

ITEM	HISTORICAL DETAIL	WORKS
<p>WINDOW</p> <p>Three trefoil arched window panes separated by softwood moulded and at the bottom chamfer to mullions. Painted with textured paint, stone colour.</p> <p>Above, between the arches of the tracery, two or possibly four fragments of blue coloured glass remains from what seems to be the 1777 glazing scheme.</p> <p>Otherwise float glass with lead tapes.</p> <p>Plastic ventilator applied at 8th pane across all three windows</p> <p>Below, float glass divided internally and externally with a broad lead tape to suggest a configuration of 3 by 9 panes.</p> <p>breast hides vertical sliding softwood shutters, not operating because of fillets at sides.</p> <p>Outer wooden sill is pieced in.</p> <p>The decorative glazing was bought in by Lord Waldegrave, the lower portion of the window with an arrangement of rectangles of plain glass surrounded by a 'fillet' of coloured glass. Glazing appears in the 1889 photograph and that taken by CL in 1922. The arrangement of the leaded lights acknowledges the position of the coloured glass, removed after 1842, and is probably the original arrangement.</p> <p>Remove AER glazing (about 1953 or 4) and reinstate leaded glass with decorative glass roundels to upper compartment of window.</p> <p>Remove fillets added to frame of window (1953 -4) which block the track for the rise-and-fall shutter.</p>	<p>1776</p> <p>≥1953</p> <p>1776 /</p> <p>≥1953</p> <p>≥1953</p> <p>≥1953</p>	<p>Remove</p> <p>Remove</p> <p>Remove</p> <p>Remove float glass with lead tape.</p> <p>Reinstate leaded lights following 1922 photograph</p>

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	<p>1777 July 6 [HW to Mason] in the window are two brave <i>flur de lis</i> and a lion of England, all royally crowned in painted glass, which as Queen Catherine never did happen to write a <i>villet doux</i> in this closet, signify Beauclerc, the denomination of the tower. Toynebee Accounts 167</p> <p>1784 The BEAUCLERC CLOSET. ... In the window is a lion and two fleurs de lys, royally crowned, ancient, but repaired and ornamented by Price; and being hearings in the royal arms, seve for Beauclerc. ... Description 78</p> <p>1842 May 21 THE BEAUCLERC CLOSET. 54 Three fine old pieces of stained glass, forming the upper portion of the window, a centre medallion of a Lion and Fleurs de Lys, surmounted by Crowns, with blue glass to enclose the whole, the size 16 inches by 21 [BOUGHT BY LORD WALDEGRAVE] SALE 242</p>	
SHUTTERS 25mm softwood, mortice and tenon construction, front shutter has half circle recess at top, two hooks each.	1776	
FLOOR Fitted modern patterned carpet, on underlay and particle board lining. Floorboards 210mm running north / south.	≥1972 1776	
WALLS Observed from early 1980s photographs, walls of timber frame construction infilled with nogging, externally rendered with cement [1972] interior lined as other rooms with softwood plain panelling.		

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FURNITURE Disused Desk Computer terminal Chrome-plated Sanctions an artificial Christmas-tree	< 1842	tea chest and waiter, by Clay A writing table Four blue damask stools with black and gold frames	
	> 1855	Used as a lavatory and bathroom; no record of fittings but indicated on Pugin and Pugin plan and AER's survey.	
	1777 July 6	[HW to Mason] This cabinet is to be sacred and not shown to the profane, as the drawings are not for the eyes of the vulgar. <i>Toynbee Accounts</i> 167	
	1779 [Feb 18]	a tea chest for Beauclerc closet 3 3 0. <i>Toynbee Accounts</i> 17	
	1779 [Feb 18]	a writing table for d ^o . 9 9 0. <i>Toynbee Accounts</i> 17	
	1779 [Feb 18]	a waiter D ^o 0 10 6. <i>Toynbee Accounts</i> 17	
	1782 Aug 29	[Lady Mary Coke <i>MS Journals</i>] 'tis the first visit I have made there in eight years during which time some addition has been made to the house and several new things have been brought into it. The Closet that was built for Lady Di Beauclerk's drawings is very pretty and the drawings which is the history of Mr Walpole's play are finer than anything of the sort I ever saw; she is certainly the greatest genius in that way that has appeared for some ages. But probably you have seen the Closet and the drawings and therefore you know all I have said to be true...	
	1784	The BEAUCLERC CLOSET, ...Four blue damask stools with black and gold frames Description 80	

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PICTURES	1777 July 6	Seven of Lady Di Beauclerc's drawings [HW to Mason] Lady Di's drawings ... are hung on Indian blue damask, <div>Toynbee Accounts167</div>	Now at the Wyne
	1777 July 6	[HW to Conway] Remember, neither Lady A. Nor you, nor Mrs D. have seen my new divine closet, [FN 6], nor the billiard-sticks with which the Countess of Pembroke and Arcadia [FN 7] used to play with her brother Sir Philip; [FN 8] <div>39294</div>	
	1784	The BEAUCLERC CLOSET, ... was built on purpose to receive seven incomparable drawings of lady Diana Beauclerc for Mr. Walpole's tragedy of the Mysterious Mother. The beauty and grace of the figures and of the children are inimitable; the expression of the passions most masterly, particularly in the devotion of the countess with the <div>Description78</div> porter, of Benedict in the scene with Masrtin, and the tenderness, despair and resolution of the countess in the last scene; in which is a new strike of double passion in Edmund, whose right hand is clenched and ready to strike with anger, the left hand relents. ... Other pictures in this closet are, Lady Diana Beauclerc, by Powel, after sir J. Reynolds Four fronts of a Gothic house, designed by Mr. John Chute for Mr. Andrews, and built at Spinehill near Donnington-Castle, Berkshire. <div>Description79</div>	
	1784 June 18	[Mary Hamilton's Journal] ... He was also so obliging as to show me again (for I was here last year) the beautiful drawings of Lady Di. Beauclerk, which are in a closet built on purpose, and which he only opens for his most particular friends. These drawings are subjects taken from a play he wrote of the <i>Mysterious Mother</i> . A tragedy I once hear read by Mr Tyghe. The story is the most horrible to be conceived, but these drawings, though they recall to mind the horrid subject, are most affectingly interesting. <div>31216</div>	
	1789 July 9	[HW to Conway] Do you know that I have bought the Jupiter Serapis as well as Julio Clovio! [FN 9 At thee sale [24 April - 8 June 1786] of the Duchess Dowager of Portland [HW]] <div>39442</div> ...I have deposited both the Illumination and the Jupiter in Lady Di's cabinet, [FN 13] which is worthy of them--and here my collection winds up-- <div>39443</div>	
FITTINGS Heater attached with timber bracings to lower panel on east side, lancet arched painted softwood door on east side with painted softwood Gothic trefoil tracery applied, plinths missing, modern hinges, enamelled door knob, recess 230mm deep with in-built handwash basin and tabs, glass shelf at level of spring of arch.			Remove, renew with all services.
LIGHTING Pendant fitting hung from the centre of the ceiling.	19		Remove electric pendant fitting.

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DOCUMENTS		
Letters +2 13n Beauclerc +2 24 +2 28n Beauclerc +2 40 5 392n Beauclerc X10 53n Beauclerc NSI chattels +11 29n Beauclerc X11 82n Beauclerc NSI	24 524 Beauclerc +31 206 Beauclerc 31 216 Beauclerc +31 297 Beauclerc +32 294 Beauclerc +32 304 Beauclerc +32 320 Beauclerc	+32 322 Beauclerc +32 326 Beauclerc +32 358 Beauclerc +32 364 Beauclerc +39 275 +39 294 Beauclerc +39 443 Beauclerc
	1775 Dec 27 [HW to Lady Ossory] Just at present I suppose I am the vainest creature in the universe. Lady Di has drawn three scenes of my tragedy, which if the subject were a quarter as good as the drawings would make me a greater genius than Shakespeare, as she is superior to Guido and Salvator Rosa. Such figures! Such dignity! Such simplicity! Toynbee Accounts 165	
	1776 June 1 [HW to Cole] What is become of Mr Essex? Does he never visit London? I wish I could tempt him thither or hither. I am not only thinking of [FN 4] building my offices in a collegiate style, for which I have a good design and wish to consult him, but I am actually wanting assistance at this very moment about a smaller gallery [FN 5 That is, the Beauclerc Closet, part of the Beauclerc Tower, which was completed in 1777.] that I wish to add this summer; and which if Mr Essex was here he should build directly. It is scarce worth asking him to take the journey on purpose, though I would pay for this journey hither and back, and would lodge him here for the necessary time. [FN 6] I can only beg you to mention it to him as an idle jaunt, the object is so trifling. I. Toynbee Accounts 166	
	1776 June 20 [HW to Lady Ossory] I am to have Mr Essex [FN 7] to-morrow from Cambridge, to try if he can hang me on anywhere another room for Lady Di's drawings [FN 8] I have turned the little yellow bedchamber below stairs into a beauty room, [FN 9] with the pictures I bought, [FN 10] along with the Cowley, [FN 11] at Mr Lovibond's [FN 12] sale, [FN 13] but could not place the drawings there, because 32 294 I will have a sanctuary for them, not to be shown to all the profane that come to see the house, who in truth almost drive me out of my house. 32 295 Toynbee Accounts 166	Essex to visit

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	<p>1776 June 30 [HW to Conway] I have lain but two nights in town since I saw you, [FN 2 HW was in town 19-21 June (Ossory l. 292)] have been else constantly here, very much employed, through doing, hearing, knowing exactly nothing. I have had a Gothic architect [FN 3 James Essex (1722-84), architect and builder; designer of the Beaucherk Tower and the Offices at SH (igid. l. 294, n. 7)] from Cambridge to design me a gallery, which will end in a mouse, that is in a hexagon closet of seven feet diameter. [FN 4 The Beaucherk Tower, 9ft 5 in. in diameter, was HW's last addition to the house itself at SH...] I have been making a bed room.</p> <p>[FN 5] which was obtained by buying two dozen of small cups of Sir Peter Law (if that) and hanging them up and I have been making hay, which is not made because I put it off the three days as I chose it should ruin the landscape when I was to have company; and so the rain is come and has drowned it. However, as I can even turn a calculator at this to comfort the tower, I mention my interest. I have discovered that it is not so good better for me that my hay should be spoiled (but not, for, as the cows will eat it, it is a tragedy, well, in horses will eat it, and give me five shillings and not one horse, so that it can't be that the work my hay is, but better!</p> <p>39 275 Toynbee Accounts 166</p>	Essex has visited
	<p>1776 Sept 9 [HW to Cole] May I trouble you, when you see our friend Mr Essex, to tell him that the tower is covered in. ... I have carried this little tower higher than the round one, and it has an exceedingly pretty effect, breaking the long line of the house picturesquely, and looking very ancient'. 2 24</p> <p>Toynbee Accounts 166</p>	<p>Completion of construction</p> <p>Not indexed by WSL</p>
	<p>1776 Sept 17 [HW to Mason] My whole history consists in having built a new tower, which is a vast deal higher, but very little larger in diameter than an extinguisher; however, it fully answers the founder's intention, which is to hold Lady D's drawings.'</p> <p>Toynbee Accounts 166</p>	
	<p>1776 Sept 22 [HW to Lady Ossory] I am much obliged to Lord Ossory, Madam, and certainly do not mean to steal a visit to Amphil in his absence. I shall not be able to see it this month, for I am waiting for Mr Essex to finish my new tower [FN 1] which, as my farmer [FN 2 Not identified] said, is still older than any of the rest.</p> <p>32 320 Toynbee Accounts 166</p>	<p>Design <i>is still older than any of the rest</i></p>
	<p>1776 Oct 9 [HW to Lady Ossory] I did not think M^r Essex could have come <i>mat à propos</i>, but it is so difficult to get him, and he has built me a tower, so exactly of the fourteenth century, that I did not dare to put him off, lest it should not be ready for furnishing next spring. It is one of those tall thin Flemish towers, that are crowned with a roof like an extinguisher, and puts one in mind of that at Thornbury [FN 5 Thornbury Castle, Gos. near Gloucester and Bristol. HW had been there 15 Aug. 1774 (Country Seats 75; HW to Cole 15 August. 1774, Cole l. 344-5).], called <i>Buckingham's Plotting Closet</i> [FN 6 Thornbury Castle was begun by Edward Stafford (1478-1521), 3d D. Of Buckingham, 1485, who was convicted of disloyalty to Henry VIII and was executed for high treason.]</p> <p>32 322 Toynbee Accounts 166</p>	<p>Design Thorntonbury</p>

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	<p>1776 Oct 13 [HW to Lady Ossory] [I hit my knee which brought the gout thither, and though it is almost gone, it kept me from dining at Lady Blandford's today, [FN 5] and has hindered me from scrambling into my new tower with Mr Essex, which was a vexation; but as I am going got into that very grave year, my sixtieth, it is not becoming to be moved at anything.; and so, as philosophy is always the thing one has when one wants it, I pretended to be very indifferent about going into the tower, and only scolded my footman for something that would not have made me peevish at any other time, which I think proves I am a true philosopher. 32 326</p>	Essex visits
	<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>	Ceiling
	<p>1777 Feb 27 [HW to Cole] 'I enclose a card for your friends, but must advertise them that March is in every respect a wrong month for seeing Strawberry. It not only wants its leaves and beauty then, but most of the small pictures 2 40</p> <p>and curiosities, which are taken down and packed up in winter, are not restored to their places, till the weather is fine and I am more there. Unless they are confined in time, your friends had much better wait till May—but however they will be very welcome to go when they please. I am more personally interested in hoping to see you there this summer. You must visit my new tower, diminutive as it is. It adds much to the antique air of the whole in both fronts. 2 41 Toynbee Accounts 167</p>	House packed up! addition elevation not indexed in Yale
	<p>1777 [Mar 29] for 36 yards of blue Indian Damask for the Beuclerc-closet 18 18 0 Toynbee Accounts 16</p>	
	<p>1777 [Mar 29] To Mr Essex the Architect to the Beuclerc tower & designing the Offices &c. 31 10 0. Toynbee Accounts 16</p>	
	<p>1777 [Mar 29] Bills of Workmen for Beuclerc Tower 225 14 1½ Toynbee Accounts 16</p>	
	<p>1777 June 15 My hexagon closet [FN 17] will be finished in a fortnight, and then I shall be at liberty to pay my duty at Amptill. 32 358</p>	
	<p>1777 July 6 [HW to Lady Ossory] My little hexagon [FN 14 the Beuclerc Tower.] has been more fortunate, and is finished without accident. I trust it will draw a visit from your Ladyship. 32 364 Toynbee Accounts 167</p>	

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	1777 July 6	[HW to Mason] 'I don't know anybody so much in the wrong as you are for not coming to me this summer; you would see such a marvellous closet, so small, so perfect, so respectable; you would swear it came out of Haverling in the Bower, and that Catherine de Valois used to retire into it to write to Owen Tudor. Lady Di's drawings ... are hung on Indian blue damask, the ceiling, door, and surbase are gilt, and in the window are two brave <i>flur de lls</i> and a lion of England, all royally crowned in painted glass, which as Queen Catherine never did happen to write a <i>villet doux</i> in this closet, signify Beauclerc, the denomination of the tower. This cabinet is to be sacred and not shown to the profane, as the drawings are not for the eyes of the vulgar. ... 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		
	1777 July 6	[HW to Conway] Remember, neither Lady A. Nor you, nor Mrs D. Have seen my new divine closet, [FN 6], nor the billiard-sticks with which the Countess of Pembroke and Arcadia [FN 7] used to play with her brother Sir Philip; [FN 8] nor the portrait of <i>la belle</i> Jennings [FN 9 Frances Jennings (ca 1649 - 1731), ...] in the state bedchamber. I go to town this day...		39294	
	1779 [Feb 18]	a tea chest for Beauclerc closet	3 3 0.	Toynbee Accounts 17	
	1779 [Feb 18]	a writing table for d ^o .	9 9 0.	Toynbee Accounts 17	
	1779 [Feb 18]	a waiter D ^o	0 10 6.	Toynbee Accounts 17	
	1782 Aug 29	[Lady Mary Coke <i>MS Journals</i>] I dined at Strawberry Hill in company with Lord and Lady Hertford, Lady Holderness, Lady Greenwich, Lady Margaret Compton, and Lady Browne; 'tis the first visit I have made there in eight years during which time some addition has been made to the house and several new things have been brought into it. The Closet that was built for Lady Di Beauclerkes drawings is very pretty and the drawings which is the history of Mr Walpole's play are finer than anything of the sort I ever saw; she is certainly the greatest genius in that way that has appeared for some ages. But probably you have seen the Closet and the drawings and therefore you know all I have said to be true....we played at cribbage til ten o'clock for alas the day was so cold that instead of walking there was some thoughts of fires'			

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	<p>1783 July 5 [Mary Hamilton's Journal] I was summoned to accompany Mrs W[alsingham] and Miss B[oyle] to Strawberry Hill at half-past one; we got there in an hour. Mr Walpole came down to receive us, he reproached us for being half an hour beyond our time.</p> <p>Mr Walpole was so obliging as to show us pictures, many drawings, and many of the productions of the Strawberry Hill Club, which is all situated, and the little round building, to show us the drawings for the play of the Mysterious Mother. It is impossible to make memorandums of the things I saw. I saw the great variety of things, but we could not take a transient view. There were many portraits of the great and curious things, which I had belonged to famous people, all drawn by the hand of Mrs. M. and Mrs. Vesey. Mr. F. and Mrs. Hand, who came to dinner, were seated at the table with several others. After dinner Mr Walpole showed us a fine china closet on the ground floor, the Library and other rooms. After tea Miss Boyle and myself went to look at the pictures in the Gallery and Drawing-Room adjoining; I made memorandums of some; at half-past seven we were called by Mr Walpole who told us Mrs Walsingham was waiting for us. I left Strawberry Hill with regret as my curiosity was not half satisfied.... (Anson, <i>Mary Hamilton</i> p 141-2)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">31 206</p>	<p>Beauclerc Closet</p> <p>dined China Closet Gallery; Drawing Room</p>
	<p>1784</p> <p>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, In the window is a lion and two fleurs de lys, royally crowned, ancient, but repaired and ornamented by Price; and being hearings in the royal arms, serve for Beauclerc. The closet is hung with Indian blue damask, and was built on purpose to receive seven incomparable drawings of lady Diana Beauclerc for Mr. Walpole's tragedy of the Mysterious Mother. The beauty and grace of the figures and of the children are inimitable; the expression of the passions most masterly, particularly in the devotion of the countess with the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Description 78</p> <p>porter, of Benedict in the scene with Mastin, and the tenderness, despair and resolution of the countess in the last scene; in which is a new strike of double passion in Edmund, whose right hand is clenched and ready to strike with anger, the left hand relents. ...</p> <p>Other pictures in this closet are, Lady Diana Beauclerc, by Powel, after sir J. Reynolds Four fronts of a Gothic house, designed by Mr. John Chute for Mr. Andrews, and built at Spinehill near Donnington-Castle, Berkshire.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Description 79</p> <p>Four blue damask stools with black and gold frames Description 80</p>	

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	1793 July 21	"Went with Mrs Farington and Mr Lysons ... to Strawberry Hill. Lord Orford showed us the house. ... We saw the small room in which were Lady Di Beauclerc's designs for Lord Orford's play of the Mysterious Mother-also his China Closet, neither of which are shown but seldom." <i>Farington in Diary</i> <i>Toynbee Accounts</i> 166	
	1810	The Beauclerc Closet, hung with India blue damask, is an hexagon, built in 1776, on purpose to receive seven incomparable Drawings of Lady Diana Beauclerc, for Mr. Walpole's tragedy of the Mysterious Mother [...] <i>Evans</i> 178	
	1824	[room mentioned included on the public route] <i>Evans II</i> 266	
	1842 May 11	THE LADY DIANA BEAUCLERC'S CLOSET. [lots 30 - 43] SALE 173 172 -	
	1842 May 21	THE BEAUCLERC CLOSET. 54 Three fine old pieces of stained glass, forming the upper portion of the window, a centre medallion of a Lion and Fleurs de Lys, surmounted by Crowns, with blue glass to enclose the whole, the size 16 inches by 21 SALE 242 [BOUGHT BY LORD WALDEGRAVE]	
	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 ??? <i>Somerset</i>	particularly
	1883	Returning to the Corridor is "the Beauclerc Closet," <i>VENTOM</i> 6	
	192[9]	Pugin & Pugin Plan [plan survey and proposal for heating? - named 'VISITORS LAV & W.C. Space indicated retaining its hexagonal plan but with the insertion of wc and basin - projecting into the room, not in the wall as at present] <i>BEDS ROLL RGH/2/335</i>	
	1947	The Beauclerc Closet was built in 1776 and designed by James Essex <i>BICENTENARY</i> 17	