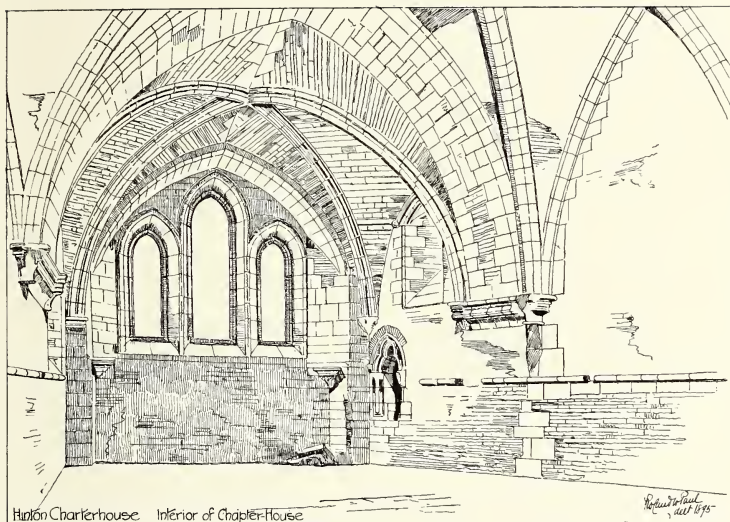


ADDENDA

BY THE EDITOR.

A FULLER account of Hinton Charterhouse was given in a paper read by Mr. Foxcroft on April 28th, 1891, and published by the Bath N. H. and A. Field Club, vol. vii, p. 293 (1893).

On p. 305 occurs the note following: "I call the principal block the 'Chapterhouse.' It has usually been called the



Hinton Charterhouse - Interior of Chapter House



Hinton Charterhouse - Interior of building west of Chapter House

Chapel, but as there is every reason to believe that the Church stood close by, it could hardly have been a Chapel."

So far as the present writer can ascertain, here is the only authority for calling the building, in which the members listened to Mr. Foxcroft's interesting paper, printed above, the Chapterhouse; and it is here submitted that it could not have been intended for the meetings of the Chapter, but that what it had been usually called was its proper use. In support of this contention it is desirable to consider the plan, situation, and internal construction, as well as the general arrangements of the building. We find it to be an oblong divided into three bays, of which the two western are much plainer than the eastern, and differently vaulted. It is lighted only at the east end, and at the west end is much too dim for the purposes of a Carthusian chapter, which, being a learned body, would almost more than others require plenty of light for taking notes or other writing. Moreover, chapterhouses are almost universally well-lighted buildings. The east end of this building was completely filled by the altar and its accessories; on the south side the piscina still remaining, and on the north the aumbrey; consequently there would have been no suitable place for the presiding Prior, unless he had sat with his back to the altar, which is impossible. The general shape of the building would preclude the Prior's chair being placed on either side with any approach to dignity. Moreover, there is an absence of any stone bench running round the walls, such as would have been found in any building of similar date intended for a Chapterhouse. The enrichment of the eastern portion and the large space occupied by the altar seem to prove that its intention was that for which tradition has preserved—the Chapel.

It may be urged that the *Conversi* had their church at the Frary, a mile distant, and no doubt they had, but there is good reason to believe that they had another chapel, possibly of later date, near the convent church, probably separated

from it by a common sacristy. The Frary church, as at Witham, was of the date of the original foundation, and would be for the outdoor servants, of whom there must have been a number very far exceeding that of the regular Fratres. There were also, as in all convents, a large number of indoor servants for whom a church a mile away would be inconvenient for daily prayers, and as we know that the Carthusian custom has always been to have a separate chapel for the *Conversi*, so we maintain the building in question was for that purpose. The Rev. H. Gee, an acknowledged authority, says that the placing of the Frary or *Domus Inferior* at a distance was confined to the Somerset Charterhouses, and that Mount Grace "shows the abandonment of the old design which we see at Hinton and at Witham." Now as the so-called Chapterhouse at Hinton is manifestly of much later date than the church of Witham, it is a very fair presumption that Hinton followed Mount Grace in abandoning the old design, and provided a new chapel for their *Conversi* near at hand, and allowed their older church at the *Domus Inferior* to decay, or perhaps, as only tradition remains, they destroyed it. In Italian Charterhouses the rule of the order has been followed down to modern times. There we find, especially at San Martino, in Naples, the chapel of the *Conversi* of comparatively recent date, closely adjoining the great church, and with a common sacristy.

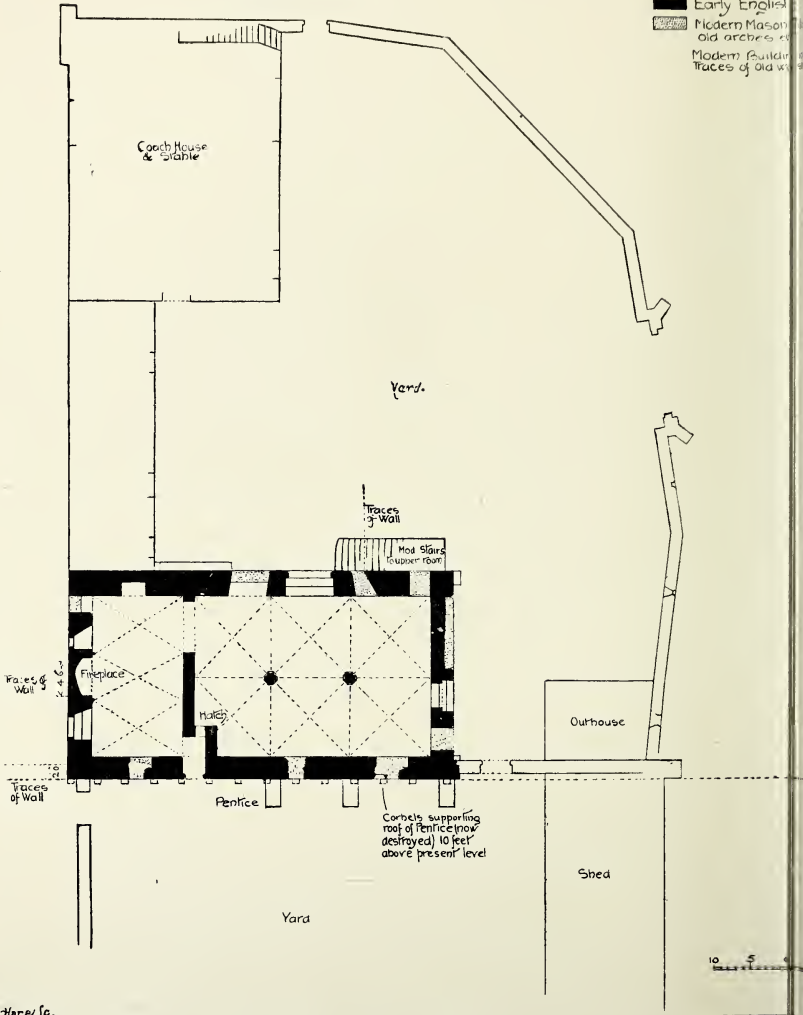
Considering, then, all the evidence producible, whether architectural, historical, or traditional, it is firmly maintained that the building at Hinton now called the Chapterhouse was never any other than the chapel of the *Conversi*.

The plan annexed, for which the Society is indebted to Mr. Roland Paul, will sufficiently illustrate the contention, although Mr. Paul himself supports the Chapterhouse view.

[The above notes were in type before the writer had seen the plan, he now ventures to add that his view is established thereby.]

THE PRIORY, CHARTERHOUSE HINTON, SOMERSET
Ground-Plan.

- Early English
- Modern Mason
old arches etc
- Modern Building
- Traces of old walls

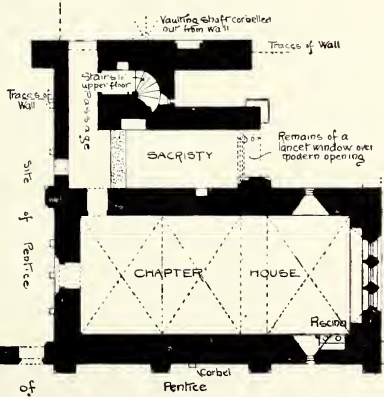


ling
n Outline
shown by dotted lines



Traces of foundations

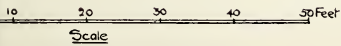
Site of the Church



Site

of

Pentice



*Revised to Paul
1875*