

BACK STAIRS and
BEAUCLERC LANDING F/1/14

Created during the expansion of the house to the west and completed by September 1762 when the decorative glazing was described by the Reverend William Cole. Like the contemporary passageway parallel to the Great Cloister and the slightly earlier Winding Cloister Walpole intentionally varies the plan of the staircase to suggest complexity and ancientness.

At each level of the stair the arrangement of the stair-flights differs. At first floor the lobby was extended to the west (1776) with the addition of the Beauclerc Tower. At that time the ground and first floor west windows were blocked though the opening retained and their original shutters remain in situ. Cole's manuscript drawing at the British Library of the decorative glazing, now lost, suggests that the staircase was at the time of its creation a high status area. The decorative glass, sold in 1842 at the Great Sale, marked the change in status of staircase. Alterations to the second floor and ground floor relate to its use as a service stair, rather than Walpole's complex progression of space from the fine rooms and Print Room (above the Round Drawing Room) to the Great Cloister.

From the later C19 the alteration of the Back Stairs related to simplifying its plan. At first floor, the landing has been subdivided during the early 1980s cutting off its relationship to the Beauclerc Closet and the external glazing has been simplified with the loss of the leaded-lights and casements to the windows.

ITEM	HISTORICAL DETAIL		WORKS
<p>Summary of phases</p> <p>< 1862 Used by HW and later owners as means of communication with Cloyster and Pleasure Ground from the Fine Rooms and 2nd floor private bedchamber / Print room and closet above Round [Drawing] Room prior to 1862.</p> <p>> 1862 Post 1862 used appears to transfer to servant's staircase as direct access to garden is lost and the introduction of the cast iron staircase on the Waidegave wing.</p>	<p>Phases</p> <p>1761-3</p> <p>1771/2</p> <p>1776</p> <p>C19 early</p> <p>1861-3</p> <p>> 1925</p>	<p>First construction phase probably represented in survival of ground and first floor survival</p> <p>Second construction phase - alteration of roof line to accommodate further flight of stairs to 'new garret' i.e. rooms over Great North Bedchamber.</p> <p>Third construction phase - addition of Beauclerc Closet and Beauclerc Landing</p> <p>Blocking in of Gt Cloyster arches affects communication of fine rooms with pleasure ground - use of staircase begins to change.</p> <p>The second floor landing was altered, with the insertion of a new flight of steps to the north and leading through to the Beauclerc Tower. The small closet or green closet which related to HW's round print room was demolished, window openings remained in C18 positions and a new spiral tower staircase was added.</p> <p>About 1960 the bathroom was inserted on the second floor landing. At about the same time or possibly in the 1970s the first three steps at ground floor level linking kitchen lobby G/1/21 with G/1/17 was removed. Probably during the 1980s the first floor landing (Beauclerc landing) was partitioned and the double lobbies were added on the second floor.</p>	
<p>CEILING</p> <p>Lath and plaster, phases of development:</p> <p>East side, flat</p> <p>North side, sweep up, plaster and lath added when tower extended</p>	<p>1771</p> <p>≥ 1861</p>		
<p>WALLS</p> <p>Timber Framed, lath and plaster. West wall broken by a broad arch (now filled).</p>	<p>1776</p>	<p>Beauclerc Tower added with landing</p>	
<p>DECORATION</p> <p>Lined with painted woodchip paper. General condition Very poor</p>	<p>~ 1980</p>		
<p>FLOOR</p> <p>Carpet over underlay.</p> <p>Wide boards</p>	<p>≥ 1972</p> <p>1761/2</p>		

ITEM	HISTORICAL DETAIL	WORKS
<p>WINDOWS</p> <p>F/1/14 W 1 On stairs on north wall of flight - lancet arch shaped opening</p> <p>architrave moulded fillet, inward cavetto, fillet</p> <p>frame Lancet arch shaped, sill with half round and moulded architrave recessed within the opening.</p> <p>shutter lost</p> <p>casement lost; outside of frame with wrought-iron pinions for casement</p> <p>glazing fixed pane of float glass</p> <p>ironmongery two pivots visible to outside and evidence of stay hole now painted over</p> <p>furniture central vertical metal bar fixed to frame</p>	<p>WINDOWS</p> <p>F/1/14 W 1</p> <p>architrave 1761/2</p> <p>frame 1761/2</p> <p>shutter —</p> <p>casement —</p> <p>glazing</p> <p>ironmongery</p>	
<p>WINDOWS</p> <p>F/1/14 W 2 On stairs below</p> <p>architrave Fillet inward cavetto fillet; part of external moulding of window can be felt on the left side on removing shutter.</p> <p>frame lancet arch shaped with timber sill with engaged bead.</p> <p>shutter Wooden panel, shaped to frame with rotating metal bar to hold it in place.</p> <p>casement removed, window covered over when Beauclerk tower added.</p> <p>other On removing shutter the ceiling and wall construction of beauclerk closet is visible and large void upto floor joists of S/1/15;</p>	<p>WINDOWS</p> <p>F/1/14 W 2</p> <p>architrave 1761/2</p> <p>frame 1761/2</p> <p>casement —</p> <p>shutter 1761/2</p> <p>other entombed 1776</p>	
	<p>1761 Aug 20 [HW to Montague] ... painted glass adjusting to the windows on the backstairs [FN 6 Paid for May 1762 'Staircase by the Kitchen' (SH Accounts 9). 'The window on the Staircase' is described in SH Sale Cat xxiv. 55: 'The small window of fine old stained glass, including the following subjects, Abraham and Isaac, Lot and his Brother separating, Isaac and Rebecca at the Well, and 4 others, the size 30 inches by 16.' It was sold to John Greathead, Esq., for £1. 15s.]</p> <p>9 385 + n Toynbee ACCOUNTS 115</p>	

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WINDOWS	1762	In a window of the Back stairs is this Coat; Argent, on a Cheveron inter 3 Lions heads erased Gules a Cross Croslet Or, impales B. a fess counter embattled inter 3 Dolphins niant Or. Crest a Hand ppr cloathed & turned up Argent, holding a Fish Azure. COLE 1762 f 80 v	
	1762	In a Window of the Back Stairs from the Kitchen to the new Gallery are these old Coats: viz: Gules 2 Keys endorsed the one A the other O & Bend & a Sword between them on Bend sinister Pomel O. Blade A. for the See of Winchester impaling Sable 3 Bugle Horns shingled Argent for Horn BP of Winchester in Edward the 6th's time: all encircled by the Garter, as Prelate of the order, & ensigned by a mitre. Horn's Arms are somewhat broken. Just under them are the Arms of Fox BP. of Winchester in Henry 7th's reign, viz: Azure a Pelican outwing itself Or. In regard to BP. Horn's arms as here depicted, it puts me in mind of an egregious blunder of BP Burnett in his History of the Reformation, who, in his 2d volume of that wonderful performance, for which he received the Thanks of one of King Charles 2d's Loyal Parliaments, the author gives the public a Print of BP. Gardiner, as he supposed; but in effect on of BP. Horn; as is evident from Horn's Arms with the Bugle Horns under it: at the same Page 320, of which History, the malevolent Author tells a lying story of BP. Gardiner, about his not dining till he heard of the deaths of Ridley & Latimer: for which Lye, among many others, he is severely called to account by the authors of the Parliamentary History of England. Vol: 3. p. 341. 342 [in much smaller script, presumably later:] However I have reasons, after all, to think that the Bugle Horns may be the Arms of BP Gardiner. In the same window [on back stairs between Kitchen and the new gallery] is the following Device or Rebus; viz: a Tun or Vessel, & above it is wrote the Letters LEP. probably for one whose name was Lepton. COLE 1762 f 82 r	
	1772 <April	Bricklayer, mason, Glazier, & Smith for the new best bedchamber, Stairs & Garrets 69 6 9. Toynbee Accounts 12	
	1842 May 21	THE WINDOW ON THE STAIRCASE. 55 The small window of fine old stained glass, including the following subjects Abraham and Isaac, Lot and his Brother separating, Isaac and Rebecca at the Well, and 4 others, the size 30 inches by 16 [sold out of house] SALE 243	
DOCUMENTS			
Letters			
9 385 window on			

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	<p>1761 Aug 20 [HW to Montague] I am expecting Mr Chute to hold a chapter on the cabinet [FN 4]— a barge-load of niches, window-frames, and ribs, is arrived. Th cloister [FN 5] is paving, the privy-garden making, painted glass adjusting to the windows on the backstairs [FN 6 Paid for May 1762 'Staircase by the Kitchen' (SH Accounts 9). 'The window on the Staircase' is described in SH Sale Cat xxiv. 55: 'The small window of fine old stained glass, including the following subjects, Abraham and Isaac, Lot and his Brother separating, Isaac and Rebecca at the Well, and 4 others, the size 30 inches by 16.' It was sold to John Greathead, Esq., for £1. 15s.]—With so many irons in the fire, you may imagine I have not much time to write. I wish you as safe and pleasant voyage.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9 35 +1 Toynbee ACCOUNTS 115</p>	<p>? Two windows facing west blocked as of 1776, but still evident as window shutters were retained - WHY did HW leave shutters? And not rectify wall when built over</p> <p>baseline should be 1761 and end on exterior and covered areas 1776.</p>
	<p>1762 In a <u>window</u> of the <u>Back stairs</u> is this Coat; Argent, on a Cheveron inter 3 Lions heads erased Gules a Cross Croslet Or, impales B. a fess counter embattled inter 3 Dolphins niant Or. Crest a Hand ppr cloathed & turned up Argent, holding a Fish Azure.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">COLE 1762 f80 v</p>	Glazing
	<p>1762 May 6 'pd for the building of the gallery, cloyster, Oratory, Servant's hall, cellar, larder, staircase by the Kitchen, privy, Screen to the little garden, & finishing Kitchen, Larder, Scullery & Serts hall</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1241 8 0' Toynbee Accounts 9</p>	Construction: paint samples: both shutters and metal work and frame - both inside and out, interior and exterior window frame, look for render inside wall
	<p>1762 In a Window of the Back Stairs from the Kitchen to the new Gallery are these old Coats: viz: Gules 2 Keys endorsed the one A the other O & Bend & a Sword between them on Bend sinister Pome! O. Blade A. for the See of Winchester impaling Sable 3 Bugle Horns shingled Argent for Horn BP of Winchester in Edward the 6th's time: all encircled by the Garter, as Prelate of the order, & ensigned by a mitre. Horn's Arms are somewhat broken. Just under them are the Arms of Fox BP. of Winchester in Henry 7th's reign, viz: Azure a Pelican outwing itself Or.</p> <p>In regard to BP. Horn's arms as here depicted, it puts me in mind of an egregious blunder of BP Burnett in his History of the Reformation, who, in his 2d volume of that wonderful performance, for which he received the Thanks of one of King Charles 2d's Loyal Parliaments, the author gives the public a Print of BP. Gardiner, as he supposed; but in effect on of BP. Horn; as is evident from Horn's Arms with the Bugle Horns under it: at the same Page 320, of which History, the malevolent Author tells a lying story of BP. Gardiner, about his not dining till he heard of the deaths of Ridley & Latimer: for which Lye, among many others, he is severely called to account by the authors of the Parliamentary History of England. Vol: 3. p. 341. 342 [in much smaller script, presumably later:] However I have reasons, after all, to think that the Bugle Horns may be the Arms of BP Gardiner.</p> <p>In the same window [on back stairs between Kitchen and the new gallery] is the following Device or Rebus; viz: a Tun or Vessel, & above it is wrote the Letters LEP. probably for one whose name was Lepton. COLE 1762 f 82 r</p>	<p>Glazing</p> <p>Where did glass go after 1776?</p> <p>renders should be evident in wall cavity</p>

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	1772 <April	Bricklayer, mason, Glazier, & Smith for the new best bedchamber, Stairs & Garrets 69 6 9. Toynbee Accounts 12	Construction: alteration
	1772 April 13.	p ^d Plaisterer for D ^o . 58 16 0. Toynbee Accounts 12	Construction: alteration
	1784	ON THE BACK STAIRS. Lady Catherine Fitzalan marchioness of Dorset, daughter of William earl of Arundel, and first wife of Henry Grey, afterwards duke of Suffolk, from whom she was divorced to make room for his marriage with lady Frances Brandon, daughter of Mary queen of France and Charles duke of Suffolk. A large piece of still life, by Adrian Van Utrecht. Description 78	Chattels: picture Where is there wall large enough to hang this???
	1842 May 21	THE WINDOW ON THE STAIRCASE. 55 The small window of fine old stained glass, including the following subjects Abraham and Isaac, Lot and his Brother separating, Isaac and Rebecca at the Well, and 4 others, the size 30 inches by 16 [sold out of house] SALE 243	
	1856 Oct 9	'...I am afraid it will not be possible to bring stairs down from the back stairs to communicate with the covered way by the kitchen door. There is not room in any way of altering the back stairs so as to get a proper entrance to an outside stair, nor can a stair be brought down without doing away with the present larder, or by carrying a landing round the small room next to the round drawing room and this again would come in front of the windows on the right and left of the back stairs which would spoil both these rooms. A stair cannot be made there without doing away with the larder or with a landing round the small round room so as to get a stair from the landing to descend on the west side of the door to the kitchen passage and that would be a good job but would be a troublesome affair. The only place that I see it could be done is where you proposed on the south side of the round Drawing room with the doorway through at the blank window. I think I shall make a sketch of this and send it to you, if Lady Waldegrave wishes it.' Mr Richie to ??? Somerset	particularly
	1883	In a passage leading from this landing to the Beauclerk Tower are four Servants' Bedrooms, and a Box-room, and a separate staircase. VENTOM 4	'A separate staircase'
	192[9]	Pugin & Pugin Plan [plan survey and proposal for heating? - not named on plan but indicated. Division between Beauclerk Closet and area before the Drawing Room not shown - suggest drawing is proposal for its removal. As well partition separating staircase from Beauclerk closet not in place] BEDS ROLL RGH/2/335	

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	<p>1958 Dec Sir Albert Richardson Plan {plan recording and with proposal of the restoration of the north entrance. Room not labelled but indicated on plan as on the Pugin & Pugin plan the wall division is missing - is this a tracing error?}</p> <p>BEDS ROLL RGH/2/335</p>	

BEAUCLERC CLOSET	F/1/15
1842	THE BEAUCLERC CLOSET.
1856	Small Round Rom
1883	Hexagon closet
192[9]	VISITORS LAV & W.C.

Mr James Essex was instructed to design the Beauclerk closet which presumably meant the details of the ceiling, door, skirting and window as given in the 1784 Description. The construction of the tower was underway by the summer of 1776 with the detailed interior work probably taking place in the autumn of that year. By July 1777 HW describes the decoration of the room, elements of the ceiling, door, door case, wainscoting and skirting are gilded. The gilded may have extended into the window joinery. The window opening was protected internally by a sliding vertical shutter, the hinged covering flap and shutter remain in place though not operable since the mid 1950s when the shutter tracks were filled with timber filllets. The *Walpole Correspondence* suggests the tower was built, or at least begun and progressed significantly prior to James Essex's visit to design the closet.

Little is know of the C19 arrangement of the room. The glass for the window was bought in at the sale by Lord Waldegrave, however Lady Di Beauclerk's drawings were dispersed. The decorative glazing was removed by 1889 and relocated to another room in the house but the 1776 arrangement of leaded lights framed by blue-coloured frames remained in place until the mid C20. The present broad glass marked with lead tape suggesting leaded lights was added by Sir Albert Richardson.

The Pugin and Pugin plan marks the use of the room as the Visitor's Lavatory and WC, the use of the room was probably initiated as part of the 1861-63 reworking of the house by Lady Waldegrave, and relates to the use of the Tribune as a bedchamber. During the repairs undertaken by AER from 1943-61 the room was stripped of its sanitary wares and used as a sacristy serving the Fathers' private Oratory in the Tribune. A small sink was added and enclosed by small door all introduced ~1955. The 'Hardmanesque' hardware of the sink door was salvaged from door furniture from another area of the house.

ITEM	HISTORICAL DETAIL	WORKS
<p>CEILING Ceiling with tracery (fillet / cavetto / fillet / bead / fillet / cavetto / fillet) applied. All same depth, no hierarchy tracery forms star shaped rose window with circles with quatre-mouchettes between angled compartments. Plaster on lath, painted white.</p> <p>Damaged where later central light fitting applied, water damage and staining, dust marks.</p>	<p>1776</p> <p>1776 Dec 9 [HW to Cole] Pray tell M^r Essex his ceiling [FN 4] is finished, and very well executed^{2 28}</p> <p>1777 July 6 [HW to Mason] the ceiling, door, and surbase are gilt, The ceiling was fortunately finished some time ago. My plasterer is turned raving Methodist. ... I am glad he had no <i>new light</i> about making stucco! Toynbee Accounts 167</p> <p>1784 The BEAUCLERC CLOSET, ... designed by Mr. Essex, architect, of Cambridge, who drew the cieling, door, window, and surbase, Description 78</p>	
<p>CORNICE Moulded cornice merges into wall, run mouldings in white painted plaster, frieze with raised cast alternating shields and acanthus leafs applied on cavetto, bead at bottom of cornice, cracks.</p>	<p>1776</p>	
<p>WALL construction The internal walls, timber framed, sit as an independent unit from the external wall.</p>		
<p>WAINSCOTTING The internal lining or skin of the room constructed of timber framing filled with floating panels; above the dado the panels are vertical, below the boards arranged horizontally and nailed. The inner wall skin creates the shape of the room.</p> <p>Eastern side of the room Wainscotting pierced to accommodate small hand-wash sink has been inserted, concealed behind a timber decorated Gothic door with a cast brass and enameled pull knob.</p>	<p>1953/4</p>	<p>Remove door, niche and sink.</p> <p>Repair wainscotting.</p>

ITEM	HISTORICAL DETAIL	WORKS
<p>WALL HANGINGS Silk damask wall hangings. Nailed at outer edge over underlay or inter-lining on deal wainscotting. The edges fixed with silk tape, double tape in corners. Repeat of damask pattern approx. 650 x 1400mm. Overall condition very poor, faded, worn, ripped, lost mostly in lower portion.</p> <p>Only evidence gathered so far is for the 1777 scheme, not certain when lost, presume after 1842. Further evidence may be found when room is stripped and if seat furniture from room, sold 1842, can be identified.</p>	<p>≥1954</p> <p>1777 {Mar 29} for 36 yards of blue Indian Damask for the Beuclerc-closet 18 18 0 <i>Toynbee Accounts</i> 16</p> <p>1777 July 6 [HW to Mason] Lady Di's drawings ... are hung on Indian blue damask... <i>Toynbee Accounts</i> 167</p> <p>1784 The BEAUCLERC CLOSET, ... The closet is hung with Indian blue damask, <i>Description</i> 78</p> <p><u>Comparative</u> 1738 July 16 [writing about the drawing room curtains] I received Mr Baxter's letter & since I cannot have a Chintz the pattern whereof is long enough for the Room, I should rather chuse a white Indian Damask which is above three quarters a yard wide & wee used to buy them for about seven shillings a yard; if you could help me to twenty or one & twenty yards of such white Indian Damask I should like it... <i>Purfoy letters</i> 105</p>	
<p>DADO 80mm high repeating band with alternating crosses and horizontal two-sided trefoil panels, framing moulding: fillet / cavetto / flat / cavetto / fillet, 785mm from finished floor level.</p> <p>Six panels at each wall segment, tracery of panel is a three foil arch in a lancet arch, same moulding as dado, framing moulding has additional bead applied and separates panels, 560mm high from finished floor level, surface cracked, surface painted, bead aligns with dado moulding. Designed by Mr Essex, and originally painted and gilded.</p>	<p>1777 July 6 [HW to Mason] the ceiling, door, and surbase are gilt, <i>Toynbee Accounts</i> 167</p> <p>1784 The BEAUCLERC CLOSET, ... designed by Mr. Essex, architect, of Cambridge, who drew the cieling, door, window, and surbase... <i>Description</i> 78</p>	
<p>SKIRTING Plain [white] painted softwood board; 105 mm high from finished floor level with a champher, cyma and fillet at the top.</p>	<p>1776</p> <p>1777 July 6 [HW to Mason] the ceiling, door, and surbase are gilt, <i>Toynbee Accounts</i> 167</p>	

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<p>DOOR</p> <p>Architrave F/1/15 side: Lancet arch, carved and painted softwood, three bead columns and four sided capitals on either side, dado melts in with architrave, east capital is partly missing and loose, west capital is almost completely gone, architrave moulding changes at level of capital from cavetto / bead / cyma to flat / chamfer / cavetto / flat to, above capitals arch is crocketed and ends with a finial</p> <p>Architrave F/1/14 side: moulding as fillet / cavetto / fillet / bead</p> <p>Lining: painted softwood, rebated, two mortices visible, C19 hinges and screws in original place</p> <p>Door leaf: painted and decorated softwood, original swing of door, vertical construction, two outer stiles, bottom rail, centre rail and centre stile in upper part, two floating panels, horizontal alteration on west side at spring of arch</p> <p>F/1/14 side: plain painted softwood, C19 I+L hinges and screws, modern door closer applied, enamelled knob, no rose, no escutcheon, hook, paint chipped</p>	<p>1777 July 6 [HW to Mason] the ceiling, door, and surbase are gilt, <i>Toynbee Accounts</i> 167</p> <p>1784 The BEAUCLERC CLOSET, Is a hexagon, built in 1776, and designed by Mr. Essex, architect, of Cambridge, who drew the cieling, door, window, and surbase Description 78</p>	
<p>F/1/15 side: gold painted softwood tracery applied, perpendicular style, partly cracked, finial loose, round shaped plywood underlay with screw-fixed enamelled knob and rose, [mortice lock at higher level, key hole with screw fixed plate inside]</p>		