

Busy Whitehall traffic with the clock tower housing Big Ben in the background.



it's a street, the main artery running north from Parliament Square, towards Charring Cross at the southern end of Trafalgar Square.

Whitehall & Big Ben, View from Trafalgar Square



Trafalgar Square was built at the northern extremity of Whitehall in the early 19th century. The southernmost part (by Parliament Square) is Parliament Street, but there is no longer any distinction between the two. Combined, the streets cover a total distance of about 1 km.

An engraving of Whitehall from St James' Park.



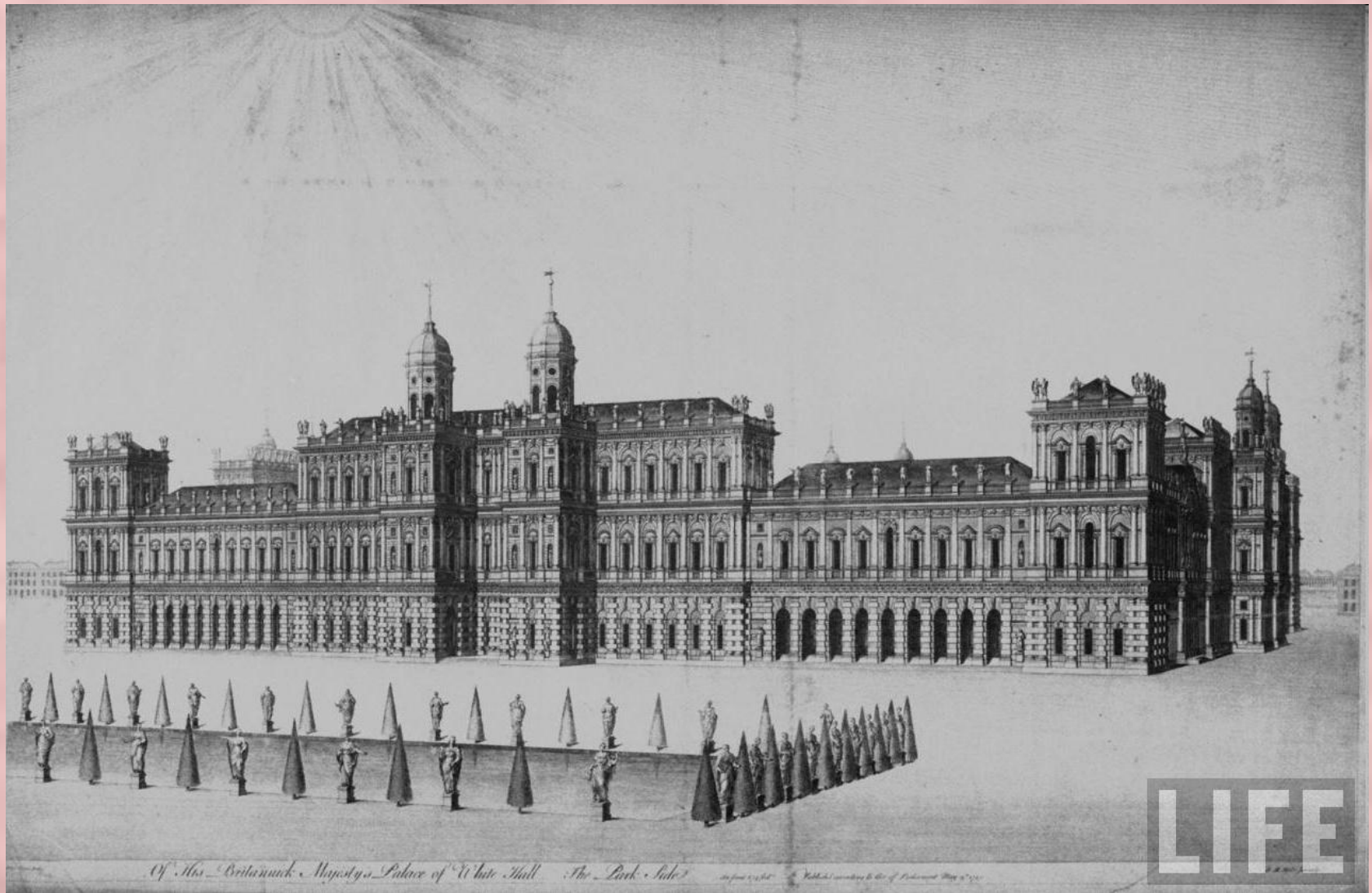
The name is taken from the vast Palace of Whitehall that used to occupy the area. The Palace of Whitehall was the main residence of the English monarchs in London from 1530 until 1698 when it was almost completely destroyed by fire.

The Old Palace of Whitehall by Hendrik Danckerts from St. James's Park



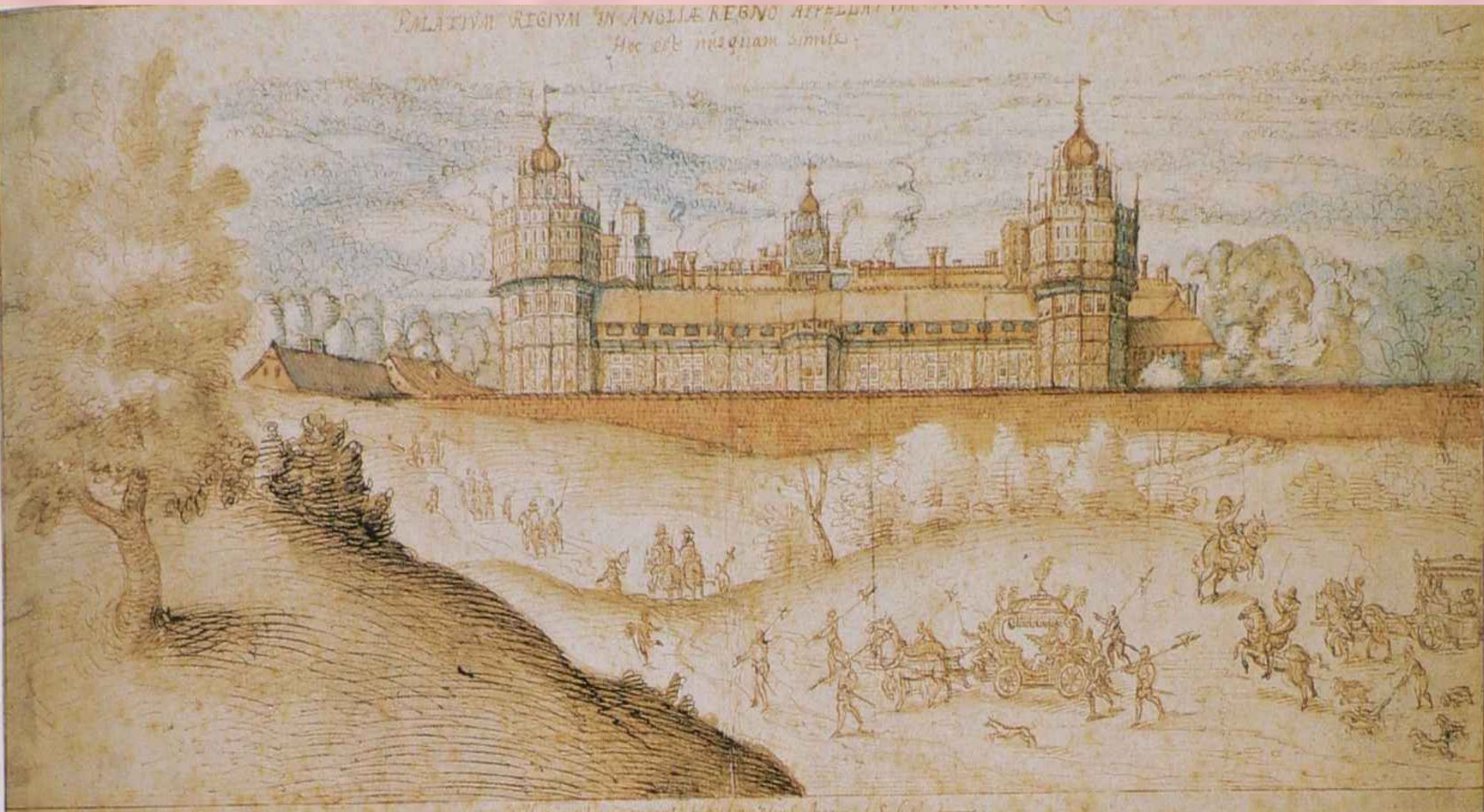
Before the fire it had grown to be the largest palace in Europe, with over 1,500 rooms, overtaking the Vatican and Versailles.

Engraving of the palace side of Whitehall

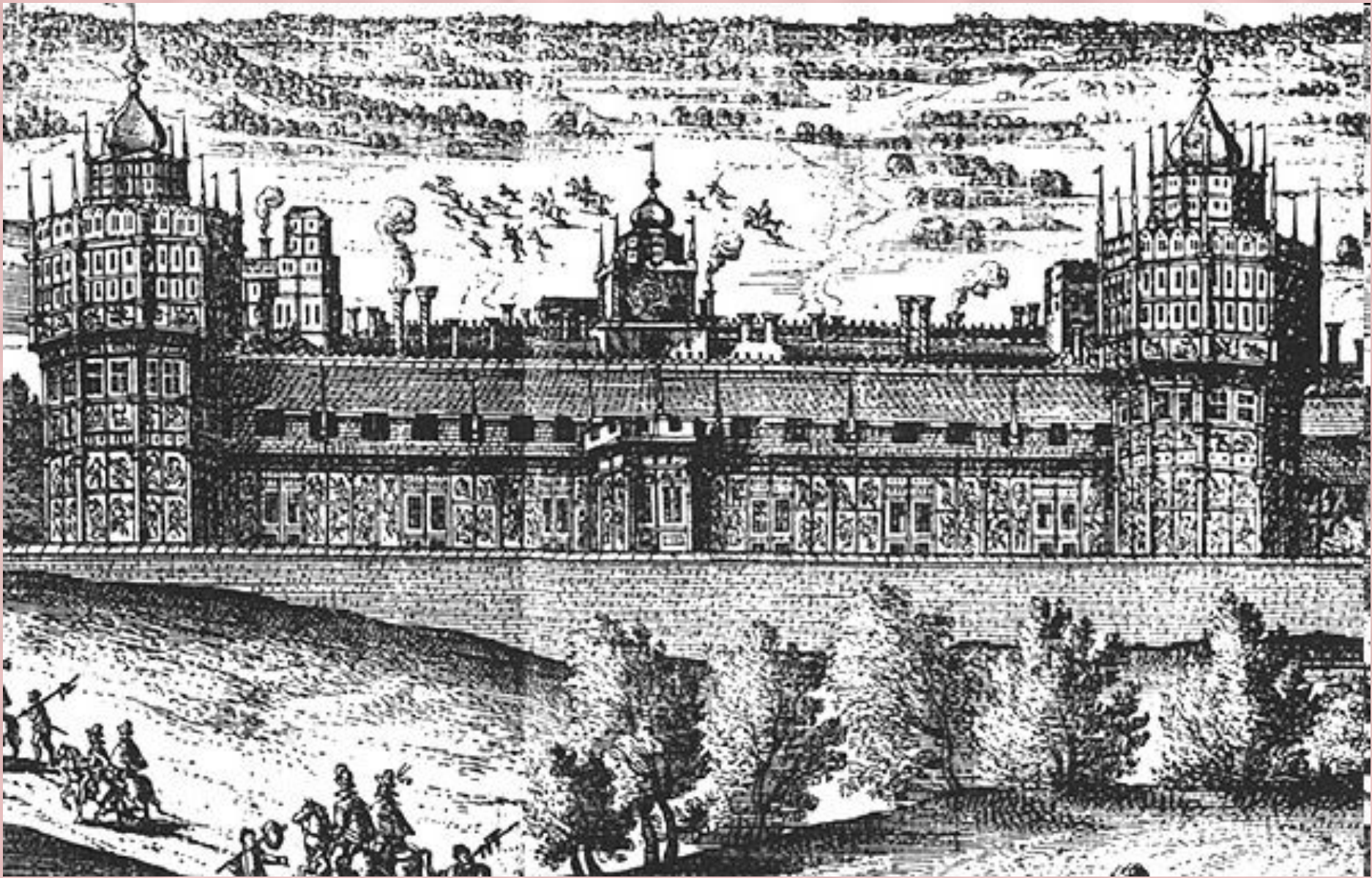


The Palace of Whitehall was largely the creation of King Henry VIII, expanding an earlier mansion that had belonged to Cardinal Wolsey, originally known as York Place.

Joris (or Georg) Hoefnagel (1542 –1601), The Palace of Whitehall,

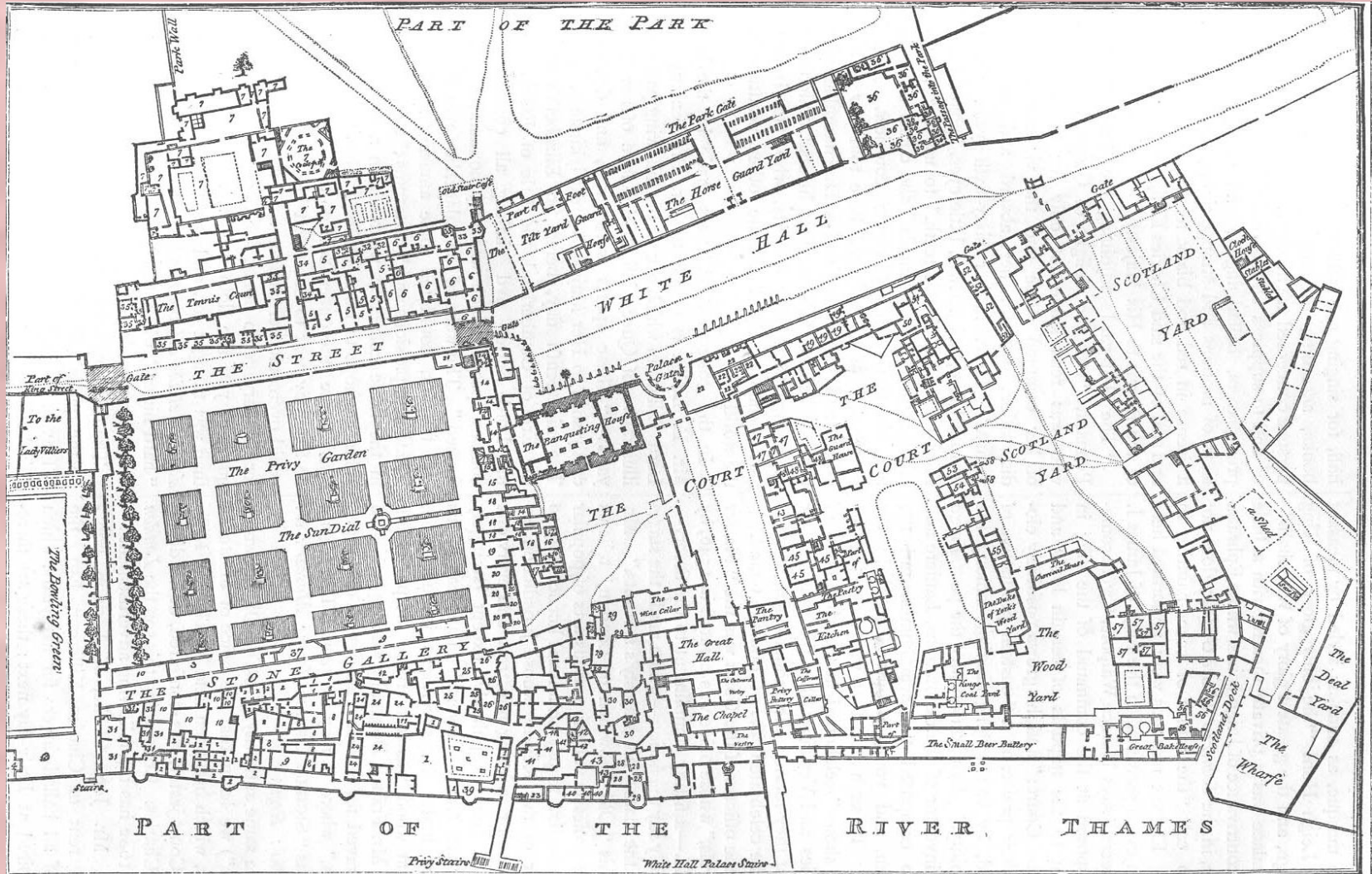


The King was determined that his new palace should be the "biggest palace in Christendom", a place befitting his newly created status as the Supreme Head of the Church of England.



Whitehall covered over twenty-three acres. On the western side of the palace it housed the largest recreation centre of any Tudor palace.

The Royal Palace of Whitehall Plan



A reduced copy of FISHER'S GROUND PLAN of the ROYAL PALACE of WHITEHALL, taken in the Reign of CHARLES 2^d. 1680.

1. The Lodgings belon'g to his Majesty	19. The Lord Keeper	31. Sir Robert Murray	49. Colonel Darnley	67. To Mr. Cliffland	81. To Mr. Vase
2. The late Royal Highness	20. The Chapel Office	32. The Wardrobe	50. Sir Henry Woot	68. To Mr. Lisle	82. To Mr. Lisle
3. His Highness's Princes Apartments	21. Dr. Edw. ^d Waller	33. Her Majesty's Apartments	51. Sir William Blegrove	69. Sir Paul Arale	83. The King's Musick House
4. The Duke of Richmond's	22. The Treasury Chambers	34. The Maske of Honor	52. Captain Cook	70. The Offices of Jewel Office	84. To Mr. Early
5. The Duke of Monmouth's	23. The King's Laboratory & Bath	35. The Countess of Suffolk's	53. Mr. Kirke	71. The Quarter Masters	85. To Mr. Early
6. The Duke of Ormonde's	24. The Lord Arlington's Office	36. The Queen's Wardrobe	54. Mr. Kirke	72. Sir John Drevore	86. To Mr. Stephen Ford
7. The Duke of Albemarle's			55. Mr. Kirke	73. Fisher Patricke	87. To Mr. Churchill
8. The Earl of Bath's			56. To Mr. Brown		

* The Spot where Charles I. was beheaded.

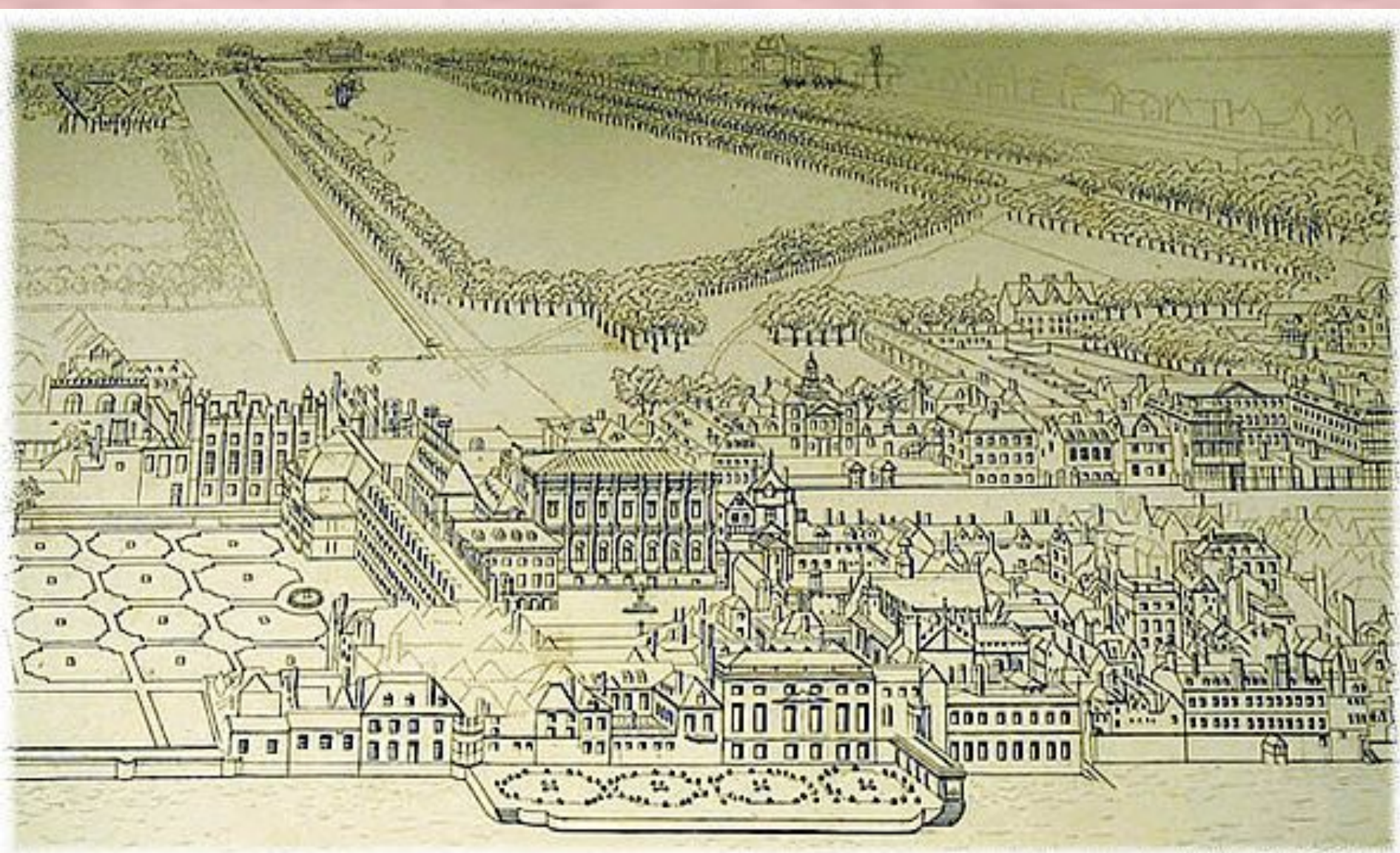
The palace also included four tennis courts, two bowling-alleys, a cockpit, a pheasant-yard and a gallery for viewing tournaments.

Holbein Gates, Whitehall (demolished in the 17th century)



Throughout Henry's lifetime the palace was filled with treasures; after his death it took eighteen months to catalogue all his goods.

A Drawing of the Royal Palace of Whitehall from the Thames

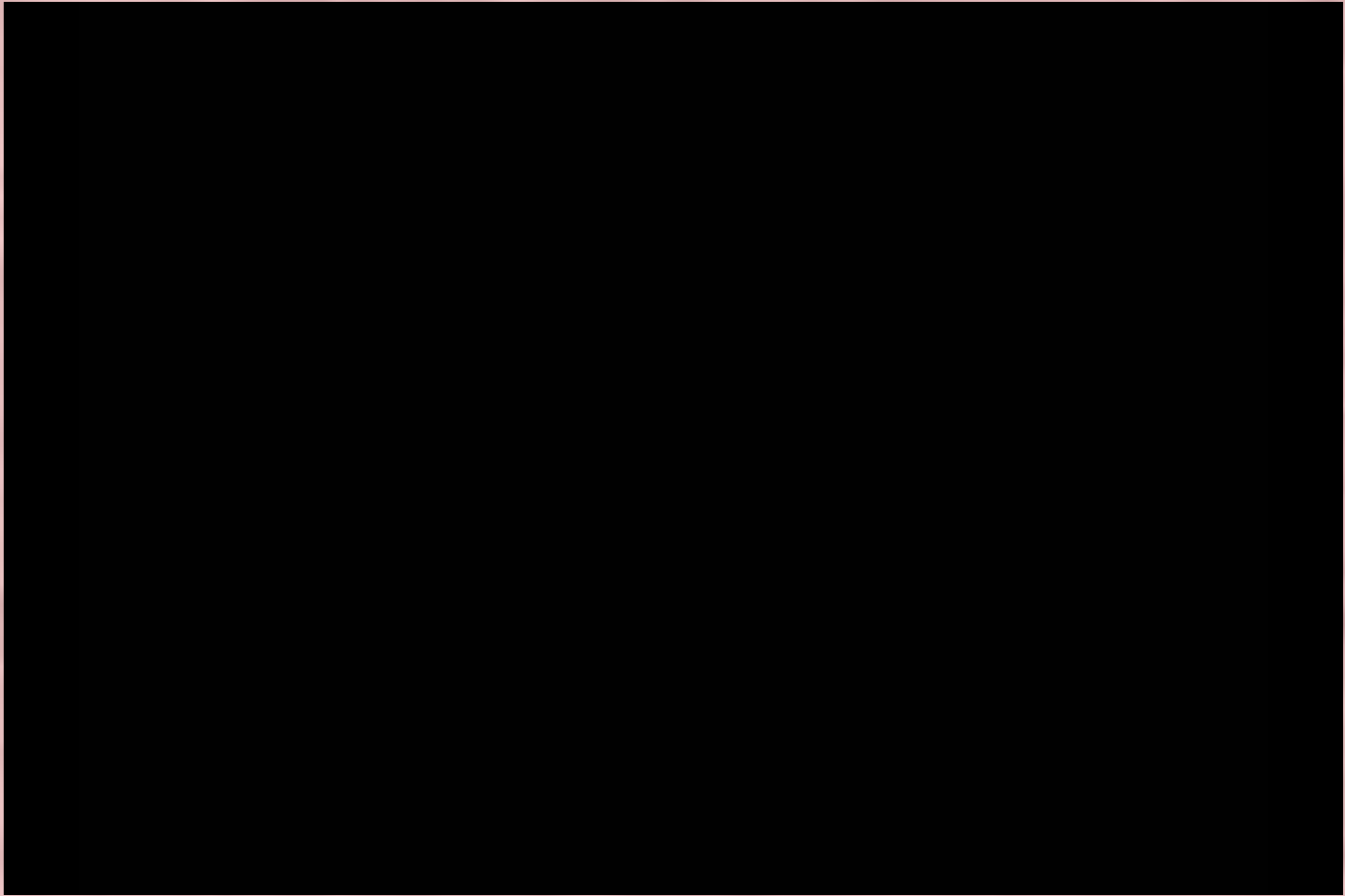


The Palace of Whitehall was a joint project between Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn who planned the palace to be their future marital home.

Hendrick Danckerts, The Old Palace of Whitehall



Anne Boleyn's coronation feasts and jousts were held at the palace in 1533. By 1536 an act of Parliament gave the palace the official status as the king's chief residence.



The Palace of Whitehall, London, Story

Whitehall, London in 1669 from Count L. Magalotti, “Travels of Cosmo the Third, Grand Duke of Tuscany, through England during the Reign of King Charles the Second”



Whitehall was originally a wide road that ran up to the front of the palace. The Banqueting House is on the left. The Gateway across the street (Holbein Gates) has been removed.

A view of Whitehall, looking south, in 1740



Whitehall and its continuation Parliament Street are now roughly the breadth of the section of the road in the foreground all the way to Parliament Square.

Banqueting House, Whitehall



The Banqueting House was the only palace building spared by fire.



Inigo Jones, Architect (1573-1652)

A famous master architect of his time Inigo Jones designed the building He began the construction in 1619 and completed it in 1622.

A contemporaneous print showing the 1649 execution of Charles I



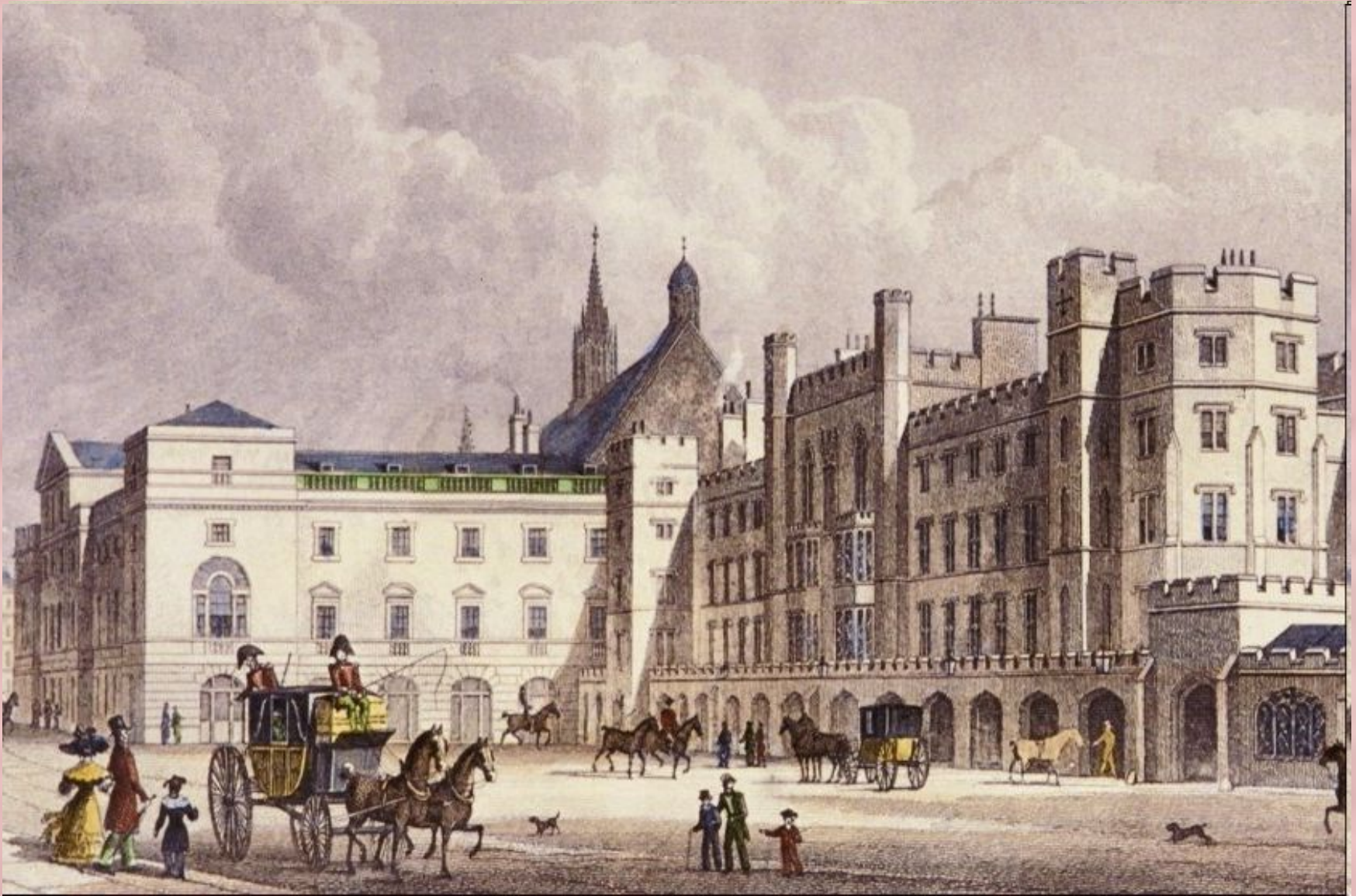
It was there, in front of the Banqueting House, Whitehall, that King Charles I was beheaded on the warrant of the Parliament in 1649.



HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES ·I·
PASSED THROUGH THIS HALL AND
OUT OF A WINDOW NEARLY OVER
THIS TABLET TO THE SCAFFOLD
IN WHITEHALL WHERE HE WAS
BEHEADED ON 30th JANUARY 1649

**There is a memorial
bas-relief on the
Banqueting House
indicating the site of
the King's execution.**

Thomas Hosmer Shepherd, The Banqueting House, Whitehall



Thus the Banqueting House is the only integral building of the complex now standing, although it has been somewhat modified.

Gerard Honckgeest, Charles I dining with his Queen in Whitehall Palace, talking to his friends, waited on by his great lords, courtiers, and privileged onlookers



The term Banqueting House was something of a misnomer. The hall within the house was in fact used not only for banqueting,