Hoare Mausoleum, Wilts.

A pinnacled Gothick structure resembling the top of a church tower placed on the ground. Open on three sides, it was never intended as more than a canopy to shelter the marble tomb chest within. This is inscribed with the words RICARDUS COLT HOARE ANNO MDCCCXIX.

Architect(s)
John Pinch of Bath

Listing
Grade II (England and Wales)

Year Created
1819

Style
Gothic Revival

History
Sir Richard Colt Hoare of Stourhead (1758-1838) was born into a wealthy banking family and, although he worked briefly in the banking-house, inherited sufficient means to allow him to travel and devote himself to the study of classical antiquities. But when, in 1805, the Napoleonic Wars made continental travel impossible, he began to study the archaeology and history of the British Isles instead. He published the work for which he is now famous, *The Ancient History of North and South Wiltshire*, between 1812 and 1819.

In 1783 Hoare had married the daughter of Lord Westcote, but she died two years later and he never married again. As a result none of the members of the family buried in the vault beneath the mausoleum are his offspring. The bronze “Obituary” on the back wall lists the males on the left and the females on the right hand side. The mausoleum was built in 1819 but the earliest interment appears to have been that of Matilda, wife of Captain Richard Hoare RN, who died in 1826, and the last that of Sir Hugh Richard Hoare bt, who died in 1857. There are other monuments to members of the family in the south aisle of the church.

Condition
Good (2001).

Sources
BoE: Wilts (1975) 494;
*Dictionary of National Biography*.

Location
Churchyard of St Peter,
Stourton with Gasper,