

SE44SW

BRAMHAM CUM OGLETHORPE
LS23

BRAMHAM

1/22
30.3.66

Bramham Biggin
(Formerly listed
Bramham Biggin
Bowcliffe Road)

II*

Large house. C17, altered 1750-56 by James Paine, for Allison. Mostly dress magnesian limestone, with some coursed rubble, stone slate roof. H-plan. Two and-a-half storeys, symmetrical; plinth, quoins, moulded dripcourses on 2 levels carried round the whole; set-back centre has central double doors with architrave and consoles supporting a pediment which breaks the dripcourse, two 12-pane sashes at ground floor and 2 above, a Diocletian window at 2nd floor (all these with plain surrounds), a hoodmould to a former mullioned window in the gable, gable coping with kneelers and finial; C18 rainwater head in each angle, narrow diagonal stairlight on each floor of right-hand angle. Gable of each wing has one window on each floor: ground-floor Venetian window breaking the dripcourse, 12- and 9-pane windows above, those in the right wing sashed but those in the left all glazed but blocked internally by a chimney stack which rises to break through the gable coping off-centre; otherwise, each gable has a hoodmould like that in the centre, gable coping with kneelers, and finial (to right-hand gable). Most of these windows break the remains of former cross windows, and there are similar remains in both re-entrant walls. Return wall of left wing, 6 bays has windows like those at front, but with single-storey semicircular bay windows to 1st and 4th, with parapet, 12-pane sashes in the 2nd and 3rd bays, and at 2nd floor a Diocletian window in the centre and a small sash in each outer bay. Rear: inter alia a cross window at 2nd floor of rear gable of right wing, suggesting original form of other fenestration before C18 alterations. Interior altered, the present principal feature of interest being the 2-storey entrance hall with C18 staircase (open string, scrolled brackets, 2 slim turned balusters per tread, panelled newels and ramped handrail); and stone flagged floor. History: was used as school during C19, with additions (now demolished) and alterations. References: RCHM Rural Houses of West Yorkshire 1400-1830 1986 p. 96. Derek Linstrum West Yorkshire Architects and Architecture (1978) p.362.

Part 3.

SOME ACCOUNT OF BRAMHAM COLLEGE, AND THE COURSE OF EDUCATION ADOPTED THERE.

NEAR the village of Bramham, to the southwest, is situated BRAMHAM COLLEGE, formerly known by the name of BRAMHAM BIGGIN; a place of great antiquity, and in days gone by, of great importance in the Parish; and once the residence of Sir George Allanson Winn, Bart., who, in the year 1797, was created the first Lord Headley, of the peerage of Ireland.

After his Lordship's death, (the second Lord taking up his abode in Ireland,) BRAMHAM BIGGIN was occupied by a succession of respectable families connected with the Aristocracy, among whom were the late Sir Edward Vavasour, Bart., William Lane Fox, Esq., and Captain Ramsden.

About the year 1843, the Rev. Benjamin Bentley Haigh, who had for several years occupied Grimston Lodge, near Tadcaster, as an educational establishment under Lord Howden, received an intimation

from his Lordship that he required Grimston Lodge for the residence of some other party; and having for some time looked about in vain for a suitable place to which to transfer his establishment, he at length, at the suggestion, and we believe, through the recommendation of the late Sir Edward Vavasour, took BRAMHAM BIGGIN on lease, and transferred his establishment thither.

And to indicate the high and noble purpose to which it would thenceforward be devoted, he soon afterwards very properly changed its name from BRAMHAM BIGGIN, to BRAMHAM COLLEGE.

Since the premises have come into Mr. Haigh's occupation, they have undergone a variety of alterations and improvements. Many of the old unsightly out-buildings connected with the place, as a gentleman's residence, have been cleared away; and several handsome new ones erected for the accommodation of the College, at a considerable expense to the present occupier. And, while in their construction, necessity, utility, and convenience, have been principally kept in view, architectural taste, elegance of design, and some regard to exterior decoration, have not been lost sight of.

The approach to the College has been wonderfully improved. The neat rustic Lodge at the entrance, recently erected in a fancy-style of architecture, gives an air of elegance to it; and the superb iron gates, suspended on lofty posts of massive sandstone, and

flanked on either side with strong iron palisades let into solid masonry, add a kind of aristocratic dignity to its appearance.

The gardens and pleasure-grounds have been tastefully ornamented and re-arranged; the former devoted, of course, to purposes of utility,—to the cultivation of herbs, fruits, and vegetables for culinary consumption; the latter exhibiting, to attract the eye and captivate the imagination, their flowery parterres, their rare shrubs, and choice evergreens; their fantastic wirework interwoven with the blooming rose or the climbing clematis; all interspersed with smoothly-shaven lawns and neatly-gravelled walks, and adorned at intervals with Roman urns or vases, wicker flower-stands, and other rustic devices: the whole combining the useful with the delectable, or, to express the idea in classic phrase, "*miscens utile dulci!*"

In short, when viewed from a distance, BRAMHAM COLLEGE presents, as a whole, a far different and a much more magnificent and imposing appearance than it did when occupied as a private gentleman's residence. This is more particularly apparent when it is seen from the Lodge. To a spectator viewing it from thence with its glassy dome and other ornamental appendages,—with its rich sylvan scenery, displayed not only in the grounds contiguous to it, but in the distant back-ground, the *coup d'œil* is indeed strikingly impressive and beautifully picturesque.

The site, or locality, is admirably adapted for a