

Guide to the
Archives of
The
Clothworkers'
Company

Part 2: Local History

Introduction

This guide offers an overview of the main sources held in The Clothworkers' Company archives for researchers interested in local history.

It is not intended to be exhaustive, nor is it aimed at those who are just beginning their research: the Clothworkers' archives are not the place to start.

I am interested in a property owned by The Clothworkers' Company. What records would you hold?

If the property is still held by The Clothworkers' Company, it is likely that the archive will hold a full series of title deeds and leasehold records. In some cases these may go back as far as the Middle Ages; more usually they begin in the seventeenth or eighteenth century.

If the property is no longer owned by the Company, it is possible that the archive may nevertheless contain leasehold records and records of management of the property.

My house was once occupied by a Clothworker. What records would you hold?

For genealogical information, see the leaflet on genealogical sources. It is unlikely that the archive would contain any primary information about the property, unless it was owned by the Company.

What records does the archive hold on the Clothworker estates in Ireland?

The survival of the Irish estate records has been rather patchy and little dates from before the nineteenth century, though some information as to estate management may be gleaned from the Court Orders.

It should be noted that the archive does NOT include the plan recorded as having been drawn up for the Company by Thomas Raven. This is held in The Drapers' Company Archive, Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Avenue, London, EC2N 2DQ.

For further information about the Irish Estates of the Clothworkers and other Livery Companies, the researcher is recommended to read J.S. Curl, *The Londonderry Plantation 1609-1914* (1986).

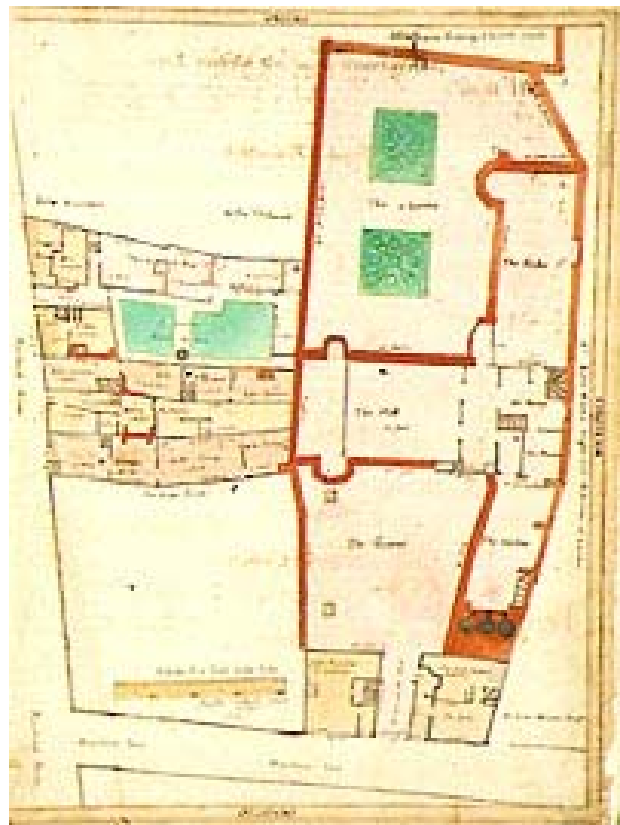
What plans and architectural records are held by The Clothworkers' Company?

Individual estate records very occasionally include plans – in particular, late eighteenth- and nineteenth-century leases often include building plans. Leases of this date may also include very detailed architectural schedules.

Few specifically architectural records survive before the twentieth century, though the Court Orders and other records may make reference to redevelopment of the Company's estates.

The Company holds a small number of estate plans. Of particular interest are those drawn by Ralph Treswell in 1612 and those by Frederick Porter dated 1867-72.

For a full series of reproductions of the Treswell Plans (which are thus not usually available for research) you are advised to consult J. Schofield (ed.), *The London Surveys of Ralph Treswell*, London Topographical Society publication number 135 (1987).



Ralph Treswell's plan of Clothworkers' Hall, 1612