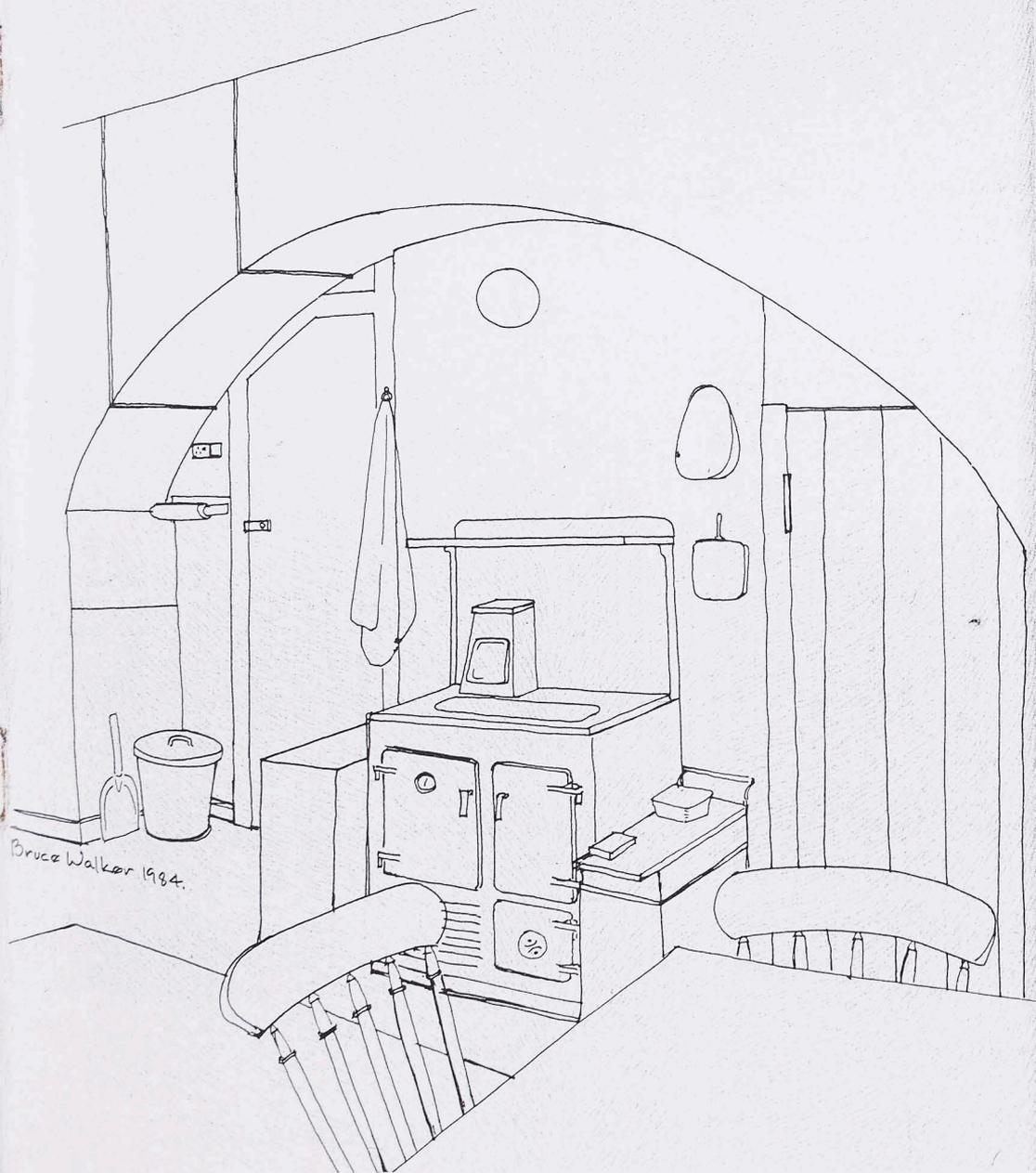


# VERNACULAR BUILDING 8

*Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working Group: 1983-84*





Peter Corser,

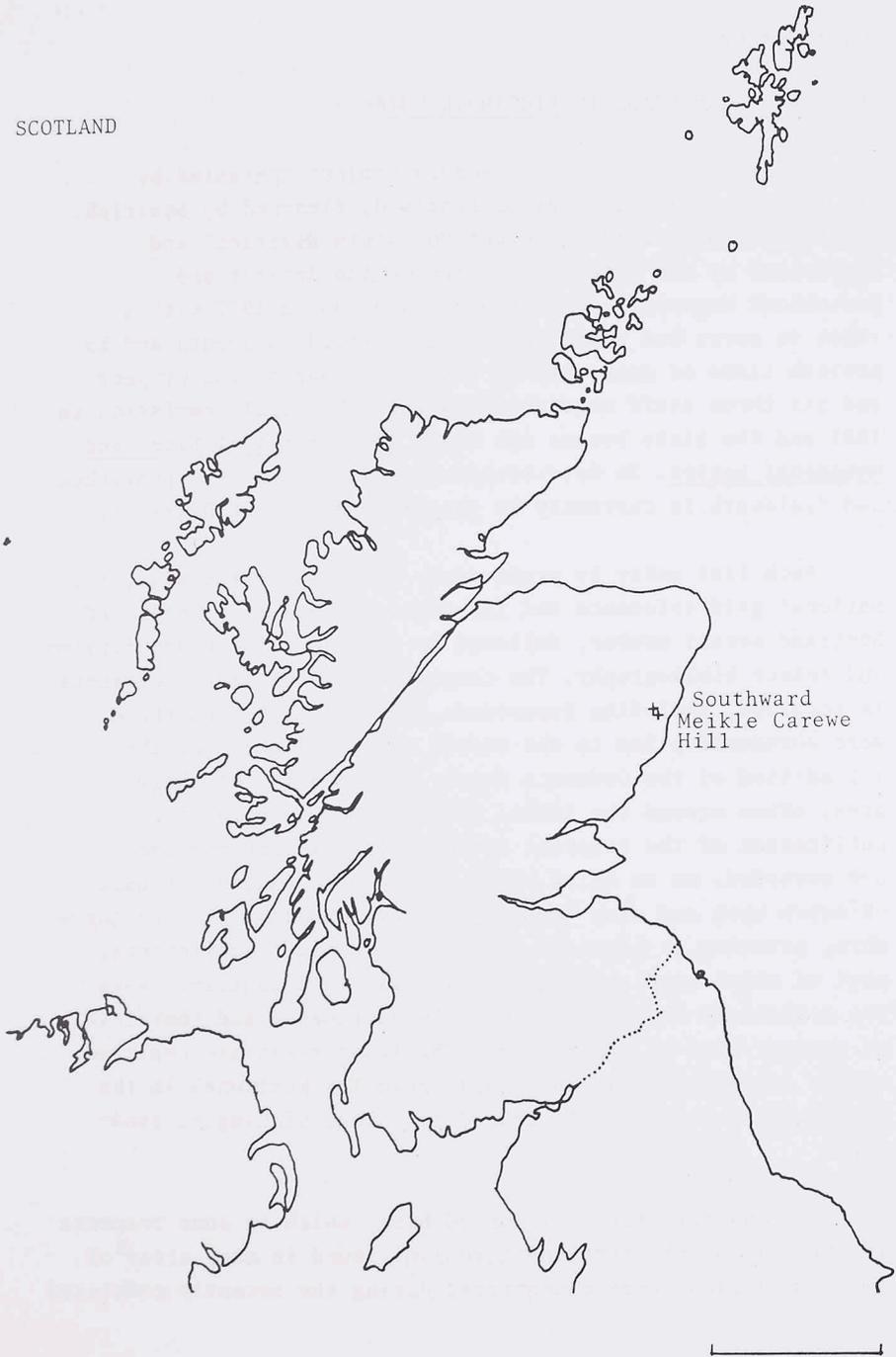
TWO EARLY FARMSTEADS IN KINCARDINESHIRE

An archaeological field-survey project sponsored by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, financed by Scottish Development Department (Ancient Monuments Division) and supervised by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland was begun in 1977 with a remit to carry out rapid recording of field monuments and to publish lists of monuments on a district basis. The project and its three staff were absorbed into the Royal Commission in 1981 and the lists became the RCAMS Archaeological Sites and Monuments Series. To date twenty-one lists have been published and fieldwork is currently in progress in Wigtown District.

Each list entry is prefaced by the name of the site, its national grid reference and its National Monuments Record of Scotland serial number, followed by a brief written description and select bibliography. The complete range of field monuments is recorded, including farmsteads and townships when these were abandoned prior to the survey and publication of the 1st edition of the Ordnance Survey six-inch map of their area, often around the 1860s. Sites abandoned after the publication of the relevant 1st edition six-inch map are not recorded, as to do so would generate an enormous amount of extra work and slow the project down unacceptably. Furthermore, priority is given to the pre-Improvement settlements, most of which were abandoned by the mid 19th century; these are relatively more scarce, usually unrecorded and therefore at greater risk of destruction. The later sites are depicted on the 1st edition six-inch maps, normally mentioned in the Name Book, and are easily traced by anyone wishing to study them.

The two farmsteads discussed here, which in some respects are typical of the settlement remains found in many areas of upland Scotland, were encountered during the recently completed

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survey of Kincardine and Deeside District (RCAMS 1984, nos 260 and 271). Both are situated about 8 km north west of Stonehaven, in the valley of the Small Burn, a tributary of the Cowton Burn and subsequently the Cowie Water.

Meikle Carewe Hill lies on the east side of the valley (NO 8236 9178) at a height of 180m OD. It comprises the remains of two ranges of buildings set almost parallel to each other with their long axes across the contour; both are excavated into the slope at their uphill ends. The rubble-built walls of the buildings are fragmentary, standing to a maximum height of 1.4m, and show some signs of clay bonding or pointing. Attached to the north range is a rectangular stone-walled enclosure measuring 32m by 29m internally, whilst a field-bank, a part of the contemporary field-system now almost entirely removed by later agricultural activity, springs from the east end of the south range.

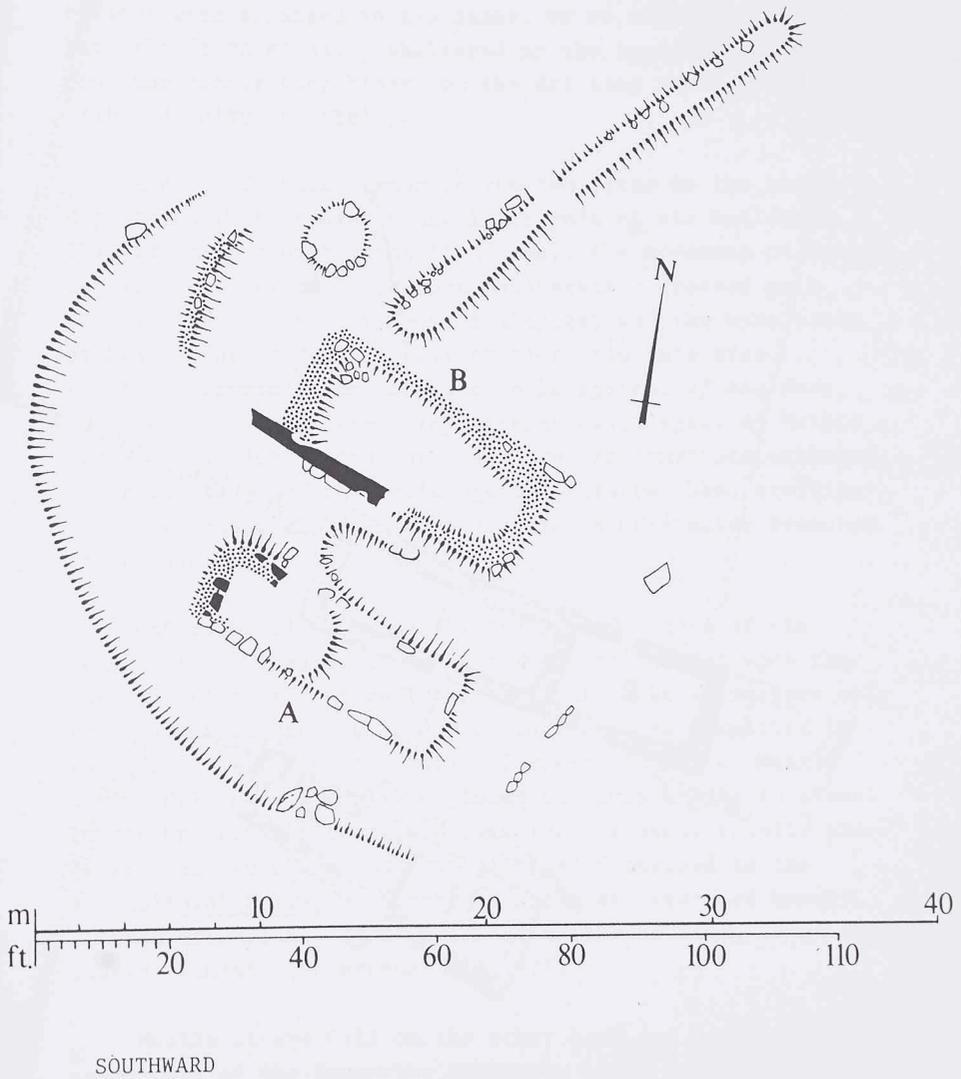
The eastern building of the north range, A, measures 10.9m by 3.2m within a wall 0.7m in thickness and externally battered on the south side at the west end. The internal corners of the building are rounded, as are the external corners on the west, but the external corners on the east cannot be clearly seen. No internal divisions are visible; the entrance is slightly off-centre in the south wall and in the north wall towards the east end there is an aumbry. A fireplace has been formed against the west end wall by setting two slabs upright 0.45m apart.

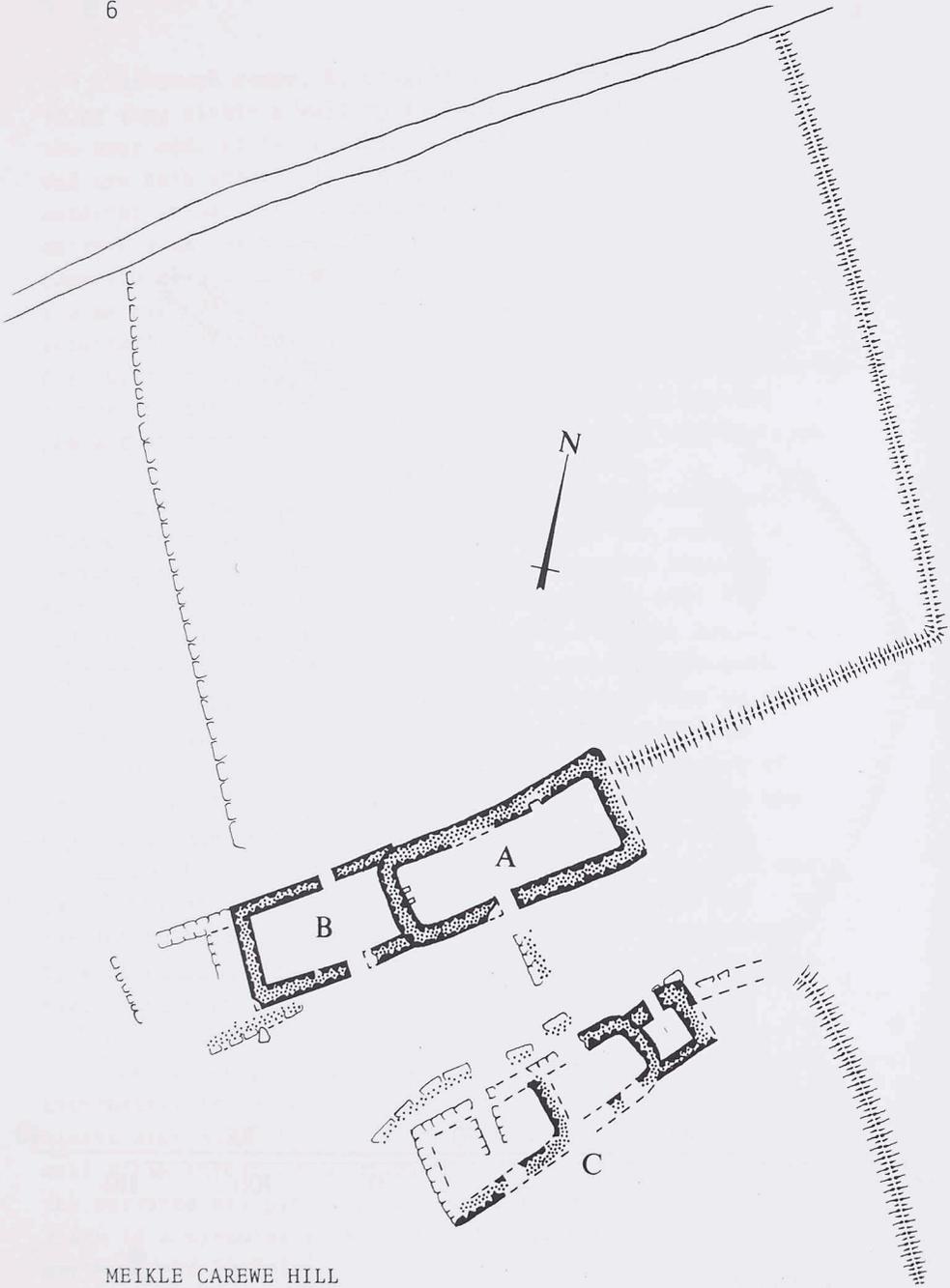
This building overlies the remains of an earlier building to the west, B, which itself underwent at least one major alteration, having been reduced in length by the insertion of a new west gable wall. There are opposed entrances in the long sides of B, and in the south wall, to the west of the entrance there are traces of what may be one side of a cruck-slot or an opening.

The south range, C, comprises a two compartment building, 10.3m long within a wall up to 0.8m thick, with an annexe at the east end. Of the visible wall corners, those at the west end are both internally and externally rounded, whilst the external corners at the west end are angular. There are entrances at the mid-points of the north walls of each compartment and in the externally battered north wall of the annexe. The west compartment, which measures 5m by 3.7m internally, is a byre with a transverse stone-lined drain 0.8m broad emptying through the entrance. The rounded internal corners at the east end of the byre suggest that the two compartments may represent different periods of construction.

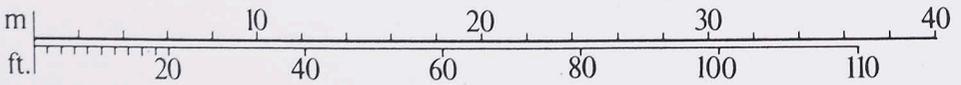
The farmstead at Southward named after the abandoned 19th century farmstead of Southward 560m to the south, is on the west side of the valley a short distance below the watershed at a height of just over 200m OD (NO 8187 9231) and comprises two buildings lying within a slight artificial depression. Again the buildings are set parallel to each other with their long axes across the contour. That on the south, A, which measures 10.1m by 2.2m internally, has been reduced to little more than its foundation course of large stone blocks, although traces of the wall itself are visible around the west end. The presence of much more debris on the west end of the building than on the east end may mean that a smaller building overlies a larger and earlier building, although this could only be established by excavation. On the uphill side of the entrance two stone slabs have been set vertically to form a baffle wall.

The building on the north, B, measures 9.3m by 4.2m internally. It too has a foundation course of large stone blocks upon which there are the slight remains of a stone wall 0.65m thick. No internal divisions are visible and the entrance was probably in the middle of the south wall. There is a circular rick-base 3m in diameter, 2m to the north of the building.





MEIKLE CAREWE HILL



The plan form adopted at both of these sites, the buildings parallel to each other with their long axes across the contour, is one frequently encountered amongst pre-Improvement farmsteads and in 1810 the author of the Agricultural Survey of Moray and Nairn observed that 'in the more stormy quarter of the district, the house and offices were arranged in two lines, or so contrived as to have the doors mutually sheltered by the opposite building, from the penetrating blast, or the drifting snow' (Leslie 1810, 59: cited by Stell).

Another feature common to the two sites is the broad depression that separates the lower ends of the buildings. This may have been the result of wear, the movement of cattle for instance, or may have been deliberately created as a sump to aid drainage from the buildings, and the byre drain at Meikle Carewe Hill clearly empties into this area. (*Editor's comment: This appears to be typical of the form taken by middens in early improvement buildings*). At Meikle Carewe Hill stone slabs have been used to construct walkways along the sides of the buildings and between them, avoiding the intervening morass; there are traces of similar features at Southward.

Unfortunately, because of the wasted nature of the remains at Southward, it is impossible to comment upon the superstructure of the buildings. The stone walls survive only to a height of about 0.5m and could have been completed in turf or clay whereas the walls of the buildings at Meikle Carewe Hill were clearly completed to eaves height in stone. It may be that the Southward farmstead is unequivocally pre-Improvement in character, one of those described in the Agricultural Survey of Kincardineshire as 'wretched hovels, erected of turf and stone, without mortar of lime, or other lasting cement' (Robertson 1813, 177).

Meikle Carewe Hill on the other hand may belong to the early days of the Improving movement, begun according to

Robertson around the 1760s or 1770s, when the buildings "were still in a very humble style. The walls, built of rather better materials, and more compact, were raised, in place of their former height of five feet, to six feet, or six and a half. And in place of a slit or hole in the wall, to enable the inhabitants to distinguish night from day, the glass window was adopted; but still of moderate dimensions and seldom exceeding four small panes. The different appartments of the house, continued as formerly, to be divided merely by the furniture" (Robertson 1813, 177).

Neither farmstead can be convincingly identified with any of the sites depicted on the early maps of the area. By the middle of the 18th century however, the valley of the Small Burn appears to have been well settled and farmed (Roy 1747-55 sheets 20/1 and 20/2) and by 1776 the extent of cultivation in the valley was more or less equivalent to the area of the modern fields (Garden 1776).

#### Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Mr. G.P. Stell for reading and commenting upon the manuscript, and Mr. A. Leith and Mr. O.T. Morgan for preparing the plans.

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Bruce Walker

VERNACULAR BUILDING STUDIES AT THE SCHOOL OF  
ARCHITECTURE, DUNDEE

The School of Architecture, Dundee has an interest in vernacular building studies which dates from session 1967-1968, when it accepted a written thesis on traditional farm building design from Ingval Maxwell (1) then a final year student, rather than the normal design exercise. This decision had far-reaching results by bringing together a group of individuals who were eventually to found the Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working Group: Ingval Maxwell; Bruce Walker, one of his tutors with an interest in vernacular buildings; Alexander Fenton, then keeper of the Country Life Section, National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland, who acted as an external consultant on Maxwell's thesis; and Geoffrey Stell, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland who was then carrying out surveys of vernacular buildings in Caithness and Orkney.

The loose association formed by these individuals flourished and all became involved with projects carried out at the School. These were arranged individually depending on the experience of the group of students involved and the architectural aims of the project as a whole. The studies undertaken at that time included: measured drawings, process analysis, work study, work flow diagrams, housing studies, settlement studies and analytical sketches. The best of the material produced was lodged with the Country Life Archive, National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland, but there was normally little opportunity to prepare the material for publication. On a number of occasions work produced was later incorporated into articles, particularly by Bruce Walker (2) and Alexander Fenton (3). Many of the studies were listed in early issues of Vernacular Building (4) and in one instance a study of Fettercairn resulted in a film by T.V. Neat (5) which was shown at the SVBWG

Conference, Elgin, 1976 and at the Society of Folk Life Studies Conference, Dundee, 1977.

The subject was first formally taught in the Dundee School in session 1973-1974. This took the form of ten two-hour sessions on Scottish building history offered as an optional history course in the third year of the BSc course. The course presented a broad perspective of the pattern of Scottish building, from prehistory to the Edwardian era, at all levels of society. There has always been an emphasis on the use of local examples and from session 1984-1985, Architects and Architecture on Tayside (6) will be used as a basic text with various sections being expanded as necessary to suit the interests of the students involved. Students are also required to read the SVBWG publications and selected articles by SVBWG members. This course has encouraged a larger number of students to choose vernacular building subjects for their dissertations, required in final year of the B.Arch (Hons) course.

During the ten years from 1974 to 1984 the level of involvement in vernacular building studies fluctuated according to staffing arrangements, but overall both staff and student interest in the subject increased significantly. Not all the teaching followed the ethnological approach normally followed by SVBWG members. James Mackinnon had made contact with Amos Rapoport (who was then at the Bartlet School) and took his approach from Rapoport (7) and Rudofsky (8). Lawrence Wodehouse had worked with Sibyl Maholy-Nagy (9) at Columbia University, New York and was preparing a bibliography of works on indigenous architecture throughout the world (10). Martin Birkhans and Alan Balfour were both sympathetic to the ethnological approach but each only taught in Dundee for one session. Both contributed a great deal to the acceptance of the subject within the Dundee school but their periods in Dundee were too short to allow major steps to be taken. When Lawrence Wodehouse returned to the United States of

America in 1979, Walker took over the Medieval Period in the Architectural History course. He changed the emphasis from a purely stylistic and structural approach to one of showing social and practical considerations. Town planning, and domestic, ecclesiastical and secular buildings were considered as part of a social hierarchy and building achievements were considered in the light of the tools and equipment available to the medieval builder. This formed a sound base for later vernacular building studies.

Other Schools and Departments in the College became involved in the subject. A number of lectures on domestic vernacular building were given to the Department of Home Economics and Hotel Management (now the Department of Food and Accommodation Management) as an introduction to their studies of existing housing standards. Lectures and seminars were arranged for the Department of Town and Regional Planning. These were normally related to Burghs which they were to study.

Two departments in the School of Design are now regularly involved in the subject. The Department of Graphic Design have used various SVBWG texts to produce limited edition booklets as part of their design portfolios (11). A student of this Department is at present working on a logo, letter-head, publicity leaflet and standard monograph layout for SVBWG, and Bill Barr, the senior lecturer in charge, normally designs the covers for SVBWG publications. He is also currently working on a design for the Pattern of Scottish Building book, to be published jointly by SVBWG and the Forth and Borders Branch of the Scottish Georgian Society. The Department of Interior Design participates in the School of Architecture History Course and students from that Department are often involved in the renovation of vernacular buildings as part of their studio work.

During session 1980-1981, Angus Roberts, senior lecturer in charge of the first year of the B.Arch.(Hons)

course requested that an option subject, based on vernacular building, be prepared and offered to students the following session. This was done but it could not be implemented until session 1983-1984 because of staffing problems. As far as is known, of the thirty-eight Schools of Architecture recognised for exemption from the Royal Institute of British Architects professional examinations only Dundee School of Architecture offers this option. Manchester University School of Architecture (which has long been recognised as the home of vernacular building studies in England, through the efforts of Professor Cordingley, Dr. Ronald Brunskill, and others) has always concentrated on measured drawings and questionnaire systems of recording at undergraduate level. The vernacular building studies which have made the Manchester University School famous in this field have all been undertaken as Masters or Doctorial theses in the post-graduate school.

The option offered at the School of Architecture, Dundee runs through the entire session of the first year of the B.Arch.(Hons) course. The basic programme allows for the whole of the winter term to be devoted to input, survey and research. The spring and summer terms are taken up with related design exercises which can take the form of either rehabilitation work or new building. The system is flexible enough to allow students to change option groups at the end of the spring term. The aim is not to produce architectural or building historians or a group of "neo-vernacular" architects, but simply to open another dimension in the design process which will make the students more aware of human response to buildings.

#### SESSION 1983-1984

Four students elected to take the vernacular building option in 1983-1984. Unfortunately one had to leave the course in mid term due to financial problems.

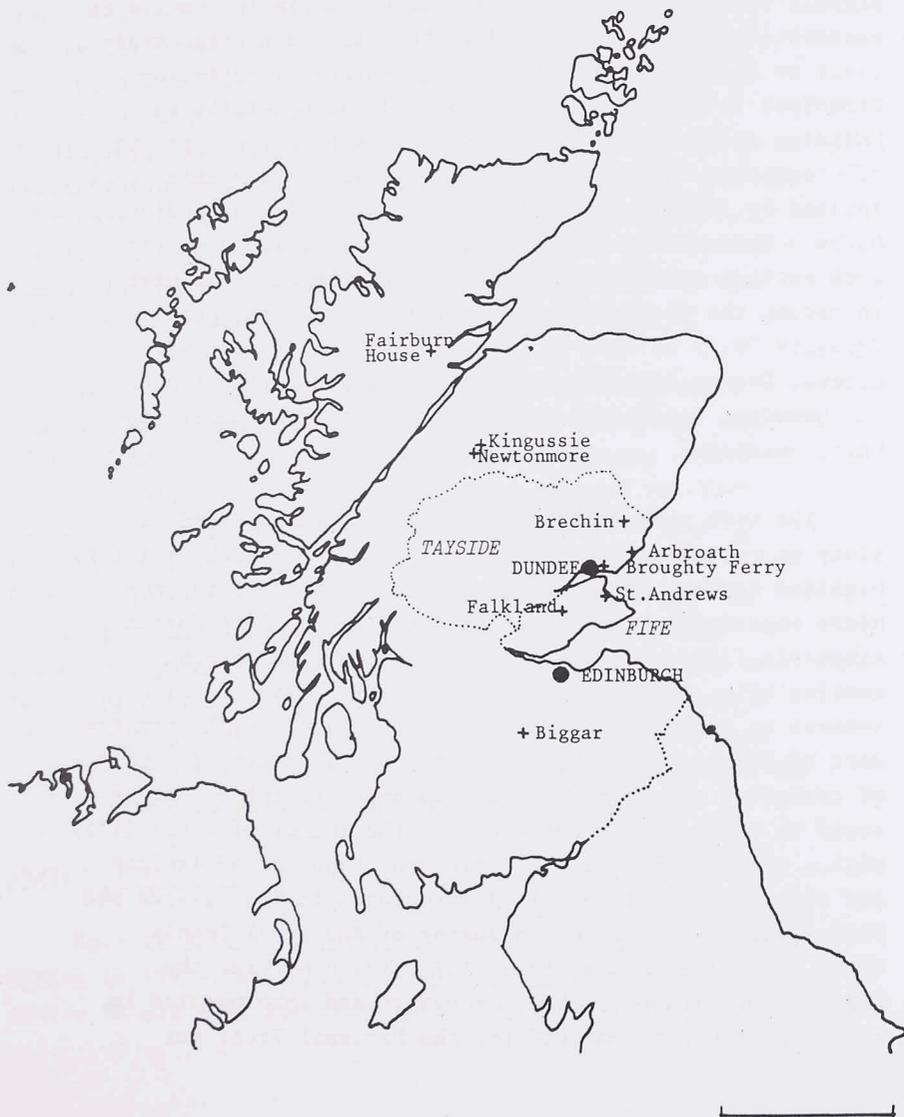
During the winter term a series of lectures was given on various building types, constructional methods, and building materials. In addition, SVBWG members contributed lectures on a range of topics. Those involved included: Joan Auld, Professor J.B. Caird, Professor Gwyn Meirion-Jones, Ross Noble, Professor Bruce Proudfoot, Dr. Anna Ritchie, and Geoffrey Stell. Sonia Hackett and Ingval Maxwell led visits to buildings which were in the course of restoration. Ross Noble acted as host to a one week study visit to the Highland Folk Museum, Kingussie. Professor Proudfoot invited the group to attend various talks on building and planning issues, organised by the Department of Geography, University of St. Andrews. The students invited Dr. Ronald Buchanan, Department of Irish Studies, Queen's University, Belfast to lecture on Irish domestic architecture and they also did much of the physical work in saving the Charles Frechoú ceilings at Carbet Castle, Broughty Ferry working in close collaboration with Neil Grieve, Dundee District Council Planning Department and Rab Snowdon, Scottish Development Department Conservation Unit, Swanson.

The work undertaken in the winter term included: a study of railway sleeper buildings in the Badenoch District, Highland Region: proposals for the next phase of the turf house experiment carried out at the Highland Folk Museum, Kingussie (12); a survey of a corrugated iron salmon smoking kiln, Fairburn House, Ross-shire, prior to its removal to the Highland Folk Museum (13); a search into the work of Charles Frechoú, Paris; the continuation of a study of corbelled structures (which had been the subject of an award to visit Provence, France in the summer of 1983) (14), with a visit to the Dingle Peninsula, Republic of Ireland and with surveys of corbelled structures in the Tayside and Fife Regions of Scotland; a survey of the Royal Tennis Court, Falkland Palace, Fife (15) carried out for the Graphics Department, School of Design and incorporated in a student project prepared for the National Trust for

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Scotland (now on display at Falkland Palace). As there was no method of assessing the scope or quality of work that might be obtained from a group of students with little background in archival and secondary sources research, a small architectural project, was carried out in tandem with the research and survey programme. This involved proposals for the re-use of redundant churches at the East Church, Brechin; Inverbrothock Church, Arbroath and Queen Street Church, Broughty Ferry. In hindsight, this created an unnecessary burden in an extremely busy term.

In the spring term the group undertook individual designs for a new open-air museum on a site at Newtonmore, Inverness-shire. The brief was based on the gallery and storage accommodation existing at the Welsh Folk Museum, St Fagans adapted to the requirements of the Highland Folk Museum, Kingussie. There was also accommodation for a Highland Regional Council Heritage Centre. Ross Noble acted as the client, and the whole group, including Ross Noble (and some third year BSc students who were using part of the brief as a nominated project for their BSc submission) visited St. Fagans to discuss the accommodation with Christine Stevens, Minwell Tibbot and Dr. Eurwyn Wiliam of the Welsh Folk Museum. At the end of the session the students' drawings were exhibited at the Highland Folk Museum and discussed by the Museum Committee and other interested members of the Highland Regional Council.

The summer term was spent designing a brewing museum in the old town brewery buildings, Biggar (16). The buildings had been purchased by Trustees for the Gladstone Court Museum with money lent by the Alloa Brewery Company.

A number of students transferred into the group at this stage and two of the three original students transferred out. Nine students attempted the brewery project which was an interior design exercise. Brian Lambie, Curator,

Gladstone Court Museum acted as the client. It was hoped that the designs produced by the students would help convince the various interested parties (the Gladstone Court Museum Trustees, the Scottish Tourist Board, Ind. Coope, and the District and Regional Councils) that the idea was viable. However, the Trustees sold the property, rather than risk running the Gladstone Court Museum into debt, when the interest free loan expired before the total sum required for the project had been realised.

Tutoring for the project was shared between William Anderson (who offered a professional practice option in the first two terms) and Bruce Walker. The project was not a particularly good one for although the students learned a great deal about the existing buildings, museum management and organisation there were problems inherent in both the composition of the group and in the site, which caused concern. Some of the students who joined the group at this stage were Malaysians, and even after four years in Britain the requirements of a small town museum in Scotland presented certain cultural difficulties. Some site problems, for example an existing pedestrian route through the brewery courtyard and physical links to the Royal Scottish Museum's Biggar Gasworks site, could not be successfully solved in planning terms.

On the whole the vernacular building option presented in session 1983-1984 proved successful. Two of the three original students have continued one aspect of their winter term studies as dissertation topics, and three of the students joining the group in the summer term also opted for dissertations on vernacular building subjects. Perhaps the most encouraging aspect was that six students elected to take the vernacular building option in session 1984-1985.

SESSION 1984-1985

In August 1984, Geoffrey Stell made preliminary enquiries to establish the feasibility of the vernacular building option group undertaking the survey of a group of buildings in the Lochaber area. Anne Riches, Scottish Development Department - Historic Buildings Section had asked Geoffrey Stell as President of SVBWG to collaborate on the production of a booklet on a series of "bank barns" (17) identified by Elizabeth Beaton whilst revising the SDD - List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Interest for Lochaber. A preliminary report on the buildings had been prepared by Mrs. Beaton and this was discussed with Professor James Paul, Director of the School and Angus Roberts. Approval in principle was obtained and a series of meetings was held between the interested parties. The results were that John G. Dunbar, Secretary, RCAHMS agreed to finance the survey of the mainland barns; the vernacular building option group agreed to survey the buildings; SDD Historic Buildings agreed to carry out additional research and SVBWG were to publish the survey drawings and reports. The survey took place in the fourth week of the winter term and the buildings were drawn up in the fifth week. Most of the buildings were found to have had former functions, the "bank-barn" function dating from the 1870s, and a certain amount of research has been undertaken by the students into the original purposes of these buildings. Work is on schedule for publication in the spring of 1985.

The first three weeks of term were devoted to lectures introducing each of the five options offered to first year B.Arch.(Hons) students. Lectures were also given on research techniques and sources. Joan Auld lectured on Scottish archive holdings.

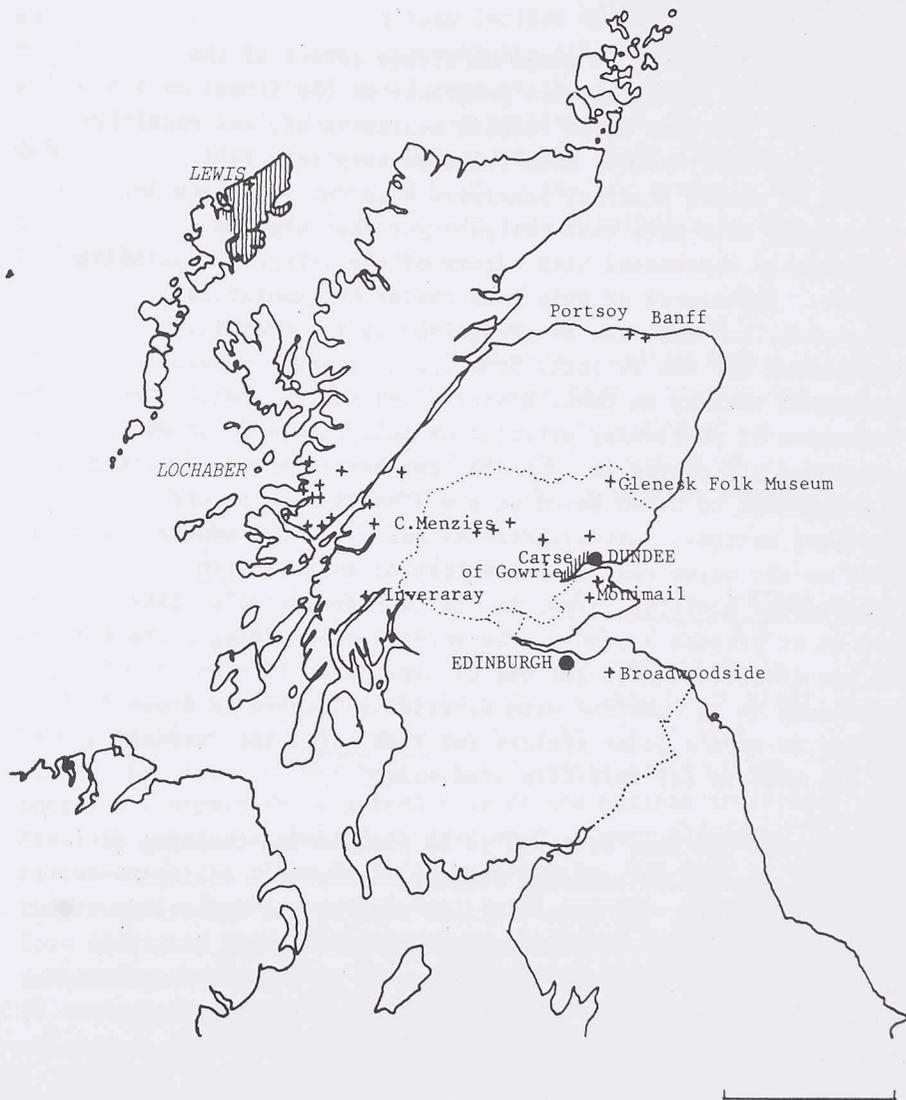
The remainder of the term has been run in a similar way to session 1983-1984 but without the parallel design project and with more emphasis on research. To achieve

this the whole group has spent at least one day a week in Edinburgh utilising the archives at the Scottish Record Office, National Library for Scotland, National Monuments Record, Country Life Section of the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland, Edinburgh Central Library and the School of Scottish Studies. Dundee DC Archives, Dundee University Archives and St. Andrews University Archives have also been used. This has resulted in reducing the time available for visiting lecturers, but the students have been attending the lecture series, organised by the Forth and Borders Section of the Scottish Georgian Society, on the "Pattern of Scottish Building". The six speakers in the series are Dr. Ronald Brunskill, Geoffrey Stell, Elizabeth Beaton, Ingval Maxwell, Dr. Bruce Walker and Professor Gwyn Meirion-Jones and the guest speaker for the AGM will be Dr. James Ayres (18). The work undertaken in the winter term includes; a study of the hearth in Scottish vernacular buildings (19); environmental control in the Lewis blackhouse (20); the neo-vernacular buildings of James Marjoriebanks MacLaren; mass concrete buildings; and aspects of water power. Surveys completed include: Bank barns at Achranich, Borrowdale, Callert, Dalelea, Glenfinnan, Keppoch, Kilmalieu, Ranachan, and South Corry; sheep folds at Ranachan and South Corry (21); Ingleueuk hearths at Broadwoodside, Yester, East Lothian and Ingleueuk, Water Path, Banff (22); a panelled room at Low Street, Portsoy, Banffshire; a hearth and roof timbers at The White Ship, Shore Street, Portsoy, Banffshire; an underground watercourse at Ballechin, Strathhtay, Perthshire; a range of fire irons and cooking utensils at the Angus Folk Museum, Glamis, Angus and Glenesk Folk Museum, Lochlee, Angus; concrete tenements at Court Street and Melrose Terrace, Dundee; and concrete structures in the Carse of Gowrie, Perthshire.

The project for the spring term will be the re-habilitation of a seven storey dockside warehouse in Hull, Yorkshire, to form a marina club and residential accommodation

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or the rehabilitation of a steading near Aberfeldy to form a residential heritage summer school. The summer term project will be a new building to house a residential self-sufficiency school at Monimail Tower and the Melville House walled gardens, Monimail, Fife.

### CONCLUSION

It is difficult to gauge the direct effect of the vernacular buildings studies programme on the School as a whole, but projects which require awareness of, and sensitivity to the environment, have received very favourable notice in recent external examiners Reports. Infill housing programmes fall into this category yet they are not necessarily associated with either of the vernacular building options. Influences of this kind cannot be quantified accurately but what can be recognised is the continuing enthusiasm for the subject. Some recent graduates have continued working on their dissertation subjects with the intention of publishing articles or monographs. Brian Paul completed his course in June 1983 and has recently submitted a manuscript to SVBWG based on his dissertation on Old Mains of Rattray, Rattray, Perthshire. This will appear in 1985 as the major part of a publication entitled Two Independent Scottish Farms. Sam Sweeney graduated in 1984 and is at present expanding the vernacular building content of his dissertation on the use of corrugated iron in Scotland, to be combined with material collected by Bruce Walker to form a joint article for Folk Life, the Journal of the Society for Folk-Life Studies.

One of the aims of SVBWG is to promote the teaching of Scottish vernacular building studies in Scottish colleges and universities. The contributions made by the membership at Dundee show how wholeheartedly they have upheld this aim and the Dundee course must be considered as a major achievement of which both the group and the college can be justifiably proud.

## The future

It is hoped to introduce Scottish vernacular building studies into the mainstream course on a regular basis. This should be done at an early stage of the BSc course as it would help students to understand the environment in which their projects are normally set. The first steps have already been taken as it has been decided that the vernacular buildings option group will present the findings of their research projects to the final year of the BSc course. This was done at an informal level last session when the option group spent a considerable time presenting their findings on the Highland Folk Museum project to the BSc students who in turn used the brief for the main museum building as the subject for their nominated project.

B.Arch. Honours students can still follow Ingvál Maxwell's lead and produce a written thesis rather than a major design project. This does not mean that a student can complete the final year of the B.Arch. course without submitting any design work but it does allow the major submission to be the written material with a smaller design project replacing the dissertation.

The provision of post-graduate studies for the degrees of Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy would be a logical extension of the present trend, one post-graduate student having already completed a MSc by research. It might be argued that this is a duplication of the facilities already available at the Manchester University School but there, the expertise is geared towards the English tradition. Scottish vernacular buildings developed in very different circumstances to their English counterparts. Not only do the two countries have very different legal systems, and therefore different forms of land tenure, building regulations and development control, but, the Scottish researcher must be constantly alert for contemporary reporters using terms which have different meanings in standard English and Scots.

This makes a strong case for post-graduate opportunities in a school specialising in Scottish building traditions. One major problem may be in finding sources of finance for post-graduate students although this is now being explored.

A different kind of post-graduate training could be provided through Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses. There are now considerable numbers of architects working in Scotland who have either been trained elsewhere or who have only worked on new buildings. These architects require training in Scottish traditional building construction if they are to follow successfully the present trend of rehabilitating existing buildings. This is particularly necessary in Scotland where building construction practice has been at variance with the contemporary books on building construction, the result of an independent attitude towards building regulations. The Dundee School has recently started CPD courses and is considering offering a wider range of these for next session.

In conclusion, the Association of Scottish Schools of Architecture is encouraging the sharing of expertise through the exchange of staff and students. This may be a way of developing the subject nationally. It is unlikely that this will happen immediately but when the developments of the last ten years are looked at in perspective and the advances in understanding the subject considered, further development seems certain.

*The School of Architecture, Dundee, is a department of Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art, 13 Perth Road, Dundee, funded by Scottish Education Department as a Central Institution.*

*The School is also a department in the Faculty of Environmental Studies, University of Dundee, who are the degree awarding body.*

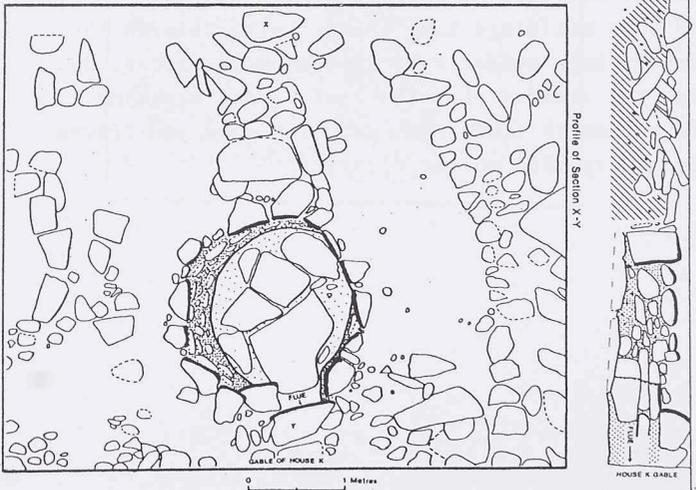
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AUCHINDRAIN 1982-83 KILN  
(HOUSE K)



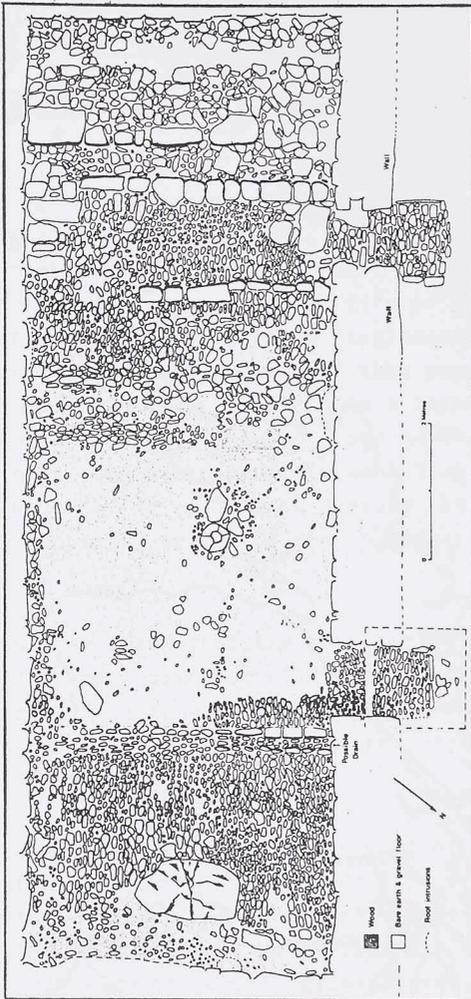
A. Morrison

RECENT WORK AT AUCHINDRAIN, 1981-83

The mound of the south-west end of Building K (the "Bull's House") has long been suggested as a possible corn-drying kiln structure, and this has been borne out by excavation. The surrounding mound spreads well beyond the dimensions of the kiln itself and the quantities of loose earth and small stones suggest its use as a spoil heap after being abandoned as a kiln some time around 1820. The kiln bowl has been truncated and the internal diameter indicates a former much greater depth to the structure. The flue runs into the gable wall of Building K.

Excavation of the interior of Building S has revealed a fine cobbled floor, at least one large hearth, and a byre drain. Other traces of alignments in the floor stones across the long axis of the building suggest slots for partitions, also indicated by traces of wood between and running under the floor stones. The cobbling extends outside the two doorways, deteriorating in quality along the side of the building. Earlier excavations have revealed that the dimensions of some buildings have changed with time on the same site. Others have evidence of superimposed floors, eg. Building D has the remains of a floor of wooden planking under the present earth floor and below the wood are traces of a possible hard-packed mortar floor.

## AUCHINDRAIN 1982-83 HOUSE 5



SCOTLAND  
showing sites of  
Ingleneuk Hearths



Ray Marshall

THE INGLENEUK HEARTH IN SCOTTISH BUILDINGS: A PRELIMINARY SURVEY

According to the Penguin Dictionary of Architecture (1) the "Inglenook is a bench or seat, built beside a fireplace, sometimes covered by the chimney breast". In Scotland, the term "Ingle" normally refers to the fire or the fuel burned on the hearth (2) and therefore an "Inglenook" could be any fireplace recess. For the purpose of this paper, the Ingle-neuk hearth is taken to be a hearth in a chimney recess, large enough to accommodate seating around the fire. This appears to have been a common feature of Scottish houses in the seventeenth and eighteenth century, but passed from favour with the introduction of the symmetrical house, so favoured by agricultural improvers.

It should be noted that the term "Ingle" was also applied to the small circular corn-drying kilns, characteristic of Orkney and Caithness (3). They would necessitate an in-depth study of their own and will therefore not be dealt with in this article.

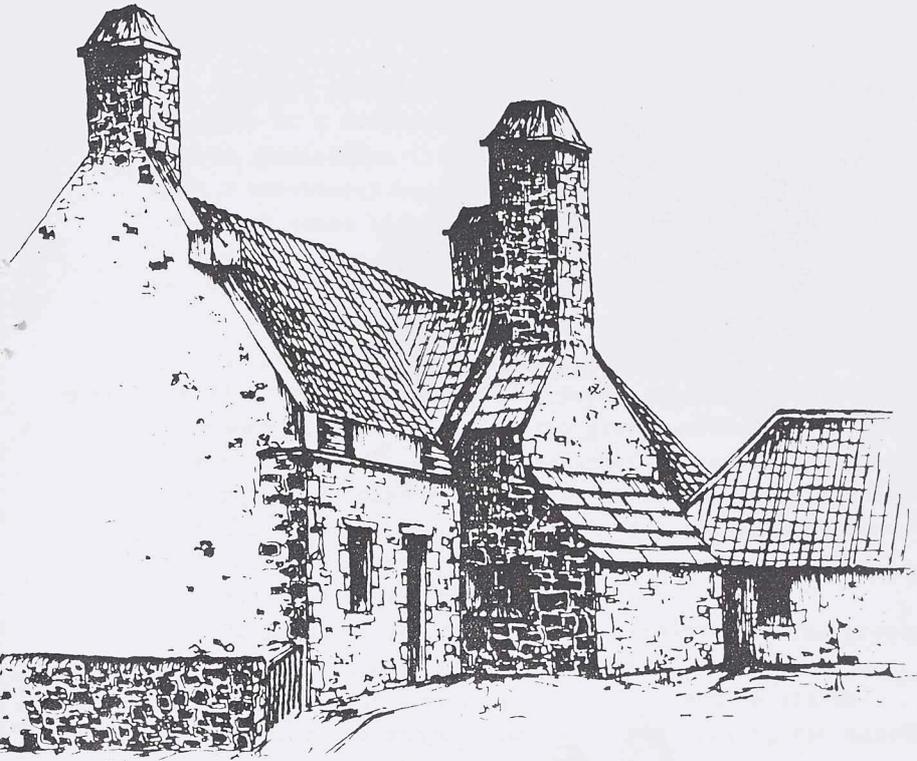
This paper has been prepared as part of a vernacular buildings study option, offered by Dr. Bruce Walker to students entering the B. Arch. (Hons) course at the School of Architecture, Dundee (4). Dr. Walker has been advising on an on-going study of ceramic tiled stoves, as used in Central and Eastern Europe (5). This study was commenced during a year of practical training, undertaken in architects' offices in Graz, Austria. Owing to this interest in Mid-European heating methods, it was decided to develop the study to include the hearth in Scotland. As part of this study, Dr. Walker provided references to large canopy chimneys, collected as part of his interest in meat and fish preservation methods (6). Three particular hearths, two of

which had been located by other members of S.V.B.W.G. earlier this year, led to this present study of the ingleneuk hearth.

The information collected falls into two main categories: positive internal evidence, showing these hearths in use, and possible external evidence, based on the size, proportion and character of projecting chimneys shown in various contemporary illustrations. These two categories are linked by the surviving hearths mentioned above.

The internal evidence normally shows the ingleneuk hearth as a small room, entered off or contained within, a large room. The best known example must be the frontispiece of Marian McNeill's, The Scots Kitchen (7), which shows two men seated within the fireplace chamber in an Orcadian House. A Kent series postcard of an interior in Orkney (8) shows a similar arrangement. Illustrations in MacGibbon and Ross contain further examples (9), but the only one showing the interior of the ingleneuk is the House of Muir, East Lothian (10). In its latter days, this building was a roadside tavern. The ingleneuk projects from the front wall of the single storey house and it is constructed of stone, roofed with stone slates. The entrance to the neuk is through a large arch with stone jambs and it contains a small squint window in one of its side walls.

Although there is only one example in MacGibbon and Ross showing the internal layout of the Ingleneuk, many can be seen illustrating the external structure. The earliest example, dating to the sixteenth century, is at Lochend House, Restalrig in the Lothian Region (11). The ingleneuk projects from north wall of the L-shaped, two-storey house and is of stone rubble construction. The ingleneuk contains a small window in its side wall overlooking the surrounding countryside. MacGibbon and Ross describe the ingleneuk internally: "it communicates by a door with the room adjoining, it does not form a part of the room like the



RM  
84



HOUSE OF MUIR



HOUSE OF THE LOGANS OF RESTALRIG, LOCH END, LOTHIAN REGION

the large fireplace of a kitchen."

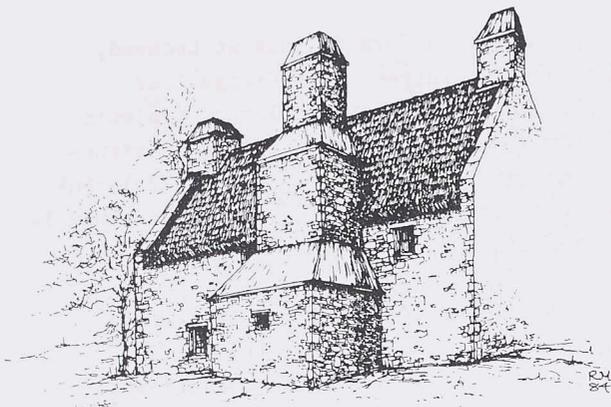
Another example, similar in form to that at Lochend, is shown at a farmhouse at Cairntows, near Craigmillar Castle, Midlothian (12). Once again the ingleneuk projects from a two-storey building and is of stone rubble construction with stone slated roof. The dimensions of the ingleneuk relate to the house it serves and the flue reduces accordingly to its termination in a standard outlet.

A rather heavy and bulkier ingleneuk can be seen in the illustration of Auldhame, Haddingtonshire (13). The off-shoot projects from the two-storey cottage front wall, near to the entrance and is again of stone construction. The ingleneuk seems to dominate the south-west elevation with its imposing structure and tends to imbalance the picture. Once again, this illustration is accompanied by a description of the interior:

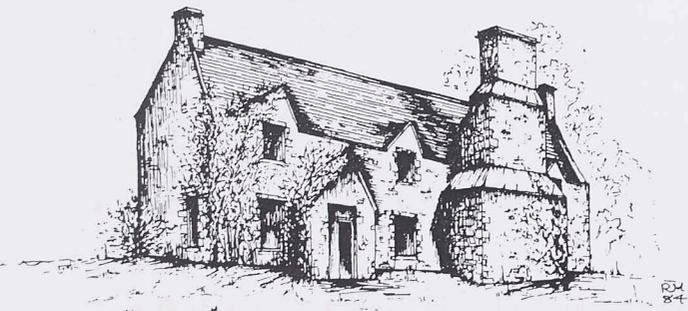
"... one of the few examples remaining of the great chimney-places, which formed practically an inner parlour, and in which the family used to sit on stone seats ranged round the wall, having the hearth in the centre".

Unlike those examples previously mentioned, the ingleneuk at a two-storeyed house near Temple, Midlothian, projects from the gable wall (14) and the flue serving the ingleneuk is taken up through the gable. In this example, as well as containing a small opening in its back wall, the ingleneuk has the added feature of a chute whereby ashes could be discharged to the ground below for scattering on the land as fertiliser.

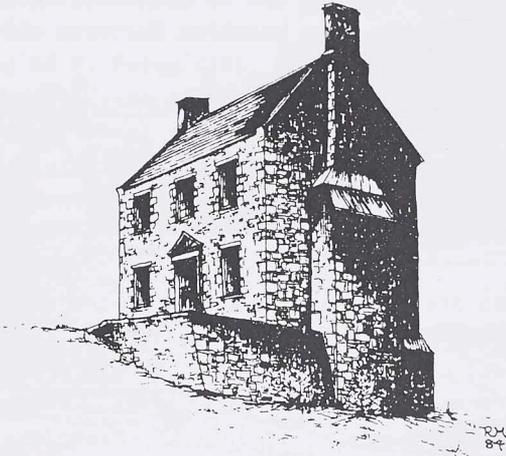
Returning to the internal evidence, another valuable source is provided through the works of seventeenth and eighteenth century artists. Scottish genre painters such as Alexander Carse (15), David Allan (16), Walter Geikie (17)



FARMHOUSE AT CAIRNTOWS, NEAR CRAIGMILLAR CASTLE, MIDLOTHIAN  
VIEW FROM NORTH-EAST

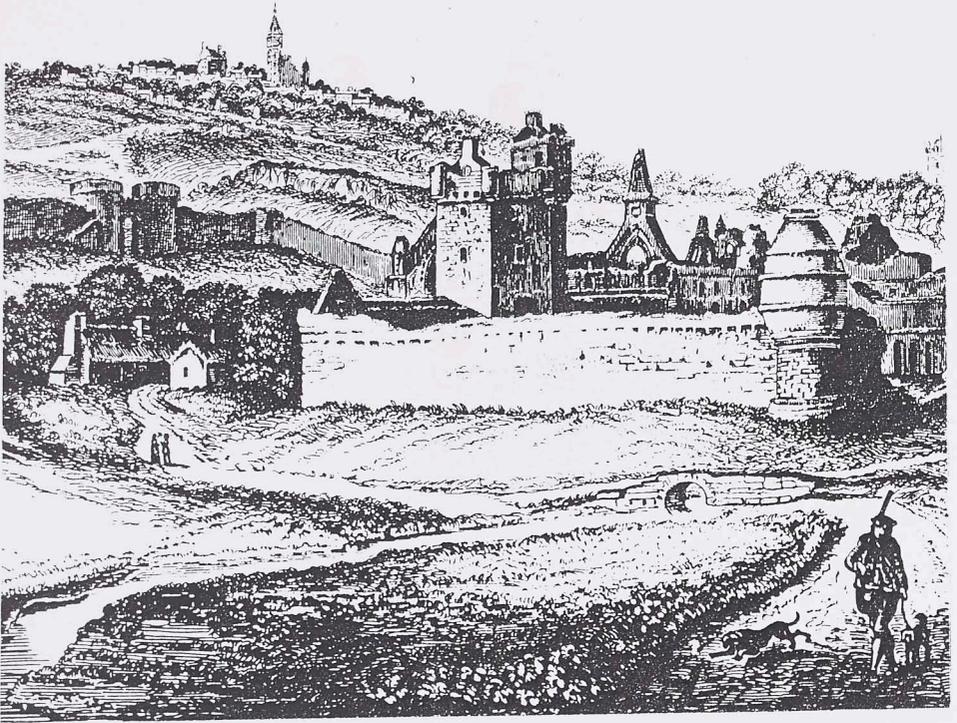


COTTAGE AT AULDHAME  
VIEW FROM SOUTH-WEST



HOUSE NEAR TEMPLE, MIDLOTHIAN  
VIEW FROM SOUTH-EAST

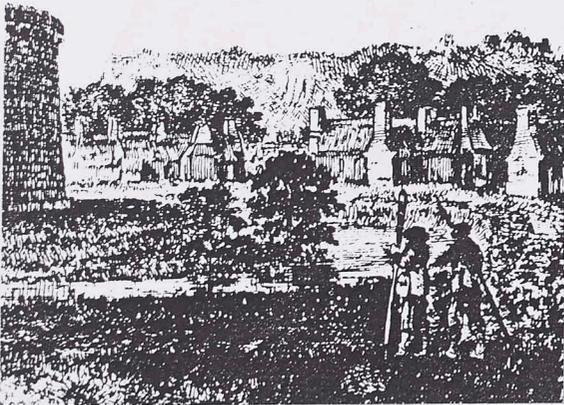




ABBAY OF CROSSRAGUEL

*Clerk of Eldin*

ROTHESAY CASTLE

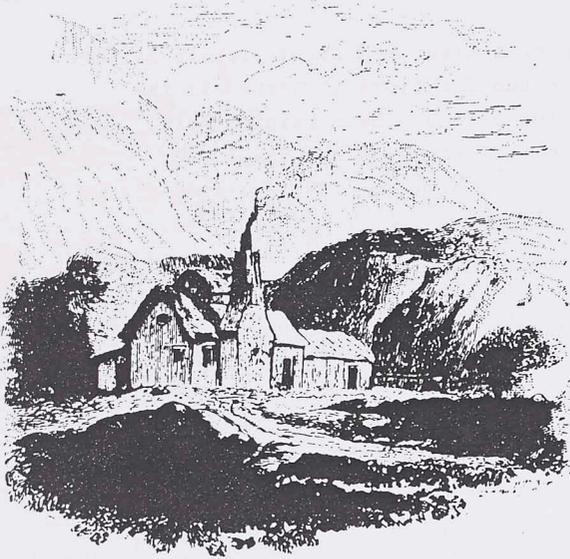


and Robert Adam (18) give a clear and vivid picture of the ingleneuks interior and the functions it served in the Scottish household of the period. These painters also provide external evidence of ingleneuks through the works of P. Paton (19), W.W. Williams (20) and again Alexander Carse (21). The sheer numbers of paintings in national, local authority, and private collections makes a complete survey of this type of evidence an impossibility at present, but various artists and art historians are being consulted in an effort to develop this field of search.

The external evidence is far less conclusive as the internal arrangement, for most of the buildings shown, is not known, but at best these illustrations show a range of structures capable of containing an ingleneuk hearth. The works of John Clerk of Eldin (22) include a number of Scottish views amongst which can be identified the afore-mentioned structures. The illustration of the Abbey of Crossraguel Maybole, Ayrshire (23) shows on its left-hand portion a long single-storey house with a rectangular projection and chimney on the gable. The proportions and form of this structure are very similar to the ingleneuk at the House of Muir, formerly referred to.

Further west, on the Isle of Bute, Clerk shows Rothesay Castle, surrounded by single-storey houses, with side and gable projections (24). The outshots appear to form small, rectangular rooms with corbelled chimney stacks above, culminating in small openings well above the roof ridges.

Moving to the east of the country, an etching of Dalkeith from the north west illustrates a dominant projection and chimney from the side wall of a single-storey house in the left-hand foreground of the picture (25). The out-shoot shows evidence of an opening in its back wall, whilst the upper portion of the flue appears to change in construction above the wallhead level.



DAVIE DEANS' COTTAGE.

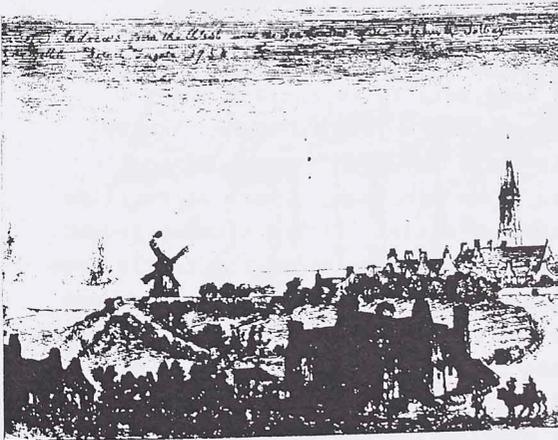
*(From a Vignette by Lizars, published in the First Edition of Robert Chambers's "Traditions of Edinburgh," 1825.)*



DALKEITH *Clerk of Eldin*



ABERDEEN *Sleazer*

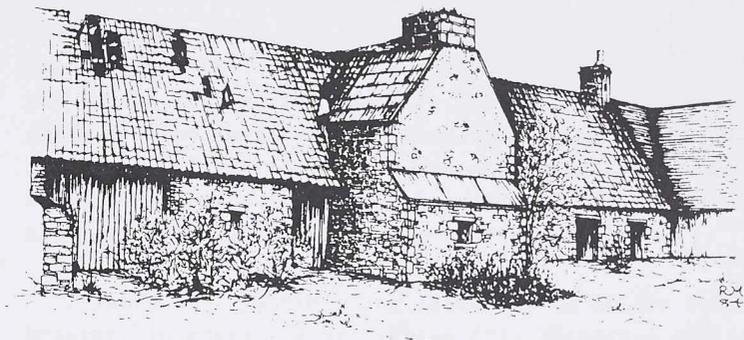


St. ANDREWS *Clerk of Eldin*

The building known as Davie Dean's cottage (26), which appears in a number of nineteenth century publications on Edinburgh, clearly shows a single-storey house, possibly of three bays, with a large chimney stack projecting from the front wall. The projection immediately adjoins the entrance doorway and appears to contain an opening in its back wall.

Similar structures to the above can be seen illustrated in John Sleazer's Theatrum Scotiae. Etchings of both Aberdeen (27) and St. Andrews (28) contain large projecting chimney stacks in their foregrounds. In each case, the stack projects from the side wall of a single-storey house and rises and terminates well above the ridge line.

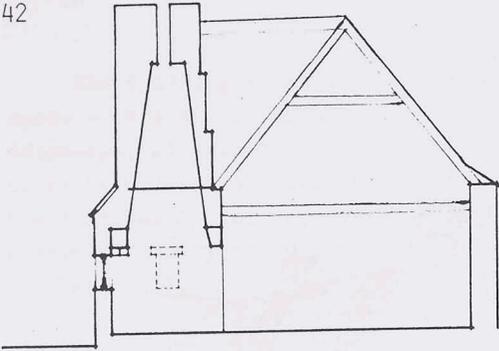
The visual evidence presented by these artists is confirmed by a number of chimneys found in various parts of Scotland, some of which have already been surveyed. Perhaps the best example is the ingleneuk hearth surviving at Broadwoodside Farm (29), Yester, East Lothian. The farmhouse possibly dates from around the end of the seventeenth century and forms part of a steading of farm buildings, enclosing a small courtyard. The outshot projects from the side wall of the single-storey building immediately adjoining the entrance to the dwelling. The hearth occupies a space two metres by two and a half metres, is entered under a masonry arch and is covered by a corbelled stone chimney. The floor of the neuk is stone paved and the stone rubble walls have traces of red ochre limewash, which at one time must have formed the internal finish. Timber stumps, lodged just above the arch, are all that remains of the rantle tree from which chains and links would have been hung to support pots and cauldrons over the open hearth. A six-paned window is situated in the centre of the back wall whilst a lintel and sill show the former existence of a similar window in the side wall overlooking the entrance. This feature may have been a regular inclusion in ingleneuk construction as it appears in a number of the illustrations



BROADWOODSIDE FARM, YESTER, EAST LOTHIAN

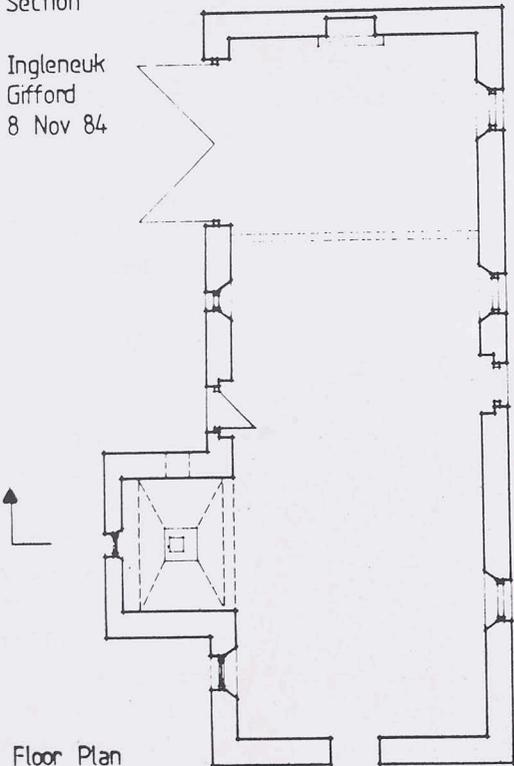


INTERIOR OF INGLENEUK



Section

Ingleneuk  
Gifford  
8 Nov 84



Floor Plan

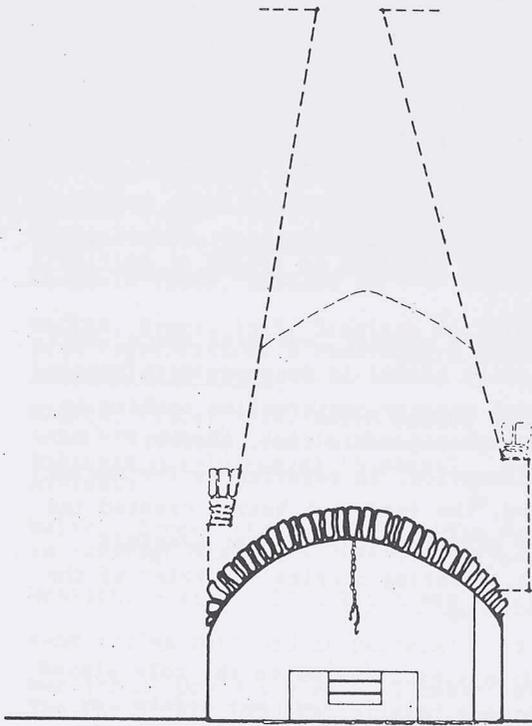
listed above. The large internal dimensions of the flue would have enabled quick and easy departure of the smoke, from the sitting area of the neuk, into the void above. It would also have nurtured a very slow internal draught, whereby, the walls were able to capture and retain as much heat as possible. The slow draught would also extinguish any sparks rising from the fire before they reached the straw or reed thatched roof thus decreasing the fire risk. The height of the flue, which projected well above the ridge line, would also assist in reducing the chance of the thatched roof catching fire

There is a possible ingleneuk hearth at the Salmon Draught, Inveraray, Argyll-shire (31) inspected earlier this year by Ian Fisher, Professor Caird and Bruce Walker. This fireplace has not yet been surveyed but according to Dr. Walker it has an arched opening of similar size and proportion to the kitchen fireplace at "Ingleneuk", Banff, and the original flue corbells-in in a similar fashion to the flue at Broadwoodside, Yester. The Salmon Draught fireplace appears to have been altered to accommodate the masonry flue to a modern solid fuel cooker. The new flue has been constructed within the arched opening, forming a central panel with timber partitions on either side. Doors in these partitions allow double access to a U-shaped cupboard occupying the former ingleneuk. The upper section of the original corbelled flue has been dismantled to stop short of the later flue and a slated roof covers the downtakings externally. It should be stressed that this is only one of the interpretations put on this structure another alternative being that the U-shaped cupboard was a smoking kiln behind the kitchen fireplace. After seeing the Ingleneuk hearths at Broadwoodside and "Ingleneuk", Banff, Dr. Walker is inclined to accept this structure as a converted ingleneuk hearth.

Another survey, recently carried out, was at Banff on the Morayshire coast (32). The ingleneuk is contained

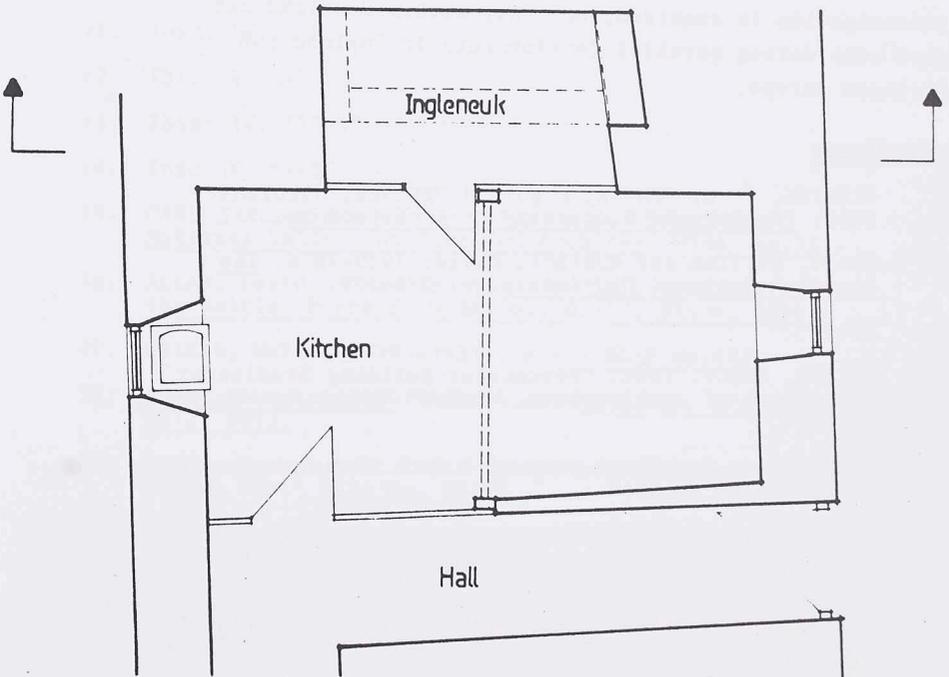
within a building dating from the late seventeenth century and the building itself is one of the oldest surviving houses in Banff. The ingleneuk is sited on the end gable wall, but unusually remains a part of the body of the house with no external projection. The ingleneuk is entered off the kitchen and is approximately three metres by one and a half metres. The masonry arched opening has only recently been partitioned off in the wake of its disuse. The timber partition contains a door into the neuk. The floor of the neuk is stone paved and the stone rubble walls are white-washed to a height just above eye-level. The white walls were not just a form of applied decoration, but would reflect the light from the fire, thereby lightening the enclosed space. This was a necessity when work such as knitting or spinning was to be carried out. Above the entrance, a relieving arch carries the load of the corbelled flue above. Traces of relieving arches can also be found on the two side walls of the neuk. A timber rattle-tree still survives intact, spanning the width of the flue and the chains and links also remain on which the pots would have been suspended.

In conclusion, it appears possible that the ingleneuk hearth developed as a solution to one of the greatest hazards, during this period, that of fire. The projecting outshot, constructed outwith the body of the main building, removed the open hearth from the dwelling and virtually contained it within an incombustible chamber thus considerably reducing the risk of fire. The siting of the hearth, be it on the side or gable wall, would also have allowed easy movement of people within the house reducing accidents occurring when people collided with suspended pots or cauldrons. Another possible explanation for the development of the ingleneuk hearth is to be found in its similarity with the huge medieval kitchen fireplaces, typical of the Scottish tower house. Monzie Castle, lying at the foot of Knock Hill of Crieff (33) and Sauchie Castle, just outside Stirling (34) are typical of this class of buildings and



Section

Ingleneuk  
Banff  
28 Nov 84



both contain great arched fireplaces. These fireplace recesses allowed ample space for roasting meat and poultry on a spit or to contain large cauldrons. The ingleneuk hearth may have been a modified vernacular version, incorporating wall seating and windows as well as the open hearth.

The ingleneuk created a compact, enclosed space, that could be quickly and easily heated in contrast with heating an entire room. Its thick masonry construction enabled it to retain the heat for a considerable time, thereby economising on fuel consumption. In relation to the social activities of the period, the ingleneuk hearth created the ideal space in which to pass long cold winter evenings seated round the hearth, relating stories and tales of the past.

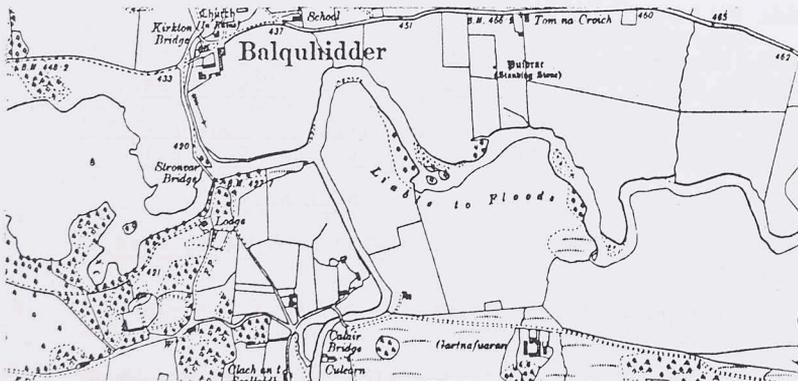
Many questions and possibilities as to the role played by the ingleneuk hearth have been raised, but before any detailed theories can be developed, a much more intensive investigation is required, not only within Scotland but also considering parallel developments in England and Northern Europe.

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The Kirkton of Balquhider: Showing the location of the Stronvar Bridge built circa 1783, which replaced the masonry and timber structure of 1706. (Extract from O.S. 2nd. Edn, 1901, Perthshire, Sheet CIV.N.W. 6" to 1ml.)

James H. Stewart

INSIGHTS INTO THE BUILDING INDUSTRY IN EIGHTEENTH CENTURY  
PERTHSHIRE.

During documentary research into the history of the Parish of Balquhiddier in western Perthshire, some fragments relating to the ways and means for organising domestic building and public works came to light among estate papers in the Blair Castle charter room and in the Scottish Record Office. The importance of the buildings in the ferm-touns is indicated in various letters and in feu charters from dates through the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Pleas and grants for compensation or special aid when buildings were damaged or destroyed by fire exist. Public works appear to have been provided for, and the Atholl Estate Papers show that organised works for flood control, involving the maintenance of rivers, were ordered by the overlord. Three examples from the eighteenth century are of particular interest within the general field of studies in vernacular building. One is the rebuilding of the substantial bridge across the Balvaig at the outfall of Loch Voil in 1706. The others concern the building of new steadings at Ard na Dadh im 1762, and at Bailefuill in 1771, both in the Barony of Strathyre.

THE BRIDGE AT TOM NA DROCHIT

In the Atholl Manuscripts (Box 3. XV) there is preserved the accounts for the building of the stone and timber bridge across the outfall of Loch Voil (NN. 535205), which carried the route from the North through the Kirkton of Balquhiddier south to the Trossachs and Glasgow. The present bridge consists of three principal segmental arches, and three floodwater arches, making a substantial masonry structure with approaches, about sixty metres long, built about 1783 (Old Statistical Account). John Leslie, surveyor to the Commissioners for forfeited estates, (Auchleskine Papers), recommended replacing the timber bridge with a masonry structure in his valuation of improvements in Balquhiddier in 1776, and describes the old

SCOTLAND



bridge as being in a ruinous and unsafe condition. It is therefore most probable that the accounts in the Atholl Manuscripts are for the structure which preceded the present one, and that the bridge built in 1706 lasted for seventy-seven years. Leslie describes it as consisting of many stone piers and timber work, and alleged that it impeded the flow of water out of the loch, contributing to flooding. The manuscript in Blair Castle reads as follows:

"Accompt of Masons Wages and necessars brought for building a Bridge over the Water att Tomnadrochatt in Balquhiddel in Summer last 1706 years:

Impr: payd to Robert Strang Mason at Arnhall for building the said bridge per Agreement as per his Difcharges 7ber 8th 1706. 204. 00. 00.

It: for Eight Chalders of Lyme at 8lib per Chalder bought from John Fferguson in Balquhiddel as per his discharge. 064. 00. 00.

It: To Alex Stewart brother German to Robert Stewart of Ardvurlich the Sum of Seventy Seven Pounds Scots as the pryce of ffifty great Oak trees at 18sh per tree for the Bridge of Balquhiddel And as the pryce of Thirty Two great great (sic) oak trees at 20sh per poice for the Bridge of Glenalmond bought per His Grace's orders and the Sd Alex Stewart's discharge. 077. 00. 00.

It: to William Stewart in Ardvurlich as the pryce of Twenty fflur oak trees at 3sh 4d per tree as per his discharge ffour lib Scots. 004. 00. 00.

It: to Capt. Archibald Menzies as the pryce of six (from?) deals at 8sh per deal as per his discharge for the use of the sd. Bridge.	048. 00. 00.
It: for 4 deals more for lyning Barrows and making a Tubb for carrying water as per receipt.	002. 13. 04.
It: for 1400 Nails for the Sd Bridge as per the Sd Robert Strang's Declaration, Seven pound ane Shilling Scots.	007. 01. 00.
It: carrying home the Said Nails	000. 14. 00.
It: given to Patrick Morifson Mason att Down when he came to sight the place where the Bridge Should be built as per his attestation.	002. 00. 00.
It: given 2 gallons of ale to the men who helped in with the Chauders.	001. 06. 08.
It: given to a man who squared the trees in the wood.	005. 00. 00.
It: to Alexr Stewart in Immereoch for his attendance and keeping accompt of Carriages etc: for the Sd. Bridge Three bolls of oat meall at 7 mk per boll and Two lib. Sterling of money as per his Receipt Indre:	021. 04. 00.
Summa:	<u>436. 19. 06.</u>

Here therefore is a well ordered building project, involving a considerable operation. The woods of Ardvorlich, from which the timbers were taken already squared, lie on the south shores of Loch Earn about ten kilometres from the

building site. These woods appear in other documents as a main source of high grade structural timber. Lime was obtained from within the parish, and carted to the site, for mortar, which with the mason's work indicates the building of stone piers, in accordance with John Leslie's later description. The barrows and water tub, built from locally produced deals or boards, complete the picture. Two grades of timber were used, the high grade being identified by the reference to 'Great Oaks' and by the costs. This grading system appears in other papers with reference to management of woodlands. Great timber was not freely available to the tenantry. In addition to Robert Strang, the mason commissioned for the work, the initial survey and setting out was done by another mason, Patrick Morisson, brought from Doune for the task. The scale of the carpenters' work, and the amount of jointing, is attested by the great weight of nails brought in for the bridge building. Alexander Stewart of Immereoch, a local farm, was commissioned with the task of accounting. What emerges is a substantial, and well organised project, involving both professional craftsmen from outwith Balquhider, and local help, and necessitating the bringing in of heavy loads of materials from some distances. The financing was arranged through the local minister of Balquhider, who collected sums from all the tenantry under the terms of their tacks for his stipend and for public burdens or works, giving him an income of two hundred Scots pounds per year. Out of this the costs of the bridge were met, and he appears to have been responsible for the actual execution of this and other works. The first item indicates that there was an initial agreement, but this is missing. There is however a proper discharge with the account, which reads as follows:

"I Robert Strang Mason at Ardnhall Grant me to have received from James Stewart in Glenogle and Malcolm Murray in Craigruiy factors to His Grace the Duke of Atholl All and hail the somme of two hundred and four pounds Scots money and that for the building of ane good and sufficient bridge upon the Water of Balquhider conforme to ane contract betwixt me and them, ffor which somme I hereby discharge the Said James Stewart and

Malcolm Murray and all others concerned in the samen  
for now and ever In witness yrof I have wrn and subt  
this presents at Stronbar the twentie eight day of Sept  
1706 years before these witnesses Patrick Stewart in  
Gartnafuaro and Patrick Mullian Schoolmr. at Balquhidder.

Robert Strang.

Pat. Stewart. Witness.

Patrick Mullian. Witness.

The existence of some form of contract cannot be doubted.  
The nature, and in part the wording, of the discharge,  
foreshadows that of a modern contractor's discharge at the  
completion of the final account of a building contract. The  
actual handing over of the moneys was carried out by the  
Duke of Atholl's factors, both local substantial tacksmen  
of Balquhidder.

#### TWO FARMS IN STRATHYRE

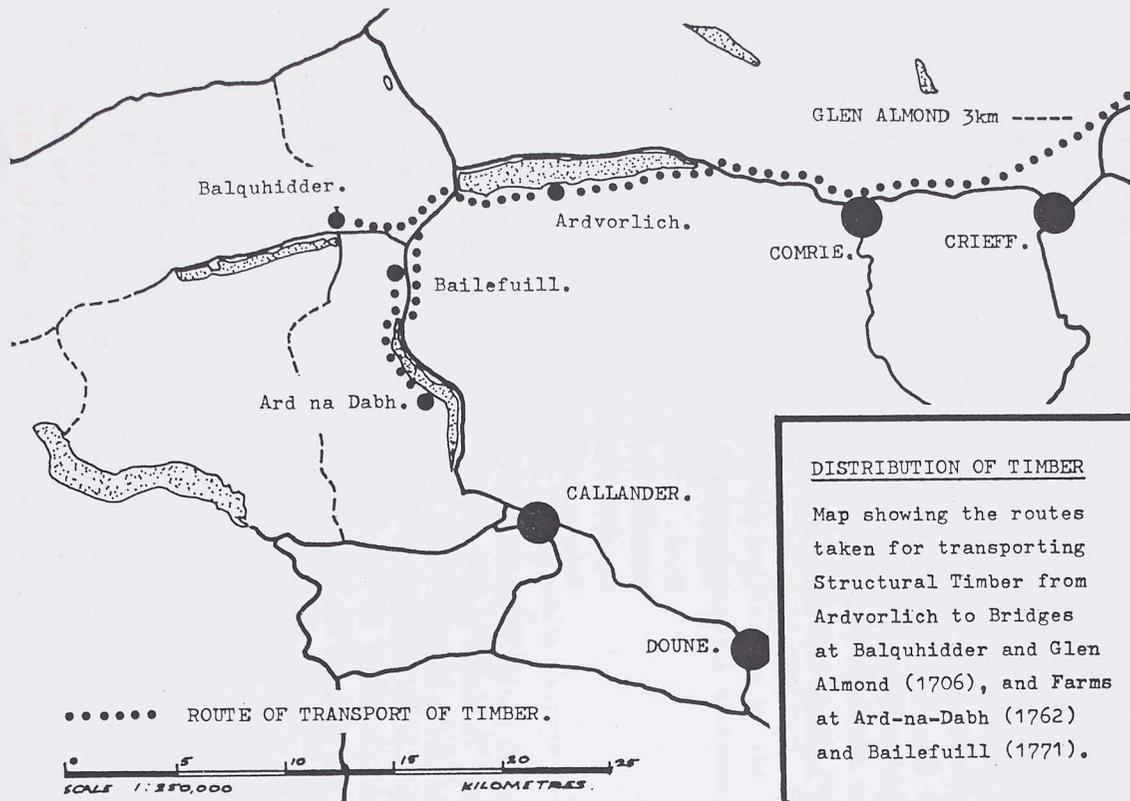
The Barony of Strathyre lies in the south-eastern corner  
of Balquhidder, around and north of Loch Lubnaig. It was part  
of the lands of Buchanan of Arnprior, who seems to have held  
it as a principal feuer of the Earl of Perth. The estate was  
forfeited after 1745, and the following accounts have been  
abstracted from the Forfeited Estates Papers in the Scottish  
Record Office. The farm of Ardinaw (Ard na Dabh) was destroyed  
by fire, and the accounts are for rebuilding. The farm of  
Bailefuill appears to have been undergoing rebuilding for  
improvement. (NN. 573173 Ardnadabh, and NN. 558199 Bailefuill).  
Robert Stewart of Ardnadabh had lost all his possessions and  
his stading, feed, and stock, in the fire, and was granted  
relief by the Commissioners for Forfeited Estates. The  
following is the statement of costs drawn up by the birleymen  
on the 22nd June 1762:

"For Clearing to Foundations:	0. 3. 0
Quarrying and Leading additional stones.	0. 4. 6.
Rebuilding the Stonework of the said house with divoting the same.	1. 16. 0.
Casting and Leading fail & Divot etc.	0. 15. 0.

Thatching with Straw or Ferns.	0. 11. 8.
Each Couple with Pantrees 8 in number	
8 Shillings in all.	3. 4. 0.
16 Cows Stalls to be Sett in the House.	0. 8. 0.
Two Doors and 3 Windows.	0. 8. 0.
to Buy Cabbers	0. 12. 0.
to Leading the whole timber from	
Ardvorlich at Lochearnside being upwards	
of ten miles bad Rod if no timber be	
allowed in ye Barony.	3. 15. 0.
for Binding the Couples.	0. 5. 0.
	<hr/>
To each of the Comprissors on Shilling	
Total	12. 2. 2.

Donald Buchannan.  
D. B. .... (?)  
Patrick Fergusson.  
Donald McFarlane.  
Robert Buchannan.

This appears to be an estimate, if the condition regarding the timber is taken into account. It sets out the basic materials for a typical west Perthshire Longhouse, similar to one excavated by the author in neighbouring Glenbuckie. The local pattern seems to have been a cruck house, with the ends of the purlins or pantrees supported at the outer gables by the wall heads. Ardnadabh has eight couples or crucks, with the stalls for the cows within the house. A nine bay long house with integral byre emerges, and allowing two and a half metres per bay the whole must have been about twenty-seven metres internal length. This relates exactly to the dimensions of the excavated Glenbuckie house. The reference to divots in the same item as the costs of stonework may refer to the use of turf as course bedding and infil in the walls, as well as a base for the roof. The Glenbuckie house has clearly been built with stone laid with turf. Balquhiddier thatching was carried out with bracken into the nineteenth



century. The account again indicates that materials, and workmanship, had to be purchased for these vernacular buildings. The costs are in Sterling, in common with most Forfeited Estates accounts in the 1770s. The reference to quarrying of stone is also interesting, as a parallel account in Strathyre is for a quarryman's tools and materials, including blasting tools. Main structural timbers are here again estimated for haulage from Ardvorlich. Even cabbers, or coppiced timber for rafters and partitions, had to be purchased. This agrees with other documents which indicate strict supervision and management of woodlands from the early seventeenth century.

The accounts for rebuilding Bailefuill in 1771 are for a more extensive farm steading. Jean McNab, farmer of Bailefuill, was a widow, and an ambitious tackswoman. She petitioned for the tack of Tayness and Immereoch, two other farms in Strathyre, and seems to have been prospering while other local tacksmen were complaining about hard times. It would seem that Bailefuill had been substantially reconstructed by her late husband Robert Buchannan, just before the following accounts for the work were presented:

"... valued this 21 January 1771 by John Hardman, Mason, in Callander, and Duncan Ferguson, wright, there: -

To princll or Dwg. House consisting of three Roods & 26 yards for quarrying, Leading & bldg at One Pound fifteen Shillings per Rood.	6. 8. 4.
To Two Vents in the Gables.	10. 0.
To Lime and Sand	1. 13. 4.
Wood and Workmanship of the Loft in the east end of the house and stair theirto & partition upstairs	3. 2. 6.
To Pann and Roof Couples to ditto.	3. 7. 6.
To Cabber 10 Dozen.	1. 5. 0.
To Joisting 11 Joists at 2/6.	1. 7. 6.

A Lothian Brase in the Kitchen.	5. 0.
Inner doors with snecks and hinges.	1. 2. 6.
Main door, locks, hinges, checks, lintols	15. 6.
Four windows including glass panes.	19. 6.
Laigh Partitions with 1 more door inside.	1. 7. 6.
Cabbers on a loft over the Kitchen.	9. 3.
	<hr/>
	£22. 13. 5.

The above costings and descriptions are clearly for a relatively substantial farm house, compared with others of the day. The walls must have been set in sand-lime mortar, the interior subdivided, and lit by glazed windows. The loft also was partitioned and provided with a stair. Some indication of the processes of improvement can therefore be deduced, as the longhouse gave way gradually to better forms of accommodation. The earliest example of an improved house of similar type is described briefly by Cockburn in his report to the Commissioners for Forfeited Estates in 1756, within the parish of Balquhiddier. Research in the parish seems to suggest that this process of improvement continued until the middle of the nineteenth century, at which time some major rebuilding took place. Bailefuill was not a longhouse, as the byre is costed as a separate building, and there is also a stable:

"7 Couples for the byre at 17/6 each.	2. 12. 6.
Pann & Roff being 20 in number for ditto at 12/-	2. 0. 0.
32 dozen Cabbers at 2/6 each for ditto.	4. 0. 0.
Quarrying, Leading, and building the Stone of the Byre yof being five roods & 15 yds at £2 per rood.	5. 16. 4½.
Two doors checks & Lintols with Snecks & Hinges.	16. 0.
Binding 7 Couples.	7. 0.
Putting on the Panns Roof & Cabbers.	7. 6.
Stone work of Stable for Quarrying, Leading & Building being 1 Rood 24 yds at.	1. 16. 8.

Couples Pann Roof & Cabbers of ditto.	1. 10. 0
A door Checks & Lintell to ditto.	8. 0.
	<hr/>
	42. 7. 5½.

Here is a new farmstead consisting of at least three separate buildings, including a stable which indicates the use of the horse.

The Bailefuill accounts also tell something about the attainments of the local masons and wrights. The arithmetical calculations are not accurate in multiplication although the addition seems to be correct. Jean McNab got a bargain, as the accountants have under-costed some of the materials. Both the farm accounts charge not only for materials, including getting and carting them, but also for workmanship. The costs of building walls, making up couples, making ventilators and windows, and other aspects of the actual building operation, are included. The owners were not merely being charged for building materials, but for the actual construction of their homesteads.

#### CONCLUSION

The examples cited indicate that native engineering works and vernacular buildings in Balquhider in the eighteenth century were not necessarily constructed by amateurs or by their owners. There was a system of contract, under both the Atholl estates and the Commissioners, in which craftsmen were commissioned to undertake work. Materials were brought from some distance, as well as workmen, and works could be costed. The work might be primitive, and the costings inaccurate, indicating a less than basic competence in the masons, wrights, and birleymen, no doubt reflecting the general level of educational attainment. That the Atholl estates were carrying out work elsewhere in the early eighteenth century is attested from the inclusion of timber for bridge building in Glen Almond among the material to be bought from Ardvorlich. The Atholl Estate Papers support

the conclusion that from the latter years of the seventeenth century the Earls and Dukes of Atholl were following a consistent policy of improvement, both in physical development and in estate management. Balquhider was a remote western outlier of the Atholl lands, included within the Highland cultural zone, Gaelic speaking, and not particularly rich. Nevertheless even in this remote area building works were properly organised. The particular indicators afforded in these surviving accounts support more general references elsewhere which tend towards a view of vernacular building work from the end of the seventeenth century as including an ordered system of contracting. Records of communal works for river training carry such an hypothesis back into the seventeenth century itself.

The accounts help to reconstruct the general type of building in use at the time. The reconstructions may be supported by field evidence, and from other descriptive records such as those left by William Cockburn and John Leslie. They also tend to indicate different standards, and different scales, for housing and farms for families in differing economic circumstances, and to show that within a parish unimproved and primitive buildings existed alongside improved ones for at least a century. Field evidence supports the hypothesis that the 'medieval' longhouse with its central hearth was used at least until the mid-nineteenth century, while other families were living in houses with floored lofts, and proper fireplaces built into the gable walls. The process of evolution was slow, and dating of buildings without documentary or good archaeological evidence is therefore liable to be highly approximate.

It is, however, dangerous to stretch the evidence too far. Study of eighteenth century itineraries reveals that general standards of building varied considerably across the Highlands. Burt (1754) and Thomas Pennant (1769) indicate distinctions between the prosperity of the Atholl estates, and the highly primitive conditions further north. Not least

in the distinctions is the condition of the houses. In the west, the Dukes of Argyll were well forward in improvement, the new town of Inverary having been built in the years around 1742. North of the pass of Druimuachder, and into Invernesshire, the primitive turf and wattle huts of the northern highlanders presented a different picture which was probably not changed until the clearances. There are therefore regional distinctions to be made. It seems likely, however, that these Balquhiddar examples, taken from two different but adjacent estates, are not untypical of the state of the primitive building industry in Perthshire during the eighteenth century. It also appears that the survival of detailed accounts and bills of quantities for vernacular buildings may too be rare, but that where they can be found, analysed, and related to actual places in the field, they may help to reconstruct not just the buildings, but the manner in which they were built, and the kind of industry which produced them.

## BOOK REVIEW

Gwyn I. Meirion-Jones, The Vernacular Architecture of Brittany. (Edinburgh, John Donald Publishers Ltd., 1982).

During the past decade Professor Meirion-Jones has widened the horizons of British students of vernacular architecture with a series of interesting articles arising from his researches in Brittany. It is to his credit that the ever-continuing debates on long-houses and cruck construction - vexed subjects that go right to the heart of vernacular studies - must already take account of the evidence that he has brought to light in France's 'Celtic fringe'. Happily, most aspects of this evidence are now gathered together in what should serve as a considerable work of reference, and the author is to be congratulated on the immense industry and careful method demonstrated in these pages.

The opening chapters are devoted to the physical setting and rural settlement-patterns. The reader is here introduced to the ubiquitous Breton hamlet, and especially to those in which the houses are grouped in lines or rangees and associated with open field agriculture. A brief note on building-materials is complemented by a full discussion of walling and roofing techniques which exhibit considerable regional variety. The local distribution of clay construction and of the remarkable orthostat-walled buildings of southern Finistere show most effectively how some walling corresponds so very closely with geological boundaries and soil deposits.

The author's published findings on roof construction are amplified, but the emphasis of this work is on plan-form which 'probably more than anything else, is responsible for giving the dwellings their peculiarly Breton character' (p.114) and which accordingly dictates the arrangement of the seven central chapters of the book. These deal

with circular buildings, simple oblong structures, single - and two-roomed houses, long-houses and their derivatives, first-floor halls and 'multi-cell' houses, which turn out to be manor-houses at the upper end of, or above the notional vernacular scale. The grouping together of Neolithic huts, souterrains, monastic cells of the early Christian period, pigsties, dovecots, bread-ovens, well-covers and windmills simply by reason of their circular or cylindrical form must surely constitute one of the most extraordinary chapters on vernacular building ever assembled, and the seriousness of the author's purpose is not helped by the appearance of an all-too-circular lighthouse in the background of fig. 156!

Detached farm buildings are treated in relatively limited fashion, but there is a much fuller view of household life and domestic interiors. Based partly on the evidence of probate inventories, this chapter also gives us some measure of the social hierarchy, relative economic values and hence the grading of local vernacular building.

Admirable as it is, the book is not without its imperfections. The promiscuous mixing of description and analysis does not assist the flow and clarity of the text. Much descriptive detail could have been consigned to an appendix where, arranged according to type and/or place, it might also have served as a summary locational guide. As it stands, the book will not be easy to use by the visitor to Brittany. Although amply illustrated by survey material, it contains some line-drawings of doubtful quality and relevance, and the representation of walls in solid black hatching conveys a misleading impression of homogeneity in multi-period layouts. Sadly, there are no old photographs or engravings.

The arrangement and scope of the book also make it difficult for the reader to appreciate the chronology and direction of building activity over a very long time-span. The last two centuries appear to be well covered, but the

relevant information is spread throughout the volume. Piecing this together, we find much late usage of ancient house-plans and features. At the other extreme, the pre-historic and early medieval periods receive fuller treatment than is customary in studies of this kind. largely because of the province's Celtic ancestry and its links with the British Isles. By contrast, the background to the buildings erected between the union of the medieval duchy with the Kingdom of France in 1532 and the Revolution of 1789 appears insufficient for the dynamics of social and economic history in the late medieval and early modern periods are not clearly enough related to the problems of architectural dating and patronage. One result is that the towns and urban vernacular, so well represented in places like Vannes and Dinan, do not enter into the picture at all; another is that traditional building-practices associated with the fishing industry in this most maritime of French provinces are not viewed on their own terms. Despite its all-embracing title, this book is concerned almost exclusively with lesser rural houses and their appurtenances in a farming context.

G.P. Stell



