


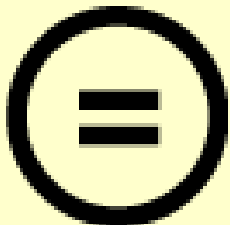



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THE LAITHE HOUSE OF UPLAND WEST YORKSHIRE:

ITS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE.

by

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A Doctoral Thesis

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements  
for the award of  
PhD. of the Loughborough University of Technology,  
May 1986.

C by Christine Westwood, 1986.





Mount Pleasant Farm,  
Stainland,

West Yorkshire.



## ABSTRACT

The laithe house is an example of vernacular architecture, typical of the upland farmsteads of West Yorkshire. It is a dual-purpose dwelling, being house and agricultural building built in one range. The form appears from the earliest stone buildings of the 17th. century, but it is typical and widespread from the late 18th. century, being adopted as a convenient and compact smallholding for tenant farmers on newly-enclosed land. It is particularly associated with textile manufacture, its occupants more or less dependent on this industry. The decline of the laithe house occurs in the late 19th. century as textile manufacture moved away from home industry and vernacular architecture gave way to modern building development. The laithe house particularly reflects the social and economic life of West Yorkshire up to and during the first phase of the Industrial Revolution, being house, farm and workshop all under one roof.

This thesis presents a background introduction to the topography and history of West Yorkshire and a general survey of vernacular architecture in the county from 14th.-19th. centuries. The laithe house itself is examined as follows; a summary of other researchers' findings and a discussion of the possible origins of the laithe house and connections with longhouse tradition; an extensive architectural survey; specific surveys in 11 selected areas. The work is supplemented by 60 plates, 60 figures, tabulated information and appendices, including a full list of laithe houses identified and descriptions of 85 dated examples.

The study is based on two years' field work, secondary sources and documentary sources which include tithe and enclosure awards, land tax and estate records, contemporary commercial directories, wills and probate inventories, and a particular study of the 19th. century census returns which provide a documentary overview of laithe house inhabitants and their occupations, supplementing the extensive survey.

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PREFACE

The best way to understand a past society is to look at the physical evidence it leaves behind, interpreting this evidence through the documentary sources available. Historical study of vernacular or common housing has gained in importance with increasing awareness of houses as valuable evidence for the study of the social and economic history of the people who lived in them.

Today, size and type of housing is a good indication of the social and economic standing of its occupants; this is true of any period throughout history. In addition, many houses in the period up to the Industrial Revolution were also places of work and therefore embody even more direct physical evidence of the occupants' economic function in society. In a still predominantly rural society, the farmhouse was in itself an example of this. There were also many instances where farming was carried on as a dual occupation with one or more other industries.

While high-status houses tend to reflect national trends in the links between architecture and social class, common housing reflects regional trends. It yields its best evidence through studies of numbers of examples, rather than individual, isolated cases, summarised within and between areas.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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I am also indebted to the staff of the archives and libraries throughout West Yorkshire, in particular Mr. A. Betteridge at Calderdale District Archives and Mrs. S. Thomas at the Yorkshire Archaeological Society.

In addition, I wish to thank Scobie Alvis and Lilian Ip for their practical advice on the illustrations and layout, and Ann Barrowclough, Jo Taylor, Henny Pinto and Ann Craig for their continued help and support.

Finally, I should like to express my gratitude to all the laithe house owners who extended their hospitality and patience in allowing me to investigate their homes.

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ARCHIVES AND REPOSITORIES

Archaeology Unit,  
Department of Recreation and Arts,  
County Hall,  
Wakefield.

Borthwick Institute of Historical Research,  
St. Anthony's Hall,  
York YO1 2PW.

Bradford City Archives,  
Bradford Central Library,  
Prince's Way,  
Bradford BD1 1NN.

Halifax Archives,  
Calderdale Central Library,  
Northgate House,  
Northgate,  
Halifax HX1 1UN.

Kirklees Central Library,  
Princess Alexandra Walk,  
Huddersfield HD2 2SU.

Leeds District Archives,  
Chapelton Road,  
Sheepscar,  
Leeds LS7 3AP.

West Yorkshire County Record Office,  
Registry of Deeds,  
Newstead Road,  
Wakefield WF1 2DE.

Yorkshire Archaeological Society,  
'Claremont',  
Clarendon Road,  
Leeds LS2 9NZ.

MAIN NOTATIONS USED IN FIGURES.



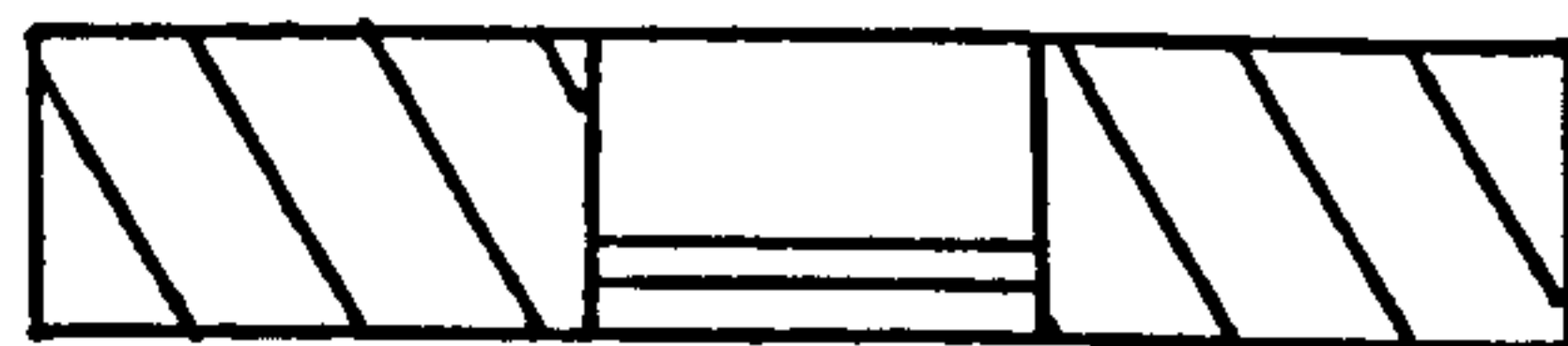
Solid wall



Door



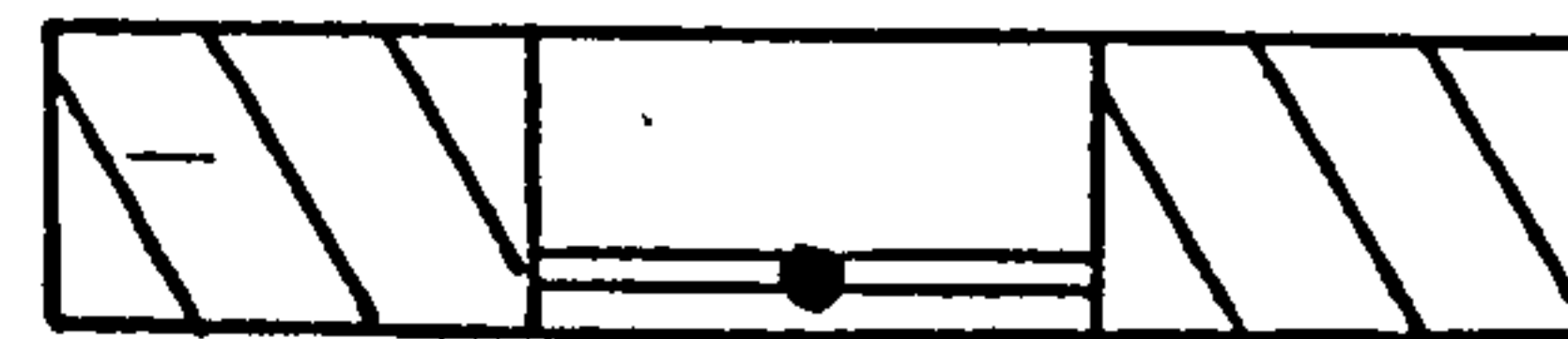
Blocked door



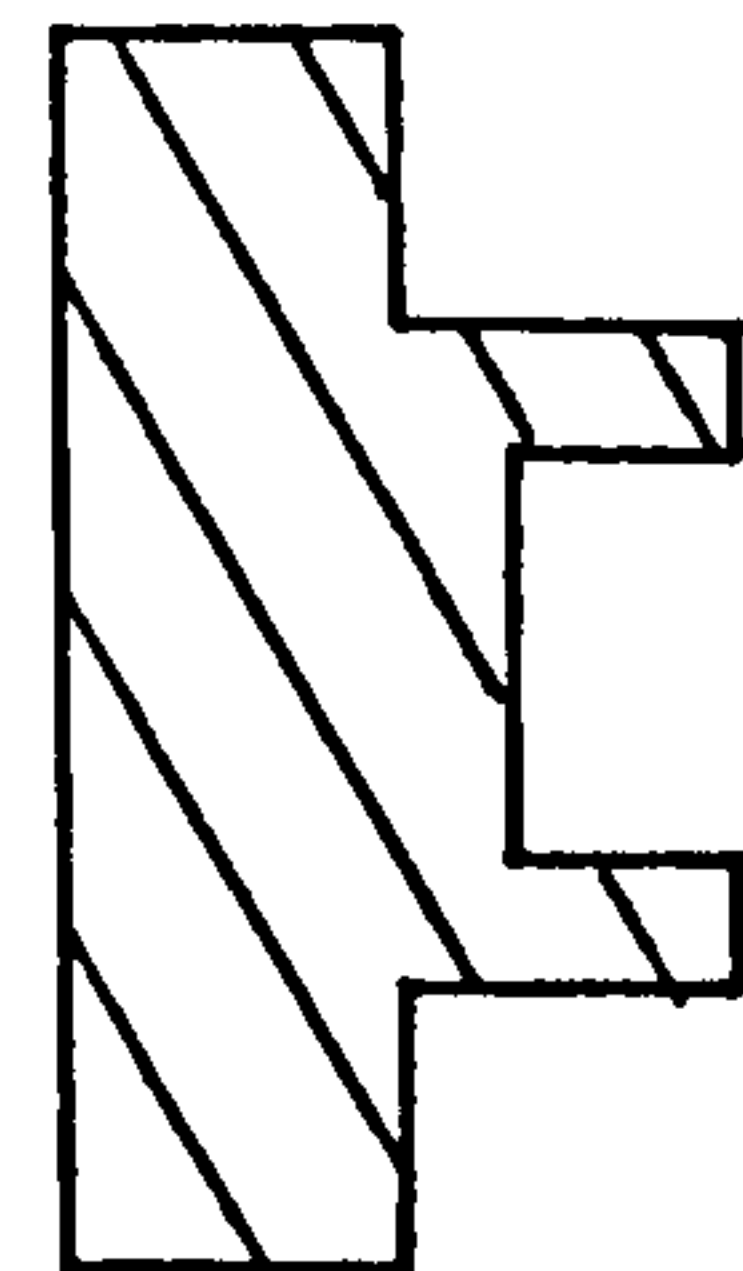
Modern or undistinguished window



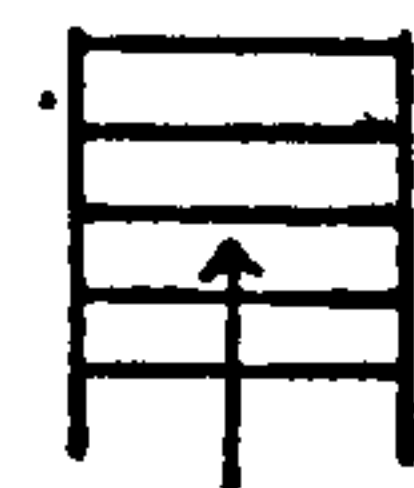
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## SECTION I

### INTRODUCTION

The laithe house is a combination of house and laithe built under one roof, a laithe being a combination of barn and cattle byre. It is a type of vernacular architecture, and a particularly good example for study, being house, farm and sometimes workshop all under one roof. Vernacular housing is by definition localised, and the laithe house, while it appears as far north as Cumbria and Northumberland and as far south as South Yorkshire, is mainly characteristic of the area covered by modern West Yorkshire where it appears in great numbers in the western uplands of that county. Similarly, the time-span of laithe house building is quite closely defined, beginning in the middle of the 17th.c. and ending in the last quarter of the 19th., with a peak around the late 18-early 19th.c. period. These dates refer to the surviving evidence of stone-built laithe houses. No evidence of an earlier timber-built tradition has yet been found.

In spite of its recognition as a particular form of vernacular architecture, there has been no specific work on the laithe house. This study intends to concentrate on the laithe house as a particular form of local building with an attempt to show how adoption of the style reflects the social and economic life of the area where it appears in its greatest numbers, West Yorkshire, specifically the uplands of that county.

#### METHOD OF RESEARCH

The research was undertaken in two parts, as follows;

1. Extensive survey intended as an overview which looked at the laithe houses all over the county and concentrating on the upland areas where they appear in their greatest numbers. The basis of this was my own field work and the incidental reports of others, for example the Department of the Environment's lists of historic buildings, which together gave a body of photographs, descriptions and measured plans. The physical evidence was complemented by documentary source material. The scattered and uneven nature of such sources and the problems of linking documents with specific buildings proved an obstacle to anything more than random evidence for interpretation. However, the relatively even coverage of the census returns was used to support this overview, and the more detailed research undertaken in the specific surveys threw further light.

on some questions.

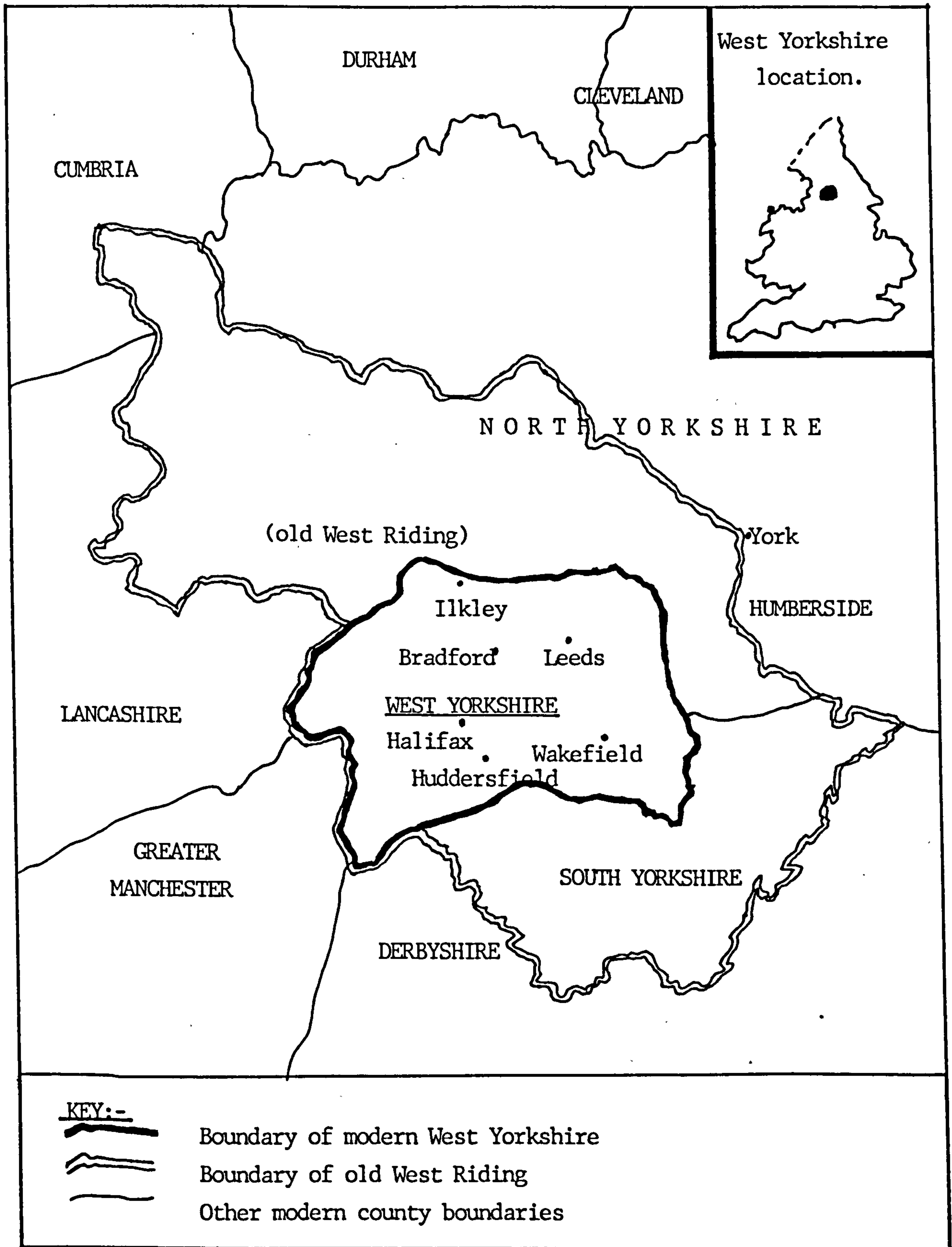
2. Specific surveys in selected areas chosen on the basis of evidence from the general overview. This focussed on four townships spread geographically throughout the county and supplemented by information from several other areas. It was intended to examine laithe house building more intensively against the background of economic and social life in specific areas, locating its functions more securely.

Within this framework, some questions received particular emphasis. These included local patterns of landownership and tenancy, agricultural practice and its historical changes, the enclosure movement, and connections with local industry, particularly West Yorkshire's all-important textile manufacture.

The rest of this introduction looks at the county's physical and historical background and discusses the main types of local building it has produced. This sets the context for examining the laithe house, being itself a particular product of that background. The main body of work on the laithe house is introduced by a summary of the findings of other researchers and a discussion of the long-house tradition and possible origins of the laithe house.



Fig. 1.

LOCATION AND EXTENT OF WEST YORKSHIRE AND THE WEST RIDING.

WEST YORKSHIRE : PHYSICAL BACKGROUND.

The topography and climate of an area have a fundamental bearing on its common housing, dictating not only settlement patterns and building materials but also transport and resources for local industry. For this reason the physical background of the county was looked at first.

West Yorkshire was part of the old West Riding until 1st. April 1974, when it became one of the new administrative areas formed as a result of the local government re-organisation of England and Wales. Its extent and that of the West Riding are shown in fig. 1. The greater part of the county lies within the river valleys of the Colne, Calder and Aire, but it also extends north to Wharfedale. In successive cycles of erosion the valleys lose height eastwards, towards the vale of York, leaving tiered slabs of country with pronounced west or north facing scarps (1).

The county can be divided into four geological areas as follows;

1. Magnesium limestone to the east of Leeds and Wakefield.
2. Millstone grit to the west of Halifax and Huddersfield (forming the central Pennine plateau)
3. The middle coal measures
4. The lower coal measures between.

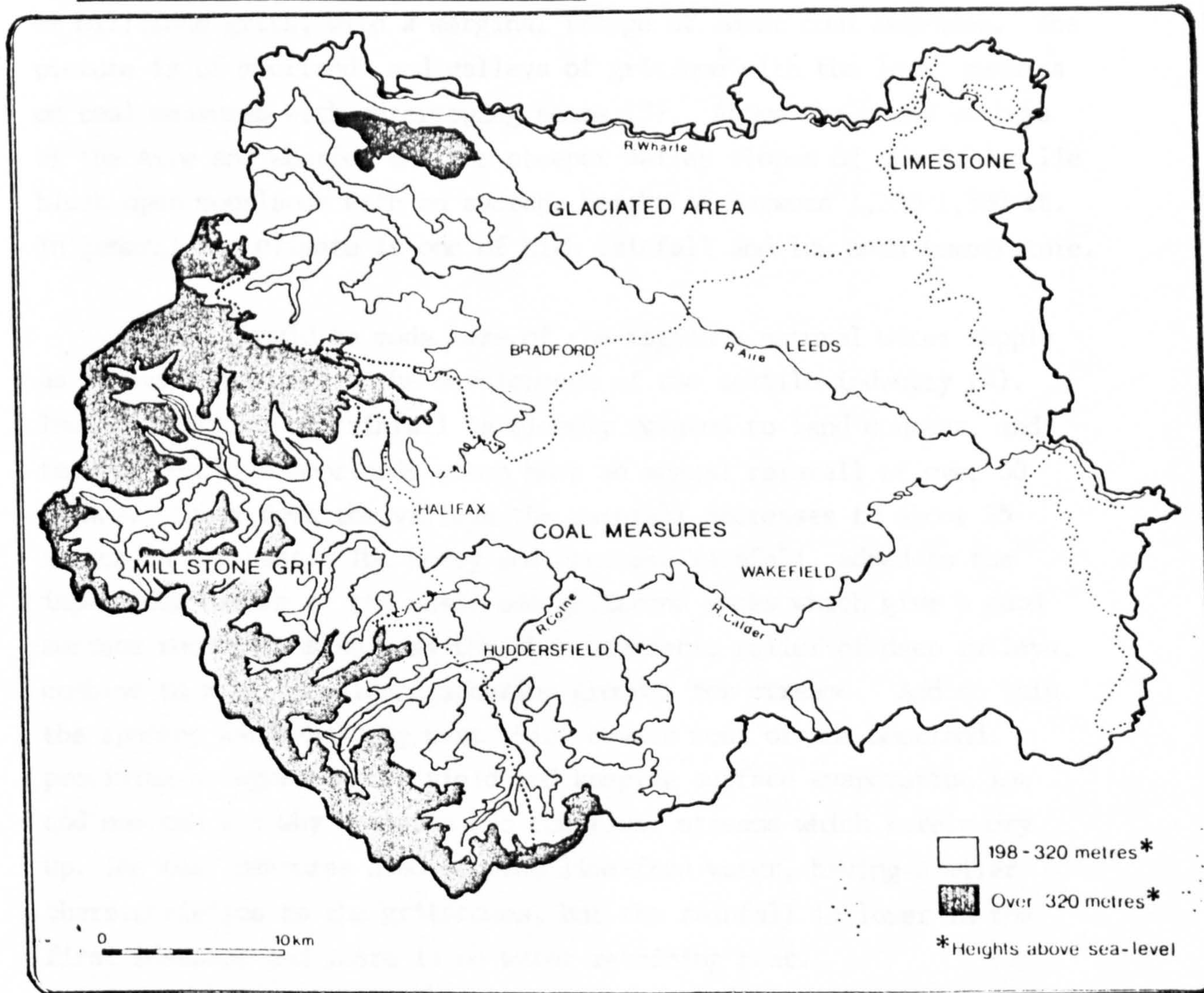
These areas are illustrated in fig. 2.

The belt of magnesium limestone is about 4-6 miles wide and lies on the surface of the coal measures. It produces much richer arable lands than the relatively infertile soil of the coal measures and millstone grits. The north edge of the coal measures lies between Leeds and Bradford, with two outliers at Baildon and Horsforth. The coal measures are made up of alternate layers of sandstone and shale with the proportion of sandstone higher to the west. There is no abrupt change in the character of the rocks from the western millstone grit area, simply a gradation to finer sandstone and shale as one moves further east and coal seams become thicker and more numerous.

The lower coal measures feature Elland flagstone, the most extensive of all the coal measures' sandstones, particularly common around Halifax and Elland. Because of its thickness (up to 200 ft.) and resistance to weathering, it forms the summit of the higher points around Leeds, Bradford, Halifax and Huddersfield. It provides valuable



Fig. 2

GEOLOGICAL AREAS OF WEST YORKSHIRE

Source: R.C.N. Thornes, West Yorkshire



building stone and is easily split into flags which were used for paving and roofing. The millstone grit area has an average width of 25 miles north of the coalfield plus a section 6-8 miles wide to the west of it, taking in Bingley, Haworth, Heptonstall and Riddlesden. The soil is mostly of poor quality, wet with some peat on the higher ground, and much grassland (2). In the western part the core of the whole region is of millstone grits, with a marginal fringe of lower coal measures. The picture is of moorlands and valleys of gritstone with the lower summits on coal measures with outcropping seams (3). Above the broad valleys of the Aire and Wharfe, and the steeper valley slopes of the Calder lie bleak open moorlands with an average height of between 1,300-1,500 ft. In general the climate is one of high rainfall and low mean temperature.

A note should be made here of the region's natural water supply as it has a bearing on the development of the textile industry (4). The distribution of rainfall is closely related to land contour, and the western high moorlands often have an annual rainfall of over 50 inches. Lower down the valleys the rainfall decreases to about 25 inches in the east. The heavy and constant rainfall, added to the impervious nature of the shale and gritstone rocks which give a good surface run-off, as well as the characteristic relief of deep valleys, combine to make excellent gathering grounds for streams. Added to this the spongy water-holding peat which covers most of the moorland, providing a regular water yield and keeping surface evaporation low and one can see why the area has countless streams which rarely dry up. The coal measures also provide lime-free water, having similar characteristics to the gritstones, but the rainfall is lower in the first instance and there is no water-retaining peat.

In the early days of woollen cloth manufacture, water was essential for washing and scouring the raw wool, for fulling or felting woollen fabrics, and for dyeing processes. When machines were adopted, the easily available water-power of the Pennines was harnessed. The canal network, so vital in the transport of cloth goods particularly as the industry became increasingly specialised with different processes undertaken in different areas, was fed by the complex pattern of reservoirs and pipelines which developed in the gritstone region for this purpose. It also came to supply water for the domestic and industrial needs of the whole county.

WEST YORKSHIRE : HISTORICAL BACKGROUNDSettlement, population and social structure

Between the 14th. and the 17th. centuries there was a gradual but definite geographical redistribution of population and wealth in the county (5). The trend was for a higher rate of growth in the west, especially in the Upper Calder valley which, although agriculturally poor, had been the area to develop most quickly in population and wealth through its textile manufacture. In the 18th.c. the growth and redistribution increased even further with central and western areas still gaining over the east. Land continued to be cleared and enclosures became more common. In the early 19th.c. the fastest-growing towns were Bradford and Huddersfield which increased between 1801-1831 by 263 and 162% respectively. This was in contrast to the hitherto larger centres of Wakefield, in the same period showing an increase of only 50% and Pontefract at 56%.

The reasons for this shift were tied up with the evolution of West Yorkshire from an agrarian to an industrial society. In the 14th.c. most people were making a living directly from working the land and agriculturally poor areas were of a correspondingly poor economy and sparsely populated. As industries developed more rapidly in these areas there was a much larger growth in wealth and population. The shift of emphasis began to be marked in the 16th.c. (6) when there was a general tendency for the population of pastoral regions to increase more rapidly than in the predominantly arable areas. It may also have been usual for the relative sparsity of settlement there to cause migration from more densely settled arable areas.

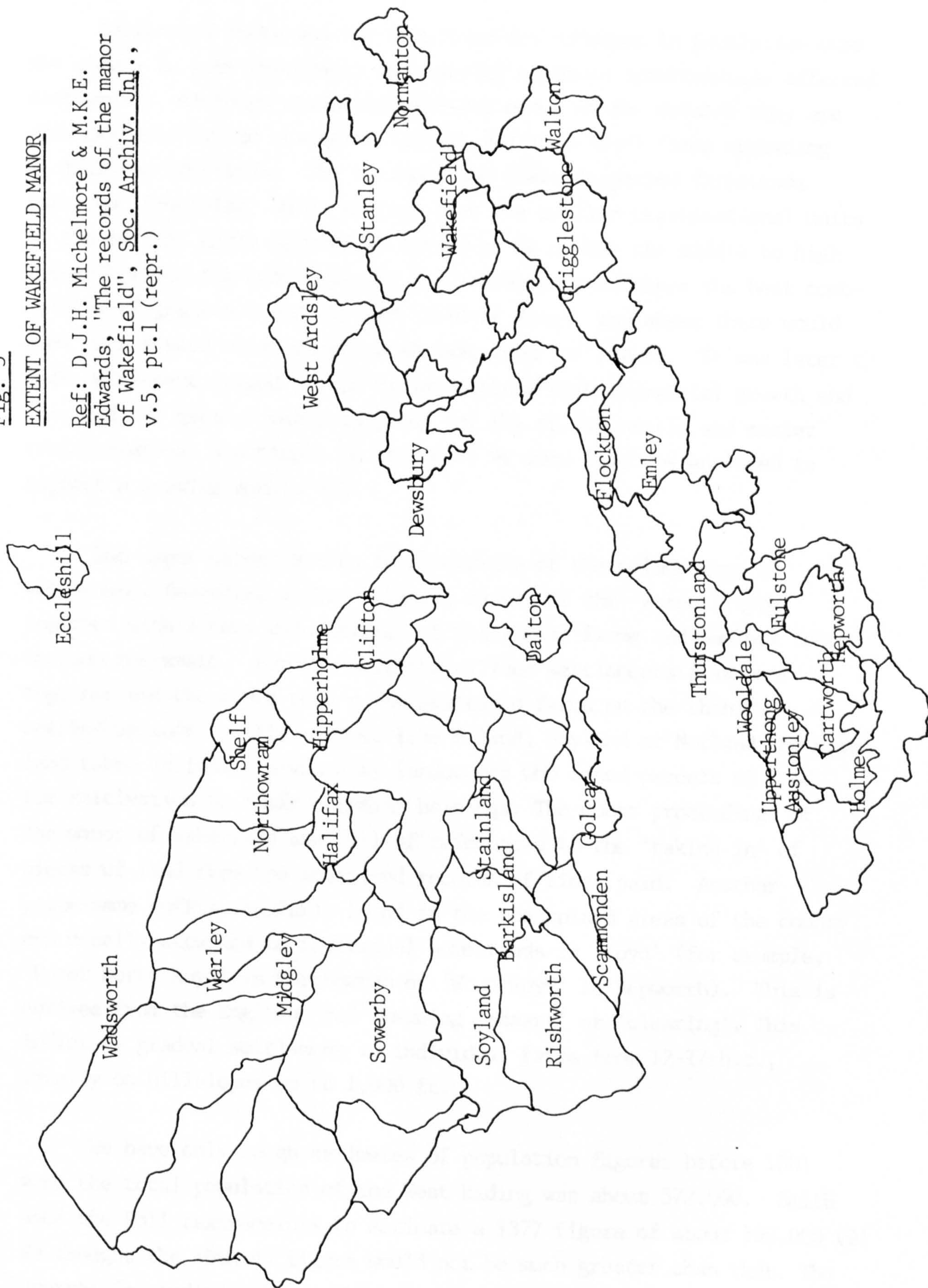
This contrast between highland and lowland in the 16th.c. can be demonstrated by comparing the distribution of taxable wealth between 1334 and the 1540's (7). The highland zone wapentakes of Agbrigg and Morley, which included the manor of Wakefield (8), the extent of which can be seen in fig. 3, and much of the textile industrial area contributed one-third of the West Riding's subsidy in the 1540's, although geographically the area comprised only one-fifth of the Riding. This is in contrast to the early 14th.c. when the contribution was in fact a smaller proportion than the area warranted. The changes which had taken place between these two assessments were important ones ; the textile industry had developed, there had been a major contraction in



Fig. 3

EXTENT OF WAKEFIELD MANOR

Ref: D.J.H. Michelmore & M.K.E. Edwards, "The records of the manor of Wakefield", Soc. Archiv. Jnl., v.5, pt.1 (repr.)





the lowland zone.

In general there was not a uniform distribution in population over the county as both topography and varying economic opportunities affected settlements. Although nucleated villages occur in the uplands they are characterised by the scattered hamlets and individual farms spreading up into the moorlands. The villages and their dispersed farmsteads form the 'townships' which in turn were the smaller organisational units of the parish. Early settlement tended to be on the middle to high ground between the moor tops and the valley bottoms where the best combination of grassland and shelter could be found, and where there would have been a good water supply even away from the rivers. It was later that settlement spread to the valley bottoms with industrial growth and the need for greater water supplies for the fulling mills and easier transportation, and higher up the moors as more land was enclosed to support a growing population.

The upper Calder valley is an example of the upland type of settlement, featuring a few villages, mainly of the 'street' type, together with a very wide scatter of individual farms and hamlets taken in from the waste. Further west the village settlements disappear altogether and there are only a few scattered farms on the thinly-settled uplands. Village names like Elland, Soyland or Norland indicate land taken in from the waste by landowners who added parcels of land for cultivation to their existing holdings. The court proceedings of the manor of Wakefield are full of references to the 'taking in' of pieces of land from the moors and records of fines paid. Another place-name suffix regularly found in the the upland areas of the county and usually attached to individual homesteads is 'royd' (for example, 'Upper North Royd' in Northowram or 'Wood Royd' in Hepworth). This is derived from the English 'rod' meaning 'assart' or 'clearing'. This indicates gradual settlement in individual farms from 12-17th.c., usually on hillslopes up to 1,000 ft.

We have only rough estimates of population figures before 1801 when the total population of the West Riding was about 572,000. Smith used the Poll tax receipts to estimate a 1377 figure of about 100,000 (9). He thought the 16th.c. figure would not be much greater than that. The average for individual townships would have been about 150-170 though the range would have been much broader, from perhaps 30-500 in a town-

Although Smith agreed with the picture of a dispersed population in the uplands he stressed that the village was still the nucleus (10). The upland areas showed a period of rapid growth from the late 18th. to the early 19th.c. Pacey noted the growth peak in Elland in the period 1790-1860 (11), and in the western townships looked at by Stell the average population rose steeply from about 2,500 in 1801 to 5,000 in 1841, followed by a continuous steady rise to 6,000 by 1901 (12).

However, population totals of this kind reveal nothing of the underlying social structure within the county. A person's occupation may be reflected by the amount of income and property he holds, and vice versa. It is, therefore, possible to classify people by either means when determining their place in the social system. Smith used evidence from the subsidy rolls of the 16thc. for classification of the lay population by income and property (13), and added evidence about the clergy from the Valor Ecclesiasticus. From these, he found a distinctly 'pyramid' social structure, with a peak at the top of 1.5% of the population owning lands valued at £40+ or goods at £50+, followed by a middle class band of taxpayers estimated on lands worth between £5 and £40 a year, or goods worth £10-£50. This class constituted 21.7% of the total population and comprised the yeomen, merchants, clothiers, gentry and more substantial farmers (14). Smith noted the high proportion of small men (i.e. those that were assessed on lands valued between £1 and £4 a year) in the South Highland zone of the Pennines (the Calder valley area) and concluded that this probably represented a group of small-holders who could be taxed on their lands, perhaps because their rents were especially low in relation to their holdings (15). In other circumstances, people with the same amount of land but paying higher rents would be assessed on goods. The possible links between this class, relatively free of the burden of high rents, and developments in the textile industry are discussed in the section dealing with that industry.

Over 300 years later, commercial directories indicate that the social pyramid was still very much in evidence (16). For example, the entries for Northowram in the 1820's show only about 50 prominent residents out of a total population of around 7,000. 12 of these 50 were described as 'gentlemen', the rest being manufacturers (mainly of worsted), merchants, innkeepers, a schoolteacher, a clerk and an independent minister. Below them come the larger band of small tradesmen and farmers, and below them the labourers and the poor.



In the Halifax area, few men rose higher than minor gentry status, and those that did usually moved out (17). The gentry made their money through agricultural profits and rentals, and from any mineral resources they owned. In general, they were not heavily involved with the textile industry, which was much more the province of the yeoman class. By the late 16th.c., the largest landowners in Halifax parish usually lived outside its boundaries, a pattern repeated across much of West Yorkshire. The smaller landowners were more closely connected with local parish interests. Many of the yeoman class in Halifax in Halifax became involved in the textile industry, as revealed by the evidence from probate inventories of the late 17thc. There is also consistent evidence of two and sometimes more occupations being followed.

A yeoman's estate could often be scattered over several townships with the more prosperous owning several farms which were sub-let. The yeoman class often embraced freeholders with an annual income of 40/- or more, though the term tended to be more widely applied to include copyholders and leaseholders. It was a term denoting status, carrying more prestige than 'clothier', although in practice clothiers could be as wealthy. It should be noted the terms 'yeoman' and 'gentry' never held any exact rigid definitions within the changeable and fluid class structure. They both had connotations of respectability, though a man above working class level needed no specific qualification to call himself 'gentleman', and the term of 'yeoman' was even more vague, though seems broadly associated with a lower gentry class.

The lower social classes included the wage-earning labourers and clothworkers. We have little evidence of their housing before the Industrial Revolution. The most detailed records we have of working class occupations appears in the census returns, mainly from 1841 onwards. If one looks at Northowram township for example, it is noticeable that almost every family listed in the 1841 return had members engaged in textile manufacture. In some cases whole families were described variously as spinners, weavers, woolsorters, combers and so on. Other occupations reflected the local stone quarrying, as well as trades such as butchers, grocers and innkeepers. The continuing importance of agriculture is revealed by the regular occurrence of farmers and agricultural labourers.

Land, tenancy and enclosure

Conditions of servile tenure were relatively liberal under the remote manor of Wakefield compared to smaller manors under direct control of a resident landlord. The peasantry held lands on easy terms with low rents paid partly in service. By the early 14thc., increases in population meant greater demands on land, and the rate of taking in of waste from the moors for cultivation became so intense that protection was sought. Land-clearing licences went up in price, and this had the effect of slowing down the rate of clearance. In the later 14thc., the devastations of the plague meant that labour was in short supply, wages went up and land became more plentiful. Small landowners were now at a disadvantage and were forced to lease land at fixed rents or sell off land which they lacked the manpower to farm. The class which did benefit from falling land values was the gentry, and they used the situation to buy up land to increase their estates and incomes (18). In the upper Calder valley especially, large areas of waste were cleared and leased out and numbers of the peasantry became customary tenants or copyholders, aided by the low rents and light burdens of servile tenure. These smallholders' customary rights included the right of inheritance, fixed entry fines and fixed rents, which meant their tenure was in effect as secure as freehold.

As well as assarting from the waste, there had been enclosing of land from at least the 13th. and 14thc., when strips of common fields were exchanged to be amalgamated into blocks of land under one owner. During the 15th. and 16th.c. these exchanges were increasingly common, especially where there was enfranchisement of copyholders. The increase in population of the uplands in the 16th.c. encouraged more assarting. It was reported that, by 1589, over one-quarter of copyholders had enclosures on the waste (19). A document concerning the manor of Wakefield in 1545 revealed that 1,000 acres of land had been sold to tenants and a further 220 acres had been encroached without licence (20). The figures of 1565 show the same trend, and similar evidence is available for Bradford manor. The picture seems to be the same over all the highland zone. For example, in Craven in 1557, the Earl of Cumberland found that his tenants in Silsden had been making encroachments on the waste. In the same period, he had allowed enclosures from moors at Eastby and Long Preston.

One effect of more enclosures was the increased value of timber. This commodity became ever more scarce and landowners sold timber as a quick way of getting capital. The area of woodland at that time was certainly greater than that of today, but it was decreasing. The dissolution of the monasteries and subsequent sales of monastic properties resulted in their new purchasers cutting trees down to pay their debts to the Crown (21). Certainly the Crown saw woodland as an increasing investment, with an official surveyor of woods appointed in 1532. These new purchasers of church lands were often local people who eventually divided up these new estates and sold them off over the next 50 years. By the middle of the 17th.c., many of the new freeholders who had benefitted from this process were rebuilding their houses. So too were those holding lands on long leases, as the security this afforded also gave an incentive to invest money in rebuilding. In the lowlands the pattern was different. The richer arable lands were a more attractive investment for gentry land-owners to buy up and retain intact as part of their own estates rather than selling off piecemeal to smaller farmers.

By the early 18th.c., to judge from Beresford's analysis of glebe terriers (22), the open fields of the West Riding highland zone had almost entirely disappeared, indicating a good deal of peasant enclosure from 1550-1700. Thus the type of enclosure begun in the 13th. and 14th.c. was well advanced by the 17th.c. In the 18th.c., the process of enclosure was often completed by legislation. This had the effect of speeding up the process and regularising it, although it should be emphasised that enclosing was a continuous process and the effect of formalising this process through Acts of Parliament was not so dramatic. As Mingay explains, the object of the Enclosure Act was sometimes to get rid of the last piece of open field, or to confirm enclosures already carried out by private agreement, or to tidy up the parcelling out of small, scattered closes (23). Having said that, the sheer number of enclosure acts for the West Riding, 323 private acts between 1729 and 1843 plus 51 Public General Acts between 1836 and 1896, indicates extensive land reorganisation. Enclosing, whether public or private, was a response to the need of a growing population, particularly in the first half of the 19th.c. when West Yorkshire's population doubled. The extra land reclaimed and consolidated was used for new building and for supplying food to the developing industrial communities.



### The landowners

Smith looked at each township in the West Riding for the 1535-1546 period (24) and attempted to find out who owned land there and how much each owner's property was worth (Table 1). His sources were estate and wardship records. He identified four categories of landlord in the period ; the Church, the Crown, the nobility and a category of 'others' which included all gentry, yeomen, husbandmen and so on. It proved impossible to draw up a completely accurate picture within this last category because of the variety of ways income from lands was derived. Leases were common and it was possible for a landowner to have freehold land as well as land by custom or on lease.

The Church had a total yearly income of £12,000 from lands in the county, with almost half of this coming from tithes and oblations the rest from temporal estates. This income was shared by about 440 different ecclesiastical institutions ranging from the large monasteries to the smallest chantries. The Crown had a total yearly income of about £200 for 'temporary' estates (i.e. those which came to the Crown under right of wardship). Permanent estates were those of the Duchy of Lancaster (about one-third of the total), and the other inherited estates of the Crown, the largest being the Duchy of York. The administration of the vast Crown estates was at a county level with noblemen acting as stewards. The greater noble estates were similar in structure, all originating as Norman fiefs.

The last category of 'other lay owners' numbered about 350, counting all those who held land in the Riding. Incomes ranged from £5 to £500 a year from land. At the top of the scale were gentry like Sir Henry Savile of Thornhill who had an income of over £400 a year from lands, £360 of that from the West Riding, and at the bottom end was a group of yeomen whose total freehold income was less than £10 a year. They held no land outside the county, and their estates all lay within a short distance of one another. Those with lands worth £40 or more could be regarded as qualifying for gentry status in the 16th.c., and Smith made a rough estimate of 145 yeomen and 200 middling or lesser gentry. Manorial estates were often very dispersed, reflecting the piecemeal way in which small estates had grown up, not least through varying family

Table 1.LANDOWNERS IN THE WEST RIDING, 1535-46

| Region                     | Church          | Crown           | Nobility        | other<br>lay owners | Total   |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------|
| LOWLAND                    | £3,349<br>29.4% | £1,259<br>11.1% | £716<br>6.3%    | £6,028<br>53.2%     | £11,352 |
| NORTH<br>HIGHLAND          | £1,652<br>38.1% | £240<br>5.5%    | £866<br>20.0%   | £1,582<br>36.4%     | £4,340  |
| SOUTH<br>HIGHLAND          | £677<br>13.4%   | £848<br>16.5%   | £508<br>10.2%   | £3,006<br>59.9%     | £5,029  |
| WHOLE OF<br>WEST<br>RIDING | £5,668<br>27.4% | £2,347<br>11.3% | £2,090<br>10.1% | £10,616<br>51.2%    | £20,721 |

Source: R.B. Smith, A study of landed income and social structure in the West Riding, p.122.

settlements and marriages. Growth in the land market in the first half of the 16thc. resulted in more investments in estates, although this was far less marked than later in the century.

To summarise the situation in the 1535-46 period, the Church owned nearly one-third of the land, the gentry and small landowners about one-half and the rest was divided between the Crown and nobility. This gives us a picture of a strong class of middle and lesser gentry and substantial yeomen freeholders.

Once again, we have a distinction between the patterns in the upland and lowland areas. In the lowland zone the pattern was similar to the Riding as a whole, but the highlands showed much greater deviations from the mean, and within that group there was a significant difference between the north and south highland areas. In the north, the Church and nobility held a good deal of the land in comparison with the gentry. The pattern is reversed in the south highland zone. Clearly, the differences are not explained away by the area's topography resulting in different agricultural and settlement patterns as it is in the two upland zones where the distinctions are most marked.

The answer probably lies with the higher degree of restrictive Church ownership in the north highlands (37% against only 14% of land in the south highlands in the 16th.c.) and with security of tenant holdings under Wakefield where the ancient demesne custom was a protection against increase in services. The freeholders and copyholders with low and fixed rents and secure tenure were largely self sufficient in food and cloth and therefore more protected from inflation. The growing markets and rising textile prices of the 16th.c. meant a higher standard of living for this class, while the gentry suffered because of higher expenditure and the fixed rents of their tenants. As a result, more land was sold and more copyholders were given the chance to buy a franchise to become freeholders (25).

Changes in the graveship of Wakefield manor, traditionally copyhold and administered by a 'grave' who collected the rents, showed how far freehold tenure was taking over. The manor book of



the 1709 survey reveals a high proportion of tenants holding free hold land by this stage. For example, in Warley 50 tenants held freehold lands, and in Sowerby there were 62. In order for copyholders to buy their franchises there must have been enough wealth in the county before the pattern of increased freehold tenure could take hold.

"The high proportion of freeholders and large numbers of copyholders who compounded in the upper Calder valley in 1608, instead of being the cause of the great wealth in that area, may be seen as a result, that wealth already existed and was in fact the one thing that enabled the upper Calder valley yeomen to improve their legal status." (26)

This pre-existing wealth was probably the result of earlier favourable tenure which seems to have existed in the manor of Wakefield. In contrast, the neighbouring honour of Pontefract had more restrictive tenure which inhibited the development of the yeoman class who were so important in the economic development of the upper Calder valley.

The modern Domesday book of 1883, listing the great land-owners, showed that the lesser yeomen, small proprietors and cottager classes greatly predominated in the West Riding, in comparison with the North and East Ridings (27). The average holding was 15.5 acres compared with 16.75 in the East and 26.75 in the North. Apart from the particular conditions of tenure in the upper Calder valley, inheritance patterns may well have played a part in producing such small-sized-holdings. Partible inheritance (28) was traditionally more widespread in upland, pastoral areas although there is no direct evidence of it being customary in Wakefield manor (29) and primogeniture had been established from the 12th.c. However, it has been pointed out that although partible inheritance was not the formal custom of the county, in practice tenants' lands were constantly being divided at death, since families preferred to leave some land if possible to all their sons. (30)

Adding more weight to the argument, Machin referred to archaeological evidence which suggests partition of real property in spite of historical sources indicating that partible inheritance was then obsolete (31). Evidence from my own field work on laithe house examples also revealed properties which had been subdivided or had a later wing added to the dwelling (see general section on the laithe house). Furthermore, the court rolls of Wakefield manor may not contain direct evidence that partition was customary but there are numerous descriptions of divided properties, for example in 1639 "half a messuage called Hillhouse in Cartworth with  $11\frac{1}{2}$  acres". This and other examples are noted in Appendix 1.

Appendix 2 summarises an analysis of 60 wills made by yeomen and husbandmen between 1650 and 1750 in the upland township of Silsden. It was hoped these would reveal some common inheritance patterns which may have explained the small size of holding as being a result of division. although there were some examples of properties being divided on the death of the owner or tenant, they were mainly devised to give provision for a widow while a male heir took over the whole property in fact. For example, William Blakey, by a will made in 1693, bequeathed to his wife

"one parlour, being in the messuage house wherin  
I now dwell... together also with liberty and room i  
in the barn or laithe now in my possession." (App. 2)

the whole property having been passed to a nephew. The intention in cases like these was to keep the property intact while ensuring the widow had a roof over her head and some means of livelihood.

Examples where division was made between all the children are probably explained by the legal arrangement used; as in two of the examples in App. 2, the sharing of the estate was specified as 'tenancy in common' rather than 'joint tenancy'. The distinction between these may give a clue to these 'divided' properties: If two or more individuals hold a property as joint tenants each of them has the right to dispose of his own part of that property; this situation may well result in truly 'divided' properties. Tenants in common, on the other hand, together hold a property which cannot be physically divided. Any 'division' of property under these terms must be effected by selling the property and



dividing the proceeds.

We are left with the handful of cases where a specific farm or messuage is "equally divided" between two sons. There were three examples of this, suggesting some evidence of partible inheritance practised among freeholders, possibly explaining the small size of holdings in these cases, but the practice does not appear widespread and there are no references to it at all among tenant farmers' wills. The lord of the manor would probably prefer to keep holdings intact and there was no evidence in the admittance bonds of joint tenancies being taken up after a tenants' death. In fact, one example suggested that the customary practice was to pass property to the nearest relative. Richard Hindes, a yeoman, divided his personal property between his wife and son according to a will of 1723. He then went on to beg the discretion of the lord of the manor regarding the tenancy of his farm, asking that after his wife's decease his son should be allowed to take it.

Analysis of the 1841 census return (included at the end of the general section) shows some evidence of divided properties or joint holding of an estate. There were 23 examples of relations living in adjoining properties out of 50 combined households of more than one family. On the other hand there were also many examples of relatives living in completely separate holdings within townships, and the more detailed 1881 census which would have listed individual properties more specifically suggested there may have been few examples of true divided properties.

The conclusion seems to be that while some partible inheritance occurred, the practice was by no means universal, and certainly not generally accepted as current procedure. It may be the case that instead of divided, small holdings having forced farmers to take up a secondary occupation in textile manufacture, the fact that the industry was already thriving caused farmers to enclose less land from the poor soil of the moors, in the knowledge they could rely on textiles for their main source of income.

### The textile industry

There had been a textile industry in the West Riding since at least the 13th.c. and we have documented evidence of fulling mills from the 14th.c. At this stage the distribution of the industry tended to be wide and thin. The earliest evidence comes from manor records of the late 13th.c. which list some occupationally-linked surnames, for example, Webster, Walker (fuller) and Lister (dyer). The urban weavers were gradually brought down by higher taxes, the higher costs of production and living, as well as restrictions on enterprise imposed by the guilds. When the demand for cloth from overseas markets grew in the 15th. and 16th.c., it meant that the less hampered rural districts could cash in with their industries, and in the late middle ages there was a rapid growth in the county, especially around Halifax.

The industry's growth around Halifax is charted in the aulnage rolls for the West Riding. At the end of the 14th.c., production was too insignificant to be included but some 50 years later the output was second only to York. The expansion continued during the 16th.c with the Halifax parish economy becoming more dependent on it. The Halifax Act of 1555 which provided legal allowance for middlemen (forbidden in other areas) to pursue their trade stated that the inhabitants of Halifax parish "doe lyve by cloth making". The nature of dual economy makes it impossible to calculate exactly how many people were engaged in textile manufacture, but Drake's analysis of the parish records of Agbrigg and Morley reveals a sharp rise in the death rate around the middle of the 16th.c., coincident with a slump in textile markets (33).

Textiles were the most conspicuous growth industry of the 16th.c, yet there were great regional differences within the county. While western areas (correspondent with modern West Yorkshire) grew, industry in York and Ripon was declining. As Smith noted (34) this new distribution can be measured statistically from aulnage rolls of the 15th.c., and estate records of the 15th. and 16th.c. These latter give evidence of tenters and fulling mills being constructed. Leeds had one fulling mill and two tenters in 1425, and at least four mills and nine tenters by 1548, whereas in other parts of the Riding there is evidence of



fulling mills being pulled down.

There was a good geological basis for this development of the woollen industry. Crump (35) has identified the main characteristics as follows;

1. The moorland plateau is less massive and more dissected by river valleys than the mid-Pennines to the north or the Peak of Derbyshire to the south.
2. The head waters of many rivers rise on these moorland summits whereas the valleys are deep and narrow with steep heavy forests, which did not encourage settlement.
3. A relatively high proportion of land lies between 500-1,000 ft., and this mid-zone on the edges of the valleys was the favoured site of early settlement. We have evidence of this from Domesday.
4. The core of the whole region is of millstone grits, with a marginal fringe of lower coal measures. The picture then is one of moorlands and valleys of gritstone with the lower summits or foothills on coal measures with outcropping seams.
5. The climate is one of high rainfall and low mean temperature.

The two components of gritstone and coal areas have constituted the core and fringe of the textile industry, complementary to each other. The manufacture, spinning and weaving of the wool was done in the the grit country (which also supplied the wool until better supplies were imported) while the lower coal measures supplied a market for the cloth, with the more favourable conditions enabling the growth of market towns with more variable trades.

However, the rapid growth in the industry is not simply explained away by the traditional answers of availability of water, coal and wool although these were of great importance. The lack of plentiful water did not hamper the East Anglian industry, and coal was not so vital until the advent of steam power late in the 18th.c. Also the local wool, which was of a coarse variety, was not used in any quantity, so it seems other factors need to be taken into account. Recently historians have looked at the importance of tenurial factors (as outlined in the previous section). A large part of the county's woollen industry was located on the Crown lands of the manor of Wakefield and the Honour of Pontefract. Manorial control of the Wakefield lands, which included

the remote and agriculturally unproductive upper Calder valley, was particularly lenient. Setting up in the textile industry was relatively straightforward because it was not highly capitalised (36). Most small clothiers dealt through the middlemen, and their wealth varied between £1-100. The statistics for this were gathered from over 1200 probate inventories analysed from Pontefract deanery (37), and this source also showed that the yeomen-clothiers were on average much wealthier than the yeomen who relied purely on agriculture for their living, or who combined agriculture with other industries. From the inventories it was found that about 30% of yeomen were also clothiers.

The gentry too made money from textiles, although mainly through their control of processes like fulling. As landowners, they quite often put up the money to finance mill construction. For example, Lord Dartmouth spent several thousands of pounds on repairing and building mills, of which there were more than 20 on his estates by 1800. Sir Walter Calverley provided fulling mills on his estates in order to attract clothiers as tenants, and from this sort of evidence it is apparent that provision for the textile industry on estates increased their value (38). Thornes also describes another method for raising capital for mill construction which appears to have been peculiar to the Yorkshire woollen industry from the late 18th.c. onwards. This was the creation of 'company' mills by groups of share-holding small clothiers, mainly around Leeds and north of the Calder valley, linked with the white and coloured cloth and blanket trades.

It was in the main the middle class of yeomen-clothiers, controlling the supply, production and marketing aspects of the industry who made the greatest fortunes from it. At the bottom of the scale were the poorer yeomen and cloth-worker classes, living mainly in the upland areas and the Colne and Holme valleys, and involved in the less lucrative physical production of cloth.

From the 17th.c. there was an increase in the use of worsted yarns (39). From the early years of the 18th.c., the manufacture of worsteds was concentrated in the upland townships between the Aire and Calder valleys, with Bradford and Halifax soon becoming established as the market centres. This concentration of the worsted trade in the Pennine uplands may have been a result of the late 17th.c. depression experienced by the woollen industry. It is argued that during the depression, clothiers of the uplands, unlike those of central areas,



could not resort to subsistence agriculture and therefore needed to find a more prosperous yet similarly skilled form of textile working as an alternative source of livelihood. Another explanation is that the trade was adopted by the wealthy clothiers of the upper Calder valley, with evidence from probate inventories (as mentioned above) showing that although the small manufacturer predominated, there was a significant number of larger-scale manufacturers to provide the wherewithal for the new industry. These same inventories also show evidence of the 'putting out' system, which could have helped form the basis of manufacture on a bigger scale. It is possible that this group of wealthy yeomen-clothiers had the time, connections and capital to experiment, and were in fact the motive force behind the new industry.

There were broad differences in the industrial organisation of the respective industries. Wool was largely in the hands of small independent clothiers. These were the men who occupied the small freeholds all over the county and combined cloth-making and farming as dual occupation. They had their own spinning and weaving machines and did most of the manufacturing processes themselves. The clothiers' system was to buy wool in the market, have it spun by members of his family, sometimes putting out some of the wool, depending on his scale of operation, then he dyed and wove the wool, took it to the fulling mill and finally to his market stand or to the cloth hall.

The wool trade at this level was characterised by small profits, and hard work and careful living were necessary. This class of small-scale manufacturers were able to exist because only a small amount of capital was needed for them to set up. There was an increase in the numbers of large clothiers in the 17th. and 18th.c., yet they were wealthy simply by scale, having more employees and doing more trade. The basic organisation remained the same. The register books from the cloth halls show how woollen cloth manufacture increased during the 18th.c. The turnout of production was 26,671 pieces in 1726, doubling to 56,637 by 1746, increasing in the next four years to 60,964 by 1750. The size of the pieces increased dramatically too, measuring 30-40 yds. in 1733/4 and 70 yds. in 1750.

As far as organisation goes, the worsted industry was built up on a much more capitalist basis. The small independent clothier never existed in the worsted industry, the worsted master generally being a large employer with many more more workpeople under him. The difference can be seen clearly in the different cloth halls, especially



between Leeds and Bradford. Leeds, trading in wool, had over 1,000 stands and stalls but Bradford, specialising in worsted, had only 258 tradesmen with much more floor space allotted to each.

Specialisation within the worsted industry increased throughout the 18th.c. as did the manufacture of more varied forms of the cloth. From 1700 weavers around Halifax had been making shalloons and there is also evidence of serges and bays being made, and Wakefield specialised in 'tammies', a thin worsted that was woven and then glazed to use for window blinds and curtains. The development of this industry in Wakefield was largely encouraged by the greater wool supplies made possible from the opening of the Aire and Calder navigation in 1699, enabling the town to supersede the former main manufacturer of tammy, Coventry, as it was then able to import the vital long wool from Lincolnshire.

The general direction was one of continual persistence of the Yorkshire manufacturers and a take-over of the home markets. By 1750 shalloons, calicoes, camlets, bays and says were made all the way to Leeds and Wakefield. By 1770, the Yorkshire worsted industry had overtopped Norwich by a quarter of a million pounds, with Halifax, Wakefield, Huddersfield and Leeds engaged in worsted production (40). Certainly at this stage the West Yorkshire textile industry was thriving. A steady engrossing by the merchants meant they had capital to adopt the new machinery which came with the Industrial Revolution.

Most of the inventions had come out of the cotton industry, which was less hampered by traditional methods than the processes used in wool and worsted. During the last quarter of the 18th.c., the cotton industry spread into the upper Aire and Calder valleys, eventually to replace worsteds as the main manufacture by virtue of its relative cheapness. The first cotton mill to be built in Todmorden began production in 1786 (a year after American cotton began to arrive in quantity to the area). Manufacture was begun by Joshua Fielden, working from a row of 3-storey cottages. This developed into one of the largest cotton manufactures in the county, with 100 power looms by 1827.

"The success of concerns like Fielden's attracted spinners and weavers from Lancashire, and firmly established the upper Calder valley as a cotton manufacturing area." (41)

The cotton industry had less success in other parts of the county where it was introduced, for example in the Keighley area.

Developments in the textile industry meant that the wool supply was improved with more legislative measures to keep English wool in the country, with West Yorkshire increasingly importing from other counties to compensate for its own poor supplies. Spinning was also done outside the county as there was too much for the local population to deal with, so the manufacturers of Bradford and Halifax were sending large amounts of raw material to Craven, the North Riding and Lancashire. This constant transport of wool was characteristic of the industry in the county throughout its development (as recognised by the Halifax act of 1555, mentioned earlier), and inevitable as long as the population was dispersed.

In the early 18th.c. the much slower process of spinning in comparison with weaving meant there were approximately 9 or 10 spinners to each weaver. The adoption of Kay's shuttle in the weaving process made this worse, and spinning became one of the first processes to be absorbed into a factory system in efforts to redress the balance. Mechanisation became increasingly common right across the industry from the late 18th.c., The first recorded spinning of worsted by power in West Yorkshire was at Low Mill, Addingham in 1787. By the end of the 18th.c. there were 22 worsted mills in the county. New fulling mills were then needed to cope with the extra output and there was a shift from water to steam power in the years 1780-1830, with a continual increase in the average size, workforce and cost of mills.

Towards the end of the laithe house period we have a picture of a still thriving textile industry with the benefits of improved transport to import raw materials and to distribute cloth for finishing and marketing. Although the great landowners gained from providing mills and housing, in general the industry was run by the large and growing class of yeomen-clothiers who controlled distribution and marketing, and increasingly capital. Below them were the small manufacturers who were mainly concerned with cloth production, and merging with this class at the further end of the scale were the vast numbers of small rural workers, usually engaged in a single process and dependent on the larger men for their supplies and living. Growing even more



rapidly were the numbers of factory workers as more mills sprang up and more processes became mechanised. Writing in the Morning Chronicle in 1849, Angus Reach describes the houses of factory hands in Huddersfield as "one up and one down with an occasional cellar" (42). He also gives us information on the kind of wages being earned by this class. In the mills, women (usually employed as pickers and boilers) earned 7/- a week, weavers 10/- and children (employed from the age of 13) 5/-. Skilled trades like fulling, dyeing, carding and so on averaged 18/- a week. As an indication of how this measured against the cost of living, rents in these town houses were around 3/- a week. To compare with rural industries, spinners and weavers with their own loom earned about 10/- a week around the Huddersfield area, working from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. In spite of the relative freedom of working from home, rural workers were less protected from fluctuations in trade and supply as well as having to be responsible for their own equipment, so the attraction of the mills gained.

#### Other industries and transport (43)

Other industries in West Yorkshire tend to be overshadowed by the predominant textile industry, yet they were as vital in their own ways. One industry particularly linked with textiles was that of coal mining. References to coal pits in the county go back to as early as the 13th.c., especially around Leeds and Wakefield. However, industrial use was rare until steam power was adopted in the 19th.c. (44). While spinning and weaving were purely home-based, mainly in upland villages and hamlets, the fulling and dyeing processes which relied heavily on water became based in mills in the valley bottoms. Water power was then adopted to run scribbling mills from the late 18th.c. and then spinning mills from about 1830, with more textile villages growing up around these valley sites.

Water was also vital for transporting goods in bulk and in several textile areas we see a pattern of two stages of settlement and migration to accommodate this need. For example at Heptonstall, where first of all the spinning jenny and its development into the water frame resulted in small mills with water wheels for spinning yarn established at Hepton Brook. These small mills on tributary streams became superseded by larger mills for fulling, situated on the main



rivers. With steam power, all the mills housing different processes came to be established on canals and rivers, and the transport of the earlier established textile villages emerged, characterised by a bridge across the river, giving access and a focal point for roads (45) These occur all over the textile area of the Calder. For example, at Heptonstall the mills were built below at Hebden Bridge. Sowerby was served by the canal terminus of Sowerby Bridge, Raistrick by Brighouse, and Luddenden by Luddenden Foot. The same pattern occurs to a lesser degree in the broader basin of the Aire.

The processes in the textile industry to be mechanised later were weaving and combing and then the great shift from water to steam power occurred around the middle of the 19th.c. Coal became critically important. In the millstone grit area where so much of the textile industry was based, supplies from the area's poor thin coal seams were soon exhausted, and it became increasingly necessary for towns to have access to good transport systems which could carry the much-needed supplies. As well as water transport, mentioned above, the railways now came into their own. We find many railway branch lines in the Keighley, Huddersfield, Halifax district after 1850 to meet the demands of mill owners for coal. Along the western fringe of the lower coal measures, supply was much easier and there was a marked industrial development here as manufacturers chose their sites for new mills on or near coal pits. Once again, the heavy demand exhausted the relatively thin seams of the lower coal measures and it fell to the richer supplies of the middle coal measures to supply eventually all the needs of the textile industry.

The other industry which became vital in machine production for textile processes was iron-working. Beds of iron occur all over the coal measures, but only the more persistent bands were exploited commercially. Black Bed ironstone, which was worked mostly from seams around and between Bradford and Huddersfield was the most important, not least because the Black Bed coal it overlies is particularly suited for iron working because of its low sulphur content. The other important type of iron was Tankersley, worked around Leeds and Dewsbury particularly. We have evidence of iron smelting from the middle ages. Colne Bridge was important at this time in supplying bar iron to cloth shear and iron wire makers in Halifax and Brighouse. The iron wire was

used in making cards for the hand carding and combing of wool. As with the coal industry, it was the industrial revolution that brought the greatest demands with a peak around the 1870's, this time for textile machinery. The manufacture started in Leeds, Keighley and Bradford and spread to most of the textile towns. Engineering industries sprang up and this growth helped to diversify the economy in parts of the coalfield, leaving the textile industry dominant in the gritstone country. From the late 19th.c., West Yorkshire's own iron was superseded by pig iron from Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire as local supplies of iron for smelting became depleted. Wrought iron, once the best in the country, also declined in favour of steel.

The other industry of special note was stone quarrying, strong all over West Yorkshire. One of the greatest quarry areas was around Keighley and Leeds together with the belt west of Bradford, Huddersfield and Halifax. Stone quarrying grew especially with the demand for housing and mills from the end of the 18th.c. to the beginning of the 19th. Throughout the 19th.c., the stimulus came from the building of railway and station works, and there was a quarry industry boom when some small quarry hamlets like Southowram and Thornton Heights grew into substantial villages.

### Farming practice

Although their occupants increasingly made livings from the new industries, farms continued to provide at least a subsistence, employing practices which were adapted to the harsh upland landscape in the west of the county, practices which remained remarkably unchanged over the centuries. Although the major shift to an industrial economy occurred in these agriculturally poor uplands in the 16th.c. and was well-developed by the 18th.c., agricultural production continued.

The most obvious differences in agricultural practice were in the contrasts between arable and grassland and between open and enclosed arable. Added to these broad contrasts were local differences in animal husbandry and crop cultivation. We lack comprehensive statistics to give an overall picture of farming practice in the 16th.c but Smith has illustrated the variety of crop patterns by reference to individual holdings as recorded by Crown surveyors (46). He found



that no single crop stood out as staple, but wheat and barley predominated in the lowlands, while oats were more common in the wetter western and upland areas. Sheep were important but cattle rivalled them even on the large estates with sheep runs. Fountains Abbey for example had more than 60% cattle in the 16th.c.

For the 17th.c., Harwood Long used probate inventories as a source to determine the pattern of regional farming in Yorkshire (47). He found that the most meaningful classification was by farming systems and land types rather than by regions (App. 3). He concluded that there was much more importance placed on corn in the lowland groups than anywhere else in the county and the relatively higher valuation of corn on larger than smaller farms suggested that corn-growing was a function of size. This classification emphasised the importance of cattle rearing, leading one to the conclusion that cattle were the "backbone of the farming of the times" (47).

As far as regional differences went, farming in the 17th.c. certainly varied from district to district with the highland zones relying more on cattle and sheep while the lowlands grew more corn. By plotting frequency distributions of the agricultural items listed in the probate inventories, Long suggested a 'model' farm for each area. The West Riding industrial group was subdivided into those with sheep (an average of 40) and those without. In other respects the items were about on a par, with 9-10 cattle, one working horse, a pig, one each of ploughs, harrows, coups and haystacks, no wheat or barley, but 8-12 qrs. of oats. The sheep farms total valuation was an average of £41, comparable to the Yorkshire Dales and Craven district groups, although less than the Yorkshire Wolds and lowlands which averaged between £47 and £61. The non-sheep farms in the West Riding Industrial area had the lowest total valuation of all the groups at £30. The sample of examples from an agricultural census of 1916 shows a remarkably unchanged picture in these upland farms (see end of next section on the census).

The keynote was still subsistence farming, which was all these smallholdings could economically provide. As Crump points out (48) the yeomen who lived in them gained much of their livelihood by the manufacture of cloth. They called themselves 'clothiers' and the



evidence from wills shows trade tools and looms along with livestock and crops.

Subsistence farming was particularly marked in the uplands which were characterised, because of the poor arable land and harsh climate, by animal husbandry. Rather than the large open fields of an arable economy there was a close-knit pattern of small enclosed fields, characteristic of pastoral farming, developed, as discussed in the previous section, by the piecemeal addition of lands or assarts cleared from the waste. Each township also had a woodland, a common meadow and common pasture on the waste.

By the 18th.c., the economic shift from agriculture to industry was quite apparent, especially in the upland areas. In Elland in 1775 there was hardly anyone <sup>living</sup> entirely by farming in the Calder valley and few farms were larger than 16 acres.

"This was a large enough holding to provide keep for a packhorse, one or two cows which gave milk and butter for the support of the family, and perhaps a cornfield. Oat cakes and porridge were the main cereal foods." (49)

Writing in the early 18th.c., Defoe had little praise for farming practices in the West Riding (50). He reported that crops received little attention even in the most fertile districts. In some parts, oats were grown to supply meal, potatoes were cultivated all over the county, but in general agriculture was backward and unprogressive. Around this period, the Industrial Revolution began to stimulate the need for greater agricultural production, resulting in more intensive use of farmland and improved techniques.

The period 1750-1880 ,up until the agricultural depression of the 1870's, saw the period of 'High farming' in which cows were used as economically as possible, as an eating, fattening and manure-producing machine. Farming at this time continued to be mixed with a balance between crop cultivation and livestock rearing, varied from year to year and from one locality to another. This High farming period was one of great investment in farm buildings and many date from this period (51). Some were organised as 'model' farmsteads,

others were small compact sets under single roofs on newly assembled or newly reclaimed land. The laithe house is often an example of the latter.

For a picture of farming practices towards the end of the laithe house period, Charnock, writing in 1848, noted particularly that in the coal measures area cultivation was designed to produce the most marketable produce in the shortest time, with extensive use of manure rather than a rotation system.

"The ready markets and comparatively higher value of produce in these districts (i.e. the manufacturing towns) added to the greater facility for producing manure, stimulated the smaller occupiers within easy reach of the towns to what otherwise might prove an impoverishing course of cropping." (52)

He observed that the millstone grit area had a peculiarly bad culture, with the emphasis on grassland. Fallow, wheat and beans was described as the usual form of cropping, with occasional oats and turnips. Charnock also reinforced the picture of the small size of holdings, especially around the large towns where they averaged 10-50 acres. Late 19th.c. census returns reveal the same story with, for example, an average holding of 18 acres calculated from 62 farms in Northowram. A full analysis appears at the end of section II.

The character of West Yorkshire has been shaped by its harsh topography and poor climate especially in the western uplands. As long as the population relied mainly on agriculture; the greatest settlement occurred in the eastern, arable lands while upland settlement remained sparse and scattered. Much of these same remote areas were under the auspices of Wakefield manor, whose easy rule encouraged the prosperity of the large and wealthy yeoman class which was so instrumental in the growth of Yorkshire's textile industry. It was this growth which provided the upland area's vital economy and population spread westwards. Land was enclosed from the uplands at an ever-increasing rate, the resulting small-holdings leased to the growing class of tenant farmers who supplemented their subsistence agriculture with textile manufacture.

The following section looks at how West Yorkshire's common housing reflected the area's particular social and economic character.



WEST YORKSHIRE : VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

This section looks at the main types of vernacular architecture in West Yorkshire from the Middle Ages to the 19thc. This outline will serve as a context in which to place the laithe house, itself a particular example of vernacular architecture.

No one type of building could be described as typical of the whole county as there are regional differences arising from variations in geology and economic life. What overall style there is has been identified as a south Pennine style rather than one defined by county boundaries. This accounts for the differences between the western upland areas and the eastern land lying mainly on the coal measures. Of particular interest are the vernacular buildings in Halifax parish which reflected the greater prosperity of the area, a prosperity engendered by the textile trade and giving rise to a wealthy yeoman class whose status was revealed by its building practices. The discussion of the Halifax area included in this general outline is mainly taken from the work of Colum Giles (53) and Wyndham Westerdale who investigated Shibden Dale in particular (54).

Timber-framed building and the cruck tradition

Cruck houses were being built from about 1200 in England and Wales, with well over 2,000 examples recorded. They were restricted mainly to the highland zones of the country, but we have little early evidence to suggest their true origin. What has emerged is that most early cruck building was very sophisticated, suggesting that the form began at a high social level and that it was slowly adapted down the social scale through time (55). This theory has gained weight over the simplistic one of crucks having been developed as a primitive form of construction.

Cruck buildings are documented from the 14th.c. in West Yorkshire, although few examples have survived the rebuilding in stone which took place from the 16th.c., mainly in the dales area. Those that do survive are generally farm buildings. The most numerous evidence is of re-used cruck timbers and these examples have helped build a picture of cruck construction. 61 buildings in the county have been thus identified.

In its later form, cruck building is relatively simple and cheap.



Pairs of curved timbers were raised either directly off the ground or from stone supports (fig. 4). This meant the roof structure was supported directly from the ground and walls could be altered or replaced without trouble, unlike box-frame construction. Around Silsden, in the north-west of the county, there appears to have been a class of small upper yeomen who were rebuilding in cruck form in the late 16th.c. The wealthy yeomen in the class above were by this time rebuilding in box-frame form while the poorer classes could not afford anything as substantial as even the simple cruck.

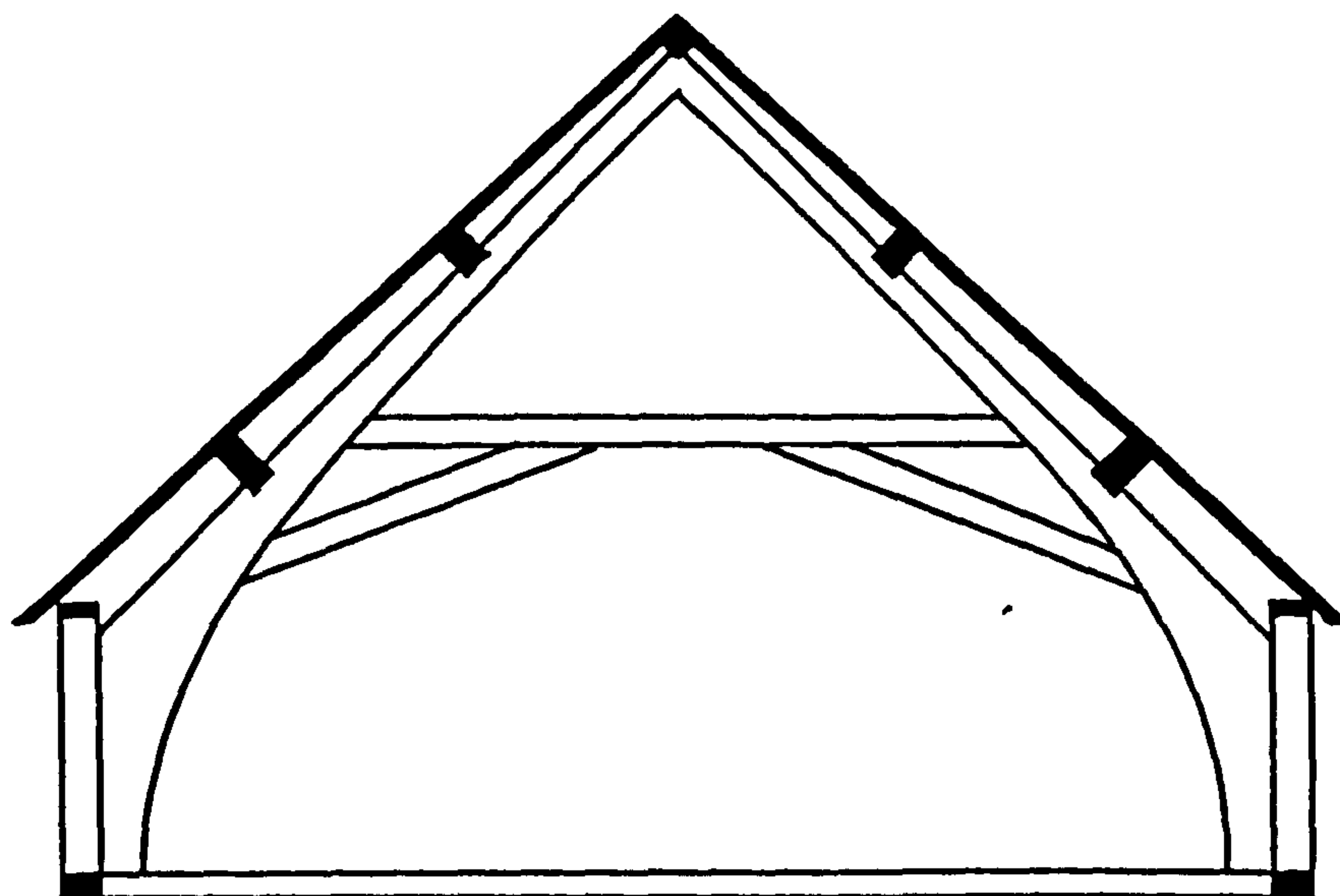
Cruck building carried on even into the 17th.c. but, as already noted, the evidence we have is mainly of re-used timbers, suggesting the tradition had died out even then. In any case the form was eventually superseded by the rectangular timbered or box-frame house. This was probably influenced by the timber and half-timber houses of the Midlands which were typically rectangular with vertical side-posts and carrying a king-post truss across their tops (56). Certainly in Halifax the king-post became the common form (fig. 4b), appearing during the 15th.c. to be quickly adopted by local carpenters, and retained because it was the form most easily adapted to low pitch stone roofs.

In the Calder valley area, box-framed houses were much more common than crucks. A likely reason for this has been suggested by Mercer (57) who thought the prosperity of the Halifax area meant that more advanced housing would be adopted at each stage of building down the social scale. Cruck building fell between two stages as the minor gentry had already stopped using the form for their large houses before building on a scale which could be termed vernacular. On the other hand the next class, of the yeomen clothiers, were wealthy enough to step beyond cruck-framed houses to adopt box-framed straight away. By the time the next (middle) class were rebuilding, from 1600, box-frame houses were well-established. Where crucks were used it was at the poorest level, below the vernacular threshold and, as we have seen from evidence of re-used cruck blades, they were probably obsolete by the end of the 17th.c.

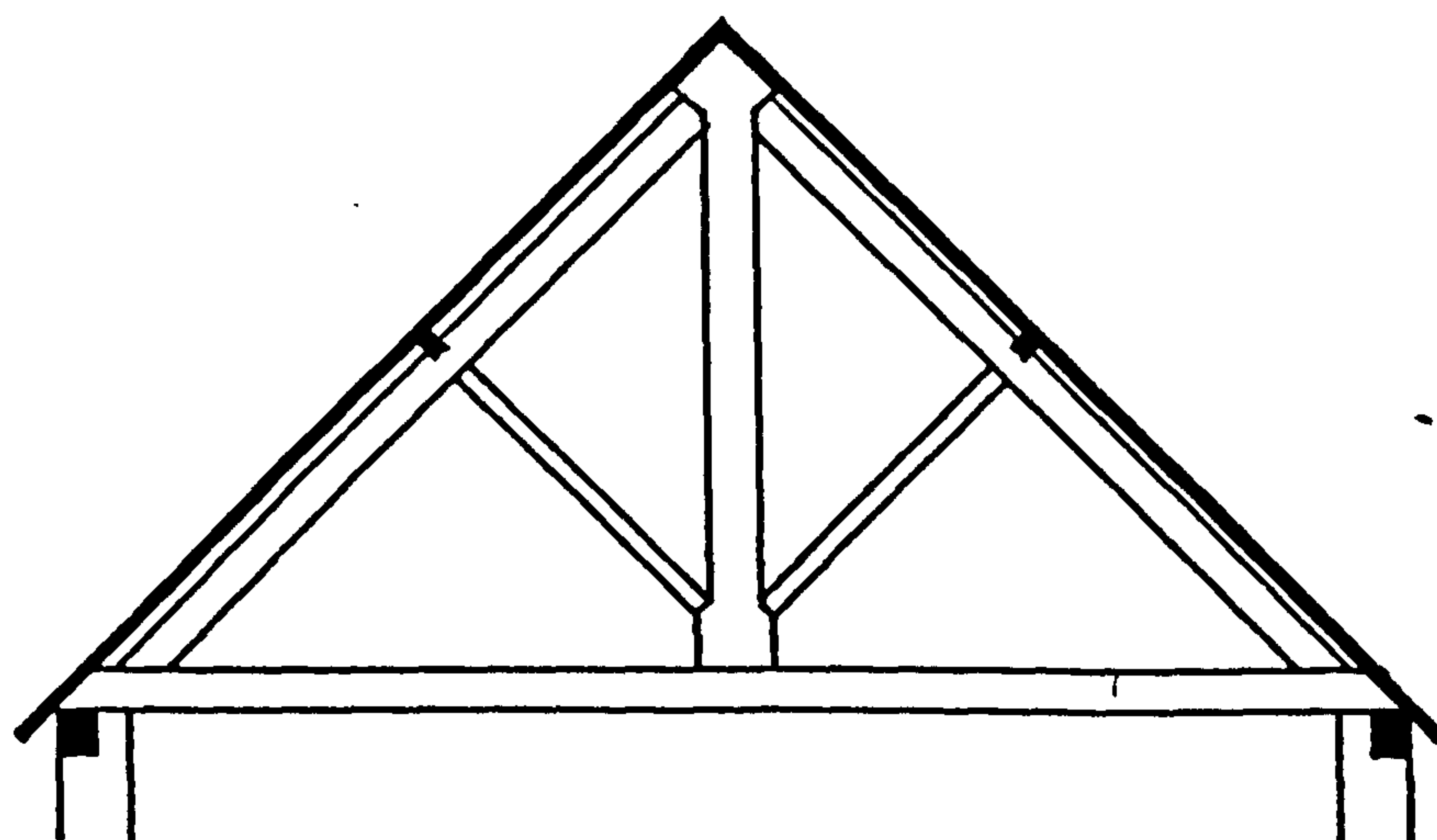
The prosperity of Halifax parish had created the conditions whereby the box-framed tradition entered earlier into vernacular building. The comparatively poor economy of the Holme and Colne

54.  
Fig.4    TIMBER FRAMED ROOF CONSTRUCTION  
[Ref: Discovering Timber Framed Buildings,  
R.Harris]

A. CRUCK FRAME



B. KING POST ROOF TRUSS





valleys where a purely agricultural economy dominated longer meant the main period of rebuilding for the middle classes occurred here in the late 17th.c. when the cheaper cruck frame was still widely adopted. Evidence for the existence of a wealthier class of yeomen-clothiers in Halifax is found in the concentration of late medieval houses in that area. These houses cannot be classed as gentry houses, being smaller and of different form as well as more numerous. The suggestion is that

"their builders formed a larger section of the population, with an inferior rank and different needs, but with sufficient capital to finance the construction of substantial houses. Before the 17th.c. the only people capable of making such a considerable investment in building were the wealthier yeomen-clothiers, whose incomes rivalled those of many gentlemen." (58)

Given these regional variations, the box-frame tradition eventually superseded the cruck during the timber building period.

There were two main types of box-framed house; the aisled and the unaisled. In the Halifax region there was a predominance of aisled houses, a feature which was generally rare in timber-framed dwelling in the north of England. It was a feature of major gentry houses before dropping out of use, to reappear 200 years later as a feature of the yeoman-clothier's house. A total of 29 aisled timber-framed houses (now all encased in stone) were located in Halifax parish, with almost half that number in Shibden Dale. They can be identified by their large roofs which slope down over the low side walls of an aisled house-body. Against this number, only 7 unaisled box-framed houses were found in Shibden Dale. It is even possible that some of these may have originally been a cross wing of a larger structure, for example at Lower High Sunderland in Northowram where this possibility is substantiated from the axis being north to south rather than the usual east to west orientation.

The characteristic feature of the aisled timber-framed house is the housebody which is open from floor to roof as well as being extended by an aisle, usually placed at the rear, although there are examples of double-aisled houses with one at the front too. The basic plan of the aisled house was of three units arranged either in a simple line or



with one unit forming a cross wing. Gentry houses had adopted a form of H plan during the 15th.c. This was made up of a hall range flanked by storeyed cross wings. We have more examples of the H plan gentry house in the east of the county because of the greater wealth from agriculture which existed there, but by the 15th.c. a lesser gentry class, more numerous in the west from the wealth of the textile trade, were building a simpler form.

In the ranks of the upper yeomanry, the 3-unit aisled house never emulated the H plan by building two cross wings. A feature of their houses was the distinction made between the superior 'living' area of the house and the inferior or 'service' end. This service end was generally used for the storage and preparation of food, but in Halifax it was sometimes used as a textile shop. In these cases the service area was transferred to the aisle at the rear of the house. It is this feature which helps explain the comparatively large numbers of aisled houses in Halifax. Evidence of specific examples is sometimes complicated by later building alterations, but many aisled house plans suggest this development. An example is Lower Lime House in Northowram where the extension to the building and removal of the kitchen to the rear, behind the other small service rooms, suggest the addition of a shop (fig. 5). By the same token, unaisled houses would have been favoured by those not engaged in the textile trade.

The upper and lower ends of the 3-unit house, a functional division carried on from medieval times, were further emphasised by a cross-passage which divided them. This cross-passage ran between two opposing doorways and gave entry to both ends of the house, as at Lower Lime House. There were usually no other passages, so in the 2-unit upper end of the house one had to pass through one room to reach the next. An increased desire for privacy and for more rooms to fulfill different functions, a move away from the communal living of the Middle Ages, required more rooms to be added from around the 16th.c. The house plan already had a long range so the solution was to build on at the rear. At the same time, classical influences were filtering down the social scale and it was seen that a greater balance and harmony could be achieved by having a central entry in a square or rectangular block. These changes eventually evolved the 2-unit plan, with an important change in axis, now arranged around a central entrance, and with the



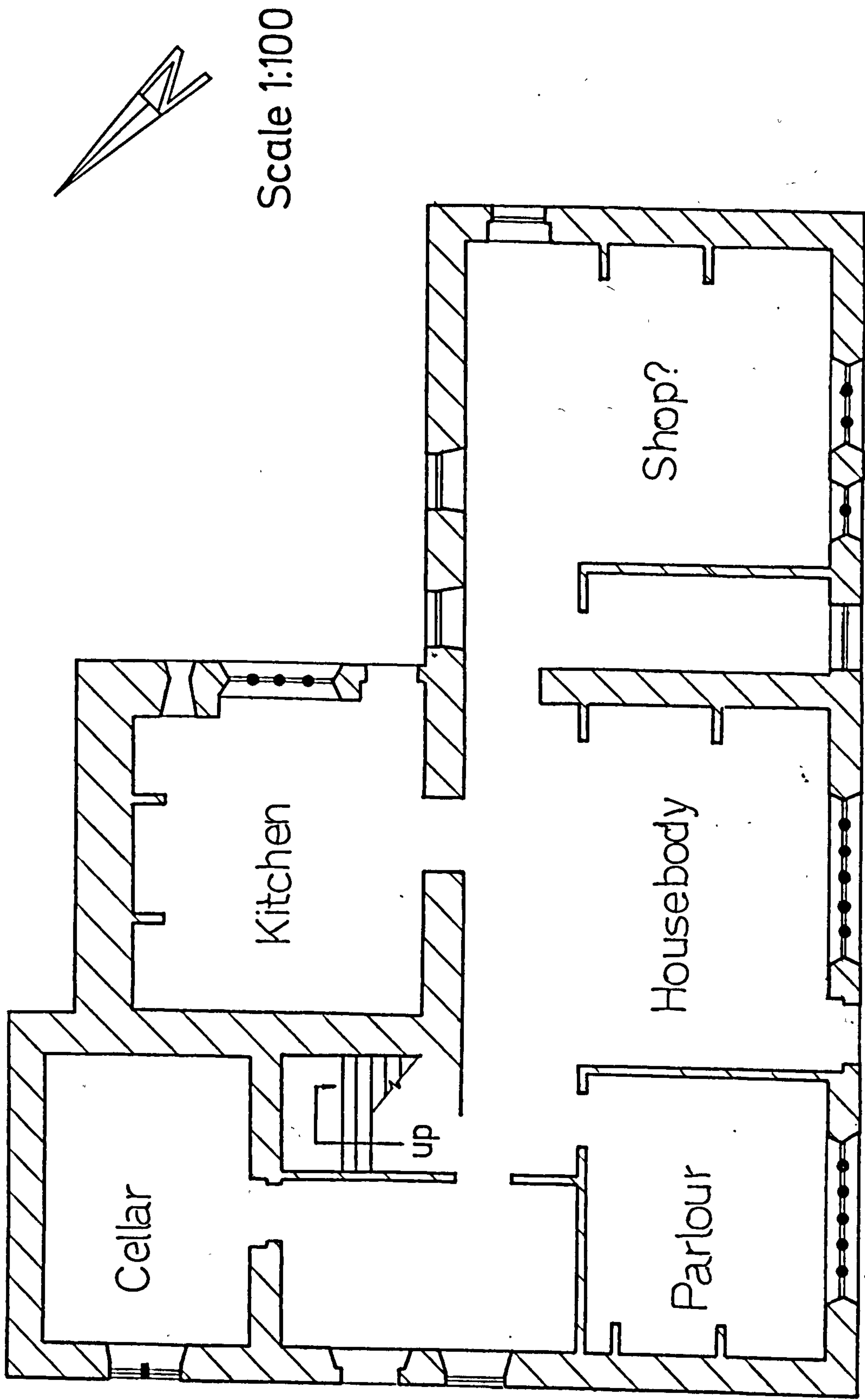


Fig.5 LOWER LIME HOUSE  
Northowram

functional distribution shifted from the traditional upper and lower ends to front and rear. These developments occurred in the stone rebuilding of the 16th.c. onwards.

### The single storey cottage

Leland, writing on his travels in Yorkshire during the 16th.c., noted there were still many wooden houses in most areas. By 1700 stone was common to the whole clothing area. By the time Defoe visited the county, the houses of the western Pennines were all made from stone, Bradford was mainly stone, whereas Leeds and Wakefield to the east were using mainly brick (59). It was also noted by these contemporary observers that most dwellings were single storey. No cottages have survived from before the 17th.c. Many would have been timber-framed (cruck or box) with wattle and daub or lath and plaster walls, many roofed with straw thatch. Non-survival of such insubstantial buildings is always a problem when looking at numbers and distribution of vernacular houses, and the further down the social scale, the less representative are the numbers which survive. In spite of this lack of evidence, it should be noted that the single-storey cottage has been an important element in the pattern of vernacular building in West Yorkshire, and indeed country-wide, and must have been one of the commonest types of dwelling before the terraced house (60).

### Rebuilding in stone

Stone building occurred in Halifax parish from the end of the 16th. century and the transition from the long-standing timber-building tradition was particularly fast in this area. The watershed was around 1600, with few timber houses being built after that time. Timber had in any case become scarce across the country, particularly the straight timber needed for box-framed construction. On the other hand a general growth in wealth had put stone within the reach of more sectors of the population. Whereas some houses in the dales were built from stone of the erstwhile monastic buildings, much of the stone in the Pennine uplands was quarried locally, often from very localised sites which were opened up near the building itself.

Hoskins placed the period of the 'Great Rebuilding' in stone at 1570-1640, attributing it to inflation which benefitted the middle class who could then afford to invest in permanent houses. The northern rebuilding period was placed a century later, between 1670 and 1720. The theory was modified when Machin demonstrated that the rebuilding in



fact occurred in phases rather than in one concentrated period. The pattern began in the late 16th.c. and continued throughout the 17th. with a peak around 1700, then a drop until it levelled off in the 1740's.

Once again, Halifax showed an earlier rate of development, as its rebuilding began in the 15th.c. rather than the 16th., although the numbers of houses being built increased in the late 16th.c. This period also saw the advent of stone building. The fashion for dating houses began at this time, with the earliest recorded example being of 1570 at Mytholme. Evidence from dated houses show building peaks in the 1630's and the 1670's, and Westerdale has suggested a connection between those peaks and increases in the price of cloth whereby textile traders accumulated more money for building investment. In all, between 500 and 1,000 substantial stone houses and large barns were built in the Halifax area during the 17th.c. The houses ranged from the simple 2-cell with outshut to the 3-cell with complete double-pile plan.

Plans were carried on from the timber building traditions of 3-unit and cross-passage style, with the hearth to one side of the middle room in a deep inglenook, and a hearth passage entry. Walls were usually of roughly coursed rubble embellished by ashlar quoins, and a roof of stone slates. The appearance was strong and simple, the emphasis on low horizontal lines, including the window arrangement and the string course which often appeared unbroken between stories.

"It was a flexible style, fit for the mansion or the barn, but seen at its best perhaps in the farmhouse." (61)

The lowland areas of the county followed the time-scale of the north more closely. East of the stone districts, rebuilding only really got under way from the late 17th.c. to the early 18th.c. Cottages were small and insubstantial, usually of two-roomed, one-storey plan, and thatched roofs were common.

As well as rebuilding there was of course a great deal of enlarging and general alteration done to existing houses. The most common alterations were larger windows and additions to living space, usually at the 'living' end of the dwelling. Upper stories of two or three rooms, corresponding to the ground floor plans, were raised,

outshuts added to the rear to accommodate extra service rooms, and often a stone staircase as well to provide access to a new upper storey.

### Plan forms at the high point of vernacular building (fig. 6)

The most common plan form in the first half of the 17th.c., particularly in the upper Calder valley, was the hearth passage plan. It achieved this popularity because the passage functioned as a barrier between the living and the service areas of a dwelling. The special reason for its adoption in the Halifax area may have been to form a division between a housebody and a textile shop. More common in the east of the county was the lobby entry or the direct entry, the latter most probably used by yeomen whose houses were dwellings only and not used for industry as well, and who therefore could dispense with the division of a hearth passage.

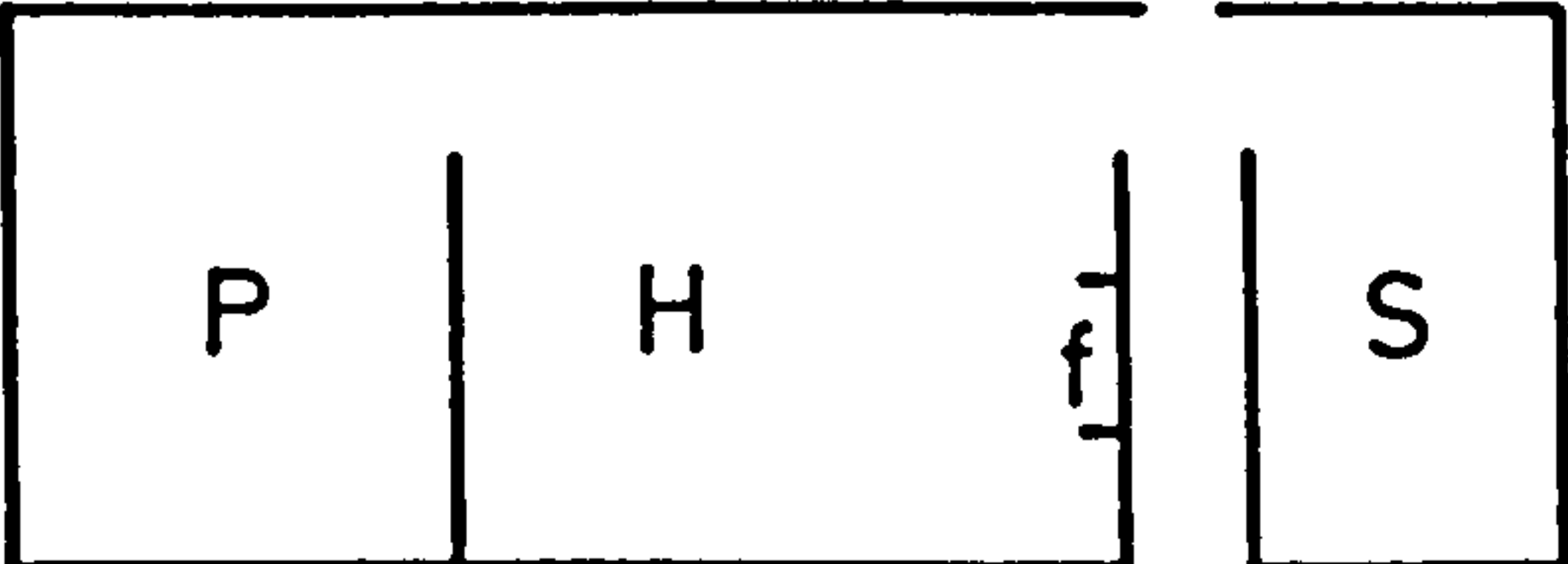
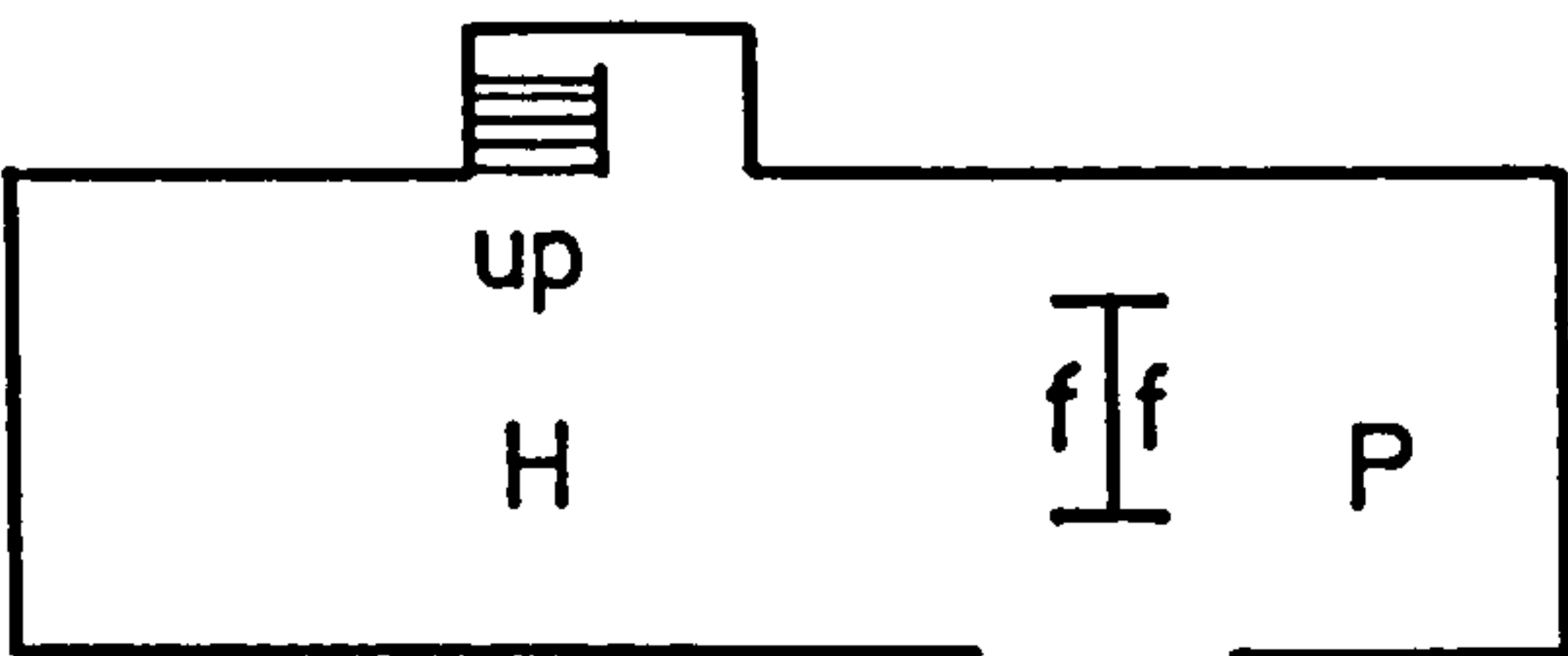
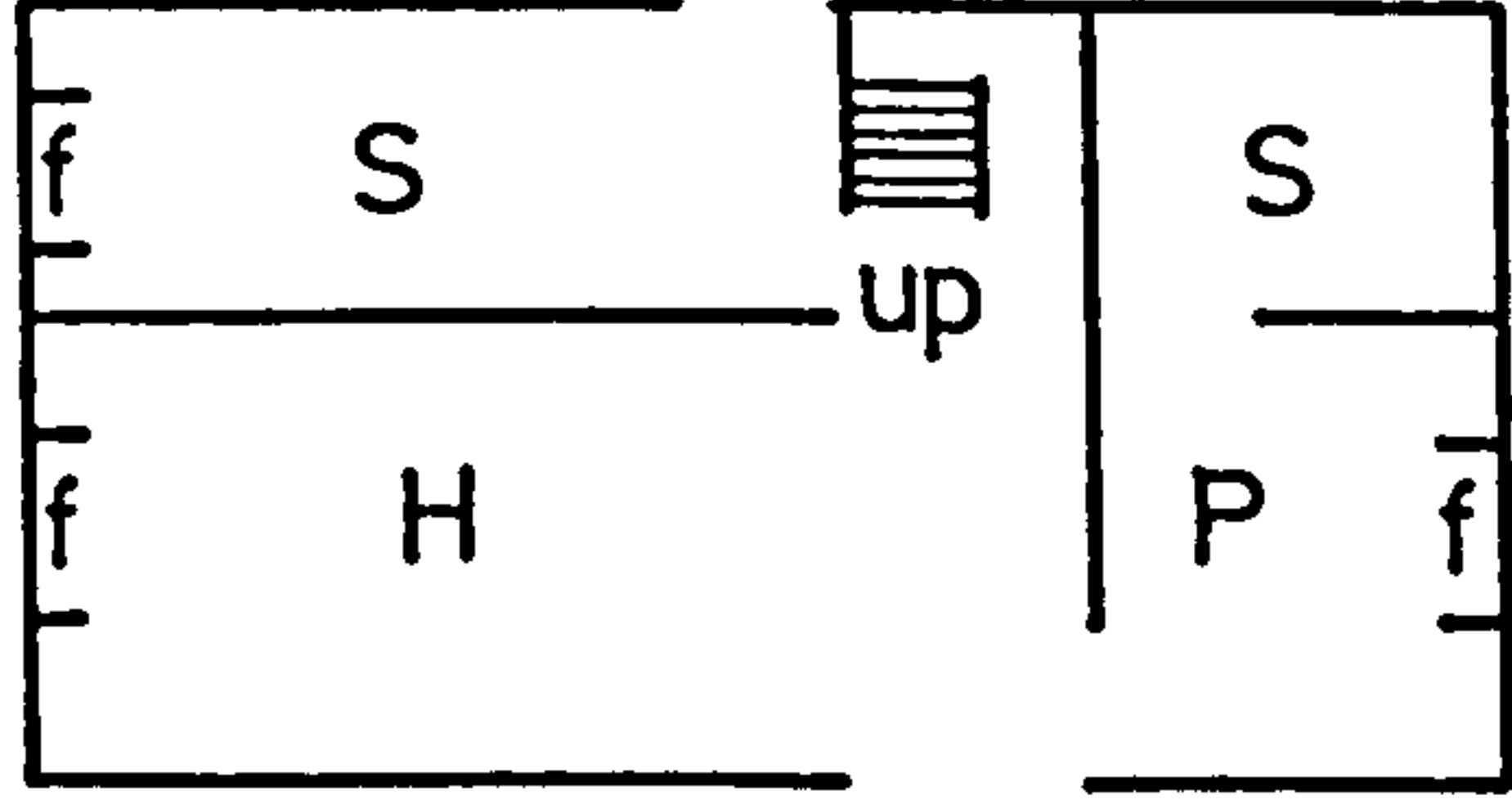
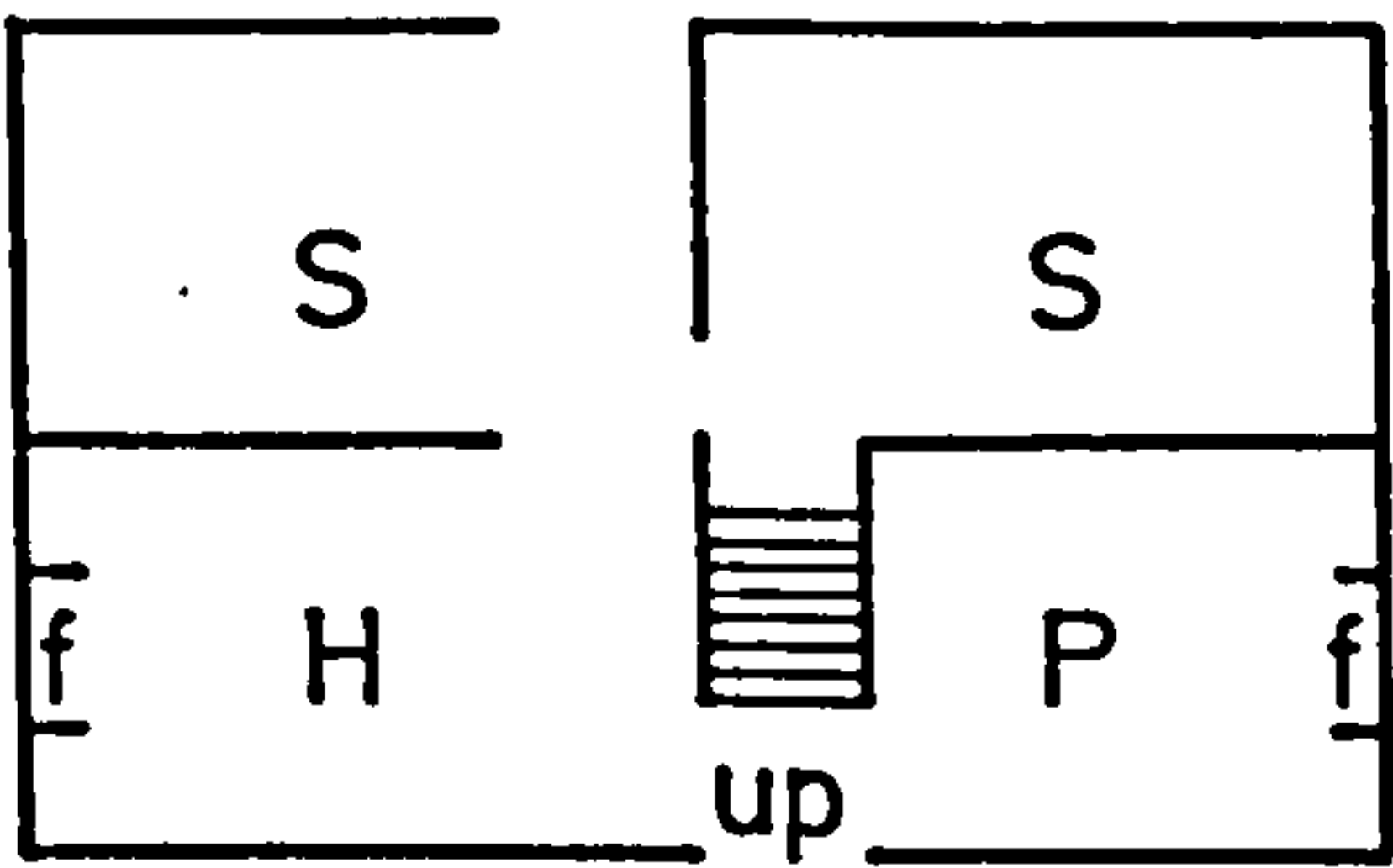
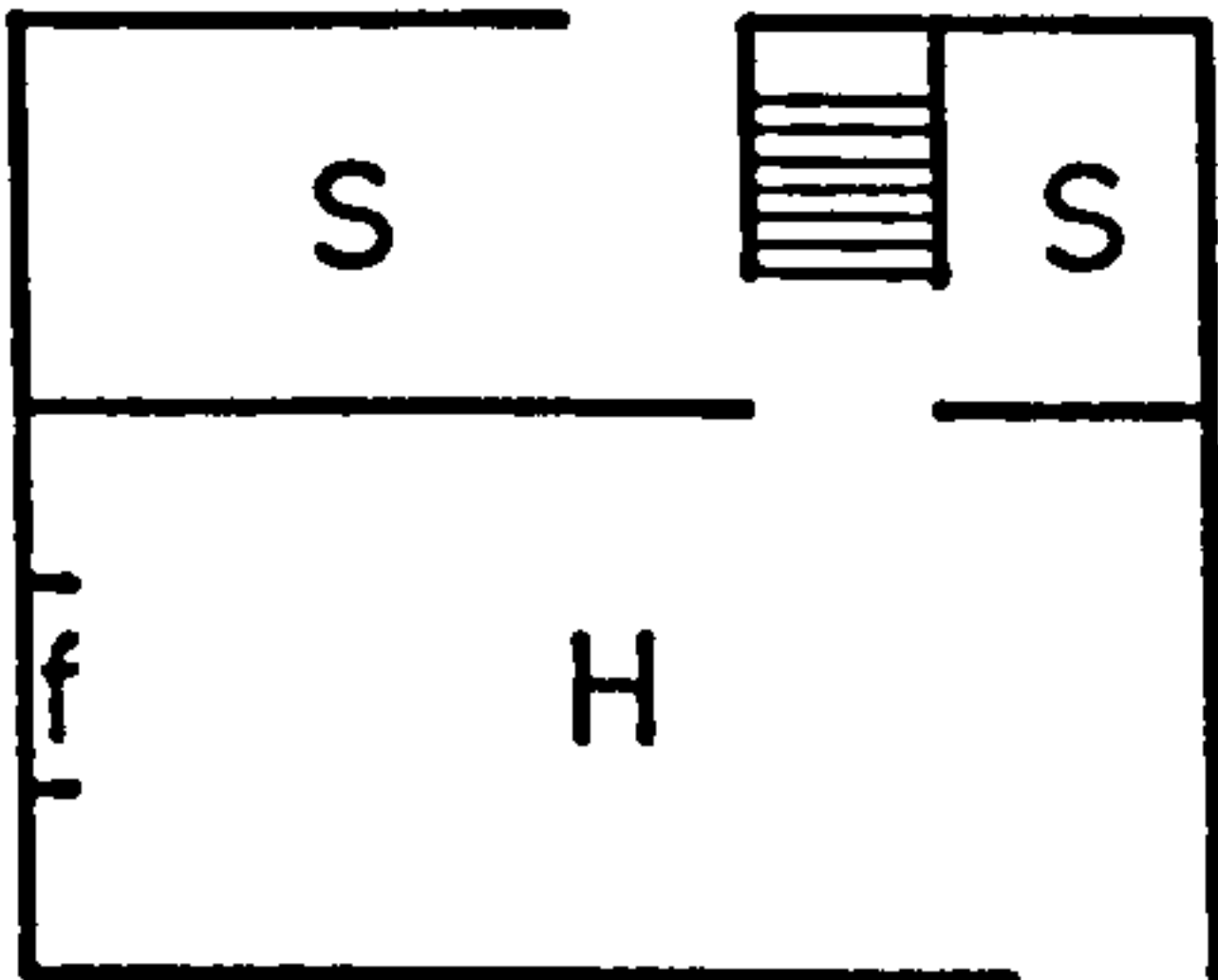
As discussed earlier, the 3-unit linear plan gave way to a more compact double-pile form. This developed from the middle of the 17th.c., and became dominant by the 18th.c. As well as giving greater symmetry in design, this form was more economical in materials and more convenient for interconnecting rooms, especially once the interior arrangement settled down around a central entrance. This arrangement in turn influenced all the access points to be centralised, as the stair to the first floor more frequently was built to lead up from the main front, and stairs to the cellar often became placed under this main flight. Central access to the upper rooms meant the chamber over the housebody did not have to be used as a passageway and could be utilised as a chamber.

A note should be made of another building form for which some evidence remains. There were larger buildings than the 3-unit house, perhaps of 4 or 5 units and often representing several building phases. An example is the 4-unit house at Law in Southowram in which two households appear to have shared the hearth and the entrance. This evidence is substantiated by a deed of the early 18th.c. which refers to the transfer of the 'west part' of Law. This unit system of shared housing was also a feature of some 3-unit houses. Problems in identifying these 17th.c. examples arise from the ubiquitous practice of subdividing many houses of the same period into tenements.

In practice, vernacular architecture in the late medieval and



Fig.6 COMMON PLAN FORMS

|   |   |   |         |   |                        |   |          |
|---|---|---|---------|---|------------------------|---|----------|
| <p>A</p>  <p>A floor plan showing three rectangular units arranged horizontally. The first unit on the left contains a 'P' (Parlour). The middle unit contains an 'H' (Housebody/Living room). The third unit on the right contains an 'S' (Services). A vertical line with a small 'f' (fireplace) symbol is located between the middle and right units, representing a crosspassage.</p>                   | <p>Three unit plan with crosspassage.</p>                     |   |         |   |                        |   |          |
| <p>B</p>  <p>A floor plan showing a single unit with a 'P' (Parlour) on the right and an 'H' (Housebody/Living room) on the left. A central staircase labeled 'up' is located between the two rooms. Two fireplace symbols 'f' are shown: one on the left wall of the 'H' room and one on the right wall of the 'P' room.</p>  | <p>Lobby entry.</p>   |   |         |   |                        |   |          |
| <p>C</p>  <p>A floor plan showing a double pile arrangement. The left pile consists of an 'S' (Services) room above an 'H' (Housebody/Living room). The right pile consists of an 'S' (Services) room above a 'P' (Parlour). A central staircase labeled 'up' is located between the two piles. Fireplace symbols 'f' are located on the left wall of the 'H' room and the right wall of the 'P' room.</p> | <p>Direct entry opposite fireplace in a double pile plan.</p> |   |         |   |                        |   |          |
| <p>D</p>  <p>A floor plan showing a double pile arrangement around a central staircase labeled 'up'. The left pile has an 'S' (Services) room above an 'H' (Housebody/Living room). The right pile has an 'S' (Services) room above a 'P' (Parlour). Fireplace symbols 'f' are located on the left wall of the 'H' room and the right wall of the 'P' room.</p>  | <p>Double pile plan arranged around a central axis.</p>       |   |         |   |                        |   |          |
| <p>E</p>  <p>A floor plan showing a single front, two-storey cottage. The ground floor contains an 'H' (Housebody/Living room) with a fireplace 'f' on the left wall. The first floor contains two 'S' (Services) rooms, one on each side of a central staircase labeled 'up'.</p>   | <p>Single front, two storey cottage accommodation.</p>        |   |         |   |                        |   |          |
| <table><tr><td>P</td><td>Parlour</td></tr><tr><td>H</td><td>Housebody/ Living room</td></tr><tr><td>S</td><td>Services</td></tr></table>  |   | P | Parlour | H | Housebody/ Living room | S | Services |
| P   | Parlour   |   |         |   |                        |   |          |
| H   | Housebody/ Living room  |   |         |   |                        |   |          |
| S   | Services  |   |         |   |                        |   |          |

early modern ages means the buildings of the yeomanry and for this reason this section looks mainly at these yeoman houses. Apart from the gentry, the main grades of status in the 17th.c. society were yeomen, husbandmen and labourers, in that order of precedence. As the yeomen were the wealthiest of these groups they were probably the builders of all the surviving non-gentry houses of the Middle Ages. Even the lesser yeomen were not able to build such permanent houses at this period, and the lower social ranks lagged even further behind. The size of a house is an obvious indication of its owner's status and it appears that a member of a particular social class would stick to a plan appropriate to that class, even when he could afford something larger. In these cases he would probably spend more on better materials, display and embellishments. In and around Shibden Dale, buildings with six or more ground-floor rooms were considered appropriate for minor gentry while the clothiers tended to live in houses with 4-6 ground-floor rooms. Westerdale's analysis of 87 probate inventories for the period 1688-1700 showed 85% of clothiers thus accommodated.

It took some time for the houses of the yeomen-clothiers to develop beyond medieval predecessors. In the 17th.c. it was still largely the gentry houses which had changed their linear plan to a compact one with central entrance and functional axis from front to rear. It was by the end of the 17th.c.<sup>that</sup> these changes began to filter down the social scale. Another feature of medieval building tradition which persisted into the 17th.c. was the central importance of the housebody, still the focus of household life for the yeomen-clothiers. While the gentry house relegated household functions to other rooms, allowing the housebody to become a formal reception room, the house of the yeoman-clothier retained these functions in the housebody well into the 17th.c. As a result, the firehood was also retained, usually covering an area of about 5 ft. deep. Once the cooking functions were relegated to service rooms, the firehood was replaced by a stone stack. We usually only have evidence of its existence from the bressumer beams which defined it, as well as a small fire window which was needed to light the dim area under the firehood. The other distinction between the housebody of a yeoman's house and that of a gentleman's is that the former was usually floored over to give greater warmth and comfort as well as to provide living space above. In the gentry house, the housebody existed as much for status as function, and the imposing housebodies were left open to the roof.



For much of the 17th.c. then, the yeoman-clothier's house still had the linear plan with the living area at one end and the service area at the other, divided by the cross-passage. Even the substantial houses built in Shibden Dale retained this plan, accommodating their two parlours in a cross wing. By the end of the 17th.c. however, the plan changes adopted by the gentry had been absorbed and both the functional axis and the depth of plan had changed.

The 3-unit plan fell from popularity around the end of the 17th.c., and with it the use of a cross-passage. Once the plan changed to a 2-unit front with inferior rooms (at first under an outshut) placed at the rear, a central lobby or direct entry became more appropriate, for example at Lower Lime House (fig. 5). The outshut was a regular feature of many yeomen-clothiers' houses. They varied in length; for example Long Shaw and Brigg Royd in Northowram had theirs running behind the housebody and parlour but others had theirs running the full length of the building.

In its adoption of outshuts to accommodate service rooms at the rear, West Yorkshire followed a country-wide fashion. The outshut in the houses of Halifax parish had been preceded by the medieval aisled tradition and may be regarded as a development of that style. These 2 or 3-unit outshuts became scarcer to the west of the parish, being more numerous in the wealthier Shibden Dale area. An outshut was frequently the first step to a full double-pile plan, especially when, as at Lower Lime House, it was enlarged into a storeyed wing of equal depth to the front rooms. Several dwellings had an upper storey added later to give a full double-pile plan. For example, this was done at Giles House in Hipperholme in 1723. Houses were built with this plan from the late 17th.c. but it was mainly in the early 18th.c. which saw new houses being built to the full double-pile plan form. Characteristically, the outshut was unheated and accommodated the interior service rooms which were being reorientated to the rear of the house. The aspect of the house usually meant the outshut was built on the north side, and this was particularly useful for cool storage in the milkhouse or buttery.

To look more closely at the 'living' area; after the housebody, the parlour was the most important room especially as its function had

changed from that of combined bed and storage chamber by the 17th.c. Now the parlour was heated and used as a private living room. The greater wealth of Shibden Dale resulted in more houses being built with two parlours, usually contained in a cross wing, with the most important one known as the 'sun' parlour (referring to its aspect) in probate inventories. At the top end of the scale, some yeomen-clothiers had been able to build a further parlour onto the lower wing of the house, bringing the level of accommodation in these houses closer to that of the gentry.

Window size gives a good indication of the relative importance of rooms in these houses. The smallest light the service and inferior chambers; much larger are those for the kitchen and 'best' chamber, only superseded by the windows of parlour and housebody. In general, apart from the 'best' chamber, upper rooms were of inferior status to ground floor rooms. Another general rule was that inferior rooms were unheated. Cellars, usually built in the wings of the medieval house, moved to join the service rooms at the rear of the housebody during the 17th.c. Attics were rare, upper rooms usually being open to the roof.

As previously noted, yeomen-clothiers' houses sometimes used the lower end of their dwellings as textile workshops. These shops are not found in the eastern part of the county. Inventories have shown a proportion of about one-tenth in the central areas, rising to one-third in the west. This concentration is most marked in the upper Calder valley. The shop area was usually unheated and undistinguished, although loading doors on the upper floor are found from the middle of the 18th.c.

On the edge of the coal measures, at the valley head in Shibden Dale, are some examples of smaller 2-unit dwellings associated with the lower middle class and generally built after the Civil war. These are more common in the west of the county, reflecting the poorer agricultural quality of land there (and therefore less wealth). The arrangement of rooms was based on the front to rear functional axis, with the service rooms always housed in a narrow outshut rather than a full storey. The common arrangement in these houses was of housebody and parlour at the front, usually heated by two gable stacks. Cooking was still done in the housebody, with food stored and prepared in rear service rooms. An inventory of one such house in Midgley noted the



bed in an upstairs room, showing how this shift from sleeping in a downstairs parlour had filtered down to the lower middle classes by the late 17th.c. century.

Further down the social scale we find cottage accommodation (62). More two-roomed than single-roomed cottages survive, but this is probably due to their greater use for subsequent owners rather than a reflection of the numbers actually built. 2-roomed cottages had either a central hearth or an end hearth in the living room. This was usually larger than the bedroom, which tended to be unheated. The plan of a single storey cottage at Lepton (fig. 7) built around 1711 was used almost unchanged from the 17th. to the 19th.c.

Two-storey cottages had the same simple layout, with living and service rooms on the ground floor with corresponding bedrooms above. Cottages were mainly built of local stone from the 17th.c. to the 19th.c. Brick did not appear in central and western areas until the latter part of the 18th.c. Single storey, single room cottages survive into the 19th.c. and probably retained their popularity because one large room was less cramped than living in two smaller ones. Most of these larger single room cottages had a central doorway flanked by a window on either side and an end hearth. They were associated with a class of small husbandmen or craftsmen of higher status than the landless laboures who generally occupied the smaller cottages which were more popular from the 18th.c. and often built as part of a row. The plans of these houses usually comprised an end hearth with a door and one window on the front elevation. Small as they were, some of these cottages were partitioned in the 19th.c. to form a scullery.

The plan form of central door and gable stacks which had been seen in the earlier, larger single-roomed examples was used for some 18th.c. 2-roomed cottages. In West Yorkshire, cottage accommodation is often associated with industries. In the case of single storey cottages they regularly appear in connection with mining. Weaver's cottages were a particular feature of the textile areas. They were often built in rows, sometimes giving over the whole upper floor of a block as a weaving shop, identifiable from the long rows of 10 or 12 light mullioned windows which lit the upper storey. In the self-contained weavers' cottages, windows are often set with 2 or 3 lights on the ground floor and 5 or 6 on the upper floor, revealing the upper rooms' function as a workroom as well as sleeping and storage.

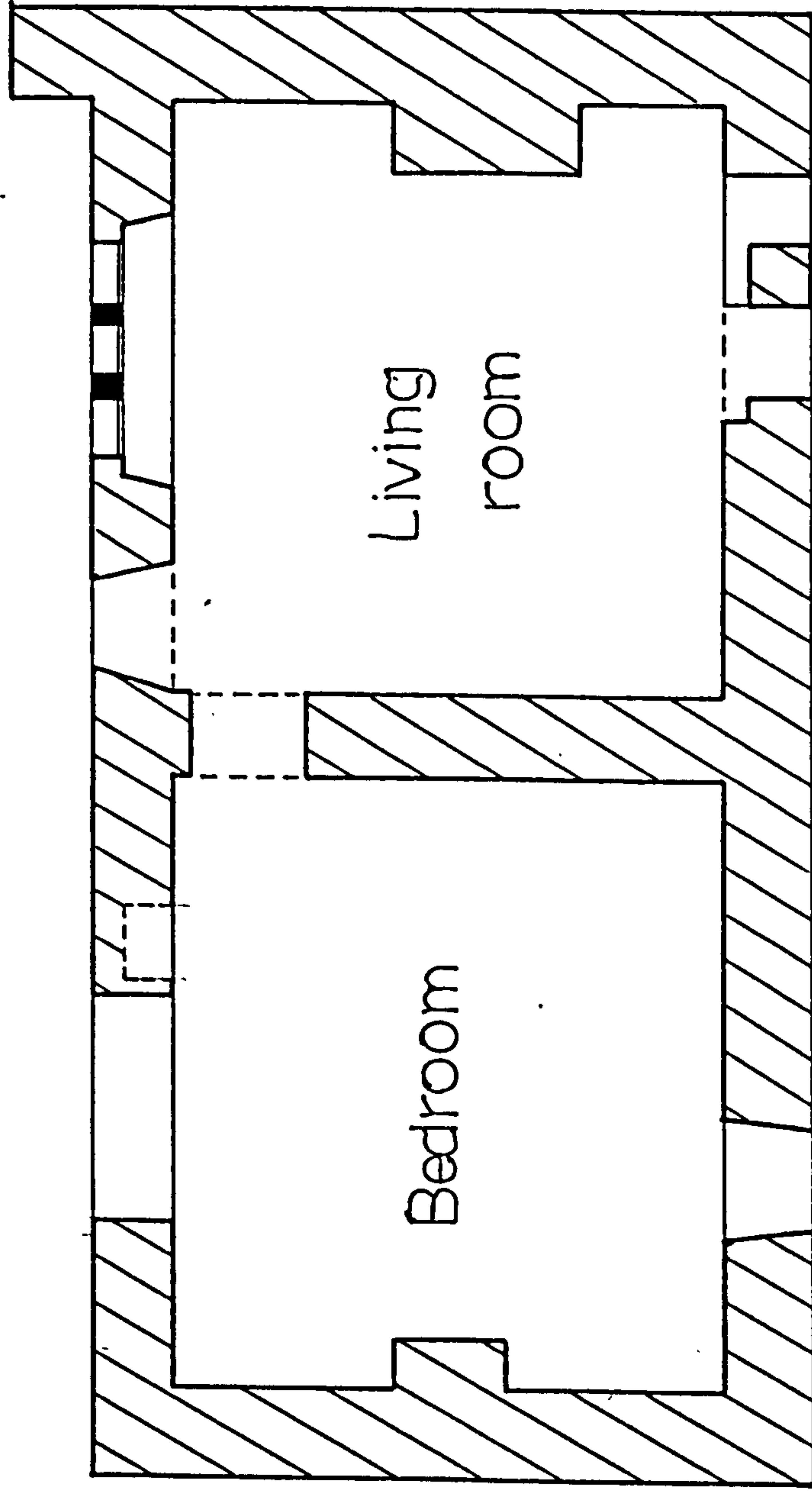


Fig.7 SINGLE STOREY COTTAGE

Lepton

[Ref: R.C.N. Thornes, West  
Yorkshire]

0 1 2m



The essence of vernacular building is its local character. When Raistrick chapel was built in 1602, the land for its building site was donated by one yeoman, the stone came from the quarry of another. Two local masons and a carpenter undertook the actual building work, the labouring was done by casual workers. Decorative features were left to the craftsmen who would have followed local styles (63). The chapel was very much a 'community' building, and the same practices were at work for ordinary houses. A contract of 1648 for a house in Halifax parish illustrated this (64). In it, the client specified the site and aspect of the proposed building and he agreed to provide transport and unskilled labour. His only detailed specifications were the overall size of the house and the size and placing of windows and fireplaces. Everything else was up to the builder, including decorative features and all matters of construction. As in the case of Raistrick chapel, he would have been completely influenced by local materials and styles, producing another house of true vernacular character.

The fundamental local material is of course stone. In the local coal measures the characteristic stone is good sandstone which breaks easily into narrow rectangular blocks. The ease with which this sandstone can be squared means that doors and windows could be cut without the necessity of inserting specially made jambs and side-pieces. The traditional technique used with this type of stone (of which the famous Elland flags of Shibden Dale are an example) is to lay it in narrow but long and deep courses. Its main drawback is its impracticality for elaborate, especially deep cut decoration, as weathering tends to remove its surface layers. Not so the harder gritstones which occur to the west of the county. They are much more durable and retain fine carved detail well. This had the effect of encouraging ornamentation in the west while restraining it in the east and central parts where sandstone is the local stone.

Narrow coursed stone is usually strengthened by placing quoins at the angles, built flush with the wall surface until some examples of projecting quoins appear from around the 1830's. This narrow coursed masonry tends to be roughly finished while the larger square gritstone blocks have finer tooling, usually 'pecked' with the use of a pointed tool. The Halifax area was famous for its craftsmanship in masonry. The combination of its skilled masons and good local stone

earned great respect; this had even gained employment for its craftsmen by the Oxford colleges in the late 16th.c.

A particular style of masonry called 'watershot' appeared in the area from the 18th.c., becoming common by the 19th. It is done by slanting stones forward at the top of each course so that water is deflected from the joints (pl.1 ).

Because of the small amount of decoration and timber that was used, structure and masonry were all-important to the aesthetic appearance of the building. What timber there was tended to be functional in character. Beams and joists were usually chamfered with straight cut or cyma stops and little else in the way of decoration. The Pennine area characteristically had double spine beams in the ground floor rooms. This is not the case in other areas of the country where one is the general rule. Timber partitions between rooms fell out of use except in the poorest houses from the 17th.c. Doors were timber of course. In the 17th.c. external doors were made of vertical planks nailed to horizontal battens. By the 18th.c. they were panelled as interior doors always had been. Door surrounds were of stone and, up to the 18th.c., this often took the form of a flat lintel with a broad chamfered surround. A more decorative style was the Tudor arch, mainly used in the 17th.c. This became more flattened in shape and influenced the development of the segmental arched doorheads common in the 18th.c. A different kind of arch, the semi-circular, was adopted by the yeomen-clothiers from the late 17th.c. It often had a projecting central keystone reflective of the classical influence.

This influence is also seen in the change from splayed to rectangular mullioned windows and from chamfered to rectangular section surrounds for doorways. These changes had reached their height around the second half of the 18th.c. By the 19th.c., mullions were always flush with the wall face and there was a trend to standardise lintels, jambs, mullions and sills, so they could be pre-fabricated. Cragg House (pl. 2.) features the splayed and recessed mullioned windows of the 17th.c. while the loading windows of the later laithe are of square cut section flush with the wall surface.

Some decoration was added around windows. In the 17th.c. this





Pl. 1

'Watershot' masonry  
at Ringby Farm,  
Northowram.



Pl. 2. Cragg House, Addingham.



mainly took the form of a simple string course around the house over all the ground floor windows, or sometimes a label mould over each set of windows. This style reappeared in the 18th.c. in a more subdued form as part of the classical tradition. In Halifax parish, especially to the west where the millstone grit made such decoration feasible, carved ornamental stops on the labels and string courses were used in the late 16th.c. and right through the 17th.c. The main ornamental forms were circles, lozenge shapes and arrow heads, and some of these designs are echoed in the fireplaces of the same period.

The roofs, always of stone slate, adopted moulded corbels at the gable ends from the early 17th.c. It became very common during the 18th.c. and well into the 19th.c., having the aesthetic effect of emphasising the already strong horizontal lines of the buildings by stopping the eye at the eaves. Examples of these may be seen at Cragg House (pl. 2 ) and the free-standing laithe at Street House farm (pl. 3 )

With regard to regional differences in building details, Taylor identified a dividing line roughly corresponding to the river Calder (65) South of this line we find longer runs of weavers' windows, sometimes up to 20, while 11, 12 or 13 are common. Barns have vents which are characteristically formed by three pieces of stone, one for the sill and the other two forming an arched head. North of the Calder the weavers' windows are in shorter runs, for example, the 6 light windows at Whitestone Clough, Sowerby (pl. 4 ) and Venetian windows are characteristic of barns, mainly above the barn door. There is also a window type of 2 lights over 4 which is characteristic of the Halifax area, and especially around Todmorden there was a tradition of raising the central light in an odd-numbered run.

Regional developments were also apparent in the time-scale of when new developments appeared in architectural detail. For example, mullioned windows of chamfered mullions and splayed jambs, which had fallen out of use in Cumberland around 1710 lasted in the Elland area until 1720 and around Hebden Bridge until 1750. The style which replaced them was of mullions of square section. This only lasted until 1750 in Cumberland but persisted until the middle of the 19th.c. in Elland and Hebden Bridge.

In his study of houses in the Holme valley, Michelmores points





Pl. 3. Laithe at Street House Farm, Addingham.



Pl. 4. Whitestone Clough, Sowerby.



out that there is a vernacular style which is characteristic of the whole south Pennines area, and regional differences occur in a minor way within that area (66). One particular feature of the Holme valley was the appearance in the late vernacular period of very tall houses of three and sometimes four storeys, one room deep and clearly built in order to fit into the particularly steep-sided valleys of the Holme. In the three-storey houses, the function of the top floor was usually textile production.

The industrial revolution occurred in West Yorkshire approximately over the 70 years from 1790 to 1860. This period saw a rapid population growth which resulted in many new houses as well as new farms built to provide food for the growing industrial towns. Most processes in the textile industry were adapted to factory methods, but the later development of power looms meant the continuing importance of handloom weaving and the great numbers of weavers' cottages to accommodate them. These continued to be built until the second half of the 19th.c., and the main phase of their building occurred between 1780 and 1840. The high point for skilled weavers was around the beginning of the 19th.c. The last 12 years of the 18th.c. had been known as 'The Weavers' Golden Age' but by 1815 power looms were becoming general and in spite of strident efforts by weavers against this threat to their trade (particularly voiced by the Luddite uprisings) the decline of the cotton hand weaving industry had begun.

During the period of the Industrial Revolution, architectural details were further simplified, and even such simple embellishments as quoins and kneelers fell out of general use.

"New developments represented the assimilation of classical elements into the vernacular with Venetian introduced around 1790 and the broad mullion 2 light window around 1825." (67)

By the end of the 18th.c., houses were almost all of the simplest possible plan and decoration. Tooling and finishing of masonry work became more regular and the texture of stonework in the late 18th.-19thc. is of regular vertical lines with random chisel marks over the surface, in contrast to the sharp-tooled pecking of the century before.



## Agricultural buildings

As mentioned, increased population not only meant more houses but also more farms to produce food. More land was cultivated with large numbers of enclosures taking place especially from the middle of the 18th century. More intensive production and greater market demand meant that much more money was being invested in farm buildings and many date from the middle of the 18th. to the middle of the 19th.c. period. The kind of farming most prevalent in West Yorkshire was discussed in the previous section. Cattle were generally the most important livestock, sheep were reared on some farms only. Crops ranged from oats in the west to barley and wheat in the east. There was a very high proportion of smallholdings in the county, characteristically running a subsistence type of farming alongside industrial work. The accommodation provided by farms was designed to fulfill this function. Basic requirements beyond the farmhouse itself included a barn, cowstalls, stabling for the usual one or two horses which were kept. There was sometimes a piggery. The emphasis was generally on the organisation of these elements into a compact farmstead at the focal point of the farm's few enclosed fields.

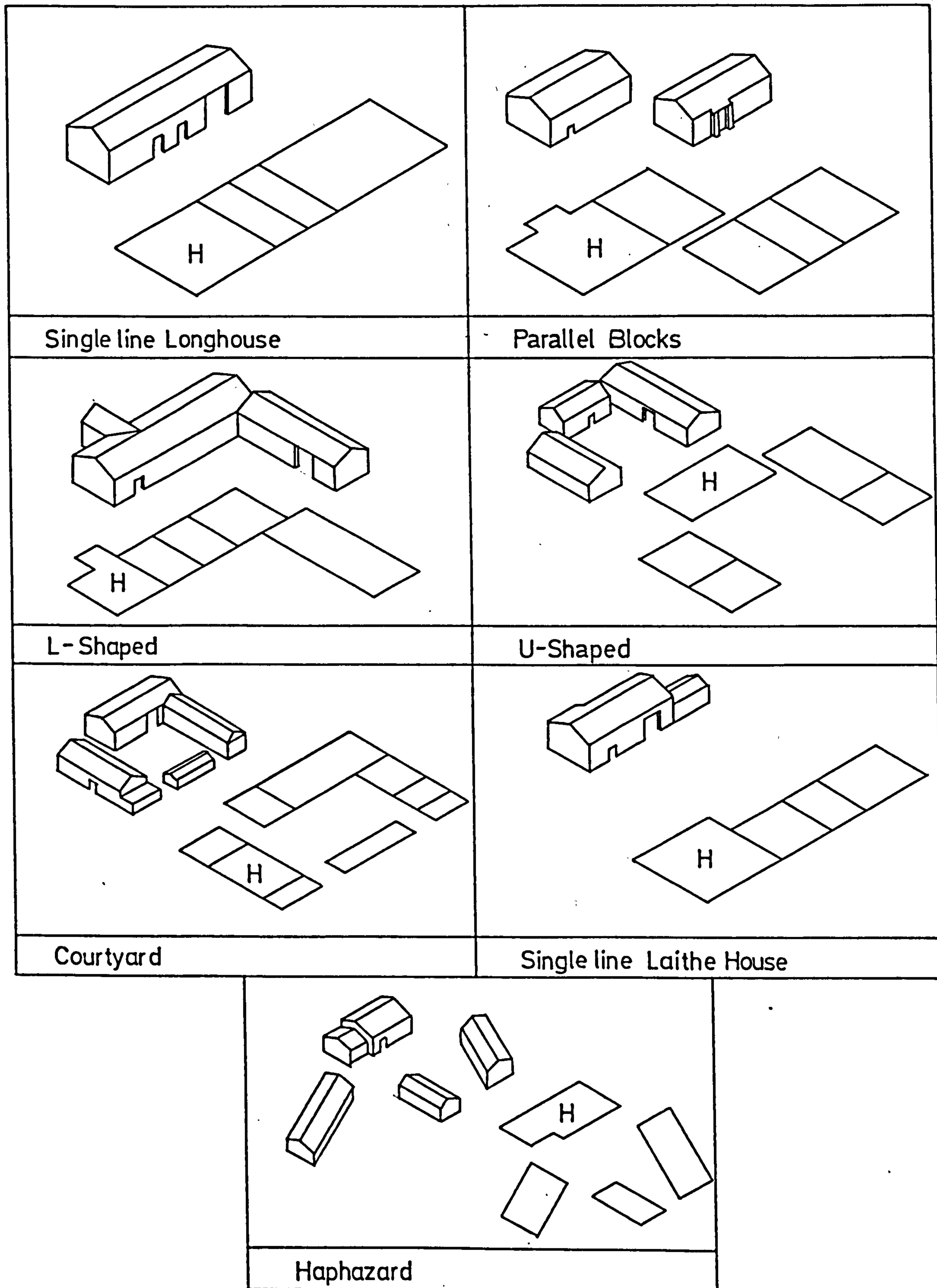
Farmsteads may be organised in a number of ways (68). The main types of layout are shown in fig. 8 and listed below;

1. Farmhouse and agricultural buildings side by side in parallel blocks.
2. The agricultural buildings at right angles and to one end of the house forming an L-shape.
3. Agricultural buildings extended to an L-shape, forming an overall U-shape with the house.
4. All arranged around a courtyard or foldyard.
5. House and agricultural buildings built in one continuous line, as in the longhouse
- 5a. and the laithe house.
6. Any other combination or haphazard layout.

We can see that these layouts are defined by the relationship between the farmhouse and its agricultural buildings. It would seem likely that the topography, climate and farming practice of West Yorkshire would favour the more compact forms of layout. Consequently we find many examples of laithe houses, particularly in the upland west. Longhouses, as defined by the use of the lower end for animals (69) are confined, in Yorkshire, to the north east. It may even be the case that the two linear plan forms are mutually exclusive (see next section

Fig.8

## FARMSTEAD LAYOUTS

[Ref: Traditional farm buildings of Britain,  
R.W.Brunskill]



for a discussion of the longhouse tradition).

The barn was the most important of the farm buildings and therefore the most substantial. In the case of compact smallholdings, barns were built to accommodate all the agricultural functions under one roof, comprising storage for hay, cowstalls, stabling and space for a wagon and farm gear. 'Laithe' is a word of Scandinavian origin and was adopted in the Halifax area to denote the common form of combined barn and mistal. 'Mistal' is of Scandinavian origin too, describing the usual 5 or 6 cowstandings accommodated at the end of the laithe. Further north the word varies from 'byre' to 'shooppen' or 'shippen', this last especially current in Cumbria. Whether or not the barn accommodated cowstandings, the main body of the barn was usually a simple rectangular plan of three bays, the central bay providing a threshing floor/wagon way between opposing doors, one or both of which would be large enough to admit a loaded wagon. This layout may be seen at the laithe at Street House Farm (pl. 3) which had central arched wagon entrances opposing front and rear.

Stell classified the barns he located in the west of the county by building period which he found was related to internal structure. The earliest style was of two symmetrically arranged aisles, modified by the 17th.c. to a single aisle. This style continued into the 18th.c., until superseded by smaller non-aisled barns.

"As farm sizes were reduced and timber scarcer, small aisled barns were developed. Timber posts continued to support the roofs of aisle-like outshuts, but the body of the barn is an interrupted rectangle divided into bays by the roof trusses above." (70)

Unaisled barns without outshuts were being built from the early 18th.c. and by the end of the century this plan form was almost standardised into a rectangular outline, central barn doors and a mistal at one or both ends. Any minor variations on this were always enclosed within the same basic rectangle without aisles or outshuts and covered by a symmetrically pitched roof. The central doors of these barns are their most distinctive feature. 17th.c. examples usually have a square (often porched) door to the eaves, but the commonest form right through the 18th. and 19th.c. was a segmental arched head and a raised central key-stone, generally unporched and bonded by large jambs and tiestones.



These bonding stones disappeared in the 19th.c., spoiling the balanced appearance of the commoner earlier type. The head of the barn door was generally below the eaves, allowing space for a single square or more elaborate light. The arched door at Whitestone Clough (pl. 4) illustrates the common type described.

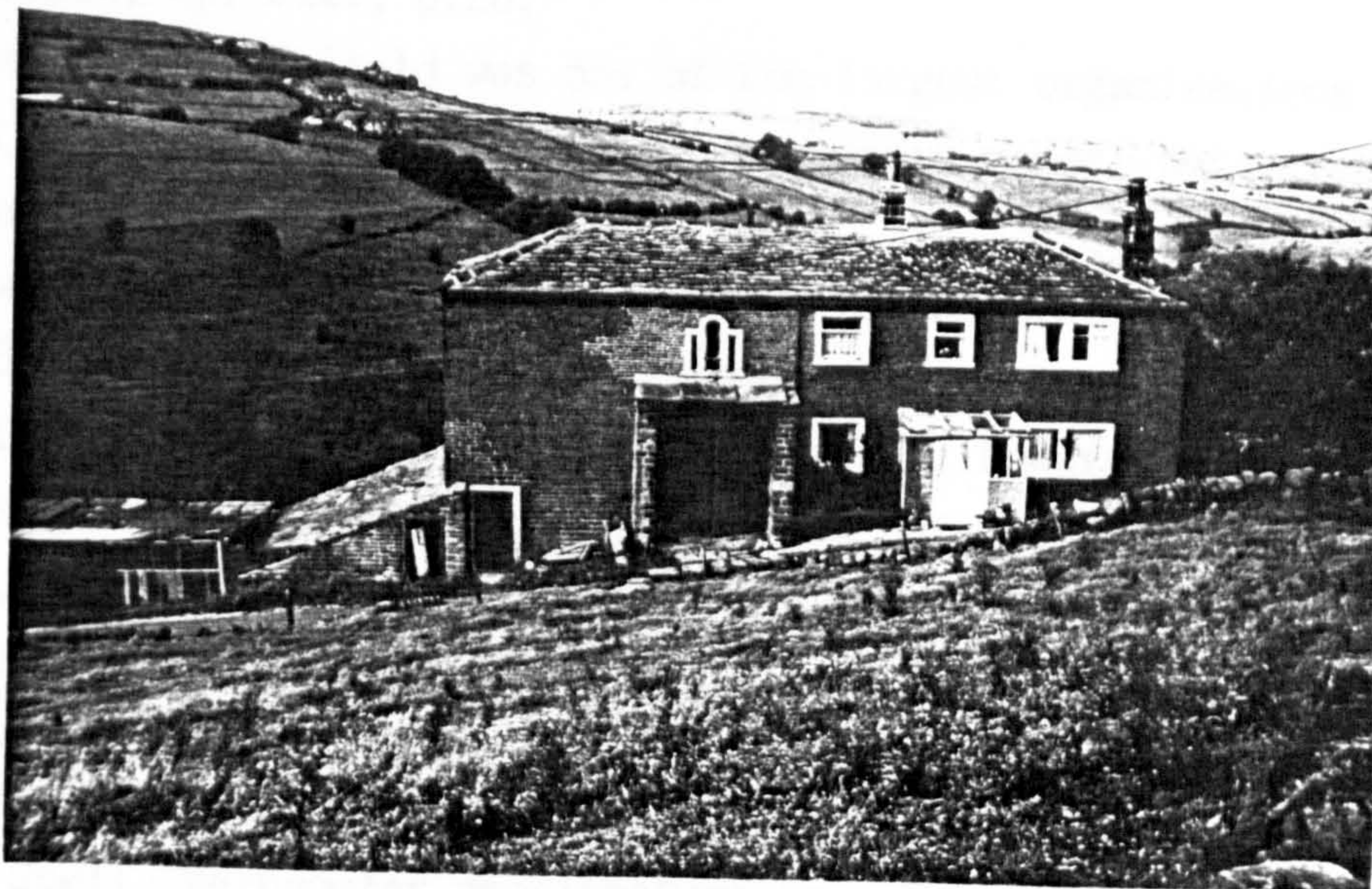
Venetian windows, like the one at Springfield farm (pl. 5), became common in the county, particularly round Hebden Bridge. They probably gained acceptance from the 'stepped' window tradition mentioned earlier, where a central light was raised and sometimes given an arched head. This would have prepared the ground for the Venetian window to be absorbed into the vernacular tradition (71) as well as developing itself into a half-stepped form from the 18th.c. Lunettes and circular windows became popular in the 18th.c. too, reflecting the classical influence. Barn roofs were, like those of the houses, of stone slate and they followed the same trends in adopting then eventually losing copings and kneelers at the gable ends.

#### The decline of vernacular building

By the end of the first phase of the Industrial Revolution, around the middle of the 19th.c., the factory system had become an essential part of the textile trade in West Yorkshire. Rural workers had been absorbed into the rapidly developed industrial centres, many housed by industrial concerns and estates in terraced rows of cottages. In addition, single storey cottages continued to be built in large numbers, especially in rural areas with extractive industries. Uniformity of housing had never been seen on such a scale before. The least dramatic changes occurred in the agricultural areas which had seen the biggest investment in farm buildings in the 18th.c. The contrasts of economic development were now well marked in the different areas of textile production, iron and steel works or enclosed farmland.

Continued industrial growth from the latter part of the 19th.c. meant that many new mills were being built, usually by formally trained architects who probably designed the workers' housing provided by the mill owners from this period too. The demand for greater numbers of uniform houses, the influence of classical style which had been gradually absorbed into houses right through the levels of society, together with the greater possibilities for importing materials and standardising building techniques finally swamped the vernacular traditions of West Yorkshire, as they had country-wide.





Pl.5. Springfield Farm, Stainland.



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1. F.J. Fowler, West Yorkshire, p.354.
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3. W.B. Crump, The wool textile industry of the Pennines, p.4.
4. The information on the county's water supply is taken from F.J. Fowler, op. cit., p.365.
5. R.C.N. Thornes, West Yorkshire, p.4.
6. J. Thirsk, as cited by R.B. Smith, A study of landed income and social structure in the West Riding, 1535-46, p.19.
7. R.B. Smith, op. cit., p.20.
8. The manor of Wakefield was one of the largest organisations to have existed in Yorkshire. It was not a unitary manor, but stretched across a large part of the West Riding (fig. 3) occupying most of the wapentakes of Agbrigg and Morley. It consisted of 12 graveships and 36 sub-manors. The manorial centre and main court were at Wakefield. (Ref: D.J.H. Michelmores & M.K.E. Edwards, "The records of the manor of Wakefield", Society of Archivists Jnl., vol.5, 1974-7 1977, pt.1, pp.245-50.)
9. R.B. Smith, op. cit., p.7
10. Ibid, p.10.
11. A.J. Pacey, Vernacular architecture in Elland, sec. 8.
12. C.F. Stell, Vernacular architecture in a Pennine community, p.87.
13. The townships were Stansfield, Sowerby, Todmorden and Walsden, Langfield, Heptonstall, Midgley and Erringden.
14. R.B. Smith, op. cit., p.213.
15. This middle class represented 1,075 households, i.e. about one-fifth to one-quarter of the total households in the 17th.c. West Riding.
16. R.B. Smith, op. cit., p.239.
17. E. Baines, History, directory and gazeteer of the county of York.
18. The information on the Halifax gentry of the 16th.c. is taken from R.B. Smith, op. cit., pp. 313-4.
19. W.Westerdale, The houses of Shibden Dale, p.28.
20. A. Raistrick, West Riding of Yorkshire, p. 78.
21. R.B. Smith, op. cit., p.15.
22. Ibid, p.32.
23. M.W. Beresford, Glebe terriers and open field, Yorkshire, p.92.
24. G.E. Mingay, Enclosure and the small farmer, p.19.
25. Except where stated, the information on 16th.c. landowners is from R.B. Smith, op. cit., pp. 62-118 & pp. 120-262.



25. W. Westerdale, op. cit., p.313.
26. C. Giles, Domestic buildings in West Yorkshire, p.247.
27. J. Bateman, The great landowners of Great Britain and Ireland.
28. In partible inheritance, an estate is divided between all the heirs on the death of the owner, in contrast with primogeniture whereby the estate is passed on intact to (usually) the eldest son.
29. M. Faull & S.A. Moorehouse, West Yorkshire, vol.3, p.245.
30. M. Dickenson, The West Riding woollen and worsted industries, p.44.
31. R. Machin, The unit system, p. 187-194.
32. Borthwick Institute ; Silsden wills, Aug. 1676.
33. As cited by R.B. Smith, op. cit., p.41.
34. R.B. Smith, op. cit., p.37.
35. W.B. Crump, op. cit., p.148.
36. The manufacturer could work on his own cloth at home on his own loom. The most expensive outlay he had to make was for his wool. At the end of the 17th.c. the cost of a loom was about 15/-, compared with £2/5/- for a horse or 12/- for a pig. A stone of coarse wool cost 5/-.
37. R.C.N. Thornes, op. cit., p.9.
38. Ibid, p.17.
39. Except where stated, this outline of the development of the worsted industry is drawn from H. Heaton, op. cit., and R.C.N. Thornes, op. cit.
40. C. Wilson, England's apprenticeship, p.295.
41. R.C.N. Thornes, op. cit., p.27.
42. J.T. Ward, Age of change, p.105.
43. Except where stated, the information on the coal and iron industries is drawn from F.J. Fowler, West Yorkshire.
44. R.B. Smith, op. cit., pp.33-4.
45. A Raistrick, op. cit., pp.145-6.
46. R.B. Smith, op. cit., pp.27-30.
47. W.H. Long, Regional farming in seventeenth century Yorkshire, pp 103
48. W.B. Crump, op. cit., p.6.
49. A.J. Pacey, op. cit.
50. D. Defoe, A tour through the whole of Great Britain, vol.II, p.602.
51. R.W. Brunskill, Traditional farm buildings of Britain, p.27.
52. J.H. Charnock, op. cit., p.294.
53. C. Giles, op. cit.
54. W. Westerdale, op. cit.

55. R. Harris, Discovering timber-framed buildings, p.9.
56. A. Raistrick, op. cit., p.88.
57. E. Mercer, English vernacular houses, p.16.
58. W. Westerdale, op. cit., p.74.
59. As cited by H. Heaton, op. cit., p.289.
60. G.D. Newton, Single storey cottages in West Yorkshire, p.65.
61. G. Woledge, The traditional architecture of West Yorkshire, p.38.
62. Information on the single storey cottage is from G.D. Newton, op. cit. His article was based on a survey of 1974-5 on surviving cottages in central West Yorkshire.
63. T.F. Ford, Some Seventeenth century buildings in Halifax, p.26.
64. W. Westerdale, op. cit., p.164.
65. D.J.A. Taylor, Architecture of the domestic woollen industry in West Yorkshire, p.33.
66. D.J.H. Michelmores, The domestic vernacular architecture of the Holme valley, p.11.
67. A.J. Pacey, op. cit., sec.6.08.
68. R.W. Brunskill, Traditional farm buildings of Britain, p.102.
69. B.J. Harrison, Vernacular houses in North Yorkshire and Cleveland, p.10.
70. C.F. Stell, op. cit., p.130.
71. A.J. Pacey, op. cit., sec.7.03.



## SECTION II

THE LAITHE HOUSE:

GENERAL SURVEY

## SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS MADE BY OTHER RESEARCHERS

The conclusions have been discussed under the headings of aspects and features of the laithe house.

### Distribution

The laithe house is found almost entirely on the Pennine slopes, and mainly between the Aire gap and the Peak district, although examples may be found as far north as Northumberland and west into Bowland and Rossendale, Lancashire (1). Westerdale refines this in his study of Halifax parish where he found that most laithe houses occurred in the west of the parish, correlating the higher density with upland position on the Pennine slopes and with the higher incidence of smallholders. Further east, larger farms are more numerous and tend to have detached aisled barns rather than attached laithes.

### Date range

Mercer notes that the laithe house is unique among farmhouses in having been built in unaltered form throughout the two and a quarter centuries between the earliest recorded example, Bank House in Luddenden in 1650, and the latest example, Catherine Slack at Hebden Bridge in 1880.(3). Although Bank House is the earliest firmly dated example, it should be noted that most recorded laithe houses date from the 18th.c. and 19th.c., with the main building period (as identified by Brunskill,4) between 1780 and 1820. What antecedents Bank House may have had were presumably too insubstantial to survive. In his work in the western townships, Stell found no examples which could definitely be dated as pre-1700 (5), and Pacey found in the Elland area that most examples dated from 1770-1870 (6). Giles summarises the picture by stating that the laithe house form was common in the second half of the 18th.c. and the first half of the 19th.c. when many hundreds were built in the upland Pennines as well as some in the lowland east (7).

### Social and economic function

The laithe house was designed to meet the needs of a newly-emergent class of small farmers in the 17th.c. (8). Its continued existence in relatively unaltered form demonstrates how suitable it was for the new smallholdings which were created throughout the



18th. and 19th.c. These small farms were being developed on the edge of the moorlands or by subdivision of larger existing units (9). Enclosure and sub-division gave a pattern of smallholdings over much of upland West Yorkshire. Giles cites evidence from the tithe awards for Holme township showing an average size of holding of 25 acres (10). He noted that the Hepworth enclosure was carried out between 1823 and 1832 and that most of the farms in the area post-date this enclosure, with 21 laithe houses built at this time and a further 15 converted into laithe houses.

As well as being the houses of smallholders, laithe houses were also built as part of an estate and were designed to be occupied by tenant farmers. In either case, the amount of space required for storage and cattle was not great, and the smallness of the farmhouse itself (reflecting the wealth and status of its occupants) made it viable to combine it with the laithe, forming a compact unit. As far as dwelling accommodation goes, the later and more numerous examples are small, often just a single living room with a service room behind, although some double-pile, double front examples exist, for example in the earliest recorded example, Bank House (11).

Westerdale summarises by describing the laithe house as offering relatively modest domestic and agricultural accommodation which were economically combined under one roof. He says

"The type appears to answer the needs of smallholders with limited resources, few livestock and only a small acreage of arable. Men of more substance would have built larger and independent buildings for each purpose." (12)

#### Plan types and size of accommodation

Brunskill describes the laithe house as consisting of a conventional domestic building of the 18th. or 19th.c. type, that is of 2 rooms deep and 1-2 rooms wide, attached to a combination barn and mistal (and often stable) of the same 2-storey height, the whole forming an elongated rectangle in plan (13). He adds that the true laithe house would have been built all at one time, but the form was achieved by adding farm buildings later to an existing farmhouse.

As a general rule, the 18th.c. laithe house was quite varied in plan form whereas the 19th.c. type was more standardised. For example, in the earlier examples, it is usual to find the barn projecting partly in front of the house, the roof of the barn being continued forward to lower side walls (14). Also the barn door was often carried up to the eaves. In the 19th.c., the overall plan was a simple rectangle, and the barn walls were the full height of the 2-storey house. This also admitted a space over the barn door which allowed for a window. Another distinction between the earlier and later examples is that the 18th.c. examples have relatively substantial dwellings in relation to the laithe. The trend was for proportions between the two to change as time went on (15). To use the examples of our earliest and latest recorded laithe houses again, Bank House of 1650 was about two-thirds domestic whereas Catherine Slack in 1880 was about three-quarters agricultural. Typically, the smaller and later examples have cottage-style accommodation, i.e. a living room, kitchen and scullery on the ground floor and one or two bedrooms above.

Certainly, farmhouse plans changed very little after the beginning of the 19th.c. and are rarely distinguishable from cottages. In his work on the western townships, Stell identified two types of plan in this period; the larger farmhouse with two main rooms and the smallholders house of a single living room and scullery (16). He noted the prevalence of the latter.

Brunskill describes the standard layout of the laithe (17). Typically there is a conventional threshing floor with tall double doors to the front and a smaller winnowing door to the rear. Mistals are at one and sometimes both ends, with hay storage above. He adds that there is some dispute as to whether the barns were used for corn or hay. Those in use until recently stored hay, and the absence of a winnowing door at the rear suggests either that corn was never stored or else the advent of the winnowing machine (which occurred before most laithe houses were built) meant the winnowing door was never necessary. Hay can be pitched through upper-level access doors, and Brunskill suggests from this that the tall barn doors make no sense for hay storage, as there would be no need to admit the wagon, although one may argue that the wagon would need to be stored indoors in any case, especially in upland areas. The other evidence for using the



wagon-way as a threshing floor comes from the window over the barn door which occurred in most 18th. and 19th.c. examples. It is difficult to ascertain how far this window served a decorative function, especially when one considers that the earlier examples where the barn doors ran to the eaves never had space for a window, and even some later examples only have a ventilation slit, although admittedly these are rare in comparison to the variety of single lights found. Giles mentions the function of opposing doorways for threshing, and suggests that where there is no rear door, it is because arable crops were not grown (18) especially as he found most examples of this on the higher upland farms. This is an example of adaptation of the style for different agricultural needs, as is the case when the dwelling is combined with a barn only in areas where cattle rearing is not carried out.

There is some dispute as to the frequency of intercommunication between the house and laithe sections. Brunskill says there was rarely any intercommunication between the domestic and agricultural parts (19) but Stell noted there was often a door between the house and laithe in the examples he found, although he stresses there was never any closer integration than this (20).

### Conclusion

"As long as land was being colonised in the Pennines, the laithe house was the most common type of new building over a wide area, but the agricultural depression in the late 19th. century removed the occasion for further construction. As the tide of colonisation receded, many of the upland laithe houses were abandoned and they remain today as derelict monuments to an era which allowed the hill farmer to wrest a living from unfriendly surroundings." (21)

## ORIGINS OF THE LAITHE HOUSE AND ITS CONNECTION WITH LONGHOUSE TRADITION

The longhouse is the most widespread and oldest type of farm building to survive into the present century. Being of dual purpose, its function to house men and animals under one roof, it was once assumed that the laithe house must have belonged to the same tradition. The following discussion, therefore, is concerned with the longhouse tradition and the issue of whether the laithe house was a derivative of the longhouse or was of a distinct tradition, in which the dwelling and agricultural components were conceived separately then joined to form the laithe house for the purposes of convenience and economy.

The origins of the longhouse are thought to be Celtic, the earliest examples in the British Isles occurring in the Orkneys, and Shetlands in the 9th.c. We have firm evidence of 12th.c. longhouses in Devon, Cornwall and Wiltshire, with a likelihood of earlier building than this (22). By at least the 14th. and 15th.c., the longhouse existed in Northumberland, Durham, East Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Gloucestershire and Sussex. All these early types were of simple form, related to cruck construction, with a hearth, wide passage-way which formed the main access to both house and byre, and the simplest division, perhaps just a line of stones in some cases, dividing the two components (fig. 9a.).

There was a break between this early, more primitive type, and the more developed plans of the 16th.c. in Devon, and the late 17th.c. in the north east and the Lake counties. In other areas, notably Cornwall and Worcestershire, once the basic form had disappeared, no evidence of a later developed type is found. The pattern follows that of most housing patterns; the sequence of development is roughly the same over the whole country but occurring at different times in response to different stages of economic and social development. The limitations of a longhouse structure and the trend to separating agricultural accommodation from the dwelling may have led to later adaptations, for example, conversion of the lower room into a service area rather than a byre, or a completely separate access to the two components. Evidence of conversions dating as far back as the 13th.c. was found in the south west counties. For example, at Gomeldon in Wiltshire, excavations have revealed that one entrance to the cross-passage had been blocked, the passage itself narrowed and the byre



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converted into additional dwelling accommodation (23).

As previously mentioned, the origin of the longhouse is thought to be Celtic, and although its existence has been proved beyond the place names and language of the Celts, it may still have been from that root in a wider sense, as a survival of the Gallo-Romano period in France (24). An alleged British-Romano example at Irwene in Dorset has been recorded, though this is only probable and not proven.

In its later, standardised, and best-recorded form, the plan of the longhouse is rectangular with dwelling accommodation at one end and a byre for livestock at the other. These two basic components are separated by a cross-passage which forms the main access for both animals and human beings. This passage is part of the byre rather than the house, and is backed onto by the hearth, as in the undated example from Wensleydale (fig. 10). This example also illustrates the common developed feature of dividing the dwelling into two units of larger housebody and smaller parlour.

Examples of longhouses in Scotland do not have the cross-passage, possibly because of their relatively later building period in the 18th.c. All other longhouse plans may be roughly classified according to Mercer's 'typography and derivations' (25). He describes these as follows;

- a) direct access types which range from no internal division through division by more or less solid partitions, to separate access for each part (while retaining the cross-passage).
- b) derivatives, i.e. houses deriving some features from the longhouse. Usually the cross-passage is still the main characteristic, sometimes a service room has replaced the byre.
- c) false longhouses have separate rather than direct access to the components. These include the cases where the byre has been replaced by a farm store, and Mercer also classes the laithe house in this category, with the proviso that the laithe house plan is always different.

In general, any trend to modify the longhouse plan appears to



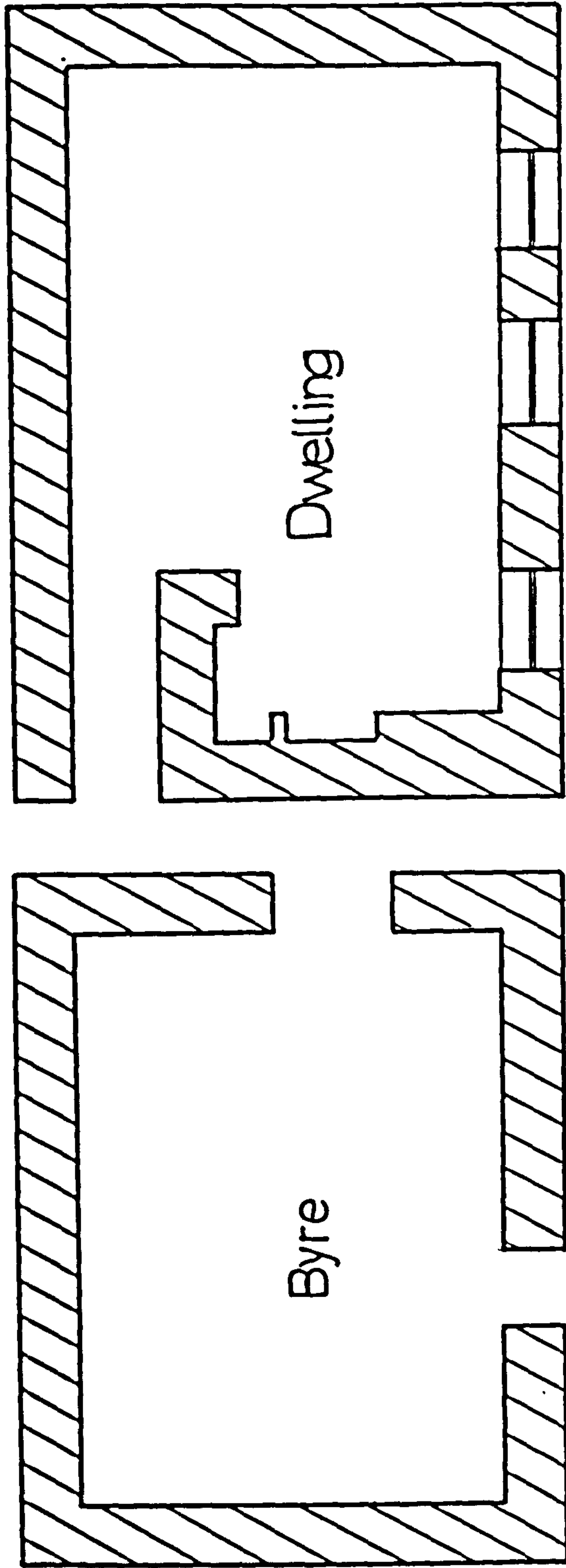
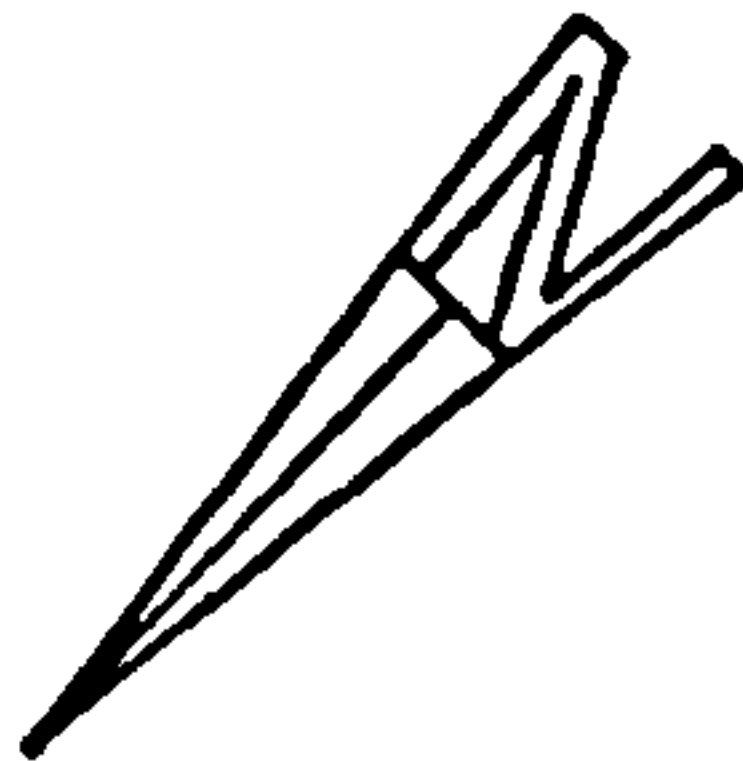


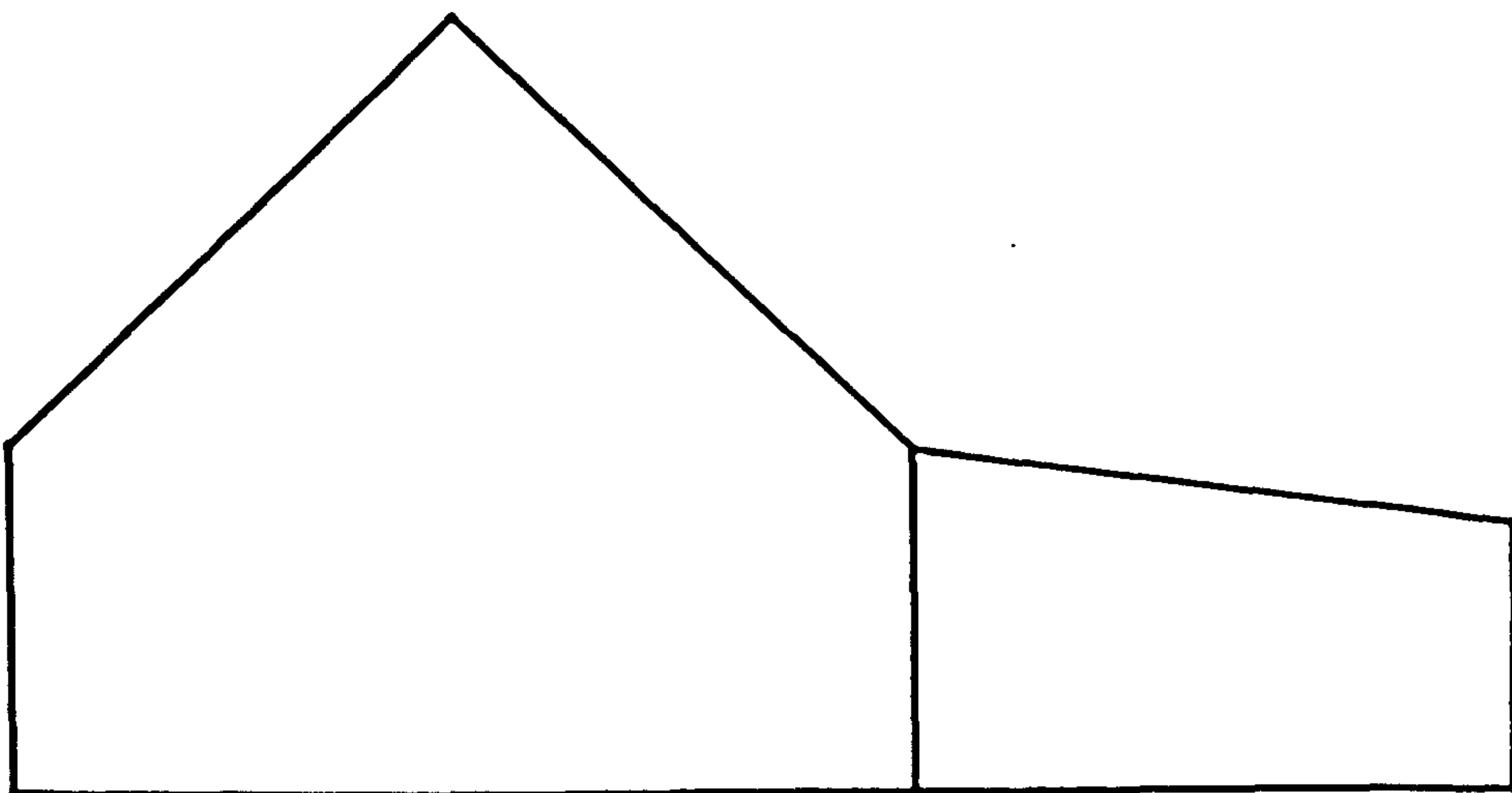
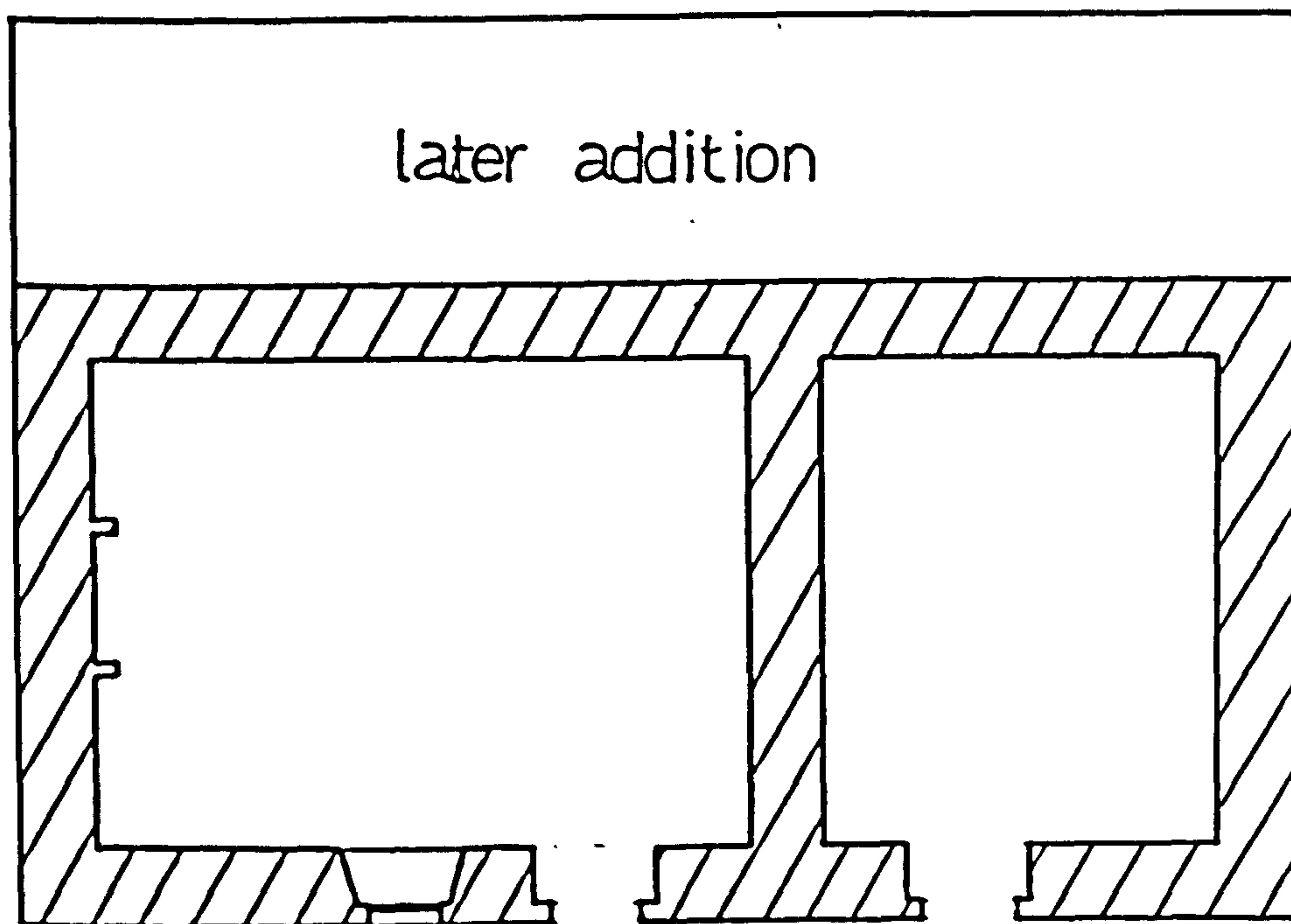
Fig.10 BUTT FARM  
Brompton by Sawdon  
[Ref: B.Hutton, Y.A.S. MS1275]



Scale 1:100

Fig. 11. LONGHOUSE IN CÔTES DU NORD

[Ref: G. I. Meirion Jones, The vernacular architecture of Brittany]





take the form of increasing separation of the two components. Brown describes how many longhouses were altered to incorporate separate entrances to the house and byre, with the separate house entrance usually placed adjacent to the original common entrance (26). His example from Dartmoor illustrates this (fig. 9) where the main entrance was eventually porched and the byre reached through a separate, adjacent door. In his study of vernacular architecture in Brittany, Meirion-Jones describes a longhouse "built or altered so as to provide separate entry to both dwelling and byre, but retaining internal communication " (27) as the first derivative of the 'pure' longhouse, that is where there is only one doorway. He described the second derivative as that in which internal communication is finally discarded, and gives one example of a 17th.c. longhouse in the Côtes du Nord of Brittany which has been built complete in this manner (fig. 11).

This plan of house and agricultural component having separate access was by no means the inevitable result of longhouse evolution, as witnessed by the paucity of such examples, and the more frequent survival of the so-called 'pure' form. This makes the evidence for development into the laithe house form rather more tenuous. The fact of interconnecting doors may be over-emphasised in drawing up possible connections between the two plan types. The general laithe house survey which follows mentions at least 10 cases in West Yorkshire where inter-connecting doors are found, with the suggestion there are probably many more. An example is Hollin Grove in Northowram which shows the most common position of the interconnecting door, being from the rear service area into the barn (fig. 12). In spite of such interconnections, this plan is still far removed from a common entrance with cross-passage.

A closer resemblance to the longhouse hearth passage plan can be found in the 'coit' of the North Yorkshire Dales, typified by the example of Summersgill at Burnsall as recorded by Walton (fig. 13). Built of stone in the 16th.c., the original main entrance was to the south east angle of the barn, giving rise to the term 'threshold', the housebody being entered behind the 'speer', a projection of the fireplace which screened the room from draughts. This plan is similar to the laithe house and is known locally as a 'cote' or 'coit' (the term denoting the interconnection between house and barn) was not common in West Yorkshire. The closest in plan form are Sands House in

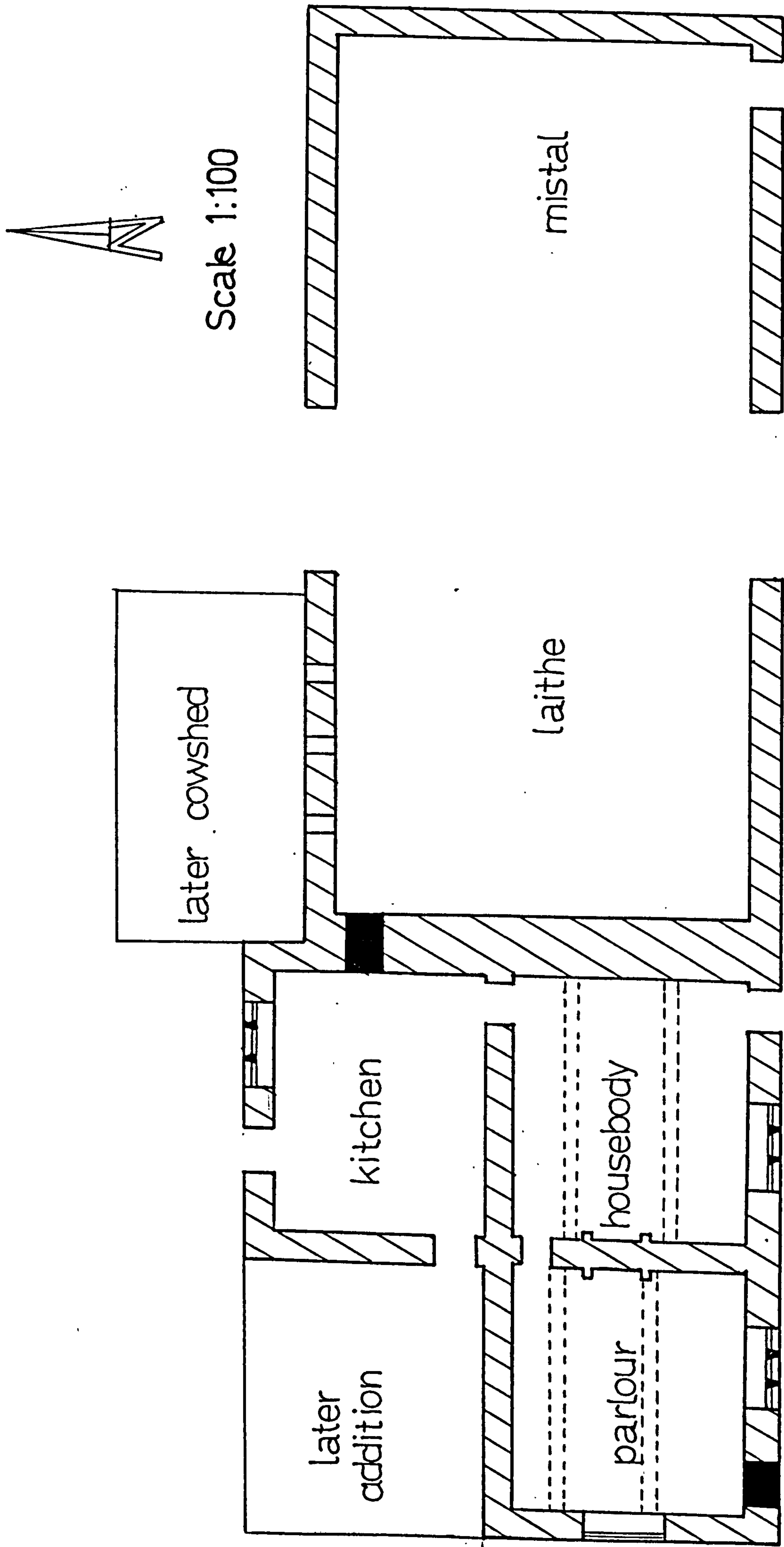
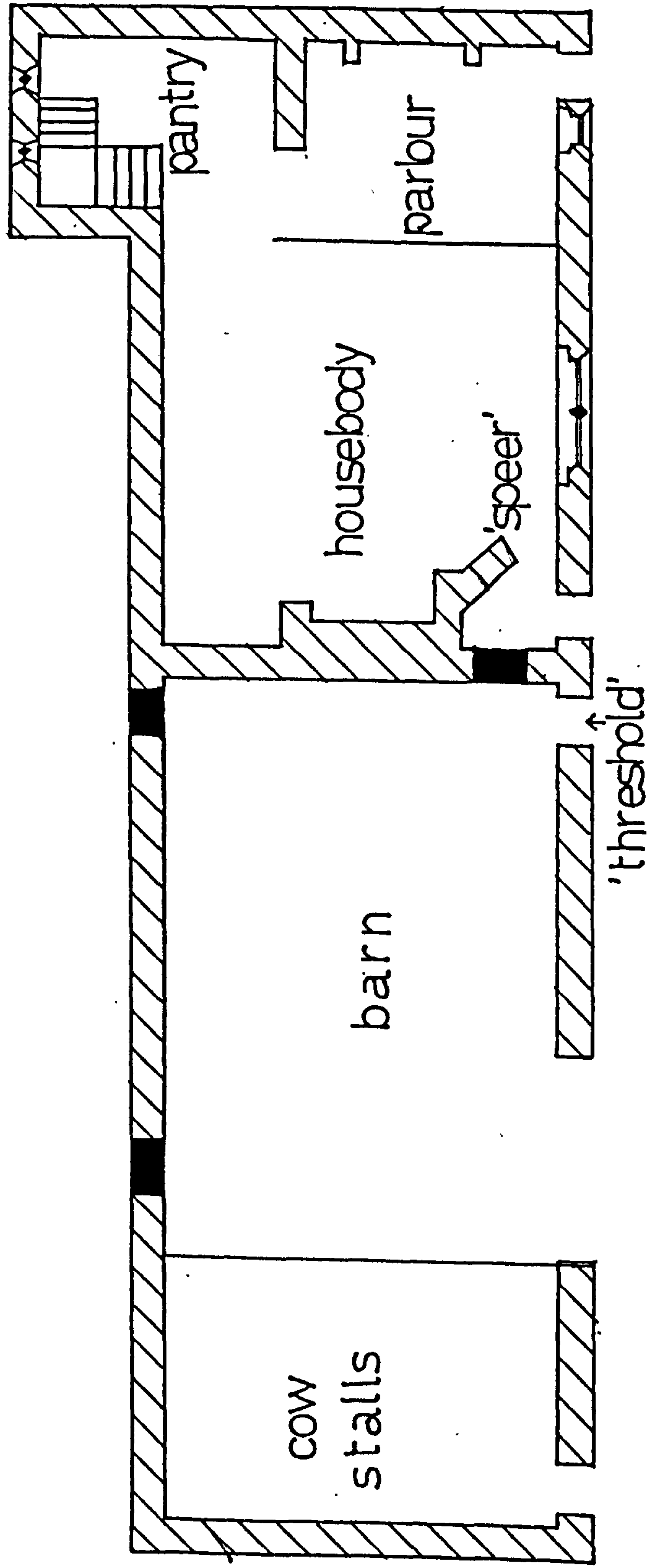


Fig.12. HOLLIN GROVE  
Northowram



Fig.13. SUMMERGILL,  
Burnsall Scale 1:100



[Ref. J. Walton, Homesteads of the Yorks. Dales]

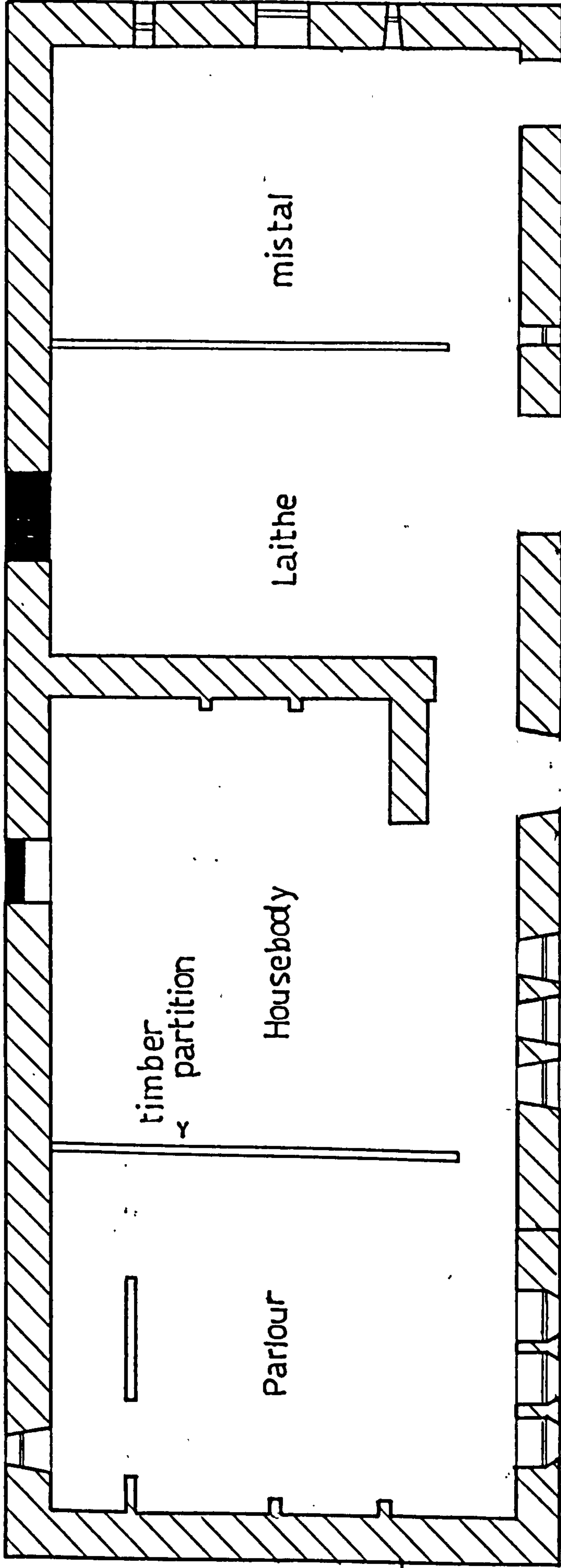
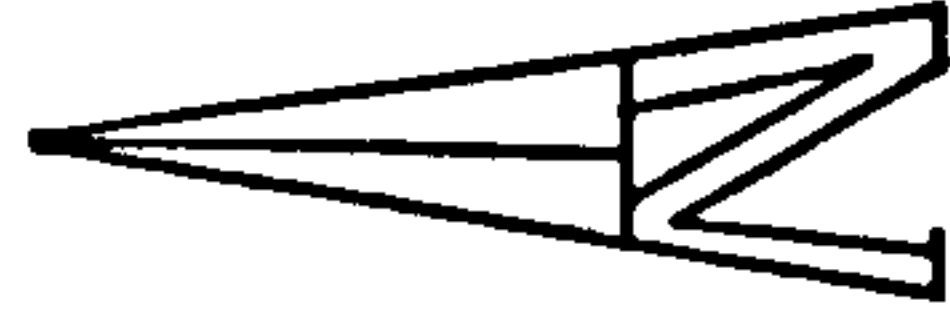


Fig.14 SANDS HOUSE  
Sowerby

0 5 10ft





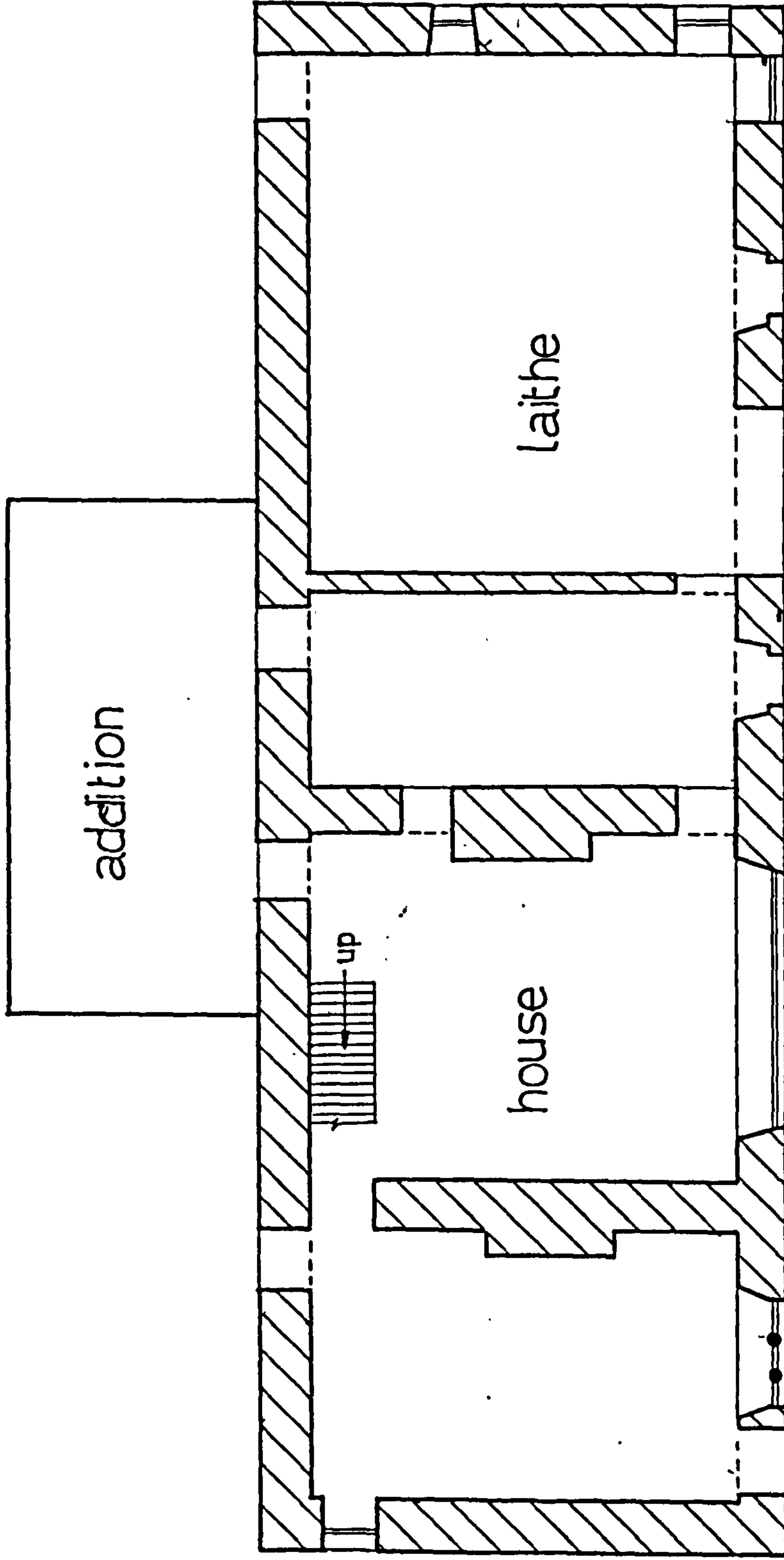


Fig.15 TROAVES FARM

Marsden

[Ref: C. Giles, R.C.H.M.]

Scale 1:100

Sowerby and Upper Harper Royd in Norland.

Sands House is an early 17th.c. example which has a lobby entrance with a door direct to the housebody on one side and a door direct to the barn on the other (fig. 14) reminiscent of the altered form of Summersgill. There is no division by cross-passage at Sands House, unless one interprets the opposing barn doors as a relic of this feature, bearing in mind the hearth backs onto the dividing wall between house and agriculture both here and at Summersgill.

Upper Harper Royd, recorded by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments (no plan or photograph) was built in the middle of the 18th.c. with an external door originally opening into the laithe and giving access to the doorway through to the housebody. The hearth is set against the dividing walls in the same way as in the other two examples.

The only sure example so far recorded in West Yorkshire of what may be considered a laithe house/longhouse 'hybrid' is Troaves farm in Marsden (fig. 15). Dated 1746, the house part is of two cells, both heated, with a service outshut to the rear. The house and laithe appear to have been built at the same time and entry to both is through the cross-passage between. No other such plans were found in this area, or in any other area in the county, all being of either conventional laithe house form or separate house and agricultural buildings.

The only other example which suggested a 'hybrid' plan was noted at Lower Han Royd in Sowerby. Here, the reset porched entrance (pl.6) (which bears an indistinct date, possibly of 1621) opens into a wide passage, an half partition against the barn to the right and a stone wall against the housebody to the left. A heavy curved lintel heads the access door to the housebody, and the hearth is set against this 'passage' in the manner of Summersgill, though without the projecting 'speer'. However, the front of the house was reconstructed in the 19th.c., and the present owner thought the porched door was moved from its original position which was possibly the south east corner of the housebody. This would have brought the plan in line with that at Sands House, situated in the same township and of near-contemporary date. In this case, the original layout of the laithe may have been a central barn entrance with mistals on either side, the left hand one later utilised as a dairy/service room. This was also the develop-



ment of Hardwicke House in Addingham, with the exception of the porched entrance (pl. 7 and fig. 16).

We have no archaeological evidence of pre-17th.c. *laithe* houses in West Yorkshire, apart from scanty references to dwellings combined with agricultural components which seem to refer to barns rather than byres. Pacey cites an example from Addy's The evolution of the English house (28) which describes an aisled timber building at Upper Midhope near Penistone in which one bay was the dwelling and the other two were the barn with a mistal along one side. It is difficult to say if this could be classed as a *laithe* house, but it certainly points to a much older tradition of combining house, barn and mistal than the existing 17th.c. stone-built examples reveal. Giles also noted an early, fragmentary timber-framed example of a combined house and barn at Thorner near Leeds (29).

The Horsforth local history society noted

"some time before the dissolution of Kirkstall Abbey in 1539, a house and barn combined under one roof, called the 'New Lathe' was built in Horsforth."

and conjectured it could have replaced an 'old lathe' of the same style (30). An entry in the Wakefield Court Rolls for 1585 mentions "half of a messuage called le Platts, half of a barn adjoining the same" in Sowerby (31). No present-day structure by that name could be located. Of standing evidence, Bank House in Warley is still the earliest firmly dated example, built in 1650, the plan being quite distinct from that of a longhouse (fig. 17).

The possibly earlier examples at Sowerby (Sands House and Upper Han Royd) have already been described and may suggest some tenuous links with a longhouse plan.

Given the paucity of evidence to link the *laithe* house with longhouse traditions, we may find clues in the two forms' links with social and economic life. Mercer has noted a marked contrast between the *laithe* house and longhouse history (33). Longhouse builders were all





Pl. 6  
Lower Han  
Royd,  
Sowerby.



Pl. 7. Hardwicke House, Addingham.



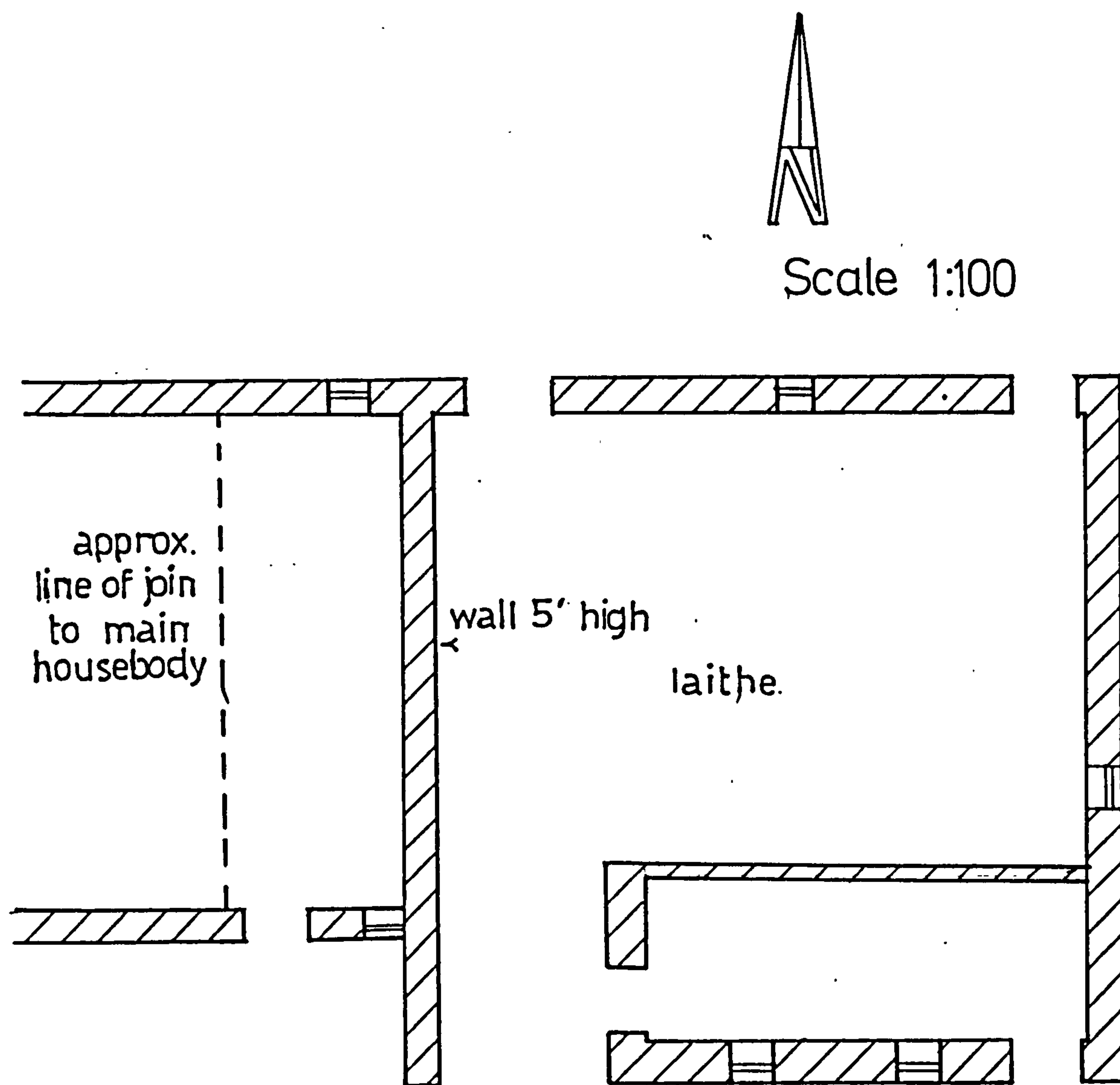
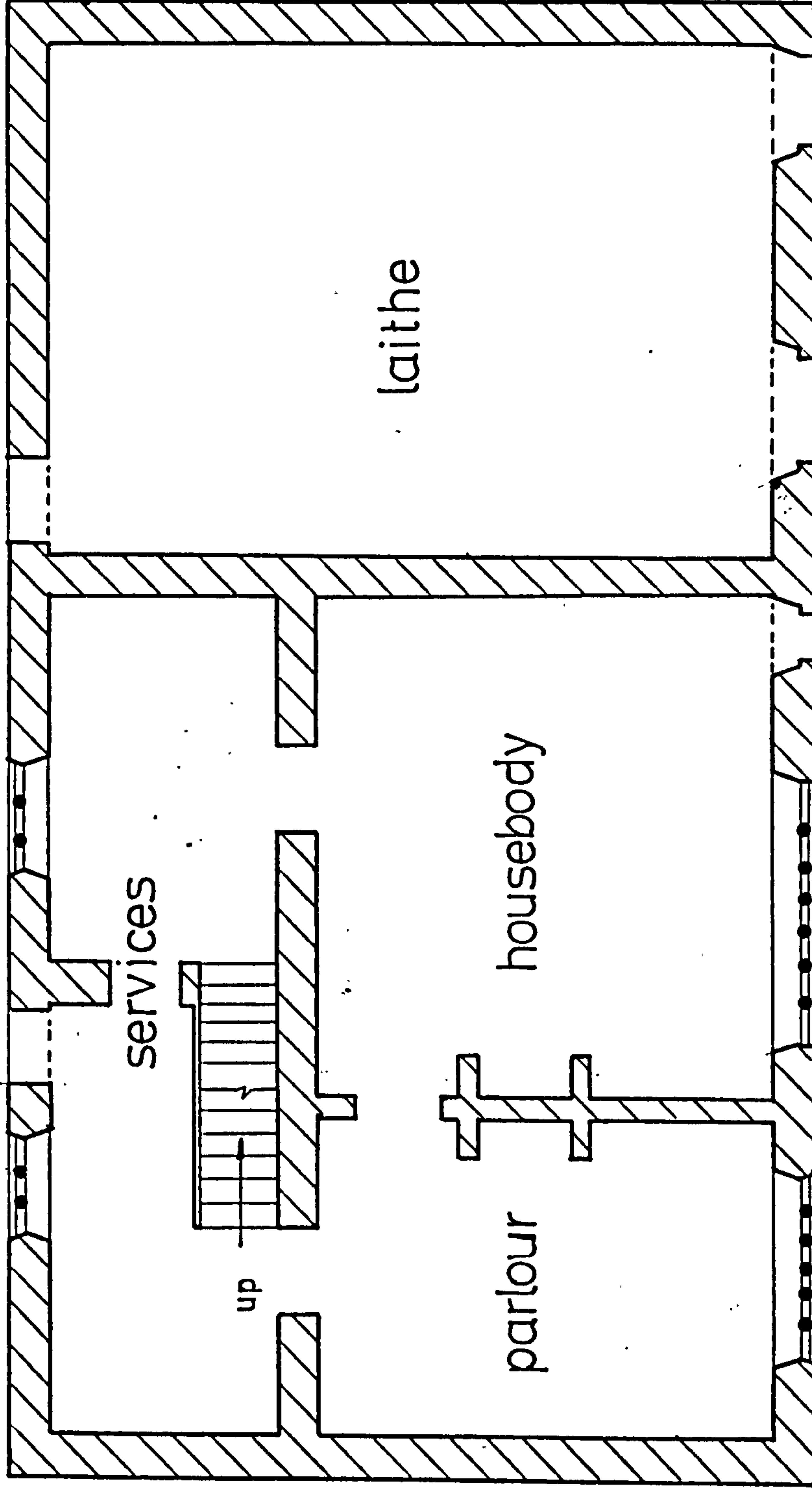


Fig. 16 HARDWICKE HOUSE,  
Addingham

(laithe and 17thc. section of housebody)



Scale 1:100

Fig.17 BANK HOUSE

Warley

[Ref: C GILES, R.C.H.M.]



at about the prosperous yeoman level. As their status improved they did not build new longhouses, they modified older ones. Laithe houses, on the other hand, continued to be built in unaltered form for over 200 years, but to such a reduced scale that they can have only been intended for smallholders. Yet even the earliest of them had accommodation superior to any longhouse. The explanation for this is probably that the development of a yeoman class in the areas where laithe houses are common was cut short, yet a class of small proprietors was able to flourish and maintain themselves over a long period, from the profits of industrial activity.

Further down the social scale, we have no evidence that poorer levels of society built longhouses and replaced them with laithe houses when increased wealth and status meant they could rebuild. Giles also points out two significant differences between the forms. First of all, the laithe house was used for crops and animals with the barn accommodation dominant, while longhouses were used for animals only. Secondly, the longhouse always had a common entrance to both parts of the building, whereas the laithe house had separate entries.

In his study of houses in Shibden Dale, Westerdale reiterates this view. He also points out that the longhouse had a wide distribution throughout the highland zone, from Cornwall to Cumbria, although it appeared in different regions at different times. This is in contrast with the laithe house which is largely confined to the Pennines and to a building period of about two centuries. He notes that examples of both types are found in the north west, and in this case the laithe house may have represented an improvement in living standards over the longhouse which it may have superseded (34). Whether this is a case of continuing tradition or of a completely new form taking precedence over an earlier type is difficult to ascertain.

In the Halifax region which Westerdale studied he found no evidence of an earlier longhouse tradition and so far this holds true for West Yorkshire in general. In his work in the Elland area, Pacey describes the earliest surviving laithe houses of the 17th.c. to be unusual in that they did not usually have the entrance and stack at the same end of the main room. In other words, the hearth passage plan which appeared in longhouses and the more substantial homes was not evident in the laithe house, marking it as belonging to a separate

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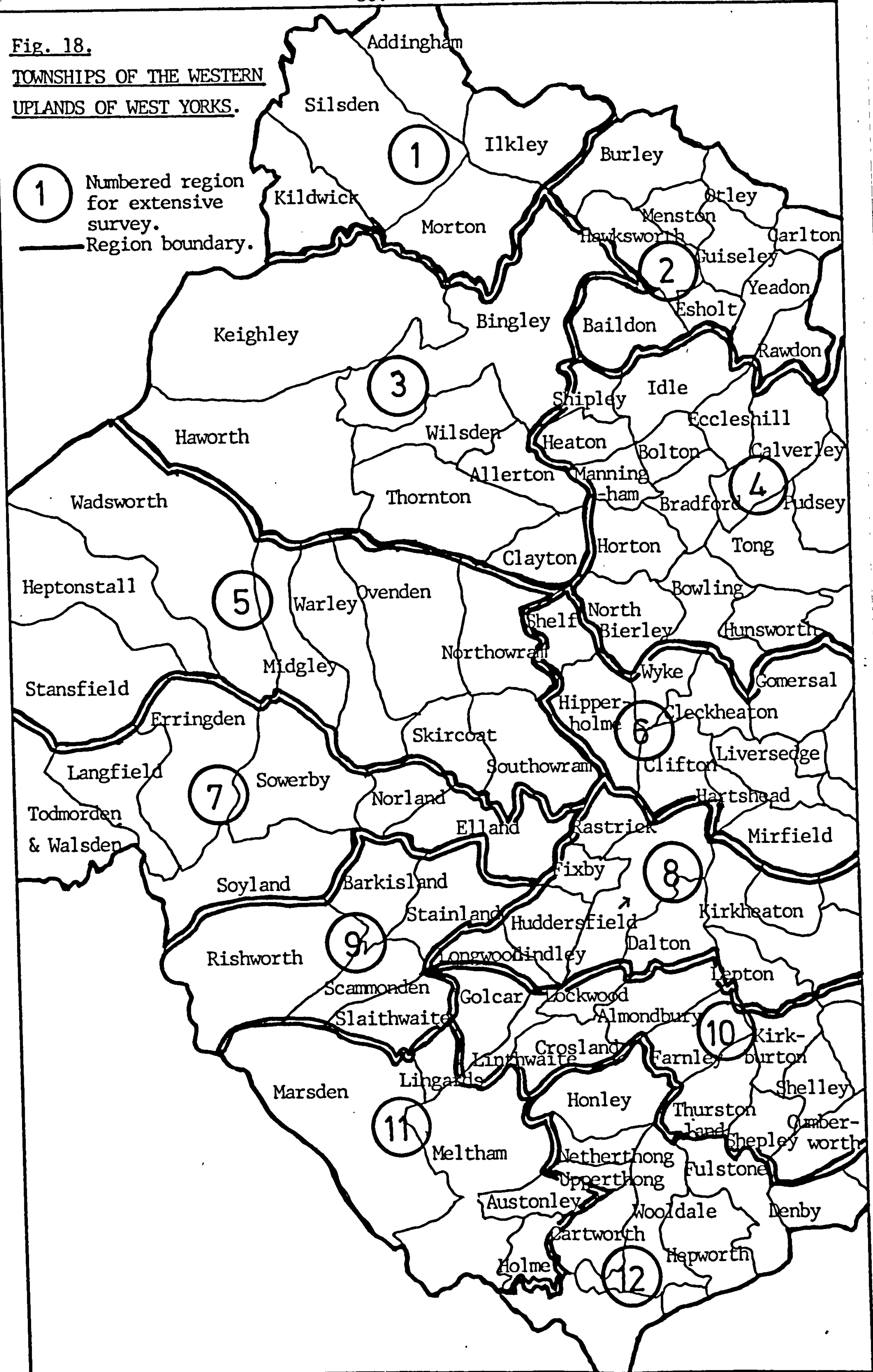
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Fig. 18.  
TOWNSHIPS OF THE WESTERN  
UPLANDS OF WEST YORKS.

① Numbered region  
for extensive  
survey.  
— Region boundary.



tradition.

This question of different plan types is probably the most convincing evidence against any connection between the laithe house and longhouse traditions. In his survey of West Yorkshire vernacular building, Giles confirms what Pacey had observed in the Elland area, that the longhouse plan was usually of the hearth passage style and while this house plan does appear in West Yorkshire, it is not in combination with agricultural buildings in laithe house form (35). It occurs in the houses of the wealthy yeoman-clothiers whose dwellings had their farm buildings detached, generally a reflection of higher social status.

In their survey of vernacular architecture in North Yorkshire and Cleveland, Harrison and Hutton found longhouses to be the most common vernacular house type in north east Yorkshire. At the same time, the 3-cell hearth passage house is also a dominant type here until the middle of the 18th.c., suggesting a direct relationship in the plan forms (36). Almost entirely absent in the north east, but dominant in the south and west of Yorkshire is the lobby entrance plan (37). Here, the arrangement is of 3 rooms in a line with an internal chimney stack set in the dividing wall between the two of them and the door opening into a lobby in front of this stack (fig. 6). There are also 2-room versions of this plan. Nowhere is this lobby entry associated with a cross-passage. Increasingly common was the end stack and direct entry plan of two cells, the most economically simple design of all. Again, this occurs in the west and south, rather than the north and suggests strong connections between the longhouse and hearth passage plan and laithe house and lobby or direct entry, further substantiating the theory of separate traditions.

Although the superficial resemblance of laithe house to longhouse, both forms combining accommodation for agriculture and human beings under one roof, suggests they were two branches of the same tradition, the evidence of differing plan types and links with different social groups points to the contrary. Even where both types appear, notably in the Lake counties and the Dales, it seems more likely that the superior accommodation of the laithe house superseded the longhouse rather than appearing as a development of it. The examples of possible 'hybrid' forms discussed above, must be considered as isolated types



when taken in context of the overall picture unless more substantial archaeological evidence is found to prove the contrary.

The origins of the laithe house remain uncertain, although Norse settlement from the 10th.c. in the areas where it appears could offer some clues. 'Laithe' itself is a dialect word of Scandinavian origin, as are many place names in Yorkshire, for example Sowerby (='mud village'). The example of the Dales 'coit' at Summersgill (fig. 13) has an arrangement of rooms almost identical with that in old Norse houses which typically had a woman's chamber, a housebody and rear pantry and direct entry (38). Mercer also thought the laithe house reflected a strong Norse strain, noting that the relationship between the principal elements of the plan at Bank House (fig. 17) is much the same as those to be found in a house in Røros in Norway, with some modification for a town site (40).

The conclusion would be that while the longhouse is associated with a widespread, recessive Celtic culture, the laithe house was introduced in localised areas by Scandinavian settlers, its compact, box-framed construction adapted for upland pastoral farmsteads.

From the factors surrounding the evolution and origins of the laithe house and the main themes of West Yorkshire's common housing tradition, we turn now to focus on the laithe house itself. The following section is a description of the form, based on an extensive survey of upland West Yorkshire.

## EXTENSIVE SURVEY

The laithe house is a product of the circumstances surrounding its building. These circumstances may be identified as basically four;

1. The date of building - the historic influence.
2. Region where building occurred - the physical influence.
3. The owner/builder
4. The occupant - economic and social influence.

In this extensive survey, the first two influences of date and place are examined by analysis of architectural characteristics taken from a broad number of examples, determining where possible whether each characteristic was a function of time or place. The question of ownership and occupancy is studied through documentary sources, though it should be noted that some information may also be deduced from physical evidence.

### Architectural evidence

A wide number of laithe house examples was collected with the object of identifying the main areas of their distribution, common architectural features and whether these varied over time and geographical distribution. The examples were compiled from my own field work and from records of others' observations in the course of their research.

My own field work had begun with a brief survey undertaken as part of my final year for the B.A. degree. Taking the few recorded examples as a starting point the type of area where laithe houses had been built could be identified, i.e. mainly in the western uplands of the county, being scattered farms above the villages in these areas. Initially, I had looked at a few examples in these townships west of Huddersfield; in the first summer of this research the survey extended to cover 20 western townships. A few eastern townships like Tong and Pudsey were also checked, and fieldwork here verified the scarcity of laithe houses in these areas.

At this stage I concentrated on identifying as many examples as possible in order to give a broad basis for links with documentary records and, depending on time and access, making a record of each example to whatever level possible. These records varied from identification only to plans and photographs. Records taken in the early



stages were relatively inadequate, although valuable experience was gained in discovering the most relevant characteristics and in techniques of field work.

Records compiled from others' fieldwork were taken to provide a much wider spread of examples than my own field work alone could provide. The two main sources were the Department of the Environment's lists and Colum Giles' survey of common housing in West Yorkshire. These records were of very different quality. The D.O.E. lists had relatively superficial descriptions, often of one elevation only. Laithe houses were not specifically named as such, identifications being made from photographs, sketches and the more specific descriptions. There were no internal descriptions. In contrast, Colum Giles' records were biased to more thorough internal records, though they often did not include any descriptions of the agricultural buildings. Dating was particularly thorough, with different building stages and alterations described in detail. The D.O.E. records usually gave a general date of the main building period. As well as those two main sources, a compilation from the studies undertaken by Westerdale, Stell and Pacey was added. Taken altogether, these records gave information on the laithe houses of over 30 other townships.

All the details recorded were valuable in building up a picture of the range and types of laithe houses and their main characteristics. They also formed a basis for links with documentary sources and for selection of specific areas chosen for intensive surveys (see next section). At this stage, in order to make some general conclusions, it was necessary to organise and manipulate over 500 examples with records ranging from the barest identification to photographs, plans and a couple of pages of descriptive notes, and spread over about 60 townships, from one example in Emley to over 30 in Marsden. The records were standardised by describing each as far as possible within the terms of a list of coded characteristics (as outlined in Table 2).

The townships were divided into 12 regions as shown on the map in fig.18, the divisions forming a basis for comparisons between areas. The regions broadly correspond to topographical divisions. The odd-numbered regions are the western higher uplands in Wharfedale (region 1), Bradfordale (3), Calderdale and Shibden Dale (5-9) and

Table 2.

## CHARACTERISTICS LISTED ON CODED RECORD CARDS

Name, address, township, map reference

Contour, aspect, date of main building period, specific date if any

House

Windows: whether mullioned, no. of lights, whether recessed,  
flush, square section or splayed, modernised.

Doors: square head or Tudor arch, ogee lintel, porched

Central position, opposite stack, lobby entrance.

Roof/masonry: Narrow coursed stone, square-cut ashlar, watershot

Copings, kneelers, string course, label moulds,

Quioned at angles.

Plan: 1, 2 or 3 storeys, single or double pile

3 cell linear, double or single front.

Outshuts and extensions: at front, rear or gable

additional dwelling, whether contemporary.

Relationship to laithe

House and laithe contemporary or either earlier.

Relative size and proportions

L shape overall plan, or other than rectangular.

Interconnecting door between two components.

Laithe

Windows: Style of light over wagon entrance if present

Style of other lights, whether added later

(Styles classified; square, Venetian, lunettes, ovuli, mullioned)

Door(wagon): Square or arched, whether porched/to eaves

Whether opposing door, square, arched, small square

Alterations and additions: blocked doors, outshuts added and where

Other

Whether house or laithe or both derelict

Whether house has encroached on laithe accommodation

Unusual features

Additional notes, interviews with owners etc.



**PAGE**

**NUMBERING**

**AS ORIGINAL**

the Holme valley (11). The even-numbered areas are those on the eastern and lower lying ground. The numbers of laithe houses reduces dramatically the further east one travels.

The second main factor to take into account was the date of building. For the purposes of general analysis, 5 periods of 50 years each were coded as follows; (A)1650-1700, (B)1701-50, (C)1751-1800, (D) 1801-50, (E)1851-1900.

As well as the estimated date periods for most examples there were about 80 specifically dated examples; these have been included in the overall analysis, as well as being listed chronologically with brief descriptions in a separate section to illustrate and substantiate the general dated evidence (App. 9). A full list of all laithe houses recorded, listed alphabetically by name, township and region is given in App. 8. A date code is given for each, as outlined above, based on specific dated examples and features noted by others as belonging to a particular building period. As noted, these date periods were coded for analysis, numbers of occurrences noted for each date period by region, and summarised in total across all the regions (fig. 19a. and fig. 19b.). The pattern of building based on these records was of a moderately high phase in the 1650-1700 period, dropping over the next 50 years, rising sharply from 1750 with a continued increase through to 1850 and only a few recorded examples after this date as vernacular building ended.

As the number of laithe houses recorded was not comprehensive, these figures could be taken only as an indication of the most important building phases. In order to make a more meaningful comparison between regions, the number of examples recorded for each region was divided by the number of townships looked at for that region. The values worked out on this basis gave a more direct comparison between regions, and are shown in fig. 20.

Areas 1,3 and 5 were the areas where pre-1700 building was most in evidence, especially area 1. This is likely to be because Wharfedale remained<sup>a</sup>predominantly agricultural area with less intensive industrial industrial development than the Pennine areas further south. The survival of early buildings would therefore be greater here as fewer houses were swept away by later developments and more farmsteads were



Fig. 19a.

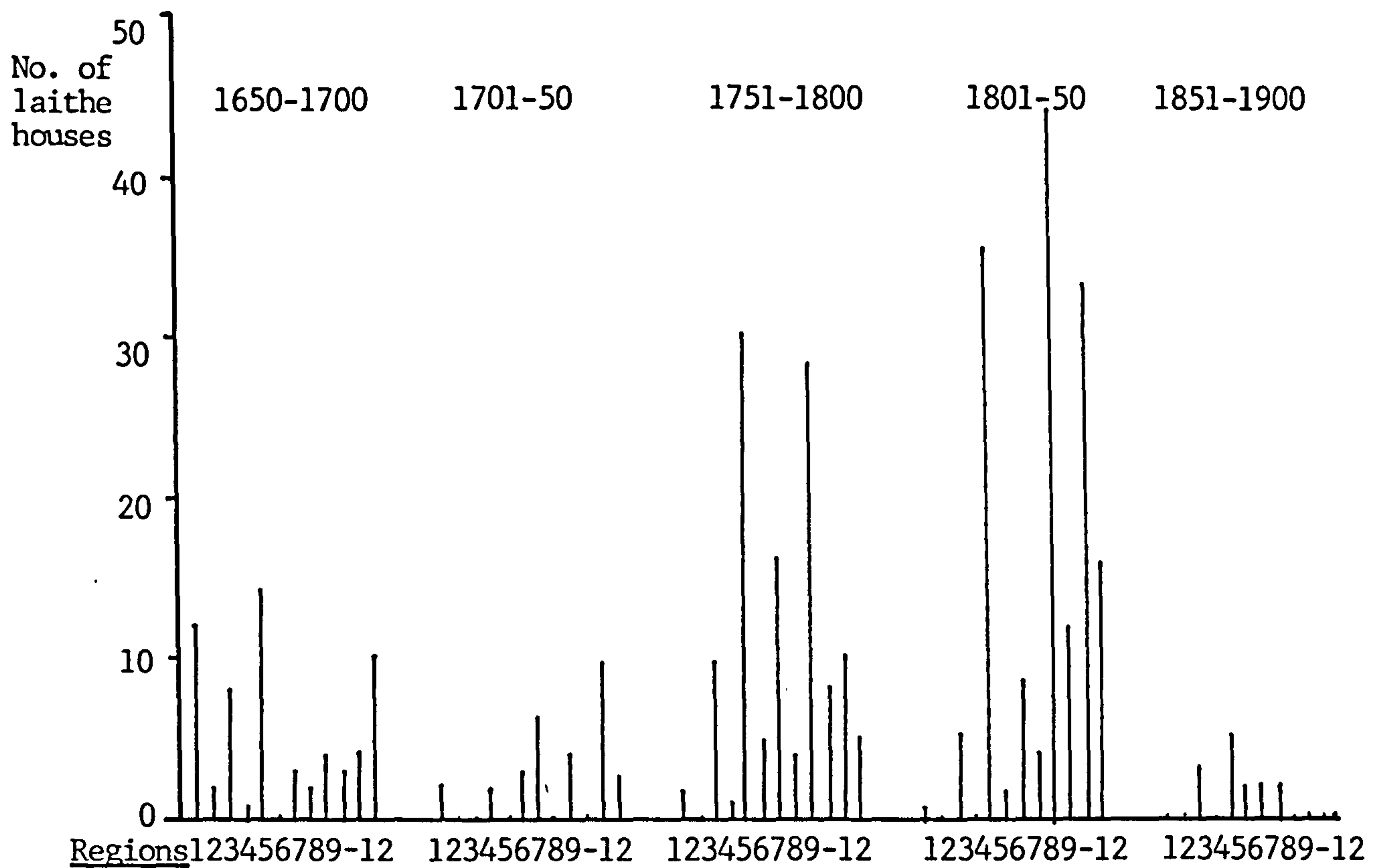
NUMBER OF LAITHE HOUSES RECORDED BY DATE AND REGION

Fig. 19b.

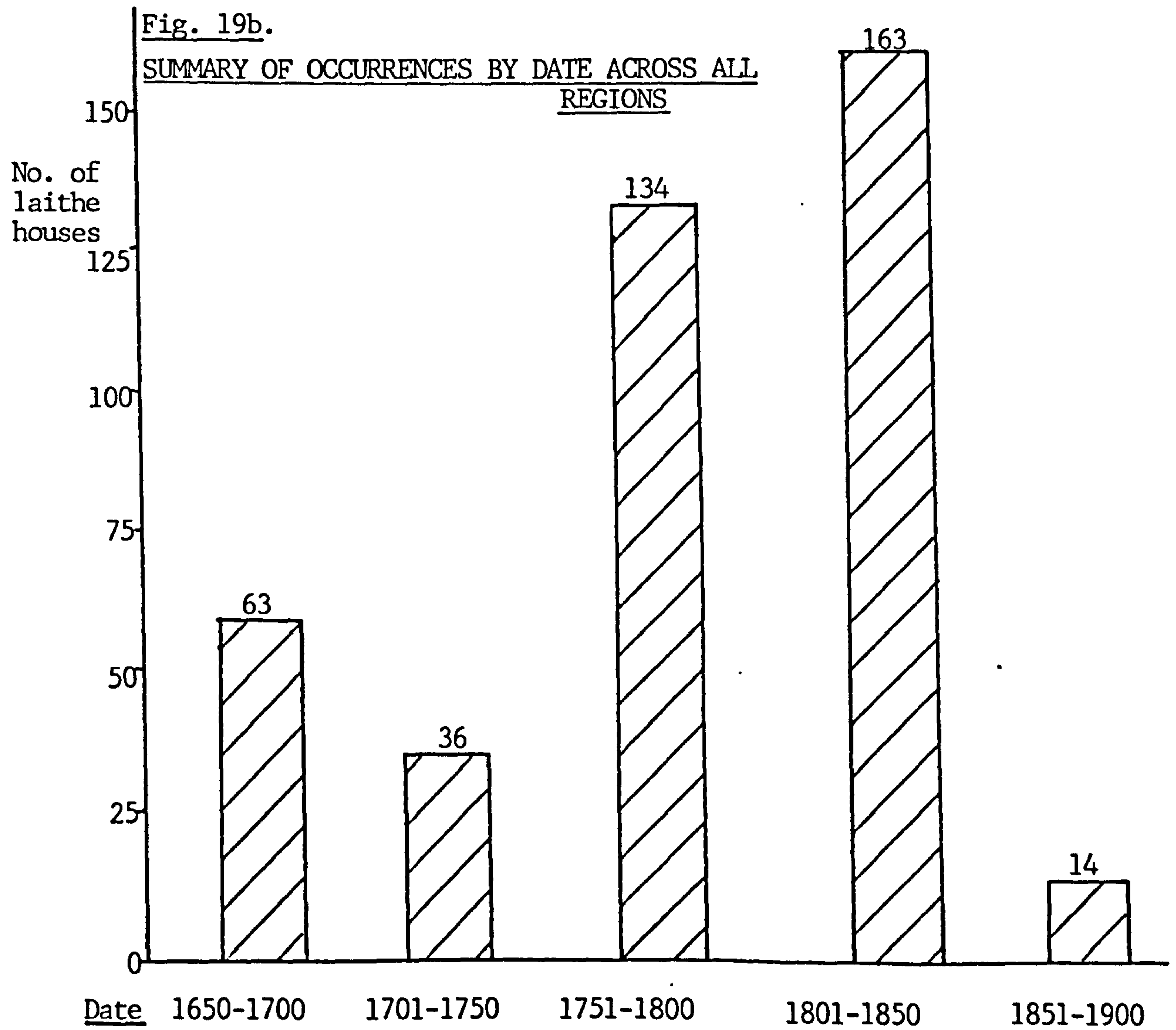
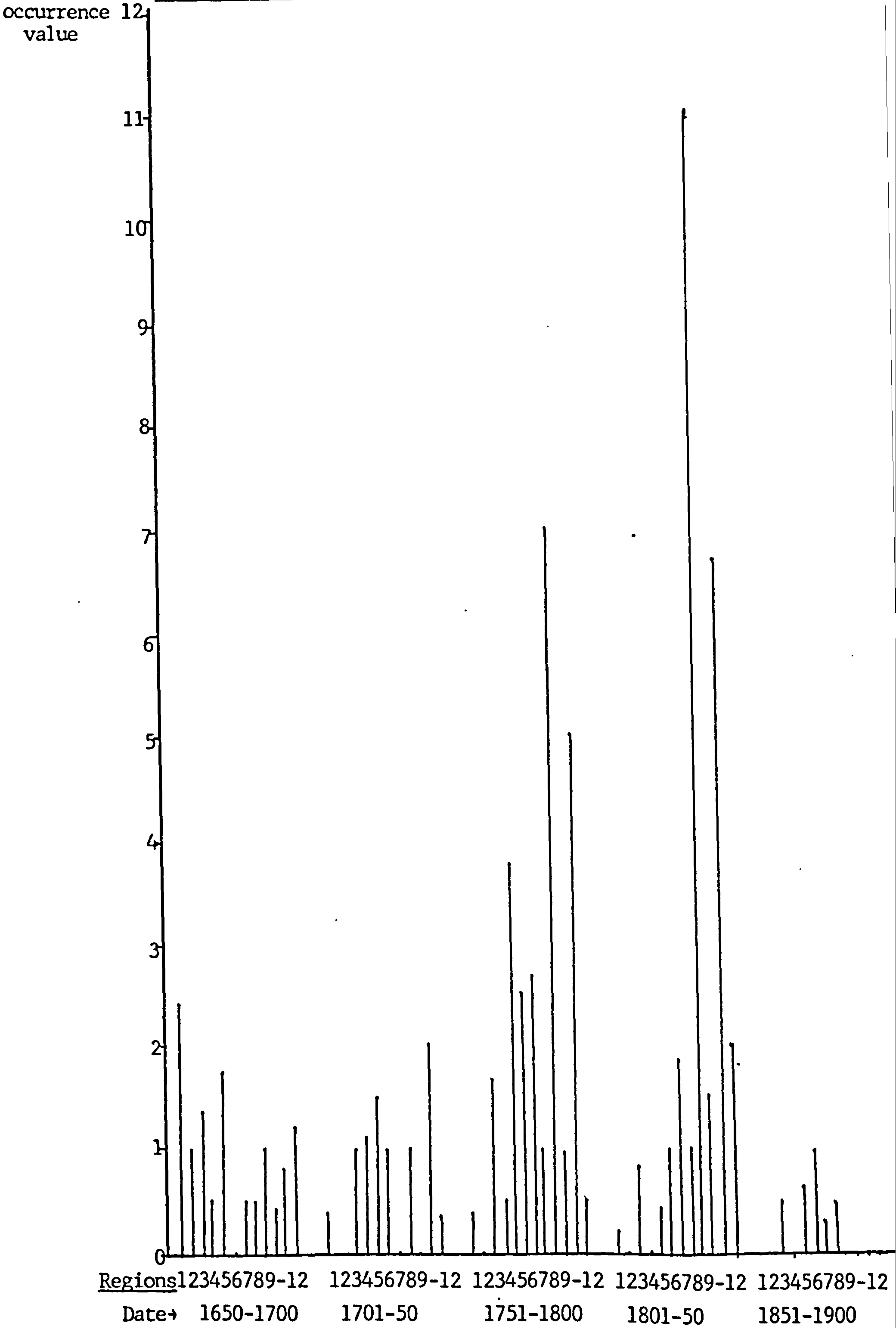
SUMMARY OF OCCURRENCES BY DATE ACROSS ALL REGIONS

Fig. 20.

OCCURENCE OF LAITHE HOUSES ACROSS REGIONS





kept in continued use as viable agricultural units. Regions 3 and 5, profiting from the textile trade, peaked around the early 18th.c. Areas 9 and 11 began a rapid growth around this time as textile manufacture spread to these economically more retarded areas, towns grew and more farms were needed to supply produce and house textile workers. Everywhere there was a dramatic fall in building after 1850.

The laithe house is characteristically built in upland areas, therefore analysis of the contour level at which they occur was undertaken. Table 3 shows the incidence of laithe houses recorded at their contour levels. Hardly any occur below 190 metres, with the majority (88 out of 143; i.e. 62%) between 250-310 metres. Given the scarcity of building of any type above 300 metres. There are a relatively high number of examples appearing up to 360 metres (18 noted). These figures illustrate how firmly the laithe house is a feature of the uplands, with only 4 examples occurring below 190 metres.

As far as aspect goes, the laithe house follows the same pattern as other buildings, with 211 out of 292 noted as being south or south-east facing. Where other aspects occur they appear to follow a trend within one township, partly dictated by the lie of the land and partly by fashion. For example, 8 houses in Sowerby township were built facing north west, all in an area of about 2 square miles, all bordering the roads leading south west out of Sowerby Bridge.

### House plans

From 280 examples noted, 269 were double storey. Three-storey examples (only 6 noted) were recorded throughout the entire building period as random examples. Single-storey laithe houses were noted in the 1650-1700 and 1751-1800 periods only, and numbered just 5. Evidence of any large scale building of early single-storey types has been obscured by later rebuilding and alterations. For example, at Upper North Royd in Northowram, the masonry in the west gable wall suggests the former existence of a single-storey dwelling (pl. 37). Measurements revealed that the wall thickness in this section was in fact deeper than the rest of the house. However, as the evidence stands, the double-storey form may be regarded as standard to the laithe house.

Table 3.

INCIDENCE OF LAITHE HOUSES BY CONTOUR LEVEL

| Contour<br>in<br>metres | REGIONS |   |   |   |   |   |   |    | Total |
|-------------------------|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|-------|
|                         | 1       | 3 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 11 |       |
| below 140               |         |   | 1 |   | 1 |   |   |    | 2     |
| 150-160                 | 1       |   |   |   |   |   |   |    | 1     |
| -170                    |         |   |   |   |   |   |   |    | -     |
| -180                    |         |   | 1 |   |   |   |   |    | 1     |
| -190                    |         | 1 | 3 |   | 1 |   | 1 |    | 6     |
| -200                    | 1       |   | 1 | 1 |   |   | 2 |    | 5     |
| -210                    |         |   | 4 |   |   |   |   | 1  | 5     |
| -220                    | 3       |   |   | 1 |   |   | 1 | 1  | 6     |
| -230                    |         |   | 2 |   | 2 |   |   | 1  | 5     |
| -240                    |         | 2 | 4 |   |   |   |   | 2  | 8     |
| -250                    | 1       | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 |   | 3 |    | 12    |
| -260                    | 1       | 2 | 1 | 1 | 2 |   | 3 |    | 10    |
| -270                    |         | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |   | 1 |    | 10    |
| -280                    |         | 5 | 8 | 1 | 3 |   |   |    | 17    |
| -290                    |         | 4 | 1 |   | 2 |   | 3 |    | 10    |
| -300                    |         | 5 | 4 |   | 2 |   | 2 | 1  | 14    |
| -310                    |         |   | 1 |   | 2 | 4 | 1 | 1  | 9     |
| -320                    |         |   |   |   | 1 |   | 2 |    | 3     |
| -330                    |         |   |   |   | 1 | 1 | 4 | 1  | 7     |
| -340                    |         |   | 3 |   |   |   | 1 |    | 4     |
| -350                    |         | 1 | 2 |   | 1 |   | 1 |    | 5     |
| -360                    |         |   | 3 |   |   |   |   |    | 3     |
|                         |         |   |   |   |   |   |   |    | 143   |
|                         |         |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |       |
|                         |         |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |       |
|                         |         |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |       |

N.B. None recorded for regions 2,4,10,12,



Table 4 lists the recorded numbers of various plan forms with their date periods. The most common overall is the double pile, double front plan. Next is the double pile, single front type, followed by an inferior version of the double pile, double front type, being the 2-unit, double front plan. This is the same layout but with lesser service rooms to the rear. An inferior version of the double pile, single front plan is found in the single cell plan, usually divided to give minimal services at the rear. There is finally the 3-cell linear plan of which we have records of 16 surviving examples. Fig. 6 illustrates each of these types in diagram form.

Plan types in the categories described do not seem to have distinct patterns of occurrence between regions. More significant correlation occurs with date periods. 72% of the recorded 3-cell linear plan occur in the pre-1700 period. Of the others, either recording was inadequate, or conversions had been done which left interpretation of the original plan indeterminate. There was one example of a post-1700 3-cell linear plan. It was built in Marsden township in the mid. 18th.c. but appears to owe its layout to topography, the house being built into a steep hillside, with the main access through the end service room.

Analysis bore out the theory put forward by Stell that there was a trend to smaller accommodation through time. Although larger houses of double pile, double front plan occurred throughout the whole building phase, outside of this the 2-unit double pile type appeared almost exclusively in the periods up to 1800 while minimal cottage accommodation was most common in the 1801-50 period. The actual figures recorded for cottage accommodation were 1 (1650-1799), 5 (1701-50), 6 (1751-1800), 12 (1801-1850). This is further borne out by the figures for double pile with single front plans, practically all of which were built from 1800 onwards.

This trend to smaller houses reveals how the laithe house was adopted down the social scale through time. Broadly speaking, the form appears in the 17th.c. as most characteristic of a yeoman class, continuing thus through the 18th.c. Later

Table 4.PLAN TYPES BY MAIN DATE PERIODS

| TYPE OF<br>PLAN              | NO.<br>RECORDED | MAIN DATE<br>PERIOD      | % OF<br>THOSE<br>RECORDED |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 3-cell linear                | 16              | 1650-1700                | 72%                       |
| Cottage<br>(single cell)     | 24              | 1801-1850                | 50%                       |
| Double front<br>( 2 unit)    | 26              | 1650-1800                | 100%                      |
| Single front,<br>double pile | 36              | 1751-1850                | 63%                       |
| Double front,<br>double pile | 26              | whole building<br>period | 100%                      |



the form becomes more compact and standardised and is generally utilised throughout the late 18th.c. and 19th.c. for much smaller tenant farmers, although larger examples still appear. An analysis of actual sizes of laithe houses is included in the discussion below.

If a standard form for the dwelling part of the laithe house could be identified, it would be of 2 storeys and double fronted with services to the rear in either full double pile form or (more usually) smaller services, sometimes under an outshut. At the beginning of the building phase we have examples of 3-cell linear structures, and at the end, accommodation becomes increasingly restricted down to the single cell with a small service area partitioned to the rear, although still double storeyed.

Knapley Ing farm in Bingley is an example of a 17th.c. 3-cell linear plan house, a laithe added in the 19th.c. The ground floor plan (fig. 21) shows the original 3-cell structure with a central housebody, a parlour to the east, and a west cell which probably combined a smaller parlour and service room. A near-contemporary porch covers the lobby entrance which serves both housebody and parlour. The second parlour is divided from the housebody by a thin screen. The large fireplace is modernised but in its original position to heat both housebody and parlour. The lesser parlour is heated by a later stack. This layout is a good example of the basic 3-cell linear plan.

Lower North Royd in Northowram (pl.8 and fig.22) is an example of the double front type, with service rooms substantial enough to qualify the plan as full double pile. It was built in 1699 with an entrance opposite the stack in the housebody. A parlour to the west is heated by a stack on the partition wall. Rear service rooms are sometimes divided from the main front rooms by a thin party wall or screen, but in more substantial houses like Lower North Royd, the dividing walls match the exterior walls for thickness. The plan is typical of the compact plans which succeeded the linear plan already described, the orientation around a central entrance and services (in this

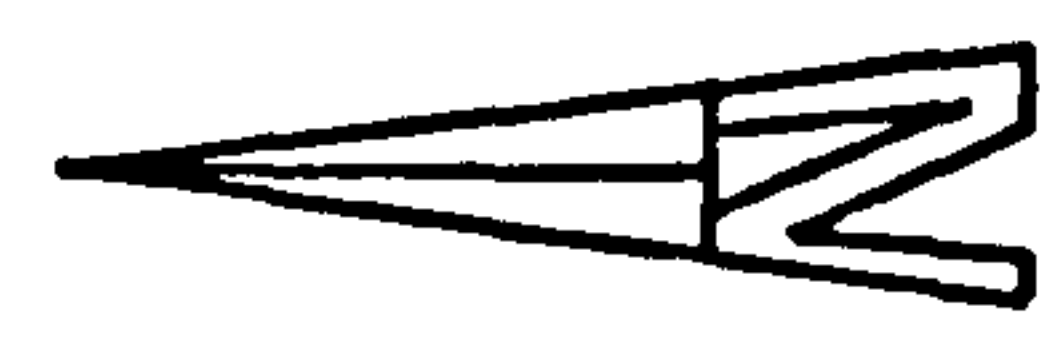
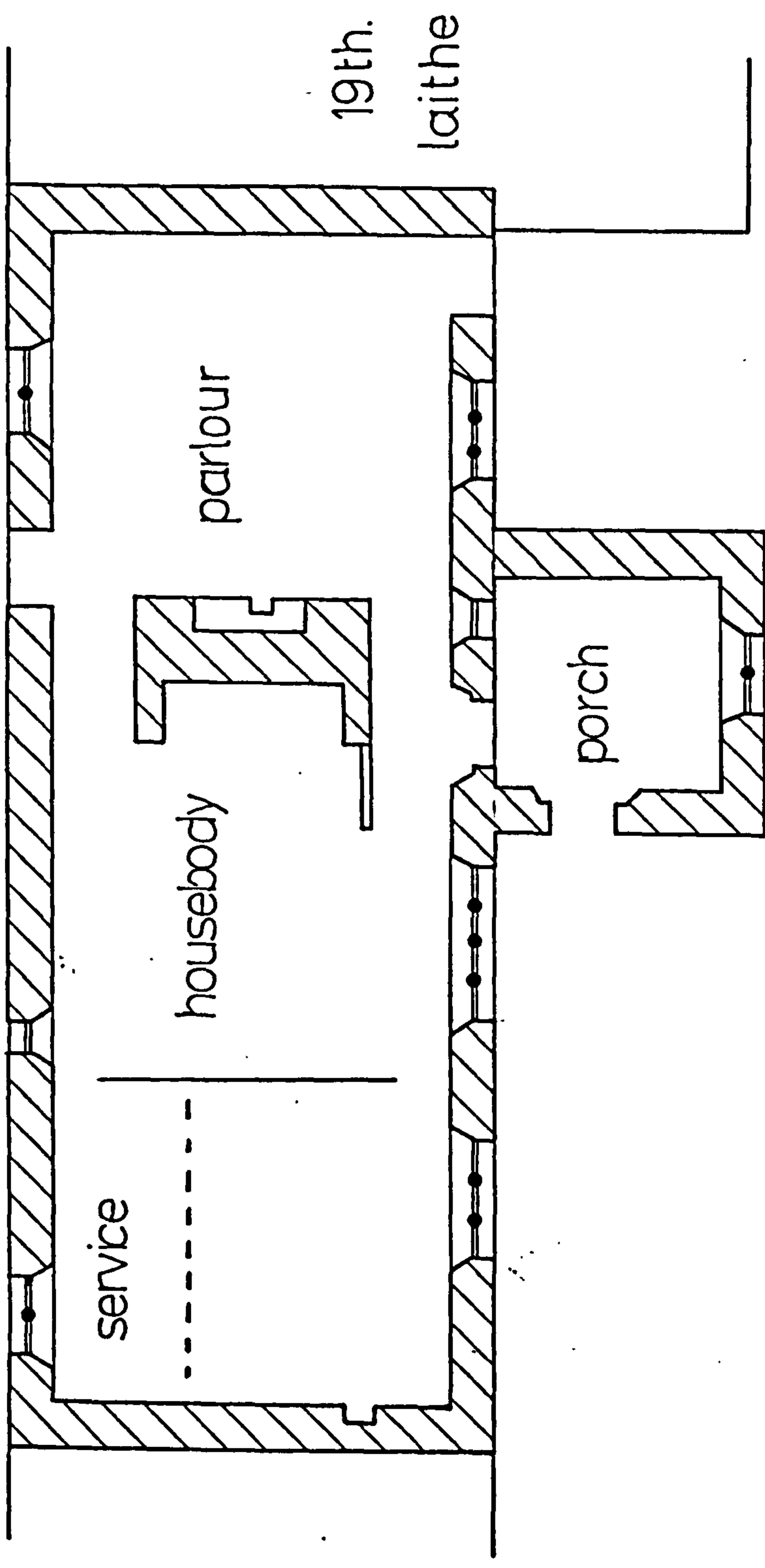
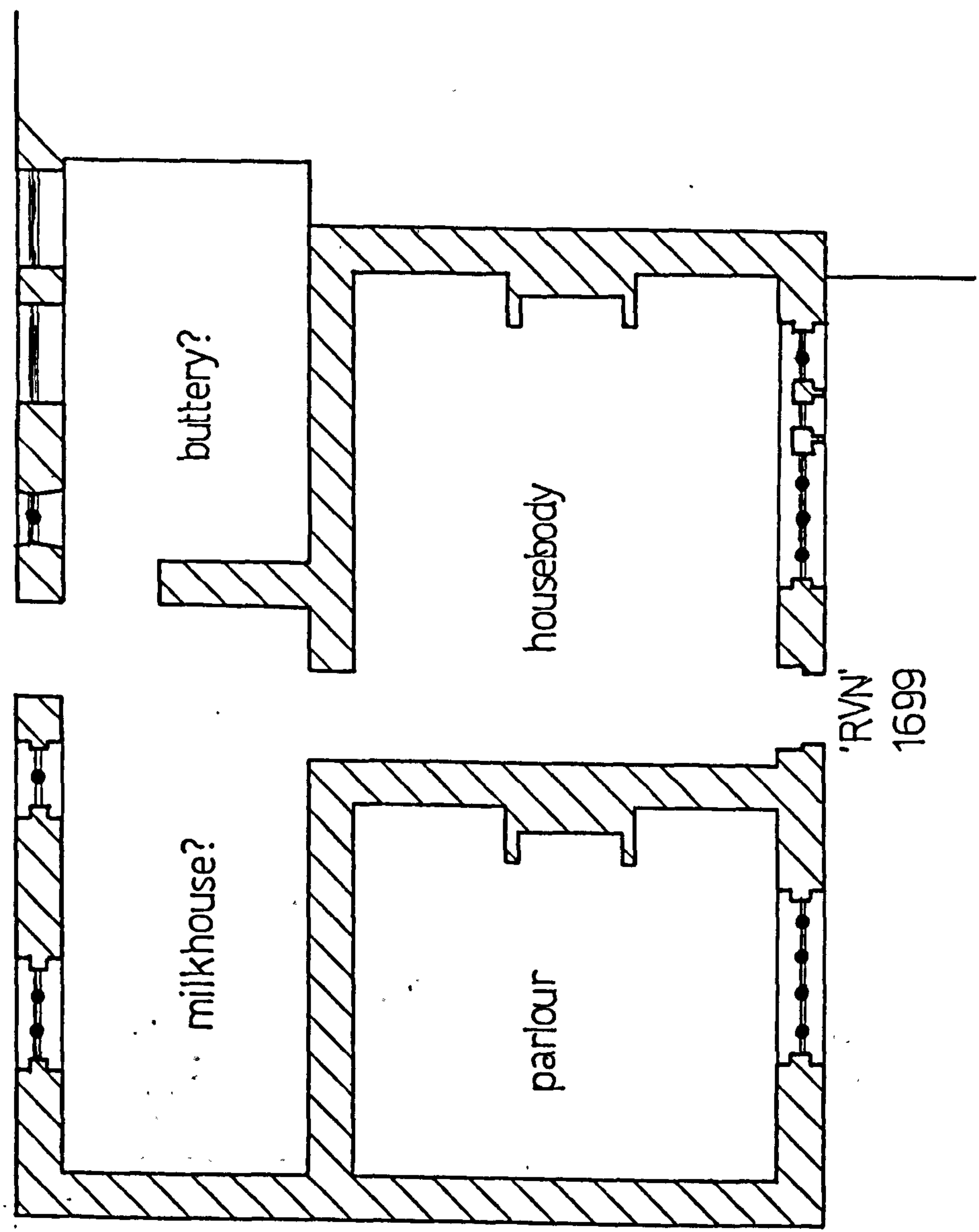


Fig. 21 Knapley Ing.  
Bingley  
[Ref: C. Giles, R.C.H.M.]

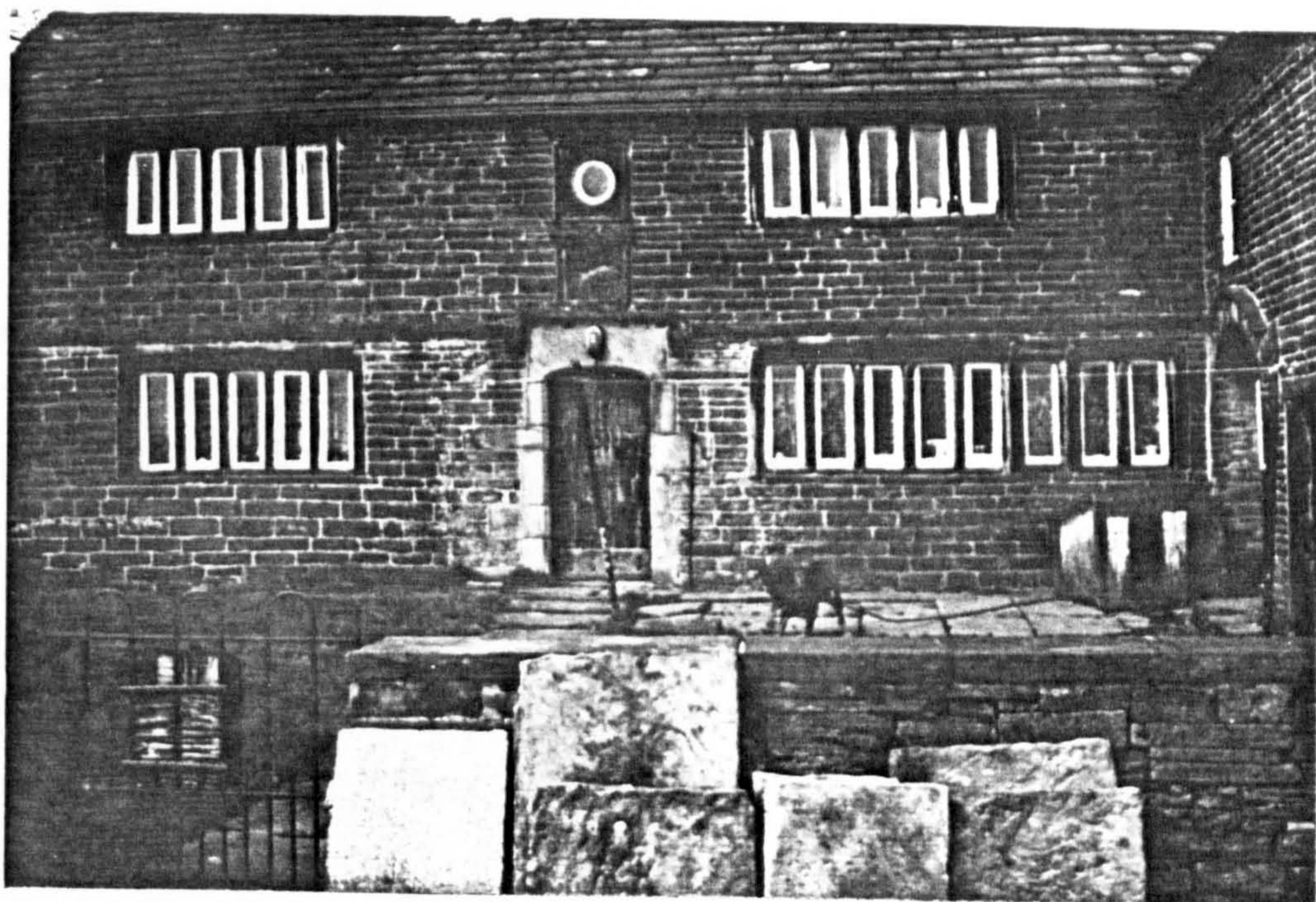
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Fig.22 LOWER NORTH ROYD  
 Northowram  
 [Ref. W. Westerdale, The houses of Shibden Dale]







Pl. 8. Lower North Royd, Northowram



Pl. 9. New House, Midgley



case Westerdale speculates they were a milkhouse and buttery with stairs leading up from the milkhouse, situated behind the parlour) moved to the rear instead of in a line with the main rooms

Slightly lower down the social scale is Walton Hole in Silsden (fig. 23). This early 18th.c. 2-storey example, dated 1719, serves as a good example of the double pile, 2-unit type where the parlour and housebody have admitted small services to the rear with lesser partition walls than the exterior. Services in both this type and the more substantial full double pile plan are unheated. Walton Hole has the later more typical direct entry set to one angle of the housebody and opposite the stack. Both housebody and parlour are heated, and the laithe was built with a double mistal, suggesting a reasonable level of prosperity. The small single storey outshut to the east is also subdivided by a thinner partition wall to give a small rear service area. This small addition may have been built for a younger son and his family, or more likely for a labourer, the accommodation being minimal, unceiled, and with access to the main house only through a (later blocked) door between the rear services. Like Lower North Royd, it should be noted that the orientation of the main house plan is round a central axis rather than in linear arrangement.

By the late 18th. and early 19th.c. we have many more examples of laithe houses and as these greater numbers were being built further down the social scale, house accommodation became more compact and minimal. One early 19th.c. example is New House at Midgley, dated 1811 (pl. 9, fig. 24). The service room to the rear is heated, and has a relatively substantial party wall. Later alterations have converted part of the laithe into a modern kitchen, with an extension added to the rear. Originally, the house entrance was at the house/laithe join, opposite the stack of the only main room.

As laithe house building continued, we find numerous examples of more minimal accommodation in the shape of cottage or single cell plans. Here the dwelling is a simple single cell partitioned at the rear to give a small service area, the whole forming a very compact economical plan with the laithe. The prosperous region around Shibden Dale had always been ahead in

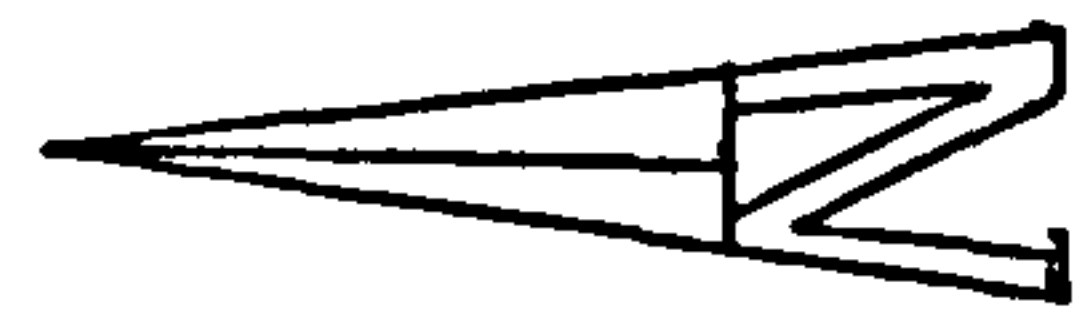
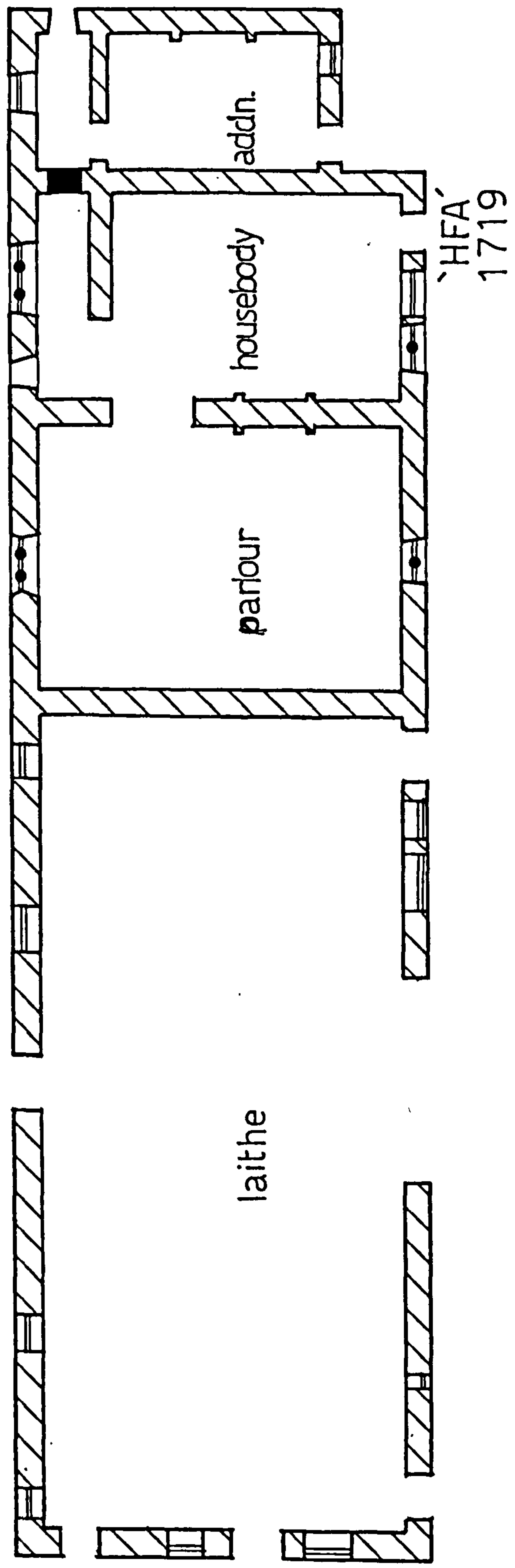


Fig.23 WALTON HOLE  
Silsden



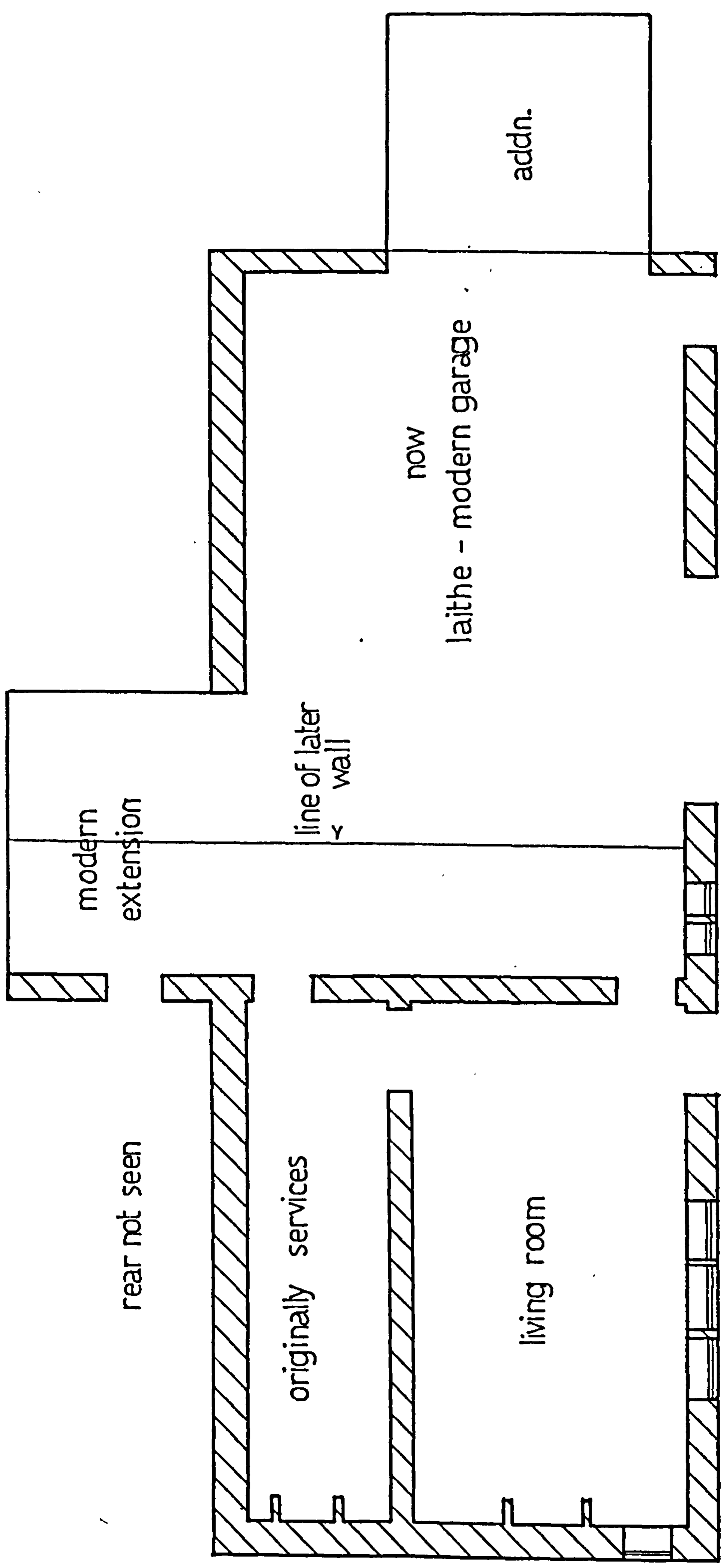
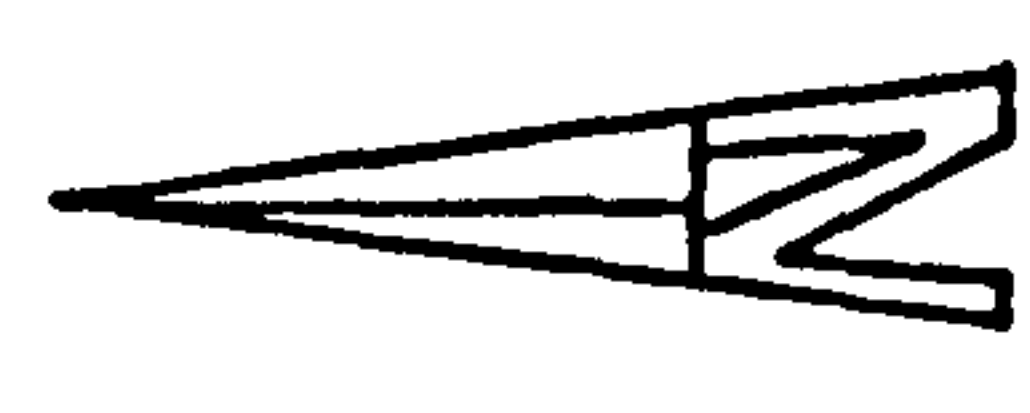


Fig.24 NEW HOUSE  
Midgley



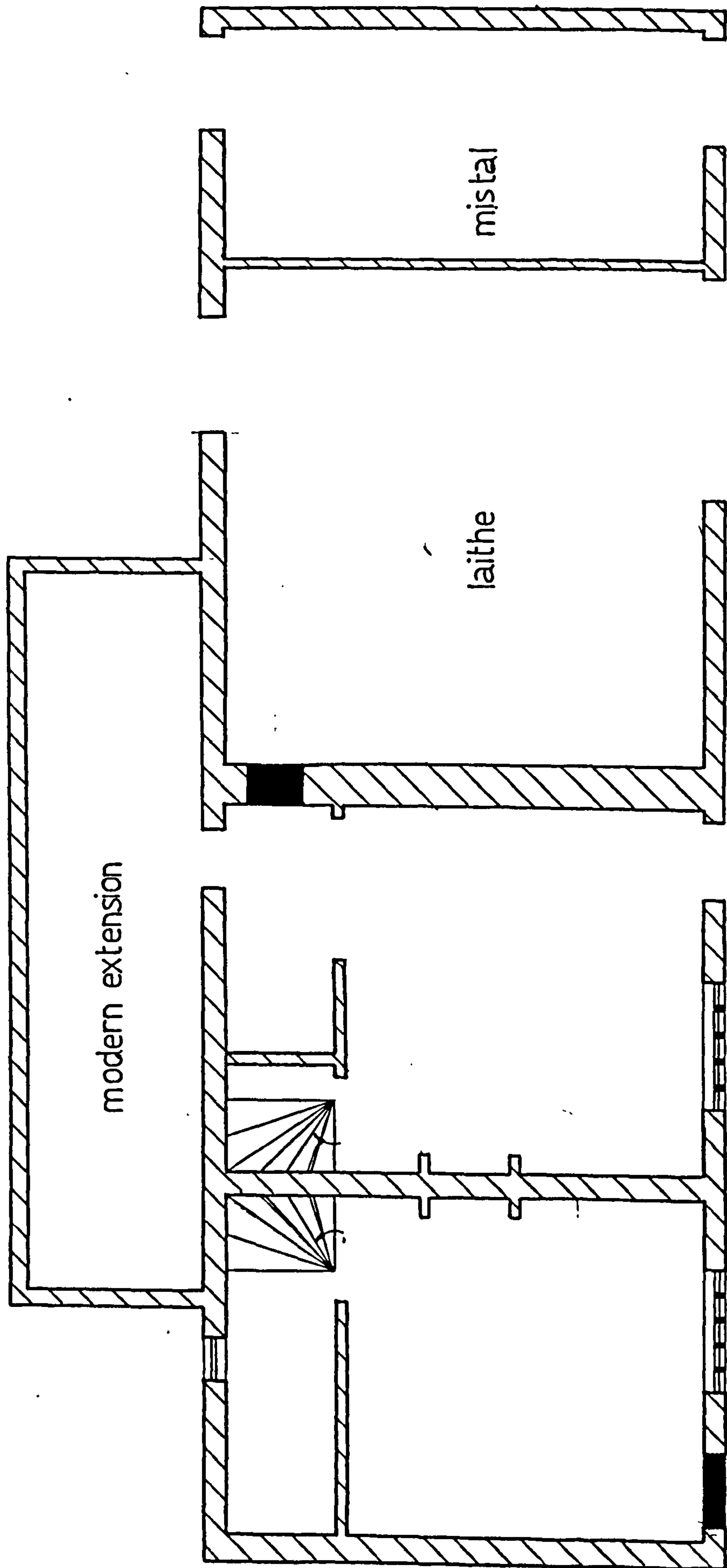
its building stages, all types of stone building passing more quickly down the social scale than other areas. Upper Dean Stones built in 1750, illustrates cottage accommodation. In this example we can also see how the minimal accommodation lent itself well to combining two or more dwellings, each being an example of single cell, 2-storey accommodation (fig. 25). Once again, the house entrance to the dwelling adjoining the laithe is positioned at that join and opposite a stack. A thin wall divides the main living area from the service room (with cellar beneath), the stairs to the first floor rising from the main room. The second dwelling exactly mirrors this plan. The two dwellings were later converted to one, with an extension to the service area at the rear.

Catherine Slack farm in Elland, identified by Stell as one of the latest dated laithe houses, being built in 1880, serves to illustrate how minimal dwelling accommodation had become (fig. 26). Here the laithe occupies about three-quarters of the total homestead. The dwelling comprises a living room, stairs, small service/dairy (with a door into the laithe) on the ground floor and two bedrooms over.

However, an example I found in Lindley, dated 1895, had a laithe only slightly larger than the house (pl.10 and fig. 27). The overall style gives a classical look of symmetry, the front and rear rooms of exactly the same depth, the size and position of the windows and doors echoing each other on each elevation. The front and rear elevations were almost identical before later alteration of part of the laithe into a modern kitchen.

Even more classical in style is Prospect House in Addingham (pls. 11. and 12.), converted from a laithe in 1892 to form a fairly substantial laithe house with housebody and parlour flanking a central passage, entered through a gabled stone porched doorway. The present laithe shows a like symmetry at front and rear. The gable stack on the laithe was reportedly a later conversion of one end of the laithe into a small labourer's dwelling, though never, or only briefly, used. Prospect House shows how, although the general trend for laithe houses was





102.

Scale 1:100

Fig. 25 UPPER DEAN STONES  
Northowram

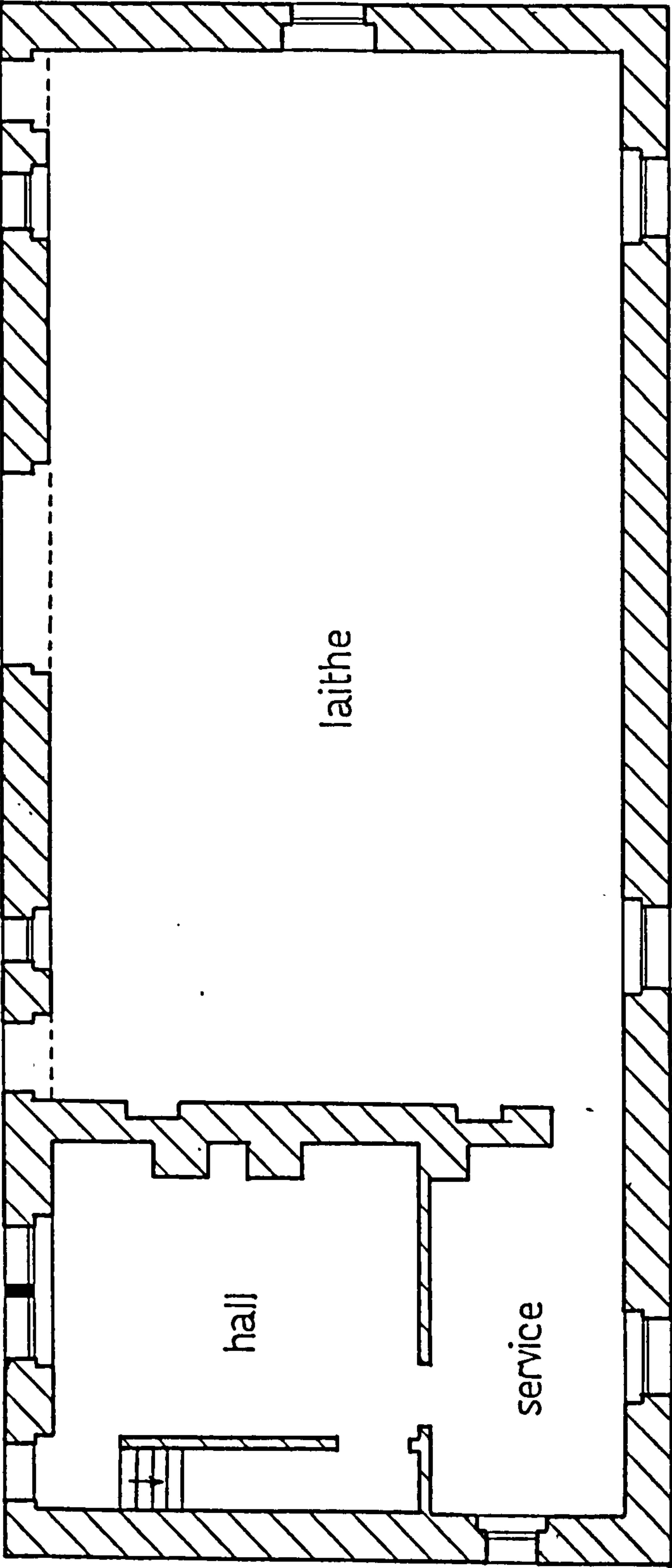
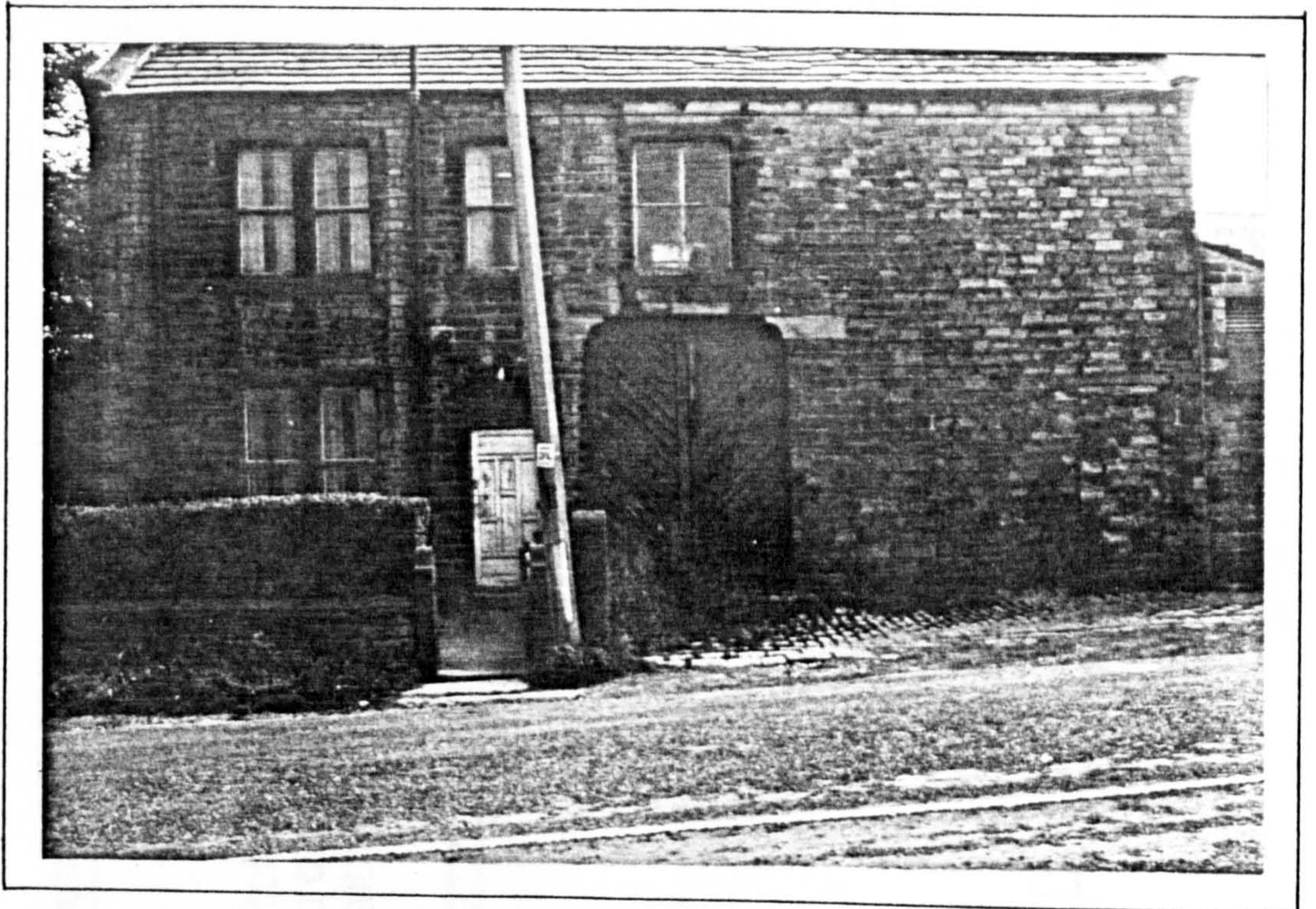


Fig. 26 CATHERINE SLACK  
Elland  
[Ref: C.F. STELL, Vernacular architecture in a Pennine community]







Pl. 10. Wellfield, Lindley.



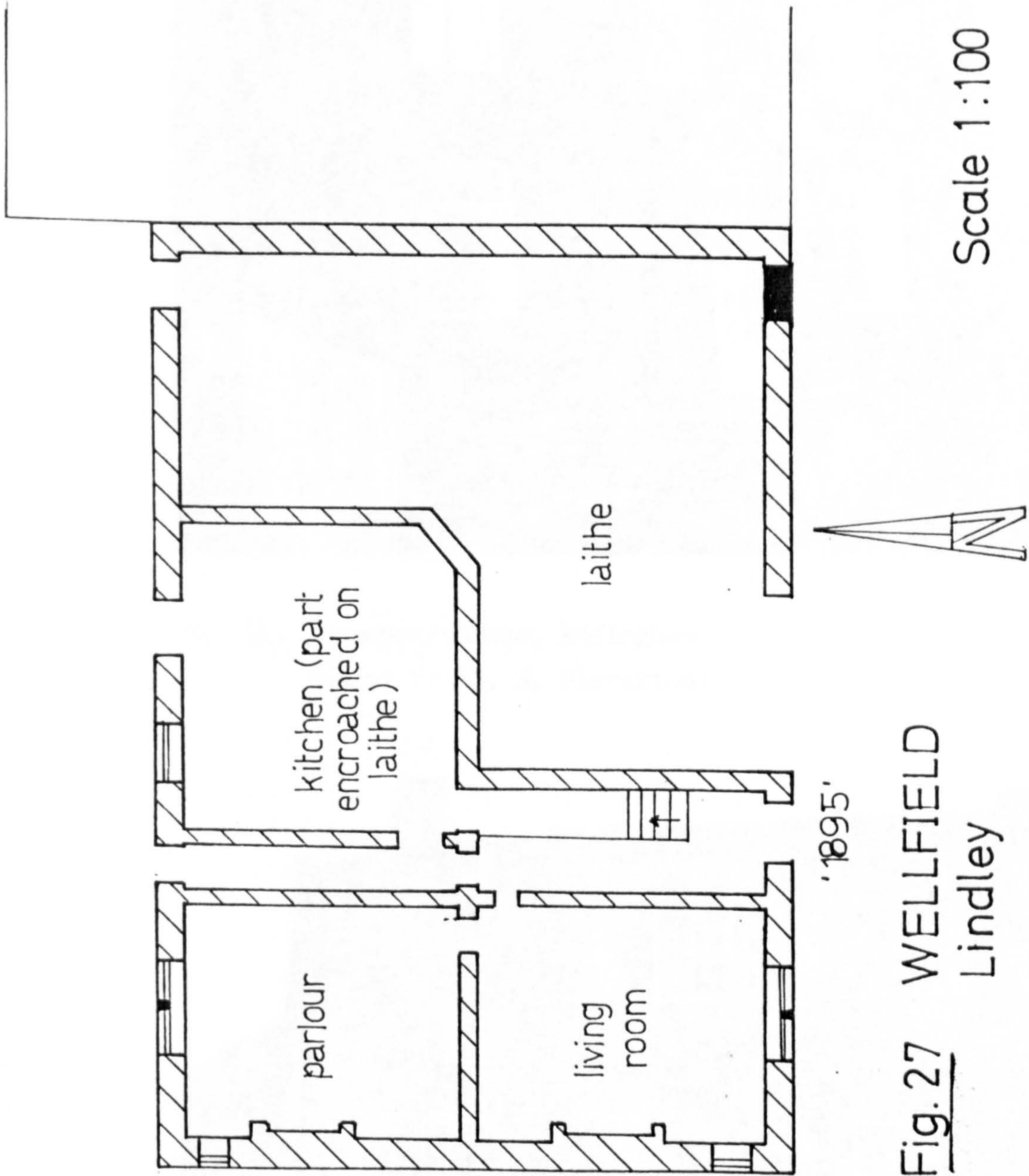


Fig. 27 WELLFIELD  
Lindley

Scale 1:100





Pl. 11. Prospect House, Addingham.  
(house front, S. elevation)



Pl. 12. Prospect House, Addingham.  
(laithe rear, S. elevation)



towards smaller dwelling accommodation, some more prosperous builders still found the form useful to their purpose.

From 434 recorded examples there were 48 noted of two dwellings attached to a laithe, as at Upper Dean Stones. There were 12 examples of 3 dwellings attached to a laithe, and 5 examples of a terrace of 4 or more plus laithe. Where more than one dwelling was combined with a laithe, the accommodation was in most cases minimal. The question of occupancy of these multiple dwellings is discussed in the later section on the census return.

### Relationship of house and laithe

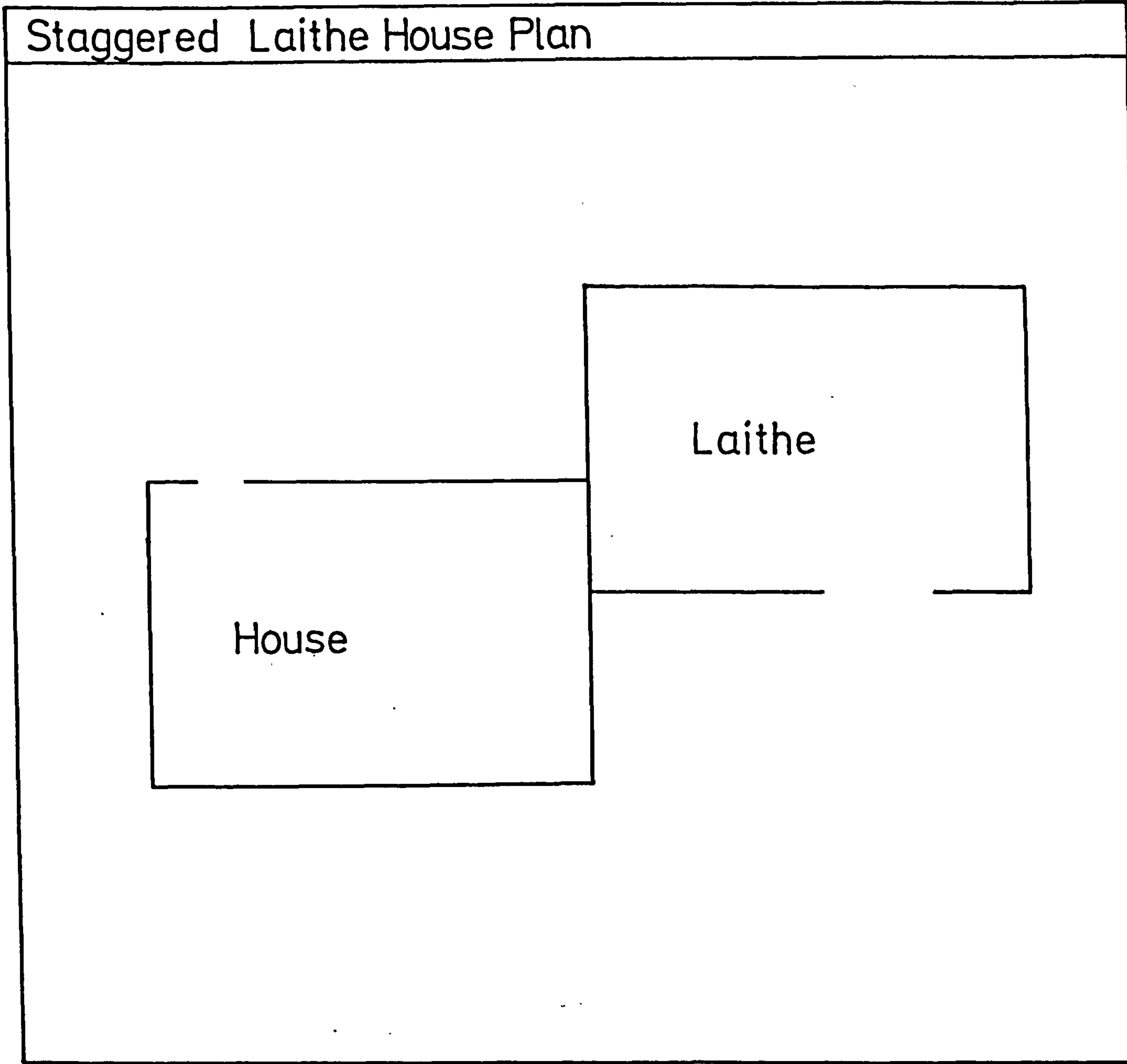
Over 400 examples of laithe houses were of rectangular plan, making this the standard form. Other plan types included the L-shape where the laithe was built at right angles to the dwelling (26 examples). The photograph of Lower Green Gate farm (pl.13) at Austonley illustrates a combination of 2 dwellings, later converted to one, with a laithe set at right angles. The date is early/mid. 19th.c., the laithe being the later addition. This orientation of house and laithe is typical of the L-shape plan. The wagon entrance to the laithe faces in towards the dwellings, the mistal being at the gable end of the laithe away from the house. 20 out of the 26 examples noted dated from the mid. 18th.c. onwards, probably reflective of the increased laithe house building rather than any particular trend. These examples were noted from the pre-1700 period but in all cases the laithes had been added in the 18th. or 19th.c.

There were a handful of laithe houses where the overall plan differed from the rectangular or L-shape. One was the staggered plan, as found at Wellington farm in Stainland, a small 19th.c. cottage with laithe apparently contemporary (fig. 28). New Dean House, also in Stainland and possibly of late 18th.c. date, was built back-to-back in two parallel ranges with a shared laithe at one end, having matching opposing wagon entrances. The roof here forms a double gable and Highfield farm in Southowram follows a similar pattern.

The unusual plan of laithe built back-to-back with the house can be seen at the late 19th.c. examples in Midgley. They were built by John Murgatroyd, stuff manufacturer, to plans approved in 1898, making them the recent laithe houses to be recorded. The farms were Hoyle House



Fig.28 WELLINGTON  
Stainland







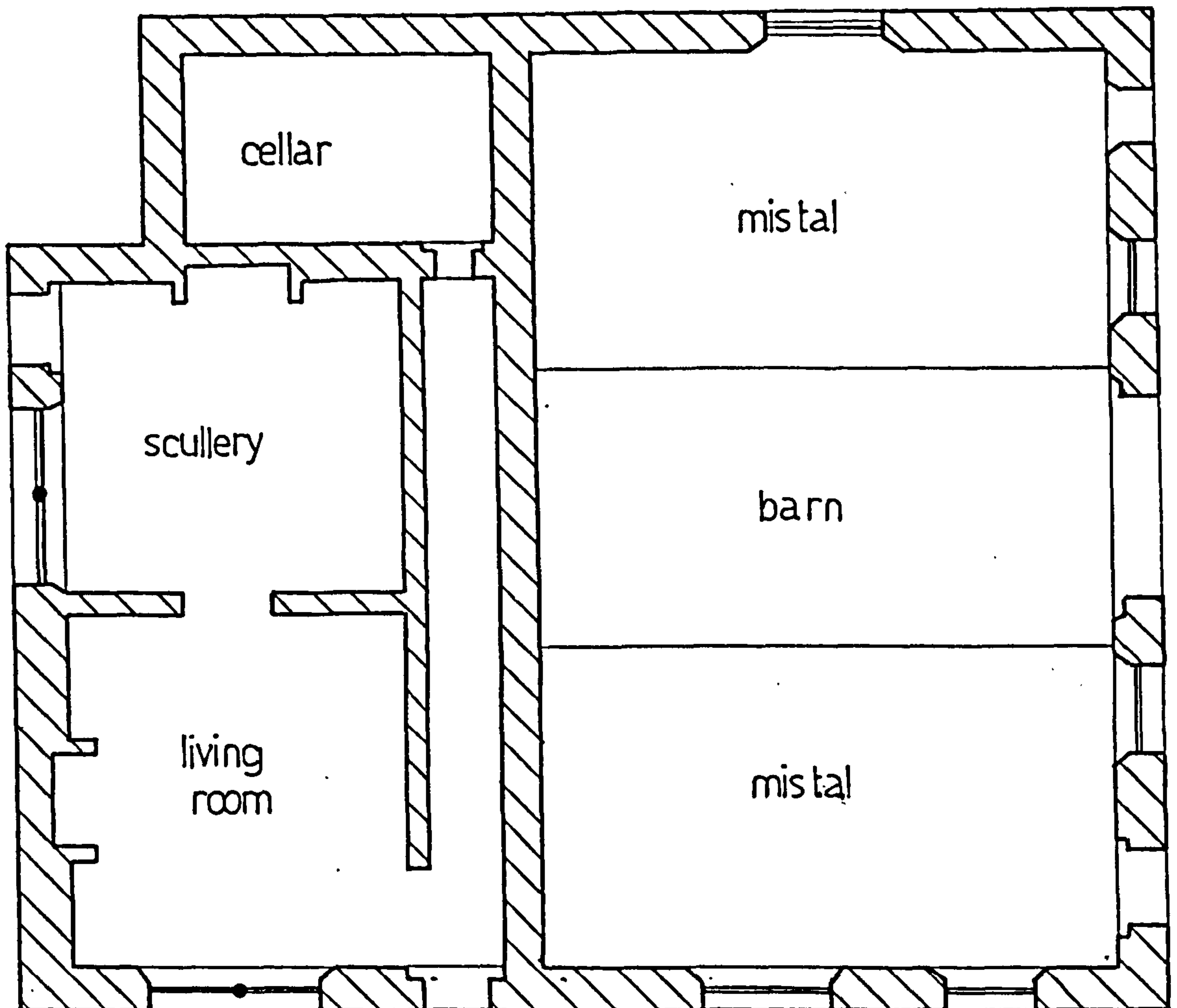
Pl. 13. Lower Green Gate, Austonley  
(L plan)



Pl. 14. Hawksclough, Midgley  
(front of laithe)



Fig.29 HAWKSCLOUGH  
Midgley



[Ref: Murgatrayd estate papers, JM 56,  
Halifax Archives]

and Hawksclough, and Hawksclough is illustrated in fig. 29 and pl. 14. Just as the move to a more compact and balanced design caused the 3-cell linear plan to give way to a double pile plan around a central axis, so these late 19th.c. examples may represent an attempt to draw the overall design of the laithe house into an increasingly compact unit, presenting a balanced facade at each elevation, more in keeping with classical ideals as well as making the most economical use of both land and building materials by joining the laithe and house at the longest wall.

As far as the actual size of laithe houses is concerned, 45 examples where dimensions were recorded have been analysed. The overall lengths ranged from 40-95 ft. with 75% between 49-79 ft. The overall depth ranged between 16-39 ft., with most examples between 20-29 ft. The laithe was larger in 60% of the examples (including 10% of examples where there was more than one dwelling attached. In these cases the size of a single dwelling was taken). The house and laithe were the same size in 20% of those recorded and the house was larger in just 20% of the examples. These proportions show how important the agricultural function of the laithe house continued to be; The most common combination of sizes was a house of about 20 ft. attached to a laithe of about 33 ft., with a depth throughout of around 25 ft. Where the two components are equal, it is usually a case of the house being larger than the laithe, suggesting that there was an optimum minimum size of laithe to provide adequate agricultural accommodation.

The changes in house plans over time confirms a trend for smaller dwellings in the later building period. In order to specify the picture, 143 examples were analysed where the relative sizes of laithe and dwelling were noted. Three sets of figures were analysed; where the house and laithe were the same size, where the house took up 60% or more of the overall plan, and where the house accounted for 40% or less. The results of this analysis, relating the figures across time periods A-D, can be seen in the graphs in figs. 30-31. Date period E was omitted as having only 6 examples in all, though it should be noted that in this period there were no examples of houses being larger than 60% of the total, only 2 examples of an equal ratio, but 6 examples where the house was less than half the overall size. Of the main body of results, it may be seen from the graph summaries that whereas there was a fall after 1800 of houses which were greater than 60% of the total size, there was a rise in the early 19th.c. of houses built as 40% or less of the total size. At this same, later



Number of  
the houses  
recorded

Fig 30. INCIDENCE OF BUILDING AT VARIOUS CONTOUR HEIGHTS.

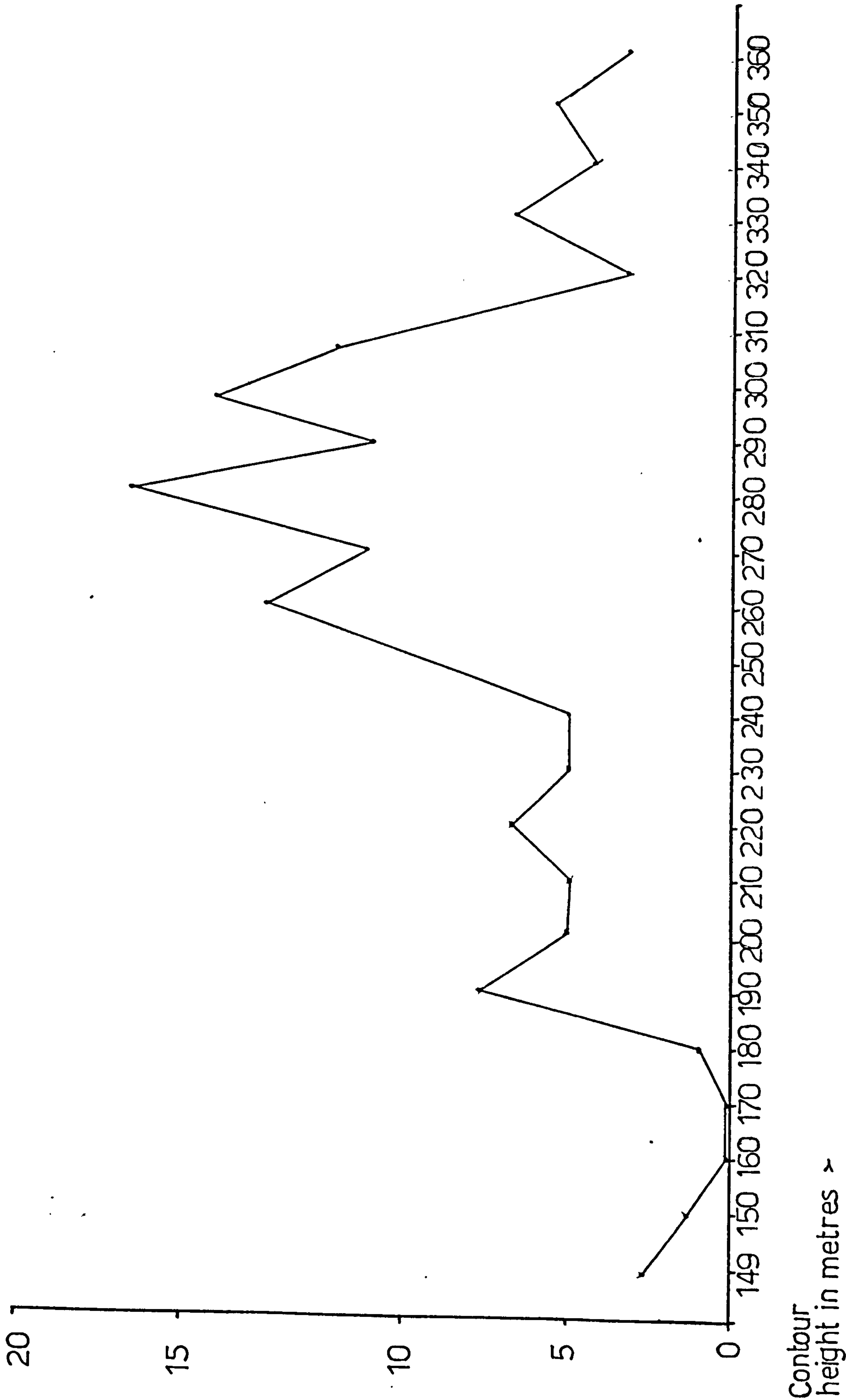
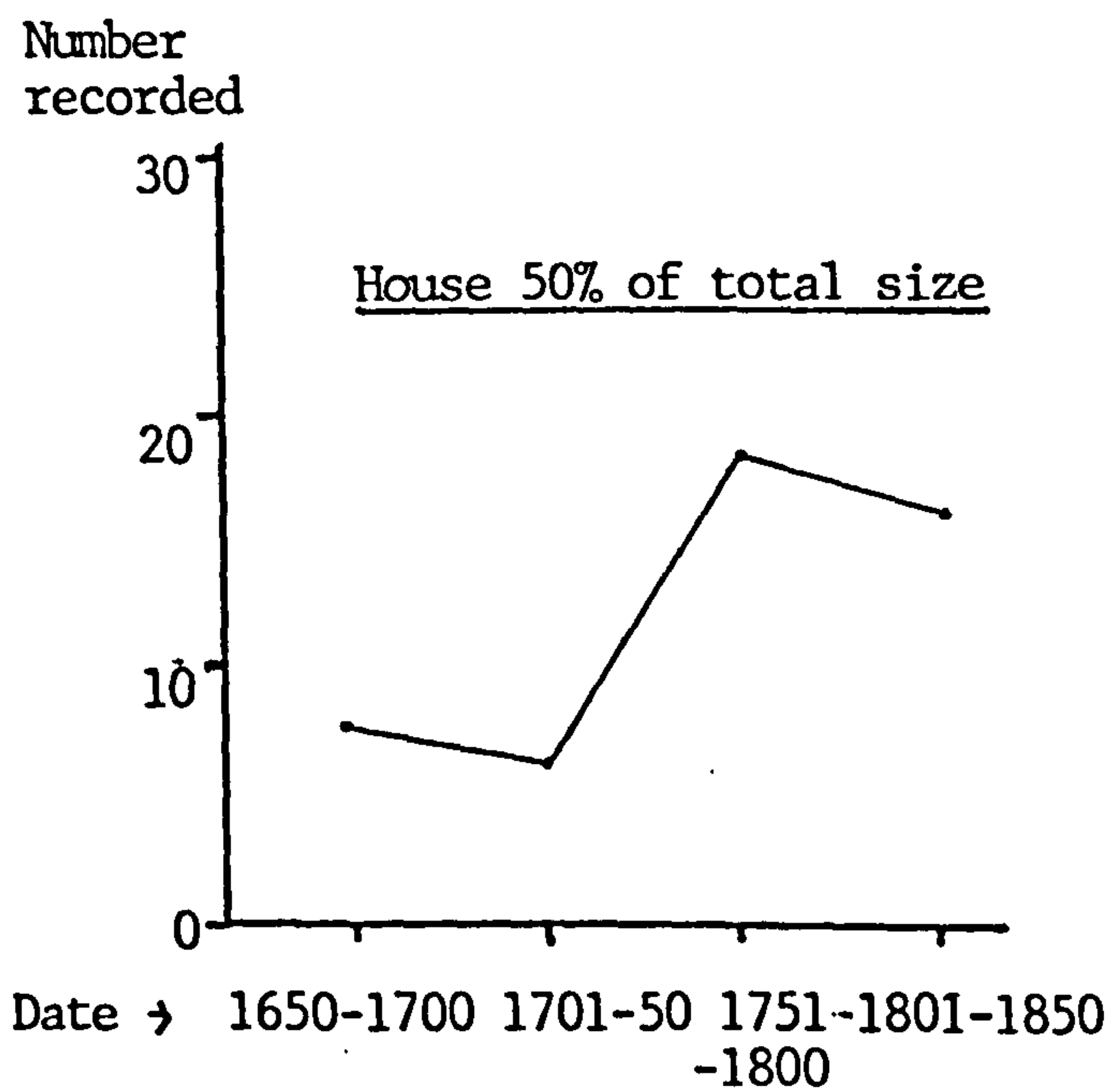
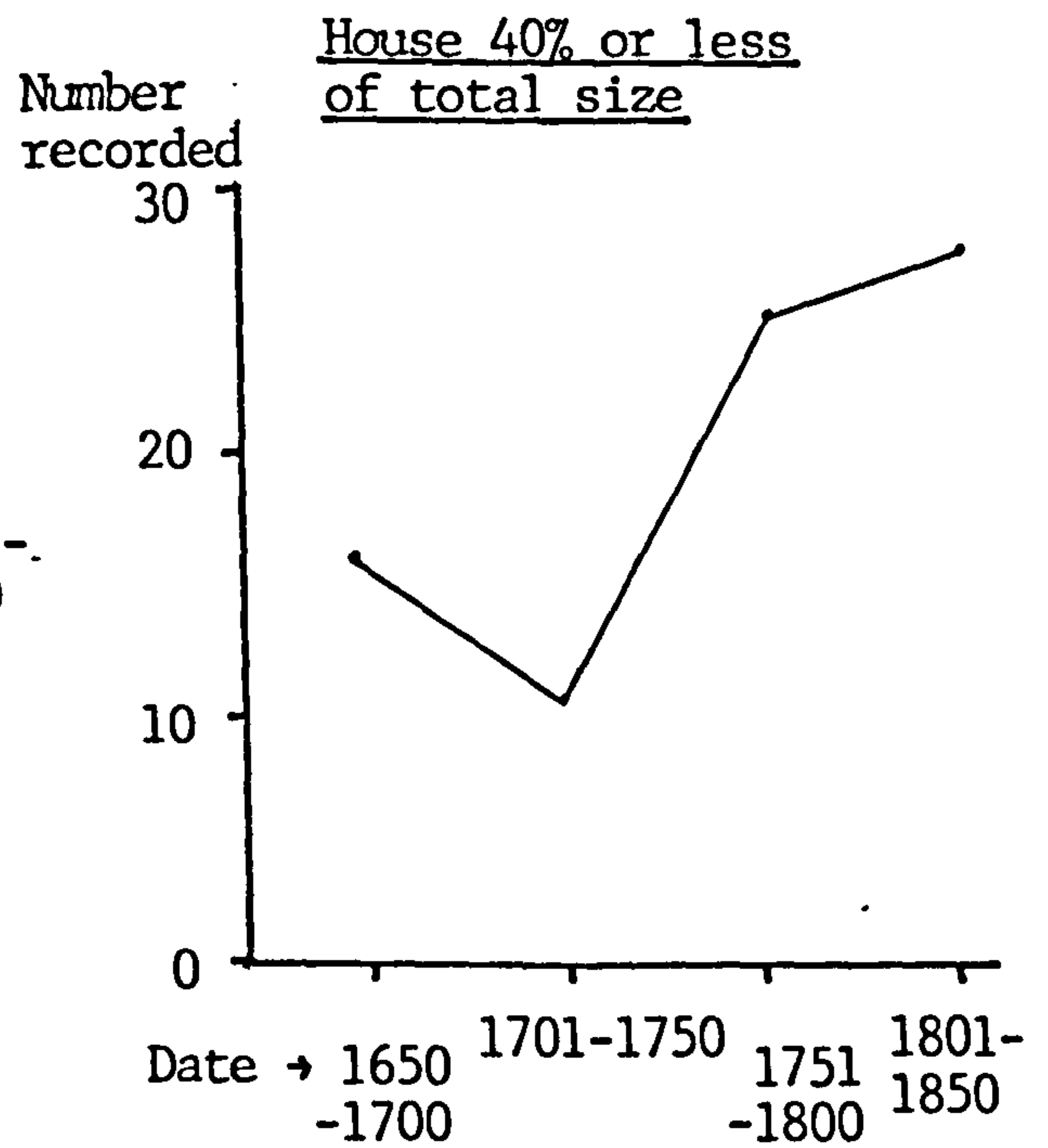
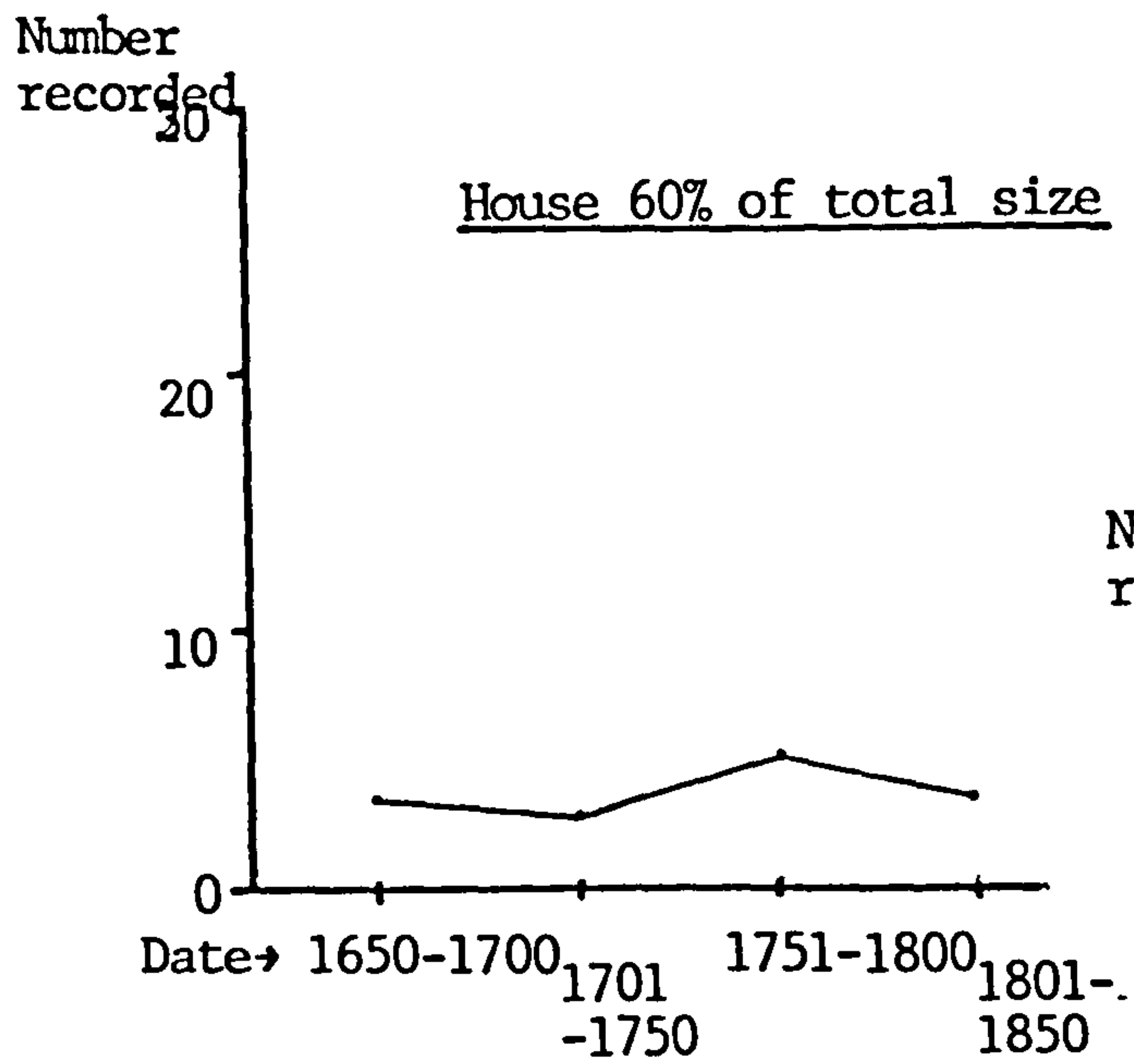


FIG. 31.RELATIVE SIZES OF HOUSE AND LAITHE.



period, the numbers of larger houses drops. These figures further substantiate the picture of laithe houses tending to be built with more minimal house accommodation as time went on.

While looking at the question of house relative to laithe, it was originally thought that one of the characteristics of the laithe house was that the laithe was entirely separate from the house and with completely independent access. Since then, all researchers who have undertaken any internal investigations of the laithe house have noted examples of an interconnecting door between house and laithe. Pacey noted one example in Barkisland and another in Elland. Stéll found a further example in Elland and another in Horton. Westerdale had one example in Southowram, Colum Giles noted one in Silsden and one in Marsden, while I have found 8 examples, 5 in Northowram and one each in Barkisland, Shelf and Austonley. This totals 14, and I would suggest that there are many more examples to be found by more intensive investigations. In Northowram I had made a particular point of checking for this interconnecting door in the houses to which I had gained internal access. The collection of records about this kind of feature holds particular problems as not only is internal access<sup>s</sup> to the house essential, evidence is often hidden. Almost all the examples I found had these internal doors blocked up, and in two cases only specific questioning of the owners gave evidence of their existence.

One example is Hollin Grove in Northowram in which recent renovations had uncovered a double thickness of wall between house and laithe (indicating the laithe was of a later build) with a doorway cut through and later blocked (fig. 12). Similarly, Hud Hill farm where a single cell double pile dwelling of the 18th.c. had a laithe added in the 19th.c., forming a double wall thickness which was similarly cut through and blocked later. These internal doors usually led from the service area at the rear of the house to a rear part of the laithe which may have served as a dairy or at least gave access for milking, especially convenient in cold weather, such a constant feature of upland farming.

The connection between these internal doors and contour height was impossible to analyse, as only 5 of the examples also had contour

heights recorded. These contour heights were in the higher range, between 270-314 metres except one at 244 metres, but many more examples would be needed to draw any definite conclusions, as well as a control check on those laithe houses built at high altitudes without inter-connecting doors.

Whilst studying the relationship between house and laithe, I also looked at the numbers of buildings where the house and laithe were built as an entity, and those where the house was built first and a laithe added later, or where the laithe had a later house rebuilt or added. Of 184 identified as belonging to any of these categories, 87 were (as far as it was possible to ascertain) built as laithe houses. There is a correlation with dates here, as almost half of the total were built 1800-50. 28 had been built in the 50 years previous and only a few (17 in all) outside these dates. This illustrates that the 'true' laithe house, i.e. built in entirety as such, belongs to the 1750-1850 period with a steep rise from 1800. These figures must always take into account partial rebuilding of what may have been earlier complete laithe houses; the conclusion above is drawn from present standing evidence only.

Almost as many were recorded as having the house of an earlier date with the laithe added later. There were 84 of these, and most of the additions were effected at the same time as this 100 year period of laithe house building peak. These 19th.c. laithe additions were spread more or less across all dates of original house structures, with slightly more additions to 17th.c. dwellings (27 in number) and slightly fewer to 19th.c. houses (14 only). In some of these 19th.c. examples, the laithe is near-contemporary, Stone Fold farm in Marsden was built in 1832 and a laithe added in 1852. Other dated examples show the increasing trend to convert farms into the laithe house style. For example, Stubbins farm in Marsden built in 1772 with a laithe added in 1879, or Wool Royd in Slaithwaite in the 17th.c. and added laithe dated 1821. To reiterate the proviso made earlier, although more buildings were being erected as laithe houses proper by the 19th.c., late 18th. and 19th.c. prosperity gave farmers the means to rebuild outworn agricultural buildings. This partly explains the high proportion of additional laithes of this date attached to earlier houses.



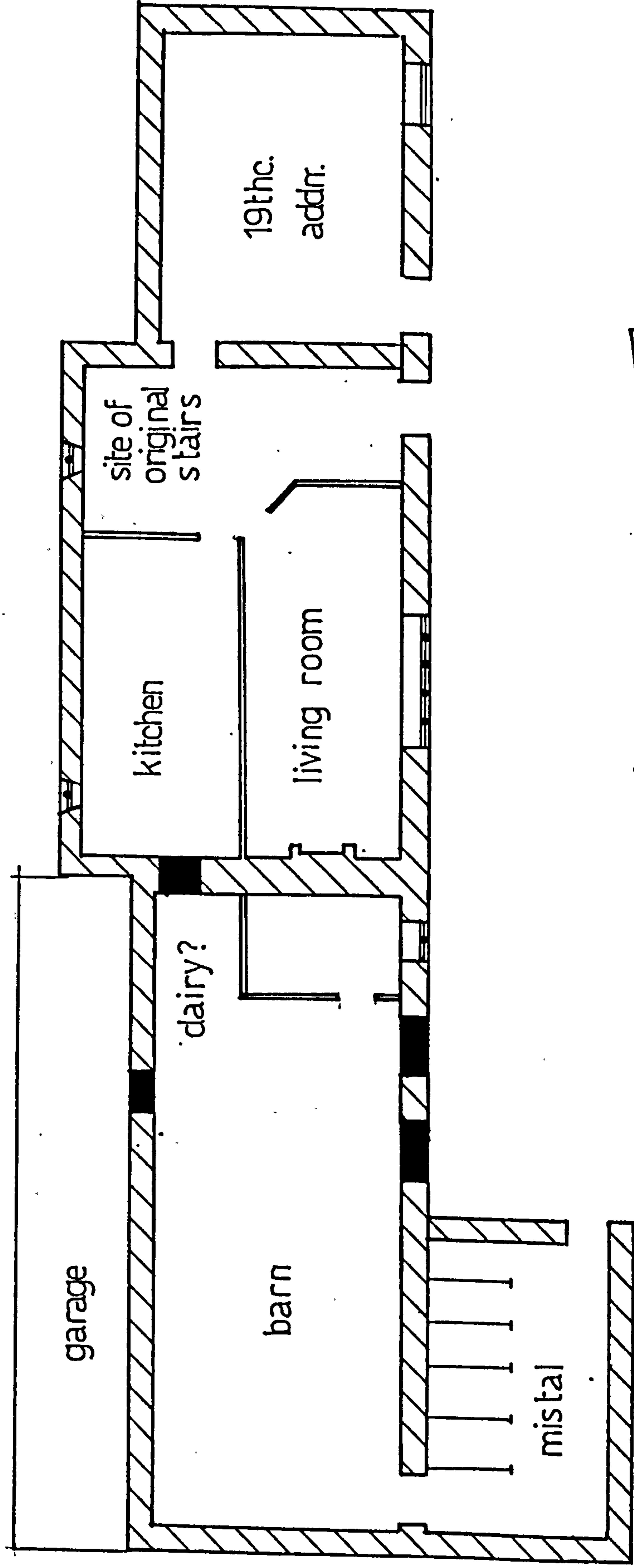
## The laithe

The majority of laithes have a simple rectangular plan, with a mistal to one end of the barn and a hay loft over the whole. There are a few examples, 20 noted in all, of laithes with two mistals facing each other across the wide wagon space. This occurs at Walton Hole in Silsden (fig. 23). 9 of these were recorded in Shibden Dale and are likely to be a result of the greater prosperity of that area. The only other variation on the overwhelmingly rectangular theme is where the mistal projects to the front of the laithe. Just 3 of these were noted; 2 in Northowram, for example at Hud Hill farm (fig. 32). The full laithe itself is usually built exactly in line with the house but there were 22 examples of laithes built projecting slightly forward of the house. This occurs at Moorfield farm in Barkisland (pl.15), giving a slight protection to the house, emphasising the separate components and alleviating an otherwise austere elevation.

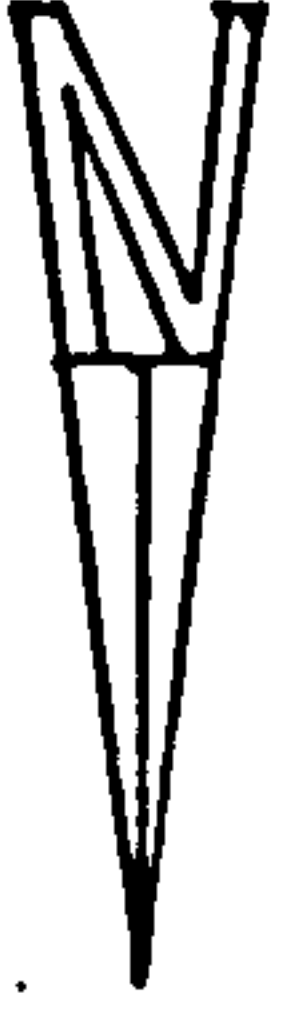
The most prominent feature of the laithe is its wide wagon entrance, the styles of which are discussed below. As far as the plan goes, we usually find a door in the opposite elevation, and it frequently takes the form of a small 'winnowing' door (about the size of a regular house door) used both to give access to the rear end and to create a through draught for winnowing wheat. The 'winnowing door' is by no means universal however. In the higher uplands, wheat was not grown so even where such a rear door is found it would have been an access door only, and possibly for loading hay direct from a rear field. This function was reported by the farmer at Nest farm in Scammonden, at Upper Woodlands in Northowram and others.

There were 64 examples of opposing doors specifically recorded, although there are likely to have been many more. The rear of a building, especially the agricultural part, was quite often not recorded in the briefer external surveys. 29 of those recorded were large wagon entrances serving the same function as the front door to the laithe. The other were of a size and shape to be described as 'winnowing', and some attempt was made to correlate the occurrence of these with the contour level. In fact, they occurred at heights ranging right across the scale, from 130-366 metres. 16 were at 250 metres and above, and it seems there are too many variables to make direct connections between the existence of these doors, contour height and wheat production. The question is further complicated by the introduction of the threshing machine from the late 18th.c.

Fig. 32 HUD HILL  
Northowram

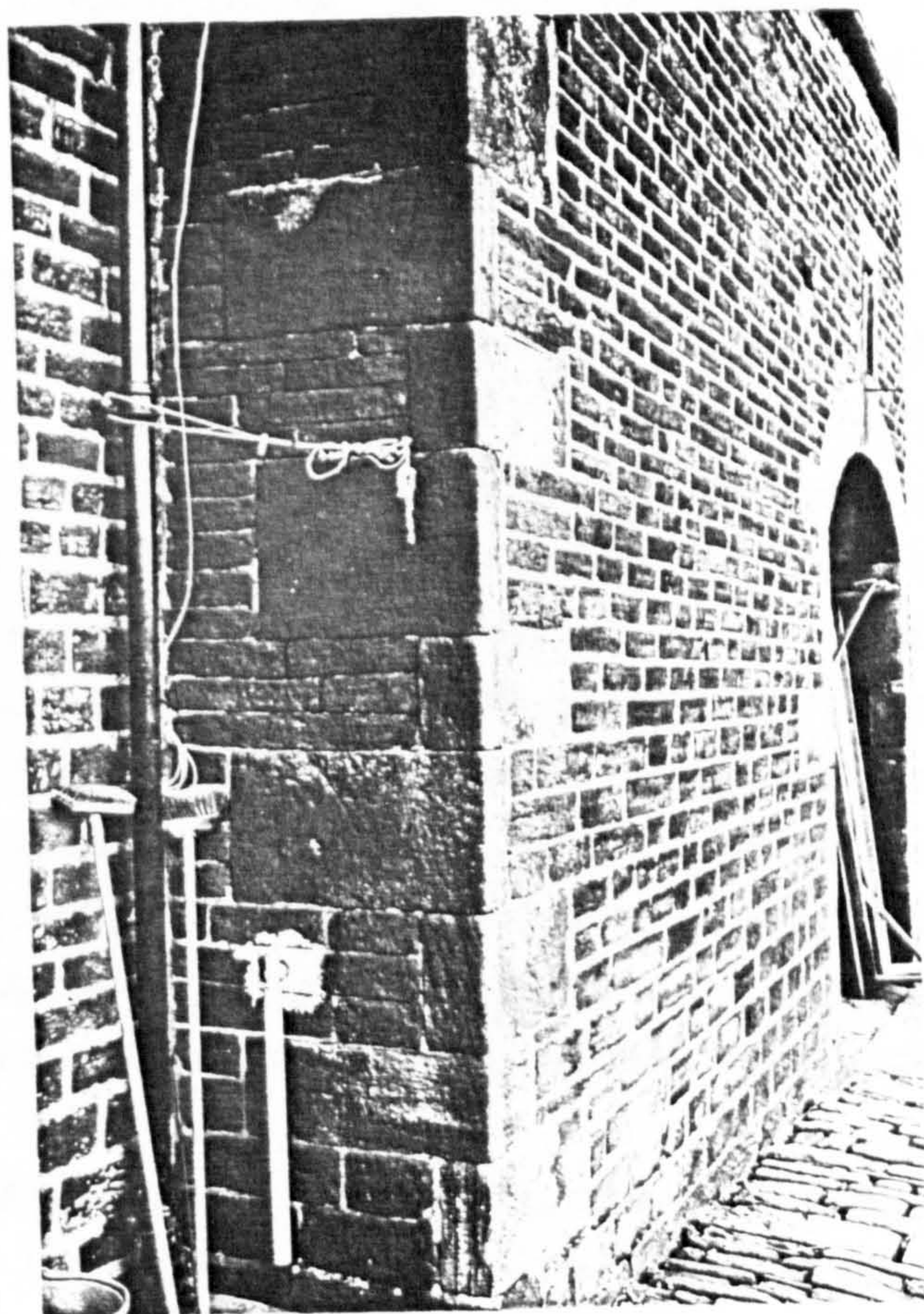


5 10ft.





Pl. 15a.  
Moorfield farm,  
Barkisland  
(SW. angle of  
laithe)



Pl. 15b. Moorfield farm, Barkisland.



### Details and decoration

Laithe houses were built of stone, usually square-cut ashlar or rubble, or a combination of the two with inferior stone to the rear, depending on the means of the builder. Moorfield farm (pl.15) illustrates the stonework most commonly found. Narrower coursed masonry became popular in the 18th.c. and out of 24 examples noted overall, 18 were recorded from this date period. There was a slight concentration (10 examples) in region 5, around Shibden Dale and Halifax, for example at Pepper Hill in Shelf (pl.16). This area also afforded 8 examples of 'watershot' masonry, a local technique designed to counteract the affects of rainfall weathering by laying the stone courses so that the top of each course slants out to deflect water. The technique spread beyond the Halifax area, with 4 examples noted around the Holme valley and 3 other examples scattered throughout the county, making 15 in all. There are a couple of early examples but the technique became more popular from the second half of the 18th.c., with 9 out of the 15 recorded being from that period. The photograph of the rear of Ringby farm at Northowram illustrates the 'watershot' technique (pl. 1).

Apart from the masonry itself, the most frequently used decorative stonework on laithe houses comes in the shape of copings, kneelers, quoins, string courses and label moulds. Roofs were almost without exception gabled and of stone slate, 84 examples of copings were noted and 49 of kneelers. Only 21 examples of string courses were noted. Of the 12 dated examples, 7 were of the early 19th.c. period and were used to alleviate the standardised simplicity of laithe houses in this main building period. Label moulds were almost exclusively confined to the pre-1700 period, 13 out of 17 examples, one being Lower North Royd in Northowram (pl. 8 ).

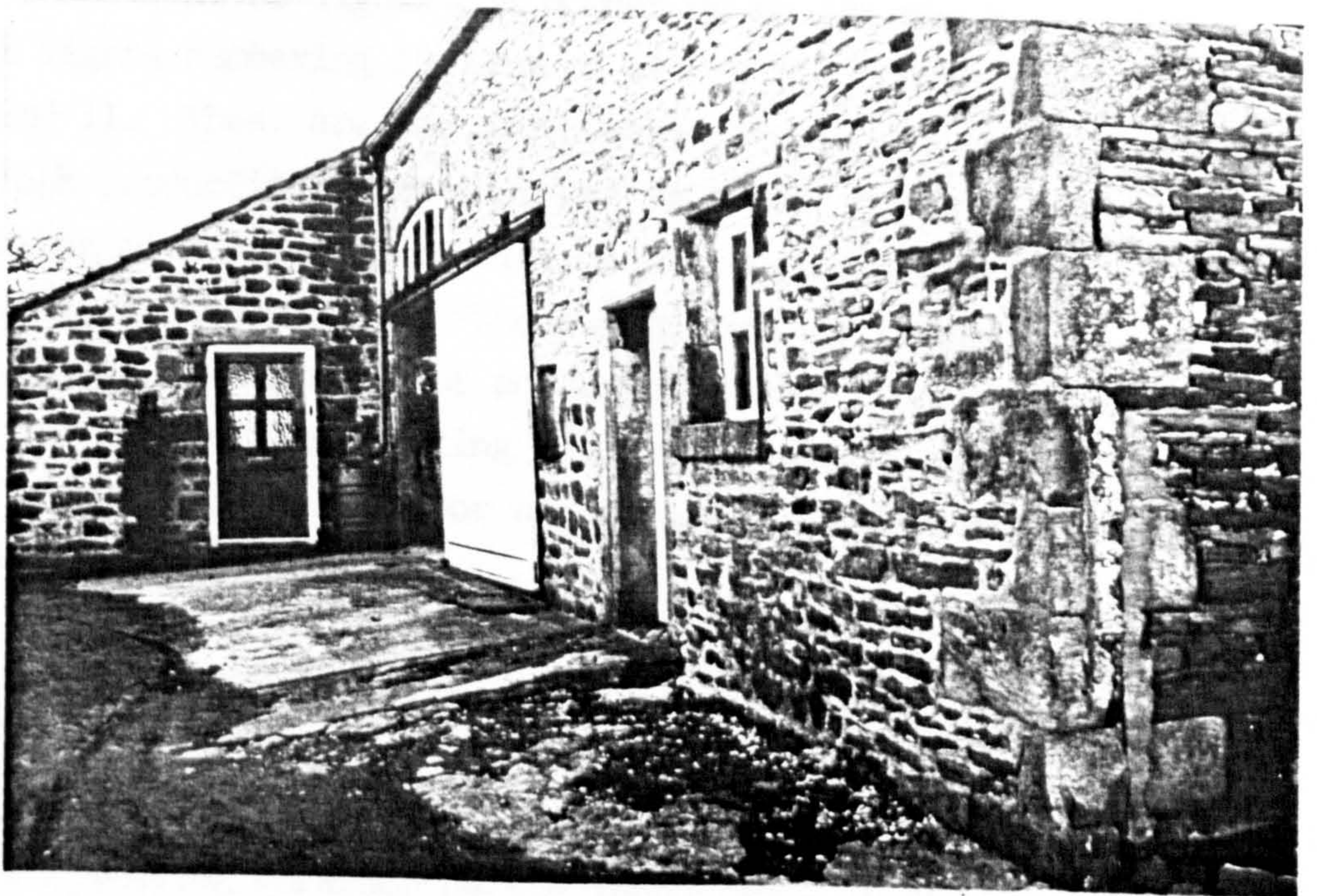
Quoins, the large square-cut stone blocks used to both strengthen and define the angles of the building, as at Moorfield (pl.15) were used extensively throughout all periods, with 109 examples noted. Early examples featured particularly massive quoins, as at Street farm in Addingham (pl.17 ). Raised and chamfered quoins became a more common decorative detail from the 19th.c.

Doors and windows are the most obvious functional feature which may be embellished by decoration. Most house entrances in the laithe





Pl. 16. Pepper Hill Top, Shelf



Pl. 17. Street farm, Addingham



house were very simple indeed; a square head with square-cut lintel and jambs, with or without simple porches ( a feature often added later for greater protection). The most significant category which deviates from this basic style occurred in the pre-1700 period where we find 10 examples of Tudor arched heads on heavy lintels, often with a datestone inscribed with the owner's initials and date of building, as at Cragg House in Addingham (pl. 2 ), inscribed "T A R 1699".

House window styles show some consistent patterns across time, with recessed splayed mullions most evident in the pre-1700 period (20 out of 28 dated examples) and flush square mullions increasingly dominant from the middle of the 18th.c. onwards.

Numbers of lights in mullioned windows varied, the most common of 3-5 lights, especially in the main laithe house building period from the middle of the 18th.c. 62 were noted in the 1751-1800 period, and 105 in the 100 years following. The highest number of 2 light mullioned windows occurred in the 1801-50 phase and are usually of

square section and flush with the wall surface. Lights were usually built wide enough to admit a sash window by this stage.

6 or more lights in mullioned windows often indicate weaving practice. These runs of lights can number up to 13; the 8 examples recorded of lights numbering 10-13 were all in the townships of regions 9 and 11. These are the south western uplands, the poorer areas of cloth production where wool was 'put out' to home weavers in contrast to the main areas of textile manufacturing processes, characteristic of Shibden Dale. Where long runs of lights are found, they sometimes carry right across the first floors of two or three terraced cottages, indicating a weaving workshop where the families lived on the ground floor and shared the well-lit weaving area upstairs.

Pl. 18 shows a laithe built at right angles to a terrace of 4 three-storey cottages at Long Ing in Austonley. Here the first and second floors, lit by a series of 3 and 4 light mullioned windows, were used as a weaving workshop by the inhabitants of the ground floor dwellings. The present occupant described there having been through doors right across the 4 cottages on both the upper stories.





Pl. 18. Long Ing, Austonley



Pl. 19. Upper Gate Croft, Addingham.



The most dominant feature of the laithe is the wide wagon entrance. Earlier examples were usually square-headed, sometimes porched, and taken up to the height of the eaves, for example at Upper Gate Croft (pl.19 ). After the 17th.c., the more common semi-circular arch headed style appears, and now the laithes are usually built high enough to admit a light between the arch and eaves. Apart from a few variations, these two main styles were remarkably consistent in date period, with the commonly adopted later style remaining virtually unchanged throughout the main period of laithe house building. A good example of the type is at New House (pl. 9 ). Later and poorer examples, as at Peatdyke farm, Allerton (pl.20.) had a minimal arched head and no stone dressings to the jambs, unlike the more usual segmental arch with raised keystone and square-cut jambs and tiestones. Examples are found at New House (pl.9..) and Whitestone Clough in Sowerby (pl.4 ).

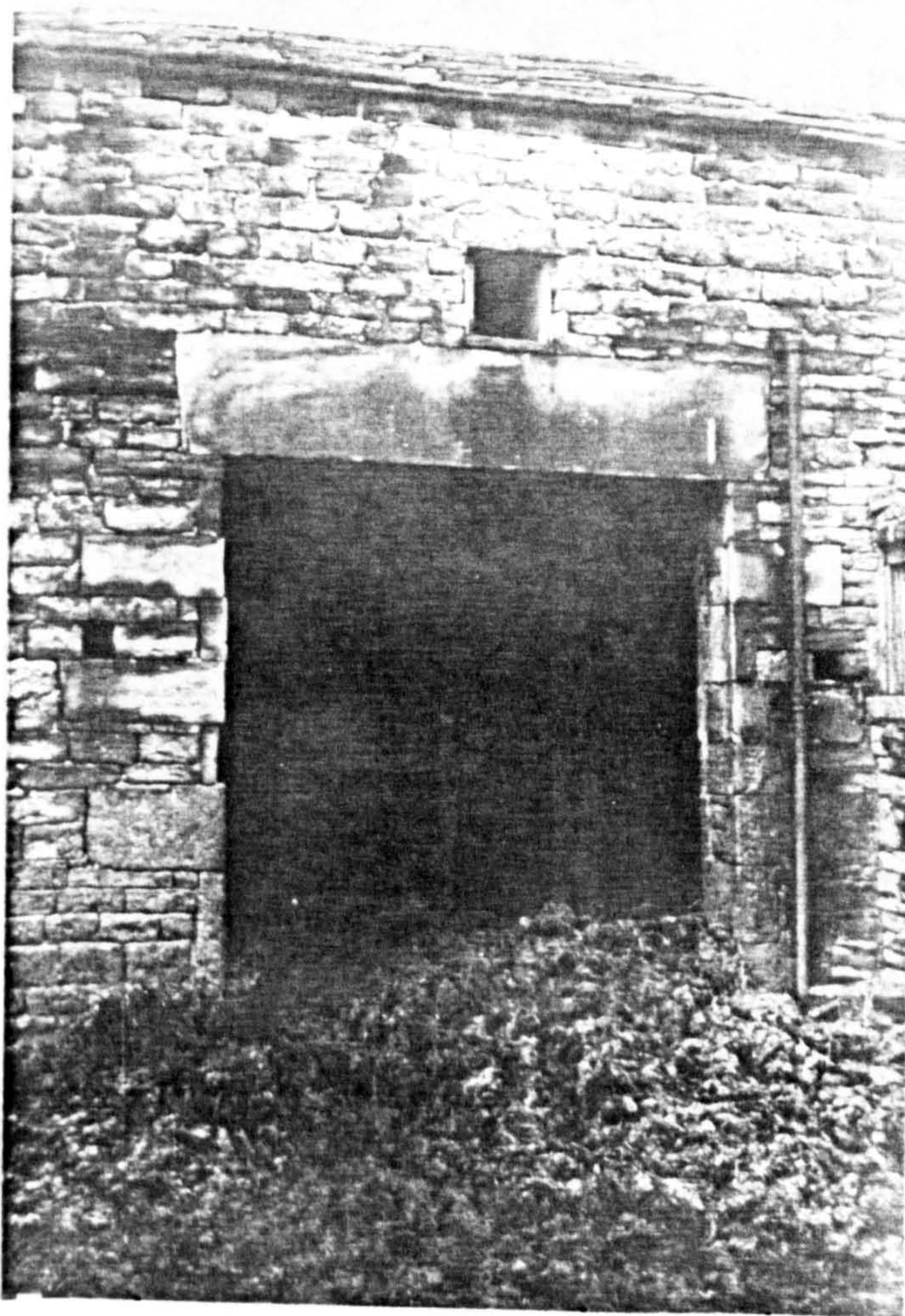
The combination of arched wagon door and more or less decorative window set above it gives the laithe house a characteristic appearance. Analysis of the most common window forms noted placed the small square single light well ahead with 57 examples, for example at Pyche Nook in Allerton (pl.21 ). Its popularity was obviously a result of ease of construction. However, the Venetian window (as illustrated at Springfields in Stainland, pl.5 .) which must be regarded as a stylistic feature, had 21 examples recorded mainly from the Halifax region and from the end of the 18th.c.

Four other common styles, numbering 14-16 examples each, were the false stone arch as at Spring Hall farm in Thornton (pl.22 ) and its simpler variations of single light with arched head. Lunettes, as typified by those at Nab farm in Stainland (pl.23 ) and 2 light stone mullioned window like those appearing on the dwelling part of laithe houses. There were also 10 examples of rectangular vents and these appear quite often as other openings in the laithe. Lunettes (24 examples) and single square lights (44 examples) were the most common types to appear in other parts of the laithe, as well as arched windows and ovuli (i.e. round 'owl holes'), 7 of which appear as lights over the barn door. There were only isolated examples of mullioned windows and Venetian windows





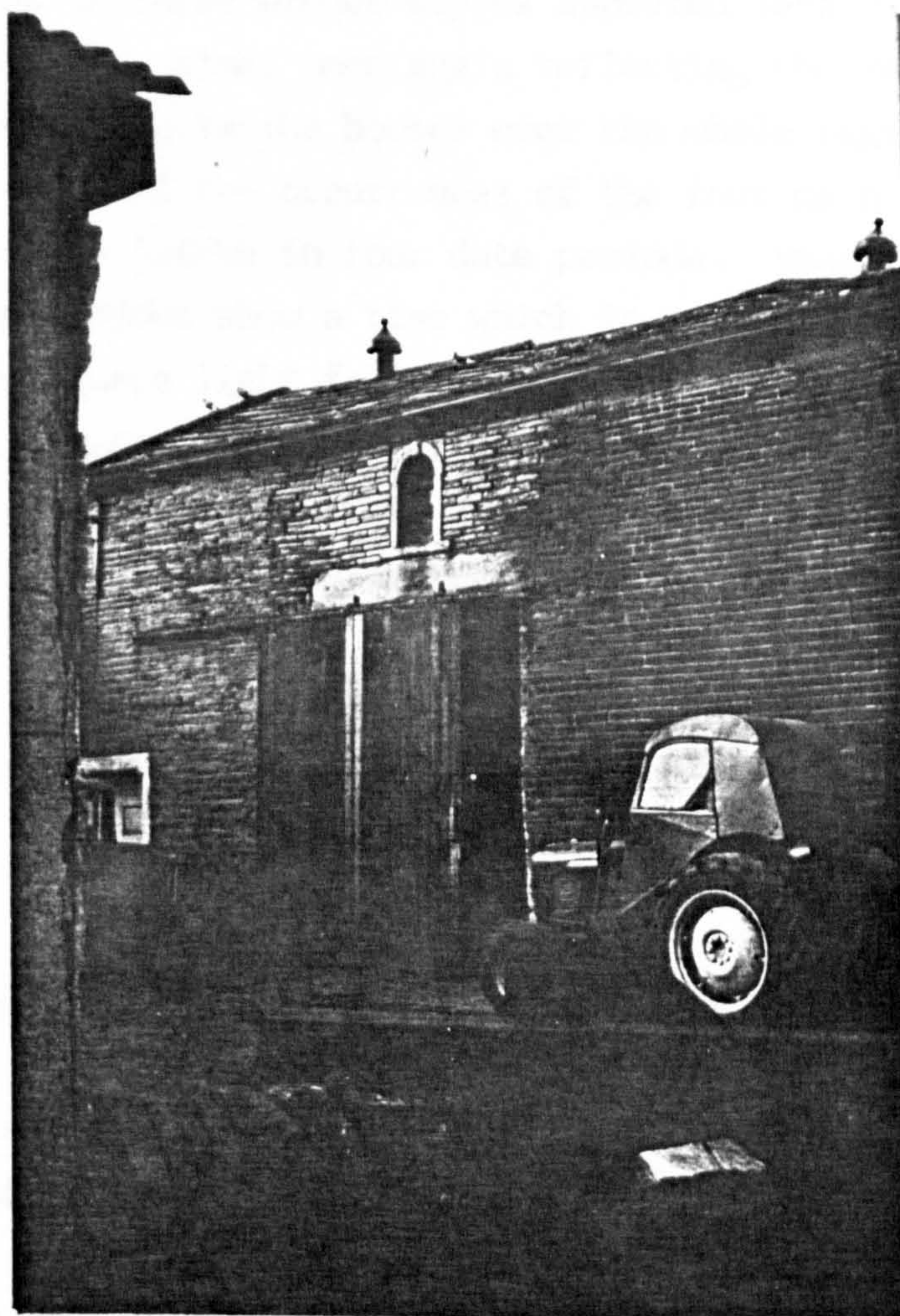
Pl. 20. Peatdyke, Allerton.



Pl. 21.

Pyche Nook,  
Allerton.  
(laithe door)





Pl. 22.  
Spring Hall  
Thornton.  
(arched light  
over laithe  
door)



Pl. 23. Nab farm, Stainland.



appearing elsewhere other than over the wagon entrance. Regional differences in these window styles appeared less significant than differences over time, once again reflecting the remarkable consistency of styles in laithe houses over the whole region.

Looking at the occurrences of the four main styles of windows in the laithe in four date periods, venetian, lunettes and arched windows show a rise which is continuous through 200 years; the square light falls in popularity after a sharp peak in the late 18th.c. Classical elements become more popular in vernacular architecture as time went on, and the laithe house was no exception. From the late 18th.c. and increasingly in the 19th.c., classical details like lunettes and Venetian windows are featured, and classical influence is also felt in the increased symmetry of layout and the appearance of front elevations in particular.

#### Additions and alterations

Many alterations and additions to both house and laithe were recorded. A brief analysis of the most common forms these alterations took indicates some changing trends in agricultural practice and accommodation.

The most common alteration to the dwelling was an increase in facilities and comfort. In the recorded examples, 42 additions were built onto the house rear and 45 to the gable end. In most cases these additions extended the service areas. The addition of a projecting porch over the main entrance was ubiquitous, and there were 14 examples of extensions to the front of the house, either in the form of an extended porch or lobby or, more rarely, simply to extend the living accommodation. There were also several examples where intervening lights in long runs of mullioned windows were blocked, indicating the decline in home weaving, especially in the townships south of the Calder and in the Holme valley where so much of the home industry had taken place.

The laithe featured more alterations, indicating both increases and decreases in farming practice. 74 additions were noted, almost half being extensions to the gable end, i.e. the mistal, to give extra accommodation for cattle. 39 of the additions were to the front of the laithe and, on examination so far, appear to have

fulfilled the same function.

Conversely, there were 41 examples of mistal doors blocked, indicating that while in some cases dairy farmers were extending their production, others were reducing or abandoning theirs. There were 41 examples of wagon entrances wholly or partly blocked, giving evidence of all agricultural practice being reduced or discontinued. A few of these examples had been replaced with a rear door, but more usually the laithe area had been taken over as a garage or general storage area. More evidence of reduced agricultural practice was noted in 20 cases where the laithe had been partially converted to house accommodation, and a further 7 cases where the laithe had been completely taken over. The general picture of decline in laithe house building and use as viable agricultural producing concerns is added to by the number of examples left derelict. I noted 18 specific examples, together with 6 where the laithe only had been left derelict while the house continued in use.

Added to these were reports from farmers in several of the more outlying laithe house areas. These suggest a much larger scale of derelict and vanished farms than standing evidence shows. For example, long-term owners of the outlying farms in Allerton, Marsden and Scamonden all described laithe houses whose lands must have been the last encroachments onto the moors, judging by their reported sites which have since completely disappeared. Also, latter day building has wiped away many farms closer to township centres, at least some of which were likely to be laithe houses, judging by their size and shape on first edition Ordnance Survey maps.

The whole adds up to a picture of declining agricultural practice, a direct result of the agricultural depression of the late 19th.c. Some farms held their own successfully and expanded, usually through increased dairy practice or, less commonly, pig farming, while many others were abandoned or converted to dwellings only. The laithe house farms suffered two-fold in this respect due to their particular dependence on textile manufacture, also declining, as well as agriculture.



## Summary

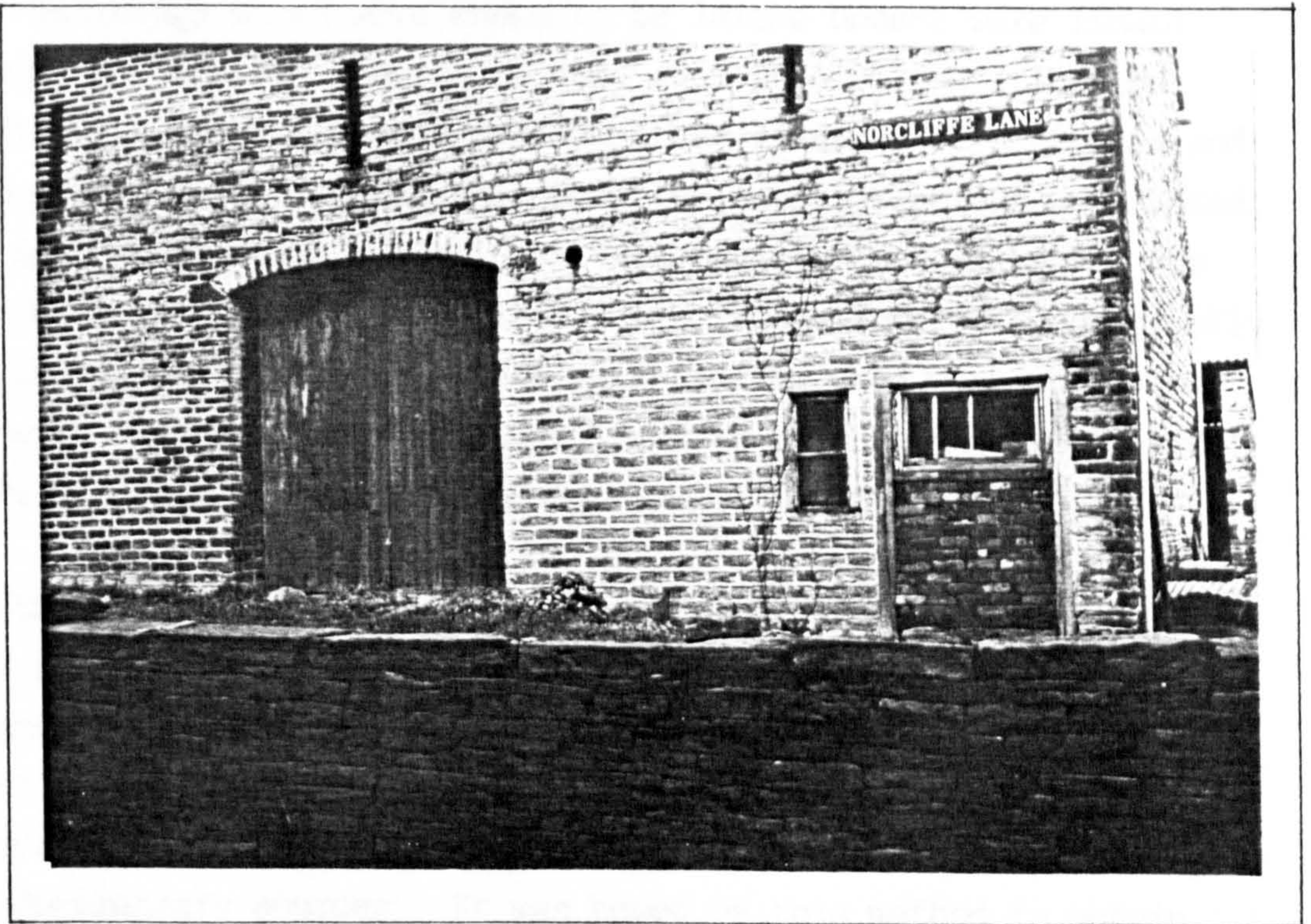
If we look back at the general section on West Yorkshire building, it becomes clear that the laithe house followed the local trends of vernacular architecture completely. The linear plan developed into the double pile plan with central axis, 2-unit types with small rear services became increasingly common. Cottage accommodation, whether attached to a laithe or not, was associated with mining and stone quarrying while weavers' windows showed how often occupants of laithe houses were involved in that staple industry.

Details of watershot masonry, projecting quoins, kneelers and copings appear on laithe houses in exactly the same way as on houses with separate agricultural buildings. Similarly, the laithe house followed the same trends over time of splayed to rectangular section door and window surrounds, or square to arched barn doors. In fact, the laithes of the laithe houses followed the same styles as free-standing laithes and we have many examples of separate laithes like the one at Street House farm in Addingham (pl. 3 ) which is identical in form to an attached laithe as at Little Marsh, Southowram (pl. 25 ).

In every way, the laithe house has developed exactly on the lines of its separate components. This suggests it belonged not to a long-house tradition of dual-purpose dwelling but firmly within the traditions of common housing which developed in the county. In the light of this, the fact of its conception as an entity may be less relevant than the distinct developments of its two components, those developments belonging to the mainstream of vernacular architecture and the two components brought together as a measure of convenience and economy. Difficulties of climate and limited land in the upland areas would render the combining of the two elements useful, and thus it would be widely adopted.

The documentary information and detailed surveys which follow include an examination of why the laithe house form was not universal in upland areas and what functional and social distinctions there were between laithe and non-laithe houses.





Pl. 24. Little Marsh farm, Southowram (laithe front)



DOCUMENTARY OVERVIEW AND THE CENSUS RETURNS

Physical factors of geographical location and date of building were the background to the preceding architectural survey. Human factors of ownership and occupancy were the subject of investigation into the documentary sources, as the status and occupations of house builders and tenants directly reflect the social and economic functions of the laithe house.

All buildings which were known to be laithe houses were linked with as many documentary sources as were available. Identification of specific houses was the main problem after location of scattered and random sources. On the whole, only positive identifications were noted, although some comparative overall analysis was also undertaken in the case of wide scale returns, e.g. land tax. These latter did not usually identify individual properties. The main sources used were the tithe and enclosure awards, land tax returns, estate records and information from commercial directories. (See MS section of the Bibliography).

In the event, the disparate nature of most of the evidence collected at this level could give little more than a random view to the background to the laithe houses. Specific surveys into selected areas were undertaken. These areas were chosen on the basis of their geographical spread throughout the county and the relative uniformity of their documentary sources. It was hoped by this method to obtain fuller, more meaningful results at an intensive level, using the random results of the extensive documentary survey to 'fill out' the picture at the final discussion. These specific surveys are described in section III.

The census returns were the only source to provide a reasonably uniform picture on an extensive scale. An analysis of this source follows as a background to the architectural overview. The first good census returns were compiled in 1841, so this year was used as a foundation for analysis. 455 dwellings known to be laithe houses were searched for, yielding positive identifications in 161 cases, a proportion of one-third. Of the other two-thirds, either the houses did not appear under their appropriate townships, had not been built by 1841 or were listed in such a way as to make specific identification

impossible. In this latter case, the most common problems occurred where several dwellings, sometimes up to 20 or 30, were listed under an area's name, e.g. 'Wood Royd' or 'Bank Top', or where all the houses in a road would be listed but no house number given, e.g. the laithe house at 203, Slades Road, Golcar was impossible to identify in "Slades Road".

As a framework for easier manipulation and comparison, the regional divisions used in the architectural overview were used. Table 5 shows a breakdown of the numbers of houses identified in the 1841 census, within each region and with the numbers of households alongside. For the purposes of this distinction, the whole building or farmstead is referred to as the 'dwelling' and the separate families within it (living in one house or in adjoining houses) as the 'household'. The table shows a definite pattern of two or more households per dwelling or adjoining dwellings, and the components of those combined households are looked at throughout the analysis, although later, more detailed census returns suggest at least some of these 'adjoining' dwellings to be in fact separate (see below).

The first stage in analysing the data from these 161 records of laithe house occupants in 1841 was to examine the occupations of the heads of households. 311 occupations were noted and Table 6 lists them by region. Although farming appears to be the prime occupation for heads of households, when one takes all the textile trades together they add up to a much greater overall total. Outside these two dominant groups there are few examples beyond a handful of coal and stone workers. Totals of occupations for all family members plus heads of households reinforces the picture (Table 7). Within the households, textile workers number about 5 times those engaged in agriculture, giving overall figures of over 3 times as many laithe house occupants engaged in textile manufacturing over farming.

The next stage was to match as many of these examples as possible with the architectural records to ascertain those which could be identified as adjoining or associated dwellings in both census return and architectural record. The examples where one dwelling correlates with one household were also included. 115 dwellings were thus matched, as shown in Table 8. Linking occupations where there was one household



Table 5.LAI THE HOUSES IDENTIFIED IN THE 1841 CENSUS

| Region | Number of<br>laithe houses<br>recorded | Number of<br>households |
|--------|--|-------------------------|
| 1      | 4                                      | 6                       |
| 2      | -                                      | -                       |
| 3      | 11                                     | 21                      |
| 4      | -                                      | -                       |
| 5      | 47                                     | 87                      |
| 6      | 5                                      | 12                      |
| 7      | 19                                     | 33                      |
| 8      | -                                      | -                       |
| 9      | 33                                     | 64                      |
| 10     | 5                                      | 13                      |
| 11     | 29                                     | 61                      |
| 12     | 8                                      | 20                      |
| Totals | 161                                    | 317                     |

Source: The census returns for 1841,  
West Riding of Yorkshire.

Table 6.

OCCUPATIONS OF LAITHE HOUSE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS, 1841

| REG-<br>ION | OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS |      |         |             |       |       |      |       |                |     |       |        |       |
|-------------|---------------------|------|---------|-------------|-------|-------|------|-------|----------------|-----|-------|--------|-------|
|             | Farm                | Wool | Worsted | Cott<br>-on | Cloth | Stone | Coal | Smith | Carp-<br>enter | Inn | Trade | School | Other |
| (1)         | 4                   | 1    | -       | 1           | -     | -     | -    | -     | -              | -   | -     | -      | -     |
| (2)         | -                   | -    | -       | -           | -     | -     | -    | -     | -              | -   | -     | -      | -     |
| (3)         | 8                   | 6    | 3       | -           | -     | 1     | 3    | -     | -              | -   | 1     | -      | -     |
| (4)         | -                   | -    | -       | -           | -     | -     | -    | -     | -              | -   | -     | -      | -     |
| (5)         | 33                  | 13   | 13      | 1           | 12    | 4     | 1    | -     | 1              | -   | 3     | 1      | 1     |
| (6)         | 6                   | 2    | 1       | -           | 2     | -     | -    | -     | -              | -   | -     | -      | 2     |
| (7)         | 16                  | 2    | 6       | -           | 5     | 2     | -    | -     | -              | -   | 1     | -      | 1     |
| (8)         | -                   | -    | -       | -           | -     | -     | -    | -     | -              | -   | -     | -      | -     |
| (9)         | 15                  | 6    | -       | -           | 32    | 1     | -    | -     | 2              | 2   | 1     | -      | 2     |
| (10)        | 3                   | 1    | -       | -           | 7     | -     | -    | -     | -              | -   | 1     | -      | -     |
| (11)        | 21                  | 28   | -       | -           | 3     | -     | -    | 1     | 1              | 1   | 1     | -      | 1     |
| (12)        | 2                   | 10   | -       | -           | 3     | -     | 1    | -     | 1              | -   | 1     | -      | 2     |
| TOT-<br>ALS | 108                 | 69   | 23      | 2           | 64    | 8     | 5    | 1     | 5              | 3   | 9     | 1      | 9     |

158

Source: The census returns for 1841, West Riding of Yorkshire.



Table 7.OCCUPATIONS OF LAITHE HOUSE INHABITANTS, 1841.

| Occupational groups | Totals for members of households | Totals for household heads | Combined totals |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| FARMING             | 44 +                             | 108                        | = 152           |
| TEXTILES            | 211 +                            | 158                        | = 369           |
| STONE               | 7 +                              | 8                          | = 15            |
| OTHERS              | 6 +                              | 33                         | = 39            |

Source: The census returns for 1841, West Riding of Yorkshire.

Table 8.NUMBERS OF HOUSEHOLDS AND DWELLINGS, 1841

| Region | Number of dwellings | Number of households | Breakdown of households |      |     |     |
|--------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------|-----|-----|
| 1      | 3                   | 3                    | 3x1                     |      |     |     |
| 2      |                     |                      |                         |      |     |     |
| 3      | 7                   | 10                   | 5x1                     | 1x2  | 1x3 |     |
| 4      |                     |                      |                         |      |     |     |
| 5      | 36                  | 61                   | 14x1                    | 20x2 | 1x3 | 1x4 |
| 6      | 3                   | 8                    |                         | 2x2  |     | 1x4 |
| 7      | 16                  | 21                   | 6x1                     | 5x2  |     |     |
| 8      |                     |                      |                         |      |     |     |
| 9      | 24                  | 32                   | 9x1                     | 6x2  | 1x3 |     |
| 10     | 1                   | 2                    | 2x1                     |      |     |     |
| 11     | 20                  | 28                   | 12x1                    | 8x2  |     |     |
| 12     | 5                   | 8                    | 2x1                     | 3x2  |     |     |
| Totals | 115                 | 173                  | 53x1                    | 45x2 | 3x3 | 2x4 |

Source: The census returns of 1841, West Riding of Yorkshire. .



only, farming predominated with a total of 33 listed for the heads of households. Cloth still showed a high figure, totalling 22 with wool, worsted and cotton taken together. The other 5 were miscellaneous trades.

Of the 48 examples of two households together in one dwelling, only one had a farmers as the heads in both households. The overwhelming majority had a farmer as head of one household and a cloth worker as the head of the other. There were 29 examples of this, with the next largest category combining two heads of households in the cloth trade, numbering 9 in all. Only one example had neither cloth nor farming as the occupation of either head of household. In the 3 examples of three households combined, 2 had a farmer plus 2 cloth workers, the other 3 had cloth workers. The two examples of 4 households combined had one with 2 farmers plus 2 of independent means, the other had 2 cloth workers, one independent and one hawker.

The whole picture is dominated by the two main occupations of textiles and farming, textiles<sup>being</sup> of overriding economic significance with farming providing the basic subsistence.

In these combined households of more than one family, almost half (23 out of 50) were related families, the most usual combination (11 examples) being of father and son living in adjoining households. This occurred at Whitestone Clough in Sowerby (pl. 4) where Eli Lumb, a 65 year old farmer lived with his wife in a house adjoining that of his son David, a 35 year old mason, his wife, a daughter of 15 who was a weaver, and 6 other children. The other combinations were of brother and sister (5 examples), brother and brother (4 examples) and mother and son (3 examples). From these cases it would seem some practice of partible inheritance (as discussed in section I) was carried out.

These 23 examples show a common pattern of a household head working the farm, his son making his living by textile manufacture (or less commonly, by other local trade) presumably as a result of the limited size of holding which could not support two families by farming alone (for actual farm sizes, see evidence from later census returns, below). In the brother/brother combinations, one brother took on the farm and the other worked in textiles; in the brother/sister combinations the brother took the farm and the sister worked in textiles. In the 3

examples of mother and son living in adjoining properties, the mother (a widow in each case) had taken over the farm from her husband and the son supplemented the family income by work in the cloth trade.

Conversely, there is some evidence of sons and brothers moving to different properties. No analysis of this was undertaken, the problems of identifying migration of family members being too complex for this study, but some random examples within townships were noted. These included the following;

- a) John Waterhouse, clothier, lived at Gilbert's farm in Marsden; his son John (also a clothier) at Far Owers in Marsden and another son Matthew (again a clothier) at Peter's farm in Marsden.
- b) Joseph Dyson, a weaver, lived at Green Hills farm in Marsden while his brother Robert, also a weaver, lived at Netherwood farm in Marsden
- c) John Horsfield was the farmer at Upper Mytholm in Midgley while his son Jonathan was a worsted weaver at Hoyle Bank in Midgley.
- d) Henry Sutcliffe and his son William occupied two different dwellings at Hoyle Bank in Midgley, while Henry's brother lived at Upper Han Royd in Midgely.

All the properties mentioned above are laithe houses identified in the 1841 census.

Even such random evidence suggests that while some properties were being divided between heirs, in other families the heirs moved off to occupy different properties. If partible inheritance existed in these areas it was by no means universal.

Summarising all the evidence so far, it would appear that the 'typical' laithe house was built by a landowner on newly-enclosed land in the late 18th. or early 19th.c., with accommodation for one or two households (in some cases extra accommodation being added later), rented out to a farmer and family and a clothworker and family, or a similar arrangement generated within a tenant farmer's family who supplemented the bare subsistence of these smallholdings by income from the cloth trade.

Family sizes and household sizes were also analysed.



'The family' comprises the household head, his wife and children, together with any parents, brothers or sisters who were living with them. The 'household' also included lodgers, servants and their respective children. It may be assumed that while the presence of servants suggests slightly greater wealth, lodgers represent less, as they would be taken to supplement the household income. In order to calculate the family sizes by region, the total of family members was divided by the number of households in that region. The results are shown on Table 9 and give the size range from 3.8 (region 6) to 7 (region 1) with an overall average of @ 5.5, somewhat larger than the modern average family size. Household sizes ranged from 4.1 (in region 6) to 7 (region 1) giving an overall average of 6, revealing a low incidence of servants and lodgers.

Looking at these totals more closely, the households were enlarged by lodgers rather than servants, 71 lodgers but only 10 servants. Of the 71 lodgers, areas 5 and 11 in particular had high totals, 24 and 17 respectively, and it is no coincidence that the occupations of these lodgers were concentrated in cloth working. There were 26 examples of these, the next large group being 18 examples where the occupation was not stated and seems mainly to be young girls who possibly could be classed as servants, helping out with domestic duties in return for board and lodging. It would be a similar case with the 9 examples of farm labourers. Of the other 7 lodgers noted, one was a pauper, one a pensioner, the others in various local trades.

To complete the documentary overview using census information, a sample was taken from the 1881 census returns. This came at the end of the laithe house building period and, together with supplementary information from a small agricultural census taken in Elland in 1915-16, indicates some trends in the economic and agricultural life of the laithe house occupants.

Using the 1841 analysis as a base, 69 examples of laithe houses were identified from the 1881 census, being an average of 7 or 8 from each of 9 regions. The data from this sample was used to compare with that found in the 1841 returns. However, one additional piece of information was afforded by the later census, as 51 of the 96 examples gave details of farm sizes in acres. These ranged from 3-40 acres,

Table 9.FAMILY AND HOUSEHOLD SIZES, 1841

| Region | Family size | Household size | Lodgers | Servants |
|--------|-------------|----------------|---------|----------|
| (1)    | 7           | 7              | -       | -        |
| (2)    | -           | -              | -       | -        |
| (3)    | 6           | 6.3            | 0.2     | 0.1      |
| (4)    | -           | -              | -       | -        |
| (5)    | 5.2         | 5.6            | 0.4     | -        |
| (6)    | 3.8         | 4.1            | 0.25    | -        |
| (7)    | 6.1         | 4.1            | 0.22    | 0.04     |
| (8)    | -           | -              | -       | -        |
| (9)    | 5.9         | 6.3            | 0.15    | 0.12     |
| (10)   | -           | -              | -       | -        |
| (11)   | 4.3         | 5.3            | 0.9     | 0.1      |
| (12)   | 5.4         | 6.2            | 0.75    | 0.12     |

Source: The census returns for 1841, West Riding of Yorkshire



with the majority (34 examples) falling in the 12-30 acres range, giving an overall average of 18.3 acres. This reinforces the picture of the association of the laithe house with smaller holdings, slightly larger in the rich Shibden Dale and Wharfedale areas, smaller in the western uplands.

Looking at the 69 examples, the breakdown in terms of households was; 45x1, 16x2, 6x3 and 2x4. The higher proportion of single households as compared with the 1841 statistics would most likely be the result of more specific recording methods, listing different dwellings under different names. Analysis of 94 recorded occupations of heads of households (Table 10) showed farming to be almost completely dominant. There were 73 examples compared with only 10 of textiles, 8 stone workers and 3 others. Where there was more than one household, farmer living alongside another farmer (6 examples) was as common as farmer with stoneworker or textile manufacturer. In only one case were two textile workers listed as household heads at the same dwelling. Textile workers show a much higher figure among household members, but the overall totals including the heads still give farming predominance, totalling overall almost twice as many as those engaged in textile manufacture.

Compared with the picture given in the 1841 census, farming has taken precedence among laithe house occupants, and although textiles retain a prominent place, especially within households, these figures reveal a marked decline in its importance to the economic life of farms as represented by the laithe house. Certainly over the 40 years spanning these returns, textile manufacture had shifted away from the home industry on the farms and into the mills whose workers were increasingly more likely to live in purpose-built terraced workers' houses near the village centres and the mills themselves.

Looking again at 'combined' households of more than one family, only 2 out of 24 thus recorded showed any family relationship, a far different picture from the 1841 return. As a control check, a specific study of all the 1881 returns located for the laithe houses in Allerton (Bradfordale) was undertaken. Of the 21 laithe houses thus identified, 7 were combined households and only 2 of these had heads of households who were related. One was a father and son combination, the other a father and brother, and all were farmers.

Table 10.OCCUPATIONS OF LAITHE HOUSE INHABITANTS, 1881

| Occupational<br>groups | Heads of<br>households | Other<br>inhabitants | Totals |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------|
| FARMING                | 73                     | 31                   | 104    |
| TEXTILES               | 10                     | 52                   | 62     |
| STONE                  | 8                      | 6                    | 14     |
| OTHER                  | 3                      | 6                    | 9      |

Source: The census returns of 1881., West Riding of Yorkshire.



From a further sample of 41 returns for a mixture of laithe and non-laithe houses in Austonley, 20 were combined households of two or more, yet these yielded only 2 examples of related families living in proximity (2 brothers in both cases) although there were 13 examples of related family members living in completely separate properties in Austonley (usually brothers). The conclusion seems to be that, between 1841 and 1881, there was a trend to single rather than multiple households. Random architectural evidence of conversions, blocked doorways and so on, suggests that one family of the two eventually took over the whole property, converting it to a single dwelling when the other family moved out. This may be interpreted as more evidence for these smallholdings being unable to support two families, and the decline in textile manufacture also took away a secondary source of income which would have supported dual households.

Finally in this general overview, information <sup>about</sup> the laithe houses some 20 years after the last of them was built emerged from a brief analysis of the agricultural census of the Elland area in 1915-16 (40). This census had been designed to gather information about livestock and crops of each farm in that area, along with details of occupants and their trades and details of anyone serving in the armed forces. Details of 32 laithe houses were extracted from this census in the following townships;

Shelf (8 examples), Northowram (15 examples), Stainland (9 examples)

This census gives a specific breakdown not only of farm sizes but also of the type of land which was farmed, stating amounts of arable, pasture and meadow for each holding. The 8 laithe houses at Shelf had an average acreage of 14 and all were composed of permanent grass. The average of Stainland was slightly higher at 17 acres, including 2 farms with very small amounts of arable land as well as grass. The laithe houses for Northowram were compared with details of 27 non-laithe house farms which were also included in the census. The laithe houses had an average acreage of 22.5; the non-laithe houses 24 acres, showing little significant difference although the main size range was larger for the non-laithe houses (7-40 acres) compared with the laithe houses (10-30 acres). What did emerge was that whereas only one laithe house farmed anything other than permanent grass, 7 non-laithe houses had substantial proportions of arable land and some market gardens.



The conclusions from the 1881 return and this of 1915 must be that laithe houses were associated with holdings of slightly smaller and certainly more defined size, and concerned more exclusively with dairy rather than arable farming, the latter being more the province of non-laithe houses. As a further note on farm practice, analysis of the livestock held at each farm in the 1915 census emphasises the importance of dairying by this time.

A typical laithe house farm in any of the areas would have a dairy herd of about 8 cattle, one or occasionally 2 horses, a few pigs (these ranged widely from one only in the poorer area of Stainland to almost 20 reared on farms in Northowram and Shelf). There appeared to be one plough team per township, and no sheep associated with laithe houses in any area. A brief comparison of the livestock at laithe and non-laithe houses in Northowram shows similar emphasis on cattle rearing and dairying. Differences were found in the slightly higher numbers of pigs and horses kept at non-laithe house farms, reflecting the added agricultural wealth in some cases. The one flock of sheep at Northowram was also associated with a non-laithe house.

Table 11 lists the occupations of heads of households as recorded in the census. Farming, especially dairy farming, together with cattle and pig rearing, almost completely dominate. By this time there are only 3 examples of trades associated with textiles. The picture is that of some farms continuing on a subsistence level, or supplementary income with another trade, and a handful of other trades which have taken precedence over farming as the main occupation. Textile manufacture is barely associated with home industry by this stage. The most marked increase is in dairy or pig farming, as we have already seen from architectural evidence of additions to the laithe house mistals.

Occupations of other members of the households (not shown on Table 11) were almost exclusively concerned with assistance on the farm or with domestic duties. There was only one example of a textile worker. Similarly, all the recorded casual labourers assisted with farm work, and the male workers then serving in the armed forces all had their usual occupations listed as agricultural. Clearly, the close integration of these farms with other trades had largely broken down, the life on the farms now being almost exclusively agricultural.



Table 11.OCCUPATIONS OF LAITHE HOUSE HEADS OF HOUSEHOLDS, 1915.

| <u>Township</u> | <u>Occupation</u>       | <u>Number</u> |
|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| SHELF           | Farmer (full-time)      | 4             |
|                 | Farmer/dyeworker        | 1             |
|                 | Ploughmen foreman       | 1             |
|                 | Milkdealer              | 1             |
|                 | Pigdealer               | 1             |
| STAINLAND       | Farmer (full-time)      | 2             |
|                 | Farmer/dairyman         | 1             |
|                 | Cowman                  | 1             |
|                 | Blacksmith              | 1             |
|                 | Cloth finisher          | 1             |
|                 | Woolspinner             | 1             |
|                 | Engine dealer           | 1             |
| NORTHOWRAM      | Farmer (full-time)      | 7             |
|                 | Farmer/pig breeder      | 1             |
|                 | Farmer/cattle dealer    | 1             |
|                 | Farmer/munitions worker | 1             |
|                 | Farmer/mason            | 1             |
|                 | Cowman                  | 1             |
|                 | Woolbuyer               | 1             |
|                 | Auctioneer              | 1             |
|                 | Plasterer               | 1             |
| TOTAL           |                         | <u>31</u>     |

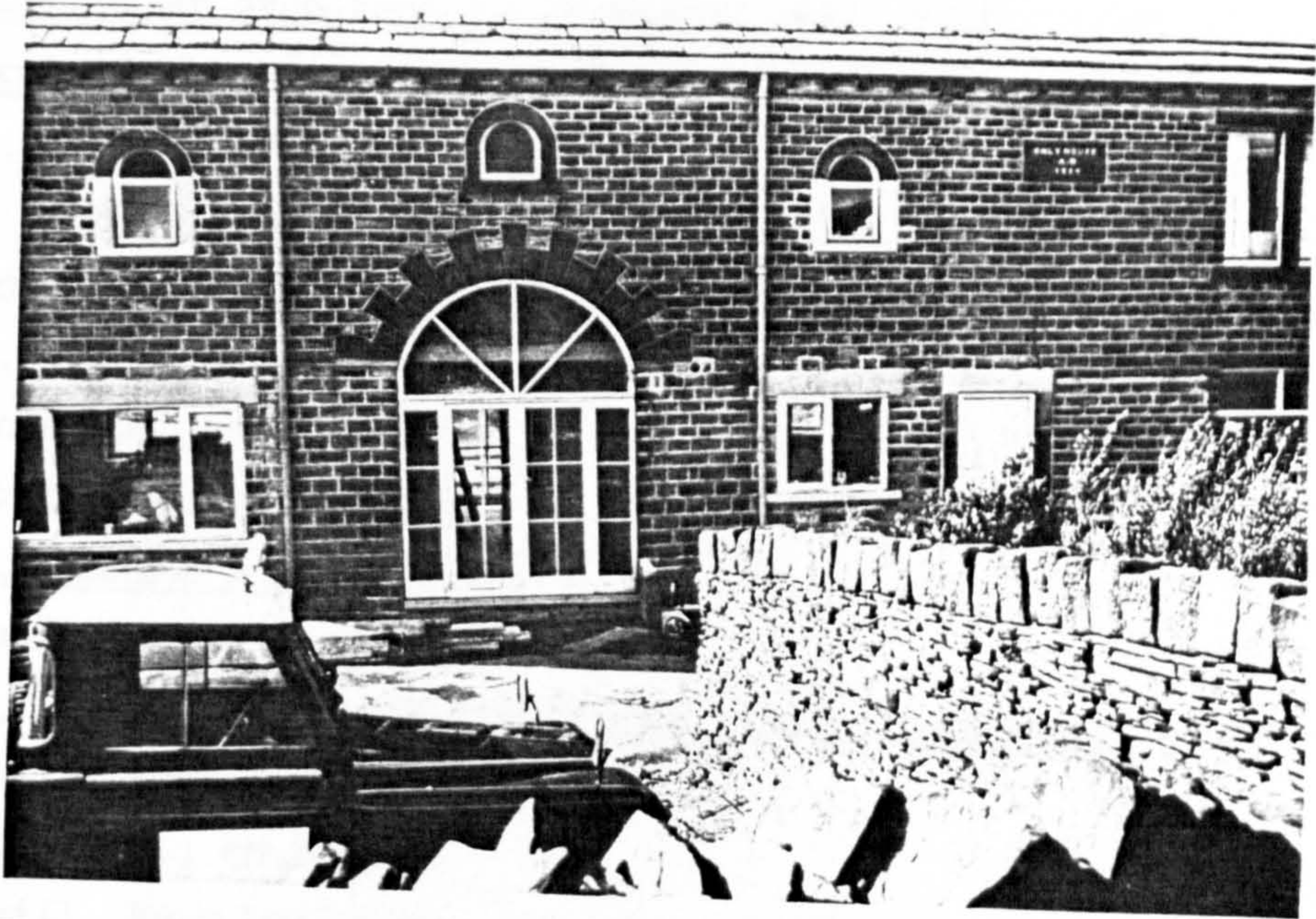
## SUMMARY :-

| OCCUPATION   | NO. |
|--|-----|
| Full-time farmers                                  | 13  |
| Farmer/other occupations                           | 6   |
| Other agricultural (all related to cattle or pigs) | 5   |
| Textiles   | 3   |
| Others   | 4   |
| TOTAL  | 31  |

Source: The agricultural census of Elland, 1915.

These trends have continued to the present day. The more substantial farms, or more usually those which have adapted to dairying and pig rearing, have survived and in some cases developed, many others have disappeared or become derelict, still others have been converted to modern dwellings like Only House in Stainland (pl. 25). In any case, the laithe house lost its closest integration with West Yorkshire's trade on the decrease and reorganisation of the textile industry, and returned more exclusively to its agricultural function.





Pl. 25. Only House, Stainland.



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5. C.F. Stell, Vernacular architecture in a Pennine community, p. 99.
6. A. Pacey, Vernacular architecture in Elland, sec. 8.02.
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8. Ibid, ch. 6, p.5.
9. C.F. Stell, Pennine houses, p.20.
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12. W. Westerdale, op. cit., p.155,
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15. R.W. Brunskill, Houses, p.100.
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17. R.W. Brunskill, Houses, p.100.
18. C. Giles, op. cit., ch.6, p.4.
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21. C. Giles, op. cit., ch.6, p.5.
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33. E. Mercer, op. cit., p.48.
34. W. Westerdale, op. cit., p.155.
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SECTION III

SPECIFIC SURVEYS

IN

SELECTED AREAS



## INTRODUCTION

The general survey of the previous section served to identify types of laithe house and provide an overview of distribution by date and region. Accompanying documentary research gave some clues about ownership, occupancy and how the laithe house fitted into the social and economic life of West Yorkshire. However, this evidence was on the whole of a random nature, apart from the relatively broad-ranging census returns already discussed.

In order to set the laithe house more firmly in its social and economic context, intensive investigation was undertaken in a few selected areas. The township was the main social and economic unit in the county, each township centred on a town or village and covering the area of that settlement plus its outlying farms. Fig. 33 shows a map of the townships; the four selected for intensive surveys are blocked in. These areas were selected on the basis of geographical distribution, in order to gain as wide a representative area as possible of the various land uses and economic life within the upland west. Selection was also based on the existence of at least some useful documentary material for a township. In addition, seven other townships were looked at for other specific information; these are also indicated on the map. It was hoped that a summary of these areas, backed up by the random information collected during the intensive survey would give a much more clearly focussed picture of the laithe house in West Yorkshire life.


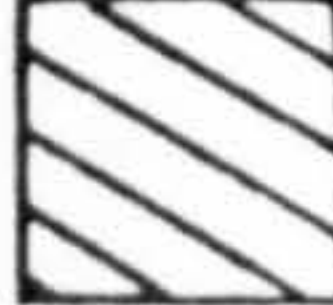
## METHOD OF RESEARCH

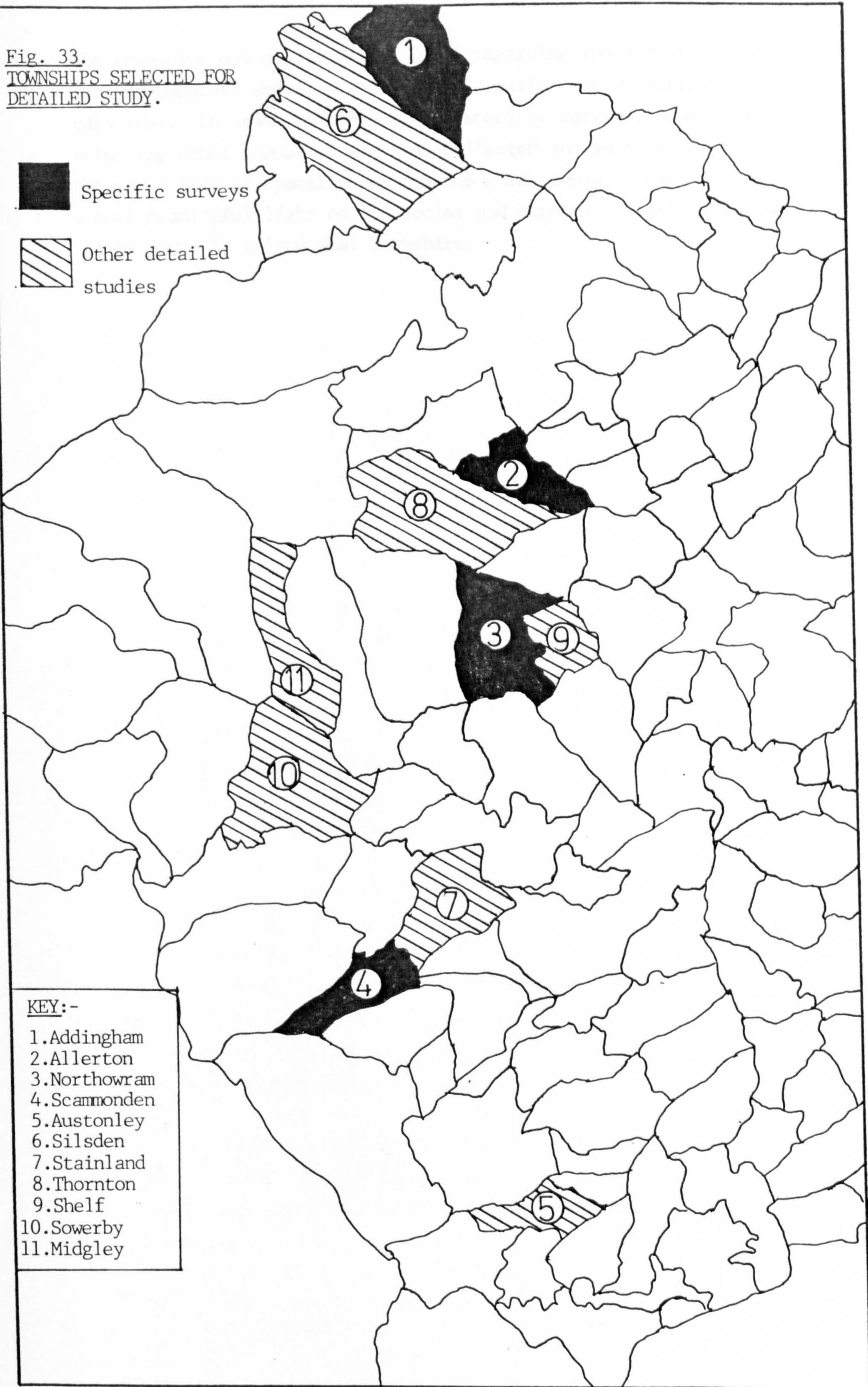
Background information on the topography and geography of each area was noted, together with relevant facts on social and economic life. A general survey of each area was undertaken to note the main building types, as many farms of all types as possible being noted individually in order to form a basis for comparison with the laithe houses. Every laithe house was at least noted, and as many as possible recorded in more or less detail.

Documentary searches regarding each township were undertaken in the various archives, on a broad level to build up profiles of



Fig. 33.  
TOWNSHIPS SELECTED FOR  
DETAILED STUDY.

 Specific surveys  
 Other detailed studies



KEY:-

1. Addingham
2. Allerton
3. Northowram
4. Scammonden
5. Austonley
6. Silsden
7. Stainland
8. Thornton
9. Shelf
10. Sowerby
11. Midgley



the townships and on a specific level regarding individual properties. Both documentary and architectural information was summarised for each area. In order to fill out the specific surveys, some information for other townships was also collected and summarised, the whole forming a body of specific information which could be used to cast a more meaningful light on the social and economic functions of the laithe house in upland West Yorkshire.

ADDINGHAM (1)

Addingham is the name given to a village and township in the extreme north west of the county, situated between Ilkley and Skipton. It is introduced here as an example of the Wharfedale townships.

The earliest recorded settlements in the area are from the iron age; there is an iron age fort at Ilkley and several iron age enclosures including one at Counter Hill to the north west of Addingham and another at Low Mill Scar to the east. Roman settlement developed these early sites, with camps at Counter Hill and Round Dykes, enclosed by earthworks, each covering about 200 acres. The original Roman 'street' ran by the present settlements at Gildersber and Street House. A Saxon settlement is covered by the present church, and the old Saxon burial ground is now an archaeological site. There have also been suggestions of a Viking settlement or connection.

The Domesday book refers to 'Ediham' where Gamelbar, a large landowner in Yorkshire, had 2 carrucates of land, enough for one plough. The land was taken from him and given by William I to Gislebert Tyson who, in 1086, had three villeins or tenants in bondage, and one cottager with 2 acres of meadow and 2 ploughs. There was also an extensive wood at this time. Eventually the king held all the land at Addingham, then granted it to the Vavasour family in the mid-13th.c. They held it until the early 18th.c.

The old trades of Addingham included fulling, milling, tanning, tallow chandling, millstone quarrying, nailmaking and cotton and worsted weaving. The old manorial cornmill was situated at High Mill, and nail making was undertaken at Slade House. Traditionally, there had always been a mixture of farming with textile production, while millstones had been quarried for hundreds of years on Addingham moor, where there was an outcrop of millstone grits.

An important quarry was being worked here as early as the second half of the 17th.c., coinciding with the appearance of the many stone houses built at this time. The quarry supplied millstones for the cornmills as long as water power was used; from the middle of the 18th.c. this trade fell. The quarry was part of the Vavasour family estate, though as early as 1683 the freeholders of Addingham held some rights to the quarry, leased on short terms.



Contemporary documents up to the 19th.c., in particular, commercial directories and tithe and enclosure awards (2) show how the traditional occupations continued. Farmers, stonemasons and textile workers predominate, with an increase of worsted manufacture over cotton around the middle of the century. Addingham Low Mill was established in 1758 and became the first successful worsted spinning mill in the country. Stuff and worsted manufacturers were listed among the main residents in commercial directories in the 1820's. Calico manufacture also featured strongly. Three worsted companies are noted by 1838 and the main residents by this time included a cotton mill manager and several farmers.

Addingham comprises 4,293 acres of which only 278 acres were arable as recorded in 1843, the rest being meadow and pasture. The extensive woodland of earlier centuries was now just 72 acres. Wheat crops were grown but the soil and climate favoured hardier crops of barley (over twice as much yield) and oats (almost four times the wheat yield). As for population, there were 1,570 inhabitants recorded in the 1820's, rising to over 2,000 by the mid-century.

Enclosures had been undertaken throughout Addingham's growth; the earliest recorded parliamentary general enclosure act was in 1865, formalised in 1872, of 735 acres (2). In fact, most of the township had already been enclosed by then.

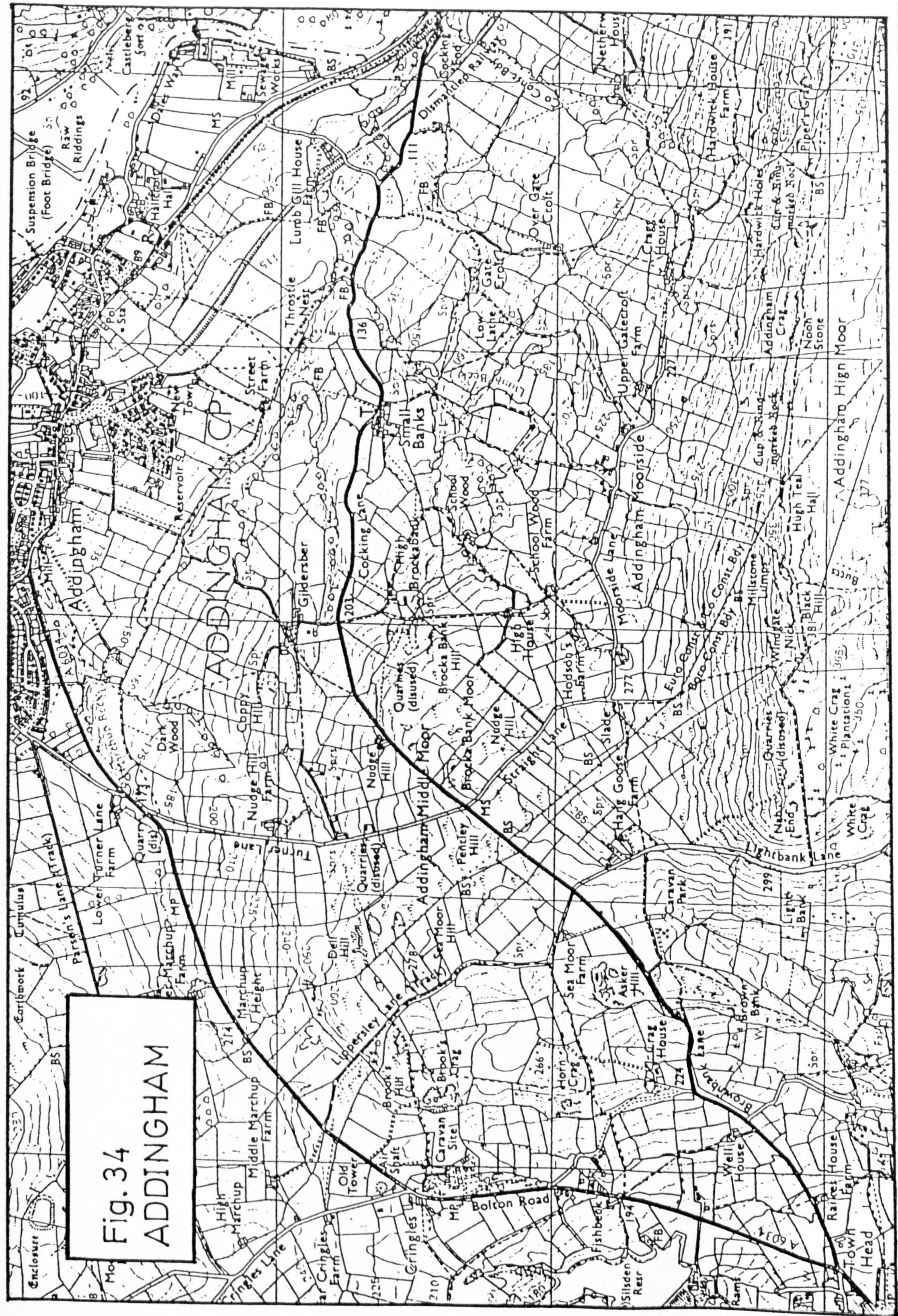
#### Settlement patterns (determined from the dating of existing structures)

Little of Addingham has been overtaken by large-scale 20th.c. building (map, fig. 34) and it is possible to draw up a profile of the main building stages within the township from the earliest stone buildings of the 17th.c. It is likely, however, that at least some of the 18th. and 19th.c. buildings are rebuilds of earlier structures. Almost all the houses looked at in detail had 17th.c. features, sometimes partly hidden by later building, and it is reasonable to suppose this was general throughout the township.

Certainly there was extensive building during the 17th.c. across the whole township. The most remote areas, being Moorside to the south and Low Moor to the north west, have 17th.c. examples as well as the village itself. The 18th. and 19th.c. examples are a mixture of rebuilding and 'filling in' and adding to the original settlements.



Fig. 34  
ADDINGHAM





Only a handful of remote houses, on Middle Moor to the south west, (being Slade Farm and Nuge Hill farm) and to the north east (the Riddings) appear to be of original 18th.c. build, representing a later stage of encroachment on the moorlands. The latest stage of enclosure was also around Middle Moor, formalized by the enclosure award of 1873, with some houses built on this land, including the latest dated laithe house, Prospect House, built in 1892.

The village itself, condensed on two sides of the main Ilkley to Skipton road into a ribbon pattern, earning it the nickname of 'Long Addingham', has 17th.c. buildings (including the earliest dated example of 1668), 18th. and early 19th.c. workers' houses, some built in 'folds' off the main street, some shops and small farms near the village centre. There are some 20th.c. additions to buildings, and a small modern housing estate to the south of the village. Low Mill worsted spinning mill is at the east of the village on the river Wharfe.

Outside the village, there are several scattered farms. Apart from individual buildings, the main patterns are groups like Gildersber and Small Banks, a string of farms along Moorside and several 'pairs' of farms, e.g. High and Low Sanfitt, Nudge Hill and Nudge Hill farm, Higher and Lower Brocka Bank, the geographically 'higher' of the pair usually representing a later addition to a developed holding.

### Building plan forms and details

In order to find out how the laithe house form fitted into the overall building pattern of the township, all the farms were recorded as a basis for comparison. An analysis was made of the 25 laithe houses together with 16 identified as non-laithe houses, the two farming hamlets of Gildersber and Small Banks and 3 free-standing laithes. The totals identified show the laithe house as a dominant form. Table 12 lists the buildings within the outline of their building phases. The emphasis is on 17th.c. building, fewer examples during the 18th.c. and later but<sup>a</sup> continuous process of alterations and additions to earlier structures. In particular, at least 15 of the 25 laithe houses were built in the 17th.c. and all were altered during the 18th.c. when the laithe was often added or rebuilt.

Table 12.

BUILDING PHASES OF ADDINGHAM'S FARMHOUSES

(Key: A=alterations/additions, L=laithes built)

|  | 17th.c.                     | early 18th.c.           | late 18th.c.         | 19th.c.       |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| LAI THE HOUSES   |                             | Low Brocka - - - - L    |                      |               |
|  |                             | Church Street           |                      |               |
|  | Crayke cottage              |                         | High Brocka          |               |
|  | Cross Bank - - - - L        |                         | Cuckoo Nest          |               |
|  | High Cross Bank - - - - -   |                         |                      | - - - L/A     |
|  | Up. Gate Croft - - - - -    |                         | - - - A - - -        | - - - L/A     |
|  | L - - - - - Hag Head        |                         |                      |               |
|  | Hardwicke - - - - -         |                         |                      | - - - A       |
|  |                             |                         | Hart House - - - - L |               |
|  |                             | Hodson's                |                      |               |
|  | Low Holme Ho.- - - - A      |                         |                      |               |
|  | Lane House - - - - A        |                         |                      |               |
|  |                             |                         | at Lumb Gill         |               |
|  |                             | Lumb Gill Ho. - - - - - |                      | - - - L       |
|  | Nudge Hill - - - - A        |                         |                      | Prospect Ho.  |
|  |                             | Reynard Ing             |                      |               |
|  | High Sanfitt - - - - -      |                         | - - - L              |               |
|  |                             | Scar Gill               |                      |               |
|  |                             | Slade                   |                      |               |
| NON-LAI THE HOUSES   | Sunny Bank - - - - L        |                         |                      |               |
|  | Street Farm - - - - A - - - |                         | - - - A - - -        | - - - -A      |
|  | Up. White Well - - - - -    |                         | - - - A              |               |
|  | Brow House                  |                         |                      |               |
|  | Causeway Foot - - - - L     |                         |                      |               |
|  | Cragg House - - - - -       |                         |                      | - - - -L      |
|  | Fell Edge - - - - L         |                         |                      |               |
|  | Low Gate Croft - - - A      |                         |                      |               |
|  | Over Gate Croft - - - - -   |                         |                      | - - - -A      |
|  |                             | Ghyll House             |                      |               |
|  | High House - - - - A - - -  |                         |                      | - - - L       |
|  | Lumb Gill - - - - -         |                         |                      | *rebuilt 1970 |
|  | Nudge Hill                  |                         |                      |               |
|  |                             |                         | Peak Ridding         |               |
|  | Low Sanfitt - - - - A - - - |                         |                      | - - - A       |
|  |                             |                         | School Wood          |               |
|  | Street House - - - - -      |                         | - - A                |               |
|  | Throstle Nest - - - - -     |                         | - - A                |               |
| NON-LAI THE HOUSE GROUPS   |                             |                         |                      |               |
| Gildersber (6 houses + barns, laithes) 18th.c. and some 17th.c. origins. |                             |                         |                      |               |
| Small Banks (5 houses + barns, laithes) as Gildersber.                   |                             |                         |                      |               |
| <u>FREE-STANDING LAITHES/BARNS</u>                                       |                             |                         |                      |               |
| at Upper Gate farm - 17th.c. (was a house originally)                    |                             |                         |                      |               |
| at Street House farm - 19th.c.   |                             |                         |                      |               |
| Paradise laithe (aisled barn) - 18th.c.                                  |                             |                         |                      |               |

Low White Well



Table 13.

## PLAN TYPES OF ADDINGHAM'S FARMHOUSES

| Laithe houses     | Plan types   | Number |
|-------------------|--|--------|
|                   | 2-storey, double front,<br>double-pile, direct entry | 15     |
|                   | 2-storey, double front,<br>double-pile, lobby entry  | 2      |
|                   | 2-storey, single front,<br>(cottage)                 | 7      |
|                   | 3-cell, direct entry                                 | 1      |
| Total             |  | 25     |
| Non-laithe houses | 2-storey, double front<br>double-pile, direct entry  | 11     |
|                   | 2-storey, double front,<br>double-pile, lobby entry  | 5      |
|                   | 2-storey, double-pile,<br>3-bay, lobby entry         | 4      |
|                   | 2-storey, double-pile,<br>3-bay, gable entry.        | 1      |
| Total             |  | 21     |

Table 13 lists the plan types recorded for both laithe houses and non-laithe houses. The 2-storey, direct entry plan was the most common in both cases. The larger farms were among the non-laithe houses, including 5 three-bay examples, whereas the laithe houses included 7 examples of cottage or double-pile, single front accommodation. From this evidence, the laithe house form was associated with farmers placed lower down the social scale than the township's principal residents. The lobby-entry plan is more common in non-laithe houses (only 2 examples in the laithe houses) reflecting the higher standards of comfort associated with a wealthier class of occupant.

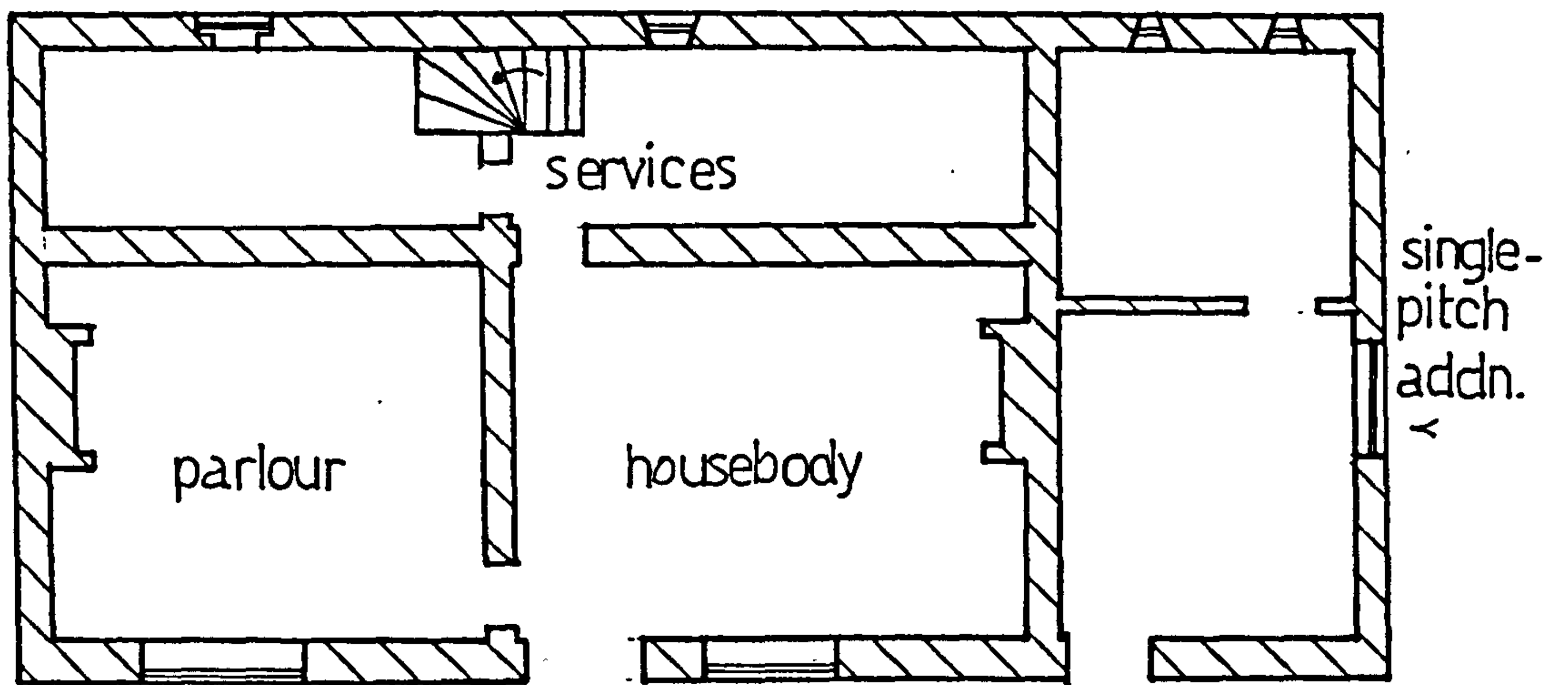
Walmsley House, dated 1821, built with a separate large laithe some 10 yards to the south east, is of the double pile, 2-storey plan so common in the area. The front central entrance opens directly into the main room or housebody, opposite the stack. The parlour to the left was also heated and two smaller service rooms to the rear had a staircase built between to reach 3 bedrooms above (fig. 35). A small single front, single pitch addition was added to the east gable. It was unheated and may have formed accommodation for a labourer.

Hart House is almost identical in appearance and size to Walmsley, with a small lower pitch laithe attached (pl. 26), illustrating how the same plan form of a dwelling could be used for both laithe and non-laithe houses. The original plan of Reynard Ing, built in the early 18th.c., is an example of cottage accommodation attached to a laithe (fig.36 and pl.27). Again, the arrangement is of direct entry and an opposite stack, with a service area to the rear. The stairs at Reynard Ing were originally a Jacob's ladder rising from the rear of the housebody rather than being built into the service area as at the later dated Walmsley House. Reynard Ing also features a beehive oven, a feature common to several farms recorded in the area; others include Upper Gate Croft and Low Brocka Bank.

In contrast, the plan of Lumb Beck farm (fig. 37) shows much more spacious accommodation of 3 cells with a small service area added later along with the spiral stair turret, a feature also apparent at the similarly sized Street House (pl.28). Lumb Beck has an end lobby entrance, reflecting the higher status of its owner,



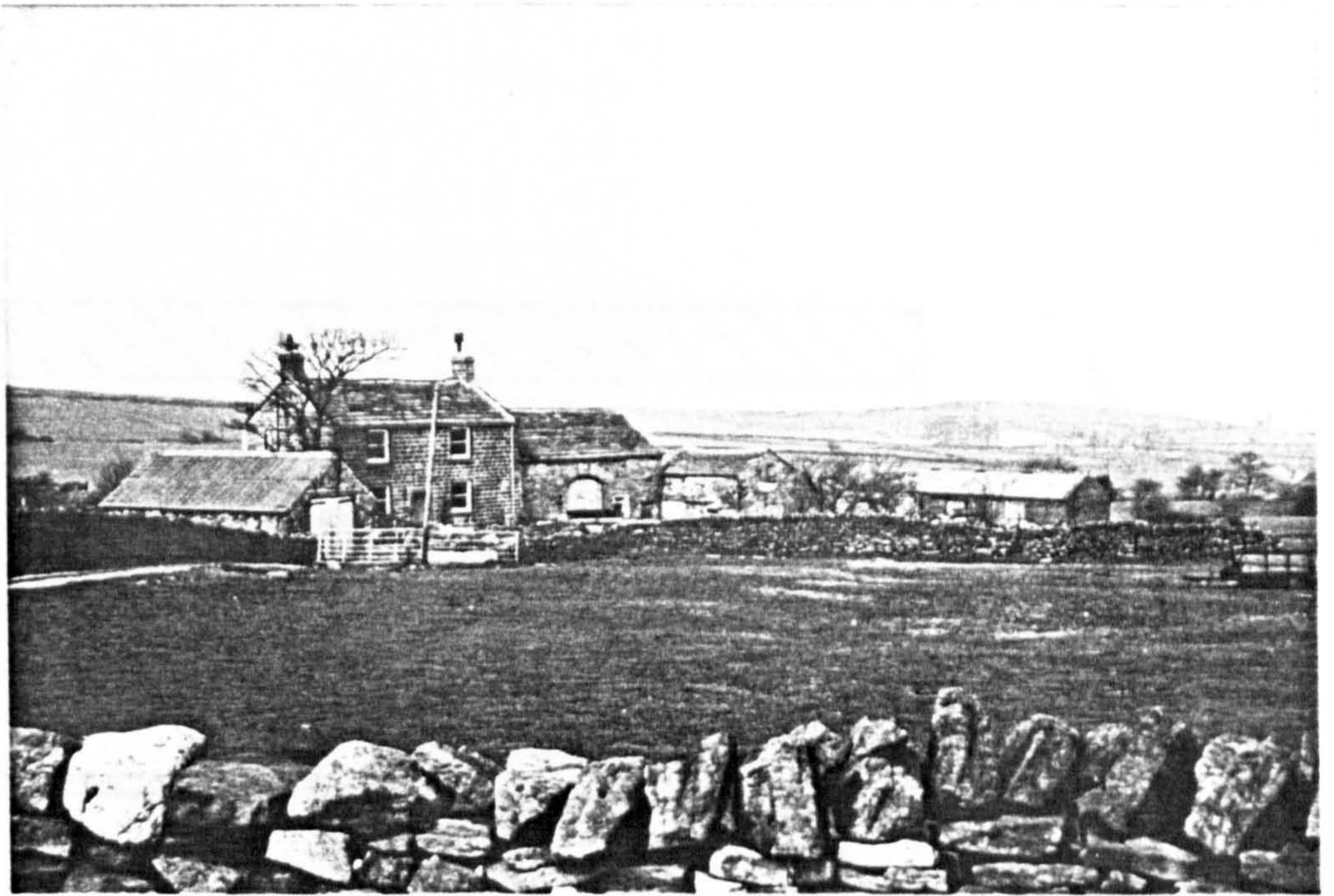
Fig. 35 WALMSLEY HOUSE  
Addingham



Scale 1:100







Pl. 26. Hart House, Addingham.



Pl. 27. Reynard Ing, Addingham.



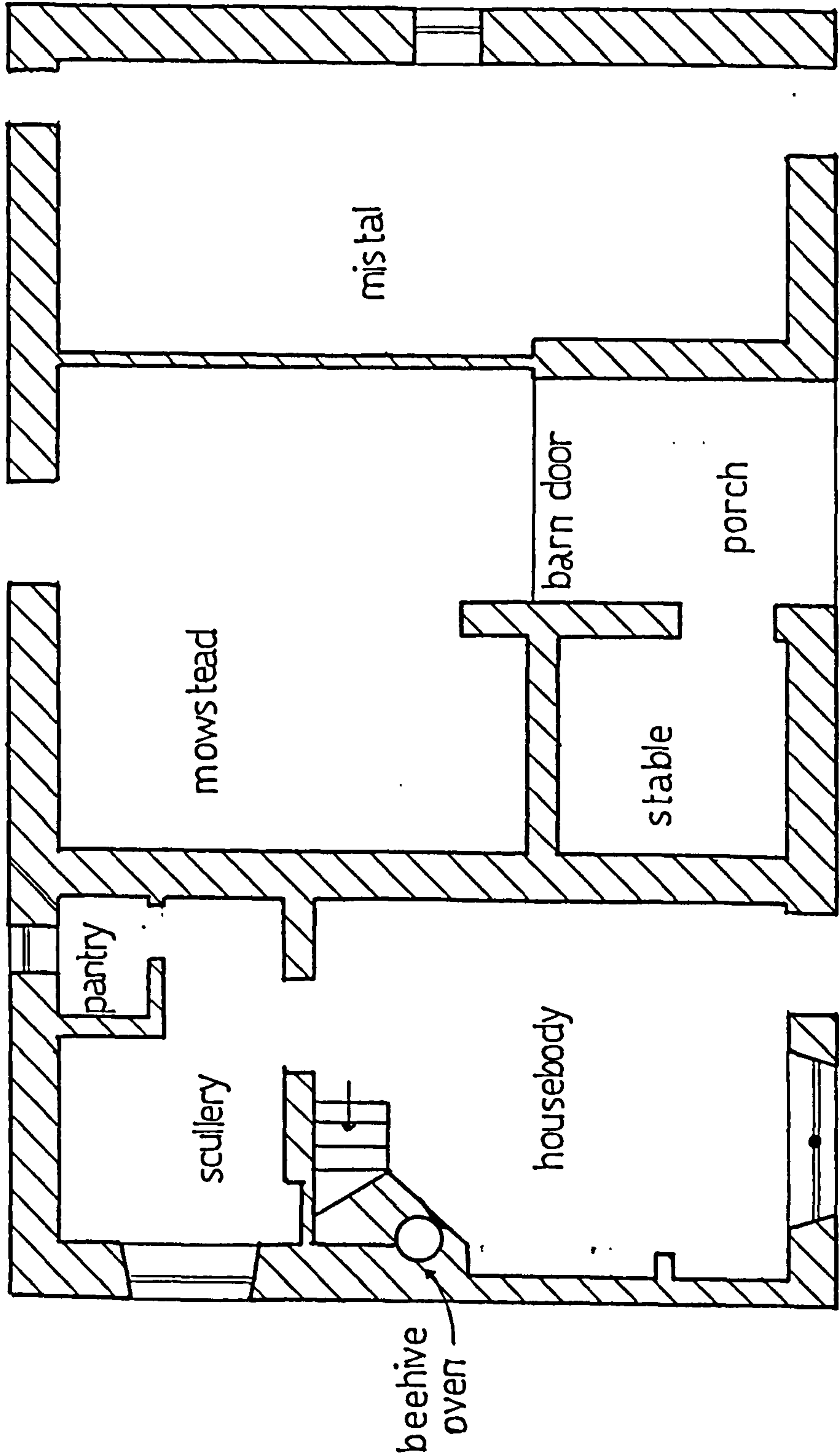
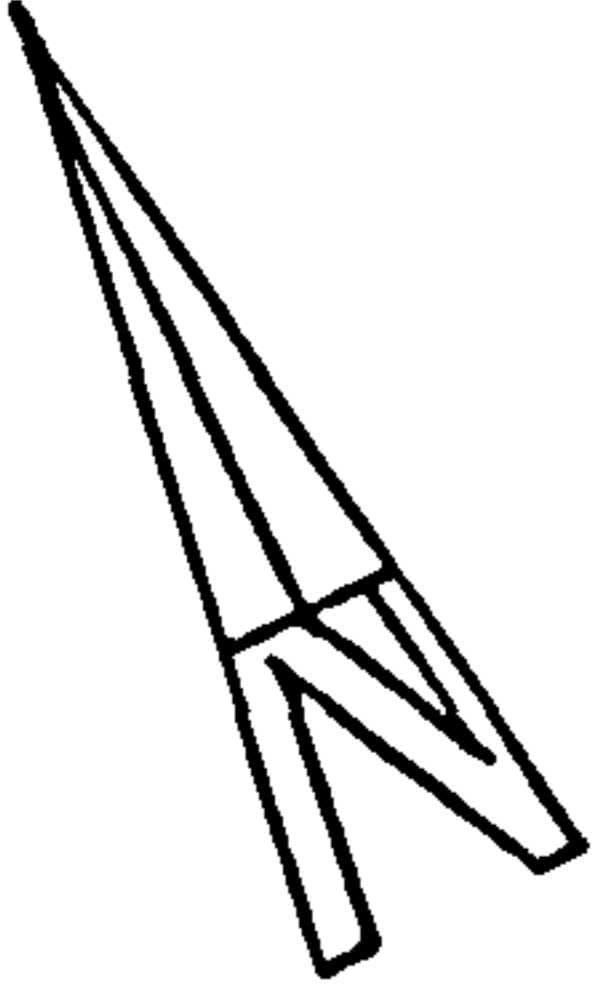


Fig.36 ORIGINAL PLAN OF REYNARD ING.

Addingham  
[Ref:K.Mason,R.C.H.M.]

5 10ft



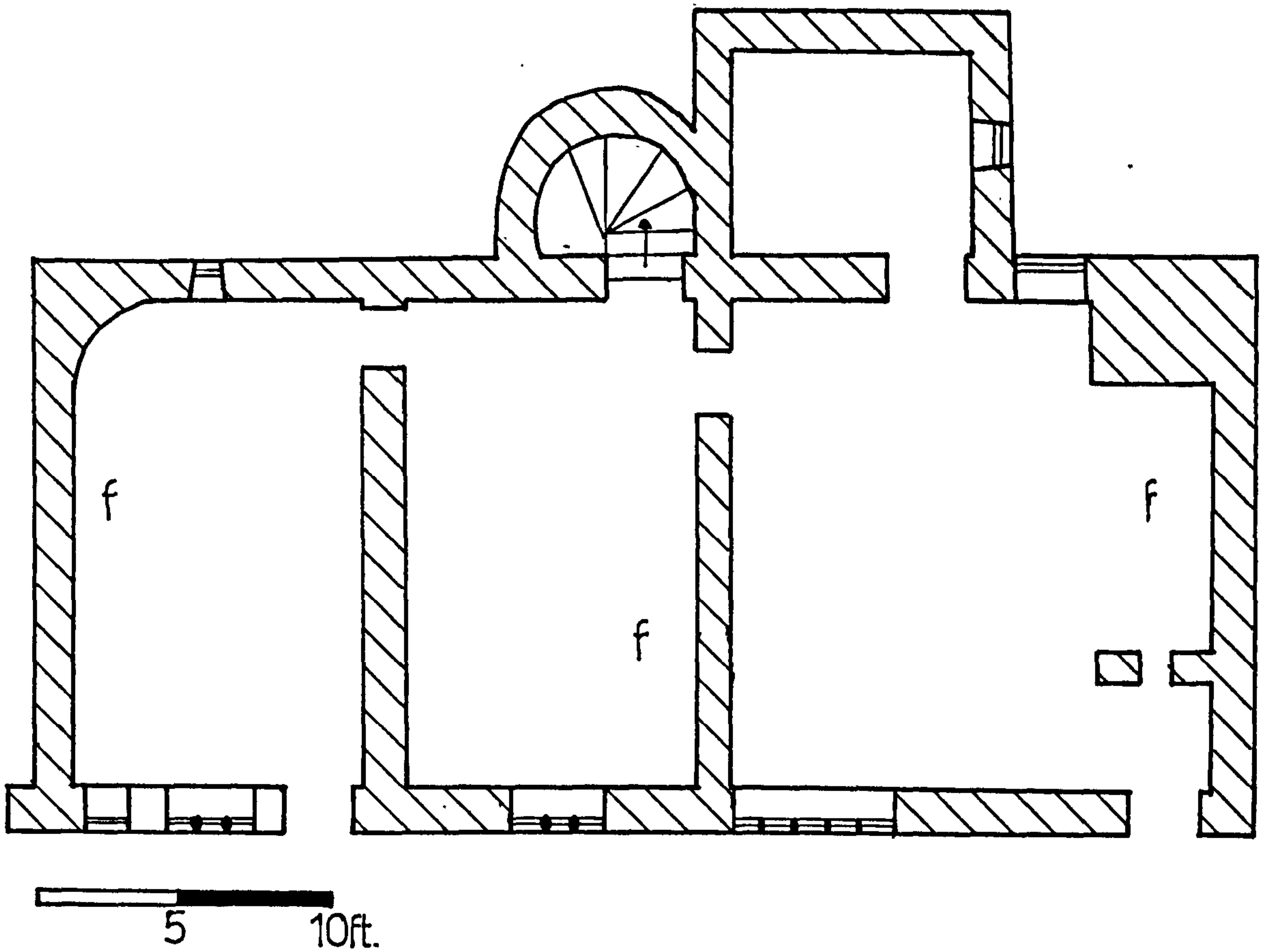


Fig. 37 LUMB BECK FARM  
Addingham

[Ref. E. Mercer, English vernacular houses]

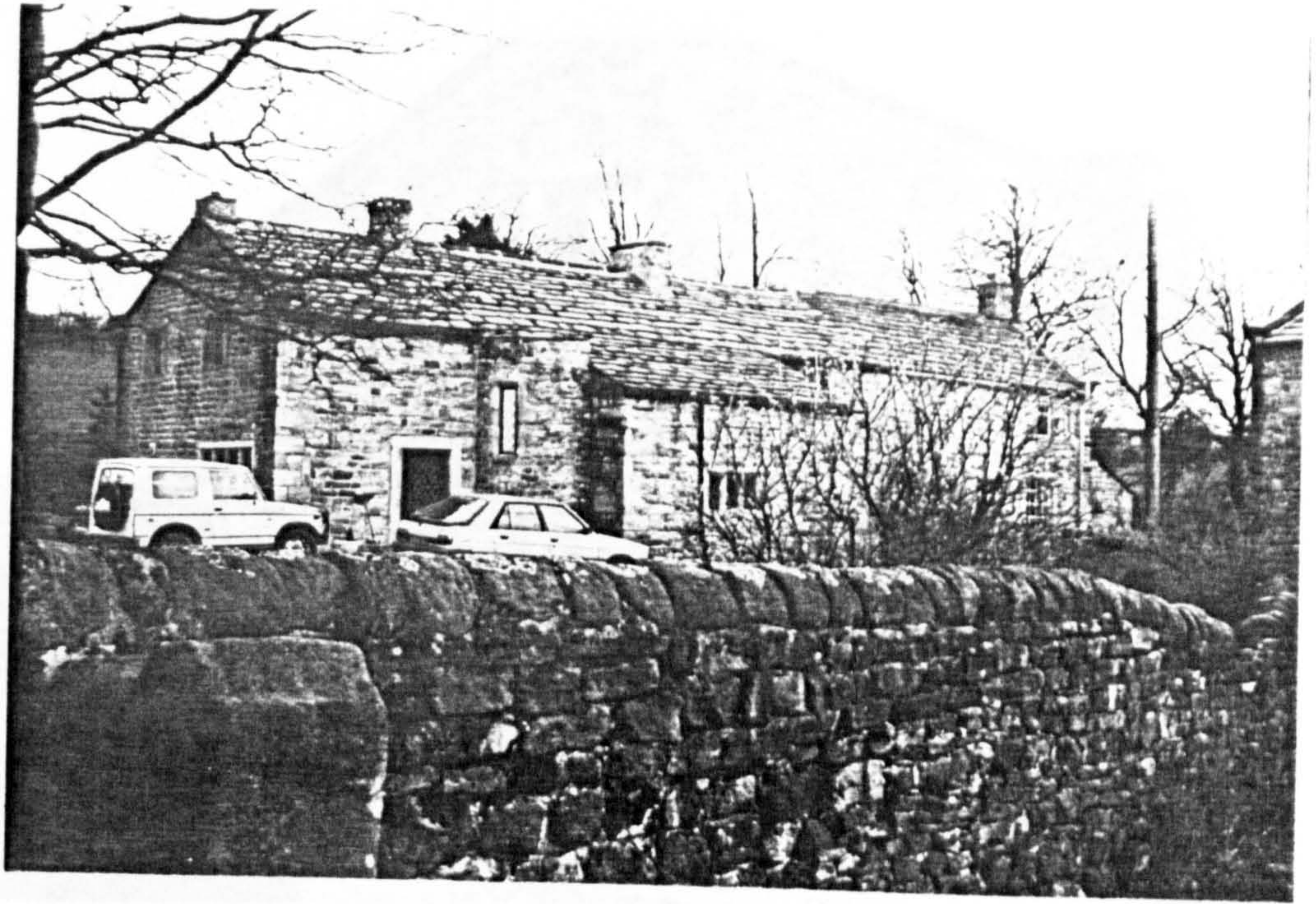


the lobby affording protection and privacy above that of a direct entry. Reynard Ing was occupied by a farmer of about 26 acres while Lumb Beck was the house of a small gentry family. Walmsley and Hart House were occupied by small tenant farmers, Hart House on a holding of just 12 acres in 1843, Walmsley's holding of 24 acres.

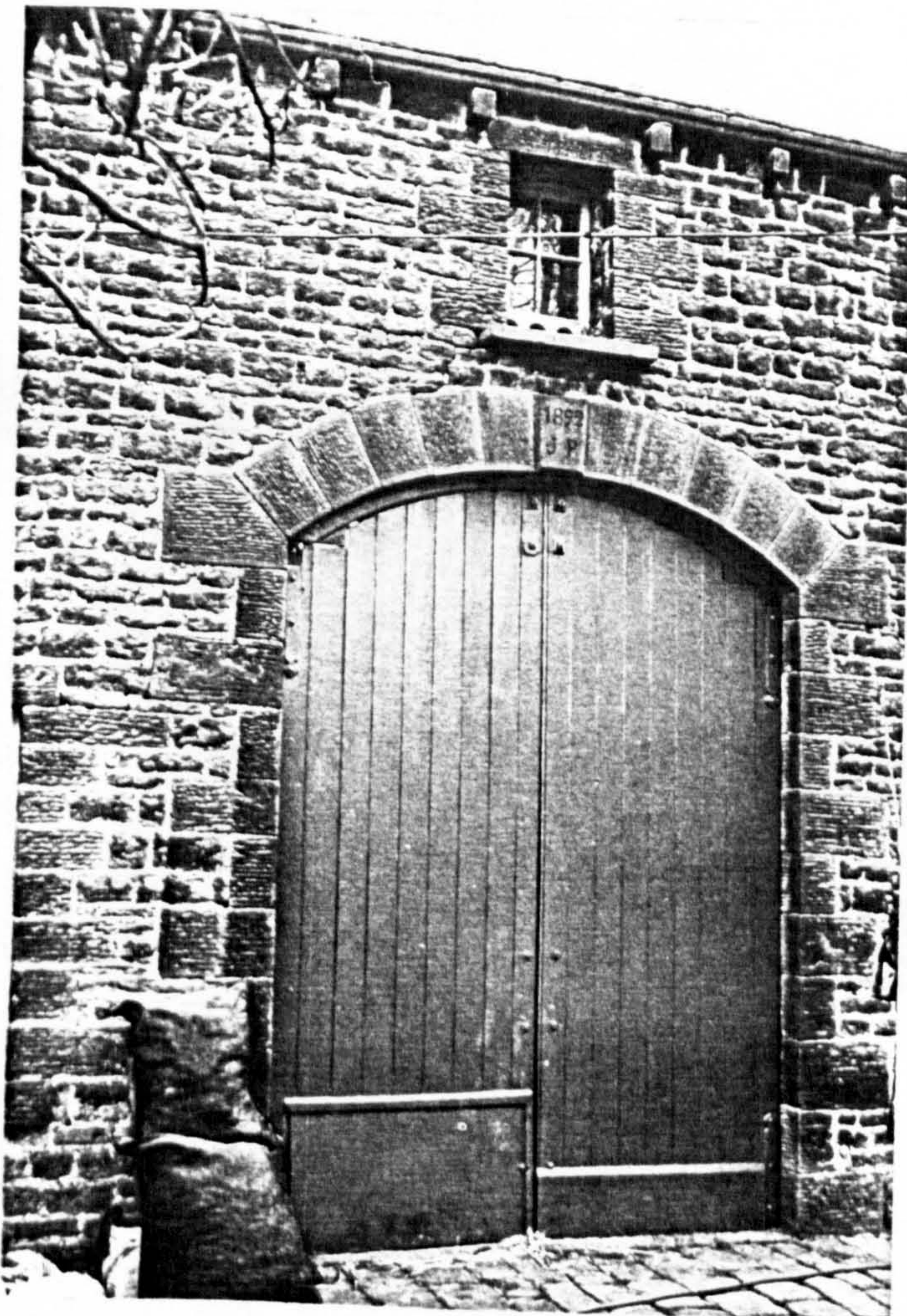
The architectural details of both laithe and non-laithe houses show great consistency with each other and with styles across the county, as described in section I. For example, recessed and splayed mullioned windows, label moulds and false ogee arches on buildings of the 17th.c., as illustrated by Cragg House (pl.2 ), are all to found. Also of the 17th.c. are the porched, square headed wagon doors of the laithes, for example, Upper Gate Croft (pl.19), Hardwicke House and Nudge Hill farm. Later we find examples of the shallow, depressed arches of early 18th.c. laithes as at Reynard Ing (pl.27) through to the full segmental arched door with raised key-stone found in 19th.c. examples like Prospect House (pl.29). Coped gables and moulded kneelers are ubiquitous and generally of the simple outline of Lane House (pl.30). Lane House also illustrates the heavy, squared rubble masonry of earlier building, with heavy quoining at the angles and chamfered door jambs. The ground floor window here is of 17th.c. style while the first floor windows illustrate the square cut mullions and jambs placed flush with the wall surface, typical of the late 18th. and 19th.c. There is little variation from these details; from the smallest house to the largest the same features, more or less elaborated, are to be found.

To summarise, the most 'typical' farmhouse of Addingham is of 2-storey, double pile, double front plan with gable stacks and central entrance giving a symmetrical facade, copied gables with moulded kneelers, well-coursed masonry and 2 or 3 light mullioned windows up and down to each side of the entrance. This form is exemplified by Hardwicke House, Lower Bröcka Bank, Hag Head, Hart House, Nudge Hill farm and Slade farm, all built during the 18th.c. Cragg House and Sunny Bank (pl.31) date from the 17thc. yet are similar in style except for a lobby rather than direct entry. At the other end of the time scale, Prospect House, built in 1892, has tall sash windows instead of mullions and an imposing gabled porch protecting the central entrance, yet the size, plan and detail may still be related to Cragg House(pl.2 ) built some 300 years previous.



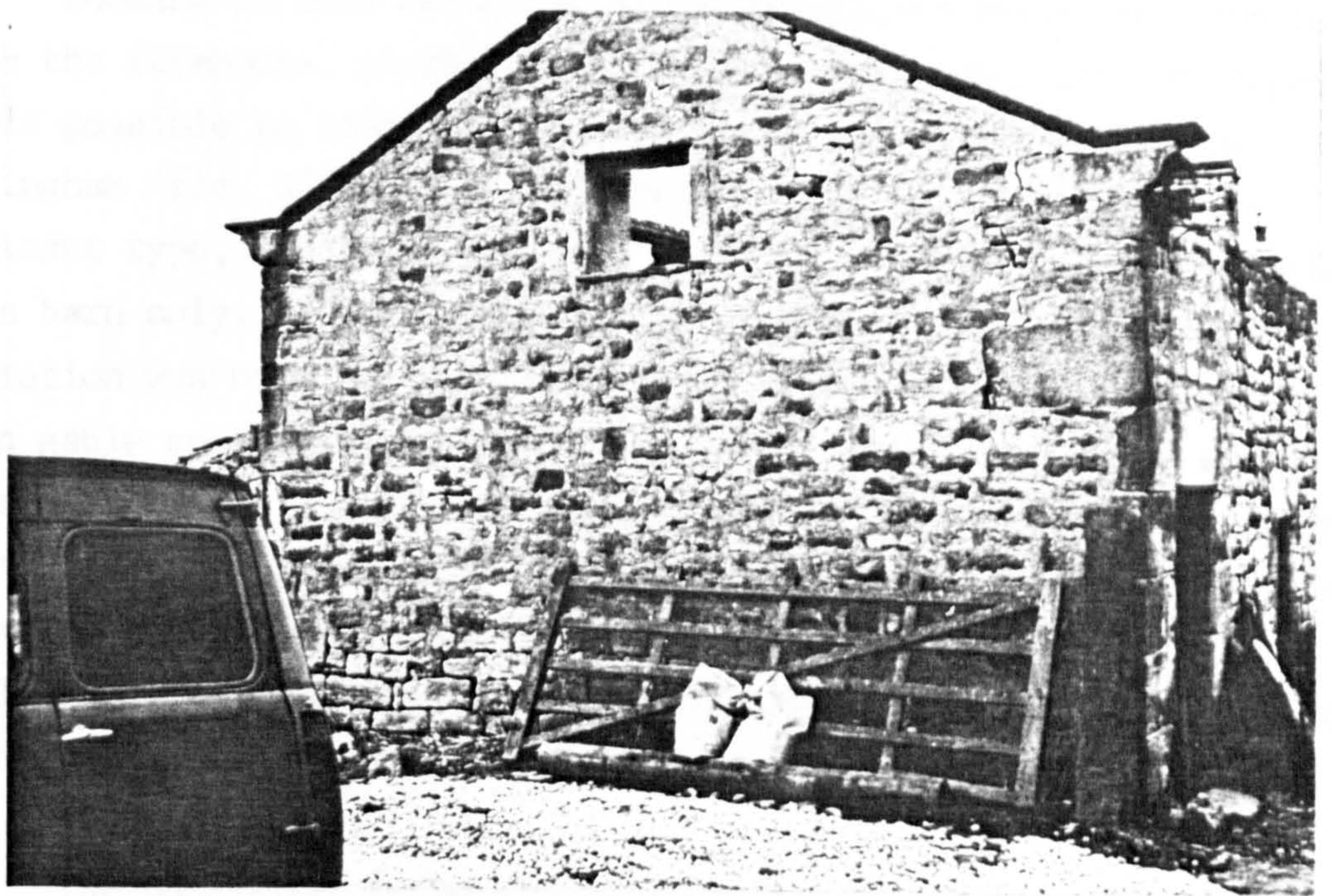


Pl. 28. Street House, Addingham (rear).

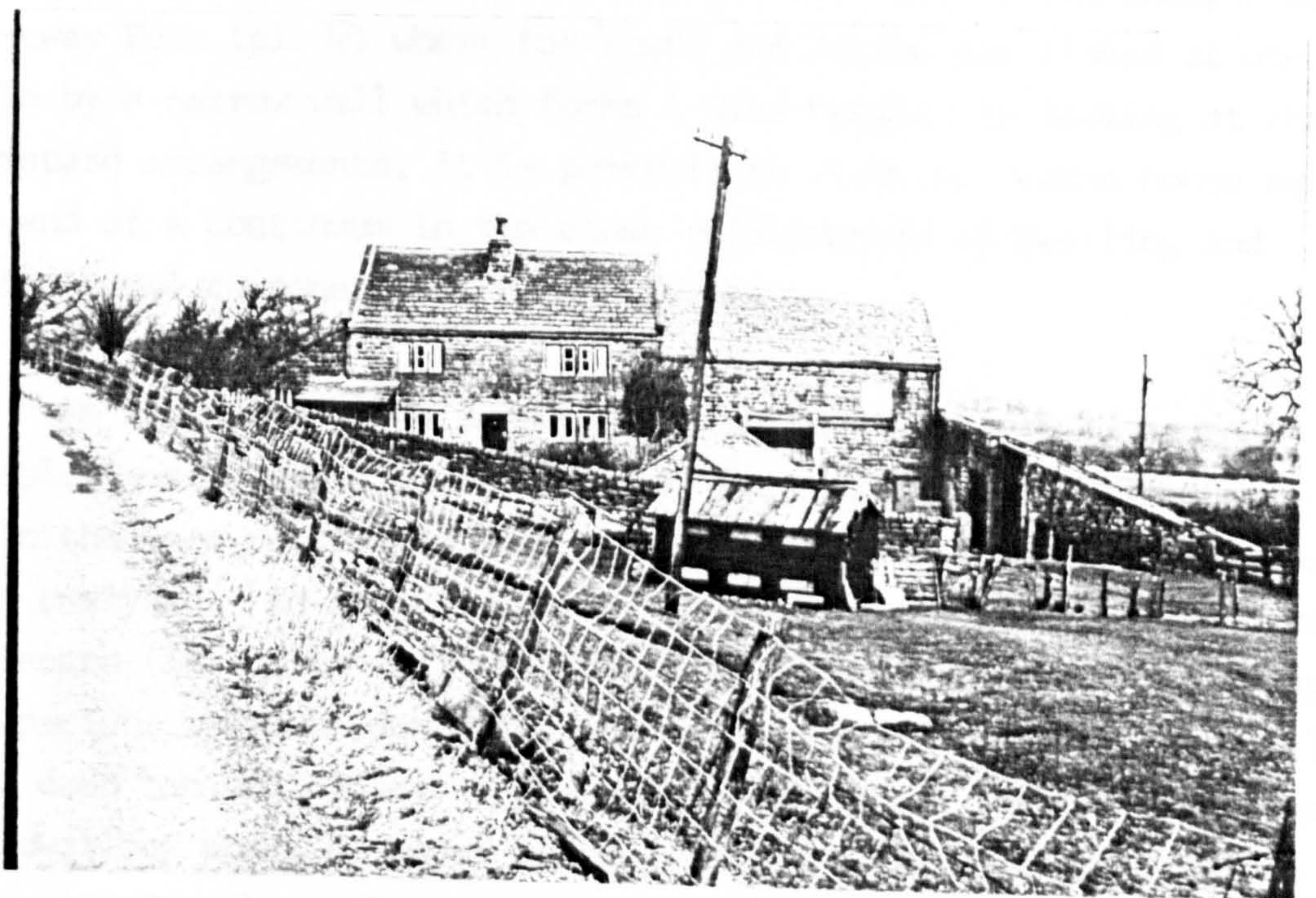


Pl. 29.  
Prospect House,  
Addingham  
(laithe door)





Pl. 30. Lane House, Addingham (W. gable)



Pl. 31. Sunny Bank, Addingham.



## Farmsteads

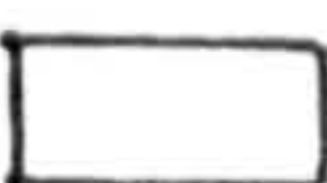

Looking in more detail at the agricultural buildings associated with the farmhouse, whether attached in the house form or separate, it is possible to identify the main farmstead layouts found in Addingham (fig. 38). As already noted, the laithe house is the dominant type, and there are also a few examples of a house attached to a barn only, as at Nudge Hill farm or Cragg House. A further variation was noted at Fell Edge where small barns were built to both gable ends. At least half the laithe houses had extra accommodation built on for cattle, indicating the increase in dairy farming by the 19th.c. These additions were built either directly onto the existing mistals as at Low Holme House, or separate and at right angles to form, with the house, an L-shape arranged on two sides of a farmyard; High Sanfitt and Nudge Hill illustrate this.

The non-laithe house types had a variety of layouts; with barn attached to the house, or a laithe separate, parallel and of a size with the house, as at School Wood or High House. There are slightly staggered arrangements at Throstle Nest and Walmsley, separate at right angles as shown by Ghyll House and the interesting example of Causeway Foot (pl. 32) where the house and laithe are linked at one angle by a narrow wall which forms a wind-break. By looking at the farmstead arrangements, it is possible to view the laithe house as one end of a continuum in the close relationship of dwelling and agricultural components in upland farms.

As a final note on layout and plan forms; all the measured examples were checked to see how far the size of dwelling and size of laithe were related to each other. 16 of the laithe houses were thus analysed. An individual cell in any house measured about 5 yds. in length (including wall thicknesses). The main rooms of housebody and parlour would be about the same in depth with service rooms 2-3 yds. deep behind. In average double pile, double front laithe houses the dwelling would be about 10 yds. long, of direct entry plan and about 11 yds. where there was a central passage or stair lobby.

The smallest double fronted example recorded was Slade farm at 9 yds. in length. Single front or cottage accommodation was of 5-6 yds. and followed similar dimensions. The smallest of the cottage



|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>Fig. 38.<br/>FARMSTEAD LAYOUTS IN ADDINGHAM</p>   | <p>Key:-  = dwelling<br/> = agriculture</p>  |
| <p>Laithe houses</p>   | <p>Non-laithe houses</p>  |
| <div></div> <div> <p>(High) Brocka Bank<br/>(Low) Brocka Bank<br/>Crayke cottage<br/>Cross Bank<br/>Cuckoo Nest<br/>Hag Head<br/>Hardwicke House<br/>Hodson's<br/>Lane House<br/>at Lumb Gill<br/>Prospect House<br/>(Upper) White Wells</p> </div> | <div></div> <div> <p>Brow House<br/>(Low) Sanfitt</p> </div> <div></div> <div> <p>Causeway Foot</p> </div> <div></div> <div></div> <div> <p>Cragg House<br/>Nudge Hill</p> </div> <div></div> <div></div> <div> <p>Fell Edge</p> </div> <div></div> <div> <p>Ghyll House</p> </div> |
| <div></div> <div> <p>Church Street</p> </div>  |   |
| <div></div> <div> <p>(High) Cross Bank<br/>Sunny Bank</p> </div>  | <div></div> <div> <p>High House<br/>Peak Ridding<br/>School Wood</p> </div>   |
| <div></div> <div> <p>(Upper) Gate Croft</p> </div>  |   |
| <div></div> <div> <p>Lumb Gill House</p> </div> <div></div>   | <div></div> <div> <p>Street House</p> </div> <div></div>  |
| <div></div> <div> <p>Nudge Hill Farm</p> </div>   | <div></div> <div> <p>Throstle Nest<br/>Walmsley</p> </div> <div></div>  |
| <div></div> <div> <p>Reynard Ing</p> </div>  | <p>Groups</p>   |
| <div></div> <div> <p>(High) Sanfitt</p> </div>  | <p>Gildersber</p> <div></div>   |
| <div></div> <div></div> <div></div> <div> <p>Scar Gill</p> </div>  |   |
| <div></div> <div></div> <div> <p>Slade</p> </div>  | <p>Small Banks</p> <div></div>  |
| <div></div> <div> <p>Street Farm</p> </div>  |   |





Pl. 32. Causeway Foot, Addingham



type was Cuckoo Nest, just 4 yds. long. Laithes mainly averaged 10 or 11 yds. also, with a couple of later examples measuring slightly less at 9 yds. The larger ones, e.g. 20 yds. at Lumb Gill and 15 at Upper Gate Croft owe their size to one or two extra ranges of cow-standings. The depth of laithe houses throughout was about 7-8 yds., allowing the larger living room plus narrower service area in the dwelling and room for 5-6 cowstandings along the depth of the mistal.

Non-laithe houses showed less uniformity of size. The separate laithes at Cragg House and Street House were 15 and 12 yds. long respectively. Ghyll House had two wider cells of 6 yds. each, as had Cragg House, reflecting their higher social status above the small farmer level. Lumb Beck House, in a linear range, had a housebody of 7 yds. and two parlours of 4 and 5 yds. respectively in its original form. The conclusion is that whereas laithes tended to be of roughly standard size, whether freestanding or attached in laithe house form, at least some of the free-standing houses tended to have larger cells, the roomier accommodation reflecting the status of their occupants.

Linking the size of laithe houses with their acreages, there appears to be some correlation with the length of laithe and the size of the farm (the acreages being taken from the 1861 and 1881 census returns and matched with laithe houses where dimensions were recorded). A laithe of 9-10 yds. in length generally served 12-20 acres, whereas a laithe of 12 yds. served about 26-27 acres. With the exception of one or two examples, all the laithe houses follow this trend. Larger laithes attached to houses were of 15 and 13 yds. with later additions and served acreages of 40-49. As already noted, the larger acreages were associated with non-laithe houses.

The 1843 tithe award (2) gives a breakdown of the number of holdings associated with each farm and the type of land each holding was composed of. Only 8 laithe houses and 3 non-laithe houses were identified with these descriptions, but there appeared a slight trend for the laithe house to have holdings dominated by pasture and meadow and usually with just one arable field each. The 3 non-laithe houses all had 3 arable or mixed arable fields, suggesting a connection between richer arable farming and higher status farming with regard to non-laithe houses, while laithe houses concentrated on cattle and pasture.

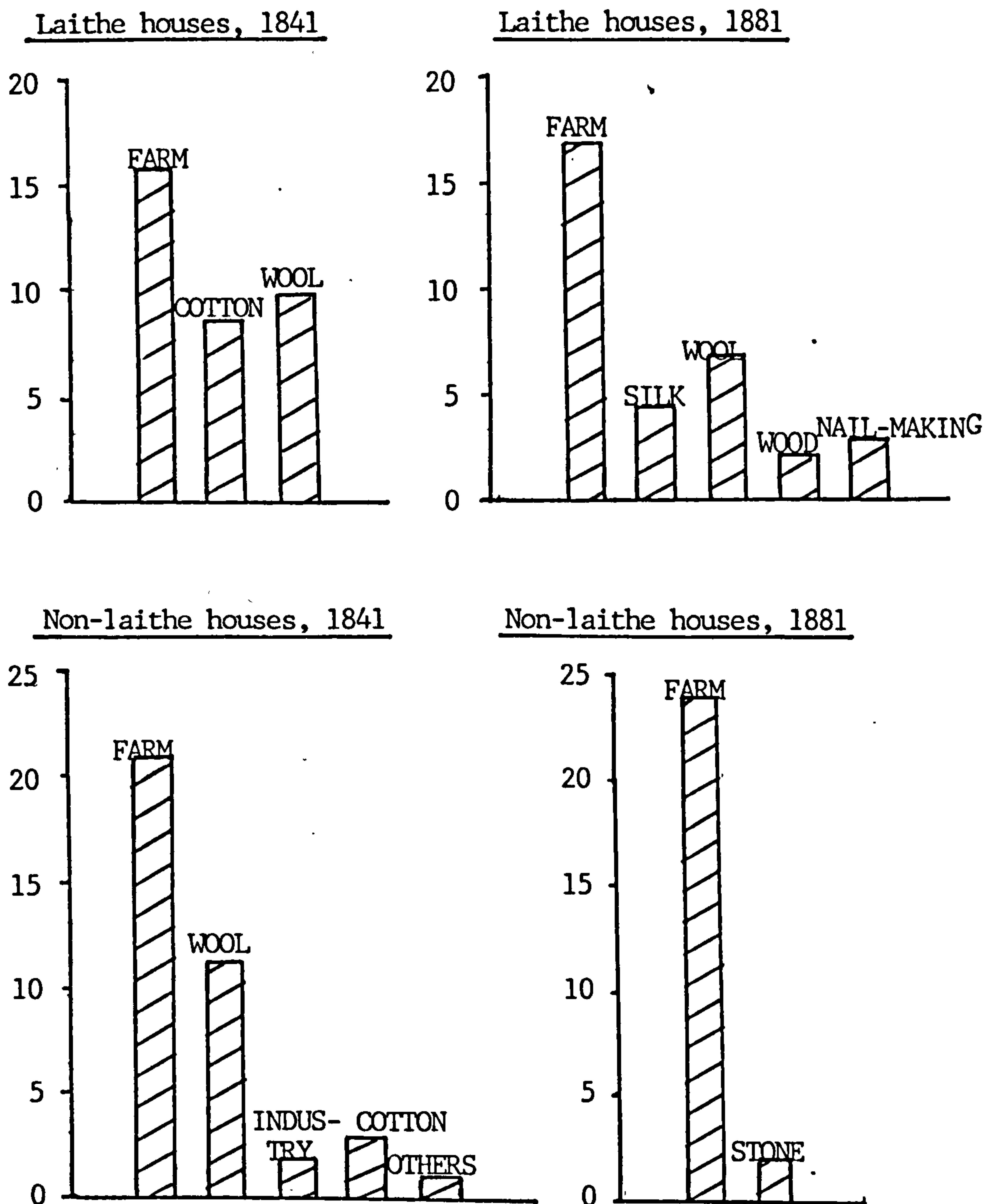
Turning to the question of who owned the houses, who lived in them and their associations with Addingham's economic and social life, information from the census returns, tithe award and enclosure award as well as contemporary commercial directories was analysed (2). The average size and uniformity of the laithe houses seems to place them below the upper levels of the yeomanry, within a fairly defined band around the middle to lower end of the social scale of Addingham's farmers.

Analysis of farm sizes, recorded between 1843 and 1881, supports this view. A sample of 14 laithe houses shows holdings ranged from 21.5 acres in 1843 to 25 acres in 1881, the majority falling between 11 and 34 acres, the extremes outside these parameters being 3 and 44 acres. In contrast, non-laithe houses (from a sample of 17) averaged 30 acres in 1843 and 40 acres in 1881. There was a wider range, of 21-64 acres in 1843 and 24-90 acres in 1881, the extremes of 7 and 174 acres outside these. It would appear from this and from evidence of the houses themselves, the larger and prosperous farmers would have more substantial dwellings with separate agricultural buildings instead of adopting the more compact, but presumably lower status, laithe house.

Analysis of identifiable owners of both types (using the 1843 tithe award and the contemporary commercial directory) suggests the non-laithe houses association with gentry owners, churches and schools. The laithe houses, while some were owned by gentry, had several examples of farmers as owners, two of them being owner-occupiers.

Fig. 39 shows a breakdown of the occupations listed for identifiable laithe and non-laithe houses in the 1841 and 1881 census returns. In general, the non-laithe house showed a closer connection with farming, especially by the end of the 19thc., whereas the laithe house' occupants had a much closer connection with other industries throughout. Usually it was the heads of households in the laithe house examples who were described as farmers, with other members of the households engaged in different occupations, presumably to supplement the income of these small farm. In the non-laithe house examples of 1841 it was usually the heads of households who were engaged in occupations other than farming, but by 1881 farming was the completely dominant occupation in all but one example.



FIG. 39OCCUPATIONS OF FARM INHABITANTS, ADDINGHAM, 1841 & 1881.

Analysed from the census returns, West Riding of Yorkshire,  
1841 & 1881.

ALLERTON (3)

The name 'Allerton' is derived from a Saxon term meaning 'farmstead among the alder trees'. Old Allen was an ancient settlement, the Roman road passing through it from Bradford. In 1066, Allerton was part of the manor of Bolton, then joined with the manor of Thornton until 1500. The manor was retained by Sir Richard Tempest; the verdict of 1580 in favour of his holding the manor described 236 acres of land in Allerton 'confirmed in rights of pasture, turbary and liberty to get and dig stones, with power to enclose, impark and improve moors, commons and wastes.'

In 1648 the manor was mortgaged for £500 to Richard Marsden of Lancashire, whose son Henry eventually became Lord of the manor. An agreement made in 1696 between Henry and 35 freeholders of Allerton conveyed substantial quantities of waste land to them at 1/- per year free rent, reserving the coal and minerals, royalties and services to his court baron. The manor remained with the Marsden family until it passed by deed to the Ferrands of Bingley in 1795. In 1840 Sarah Ferrand obtained an Act of Parliament for enclosing 170 acres at Fairweather Green, Allerton Ley and Upper Green. This was by no means the first stage of enclosure. The rentals for Allerton-cum-Wilsden for the early 19th.c. consistently show rents charged for small amounts of encroachments and in 1821 there was a batch of about 250 'new Encroachments' listed, indicating large scale enclosure prior to the official legislation (4).

Wool and worsted weaving and spinning were the main manufactures of Allerton, growing on the success of Bradford as the 'great seat of the worsted industry'. Top Mill was built in 1836, run by the Robertshaws who also had the textile mill at Well Row. Capital for these ventures came from local shareholders. Top Mill had 8 shareholders (2 of them from outside Addingham) according to the 1841 enclosure award (5). 4 of them were manufacturers but there were also 2 farmers and 2 other tradesmen involved. Before the mills, worsted production had of course been a home industry;

"The 18th.c. saw the appearance of the stuff-makers. It was now that the phenomenal commercial growth of Bradford started. It was the beginnings of the



woollen industry in these old homesteads as their owners were often cloth makers as well as farmers and wool-growers". (6)

White's directory of 1837 described Allerton township as comprising several hamlets scattered over 1,970 acres of land, only 200 of which were unenclosed moorland, eventually enclosed under the 1840 Act. The Act mentioned several stone quarries and collieries, and trades associated with these, along with farming and textile manufacture, appear throughout the 19th.c. directories and census returns. In 1837, the population was 1,733, a rise of about 18% over the 1822 figure. By 1857, the population had risen by a further 20% and worsted manufacture was described as 'considerable'.

### Settlement

As well as the increasing manufactures of the 18th. and 19th.c. building was stimulated by the growth of Bradford and its 'overspill' to housing development of the 19th. and 20th.c. Before these trends, Allerton was more or less a collection of scattered hamlets, as illustrated by the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1861 (fig. 40).

The earliest dated buildings were Shuttleworth and Crosley Halls, both from the 16th.c. Shuttleworth was a gentry home of Elizabethan style with two wings added later; Crosley was the ancient manor house of Crosley manor which comprised various scattered allotments donated in the past. Houses of early 17th.c. date are found in Allerton Lanes and Bailey Fold; there are also 17th.c. details on houses at West End and Hill Top. Oudworth suggests the area around Allerton Lanes was the oldest part of Allerton (3), while Oaks Lane, extending from here to the east towards Bradford, was the old packhorse road. This south eastern area was particularly affected by later building which swept away much early evidence and leaving us with more examples of 18th. and 19th.c. date than reflects the true pattern.

West of Allerton centre, modern building peters out, giving way to a more traditional pattern of scattered farms and hamlets. These are mainly of late 18th. and 19th.c. build, although at least a few are rebuilds of earlier structures, for example Shay House where

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**AS ORIGINAL**



the present building is dated 1880 while appearing in census returns of 40 years previous, or Moorehouse Moor which dates originally from 1709 and having substantial alterations in the 18th. and 19th.c. The original and rebuild dates of many Allerton houses reflect the increasing prosperity brought by the worsted industry in the late 18th.c. and throughout the 19th.c.

### Farmsteads

Table 14 shows the main building periods of 35 farmsteads in Allerton, 19 laithe houses and 16 others. Laithe houses tend to be of the later building period, none apparently of the 17th.c. This absence of an early tradition of laithe house building is in contrast with the non-laithe house types which occur mainly in the 17th.c. as well as from the 18thc. The suggestion is that the laithe house was adopted as a convenient form for post-enclosure farms, and appears to have been copied from other upland townships rather than developing from any strong laithe house tradition in the area itself.

Evidence of late rebuilding and alterations can be seen in the dates found on several farms as listed in Table 14(b). For example, the Cockcroft family, who had become prosperous on the proceeds of manufacture, used their wealth to buy and extend Manor and Stream Head farms, as witnessed by the identical patterns of the laithes (pls.33 & 34) and their datestones of " J C S 1878"

In general, the farmsteads are of double pile, two-storey plan. A number comprise two single front dwellings combined in a double-front plan. At least 4 farmsteads had completely disappeared to make room for 20th.c. building (as at Shay Royd) or had been built on the furthest outskirts of the township and since left derelict. This happened at Ellcliffe, built to the north east on the edge of the now abandoned Hill Cliffe quarry, at the steep decline into Chellow Dean.

Among the non-laithe house farms, the pattern once again tends to slightly larger residences with separate laithes close by. For example, Shay House was rebuilt in 1880 in a symmetrical style of central entrance flanked by tall windows up and down.

Table 14(a)

BUILDING PHASES OF ALLERTON'S FARMHOUSES

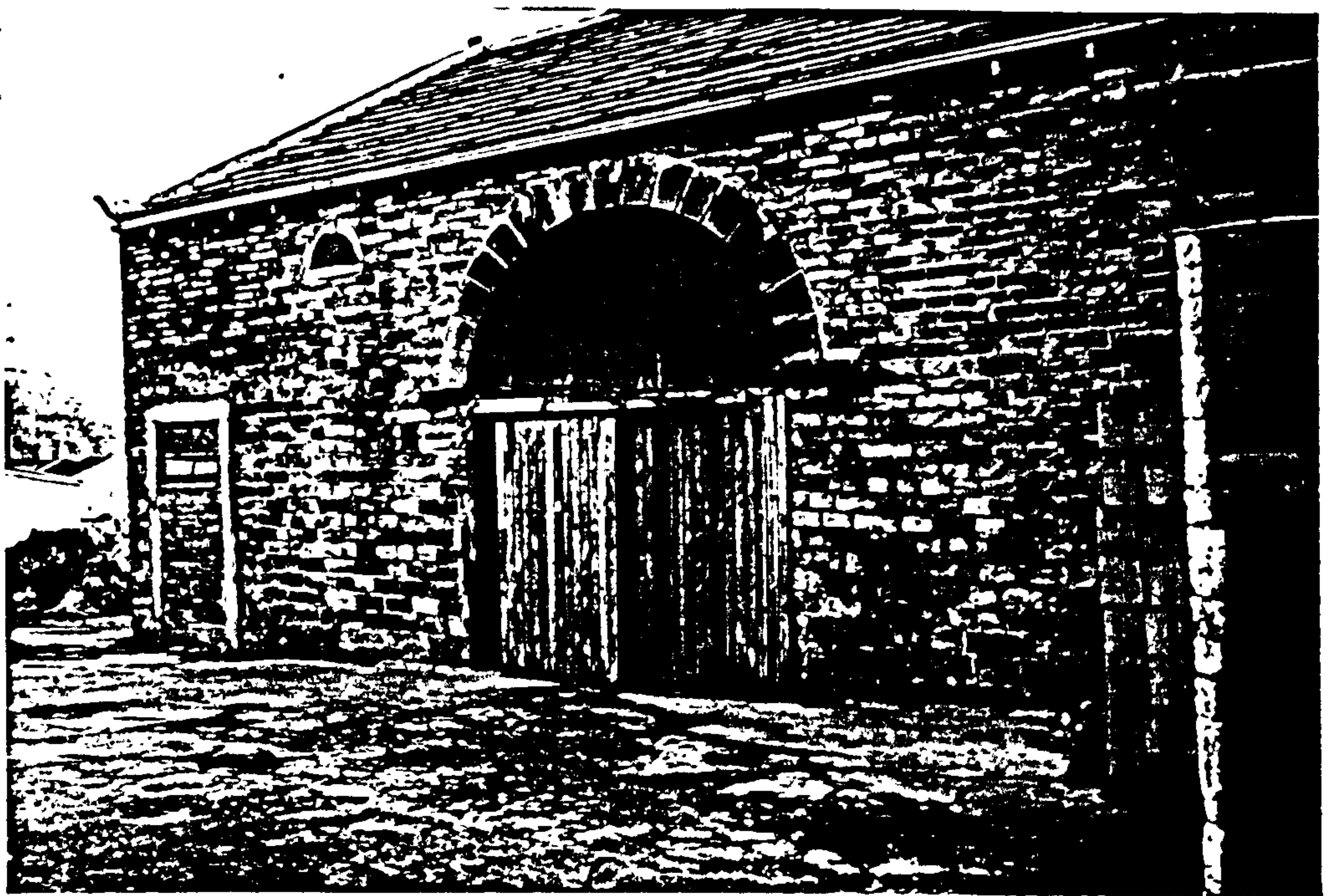
(Key: A=alterations/additions, L=laithe built)

|                           | 17th.c.       | early 18th.  | late 18th.   | early 19th    | late 19th.c.  |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| LAI THE<br>HOUSES         |               |              |              | Dean La.(Bt)  | Bay of Biscay |
|                           |               | Gazeby farm  | - - - - -    | - - - - -     | - A           |
|                           |               |              | Hirstfield   | - - - - -     | - L           |
|                           |               |              |              |               | Manor         |
|                           |               | Moorehouse   | - - A - -    | - - - - -     | - -A          |
|                           |               |              | Mt.Pleasant  |               |               |
|                           |               |              |              | Mustard Pot   |               |
|                           |               |              |              | Old Cote      |               |
|                           |               |              |              | Peatdyke      |               |
|                           |               |              |              | Pyche Nook    |               |
|                           |               |              |              |               | Rapefield     |
|                           |               |              |              | Ruston        |               |
|                           |               |              | Stream Head  | - - - - -     | - -L          |
|                           |               |              | High S.H.1   | - - L - -     | High S.H.2    |
|                           |               | Low Swain R. |              |               |               |
| NON-<br>LAI THE<br>HOUSES |               |              | Up. Westgate |               |               |
|                           |               |              |              | West House    |               |
|                           |               | Yew Tree     |              |               | Whinney H.    |
|                           | Hill Top-     | - - - - -    | - - - - -    | - - A         |               |
|                           | Aldersley     |              | Dean House   |               |               |
|                           |               |              |              |               | Ellcliffe     |
|                           | West End      |              |              | Up.Pikeley    |               |
|                           |               |              | Low Pikeley  | - - - - -     | - -A          |
|                           | Dean Lane Hd. | - - - - -    | - - - - -    | - - -A        |               |
|                           |               | L- - - - -   | - - - - -    | - - - - -     | Shay House    |
|                           |               |              | Up.Swain Rd. |               | Chellow H.    |
|                           | Gazeby Hall   | - - - - -    | - - - - -    | - - - - -     | - -L          |
|                           |               |              |              | low Shay      |               |
|                           | Low Bailey    | - - - - -    | - - - - -    | - - L         |               |
|                           |               |              |              | Up. Bailey    |               |
|                           |               |              |              | Low Stream H. |               |



Table 14(b)DATED FARMS IN ALLERTON

| TYPE OF FARM | NAME OF FARM      | DATE AND INITIALS | CONNECTIONS  |
|--------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Non-laithe   | Shay House        | BMR 1880          | Rawson       |
| " "          | Upper Bailey Fold | WC Sep 6 1821     | Cockcroft(?) |
| Laithe house | Hirstfield        | J 1861<br>J A     | Jowett       |
| " "          | Manor             | J S 1878<br>C     | Cockcroft    |
| " "          | Stream Head       | J S 1878<br>C     | Cockcroft    |
| " "          | High Stream Head  | I 1788<br>J&J     | Illingworth  |



Pl. 33. Manor Farm, Allerton.



Pl. 34. Stream Head, Allerton.



The farm group, comprising an 18th.c. laithe, suggesting the original date of Shay House itself, with added 19th. and 20th.c. outshuts, is roughly arranged around a farmyard (fig. 41a). Upper Swain Royd is a late 18th./early 19th.c. structure, probably two cottages sharing a central stack, each having an opposite direct entry with separate laithe and cottage with barn arranged on three sides of the small farmyard.(fig. 41b.).

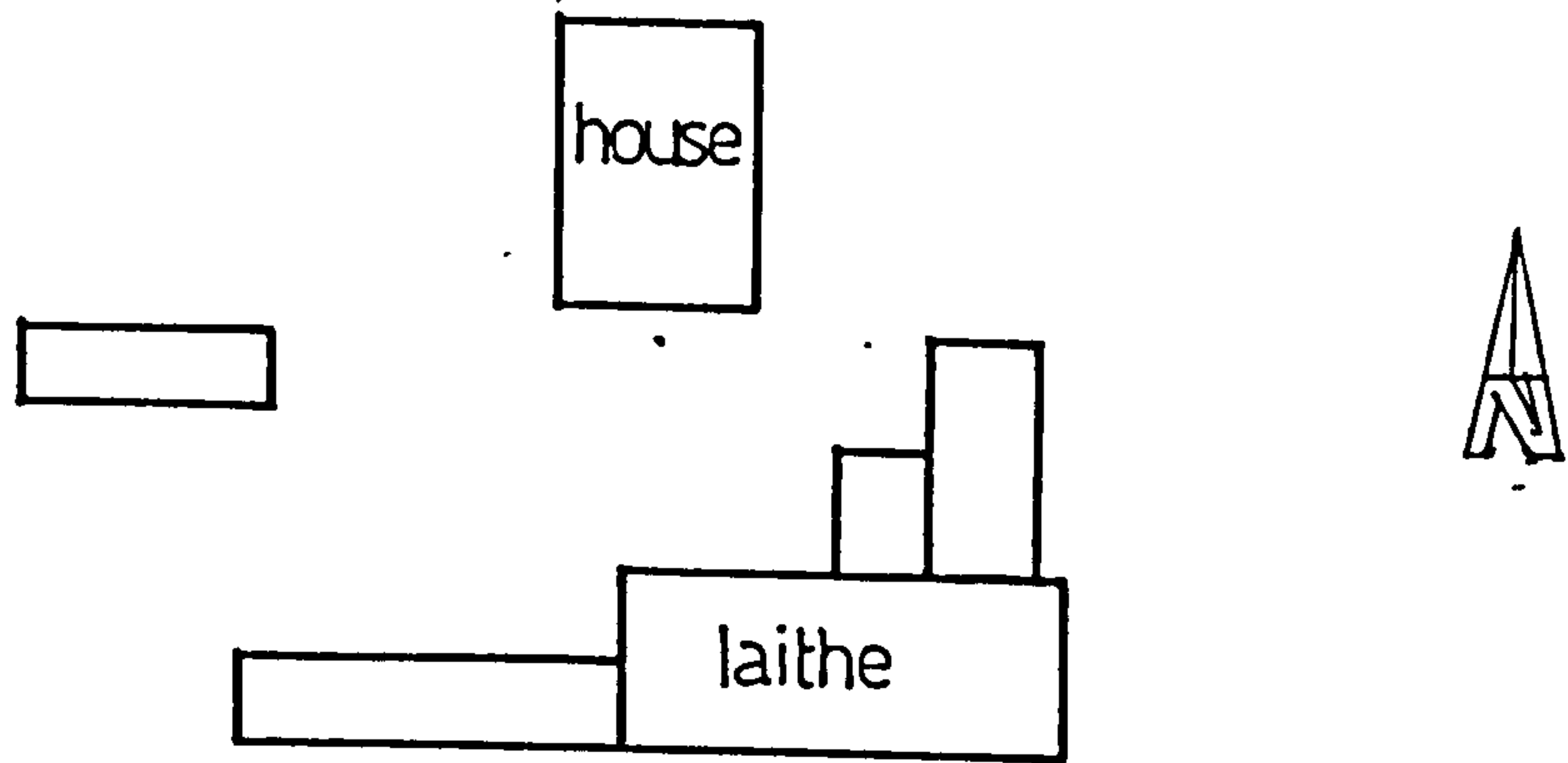
As with all the townships investigated, Allerton has its share of several pairs of farmsteads. Examples of non-laithe house types are at Lower Pikeley, now two modernised cottages with a separate and parallel laithe and the , originally later, Upper Pikeley, the present structure of 19th.c. date which is also two dwellings with a separate barn and a further separate mistal. As usual, the later house was built further 'up', representing the development of previously unused land and a further extension to the estate. While Upper and Lower Pikeley show a 'spread' development, the settlement at Bailey Fold is closely integrated (see groups on the Ordnance Survey map, fig. 42).

Lower Bailey Fold was built in the 17th.c. and still retains its original gable entrance with arched lintel. Its later, now derelict, laithe lies in a parallel, staggered alignment with the house while a further laithe of 18th.c. build is on the opposite side of the entry. Upper Bailey Fold was probably two houses with central stack and is dated 1821. It has a separate, probably contemporary laithe opposite. This group shows the close integration of farm buildings and housing as a site was developed. The original house and its buildings added a later house further up the site and taking in previously undeveloped land while also adding farm buildings.

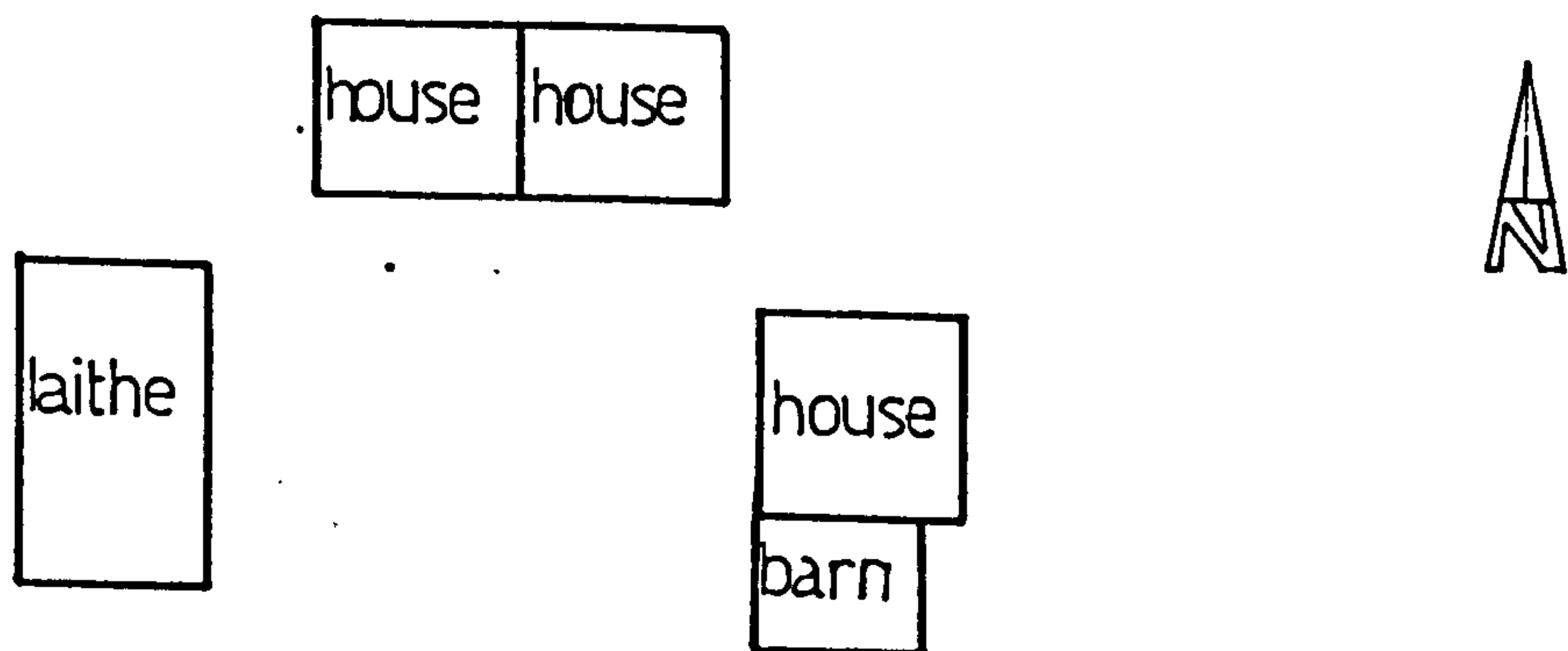
Settlement at Stream Head to the west of the township is a combination of laithe house and non-laithe house development over two centuries and spread across three sites. The road to Low Stream Head leads to a substantial 19th.c. house, possibly a rebuild of an earlier structure. It is of double pile, 2-storey, double front plan with a central entrance. Apart, at 90°, is a matching laithe, its gabled central door mirroring that of the house (pl. 35). There is

Fig. 41 FARM GROUPS IN ALLERTON

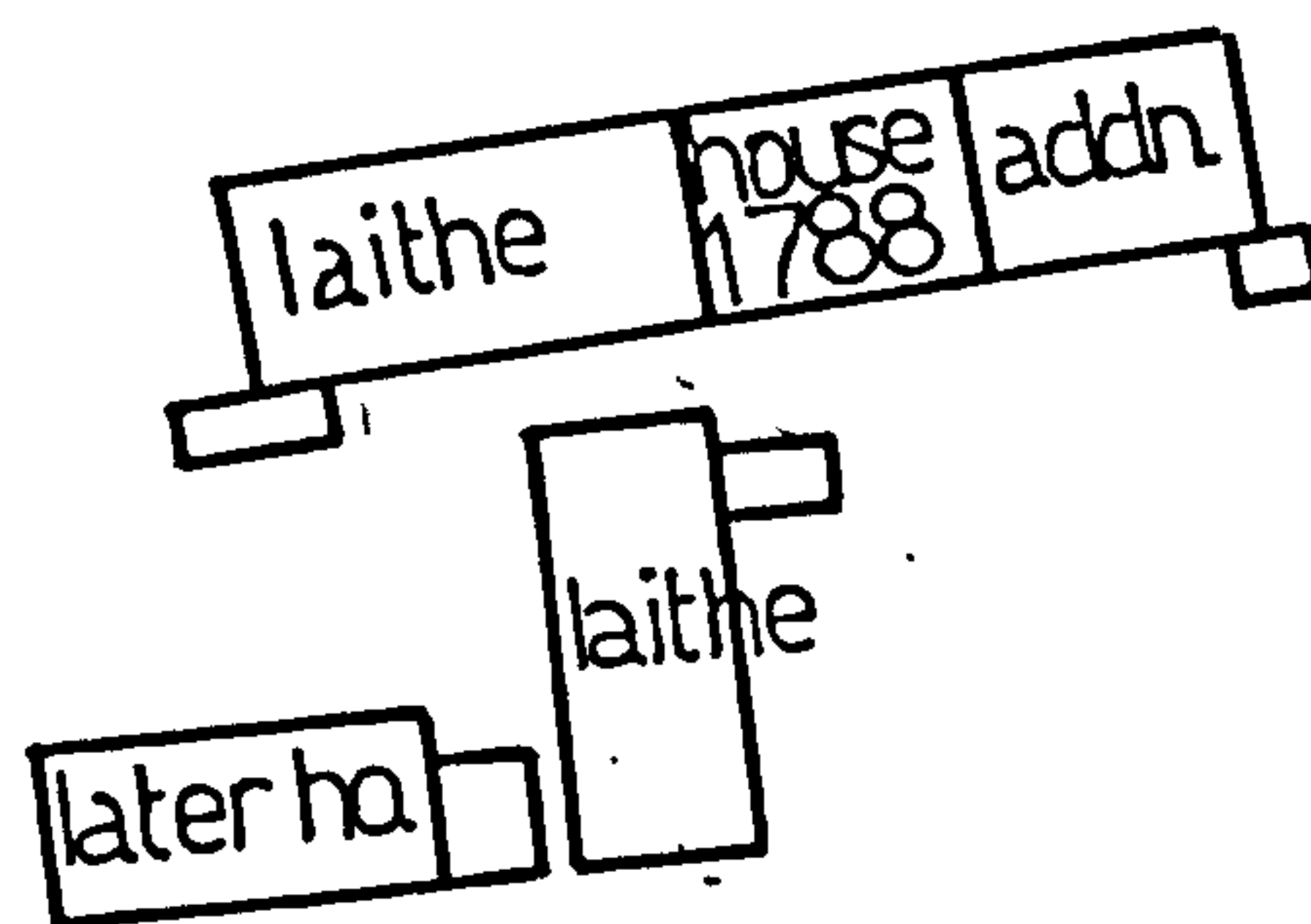
A. Shay House



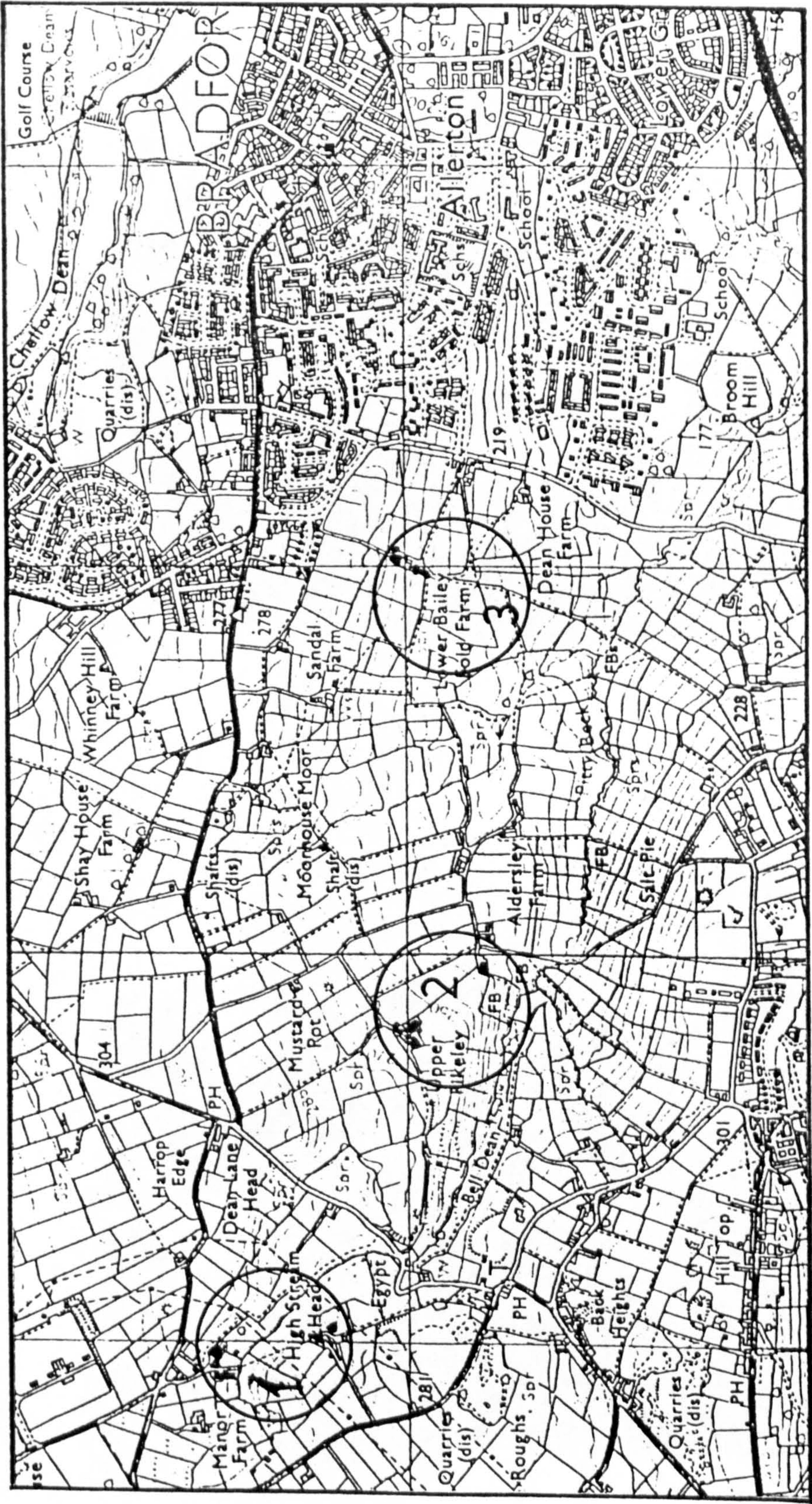
B. Upper Swain Royd



C. High Stream Head





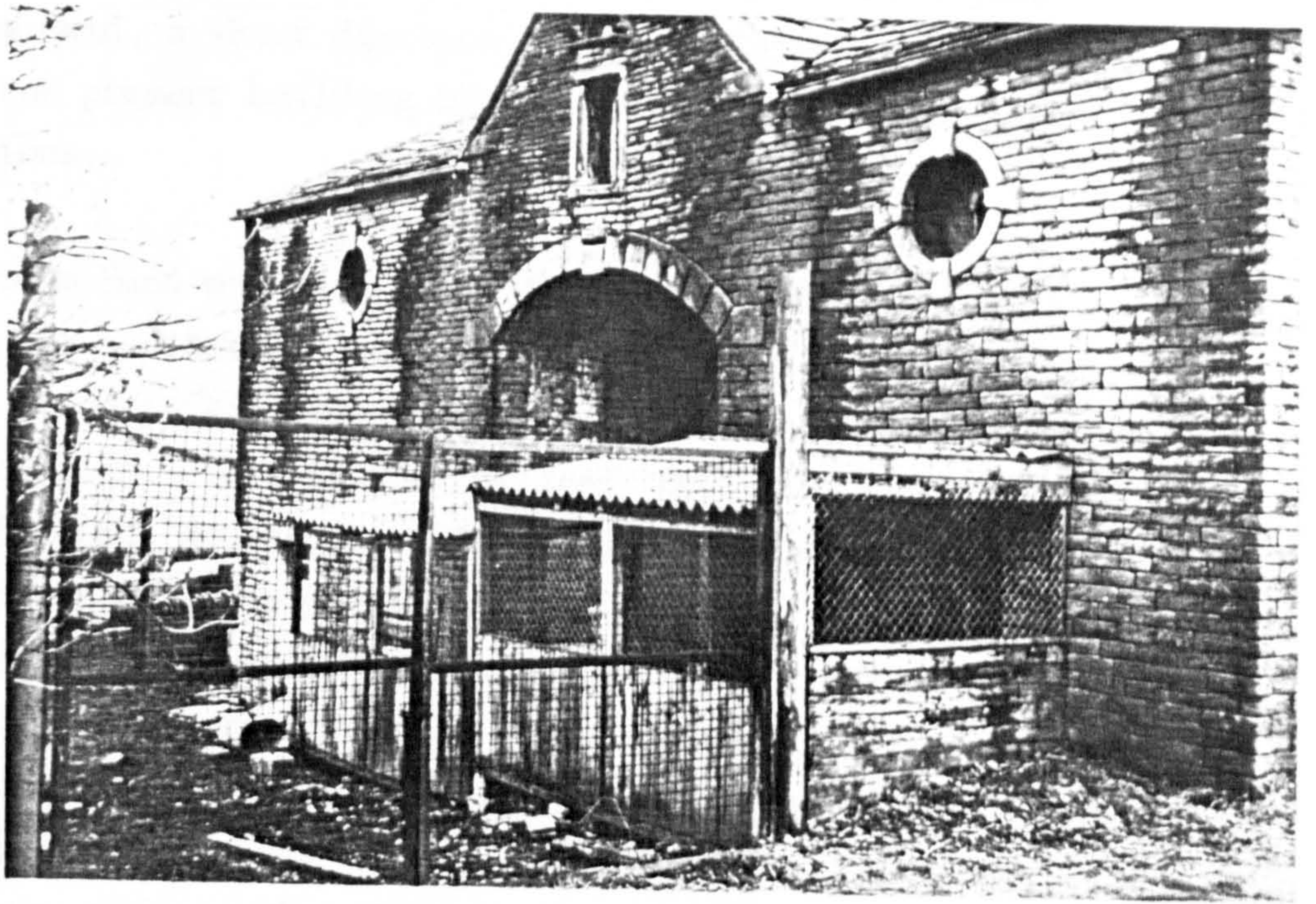


1. High and Low Stream Head.
2. Upper and Lower Pikeley.
3. Upper and Lower Bailey

Fold.

Fig. 42  
'PAIRS' OF FARMS IN ALLERTON





Pl.35. Detached laithe at Low Stream Head, Allerton.



Pl.36. Rapefield, Allerton.



a row of 5 early 18th.c. cottages built on the brow of the hill beyond and a small 19th.c. cottage built nearer the road and two other cottages built adjoining with an attached barn built just after. Stream Head, a short distance to the west, was a later development, the present building of mid. 18th.c. date with late 19th.c. additions.

High Stream Head was also built later, further up the hill slopes, about one quarter of a mile from the other Stream Head settlements. It comprises two farmhouses, one with laithe attached in laithe house form. This is the earliest house, dated 1788, and is of double-fronted, double pile plan though the two centrally-placed entrances reveal its origins as two single-fronted dwellings combined. There was a large addition to the house to the east which may have been built to provide fuller accommodation for the possible owners, two brothers called Joseph and John Jennings, plasterers by trade who also owned property at Low Stream Head. A laithe was built at the same time as the addition in about 1800, then a large two-dwelling house was built in the mid. 19th.c. with a separate laithe set close at right angles. It is possible the brothers rented out the older property and moved into the other themselves. Fig. 41c. shows the layout of High Stream Head, once again demonstrating the closely integrated relationship between dwelling and agricultural buildings in both laithe and non-laithe house forms, as well as how both types could be combined on one site. The assumption is that as the Jennings became more prosperous they built a slightly superior dwelling which had a detached laithe, itself a measure of higher standards.

On the whole, laithe houses in Allerton are of minimal, cottage accommodation, several of two single-front dwellings combined in double front plan. Later 19th.c. examples, like Peatdyke or Rapefield have particularly small dwelling accommodation. At Rapefield, part of the laithe was later taken up to increase the living area (pl.36) and at Peatdyke a further double pile cell was added to the original small laithe house plan (pl.20).

Allerton's laithe houses follow the county pattern, although there are one or two localised stylistic features. Square head laithe

doors with plain, flat lintels are common in 18th. and 19th.c. examples and not simply associated with the porched doors of the 17th century. Mustard Pot has such an example (pl.37) and also illustrates the narrow coursed masonry as common houses of all types in the township as the deeper courses of millstone grit. Segmental arched doors tend to be a feature of more substantial laithes, as at the free-standing example at Low Stream Head (pl.35) as well as the later 19th.c. examples like Rapefield (pl.36). Shallow arched doors with minimal or no quoining are also common as at Peatdyke.

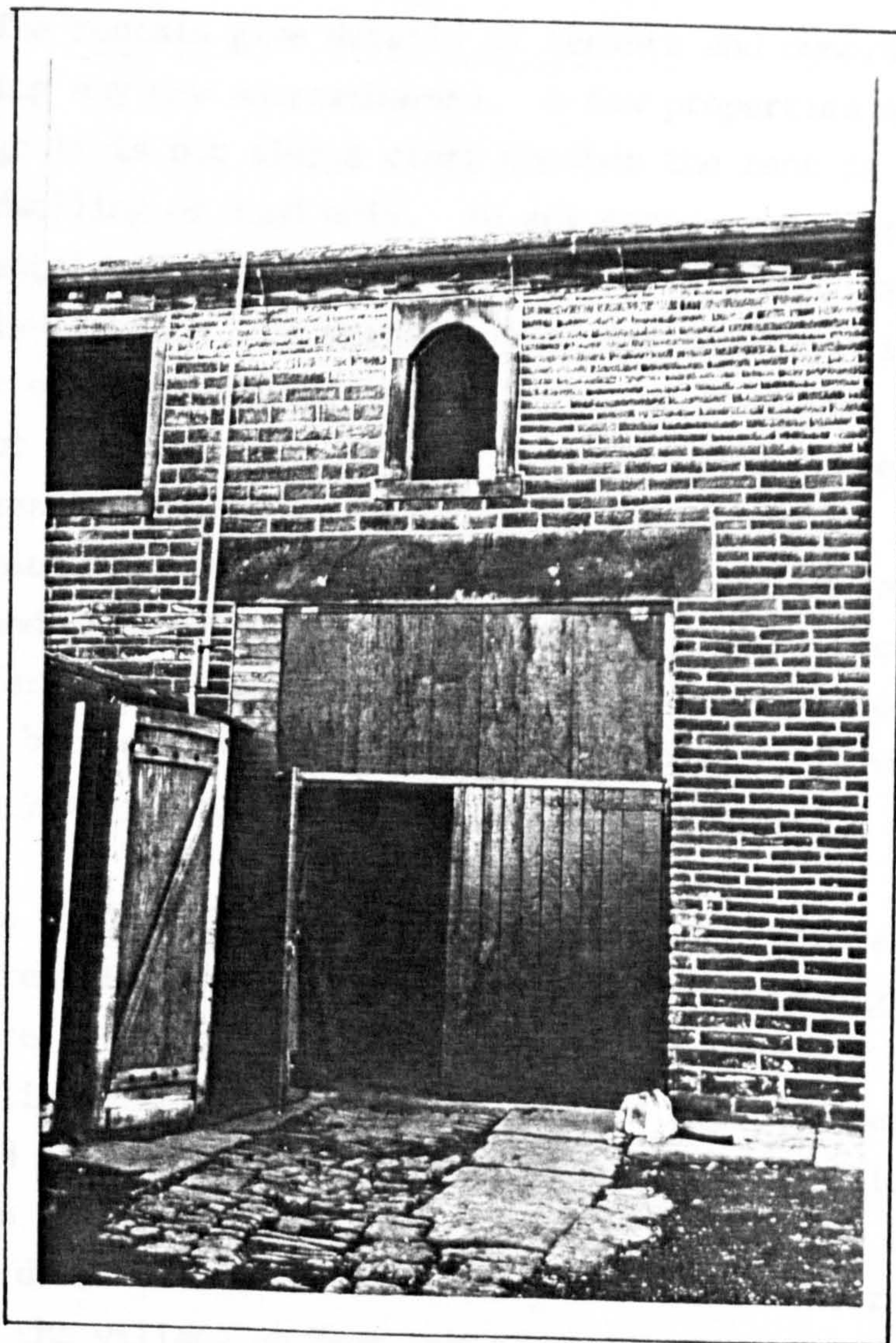
Peatdyke is an example of minimal stylistic features, stark elevation and basic accommodation (pl.20) and characterises the basic kind of laithe house most typical of the later stages of laithe house form as it passed down the social scale. It was owned and occupied from the mid. 19th.c. by Eli Midgley, a farmer of 12 acres of land who made his living by working this smallholding and small-scale stone delving, while 3 of his children supplemented the family income from their work in worsted manufacture. Today, farming at Peatdyke is of even less importance, the mistal being blocked up and the barn being taken over as a garage.

Although some laithe houses in Allerton are still working farms (usually where dairy or pig farming has been developed) many of the laithes have been taken up for extensions to the dwellings, or had doorways blocked, cattle sold off and barns used for general storage. When one also takes into account the abandoned and derelict farms, the picture is of a post-enclosure building phase which was quickly exploited and played out, only the richer or more adaptable farms surviving.

#### Landowners and tenants

Apart from a few scattered references for the manor of Allerton-cum-Wilsden, documents relating to the townships are largely confined to the 19th.c. In order to gain some picture of ownership and occupancy of the laithe houses, and their place in the context of farmsteads in Allerton, the following main records were checked;





Pl. 37. Mustard Pot, Allerton.  
(laithe door)



- 1804-37 Rentals of the manor of Allerton-cum-Wilsden (4)
- 1822-50 Commercial directories (see bibliography for ref)
- 1841 Enclosure award (5)
- 1849/50 Tithe award (7)
- 1850 Sale parts. for property on Moorehouse Moor(8)
- 1839 Map of Lower Pikeley (9)
- 1841-81 Census returns (see bibliography)

The rentals give details of tenants and owners with rents due, including any new encroachments. A few properties are mentioned, although it is not always clear whether the rent is being charged for a dwelling or land only. In any case, rents vary widely between 'Old Rents' and 'New Rents'. The whole is a complex picture at this local level, with land being divided and developed in a varied network of arrangements. For example, we find John Briggs paying rent for 'part of Thos. Waterhouse's' or James Foster paying for '7 closes at Upper Bents formerly Hemingway, tenant Joseph Holmes'. One outstanding feature is of frequent changes in tenancy at many lands and properties. Examples involving laithe houses include Yew Trees farm, owned by Jonas Jennings, and having three tenancy changes between 1804 and 1809, or Moorehouse Croft which had more or less yearly tenancy changes in the same period.

As discussed above, 'new incroachments' were a regular feature of the rentals, while the 1821 rents showed a strong movement towards enclosure 20 years before Mrs. Ferrand, as Lady of the Manor, applied for Parliamentary enclosure. There were approximately 250 newly enclosed lands in Allerton and Wilsden, those in Allerton mainly at Allerton Ley, an area south east of the village now overrun by later housing development. Parliamentary enclosure concerned the moorlands west of the village at Peat Dykes, Harrop Edge and Moorehouse Moor. Gentry landowners, like the Kayes and Powells, dominated.

A few farmsteads may be linked with their enclosure sites, but the tithe award of 1850 gives a more complete picture of landownership. The award shows a high incidence of tithe rights which had already been bought up by lay landowners. The first schedule in the award lists the commutation of tithes to cash payment to the Vicar of Bradford in the normal way; the second schedule comprises rents



payable to the landowners who had already purchased the tithes. This had probably occurred at the time of enclosure, the high proportion of landowners' rents suggesting a large number of prosperous men who were able to combine forces and buy out the rights. The breakdown of gross rent charge was as follows (5);

| <u>£</u> | <u>s</u> | <u>d</u> |                   |
|----------|----------|----------|-------------------|
| 24       | -        | -        | Vicar of Bradford |
| 28       | 13       | -        | landowners        |
| 6        | -        | -        | rector            |
| 58       | 13       | -        | Total             |

The award also gives general information on land size and usage. Allerton was recorded as having 1800 acres of mainly meadow and pasture, only 194 acres of the total being arable. Of crops, the volume of oats yielded was almost three times that of wheat, being a reflection on the poor upland agriculture and climate.

Table 15 lists the main landowners of the 1850 award, together with details of their holdings. George Baron esquire dominated the township by owning 17 smallholdings covering <sup>approximately</sup> 340 acres. All the other landowners had 1-5 holdings each, ranging from 16-51 acres, the average being 31 acres.

Table 16 gives brief details of 9 laithe houses and 10 non-laithe houses where the status or occupation of owner or tenant have been traced through 19th.c. documentary sources. The status of owners appears to be similar in both forms, as does the occupation of tenants. In both cases the picture is of the gentry renting holdings to tenant farmers, with a handful of trades represented on both sides. Only one owner/occupier appears in each category. The main difference between laithe and non-laithe houses occurs in the size of holding. Of the sample, non-laithe houses averaged 27 acres while laithe houses averaged under 18 acres. Lower Swain Royd was an exceptionally large laithe house farm of 46 acres, as recorded in the 1881 census, due to its development as a dairy farm and milk dealer's. Without this example, the average would have been only 14 acres, with a range of 10-20 acres overall. Although the non-laithe house farms were no more than smallholdings, with a range of 12-40 acres, they averaged

Table 15.LANDOWNERS OF ALLERTON, 1850.

| Name of landowner  | No. of holdings | Total acreage | Average acreage |
|--|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| F.S. Bridges   | 2               | 55            | 28              |
| Miss Dawson  | 2               | 95            | 48              |
| Charles Harris esq.                                      | 2               | 103           | 51              |
| Captain Rhyss  | 2               | 45            | 22              |
| Miss Jowett  | 3               | 88            | 39              |
| Ellis Cunliffe Lister<br>Kaye esq.                       | 4               | 150           | 37              |
| Captain Letch  | 2               | 32            | 16              |
| George Baron esq.  | 17              | 340           | 20              |
| William Rawson esq.                                      | 5               | 143           | 29              |
| Other lanowners (not<br>named) with one holding<br>each. |                 | 270           |                 |
| TOTAL  |                 | 1800          | 31*             |

\*overall  
average

Source: Allerton enclosure award, 1850 , W.Y.C.R.O.,A.6.



Table 16

## STATUS OF OWNERS AND TENANTS OF ALLERTON'S FARMS, 19th.c.

(i) LAITHE HOUSES

| Name of farm          | Date of document | Owner             | Tenant                 | Acreage |
|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------------|---------|
| <u>Cote</u>           | 1804-9           | Baronet           | Farmer                 | 13      |
|                       | 1850             | Captain           | Farmer                 |         |
| <u>Moorside</u>       | 1881             |                   | farmer                 |         |
|                       | 1841             |                   | farmer/<br>stone       |         |
| <u>Mount Pleasant</u> | 1851             |                   | farmer                 | 12      |
|                       | 1841             |                   | farmer                 |         |
|                       | 1850             | Esquire           |                        |         |
| <u>Mustard Pot</u>    | 1861-81          |                   | farmer                 |         |
|                       | 1839             | squire            |                        |         |
|                       | 1841             | gent.             |                        |         |
|                       | 1850             | squire            |                        |         |
|                       | 1851             |                   | farmer                 |         |
|                       | 1876             | squire            |                        |         |
| <u>Peatdyke</u>       | 1881             |                   | farmer<br>(retired)    |         |
|                       | 1804             | gent.             |                        |         |
|                       | 1841-50          | farmer/<br>stone  | owner/<br>occupier     |         |
| <u>Rapefield</u>      | 1839             | squire            |                        | 13      |
|                       | 1850             | shuttle-<br>maker |                        |         |
|                       | 1881             |                   | farmer                 |         |
| <u>Lower Swain</u>    | 1804             | gent.             |                        | 46      |
| <u>Royd</u>           | 1841             |                   | farmer                 |         |
|                       | 1850-61          | squire            | farmer                 |         |
|                       | 1881             |                   | farmer/<br>milk dealer |         |
| <u>Whinney Hill</u>   | 1841             | gent              | farmer                 | 10      |
|                       | 1850             | shuttle-<br>maker |                        |         |
|                       | 1861             |                   | farmer                 |         |
|                       | 1876             | squire            |                        |         |
|                       | 1881             |                   | cotton<br>weaver       |         |
| <u>Yew Trees</u>      | 1804             | worsted<br>mfr.   |                        | 16      |
|                       | 1881             |                   | farmer                 |         |

Table 16STATUS OF OWNERS AND TENANTS OF ALLERTON'S FARMS, 19th.c.

## (ii) NON-LAITHE HOUSES

| Name of farm                         | Date of document | Owner           | Tenant                | Acreage |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|---------|
| <u>Bailey Fold</u>                   | 1804-9           | gent.           |                       |         |
| ( <u>Upper and</u><br><u>Lower</u> ) | 1841             |                 | farmer/<br>woolcomber |         |
|                                      | 1850             | squire+         |                       |         |
|                                      |                  | captain         |                       |         |
|                                      | 1881             |                 | farmer                | 25      |
|                                      |                  |                 | farmer                | 20      |
| <u>Dean House</u>                    | 1804             | squire          | used as<br>poorhouse  |         |
|                                      | 1809             | cotton<br>mfr.  | "                     |         |
|                                      | 1822             | worsted<br>mfr. | "                     |         |
|                                      | 1881             |                 | farmer                | 12      |
| <u>High Ash</u>                      | 1804             | gent.           |                       |         |
|                                      | 1841-81          | squire          | farmer                | 24      |
| <u>Hill Top</u>                      | 1841-50          | squire          | farmer/<br>stuff mfr. | 18      |
|                                      | 1881             |                 | farmer/<br>coalman    | 18      |
| <u>Lower Pikeley</u>                 | 1839             | squire          |                       |         |
|                                      | 1841             | gent.           | owner/<br>occupier    |         |
|                                      | 1881             |                 | farmer                | 12      |
| <u>Upper Pikeley</u>                 | 1841             | delver          | farmer                |         |
|                                      | 1850-81          | squire          | farmer)               | 40      |
|                                      |                  |                 | farmer)               | 36      |
| <u>Shay</u>                          | 1861-81          |                 | farmer                | 25      |
| <u>Upper Shay</u>                    | 1841-81          |                 | farmer                | 20      |
| <u>Upper Swain Royd</u>              | 1841-81          | squire          | farmer                | 40      |

Sources: W. Cudworth, Manningham, Heaton and Allerton, 1896.

Enclosure award for Allerton, 1850, W.Y.C.R.O. A.6  
Rentals for Allerton, Wakefield manor, Y.A.S. 290/15  
 The census returns for Allerton, Bradfordale, 1841-81  
 19thc. commercial directories (see bibliography)



larger than the laithe houses, a pattern consistent with comparisons between the two types county-wide.

Appendix 10 contains transcribed extracts of two probate inventories. The first is of a non-laithe house called Aldersley farm and is dated 1698. It represents a substantial gentry house of 14 chambers, with a separate barn. The inventories of four of the ground floor rooms has been transcribed and show a substantial range and quantity of household goods; for example the '7 sealed chairs and ten cushions' found in the housebody along with the numerous tables, settles, cupboards and chairs of the parlour and kitchen. In contrast, the second example, dated 1728, is the house of a yeoman called Matthew Hollings. The (unidentified) property was of around 11 acres and the house comprised a 3-chamber dwelling with barn either attached in laithe house form or close enough to have caused the subheading of 'for the barn' to be omitted in the original and added in the margin later. Unlike the superior accommodation of Aldersley, the housebody here has retained its function of being the main cooking area as well as living room, and the parlour contains a bed and chest only. The livestock and farming gear listed 'in the barn', as well as the size of farmland, described as '17 days work' (i.e. 11 acres) makes Matthew Hollings' farm comparable to a laithe house holding.

NORTHOWRAM

Situated in Halifax parish, only 2 miles north east of Halifax itself, the 4,887 acres of Northowram straddles Shibden Dale to the east, on the fringes of the lower coal measures, while its western half lies on the higher millstone grit area. Its location is shown on the map in fig. 33.

Northowram was once part of a district known as 'Owram', later distinguished as 'North-over-ham' and 'South-over-ham' being present day North and Southowram. The whole district was probably the '2 carrucates of land' called 'Ufrum' mentioned in Domesday as belonging to the king and subsequently granted to the Earl of Warren. In the 1577 inquisition at Halifax it was found to belong to Elizabeth I as part of the extensive Wakefield manor.

Few men rose higher than minor gentry level in Halifax parish, and those that did often moved out. The 1379 Poll Tax listed 28 eligible for the tax in Northowram, none of whom paid more than the 4d. minimum (esquires paid 6/6d. at the lowest). The few gentry families who gradually appeared in the area made their money from agriculture, rents, and mineral resources, with little interest in the growing textile trade. The distinction between trade and landed income was still important.

"Even the Murgatroyds and Sunderlands who had risen from clothier stock appear to have abandoned their interest<sup>in</sup> the trade after achieving gentle status"(10)

The important class to appear from the 15th.c. was the yeomanry, widespread in England from the 15-17th.c. but in the Halifax region particularly associated with textile manufacture, earning them the name of yeoman-clothiers'. Westerdale's analysis of wills from the Shibden Dale area showed that one-third of yeomen had left goods which were connected with cloth manufacture (11). It was this class that moved up to assume minor gentry status from the 16th.c. In fact, the boundaries between the lower gentry and the upper yeomanry were blurred by the comparative wealth of the latter.

The early growth of textile manufacture in the form of a



dual occupation with farming may have been partly the results of land scarcity from the 15th.c. although successful manufacturing may have encouraged yeomen to rely less on land as time went on. In the middle ages pressure for new land was probably due to population growth after the Black Death had subsided, and immigration from lowland villages de-populated by enclosures. These trends saw the growth of a large class of smallholders with low incomes who looked for an alternative source of income. Partible inheritance has also been mentioned as another contributing factor; this is discussed in section I. Textile manufacture was favoured because of available materials and small capital costs. The ulnage rolls chart the industry's growth in the Halifax area. From being totally excluded at the end of the 14th.c., the production here was second only to York by the mid. 18th.c. The Halifax Act of 1555 stressed how vital the industry was for the area's economy (12).

Describing the main industries of Northowram, Pearson wrote in 1891;

'While there have been for hundreds of years a number of stone quarries and coal mines in Northowram, woolcombing, spinning and handloom weaving have been the chief occupations. For many generations the wool came from Halifax, but before the close of the 18th.c. and during the first few decades of the 19th., it came from Cleckheaton and was consigned to Joseph Anderton, a Northowram village resident. He owned a number of looms himself but also gave out large quantities of wool to be combed, spun and woven. It was the custom for his workers to assemble in the 'fold' or yard adjoining his house (still called Anderton Fold) on Saturdays to hand in their 'tops' and finished 'plaid pieces' and to be paid." (13)

Shibden was one of the earliest corn mills in the district, and usually let by the lord of the manor at a certain rental. Both freedmen and bondmen were required to grind the corn they grew at the mill, paying one measure out of seventeen.

As already noted, Northowram lies on the edge of the coal measures, and although never completely exploited, there was always a coal mining industry, especially developed in the 19th.c. Good beds of building stone ensured a consistent stone quarrying industry which was particularly widespread in the 19th.c. with increased building for mills and workers' houses.

As a background to this growth, Table 17 illustrates the substantial and steadily rising population throughout the 19th.c. in Northowram, while commercial directories of the period give a good indication of the most common trades carried out by this population. These directories also list 'main residents', indicating something of the social structure. Although some of the discrepancies in the figures are probably a result of some residents failing to be entered under the same category year by year, several trends may be seen.

Worsted manufacture rises steadily until 1837, then appears to suffer a sharp drop by 1867. What has happened is that the industry became more centralized with fewer mill-owners employing many more people. Otherwise, the overall pattern is of a rise in most trades up to 1837, some achieving a 'peak' at this time, notably the traditional skills of wheelwright and blacksmith which had declined considerably by 1881 as manufacturing processes took over their functions. Collieries had more or less reached their full level of exploitation by 1837, maintaining this level for the next 40 years at least, while the retail trades rose by the 1860's to serve the increased population.

By 1881, while traditional trades were declining, two occupational groups were increasing. Stone quarrying reached its height at this time, supplying building materials on a wider scale, and farming shows a dramatic increase from 28 in 1867 to 76 by 1881. Given the possibility that more farmers were simply included in the listings, these figures still represent a trend of turning back to farming as other trades declined. However, to balance the picture, it should be noted that about 30-40% of the farmers listed had farming specifically recorded as a dual occupation, the other trade almost invariably connected with extractive industries, stone



Table 17.ANALYSIS OF MAIN OCCUPATIONS IN NORTHOWRAM, 1822-1881

| Year of directory >   | 1822  | 1830   | 1837   | 1867   | 1881   |
|---|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total population >  | 6,841 | 10,184 | 13,352 | 20,094 | 20,218 |
| <u>OCCUPATIONS</u>  |       |        |        |        |        |
| Gentry  | 12    | 15     | 13     | 6      | 10     |
| Worsted mfr.  | 11    | 23     | 33     | 5*     | 2.     |
| Wool mfr.   | 1     | 1      | 3      | 1      | 1      |
| Silk mfr.   | -     | 2      | 2      | -      | -      |
| Textiles, general   | 5     | 8      | 10     | 14     | 4      |
| Corn  | 2     | 2      | 1      | -      | -      |
| Coal  | -     | -      | 8      | 9      | 7      |
| Stone   | 3     | 7      | 22     | 20     | 26     |
| Blacksmith  | -     | 7      | 13     | 9      | 4      |
| Joiner/wheelwright  | -     | 11     | 15     | 12     | 6      |
| Shoe/clogmaker  | -     | 6      | 14     | 18     | 7      |
| Butcher   | -     | 6      | 5      | 13     | 9      |
| Shopkeeper  | -     | 12     | 22     | 47     | 36     |
| Inn/brewer  | 7     | 11     | 32     | 35     | 27     |
| Farmer  | -     | -      | 17     | 28     | 76     |
| *including 'Messrs. John Foster & Son, alpaca, mohair and<br>worsted manufacturers employing upwards of 3000 persons at<br>Black Dike Mills, Queensbury". |       |        |        |        |        |

Sources: Baine's directory, 1822White's directories of the cloth districts, 1830-81.

(see bibliography)

quarrying in particular. There was also a handful of farmer/inn-keepers. How this pattern affected laithe houses is discussed in connection with evidence from the 19th.c. census returns (see below)

The gentry, while not numerous, represent a larger class than is found in the other specific areas, a reflection of the relative wealth of the township. The incongruous total of '6' in 1867 appears to be due to the omission of some gentry in the listings for that year (or possibly entered under a trade category if they had such interests, though this is less likely) rather than to a sudden depopulation.

### Building and settlement

Until the late 18th.c., the area was mainly one of small hamlets, with Halifax the only substantial settlement. The numerous 'royd' place names of Northowram indicate the amount of early woodland clearance, e.g. Whinney Royd, Ellen Royd, Plough Royd. The settlement pattern today is of a number of late 18th. and 19th.c. developed industrial areas like Charlestown, Boothtown and Ambler Thorn with perhaps one or two 17th.c. houses indicating where the original hamlet existed. Outside these areas are many scattered farmsteads and hamlets, the more remote farms of the late 18th. and 19th.c. (like Ringby or Crow Nest in the western upland part of the township) indicating the furthest extent of post-enclosure settlement. There are a number of substantial 17th.c. farms scattered randomly, some corresponding to the sites of medieval settlements as at Warmleigh and Shibden. It is worth noting that almost all these early medieval sites are linked with later non-laithe house farms rather than laithe houses. In fact, there are only two (Field and Lower North Royd) and these have both changed their names from their earliest recorded existence in the 14th. and 15th.c. and the present structures show no evidence of an earlier laithe house form.

Other 17th.c. houses have been submerged in later development areas, like Baxter farm near Northowram village centre, now surrounded by terraces and farms of the 18th. and 19th.c. Paired and terraced cottages, some arranged in foldyards as at

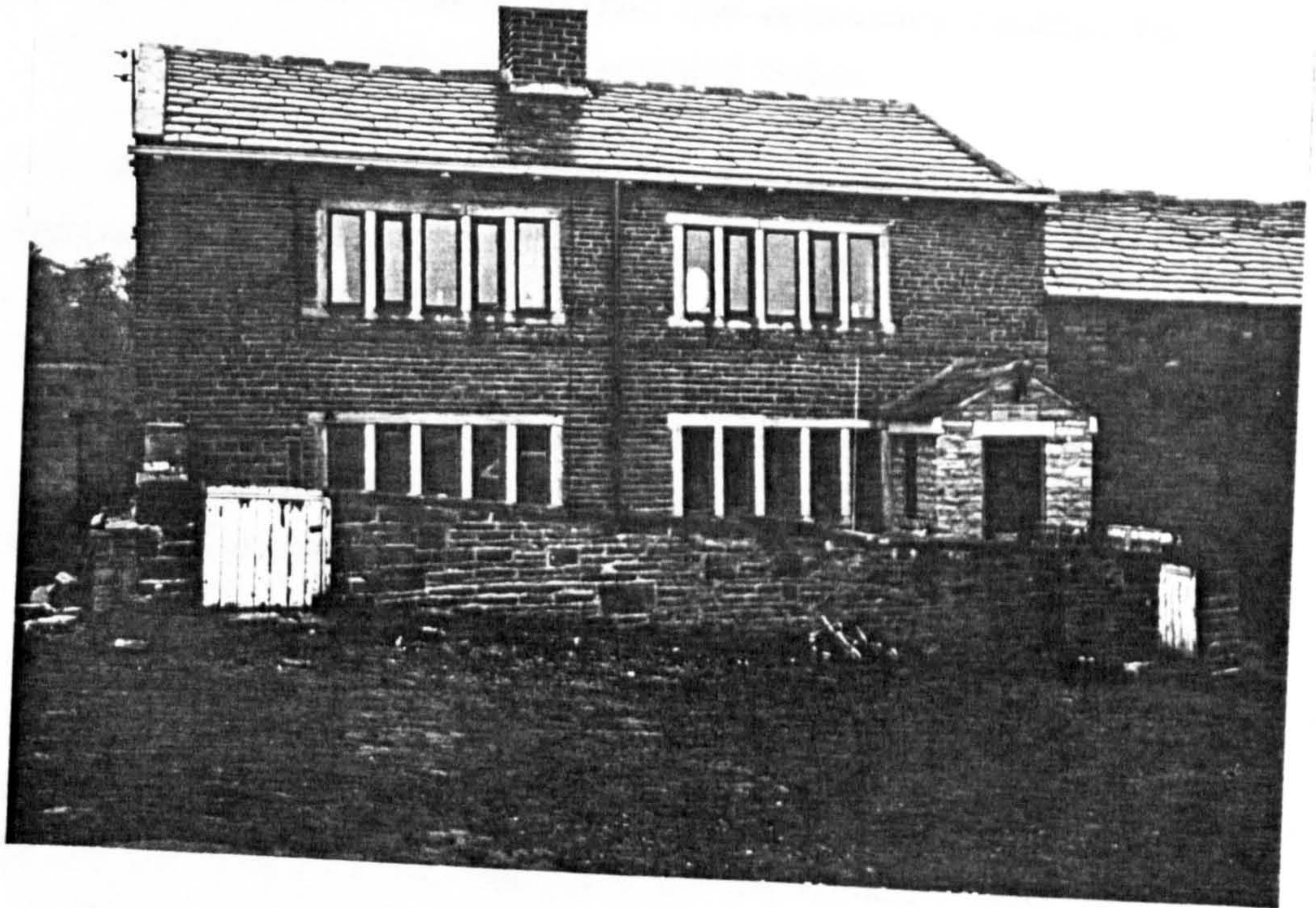


Anderton fold (described above by Pearson) and Casson fold, dated 1825, are common, as are the many post-enclosure farmsteads throughout the area, the formal enclosure being effected in 1780. These farms are usually made up of 2-3 cottages plus the agricultural buildings or a full double-pile, two storey house with buildings. The overall impression is of more substantial houses compared with the other specific areas. Some farms (at least 6 noted) were even of a status to be built with an added cross-wing, while the overall size of the usually more minimal laithe house plan reaches very substantial proportions at Upper Collier Syke and Field House. There is also a handful of substantial residences built in the 19th. century, evidence of the more prosperous tradesmen.

The stone beds of Northowram produce two different types of building material. To the east, on the edge of the lower coal measures, we find 'Elland flags', a type of fine-grained sandstone especially suited for flooring and roofing because it can be split into regular 'flags'. Though easily worked, its softness does not weather well, so details in stone work are little used. To the west of the township, on the beds of millstone grit, 'Rough Rock' is quarried, harder and less easily worked but also less susceptible to weathering. The use of both types of stone is seen throughout the area, Elland flags characteristically set in narrow courses as at Upper Dean Stones (pl. 38) while Rough Rock is quarried and used in much larger, squared blocks.

Rebuilding in stone began earlier in Halifax parish (15th.c.) compared with the overall northern pattern of 16th.c. rebuilding. However, the main building phases of the yeomen-clothiers' houses show a peak around 1630. This is probably explained by the higher price of textiles and subsequent extra capital gained by the manufacturers. There was also a peak around 1670, this in line with the general northern trend (14). The common house plan form was the linear arrangement until the end of the 17th.c., when it gave way to the double pile plan arranged around a central axis. There were very few cruck-framed buildings in Halifax parish, especially when compared with the Holme valley. This is attributed to the higher level of wealth in the area (15). The minor gentry had risen in prosperity earlier, and never adopted the form when rebuilding their





Pl. 38. Upper Dean Stones, Northowram.



Pl. 39. Black Boy Farm, Northowram.



larger houses. The yeomen-clothiers copied these gentry houses and built to a box-frame pattern which was later adopted down the social scale as successive social levels gained the necessary capital to rebuild. Farmstead plan types are discussed below.

On the whole, little decoration is found on houses of any status. Quoins are a feature, and label and string courses are common in the 17th.c. One of the most characteristic ornaments of Halifax parish is found in carved ornamental stops and Tudor-arched doorways were also common in the 17th.c., following the county-wide fashion. They were refined into a semi-circular arch in the later yeomen-clothier houses, e.g. Smith House and Lower Hagstock.

The most general feature is the stone mullioned window. There are a few examples of mullioned and transomed windows (fairly common in the substantial homes of Shibden Dale to the east), while 'stepped' windows are seen in several of the more sophisticated houses throughout the township. An example is Black Boy farm (pl.39). Mullions were mainly flat and splayed right into the latter half of the 18th.c. in more conservative houses, especially in the west of the township. Rectangular section mullions appeared in the east from the early 18th.c., the mullion being in fact a stone flag set on end, though the traditional practice of recessing mullioned windows on inferior elevations continues as at Field House and Priestley Hall.

Vernacular traditions persisted in the humbler houses well into the 19th.c., especially reflected in the continued use of local materials and mullioned windows. By contrast, many gentry and yeomen-clothier homes had risen to the level of 'polite' architecture and had little to do with local tradition.

## Farmsteads

Falling land values owing to the drop in population from the Black Death in the late 14th.c. allowed larger landowners to buy up land and increase their estates. It was a period when large areas of waste were cleared and leased out. The low rents and light manorial customs, characteristic of the widespread Wakefield manor, led to many villeins becoming customary tenants or copyholders. They enjoyed the customary rights of inheritance (which would tend to retain the property within a family), fixed entry fines and fixed rents. The effect was to make tenure as secure as freehold in many cases, and encouraged the growth of a well-established class of smallholders. The poor arable land, especially on the higher millstone grit area to the west, meant that subsistence farming predominated with the accent on animal husbandry. The smallholdings were built up by piecemeal addition of 'assarts' cleared from the wastes, and many farmers combined agriculture with another occupation

Table 18 lists the main types of farmstead layouts noted during fieldwork. Although there are 18 examples of dwellings with separate laithes, and 9 of dwellings with separate barns, the laithe house form predominates with a total of 34 examples. In all the examples of house and separate agricultural buildings, the overall layout is still very compact, with house and laithe or barn only a few yards apart in most cases. Plate 40 shows one example of house and separate laithe, arranged in a typically compact layout with the farmyard tucked inbetween the two components, and fig.43 of Brian Scholes farm has the laithe in the same line as the dwelling but with a narrow passage between them. This close integration of the two parts is typical of smallholds in upland pastoral areas.

The closest integration occurs of course in the laithe house farm, and before going on to look at specific examples in Northowram a note should be made of dates and distribution. The map in fig.44 shows the distribution of laithe houses in the township. It will be noted that most occur in the west, the farms to the lower (and better arable) lands to the east, especially the south east, more commonly composed of dwelling and separate agricultural buildings.

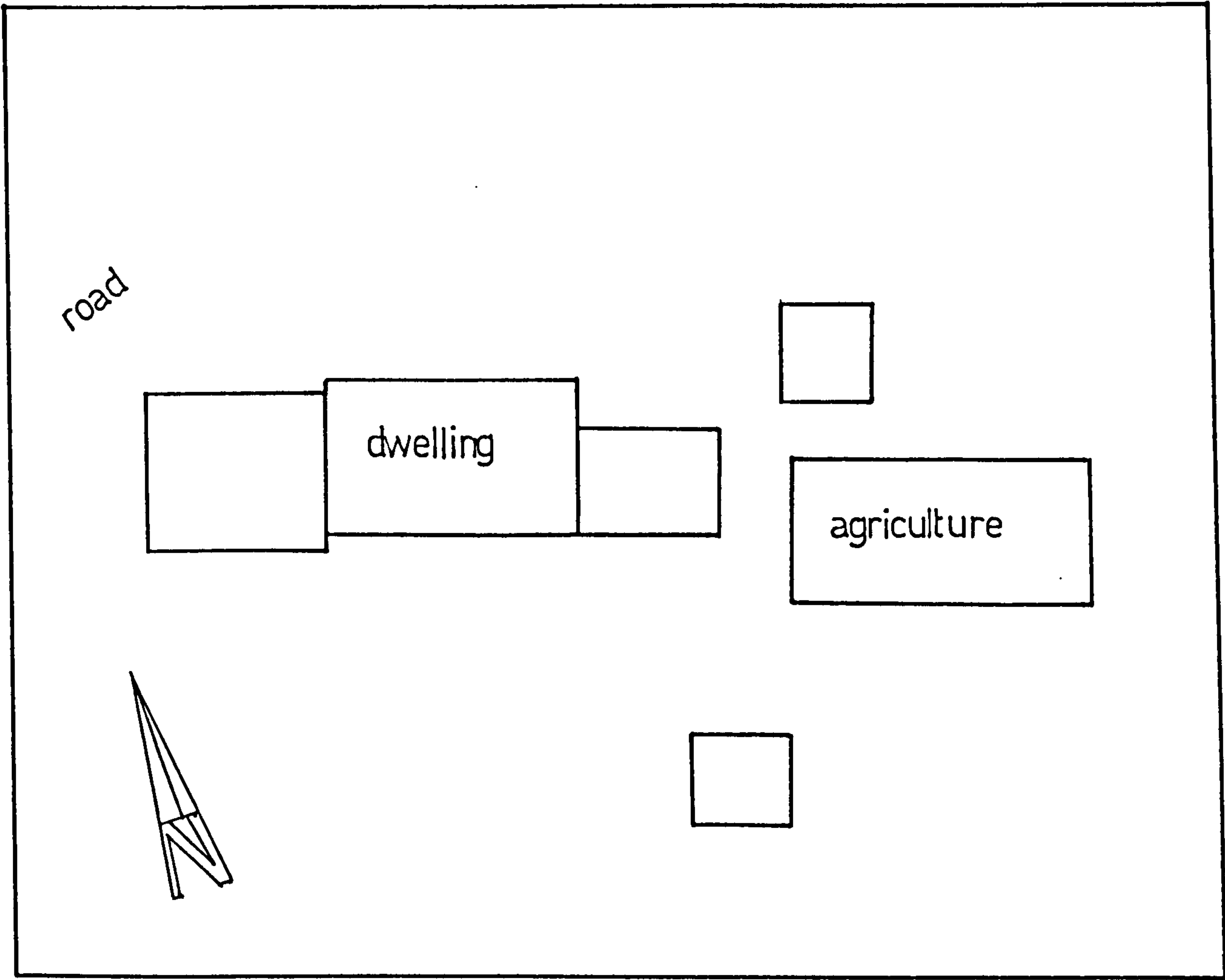


Table 18.COMMON FARMSTEAD LAYOUTS IN NORTHOWRAM

(Broad definitions: Ho= double pile, 2 storey, double front  
 Cott= " " " single " )

| <u>Dwelling and laithe separate</u>                                   | <u>No. recorded</u> |
|---|---------------------|
| Ho + sep. laithe parallel   | 3                   |
| Ho + sep. laithe at 90°   | 2                   |
| Ho + sep. laithe (other)  | 4                   |
| Ho + cross-wing + sep. laithe at 90°                                  | 1                   |
| Ho + cross-wing + sep. laithe (other)                                 | 3                   |
| Ho + sep. laithe house  | 1                   |
| 2 cotts + sep. laithe at 90°  | 2                   |
| 2 cotts + sep. laithe (other)   | 2                   |
| <u>Dwelling and barn separate</u>                                     |                     |
| Ho + sep. barn parallel   | 1                   |
| Ho + sep. barn (other)  | 1                   |
| Ho + cross-wing + sep. barn (other)                                   | 2                   |
| Ho + cott. + sep. barn  | 1                   |
| 2 cotts + sep. barn   | 1                   |
| 2 cotts + sep. 2 barns in L-shape                                     | 1                   |
| 3 cotts + sep. barn   | 2                   |
| <u>Laithe houses</u>  | 34                  |
| <u>Others</u>   |                     |
| 2 cotts + sep. other outbuildings                                     | 1                   |
| <u>Hamlets</u>  |                     |
| Dam Head ( 2 hos. parallel gables +<br>1 ho + sep. laithe parallel)   |                     |
| Shibden Mill ( 4 cotts + ho at 90° attached<br>+ large barn attached) |                     |

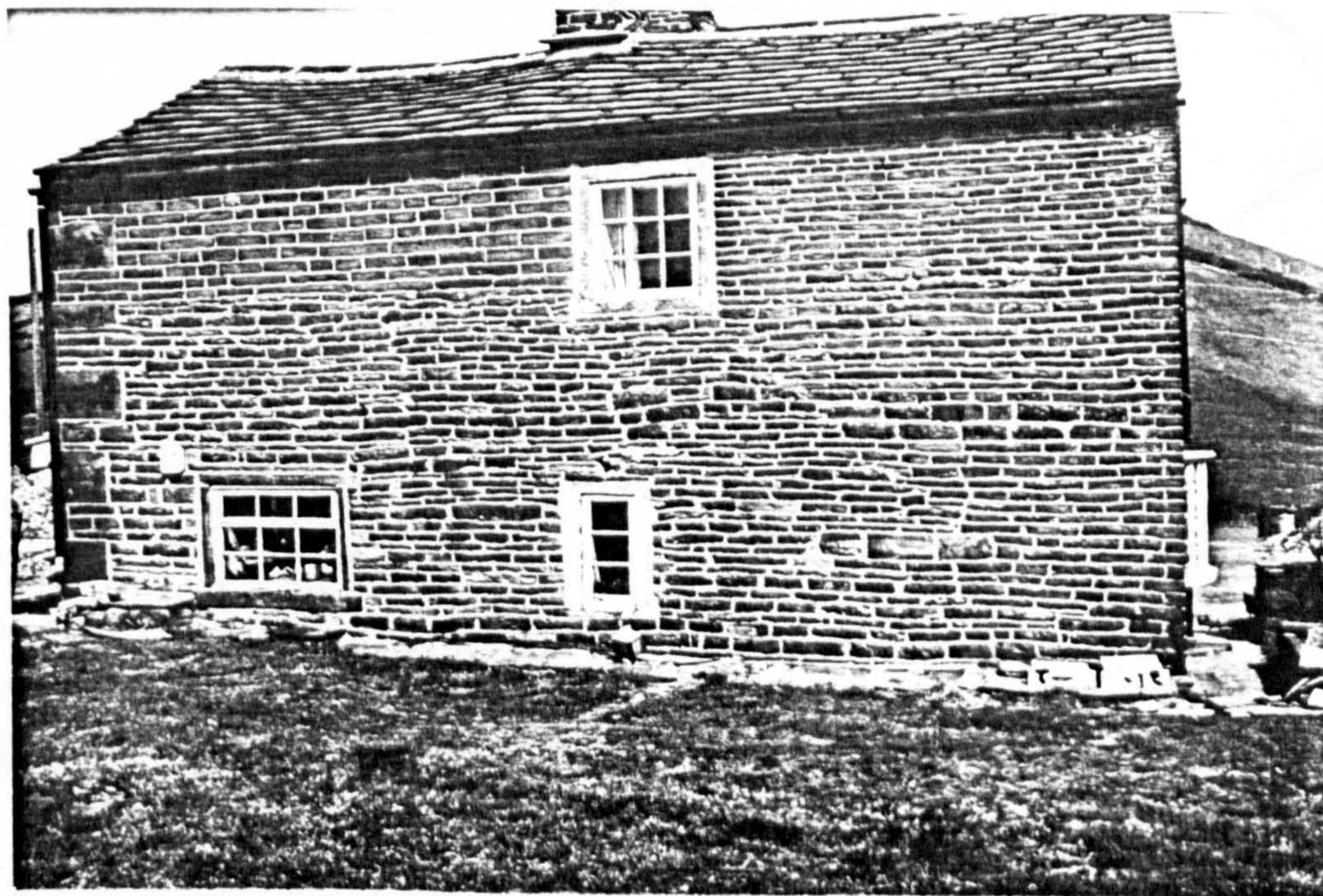
Fig. 43    BRIAN SCHOLE'S FARM (layout diagram)  
Northowram







Pl.40. Shugden Farm, Northowram.  
(house and separate laithe in compact arrangement)



Pl.41. Upper North Royd, Northowram (W. gable)



Fig. 44.  
DISTRIBUTION OF LAITHE HOUSES  
IN NORTHOWRAM.

KEY:-  
● = laithe house  
○ = built-up area

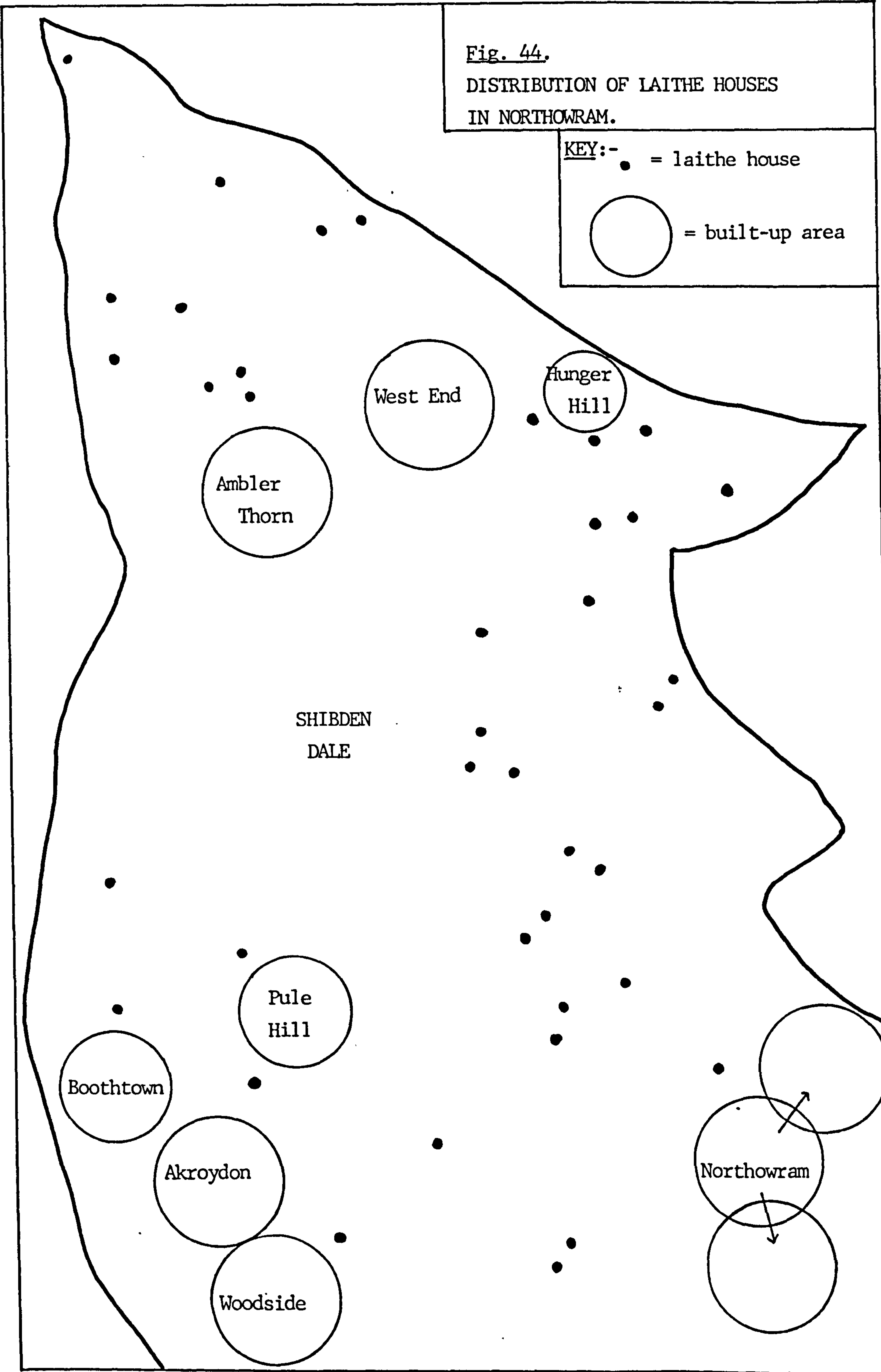




Table 19 notes the main building phases of laithe houses in Northowram. Unlike those in Addingham, most have been built or rebuilt as laithe house entities. It should be noted however that there is some evidence for at least a few of the late 18th.-early 19th.c. structures to have been extensions of 17th.c. farms. For example, Upper North Royd, superficially a 19th.c. laithe house, had a 17th.c. dwelling which was raised and extended and a laithe added or completely rebuilt later. Pl.41 shows the west elevation, the differences in masonry suggesting the extent of the original structure at this gable end. A measured plan of Upper North Royd (fig. 45) reveals much deeper wall thicknesses to the west wall, and the owner reported higher ceilings to the east side of the building. The original plan was probably that of a single-storey dwelling, similar to that of Upper Woodlands situated further up Green Lane (pl.42).

Similarly, Hollin Grove appears to be a large 19th.c. laithe house, all of one build, but internal examination revealed the beams to the left hand side of the dwelling are of oak, those to the right of pine. and the line of beams do not run straight across the house (fig.12). Again, the evidence is of a smaller, earlier dwelling which was later extended, partly rebuilt and finally altered to its present form with the addition of a large laithe in the 19th.c.

Whether building or rebuilding, it is clear from Table 19 that the main laithe house building phase was the late 18th.c., the most obvious stimulus to this being the 1780 enclosure. Certainly from the 18th.c. there was enough capital in the township to allow substantial building to take place. Particularly noteworthy are the examples of 'pairs' of farms, contemporary in date, where large amounts of capital must have been available in order to build or renovate two farms on the same estate. Moor Close and Upper Moor Close were originally pre-enclosure farms which were altered and partly rebuilt in the late 18th./early 19th.c. Lower Whiskers and Over Whiskers, set less than half a mile apart, are other examples. Dean Stones and Upper Dean Stones were both rebuilt and dated in 1750. There are also several 'pairs' of non-laithe house farms which were built thus. South Howcans dates back originally to at least the 17th.c., but was altered and renovated when North Howcans

Table 19.

MAIN BUILDING PHASES OF LAITHE HOUSES IN NORTHOWRAM

(Key - A = alterations/additions; L = laithe built)

| 17th.c.    | early 18th.c.   | late 18th.c.<br>(post-1750)                | 19th.c.  |
|------------|---|--|--|
| Green Lane | Booth Bank- - -<br>Up.Bowlshaw<br><br>Dirk Carr<br>Field House<br><br>Up.Horley Gn. | L - - -<br>Blake Hill- - -<br>- - - - -    | -Black Boy<br>- - - L<br>- - - A<br>Low Bowlshaw       |
|            |   | Brow Lane                                  | Up.Collier<br>Crow Point                               |
|            |   | Deanstone<br>Up.Deanstones                 |  |
|            |   | Far Sides                                  |  |
|            |   | Upper Fleet                                |  |
|            |   |  | Hollin Gro.  |
|            |   |  | Laver's Hd.<br>(later L)<br>Little Lon-<br>don(laterL) |
|            |   | Longfield                                  | May Royd   |
|            |   | Mickle Moss<br>Moor Close<br>Up.Moor Close |  |
|            |   |  |  |
|            | - - - -L<br>- - - -A- - - - -<br><br>Roper<br>Wall Close                            | - - - -L<br>Ringby- - - -                  | --A  |
|            |   | Small Clough                               |  |
|            |   |  | Starving<br>Rascal Inn                                 |
|            |   | Warmleigh<br>Low Whiskers<br>Up. Whiskers  |  |
|            |   |  |  |



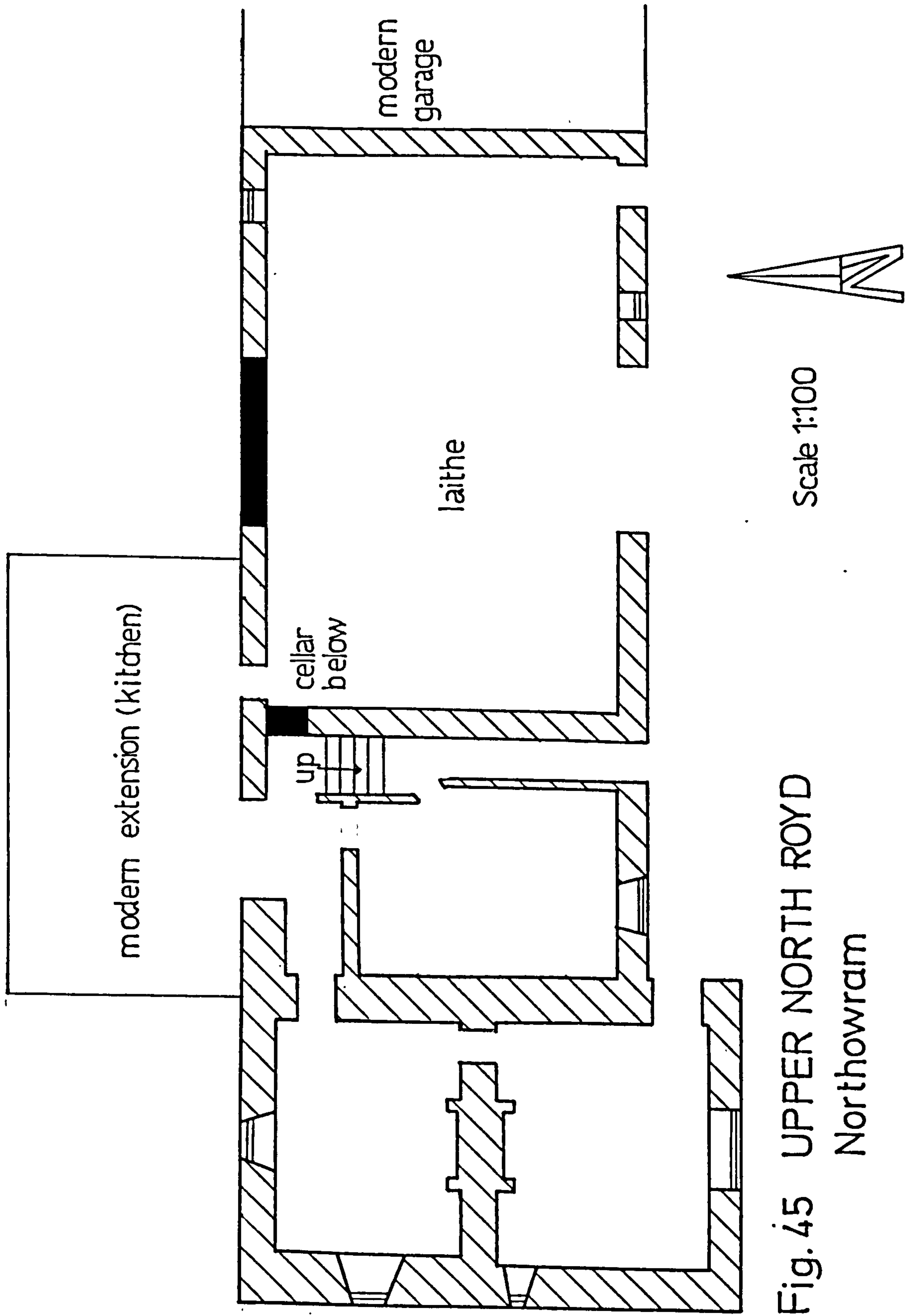


Fig. 45 UPPER NORTH ROYSTON  
Northowram

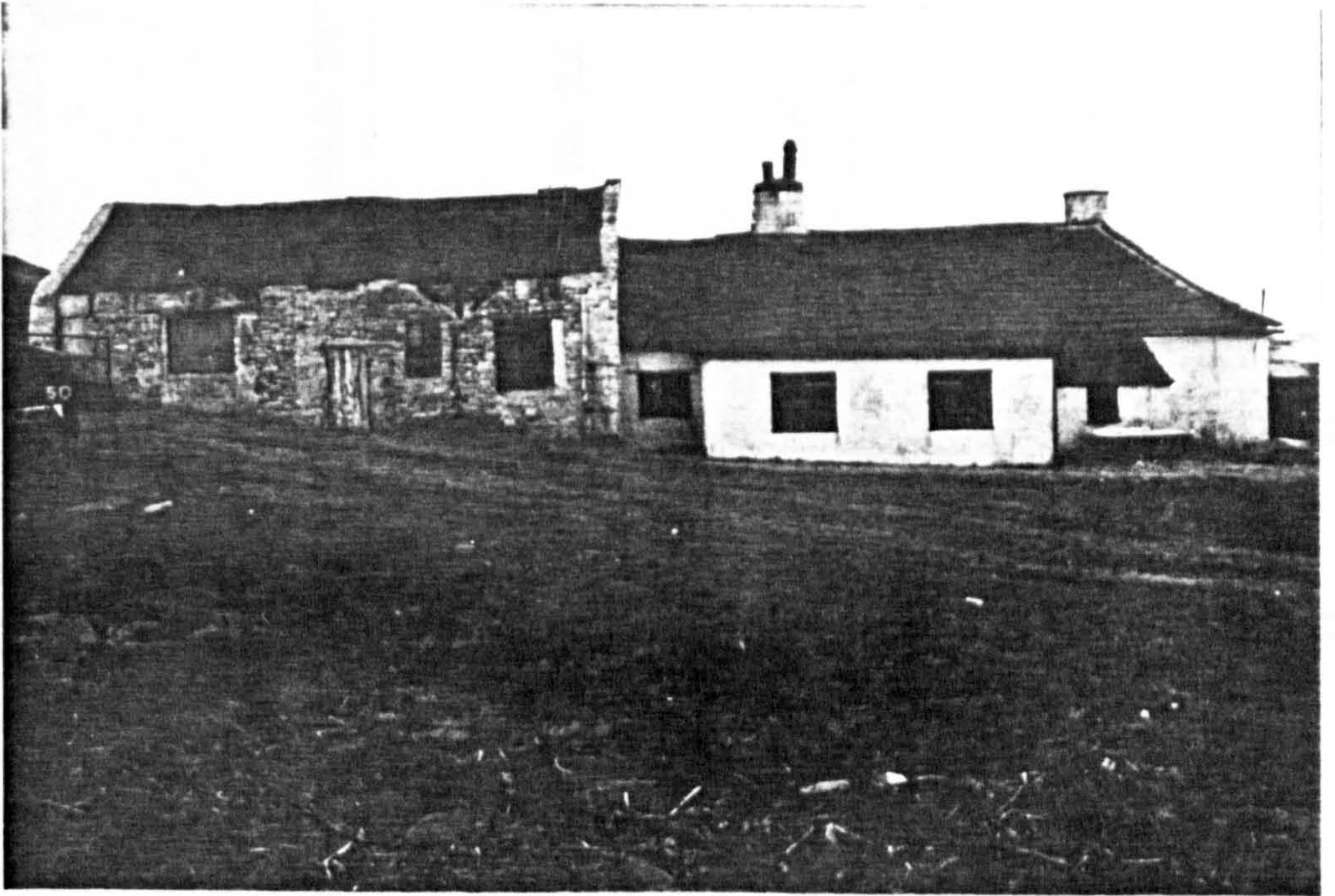


was built some 600 yards away in the 19th.c. Near Royd and Far Royd show the same pattern, while Brian Scholes was a dwelling of early 18th.c. origin until it was extended in the 19th.c., at the same time Upper Brian Scholes was built. The addition of 'Upper', 'Far' and 'North' to the later of these pairs indicates post-enclosure building on cleared land which had extended further on from old settlement areas."

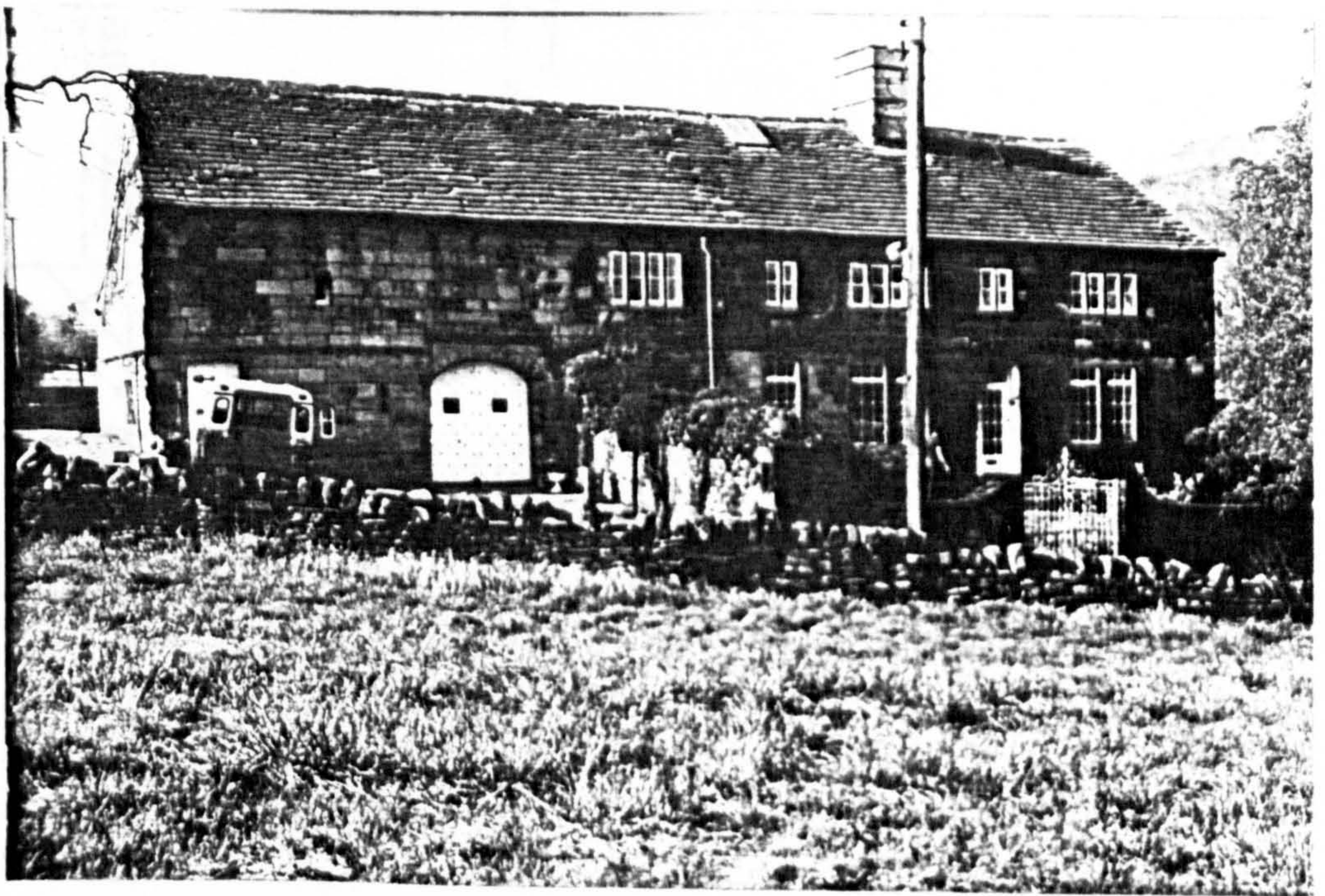
Of the 34 laithe houses identified, the main plan types are the two-storey, double pile, double front (16 examples) and double pile, single front (10 examples). As already noted, Northowram's houses reflect the comparatively greater wealth of the area, and the laithe houses here are no exception. Field House, dated 1713, is an example of a very substantial double pile house attached to a laithe (pl.43). The internal layout is of housebody and parlour to the front. Because the rear chambers have been developed to almost the same size as the main rooms, an extra parlour occupies one of them with all the services contained in one large rear kitchen rather than being divided between the traditional 'buttery' and 'dairy' (fig. 46). Originally the entrance was directly into the housebody; it was later moved to its present position in the 19th.c. In the general survey, it was noted that the dwelling part of most laithe houses are between 20-29 feet long. Field House is around 36 feet long, making it one of the largest examples.

Even more imposing is Upper Collier Syke, with the dwelling almost 40 feet long, a gabled front elevation and 'stepped' windows added in 1880 (pl.44). The farm was owned by John Foster, a prosperous textile manufacturer who lived there himself, unlike Joseph Wood, a prominent member of the local gentry who rented Field House to one of his tenants. Upper Collier Syke was built on land which was once part of Collier Syke's holding, the older, probably 17th.c. building of Collier Syke farm still situated across the road, being a house and separate barn layout. The plan of Upper Collier Syke is of 3 large rooms; housebody in single pile to the east, kitchen and parlour in a cross wing to the opposite side of a central entrance.



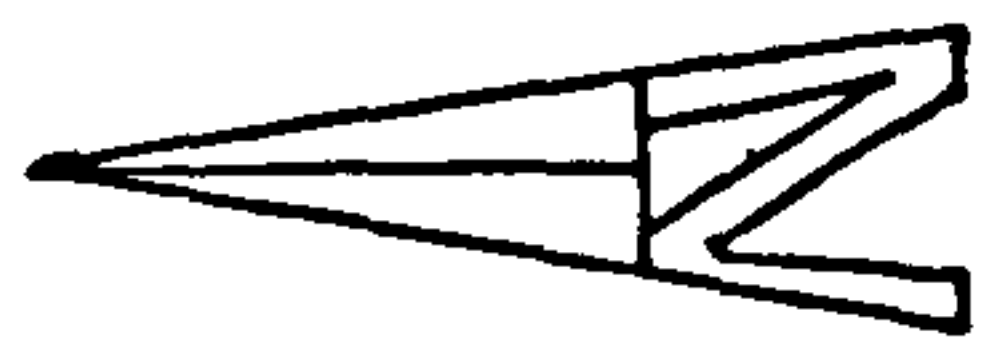


Pl. 42. Upper Woodlands, Northowram.  
(rear elevation)



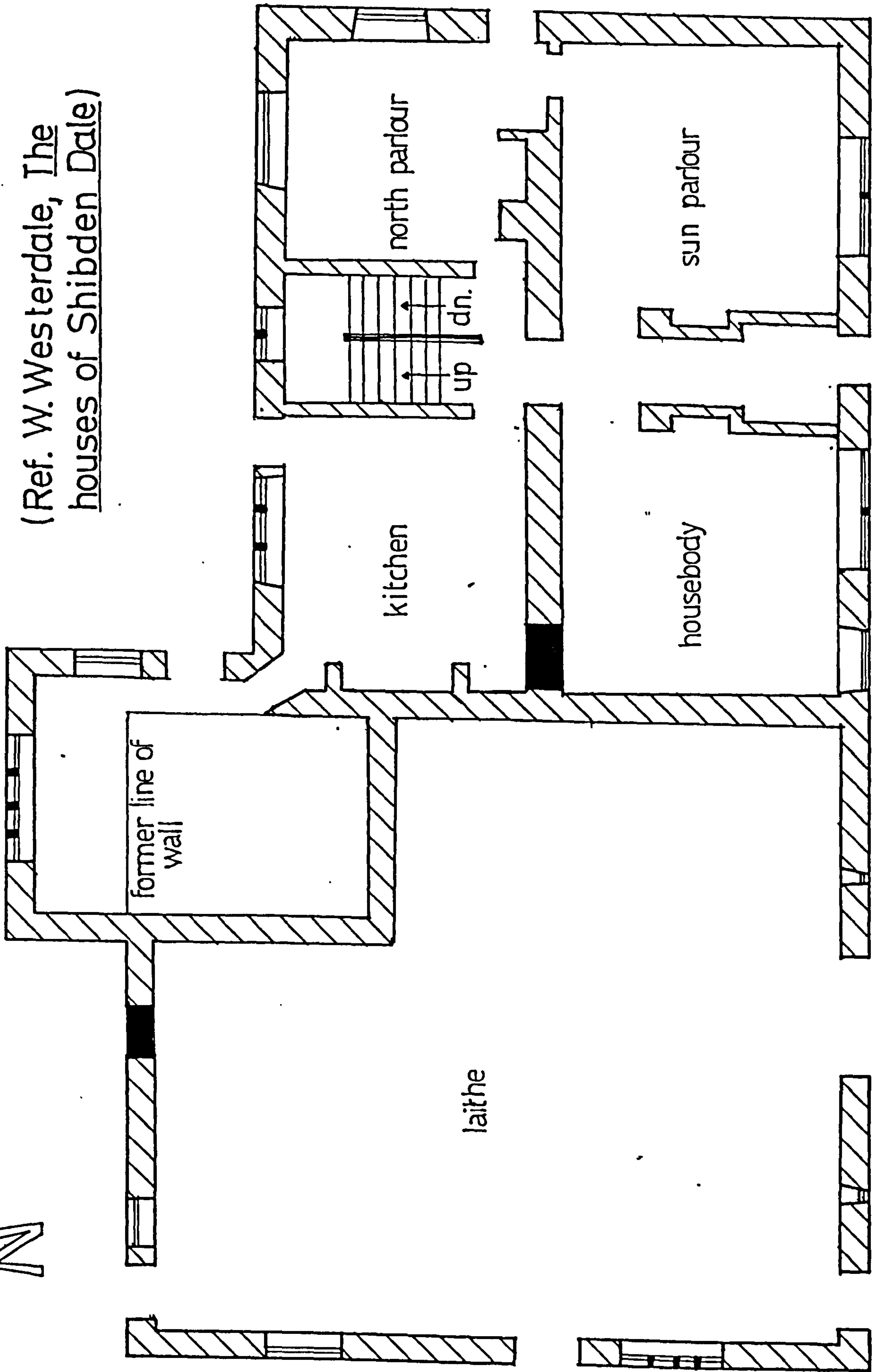
Pl. 43. Field House, Northowram.





Scale 1:100

Fig.46 FIELD HOUSE  
Northowram  
(Ref. W. Westerdale, The  
houses of Shibden Dale)



19th.

1713.

original entrance



The laithé at Upper Collier Syke is also extremely large, about 60 feet (being approximately twice the length of the average attached laithe). The original extent of the laithe was probably about 42 feet, forming a symmetrical arrangement on either side of the semi-porched wagon entrance. A further mistal was added to the west and incorporated under the whole, re-roofed, structure possibly in the late 19th.c.

The oldest dated laithe house of this plan form in Northowram is Lower North Royd, its later laithe added at right angles to give an L-shape. The front elevation illustrates most of the traditional features of 17th.c. Northowram houses; heavy Tudor arched doorway, mullioned windows, recessed and splayed, and a string course raised over the central entrance, running the length of the division between upper and lower floors (pl.8). The masonry is of narrow-coursed Elland flags.

Of the more usual double-fronted types, several have been converted from two cottages, each original plan of single-front, double pile form. Moor Close is one such example (pl.45), and Micklemoss another. The plan of Upper Dean Stones shows the simple layout of each cottage; direct entry opposite the central stack, a small service room to the rear and two chambers over (fig. 25). The photograph of Upper Dean Stones (pl.38) shows how the entrance to the western cottage has been blocked, while that of the eastern has been made into the main doorway and porched for greater protection and emphasis.

Of dwellings still used as two houses with attached laithe, Black Boy farm, refronted and re-roofed in the 19th.c., is the most impressive (pl.39). Tall mullioned and transomed windows, one 'stepped' under a gabled front as at Upper Collier Syke, a string course and entrances with well-dressed curved lintels complete the effect. The meaner laithe and the rear elevation (pls. 46 & 47) show the earlier (possibly 18th.c.) origins of Black Boy, as well as demonstrating how the lavish detail of the front elevation was not continued onto the less obvious parts of the house. The builders of Black Boy are not known, although the present occupant suggested



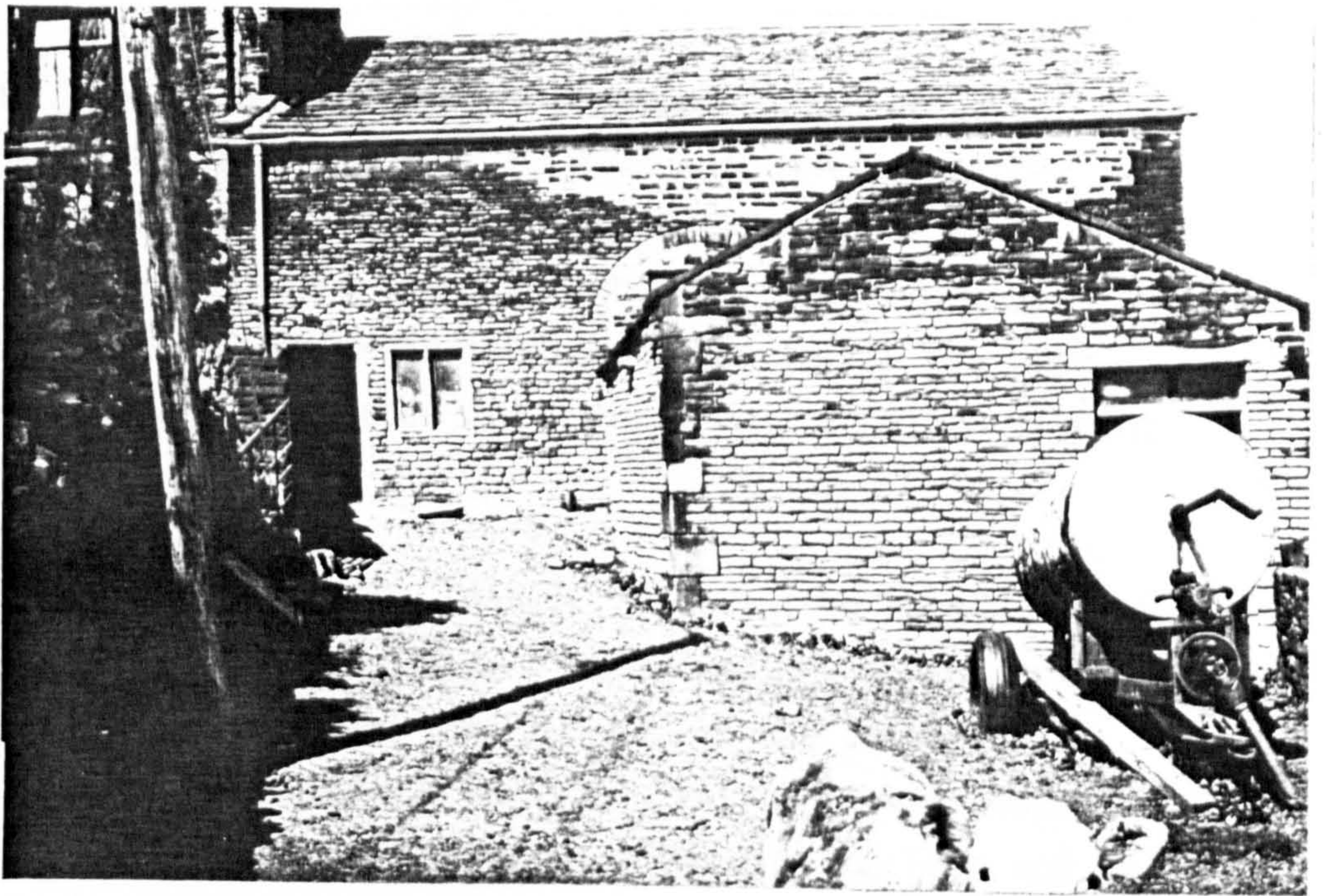


Pl. 44. Upper Collier Syke, Northowram.



Pl. 45. Moor Close, Northowram.





Pl. 46. Black Boy, Northowram. (laithe)



Pl. 47. Black Boy, Northowram (rear elevation).



a connection with the rich High Sunderland estate., possibly explaining the renovation of this relatively isolated laithe house.

Blake Hill End is an example of 3 cottages with attached laithe (pl.48). The cottages appear to have been built together in the mid.-late 18th.c. and of the same plan, i.e. entrance door opposite the stack and opening directly into the housebody, with a small service room and stairs to the rear. The laithe has been added slightly later, its lunettes and symmetrical elevation placing it in the 19th.c.

The examples of double pile, single front laithe houses almost all appear to originate in the post-enclosure period, representing the adoption of the laithe house form lower down the social scale by this time. Lower Bowl Shaw was built in 1845 to a very compact plan form which had cottage accommodation adjoining the barn and the mistal section of the laithe brought to the front of the building and affording more protection to the dwelling from the west (pl.49). Ringby farm is of the more standard rectangular plan (pl.50) while Dean Stones (now known as Hill Top), built in 1750, had a cottage added later to a single front house and contemporary laithe. The laithe is large compared with the house, having two mistals, one on each side of the laithe entrance (fig.47). One noteworthy feature at Deanstones is the interconnecting door between house and laithe, a common feature in Northowram's laithe houses and attributed, by today's farmers at least, to the high altitude and convenience of passing from service room to dairy or cowstall without the necessity of going out in the harsh climate.

The most interesting laithe house in Northowram is Upper Woodlands, a single storey, single pile structure with a wing added to the dwelling at right angles and an aisled laithe to the east (pl.42). The present owners believe the date to be around 1600 (not confirmed). Certainly the style of laithe with its pegged timbers and low pitched roof, aisled front and back, (the rear aisle has since been removed) suggest a date at least as early as the first half of the 17th.c. The dwelling itself comprises two cells of different builds. The eastern cell, attached to the laithe, may be



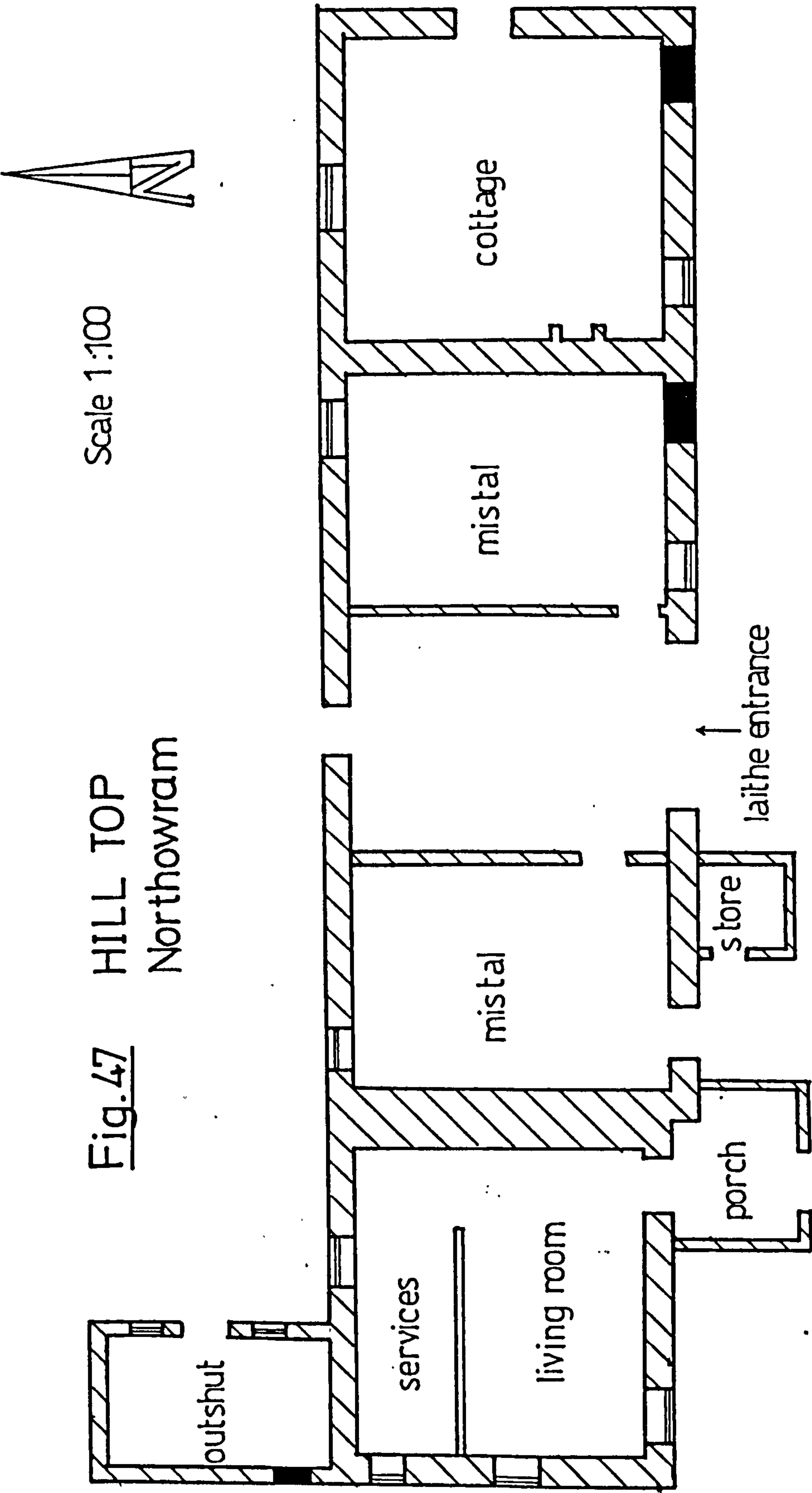


Pl. 48. Blake Hill End, Northowram.



Pl. 49. Lower Bowl Shaw, Northowram.

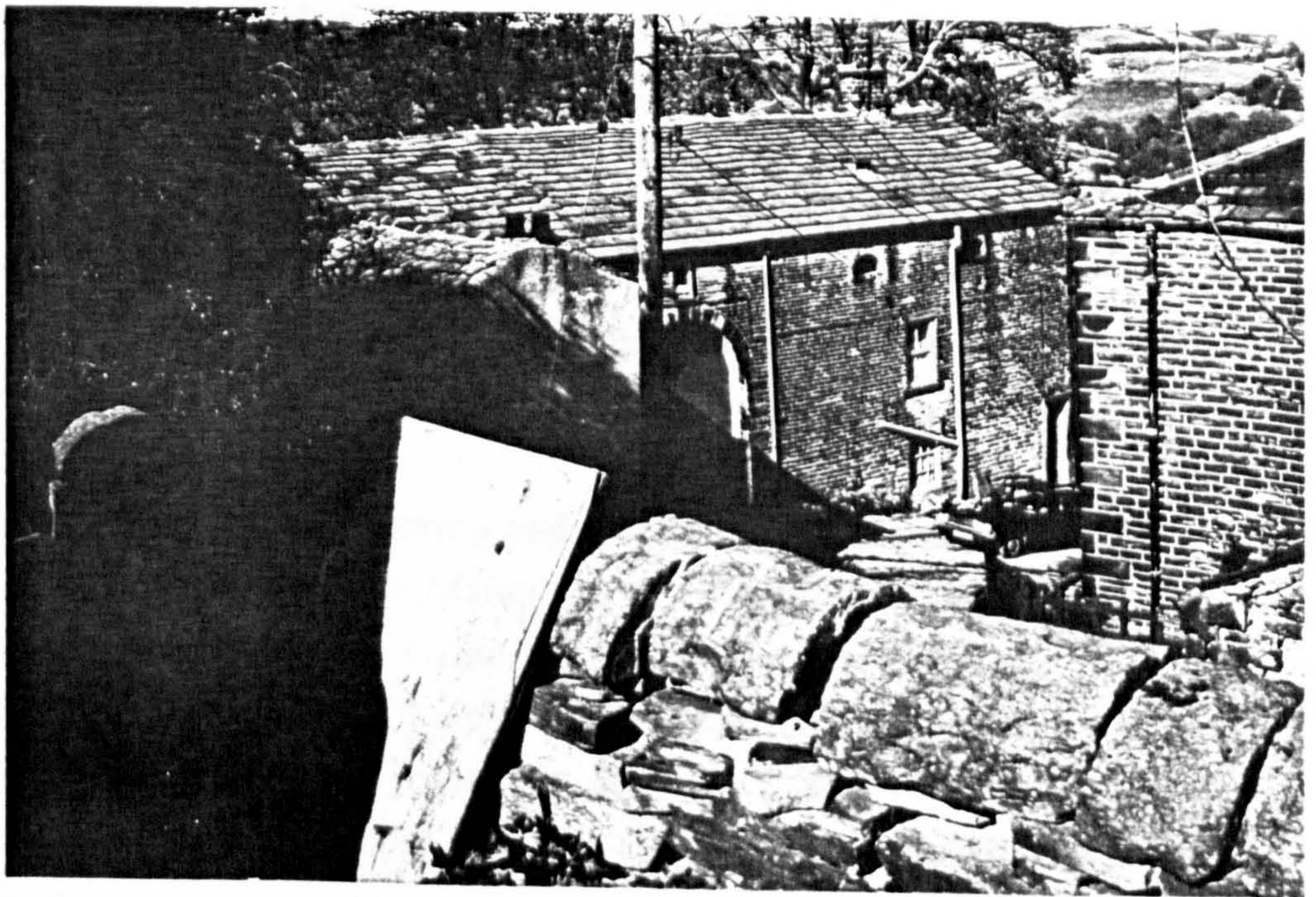








Pl. 50. Ringby Farm, Northowram.



Pl. 51. Lee House Farm, Northowram.



the earliest, having deeper walls and built higher than the adjoining room, a step of perhaps a foot above it. The larger cell to the west has a low, wide entrance opening into a wide passage which has been formed later with the addition of a partition wall. This wall could have replaced a timber screen as there is a short stone wall forming the beginning of a screen at the entrance (fig.48). The added wing to the west gable is also single storeyed and of later, probably 18th.c. date. Upper Woodlands may be typical of the area's early laithe houses, perhaps indicating the kind of single-storeyed structures which would have existed at Hollin Grove, Upper North Royd and other sites. Certainly the laithe is a good example of the earliest type of stone building, its square-headed porched entrance repeated in the 17th.c. examples, usually in higher pitch unaisled structures, though the early example at Marsh Hall, while much more imposing, is similar in style.

One other laithe house is worth mentioning here; Lee House farm in the western side of the township. Lee House itself was built on a medieval site, the first reference to it being 1377, and rebuilt in the 19th.c., probably by the worsted manufacturer who lived there. Some 17th.c. sections remain, but most of the present house is of the later date. Behind and parallel was a large laithe, probably built at the same time as the renovations to the main house. Shortly after its building, one end was converted to a cottage dwelling and a chimney added. The photograph shows the later stack and evidence of part re-roofing, while the lunettes to the hayloft were left unblocked (pl.51). One may also see the close proximity of Lee House to its former laithe.

In decorative detail, masonry and style, the laithe house follows the pattern of other buildings in the township, while the overall changes in style match those of the whole county. For example, square-headed porched laithe doors gave way to semi-circular arches, in the 19th.c. lunettes appeared, and Venetian windows like the example at Longfield (pl.52) are introduced from the late 18th.c.



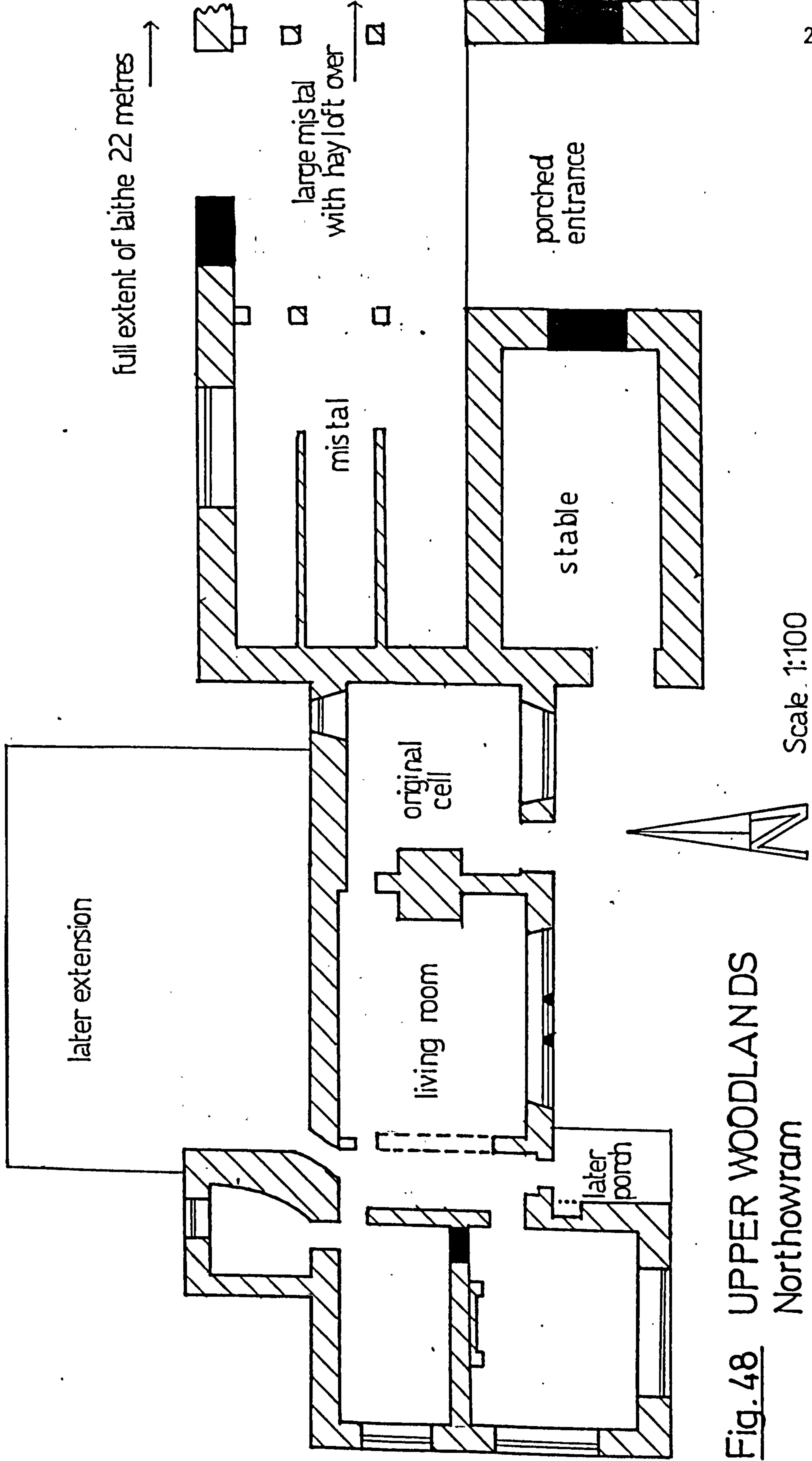
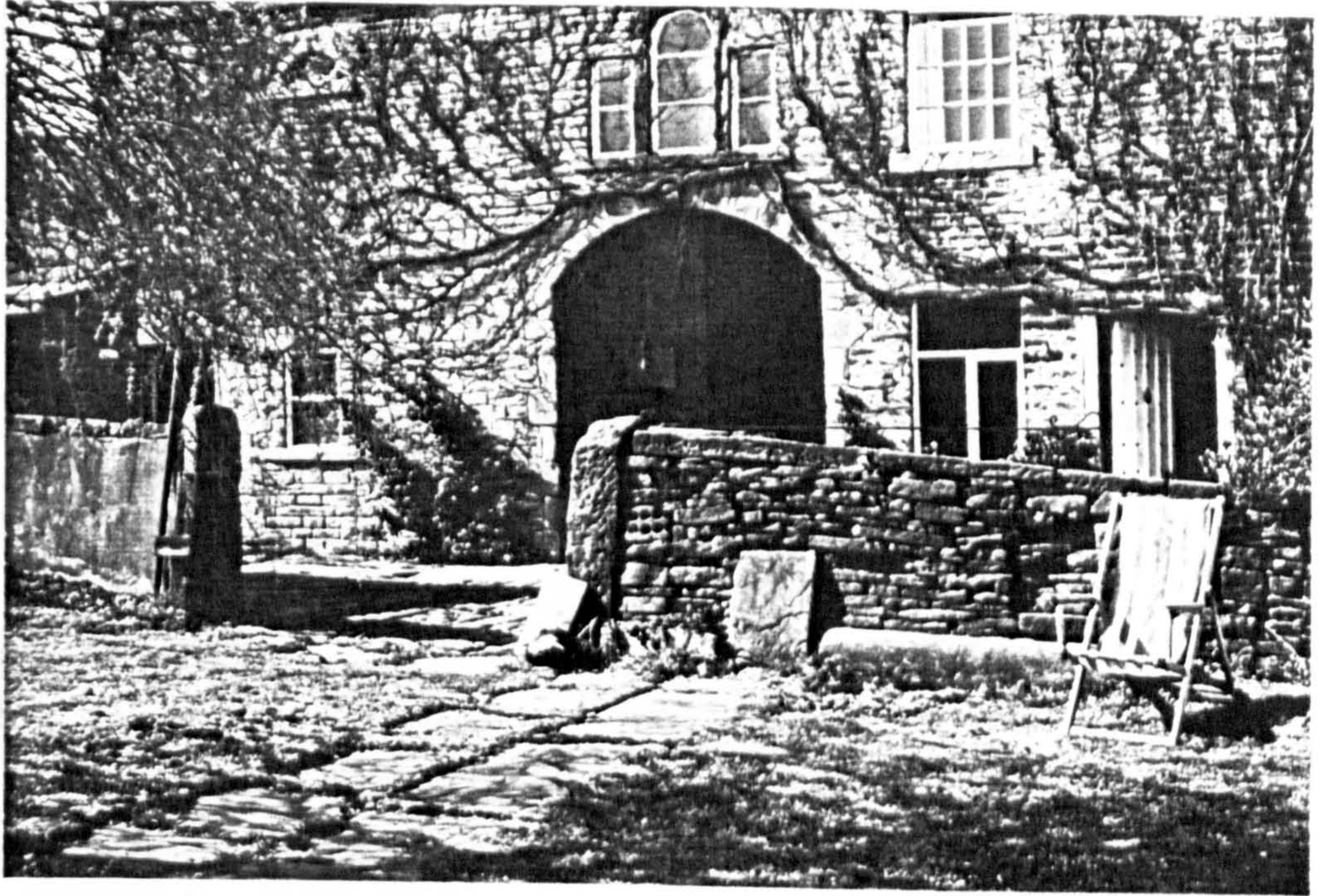


Fig. 48 UPPER WOODLANDS  
Northowram





Pl. 52. Longfield, Northowram.



Pl. 53. Small Clough, Northowram.



## DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

From architectural evidence, we turn to documentary sources to provide more detailed information about the laithe houses; who lived and worked in them, details of farming practices and size of holdings. Commercial directories have been discussed already as a documentary source. The other records looked at for Northowram are discussed in chronological order below. They range from the hearth tax return of 1665 to an agricultural census of 1915, with widely varying levels of information between. It was hoped to extract enough specific data to give some documentary evidence of where the laithe house fitted into Northowram's economic and social life.

Hearth tax, 1665 (16)

The hearth tax was levied on hearths and fires in every dwelling house greater than a cottage at a rate of 2/- per hearth or stove. The average number of fires in Northowram was just over 3. There were 117 taxable persons having 387 fires or stoves; 157 were excused on grounds of poverty. A few houses were referred to by name. These were;

Scout (3 hearths) owned by John Staincliffe  
 Field (1), Oneley House (3), and Northfield (1), all owned  
 by John Northend.  
 Boulsha (1) owned by James Jagger  
 Strines (3) owned by John Brigg  
 Dam Head (4) owned by Joseph Dawson  
 Shibden Head (2) and Hinging Royd (1+2 not finished) all  
 owned by John Smith.

Of all these, only Boulsha and Field could be related to present-day laithe house sites, though in both cases the present houses post-date 1700. Although only possessing one hearth each, their owners were of sufficient wealth to qualify above the level of cottage, though not of the gentry class that 2 or more hearths may indicate.

Wakefield manor survey, 1709 (17)

The rents for Hipperholme graveship, which included Northowram



township, identified some properties. A sample of 12 was extracted, being 4 laithe houses and 8 non-laithe houses according to present-day structures. The sample list is given in order of rental value in Table 20. Apart from Lower Knight Royd (present-day North Royd) the highest rented properties are almost all copyhold and almost all unrelated to present laithe houses. The 3 lowest rated are all related to present laithe houses, 2 being of 18th.c. build, one 17th.c. 2 are copyhold, but the highest rented of all the sample is a freehold property belonging to the Northend family referred to in the Hearth tax of 1665. No owners were linked with specific occupations but there were 2 'gents', 2 'esquires' and one 'Mr.' One of these 'gents' was the owner of a laithe house (the 17th.c. example) which gives a tenuous link with at least the lesser gentry.

Both the hearth tax and the manor survey suggest the laithe houses were, along with much other property, part of larger estates rather than single owner-occupied buildings. The hearth tax showed Field House as belonging to an estate of at least 3 properties owned by John Northend, himself a resident at the largest, Onely House. In the rents for Wakefield manor it appears that Upper and Lower Bowl Shaw, present-day laithe houses dated 1721 and 1845 respectively, were part of a larger estate, being copyhold of Charles Best. Even given the possibility that these estates were later broken up and sold as individually owned property, it appears that laithe houses followed the same pattern as much local housing by being part of a larger holding.

#### Parliamentary enclosure, 1780 (18)

The map in fig. 49 shows the main areas enclosed by formal Act in 1780. The extent was 531 acres and took in much moorland and hill country in all the furthest extents of the township. A few small areas nearer the existing settlements were impossible to identify exactly, and only 11 laithe house sites were positively located. 4 of these sites had buildings marked on the pre-enclosure map, though 3 of them were rebuilt to some extent in the late 18th. and early 19th. centuries (May Royd, Moor Close and Upper Moor Close) while the other, Small Clough, was probably built just before enclosure around the middle of the 18th.c., though since left derelict. These figures confirm the laithe house as being particularly associated with enclosing



Fig. 49.

MAIN AREAS OF NORTHOWRAM'S  
ENCLOSURE, 1780.

(Ref: Northowram enclosure award,  
W.Y.C.R.O., B14)

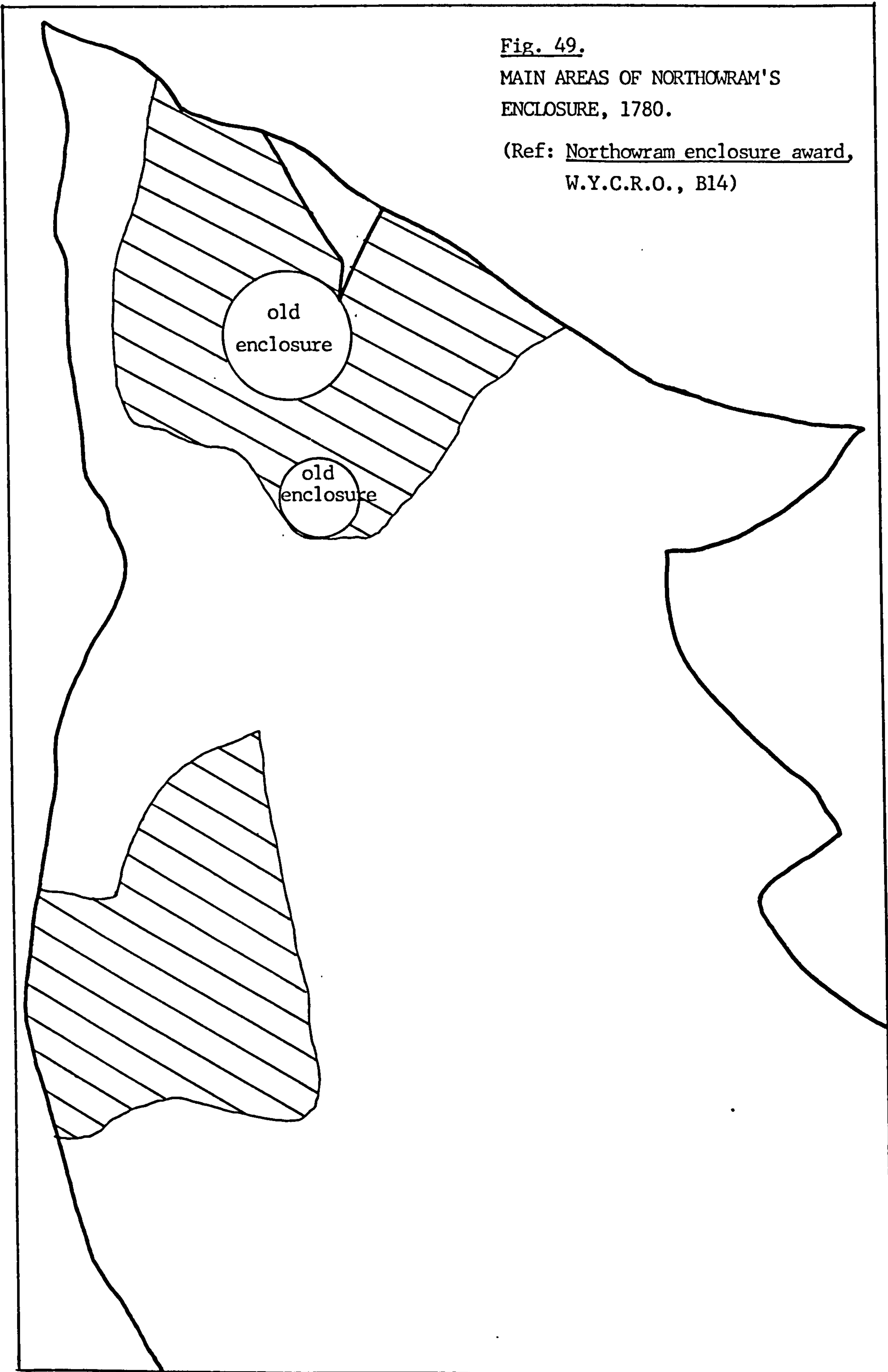




Table 20.SAMPLE OF RENTS FOR FARMS IN NORTHOWRAM, 1709

| Free(F)<br>or<br>Copy(C)<br>hold | Rent   | Name of property  | Owner                 | Laithe(L)<br>or non-<br>laithe(N)<br>house | Date of<br>present<br>house |
|----------------------------------|--------|-------------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------------------|
|                                  | £.s.d. |                   |                       |  |                             |
| F                                | 5.2    | Low Knight Royd   | Northend              | L  | 1699                        |
| C                                | 4.3½   | Westercroft(part) | Gargrave              | N  | ?                           |
| C                                | 3.10   | Hanging Royd      | Thomas                | N  | 1650                        |
| C                                | 3.7    | High Sunderland   | Horton esq.           | N  | 1629                        |
| C                                | 3.2½   | Westercroft(part) | Priestley             | N  | 1691                        |
| ?                                | 3.0    | Low Lime House    | Crowther              | N  | ?                           |
| C                                | 2.6    | Hagstocks         | Horton esq.           | N  | 17th.c.                     |
| C                                | 2.4    | Cinderhills       | Mr. Healds            | N  | 1633                        |
| F                                | 2.2    | Addersgate        | Bryercliffe<br>(gent) | N  | 1702                        |
| ?                                | 2.2    | Up.Lime House     | Widow Bair-<br>stow   | N  | ?                           |
| C                                | 1.4    | Moorclose         | Oldfield              | L  | late 18thc                  |
| C                                | 1.3    | Up.Woodlands      | Smith,gent.           | L  | 1675                        |
| ?                                | .11    | Hud Hill          | Wells                 | L  | early<br>18thc.             |

Source: J.Charlesworth (ed)

Wakefield manor survey, 1709, Y.A.S. Record Series v.C1



of land and reorganisation and rebuilding on the new holdings.

A summary of enclosure awardees, listed by occupation, is shown in Table 21. All new landowners are represented, not just those associated with laithe houses. To begin with, there is a high number of gentry and yeomen which, taken together with those of 'independent means' (usually widows living off annuities) means a total of 64%. Merchants are a sizeable group, numbering 10, with schools and chapels forming the only other group of any note. The various wealthy tradesmen like innkeepers, butchers or tanners, were poorly represented, being less than 10% of those noted occupations. Even if all those where occupations were not listed were tradesmen, farmers and the like (and it may be the case that lower-status trades were not recorded) the total would still only reach about 30%.

The other factor which was looked at was the question of absenteeism. 75% of awardees had their places of residence stated; 41% of this total lived in Northowram while 58% lived elsewhere. Again, even if the 'not stated' awardees are counted as being 'locals', bringing the total for Northowram residents to 53% of the whole and those living elsewhere to 47%, absenteeism is clearly an important feature. Many of these absentee landlords were from fairly adjacent places such as Halifax and Bradford, but there were gentry families from London, Nottingham and Manchester who were awarded land in Northowram also. The overall picture is one of many gentry or yeomen landowners, and many absentee landlords.

How did the laithe house fit into this pattern? Of the 11 laithe house sites located, 2 were on 'Old Enclosure' land with no awardee named. The other 9 were awarded to gentry, except the 9 acre site of Roper farm which went to Joseph Edwards, a merchant of Northowram, and the 9 acre site of Crow Point to Joseph Hulme, a doctor from Halifax. The gentry-owned sites were divided between local gentry (3 examples) and wealthy absentee landlords (3 examples if one counts the 2 holdings awarded to the Duke of Leeds, Lord of Wakefield manor, in compensation for his rights). Given the overall averages and the exclusion of the Lord's award, it may be suggested that the laithe house holdings are more often associated with lesser local gentry and middle class.



Table 21.

STATUS/OCCUPATIONS OF MAIN ENCLOSURE AWARDEES, NORTHOWRAM,  
1780.

| <u>Status/Occupation</u> | <u>No. recorded</u> | <u>Group totals</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Yeoman                   | 25                  | 47                  |
| Gentry                   | 17                  |                     |
| Independent              | 5                   |                     |
| Merchant                 | 10                  | 7                   |
| School                   | 3                   |                     |
| Chapel                   | 4                   |                     |
| Inn                      | 2                   |                     |
| Plumber/glazier          | 2                   |                     |
| Butcher                  | 1                   |                     |
| Tanner                   | 1                   |                     |
| Stuff maker              | 1                   |                     |
| Dr. in physic            | 1                   |                     |
| Clerk                    | 1                   |                     |
| not stated               | 23                  |                     |
| <hr/>                    |                     |                     |
| Total                    | 96                  |                     |

| <u>LOCATIONS OF AWARDEES</u> |    |  |
|------------------------------|----|--|
| In Northowram                | 31 |  |
| Outside Northowram           | 44 |  |
| not stated                   | 21 |  |
| <hr/>                        |    |  |
| Total                        | 96 |  |

Source: Northowram enclosure award, 1780.

W.Y.C.R.O., ref. B 14



Land tax, 1781-1832 (19)

Samples were taken from the 1781, 1782, 1784, 1830 and 1832 land tax returns. The 1781 return showed occupants only, with acreages and amount of tax; the 1782 return listed owners as well, so the information was combined to give a fuller picture of this 1781/2 period. From a total of 258 entries, 21 could not be linked between these two years, leaving a total of 237 entries. 59 of these were owner-occupied (a proportion of about 25%) the rest being tenanted properties. A sample 100 entries was taken from 1781 and 100 from 1832 to estimate average acreages of properties and whether they showed any growth or decrease over time. The average for 1781 was 8.64 acres, for 1832, 8.30 acres, suggesting a very slight trend to smaller holdings, although the evidence is very tenuous. What is clear is the small size of holdings in general. Note, this is based on the size of all holdings, not only those connected with laithe houses.

The 1832 return showed a much smaller proportion of owner-occupation, only 21 out of about 450 holdings (about 5%). It would appear that the increased amount of land developed for new properties was in the hands of relatively few landowners seeking to rent rather than a great number of individual developers taking up land for their own use. The 21 examples of owner-occupied properties had an average acreage less than the overall average, at 7.5 acres, suggesting that those who were not tenants were not among the wealthier class of farmer either.

Table 22a is a sample taken of landowners traceable from 1782-1832 together with their occupations when listed in commercial directories. These 15 landowners were those whose estates remained intact over the 50 years. They give an indication of landowners' status and the size of Northowram's estates during this period. The pattern appears to be of estate owners (some, if not most, absentee as shown by the 1780 enclosure award), with mainly one or two holdings in the township apart from a handful with large estates, like John Dearden. The status of landowners where occupations could be traced, was around the lesser gentry level with merchants and tradesmen also featured, again reinforcing the



Table 22a.LANDOWNERS AND ESTATE SIZES, NORTHOWRAM, 1782-1832

| Landowner         | Occupation/<br>status        | No. of<br>holdings | Average<br>acreage |
|-------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Lister (exec)     | gent.                        | 6                  | 7                  |
| Crowther (exec)   | ?                            | 1                  | 4                  |
| Dearden           | gent.                        | 13                 | 9                  |
| Hemingway         | gent.                        | 2                  | 8                  |
| Ramsbottom (exec) | ?                            | 8                  | 12                 |
| Green             | corn dealer                  | 2                  | 4                  |
| Blamires          | victualler/<br>cattle dealer | 1                  | 11                 |
| Booth             | stone merchant               | 1                  | 5                  |
| Northowram School | school                       | 1                  | 5                  |
| Rawson            | ?                            | 2                  | 9                  |
| Greenwood         | ?                            | 1                  | 4                  |
| Emmet             | gent.                        | 1                  | 27                 |
| Holt              | ?                            | 1+                 | 11+                |
|                   |                              | joint 1            | 9                  |
| Boothtown School  | school                       | 1                  | 9                  |

Source: Land tax returns for Northowram, Morley land tax,  
(W.Y.C.R.O.) 1782-1832.

and commercial directories, 1822-1830 (see bibliography)



picture of the 1780 enclosure award. In 1832, the largest local landowner in the township was Mr. Jonathan Ackroyd who held 117 acres for a warehouse, mills and cottages. His occupation, according to the contemporary directory, was that of 'tailor', showing how wealthy these textile manufacturers could be. This sample of 15 owners was from cases where ownership could be traced over the 50 years 1782-1832. In general, the picture was one of frequent changes in ownership and tenancy.

6 laithe houses and 10 non-laithe houses were identified, and these were used as a sample comparative analysis, as listed in Table 22b. The average acreage for both types was directly comparable, the laithe house average being 12.3 acres, the non-laithe house 12.5. Within these averages however, the variations between largest and smallest were different in the two categories. Non-laithe houses ranged between 2.75 and 31.5 acres, the laithe houses in a slightly narrower band of 4.5 to 21. The sample of 16 properties is listed in Table 22 in order of these acreages.

On the whole, it would appear from this sample that laithe houses are more or less comparable with non-laithe houses in terms of ownership patterns and size of holding, apart from the laithe houses being confined to a slightly narrower and 'middling' range. Both types appear as part of larger estates, and in fact appear together in the estates of single owners. For example, Robert Ramsbottom's estate of 8 holdings had at least 3 laithe houses and 3 non-laithe houses on it.

The commercial directory of 1830 supplemented information on the status of owners. We may assume that Miss Dyson and Mrs. Ogden were of independent means; John Dearden is called 'esquire' in the land tax return, placing him in the gentry class. None of these or Robert Ramsbottom were listed in the directory, suggesting they lived outside Northowram. 3 owners had commercial trades; Joseph Clark was a coal owner, Francis Fawthrop a surgeon, Joseph Carter a worsted spinner. None of these latter owned laithe house property. In the sample list, only one owner was an owner-occupier; Joseph Carter at Scout Hall, the largest of the properties



Table 22b.FARM AND ESTATE SIZES IN NORTHOWRAM, 1782-1832

| Name of farm  | Laithe(L)<br>or non-<br>laithe ho.(N) | Owner      | Acreage | Size of<br>whole<br>estate |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|------------|---------|----------------------------|
| Scout Hall    | N                                     | Carter     | 31      | 6 holdings                 |
| Whinney Royd  | N                                     | Dearden    | 25      | 13                         |
| Small Clough  | L                                     | Ramsbottom | 21      | 8                          |
| Night Royd    | L                                     | Dyson      | 16      | 13                         |
| Limed House   | L                                     | Clark      | 15      | 6                          |
| Lands Head(1) | N                                     | Dearden    | 15      | 13                         |
| Long Shaw     | N                                     | Ramsbottom | 15      | 8                          |
| Hazel Hirst   | N                                     | Ramsbottom | 10      | 8                          |
| Lands Head(2) | N                                     | Ogden      | 9       | 2                          |
| North Syke    | L                                     | Ramsbottom | 9       | 8                          |
| South Syke    | L                                     | Ramsbottom | 8       | 8                          |
| Lands Head(3) | N                                     | Dyson      | 8       | 13                         |
| Whitefields   | N                                     | Clark      | 5       | 6                          |
| Bold Shaw     | L                                     | Dearden    | 4       | 13                         |
| Harrowins     | N                                     | Ramsbottom | 4       | 8                          |
| Jackson Hill  | N                                     | Fawthrop   | 2       | 4                          |

Source: Land tax returns for Northowram, Morley land tax, 1782-1832, W.Y.C.R.O.  
and commercial directories, 1822-1830 (see bibliography)



Only 4 other occupants (none associated with laithe houses) were identified with their occupations; although they illustrate the size of property associated with certain trades. A worsted spinner and manufacturer rented 15 acres, a merchant 10 acres, a joiner 9.5 acres and a farmer 8 acres, underlining how minimal these smallholdings could be even for those occupants who did full-time farming. More comprehensive analysis on occupations is undertaken in the section on census returns below.

#### Plans of sundry estates, 1841 (20)

A survey of various estates was undertaken in Halifax parish in 1841. The reason for the survey is not clear, although it may have been initiated by various landowners to establish estate boundaries and sizes. Fig. 50 illustrates 3 laithe house farmsteads and field layouts of Northowram, with breakdown descriptions of each alongside, as recorded in the survey.

The holdings are typically small (10-16 acres), compact in arrangement, each field of 1-2 acres clustered around the farmstead. Field names reflect position and size, as in "Little Field", "Near Brow" or "Upper Field", while others reflect clearance from the moors and Woodlands, as in "Great Thurston Royd", "Ing" and "Moorfield". None show evidence of arable crops, and the whole picture is of pastoral farming on smallholdings taken in from the moors.

The 1841 census return showed two families at Upper Woodlands one headed by a farmer, the other by a weaver, while (Upper) Bowlshaw had only farmers living there. The smallest of the 3, (Upper) Dean Stones, was inhabited only by textile workers (a woolcomber and his family and a weaver and family) with farming presumably a very secondary activity.

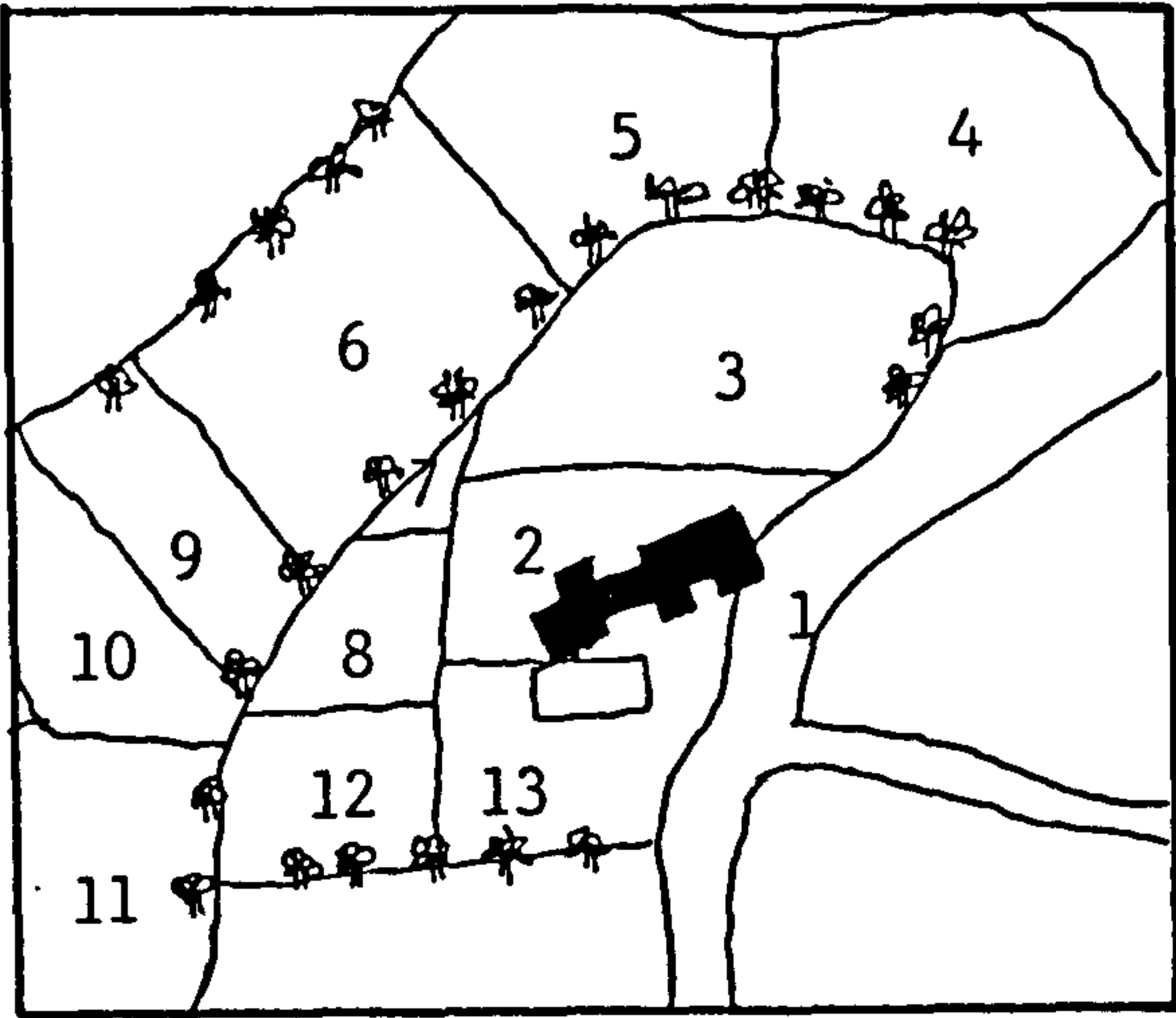


Fig. 50.

3 LAITHE HOUSE FARMSTEADS, NORTHOWRAM.

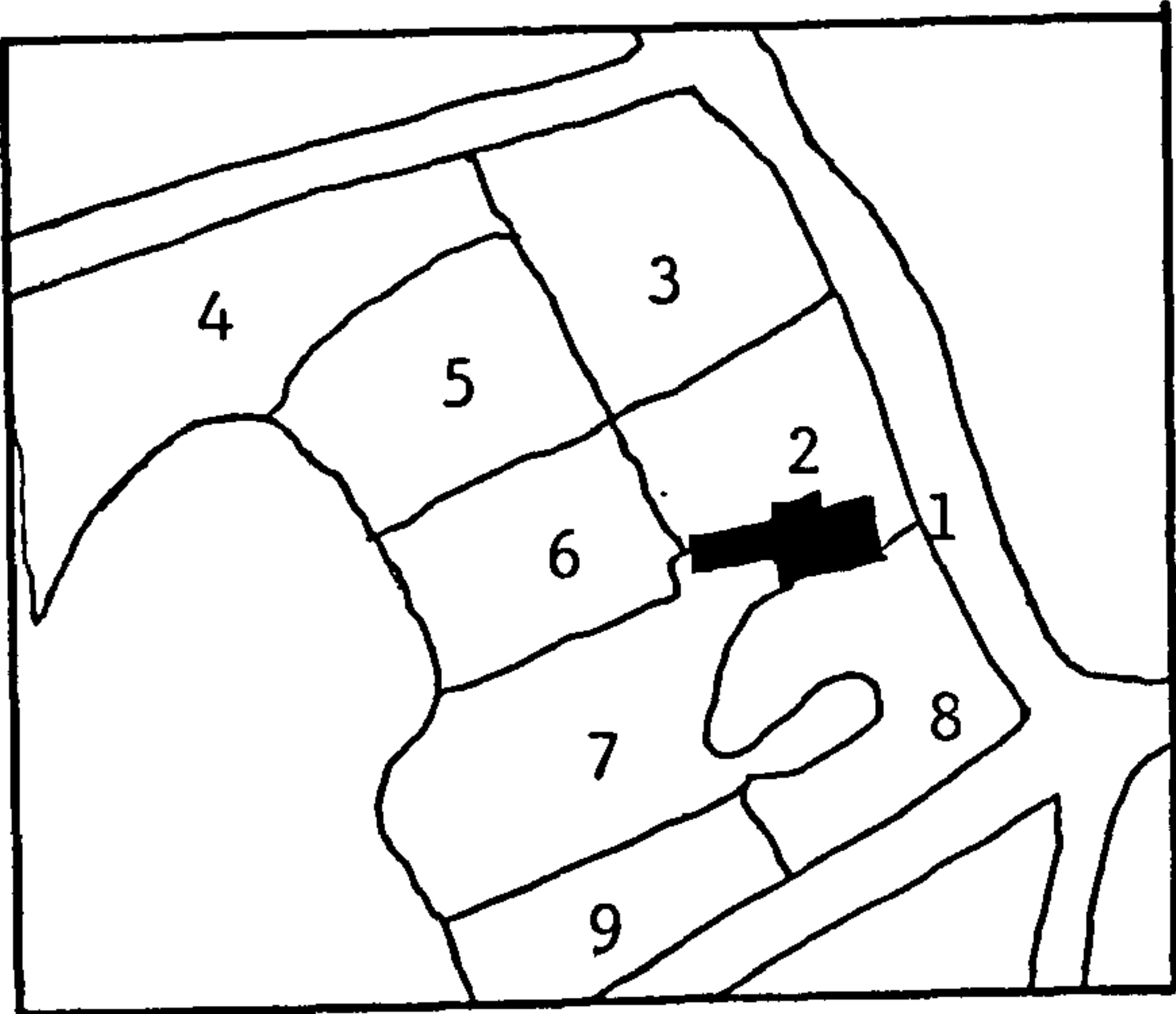
(Ref. Sundry estates in Northowram, 1841, Halifax Archives MISC 80/8

UPPER WOODLANDS



| Description            | Acres. r. p. |      |          |
|------------------------|--------------|------|----------|
| 1.Homestead            |              | 23   |          |
| 2.Croft                |              | 2.36 |          |
| 3.Backfield            | 2.           | 0.25 |          |
| 4.Little field         | 1.           | 0.20 |          |
| 5.Brow                 | 1.           | 0.4  |          |
| 6.Brow                 | 2.           | 0.16 |          |
| 7.Little croft         |              | 23   |          |
| 8.Little Thurston Royd | 1.           | 1.4  |          |
| 9.Brow                 | 1.           | 3.8  |          |
| 10.Brow                | 1.           | 1.26 |          |
| 11.Brow                | 1.           | 0.27 |          |
| 12.Great Thurston Royd | 2.           | 0.21 |          |
| 13.Ing                 | 2.           | 1.35 |          |
| TOTAL                  |              |      | 16. 2.28 |

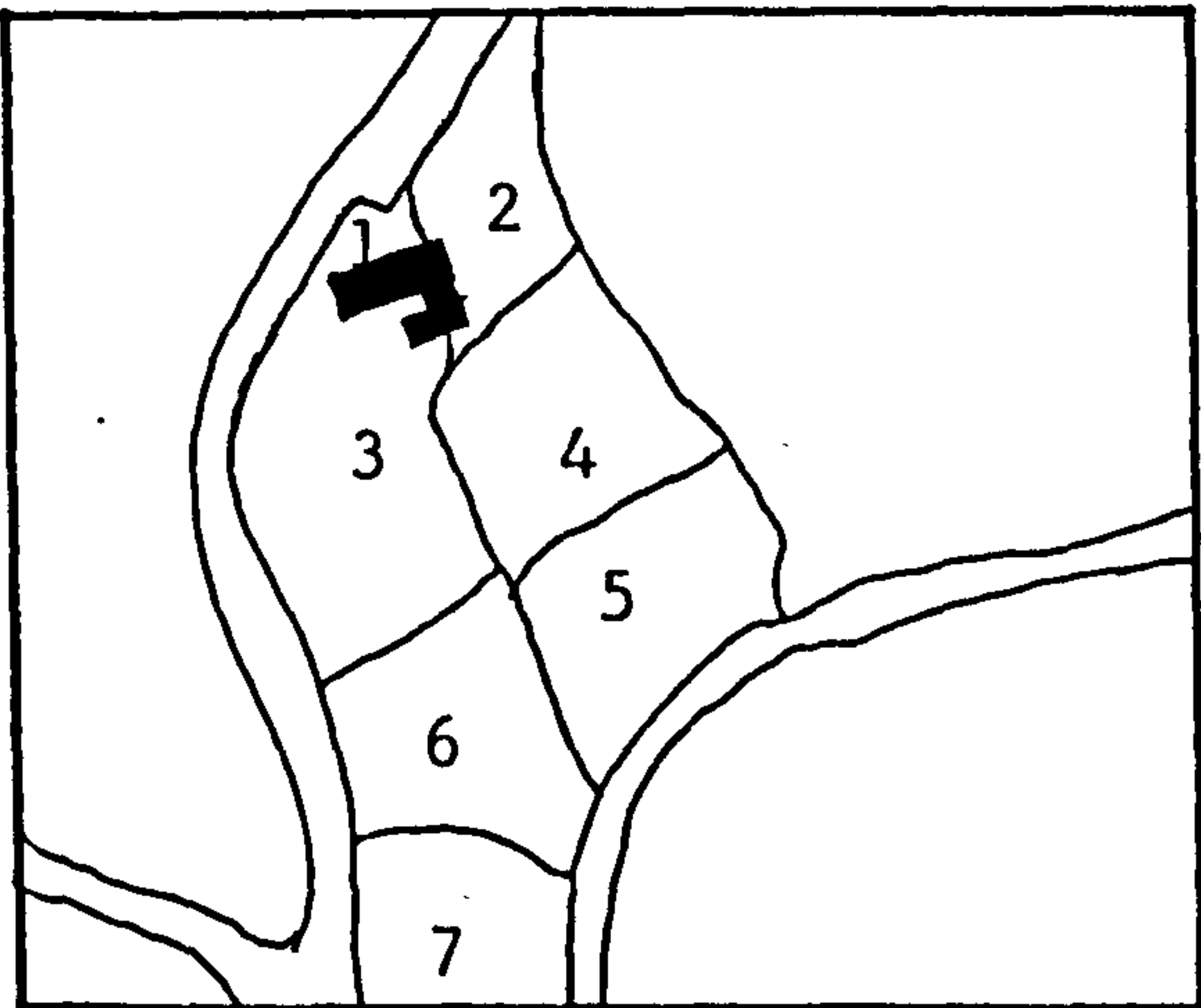
DEAN STONES



| Description      | Acres. r. p. |      |          |
|------------------|--------------|------|----------|
| 1.Homestead      |              | 22   |          |
| 2.Laith field    |              | 2.34 |          |
| 3.Upper field    | 1.           | 2.32 |          |
| 4.Moor field     | 2.           | 0.28 |          |
| 5.Two days' work | 1.           | 1.18 |          |
| 6.Little field   |              | 3.13 |          |
| 7.Near brow      | 1.           | 1.15 |          |
| 8.Ing            | 1.           | 0.8  |          |
| 9.Far brow.      |              | 3.22 |          |
| TOTAL            |              |      | 10. 0.32 |

(15 days' work)

BOWL SHAW



| Description    | Acres. r. p. |      |         |
|----------------|--------------|------|---------|
| 1.Homestead    |              | 16   |         |
| 2.Little field | 1.           | 1.6  |         |
| 3.Ing          | 3.           | 1.32 |         |
| 4.Delf field   | 1.           | 2.0  |         |
| 5.Delf field   | 1.           | 1.37 |         |
| 6.Hollow field | 1.           | 3.30 |         |
| 7.Moorfield    | 2.           | 2.6  |         |
| TOTAL          |              |      | 12. 1.7 |

(18 days' work)



Census returns, 1841-1881

In order to identify the types of trades associated with laithe houses during the later part of their building period, census returns were examined. The earliest, dated 1841, did not distinguish properties as specifically as the later returns, and just 18 laithe houses were matched with their records. To give a full overview, the returns for 1861 and 1881 were also analysed. These afforded closer identification as well as giving details of farm sizes.

From the 1841 sample, only 3 trades were mentioned among heads of households; farming, stone quarrying and textiles (mainly wool). There were 9 'single' households listed, and 9 where two families lived in adjoining dwellings. Farming predominated, the breakdown being as listed in Table 23, yet was still closely integrated with other trades. It is when one looks at the total of occupations for all household members that one sees how farming assumed much less significance. Textiles predominated and farming, when represented at all, was often carried on by one member of the household only. The pattern is of the household head undertaking agricultural work, the rest of the family supplementing the farm by working in other local trades, mainly textiles with stone quarrying also important.

The 1861 figures show the same pattern, though stone quarrying is less well represented. A comparison sample from the 1881 census of 20 laithe houses and 20 non-laithe houses revealed that occupational groups were comparable in both types, except that farming is more prominent and textiles less so in the non-laithe house examples. Laithe houses by this stage still have agriculture more closely integrated with other industries, particularly textiles. The accent on textile workers has shifted rather more from wool to worsted by 1881.

Average acreages in the 1861 sample was 14.5 for the 18 laithe houses samples, with a range of between 7 and 23 acres. The picture was similar in 1881, with 16 acres average and a range of 10-25 acres. By comparison, non-laithe houses averaged 25



Table 23.

OCCUPATIONAL GROUPS OF LAITHE HOUSE INHABITANTS, NORTHOWRAM,  
1841-1881

|  |                   |               |
|--|-------------------|---------------|
| <u>1841 Occupations of household heads (18 recorded)</u>       |                   |               |
| Single dwellings   | <u>Occupation</u> | <u>number</u> |
|  | farming           | 8             |
|  | textiles          | 1             |
| Two dwellings together   | Farming/textiles  | 4             |
|  | Textiles/stone    | 3             |
|  | Textiles/textiles | 2             |
| <u>TOTAL</u>   |                   | 18            |
| <u>1841 Occupations of all household members (46 recorded)</u> |                   |               |
|  | <u>Occupation</u> | <u>number</u> |
|  | textiles          | 22            |
|  | farming           | 12            |
|  | stone             | 9             |
|  | coal              | 1             |
|  | other             | 2             |
| <u>TOTAL</u>   |                   | 46            |
| <u>1861 Occupations of all household members (81 recorded)</u> |                   |               |
|  | <u>Occupation</u> | <u>number</u> |
| *N.B. average  | textiles          | 41            |
| acreage of farms   | farming           | 23            |
| was 14.5, with a   | stone             | 11            |
| range of 8-23  | coal              | 1             |
| acres.   | other             | 5             |
| <u>TOTAL</u>   |                   | 81            |
| <u>1881 Occupations of all household members (66 recorded)</u> |                   |               |
|  | <u>Occupation</u> | <u>number</u> |
| * N.B. Average   | farming           | 30            |
| acreage of farms   | textiles          | 26            |
| was 16, with a range   | stone             | 8             |
| of 10-25 acres.  | other             | 2             |
| <u>TOTAL</u>   |                   | 66            |

Source: The census returns for Northowram, West Riding of  
Yorkshire, 1841, 1861, 1881.



acres with a wider range of 6-50 acres. The conclusion is that laithe houses were associated with smaller holdings of a narrower size range, less involved with farming especially on any scale compared with non-laithe houses, and with agriculture and other local industries being more closely integrated.

In order to illustrate the close integration of farming with other trades, specific examples from the 1861 census are described here. The first is Upper North Royd (fig. 45). 3 families were listed at the farm as follows;

- (i) A farmer of 9 acres, living with his 2 sons, both worsted dyers.
- (ii) A pottery mould worker and his wife, and one son working as a worsted dyer, another an alpaca wool sorter, and a grandson, a worsted factory hand.
- (iii) A worsted scourer and his wife who was a dressmaker, and one young child.

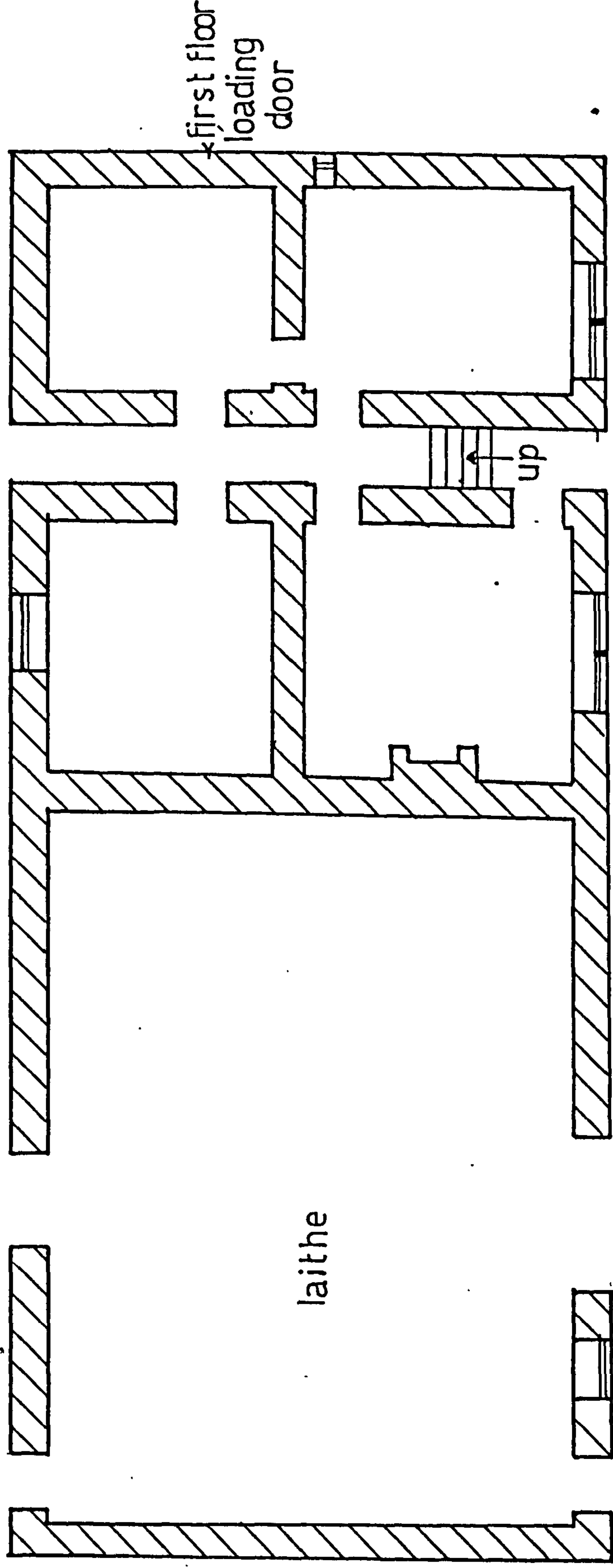
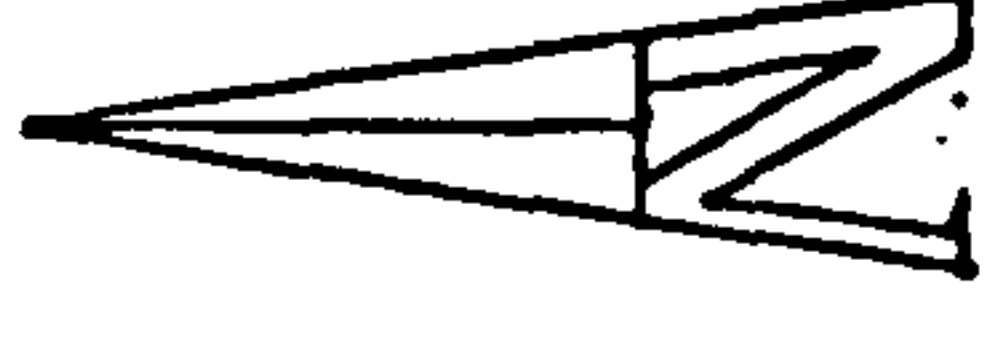
Although Upper North Royd was a smallholding headed by a farmer, it is obvious that the farming of just 9 acres, with only one man working the land full-time was at subsistence level only. It was the other industries, mainly textiles, which constituted the main economic support.

Even in so imposing a laithe house farm as Field House (pl.43 and fig.46) the land was only of 13 acres and the tenant farmer combined agriculture with stone delving. At Small Clough, now derelict (pl.53), the farmland was larger, at 18.5 acres. There were two 'households' here. One was completely engaged in agriculture; a farmer, his two sons who both worked on the farm and a farm servant. The other household was of a woolcomber who had another woolcomber boarding with him. The plan of Small Clough (fig.51) shows how the house was divided for two families and we may assume that the eastern half of the dwelling housed the woolcomber from evidence of the loading door (presumably for the wool which was to be combed) at first floor level in the gable end.



Fig. 51 SMALL CLOUGH  
Northowram

Scale 1:100





A note on the 1915 agricultural census return

An agricultural census dated 1915, already discussed in section II, listed 15 laithe houses and 27 non-laithe houses for Northowram. Again, there was a wider range of size for non-laithe houses although the overall average size difference was less significant. This census also showed the non-laithe houses' greater connection with arable farming and the laithe houses' greater concern with dairy farming, as well as charting the disappearance from the farms of textile workers.



SCAMMONDENIntroduction (21)

Scammonden township lies 5 miles north west of Huddersfield, much of it being situated on high moorland. The Roman road between York and Manchester marks its southern boundary, a new motorway has cut through its width, while its centre is dominated by Deanhead reservoir.

Scammonden is not mentioned in Domesday and did not become a separate township until at least the middle of the 14th.c. It became a graveship of Wakefield manor in 1343, having previously been part of the vill of Quarmby. It was described as 'the place of wood and pasture called Scambandene' when the vill was granted to John de Quarmby in 1304. The name 'Scammonden' may be a combination of Scandinavian ('Skambani', a personal name meaning 'short slayer') and Old English ('denu'=valley). Certainly there are many stories of Scandinavian invaders in the district.

In 1555, the area was described as

"grete wastes and moors, where the fertilitie of grounds ys not apt to brynge forthe the corne nor good Grasses, but in rare Places, and by exceedings and greate industrye of the inhabitantes altogether doo lyve by clothe making, for the greater parte of them neyther gette the corne nor ys able to keepe a Horse.." (21)

Already, cloth making had become a vital supplement to the meagre farming possible in the township.

Scammonden moor was enclosed in 1814, drystone walls were built to divide the land and more houses appeared in the 'intakes' from the commons and waste.



The 19th. century

Table 24 lists the population of Scammonden throughout the 19th.c., along with the main occupations listed for inhabitants, as recorded in the contemporary commercial directories. The steady development of the township to the middle of the 19th.c., and especially the growth of cotton manufacture led to the founding of the Scammonden Commercial Cotton Spinning Company in 1861. This company built a cotton mill on 25 acres of land near Scammonden Dam from the capital sum of £30,000 in £5 shares. However, the American Civil War was already threatening cotton supplies and the mill, though built, never opened. It was sold off in 1897 for £250.

The figures in Table 24 show how the population was declining from the 1860's. By 1901 only 360 people were left at Scammonden; the rest having drifted to the towns. The many farmers listed combined farming with textile production, or at least their families supported the income from smallholdings in this way. After textile manufacture began to decline in the area, more of the population had to live off farming alone or leave the area for the towns. In spite of the uneven information given by the directories, one may see the decline in textile manufacture from the middle of the 19th.c. The drop in figures from that point illustrates how dependent a small remote township could be on its vital industry, and how immediate the effects of one or two mill closures in such an area.

Building and settlement

Scammonden's importance in later years came from its serving the neighbouring towns, particularly Huddersfield, by the reservoir developed at Dean Head, and the motorway which traverses it. Both of these developments have swept away several farms and houses which lay scattered across the central part of the township although building was not carried out on any scale until the late 18th.c. and early 19th.c. period.

A small map of 1607 (22) depicts only 10 houses in the township and 3 'groups' of 3 or 4 buildings (possibly a homestead



Table 24.SCAMMONDEN IN THE 19TH. CENTURY

(Source: commercial directories, see Bibliography)

| Year | Population |
|------|------------|
| 1811 | 647        |
| 1821 | 855        |
| 1837 | 912        |
| 1842 | 972        |
| 1853 | 1067       |
| 1866 | 1012       |
| 1871 | 803        |
| 1881 | 607        |
| 1901 | 360        |

| Year        | Occupational group | No. recorded |
|-------------|--------------------|--------------|
| <u>1822</u> | Reverend           | 2            |
|             | gent               | 1            |
|             | victualler         | 4            |
|             | merchant           | 1            |
|             | cloth manufacturer | 1            |
| <u>1837</u> | gent               | 1            |
|             | victualler         | 5            |
|             | cloth manufacturer | 8            |
|             | farmer             | 17           |
|             | grocer             | 8            |
| <u>1842</u> | gent               | 1            |
|             | victaller          | 5            |
|             | farmer             | 51           |
|             | cloth manufacturer | 6            |
|             | grocer             | 6            |
| <u>1853</u> | cloth manufacturer | 5            |
|             | farmer             | 43           |
|             | grocer             | 8            |
| <u>1857</u> | gent               | 1            |
|             | farmer             | 43           |
|             | cloth manufacturer | 4            |
| <u>1866</u> | cloth manufacturer | 4            |
|             | victaller          | 6            |
|             | farmer             | 26           |
| <u>1870</u> | cloth manufacturer | 3            |
|             | farmer             | 60           |
|             | grocer             | 6            |
|             | cattle dealer      | 3            |



with separate barns and cottages. 3 of the houses are associated with laithe house sites, although the present day buildings are of the mid. 18th.- mid. 19th.c. period. The crude drawings on the map give no indication that those early 17th.c. structures were of laithe house form.

The only noteworthy farm of 17th.c. date is a non-laithe house situated at Stone Stile, on the south west tip of the reservoir. Fig. 52 shows a 3-cell linear plan with central housebody and unheated parlour to one end. The other end accommodated services or possibly a workshop; the original main entrance appears to have been situated here (pl.54) possibly to protect the housebody from draughts in the original form. The inner door leading into the housebody has since been blocked and the later square-jamb door put in as a direct entry. The uneven coursed rubble masonry and recessed, splayed mullioned windows, some of which retain their Tudor arched heads (pl.55) place the building in its 17th.c. date period. Stone Stile appears to be of high enough status to house a fairly wealthy yeoman and as such it is worth noting that the laithe is detached, though in line with the house and at only 7 yards distance. The laithe is large, particularly tall for a 17th.c. example, giving further evidence of its owner's wealth. The laithe has the square porched entrance to the eaves, typical of 17th.c. laithes, and it has been built well into the steep hillside, the eaves actually against the hillslope at the south east angle, to afford minimum protection from the elements.

Many of Scamonden's houses are of 19th.c. post-enclosure date. Apart from laithe houses, there are a few examples of houses with attached barns as at Hey Lathe and Leyfield, both occupied by weavers. Leyfield was built by the Reverend Thomas Falcon in 1826 and his initials also appear at Hardenby, a terrace of combined laithe and non-laithe houses, with the identical date of 1826. According to the 1815 enclosure award, Falcon also owned the sites where the laithe houses of Spring Royd, Causeway Green, Low Platt and a house on Green Slacks Lane were later built, as well as owning an earlier terrace of 3 cottages with attached barn at Edgerton. When the Reverend Falcon was



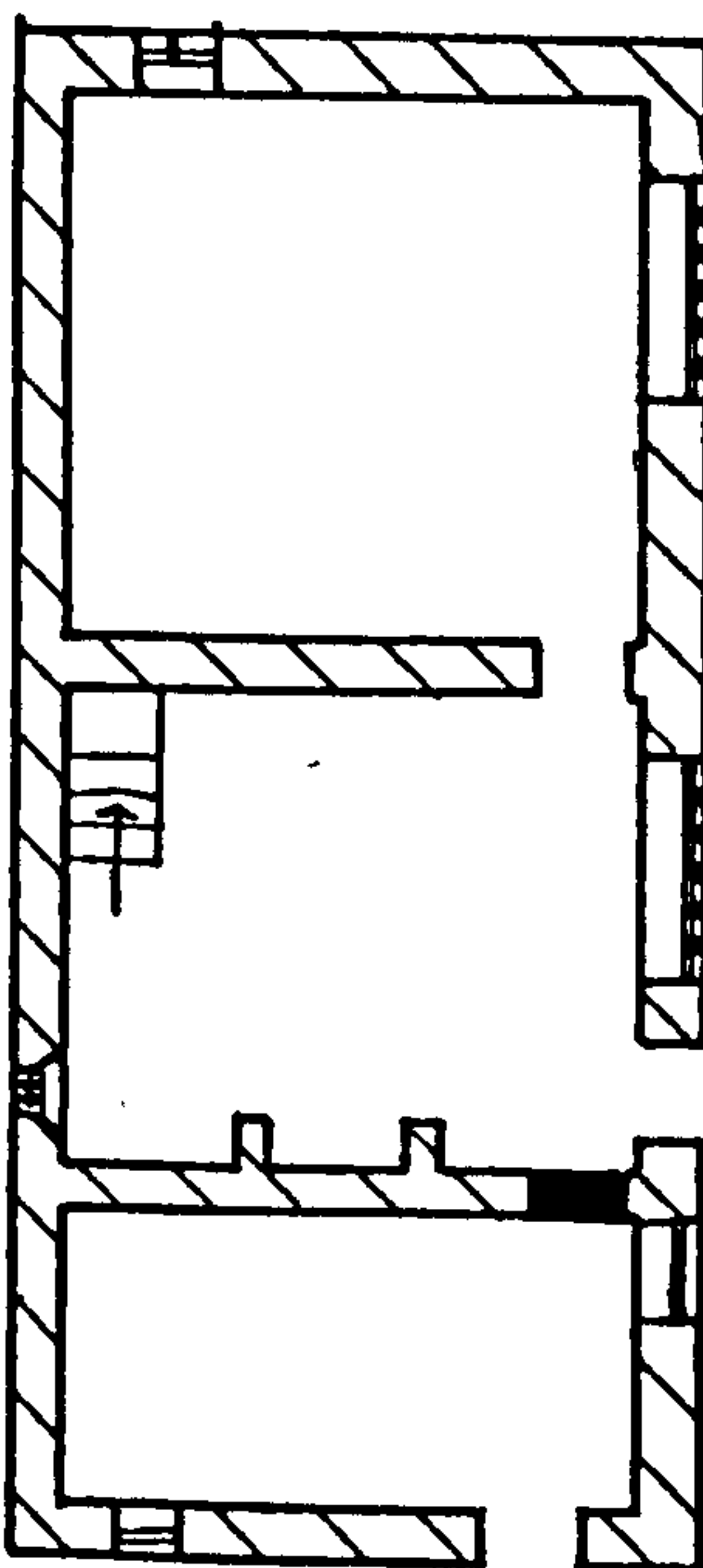
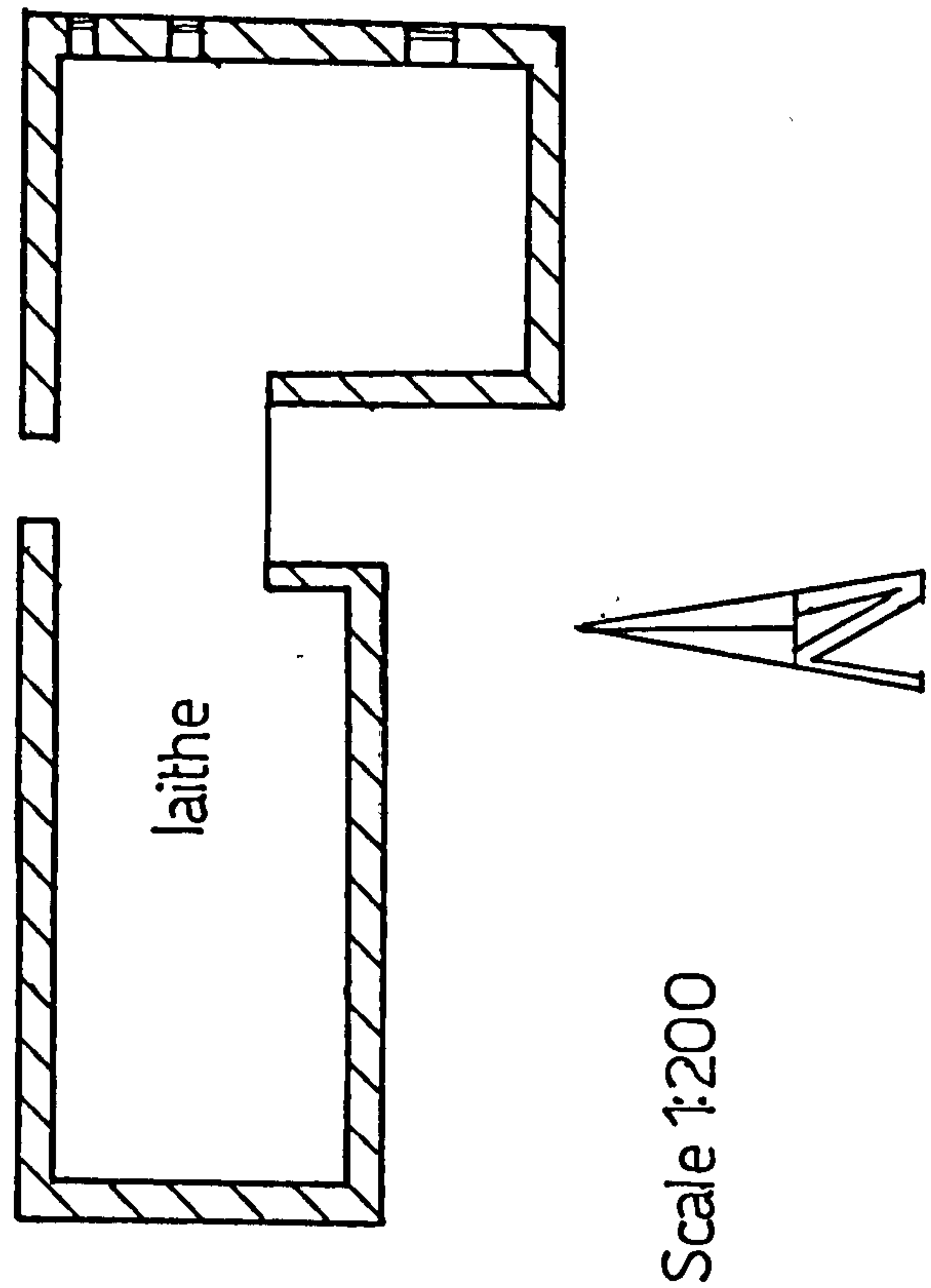
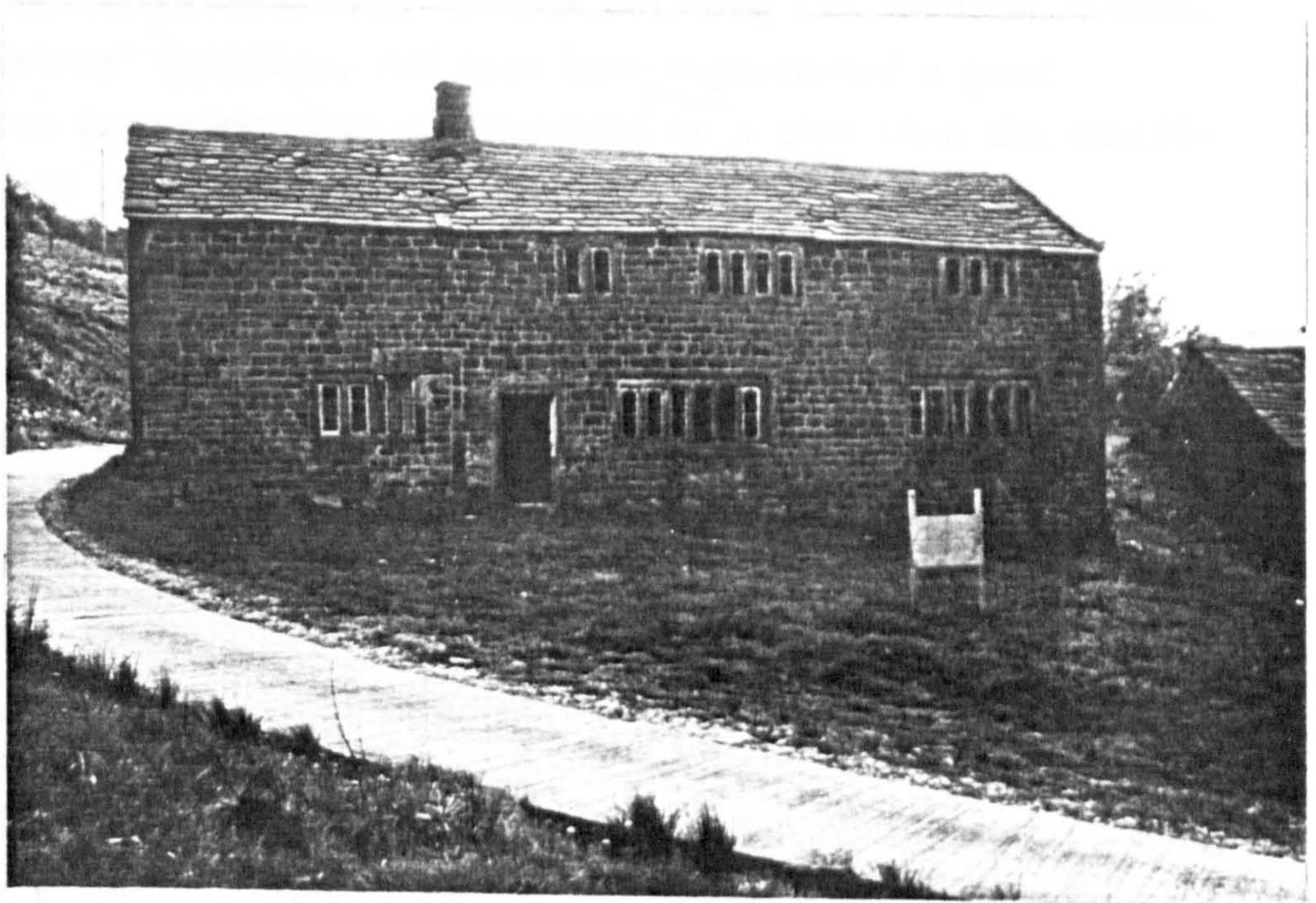
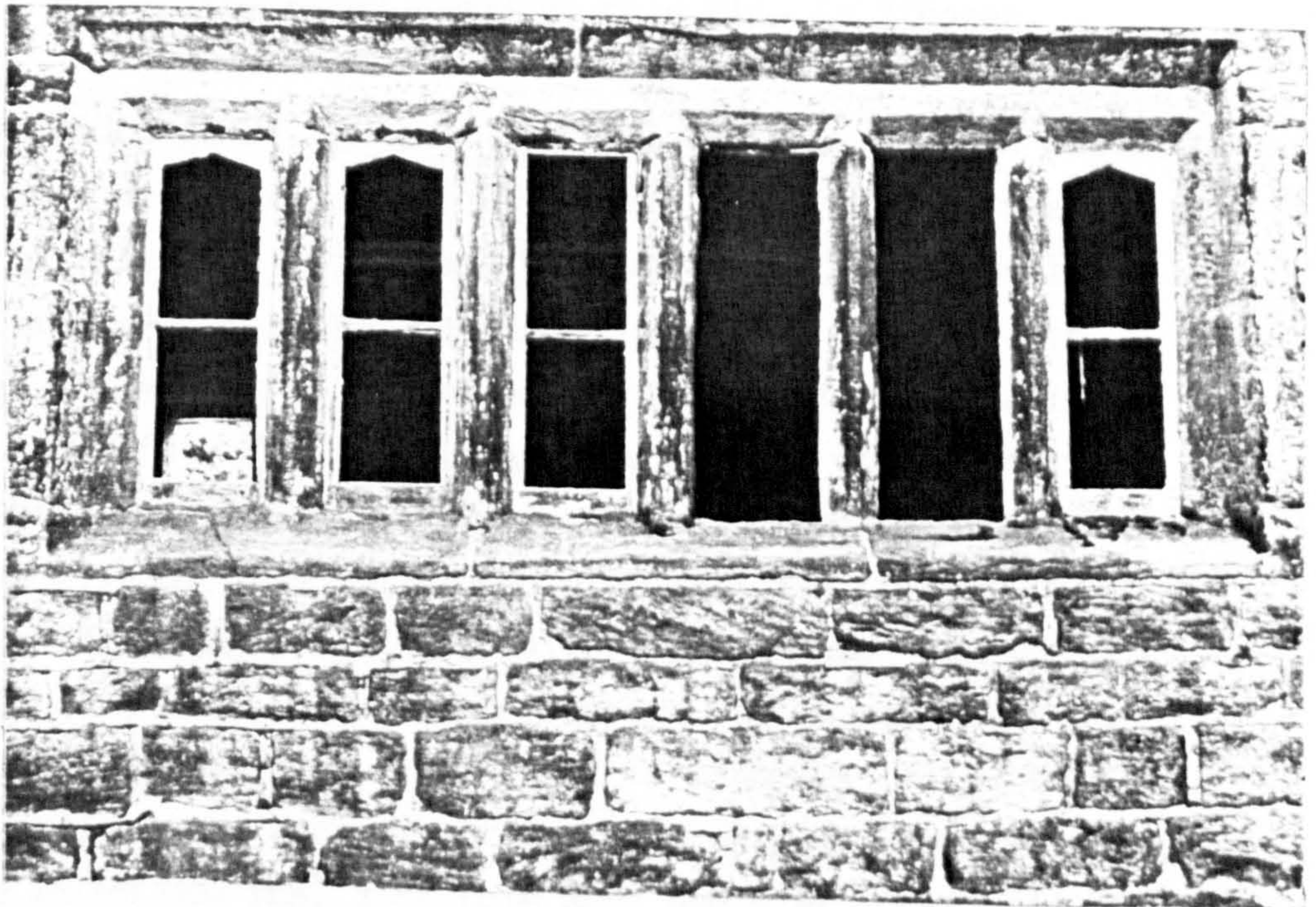


Fig.52 STONE STILE  
Scammonden





Pl. 54. Stone Stile, Scammonden.



Pl. 55. Stone Stile, Scammonden  
(window detail)



awarded these lands in 1815 he proceeded to build extensively shortly afterwards, either from scratch or in the form of addition to existing structures. All of this building was associated with tenant weavers' families, and must have represented a good speculative investment for the Reverend <sup>Falcon</sup> at a time when the textile industry was prosperous in the township.

Very few large houses are apparent in Scamonden, although there are a number of examples at the lower end of the social scale, particularly groups of weavers' cottages as at Delph Hill and Camp Hill, all associated with weaving and all of early-mid. 19th.c. date.

### The laithe house

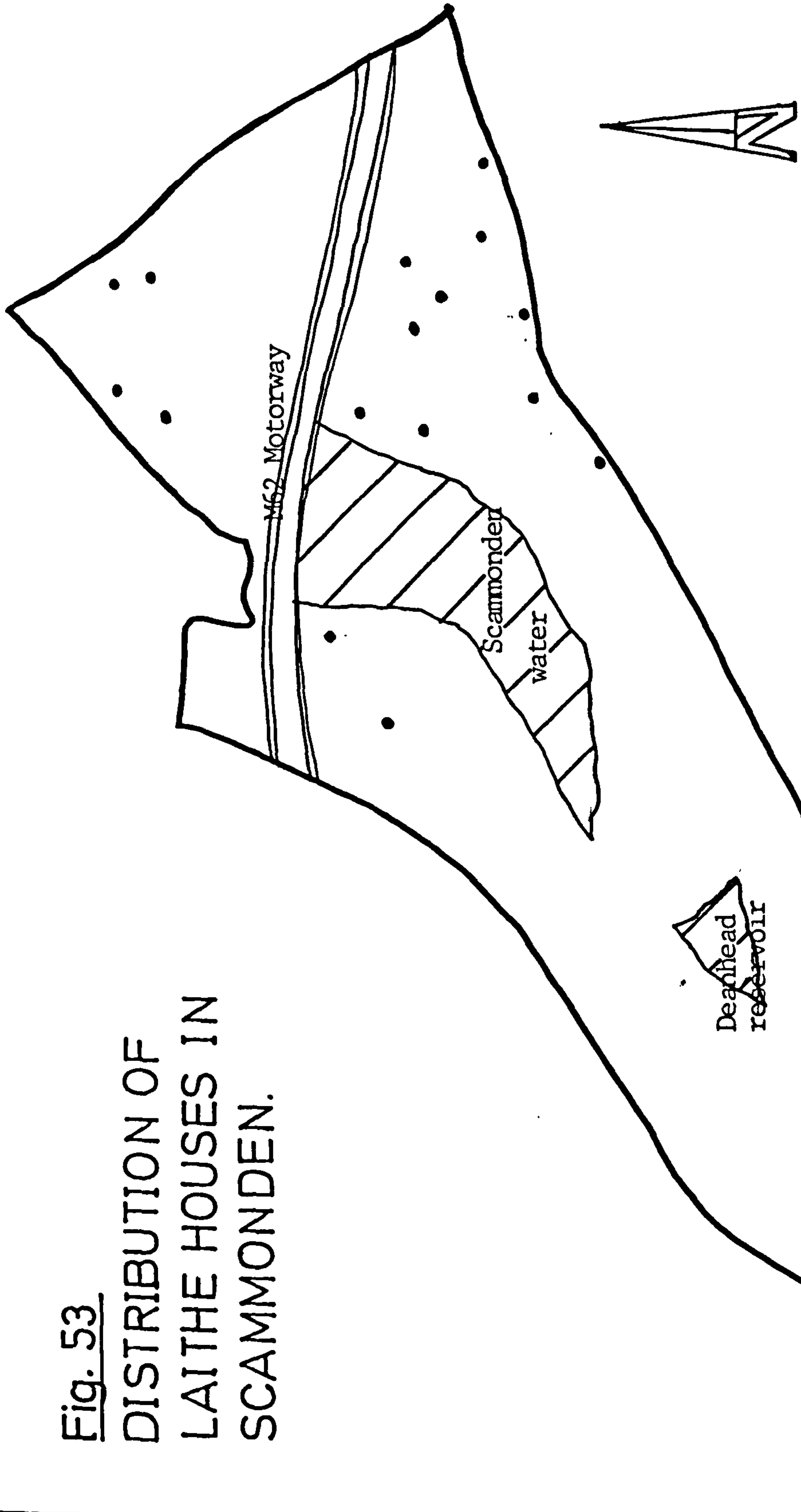
Detailed study led to the identification of 16 laithe houses. Their distribution is shown in Fig. 53, showing the laithe house to be the dominant form among the farmsteads of the hill slopes. Table 25 lists the laithe houses according to their main date periods. The overwhelming picture is of post-enclosure building. Those few which pre-date enclosure have had additions after enclosure, the laithe being added at this time in 2 cases.

Scamonden gives the most powerful evidence for the laithe house being a direct result of enclosure; the reclamation and division of relatively poor farm land necessitating a small, compact farmstead. Falling as they do within a narrow, late date range, Scamonden's laithe houses are particularly uniform in style and size. The overriding form is of 2-storey cottage accommodation in double pile form with small rear services, and 2,3 or 4 light flush mullioned windows. The cottage is generally contemporary with its laithe, which takes up two-thirds of the overall size, its elevation distinguished by a semi-circular arched door. 11 of the 16 examples follow this pattern, while 3 are terraces of cottages with attached laithes, 2 at the Brown Cow Inn, 3 at Pole Royd and 4 at Lower Hill Top.

Nest Farm exemplifies the type (pl.56) with a typically austere elevation. The same form may be seen at Shay's Laithe



Fig. 53  
 DISTRIBUTION OF  
 LAITHE HOUSES IN  
 SCAMMONDEN.



16 recorded.

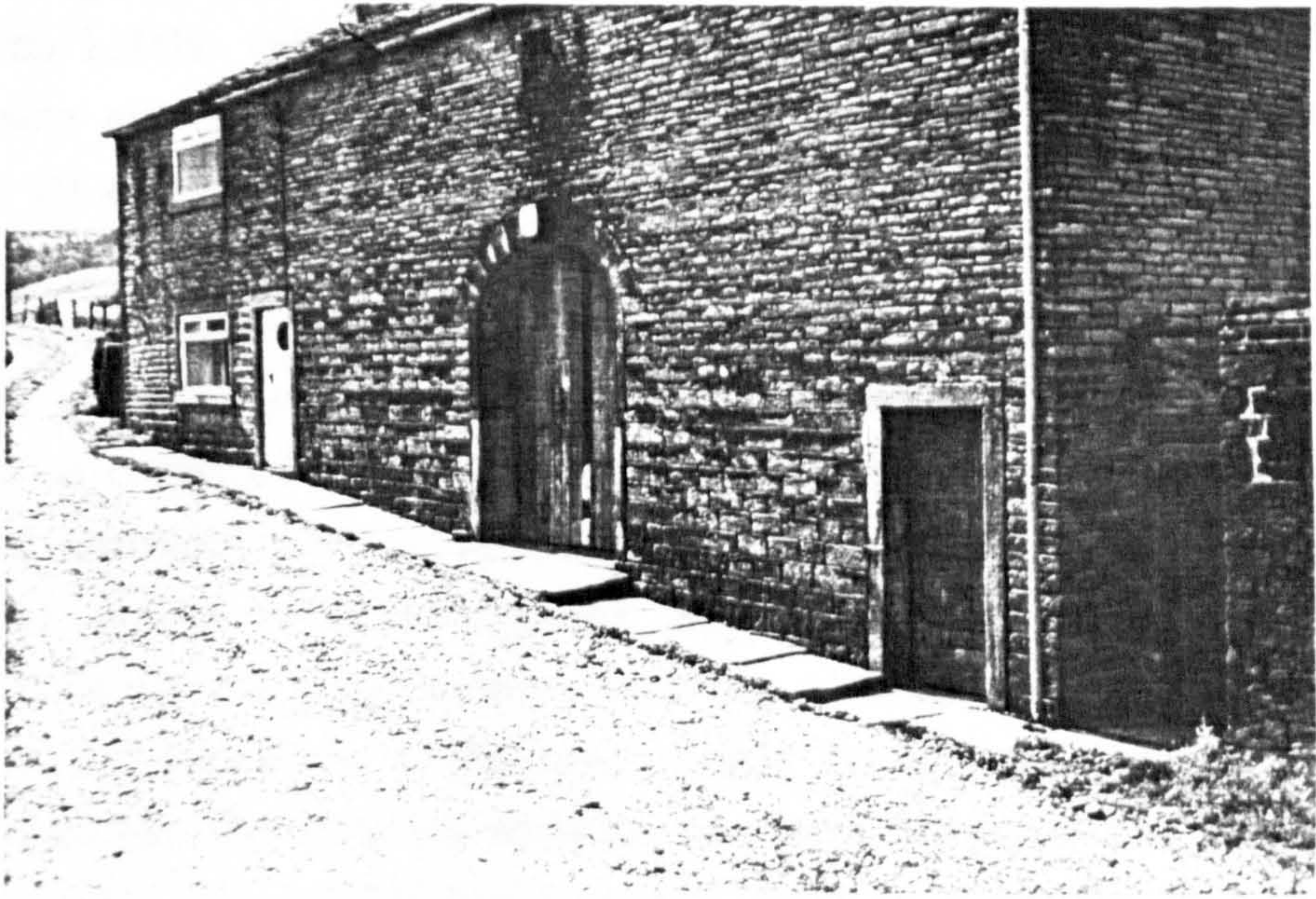


Table 25.BUILDING PHASES OF SCAMMONDEN'S LAITHE HOUSES

(Key: A=additions/alterations; L=laithe built)

| 17th.c. | early 18th.c.   | late 18th.c.<br>(to enclosure<br>of 1815) | 19th.c.<br>(after enclosure)  |
|---------|-----------------|---|---|
|         |                 | Brown Cow- - -                            | - - -A<br>Causeway Green<br>Daisy Hill<br>The Forest<br>Green Slades<br>Hardenby<br>Glen Hey<br>Hey Lane<br>Low Platt |
|         |                 | Lower Top o'<br>Hill--                    | - - - L<br>Nest<br>O'Cot  |
|         | Pole Royd - - - | - - A- - - - -                            | - - -L<br>Shay's Laithe<br>Spring Royd  |
|         |                 | Green Slacks-                             | - - - L   |





Pl. 56. Nest Farm, Scammonden.



Pl. 57. Shay's Laithe, Scammonden.

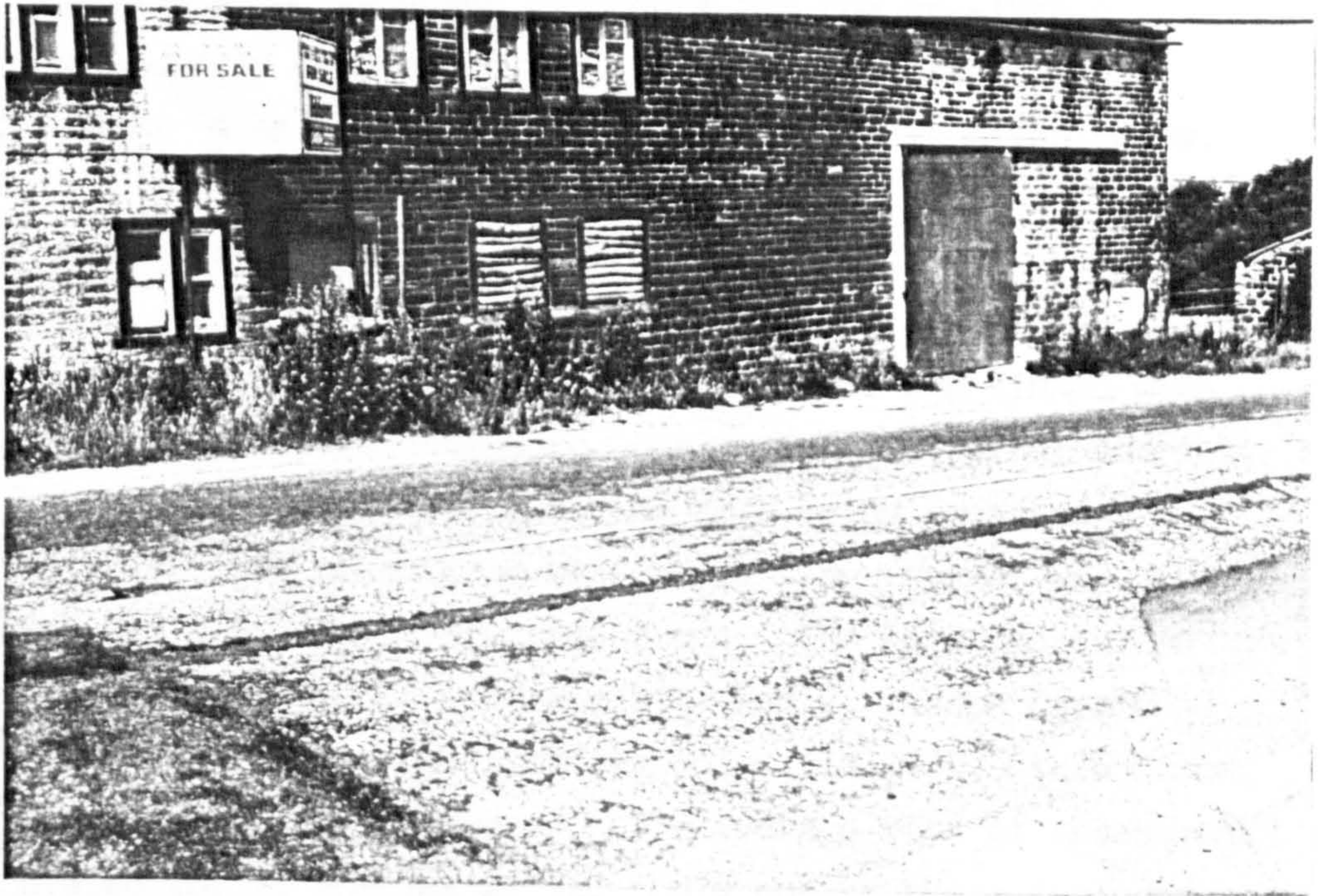


though its later date of 1840 and the greater prosperity of its builder, a publican who bought the land from the Duke of Leeds, has given a classically influenced elevation with more imposing windows, slightly more decoration and a greater proportion of dwelling to laithe (pl.57). The basic plan elements remain the same. There are in fact only two laithe houses which differ from this type in any noteworthy respect.

Hardenby, 3 houses combined with 2 laithes (one at either end of the range) was basically a weaving workshop, all the trades mentioned in commercial directories and census returns related to weaving at Hardenby with no mention of farming at all. Clearly, agriculture was of relatively minor importance. The architecture reflects this in the long runs of weaving windows, being of 8 lights. Pl.58 shows the right hand single front dwelling and attached laithe; the weaving windows now have intermediate lights filled in while the laithe has been utilised as a garage, its mistal door blocked.

Glen Hey is the largest laithe house in Scammonden and also probably the latest, dated 1855. It comprises a late 18th.c. double front dwelling with the laithe house itself built in 1855 at right angles to the earlier structure. The dwelling part is almost the same size as the laithe and is of a symmetrical double pile, double front plan with a cross-passage between central doors front and rear (pl.59). The size and arrangement of windows (also the same front and rear) shows classical influence in their symmetry. The dwelling has been extended into part of the laithe and a further stack added. The site of Glen Hey was owned by Joseph Priestley esquire at the time of the 1815 enclosure; by 1832 it had passed to Samuel Walker who may have been connected with a family of local merchants and manufacturers. The datestone bears the initials 'J. M. C.'; this may refer to John Clegg, a publican, unless John Crabtree, a weaver listed as the tenant of the older house in 1851, was prosperous enough to have built Glen Hey. Certainly the Crabtree family were prominent in local textile manufacture. Glen Hey is exceptional in size in Scammonden, the rest of the laithe houses being of small farmstead stature. It is also notable that no 'pairs' of farms, common in other areas, appear in Scammonden. The late building period precluded this extended development pattern, as did the relative poverty of the area.





Pl. 58. Hardenby, Scammonden.  
(part-blocked weavers' windows)



Pl. 59. Glen Hey, Scammonden.



## DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Apart from the crude map of copyhold lands in Scammonden in 1607, there are few relevant documents for the pre-19th.c. period, particularly as most of the laithe houses are of post-enclosure date. A brief summary of the documents is given below.

Land tax returns (23)

Samples were taken from 1790, 1800 and 1832 and linked with information from the 1815 enclosure award. In 1790, of 41 entries, only 12 houses were owner-occupied, the rest being tenanted properties. The size of estates was small. The largest was John Lea's which had 5 holdings, all rented out. The Reverend Falcon had 2 at this stage, Reverend Harrop also had 2, Joseph Cartledge 2. All other owners held one property only. In 1832, of 28 named, 3 were identified as laithe houses. The average rate of assessment was calculated for 21 entries at 9s. Only one of these included in the calculation was a laithe house and therefore unrepresentative. These 3 laithe houses were linked with the 1841 census to check the residents and their occupations. All were tenants renting from a landlord. The census listed 2 as farmers and the other as a publican. Only 4 were owner-occupied, none of them laithe houses. Some consolidation of holdings had taken place since 1790; the two Reverends still had 2 holdings each, but John Wheelwright now had 6 holdings and a Mr. Stephenson now held 2. The rest of the owners had one each. No occupations could be traced from census returns or commercial directories.

Enclosure award (24)

Table 26 lists landowners with their status or occupation as shown in the commercial directories, the land they held in 1815 (expressed in number of holdings), the changes which occurred at the time of enclosure and the resulting post-enclosure holdings.

Once again, the landowners are a mixture of gentry, in this case a heavy emphasis on clerics, and tradesmen and manufacturers. How substantial and far-reaching were the changes at enclosure may



Table 26.LANDOWNERS IN SCAMMONDEN, 1815.

(land expressed in number of holdings)

| LANDOWNER           | STATUS/<br>OCCUPATION | LAND HELD 1815 | CHANGES AT<br>ENCLOSURE | LAND HELD<br>AFTER 1815 |
|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Priestley           | ?                     | 69             | -41                     | 28                      |
| Falcon              | Reverend              | 37             | +41,+38                 | 116                     |
| Waterhouse          | ?                     | 25             | exchange 5*             | 25                      |
| Taylor              | scribbling<br>miller  | 19             | -                       | 19                      |
| Walker              | farmer                | 12             | +48                     | 60                      |
| of Holmfirth        | Curate                | 12             | +4                      | 16                      |
| Wheelwright         | Shopkeeper            | 11             | +14, and<br>exchange 5* | 25                      |
| Hirst               | ?                     | 9              | +3                      | 12                      |
| of Slaith-<br>waite | Curate                | 7              | +6                      | 13                      |
| Blackburn           | ?                     | 7              | +16                     | 23                      |
| of Longwood         | Curate                | 3              | +5                      | 8                       |
| Lumb Mill           | Trustees              | 2              | -                       | 2                       |
| Bottomley           | ?                     | -              | +6                      | 6                       |
| Oustler             | ?                     | -              | +8                      | 8                       |
| Stephenson          | ?                     |                | +10                     | 10                      |
| of Leeds            | Duke                  | -              | +27                     | 27                      |

Source : Scammonden enclosure award, 1815, W.Y.C.R.O. ref. B32

| Laithe house sites identified |                             |                              |       |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------|
| LANDOWNER                     | LAITHE HOUSE(S)<br>PRE-1815 | LAITHE HOUSE(S)<br>POST-1815 | TOTAL |
| Falcon                        | 1                           | 4                            | 5     |
| Duke of Leeds                 | -                           | 2                            | 2     |
| Wheelwright                   | 2                           | (rebuilt 2)                  | 2     |
| Oustler                       | -                           | 2                            | 2     |
| Walker                        | 1                           | -                            | 1     |
| Stephenson                    | -                           | 1                            | 1     |
| Waterhouse                    | -                           | 1                            | 1     |
| TOTALS                        | 4                           | 10                           | 14    |



be seen; only two of the landowners' holdings remained unchanged. All the others added in amounts ranging between 3 and 79 holdings, except John Priestley esquire who sold off 41 holdings to the Reverend Falcon.

Of the 16 laithe house sites located on the map, only 4 laithe house buildings pre-date enclosure with at least 2 of these being added to after enclosure. The 12 which post-date enclosure were all built in the early-mid. 19th.c. and may be regarded as a direct result of enclosure. The landowners who built these and/or already owned land with a laithe house on it are listed at the bottom of Table 26. A look back at the list of changes in land-owning reveals that the builders of laithe houses were the landowners who had added most substantially to their property at the time of enclosure.

#### Census returns, 1841-81

As for the occupants of the farms, the census returns give the most comprehensive picture. 9 laithe houses were located in the 1841 return. Of the 20 occupations recorded for these household heads and family members, only 5 were related to agriculture. 2 were publicans while the rest were textile workers. Only Nest and O'Cot showed farming as the main occupation. Unlike the pattern of other areas, Scammonden's household heads were engaged in textile trades rather than being farmers with weaving carried on for supplementary income by family members.

To check whether this trend continued and was peculiar to laithe house farms, a sample of 12 laithe and 12 non-laithe houses was taken from the more detailed 1881 census. The results are shown on Table 27. The overwhelming majority of occupations listed for laithe houses were in wool weaving. Although the total number of textile workers is only slightly more than that for non-laithe houses, there are fewer farmers shown (2 only) although several others combined farming with another trade. It seems that in Scammonden's poorer farming areas, non-laithe house farms still show greater connections with agriculture compared with laithe houses, though the farm sizes are comparable to small laithe house



Table 27.OCCUPATIONS OF FARM INHABITANTS IN SCAMMONDEN, 1881.

(A comparison sample of 12 laithe and 12 non-laithe houses)

| (1) Laithe houses                                     |                 |        |        |
|---|-----------------|--------|--------|
| OCCUPATIONS   | NOS. RECORDED   |        |        |
|   | HOUSEHOLD HEADS | OTHERS | TOTALS |
| wool weaver   | 8               | 22     | 30     |
| farmer/cotton   | -               | 3      | 3      |
| farmer/wool weaver                                    | 3               | -      | 3      |
| farmer/publican                                       | 3               | -      | 3      |
| farmer/cart driver                                    | 1               | -      | 1      |
| farmer/cattle driver                                  | 1               | -      | 1      |
| publican  | 1               | -      | 1      |
| stone quarryman                                       | 1               | 1      | 2      |
| cotton  | -               | 3      | 3      |
| cart driver   | -               | 2      | 2      |
| (2) Non-laithe houses                                 |                 |        |        |
| OCCUPATIONS   | NOS. RECORDED   |        |        |
|   | HOUSEHOLD HEADS | OTHERS | TOTALS |
| farmer  | 7               | 2      | 9      |
| wool weaver   | 2               | 12     | 14     |
| cotton  | -               | 11     | 11     |
| worsted   | 2               | -      | 2      |
| farmer/wool weaver                                    | 1               | -      | 1      |
| farmer/cattle dealer                                  | 2               | -      | 2      |
| farmer/stone  | 2               | -      | 2      |
| farmer/grocer   | 1               | -      | 1      |
| cattle dealer   | -               | 1      | 1      |
| <u>NOTE ON AVERAGE ACREAGES</u>                       |                 |        |        |
| Laithe houses : average 12.5 acres; range of 8-20     |                 |        |        |
| Non-laithe houses : average 18.5 acres; range of 4-45 |                 |        |        |

Source: The census returns for Scammonden, West Riding  
of Yorkshire, 1881.



farms of more prosperous townships. The laithe house<sup>s</sup> on the other hand, show the county-wide pattern of comparably less agricultural prosperity and of a narrower size range. In this poorer area, farming in the laithe houses has been relegated to a very minor rôle indeed.

In addition to the four areas looked at in detail, a further seven areas were studied in some depth to illustrate additional points and further 'fill out' the picture at this specific level. In each of these seven areas, more or less all laithe houses were identified, trends in style were noted and where particularly relevant documentary sources were available, additional specific background information gained.

The summary of Austonley, the first of these areas, includes some background historical and geographical details as it is the only township looked at in any detail which is situated in the Holme valley area to the south of the county. The rest of these areas have close historical and geographical links with the four areas chosen for specific study.



AUSTONLEYIntroduction (25)

The township of Austonley is in the Holme valley in the south of the county (see map in fig. 33). At the head of the valley lies Holmbridge, a collection of small hamlets and scattered farmsteads with no community centre. Austonley itself is situated on a sloping spur of land between the Holme river's tributaries. It was originally a farm settlement with a few acres under the plough. The settlement was never developed and the name survives as the name of a farmstead referred to in the Domesday Book. All the villages of the Holme valley as recorded in Domesday lie on high ground above the valley bottom although still below the 300 metre contour. It is assumed that the locations of the centres of each township may represent primary settlements in the area, and they may occupy the preferential sites. Each is on ground neither too high nor too exposed, too steep nor too thickly wooded, on reasonably well-draining soil and with an adjacent area of similar soil suitable for ploughing. Each has areas of flatter ground for pasture and of moorland for peat.

Unlike the area around the Colne, the Holme valley was not heavily industrialised; what industry there was was almost exclusively textile. There was no railroad and the area remained a backwater up until the Second World War, with little population movement in or out. The topography of the Holme valley has encouraged this isolated, somewhat bleak picture. Characteristically 'South Pennines' it is mainly moorland with steep-sided hills covered in mosses and cotton grass. Peat was valuable in these areas, with rights of turbary (collecting peat for fuel) highly prized. There is evidence of former over-grazing by sheep and the once wooded hills have all been cleared for this purpose, leaving no trees or shrubs except in isolated pockets.

Sheep farming was extensive here, with land taken in from the commons and moors and exploited as much as possible for sheep rearing to supply the home spinning and weaving industries.



Evidence of this home industry can be seen in the large number of weaving windows to be seen and the tenters used for drying cloth. Broadcloth pieces were finished locally and taken to Huddersfield Cloth Hall where each man sold his own produce. This home industry gradually gave way to the commercial mills built in the 19th.c. Austonley had 6 woollen and worsted mills built by 1852.

The importance of farming was almost overshadowed by textiles in this area, a tradition going back to at least the 17th.c. Evidence from probate inventories of 1688-1738 (26) shows a heavy concentration of clothiers and very few yeomen, so although farming was of course important it tended to show less prosperity and status than textiles. Certainly the 19th.c. directories and census returns testify to the overriding importance of the textile industry. Over half of the main residents in 1822 were engaged in cloth manufacture, even more by the 1830's. The census returns reveal more farming amongst lower class residents, and this pattern of the balance between farming and cloth production carries on at least until the end of the 19th.c.

Stone quarrying was also an important occupation, supplying the raw material for mills and houses. The geology of Austonley is of millstone grit, the most durable of building stone. Thinner upper beds were used initially, resulting in narrow coursed masonry of about 1.5 inches, then thicker lower beds were quarried, giving masonry courses of up to 6 inches.

Many farmsteads have disappeared from the valley as reservoirs were built to serve the growing population in the towns. Digley reservoir at Austonley is one example. The trend had already been towards abandoning sheep farming for cattle rearing to serve the towns and now Austonley became increasingly a catchment area for Huddersfield, supplying dairy products, water and settlement land for population spill-over.

#### Building and settlement (27)

The slower economic growth of the Holme valley was largely due to heavier dependence on agriculture for a longer period so



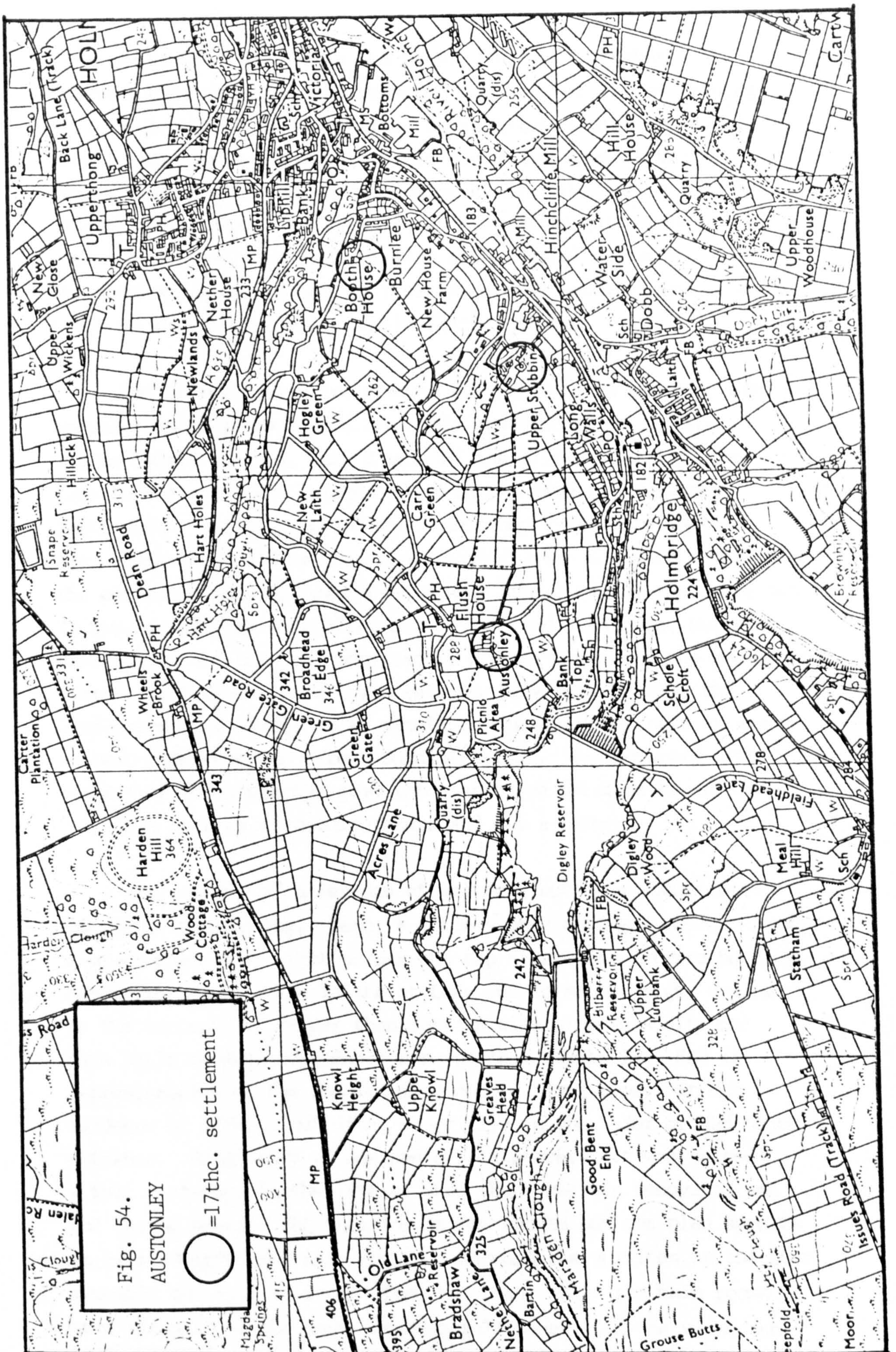
that a prosperous middle class did not appear until the late Middle Ages. This is reflected in the poorer character of the comparatively few substantial timber-framed dwellings which were built and the appearance of cruck construction in the vernacular tradition. The general period of rebuilding by the middle classes was delayed until the later 17th.c. when many people found cruck-framed houses could still fulfill their purposes.

Traditionally one of the poorest areas in the county, Austonley had been valued at less than 3d. per thousand acres in 1660, and with a population of less than an average of 74 people per square mile. This was reflected in the conservatism of building. The Tudor vernacular style persisted until, in the 18th.c., more building was undertaken to meet the demands of a growing population their main occupation revealed by the characteristic long runs of mullioned windows designed to light chambers where weaving was carried out. The largest growth spurt came between 1801 and 1831 when the population increased by over 100% under the stimulus of its textile production.

Buildings in the Holme valley were of full vernacular style as late as the 20th.c., and the houses which were built in classical style in the latter 19th.c. were for the newly prosperous mill owners and cloth manufacturers. Lower down the social scale, vernacular building had increased and developed during the second half of the 18th.c. as home weaving expanded and the population grew.

The settlement pattern which may be detected from standing evidence is of isolated 17th.c. buildings, particularly at Booth, Austonley and Stubbins (fig. 54), 18th.c. houses which were usually no more than cottages, often in pairs and usually with separate agricultural buildings. This was followed by a spread of 19th.c. cottages, quite a number of them built in terraces and occasionally with a continuous weaving workshop occupying the second or even third floors of the row, again with agricultural buildings usually detached.







There are some large houses and farms, but few in number. The dominant type of housing is weavers' cottages and the overriding pattern, backed up by information from census returns and commercial directories, is of local clothiers who often farmed some land alongside their manufacturing practice. The laithe houses reflect this pattern. The dwellings are either quite substantial of double pile, double front plan with central entrance, or terraced cottages and many of both kinds have weaving windows as proof of their involvement in the textile trade.

The laithe houses are grouped more or less in one main area around Austonley, away from the mills and main road. Of the 14 laithe houses located, only 2 were of the 17th.c. and 3 of the late 18th.c. All had laithes added in the 19th.c., the main laithe house building period when the other 9 examples appeared. The assumption would be that their building was a direct result of the enclosure of 1832, except that most appear on the enclosure map. It appears all the parcelling out of land and subsequent building development had occurred immediately pre-enclosure and the enclosure award itself was a formality. This may have been because the landowners were mainly local manufacturers who could have arranged between themselves to effect such divisions. Contemporary directories (see Bibliography) gave information on 5 laithe house landowners; 4 were cloth manufacturers and one a farmer.

One example of a terrace of weavers' cottages attached to a laithe is at Long Ing. Here, 4 three-storey cottages accommodated a weaving workshop right across the top floor with interconnecting doors throughout. The laithe at Long Ing is set at right angles to the terrace, of larger than average size with an additional barn built to the south gable end (pl.18). Upper Town End is representative of the double pile, double front type. It has evidence of 17th.c. building, especially in the Tudor arched house entrance. Originally of one and a half storeys, it was raised to a full 2 storeys in the 19th.c. when the house was renovated and the laithe added. The interior is now gutted but the plan appears to have admitted the main entrance through the services at the rear probably for ease of access from the road, while the main rooms were situated to the south, taking full benefit of the view downhill and additional light (fig. 55). The latter would have been



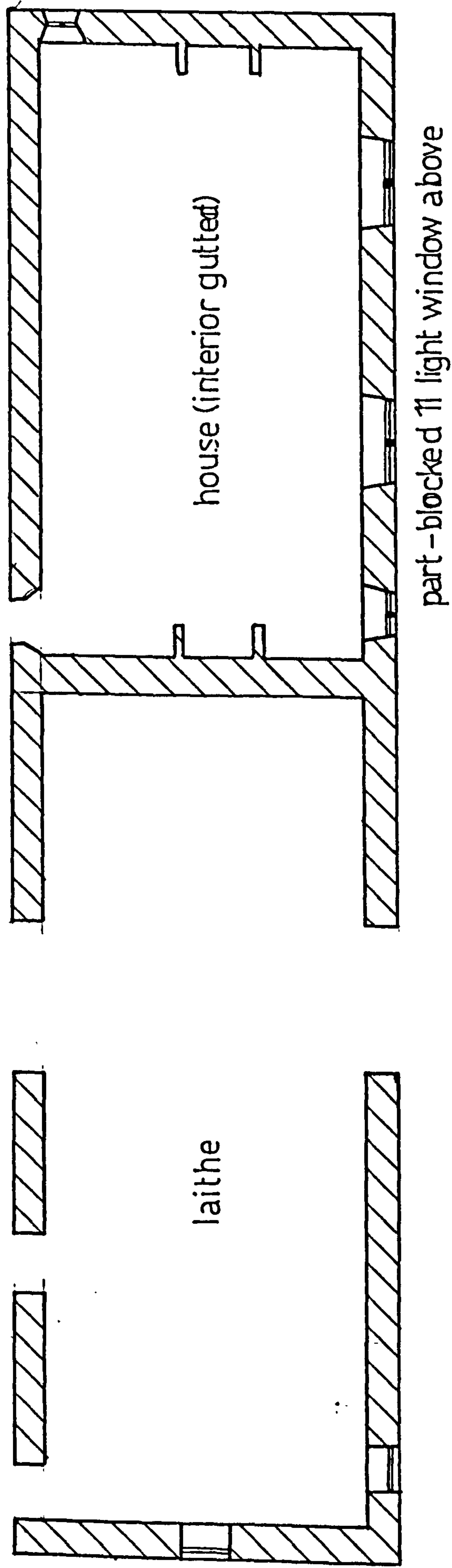
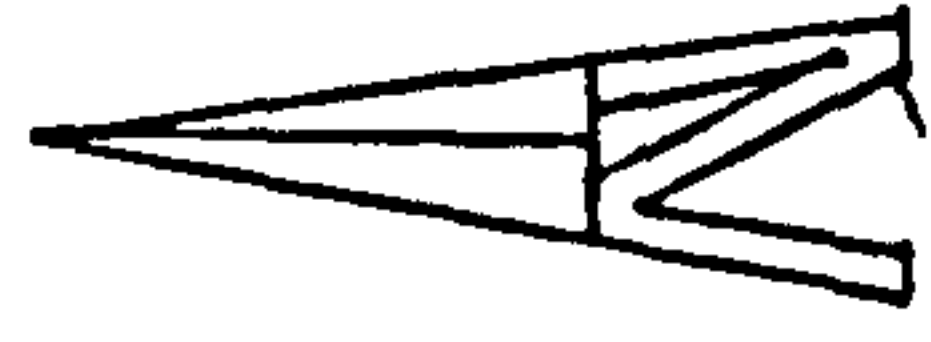


Fig.55 UPPER TOWN END  
Austonley

Scale 1:100





particularly relevant to the evidence of weaving practice found in the 11-light mullioned window on the upper floor.

The holding at Upper Town End was of 23 acres and, in spite of the weaving window, only agricultural occupations were recorded there in the census returns of the mid-19th.c., making farming the predominant occupation.

The most substantial laithe house of Austonley is Austonley Farm itself, an extensive building of 3 storeys with two projecting wings to the rear and embellished by 'stepped' windows to the front (pl. 60). The 1841 census listed 4 families, one headed by a farmer, another by a millwright and the other two by textile workers. No farming was reported in the 1881 census, though the extensive agricultural buildings still stand. The ground plan of Austonley (fig. 56) shows the layout of probably three dwellings, a separate cottage with attached barn to the rear and a large free-standing laithe, probably contemporary with the original rebuilding of Austonley farm in stone, parallel and opposite.

### SILSDEN

Silsden is situated in Wharfedale, adjacent to Addingham township. The townships have the same pattern of building in that most of the farms are of the mid-late 17th.c. with a few additions in later years. 16 farms were located, only 2 of them dating from the post-17th.c. period, both being laithe houses.

The commonest plan form in both laithe and non-laithe houses was the 2-cell direct entry with small services to the rear, sometimes under an outshut. There was one example of a 3-cell linear plan, and at least two of the laithe houses had later building which replaced one or more cells of an original structure, rendering the plan unclear. Recessed, splayed mullioned windows and heavy door lintels featured widely, characteristic of the early dates of the houses. Of the non-laithe houses, two had barns attached, the rest had detached out-buildings, in one case a large aisled barn dated 1641.



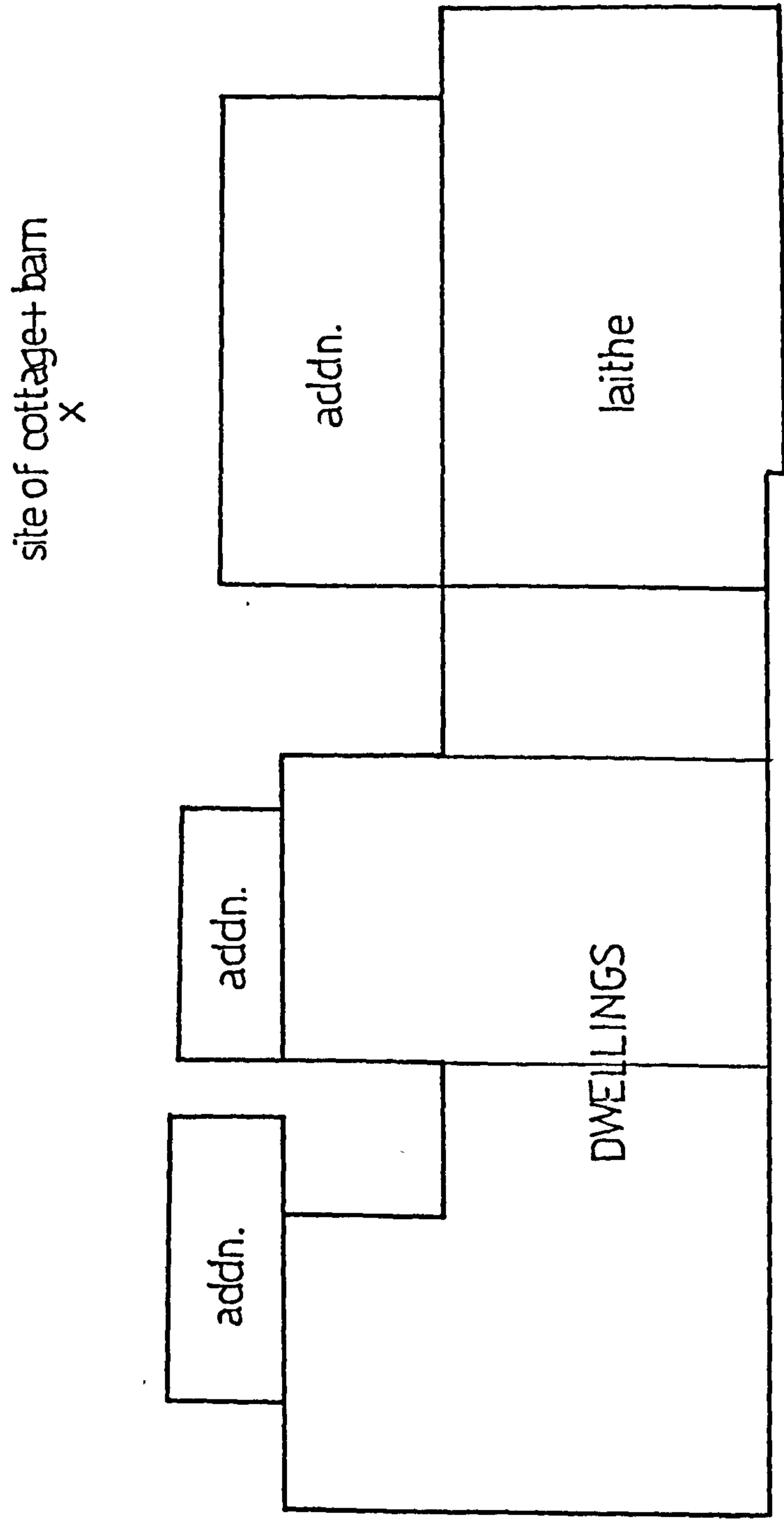


Fig.56 AUSTONLEY FARM

Austonley

(sketch - not to scale)







Pl. 60. Austonley Farm, Austonley.



Pl. 61. Moorview, Silsden.



The plan of Moorview (fig.57) is representative of the 2-cell plan with small services under a half outshut, a direct near central entry and gable stack, a layout common to Silsden's farms. Moorview has a barn attached to the west and a later stack was added to heat the parlour. The narrow kitchen at the rear has been raised to accommodate a top floor (pl.61) but the pitch of the roof and the thickness of the masonry in the lower wall reveal it was once contained under a single storey outshut. The photograph of the mistal door in the laithe at Lane Ends (pl.62) illustrates drystone masonry and heavy quoining most common in the 17th.c. The lintel over this mistal door, bearing the inscription " I W 1674 " (the initials are those of the builder, a local yeoman called John Wade) is reused from the house.

Given the early date of Silsden's buildings, post-17th.c. documents have little relevance. A survey of the townships in 1689 appears in Skipton's rentals (28). Very few houses were named and it was impossible to match up the descriptions with houses standing today. However, the rentals do give some indication of the landowning patterns and size of holdings in the late 17th.c. 38 landowners were listed as renting out 48 holdings. 14 were absentee, several living in nearby Addingham, others as far afield as Halifax, Ripon and York. The largest landowner was a baronet who had 8 holdings, the next was John Redshaw, a 'gentleman' of Ripon who had 4; the rest of the owners had one holding each. There were several examples of joint ownership, usually within families, for example;

"William Overend of Silsden snr. and Wm. Overend of Glusburn junior his son"(28).

Apart from the gentry, only two occupations were mentioned in connection with landowners; these were a collier and an apothecary. About 38 of the holdings included 'houses' or 'cottages', the rest were 'closes' or included agricultural buildings only. A typical entry, illustrating a farmstead and lands common in Silsden's farms in the 17th.c. describes a holding of

"one house, one barn, a garden, a steep garth,



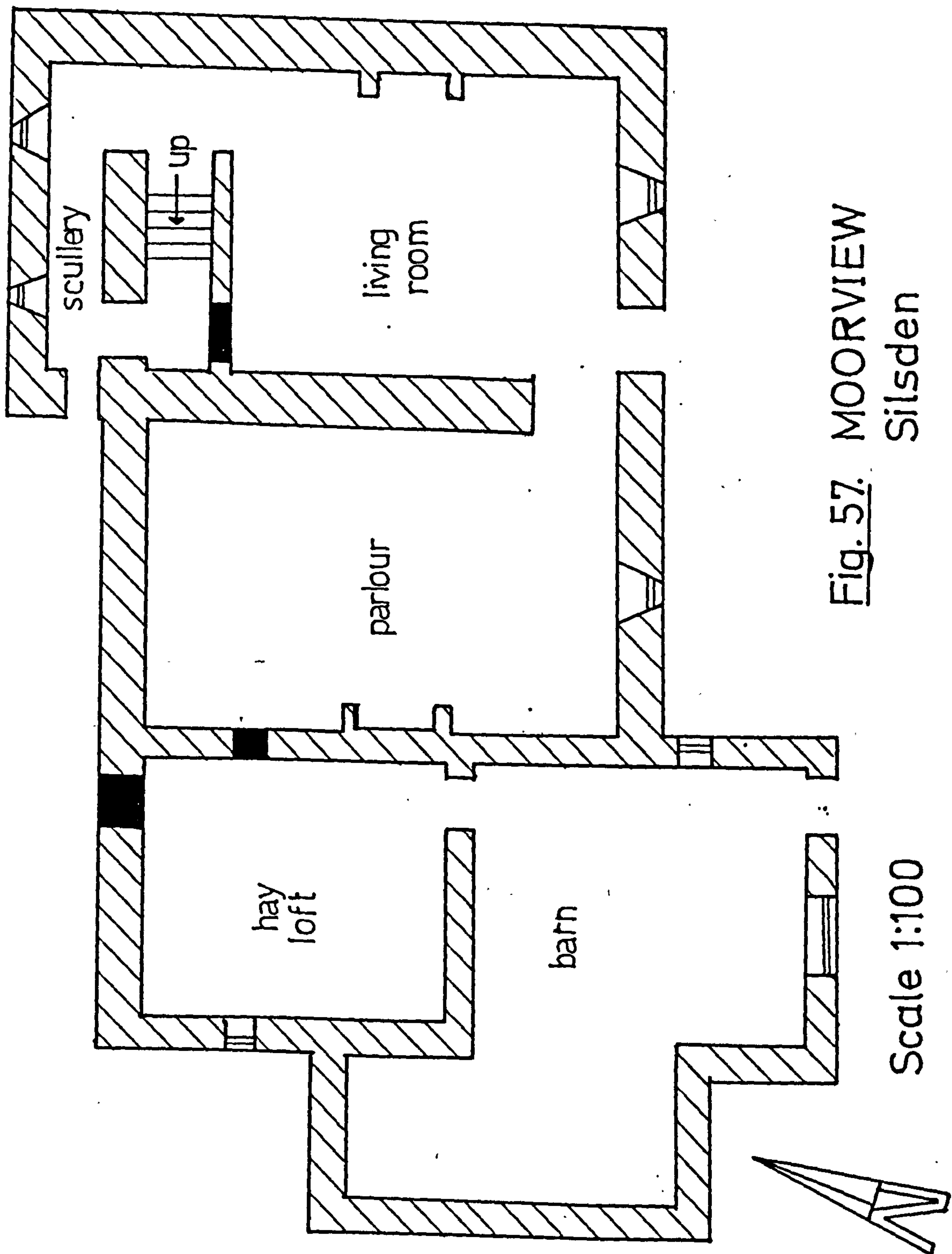
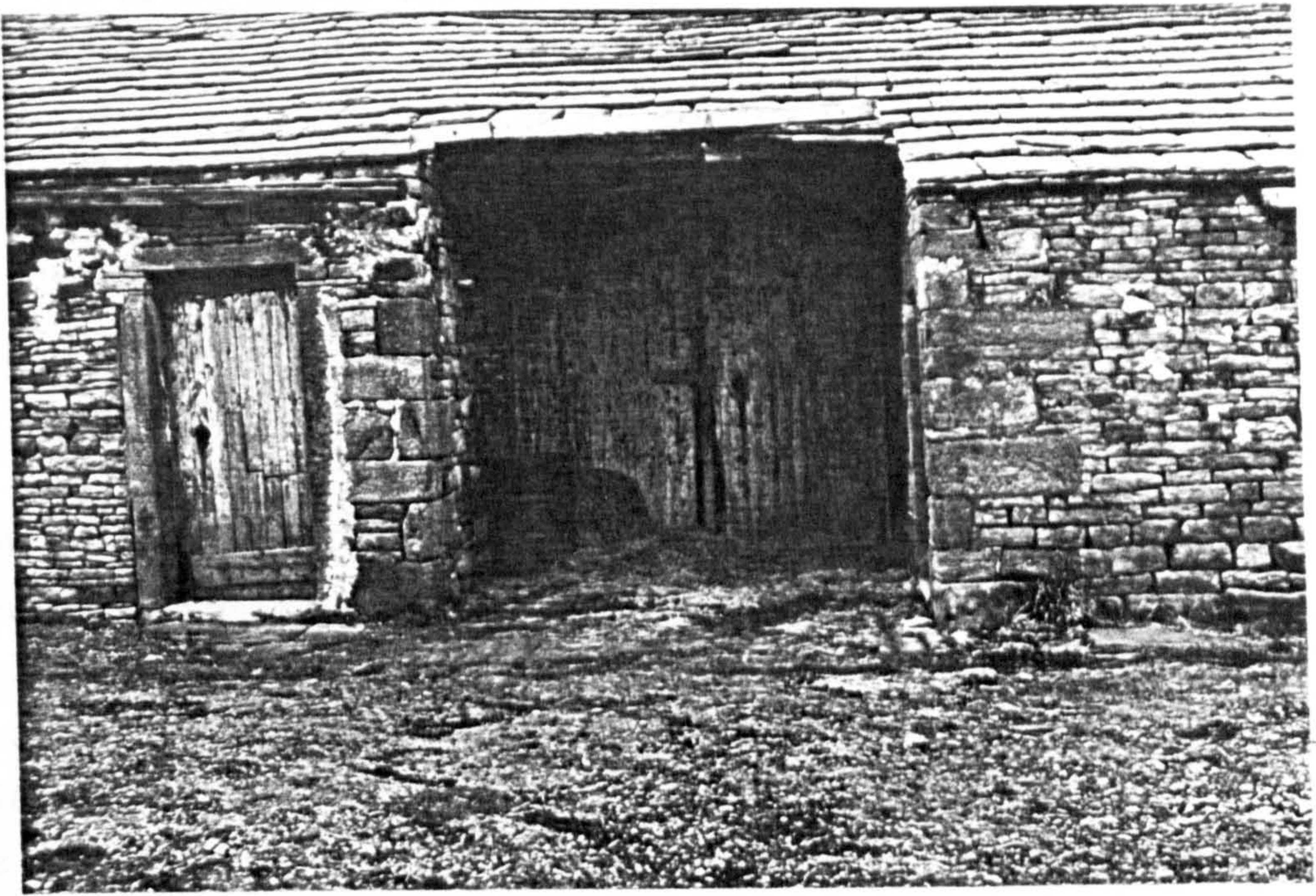


Fig. 57. MOORVIEW  
Silsden





Pl.62. Lane Ends, Silsden.  
(laithe door, front elevation)



Pl.63. New Manor House, Stainland.



the croft before the door, upper and lower high fields, the hill top behind the house," (28)

being a compact smallholding of around 6 acres, rented at £2 a year. The average holding was 13 acres and although the range was wide, between 3 and 52 acres, most fall in the 10-20 bracket, giving the familiar pattern of smallholdings of 3-6 closes around a farmstead of house, barn and garden.

For detailed descriptions of the houses themselves in this early period, a sample of probate inventories was checked. 25 inventories between 1662-1728 were looked at for Silsden (29). In some cases no rooms were distinguished within the house, suggesting fairly mean accommodation of 1-2 cells only, but 10 examples were clearly of 2 ground floor cells with a chamber over and a barn close by or possibly adjacent. Condensed transcripts of two examples appear in Appendix 4, illustrating the range of household goods and livestock on a yeoman's farm of the early 18th.c. Total valuations were £10 and £36 respectively. 3 houses were larger, with more rooms listed, for example, a yeoman's house of hall, parlour and 3 chambers and a more substantial house of 'housebody, little parlour, great parlour, kitchen, dairy, 3 chambers, out-kitchen, barn and stable'. This latter was the largest farm noted in the inventories, the total valuation being £60.

### STAINLAND

Stainland township is situated on the moorlands west of Huddersfield, and adjoins Scammonden. Laithe houses are the dominant farm type in Stainland; few examples with separate agricultural buildings were noted. 18 laithe houses were recorded and are summarised in Table 28. There are 3 examples where the original building pre-dated the 19th.c., though a 19th.c. laithe was added in two cases and 19th.c. alterations undertaken in the other.



All the examples were of 'single front' accommodation except Only House which was of double front style, though not particularly substantial. As Table 28 shows, the commonest plan form was of cottage accommodation featuring 2-4 light square and flush mullioned windows, built in a line with a contemporary laithe which featured an arched wagon entrance, either of a full semi-circular style or with a meaner, depressed arch and no tiestones.

New Manor House was originally of this plan until a 2-storey cell was added to the west (pl.63). The house has the typical square and flush mullioned windows, of both 2 and 3 lights, and minimal detail on the laithe. Nab farm illustrates another common form, of 2 cottages sharing a central stack and with opposite, direct entries, to which a laithe was added in the mid-19th.c. The laithe displays the typical semi-circular arched wagon entrance and lunettes appear at the eaves.

Springfield (pl. 5) was most probably built in the late 18th.c., then altered in the early/mid. 19th.c. when part of the laithe was taken into the house to give a double front appearance, while a Venetian window was inserted over the earlier styled square-headed laithe door.

The overwhelming bulk of laithe house building in Stainland was of mid. 19th.c. date. As in the case of Scammonden, this is direct evidence of the laithe house' connection with enclosures; Stainland was enclosed in 1815. Table 29 is a list of landowners with their post-enclosure holdings expressed in acres, their status or occupation and how many laithe houses they built after enclosure. Once again, we see the predominance of landowners in the gentry class plus clerics and tradesmen.

From a sample of 12 entries in the census returns of 1841-51, the main occupational groups of laithe house occupants were wool manufacturing (12 noted) and stone quarrying (8 noted), with agriculture showing only 5 examples, 2 of these being combined with stone quarrying. Farm sizes, where recorded, were small. Acreages



Table 28.LAITHE HOUSE TYPES RECORDED IN STAINLAND.

|  |                                   |            |
|--|-----------------------------------|------------|
| <u>House plans.</u>                      | 2 cottages adjoining              | 3 recorded |
|  | 3 cottages adjoining              | 3          |
|  | double pile, single front         | 10         |
|  | double pile, double front         | 2          |
| <u>Relationship</u><br><u>to laithe.</u> | contemporary build                | 12         |
|  | laithes added later               | 1          |
|  | house added later                 | 1          |
|  | L-plan                            | 2          |
|  | Staggered plan                    | 1          |
| <u>Details.</u>                          | square-head laithe door           | 2          |
|  | arched head laithe door           | 13         |
|  | lunettes on laithe                | 3          |
|  | venetian windows                  | 2          |
|  | square flush mullioned<br>windows | 14         |
|  | stepped windows                   | 1          |



Table 29.LANDOWNERS IN STAINLAND, 1815 ENCLOSURE.

| Landowner             | Status      | Acres awarded | Laithe houses<br>built after<br>enclosure. |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|--|
| Earl of<br>Mexborough | gentry      | 48            | 2  |
| Bates                 | ?           | 34            | 1  |
| Holroyd               | woolstapler | 22            | 1  |
| Walker                | squire      | 22            | 1  |
| Rickaby               | ?           | 19            | 1  |
| Dyson                 | ?           | 17            | 1  |
| Clegg                 | victualler  | 14            | 1  |
| Gledhill              | ?           | 6             | 1  |
| of Slaithwaite        | curate      | 6             | 1  |
| of Halifax            | vicar       | 52            | -  |

Source : Stainland enclosure award, 1816, W.Y.C.R.O.

Ref. B33



of 3,6,12,14,4 and 24 were noted which represents the average laithe house holding size as well as the most minimal. These 19th.c. enclosure farms, taken in from the higher bleak moorlands (the frequent use of 'New' as a prefix indicates these origins) were built quickly with minimal accommodation for tenants who supplemented subsistence farming by working in local industries

### THORNTON

Situated close to Allerton, in Bradfordale, Thornton's laithe houses also appear to have been built as a result of enclosure. In this case the enclosure was early when compared with West Yorkshire in general, the award being formalised in 1771.

The sites of 8 laithe houses were located on the enclosure map (31); all but one post-dated enclosure. Table 30 shows 13 laithe houses located in Thornton, listed under their date periods, proof that the laithe houses were a direct result of enclosing, at least in Bradfordale. 10 out of these 13 were built within 80 years of the 1771 award.

The owners of the 8 laithe house sites located on the enclosure map included a gentleman (who built laithe houses on his new lands), a doctor (3 laithe houses) and 2 wool manufacturers (1 and 2 respectively). The map of Thornton's enclosure shows many small stone quarries, and properties of all types were later located on sites near these quarries (marked 'stone' on the map with areas of 1-2 perches). Stone quarrymen appear regularly in the census returns of 1841-81 as being occupants of laithe houses, although the overwhelming majority were worsted manufacturers, living off the trade which had become Bradford's staple. The typical pattern throughout is of a farmer as head of the household with a family of worsted weavers and the occasional stone quarryman or agricultural labourer. The holdings were small, averaging around 12 acres, with a range of 8-20 acres.



Table 30.

BUILDING PHASES OF THORNTON'S LAITHE HOUSES

| 1650-1700      | 1701-1770              | 1771                                      | 1772-1800                                       | 1801-1850   |
|----------------|------------------------|---|---|---|
| Moor Royd Gate | Stocks House<br>Travis | E<br>N<br>C<br>L<br>O<br>S<br>U<br>R<br>E | Cresswell<br>High Stream<br>Head<br>Far Malt K. | Intake(rebld.)<br>Blackdyke La.<br>Grandage Gate<br>Dean Lane<br>Law<br>Spring Hall<br>Cocking Lane |



The main styles found among Thornton's early 19th.c. laithe houses are the single front double pile, 2-storey plan, measuring about 6 yards deep, adjoining a conventional laithe of 8-12 yards. Several laithe houses are of 2 cottages combined, as at Spring Hall, which had one door blocked when the cottages were converted to a single dwelling. Spring Hall also illustrates a plain square head laithe door with a heavy flat lintel, a stylistic feature common to the area.(pl.22).

The only 17th.c. example is at Moor Royd Gate, and shows some features of this date in the square-headed and porched laithe door to the eaves, recessed and splayed mullioned windows and a Tudor arched entrance. As in other areas, the laithe house form appears at the earliest stages of stone building, though not taken up on a wide scale until the need for many smallholding farms occurred after the enclosures in the late 18th.c. and early 19th.c.

### SHELF

Shelf is situated north east of Northowram, in Halifax parish, and the richer agricultural area of Shibden Dale. As such, it is characterised by larger farms with separate aisled barns rather than the meaner farms of smallholders common in the western areas of millstone grit. In his study of probate inventories from Shibden Dale, Westerdale noted a high proportion of yeomen compared with clothiers (32). Certainly the township had fewer connections with the textile trade on a home industry level than its western neighbours.

Apart from 2 examples at the boundary between Shelf and Northowram, the other 6 laithe houses located in Shelf are confined to the northern strip of the township, on the higher ground along the moor's edge, around the 250-280 metre contour. They are all of the early-mid. 18th.c. period with a few 19th.c. details found in later alterations. The plan forms are either

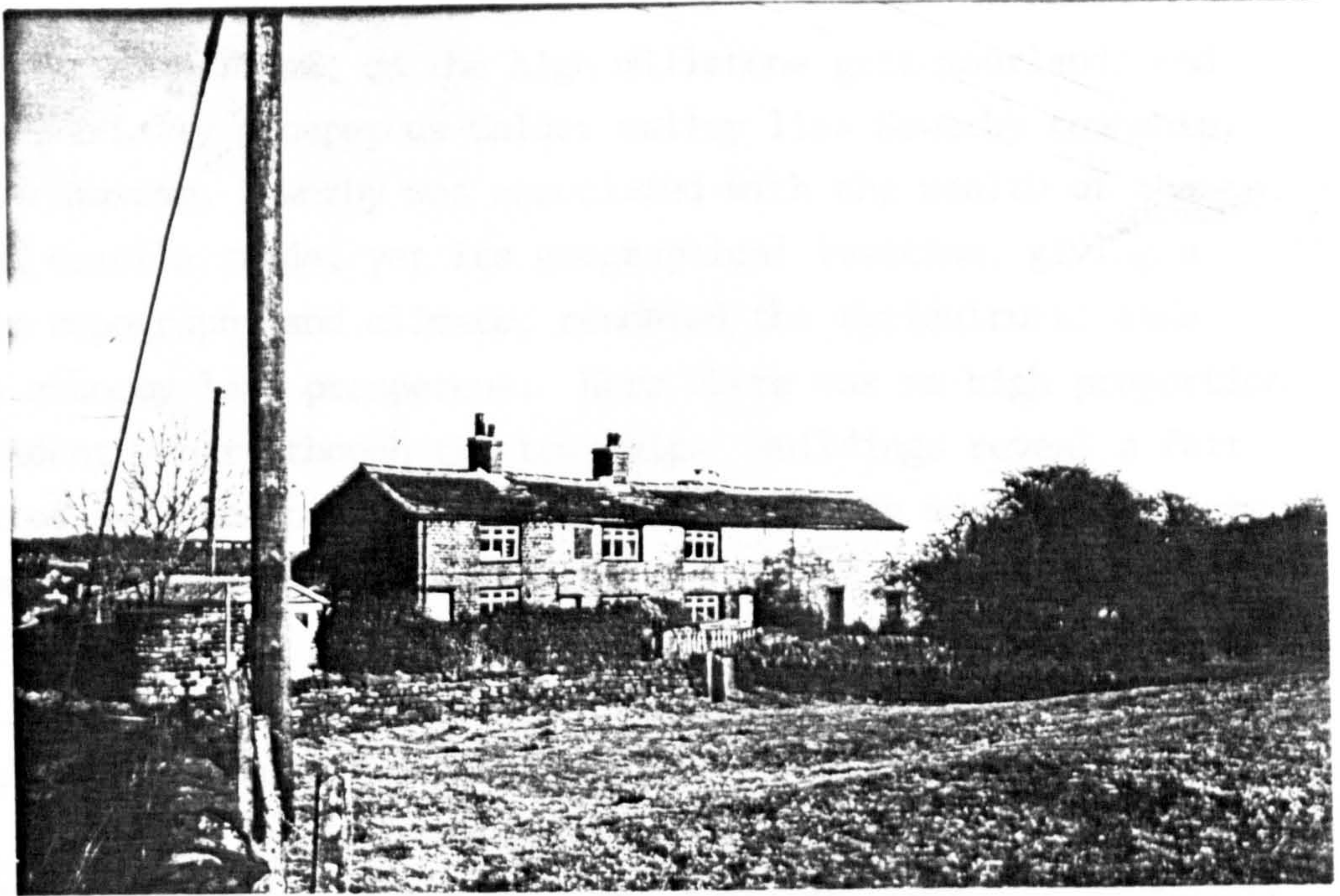


of double fronted houses attached to substantial laithes, reflecting the greater agricultural prosperity, or 2-3 cottages with laithes attached, making up a farmstead, as at Green Lane Top, where the laithe door has been blocked (pl.64).

Built on the Elland flags region, Shelf's houses are often of narrow coursed masonry, and its laithe houses are no exception. An example is Pepper Hill Top; others are Upper Giles and Standage. That this handful of laithe houses represents the latest, highest settlement in the area may be guessed from their names which include the descriptives 'Upper' and 'Top'. Southfields, probably the latest dated at 1770, is the only example with definite connections with the textile trade. The farm was of 26 acres, while 5 of the household were engaged in textile production by the mid-19th.c. A first floor door to the rear of Southfields indicates a possible workshop at the east end of the dwelling. The other laithe houses recorded all seem to be associated with agriculture only, of fairly small holdings ranging between 12-20 acres though with more than average arable land compared with that of other laithe houses (33).

Shelf cannot be described as a 'typical' laithe house area. Although the form occurs, it is by no means standard, and usually appears with the two components as separate builds. The handful of smallholdings which adopted the form seem to have added their laithes in a random fashion for convenience of build rather than property investment by large landowners renting to textile workers. Building of farmsteads appears to have ceased by the late 18th.c., a period before the laithe house comes into its own in other, more industrialized townships.





Pl.64. Green Lane Top, Shelf.



Pl.65. Old Crib, Sowerby.



SOWERBY

West of Halifax, on the high millstone grit moorlands and the industrially prosperous Calder valley lies Sowerby township. Like Northowram, Sowerby was associated with the wealth of the Halifax textile trade, yet its geographical location, giving a harsher topography and climate, rendered the agricultural side of its economy less prosperous. Here there was no high proportion of resident gentry, though the townships' buildings reveal a fair number of well-to-do yeomen in contrast with the meaner dwellings of Scammonden for example.

Out of the 24 laithe houses identified, at least 12 were of two-storey, double front, double pile plan (Table 31). Broadfold, identified by Stell as a laithe house dated 1784, is one example, illustrated in fig.58. The dwelling comprises housebody and parlour, separated by a central through passage with services to the rear contained in a full double pile plan. The laithe is substantial too, with 2 mistals instead of the more usual single one, facing each other across a wide central wagon entry. White-stone Clough (pl. 4) is of similar size, though here two single front dwellings were built together to house a farmer and family next to the farmer's son (a stone mason) and his family. Again, the laithe is substantial with two mistals.

The relatively large size of the farm buildings is not reflected in the size of the farms themselves. In a sample of acreages noted for 16 examples of laithe houses in the census returns for Sowerby (34) the average size of farm was 16 acres. The capital invested in building had come from the industrial rather than agricultural wealth.

Table 31 includes a list of 19 laithe houses within their broad building periods in Sowerby township. There is a more or less even spread, with some emphasis in the late 18th.c. The building of the 17th.c. is well represented and it is reasonable to assume the actual figure would have been greater as it was documentary evidence only which revealed Oaking Clough and Otter Lee to have been completely rebuilt on the foundations of 17th.c.



Table 31.

## SOWERBY'S LAITHE HOUSES

| <u>Plan Types</u> (all 2-storey) | <u>No. recorded</u> |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Double front, single pile        | 1                   |
| Double front, double pile        | 12                  |
| Single front, double pile        | 1                   |
| Single front + added cell        | 3                   |
| 2 cottages adjoining             | 2                   |
| Double mistal                    | 1                   |
| L-shape with laithe              | 1                   |

Details noted

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Segmental arched laithe door                | 11 |
| 2-3 light square flush mullioned<br>windows | 6  |
| Recessed, splayed mullioned windows         | 4  |
| Venetian windows                            | 1  |
| Watershot masonry                           | 3  |

| MAIN BUILDING PHASES (Key: R=rebuild, L=laithe) |                     |              |              |
|---|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 17thc.  | early 18thc.        | late 18thc.  | 19thc.       |
| Little London                                   | Low Crow Hill       | Broadfold    | Little Scout |
| Sands House                                     | Old Crib            | Brown Hill   | Slack        |
|   | Shaws Lane          | Crow Hill E  |              |
|   | Up.Quick<br>Stavers | Low Pike     |              |
|   |                     | Myrr Hill    |              |
|   |                     | Up.Red Brink |              |
| Low Oaking-                                     | - - - - -           | - - - - -    | - - R 1856   |
|   | Whitestone-         | - - - - -    | - - L 1856   |
| Ogden- - - -                                    | - - - - -           | - - - - -    | - - -R       |
| Otter Lee- -                                    | - - - - -           | - - -R       |              |
| Spring Hill-                                    | - - - - -           | - - -L       |              |



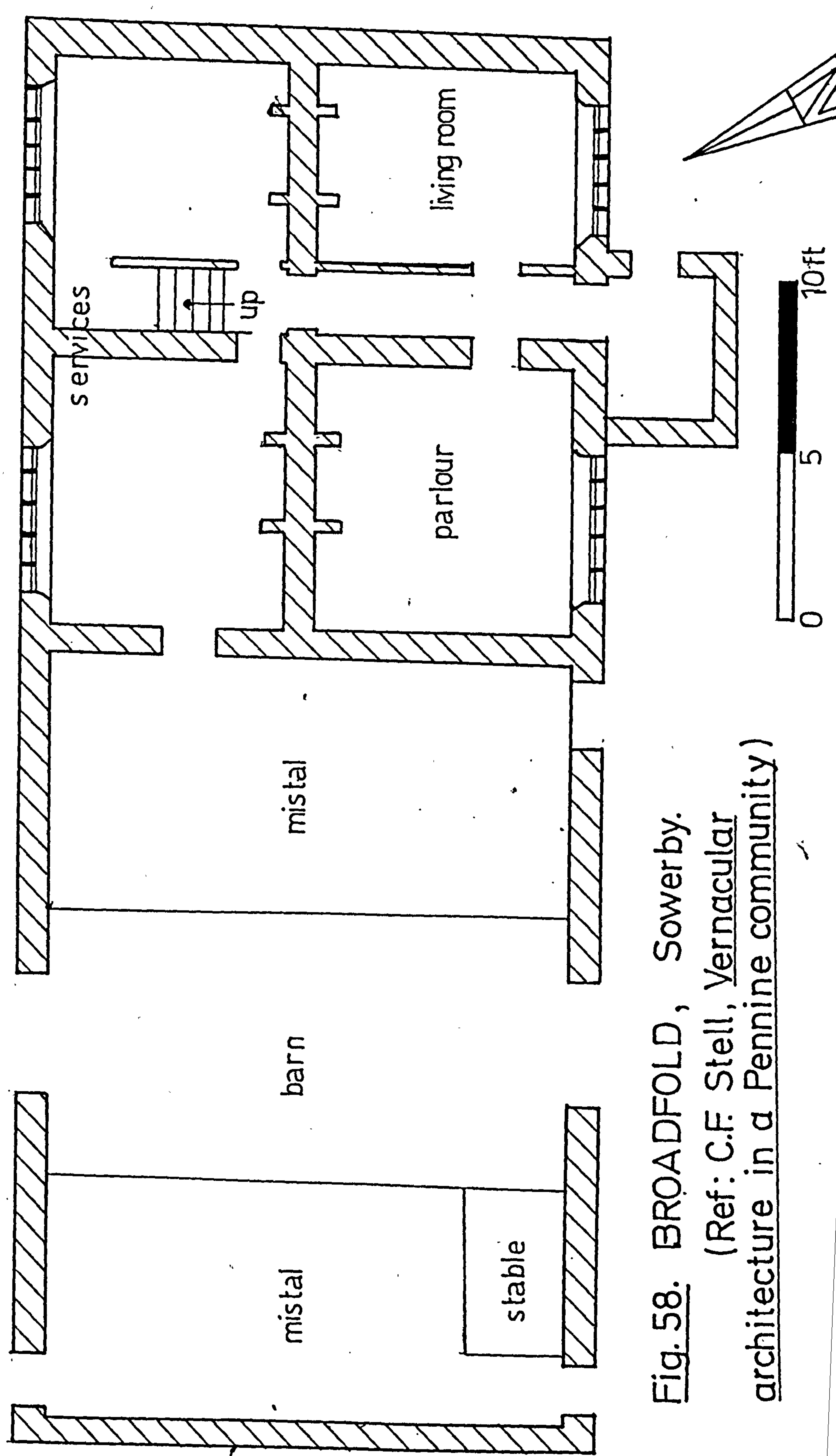


Fig. 58. BROADFOLD, Sowerby.  
(Ref: C.F. Stell, Vernacular architecture in a Pennine community)



structures. What does become apparent is that laithe house building was not a result of formalised enclosure. The early growth of Sowerby, reflective of the textile prosperity of the Calder valley area, meant also that land was developed and divided early, the enclosure Act representing a final stage of 'tidying up' and formalising arrangements which had been undertaken during the previous centuries.

The segmental arched wagon door is almost universal especially as most laithes, if not their houses, were built from the late 18th.c. onwards. Usually the window above is a simple rectangle with or without false arched head, though one Venetian window was noted. Apart from the recessed and splayed mullioned windows which survived in sometimes fragmentary form, the usual style of house windows is the square, flush, 2 or 3 light mullioned windows, again reflective of the dominance of later rebuilding and modernisation.

Discussion of the laithe house' origins at the beginning of section II included two early laithe houses; one from Sowerby, the other from nearby Midgley. They were two of the very few early examples which may have suggested a 'hybrid' form connecting the longhouse with the laithe house tradition. If this is the case, and given the particularly early date<sup>s</sup> of Sands House and Lower Han Royd, the area around Luddenden Dean may have been the cradle of laithe house development. Whether connected with the longhouse or of separate tradition, the early prosperity of this area and the problems of its topography and climate could well have inspired a type of combination farm building which was later adopted in other areas. The place name 'Sowerby' is a Scandinavian one meaning 'mud village', proving the area's links with Scandinavian settlers who may have been instrumental in introducing the laithe house form, as discussed in section II.

As already noted, Sowerby's enclosure award of 1840-41 formalised developments already undertaken. Where the award gives information on the acreages of laithe house lands, it bears out the picture of smallholdings. The range was 7-30 acres with an average of 17 acres (from a sample of 7 identified). By the time



of the award, much land was owned by gentry, most of them absentee landlords renting to tenant farmers. Textile manufacturers were also represented. The corresponding census return of 1841 from which 13 laithe houses were identified shows a consistent pattern of households being headed by farmers, the rest of the family engaged in textile manufacture, following the frequent county-wide picture.

Three laithe house households were traced through the census returns from 1841-1881 (App. 5). They illustrate detailed changes of tenancy and the composition of households associated with laithe houses in the last half of the 19th.c. Slade farm and Old Crib had some consistency of tenure over the 40 years. In the case of Slack, a widow farmed the 18 acres between 1841 and 1861, supported by her family of textile workers and lodgers engaged in local trade. A different farmer had taken up the tenancy by 1871, presumably on the widow's death, and the farm began to deteriorate. By 1881 it was noted by the returning officer as being "in ruins", and had reduced in size to 12 acres.

Old Crib had been converted to two dwellings by additions to the original 17th.c. structure (pl.65) and two families were recorded as living there in 1841, one headed by a farmer who held the farm by copyhold tenure, the other by a woolcomber, following the common practice of combining agriculture with other, usually textile, trades. By 1851, the second dwelling had been taken over by James Greenwood, a woolcomber, and one of the sons of the original farmer, William. By 1861 the farm had been left to William's widow, the son having moved away. In 1871 and 1881 the farm had been taken over by another of William's sons. The farm size, in spite of the large dwelling and laithe, was recorded at 16-20 acres, the families having had their agricultural income supported by woolcombing.

Brown Hill had begun as a double fronted house in Sowerby's main laithe house building phase of the late 18th.c., then later converted to two smaller dwellings. Farming of the 14 acres was of even less significance than in the other two examples. A family of worsted handloom weavers lived there in 1841, together



with a clogger and his wife (also a worsted weaver). By 1851, the freehold farm had been taken over by a relation, probably a brother of the original tenant, and the second family had also changed. Most trades in both families were associated with woollen textiles. A similar pattern continued until 1881, with tenancy changes shown each 10 years, and little continuity by family.

These three examples show a common pattern of one farmer working a small acreage of land, the main income being derived from textile trades. They also illustrate the broad shift in emphasis within Sowerby's textile manufacture, depending on the demand for different products. Wool and worsted declined in favour of cotton by the later 19th.c. In addition, there is evidence of mechanised textile production as revealed by the distinction between 'handloom weavers' in the mid-century to 'power loom weavers' from around 1860. Trends in tenancy changes are also illustrated, when farms may be passed down through families or equally likely handed on to different tenants. The case of Slack farm also illustrates the deterioration and eventual abandonment (it is now derelict) of some of the most outlying farms which depended so completely on textile manufacture for their existence.

### MIDGLEY

Lying across Luddenden Dean, to the north of Sowerby and sharing many of its geographical and economic characteristics, is the township of Midgley.

18 laithe houses were identified here and they show a similar date spread to Sowerby, with some 17th.c. evidence, largely rebuilt or incorporated into later structures although there were significantly more 19th.c. additions and examples, reflecting a later prosperity 'peak' in the area. In fact, Midgley had several very late dated laithe houses and laithe house rebuilds;



for example Hawksclough and Hoyle House were both rebuilt to plans approved in the 1890's. At least two 'pairs' of laithe houses were built near-contemporary to each other; Upper and Lower Han Royd of the 17th.c. and Upper and Lower Mytholme in the late 18th.c., suggesting enough wealth among at least a few landowners to develop multiple properties.

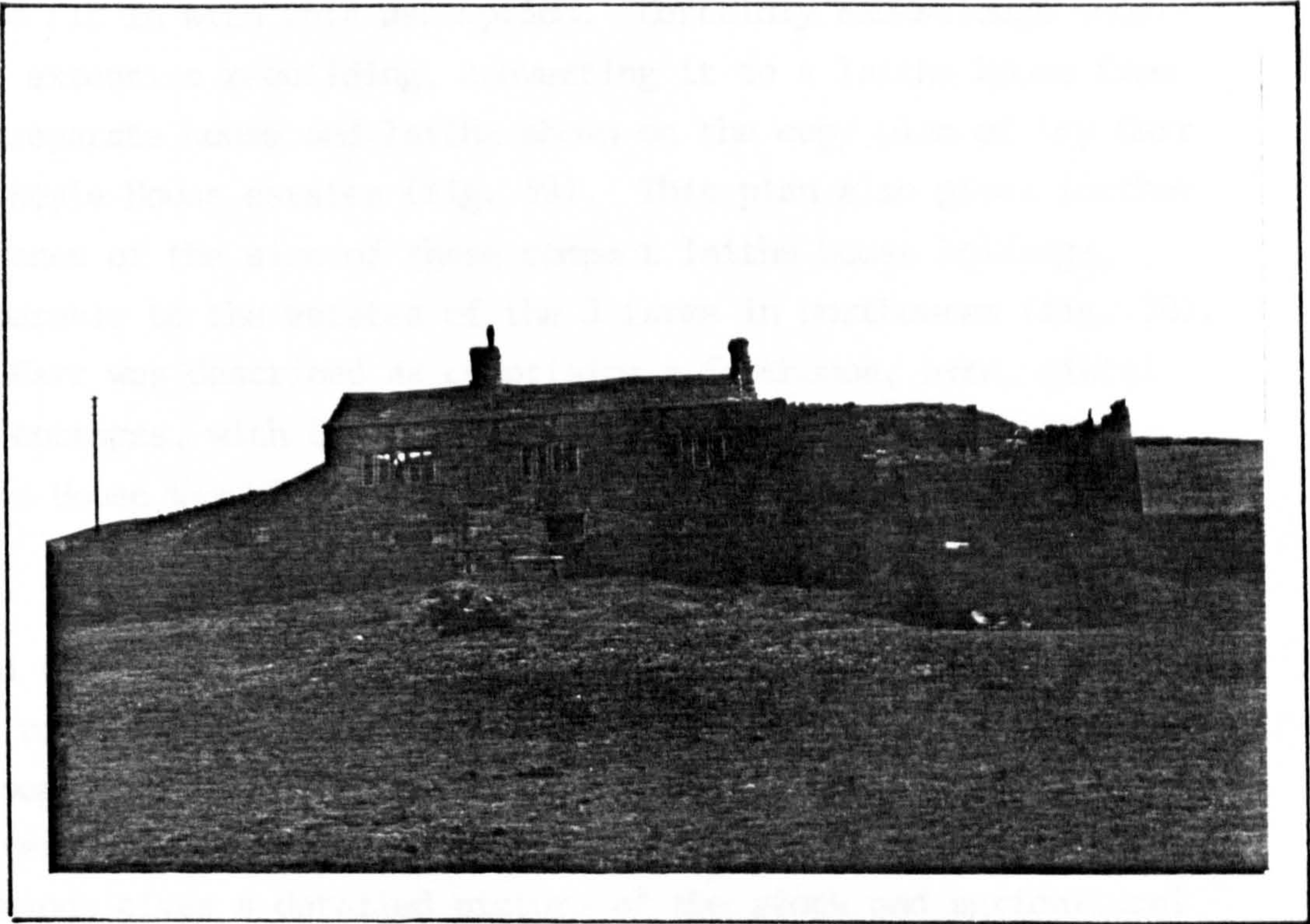
Up to the 19th.c., most of the laithe houses were quite substantial, being built to double pile, 2-storey, double front plan. More compact, single front plan styles appear from the early 19th.c., though still reflecting a good level of prosperity. New House, for example, is of living room and service room only on the ground floor plan, yet the architectural style, ornamentation and quality of masonry show it to be superior to the meaner 19th.c. examples in poorer areas such as Scammonden or Allerton; for example compare New House (pl. 9) with Peatdyke farm in Allerton, (pl. 20).

Some double front examples were still being built in the 19th century, notably Acre and Brown Hill (pl. 66), two farms which were built on the furthest reaches of moorland around Midgley and as such were among the first to fall derelict. Venetian windows above ashlar-dressed segmental arched laithe doors are a feature of these well-finished Midgley laithe houses as at New House (pl. 9) or Hawksclough.

The skill of stonemasons of the Halifax region, based on long tradition and readily accessible good building stone, was renowned and the more prosperous property owners would have employed such skills for even their less important building investments. App. 6 gives examples of tenders and estimates for masonry work offered for building in Midgley in the early 19th.c. These extracts show some of the common masonry details and the practice of this well-developed local trade. App. 6 also includes a few of the specifications for Hoyle House, a laithe house described as a "new farm house, mistal, barn, stable, cartshed", in 1892, illustrating some of the materials and details used on these 19th.c. farms.

Hoyle House was built by John Murgatroyd, the most prominent





Pl. 66. Brown Hill, Midgley.



of the Murgatroyds who owned Oats Royd worsted mill at Luddenden. As well as Hoyle House, and a number of cottages in Midgley village Murgatroyd owned Dry Carr and Hawksclough laithe houses in Midgley by the end of the 19th.c., as well as several farms in nearby Warley. Murgatroyd probably bought the properties in 1888, as the family estate papers include the houses' sale particulars for that date (35). The alterations and rebuildings of the 1890's would fit in with this assumption. Certainly Hawksclough underwent extensive rebuilding, converting it to a laithe house from the separate house and laithe shown on the copy plan of Dry Carr and Hoyle House estates (fig. 59). This plan also gives further evidence of the size of these compact laithe house holdings, comparable to the estates of the 3 farms in Northowram (fig. 50). Dry Carr was described as comprising a farmhouse, barn, mistal and cottages, with 8 closes of land measuring about 8 acres; Hoyle House was almost identical, with 6 closes measuring 9 acres.

Also among the Murgatroyd papers were records of rentals paid for properties in the late 19th.c., as well as the conditions for rental (36). App. 7 gives the rental for Brown Hill, traced through the records from 1865-95. The farm had 4 tenants in that 30 year period, and the valuation undertaken on the final change of hands gives a detailed picture of the stock and agricultural practice undertaken on these highland smallholdings. The census returns show that textile production was carried out at Brown Hill, but the agricultural side was relatively well-developed, the tenant being a cattle dealer (reflected in the farm 'gear') as well as subsistence farmer.

Another estate which included lands in Midgley was the extensive Castle Carr estate, sold off in 1874. It covered over 2,000 acres in the townships of Warley, Haworth and Midgley. The sale particulars noted that "a considerable portion... had been drained and divided into farms and let to responsible tenants at reasonable rents" (37). The other proprietor was Joseph Priestley Edwards esquire who built up the estate by "purchasing or otherwise acquiring at different times" numerous parcels of land between 1852 and 1867. Some lands were enclosed, while Priestley bought



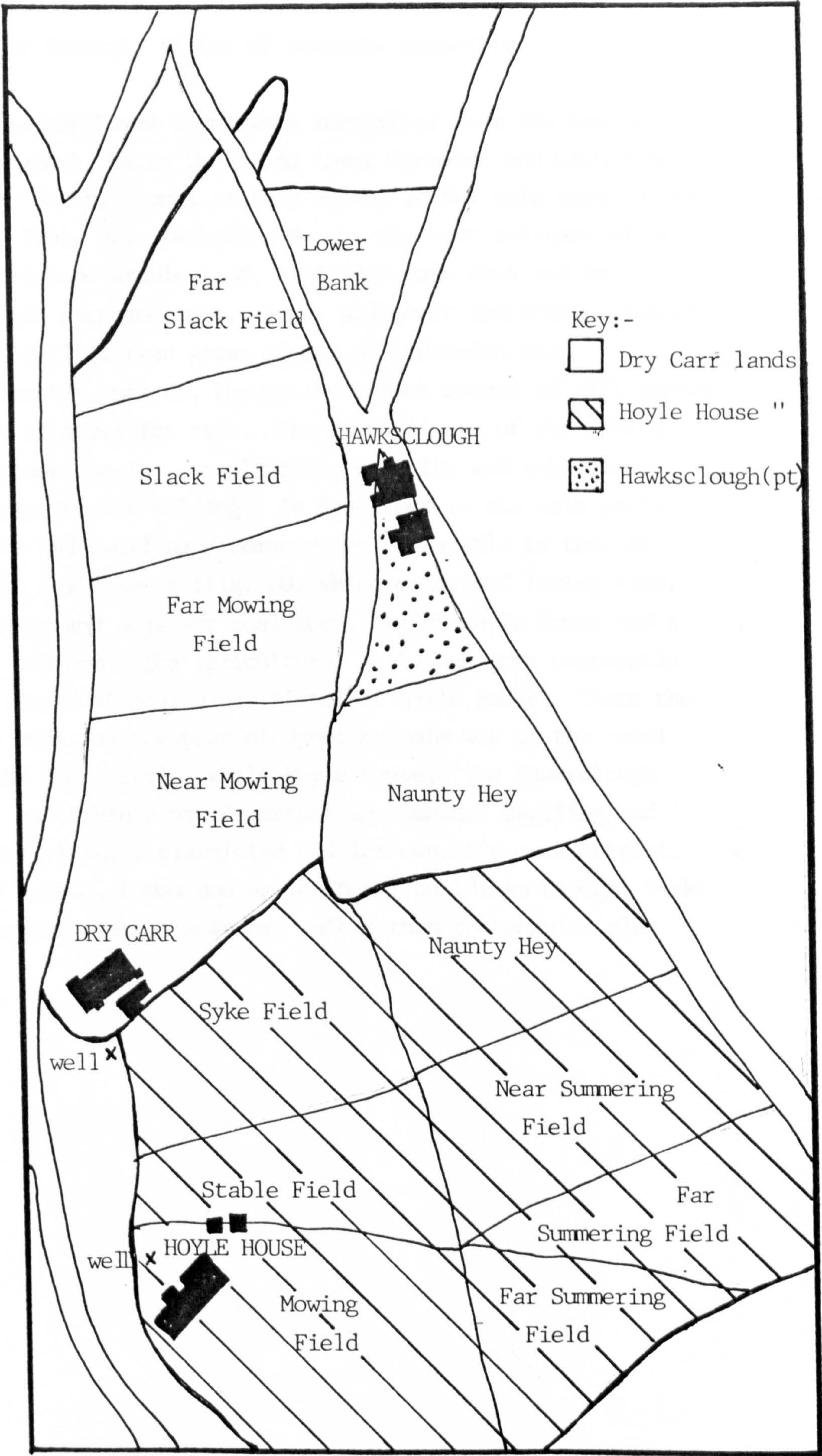


Fig. 59. DRY CARR AND HOYLE HOUSE ESTATES, MIDGLEY.

(Source : Halifax archives, Murgatroyd papers, JM 1888)



up the copy or freehold titles of existing properties.

Three laithe house farms were identified from the Castle Carr estate papers, being Upper and Lower Mytholme and Catherine House. Their descriptions, as they appear in the sale particulars, are given in Table 32. Catherine House, the most substantial of the three, had some arable land, supported more cows and had slightly larger accommodation. Upper and Lower Mytholme, situated on the less easily worked grass slopes of Luddenden Dean were significantly smaller, though the census return of 1871 reported sizes of 12 acres for each. The lower figure of the 1880's suggests a reduction in agricultural prosperity and subsequent selling of part of the holding. As described in the sale parts, Upper Mytholm had dwelling accommodation comparable to that of the new-built Hoyle House (fig. 60) which comprised living room, kitchen, pantry and adjacent coal shed, except Hoyle House had a third small bedroom. The agricultural buildings were comparable except for the additional 5 cow mistal at Hoyle House. There the resemblance ends, as the plan of Upper Mytholm was of the usual linear laithe house style, while Hoyle House, like Hawksclough in Midgley, had taken a new departure in combined dwelling and laithe. Here, 19th.c. classicism had influenced a more compact, symmetrical layout, house and agricultural buildings brought back-to-back, forming overall a square rather than rectangular plan.



Table 32.DESCRIPTIONS OF 3 LAITHE HOUSES, MIDGLEY1. CATHERINE HOUSE (built late 18thc.)

House: 2 rooms, passage, kitchen, 2 milk cellars,  
dairy, coal shed. 3 bedrooms over.

"Cottage adjoining is now a coal store".

Agricultural buildings: barn with mistal for 8 cows,  
additional mistal for 10 cows and 2 pigsties,  
cartshed.

Land: 16 fields, 33 acres, all grass except one arable  
field.

Let to Nathan Dobson at £55 p.a.

2. LOWER MYTHOLM (built late 18thc.)

House: living room, parlour, scullery with sink and  
cellar.

3 rooms above. Adjacent cottage with 2 rooms,  
now used as store and coal house.

Agricultural buildings: barn and 3 cow mistal, 2 pig-  
sties adjoining.

Land: 8 fields, 7 acres, all grass.

Let to Thomas Sutcliffe at £21 p.a.

(1881 census lists Sutcliffe as a 'farmer' living with a  
son who was an unemployed stone quarryman)

3. UPPER MYTHOLM

House: "stone built and roofed with stone", living room,  
kitchen, small dairy, pantry, 2 rooms over.

Adjoining coal shed, adjoining 2-room cottage.

Agricultural buildings: large barn, 5 cow mistal and small  
detached shed.

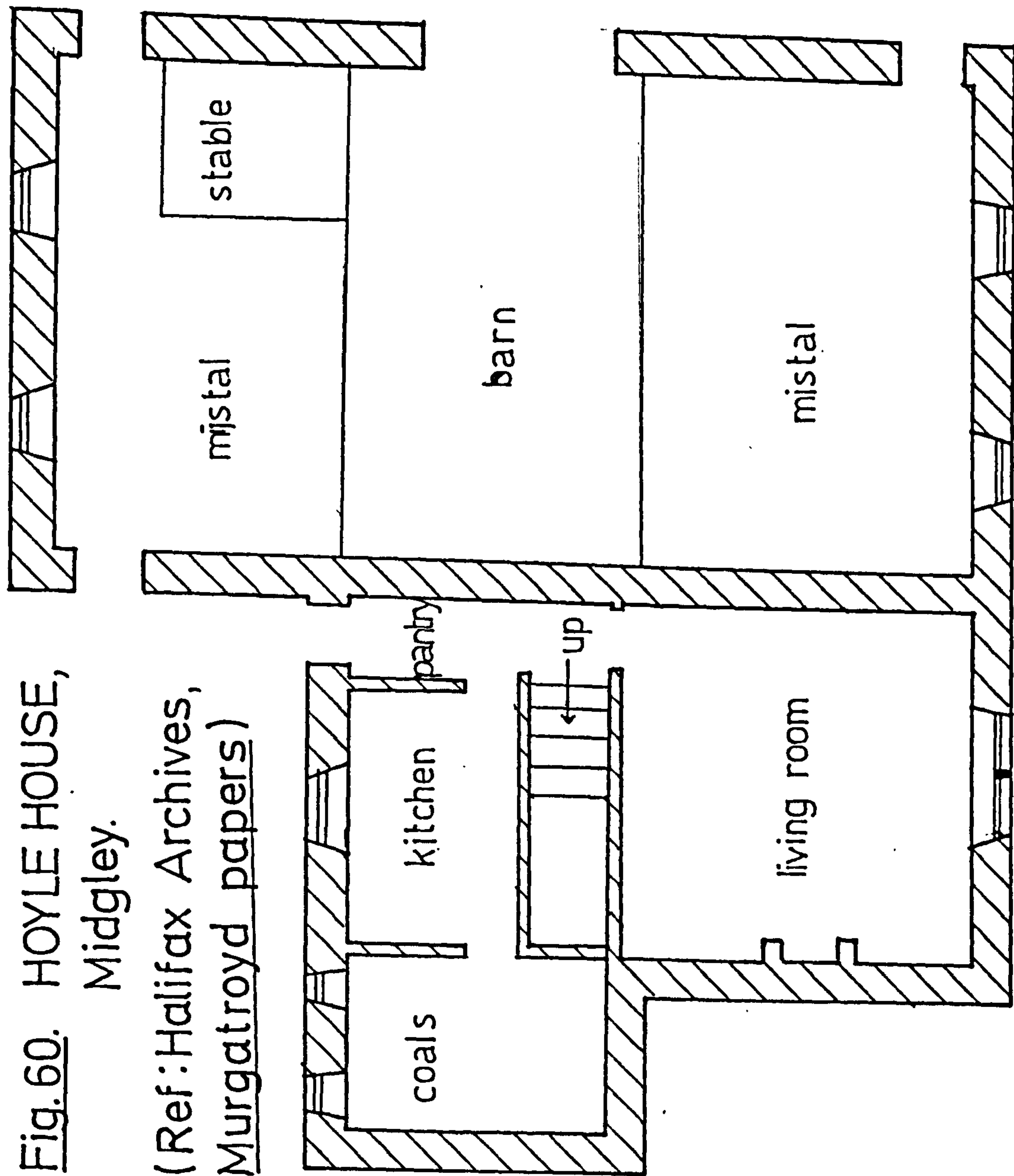
Land: 8 fields, 8 acres, all grass.

Let to Nathan Dobson (s.a. Catherine House) at £22 p.a.



Fig. 60. HOYLE HOUSE,  
Midgley.

(Ref:Halifax Archives,  
Murgatroyd papers)





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 Yorks. Home Pub. Co., Official guide to the parish of Addingham  
 W.E. Preston, "An Addingham millstone quarry", Bradford Antiquary  
 n.s., vol 7, 1952, pp.32-8.
2. Baines' Commercial directory, 1822  
 White's Directory of the cloth districts, 1838  
Addingham tithe award for 1843, Leeds D.A. ref. BD 105  
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Allerton.

3. The history of Allerton is taken from W. Cudworth, Manningham, Heaton and Allerton.
4. Rentals for Allertoncum-Wilsden, Wakefield manor records,  
 Y.A.S. 290/15
5. Allerton enclosure award for 1841, W.Y.C.R.O. A6.
6. W. Robertshaw, "Three Old Allen homesteads", Bradford Antiquary,  
 n.s., vol. 7, pp.233-255.
7. Allerton tithe award for 1850, Leeds D.A. BD66
8. Sale parts, Dawson of Longcliffe ms., Leeds D.A. DS 722
9. Map of Allerton, 1839, Bradford Archives, ALL 1839 LOW

Northowram.

10. W. Westerdale, The houses of Shibden Dale, p.37
11. Ibid, p.39
12. Ibid, p.31
13. M. Pearson, Northowram, p.30
14. W. Westerdale, App. D (dated houses of Shibden Dale 1570-1739)
15. Ibid, p.77
16. M. Pearson, p.4
17. J. Charlesworth, Wakefield manor book, 1709, Y.A.S. Record  
 series, vol.CI
18. Northowram enclosure award for 1780, W.Y.C.R.O. B14
19. Land tax returns for Northowram, Morley returns 1782-1832,  
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20. Plans of sundry estates in Northowram, 1841, Halifax archives  
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21. The little information there is on Scammonden's history is taken from Faull & Moorehouse, West Yorkshire, p.492 and Huddersfield Water Authority, Scammonden valley, p.5
22. Map of copyhold lands in Scammonden, 1607, W.Y.C.R.O. Z44/28
23. Land tax returns for Scammonden, Morley returns 1790-1832, W.Y.C.R.O.
24. Enclosure award for Scammonden, 1815, W.Y.C.R.O. B32

Austonley.

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M. Faull & S.A. Moorehouse, West Yorkshire, vol.4, pp.66-7
26. A sample of Pontefract Deanery inventories, 1688-1738,  
Post-medieval survey of probate inventories,  
Archaeology Unit, Dept. of Rec. and Arts, Wakefield.
27. W. Westerdale, op.cit., p.77  
and D.J.H. Michelmores, "The domestic vernacular architecture of the Holme valley", The Brigantian, no.1, 1972  
pp. 10-11

Silsden

28. Rentals for Skipton manor, 1689, Y.A.S. DD 187/4
29. Silsden wills 1650-1750, B.I.H.R.

Stainland.

30. Enclosure award for Srainland, 1816, W.Y.C.R.O. B33

Thornton.

31. Enclosure award for Thornton, 1771, Bradford archives,  
THO 1771 OLD

Shelf.

32. W. Westerdale, op.cit., p.58
33. Agricultural census of the Elland area, 1916, Y.A.S. MD 374

Sowerby.

34. The census returns for Sowerby, West Riding of Yorks, 1851-81

Midgley.

35. Murgatroyd estate papers, Halifax archives, JM 1888 (sale parts)
36. Ibid, JM 24
37. Castle Carr estate papers, Y.A.S. 93E2 (sale parts)



## SECTION IV

## CONCLUSIONS



## CONCLUSIONS

The laithe house is a combined house, barn and byre, almost always of rectangular plan, though there are examples of L-shaped, staggered or back-to-back arrangements of the two components. In West Yorkshire it is typically of two storeys, arranged in a double pile plan which contains smaller services at the rear of a living room, or parlour and living room in more substantial examples. The agricultural end of the structure is situated downslope and comprises a wide wagon entrance with hay mow and mistal for 5-6 cows to one end. The overall size of the laithe house is 50-80 feet in length and 20-30 feet deep. The laithe is relatively consistent in size, the house part varying, usually between one and two cells in length depending on the status of its occupant.

The main building phase of West Yorkshire's laithe houses occurs between 1750 and 1850, with a heavy concentration in the latter 50 years of that period. The form actually appears at the earliest stages of stone building, but it did not come into its own until the Industrial Revolution necessitated high numbers of smallhold farms. The 1750-1850 period saw not only many laithe houses being built in entirety, but also the frequent additions and alterations which transformed older and non-laithe houses to the full laithe house form.

With regard to plan types, stylistic features, materials used and changes over time, the laithe house follows the county-wide pattern exactly. For example, although its 'typical' form is the 2-cell dwelling with central axis, 17th.c. laithe houses are of the earlier 3-cell linear type, while many late 19thc. examples are of cottage accommodation, sometimes in weavers' terraces. Everywhere the 'house' component is replicated in free-standing dwellings, similarly the laithe component. The laithe house has simply combined these two parts into a compact structure, economical in terms of materials and land.



It is important to stress the sheer number of laithe houses which were built or converted to the form. This work has identified some 500 examples, at a density estimated at around 15-20 laithe houses per square mile in upland areas. Studies in individual townships emphasise the dominance of the form in comparison with other types of farmstead; 18 examples survive in Midgley, 16 in Scammonden and 34 laithe houses is the number to compare with 27 other farm types found in the larger townships of Northowram.

Clearly, this dominant form of housing had an important role to play in the social and economic life of West Yorkshire. In order to examine this more closely, it is necessary to look in more detail at what we actually know about the laithe house and from this basis draw conclusions about its significance.

That the form is definitely a feature of upland farming may be seen from the occurrence above the 250 metre contour of the vast majority of examples. The physical evidence of weavers' windows and upper loading doors reveals that at least some laithe houses were built as textile workshops as well as farms. It is important to note the emphasis here; documentary sources show many inhabitants of the farms also worked at cloth manufacture but the fact of constructing with special adaptations for manufacturing practice reveals the essential importance of this industry.

Physical evidence shows the laithe house to be a smallholding rather than a large and developed farming concern, with the exception of some dairy farms. Usually, the compact farmstead stands at the nucleus of its handful of fields, mainly of grass and moorland, and with little evidence of arable farming beyond a small garden plot near the farmstead itself. That these farms have always been smallholdings is revealed in contemporary records. 19th.c. census returns tell us that the average acreages were around 15-20, while estate and land tax records, probate inventories and enclosure awards tell the same story of small-scale farming right through the laithe house building period.



The emphasis on pasture over arable and dairy farming may also be seen from standing evidence. The agricultural component was custom-built to accommodate hay storage, a horse and a few cows. Contemporary sources reveal that farming practice was always thus; from probate inventories of the 17th. and 18th. centuries (which consistently describe the few implements and livestock appropriate to small-scale pastoral farming) through 19th.c. details of farming custom and rentals, to an early 20th.c. agricultural census. All these clearly describe laithe house farms as having a minimal or non-existent stake in arable farming.

From the laithe house itself we can now turn to what is known of its inhabitants. The most obvious conclusion is that these would be farmers, and indeed we find most heads of households described thus in 19th.c. census returns. However, the emphasis changes when the occupations of all the laithe house occupants are examined. The same pattern emerges again and again of a farmer heading a household of textile workers, with only a few cases where sons or daughters help on the farm full time. Where two households were in adjoining dwellings attached to a laithe, the pattern was of a farmer heading one family and a textile worker the other, while both families were primarily engaged in cloth manufacture. Many of the lodgers recorded in the census returns were also engaged in textile work, further illustrating the abundance of such work in the county. It is from this picture that the true significance of the laithe house begins to emerge.

Textile manufacture had been present in the county since the 13th.c. Its growth in the western upland townships had been partly influenced by the harsh climate and small-scale farming which encouraged the adoption of a secondary occupation. It also owed its rapid growth, especially in the Halifax area, to the lenient customs of Wakefield manor which embraced many of these upland townships. The light duties and safe tenure allowed small proprietors to release capital into the developing industry.

The main period of laithe house building coincided with the increase in textile manufacture in West Yorkshire from the middle



of the 18th.c. The 16th.c. had seen the first phase of wealth being made from the industry. That wealth had gone into the substantial stone buildings erected by the newly prosperous yeomen-clothiers, but it was the manufacturing boom from the middle of the 18th.c. onwards and the steep rise in population which accompanied it that precipitated a great and widespread demand for housing.

As well as physical evidence of the connections of the laithe house with textiles, for example, weavers' windows and cloth loading doors, tenters and workshops, detailed documentary analysis of the occupations of the families living in laithe houses reveals their dependence on and sensitivity to the textile markets. Broadly, these changes included the initial emphasis on wool giving way to worsted manufacture as the late 17th.c. saw a depression in the wool trade. The next stage was the introduction of cotton manufacture from the late 18th.c. and the change in emphasis from hand to powerloom weaving. The dependence of these textile producing areas on the industry has been attested as far back as the 16th.c. Drake's analysis of parish registers for that century gave strong indications that the periodic rises in the death rate within the Halifax area were a direct result of the poverty caused by corresponding slumps in the textile trade.\* A different kind of effect occurred in the 19th.c. but in its own way more far-reaching. The shift from home manufacture to the mills and the custom-built workers' housing associated with them was reflected in the abandonment, dereliction or alteration of the farms themselves by the end of the 19th.c.

At the onset of the textile trade boom, the economy was still based primarily in agriculture. Previous to the full development of the factory systems, cloth production went on in the workers' homes while the workers themselves could still rely on the traditional resources of the land to protect themselves from the more unpredictable market forces inherent in cloth manufacture. The laithe house then,

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\* M. Drake, "An elementary exercise in parish register demography", *Economic History Review*, 2nd. ser. xiv 1962, pp.427-45.



straddled two worlds; primarily a farmstead, it became increasingly adapted to house cloth workers in an era when the industry could provide the large part of a family's income, while the necessity for a subsistence living direct from the land still remained.

The laithe houses' vital connection with textiles is reinforced when compared with non-laithe house farms. These latter tended to be farms in a fuller sense, more varied in size and with an altogether wider size range, their holdings almost always showing a higher proportion of arable land. Even where the occupants were connected with local industries, the bias was altogether more towards agriculture and one may surmise that separate agricultural buildings rendered the farms more adaptable to agricultural practice proper. Non-laithe house sites are also connected with traditional farming areas, on lower lying land with a higher proportion of arable. They are often associated with the first areas in the townships to be cleared and farmed, the early settlers having little or no other source of income than the land. In contrast, the laithe house is associated with a later, more developed economy supporting farms which did not rely entirely on agriculture.

Traditionally, the West Riding has been the county of small proprietors. Unlike much of England, the land here was not monopolised by the Church and large landowners. As mentioned earlier, the lenient customs and secure tenure of Wakefield manor had encouraged the growth of a large class of small proprietors. Laithe house builders were of three main categories; the upper class gentry who built and rented out to tenants, the lesser gentry who did the same and the small proprietors who rented out and sometimes occupied the laithe houses themselves, especially in the earlier stages of laithe house building, when the form was much more the province of this middle class who dominated cloth manufacture.

As the textile industry developed and this middle class of yeomen-clothiers increased their status and capital, the laithe house was adopted down the social scale as a compact smallhold



dwelling for tenant farmers. As the yeomen and growing merchant classes came to afford more substantial dwellings with separate agricultural accommodation (as befitted their increased status) they also built up estates which they, along with the gentry, rented out to tenants. These estates were often dispersed among several townships, the yeomen perhaps based at one of them, or moving, like the tradesmen and merchants, to one of the textile centres like Halifax or Bradford. The cloth manufacturer could either live in one of the larger centres or in one of the textile-producing villages.

The prosperity of the textile trade and its early growth in the Halifax area had led to a well-established class of wealthy yeomen-clothiers in that area. As time went on, more and more men made their wealth from the industry. Behind all this, the land-owning class still existed and, regardless of the fortunes made by the textile manufacturers, land continued to hold the connotations of greater permanence and status.

This landowning gentry used the land as a commodity and an asset. They made money from extracting its mineral wealth, from farming and from the rents of the tenants who performed those functions. In an area of such intensive cloth production as West Yorkshire, textiles was the other major commodity. The relationship between land and textiles formed the background to West Yorkshire's economic life. Textile manufacturers and merchants made their money from overseas markets. With their profits they were able to reinvest and buy land themselves, as capital investment and to increase their status. As manufacturing progressed and the industry became more capital intensive, the prosperity was more often diverted into machinery, mills and workers' houses.

The two capital owning (and often overlapping) groups rested on the working class who produced the textiles in return for wages and paid rents for houses and farmland. We can see the laithe house fitting into this picture as the means by which textile workers could be housed in areas within reach of the textile markets and to have a farmstead adequate to provide at least a part-subsistence living. In some cases, pastoral farming was developed beyond



subsistence, dairy and pig farming found increasing markets in the growing industrial towns and villages.

The pressure for more land was responsible for the widespread and continuing practice of enclosing land from the moors. The population growth which was particularly marked in the west of the county, overtaking the previously dominant east as the economy gradually shifted from agriculture to industry, had begun in the 14th.c. and continued right through the period under discussion. The enclosure Acts from the late 18th.c. onwards were, in part, simply formalisations of arrangements already undertaken, but they also represent a speeding-up and intensification of land enclosure.

The pattern of enclosing was dictated by the type of land available. In the uplands of West Yorkshire this was often moorland of poor quality soil and this, together with a cool wet climate, meant that it was really only suitable for small-scale pastoral farming. Added to this were economic considerations. In any area where the family's main income was gained from textile manufacture, large amounts of farmland were unnecessary. Where cloth production was concentrated on, intensive arable farming was superfluous as well as physically almost impossible. The main considerations for these farmers were a sturdy building to house their families on these forbidding moorlands, space to shelter a few cattle and their winter fodder, and a few acres of land to support them. The only arable farming, if provided at all, was a garden plot near the house in which to grow a few root vegetables.

This picture perfectly describes the compact *laithe* house farm and accounts for its wide-scale adoption on newly-enclosed smallholdings. The surveys in specific areas undertaken for this study have revealed how closely *laithe* houses were related to the enclosing of land. Most townships studied show a clear picture of enclosure Act followed by a heavy concentration of *laithe* house building and conversions of other farms to the *laithe* house type.

There were few exceptions to this. Sowerby township had a slight concentration of *laithe* houses after enclosure,



... but there had been a fairly continuous process of laithe house building since the 17th.c. This is probably explained by the fact of Sowerby's early economic growth from the proceeds of the textile trade, and the subsequent early parcelling out and enclosing of land after which the early 19th.c. legislation was a formality only. Sowerby also afforded some of the earliest examples of the laithe house form and may have been the first area in which it appeared.

Another exception was Austonley, at the other end of the scale, being an area of late development. After the enclosure Act was passed in 1832, capital for housing tended to go straight into custom-built workers' dwellings, bypassing the need for any significant number of smallholding farms suitable for dual occupation.

These laithe houses which appeared across West Yorkshire's newly-enclosed uplands were never built in order to develop as farms. They were built as economically as possible to serve their basic functions and no more. The truth of this defined and restricted pattern may be seen in the numbers of farms left derelict after the demise of textile manufacture as a home industry and the agricultural depression of the late 19th.c. Some were converted to dwellings only, the farming practice completely abandoned. Where they have survived and in some cases developed as full working farms, the owners have either extended the dairying practice by adding mistals and installing modern dairy equipment within the limited space available, or in fewer cases have built up pig farms as another way of utilising the poor and restricted land.

Increased demand for stone and coal as industrialisation advanced allowed these extractive industries to develop in some areas and we find a few 'pockets' in which laithe house farms have stone quarrymen or coal miners taking over tenancies and running their trades in dual occupation with the meagre farming, in much the same way as textile workers had done. This happened, for example, in some farms in Northowram, the good beds of building stone being quarried intensively for the construction of mills and more housing. In fact, these extractive industries had a thread running through



the history of the laithe house; certainly the census returns from the middle of the 19th.c. show a small but consistent proportion of laithe house inhabitants engaged in these trades.

As far as developing the agricultural side of the laithe house is concerned, interviews with present-day owners all tell the same story of frustration with the solidly-built yet restrictive farms they have inherited, farms which were never intended to be developed beyond subsistence level. Many owners follow the same practice of dual occupation as their predecessors, and one meets many examples of a farmer and his wife working the farm, possibly with some outside labour, while one or both carry on jobs of their own in nearby towns. Harwood Long's survey of farms in the 1960's told the same story.\*

So far the discussion has been concerned with the 'typical' laithe house which was built throughout the uplands of West Yorkshire from the 19th.c. onwards. There are, however, many examples which do not fit into the mainstream. There are enough 17th.c. examples of full laithe houses (as well as many more instances of a laithe being added in the 18th. or 19th.c. to a century house) to show the form had existed since the earliest days of stone building, and had possibly begun its life in a previous timber-framed tradition, though we lack conclusive evidence of this.

The origins of the laithe house are likely to be Scandinavian. Certainly the areas where it is most numerous are associated with Scandinavian settlement. The confined distribution of the laithe house is in contrast with the more widespread longhouse, the common traditional form of dual-purpose housing. This latter seems associated with a class of prosperous agricultural yeomen whose development was cut short, while the laithe house is firmly associated with a class of smaller proprietors who maintained themselves over a long period from the profits of industry. Another vital difference

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\* W. Harwood Long, A survey of the agriculture of Yorkshire, p.67.



occurs in the manner of building. The longhouse is associated with the cruck-framed tradition and the hearth passage plan, while the laithe house was most likely developed in the box-frame tradition and having no connection with a hearth passage plan which was only found in houses with separate agricultural buildings.

Wherever the full form of the laithe house appeared in the 17th.c., it tended to be in those areas where cloth production had been established early, particularly around Halifax and in the Calder valley. As a general rule, earlier examples were built by yeomen or yeomen-clothiers, and their relatively higher status is shown by their larger dwellings. As time went on, the form passed down the social scale to become the province of small tenant farmers. The dwelling components became correspondingly smaller, appropriate to the social status of these later laithe house occupants.

In some townships, mainly in the remote moorland areas, there are no 17th.c. examples at all, and this is due to their later development as the textile-producing areas and their relative agricultural poverty. In richer agricultural areas like the Wharfedale townships of Addingham and Silsden, farms which became well-established in the 17th.c. and were not swept away by the intensive building of the industrial period (common to those areas which had the greatest emphasis on textile production) had laithes added to their existing structures.

Also outside the mainstream are those laithe houses where the building styles differed from the norm. These examples include the L-shaped or staggered layouts found as random examples over the county. We also have areas where laithe houses have been utilised on land more concerned with farming, for example in Shelf township near Northowram. These cases should be regarded in the light of a popular form being adapted to suit particular circumstances and areas rather than as a widespread, consistent pattern.

In its 'typical' form of the late 18th.-early 19th.c., the laithe house may be seen as a hybrid farm and workers' house, in



the middle of a common housing spectrum which had fully-developed farms at one end and custom built workers' houses at the other. It was the final split between the two extremes which led to the demise of the laithe house as a viable form; its compact build and minimal acreages made it difficult to develop as a farm in its own right, while the mass building of workers' houses in the rapidly growing towns rendered its function in this area invalid.

As stated at the outset, the study of vernacular housing gives valuable evidence of the social and economic life of the people who lived in them, and is most effective when large numbers are studied within defined regions in order to build up summaries within and between areas. The study of individual examples may be of minor architectural interest but it is only when numbers of examples are examined in order to produce statistical evidence that common housing assumes real significance and is reflective of the economic and social changes which occurred over time within their regions.

Although the laithe house is concentrated within the uplands of West Yorkshire, it does occur beyond this region. Appendix 10 illustrates two Cumbrian laithe houses, included as examples of the type found in the Haverthwaite area. Their obvious physical similarities to the West Yorkshire laithe house, their associations with small scale farming often supported by the woollen industry, as well as the area's connections with Norse settlers, all combine to suggest these conclusions on the laithe house of West Yorkshire would bear strong similarities to the pattern of laithe house building country-wide. Further specific surveys in the uplands of South Yorkshire, Cumbria and Northumberland would reveal whether the form was introduced to all these areas by Scandinavian settlers or whether the form spread from the Calder valley where it may have originated out of the earliest pressing need to combine small-scale upland farming with textile production.



## SECTION V

## APPENDICES



Appendix 1.DESCRIPTIONS OF PARTITIONED HOLDINGS

Source: The published Court rolls of the manor of Wakefield,  
 1639-40, vol.1 by C.M. Fraser & K. Crosley  
 1583-85, vol.4 by A. Weikel

vol.1

- 2 parts of 5 shares of a messuage... at Blackhill in Northowram (p.19)
- surrender of part of a messuage at Boothroyde, consisting of a kitchen now made into a dwelling house with an upper room and a stable adjoining the barn (p.28)
- half a messuage called Hillhouse in Cartworth of 11½ acres (p.40)
- Elias Maude of Warley yeoman ... surrendered half a cottage called les Yatestoopes with barns etc. and a garden now occupied by the said Elias Mawde or his assigns (saving half of 5 closes of land, meadow and pasture estimated at 4 acres appurt. to cottage in Warley, and half of all paths, watercourses, commons, etc.(p.48)
- surrender of the west end of a house commonly called le Cawsey and east of a croft of land and meadow (p.89)
- west end of a barn in Warley (p.89)
- surrender of 3 parts (divided equally into 4) of a messuage called le Birks in Soyland, with all houses and buildings (p.141)
- surrender of half of 2 messuages in Lightcliffe (p.152)
- Richard and Humphrey Hirst surrendered 1/3 of a messuage and 14 acres (p.160)
- Jon Littlewood and his wife surrendered 1/3 of a messuage and 32½ acres in Austonley (p.161)

vol.4

- surrender of all his right in a house viz. a room, half of a barn the west end, and half of a fold viz the west end, and also in a crofte in which the aforesaid house stands (p.44)
- surrender of the east end of a barn viz lez bayes
- 1/3 part of messuage, house and 18½ acres (p.55)



Appendix 2(a)DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY ON THE DEATH OF FARMERS

Source: Silsden wills 1650-1750, B.I.H.R.

A sample of 60 wills was taken. Where occupations were mentioned 23 were noted as 'yeomen', 'farmers' or 'husbandmen'. 8 of the sample did not mention any real estate, describing only personal effects, household goods and money. The remaining 52 all mentioned disposal of property, either directly by handing on ownership or handing on rights of tenancy. These latter had to be proved in the manorial court, the wills usually accompanied by an admittance bond to legalise the transaction. These presentations at court were usually accompanied by a probate inventory to allow the court to estimate the personal estate. The following Table categorises the full sample, listing the various ways in which property was disposed of;

| Method of disposal   | No. noted |
|--|-----------|
| (1) No mention of disposal of property   | 8         |
| (2) Property passed intact to wife   | 16        |
| (3) " " " " male heir  | 16        |
| (4) " " " " female heir  |           |
| other than wife  | 1         |
| (5) More than one property passed on intact  | 12        |
| (6) Property divided at death of tenant/<br>provision for dividing property at the<br>death of the beneficiary | 7<br>6    |
| TOTAL  | 60        |

There follows descriptions of categories 2-6;

(2) Property passed intact to wife

For example, Dennis Ambler, yeoman, left "all my tenant right of my cottage, house and garden, and all goods and chattels" in a will dated October 1789.

In this group, provision was sometimes made for disposal of the estate on the event of the wife's death or re-marriage to a



son, brother or nephew. There were 2 examples of the estate passing to a son, one to a brother-in-law. In one further case, a second provision was made; Richard Cryer, farmer, left "2 cotts one garden one barnstead and one intack" to his wife, with the provision it passed to his brother on her death, and his nephew on his brother's death.

There were 4 examples of property to be divided after the wife's death, and these are included in the summary below.

(3) Property passed intact to a male heir

For example, John Blakey, farmer, left "all my estate, goods, chattels together with my tenant right of farms" to his nephew.

(4) Property passed intact to female heir other than wife

William Cryer, yeoman, bequeathed "all my freehold lands, messuage, tenements etc. in Silsden" to his daughter in a will dated August 1799.

(5) More than one property passed on intact

There were 7 examples of individual properties being passed on to sons, and 5 examples of individual properties passed to wife and son(s) in the same will. These latter had provision in 2 cases for disposal of the wife's estate at her death or re-marriage, both being divisions and included in the summary below.

(6) Divided properties

These were cases where property had been handed down to joint beneficiaries. The relevant extracts from these and the 7 cases where provision had been made on the event of a wife's death are listed here. It will be noted that some examples may refer to more than one property in which case individual houses and holdings would have remained intact.

1676 Wm. Bradley yeoman, to his 2 youngest sons

- "all the rest of my lands in Silsden with all appurtenances, buildings...equally betwixt them share and share alike" also



"husbandry gear to be divided equally between them and they shall have liberty to work in the parlour which is lately builded" (presumably the parlour of the house which was passed to the eldest son.

1693 Wm. Blakey, to his wife

- "one parlour, being in the messuage house wherein I now dwell... together also with liberty and room in the barn or laithe now in my possession", the house having been passed to his nephew.

1662 Robert Briggs, to his wife and daughters

- 1/3 of his 'messuage farm or tenement' to his wife and the rest to his 2 daughters "equally to be divided betwixt them".

1661 John Hustler, to his wife and then his son

- "house and ground" to his wife until his son reached 21 years, whereupon "he enters to the one half of the said house and ground".

1705 Thomas Green farmer, his wife and son

- left all his estate " to my wife and son"

1761 Richard Glover, to his son and wife

- "all my goods, chattels and monies together with the farm I now possess" to his son and wife.

1722 Peter Cowling, his sons

- "I do give, devise and bequeath unto my sons John and Joshua all messuages etc. equally to be divided between them"

Provision for property after death of wife.

1699 Thomas Gott, to his sons

- "the aforesaid farm or tenement be equally divided between my 2 sons"

1752 Henry Dixon, to his children

- " for my 7 children to share the estate<sup>t</sup> equally, not to hold in joint tenancy but as tenants in common ". \*



1724 Thos. Blakey, to sons

- "the said messuage or dwelling house...to my sons John and Arthur to be divided equally between them".

1662. John England, to children

- "to be divided equally among all my children".

1757 Jonas Clarkson, to children

- estate to be "disposed of equally among and to be equally divided as tenants in common among my children". \*

1809 Jonathon Breare, to his sons

- "my 2 sons shall have the farm at Cragg and divide it between them as they shall think proper".

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\* If two or more individuals hold a property as 'joint tenants' each of them may dispose of his own part of that property; this results in truly 'divided' properties. 'Tenants in common', on the other hand, together hold a property which cannot be physically divided in this way. Any division of the property can only be done by selling the real estate and dividing the proceeds.



Appendix 2(b)2 PROBATE INVENTORIES, SILSDEN

Source: Silsden wills 1650-1750, B.I.H.R.

(1) Joshua Craven, yeoman. Oct. 1728

Purse and apparel 10/- ; In the parlour 1 bed and bedding 12/-, another bed and bedding 10/-, 4 little chests 5/- ;

In the chamber 1 pair of bed stocks and one old chest, 1 side saddell and other husslement 10/- ; In the milkhouse 2 small pewter dishes and some potts 3/- ; In the housebody 1 chest and 2 boards 6/8, more odd things 1/2, 1 range and one iron and other iron things 10/2, 1 sadle and pillion seat 5/-, 4 little pans 4/-, more wood vessels 4/2

In the barn one old cart and wheels and a pack saddle 6/8 , in hay 15/-, two little cows and one lame mare £5/-/-.

Total £10/2/10.

(2) John Coates of Hayhills. 1746

Purse and apparel £2/10/-

In the house 2 tables and 7 chares and one chest, iron tongs, range and other husslement £1/10/-; In the parlour 1 bedstead and odd husslement 5/- ; In the chamber over the house chest 15/-, 1 bedstead and one bed and bedding £1/10/-; one cart and wheels, coup and other husbandry gear £1/10/-, corn and hay £15/-/-, mare and filley £4, 3 cows and 2 calves £9/-/-

Total £36, rent owing £32.

Estate left to brother Eastburne.



Appendix 3AGRICULTURAL GOODS LISTED IN PROBATE INVENTORIES, LATE 16TH.-  
EARLY 17TH. CENTURIES.

(classified by land types and farming systems)

| REGION            | North Yorkshire Moors |        |             |              | Wolds | Lowland     |               |               | West Riding Industrial |               |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------|-------------|--------------|-------|-------------|---------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|
| LAND TYPES        | Dales                 | Craven | Dales trend | Craven trend | Wolds | mainly corn | mainly cattle | corn & cattle | with sheep             | without sheep |
| Number of records | 55                    | 44     | 21          | 19           | 54    | 134         | 212           | 114           | 17                     | 16            |
| value             | %                     | %      | %           | %            | %     | %           | %             | %             | %                      | %             |
| HAY               | 8                     | 2      | 2           | 1            | 2     | 4           | 5             | 5             | 5                      | 5             |
| CORN              | 1                     | 10     | 9           | 8            | 45    | 53          | 19            | 33            | 20                     | 22            |
| CATTLE            | 36                    | 61     | 38          | 55           | 19    | 23          | 46            | 33            | 38                     | 50            |
| SHEEP             | 38                    | 7      | 38          | 16           | 15    | 4           | 10            | 7             | 16                     | -             |
| HORSES            | 12                    | 12     | 6           | 9            | 10    | 8           | 12            | 12            | 9                      | 11            |
| PIGS/<br>POULTRY  | -                     | 1      | 1           | 2            | 2     | 1           | 1             | 2             | 1                      | -             |
| GEAR              | 3                     | 7      | 5           | 6            | 6     | 6           | 6             | 7             | 8                      | 9             |
| SUNDRIES          | 2                     | -      | 1           | 3            | 1     | 1           | 1             | 1             | 3                      | 3             |

Source: W. Harwood Long, Regional farming in 17th. century Yorkshire, p.111



Appendix 4.OCCUPANTS OF 3 LAITHE HOUSES IN SOWERBY TRACED THROUGH THE  
CENSUS RETURNS 1841-1881.

Source: The census returns for Sowerby, West Riding of Yorkshire,  
1841, '51, '61, '71, '81.

(1) BROWN HILL FARM

(Description: Double front house with standard laithe with  
segmental arched door. Late 18thc. build, later conversion to  
two dwellings and laithe)

1841- 1. John Helliwell age 48 worsted handloom weaver  
wife

4 children age 15-25 all worsted handloom weavers

3 children age 2-12

2. William Culpan age 30 clogger

wife worsted handloom weaver

5 children

Hannah Nicholl age 80 pauper

1851- 1. William Halliwell age 43 freehold farmer of 14 acres

(brother of John, the previous tenant)

wife

1 daughter

2 children age 10 and 17 both woolcombers

2 children age 1-7

2. Grace Smith age 74 pauper and domestic labour

5 children, being 3 woolcombers

1 woollen carpet weaver

1 railway labourer

1861- 1. James Nicholl age 41 farmer of 14 acres

wife

4 children age 10-20, being 3 worsted spinners

1 wool handweaver

2. John Smith age 69 cotton woollen weaver

wife

grandchild cotton winder



1881- 1. John Greenwood farmer and milk dealer  
wife

3 children age 1-5

2. Job Cockcroft stone quarryman  
wife

3 children age 1-3

(2) SLACK FARM

(Description as Brown Hill but remained as one dwelling)

1841- Hannah Helliwell widow age 30 farmer and worsted handloom  
weaver  
5 children age 2-11

John Naylor lodger worsted handloom weaver  
wife

1851- Hannah Helliwell age 40 farmer of 18½ acres  
5 children age 12-20 all woolcombers

1861- Hannah Helliwell age 50 farmer 19 acres  
3 children, being 1 stone delver  
1 woolsorter  
1 cotton powerloom weaver  
Thomas Cockcroft lodger farm labourer  
James Cockcroft lodger stone delver

1871- John Clegg age 37 farmer of 16 days work  
wife  
5 children 1-12

1881- John Clegg age 50 farmer of 12 acres  
wife  
4 children, being 2 cotton spinners  
2 cotton winders  
2 children age 6-8



(3) OLD CRIB (pl.65)

(Description: originally 17thc. lobby entrance double front house, 18thc. addition to east and part of laithe converted to accommodation @ late 18th-early 19thc. when present laithe built)

1841- 1. John Robertshaw age 30 woolcomber

wife woolcomber

2 children woolcombers

2 children age 1-6

2. William Greenwood age 50 farmer

wife

3 children age 15-20, being 2 woolcombers

1 carter

1 servant

1851- 1. James Greenwood age 34 woolcomber (son of William in dwelling 2

wife

3 children age 1-4

2. William Greenwood age 64 copyhold farmer of 16 acres

wife

3 children age 12-28, being 2 woolcombers

1 farmer/carter

servant now described as woolcomber

1861- (One dwelling only listed from now)

Achsah Greenwood widow age 77 farmer

3 children, being 2 agricultural labourers

1 carter

1 servant

1871- Paul Greenwood age 48 farmer of 20 acres

James Meadowcroft age 24 cotton spinner

wife

3 children age 1-4

1881- Paul Greenwood age 58 farmer of 16 acres



Appendix 5.TENDERS AND ESTIMATES FOR MASONS' WORK, HALIFAX REGION 1815-17

Source: Halifax archives HAS/B:5/5-6

(1) Bill of mason's work done by John Brook and co. for A.F. Maccolley esquire. May 3rd. 1815 (extract)

|                                  | £  | s  | d |
|----------------------------------|----|----|---|
| 77 roods of double stone walling | 38 | 10 | 6 |
| 434 feet of coping               | 12 | 2  | 0 |
| 215 feet of tool hewing          | 7  | 3  | 4 |
| 42 yds of slating                |    | 17 | 6 |
| 4 yds of flagging                |    | 2  | 8 |
| 4 yds of innheading              |    | 2  | 8 |
| 19 yds of outcorners             | 1  | 11 | 8 |
| House step setting up            |    | 6  | 0 |
| 2 brick arches                   |    | 10 | 0 |
| 2 caps cleaning for gate posts   |    | 4  | 0 |
| To old barn taking down          |    | 3  | 3 |

(2) Tenders and estimates of John Brook, mason. 1817 (extract)

|                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Ground excavating                  | 1/6 per cubic yd |
| Foundation walls to ground floor   | 1/5 per rood     |
| Outside wallstone walling          | 1/2/6 per rood   |
| Inside " "                         | 1/1/- per rood   |
| Hammering " "                      | 10/6 per rood    |
| Plain hewing " "                   | 1/- per foot     |
| Wallstone arch to front entrance   | 7/- per arch     |
| " " " window recesses              | 6/- per arch     |
| Common flagging                    | 1/10 per yd      |
| Faced "                            | 4/- per yd       |
| Scoured flagging in random squares | 4/6 per yard     |
| Outside wallstone corners          | 1/6 per yd       |



(3) Bill of mason's work (unnamed) 1815. (extract)

Constable serving - sum of attendance 4/-

To 2 days Joseph Howard and Jos. Armitage 10/-

9 roods of walling takeing down and walling up  
£4/1/-

32 yards of copeing 10/8

1 brick arch 5/-

Note:- This example illustrates the practice of taking on casual labour for short-term jobs, and also the necessity of safeguarding the valuable stone as it was being repaired by paying for the constable's attendance.



## Appendix 6.

## RENT AND VALUATION OF BROWN HILL FARM IN MIDGLEY, 1865-95

Source: Murgatroyd estate papers, Halifax archives, JM 24

Brown Hill and Acre farms were part of the extensive property owned by the Murgatroyd family, worsted manufacturers of Oats Royd mills in Luddenden. Specific details for Brown Hill farm are as follows:

1865-86 Samuel Farrar (described in the 1871 census return as a farmer of 12 acres) paid £32 p.a. to Oats Royd mills

1886 Farm re-let to Robert Asdin at £33 p.a.

1895 Farm re-let to Joseph Smithies at £33 p.a. (divided into two half-yearly rents)\*

1896 Farm taken off Joseph Smithies "on account of sickness"  
and re-let to William Holmes at £26 p.a.

Note made that Holmes took over 212½ yds of hay at 3/-  
1 long ladder at 7/-  
1 short ladder at 2/-

\*'Valuation of a tenent of a farm called Brown Hill 1895 Oct 26'

|   | £  | s  | d |
|---|----|----|---|
| 2 ladders, 9 cow chains, pig boarding, ceiling, firewood  | 1  | 2  | 6 |
| rent up to May  | 2  | 0  | 0 |
| proportion of poor rate                                   |    | 16 | 6 |
| 1 roaned cow, 1 poll cow, 1 red cow, 2 calves             | 34 | 0  | 0 |
| 6 rakes   |    | 5  | 0 |
| 6 day work of manure getting and spreading @ 10/- per day | 3  | 0  | 0 |
| for pasturing of cattle this spring                       | 1  | 0  | 0 |
| manure barrow, 2 scythes and 2 blades, 2 manure forks     |    | 8  | 6 |
| Drag, hay fork, 5 lick tubs, 1 shovel, churn              |    | 12 | 3 |
| 15 hens @ 2/3d, 1 hen, 8 chickens                         | 1  | 18 | 9 |

+ note of valuation of drains and fences at Brown Hill and list of land as follows; garden, Brownhill bank, Thackerbankfield, Mowing field under the house, Tinfield field, Thackers mowing field



Appendix 7.TWO PROBATE INVENTORIES, ALLERTON IN BRADFORDALE, 1690 AND 1728

Source: B.I.H.R. Allerton wills June 1690, June 1728

(1) John Sagar gentleman of Aldersley farm, June 1690. Inventory.

|                    | £  | s | d |
|--------------------|----|---|---|
| Purse and apparell | 10 | 0 | 0 |

Housebody

|                                    |    |   |   |
|------------------------------------|----|---|---|
| 1 range and a trellis              | 10 | 0 |   |
| 1 table and two forms and a carpet | 1  | 0 | 0 |
| 2 little tables and 4 buffets      | 10 | 0 |   |
| 7 seled chairs and 10 cushions     | 1  | 5 | 0 |
| 1 hanging cupboard and a box       |    | 3 | 4 |

Kitchen

|  |    |   |   |
|--|----|---|---|
| 1 range and furniture                            | 10 | 0 |   |
| In pewter  | 5  | 0 | 0 |
| Clock  | 2  | 0 | 0 |
| In brass pans and pots                           | 2  | 5 | 0 |
| Warming pan and 2 dripping pans                  | 12 | 0 |   |
| 3 pairs of racks and 3 spits and 1 striking bill |    |   |   |
| with 2 chopping knives and small iron things     | 13 | 0 |   |
| 1 safe with a brass mortar and pestle            | 9  | 0 |   |
| 1 long settle, 4 chres and a little table with   |    |   |   |
| 2 forms and a screen                             | 15 | 0 |   |
| 1 old ark with several small wood vessels        | 1  | 0 | 0 |

Milk house

|  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| Certain bowls 2 lead pots dish rack and other things | 6 | 8 |  |
|--|---|---|--|

Parlour

|  |   |    |   |
|--|---|----|---|
| 1 range and a trellis and 2 andirons               | 5 | 0  |   |
| 1 bed with furniture and a foot chest              | 3 | 10 | 0 |
| 1 cubbard and 3 cushions                           | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| 1 chest and a desk                                 | 1 | 5  | 0 |
| 1 long table and 2 forms and a little table and    |   |    |   |
| a carpet on the long table                         | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| 4 chairs 10 cushions 1 little buffet 1 close stool | 1 | 10 | 0 |
| Glass case and white plate and a border            | 8 | 0  |   |



Other rooms:- dining, buttry, writing buttry, sun chamber,  
north chamber, new chamber, chamber over the  
house, 2 kitchen chambers, gallery chamber, barn.

Total valuation £692.17.2

The will mentions property of messuage, tenant James Hill  
cottage, tenant Robert Baxter  
and lands in Allerton of Delf close, riefield  
whinnyhills, shaybrow, Harrop edge.  
Also lands in Murr hill, Wilsden, Bradford, Manningham and Bingley.



(2) Mathew Hollings of Allerton yeoman. June 1728.

|   | £      | s     | d    |
|---|--------|-------|------|
| Imprimis purse and apparell                   | 4      | 0     | 0    |
| <u>House body</u>                             |        |       |      |
| One range one pair of tongs                   |        | 5     | 0    |
| One pare Rostirons one spit                   |        | 1     | 8    |
| One frying pan one toasting fork              |        | 2     | 5    |
| One Braspan                                   |        | 4     | 0    |
| one large Brass pann                          |        | 8     | 0    |
| one Smoothing Iron 2 Heeters                  |        | 1     | 8    |
| one Warming pan                               |        | 2     | 6    |
| A Large Chest                                 |        | 14    | 0    |
| A Square Table                                |        | 3     | 6    |
| Cupboard                                      |        | 6     | 0    |
| Item Long Settle 3 cushings                   |        | 10    | 0    |
| A Baking Stone Cakes Bread and Baking spittle |        | 3     | 0    |
| Little square table                           |        | 11    | 0    |
| Two Chares & Cushings                         |        | 3     | 6    |
| Chares & Cushings                             |        | 7     | 6    |
| One Buffit Sittles one Coffe                  |        | 1     | 6    |
| Milking pale & piggin & Sile & Butter Bowl    |        | 3     | 0    |
| A small tub a pale & a flashkitt              |        | 3     | 4    |
| Item other wood vessels                       |        | 8     | 0    |
| <u>Parlour</u>                                |        |       |      |
| Bed and Bedding                               |        | 1     | 5 0  |
| A chist                                       |        |       | 8 6  |
| <u>In the chamber</u>                         |        |       |      |
| A Bed & Beding                                |        | 1     | 4 0  |
| Seven Boards half of them Latts               |        |       | 5 0  |
| <u>In the barn</u>                            |        |       |      |
| Two oxen & two Cows                           |        | 13    | 10 0 |
| Two oxen                                      |        | 6     | 5 0  |
| Two calves                                    |        | 2     | 5 8  |
| Two horses and furniture belonging            |        | 6     | 10 0 |
| A carte & plough & other Husbandry Implements |        | 4     | 4 0  |
| Corn  |        | 2     | 5 0  |
| Seventeen days work*plowing and sowing        |        | 11    | 5 0  |
| Five Sacks                                    |        |       | 12 0 |
|   |        | <hr/> |      |
|   | Totall | 58    | 13 9 |

\*@ 11 acres.



Appendix 8.LIST OF LAITHE HOUSES RECORDED BY TOWNSHIP.Sources

Own field work 1983-85

Dept. of the Environment lists of buildings of historic interest, field notes in Planning Depts. of Bradford and Kirklees(Huddersfield) council offices.

C. Giles, Field notes for the building survey of West Yorkshire, held at Archaeology Unit, Dept. Recreation and Arts, Wakefield.

W.Westerdale, The houses of Shibden Dale

C.F. Stell, Vernacular architecture in a Pennine community

A. Pacey, Vernacular architecture in Elland

Notes

The list is organised alphabetically by township, the laithe houses listed alphabetically within townships. Any positional name prefix is shown in brackets behind the name in order for paired and group developments to be more clearly identified. The main period of building is expressed according to the code used in Section II, i.e. A=1650-1700, B=1701-1750, C=1751-1800, D=1801-1850, E=1851-1900.

The map reference is given where known, according to the O.S. 1:50 000 series.

The list does not pretend to be exhaustive but does cover most of the area of the western townships where laithe houses are most common. Those townships marked \* have most if not all their laithe houses recorded here.

ADDINGHAM\*

|                      |   |            |
|----------------------|---|------------|
| Brocka Bank (Higher) | C | SE 071 484 |
| Brocka Bank (Lower)  | B | SE 071 485 |
| 20-24 Church St.     | C | SE 084 497 |
| Cragg House          | A | SE 086 476 |



|                                 |   |            |
|---------------------------------|---|------------|
| Crayke Cottage                  | A | SE 077 498 |
| Cross Bank                      | B | SE 063 504 |
| Cross Bank (High)               | D | SE 061 504 |
| Cuckoo Nest                     | C | SE 073 483 |
| Fleece                          | B | SE 078 498 |
| Gate Croft (Upper)              | A | SE 084 477 |
| Hag Head (later Highfield farm) | A | SE 064 513 |
| Hardwicke House                 | A | SE 086 475 |
| Hart House                      | C | SE 056 505 |
| Hodson's                        | B | SE 069 479 |
| Holme House (Low)               | A | SE 087 484 |
| Lane House                      | A | SE 075 478 |
| Lumb Gill (unnamed at)          | C | SE 083 488 |
| Lumb Gill House Farm            | B | SE 087 489 |
| Nudge Hill                      | A | SE 066 487 |
| Prospect House                  | E | SE 063 503 |
| Reynard Ing                     | B | SE 485 088 |
| Sanfitt (High)                  | A | SE 058 507 |
| Scar Gill                       | B | SE 068 477 |
| Slade                           | B | SE 067 477 |
| Street Farm                     | A | SE 491 078 |
| Sunny Bank                      | A | SE 078 478 |
| White Wells (upper)             | ? | SE 054 509 |

ALLERTON\*

|                    |   |            |
|--------------------|---|------------|
| Bay of Biscay      | D | SE 116 356 |
| Dean Lane Bottom   | D | SE 094 343 |
| Gazeby Hall Farm   | B | SE 101 354 |
| Hirstfield         | C | SE 087 343 |
| Manor              | E | SE 100 345 |
| Moor House (Upper) | C | SE 104 344 |
| Mount Pleasant     | C | SE 109 358 |
| Mustard Pot        | D | SE 098 343 |
| Old Cote           | D | SE 105 338 |
| Peatdyke           | C | SE 089 346 |
| Pych Nook          | B | SE 115 354 |
| Rapefield          | E | SE 102 348 |
| Ruston             | E | SE 089 346 |



|                       |   |            |
|-----------------------|---|------------|
| Shay Farm (Upper)     | ? | SE 102 349 |
| Stream Head           | E | SE 087 346 |
| Stream Head (High)    | C | SE 090 343 |
| Swain Royd (Lower)    | C | SE 109 354 |
| Westgate Farm (Upper) | B | SE 112 346 |
| West House Farm       | D | SE 114 357 |
| Whinney Hill Farm     | E | SE 107 347 |
| Yew Trees             | A | SE 099 338 |

ALMONDBURY \*

|                          |   |   |            |
|--------------------------|---|---|------------|
| Bottoms                  | D | ? | Lumb Lane  |
| Castle Hill Farm (Lower) | B | ? | "          |
| Clay Hill                | D | ? | "          |
| Fenny Bridge Nurseries   | C | ? | Fenny Lane |
| 62, Kaye Lane            | C | ? |            |
| 36, Lumb                 | C | ? | Lumb Lane  |
| Ogley                    | C | ? | "          |

AUSTONLEY \*

|                         |   |             |
|-------------------------|---|-------------|
| Austonley               | A | SE 114 073  |
| Carr Green              | C | SD 076 120  |
| Cliff                   | C | SE 115 075  |
| Field Top               | D | SE 125 070  |
| 7-9 Flush House Lane    | D | SE 115 074  |
| Green Gate (unnamed at) | A | SE 111 074  |
| Green Gate (Lower)      | D | SE 112 076  |
| Hogley (Lower)          | C | SE 123 077  |
| High Beeches            | ? | SE 114 071  |
| Long Ing                | C | SD 074 129  |
| Moorland View           | D | SE 122 074  |
| New Laith               | D | SE 117 078  |
| Shepherds Hey           | D | SE 126 071  |
| Town End                | D | SE 113 074  |
| Town End (upper)        | A | SD 074 111  |
| Waterside Farm          | C | ? Royd Lane |
| Woodhouse (Lower)       | D | SE 127 064  |



BARKISLAND

|                                  |   |            |
|----------------------------------|---|------------|
| Banquet House                    | B | SE 057 179 |
| Delight                          | D | SE 042 160 |
| Fleece Inn                       | C | SE 048 199 |
| Greenfield Lodge (now Parkfield) | D | SE 044 162 |
| Knowsley                         | C | SE 056 181 |
| Moorfield                        | C | SE 054 179 |
| Peat Pitts                       | D | SE 051 185 |
| Pierce Hey                       | ? | SE 068 194 |
| Villa Gate                       | B | SE 056 188 |
| Wood Royd                        | A | SE 061 203 |

BINGLEY

|             |   |   |
|-------------|---|---|
| Knapley Ing | A | ? |
|-------------|---|---|

CARTWORTH

|                  |   |            |
|------------------|---|------------|
| Nabb Close       | D | SE 137 069 |
| Round Close Farm | D | SE 145 047 |
| Sandygate Farm   | D | ? Paris    |
| Thorn Bush Farm  | C | SE 179 237 |
| Waltin           | D | SE 137 064 |
| Wood Cottage     | D | SE 141 086 |

CLIFTON

|                   |   |            |
|-------------------|---|------------|
| Church Field Farm | C | SE 180 233 |
| 3, Ladywell Lane  | C | SE 178 233 |

CUMBERWORTH

|             |   |           |
|-------------|---|-----------|
| Busker farm | A | ? Scisset |
|-------------|---|-----------|

ECCLESHILL

|                  |   |   |
|------------------|---|---|
| Cherry Tree Farm | B | ? |
|------------------|---|---|

ELLAND

|                 |   |            |
|-----------------|---|------------|
| Catherine Slack | E | SE 009 222 |
| Gled Hall       | B | SE 118 214 |

EMLEY

|                  |   |            |
|------------------|---|------------|
| Taylor Hill Farm | C | SE 233 122 |
|------------------|---|------------|

ERRINGDEN

|              |   |            |
|--------------|---|------------|
| Bank Top     | D | ?          |
| Blaith Royd  | D | SE 990 240 |
| Johnny's Gap | D | SE 986 247 |
| Keelham      | C | SE 997 244 |
| Law Hill     | D | ?          |
| Rake Head    | D | ?          |
| Stony Royd   | D | ?          |

FARNLEY TYAS

|           |   |            |            |
|-----------|---|------------|------------|
| Ivy       | C | ?          | Brockholes |
| Netherton | C | SE 170 127 | Road       |

FULSTONE

|            |   |            |
|------------|---|------------|
| Shorthorns | D | SE 169 081 |
|------------|---|------------|

GOLCAR \*

|                         |   |            |
|-------------------------|---|------------|
| 21-25 Bolster Moor Road | D | SE 086 154 |
| 43-45 Drummer Lane      | D | SE 084 153 |
| 13 Headwall Green       | D | SE 089 152 |
| Lark's Rest             | D | SE 085 156 |
| Quebec                  | D | SE 072 161 |
| 92, Rochdale Road       | D | SE 074 159 |
| 203 Slades Road         | D | SE 088 152 |
| 139-145 Swallow Lane    | D | SE 091 160 |
| Walkers Arms            | C | SE 100 165 |
| 6, Walker Clough Road   | D | SE 075 159 |
| Wellgate                | D | SE 085 154 |
| Wellhouse (Upper)       | D | SE 094 152 |

GOMERSAL

|                |   |            |
|----------------|---|------------|
| Brown Hill     | C | SE 207 285 |
| Mount Pleasant | D | SE 198 252 |

GUISELEY

|        |   |            |
|--------|---|------------|
| Intake | A | SE 184 433 |
|--------|---|------------|



HARTSHEAD

|                        |   |            |
|------------------------|---|------------|
| 16 Hartshead Hall Lane | B | SE 187 220 |
| 116 Hartshead Lane     | ? | SE 182 225 |

HAWKSWORTH

|             |   |            |
|-------------|---|------------|
| Intake Side | ? | SE 159 417 |
|-------------|---|------------|

HAWORTH

|                   |   |            |
|-------------------|---|------------|
| Whinney Hill Foot | A | SE 045 344 |
|-------------------|---|------------|

HEPTONSTALL

|                 |   |            |
|-----------------|---|------------|
| Broadstone Farm | D | SD 962 286 |
|-----------------|---|------------|

HEPWORTH \*

|                      |   |            |
|----------------------|---|------------|
| Barrack Fold         | A | ?          |
| Berristall Head      | D | SE 161 054 |
| Foster Place (Lower) | A | SE 168 066 |
| Foster Place (Upper) | C | SE 171 065 |
| Green Gate           | D | SE 157 046 |
| Ing Royd             | D | SE 155 055 |
| Little Law Farm      | D | SE 157 048 |
| Milshaw Hall (Upper) | D | SE 177 064 |
| 13-15 Upper Gate     | B | SE 162 068 |
| Wood Royd            | B | SE 179 056 |

HOLME \*

|                    |   |            |
|--------------------|---|------------|
| 31, Brownhill Lane | E | SE 116 061 |
| 33, Brownhill Lane | E | SE 116 061 |
| Carr Farm          | D | SE 125 089 |
| Cartworth Fold     | C | SE 141 070 |
| Charity Farm       | C | SE 107 058 |
| 67, Corn Hey       | B | SE 108 058 |
| Field End Farm     | D | SE 118 068 |
| Flight Hill        | D | SE 152 041 |
| Flight Hill (Far)  | D | SE 155 043 |
| Green Gate         | A | SE 111 074 |

|                      |   |            |
|----------------------|---|------------|
| Hagg Leys            | B | SE 146 107 |
| Hollin Greave        | D | SE 161 094 |
| 4, Hollingreave      | D | SE 160 094 |
| 341,343 Holme        | C | SE 104 056 |
| 9,11 Holme           | C | SE 108 059 |
| 41,43 Holme          | D | SE 108 058 |
| Ings Lodge           | A | SE 101 053 |
| Lydgate (Lower)      | D | SE 108 060 |
| Lydgate (Upper)      | D | SE 107 060 |
| Meal Hill            | D | SE 106 062 |
| 8, Meal Hill Road    | D | SE 107 059 |
| Stoney Bank          | B | SE 157 095 |
| Ward Place           | B | SE 138 074 |
| Wolfstones Heights   | B | SE 127 091 |
| 371-3, Woodhead Road | D | SE 103 056 |
| 400, Woodhead Road   | D | SE 101 054 |

HONLEY

|                |   |            |
|----------------|---|------------|
| Clitheroe      | C | SE 131 120 |
| Field End Farm | C | SE 141 115 |
| Hall Ings      | D | SE 152 118 |
| Holmroyd Nook  | D | SE 131 097 |
| Knoll Bridge   | D | SE 127 096 |
| Marry Carry    | D | SE 150 117 |
| Moor Park      | D | SE 131 107 |
| 31, Oldfield   | D | SE 103 135 |
| Spring Villa   | D | SE 137 109 |

HORSFORTH

|                   |   |            |
|-------------------|---|------------|
| New Laithes Manor | A | SE 235 368 |
|-------------------|---|------------|

HORTON

|                         |   |            |
|-------------------------|---|------------|
| Blamires                | A | ?          |
| Hill End House          | B | SE 132 312 |
| 41, Little Horton Green | C | SE 155 321 |

HUDDERSFIELD

|           |   |   |                        |
|-----------|---|---|------------------------|
| Ivy House | D | ? | Netherroyd<br>Hill Rd. |
|-----------|---|---|------------------------|



ILKLEY

|                   |   |            |
|-------------------|---|------------|
| Holling Hall Farm | ? | SE 479 101 |
|-------------------|---|------------|

KEIGHLEY

|                            |   |            |
|----------------------------|---|------------|
| Crag Bottom (unnamed at)   | D | SD 984 378 |
| North Birks                | A | SE 041 356 |
| Slippery Ford (unnamed at) | A | SE 002 405 |
| Two Laws (unnamed at)      | A | SD 981 381 |

KILDWICK

|             |   |            |
|-------------|---|------------|
| Great Slack | A | SE 020 471 |
|-------------|---|------------|

KIRKBURTON

|          |   |            |
|----------|---|------------|
| Highwood | D | SE 206 124 |
|----------|---|------------|

KIRKHEATON

|                  |   |            |
|------------------|---|------------|
| North Moor House | A | SE 186 190 |
| Royds Farm       | A | SE 196 169 |

LANGFIELD

|                  |   |            |
|------------------|---|------------|
| Middle Langfield | A | SD 940 236 |
|------------------|---|------------|

LINDLEY

|                                |   |                        |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------------|
| Chatham                        | C | SE 076 172             |
| Haigh House (Middle)           | B | ? Lindley Top          |
| Hill Grove                     | C | ? Moor Hill            |
| New Lane                       | D | ? Road                 |
| 7, Oakes Road                  | C | ?                      |
| Outlane (unnamed at)           | D | SE 084 178             |
| Rakestraw                      | D | SE 169 070             |
| Round Ings Road (unnamed at)   | D | SE 074 169             |
| Round Ings Road (unnamed at,2) | E | ?                      |
| Spring Head                    | C | SE 077 172             |
| Wellfield                      | E | SE 076 171             |
| Wapping Nick                   | D | ? Wapping<br>Nick Lane |

LINTHWAITE

|                      |   |            |
|----------------------|---|------------|
| Bethany              | D | SE 089 131 |
| Croft                | D | SE 104 144 |
| 37, Gillroyd Lane    | D | SE 099 131 |
| 166, Gillroyd Lane   | D | SE 100 139 |
| 257-9, Gillroyd Lane | C | SE 100 137 |
| Heywoods             | D | SE 086 136 |
| High House           | C | SE 091 135 |
| 3, Lowestwood Lane   | D | SE 096 148 |
| 8-10, Slaids         | D | SE 105 143 |

LONGWOOD

|                  |   |                 |
|------------------|---|-----------------|
| More Pleasant    | D | SE 078 174      |
| Snow Lee (Upper) | D | ? Lamb Hall Rd. |

MARSDEN \*

|                           |   |            |
|---------------------------|---|------------|
| Acre Head (Upper)         | D | SE 053 109 |
| Ashton Binn               | C | SE 051 125 |
| Old Mount Rd.(unnamed at) | ? | SE 043 108 |
| Bank Top                  | D | SE 043 107 |
| Binn Edge Farm            | C | SE 053 104 |
| 1-7, Binn Houses          | ? | SE 051 108 |
| Binn Lodge                | D | SE 264 051 |
| Bourser                   | D | SE 042 106 |
| Clough House              | C | SE 063 122 |
| Dirker Bank               | B | SE 049 122 |
| Fair Hill Farm            | C | SE 034 124 |
| Far Owlers                | B | SE 027 113 |
| 37-9, Gate Head           | D | SE 056 123 |
| Gilberts                  | C | SE 028 101 |
| Green Hill (Lower)        | D | SE 050 126 |
| Green Hills Farm          | C | SE 047 127 |
| Green Owlers (Lower)      | B | SE 053 109 |
| Hades                     | D | SE 040 112 |
| The Hey                   | D | SE 039 123 |
| Hey Heads                 | C | SE 059 120 |
| Hopwood                   | C | SE 026 130 |
| Ing Lees                  | D | SE 255 041 |



|                     |   |            |
|---------------------|---|------------|
| Mount Pleasant      | C | SE 050 122 |
| Netherwood          | C | SE 051 131 |
| Orchard Hey         | B | SE 039 122 |
| Owlers              | C | SE 029 116 |
| Owlers End          | C | SE 051 106 |
| Owlers (Lower)      | D | SE 029 117 |
| Paddock             | C | SE 057 128 |
| 2-3, Park Gate Road | D | SE 056 127 |
| Peter's Farm        | C | SE 051 107 |
| Reddisher Farm      | D | SE 043 119 |
| Shaw Farm           | C | SE 043 108 |
| Spring Hall         | C | SE 257 051 |
| Steep Farm          | C | SE 056 119 |
| Stone Fold          | D | SE 044 121 |
| Stubbins            | C | SE 057 123 |
| Troaves Farm        | B | SE 034 123 |
| White Lea House     | C | SE 037 119 |
| White Lee (Lower)   | D | SE 033 119 |
| Wool Clough         | A | SE 049 133 |

MELTHAM

|                               |   |             |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------|
| Bole Bent                     | D | ? Holt Head |
| 54-60, Colders Lane           | D | ?           |
| Harden Green                  | D | SE 107 082  |
| Lower Edge                    | C | ? Holme La. |
| Slaithwaite Road (unnamed at) | C | ? Upper Hey |

MIDGLEY \*

|                  |   |            |
|------------------|---|------------|
| Acre             | D | SE 034 272 |
| Brown Hill       | C | SE 034 269 |
| Catherine House  | C | SE 024 287 |
| Dry Carr         | C | SE 034 277 |
| Far Laithe       | D | SE 037 274 |
| Green House      | D | SE 035 274 |
| Han Royd (Lower) | A | SE 023 266 |
| Han Royd (Upper) | D | SE 023 268 |
| Hawksclough Farm | E | SE 034 279 |

|                           |   |            |
|---------------------------|---|------------|
| Hollin Top                | B | SE 027 281 |
| Hoyle Bank                | C | SE 035 277 |
| Hoyle House               | C | SE 035 277 |
| Lees Head (High)          | C | SE 034 268 |
| Midgley Road (unnamed at) | C | SE 024 265 |
| Mytholm (Lower)           | D | SE 033 282 |
| Mytholm (Upper)           | C | SE 032 282 |
| New House Farm            | D | SE 031 265 |
| Oats Royd                 | D | SE 031 281 |
| Rose Hill                 | D | SE 035 266 |
| White Lee                 | D | SE 015 261 |

MORTON

|                           |   |            |
|---------------------------|---|------------|
| Heights farm              | A | SE 079 431 |
| Heights farm (unnamed at) | A | SE 078 432 |
| Moorlands                 | A | SE 098 427 |

NETHERTHONG

|                 |   |            |
|-----------------|---|------------|
| Fox House Farm  | C | SE 132 095 |
| 29, Outlane     | D | SE 138 097 |
| Sands           | D | SE 132 096 |
| 114a, Town Gate | D | SE 139 097 |

NORLAND

|                     |   |            |
|---------------------|---|------------|
| Benns               | C | SE 055 220 |
| Butterworth (Upper) | A | SE 053 213 |
| Harper Royd (Upper) | B | SE 060 225 |
| Kitson Lane         | D | SE 068 224 |
| Sun Longley         | A | SE 060 226 |
| Westfield           | B | SE 065 226 |

NORTHOWRAM \*

|                   |   |            |
|-------------------|---|------------|
| Black Boy         | E | SE 095 272 |
| Blake Hill End    | C | SE 105 279 |
| Booth Bank        | B | SE 086 275 |
| Bowl Shaw (Lower) | D | SE 111 285 |



|                            |   |            |
|----------------------------|---|------------|
| Bowl Shaw (Upper)          | B | SE 108 286 |
| Bradford Road (unnamed at) | D | SE 107 263 |
| Brow Lane Farm             | C | SE 105 274 |
| Cold Harbour Inn           | D | SE 092 275 |
| Collier Syke (Upper)       | E | SE 105 294 |
| Crow Point                 | D | SE 086 278 |
| Dale View                  | D | SE 106 291 |
| Dean Stones (Upper)        | C | SE 104 297 |
| Dirk Carr                  | B | SE 094 265 |
| Farsides                   | C | SE 086 313 |
| Field House                | B | SE 105 265 |
| Fleet (Upper)              | D | SE 095 306 |
| Hill Top                   | C | SE 098 306 |
| Hollin Grove               | D | SE 107 278 |
| Horley Green (Upper)       | C | SE 097 266 |
| Hud Hill Farm              | B | SE 115 280 |
| Ing Head                   | ? | SE 106 297 |
| Laver Head                 | D | SE 103 286 |
| Little London              | D | SE 107 275 |
| Longfield                  | C | SE 104 274 |
| May Royd                   | E | SE 087 301 |
| Mickle Moss                | C | SE 092 307 |
| Moor Close                 | C | SE 092 298 |
| Moor Close (Upper)         | C | SE 092 299 |
| North Royd (Lower)         | A | SE 104 283 |
| North Royd (Upper)         | A | SE 103 284 |
| Ringby Farm                | C | SE 086 277 |
| Roper                      | C | SE 089 303 |
| Savile Farm                | D | SE 111 271 |
| Small Clough               | C | SE 087 303 |
| Thorn Tree                 | D | SE 109 287 |
| Wall Close Farm            | C | SE 115 279 |
| Warmleigh Farm             | D | SE 089 298 |
| Whiskers                   | C | SE 103 277 |
| Whiskers (Over)            | C | SE 104 278 |
| Woodland (Upper)           | A | SE 103 288 |

OTLEY

|            |   |            |
|------------|---|------------|
| Bishopwood | ? | SE 200 501 |
|------------|---|------------|

SCAMMONDEN \*

|                     |   |            |
|---------------------|---|------------|
| Brown Cow Inn       | C | SE 045 164 |
| Causeway Green      | D | SE 058 162 |
| Daisy Hill          | C | SE 065 163 |
| Eagerton            | D | SE 061 170 |
| Forest              | C | SE 044 162 |
| Green Slacks        | ? | SE 056 162 |
| Hardenby            | C | SE 067 161 |
| Hey                 | D | SE 062 173 |
| Hey Lane            | D | SE 061 173 |
| Hollin Hey          | D | SE 056 172 |
| Nest                | D | SE 058 174 |
| O'Cot               | D | SE 058 157 |
| Platt (Low)         | D | SE 056 164 |
| Pleasant Pasture    | D | SE 056 157 |
| Pole Royd           | D | SE 064 159 |
| Shay's Laithe       | D | SE 064 158 |
| Spring Royd         | D | SE 059 162 |
| Top of Hill (Lower) | B | SE 048 166 |

SHELF \*

|               |   |            |
|---------------|---|------------|
| Giles (Lower) | C | SE 117 297 |
| Giles (Upper) | B | SE 116 296 |
| Green Lane    | C | SE 125 293 |
| Hall (Upper)  | C | SE 122 268 |
| Hill Top      | B | SE 113 291 |
| Southfields   | C | SE 118 292 |
| Stanage       | B | SE 123 295 |
| Stocks        | D | ?          |

SILSDEN

|                   |   |            |
|-------------------|---|------------|
| Crow Trees        | A | SE 025 495 |
| Hay Hills (Upper) | D | SE 034 478 |



|                  |   |            |
|------------------|---|------------|
| Lane House       | A | SE 032 486 |
| Low Edge         | A | SE 026 500 |
| Marchup (Higher) | C | SE 047 442 |
| Walton Hole      | C | SE 042 443 |
| Woofa Bank       | C | SE 041 447 |

SLAITHWAITE \*

|                         |   |             |
|-------------------------|---|-------------|
| Bank Bottom             | D | SE 088 144  |
| Barrett                 | C | SE 067 150  |
| 9, Bents Lane           | D | SE 055 129  |
| Bents Lane (unnamed at) | D | SE 055 130  |
| Birks                   | A | SE 058 145  |
| 2, Birks                | B | SE 058 146  |
| 49, Blackmoor Foot Road | D | SE 099 132  |
| Blake Clough            | A | SE 049 137  |
| Bradshaw (Lower)        | A | SE 054 144  |
| 7, Brookside            | C | SE 080 146  |
| Carr House              | D | SE 055 155  |
| 57, Clough Road         | D | SE 081 158  |
| Cop                     | D | SE 060 139  |
| Crow Trees Road         | C | SE 059 131  |
| Follingworth            | C | SE 064 142  |
| Folly Farm              | C | SE 058 139  |
| Goat Hill               | D | SE 054 148  |
| Gosling Green           | C | SE 058 147  |
| Green Lane              | C | SE 058 136  |
| Hard End                | D | ? Pole Gate |
| Hey Knowl               | D | SE 084 341  |
| Hillside                | ? | SE 091 162  |
| Hollins                 | C | SE 077 123  |
| Jerusalem               | D | SE 087 132  |
| Lingard's Cross         | D | SE 071 125  |
| 26-30, Longlands Road   | E | SE 073 142  |
| Mary's Rest             | D | SE 077 132  |
| Mean Hey                | C | SE 052 136  |
| Moorfield               | D | SE 051 136  |
| Moor Top                | D | SE 060 152  |

|                       |   |             |
|-----------------------|---|-------------|
| Nab                   | D | SE 078 156  |
| Newgate House         | D | SE 050 144  |
| 986-990, New Hey Road | D | ?           |
| 976-78, New Hey Road  | D | ?           |
| 992-4, New Hey Road   | D | ?           |
| New House             | D | SE 073 152  |
| Oak Farm              | C | SE 077 124  |
| Owler Clough          | D | SE 062 152  |
| Pennine View          | D | SE 065 132  |
| 4-6, Pickle Top       | C | SE 074 145  |
| 92-94, Radcliffe Road | D | SE 087 146  |
| Reaps                 | C | SE 046 143  |
| Rotcher (Lower)       | C | SE 074 138  |
| Shaw Fields           | C | SE 064 136  |
| Slacks Farm           | C | SE 074 124  |
| Sledgate              | C | SE 070 119  |
| Throstle Green        | C | SE 084 128  |
| Tiding Field          | C | ? Wilberlee |
| Tiding Field Farm     | B | SE 068 148  |
| Tom Pits              | C | SE 072 122  |
| Tyas Lane             | C | SE 059 143  |
| 30, Upper Holme       | D | SE 068 140  |
| West End              | D | SE 057 152  |
| White Syke            | D | SE 053 122  |
| 22, Window End        | C | SE 081 149  |
| Wood Farm (Lower)     | C | SE 073 134  |
| Wool Royd             | A | SE 060 147  |

SOUTH CROSLAND

|                |   |          |
|----------------|---|----------|
| Greenfold Farm | A | ? Midway |
| Lower Edge     | A | ?        |
| 40, Midway     | C | ?        |
| Sun End Farm   | A | ?        |

SOUTH KIRKBY

|               |   |             |
|---------------|---|-------------|
| The Longhouse | C | ? North St. |
| West Farm     | D | SE 454 097  |



SOUTHOWRAM

|                   |   |            |
|-------------------|---|------------|
| Backhold Royd     | B | SE 106 234 |
| High Field        | A | ?          |
| Little Marsh farm | C | SE 110 247 |
| Pit Farm          | D | SE 108 242 |
| Siddal Top        | A | SE 106 232 |

SOWERBY \*

|                        |   |            |
|------------------------|---|------------|
| Broadfold              | C | SE 004 218 |
| Brown Hill             | D | SE 023 246 |
| Crow Hill (Low)        | C | SE 022 228 |
| Crow Hill End          | C | SE 020 228 |
| Green House            | ? | SE 035 274 |
| Lane Ends (unnamed at) | D | SE 034 267 |
| Little London          | B | SE 024 221 |
| Little Scout           | C | SE 025 257 |
| Little Shaw Lane       | C | SE 024 228 |
| Mirey Wall             | C | SE 033 237 |
| Myrr Hill              | C | SE 031 237 |
| Oaken Clough           | D | SE 025 228 |
| Ogden farm             | D | SE 034 223 |
| Old Crib               | C | SE 026 243 |
| Otter Lee Farm         | C | SE 030 219 |
| Pike Low (Lower)       | C | SE 012 227 |
| Quick Stavers (upper)  | ? | SE 026 234 |
| Red Brink (Lower)      | ? | SE 031 229 |
| Red Brink (Upper)      | D | SE 029 229 |
| Scar Hall              | C | SE 028 229 |
| Shaws Lane Farm        | D | SE 024 228 |
| Slack                  | C | SE 021 247 |
| Spring Hill            | C | SE 024 221 |
| Toot Hill End          | ? | SE 028 227 |
| Whitestone Clough      | B | SE 018 222 |

SOYLAND

|                 |   |            |
|-----------------|---|------------|
| Wormald (Upper) | C | SE 010 186 |
|-----------------|---|------------|

STAINLAND \*

|                               |   |            |
|-------------------------------|---|------------|
| Broom House                   | D | SE 072 181 |
| Dean House                    | ? | SE 063 175 |
| Jericho                       | D | SE 065 179 |
| Moulson Place (Upper)         | ? | SE 068 173 |
| Mount Pleasant                | C | SE 068 183 |
| Nab                           | D | SE 065 182 |
| New Dean House                | C | SE 065 174 |
| New Laithe                    | C | SE 079 188 |
| New Manor House               | D | SE 066 177 |
| New Peel Castle               | ? | SE 068 177 |
| New York                      | D | SE 068 175 |
| Only House                    | D | SE 075 187 |
| Peel Castle                   | D | SE 069 178 |
| Prospect House                | E | SE 078 178 |
| Prospect Place                | E | SE 076 187 |
| Springfields                  | C | SE 064 178 |
| Trafalgar                     | D | SE 068 178 |
| Turley Cote Lane (unnamed at) | D | SE 088 183 |
| Wellington                    | D | SE 068 178 |
| Wilderness                    | ? | SE 079 176 |

STANSFIELD

|                |   |            |
|----------------|---|------------|
| Cow Side       | C | SD 951 275 |
| Kitson Royd    | D | SD 911 267 |
| Lane Bottom    | C | ?          |
| Mount Pleasant | C | SD 911 266 |
| Raw Hey farm   | D | SD 908 273 |
| Warcock Hill   | B | ?          |

THORNTON \*

|                 |   |            |
|-----------------|---|------------|
| Cresswell       | C | ?          |
| Dean lane       | D | ?          |
| Grandage Gate   | D | ?          |
| Intake          | D | SE 085 324 |
| Law             | C | SE 082 338 |
| Malt Kiln (Far) | ? | SE 092 322 |



|                    |   |            |
|--------------------|---|------------|
| Moor Royd Gate     | A | SE 093 317 |
| Old Farmhouse      | D | ?          |
| Spring Hall        | C | SE 086 335 |
| Squirrel           | D | SE 091 323 |
| Stocks House       | C | SE 079 325 |
| Stream Head (High) | C | ?          |
| Travis             | ? | SE 087 314 |

THURSTONLAND

|              |   |            |
|--------------|---|------------|
| 91, Bank End | A | SE 156 104 |
| Butts        | D | ?          |
| Marsh hall   | D | ?          |

TODMORDEN

|                    |   |            |
|--------------------|---|------------|
| Bottomley (Middle) | A | SD 942 211 |
| Edge End           | A | SD 926 240 |
| Inchfield House    | A | SD 933 219 |
| Scout              | B | ?          |
| Top o' th' Hill    | B | SD 932 223 |
| Waterstalls        | B | SD 943 210 |

UPPERTHONG

|                 |   |            |
|-----------------|---|------------|
| Ash Villa       | D | SE 126 084 |
| Bird Ridings    | D | SE 130 083 |
| Green           | D | SE 125 086 |
| Newlands Lane   | B | SE 125 082 |
| Wickens (Lower) | C | ?          |

WADSWORTH

|                 |   |            |
|-----------------|---|------------|
| Barker Cote     | E | SD 994 311 |
| Mytholm (Upper) | C | SE 032 282 |

WARLEY \*

|               |   |            |
|---------------|---|------------|
| Bank House    | A | SE 040 279 |
| Benns (Lower) | A | SE 044 269 |
| Bullace Trees | D | SE 042 276 |

|                      |   |            |
|----------------------|---|------------|
| Deep Clough          | D | SE 025 298 |
| Edge Green (Lower)   | A | SE 035 285 |
| Field Head           | C | SE 038 284 |
| Folds Farm           | D | SE 024 295 |
| Haigh Cote           | D | SE 042 301 |
| Heights (Lower)      | A | SE 028 292 |
| Height (Upper)       | C | SE 027 293 |
| Heys (Lower)         | C | SE 032 288 |
| Heys (Upper)         | A | SE 029 289 |
| The Hullett          | D | ?          |
| Lane Side            | D | SE 042 283 |
| Little Holme House   | A | SE 041 277 |
| Little Peel House    | A | SE 044 269 |
| Long Riggin          | ? | SE 044 277 |
| Low (unnamed at)     | D | SE 023 292 |
| Moorcock Inn         | B | SE 045 291 |
| New Laithe           | A | SE 045 256 |
| Owl Nook             | B | SE 024 293 |
| Sentry               | D | SE 051 273 |
| Slack (Upper)        | D | SE 047 286 |
| 11, Warley Edge Lane | A | ?          |

WILSDEN \*

|                             |   |            |
|-----------------------------|---|------------|
| Allen House Farm            | A | SE 086 348 |
| Harecroft                   | A | SE 082 358 |
| Harecroft Lane (unnamed at) | C | SE 082 357 |
| Harrop                      | E | SE 086 355 |
| Honeypot                    | C | SE 091 355 |
| Middle Bents                | C | SE 081 368 |
| Pudding Hill Farm           | E | SE 083 353 |

WOOLDALE

|                    |   |            |
|--------------------|---|------------|
| Lamb's Cote        | D | SE 148 045 |
| Snittlegate        | D | SE 149 043 |
| 24-30 Thong Lane   | D | SE 145 098 |
| 54-56 Totties Lane | D | SE 157 081 |



Appendix 9.DESCRIPTIVE LIST OF DATED LAITHE HOUSES

Souces: as for Appendix 8.

Notes -

The list represents all of the laithe houses recorded which bore a date inscription, and is random rather than exhaustive. The brief descriptions are included in order to underline the characteristic features of various date periods.

Key: MW=mullioned windows, R=recessed, S=splayed section,  
Sq=square section, LD=laithé door.

O.S. map references may be found in Appendix 8.

The list is arranged in chronological order.

(1) BANK HOUSE, Warley "1650 Gilbert Brooksbank"

RSMW with round arched heads

Label Moulds

LD has depressed pointed arch

House 1/3 of total size

(2) SUN LONGLEY, Norland "1661"

Ogee lintel

(3) UPPER BUTTERWORTH, Norland "1663"

Gable entry, chamfered surround, shallow arch

RSMW

Staggered arrangement with laithe

(4) STREET FARM, Addingham "1670 DRM"

'Split' beams

House comprises 2 cells, different builds

(5) GREAT SLACK, Kildwick "1674 FW"

3-cell linear plan, laithe added

Lobby entrance

(6) HIGH FIELD, Southowram"1677"

3 unit linear plan

RSMW

LD to eaves

House  $\frac{1}{2}$  overall size(7) BUSKER FARM, Cumberworth"168?"

Square head LD to eaves

House  $\frac{1}{3}$  overall size(8) LANE HOUSE, Silsden"1689"

Laithe bears re-set datestone 1672

Hearth passage, newel stair

RSMW

Added laithe. LDs square head to eaves front and rear

(9) BARRACK FOLD, Hepworth"1691"

2-cell, lobby entrance with shallow arch and chamfered surround

RSMW

(10) CRAGG HOUSE, Addingham"1695"

Central entrance with ogee lintel

RSMW. String course, label mould

Laithe added later

(11) NORTH ROYD (LOWER), Northowram"1699"

Central entrance with chamfered surround

RSMW. Label mould.

Later laithe at 90°

(12) TOP O' TH' HILL, Todmorden"1706 FMH"

SFMW

(13) FIELD HOUSE, Northowram"1713 FW"

Watershot masonry

FMW to front, RMW to rear

String course, label moulds

LD arched



(14) HILL END HOUSE, Horton "1714"

2-unit with rear services under outshut

Heated parlour

Raised chamfered quoins

Later 18thc. laithe

(15) BOWL SHAW (UPPER), Northowram "1721"

2-unit with rear services, heated parlour

FSMW. Narrow coursed masonry

String course

LD arched. Laithe contemporary

House  $\frac{1}{2}$  overall size

(16) BROCKA BANK, Addingham "1728"

Central door, lobby entrance

SMW, quoins, heated parlour

(17) BOOTH BANK, Northowram "1728"

LD arched

(18) HILL TOP, Shelf "1734"

2-unit and rear services

Narrow coursed masonry, quoined at angles

LD narrow arch

(19) 2, BIRKS, Slaithwaite "1736"

Single cell, then added cell and laithe in 1736

LD square headed

(20) FLEECE INN, Barkisland "1737"

Details more typical of mid-18thc.;

Kneelers, quoins, SFMW

(21) GREEN OWLERS (LOWER), Marsden "1740"

Central entrance

LD arched

(22) MOORLANDS LANE, Holme"1746"

Double chamfered MW

LD square head

(23) TROAVES FARM, Marsden"1746"

Possibly 'hybrid' laithe house/longhouse

Transverse passage from central entrance (which has chamfered surround) divides house and laithe

RSMW

(24) NEWLANDS, Upperthong"1746"

Entrance narrow chamfered surround and lintel with recessed Tudor arch

RSMW

Later laithe

(25) DEAN STONES (UPPER), Northowram"1750"

2 cottages, each single cell with service and stairs to rear

SFMW

LD has narrow arch

Two cottages together 2/3 overall size

(26) CHERRY TREE FARM, Eccleshill"1754"

2-cell single pile

Central entrance has plain narrow chamfered surround

Narrow coursed masonry, quoined at angles

RSMW

House  $\frac{1}{2}$  overall size(27) 41, LITTLE HORTON GREEN, Horton"1755"

2-cell, double pile plan

SMW

Opposing laithe doors

(28) REAPS, Slaithwaite"1756"

2 cottages, laithe added later

RSMW

LD arched



(29) CUCKOO NEST, Addingham"1758"

Single cell and heated services

False ogee arch to entrance

LD square and porched

House 1/3 overall size

(30) WOLFSTONES HEIGHTS, Holme"1758"

2 cottages, each single cell double pile

LD arched

(31) WATERSIDE FARM (UPPER), Austonley"1761"

Quoining at angles, copings and kneelers

Opposing LDs, both arched

House 2/3 overall size

(32) 54-60, CALDERS LANE, Meltham"1764"

2 cottages and laithe house in terrace

(33) BROCKA BANK (HIGHER), Addingham"1766"

Modernised, probably 2-cell double pile originally

LD originally arched

(34) GILBERTS, Marsden"1769"

2 cottages

Quoining and copings

(35) SOUTHFIELDS, Shelf"1770"

2 cells and rear services

SFMW. Entrance arched

First floor door to rear

(36) DRY CARR, Midgley"1771"

2 unit and rear services large heated parlour

Watershot masonry, quoined at angles

FSMW with King mullion

(37) STUBBINS, Marsden"1772"

Later laithe dated "1879", LD arched

(38) WHITE LEA HOUSE, Marsden"1773"

LD arched

(39) 257-9, GILLROYD LANE, Linthwaite"1772"

Narrow coursed masonry, quoined at angles

Copings and kneelers

RMW

Opposing LDs arched

(40) STEEP FARM, Marsden"1773"

2 storey and basement

LD arched

(41) TIDING FIELD FARM, Slaithwaite"1783"

Housebody and parlour with weaving cell of later 18thc. date to west.

Gable entrance

Services and laithe added at 90° in early 19thc.

FSMW

(42) BROADFOLD, Sowerby"1784"

Central entrance

SFMW

LD arched

(43) NETHERWOOD, Marsden"1785"

Gable entrance

LD square headed with heavy lintel

(44) STREAM HEAD (HIGH), Allerton"1788"

The earlier of two farms adjacent



(45) 9-11, HOLME, Holme

"1789"

2 cottages, entrances opposite gable stacks  
LD to eaves with elliptical arch

(46) IVY, Farney Tyas

"1790"

Weavers windows up to 12 lights  
LD arched

(47) FIELD END FARM, Honley

"1799"

2 cottages

FSMW

Each cottage 1/3 overall size

(48) WORMALD (UPPER), Soyland

"1796"

SFMW

Laithe contemporary, LD arched

(49) 49, BLACKMOORFOOT ROAD, Linthwaite

"1810"

Central entrance

LD with elliptical arch

(50) BROADSTONE FARM, Heptonstall

"1811"

Central entrance to hall and rear stairs

Large SMWs

Opposing LDs arched

Venetian window above

(51) NEW HOUSE, Midgley

"1811"

Single cell and service, both heated

Narrow coursed masonry, copings and kneelers

SFMW

LD arched, Venetian window over

House 1/3 overall size

(52) SHAW LANE, Sowerby

"1815"

SFMW

Opposing LDs arched

House 1/2 overall size

(53) PEAT PITTS, Barkisland"1819"

LD arched

Lunettes in laithe

(54) BLACKDYKE LANE, Thornton"1820"

2 cottages, laithe at 90° converted to dwelling

SFMW

(55) HIGHWOOD, Kirkburton"1825"

Direct entrance into housebody. Heated parlour

Opposing LDs arched

(56) FIELD TOP, Austonley"1826"

Central entrance.

Weavers' windows of up to 6 lights, loading door to 1st. floor

LD had elliptical arch

(57) HARDENBY, Scammonden"1826"

Terrace of 3 cottages with laithes either end

Weavers' windows of 8-10 lights

Built by Rev. Thos. falcon immediately post-enclosure

(58) SANDS, Netherthong"1826"

3 storey. Central entrance

String course

Weavers' windows of 12 lights to 2nd. and 3rd. floors

LD arched

(59) 24-30 THONG LANE, Wooldale"1827"

Terrace of 4 cottages

Two entrances have fanlights

Opposing LDs arched

(60) BROOM HOUSE, Stainland"1829"

LD arched



(61) NEW LANE, Lindley"1830"

String course

Weavers' windows

(62) SQUIRREL, Thornton"1830"

2 cottages with rear services

SFMW

Double mistal in laithe

LD square head

(63) FOLD'S, Warley"1831"

Single cell and rear service

SFMW

LD arched

(64) ONLY HOUSE, Stainland"1834"

Tall sash windows

LD arched, arched light above

(65) STONY ROYD, Erringden"1836"

2 cottages

LD arched

One of group of 4 built as estate

(66) ACRE, Midgley"1837"

Central entrance. 2 cells with heated parlour

Watershot masonry

SFMW

House  $\frac{1}{2}$  overall size(67) SHAY'S LAITHE, Scammonden"1840"

Single cell and rear service

LD arched. Arched lights in laithe

(68) PEEL CASTLE, Stainland"1840"

Cottage. 'Stepped' windows

Laithe at 90° has arched LD

(69) BOWL SHAW (LOWER), Northowram"1845"

Single cell and rear service

Large SFMW

Mistal projects to front of laithe

LD arched

(70) SHORT HORNS, Fulstone"1850"

2 single cell cottages.

LD arched

(71) CARR HOUSE, Slaithwaite"1850"

Double front. Heated parlour parlour

LD arched, arched light over

(72) HARROP, Wilsden"1850"

Single cell with rear service

SFMW

LD arched

Mistal to rear of laithe

(73) MORE PLEASANT, Longwood"1851"

Terrace of 3 cottages

(74) TURLEY COTE LANE, Stainland"1854"

String course

(75) GLEN HEY, Scammonden"1855"

Central entrance

Classic symmetry to front and rear elevations

Tall sash windows with projecting sills

LD arched

(76) HIRSTFIELD, Allerton"1861"

House of mid/late 18thc.

Addition and laithe at 90° in 1861



(77) PUDDING HILL, Wilsden"1861"

Large square Ws with projecting sills and lintels

LD square head

House 1/3 overall size

(78) BARKER COTE, Wadsworth"1864"

FSMW

LD arched, Venetian window over

House 1/3 overall size

(79) BLACK BOY, Northowram"1874"

Probably refronted, partly rebuilt in 1874

Two large double pile single front dwellings

Large M and transomed stepped W in larger of two

Entrances with false ogee arches, chamfered surrounds

Heavy quoins at angles

LD arched square to tear

(80) MANOR, Allerton"1878"

Cottage. SFMWs

LD arched. Laithe has lunettes

(81) STREAMHEAD, Allerton"1878"

Original house of mid-18thc.

Addition to house and laithe added 1878

LD arched

(82) COLLIER SYKE (UPPER), Northowram"1880"

Hall and cross wing, central entrance

Stepped windows

LD square head

(83) CATHERINE SLACK, Elland"1880"

Single cell and rear service

LD arched, arched light over

Two mistals

House 1/3 overall size

(84) PROSPECT HOUSE, Addingham"1892"

House converted to laithe and new doublefronted house added  
in 1892

Central entrance gabled and porched  
LD arched

(85) WELFIELD, Lindley"1895"

Single front, rear services  
Kneelers and copings  
Well-coursed masonry  
LD with depressed arch  
House 1/3 overall size

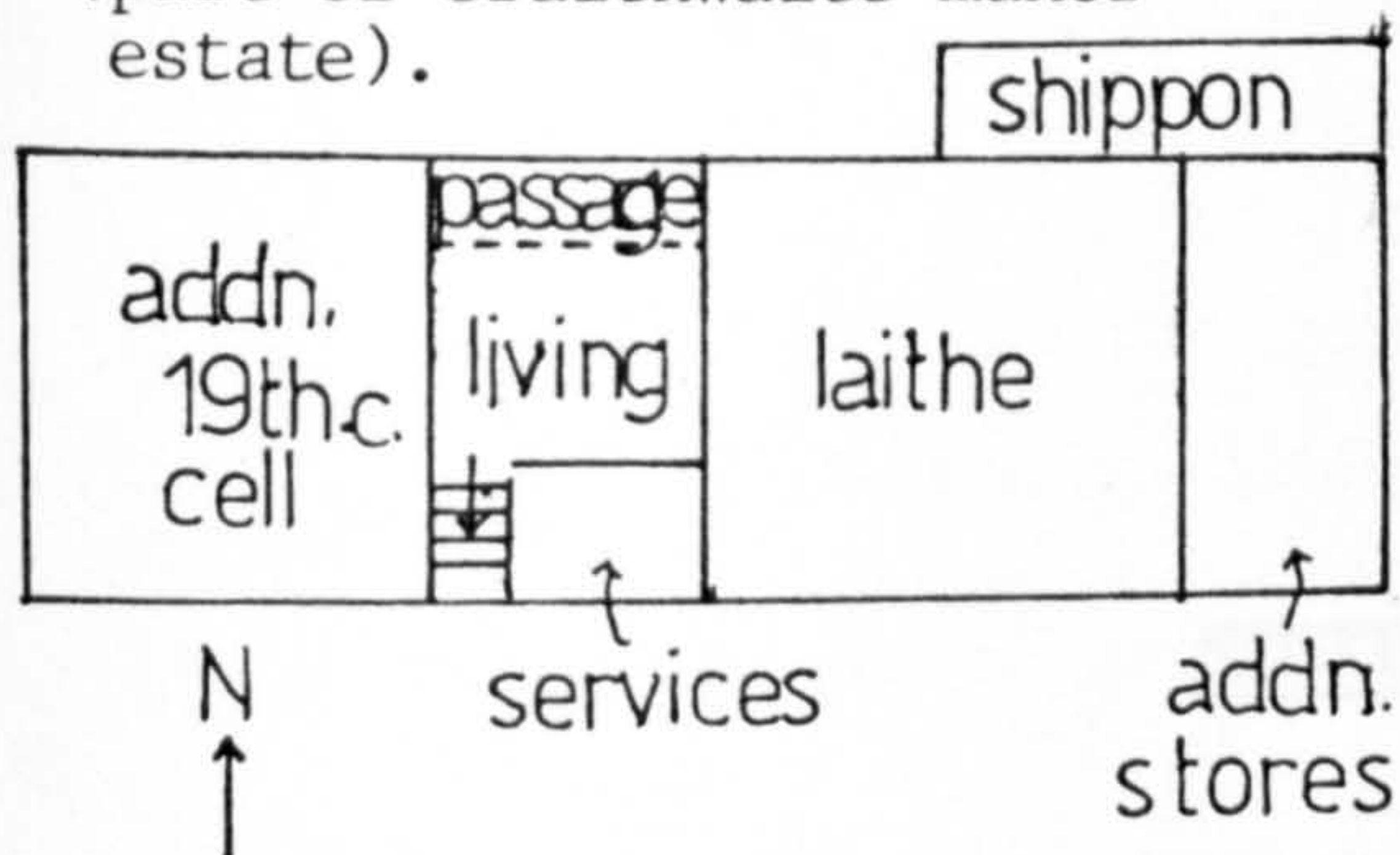


## APPENDIX 10.

## TWO CUMBRIAN LAITHE HOUSES.

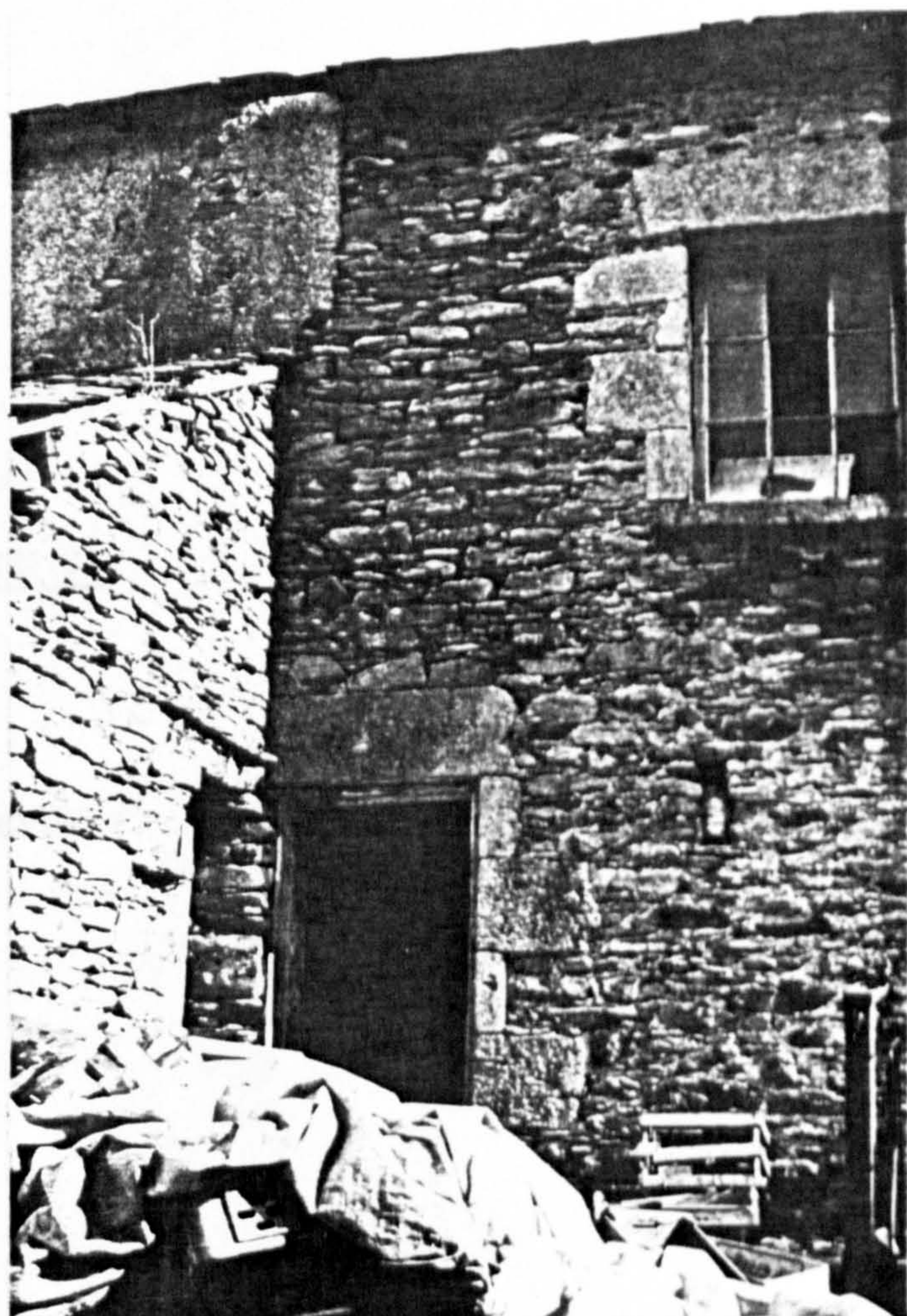
(1) STRIBERS,  
HAVERTHWAITE.

(part of Graithwaite manor  
estate).



Outline sketch of layout  
(not to scale).

Photograph is of door and  
window detail on front  
elevation of laithe, also  
illustrating drystone walling  
and heavy quoining at angles.



(2)

MUNGEON,  
HAVERTHWAITE



2-cell dwelling with small laithe added to west. House  
has later additional cell to east. Shippon and hay loft  
to west of laithe. Part of Bigland Hall estate, tenanted  
by a sheep farmer according to 19th.c. census returns.



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OS 1:25 000 SE 00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 20, 21,  
22, 23.  
SD 92.

OS 1:2 500 SE 01 NE, SE; SE 02 NW, SW, NE, SE; SE 03 NW, SE;  
SE 04 NW, SW, NE, SE; SE 11 SW, NW; SE 12 NW; SE 13 SW;  
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