

# SALE NEW HALL, CHESHIRE

BUILT 1688. DEMOLISHED 1953.

*By Edmund Ogden, B.A., F.L.A.*

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THE demolition of this hall, the oldest house in the Borough of Sale, was completed on May 16th, 1953. Sale New Hall, which stood in Fairy Lane in the district known as Sale Moor, was a building of brick and stone so completely covered with ivy that the architectural details of its exterior were hidden. It was in so bad a state of repair that it was condemned by the Senior Sanitary Inspector and the Medical Officer of Health for the Borough in June, 1952, as unfit for habitation, and as the owners of the property declined to make the necessary repairs an order for demolition was made by the Borough Council.

Most unfortunately the building had never been scheduled or even listed as worthy of preservation as being of historic interest, and as there had been no public announcement of the issue of the order, persons or associations especially interested in the preservation of ancient buildings, such as the Ancient Monuments Society, had no idea that the hall was doomed. As it was the building stood in a by-lane and was so closely surrounded by trees that it was not apparent that it was not occupied.

If only there had been a warning, though the house might not have been saved, a complete architectural description with photographs and plan could have been made of the entire structure before the work of demolition had been started. At no expense to the Borough a complete and valuable historic record could have been secured.

Over the front entrance of the New Hall there was a stone bearing the inscription :—

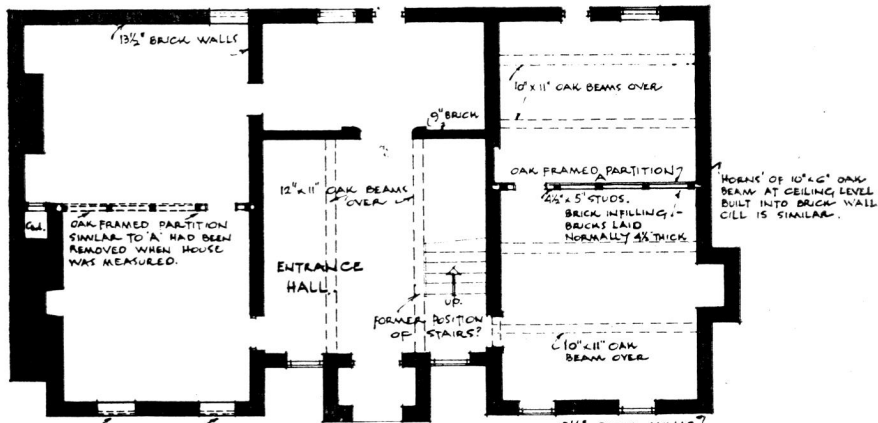
M  
W V  
1688

This signified that the house was built for William Massie and Ursula his wife, a daughter of William Domville of Lymm. The man for whom the hall was built was a younger brother of Richard Massie, who died in 1685 and was the last of the family in the male line who owned Old Sale Hall, built in 1600, rebuilt in 1840, and taken down soon after the



New Hall, Sale, from a water-colour sketch by Evacustes A. Phipson, 1925.  
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*Beauchamp  
by the lake - as site:*



PROBABLE POSITIONS OF WINDOWS -  
WALLS AT THIS END OF HOUSE  
STANDING TO A HEIGHT OF  
ABOUT 2' 6" WHEN MEASURED.

GROUND FLOOR PLAN.

FRONT OF HOUSE IS PARALLEL TO FAIRY LANE SALE:

New Hall, Fairy Lane, Sale, Cheshire. Built 1688. Demolished May, 1953.

end of the First World War. Unfortunately on the first day of the demolition of the New Hall this stone was broken, and the pieces were lost in the debris.

The New Hall was a building of some importance, for when the parish church (St. Martin's, Ashton-upon-Mersey) was re-seated in 1742 a pew was allotted to Mrs. Bell of New Sale Hall. Apparently she was a descendant of William and Ursula Massie. In the course of time the building was used as a farm-house. According to a map of Sale Township made in 1806 in connection with the 1805 Act for the Enclosure of Sale Moor, the New Hall was owned by Charles White and occupied by William Cookson, and according to the 1845 Tithe Map of the Township Captain John White, the grandson of the eminent surgeon, was the owner and Thomas Barlow was the occupier. Later on the house was divided into three cottages, but for about twenty years till 1906 it was the residence of Alderman Richard Lovett Reade of Manchester, who restored the hall to its former condition and planted the trees which still cluster round the site.

In Volume 26 of the Owen MSS. (to be consulted in the Central Library of Manchester) there is a description of the New Hall written by John Owen at least sixty years ago, when it is evident that the architectural details of the house could be seen. He wrote that the building was of brick with a basement of stone and with stone quoins at the angles, that it was rectangular in form with slightly projecting gables on either hand, and that in the centre of the front there was a projecting porch carried up to the full height of three storeys. E. A. Phipson's water-colour sketch made in 1925 shows that this porch-gable was surmounted by a semicircular pediment. Owen also mentioned the inscribed stone described above. According to his notes the windows had flat arches of brickwork without any drip or water tables, several windows in the front had been built up, the roof was in three ridges according with the gables, the chimneys were square, tapering at the top, and at the back of the house in the basement there was a window which had stone dressings and was splayed of two lights.

At his earliest opportunity, but when the process of demolition was well advanced, Mr. T. L. Marsden of the Manchester University School of Architecture visited the site. He made a plan and reported on what was left of the house\*. In his opinion it had not been in so bad a state of dilapidation that restoration was impossible.

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\* The plan of the building, which covered an area of approximately 60 feet by 35 feet, is reproduced on page 94, and a copy of the Report has been deposited in the archives of this Society.