

F/1/19	THE GREAT NORTH BEDCHAMBER
1771	state bedchamber
1772	new best bedchamber
1958	Domestic Oratory

Walpole's final major addition to Strawberry Hill (1771-72) comprised this room, creating two closets which filled the irregular spaces each side of the Tribune and the rooms at second floor directly above. The first and second floors are light construction of timber framing built on top of the 1759-60 Servants Hall. The room is lined with fine-grained deal wainscotting, the lower part is made of horizontal boards suggesting Walpole may have initially intended a decorated timber dado like that in the Gallery or Tribune. The floor level is a slight step up from the level of the Tribune Passage, which is a result of earlier ceiling level of the room below. The south wall conceals a deep void to accommodate the projecting niche and chimney breast of the Gallery. The shared wall with the gallery is constructed wholly of brick, and is rendered with rough-cast, limewashed and painted with *trompe l'oeil* leaded lights. The wall it formed part of the north elevation from 1762 until the construction of the Great North Bedchamber ten years later.

The plan of the room is very simple, in its first incarnation with a pair of doors, designed by John Chute and made by the carver and gilder William Kelsey placed symmetrically on the west wall. The north of the two doors was glazed and the elaborate tracery frame was strengthened by a wrought-iron frame concealed within the decorative timber door leaf. Walpole's inspiration was a Renaissance ceiling, possibly commissioned by William Sandys in the 1520s at The Vyne, Hants, the seat of John Chute. The principal object was the Aubusson tapestry bed and the room was hung with Norwich crimson damask and a 'falling window curtain' described in 1842 as of silk and worsted.

By the time of the 1842 Great Sale the Aubusson hangings for the bed were stored within a chest in the Gallery suggesting the room's use may have changed or was dismantled after Walpole's death. After the sale the room was decorated with wallpaper and the plain glazing to the Glazed Closet door was altered to plane timber panels and it was moved to a new door position linked with the Trunk-Cieled passage. The room was rehung with paper by Cowtan in 1855. During the C19 the room was used as a sitting room. It is thought that the present green paper was added during Lady Waldegrave's redecoration of the room. At some time during the later C19 the structural elements of the bay were renewed, reusing the 1771-72 applied decoration and Peckett's 'ten panes with arms'.

From 1925 until about 1980 the room served as the Father's private oratory. When this function was moved to the Tribune the room was abandoned. The room is one of the most complete of Walpole's interior with only minor C19 alterations: the insertion of a new door opening to the Trunk-Cieled Passage which reuses Kelsey's 1772 doorcase for the Glazed Closet.

ITEM	HISTORICAL DETAIL	WORKS
<b>CEILING</b> Flat lath and plaster ceiling, with applied battens in a geometrical arrangement, some of the intersections indicated by a boss.	1772  1772 April 13.p <sup>d</sup> Plaisterer for D°. 58 16 0. Toynbee Accounts 12 1772 >April to the Plaisterer more 25 0 0. Toynbee Accounts 13 1883 <b>"THE GREAT NORTH CHAMBER."</b> The ceiling is in panels, with raised gilt mouldings and bosses. VENTOM 6	
<b>WALLS</b> The structure of timber frame with brick nogging, rendered externally South: entombing the earlier external render North, East & West: Timber frame and brick nogging	1762 1771-72  1770 Oct 4 [HW to Mann] ... - I am building again! Nay, but only a bedchamber, the sort of room I seem I likely to inhabit much time together. It will be large and on the first floor... 23 240 1771 June 8 [HW to Mann] ...The round tower is finished and magnificent; and the state bedchamber proceeds fast' 23 311 Toynbee Accounts 147 1772 <April Bricklayer, mason, Glazier, & Smith for the new best bedchamber, Stairs & Garrets 69 6 9. Toynbee Accounts 12 1772 May 9 [HW to Mason] ... The State Bedchamber [FN 12] advances rapidly, and will, I hope, be finished before my journey to Yorkshire. In short, this <i>old, old, very old castle</i> , has his prints called old Parr, [FN 13] is so near being perfected that it will certainly be ready by the time I die, to be improved with Indian paper; [FN 13a] or to have the windows cut down to the ground by some travelled lady. 28 28 1772 Dec 12 pd Carpenter, Bricklayer more, & plumber, Glazier, painter, Plaisterer, &c. for new building, new Privy & chapel in the garden 147 09½. Toynbee Accounts 13	
<b>WAINSCOTTING</b> Above dado formed with stiles, rails and broad floating panels, below dado horizontal boards, all of deal. Portion of south wall opened up.	1772-73 1980s The south wall opened up for an undocumented exploration; wall paper cut and wainscot sawn through, removed elements now lost.	

ITEM	HISTORICAL DETAIL	WORKS
<p><b>DADO</b> Dado only expressed in Bay windows. Moulded battens applied to timber boarding. Painted white, gilded.</p>	<p>1773 and C19</p> <p>1773 Kelsey joiner, d°[new room] 29 0 8½ . Toynbee Accounts 14 1780s John Carter sketch and finished watercolour. Low, relating to doors and Round Drawing Room and Gallery. 2 / 2C19 nails appear to be cut wire type</p>	
<p><b>SKIRTING</b> Skirting: high, with large ogee.</p> <p>Low skirting removed, and replace with board that relates in height to the new Waldegrave rooms</p>	<p>C19, 2 / 2</p>	
<p><b>FLOOR</b> Wide boards running east / west, the hearth framed with flush boards. The boards laid flush, blind pegged with very little areas previously lifted. A large Turkish carpet.</p> <p>Floorboards <u>broken</u> where abut north wall at eastern bay window. The Structural Engineer has reported that the wainscot is carrying the weight of the ceiling and second floor partition (modified 1930). The wainscotting is</p> <p>Dark stain at perimeter room.</p>	<p>1772-73 Area of bay windows rebuilt 2 / 2 C19</p> <p>C20</p> <p>1774 Sept 5 Carpets for great bedchamber 16 17 0 . Toynbee Accounts 15 1784 The Great North Bedchamber, A carpet of the manufacture of Moorfields; a foot-carpet of needle-work; and a firescreen of the tapestry of the gobelins. Description 72 1842 May 12 No. 16.-The Decorative Furniture / OF THE GREAT NORTH BED CHAMBER 36 A <i>needlework carpet</i>, black ground, richly worked with flowers, 3¾ yards by 3 SALE 163</p>	<p>Fit trench heaters in bay windows</p>

ITEM	HISTORICAL DETAIL		WORKS
<p>CHIMNEYPIECE Portland Stone, as supplied by Gayfere and carved by Lawrence. Originally gilded Portland stone.</p> <p>Within the opening with inner slips of black marble with gold-colour veins, hearthstone of the same.</p> <p>Cheeks with pink-glazed Gothic decorated tiles. The grate altered.</p> <p>Decorated with gold and white paint added sometime during the C20, 1773 appearance was gilded. The present layout of gilt paint appears to be significantly different than the present decorative scheme.</p>	1773		
	1773		
	≥1856		
	C20		
	1773	Gayfere for Chapel in the garden, Chimney of new room &c. 230 6 0. Toynbee Accounts 14	
	1773	Lawrence for carving in D <sup>o</sup> 64 1 0. Toynbee Accounts 14	
	1784	The Great North Bedchamber. The chimney was designed by Mr. Walpole from the tomb of W. Duddley bishop of Durham, in Westminster-abbey, and is of Portland stone, gilt; with dogs of ormolu with arms and trophies; the chimney-back is ancient, and bears the arms of Henry 7 <sup>th</sup> . On the hearth, two old red china bottles. Description 72	
	1842 May 12	No. 16.—The Decorative Furniture / OF THE GREAT NORTH BED CHAMBER 1A pair of antique fire dogs of or-molu, representing arms and trophies, on scroll stands ... 6 A very fine cast for the back of a grate, representing King William III. On Horseback. SALE 163	
	1842 May 21	THE GREAT NORTH BED CHAMBER. 83 The beautiful carved and gilt CHIMNEY PIECE OF PORTLAND STONE, of Gothic design, rich in effect, and very elaborate in workmanship, formed by an arch springing from two pillars with raised pediments, the idea was taken by Horace Walpole from the tomb of W. Dudley, Bishop of Durham, in Westminster Abbey SALE 247	
	1883	"THE GREAT NORTH CHAMBER." The Chimney Piece, in carved Portland stone was designed by Horace Walpole, from the tomb of Dudley, Bishop of Durham, in Westminster Abbey; VENTOM 6	

ITEM	HISTORICAL DETAIL	WORKS
<p>WINDOWS</p> <p>Two bay windows to north wall, fully supported by north wall of Servant's Hall / i.e. not cantilevered. Ornament by Kelsey.</p> <p>The lower portion of the window decorated with applied moulded battens forming tracery.</p> <p>Shutter present but trapped under weight of deflected ceiling.</p>	<p>1771-3 2/2 C19 &lt; 1922</p> <p>Structure appears to have been rebuilt, presence of cut nails the structure reinforced with bands of horizontal metal bars (by 1922).</p> <p>1773 and 2/2/ C19</p> <p>1771-3</p>	
Decorative glazing by Peckett	<p>1773 pd Peckitt for 10 panes of arms for windows of great bed chamber 28 16 0. <i>Toynbee Accounts</i> 13</p> <p>1842 May 12 No. 16.—The Decorative Furniture / OF THE GREAT NORTH BED CHAMBER 2 A pair of rich crimson silk and worsted damask FALLING WINDOW CURTAINS, with elegant carved and gilt cornices of scroll work, with enriched border <i>SALE</i> 163</p> <p>1842 May 21 THE GREAT NORTH BED CHAMBER. 56 Ten squares of painted glass, forming the upper part of the two windows, representing the various quarterings of the Walpole family, with beautiful narrow borders 57 A small Gothic window in the recess closet, representing a Portrait of Queen Elizabeth, the Royal Arms and Men Gambling, enclosed by borders of old glass 58 Six pieces of stained glass in the closet door in passage, representing Saints and Coats of Arms <i>SALE</i> 244</p> <p>1883 [Bought in] "THE GREAT NORTH CHAMBER." There are two bay windows, with stained glass armorial bearings, and elaborate panelling. <i>VENTOM</i> 6</p> <p>1883 "THE GREAT NORTH CHAMBER." ... There are two bay windows, with stained glass armorial bearings, and elaborate panelling. <i>VENTOM</i> 6</p>	
DOORS	<p>1773 Kelsey joiner, d° [new room] 29 0 8 1/2 . <i>Toynbee Accounts</i> 14</p> <p>1784 ...Over the doors, which were designed by Mr. Chute, and have medallions of Louis 14<sup>th</sup>. And Charles 5<sup>th</sup>. In bronze. <i>Description</i> 73</p> <p>1883 "THE GREAT NORTH CHAMBER." The Chimney Piece, in carved Portland stone ... and the doorways and china cabinet are decorated in similar taste. <i>VENTOM</i> 6</p>	

ITEM	HISTORICAL DETAIL	WORKS
<p>D 1 Links to Trunk Cielied Passage</p> <p>architrave GT N B, shaped to lancet arch and extended above, carved with foliage (gilded) other ornaments painted white. Over the door a circular compartment filled in with softwood, poorly fitted.</p> <p>frame built for single leaf (extant) and probably extended to accommodate second leaf (lost)</p> <p>leaf Lancet leaf, compartmented with solid panels and originally with glass (presumed plain). Ornament of leaf relates to leaf of D 2, east face. Presumed <b>Lost</b> leaf to east side of frame, scars of hinge butts and lock plate present.</p> <p>hardware furniture Cast bronze with enamelled ornament.</p>	<p>D 1 opening 1861; joinery 1772</p> <p>architrave 1772-73 by Kelsey, circular compartment for one of the bronze medallions listed below, lost 1842.</p> <p>frame 1772-73 by Kelsey, extended to accommodate second door to East sometime after 1856.</p> <p>leaf 1772-73 by Kelsey but the sold panels added door is moved to its present position</p> <p>hardware furniture 1771-72 Armature 1772/ Knob added after 1856 John Chute's design for the door, annotated for glazing. <small>Lewis Walpole Library</small> Architrave and leaf as designed by J Chute, 1772-73 by Kelsey but glass removed and solid panels inserted (post 1856; moved to this position post 1856 but possibly not until 1880s or even later. Door elements originally in position of D 3, the outline of this architrave corresponds with scar on wall, Chute's design and description of the Glazed Closet F/1/19.1. Dating of reposition as first paper below surface was hung 1856 and acknowledges frame in 1772-73 position D 3. Door must be moved after 1856.</p>	
<p>D 2 Door to Tribune Passage</p> <p>architrave See D 1</p> <p>frame Rebated to accommodate single leaf</p> <p>leaf East face relates to design of D 1; West face, relates in design to Tribune passage doors, see F/1/16 D 2</p> <p>hardware Butt hinges</p> <p>furniture bronze w/ enamel</p> <p>other</p>	<p>D 2 1762/3, no alteration apart from following:</p> <p>architrave</p> <p>frame</p> <p>leaf</p> <p>hardware 1773, screws hand cut,</p> <p>furniture &gt; 1856, repositioned in late C20</p> <p>other</p> <p>1773 Kelsey joiner, d° [new room] 29 0 8 1/2 . <small>Toynbee Accounts 14</small></p> <p>1784 ...Over the doors, which were designed by Mr. Chute, and have medallions of Louis 14<sup>th</sup>. And Charles 5<sup>th</sup>. In bronze. <small>Description 73</small></p> <p>1883 <b>"THE GREAT NORTH CHAMBER."</b> The Chimney Piece, in carved Portland stone ... and the doorways and china cabinet are decorated in similar taste. <small>VENTOM 6</small></p>	

ITEM	HISTORICAL DETAIL	WORKS
D 3 Door to Glazed Closet architrave Architrave and door fixed to wall with mirror plates; frame leaf glazed upper portion, hardware furniture pull knob in amber glass other	D 3 Post 1856; possibly 1880s architrave frame leaf hardware furniture 2/2 C20 other	See D 1

ITEM	HISTORICAL DETAIL	WORKS
<p>DECORATION</p> <p>Ceiling painted white and gilt. Joinery painted white with areas gilt. Walls hung with green-ground and gilt ornament paper.</p>	<p>≥1856      Possibly late C19 or early C20</p> <p>1772 June 17 [HW to Cole] My new bedchamber will be finished too, which is now all in litter—and besides September is a quiet month; <span style="float:right">1 256 Toynbee Accounts 47</span></p> <p>1777 Sept 21 [HW to Mason] [a camera obscura invented by] a Mr Storer, a Norfolk man, ...It improves the beauty of trees, —I don't know what it does not do—everything for me, for I can have every inside of every room here drawn minutely in the size of this page. ... The perspectives of the house, which I studied so much, are miraculous in this camera. .. and Great Bedchamber, make such pictures as you never saw. [FN 4] <span style="float:right">23 329</span></p> <p>1960-65 PR      No, it really does have great potential. I was in there recently, and I remember going in there previously and hoping that our attention would turn to it, but it never did.</p> <p>ARK      We're keeping our fingers crossed but there is a distinct possibility that we've got someone who will underwrite the refurbishment of that room and we're hoping is that it will come to fruition in time to be completely refurbished for 1997, which is the bicentenary. If it is, then we're going to try to make it burglar proof in order to bring in some museum pieces of considerable value and have them in a secure place as an exhibition for the bicentenary. At the moment we haven't got it confirmed but it's really a £100,000 job.</p> <p style="text-align:right">Antony Kenney Interview with Peter Rose - 23 January 1996 <span style="float:right">9</span></p>	
<p>HANGINGS / WALLPAPER</p> <p>Room hung with green-ground wall paper, with areas of gilding and flock. Repetitive pattern of quatre-foil with gilt sprig.</p> <p>Other papers visible beneath: First paper below is floral Cowtan paper, probably hung 1856. Second paper white ground with foliage.</p> <p>All on scrim over wainscot.</p> <p>North wall, fragment / fibre of red material attached to nail in wainscotting.</p>	<p>Four wall hangings can be documented - 1773 to possibly 1842 with Crimson Norwich Damask, and three wall papers, one prior to 1856, 1856 and the top layer post 1856.</p> <p>1784      Is hung with crimson Norwich damask. <span style="float:right">Description 72</span></p> <p>1810      The Great North-Bedchamber, hung with Norwich crimson damask,... <span style="float:right">Evans 176</span></p> <p>1842 May 12 No. 16.—The Decorative Furniture / OF THE GREAT NORTH BED CHAMBER 2 A pair of rich crimson silk and worsted damask FALLING WINDOW CURTAINS, with elegant carved and gilt cornices of scroll work, with enriched border <span style="float:right">SALE 163</span></p>	



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FURNITURE	1767 Sept 21	[HW to Lady Hervey] [HW's last recorded letter to Lady Hervey, who died 2 September 1768 in the sixty-eighth year of her age and was buried at Uxbridge. She bequeathed HW a <i>crucifix</i> in Lome-hale and 'a small table with a landscape of Seve porcelain, mounted in old japan'; the <i>crucifix</i> being a French crucifix bearing a <i>crucifix</i> and <i>crucifix</i> . The <i>crucifix</i> stood in the Great North Bedchamber and was sold SH xvi. 29; see 'Des. Of SH,' Works ii. 423, 497, and D. M. Stuart, <i>Molly Lepell, Lady Hervey</i> , 1936, pp. 181, 344. HW, at Lord Bristol's request, wrote an elegy for her monument;...	31 137n
	1772 >June	Aubusson tapestry bed & 4 more armchairs 55 5 0.	Toynbee Accounts 13
	1772 Aug 24	[HW to Mason] I found my new bedchamber finished, and it is so charming that I have lost all envy of Castle Howard. The bed [FN 5] would become Cleopatra on the Cydnus, or Venus if she was not past Cupid-bearing. In truth I fear I must call it Sardanapalus's, [FN 6] who, Margaret [FN 7] may, without breach of veracity, assure strangers lived still longer ago than the Goths.	Toynbee Accounts 147 28 42 Toynbee Accounts 148
	1773	Tapestry bed & 4 Chairs 55 5 0.	Toynbee Accounts 13
	1773	Strickland, for hangings making up bed &c. Chairs &c 242 12 6.	Toynbee Accounts 13
	1773 April 7	[HW to Cole] Mr West's books are selling outrageously. [FN 7] His family will make a fortune by what he collected from the stalls and Morefields. [FN 8] ... In short, I have bought his two pictures of Henry V [FN 9] and Henry VIII [FN 10] and their families, the first of which is engraved in my <i>Anecdotes</i> , or as the catalogue says <i>engraved by Mr H. Walpole</i> , [FN 11] and the second described their. The first cost me £38 [FN 12] and the last, £84; though I know Mr West bought it for six guineas. But in fact, these two with my marriages of Henry VI and VII [FN 13] compose such a suite of the House of Lancaster, and enriched my Gothic house so completely, that I would not deny myself. The Henry VII cost me as much, and is less curious; ... I have bought much cheaper at the same sale a picture of Henry VIII and Charles V in one piece, [FN 14] any portrait of either. ...	1305
	1773 April 7	[Lady Mary Coke's Journal] ... many things have been done since I was there. I had never seen the fine bed, nor the State Bedchamber....	31 179
	1775	The Screen cost at Paris 12 12 0.	Toynbee Accounts 15
	1775	p <sup>d</sup> for making up Gobelins screen and two patchwork chairs 17 14 10	Toynbee Accounts 15
		PATCH Possibly the same as panches, and Indian printed cloth, or possibly derived from Indian pitcheries (modern pachedi or pichodi) "coloured calicoes . . . With a plain field or either white, red, blue or maroon, plain borders and wide cross borders" (Irwind and Schwartz).	Textiles 318

ITEM	HISTORICAL DETAIL	WORKS
	<p>1777 (Mar 29) A chintz for the State bed 4 4 0 Toynbee Accounts 16</p> <p>1778 Oct 11 [HW to Mason] ...The tapestry bed in the great chamber [FN 15] looked gorgeous (though it had not an escutcheon of pretence like the Duchess of Chandos's [FN 16 ] while her father and brother are living [FN 17]) and was ready strewed with roses for a hymeneal.' Toynbee Accounts 148 28 446</p> <p>1784 The Great North Bedchamber, ... The bed is of tapestry of Aubusson, festoons of flowers on a white ground, lined with crimson silk; plumes of ostrich feathers at the corners. Six elbow chairs of the same tapestry, with white and gold frames; and six ebony chairs. ... Description 72</p> <p>1785 June 30 [HW to Lady Ossory] All this morning I have been busy in placing Henry VII in the State Bedchamber and making a new arrangement of pictures. It is really a very royal chamber now and much improved. Besides the family of Henry VIII over the chimney as before, [FN 25] and Queen Maintenon over one of the doors, [FN 26] there are Henry VII [FN 27] and Catherine of Braganza, [FN 28] on one side of the bed; Henry VIII [FN 29] and Henriette Duchess of Orléans [FN 30] on the other. [FN 31] There will be a much 33 472 prettier room soon at the other end of the village: Lady Di is painting another, [FN 32] in her villa, Little Marble Hill, which she occupied until 1789... with small pictures framed with wreathes of flowers-- 33 473</p> <p>1842 May 13 IN THE JAPPANED CABINET IN GALLERY.  89 A magnificent suite of hangings for a STATE BED, of very fine old Aubusson tapestry, lined with rich crimson silk, crimson silk curtains, pillow cases, &amp;c., altogether 23 pieces  90 A splendid large Aubusson tapestry quilt  [91 95 related quilts &amp; satin covers for chairs, stools , &amp;c.] SALE 176</p>	

ITEM	HISTORICAL DETAIL				WORKS
PICTURES	1773	altering pictures for do	15 4 6.	Toynbee Accounts 13	
	1773	Nicholls for gilding new bedchamber frames &c.	115 1 9.	Toynbee Accounts 13	
	1773 Aug. 12	Vial's bill for gilding Frames & new frames for bedchamb.	57 11 6 .	Toynbee Accounts 14	
	1773 April 7	[Lady Mary Coke's Journal] ... There are many curious pictures that I liked very much to see...	31	179	
	1777 July 6	[HW to Conway] Remember, neither Lady A. Nor you, nor Mrs D. Have seen ... nor the portrait of <i>la belle</i> Jennings [FN 9] in the state bedchamber....	39	294	
	1784	The Great North Bedchamber, Over the chimney, a large picture of Henry 8 <sup>th</sup> . And his children...	Description	72	
		Over the doors, which were designed by Mr. Chute, and have medallions of Louis 14 <sup>th</sup> . And Charles 5 <sup>th</sup> . In bronze.	Description	73	
	1810	...and over the chimney-piece is a large picture of Henry the Eighth and his children.	Evans	176	
	1842 May 12	No. 16.-The Decorative Furniture / OF THE GREAT NORTH BED CHAMBER 3 A BRILLIANT VAUXHALL PLATE GLASS, <i>in a richly carved and ornamented ebony frame</i> , very elaborately worked and encompassed in a border of matchless carving representing winged men, animals, flowers, and foliage with surprising effect, the size of the plate 29 inches by 21 5 Two old Oriental red China bottles	SALE	163	
LIGHTING A pair of drop pendants from the ceiling, switched at D 2, wiring circuit no longer functioning.					Strip out
	1780 1842 May 12	Carter view showing a pair of sconces to the pier wall. No. 16.-The Decorative Furniture / OF THE GREAT NORTH BED CHAMBER 4 A pair o or-molu sconces for lights, springing from antique masques, with borders of scroll work	SALE	163	
FIXTURES Two bell cranks to either side of chimneypiece	≥1856				
Small round ventilator fixed into the floor, brass, appears to be smith-made.	1 / 2 C 19				
DOCUMENTS					