

Burton Constable Hall

The Constable family have held lands in Holderness since the twelfth century. Over the years they extended their ownership of the area's rich agricultural lands with dwellings at both Burton Constable and Halsham, just nine miles away. In 1560, Sir John Constable purchased the Lordship of the Seignior of Holderness from the Earl of Westmorland. This entitled him to extensive rights over the coastline in addition to a substantial income from rents. Having become the richest landowner in the East Riding of Yorkshire, he embarked upon an ambitious building project at Burton Constable. He tore down the greater part of the old manor house and built a grand Elizabethan mansion.

As both Royalists and Catholics, the Constables suffered a reversal of fortune during the Civil War. This was only temporary, however, and the family prospered in the 18th and 19th centuries. In the mid-18th century William Constable commissioned architects and designers to alter Burton Constable and remodel many of the interiors, to build a new Stable Block and to landscape the parkland. In order to furnish his house he used some local suppliers but for the best rooms turned to more fashionable London manufacturers. These included Thomas Chippendale, who was commissioned to furnish interiors both at Burton Constable and at Constable's London house in Mansfield Street.

