

## The Mount- John Gibson

Having inherited the Wentworth Estates, including Malton, in 1782, the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl Fitzwilliam had set about improving the town and oversaw significant infrastructural initiatives, such as the relocation of the cattle market in 1826. After 1808, he had sought to revive Malton Spa, which had been renowned as early as 1669, when William Simpson had written about its qualities, and which had clearly been established prior to this date. By 1812, a new stone temple-like structure had been erected over the source. This had been designed by architect Peter Atkinson of York, designer of Lendal Bridge over the Ouse, as well as landscaper of Hackness gardens. He perhaps reordered the gardens of the Talbot itself at this time. The Talbot Hotel itself was extended and added to at this time also. Already a gathering place for the aristocratic and gentry racing fraternity, the improvement of the spa will only have added to its appeal and fashionability. Indeed, the spa and horse-racing will have been equally as important to the builder of the Talbot after 1672, Sir William Strickland.

The Mount, as well as other significant villas along 'The Brows' section of York Road, including the earlier Barton Cottage, should be seen as an extension of the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl's objective to make of Malton a fashionable Spa Town and to re-engage the neighbouring gentry with Malton. It was to this particular end that his agent, William Copperthwaite, proposed building the Assembly Rooms in 1814. Though this endeavour seemingly failed, the buildings remain.

The main architect of the period when the Mount was constructed, as well as of other major transformations – such as the construction of Saville Street, of a school in the grounds of the Lodge, of a general movement towards architectural improvement across the town, was John Gibson.

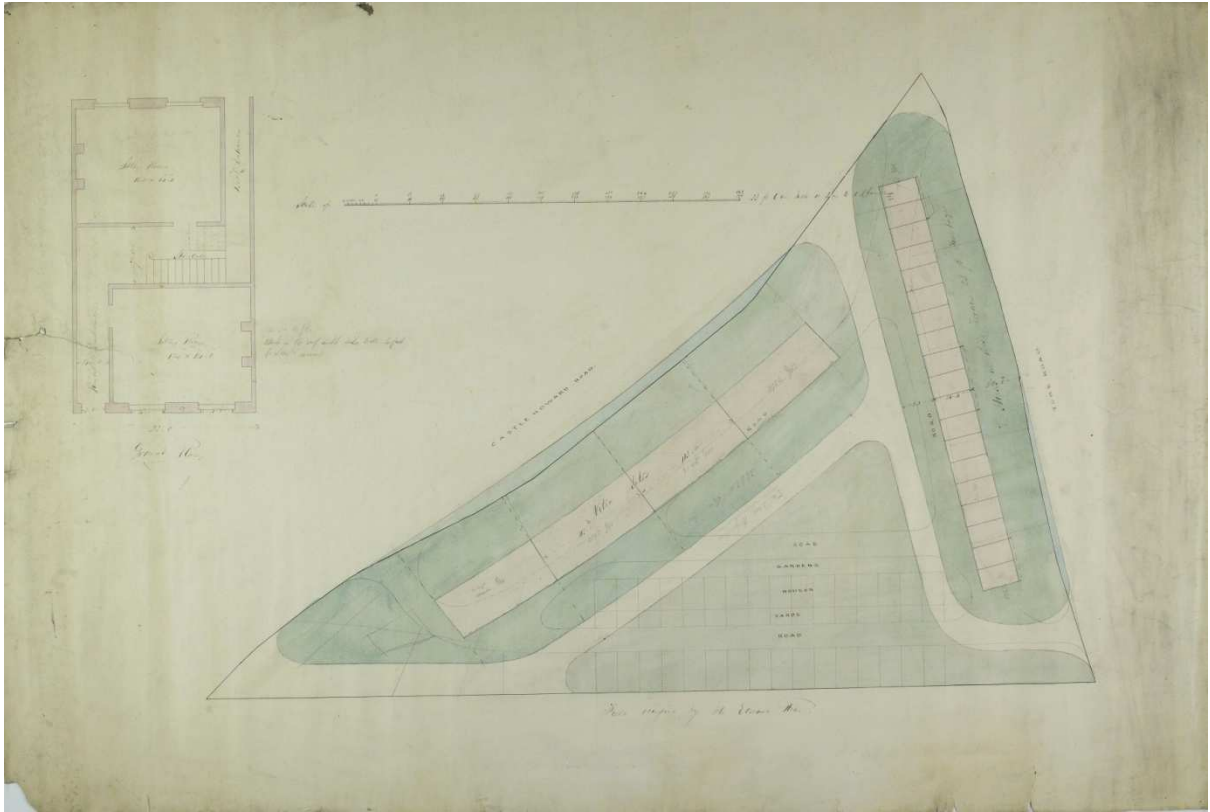
John Gibson is listed as leasing a house in Market Street, Malton, at this time 'Swine Market', on the 1843 Terrier. In later years, in 1858 White's Directory, for example, John Gibson's architects practice is noted as being in Market St, so that it may be considered that this is the same John Gibson. The house remains, 1 Market Street, currently Colin Ellis Estate Agents. It is brick-built, with 12-pane sash windows. The house at this time may have been only the southern half as seen today, with a yard onto the road to the N, the house subsequently extended across this in similar style.



Although clearly based in Malton in 1843, Gibson is credited with having conceived and designed the Crown Spa Hotel in Scarborough in 1844, the first purpose-built hotel in the region.

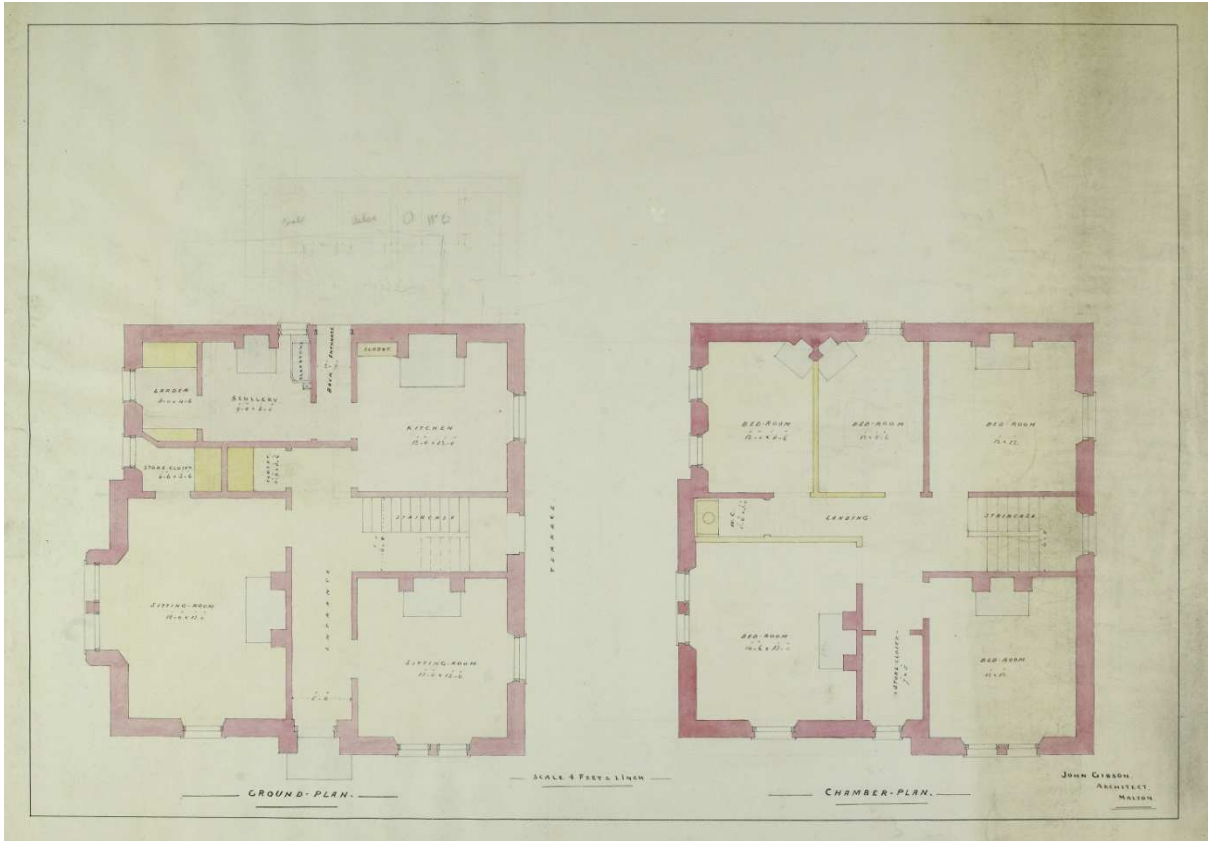
No houses upon The Mount are listed. A group listing of this area might be appropriate; further study of John Gibson and his work in and around the town most certainly would be.



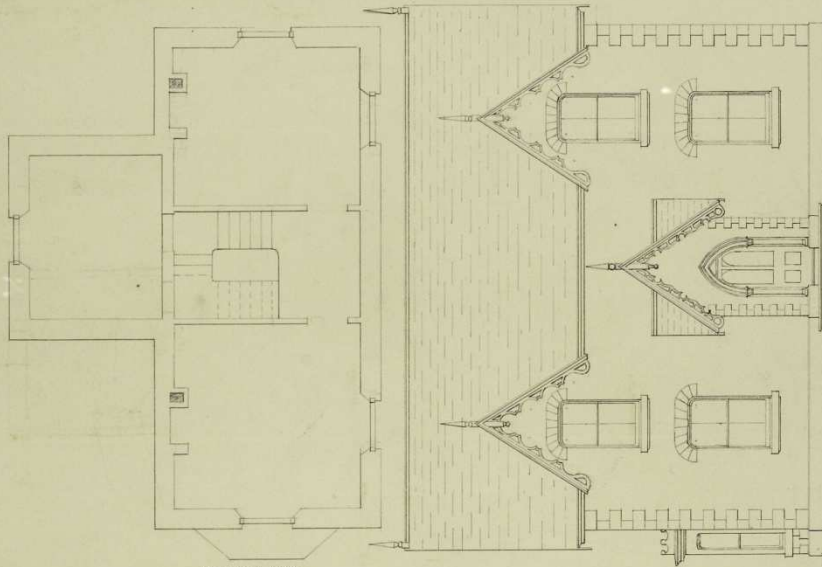


Early plot plans for the Mount.

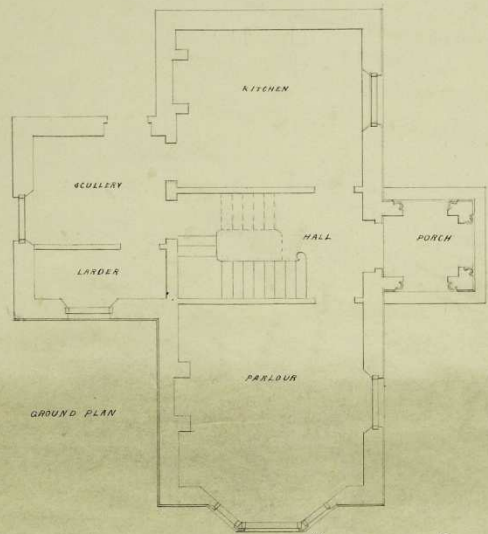




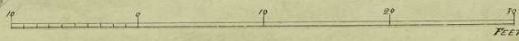
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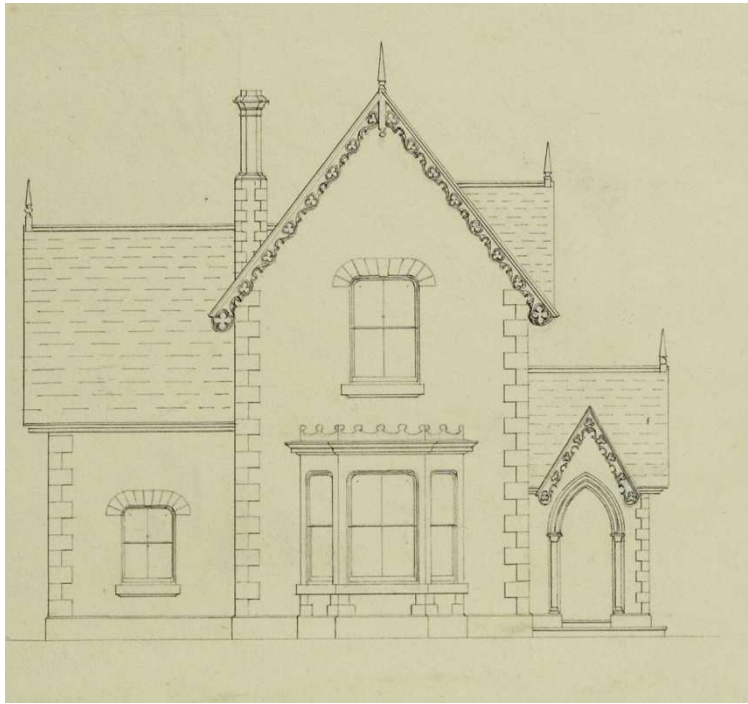


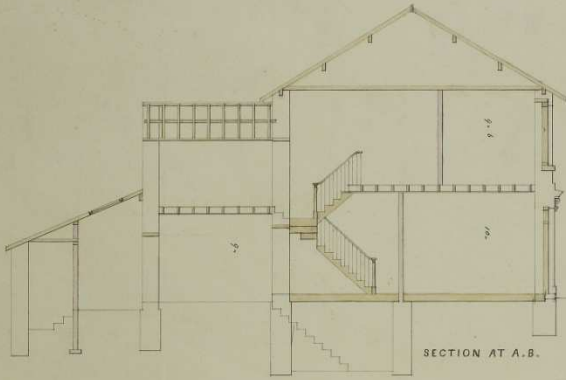
CHAMBER PLAN



GROUND PLAN



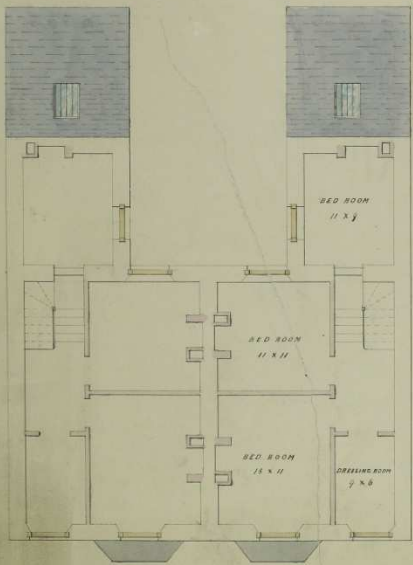




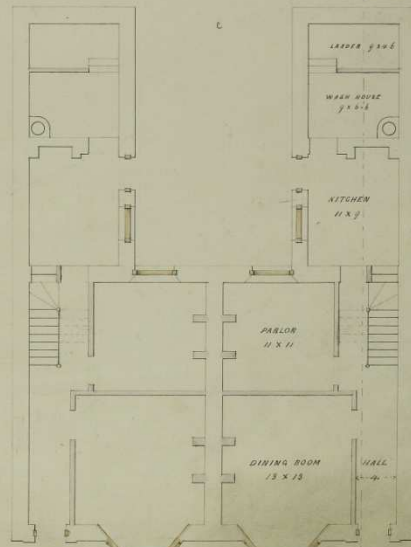
SECTION AT A.B.



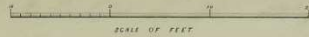
ELEVATION



CHAMBER PLAN



GROUND PLAN





The Mount as built – Terrier map 1854-91





Barton Cottage, circa 1820



Gibson's design for corner Yorkersgate and Saville Street



Gibson's unrealised design for corner of Old Maltongate and Greengate – a much less elegant building being erected instead, and, below, some of Gibson's proposal drawings for the Town Hall, again unrealised.

