

ITEM	HISTORICAL DETAIL	WORKS
<p>FURNITURE Lantern: ptd metal with ptd glass panels</p>	<p><i>I have filled Mr Bentley's Gothic lanthorn with painted glass, which casts the most venerable gloom on the stairs that ever was seen.....</i> [HW to Montagu 11 June 1753 (iii, 164)</p> <p>Lantern 20C copy of original now at Farmington - needs rope and tassel [MS] Post 1980s introduction</p> <p>LW had chandelier</p>	

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F/1/7 THE ARMOURY 1753 Armoury 1754 Armoury		
CEILING Groin vault of three bays, worked in lime plaster on lath. Inspection from roof access hatch suggest ceiling survives from C18. Applied cast ornament of fleur-de-lys. The ceiling painted dark blue with the applied ornament picked out in gold paint. Overall appears in sound condition. The face of the ceiling decorated with later cast fleur-de-lys.	Ceiling plan appears to date from 1752 with applied ornament of about 1857. Is an open vestibule of three Gothic arches <small>Description 1784 440</small> <i>Country Life</i> photograph showing ceiling painted light colour Paint scheme devised by Peter Rose, introduces dark blue, and probably renewed by John Warren 1984 after dry rot repairs. 1922 1960	Redecorate based on paint analysis, consider monochromatic scheme - retain C19 ornament
CORNICE none		
WALLS West wall brick and steel frame construction; rebuilt 1984 after dry rot repairs. Photographs suggest concrete block (breezeblock?) construction with steel beams, plastered directly onto block. North Wall timber framed with nogging. East wall uncertain		
ARCADE Cluster Gothic columns forming three bay arcade, the outer and norther columns engaged to wall acting as real support to plaster-work groin vaulting above. The columns set on octagonal plinths, in height relating to the skirting. Arcade of the Armoury relates to the Hall screen, same column design, dividing the Hall from the stair.		

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<p>NICHE</p> <p>Lancet arch shaped, inserted into west wall.</p>	<p>Lancet arch shaped niche inserted to accommodate tournament armour acquired by Walpole in 1771. Present arch reinstated 1984, car</p> <p>1771 Jan 7 [HW to Lady Ossory] I have the satisfaction of announcing to you the arrival of two great peronages from France; one is Mademoiselle Heinel, the famous dancer; [Fn15] the other, King Francis the First. [FN 16 HW purchased the armour said to have been made for François I (1494 - 1547), K. Of Frances, for £52. 10. 0, Mme du Deffand acting as his agent. It was sold SH xix. 77 for £320.5.0 See Appendix 1.] In short, the armour of the latter is actually here, and in its niche, which I have had made for it on the staircase; and a very little stretch of the imagination will give it all the visionary dignity of the gigantic hand in armour that I dreamt of seeing on the balustrade of the staircase at Otranto. [FN 17] If this is not realizing one's dreams, I don't know what is.</p> <p>1784 Illustrated 32 67</p> <p>1780s Carter sketches and finished watercolours, shows suite of armour arranged with horse armour as well D 1784 43</p> <p>1984 framing of the niche rediscovered during 1984 building works. Huntington RB 130368 folio 49 verso</p>	<p>Reduced depth</p>
<p>DADO / SKIRTING</p> <p>Dado: None</p> <p>Skirting: Plain timber, upper edge moulded.</p>	<p>Skirting appears as in C18 views,</p> <p>1788 Carter sketch and finished drawing showing skirting detail.</p>	<p>Redecorate following paint analysis.</p>
<p>FLOOR</p> <p>Fitted modern carpet, over floorboards, pegged, lifted for various repair campaigns, screwed and nailed into place. Boards run east and west.</p> <p>Further survey needed.</p>	<p>HW - boarded floor to give primitive castle look boards illustrated by Carter</p>	<p>Remove fitted carpet, repair surviving boards.</p>
<p>LIGHTING</p> <p>Small lantern suspended from central bay; position relates to when house was first electrified.</p>	<p>Present lighting probably dates from 1930s; during HW period light from window and lantern otherwise dark.</p>	
<p>WINDOWS</p> <p>Lancet arch-shaped window filled with decorative glazing</p>		

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<p>F/1/7 W 1 architrave frame shutter casement glazing hardware furniture</p>	<p>W 1 Window created in 1752 / 3 building campaign, glass rearranged by Baillie and architrave frame shutter casement glazing hardware furniture 1771 Jan 7 1784 1784 1883</p> <p>looking west moulded timber, standard pattern, wrought-iron frame, Gothic lancet arch shaped none evident, presumed lost during various post 1958 restoration works Lower portion of right-hand (N) casement swings.</p> <p>Window created in 1752 / 3 building campaign, glass rearranged by Baillie and lost, wall wholly rebuilt 1984 removing all evidence. Possibly C 18, but possibly renewed by Baillie, type is like other surviving wrought-iron casements. Not described by Cole 1762 - presume not heraldic. Present scheme illustrated pre 1924, but not as [Carter] which shows a less ordered assembly of fragments. Presume arrangement reflects post <i>Safe</i> mid-C19 scheme</p> <p>wrought ring [HW to Conway]...nine thousand powder-mills broke loose yesterday morning on Hounslow Heath; [FN 1] a whole squadron of them came thither, and have broken eight of my painted glass windows; and the north side of the castle looks as if it had stood a siege The two next great sufferers are indeed two of the least valuable, being the passage windows to the library and great parlour 39 152</p> <p>THE ARMOURY ... lighted by a window entirely of painted glass, and ornamented Description 1784440</p> <p>[watercolour views (2) by Carter and Edward Edwards The principal Landing is an OPEN VESTIBULE OF THREE GOTHIC ARCHES, lighted by a window of old stained glass; from this is entered VENTOMS</p> <p>Cole (transcript p.2 1st para) mentions 'two ancient Coats of the same sort...for Cavendish in the Star Chamber, see illustration C5713-03. Outside the Library is a pair of armorials of the same description, their shields are shaped rather than simple, but definitely the same intermarriage with Cavendish. From the Star Chamber? Note from M E Peover</p>	
<p>DOORS D 1 frame leaf hardware furniture other</p>	<p>D 1 architrave frame leaf hardware furniture other</p> <p>Constructed with the staircase about 1752 part of 1752 works, enriched 1857 hinge integrated into door leaf, surviving from 1752. ~1857</p>	

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<p>DECORATION Walls plain painted in pink colour as ground colour of staircase. At the centre of each bay on the north wall and east wall a heraldic badge, presumed as surviving from 1753/4 as by Grant.</p> <p>Dates inscribed (not shown by Bentley but by Carter) are now LOST or overpainted. The dates do not appear in the early photographs whilst the badge on the west wall as shown by Bentley and Carter was LOST after 1924 before 1960 when decorated under the direction of Rose.</p> <p>Bentley and Carter images of Hall, Staircase and Armoury emphasise monochromatic walls, punctuated by heraldic badges painted by Grant</p>	<p>1753 May 22 [HW to Montagu] You may be assured that I will pay you a visit sometime this summer, though not yet, as I cannot leave my workmen, especially as we have a painter who paints the paper on the staircase under Mr Bentley's direction. [FN 6] The armoury [FN 7] bespeaks the ancient chivalry of the lords of the castle, and I have filled Mr Bentley's Gothic lanthorn 9 150</p> <p>1753 June 12 [HW to Mann] ... and a vestibule [FN 10] open with three arches on the landing place, and niches full of trophies of old coats of mail, Indian shields made of rhinoceros's hides, broadswords, quivers, long bows, arrows and spears—all supposed to be taken by Sir Terry Robsart [FN 11] in the holy wards. But as none of this regards the enclosed drawing, I will pass to that. 20 381</p> <p>1754 [July 2d] p^d Grant for painting arms in y^e armoury 8 8 0. Toynbee ACCOUNTS 5</p> <p>1754 Nov p^d Grant for painting arms 1 2 6. Toynbee ACCOUNTS 6</p> <p>1784 Ornamented over the doors and niches with quarterings of the family of Walpole painted by Grant [D.1784 p. 440]</p> <p>1784 Illustrated Carter D 1784 439 [this could be the armoury OR the chimney piece in the Lt Parlour]</p> <p>1810 The Staircase is handsomely decorated with shields and heads; and The Armoury is enriched with suits of armour, swords, scimitars, lances, spears, maces, bows, hatchets, halberds &c.; with a curious Head of Isis, a small model in terra-cotta by Mrs. Damer, which she executed in large, in stone, for the bridge flung across the Thames at Henley. I must not pass wholly unnoticed the Suit of Armour that belonged to Francis the First [...] Mr Walpole, ascending the stairs, said to one of his friends with a smile, whilst pointing to this armour – "you see that <i>little men</i> may be great men" Evans 164+</p> <p>1924 Photograph by <i>Country Life</i>, walls wallpapered LW / Stearne</p> <p>1883 The principal Landing is an OPEN VESTIBULE OF THREE GOTHIC ARCHES, lighted by a window of old stained glass; from this is entered VENTOM 5</p> <p>1960 [repainted as part of Peter Rose scheme]</p>	<p>reinstate or uncover dates</p> <p>Complete heraldic cycle of badges and dates at frieze level. Reinstate lost badge to west wall based on Carter's sketch, reinstate dates beneath</p>
<p>Wall painting A cycle of heraldic shields to each bay, with dates below; first shield (positioned over window) has been LOST or over painted by 1922.</p> <p>Illustration of lost shield by John Carter ~ 1781.</p>	<p>1754 [July 2d] p^d Grant for painting arms in y^e armoury 8 8 0. Toynbee ACCOUNTS 5</p> <p>1754 Nov p^d Grant for painting arms 1 2 6. Toynbee ACCOUNTS 6</p>	<p>Reinstate historic decoration</p>

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<p>WALLPAPER Presently plain-painted pink, in some areas (west wall) appears to be painted directly on to plaster.</p> <p>North and East walls may be lined with historic paper, unclear; west wall comprehensively renewed.</p>	<p>1753 May 22 [HW to Montagu] You may be assured that I will pay you a visit sometime this summer, though not yet, as I cannot leave my workmen, especially as we have a painter who paints the paper on the staircase under Mr Bentley's direction.</p> <p>1771 [Bromwich paid to paper unidentified rooms - presume included alteration of west wall to accommodate niche]</p> <p>1924 Cl. photograph shows patterned paper to all vertical surfaces</p>	<p>West Wall replaced in 1983/4 during last major dry-rot out-brake.</p>
<p>FURNITURE</p> <p>A circular gilt-wood table, the frame and legs with carved gesso decoration; the top of white marble. Historically furnished with trophies of weapons and armour as depicted by Bentley, Carter and Harding with sarcophagus and bas-relief panels moving in and out at different times.</p>		

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<p>PICTURES / COLLECTIONS</p> <p>A collection of weapons arranged as a trophy, no pictures.</p>	<p>Historic C 18 views show a variety of objects hanging in Armoury. Including pictures of Netherlandish church, painted tournament shields and trophies of weapons.</p> <p>1774 Feb 22 [HW to Hamilton] [revival of Vandyke Dress] In the meantime your Gothic shields [FN 27] will be extremely welcome. As both duels [FN 28] and changes of raiment are in fashion, I will wear one at the first tournament in defence of the next maid of honour that is accused of bigamy. [FN 29]</p> <p>1774 June 19 [HW to Hamilton] For fear of troubling you, dear Sir, with two letters instead of one, I waited for the arrival of the shields [FN 1 see ante HW to Hamilton 22 Feb. 1774] before I thanked you for them—but it put my gratitude to pain, for I did not receive them till the day before yesterday. Now they are come, it will, which is very selfish, double my gratitude, for they are fine and most charming—nay, almost in too good taste, not to put my Gothic house to shame—I wish the Medusas could turn it to stone! In short I am exceedingly obliged to you; but though I have spared you one letter of my own, it will cost you another of yours, for you must tell me more about them. The two that are painted, [FN 2] are in the great style of the best age; and by the Earl of Surrey's shield in the Duke of Norfolk's possession, [FN 3] which is in the same manner as to the form and disposition, though not so bold, I should conclude they are by Polidore, [FN 4] or of that school. Pray satisfy me, and of the pedigree of the other too, which by the battlements on the buildings my house pretends is of its own family. I am going to hang them by the beautiful armour of Francis I [FN 5] and they will certainly make me dream of another Castle of Otranto, or at least of a tournament more superb than Lord Stanley's <i>fête-champêtre</i>.</p> <p>1779 Dec 14 [HW to Lady Ossory] In fact I am impatient to thank your Ladyship and Mr Fitzpatrick for his intended offering to the Armoury at Strawberry, [FN 1] where it shall be consecrated on the fourth of November, [FN 2 The Anniversary of the birth of William III.] a more solemn holiday there than the fifth. [FN 3] I recollect a story of James I, who being seized with the colic as he was ... I will preserve Mr Fitz's present carefully, that so sovereign a medicine may have a chance of returning whence it came; and in case of need, of going through all the Scots that deserve it.</p> <p>1789 July 9 [HW to Mary Berry] I hear a gentleman in the armoury ask the housekeeper as he looked at the bows and arrows, "pray, does Mr Walpole shoot?" No, nor with pistols neither. I leave all weapons to Lady Salisbury and Mr Lennox.</p> <p>Roman ossuaries acquired 1740s for Arlington Street then moved later to S</p>	

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letters +9 n 146 The Armoury - +9 150 The Armoury - +11 25n The Armoury - +11 25 The Armoury -	+20 281 The Armoury - 20 348n The Armoury - 20 375n The Armoury - +20 396 The Armoury - +20 400 The Armoury - ?31 22 The Armoury - contents	+32 66 The Armoury - +33 146-7 The Armoury - +35 419 shields +35 421 The Armoury - shields to hang in +39 152
	1753 May 22 [HW to Montagu] You may be assured that I will pay you a visit sometime this summer, though not yet, as I cannot leave my workmen, especially as we have a painter who paints the paper on the staircase under Mr Bentley's direction. [FN 6] The armoury [FN 7] bespeaks the ancient chivalry of the lords of the castle, and I have filled Mr Bentley's Gothic lanthorn <p style="text-align: right;">9 150</p> with painted glass, which casts the most venerable gloom on the stairs that was ever seen since the days of Abelard. [FN 8] The lanthorn itself in which I have struck a coat of the Verses is supposed to have come from Castle Henningham. [FN 9] Lord and Lady Vere were here f'other day, and called cousins with it, and would very readily have invited it to Hanworth, but her Portuguese blood has so blackened the true stream, [FN 10] that I can't bring myself to offer so fair a gift to their chapel. <p style="text-align: right;">9 151</p>	
	1753 June 12 [HW to Mann] The enclosed enchanted little landscape (then is Strawberry Hill) is given entire while they pretend infamous as they are, to be offer them etc. but when I gave them this oil of barbaric fancy, they succeeded to a miracle: it is impossible or first agn't not to conclude that they contain the history of Attila or Totilla. [FN 8] done about it - very era. From hence under two glimny pictures you come to the half arm staircase, which it is impossible to describe to you - as it is the most singular and chief beauty of the castle. [FN 9] Imagine the walls covered with painted paper, but it is really paper painted in perspective to represent Gothic tracery: the lightest Gothic balustrade of the staircase, adorned with antelopes (oak supporters) bearing shields; lean windows furnished with rich sails in painted glass, and a vestibule [FN 10] open with three arches on the landing place, and niches full of trophies of old coats of mail, Indian shields made of rhinoceros's hides, broadswords, quivers, long bows, arrows and spears—all supposed to be taken by Sir Terry Robsart [FN 11] in the holy wards. But as none of this regards the enclosed drawing, I will pass to that - the room on the ground floor nearest to you is a bedroom (see [FN 12] hung with yellow paper and prints, framed in a new manner invented by John Carrington. It is all as with black and white shades, can't be. Over this is Mr Chulsey's bedroom [FN 13] hung with red - the same manner. The bow window [FN 14] one part of stairs is not yet finished, but in the lower cryzed - is the same <p style="text-align: right;">20 381</p>	

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	<p>1753 Oct 6 [HW to Mann] "...I believe I have mentioned having made a kind of <i>armoury</i>: my upper servant [FN 7], who is full as dull as his predecessor, whom you knew, has had his head so filled with <i>arms</i>, that t'other day, when a man brought home an old chimney-back [FN 8], which I had bought for having belonged to Harry VII, he came running in, and said, "Sir, Sir! Here is a man has brought some more <i>armour</i>!</p> <p>Last week when I was in town, I went to pay a bill to the glazier who fixed up the painted glass: I said, 'Mr. Palmer, [FN 9] you charge me seven shillings a day for your mean's work; I know you give him but two shillings; and I am told that it is impossible for him to earn seven shillings a day...'</p> <p style="text-align: right;">20 396 Toynbee ACCOUNTS 79</p>	
	<p>1753 Nov 9 [Mann to HW] You are much better employed in your <i>armoury</i> and about your painted glass, though I would really take care for the future not to contribute to all Mr Palmer chooses to do. Adieu, my ...</p> <p style="text-align: right;">20 400</p>	
	<p>1754 [July 2d] p^d Grant for painting arms in y^e armoury 8 8 0. Toynbee ACCOUNTS 5</p>	
	<p>1754 Nov p^d Grant for painting arms 1 2 6. Toynbee ACCOUNTS 6</p>	
	<p>175[4] View of Armoury by Bentley</p>	
	<p>1762 June 30 Walpole to Lady Mary Coke</p>	
	<p>1771 Jan 7 [HW to Conway] YOU have read of my calamity without knowing it, and will pity me when you do...nine thousand powder-mills broke loose yesterday morning on Hounslow Heath; [FN 1] a whole squadron of them came thither, and have broken eight of my painted glass windows; and the north side of the castle looks as if it had stood a siege. The two suits in the hall [FN 2] Mr John and Mr Francis [Dec. 1753 - Works I. 401] have suffered most grievously. They have had their bodies cut off and nothing remains but their heads. The two next great sufferers are indeed two of the least valuable, being the passage windows to the library and great parlour—a new pane is demolished in the Round Room and the window by the House is damaged. These in the Gallery and Holbein Room, and Gallery, and Blue Room, and China Closet, have escaped. As the room opens into the northward, the China Closet window had just fell down. The expense of new and coloured glass, [FN 3] A Mr. bow window of another kind was used in the Library and Cassey's room. [1772, OSRDY I. 75] The expense of the broken panes in the Holbein Room is in the Part II of Mr Hindley's, [FN 4] a mass of iron all the north side of the workroom and repaired one another at</p> <p style="text-align: right;">39 152</p>	<p>Hall</p> <p>Armoury, passage to Great Parlour Round Room; Gallery Cabinet; Holbein; Gallery; Blue Room; Green Closet</p> <p>China Closet</p>

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	<p>1771 Jan 7 [HW to Lady Ossory] I have the satisfaction of announcing to you the arrival of tow great peronages from France; one is Mademoiselle Heinel, the famous dancer; [Fn 15] the other, King Francis the First. [FN 16 HW purchased the armour said to have been made for François I (1494 - 1547), K. Of Frances, for £52. 10. 0, Mme du Deffand acting as his agent. It was sold SH xix. 77 for £320.5.0 See Appendix 1.] In short, the armour of the latter is actually here, and in its niche, which I have had made for it on the staircase; and a very little stretch of the imagination will give it all the visionary dignity of the gigantic hand in armour that I dreamt of seeing on the balustrade of the staircase at Otranto. [FN 17] If this is not realizing one's dreams, I don't know what is.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">32 67</p>	<p>ALTERATION - Niche inserted prior to this date</p>
	<p>1774 Feb 22 [HW to Hamilton] [revival of Vandyke Dress] In the meantime your Gothic shields [FN 27] will be extremely welcome. As both duels [FN 28] and changes of raiment are in fashion, I will wear one at the first tournament in defence of the next maid of honour that is accused of bigamy. [FN 29]</p> <p style="text-align: right;">35 419</p>	
	<p>1774 June 19 [HW to Hamilton] For fear of troubling you, dear Sir, with two letters instead of one, I waited for the arrival of the shields [FN 1 see ante HW to Hamilton 22 Feb. 1774] before I thanked you for them—but it put my gratitude to pain, for I did not receive them till the day before yesterday. Now they are come, it will, which is very selfish, double my gratitude, for they are fine and most charming—nay, almost in too good taste, not to put my Gothic house to shame—I wish the Medusas could turn it to stone! In short I am exceedingly obliged to you; but though I have spared you one letter of my own, it will cost you another of yours, for you must tell me more about them. The two that are painted, [FN 2] are in the great style of the best age; and by the Earl of Surrey's shield in the Duke of Norfolk's possession, [FN 3] which is in the same manner as to the form and disposition, though not so bold, I should conclude they are by Polidore, [FN 4] or of that school. Pray satisfy me, and of the pedigree of the other too, which by the battlements on the buildings my house pretends is of its own family. I am going to hang them by the beautiful armour of Francis I [FN 5] and they will certainly make me dream of another Castle of Otranto, or at least of a tournament more superb than Lord Stanley's <i>fête-champêtre</i>,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">35 420</p>	<p>shields</p>

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	1784 THE ARMOURY Is an open vestibule of three Gothic arches, lighted by a window entirely of painted glass, and ornamented over the doors and niches with quarterings of the family of Walpole painted by Grant <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Description</i> 1784 440</p>	
	1789 July 9 [HW to Mary Berry] just now, as I was reading your letter in my bedchamber, while some of my costomers [FN 3 The name given by Mr Walpole to parties coming to view his house' (B Wright vi. 323). His 'costomers' for 9 July were 4 from Mr Roffey ('Visitors').] are seeing the house, I hear a gentleman in the armoury ask the housekeeper as he looked at the bows and arrows, "pray, does Mr Walpole shoot?" No, nor with pistols neither. I leave all weapons to Lady Salisbury and Mr Lennox.' <p style="text-align: right;">11 25</p>	
	1810 The Staircase is handsomely decorated with shields and heads; and The Armoury is enriched with suits of armour, swords, scimitars, lances, spears, maces, bows, hatchets, halberds &c.; with a curious Head of Isis, a small model in terra-cotta by Mrs. Darner, which she executed in large, in stone, for the bridge flung across the Thames at Henley. I must not pass wholly unnoticed the Suit of Armour that belonged to Francis the First [...] Mr Walpole, ascending the stairs, said to one of his friends with a smile, whilst pointing to this armour - "you see that <i>little men</i> may be great men" <p style="text-align: right;">Evans 164+</p>	
	1842 May 16 THE ARMOURY. [lots 64 - 105] <p style="text-align: right;">SALE 194 192 -</p>	
	1883 The principal Landing is an OPEN VESTIBULE OF THREE GOTHIC ARCHES, lighted by a window of old stained glass; from this is entered <p style="text-align: right;">VENTOM 5</p>	
	1924 Photographed by <i>Country Life</i>	