



The Entrance Porch

This porch was built in 1846 when Bishop Bagot (1845 — 1854) employed a well-known Victorian architect, Benjamin Ferrey, to make changes to the building. These changes included the addition of the top storey and other alterations.

Prior to 1846 this porch was positioned one bay to the left and it did not stand in the centre of the facade as it does today. The coat of arms above the entrance to the porch is that of the Diocese of Bath and Wells. The keys of Saint Peter and the sword of Saint Paul are the arms of Bath Abbey and the cross of Saint Andrew is the arms of Wells Cathedral.

The bishop's mitre announces the building to be The Bishop's Palace. The lanterns on either side of the entrance would have had lamps placed inside them. From the outside, look up to the drainpipe heads which show a pelican wounding its own breast to feed its young, a design taken from Bishop Piers (1632 — 1670) coat of arms.

Where next?

- Step from the 19th Century porch into the 12th Century Entrance Hall