

# *A survey of Meersbrook Hall*

*By*

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## *Contents*

Introduction	2
The local geography and geology	2
Measurements	2
A note on the name	2
<b>MEERSBROOK HALL 1: STRUCTURE AND CONSTRUCTION</b>	<b>3</b>
A history of the structures	3
The pre-Hall buildings	3
Meersbrook Hall 1759	12
Meersbrook Hall – the 1819 extension	18
Meersbrook Hall – later modifications	19
<b>MEERSBROOK HALL 2: FIXTURES AND FITTINGS</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>MEERSBROOK HALL 3: PLANS AND ELEVATIONS</b>	<b>40</b>
<b>MEERSBROOK HALL 4: THE OWNERS AND OCCUPIERS</b>	<b>48</b>
The workmen	48
The Roebuck family 1759 to 1778	49
The Shore family 1778 to 1864	54
Staff and visitors at the time of the Shore family	62
The Parker, Shore banking collapse	62
The Milner family 1864 to 1884	64
Staff and visitors at the time of the Milner family	65
The Lands Allotment Company 1885 to 1890	66
Meersbrook Hall as the Ruskin Museum 1890 to 1953	66
The Ruskin Museum before the Hall 1875 to 1890	66
The opening of the Ruskin Museum 1890	67
The curators William White 1890 to 1898	69
The reopening of the Ruskin Museum 1892	69
The curators Gill Parker 1899 to 1931	69
The curators Genevieve Pilley 1932 to 1949	70
Ruskin Museum caretakers, staff and visitors from the 1891, 1901 and 1911 census returns	70
The war years	73
The post war years 1945 to 1971	74
Meersbrook Hall as the Parks and Recreation Department offices 1953 to 2016	76
Meersbrook Hall managed by Heeley Development Trust 2016	76
<b>MEERSBROOK HALL 5: THE ESTATE AND ITS CHANGING LANDSCAPE</b>	<b>77</b>
<b>MEERSBROOK HALL 6: THE WALLED GARDEN</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>SOURCES</b>	<b>102</b>
<b>APPENDIX 1: LEVELLING THE HALL</b>	<b>106</b>
<b>APPENDIX 2: THE NUMBER OF BRICKS USED IN CONSTRUCTION</b>	<b>108</b>
<b>APPENDIX 3: THE NAMES OF MEERSBROOK HALL</b>	<b>111</b>
<b>APPENDIX 4: FAIRBANK SKETCHES AND MAPS</b>	<b>113</b>
<b>APPENDIX 5: WALLED GARDEN MEASUREMENTS</b>	<b>125</b>
<b>APPENDIX 6: MEERSBROOK HALL TIMELINE</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>GLOSSARY</b>	<b>128</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	<b>129</b>

## INTRODUCTION

Meersbrook Hall is situated in Meersbrook Park, Meersbrook, Sheffield. Its OS reference is SK 3491 8426. At the time of its construction in the mid eighteenth century it was situated in farmland which became, with its construction, the private estate of its builder. The land was eventually bought by Sheffield Corporation and in 1887 became Meersbrook Park, in which the building now stands.

## THE LOCAL GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

Meersbrook Hall was built on a patch of relatively flat land about 103 m above sea level on the slope of a hill that rises from the river Sheaf, 450 m to its west and the Meersbrook 600 m to the north. The land continues to rise to 222 m, 1,900 m to the south south east, in Graves Park.

Sheet 100 of the British Geological Survey (1974) describes the underlying bedrock as Carboniferous Coal Measures, locally overlain by Grenoside Sandstone. The sandstone can usually be reached within 1 to 1.5 m of the soil surface and its upper strata are usually heavily fractured, presumably as a result of once lying in a periglacial environment. During the Devensian glaciation the limits of ice sheets locally were about 65 km to the north and 50 km to the west of Sheffield (Clark et al, 2004).

## MEASUREMENTS

All measurements are in metric units, though where appropriate their imperial equivalents are given as those are the units that would have been in use when the building was constructed.

## A NOTE ON THE NAME

For clarity I have adopted the name in common current use for the building; ‘Meersbrook Hall,’ as that is the name found in recent social media. A search for ‘Meersbrook House’ reveals almost nothing. For a more detailed look at the history of names of the building, see **Appendix 3**. The first usage of the name ‘Hall’ is from 1881.

# *Meersbrook Hall 1: Structure and Construction*

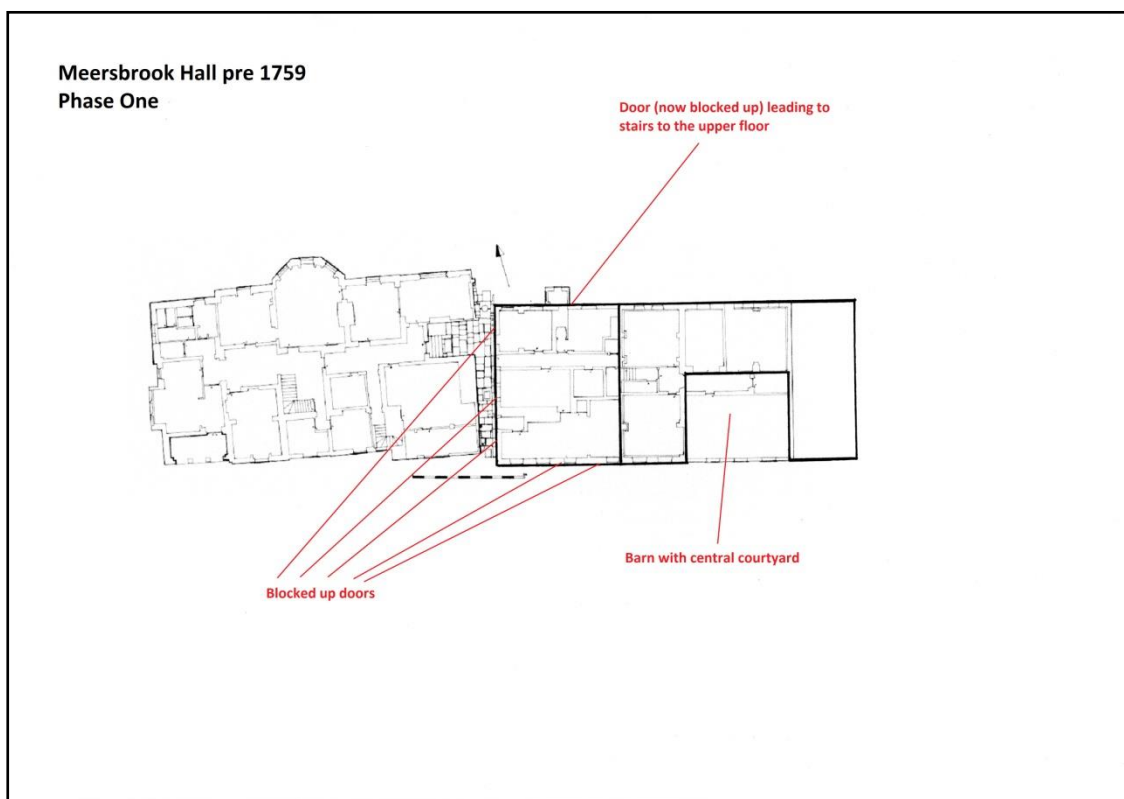
## A HISTORY OF THE STRUCTURES

Recording the currently existing structures both in plan and elevation, and using the many old maps and photographs has led to the conclusion that the Hall itself was not the earliest building on the site. In fact there appears to have been one, and possibly two building phases on the site before the Hall itself was built.

### The pre-Hall buildings

There are two structures sited close to one another which predate the Hall. There is no stratigraphy between them and to date, neither have been dated so that it is not possible to say if one predates the other or if they were built at the same time. The eastern of the two buildings is a structure, or possibly two structures built next to each other, built entirely of Coal Measures sandstone. The western of the two buildings is an isolated brick building, built on a different alignment. They are recorded on the 1759 sketch map (Fairbank, 1759) and labelled 'barn'.

They are illustrated separately for clarity and I have arbitrarily chosen the sandstone building as the earliest, though it could as easily be the brick building. **Fig 1** shows the sandstone building.



**Fig 1** The sandstone structure.



**Fig 2** North elevation of the sandstone building.

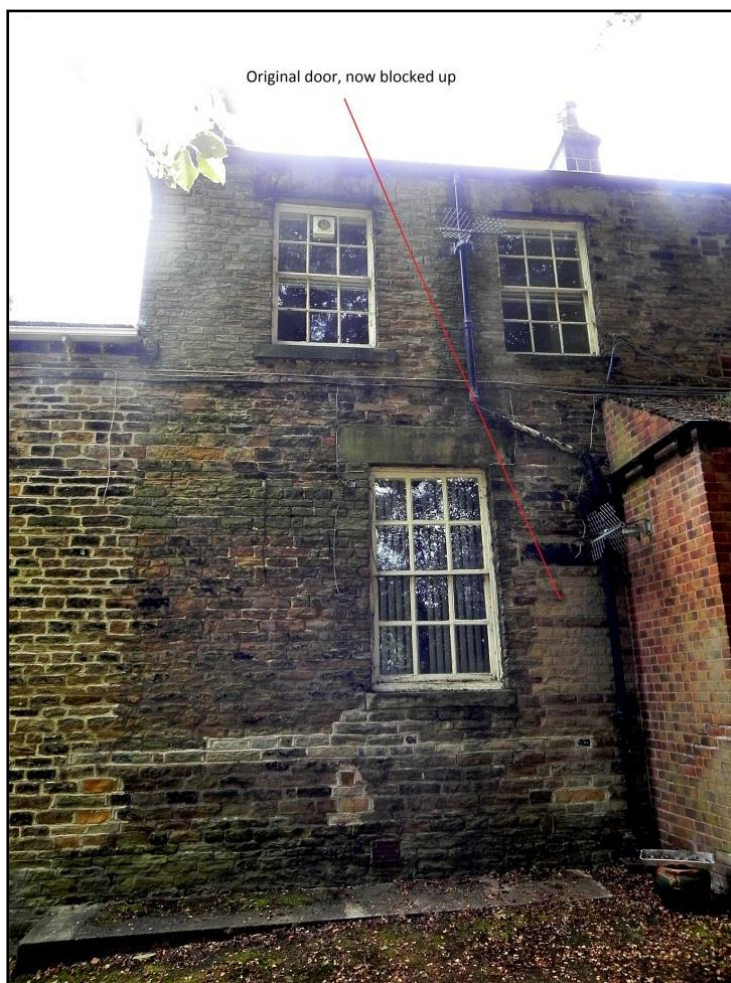


**Fig 3** South elevation of the sandstone building.

The eastern of the two pre-Hall structures, the sandstone building, was originally a U-shaped barn with its long axis aligned E-W and with two shorter aisles at either end. What survives is a structure 15.15 m E-W and 14.1 m N-S. Old Ordnance survey maps show that the two aisles were of similar size. If the now-destroyed east aisle was the same size as its western counterpart; 5.5 m E-W, then the original structure would have been 16.85 m long. Its north wall is 5.1 m high and 6.6 m to the top of the roof.

The ground floor is 103.06 m a.s.l (above sea level) and the upper floor is 105.98 m a.s.l. All of the windows currently visible on the north and south elevations of this building have been inserted later, either when this barn was converted for use by servants of the Roebuck and Shaw families, or later, as Sheffield City Council offices.

Adjoining the barn, to its west was a taller two storied building, also of sandstone. It is 11.35 m E-W and 14.1 m N-S. Its north wall is 7.1 m high and 9.0 m to the top of the roof. There is no noticeable division in the run of the stones along the north wall, and it appears that the two structures have a common outer wall though they had separate functions and there was no internal access between them when built. They were divided by an internal wall running N-S. The two storied building had a door on the north wall, now blocked up and replaced by a modern door next to it (See **Fig 4**). This door led to a staircase to the upper floor, which was used as living space.



**Fig 4** North wall of the sandstone structure showing the blocked-up door.

The lower floor has six additional doors. The four on the west wall are 1.3 to 1.6 m wide and 2.2 to 2.3 m high. The two on the south wall are 1.65 and 1.7 m wide and 3.1 and 3.15 m high. These are unusually large and may indicate that they were inserted into the original structure, or built as such, as a show of prestige or importance. The internal divisions of the ground floor have been modified but it is possible to show, at least partially, where the original divisions would have been.

The ground floor is 103.80 m a.s.l and the upper floor is 107.65 m a.s.l.

The two doors on the south wall, now partly blocked up and converted into windows, can be seen in use as doors in early photographs of the building. Andrew Shepherd suggested, during a visit on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 2019 that three of the doors in the west wall, two of which have been blocked up and replaced by windows, were estate offices, each door serving a separate estate officer who had his own function. The third has been entirely blocked up. The fourth, the second from the north, opens into a corridor that runs the length of this building. Taking into account the internal ground floor level of this building it is apparent that though the external heights of the doors on the south wall are 3.10 and 3.15 m high, their internal height is a more reasonable 2.2 m, the excess height needed to descend from the internal floor to the external ground level.



**Fig 5** Detail of the south elevation showing the two doors, now blocked up and reused as windows.

Either before, contemporaneously or some time after this building was constructed; a brick building was constructed very close to it, to its immediate west on a slightly different alignment. This new building is very close to the sandstone building (the separation is about 0.9 to 1.4 m) and this presents a puzzle. At the time of their construction there would appear to be no other buildings locally so why did they need to crowd one another so closely? See **Fig 5**.

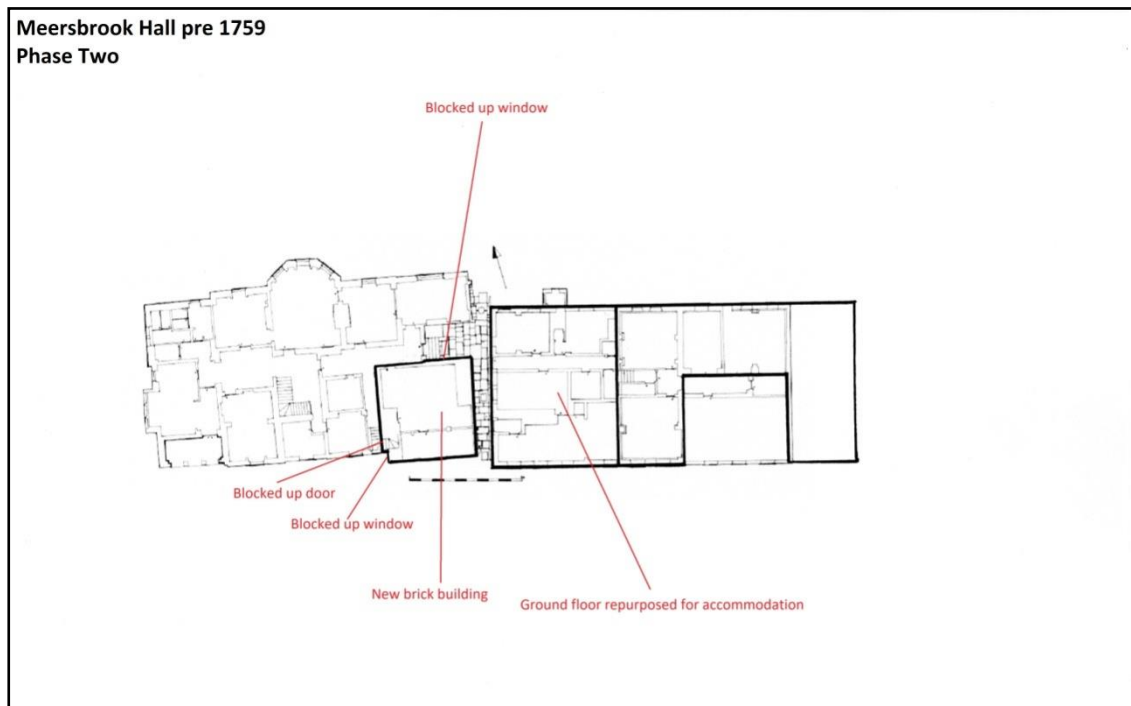
The new brick structure is 8.5 m E-W and 8.7 m N-S (See **Fig 6**). We do not know when it was built and most of its structure is now embedded in Meersbrook Hall itself. The outer walls were laid in a pattern called Flemish Bond (Brunskill, 1997) and also see **Fig 9**. Its lower floor is 2.59 m high and the ceilings of the upper floor are 2.84 m high. The ground floor level conforms to the ground floor level of the Hall itself (104.70 m a.s.l) and it is not possible to determine if this was the original floor level as all the floor surfaces are covered with linoleum which would presumably have been laid over a levelling screed. The upper floor level is 107.60 m a.s.l.

The east wall has evidence of some alteration with differing brick alignments whose purpose remains obscure, though they may indicate removal of part of this wall to make a larger fireplace if this building was repurposed as the kitchen for the Roebuck family. The fireplace is 3.2 m N-S by 1.2 m E-W.

There is a blocked-up window on the ground floor of the north wall with a segmented brick lintel. This window is 1.45 m wide and about 1.2 m high. On the west wall of the ground floor is a blocked-up window, part of which is now embedded in the Hall itself which abuts it to the west. This window, (See **Fig 7**) now disused, provides the stratigraphy between the two buildings. Also on this wall is a faint plaster trace of a door, possibly the original door to this building. It is 1.83 m high and at least 1.05 m wide. Its southern edge is 2.15 m from the south wall of the building.

The ground floor of the building is now one room with the massive fireplace on the east wall and with a modern partition for office space. The building was originally divided into two rooms, the northern room was originally 6.5 m E-W by 3.5 m N-S. The southern room was originally 4.6 m N-S by 6.4 m E-W. The dividing wall has been removed and a reinforcing beam inserted along with an iron pillar to provide structural support. (See **Fig 8**).

**Figs 12 and 13** show an attempt to isolate and reconstruct this building.



**Fig 6** The brick-built building to the west of the barn.



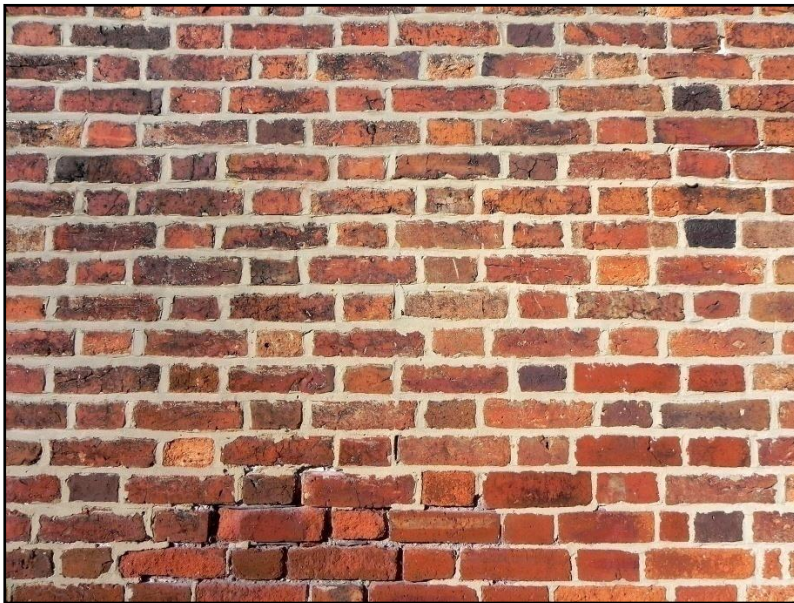
**Fig 7** The blocked-up window in the west wall, which provides stratigraphy between the buildings.



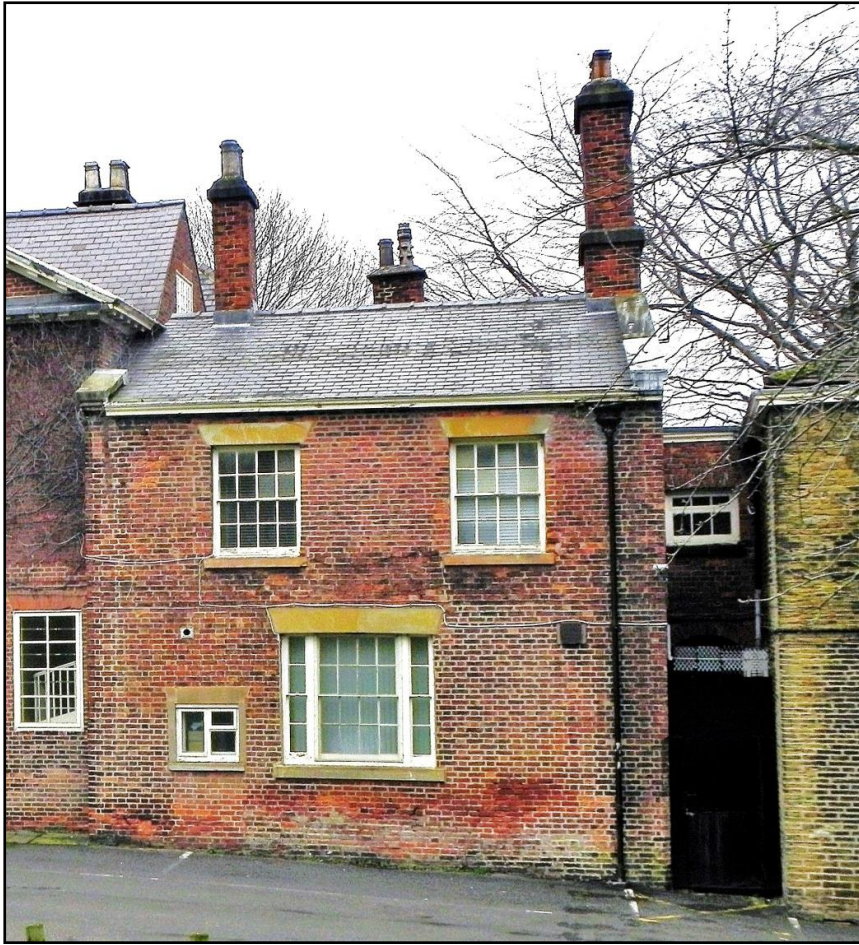
**Fig 8** The iron pillar and the retaining beam above.

There is no direct dating evidence for this building. It appears as an isolated building on the 1759 sketch map (Fairbank, 1759). The only surviving feature which might possibly be original is the window in the east wall (See **Fig 11**). This is a wooden mullioned window with a central opening casement. The L shaped hinges and the appearance of the window itself hint at a date around the late seventeenth to early eighteenth century, i.e., c. 1700.

This structure is interesting for another reason. At the time of its construction, before 1759, there do not appear to be any brick buildings locally. The sale of the Shore Estate (Nicholson, 1850) has several fine illustrations of other buildings on the estate; Norton Hall, House at Norton Lees (identified as ‘The Hollies’), West View, Cliffe Field House, Field Head or Low Field House. What is noticeable is that they, and other substantial local buildings which have existing photographs or drawings, are all built of stone. So why was this isolated building built of brick?



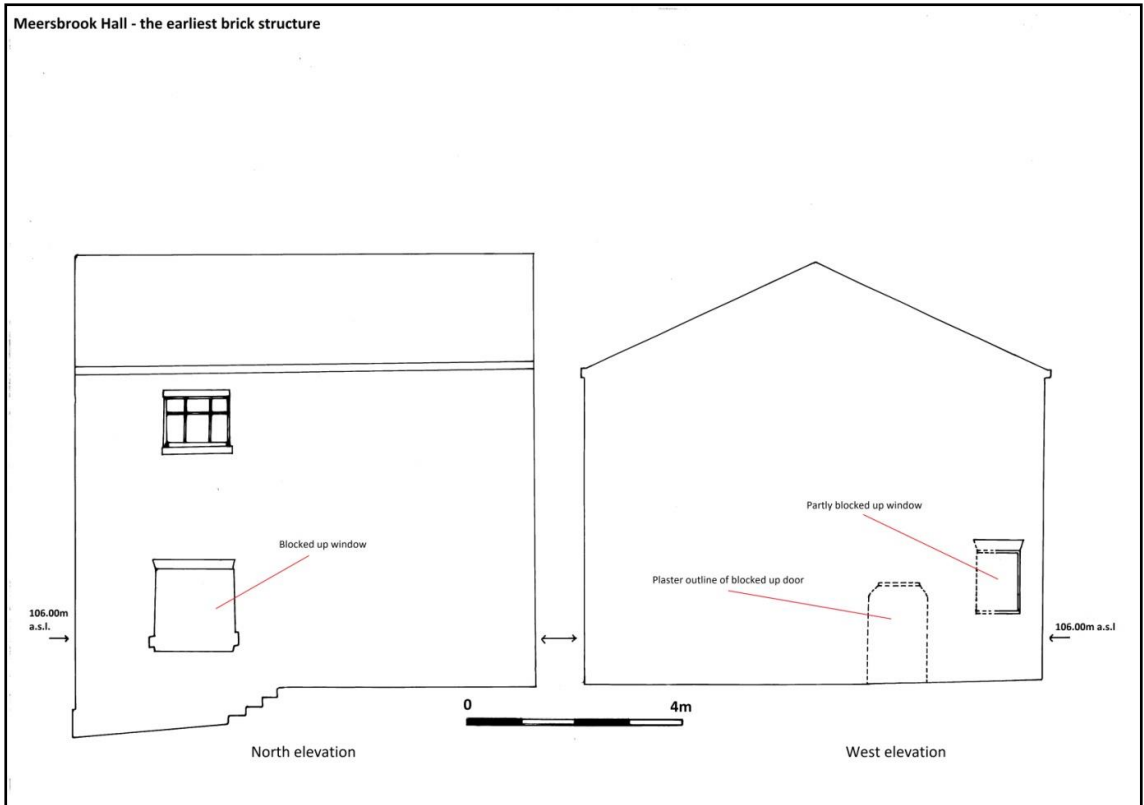
**Fig 9** Detail of the brick face of the first brick building.



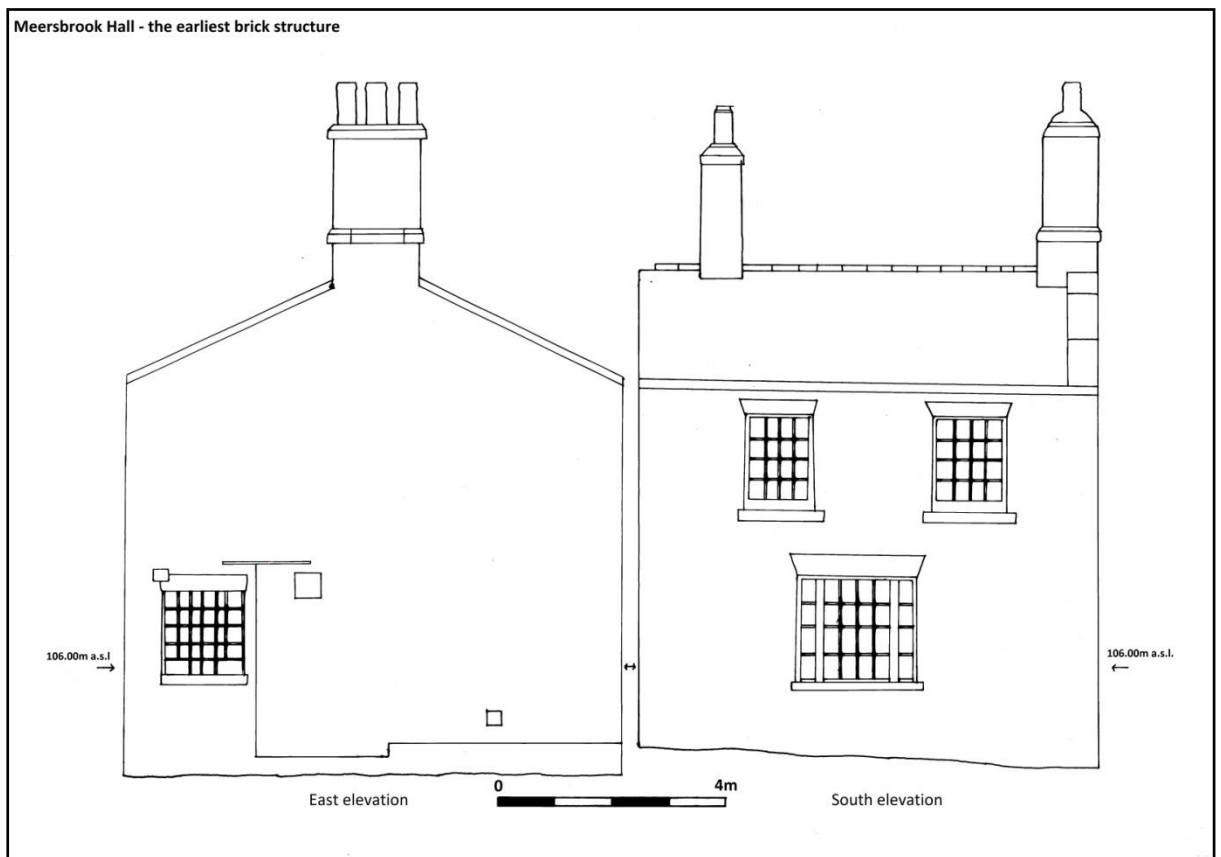
**Fig 10** The earliest brick building on the site, south elevation.



**Fig 11** The window on the east wall, original and rectified images.



**Fig 12** The earliest brick structure; north and west elevations.



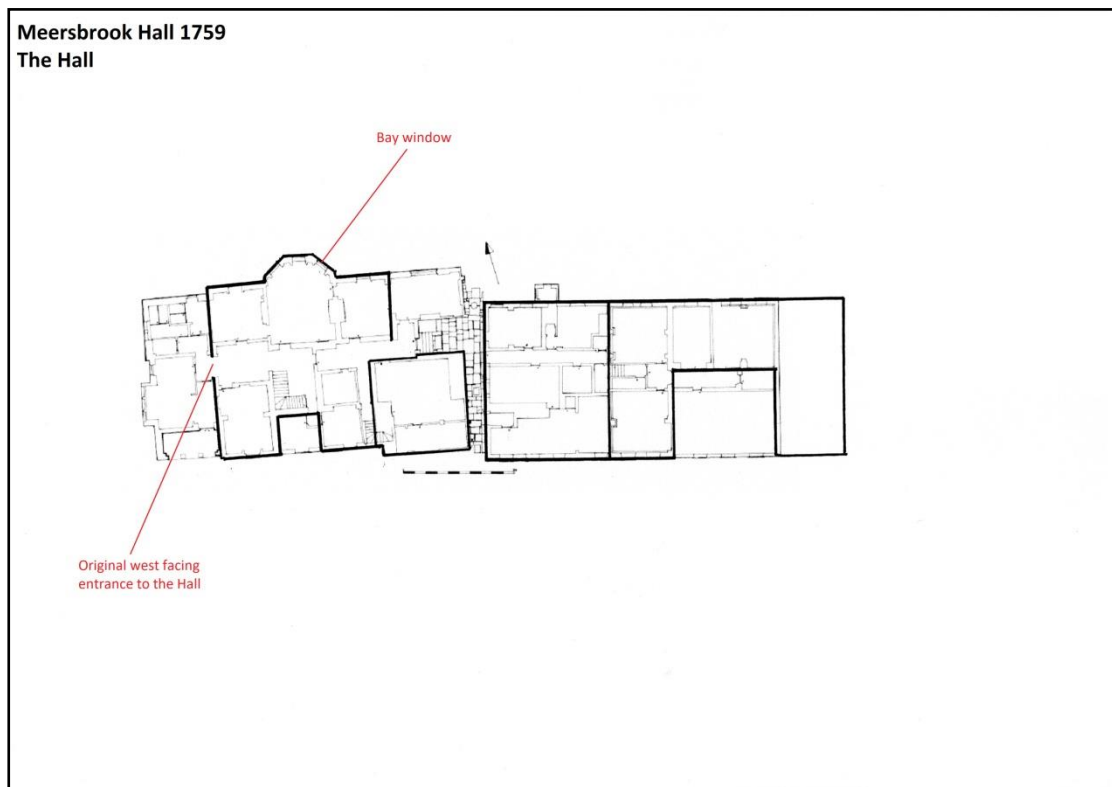
**Fig 13** The earliest brick structure; east and south elevations.

## Meersbrook Hall 1759

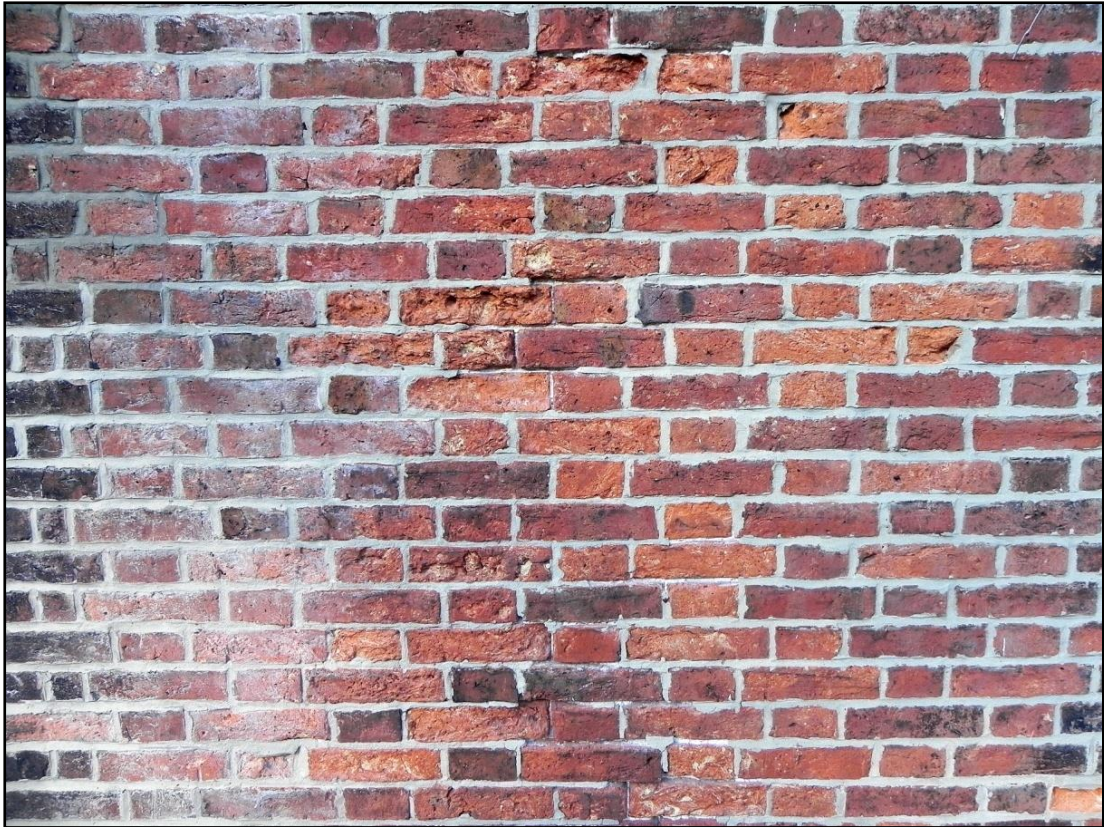
The next structure on the site, Meersbrook Hall itself, was built in 1759. (See **Fig 14**). Its long axis is roughly aligned E-W. The structure is 16.6 m long and 15.5 m wide with a large bay window on the north side which is 6.5 m wide and which juts out 2.1 m from the line of the wall. It is built entirely of brick and as with the previous building; this is laid in a style called Flemish Bonding (Brunskill, 1997) and see **Fig 15**. Internally, on the ground floor, the building is divided by a central corridor which was initially 17.3 m long and later extended to 18.9 m when an extra room was built onto the north east corner of the structure. At the west side of the building the corridor is 3.35 m wide and at the east side it is 1.65 m wide. The corridor led east from the original entrance to the building, a large arched door in the middle of the original west wall and now visible as part of the interior. It is 1.80 m wide and 3.03 m high. (See **Fig 16**). The only other noticeable feature on this original outer wall, now plastered over, is that on the upper floor a slight misalignment of the plastering has revealed a trace of a large window 3.0 m high and 1.1 m wide

The ground floor level is 104.7 m above sea level. Allowing for minor variations in ceiling height, the ground floor is 3.54 m high. The first floor is 3.14 m high and the attic is 2.21 m high.

From the ground floor level to the base of the roof is 7.40 m. From the ground floor level to the peak of the roof is 10.65 m. From the ground floor level to the top of the chimneys is 13.00 m. From the ground floor level to the cellar floor is 2.87 m, so that the total height of the building, from the cellar floor to the top of the tallest chimney is 15.87m.



**Fig 14** Meersbrook Hall 1759.



**Fig 15** Detail of the bricks on the S elevation of Meersbrook Hall.



**Fig 16** The original entrance to Meersbrook Hall.



**Fig 17** General view of Meersbrook Hall, south elevation.

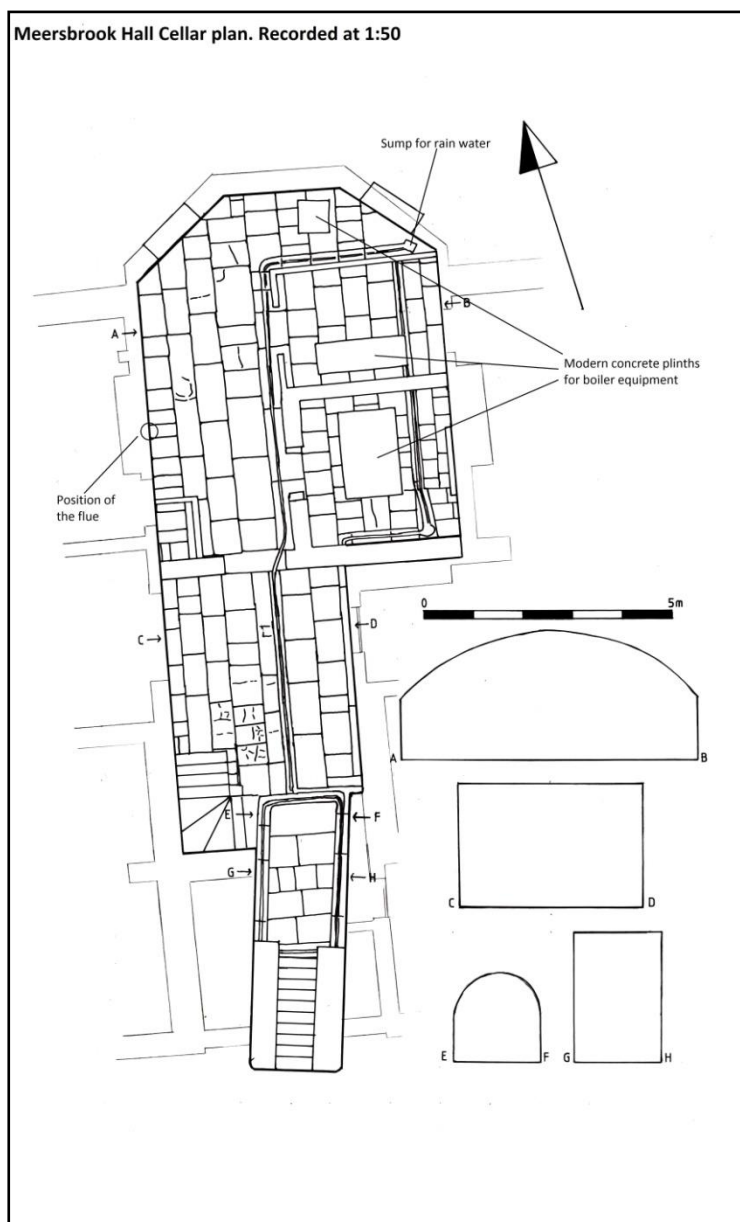


**Fig 18** Meersbrook Hall north elevation.

The Hall was built with a large cellar, (See **Fig 19**), currently used as a boiler room. It is 12.2 m long with its long axis running N-S from under the bay window of the N elevation. The section of the cellar immediately south of the bay window is 7.65 m long and 6.0 m wide with a curving brick ceiling that rises to a maximum height of 2.57 m. It is floored with 11 rows of sandstone tiles, the rows running parallel with the long axis. The section to its immediate south is 5.55 m long and 3.7 m wide with a flat ceiling 2.55 m high. This section is floored by 7 rows of sandstone tiles.

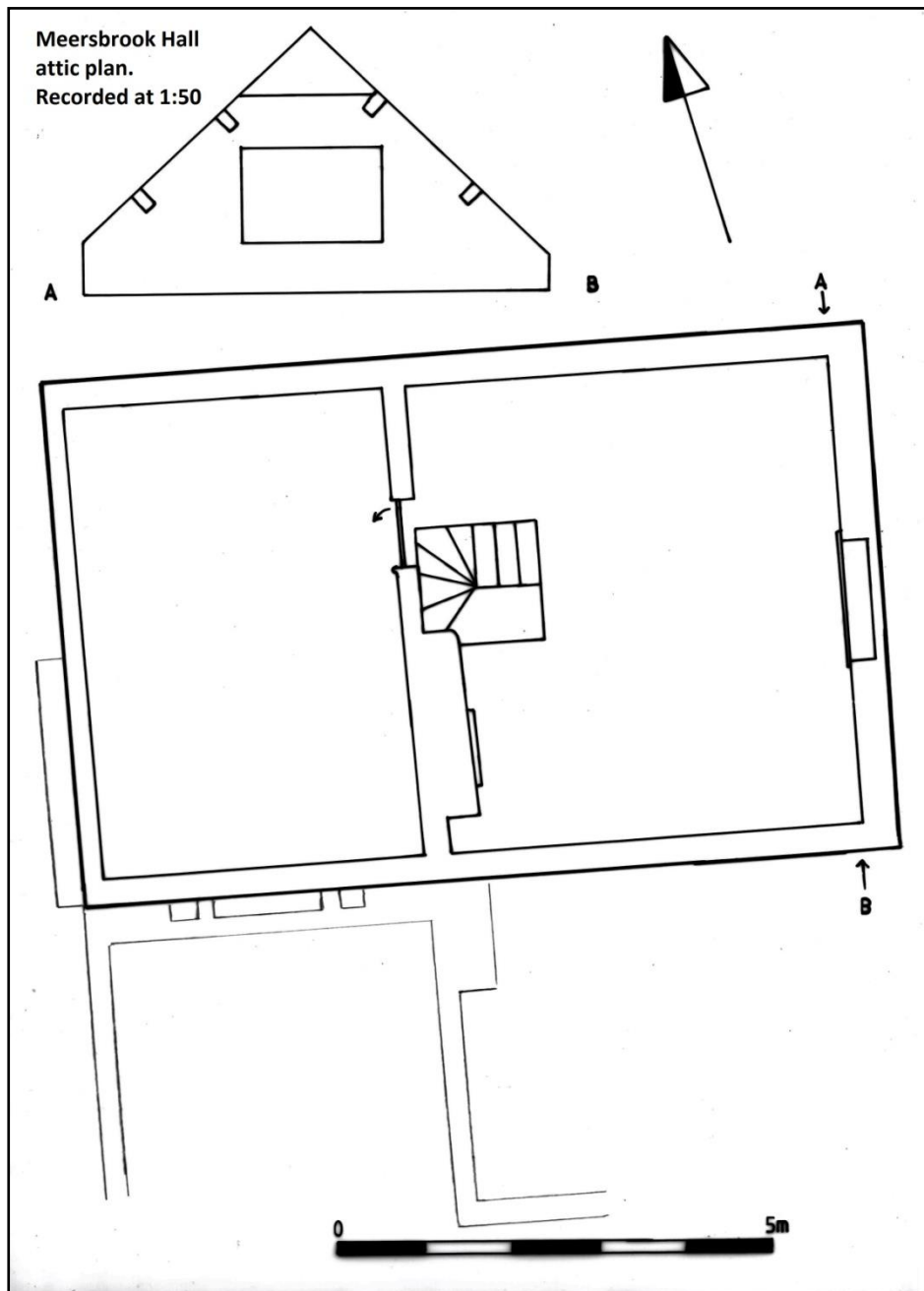
To the south of this is a small passage or shaft ending in steps to the ground. The shaft is 5.7 m long and 1.8 m wide and has a curving brick ceiling that rises to a maximum height of 1.80 m. There are 10 steps, each 0.75 m wide and are bordered on either side by a smooth slope 0.5 m wide which would have been used to roll barrels into the cellar, as is still done in pubs.

Along the W wall of the cellar is the remains of a flue, now blocked up but once leading to the fireplace above. This would have provided heating to the cellar. No trace of the original fireplace remains.



**Fig 19** The cellar.

The Hall has an attic whose long axis runs E-W. It is 8.75 m long and 5.3 m wide (N-S). It is divided into two rooms. The E of these is 4.8 m long and the W is 3.7 m long. See **Fig 20**. The attic is accessed by a narrow staircase of a type called a dog-leg with winder (Hall, 2007). The E room of the attic has a chimney with a fire grate, unfortunately almost concealed by the modern water tank. Because of its relative isolation from the rest of the building, the attic has preserved many of the few remaining original architectural features in the Hall.



**Fig 20** The attic.

It has been possible by careful scrutiny of the Fairbanks workbooks, to get an accurate chronology for the construction of the Hall.

A sketch map, which was never drawn up properly, of Benjamin Roebuck's purchase of land in Meersbrook with the heading 'Benj. Roebuck's Purchase 2<sup>nd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 1759' shows the site

before the building of the Hall. Despite the distortion and compression of the landscape features and that north is at the bottom, it is possible, with reference to other maps, to decipher the features. (Fairbank, 1759, p 8-9). The will of Benjamin Blythe was dated the 15<sup>th</sup> of July 1755 and probate was granted on the same day, the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 1759. This coincidence of dates makes it likely that Benjamin Roebuck bought the land from Samuel or Benjamin Blythe.

Another sketch, labelled 'Benj. Roebuck's cellar digging 3<sup>rd</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1759' (Fairbank, 1759, p 34) shows that by that date the cellar was being dug out.

The heading of the next page is 'Workhouse pointing by Thomas Brierley 12<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1759'. As the cellar had only just been dug out, the Hall itself could not have been built within a few days. The only building that could have been pointed, assuming the pointing was being done to a brick building, would be to the then isolated earlier brick building identified above. Perhaps it was being pointed to bring it up to a good standard, ready to be incorporated in the soon to be built Hall.

However, the name of the building is intriguing. Could it have been an early workhouse for the poor within Norton parish? Or perhaps the name refers to the current use of the building, as a workhouse to house tools, materials and perhaps some of the workers engaged in the project.

Page 36 seems to be a sketch map of an area outside the building with several areas marked out and labelled with the names of, presumably, workmen. There is a heading 'Street setting by John Lingard for his Overseers & others 18<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1759. (Fairbank, 1759 p 36). Perhaps this refers to the start of the work on the landscaped gardens illustrated in the 1770 map. (Fairbank, 1770,2), which is drawn up from a sketch map of the same year (Fairbank, 1770,1).

The following page is headed 'Benj. Roebuck's Cellar Walls & Foundation to the top of the threshold Brickwork by E Clark 20<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1759' (Fairbank, 1759 p 37). This would seem to indicate that the cellar walls had been brick lined by that date.

The next date is several months on: 'Benj. Roebuck's carpentry work by R. Unwin 19<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1759. Part of the Tim.n in the Roof taken by R. Unwin.' This seems to refer to the roof timbers either being brought to the site or being fitted by December 1759.

A list of timbers, one of which is 'ceiling joists over the kitchen' is dated 22<sup>nd</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1759 (Fairbank, 1759 p 143).

The final dated entry says 'William Thompson's Joyner work 22<sup>nd</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> (Fairbank, 1759 p 151). Presumably the year is also 1759 and the entry is among a list of window sashes, including the semicircular one for the central part of the Venetian window, showing that by this time the Hall had been substantially built and the windows were going in. **Also see Appendix 4.**

It is possible to make a rough estimate of the number of bricks used in the Hall's construction by measuring the area of all the walls from the 1:50 scale plans drawn up and subtracting the area of the windows and doors and then calculating the number of bricks per square metre. The surface area of each wall elevation was doubled as there would have been both an internal and an external brick surface. For this calculation the height of the walls was taken as 8.0 m and no allowance was made for the depth of the foundations.

If this is applied to the total bricked area, we get 125,156 bricks.

If we assume that the foundations, including the internal walls, were 1 metre deep then the bricked area becomes 1,785.72 m<sup>2</sup> and the number of bricks becomes 138,250.

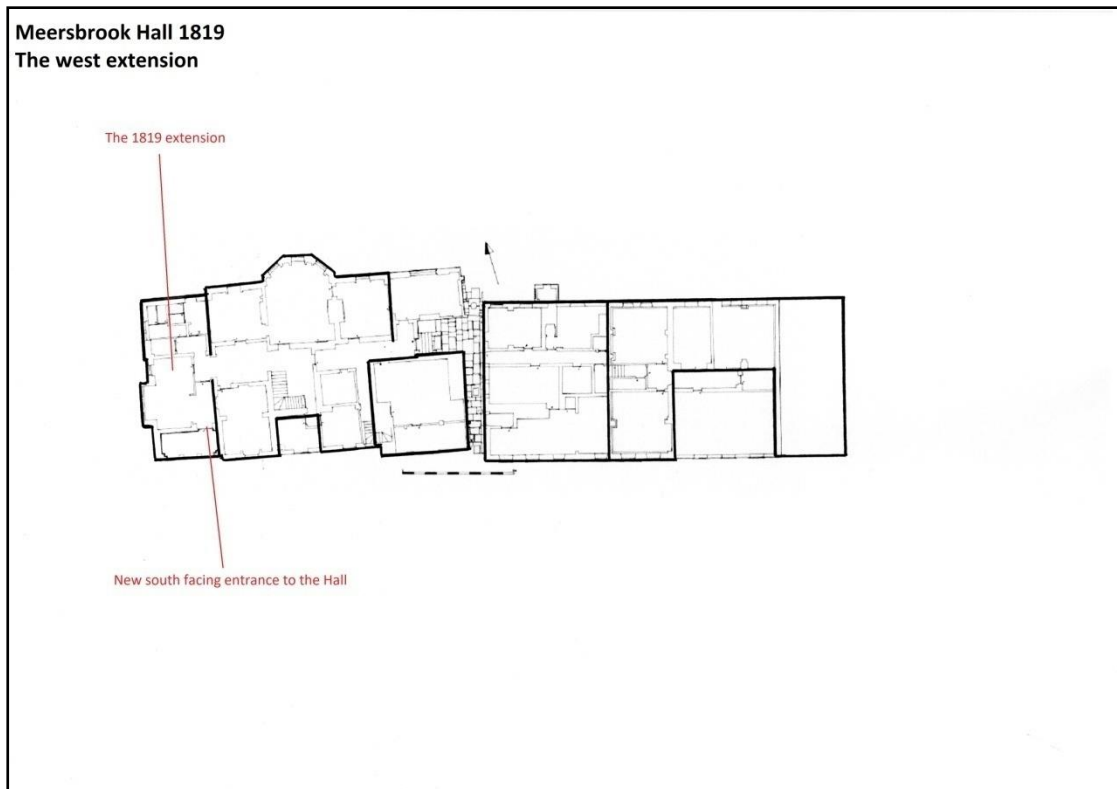
If we assume that the foundations, including the internal walls, were 2 metres deep then the bricked area becomes 1,954.86 m<sup>2</sup> and the number of bricks becomes 151,345.

While these estimates are bound to contain errors, they give us an idea of the huge undertaking that building even a moderate Georgian mansion would have been in this time period.

Olsen (1999, 175) says that a six-horse wagon of the period could legally haul six tons and a packhorse could haul about 100 kg. Also see Appendix 2.

### Meersbrook Hall – The 1819 extension

In 1819 the Hall was extended to the west (See Fig 21) and the original entrance (See Fig 16) became part of the corridor which turned through a right angle to the south. The new entrance was at the south within a covered structure faced by three stone arches. The extension was 14.4 m N-S by 5.4 m E-W with a rectangular bay on the west elevation, which juts out 0.9 m from the wall line. The entrance portico is 2.45 m N-S by 5.00 m E-W.



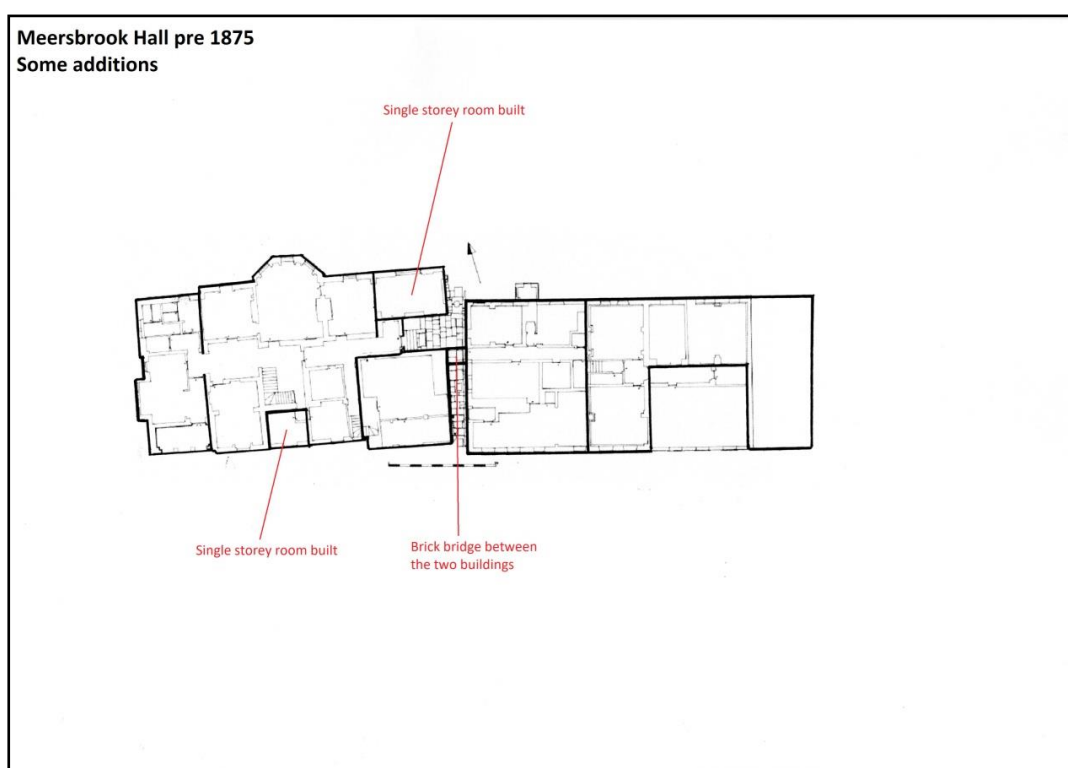
**Fig 21** Meersbrook Hall – the 1819 extension.

## Meersbrook Hall – Later modifications

There were two smaller alterations to the building. From the evidence of the maps, a small room was built at the front, below the main Venetian style window, and above the entrance to the cellar at some time between 1849 and 1875. See **Fig 22**. This room is 3.3 m N-S by 3.5 m E-W and its ceiling is 2.91 m high.

Another ground floor room was added at the north east corner of the Hall. It appears on the 1875 map. The outline of the building is not distinctive enough on the 1845 and 1849 maps for its existence at that time to be proven, though it does not appear on the 1835 map. (See **Fig 22**). This room is 4.1 m N-S by 6.3 m E-W. Its ceiling is 3.20 m high.

A brick bridge was built to connect the two main structures; the Hall and the stone building to its east. This appears on the 1875 map but every earlier map shows the two buildings as distinctly separate. (See **Figs 22 and 23**). The bridge is 1.60 m long (E-W) and 1.23 m wide internally (N-S). Its ceiling is 2.69 m high. It has a small window on its S wall.



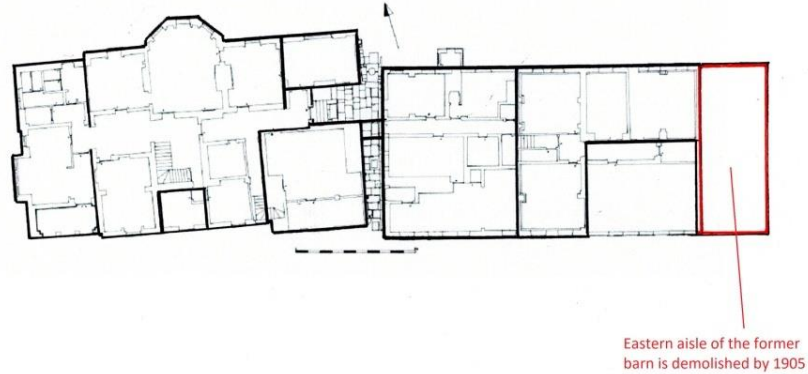
**Fig 22** Nineteenth century alterations.



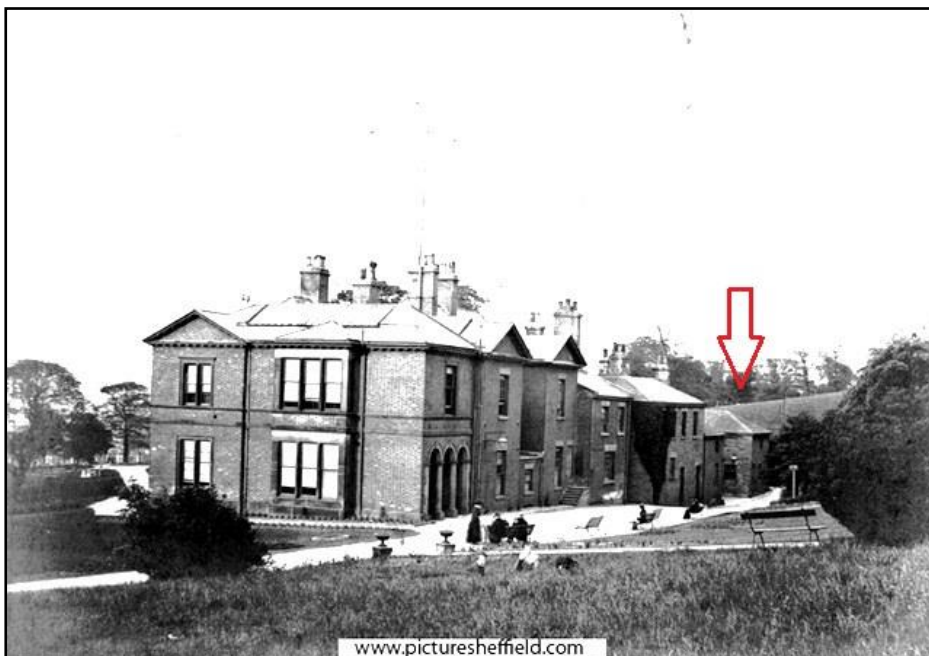
**Fig 23** The brick bridge connecting the two structures.

The east wing or aisle of the early stone barn appears on the 1898 map but is gone by the time of the 1905 map. (See **Fig 24**). The aisle can just be seen in the background of an old photograph of the Hall. (See **Fig 25**).

Meersbrook Hall 1898 to 1905  
The eastern aisle of the former barn is demolished



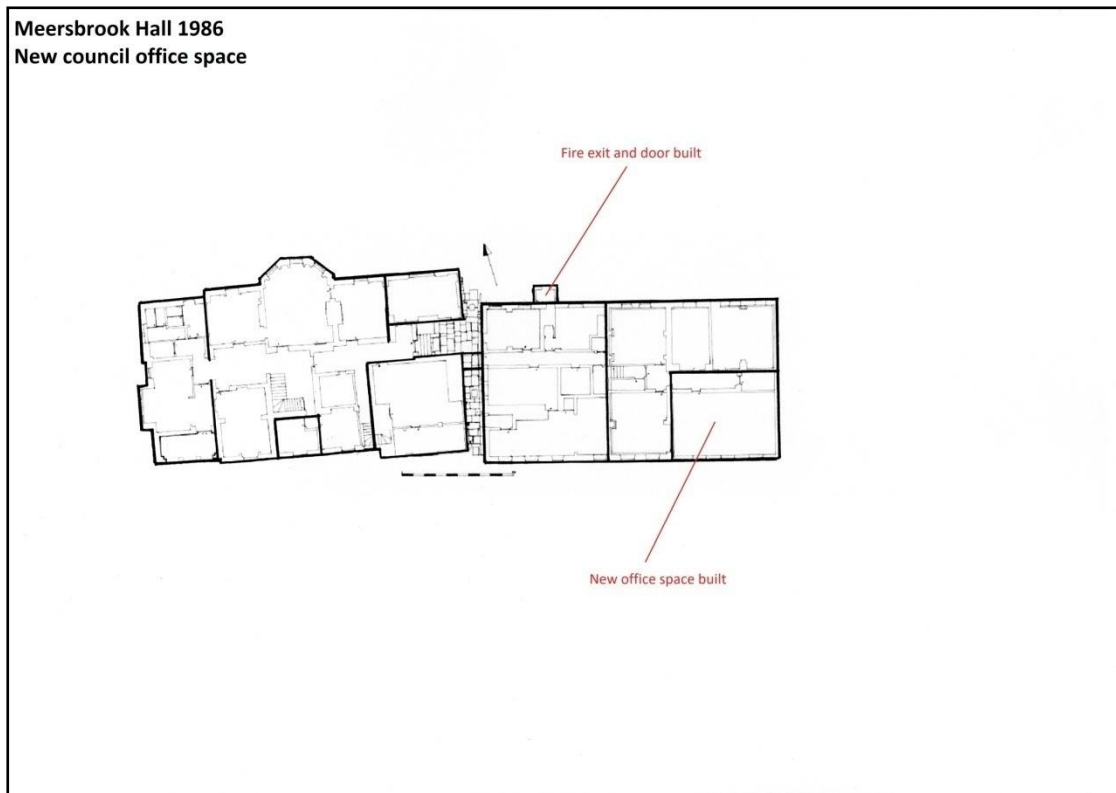
**Fig 24** Demolition of the eastern aisle of the former barn.



**Fig 25** An early photograph showing the eastern aisle of the old barn.

The final alterations appear to be a modern brick fire door built on the site of the original blocked up door to the north of the two-storey stone building and a two floor structure built to conform to the eastern end of the stone built structure built in 1986. (See **Fig 26**). Inspection

of the roof voids shows that the eastern end of the stone structure (the barn) and its roof were internally lagged and the original tiles replaced by modern ceramic tiles, probably also in 1986. The adjacent structure and the pre 1759 brick-built structure were also internally lagged, showing that their roof tiles were removed and then replaced, also probably at that time.



**Fig 26** Twentieth century alterations.

During the survey of the building in September 2018 the author discovered several groups of markings on the timber beams of the central, E – W running upper room of the barn on its north side. These markings have been interpreted as Baltic shipping marks and provide evidence that at an unknown date, most likely to be during the nineteenth century, the roof of the barn was replaced with timber brought over from the Continent. Despite reference to lists of markings, no exact parallel was found, though the markings most similar to the ones at the Hall came from Sweden.

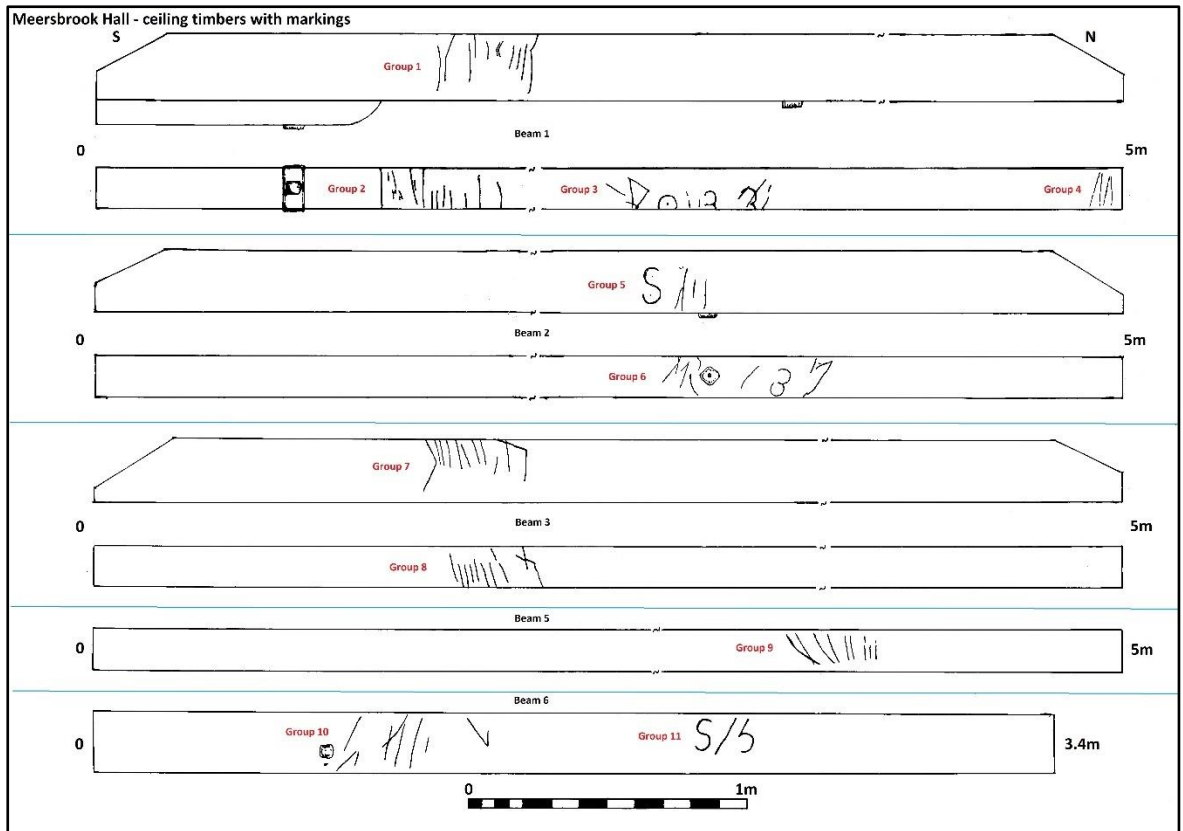
The markings proved particularly difficult to image as the beams that they had been inscribed in have been painted brown. Various techniques, with and without flash and with and without LED floodlighting were used. **Fig 27** shows one of the groupings. One further group of marks was found in the roof void above, which had not been painted over (See **Fig 28**).



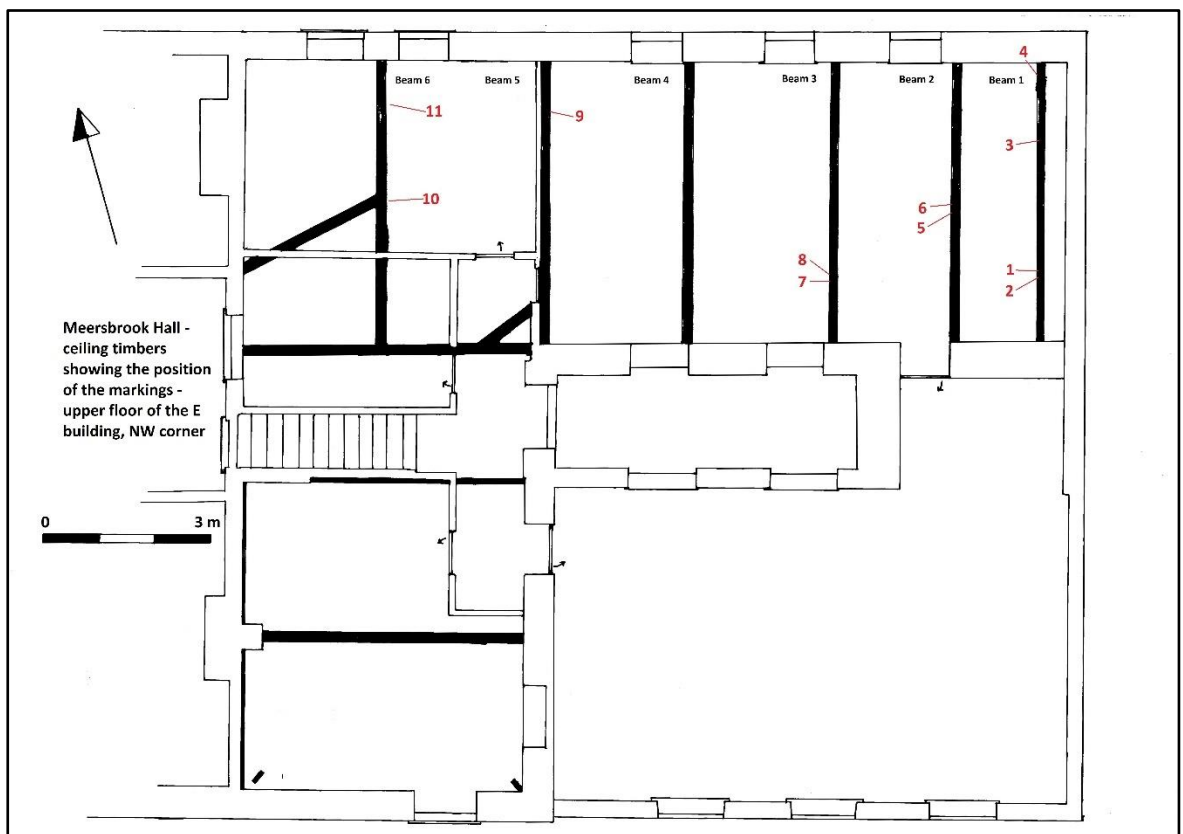
**Fig 27** Baltic shipping marks on one of the ceiling beams (group 7).



**Fig 28** A marking found in the roof void which had not been painted.



**Fig 29** The Baltic shipping marks.



**Fig 30** Plan showing the location of the groupings of marks on the beams.

## *Meersbrook Hall 2: Fixtures and fittings*

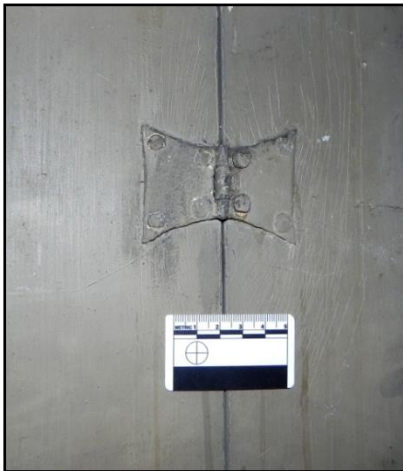
Like any building which has survived for two and a half centuries, Meersbrook Hall has had several purposes. From 1759 to 1885 it was occupied by three families; the Roebucks, the Shores and the Pashleys. From 1890 to 1953 it became the Ruskin Museum and from 1960 to 2016 it housed Sheffield City Council's Parks and Recreation department offices.

With these uses came many alterations so that although the outer face of the Hall is plain to see, not many of the early features can be found internally. During the survey of the building an attempt was made to photograph and record what few early internal features still exist.

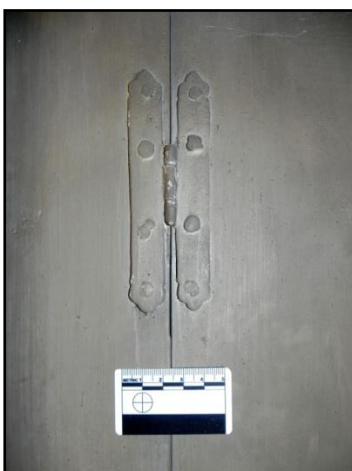
### **The Attic**

Because of its relative isolation from the rest of the building, the attic still preserves several original features which appear to date from the mid-eighteenth century.

Noted on the wooden shutter to the window on the east wall were a butterfly hinge (**Fig 1**), an 'H' hinge (**Fig 2**) and two strap hinges (**Figs 3**).



**Fig 1** Butterfly hinge.



**Fig 2** H hinge.



**Fig 3** Strap hinge.

On the east face of the door separating the two attic rooms is a decorated drop handle (**Fig 4**).



**Fig 4** Decorated drop handle.

Almost hidden by a modern water tank is a fire grate (**Fig 5**).



**Fig 5** The fire grate.

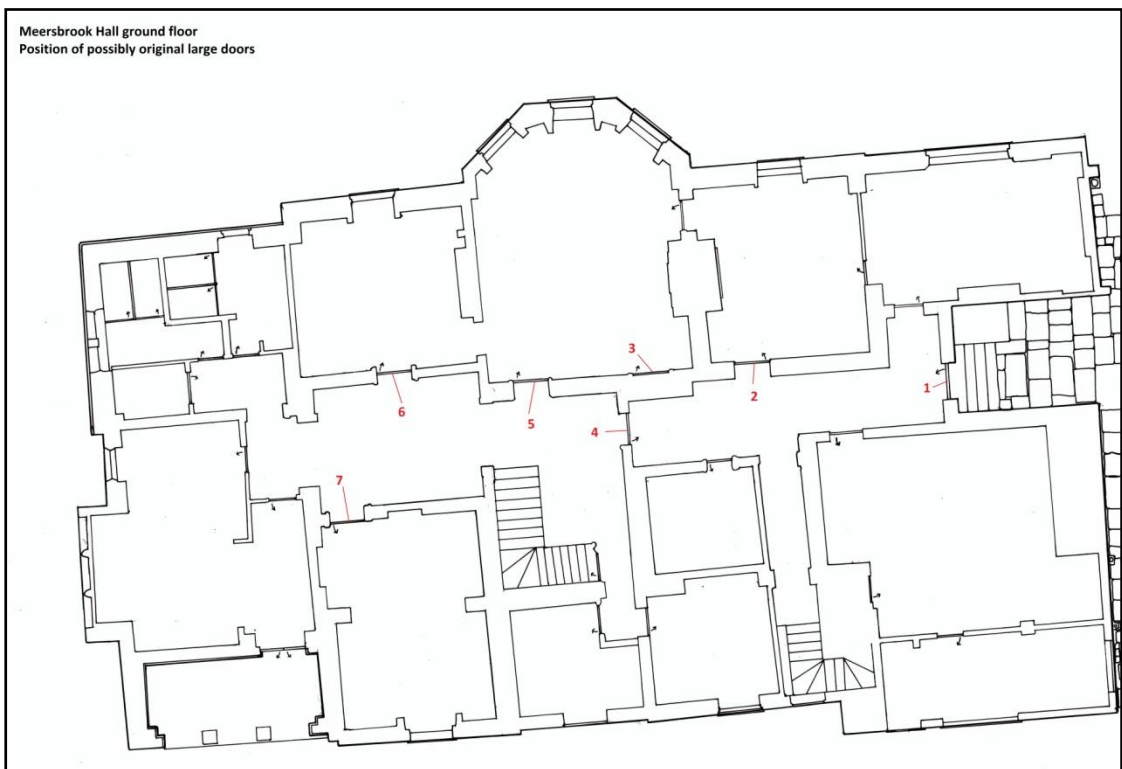
### **The doors**

Within the Hall itself (the 1759 building) are ten identical six-panelled doors. In some cases, one or more of the original wooden panels have been cut out and replaced by a glass panel.

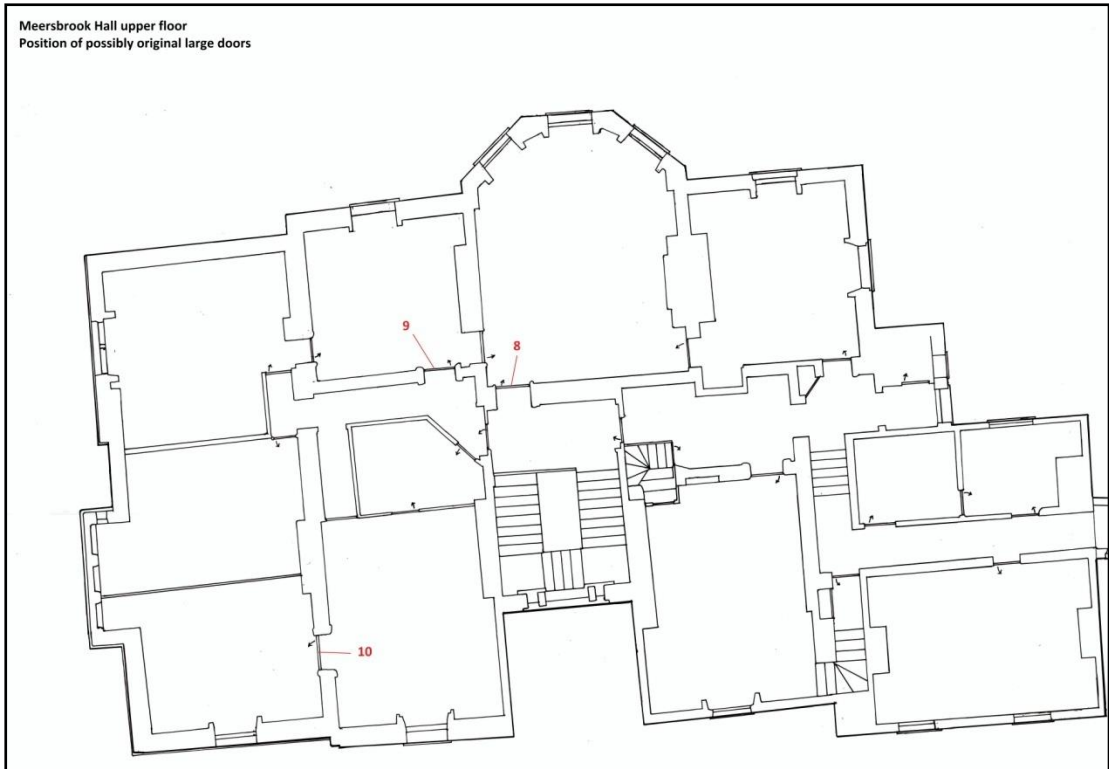
The doors are 2.02 m vertically and 1.00 m horizontally. They are 6 panelled doors. The panels are in two rows, vertically. The horizontal dimensions of the panels are 0.40 m, 0.40 m, outwards from the hinge. Their vertical dimensions are 0.21 m, 0.66 m and 0.56 m from the top to the bottom of the door.



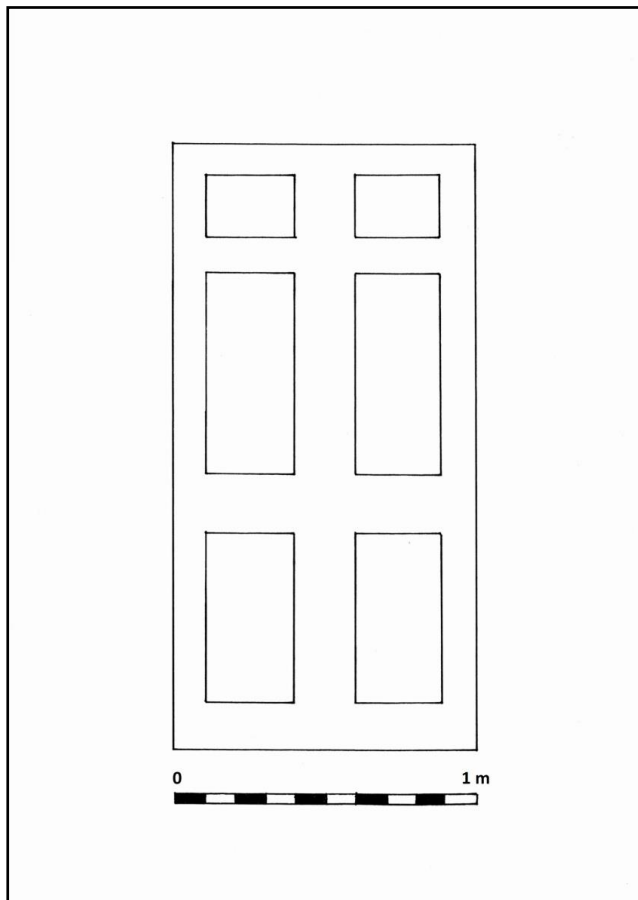
**Fig 6** Two of the six-panelled doors.



**Fig 7** Position of the six-panelled doors on the ground floor.



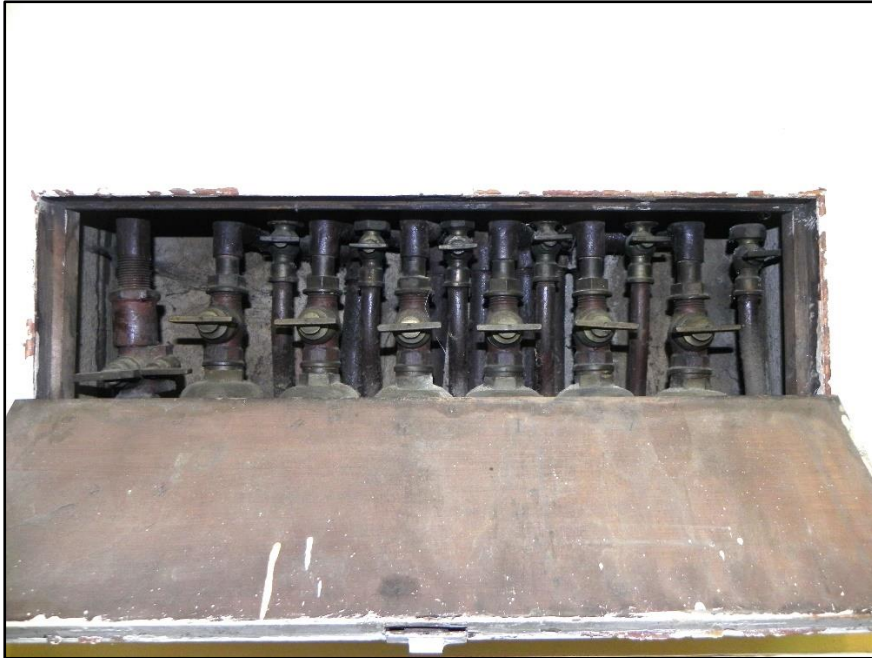
**Fig 8** Position of the six-panelled doors on the upper floor.



**Fig 9** The six panelled door.

## Gas pipes

To the west of the landing above the main staircase, a panel reveals the gas pipes from when the building was connected to the municipal supply (See **Fig 10**).



**Fig 10** Gas pipes.

## The Venetian window

The central window of the Hall is a Venetian window, typical of the mid eighteenth century. Unfortunately, due to lack of maintenance, it has begun to rot away on the outside. See **Figs 11 and 12**. The notes in the Fairbank book detailing the building's construction show that it was installed in December 1759. See **Appendix 4**.



**Fig 11** Exterior of the Venetian window.



**Fig 12** The interior of the Venetian window.

### **The bay window.**

The bay window (See **Section 1, Fig 18**) can only be easily seen in the winter when the vegetation is down. The following image is from the inside.



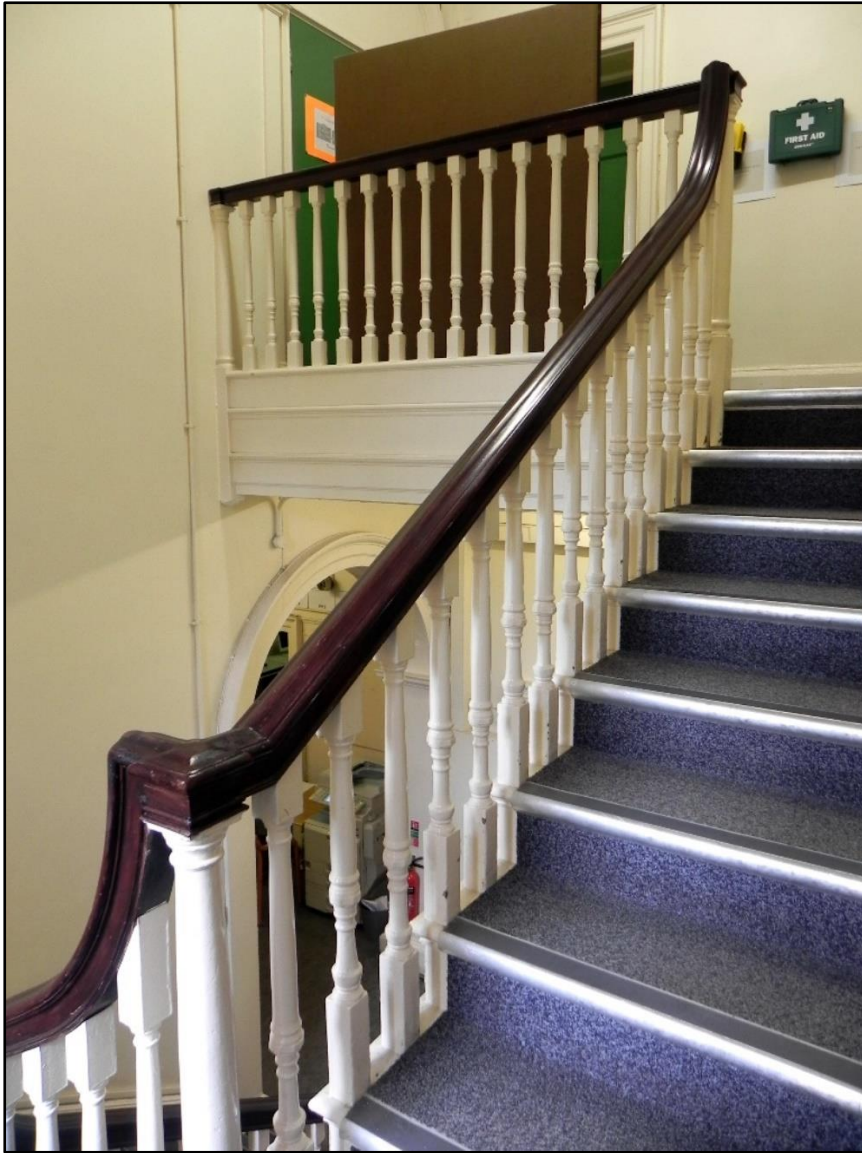
**Fig 13** Interior view of the bay window.

## The main staircase

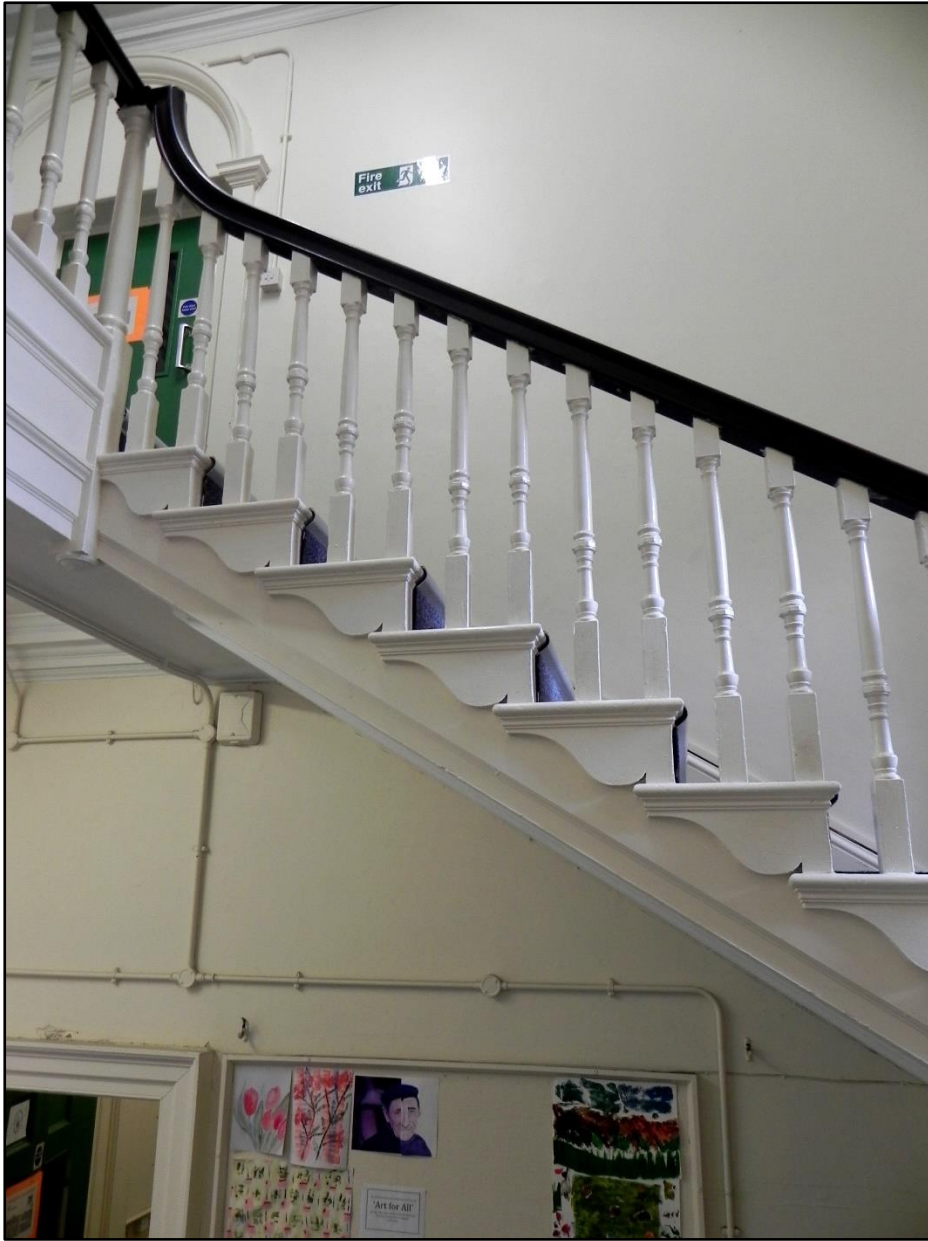
Typical of an eighteenth century staircase, the main staircase at Meersbrook Hall is an 'open string' staircase, where the balusters stand on each tread. This one has two balusters per tread. See **Figs 15 and 16**. The lowermost tread (See **Fig 17**) is a 'curtail step,' where the tread is wider than the rest with a curved end (Hall (2007)). At the outer edge of each tread is a decorative bracket (See **Fig 16**).



**Fig 14** The main staircase showing the landing.



**Fig 15** The main staircase.



**Fig 16** The main staircase showing the decorative brackets.



**Fig 17** The bottom of the staircase showing the curtail step.

## Decorated drainpipes

On the Hall's north face are two decorated drainpipe heads, also called rainwater traps, most probably made of cast iron, (See **Figs 18 and 19**).



**Fig 18** Decorated drainpipe head to the west of the bay window.



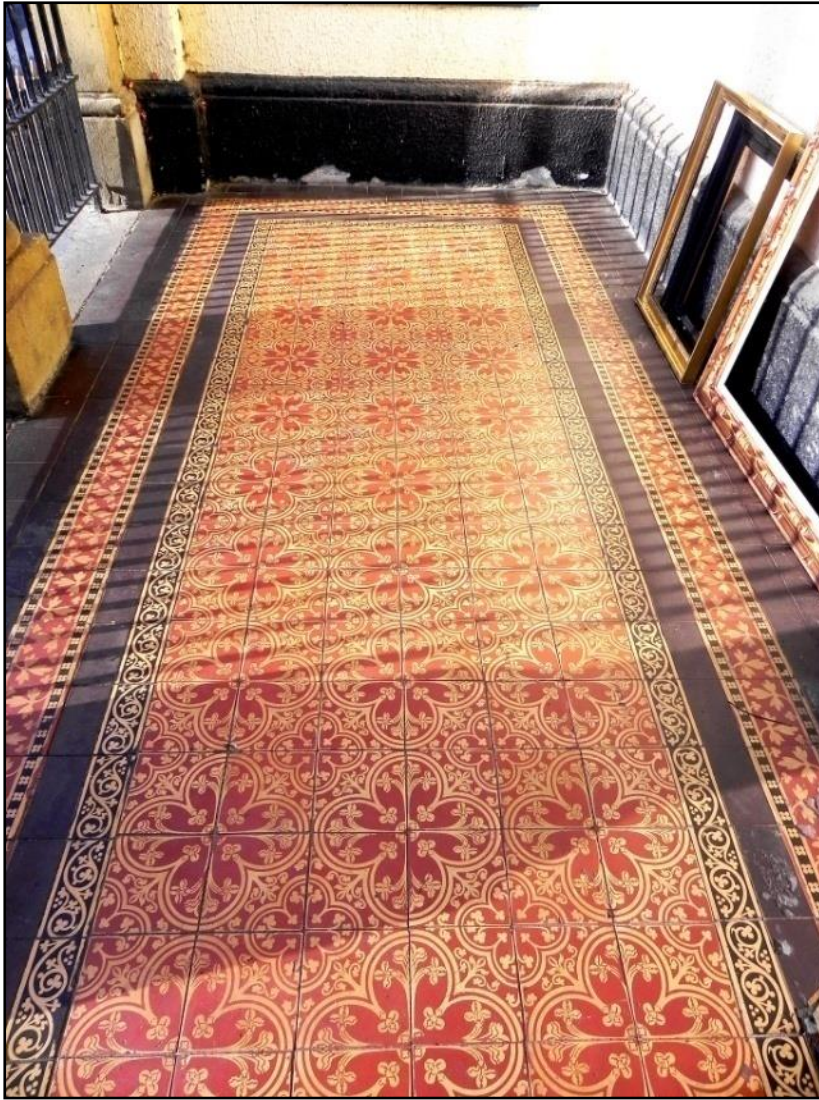
**Fig 19** Decorated drainpipe head to the east of the bay window.

### **The entrance portico**

At the west of the 1819 extension to the Hall, the entrance portico features three arches. It has been paved with ceramic floor tiles, probably of Victorian date. See **Figs 20 and 21**.



**Fig 20** The triple arched entrance portico.



**Fig 21** The tiled floor of the portico.

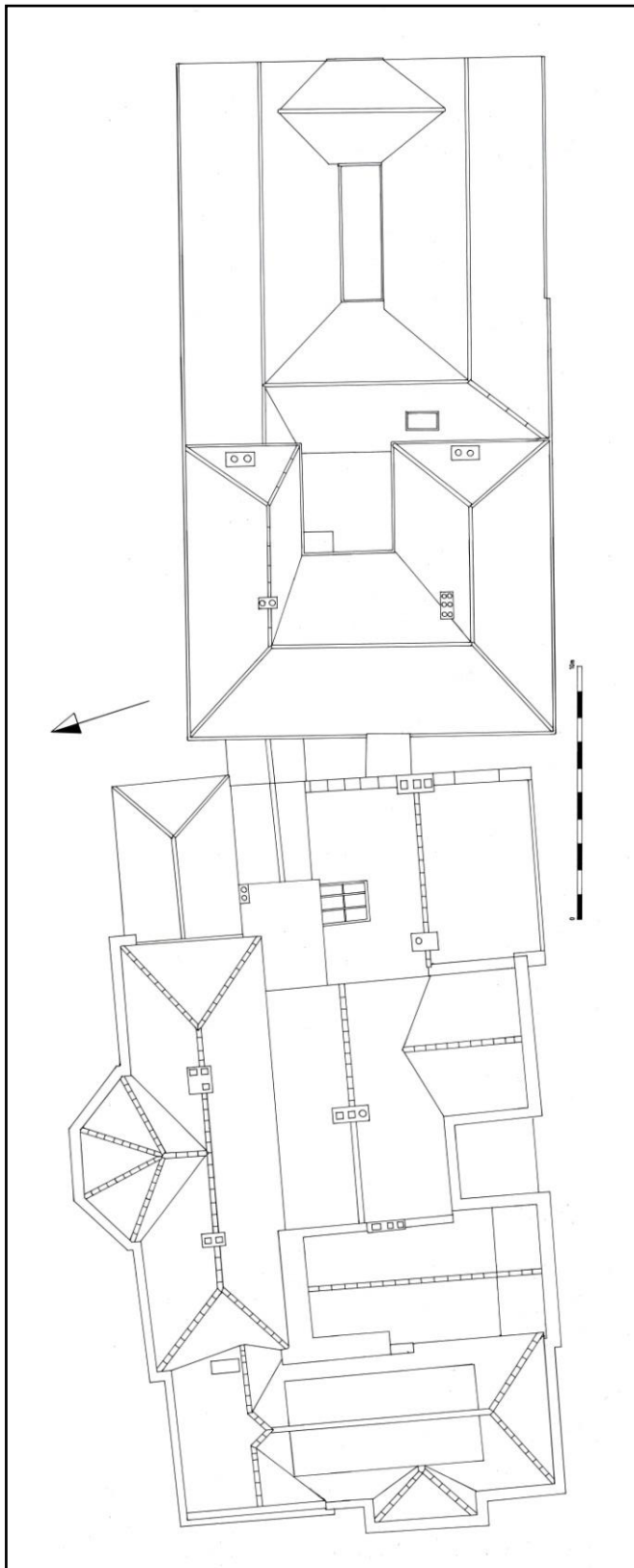
### **The peaked roof**

To either side of the central Venetian window (See **Fig 12**) the building rises to a triangular peak, called a Triangular Pediment. This was a typical feature of Georgian architecture. (Also See **Section 1, Fig 17**).

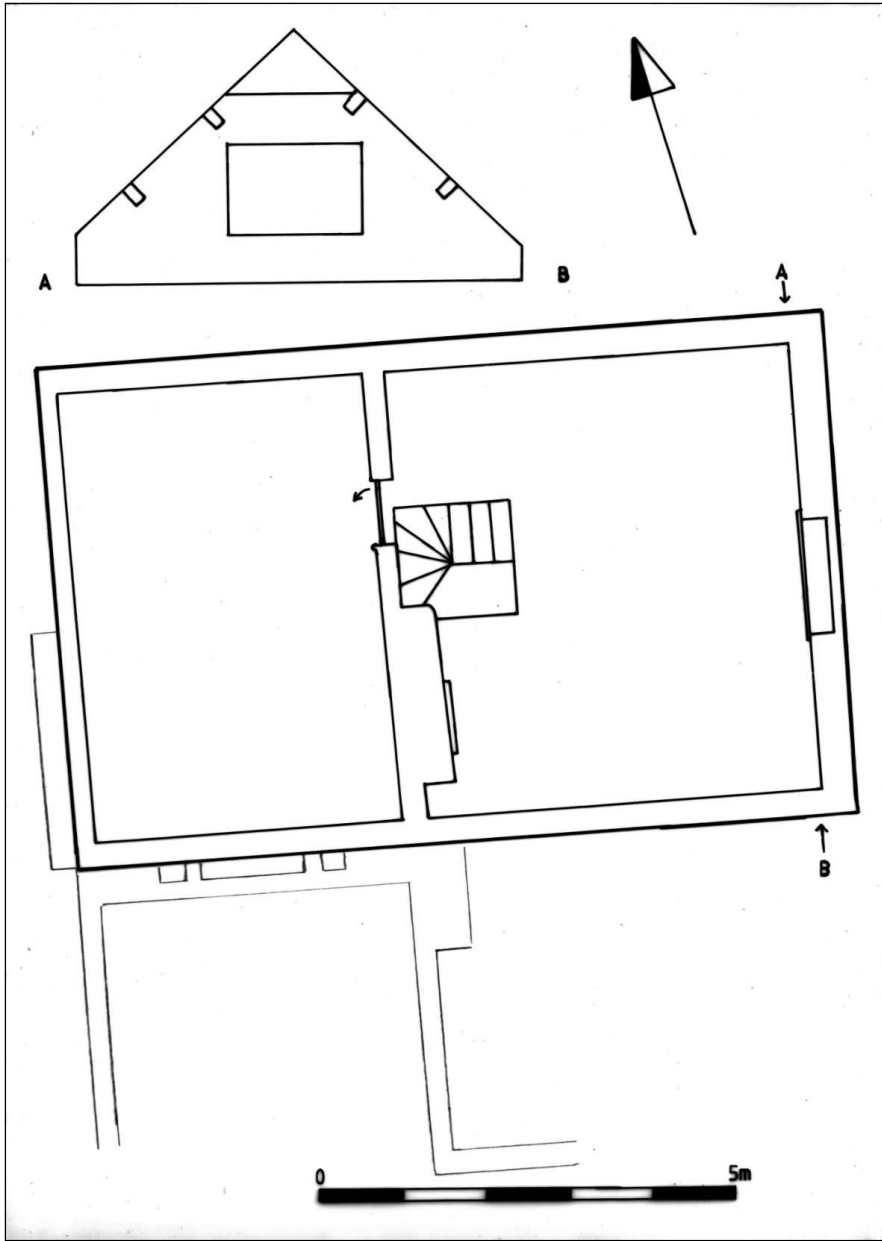
## ***Meersbrook Hall 3: Plans and elevations***

Meersbrook Hall was planned at a scale of 1:50 by measuring a grid 61.00 m by 19.00 m and measuring in from this rectangle until the walls were encountered.

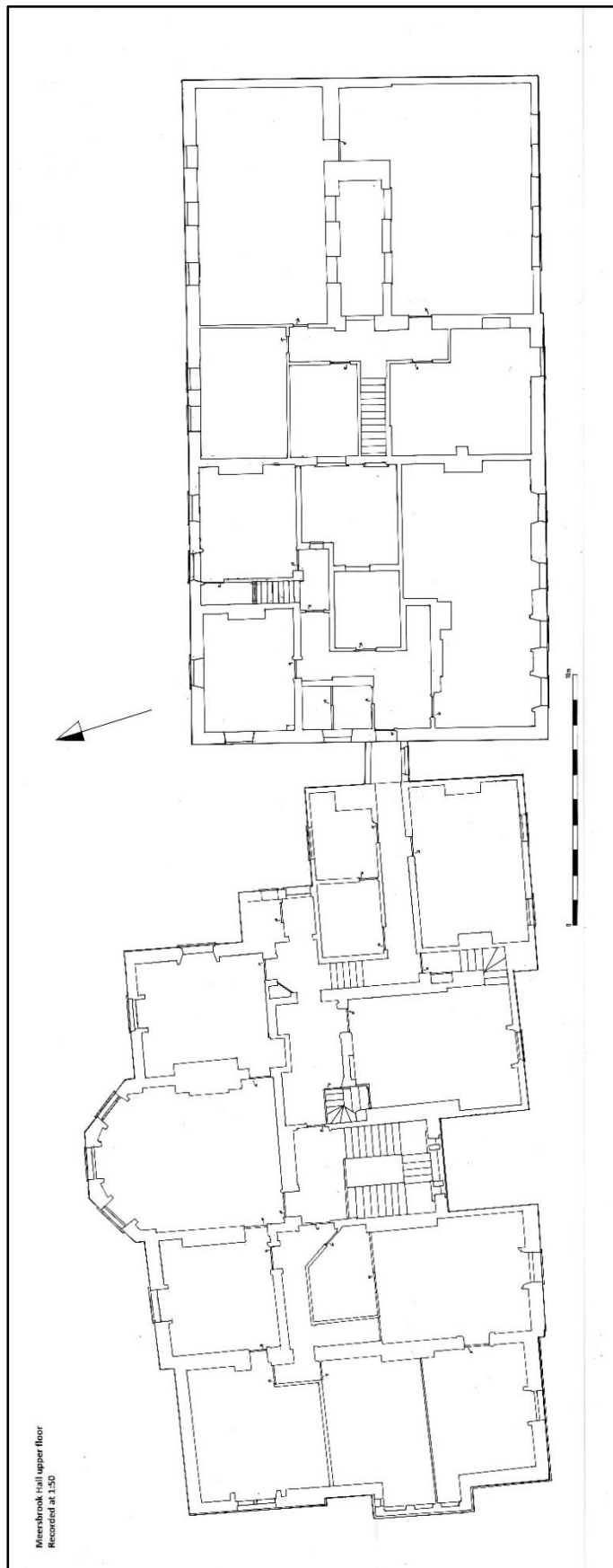
The roof was inaccessible to direct measurement and its dimensions have been measured from the wall elevations and supplemented from aerial photographs taken from a drone.



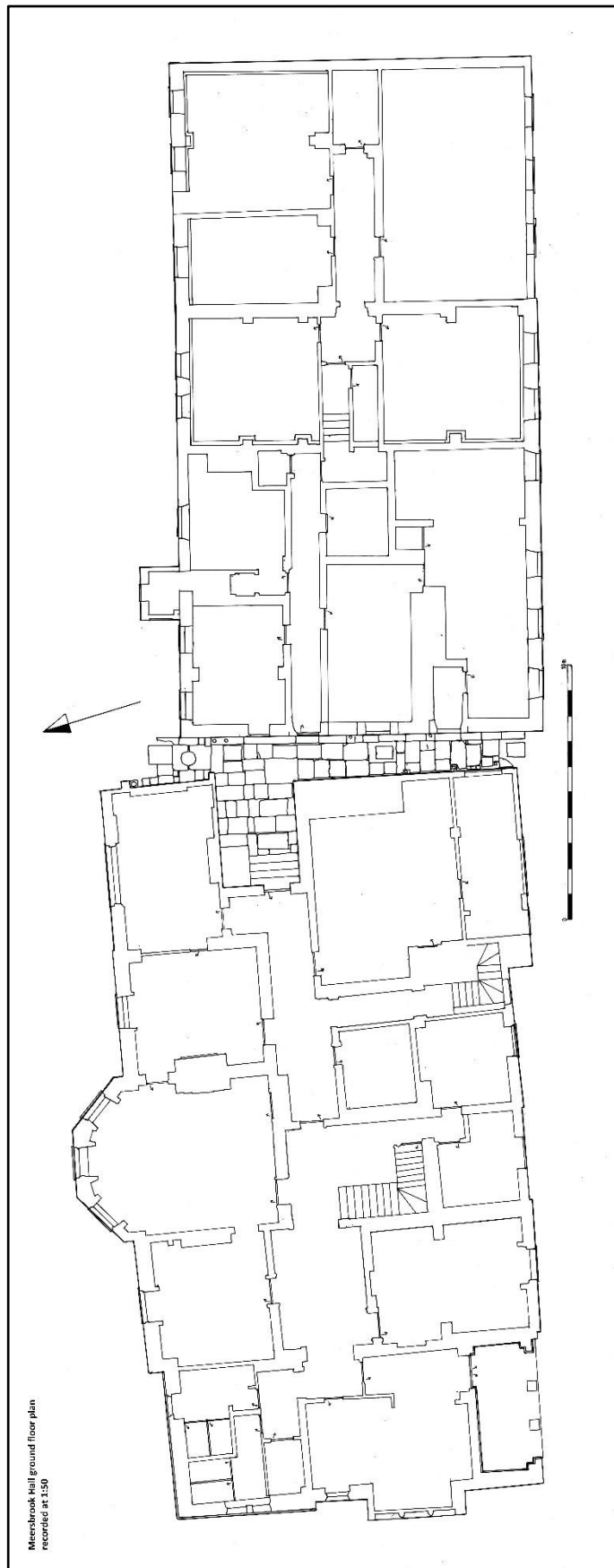
**Fig 1** Meersbrook Hall – The roof.



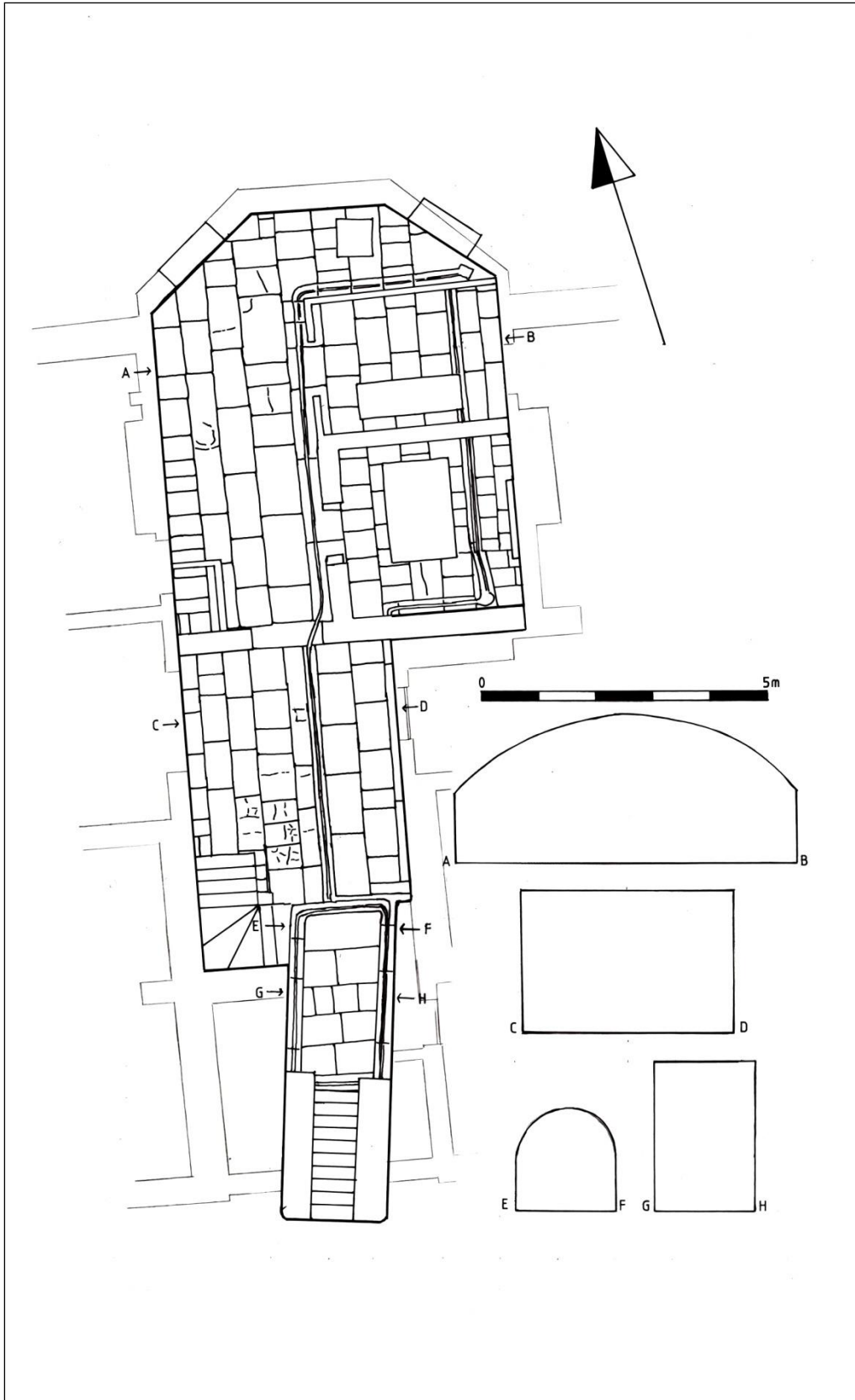
**Fig 2** Meersbrook Hall – The attic.



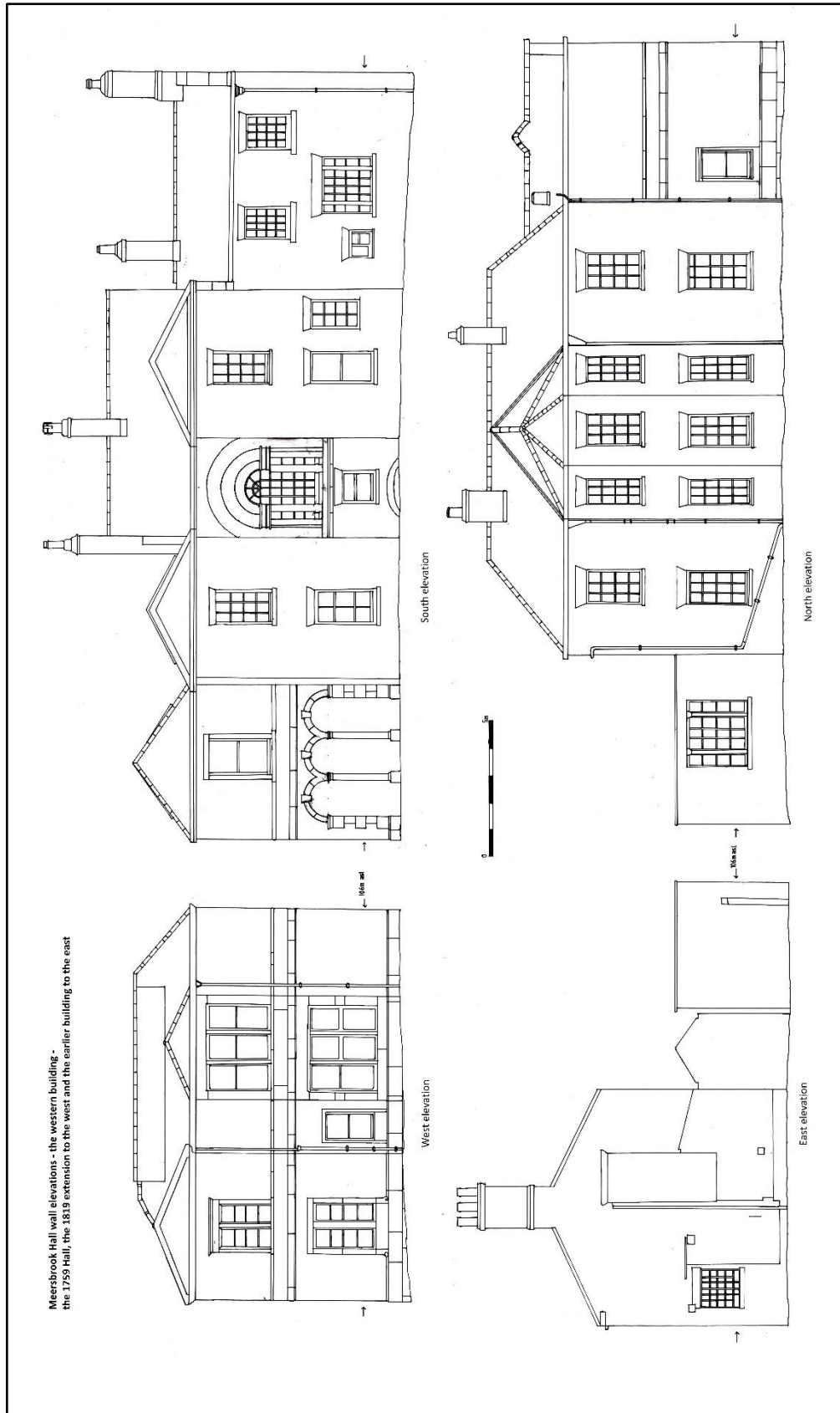
**Fig 3** Meersbrook Hall – The upper floor.



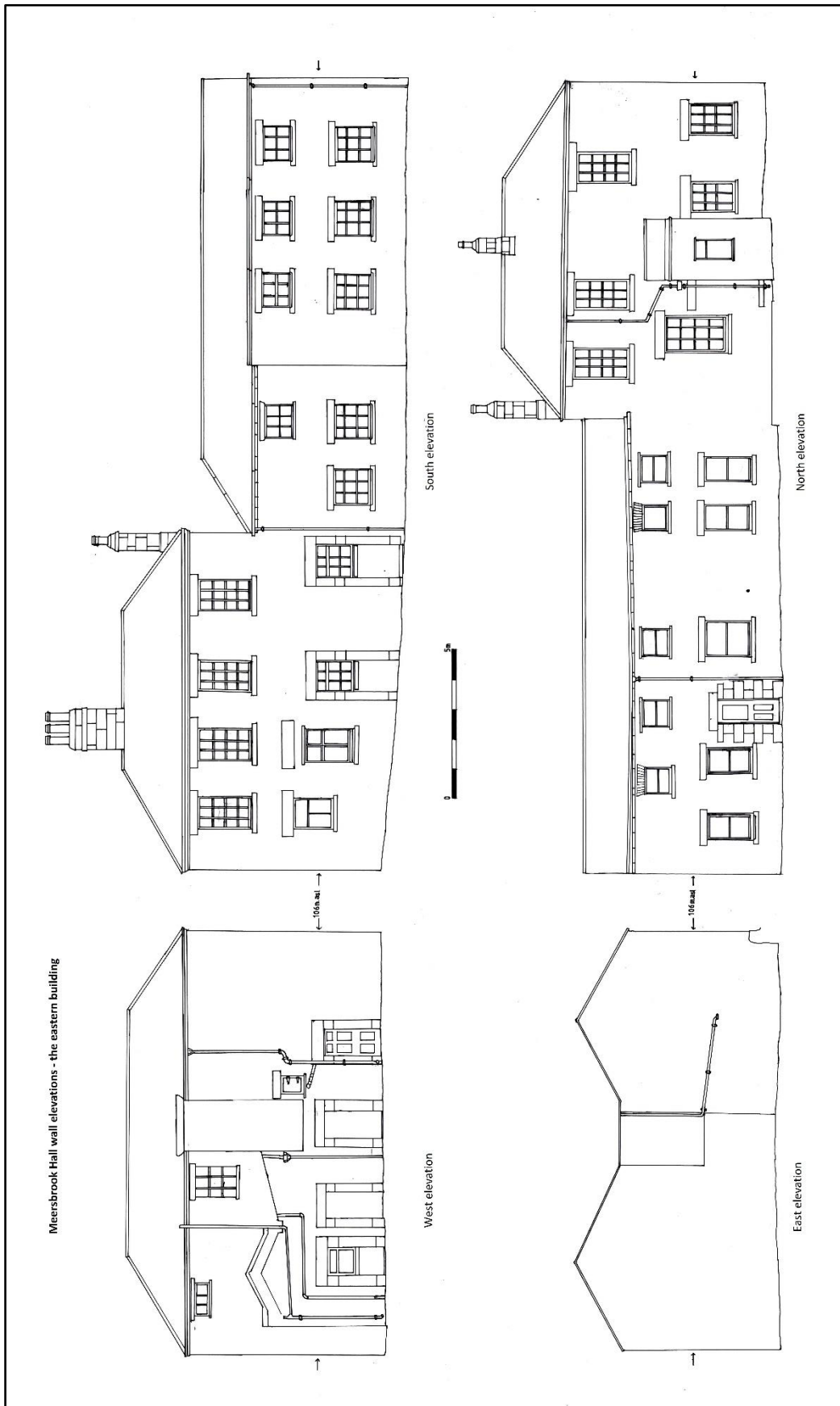
**Fig 4** Meersbrook Hall – The ground floor.



**Fig 5** Meersbrook Hall – The cellar.



**Fig 6** Meersbrook Hall – Wall elevations of the western building (the 1759 Hall) and the 1819 extension.



**Fig 7** Meersbrook Hall – Wall elevations of the eastern building.

## *Meersbrook Hall 4 – The Owners and Occupiers*

The primary sources for the information in this section are the Norton Parish Records, abbreviated as NPR, the Sheffield Parish Records, abbreviated as SPR, the Sheffield Trade Directories, abbreviated as STD, the census returns from 1841 to 1939 and the Electoral Register for Sheffield. For fuller information, see the Sources at the end of the article.

### **The workmen**

Though neither owning or probably occupying Meersbrook Hall, when researching the construction of the building the names of twelve people were found in the Fairbank workbooks. Some were mentioned in connection with a specific task but others were named without a profession.

Workhouse pointing by Thomas Brierley 12/07/1759 (Fairbank, 1759 p 35).

John Lingard. Street setting for the Overseers and others. (Fairbank, 1759 p 36).

Also on p. 36 are the names of seven others: Thomas Cartledge, W. Hildreth, Edward Burnett, T. Newbould, J. Rawlinson, Benjamin Withers and James King.

They are named amongst a series of calculations and a sketch map, overlying one another and written at different angles.

Benj. Roebuck's Cellar Walls & Foundation to the top of the threshold Brickwork by E.Clark 20/07/1759. (Fairbank, 1759 p 37).

Benjamin Roebuck's carpentry work by R. Unwin 19/12/1759 (Fairbank, 1759 p 131).

William Thompson (Joyner work 22<sup>nd</sup>. 12) (Fairbank, 1759 p 151).

Assuming that these men would have lived or been hired locally, a search of the Sheffield Trade Directories for 1774, 1787 and 1797 was made.

T. Newbould is also possibly mentioned under Thomas Newbould, Shearsmith & edge-tool maker, Coal Pit Lane (STD 1774 p 42).

R. Unwin was possibly mentioned under Joseph & Robert Unwin. Carpenters & Joiners of Eyre Street (STD 1787 p81).

Benjamin Withers' name is mentioned under Benjamin Withers & Co. Factors & manufacturers of cutlery wares. Fargate. (STD 1787 p 84.)

A search of the Norton Parish Registers was made with only one possible connection. John, son of Thomas and Ruth Lingard of Woodseates, baptised 04/09/1691 but would have been 68 in 1759 and possibly too old.

A search of the Parish Register of Sheffield (SPR) vols. 5,6, and 7, covering the years 1703 to 1752 was also conducted. The search often produced several matching names, baptised within a likely time frame to have been of working age by 1759. Without any further information it would be impossible to say which one, if any, was a real match.

Considering the size of the building and that the notes indicate that work hadn't started by May 1759, but by July the cellar was being dug, and by December the windows were being fitted, which would indicate that the building was substantially up by then, these twelve must represent only a small fraction of the work force.

## The Roebuck family 1759 to 1778

Please note that though I have compiled the details of seven generations of the Roebuck family, using Ancestry.com between the 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2022, it is only the seventh generation, Benjamin Roebuck, and his wife and family who actually lived in Meersbrook Hall.

### First generation

Thomas Roebuck was born in 1520 in Felkirk, Yorkshire. He married Anna Walker who was born in Holbeck, Yorkshire in 1520. Her father was Richard Walker.

Thomas and Anna Roebuck had one son:

1 – Thomas / Laurentus Roebuck (1562-1598). **See below.**

### Second generation

Thomas / Laurentus Roebuck was born on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August 1562 at Darton parish, Staincross, West Riding, Yorkshire. He married Elizabeth Alicia Charlesworth (1550-1598) in 1576-1577 in Yorkshire.

They couple had nine children:

- 1 – Roger Roebuck 24<sup>th</sup> January 1582 - 24<sup>th</sup> March 1582.
- 2 – Robert Roebuck 29<sup>th</sup> January 1583 – 1636. **See below.**
- 3 – Matthew Roebuck (1586-1637).
- 4 – George Roebucke (1588-1685).
- 5 – Beatrice Robuck (1589-?).
- 6 – Isabel Roebuck (1592-1593).
- 7 – James Roebuck (1592-1593).
- 8 – Frances Roabucke (1593-1677).
- 9 – William Roebucke (1593-1597).

Thomas Roebuck died on the 21<sup>st</sup> of March 1598.

### Third generation

Robert Roebuck was born on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 1583 at Darton, West Riding, Yorkshire. He married Anne Walker (1590-1637) about 1617.

The couple had six children:

- 1 – Mary Roebuck (1618-1637).
- 2 – Roger Roebuck (1619-1619).
- 3 – Infant daughter Roebuck (1619-1619).
- 4 – Robert Roebuck (1620-1678). **See below.**
- 5 – Jenett Roebuck (1623-1623).
- 6 – Thomas Roebuck (1628-1637).

Robert Roebuck died on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 1636 at Darton parish, West Riding of Yorkshire.

#### **Fourth generation**

Robert Roebuck was born in 1625 He married Catherine Haighe (1630-1664) on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January 1646 at Darton parish, West Riding of Yorkshire.

The couple had seven children:

- 1 – Sarah Roebuck (1648-1670).
- 2 – Thomas Roebuck (1650-1676).
- 3 – John Hanshaw Roebuck. **See below.**
- 4 – Catherine Roebuck (1656-1670).
- 5 – Ann Roebuck (1659-1670).
- 6 – Mary Roebuck (1659-1661).
- 7 – Baby Roebuck (1662-1662).

Robert Roebuck died in 1678 at Darton parish, West Riding of Yorkshire.

#### **Fifth generation**

John Hanshaw Roebuck was born in Darton parish, Staincross, West Riding, Yorkshire in 1655 and is referred to as ‘the Button maker’. He married Prudence Harlay on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April 1678. She had been born on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 1655 at Conisborough, Yorkshire.

The couple had one child:

John Roebuck (1680-1752). **See below.**

John Hanshaw Roebuck died in 1709 in Conisborough, Yorkshire.

#### **Sixth generation**

John Roebuck was born in 1680 in Sheffield. and was a wealthy Merchant in Sheffield and Presbyterian by religion. He married Sarah Roe in 1705. Sarah was born on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 1687 in Leeds, Yorkshire and was baptised on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 1688 at Leeds St Peter, Yorkshire. The baptism record says ‘John Wroa of Caw Lane had a child borne the 8<sup>th</sup> of November named Sarah.’ Her parents were John Wroe (1656-1798) and Elizabeth Smith (1660-1747). Sarah died in 1772 in Sheffield.

The couple had eight children:

1 – Joseph born in 1715. He lived his life in Sheffield and died there, without issue (Roebuck, 1963).

2 – The Sheffield Parish Registers record the baptism of Sarah Roebuck, daughter of John Roebuck cutler on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 1716 (SPR v5 p160). Perhaps this is a daughter who died young and whose name is preserved in her sister, born in 1721.

3 – John Roebuck MD was baptised on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 1718 at the Parish church of St Peter and St Paul, Sheffield (now Sheffield Cathedral) (SPR v5 p172). About 1747 he married Ann Roe of Stratford. They had six children: John, who married Anne Livingstone. Anne died in 1845; Benjamin, David, Ebenezer, Elizabeth born in 1752 and who died in 1844, and Josiah. John Roebuck M.D. died on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July 1794. In 1760, together with six partners, including his brother Benjamin, he established the Carron Ironworks on the north bank of Carron Water, a tributary of the Firth of Forth in Stirlingshire, Scotland.

4 – Ebenezer was born in 1719 in Sheffield. He married Mehetabell Simmonds of Battersea ‘a most agreeable young Lady,’ with a considerable fortune, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 1753 at St James, Garlickhithe, London. (Derby Mercury, Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April 1753.) He died on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October 1771 at the Carron Iron Works when a piece of cast iron weighing 2.5 tons fell on him. He had left his wife in London about two weeks previously, but they had no children. (Caledonian Mercury Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 1771). His wife died in 1772.

5 – Benjamin born in 1720 (**See below**).

6 – Sarah was born in 1721 and was buried on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December 1763 at Birmingham St Philip, Warwickshire. She never married.

7 – Mary was born in 1723. She married Josiah Oates of Leeds on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 1749. Her date of death is not known.

8 – Thomas was born in 1725 in Sheffield. He was resident in London from 1756 and provided a permanent outlet for the Roebuck merchandise in the capital. Flavell (1997). He died in March 1772 in Yorkshire.

The sons were nicknamed ‘the flock of young Roebucks of Sheffield.’

In 1712 John Roebuck ‘took out his freedom as a cutler’. In 1715 John Bright and John Roebuck were engaged as alcomy button makers. Alcomy is said to have been a metallic substance imitating gold (Leader, 1905, 150). In 1726 a bill was passed by Parliament for making the river Don navigable from Holmstile in Doncaster to the upmost end of Tinsley westward. John Roebuck was among those who backed the enterprise. With Samuel Walker he had a steel furnace at Masborough. In 1750 they went into partnership with John Booth of Brushes and Roebuck’s sons to carry on the business of ‘converting iron into steel’. He died in August 1752 and was buried at Sheffield Cathedral. The inscription on his gravestone reads ‘beneath lie the ashes of John Roebuck who died A.D. 1752. Also of others of the family whose names can not be deciphered.’ (Find a grave index, accessed on 07/06/2022).

### **Seventh generation**

Benjamin Roebuck was baptised on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 1720 at the Parish church of St Peter and St Paul, Sheffield (now Sheffield Cathedral), (SPR v6 p3). He married Elizabeth Camdon, daughter of Henry Camdon who ran the Castle Inn in Birmingham and his wife Penelope. The marriage took place at Almondsbury St Mary, Gloucestershire on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 1746. Elizabeth was baptised on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 1714 at Birmingham St Martin.

Elizabeth’s father Henry died on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 1724 and was buried on the 30<sup>th</sup> of October 1724 at Arrow, Warwickshire.

Benjamin and Elizabeth had seven children:

1 – Sarah Roebuck (1748-?)

2 – Thomas Roebuck (1749-1820) married Mary Hemingway (1755-1815) on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 1769 at Birstall St Peter, Yorkshire. They had one son, Thomas Roebuck (1777-1839), baptised on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January 1778. Thomas Roebuck died on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December 1820.

3 – John Roebuck was baptised on the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 1750 in Sheffield and died in 1752.

4 – Robert Roebuck was born in 1753.

5 – Benjamin Roebuck (1755-1772).

6 – Elizabeth Roebuck was baptised on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July 1756 at Kirkheaton, Yorkshire. She married Col. Frank Fenton who was associated with, and in 1778 succeeded his father-in-law in the banking house.

7 – Mary Roebuck (1756-?).

Contrary to popular belief, he did not establish the first banking house in Sheffield in 1770. Flavell (1997) shows that there were earlier banking attempts, traceable back to at least 1734. His father, John Roebuck, had been a major client of Attercliffe Forge and Rotherham Slitting Mill since 1736 and went into partnership selling iron, steel and cutlery with his sons Benjamin, Thomas and Ebenezer in 1750. They had a steelhouse in Kimberworth and owned a shop and warehouse in Church Lane, Sheffield. Benjamin was a Town Trustee and held the position of Collector, or Treasurer in 1754 and 1755. He was also a Commissioner for the Little Sheffield to Sparrowpit Gate Turnpike, which had been enacted in 1758, and for which he helped to raise a £ 4,500 loan. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1759 he helped to establish the factory of Roebucks, Garbett and Cadells on the north bank of Carron Water. The partnership was signed on the 19<sup>th</sup> January and 9<sup>th</sup> February 1760. There were seven partners and the capital of £ 12,000 was divided into 24 shares, as follows:

Dr John Roebuck – 6 twenty fourths or £ 3,000.

Samuel Garbett – 6 twenty fourths or £ 3,000.

William Cadell, Senior – 3 twenty fourths or £ 1,500.

William Cadell, Junior – 3 twenty fourths or £ 1,500.

Benjamin Roebuck – 2 twenty fourths or £ 1,000.

Thomas Roebuck – 2 twenty fourths or £ 1,000.

Ebenezer Roebuck – 2 twenty fourths or £ 1,000.

Commonly called the Carron Iron works, the first blast furnace became operational on the 26<sup>th</sup> December 1760.

By 1759 he was sufficiently affluent to build his house in Meersbrook and a sketch map dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 1759 is headed ‘Benj. Roebuck’s Purchase 2<sup>nd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 1759.’ A sketch map dated the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 1770 is described as ‘Meersbrook Park surveyed on 10/12/1770’. (Fairbank, 1770, 1, p 2-3). It was drawn up as a proper map, described as ‘A Plan of the Estate of Benjamin Roebuck at Mearsbrook in the Parish of Norton and County of Derby (Fairbank 1770, 2). It lists the ‘particulars of this estate’:

No.	Name	Acres	Rods	Perches
1	Footway	0	0	1
2	Far Meadow	3	1	38
3	Nearer Meadow	3	1	15
4	House or other erections, gardens and Yard occupied by Benjamin Halsam	0	1	8
5	Vacant ground on the south side of the brook	0	0	12
6	Orchard and House	0	1	0
7	Little London Lane	0	0	20
8	Long lands	2	2	34
9	Great Bamforth field	1	3	26
10	Little Bamforth Field	1	2	5
11	Fish pond, plantations and c about as far as the Rails	1	0	7

12	Lower Justice field	4	2	0
13	Nearer Mearsbrook Close	1	3	27
14	Farther Mearsbrook Close	2	0	35
15	Wood Field	3	1	2
16	Rushy Field	1	2	29
17	Farm Yard and Buildings, Stack Yard, Pond within	0	1	16
18	Fish Pond. Ground about it within the post and rails	0	0	12
19	Justice Field	4	3	33
20	House, Pleasure ground and Offices	0	2	18
21	Garden	0	2	24
	<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>38</b>

34 acres 3 rods 38 perches is 34.9625 acres or 14.1488 hectares.

**Table 1** Benjamin Roebuck's estate in Meersbrook.

By 1770 he had twenty years' experience of the local economy and sufficient inherited wealth and property to leave his sons to carry on the family business. In partnership with John Shore and John Parker, he launched 'The Sheffield Bank' on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August 1770 at premises in Church Lane which he owned. During 1778, Roebuck withdrew from the partnership, almost certainly selling his share to Parker and Shore. It has often been assumed that the reason for his withdrawal was bankruptcy but this was not so. He remained a Town Trustee up to at least 1783 and a subscriber to the Sheffield Assembly up to 1785. The probable reason was the crisis which had overtaken his brother Dr John Roebuck, proprietor of the Carron Iron Works. He mortgaged property in Church Lane and in Leeds to raise more money. He sold Meersbrook Hall to his competitors of the Shore family and ceased banking in 1778 and retired to a house in Portland Place in Bath.

His wife Elizabeth died in Birmingham in 1769.

His second marriage was to Helena Maxwell, a daughter of William Maxwell of Dalswinton, Scotland. They did not have any children.

Helena's family:

William Maxwell, fourth of Dalswinton was baptised on the 11<sup>th</sup> of July 1728 in the parish of Kirkmahoe. He succeeded to his father's title in 1765 and became his heir in 1767. He entered the army and became a Major. During his absence on service he entrusted the estate of Dalswinton to his younger brother Hugh, who frequently resided there. Owing to the failure of the bank of Douglas, Heron and Company, Ayr, of which he was a shareholder, Major Maxwell became so involved that he was obliged to sell Dalswinton in 1786. He married Mary Boscawen, daughter of Vicount Falmouth. They had no children. He died at Tiverton, Devon in 1817.

Children:

1 – Charles Maxwell, a Captain in the Fourth native Infantry at Beneoolen, east Indies, where he died unmarried in December 1800.

2 – Hugh Maxwell, first mate of an East Indiaman, died from sunstroke, unmarried, late 1800.

3 – Eleanor Maxwell married James West of the Royal Navy. She died on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 1833.

4 – Jane Maxwell married John Martin of Plymouth. They had two daughters, Ellen and Laura. She died on the 19<sup>th</sup> of April 1852.

5 – Catherine Maxwell married Christopher Vowell, Major in the 88<sup>th</sup> Regiment. They had one son, Christopher Maxwell Vowell, and two daughters, Margaret Eleanor who married a Mr. Philipps, and Katherine who married a Mr Harris. Catherine died on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May 1844.

6 – Frances Maxwell married Michael Foveaux of the War Office and had a son, Charles.

7 – **Helena Maxwell married Benjamin Roebuck**, merchant in Sheffield, grand uncle of Mr. J A Roebuck, MP for Sheffield. (<https://digital.nls.uk/histories-of-scottish-families/archive/96750096?mode=transcription>). p 455).

Benjamin died on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September 1796 (the Edinburgh Advertiser 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1796, p 19. ‘Died at Bath, on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst. Benjamin Roebuck, Esq., late merchant in Sheffield.’) and was buried on the 18<sup>th</sup> of September 1796 at Weston, Somerset.

Helena died in Bath on the 24<sup>th</sup> of September 1801.

### **The Shore family 1778 to 1864**

**Benjamin Roebuck sold Meersbrook Hall to Samuel Shore in 1788, having lived there for only nineteen years.**

**These are the generations of the Shore family including some early ancestors. The association with Meersbrook Hall begins with Samuel Shore (fourth generation).**

**Samuel Shore died in 1828 aged 90 leaving the house to his son, Samuel Shore junior and then to Offley Shore, Samuel Shore junior’s son. Eventually the only Shore family living there were the three daughters of Samuel Shore junior. The last of the daughters, Urith Lydia Shore died in 1864. The Shore association with Meersbrook Hall ended with the death of these three sisters.**

**Also, though never living at the Hall, Florence Nightingale was related to the Shores and in childhood was a playmate to Urith Lydia, Amelia Theophilia and Maria Theodosia Shore, so I have included her basic ancestry.**

#### **First generation**

John Shore of Sheffield was born in 1650 made his will on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 1682 and was buried at Sheffield on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 1682. He married Sarah Sims, born in 1648 and who died on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July 1738 aged 90 and was buried at Sheffield on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July 1738.

The couple had three children:

**1 – Samuel Shore (1676-1751). See below.**

2 – Sylvanus Shore born on the 8<sup>th</sup> of July 1678. He married Sarah Holland Goddard daughter of Holland Goddard of Cork in Ireland, merchant, and Sarah Wyke. The family settled in Ireland.

3 – Isaac Simon Shore was baptised at Sheffield on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February 1681. He was mentioned in his father’s will but is supposed to have died young.

Source: Hunter (1819, 219).

#### **Second generation**

Samuel Shore of Sheffield was born on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 1676 and died on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 1751. He was buried in Sheffield. He married Sarah Jane Sykes, daughter of John Sykes of Norton, Staffordshire. She was born on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 1681. They were married at Sheffield on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 1700. She died on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August 1750 and was buried in Sheffield.

The couple had fifteen children:

1 – John Shore was baptised on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 1701 at the Upper Independent Presbyterian Chapel, Sheffield. Possibly married Sarah Key in 1731.

2 – Samuel Shore was baptised on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 1703 in Sheffield. Probably died before 1707.

3 – Lydia Shore was born on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June 1706. She died unmarried on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 1777 aged 70.

**4 – Samuel Shore was born on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August 1707. See below.**

5 – Jane Shore was baptised on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October 1708. She married John Finch of Dudley, merchant, at Sheffield on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September 1732. She died in 1755.

6 – Anne Shore was baptised on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 1710 in Sheffield. She died before 1716.

7 – Thomas Shore was baptised on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March 1713. Died young.

8 – Anne Shore was baptised on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May 1716 in Sheffield. Possibly married Roger Hutton on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November 1728 in Sheffield or died unmarried in October 1755 aged 39.

9 – Mary Shore was born about 1716 in Sheffield. She married John Milnes of Wakefield, merchant, at Sheffield on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 1738. She died on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 1791 in Bath, Somerset and was buried in Walcott, Somerset. Sir Robert Shore Milnes bart., was the eldest son of this marriage.

10 – Esther Shore was born in 1726 in Sheffield. She married Robert Milnes of Wakefield, merchant, at Norton on the 6<sup>th</sup> of February 1766 and died without issue on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 1799 in Wakefield.

Also:

11 – George Shore. Died young.

12 – Joshua Shore. Died young.

13 – Hannah Shore. Died young.

14 – Sarah Shore. Died young.

15 – Elizabeth Shore. Died young.

Source: Hunter (1819, 219).

<http://www.oocities.org/layedwyer/shore.htm> (website about the Shore family by Patrick Paskiewicz, 2009)

### Third generation

Samuel Shore of Sheffield and Meersbrook Esq., was born on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August 1707. He married Mary (or Margaret) Diggles, daughter and heir of Robert Diggles of Liverpool, merchant. They married at Horbury near Wakefield on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 1734. Margaret was born in 1711 and died on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1755 aged 41 and was buried at Sheffield. (Wikipedia article on Samuel Shore). He retired to Meersbrook in the parish of Norton, in the

county of Derbyshire in the later part of his life and died there in September 1785. He is buried in Sheffield.

The couple had sixteen children:

1 – Robert Diggles Shore was baptised on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 1736 at the Upper Independent Presbyterian Chapel, Sheffield. She died young and unmarried.

**2 – Samuel Shore (1738-1828). See below.**

3 – Margaret Shore was baptised on the 18<sup>th</sup> of May 1739 at the Upper Independent Presbyterian Chapel, Sheffield. She died at Fieldshead near Sheffield, unmarried.

4 – Jane Shore was baptised on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 1740 at the Upper Independent Presbyterian Chapel, Sheffield. She died about 1746.

5 – George Shore was born in 1741 and was baptised on the morning of his birth. (This usually means that he died an infant).

6 – Thomas Shore was baptised on the 30<sup>th</sup> of May 1743 at the Upper Independent Presbyterian Chapel, Sheffield. He died about 1746 at Norton, Derbyshire.

7 – John Shore was baptised on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 1744 at the Upper Independent Presbyterian Chapel, Sheffield. In 1774 he was the founder of the Parker and Shore's bank on Bank Street, Sheffield, with his brother William (the grandfather of Florence Nightingale) and Benjamin Roebuck (who built Meersbrook Hall). He became involved in local politics, attending meetings with his brother Samuel. He married Gertrude Binks (1777-1859) on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 1776 at Sheffield, Yorkshire. He was a member of the Sheffield Town trust in 1819. In later life he lived in Scarborough, where he and his wife died. He died on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 1832.

8 – Joshua Shore was born on the 13<sup>th</sup> of February 1748. He was baptised on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 1748 at Cathedral St Peter, Sheffield. He died in 1766.

9 – James Shore was baptised on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 1750 at Cathedral St Peter, Sheffield.

10 – Sarah Shore was born on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June 1750 and was baptised on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July 1750 at Cathedral St Peter, Sheffield. She died unmarried or married Joseph Lockwood in 1777.

11 – Ann Shore was baptised on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 1751 at Cathedral St Peter, Sheffield. She died about 1758 in Manchester, Jamaica.

12 – Elizabeth Shore was born in 1752 in Sheffield, Yorkshire.

**13 – William Shore was born on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October 1752 at Tapton, Derbyshire and was baptised on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October 1752 at Cathedral St Peter, Sheffield. He married Mary Evans (1760-1853) on the 26<sup>th</sup> of November 1792 at Matlock. She had been born in Cromford, Derbyshire. He built Tapton Hall. He was partner with his brother John in starting the first bank in Sheffield, on Bank Street. He was involved in local politics and died in 1853. One of their children was William Edward Shore born c.1794 in Norton, Derbyshire and who died in 1874. He married Frances Smith who was born in 1788 in ?Naples, Italy and who died on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 1880 at Portman Square, York Street. One of their children was Florence Nightingale born on the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 1820 at Villa la Columbia, Florence. William died on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 1822 in Sheffield, Yorkshire.**

14 – Hannah Shore was born in 1754 in Yorkshire. She married Thomas Walker (1749-1817) of Manchester, a merchant on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 1775 at Manchester Cathedral. She died in 1821 in Manchester and was buried on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 1822 at Feltham.

15 – Mary Shore died young and unmarried.

16 – Esther Shore died young and unmarried.

Source: Hunter (1819, 219).

#### **Fourth generation**

Samuel Shore of Meersbrook, Esq., formerly of Norton Hall in the county of Derbyshire and of Clapham in the county of Surrey was born on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 1738 (Hunter, 1819, 219) and baptised on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 1738 at the Upper Independent Presbyterian Chapel, Sheffield. At age six, (1744) he attended Mr Daniel Lowe's school at Norton, (a nonconformist minister who ran a dissenting academy and became a member of Sheffield's Upper Chapel), for seven years (up to 1751). He travelled and studied abroad from 1754 but this was cut short in 1757 by the Seven Years' War.

He married Urith Offley (1736-1781). She was the daughter of Joseph Offley of Norton Hall, Esq., Lord of the Manor of Norton, elder sister and co-heir of Edmund Offley of the same place, Esq. The marriage took place at St. Margaret's, Westminster on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 1759, Hunter (1819, 219).

He came into possession of Norton Hall through his wife. He served as High Sheriff of Derbyshire in 1761. He was active as an ironmaster and was also involved in the River Don navigation scheme and the Sheffield Town Trust. Shore was brought into political work on a national stage by Christopher Wyvill. In 1786 he donated money to the Howardian Fund for Prison Charities and Reform. In 1791 he supported Joseph Gales in founding the Sheffield Constitutional Society. In 1819 Shore chaired a large public meeting in Sheffield, to ask the Prince Regent to have an inquiry made into the Peterloo Massacre. In 1820 his name was put forward for Derbyshire at the general election but Shore was by then confined to his bed. The proposal was mischief made by Peter Crompton (Wikipedia article on Samuel Shore, accessed on 29/07/2022).

Urith died on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 1781 and was buried on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 1781. (Urith, wife of Samuel Shore Esq. Norton Hall, Lord of the Manor 'a very good lady and her loss universally regretted by all her acquaintances.' NPR v3 p505). She was described by Dr Pegge as 'one of the most amiable and best of women – much given to helping her poor neighbours. She was a cultivated woman who wrote poetry, for which she had a genius and taste.' (Pamphlet by Sir Harry Stephens, Bart.)

Samuel married for a second time, to Lydia Flower, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April 1788. Lydia was the only daughter and heir of Freeman Flower of Gainsborough and Clapham (born 1713) and Anne or Martha Dawson. (Hunter (1819, 219)). There were no children from this marriage. It was at this time that they moved in to Meersbrook Hall. Samuel and Lydia adopted Lydia Humble, daughter of Flower Humble (a relation of Lydia Flower). She married Edward Higginson. Lydia Flower was buried on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May 1839 aged 92.

At the time the family occupied Meersbrook Hall there were no census returns. Our evidence for his occupation comes from the 1805 map of Norton Parish (Fairbank, 1805). In the list of fields for this map, field number 588 is called 'Meersbrook House offices & Garden'. Both the owner and tenant are listed as Samuel Shore senior Esq.

Samuel Shore Esq. of Meersbrook died on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 1828 and was buried on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November 1828 aged 90. (NPR v12 p96). His obituary read 'dignified by dignity of character, courtesy of manner, and benevolence of heart.' (Sheffield Iris). A much longer obituary can be found at Unknown (1829).

Children with Urith Offley:

1 – Offley Shore. Offley was baptised on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January 1760 (NPR v1 p237). He died of a putrid sore throat, aged seven and was buried on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 1767 (NPR v 3 p493).

2 – **Samuel Shore baptised on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 1761. (See below).**

3 – William Shore born about 1762.

4 – Bohun Shore. Bohun was baptised on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 1763 (NPR v1 p242). He was a Major in the East India Company in 1802 and was resident in Sheffield in 1832. Bohun Shore of Meersbrook was buried on the 5<sup>th</sup> of June 1840 aged 76 (NPR v12 p164).

### **Fifth generation**

Samuel Shore was born on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June 1761 and was baptised on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 1761. (NPR v1 p239.)

He married Harriet Fitzwalter-Foye on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March 1798 at Buckland. Harriet was the youngest daughter of Fitzwalter Foye Esq., of Castle Hill in Buckland Newton near Sherburn, Dorset and co-heir to her brother Sydney Hollis Foye Esq. (Hunter 1819, 219). Harriet was born in 1760 and died in 1826. She was buried on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 1826 aged 65. (NPR v12 p81). Samuel was buried on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 1836 aged 75. (NPR v12 p97).

The couple had ten children:

1 – Sydney Shore was born on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April 1790 and baptised on the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 1790 (NPR v1 p281). He married Mary White, the only daughter of Charles White of Lincoln, Esq., by a daughter of Sir Francis Bernard, baronet. They were married at St Mary-le-Bone church on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May 1812. He attended Manchester College and died on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 1827 in Surrey. Mary died in 1831.

2 – Julia Shore born about 1790 and probably died young.

3 – Elizabeth (or Elizabetha) Maria Shore was baptised on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December 1793 (NPR v1 p286).

4 – Anne Shore was born in 1796 and died in 1799.

5 – **Offley Shore (1797-1870). See below.**

6 – Harriet Shore was born on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 1799 and baptised on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August 1799 Presbyterian, Norton, Derbyshire.

7 – Urith Lydia Shore was born on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July 1800 and baptised on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August 1800, Presbyterian, Norton, Derby. In 1861 she was living with sister Amelia and cousin Sara Lucas in Norton, Derbyshire. She died in December 1864 in Sheffield. She is buried in Sheffield General Cemetery. Florence Nightingale wrote about Lydia. She wanted to have a Crimean War monument in Sheffield and wanted Florence Nightingale involved. Florence wrote back declining, seeing herself as a distraction if involved. She erected a school at Bole Hill, for boys and girls. Urith lived with her sisters Maria and Ameila (or Emily) at Meersbrook Hall. Her portrait was painted by George Romney as Lady Urith Shore in a white dress. Lydia, Emily and Maria played with Florence Nightingale as children.

8 – Amelia (Emily) Theophilia Shore was born on the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 1802 and baptised on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January 1803, Presbyterian Norton, Derby. She died on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 1862 at Meersbrook. She was recorded as the 4<sup>th</sup> daughter of Samuel and Harriet. (Ref: *Times* 5 Feb 1862). Her will, leaving less than £ 9,000 was recorded on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March 1862.

9 – Maria Theodosia Shore was born on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April 1803 and baptised on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June 1803 Presbyterian, Norton. She died in July 1855 and she was refused burial by the

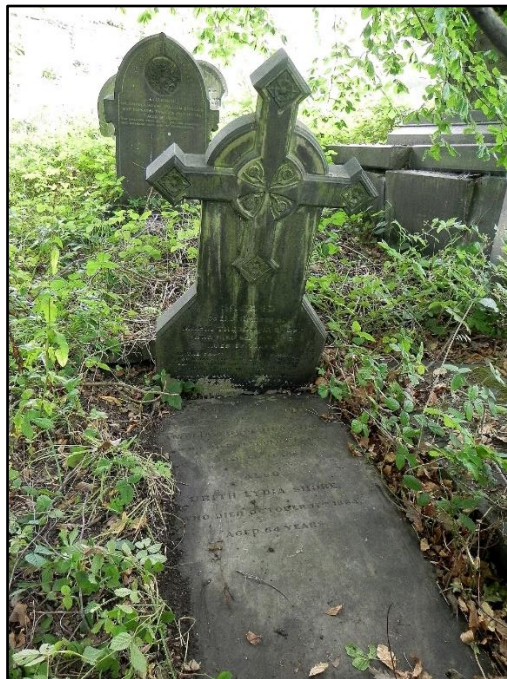
curate at Norton because of the Shore's Unitarianism, so was buried in the Sheffield General Cemetery.

‘The old Sheffield family of Shore, long known to entertain Unitarian sentiments, has been settled in the parish of Norton for generations. Its past members, and in an eminent degree its present members, have been the general benefactors of the neighbourhood. For more than a century Norton Church has been the family burial place. The present members of the family have been on the most friendly and neighbourly terms with the Vicar of Norton, the Rev. H. H. Pearson, as well as with his father, the late Vicar, whom he succeeded. The death of Miss Maria Theodosia Shore, of Meersbrook, youngest daughter of the late Samuel Shore, Esq., was announced in our last, and the family proposed that her interment should take place, according to their custom, at Norton Church. But strange to say, the Rev. Mr. Sale, the curate of the parish, gave them to understand that he should refuse to read the funeral service over the deceased, because she was a Unitarian. The Vicar was from home at the time, but it is understood that he adopted, and sanctioned by letter, the conduct of his curate. The result has been that Miss M. T. Shore is interred at the Sheffield Cemetery. Thus do the Shores, from no change in themselves, but from a new reading of church law, or at least from a new practice, find that they are deprived of their ancient burying place; and clergymen, with whom they have been on most friendly terms in life, pronounce them in death to be unfit for Christian burial.’ (*Sheffield Independent*, 29<sup>th</sup> September 1855).

The inscription on her tombstone reads:

‘Sacred to the memory of Maria Theodosia Shore who died Sep 18<sup>th</sup> 1855, aged 52 years.  
In the cross of Christ glory towering o’er the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.  
Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure by the cross are sanctified.  
Peace is there that knows no measure.  
Joys that thro all time abide.’

Lying at the foot of this stone is another with the inscription ‘also Amelia Theophilia Shore who died February 1<sup>st</sup> 1862 aged 60 years. Also Urith Lydia Shore who died October 17<sup>th</sup> 1864 aged 64 years.’



**Fig 1** The gravestones of the three Shore sisters in the General Cemetery, Sheffield.

10 – Octavia Shore was born on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 1805 and baptised on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 1805, as a Presbyterian at Norton, Derbyshire. (The register of non-conformist and non-parochial registers, 1567-1970). The register of select births and christenings 1538-1975 also has these dates. She was buried on the 27<sup>th</sup> of October 1807 (NPR v3 p535). Also Ancestry.co.uk accessed 25/08/2024.

Field no.	Landlord	Tenant	Field name	Acres	Rods	Perches
588	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Mearsbrook House offices & garden	1	1	4
589	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Plantation	3	3	2
590	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Spring Field	7	0	3
591	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Park & Plantations	20	3	6
592	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Lower Justice field	3	1	24
593	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Fish pond and Plantations	1	1	9
594	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Stackyard	0	2	27
595	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Barn & stables	0	0	19
596	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Mearsbrook Fields	8	1	11
597	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Mearsbrook Fields	"	"	"
598	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Meadow Field	3	0	19
			<b>Total area</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>

**Table 2** Samuel Shore's lands from the Fairbanks map of 1804/05.

Field no.	Landlord	Tenant	Field name	Acres	Rods	Perches
587	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Smithy Croft	2	0	12
588	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Mearsbrook homes & garden	1	1	4
589	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Plantation	3	3	2
590	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Spring Field	7	0	3
591	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Park & Plantations	20	3	6
592	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Lower Justice field	3	1	24
593	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Fishpond & plantations	1	1	9
594	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Stack yards	0	2	27
595	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Barn & Stables	0	0	19
596	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Mearsbrook Fields	8	1	11
597	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Mearsbrook Fields	"	"	"
598	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Samuel Shore snr Esq.	Meadow Field	3	0	19
			<b>Total area</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>

**Table 3** Samuel Shore's lands from the 1817 Norton rate assessment.

### Sixth generation

Offley Shore of Norton Hall and Castle Hill was born on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May 1797 at Norton Hall, Derbyshire and was baptised on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 1797, also at Norton Hall, Presbyterian. He attended Manchester College. He joined the Parker Shore Bank in 1818 aged 21. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 1823 he married Elizabeth (also called Eliza) Brewin, the second daughter of

John Brewin at Kirk Deighton, Yorkshire. Eliza Shore of Norton Hall was buried on the 16<sup>th</sup> of January 1834 age 40 (NPR v12 p108). He inherited Norton Hall in 1836. In 1838 he was on the Board of Trustees of Moss Valley Church School. In 1840 he was President of the Sheffield Society for the Promotion of Free Trade. In 1843 he was involved with Hugh Parker, John Parker, John Brewin and John Rodgers in the Parker Shore Bank collapse. In 1861 he lived at Clifton Hall. Offley died on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 1870 at Burton upon Trent, Staffordshire and was buried on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 1870 at Mickelover, Derbyshire. His will, leaving an estate valued at under £ 1,000, was read on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April 1870.

The couple had eight children:

1 – Samuel Offley was born on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 1825 and baptised on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May 1825. He died in infancy. Norton, Presbyterian.

2 – Harriet Frances Shore was born on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 1828 and baptised on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June 1828, Presbyterian, Norton, Derbyshire. She was buried on the 11<sup>th</sup> of February 1829 aged 11 months. (NPR v12 p98).

3 – Caroline Shore was born on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 1830 at Handsworth, Sheffield and baptised on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 1830, Presbyterian, Norton, Derbyshire. She married Rev. Dr. Charles Frederick Stovin L.S.A. on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 1850 in Esher, Surrey. She died on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 1919 at home at 17 Connaught Square, London.

4 – Janet Albinia Shore was born on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 1831. She died in 1846 in Hackney, London.

5 – Harrington Offley Shore J.P. BA was born on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 1833 at Richmond Hill, York. He was baptised on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 1834, Presbyterian, Norton, Derbyshire. He married Isabel Emma Cooke on the 21<sup>st</sup> of December 1861 at Mansfield Woodhouse, Nottinghamshire. She died on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 1863 at Leamington. He married for a second time to Eleanor Anna Thompson on the 9<sup>th</sup> of November 1865 at Leamington Priors, Warwickshire. He died on the 5<sup>th</sup> of May 1908 at Eton, Buckinghamshire.

6 – Sydney Foye Shore was born on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December 1835 at Norton, Derbyshire. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 1864 he married Louisa Alice Heygate daughter of James Heygate, Esq., M.D., F.R.S. of Derby. He died in October 1889 in Croydon, Surrey.

7 – Offley Bohun Shore, of The Cedars, Mickelover, Derbyshire was born on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 1839. He married on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 1862 at Edinburgh, Scotland, Anna Maria Leishman (1841-1912), daughter of John Leishman Esq., of Edinburgh. He died on the 12<sup>th</sup> of April 1911 at Ealing, London.

8 – William Entwistle Shore was born in 1839 Sheffield. He was resident in Ecclesall Bierlow, Sheffield.

Field no.	Landlord	Tenant	Field name	Land use	Acres	Rods	Perches
639	Offley Shore	Shore	Plantation		0	1	10
640	Offley Shore	Shore	Plantation		0	1	23
641	Offley Shore	Shore	Park		19	0	29
642	Offley Shore	Shore	Plantation		0	1	0
643	Offley Shore	Shore	Plantation		1	0	17
644	Offley Shore	Shore	Garden		2	0	16
645	Offley Shore	Shore	Pleasure ground & plantation	Grass	5	3	6
646	Offley Shore	Shore	Meersbrook House & co.		0	3	32
647	Offley Shore	Shore	Spring field	Grass	7	0	4
				<b>Total area</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>17</b>

**Table 4** Offley Shore's lands from Bright's 1845 map.

### **Meersbrook Hall staff and visitors during the residence of the Shore family from the 1841, 1851 and 1861 census returns**

**Edwin Baggaley** – Man servant born unknown in 1826. (From 1841 census).

**James Croft** – Man servant born in Derbyshire in 1806. (From 1841 census).

**Mary Croft** – Servant and house keeper born in Baslow, Derbyshire in 1801. (From 1841 & 1851 census).

**Frederick Dickin** – Butler and Footman born in Eggington, Derbyshire in 1832. (From 1861 census).

**Jane Dotres** – Farmer's wife. Visitor at Meersbrook Hall. Born in Chew Magna, Somersetshire in 1802. (From 1851 census).

**Elizabeth Goodwin** – Servant born unknown in 1821. (From 1841 census).

**Martha Hay** – House servant born in Norton, Derbyshire in 1834. (From 1851 census).

**Mary Hay** – House servant born in Coal Aston, Derbyshire in 1829. (From 1851 census).

**Henry Hillerd** – Coachman born in Chesterfield, Derbyshire in 1833. (From 1861 census).

**Anne Jacobs** – Kitchen girl born in Rempston, Nottinghamshire in 1843. (From 1861 census).

**Mary Lester** – House servant born in Nottinghamshire in 1837. (From 1861 census).

**Lara Luca** – Visitor at Meersbrook Hall. Widow and cousin to Urith and Amelia Shore. Born in Sheffield, Yorkshire in 1790. (From 1861 census).

**Sara Lucas** – Visitor at Meersbrook Hall. Born in Sheffield, Yorkshire in 1789. (From 1851 census).

**Mary Paige** – Servant born in Derbyshire in 1811. (From 1841 census).

**Mary Pearson** – House maid born in Dronfield, Derbyshire in 1834. (From 1861 census).

**Emma Wagstaffe** – Servant and Lady's maid born in Norton, Derbyshire in 1819. (From 1851 census).

**Esther Walters** – House servant born in Morley, Derbyshire in 1824. (From 1861 census).

**Isabella Wilkinson** – Servant and cook, born in High Green, Yorkshire in 1813. (From 1841 and 1861 census).

**John Wright** – Coachman born in Yorkshire in 1831. (From 1851 census).

### **The Parker, Shore banking collapse**

On Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> of January 1843, Parker, Shore and Company of Bank Street opened but refused to trade. It was Sheffield's first and oldest bank, having been set up in 1770 and had been operating, apparently successfully, for seventy three years. What had happened? The reasons, when looked at, were several. There had been an economic depression for many

years. In 1825, 93 provincial private banks closed; some 15% of the total for England and Wales. In April 1837 the trade of Sheffield was said to be ‘much depressed.’

It was reported that ‘owing to the long continued commercial depression and the heavy losses which their banking house has sustained in preceding years, they are under the necessity of suspending payment.’

Of the original partners, Benjamin Roebuck, John Shore and John Parker, by 1800 only John Shore (1744-1832) survived and was running the business with his younger brother William (1752-1822). In 1804 the brothers took on two junior partners; John Shore the younger, and Ralph Blakelock of Leeds (1767-?). The eldest surviving son of John Parker, Hugh Parker had joined the business in 1808, though as a ‘sleeping partner’ and only took a more active role from 1828. When the elder John Shore retired in 1808 it was found that that he had a personal debt of £13,550. William Shore’s personal debt was £ 3,829 but John Shore the younger had been even more profligate with the bank’s money. When he was forced out in 1828 he owed £29,790. These amounts were recorded as assets of the bank rather than being written off. This resulted in a false reading for more than twenty years. Like his father, John junior must have been using the bank as a personal account with inadequate checks from the other partners as to his ability to repay. Offley Shore (1797-1870) had joined the bank in 1818 on the retirement of his great uncle William. His father Samuel Shore (1761-1836) was one of a succession of Shores who made their fortunes as steel makers and merchants in Sheffield.

The bank had several other debtors, owing significant sums of money. During the enquiry that followed the end of trading it became evident that the long commercial depression and previous heavy losses were not sufficient to explain the bank’s collapse. It was clear that there had also been dishonesty bordering on theft with former senior partners withdrawing large sums of money that were never likely to be repaid, and poor accounting.

Other Shores had joined the bank and with its demise came the collapse of the Shore family fortunes. Between 1836 and 1842, in other words just before the collapse of the bank, Offley Shore had used its assets to pay his late father’s bequests. £10,000 each was paid to Offley Shore’s sisters, three of whom, Urith Lydia (1800-1864), Amelia (Emily) Theophilia (1802-1862) and Maria Theodosia (1803-1855), were living at Meersbrook Hall. None of the sisters were married and these bequests allowed them to live out their lives in comfort. (Flavell, 1997).

As with Samuel Shore senior, our direct evidence for Offley Shore’s ownership and occupation of Meersbrook Hall comes from a map, the 1845 map of Norton Parish (Bright, 1845). In the list of fields for this map, field number 646 is called ‘Meersbrook House & co’. The owner is listed as Offley Shore and the tenant as Shore.

The 1845 map gives us an idea of the wealth of the Shore family, locally. When accurately measured, Norton Parish covers 1,824 hectares. Of this, Offley Shore owned the greatest proportion of the land, 39.31% or 717.0144 hectares or 1,700.444 acres.

Following the bank’s collapse, much of the Shore estate was auctioned off in 93 lots, on Tuesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 1850. The auction list, dated 1850, (Nicholson, 1850) totals 878.762 hectares, or 2,171.46875 acres.

## Sources

References not cited in the text are from the Ancestry.co.uk website accessed on 29/09/2020.

**Because of their bequests, the Shore sisters were able to hold on to Meersbrook Hall. Urith Lydia was the last to die in 1864 and after her death, the estate at Meersbrook**

was rented to a lawyer. He is recorded in the 1881 census as William Pashley Milner, a J.P. for West Riding and Derbyshire, Magistrate.

### The Milner family 1864 to 1884

#### The first generation

William Pashley Milner's father was Gamaliel Milner, born on the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 1780 at Thurlstone, Penistone, Yorkshire. He married Mary Pashley on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November 1803. She had been born in 1782 in Retford, Nottinghamshire. Gamaliel died on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June 1841 at Wortley, Yorkshire. Mary died on the 5<sup>th</sup> of October 1845.

The couple had five children:

1 – Mary Susanna Milner was born on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 1804 at Thurlstone, Penistone, Yorkshire. She died on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 1831.

2 – **William Pashley Milner (1806-1884). (See below).**

3 – Elizabeth Thyer Milner was born on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 1807 at Thurlstone, Penistone, Yorkshire. She died on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 1886.

4 – John Crossland Milner was born on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 1809 at Thurlstone, Penistone, Yorkshire. He died in 1892 at Thurlstone, Penistone, Yorkshire.

5 – Sarah Catherine Milner was born on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 1817 at Thurlstone, Penistone, Yorkshire. She died on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 1872 at Sheffield, Yorkshire.

#### The second generation

William Pashley Milner was born on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 1806 at Retford, Nottinghamshire. The register of electors for 1833 records him living at 2 St James Street, Attercliffe. As an Articled Clerk he passed his examination at the Hall of the Law Society in 1840 (Various 1840, 159), which says 'William Pashley Milner, Sheffield; assigned to Thomas James Parker, Sheffield'. In 1841 he is recorded as living at 5 St James Street, Attercliffe. By 1847 he is recorded as taking on his own Articled Clerk, William Burgon (Various, 1847) and is still living at 5 St James Street. The record for 1849 shows him at the same address.

He married Susannah Aldam on 26<sup>th</sup> October 1852 at Doncaster. Her parents were William Pease (1779-1855) and Sarah Pease, nee Jowitt (1788-1824), and the family were living at Attercliffe in that year. She had been born on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 1822 at Warmsworth, Doncaster. Susannah died on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 1911 at Ecclesall Grange, Sheffield.

The couple had one son:

1 – William Aldam Milner, born on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1854 at Wadsley, Yorkshire.

In 1852, 1856 and again in 1862 he is recorded as part of a firm of solicitors; Milner, Burbeary and Smith. The 1861 census records him as 'attorney and solicitor', living at Dykes Hall, Wadsley, Yorkshire. In 1865 he was still living at Dykes Hall, Wadsley, near Sheffield and had bought shares in The Sheffield Club House on Norfolk Street. The register of electors between 1845 and 1849 records him having a share in the Bread Houses at Thurlstone. From 1850 until his death the register adds freehold cottages and land at Dykes Hall, Ecclesfield occupied by Henry Wild, John Usher, John Nutbrown, William Gray, George Dawson and others, also freehold land and buildings at the Lockwood estate in Attercliffe. He also invested

in property in Lancashire. The register for 1860 records his share in freehold shops in Chester Road occupied by David Fielding and others, and no. 2 Chapel Street, Ardwick Green, Manchester. The register for 1870 records his share of freehold houses and shops at 187, 189, 191, 193, 195 and 197 Chester Road, Hulme, Manchester. The 1880 register of electors records him living at Meersbrook Park near Sheffield. The 1881 census records him as J.P. West Riding and Derbyshire, living at Meersbrook Hall. Milner was a keen gardener and had a daffodil named after him, before 1869. He died on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 1884 at Meersbrook Hall, Sheffield.

### **The third generation**

William Aldam Milner was born on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1854 at Wadsley, Yorkshire. He married Sarah Elizabeth Robetts in June 1883. She had been born in 1857 in Sheffield and died in 1944. William died on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January 1931 at Topley Hall, Sheffield.

The couple had three children:

- 1 – Marjorie Elsie Milner (1884-1951).
- 2 – William Alfred Milner (1888-1949).
- 3 - Roy Denzil Pashley Milner born in March 1893 in Topley, Derbyshire and who died in 1914.

### **Meersbrook Hall staff and visitors during the residence of the Milner family from the 1871 and 1881 census returns**

**Mary Ann Bailey** – Domestic servant and kitchen maid born in Arby, Lincolnshire in 1862. (From 1881 census).

**Samuel Bowler** – Gardener born in Snelstone, Derbyshire in 1821. (From 1871 census). Samuel Bowler, son of William Bowler, wheelwright of Painter Lane, Asbourne, Derbyshire and his wife Ann, born on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December 1820, baptised on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 1821 (Ancestry.com accessed 24/07/2022).

**Susannah Bowler** – No profession listed. Spouse of Samuel Bowler born in Tardy Big, Worcestershire in 1826. (From 1871 census).

**Thomas Cheimery** – Domestic servant and Butler born in Sheffangen, Norfolk in 1859. (From 1881 census).

**John First** – Butler born in Kilnhurst, Yorkshire in 1848. (From 1871 census).

**George Grayson** – Coachman and domestic servant. Spouse of Mary Grayson, born in Famley, Leeds, Yorkshire in 1828. (From 1871 and 1881 census). George Grayson, bachelor, groom, 26 of Gledhow, Leeds married Mary Banks, spinster, 29 of Woodhouse Lane, Leeds on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 1853. His father was Thomas Grayson, joiner. Her father was William Banks, auctioneer. (Ancestry.com accessed 24/07/2022).

**Mary Grayson** – No profession listed. Spouse of George Grayson, born in Armley, Leeds, Yorkshire in 1824. (From 1871 and 1881 census).

**Sarah Hebden** – House maid born in Kinnorsley, Shropshire in 1843. (From 1871 census).

**Elizabeth Charlotte Knott** – Scholar and daughter of Mary Elizabeth Knott and Robert John Knott born in Norton Bradway, Derbyshire in 1872. (From 1881 census).

**Mary Elizabeth Knott** – No profession listed. Spouse of Robert John Knott and mother of Elizabeth Charlotte Knott, born in Lyddington, Rutland in 1842. (From 1881 census).

**Robert John Knott** – Gardener. Spouse of Mary Elizabeth Knott and father of Elizabeth Charlotte Knott born in Clapham, Surrey in 1846. (From 1881 census).

**Berta Muscroft** – Kitchen maid born in Wadsley, Yorkshire in 1852. (From 1871 census).

**Harriet Pitchford** – Domestic servant and housemaid born in Halam, Nottinghamshire in 1858. (From 1881 census).

**Mary Weaver** – Domestic servant and cook born in Abridge, Staffordshire in 1851. (From 1881 census).

**Mary Wilkinson** – Cook born in Hull, Yorkshire in 1844. (From 1871 census).

Nearby Millmount Road was originally named after this family until it was discovered that there was another Milner Road in Attercliffe, also named after a member of the same family. To avoid confusion, it was renamed in 1903 and the new name was chosen for its similar sound to the old one. (Harvey 2001, 100).

### **The Lands Allotment Company 1885 to 1890**

After William Pashley Milner's death the estate passed to a syndicate of London stockbrokers, the Lands Allotment Company, in 1885.

At that time Sheffield Corporation was considering the use of the land left by the estate. It had not been built on but the local area was rapidly being developed with streets built in Heeley from 1872. Public concern was that the whole estate would be built upon if the Corporation didn't acquire some part of it. The Corporation initially considered that forty or more acres would be a suitable area for a park.

A meeting of the Council on the 14<sup>th</sup> January 1885 recommended that the Council purchase 37 acres of land for £7,500 from the Lands Allotment Company Ltd., of 20 Budge Row, Cannon Street in the City of London on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 1886.

A meeting of the General Purposes and Parks Committee on the 14<sup>th</sup> September 1887 resolved that the new park be 'thrown open to the public' on Saturday the 17<sup>th</sup> of September 1887 (Various, 1987). There were additional acquisitions in 1928 and 1964. The Park currently covers 14.845 hectares (36.68 acres). (Various, 2012).

### **Meersbrook Hall as the Ruskin Museum 1890 to 1953**

#### **The Ruskin Museum before the Hall 1875 to 1890**

John Ruskin established his St George's Museum in a cottage on Bell Hagg Road in Walkley, Sheffield in 1875 and constituted an association called the Guild of St George in 1878. The museum's curator was Henry Swan who lived on the premises with his wife Emily. The couple devoted themselves to showing visitors around. The building was cramped for the amount of material on display. Ruskin had donated a variety of materials: drawings, paintings, mineral samples, illustrated books and architectural casts. It had been established for the workers of Sheffield to be given an opportunity to see objects of beauty. The Swans opened the museum after working hours and at weekends so that working people could visit.

However, only a fraction of the collection could be viewed in the cottage and by the late 1880s the Guild's trustees, George Baker and George Thompson were negotiating with Sheffield Corporation to move the collection to larger premises. Ruskin had hinted that if a suitable place was not found he would send the collection to Birmingham. Although he initially declined the offer of housing the Collection at Meersbrook he changed his mind by 1889 when his health was failing. Meersbrook Hall was chosen in September 1889.

## **The Opening of the Ruskin Museum 1890**

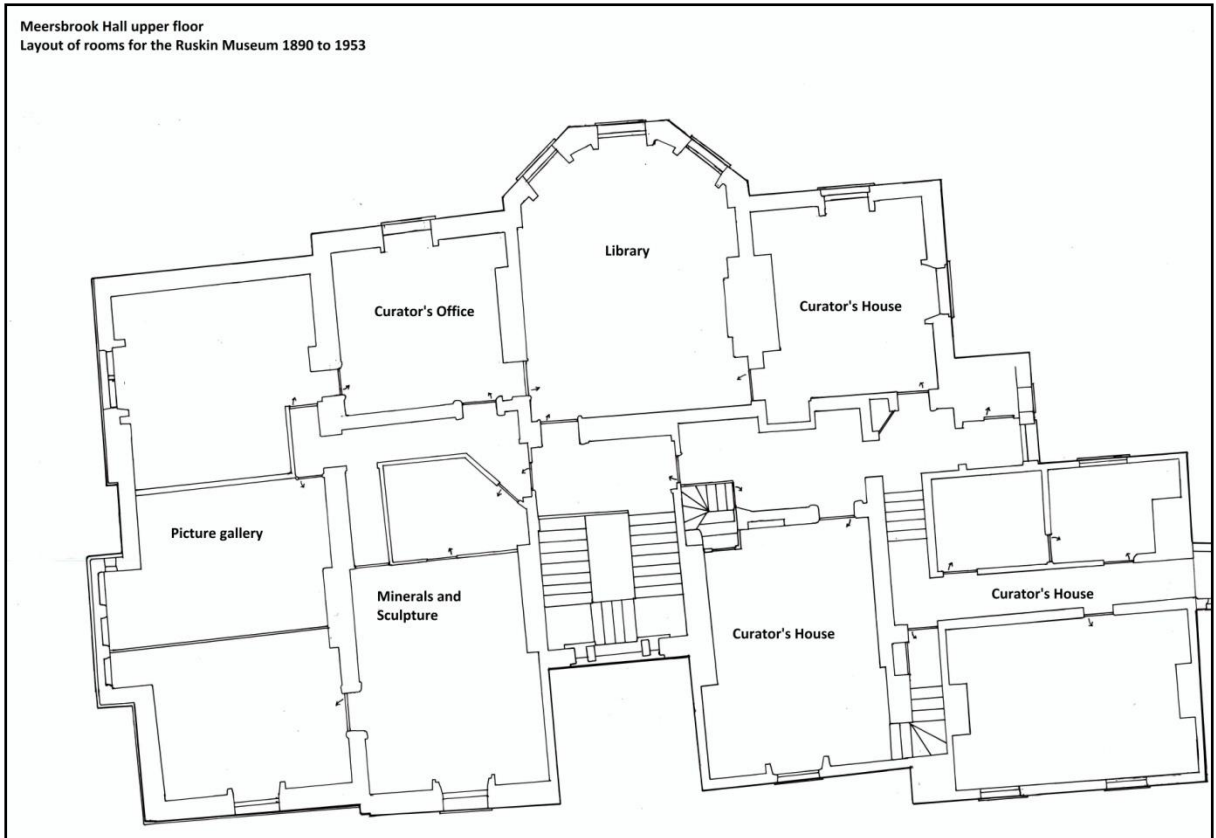
On Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 1890, The Sheffield and Rotherham Independent p 5 says that ‘rapid progress is being made with the preparations for the reception of the Ruskin treasures at Meersbrook Park. The appointed curator, Mr. Wm. White, who enters upon the work in full sympathy with Mr. Ruskin’s aims and teachings, has taken up his residence during this week.’

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of April 1890 a formal ceremony opened the Ruskin Museum at Meersbrook Hall.

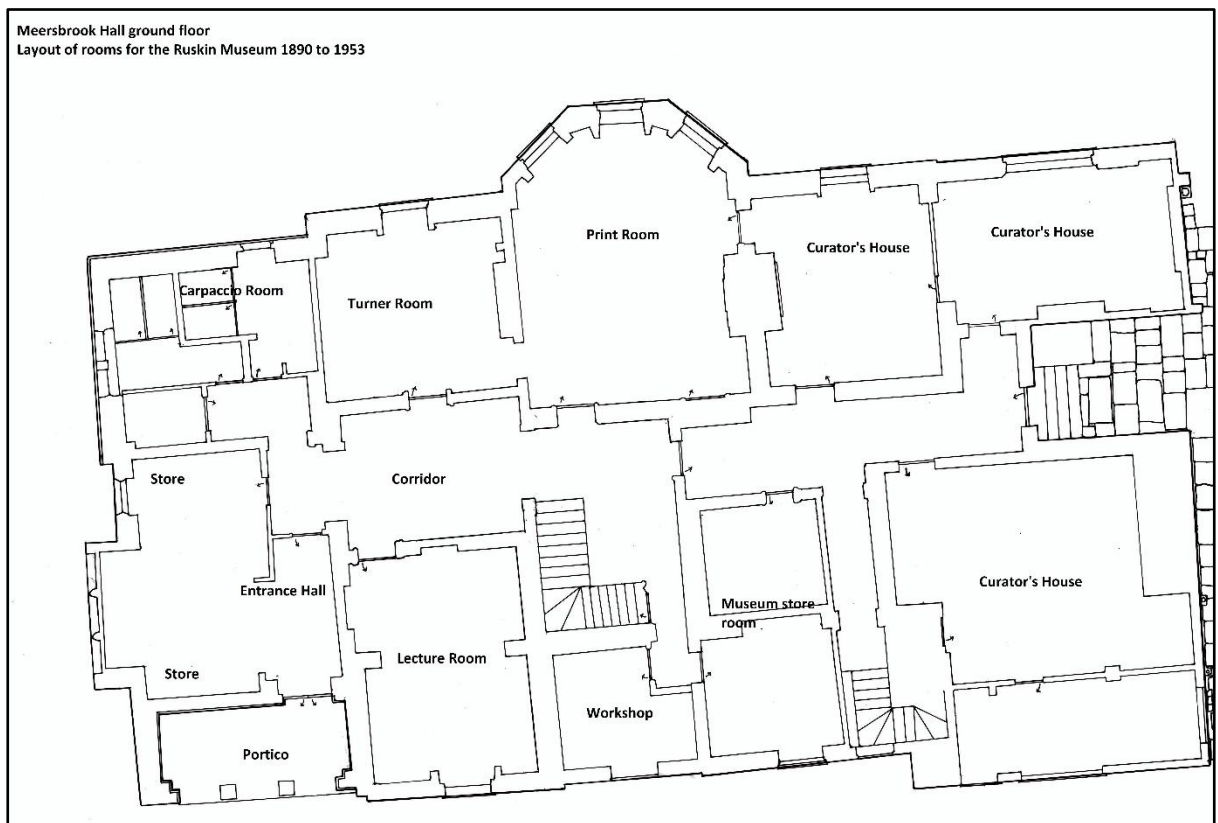
‘The Earl of Carlisle, who has undertaken the pleasant function of opening the Ruskin Museum at Meersbrook House, reached Sheffield yesterday afternoon. His lordship is the guest of the Mayor (Ald. J.B. Jackson) at Kersal Mount, Manchester Road, and has already performed two public duties in Sheffield. He was present at a meeting held in connection with the reopening of the Uppertorpe Unitarian Chapel, being himself identified with that religious body, and later on was a prominent speaker at the annual meeting of the local auxiliary of the United Kingdom Alliance, his sympathy with which he has practically shown by exercising a “direct veto” of all public houses upon his estate. To-day, in addition to the opening of the Ruskin Museum, the noble earl has consented to distribute the prizes at the annual conversazione of the School of Arts, which will take place in the evening at the Mappin Art Gallery.

‘There will, probably, be a considerable gathering of sympathisers with Mr Ruskin and his work at Meersbrook Park this afternoon; some of whom will have come long distances to do honour to their prophet, as they are not ashamed to regard him. Local residents will also be present in large numbers if the weather prove favourable, for the greatest satisfaction is generally entertained at the success of the movement which had secured to Sheffield this unique museum with all its interesting associations. A large number of invitations to the opening were sent out by the Corporation, but as replies were not asked for it is not possible to state with definiteness who will be present. In addition to those whose names have already appeared, the Hon. Bernard Coleridge, M.P., is expected to attend.

‘The programme of this afternoon’s proceedings has already been published. They will take place mainly upon the lawn on the west side of Meersbrook House, of which a view is given above. The view, it may be explained, is taken from the more elevated portion of the ground, and shows the south and west fronts of the building. The entrance door, which the Earl of Carlisle will unlock with the silver key presented to him, is beneath the portico in the foreground, and the Museum rooms are on the first floor on the left side of the picture. The proceedings are not intended to be long. The Mayor of Bewdley (Ald. Baker) will make a statement as to the circumstances under which the Museum has been established, and will formally, on behalf of the trustees of the Guild, hand over the Museum to the care of the town. The Mayor, having accepted the responsibility, will present to the Earl of Carlisle the silver key, a description of which appears in another column, inviting him to undertake the opening ceremony. Sir Henry Acland, Bart., and Mr Arthur Severn will also speak, and a vote of thanks will be moved by Sir H Stephenson, and seconded by Mr J Gamble.’



**Fig 2** Meersbrook Hall the Ruskin Museum upper floor.



**Fig 3** Meersbrook Hall the Ruskin Museum ground floor.

### **The Curators - William White 1890 to 1898**

The Sheffield and Rotherham Independent, Tuesday April 15, 1890, p 5 reported that George Baker and George Thompson recommended that William White should be appointed the first curator of the collection in the Hall. (Parker, 2019, 12). The 1891 census records White as a boarder, the curator of the museum, born in Morden, Surrey in 1856. White remained as curator until 1898.

In August 1899 Gill Parker took over the curatorship, remaining until August 1931.

### **The reopening of the Ruskin Museum 1892**

On Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 1892 the South Wales Daily News, p 3 reported that the Ruskin Museum had reopened on Thursday, having been closed since April for some improvements. The ‘roof’s have been improved, skylights inserted, and other improvements made, and the structure which shelters the valuable collection is now in a very much more satisfactory condition than it was.’

Much of the Museum’s galleries were on the upper floor. In 1892 a glass roof was installed above the long picture gallery (Parker, 2019)

### **The Curators - Gill Parker 1899 to 1931**

Gill Parker was born in 1870 at Burton Leonard, Yorkshire. His father was William Parker who was born on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 1831 at Potter Newton, Yorkshire and was baptised on the 27<sup>th</sup> of November 1831 at Chapel Allerton, St. Matthew, Yorkshire. His mother was Elizabeth Gill, born about 1834 in Burton Lennard, Yorkshire. They married on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 1858 at Leeds St. Peter, Yorkshire. Gill was raised at the Shoulder of Mutton pub in Potterton, Leeds. William Parker died in January 1882 when Gill was 12, and he was raised by his mother, who survived her husband for many years. She died in June 1918. Elizabeth Gill kept the pub until the 1890s. Gill was educated at Leeds Modern school and Leeds School of Art, Science and Technology. Before his appointment at the Ruskin Museum he had been assistant secretary and librarian at the Leeds Institute of Science, Art and Literature, where he was responsible for some twenty six thousand volumes.

He was interviewed for the post of Curator on the Ruskin Museum on the 11<sup>th</sup> of August 1899. Just fifteen days later he married Lizzie Woodcock, on the 26<sup>th</sup> of August 1899 at Potterton St. Martin, Yorkshire.

The couple had two children:

1 – Ursula Emma Parker was born on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 1900 at Norton, Derbyshire. She died in 1999.

2 – Raywood Joshua Gill Parker was born about 1903 in Sheffield and died in 1978.

His salary at the Ruskin Museum was £ 175 per annum with accommodation, coal, gas, rates and taxes included. He worked as Curator of the Ruskin Museum for thirty two years. With his health getting worse, in August 1931 Gill Parker resigned and left his family rooms at Meersbrook Hall to retire to Nottingham with his wife. (Parker 2019, 29). He died on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July 1932 at Basford, Nottinghamshire. (Eagles, 2018).

## The Curators - Genevieve Pilley 1932 to 1949

Constance Genevieve Pilley, was born on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April 1878, the daughter of Albert Pilley a cutlery merchant and manufacturer and his wife Sarah. The 1881 census lists his family living at 8 Chippinghouse Road, Nether Edge, Sheffield.

Name	Relation	Condition	Age	Profession	Where born
Albert Pilley	Head	Married	39	Cutlery manufacturer employing 3 men	Nottinghamshire, Worksop
Sarah A Pilley	Wife	Married	40		Yorkshire, Sheffield
Mary E Pilley	Daughter	Unmarried	18		Yorkshire, Sheffield
Alice B Pilley	Daughter	Unmarried	17		Yorkshire, Sheffield
William E Pilley	Son	Unmarried	15	Clerk – cutlery workhouse	Yorkshire, Sheffield
Maria H Pilley	Daughter		13	Scholar	Yorkshire, Sheffield
Annie C Pilley	Daughter		12	Scholar	Yorkshire, Sheffield
Catherine Pilley	Daughter		9	Scholar	Yorkshire, Sheffield
Bernard Pilley	Son		7	Scholar	Yorkshire, Sheffield
Oswald Pilley	Son		4	Scholar	Yorkshire, Sheffield
Constance Pilley	Daughter		2		Yorkshire, Sheffield
Winifred Pilley	Daughter		9 months		Yorkshire, Sheffield

**Table 5** The Pilley family from the 1881 census.

In the autumn of 1898, she began work for Sheffield Corporation at the Ruskin Museum. Her working life between 1898 and 1931 has not been documented, but she at first became a Librarian and then Assistant Curator to Gill Parker at the Museum. Apart from her duties caring for the collection, she became known for her prowess for creating illuminated manuscripts.

In November 1902 her father Albert died. At some point between 1905 and 1911 she moved into Oak Villas on Cliffe View, a short walk from the Hall, with her mother and a maid, Lilian Martin.

In August 1931, with his health declining, the curator, Gill Parker resigned. Genevieve became, in effect, the acting curator. Parker (2019, 35) says that she was still living at Oak Villas in October 1934 and that by October 1946, when she tendered her resignation, she had lived in a flat in Meersbrook Hall for over a decade (Parker, 2019, 62). The Sheffield Trade Directory for 1933 lists her as an occupant from 1933. However, it took some time for her resignation to be accepted. She finally retired on the 31<sup>st</sup> of March 1947, aged almost 69. Despite this she stayed on and continued living at the Hall into 1948 as no replacement for her role had been sought. She tendered her position from the post of Honorary Curator and moved out of the Hall on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 1949. She moved to a house on the adjoining street, 61 Brook Road where she lived until she died, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of June 1958 aged eighty and was buried in St Michael's Roman Catholic Cemetery, Rivelin Valley, Sheffield.

### Ruskin Museum caretakers, staff and visitors from the 1891, 1901 and 1911 census returns

**William Bellamy** – Porter at Belper Union Bar and Visitor, of Unstone, Derbyshire, born in 1857. (From 1891 census).

**William Coffin** – Police Constable, night watchman of Ruskin Museum born in Leicester, Leicestershire in 1843. (From 1901 census).

**Caroline Knowles** – No profession listed. Spouse of William Knowles, born in Sheffield, Yorkshire in 1860. (From 1911 census).

**Catherine (or Katherine) Knowles** – Scholar and apprentice to milliner. Daughter of William Knowles and Charlotte Knowles and sister of Jane, George and Clara Knowles, born in Sheffield, Yorkshire in 1882. (From 1891 and 1901 census).

**Charlotte Knowles** – No profession listed. Spouse of William Knowles and mother of Jane, George, Clara and Catherine Knowles. Born in Ormiskirk, Lancashire in 1852. (From 1891 and 1901 census).

**Clara Knowles** – Scholar and assistant in boot shop. Daughter of William Knowles and Charlotte Knowles and sister of Jane, George and Catherine Knowles, born in Sheffield, Yorkshire in 1880. (From 1891 and 1901 census).

**Clara Knowles** – No profession listed. Daughter in law of William Knowles and Charlotte Knowles, born in Sheffield, Yorkshire in 1883. (From 1901 census).

**George Knowles** – Silversmith's apprentice. Son of William Knowles and Charlotte Knowles and brother of Jane, Clara and Catherine Knowles, born in Sheffield, Yorkshire in 1875 or 1876. (From 1891 and 1901 census).

**Jane Knowles** – No profession listed. Daughter of William Knowles and Charlotte Knowles and sister of George, Clara and Catherine Knowles, born in Sheffield, Yorkshire in 1875. (From 1891 census).

**William Knowles** – Gardener and Park Keeper. Spouse of Charlotte Knowles and father of Jane, George, Clara and Catherine Knowles. Born in Kincardineshire, Scotland in 1849. (From 1891, 1901 and 1911 census).

**George B Parkes** – Caretaker and Attendant of the Ruskin Museum. Spouse of Jane Parkes and father of Mary Parkes, born in Birmingham, Warwickshire in 1848. (From 1891 and 1901 census).

**Jane Parkes** – Housekeeper. Spouse of George B Parkes and mother of Mary Parkes, born in Aberdeenshire, Scotland in 1853 or 1854. (From 1891 and 1901 census).

**Mary Parkes** – Scholar. Daughter of George B Parkes and Mary Parkes, born in Sheffield, Yorkshire in 1881. (From 1891 and 1901 census).

**Charles Robert Tate** – Visitor, Insurance agent, born in Sheffield, Yorkshire in 1871. (From 1911 census).

The Museum comprised a picture gallery, a print room, a library, a minerals and sculpture room and a lecture room. The walls were adorned with quotes from Ruskin: "All things are noble in proportion to their fullness of life" and "Pleasant wonder is no loss of time" and "Nothing that is great is easy."

### **Visitors to the Ruskin Museum**

1891-1892 – There were over 61,000 visitors in this year.

1898-1899 – There were 38,573 visitors in this year.

1899-1900 – For the year ending 25/03/1900 there were 34,588 visitors on the 313 days it was open to the public.

## **Trade Directories**

From 1900 to 1974 the Sheffield Trade Directories list the occupiers of Meersbrook Hall, sometimes called The Ruskin Museum. The Trade Directories continued until 1974. All these Trade Directories are available at the Central Library, Local studies, Surrey Street S1.

As The Ruskin Museum:

The Trade Directories list Gill Parker, curator and William Knowles, park keeper and head gardener (1900, 236) (1901, 252), (1902, 258), (1903, 268), (1905, 256), (1906, 262), (1907, 217), (1910, 224), (1911, 234), (1912, 240).

The Trade Directories list Gill Parker, curator and William Falkner, or Faulkner, park keeper and head gardener (1913, 245), (1915, 252), (1916, 253), (1917, 251), (1919-1920, 252), (1921, 255), (1922, 271), (1923, 275), (1925, 289), (1926, 297), (1927, 298), (1928, 303), (1930, 322), (1931, 327).

The Trade Directories list Miss C.G. Pilley, acting curator and William Faulkner, park keeper (1933, 345), (1935, 370), (1936, 394), (1937, 405).

The Trade Directories list Miss C.G. Pilley, superintendent and Abel Garnett, park keeper (1938, 419), (1939, 432).

The Register of England and Wales for 1939 lists Constance G Pilly, female, born on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April 1878 as the Curator of the Ruskin Museum, and Clara Streets, female, born on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September 1888 as housekeeper (companion).

It also lists Abel Garnett, male, born on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 1903 as head gardener and park keeper and his wife Doris Garnett, born on the 29<sup>th</sup> of December 1904. She is listed as 'unpaid domestic duties.' Both are listed as living in Brook Road Lodge (Meersbrook Park).

The Trade Directories list Miss C.G. Pilley, superintendent and Abel Garnett, park keeper and James Hogg gardener (1940, 435), (1942, 433), (1944, 435).

## **Notes from the 1930s**

### **Information regarding structural changes to the first floor rooms;**

**In the file of correspondence between Genevieve and the Secretary of the Guild Alexander Farquharson, held at Sheffield Archives, ref GSG/4/3/11:**

"Instead of 3 small rooms, we now have 3 large rooms". "I have arranged": Room 1 - copies of Old Masters of the Venetian School; Room 2 - Ruskin and Turner drawings and Keswick Linen; Room 3 - Nature Studies. "I have moved many of the casts of sculpture into the entrance hall to give more space in the Mineral Room."

Dated 10/09/1932

### **In the Guild Minute Books, held at Sheffield Archives, ref GSG/2/1/2:**

"During the year extensive structural alterations have been made. In the first floor rooms, separating walls between rooms have been demolished to make bigger and brighter galleries (instead of 3 very small rooms we have now 3 large rooms) the paintings and other exhibits have all been re-arranged so that they may be more easily seen, studied and admired. New modern fire apparatus has been installed, and the heating pipes extended to every room."

**From Genevieve's annual report to the Guild at their AGM, Dated November 1932.**

## **The War Years**

During the Second World War a group of twelve men were billeted at Meersbrook Hall to staff a barrage balloon sited in Meersbrook Park. The following extracts give some sense of the storage of the exhibits and the occupation of the Hall by the staff of the barrage balloon.

‘Museum closed 29th August for packing up special exhibits to send to a place of safety; reopened on week days from 12th Sept. RAF Balloon Barrage stationed in the House - have to keep fire going 24 hours a day for them.’

**Genevieve Pilley’s handwritten monthly report for September 1939.**

‘The ARP have "darkened the place" and a night watchman checks every room every hour and phones the fire brigade every night at 2am to report that all is well. The balloon barrage, when it is resting, is right opposite the library window. It is attended by an ever changing company of RAF men who occupy the Ruskin, Turner, Natural History rooms and the big kitchen on the ground floor. Only the Venetian School room is unoccupied on this floor.’

**Correspondence between Genevieve Pilley and the Secretary of the Guild, Alexander Farquharson, held at the Sheffield Archives ref GSG/4/3/11. Dated 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 1939.**

‘The barrage balloon is behind the Museum and 12 RAF men live in on the ground floor, who fire watch in addition to Museum attendants Dewsbury and Gough. Nearly 1000 volumes; 1000 etchings and art works and 14 cases of minerals and relics are still on site. Strangely, only 3 male staff are recorded as working in the building.’

**From the Fire Prevention order for the Museum, completed on the 4th of February 1941, sent by the Director of City Art Galleries, Professor John Wheatley, to the Regional Commissioner of the Fire Service in Leeds.**

Another document dated the 12<sup>th</sup> of February 1941 lists a night watchman and twelve RAF men. Three of them had received Incendiary Bomb training and all had been trained in fire fighting.

A document dated the 13<sup>th</sup> of February 1941 headed part 11. Particulars of fire precautions lists:

1 – Number of persons working on the premises who are performing rota of fire prevention duties. See note below.

2 – Average hours per month undertaken by such. -----

3 – Number who have received incendiary bomb training. Three.

4 – Number on duty at one time. Night-watchman plus 12 R.A.F. men.

5 – Equipment available. Stirrup pumps, sand, fire hose, buckets, scoops.

6 – Full particulars of general plan for fire prevention – including details of instructions given to those on duty.

There is only one member of the Museum staff on each night (the night-watchman), but 12 R.A.F. men sleep in the building as there is a barrage balloon just behind the Museum. All these men have been trained in fire fighting, and the Commanding Officer has expressed his willingness for his men to help in fire-watching. There is also a fire-watcher in the Public Park in which the Museum is situated, from dusk each evening.

Date 13 February 1941. Signature John Wheatley Director.

‘16 WAAFs took over the barrage balloon.’

**From Genevieve’s handwritten monthly report for December 1941.**

‘On June 24th 1942, the WAAF leave and are replaced by 2 RAF men.’

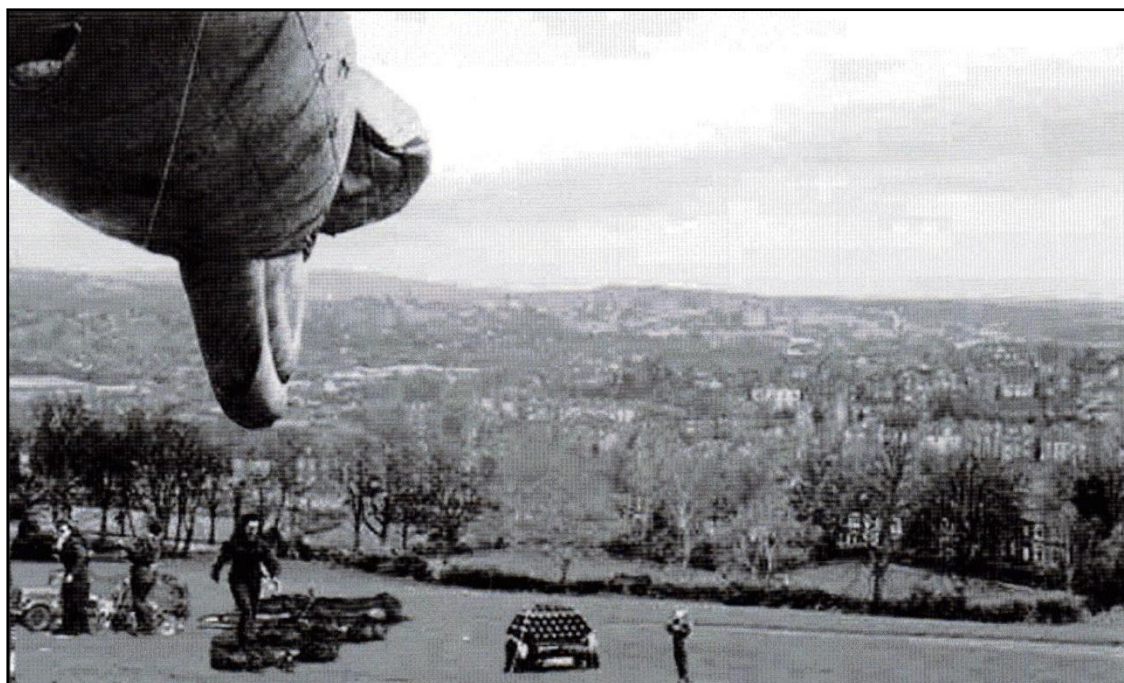
**From Genevieve Pilley’s handwritten monthly report for June 1942.**

Another document dated the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November 1942 says that the twelve men have vacated their quarters at the Museum.

‘The RAF have vacated their rooms at Meersbrook and the rooms need redecorating.’

**From Genevieve Pilley’s handwritten monthly report for February 1943.**

Despite the war, a figure for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> October 1942 lists 30,080 visitors to the Museum including 887 to the library and print room. The Museum was kept open for 306 days.



**Fig 4** The barrage balloon at Meersbrook Park.

### **The post war years 1945 to 1971**

The register of electors for Sheffield, Park Division, Ruskin Polling District, Ruskin Museum records Constance G Pilley and Clara Streets in 1945, 1946-47 1947-48 and 1948-49.

Constance and Clara moved to 61 Brook Road, as recorded on the electoral register from 1949-50 to 1956-57. Constance died in 1958. Clara is recorded at 61 Brook Road up to 1964.

The Trade Directories list Cyril Castleton, park keeper (1951, 450), and then Cyril Castleton, with no named profession (1954, 312), (1957, 321), (1959, 326), (1961, 327), (1963, 329).

The Trade Directory for 1965 does not mention Meersbrook Hall.

The Trade Directories for 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972 and 1974 lists Meersbrook Hall as 'Park, Cemeteries and Allotment Department'.

Due to a fall in visitor numbers, the Ruskin collection was removed from Meersbrook Hall in 1953 and the Hall was closed to the public.

The register of electors for Sheffield, Park Division, Ruskin Polling District records Abel and Doris Garnet at Brook Road Lodge in 1945, 1946-47 and 1947-48.

The register of electors for Sheffield, Park Division, Ruskin Polling District records Cyril Castleton and Ada Castleton at Brook Road Lodge in 1948-49.

The register of electors for Sheffield, Heeley, Ruskin Polling District records Cyril Castleton and Ada Castleton at Brook Road Lodge in 1949-1950, 1950-51 and 1951-52.

The register of electors for Sheffield, Heeley, Ruskin Polling District records Cyril Castleton at Brook Road Lodge in 1952-53, 1953-54, 1954-55, 1955-56, 1956-57, 1957-58, 1958-59, 1959-60, 1960-61, 1961-62, 1962-63, 1963-64, 1964-65, 1965-66 and 1966-67.

The museum was a great success with visitor numbers averaging 45,000 visitors and 600 students in 1907 (Parker, 2019). But despite these numbers the Council was not happy and in several meetings discussed moving the collection to a more central place. This despite Ruskin constantly saying before he died that he wished the collection to be in a natural setting and away from the worst of the industrial smog. In the 1950s the roof needed substantial repairs and the collection was removed into storage. In 1985 a new Ruskin Gallery opened on Norfolk Street in the city centre, before it was moved again to its current location in the Millennium Galleries.

After 1954 the Hall was home to Sheffield's Parks and Countryside Department with no public access. (From the Friends of Meersbrook Hall website).

### **The Ellis family at Meersbrook Hall, 1954 to 1971**

**The following description is thanks to Roger Ellis, whose father was the caretaker at the Hall from 1954 to 1971, along with his wife.**

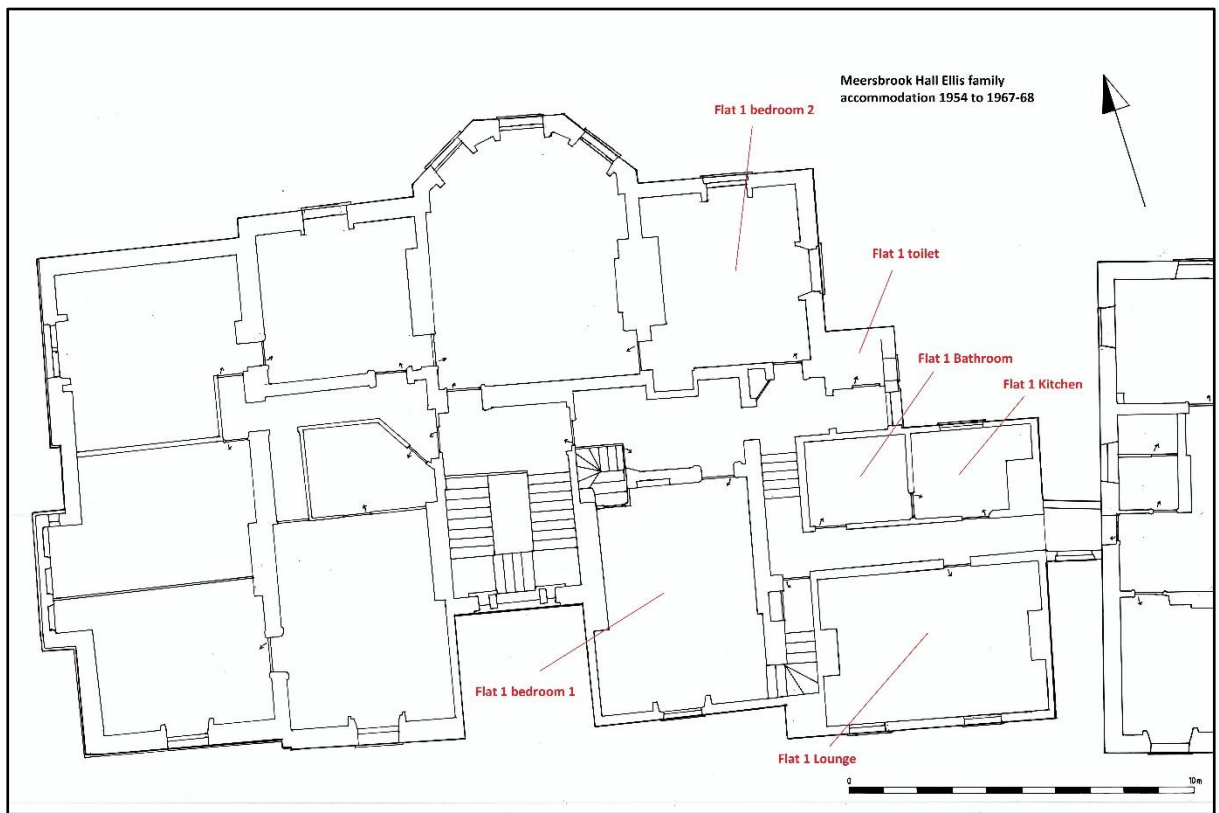
'A flat was made in part of the building into which my parents moved in December 1954. The rest was empty and never used until the Parks, Cemetery's & Allotments office moved in 1961.' The building was heated from a coke fired boiler in the cellar, which was lit twenty four hours a day, seven days a week all the time the building was otherwise empty. My mother got the caretaker/cleaners job when it opened.'

The Ellis family's lounge was the upper room in the pre-1759 brick building.

'In 1967/8 we were asked to move from our flat into another next door as more office space was needed so all the building to the left of the passage became offices. My mother moved out altogether in 1970/71.'

The register of electors for Sheffield, Heeley, Ruskin polling district records Henry A Ellis and Vera Ellis at The Lodge in 1961-62, 1962-63, 1963-64, 1964-65, 1965-66 and 1966-67, Vera Ellis in 1967-68, Roger and Vera Ellis in 1968-69, Denis, Roger and Vera Ellis in 1969-1970 and 1970-1971.

They were the last occupants of Meersbrook Hall.



71. **Fig 5** Meersbrook Hall Ellis family accommodation on the upper floor, 1954 to 1970-

### **Meersbrook Hall as the Parks and Recreation Department offices 1953 to 2016**

After being closed for seven years, in March 1960, central office staff from the Parks Department of Sheffield City Council were allowed to temporarily use the Hall as office accommodation. This temporary measure effectively became long term use. By 2015 Sheffield City Council were considering centralising their office staff and on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April 2016 the Parks and Recreation Department moved out of Meersbrook Hall, locating to 1 Moorfoot, Sheffield S1 4PL.

### **Meersbrook Hall managed by Heeley Development Trust 2016**

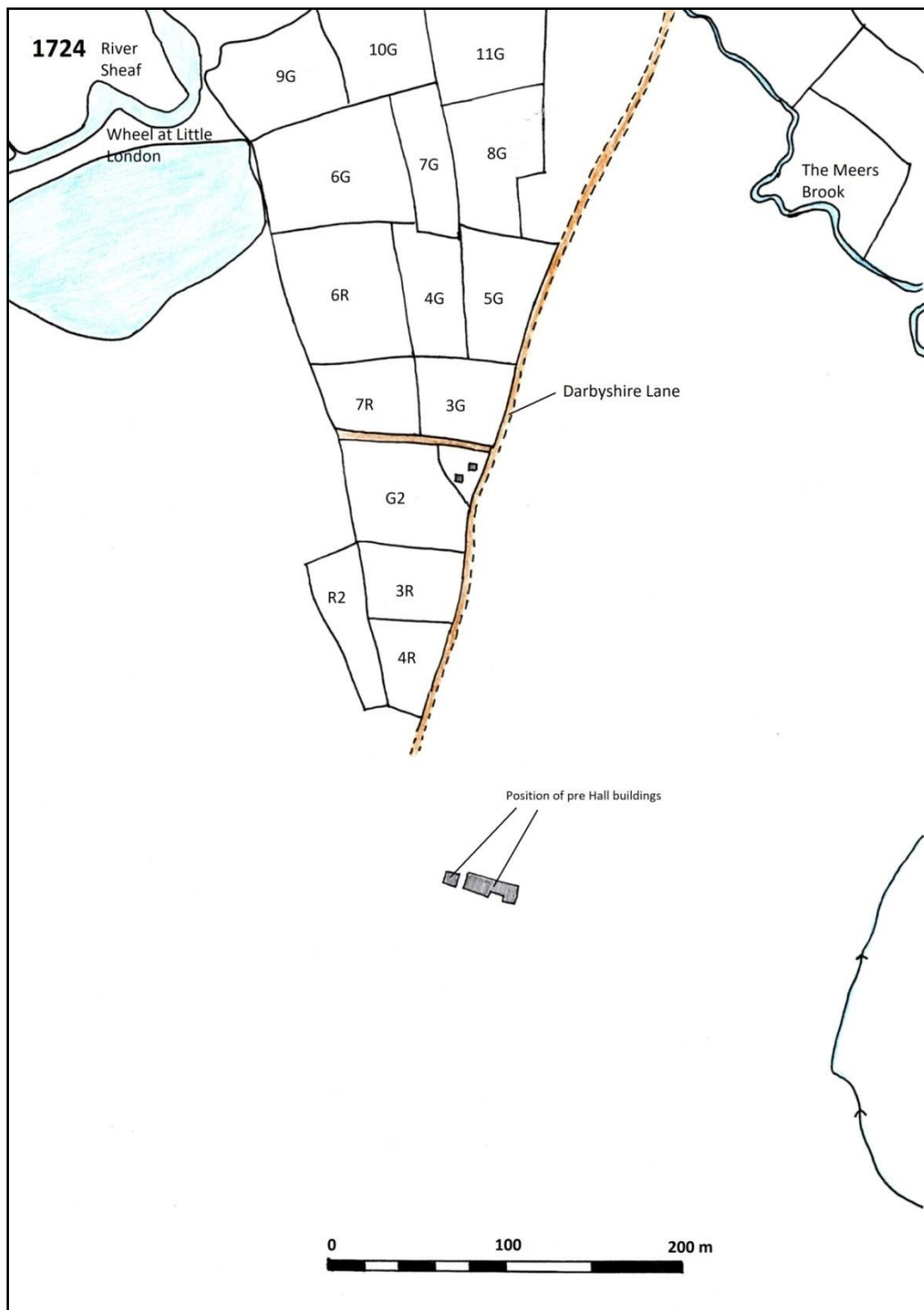
The Friends of Meersbrook Hall and Heeley Development Trust received the keys to the building on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 ready to start work on the next chapter of the building's life. (From the Friends of Meersbrook Hall website).

## *Meersbrook Hall 5 – The Estate and its changing landscape*

While investigating the history of the Hall and its occupants it became evident that there is another story to be told; that of the landscape in which the Hall was built and how it changed through time. Investigating this landscape has given a clue as to why Benjamin Roebuck built his Hall in Meersbrook.

The landscape has been mapped, with varying amounts of completeness and accuracy, from 1724, some thirty five years before the Hall was built. In all, nine maps have been used to trace the changes in the landscape. These maps are dated 1724, 1759, 1770, 1797, 1804/05, 1845, 1849 and 1875. They were produced at various scales with varying degrees of accuracy and I have attempted to transfer them all to a uniform scale so that the changing landscape can be followed. The starting point was the 1875 1:2,500 OS map. This was used to record the positions of several fixed points so that the earlier maps, which do contain various distortions and inaccuracies, could be overlain as accurately as possible. Please be aware that though every attempt has been made to remove them, the early maps will undoubtedly contain errors.

The fixed points used were the course of the river Sheaf, the Meers Brook, Meersbrook Hall, Cliffe Field House, the walled Garden and Chesterfield Road. The modern OS map shows that the estate lay on a stretch of land sloping down from about 125 m a.s.l in the south, to about 70 m a.s.l. in the north.



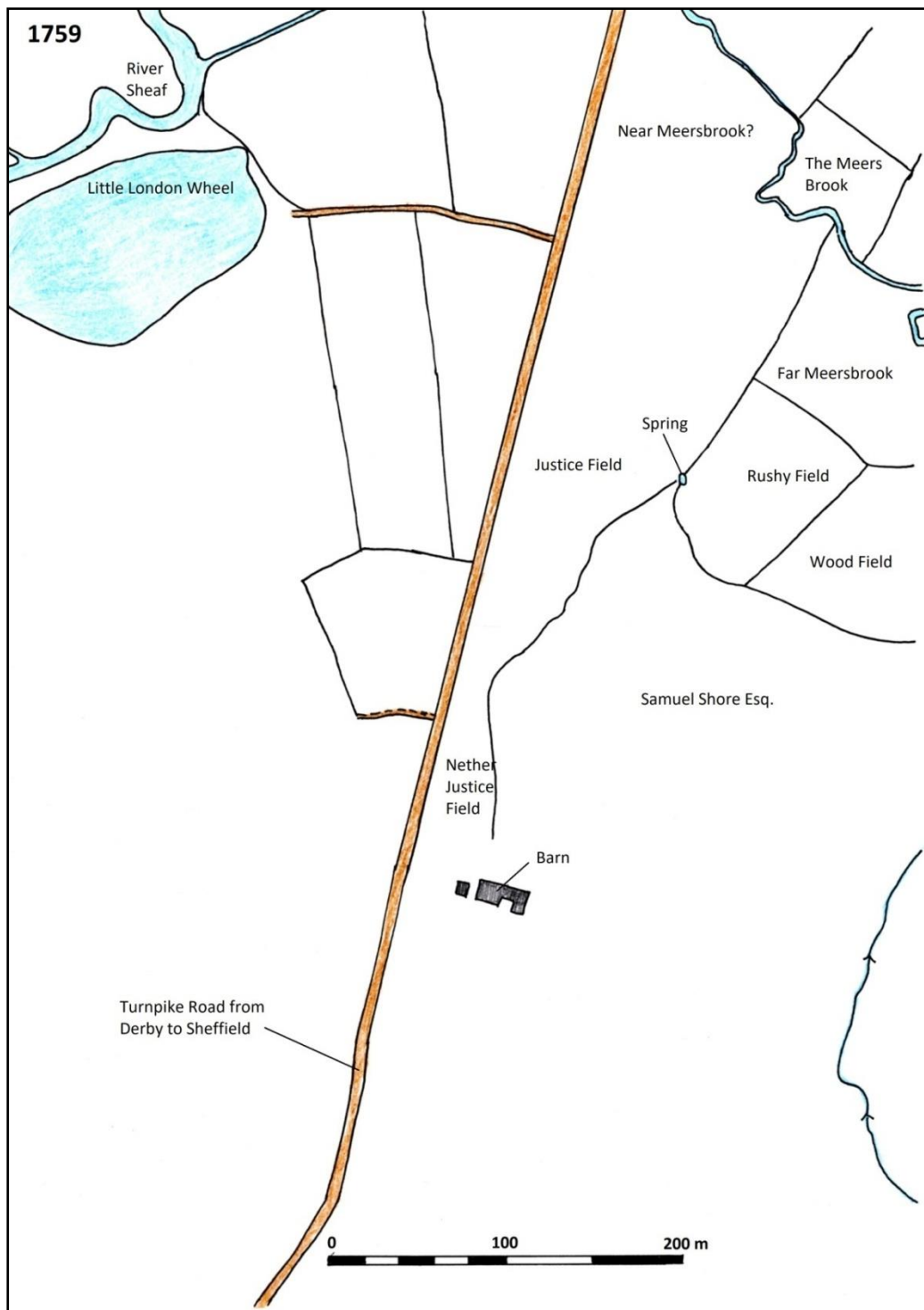
**Fig 1** The area in 1724.

The earliest map (**Fig 1**) is from 1724 (Wilson, 1724) and records several farms from Heeley Bridge in the north, south to Woodseats. The map is in the Sheffield Archives and is in poor condition. Parts of it are missing, especially at the top. It is sufficiently accurate to be able to plot the landscape around the future Hall. Most importantly, it shows the route of the future Sheffield to Derby coach route, here called ‘Darbyshire Lane’ and the fields to its west. The road takes a curving course through the landscape and was at this time no more than a horse and cart track. It can be followed further south and east, through the area around St James’

Church, Norton, which would one day become Graves Park, in maps dating from 1737 and 1741. It is called 'Norton Lane' on a map of the lands belonging to Robert Newton, dated 1737 (Dickinson, 1737) and 'road from Derby to Sheffield' on a map of Norton Hall dated 1741 (Dickinson, 1741). Clearly the route existed long before it was improved to a coach road.

There were almost no fixed points in the landscape with which to scale this map correctly so despite the scale, its accuracy is not good and the boundaries of the fields shown should not be taken as an accurate depiction of their extent. It does mention 'Wheel at Little London' and this is obviously a reference to the Little London Wheel which was in use by 1720 and was purchased by Samuel Shore in 1777 (Ball, Crossley and Flavell, 2006).

The positions of the two pre-Hall buildings are plotted here, for reference, though we do not have a date for their construction.



**Fig 2** The area in 1759.

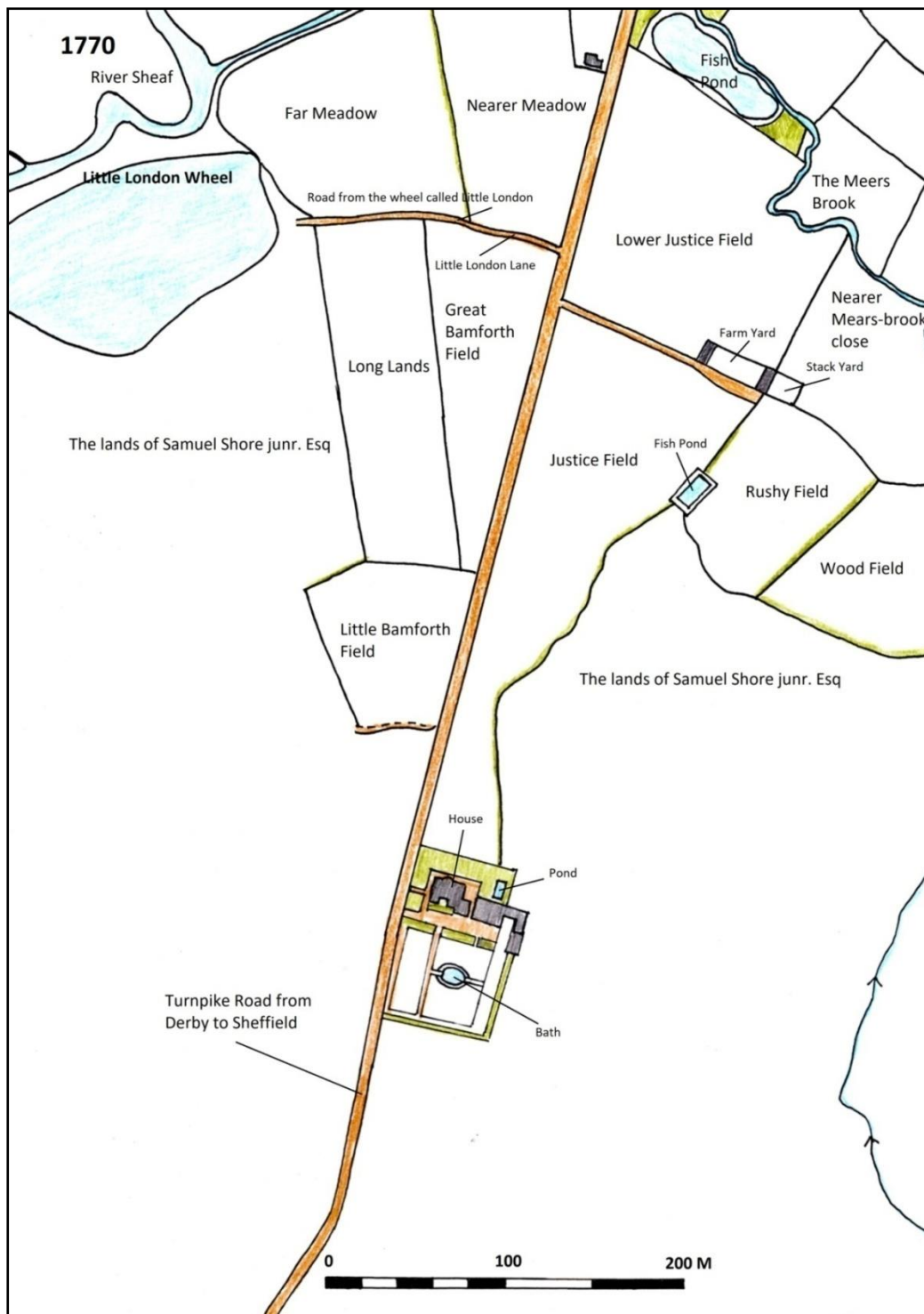
The next map (**Fig 2**) is derived from a sketch map in one of William Fairbank's field books (Fairbank, 1759). Though never properly drawn up, it shows the area prior to the building's construction. Despite the sketch map's distortion of the landscape it is possible to pick out several local features, notably the Meers Brook and the line of the Sheffield to Derby turnpike road. The field names, where written, match those on the 1770 map such that we can be sure that this sketch represents the site of the future Meersbrook Hall. Most notably it shows several buildings just to the east of the turnpike road. One is labelled 'barn' and beside it, to its

west, is an isolated building. It is highly likely that these structures represent a group of farm buildings already existing in 1759. This map has been drawn up using the 1770 map as a reference. It is dated to the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 1759 and shows the land that Roebuck had bought, just a few weeks before construction of the Hall began in July of that year.

This map provides the clue as to why Benjamin Roebuck built his Hall where it is. The Sheffield to Derby turnpike road had been laid out only three years before, and passes only a few metres from the site of the future Hall and, significantly there are two existing buildings which could be used. The isolated building is the brick building which was annexed to the Hall and next to it is a two-storey stone building with, to its east, a U-shaped barn. It is likely that when Roebuck was looking for a site for his new dwelling, the convenient coincidence of the newly laid turnpike road which could be used to transport building materials, with a complex of already existing farm buildings which could be put to use as stables, barns and servants' quarters etc. may well have been a deciding factor in his decision to build his Hall there.

In 1756 the old horse route going south out of Sheffield was taken over by the newly formed Turnpike Trust. The route was 36 miles (58 km) long and had eleven hills where the gradient was more than 1 in 9. The road was quite wide; two parallel ditches 24 ft (7.3 m) apart were dug on enclosed land and 30 ft (9.1 m) apart on common or waste land. The foundation was 20 ft (6.1 m) wide and 18 inches (0.5 m) high in the centre tapering to 8 inches at the edges to create a camber (Smith, 2003, 15).

After leaving Sheffield, the road crossed the Sheaf at Heeley Bridge and then went through Heeley before beginning to ascend the first of these slopes which was 513 yards (469 metres) long. A map of the Estate of Benjamin Roebuck (Fairbank 1770, 1 and 2) shows the path of this road, passing just to the west of the newly built Meersbrook Hall. On this map the road is called 'Turnpike Road from Derby to Sheffield.' Because of the gradient the Turnpike Trust had to provide a 'cock' or 'tip' horse to assist with the climb.

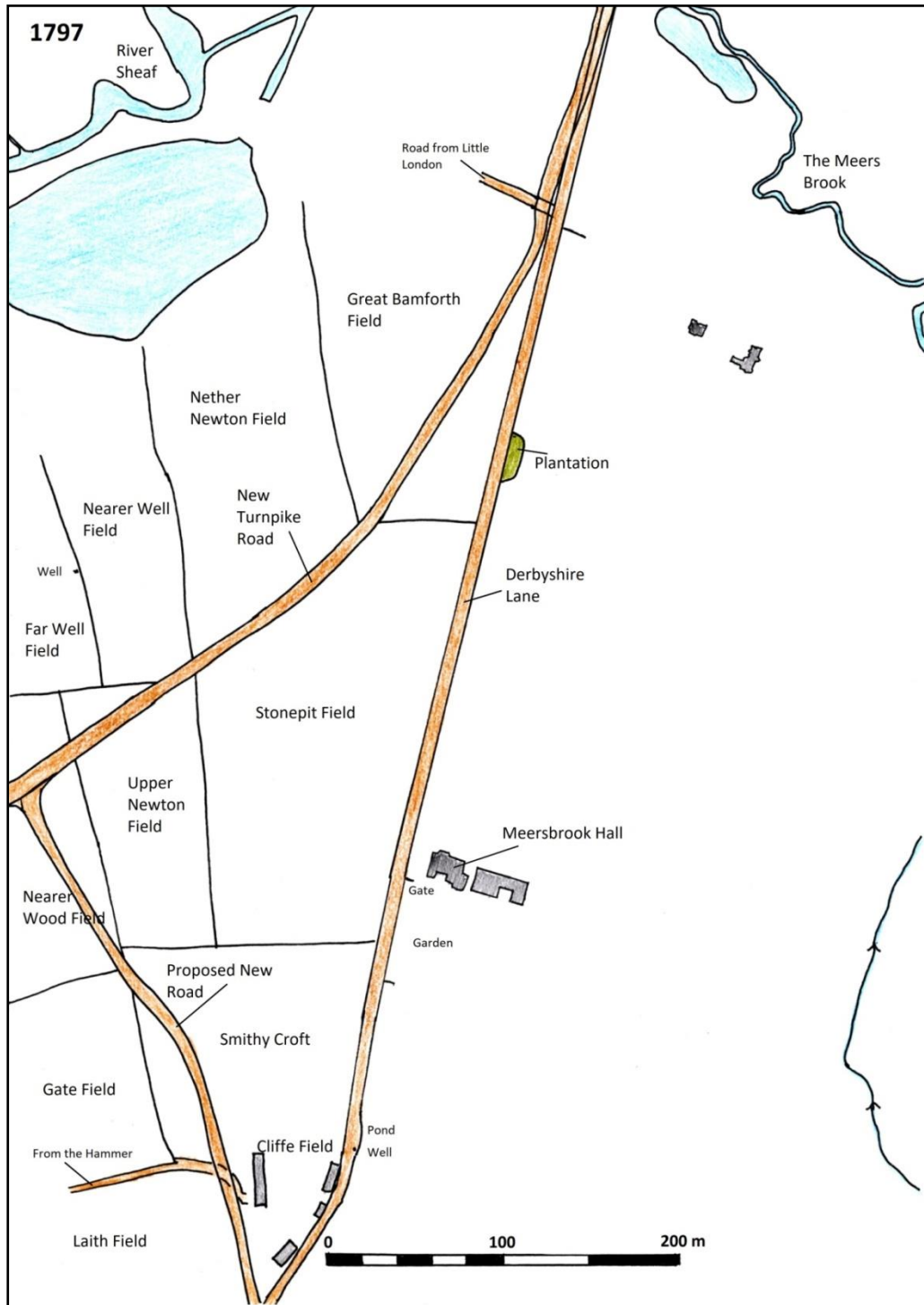


**Fig 3** The estate in 1770.

The next map (Fairbank, 1770) (**Fig 3**) has been properly drawn from a sketch of the same date. When matched to existing features it was found to be extremely accurate, placing the Hall, the Sheaf and the Meers Brook to within only a few metres of their true positions. It shows the Hall, now built to the west of the two existing buildings, with what appears to be an ornamental garden to its south. By 1770 the new estate contained a large fish pond at its northern end, 80 m long and 25 m wide, just adjacent to the Meers Brook. The pond is bordered

by either trees or shrubbery at its east and west ends. Two substantial buildings have been built in the middle of the estate.

The new road is labelled 'Turnpike Road from Derby to Sheffield' and runs completely straight for at least 540 m south from Heeley to the Hall. A smaller fish pond lies in the middle of the estate. On the 1759 sketch map is the word 'spring' in about the same place, so it may well be that a natural spring was adapted to create a fish pond.



**Fig 4** The 1797 map showing the route of the new road.

A later map (Fairbank, 1797) (**Fig 4**) shows the same road, now called Derbyshire Lane and a 'new Turnpike Road' which was to later be called Chesterfield Road and which was laid down in 1797 (Smith, 2003, 25). Another road, called 'proposed new road' (the present route of Derbyshire Lane) connects the two and was an attempt to realign the route but this too has a 1 in 9 gradient.

A fuller treatment of the Sheffield to Derby Turnpike Road can be found in Smith (2003).

There appear to be no further references to the original Turnpike Road. It is not on the 1804 map and probably fell into disuse for commercial traffic once Chesterfield Road was laid down, though it would have provided convenient access within the new Roebuck estate. Nonetheless for its forty one year life (1756 to 1797) it provided one of the main roads out of Sheffield.

The 1787 Trade Directory lists the regular coaches and haulage carriers on the various routes out of Sheffield. From this list it has been possible to select the coaches and goods wagons that would have passed Meersbrook Hall on the old turnpike road, which existed from 1756 to 1797:

### **An account of the Coaches that come in and go out of Sheffield**

To Birmingham from the Angel Inn. A Coach, every Morning, at three o'clock (Sunday excepted) through Chesterfield, Derby, Burton and Lichfield, to the Swan Inn, Birmingham. Returns on the same Day, and at the same Hour, to Sheffield (p 85).

From the Angel Inn: The Mail Coach, every Morning, about five o'clock, through Chesterfield, Nottingham, Leicester, Northampton, &c. Arrives at the Bull and Mouth Inn, London, at seven every Morning. Returns every evening, about nine o'clock (p 87).

From the Angel Inn: the Heavy Coach, every Evening (except Saturday) through Chesterfield, Mansfield, Nottingham, Leicester, &c. To the Bull and Mouth Inn. – Returns every Morning at six o'clock (p 87).

### **A list of the carriers**

Bewdley from his warehouse in China – Square. Anderton's Waggon, every Monday Evening, by Way of Chesterfield, Derby, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Stourbridge. And Kidderminster – Arrives at Bewdley every Saturday. Returns every Saturday Morning. Forwards Goods to all parts of Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Bristol, Exeter, Bridgewater, and all parts of the west of England (p 80).

Birmingham from his warehouse in China – Square. Anderton's Waggon, every Tuesday, by way of Derby and Lichfield. Arrives at Birmingham every Saturday. Returns on Monday Morning. Forwards Goods to Coventry, Oxford, Worcester, Gloucester, Hereford, Bristol, Bath, Exeter, and all Parts of the West (p 81).

Birmingham from the Travellers, Westbar. Royle's Waggon, every Friday Evening, thro' Nottingham, Derby, Burton, and Lichfield, to the Crown Inn, New-street, Birmingham. Arrives every Thursday Evening. Returns on Thursday Evenings. Forwards Goods to Worcester, Gloucester, Hereford, Bristol, Exeter, and all parts of the West (p 81).

London from the Mitre. Clarke's Waggon, every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday Evenings, thro' Mansfield, Nottingham, Loughbro,' Leicester, Harbro', &c. Arrives on Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday Mornings, early. Returns on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday Evenings. Note. The Waggon that goes off on Tuesday, inns at the Bell Inn, Wood – street: the others at the White Horse, Cripple-gate (p 83).

London from the Travellers, Westbar. Royle's Waggon, every Tuesday and Friday Evenings. Arrives at the Ax, Aldermanbury, on Monday and Thursday Evenings. Returns on Monday and Thursday evenings. Note. The Waggon that sets off on Tuesday goes by way of Chesterfield, Mansfield, Newark, Grantham, &c. That on Friday, by way of Nottingham, Loughbro,' Leicester, Harbro,' Northampton, &c. (p 83).

Mansfield from the Black Swan, Snig – Hill. Rodgers's Waggon, every Tuesday and Saturday, by way of Dronfield and Chesterfield. Returns on the same Days. Note. Clarke's and Royle's wagons also take in Goods for Mansfield (p 84).

### **Some travel times for early coaches**

1760 – Sheffield to London 3 ½ days (i.e. about 84 hours).

1765 – Sheffield to Chesterfield 3 hours.

1778 – Sheffield to Birmingham 13 hours.

1785 – Sheffield to London 31 hours.

(Smith, 2003)

Travel times to London by coach from:

Bath 1700 50 hours

1800 16 hours

Bristol 1754 2 days

1800 less than 12 hours

Edinburgh 1700 256 hours

1800 60 hours

Manchester 1700 90 hours

1788 28 hours

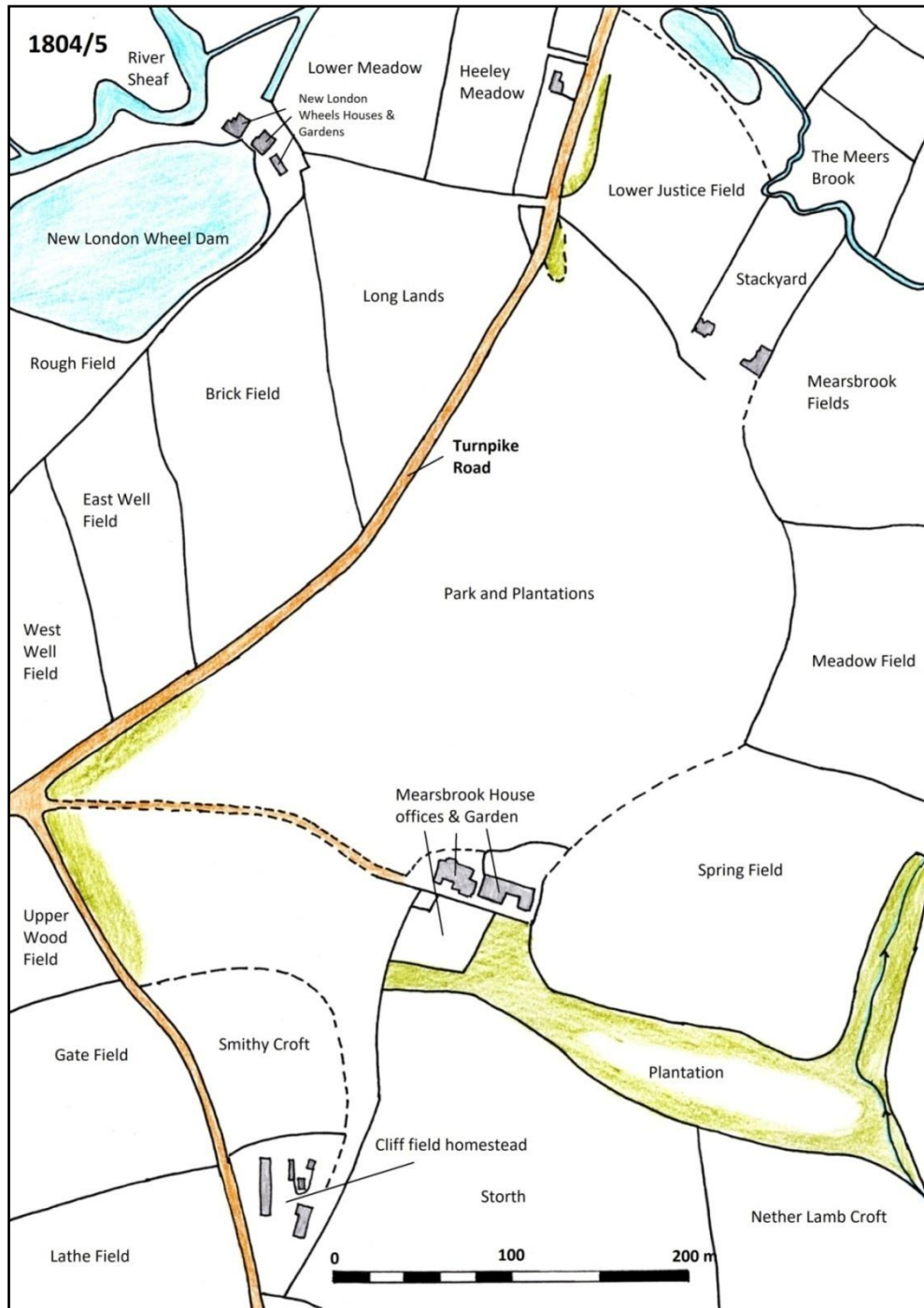
Newcastle 1754 6 days

1786 3 days

Norwich 1700 50 hours

1800 19 hours

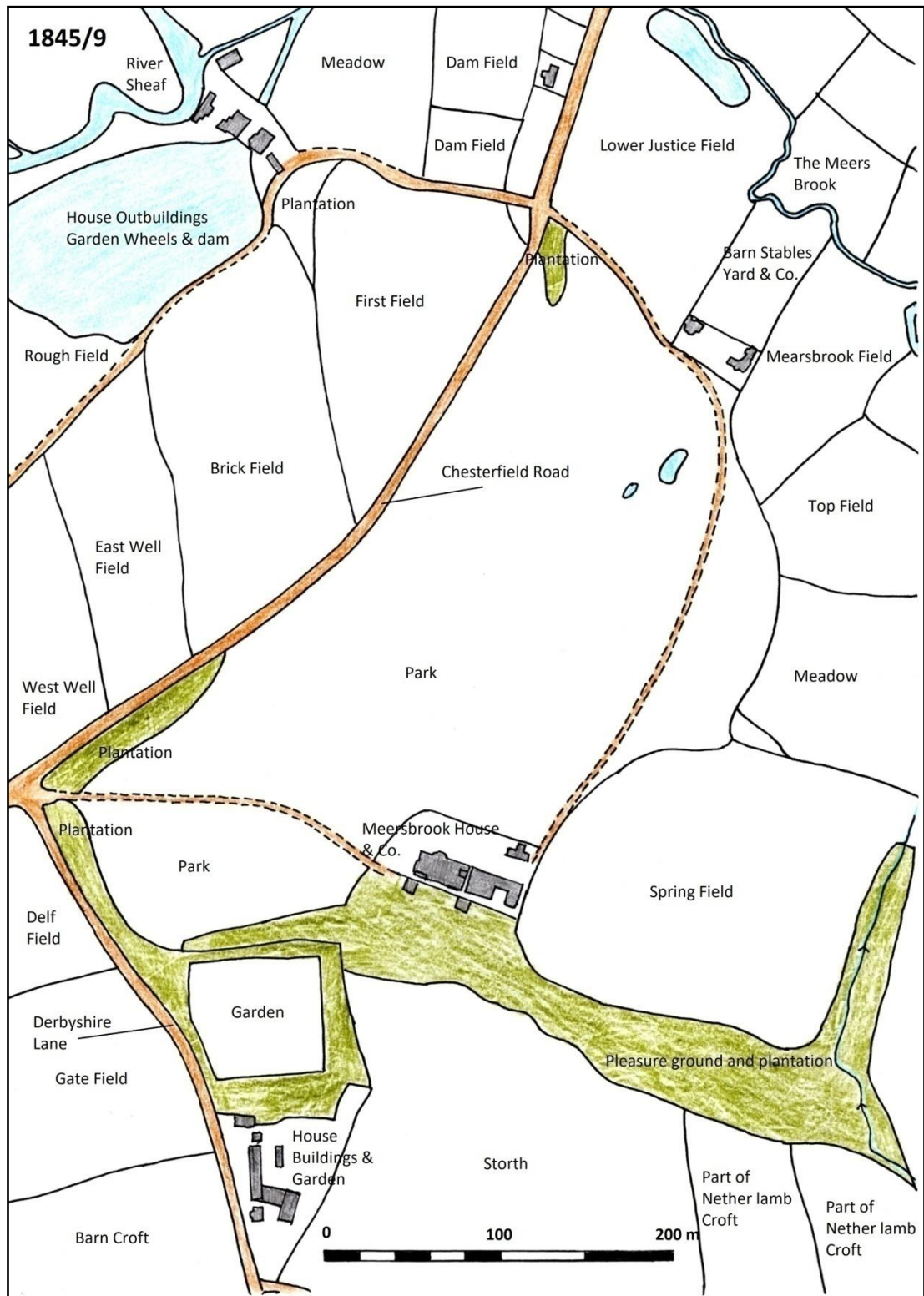
Olsen (1999, 182)



**Fig 5** The estate in 1804/05.

The first complete map of the local area dates from 1804/05 (Fairbank, 1804/05) (**Fig 5**). Though this map contains many internal distortions, there were enough fields still existing on the 1956 OS map of the same scale so that it could be checked. Significantly, in the area bought by Benjamin Roebuck, most of the field boundaries have disappeared. It would appear that by 1804 the next owner of the estate, Samuel Shore, was using the land for his private park. This is borne out by the name of the area on the map: park and plantations. This map shows the new road, labelled ‘Turnpike Road,’ which we now call Chesterfield Road. Also of interest, the field called Nether Newton Field on the 1797 map, is now called Brick Field on this and the next map. Is this indicative of its purpose? We presume that the bricks needed to

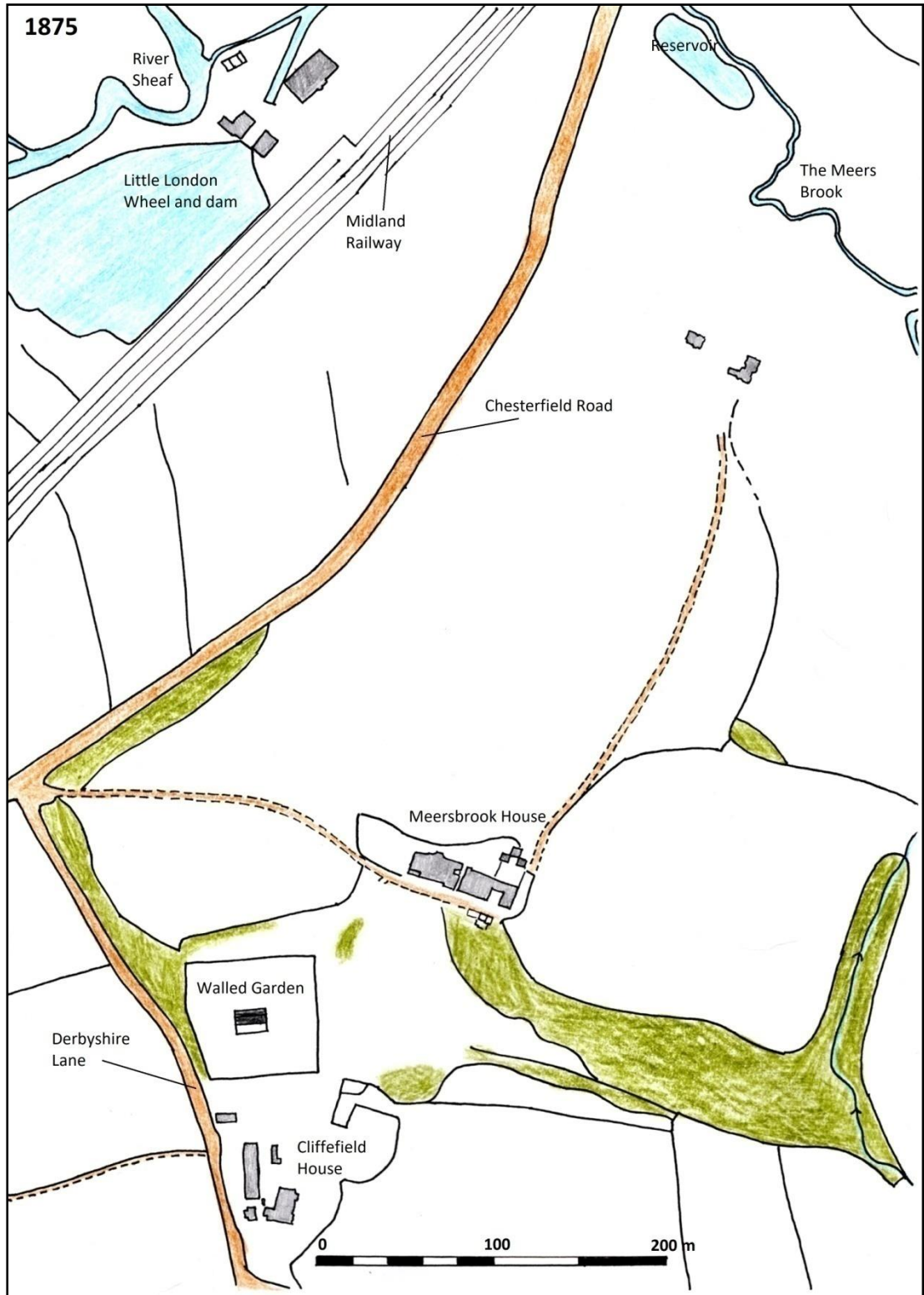
build Meersbrook Hall would have been made in a kiln, possibly not too far away but no records survive. Is this field name a clue to the site of that kiln?



**Fig 6** The estate in the middle of the nineteenth century.

The 1845-9 (**Fig 6**) map is mainly compiled from Bright's (1845) map with additions from Nicholson (1850) who drew up a map (Unknown, 1849) to show the lots for sale when

the Shaw estate went to auction. It shows little change from the 1804/05 map. There are two unmarked patches at the north end of the Park which probably represent the site of the rectangular fish pond, now presumably out of use. Meersbrook Hall was extended to the west in 1819 and at this time the occupants would have been the three Shaw sisters; Urith Lydia, Amelia Theophilia and Maria Theodosia, along with their servants.



**Fig 7** The estate in 1875.

The final map shown here is taken from the 1:2,500 OS map of 1875 (**Fig 7**). In the quarter century since the previous map, there were big changes. Work started on the Midland Railway to connect Sheffield to the south of England in 1864. The railway line was driven through the Sheaf valley, obliterating many of the local water mills, and opened in February 1870 along with the local Heeley Station. The first of the modern roads were laid out in Heeley by 1872 including Myrtle and Alexandra roads. After that more roads were laid out and housing built to the north and south of the Meers Brook and to the east of Chesterfield Road, and the area began to lose its rural identity.

The first horse drawn trams ran from Lady's Bridge to Attercliffe in 1873. The line from Moorhead to Nether Edge and Heeley opened in 1877. Tram sheds in Albert Road were opened in 1878. Building started on St Paul's Church in Norton Lees in 1875 and it was consecrated in 1877. As early as 1876 a detailed plan of the Meersbrook Bank estate was drawn up, with house plots numbered (Candow and Merrill, 1876). It would, however, be over twenty years before the land was built on. In about 1880 there was an early proposal to enclose 109 acres for a new park (Booker, 1880). Following a Council decision in 1885, about 37 acres of land were bought from the Lands Allotment Company (various, 1987) and in September 1887 Meersbrook Park opened to the public. In 1891 the drinking fountain to the north of the Hall was unveiled. The 1894 OS map records Roebuck's fish pond by the Meers Brook, now called 'reservoir'. It is now 70 m by 20 m so if the early and later measurements are accurate its size has diminished.

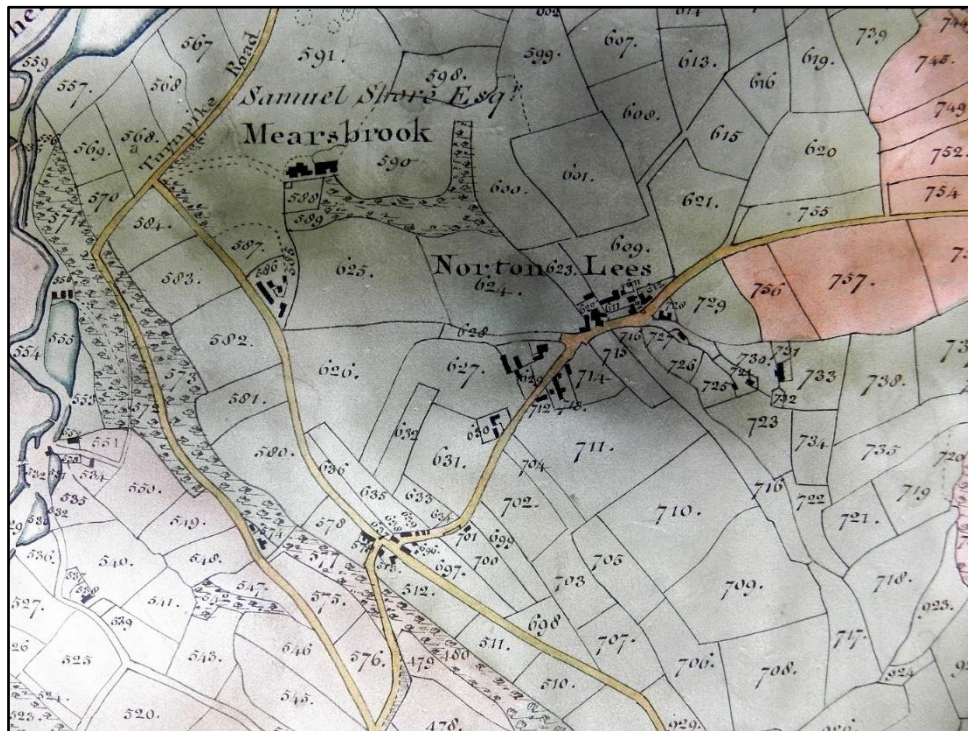
The 1898 1:2,500 OS map shows the original estate being built over on its western side with Brook Road and Burcot Road laid out and some houses already built on those roads. Binfield Road had also been laid out and Meersbrook Bank School was built in 1894 (Various, 2012, 81). Heeley railway station was expanded from two to four platforms in September 1902 and also in 1902 the last of the horse drawn tramcars ran and the Bandstand was built.

## *Meersbrook Hall 6 - The walled garden*

The walled garden to Meersbrook Hall lies at OS grid ref. SK 348 842, 115 m a.s.l.

### **The site of the garden on old maps**

The future site of the walled garden appears as part of field no. 588 in page 33 of the 1804/05 map (Fairbank, 1804), where it is described as 'Mearsbrook House offices & garden' with Samuel Shore senior Esq. as both the landlord and tenant, and an area of 1 acre, 1 rod and 4 perches.



**Fig 1** Meersbrook Hall and Norton Lees from the 1804/05 Fairbanks map.

It next appears as part of field no. 588 on page 48 of the 1817 list of fields (Bagshawe, 1817), where it is described as 'Mearsbrook House offices & garden' with Samuel Shore senior Esq. as both the landlord and tenant, and an area of 1 acre, 1 rod and 4 perches and a value of £ 0 3 s 4d.



**Fig 2** Meersbrook Hall and Norton Lees from the 1834 Sanderson map.

The garden first appears on Sanderson's 1834 map (Sanderson, 1834). (See **Fig 2**).

It is listed as field 644 on page 35 of Bright's 1845 survey of Norton Parish (Bright, 1845) where it is described as 'Garden.' The landlord is Offley Shore and the tenant is simply listed as 'Shore.' Its area is given as 2 acres 0 rods 16 perches. (See **Fig 3**).



**Fig 3** Meersbrook Hall and Norton Lees from the 1845 Bright map.

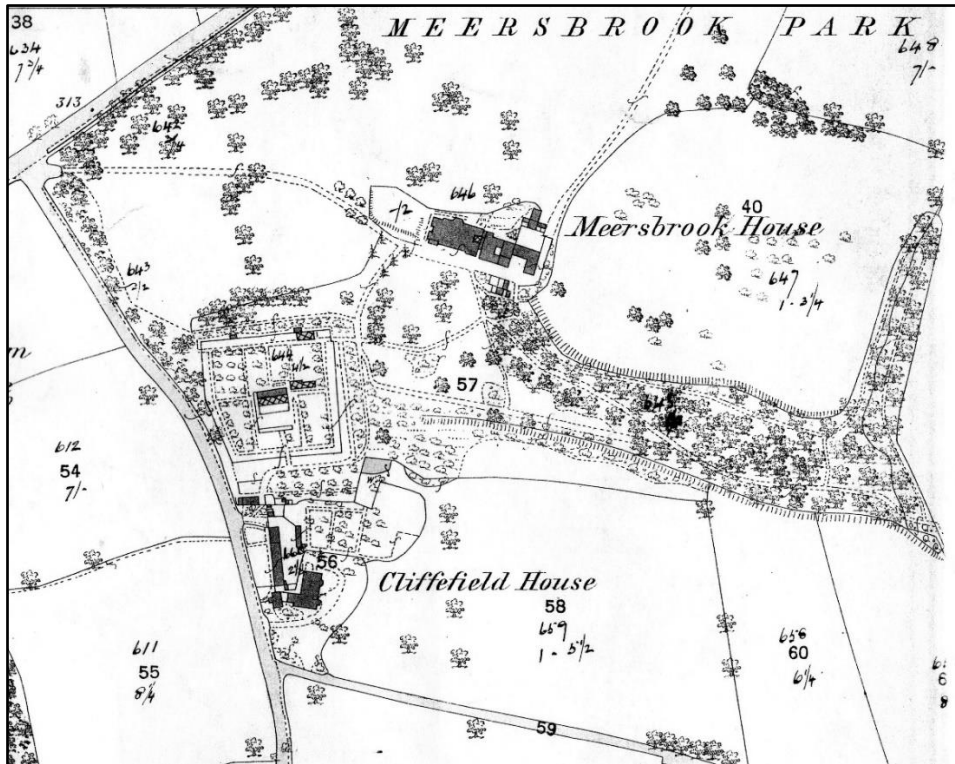


Fig 4 Meersbrook Hall and the walled garden from the 1875 OS map.

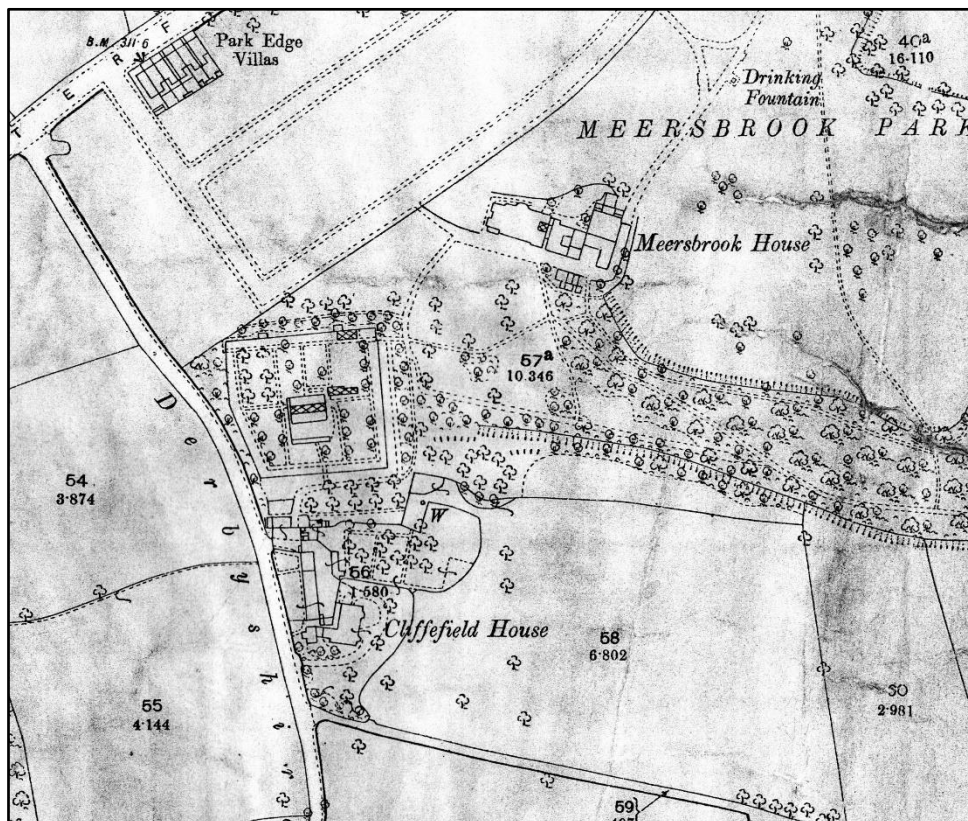
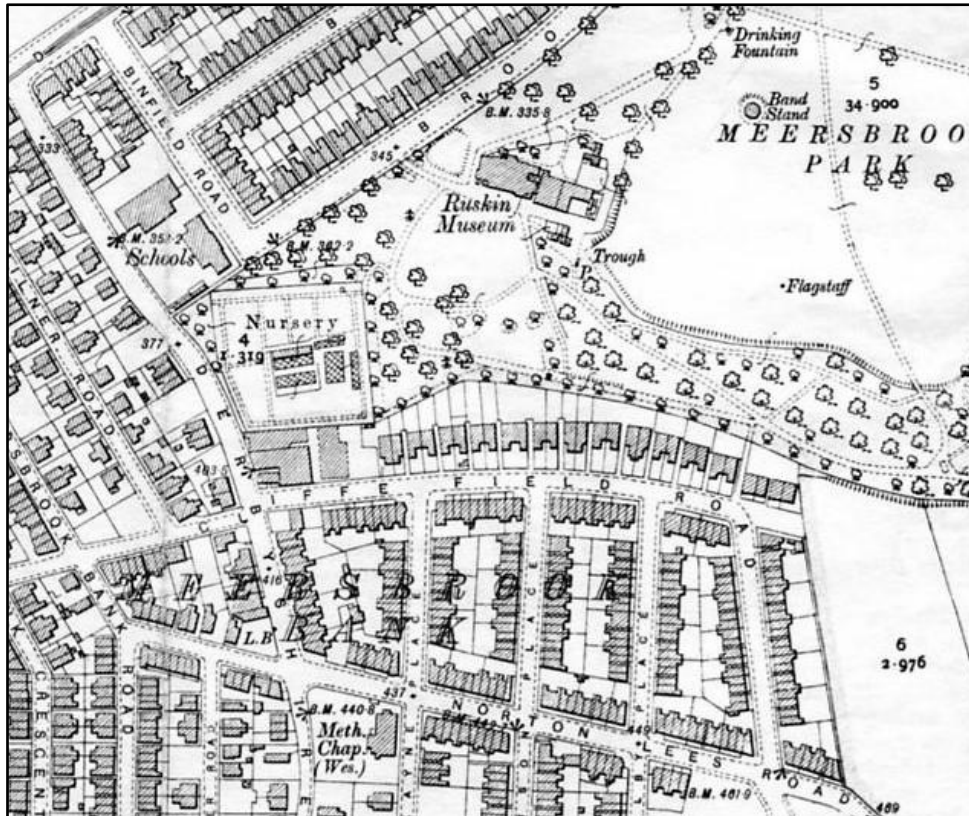


Fig 5 Meersbrook Hall and the walled garden from the 1894 OS map.



**Fig 6** Meersbrook Hall and the walled garden from the 1904 OS map.

### Walled Garden staff

The first mention in the census returns of a gardener is from the 1861 census:

Name	Relation	Condition	Sex/age	Profession	Where born
John Tyzack	Head	Widower	Male, 56	Gardener	Yorkshire, Ecclesall
Mary Tyzack	Daughter	Unmarried	Female, 36	Housekeeper	Yorkshire, Cawthorne

**Table 1** Occupants of the Garden House in the 1861 census.

Name	Relation	Condition	Sex/age	Profession	Where born
Thomas Cant	Head	Widower	Male, 64	Gardener	Yorkshire, Woodsetts
Elizabeth Cant	Daughter	Unmarried	Female, 24	Housekeeper	Yorkshire, Wadworth
Sarah Cant	Daughter	Unmarried	Female, 16	Assistant	Yorkshire, Wadworth

**Table 2** Occupants of Meersbrook Lodge in the 1861 census.

The 1871 census lists a Meersbrook Garden.

Name	Relation	Condition	Sex/age	Profession	Where born
Samuel Bowler	Head	Married	Male, 50	Gardener	Derbyshire, Snelstone
Susannah Bowler	Wife	Married	Female, 45		Worcestershire, Tardy Big

**Table 3** Occupants of Meersbrook Garden in the 1871 census.

Name	Relation	Condition	Sex/age	Profession	Where born
Robert John Knott	Head	Married	Male, 35	Gardener	Surrey, Clapham
Mary Elizabeth Knott	Wife	Married	Female, 39		Rutland, Lyddington
Elizabeth Charlotte Knott	Daughter		Female, 9	Scholar	Derbyshire, Norton Bradway

**Table 4** Occupants of Meersbrook Hall, listed as a gardener in the 1881 census.

Name	Relation	Condition	Sex/age	Profession	Where born
William Knowles	Head	Married	Male, 42	Gardener and Park Keeper	Scotland
Charlotte Knowles	Wife	Married	Female, 39		Lancashire, Ormskirk
Jane Knowles	Daughter	Single	Female, 16		Yorkshire, Sheffield
George Knowles	Son	Single	Male, 15	Silversmith's apprentice	Yorkshire, Sheffield
Clara Knowles	Daughter	Single	Female, 11	Scholar	Yorkshire, Sheffield
Catherine Knowles	Daughter	Single	Female, 9	Scholar	Yorkshire, Sheffield

**Table 5** Occupants of Meersbrook Park Gardener's House from the 1891 census.

Name	Relation	Condition	Sex/age	Profession	Where born
William Knowles	Head	Married	Male, 52	Gardener and Park Keeper	Scotland
Charlotte Knowles	Wife	Married	Female, 49		Lancashire, Ormskirk
George Knowles	Son	Married	Male, 25	Malleable iron caster	Yorkshire, Sheffield
Clara Knowles	Daughter in law		Female, 18		Yorkshire, Sheffield
Clara Knowles	Daughter		Female, 21	Assistant in boot shop	Yorkshire, Sheffield
Katherine Knowles	Daughter		Female, 19	Apprentice to Milliner	Yorkshire, Sheffield

**Table 6** Occupants of Meersbrook Park House from the 1901 census.

Name	Relation	Condition	Sex/age	Profession	Where born
William Knowles	Head	Married	Male, 62	Gardener Corporation	Kincardineshire, Scotland
Caroline Knowles	Wife	Married	Female 51		Yorkshire, Sheffield

**Table 7** Occupants of the Ruskin Museum from the 1911 census.

The Sheffield Trade Directories for 1900, 1901, 1902, 1903, 1905, 1906, 1907, 1910, 1911 and 1912 lists William Knowles as park keeper and head gardener.

The Directories for 1913, 1915, 1916 and 1917 lists William Falkner as park keeper and head gardener.

The Directories for 1919/20, 1921, 1922, 1923, 1925, 1926, 1927, 1928, 1930, 1931, 1933, 1935, 1936 and 1937 lists William Faulkner as park keeper.

Name	Relation	Condition	Sex/age	Profession	Where born
Abel Garnett	Head	Married	Male, dob 05/12/1903	Head gardener and park keeper	
Doris Garnett	Wife	Married	Female, dob 29/12/1904	Unpaid domestic duties	

**Table 8** Occupants of Brook Road Lodge (Meersbrook Park) from the Register of England and Wales for 1939.

The Directories for 1938 and 1939 lists Abel Garnett as park keeper.

The Directories for 1940, 1942 and 1944 lists Abel Garnett as park keeper and James Hogg as gardener.

The directory for 1951 lists Cyril Castleton as park keeper.

The Directories for 1954, 1957, 1959, 1961 and 1963 lists Cyril Castleton but doesn't give a profession.

The Directory for 1965 does not mention Meersbrook Hall.

The Directories for 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972 and 1974 lists Meersbrook Hall as 'Park, Cemeteries and Allotment Department'.

The last occupants of Meersbrook Hall were the Ellis family who left in 1970-71 and after that time the garden was managed externally. (See p 74).

The walled garden became a plant nursery and training area for Sheffield Parks from 1975. (From the Time Walk project website). From 1999 it has been run by an enthusiastic group of volunteers. See: <https://www.meersbrookpark.co.uk/walled-garden-history/>.

## Water supply

One of the enduring mysteries is where the garden could have obtained its water supply before modern piped water and drainage was installed. There is only one mapped well nearby, on the 1875 and 1894 OS maps, 23 m to the SE of the SE corner of the garden wall.

None of the old maps shows a stream running through or close to the site of the garden. The 1904 OS map shows the area has been built on, and the site of the well is covered by housing and, no doubt, a piped water supply. However, the nearby village of Norton Lees, only some 600 m to the east was still very rural and the 1906 OS map shows seven pumps to bring water to the surface.

## The Hot Wall

The north wall of the garden was a Hot Wall. From the construction of the walls, it appears that this was built as part of the wall. Hot walls were popular in Georgian and Victorian estate walled gardens and were used to stretch out the growing season so as to create a microclimate on the inner surface, which would have been south-facing. If the walled garden dates to about 1820 then the most likely person to have ordered its construction would have been Samuel Shore senior (1761-1836).

The 1875 and 1894 1:2,500 OS maps show two structures on the outer surface of the north wall. Measuring from the map, they are each about 5 m long. Please note that this only a rough measurement, taken from a photocopy of the map. It is believed that these were the sites of two furnaces used to heat air for distribution into the wall. The hot air would eventually have escaped through chimneys in the top of the wall. A survey of the wall showed the sites of 21 flues, now all blocked up, where air would have been introduced into the wall. It is likely that

there are more. The north wall is 73.3 m long and was only able to be surveyed for 60 m from the NE corner. A metal fence goes up to the wall at that point and the land beyond was not available for access. It belongs to the Yorkshire Electricity board and is the site of a local electricity substation.

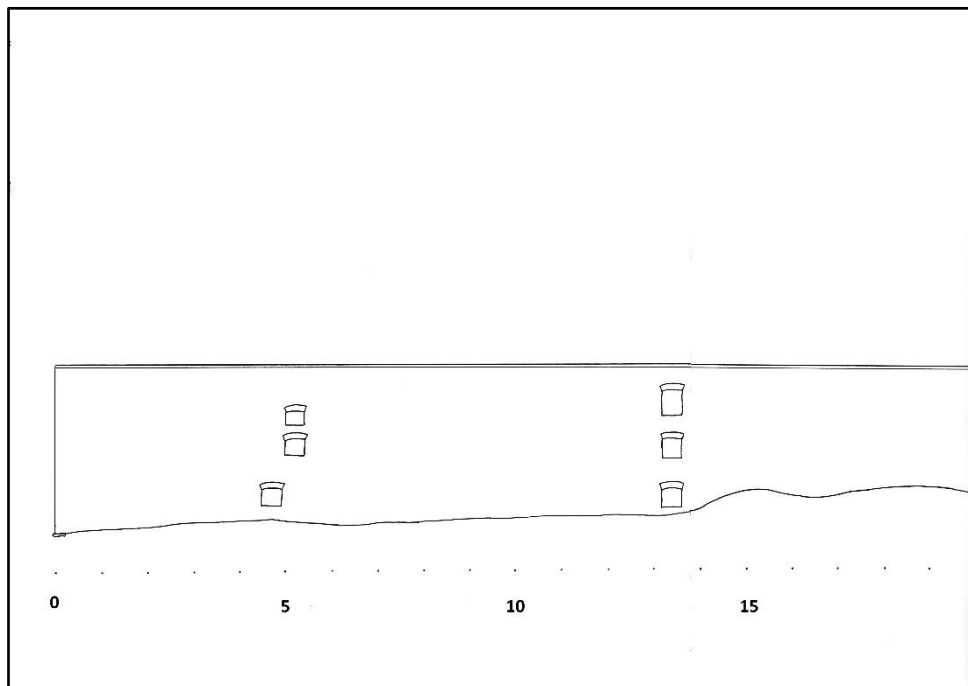
The north wall is 80 cm thick, far wider than four courses of bricks would take up. Wherever measured, the bricks in the walls were a fairly consistent 23 x 11 x 7 cm (9 x 4 ¼ x 2 ¾ ins.). With the two outer and two inner courses, each spanning 23 cm, or 46 cm in all, this leaves 34 cm of air gap between the courses. Some of the bricks have been eroded on the outer face of the wall and a horizontal piece of sandstone has been revealed. This example shows that sandstone slabs would have been used to bridge the gap between the walls and ensure their stability.

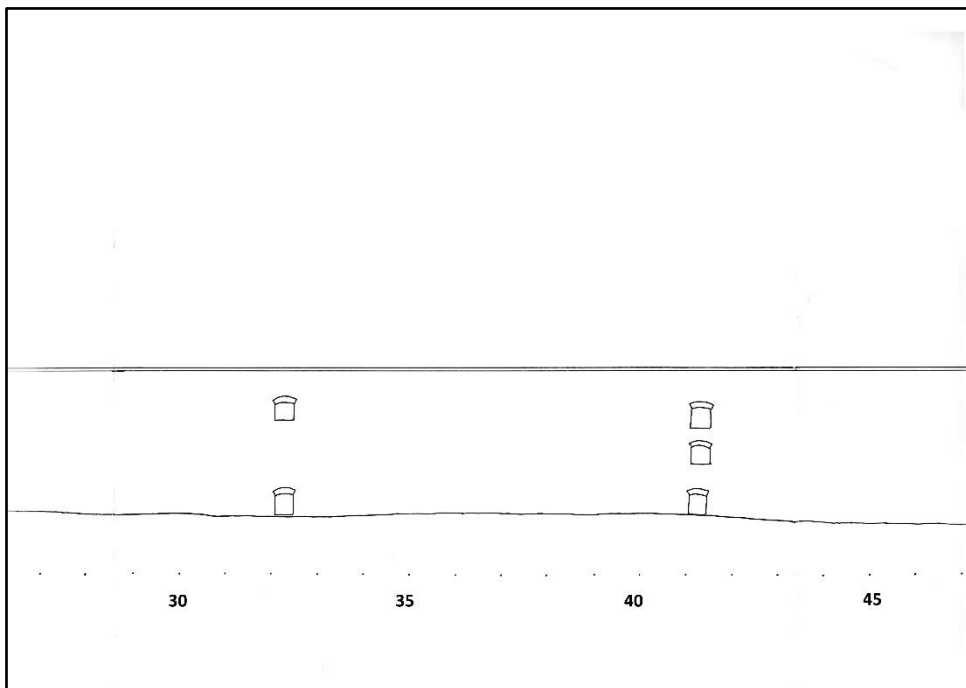
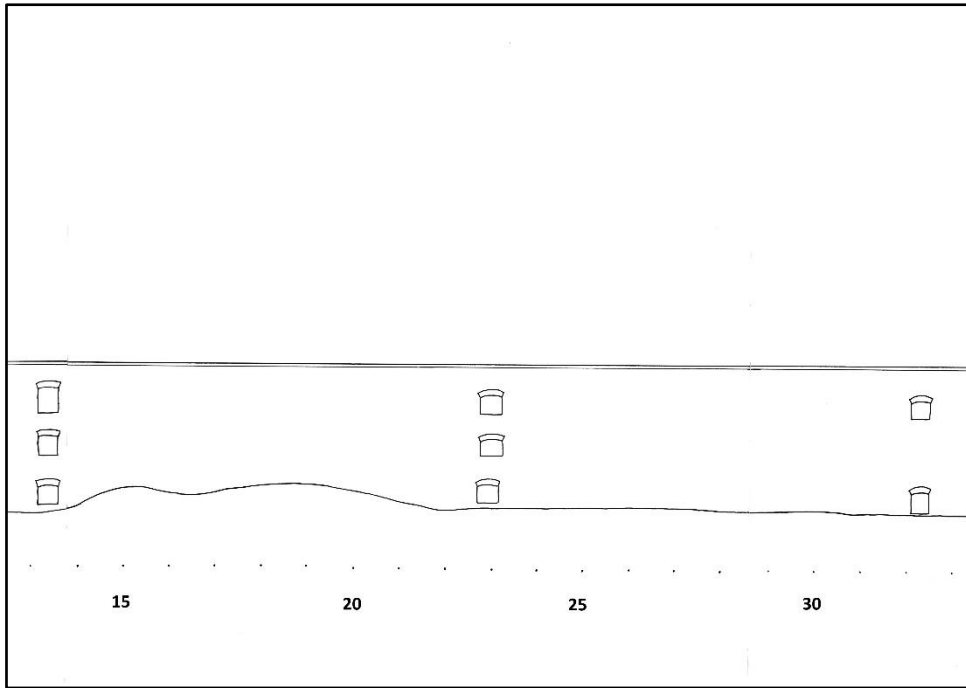
It is possible to roughly calculate the volume of the air gap. It is 73.3 m x 3.2 m x 0.34 m = 79.75m<sup>3</sup>, say 80 m<sup>3</sup>. It takes 1,247 KJ to heat 100 m<sup>3</sup> of air through 10° C, therefore 80 / 100 x 1247 = 997.6 KJ or 0.9976 MJ, say 1 MJ to heat 80 m<sup>3</sup>. From this it is possible to calculate the amount of coal needed to provide the heat for the walls. The calorific value of coal varies widely, between 17.4 and 25 MJ of energy released for each kg of coal burned. If we take a somewhat arbitrary amount of 20 MJ then it would take only 50g of coal to heat the air volume between the walls through 10° C. Of course, that heat would need to be applied constantly and we must allow for heat lost in piping, but it seems that it would have been fairly cheap to provide the walls with adequate heat.

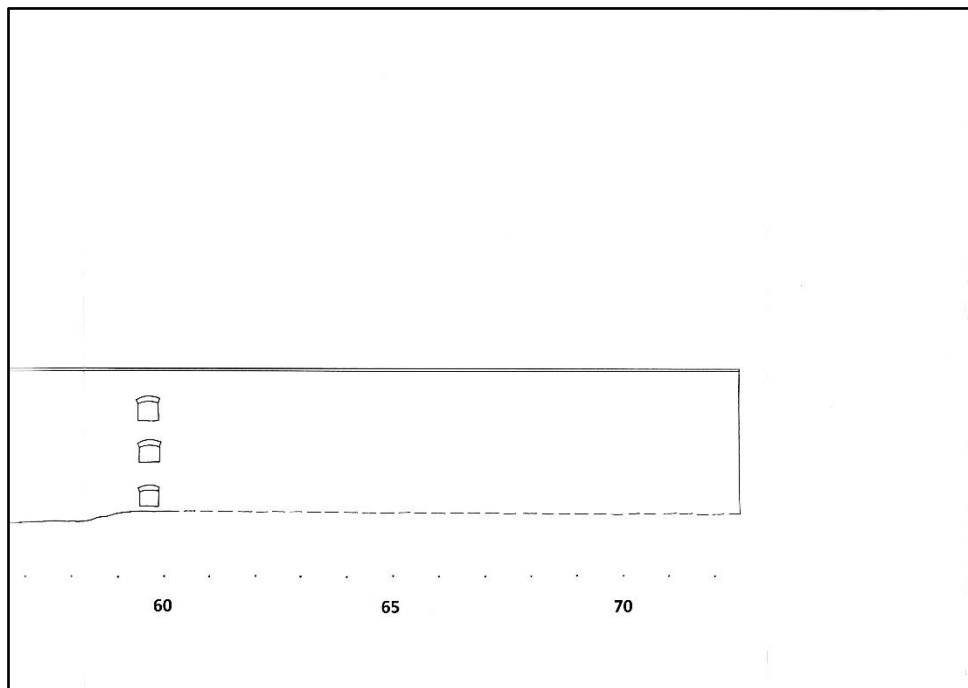
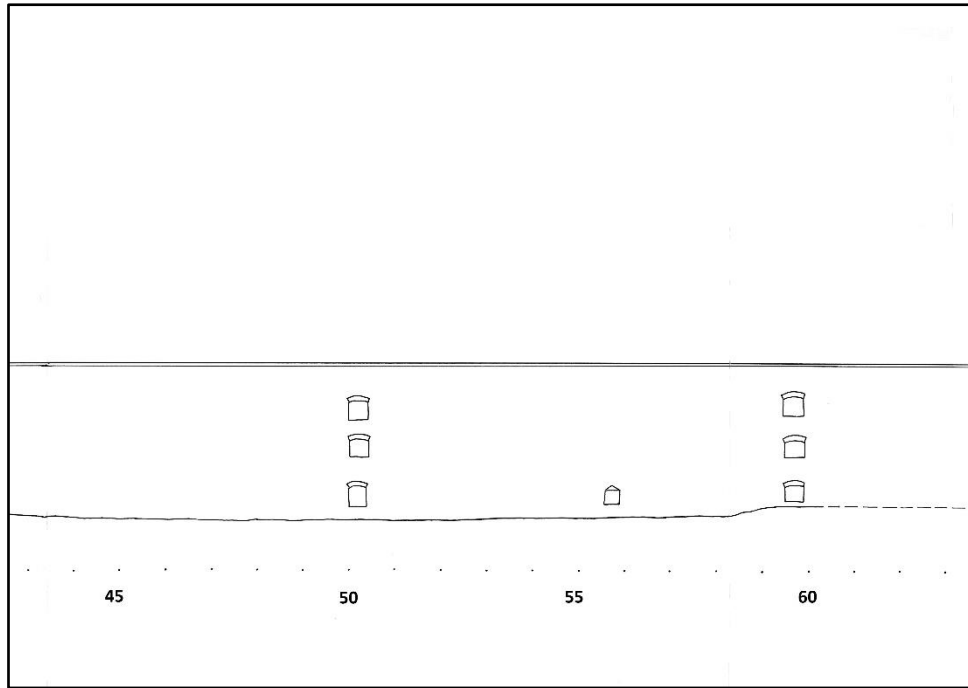
The last family to occupy Meersbrook Hall were the Milners. William Pashley Milner was a keen gardener and we may assume that he would have taken an interest in the walled garden. Following his death in October 1884, his widow and son moved to Topley Hall. From 1885 until 1970-71 the Hall was only partially occupied; apartments being made available for the curators of the Ruskin Museum and also for caretakers and gardeners. The site of the two furnaces appears on the 1894 map but they are not shown on the 1904 map and we may assume that the hot wall went out of use around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.



**Fig 7** Blocked up flues in the north face of the Hot Wall. The image on the left shows an individual flue and the one on the right shows three flues, one above the other.







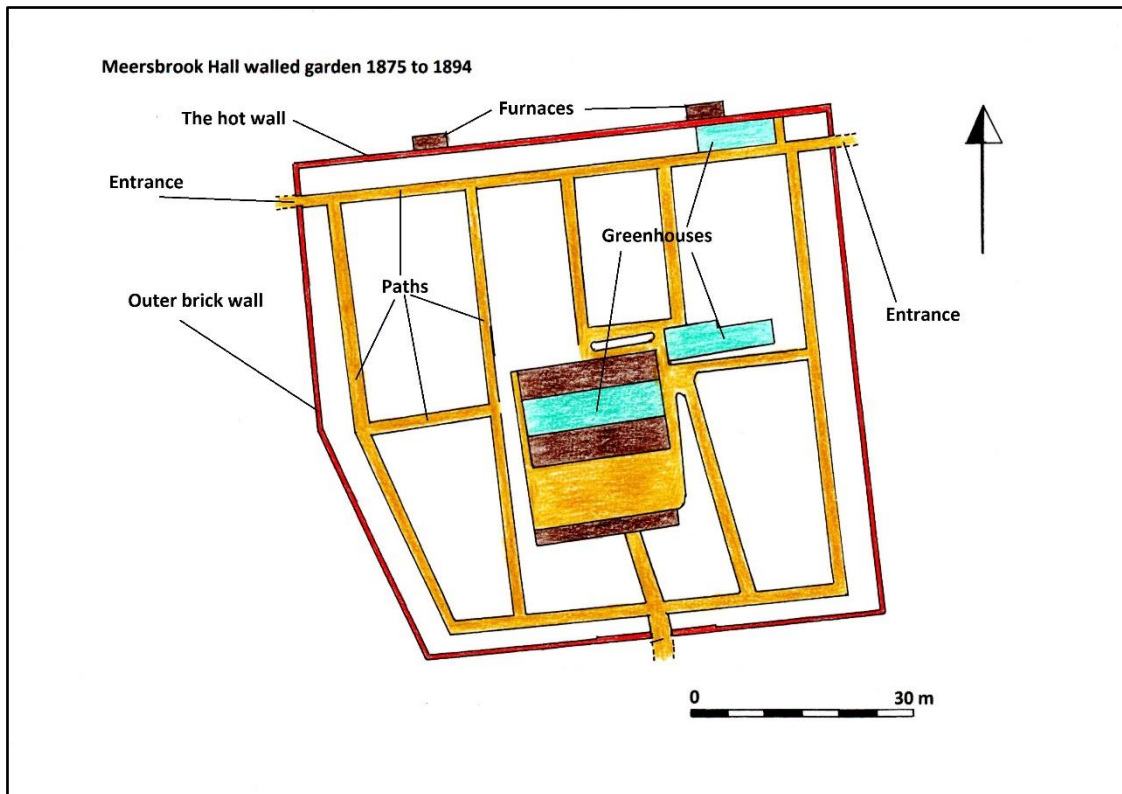
**Fig 8** The Hot Wall, originally planned at 1:50. The markers are at every 5 m.

**The main entrance**

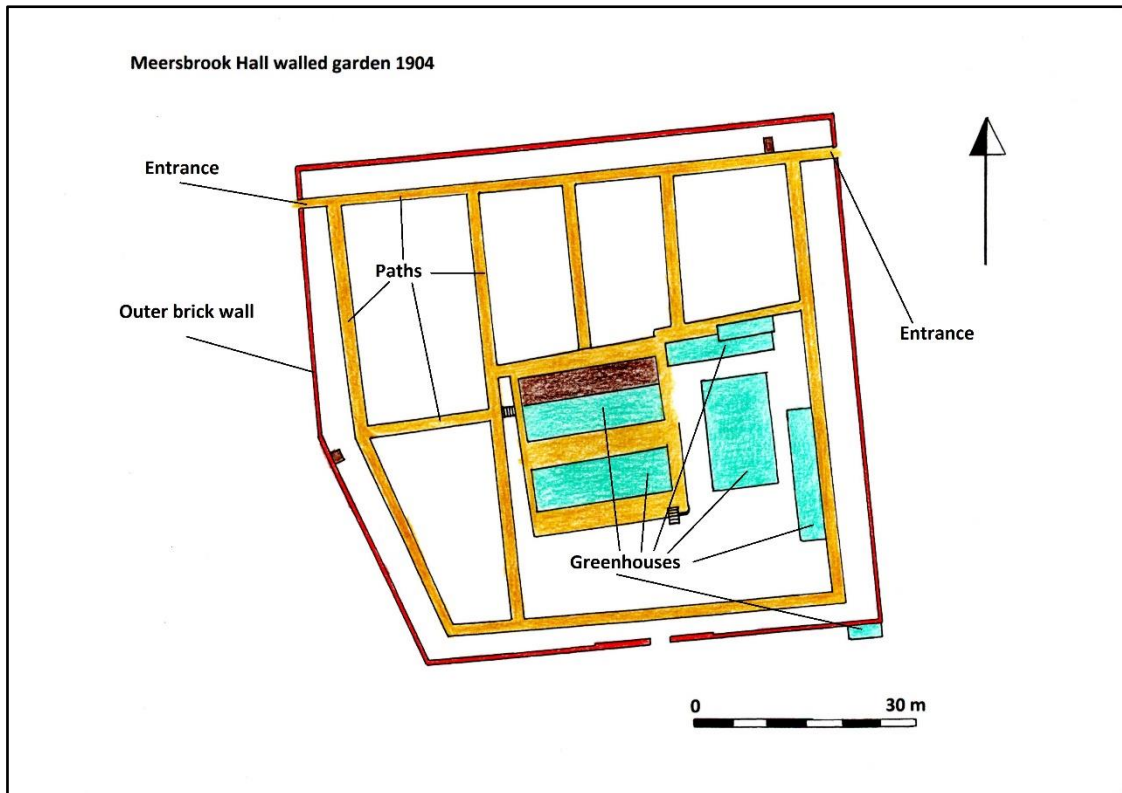
The original entrance to the garden, in the south wall, which could have been used by a horse and cart is now represented by a brick arch 2.80 m wide. (See **Fig 17**). From the top of the arch to the current ground level is 2.70 m. This entrance led out through the Cliffefield House estate to Derbyshire Lane. (See **Figs 4 and 5**).



**Fig 9** The blocked-up entrance in the south wall.



**Fig 10** Plan of the walled garden 1875 to 1894 from the OS maps, showing its features.



**Fig 11** Plan of the walled garden 1904 from the OS map, showing its features.

## SOURCES

**A note on the sources: I have tried to follow the standard Harvard format for source referencing but please be aware that many of the early sources do not follow any form of modern description, so I have done my best to adapt them to this format for consistency.**

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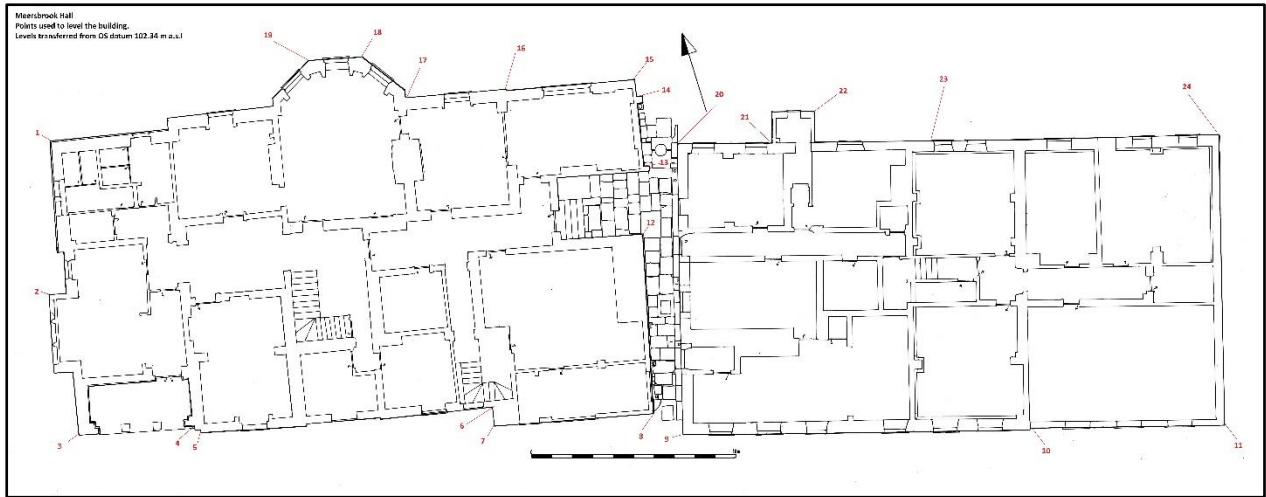
# *Meersbrook Hall - Appendix*

## APPENDIX 1 – Levelling the Hall

Meersbrook Hall was levelled on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018 using a Datum Auto Level (sometimes called a ‘Dumpy’) lent by the Department of Archaeology, University of Sheffield. The levels were taken from an OS benchmark from the 1904 OS map, on Brook Road, originally measured as 335.77 ft. a.s.l. which converts to 102.34 m a.s.l., at SK 38430 48489. This level was transferred to the walls and used to measure the wall elevations. Twenty four separate points around the outer walls were measured; sixteen on the brick structure because of its more complex shape, and eight on the stone structure.

BM 102.34 m asl	Recorded 28/06/2018		The BM is at OS grid ref. SK 38430 48489	
Stations	Points on the Hall	Reading m	Calculation m	Reduction m asl
1st station		3.55	102.34+3.55	105.89
2nd station		0.60	105.89-0.60	105.29
2nd station		2.70	105.29+2.70	107.99
	1	3.75	107.99-3.75	104.24
	2	3.42	107.99-3.42	104.57
	3	3.26	107.99-3.26	104.73
	4	3.25	107.99-3.25	104.74
	5	3.29	107.99-3.29	104.70
	6	3.55	107.99-3.55	104.44
	7	3.59	107.99-3.59	104.40
	8	3.82	107.99-3.82	104.17
	9	4.11	107.99-4.11	103.88
3rd station	9	1.63	103.88+1.63	105.51
	10	2.44	105.51-2.44	103.07
	11	2.42	105.51-2.42	103.09
	12	1.62	105.51-1.62	103.89
	13	1.73	105.51-1.73	103.78
	14	1.67	105.51-1.67	103.84
4th station	14	1.21	103.84+1.21	105.05
	15	1.19	105.05-1.19	103.86
	16	0.81	105.05-0.81	104.24
	17	0.77	105.05-0.77	104.28
	18	0.79	105.05-0.79	104.26
	19	0.78	105.05-0.78	104.27
	20	1.34	105.05-1.34	103.71
	21	1.30	105.05-1.30	103.75
	22	1.71	105.05-1.71	103.34
	23	1.63	105.05-1.63	103.42
	24	1.91	105.05-1.91	103.14

**Table 1** Levels recorded at Meersbrook Hall.



**Fig 1** Ground floor plan of Meersbrook Hall showing the positions of the levelling points.

**APPENDIX 2 – An estimate of the number of bricks used in construction of the Hall.**

Location of wall elevation	Measurement in m	Area in m <sup>2</sup>
<b>South elevation west</b>		
Wall area	8.0 x 5.4	43.2
Peak of wall elevation	5.5 x 1.75 / 2	4.8125
Upper window	2.05 x 1.3	2.665
Lower window	2.25 x 1.25	2.8125
Wall area minus windows	48.0125 – 5.4775	42.535 x 2 = <b>85.07</b>
<b>South elevation central</b>		
Main wall area	8.0 x 3.6	28.8
W indentation to central area	8.0 x 3.5	28.0
E indentation to central area	8.0 x 3.5	28.0
Total wall area	28.8 + 28.0 + 28.0	84.8
Venetian window	2.9 x 2.3 = 6.67 + 3.14	9.81
Wall area minus window	84.8 – 9.81	74.99 x 2 = <b>149.98</b>
<b>South elevation east</b>		
Wall area	8.0 x 5.45	43.6
Peak of wall elevation	5.5 x 1.75 / 2	4.8125
Upper window	2.1 x 1.2	2.52
Lower window W	2.3 x 1.2	2.76
Lower window E	1.8 x 1.1	1.98
Wall area minus windows	48.4125 – 7.26	41.1525 x 2 = <b>82.305</b>
<b>Total bricked area</b>	<b>85.07 + 149.98 + 82.305</b>	<b>317.355</b>

**Table 1** The south elevation.

Location of wall elevation	Measurement in m	Area in m <sup>2</sup>
<b>North elevation east</b>		
Wall area	8.0 x 5.0	40.00
Upper window	2.0 x 1.25	2.5
Lower window	2.25 x 1.25	2.8
Wall area minus windows	40.00 – 5.3	34.7 x 2 = <b>69.40</b>
<b>The bay window</b>		
N projection wall area	8.0 x 0.4	3.2 x 2 = <b>6.40</b>
S projection wall area	8.0 x 0.4	3.2 x 2 = <b>6.40</b>
E bay wall area	8.0 x 2.7	21.6
Upper window	2.0 x 1.2	2.4
Lower window	2.3 x 1.2	2.76
Wall area minus windows	21.6 – 5.16	16.44 x 2 = <b>32.88</b>
Central bay wall area	8.0 x 2.35	18.8
Upper window	2.0 x 1.2	2.4
Lower window	2.3 x 1.2	2.76
Wall area minus windows	18.8 – 5.16	13.64 x 2 = <b>27.28</b>
W bay wall area	8.0 x 2.5	20.0
Upper window	2.0 x 1.2	2.4
Lower window	2.3 x 1.2	2.71
Wall area minus windows	20.00 – 5.16	14.84 x 2 = <b>29.68</b>
<b>North elevation west</b>		
Wall area	8.0 x 5.2	41.6
Upper window	2.0 x 1.35	2.7
Lower window	2.3 x 1.35	3.11
Wall area minus windows	41.6 – 5.81	35.79 x 2 = <b>71.58</b>

<b>Total bricked area</b>	69.40 + 6.4 + 6.4 + 32.88 + 27.28 + 29.68 + 71.58	<b>243.62</b>
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**Table 2** The north elevation.

Location of wall elevation	Measurement in m	Area in m <sup>2</sup>
West elevation	15.15 x 8.0	121.2
Door	3.03 x 1.80	5.454
Window	3.0 x 1.1	3.3
Wall area minus door & window	121.2 – 8.75	112.45 x 2 = 224.90
<b>Total bricked area</b>		<b>224.90</b>

**Table 3** The west elevation.

Location of wall elevation	Measurement in m	Area in m <sup>2</sup>
East elevation	8.0 x (4.7+2.0+3.0)	77.6 x 2 = 155.20
<b>Total bricked area</b>		<b>155.20</b>

**Table 4** The east elevation.

Location of wall elevation	Measurement in m	Area in m <sup>2</sup>
Internal ground floor walls	51.5 x 4.0	206.0 x 2 = 412.0
<b>Total bricked area</b>		<b>412.00</b>

**Table 5** Internal walls ground floor.

Location of wall elevation	Measurement in m	Area in m <sup>2</sup>
Internal upper floor walls	36.6 x 3.6	131.76 x 2 = 263.52
<b>Total bricked area</b>		<b>263.52</b>

**Table 6** Internal walls upper floor.

1–Area of wall x 2	2–Area of windows x 2	1–2 Area of brick surface
S elevation 362.45 m <sup>2</sup>	S elevation 45.10 m <sup>2</sup>	317.35 m <sup>2</sup>
N elevation 296.80 m <sup>2</sup>	N elevation 53.18 m <sup>2</sup>	243.62 m <sup>2</sup>
W elevation 242.40 m <sup>2</sup>	17.50 m <sup>2</sup>	224.90 m <sup>2</sup>
E elevation 155.20 m <sup>2</sup>		155.20 m <sup>2</sup>
Internal walls ground floor 412.00 m <sup>2</sup>		412.00 m <sup>2</sup>
Internal walls upper floor 263.52 m <sup>2</sup>		263.52 m <sup>2</sup>
	<b>Total bricked area</b>	<b>1,616.59 m<sup>2</sup></b>

**Table 7** Areas of the walls of Meersbrook Hall.

### Brick samples

Two areas of brick surface were sampled from the south elevation of the 1759 building:

**Sample 1** was 21 courses high =1.48 m.

6 rows of headers & stretchers = 12 bricks = 2.22 m.

So 21 x 12 = 252 bricks in 1.48 x 2.22 m = 3.2856 m<sup>2</sup> = 252/3.2856 = 76.698319 bricks m<sup>-2</sup>.

**Sample 2** was 30 courses high =2.06 m.

5 rows of headers & stretchers = 11 bricks = 2.05 m.

So 30 x 11 = 330 bricks in 2.06 x 2.05 m = 4.223 m<sup>2</sup> = 330/4.223 = 78.143499 bricks m<sup>-2</sup>.

Samples 1 + 2 =  $154.84162 / 2 = 77.42081$ , say 77.42 bricks  $m^{-2}$ .

It is possible to make a rough estimate of the number of bricks used in the Hall's construction by measuring the area of all the walls from the 1:50 scale plans drawn up and subtracting the area of the windows and doors and then calculating the number of bricks per square metre, as above. The total bricked area is  $1,616.59m^2$ . The surface area of each wall elevation was doubled as there would have been both an internal and an external brick surface. For this calculation the height of the walls was taken as 8.0 m and no allowance was made for the depth of the foundations.

If there are 77.42 bricks  $m^{-2}$ , we get  $1,616.59 \times 77.42 = 125,156.3978$ , say 125,156 bricks.

If we assume that the foundations, including the internal walls, were 1 metre deep then the bricked area becomes  $1,785.72 m^2$  and the number of bricks becomes 138,250.

If we assume that the foundations, including the internal walls, were 2 metres deep then the bricked area becomes  $1,954.86 m^2$  and the number of bricks becomes 151,345. While these estimates are bound to contain errors, they give us an idea of the huge undertaking that building even a moderate Georgian mansion would have been in this time period.

Two areas of brick surface were sampled from the north elevation of the 1759 building:

**Sample 3** was taken from below the central lower bay window.

Sample 3 was 15 courses high = 1.07 m.

Sample 3 was 2.62 m long, so the sampled area was  $1.07 \times 2.62 = 2.8034 m^2$ .

The sample contained 226 bricks in  $2.8034 m^2$  or 80.6164 bricks  $m^{-2}$ .

The top 10 courses were chosen for brick size measurement.

64 bricks were measured for length (stretchers). 14 bricks were 0.22 m long and 50 bricks were 0.23 m long. This gave a mean brick length of 0.2278 m.

72 bricks were measured for height. All were 0.06 m high.

46 bricks were measured for width (headers). 2 bricks were 0.10 m wide. 32 bricks were 0.11 m wide. 11 bricks were 0.12 m wide. 1 brick was 0.13 m wide. This gave a mean brick width of 0.1146 m.

**Sample 4** was taken from an area west of the bay window on the north face of the building.

Sample 4 was 11 courses high = 0.68 m.

Sample 4 was 5.14 m long, so the sampled area was  $5.14 \times 0.68 = 3.4952 m^2$ .

The sample contained one or more irregular brick pieces in each course, so it was not possible to calculate the density of bricks  $m^{-2}$ . However, all the complete bricks were measured.

The sample contained 133 bricks measured for length (stretchers). 128 bricks were 0.23 m long. 4 bricks were 0.24 m long. 1 brick was 0.22 m long. This gave a mean brick length of 0.2302 m.

261 bricks were measured for height. All were 0.06 m high.

128 bricks were measured for width (headers). 39 bricks were 0.11 m wide. 89 bricks were 0.12 m wide. This gave a mean brick width of 0.1170 m.

### APPENDIX 3 – The names of Meersbrook Hall

**In the above text I have called the building ‘Meersbrook Hall,’ to conform with the name that has come into common usage in the last decade or so, as it has become embedded into popular articles and references in the internet. In fact, it is first called ‘Hall’ in 1881.**

The earliest map to record the pre-Hall buildings is titled ‘Benj. Roebuck’s Purchase 2<sup>nd</sup> 5<sup>th</sup> 1759’ and is a sketch map of the land bought by Roebuck from Benjamin Blythe on that day. The existing building is labelled as ‘barn.’ Sheffield Archive Library Ref: FC FB 15 p 8-9.

The 1770 survey of ‘A Plan of the Estate of Benjamin Roebuck at Mearsbrook in the Parish of Norton and County of Derby. Survey by W Fairbank 1770’ records the building as ‘House, Pleasure ground and Offices’. Sheffield Archive Library Ref: FC/P/Nort/25 S.

The 1797 map showing the new Turnpike Road (later Chesterfield Road) records the site as ‘Mearsbrook’. Sheffield Archive Library Ref: Old ref: NSC 144, New ref: NSC/4/27.

The 1804-05 map of Norton from the survey of W & J Fairbank in the years 1804 and 1805 records it as ‘Mearsbrook House offices and garden’ in field 588. Sheffield Archive Library.

The 1834 map of the country twenty miles round Mansfield records it as ‘Mearsbrook House.’ Sheffield Local Studies Library ref: 912.4252.

The 1835 map of Heeley and Meersbrook records it as ‘Mearsbrook House.’ Sheffield Archive Library Ref: NSC 109.

The 1840, one inch to one mile OS map records it as ‘Meersbrook House.’

In the 1841 census it is called ‘Meersbrook.’

The 1845 Plan of the Parish of Norton in the County of Derby 1845 by Paul Bright records it as ‘Meersbrook House & co.’ in field 646. Sheffield Archive Library Ref: MD3786.

The building is planned on the 1849 sale of the Shore Estate, but as it was not on sale, it does not appear in the list of fields and buildings. (Nicholson, 1850).

In the 1851 census it is called ‘Meersbrook.’

In the 1861 census the main building is called ‘Meersbrook House,’ with the stone structure and perhaps some now vanished outbuildings called ‘Garden House,’ ‘Meersbrook Lodge,’ and ‘Meersbrook Farm.’

In the 1871 census it is called ‘Meersbrook,’ with other structures called ‘Meersbrook Lodge,’ ‘Meersbrook Farm,’ and ‘Meersbrook garden.’

It is called ‘Meersbrook House’ on the 1875 and 1894 OS maps.

In the 1881 census it is called ‘Meersbrook Hall,’ with other structures called ‘Meersbrook Lodge’ and ‘Meersbrook Farm House.’

In 1881 and 1886 the register of electors for Sheffield records William Pashley Milner living at ‘Meersbrook Hall.’

In the 1891 census it is called ‘Ruskin Museum’ with the adjacent stone building called ‘Meersbrook park gardener’s house.’

It is called ‘Meersbrook House’ and ‘Ruskin Museum’ on the 1898 OS map.

It is called ‘Ruskin Museum’ on the 1898 OS map.

In the 1901 census it is called ‘Ruskin Museum’ with the adjacent stone building called ‘Meersbrook Park House.’

In the 1911 census it is called ‘Ruskin Museum.’

The Register of England and Wales for 1939 lists the building as ‘Ruskin Museum.’ The adjacent stone building is listed as ‘Brook Road Lodge (Meersbrook Park).’

It is called ‘Ruskin Museum’ on the 1941 OS map.

Documents during WWII call it 'Ruskin Museum' or 'the Museum.'

The Trade Directories from 1901 to 1962 call it 'Ruskin Museum.'

The Trade Directories for 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1972 and 1974 lists the building as 'Park, Cemeteries and Allotment Department'.

The electoral registers from 1945 to 1970/1 record several caretakers living in part of the building.

The register of Electors from 1945 to 1967 lists it as 'Brook Road Lodge,' presumably referring to a flat contained within the buildings for use by gardeners and caretakers. From 1961 to 1968 there is another flat, 'Ruskin flat' and from 1969 to 1971 'the Lodge.'

It is called 'Offices' on the 2008 OS map.

It is called 'Meersbrook Hall (Head Office)' in the 2012 park management plan (Various, 2012).

## APPENDIX 4 - Fairbank sketches and maps

This section lists the contents of the Fairbanks notebook that details the construction of Meersbrook Hall in 1759 (Fairbank, 1759). I have kept the original capitalisations and spellings. Where it is clear, I have expanded any abbreviations to the full word. Many of the measurements are written as, for example .60. I have changed this to the more modern, and unambiguous 0.60. Many of the decimal points were left off by the author but it has been possible to work out where they should have been, and I have put them in their correct place.

The units used are quite unusual. It appears that they are in yards and decimals of a yard. Perhaps they had a special ruler?

The notes have been extracted from the workbook, much of which is a jumble of jottings.

	Superficies	Solid
a	79.09	211.96
b	2.16	4.88
c	4.91	10.31
d	2.76	5.52
e	11.98	25.63
		258.30

**Table 1** Benj. Roebuck's cellar digging 3<sup>rd</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1759. This sketch appears to show the dimensions of the cellar of Meersbrook Hall and gives us a date for the start of construction p 34.

Front roof	20.13 by	10.00	
	0.60	1.00	228.03
4 gutters each	6.40		12.80
& 2 each	4....		9.26
2 Little ones each	1.00		2.00
Roof of the South Wing	4.45 by	10.35	50.50
	1.00		
North Wing	3.00 by	7.30	24.90
		1.00	
Long Back roof	23.25 by	6.00	333.15
	2.95	6.00	
Ded.	7.45 by	.50	
		yds	660.64

**Table 2** Workhouse pointing by Thomas Brierley 12/07/1759 p 35.

P 36 - Street setting by John Lingard for his Overseers & others 18/07/1759 at 3/6 ... Road. Also on p. 36 are the names of seven others: Thomas Cartledge, W. Hildreth, Edward Burnett, T. Newbould, J. Rawlinson, Benjamin Withers and James King.

They are named amongst a series of calculations and a sketch map, overlying one another and written at different angles.

			Yds.
Great Cellar walls	6.15 (2.83)	By (1.55 + 2.15) 3.70	104.19
	& 6.15 (2.83)		
Bow end	2.66		
	2.54		
	2.50		
	6.50		
Other end	28.16		
Arch	7.40 (.83) by	6.15	50.61
Bow frt. Of do.	4.76		
	4.64 by	150	7.62
Lefs Cellar Sides	6.10 by	3.10 (20)	40.87
	6.10 by	3.20 (20)	
Out End	4.00 by	2.98 (20) 3.18	12.72
Foundations from the Cellar to the South East Corner	5.50 by (	1.40	16.80
From thence to the Kitchen	6.50 by (	1.40	
South side of the Kitchen	5.50 by (	2.65	46.50
East side of do.	6.55 by (		
North side of do.	5.50 by (		
	<b>17.55</b>		
Pantry Partition	5.10 by	1.40	7.14
Closet South wall	5.50 by (	.53	8.75
Partition	5.10 (		
Front	3.35 (		
	<b>13.95</b>		
Passage Front & rest of West Front	9.64 by (	1.00	14.74
Passage Partition	5.10 by (	1.00	9.35
Straddle for Frontio ... & rest of west	4.00 by	.70	2.80
			<b>322.12</b>
Closet Ch. Pipe	.45		
Pantry Ch. Pipe	1.80		
	<b>2.25</b>		
Kitchen Chimney pipe	1.80		
And .....	.55		
Parlor Chimney pipe	1.80		
	<b>4.15</b>		

**Table 3** Benj. Roebuck's cellar walls and foundation to the top of the threshold brickwork by E Clark 20<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> 1759 p 37.

P 130.

Timber mark'd a.

Framing Roof ??? b.

Framing the False Joists c.

Joist Panns & co. D.

Sshes e.

f Spars.

g Ceiling Joists.

h Other articles

5.20	Side treesom	14.00 by 0.62 by 0.60
3.36	..... another	11.33 by 0.55 by 0.54
1.78	..... another	6.50 by 0.55 by 0.50
2.37	Ridge tree	8.00 by 0.55 by 0.54
1.53	Dragon pieces	8.00 by 0.32 by 0.60
3.66	Principal	3.66
5.00	Hip	5.00
	Brace	1.55 (sqr. 3 ¼ in by 4 ¼ in)
	Kings ?posh	9.00 by 0.75 by 0.80
	Balk	9.55 by 0.75 by 0.75
	Sparrs	6 each 1.08
	Sparrs	1 each 3.00
	Sparrs	2 each 3.60
	Sparrs	2 each 3.00
	Sparrs	2 each 2.33
	Sparrs	2 each 1.66
	Sparrs	2 each 1.26

**Table 4a** Benj. Roebuck's carpentry work by R. Unwin 19<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> 1759. Part of the Tim'n. In the Roof taken by R Unwin p 131.

5.08	Side truss	14.00 by 5.5 by 0.66
6.12	And the	17.00 by 0.60 by .60
5.25	another	13.66 by 0.70 by 0.55
2.88	& another	6.00 by 0.60 by 0.60
4.86	Ridge tru	13.50 by 0.60 by 0.60
7.27	Balk	13.33 by 0.78 by 0.70
44.88	Spars	11 each 4.08
1.32	Spars	2 each 0.66
2.66	Spars	2 each 1.33
4.00	Spars	2 each 2.00
5.32	Spars	2 each 2.66
10.50	Spars	3 each 3.50

**Table 4b** Over the front part of the Passage p 131.

P 132. Perpendicular required 12.35.

P 133. In the Roof over the pantry.

P 134. Nothing (just many calculations).

5.25	Gutter Spaud	5.25
1.02	Dragon pieces	5.00 by 0.62 by 0.33
1.23	Dragon pieces	7.50 by 0.33 by 0.50

**Table 5a** Over the S most part of the Pantry continued p 135.

5.07	Summerersone	13.00 by 0.60 by 0.65
3.17	another	10.50 by 0.55 by 0.55
5.64	another	14.00 by 0.65 by 0.62
3.26	& ano.	10.80 by 0.55 by 0.55
2.35	Ridge trus (?transome)	7.00 by 0.58 by 0.58
2.46	another	8.00 by 0.55 by 0.56
5.06	Kings Coft	9.00 by 0.75 by 0.75
7.32	2 Principals each	3.66 yds
5.00	Kip	5.00
5.25	Gutter spaud or Valley	5.25
3.32	2 Braces each	1.66
1.53	Dragon pieces	8.00 by 0.32 by 0.60
10.24	Balks open	16.00 by 0.80 by 0.80
4.06	another	9.40 by 0.72 by 0.60
40.80	Spars	10 each 4.08
7.20	Spars	2 each 3.60
	(	3.00
15.98	2 each	( 2.33
	(	1.66
	(	1.00
	Do. In the ? valley	
15.80	9 in all	15.80
3.00	1 more	3.00

**Table 5b** Over the Nether front Corner Rooms p 135.

p. 136. Nothing (just many calculations).

4.27	Side trus one	11.50 by 0.60 by 0.62
4.14	Another	11.50 by 0.60 by 0.60
5.76	Another	15.50 by 0.60 by 0.62
4.87	Another	12.50 by 0.65 by 0.60
3.81	Another	11.10 by 0.57 by 0.60
3.81	Another	11.15 by 0.57 by 0.60
4.01	Another	11.15 by 0.60 by 0.60
4.49	& another	11.15 by 0.62 by 0.65
3.51	Ridge trees one	9.75 by 0.60 by 0.60
	Another	10.80 by ??
7.32	2 Principals	Each 3.66
5.16	Long Principal	5.16
3.92	Kings Posts	9.00 by 0.66 by 0.66 each
3.32	2 Braces	Each 1.66
4.38	Balk	18.80 by 0.85 by 0.90
8.16	2 spars	Each 4.08
12.32	Spars	4 each 3.08
6.90	Spars	2 each 3.45
5.64	Spars	2 each 2.82
4.56	Spars	2 each 2.28
3.40	Spars	2 each 1.70
2.40	Spars	2 each 1.20
1.00	Spars	2 each 0.50
4.36	Runners for the Ceiling Joists	One 10.50 by 0.66 by 0.63
3.65	Another	10.50 by 0.58 by 0.60

3.78	Another	10.50 by 0.60 by 0.60
3.15	Another	10.50 by 0.60 by 0.50

**Table 6a** Over the best rooms p 137.

14.66	2 Kips (? Hips) as at first	Each 7.38
0.92	Side Trees	One 4.30 by 0.45 by 0.48
0.45	Another	2.70 by 0.42 by 0.40
0.58	Another	2.60 by 0.45 by 0.50
0.48	Another	2.70 by 0.45 by 0.40
0.75	& another	4.30 by 0.42 by 0.42

Examined and corrected hither.

**Table 6b** Bow part p 137.

P 138. Nothing (just many calculations).

0.46	Side trees continued	2.70 by 0.43 by 0.40
0.54	Side trees continued	2.70 by 0.40 by 0.50
0.82	Side trees continued	5.00 by 0.35 by 0.47
1.17	Side trees continued	5.00 by 0.45 by 0.52
1.22	Side trees continued	5.10 by 0.48 by 0.50
1.37	Ridge Tree	5.50 by 0.50 by 0.50
8.85	Parms	27.00 by 0.82 by 0.40
12.99	3 Spars	Each 4.33
19.98	6 Spars	Each 3.33
3.00	8 Spars	Each 1.50
4.00	2 Spars	Each 2.00
5.50	2 Spars	Each 2.75
5.32	2 Spars	Each 2.66
4.00	2 Spars	Each 2.00
2.32	2 Spars	Each 1.16
1.00	2 Spars	Each 0.50
	2 Slender Gutter Spands	Each 5.00
	Balk	21.30 by 0.95 by 1.00

**Table 7a** Bow pt. Over the best rooms continued. P 139.

8.79	Trimming of the Roof	4.66 by .618
7.96	Trimming 4 Hips & 2 Valleys	Each 4.66

**Table 7b** Trimming the Bow p 139.

2.27	Ridge Tree	7.65 by 0.55 by 0.54
5.51	Side Trees	14.15 by 0.60 by 0.65
5.24	Side Trees	14.15 by 0.57 by 0.65
4.41	Side Trees	11.50 by 0.64 by 0.60
3.79	Side Trees	11.50 by 0.55 by 0.60
4.83	Side Trees	12.00 by 0.65 by 0.62
2.30	Side Trees	6.40 by 0.60 by 0.60

Examined hither.

**Table 7c** Over the kitchen p 139.

P 140. Nothing (just many calculations).

10.98	3 Principals	Each 3.66
4.98	3 Braces	Each 1.66
10.00	2 Hips	Each 5.00
3.07	2 Dragon pieces	Each 8.00 by 0.32 by 0.60
5.06	Kings Post	9.00 by 0.75 by 0.75
15.93	Balk	19.25 by 0.92 by 0.90
4.94	Cross Balk	9.50 by 0.80 by 0.65
44.88	11 Spars	Each 4.08
24.64	8 spars	Each 3.08
4.70	2 spars	Each 2.35
3.20	2 spars	Each 1.60 ) twice over
2.00	2 spars	Each 1.00 ) twice over
6.72	(North Panno (Baw	T 54.36) h 58.36) by 0.42 by 0.50 4.00)
9.03	West Pann	43.00 by do.
11.12	South Pann	47.00 + 6.00) by do.
147.85	Framing the North h. Roof	18.12 by 8.16
	Framing the South Roof	15.16 by 8.16
20.00	Framing the 4 Hips	Each 5.00
10.50	Framing the 2 Valleys	Each 5.25
9.83	Framing the 1 ?? guttering	9.83
	?	Each 1.83
17.38	?	9.50 by 1.83
15.30	Back up ? Summ...	19.65 by 0.82 by 0.95
		By 0.80 by 0.80
2.75	.... strong	7.65 by 0.60 by 0.60
66.48	... 12 Joists	Each 5.54
66.48	... 12 Purlin Joists	Each do.

Examined hither.

**Table 8** Over the kitchen continued p 141.

P 142. Nothing (just many calculations).

36.28	Framing the Joists	6.55 by 5.54
36.28	Framing the ceiling joists	Do.

**Table 9a** Appears to be a continuation of the list from p 141. P 143.

9.28	2 Summers	13.66 by 0.80 by 0.85
8.19	2 Summers	13.66 by 0.75 by 0.80
56.52	9 Joists	Each 6.28
56.52	9 Ceiling Joists do.	
28.57	Framing the Floor	6.28 by 4.55
28.57	Framing Ceiling Joists	Do.
4.55	Pann do. The Gutter	4.55

**Table 9b** Gart. over the stairs p 143.

68.37	12 ½ Ceiling Joists over the Kitchen	Each 5.47
34.18	Framing do.	5.47 by 6.25
61.81	Joists in the Chamber Floor	Each 5.47
		Ded. In all 9.30
34.18	..... Framing do.	5.47 by 6.25
71.11	13 Ceiling Joists under the Floor	Each 5.47
34.18	..... Framing do.	
2.40	Lintels over the Windows	8.00 by 0.50 by 0.60
2.64	Lintels over the Windows	8.00 by 0.55 by 0.60
3.53	Do. Over the Passage Doors	10.70 by 0.55 by 0.60
4.17	Do. Over the Passage Doors	10.70 by 0.65 by 0.60
15.18	Summer	18.75 by 0.90 by 0.90
14.68	Summer	18.75 by 0.87 by 0.90
3.32	2 Trimmer Joists	Each 1.66 yd

**Table 9c** Continued 22<sup>nd</sup> 12 1759 p 143.

31.92	12 Joists	Each 2.66
14.89	Framing joists	5.60 by 2.66
1.87	Lintel over the Window	7.50 by 0.50 by 0.50

Examined hither.

**Table 9d** Over the Back Passage p 143.

P 144. Rough calculations and ‘Examined hither,’ probably referring to a list on the facing page.

37.65	8 Joists	Each 5.55 Ded. S each 1.19
21.64	Framing do.	3 go by 5.55
44.40	8 Ceiling Joists	Each 5.55
21.64	Framing Joists	3.90 by 5.55
3.32	2 Summers do. Trimmer Joists	Each 1.66 yd
6.14	Summers	11.70 by 0.70 by 0.75
6.58	Summers	11.70 by 0.75 by 0.75
2.59	Lintel over the Window	7.20 by 0.60 by 0.60

**Table 10a** Chamber over the pantry p 145.

18.00	9 Joists	Each 2.00
9.20	Framing joists	4.60 by 2.00
10.35	Summer	13.80 by 0.75 by 1.00

**Table 10b** Stair case Passage p 145.

30.00	10 Ceiling Joists	Each 3.00 over it
11.40	Framing Joists	3.80 by 3.00
3.82	Summers	9.50 by 0.65 by 0.62
4.84	Summers	9.50 by 0.70 by 0.73
26.75	7 Joists	Each 4.45. Ded. 4 each 1.10
14.06	Framing the Floor	4.45 by 3.16
3.32	2 Trimmer Joists	Each 1.66 yds
2.00	One more	2.00
29.49	7 Ceiling Joists under the floor	Each 4.45. Deducted 1.66
14.06	Framing Joists	4.45 by 3.16
2.06	Lintels over the Window	8.25 by 0.50 by 0.50
2.88	Lintels over the Window	8.00 by 0.60 by 0.60
3.64	Lintels over the Door	7.00 by 0.65 by 0.80

**Table 10c** Chamber over the Study p 145.

14.05	Summers	7.35 by 0.90 by 0.90
52.00	12 Joists	Each 4.33
25.04	Framing the Floor	5.78 by 4.33
55.00	10 Ceiling Joists above	Each 5.50
23.80	Framing do.	4.33 by 5.50
52.00	12 Ceiling Joists under the floor	Each 4.33
25.04	Framing do.	5.78 by 4.33
2.50	Lintel over the Window	7.60 by 0.60 by 0.53
2.70	Lintel over the Door	7.50 by 0.60 by 0.60

Examined hither.

**Table 10d** Chamber over the Front Passage p 145.

P 146. Rough calculations and the first column of the tables on the facing page. This latter information is tabulated with the remainder of the tables, below.

57.22	Ceiling Joists over it 10 ½	Each 5.45
29.70	Framing do.	5.45 by 5.45
9.41	Summers	16.35 by 0.72 by 0.80
10.45	Summers	16.35 by 0.82 by 0.78
53.45	11 Joists	Each 5.45, deducted 5 each 1.30
29.70	Framing the Floor	5.45 by 5.45
59.95	11 Ceiling Joists	Each 5.45
29.70	Framing do.	5.45 by 5.45
3.32	2 Trimmer Joists	Each 1.66
3.70	Lintels over the Window	8.50 by 0.66 by 0.66
3.12	Lintels over the Window	8.00 by 0.65 by 0.60

**Table 11a** Parlor Chamber p 147.

76.05	13 ceiling Joists over	Each 5.85
4.00	One more	4.00
15.19		7 each 2.17
9.33		8 more 9.33 in all
43.18	Framing the Ceiling Joists under the Floor	6.35 by 6.80
12.76	Framing the Ceiling Joists under the Floor	2.80 by 6.80 by 2.66
102.00	15 Ceiling Joists	Each 6.80
10.50	3 Ceiling Joists	Each 3.50
2.33	And one	2.33
102.00	15 Joists	Each 6.80
10.50	3 Joists	Each 3.50
228.15	Summers	25.35 by 0.90 by 1.00
228.15	Summers	25.35 by 0.90 by 1.00
6.61	Lintel over the Windows	27.00 by 0.35 by 0.70
4.00	2 Trimmer Joists	Each 2.00 yds.
2.66	1 Trimmer Joist	Each 2.66
2.06	Lintels over the Door	7.50 by 0.55 by 0.50
3.07	Lintels over the Door	7.50 by 0.63 by 0.65

**Table 11b** Best Chamber p 147.

1.75	Lintel over the Windows	7.00 by 0.50 by 0.50
4.13	Lintel over the Windows	9.50 by 0.66 by 0.66
1.44	Lintel over the Door	5.10 by 0.45 by 0.63
2.94	Lintel over the Door	7.00 by 0.60 by 0.70

**Table 11c** Kitchen p 147.

P 148. Rough calculations and the first column of the tables on the facing page. This latter information is tabulated with the remainder of the tables, below.

1.85	Lintel over the Back Door	6.50 by 0.55 by 0.52
2.19	Lintel over the In. Door	7.00 by 0.57 by 0.55

**Table 12a** Back Passage p 149.

1.89	Lintel over the Door	5.25 by 0.60 by 0.60
2.96	Lintel over the Window	8.30 by 0.55 by 0.65
4.05	Lintel in the Stair Case	9.00 by 0.75 by 0.60
3.38	Lintel over the Low Window	8.00 by 0.65 by 0.65
18.20	Oak Boards & laying of the Floor	4.55 by 4.00

**Table 12b** Pantry p 149.

2.09	Lintels over the Windows	7.60 by 0.55 by 0.50
2.97	Lintels over the Windows	7.90 by 0.63 by 0.60
2.31	Lintels over the Door	7.00 by 0.55 by 0.60

**Table 12c** Study p 149.

3.20	Lintel over the Front Door	8.00 by 0.50 by 0.80
------	----------------------------	----------------------

**Table 12d** Front passage p 149.

1.99	Lintel over the Door	6.25 by 0.57 by 0.56
2.42	Lintel over the Windows	8.00 by 0.55 by 0.55
2.66	Lintel over the Windows	7.40 by 0.60 by 0.60

**Table 12e** Parlor p 149.

10.69	Lintels over the Windows	27.00 by 0.66 by 0.60
1.27	Lintels by the Windows	5.10 by 0.50 by 0.50
1.27	Lintels by the Windows	5.10 by 0.50 by 0.50
1.55	Lintels over the Door	6.75 by 0.46 by 0.50
2.02	Lintels over the Door	6.50 by 0.52 by 0.60
1.82	Lintels over the Door	6.50 by 0.56 by 0.50
1.82	Lintels over the Door	7.00 by 0.52 by 0.50

**Table 12f** Best low room p 149.

45.50	10 Joists under the staircase	Each 4.55
1.66	Lintels over the Door	6.40 by 0.52 by 0.50
1.60	Lintels over the Door	6.40 by 0.50 by 0.50
64.14	2 Sashes in the Kitchen Chamber	Each 7.05 by 4.55
96.21	3 Sashes in the Best Chamber	Each 7.05 by 4.55
64.15	2 Sashes in the Parlor Chamber	Each 7.05 by 4.55
140.50	4 Sashes	Each 7.72 by 4.55
9.61	Gart Sash	3.10 by 3.10

**Table 12g** Cellar p 149.

P 150. Rough calculations.

62.00	Stair Case Sash	7.35) by 8.20 0.12)
10.80) 10.80)	Semicircular top	5.25 by 2.62 double measure
210.72	6 Sashes	7.12 by 4.55 each = 35.12
160.38	5 Sashes	Each 7.05 by 4.55 = 32.08
48.98	2 Cellar Sashes	Each 6.20 by 3.95 = 24.49
19.50	Garret Sash	5.00 by 3.96

**Table 13** William Thompson's Joyner work 22<sup>nd</sup> 12<sup>th</sup>. P 151.

Copied out & finished.

From the above lists it is possible to extract the dimensions of several rooms. The dimensions were originally recorded in yards and decimals of a yard. By multiplying each measurement by 0.9114 we can give the dimensions in metres.

Room	Dimensions in yards	Metric equivalent
Kitchen (possible)	6.55 x 5.54	5.99 x 5.07
Over the stairs floor	6.28 x 4.55	5.72 x 4.15
Unknown chamber	5.47 x 6.25	4.99 x 5.70
Back passage	5.60 x 2.66	5.10 x 2.42

Chamber over the pantry	3.90 x 5.55	3.57 x 5.06
Staircase passage	4.60 x 2.00	4.19 x 1.83
Chamber over the study	3.80 x 3.00	3.46 x 2.73
Parlor chamber	5.45 x 5.45	4.97 x 4.96
Best chamber	6.35 x 6.80	5.80 x 6.20
Pantry	4.55 x 4.00	4.15 x 3.65

**Table 14** Room dimensions.

Notes from all the above:

‘Chamber over the pantry’ implies that the Pantry is on the ground floor.

‘Pantry partition’ p 37 implies that the pantry has a dividing wall.

‘Chamber over the study’ implies that the study is on the ground floor.

‘Over the kitchen’ p 139 implies that the kitchen is on the ground floor.

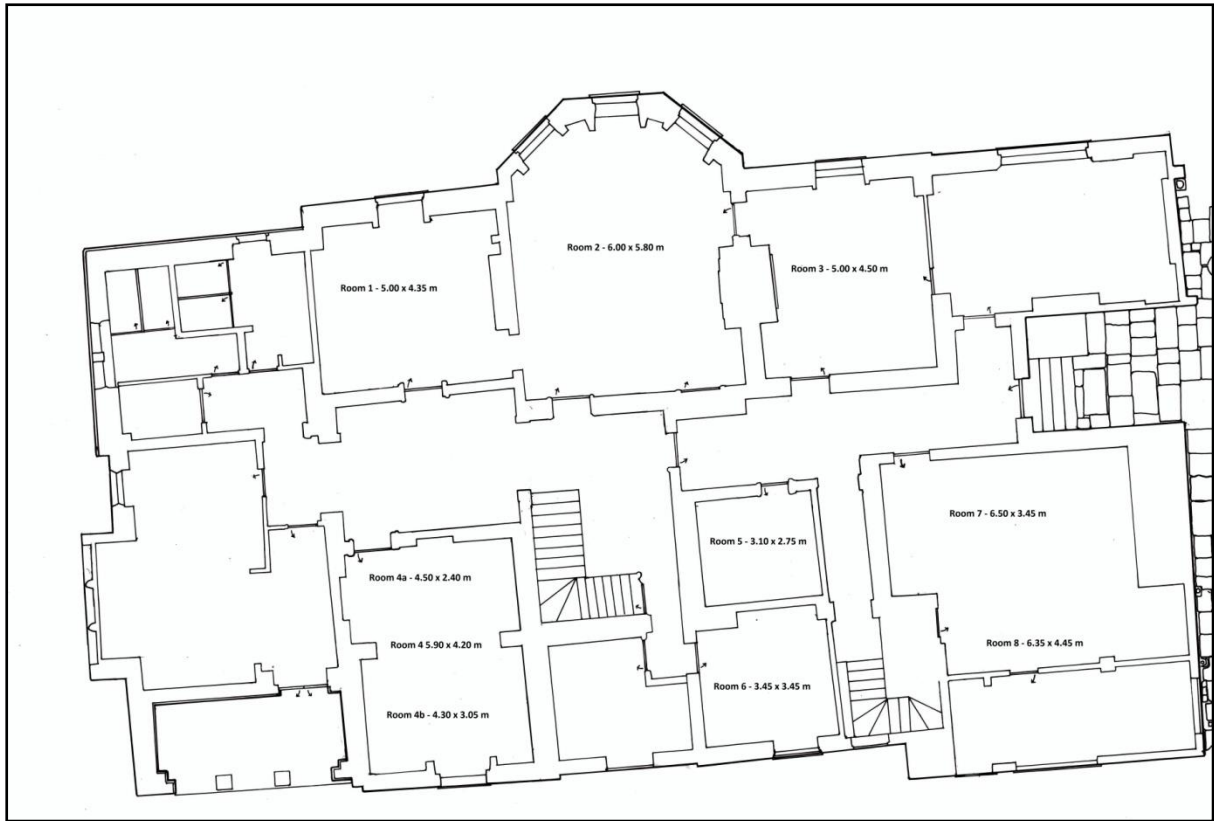
These are the dimensions of the rooms in Meersbrook Hall, measured from the 1:50 plans, to the insides of the walls and not including the chimney breasts which would have shortened some of the measurements:

Room number, from plan	Dimensions in metres
1	5.00 x 4.35
2	6.00 x 5.80
3	5.00 x 4.50
4a	4.50 x 2.40
4b	4.30 x 3.05
4	5.90 x 4.20
5	3.10 x 2.75
6	3.45 x 3.45
7	6.50 x 3.45
8	6.35 x 4.45

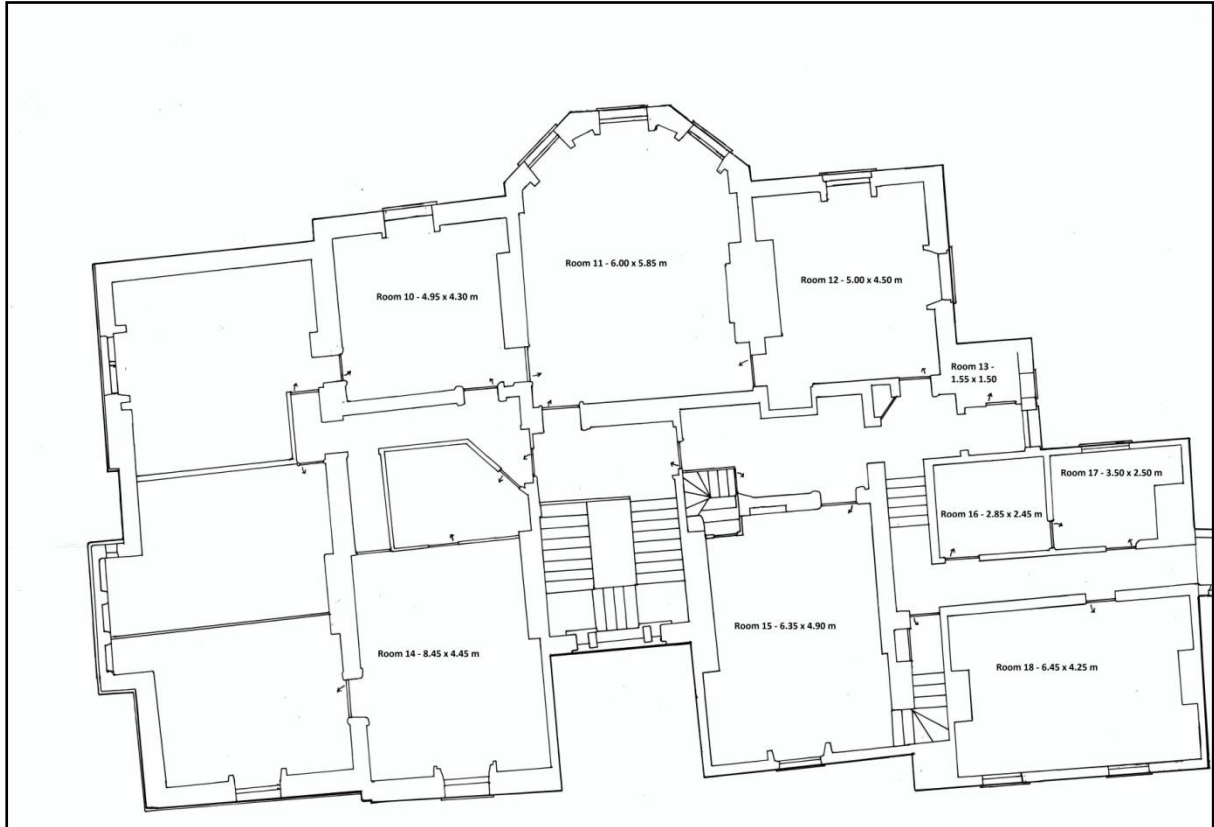
**Table 15a** Ground floor.

Room number, from plan	Dimensions in metres
10	4.95 x 4.30
11	6.00 x 5.85
12	5.00 x 4.50
13	1.55 x 1.50
14	8.45 x 4.45
15	6.35 x 4.90
16	2.85 x 2.45
17	3.50 x 2.50
18	6.45 x 4.25

**Table 15 b** Upper floor.



**Fig 1** Meersbrook Hall. Ground floor room dimensions for the 1759 building.



**Fig 2** Meersbrook Hall. Upper floor room dimensions for the 1759 building.

## APPENDIX 5 – Walled Garden measurements

### 1 – Brick sampling

**Sample 1.** Outer E wall.  $6.38 \times 3.18 \text{ m} = 20.2884 \text{ m}^2$ . 38 courses of bricks with 31 bricks per course over a distance of 6.38 m = 1178 bricks in  $20.2884 \text{ m}^2 = \mathbf{58.06 \text{ bricks m}^{-2}}$ .

**Sample 2.** Outer E wall.  $6.28 \times 3.57 = 22.4196 \text{ m}^2$ . 43 courses of bricks with 30 bricks per course over a distance of 6.28 m = 1290 bricks in  $22.4196 \text{ m}^2 = \mathbf{57.54 \text{ bricks m}^{-2}}$ .

**Sample 3.** Outer E wall.  $6.18 \times 3.20 \text{ m} = 19.7760 \text{ m}^2$ . 38 courses of bricks with 29 bricks per course over a distance of 6.18 m = 1102 bricks in  $19.7760 \text{ m}^2 = \mathbf{55.72 \text{ bricks m}^{-2}}$ .

**Sample 4.** Outer E wall.  $6.70 \times 3.12 \text{ m} = 20.9040 \text{ m}^2$ . 38 courses of bricks with 32 bricks per course over a distance of 6.70 m = 1216 bricks in  $20.9040 \text{ m}^2 = \mathbf{58.17 \text{ bricks m}^{-2}}$ .

The first, third and fourth samples were all taken from the outer face of the E wall where the wall is a consistent 38 courses high, and the bricks are the same size. The reason for the variation is the amount of mortar used between bricks, which gives rise to variations in height measurements.

**Sample 5.** South wall from SE corner to the 1<sup>st</sup> buttress.

$7.37 \text{ m} \times 3.00 \text{ m} = 22.1100 \text{ m}^2$ . 37 courses of bricks with 31 bricks per course over a distance of 7.37 m = 1147 bricks in  $22.11 \text{ m}^2 = \mathbf{51.88 \text{ bricks m}^{-2}}$ .

The average of these five samples is **56.274 bricks m<sup>-2</sup>**.

Wherever measured the bricks are a consistent 23 x 11 x 7 cm (9 x 4 ¼ x 2 ¾ inches).

### 2 – Outer wall measurements.

The SE corner has been butt-jointed with the E wall built first.

The SW corner has been butt-jointed with the S wall built first.

The NE corner has been butt-jointed on the inside with the E wall built first. However, the corner has been bonded on the outside. As the N wall is a hollow hot wall the sequence of building is:

East wall built first. Inner N wall and S wall built next. W wall built next. Outer N wall built last and bonded to E wall.

The buttresses on the outer E wall are 2.20 m high, 0.12 m deep and 0.48 m wide.

Wall measurements taken from the 1:100 plan. These are the total wall lengths, not allowing for doors. The E and W walls are 4 courses thick. The S wall is 3 courses thick. The N wall is 4 courses thick with an internal cavity to allow the passage of hot air.

Wall	Length	Length x number of courses
S wall	61.3 m	$61.3 \times 3 = 183.9 \text{ m}$
W wall, N part	35.5 m	$35.5 \times 4 = 142.0 \text{ m}$
W wall S part	34.3 m	$34.3 \times 4 = 137.2 \text{ m}$
E wall	69.4 m	$69.4 \times 4 = 277.6 \text{ m}$
N wall	73.3 m	$73.3 \times 4 = 293.2 \text{ m}$
<b>Total</b>	<b>273.8 m</b>	<b>1033.9 m</b>

**Table 1** Wall lengths from the survey.

From this and the density of bricks m<sup>-2</sup> it is possible to get an idea of how many bricks were used to construct the walls. Calculating for a height of 40 courses or 3.32 m, the total surface

area is  $1,033.9 \text{ m} \times 3.32 \text{ m} = 3,432.548 \text{ m}^2 \times 56.274 = 193,163.2062$  bricks. This is only an estimate as we know that the E wall, the only wall where it was possible to measure to the base, is 38 courses high. However, it was possible to see that the N wall was at least 44 courses high from the outside, where badgers had dug holes.

The E wall is 38 courses high and if we take an average of the 3 height readings we get 3.17 m and an average brick density of 57.32 bricks  $\text{m}^{-2}$ . If all the courses combined give a wall length of 277.6 m then the number of bricks will be  $277.6 \times 3.17 = 879.992 \text{ m}^{-2} \times 57.32 = 50,441.14144$  bricks.

If we assume that the other three walls are all 44 courses high, this gives a total length of 756.3 m. 44 courses would be 3.652 m, so a total surface area of  $756.3 \times 3.652 = 2,762.0076 \text{ m}^{-2}$ . If we assume the average density is 56.274 bricks  $\text{m}^{-2}$  then the total number of bricks will be  $2,762.0076 \times 56.274 = 155,429.2157$  bricks. Adding the amount for the e wall gives 205,870.3571 bricks.

It is possible to get other, similar figures with different combinations of figures but a round figure of about 200,000 bricks would be a good estimate.

### **3 – Internal area**

The 1:100 map was used to obtain an accurate measurement of the total internal area of the walled garden. The internal area is 3,616.045  $\text{m}^2$  or 0.3616 hectares or 0.8935 acres.

## APPENDIX 6 – Meersbrook Hall timeline

### Meersbrook Hall timeline

1756 – The old Sheffield to Derby route, probably no more than a horse and cart track, was properly metalled and made a turnpike road.

May 1759 – Benjamin Roebuck purchased 34 acres of land in Meersbrook.

July 1759 – Construction of the Hall began with the cellar being dug out and lined with brick.

December 1759 – Construction of the Hall was well under way with materials brought to the site. The walls and roof had been constructed and the windows were being installed.

1760 – The Roebuck family; Benjamin, Elizabeth and their children, Thomas, Robert, Benjamin and Elizabeth, move in.

1769 – Elizabeth roebuck died.

1778 – The Roebuck family moved out of Meersbrook Hall and the Shore family moved in.

1819 – The Hall is extended to the west.

1864 – Urith Lydia, the last of the Shores dies.

1864 – The Hall is used as premises for the family of William Pashley Milner, a J.P. for West Riding and Derbyshire, Magistrate.

October 1884 – William Pashley Milner died.

1885 – The Hall was left empty, managed by a syndicate of London stockbrokers, the Lands Allotment Company, in 1885.

April 1890 – The Hall had an official opening as the home of the Ruskin collection.

1898-1905 – The eastern wing of the U-shaped barn is demolished.

1941-1942 – The Hall is staffed by RAF personnel and housed a barrage balloon.

1953 – The Ruskin collection was moved out and the Hall remained empty.

March 1960 – Sheffield City Council began to use the Hall as offices for the Parks and Recreation department.

April 2016 – The Parks and Recreation Department moved out and the Hall was given to Heeley Development Trust on a lease.

## GLOSSARY

From Brunskill R W (1994) Timber Building in Britain

**Common rafters** – Regularly spaced uniform rafters placed along the length of a roof or between principal rafters.

**Dragon piece** – 1-A horizontal piece of timber bisecting the angle formed by two wall-plates and running between the corner and an angle to receive a hip rafter.

2-A horizontal piece of timber running across wall-plates to support the intersection of two sills in a jettied floor and back to receive the shortened lengths of joist in the jettied floor.

Sometimes the two terms were distinguished in that the term **dragon piece** was used in connection with roof construction and **dragon beam** in floor construction. (Brunskill, 1994, 126-7).

**Handrail** – a continuous member holding the upper end of a **baluster** of a staircase. These are often moulded.

**Joist** – A beam, usually laid as a series of parallel beams, which supports the floorboards, which are usually nailed to them.

**Jowl** – The enlarged head of a **post**. A **jowl** allows a timber carried by the **post** to be properly located and securely fixed. The shape of all the **jowls** in Bishops House is that of a graceful flare.

**King post** – A vertical timber placed centrally on a **tie-beam**, rising to the apex of the roof to support a **ridge-piece**.

**Principal rafter** – The paired inclined lateral timbers of a truss.

**Purlin** – A horizontal longitudinal timber in a roof structure placed some way up the slope of the roof, which carries the weight of **common rafters**. They are usually paired, to either side of the peak of the roof, and called **side purlins**.

**Quoins** – Dressed or otherwise emphasised stones at the angles of a building.

**Rafters** – Inclined lateral timbers supporting the roof covering.

**Ridge timber or Ridge-piece** – A horizontal timber at the apex of a roof, supporting the ends of the **rafters**.

**Riser** – On a staircase, the vertical face of a step.

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### PICTURE CREDITS

Unless otherwise stated below all the pictures were taken by the author, mostly between 2017 and 2023. All the plans and wall elevations were produced by the author, who has credited helpers above. All the landscape maps were produced by the author.

The picture of the barrage balloon in Meersbrook Park in Section 4 is credited to Heeley History workshop (2010).

The following images are from the Sheffield City Archives and Sheffield Local Studies Library:

#### **Meersbrook Hall 6 – The walled garden**

**Fig 1** credit Sheffield City Archives ref. NSC/127.

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