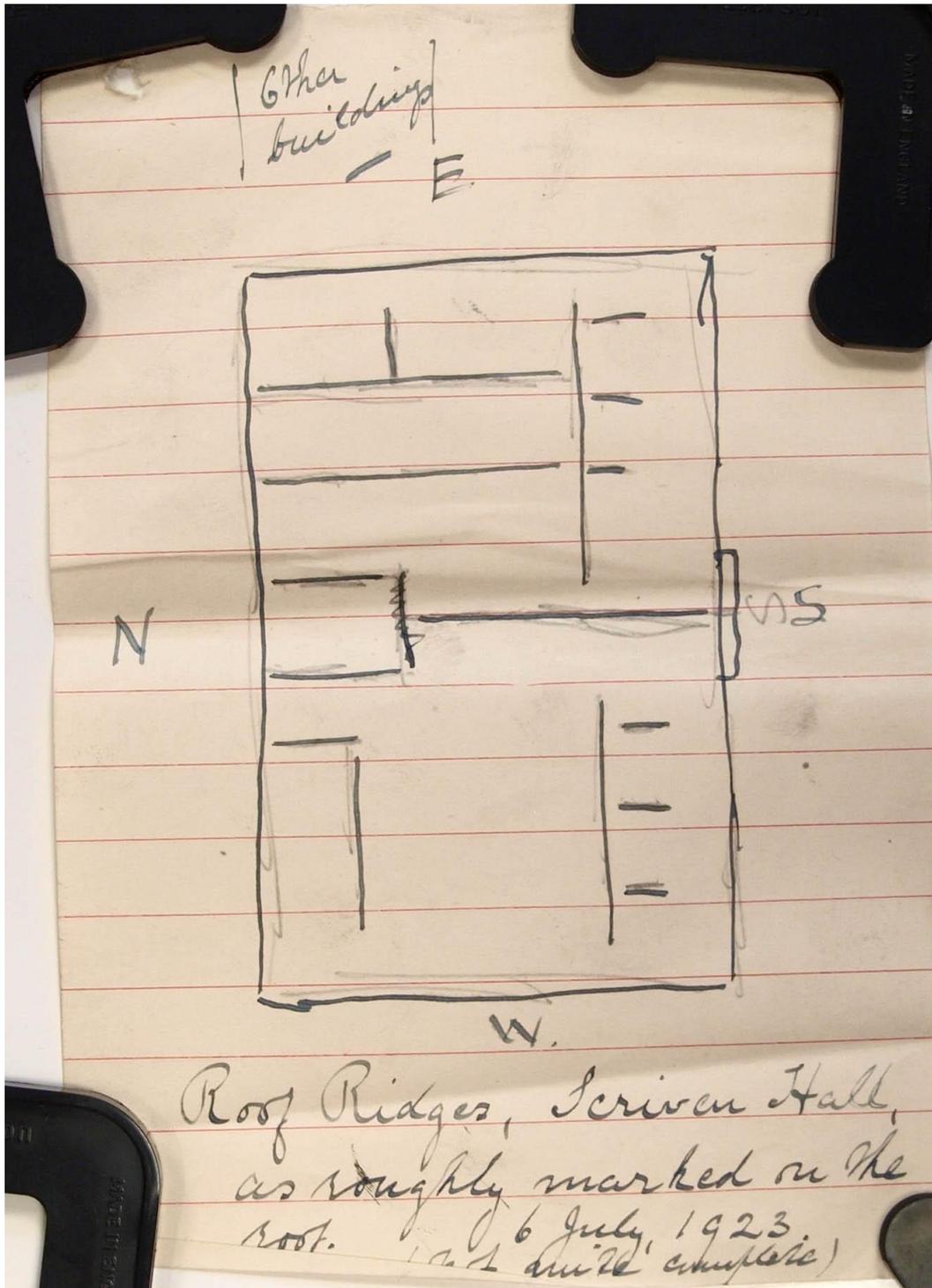


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Title Scriven Hall Roof Plans

Date 1923 July

Source Atkinson Papers



July 23rd 1923

FN182 The Roof of Scriven Hall

The roof of Scriven Hall which Capt Chandler took me to look at yesterday morning, presents a rather complicated series of ridges, which I have tried to map from memory, not quite correctly I fear, in Figure 1 below.

On the south front there seems to have originally been one long ridge, C1 & C2, having dormer windows D looking to the south. This ridge is now broken in two by a wide and low transverse ridge A covering the area of the main hall and extending forwards over the portico. In the opposite or northward direction, it extends a little past the longitudinal centre line of the roof as a whole; and behind it in the northward direction are two narrower roofs, E3 & E4, extending quite up to the north front, the wall of which seems to have been extended upwards to mask the gable ends. These two roofs are parts of a series of five, E1 to E5, all parallel and apparently of the same height and width. But the two to the east, E1 & E2, extend back to the front or southern longitudinal ridge C1 and are longer than the others

The one to the west E5 if I remember rightly is the shortest of them all. It is, I think, cut off in some way at its back or southern end, perhaps to leave room for the leaded flat or landing H. There is a curious piece of transverse roof, G, which I may not have correctly planned. But it has these peculiarities, first that the gable is not carried butt up to the north front masking wall, like the E gables; and second that it ends in a sloping, finished off, "hipped" gable and not in a vertical line. At the ends of the north front are two porticos of longitudinal gables, F1 & F2, apparently like the parallel south ridge, C1 & C2. The east end one connects, I think, with other roofs covering extensions of the kitchen and servants quarters below.

Communication with the roof is obtained through a window in the roof A at B which opens onto a gutter between the ridges E3 & E4. A slater's board with lath steps leads over to H. There is another of these boards on ridge E5, near N and probably there are others.

Round most of the roof there is a gutter of lead K, on the outer side of which there is a parapet, mostly made up of an alternation of stone panels and shortlengths of balustrade, the balusters of which are made of wood, which in some places is very much worn, though not more than the stone, limestone, is decayed in many of the panels. The various cross gutters are leaded and most of them can be traced as communications with the surrounding gutters but not all of them. At L there is an outlet as a fine leaden pan and fall pipe fixed to the west wall of the hall. This outlet is covered by an inverted, moveable leaden box perforated with circular holes, which serves as a grate. We turned it over and found it divided, like a knife box, by a partition across the middle. This was perhaps intended to prevent a sort of slack water caused by the meeting of two currents from opposite directions. Or it may have been designed for strength. The was very heavy.

There appeared to be another outlet at M but I could not make quite sure of its connection downwards. At N there was a vertical wire grate which seemed intended to protect a vertical outlet, just in the end of the cross gutter. This again I did not quite make out. But it may be important as if there be an outlet here, it is probably a concealed one and may mark an older front.

The ridges have three kinds of covering, grey sandstone slates, lead or blue or green Welsh Lakeland slates. Seeing that the "old hall" 1682 has grey slates, I think these will be the oldest; the lead probably dates from the 18th century alterations and the blue slates are probably newest and in some cases replace worn out grey slates.

I cannot remember how the various ridges are covered, but A & H are leaded as also are parts of C, I think. The E roofs are mainly grey slated. And G if I remember rightly is grey slated and in the worst condition.

The original roof, with the hall something like its present size may have consisted of two longitudinal ridges, C & F running the whole length, also in order to keep them low and keep the dormer windows out of sight below the parapet. Or the plan may have been one longitudinal roof C in front with a series of off shoots like G at right angles at the back. The leaded roof H is hardly likely to belong to the original design. It belongs, I think to a comparatively late and pretentious remodelling of something which was probably Elizabethan in the main on classical lines. It is possible that the whole front was then recased. Outside the base of the parapet on the south front there is a platform about 18 inches wide, which looks to me like the top of a wall, a mere plate of stone added to the older front which carried the balustrade.

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F. N. 182. - The Roof of Scriven Hall,
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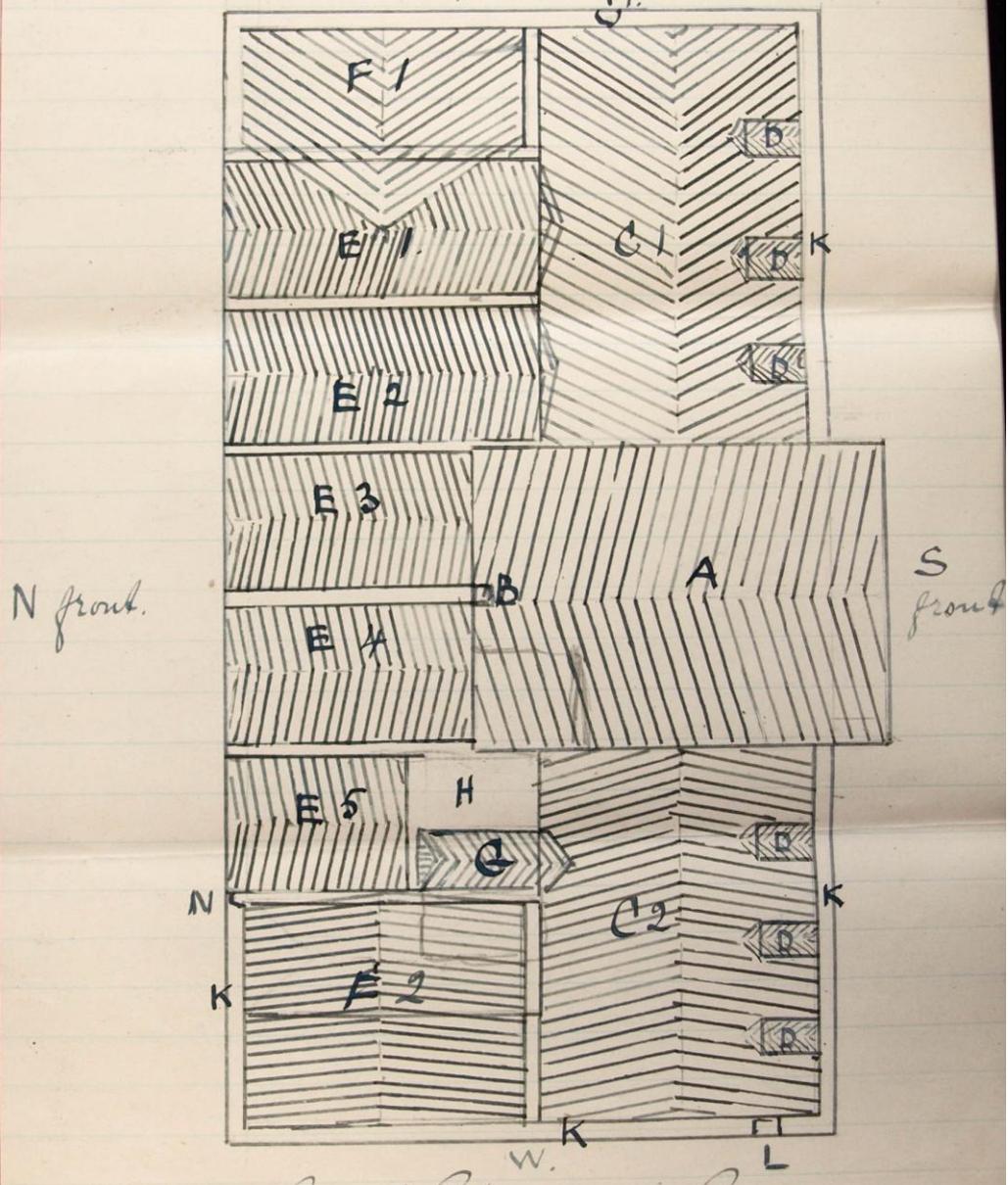


Fig. I. - Rough Plan of the Roof.
See below.

Figure I

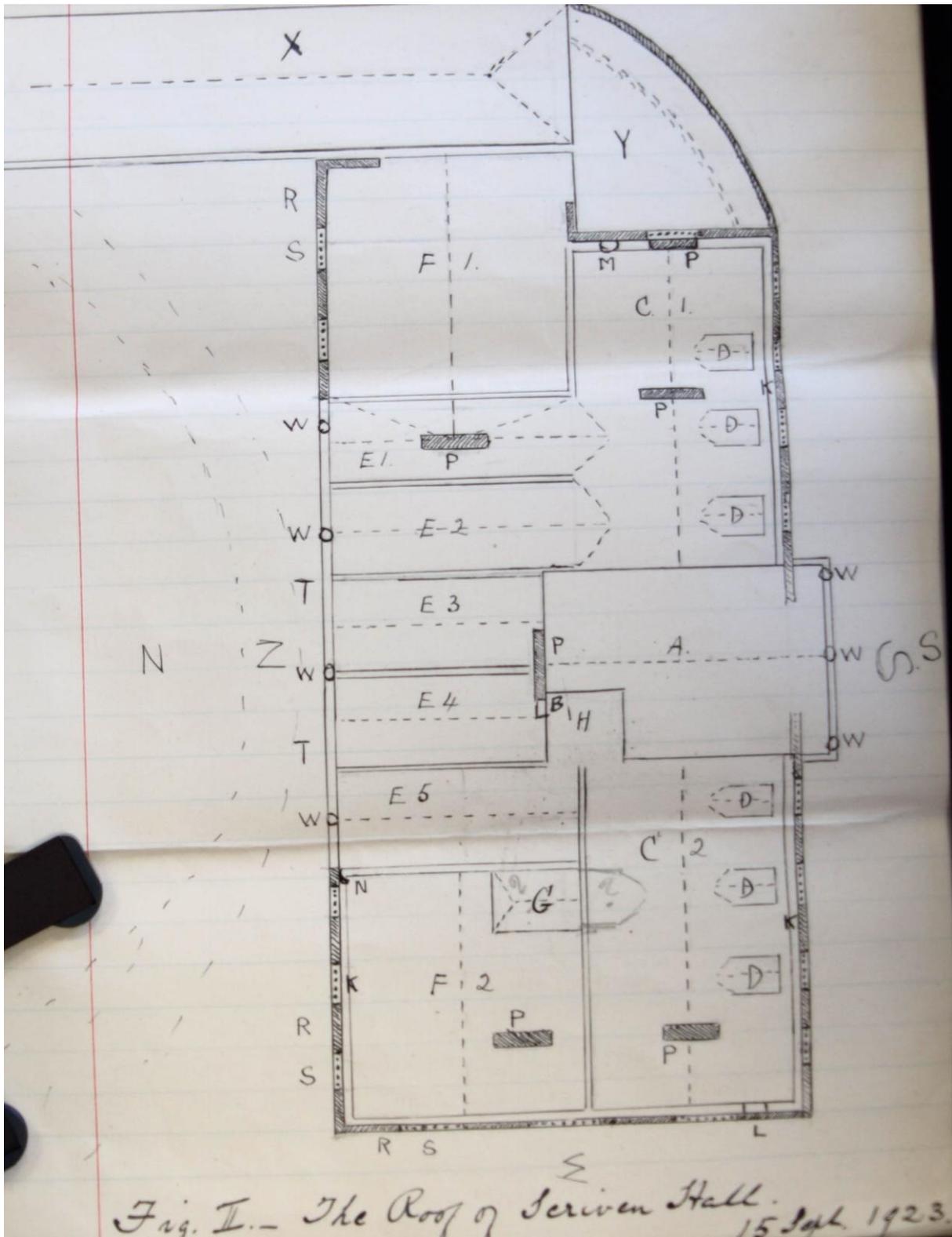


Figure II

Key to Figure II

- A Leaden roof over the saloon, ----- roof ridge
- B Exit to the roofs
- C1 & C2 longitudinal roofs east and west with
- D Dormer Windows
- E1 to E5 Transverse roofs of various lengths, all running N and S and close against the upward extension of the N front. E5 is over the front stairs and chandelier.
- F1 & F2 Portions of longitudinal roofs at each end of the N front. F1 extends beyond the corresponding part of the S front.
- G Short transverse roof finished off with a sloping end not reaching to the N front. It is over the back stairs into the attic floor
- H A small square leaded flat
- K Outer gutter running round much of the roof. The clear spaces between roofs represents the gutters, most of which are clearly connected with K
- L An outlet to the gutter. The leaden fall pipe on the W end is below it.
- M another outlet, apparently
- N probably now only the end of a cross gutter but possibly at one time a true outfall
- P chimney stacks
- R parapet, wall or panels
- S parapet, balustrades
- T parapet, plain upward extension at N front
- W ball ornaments
- X kitchen roof
- Y conservatory? Roof, one storey