

SURVEY OF LONDON

VOL. XXV

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

(THE PARISHES OF

ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, SOUTHWARK

AND ST. MARY, NEWINGTON)



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THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE ON THE BRIGHTON ROAD, 1826

SURVEY OF LONDON

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SIR HOWARD ROBERTS

CLERK OF THE COUNCIL

VOLUME XXV

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

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ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, SOUTHWARK

AND ST. MARY, NEWINGTON

BY

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SOUTHWARK AND ST. MARY
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FIFTH VOLUME OF THE SURVEY OF
LONDON

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4. BROMFIELD, SIR EDWARD - *Azure, a lion passant or. (p. 23)*
5. CANTERBURY, DEAN AND CHAPTER OF - - - *Azure, a cross argent charged with the letters i and x in pale sable. (p. 82)*
6. CITY OF LONDON - - - *Argent, a cross gules, in the first quarter a sword in pale point upwards of the last. (p. 39)*
7. DRAPERS' COMPANY - - *Azure, three clouds proper radiated in base or, each surmounted with a triple crown or, caps gules. (p. 65)*
8. FISHMONGERS' COMPANY - *Azure, three dolphins naiant in pale argent, finned or, between two pairs of lucies in saltire proper the sinister surmounting the dexter, over the nose of each Lucy a ducal crown of the third; on a chief gules, three pairs of keys endorsed in saltire or. (p. 65)*
9. LENTHALL, SIR JOHN (17TH CENTURY) - - - *Argent on a bend cottised sable three mullets or pieced gules, a cross-crosslet argent for distinction. (p. 4)*
10. ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S HOSPITAL - - - *Per pale argent and sable a chevron counter changed. (p. 125)*
11. TRINITY HOUSE, CORPORATION OF - - - *Azure, a cross gules between four ships of three masts, each under full sail all proper, on each sail, pennant and ensign a cross gules, and each quarter representing a sea piece. (p. 105)*



PREFACE

THIS volume completes the Survey, begun in *Bankside*, of the Metropolitan Borough of Southwark. The parishes of St. George the Martyr and St. Mary, Newington, are not rich in buildings of outstanding architectural merit or historical interest. Nothing has survived of the old village nucleus at Newington, or of any pre-17th century building in either parish, and many of the remaining 18th and 19th century houses and most of the churches and chapels suffered severe war damage in 1939-45. Reconstruction has been slow. Of the churches, for example, only two have been completely restored, the 18th century church of St. George the Martyr in Borough High Street, and St. Peter's, Walworth, built by Sir John Soane. It is inevitable, therefore, that in this volume more space has been given to history than to architecture, though the account of the early attempts at town planning by the City Corporation in St. George's Fields, and by the Corporation of Trinity House on their Newington Estate, will be of interest to planners.

Three main factors have influenced the development of this part of Southwark: its proximity to the City of London, the marshy nature of the ground, and the roads—"that ganglion of roads from Kent and Surrey, centring in the far-famed Elephant," as Dickens described them. Inns for travellers, pilgrims and traders abounded along the old roads, and the prisons, which existed side by side with the inns in Borough High Street, were at a convenient distance from the City of London and the royal palaces at Westminster. The ground in St. George's Fields and Walworth was too wet for normal building development until it was systematically drained at the beginning of the 19th century, but the cheap sites made accessible by the formation of the roads across St. George's Fields in the middle of the 18th century attracted a large number of charitable organizations to build premises there.

A detailed analysis of the ground levels has given a reasonable explanation of the conjectured lines of the Roman roads and their later successors. The site of the Elizabethan playhouse at Newington, precursor of the more famous theatres, the Rose, the Swan, and the Globe on Bankside, has been plotted for the first time.

Much of the information relating to St. George's parish has been derived from the Guildhall Library and the City Records Office, and particular thanks are due to Mr. P. E. Jones, LL.B., F.R.Hist.S., the Deputy Keeper of the records, who read in manuscript and advised on the chapters relating to St. George's Fields. The Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, the Church Commissioners, and the Corporation of Trinity House have kindly allowed the Council's officers free access to the manor and estate records of Walworth and Newington, hitherto untapped sources of material for the topography of the manor, its place-names and customs, and for the lay-out and design of the streets and buildings which now cover the whole of the manor and parish. Much use has also been made of the archives of St. Bartholomew's and St. Thomas' Hospitals and of records in the Surrey

Record Office, in the Minet Library and at Southwark Town Hall and Reference Library. Acknowledgment must be made of the help given by the clergy and ministers of churches and chapels, by Canon B. Bogan of St. George's Cathedral, and by many business firms, solicitors and property owners.

Members of the Monumental Brass Society helped to elucidate the mediaeval inscriptions on the stones in the tower of St. George the Martyr; the paraphrase from *Romeo and Juliet* on p. 26 was suggested by the Secretary, Mr. R. H. Pearson, F.S.A.

The Council's own Record Office is now the Diocesan Repository for the part of the Diocese of Southwark which lies within the County of London, and it has been of great assistance in the compilation of the volume to have many of the parish records available for consultation in County Hall.

For the sake of brevity, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, now the Church Commissioners, are consistently referred to by the latter name, and the title City Corporation is used throughout the volume to denote the governing body of the City of London.

The text of the volume and its executive editorship are the work of Miss Ida Darlington, M.A., F.L.A., the Council's Librarian, who has been assisted by Miss M. P. G. Christie, B.A., and Miss P. M. Barnes, B.A., of my department. The measured drawings and plans have been prepared under the direction of the Architect to the Council, who wishes to acknowledge the assistance he has received from Mr. F. A. Evans, and also from Mr. Kenneth S. Mills, A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I., Mr. F. J. Collins, A.R.I.C.S., and Mr. F. R. Buggie of his department, who have supplied the architectural and archaeological information.

The volume includes an appendix giving the buildings of architectural and historical interest for the whole borough listed under Section 30 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947.

In 1953 the London Survey Committee decided that it could no longer take an active share in the production of the parish volumes of the Survey, and the long partnership which the committee has had with the Council came to an end. The Joint Publishing Committee has been dissolved, and the Town Planning Committee of the Council will, for the future, be responsible for the publication of the series.

HOWARD ROBERTS

Clerk of the London County Council

THE COUNTY HALL,
WESTMINSTER BRIDGE, S.E.1.

CHAPTER 1

BOROUGH HIGH STREET, BLACKMAN STREET AND NEWINGTON CAUSEWAY

The Roman settlement in Southwark, like the mediaeval borough, was concentrated in the neighbourhood of London Bridge, but scattered Roman finds, mainly burials, in St. George's Fields, Newington, and on either side of Tabard Street, support the geological evidence that in the first centuries of the Christian era the whole of Southwark was considerably higher and dryer than it became later.^a If this is so, both building and road-making were more possible at that time than at any later period until the area was thoroughly drained during the first quarter of the 19th century.

It is generally agreed that the bridge built by the Romans was roughly on the same site as the mediaeval London Bridge, i.e. about 180 feet east of the present bridge, and that the bridge approach, which formed the London end of Stane Street, lay a little to the east of the line of Borough High Street as far as the site of St. George's Church. Recent finds of traces of a Roman road below King's Head Yard (by Miss Kathleen Kenyon in 1946),² and of a Kentish ragstone pavement of Roman date below Talbot Yard (reported by Mr. Margary in 1952)³ reinforce this view. There is some indication that this road was built on piles, suggesting that even during the Roman occupation the area was liable to flooding.

Both the author of the introduction to *Roman London*¹ and Mr. I. D. Margary in *Roman Ways in the Weald*⁴ have conjectured, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, that Stane Street (the road from Chichester), whose route has been plotted with reasonable certainty as far as Kennington, continued in a straight line from Kennington Park Road to the site of St. George's Church. The fact that Newington Causeway swings westward from this line was thought to be a mediaeval deviation until the discovery in 1952, during some roadworks there about 300 yards north of the Elephant and Castle, of a section of metalled road some 4 feet below the existing surface and resting on the gravel sub-soil. This, in the opinion of Mr. W. F. Grimes, was of Roman date, and it appeared to be an indication that the Roman road, instead of running in a straight line, followed the same curve as the mediaeval and modern road. It was, therefore, thought worthwhile to seek some explanation in the surface levels and the geology of the district to account for the deviation. The material lay to hand in the Council's sewer records,⁵ for, when the systematic drainage of the area was carried out by the Surrey and Kent Sewer Commissioners under an Act of Parliament passed in 1809 (see p. 54), a large number of sections were drawn showing ground levels. A comparison of these levels shows that the three highest points were at the Elephant and Castle, near St. George's Church and in the middle of St. George's Circus where the obelisk formerly stood. Between the obelisk and

^a The Royal Commission on Historical Monuments in *Roman London*¹ suggests that the level of high tide must have been "upwards of 13 ft. (probably at least 15 ft.) below its present level in relation to the existing land surface."

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

Newington Causeway the surface level sloped down 4 or 5 feet forming a slight hollow, while on the east of the road there was a slope down of between 8 and 9 feet. The slope was as marked along the roads as on the unbuilt ground between them.^a Reference to geological sections drawn from borings⁶ made at various points during the last 100 years, showed a marked rise in the level of the gravel sub-soil along the line of Newington Causeway from the west and a deep depression to the east of it. There is documentary evidence for the existence up to the beginning of the 19th century of a marsh known as "Stewfen," between Newington Causeway and Great Dover Street (see p. 82) and the geological sections show that in places in Rockingham Street, Falmouth Road, and Devonshire Street (now Avonmouth Street) there were up to 18 feet of mud plus 14 feet of peat and 4 feet of made ground above the sand and gravel sub-soil. The evidence now available is insufficient to determine whether the deposit of peat and mud was made before or after the Roman occupation, but the presence of either a bog or a sharp declivity in the surface level affords a sufficient explanation of the curve of the road away from the straight line. It is probable that even in Roman times the line of Newington Causeway was the only route through St. George's Fields that could have been made into a firm road without the use of piles.^b

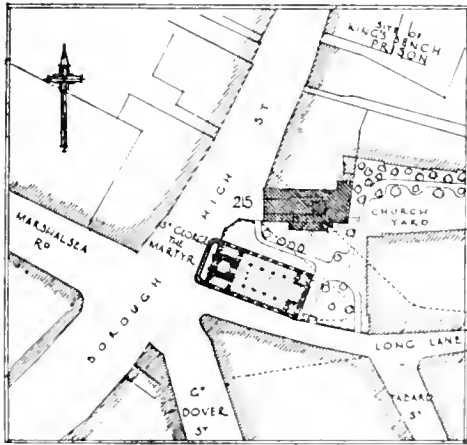
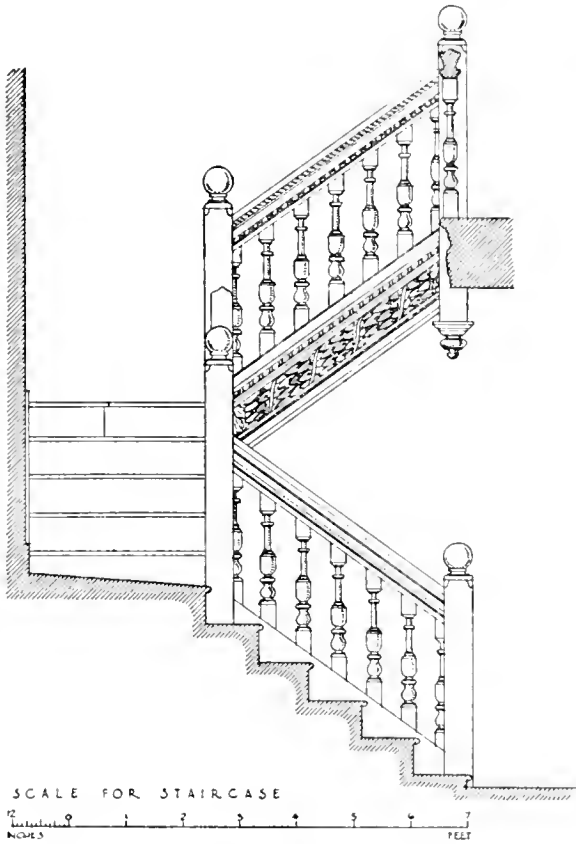
Most of the evidence set out above was reviewed by T. A. Codrington in an article on "London South of the Thames," published in 1915³, but the conclusions he reached were not entirely compatible with it. For example, the existence of the hollow in the gravel and clay strata in the neighbourhood of Rockingham Street makes unlikely the route he suggested for the original Watling Street—leaving the line of the Old Kent Road a little south of St. Thomas à Waterings (see p. 121) and crossing Newington Causeway just north of the turnpike (near Keyworth Street). Nor does there seem to be any firm basis for his suggestion that the Lock Stream (p. 121) drained St. George's Fields. Rocque's maps do not show the stream crossing the road near the Elephant and Castle, and the slight rise in the level of the ground there makes such a crossing improbable. On the other hand, when the ground up to Newington Church was flooded, as, for example, on the occasion described by Stow in 1555, the water came from the direction of Lambeth and remained on the west side of Newington Causeway until it ebbed back into the river.

During the late Mediaeval and Tudor periods St. George's Bar or Stones End, approximately where Borough Road now joins Borough High

^a The 1850 large-scale skeleton Ordnance Survey map shows a similar variation in the surface levels of this area, but as was to be expected in view of the amount of building which had taken place in the previous 30 years, the differences are not quite so marked.

^b Unfortunately there are no geological sections recorded for the area immediately south of the New Kent Road, or for Tabard Street except at its northern end, but there is strong presumptive evidence that Watling Street followed the line of the Old Kent Road and Tabard Street to join Stane Street at the comparatively high ground near the site of St. George's Church, though it may, before the erection of London Bridge, have turned west from the line of the Old Kent Road to follow the course of the private road marked on 17th- and 18th-century maps across Walworth Manor and St. George's Fields to Lambeth Ferry.³

BOROUGH HIGH STREET



SCALE FOR SITE PLAN

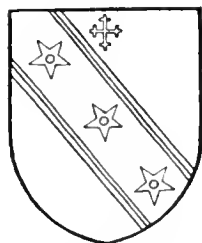
No. 215 Borough High Street

Street, marked the end of the paved road from London Bridge and of Southwark proper. In the time of John Stow it had houses on both sides as far as this point. Newington Causeway, which does not appear to have been so named until the middle of the 18th century,^a was built up on the east side by 1746 (see Plate 53). The west side was developed with the rest of St. George's Fields at the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries.

The development of the part of Borough High Street in St. George's parish is much like that of the northern half, an account of which has been given in *Bankside*.⁷ Many of the buildings were inns for the use of travellers between London and the coast. Later, tenements were built on either side of the inn yards which gradually became narrow courts and alleys. On the west side the tenements backed on to the Bishop of Winchester's Park and were bounded on the south by the maze of narrow streets known as the Mint (see Chapter 3) on the site of Suffolk House. On the east side the prisons, the Marshalsea, King's Bench, County Gaol, and House of Correction (see Chapter 2) occupied much of the area, but the ground between was closely built up. Behind the tenements and at a distance

^a The reference to "the Cawsey" in 1609, cited in the English Place Name Society volume on Surrey, is to a causeway in Bermondsey, not to Newington Causeway as is there suggested.

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Sir John Lenthall

of about 300 feet from the street frontage was a ditch; beyond the ditch the ground lay open until the second half of the 18th century. In 1622 the City Corporation granted⁸ an acre of ground lying between Borough High Street and Long Lane, on condition that the lessee, William Smith, enclosed it so that it should no longer be used for the deposit of refuse from the King's Bench. Sir John Lenthall, Marshal of the King's Bench, later acquired this lease and planted an orchard on the ground.⁹ By 1698 it had been made into a bowling green, and a second green had been formed adjoining it on the north.¹⁰ Collier's Rents were built on the bowling green near Long Lane by John Collier⁹ before 1746. The whole of this area at the rear of the premises in Borough High Street between Mermaid Court and Collier's Rents, which suffered severe air raid damage during the 1939-45 war (see the aerial view on Plate 13), has recently been cleared and is now occupied by the extension of the London County Council Tabard Garden Housing Estate. In excavating in order to lay a drain, approximately along the line of the old ditch, considerable deposits of pottery were found. The section behind Layton's Buildings (on the site of the King's Bench) consisted of: 2 feet 6 inches of hardcore and brick rubbish; 2 feet of heavy unglazed 19th century pottery, sugar loaf moulds, mixing bowls, and storage bins; 2 feet 6 inches of dark soil, small brick and tile rubbish, oyster shells, and mid-18th century delft fragments; 2 feet of very dark soil with green, yellow, and red glazed pottery, and pipes of 1620-90 date; 3 feet of dark wet soil, with traces of gravel, sand, and oyster shells and, at the bottom of this layer, fragments of 2nd century Roman pottery.

Southwark Fair (Plate 1*b*), sometimes called Our Lady Fair because it was held at the time of the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, was granted to the City of London in 1462 by a charter of Edward IV, together with the right of holding a court of pie-powder there.¹¹ The wording of the charter suggests that the fair was then already a well-established institution. The continuator of Stow's *Survey of London*¹² describes the ceremonial of the opening of the fair in the time of Charles I as follows—

“The Lord Maior and the Sheriffes ride to *S. Magnus* Church in their Scarlet Gownes lined, without their cloaks, after dinner at two of the clocke; and there the Aldermen meet the L. Maior: when evening Prayer is ended, they ride thorow the Faire, till they come unto *St. Georges* Church, and then ride further to *Newington* Bridge, or to *St. Thomas* of Waterings to the Stones that point out the Liberties of the City (if it bee so their pleasures) and they then returne backe againe unto the Bridge-house, where they refresh themselves with a Banquet. Then returning over the Bridge, the Aldermen take their leave of the Lord Maior and depart the next way every one unto his own house. After all this is done, & the Lord Maior brought home: his Officers have a supper provided for them by the Bridge-Masters.”

The booths and stalls erected for Southwark Fair spread from the main street near St. George's Church into the alleys and courts and on to the

SOUTHWARK FAIR

bowling greens, and the period of the fair was gradually extended from three days to fourteen. During the Commonwealth the authorities tried to suppress it and among the Overseer's Accounts for St. George's Parish¹³ there are many entries between 1656 and 1660 of fines for "Abuses and Misdemeanours"



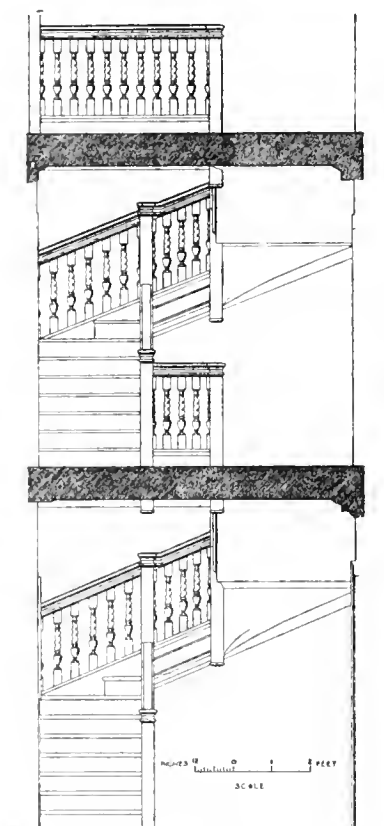
No. 220 Borough High Street

in fairtime. Players, dancers, victuallers, mountebanks, proprietors of puppet shows, clockwork shows, etc., all had to pay their fines, but the fair went on.

On the night of 22nd September, 1689, a fire broke out in a stationer's shop opposite the King's Bench.¹⁴ It quickly caught and consumed the wooden booths on the west side of the street and then spread to the east side where "the Buildings, being Timber for the most part, and generally old, with many intricate Alleys running backward, the Flame, driven on by the Wind raged extremely." The Common side of the King's Bench was burnt, as were the Falcon and Half Moon Inns and some 180 houses. The fire was in fact nearly as disastrous as the one which had devastated the northern part of the street thirteen years earlier (see *Bankside*⁷).

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

When it was rebuilt, Borough High Street and its courts and alleys were little less congested than before.^a In 1733 a woman was pressed to death in the crowd in Mermaid Court during the fairtime.¹⁵ During the



No. 177 Borough High Street

18th century the fair got more and more rowdy. The City Corporation continually tried to limit its duration and extent, but it was not until 1762, when the bailiff was ordered to cease proclaiming it, that the fair came to an end.¹⁶

Many of the houses built after the 1689 fire were still standing in the early years of this century (Plate 3), and a few remnants have survived even the destruction of the 1939–45 war, which in this area was particularly heavy (see Plate 13).

No. 177 (formerly 128) retains its 17th century wooden staircase, though little remains of the rest of the original building, which has been occupied in turn by tea dealers, grocers, woollen drapers, a government contractor, and now by a firm of drawing instrument manufacturers. There has been an inn with the sign of the Half Moon (Plate 2*a*) at No. 183, since at least 1550¹⁷, when the property belonged (as it still did until the 1920's) to Jesus College, Cambridge. Tenements in the rear have from time to time been rented by hop and seed factors, livery stable keepers, and others. In 1728 coaches left the inn every week for Blechingley, Croydon, East Grinstead, Godstone, Ling-

field, and Oxted¹⁸. The inn was pulled down in 1919 and the site is now covered by the premises of Moons Motors, Ltd.

^a Hogarth's picture "A Fair, the Humours of a Fair," painted in 1733 and engraved by him, if it relates, as is usually suggested, to Southwark Fair, is puzzling in its topography. The old church of St. George's, Southwark, which was still standing in 1733, had a square tower, but it would not have been seen with an opening on either side except from Kent Street (i.e. Tabard Street) on the south-east. The engraving was reproduced in reverse, and in the original painting an inn with a Half Moon sign is shown on the right and another with the sign of the Royal Oak is shown on the left of the picture. No reference has been found to a house with the latter sign in the neighbourhood of St. George's Church at this period. Two alternative suggestions have been put forward: (1) That Hogarth was depicting Bartholomew Fair, or (2) that the church is St. Dunstan's, Stepney; but it is difficult to reconcile the details of the buildings with either site. The most probable explanation is that Hogarth was chiefly concerned with the fair itself and its participants and did not trouble over much with getting correct details of the buildings which formed the background to his picture.

BOROUGH HIGH STREET

Angel Court (or Place) is called after an inn of that name which was used in the time of Henry VIII for the confinement of prisoners (see p. 12). The tablet on the rear of No. 209 Borough High Street, just south of Angel Place, refers to the rebuilding of the premises, previously known as the Black Bull, by John and Sarah Reeve in 1677 and again by John Hicks in 1818. The property was granted to St. Thomas' Hospital in 1568¹⁹ and has remained in its possession ever since.

No. 215, near St. George's Church, survived until 1903, when it was pulled down for the widening of Long Lane. Its wooden staircase with its turned balusters and carved string and handrail is illustrated on p. 3. The house was occupied by cheesemongers during the first half of the 19th century, of whom the last were the firm of Purdue and Twiddy. They were succeeded by Messrs. Barker and Nelson, who used the premises as a "mourning warehouse."

The best known of the inns on the west side of Borough High Street in St. George's Parish was the Catherine Wheel (Plate 4*b*), which stood almost exactly opposite the Half Moon Inn on the site of the present No. 136. It is not marked on the 1542 plan (Plate 1*a*), though it is listed in the survey of Southwark Manor of 1555. John Strype described it in 1720 as "very large and well resorted unto by *Coaches, Waggon*s and *Horsemen*." From the time of Elizabeth I the premises have belonged to St. Thomas' Hospital¹⁸. The inn was pulled down *circa* 1870.

The part of Borough High Street south of St. George's Church was known until 1889 as Blackman Street. Strype describes it in 1720²⁰ as "broad, but the *Buildings* and *Inhabitants* not much to be boasted of; the End next to *Newington* hath the West side open to St. Georges Fields being rather a *Road* than a *Street*." Just over a century later Blackman Street is described in the text accompanying Tallis' *Views* as "a broad, open street, principally consisting of well supplied tradesmen's shops. Its thoroughfare is very considerable, it being the leading road to the south of England." The 1542 plan (Plate 1*a*) shows the Swan Inn, which gave its name to Swan Street, just south of St. George's Church on the east side of Blackman Street (see p. 105).

There is in the possession of the Society of Antiquaries an elaborate pictorial plan of the Unicorn Brewhouse or Inn which formerly stood at the point where Trinity Street now joins Borough High Street.^a The plan, part of which is reproduced on Plate 12, shows the numerous tenements built in the inn yard and on the ground adjoining. John Strype described the inn in 1720²⁰ as "very neat and fine, being adorned with carved Figures, and sundry

^a In the reign of Henry VIII the Unicorn was bequeathed with other property to the Leathersellers' Company by John Scraggys, citizen and leatherseller of London. Scraggys also left 3s. 4d. to the poor of St. George's parish, and 3s. 4d. each to the poor prisoners of the King's Bench and Marshalsea prisons to pay for a kilderkin of beer and bread and cheese or bread and herring.

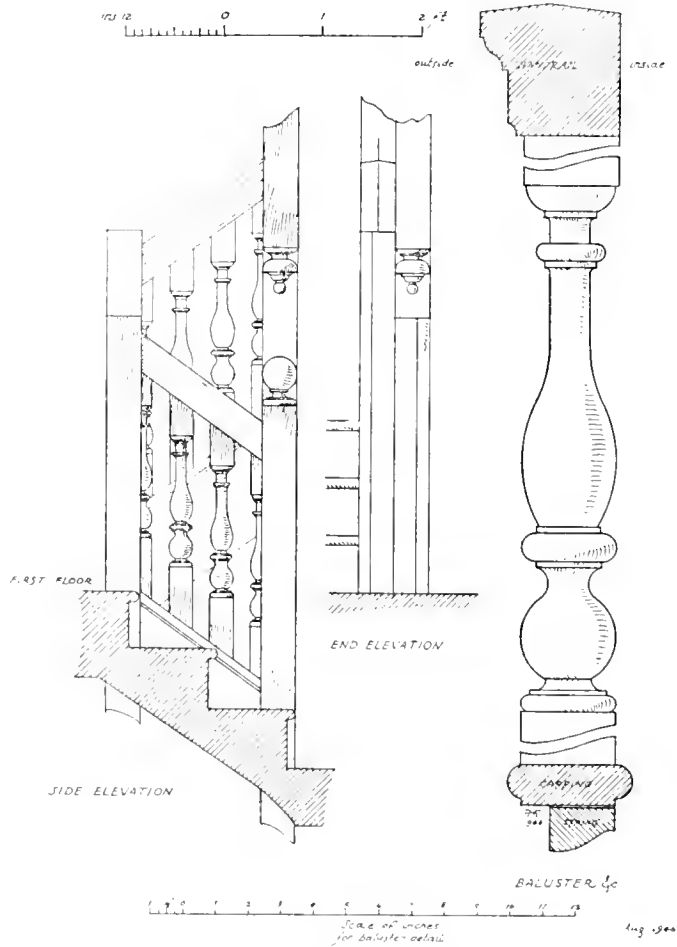


No. 209 Borough
High Street

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

sorts of *Birds* stuffed, and set about, as if they were alive, with a small Ship, such as are hung up in great Halls." Unicorn Court is marked on the 1761 edition of Rocque's map but had disappeared before the end of the century.

On the west side No. 96 Blackman Street, now No. 220 Borough High Street, retains its original staircase.



No. 220 Borough High Street

CHAPTER 2

SOUTHWARK PRISONS

In the 17th and 18th centuries there were four prisons in the small space between Newcomen Street and St. George's Church on the east side of Borough High Street, the King's Bench and the Marshalsea, both dating back to the 14th century and perhaps earlier, the County Gaol, dating from the beginning of the 16th century, and the House of Correction. Their relative positions are shown on the plan on the next page. In addition there were two other prisons in the immediate neighbourhood, the Borough Compter, kept first on the island site in Borough High Street, where the old parish church of St. Margaret had stood, and subsequently moved to Tooley Street, and the Clink Prison belonging to the Bishop of Winchester.

The evil and cruelty revealed in 18th century descriptions of these prisons are appalling, and there is little reason to think from the records that have come down to us that conditions at earlier periods were any better, though probably there was less congestion.^a In terms of sheer human misery it is doubtful if even the horrors of the concentration camps of recent years were worse than the long, slow agony of close confinement, starvation, sickness, and torture which went on for centuries in the Marshalsea and King's Bench prisons.

THE KING'S BENCH PRISON

(i) *First Site in Borough High Street*

Under the Norman kings, when the King's Court in both its general and its judicial character was itinerant, prisoners arraigned before it were detained in any convenient place near the court. During the course of the 13th century the court of King's Bench was, in practice if not in theory, separated from the King's person, offences committed within the verge of the royal court being tried in what later became the Marshalsea Court by the King's Knight Marshal, but several centuries elapsed before the prisons which served the two courts were finally differentiated from each other or settled in one place. The term Marshalsea Prison occurs from 1294²¹ onward, but throughout the mediaeval period it was often used indiscriminately for the prison of the Knight Marshal and for the prison kept by the Marshal of the Court of King's Bench, e.g., in 1324 there is a reference to John de Castello, a rebel, who was in the prison of the Marshalsea at York;²¹ and in 1339 John Gerard, "chaplain," was pardoned for robberies and for escaping from the Marshalsea prison of the King's Bench at Canterbury.²¹ There are several references on the Close and Patent Rolls to a royal prison in Southwark in the 13th century, but no indication that there was a definite house allocated for the purpose until 1373, when "the good men of the town of Suthwerk" were given a licence "to build in the high street leading from

^a Chapter I of *English Prisons Under Local Government*, by S. & B. Webb, gives an excellent brief survey of prison conditions in the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries.

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS



Plan of Borough High Street showing sites of prisons

THE KING'S BENCH PRISON

the church of St. Margaret towards the south, a house, 40 feet long and 30 feet wide, in which to hold the pleas of the Marshalsea of the king's household and to keep the prisoners of the Marshalsea while in the said town, and to hold all other the king's courts."²¹

From this time onward there seem to have been two prisons in Southwark, one for the Court of Marshalsea and one for the Court of King's Bench. In 1384 Thomas atte Raven was pardoned for razing the houses and tenements of Richard Imworth, keeper of the Marshalsea of the King's Bench, in Southwark and for releasing the prisoners from the prisons of the King's Bench and Marshalsea there.²¹ In 1393 there is an entry on the Patent Rolls concerning a felon, John Flemmyng, who escaped from the King's Bench prison in Southwark.²¹ Prisoners cited before the Court of King's Bench were, however, still carried round the countryside in carts in the train of the itinerant justices.²¹

The chroniclers relate that Henry V, when Prince of Wales, was imprisoned in the King's Bench for striking or insulting Judge Gascoigne on the bench,²² and that Jack Cade, during his short-lived occupation of Southwark, freed the prisoners of both prisons.²³

Some victims of the religious persecutions of the Tudor period, among them John Bradford, who was burnt at Smithfield in 1555,²⁴ and John Penry, one of the writers of the Martin Marprelate Tracts, who was hanged at St. Thomas à Waterings in 1593,²⁵ were imprisoned in the King's Bench, but the earliest list of prisoners that has been found, compiled in 1561,²⁶ includes 13 debtors, 3 recusants, 1 priest, and 2 persons accused of "inconjuration" out of a total of 71, the remainder of whom were charged with felonies or misdemeanours.

The debtors in the King's Bench petitioned the King in 1624 against imprisonment for debt, saying that it was against the fundamental laws and well-being of the state, and that 80 had died of starvation in that prison during the year, and asking that if the whole estate of a debtor had been seized by his creditors he might be freed from confinement.²⁷

In 1653, Sir John Lenthall, then Marshal, in obedience to an order of the Council of State, sent in a list of the 393 prisoners in his charge.²⁸ Of these, 2 were on a plea of murder, 10 of trespass, and 2 by the "command of the Court"; most of the rest were detained for debt; several had been in prison for over 20 years. The total sum involved was £976,122. Seventeen of the prisoners were women.

In 1576 a commission which included the Bishop of London and the Dean of St. Paul's, was appointed to relieve "poor prisoners confined for debt in the Queen's Bench."²⁷ The commission met with considerable opposition from the Marshal and his officers, but it continued in existence until the end of Elizabeth's reign, and it was perhaps due to its efforts that a clause was inserted into the Act for the relief of the poor of 1601²⁹ providing for money to be collected by counties and corporate bodies throughout the kingdom for the relief of poor prisoners in the King's Bench and Marshalsea. There were a number of private charities for the relief of prisoners, but it is

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

doubtful if at any time more than a small proportion of the proceeds reached them. The income of the keeper was derived from what he could exact from those in his charge,^a and though there may have been keepers who contented themselves with their legitimate fees, the majority extorted all they could get by fair means or foul. In addition to the sufferings inflicted by the Marshal and his underlings, new prisoners were often fleeced by old-established inmates who tyrannized over their fellows.³¹ In the 18th century they set up a Mock Court with steward and other officers, which dispensed the charities and even let out the rooms at a profit.

An illuminating account of the descent of the office of Marshal of the King's Bench is given in the Act of 1754³² which authorized the rebuilding of the prison. James I, in 1616, granted the office to Sir William Smith, from whom it passed to Sir John Lenthall and then to William Lenthall. The latter mortgaged it in February, 1684, to Sir John Cutler and, as the mortgage was not cleared, the office was afterwards assigned to Ebenezer Blackwell, goldsmith, in trust for Lenthall's heirs. The Act set aside £10,500 to pay off the mortgagees so that the office might revert to the Crown.

For many years the prisoners were kept in two houses known as the Angel and the Crane, the former giving its name to Angel Place, which bounded it on the south (see the plan on p. 10). In the reign of Henry VIII the owner of these houses, Richard Fulmerston, added a new building with a brick wall round it "for ye more safe Custody of the Prisoners." Edward VI acquired the freehold of the buildings, and thenceforward they were let on lease, with the Marshal as tenant or sub-tenant. In 1696, William III leased³³ the whole property to Charles Bertie and others in trust for the Duke of Leeds, a grant which was renewed until 1761, when the old buildings were demolished and a building lease of the site was granted to Benjamin Powell and Edward Layton³⁴ who formed the alley known as Layton's Buildings. Part of Layton's house there, with its bowed projection into the court (Plate 4*a*), is still standing. Layton was a back or vat maker, as was his successor in the house, Florance Young³⁵, who died in 1835, and was buried in St. George's churchyard.

Nos. 201 to 205, Borough High Street now occupy the site of the frontage of the old King's Bench.

(ii) *Second Site in Borough Road*

By the middle of the 18th century the old King's Bench Prison had, in the words of the Act of 1754, become "unsafe for the custody, and dangerous to the health of the prisoners," and the sum of £7,800 was provided for a new building. About 2½ acres of ground in St. George's Fields was bought from Catherine West³⁶ for the new prison, which was completed by

^a The House of Lords, in 1701, refused to pass a Bill for "regulating" the overcrowded King's Bench and Fleet Prisons, expressly on the ground that if the number of prisoners was reduced "the Profits thereby accruing will not be a proportionable Recompence to the Officers to attend the Courts; so that the King's Four Courts at *Westminster* will be without Prisons, and without Officers to assist them."³⁰

THE KING'S BENCH PRISON

1758. In 1761 it was said to be "situated in a fine air; but all prospect of the fields, even from the uppermost windows, is excluded by the height of the walls with which it is surrounded. It has a neat chapel . . . and only one bed in each room; but these rooms are extremely small . . . none above nine feet in length."³⁷

There were wild scenes outside the prison in 1768 when Wilkes was imprisoned there, and several civilians, including William Allen, the son of the host of the Horseshoe Inn in Blackman Street, were shot by the military.³⁸ During the Gordon Riots part of the King's Bench was burnt down³⁹ (Plate 6*a*), but it was subsequently repaired.⁴⁰ An attempt to blow up the prison in 1792 failed.³⁸ The fire which consumed the north-west block in 1799 seems to have been accidental.³⁸

Debtors imprisoned in the Bench were, on payment of a fee, allowed out on parole in an area known as the "Rules" of the King's Bench Prison (see the plan on Plate 24), much of which was, in the 18th century, open ground in St. George's Fields. The privilege was much abused, and William Smith reported in 1776⁴¹ that "Many prisoners, whose actions are supersedable . . . occupy rooms, keep shops, enjoy places of profit, or live on the rent of their rooms a life of idleness; and being indulged with the use of the key, go out when they please, and thereby convert a prison . . . into an alms-house for their support." He was told that about 120 gallons of gin and 8 butts of beer were drunk a week. In the summer of that year John Howard found⁴² the prison so crowded that "many lay in the Chapel"; with women and children, there were 1,399 on the lists of whom more than two-thirds slept inside and one-third in the Rules.

In 1823 an anonymous writer published⁴³ an enthusiastic account of the King's Bench describing its amenities, the five courts, reading rooms, public kitchen, bakehouse, etc., and the state house, "A good and substantial brick building, containing eight spacious and excellent apartments, let at one shilling per week, to the oldest prisoners, or those who, by their good conduct and gentlemanly behaviour, have entitled themselves to this indulgence." William Combe, the author of the three *Tours of Dr. Syntax*, and Benjamin Haydon and William Hone were among the many famous people confined in the King's Bench before the heavy hand of Victorian reform clamped down upon it. Charles Dickens' memories of his father's confinement in the Marshalsea prison were recalled in *David Copperfield* in the adventures of the volatile Mr. Micawber, but the scene was transferred to the King's Bench.

In 1842 the Fleet Prison and Marshalsea were abolished by Act of Parliament,⁴⁴ and the Queen's Bench, renamed the Queen's Prison, became the sole prison for debtors and bankrupts. All fees were abolished, but so were most of the privileges which the prisoners had previously enjoyed. Imprisonment for debt was finally abolished in 1869⁴⁵ and the Queen's Prison was closed. It was for a time used as a place of temporary reception for convicts on discharge⁴⁶ but was found unsuitable, and in 1879 the materials were sold by auction and the site cleared. Scovell Road was

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

formed and Collinson Street widened, and the majority of the site was used for the blocks of tenements known as Queen's Buildings.⁴⁷

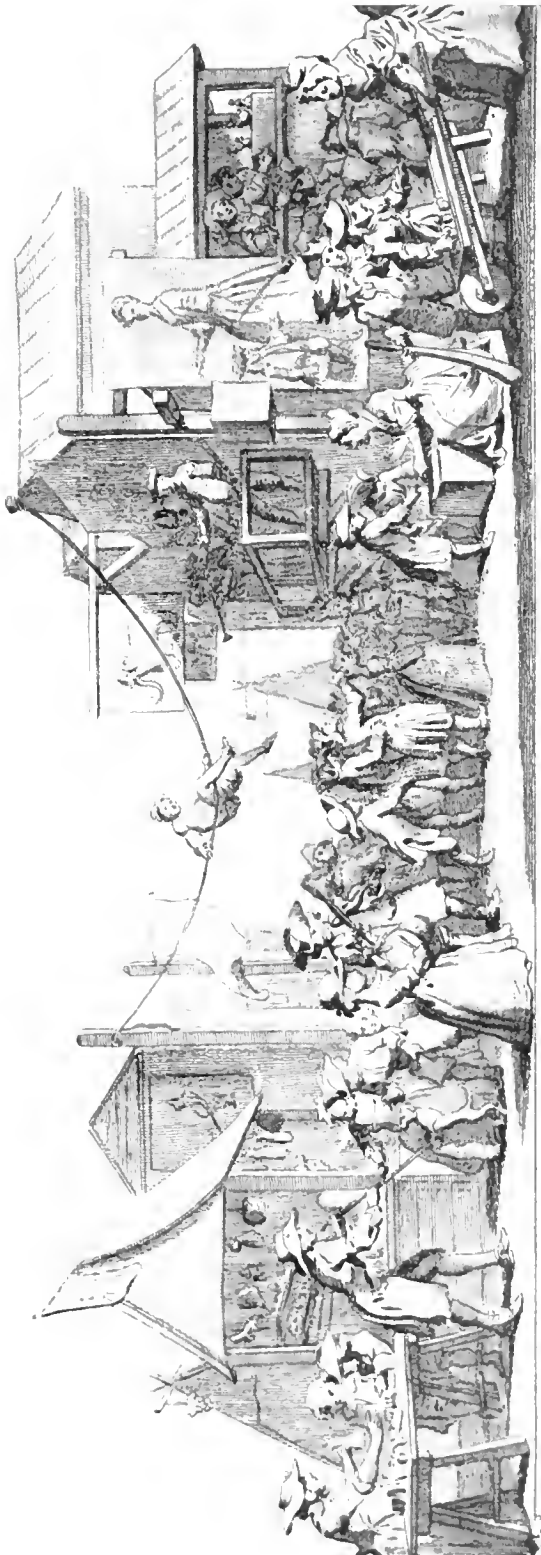
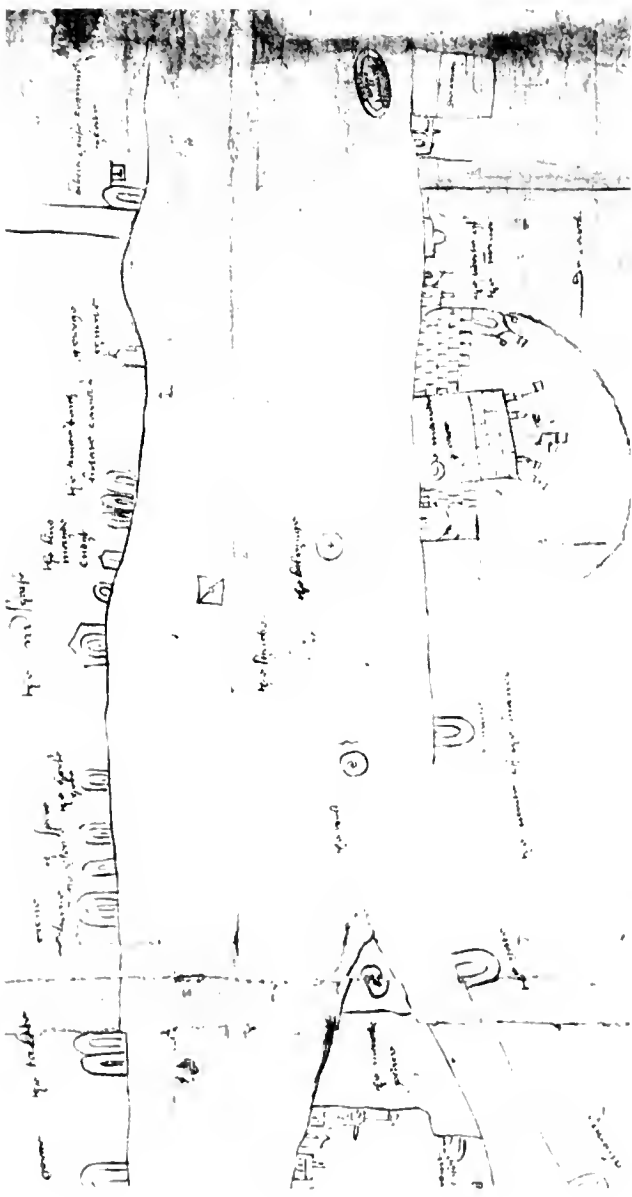
THE MARSHALSEA

The early history of the Marshalsea prison is inextricably mixed with that of the King's Bench. As has already been shown (p. 9), the Marshal often kept prisoners in Southwark in the 13th century and had a permanent building there in the 14th century. The Court and Prison were at first used only for offences committed within the verge of the King's Court, but from 1430 onward there are references to the Admiralty Court in Southwark^a and to sailors imprisoned for piracy, etc.²⁶ The references to imprisonment in the Marshalsea for debt begin about the same time.

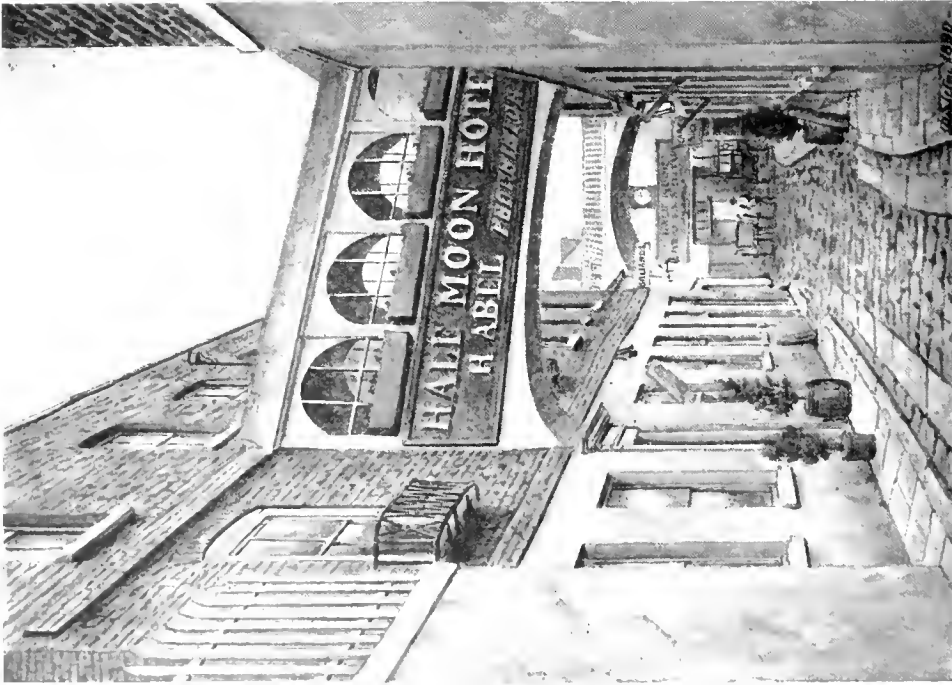
Edmund Bonner, Bishop of London, was imprisoned in the Marshalsea from 1550 to 1553 and again from 1560 until his death there in 1569.²⁵ In January, 1550, we are told that the Knight Marshal removed his bed, leaving him only straw and a coverlet to lie in, because he would not pay a fee of £10.²³ A list of 34 prisoners there in 1561²⁶ includes, in addition to Bonner, only 3 prisoners for religion, 1 for debt, 1 "for Ronnynge away from the Gallys," and several mariners sent in by the Lord Admiral "for Suspecyons of peracye." Like the King's Bench and the White Lion, the Marshalsea was used for the confinement of recusants in the 1580's and of followers of the Earl of Essex in 1601,²⁷ but thereafter the majority of prisoners in the Marshalsea were debtors, though it continued to serve as a prison for the Court of Admiralty until its closure in 1842.

Although conditions in all the Southwark prisons were bad there are indications that they were worse in the Marshalsea, perhaps because the prisoners were entirely at the mercy of the Knight Marshal or his deputy. The complaint of a Frenchman, M. La Touche, in 1629, that he was detained in "hunger and nakedness" because he could not pay the prison charges, although an order had been issued for his release, is typical of many.²⁷ In 1639 the prisoners revolted, pulled down the palings about the house and attacked the watch with stones, brickbats, and firebrands. One of their accusations against Hall, the undermarshal, was that 23 women were lodged in one room where there was no space for them even to lie down.²⁷ In 1718 an anonymous rhymester called the Marshalsea an "earthly Hell,"⁴⁸ a description which was more than justified by the findings of the Committee, appointed by Parliament in 1729, to inquire into conditions in the gaols.⁴⁹ The prisoners were tortured with irons, beating, and by being locked up with human carcasses. They were confined in so small a space that many were stifled to death in the heat of summer, and those who survived ill-treatment often died of starvation, since the keepers took most of what was given in charity. The report states that in the warmer weather 8 or 10 died every 24 hours. Some slight improvements were made as a result of the inquiry but the root cause

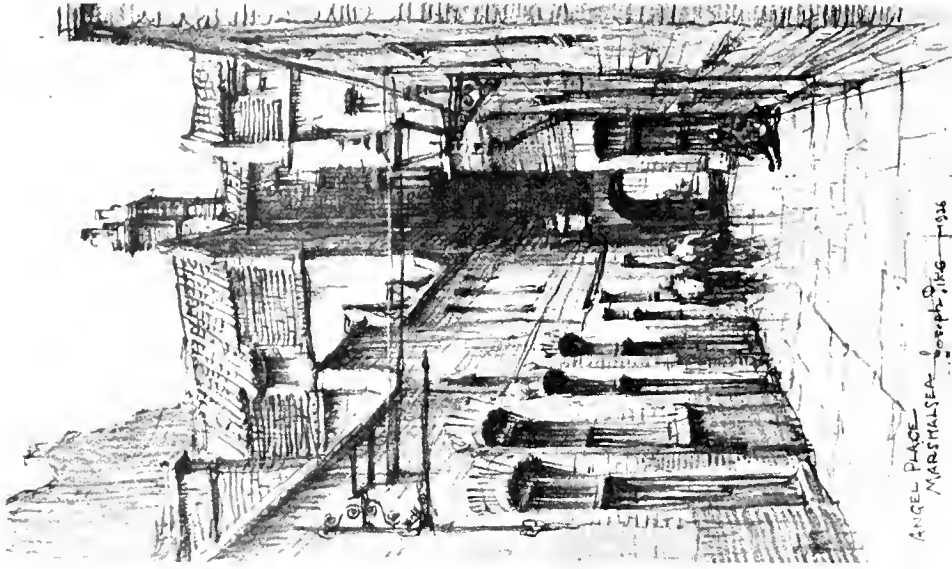
^a E.g., in July, 1430, John Kelke, being sued, could not find a counsel in Norfolk or Suffolk, and the Admiral, John, Duke of Bedford, "revoked the case to his principal court at Southwerk."²¹



(a) PLAN OF PART OF BOROUGH HIGH STREET, *circa* 1542
(b) 18TH CENTURY SCENE AT A FAIR (REPUTED TO BE SOUTHWARK FAIR)



(a) HALF MOON INN, 1890 (p. 6)



ANGEL PLACE
MARSTALSEA - Joseph, 186 - 1926

(b) ANGEL PLACE, 1926 (p. 7)

BOROUGH HIGH STREET



BOROUGH HIGH STREET, WEST SIDE, 1903

(b) Nos. 146-152



(a) Nos. 216-220 (p. 8)

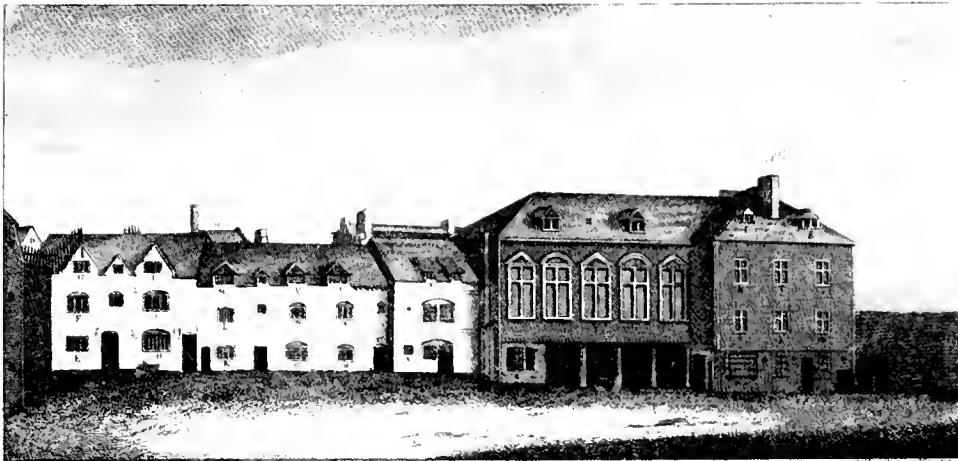
PLATE 4



BOROUGH HIGH STREET

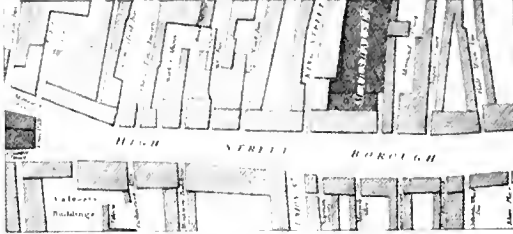
(a) LAYTON'S BUILDINGS, 1889 (p. 12)

(b) THE CATHERINE WHEEL INN, *circa* 1840 (p. 7)

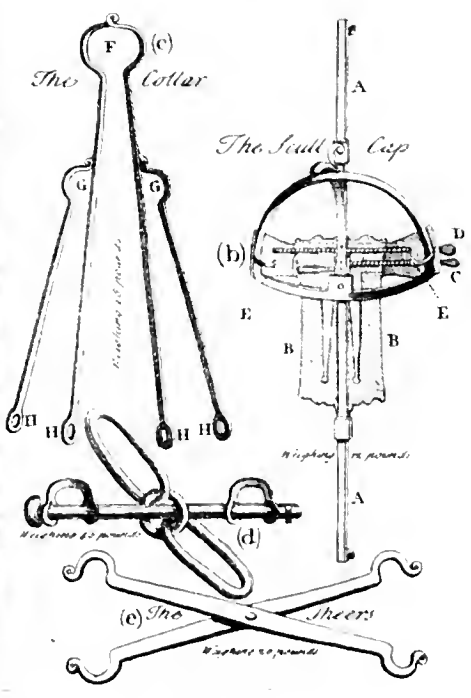
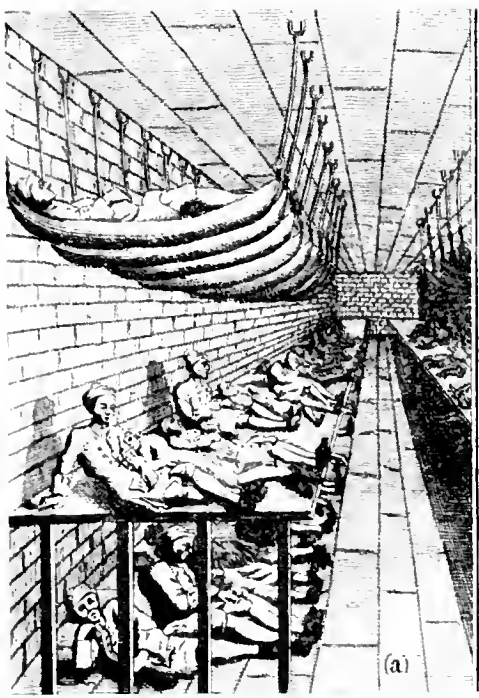


A VIEW OF THE SOUTH FRONT OF THE NORTH SIDE OF THE PART OF THE BOROUGH OF SOUTHWICK (including the WEST of the MARSHALLS ALLEY) MARSHALSEA PRISON, near BLACKNEY STREET, SOUTHWICK.

- A. Gate into the Prison
- B. a Part of the
- C. a Part of the
- D. a Part of the
- E. a Part of the
- F. a Part of the
- G. a Part of the
- H. a Part of the
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- T. a Part of the
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- W. a Part of the
- X. a Part of the
- Y. a Part of the
- Z. a Part of the

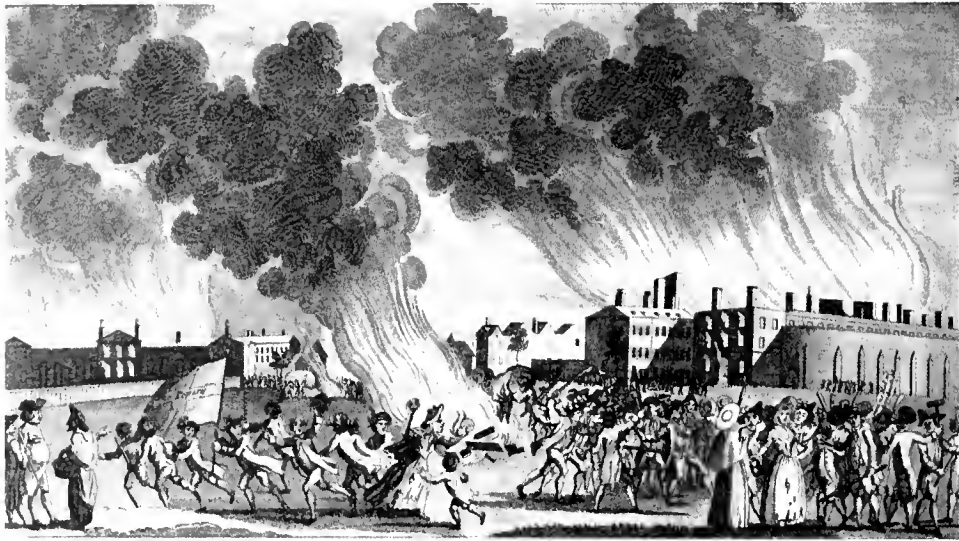


- 1. a Part of the
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- 18. a Part of the
- 19. a Part of the
- 20. a Part of the

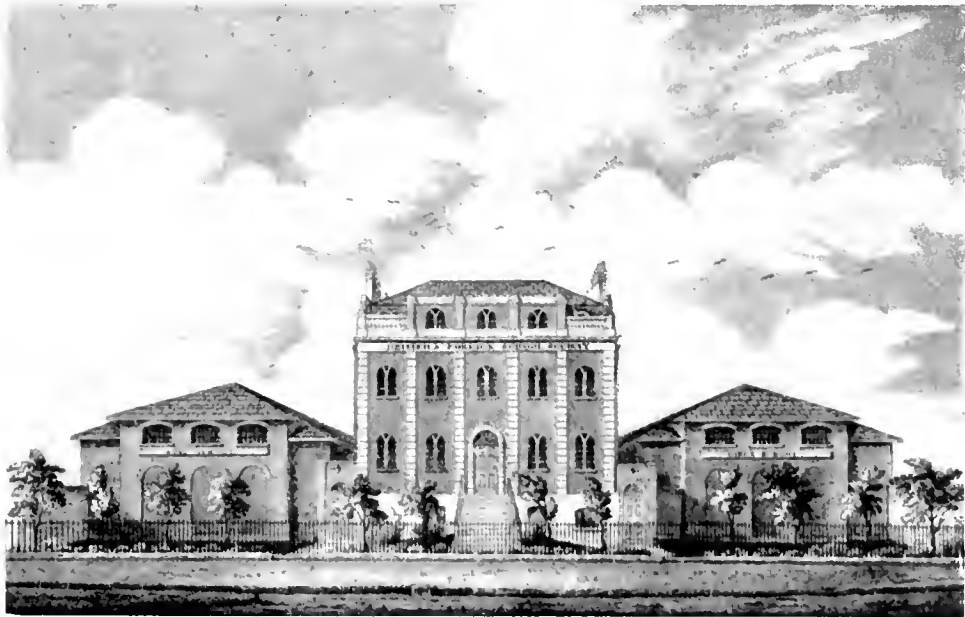


MARSHALSEA PRISON (pp. 14-16)
 (a) SOUTH FRONT OF NORTH SIDE, 1773
 (b) SICK MEN'S WARD AND INSTRUMENTS OF TORTURE, 1729

PLATE 6

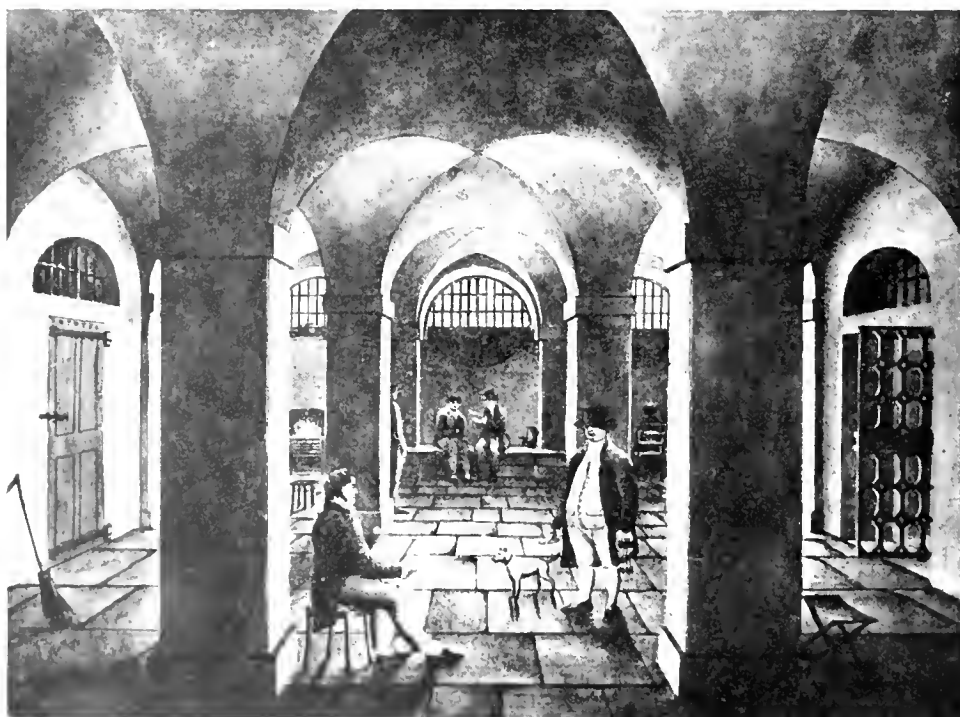
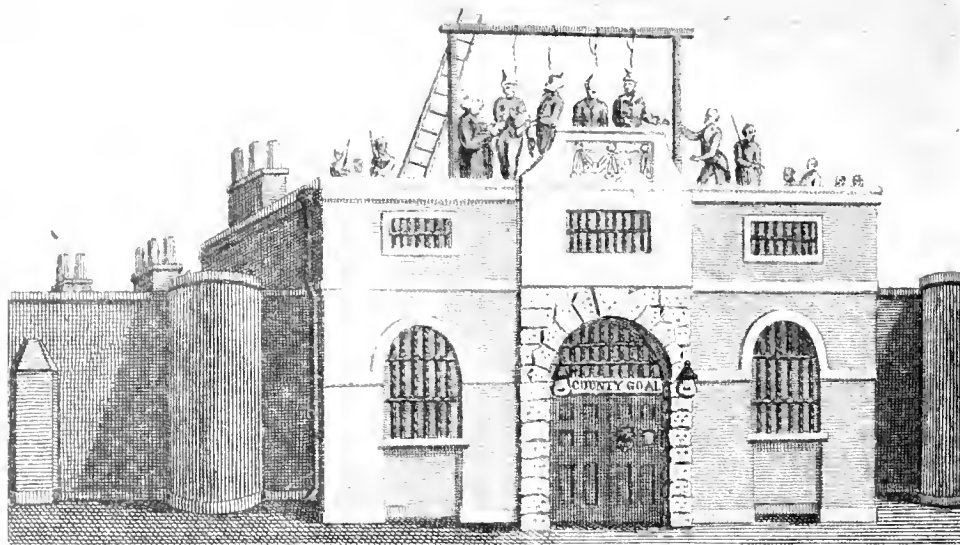


KING'S BENCH PRISON, BOROUGH ROAD (pp. 9-14)
(a) THE FIRE IN 1780
(b) MAIN COURTYARD, 1808



(a) KING'S BENCH PRISON, PRINCIPAL ENTRANCE, 1829
(b) THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN SCHOOL, BOROUGH ROAD, [1817] (p. 69)

PLATE 8



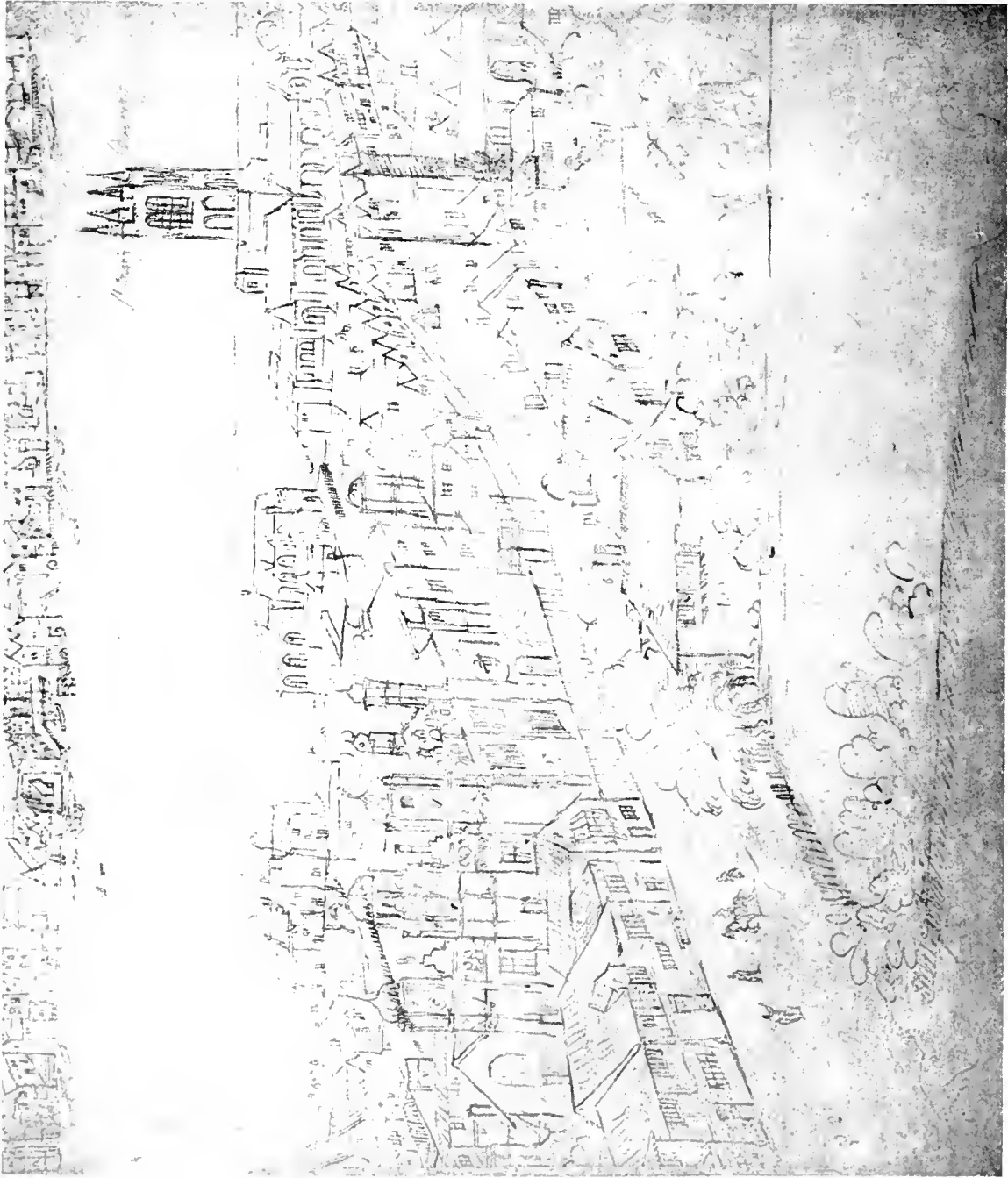
SURREY COUNTY GAOL. (pp. 20-21)

(a) GATEWAY, 1800

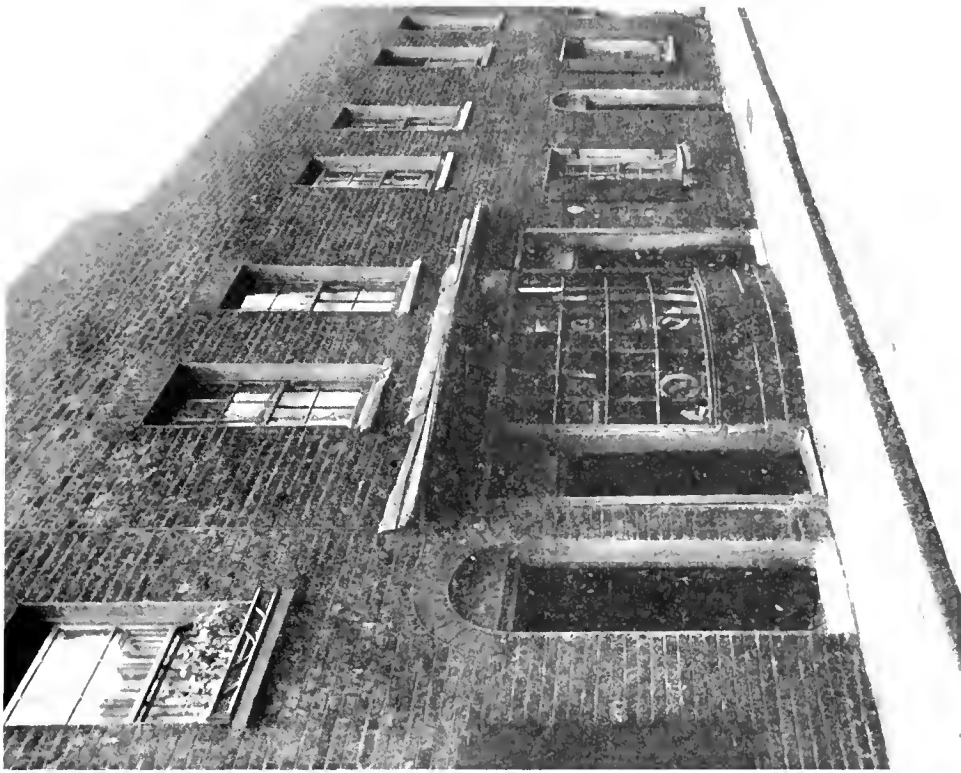
(b) INTERIOR



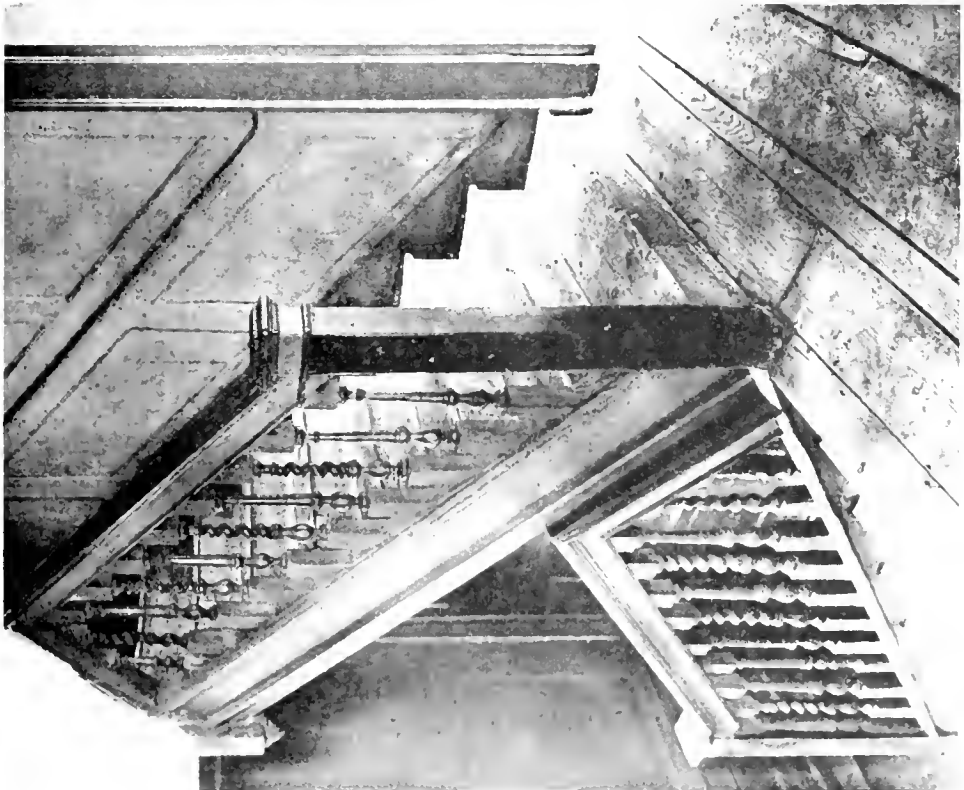
CHIMNEY PIECE, NOW IN NEWINGTON SESSIONS HOUSE,
(ORIGINALLY IN CLERKENWELL SESSIONS HOUSE), 1914
(p. 21)



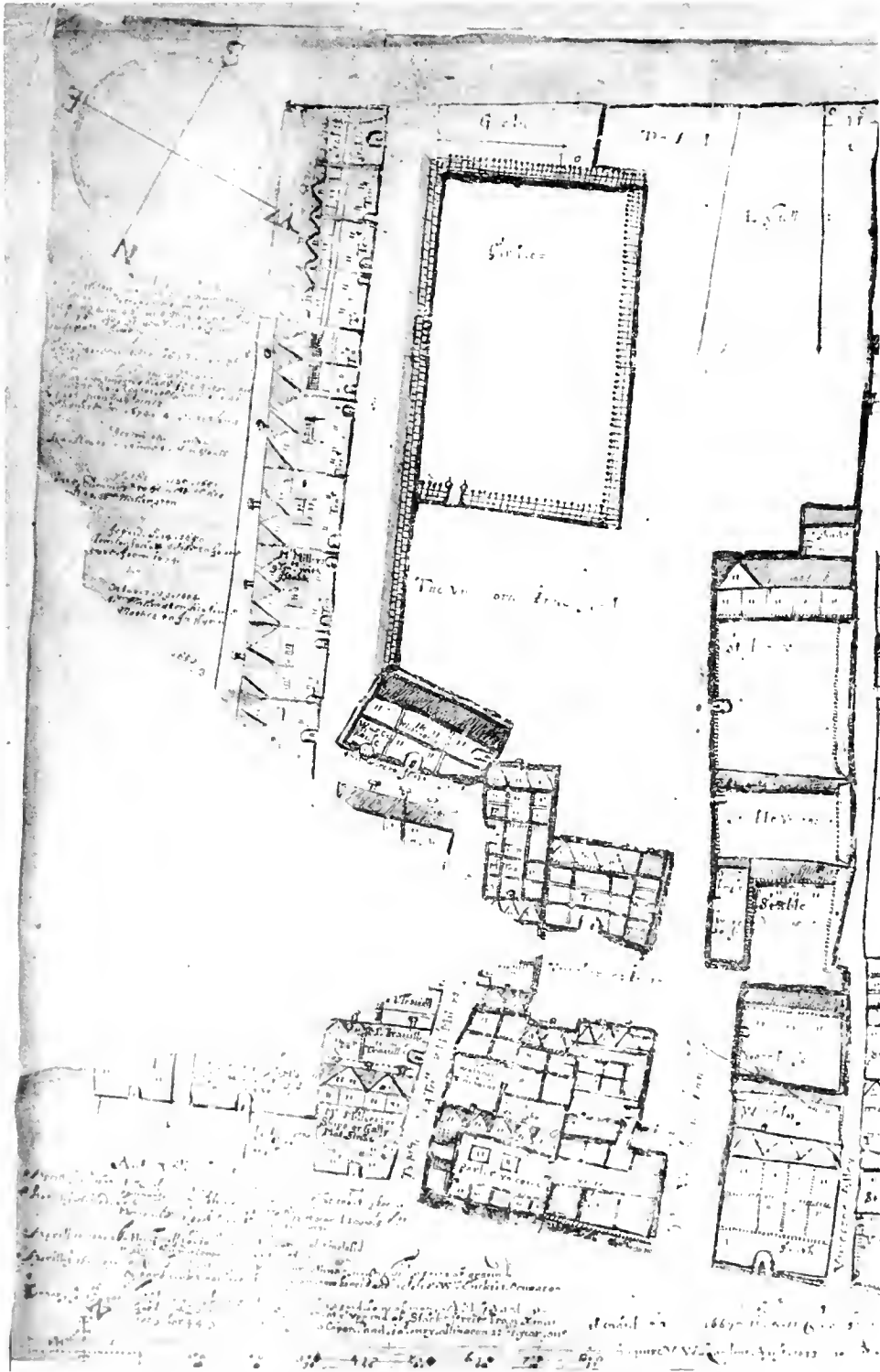
SECTION OF WYNGAERDE'S VIEW SHOWING SUFFOLK PLACE *circa* 1550 (p. 22)



(b) No. 14 MINIVER STREET, 1938 (p. 62)



(a) STAIRCASE IN THE FARMHOUSE,
HARROW STREET, 1910 (p. 25)



PLAN OF UNICORN INN, BLACKMAN STREET, 1678
(p. 7)

THE MARSHALSEA

of the trouble was not removed, the prison continued to be run for private profit.

In 1635 William Way, whose uncle, Thomas Way, had been keeper of the Marshalsea as early as 1559,²¹ sold the property to George Tucker under the description of "All that great Messuage called the Marshalsey used for the prison of His Ma^{ties} Houshold now in the Tenure . . . of S^r Edward Varney" together with a number of tenements, 9 of them in Mermaid Yard, and a garden.⁵⁰ Thirty-three years later, when the premises were leased by Tucker's successor, Eleanor Rowe, to John Lowman, they consisted of some newly-erected brick buildings with a yard in front and a garden lying on the east side of the yard, and an old building called the lodge on the south side of the yard, and a number of small houses which were not considered to be part of the prison⁵¹. Lowman built a new court house which continued in use until the removal of the prison. After the fire in Borough High Street of 1676 the Assizes and Sessions Courts were also held there for a time. Lowman's nephew, who was keeper early in the 18th century, specialized in thumb screws, iron hoods, and other forms of torture to extract the last halfpenny out of his unfortunate captives⁵² (see Plate 5*b*). As late as 1811 a prisoner is reported as dying of want.³⁸ In 1729 there were 401 prisoners in the Marshalsea of whom 82 were housed on the Master's side. They paid during the year for their lodging £555 2s. on the Master's side and £41 12s. on the Common side.

John Howard in 1776 described the Marshalsea as "an old irregular building (rather several buildings) in a spacious yard. There are, in the whole, near sixty rooms; and yet only six of them now left for common-side Debtors. Of the other rooms,—Five are let to a man who is not a prisoner . . . Four rooms, the *Oaks*, are for women . . . There are above forty rooms for men on the Master's-side, in which are about sixty beds; yet many prisoners have no . . . place to sleep in but the chapel, and the tap-room."⁴² Prisoners on the Master's side had the use of rackets courts and of a little back court for skittles, though there can have been little room for them within the narrow confines of the prison.

From 1666 to 1724, when the White Lion had become ruinous, the sheriff's prisoners were lodged in the Marshalsea⁵³ and became an additional source of profit to the Keeper, but by 1799, when Horsemonger Lane Gaol was opened, the Marshalsea buildings had in their turn become too bad for further use and the County Gaol was purchased and altered to serve as a prison for the Marshal and the Admiralty. It is this building which is described by Dickens in *Little Dorrit* as "an oblong pile of barrack building partitioned into squalid houses standing back to back, so that there were no back rooms; environed by a narrow paved yard, hemmed in by high walls dully spiked at top."^a

The old site was sold to Samuel Davis, cooper, in 1802, but the prisoners were not removed until 1811. No. 119 (now 163) Borough High

^a Entries in the prison register show that John Dickens was imprisoned there from February to May, 1824, for a debt of £10.⁵⁴

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

Street, and the building over the entrance to Mermaid Court were acquired about 1824 by a firm of wholesale drapers, Gainsford and Wicking, who erected a five-storey building with a double-fronted shop there.^a In 1952, when extensive alterations were being made to these premises, a bricked-up arch, 18 feet high and 9 feet wide, was found in the rear wall on the north side of and at right angles to Mermaid Court. It is 168 feet 4 inches from the frontage line of Borough High Street and is 18 inches thick. Theories were rife that this was part of the old Marshalsea and perhaps of the court-house there, but as the engraving reproduced on Plate 5a shows, the court-house formed a projection on the south front of the north side of the court-yard of the prison at some distance from the wall in question, and accounts of the prison buildings in 1800–11 describe them as so dilapidated and ruinous that it is difficult to believe that anything so substantial as this arch could have formed part of them. In general the brickwork appears to date from the early 19th century, though some of the bricks used are probably earlier. The evidence available suggests that the wall and arch formed part of the cooper's workshop built by Samuel Davis *circa* 1812, who perhaps used some of the bricks from the old prison for the purpose.

The ground and buildings of the second Marshalsea were put up for auction in July, 1843, and sold for £5,100 to W. G. Hicks, ironmonger.⁵⁵ They then comprised the Keeper's house, a substantial three-storey brick building and eight separate dwelling houses of brick and slate, the suttlng house, the Admiralty Prison, and a chapel and some paved yards. These are shown on the plan on p. 10.^b The premises were enclosed from Borough High Street by iron gates. Parts of the Keeper's house, kitchen, suttlng house, and the eight dwelling houses have been incorporated into the premises of George Harding & Sons, Ltd., hardware merchants, at the rear of No. 207 Borough High Street, though they cannot be seen from the road.

THE COUNTY GAOL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION IN BOROUGH HIGH STREET

There is very little information available about the work of the Surrey Quarter Sessions or Justices in the mediaeval period and no evidence has been found that there was a County Gaol in Southwark prior to 1513, when a commission of gaol delivery was issued for "Surrey Gaol, Southwark."²⁷

^a Samuel Davis bought only the part of the prison near Borough High Street which was built on land owned by the Crown. He already owned six tenements and a cooperage on the south side of Mermaid Court, and it is significant that the rateable value of the cooperage was substantially increased in 1813 when he got possession of the Marshalsea property. Gainsford and Wicking later acquired most or all of the property owned by Davis, but the two firms subsisted side by side for a few years and the deeds which would show the exact date and nature of the transfer seem to have been destroyed. The ground on which the back part of the Marshalsea stood was owned by the Gosling family and leased to the Deputy Marshal of the prison. The Gosling property, which adjoined Tennis Court, was acquired by the London County Council between 1950 and 1951, and this together with other land running parallel with Borough High Street and extending from Newcomen Street down to Long Lane, has been used for the extension of the Tabard Garden Housing Estate.

^b The new site being too small for the inclusion of a court house, a new Marshalsea Court House was built in Scotland Yard.⁵⁶

THE COUNTY GAOL

In 1557 a pardon was granted to John Harper, who had been attainted of high treason and ordered by the sheriff to be taken to Southwark gaol and thence to the gallows of St. Thomas à Waterings to be hung, drawn, and quartered.²¹ From 1580 onward we know that the county gaol was kept in the house called the White Lion just north of St. George's Church.²⁷ Stow, in 1598, speaks of "the white Lyon a Gaole so called, for that the same was a common hosterie for the receipt of travellers . . . This house was first used as a Gaole within these fortie yeares last, since the which time the prisoners were once removed thence to a house in Newtowne, where they remained for a short time, and were returned backe again to the foresaid White Lyon, there to remaine as in the appointed Gaole for the Countie of Surrey."⁵⁷

Neither the White Lion nor the County Gaol are marked on the map of Southwark *circa* 1542, the lower part of which is reproduced on Plate 1, but in a sale of 1535 the White Lion is described as a great tenement or inn with a tenement and a shop on either side and a barn, stables, etc., in the tenure of Robert Faireman, barber, and an acre of pasture ground lying in common in St. George's Field.⁵⁸

The county did not own the premises and the gaol was run as a profit-making concern by the various Keepers. During the reign of Elizabeth I recusants swelled the numbers of prisoners,²⁷ but it seems that the supply of prisoners, and with it the profits of the Keeper, fell off during the early Stuart period, for in 1635 Robert Bellin, the then Keeper, petitioned the Court of High Commission at Lambeth for leave to attend at Court so that "as occasion should serve he might have now and then prisoners committed thither," a petition which was granted.²⁷ Conditions in the White Lion were by this time bad even by contemporary standards. In 1638 George Coks, a Benedictine monk, who was imprisoned there, complained that he was in danger of his life by reason of the closeness of the prison²⁷ and asked to be removed to the Clink, a prison which was by no means salubrious. Twelve years later the County Justices themselves decided that more suitable accommodation was needed for the County Gaol and they negotiated with Thomas Walker, who had acquired a grant of Winchester House (see *Bankside*),⁷ for the transfer of the Clink prison for the purpose.⁵⁸ This proposal fell through.

In 1654 trustees for the county purchased the White Lion with the House of Correction^a and garden adjoining and the White Lion Acre in St. George's Fields from the owner, Anne Rich, for just over £600.^b Instead of rebuilding, the trustees lost all immediate benefit from the transaction by

^a An inquisition of 1650 quoted in the course of this transaction contains the first definite mention of a House of Correction in Southwark, but it had probably been in existence for some years. There is an entry in the vestry minutes of St. Saviour's parish of a collection for the erection of such a house as early as 1601.⁵⁹

^b The Journal of the House of Commons for 1654 records that under an Act of 1651 money was collected for the Commissioners for the Monthly Assessments for the Army towards the purchase, building, and repair of the gaol, but the sheriff refused to release it.

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

granting 41 year leases of most of the property for which they received only a small sum in consideration money.⁵⁸ Samuel Hall and William Arthur acquired a lease of the lodge, a four-storey building with a cellar, 36 foot in depth and with a frontage of 11 foot to the street, while Edward Bruce was granted the garden and part of the main building containing 5 rooms and a kitchen.

In 1661 it was reported that "There needes a more Convenient workehowse for the howse of Correccion especially in Somertyme this beinge to close for Ayre for such as are to bee held in hard Labour, And there is not light enough for the whole roome if there were twentie blocks [for the beating of hemp] there beinge but eight And to this there wants a vault for an howse of office."⁶⁰ The accommodation in the House of Correction or Bridewell then consisted of one little chamber, two large chambers, which had been reserved to William Arthur, two garrets, two "low large Cellars one of them used for a workehowse" and a little yard. In the White Lion the debtors had a buttery, four chambers, and "two great Chambers" which were in need of repairs to the roof, a parlour "lockt upp by Arthur," and a very small chapel "beinge a throughfaire to the buttery but otherwise conveniently scituate for the severall Prisoners to come to and the Criminal Prisoners to come to the window to heare."

The Common Gaol consisted of one large and one small room and a small yard for both men and women; the kitchen to the Common Gaol had been taken by Arthur. The rest of the ground and buildings, including a "longe yard," was leased out.

For several years Arthur was paid £50 a year to keep the House of Correction, but he failed to carry out repairs or even to pay for the bread supplied to prisoners and was accused of being a "Receptor, hospitator et comfortator" of robbers and other evil-disposed persons. The yearly allowance was stopped, but Arthur continued as Keeper for several years longer.⁶⁰ By 1666 the White Lion, or such part of it as was still available for use as a prison, was in such a bad condition that the sheriff was obliged to commit his prisoners to the Marshalsea. This state of affairs continued, in spite of numerous complaints, for over 50 years. In 1718 the Court of Sessions decided to levy a penny rate to cover the cost of building a new Bridewell and County Gaol, but 2 years later it was reported that no money had been paid in to the Treasurer. Finally in 1721 when "itt appeared to the Court that an Indictment was depending against the Inhabitants of [the] . . . County for haveing no County Gaole" the Justices decided to get down in earnest to the work of rebuilding. In March, 1723, John Lade reported that Edward Olliver of Newington, carpenter, had almost completed the County Gaol and it was ordered that 2 wells were to be sunk in the yards.

Both buildings were finished by February, 1724, when the fees to be taken by the Keeper were fixed at 4s. 4d. for each person discharged from the House of Correction and 13s. 4d. for each felon, 6s. 8d. for each debtor and 10s. 10d. for each person guilty of a misdemeanour who was discharged from the County Gaol.

THE COUNTY GAOL

In November, 1725, the Court of Sessions ordered that an old building standing on "County Land between the new Gaol and the publick Street" and formerly in the possession of Captain Bateman, coachmaker, part of which extended over the gateway to the gaol, should be pulled down and the old timbers used to make a fence in the yard next to the lodge with "a large Window Frame in the Wall for the prisoners to begg through (if hereafter it shall be thought fit)."⁶¹ The County Gaol, built after 70 years of delay and vacillation, was known throughout the 18th century as the "New Gaol."

A glance at the map on p. 10 will show how narrow was the site to accommodate both the Gaol and the House of Correction, and in 1772, when the House of Correction was in need of repair, it was decided to move it to a new site rather than rebuild in so confined a space (see below).⁹ Two years later, largely owing to the work of John Howard, an Act was passed "for preserving the health of prisoners in gaol, and preventing the gaol distemper."⁶² The preamble stated that it had been found that gaol fever was due to lack of cleanliness and fresh air and it authorized justices to make some minimum provisions for cleaning and airing the wards and cells, and for sick rooms and baths. The Court of Quarter Sessions for Surrey appointed a committee to carry out the Act.⁶³ They ordered, among other things, that some windows should be made in the wards of the County Gaol, 2 rooms should be set aside as sick rooms and "three Dozen of Canvass Frocks of the cheapest Sort" should be provided for the use of prisoners.

During the 18th century the majority of prisoners in the County Gaol were felons though there was still a small percentage of debtors. Some of the Scots concerned in the 1745 rebellion were confined there prior to their execution on Kennington Common⁶⁴ as were some of the rioters concerned in the destruction of property in Southwark during the Gordon Riots in 1780.⁶⁵ Seven of the latter were executed on a gallows in St. George's Fields near the King's Bench Prison.

In 1791 the County Justices obtained an Act empowering them to build a new County Gaol on a site in Horsemonger Lane (see p. 20).⁶⁶ The old building, though delapidated, was yet in better condition than the Marshalsea, and in 1799 the former was purchased from the County for £4,214 12s. and converted into a prison for the Marshalsea. It continued in use as such from 1811 until the abolition of the Marshalsea in 1842 (see p. 14).

THE HOUSE OF CORRECTION IN ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

In 1772 authority was obtained from Parliament⁶⁷ to extinguish the rights of common on the White Lion or Hangman's Acre in St. George's Fields, which had belonged to the County since 1654, in order to erect a new House of Correction thereon. John Millner was responsible for the building which was completed early in 1773.⁶⁸

William Smith, who wrote on the *State of the Gaols* in 1776, and who had served as an apothecary to St. George's House of Correction,

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

approved the arrangement of the new building which, unlike the old premises, contained separate wards for men, women, and apprentices, and two bathing tubs and a sick room in accordance with the Act of 1772. On the other hand, he found that the prisoners suffered much from cold and hunger, since they were allowed only a $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. loaf a day and received no charities, and, apart from a little desultory beating of hemp, they had nothing to do.

The House of Correction remained in use until 1798, when its inmates were removed to Horsemonger Lane Gaol. The building, which is marked on the 1791-99 edition of Horwood's map between Providence Row (now Glasshill Street) and Great Suffolk Street, is shown on the 1813 edition as in use as a soap manufactory. The original building, with additions and alterations, survived until well on into the 19th century. It is shown on the left of the engraving reproduced on Plate 6*a*.

THE SURREY COUNTY OR HORSEMONGER LANE GAOL

In 1791 the Surrey Justices purchased $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres of market garden ground in Newington on which to build a new County Gaol and Sessions House.^{a 69} The ground abutted on Horsemonger Lane (afterwards renamed Union Road and now known as Harper Road). The prison, which was designed by George Gwilt the elder, consisted of a quadrangle of three storeys, three sides being used for criminals and the fourth for debtors (see p. 106). Provision was made for over 400 prisoners.

Some alterations to the prison were carried out by John Willson, builder, of Great Suffolk Street in 1856.⁷⁰ In 1862 Henry Mayhew printed the following description of the gaol—

“It is inclosed within a dingy brick wall, which almost screens it from the public eye. We enter the gateway of the flat-roofed building at the entrance of the prison, on one side of which is the governor's office, and an apartment occupied by the gate-warder, and on the other is a staircase leading up to a gloomy chamber, containing the scaffold on which many a wretched criminal has been consigned to public execution. Emerging from the gateway, the governor's house, a three-storied building, stands right in front of us, on the other side of the courtyard, having a wing of the debtors' prison on each side, all of them built of brick . . . The right wing of the prison contains sheriffs' debtors, who maintain themselves . . . the left wing is set apart for county court debtors and those sheriffs' debtors who are unable to do so . . .

The court yard is flanked on the left hand by the infirmary, a detached building, containing wards for debtors and criminals . . . on the right by the sessions' house, the front of which faces Newington Causeway.”⁷¹

Leigh Hunt passed a part of his 2 year sentence for libel in Horsemonger Lane Gaol in 1813-15 and was visited there by Lord Byron and Tom

^a The ground is described as being part of Mill Field.

HORSEMONGER LANE GAOL

Moore.²⁵ Charles Dickens witnessed the public execution of the Mannings there in 1849 and expressed his disgust in a letter to *The Times*,⁷² thus beginning the agitation against public executions which culminated in their abolition in 1868.^{a 73}

The prison was closed in August, 1878, under the provisions of the Prisons Act, 1877, which transferred the responsibility for all prisons to the Prison Commissioners. Two years later the inner area was cleared, and in January, 1884, part of it, containing just over an acre, was opened by Mrs. Gladstone as a children's playground.⁷⁴ For some years the gatehouse of the gaol was used by the London County Council as a weights and measures office, but a new building for that purpose, designed by T. Blashill, was erected on part of the prison site in 1892 when the remainder of the prison buildings were demolished.

The Sessions House was built on the north-west side of the prison with an approach road from Newington Causeway. The original building, with repairs and alterations, lasted until 1912, when, it having been decided to concentrate all Sessions' business at Newington instead of having two places of meeting north and south of the river, it was decided to rebuild in order to secure more accommodation. As a temporary measure the Sessions were transferred to Clerkenwell Sessions House. Work on the new building at Newington was delayed by the outbreak of war, but the main part was finished in 1917 for use as government offices. It was completed and opened as the Sessions House for the County of London on 11th January, 1921.⁷⁵ It contains an old chimney piece removed from Clerkenwell Sessions House (Plate 9), but otherwise is of little architectural interest. It was seriously damaged by enemy action during the 1939-45 war, and is now (1954) undergoing a complete repair.

^a Dickens wrote: "The horrors of the gibbet and of the crime which brought the wretched murderers to it, faded in my mind before the atrocious bearing, looks, and language of the assembled spectators." Two stones with the inscriptions "M. M." and "F. G. M.", "EX^D 13TH NOV^R 1849" are now in the Cuming Museum.

CHAPTER 3

SUFFOLK PLACE AND THE MINT (LANT STREET, GREAT SUFFOLK STREET, ETC.)



*Charles Brandon,
Duke of Suffolk*

Wyngaerde's view of London, *circa* 1550 (Plate 10), shows Suffolk Place on the west side of Borough High Street as "a large and most sumptuous building,"⁷⁶ surmounted by towers and cupolas. Its size and importance so much impressed the unknown draughtsman of the plan of Borough High Street of *circa* 1542 (see Plate 1a), that he made it appear larger than St. Saviour's Church or any other building in the locality. Stow states that the house was built by Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk, in the time of Henry VIII and later writers have followed his lead,^a but the Brandon family had had a residence on the site for at least half a century previously. Sir John Howard, afterwards Duke of Norfolk, stayed at "Brandennes Place in Sothwerke" in 1465,⁷⁷ and it is probable that both the Sir William Brandon who was killed on Bosworth Field, and his father, also Sir William, who survived him, lived there. Sir Thomas Brandon, son of the elder Sir William, who inherited the house from his mother in 1497,⁷⁸ added to the grounds both by purchasing land and by leasing part of the Bishop of Winchester's Park. He lived in Southwark in lavish style. His will⁷⁹ mentions the plate, hangings, carpets and beds in the house, all of which he left to Lady Jane Guildford for life with reversion to his nephew Charles, and gowns of cloth of gold which were to be broken up and made into "coats for the rood" of St. Saviour's Abbey at Bermondsey, of Barking Abbey, and of "Our Lady Pew" at Westminster.^b

Sir Thomas died in 1510, and in the same year his nephew succeeded to his office of Marshal of the King's Bench.⁸¹ Seemingly he acquired possession of the family residence at about the same time, granting Lady Jane Guildford in exchange an annuity of £47 6s. 8d.^c ⁸² Charles Brandon was a flamboyant character and a great favourite with Henry VIII, who created him Duke of Suffolk in 1514. He was present at the Field of the Cloth of Gold in 1520²⁵ and in 1522 he entertained the King and the Emperor Charles V to dinner at Suffolk Place, and afterwards hunted with them in Southwark Park.⁸³

In 1536, Henry VIII, having first arranged alternative accommodation for the Bishop of Norwich in Cannon Row, Westminster, granted the bishop's house near Charing Cross to Charles, Duke of Suffolk, in exchange for Suffolk Place,⁸² which became part of the jointure of the young Queen

^a Apart from Stow's statement, which probably derived from the fact that Suffolk Place took its name from Charles Brandon's dukedom, there is no evidence of Charles having built the house. The family wills point to Sir Thomas as the man who gave the house its final form. It is unlikely that if so substantial a building had been erected as late as 1514, it would have been fit only for the knacker's yard by 1557 (see below).

^b Sir Thomas left 20 marks for the repair of St. George's, Southwark, and both he and his father⁷⁹ left money to the High Altar there.

^c Lady Jane Guildford was the widow of Sir Richard Guildford who died in 1506. She accompanied the King's sister, Mary, to France in 1514.²¹

SUFFOLK PLACE

Jane.⁸¹ A keeper of Suffolk Place was appointed and for the next 20 years the house was used occasionally as a royal residence or for the reception of distinguished visitors. Entries in the royal accounts for 2 gardeners and 2 women “weeding and setting of strawberries,” and for 3,000 “red rossiers” and 1,000 slips of damask roses and cages to put birds in, suggest that the gardens were well kept up.⁸¹

About the year 1545 a Royal Mint was established in a part of the building where, early in his reign, Edward VI commissioned certain “new moneys of gold”—the sovereign, royal, angel and half angel—to be made.²¹ The mint was closed in 1551 owing to the discovery of frauds amounting to £4,000.⁸¹

King Philip and Queen Mary spent the night at Suffolk Place in August, 1555, after dining with the Lord Chancellor at Winchester House.⁸⁵ In the following February the Queen granted Suffolk Place to the Archbishop of York by way of compensation for the loss of York Place (Whitehall Palace) which her father had taken from the see.⁸⁶ The grant included barns, stables, dovecotes, orchards, gardens, banqueting houses and conduits totalling 14 acres of ground in all.

From a survey of the property⁸⁷ made in the time of Edward VI it is obvious that parts of the grounds had already been leased out and that small tenements had been built along the street frontage. The house was perhaps too large or too much out of repair for the Archbishop, for he decided to dispose of it almost at once, and in July, 1557, Elles Dyall and John Tull “citizens and tylers” were in possession.⁸⁸ The break up of the mansion began immediately and it was completely demolished by June, 1562, when the site was sold to Anthony Cage.⁸⁹ Stow tells us that “many small cottages of great rents” were built there “to the encreasing of beggers in that Borough.”^{a 76}

The estate, which continued to be known as Suffolk Place or the Mint, was owned by Sir Edward Bromfield^b in 1651, when the Parliamentary Commissioners, under the mistaken impression that it was still royal property, made a survey.⁹² Besides a capital messuage on the south, by Harrow Alley, the Commissioners listed 16 tenements with gardens and grounds amounting to about 13 acres.

In 1679 Thomas Lant married the daughter of Sir Edward Bromfield, and in due course acquired a life interest in Suffolk Place.⁹³ At this time, as shown on Morden and Lea’s map (1682), although the northern part of the area in the neighbourhood of Mint Street, and the frontage to Blackman Street, were closely developed, the greater part of the site was still open ground. In 1702 Lant petitioned the House of Lords for leave to bring in a Bill to enable him to make leases at the best improved rent that he could get. He had previously had no power to do so, and the tenements were “unrepaired,



Sir Edward Bromfield

^a In 1624 several householders in the Mint were presented at the court leet for having the roofs of their tenements thatched with reed and not tiled.⁹⁰

^b The descent of the property can be traced in a list of deeds now in the Surrey Record Office.⁹¹

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

Unlet and Ruinous.”⁹³ The Act was passed and considerable building activity followed, but the present No. 66 Great Suffolk Street, a three-storey building with mansard roof, is the sole survivor of this period. On the 1761 edition of Rocque’s map, Great Suffolk Street is shown as Dirty Lane, and there is still a fair-sized piece of garden remaining to the north of it. Lant Street was formed in 1770 but was not fully built up until after 1800. Nos. 31–55 (Plate 29*b*) date from the late 18th century and Nos. 25–29 from the early 19th century.^a Dickens lodged in Lant Street as a boy when his parents were in the Marshalsea, and in *The Pickwick Papers* he depicts Bob Sawyer in lodgings there and remarks on the gentle melancholy engendered by the street in which “the majority of the inhabitants either direct their energies to the letting of furnished apartments, or devote themselves to the healthful and invigorating pursuit of mangling.”

The Suffolk estate lay within the Rules of the King’s Bench Prison and, perhaps partly for this reason and partly because it had once been royal property and had remained an undivided estate for several centuries, it acquired some prescriptive rights as a liberty. When it was put up for auction in 1811 the particulars of sale stated that the owner had exercised the privilege of appointing two constables to act there, and that this privilege would be handed on to the purchaser of the largest share.⁹¹

The Mint had an evil reputation during the 18th century as a resort of coiners, thieves and the like. It was the haunt of the notorious Jack Sheppard and his companion Jonathan Wild, who is said to have kept his horses at the Duke’s Head in Red Cross Street. Some slight improvement was made to the western end of the Mint in 1820–24, when Southwark Bridge Road was cut through, but in 1840 the district was described as “exceedingly filthy and wretched,”⁹⁴ and it was still intersected by open sewers. In 1842 Southwark Improvement Commissioners were appointed by Act of Parliament to form a new street through the Mint from Blackman Street to Southwark Bridge Road and to carry out other improvements there.^b⁹⁵ A plan was prepared but was not carried out because there was no provision in the Act for the payment of the cost.⁹⁶ Year after year the vestry petitioned the Commissioners for Metropolitan Improvements and the Commissioners of Woods and Forests for some means of raising the necessary funds to clean up the district. In 1848 the Rev. John F. Bullock and other landlords of the Mint themselves put forward a proposal for widening Peter, Queen and King Streets but withdrew it before the vestry had time to discuss it. It was not until 1875, when the vestry, approaching the problem from another angle, suggested that the formation of a new road to link up with Southwark Bridge Road would be a great relief to the congestion of traffic over London Bridge, that any progress was made. Powers to form such a road, approximately on the line proposed by the 1842 Act, were granted to the Metropolitan Board

^a Nos. 25, 27 and 37 are now (1954) demolished to first-floor level.

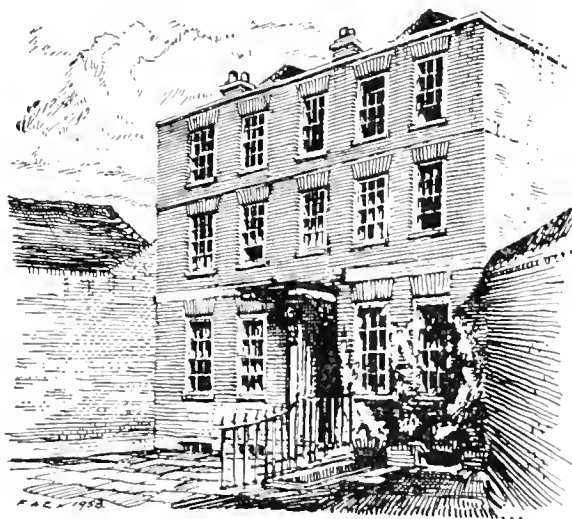
^b The approach to Southwark Bridge was planned along this line under the Act of 1811, but it was subsequently decided to make it further west across Great Suffolk Street and Borough Road (see p. 46).

SUFFOLK PLACE

of Works by the Metropolitan Street Improvements Act of 1877, and Marshalsea Road was opened in 1888.⁹⁷

A small public open space, known as Little Dorrit's Playground, was opened in 1902 north of Marshalsea Road. Much of the area is now derelict as a result of air raid damage and is awaiting redevelopment.

The late 17th century brick building illustrated here, which occupies the approximate position of the capital message held by Bromfield in 1651, survived until the early 1930's. It was hidden away among the network of courts—Falcon Court, Bird Cage Alley and Harrow Alley—which were built up round it in the 18th century. After being used at various times as a school and workshop it became a lodging house at some time before 1851⁹⁸ under the name of the Farmhouse and continued as such until after the 1914–18 war. W. H. Davies, the tramp poet, lodged there in the early 1900's.⁹⁹



The Farmhouse, Harrow Street

CHAPTER 4

THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR

The first church of St. George's, Southwark, was probably built at the beginning of the 12th century. There is no mention of it in Domesday Book, but in 1122 it was presented to the Abbey of Bermondsey by Thomas of Arderne and his son.¹⁰⁰

Little is known about the mediaeval church except that it was rebuilt at the end of the 14th century.¹⁰¹ Two stones which may have come from this second building have been bedded into the inside wall of the 18th century tower at the level of the clock. The inscriptions, which are rudely carved, appear to be by the same hand. The larger^a reads—

Edwardus
dñs de Hafting
me fieri fecit
anno dni mil
efimo CCCC
XXX - VIII

(Edward, Lord of Hastings caused me to be made A.D. 1438)
The smaller—

Hec requies mea
in sc̄lm sc̄li hic ha
bitabo q̄m elegi eā

which may be paraphrased in the words of Romeo—

“O! here
Will I set up my everlasting rest”¹⁰²

Sir Edward Hastings, *de jure* Lord Hastings, was imprisoned in the Marshalsea in 1417 for refusing to pay the costs of his unsuccessful claim against Reynold, Lord Grey of Ruthin to bear the undifferenced arms of Hastings.¹⁰³ In several pitiful letters Sir Edward bewailed his sufferings¹⁰⁴— he was bound in fetters of iron; he had a “langweryn” sickness and was never likely to be hale again. After 18 years of imprisonment, he suggested that the quarrel should be resolved by his son John marrying Sir Reynold's daughter, but the effort at conciliation failed and Sir Edward died early in 1438. It is possible that the two inscribed stones formed part of a chantry in the church of which Sir Edward had paid the cost.

In the 15th century Letters of Indulgence were granted from Rome to persons helping the guild or fraternity of St. George in Southwark.⁸¹ This guild, founded for the maintenance of one priest, was still in existence at the Reformation, when it was stated to be worth £6 2s. 8d. a year.^b ¹⁰⁵

^a The stones measure 24 × 22 inches and 16 × 22 inches respectively.

^b On St. George's day, 1529, Henry VIII made a gift of 13s. 4d. to the fraternity.⁸¹ There is in the British Museum MSS. Room a 14th century breviary which contains a note that it was bequeathed to the Church of St. George's, Southwark, by James Lyncolin, *circa* 1522 ¹⁰⁶

ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR

St. George's Rectory was surrendered to Henry VIII with the other possessions of Bermondsey Abbey and has remained in the gift of the Crown ever since.^a

No accounts or minutes have survived for the period before 1619, by which time the building was in a poor state. In 1629, according to an inscription formerly in a window in the north aisle, the "Church, Steeple and Gallery, was repayed and new pewed, and beautified, and the South Ile enlarged by the Parishioners . . . and other good Benefactors"—the latter including most of the greater City livery companies.¹⁰⁸ At this time a portion of the churchyard was taken to enlarge the south aisle, and in part of the extra space a pew was provided with "two long Seats, one for the Men, the other for the Women Almsfolk of St. *Peter's* Hospital or Alms house at *Newington*."²⁰ The church was repaved and the windows repaired in 1652, and in 1715-16 it was "new pewed and beautified." Aubrey described it in 1719 as "large and spacious," with pillars, arches and windows of "modern *Gothick*."¹⁰⁸

By 1732 the building was in such a ruinous condition that it was "dangerous for the Inhabitants of the Parish to attend the Worship of God therein,"¹⁰⁹ and as a result of a petition of the churchwardens a grant of £6,000 from the funds of the Commissioners for the Building of Fifty New Churches was authorized by Act of Parliament¹⁰⁹ for the rebuilding of St. George's "with Brick." The new church was designed by John Price.^b The foundation stone was laid on St. George's Day, 1734, and the main part of the structure was completed by 1735.^c The grant from the Commissioners proved inadequate to cover the cost of furnishing the church, and in 1735 a rate of 1s. in the pound was levied to set up the old organ, to provide a clock, font, etc.⁹⁶ The church was opened in 1736, when numbered pew seats were allotted to 404 parishioners⁹⁶ and their families. The new building was smaller than the old, with the result that the churchwardens became embroiled with the Fishmongers' Company who claimed the right to have pews for their almspeople in the same place as before, though this was manifestly impossible since the site was now outside the church wall.

In 1749 the living of St. George's was worth only about £70 a year and was dependant on tithes and Easter offerings. The parish therefore applied for and obtained an Act of Parliament¹¹¹ authorizing a rate to raise £125 a year for the better maintenance of the rector. There was no parsonage house and the increase in his income proved inadequate for the Rev. Leonard

^a Since 1897, when part of the endowments of St. Margaret Pattens were given to St. George's, the City of London has the right of one turn of presentation in every three.¹⁰⁷

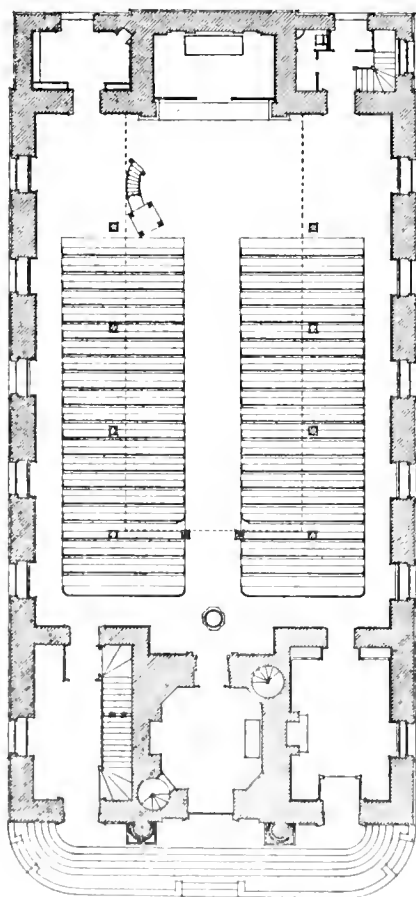
^b John Price, described as of Richmond, Surrey, also rebuilt St. Mary at the Walls, Colchester, and did work for the Duke of Chandos at Edgware and St. Marylebone. He published books in 1726 and 1735 giving proposals for bridges over the Thames at Putney and Westminster. He died in November, 1736.

^c James Porter, the contractor, was paid £5,544 10s. 4d. for the actual building.¹¹⁰ Thomas Dunn, mason, built the churchyard walls. Dunn worked as a mason contractor for Hawksmoor and was well-known as a statuary. In 1724 he was rated for Stonecutters Yard at the northern end of Kent Street (the Old Kent Road).

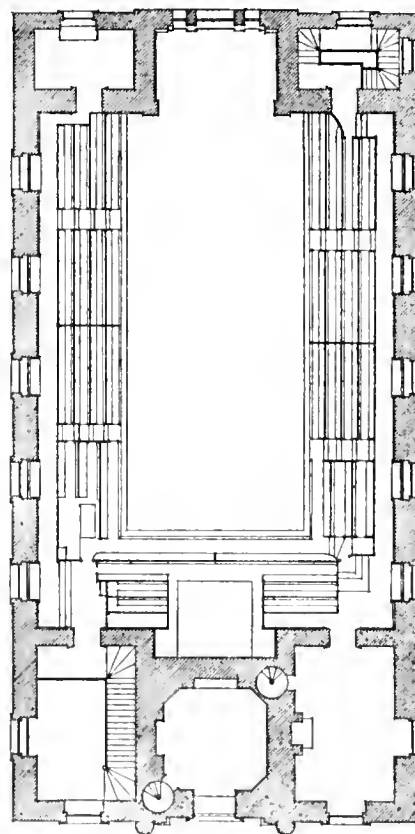
ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

Howard, the then rector, who was frequently confined in the King's Bench for debt. It was not, however, until 1807, during the rectorate of the Rev. John Brand, that a further Act¹¹² was obtained increasing the amount which might be raised by rate to £400 a year with an additional £80 a year until a parsonage house should be built.

In 1791 it was reported to the vestry that the steps in front of the church were badly decayed and that "it would be very Convenient as well as Ornamental if the Corners were taken off and the Steps & railings made Circular."⁹⁶ This alteration was carried out, thus in part remedying the fault noted by Ralph in his *Critical Review* that the church projected "very awkwardly into the street."¹¹³ Fifteen years later the Rector's warden, James Hedger, asked S. P. Cockerell, the architect, to make a survey of the church. Cockerell advised a "substantial repair" since much of the exterior was



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



GALLERY PLAN

ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR

decayed.¹¹⁴ Work to the value of £9,000 was carried out at this time. The ceiling was repainted by J. F. Rijaud and the paintings at the east end of the church were restored.

In 1899 the crypt was cleared and 1,484 coffins were removed and re-interred in Brookwood Cemetery where the site is marked by an obelisk, a replica of the obelisk formerly in St. George's Circus and now standing in the Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park (Plate 42*b*).

The vibration caused by the City and South London Underground Railway (now the City line section of the Northern Line), opened in 1890, and the increased traffic of the streets on either side of the church gradually damaged the structure.¹¹⁵ In 1930 some repairs were made to the tower, spire and crypt under the supervision of Philip Johnston,¹¹⁵ but funds were not available for the thorough overhaul of the building which was needed. In 1938 Frederick Etchells reported that the south wall had bulged and cracked, that almost all the supporting pillars of the west, north and south galleries were out of upright, and the main beams had pulled away from the walls and that, though the main roof was of excellent material and construction, it would be necessary to provide a continuous tie to the easternmost truss and make good the timbers in the south-west corner where wet had penetrated. He found that the walls rested on old piles set to a considerable depth in made ground and that immediately below the floor were "masses of skulls and bones thrown together at the time of the rebuilding." The death watch beetle had also attacked the pews.

The foundations of the south wall were strengthened in 1938 and perhaps saved the building from collapse during the war when the damage from enemy action was considerable. A thorough restoration was carried out under the direction of Thomas F. Ford in 1951-52, and the church was rededicated by the Bishop of Southwark on 16th October, 1952. The opportunity was taken to make some alterations and improvements in the building. The sanctuary was enlarged by moving forward the altar rails, the font was raised, a new east window replaced the shattered old one and the ceiling and coats of arms were repainted in colour.

St. George's is built of red brick with Portland stone dressings. Its west tower is faced wholly in stone. The main roof is covered with copper in replacement of the former slated roof, only the roof over the sanctuary being now slated.

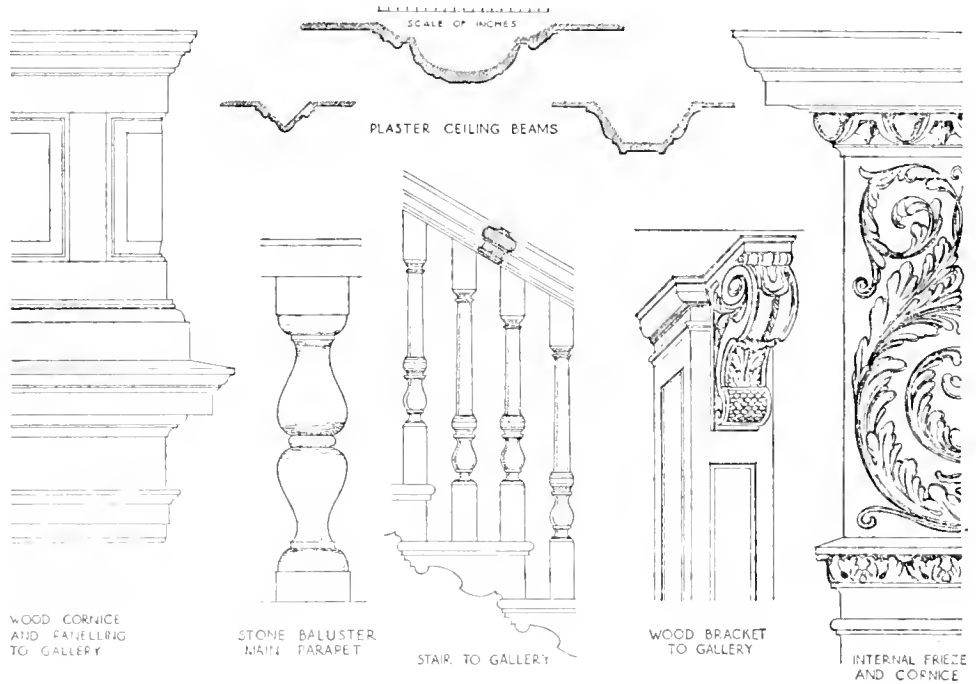
The church has galleries on three sides fronted with plain oak panelling. The supports to the galleries are also faced with oak panels, and the carved consoles at their heads are of the same material. Under the galleries the plaster ceiling is recessed with simple coved mouldings to admit more light through the lower windows.

The ceiling in carton pierre above the nave, which replaced the old plaster ceiling in 1897 (Plates 18 and 19), was designed by Basil Champneys,¹¹⁶ though it has the appearance of being coeval with the building. It shows winged cherubs in bold and richly modelled relief breaking through a clouded sky. Shining through the clouds are rays which emanate from the glory

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

beyond. The cherubs hold ribbons bearing texts from the *Te Deum* and the *Benedicite*. At the recent restoration the ceiling was delicately coloured in gold, and pastel shades of blue, pink, and green.

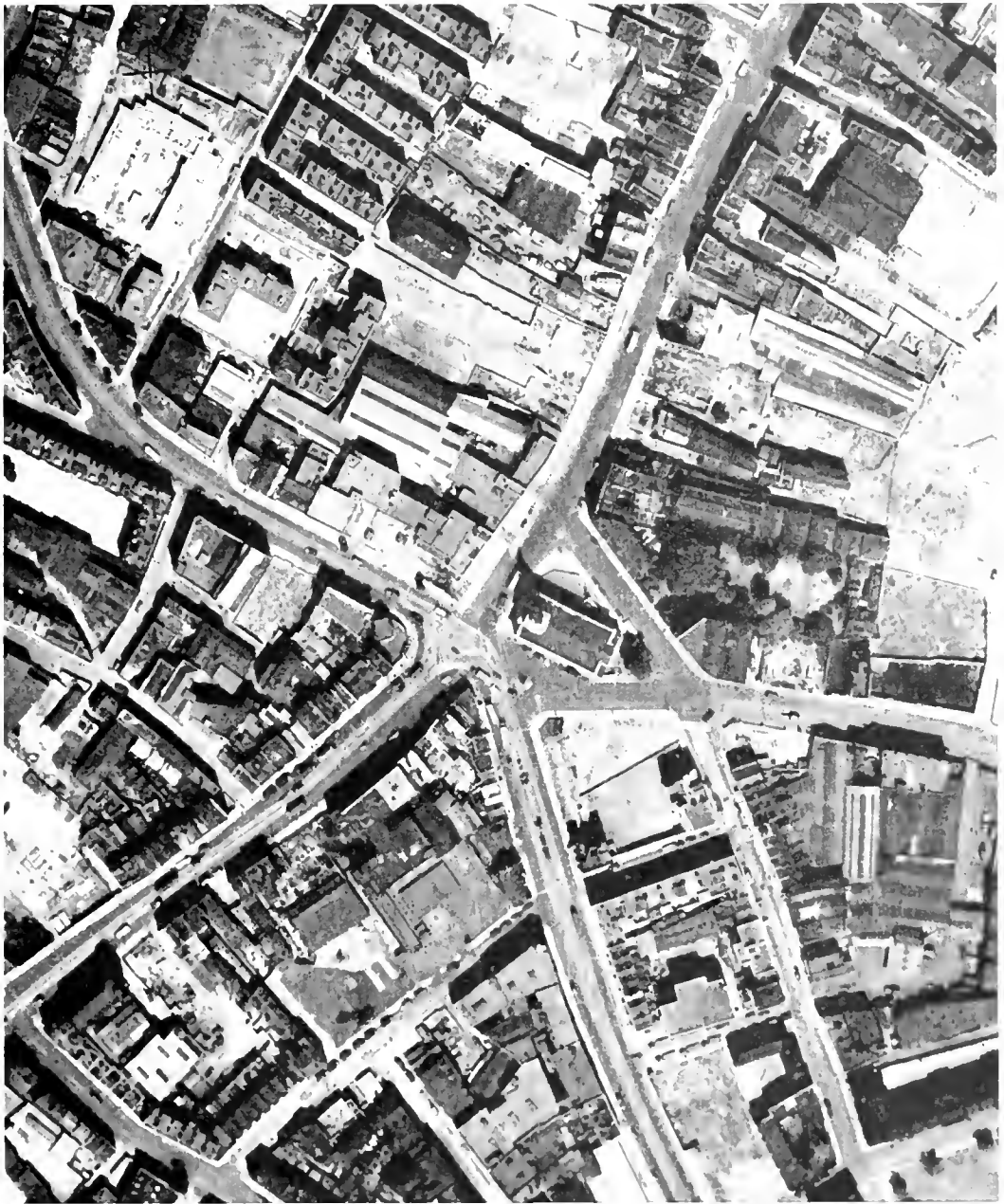
The frieze has the same plain cream finish as the rest of the interior wall surfaces except for the picking out in colour of the shields bearing the arms of the Skinners', Drapers', Fishmongers' and Grocers' Companies (who contributed towards the rebuilding) on the north and south walls, and



the City of London and the parish device on the east wall. The inscriptions "Holy Holy Holy" to the ribbons of the swags beneath the cherubs' heads are in gold.

There are only two stained glass windows in the church, that of three panels to the east window of the sanctuary and the centre window on the south side under the gallery.

The east window, which replaces one destroyed by enemy action in 1942, shows in the centre panel Our Lord ascending in glory. Rays surround Him and He is attended by two angels carrying a cloth of gold. There is a cross beneath His feet and above is a hand representing God and a dove symbolic of the Holy Spirit descending to earth. Beneath are saints grouped in an arc, each carrying a pilgrim's shell, and at the centre is a pelican in piety. In the left and right panels are St. George and St. Michael, and at the bottom the arms of the Fishmongers' Company, the borough of Southwark, the see of Canterbury, and the City of London. Also there is a tiny kneeling figure of Little Dorrit carrying a poke bonnet. The predominant colours of the glass,



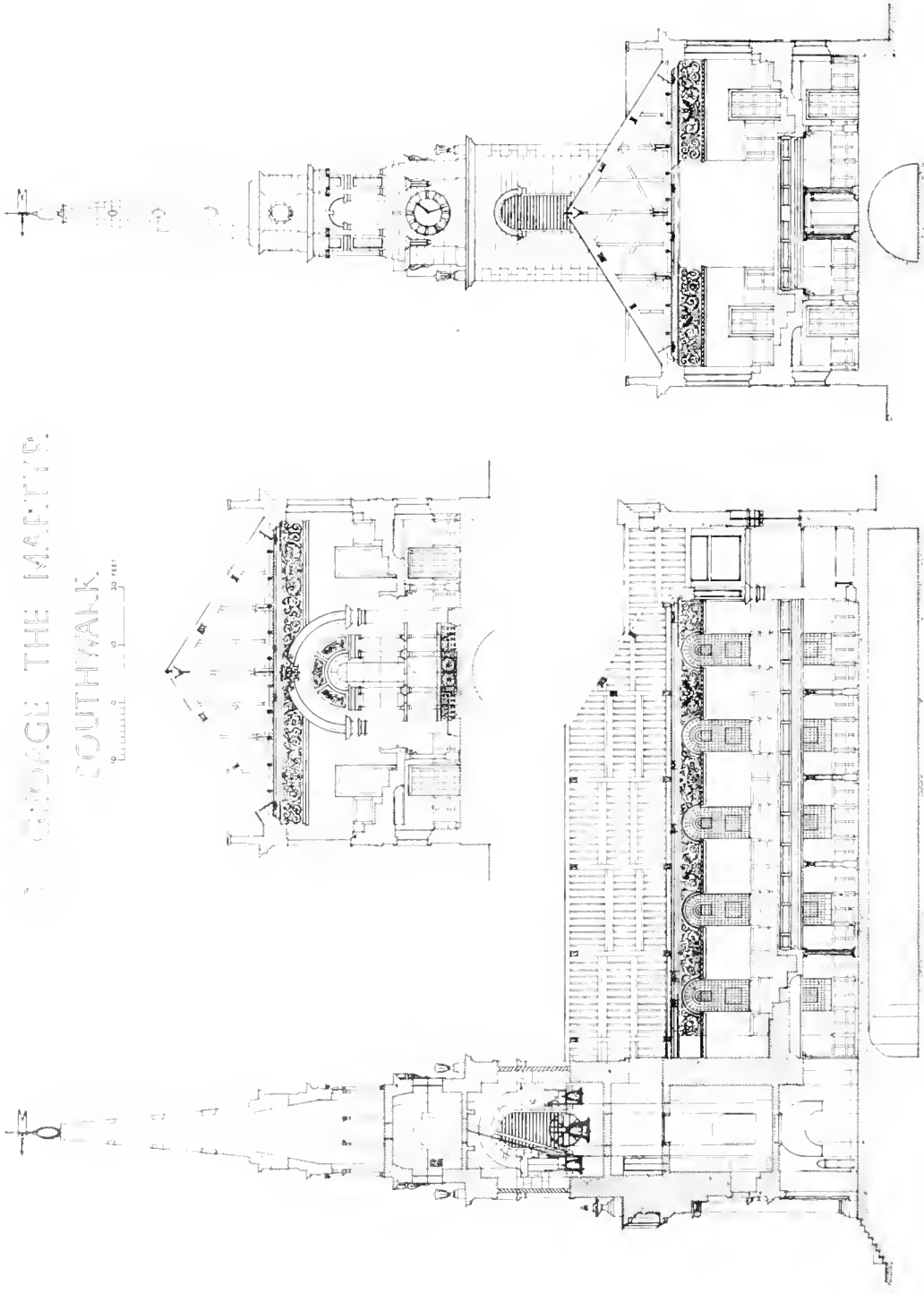
AERIAL VIEW OF THE CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR AND THE SURROUNDING STREETS, 1949



ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, 1827 (pp. 26-38)



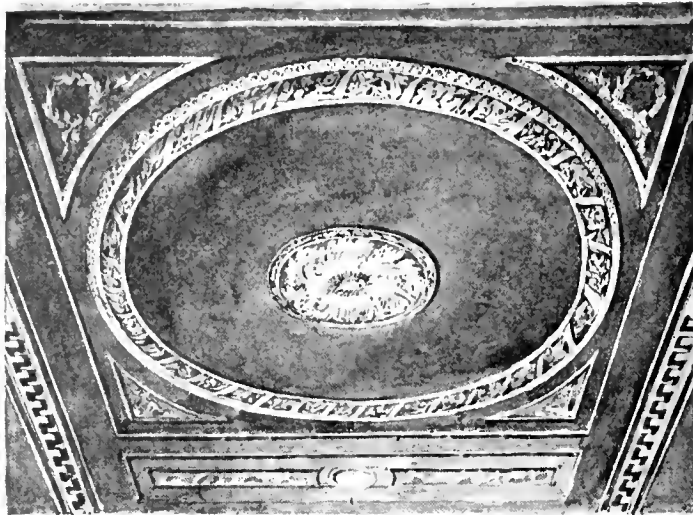
ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, SOUTH-EAST VIEW, 1941



ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR,
SOUTHWARK.

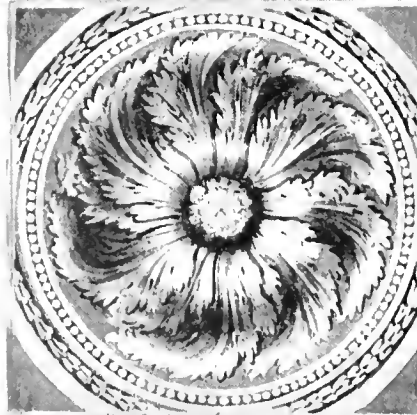
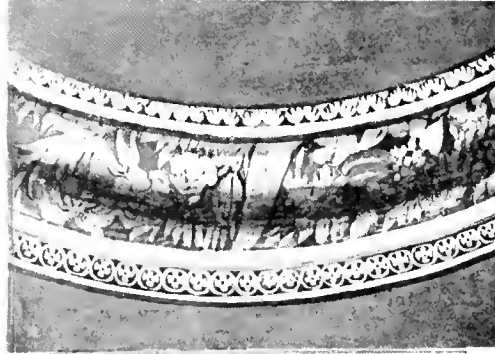


ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, INTERIOR, LOOKING EAST, 1941 (p. 29)



The Ceiling of St. George the Martyr

27th April 1871



View of the Ceiling of St. George the Martyr

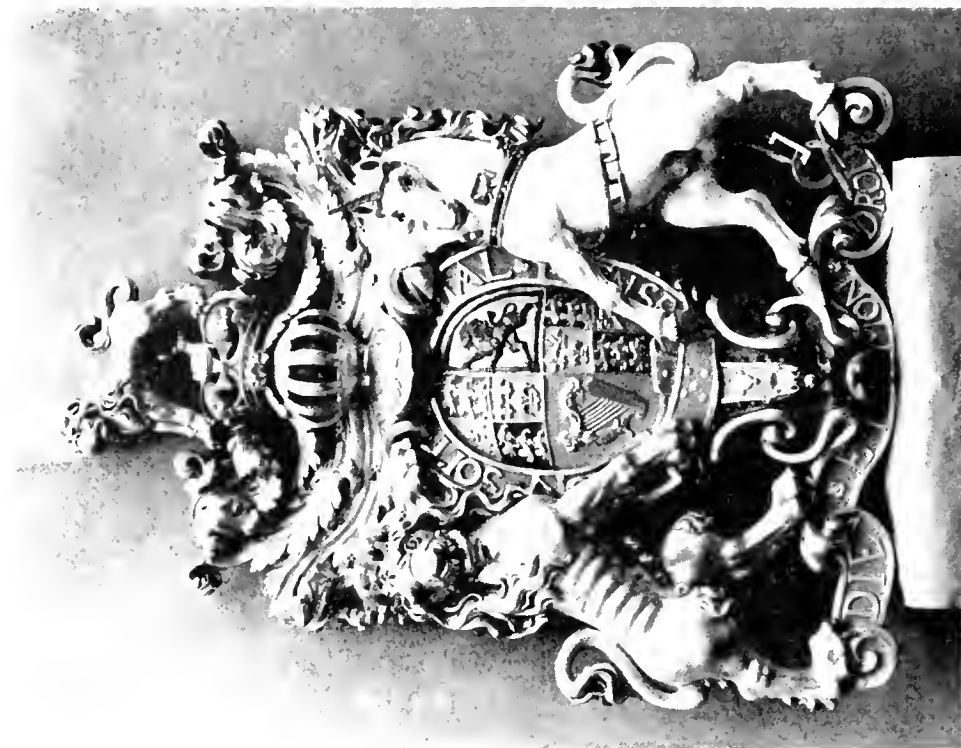
ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, CEILING, 1831
(p. 29)



ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, CEILING, 1952 (p. 29)



(a) PULPIT, 1941 (p. 31)



ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR

(b) COAT OF ARMS, 1952 (BEFORE REFIXING)
(p. 31)

ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR

which was designed by Miss Marion Grant, are yellow, red, blue, and emerald green.

The centre window under the south gallery (the inner window of the double glazing) is in rich colour and depicts St. George slaying the dragon. It is the only window in the church to have survived the recent war, and in 1950 it was re-set in antique glass. The window, which was brought from the chapel of the Hanwell Residential School in 1933, commemorates those, born in Southwark and the City of London and educated at Hanwell, who fell in the Great War.

"Little Dorrit's" vestry, at the west end of the south aisle, has wood panelling in two heights, and there are cupboards similarly panelled on each side of the doorway leading to the aisle. The vestry has a heavy plaster cornice to the ceiling and contains a plain narrow oak table which is nearly 10 feet long and dates from the 18th century.

The coat of arms and supporters now erected in front of the organ are those of James I and Charles I (Plate 20*b*). No record has been found of the exact date when they were carved but they were probably first put up in 1628-30 when the church was extensively altered.^a They are in elm, painted and gilded. There are several entries in the 17th and 18th century accounts for cleaning or repainting these arms.

No details of the making of the pulpit (Plate 20*a*) have been found though there is little doubt that it is contemporary with the building. In the early years of the 19th century it stood in the centre of the middle aisle with the lectern and clerk's desk in front of it.¹¹⁴

The font from the old church was for many years submitted to the ignominy of being used for the beating of oakum in the parish workhouse.¹¹⁷ The existing font is contemporary with the building. It is made of grey-veined marble and has all its surfaces tooled vertically. It was moved and raised on a step during the recent restoration when more space was made for the baptistery by the removal of two rows of pews. The font has an octagonal pedestal and base, the pedestal having attached shafts at each angle. The bowl is circular and is scalloped inside and out.

In 1735 £50 was paid to a Mr. Jordan for setting up the old organ in the new church. In 1807 Thomas Fruin of York Row, Lambeth, was appointed "to repair and improve" the organ, the compass "being three Notes less in All than common" and the case "very Old Fashioned and heavey."¹¹⁴ He set it up in its present plain panelled case.

A full description of the very interesting plate belonging to St. George's (Plate 71*a*) was printed in the *Surrey Archaeological Collections* for 1900.³ The plate consists of—

Two silver cups of 1559 and 1640, respectively; both have a London hall-mark; the second has the bowl inscribed "Thomas Dudson one of the

^a The Churchwardens' Accounts for 1630 contain the item "Paide for brobs to staie up the kings armes and the ten Commaundemts—2s. 6d."¹¹⁵ The recent restoration of the arms was carried out by Messrs. E. J. and A. T. Bradford, who were responsible for the decorations and enrichments of the church when it was restored after war damage.

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

Parishoners of the Parish of St. George in Southwarke gave this Cupp and Cover to the Church of the same Parish for ever to remayne. Anno Dñi 1640." The cover is lost.

Three silver patens. (1) Has the London hall-marks of 1696 though the foot is inscribed—

1573
W E.R. W
T.B.

The inscription was probably copied from an earlier paten. (2) Has the London hall-mark of 1711 and is inscribed "Ex Dono J C Ecclesiae Sancti Georgij Martyris in Burgo de Southwark 1711." (3) Has the London hall-marks of 1716 and is inscribed "Pietatis Ergo Hanc patinam Eucharisticam Ecclesiae & Parochiae Sti Georgii Mertirii Dedit et dedicavit Sarah Moore 1716."

Two silver flagons. (1) Has the London hall-marks of 1696 and is inscribed "The gift of A.G.A. to ye Parish Church of St. Georges, Southwark 1696." (2) Is similar but lacks the date.

A silver alms basin with the London hall-marks of 1696 and the inscription "The Gift of Lawrenc James Septm 1627. Gilbert Keffer, Robert Green, William Addams, Church Wardens. T.D. 1640." The inscription is reproduced from an earlier plate.

Two silver plates each with the London hall-marks of 1743 and in the centre a coat of arms and the inscription "The Gift of Mrs. Ann Walmesly, Widow, Deceas'd, to the Parish of St. George the Martyr in Southwark." On the reverse side is "Tho^s Dawson, Jac^b Forster, J^{no} Chandler, Church Wardens 1743."

Silver spoon-strainer with the London hall-marks of 1824 and the maker's initials, W.E. It is inscribed "Saint George Southwark, 1825."

There are two beadles' staves with globular silver heads. One is dated 1800 and the other is inscribed—

"This was Purchas^d by

JOHN NICOLL, STEPHEN SIDDALL, TOBIAS DAVES,	}	{	JOHN AMENT, WILL: TREDWELL, JOHN REILY.
---	---	---	---

Constables of S^t George y^e Martyr 1732

For y^e Use of y^e said Parish for ever.

WILL. SPICER, Beadle."

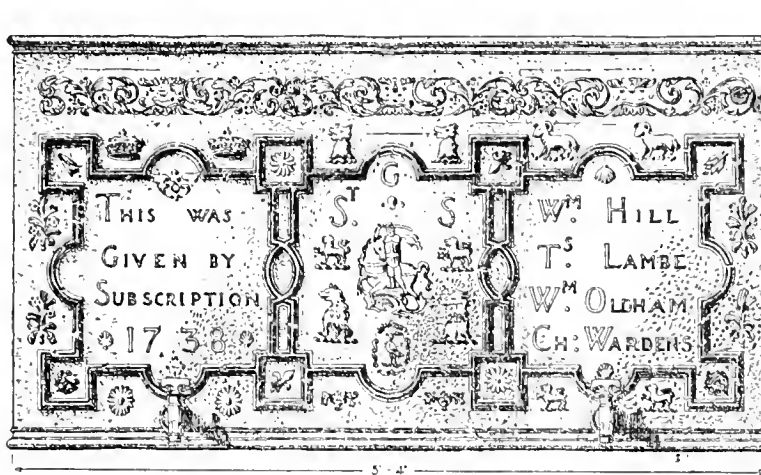
The clock with four dials in the steeple, painted "in as good and handsome a manner as the Clock at Greenwich Church" was made by George Clarke of Whitechapel for £90 in 1738.¹¹⁴

In 1738 the churchwardens agreed with the "Proprietor of the Thames Water at Dockhead" to pay twenty shillings a year for a supply of water to the church from the main. A lead cistern to contain 5½ barrels of

ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR

water was placed "within the North West Door under where the Bucketts now hang."¹¹⁴ The cistern (now converted into a collection box) still remains in the church porch.

John Williams of Aldersgate Street was employed in 1735 to repair the 8 bells from the old church and rehang them on a new frame. There is extant a letter from a parishioner written in 1805 complaining of having



Lead cistern

"his ears Saluted with the Clanking of St. Georges Candlesticks" and asking for the 2 treble bells and the great bell to be recast to improve the peal.¹¹⁴

In the sanctuary there are two wooden chairs which have cabriole legs with claw and ball feet. They date from about 1700.

The Monuments.—St. George's was the nearest church to the prisons in Borough High Street and many of those who died in prison were buried there. Bishop Bonner is said to be of their number.¹¹⁸

It is recorded that John Rushworth, author of *Historical Collections relating to Proceedings in Parliament*, who at the end of a long life was imprisoned in the King's Bench for debt, was buried behind the pulpit in 1690, and that the remains of Edward Cocker, arithmetician and writing master, who died in 1675, were deposited in the passage at the west end of the church.¹¹⁸

If any monuments of mediaeval date survived the Reformation they were probably destroyed during the large-scale alterations to the fabric in 1628–30. John Aubrey, writing towards the end of the 17th century, transcribed a number of inscriptions, the earliest, dated 1588, in rhyming doggerel being in praise of James Savadge who left £5 to the parish poor.¹⁰⁸

Only two pre-eighteenth century memorials now remain. These are on brass plates to the north and south of the sanctuary and are inscribed—

(1) SVB HOC LAPIDE INHVMATVR CORPVS IOH'IS IONES QVI MIGRAVIT EVITA QVINTO DIE FEBRVARIJ ANNO D'NI 1600.

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

HIC GENITOR SITVS ES CONSUMPTO CORPORE LETHO AT CÆLIS PVRO
MENTE MANENTE DEO.

(2) HERE LYETH THE BODY OF ETHELDRED REYNELL, DAUGHTER &
SOLE HEYRE TO S^R EDWARD PECOKE OF FINCHLEY K^T WIFE TO S^R GEORGE
REYNELL K^T MARSHALL OF Y^E KING BENCH BY WHOM SHE HAD ISSVE 3 SOÑES
& 3 DAUGHTERS, SHE DYED Y^E XITH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 1618. IN THE 34TH
YEARE OF HER AGE.

MODEST, HVMBLE, GODLY, WYSE,
PITTYE EVER IN HER EYES,
PATIENCE EVER IN HER BRESTE,
GREAT IN GOOD, IN EVELL LEASTE
LOVINGE WIFE, A MOTHER DEARE
SVCH SHE WAS WHO NOWE LYES HEERE

The other tablets and memorials in the church, which are of stone,
are as follows—

In the Sanctuary—

Rev. Wheatley Heald, d. 1735 (lecturer in 1732), his wife Anna,
d. 1785, also their son, Rev. Wheatley Heald, d. 1786, and his wife
Alice, d. 1807.

East end behind the Lady Chapel—

1. John Theakston, d. 1815, William Theakston, d. 1827 and
two children.
2. William Kirkham, d. 1830.

East end, north side of the Sanctuary—

1. George Ware, d. 1829, and his wife, Sarah, d. 1834.
2. Daniel Taylor, d. 1827.

South side (under gallery)—

1. Edward Palmer, d. 1862, and Elizabeth, his wife, d. 1848, and
two children.
2. William Joseph Williams, d. 1832, and Mary, his wife, d. 1861,
and four children.
3. William Willmott, d. 1846, his first wife Martha, d. 1809,
his second wife Henrietta, d. 1832, and four children of whom Emily Mary
Ann, d. 1923, aged 106.
4. Matthew Wallis, d. 1788.
5. Mrs. Hannah Dakin, d. 1809.
6. A marble tablet from which the inscription has been removed.
The coat of arms—a chevron between 3 mullets pierced—indicates that it
was erected to John Davis of St. John's Street, Clerkenwell, d. 1793.^a

^a In his will¹¹⁹ he said that he desired fervently to be interred in the Church of St. George
in the Borough. He left the residue of his estate to his brother, Samuel Davis of Newington.

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7. Sarah Ann, wife of James Lapworth of West Square, d. 1846.
8. Thomas Griffith, d. 1812, and his wife Elizabeth, d. 1840.
9. William Cody, d. 1795, and his mother, Mrs. Eleanor Hill, d. 1795.^a
10. Mrs. Mary Griffith, d. 1793, and Mrs. Louisa Griffith, d. 1796.

West side (under gallery)—

1. Richard Cody, d. 1782.
2. Tablet giving details of the restoration of the church.
3. John Griffith, d. 1779, and his wife Ann, d. 1792, also their son John, d. 1810, and his wife Nancy, d. 1826.
4. Richard Easterby, d. 1781, and his wife Mary, d. 1788.

South Gallery—

1. Alfred Staines Pigeon, d. 1867, and his wife, Mary Ann Sophia, d. 1871.
2. Robert Thomas Searles "of the Terrace, Old Kent Road," d. 1863. "Faithful in friendship, Fervent in business, Honourable in all things." Erected by his friend, John E. W. Rolls (see p. 122).
3. Henry Pigeon, magistrate and deputy lieutenant of Surrey, d. 1822, his wife, Susan, d. 1820, and a number of their descendants.
4. Henry Pigeon, d. 1783, and his wife, Mary, d. 1779, four grandchildren, and Mary Newberry, d. 1817.
5. Thomas Burbidge, d. 1818, and his wife, Nancy, d. 1821, and several descendants.
6. William Toulmin, magistrate and deputy lieutenant of Surrey, d. 1826, and his wife, Ellen, d. 1835.

North side—

1. Jessie Hogbin, d. 1923.
2. Anthony Hall, d. 1799.^b
3. Edward Jefferson Whittaker of Blackman Street, d. 1839.
4. Ann Beal, d. 1849.
5. Alexander Millar, 18 years vestry clerk, d. 1897, and Jane, his wife, d. 1894.
6. Richard Hust, parish clerk upwards of 58 years, d. 1835, and Elizabeth, his wife, d. 1823.
7. George William Coleman Cross, upwards of 20 years parish clerk, d. 1884, and his daughter, Esther Coleman Cross, 31 years parish clerk, d. 1917.
8. William Neville, churchwarden, d. 1910 (brass).
9. Thomas Webb of Nelson Place, Old Kent Road, d. 1817, and Elizabeth, his wife, d. 1835.

^a "W. LAW Camberwell FECIT."

^b "ROSSETER fecit."

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

10. Joseph Meymott, d. 1819.
11. Joseph Armstrong, linen draper, d. 1800, and Mary his wife, d. 1823.
12. Robert McGhie, late proprietor of the Retreat, Hampstead, and Coxheath Plantations in Jamaica, d. 1815.

North Gallery—

1. Mary, 3rd daughter of Charles Allen and Elizabeth Young and wife of Thomas Neale Rippingall, d. 1852.
2. Robert Hill, d. 1808, and Ann, his wife, d. 1805, and descendants.
3. William Davidson, d. 1803, and Elizabeth, his wife, d. 1798, and three sons.^a
4. Sarah Ellen, d. 1843, Henry Loud, d. 1847, and Ellen Jane, d. 1853, children of Charles Allen and Elizabeth Young. (In vault of Florance Young.)
5. Charles Allen Young, d. 1855, and Elizabeth, his wife, d. 1871, and Charles Florance Young, their 2nd son, d. 1890.
6. Florance Young, magistrate of Surrey, d. 1835.
7. Sarah, wife of Florance Young, d. 1832, and their son, George, d. 1833.^b
8. Florance Thomas Young, eldest son of Florance and Sarah Young, d. 1855.

Many of the tablets bordered funereally in black before the restoration of the church are now framed in white.

Floor slabs—

1. Samuel Brightred, armourer and brazier, of London, d. 1719, and his wife Alice, d. 17 . . (between the Sanctuary and Lady Chapel).
2. John Edwards, d. 17 . ., and his wife Anne, d. 1732 (south aisle).
3. Thomas Dawson, d. 1771, and his wife Sarah, d. 1783 (south aisle).
4. Mary Waters, d. 1727, and William Oldham, d. 1757, and others (south aisle).
5. Matthew Marchant, d. 1722, and Catherine, his wife, d. 1738.
6. William Wood, d. 17 . .; Jane Wood, d. 17 . .; Mary Wood, d. 1778 (north aisle).

There are a number of other slabs so worn that the inscriptions are illegible. The slabs are set in a floor formed wholly of flagstones.

Porch—

List of benefactors to the parochial and ragged schools, 1719–1871.
List of benefactors to the parish charities, 1584–1893.

^a "JAMES FRANCIS Clapham Fecit."

^b "S. MANNING BACON F^r."

RECTORS OF ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR

List of Rectors—

- | | | | |
|-------------|--|------|--|
| 1245 | Martin. | 1631 | George Palmer. |
| 1307 | William de Alyngio. | 1638 | John Littleton. |
| 1315 | Alard de Alyngio. | 1639 | William Hobson. |
| 1317/18 | William de Halybourn. | 1668 | Hezekiah Burton, who was afterwards rector of Barnes, Surrey. His sermons were published posthumously. ²⁵ |
| c. 1352 | Orardus de Pratellis. | 1680 | Richard Hooke. |
| c. 1369 | Thomas Motyng. | 1715 | Nathaniel Hough, lecturer of Kensington. ¹⁰⁸ |
| 1370 | Thomas Profete. | 1737 | John Cooksey; also rector of St. Antholin, London. ¹¹⁸ |
| 1428 | William Brooke. | 1739 | Richard Terrick. |
| Before 1451 | Robert Amyas (d. 1451). | 1749 | Leonard Howard, chaplain to Augusta, Princess Dowager of Wales, lecturer of St. Magnus, London Bridge, and St. Margaret, Fish Street. ²⁵ He was buried beneath the altar. |
| 1451 | William Hoper. | 1768 | John Lewes, Archdeacon, Chaplain to Lord Onslow. ¹¹⁸ |
| 1451 | Rouland Banes. | 1768 | Joseph Pote; also rector of Milton near Gravesend. ¹¹⁸ |
| 1452 | Roger Potter <i>alias</i> Redonall. | 1797 | John Brand; he published pamphlets on politics and political economy. |
| 1470 | Thomas Candour. | 1809 | John Buckland. |
| 1470 | William Moggy's. | 1837 | John Horton. |
| 1470 | John Fox. | 1852 | William Cadman. |
| 1477 | John Gylis. | 1861 | Hugh Allen. |
| 1482 | John Brown. | 1877 | Burman Cassin. |
| c. 1510 | Peter Carmelianus, Latin secretary and chaplain to Henry VII and lute-player to Henry VIII. At different times prebendary of York, St. Paul's, London, and St. Stephen's, Westminster. ²⁵ | 1892 | Thory Gage Gardiner. |
| 1527 | William Middleton. | 1897 | William James Sommerville. |
| 1549 | Christopher Lynam. | 1918 | Henry Mayne Young. |
| 1557 | Thomas Woode. | 1924 | Edward Neep. |
| 1559 | William Lattymer. | 1933 | Ernest Charles Cook. |
| 1561 | Thomas Harlowe <i>alias</i> Byerde. | 1942 | John Baker Gale. |
| 1564 | John Cutler. | 1947 | Cyril E. V. Bowkett. |
| 1591 | 92 John Cutler. | | |
| 1615 | Edmund Gunter, mathematician, Gresham professor of astronomy, 1619–26; introduced "Gunter's Chain" and "Gunter's Line." ²⁵ | | |
| 1627 | John Macarnesse. | | |

The Churchyard.—There can have been little room for burials in the churchyard prior to 1800, for it was quite small and in the 18th century contained the fire engine shed, cage and watch house. Earlier still the stocks and whipping post seem to have been situated there.¹⁵

In 1806 when S. P. Cockerell made his survey of the church it was stated that the vaults under the church and churchyard were nearly full and quite disproportionate to a parish of 22,000 where the yearly death rate exceeded 1,100.¹¹⁴ Nothing was done for ten years, but in 1816 the population in the words of the Act being "much increased" and "still increasing" parliamentary authority was obtained for the enlargement of the churchyard.¹²⁰ Premises in several small courts north of the church, New Alley, Shaw's Court, Bangor Court, and Willmott's Buildings, including the Girls' Charity School and the watch house, were purchased and demolished, and an exchange was made with the Surveyor-General of H.M. Works, of ground previously included within the Marshalsea,

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

for ground cleared for the churchyard, so that the wall dividing the two could be straightened.¹¹⁴

A tablet dating from the time of this extension is standing in the east part of the churchyard. It reads—

“This Wall was built at the Expence of the
Parishoners of S^t GEORGE, Southwark,
in the Year of our LORD, 1817.

JOSEPH MEYMOTT }
WILLIAM GIBBS } *Church-Wardens.*
JOHN ROBERTSON }

There are many 18th and 19th century gravestones along the north wall of the church and in St. George's Gardens, but most of their inscriptions are now illegible.

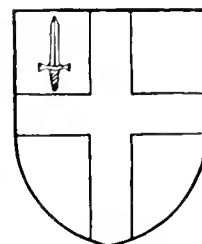
In 1882 the churchyard, having ceased to be used for burials, was laid out as a public garden. Part of the south side was shorn off in 1902–04 for the widening of Long Lane.^a A record of the inscriptions on monuments and coffin plates disturbed at this time has been preserved in the Council's library; they date from the period 1760 to 1851. Some Roman, Mediaeval and Tudor pottery fragments were also discovered during the excavation for this alteration. A drinking fountain, the gift of J. A. Pash and William Bear in 1859, stands near the gateway.

^a To minimize disturbance to services in the church the London County Council paid the cost of double glazing all the windows.¹²¹

CHAPTER 5

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS: THE FORMATION OF THE ROADS

St. George's Fields, called Southwark Field until nearly the end of the 15th century, formed the common field of the manor and borough of Southwark. The mediaeval borough of Southwark was granted to the City of London by Edward III, and the three Southwark Manors, the Guildable, the King's Manor and the Great Liberty Manor came into the possession of the City later; the first was merged into the borough by an Act of Parliament passed in 1377,¹²² and the two latter were granted in 1550 by charter of Edward VI.^a That charter also granted to the City "Moulter's (Moulton's) Close" and 39 acres and 3 rods of meadow in St. George's Fields.¹¹ The cost of the charter was paid for out of the Bridge House account,^b and henceforward this land in St. George's Fields, together with the 17 acres there which the Wardens of London Bridge had acquired in the first half of the 13th century, were administered as part of the Bridge House Estate.



City of London

There are frequent references in mediaeval records to the holdings of St. Thomas' Hospital, the Priory of Bermondsey and others dispersed in strips in the fields. Among the Southwark Manor records is a survey made in 1555 of the way in which the field was divided between the various owners. It was said to contain 155 acres in all, of which the City definitely claimed 20, but, probably owing to the confusion which had arisen after the dissolution of the religious houses, only just over 90 acres were accounted for; the survey ends with a note that the residue should go to the lords of the fee, i.e., the City "yf noman canne clayme iustly any more."¹²³

By 1621 the acreage of the fields had shrunk to 144¹²⁵ and from time to time other small portions were built on or enclosed, but it is astonishing to find the strip system of agriculture with the traditional throwing open for common grazing after Lammastide persisting there on the very doorstep of the metropolis until almost the end of the 18th century, and even after the formation of the roads to London, Westminster and Blackfriars Bridges across the fields had made nonsense of the original field plan.

^a The three manors were defined by the Commissioners on Municipal Corporations in 1837 as: (1) The Guildable, consisting of the area just round the foot of London Bridge; (2) the King's Manor, comprising the remainder of Borough High Street, Blackman Street, the area round St. George's Church and the whole of St. George's Fields; and (3) the Great Liberty Manor, comprising Snow's Fields, the Old Kent Road and the area east of Borough High Street, which was transferred to the Metropolitan Borough of Bermondsey from Southwark in 1899. It is obvious that (2) and (3) respectively are the manors of Bermondsey Abbey and the Archbishop of Canterbury granted by the charter of 1550 and that St. George's Fields had come to be considered as part of the King's Manor. In a survey of land in St. George's Field made for the Bridge House Committee in 1746 it is described as "parcell of the manor called the Kings Manor whereof the Mayor & Commonalty & Citizens of the City of London is Lord."⁹

^b According to the charter "the mayor and commonalty and citizens of the City of London" paid £647 2s. 1d. for it, but there is an item in the Bridge House Accounts for 3 Edward VI for £988 8s. 9d. "to the kinges grace and my Lord Tresurer to his use for the purches of the Landes and Lordship of Southwerk according to the order and comaundement of my Lord the Mayre" and also an item of £25 11s. paid to "my said Lord Mayer that he laid out for coste of the patent."¹²³

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

To the west, Southwark Field merged into Lambeth Marsh, and to the north it was bounded by the Bishop of Winchester's Park, known in the Middle Ages as the Wyllys or Willows. It was low-lying and was intersected by ditches and ponds and it was for the most part used only for pasture, but some crops were being grown there in the 17th and 18th centuries. When Southwark became populous frequent edicts were issued against the casting of offal and other refuse into the river and so polluting the water supply. The only easy alternative was to deposit it in the fields, and the records of the Surrey and Kent Sewer Commissioners contain entries such as: "Yf the said Conygrave doe carry the Offall w^{ch} cometh of his Slaughter house . . . from tyme to tyme in wheele-barrowes into the feilds . . . Then hee may be tollerated to keepe a slaughter & tripehouse."¹²⁶ There is also evidence that some of the open sewers which carried away foul water from the tenements of the Borough flowed back into the fields and not out into the river.¹²⁶ Yet in the 18th century Londoners came in response to the advertisements to drink *the medicinal and health giving waters* sold from St. George's Spa at the Dog and Duck!

As has been shown in Chapter 1, the swampy nature of the ground in Southwark was a deterrent to the formation of roads. There were, however, tracks across St. George's Fields from an early date which were used in dry weather. One of these, which ran between the north-east side of the fields and the Bishop of Winchester's Park to the river-side near Paris Garden, was the subject of a lawsuit in 1618 between the innkeepers of Borough High Street (backed by the City authorities) and Edward Alleyn and other inhabitants of Bankside. The former wished to close the path, since visitors to the theatres and bear gardens near the river were using it instead of coming up to London Bridge and then taking boat or going along the road on the river wall, thus depriving the inns near the bridge foot of custom. The details of the dispute and the plan made in connection with it are reproduced in *Bankside*.⁷ Suffice it here that the path remained in use, became known as Dirty Lane, and, in the early years of the 19th century, was widened to form Great Suffolk Street.

None of the other paths worn across the fields became a recognized right of way except the one which ran from Newington Butts to Church Street, Lambeth, and to the Horseferry there. As is shown in a later chapter (p. 81) this path probably dates back at least to the 13th century when the Archbishop of Canterbury built himself a house in Lambeth. The fact that the path did not cut across any holdings is a confirmation that it was of early date. It is shown on the earliest known plan of the fields, made about 1555,¹²⁴ skirting Moulton's Close (part of which was later occupied by Bethlem Hospital) and the three adjoining plots of land. During the 17th century this path was formed into a road, roughly on the line of the present Lambeth and St. George's Roads.^a It thus became the first carriage road across this open and marshy area (see Rocque's map, Plate 53), but during

^a When the grounds of Bethlem Hospital were extended in 1838 the line of Lambeth Road was diverted northward so that it met St. George's Road at an angle.

FORMATION OF THE ROADS

the first part of the 18th century it can have been little more than a track. An Act of 1719,¹²⁷ which ordered that money should be set aside out of the tolls on Surrey roads for its repair, stated that it was in such a bad condition as to be dangerous in the winter season. The traffic along it greatly increased after the opening of Westminster Bridge and Westminster Bridge Road, and in 1751 a further Act¹²⁸ was passed which not only ordered that the existing road from the Stones End at Lambeth to the almshouses at Newington (i.e. St. George's Road), should be opened and widened, but also prescribed the continuation of Westminster Bridge Road and the formation of Borough Road, across the fields to Borough High Street, and of New Kent Road, as a continuation of Lambeth (St. George's) Road from Newington Butts to the Old Kent Road.^a The Act specified that the roads were to lie in as straight lines as possible and that the ground purchased for them should be not less than 80 feet wide.

Much of the line of the new road across St. George's Fields lay over City, i.e. Bridge House Estate, property (see p. 50), and in 1753 the necessary strips of land were purchased by the Trustees of the Surrey New Roads from the City and the other owners concerned. By 1760, therefore, when Blackfriars Bridge was projected, St. George's Fields were traversed by two roads running west to east across open ground with a few scattered buildings on the perimeter, the two chief being the Dog and Duck in Lambeth Road and the King's Bench Prison in Borough Road (Plate 53).

The erection of Blackfriars Bridge posed an ideal planner's problem. Approach roads were needed across an open area with no obstacles to circumvent except the marshy nature of the ground and the need for an ultimate link up with the main roads running south-west and south-east towards the coast. The flow of Turnpike Acts was in full spate at this time, and it was the fashion for the landed and coach-owning gentry to take an interest in road planning.

A number of solutions were put forward. The first to be published appeared in the *Universal Magazine* for May, 1765. It proposed that there should be one main road from the bridge, branching just near Christ Church, one branch running south-west to Lambeth Marsh, and the other running south-east to Newington Butts and crossing Borough Road diagonally. In the following year the supplement to the *Gentleman's Magazine* contained a plan purporting to be by a person "perfectly acquainted with every spot" on the Surrey side of the bridge. He suggested two main roads, one running in almost a straight line from the bridge foot to join what is now Kennington Park Road near Newington Butts, and the other connecting this road, at a point just north of Christ Church, with the New Inn at the foot of Westminster Bridge. The plan also included several subsidiary roads, one of which linked Newington Butts with Gravel Lane, roughly parallel to the main approach road to Blackfriars Bridge. The scheme had little to recommend it except immediate expediency. It had no symmetry, the projected

^a It also ordered the formation of Kennington Road as far as Kennington Common.

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

roads joined the older roads at awkward angles, and the main road junction was placed at Christ Church, too near the bridge for convenient dispersal of traffic.

In July, 1768, the *London Magazine* published a plan which approximated to that ultimately adopted except that no provision was made for a circus at the road junction in the middle of the fields, though one was provided near Christ Church, the meeting place of two new proposed roads, one running straight to Westminster Bridge Road and the other to Borough High Street. This plan was re-issued in 1769 with the lines of roads, as finally decided, superimposed upon it.

The plan reproduced on Plate 21 was the most elaborate of the various schemes put forward, with a criss-cross of roads in the middle of St. George's Fields and five circuses where they intersected. This plan, of which there are copies in the British Museum, the Bodleian Library and the Guildhall Library, appears to have been issued separately.

In November, 1767, the City Corporation instructed the Blackfriars Bridge Committee to prepare a Bill for the approaches.^a The aim of the committee and of their surveyor Robert Mylne was, we learn from a later report, to make "a handsome avenue" through the County of Surrey by which "Strangers from the Continent" might approach the Capital, and to form three subsidiary roads. First, "a direct way to Saint Margarets Hill at the Centre of Southwark to accomodate that quarter and relieve London Bridge, the Second a Line to Newington Butts where all the Roads from the South met as in a Center, and thirdly a direct Line to Westminster Bridge to communicate with all the Villages to the Westward and to accomodate the City with a more short way to the further parts of Westminster, the Courts of Justice, Houses of Parliament, etc. than by the longer and incumbred way of the Strand and Charing Cross."⁹ So many conflicting interests were involved that the committee finally decided to drop the idea of the side roads for the time being and to ask for powers to construct a straight road, 80 feet wide, from the bridge to a circus, not exceeding 250 feet in diameter, at its junction with what are now Borough and Westminster Bridge Roads, and for two new roads, Lambeth and London Roads, from the circus to the Dog and Duck (on the site of the Imperial War Museum) and Newington Butts respectively (Plate 22).

In 1768-69 these proposals were debated in the House of Commons.³⁰ Various objections were raised,^b but Mylne having, after discussion, come to an agreement with the Trustees of the Surrey New Roads, the main objectors, the Bill received the Royal assent in April, 1769.¹²⁹ The rise in the ground

^a The Act of 1756, which empowered the City Corporation to erect Blackfriars Bridge, also gave powers to form approaches but these were considered insufficient.

^b In the final stages of the passage of the Bill debate centred round the collection of tolls. The Commissioners for the Paving of Southwark were afraid they would lose revenue if Blackfriars Bridge and its approaches were opened free of toll, the freeholders, traders and others of Surrey protested against any tolls being charged on the new bridge and roads, while the inhabitants of Blackman Street and district wanted part of the tolls on Blackfriars Bridge and London Bridge to be applied to widening and improving Dirty Lane (Great Suffolk Street).

THE OBELISK

level in the centre of the fields was probably the determining factor in the decision to make the main road junction there.

Mylne wasted no time. By 26th May, 1769, he had got out his specifications for the contractors who were to supply the gravel and to make the roads, including the provision of "stout strong Labourers . . . accustomed to the Shovel Pick Ax or Wheel-barrow under the Regulation of one or two experienced Foremen," with an estimate of cost (£15,000).¹³⁰ On 7th June, he was ready with plans of the new roads and particulars of the area, owners and tenants of the pieces of ground which would have to be purchased. A week later an advertisement was inserted in the *Daily Advertiser* inviting scavengers and others to shoot rubbish of any kind at convenient points along the lines of the proposed roads. On 22nd June, the committee gave William Austin the contract for supply of gravel and William Kyberd for labour at the price of 1s. 8d. a day for each man, including tools and beer. Negotiations with owners of property went quickly forward and were practically complete by the end of July. Most of the ground was bought at a flat rate per acre, or exchanged for other City property, but in a few cases some further compensation had to be given for loss of trade or amenities.^a On 4th June, 1770, just over a year from the passing of the Act, the roads were completed sufficiently to be opened for general use; a remarkable feat, especially when one considers the marshy nature of the ground and the fact that Mylne was also responsible for work on the northern approaches at the same time. He certainly deserved the formal vote of thanks given him by the committee "for the great Skill Diligence and Integrity" with which he had "executed the several important Works entrusted to his Care." The rails along the sides of the roads were finished early in 1771, and in June Mylne was able to report that the raising of the new roads "with rubbish" was complete.^b

Meanwhile, in June, 1770, the Blackfriars Bridge Committee decided that an obelisk should be placed in the middle of the circus at the road junction in the fields, and Mylne was ordered to prepare a drawing. The design was approved and work was begun on the foundations. A protest of the Trustees of the Surrey New Roads that it would be inconvenient to travellers was withdrawn when they were told that lights would be erected there, and the obelisk was apparently in position by July, 1771, when the committee ordered that the City arms should be carved upon it and an addition should be made to the inscription specifying that it was put up during the mayoralty of Brass Crosby. It was railed in, and four unserviceable guns were put up as posts to protect it from damage by traffic. The obelisk

^a E.g. in June, 1769, Mr. Josiah Boyfield claimed that his tenter ground in Christ Church parish would lose half its value by being divided, and in October, 1770, John Cooke who had a house near the Dog and Duck, asked for compensation for an acre of ground and a "well of a valuable Mineral Quality" which had been laid into the road.

^b Most of the ground in St. George's Fields was at or just below High Water Level. In January, 1771, Mylne reported that 70,000 loads of rubbish had already been used to give the roads "sufficient height & Solidity."⁹

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

remained in the middle of St. George's Circus until 1905, when it was moved to its present position in what is now the Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park near the junction of Lambeth and St. George's Roads (Plate 42*b*). The obelisk, which is of Portland stone, bears the inscriptions—

North face—

ERECTED IN
XIth YEAR
OF THE REIGN
OF KING GEORGE
THE THIRD
MDCCLXXI
THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
BRASS CROSBY ESQUIRE
LORD MAYOR

South face—

ONE MILE
CCCL FEET
FROM
FLEET STREET

(City coat of arms below)

East face—

ONE MILE
FROM
PALACE YARD
WESTMINSTER
HALL

West face—

ONE MILE
XXXX FEET
FROM
LONDON BRIDGE

For the next few years Mylne was kept busy. There were still some outstanding matters to be settled concerning property acquired for the roads and there were lengthy negotiations over the proposal, initiated by the parish of St. Saviour in 1774, for the formation of a new cross road from Borough High Street to Great Surrey Street (Blackfriars Road)^a; Union Street, formed on the line of Queen Street, Duke Street and Charlotte Street, was the ultimate outcome of this project. There were, too, difficulties over the accounts. In June, 1775, the toll-keeper at Blackfriars Bridge complained that the greater part of the 2,158 pounds weight of copper taken in tolls during the previous three weeks was bad or counterfeit, and arrangements had to be made for the bad coin to be melted down. The total cost of the roads, as reported by the surveyor in 1780, was £28,607 3s. 1¼d., £1,207 3s. 1¼d. in excess of the amount borrowed for the purpose. On the other hand, the amount raised by tolls and the sale of surplus materials between Michaelmas, 1775, and Michaelmas, 1779, was £26,367 13s. 6½d. These figures show that the roads were given heavy use as soon as they were completed and that by 1780 their capital cost was in a fair way to being recovered out of income.^b During the Gordon Riots in June, 1780, the toll houses on

^a The road was not usually called by its present name until after 1810.

^b The total cost of the roads, apart from payment of interest on borrowed capital, according to a report submitted by Mylne in May, 1784, was £33,786 16s. 4¼d. The produce of the tolls on the Bridge between 26th January, 1778, when they were first applied to the cost of the roads, and 25th March, 1784, was £40,217 19s. 10d.

ROBERT MYLNE

the bridge were burnt and the money chest containing about £268 was stolen.^a With his usual promptitude Mylne had the toll houses rebuilt within four months. The week-day tolls were continued until 22nd June, 1785 when the gates and toll houses were removed and sold. In 1782 the committee had ordered that the Sunday toll on foot passengers over the bridge should be reduced from 1d. to a ½d. The Sunday toll was not finally abolished until 1811. It produced a net income of about £500 a year for watering and lighting the bridge.

Although, as will be shown in the next chapter, the responsibility for letting the Bridge House property in St. George's Fields, and their ultimate enclosure and development, devolved on the City Surveyor, George Dance junior, it was Mylne who had to see that "the Fronts of the Houses" were "Conformable to the General Design" of the streets, and to prevent encroachments on the roads and on the ten-foot strip on either side of them which the Act laid down was to be preserved clear of obstructions.

Mylne was a young and untried man when he was first engaged, and the Blackfriars Bridge Committee agreed to pay him a salary of £350 a year, on the tacit understanding that if he completed the work to their satisfaction his ultimate reward would be equivalent to that usually paid to City surveyors (i.e. 5 per cent on all bills less the salary already paid to him and the allowance to his clerks). In December, 1770, he asked the committee to adjust the payments made to him, a request which they passed on to the Court of Common Council with the proposal that he should receive the equivalent of 5 per cent on all works payments and 1 per cent on purchases and sales of materials. This proposal was refused, and it was not until 1775, after a further petition from Mylne, that the Court of Common Council agreed to this allowance being made to him.

After 1773 his salary was fixed at £105 a year (plus the percentage allowances) a meagre enough sum in return for all his work on the bridge and its approaches, the embankment at the northern abutment of the bridge, and the great sewer over the Fleet Ditch, especially as, to quote his own words, "His Plans were copied and resorted to freely: His Advice was always given readily without a Fee; and his House open at all times for these Purposes, as a Public Office." Mylne's reputation as an architect and engineer is well established; the record of his relations with the Blackfriars Bridge Committee shows that he was also a singularly upright, conscientious and efficient public servant. He retained his office as surveyor to the Blackfriars Bridge Committee until his death in 1811.

When the Strand (i.e. Waterloo) Bridge was built under the Act of 1809¹³¹ most of the land between its southern abutment and St. George's Circus was still open ground, and there were few vested interests or physical obstacles to hinder the making of a wide, straight approach road to meet Westminster Bridge Road just west of the circus. The purchase of ground

^a The early volumes of the minutes of the Blackfriars Bridge Committee were also destroyed in this fire.

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

from James Quallett, the City Corporation, Temple West and others was duly authorized and a 70 foot wide road was completed by 1820.^a

It was unfortunate that by 1811, when the formation of Southwark Bridge and its approaches was authorized,¹³³ the ground to the north and east of St. George's Fields was already closely developed and the cutting of a direct road from the bridge to St. George's Circus, which would have been the logical finish to the pattern of the main roads in this area, would have entailed too drastic a clearance of existing buildings to be acceptable either to Parliament or to the promoters of the company. The 1811 Act prescribed a 60 foot wide road between the bridge foot and Union Street and a continuation to Blackman (Borough High) Street approximately on the line of the later Marshalsea Road. The first part of this road was built, though even this was curved instead of having a clean straight line, but apparently the promoters balked at the difficulty of cutting through the warren of courts and lanes which made up the Mint, and in 1820^b they obtained an amending Act¹³⁴ which enabled them to divert Southwark Bridge Road westward, south of Union Street, to cross Great Suffolk Street and Borough Road, and join Newington Causeway a little to the north of the Elephant and Castle. A minimum of 45 feet in width was prescribed for this part of the road. Expediency had replaced planning in the development of St. George's Fields.

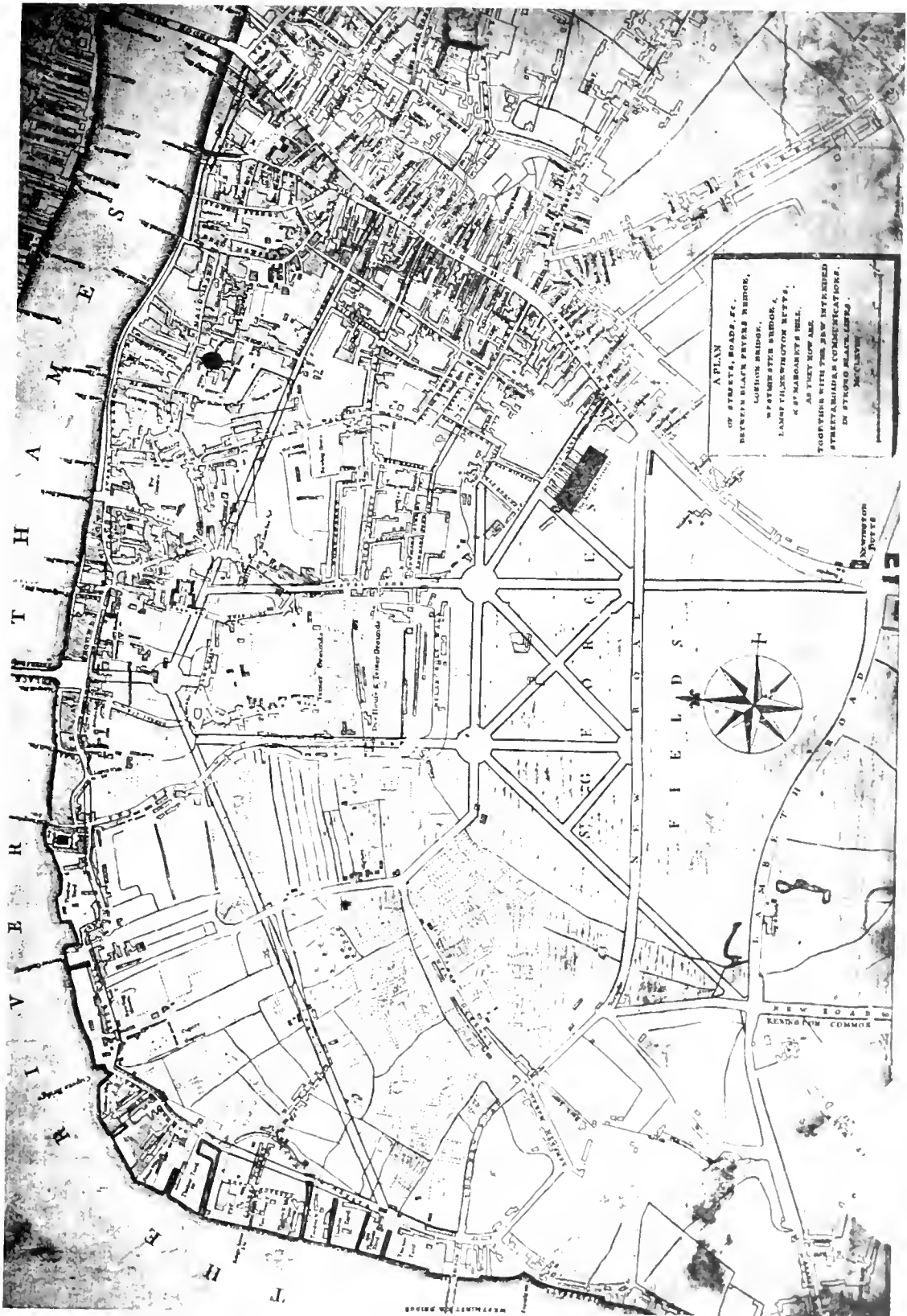
Before leaving the subject of the road structure of St. George's Fields something must be said about the road junction at the Elephant and Castle, which for the last sixty years and more has been one of the worst traffic bottlenecks in south London. The trouble had its origins in 1641, when John Flaxman, a blacksmith, got permission from the Lords of the Manor to build a workshop on a piece of waste ground in the middle of the road on condition that he gave 4s. a year to the poor.¹³⁵ The traffic of the roads to Kennington, Walworth and Lambeth, which met there, brought plenty of trade to the smithy, and in 1658 the parish officers thought it worth while to apply to the manor court for a grant of the ground to be held by copy of court roll for the benefit of the poor.¹³⁶ In 1672 the smithy was known as the White Horse.¹³⁵ It is clearly marked as a detached house on the 1681 plan of Walworth Manor (Plate 49). Fifty years later it was leased to William Benskin, farrier, who covenanted to build a brick house or houses on part of the plot.¹³⁷ At some date between 1731¹³⁸ and 1767, and probably about 1760, after the formation of London Road and the New Kent Road, the smithy became an inn and was renamed the Elephant and Castle.

In 1796, a survey¹³⁹ was made for the parish of the Elephant and Castle Estate, and it was decided to let it in three lots, one of which was the Elephant and Castle public house and the two brick tenements adjoining it.^c

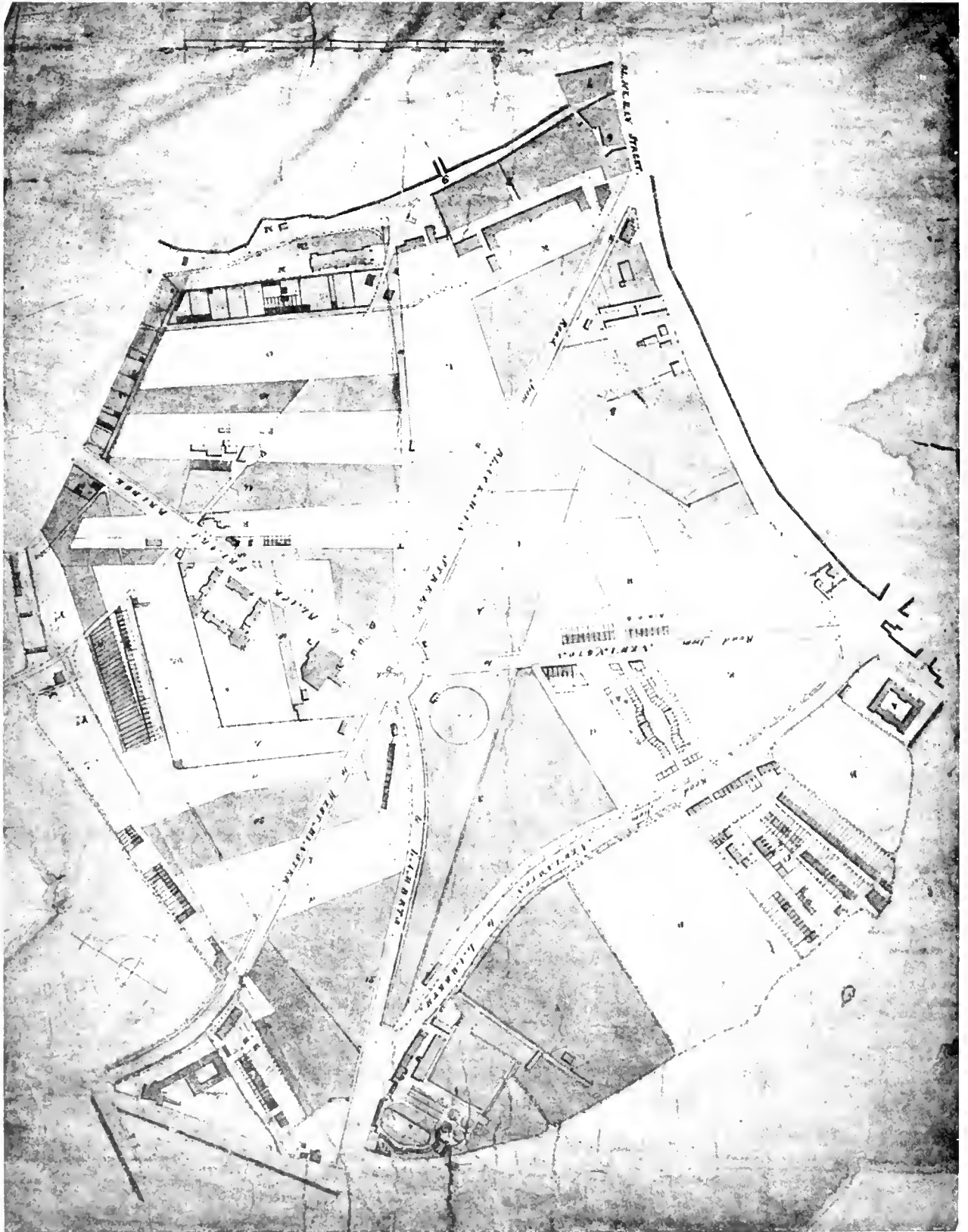
^a Various amending Acts altered the width of the road but it was finally fixed at 70 feet wide with a prohibition against building within 5 feet of either side.¹³²

^b An interim suggestion was for two roads crossing Borough Road and linking the northern part of Southwark Bridge Road with Newington Causeway. This proposal is shown on a plan by T. Greenaway, dated 1819, in the City Records Office.

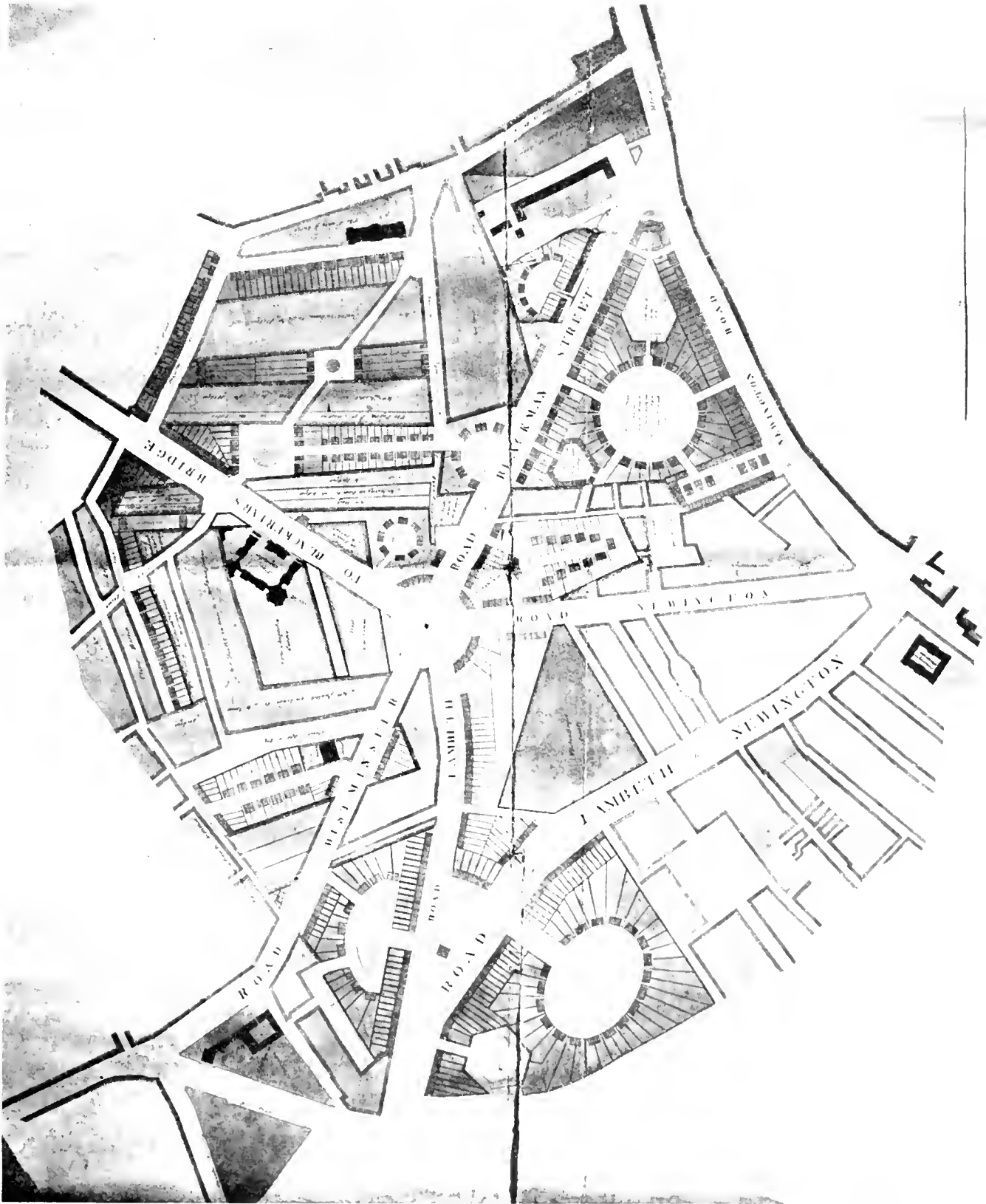
^c The house next to the Elephant and Castle was at this time used as a chapel by the followers of Joanna Southcott and was known as the House of God.



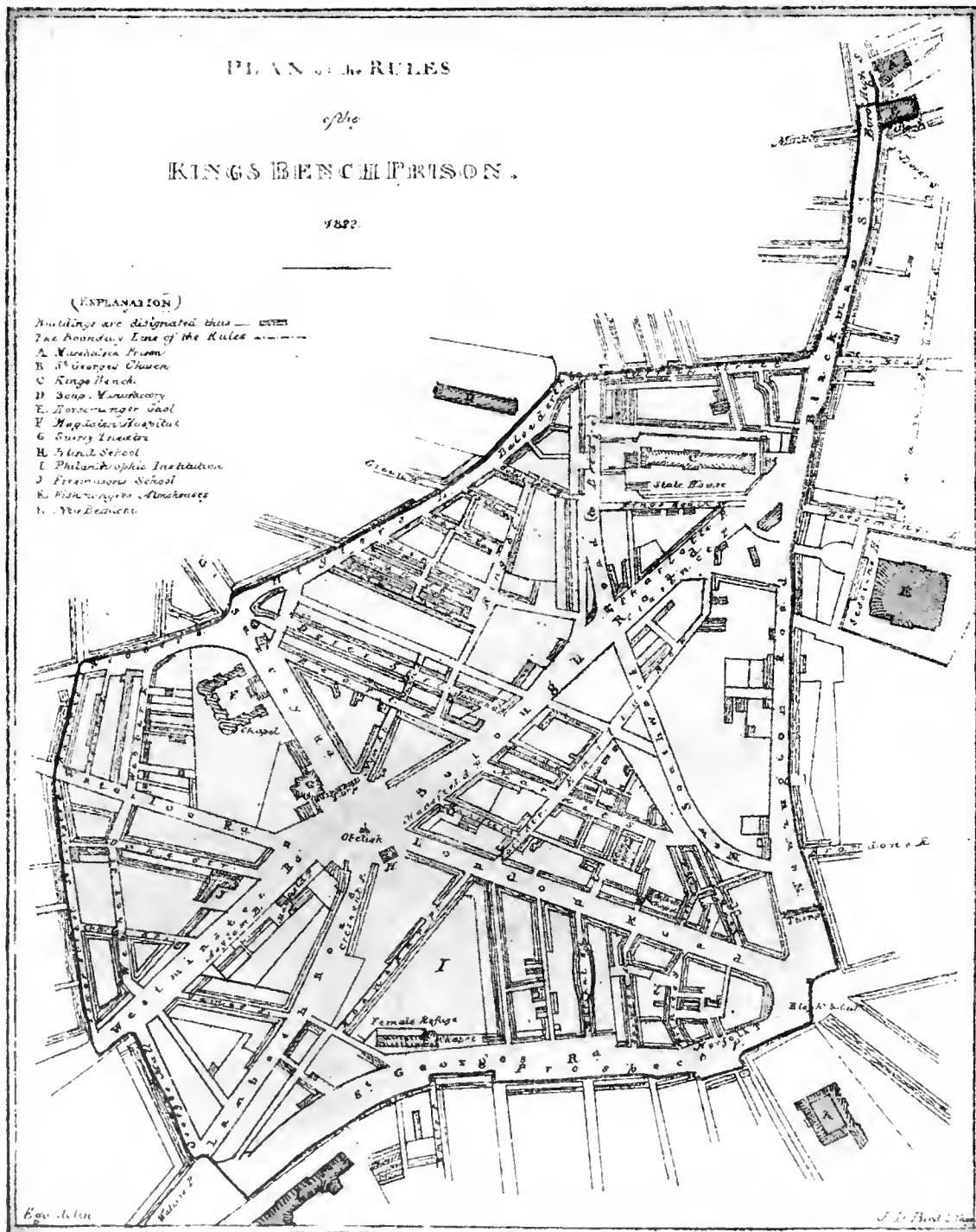
SUGGESTED LAYOUT OF NEW ROADS ACROSS ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS, 1768 (p. 42)



PLAN OF ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS, 1788 (p. 53)



PLAN OF PROPOSED LAYOUT OF ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS, 1851. p. 55



PLAN OF THE RULES OF KING'S BENCH PRISON, 1822 (p. 13)

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

The inn was rebuilt just before 1818 when it was leased to Mrs. Jane Fisher for 31 years.¹⁴⁰ This building is shown in Pollard's coaching print which forms the frontispiece to this volume and in the view of the Newington Turnpike on Plate 50*a*.

At the end of the 19th century, the volume of traffic using the Elephant and Castle intersection was becoming so great that the island site was seriously impeding its flow. The current leases expired in 1890 and 1892, and in 1891 the Vestry of St. Mary, Newington and the Trustees of the St. Mary Copyhold Estates agreed on joint negotiation with the London County Council, for the widening of the Walworth Road. The site was enfranchised, and negotiations were protracted until 1897, but neither the Trustees nor the Council were prepared to pay the considerable cost involved.^a The whole site was let on building lease, and in 1897-98 the Elephant and Castle was again rebuilt.

Two schemes had been proposed at this time: the first, put forward by the Vestry, suggested the moving westward of the Elephant and Castle site from the Walworth Road towards Newington Butts and the curtailing of the projection towards Newington Causeway, without any reduction in the overall area: the second, put forward by the Council, proposed that the west side of the Walworth Road and the north side of Short Street should be set back, to ease the flow of traffic.¹⁴¹

In 1930, the Council and the Ministry of Transport put forward another scheme, not merely for Walworth Road, but for the whole intersection. Parliamentary approval was obtained¹⁴², but the financial difficulties of the depression intervened, and the powers lapsed. The proposed lay-out was similar to that at the junction of Kingsway with the Strand. The line of Walworth Road and Newington Causeway was to be retained, but the island on which the Elephant and Castle stood was to be removed in order to widen Walworth Road. To the west, a semi-circular roadway, enclosing a central block of buildings, was to be formed by cutting back all the building lines between Newington Causeway, London Road, St. George's Road, Newington Butts and Short Street. The central block was suggested as suitable for artisans' dwellings, as it would have little commercial value. The cost of this scheme, including the rehousing of the displaced population, was estimated at £1,950,000.¹⁴³

Pre-war fire damage and war damage (some of the most intensive in London), although leaving the public house and some other substantial buildings, have cleared a considerable area round the road intersection and given an opportunity for comprehensive re-development. The County of London Plan (1943) proposed a diversion of Newington Butts across the site of the Metropolitan Tabernacle to join a large six-sided traffic roundabout.¹⁴⁴ In 1947, it was proposed that the roadway on this roundabout should be raised so that pedestrians could pass underneath it to a block of buildings and the Tube station on the island. The five other main roads were to be widened.

^a The estimated cost of the proposed improvement was £51,200.

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

The revised proposals of the L.C.C. Development Plan (1951)¹⁴⁵ are due to the high cost of the 1947 scheme and the decision to restore the Metropolitan Tabernacle. In this latest scheme which is still (1954) under consideration, Walworth Road is diverted *via* Draper Street to join Newington Butts at a subsidiary roundabout, while at the main intersection five roads converge on a five-sided roundabout with a central grass-covered open island without buildings. The island on which the Elephant and Castle now stands will disappear, though the public house will probably be rebuilt nearby.^a

^a Between 1904 and 1952 the number of vehicles passing the Elephant and Castle per day increased from 16,176 to 33,476.¹⁴⁶

CHAPTER 6

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS: ENCLOSURE AND DEVELOPMENT

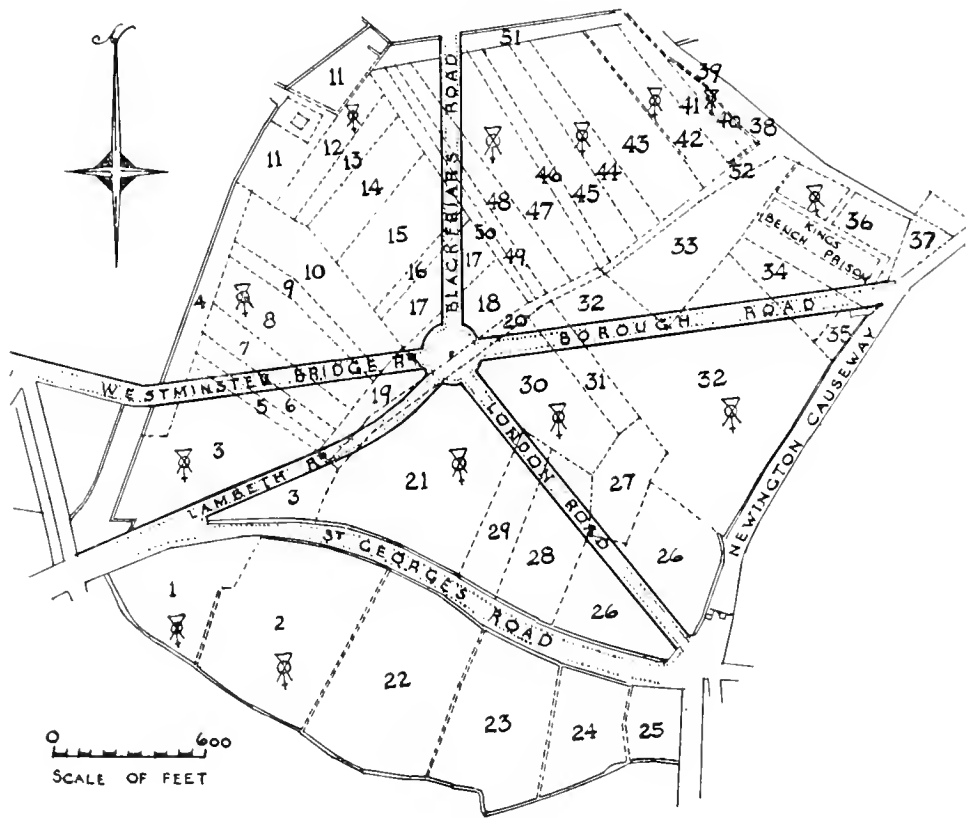
St. George's Fields lay so near the City of London and the more populous part of Southwark that they became a customary place of recreation and of popular assemblies, though they were not in the legal sense common land (see p. 53). In peaceful times citizens took their walks there. Gerard records that he searched for water violets in the ditches.¹⁴⁷ In the 18th century pony races were held⁹ and itinerant showmen found a *pied à terre* along the roadside. When the country was at war or there were internal disturbances, the fields were frequently the scene of martial exercises and musters of militia and of concourses of rebels, rioters and apprentices. Perhaps the most famous occasion was that illustrated on Plate 25, when 60,000 "good Protestants" met there at the behest of Lord George Gordon at 10 a.m. on 2nd June, 1780. Each person wearing a blue cockade, they paraded with flags, chanting hymns and psalms and then were marshalled into divisions and were addressed by their President. At noon one section, preceded by a man bearing on his shoulder the enormous parchment roll, said to record 100,000 signatures, crossed the river by Westminster Bridge, while the remainder divided into two parties, one proceeding along Blackfriars Road and over Blackfriars Bridge, and the other by Borough Road and Borough High Street to London Bridge.¹⁴⁸ The Plate gives an excellent view of the centre of St. George's Fields, with Gordon's followers in four divisions between the roads converging on St. George's Circus.

The only part of the fields to be enclosed before the formation of the roads was Moulton's Close at the western corner^a (roughly covering the site of the Imperial War Museum and the Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park). It was included by name in the grant made to the City of London by Edward VI's charter of 1550.¹¹ Here at the beginning of the 17th century were a few tumbledown cottages, which the tenant, Gilbert Kefford, was made to pull down as a condition of the renewal of his lease in 1606, since they harboured "lewde and dissolute persons."⁸ There were a few houses built at the eastern corner of the fields fronting Blackman Street at an early date. The pound was close by and in the neighbouring field, leased to St. Thomas' Hospital in the 16th and 17th centuries, stood a windmill. The latter was pulled down and the materials were sold by auction in 1773.⁹

Two forts were made in the fields during the Commonwealth, one near the Dog and Duck, and one near the pound at the end of Blackman Street,¹⁴⁹ and in 1650, Thomas Austin, on the strength of having built them,

^a There is an entry in the Bridge House Rental for 1495 of a payment of 20s. 1d. to Richard Paynell, a tenant of Bridge House lands in St. George's Fields, for digging 89 rods of ditch there, and of 6s. 8d. for "quickset" to the ditch.¹²³ Probably the ditch and hedge were made where the Bridge House property bordered the road from Borough High Street to Newington or Dirty Lane, but the entry may possibly relate to the enclosure by a hedge of one or more of the Bridge House plots.

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS



Plan of St. George's Fields circa 1760-70

Plots Nos. 1-3, 8, 12, 16, 18, 21, 30, 32, 35-38, 40, 42, 44, 47, 50-52 belonged to the Bridge House. Owners of other plots are listed below and later buildings are given in brackets.

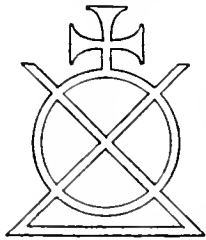
- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 and 2. Moulton's Close (Bethlem Hospital). | 26. Sir John Lade, later Rolls' Estate. |
| 3. (St. George's Cathedral). | 27. (St. George's Market). |
| 4 and 7. Rev. Thomas Clarke. | 32. Formerly leased to St. Thomas' Hospital (The Windmill, British and Foreign Schools). |
| 9. Freehold of Paris Garden Manor. | 33 and 34. West family (King's Bench Prison). |
| 10, 14, 31, 43, 45. Bower (1746), later Quallett. | 35. The pound (Hay Market). |
| 11. Part West family, part Baron family (5 Alls later the Halfway House). | 36. (Skin Market). |
| 13 and 28. Trustees of Marshall's Charity. | 37. (Houses in Blackman Street). |
| 15. Rev. Thomas Clarke (Magdalen). | 38-40. St. John's Acre, copyhold of Paris Garden Manor. Dirty Lane (Great Suffolk Street). The City claimed all three plots, c. 1800. |
| 17. West family (Surrey Theatre). | 41. Hangman's Acre (House of Correction). |
| 19. Harp Acre. | 42. (Drapers' Almshouses, built 1820). |
| 20. Long Acre, Society of Friends. | 46. Lamp or Mill Acre (Miniver Street). |
| 21. (School for the Indigent Blind). | 47. (Lancaster Street). |
| 22. West family (West Square). | 48 and 49. Society of Friends (Red Cow). |
| 23. Hayle's Estate belonging to Lambeth Parish. | 51. (Pocock Street). |
| 24. West family. | |
| 25. (Fishmongers' Almshouses). | |

THE BRIDGE HOUSE ESTATES

tried unsuccessfully to obtain a lease of 44 acres of Bridge House property in the fields at a cheap rate.⁹

The plan on p. 50, which has been compiled from several 17th and 18th century plans in the City Records Office, gives some indication of the division of St. George's Fields between different owners *circa* 1760-70. About half the acreage belonged to the Bridge House (approximately 70 acres out of a total of 144 in 1621) and the Bridge House Committee were therefore concerned to have their rights of ownership clearly recorded and to prevent encroachment. A survey or view made in 1601 records¹⁵⁰ that the Bridge House strips were marked by corner stones and by wooden stakes, the latter curiously named, sugar loaf, cock, pigeon, tubalkin, etc. These landmarks were liable to be moved by accident or design, and the Committee found it necessary to make new surveys from time to time.^a The first precise map dates from about 1621, and the key to it gives the ownerships and acreage of the holdings in detail.^b ¹²⁵

In December, 1735, a special sub-committee was appointed to survey the fields afresh.⁹ They found that a number of the Bridge House boundary stones had been moved, and after ordering that stakes should be driven in to replace them as a temporary measure, they suggested that a further survey should be taken in haytime when everyone would "be at Work upon his own Ground, and their several Claims be then the better distinguished." The new stones which were set up as a result of this survey bore the Bridge House Mark. The plan of the fields made at this time is still in the City Records Office, with the lines of the Blackfriars Bridge approach roads drawn across it at a later date.¹⁵²



In March, 1698-99, the Bridge House Committee discussed with the other property owners of St. George's Fields the possibility of promoting a Bill in Parliament to enable them to enclose and consolidate their holdings,¹⁶ but nothing came of this project, and the first serious agitation for the enclosure of the fields began in 1746 when Thomas Clarke, the main lessee of the Bridge House Estate there, complained to the Committee about the inconveniences which he and other occupiers suffered because their lands lay open—waggon were driven across the fields, to the ruin of the herbage,

^a Similar surveys had been made before the Dissolution. For example, in 1482 there is an entry in the Bridge House Rental of 8d. for the costs of the wardens and others in "metyng boundyng and devidyng lande in Seint Georges feld."¹²³

^b On this map the Bridge House plots are marked with a symbol similar to the later Bridge House Mark but the reverse way up. This symbol has been used on the plan on the opposite page. Under date 16th January, 1618-19, the Bridge Masters' Accounts contain the entry: "Paid for the Juriers and surveyors dinner att the placeing of 7 stones marked wth the Bridgehouse for the better knowing of their Landes in Snt. Georges Feild . . . 36s. 6d."¹⁵¹ The first use of a Bridge House Mark for office purposes that has been found occurs in September, 1685, and was made by means of a hand-seal. In its present form the Mark was probably designed by the surveyor William Leybourn, who collaborated with others in producing Leake's Plan of the City after the Great Fire. In 1680 he was employed by the City Corporation to survey the Battle Mill Stream in Southwark and on his plan of the stream he drew the Mark, the first known example of the design now in use.

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

in order to avoid the turnpikes where weighing machines to assess tolls had recently been set up; also, during the recent "great murrain" of cattle, one infected beast driven on to the fields to graze had infected many others and caused a great many deaths. The report of the Surveyor to the Bridge House Committee endorsed Clarke's statements, but the Committee took no positive action, except to put up notices in the fields prohibiting the driving of waggons and carts there.⁹ They gave their consent to Clarke and others presenting a petition to Parliament if they wished, but insisted that even if the land were enclosed, building should be forbidden there. As the Committee would give no active support to the project it was allowed to drop.

By 1773, the lease of the greater part of the Bridge House lands in St. George's Fields granted to Richard Hall in 1714, and subsequently held by Clarke, had come into the hands of James Rowles (Rolls). Six acres 33 perches had been taken out for making and widening the roads and the rest had been let out to various under-tenants "whereby many Encroachments trespasses and Innovations appear to have Arrisen,"⁹ and George Dance was ordered to make a new survey. Pending a decision as to a long-term tenancy, a three-year lease of the main part of the Bridge House holdings, including the "mineral spring" at the Dog and Duck, which was leased to Mrs. Elizabeth Hedger at about £50 a year, and the Hay Market near Blackman Street, which brought in about £24 a year, was granted to Rowles, while the remainder of Moulton's Close was granted to Edward Henshaw, linendraper, for the same term. At the end of this term Rowles was outbid by Mrs. Hedger's son, James, who was promised a lease of all the Bridge House holdings for a rent of £500 a year and an undertaking to spend £500 in repairing the Dog and Duck.

Something must now be said about the Dog and Duck (Plate 37*a*), since it played an important part in the later history of St. George's Fields. It abutted on Lambeth Road near Kennington Road, and was encompassed on three sides by ponds, in two of which the eye of fancy can discern the shapes of a dog and duck (see Plate 53). It probably owes its name, however, to the sport of hunting ducks with dogs. A small refreshment house seems first to have been opened there in the time of the Commonwealth.^a It was well situated to attract chance trade, and after 1730, when the proprietor conceived the idea of profiting by the current craze for drinking medicinal waters, it soon became the 18th century equivalent of a 20th century road-house. In 1774, John Burgoyne proclaimed in the prologue to *The Maid of the Oaks* that—

"St. George's Fields, with taste and fashion struck,
Display Acadia at the Dog and Duck."¹⁸

An advertisement which appeared in 1773 is typical of many¹⁵⁴—

"St. George's Spaw, Dog and Duck, St. George's Fields.
The Waters of this Spaw are now in their utmost perfection, and to
be had at 6d. per gallon . . . These waters are recommended by the

^a In the Beaufoy Collection is a token with the inscription: "AT THE DOGG AND DVCKE" (Spaniel with duck in mouth). *Rev.* "IN SOVTHWARKE. 1651. E.M.S."¹⁵³

THE DOG AND DUCK

most eminent physicians, for the cure of the rheumatism, stone, gravel, fistulas, ulcers, cancers, sore eyes, and in all kinds of scorbutic cases whatever; and are remarkable for restoring a lost appetite . . . A cold bath from the above mineral. The long room fitted up for large entertainments. Tea, coffee and hot rolls as usual."

The Hedgers, mother and son, still further enlarged the premises and the inventory annexed to their lease in 1785¹⁵⁵ describes the bar, the old and new tea rooms, the latter with a music gallery supported by "Ionick and Cabled columns," the Ladies' Bath and the Gentlemen's Bath, each covered with a leaded dome, the pleasure garden and bath with 21 drinking boxes, the skittle grounds, bowling green, etc. By this time, as various contemporary prints show, the place had become a resort for dissolute characters and sharpers, and in 1787 the Surrey magistrates refused to renew the licence. The Hedgers appealed to the City Corporation, who granted a new licence on the ground that they had judicial rights over Southwark. The legality of this was tried in 1791 when a decision was given in favour of the Surrey magistrates and the licence of the Dog and Duck was made conditional on its being closed on Sundays. The place was finally closed in 1799. James Hedger had, however, already amassed a sufficient profit to enable him to speculate extensively in building in the fields.

Although Hedger had been promised a lease of the Bridge House property in St. George's Fields in 1776, it was not until 1785 that a formal lease was signed.¹⁵⁵ Between 1780 and 1800 Hedger and his son James^a also acquired an interest in a large part of the remainder of the fields on which they began to build houses. Before the Magdalen Hospital had been built near the Blackfriars Road in 1769 and the House of Correction in Hangman's Acre in 1772, authority had been obtained from Parliament to extinguish the rights of common on those plots.¹⁵⁷ Hedger bothered with no such preliminaries, but as he had covenanted not to build on City property, he applied in 1788 for permission to do so. His request was refused, for the Court of Common Council were already seeking legal advice as to the possibility of prosecuting him for building on commonable land. The oldest inhabitants were called in to give evidence, and they stated that of old custom the gates were thrown open after Lammastide and everyone who held property there was allowed to graze cattle freely—one horse or two cows for each acre held—and all the cattle turned in were marked by the pound keeper with the Bridge House Mark for a small fee—but counsel advised¹⁶ that it would be difficult to make out a legal case for the enforcement of the custom against Hedger's wishes, since it was originally intended to be solely for the benefit of those who held land in the fields, and Hedger now had a controlling interest there. The matter was allowed to drop, but the City Corporation continued to take a close interest in developments in the fields. In 1788 George Dance, the City Surveyor, was asked to mark on a

^a James Hedger junior died in 1812, leaving all his freehold and leasehold estates to be divided equally between his four brothers, Francis, William, Robert and Henry, with his father as trustee.¹⁵⁶

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

plan of the fields the buildings so far erected there (Plate 22) and further plans and surveys of the fields were made in 1790, 1792 and 1794.⁹

After 1785, other landholders of St. George's Fields began to follow Hedger's example in developing their land for profit. The most substantial houses, and the only ones of this period to survive, were those erected on the property of the West family in West Square, St. George's Road and Temple Place, Blackfriars Road (see below), and it seems reasonable to assume that the West family exercised some beneficial control over the buildings erected by their lessees. Hedger's building activities on the main part of the fields did not go unchallenged. In 1800 one of his tenants, named Harkness, refused to pay his rent and broke down some of Hedger's fences, on the ground that "the King of St. George's Fields", as he called Hedger, had no right to put them up. He was convicted and fined in the courts, but Hedger's costs were so high that he lost more than Harkness did over the case.¹⁵⁴

The ground in St. George's Fields was mostly at or below high water level and it had always been soggy in wet weather. The main roads had been made up so that the water drained off them, but the house and surface drainage from the fields was still, for the most part, conveyed in the primitive ditches and open sewers which had sufficed when the fields were used only for agriculture.^a Carts and coaches were still driven across the open ground when opportunity offered, to avoid the payment of toll, so churning up the mud; between the main roads there were only gravel footways. A writer in 1807 complained that it was impossible to walk there in the daytime without being above the ankles in wet and mud, while at night people were in danger of breaking their limbs by falling into ruts or over hillocks of rubbish.¹⁵⁴

Long before the expiry of Hedger's lease in 1810, the City Corporation had decided that it would not be renewed and were making plans for the improvement of the district. The development of the fields had begun badly; not only was it haphazard and lacking in amenities, but the quality of the houses was generally so poor that only the lowest type of tenant could be persuaded to live in them. There was, however, one compensatory feature in the situation; when the City Corporation regained possession of the ground it could replan the area almost *de novo*, since there was every justification for pulling down the existing buildings. The first necessity was to secure a proper drainage system. In 1807 negotiations were begun with neighbouring landowners, the Archbishop of Canterbury who owned Lambeth Marsh, and the Prince of Wales who owned Prince's Meadows, and with the Surrey and Kent Sewer Commissioners, to promote a Bill in Parliament for this purpose, since the Commissioners had power only to maintain existing banks and sewers, not to make new ones. The proposal provoked some opposition

^a E.g. In 1771, the Secretary of the Magdalen Hospital wrote to the Bridge House Committee, asking permission to make an open ditch or sewer to take the waste water from the hospital across the City land adjoining it on the south, to connect up with an open sewer running parallel with Blackfriars Road and emptying into the Thames. He stated that such a ditch would be no detriment to the neighbourhood, but would help to keep the road and adjoining ground dryer. Permission was granted on condition that the drain was "arched over" within 12 months.⁹



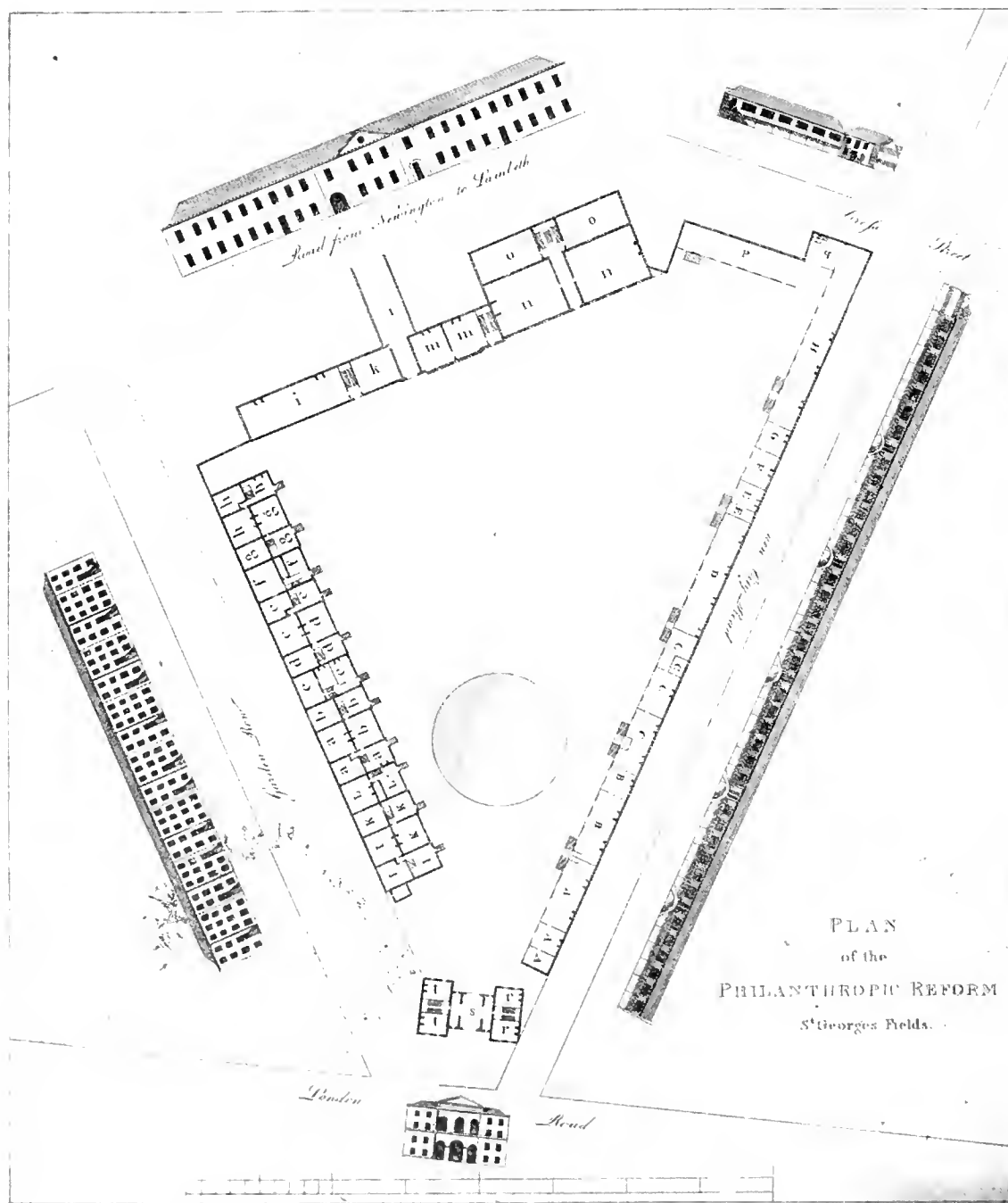
A. Southwick Delinavit.
R. London Excudit.

Lord GEORGE GORDON,
President of the Protestant Association

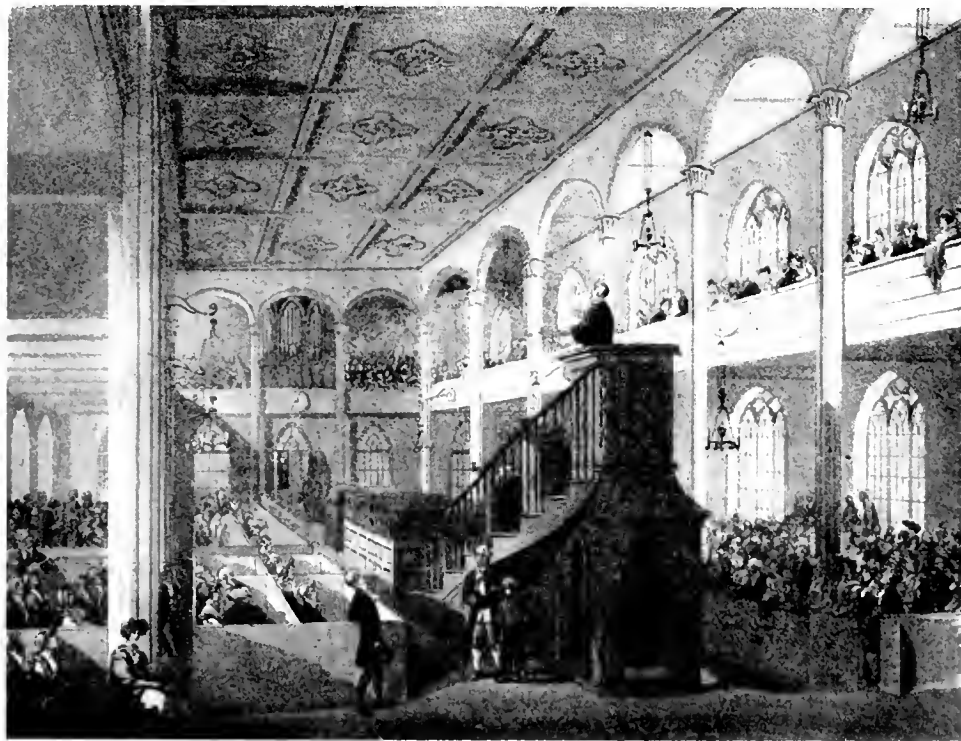
C. Hoyle Duxit.
W. Wood Delinavit.

London Published as the Act by G. Wood 1780. By John Harris in whose shop it was sold.

LORD GEORGE GORDON AND HIS SUPPORTERS IN ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS, 1780 (p. 49)



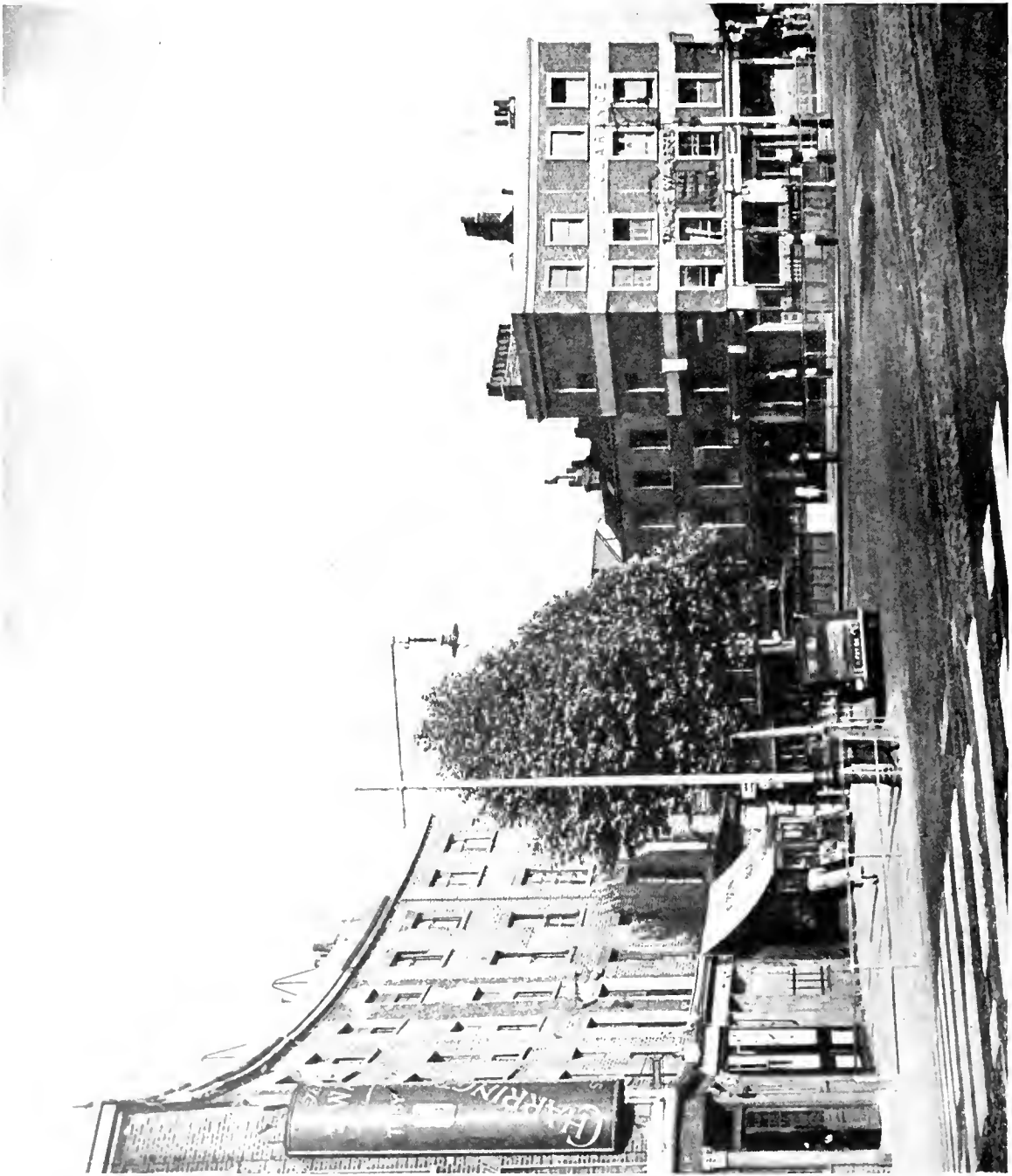
PLAN OF THE PHILANTHROPIC REFORM, ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS,
1794 (p. 68)



PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETY'S CHAPEL, ST. GEORGE'S
ROAD (p. 68)

(a) EXTERIOR, 1820

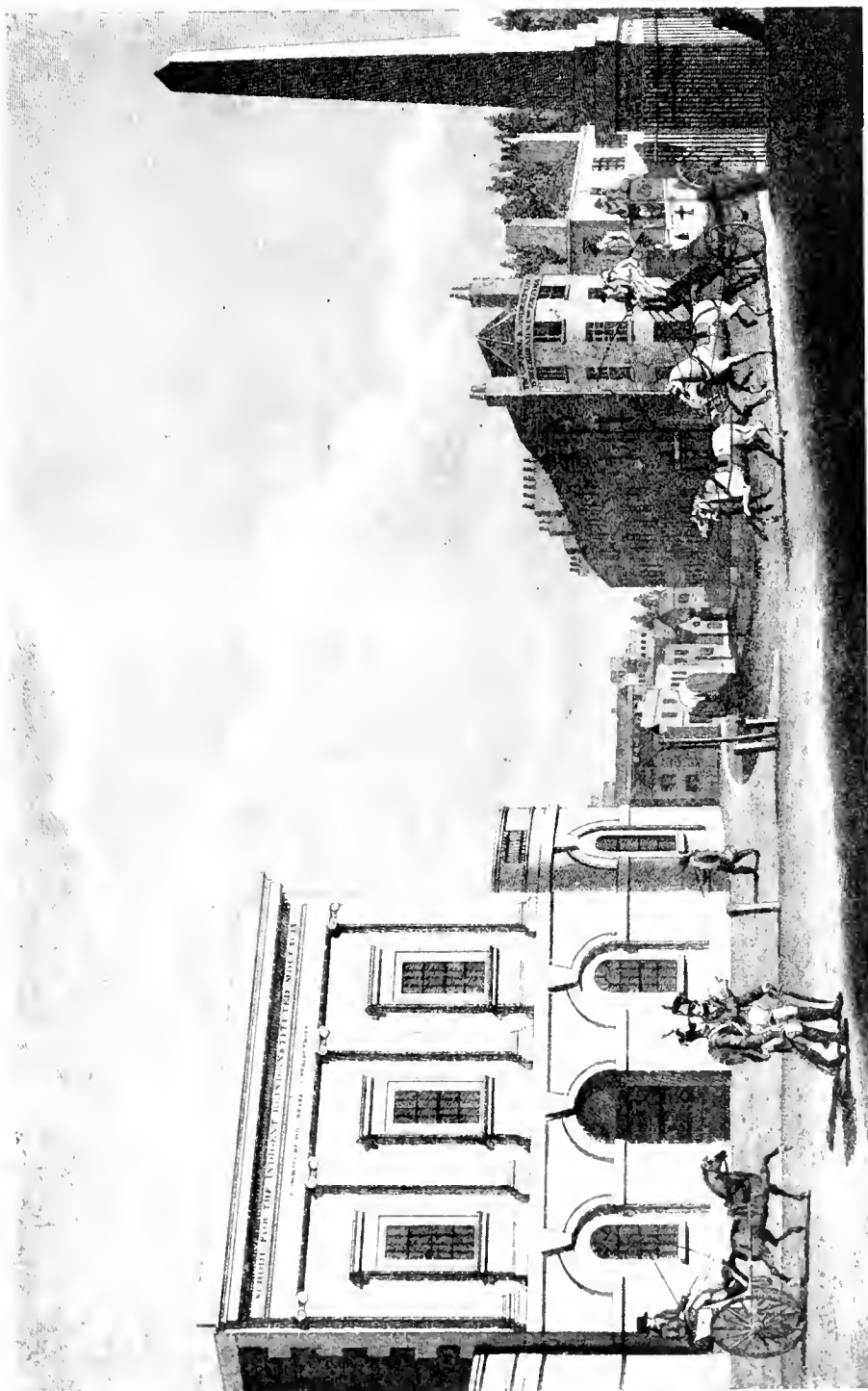
(b) INTERIOR, 1809



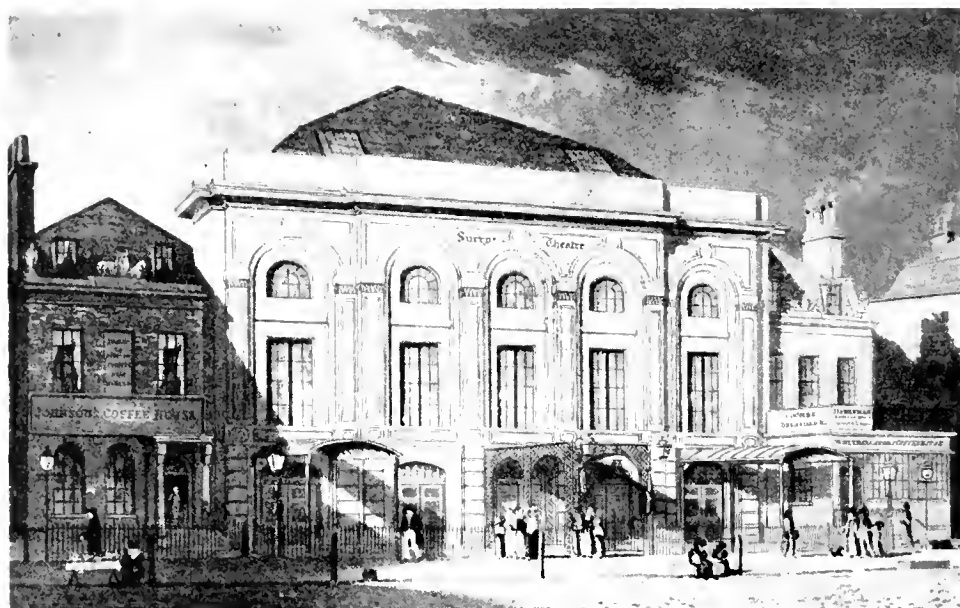
ST. GEORGE'S CIRCUS, EAST SIDE, 1952 (p. 60)



THE SURREY THEATRE AND MAGDALEN HOSPITAL, 1812 (p. 57)



SCHOOL FOR THE INDIGENT BLIND, 1813 (p. 70)



(a) SURREY THEATRE, 1826 (p. 57)

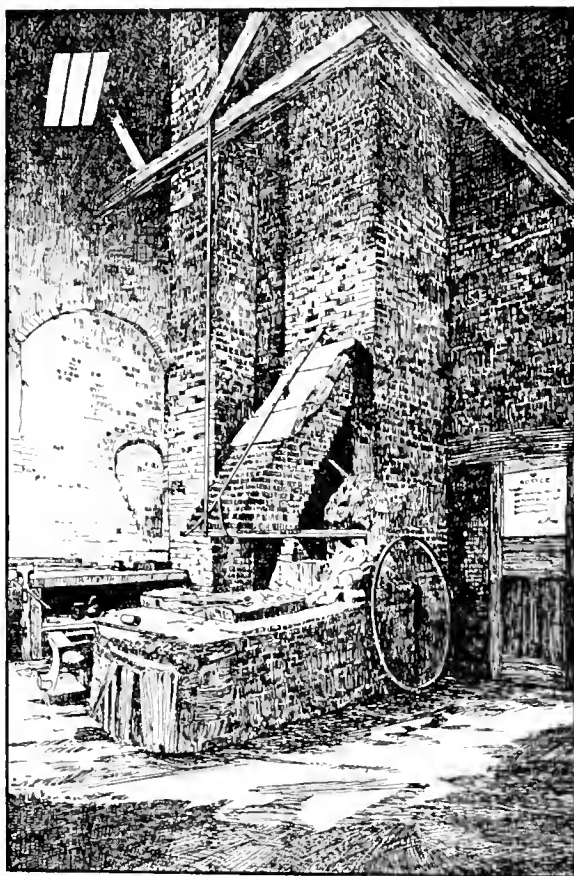
(b) SCHOOL FOR THE INDIGENT BLIND, *circa* 1835 (p. 70)

ST. GEORGE'S MARKET

from James Hedger, who thought his property might be adversely affected,⁹ but the Bill was passed in 1809.¹⁵⁸ Seven years later, however, the Bridge House Committee were still debating the best method of draining St. George's Fields, and it was not until 1819 that general plans for doing so were agreed.

In 1807 the Bridge House Committee instructed George Dance to "prepare . . . Plans for letting and improving the several pieces . . . of Ground in Saint Georges fields now in Lease to Mr. James Hedger taking into Consideration the exchange or purchase of adjoining premises that may be necessary for such Improvement."⁹ Two plans were produced by Dance, the earlier and more elaborate of which is reproduced on Plate 23. The layout of the main roads and of some of the connecting roads, which had become rights of way by usage, left a number of awkwardly shaped plots of ground; some of these Dance planned to fill with crescents, circuses and polygons, surrounded by houses and gardens.

Eighteen years previously, Hedger had tried to establish a general provision market in St. George's Fields, to be known as St. George's Market. His attempt came to nothing owing to the opposition of St. Saviour's Vestry^a, but his market-place between London Road and



Smith's forge behind No. 159 Blackfriars Road

^a The Act of 1755, which gave the parish of St. Saviour the right to establish the Borough Market, forbade the erection of any other market within 1,000 yards.¹⁵⁹ In January, 1790, when Hedger advertised for gardeners and farmers to take up stalls in his new market, the vestry at once took the matter up, and, refusing his offer to compound for an annual payment, fought a successful action against him at the Guildford Assizes.⁵⁹ In 1832 Hedger's son William formed a joint stock company to promote a new scheme for a St. George's Market.⁵⁹ Approval was obtained from the Bridge House Committee of a plan for the improvement of the old buildings⁹ and, in spite of the opposition of St. Saviour's Vestry, the South London Market Company was established by Act of Parliament in 1834.¹⁶⁰ The whole project was, however, stillborn, and later attempts to revive it under two Acts of Parliament in 1865-6 were equally unsuccessful.¹⁶¹

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

Borough Road—a series of shops and stalls round a central paved square—provided a basis for the more elaborate plan suggested by Dance. In the latter scheme a circular courtyard replaced the square, and there were subsidiary openings surrounded with shops to fill the remainder of the triangular plot.

When Hedger and his tenants discovered that the City Corporation did not intend to renew his lease, they began to demolish the houses and other buildings in order to salvage the materials. The City officers tried to prevent this, but on the last day of the lease there was a riot in the fields, as several hundred people collected there to pull down the buildings.¹⁵⁴ Most of the houses that remained were retained temporarily by the occupants as tenants at will. The buildings were, however, in such bad condition that it was obvious that they could not last very long, and the City Corporation refused to be responsible for repairs.

In 1810 the City Corporation obtained an Act of Parliament extinguishing all rights of common over St. George's Fields and repealing a clause in an Act of 1786 which prohibited building within 50 feet of certain main roads there. The new Act specified that no houses "inferior to the third building rate" should be erected on the frontages of Borough Road or St. George's Road, or of the part of Westminster Bridge Road which traversed St. George's Fields.¹⁶² Two years later a further Act enabled the City Corporation to sell off or exchange certain small pieces of ground in the fields.¹⁶³ During the following 20 years all the Bridge House lands there were let on building lease, while the ground which did not belong to the Bridge House was also closely built up. In 1813 James Smith wrote—

"Saint George's fields are fields no more;
The trowel supersedes the plough;
Swamps, huge and inundate of yore,
Are changed to civic villas now."¹⁶⁴

For various reasons, very little of Dance's plans of 1807–09 materialized. The formation of Waterloo and Southwark Bridge Roads altered the configuration of the area north of Borough Road, while the grant of Moulton's Close to the Governors of Bethlem Hospital (see p. 77) and of ground in other parts of the fields to various charitable organizations (see Chapter 7) absorbed a considerable proportion of the rest of the Bridge House property. Probably, too, the City Corporation was not prepared to sanction the capital outlay which would have been necessary, for example, for the erection of St. George's Market as originally envisaged.

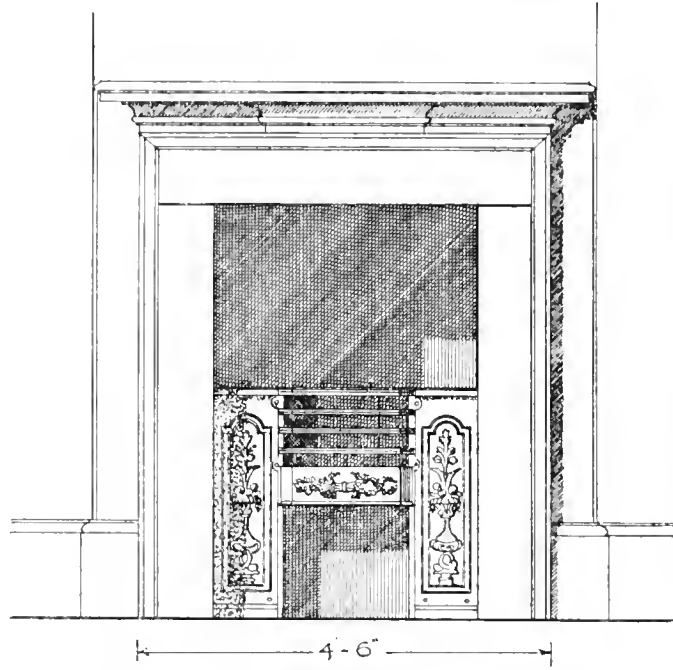
One of Dance's schemes was, however, carried out. The new buildings round St. George's Circus were built with a concave frontage at an even distance from the obelisk so that it became a circus in fact as well as in name. Some of the buildings erected in St. George's Fields during the first half of the 19th century still survive, though many of them were damaged during the 1939–45 war and most are sadly dilapidated. Brief accounts of the more important buildings or groups of buildings are given below.

BLACKFRIARS ROAD

BLACKFRIARS ROAD (FORMERLY GREAT SURREY STREET)

The Magdalen Hospital, of which an account is given on p. 66, was built on the west side of Blackfriars Road before the road itself was completed. The hospital remained on the same site for a century and, after its removal to Streatham, the ground was bought by the Peabody Trust. Sixteen blocks of buildings, enclosing two quadrangles, were built there by

William Cubitt & Co. from the designs of H. A. Darbishire (Plate 34). They were completed in 1872. A contemporary description¹⁶⁵ mentions that the Blackfriars Road buildings were plainer and less imposing in appearance than the earlier blocks erected by the Trust,^a but were "more home-like and agreeable," with larger rooms and more cupboard space.^b If architecturally they contrast unfavourably with the terrace houses of the preceding generation (see e.g. Plate 35) or with the working class cottages of the back courts built still earlier (Plate 33 *a* and *b*) they certainly had more amenities than the latter. They mark the beginning of a new era in the provision of housing for the working class of this neighbourhood.



No. 139 Blackfriars Road, fireplace on second floor

The Royal Circus and Equestrian Philharmonic Academy, the predecessor of the Surrey Theatre, was opened in 1782 on a piece of ground on the west side of Blackfriars Road near St. George's Circus, leased by Colonel Temple West to Charles Dibdin, the song writer, and Charles Hughes, a trick horse rider.¹⁶⁶ West himself gave some financial backing to the scheme, and proposed that stage entertainments should be given by children so that the theatre would form a school for young actors. It was burnt down in 1803 and was rebuilt from the designs of Rudolph Cabanel

^a The first Peabody Buildings, which were in Spitalfields, were completed in 1864.

^b Two sculleries were provided on each floor containing a w.c., sink and water supply and a dust hopper communicating with the dust cellar in the basement. A bathroom was provided on the ground floor of each block.

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

(who also designed the "Old Vic"), under the direction of James Donaldson junior¹⁶⁷ (Plates 30 and 32 *a*). This building was also destroyed by fire in 1865 and was replaced by a third. Under the management of Robert Elliston, William Creswick, George Conquest, and others, the Surrey Theatre, as it was renamed in 1816, had many successes but declined in popularity after the death of Conquest in 1901. It became a cinema from 1920 to 1924 and then remained empty until it was pulled down in 1934 for the extension of the Royal Ophthalmic Hospital.¹⁶⁸

The formation of Blackfriars Road cut across the strip of ground belonging to the West family in the centre of St. George's Fields (No. 17 on the plan on p. 50), leaving a triangular site on the east side of the road. This was let on building lease to Ezekial Delight¹⁶⁹ who erected a terrace of houses there, now Nos. 133-145, in 1793-94. Ezekial Delight was one of the four District Surveyors appointed by the City of London under the Building Act of 1794. He had disposed of the lease before his death in 1810.¹⁷⁰

Thomas Dibdin, actor, dramatist and song writer, who ruined himself financially by his failure as proprietor of the Surrey Theatre, lived at No. 143 in 1817-20.

Benjamin Hanbury, nonconformist historian, whose uncle was minister of Union Street Congregational Church in 1803 to 1859, lived at No. 138 in 1810-54.

Augustus Applegarth (or Applegath), inventor of improvements in printing processes, and brother-in-law of Edward Cowper with whom he established a printing business in Duke Street, Stamford Street, lived at No. 137 in 1805-10.

No. 159, of which only the ground floor is left, was built in 1818-19 by William Anderson of Neptune Place, Waterloo Bridge, stone mason, on land leased from the City Corporation. The shop front has Ionic columns and an enriched fascia.

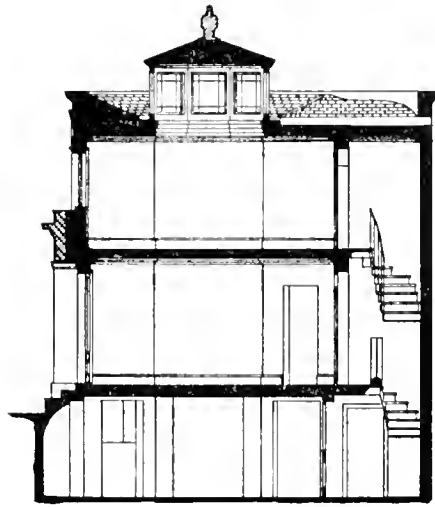
On the south-east side of the yard behind No. 159 and about 250 feet from Blackfriars Road is a building dating from the early part of the 19th century. It now forms part of a British Road Services depôt. The building, which contains a forge, is of interesting construction, with wooden roof trusses in four bays carried on slender wooden columns.

BOROUGH ROAD

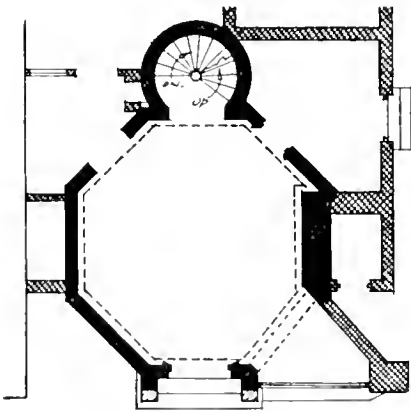
The houses on either side of the Borough Road, built on Bridge House Estate property during Hedger's tenancy, were demolished after 1810, but Nos. 2-4, 17-20, 61, 85, 86, 88-102, and 113-119, built between 1820 and 1830 under building leases from the City Corporation, still remain, though they are mostly in poor condition. They are all of three storeys, built in stock brick; most of them have shops on the ground floor. No. 85 has first-floor window guards with interesting winged ornament at the centres. They bear the Bridge House Mark. No. 62, the octagonal structure on the north side near Scovell Road, has sometimes been stated to have been the watch-house of the King's Bench Prison, but this was not so. It was built by Henry Robert Hartley, a stone mason, in 1821, on land leased to



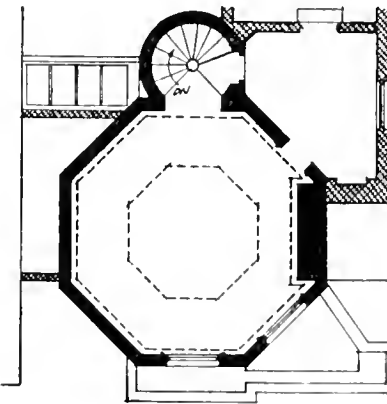
FRONT ELEVATION



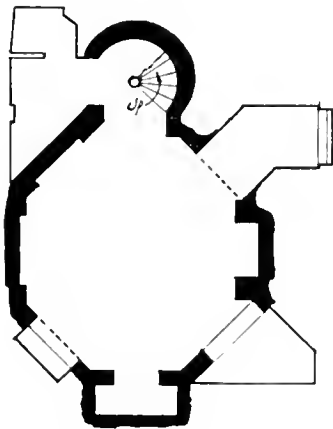
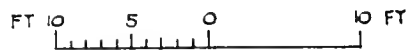
SECTION



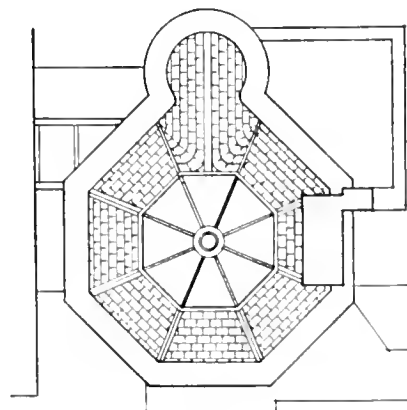
GROUND FLOOR.



FIRST FLOOR



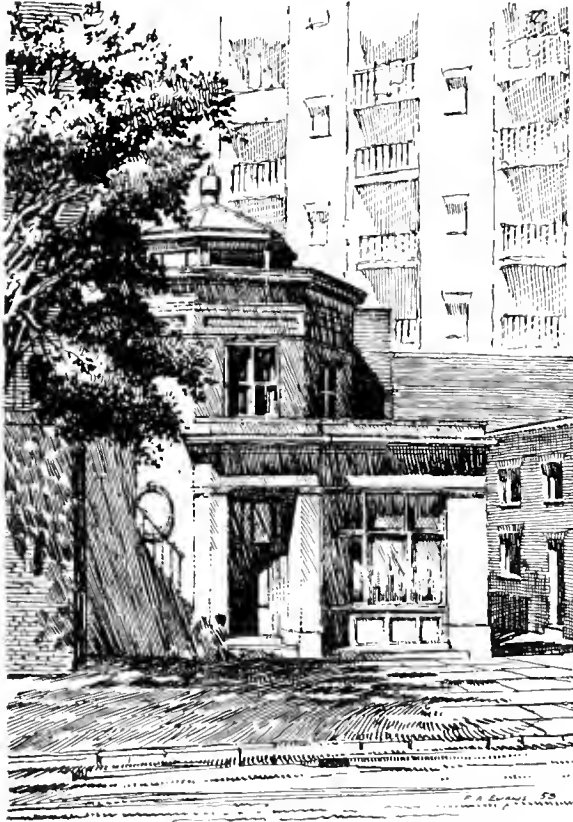
BASEMENT



ROOF PLAN

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

him by the City Corporation, and it has been in use, together with the adjoining yard, as a stone mason's or builder's premises ever since. It is now occupied by E. J. and A. T. Bradford, Ltd., architectural sculptors.



No. 62 Borough Road

ST. GEORGE'S CIRCUS

The views of St. George's Circus on Plates 30 and 31 show that although ground was purchased in accordance with the Act of 1769 for the formation of a circus 250 feet in diameter, the line of the buildings subsequently erected there was by no means regular. Clauses in the Acts of Parliament relating to St. George's Fields of 1810 and 1812 stated that the circus was not to be reduced to less than 240 feet. The 1812 Act directed that all future buildings there should be "built up close to the said Circus, with concave Fronts in a uniform Manner . . . and not inferior to . . . the Third Rate of Building."¹⁶³ The slight encroachment made by the gateway to the School for

the Indigent Blind erected in 1811-12 was condoned, but the other segments of the circus let on building lease between 1820 and 1830 all conformed to the new line. The Duke of Clarence public house, between London Road and Borough Road, built for John Ponton, victualler, in 1820; and the houses between Borough Road and Blackfriars Road, the Swan public house, and Nos. 11 and 8 St. George's Circus, built for David McLacklan of King Street, St. James's, baker, in 1824-28, and Nos. 10 and 9, built by George Sutton of Borough Road, builder, in 1828-30, still remain in good condition (Plate 28). Several of the houses between Blackfriars Road and Waterloo Road, built for Mary Johnson of the "Equestrian Coffeehouse" in 1821-25, were taken over by the Royal South London Ophthalmic Hospital after 1857. The present Royal Eye Hospital was built in 1890-91.

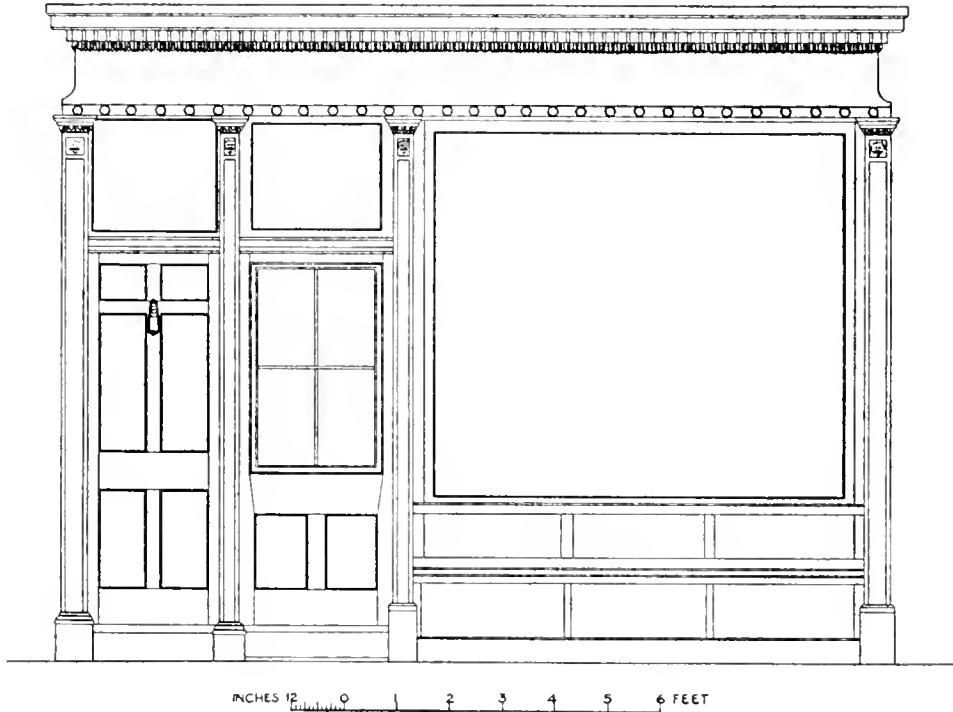
ST. GEORGE'S ROAD AND LAMBETH ROAD

Nos. 63-83 St. George's Road, between Hayles Street and the entrance to West Square, on the south side of the old section of the road, were

ST. GEORGE'S ROAD

built and in occupation by 1789, a few years before the houses in West Square. This and the adjoining terraces were originally known as Prospect Place.

In 1838, when the grounds of Bethlem Hospital were enlarged, the lines of St. George's Road and Lambeth Road were altered. A triangle of vacant land was left between them which the City Corporation assigned to



No. 9 St. George's Circus

the Governors of the hospital.¹⁷¹ The ground was let on building lease, and Nos. 105-145 St. George's Road (Plate 35), formerly named Laurie Terrace (after Sir Peter Laurie, president of Bethlem and Bridewell Hospitals in 1833-61), were built in 1842 by W. R. Glasier and Jeremiah Thomas Crawley.¹⁷¹

Barkham Terrace, named after Edward Barkham, an 18th-century benefactor of Bethlem,¹⁷² was built in the same year by Henry Heard of Castle Street and Ann Hewett of the New Kent Road.¹⁷¹ The remaining houses, Nos. 56-72 Lambeth Road, form a three-storey terrace of Gothic character faced in stucco and relieved by shallow bay projections through the ground and first floors of each house. Each bay has a balcony at first-floor level. An uncommon feature of the terrace is the chamfering of all the window and door openings. There are small lodges of similar character at each end of the terrace, part of which was demolished for the erection in

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

1939 of the hospital of the Catholic Nursing Institute (designed by Robert Sharp). The centre of the terrace was occupied from 1864 until its demolition in 1952 by the Upton Baptist Chapel (Plate 42*b*), built from the designs of J. E. Goodchild.¹⁷³ The building now housing the Elizabeth Baxter hostel, in the angle between the two roads, dates from 1841. The hostel was founded in 1906 for the welfare of stranded girls.¹⁷⁴

Nos. 15–31 King Edward Walk are all that remain of the long plain terrace of two-storey houses which originally formed the third side of the



Nos. 34 and 30 West Square

triangle of ground built up *circa* 1840. All the houses have semi-basements; Nos. 15–17, which were originally the central houses of the group, are set forward slightly and have raised parapets.

MINIVER STREET

Miniver Street^a (formerly St. Martin Street) was built up in the early years of the 19th century. No. 14, with its bowed shop-front (Plate 11*b*), dating from about 1817, and the last of the original houses, was demolished in 1950.

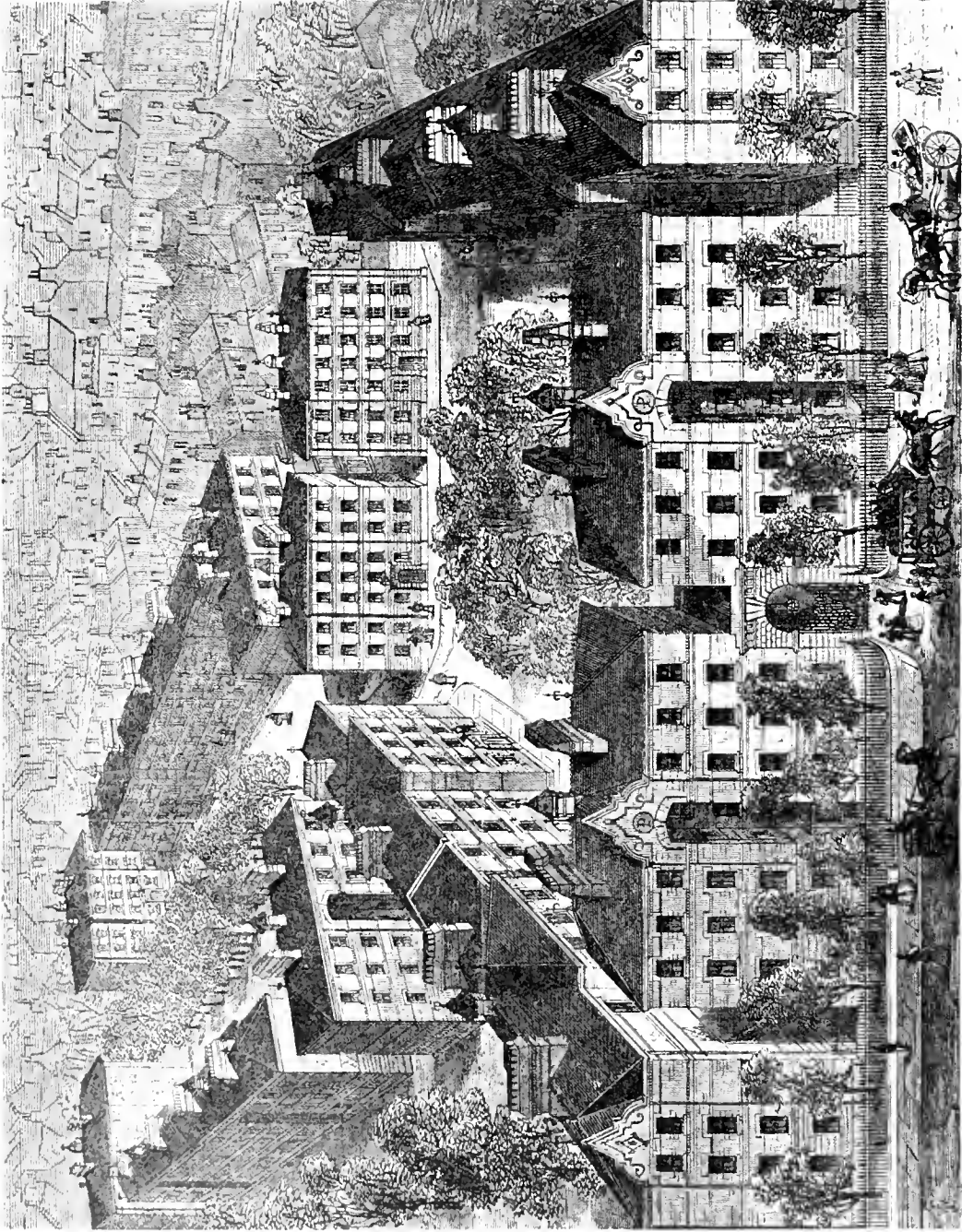
^a Miniver Street follows the line of a strip of ground known as Lamp or Mill Acre. Before the Reformation the proceeds from it were devoted to keeping a lamp in the parish church of St. George the Martyr. In 1624 the ground was given by John Bingham to the wardens of St. Saviour's, Southwark, in trust for the poor of the parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields where he was born.¹⁷⁵



(b) BRUNE PLACE, NEWINGTON BUTTS, 1911



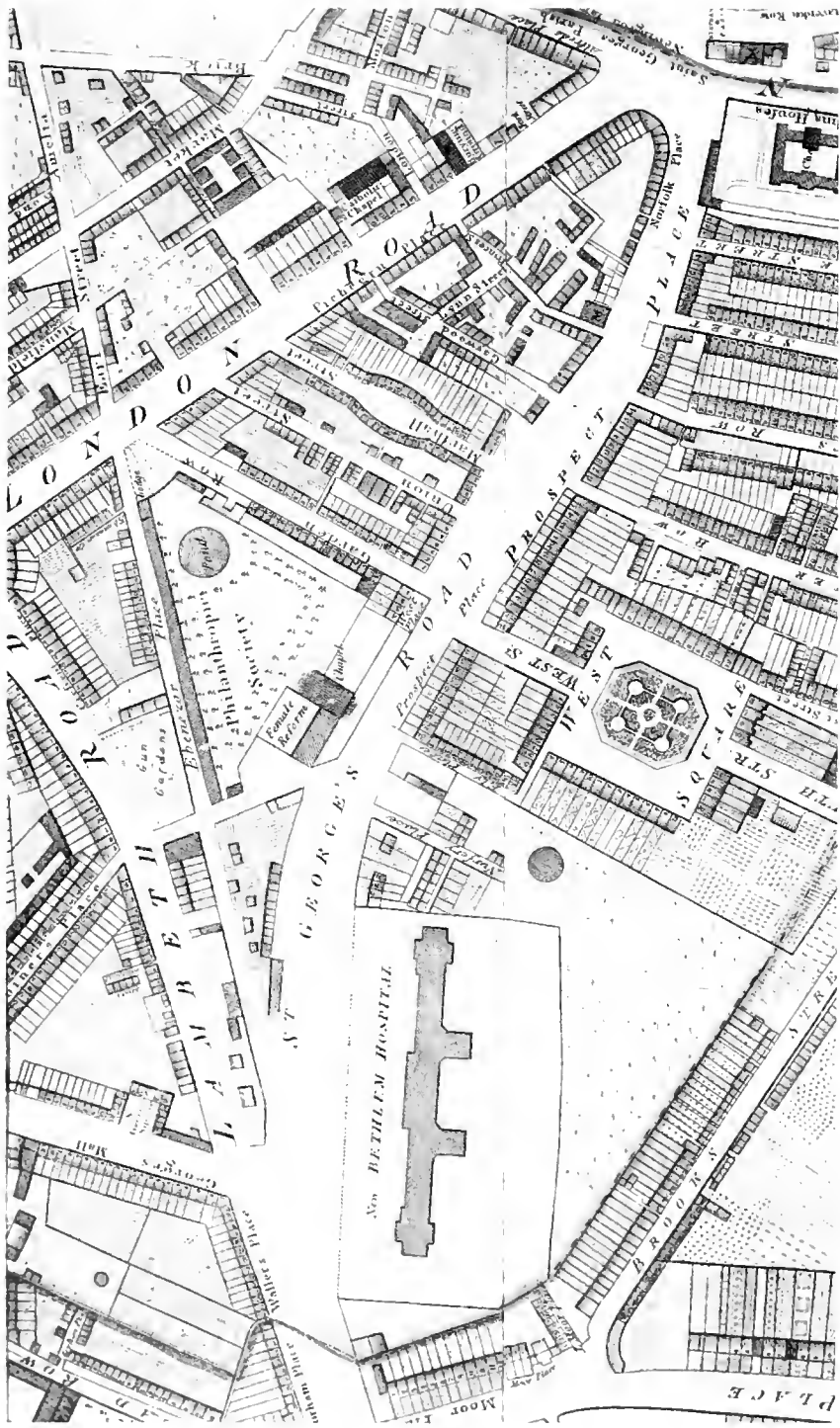
(a) CHAPEL PLACE, LONG LANE, 1915



PEABODY SQUARE MODEL DWELLINGS, BLACKFRIARS ROAD, 1872 (p. 57)



Nos. 105-121 ST. GEORGE'S ROAD, 1952 (p. 61)



PART OF HORWOOD'S MAP OF LONDON, 1813

WEST SQUARE

SOUTHWARK BRIDGE ROAD

One of the early terraces of houses in this road, Sussex Place, between Lancaster Street and Keyworth Street (Plate 29*c*), still survives in Nos. 190–220. The houses were built by a number of separate speculative builders, Peter Wadey, George Castleman, etc., in 1826–30, on land leased by the City Corporation.

WEST SQUARE

The largest of the several plots of ground in St. George's Fields, which belonged in the middle of the 18th century to Henry Bartelote and then to the West family (see the plan on p. 50), was the close lying south of St. George's Road, between Moulton's Close (the Imperial War Museum) and the ground belonging to Hayle's Estate. Colonel Temple West died in 1784, leaving his freehold estate in St. George's Fields to his wife Jane, during her life, and after her death, to his eldest son, Temple, in tail male.¹⁷⁶ They were empowered to make leases of up to 99 years, and in 1791 they granted building leases of the site of West Square to Thomas Kendall and James Hedger.¹⁷⁷ Most of the houses on the north, east and west sides of the square were completed and occupied by 1794, and the majority still remain (Plate 43); they are nearly all three-storeyed. Nos. 25–28 on the south side,



No. 29 West Square and No. 1 Orient Street

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

built a few years later, are a storey higher. These have rectangular patterned door fanlights. The houses on the west side of the square are grouped formally; the two centre houses, which are surmounted by a pediment, and those adjoining them on either side, are set forward slightly as are the two houses at each end of the terrace. The open space in the centre of the square is now maintained by Southwark Borough Council.

In 1812, the Admiralty erected a tower on No. 36, on the east side of the square, for the shutter telegraph apparatus used to convey messages between Whitehall and New Cross, and thence to and from Chatham and Sheerness (Plate 44*a*).¹⁷⁸ Robert Barker (1739–1806), who painted panoramas and exhibited them in Leicester Square, erected a round wooden building for his work in West Square (Plate 44*b*). He lived at No. 14 from 1799 to 1806, and his widow continued to occupy the house after his death. His son, Henry, who assisted him in painting the panoramas, lived at No. 13 from 1802, when he married a daughter of William Bligh, commander of the *Bounty*, until 1824. No. 15 was occupied in 1804–09 by Henry Perkins (1778–1855), book-collector and a partner in the firm of Barclay, Perkins, brewers.

James Hedger occupied a house in South (now Austral) Street. He had a garden on the west side extending along the back of West Square, and mews or stables on the opposite side of the street.⁵ His son, James, lived in the square at No. 45 from 1808 until his death in 1812, when he was succeeded by his brother Robert. Another brother, William, occupied No. 31 from 1807 until 1819.

CHAPTER 7

CHARITABLE INSTITUTIONS OF ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

A large stretch of easily accessible land like St. George's Fields, cheap because it was undeveloped and undrained, and with frontages to main roads, inevitably attracted the attention of the promoters of some of the many charitable institutions which came into being in the 18th and early 19th centuries. A brief history of the more important of them is given in this chapter.

THE FISHMONGERS' ALMSHOUSES

The Fishmongers' Almshouses, which formerly stood at the corner of St. George's Road and Newington Butts, were built in 1618 at the expense of several members of the Company on ground bought from Jacob Smith.¹⁷⁹ John Aubrey relates¹⁰⁸ that they were named St. Peter's Hospital by King James I "as he came by it from *Scotland*, in allusion to St. *Peter*, the Tutelar Saint of the *Fishmongers*." They were described in 1814 as "twenty-two neat houses in three Courts, with a garden behind, and having a neat Chapel"¹¹⁸ (Plate 51*a*). South of them and within the same enclosure was another almshouse, founded by James Hulbert of the Fishmongers' Company in 1719 for 42 men and women.¹¹⁸ The almshouses stood with but little alteration until 1851, when they were moved to Wandsworth.¹⁸⁰

The arms of the Fishmongers' Company on a restaurant at the corner of St. George's Road and Pastor Street recalls the connection of the Company with this neighbourhood.

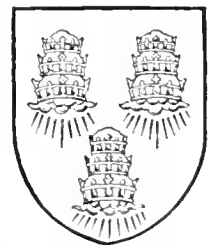


Fishmongers' Company

THE DRAPERS' ALMSHOUSES

In 1642 John Walter, Clerk to the Drapers' Company, offered to build almshouses in the parishes of St. George the Martyr, Southwark, and St. Mary, Newington, as many of the poor "had lately perished by lying abroad in the cold for want of habitation, to the great dishonour of God."¹⁸¹ He expressed a wish to remain anonymous until after his death, and his gift was conditional on the parishes providing sites for the almshouses and keeping them in repair once built. By his will he left property in trust for the maintenance of the almsfolk.

The parishioners of St. George's obtained from the City Corporation a grant of "a wast peece of ground lyeing between the pound and the style"⁹ "att the entrance into St. George's fields" (i.e., near the spot where Borough Road now joins Borough High Street). Two houses, with four rooms in each, to accommodate 16 almspeople, were built, and, in 1653-54, a chapel and a room for the Trustees to use for the distribution of pensions were added on ground taken out of the pound.⁹ A century later the Trustees for the Surrey New Roads rebuilt the almshouses further back and most of the old site was absorbed into the roadway of the newly-formed Borough Road⁹ (Plate 53).

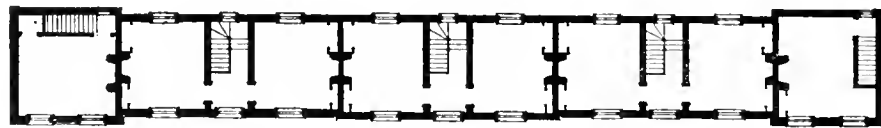


Drapers' Company

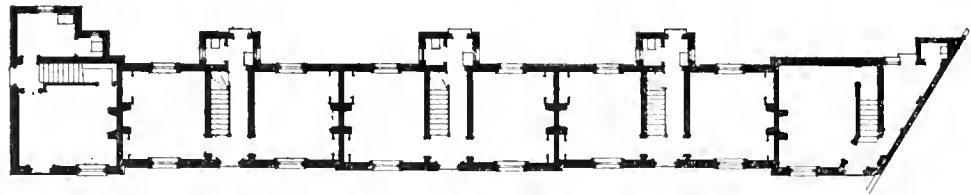
ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

The last move of the almshouses took place in 1819–20. The frontage of Borough Road was being developed and the City Corporation offered the parish a new site next to the Rowland Hill Almshouses in what became Hill Street (now Glasshill Street), together with £1,250 towards the rebuilding, in exchange for the old site.⁹ The existing two-storey brick almshouses between King's Bench Street and Glasshill Street were built in 1820 (Plate 83*b*).

The almshouses for the parish of St. Mary, Newington, were built on a piece of waste ground granted by the Lords of the Manor on the north side of what is now Draper Street, Newington Butts. They were last rebuilt



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



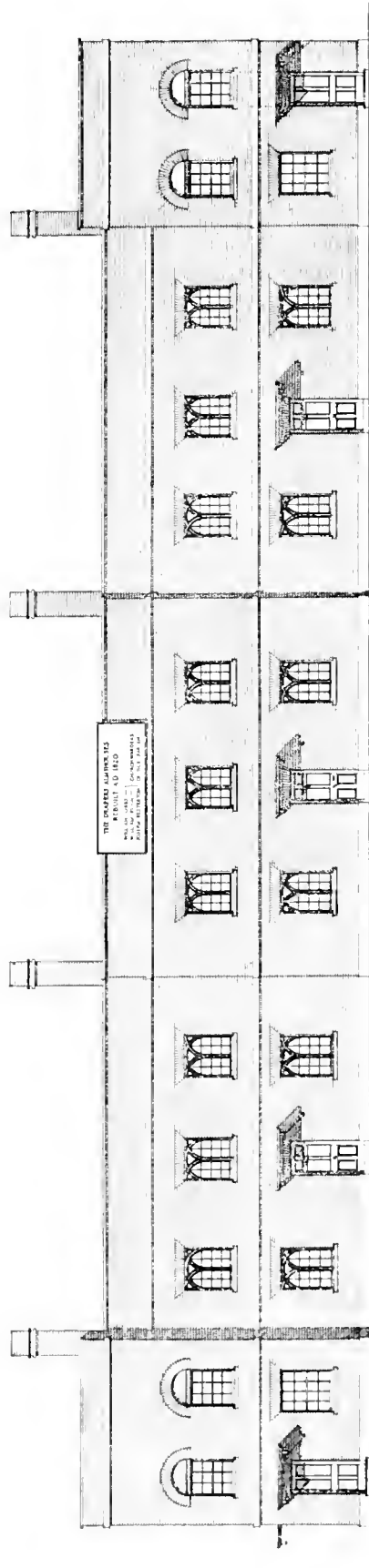
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Drapers' Almshouses, Glasshill Street

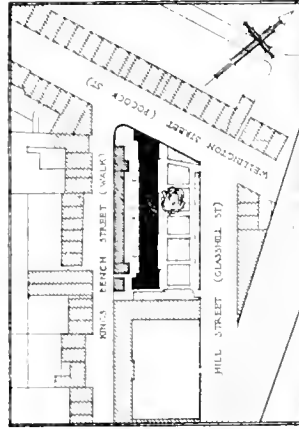
in 1888,¹³⁶ and consist of blocks of three-storey houses. They and two shops opposite were the only buildings in the street to escape destruction by bombing during the last war.

THE MAGDALEN HOSPITAL

The Magdalen Hospital for the reception and training of penitent prostitutes was founded by Robert Dingley, Jonas Hanway and others in 1758 in premises previously occupied by the London Hospital in Prescott Street, Whitechapel.¹⁸² The institution was so successful that ten years after its inception the Governors purchased from the Rev. Thomas Clarke 6 acres of land in St. George's Fields for the erection of new premises.⁹ The land was subject to rights of common by the other occupiers of the fields, so that before building could begin an Act¹⁸³ had to be obtained by the Governors to enable them to consolidate and enclose their holding. The Act included a clause forbidding building within 10 feet of the roads to be made from the south end of Blackfriars Bridge. Building operations were begun in the

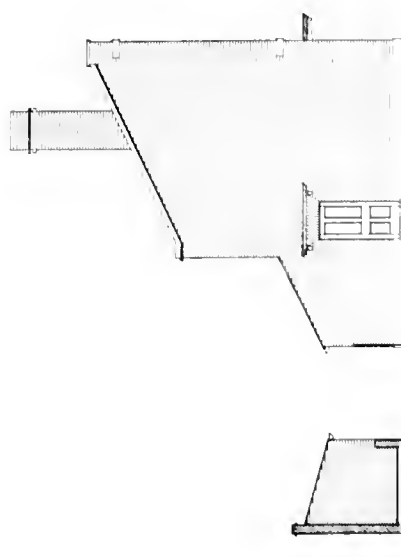


NORTH EAST ELEVATION

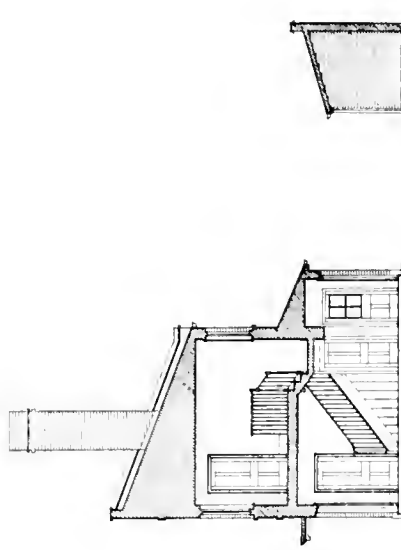


SCALE FOR 1" = 100' SITE PLAN

SCALE FOR 1" = 10' ELEVATIONS



SOUTH EAST ELEVATION



CROSS SECTION

Drapers' Linshouses, 1951

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

summer of 1769 with Joel Johnson^a as architect and surveyor, and the foundation stone was laid by the Earl of Hertford on 28th July. The building was ready for occupation early in 1772.

The notorious Dr. William Dodd, who was hanged for forgery in 1777, was Evening Preacher at the hospital during its early years in St. George's Fields. Large contributions were made to the charity through collections at the chapel services, but after 1800 these steadily declined while the amount spent on upkeep and repairs increased. For these and other reasons the Governors decided to move the institution to its present site in Streatham.^b 184 The old buildings were closed at the end of 1868 and the site was sold to the Peabody Trustees for the erection of a block of dwellings (Plate 34).

THE FREEMASONS' SCHOOL

The Royal Freemasons' School for Girls, on the site of the present No. 28 on the north side of Westminster Bridge Road, was opened in temporary buildings rented from James Hedger in 1788. After protracted negotiations the Governors obtained a lease of the ground from the City Corporation,¹⁸⁵ and a school for up to 100 children was built.

The children, daughters of masons of at least three years' standing, entered the school between the ages of 5 and 10. They were taught needlework and domestic subjects and every effort was made "to impress strongly on their minds a due sense of subordination, in true humility and obedience to their superiors." No child who had not had the smallpox or who had any defect or infirmity was admitted. The girls were apprenticed out at the age of 15.¹⁸⁶

The building in St. George's Fields was in use until 1852, when the school was moved to Wandsworth.¹⁸⁷

THE PHILANTHROPIC SOCIETY

In the 18th century responsibility for the care of deserted and vagrant children lay legally with the parish where they were found wandering, provided no other place of settlement could be discovered, but the obligation appears to have been generally ignored,¹⁸⁸ and these children were among the most miserable and neglected elements in the population. The Philanthropic Society was founded in 1788 to protect and reform one section of these children, those who were "the offspring of convicted felons" or who had "themselves been engaged in criminal practices."¹⁸⁹ The charity started in a small house in Cambridge Heath,¹⁸⁶ but in 1793 it acquired⁹ a lease from the City Corporation of a piece of ground near the London Road in St. George's Fields and built workshops and houses there (Plate 26). Further leases were obtained in 1805 and 1811 and the land was subsequently purchased. The society was incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1806.¹⁸⁹ Its income was derived partly from collections at services held in the large chapel in St.

^a Joel Johnson (c. 1721-99) also designed the church of St. John the Baptist, Wapping.

^b It is now an approved classifying school for senior girls.

BOROUGH ROAD TRAINING COLLEGE

George's Road (Plate 27), opened in November, 1806,^a which was built with a view to making a profit for the institution, and partly from the sale of work done by the children. The boys were taught printing, book-binding, shoe making, tailoring, rope making and twine spinning. The girls were trained to be "menial servants"; they made their own clothing and shirts for the boys, and washed and mended for the manufactory.¹⁸⁶

By the 1840's the income of the society had declined and it was compelled to limit its exertions "to the Reformation of criminal Boys." In 1848 it procured parliamentary permission¹⁹⁰ to sell or lease the St. George's Fields site and to move further out, where running expenses would be lower and the boys could be employed in agriculture. The Royal Philanthropic Society's School at Redhill is now an Approved School under the Children and Young Persons Act of 1933.

The site of the institution is bounded by Gladstone Street, Garden Row and St. George's Road. A row of houses in Gladstone Street bears the inscription "ALBERT TERRACE 1849." The chapel was used for a number of years as the parish church of St. Jude.¹⁹¹ The present church, consecrated in 1899, stands on the same site.¹⁹²

THE JOSEPH LANCASTER (BRITISH AND FOREIGN SOCIETY) SCHOOLS AND BOROUGH ROAD TRAINING COLLEGE

In 1798 a Quaker named Joseph Lancaster, then a young man in his early 20's, opened a school on non-sectarian lines for poor children of Southwark.¹⁸⁶ His monitorial system, an adaptation of the Madras system advocated by Dr. Bell, and his strong personality, enabled him to control and to give some instruction in the three Rs to large numbers of children. From the initial 90 children in one room their number increased to 500 or more. At first he charged a small fee,¹⁹³ but realizing that this prevented the very poorest from benefiting he sought financial help from wealthy patrons. His *Outline of a Plan . . .* issued in 1806 had this end in view, and the Royal Lancasterian Society was formed in 1808 by Joseph Fox, William Allen and Samuel Whitbread.¹⁸⁶ In 1810 Lancaster applied⁹ to the City Corporation for a new lease of the land on the west side of Union Street (now Lancaster Street, north of Borough Road) of which he was already in occupation.^b He planned to build both a girls' and a boys' school there, but this plan seems to have fallen through mainly because of Lancaster's financial difficulties and partly perhaps because of the opposition of the established church, begun as a result of Mrs. Trimmer's pamphleteering, boiled up in 1811.¹⁹⁴ Nevertheless, the teaching of children by Lancaster's methods continued to spread both in Southwark and elsewhere. The society, renamed

^a The chapel was built by a loan of 120 shares at £50 each. In 1808 the income from collections, pew rents and donations amounted to £1,341 6s. 4d.¹⁸⁶

^b Lancaster stated in his application to the City that there were two houses and some outhouses on the ground. These he was presumably using for his school. He also held a lease of a small piece of adjoining ground from the parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, i.e. in St. Martin's Street, now Miniver Street.

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

the British and Foreign Society in 1812, took over the management and finances of the schools and Lancaster was employed at a salary as Teaching Superintendent. He soon regretted his lost independence and resigned the position to start a boarding school at Tooting. He emigrated to America in 1818 and never returned to this country.²⁵

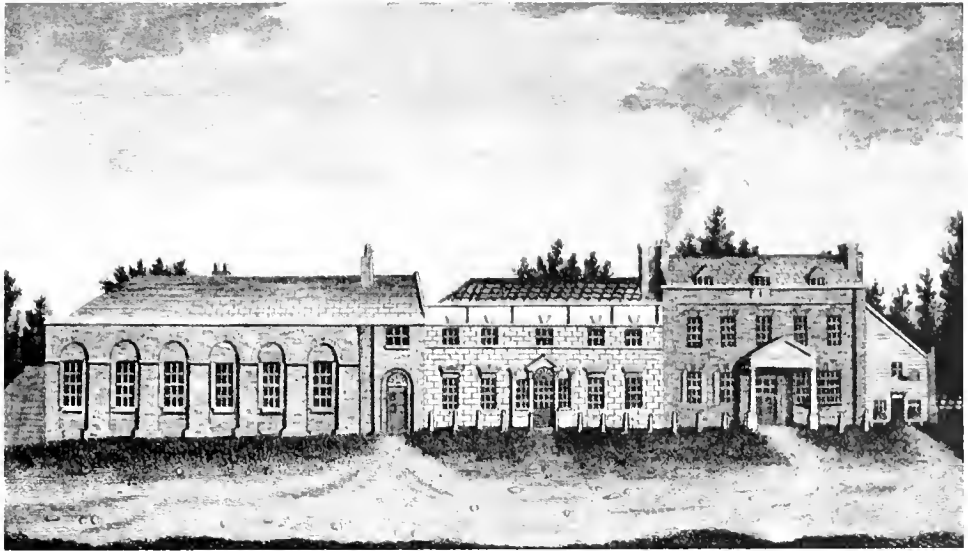
In 1816 the society applied for and obtained a lease⁹ of ground on the south side of Borough Road, and there permanent buildings were erected for boys' and girls' schools and for the training of young teachers (Plate 7*b*). The training college continued in the Borough Road until 1888 when the remainder of the lease was bought by the Executive Committee of the South London Polytechnic Council. After extensive structural alterations the premises were opened in 1892 as the Borough Road Polytechnic Institute (now the Borough Polytechnic).¹⁹⁵ Parts of the old school buildings still exist behind the later façade. The training college was moved to Isleworth.

THE SCHOOL FOR THE INDIGENT BLIND

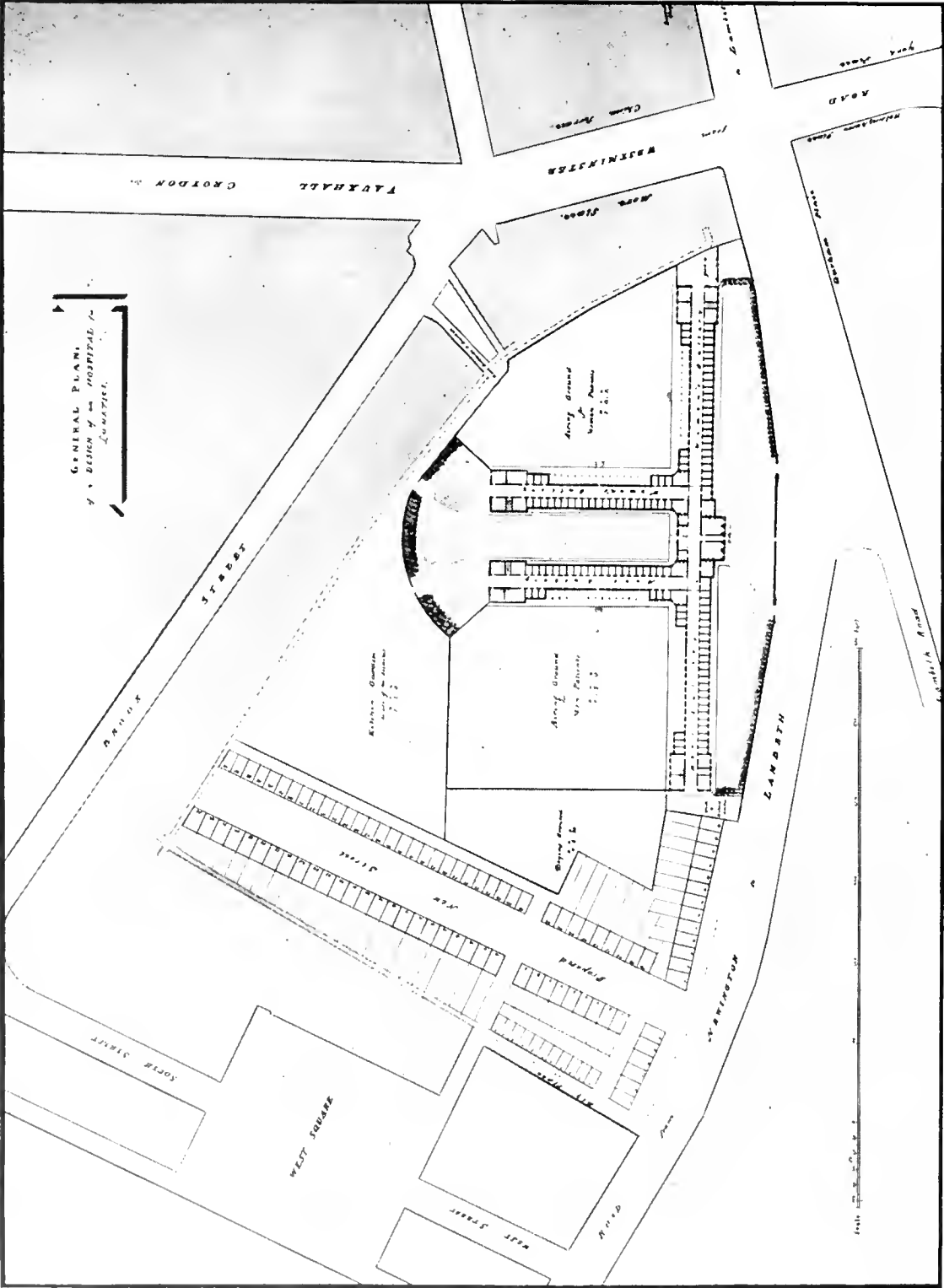
The School for the Indigent Blind, the first institution of its kind in London, was one of four schools for the blind started in the United Kingdom on the model of the school in Paris, the others being in Liverpool, Bristol and Edinburgh.¹⁹⁶ A committee was formed in 1799, of which Thomas Boddington, Samuel Bosanquet, James Ware and William Houlston were the leading members, and in 1800 they began the school in a small way with 15 pupils in the Long Room at the Dog and Duck.¹⁸⁶ A year or so later they took over the lease of the tavern and its gardens, and in a short while the school had 35 male and 17 female pupils, who were completely clothed, boarded, lodged and instructed by the society. The head lease to James Hedger was due to expire in 1810 and, as the City Corporation was contemplating letting the land to the Governors of Bethlem Hospital, the school committee, having discussed and decided against the idea of building on land in the Gray's Inn Road belonging to the Foundling Hospital,¹⁸⁶ obtained a lease from the City Corporation of just under 2 acres of ground between the obelisk at St. George's Circus and the premises of the Philanthropic Society.⁹ The building shown on Plate 31, described by Elmes¹⁶⁷ as "more commendable for utility than for its beauty" was erected from the designs of George Tappen,^{a 197} at the angle between Lambeth and London Roads in 1811-12. It formed the entrance to the grounds of the school, the main buildings of which lay behind the houses in Crescent Place and had no frontage to Lambeth Road. The building encroached on the area of the circus as defined by Act of Parliament¹⁶² and the Trustees for the Surrey New Roads demanded its demolition, but they finally agreed to the insertion of a clause in a new Act¹⁶³ which enabled the building to stand, and provided for the erection of concave flanking walls on either side of it.

The institution was incorporated by Act of Parliament in 1826.¹⁹⁸ It was given power to buy and sell land in 1831,¹⁹⁹ and in the following year

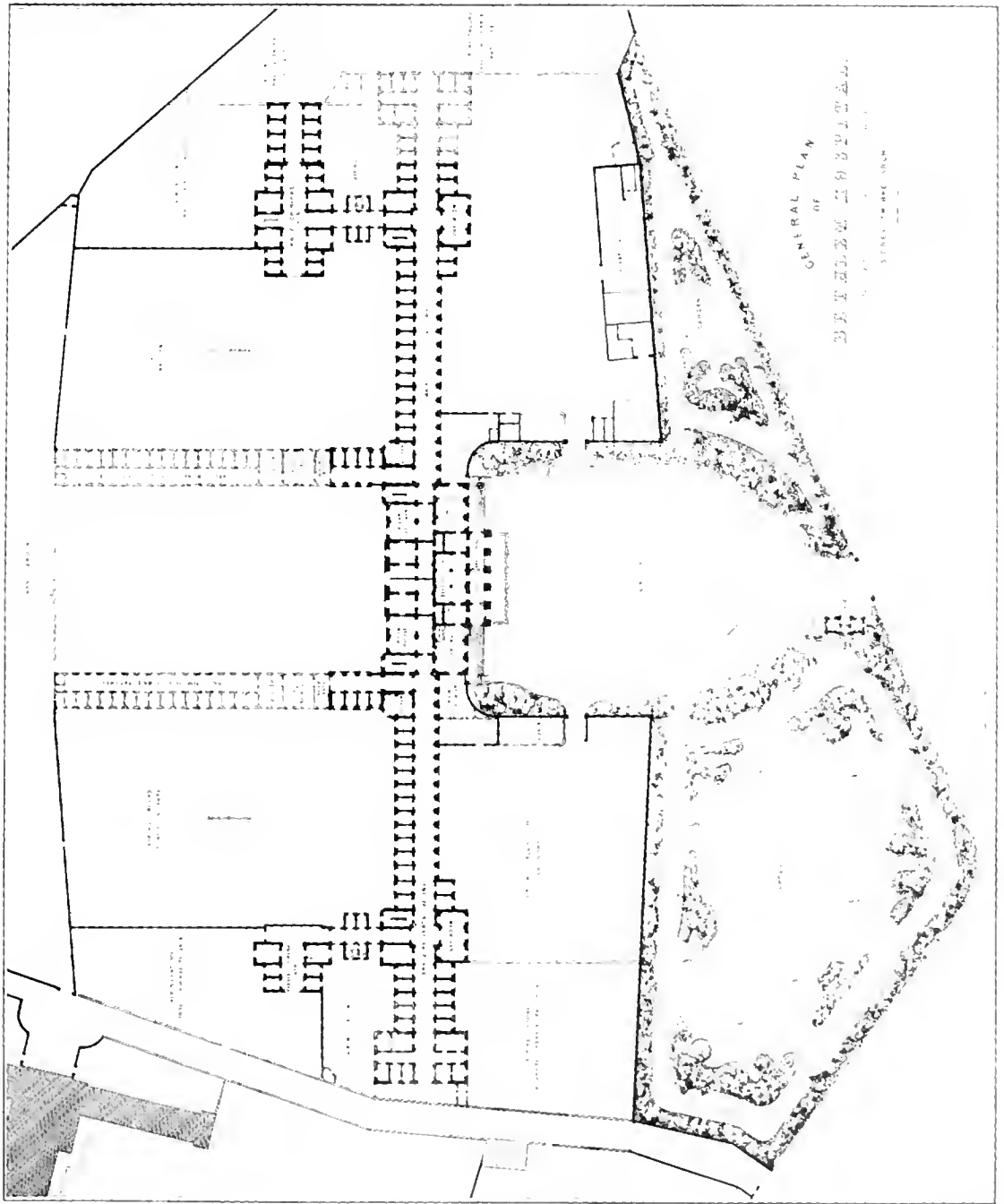
^a George Tappen (c. 1771-1830) also designed the Royal Caledonian Asylum, Islington.



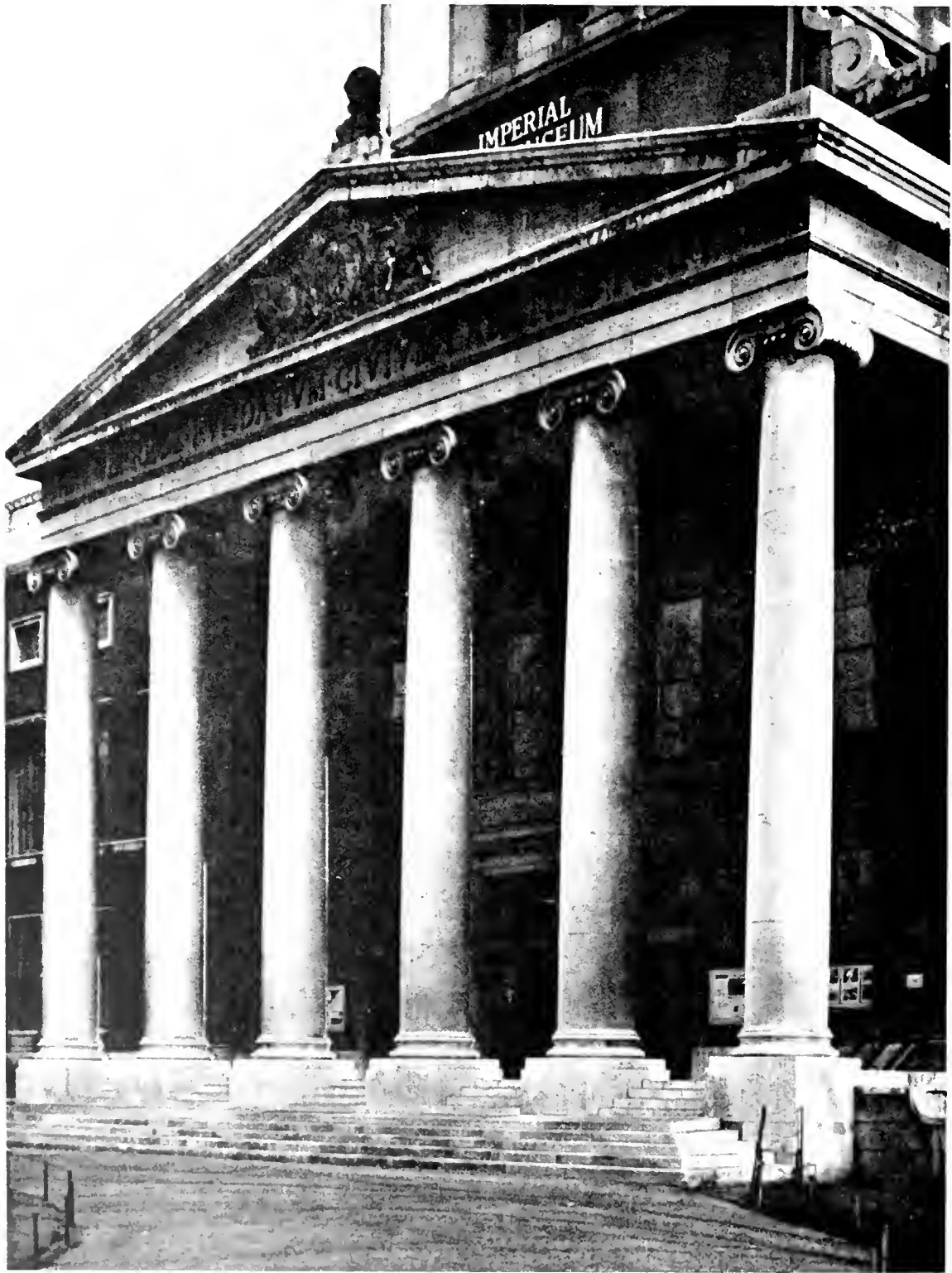
- (a) THE DOG AND DUCK IN ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS, 1788
(pp. 52, 53)
- (b) NEW BETHLEHEM HOSPITAL, 1817 (pp. 76-80)



GANDY'S PLAN FOR BETHLEM HOSPITAL, 1810 (p. 77)



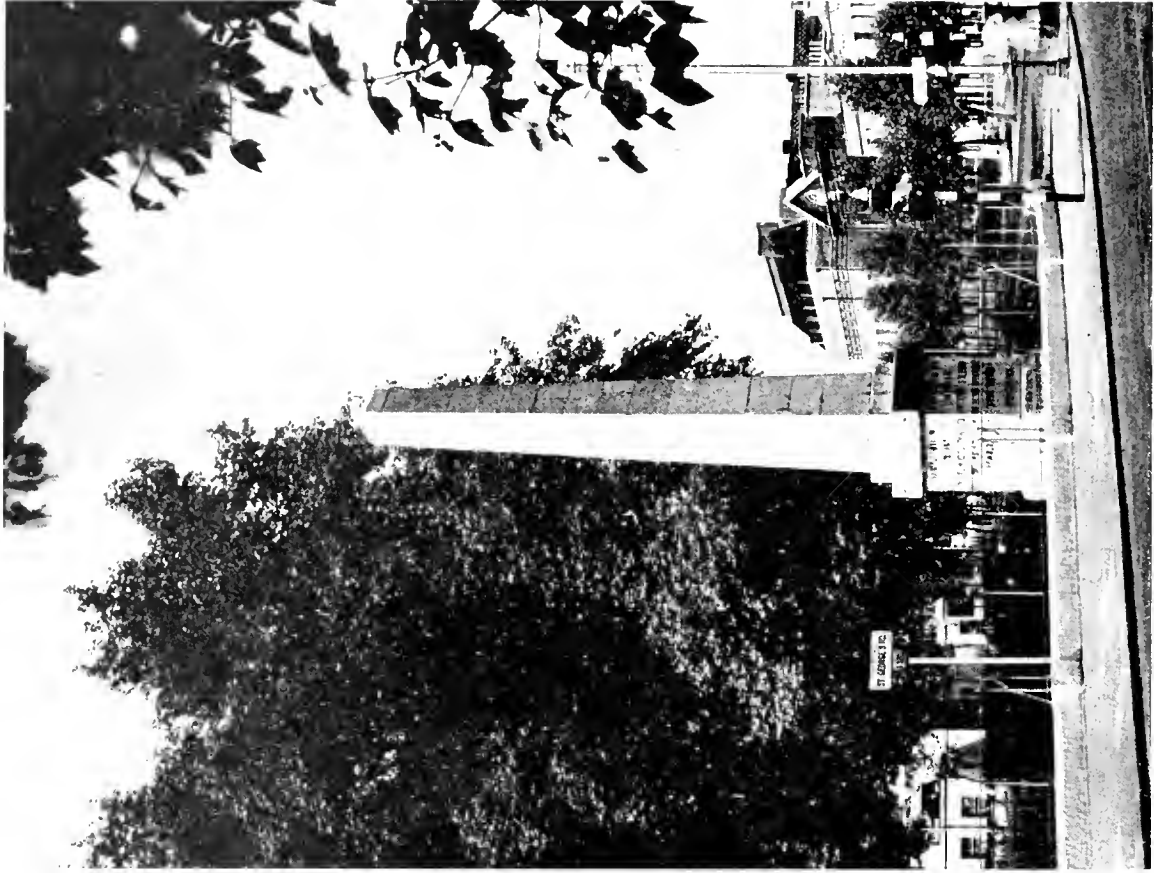
PLAN OF BETHLEHEM HOSPITAL SHOWING ALTERATIONS, 1838 (p. 79)



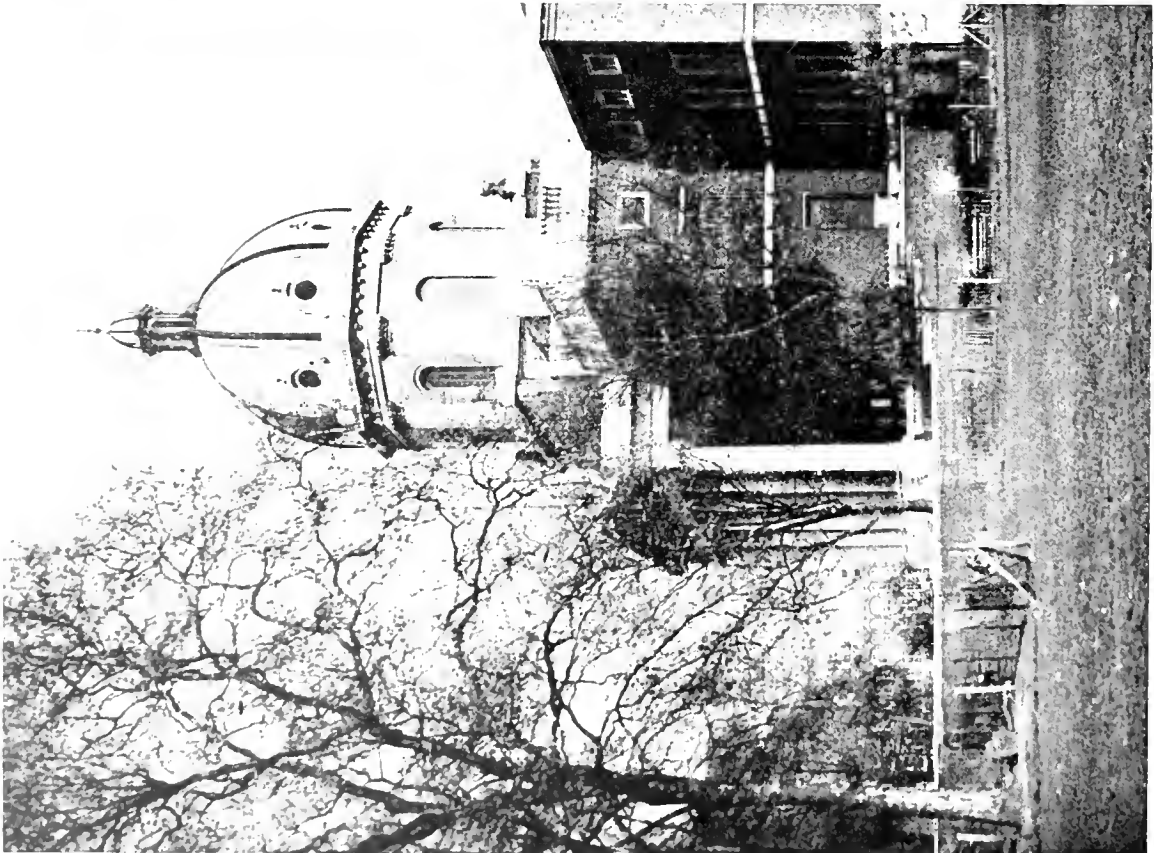
IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM, PORTICO, 1953 (p. 78)



CIBBER'S FIGURES OF MELANCHOLY AND RAVING MADNESS (p. 78)



(b) THE OBELISK, 1951 (pp. 43, 44)

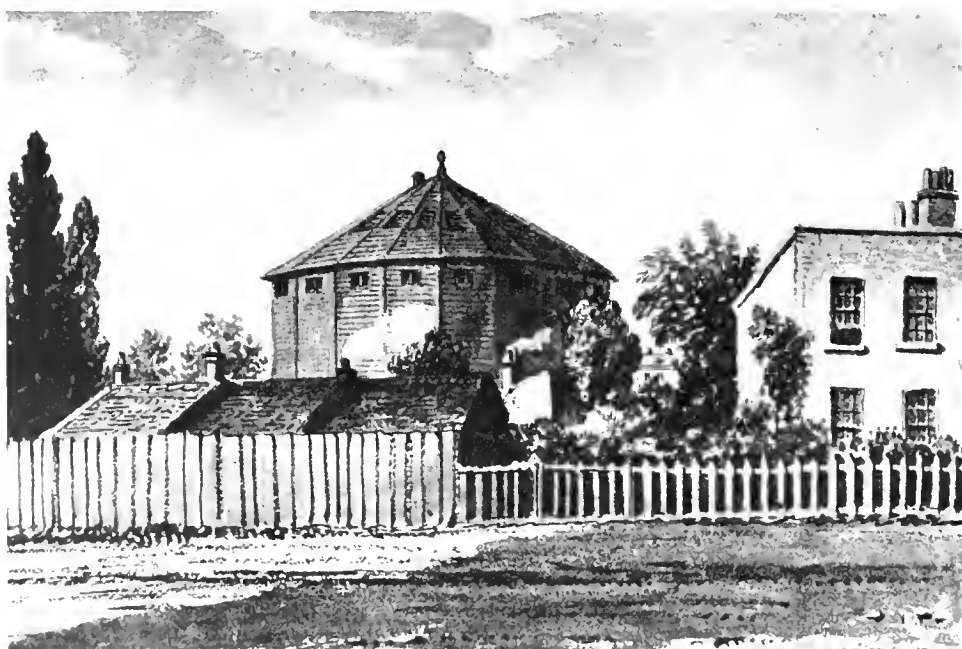
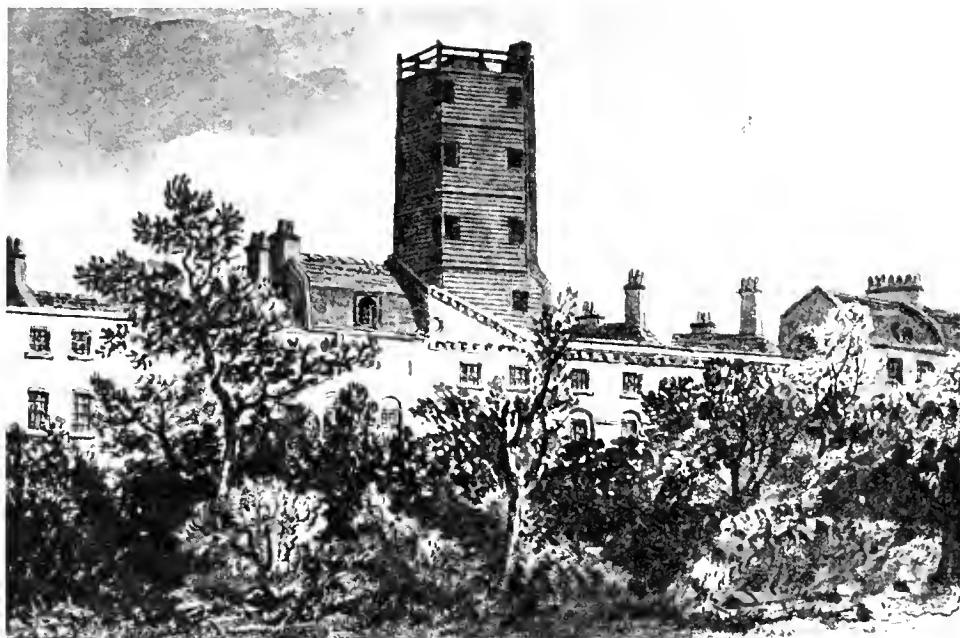


(a) IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM, 1953 (p. 80)



Nos. 29-36 WEST SQUARE, EAST SIDE, 1951 (p. 63)

PLATE 44



WEST SQUARE (p. 64)

(a) TELEGRAPHIC TOWER, 1827

(b) BUILDING FOR PAINTING THE PANORAMA, 1827

SCHOOL FOR THE INDIGENT BLIND

bought the freehold of the ground on which the school stood.¹⁹⁶ By 1833 the school included 55 males and 57 females and it became necessary to enlarge the buildings.²⁰⁰ An additional piece of ground was leased from the City Corporation,⁹ and extensive new premises, incorporating parts of the old, were erected from the designs of John Newman²⁵ in 1835–38 (Plate 32*b*). The school continued to train blind pupils in the traditional trades of mat making, basket making, knitting, etc. After 1874, many of its trainees were employed in a workshop which was established in the basement, the predecessor of the Blind Employment Factory in the Waterloo Road.¹⁹⁶ In 1901, the school site was purchased under compulsory powers by the Baker Street and Waterloo Railway, and the school was moved to Leatherhead.¹⁹⁶ The Tube depôt, with one-storey shops in front, now occupies the site.

CHAPTER 8

ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL

In 1788, in anticipation of the passing of the Catholic Relief Bill, Roman Catholics in Southwark started collecting subscriptions²⁰¹ for a chapel to replace the inadequate accommodation in a house in Bandyleg Walk with which they had previously been forced to be content. The chapel in London Road (Plate 36), an unimposing building whose site is now occupied by the South London Palace of Varieties, was blessed and opened in March, 1790, and finished in 1793.²⁰¹

Temporary chapels were opened in Southwark for refugees from the French Revolution between 1799 and 1805, but the large influx of Irish Catholics into the rapidly expanding working-class districts of Walworth and St. George's during the first quarter of the 19th century, created a greater problem. In the 1830's a committee, in which Father Doyle was the moving spirit, was set up to discuss the possibility of building a large church to accommodate the overflowing congregation of the London Road Chapel. A. W. Pugin, who was informed of the project by the Earl of Shrewsbury, with his usual expedition produced elaborate and detailed plans for a cathedral with chapter-house, cloisters, and conventual buildings. The plans were much admired by the committee, but on a member inquiring how much it would cost to put them into execution Pugin, resenting so mundane a question, rolled up his drawings, "took his hat, wished the gentlemen good day, and walked out."²⁰²

In 1839 a new committee was formed which asked the architects, J. Buckler, E. M. Foxhall, A. W. Pugin, and J. J. Scoles, to send in competing designs for the church. Forewarned by previous experience the committee laid down that the buildings, which were to include a church with accommodation for 2,500 on the ground floor, a house for four clergy, and schools for 300 boys and 200 girls, were not to exceed an estimated cost of £20,000. The "style of pointed Architecture" was to be chosen but "solidity of construction" was required rather than "ornamental Architecture."²⁰³ Pugin's designs were selected, mainly because his plan for the church contained the greatest space.

Public feeling against the Catholics still ran high and Father Doyle encountered difficulties in buying land. His first application to the City of London for the triangle of land opposite Bethlem Hospital was refused, but in April, 1840, the City authorities agreed to sell him a plot of land in St. George's Road for £3,200 provided that the buildings were erected to Pugin's design, were completed within six years, and had no "ecclesiastical Ornament" on the outside. Parliamentary sanction for the transfer had been obtained in the previous year.²⁰⁴ It was thought inadvisable to have any public ceremony at the laying of the foundation stone and it was laid privately at 7 o'clock in the morning of 26th May, 1841.²⁰³

Most of Pugin's working drawings have unfortunately been lost, but an elevation, sketch, and plan made in 1839 and now preserved at the

ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL

cathedral is reproduced on Plate 46. Pugin, writing before the building was well begun, in 1841, declared his intention of carrying out every detail "in the style of the time of Edward III. A great part of the church will be left open, without seats, and three thousand persons may be easily accommodated on the floor. No galleries of any description will be introduced, but all the internal arrangements will be strictly a revival of those which were anciently to be found in the large parochial churches of England."²⁰⁵

Pugin supervised the building to the last detail and even wished to dispense with the services of a clerk of the works, saying that the saving of his wages would be sufficient "to finish three altars." The building contractors were Messrs. Myers & Wilson, and the contract specified that the foundations and all inside walling was to be of "good hard burnt common stocks . . . the masonry . . . of Bath stone . . . [and] The foundations of concrete . . . 5 feet thick." The stained glass was by Wailes of Newcastle.²⁰⁶ By 1843 work on the church was so well advanced that the school and clergy house were begun, but in spite of the persuasive tongue and pen of Father Doyle, completion of the buildings was delayed by lack of funds and the church was not formally opened until 4th July, 1848.

It is interesting to note that the first marriage to be celebrated in St. George's was that of A. W. Pugin to Jane Knill, his third wife, on 10th August, 1848.²⁰⁷ Cardinal Wiseman, the first Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, was inducted at St. George's in December, 1850, and in the following year Dr. Thomas Grant was installed as the first bishop of the newly-established diocese of Southwark.

Two early additions to the fabric were the chantries in memory of Edward Petre (1849), and George Talbot (1854). The latter was never finished and endowed as intended, owing to the death of Talbot's kinsman, the Earl of Shrewsbury, who had undertaken to pay for its erection, but it was later made into a Relic chapel. The Knill chantry, designed by Edward Pugin, was completed in 1857.

Major alterations to the cathedral and its ancillary buildings were carried through in 1886-90 by Bishop Butt. The schools were removed to a new site in 1887 (see p. 75) and the old site was used for a new clergy house designed by Frederick A. Walters²⁰¹ (1888). In 1889 Pugin's rood screen, which had always aroused controversy among his co-religionists, was removed so that the congregation could have a clear view of the Sanctuary. In 1890 a new chapel in honour of St. Joseph was erected on the south side of the cathedral in memory of Samuel Weld. In 1894 the long-delayed consecration of the cathedral took place.

Archbishop Amigo Jubilee Hall, built from money collected when Bishop Amigo became Archbishop after occupying the see of Southwark for thirty-four years, was opened in 1940 and, since April, 1941, when the cathedral was burnt out, it has been used for services. The architect was Robert Sharp.²⁰⁷

St. George's was 240 feet in length and 72 feet in width and filled practically the whole of the restricted site allowed for it, so that the north-east

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

and north-west sides have always been obscured by other buildings. The 8-foot thick walls at the base of the tower were made to support a lofty tower and spire, but they were never carried higher than 64 feet. Pugin's design was based on that of the church of the Austin Friars near Old Broad Street and had the same plan, three parallel aisles without triforium or clerestory. The chancel, 40 feet long and about the same in height, was short in proportion to the length of the nave, but this and the lack of a clerestory were not considered as serious defects until after the elevation of the building to the dignity of a cathedral.

The lukewarm description of the church given in *The Times'* account of the consecration is typical of contemporary opinion: "The external appearance is not remarkably striking, and, if it provokes no censure, certainly challenges no extraordinary praise . . . Within, the nave and aisles are equally unpretending, the pillars which support them being light in structure and fluted; the roof, of plain oak; the side walls and windows perfectly plain . . . The elevation of the pointed Gothic arches on which the roof rests seems too low for a sublime effect and too high for elegance of detail. The side windows, which are six in number on each side, have not yet been filled with stained glass, and their blank and cheerless appearance, no doubt, added to the naked and hungry aspect of the aisles. A few paintings hung on the walls at intervals scarcely relieved this expression, which may have been designedly introduced by the architect to set off by contrast the extraordinary beauty of the great window and organ gallery at the western entrance, of the stone pulpit in the centre, and of the chancel and chapels of the sacrament and the blessed Virgin on the east . . . The screen which separates the chancel from the nave is formed on three arches, which rest, like those of the stone pulpit, on highly-polished marble pillars . . . [It] is in the style of the ancient 'rood lofts'." ²⁰⁸

The Builder gave a detailed description of the chancel with its carved oak panelling and desks, the decorated stonework of the Sanctuary, and the High Altar of Caen stone with a richly gilt Tabernacle, consisting of four clusters of pinnacles supporting a canopy. It praised the design and workmanship of the altar furniture and suggested that it was in such matters that Pugin's chief excellence lay. ²⁰⁹

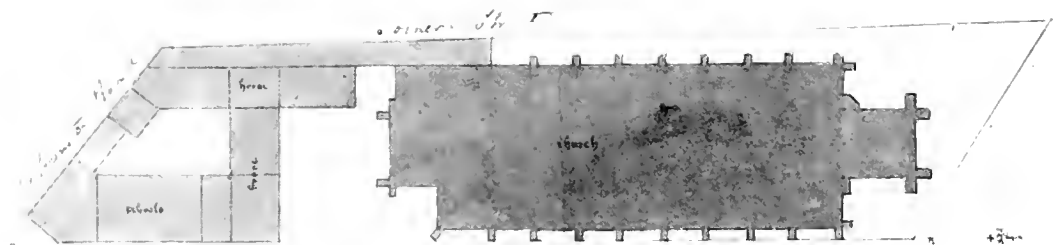
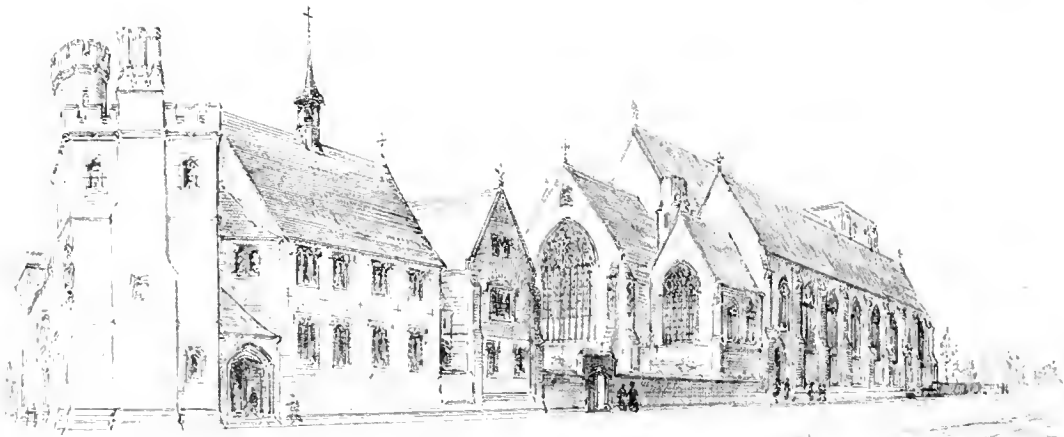
It is now generally agreed that St. George's was not one of the best products of Pugin's restless genius, but in view of its size, the limitations imposed by the site and the small funds available, it was a remarkable achievement.

The restoration of the cathedral was begun on 5th August, 1953. In the design for the new building, which will rise from, and incorporate, the ruins of the old, the architect, Romilly B. Craze, has retained as much as possible of Pugin's original work. Owing to the extent of the damage, it has been necessary to re-design the greater part of the building, and this has been done with due regard to the existing remains of the cathedral.

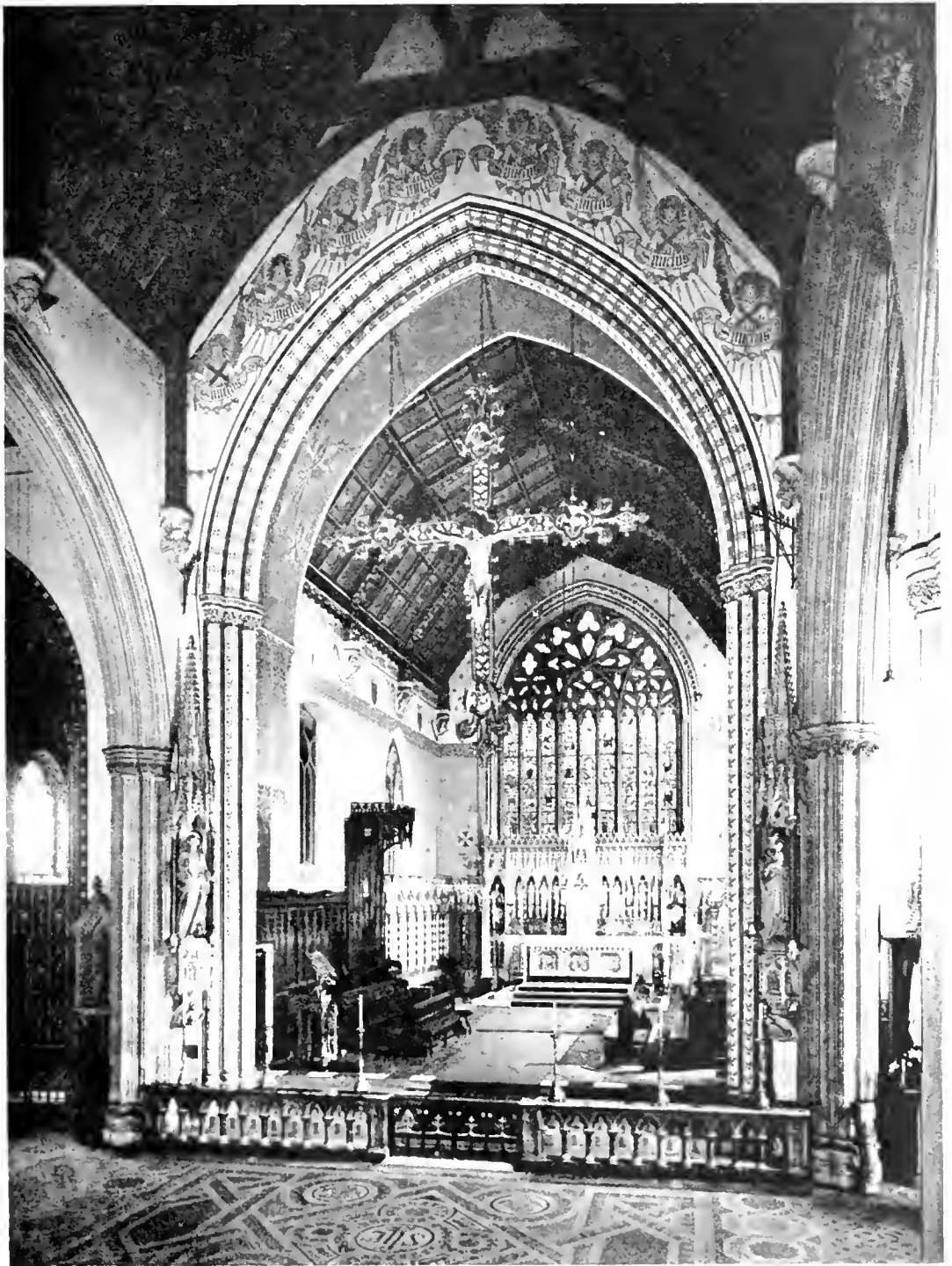
It is proposed that the tower shall be nearly 180 feet high and that daily and mortuary chapels and sacristies shall be built on the liturgical south



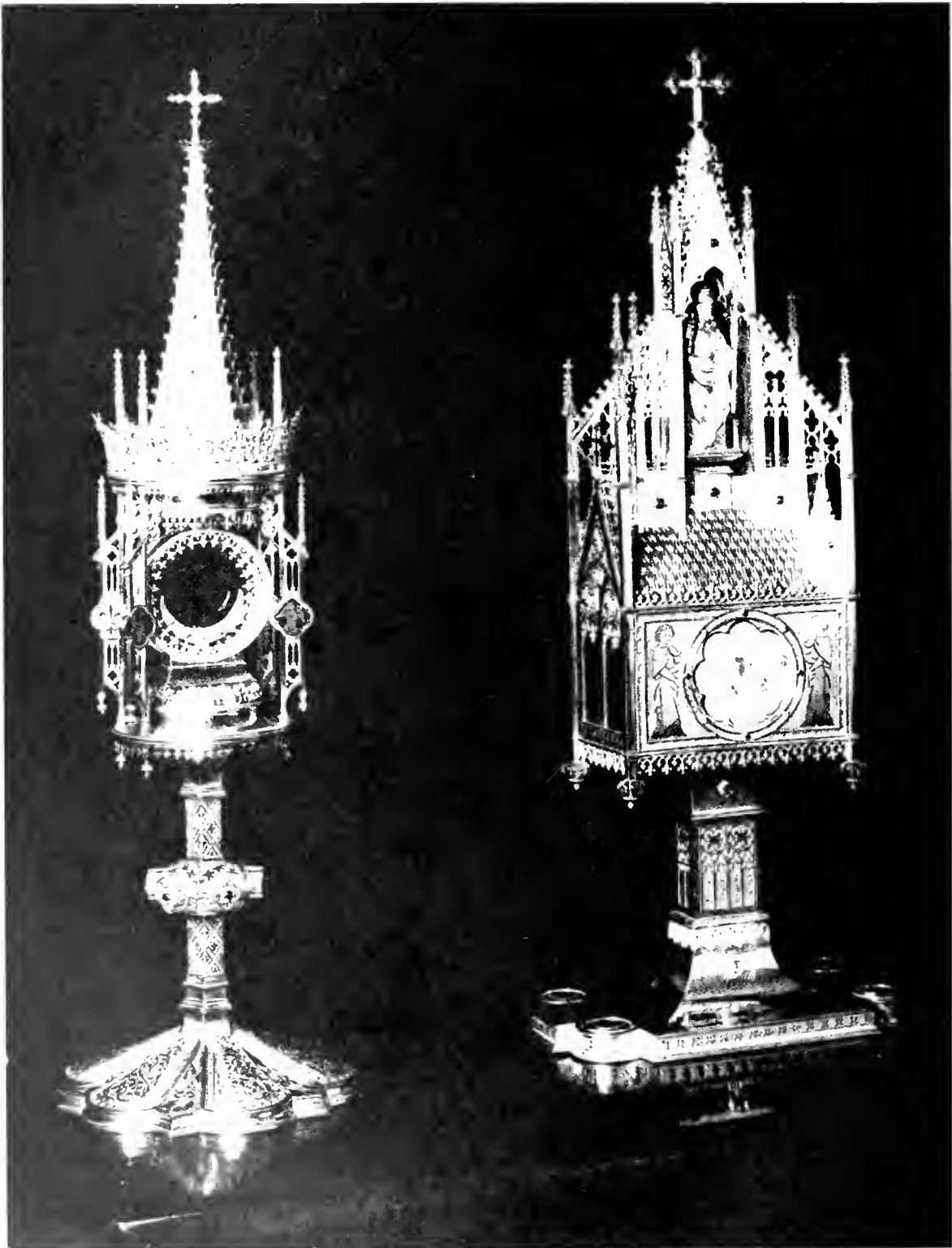
ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, RUINS, 1941 (p. 73)



ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL AS DESIGNED BY PUGIN, 1839
(p. 72)



ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, THE SANCTUARY, 1936 (p. 74)



MONSTRANCE AND RELIQUARY DESIGNED BY PUGIN (p. 75)

ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL

side. Lighting will be greatly improved by the provision of a clerestory rising from the rebuilt nave arcading. There will be no triforium, the bay design being based broadly upon that of the famous French church at Brou. A baptistery will be built adjacent to the tower.

CATHEDRAL PLATE

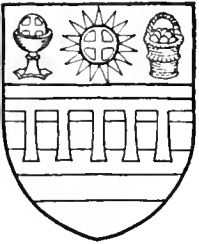
A gold monstrance and a reliquary of St. Thomas of Canterbury in gold and enamel (Plate 48) and a heavy processional cross in brass were designed by A. W. Pugin. The plate designed by Edward Pugin for the Knill chantry consists of a silver gilt cruet, a silver chalice, thurible and bell, a silver gilt and enamel paxbread, two acolyte's candlesticks and two smaller candlesticks and two torches in silver, and a silver and ebony crucifix.

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL, ST. GEORGE'S ROAD

Early in 1855 two Sisters of Notre Dame from the mother house at Namur came to Southwark to help in the instruction of poor Catholic children.²⁰⁷ Within a short time they decided to open a secondary school for girls and for this purpose acquired the remainder of the lease (originally granted to the Philanthropic Society) of a triangle of ground on the west side of Gladstone Street. The freehold of the ground was purchased from the City Corporation in 1908¹⁵⁵ and subsequently, when a scheme was mooted to build shops on the St. George's Road frontage between Gladstone Street and Lambeth Road, the Sisters bought this ground also. The plain five-storeyed buildings in red brick which comprise the school have been built at various times, the last big addition being in 1938 when a new wing was added at the rear. Both entrances are pedimented and have Roman Doric columns at each side and statues in niches above. There are cast-iron railings, with Gothic tracery to the heads of each panel, on the St. George's Road frontage.

CHAPTER 9

BETHLEM HOSPITAL, NOW THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM, IN LAMBETH ROAD



Bethlem Hospital

Bethlem Hospital, now the Imperial War Museum, though much truncated, is the largest remaining of the buildings originally erected in St. George's Fields. The institution for which it was built was the successor of the mediaeval hospital in the priory of St. Mary of Bethlehem in Bishopsgate Without (on the site of Liverpool Street Station), the "bedlam" of common parlance. The first reference to the hospital as such occurs in 1329,²¹ though with no indication of the kind of patients for which it catered, but an inquisition of 1403²¹⁰ leaves no doubt that by that date the patients treated there were suffering from mental disorders.

The Mayor and Commonalty of the City of London took the priory and hospital under their protection in 1346,²¹¹ and in 1547, after the dissolution of religious houses, they purchased the hospital and its possessions from the King and by Royal Letters Patent re-established it as a hospital for lunatics.²¹² Ten years later Bethlem was placed under the management of the governors of Bridewell, and the two foundations have since that time been closely associated though they have remained distinct.¹⁷²

In 1676 Bethlem was moved to a new building on what was then an open site provided by the City in Moorfields. There it remained for over a century, but in 1792 the governors began to discuss the need for undertaking a thorough repair of the old premises or the erection of new ones.²¹³ Nothing more active was done until 1800, when James Lewis, the hospital surveyor, reported that the whole building was dangerous, not one floor being level, nor one wall upright.²¹⁴ There were reasons other than the unsatisfactory state of the building which swayed the Governors to adopt their surveyor's suggestion to remove to a new site. During the last quarter of the 18th century a gradual improvement had taken place in the public attitude towards the victims of mental disease, a change due in part to the work of John Howard and other reformers, and in part perhaps to the mental attacks of the King.^a The inmates of Bethlem were no longer looked on as a "raree-show" and the whip was discredited as an instrument of treatment, but fetters and straw were still in use, and the Governors, though resenting external criticism and control (they spent £600 in opposing the Madhouse Bill of 1815 in Parliament), were aware that the administration of the hospital left much to be desired.²¹⁷ The old building was too confined and its associations too strong to admit of any great improvements there, and the Governors decided to remove the hospital to larger premises where the patients could be separated into categories and given better conditions and where there was sufficient space to allow them outdoor exercise. From 1801 to 1807 various sites were discussed, and for a time it seemed probable that the

^a In 1808 an Act²¹⁵ "for the better Care and maintenance of Lunatics being Paupers or Criminals" was passed which empowered Justices of the Peace to erect County Lunatic Asylums. It was amended by an Act of similar title in 1815.²¹⁶

BETHLEM HOSPITAL

remove might be to Islington, but in June, 1807, the President and Treasurer reported that they had viewed "certain land lying in St. George's Fields being the site lately occupied by the Dog & Duck and at present held by Mr. Hedger under the Bridge House Estates" and recommended it as being fit and proper for the purpose they had in mind.²¹⁸ The negotiations took another three years, but in 1810 an agreement was signed whereby, in exchange for the land in Moorfields, the City Corporation granted 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres of ground in St. George's Fields for the erection of a new hospital for a term of years equal to that still remaining on the Moorfields property (963 years) and at the token rent of a shilling a year. The ground, roughly triangular in shape, had some houses along the road frontages (see Plate 36), a few of which were demolished for the new building, but the remainder, together with any land not required by the institution, were included in the grant in order to provide a source of revenue for the hospital.¹⁷¹

In July, 1810, the newspapers carried an advertisement offering premiums of £200, £100, and £50 for the three best designs for a new Bethlem Hospital. James Lewis, the hospital surveyor, George Dance the younger, and S. P. Cockerell acted as adjudicators and they awarded first place to the design submitted by John Gandy (Plate 38).²¹⁸ Gandy's notes state that owing to the swampiness of the ground he did not think it possible to sink the building more than 3 feet from the surface. He proposed a basement storey for the domestic offices and 3 storeys above for the patients, each storey to contain 108 cells, eleven foot by seven foot six, with day rooms and keepers' rooms. The food was all to be carried up from the basement by back staircases. He suggested that a pediment supported by six Doric columns should form a central feature; otherwise the building was to be plain brick with a stucco cornice, since he deemed any fine or decorative architecture to be out of place. His proposed elevation, preserved among the archives at Bridewell, presents a dreary expanse of brickwork.^{a 219}

The plans and elevations prepared by James Lewis which were adopted for the building were drawn from the three winning designs with such modifications as were suggested by the surveyor's own experience of the needs of the hospital. They comprised a range of buildings of a basement and 3 storeys 580 feet long parallel to Lambeth Road, with a central entrance under a portico. Lewis planned to have rooms for uncleanly patients on the basement floor so that the straw on which they slept could be easily changed. All the patients' sleeping rooms were arched or groined to "Prevent accidents from fire and the noises of the turbulent affecting those above or below them." The infirmary, offices, and residential quarters for

^a In 1811, the surveyor contracted for 3,000,000 yellow stock bricks at £2 10s. a thousand.²¹⁸



*Boundary Stone,
Geraldine Mary
Harmsworth Park*

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

the staff were in the central block which served to separate the male and female patients.

The foundation stone of the hospital was laid by the President, Sir Richard Carr Glyn, on 18th April, 1812. By October, 1814, the main structure was complete. The royal coat of arms in the pediment was made of Coade's artificial stone, the cost, 130 guineas for making and fixing, comparing favourably with the estimate of £500 for Portland stone. Across the frieze of the entablature was placed the inscription—

“HEN · VIII · REGE · FVNDATVM · CIVIVM · LARGITAS · PERFECIT”

The Governors sought the advice of John Bacon, the sculptor, as to the disposition of Caius Cibber's statues of Raving Madness and Melancholy from the gates of the old hospital which Gandy had proposed to place above the pediment. Bacon advised that apart from renewing the toe of one of the figures and cleaning off the paint no attempt should be made to restore them. In his own words, no “intrusive chisel of any modern Sculpture [*sic*]” should be “suffered to invade the surface of these specimens of Original Art.”²¹⁸ The statues were accordingly placed in the entrance hall where they remained until the 1850's. They are now in the Guildhall Museum (Plate 41).

In August, 1815, 122 patients were conveyed in hackney coaches from Moorfields to their new quarters. They must have suffered acute discomfort during their first winter; the system of warming by steam was installed only in the basement storey and the windows in the upper storeys were not glazed so that the sleeping cells were either exposed to the full blast of cold air or were completely darkened. The deputy surveyor replied to the complaints of the members of the Select Commission that the omission of glass was deliberate, since it allowed the cells to be ventilated to obviate “the disagreeable effluvias peculiar to all madhouses.”²²⁰ The windows were, however, glazed during the summer of 1816.

While the plans for the building were in preparation, the Governors received a request from the government to provide accommodation for criminal lunatics who until then had been confined with ordinary prisoners in gaol. The request was the result of a Select Committee report of 1807 pointing out the disadvantages of mixing lunatics indiscriminately with other prisoners. The expense of the criminal blocks, completed in 1816, was defrayed by the government, who also paid for the maintenance of the inmates. Accommodation was provided for 15 women and 45 men.¹⁷²

The eastern end of the hospital grounds, abutting on Ely Place (now Geraldine Street) and the gardens of the houses in West Square (see Plate 36), remained open until 1828, when the Governors leased it for 61 years to the Governors of the sister institution, Bridewell, for the erection of “a House of Occupations for the employment and relief of destitute of both sexes.”¹⁷¹ These premises, which were afterwards known as King Edward's Schools, remained in use until 1931, when the children were removed to Witley. The old schools were pulled down soon after.

BETHLEM HOSPITAL

The first big alteration to the hospital was made in 1835, when the male criminal block was enlarged to take another 30 men. By this time the ordinary wards of the hospital had become congested, and Sydney Smirke was engaged to plan an enlargement of the whole institution. Besides providing accommodation for nearly double the original number of patients, Smirke was asked to provide workshops for the male patients and laundries for the employment of the female patients, while retaining the symmetry of the front elevation. The plan on Plate 39 shows how he solved the problem by building wing blocks at either end of the frontage and two long galleried blocks across the garden at the rear. Workshops and storage sheds were erected in the front yards, but the administrative block in the centre of the building was left with an unimpeded view of the gardens in front of the hospital which had been enlarged by the diversion northwards of Lambeth Road (see Plate 39), and which Smirke laid out afresh.²²¹ Smirke also designed the single-storey lodge fronting Lambeth Road.

The original building had a low cupola as its central feature. In 1812, when the Admiralty was arranging communication by telegraph with Sheerness, it was suggested that the cupola might be used as one of the stations, but the Governors objected on the grounds that the instrument would be noisy and would affect light and ventilation and it was placed in West Square instead²¹⁸ (see Plate 44*a*). The cupola was replaced in 1844–46 by the existing copper-covered dome, designed by Smirke, and built mainly to enlarge the chapel beneath.²¹⁸

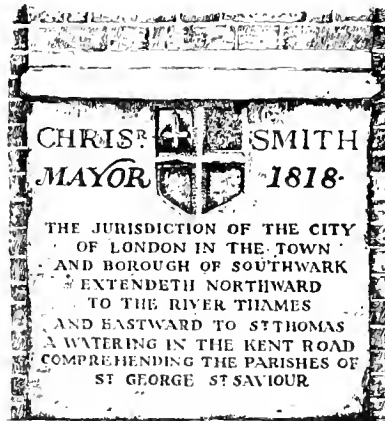
As a result of the Acts of 1808 and 1815, a number of county asylums were built during the second quarter of the 19th century, and there was less need for Bethlem to cater for the poorer type of patient. The complaint of a female patient led to an inspection of the hospital by the Lunacy Commissioners in 1851, and as a result of their recommendations, the first resident medical officer, Dr. W. Charles Hood, was appointed.²²² During his term of office he gradually replaced the pauper patients by men and women of education and culture, a process which was hastened by the removal of the criminal patients to Broadmoor in 1864. Many of the new patients could afford to pay for their keep, and Dr. Hood improved the amenities of the building to give them, as far as possible, the comforts to which they had been accustomed in their own homes.¹⁷²

Between 1866 and 1869 the Governors of Bethlem built a convalescent home at Witley, designed by Smirke, for patients on the way to recovery, but the main part of the institution remained in Southwark until after the 1914–18 war, when the Governors decided to build new premises in rural surroundings. The removal to Monks Orchard at Addington in Surrey was sanctioned by Act of Parliament in 1926.²²³ The freehold of the old site was purchased by Viscount Rothermere in 1930 and vested in the London County Council for the formation of a public open space, to be known as the Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park in memory of his mother. The side wings and some other parts of the building were demolished. The central portion of the front, with the dome looking disproportionately high above it, and the

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

rear galleries were leased to the Commissioners of Works to house the Imperial War Museum.¹⁷⁷

The building, which was opened to the public in 1936, was damaged considerably by bombs in 1940, 1941, and 1944, but by 1946 was sufficiently repaired for the museum to be re-opened. It is perhaps appropriate that a building occupied for so many years by men and women of unsound mind should now be used to house exhibits of that major insanity of our own time, war.



Boundary stone, formerly at the N.W. corner of the grounds of Bethlem Hospital

CHAPTER 10

THE MANOR OF WALWORTH AND THE PARISH OF ST. MARY NEWINGTON

Since the 13th century the phrases "the manor of Walworth" and "the parish of St. Mary, Newington," have both been in use to describe the south-western part of what is now the metropolitan borough of Southwark.

The name Walworth (*Wealawyrð* as it occurs in 1006)²²¹ is Saxon in origin and means "farm of the serfs or Britons or where such worked."²²⁵ The manor was granted to the Prior and Convent of Christ Church, Canterbury, in 1052 by Hitard, jester to Edmund Ironside. Domesday Book states that in the time of Edward the Confessor, when it was assessed for 5 hides, it was appropriated for the clothing of the monks. In 1086 it was held by Bainard of the Archbishop of Canterbury and assessed for 3½ hides; it had one plough "in demesne" and "14 villeins and 5 bordars with 3 ploughs" and a church and 8 acres of meadow.¹⁹¹

The earliest record of Newington, Surrey, occurs in the Book of Fees,²²⁶ which mentions that in 1212 Roger de Sussex' held the church of "Niwetun" of the gift of the Archbishop.

Walworth and Newington are marked as separate hamlets on the plan of 1681 (Plate 49), and they continued as such well into the 18th century.^a For as long as the manorial organization functioned Newington remained a tithing of Walworth manor, while from the 13th century onward the manor of Walworth constituted the parish of St. Mary, Newington. It seems probable that the "vill" of Newington ("the new farm")²²⁵ grew up about the year 1200, and that its growth was connected with the building of a new residence for the Archbishop of Canterbury (Lambeth Palace) in his newly-acquired manor of Lambeth, for this must greatly have increased the importance of the old road across Lambeth Marsh and Southwark Field (St. George's Road) which joined the road to London Bridge near Newington Church, at what is now the Elephant and Castle.

Walworth Manor, as portrayed on the plan of 1681 (Plate 49),^b can have changed little since the Middle Ages.^c The administration of church

^a It has been suggested that Walworth and Newington were originally two separate manors, but this seems very unlikely. Two references only have been found to a manor of Newington. The first, which occurs in a fine²²⁷ recording a grant by Hugh de Nevill and Joan his wife in 1222, is obviously an error, since the original deed of gift in the possession of the Dean and Chapter has the wording "in villa de Waleworth' et de Newenton" not "in manerio de." The second is in an entry on the Close Roll of 3 Richard III²²⁸ (1379), recording a sale from Laurence de Merkyngfeld to Sir Thomas de Merkyngfeld of a lease of "totum manerium de Neuton iuxta Southwerk." This was also probably an error on the part of the clerk.

^b For a detailed description of the plan see Appendix I.

^c The series of Manor Accounts or Beadles Rolls in the Chapter Library begins in 1268-69. A certain amount of corn was grown and some income was derived from the sale of wool, hay and poultry. The buildings of the home farm or demesne in the 15th century included a small hall with an upper chamber, privy chamber, and kitchen, a great barn with two doors, a great gate with chamber over, a stable and a stone dovecote. In the 14th century the priory leased the manor, i.e., the home farm to a layman, and in 1509 George Legh, the lessee was appointed beadle and bailiff and became answerable to the prior and convent for all rents, fines, etc., from the freeholders and copyholders of the manor.

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

manors was notoriously conservative and the strips in the common field, the rights of common on the marshy ground of Lorrimore and Walworth Commons, the manor house, the pound, the cottages spread on either side of the road to Camberwell, which bisected the manor, and the fields and closes with the rents and services by which they were held can be traced from century to century with little variation. Except for a gradual increase in the amount of traffic down the Walworth Road, the district was very little affected by its proximity to London until the middle of the 18th century. It was famous for its peaches¹⁰⁸ and its gardens. In 1792 James Maddock, florist, of Walworth, in whose garden William Curtis saw single and double varieties of *Narcissus Tenuior* growing for the first time in England,²²⁹ published *The Florists' Directory; or Treatise on the Culture of Flowers*, and at about the same time John Abercrombie, who is described as a gardener of Newington, published a book on flowers which included an account of the then newly-introduced chrysanthemum.²³⁰

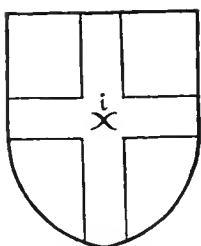
The formation of new roads after 1754 brought new life and an impetus to build, and in 1774 Henry Penton, the third of that name to hold a lease of the manor house and surrounding fields,^a with the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury and Thomas Brandon, gardener, lessee of the property known as the 35 acres (see below), obtained permission by Act of Parliament²³³ to let land within the manor on building leases for 99 years.^b Penton was engaged at this time in the development of Pentonville on land which he owned in Clerkenwell. In 1773 he obtained permission from the Dean and Chapter to dig brick and tile earth in Newington,²³⁴ but he probably did not take much active part in the detailed planning of building development there, since he granted building leases of much of his Newington property to Thomas Brandon, Thomas Clutton, William Austin, and others. His name, however, survives in Penton Place, one of the first streets to be developed.

At the beginning of the 19th century various parcels of ground in the manor were still being leased under the old field names. For example, in 1801 the Dean and Chapter granted a lease to Richard, William, and Samuel Brandon, and John Carter, trustees for the three daughters of Thomas Brandon, of two messuages and 35 acres "one days Work one Perch and half a Perch of Land and Meadow in Newington" including "Larks Land," "the Pightel," "Stewson" (Stewfen),^c "Flax Crofts," "Bramble Shot," etc.,²³⁵

^a In 1686 Henry Penton was granted a lease of the property previously held by Thomas Bostock,²³¹ marked B on the 1681 plan (Plate 49). He died in 1715, leaving his property to his nephew John, from whom it passed to John's son Henry, in 1725, and the son of the latter, also a Henry, in 1762.²³²

^b The Act provided that the ground rents were to be shared equally between the Dean and Chapter on the one hand and Penton and Brandon on the other. The validity of the leases made under this Act was subsequently in dispute since Penton's and Brandon's interests in the property consisted of leases for 21 years only from the Dean and Chapter.

^c The ground north of the New Kent Road through which Rockingham Street now runs, referred to in early leases as "stewfen," and containing 12 acres in all, was, until the end of the 18th century, an ozier ground "bounded all round by a Common Sewer" and for the most part under water during nine months of the year. The Brandon trustees were naturally



Dean and Chapter
of Canterbury

THE MANOR OF WALWORTH

while the ownerships given of the lands on which they bounded harked back to the 16th century. It is not surprising, therefore, that as houses and streets began to replace fields and gardens, the ownerships became confused.

In 1789 Thomas Brandon and his brother Samuel were granted a lease in common of the property previously held by Penton²³⁶ and they jointly purchased freehold land in the manor as well. Thomas died in 1796, leaving his estate in trust for his three daughters and their heirs,²³⁷ and Samuel, who died in 1818, also left his estate to trustees, but remained "intestate as regards one ninth of his property."²³⁸ The position was further complicated by a number of mortgages and exchanges and the purchase by Samuel of other leasehold property. In 1805 an Act had been passed "for confirming certain Building Leases of Lands in *Walworth*," which stated that some land had already slipped out of the hands of the Dean and Chapter "so that the Possession thereof, if recoverable," could not be recovered "without a Multiplicity of vexatious Suits."²³⁹ The Act attempted, unsuccessfully, to clarify the situation on the basis of the *status quo*. Further Acts in 1811²³⁷ (relating to the Brandon property) and 1849²⁴⁰ (relating to the Clutton property) were followed by a long series of Chancery suits culminating in an Act of Parliament in 1860²⁴¹ which partitioned the part of the Brandon estate held in common between the heirs of Thomas and the heirs of Samuel Brandon. By this time more than 100 beneficiaries were involved. By means of two exchanges of property carried out in 1866 and 1876 all the rights of the Church Commissioners in the moiety of the Walworth Manor Estate held by the heirs of Samuel Brandon were extinguished.

The leases of the second moiety of the manor and also of the 35 acre estate to the heirs of Thomas Brandon were renewed from time to time, but after 1900 were gradually allowed to lapse as the under-leases fell in. After 1941 the trustees surrendered their remaining interest in the estate to enable the Commissioners to repair the extensive damage done to the houses there by enemy action.²⁴²

Maps of the 1780's depict Walworth as a pleasant country neighbourhood with a few newly-formed roads stretching across the gardens and fields. On the Penton and Brandon property west of Walworth Road, Manor Row (now Place), Penton Place, and Amelia Row (now Street) were the first to be laid out, but the original 18th century houses were pulled down and replaced by blocks of dwellings and three-storey terraced houses in the 1880's and 90's.^a A terrace of plain two-storey brick houses built at the beginning of the 19th century, survive on the east side (Nos. 59-75) of Crampton Street (formerly Francis Street). They are linked by a band at the upper floor level, but all the cornices have been removed.

David Hughson, in 1808, described Walworth Road as "lined by elegant mansions." A few of these are left at Nos. 104-114 (formerly

disinclined to incur the expense of raising and draining the ground until the demand for working-class housing in the neighbourhood insured a profit on the outlay. The area is now covered by blocks of London County Council flats.

^a Nos. 4-50 on the west side of Penton Place date from 1844.

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

Marlborough Place) and Nos. 140–152 on the west side—three-storey, flat-fronted houses in stock brick with windows set in the recessed arches typical of the period.^a Nos. 140 and 142 are surmounted by a pediment containing an elliptical plaque of a draped woman holding a garland. Nos. 120 and 122 survived until 1953.

No. 86 Camberwell Road and the buildings forming the entrance to the yard next to it (Plate 88*b*) were erected in 1814–15 (as No. 16 Grosvenor Place) for Messrs. Garland and Fieldwick, masons and builders. The firm continued to occupy the premises until 1869.

There was little building south of Manor Place before the middle of the century, though the Montpelier Gardens, the Bee Hive Tea Gardens, and the Surrey Zoological Gardens attracted large crowds at holiday times.

On the east side of Walworth Road, Prospect Row,^b Albion Place and Union Row (now renamed Deacon Street, Heygate Street, and Gurney Street) and East Street were laid out by 1780. Two or three of the original houses built along these roads between 1780 and 1800 remain, though in a very dilapidated state, e.g., No. 85, Gurney Street, and No. 226 East Street (formerly No. 25 Apollo Buildings South) (Plate 61).^c

After 1820 building proceeded apace, but as late as 1853, when Harriet Beecher Stowe stayed with the Rev. Thomas Binney at Rose Cottage on the site of the present Town Hall,^d she found it a “charming retreat” with a view from the windows of sheep and lambs grazing in a meadow.²⁴⁶

When development took place, it usually followed the shape of the old field boundaries. Several groups of streets were built under the auspices of the Brandon Trustees and the Dean and Chapter about 1850, but, with one or two exceptions, little attempt was made to plan either the relationships of these groups with one another or of roads within the groups. By 1880 the whole area was closely packed with streets of working-class houses. Shops and sheds were built over the gardens allowed by an earlier and more generous age, and the London, Chatham and Dover Railway, running parallel to the Walworth Road up to the Elephant and Castle Station, added to the jumble of bricks and mortar which Walworth had then become.

Much of the land is now being purchased from the Church Commissioners by the London County Council for redevelopment.

NEWINGTON BUTTS

A study of the very voluminous records relating to Newington has revealed no reference to the existence of archery butts there, and it seems probable that the name “Newington Butts” has reference not to the practice

^a These houses and Nos. 59–75 Crampton Street, mentioned above, were built by Francis Hurlbatt, surveyor, in accordance with an Act of Parliament²⁴³ and building lease²⁴⁴ of 1793, giving permission to build on the Five Tenements, i.e., the property shown on the plan of 1681 (Plate 49) as on lease to John Highlord.

^b Robert Southey lodged at No. 20 Prospect Row in 1797.²⁴⁵

^c This house first appears in the Poor Rate Book in 1794–95, when it was in the occupation of John Collier.

^d Built in 1864–66 from the design of Henry Jarvis.

NEWINGTON BUTTS

of archery, but to the shape of the triangle of land between the roads there. There are a number of instances from Surrey and other parts of the country



No. 122 Walworth Road

to the use of the word "butts" for odd corners or ends of land.²²⁵ The first reference to Newington Butts which has been found occurs in 1512.²⁴⁷

The triangle of ground between the roads, known in the 17th and 18th centuries as the Three Falcons, was copyhold of the Manor of Walworth. In 1802, Thomas Hardwick reported to the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

that the estate consisted of a number of small tenements all of which were in bad condition. The present Nos. 85-91, 113 and 119 on the east side of Newington Butts date from the early part of the 19th century, and were probably built for Samuel Brandon who was granted a lease of the ground in 1816.²⁴⁸ Nos. 85 and 87 have canted bays through their entire height and the entrance door to No. 89 has a patterned fanlight and fluted columns and transom, but otherwise the buildings are of little architectural interest.

Newington lay outside the jurisdiction of the City of London and, on several occasions between 1580 and 1595, the players—Lord Strange's men and perhaps others—took advantage of this fact to perform plays at Newington Butts during hot weather when performances were forbidden in and near the City for fear of the spread of infection. The playhouse at Newington was built by a Richard Hickes, one of the Queen's Yeomen of the Guard,²⁴⁹ at some date between 1566, when he had a lease of ground there from the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, and 1580, when the playhouse is first mentioned. It was demolished before October, 1599, when there is an entry in the sewer records concerning "the sewer leadinge from the houses where the old playhouse did stand att Newington."²⁵⁰ The site of the playhouse can be traced through subsequent leases granted by the Dean and Chapter: it was on the plot marked W in the 1681 plan (Plate 49), not in the road now known as Newington Butts, but on the east side of Walworth Road near its junction with New Kent Road, where the Reliance Building now stands.

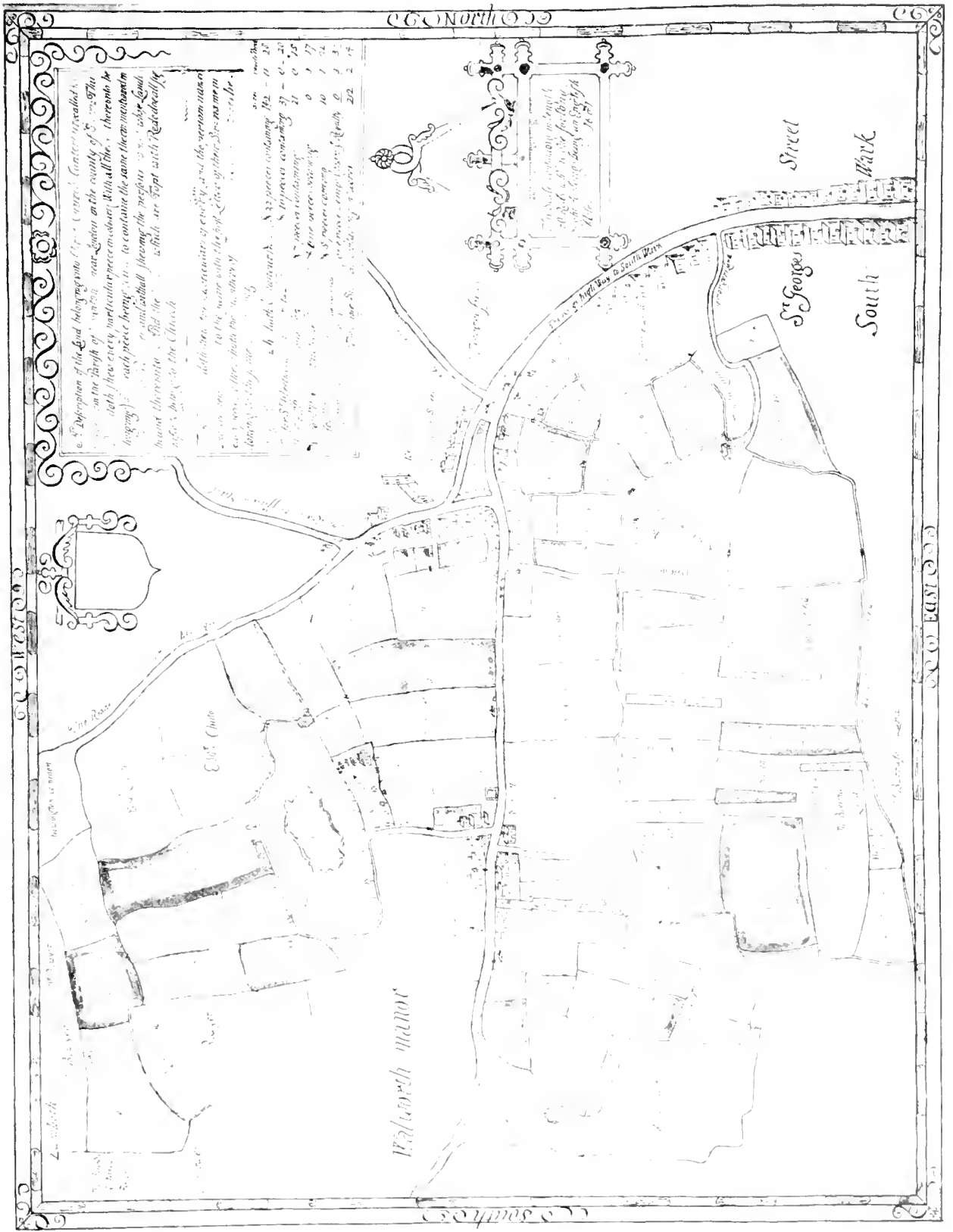
THE MANOR HOUSE

No representation of the old manor house of Walworth is known to exist, but Plate 59*b* reproduces a mid-19th century photograph of the manor house built by Thomas Clutton in 1786 on the site of the old one.²⁵⁰ Clutton had a sub-lease of the manor house with the garden, home field, and rick yard. He formed Canterbury Place, now a section of Penton Place, on part of the grounds, and in 1808 the property was let to Roger Smith, described as "of Newgate Street, haberdasher,"²⁵¹ who lived in the house until his death in 1816. Edward Cross took over the house in 1831 and used it in connection with the Royal Surrey Zoological Gardens. For a period in 1847-48 it was the meeting-place of the short-lived Royal Surrey Club,^a but by 1850 it had been turned into a public house. The leasehold interest in the Manor House, then a tavern and tea gardens, again changed hands in 1856.²⁵² The Manor House was pulled down and dwellings were erected on the site by Frederick Sutton and John Dudley, builders, of the New Kent Road, under a building lease granted to them by the Dean and Chapter in 1878.²⁵³

LORRIMORE COMMON AND THE ROYAL SURREY ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

Lorrimore (Latamore or Lower Moor) Common, the smaller of the

^a In 1848 the "modern appendages of the Royal Surrey Club, the whole but just supplied," were put up for auction.²⁵²



PLAN OF WALWORTH MANOR, 1681 (pp. 81, 127)



- (a) NEWINGTON TURNPIKE AND THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, 1825 (pp. 46-48)
- (b) SOUTH END OF NEWINGTON BUTTS SHOWING OLD ST. MARY'S CHURCH, *circa* 1870 (p. 92)



(a) FISHMONGERS' ALMSHOUSES, *circa* 1850 (p. 65)
(b) NEWINGTON CAUSEWAY AND THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE, *circa* 1860 (pp. 46-48)



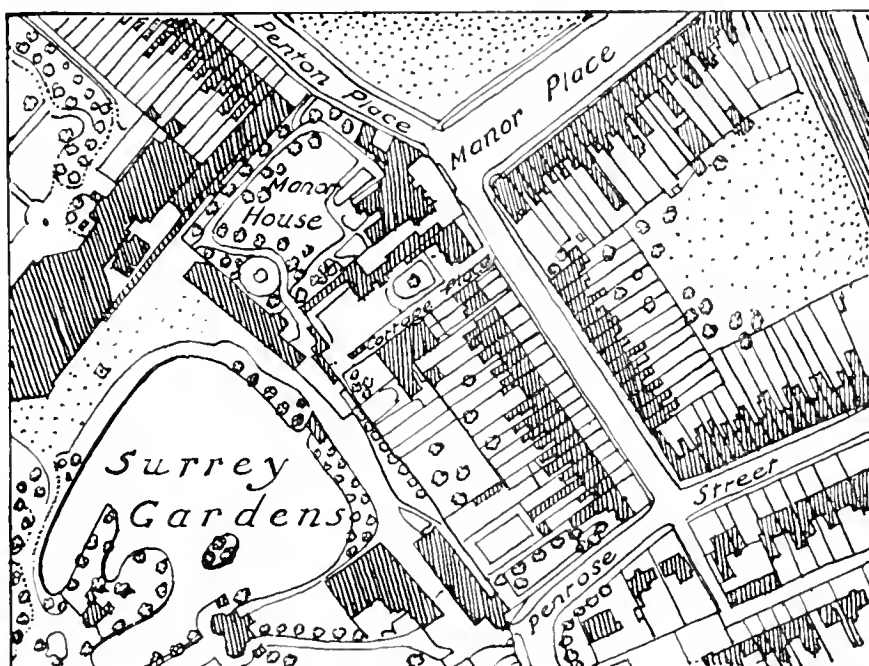
NEWINGTON BUTTS

(a) GENERAL VIEW, 1792 (p. 92)

(b) ST. MARY'S RECTORY, 1795 (p. 93)

SURREY GARDENS

two commons of the manor of Walworth, was about 19 acres in extent, three of which were under water.²³⁹ It comprised roughly the area between Suffield Road on the north, Lorrimore Road on the south, Penrose Street, and Borrett Road on the east, and Chapter Road and Delverton Road on the west. It was enclosed under an Act of 1769²⁵⁴ and granted to Henry Penton as lessee of the Manor. It was used mainly for grazing until 1831, when Edward Cross acquired both common and manor house for the menagerie which he had previously exhibited at Exeter 'Change in the Strand.²⁵⁵ The



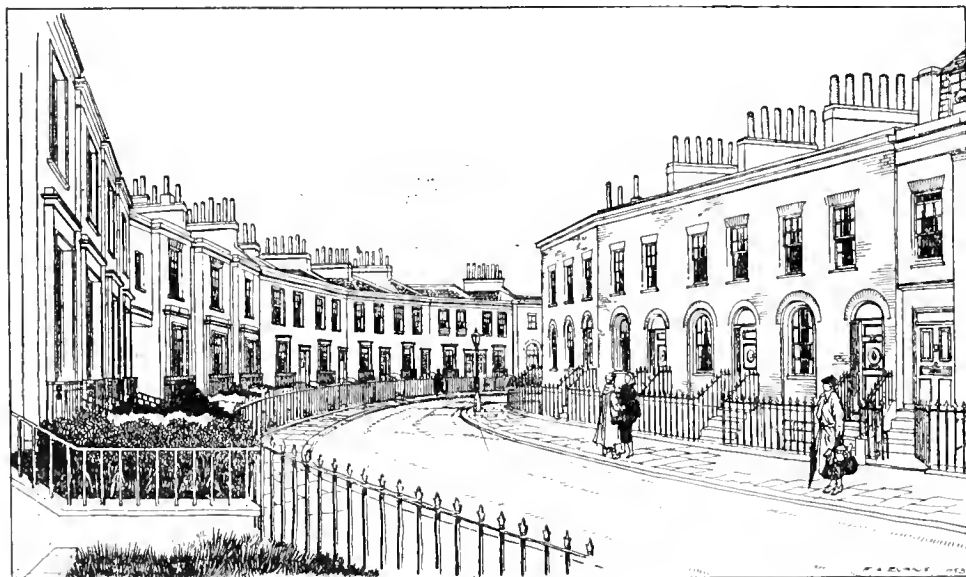
gardens were laid out to the designs of Henry Phillips, author of *Sylvia Florifera*, and were highly praised by John Loudon, who compared them favourably with the Zoological Gardens in Regent's Park. Cages for lions, tigers, etc., were enclosed within a glass house 300 feet in circumference. Other attractions included panoramas, firework displays, and concerts. A drawing of the entrance to the gardens by Schnebbelie is reproduced on Plate 58*a*.

Towards the middle of the century the gardens began to decline in popularity and they were sold by auction in 1856. The new proprietor built the Surrey Music Hall, designed by Horace Jones, on part of the grounds near the lake (Plate 59*a*). It held 10,000 people and, beside being used for concerts, it served as an auditorium for the Rev. Charles Spurgeon, who continued to draw crowds in spite of the accident, caused by a false alarm of fire, which occurred on 19th October, 1856, the first time he preached there¹⁸⁷ (see p. 104). The Music Hall was burnt down in 1861. It was

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

rebuilt and, with the Manor House, served as a temporary home for St. Thomas' Hospital until 1871, when the present hospital on the Albert Embankment was opened.

An attempt to revive the Royal Surrey Gardens proved a failure, and in 1872 the 13 acres of "attractive pleasure grounds laid out with great taste in parterres, lawns, and terraces, adorned with Statuary and Fountains and interspersed with Gravel Walks, . . . and . . . a magnificent lake" was auctioned. The buildings included the theatre "substantially built of brick,



Newington Crescent

with stone and compo ornamentation, corner Towers, handsome Balconies and Corridors," a brick-built bear pit and a new brick building intended for a menagerie (Plate 58*b*).²⁵² Streets of terraced houses were built over the whole area within the next two or three years by Sutton and Dudley, as lessees of Sir Thomas Hare and his trustees.^{a 256}

LORRIMORE SQUARE AND LORRIMORE ROAD

St. Paul's, Lorrimore Square, designed by Henry Jarvis in Victorian Gothic, on ground given by the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, was completed and consecrated in 1856. The ground round the square was let in several lots to three builders, John Marsland of Walworth Road, John Lucas Allen of Finsbury Square, and John Abbott of Manor Road South, Newington, and the houses in the square were completed at about the same time as the church (Plate 84*b*).²⁵⁷ The square was built on a close lying to the south-west of Lorrimore Common and not on the common itself.

^a The roads were completed before the leases were signed in 1879–81.

SURREY SQUARE

On the south side of Lorrimore Road is St. Wilfred's Roman Catholic Church designed by Frederick Arthur Walters, and built in 1914. It is a substantial red brick building with a 60 foot battlemented tower surmounted by a short spire.²⁵⁸

NEWINGTON CRESCENT

Newington Crescent, between Penton Place and Kennington Park Road, one of the few parts of Newington not absorbed into the Brandon Estate, was built in 1834-35.^a It has no pretensions to distinction either of design or craftsmanship, yet the glimpse of a garden through the archway at the turn of the crescent, the simple lines of the elevation and the ironwork give some pleasure to the eye in an area of grimly utilitarian working-class dwellings. Henry Jarvis, the architect, was the first occupant of No. 8.²⁶⁰

WALWORTH COMMON

The ground on the east of Walworth Road at the southern end of the manor was open common land until 1769, when it was enclosed so that, in the words of the Act, it could be let for the benefit of the "numerous and expensive Poor" with which the parish was burdened. The ground was vested in trustees, who were empowered to let it on building leases for 99 years and to apply nine-tenths of the income to the relief of the poor, the remaining tenth being paid to the rector. A workhouse was erected and Westmoreland Road was laid out along the north side of the common, but except along the Walworth and Westmoreland Road frontages, there was little building there until after 1800. Development was not completed until after the passing of the Walworth Common Inclosure Amendment Act in 1851.²⁶¹

SURREY SQUARE

In 1766 Jane Driver, wife of Samuel Driver of the parish of St. George the Martyr, gardener, inherited some freehold land near the Kent Road from her uncle, Abraham Pursehouse, a well-known Quaker.²⁶² For part of this ground Michael Searles designed a terrace of houses (Plate 56), built in 1795-96, of which eighteen still survive, the present Nos. 20-54 Surrey Square. A square, or rather an oblong, of open ground was formally laid out in front of them, but Searles' drawing does not show whether it was intended to line the other three sides with buildings. Horwood's maps show two large houses on the west side of the square and one on the east. The latter was the home of William Driver, son of Jane and Samuel, from 1799 until his death in 1819. He left the house and its furniture to his wife, and Nos. 14, 5 and 6 (now 44, 26 and 28) in trust for his daughters Mary Ann,

^a On the 1681 plan of the Manor (Plate 49) the land is shown as in the occupation of Justice Lee. By 1834 it had passed to Mary Halford of Jersey. Nos. 8-34 (consec.) Newington Crescent and Nos. 13-41 (odd) Penton Place were built by two local tradesmen, Robert Armstrong, plasterer, and William Brown, plumber.²⁶⁹ Newington Crescent is named Robson Street in the building leases.

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

Caroline and Sophia respectively.²⁶³ No further development took place until over sixty years later when the erection of All Saints' Church and the neighbouring houses entirely obscured the original configuration of the square.

Nos. 20–54 Surrey Square form the only remaining group of 18th century domestic buildings in Walworth with any pretension to architectural quality. The merit of the composition lies in its good proportions and simplicity of detail, the sole ornament being the fan motif in artificial stone in the pediment (Plate 57) and in the parapet of the end pavilion. Searles designed a doorway with a pedimented hood supported by Doric columns as an additional central feature, but this part of his design was not carried out (Plate 56).

RESIDENTS

Samuel Brandon was the first occupant of one of the houses (the former No. 22, pulled down in 1884 for Surrey Square School). No. 18 (formerly 1) Surrey Square was the vicarage of the church of St. Mary Magdalen, Massinger Street, during the second half of the 19th century. The church, which was consecrated in 1843, stood on ground purchased from the Driver family.²⁶⁴ The Rev. John Waddington, minister of Union Street Chapel and the Pilgrim Church, Southwark, historian and sociologist, lived at No. 34 (formerly 9) Surrey Square in 1856–72. Samuel Palmer, the artist, was born at No. 42 (formerly 13) in 1805.²⁵

DICKENS SQUARE

Unlike most parts of the Walworth Manor Estate, Dickens (formerly Union) Square^a with the adjacent houses in Harper Road and Ralph Street, built on the close of 1 ac. 3 r. 15 per. shown on the 1681 plan (Plate 49) north of Horsemonger Lane, was planned as a unit by the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury and the Brandon Trustees. The actual work was carried out in 1844 by local builders—John Willson, John James, James Cooper and Richard Davis, William Broadbent^b and Robert Davey Miller, James Seagrave, and George Richard Drinkwater—some of whose initials, together with D.C.C. (standing for the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury as ground landlords) are inscribed on stones inset in the groups of houses for which they were individually responsible.²⁶⁵

The two- and three-storeyed yellow brick terraced houses linked by cornices and by plain stone bands at first-floor level are in no way remarkable, and the central grass plot has been concreted over, but the square retains a quiet if decayed Dickensian aspect in an area now almost entirely given over to four-, five-, and six-storey blocks of flats. Perhaps its proximity to the slightly superior houses on the Trinity House Estate^c has preserved it thus far, though plans for its redevelopment are now being considered by the London County Council.

^a It was renamed in 1937 and has no specific associations with Charles Dickens.

^b William Broadbent is described as "of Old Bond Street," but the rest were all Southwark or Lambeth tradesmen.

^c The control over building standards exercised by Trinity House are exemplified in the case of Thomas Fleming, one of the Brandon Trustees, who in 1830 contracted to build 20 houses in what are now Circular Road and Ralph Street. In 1837 he tried unsuccessfully to surrender the agreement because of the strict stipulations in the building specifications.

CHAPTER 11

THE CHURCH OF ST. MARY NEWINGTON

The church of the parish of St. Mary, Newington, has had many vicissitudes, and at the present time only the shell of a building remains, and that not on the old site. Little is known about the mediaeval church, which stood on the west side of Newington Butts, and we cannot even be sure if it can be equated with the church in Walworth which is mentioned in Domesday Book (see p. 81). The list of rectors is, however, almost complete from 1212 onward.^a Presentations to the rectory were usually made by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and it was Cranmer who in 1546²⁶⁶ granted the advowson to the king, so that the Prior of Christ Church was probably technically correct when he replied to Thomas Cromwell's request for the advowson that it was not his to give (adding unctuously that "were it ours and worth 100l. a year you should have it").⁸¹ Nevertheless during the 50 years before 1539 presentations were often made by the priory. In 1536 the rectory was valued at £16 a year.²⁶⁷ In 1547 the King granted it to the Bishop of Worcester as one item in quite an extensive exchange of properties.²⁶⁸

John Aubrey's *History of Surrey*,¹⁰⁸ published in 1719, states that the church then standing was, except for the north aisle, which had been built by Sir Hugh Brawne in 1600,²⁶⁹ about 150 years old, and describes it thus: "very small, built of Brick and Boulder, . . . a double Roof covered with Tile, and the Walls with a rough Cast; the Windows are of a modern *Gothick*; the Floor is paved with Stone, the Body being one Step lower than the Chancel. Here are three Iles, and the Roof is supported with wooden Pillars, partly of the *Tuscan* Order, formed octogonally. . . . This Church contains 43 Foot in Length, 54 in Breadth, 22 in Height, and the Tower (wherein are five Bells) 44 Foot, but to the Top of the Turret near 60 Foot."

In 1704 the parishioners at their own charge put in new pews and "beautified" the chancel²⁷⁰ with a "small and neat" altar-piece hung with a crimson velvet curtain edged with gold fringe. Two new galleries were also erected at this time.¹⁰⁸ The building proved to be only a whited sepulchre.

^a The registers, which have now been deposited in the London County Record Office, date from 1561. Newington in Surrey has frequently been confused with other Newingtons, particularly with Stoke Newington, Middlesex. St. Mary, Newington, was in the Archdeaconry of Croydon in the Diocese of Winchester, but it remained a peculiar of the Archbishop of Canterbury even after the Reformation when the advowson was no longer in the Archbishop's gift.

The first vestry minute book begins with a note about the glazing of the chancel windows in 1493-96. It gives the arms, which presumably formed part of the windows, of the then cardinal (John Morton, Archbishop of Canterbury in 1486-1500) and bishop (Thomas Savage, Bishop of Rochester in 1493-96). Below these arms are drawn four other coats which may also have been included in the window glass.¹³⁵ They are stated to be "for the knowledge of the foundation of the Church of Newington." One is of the royal arms prior to Edward III's claim to the throne of France; one is of the family of Warenne, Earls of Surrey. The other two have not been identified, though one is almost certainly of a branch of the family of Lucy. Godfrey de Lucy was Bishop of Winchester in 1189-1204 and the family owned considerable property in Kent. As a piece of evidence this is by no means conclusive, but it suggests that the church in Newington was founded at the end of the 12th century or the beginning of the 13th.

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

for ten years later during Sunday service "there happened a sudden Rupture in the Wall" which caused the congregation to run out in confusion so that many were bruised and trodden under foot. Upon examination, the structure was found "so much decayed in the Pillars, Walls and Beams, and in the Roof and Foundation: That notwithstanding the Sum of 850*l.* laid out in Repairs by the Parish, the same could not any longer be supported."²⁰ The church was entirely rebuilt, part of the cost being defrayed out of a brief granted for the purpose. Seventy-five years later complaints were again being made about the defective state of the walls and tower and practically the whole building had to be demolished.¹³⁵ When the church was again rebuilt it was extended 25 feet further west and the floor was raised 2 feet. The building was awkwardly sited (see Plate 52*a*) being, in the words of an early 19th century writer "a protuberance obtruding on the highway," and in 1876 it was pulled down so that a much-needed widening of Newington Butts could be made.²⁷¹ The old burial ground still remains and in 1877, a clock tower, the gift of a churchwarden, R. S. Faulconer, was built there to mark the site of the old church.

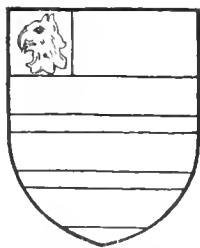
The new church, erected on the east side of Kennington Park Road from the designs of James Fowler,²⁷² was consecrated in May, 1876. It was built of Kentish rag with Bath stone dressings in the Early English style, but the spire which formed part of the design was never erected. The roofs of the nave and chancel were of hammer beam construction, the height of the nave from floor to ridge being 70 feet, and its length 100 feet.

The church was burnt out in an air raid on 10th May, 1941, and has not yet been rebuilt.

Plate. The church has several pieces of 17th and 18th century plate (Plate 70*a*).^a These include two silver cups and a paten each dated 1675, a silver flagon inscribed "Newington Butts Nov. 2 1681. Deo datum By the Gentlemen of y^e Vestry . . ."; two silver covers, the gift of Elizabeth Yallop *circa* 1727, and two silver salvers with Paris hall-marks of 1783.

MONUMENTS

The most notable monument in the old church was that erected in 1614 to the memory of Sir Hugh Brawne, his two wives, four sons, and five daughters (Plate 55). It stood at the east end of the north aisle which was built at Brawne's expense.^b References to other monuments are made by Aubrey, Manning and Bray, etc. In the several rebuildings which the parish church has undergone most of the older monuments have been lost, though some were removed into the churchyard. Many of the memorial stones there are now almost illegible, but a record of the memorials with the initial letters A-I has been preserved in Part I of *The monumental inscriptions in the Old Churchyard of St. Mary, Newington* privately printed in 1880.^c



Sir Hugh Brawne

^a For a complete list of the plate see *Surr. Arch. Coll.* XIV.

^b Sir Hugh Brawne owned land in St. George's Fields.

^c Part II was not printed.

ST. MARY NEWINGTON SCHOOLS

The altar tomb, of which a drawing is reproduced on Plate 82*a*, bears the inscription (now almost illegible) on the east side—

“In this vault/are deposited the remains/of Miss LOUISA BANNISTER daughter of/RICHARD and AMELIA BANNISTER/who departed this life Nov. 22 1786/aged 2 years and 9 months/Also the remains of Master RICH^d. THO. BANNISTER/son of the said RICHARD & AMELIA BANNISTER/who departed this life January 3 1790/aged 10 years and 4 months.”

One of the more interesting of those which have now disappeared was an altar tomb within iron rails with the inscription on the north side—

“Sacred/to the memory of/WILLIAM ALLEN/An Englishman of unspotted Life and amiable/Disposition/who was inhumanly murdered near St. Georges/Fields on the 10th Day of May 1768 by Scottish/Detachments from the ARMY/His disconsolate Parents Inhabitants of this/Parish caused this Tomb to be erected to an only Son/Lost to them and to the World in his Twentieth Year/as a Monument of his Virtues and their Affection.”^a

THE RECTORY AND GLEBE

The old rectory (Plate 52*b*) stood near the church and churchyard on the west side of Newington Butts. The Rectory garden and the glebe were surrounded and intersected by ditches or “moats”²⁷³ which in wet seasons extended across St. George’s Fields to the Dog and Duck (see Plate 53). Early in the 19th century the moats were filled up and the rectory was altered and enlarged, the weather-boarding being replaced by stucco.²⁷⁴ It remained in use until the removal of the church. St. Mary Newington Schools, St. Gabriel Street, Parsonage Walk, Churchyard Row, with the Rowton House there, and Dante Road, the latter built up about 1870 by Messrs. Sutton & Dudley,²⁷⁵ now cover the glebe.

ST. MARY, NEWINGTON, SCHOOLS, NEWINGTON BUTTS

A charity school for boys was established in Newington in 1710–11, when Richard Cambridge and others subscribed for 20 boys to be taught reading, writing and arithmetic and to be provided with clothing. The school was managed by a committee of the subscribers and the number of boys was subsequently raised to 40. In 1775 the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury gave a piece of copyhold ground at the corner of Cross Street and Walworth Road for the erection of a schoolroom and master’s house. A girls’ school was added some years later, and in 1816 the schools were united with the Sunday Schools of the parish under the title of “The United Parochial National Charity and Sunday Schools of St. Mary Newington.”¹³⁶

^a William Allen was shot during the disturbances when John Wilkes was imprisoned in the King’s Bench Prison in Borough Road (see p. 13).

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

In 1820 the committee acquired an underlease of part of the glebe of the parish just west of Newington Butts and new school buildings, and residences for master and mistress were provided there out of voluntary contributions, a fact which is recorded on a wall tablet. The premises were almost completely rebuilt in 1932, but the schoolkeeper's cottage dates back to 1820.

RECTORS OF ST. MARY, NEWINGTON^a

- | | |
|--|---|
| Before 1212 Roger de Susexx'. ²²⁶ | 1584 Thomas Gatacre. |
| Before 1270 Roger de Sancto Albano. ²⁷⁶ | 1593-94 Thomas Puckering. |
| Before 1276 Peter de Wyntreshull. ²⁷⁷ | 1619 James Fludd (Lloyd). |
| William de Ludeham. ²⁷⁸ | 1626 George Durant. |
| Before 1307 John Here. ²⁷⁹ | 1627 Tobias Crispe, antinomian. He was removed within the year because his presentation was simoniacal. |
| Thomas de London. | |
| 1313 John de Wyndesore. | 1628 Thomas Stevens. |
| Before 1320 William de Alingeio (Halingio). ²⁸⁰ | 1634 John Bludworth (Bloudworth). |
| 1324 John de Northampton. | 1640 James Meggs. Meggs was deprived in 1643 and Henry Langley and later Thomas Wadsworth officiated during the Commonwealth. Meggs was restored in 1660. |
| 1324 William de Useflete. | |
| 1349-50 John Louechild de Stokebruerne. | |
| Thomas de Langeton. | |
| 1360 Thomas Meynot. | 1673 Nicholas Lloyd, author of the <i>Dictionary historicum</i> . Wood described him as "an harmless, quiet man" and "an excellent philologist." ²⁸² |
| William de Brynkhill. | |
| 1369 John Grymeston. | 1681 Edward Webster. |
| 1370 Richard Kenddle. | 1689 Stephen Bordley. |
| William Hauley. | 1695 John Wotton (Whooton). |
| 1374 John Wengrave. | 1698 William Taswell. |
| John Aston. | 1731 Nathaniel Hough. |
| 1384 William Warwyk. | 1737 Stephen Light Mott. |
| 1397 John Chiselden. | 1752 John Dubordieu. |
| Richard Layty. | 1754 John Horsley. |
| 1458 William Cornyssh. | 1759 Samuel Horsley (son of his predecessor), Bishop of St. Asaph and author of a number of theological and other works. |
| 1461 Robert Cade. | |
| 1462 John Chaumbre. | 1794 Charles de Guiffardiere. |
| 1476 David William. | 1810 Samuel Picart. |
| 1477 William Pope. | 1812 Arthur Cyril Onslow. |
| Nicholas Morton. | 1869 William Dalrymple Maclagan, Archbishop of York, 1891-1909. |
| 1487 Robert Harsett. | 1875 George Thomas Palmer. |
| 1498 Thomas Rilyng. | 1908 William James Conybeare. |
| 1506 John Thorneton, Bishop of Syrynensis. | 1916 Charles Coleridge Harper. |
| 1507 Thomas Baschurche. | 1922 William James Margetson. |
| 1515 Edward Higyns. | 1925 William Houghton Hacksley. |
| 1537-38 John Skippe. | 1939-45 Forrest Saxon Lloyd Fitz-George. |
| 1539 John Morley. | 1946 Herbert Frank Runacres. |
| 1543 Edmund Weston. | |
| 1554 John Grene. ²⁸¹ | |
| 1558 Griffin Morgan. | |
| 1559 Henry Prescote (Prescott). | |
| 1568 William Clerke (Clarke). | |
| 1569-70 Stephen Bateman, translator, and author of <i>Christiall glass for christian reformation</i> , 1569, and other works. ²⁸⁵ | |

^a With the exception of those for whom a special reference is given the names have been ascertained from the Bishops' Registers or from *Crockford*.



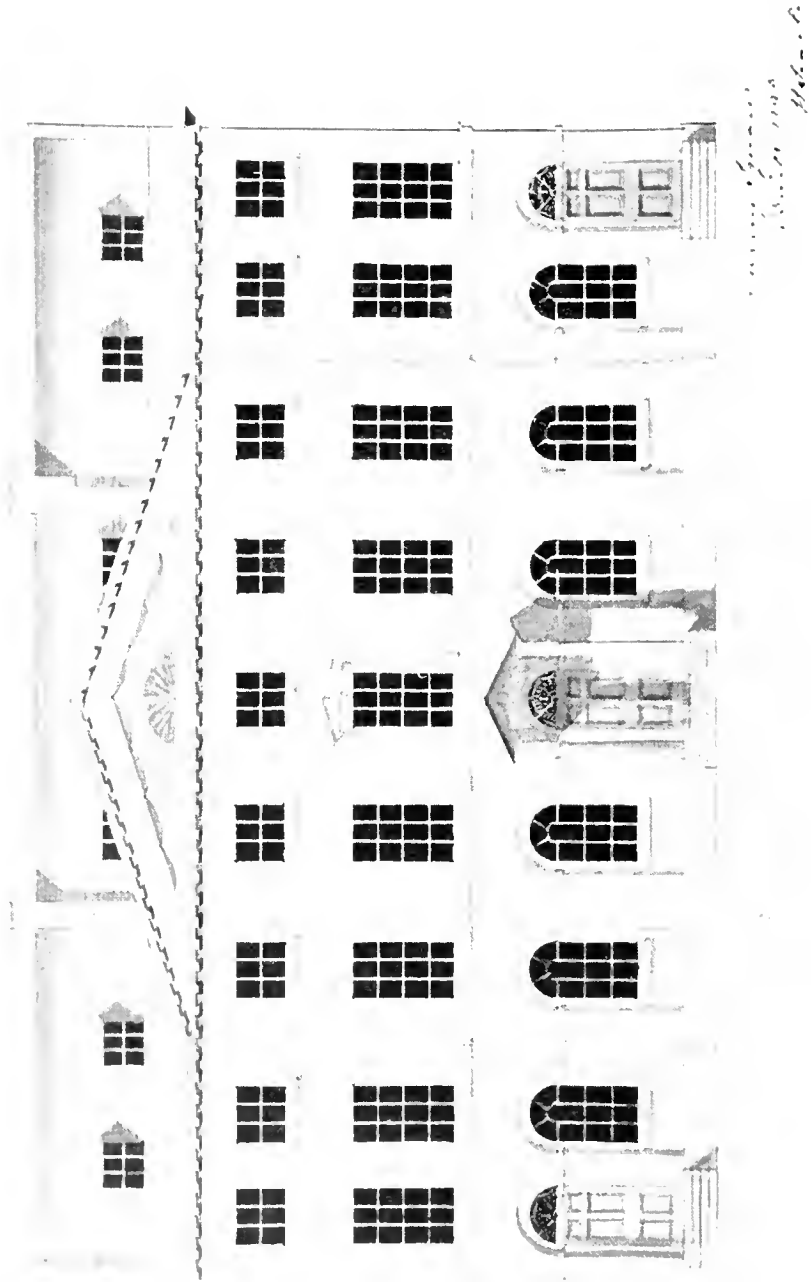
PART OF ROCQUE'S MAP, 1755



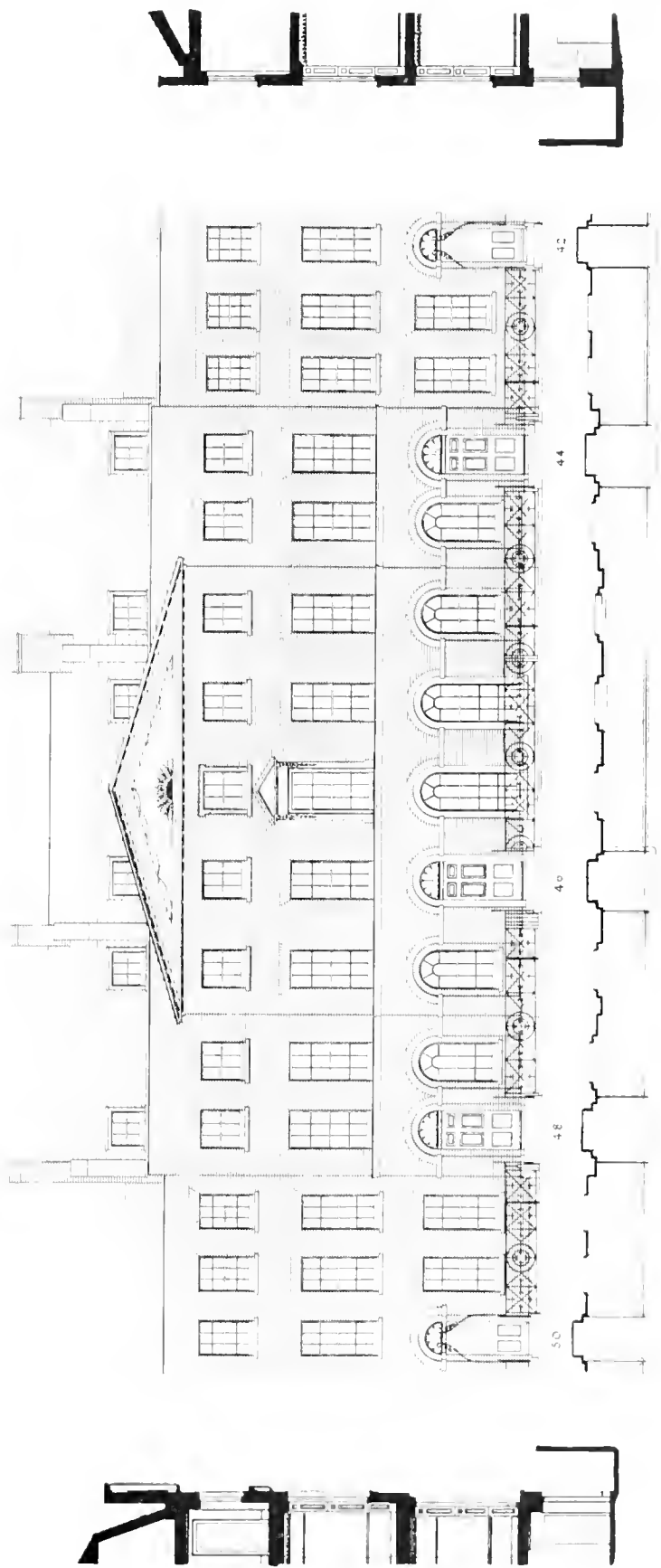
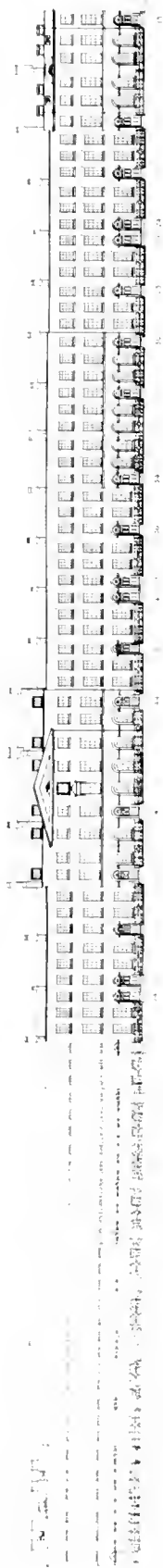
ST. MARY, NEWINGTON, CHURCH, 1827 (p. 92)



MEMORIAL TO SIR HUGH BRAWNE (p. 92)



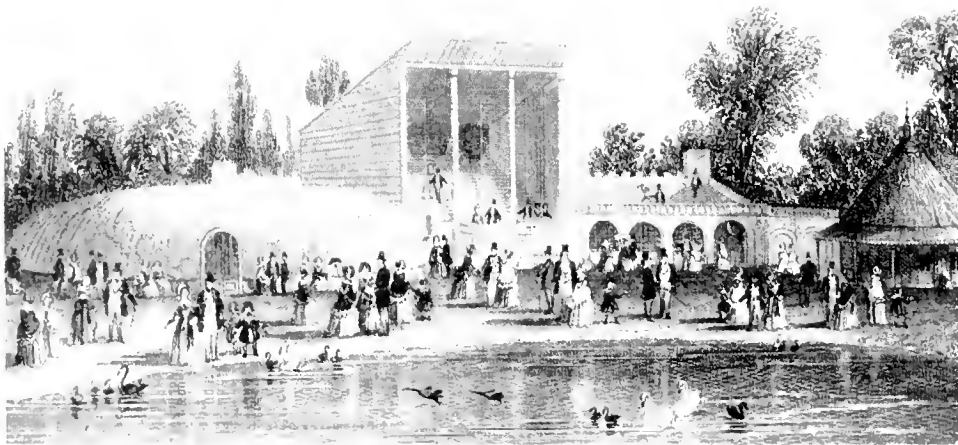
DESIGN FOR SURREY SQUARE BY MICHAEL SEARLES, 1795 (p. 89)



100-102

Scale of Feet
 1" = 10'
 1/2" = 5'
 1/4" = 2 1/2'

PLATE 58



ROYAL SURREY ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS (p. 87)

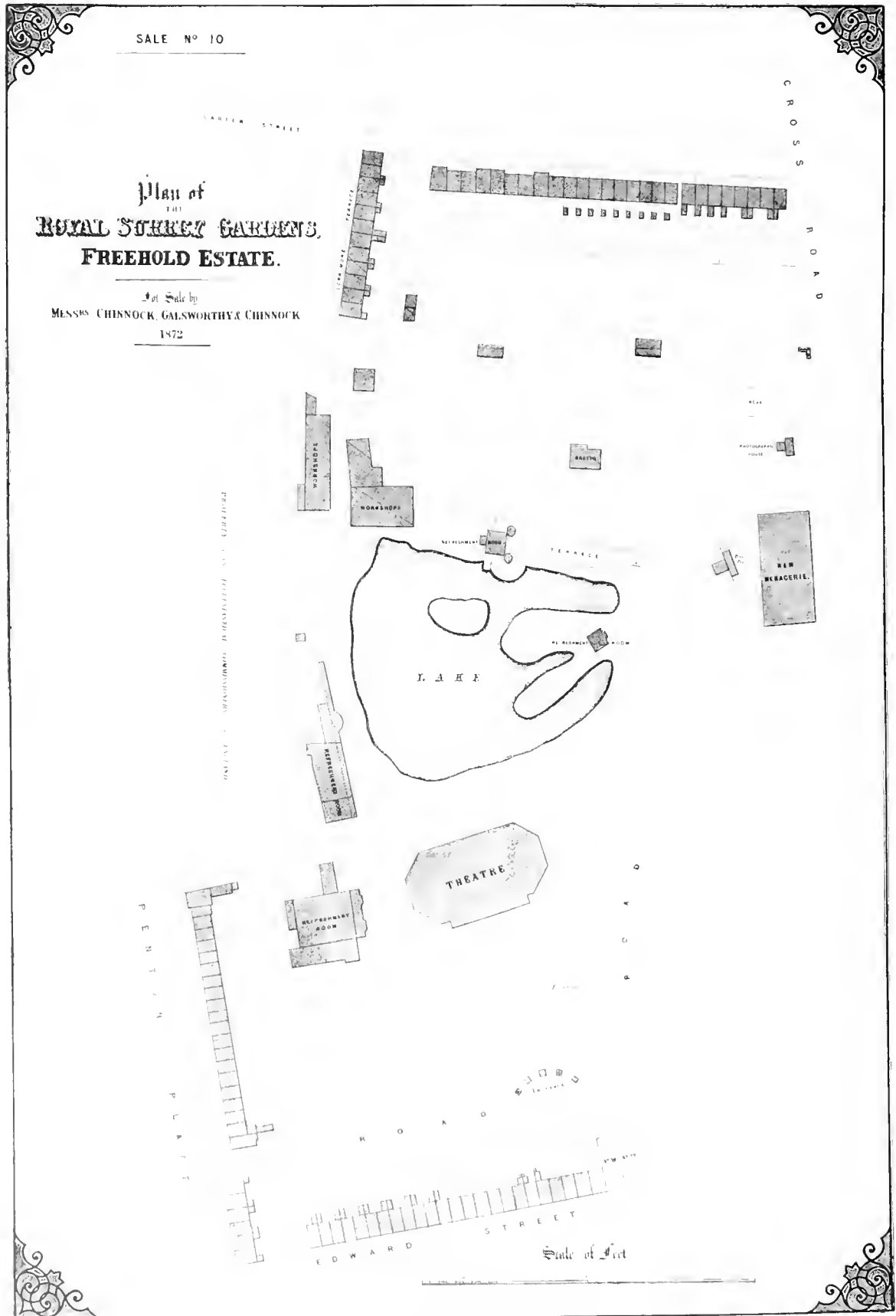
(a) ENTRANCE, 1832

(b) THE LAKE, *circa* 1845

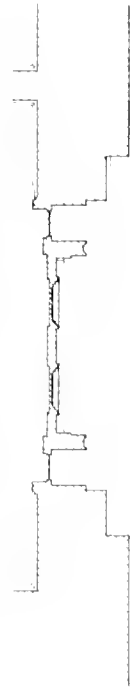
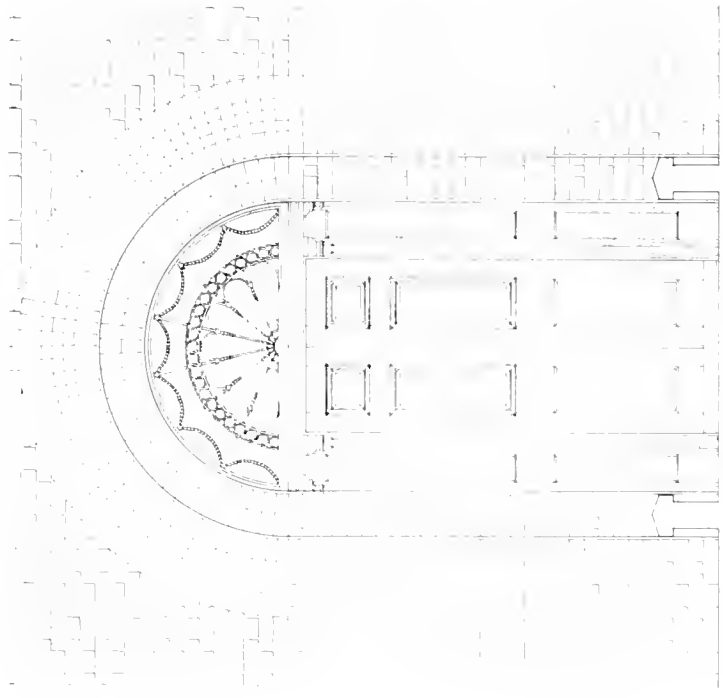


(a) ROYAL SURREY GARDENS MUSIC HALL, *circa* 1861
(p. 86)

(b) THE MANOR HOUSE, WALWORTH, *circa* 1862 (p. 87)

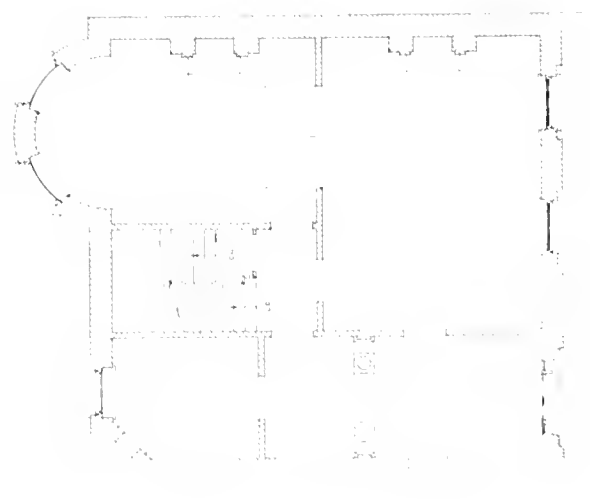
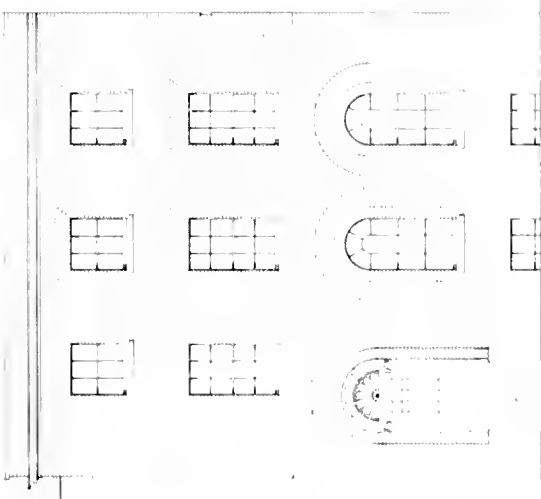


PLAN OF THE ROYAL SURREY GARDENS, 1872 (p. 88)



WEST FRONT
OF THE TEMPLE

SCALE FOR PLAN
SCALE FOR SECTION

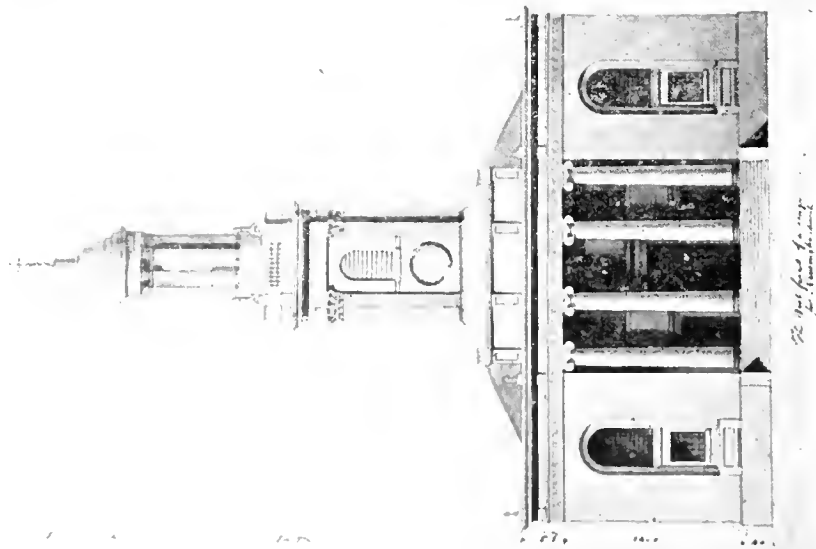




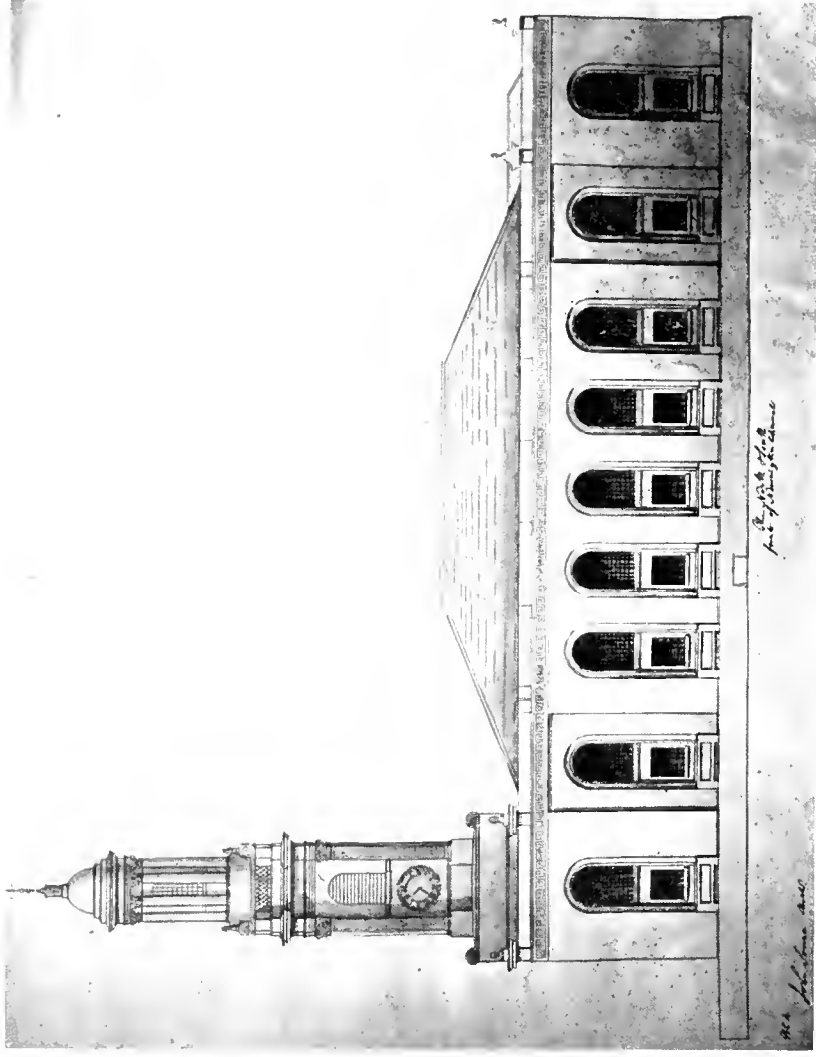
ST. PETER'S CHURCH FROM SOUTH-WEST, 1951 (pp. 95-98)



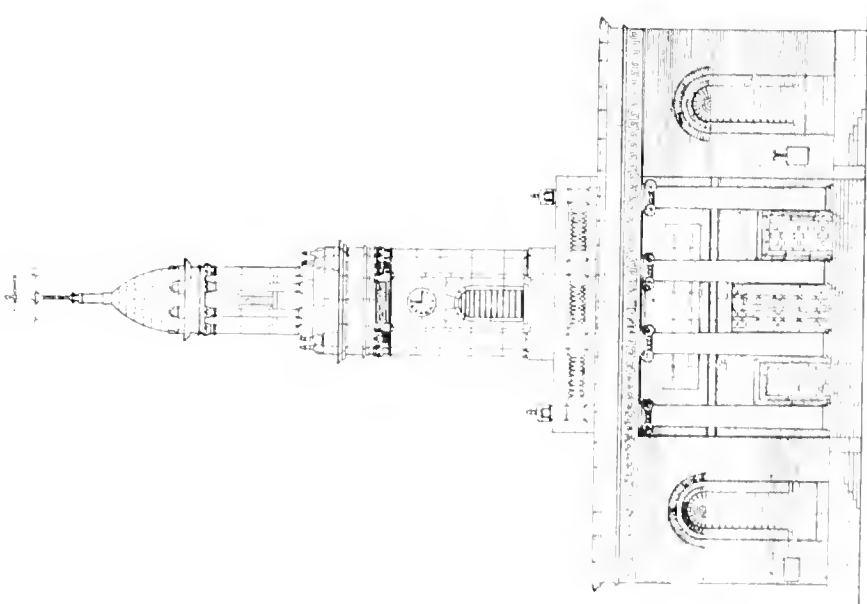
ST. PETER'S CHURCH, STAIRCASE LOBBY, 1954 (p. 97)



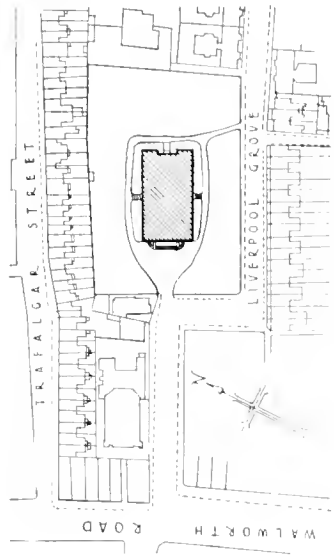
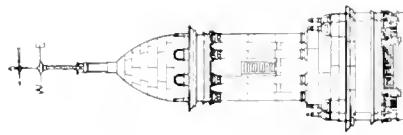
(a) WEST FRONT



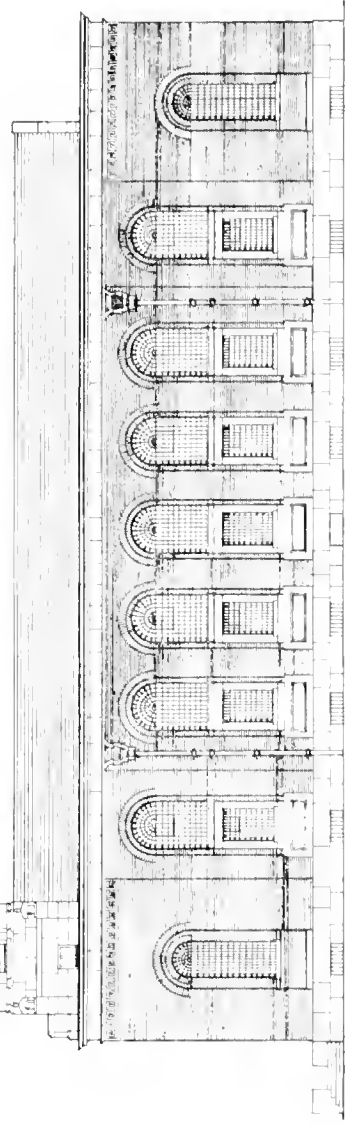
DESIGNS FOR ST. PETER'S CHURCH, 1822
(b) SOUTH SIDE



62

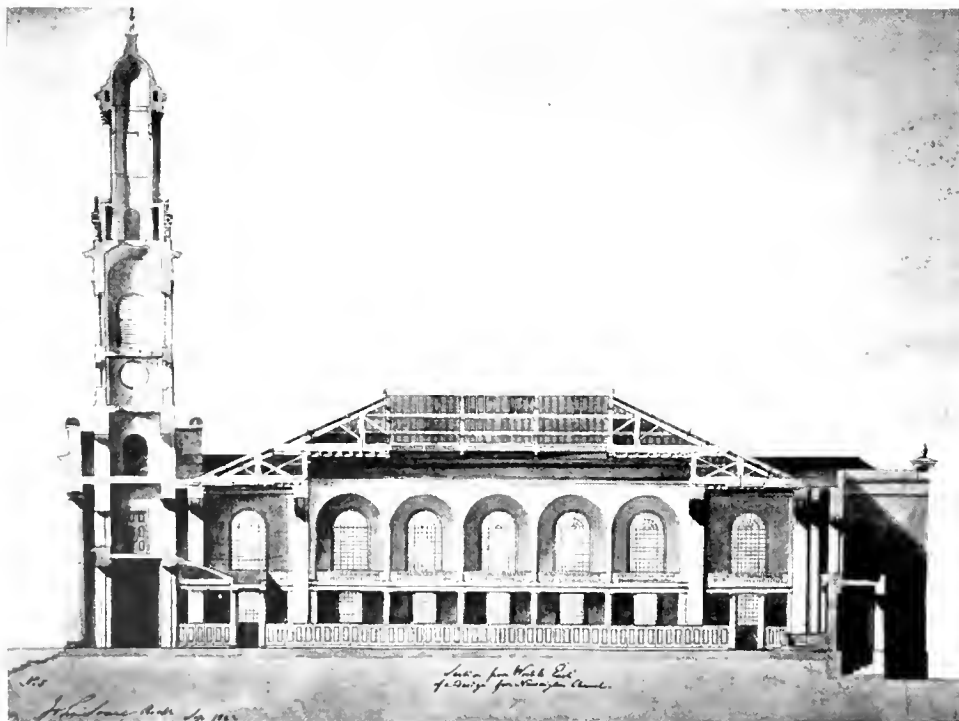


KEY PLAN



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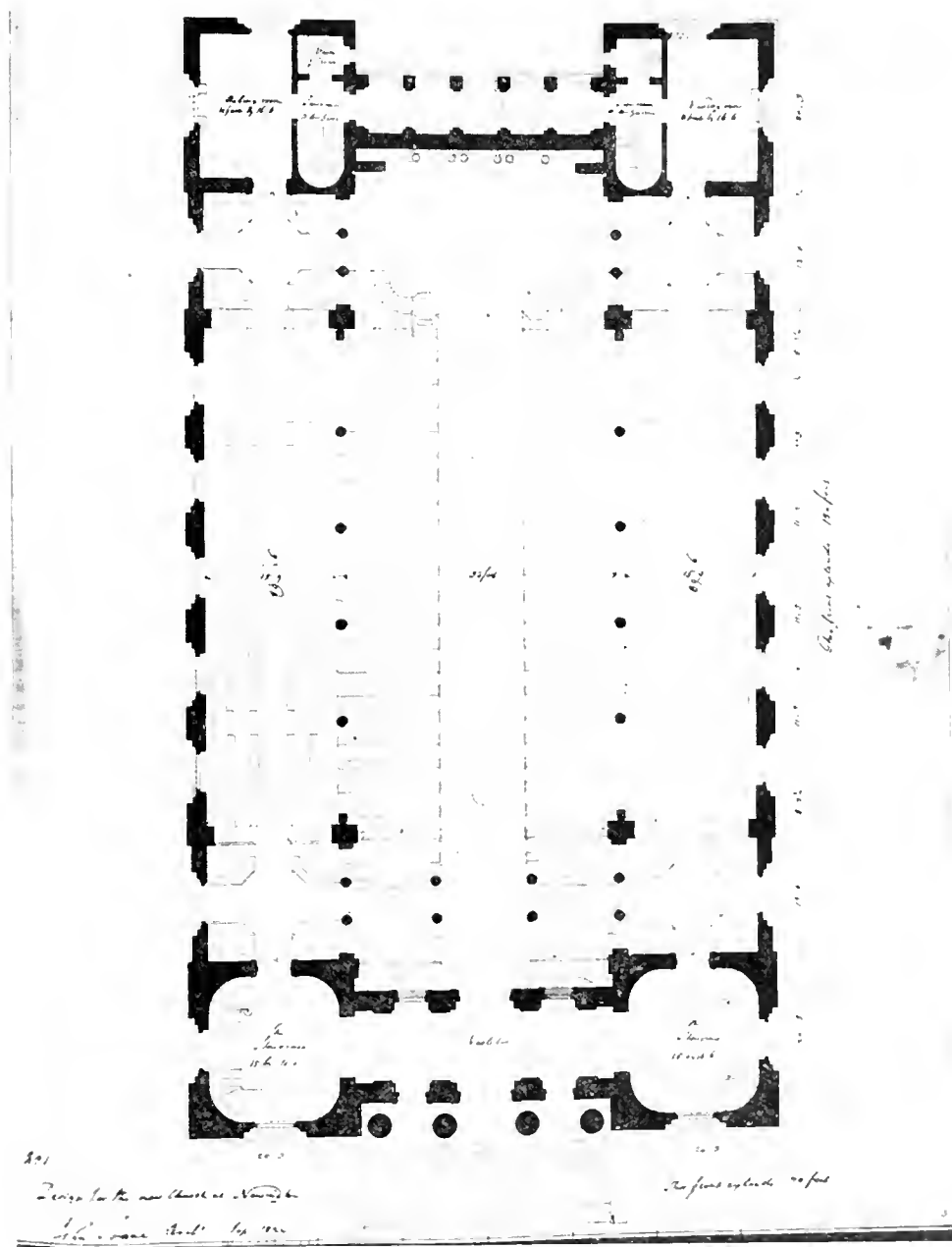
ST. PETER'S CHURCH, 1951



DESIGN FOR ST. PETER'S CHURCH, 1822

(a) CROSS SECTION

(b) LONG SECTION



ST. PETER'S CHURCH, GROUND PLAN BY SOANE, 1822



ST. PETER'S CHURCH, FROM THE SOUTH-EAST, 1951



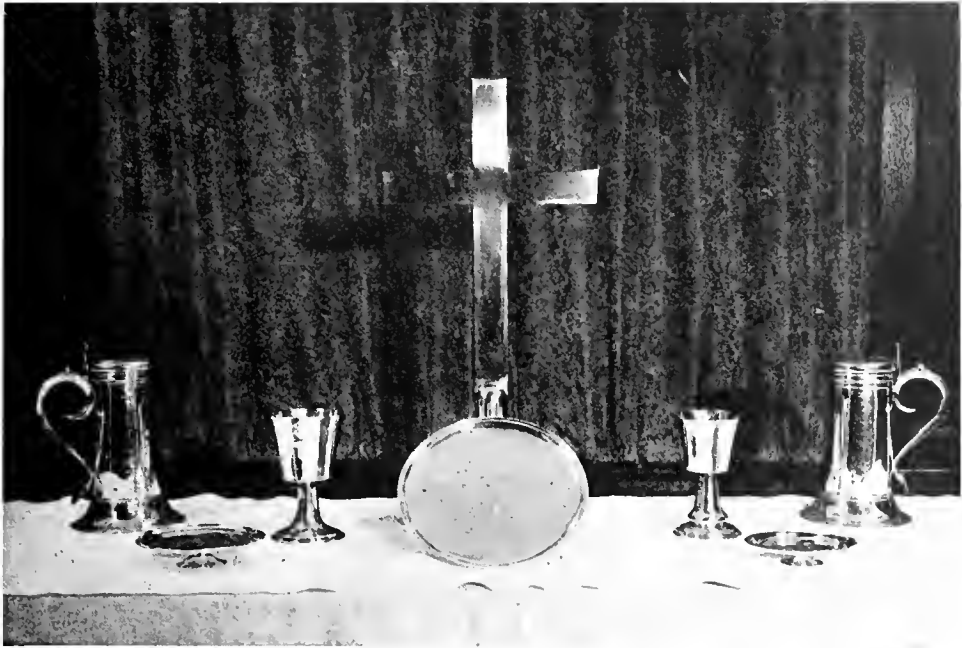
ST. PETER'S CHURCH, INTERIOR, 1954



CHURCH PLATE

(a) ST. MARY, NEWINGTON, 1953 (p. 92)

(b) ST. PETER, WALWORTH, 1952

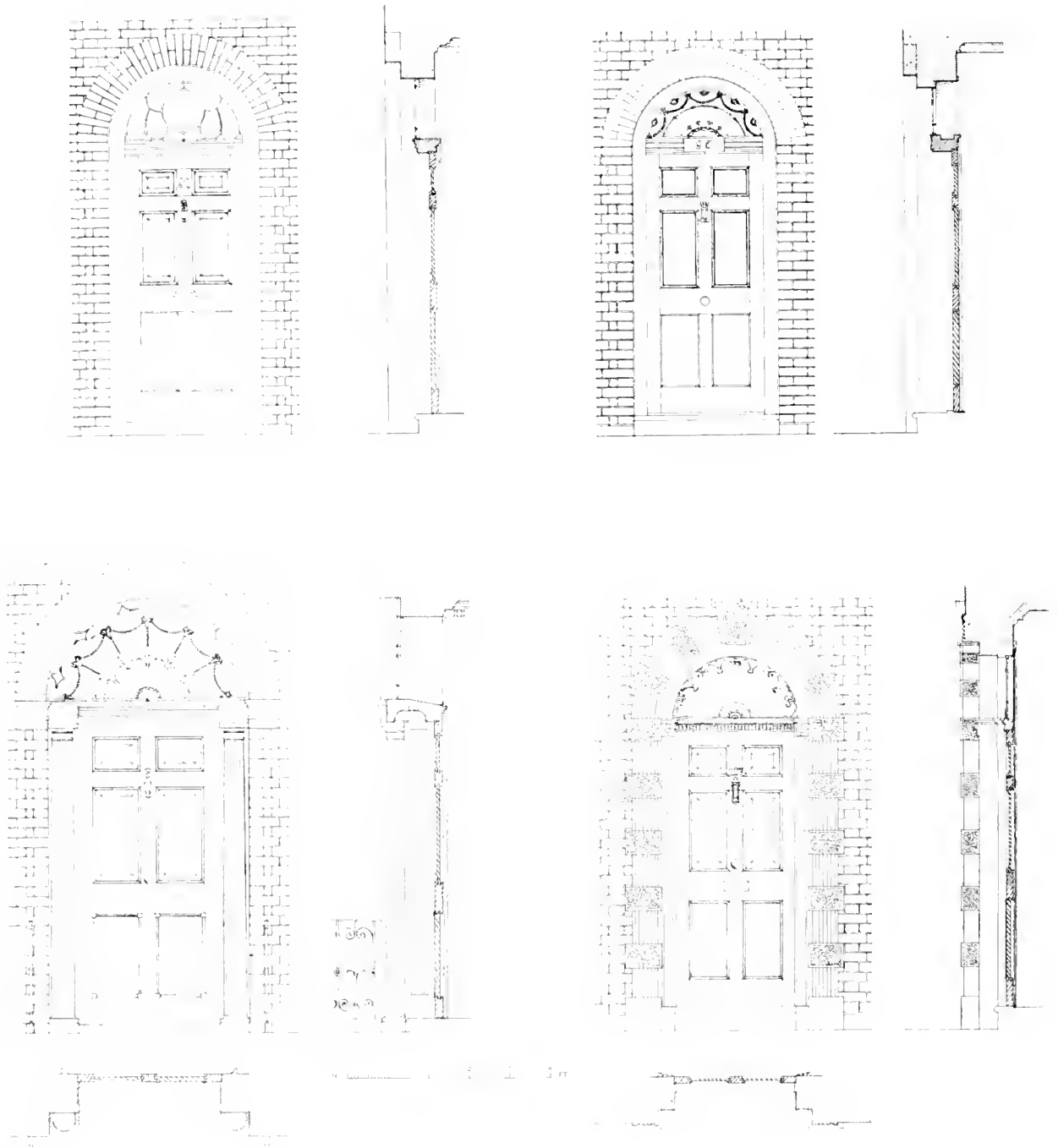


CHURCH PLATE

(a) ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR, 1952 (pp. 31, 32)

(b) HOLY TRINITY, NEWINGTON, 1952 (p. 111)

PLATE 72



KENNINGTON PARK ROAD (p. 100)

(a) No. 91

(b) No. 95

(c) No. 125

(d) No. 127

CHAPTER 12

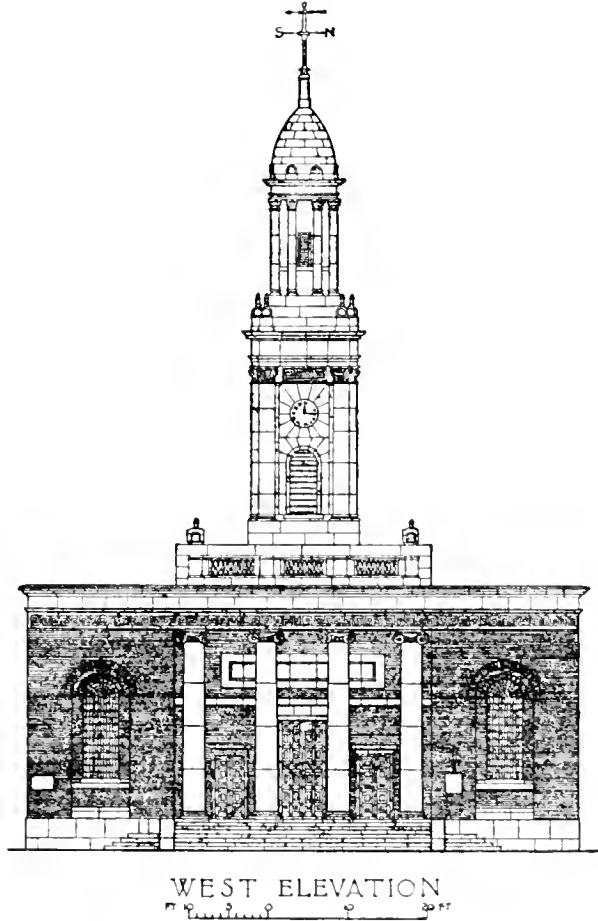
THE CHURCH OF ST. PETER WALWORTH AND LIVERPOOL GROVE AND TRAFALGAR STREET

In the twenty years after 1800 the population of Newington increased from 14,847 to 44,526.²⁸³ Non-conformist chapels of all types sprang up in the district and the Catholics were catered for, though somewhat inadequately, first in the London Road Chapel and subsequently in the new church in St. George's Road, but, since St. Mary's could on a generous estimate only accommodate just over 1,000 people, some new provision by the established church was obviously called for. In the application for an enabling Act it was stated that there was no accommodation in the parish church "for Servants or for the Poor except in the Aisles and behind the Pews and in the Galleries," and no burial place except the churchyard which was small and nearly full.²⁸⁴

In 1820 an Act²⁸⁵ was passed authorizing the erection of two new churches in Newington to be called St. Peter's and Trinity, and appointing trustees to carry out the work subject to the approval of the Commissioners for Building New Churches.^a

The leasehold interest in a house on the east side of Walworth Road and some gardens and an orchard lying behind it were bought from the Clutton family²⁸⁴ for £2,197²⁸⁶

^a The trustees were forbidden under penalties to be concerned in any contract or to receive any emolument as clerk or other officer, but these and other financial provisions of the Act were continually disregarded in spite of the repeated complaints of auditors and parishioners.²⁸⁶ As late as 1846 parishioners were still protesting about the trustees' administration of the finances and being stone-walled by the clerk, John Clutton, who had, incidentally, been nominated as a trustee, though he had refused to act.²⁸⁷



ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

and cleared for St. Peter's and its approaches. The freehold interest was presented by the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury.^{a 286}

Designs submitted by Simeon Thomas Bull for a church in Gothic style were not approved by the Commissioners, and after a letter from the rector of St. Mary Newington, the Rev. Arthur C. Onslow, complaining that the years were slipping by and the church not begun, they asked [Sir] John Soane to prepare plans for the new church.²⁸⁴ The foundation stone was laid on 2nd June, 1823, by the Archbishop of Canterbury and he consecrated the church on 28th February, 1825.¹¹⁷

Apart from the provision in 1886 of a new altar table and choir stalls, etc., few alterations or repairs were made to the church until 1919 when ominous cracks appeared in the walls. The timber in the foundations had rotted and it was found necessary to replace it with concrete. In 1926 the east wall of the sanctuary was underpinned and a complete repainting and cleaning of the church was carried out by the architect, A. E. Henderson. The building was badly damaged by enemy action on 29th October, 1940, when more than 30 of those sheltering in the crypt were killed outright and 100 more were injured. The church has since been restored under the direction of Thomas F. Ford and was re-dedicated by the Bishop of Southwark on 11th July, 1953.



Bootscraper

Soane's drawings and plans for the church, some of which are reproduced on Plates 64, 66 and 67, are preserved at the Soane Museum. The variations between these designs and the building as completed can be seen from the measured drawings (Plate 65). The church strongly resembles Holy Trinity, Marylebone Road, which was designed by Soane a year or so later; each has a plain oblong body and a stone tower rising squarely above the entrance, but the Marylebone church is entirely faced with stone and the detail is more elaborate. St. Peter's is built of yellow stock bricks with stone dressings. The columns at the west end are recessed under a simple stone cornice and at the east end there is a round-arched arcade of three bays between the two vestries. The nave has a slate roof to which the solid stone parapet and blocking course at the east end form a gable. The side galleries have flat roofs which have recently been relaid with copper.

The external proportions of the church give a somewhat misleading idea of its interior length as the vestries at the east end and the staircase

^a The ground acquired for the church and churchyard corresponds approximately to the narrow strip marked on the plan of 1681 (Plate 49) as the Pinckle (Pightel). It was part of 22 acres of land leased to a Mr. Hobson in 1681 and in 1778 to Thomas Clutton.²³¹ Thomas Clutton, who was a brickmaker, died in 1802, and his son, William, who did not follow his father's trade, having obtained a renewal of the lease with permission to dig for brick earth and make bricks there, sublet part of the ground to a firm of builders and bricklayers named Broomfield, with a stipulation that the bricks must be used for buildings on the site. Mrs. Elizabeth Broomfield had the contract for the bricklayer's work at St. Peter's, so that it is literally true that the church rose from the soil.

ST. PETER'S WALWORTH

lobbies at the west end are of the same height as the rest of the church. Soane bestowed more care on the planning and interior detail of the staircase lobbies than is usually given to such accessories. They are divided from the bellringers' chamber at gallery level by recesses containing pairs of Ionic columns (Plate 63), and at nave floor level the side and centre lobbies are separated by a succession of graceful round arches.

During the recent renovation, the church has been restored as nearly as possible to its original state, but the choir stalls have been moved back to widen the sanctuary, and the two most easterly bays under the galleries have been enclosed to form a Lady Chapel and a choir vestry. The altar-piece designed by Soane (Plate 69) has survived, as have parts of the original organ made by Henry Cephias Lincoln; the latter have been incorporated in the new organ in the west gallery.^a

Colourful new stained glass designed by Miss Clare Dawson and representing "Christ Born," "Christ Foretold," and "Christ Declared" has been set in the three east windows above the altar recess to replace the original glass designed by William Collins.^b

The whole of the interior has been coloured in pastel shades and particular care has been taken to bring out the fine details of the ceiling ornament and of the frieze to the nave.

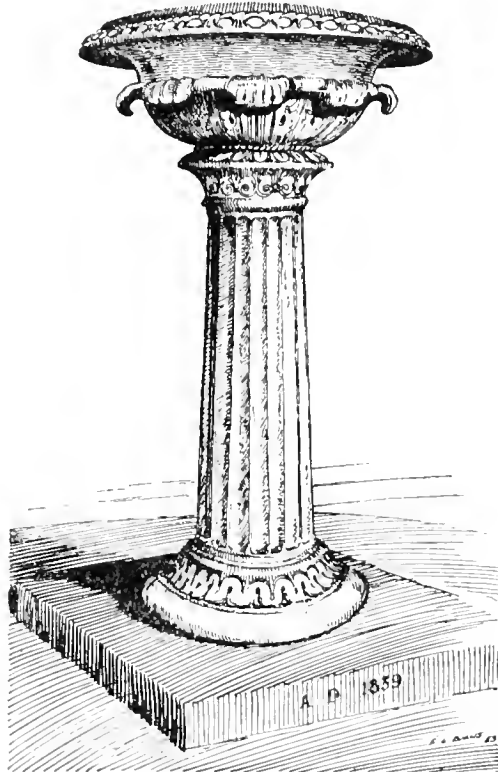
The font, of white marble, was made by Garland^c and Fieldwick and presented by Mary and Eliza Boyman in 1839. It stands at the west end of the south aisle.

There are memorials in the galleries and the north-east vestry to: Richard Boyman (d. 1836) and his daughters, Mary (d. 1851) and Eliza (d. 1858); Joseph Clowes (d. 1833) and his wife, Ann (d. 1851); Henry Johnson (d. 1850) and Charles Johnson (d. 1844); James King (d. 1832)

^a This was the original position of the organ, but it was for a time in the north gallery.

^b The centre window contained a medallion of the head of Christ from a picture by Carlo Dolci, and the side windows, which were given by Soane, had scenes from the life of St. Peter.

^c William Garland was a churchwarden at the time. The firm had premises at No. 86 Camberwell Road for many years, see p. 84.



Font

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

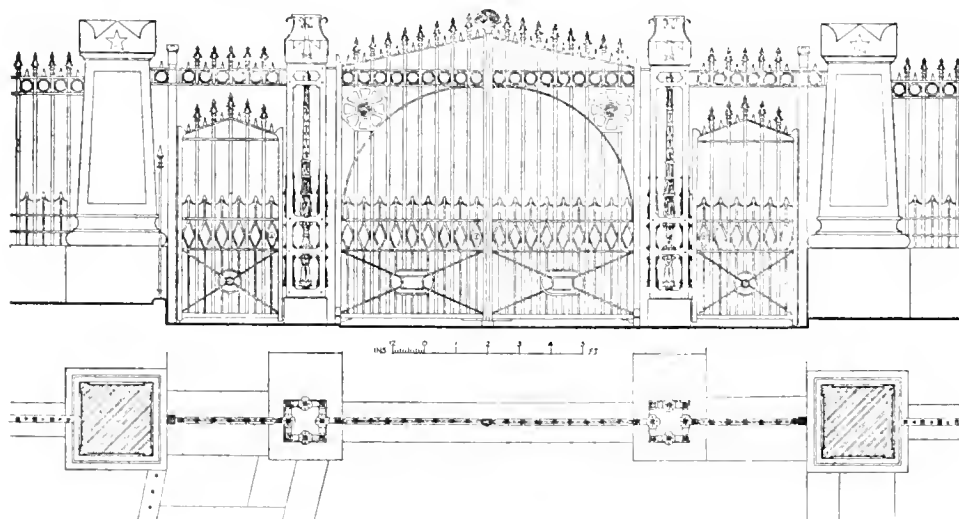
and his wife, Mary (d. 1840); John Littlewood (d. 1827) and family; and Martha Speechly (d. 1829).

INCUMBENTS AND RECTORS

1825 Gilbert Elliot.	1894 John William Horsley.
1831 George Ainslie.	1911 William John Jillings.
1837 William J. Irons.	1924 Gilbert Spofforth Reakes.
1838 George Ainslie.	1937 John Gabriel Markham.
1848 Francis Freeman Statham.	1944 Thomas Oakes.
1884 James Henry Hazell.	

THE CHURCHYARD

William Chadwick, who had the contract for the mason's work at Holy Trinity, Newington, built the enclosing walls and curbs round the churchyard at St. Peter's. Most of the iron railings were removed during the



Entrance gates to churchyard

1939–45 war, but the gates at the west end survive. In 1895 the churchyard was made into a public garden by the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association at the cost of the Goldsmiths' Company.²⁸⁸

LIVERPOOL GROVE AND TRAFALGAR STREET

The ground north and south of St. Peter's Church forms part of the Rolls Estate. On the north side, Trafalgar Street was formed, as its name implies, soon after 1805 and before the church was built, but none of the original houses survive. On the south side there was only a footpath until after 1827, when Liverpool Grove (formerly Street) was laid out to link up with the approach to the church from Walworth Road. A terrace of two-storey brick cottages, with the inscription "PEACOCK TERRACE 1842" in the centre of the parapet, remains opposite the church and churchyard.

CHAPTER 13

ST. AGNES CHURCH, ST. AGNES PLACE, KENNINGTON PARK GARDENS AND KENNINGTON PARK ROAD

The church of St. Agnes, Kennington, at the junction of St. Agnes Place and Kennington Park Gardens, one of the few buildings designed by George Gilbert Scott junior, has been praised for its originality and distinction.²⁸⁹ The district it served was taken out of the parish of St. Paul's, Lorrimore Square, in 1874²⁹⁰ and a vicarage and school, also designed by Scott, were built at the same time. The site, which was given by the Church Commissioners,²⁹¹ faced Kennington Park and had previously been occupied by a vitriol factory. The surrounding neighbourhood, part of the Brandon estate leased from the Church Commissioners (see p. 83), was being rapidly developed in the 1860's and 1870's, and the factory, which had been established by a Richard Farmer about 1796²⁹² in open fields, was overdue for removal.



No. 105 Kennington Park Road

Scott's designs were approved by the Church Commissioners in 1874 and the foundation stone was laid by Lord Halifax on 8th July of that year.²⁹³ It was at first thought that for financial reasons a reduction in size would be necessary, but a legacy from a relative of the incumbent, the Rev. T. B. Dover, enabled the church

to be completed in accordance with the original design.²⁹¹ The church was consecrated on 20th January, 1877, by the Bishop of London,²⁹⁴ and the vicarage was completed shortly afterwards. The schools were opened in 1876.

Scott's designs, in 14th century Decorated style, were carried out in red brick from Suffolk and Hampshire with Bath stone dressings. The nave was "unusually lofty," rising to about 60 feet. A most imposing feature of the church was the six-light chancel window, 40 feet high, with stained glass designed and executed by C. E. Kempe. Over the chancel screen was a loft "intended to be utilized for an orchestral band on the occasion of high festivals."²⁹⁵ It was surmounted by an arched beam and massive cross.

Temple Moore, who was a pupil of Scott, was responsible for the church's completion and also for some of its fittings. These include the chancel screen and loft (1885-89), reredos (1891), font canopy (1893), choir stalls (1902), and carved organ case (1911).²⁹³

In 1941 the church, vicarage and schools suffered heavy war damage (Plate 83*a*). A temporary church is in use under the stone gallery at the west end of the nave, but the rest of the buildings stand derelict. The remains of the vicarage, between the church and the park, were demolished in 1949.

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

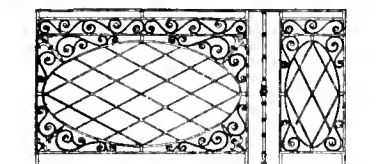
Vicars—

1877 Thomas B. Dover (minister 1874-77).	1927 Marcus F. G. Donovan.
1895 Alfred Holland.	1946 William T. Simpson.
1924 Graham H. Castle.	1949 Francis V. Scaborn.

Kennington Park Gardens was formed in 1873, and the houses opposite St. Agnes Church were erected in 1880-82 by James Taylor of Brixton Road, builder.¹⁷⁷

Nos. 1-7 St. Agnes Place and Nos. 61-167 Kennington Park Road

Nos. 1-7 St. Agnes Place and the ground in the rectangle formed by Ambergate Street, Doddington Grove, Kennington Park Place and Kennington Park Road, have for over a century and a half belonged to the De Laune family of Sharsted Court, Doddington in Kent.^a Newington Place, on the south-east side of Kennington Park Road, was built up as two terraces of houses, divided by New Street (now Braganza Street), in 1789-93 by a



No. 103 Kennington Park Road

number of different builders. Nos. 12-51 Newington Place, now Nos. 87-167 Kennington Park Road, with the exception of No. 123, which has been re-built, form a long, continuous terrace of four-storey houses of diverse design and size. Some of the doorways are illustrated on Plate 72. Nos. 61-65 and 75-81 still stand, but they are of less architectural merit.

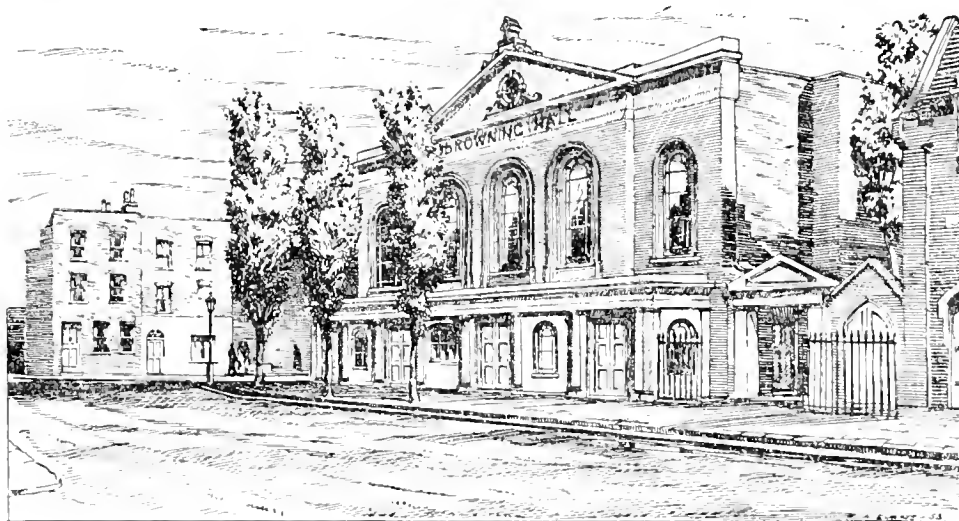
No. 1 St. Agnes Place was built in 1805, and Nos. 3, 5 and 7 in 1808.²⁶⁰ They also are of three storeys with dormers in the slate mansard roof. They have iron balconies to the first-floor windows and entrances with fluted columns at each side supporting fluted transomes. Samuel Roffey Maitland (1792-1866), historian and author of *Facts and Documents Illustrative of the History, Doctrine, and Rites of the Ancient Albigenses and Waldenses*, who was for ten years librarian of Lambeth Palace, lived at No. 7 (formerly 4) in 1844-48.

^a In 1681 it was in the possession of George Chute of Stockwell (see p. 128). The property has been gradually sold off during the past 40 years, the last portion, in Kennington Park Road, being disposed of in 1953.

CHAPTER 14

NONCONFORMIST CHAPELS IN WALWORTH

Unlike the established church, which made no attempt to provide additional church accommodation for the rapidly-growing population of Walworth until 1820, the Wesleyans, then in their first fervour of enthusiasm, began building in 1813, while the Independents or Congregationalists erected their first chapel in York Street in 1790. Other non-conformist bodies followed their lead, and by 1819, when the third edition of Horwood's map was published, there was a good sprinkling of chapels and meeting houses among the newly-formed streets, and additional chapels were



added as the district expanded. Some of the buildings are still in use, though altered to conform with modern needs; some have been re-built; while others, no longer required for their original purpose, have been turned into warehouses or factories. Details of a few of the chapels whose buildings or history are of special interest are given below.

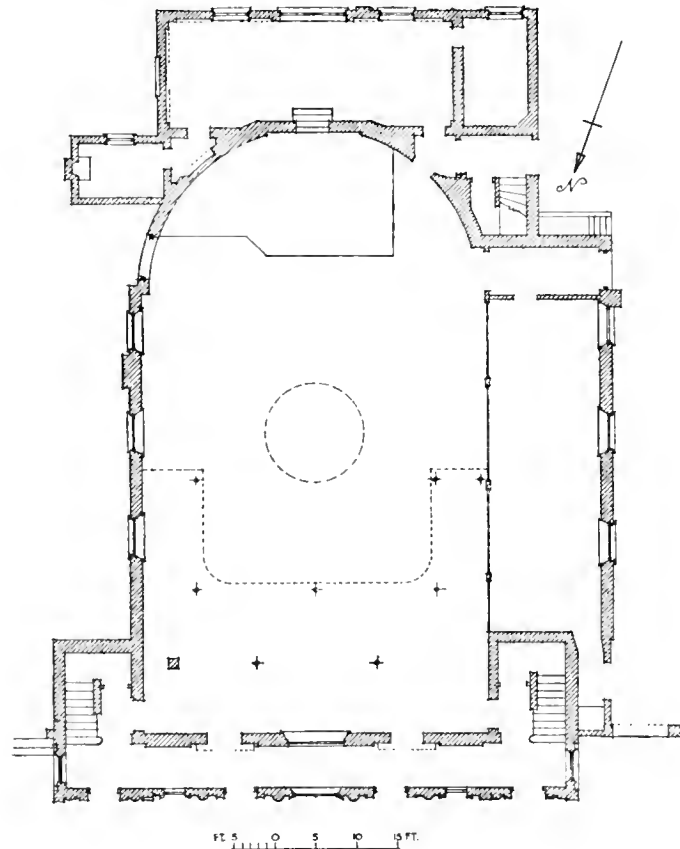
THE YORK STREET CHAPEL (BROWNING HALL)

An Independent or Congregational chapel was built in 1790 on the south side of York Street (now Browning Street), then recently laid out across ground on lease to the Brandons. Some architectural embellishments have been added to the façade, but the present-day Browning Hall remains in all essentials the same structure as the plain pedimented chapel shown in early 19th century drawings.^a A number of well-known people served and worshipped there, among them Captain James Wilson, son-in-law of Richard

^a There are in the Guildhall Library two watercolour drawings of the exterior and one of the interior of the chapel in the 1820's.

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

Holbert, one of the founders of the chapel. Wilson was the honorary commander of the first purely missionary ship of British origin.²⁹⁷ His tomb, illustrated on Plate 82*b*, still stands behind the chapel. Robert Moffat, a pioneer of missionary work in Africa, was a member of the church as was his daughter, Mary, who married David Livingstone.²⁵ Robert Browning was baptized there in 1812 and [Sir] Henry Doulton in 1821.²⁹⁸ The Rev.



Plan of York Street Chapel

George Clayton, pastor of the church for more than fifty years, and after whom Clayton Hall in Browning Street is named, is said to have administered a rebuke from the pulpit to Browning when a youth for inattention to the sermon.²⁹⁷

During the second half of the 19th century social work based on the chapel did much to alleviate distress in Walworth. The Browning settlement was publicly inaugurated in November, 1895, by an address given in Browning Hall by Herbert Asquith, while the campaign which culminated in the Old Age Pensions Act of 1908 was begun at a conference held there by Charles Booth in 1898.²⁹⁹

NONCONFORMIST CHAPELS

THE WALWORTH CHAPEL

In 1808 the Methodist Conference decided that two new chapels were needed in South London. One was built in Long Lane, Southwark, in the same year, and land on the west side of Camberwell Road was purchased for the Walworth Chapel in 1812.³⁰⁰ The latter was erected in 1813. There are in the possession of R. D. L. Ford, Esq., three drawings made by Michael Searles of possible elevations for this chapel. One of them has a fan motif in the tympanum similar to that used by Searles in Surrey Square. The chapel as built was plain and unadorned and, except in general outline, bore little relation to Searles' designs. The drawing reproduced on Plate 84*a* shows it in 1826 after it had been enlarged by the raising of the roof. The building was altered and added to from time to time, but it was not re-built until 1928–30 when the Clubland Church, designed by [Sir] Edward Maufe, was erected on the site.³⁰¹ The latter was seriously damaged by fire due to enemy action on the night of 10th May, 1941, and is now awaiting rebuilding.³⁰²

BERESFORD STREET CHAPEL

There are watercolour drawings of several of the early 19th century chapels of Walworth in the Guildhall Library and other collections. John Ruskin's description of the Beresford Street Chapel where, as a boy, he sat under Dr. Andrews, is applicable to most of them: "An oblong, flat-ceiled barn, lighted by windows with semi-circular heads, brick-arched, filled by small-paned glass, held by iron bars, like fine-threaded halves of cobwebs; galleries propped on iron pipes, up both sides; pews well shut in, each of them, by partitions of plain deal, and neatly brass-latched deal doors, filling the barn floor, all but its two lateral straw-matted passages; pulpit, sublimely isolated, central from sides and clear of altar rails at end, a stout four-legged box of well-grained wainscot, high as the level of the front galleries, and decorated with a cushion of crimson velvet . . ." ³⁰³

The Independent or Congregational Chapel on the south side of Beresford Street was built about 1826 and remained in use until 1923, when it was turned into a billiard saloon;³⁰⁴ it is now a factory. The street was re-named John Ruskin Street in 1937.³⁰⁵

SUTHERLAND CHAPEL

In 1842 a Congregational chapel, the Sutherland Chapel, was built between St. Peter's Church and the Walworth Road for Dr. Edward Andrews, the father-in-law of Coventry Patmore, and the minister of Beresford Street Chapel.¹⁸⁰ He died before the chapel was completed and the first minister was the Rev. John Wood. In 1904 the building was closed and was later taken over by the Electric Theatre Company and was for a time a place of entertainment. It is now used as a theatre store. The building has a heavy pedimented façade embodying a Tuscan order.

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

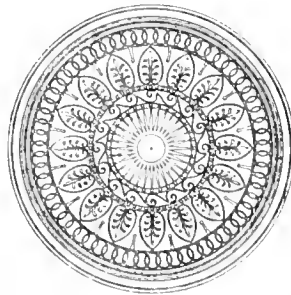
THE METROPOLITAN TABERNACLE

The meteoric rise to fame of Charles Haddon Spurgeon is one of the most remarkable stories of the Victorian era. He was born at Kelvedon, Essex, in 1834. His father was minister of an independent congregation, and Charles did not formally become a Baptist until 1850. He was "called" to the pulpit of the Baptist congregation in New Park Street, Southwark, in 1854, and within a few months attracted more people than the chapel could hold. The chapel was enlarged, but still proved too small and a large tabernacle was planned, Spurgeon preaching in the meantime at Exeter Hall in the Strand and at the Surrey Gardens Music Hall, where his congregation rose to 10,000. At 22 Spurgeon was the most popular preacher of his day.¹⁵ On 19th October, 1856, a malicious alarm of fire was given during a service in the Surrey Gardens Music Hall and in the resulting panic seven people were killed and many others injured,³⁰⁶ but Spurgeon's popularity continued unimpaired.

The Metropolitan Tabernacle in Newington Butts was designed by W. W. Pocock (1813-99) and cost just over £31,000. Spurgeon delivered the opening sermon there on 25th March, 1861, to a congregation of more than 6,000.

The building was 146 feet long, 81 feet broad, and 62 feet high. In front was a massive stone portico supported by six Corinthian columns, and flanked by side wings surmounted by balustrades (Plate 81*a*). The interior was planned on the lines of the Surrey Music Hall and had two galleries extending round the entire building.³⁰⁷ Seats were provided for over 4,000. Beneath the chapel were schoolrooms and a lecture hall.³⁰⁸

On 20th April, 1898, six years after Spurgeon's death, the chapel was burnt.¹⁸⁰ It was re-built on the old site and to a similar design (Plate 81*b*), but only the shell now survives, the building having been severely damaged by enemy action in 1941. Services are still held in the rooms below ground. No. 75 Great Dover Street, where Spurgeon lodged in 1854-56, was seriously damaged by enemy action and was pulled down in September, 1953. His residence there was recorded on a commemorative tablet.

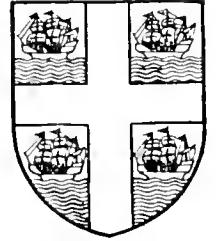


Cast iron grill, York Street Chapel

CHAPTER 15

THE TRINITY HOUSE ESTATE

Most of the ground lying between Borough High Street, Great Dover Street, Falmouth Road, and Harper Road belongs to the Corporation of Trinity House. It is in the parish of St. Mary, Newington, and was formerly included within the manor of Walworth. Small pieces of land have been purchased by the Corporation and some has been sold, but in the main the ground is the same as that conveyed to the Corporation in 1661 by Christopher Merrick, in trust "for Releiving comforting Easing & Maintaining of the poor Aged Sick Maimed Weak and decayed Seamen and Mariners of this Kingdom, their Wives children and Widowes where most need was."³⁰⁹

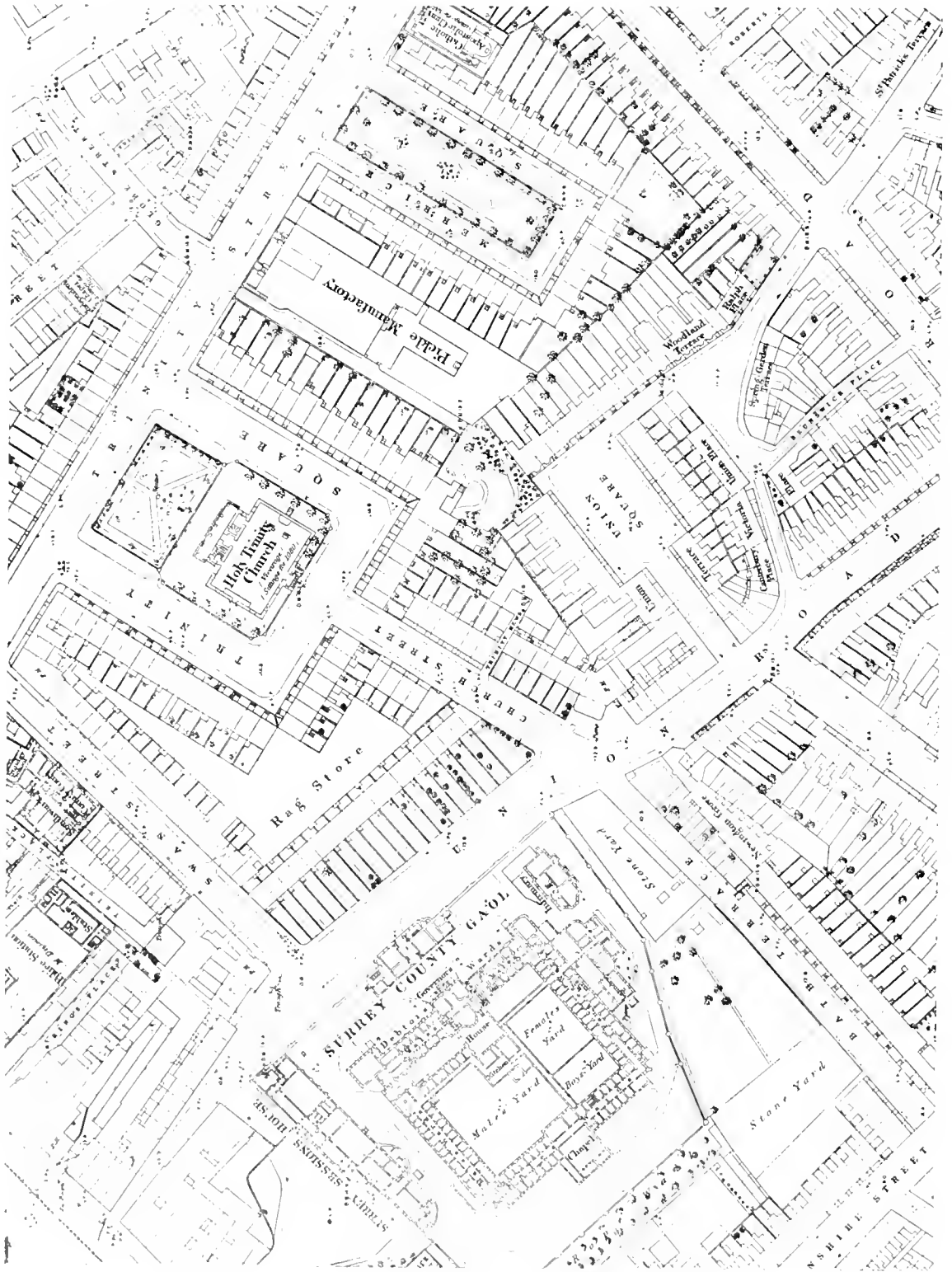


Trinity House

Merrick, a London merchant, was sworn a Younger Brother of Trinity House on 8th September, 1660.³¹⁰ He had acquired his Southwark property from his father, also a Christopher Merrick, who had purchased it in 1605. The ground had, prior to the dissolution of the religious houses, been in several ownerships, some of it belonging to private persons and some to St. Thomas' Hospital and the Priory of St. Mary Overy. By the beginning of the reign of Elizabeth I the whole property was in the possession of the Bostock family from whom it passed in due course to Merrick's father.³⁰⁹ It was described in 1660 as consisting of "All that Capital House . . . called the Swan with the Buildings theretofore Erected by one Phillis Bostok widow . . . also all that Messuage . . . then called the Green Dragon Tavern sometime in the tenure of Bennet Bate . . . adjoining to the Swan aforesaid on the North to the Messuage theretofore of Richard Bostock sometime in the Tenure of John Legh deceased and sometime called the Lamb on the South And all those Lands . . . sometimes into five fields divided parcell of which are called . . . Horsemonger Land . . . cont' . . . 18 Acres . . . and all that land containing . . . 2 Acres and half . . . lying in . . . the Chase or Drove Lane called Horsemonger Lane leading from the King's highway on the North side of a field called Millfield and Bellgarden to a field of the Dean and Chapter of Christs Church in Canterbury."

The Swan lay just south of St. George's Church. It was a large inn with a brewhouse attached and gave its name to the later Swan Street which was formed in part out of the inn yard.^a South of the Lamb was a "great barn" which in 1651 was said to have been "formerly used for stables for

^a A lease of the Swan Inn from Merrick to James Reading, citizen and brewer of St. Mary Newington, in 1651, gives a schedule of brewhouse equipment: "The Mill and Mill wheale Three Stones The hopper hoope Riddle and Curbe . . . the Mesh tonne Two under backs One great and One Little And the Woort pompe . . . the Beere quile tonne the Apurne of lead and the Floate . . . the Fower Ale tons with Talbotts and Backs of Lead . . . One Double Liquor Pumpe . . . the Fower Coole backes wth pipes of lead & Cokes of Brass . . . Three square Backes . . . the Copper Irons . . . Two Rakes A slice with a search of free Stone . . . One Dresser with all the Shelves in the Kitchin and in the two Butteryes and the Benches in the Kitchin and in the two Chambers above."³¹¹



TRINITY HOUSE ESTATE

Flanders Maires.”³¹¹ It is possible that it had been used at an earlier period in connection with horse fairs held on “Horsemongerland.”^a

In 1737 the Corporation gave permission to their tenant, Thomas Dunn, to grub up the trees from his “Garden Ground” and convert it into “Tenter Ground.”³⁰⁹ A plan of part of the Trinity House land, made when the remainder of Dunn’s lease was sold to Thomas Allsager^b in 1778 (Plate 75), shows most of it unbuilt, and this was still the position on the 1799 edition of Horwood’s map.

During the first quarter of the 19th century the ground was used for grazing and for market gardens. In 1825 there were fruit trees bordering Horsemonger Lane (now Harper Road) and crops of horse-radish, mint and kale on the plot of ground facing Great Dover Street later covered by Main’s floorcloth manufactory. The development of the estate which began with the formation of Great Suffolk Street East (Trinity Street) in 1813–14 took about thirty years, and the groups of houses reflect the changing fashion of the period. No overall systematic plan was made at the beginning and the alignment of the streets was to some extent fortuitous since the work was carried out in sections by a number of speculative builders. The Corporation did, however, exercise control over the type, design, and siting of the buildings by requiring that plans and elevations should be submitted to their surveyor for approval before work was begun.

The central feature of the lay-out was Holy Trinity Church and the square of terraced houses round it; elsewhere the houses were neither so large nor so pretentious. Several groups of shops were allowed, but few entirely non-residential buildings. When in 1824 permission was given for the erection of Southwark Court of Requests (Plate 74*b*) on the north-west side of Swan Street (on the site of the present County Court) the Corporation stipulated that both the back and front of the building should be so constructed “as to be readily convertible into Dwelling Houses at any future time.”³¹³

In spite of wars and the ravages of time most of the Trinity House property remains in external appearance substantially as it was built and the estate as a whole forms an interesting example of early to mid-nineteenth century residential building development.

TRINITY STREET (FORMERLY GREAT SUFFOLK STREET EAST)

In 1809 the Corporation unsuccessfully opposed a Bill before Parliament for the formation of Great Dover Street, thinking that it would be detrimental to a scheme they were discussing with the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury, as Lords of the Manor of Walworth, for making a road from Blackman Street, opposite Great Suffolk Street to Kent Street.³¹⁴ In the event the schemes were linked, Great Dover Street being made first by the

^a The first reference found to Horsemongerland is in a deed of 1290 by which Richard de Daby granted 28 acres of ground in Newington and Walworth to the Prior and Convent of Christ Church, Canterbury.³¹²

^b Thomas Allsager was a setter, i.e. he, like Thomas Dunn, had a tenter ground for stretching cloth.

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

trustees appointed under the 1809 Act, and Great Suffolk Street East, later known as Trinity Street, being laid out by the Corporation to join it at an acute angle. Ground was bought from St. Thomas' Hospital to form the entrance to Blackman Street.³¹⁵

On 27th October, 1814, the Deputy Master and Brethren went with their surveyor, Daniel Asher Alexander,^a to view the new road which had just been completed.³¹⁴ It is shown as Great Suffolk Street East on the 1819 edition of Horwood's map with a few houses on the north side at the western end and three on the south side at the eastern end.

By the winter of 1822-23 the surface of the road was in bad condition, and it was decided to ask the Commissioners of Roads to take it over. Apparently this application failed as it was not until 1830 when both sides were fully developed that Trinity Street, with Trinity Church Square and the adjoining roads were included with Great Dover Street in an Act appointing Commissioners for paving, lighting and cleansing them.³¹⁷ The Deputy Master and Secretary of the Corporation became *ex officio* members of the Commission.

The north side of Trinity Street between Swan Street and Globe Street is an integral part of Trinity Church Square and is still numbered 45-68 in the square (see p. 112). At the eastern end, Nos. 25-47 (odd), Trinity Street, between Globe Street and Great Dover Street, were built as Nos. 1-12 Trinity Terrace by W. H. Humpleby between 1828 and 1830. Nos. 15-23 (odd, formerly Nos. 7-11 consec.) at the western end of Trinity Street were built in stages between 1827 and 1833, by Thomas Cotsworth, senior.³¹³ They are similar to the houses in Trinity Church Square. In Nos. 25-47, the basement windows show above pavement level. Their cornices have been replaced by a plain parapet.

On the south side Nos. 2-12 (even, formerly 18-13), west of Trinity Church Square, a plain terrace of three storeys and attics with shops on the ground floor, were built about 1828. The first-floor windows are set in plain, round-headed recesses.

The derelict building between Trio Place and Swan Street, formerly known as Trinity Chapel, was used as a cinema prior to the 1939-45 war. It was built in 1835 for the "Church & Congregation of particular Baptists, late of Dean Street, Canterbury Square" by Joseph Armitage. No. 16 is similar to the houses in Trinity Church Square except that the first-floor windows are set in plain, round-headed recesses. It has an original door fanlight.

In 1825 a Mr. D. F. Tayler of Mecklenburgh Square had applied to the Corporation of Trinity House for a plot of ground on the south side of Great Suffolk Street East, and east of the square, on which to erect a pin manufactory,^b the machinery of which was to be worked by a steam engine.

^a Daniel Asher Alexander, 1768-1846, was also surveyor to the London Dock Company. His son, Daniel, was appointed curate of the church of St. Mary, Newington in 1827.³¹⁶

^b The pin factory was subsequently built in London Road, St. George's Fields.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

His application was refused on the grounds that it would "operate disadvantageously to the Property generally," and this part of the street was not fully developed until the 1840's. Brunswick Terrace (now Nos. 22-32), built by Samuel Cooper, was completed in 1842. The houses are similar to those in the square, but have only one ground-floor window to each house and no attics. Shaftesbury Hall, now derelict, was used as a Catholic Apostolic Church from 1853 until 1876, and as a Primitive Methodist Chapel from 1878 until 1903. Lazenby's pickle factory occupied the ground between the houses in Trinity Church Square and those in Merrick Square from 1861 until 1926. Only the ground floor front wall with a long arcade of windows now remains.

No. 32 (formerly No. 1 Brunswick Terrace), and No. 2 Falmouth Road were altered for the Surrey Dispensary in 1927, which moved there from Great Dover Street. The Dispensary was founded in 1777 to assist the poor of Southwark and the adjoining parishes by supplying medicines to out-patients, and the services of doctors and midwives to women who were lying-in at home.³¹⁸

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

The Act of 1820²⁸⁵ under which St. Peter's, Walworth, was built, also authorized the erection of a church on the Trinity Estate, and the same Trustees were appointed for both churches. The site for the church, previously a tenter ground, was given by the Brethren of Trinity House, and the Trustees opened a public competition for a design. The commission was given to Francis Bedford, but not before some vituperative letters had been written about the attempts of the Trustees to favour a relation of one of their number, Mr. Robins.²⁸⁴

William Chadwick had the contract for the mason's work and Elizabeth Broomfield for the bricklayer's work.²⁸⁴ The Archbishop of Canterbury laid the foundation stone on 2nd June, 1823, and consecrated the church on 16th December, 1824.

A contemporary writer complained of the coldness and lack of ornamentation on the [liturgical] eastern wall which had only "a pediment surmounting four slabs, inscribed with the decalogue, etc., and a small space railed in" for the altar.¹¹⁷ The original pulpit and lectern were counterparts of each other; they were replaced in 1898 when the chancel was altered and the galleries cut down under the supervision of Henry Jarvis & Son.³¹⁹

The church is austere in design, its plan being a simple rectangle (Plate 79). Like Bedford's "Waterloo" church, St. Luke's, Norwood, which it closely resembles, it has a Corinthian portico surmounted by a tower of two stages with an octagonal lantern above (Plates 76 and 77). The exterior is faced with Bath stone and the roofs are covered with copper.

The interior of the church is plain with a roof of unbroken span. The bareness of the walls is relieved by a frieze of honeysuckle ornament and by shallow pilasters, with honeysuckle ornament to the heads, ranging from floor to ceiling. The pilasters support consoles on which rest the panelled

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

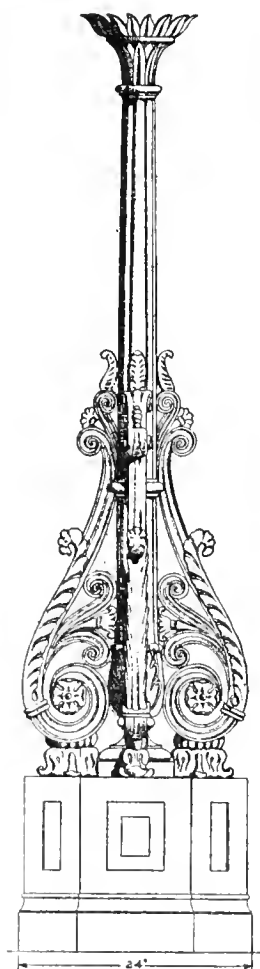
beams dividing the plaster ceiling into fifteen square coffered bays, each with a ceiling rose in the centre.

There are galleries to the north-east, north-west, and south-west sides borne on Greek Doric columns, and above the main gallery on the north-east wall are two small gallery recesses with open balustrades intended for charity children (Plate 78). The organ, installed by Hugh Russell & Son in 1824, in the middle of the north-west gallery, has a pedimented oak case with acroteria at the corners.

The choir stalls are raised three steps above the floor of the nave and are contained by a dwarf stone wall flanked by a stone pulpit and reading desk. The wood reredos, erected to the design of Martin Travers in 1930 in memory of the Rev. William Leaf, successively curate and rector, has flambeaux above its cornice and is inscribed "1889 WL 1927." The reredos has a canopy, and the window behind has an enriched wood surround. The church was damaged by blast during the 1939-45 war and has not yet been repaired.

The original font, of artificial stone in the shape of an antique vase with handles, was supplied by Croggan & Co.³²⁰ It was removed in 1890 when the present font was installed as a memorial to the Rev. D. A. Moullin.

Communion plate costing £110 19s. was bought from John W. Prior, silversmith, of 67 Newington Causeway, in 1825. Some of it is illustrated on Plate 71*b*.



Lamp standard, Holy Trinity Church

There are memorials on the walls to Ambrosius Boyson of Norway (d. 1825); John Beckett (d. 1862), and his mother-in-law, Elizabeth Clark (d. 1840); the Rev. Marcus Grigson Butcher (d. 1835); William Chadwick "of Grove Park, Camberwell and formerly of this parish, born 1 Jan. 1797, died 8 Dec. 1852"; Thomas Fielder (d. 1835); Philip Jacob Heisch (d. 1844); Thomas Jenvey of the Bank of England (d. 1853); Robert Main (d. 1860), his wife Elizabeth

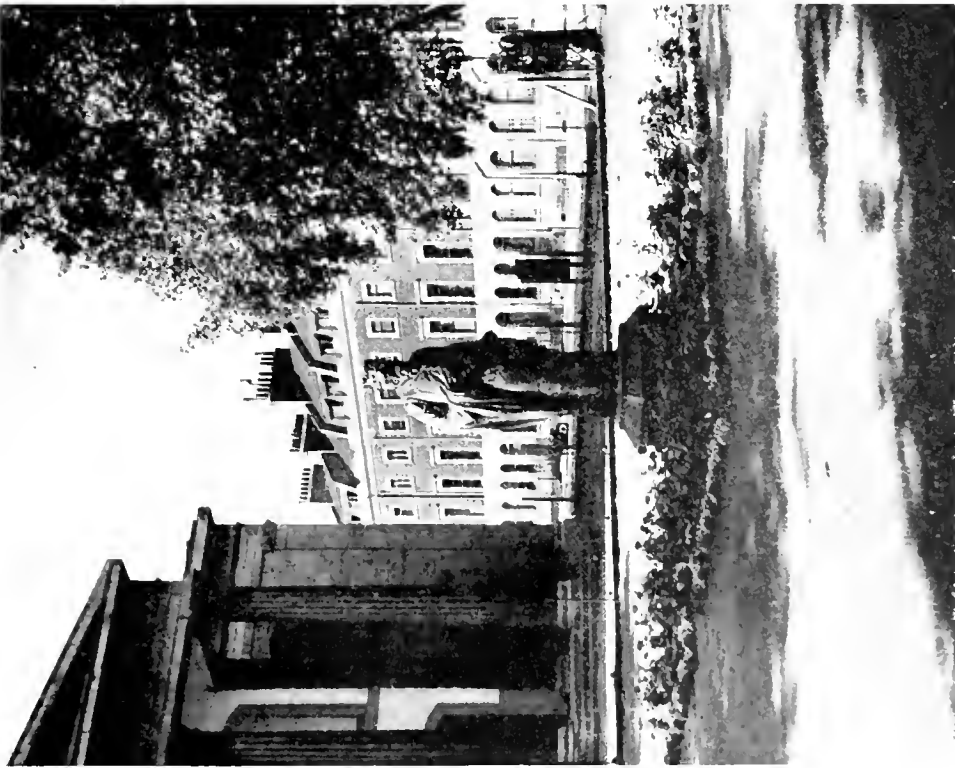
(d. 1829), and 6 of their children; Susannah Stone (d. 1845); James Webb (d. 1830); John Luce Pickstock (d. 1849); Thomas Philip Pickstock; John Luce and Edward William Walker.

INCUMBENTS

1824 C. V. Holme Sumner.
1827 Marcus Grigson Butcher.
1835 Gilbert Chesnutt.

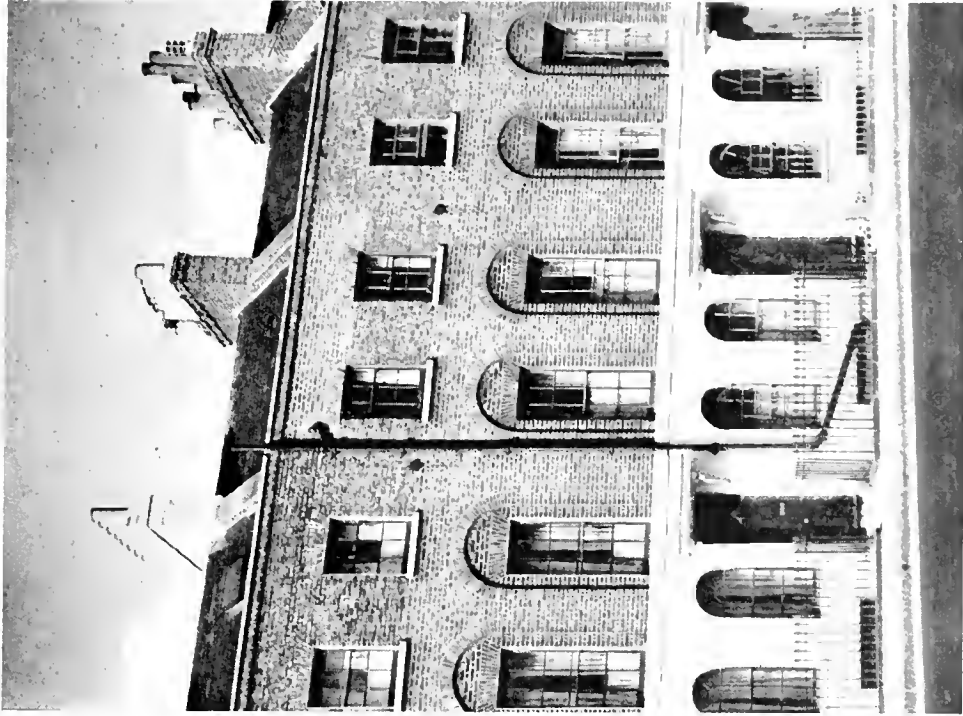
1848 Daniel Alfred Moullin.
1889 John George Curry.
1925 William Leaf.

1927 Christian R. J. Day.
1931 Norman S. Hough.
1941 Kenneth R. Barnes.

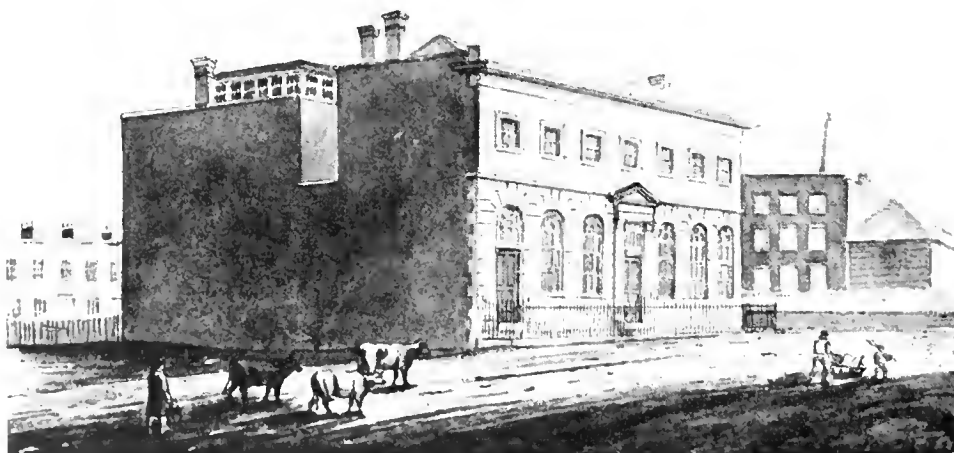


TRINITY CHURCH SQUARE

(*b*) Nos. 60, 61, AND 62, 1951 (p. 112)

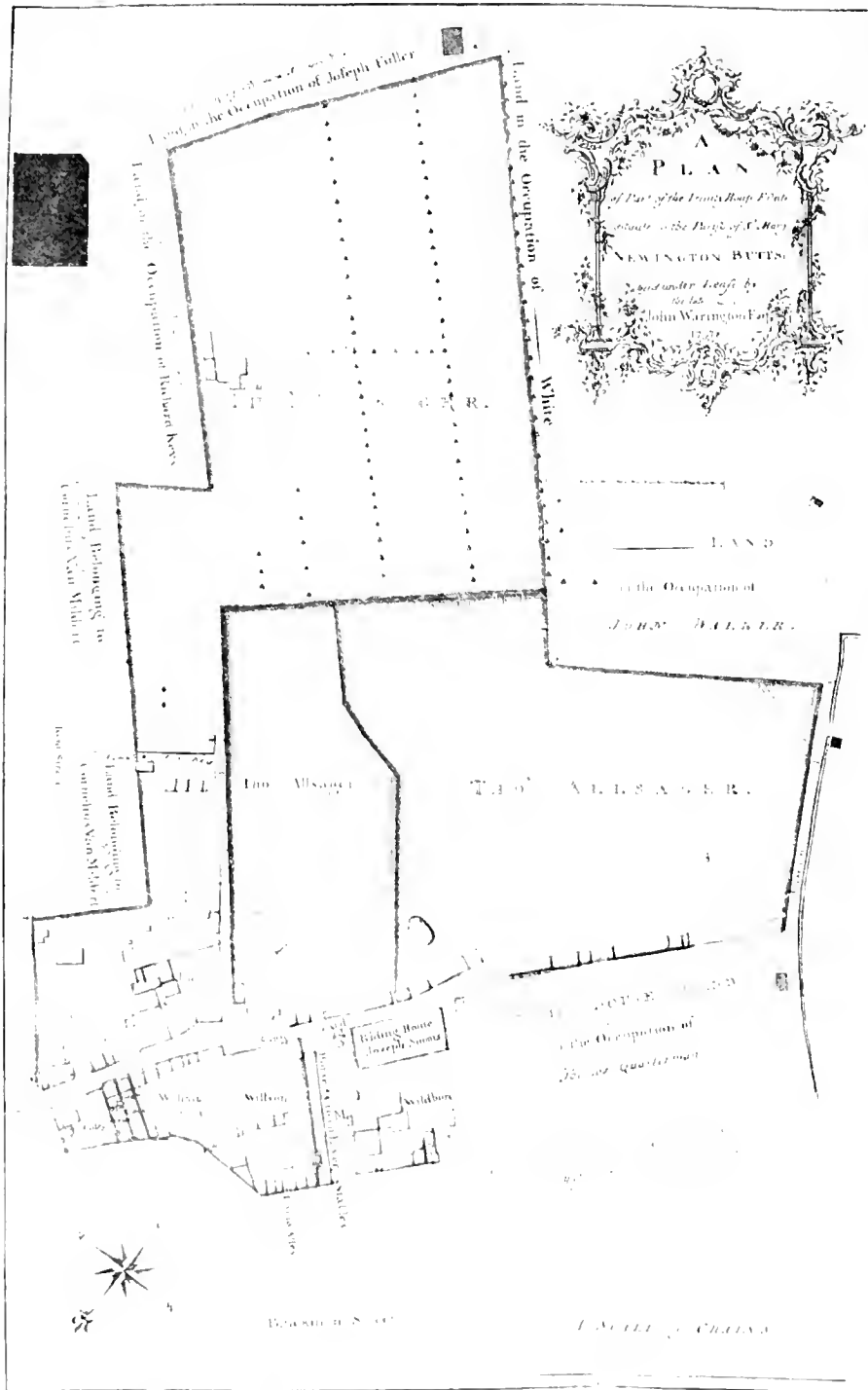


(*a*) STATUE OF "ALFRED THE GREAT," 1951
(p. 111)

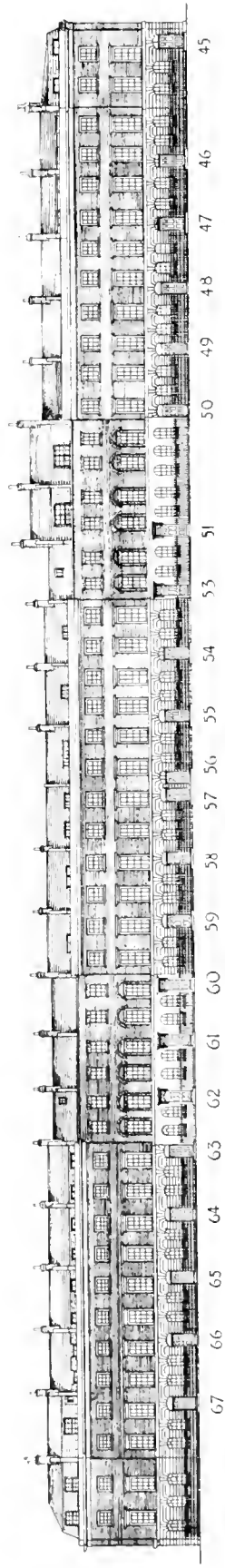
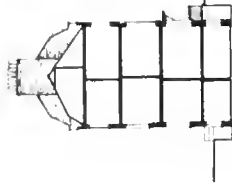
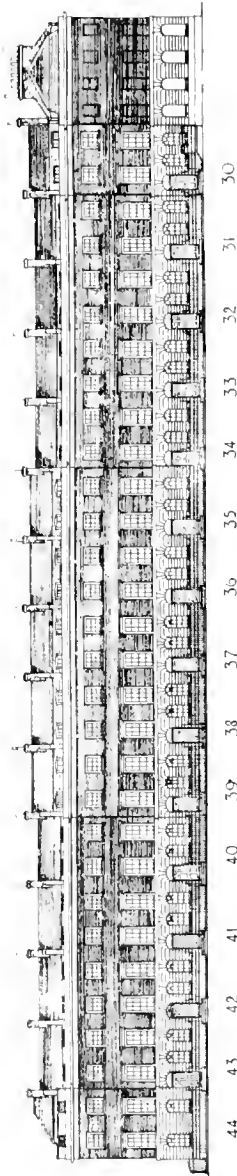
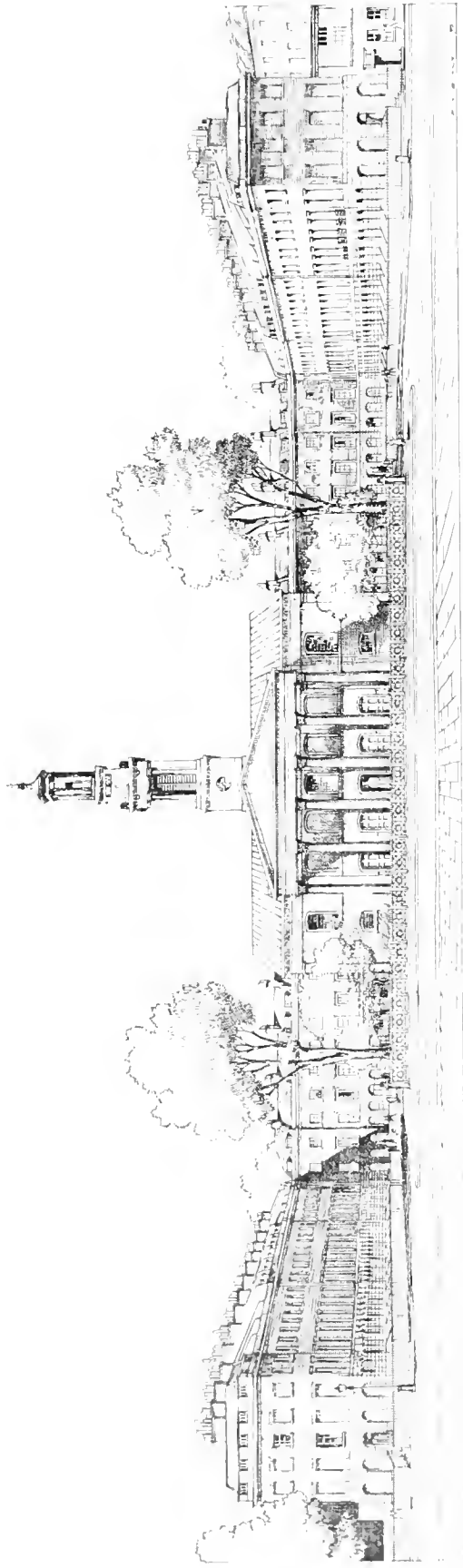


(a) GREAT DOVER STREET TURNPIKE, 1825 (p.107)

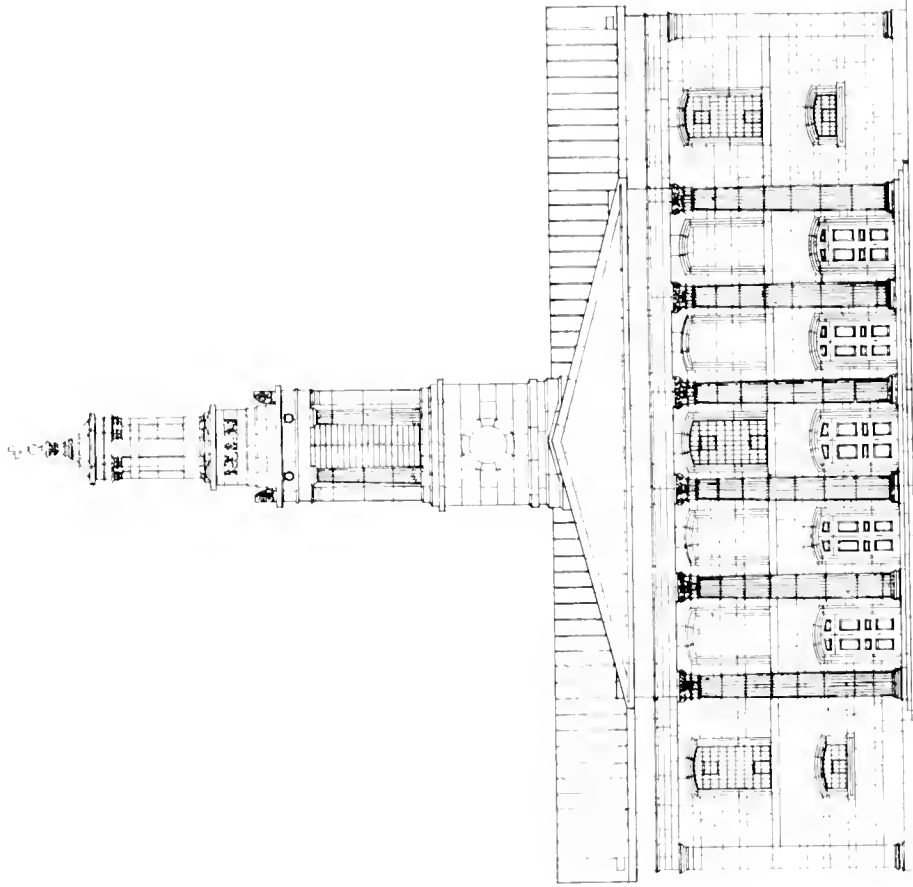
(b) COURT OF REQUESTS, SWAN STREET, 1826 (p. 107)



PLAN OF PART OF THE TRINITY HOUSE ESTATE,
1778 (p. 107)

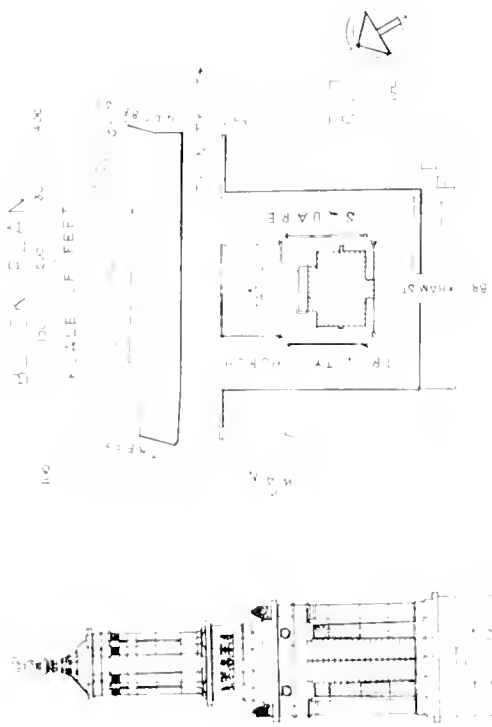


TRINITY CHURCH SQUARE (pp. 112-114)



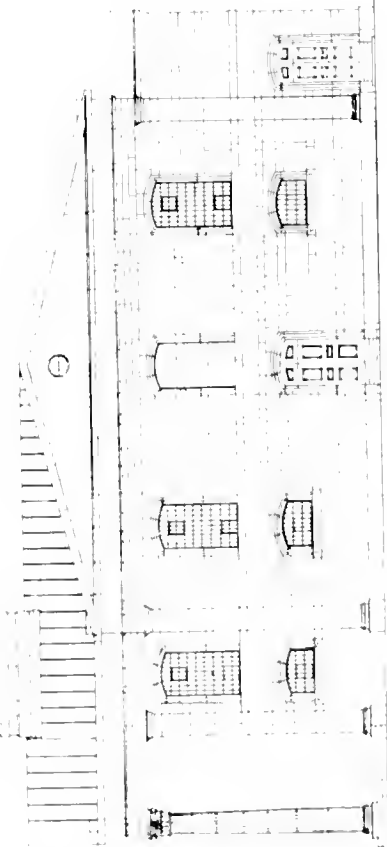
SCALE OF FEET.

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SCALE OF FEET.

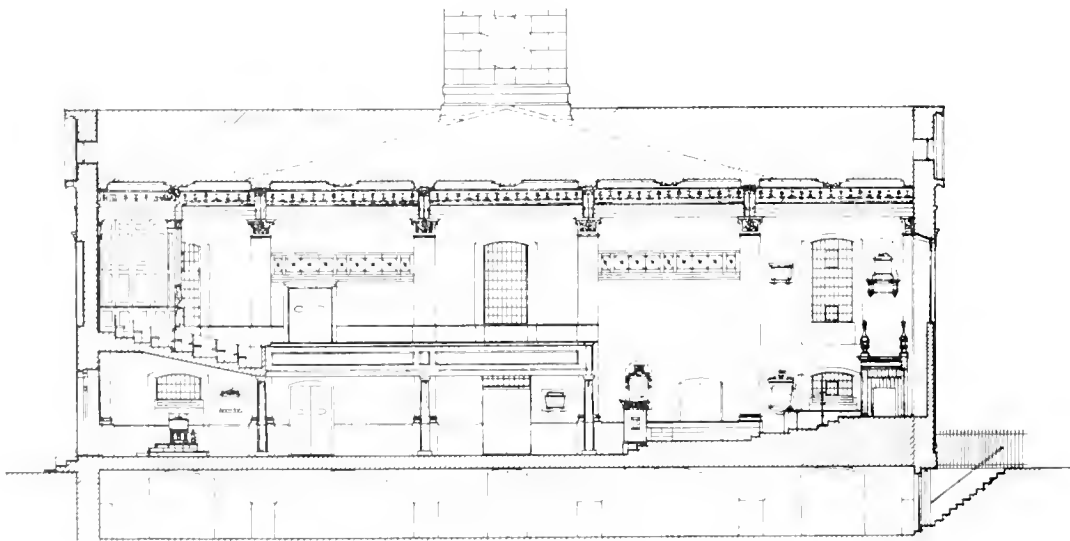
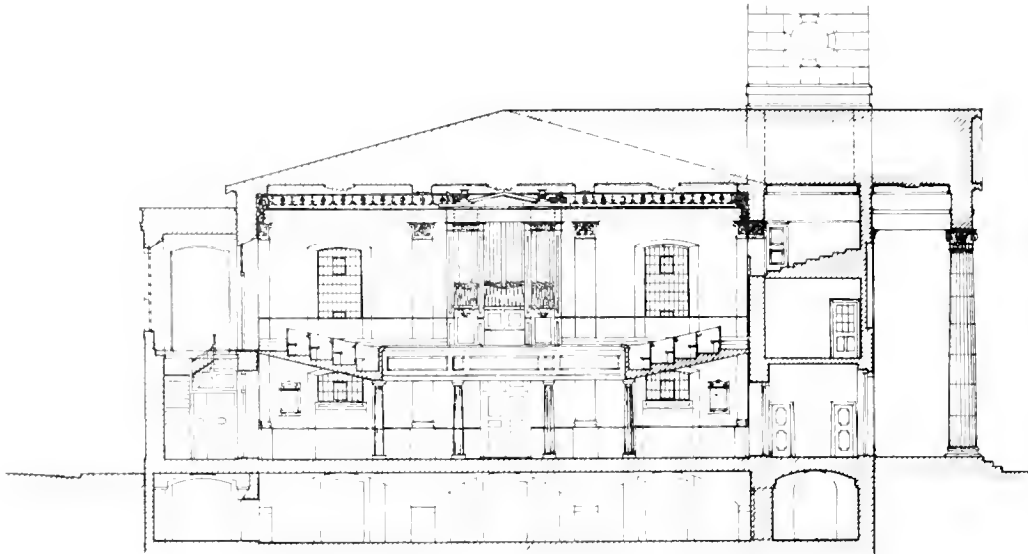
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SCALE OF FEET.

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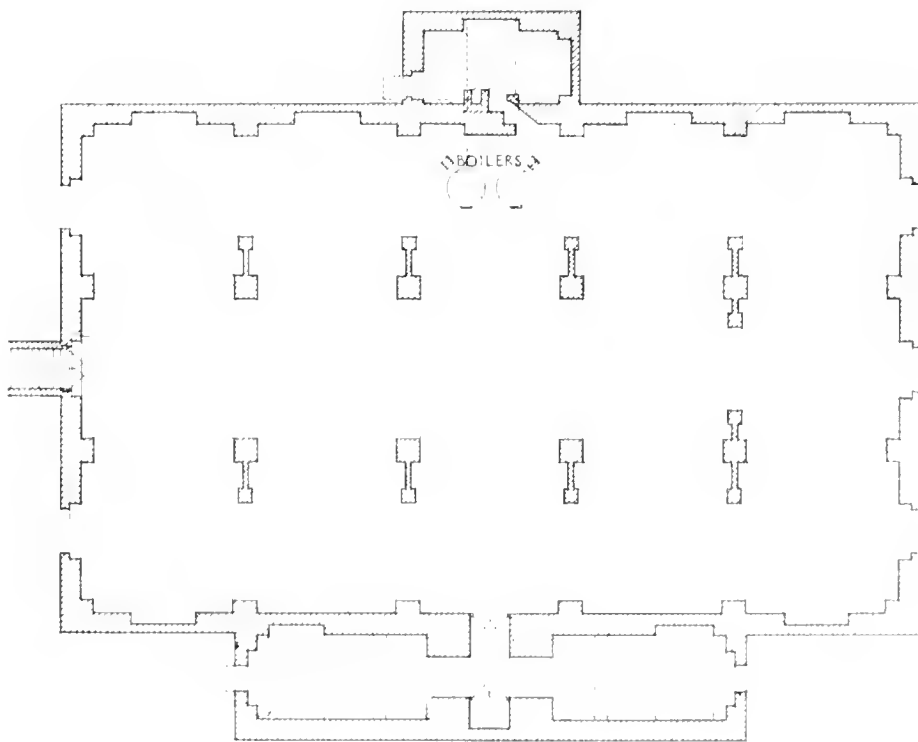
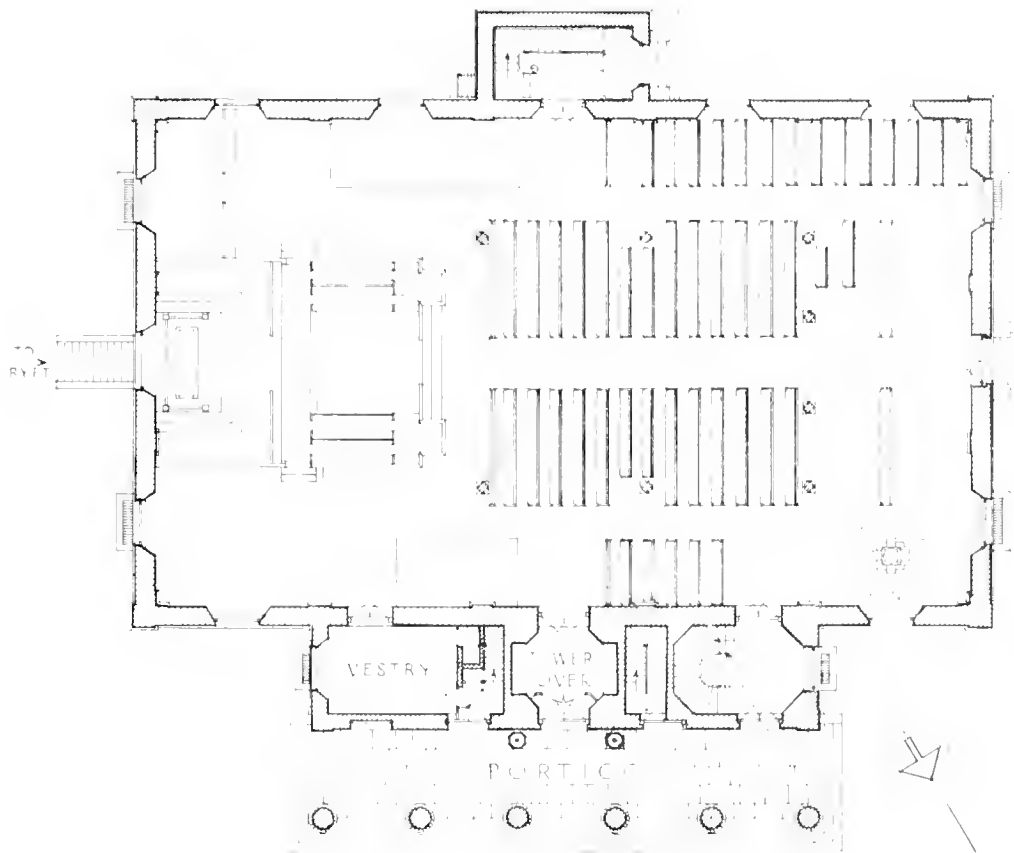
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH (pp. 110-112)



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SCALE OF FEET

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH



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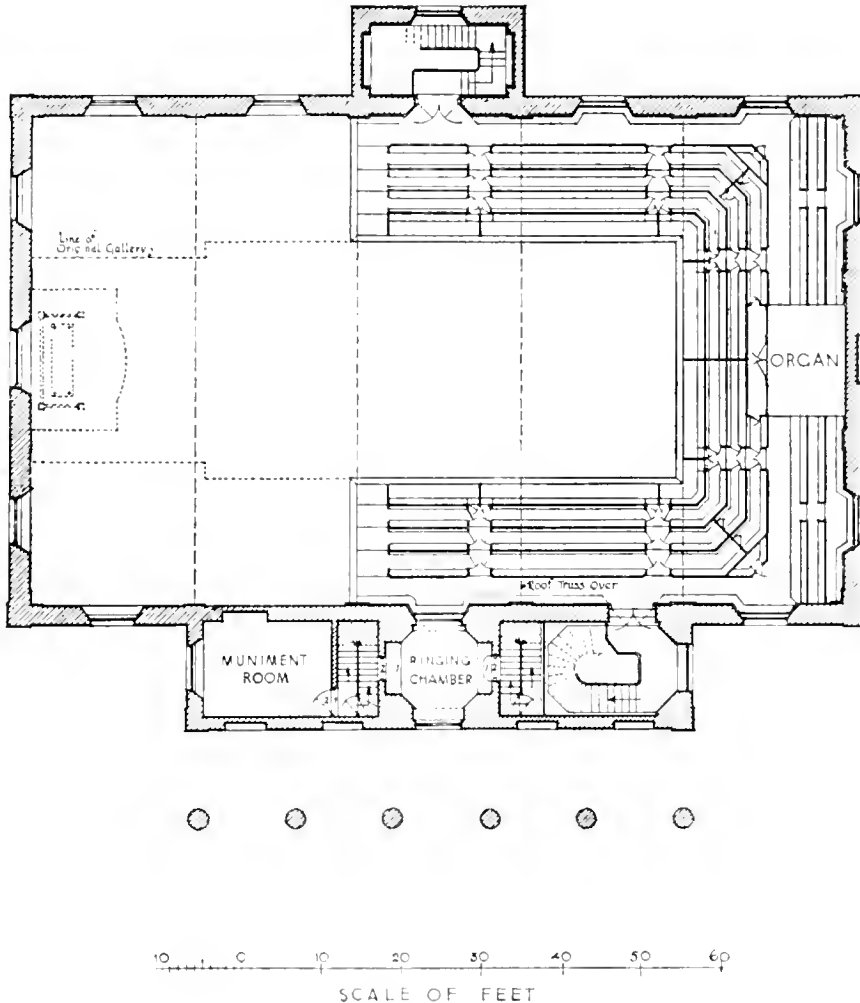
HOLY TRINITY CHURCH



- (a) TRINITY CHURCH SQUARE, NORTH-WEST SIDE, 1951
(p. 112)
- (b) MERRICK SQUARE, NORTH-WEST SIDE, 1947
(pp. 115, 116)

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

The garden, which extends across the whole north-east front of the church, was laid out by William Chadwick, who held it on a yearly tenancy. The original stone gate piers, with voluted fret ornament and acroteria finials,



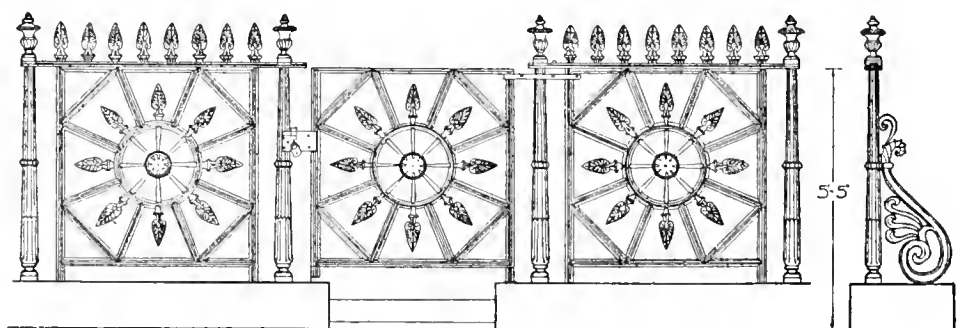
Plan of gallery of Holy Trinity Church

and the old stone kerbs still remain but most of the railings were removed during the 1939-45 war. No certain information has been found as to the provenance of the statue which stands on a short pedestal in the centre of the enclosure. It is shown on an engraving of the church by Whittock published in Allen's *Complete History of the County of Surrey* in 1830 and is referred to in that work as a statue of King Alfred. The back of the statue is quite plain as though it were made for erection in a niche. The lower part is of natural stone but all the upper part and most of the sides and back are a restoration in

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

artificial (probably Coade) stone.^a It is just possible that it is one of a pair of statues representing Alfred the Great and Edward the Black Prince made for the garden of Carlton House by Rysbrack in 1735, the fate of which is unknown. Carlton House was demolished and its grounds were cleared in 1827–29 and Chadwick may have bought the statue, had it repaired at Coade's Artificial Manufactory at Lambeth, and placed it in Trinity Church Square.

An alternative theory is that the figure is one of the eight mediaeval statues from the towers at the north end of Westminster Hall, five of which are said to have disappeared without trace while Sir John Soane was clearing the north front of the hall in 1820–25. Chadwick may possibly have got hold of one of these statues through his connection with Soane at St. Peter's, Walworth.



Holy Trinity Church, railing to garden

TRINITY CHURCH SQUARE (FORMERLY TRINITY SQUARE)

Plans for laying out Trinity Square were discussed in 1822, but it was not until 1824 that William Chadwick made a definite application for a building lease of the plot of ground "intended to form the Square round the new Church, . . . together with the Ground to the Street or Opening East and West of the said intended Square and thro' to Horsemonger Lane."³¹³

Three houses, now numbered 60–62 in the square, had already been built on the north side of Great Suffolk Street East, as they are shown in occupation in the poor rate book for 1823. Chadwick proposed to start work on the north-west side of the square in the spring of 1825 and to complete the remaining sides in subsequent years, if necessary sub-contracting part of the work to other builders. He was granted building leases of the square and of the triangle of ground between Cole Street, Swan Street, and Great Suffolk Street East,^b at ground rents of £440 and £160 respectively,

^a In 1901 Messrs. Bradford of Borough Road, Southwark, made some small repairs to the crown, robe and one of the hands, but the main restoration appears to have been carried out at about the date when the figure was placed in Trinity Church Square.

^b Silas Galsworthy, a speculative builder and great uncle of John Galsworthy the novelist, applied for permission to develop this triangle of land but was refused.

TRINITY CHURCH SQUARE

and in January, 1826, was able to report that the whole of the brickwork to the houses on the north-west side of the square was complete. Those on the south-east side were begun in May and most of those on the north-west side were roofed in by the end of the year. The last part of the square to be built was the south-west side; this was not finished until about 1832.

All the houses in the square are of three storeys with basements and attics and are built of yellow stock brick with stuccoed rusticated ground storeys. The parapets have cornices and blocking courses, and a continuous wide band links the houses at first-floor level. There are horizontal hoods over the first-floor windows which, like the windows above, have stuccoed moulded architraves. The monotony of the elevation is relieved by a slight setting forward of the end and corner houses of the terraces and of the central group of houses on the north-west, south-east, and north-east sides (Plates 76 and 80*a*) and by a variation of detail in the three houses on either side of the central group in the long terrace facing Trinity Street. These have bracketed door hoods reminiscent of the early 18th century and round instead of segmental arched ground-storey windows (Plate 76). The doorway of No. 51 has been replaced by a window and recently the cornices of Nos. 54-59, which had been stripped back flush, have been restored.

Nos. 2, 3, and 4 are the only houses with first-floor window guards; those to Nos. 2 and 3 are of light lattice design and to No. 4 of honeysuckle pattern. Nos. 42, 47, 51, 60, 61, and 62 retain their original fanlights. Nos. 48-50 were destroyed by enemy action on 10th May, 1941 but have been rebuilt to their original design (1954).

INHABITANTS

No. 1. 1831-53, Thomas Fleming, son-in-law of Thomas Brandon and one of the Brandon Trustees.

No. 2. First occupied in 1828 by C. P. Crisp; 1836-41, Rev. Gilbert Chesnutt, incumbent of Holy Trinity, 1835-48. (See also No. 37.) 1844-47, David Henry Stone. A tablet in Holy Trinity Church records the death of his wife and her burial in the vault beneath the church in 1845. A David Henry Stone was elected treasurer of St. Thomas' Hospital in 1877 and died in 1890.³²¹

No. 5. 1845, Rev. Thomas Binney, D.D., LL.D. (1798-1874), nonconformist divine. He was trained as a congregational minister at Wymondley and in 1829 became minister to the Weigh House congregation in London. He retired in 1869. He was a popular preacher and an energetic polemical writer.²⁵ (See also No. 40.)

No. 11. 1848-52, William Tegg, publisher and bookseller (1816-95), son of Thomas Tegg, also a bookseller. He succeeded to his father's business in 1845, and specialised in school books and reprints. Under the name of Peter Parley he published much popular juvenile literature. Among his friends were George Cruikshank, Charles Dickens, and the actors Kean and Kemble. He was, like his father who founded a scholarship at the City of London School, a member of the Common Council of the City of London.²⁵

No. 24. 1839-46, Richard Moser, iron merchant (1845, Richard Moser, junior). Richard Moser, senior, was one of the founders of the firm of Mosers, Ltd., in the Borough High Street. His son, Richard Moser, junior, was given a share in the business in 1840, and undertook the management in 1845. The father retired in 1852.³²²

No. 27. 1847-49, Richard Moser.

No. 29. The first occupant of this house (1833-41) was William Chadwick, mason, who was responsible for the development of part of the Trinity House Estate. His death and that of his

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

wife are recorded on a brass tablet in Holy Trinity Church (see p. 111); 1852-1909, Henry Jarvis & Son, architects and surveyors. The alterations made to the chancel of Holy Trinity in 1898 were the work of this firm. They also designed the churches of St. Paul, Lorrimore Square, 1856, St. John, Larcum Street, 1860, St. Matthew, New Kent Road, 1867, All Souls, Grosvenor Park, 1871, St. Stephen, Villa Street, 1871, and St. Mark, East Street, 1874, all of which are in the area covered by this volume. (See also No. 32.)

No. 32. 1842-51, Henry Jarvis, architect and surveyor.

No. 37. 1842-47, Rev. Gilbert Chesnutt. (See No. 2.)

No. 40. 1831-32, Rev. Thomas Binney. (See No. 5.)

No. 44. 1833-49, Rev. William Curling, chaplain to St. Saviour's Church; 1852-64, James Newton, fire brick manufacturer. The firm of Newton has occupied Falcon Dock, Bankside, since the beginning of the 19th century; 1868-72, Rev. D. A. Moullin, incumbent of Holy Trinity. (See Nos. 53 and 57.)

No. 52. 1828-56, Francis Pouget, surveyor.

No. 53. 1850, Rev. D. A. Moullin. (See Nos. 44 and 57.)

No. 56. 1844-52, Rev. Benjamin Lewis, minister of Trinity (Baptist) Chapel, Trinity Street. (See p. 108.)

No. 57. 1851-67, Rev. D. A. Moullin. (See Nos. 44 and 53.)

No. 60. 1837-45, William F. Meakin, architect; 1849-52, John Belcher, architect, and his son, John Belcher, R.A., architect of the offices of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, Moorgate, Whiteley's premises, Bayswater, and other public and domestic buildings. John Belcher, senior, had a good city practice in which his son became a partner in 1865. The son was President of the Royal Institute of British Architects in 1904-06. The family previously lived at No. 3 Montague Terrace (now No. 8 Brockham Street), where John Belcher, junior, was born in 1841. The Belchers belonged to the Catholic Apostolic Church and probably worshipped at the church in Trinity Street just east of Merrick Square. (See p. 109.)

SWAN STREET AND COLE STREET

Swan Street and Cole Street were laid out and developed between 1820 and 1830 by William Chadwick and other builders.^a The houses were smaller than those in the square, and in 1825 Chadwick thought it desirable to put "a Range of Buildings" between those in Cole Street and the "superior houses on the Ground opposite Trinity Church."³¹³ Nos. 18-24 on the south side of Cole Street are the original three-storey houses and there are two mid-nineteenth century warehouses, but the rest of the street has been rebuilt.

Nos. 68-52 and 50-38 on the west side of Swan Street, and Nos. 65-33 and 25-27 and the Trinity Arms on the east side remain substantially as they were built. Nos. 33-39 retain their original shop fronts with canted bays and pilasters at each side of the entrances. The fascias, which set forward at the bays, have swept ends, and there are open grilles in the stall-boards. No. 41 has a fascia and pilasters but there is no bay projection.

BROCKHAM STREET, FORMERLY CHURCH STREET

Chadwick was responsible for most of the houses in Brockham Street as well as for those in the square. Nos. 1-7 on the west side and 4-24

^a There is an entry in the Trinity House Wardens' Minute Book for 15th October, 1829, concerning a complaint of the smoke nuisance caused by an engine set up by Mr. William Houlder, who in 1821 had been granted a licence "to erect and set up a Steam Engine and Machinery for consuming its own Smoke, on his Premises in Swan Street".³¹³

HARPER ROAD

on the east side still remain. They are simple in character with a skyline broken by a row of shallow gable ends. Nos. 14 and 16 retain their original fanlights.

HARPER ROAD (FORMERLY HORSEMONGER LANE)

For the first quarter of the 19th century most of the ground on the north side of Horsemonger Lane opposite the gaol was open ground with



Corner of Circular Road and Ralph Street

orchards and growing crops. The terrace of houses, Nos. 33-67 and No. 67 Swan Street, which with their long front gardens still present a countrified appearance, was built by Chadwick in 1827-29.

MERRICK SQUARE

The ground on the south side of Trinity Street between Trinity Church Square and Brunswick Terrace remained vacant until 1853, when the Corporation's surveyor, Richard Suter, prepared plans and elevations for Merrick Square, named in the following year in honour of the original donor of the land. The 32 houses in the square, which were "of a less class than (had) heretofore" been required, were built by Messrs. Cooper and Bottomley of the Old Kent Road and were completed by 1856.³¹³ The houses are of

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

uniform design and are similar in character to those in Trinity Church Square, though a storey less in height. The entrances have pedimented heads and panelled surrounds (Plate 80*b*). When the houses were repaired and redecorated in 1947 the original bracketed cornices, which were much decayed, were removed, and the parapets now have plain copings.

Nos. 1-3 and 30-32, nearest Trinity Street, are three windows in width instead of the usual two, but are of less depth than the other houses in the square. Holy Trinity rectory, four storeys of red brick Victorian Gothic between Nos. 16 and 17 on the south-west side, built in 1872 from the designs of Henry Jarvis & Son, contrasts strongly with its neighbours.^a

The garden in the centre of the square is enclosed by its original simple iron railings.



Nos. 45-57 Falmouth Road

FALMOUTH ROAD

The lower half of Falmouth Road, known at first as St. George's Road, was laid out just before 1830 across land on lease to the Brandon Trustees (see p. 83). The road was continued through to Trinity Street in 1837, this part being called Brunswick Street from 1839 until 1868, when both sections were renamed Falmouth Road. The ground on either side of the northern half of the road, which belonged to Trinity House was let, in plots sufficient for one or more houses, to local builders or speculators. The houses are similar to those in Trinity Street.

Nos. 45-57 were built by Henry Ashley Keeble, surveyor, under a building lease³²³ dated 9th December, 1830, from the Dean and Chapter of Canterbury and the Brandon Trustees. They are faced with stucco. Nos. 45-55 with their pointed gables, castellations and Gothic label mouldings over the windows bear more resemblance to the *cottages ornés* of the Regency style than to the uniform terraces of the Trinity Estate.

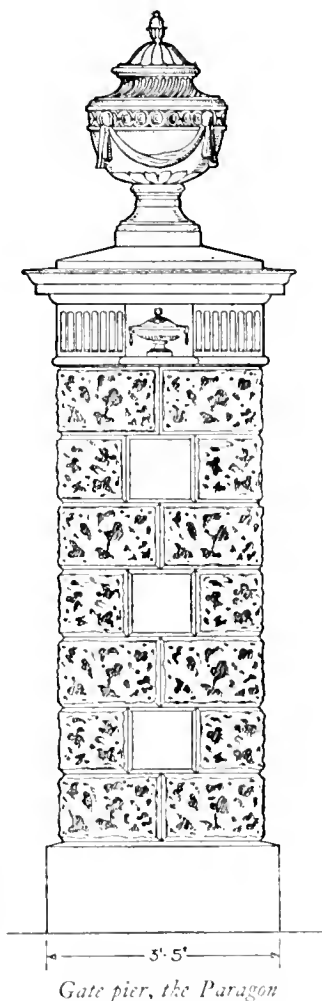
^a The ground between Nos. 16 and 17 had not previously been built on and it may originally have been intended as a thoroughfare. Negotiations for a site for a rectory began in 1844, and it was proposed at first to have it on the south side of Trinity Street.

CHAPTER 16
NEW KENT ROAD

It being an inherent tendency in human nature, clerical or otherwise, to take short cuts where possible, there is little doubt that soon after the monks of Christ Church obtained possession of Walworth in the 11th century they began, when the state of the ground permitted, to find a way across the fields from the Canterbury road (Old Kent Road) to Walworth Manor to avoid making the detour up to St. George's Church and down Borough High Street (or Blackman Street) to Newington Causeway.

The path probably became a well-defined green road after the Archbishop made his London residence at Lambeth and the ferry at Lambeth came into general use. On the 1681 plan of Walworth Manor (Plate 49) the field north of Walworth Common Field has the legend "King's high Way" written across it, and by a series of gates, the path can be traced across the neighbouring fields to Newington Butts. Rocque's map of 1761 shows the old path and a new straight road cutting right across it. This was the New Kent Road built under the Act of 1751³²⁵ by Turnpike Trustees appointed under an earlier Act. Towards the end of the century terraces of two- and three-storey houses, Rockingham Row, Rodney Buildings, Dover Place, etc., began to appear on either side. Many of them still survive, and their plain brick façades and the simple decorative treatment of the fanlights, door surrounds and ironwork, though frequently repeated, give them a certain dignity even in decay. The road also has a spaciousness lacking in many of its 19th century counterparts, for the 1751 Act stipulated that the road should be not less than 42 feet wide and many of the older houses still retain their front gardens.

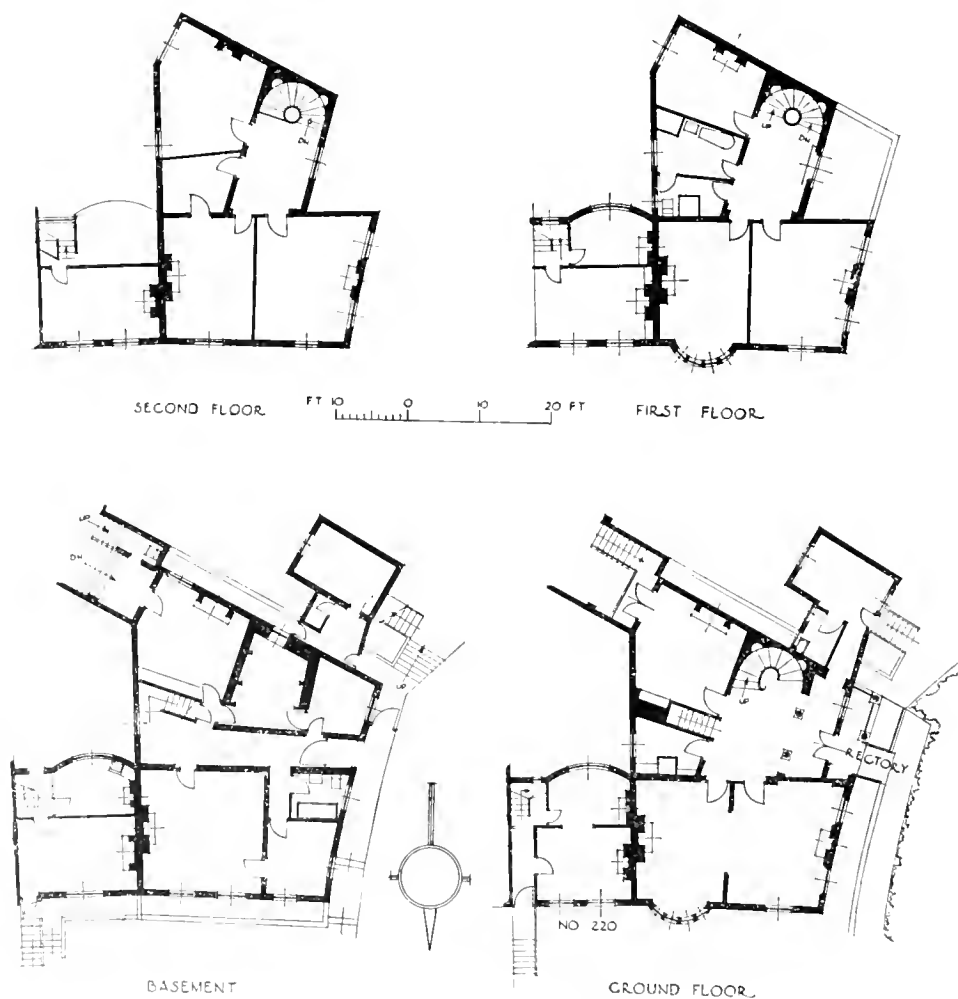
A pleasing variety was given to the original street frontage by the setting back of County Terrace half-way along the north side and by the formation of Union Crescent and the Paragon on opposite sides of the way at the eastern end. On a pedestal in the garden, which has replaced the stretch of water in front of County Terrace, the Dickens Fellowship have recorded that it was there that David Copperfield paused to rest on his flight to his aunt at Dover. Union Crescent (Plate 88*a*) was pulled down



ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

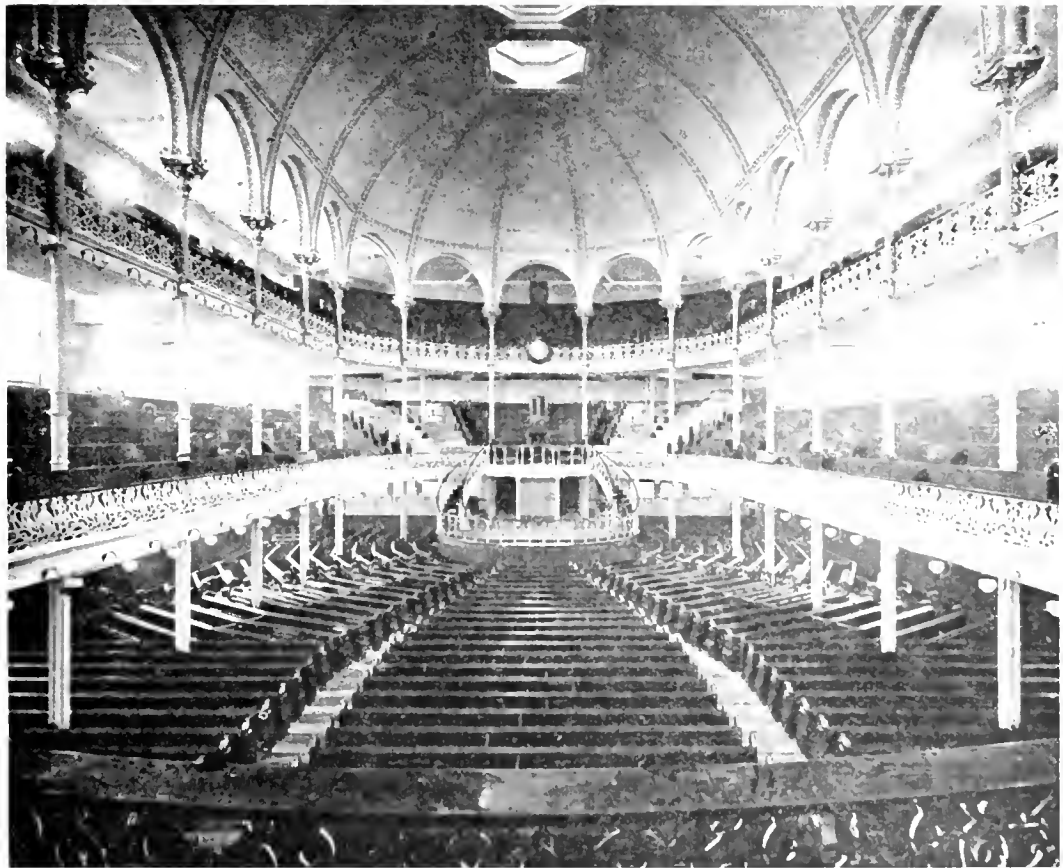
to make room for the St. Saviour's and St. Olave's Grammar School for Girls in 1903.

The Paragon (Plate 86), of which a plan is given on p. 123, was designed by Michael Searles and built in 1789-90 for the Rolls family.

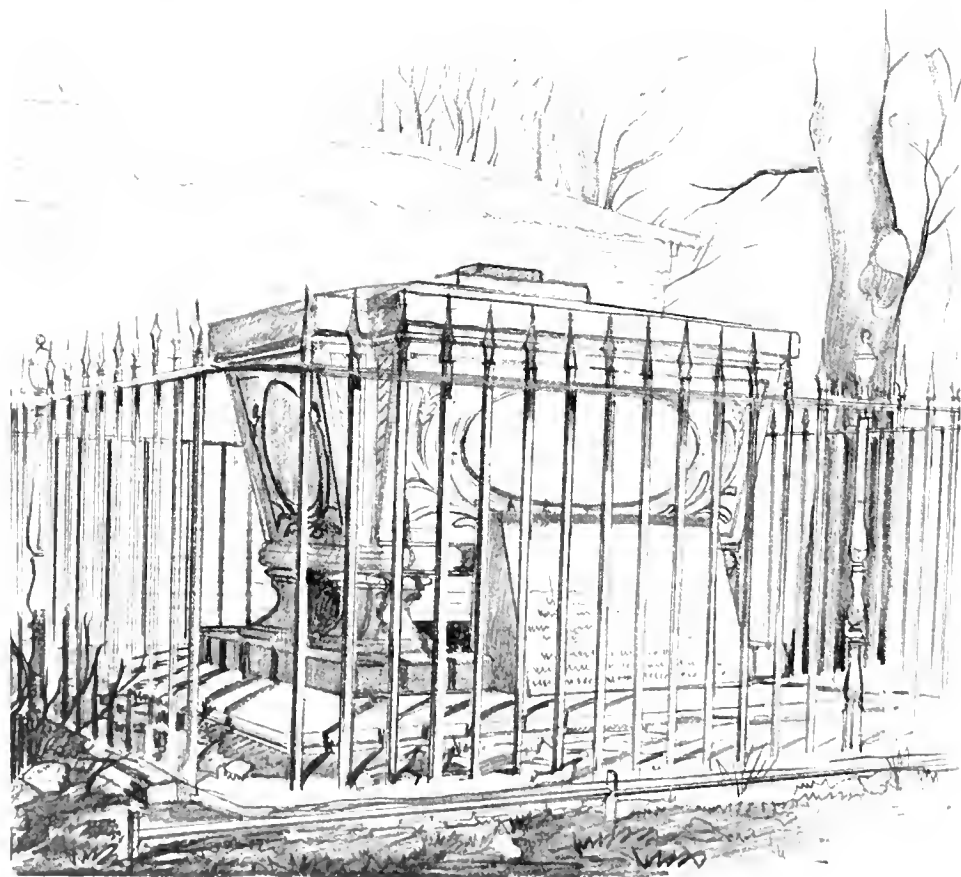
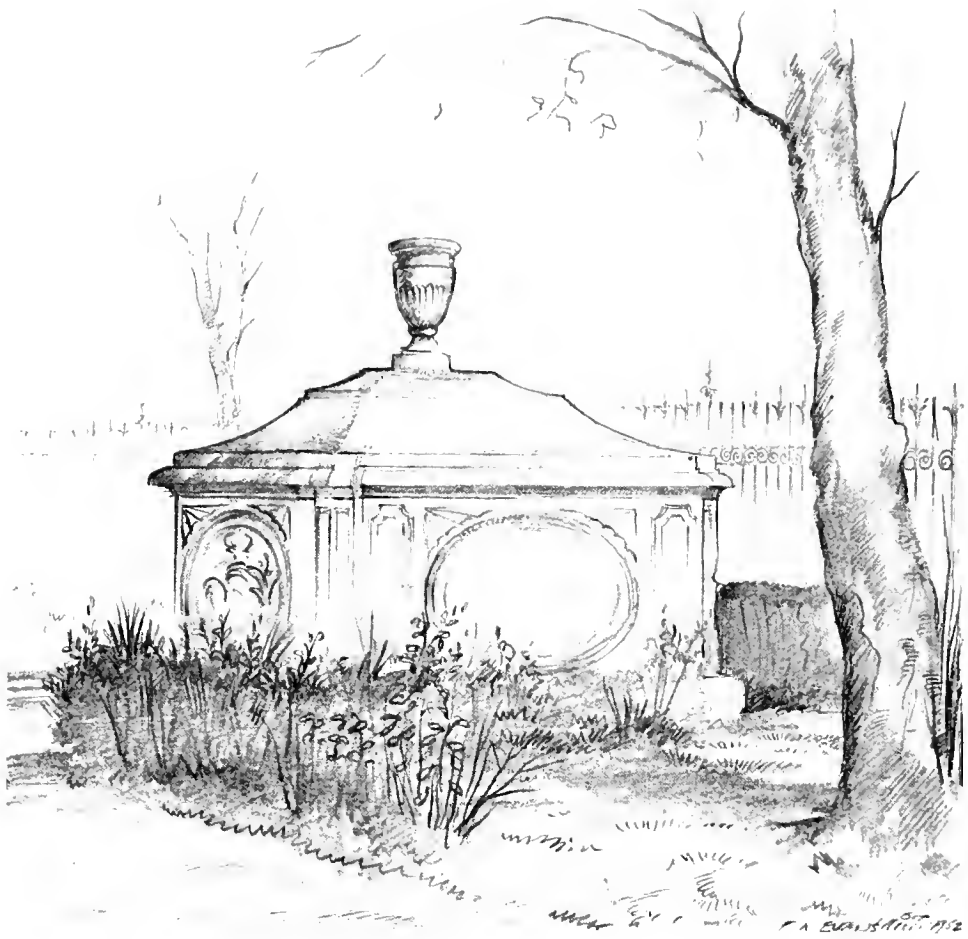


St. George's Rectory and No. 220 New Kent Road

Searles also designed the Paragon at Blackheath, and John Summerson comments that in both cases the name was given point by "strict architectural regularity on a rather unusual and decorative plan."¹⁹⁷ Nos. 1-12 were built under Searles' direction, Nos. 13-15 being added by William Chadwick in 1825 after Searles' death. It is unfortunate that the only house to survive is one of these later ones, No. 15 (Plate 87), which since 1902 has been the rectory of St. George the Martyr, Southwark. The rest of the Paragon was demolished in 1898 for the erection of a school. The rusticated gate piers



METROPOLITAN (SPURGEON'S) TABERNACLE p. 14
 (a) EXTERIOR, circa 1890
 (b) INTERIOR, 1941

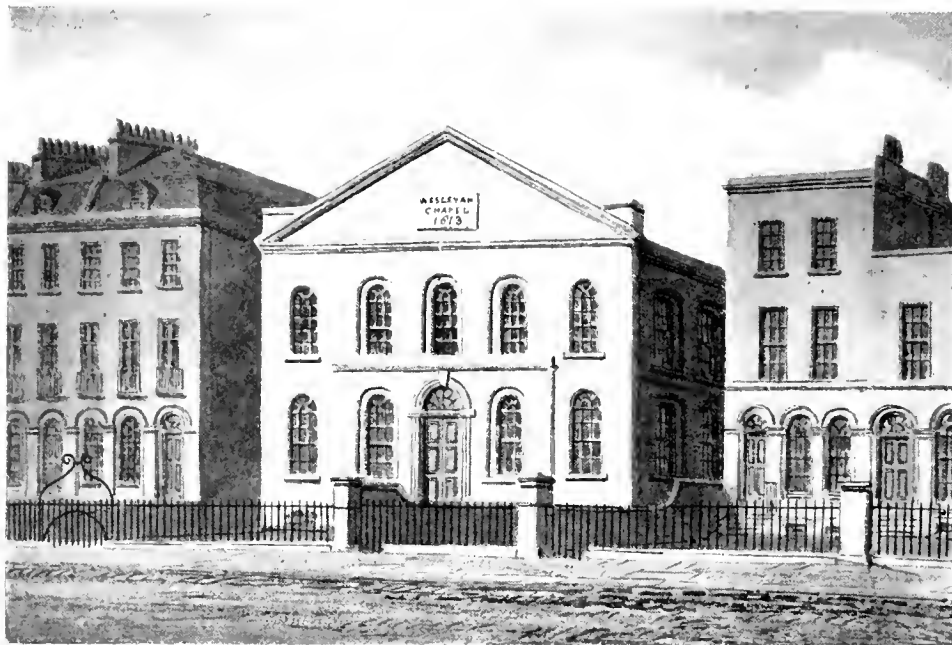


(a) ST. MARY NEWINGTON CHURCHYARD, BANNISTERS' TOMB, 1952 (p. 93)

(b) YORK STREET CHAPEL, TOMB OF CAPTAIN WILSON,



(a) ST. AGNES, KENNINGTON PARK, 1951 (p. 99)
(b) DRAPERS' ALMSHOUSES, 1951 (pp. 65-67)



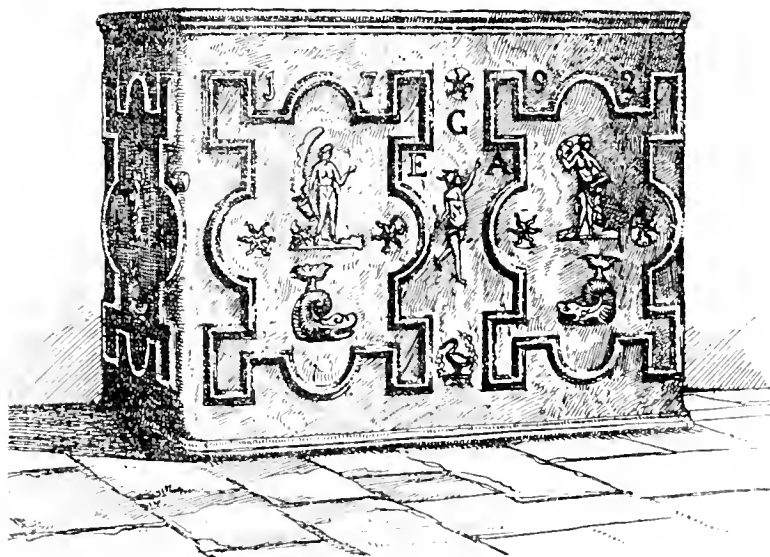
(a) WALWORTH CHAPEL, CAMBERWELL ROAD, 1826
(p. 103)

(b) ST. PAUL'S CHURCH, LORRIMORE SQUARE, *circa* 1860
(p. 88)

NEW KENT ROAD

in artificial stone at the entrance to each side of the Paragon still remain, the gardens having been formed into a small public open space.

Residents in the Paragon include:—At No. 3, in 1840–50, William Oke Manning, a legal writer and, in 1855–63, George R. Corner, who published a number of papers on the history of Southwark; at No. 4, in 1789–91, Michael Searles; at No. 6, in 1829–55, Bryan Donkin, civil engineer and the inventor, among other things, of a method of packing meat and vegetables in air-tight containers; at No. 8, in 1802–04, John Rolls, the lessee of the ground and owner of the Rolls Estate (see p. 122), in 1805–09, George Gwilt the elder, architect, surveyor to the County of Surrey and district surveyor of St. George's, Southwark. William Chadwick, who built many of the houses in Trinity Street and Square, lived at No. 15 between 1826 and 1832.³²⁶



Lead cistern from the Paragon

Nos. 214–218 next to the Paragon were built by Samuel Harrison on ground leased to John Rolls by St. Bartholomew's Hospital and formerly part of the Lock Hospital property³²⁷ (see the footnote on p. 122). Nos. 154–170, 182–204 and 220–232 on the south side of the road all date from about the same period. Several of the houses have good fanlights. Nos. 279–283 and 289–295 at the east end of the north side are slightly smaller. They are set back from the road.

At the end of the street nearer the Elephant and Castle most of the original houses have been replaced by modern buildings; while shops have been built over the front gardens of those which remain.^a Adjacent to Gurney

^a In 1882 parliamentary sanction was given for the establishment of a market for the sale of fish and other provisions³²⁴ on a site on the north side of New Kent Road, east of the railway. The project was promoted by Samuel Plimsoll, and the company, of which he was chairman, adopted the same name, the South London Market Company, as its ill-fated predecessors in St. George's Fields (see p. 55). The market was opened in the summer of 1883 but survived for only three years. On the south side of the street at Nos. 16–18 is the auction yard for horses, ponies and vehicles known as the London (Elephant and Castle) Repository.

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

Street are two six-storey blocks called The Palatinate, erected in 1875, and designed "to provide convenient and healthy dwellings at moderate rents" to enable those "of a grade higher in the social scale" than the working class to live near their work.³²⁸ They were built by Messrs. Sutton and Dudley, who were also responsible for most of the houses on the site of the Surrey Gardens off the Walworth Road. At the time they were put up they were a progressive experiment in housing, and the shops on the ground floor facing New Kent Road were an unusual feature. They form a solid contrast to the lighter and more open blocks of three- and four-storey flats now being erected by the London County Council to replace terraces in the street destroyed by enemy action.

Except in the Paragon there have been few notable residents in the road. The Rev. Charles Haddon Spurgeon lived at No. 217 in 1856-57, a fact recorded on a tablet on the house.

CHAPTER 17

TABARD STREET AND THE OLD KENT ROAD, FORMERLY KENT STREET

The evidence suggests that Kent Street, the old road to Greenwich, Canterbury and Dover, was, like Borough High Street which it joined near St. George's Church, roughly on the alignment of a Roman road. The mediaeval road ran through open country, with no buildings except for an inn or two, and the Lock or Leper Hospital (see p. 124), which stood on the west side near the first milestone from London Bridge, at the point where the Lock stream, which formed part of Duffield's Sluice, crossed Kent Street. Only a small plot of ground was annexed to the hospital, but although leprosy was practically extinct in England by the beginning of the 17th century the memory of the lepers who used to wander in the neighbouring fields was preserved in their name of Lock (Locks) Fields until they were built over in the 19th century.

St. Thomas à Waterings, where a second stream, Earl's Sluice, crossed the road and where Chaucer's pilgrims halted to decide who should tell the first of the Canterbury Tales, was near the boundary between Southwark and Camberwell, approximately on the site of Shorncliffe Road. It was for several centuries a place of public execution.^a

In 1565 an Act of Parliament³²⁹ directed that Kent Street should be paved with hard stone as far as the Lock Hospital, and during the following century this part of the street was built up on both sides. In 1720 John Strype²⁰ described Kent Street as "ill Built, chiefly Inhabited by *Broom Men*, and *Mumpers* . . . here are divers large *Yards* wherein are vast Stocks of Birch, Heath and some only of Broom Staves which the Master *Broom Men* dispose of to those that make the *Brooms*." It is interesting to note that William Brandon, a trustee of the Brandon Estate in Walworth, was one of these small-scale 18th century capitalists (see p. 83).

As the 18th century wore on, the narrow courts and "old sorry Timber Houses" described by Strype degenerated into squalid rookeries and thieves' kitchens. After 1814 through traffic was diverted down Great Dover Street, and it was not until the middle of the century that any attempt was made to improve this part of Kent Street. It was re-named Tabard Street in 1877.^b Most of the east side of the street was cleared in 1910 under a London County Council housing scheme; large blocks of dwellings were built and a small open space, Tabard Garden, was formed to give them breathing space.

^a The last execution there was in 1834. The stream received the surface drainage from Walworth Common and Lock Fields. The main part of it was enclosed as the Earl Main Sewer in 1820-23, but the section near the Old Kent Road remained open until 1831.

^b Only three or four years after Great Dover Street was built, a letter was sent to the City Corporation complaining that doors had been made in the walls of the houses between Great Dover Street and Kent Street, so that the pickpockets, thugs and prostitutes, who inhabited them, could enter by one door and make their escape by the other.⁹ No actual clearance of the old tenements was made until 1887, when four courts on the west side of Tabard Street were swept away by the Metropolitan Board of Works.³³⁰

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

Early in the 19th century the part of Kent Street south of the Lock Hospital, or Stone's End as it was sometimes called, became known as the Old Kent Road to differentiate it from the New Kent Road. Terraces of three-storey brick houses were built along the Southwark section of it between 1785 and 1820, but these were gradually converted to commercial use. Most of them have been pulled down, but Nos. 106–112 on the west side, formerly Nos. 1–4 Orford Row, built between 1787 and 1791 on land belonging to the Driver family (see p. 89), are still in good condition, though much altered. They are now in the occupation of Messrs. John Edgington, a firm of tent, flag and tarpaulin manufacturers (Plate 90). A Thomas Edgington moved to No. 108 in 1838 after a fire at his premises in another part of the Old Kent Road.³³¹

No. 155, on the east side, is the Rolls Estate office,^a designed by Michael Searles³³² and built in 1795 for his own occupation. It is a plain two-storeyed building with a steeply-pitched slate roof. The house retains its original railings with a lampholder at the centre of its frontage, and is known from its stucco facing as the White House. The decorative treatment of two of the mantelpieces and an internal door surround is shown on Plate 92. Michael Searles was surveyor to the Rolls Estate, as were his son and grandson after him. He lived in the house until his death in 1813,³³³ and it continued in the occupation of his family until the death of his grandson, Robert Thomas Searles, in 1863.

The London County Council School for the Deaf, on the west side of the road between Mason Street and Townsend Street, stands on the site of the Asylum for the Deaf and Dumb, founded in 1792 by the Rev. J. Townsend of Jamaica Road, Bermondsey, Henry Thornton, M.P. for Southwark and the Rev. H. Cox Mason, Rector of Bermondsey. It was one of the earliest institutions in this country for the education of deaf children. The foundation stone of the building shown on Plate 91*b* was laid in 1807 by H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester. The school was enlarged in 1819 and re-built in 1886–87.^b The original boundary railings still remain with honeysuckle ornament to the gate standards.

THE LOCK BURIAL GROUND, THE PILGRIM CHURCH AND BUCKENHAM SQUARE

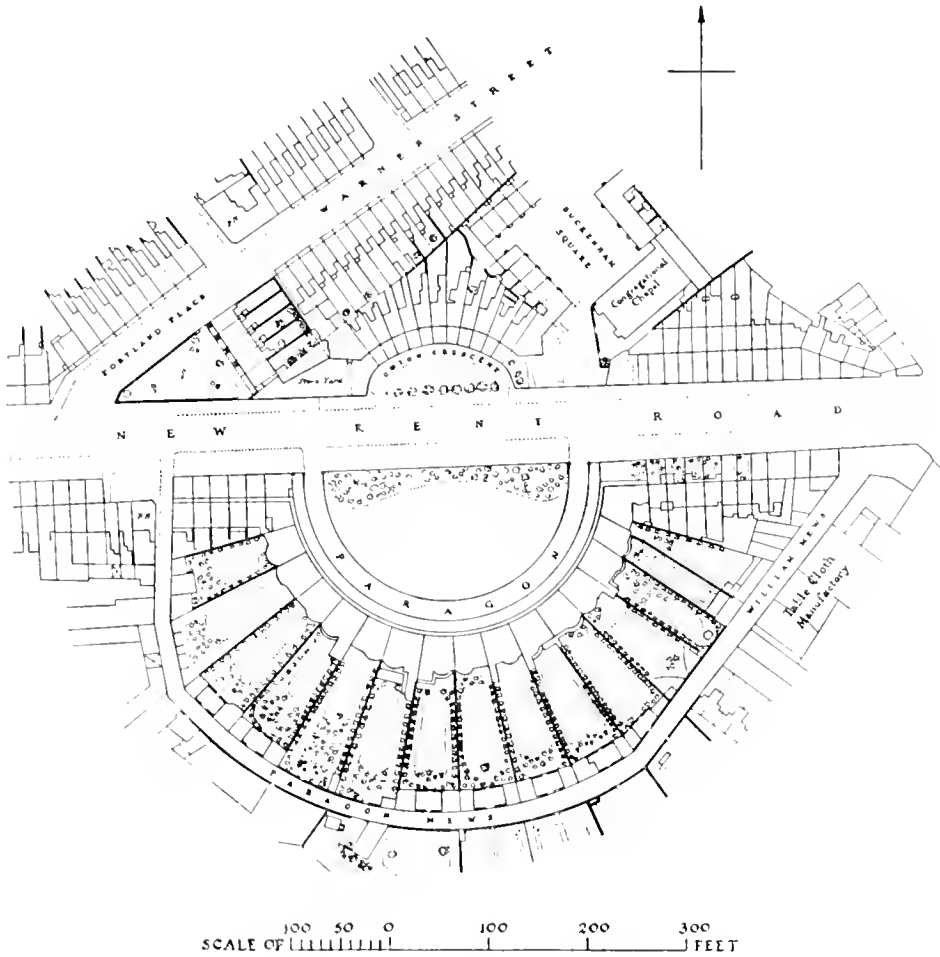
In 1659 Robert Shawe gave to the parish of St. George the Martyr a piece of pasture land in Lock Field just south of the Lock Hospital, in trust for the parish poor. Part of the ground was enclosed in 1711–12 and consecrated as a burial ground. In 1886 the Lock Burial Ground, having been

^a During the 18th century the Rolls family acquired a considerable amount of freehold land in St. George's Fields and Walworth, and leases from the City, from St. Bartholomew's Hospital and from the Bowyer family of land near St. Thomas à Waterings and the Lock Hospital. The estate was therefore widely scattered about the area covered by this volume. Unfortunately it has not been possible to have access to the estate records and information about it has had to be gathered from extraneous sources.

^b The asylum was at first housed in Grange Road, Bermondsey. The building in the Old Kent Road was sold to the L.C.C. for £16,750 in 1902.³³⁴

OLD KENT ROAD

long disused, was made into a recreation garden.^{a 336} The two stones set low in the brickwork fronting the Old Kent Road record that in 1792 a brick wall was erected round the burial ground at the sole expense of James Hedger, who was one of the parish trustees for the property.⁹⁶



Section of 1872 Ordnance Survey

The Pilgrim Church in Buckenham Square was dedicated to the memory of the Pilgrim Fathers, a number of whom came from the Independent Congregational church in Southwark from which the Pilgrim Church traces its descent. A lease of the site was granted by the Trustees of Shawe's estate, and the church was opened in May, 1864, during the pastorate of Dr. John Waddington. The buildings were completely destroyed in December, 1940. Two communion cups of 1691 have survived.³³⁷

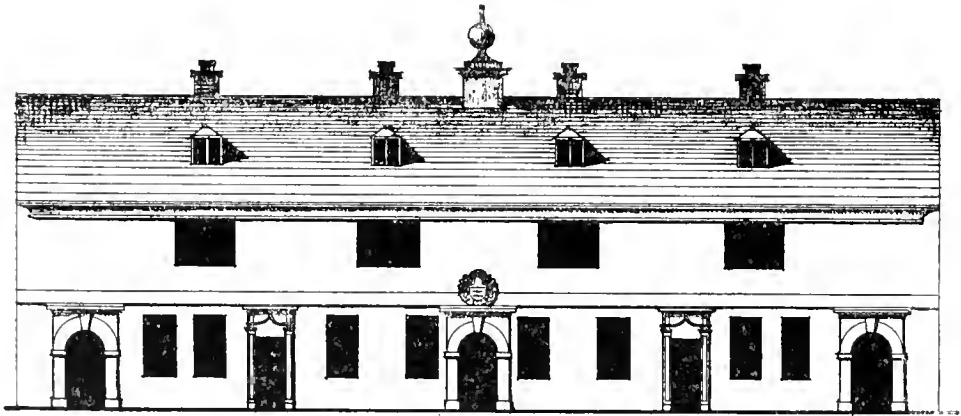
^a The work was done at the suggestion of Lord Brabazon, afterwards Earl of Meath, by unemployed men of the district.³³⁵

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

Houses were erected on the south side of Buckenham Street and in Buckenham Square on the rest of the parish's property,³³⁶ but none have survived the heavy raids of the 1939-45 war.

BARTHOLOMEW STREET (ON THE SITE OF THE LOCK HOSPITAL)

The Lock or Leper Hospital in Kent Street was probably founded in the 12th century, though the first known reference to it occurs on the Patent Roll for 4th June, 1315, when protection for one year was given to the Master and Brethren of the hospital of St. Mary and St. Leonard, with their men and lands.³³⁸ The City authorities were greatly concerned to keep lepers out of the City, and from 1375 onward they appointed two "formen" or wardens and surveyors, for the purpose, one at "le loke" and one at Hackney (i.e., at the



The wards and pledget room of the Lock Hospital

two leper hospitals in Kent Street and Kingsland).³³⁹ It is obvious that the hospitals, though they may have started as independent foundations assisted by alms from passers-by, derived considerable assistance and support from the City. They do not appear to have been surrendered at the Reformation, and in October, 1549, the Court of Aldermen ordained³⁴⁰ that from thenceforth two aldermen and two commoners of the City, who should also be governors of the "house of the poore," i.e., St. Bartholomew's Hospital, should be appointed annually to be responsible for the "good governance & usyng" of the "Lazar howses nere adioynyng to this Citie wherof the Citie of Ryght hath the order."^a Thenceforward there are numerous references to the Lock in the St. Bartholomew's Hospital Journals.

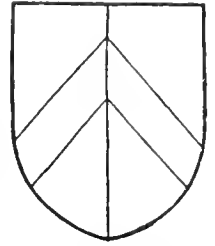
It has been suggested that the word "Lock" was used in this connection as being descriptive of the shreds or rags with which the sores of the lepers were covered. In the 18th century, when the hospital in Kent Street

^a In 1561 there were six lazar houses near London; at Mile End, Highgate, Kingsland, Southwark, Hammersmith and Knightsbridge. In the 17th century they were reduced to the original two, the Lock, for men, and the hospital at Kingsland, for women. In 1754 each had 30 beds.³⁴¹

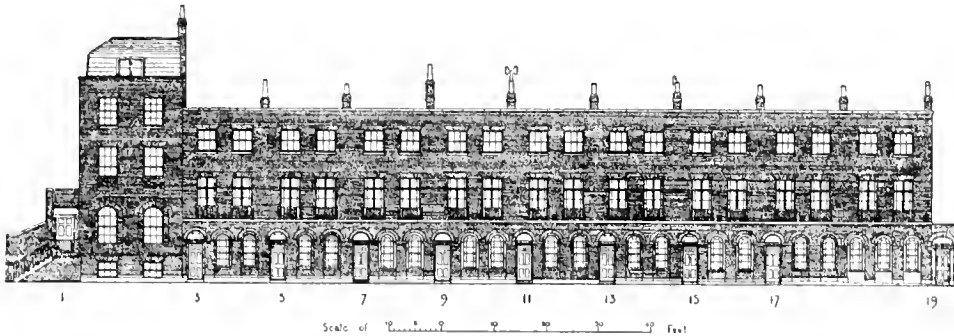
BARTHOLOMEW STREET

was no longer required for its original purpose, it became a refuge for patients suffering from venereal disease, and the term "Lock Hospital" came to be generally applied to hospitals treating that complaint.³⁴¹ In 1754 it was recommended to the Governors of St. Bartholomew's that both the Lock and Kingsland should be abolished, but they were not finally closed until 1760.

Among the records of the Surveyor of St. Bartholomew's Hospital is an elevation (reproduced on p. 124) and plan of the Lock Hospital made just before its closure.³⁴² The elevation is of the wards and "pledget"^a room on the west side of the courtyard which lay north of the main buildings. The latter, consisting of the chapel, parlour, hall, kitchen and surgery, abutted directly on Kent Street, a little to the north of the bridge over the Lock Stream (shown on Rocque's map just north of the Bull Inn and the Lock Burial Ground).



*St. Bartholomew's
Hospital*



Nos. 1-19 Bartholomew Street

Four years after the Lock was closed the buildings were leased to William Hale³⁴⁴ on condition that he spent £300 on them during the next two years. Part of the chapel and parlour survived until the formation of Great Dover Street, and are shown on an engraving published by Wilkinson in 1813 in use as dwelling-houses and a shop. The site of the hospital is the southern end of the tongue of land between Tabard Street and Great Dover Street and the roadway covers most of the site of the garden.

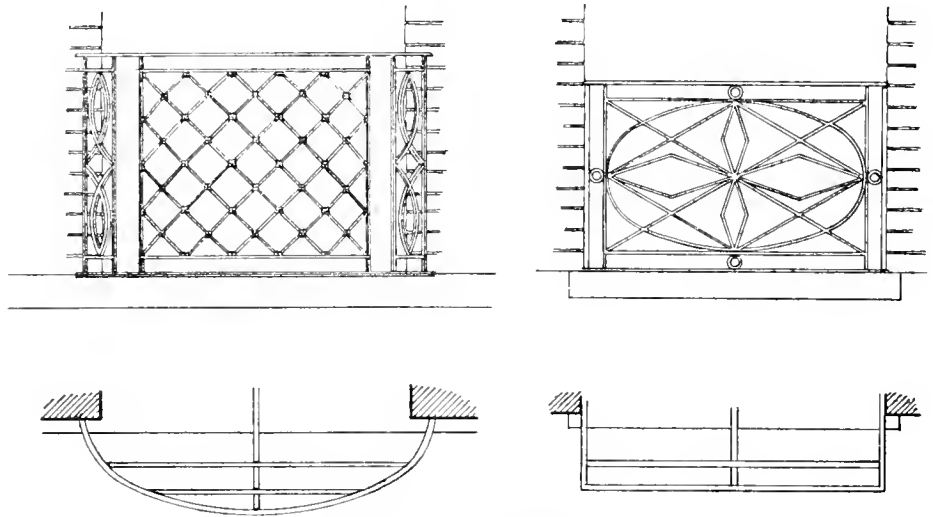
After the formation of Great Dover Street the Governors of St. Bartholomew's decided to develop the remainder of their Southwark property. A road was laid out running diagonally from the end of Great Dover Street to the New Kent Road^b and the ground on either side was granted on building lease to George Davis of Dover Place in the Kent Road and Francis Hoad and John Wadey of Prospect Place, Southwark.³⁴⁵ In accordance with the agreement to build fifteen houses there of the third rate, the terrace known first as Portland Place and now as Nos. 1-19 Bartholomew Street, was

^a Pledget—"A small compress or flattened mass of lint or other soft absorbent material (often steeped in some medicament), for applying over a wound, sore, etc."³⁴³

^b The New Kent Road was cut through the southern end of the Lock property, leaving a small piece of ground on the south side of the road which was leased in 1803 to John Rolls (see p. 119).

ST. GEORGE'S FIELDS

erected in 1818-19. Five houses were built on the south-east side of the street, of which two only, now numbered 233 and 235 New Kent Road, are left. They are similar in detail to those opposite, but as they have semi-basements the entrances are approached from a raised paved way, the space beneath it being used as storage vaults.

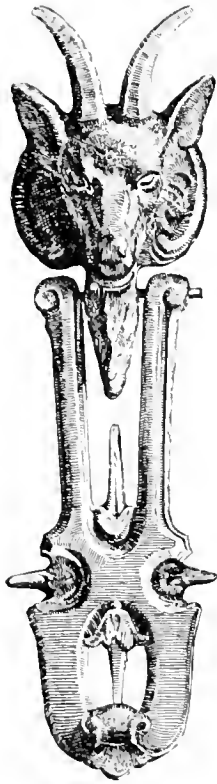


Bartholomew Street, balconies

DEVERELL STREET

In 1828 a row of two-storey cottages was built in Deverell Street, a turning running at right angles to Bartholomew Street. All the houses between Deverell Street and Great Dover Street have been destroyed, though these cottages have survived the blitz practically unscathed, and the view from the windows must now be much as it was when they were new. The open site has, however, been purchased for the erection of London County Council flats.

DOOR KNOCKERS • SOUTHWARK AREA



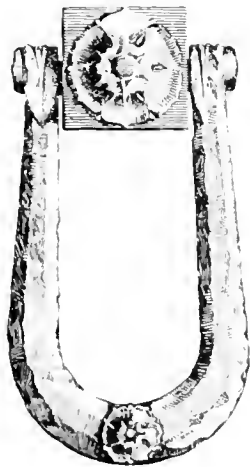
ELSTED STREET



FALMOUTH ROAD



FALMOUTH ROAD



FALMOUTH ROAD



ROCKINGHAM STREET





THE PARAGON, NEW KENT ROAD, *circa* 1890 (p. 118)



ST. GEORGE'S RECTORY, ENTRANCE HALL, 1952 (p. 118)



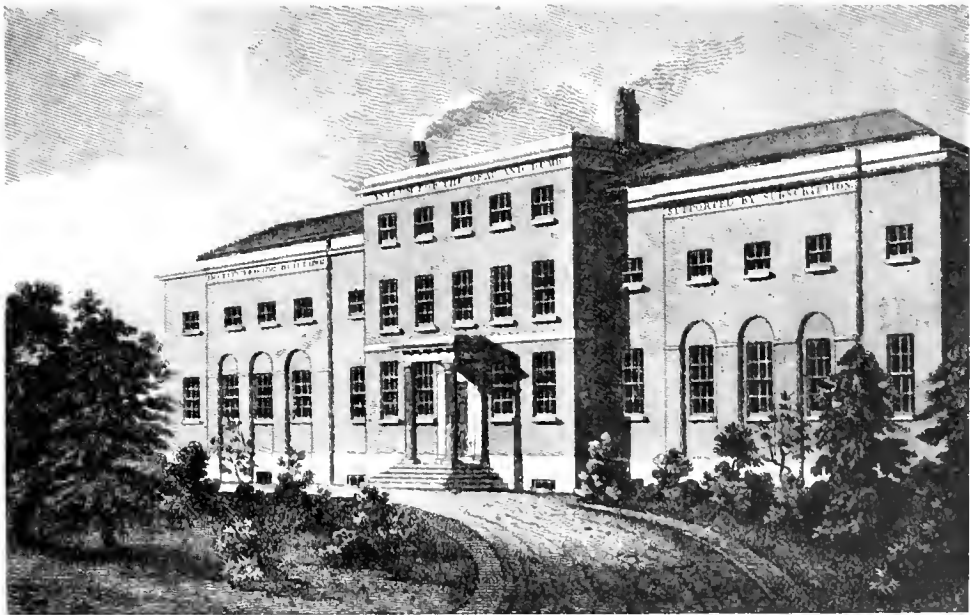
(a) UNION CRESCENT, NEW KENT ROAD, *circa* 1902 (p. 117)
(b) No. 86 CAMBERWELL ROAD, 1951 (p. 84)



BACK OF Nos. 196-204, NEW KENT ROAD, 1951 (p. 119).

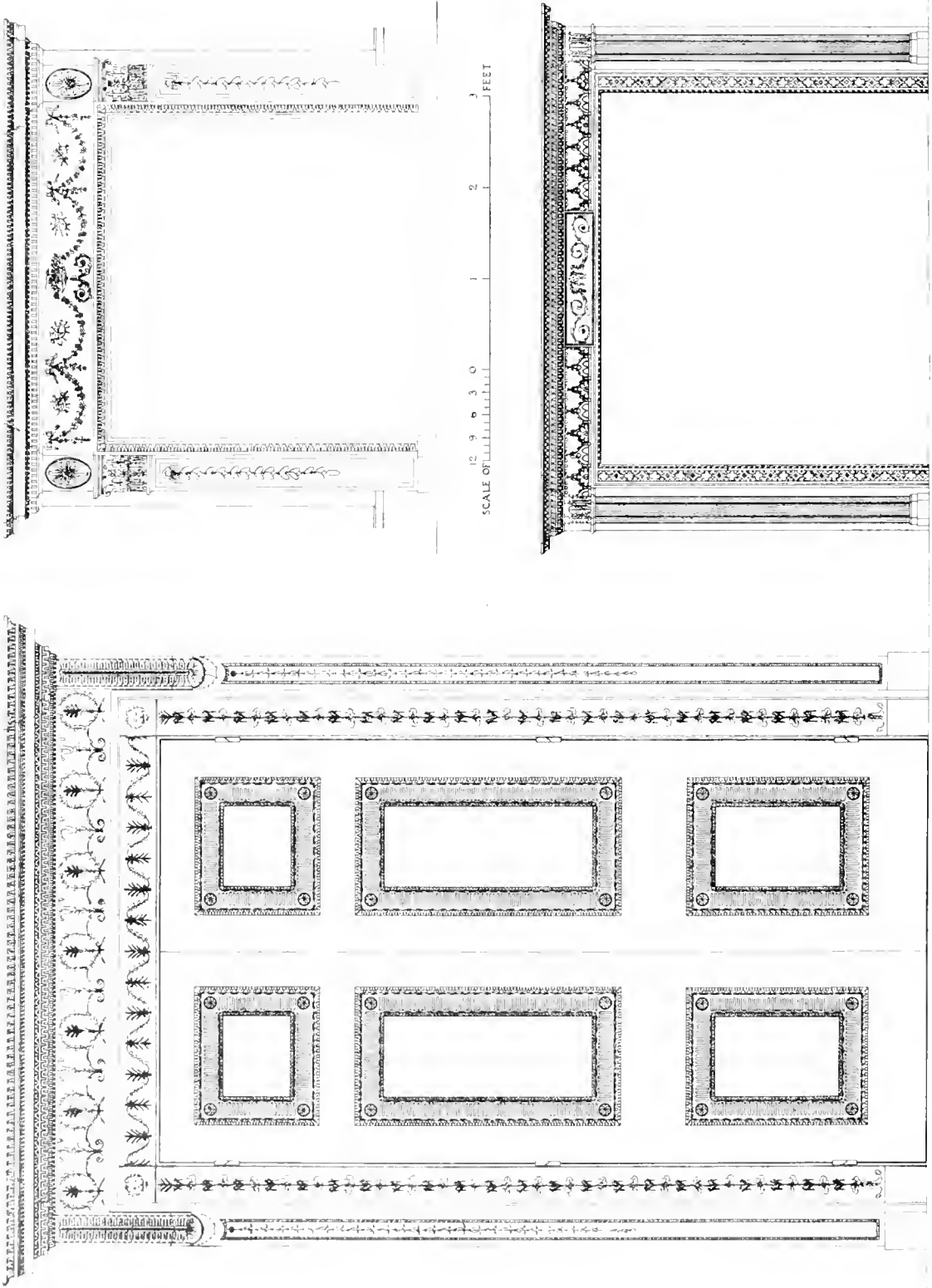


Nos. 110-106 OLD KENT ROAD, 1952 (p. 122)



(a) NEW KENT ROAD TURNPIKE, 1828

(b) ASYLUM FOR THE DEAF AND DUMB, 1813 (p. 122)



No. 155 OLD KENT ROAD, 1952 (p. 122)

APPENDIX I

PLAN OF WALWORTH MANOR BELONGING TO THE DEAN AND CHAPTER OF CHRIST CHURCH, CANTERBURY, 1681 (PLATE 49)

This plan, from the archives of the Dean and Chapter at Canterbury, was reproduced by the London Topographical Society in 1932. The Canterbury plan is itself a copy of the original plan by Thomas Hill, which is in the possession of the Church Commissioners. Both copies are drawn in ink on vellum and show the fields which were in lease from the Dean and Chapter outlined with a green, yellow, or pink wash. The houses belonging to the church are topped in red.

The closes marked B, to signify that they were in lease to Thomas Bostock with the Manor House, were held by the Penton family throughout the 18th century. The Church Commissioners have a plan of this property made in 1805 by Kent, Pearce & Kent showing Manor Row, West Street, Penton Place, Canterbury Row, East Street, South Street, North Street, Apollo Buildings, etc., which by then had been built across several of the plots. It is evident from comparison with a modern map that this part of the 1681 plan was based on a reasonably accurate survey. Walworth Common and Lattam-mor (Lorrimore) Common are also approximately correct in shape and size. The common field is shown surrounded by a wall,^a with Bostock property consisting of one 11 acre field and a number of small strips distributed among land belonging to Mr. Kenon^b and Mr. Beesman. Brandon Street is now on the site of the west wall of the field which extended east to the parish boundary between Munton Road north and Trafalgar Street south.

The closes between Walworth Common and the Common Field marked as on lease to Mr. Joseph Hobson were referred to in 1649 as being in "Birding bushes field"²⁴⁸ and were later known as the Twenty Two Acres. They were leased in 1772 to Thomas Clutton. They are now covered by St. Peter's, Walworth and the surrounding streets. Newington Street represents the present Newington Butts and the triangular piece of ground at the road junction is almost identical in shape with the island site still existing there. This tenement, called the Three Falcons, is marked with the letter R as belonging to Mr. Richards. Both the Three Falcon property and the ground opposite it on the corner of Newington Butts and Walworth Road were copyhold. The house with a sign hanging out, noted as being "upon ye Royalty," is on the site of the Elephant and Castle.

The small plot of ground with houses on it marked W for Mr. Walker, on the east side of Walworth Road immediately opposite the Elephant and Castle site, is the ground on which the playhouse at Newington

^a In the lease of the manor granted to Ralph Legh and John Roger in 1452³⁴⁵, the manor fields are described as being enclosed by earth walls thatched with reeds.

^b This was William Cannon, who inherited a moiety of 19 acres of land in Walworth Common Field from his grandmother, Ann Cannon, subject to a rent charge of 10s. a year payable to the parson and churchwardens in trust for the poor.³³⁶

APPENDIX

stood. The playhouse was pulled down before 1599 and replaced by 13 tenements. The ground is stated to have been enclosed by a brick wall.

The five plots marked Hi, to indicate that they were in lease to Mr. Highlord, at the junction of what are now Walworth Road and Newington Butts opposite the Church, subsequently came into the hands of Francis Hurlbatt. They included the site of the Bell Inn. North of Newington Butts the road (now Newington Causeway and Borough High Street) is shown making too sweeping a curve, and both shape and size of the closes within the curve have been distorted to get them in. There has also been some confusion in the disposition of the plots of ground. The land belonging to Trinity House was in 1681, and is still, to the north of Horsemonger Lane (Harper Road), and the large close next the road, labelled "Trinitie Land" on the plan did not belong to Trinity House, but was known as Mill Field, and at that date was freehold property in the possession of James Reading. Horsemonger Lane Gaol was subsequently built at its northern end.

The closes indicated by the letter D as being in the tenure of Sir Fleetwood Darmer were referred to in the leases of the 17th and 18th centuries as the Thirty Five Acres. They were granted in 1768 to Thomas Brandon.

No details are given of the property round the church, which belonged to the rectory, or of the ground on the south-west side of what is now Walworth Road, which was freehold property in the possession of Mr. Bowyer.^a

Esq. Chute, who is shown in occupation of two large closes on "The Roade from Clapham to Newington" (Kennington Park Road), was George Chute, son of Sir George Chute, of the manor of Stockwell in Lambeth. George Chute died in 1684 and was buried in Lambeth Church; Anthony Bowyer was one of the executors of his will.³⁴⁷ According to a deed of 1699 in the Minet Library, the two closes were known as Great and Little Dane Croft.³⁴⁸ Justice Lee, who held the close opposite "The Roade to Faux Hall" (Kennington Lane) was Thomas Lee, who was for many years a churchwarden of Newington. He died in 1687 and was buried in Newington. He is described in the burial register as "Thos: Lee Esq^r. that truly worthy Gentleⁿ."

Two clay pits are marked on the plan and there is a "pitt acre" in the Common field, indicating that Walworth was a source of brick earth as early as the 17th century. Several 13th century deeds in the possession of the Dean and Chapter refer to a field in Walworth known as "Claylonde."

The conventional representation of buildings probably bears little relation to their actual appearance or number and merely serves as an indication of the location of dwelling houses along the roads.

^a The Bowyer family held considerable property in the parish of Camberwell.

APPENDIX II

CHURCHES OF THE ESTABLISHMENT IN SOUTHWARK, NOT DESCRIBED IN THE TWO VOLUMES OF THE SURVEY

Note: The future of some of these churches is now under consideration in the re-organization of the Diocese.

- All Hallows*, Pepper Street. Architect, G. G. Scott junior. Consecrated 1892. Damaged by enemy action 1939-1945.
- All Saints*, Surrey Square. Architect, R. Parris. Damaged by fire 1869. Restored and re-consecrated 1870. Destroyed by enemy action 1939-1945.
- All Souls*, Grosvenor Park. Architect, H. Jarvis. Consecrated 1871.
- Church of the Lady Margaret*, Chatham Street. Architect, E. Christian. Consecrated 1889.
- Pembroke College, Cambridge, Mission*, Barlow Street. Architect, E. S. Prior. Consecrated 1892 (later additions).
- St. Alphege*, Lancaster Street. Architect, R. Willey. Consecrated 1876.
- St. Andrew*, New Kent Road. Architects, Newman and Billing. Consecrated 1882. Disused.
- St. Gabriel*, St. Gabriel Street. Architect, J. E. K. Cutts. Consecrated 1874. Demolished 1936.
- St. John*, Larcum Street. Architect, H. Jarvis. Consecrated 1860.
- St. Jude*, St. George's Road. Architect, W. J. H. Leverton. Consecrated 1899.
- St. Mark*, East Street. Architect, H. Jarvis. Consecrated 1874. Damaged by enemy action 1939-1945.
- St. Mary Magdalen*, Massinger Street. Architect, B. Ferrey. Consecrated 1843.
- St. Matthew*, New Kent Road. Architect, H. Jarvis. Consecrated 1867.
- St. Michael*, Lant Street. Architect, A. S. Newman. Consecrated 1867. Not in use as a parish church.
- St. Paul*, Westminster Bridge Road. Architect, W. Rogers. Consecrated 1857. Damaged by enemy action 1939-1945: only part of the north boundary wall now remains.
- St. Stephen*, Manciple Street. Architect, S. S. Teulon. Consecrated 1850.
- St. Stephen*, Villa Street. Architect, H. Jarvis. Consecrated 1871. Damaged by enemy action 1939-1945.
- Wellington College Mission*, Etherdon Street. Architects, Romaine Walker and Tanner. Consecrated 1888.

APPENDIX III

The following list of buildings of architectural or historic interest in the Borough of Southwark was prepared under Section 30 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947. The list was approved by the Minister of Town and Country Planning in 1950, and has been amended subsequently. Grades I and II form the statutory list; Grade III is a supplementary list which, although it has no statutory force, comprises buildings with some claim to protection.

GRADES I AND II

Bankside, Nos. 49-52.
Borough High Street, Nos. 50-52 (including Calvert's Buildings); The George Inn; Nos. 91-95 (odd); Church of St. George the Martyr.
Clink Street, remains of Winchester Palace.
Glasshill Street, Drapers' Almshouses.
Hopton Street, Hopton's Almshouses; No. 61.
Lambeth Road, St. George's Cathedral (damaged); Imperial War Museum, including the lodge and obelisk.
Liverpool Grove, St. Peter's Church.
Newcomen Street, coat of arms on King's Arms Public House.
Old Kent Road, No. 108.
Park Street, Anchor Brewery, 18th century portions.
Pepper Street, All Hallows' Church (damaged).
St. Agnes Place, St. Agnes Church (damaged).
St. Thomas Street, Guy's Hospital, North block, including statue of Thomas Guy, courtyard gates and railings.
Southwark Cathedral.
Stamford Street, Unitarian Chapel.
Trinity Church Square, Holy Trinity Church; statue of "Alfred the Great."

GRADE III

Ayres Street, Red Cross Cottages.
Bankside, No. 1.
Bartholomew Street, Nos. 1-19 (odd).
Blackfriars Road, Nos. 7, 74, 133-145 (cons.).
Boddy's Bridge, Nos. 10-14 (even).
Borough High Street, Nos. 33, 38-48, 66, 68, 207a, 218, 220, 240-250.
East Street, No. 226.
Great Suffolk Street, No. 66.
Kennington Park Road, Nos. 91-121, 125-163 (odd).
King's Head Yard, bust of Henry VIII on King's Head Public House.
Lansdown Place, Medical Mission.
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Nelson Square, Nos. 24-29, 44-54 (cons.).
Newington Butts, Metropolitan Tabernacle (damaged).
New Kent Road, Nos. 154-170 (even); Paragon Gardens, gate piers.
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Park Street, Nos. 20-26 (even).
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Sumner Street, Nos. 32, 34.
Surrey Square, Nos. 20-54 (even).
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