



Mr. Drummond purchased Albury Park in 1819 and during his life-time he made many alterations and additions both to the village and the mansion. One of his most remarkable projects was the building of the Apostolic Church which can be seen from the main A25 road. However, hidden behind this church is Cookes Place, the subject of the drawing. It is easy to overlook this house and dismiss it as just another of the Drummond houses. It has certainly undergone considerable alteration and enlargement but it is in part still an old house. The rear, or garden front, is all Drummond period, it is the front shown in the drawing where the old work is to be found. The structures behind the gables at each end are both cross-wings, the one to the right is Jacobean, the one to the extreme left a crown-post structure of the 1470s, and between them a crown-post, once open hall, house of the 1420's. Each structure stands independantly of the other, a gap of some nine inches separates the old open hall from the Jacobean cross-wing (this is often seen in other houses).

Inside the house there is little to be seen until an in-

spection of the roof-space reveals how the house has grown by additions at various periods.

The oldest part, the hall, still has its crown-post roof more or less intact. It is of three bays (this is unusually long), seven pairs of rafters to each bay. It is very smoke-blackened throughout its entire length; this could indicate that the service and parlour ends have gone, but it must be remembered that smoke from an open hall was sometimes conducted across the roof-space of the service end to escape through the gablet. We must, therefore, be prepared to consider that the end of this structure might have been service and the remaining two bays the open hall. There is a rather heavier deposit of soot at the end in question.

The crown-post cross-wing was an early addition and replaced one of these ends, or, to follow the evidence outlined above, was added on beyond the old service end. In either case it provided a spacious three-bay parlour with an upper floor—I think there is no smoke-blackening in this roof. The work in this wing is of a good quality, the wall plates are nicely chamfered, as are the tie-beams, and the crown-post

with curved struts at the centre of the rear two bays (now in the bathroom) is plain but nice. It appears that the front bay of this structure has always been separated by a partition extending from the ground to the roof as it contains timbers which could only have been put in at the time of the first build. It is interesting to see how a single diagonal strut from wall post to tie-beam was here considered necessary only on the side away from the old hall although there is no actual structural link between the cross-wing and the hall.

From the building of the cross-wing in the late 15th Century no further additions are now evident until the massive and ornate new parlour wing of the 17th Century was added. It is quite clearly indicated in the roof that the end of the old hall was cut off, and then, about nine inches away, the new structure was put up. By this time (or it could be, at this time) the old hall had an upper floor and brick chimneys provided—there remains no evidence of a smoke bay anywhere in the roof so this intermediate stage may not have occurred. In this Jacobean roof-space may be seen through side purlins and straight angle

braces from the collar to the tie-beam. At the centre of the roof a truss has been so arranged to provide an opening through the timbers with headroom to allow the use of the space for storage or sleeping quarters for servants.

Tucked away as it is, this cross-wing has not received the attention it deserves. With its decorative curved braces and two jetties, it is really very grand and must be listed with the best in the county.

From a little external evidence and rather fragmentary features inside, the architectural history of this house could only be guessed at, but as is nearly always the case, the story is in the roof, and I am grateful to a long-suffering owner for allowing me to climb into these exceptionally interesting roofs.

"The Selling Eye"

John Baker

Surrey Ad.

24/10/73

(Envelope 5, A.H.S.)

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