



Lambeth Palace Library & Church of England Record Centre Research Guide - Architectural History

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1 Introduction

This is intended as a brief guide to the archive and manuscript holdings of Lambeth Palace Library and the Church of England Record Centre which are of architectural interest. It is not intended to be exhaustive. Any researcher interested in a particular topic, whether or not it is included here, is warmly encouraged to contact the Library (address, telephone and email details at the bottom of the page) for further information or the Church of England Record Centre, see page for contacting the staff at the Record Centre.

In addition to the primary sources described below, the Library has an extensive collection of secondary sources including standard reference works, parish histories and guides, and contemporary prints. For further information, please consult our online catalogues. Reference sources include standard printed works on individual architects, including:

- *Dictionary of National Biography* (original edition and new edition published in 2004)
- *Who's Who* and *Who Was Who*
- Howard Colvin, *A Biographical Dictionary of British Architects 1600-1840*
- Royal Institute of British Architects, *Directory of British Architects, 1834-1914*

Details can be obtained from the catalogue of printed books, or specific guidance obtained by contacting the Library.

For the location of papers of individual architects, try also the National Register of Archives (<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/nra>). The Royal Institute of British Architects (<http://www.architecture.com>) and the National Monuments Record at English Heritage (<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk>) may hold records. There is a large collection of guides to individual British churches at Pitts Theological Library at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, USA:

<http://www.pitts.emory.edu/collections/selectholdings/gordontaylor.cfm>

Other sources on church furnishings and fittings include:

- National Pipe Organ Register <http://www.npor.org.uk/>
- Central Council of Church Bell Ringers <https://www.cccbr.org.uk/>



- Art in Churches (modern) <http://acetrust.org/art-in-churches>
- <http://medieval-church-art.blogspot.co.uk/>
- <http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/c/reading-list-christian-church-vestments-embroidery>

The records in this guide are described purely in terms of their architectural significance.

2 Lambeth Palace Library

2.1 Parish Churches in England and Wales

The main source of information about parish churches held at Lambeth Palace Library is the archive of the Incorporated Church Building Society, which was founded in 1818 to provide funds for the building and enlargement of Anglican churches throughout England and Wales. Over 12000 plans from this archive have been digitised and are available online (<http://images.lambethpalacelibrary.org.uk>).

Records of the Church Building Commission are held at the Church of England Record Centre, See Section 3 for contact details.

Archbishops' registers may include information on churches within both the diocese and province of Canterbury, covering the clergy, patronage and benefice. There is also some information on visitations and faculties. The archive of the *vicar general* includes some records of the grant of faculties for the alteration or destruction of church buildings within the diocese of Canterbury and the archbishop's peculiars. The correspondence contained in the archbishop's papers and the Fulham papers (the archives of the Bishops of London, mostly dating from the 18th-19th centuries) includes some information on architectural topics, especially during the ritualist controversies of the nineteenth century.

Visitation returns comprise answers by the beneficed clergy to questions circulated in advance of the visitation. These may include information on church buildings and fittings. Lambeth Palace Library holds a small collection of visitation act books and other records for the period 1540-1640 in the archive of the vicar general, as well as visitation returns for the diocese of Canterbury (1717-1935), the exempt parishes, the archbishops' peculiars and Canterbury cathedral. The Fulham papers series contains some visitation records of the diocese of London (1763-1900). Diocesan surveys and specula, of which several are held at Lambeth, were compiled largely from the information gathered at visitation. Other visitation material for the diocese of Canterbury is held at the Canterbury Cathedral Archives (<http://www.canterbury-cathedral.org>) and for the diocese of London at London Metropolitan Archives (<http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/lma>).



Court records include those of the archbishop's peculiar jurisdiction, in the vicar general archive, and of the *Court of Arches*. These archives include records of a variety of types of case of architectural interest, such as disputes over dilapidations



of church property, faculties and pews.

It is also worth checking the indexes to the later manuscripts series, as there are a variety of records of individual churches, in particular the reports by members of the Cambridge Camden Society (MSS 1977-93, 2677). Individual church buildings are also discussed in evidence submitted to the Archbishops' Committee on Ancient Monuments (MSS 2786-90), a body appointed by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York to consider the measures taken on the issue of faculties for the protection of church fabrics, 1913-15. The archive includes evidence submitted by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and others.

The printed books collection contains a very large number of works on church buildings, furniture and art: church histories, parish guides, specialist studies, and periodicals, including a full run of *The Ecclesiologist*.

2.2 Parish Churches by Location

The sources quoted above may all include information on churches in any particular area.

Specific to London include the records of the Commission for the Building of Fifty New Churches [Queen Anne Churches] (MSS 2690-2750). Of the fifty churches, only ten new churches were built and two existing churches were rebuilt. These were Christ Church, Spitalfields; St. Alphege, Greenwich; St. Anne, Limehouse; St. George, Bloomsbury; St. George-in-the-East; St. George, Hanover Square; St. John, Horsleydown; St. John, Smith Square; St. Luke, Old Street; St. Mary-le-Strand; St. Mary, Woolnoth and St. Paul, Deptford. Other churches were subsidised or purchased by the Commission: St. George, Gravesend; St. George the Martyr, Southwark; St. Giles in the Fields; St. John, Clerkenwell; St. Mary Magdalen, Woolwich; St. Michael, Cornhill and St. George the Martyr, Queen Square.

The archive, however, also contains much information relating to schemes which were not completed. Records of later Commissions for Church Building are held at the Church of England Record Centre.

Also the Fulham papers include records of two bodies appointed by Bishop of London to deal with practical and policy matters regarding churches in the City of London during and immediately after the Second World War, the Committee for the City Churches and the Commission on the City Churches (FP Fisher 8-9).

The early manuscripts series includes a variety of material on London churches, for example papers on St. Gregory's, including plans of the church in 1636, as rebuilt in 1647 and plans of its vaults (MS 941/137). Other material is to be found in the later manuscripts series, including monumental inscriptions from London churches, 1638 (MS 1485); papers about St. Etheldreda's chapel, Holborn Place (Ely Chapel), 1813-41 (MS 1562); and drawing of St. John's church, Hoxton, 1825 (MS 1846). There are also inventories of church goods in some Norfolk parishes for return to the Privy



Council, 1549 (MSS 696, 1924); and the condition of a number of churches in West Surrey is recorded in a survey of 1908-14 (MSS 2023-5).

2.3 Cathedrals

The Archbishops' registers and the archives of the vicar general and the Court of Arches include some material on cathedrals.



St. Paul's Cathedral, London, is particularly well represented in the Library's collections. Archbishops and Fulham papers include an account book for work on the west end of Old St. Paul's in 1639-40 (FP 43); fabric accounts, 1749-56 (Herring 2, ff.149-255 and Sherlock 1, ff.212-20); financial accounts of 'old works' at, 1761-2 (Osbaldeston 1, ff.42-4) and repairs accounts, 1778 (Lowth 1, ff.193-8), as well as much correspondence of a later date.

The early manuscripts series includes letters from Charles I to Laud and from Laud to Lord Mayor on repair of St Paul's, 1634 (MS 943, pp.351-68); and an account of the rebuilding of St Paul's cathedral, 1666-1700 (MS 670). The later manuscripts series also includes statutes of St. Paul's (MS 1515); statutes of Thomas More's chantry in St. Paul's, 1424-32 (MS 2018); an estimate for temporary repairs to the roof after it was struck by lightning, 1561 (MS. 3152, f.84); the papers of the Commissioners for Rebuilding St. Paul's Cathedral, 1674 (MS 2872, ff.44-8); and the papers of Robert Mylne, architect, 1764-1801 (MSS 1489, 2027, 2552-3) which comprise accounts and bills of work, 1764-1801; reports on the fabric, 1781; and letters, 1768-98.

The Ecclesiological Society's website (<http://www.ecclsoc.org/>) is an informative and expanding one. The Society covers the arts, architecture or liturgy of the Christian Church, from the earliest churches in Britain through to the most recent developments in ecclesiastical architecture, fittings and liturgy across the world.

2.4 Residences of the Archbishop of Canterbury

The estate documents (records of the administration of the estates of the Archbishop of Canterbury) include the medieval records of the temporalities of the see of Canterbury. Of particular architectural interest is ED 562, the accounts for the building of the water tower at Lambeth (Lollard's tower) in 1433-4. The records of the post-medieval temporalities include some material of architectural interest, especially with regard to rebuilding work at the Archbishop's residences at Lambeth, Bekesbourne, Canterbury, Croydon, Ford Park and Addington Park.



Papers relating to the archbishops' residences may also be found in the later manuscripts series, including domestic accounts at Lambeth and Croydon, 1614-22 (MS 1730); papers on dilapidations at Lambeth and Croydon (MSS 1154, 1719); inventories (MSS 1299, 1468, 1916); papers on the rebuilding of Lambeth Palace by



Edward Blore, including building accounts, plans and watercolours (MSS 1561, 1726, 2197, 2949, 3104-5) and papers on the paintings and other heirlooms (MSS 3346-9).

There are prints and drawings of the archbishops' residences in the later manuscripts series (MSS 1403, 2197, 2872, 4196) and in the Prints collection, searchable in the online catalogue.

2.5 Episcopal Residences (excluding the Archbishop of Canterbury)

The Archbishops' registers and the archives of the vicar general and the Court of Arches include some material on episcopal residences. The Fulham papers contain some records relating to Fulham Palace, in particular dilapidations accounts, 1761-3 (Hayter 2, Osbaldeston 2, Terrick 17); repairs accounts, 1764-6 (Terrick 18) and plans of alterations, 1762-6 (Terrick 19).

See also various printed sources on episcopal residences, including for instance Michael Thompson, *Medieval bishops' houses in England and Wales* (Aldershot: Ashgate, 1998), and Wilberforce Jenkinson, *A literary topography of old London. The royal & bishops' palaces in Old London...* (London: SPCK, 1921).

2.6 Schools, Hospitals and Colleges

The archbishop's papers, Fulham papers, (including visitation returns of the diocese of London, 1763-1900) and the archive of the vicar general (including visitation returns for the diocese of Canterbury, 1717-1935) may all contain information on these types of buildings, including records of the bishop of London and the archbishop of Canterbury as visitor (records of the archbishop's role as visitor are also found in the manuscripts series).

Other records in the early and later manuscripts series on these types of building include the building accounts of Trinity Hospital, Croydon (MS 275); statutes for Guildford Hospital, 1629 (MSS 727, 1354) and antiquarian collections on Guildford Hospital (MSS 1410-14); documents relating to hospitals in Canterbury (MSS 1250, 1355); a plan of Greenwich Hospital by Nicholas Hawkesmoor, 1698 (MS 933/99); papers on repairs to the charity school at Croydon, including a plan and drawing, 18th century (MS 954/57); notes on the history of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, including plan of disposition of rooms (MS 939/13). The papers of the Clergy Orphan Corporation (MSS 3018-59) contain information on education by that body, including volumes of plans and drawings of the Clergy Orphan School at Canterbury by Philip Hardwick, 1852-7 (MSS 3057-9).

More general works include accounts of hospitals etc. by diocese (MS 639); surveys of schools in the dioceses of Oxford and Salisbury, 1808 (MSS 1731-2); a report on schools in Derbyshire, 1841 (MS 1799) and a collection of views of medieval hospitals and almshouses, c.1910 (MS 1971).

2.6 Domestic and Other Architecture

Sixteenth and seventeenth-century domestic architecture is represented in the Talbot and Shrewsbury papers, which contain some material on properties owned by the family and other influential figures of the day, in particular references in letters. The



Carew manuscripts contain information, including drawings, of settlements in Ulster. Also of interest are the household books of Lionel Cranfield, first Earl of Middlesex and his wife Anne, Countess of Middlesex, 1622 (MSS 1228, 3361).

References to buildings in London may be found in particular in the Gibson papers including such items as an account of the building of Greenwich Observatory in 1675-6 (MS 929/3).

The temporalities archive contains a wide variety of estate documents, including maps, surveys and leases, which may help trace the occupation of properties belonging to the archbishop's estates. There is a particularly full series of records relating to Deal, Kent.

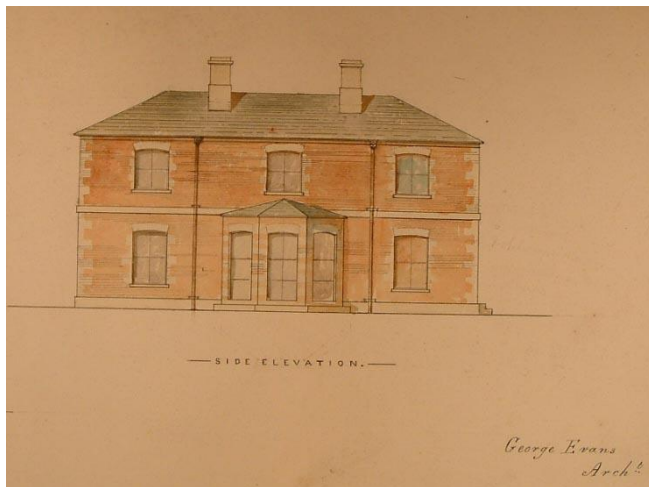
3 Church of England Record Centre

3.1 Introduction

The Church of England Record Centre (CERC) holds the archives of the central institutions of the Church of England and their predecessor organizations relating to the organization and activities of the Anglican Church in England, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. These include the Queen Anne's Bounty (1704-1948), Church Building Commissioners (1818-1856), the Ecclesiastical Commissioners (1836-1948) and the Church Commissioners created in 1948 by amalgamation of the Queen Anne's Bounty and the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

Many of these organizations had responsibilities that involved giving financial support for the construction, improvement and maintenance of a variety of buildings including churches, episcopal palaces, estate and glebe properties that can range from cottages to major commercial developments such as office developments, parsonage houses and schools. This part of the guide is to the sources available for the study of architecture and the history of buildings in the holdings of the Church of England Record Centre. There are sections for each major category of buildings giving details of records arranged by the original creating organization and the Church of England Record Centre references to the main record series and individual documents are cited. A growing proportion of the records has been catalogued and can be searched for in the Archives and Manuscripts Catalogue on the Lambeth Palace Library website <http://archives.lambethpalacelibrary.org.uk/calmview/>

Hythe Parsonage House, Hampshire (1857): Ref: QAB/7/6/E55



3.2 Church and Cathedrals

- Church Building Commissioners

The Commission was established in 1818 to give financial assistance to the improvement of existing and the construction of new churches in populous districts in particular. The surviving records include minute books, surveyor's report books and drawback register for claiming tax paid on building materials of the Commission, however these sources after 1840 when the Commission funds became depleted contain relatively little information concerning the design and construction of individual buildings and relate more to the legal procedures required to implement each improvement scheme [CERC Ref. **CBC**]. However, after the Commission was absorbed by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in 1856 many of the Commission files were incorporated within the Ecclesiastical Commissioners augmentation file for that benefice [CERC Series Ref. **ECE/7/1/-**] These files can include sketch plans of new church sites, details of the costs of construction and plans for proposed lay out of pews as the Commissioners' approved the seating arrangements and the scale of pew rents which provided a major source of income for paying the stipends of the clergy serving these new Churches. Many of the plans originally associated with the files were separated and deposited with RIBA during the 1960s.

One of the most well known examples of a Church Building Commissioners' church is All Souls, Langham Place and information concerning its design and construction can be found in the appropriate minute book and augmentation file [CERC Refs. **CBC/2/2** and **ECE/7/1/20559/1-6**]. An excellent history of the Commission is Michael Port's 'Six New Hundred New Churches The Church Building Commission 1818-1856' by M. H. Port', Spire Book Ltd, 2006. The Commissioners' *Annual Reports* 1821-1856 are at Lambeth Palace Library H5194.(C6) giving a breakdown of grants for new churches and chapels.

- Ecclesiastical Commissioners



Established in 1835 the Ecclesiastical Commissioners acquired several areas of responsibility for development, improvement and maintenance of buildings.

The Ecclesiastical Commissioners acquired the powers of the Church Building Commission to acquire land for the construction of the new churches and their records relating to construction of new churches mostly relate to acquisition of the church site and some times include details of their financial assistance. The records relate to church sites created after 1818 following the establishment of the Church Building Commission and continue to 1948. The series of Church Building papers, c. 1856 – 1948 [CERC Refs. **CB 1 -16852**] provide details of the church sites; however they contain little architectural information being essentially conveyancing files. Further information can sometimes be found among the Ecclesiastical Commissioners' benefice files [CERC Series Refs. ECE/7/1].

The Commissioners acquired during the 19th century a series of 'local claims' with the land they received from the former estates of the Bishops, Deans, Chapters and other preferment estates. These include responsibility for chancel repair liability and often the relevant augmentation file during the 19th century will include correspondence concerning the restoration work to existing chancels. This correspondence between the Commissioners' own architect and local incumbents, architects, builders and incumbents can provide information about the cost and extent of the restoration work and sometimes include elevations, sections and plans of the proposed work. An example of Churches who received the financial assistance of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners includes St. Giles, Durham [CERC Ref. **ECE/7/1/47647**] and St Michael le Belfry, York [CERC Ref. **ECE/7/147331**]. These records, however only relate to the chancel or east end of the church and generally do not include material about the rest of the church building. After 1850 many plans were submitted to Ewan Christian (1815-1895), the Ecclesiastical Commissioners' consulting architect who himself was an active church architect. As well as being scattered throughout the ECE/7/1 series, chancel plans are listed in series ECE/11/4.

There is a very small amount of material relating to cathedrals where the Ecclesiastical Commissioners contributed to the restoration of the fabric and an example is the Commissioners contributions to the repair work on St. Paul's Cathedral, London on various occasions between 1851- 1950, however the information is mostly financial and only brief descriptions of the repair work is given.[CERC Refs. **ECE/7/12/18563/1-6**].

- Council for the Care of Churches

In 1921, the Central Committee for the Protection of Churches (and their Treasures) was established to advise on matters artistic, archaeological, architectural etc. relating church and cathedral buildings. The committee evolved through various guises to become The Council for the Care of Churches in 1962 [CERC archive ref CARE]. References to individual churches and cathedrals are infrequent but crop up occasionally, such as in the case files within the war damage series [CERC series ref CARE/WD], or lists within the Redundant Churches section [ref. CARE/RED1-3]. For the most-part, the work of the Council concerned guidance and information-



gathering, and so will be of interest more for the framework within which the parties making alterations to the buildings worked, rather than for detailed consideration of individual churches and cathedrals.

3.3 Episcopal Palaces and See Houses

The Ecclesiastical Commissioners acquired the responsibility to provide accommodation for bishops under the terms of the Episcopal Endowments and Stipends Measure 1943 and some of the buildings such as the Bishop's Palace at Wells [Ref. **BH/1**] and Bishop Auckland Castle [Ref. **BH/13**] are buildings of major historical importance. This responsibility has created a number of records concerning the maintenance of these buildings consisting of correspondence with contractors and the Commissioner's own architect, architectural plans (largely uncatalogued), architect's reports on the condition of the fabric and occasionally photographs and negatives illustrating architect's surveys carried out in 1950s and 1960s. There is a series of files relating to former Episcopal residences such as Farnham Castle former residence of the Bishops of Guildford [Refs. **ECE/7/1/96685-96690**] and Hartlebury Castle the former residence of the Bishops of Worcester [Ref. **BH/42**]. There were also less historically significant buildings often called 'See Houses', such as Ranmoor Grange, Sheffield which are often large detached suburban houses [Ref. **BH/35**].

These records have an interest not only for architectural history, but also for the changing social standing and financial resources of Bishops and what was considered to be appropriate style of life for a diocesan bishop. The Minutes of the Housing Committee of Church Commissioners document the Church Commissioners policy of trying to provide suitable See Houses for Bishops who no longer could afford to have large numbers of domestic staff to assist in the running of their households but who were still expected to entertain liberally as part of their ministry [Ref. **H/HC**].

The Commissioners' general series [Ref. **ECE/7/1**] also contains sub-sections on particular properties, for example the sixteen files that make up **ECE/7/1/28973** pt 1-16 (1863-1964) contain correspondence and papers relating to building and refurbishment works carried in the Lambeth Palace and Lambeth Palace Library. This file also contains correspondence relating to the management and maintenance of the Library.

3.4 Estate Properties

- Ecclesiastical Commissioners Estate Archives

Following the passing of the Deans and Chapter Act, 1840, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners became major landowners of both rural and urban property creating a major estate archive. The management of their estates inevitably involved management of a variety of buildings ranging from the ruins of St. Benet's Abbey, Horning in Norfolk [CERC Ref. **ECE/7/1/68522**], to dilapidated cottages in Hinckley, Leicestershire [Ref. **ECE/7/1/67090**] and the development of social housing in South



London associated with Octavia Hill [CERC Refs. **ECE/7/1/65065/1-2** and **ECE/1/68193**]. However, due to the extensive character of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners estates much of local estate administration was undertaken by the Commissioners local agents such as Cluttons and Radcliffes and details of minor repairs are consequently often absent.

The main sources include the estate surveys undertaken by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners' agents usually made soon after the estate was transferred to the ownership of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners [CERC Series Ref. **ECE/6/1**] and the estate files in the Commissioners' main filing system [CERC Series Ref. **ECE/7/1**]. The estate surveys often include general descriptions of individual buildings for example a White House farm in Hinckley in Leicestershire surveyed in 1871 was described as: 'A 3 storied brick and tile house containing kitchen, parlour dairy, 4 bed rooms and cheese room, 4 horse stable shed, sheds for 20 cows and a barn' [CERC Ref. **ECE/6/1/107**, p. 827]. The surveys do not give further architectural information and the series of estate plans only gives the sites of individual buildings usually only in outline and consequently contains very little architectural information [CERC Series Refs. **ECE/11/1**]. The estate files can include general comments on the repair, maintenance or demolition of individual buildings such as a brief comment made in 1901 by the Commissioners' agents Smith Gore and Watkins about a group of 15 cottages called Hunters Row adjacent to the parish church of Hinckley in Leicestershire: 'They are old, constructed without regard to sanitary considerations and from their being situated so close to the Church yard wall, there is no means of making adequate provision for modern requirements in sanitation.' Ref. **ECE/7/1/67090**].

- Paddington Estate Archive

The Paddington Estate of Bishops of London had its own separate estate administration until 1954 and its archive including estate files, building licences, plans and photographs. These were deposited in 2003 at the Manuscripts Section of the Guildhall Library and were subsequently transferred to London Metropolitan Archives.

Parsonage Houses

- Queen Anne's Bounty

As part of its general role to improve the standard of living for parish clergy, Queen Anne's Bounty (QAB) made mortgage loans and direct grants towards the cost of improving or replacing an existing parsonage house or providing where none existed before. While the survival of records is very variable, a large body of records relating to the construction and improvement of parsonage houses was created over a period of 170 years.

In 1776 the Clergy Residences Repair Act (usually known as Gilbert's Act after its promoter, Thomas Gilbert) enabled the clergy to raise money for the repair or rebuilding of their parsonage houses by mortgaging the income from their benefices; the Queen Anne's Bounty was empowered to make loans at low rates of interest. By



1847 some 1,500 loans had been made under the Act.

The Glebe Exchange Act 1815 and the Church Building Act 1818 permitted sales of land to an incumbent, or in the latter case the Church Building Commissioners, as a site for a parsonage house. Then the Parsonages Act 1838 permitted an incumbent to sell his parsonage house; the purchase money was to be paid to the Governors of Queen Anne's Bounty who would use it to erect or purchase a new parsonage. Some new parsonages were for incumbents of the many new churches built during the 19th century to serve the country's increasing population. After the First World War, the impracticality of maintaining large parsonages suitable for big Victorian families with servants became increasingly apparent. In 1925 at least a fifth of parsonages were considered oversized. During the 20th century some 10,000 parsonages were sold, to be replaced in some cases by smaller ones.

Two significant series of records include the QAB E files [CERC Series Ref. **QAB/6/1/E**] and Parsonage Measure files [CERC Series Ref **QAB/7/7/PM**]

The E series files is an incomplete series, however where the files survive they give much information about changing construction techniques and character of the building trades. The file relating to the new parsonage house at Beaminster, Dorset, dating from 1859 shows it was built by John Chick a local builder for the sum of £1180, designed by William Architect of 30A Wimpole Street. The building specification indicates the house was a detached residence consisting of 11 upper floor rooms including two dressing rooms, and on the ground floor a drawing room, dining room, kitchen, pantry, scullery and study set in grounds that consisted of a kitchen garden lawn, orchard and paddock. There was also a separate beer and wine cellars. The house enjoyed a damp course consisting of '3 inch of gas refuse and sand to be laid throughout all the walls' at the level of the ground surface. The specification is accompanied by a set of plans [Ref. **QAB/6/1/E3172**]. It is a matter of chance if a file survives for a particular parsonage or not.

The Parsonage Measure files often include surveyor's valuation reports which often give a detailed physical description of the property, state of its repair or otherwise, and availability of electricity, gas and water supplies [Ref. QAB/7/7PM]. Compton Valance Rectory in Dorset was described in 1946 in a valuation report as 'quite exceptional charm but is expensive to keep up and rather dilapidated.' The structural condition was 'good except for the roof which has hole in it' [Ref. QAB/7/7PM1402]. These reports are occasionally accompanied by photographs and plans. Other records relating to parsonage houses such as title deeds and conveyancing files relate only to the legal title of the site and rarely contain any information of architectural interest.

- Ecclesiastical Commissioners

Ecclesiastical Commissioners gave grants towards the improvements of parsonage houses although the main body for improving the housing of the clergy before 1948 was the Queen Anne's Bounty. The augmentation file for the relevant benefice will often include correspondence between the Commissioners' own architect and local



incumbents, architects, builders and incumbents relating to the improvement or replacement of an existing parsonage house. Often the site for a new church included an adjoining plot for the parsonage house [CERC Series Ref. **ECE/7/1/**].

3.5 Schools

The National Society, established in 1811, gave improvement grants for the construction and improvement of new school premises. There is a series of school case files, dating from 1811 [CERC Series Ref. **NS/7/1**]. The files mostly relate to the process of applying for a grant from the National Society, however the correspondence includes an application form that gives details of the proposed improvements and these are occasionally accompanied by plans and sketches. A good example is the file for Harworth in West Yorkshire [CERC Ref. **NS/7/1/6011**]

For general information concerning sources for school buildings and education generally, see the Lambeth Palace Library/CERC Subject Guide to Education.

Enquires concerning the archives of the Church Building Commissioners, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and the Queen Anne's Bounty are most welcome at the Church of England Record Centre (E-mail: archives@churchofengland.org; address: 15 Galleywall Road, South Bermondsey, London, SE16 3PB, Telephone: 44 020 7898 1030).are most welcome.

4 Glossary

Church Assembly – Established by the Church of England (Powers) Act, 1919 as the central legislative body for the Church of England. Renamed and reconstituted in 1970 as the General Synod by the Synodical Government Measure 1969.

Court of Arches – The Court of Arches, the court of appeal of the archbishop of Canterbury, dates back to the 13th century. In its heyday the court exercised an extensive jurisdiction over marriage, probate and testamentary disputes, defamation, church property (rates, tithes, fabric of churches), and morals of the clergy and laity.

National Society for Promoting Religious Education – established in 1811 with the objective to create a church school in every parish throughout England and Wales, and it set out to this by encouraging and supporting local initiatives to build such schools

General Synod – Established by the Synodical Government Measure 1969, to replace the Church Assembly as the central legislative body for the Church of England.

Vicar General – The Vicar General is the official appointed by the Archbishop of Canterbury to administer the provincial, diocesan and peculiar jurisdictions on his behalf.



Visitation – The periodic visit to inspect the temporal and spiritual affairs of the parish carried by the bishop or the archdeacon.