

several interesting examples of recent restoration on sound lines. In particular reference must be made of the small early fourteenth century house in Witney Street, now known as Bull Cottage, which has been opened up with very pleasing results. Then in High Street there is Hill House, a later fourteenth century structure with a beautiful two-light window in what was the hall and a fine collar braced roof. Other notable restorations are the Bird-Cage Inn at Thame, the "Priory," Charlbury, with a magnificent timber ceiling in the hall, the Crown Inn, Shipton-under-Wychwood and the old manor house at Culham of stone and timber framed construction. Finally there is Minster Lovell, where the Office of Works has consolidated the remaining walls and revealed the complete ground plan of the great house of the Lovells.

When we come to consider in more detail the surviving examples of mediæval domestic architecture in Oxfordshire we find that, unlike Berkshire, there are no visible remains of twelfth century work, but the succeeding centuries are well represented, though there is not the wealth of examples which exist in Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire. The two oldest houses are at Cottisford and Swalcliffe.

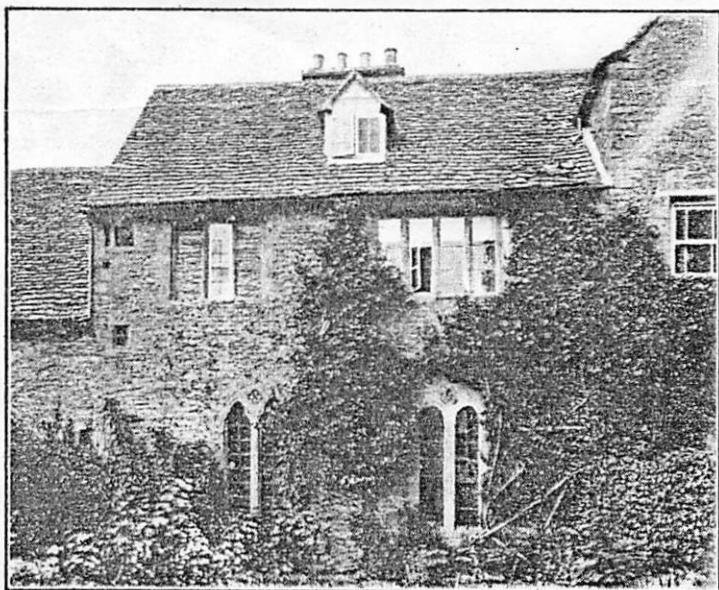
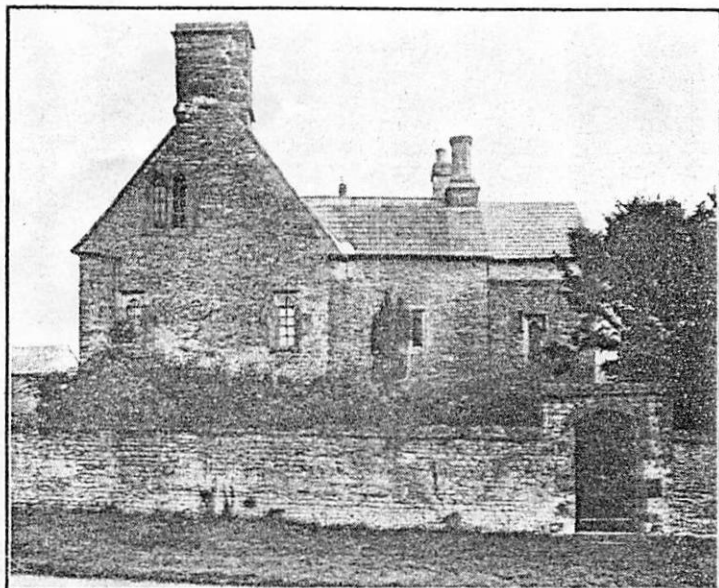
*Cottisford* was originally a small manor house of first floor hall type and rectangular plan with a garderobe projection at the north-west angle and possibly another projection on the centre of the west side. Judging from a two-light window in the north gable the house must date from about 1200 (*Plate 1, No. 1*). It was refashioned early in the 16th century when a wing was added on the south-west and windows with wooden frames and mullions inserted. In the last century it was much altered and disfigured, when blue Welsh slates were substituted for the old stone states and most of the fenestration was replaced by ugly nondescript windows, which spoil the external appearance of the house. The north end is the least altered part and retains in the gable the above mentioned early window. It is probable that, as originally planned, the kitchen occupied the ground floor with the hall and solar above. There is a good early sixteenth century fireplace in what was probably the original kitchen. The solar occupied the northern end of the first floor and retains two lancets in the end wall. From it opens the garderobe with a stone basin and drain beneath a plain rectangular window. A feature of the garderobe projection is the chimney-like erection on the gable, which must, however, have been merely a vent as there are no traces of any fireplace connected with it. The hall has been divided up into several rooms. Both it and the solar have some well moulded ceiling beams of early sixteenth century date. Above is an attic lighted at the northern end by the early two-light window.

The plain roof would appear to date from the sixteenth century refashioning. The south-west wing, which cannot be earlier than the sixteenth century has few ancient features, but in the upper room is a portion of oak panelling. A central projection on the west containing the modern stairs may be part of the original plan, but is more likely a later addition. In the nineteenth century the space between the garderobe and this central wing was filled in to provide an extra room on each floor.

The rectorial manor of *Swalcliffe* was bestowed on New College, Oxford, by its founder, William of Wykeham and is still in the possession of that Society. The present house, however, was in existence long before this grant and in spite of extensive alterations at various periods retains features of early thirteenth date. So far as the present writer is aware no adequate description of this interesting structure has been hitherto attempted. Though but little later than Cottisford the original plan was much more developed with ground floor hall in the centre flanked by kitchen and solar wings at either end. The house faces east with the former kitchen wing to the south and the solar to the north. Early in the sixteenth century an upper floor was inserted in the hall which was itself cut up and a large fireplace inserted at the lower end. The screen's passage remains intact with the original doorways at either end and the pair leading to the former offices. The solar wing was extended at the back and the fenestration altered. The kitchen wing was largely rebuilt early in the nineteenth century and the ground floor converted into two parlours. Until recently the kitchen was at the west end of the solar wing. The rebuilt kitchen wing is now of two storeys and may always have been so. In 1938 a large extension was made on the north side and the sixteenth century timber framed partitions in the hall removed. One of the hall windows retains its original jambs with the springing of the arch and within one of the jamb shafts of the rere-arch. Recently a small section of the rere arch was discovered built into the wall above. The most striking feature of the house is the vaulted undercroft of the solar with a curious vaulted passage beyond, the purpose of which is obscure (*Plate 2, No. 1*). The quadripartite vault of the undercroft is supported on a round central column with square cap and base. The house is built of the local brown ironstone with stone slates, but the Tudor chimneys are disfigured by modern shafts of dark blue brick.

At *Cogges* both the manor house and the parsonage are partly of thirteenth century date, but the former is much the more important in this respect. The hall and kitchen wing remain in great part, though much altered in the sixteenth century (*Plate 1, No. 2*). The solar wing on the other hand is difficult to identify, as it has been absorbed in a large Elizabethan addition at right angles to the hall block, making

Plate 1



No. 1 (above) COTTISFORD

No. 2 (below) COGGES

*Photos. E. M. Wood*