had not been completed by his death in 1782 and the boarding round the walls was not finished in June 1786. The riding house stands behind Carr's great stable quadrangle and is lit by thermal windows. It was fitted in the nineteenth century with

leaping bars and supplied with water to keep the tan floor in condition.

Sheffield City Archives, Wentworth Woodhouse Muniments, WWM.A.1509-10, WWM.P.St.6 (ii),142, WWM.P.St.6.(iii).18, 156.
T.E. Knightley, *Stable Architecture* (London, 1862), pl. 6.

WILTON HOUSE, WILTSHIRE

Built c.1755 for the tenth Earl of Pembroke. c. 125 x 45ft. Truncated but still in use.

The tenth earl returned from his Grand Tour fired by a passion for *haute école*, having been taught by Eisenberg in Pisa and Bourgelat in Lyons. On his way back he commissioned a design for a riding house from the French architect Vallin Delamothe, for which drawings dated Paris 1755 survive among the Pembroke papers. The executed riding house, which had been built by 1758 when Frederick Blomberg often used to steal a lesson in it from Lord Pembroke, was to a simpler design. Sir William Chambers worked at Wilton in 1757-9, but there is no evidence to connect him with the design of the riding house, which was much altered by James Wyatt in 1800.

Simple roof with no ceiling. Viewing gallery with Serlian window, fretwork gallery and painted verses extolling the merits of the horse.

Pembroke Papers, H1/4.H3/14b, H3/15, H3/16, H3/17.

Edith Oliver, 'Wilton House 1544-1944 and the Earls of Pembroke - II', *Country Life*, 28 January 1944, figs. 4 and 8.

Christopher Hussey, 'The Gardens of Wilton House, Wiltshire - II', *Country Life*, 1 August 1963, figs. 6 and 7.

WINDSOR CASTLE, BERKSHIRE

Built 1839-42, by Sir Jeffry Wyattville, for Queen Victoria. 170 x 52ft. Still in use (Fig. 17).

The riding house was the centrepiece of the new Royal Mews at Windsor built in a subdued Gothic style on St Alban Street. Wyattville's estimate for the mews was £100,000, but only £70,000 was voted. The final cost was not released.

Built of brick except where it could be seen in relation to the castle, the interior was in a utilitarian Gothic. The walls were originally lined at the lower level with boards but these had to be

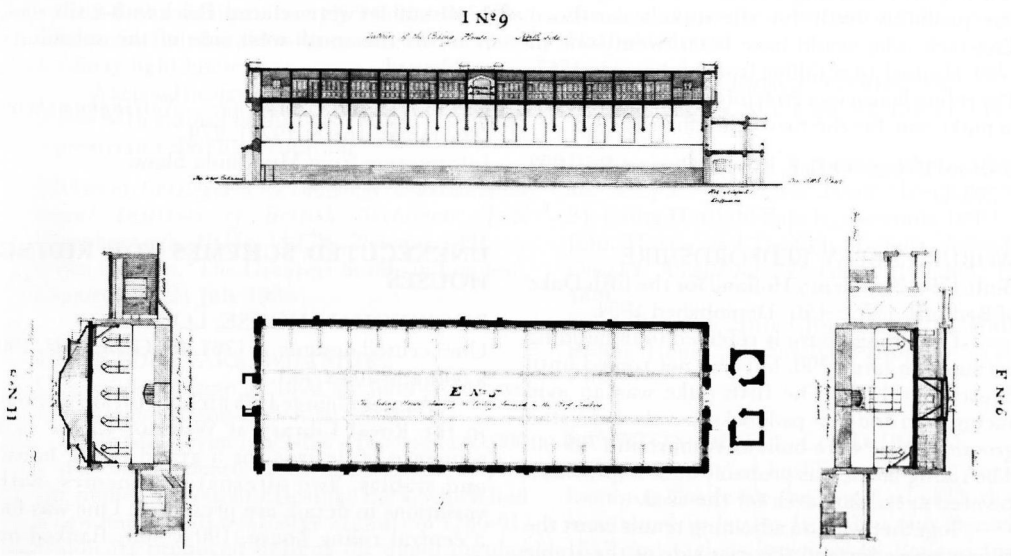


Fig. 17

Sir Jeffry Wyattville, detail, section of the end wall plan and side wall, riding house at Windsor Castle, Berkshire, drawn 1839, built 1839-42

Public Record Office

removed within five years because of dry rot and were replaced by eight-foot-high brickwork covered by a patent cork and india-rubber composition, Kamptulicon.

Public Record Office, WORKS 34/265-70.

H. Ashton (ed.), *Illustrations of Windsor Castle by the late Sir Jeffrey Wyatville* (London, 1842), I, pls. III, XIX.

Civil Engineer and Architects Journal, V (1842), 393. *Builder*, VI (1848), 417, 431.

Howard Colvin (ed.), *History of the King's Works* (London, 1962-82), VI, 393-4.

Derek Linstrum, *Catalogue of the Drawings Collection of the Royal Institute of British Architects: The Wyatt Family* (Farnborough, 1973), Sir Jeffrey Wyatville, [35] 8, fig. 111.

WOBURN ABBEY, BEDFORDSHIRE

Built 1760-1, probably by Henry Flitcroft, for the fourth Duke of Bedford. Demolished c.1790.

Foundations for Henry Flitcroft's pair of stable quadrangles were laid in 1757. In December 1760 Edmund Edmunds was paid for bricklayer's work at the riding house and in January 1761 John Scott was paid for glazed pantiles on the riding house. The riding house was probably built for the duke's son Lord Tavistock, who would have been twenty-one in 1760. He died after falling from his horse in 1767. The riding house was probably demolished c.1790 to make way for the new riding house.

Bedford Record Office, Russell Papers, R5/1092 f. 203-4.

WOBURN ABBEY, BEDFORDSHIRE

Built 1790-2 by Henry Holland for the fifth Duke of Bedford. 125 x 45ft. Demolished 1954.

The riding house is referred to in building accounts in late 1790, but was not roofed until September 1792. The fifth duke was an avid racing man and new paddocks, hovels and a stud groom's house were built at Woburn in 1789-90. The riding house was probably built to provide a covered exercising area for the stud.

Together with an adjoining tennis court the riding house formed the east side of the stable courtyard. It was lit by ten large rectangular windows, set on the outside between Doric columns supporting an emphatic cornice with blind arcading below. The building was economically constructed. Masonry arches were

filled with lath and plaster and the columns were cement-rendered round a timber core. There was a *tromp l'oeil* dentil and rinceau cornice and frieze and coffered ceiling. Photographs show a cast of the horsemen from the Elgin Marbles at the south end. As the Elgin Marbles arrived in England in 1803 this must have been a later addition.

Bedfordshire Record Office, Russell Papers R1/1006-7, R5/1105-6, R5/1297, R394-5, Z141/7.

Anon., *An Historical and Topographical Account of the town of Woburn* (Woburn, 1818), 60-1.

Dorothy Stroud, *Henry Holland* (London, 1966), 108-11.

Christopher Hussey, 'Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire - I', *Country Life*, 1 September 1955, figs. 1, 9, 10, 12.

WOLLATON PARK, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Built, probably in 1794, for the sixth Lord Middleton. 100 x 45ft. Currently used by the Industrial Museum.

The Middleton Papers in the University of Nottingham Library do not appear to have any reference to the construction of the riding house. It was probably built in 1794 when the 1740s stables were refaced. Brick with a tile roof, it forms the south-west side of the subsidiary stableyard.

Buildings of England: Nottinghamshire, (Harmondsworth, 1979), 279.

Information from Mrs Linda Shaw.

UNEXECUTED SCHEMES FOR RIDING HOUSES

BUCKINGHAM HOUSE, LONDON

Unexecuted designs, c. 1761, for George III. 190 x 50ft and 203 x 50ft.

Among George III's architectural drawings in the Royal Library at Windsor Castle is a sequence of designs for a grand riding house and stables. Two alternative schemes, with variations in detail, are presented. One was for a central riding house, 190 x 50ft, flanked on either side by stables with fifty-six stalls. The other was for a quadrangle with a riding house of 203 x 50ft in one range, two ranges of stables and the fourth range with substantial houses, presumably for equerries.

The schemes are clearly for the King as they bear the royal arms but are unlikely to be for the Royal Mews at Charing Cross as they do not incorporate William Kent's existing range. Instead, they are probably early designs for rebuilding the stables at Buckingham House, purchased by George III in 1761. This suggestion is made highly likely by the dimensions of the riding house in the second scheme being the same as those of the executed riding house.

Windsor Castle, Royal Library 30467, 30480-4, 30486-90; information from the Hon. Lady Roberts.

BUCKINGHAM HOUSE, LONDON

Unexecuted design, by William Newton, for George III at Buckingham House. 150 x 50ft.

A drawing inscribed '[De]sign for a Menagery... for [y]e King...with Mr Wynne... [Mar]ch 1764' survives in the RIBA drawings collection. The date and description suggest this was a, presumably unsolicited, design for the riding house at Buckingham House built in 1764. Mr Wynne may be Thomas Wynn, created Lord Newborough in 1776, an amateur architect the centrepiece of whose Kingsgate House, Kent, of c.1762-8 the design strongly resembles. The scheme included stables for manege horses and for forty light horse.

A second design suggests a cruciform riding house with stables in the corners and extensive, equestrian-related, decoration,

Jill Lever, *Catalogue of the Drawings Collection of the Royal Institute of British Architects: L-N* (Farnborough, 1973), 142, W. Newton, [82].

Giles Worsley, 'The Greatest Stable in London', *Country Life*, 24 July 1986.

ERLESTOKE PARK, WILTSHIRE

Unexecuted design, c. 1820, by John Goldcutt, for George Watson-Taylor. 30 x 100 feet.

Watson-Taylor inherited a reported £60,000 a year on the death of his wife's brother. With the money he bought Erlestoke Park, which had a new house built by George Stewart in 1786-91. Goldcutt produced designs for quadrangular stables, with a riding house behind a portico on the far side of the quadrangle. Despite Watson-Taylor's notorious extravagance – he was eventually ruined by the depreciation of his West

Indian property and his improvidence – the stables were not built.

R.B. Pugh (ed.), *Victoria County History: Wiltshire*, VII (London, 1953), 84; R.G. Thorne (ed.), *The History of Parliament: The House of Commons 1790-1820* (London, 1986), V, 497-8; Royal Institute of British Architects Drawings Collection SD 95/3.

HATFIELD HOUSE, HERTFORDSHIRE

Unexecuted design c. 1610, by Inigo Jones, probably for the first Earl of Salisbury.

A design by Inigo Jones, which can probably be dated to about 1610, for a riding house with flanking ranges of stables survives in the RIBA Drawings Collection. At the time Jones was in the Earl of Salisbury's service at Hatfield, where he was paid in 1610 for 'drawinge of some architecture'. Lord Cranborne, Lord Salisbury's son, had just returned from France, where he had spent six months in Paris being taught horsemanship and may have been accompanied by Jones. He continued his study of *haute école* on his return at the Royal Mews with M. de St Antoine. Given the probable date of the drawing, Jones's connection with the Cecil family and Lord Cranborne's interest in *haute école* it is likely that the design was for a proposed riding house at Hatfield House.

Public Record Office, 317 Surrey, 46.

Hatfield Papers, SFP, I, 69, 70, 123, II, 118, 145, 192.

E. Auerbach and C. Kingsley Adams, *Painting and Sculpture at Hatfield House* (London, 1971), 24, citing Hatfield Papers, Accounts 160/1.

John Harris and Gordon Higgott, *Inigo Jones: Complete Architectural Drawings* (London, 1978), 48-9.

Giles Worsley, 'Inigo Jones and the Hatfield Riding House', *Architectural History*, 45 (2002), 230-7.

LAMBTON CASTLE, CO. DURHAM

The possibility of building a riding house at Lambton Castle for the first Earl of Durham is mentioned in letters from Ignatius Bonomi in 1837 and various drawings by Bonomi for the project survive. The intention was for a riding house of 50 x 95ft or 48 x 92ft, surrounded on four sides by stables with a castellated façade. An alternative design suggested a covered ride.

Neither was built.

Lambton Papers; information for Dr Peter Meadows, Mr D.S. Gray and Miss Hester Borron.

LEA CASTLE, WORCESTERSHIRE

Unexecuted design, by John Carter, for John Knight.

A design for an open but enclosed manege entitled 'View in the tiltyard (looking North)' survives among thirteen drawings for an unbuilt neo-Norman castle commissioned by Knight from Carter after he succeeded his father in 1795. Despite the medieval dress of their riders the horses are not jousting but engaging in *haute école* in what is clearly an open-air summer manege, with sloping boards lining the lower half of the walls.

Timothy Mowl, 'Designs by James Carter for Lea Castle, Worcestershire', *Architectural History*, 25 (1982), 54, pl. 23d.

LONGLEAT HOUSE, WILTSHIRE

Unexecuted design of 1800, by Sir Jeffrey Wyatville, for the second Marquess of Bath. 87 x 32ft.

An early design for the stable quadrangle at Longleat includes a riding house and matching tennis court.

Derek Linstrum, *Catalogue of the Drawings Collection of the Royal Institute of British Architects: The Wyatt Family* (Farnborough, 1973), Sir Jeffrey Wyatville, [23], 1.

MIDDLETON PARK, OXFORDSHIRE

Unexecuted design of 1805, by Thomas Cundy, for the fifth Earl of Jersey. 100 x 50ft.

Cundy's sketchbook in the RIBA includes a design for a stableblock flanked on one side by a tennis court and on the other by a riding house.

Margaret Richardson (ed.), *Catalogue of the Drawings Collection of the Royal Institute of British Architects: C-F* (Farnborough, 1972), 56, T. Cundy, record book, 63.

NEWBY HALL, NORTH YORKSHIRE

Unexecuted design of c.1823, perhaps by Thomas de Grey, first Earl de Grey.

Among the Newby Hall papers are the elevation, section, groundplan and roof structure of a six-bay riding house with Thermal windows.

Though the catalogue suggests this was intended for Gautby Hall, Lincolnshire, which was remodelled for Robert Vyner in 1800, it is more likely that it is a later design by Earl de Grey intended for Newby Hall. Three survey drawings of London riding houses dated June 1823 were probably carried out in connection with the project. A covered ride was attached to the stables at Newby in the nineteenth century, perhaps chosen in preference to a riding house.

West Yorkshire Archive Service, Leeds, NHC 1/2/12-5; 12/2/1-4.

ROYAL MEWS, CHARING CROSS, LONDON

Unexecuted designs of 1732, by William Kent, for a new riding house as part of a rebuilt Royal Mews (Fig. 18).

Designs by Kent for two different schemes for riding houses at the Royal Mews survive at the RIBA and in the Sir John Soane Museum. In the RIBA design the riding house was to be 113 x 45ft, nine bays long, with a three-bay centrepiece with attached half columns. In the Soane Museum design it was to be 180 x 30ft, eleven bays long with a rusticated three-bay triumphal arch centrepiece. With the Soane Museum drawings is another inscribed on the reverse 'A sketch for the mews at Charing Cross W.K.'. This is a design for an oval manege, possibly open. None of the designs was executed.

Sir John Soane Museum, VIII/2/2-3.

Royal Institute of British Architects Drawings Collection, uncatalogued, Survey of the Royal Mews, formerly in the Worsley collection.

Howard Colvin (ed.), *History of the King's Works*, V (London, 1976), 213, pl. 69.

Giles Worsley, 'Kent and the Royal Mews', *Country Life*, 12 November 1987.

STRATFIELD SAYE, HAMPSHIRE

Unexecuted designs of 1815-8, by B.D. Wyatt and C.R. Cockerell, for the first Duke of Wellington.

Various unexecuted designs for a palace proposed for the Duke of Wellington in the aftermath of Waterloo include riding houses.

Derek Linstrum, *Catalogue of the Drawings Collection of the Royal Institute of British Architects: The Wyatt Family* (Farnborough, 1973), B.D. Wyatt [5], 44, 155.

Stratfield Saye Drawings Collection; photograph in the Conway Library, C.R. Cockerell.

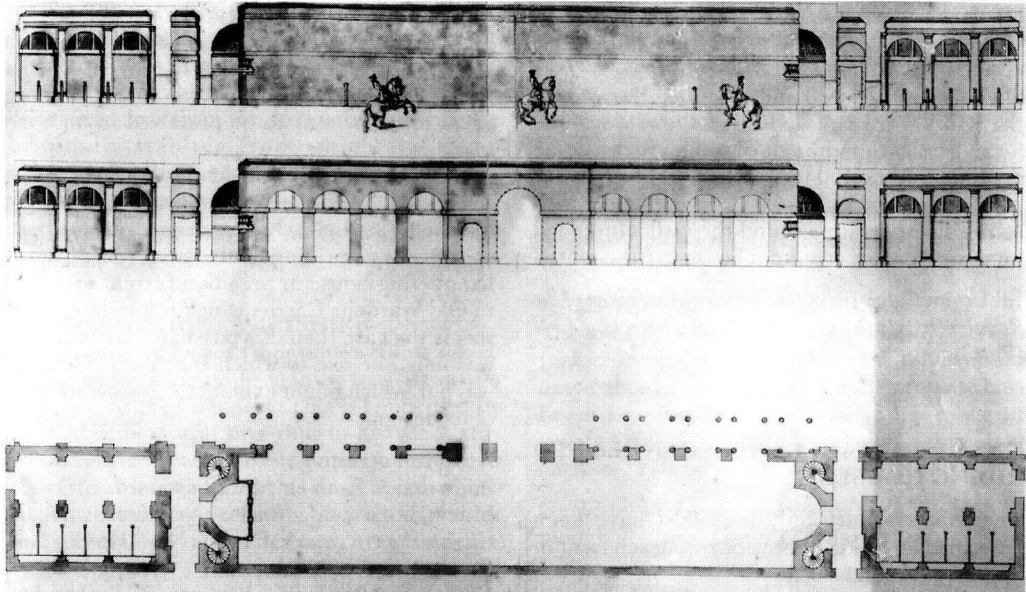


Fig. 18

William Kent, unexecuted plan and internal elevations for a riding house at the Royal Mews, London, 1732

by courtesy of the Trustees of Sir John Soane's Museum

TOTTENHAM PARK, WILTSHIRE

Unexecuted design of 1816, by Thomas Cundy, for the first Marquess of Ailesbury. 170 x 50ft.

Cundy's sketchbook contains an early design for the stable quadrangle with a riding house to the rear. This would have had an apse at the end with an extensive viewing gallery reached from outside by a porticoed entrance. The drawing includes references to the riding houses at the Brighton Pavilion and Knightsbridge Barracks for comparison. The stables as executed in 1818 did not include a riding house.

Margaret Richardson (ed.), *Catalogue of the Drawings Collection of the Royal Institute of British Architects: C-F* (Farnborough, 1972), 56, T. Cundy, record book, 59.

UGBROOKE PARK, DEVON

Unexecuted design of c.1779, by James Paine Jr, for a grand stable block with riding house, for the fourth Lord Clifford.

At 80 x 20ft the dimensions would have been inappropriate for a riding house.

British Library, Add Ms 31323L.

Peter Leach, 'James Paine junior: an unbuilt architect', *Architectural History*, 27 (1984), 395, pl. 3a.

WILTON HOUSE, WILTSHIRE

Unexecuted design of 1755, by Vallin Delamothe, for the tenth Earl of Pembroke.

A drawing survives in the Pembroke papers inscribed 'Projet d'un Manege, Par Vallin Delamothe architecte des Academies de Florence et de l'Institute de Bologne, Paris, le 15 Juin 1755'. It bears the arms of the tenth Earl of Pembroke who passed through Paris on his return from his Grand Tour in 1755. The riding house at Wilton was built to a simpler design c.1755.

Wiltshire Record Office, Pembroke Papers, H3/14b.

DESIGN FOR A ROYAL HIPPODROME

Unexecuted design of 1793, by James Playfair, 100 x 100ft.

A signed, dated and inscribed drawing in the RIBA Drawings Collection shows a scheme for a Classical quadrangle of stables with a dome central building 100 feet across, in the centre of which was to be a theatre or covered ride, with stands for spectators round the walls. Intended for a royal palace or a great house in the country.

Jill Lever, *Catalogue of the Drawings Collection of the Royal Institute of British Architects: L-N* (Farnborough, 1973), W. Newton [82].

UNSUPPORTABLE REFERENCES TO RIDING HOUSES

The following are buildings that have been described as riding houses or riding schools but appear not to have been so.

ANSTY MANOR, WILTSHIRE

The late-sixteenth-century building at Ansty known as the 'Hospice' has been suggested as the earliest known surviving riding house. At thirty feet, its width, the same as that of the riding house at Bolsover Castle, is suitable for a riding house, although at 110 feet its relative proportions are narrower than might be expected. Its date is uncertain. Stylistic similarities with Robert Smythson's work at Old Wardour Castle for Sir Matthew Arundell in 1576-8 suggest a contemporary date, which would be exceptionally early for a riding house. A date from the 1590s has also been put forward.

Certain elements of the design seem incompatible with such as use. Two of the doors lead into the service areas and could not have been used for horses. The third, at the south end of the building would have been too low for a horseman to enter mounted. There is also a fireplace in the centre of the west wall, which would not be found in this position in a riding house. Moreover, if the 'Hospice' was built as a riding house then it is at least a decade, possibly thirty years older than the earliest documented riding house, that built for Prince Henry at St James's Palace.

However, the 1605 inventory of Ansty notes that the stables held eleven 'greate horse saddles', of which five were old and lacked their

stirrups and other furniture. This shows that *haute école* was practised at Ansty, although no specific reference is made in the inventory to a riding house and at this date it would be more usual for *haute école* to be practised in an open manege.

It is possible, as Mr Paul Drury has suggested, that the building, which is large, handsome and clearly expensive, was not built specifically as a riding house but as some form of banqueting house or arcadian retreat attached to Old Wardour Castle, which is a mile away. If this is the case then it is possible that *haute école* was only one use to which the Ansty 'Hospice' was put, which might explain the inconsistencies of its design.

Arundell Archives, 1605 Anstye Inventory; information from Dr Mark Girouard.

Mark Girouard, *Robert Smythson and the Elizabethan Country House* (New Haven and London, 1983), 78-81.

Victoria County History: Wiltshire, XIII (London, 1987), 95.

Paul Drury, Appraisal of 'The Hospice', Ansty, for English Heritage, 1984.

Kirsty Rodwell, 'The Hospice, Ansty, Wiltshire: an investigation of its Structural Archaeology' for English Heritage, 1985.

BASING HOUSE, HAMPSHIRE

The tithe barn at Basing House, the great house erected by the Paulets, Marquises of Winchester, in the sixteenth century, has been described as a riding school but was certainly built as a barn. It has four large round-headed doors, common in barns but unnecessary in riding houses, no windows, needed in riding houses but not in barns, and ventilation slits, needed in barns but not in riding houses.

G.N. Godwin, *The Civil War in Hampshire* (London, 1882), 6.

BURLEY-ON-THE-HILL, LEICESTERSHIRE

The round house or summer stable built by the ninth Earl of Winchelsea and referred to by Pearl Finch as a riding stable was a circular covered exercising ring, not a riding house.

Pearl Finch, *History of Burley-on-the-Hill* (London, 1901), I, 103.

CORNBURY PARK, OXFORDSHIRE

V. J. Watney mentions a riding house in the centre of the stables at Cornbury Park and implies that it was part of the original design of 1664. It is clear from the structure that this was originally stabling from which stalls had subsequently been removed to form an eighty-five-foot-long covered ride.

V. J. Watney, *Cornbury and the Forest of Wychwood* (London, 1910), 4.

CORSHAM COURT, WILTSHIRE

The *Buildings of England* mentions a riding school in the eastern range of stables that flank the entrance to the forecourt. This is confirmed by Lord Methuen, who says that in his youth this was a riding school but had subsequently been converted into offices. As this range is only about twenty feet wide it was probably built as stables and subsequently converted to a covered ride for exercising horses.

Nikolaus Pevsner, *Buildings of England: Wiltshire*, (Harmondsworth, 1975), 194.

CROXTETH HALL, LANCASHIRE

The early-nineteenth-century riding school at Croxteth Hall noted in the Department of the Environment list is a covered ride.

Department of the Environment List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.

DEENE PARK, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Lady Cardigan wrote in her memoirs that she built a riding school along with new stables after the death of her husband in 1866. This was an oval covered ring.

Adeline Brudenell, *My Recollections* (London, 1909), 131, 140.

FINDLATER CASTLE, BANFFSHIRE

Unexecuted design of 1789 for a covered ride, by Robert Adam, for the Earl of Findlater.

A drawing in the Soane Museum is inscribed 'South front of the Stable Offices and Riding House for Findlater Castle'. It was part of an unexecuted scheme for rebuilding Cullen Castle in 1789. Although described as a riding house, the design is for circular stables with a central, circular covered ride.

Sir John Soane Museum, Vol. 36, 71-2.

HACKWOOD HOUSE, HAMPSHIRE

The riding school, part of Lewis Wyatt's stables of 1817, mentioned by the *Buildings of England* is a covered ride 168 x 17ft with octagonal turning areas at each end, not a riding house.

Richard Haslam, 'Hackwood Park, Hampshire - II', *Country Life*, 17 December 1987.

Nikolaus Pevsner and David Lloyd, *Buildings of England: Hampshire* (Harmondsworth, 1967), 262.

HALSWELL HOUSE, SOMERSET

The so-called riding school mentioned by Gervase Jackson-Stops, attributed to John Johnson and dated about 1770, is too long and narrow to have been a riding house and must have been a covered ride. It is unlikely to have been built as early as 1770.

Gervase Jackson-Stops, 'Arcadia under the plough', *Country Life*, 9 February 1989.

HOPETOUN HOUSE, WEST LOTHIAN

John Cornforth states that the ballroom at Hopetoun House, in the wings added by William Adam, was converted in the late nineteenth century out of a riding house. According to Professor Alistair Rowan who has studied the history of Hopetoun House there is no evidence that this was the case.

John Cornforth, *The Country Houses of England: 1948-98* (London, 1998), 293.

LOSELEY PARK, SURREY

The guidebook to Loseley Park states that there was a riding school in the north wing built by Sir George More in the seventeenth century and demolished in about 1830. The grounds for this statement are unclear as there is no evidence to support it in the maps and inventories in the Loseley MSS in the Surrey Record Office. A ground plan of 1682 reproduced by Marcus Binney makes it clear that there could have been no room for a riding house in this range.

Marcus Binney, 'Loseley Park, Surrey', *Country Life*, 2 October 1969.

MARLBOROUGH HOUSE, ST JAMES'S, LONDON

According to Arthur Beavan a riding house was included in a survey made of Marlborough House

in 1784. J.W. Hiort's survey of Marlborough House made in 1817, shows that this was a long, colonnaded, covered ride. It was demolished in 1863 to make way for the Prince of Wales's mews.

English Heritage Library; information from Michael Turner.

A.H. Beavan, *Marlborough House and its occupants* (London, 1896), 9, 240.

F.H.W. Sheppard (ed.), *Survey of London, XXIX: The Parish of St James Picadilly* (London, 1960), 364-5.

ST GILES'S HOUSE, DORSET

The Royal Commission describes the late-sixteenth- or early-seventeenth-century south range of the stable courtyard, now used as a stable, as a manege. This appears to be supposition on the part of the editor of the volume as there is nothing to support the assertion in the Royal Commission's files on St Giles's House. The structure is about twenty feet wide, the right width for a stable but too narrow for a riding house, and has two storeys, which is otherwise unknown in a riding house.

Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, *Dorset*, V (London, 1975), 97, pl. 75b.

SOMERLEY HOUSE, HAMPSHIRE

The so-called riding school at Somerley was formed in 1873 by knocking together two sections of the stables to form a ride 93 x 23ft. This has since been divided into a squash court and storage area.

Hampshire Record Office, Normanton Papers, 21M57/MP23.

Information from the Earl of Normanton.

TEMPLE NEWSAM HOUSE, YORKSHIRE

New stables were built at Temple Newsam in the eighteenth century and a matching block was also considered. It has been suggested that this would have included a riding house but according to Dr Christopher Gilbert, who has worked extensively on the Temple Newsam papers, there is no evidence to support this assertion.

WOLFETON HOUSE, DORSET

The Royal Commission describes a building close to Wolfeton House as the earliest surviving riding house in the country and suggests that it was built in about 1590-1610 for Sir George Trenchard. This claim is based on comparisons with Smythson's drawings for riding houses at St James's Palace and Welbeck Abbey. The date is approximate and is based on stylistic comparison with Lulworth Castle, Dorset, built c.1588-1610.

The building certainly appears too grand for a barn but at 24½ft by 104ft the dimensions are not those expected for a riding house. The riding houses at St James's Palace and Welbeck Abbey were 43ft by 128ft and 40ft by 120ft and 25ft would be uncomfortably narrow for a riding house.

Mr Paul Drury suggest that the building was not a purpose-built riding house but a multi-purpose recreational building similar to 'The Hospice' at Ansty Manor, Wiltshire. The unusual dimensions of the building support this interpretation.

Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, *Dorset*, III (London, 1976), 68-9.

P.J. Drury, Report on the 'Riding House', Charminster, Dorset, for English Heritage.

English Heritage's Listed Buildings Survey also describes the following buildings as riding schools. What is meant is a commercial riding school (i.e. a business), not a riding house: Wolviston Riding Centre, Cleveland; Farm buildings at Elvaston Castle, Derbyshire; Random Cottage, Greater Manchester; Gaddesden Place Stables, Hertfordshire; Riding School at Warren Wood, Hertfordshire; Belvoir Vale Riding Academy, Leicestershire; Equestrian Centre, Salhouse, Norfolk; Riding Stables, Thornton-le-Dale, Yorkshire; Hyde Park Trekking Centre, Northumberland; Rough Park Riding School, Shropshire; Galleon House Riding Stables, Somerset; Wigmore Farmhouse, West Midlands; Offington Hall Riding School, West Sussex; Longley Farmhouse, West Yorkshire; Todmorden Edge South, West Yorkshire; Linthwaite Riding School, West Yorkshire. The riding school listed at Leweston Manor, Dorset, is not a riding house but a circular covered ride.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. The terminology associated with the riding house has led to confusion. The earliest drawing for such a building, that of 1609 for the riding house at St James's Palace, is inscribed by Robert Smythson 'The Princes Ridinge Place'. However, his son John Smythson inscribed his 1622 drawing of the riding house at Welbeck Abbey as 'The Ridinge House' and riding house is the common terminology throughout the seventeenth, eighteenth and much of the nineteenth century. In the nineteenth century the term riding school was also used, as it is today. This has led to confusion with commercial riding schools (institutions rather than buildings), as, for instance, in the Department of the Environment List of Buildings of Special Architectural and Historic Interest. It has also led to confusion between the riding house (a covered, barn-like structure), the exercising ring (a circular or similar shaped covered riding ring usually with open sides) and the covered ride (a long, straight enclosed space usually with turning areas at the end), all of which are sometimes described as riding schools but should be seen as separate building types. For that reason the term riding house is used consistently in this article. The French term manege was also used, particularly in the eighteenth century. This can refer to an open or a covered space. The European origins of the riding house have not yet been studied. Despite the fact that the first English riding house must have been built under the direction of a French riding master, M. de St Antoine, there is no proof that the French used riding houses before the English.

Pascal Lievaux suggests that a riding house was built at the far end of the open manege at the Tuileries under Henri IV (Pascal Lievaux, 'Le manege et les ecuries du roi aux Tuileries', in Patrice Franchet d'Espéry (ed.), *Francois Robichon de la Gueriniere* (Paris, 2000), 31-4, 43). A building is shown in this position in Nicolay's map of Paris of 1609, Merian's map of Paris of 1615 and the Plan Gomboust of 1652. Lievaux identifies this with the wooden riding house described as ruined by Desgodetz in 1694.

However, each map shows the building as very narrow, less than half the width of the open manege, apparently no wider than a stable. To be practical a riding house would have needed to cover most of the width of the open manege, as was the case with the riding house subsequently built by Robert de Cotte on the site in 1720-2. Moreover, Henri Sauval in his detailed description of the Grande Ecurie of 1660 makes no mention of a covered manege (Henri Sauval, *Histoire et recherches des antiquites de la ville de Paris* (Paris, 1724) II, 59). This suggests that the building shown by Nicolay, Merian and Gomboust was not a riding house but perhaps a stable.

Lievaux also suggests that a plan from the reign of Henri IV for linking the Louvre and the Tuileries – dated by Hilary Ballon to 1594-5 (Hilary Ballon, *The Paris of Henri IV* (New York, 1991), Fig. 10) – includes a proposed riding house. However, the dotted lines inside this building are a convention used in delineating tennis courts, as can be seen in Androuet du Cerceau's

plans of Coucy, Amboise and Anet (David Thomson (ed.), *Les Plus Excellents Bastiments de France par J.-A. du Cerceau* (Paris, 1988), 74, 178, 182, 264, 268.

There was a precedent for the riding house as a shelter from the more extreme weather of central Europe in the winter riding school built at the Hofburg in Vienna in 1572 (Moriz Dreger, *Baugeschichte der k.k. Hofburg in Wien* (Wien, 1914), 123, figs. 114-6, 153-4).

2. Worsley, G., 'A Courtly Art: The History of 'Haute École' in England', *The Court Historian*, 6.1 (May 2001), 29-47.
3. Colvin, H., (ed.), *History of the King's Works*, 6 vols. (London, 1962-82), V, 163.
4. Fifth Report of the Commission on Historical Manuscripts (London, 1876), 116.
5. Badeslade, J., and Rocque, J., *Vitruvius Britannicus* (London, 1739), pls. 38-9. The first Duke and Duchess were appointed Rangers of the Little and Great Parks in 1702, but the open manege is unlikely to have been created by the duke, who died in 1722, as it does not appear in a plan of Windsor Castle and the Little Park made in about 1730. It was probably the work of the third duke who made 'very great improvements' to the landscape at Ranger's Lodge in 1735, which were recorded, along with the manege, in Rocque's engraving. Roberts, J., *Royal Landscape: The Gardens and Parks of Windsor* (New Haven and London, 1997), 154-7.
6. Stanhope, P. D., Earl of Chesterfield, *Letters* (London, 1892), II, 155.
7. A plan associated with Newcastle's house in Clerkenwell shows a college-like building with a series of independent suites of rooms around a courtyard, a stable for twenty-four horses, unusually large for London, and an open manege with post and rails. If this was a scheme by Newcastle to promote his love of *haute école* it was never carried through. Balliol College Archives, MS B.21.24; Wilkinson, H.R., *Four Stuart Portraits* (London, 1949), 26-40, 143-50.; Worsley, L., 'Riding houses and horses: William Cavendish's architecture for the art of horsemanship', *Architectural History*, 45 (2002), 221-2 (Figs 2-8).
8. Evelyn, J., *The Diary of John Evelyn*, de Beer, J.S., (ed.), 6 vols (London, 1955), IV, 257-8, 400.
9. Manchée, W.H., 'The Fouberts and their Royal Academy', *Huguenot Society Proceedings*, XVI (1941), 82.
10. Lambeth Palace Library, Fifty New Churches Papers, Ms 2750.45.
11. Maidwell, L., *A Scheme for a Public Academy* (London, 1700); Sheppard, F.H.W., (ed.), *Survey of London XXXI: The Parish of St James Westminster* (London, 1963), 177-80.
12. *Twenty Five Actions of the Manage House, engrav'd by Josephus Sympson from the Original Drawings by Mr John Vanderbank* (London, 1729), preface.
13. Maidwell, L., *A Scheme for a Public Academy* (London, 1700); Sheppard, F.H.W., (ed.), *Survey of London XXXI: The Parish of St James Westminster* (London, 1963), 177-80.
14. Percy Archives, Alnwick Castle Archives, X.II.I Box 5e. The riding house is not mentioned in the relevant volume of the *Survey of London*.
15. Sheppard, F.H.W., *Survey of London XL: The Grosvenor Estate in Mayfair* (London, 1980), 185. The Horse Guards occupied these stables until about 1784 when they were taken over by a coachmaker.
16. Sheppard, F.H.W., *Survey of London XL: The Grosvenor Estate in Mayfair* (London, 1980), 330. The stables ceased to be used as a barracks later in the eighteenth century but the riding house survived until the formation of Balfour Mews in 1898.
17. Westminster City Archives, St George's, Hanover Square ratebooks C241-3, C296-9; Marylebone ratebooks 1753. Both stables can be seen in John Roque's map of London (Hyde, R., *The A to Z of Georgian London* (Lympne Castle, 1981), 19, 5), which claims to have been published in 1746, though they were not built for five and seven years respectively. This suggests the copy of Roque's map published by Hyde had been updated since its original publication.
18. Topham, E., *The Life of the late John Elwes Esq* (London, 1790), 29. The change in size can be seen by comparing Rocque's map of 1746 and Horwood's map of 1792.
19. West Yorkshire Archives Service, Leeds, NHC 12/2/1
20. McParland, E., *Public Architecture in Ireland 1680-1760* (New Haven and London, 2001), 125.
21. Berenger, R., *The History and Art of Horsemanship*, 2 vols (London, 1771), I, preface.
22. British Library, King's Maps XXX.11.1; Sheppard, F.H.W., *Survey of London XXXVII: Northern*

- Kensington* (London, 1973), 276.
23. Sir John Soane's Museum, 21/116; 38/50-4; British Library, Edgar, W., *The Plan of the City and Castle of Edinburgh* (1765); British Library, King's Maps, XLIX/59; Arnot, H., *The History of Edinburgh* (Edinburgh, 1788), 423-5; Grant, J., *Cassell's Old and New Edinburgh* (London, 1882), II, 334-5; Bolton, A.T., *The Architecture of Robert and James Adam* (London, 1922) I, 60-4; Forbes Gray, W., *An Eighteenth Century Riding School*, Book of the Old Edinburgh Club, 22 (1935), 1-27.
 24. Sheppard, F.H.W., *Survey of London XLI: Southern Kensington: Brompton* (London, 1983), 180-3.
 25. East Riding of Yorkshire Record Office, DDGR 42/27/37.
 26. Boswell, J., *Life of Johnson* (Oxford, 1934), II, 424, 527-8; Hester Lynch Thrale, *Thraliana* (ed. Balderston, K.C.) (Oxford, 1942), I, 116-9; Johnson, S., *Letters* (ed. Chapman, R.W.) (Oxford, 1952), I, 10, 14-8, 42, 108-9, II, 111, III, 263.
 27. Andrews, C.B., (ed.), *The Torrington Diaries* (London, 1935), II, 34; I owe this reference to Dr Lucy Worsley.
 28. Public Record Office, WO3/4; PRO, MPF 317. According to Dr P. B. Boyden of the National Army Museum there were two (Lieutenant) Colonel Blaguieres in the army in 1773. James Blaguierre was with the thirteenth Dragoons at Gort, Loughrea and Portumna. John Blaguierre was with the seventeenth (Light) Dragoons at Kilkenny, Ros and Carrick.
 29. Herbert, S.C., (ed.), *Pembroke Papers 1780-94: Letters and Diaries of Henry, tenth Earl of Pembroke and his Circle* (London, 1950), 38, 45, 59, 125-6; Gilbert, C., 'Ingram's Palace, York', *Leeds Art Calendar*, 71 (1972), 26-31.
 30. Clough, T.H. Mc K., 'The Riding School of the Rutland Fencible Cavalry', *Rutland Record*, 15 (1995), 213-27.
 31. Douet, J., *British Barracks 1600 – 1914* (London, 1998), 77-8. Douet lists a number of military riding houses but does not give a comprehensive account of the subject.
 32. Greenacombe, J., *Survey of London XLV: Knightsbridge* (London, 2000), 64-5, pls. 4a, 7. This riding house was replaced by a considerably larger riding house in 1878, which was itself demolished and replaced by an even larger riding house in 1967-70.
 33. Douet, J., *British Barracks 1600 – 1914* (London, 1998), 77-8.
 34. Colvin, H., *Biographical Dictionary of British Architects* (New Haven and London, 1995), 111; Douet, J., *British Barracks 1600 – 1914* (London, 1998), 5.
 35. In the series of barrack plans for the South-Western, Aldershot, London, South-Eastern and Eastern Districts for 1859-67 held in the British Library Map Room the following barracks had riding houses: Dorchester, Aldershot West, East and South Barracks, Croydon (infantry barracks); Hounslow; Hyde Park; Regent's Park; St John's Wood; Windsor; Brighton Pavilion; Colchester; Ipswich; Norwich; Shorncliffe. Of cavalry barracks only Trowbridge barracks, which housed only eighty-seven horses, and those at Hampton Court and Kensington Palace did not have riding houses.
 36. Richardson, M., (ed.), *Catalogue of the Drawings Collection of the Royal Institute of British Architects: C-F* (Farnborough, 1972), 56, T. Cundy, record book, 59; Hayes, M.H., *Stable Management and Exercise* (London, 1900), 250; Ewart, C.B., 'Military Riding Schools', *Professional Papers of the Royal Engineers* (1862), paper 11, 181; Douet, J., *British Barracks 1600 – 1914* (London, 1998), 136.
 37. Douet, J., *British Barracks 1600 – 1914* (London, 1998), 107, 133; Department of the Environment List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest; Pease, H. *History of the Northumberland Yeomanry* (London, 1924), 12.
 38. Sheppard, F.H.W., *Survey of London XXXI: The Parish of St James's Westminster* (London, 1963), 177-80.
 39. Topham, E., *The Life of the late John Elwes Esq* (London, 1790), 29; West Yorkshire Archives Service, Leeds, NHC 12/2/1.
 40. West Yorkshire Archives Service, Leeds, NHC 12/12/2.
 41. Sheppard, F.H.W., *Survey of London XLI: Southern Kensington: Brompton* (London, 1983), 183. A covered ride on the site of Batty's Grand National Circus in South Kensington was used as a riding school from 1853 to 1874 before the land was developed as de Vere Gardens. (Hobhouse, H., (ed.), *Survey of London XLII: Southern Kensington: Kensington Square to Earls Court* (London,

- 1986), 121-3.)
42. *A New and Correct Plan of the City of Bath* (1772); *The Original Bath Guide* (n.d.).
 43. Smith, J.P., *Map of the Town of Brighton* (1824-5).
 44. This was well known as Dupont's riding school from 1875. It was subsequently converted into a warehouse, part of it being a bacon smokery. In the late 1970s attempts were made to convert it into an arts centre.
 45. *The Original Bath Guide* (n.d.).
 46. *Survey of London XXIII* (London, 1951), 70-2; Worsley, G., 'Before the Big Top', *Country Life*, 3 December 1987.
 47. Blackner, J., *The History of Nottingham* (London, 1815), 51. The Nottingham riding house was demolished in 1926.
 48. For a fuller account of the design of permanent circus buildings and hippodromes see Worsley, G., 'Before the Big Top', *Country Life*, 3 December 1987.
 49. Richardson, M.A., *Local Historians Table Talk* (Newcastle, 1842), II, 237; Latimer, J., *The Annals of Bristol in the Eighteenth Century* (Frome, 1893), 492; Broadbent, C.J., *Annals of the Liverpool Stage* (Liverpool, 1908), 179; Dibdin, J.C., *The Annals of the Edinburgh Stage* (Edinburgh, 1888), 332-3; Hodgkinson, J.L., and Pogson, R., *The Early Manchester Theatre* (London, 1969), 139; British Library, King's Maps XLIX/64.1, Ainslie, J., *Plan of the Old and New Town of Edinburgh and Leith* (1804); Erredge, J.A., *History of Brightelmstone* (Brighton, 1862), 215; Laurie, D., *A Proposal for erecting public markets in the Gorbals* (1810), map, q; Colvin, H., *Biographical Dictionary of British Architects* (New Haven and London, 1995), 998, 465.
 50. Hovingham Hall, Worsley mss, uncatalogued, Chivers, E., *Journal of a Tour made in 1805*.
 51. Musgrave, C., *Life in Brighton* (London, 1970), 309.
 52. Hovingham Hall, Worsley Mss ZON 13/3/5.