

2017 JAMES PAINE FESTIVAL



celebrating the
300th Anniversary
of his birth

James Paine 1717 - 89

In 1745 Doncaster Corporation appointed a young aspiring architect named James Paine to design a Mansion House to be used for 'civic hospitality and celebrations' Paine chose, as his inspiration for the facade of the building, Inigo Jones's unexecuted design for a Royal Palace at Whitehall for King James I 'A facade fit for a king'. At the age of 27, Paine's career was launched and over the next 40 years he established himself as one of the great architects of the Palladian Revival in the mid 18th century.



Aims and Objectives

In 2017, the Friends of Doncaster Mansion House, in partnership with the Doncaster Civic Trust, York University and Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council, intend to celebrate the 300th Anniversary of James Paine's birth in the following ways;

- staging a series of architectural and cultural events at the Mansion House to celebrate Paine's life and works
- contacting all the other owners of James Paine buildings and asking them to open their buildings up to the public at some time during 2017.
- hosting a symposium at the Mansion House to discuss and explore the works of James Paine.
- creating a permanent exhibition on the works of James Paine at the Mansion House. The exhibition will be developed in partnership with other Paine property owners and other interested groups
- creating a James Paine website
- developing a new audience for James Paine's buildings
- involving volunteers, local heritage and community groups in the Festival

We look forward to working with interested individuals and organisations to make the Festival a success. For further details please contact Owen Evans – tel: 01302 342846 or otexways@blueyonder.co.uk .

James Paine's Career

James Paine (1717 – 1789) is widely regarded as one of the great architects of the Palladian Revival in the mid 18th century and an early exponent of rococo interior decoration. He took his inspiration from the buildings and writings of the Venetian architect Andrea Palladio (1508 – 1580) and of Inigo Jones (1573 – 1652). Paine was much admired for his ability to design and decorate grand houses with magnificent staircases to suit the needs of the aristocracy and compact, manageable houses for the landed gentry. He was equally accomplished at remodelling existing houses and providing functional estate buildings or decorative temples, gazebos and bridges. Although London based for most of his career, his buildings are mainly to be found in the north of England.

The son of a carpenter from Andover in Hampshire, Paine studied life-drawing at St Martin's Academy in London. The Academy, founded by William Hogarth in 1735, was an important meeting place for the artists, designers and patrons of the time. It is likely that Paine came to the attention of Lord Burlington's circle during this period as a promising new talent. Lord Burlington (1694 – 1753), the champion of the Palladian Revival, was well known for furthering the careers of young aspiring architects from humble backgrounds.

Paine's first commission was in 1737 as the clerk of works at Nostell Priory, a large house designed in the Palladian style by the amateur architect Colonel James Moyser for Sir Rowland Winn. Moyser was one of Lord Burlington's circle. The work took seven years to complete, during which time, Paine's responsibilities gradually increased until he was designing the interior decorations of the house 'much to the satisfaction of his employer'.

In 1745, he was appointed by Doncaster Corporation to design a Mansion House for 'civic hospitality and celebrations'. Paine chose, as his inspiration for the facade of the building, Inigo Jones's unexecuted design for a royal palace at Whitehall for King James I. 'A facade fit for a king'. At the age of 27, his career was launched in Yorkshire and the Midlands.

On the death of Daniel Garrett in 1753, Paine took over Garrett's well established architectural practice in London and the north-east. Garrett had been Lord Burlington's 'man of business and clerk of works' and had a number of other aristocratic clients on his books. Paine was soon carrying out alterations and repairs to the town houses and country seats of the Dukes of Northumberland at Alnwick Castle, Norfolk at Worksop Manor and Devonshire at Chatsworth.

James Paine's Career

Paine combined his new northern practice with some other prestigious London based appointments, including the post of Clerk of Works to the Queen's House at Greenwich and the Royal Mews at Charing Cross. Other commissions in London included work on Lincoln's Inn and Coutts Bank and a grand house in Whitehall for Sir Matthew Featherstonhaugh (now called Dover House and home to the Scottish Office).

During the 18th century, the roles of the architect, surveyor and clerk of works were not as clearly defined as they are today. Paine believed that an architect should be properly trained - 'an architect should be bred an architect' - and he helped to put this into practice by employing articulated apprentices himself. He was also concerned with 'the dignity of his profession and the establishment of proper modes of conduct among its members' and with their clients.

In order to promote his achievements and express his own views on architecture, Paine published his *'Plans, Elevations, Sections and Other Ornaments of the Mansion House, Doncaster'* in 1751 and in 1767, he published the first volume of *'Plans, Elevations and Sections of Noblemen and Gentlemen's Houses'*. This was followed by a second volume of plans, elevations and sections in 1783. These books contain magnificent engravings of all his most important projects with accompanying explanations.

In 1789, James Paine died in France at the start of the French Revolution.



Surviving Buildings

Peter Leach in his book on James Paine (published in 1988) provides a catalogue of Paine's documented works, projects and attributions. 15 projects were located in the North of England, 27 in Yorkshire, 14 in the Midlands, 10 in the East of England, 23 in London, 14 in the South of England, and 1 in County Sligo. Of the original 104 projects listed in the catalogue, only 52 completed or partial completed projects still survived today and only 22 of these are open to the public. 5 of the sites are owned by the National Trust. The projects are listed below:

North of England - 10 survive – 6 open to the public* - Alnwick Castle * - Axwell Park - Belford Hall - Blagdon Hall - Bywell Hall * - Gibside * NT - Gosforth Hall - Hardwick Park * - Raby Castle * - Wallington Hall * NT

Yorkshire - 17 survive - 5 open to the public* - Bramham Biggin - Bramham Park * - Cowick Hall - Cusworth Hall * - Dinnington Hall - Doncaster Mansion House * - Heath House - Hickleton Hall - High Melton Hall - Kirkstall Grange - Milnsbridge House - Nostell Priory * NT - 17, Corn Market, Pontefract - 5, Market Place, Pontefract - Sandbeck Park - Stockeld Park * - Wadworth Hall

The Midlands - 10 survive – 5 open to the public* - Chatsworth House * - Chillington Park * - Burton House - Gopsall Hall * - Kedleston Hall * NT - South Ormsby Hall - Serlby Hall - Stoke Hall - Weston Park* - Worksop Manor

East of England - 6 survive - 2 open to the public* - Brocket Hall - Hare Hall - Felbrigg Hall * NT - Shrubland Hall - St Paul's Walden Bury * - Thorndon Hall

London - 4 survive – 1 open to the public* - Dover House, Whitehall * - 37, King Street, Covent Garden - Lumley House, South Audley Street - St Anne's Soho Parish Workhouse, Manette Street

South of England - 5 survive - 2 open to the public * - Britwell Salome - Chertsey Bridge * - Moor Park - Richmond Bridge * - Wardour Castle