

Vernacular Building 5

Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working Group

Newsletter 5 1979



SCOTTISH VERNACULAR BUILDINGS WORKING GROUP

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Dundee & Edinburgh
1979

COVER :
Thatched Cottage. Main Street. Longforgan. Perthshire.

N.G. Allen

WALLING MATERIALS IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY
HIGHLANDS

Members of the S.V.B.W.G. have, of late, greatly increased our knowledge of the "Traditional" houses of the Highlands. The past year has seen the publication of both Alexander Fenton's booklet on the "island blackhouse" and Hugh Cheape's edition of Dr. I.F. Grant's survey of Highland building (1). These studies have focused on surveys of existing structures which often appear, to the modern eye, environmentally suitable but somewhat primitive, and this has perhaps led to a greater antiquity being ascribed to them by some authors than is, in reality, deserved. For instance, a recent writer has referred to the Highlands as an area "where the survival of ancient styles of vernacular building was widespread into the nineteenth and twentieth centuries". (2) However, in at least one respect older building forms appear to have been very different. It is the contention of this short article that up until the latter part of the eighteenth century, and, indeed, beyond this period in some places, the stone wall construction (either mortared or unmortared) commonly found in buildings which have survived to the present day was not generally the prevalent walling material of the Northern Highlands.

Alexander Fenton and Bruce Walker have pointed to the common occurrence of clay walling in the south and east of Scotland during this period (3), but what of the area to the north ? The oft quoted but generally superficial and sometimes, indeed, contradictory reports (4) of travellers in the Highlands cannot be regarded as very reliable in these matters. The more detailed and, for the most part, more objective accounts found in estate papers are of much greater value. Such an account was that drawn up in the early 1770's by George Brown, the notable Moray landsurveyor, for the Gordon estates, of conditions in the parish of Alvie, Badenoch.

His findings are revealing. As he trekked from farm to farm he noted - rather wearily it seems - that "the houses are in very bad order, they are all built of earth and wood without any stones or other material" [On the farm of West Lynwilg] or "the houses... are like the rest on the Estate [Of Badenoch] in a ruinous condition, and all built of earth" (Kinrara) or "the houses on this farm are in very bad order, almost in ruins, they are only earthen huts, tho' they have great plenty of stones very near" (Ardbryllach). (5)

Buildings of similar construction appear to have remained common in central Inverness-shire into the nineteenth century. The Agricultural Survey of the county, published in 1808, noted houses :

"built with mud (provincially feal) and... covered with thin turfs (provincially divots)... When such a house is to be built, the first thing done is to construct a coarse frame of wood, corresponding to the dimensions of the house, in length and breadth; then upon this frame to fix standards inclining inward, at proper distances, which rise to the height of the intended wall, and are kept in a firm position by being morticed in a tree above, of the same dimensions with the tree below. These standards are closely wove with wickerwork to keep the sods from falling in ; which being built on the outside, finish the walls of a creel-house as it is called". (6)

In parts of Badenoch turf built houses only appear to have disappeared altogether as late as the 1840s. (7)

A similar situation prevailed in the area of the Great Glen. When, in the early 1750s, the Board of Trustees for Manufactures, a Government body, decided to establish villages based on the linen industry at several places in the Highlands they employed three surveyors to draw up reports on the proposed locations. Alexander Shaw, later to be one of their resident undertakers (or village supervisors), wrote of the inhabitants of Glenmoriston in 1755 :

"The materials of their farm houses are mostly wood, earthen fail divot and thatched over with heather or ferns. Little or no stone used there. When they build, the first thing they do is to place the couples of the house on the ground, then put pieces of wood upright betwixt them, then they weave these round with small

rods to the top of the side wall, then put earthen sod or a fail around it and thatch them. But many of their houses have no fail at all. I was informed to build a house of about forty foot long, fourteen foot wide will cost about six pounds sterling. Their houses last but short as their fail is sandy and moulders away. The ordinary time about twelve or fourteen years and need to be repaired every two or three years. They are extremely cold as can be." (8)

Much the same state of affairs was apparent two decades later in Lochaber when a survey carried out for the Annexed Estates' Commissioners pointed to the prevalence of houses constructed of "creel" or "turf wattled with timber", the surveyor bemoaning the fact - as his contemporary in Badenoch, George Brown, did - that "the houses are made of creel and in bad order notwithstanding they have materials for building with stone." (9). In fact, tenants in the area were beginning to make use of such materials by this period and although a visitor to Lochaber and Glenmoriston as late as 1866 could still find examples of outside walls wattled and "plastered with clay", they were generally confined to sheds or byres. (10).

In the far north, too, these types of walling were common. In the 1790s George Dempster of Dunnichen wrote of the people on the estates of Skibo and Pulrossie in East Sutherland :

"The estates furnish some wood with which, and the swarded surface of the ground, cut into the form of large bricks, they make houses and offices for themselves, covering them with the same swarded turfs, cut thinner, and resembling slates in their form. Once in three years, all the earthy part of these houses is thrown on the dunghill and new houses built again of the same materials." (11)

In the same period, further up the Sutherland coast, it was reported that around Golspie "the dwellings of subtenants were wooden frames thatched with turf" (12)

In the twentieth century the North-west Highlands may have come to be considered one of the last bastions of

"traditional" stone-walled buildings but, in 1767-8, Archibald Menzies, General Inspector for the Annexed Estates Commissioners could write of the Highland areas of the Lovat and Cromarty estates that "they have nothing excepting creel houses, which are formed of basket work covered with fale". (13) Of course, these two estates possessed lands in the east as well as the west, but Richard Neilson, one of the Board of Trustees' Surveyors was specifically concerned with Wester Ross and, in particular, Lochcarron and Lochbroom, where the Board intended to establish villages, when he drew up his report in 1754. Having described the miserable huts which the very poorest inhabited - "a man must almost creep on his hands and feet to get in at the door" - he continues :

"The farmers' houses, however, are much better, some of them being pretty large. The side walls are made of stakes stuck into the ground, which are wattled with branches of trees and other small wood. The roof, as in this country, is supported with coupled trees fixed in the ground, and these are also wattled like the side walls with small [wood]. On the outside of the wattling there is built a wall of turf or, other ways there are pinned on it thin divots after the manner of slate. The roof is covered with divot thatched over with stubble, straw or ferns. This is the manner in which most of the houses in the country are built. The only houses we saw built with stone were those on the lands of Inverlayle and Lochmill at Lochbroom. The side walls of the houses are repaired every year and the roof of thatch every three years and if thus taken care of they will last from eight to twenty years. " (14)

Further south, but still on the west coast, a report on the Annexed estate of Barrisdale drawn up in the 1750s stated that "the whole houses of the country are made up of twigs manufactured by way of creels called wattling and covered with turf," (15) and even Archibald Macdonnell, son of the forfeited landowner, found that "the houses of his farm... were mud, wattled huts" when he acquired a tack of the lands of Carnoch in Barrisdale in 1763. (16) In the same year, Henry Butter, the factor of the estate, began a campaign against the building of "turf houses" on the grounds that they were :

"very destructive to the woods and hurtful to the farms by casting so much turff upon their grass grounds, and needing constant repairs every year by which the tenant would be greatly diverted from other improvements, and as a person living in a miserable hut without any accommodation can never be expected to enter with spirit upon any improvement, the factor begun by encouraging the tenants to build stone houses and make some accommodation within them." (17)

Butter's statement concisely sums up the general attitude of agricultural improvers in the Highlands towards the older walling materials. They might concede that in such a "rainy country... creel barns are useful" (18) but for the most part considered that earth and wattle buildings caused damage in their construction to potentially valuable land, took too much time to maintain and, in general terms, exemplified what to them was an anachronistic way of life.

They acted accordingly. As early as 1765, the Annexed Estates Commissioners stated that they would only pay meliorations on buildings "providing... that no tenant shall build any walls but with stone, nor cover a new or rebuilt house with turf, fail or divot." (19)

Individual Highland proprietors were soon adopting more stringent measures. In 1769, for instance, the Macleod of Dunvegan estate instructed its tenants that there was to be "no feal used at all in any walls of houses, under the penalty of five pounds sterling to be forfeited by every tenant for every house he so builds or repairs". (20)

In the Central Highlands the Gordon estate was to draw up almost identical regulations some years later, in 1777 :

"That the walls of all dwelling houses and office houses to be new built or repaired (excepting the hay barns, and the bothies or shealing houses) shall be made of stone and lime, or of stone and clay or mortar, if stones are to be got upon the possession or within a moderate distance for carriage, and no feal are to be used at all, in any walls of houses, neither shall the same be covered with turf or divot alone... under the penalty of five pounds

sterling for every house built or repaired, thatched or covered contrary to this regulation." (21)

There were more positive means of enforcing building regulations available to improvers. For example, during the early nineteenth century the Sutherland estate provided building timber gratis to tenants, on condition that they observed such regulations. (22)

Perhaps, then, eighteenth and early nineteenth century agricultural improvers had a greater influence on the evolution of the "traditional", stone-walled Highland house than is generally appreciated. They may not have been responsible for actually building many houses of this type, but by introducing regulations intended to end the use of older walling materials, encouraged the growth of stone-wall construction.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1. FENTON, Alexander : The Island Blackhouse, 1978, and GRANT, I.F. and CHEAPE, D.H.G. : The Distribution of the Local Types of Houses in the Highlands and Islands, 1978.
2. WHYTE, Ian D. : Rural Housing in Lowland Scotland in the Seventeenth Century : Scottish Studies 19, 1975.55.
3. FENTON, Alexander : Clay Building and Clay Thatch in Scotland : Ulster Folklife, 1970; WALKER, Bruce : Clay Buildings in North East Scotland (SVBWG) 1977.
4. For instance, Dr. Johnson (A Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland, 1970 edition. 31) refers to the inn at Anoch, Glenmoriston as drystone built, but James Boswell (The Journal of a Tour to the Hebrides 1970 edition. 246) states that the inn was "built of thick turfs."
5. Scottish Record Office, Crown Estates Records, CR8/195, Survey of Alvie (n.d.) 3, 5, 7, 29.
6. ROBERTSON, James : General View of the Agriculture of Inverness, 1808. 58.
7. New Statistical Account, Elgin. 134.
8. S.R.O. Board of Trustees Papers, NG/1/7/4, Appendix to Report to Crown, Dec. 1754, 68-9.

9. Cameron of Lochiel Papers, Achnacarry, Survey of Annexed Estate of Lochiel etc., 1772. 16, 21, 22, 32, 40, 68.
10. MITCHELL, Arthur : Vacation Notes : Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland 10, 1875. 610.
11. Old Statistical Account, Vol. 8 375-6
12. N.S.A. Sutherland. 44.
13. WILLS, Virginia (ed.) : Reports on the Annexed Estates, 1973. 98.
14. S.R.O. Board of Trustees Papers, NG/1/7/4, Appendix, 1754. 48.
15. WILLS, Virginia (ed) : Reports. 51
16. S.R.O. Annexed Estates Papers, E741/30/4, Petition of Archibald Macdonnell, 24th February 1766. Tenants' petitions to the Commissioners include valuable material on contemporary buildings. Other references to walling include E743/21/3, Petition of Helen Stewart, widow of Cameron of Callart, 1774, living in "a small hut of feal and timber" and E768/64/13(1), petition of Colin Campbell, Annat, Lochiel, 1773, refers to "timber wattled, turff hutts."
17. Ibid., E741/38/2, Report of Henry Butter, 1763.
18. WILLS, Virginia (ed.) : Reports. 98.
19. S.R.O., Annexed Estates Papers, E730/5/1, Rules for Highland Farms, 1765.
20. Macleod Papers, Dunvegan, "Regulations betwixt the Laird of Macleod and his... tenants," 1769.
21. S.R.O., Gordon Castle Papers, GD44/28/36, "Regulations... for setting.... Lochaber and Badenoch," 1777.
22. Sutherland Papers, Stafford County Record Office, D.593/N/4/1/1c, "Report of the condition of the estates of Sutherland", 1835.

J. Porter

THE CAITHNESS FLAGSTONE INDUSTRY

The fact that much of the rock which underlies Caithness possesses the curious property of readily splitting into thin large slices (or flags) has been known for many hundreds of years although it has only been exploited commercially since the early years of last century. Archaeological excavations at Skara Brae have shown that even as far back as 4500 B.C. thin slices of stone were used for building construction and making furniture.

The Flagstone was formed initially as layers of sediment in the bed of a great lake (called Lake Orcadie by geologists) which covered a large area of the north of Scotland some 370 million years ago. Successive periods of laying down of sediment and the long dry spells gave the stone its laminated structure which makes it split so readily into flags. The great weight of overlying layers of rock made the flags dense, hard and durable.

Caithness flagstone was probably used by our early inhabitants for building houses and stone walls and would have been obtained at outcrops where the rock broke through to the surface and required little or no quarrying.

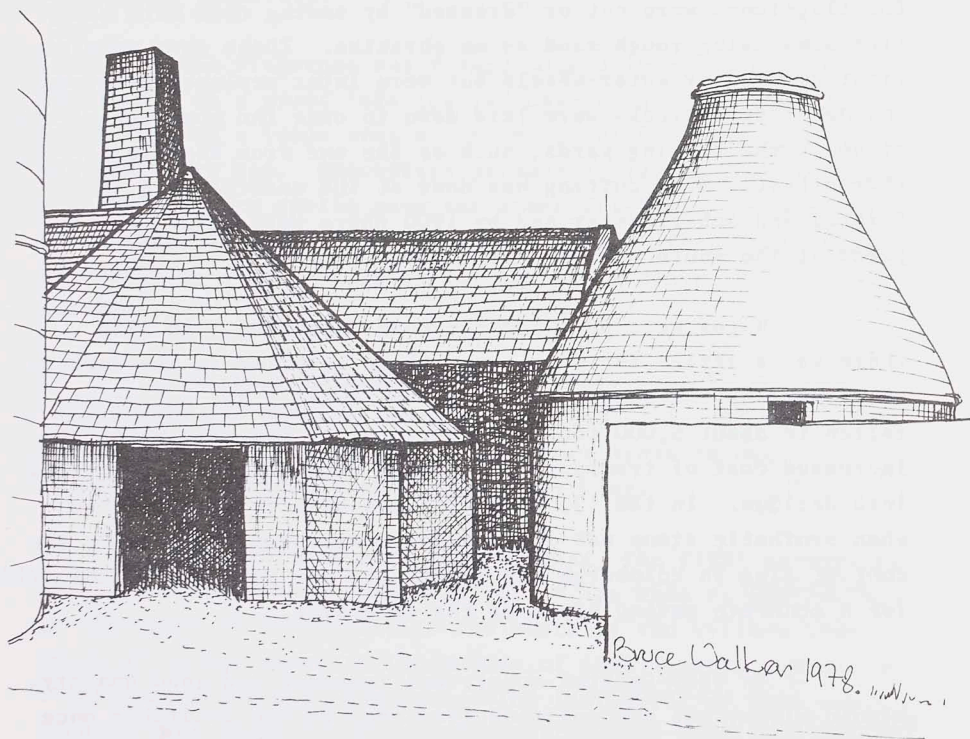
Despite this early use of flag, the first attempt to obtain the stone on a commercial basis was made at Castlehill, on the shore of Dunnet Bay to the north of the village then known as Olrig, when, in the summer of 1793 several cargoes of stone were shipped to Aberdeen. The instigator of this new industry was James Traill who lived from 1758 till 1843 and was for a time Sheriff of the County. He moved from Rattar to Castlehill House in 1824 and set about organising the flagstone quarrying. In the following year regular shipments of flags were begun to ports all over the United Kingdom and as the fame of this most useful material spread cargoes were sent as far

afield as South America. Indeed, a famous meat factory in the Argentine was floored with Caithness flags. The high wear resistance was highly prized and made the stone especially useful for pavements and courtyards - for example, the Strand was paved and the concourse of Euston Station laid, with flags. As the industry prospered other proprietors took up the trade and quarries were opened at Weydale, Janetstown, Achscrabster, Holborn Head and Spittal and in the year 1899, 23,000 tons were produced. This was bettered, however, in 1902 when output rose to 35,000 tons. When operations were at their height over 1000 men were in employment in the industry which ranked second only to the Aberdeen granite output in terms of annual tonnage. The flagstones were cut or "dressed" by sawing them with heavy iron saws using rough sand as an abrasive. These saws were at first powered by water-wheels but were later replaced by steam engines. Bogie tracks were laid down to ease the movement of the stone to the cutting yards, such as the one from Weydale to Thurso East. Some cutting was done at the quarries e.g. Spittal and Achscrabster and by 1900 there were three large yards at the mouth of the Thurso river.

Wages were poor and the work dangerous : in 1866 there was a strike for more money which resulted in the workers being paid by the square foot. By the 1914-18 War output had fallen to about 5,000 tons per year. After the war, with the increased cost of transport and higher wages, the industry fell into decline. In the 1920s most of the quarries closed down when synthetic stone was introduced. For example, in 1939, the cost of flag in Edinburgh was 12/6d. per sq. yard as against 4/6d. for a concrete paving block of the same size.

In 1949 Spittal quarry was reopened and good quality, almost black, cut and polished flagstone became available once again. This time, however, the cutting and polishing was done by a more sophisticated method employing diamond cutters and burrs. The flags produced were used in some of the new buildings in Thurso and at Dounreay; they also served as coffee table tops,

stones for fireplace hearths and mantelpieces, while the reddish/ grey stone blocks from Achanarras quarry formed an attractive facing. Thus the revived industry continues on a small scale at Spittal and at Plocan near Calder where small roofing flags are being produced for the reconstruction of historic houses in Kirkwall and Stromness.



SIBSTER, WICK, CAITHNESS
Horse engine house and corn kiln

CONFERENCE REPORT

The 1978 annual conference was held in the Pentland Hotel, Thurso, Caithness from 6th to 10th April 1978. Papers were given by Donal Omand (A Geographical Introduction to Caithness) who also acted as local secretary. J. Porter (The Caithness Flagstone Industry), Ian Sutherland (The Fishing Industry in Caithness), Sinclair Macdonald and James Campbell (Modern Buildings in Thurso), Professor James Caird (Crofting), and Hugh Cheape (Dr. I.F. Grant's Survey of West Highland Houses). Members' papers were presented by Alexander Fenton (Granaries and Kilns) and Mrs. Elizabeth Beaton (Doocots of Caithness). Mrs. Beaton's contribution is to be the subject of a small booklet to be published by the group later this year.

Films were shown by the Scottish Film Council (Island of Heather : Lewis, 1937), (Harris : 1938), (St. Kilda : 1923), and by the Wick Society (Wick : a recent colour film). Members also attended a demonstration of Breton Folk Dancing held in the Town Hall on the Thursday evening.

Excursions were made to a number of local buildings including the Laidhay Folk Museum, Lybster Harbour, Sibster, Wick and the Island of Stroma. The visit to Stroma was particularly dramatic as the day started with beautiful spring weather, turning to rain after lunchtime and ending up with almost blizzard conditions at the time of leaving the island at approximately 4.00 pm. The island, now deserted apart from the keepers at the lighthouse, provided an interesting day's fieldwork. Many of the houses were still furnished and a range of agricultural equipment had also been abandoned. The need for a detailed survey of buildings and equipment was obvious but as yet no opportunity has presented itself.

The group formally thank Donald Omand for giving his time and making this meeting such a memorable one.

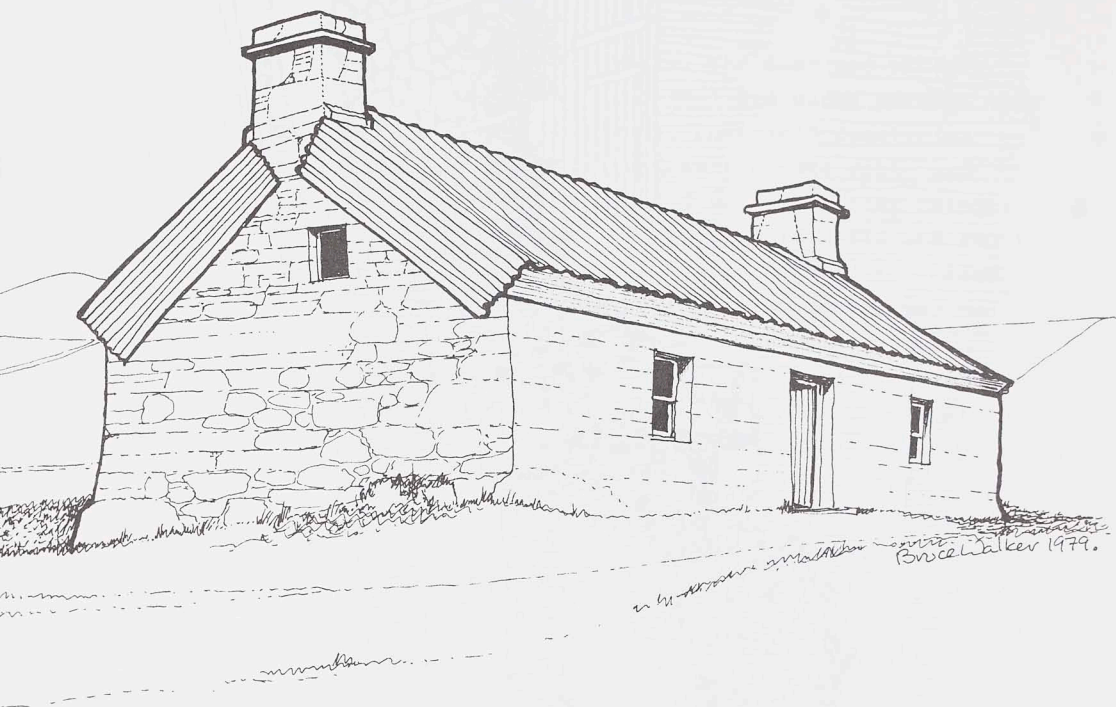
Bruce Walker

REPORT ON A CRUCKFRAMED COTTAGE AT DRUMDEWAN,
DULL, PERTHSHIRE.

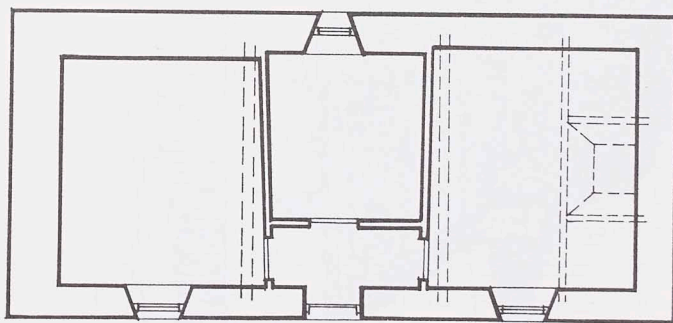
Early in 1975, a planning application was received by the Perth and Kinross District Council from a Mr. and Mrs. Mistlebrook to alter a single storey, cruck framed thatched cottage, owned by them, on the farm of Drumdewan, Dull parish, Perthshire (NN 810491).

Planning officer, Neil Grieve, asked advice of S.V.B.W.G. on the suitability of some of the proposals submitted. The proposals, together with the Planning Departments amendments were examined, and Mr. Grieve must be congratulated on his perception and on the quality of his decisions. Although there was little to do in relation to the submission, a useful contact was established with the applicants who agreed to give notice of the date of the partial demolition of the building. The demolition involved the removal of the roof, comprising thatch under corrugated iron sheeting and the east gable, which was in danger of collapsing inwards.

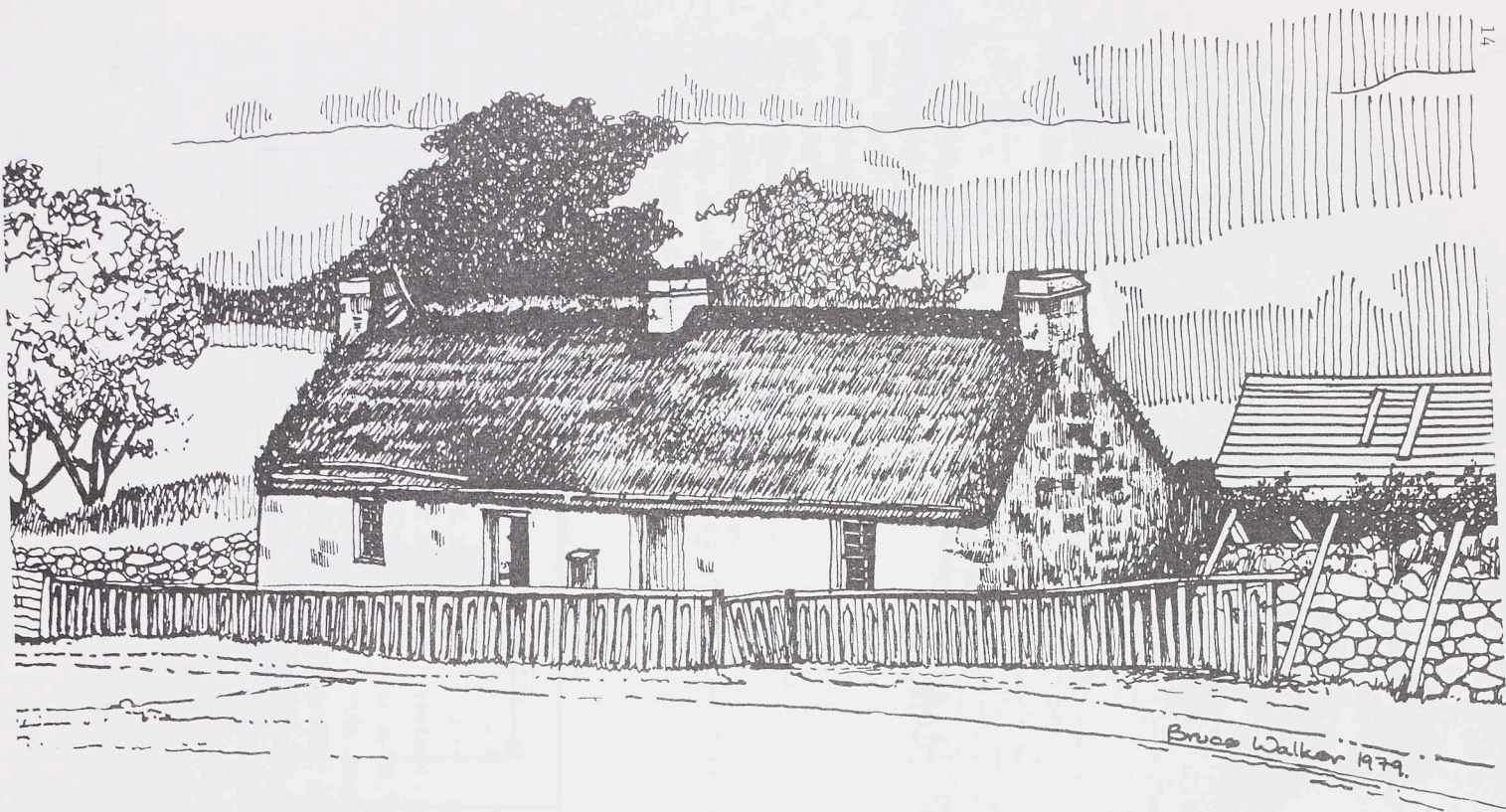
The cottage, possibly the former farmhouse, was situated to the south of the steading and a little to the north west of the existing late nineteenth century farmhouse. The plan, a standard two room type with a mid press had a two window and central door facade to the south; a window in thrums to the west; and a small window in the centre of the north facade lighting the mid press. The building measured 12.12 x 5.55m over the walls which were constructed in drystone using fairly large scale random rubble which was lime pointed and lime washed both internally and externally. The windows on the principal facade were two pane case and sash; the door a double leafed type finished in vertical v-jointed timber lining. The eaves were boxed in timber and the corrugated iron of the roof was carried over the skews to complete the enclosure of the thatch.



View from south west before recent alterations



Plan before recent alterations



"HIGHLAND COTTAGE, KILLIECRANKIE, PERTHSHIRE"
from a photograph by George Washington Wilson, c 1900. (1)

The walls were coloured white; the door and windows in "apple green"; the corrugated iron roof and eaves painted red. The contractor, McWilliam of Aberfeldy, commenced demolition on 29th March 1976, carefully taking down the east gable and setting the stones aside for the rebuilding. The stone chimney head turned out to be false, being constructed in solid stonework. Traces of cement were observed on the inside face of the stonework where the timber lum head had abutted. The contractor had not seen this type of construction before but a cottage with brick chimney heads inside false stone chimney heads was recorded in front of the smiddy on the north side of the main road at the west end of Pitlochry (1). These brick chimney heads were possibly replacements for former timber lums. A photograph in the George Washington Wilson collection of glass plate negatives entitled "Highland Cottage, Killiecrankie, Perthshire" (2) clearly shows lums of this construction at either outside gable of two single room, semi-detached cottages with thatched roofs, turf ridge and skews, features that were found at Drumdewan on removal of the corrugated iron sheeting.

Two sets of crucks divided the cottage into three equal bays. The crucks, all elbow jointed, were held together with two square pegs driven through round holes at each elbow and apex. The blades crossed at the apex to provide saddles for the ridge tree.

The stone gables acted as crucks at either end of the building supporting the purlins and ridge tree. The purlins sat on top of the stone gable within the depth of the turf skews and the ridge tree passed through the top of the timber lum to find bearing in the stonework of the false chimneyhead. Both purlins and ridge tree comprised 15 cm diameter softwood logs with the bark still intact. The battens to secure the corrugated iron sheeting were stooled up off the ridge tree as shown in the diagram. The stool - a piece of dressed timber 30 x 20 x 6 cm was also dooked to the false chimney head at one point. This dook was positioned to suit the bonding of the stonework rather than a more central point of fixing. The bark was worn off the ridge tree within the "lum heid" and appeared to have been used

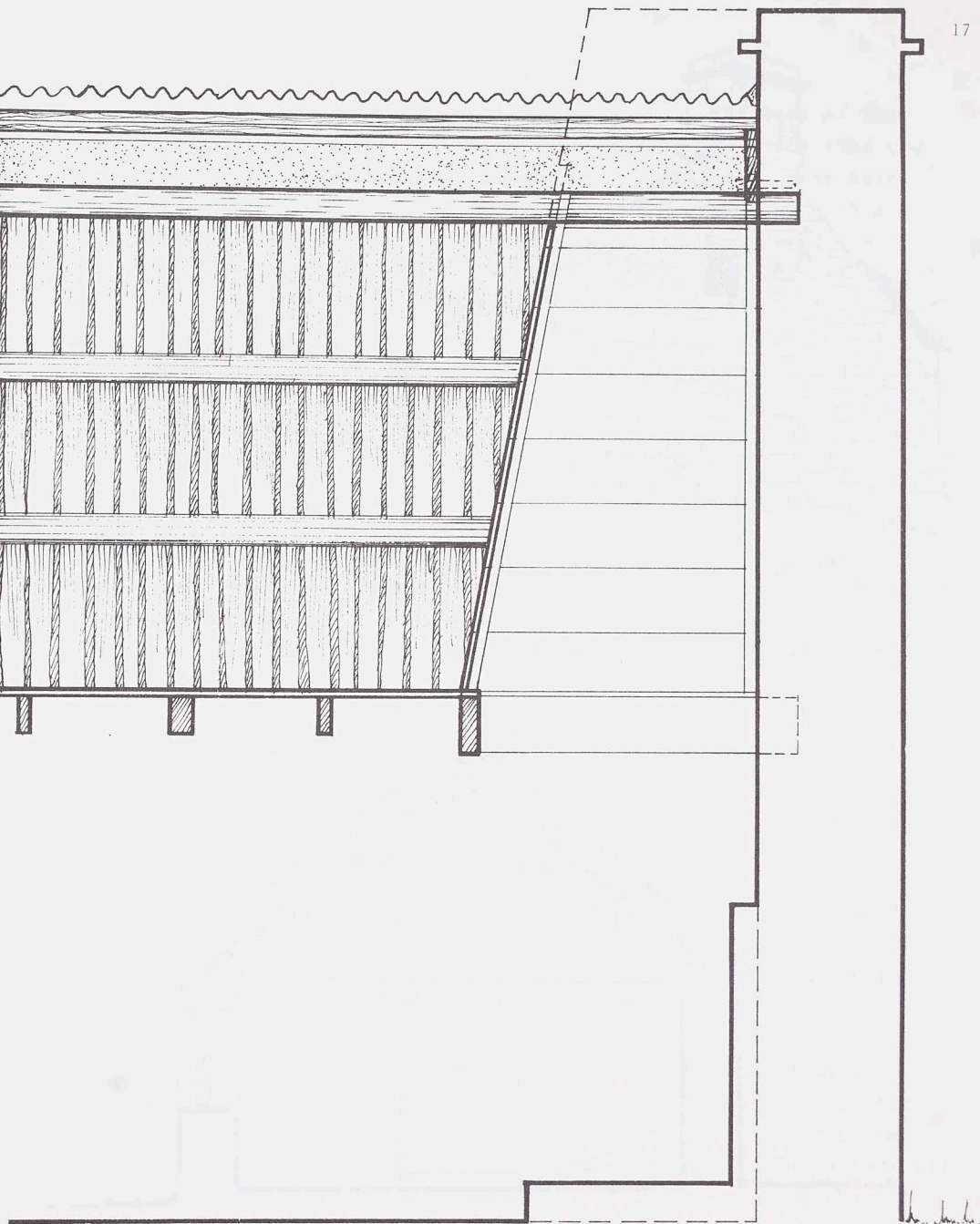
as a rattle tree to support the crook and links over the fire.

The support for the thatch was provided by slabs of timber, cut from the outside of logs when squaring the timber and used with the bark still intact. The slabs were positioned side by side, approximately $2\frac{1}{2}$ cm apart, and running from eaves to ridge. The thatch appeared to be stitched to these slabs using binder twine. A detailed study of the thatch was not possible as only the end sheets of corrugated iron were removed for the gable demolition and the whole roof had been stripped before the next visit.

The skew was formed in thin layers of green turf laid horizontally with the grass side uppermost and pegged vertically every three or four layers to form a solid turf continuation of the stone wall. This turf skew measured between 30 to 40 cms in depth. The pegging was neatly done with circular dowels placed in pairs, the pegs in each pair being approximately 15 cms apart. Each dowel was approximately 1 cm in diameter.

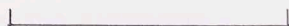
The interior of the building had been renewed in the recent past, the only older features remaining being the timber lum, kitchen ceiling, hearth and the flagstone floor. The hearth was raised with a large backstone against the gable. The backstone measured 1.26 cms in height, 1.17 cms wide and projecting approximately 10 cms from the wall. The hearth was the same width as the backstone and projected 80 cms in front of it. The surface was raised approximately 15 cms above the flagstone floor.

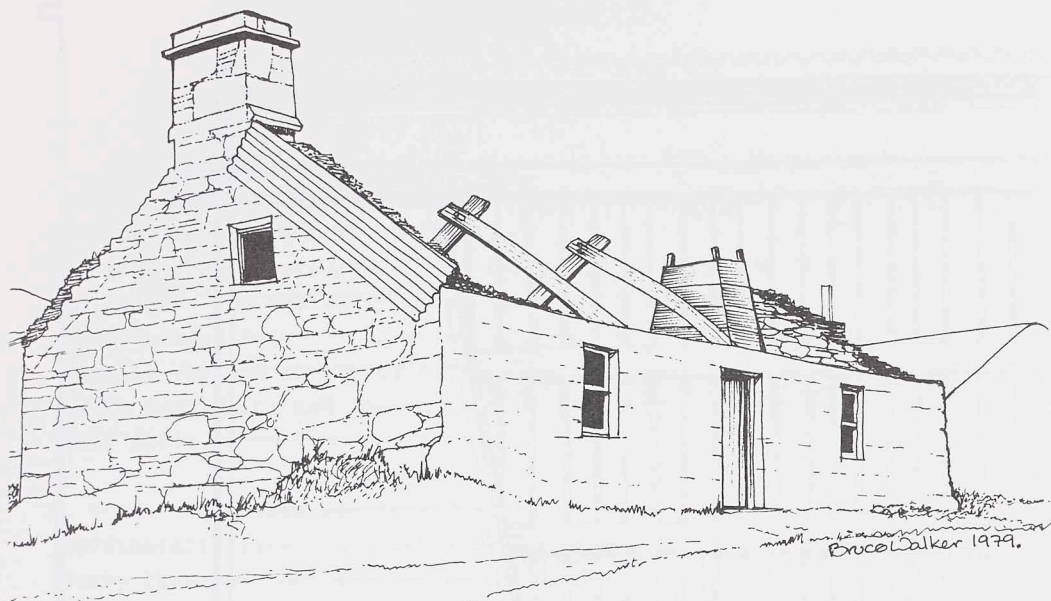
The timber lum was supported on a timber beam spanning from front to back of the cottage, this beam also supported part of the attic floor. The base of the beam was 1.83 cms from the floor and measured $23 \times 6\frac{1}{2}$ cms in section. The ceiling in this room was formed by the underside of the attic floor boards, leaving the joists exposed. The joists measured $16 \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ cms normally but occasionally 16×10 cms and were placed 50 cms apart on average. The whole of the supporting beam has been



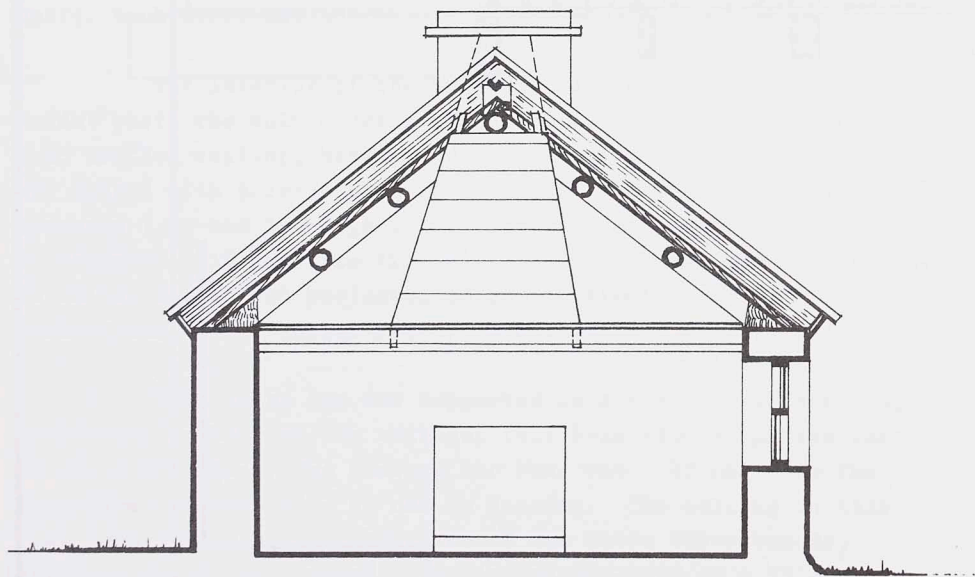
DRUMDEEWAN COTTAGE

Section through lum in kitchen





View from south west after partial demolition



Section through kitchen looking towards timber lum

bowed by pressure from the collapsing gable. The base of the lum was formed by two trimmers each $21\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{2}$ cms which tied the main beam back to the stone gable. This formed a canopy base 1.72 cms wide and 1.20 cms deep. The lum narrowed from this base to 90 cms wide and 85 cms deep at the underside of the corrugated iron sheeting of the roof. A patch on the outside of the corrugated iron confirmed that the lum had penetrated the roof even after the corrugated iron had been added to the thatch. The base of the lum was situated 1.49 cms in from the south and 1.22 cms in from the north walls. The sloping sides of the lum were formed in 27×2 cms timber boards fixed horizontally to 5×5 cms members in each internal corner.

In overall shape and structure, this lum is unusual in eastern and central Scotland where most surviving lums are either stooled up from stone cheeks or bracketed out from the wall, but it does resemble the two lums at the neighbouring cruck framed cottage at Camserney (3) although they differ in constructional detail.

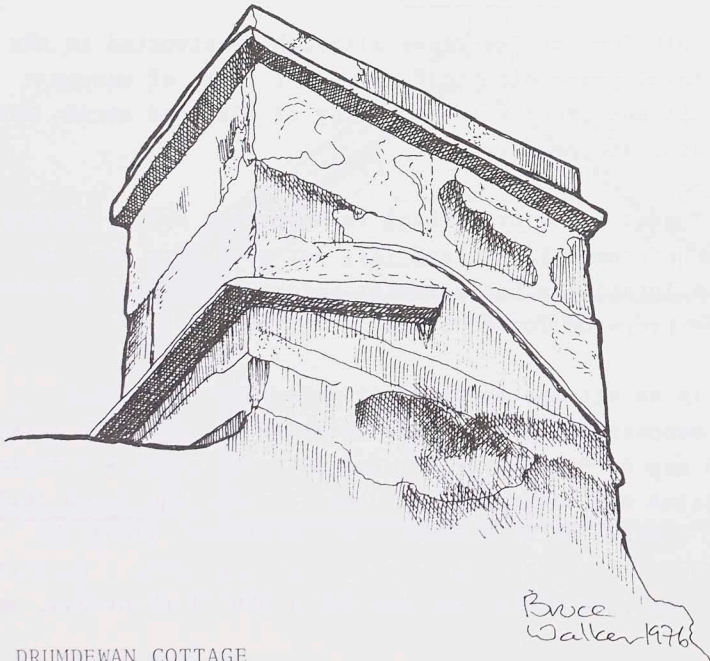
Both lums at Camserney although constructed to the same structural principles have different forms of canopy - one of 'stake and rice' with a coating of clay and straw, the other of lathe and plaster.

The use of a cross beam to support a canopy chimney appears to be common in Ireland (4), but much more work is required in locating other examples before meaningful distribution maps can be prepared for Scotland.

In an attempt to find out more about Drumdewan a number of manuscript sources were investigated but with little success. A map of "the River Tay and Adjacent grounds between Castle Menzies and Bolfracks" by James Jardine and dated 1823 (5) shows what appears to be a number of 'fermtouns' along the south facing hillside to the north of the Aberfeldy - Kenmore road. These include "East and West Boltichan, Tighchragan, Weem,

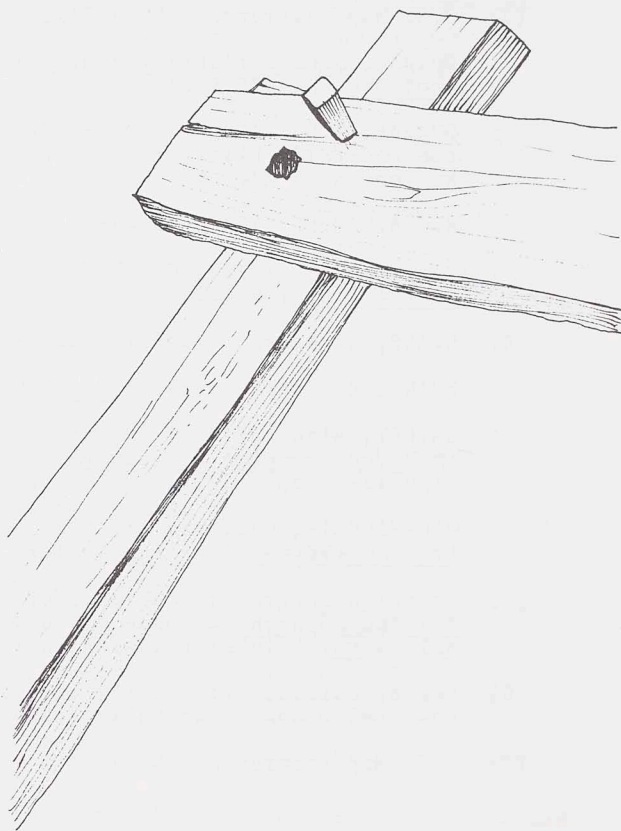
Farleyer, Balhomish, Croftnamuick, Upper and Nether Mill, Camserny, Upper and Nether Tullicro, Drumdewan, Dull, Tigermack, Tomntogle and Shenachar". Over the same length of road only two settlements appear on the flat land between the road and the River Tay to the south, these are "Carse and Dalrawer". The sites between East Boltichan and Dull were visited in 1977 and fourteen cruck framed structures were located (5). Apart from Camserney perhaps the best surviving example was at Nether Tullicro, but this cottage has not been surveyed in detail (7). Although the map is to a reasonably large scale, there is insufficient information to accurately identify any of the cottages.

More work is required in this area if these interesting survivals are to be recorded in detail before they disappear completely. The pressures of modern farming and the demand for holiday homes in the Highlands are seriously affecting a situation which has been static for many years.



DRUMDEWAN COTTAGE
Room chimney head

DRUMDEWAN COTTAGE



Apex of cruck

Lower section of cruck in kitchen after
partial demolition

NOTES :

- (1) O.S. Map Reference : NN 936583.
 - (2) George Washington Wilson collection of glass plate negatives, Kings College Library, University of Aberdeen : reference F1445.
 - (3) O.S. Map Reference : NN 817493.
- DUNBAR, J.G. : (1966) The Historic Architecture of Scotland. pp 236 & 239.
- DUNBAR, J.G.: (1956-7) "Some Cruck Framed Buildings in the Aberfeldy District of Perthshire" in P.S.A.S. XC. pp. 85 - 92.
- R.C.A.H.M.S. (1973). Drawing Nos. PTD/154/1 & 2.
- WALTON, J. : (1957) Cruck-framed buildings in Scotland in Gwerin 1 pp 109-122.
- (4) EVANS, E. Estyn : (1957) Irish Folk Ways. pp 63 & 70.
- EVANS, E. Estyn : (1967) Irish Heritage. pp 69.
- GAILEY, Alan : (1976) "Vernacular Dwellings in Ireland" in Revue Roumaine d'Histoire de l'Art XIII, pp 137 - 156 especially pp. 139, 141 plans B & D and 145.
- O'DANACHAIR, Caoimhin : (1975) Foirgneamh Na n Daoine : Ireland's Vernacular Architecture. pp. 30.
- (5) Scottish Record Office reference RHP 963/2 : Plan of the Tay and Adjacent Grounds between Castle Menzies and Bolfracks. Edinburgh 15 February 1823 - signed James Jardine.
 - (6) Survey carried out jointly by Alan Edwards, Strathconnon, Ross-shire and Bruce Walker, Dundee.
 - (7) O.S. Map Reference : NN 814492

Joan Auld

NOTES ON SURVEYS OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF
ARCHIVES (SCOTLAND)

These notes have been adapted from the summaries of surveys printed in the Annual Report of the Keeper of the Records of Scotland. Members are reminded that the collections mentioned are held privately and all further enquiries including applications for access must be made through the Secretary, the National Register of Archives (Scotland), H.M. General Register House, Edinburgh.

The author would be interested to hear of any hitherto unlisted collections known to members and such information should be addressed to the Archivist, University Library, Dundee.

- 1100 Duke of Roxburghe, Floors Castle. Includes building accounts and estimates for farms, byres, houses and churches on lands in East Lothian and Roxburghshire, 1756-1761; papers concerning the town of Kelso including list of houses unfeued, 1667 and of ruinous houses, 1691-1718.
- 1294 Lord Saltoun, Fraserburgh. Includes baron court books of Philorth, 1633-1765, Crichtie and Saltoun, 1783-1826; lease of clay deposits for a brick and tile works, 1805; plans and specifications for farm buildings, 1858-1911; papers relating to the village of Broadsea including inventories of fishing boats and houses, 1789, reports on condition of houses, 1873-1878, sketches and plans of houses 1867, 1917 and n.d.
- 1300 Aberdeen University Library : Gordon of Buthlaw and Cairness MSS. Miscellaneous estate accounts and papers include reports and valuations of farms and crofts on Cairness estate and Lonmay (Aberdeenshire), 1859-1860; accounts for building and drainage on Cairness estate, 1881-1908; accounts for building work and repairs to farm buildings, 1928-1930; estate and building plans and sketches with specifications, c 1776-1931 which include a plan of steading, stables and barnyards at Cairness, c 1776.
- 1368 Mrs. F.J. Milton, Kemnay. Includes inventories, valuations and other papers relating to buildings on Kemnay estate (Aberdeenshire) 1715-1833 and a copy

- (1789) of the "old inventory of the Biggins" (n.d.) which notes some changes in building use.
- 1470 Fettercairn Estates Office. Includes plans of farm steadings and cottages (Kincardineshire) 1771-1893.
- 1480 Mrs. M.F. Troup, Huntly. Includes miscellaneous photographs showing Huntly and district and Rhynie, c 1860.
- 1492 Perth Museum and Art Gallery : Hay and Hay Barclay of Paris. Includes specifications of thrashing mill to be erected at Paris House, Kinross, 1865; act and warrant for repairing houses on estate of Bankton and the brewstead at Kinloch (Fife), 1754 which includes detailed estimate.
- 1507 Mrs. Maitland, Inverurie. Papers relating to East Balhalgardy farm, Inverurie including valuation of farm and household stock, 1875, specifications and letter concerning houses erected, 1903-1904 and architectural plans and alterations to steading, 1904.
- 1520 Lieutenant-Colonel G.I. Malcolm of Poltalloch (Argyll). Includes estate correspondence with references to building of thrashing mill, 1797-1799; reports on state and condition of tenants' dwelling houses, barns and bothies 1798-1802; correspondence and papers relating to estate improvements, c 1797-1803, repair and construction of buildings, c 1800, construction of canal and proposals to erect village at Crinan harbour, 1800-1803.
- 1553 Glasgow University Archives : Rt. Hon. William Whitelaw, Gartshore. Includes miscellaneous estate plans, plans of estate farms and buildings, (Dumbartonshire), c 1856-1932.
- 1828 Joseph Johnston and Sons Ltd., Salmon Fishers and Mussel Merchants, Montrose. Includes plans and other papers relating to Kinnaber farm, 1867-1935; plan of fisherman's cottage at Rockhall, 1930; plans of alterations to miscellaneous properties in Montrose, 1884-1936 and photographs and postcards of Montrose, c 1890-1930.
- 1881 Lt. Col. M.P. Stormonth Darling of Lednathie, Angus. Includes some correspondence, specifications, plans and photographs relating to steadings and farmhouses at Lednathie, Millhall and Dodavoe, c 1811-20th century; note of valuation of buildings at Bog, Lednathie, 1812; plan of estate of Glenueig, Kirriemuir, showing large area of hill ground with springs, old bothies and 'cots' marked, 1859.

L., E.A. and P.A. Alcock

DESERTED SETTLEMENTS AT BURG, KILNINIAN, ISLE OF MULL

The complex settlement history of Burg was first called to our attention by the place-name itself. This is one of a group of Scottish settlement names, either simple or compound, which derive from ON borg, a fortified place. They presumably represent either names given to a newly founded settlement, or the re-naming of an existing settlement, by people of Scandinavian tongue, who recognized the existence of a borg in the cultural landscape of their settlement. In Gaelic-speaking areas of the west, they should therefore provide a clue to settlements founded de novo, or at least freshly named, in the 9th - 13th centuries AD. In the case of Burg, Kilninian, there can be no doubt that the borg in question was Dun Aisgain, a circular drystone fort on a rocky knoll. Whether this was still in being as a fort in the 9th - 13th centuries is unknown, but this is not impossible in view of the late occupation of some Kintyre duns.

In brief, then, we were attracted to Burg by the possibility of locating a settlement of Norse date. In this we were immediately disappointed, though this is not to say that such a settlement could not be recovered by more intensive fieldwork, and especially by excavation. What we did find, however, was a complex settlement pattern, which deserved recording even at a superficial level. It is necessary at the start to state unequivocally the character of our survey. This comprised two brief reconnaissances, followed by systematic examination of the buildings by three people over part each of two days. To be at all adequate, this would now need to be followed up by the detailed survey, at a scale of 1:50, of all the buildings between Dun Aisgain and the modern road, and at least a fully representative selection of those below Dun Aisgain. Meanwhile, however, it seems worth putting on record an unedited copy of our

field notes. Photographs are also available of most of the buildings.

From the first visit, it was evident that there were two main centres of settlement : an upper one, fairly close to the modern road, of which the present farm is the last relict; and a lower one of quite different character on terraces below Dun Aisgain. In the site accounts which follow, we have called these, for convenience, 'Lower Burg' and 'Upper Burg'; but these are not authentic place names.

With the exception of certain irregular structures at its eastern end (Site 15B), the structures at 'Lower Burg' are remarkably homogeneous : thick-walled dry stone buildings with little range of size. They have more or less rounded gables, and the almost universal feature of narrow opposed openings in the two longer walls. The term 'standard', or the absence of comment, implies this plan. Further details are recorded below in the form : general character, form of gables; overall internal length (AD), internal width (EF), distance from lower door jamb to lower gable (CD); AD : CD ratio; width of either or both doors, where measurable (W.); magnetic bearing of long axis; thickness of walls. In the case of Site 15A, the measurement AB locates the edge of a step in the floor, above the upper jamb of the door.

At the time of our visit, these buildings appeared to us to be through-passage dwellings. Since they all ran at least slightly up and down the slope, we assumed that the lower end was for animals, though we were puzzled by the extreme narrowness of the doors : down to 0.45m in the case of site 3A, and generally about 0.55m. It has since been suggested to us, firstly, that through-passage houses are unknown in the rural architecture of the west : but secondly that the narrow opposed doors are consistent with use as winnowing barns. This may be so, but a settlement comprising little except winnowing barns would be a rather peculiar one. It cannot be argued that they are winnowing barns for 'Upper

Burg' because the first edition of the OS six-inch map shows the buildings of 'Lower Burg' as roofless, whereas those of 'Upper Burg' were roofed and, presumably, occupied.

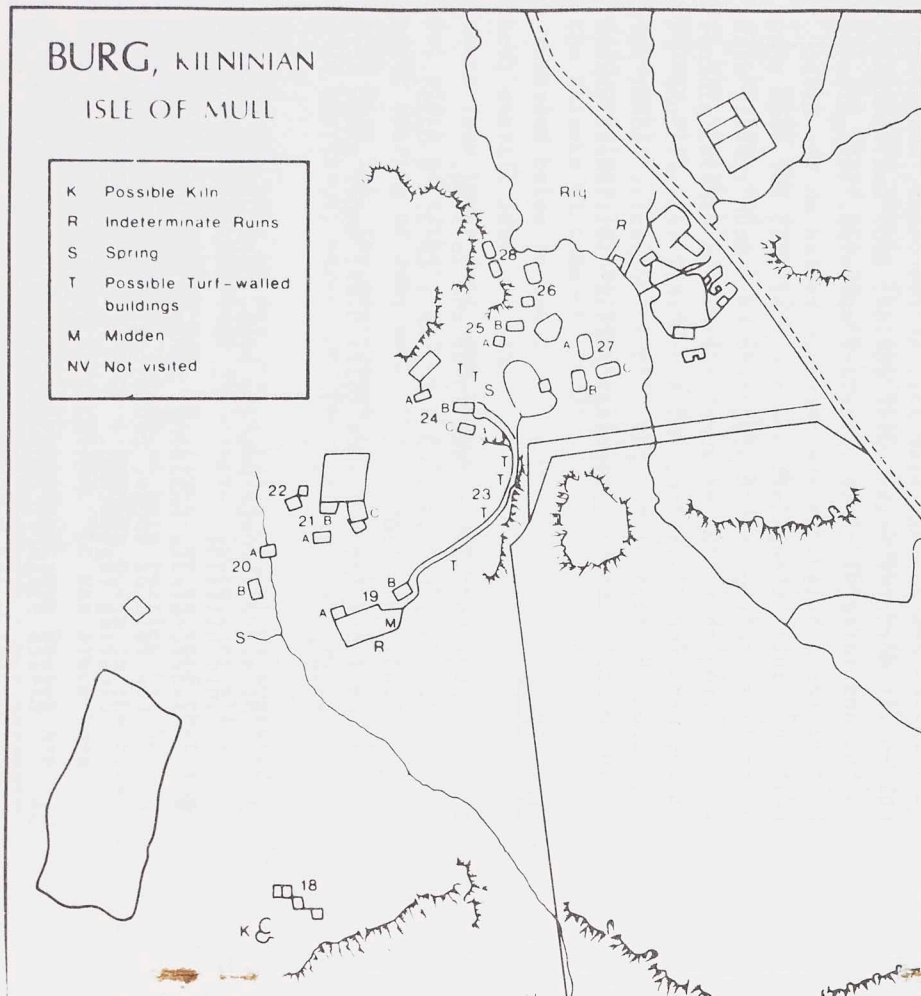
In contrast with the homogeneity of 'Lower Burg', the remains of 'Upper Burg' were of great diversity, in terms both of the original structures, and their degree of preservation. At one extreme are oval earthy banks, suggesting turf-walled houses (eg, Site 23); at the other, houses with well-built mortared walls, good quoins, door and window jambs, and integral gable fireplace and oven, like Site 21C. Most of these buildings are shown as roofed on the first edition 6-inch, though all are now roofless; but some shown as roofless on the 6-inch appear to have been rebuilt since then. Altogether, 'Upper Burg' presents a complex picture of improvement and desertion, which probably reflects the settlement history of the past 150 - 200 years. 'Lower Burg' seems to represent an altogether earlier settlement phase.

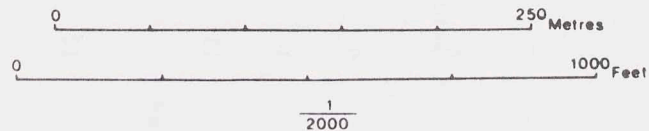
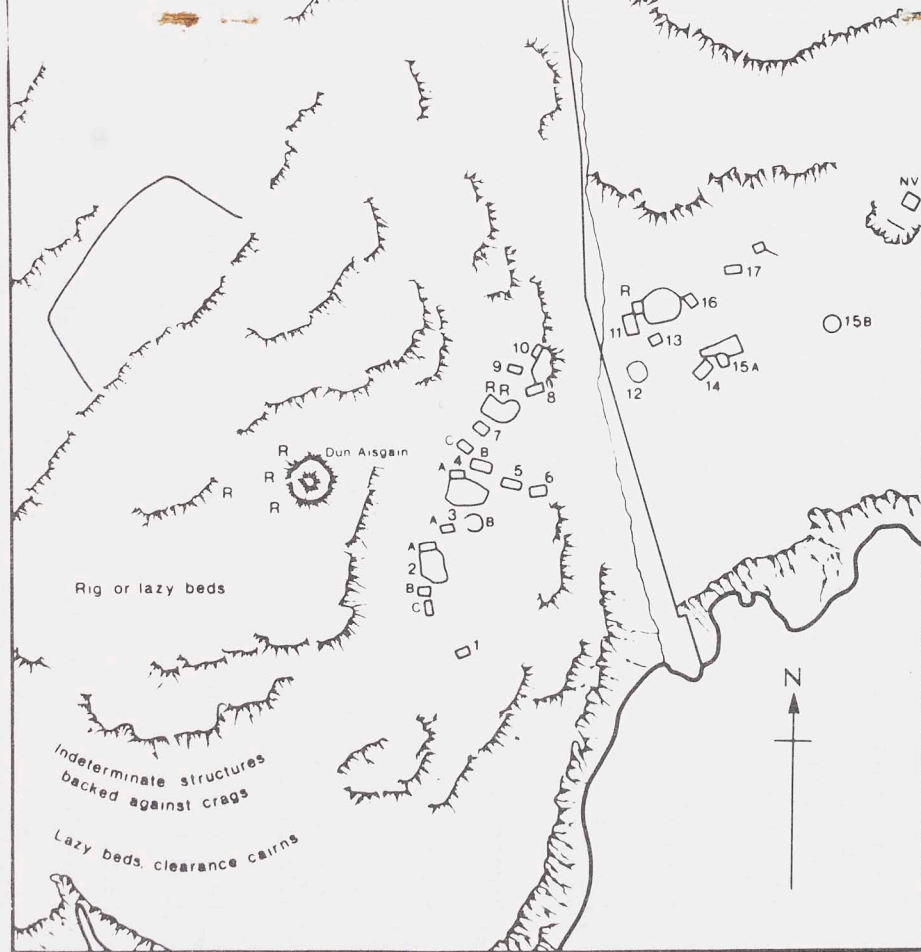
'Lower Burg'

1. Upper end very round, lower end less so.
AD 7.40, EF 2.40, CD 3.10. AD : CD 2.4 W 0.55;
0.65. Axis 110°
Wall thickness : side walls 0.95; upper gable 2.10,
perhaps 2 periods.
- 2A. Standard through-passage plan, upper gable backed
into hillside.
- B Indeterminate building, perhaps pre-enclosure.
- C Low ruin of house, too overgrown to measure without
clearing vegetation.
- 3A Gables slightly rounded, inner face obscured by collapse.
N door 0.45; S door obscured.
- B Rounded knoll with some apparently laid stone on N arc,
suggesting kiln.

BURG, KIININIAN ISLE OF MULL

- K Possible Kiln
- R Indeterminate Ruins
- S Spring
- T Possible Turf-walled buildings
- M Midden
- NV Not visited





- 4A Very ruinous.
- B Upper end very round, lower less so.
AD 9.70, EF 3.30, CD 3.00. AD : CD 3.2 W 0.55; ? with
monolithic jamb. Axis 105°. Wall thickness 1.00.
- C Very ruinous, unmeasurable.
- 5 Rather small, probably standard through passage,
but internal measurements obscured by tumble.
- 6 Heavily battered external wall face, corners slightly
rounded.
AD 8.00, EF 3.40, CD 4.85. AD : CD 1.6
Through passage, W too obscured to be measured. Axis
95°. Lower gable stands 1.10 high.
- 7 Standard.
- 8 Battered external walls, rounded corners.
AD 7.90, EF 3.10, CD 3.80. AD : CD 2.1 W 0.50. Axis 80°.
- 9 Standard.
- 10 Small and obscure
- 11 Very obscured by bracken. Large - AD 9.50 - with shed
at S end, internal division, possibly secondary at N end.
Axis 165°.
- 12 Low, roughly circular. Two quadrants excavated by
K. Reid.
- 13 Small
AD 4.40, EF 2.90, CD 1.70. AD : CD 2.6 W 0.60. Axis 65°.
- 14 Slightly rounded corners, relatively thin walls
AD 10.00, EF 2.90; CD 3.00. AD : CD 3.3 W 0.60.
Axis 230°.

15A Externally a standard plan, but for a marked ledge at upper end (at B)
AD 7.30 (AB 3.00), EF 3.20, CD 1.80. AD : CD 4.1
Axis 155 .

B Located about 43.00 E of NE corner of enclosure 15 is group of about 3 rounded cell-like structures each about 3.50 diam., but very obscure. Perhaps also, on W, excessively ruined standard through-passage house, with another, even more ruinous, at right angles.

16 Much altered and interfered with, obscured by bracken and bramble.

17 Small, overgrown with bracken.

'Upper Burg'

18 Beside the house are two roughly circular stone-lined hollows, possibly kilns.

19A A 1 door shed or byre, with a drain (or winnowing-hole ?) in one wall, overlies an earlier building.

B Building with rounded corners, front door, window either side, thin walls, integral fireplace with oven to R. Possibly overlies earlier building.

M A rich midden at the edge of the enclosed terrace fronting 19 A and B : the only midden noticed.

20A A very ruinous building, astride a valley bottom - perhaps a dried-up stream, so 20 A may be a mill.

B Ruinous.

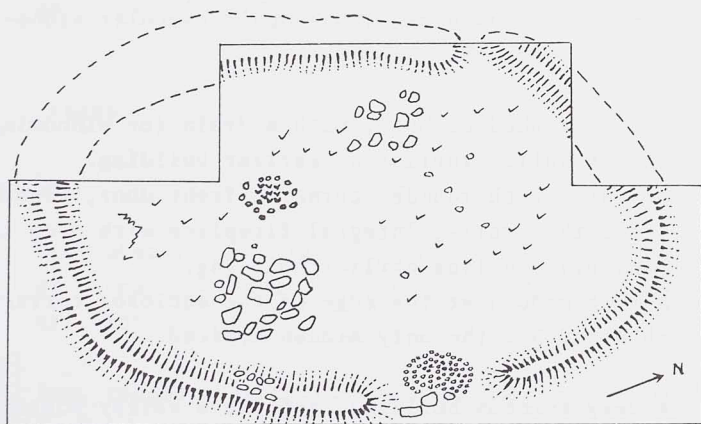
21A & B Totally ruinous.

C First class house of 'butt and ben' type.




22 No comment

23 Probably 3 turf-walled buildings ranged along a dyke.

- 24A Now totally ruinous
 B Rounded corners, single door, windows in front wall and in lower gable wall. ? 2 blocked windows in rear wall.
- 25A 3 - period structure.
- 26 Rebuilt on earlier foundations, now roofless.
- 27 Three round-gabled or round-cornered buildings, not on earliest 6 inch - probably already ruined by mid xix cent.
- 28 Two ruinous buildings, not on earliest 6 inch; see 27.



MACEWEN'S CASTLE. TURF HOUSE

-  Pebble cobbles
 Hearth
 Black occupation

0 4 8 12 16

scale in feet

Drawing by Susan Gell

Dorothy Marshall

THE TURF HOUSE, MACEWEN'S CASTLE, KILFINAN

The turf house lay within walls running round a promontory just N of Kilfinan Bay in Loch Fyne. Excavation shows that a palisade had been the first defence followed by a timber strengthened stone wall which had later been fired and partially vitrified. Hut circles with small post holes were associated with the palisade. Later, hut circles with very large post holes (one of them 22" deep) were constructed when the stone rampart was built. No stratified artefacts to date these hut circles were found but an Iron Age date is suggested.

The turf house was built over part of the hut circle complex in a fairly central position within the rampart which had been strengthened and re-modelled in part. Green glaze sherds, 13th - 14th century, were found in the rampart. Wood from the socket of a buttressing post outside the rampart gave a C14 date of 1530 +/- 70. The squaring of the NW corner of the rampart is a typically mediaeval feature. Ruins of two stone structures were uncovered on the promontory but as both of them were built after the rampart had gone out of use it can be assumed that the building of the turf house and the buttressing and re-building of the rampart were of the same period.

When the site was first examined low spreading walls of a building could be seen. Excavation showed that the walls were of turf and that the house, orientated NNE by N and SSW by S, was 34' long by 26' wide, its rounded corners giving it an oval rather than a rectangular shape. The walls would have been 2'6" to 3'0" thick. At one section, seven distinct layers of turf could be counted. No post holes were found. The width of the house implies that good timber was available for roofing and that competent workmen were there to utilise it. There were two doorways opposite each other towards the N end. The one in the E wall was 6' wide with paving at the threshold and an area

of firm hard packed pebbles just inside. There were no holes for door posts suggesting perhaps a leather door hanging from a lintel. The other doorway was very narrow, only 1'6" wide with two layers of turf across it. The manner in which the turves were laid, sloping down towards the sides of the opening showed that it had been designed as a narrow entrance.

About half way between the doorway and the S end of the house, on the E side, some stones had been used in the wall, perhaps to strengthen it. No other stones were found in the walls. There had been some-reconstruction or repair at the S end where turves had been laid on the top of collapsed turves. There seems to have been a narrow bench round the inside of the N end where two layers of turf had been set against the wall. As these were covered by slip from the wall they must have been an original feature. The floor was curiously nebulous for such a well built house, with tramped earth flecked with charcoal, greasy soil and some vague cobbling at the N end. There was a hearth edged with small stones but no well built. It contained red burnt clay and grey ashy soil. Beside it was a stone bench built against the E wall and resting on a base of turf. It may have served as a work or sleeping bench. A scatter of stones on the other side of the house may be the remains of something serving a similar purpose. The plotting of the few finds suggests that the two ends of the house had each a different use. In the S end beyond the hearth there were chips of bone and bits of charcoal while to the N, where there were more cobbles, 12 fragments of nails, all very much corroded, were found. Two spindle whorls, two perforated stones and two small discs of schist (3" and 4" diameter) were also found. A group of three chuckie stones and two small discs or counters (1.2" and 9") suggest some kind of game. On the floor level to the E end of the main doorway a patch of loose pebbles similar in size and shape to those used in the doorway was noted. There is no real explanation for this feature, but perhaps they had been collected to extend or repair the surface of the entrance.

A James 1 Fleur de lis groat found while clearing down to occupation level can be dated to the first half of the 15th century. No stratified dateable artefacts were found in the turf

house but taking the date of the buttressing post and the coin it seems reasonable to assume that the house was in use some time about 1500. The turf house with its thick walls would have made a tolerably comfortable dwelling. Houses built of turf alone are considered to be among the least permanent of buildings. Experiments carried out some years ago at Schleswig Holstein showed that they lasted no more than 30 years. Basil Megaw thinks that turf houses in Scotland would not last even as long as that. A thatch roof needs constant repair and renewal and there is no way of protecting the walls from the weather as can be done with clay or plaster on other types of walls.

The promontory has long been known as Macewen's Castle (1). It lies in the centre of the land where the Macewens settled after the Scottish war of independence but there is no trace of anything on the promontory that could be described as a "castle". A large high motte, also associated with the Macewens, lies a mile or two N near Otter Ferry. Documentary evidence also states that by the end of the 15th century the Campbells had ousted them from this part of Argyll. It might therefore have been the Campbells who re-constructed the rampart and built the turf house for one of their henchmen to hold the land.

The excavation of Macewen's Castle was carried out by the Cowal Archaeological Society with members of the British Girls Exploration Society under the direction of the author. Miss Charlotte Lythe was supervisor in charge of the excavation of the turf house.

NOTES

- (1) O.S. Name Book : Argyll No.12. 1865. pp28.
McFARLANE, Alexander (1795) "Parish of Kilfinan" in O.S.A.
XIV. pp 259.

John Hume

SCOTTISH WINDMILLS : A PRESERVATION POLICY

The appended list of Scottish windmills is based on that prepared by Donnachie and Stewart (PSAS, 1964-6, 276-299, plates 37-39) supplemented and where necessary corrected by more recent fieldwork. Most of the additional mills are included in the author's two-volume Industrial Archaeology of Scotland (Batsford 1976, 1977). The need for a preservation policy is highlighted by the disappearance of five of the mills mentioned by Donnachie and Stewart during the last 15 years.

Though Scotland has no complete windmills, the surviving remains are in many cases of considerable interest, highlighting the differences between English and Scottish windmill practice. The most important are certainly the 'vaulted tower' mills, which appear to be unique to Scotland. The tower mills proper, though they have their parallels elsewhere, sometimes have distinctive features, as in the pumping mills, and at their largest are impressive landmarks. The threshing windmills are of importance as they represent one of the original modes of threshing-mill drive. Some mills are of peculiar significance because of their links, especially Castlehill, with flagstone-quarrying, St. Monans, with salt-boiling and Bridgeness, with coal mining. Strathbeg and Dunmore, both intended for land drainage are important for their association with 'improvement'.

The list is divided into three parts. Part I consists of a list of all surviving windmill remains, so far as is known, arranged by county and parish. An appendix lists mills mentioned by Donnachie and Stewart but no longer in existence. Part II is a list of mills by type. Part III is a list of mills by function, arranged in the same way.

LIST OF SCOTTISH WINDMILL REMAINS

Part I : by location

Aberdeenshire

Hilton	Ellon	NJ942342	early 19th century
Fraserburgh	Fraserburgh	NJ994669	late 18th-early 19th century (1)
Savoch	Lonmay	NK056586	late 18th century
(Strathbeg)			
Glenugie	Peterhead	NK125442	late 18th-early 19th century (1)
distillery			

Angus

Bankhead	Forfar	No453313	late 18th-early 19th century (2)
Bolshan	Kinnell	NO620521	late 18th-early 19th century (1)
Dumbarrow	Kirkden	NO549471	early 19th century

Ayrshire

Ballantrae	Ballantrae	NX091833	17th-18th century (3)
Monkton	Monkton	NS362281	17th-18th century
Sorn (?)	Sorn	NS548264	late 18th-early 19th century

Banffshire

Sandend	Fordyce	NJ560658	late 18th-early 19th century (4)
Montbletton	Gamrie	NJ721661	late 18th-early 19th century
Northfield	Gamrie	NJ823661	late 18th-early 19th century

Berwickshire

Gunsgreenhill	Ayton	NT948637	19th century
Rubletonlaw	Gordon	NT676453	late 18th-early 19th century
Swinton	Swinton	NT833474	late 18th century

Caithness

Castlehill	Olrig	ND195685	mid 19th century (1)
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Clackmannanshire

New Sauchie	Alloa	NS897950	17th-18th century (1)
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Dumfriesshire

Dumfries	Dumfries	NX968758	1798 and later
Shorrigg	Hoddam	NY162744	late 18th-early 19th century
Duncow	Kirkmahoe	NX974838	18th century
Mouswald	Mouswald	NY053734	late 18th century

East Lothian

Bielside	Dunbar	NT654783	late 18th century
Knockenhair	Dunbar	NT670789	17th-18th century
Meikle			
Pinkerton (?)	Dunbar	NT703757	18th century (1)
Oxwellmains	Dunbar	NT702763	18th-19th century
Balgone Barns	North Berwick	NT553828	17th century

Fife

Melville	Collessie	N0303127	17th-18th century (2)
Hillhouse	Dunfermline	NT091859	17th century
Dysart	Kirkcaldy	NT299934	17th-18th century
St. Monans	St. Monans	N0534019	late 18th century

Kirkcudbrightshire

Cannee	Kirkcudbright	NX687501	18th century (1)
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Lanarkshire

Carluke, High Mill	Carluke	NS849508	1797
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Midlothian

Edgehead	Cranston	NT372651	18th-19th century
Belford Road	Edinburgh	NT234737	18th century (2)
Leith	Edinburgh	NT272767	17th century

Morayshire

Gordonstoun	Drainie	NJ188694	18th century
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Orkney

Peckhole	North Ronaldsay	HY763538	19th century
Scar Kirkhouse	Sanday South	HY6704252	18th-19th century
Point	Ronaldsay	ND471908	19th century (1)

Perthshire

Inverardoch			
Mains (?)	Doune	NN737007	? 18th century
Dunbarney	Dunbarney	NO107184	17th-18th century (2)

Roxburghshire

Caverton Mill	Eckford	NT750258	late 18th century
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Stirlingshire

Dunmore	Airth	NS862894	18th century
Myrehead	Muiravonside	NS965775	late 18th century

West Lothian

Bridgeness	Bo'ness & Carriden	NT013815	1750 and later (5)
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Wigtownshire

Barwhanny	Kirkinner	NX411493	late 18th-early 19th century
Logan	Kirkmaiden	NX116438	17th century (3)
Stoneykirk	Stoneykirk	NX095522	18th-19th century

Mill remains demolished since Donnachie and Stewart

Aberdeenshire

Wester Hatton	Belhelvie	NJ958188
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Berwickshire

Swintonmill	Swinton	NT814459
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Fife

North Callange	Ceres	NO420122 (2)
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Midlothian

Mitchelston	Stow	NT462481
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Wigtownshire

Whithorn	Whithorn	NX444398
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Note

Leswalt, Wigtownshire (NW994525) tentatively identified by Donnachie and Stewart as a windmill was, in fact built as a lookout tower.

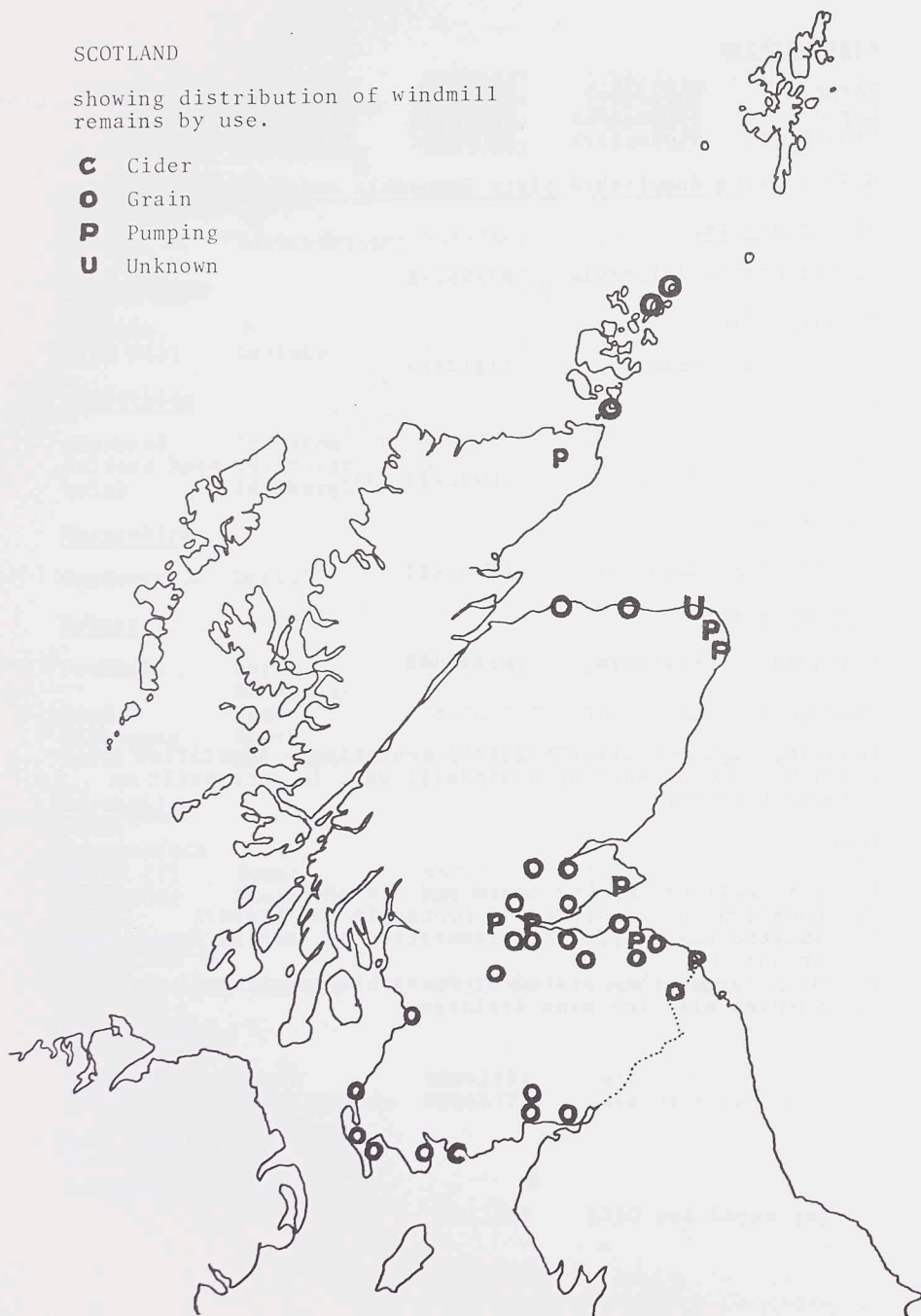
Notes

1. Not mentioned by Donnachie and Stewart
2. Location not as stated by Donnachie and Stewart
3. Vaulted tower type, not identified as such by Donnachie and Stewart
4. Much larger than stated by Donnachie and Stewart
5. Pumping mill for mine drainage.

SCOTLAND

showing distribution of windmill
remains by use.

- C** Cider
- O** Grain
- P** Pumping
- U** Unknown



SCOTLAND

showing distribution of windmill
remains formerly used to power
threshing mills.



Part II : by typeTurret Post

Peckhole
Scar
Kirkhouse Point

Vaulted Tower

Ballantrae
Monkton
New Sauchie
Knockenhair (?)
Balgone Barns
Collessie
Melville
Hillhouse
Dysart
Gordonstoun
Dunbarney
Logan

Tower

Hilton
Fraserburgh
Savoch
Glenugie Distillery
Bankhead
Bolshan
Dumbarrow
Sorn (?)
Sandend
Montbletton
Northfield
Gunsgreenhill
Rumbletonlaw
Swinton
Castlehill
Dumbries
Shortrigg
Duncow
Mouswald
Bielside
Meikle Pinkerton (?)
Oxwellmains
St. Monans
Cannee
Carluke
Edgehead
Belford Road
Leith
Inverardoch Mains (?)
Caverton Mill
Dunmore
Myrehead
Bridgeness
Barwhanny
Stoneykirk

Part III : by functionGrain Milling

Ballantrae
Monkton
Sandend
Swinton
New Sauchie
Dumfries
Duncow
Mouswald
Bielside
Knockenhair
Meikle Pinkerton
Balgone Barns
Collessie
Hillhouse
Dysart
Carluke
Edgehead
Belford Road
Leith
Peckhole
Scar
Kirkhouse Point
Gordonstoun
Dunbarney
Inverardoch Mains (?)
Myrehead
Barwhanny
Logan
Stoneykirk

Pumping

Savoch
Glenugie Distillery
Gunsgreenhill
Castlehill
Oxwellmains
St. Monans
Dunmore
Bridgeness

Threshing

Hilton
Bankhead
Bolshan
Dumbarrow
Sorn (?)
Montbletton
Northfield
Rumbletonlaw
Shortrigg
Caverton Mill (?)

Unknown

Fraserburgh

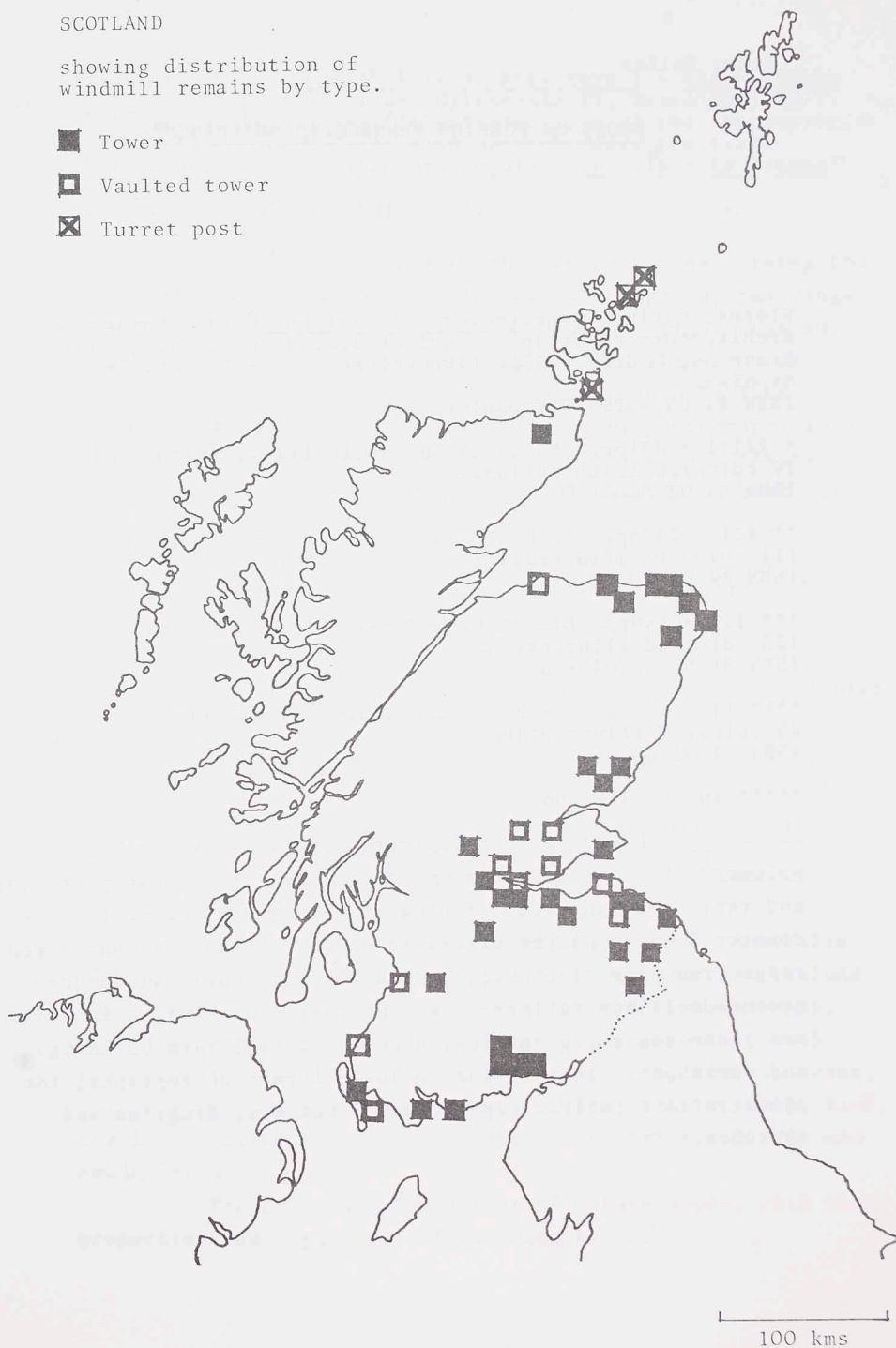
Cider Mill

Cannee

SCOTLAND

showing distribution of
windmill remains by type.

- Tower
- ◻ Vaulted tower
- ⊗ Turret post



Bruce Walker

BOOKS ON FOREIGN VERNACULAR BUILDINGS

Flores, Carlos. Arquitectura Popular Española. (Vernacular Architecture of Spain) Aguilar s.a. de ediciones, Juan Bravo 38, Madrid. 1974. Five volumes. 25 x 34 cms. Text in Spanish.
ISBN 84 03 80999 9 (complete set).

* XXIII + 431pp. 556 black and white illustrations and 79 coloured illustrations.
ISBN 84 03 80001 0

** XII + 547pp. 736 black and white illustrations and 111 coloured illustrations.
ISBN 84 03 80002 9

*** III + 559pp. 693 black and white illustrations and 123 coloured illustrations.
ISBN 84 03 80004 - 5

**** II + 407pp. 535 black and white illustrations and 96 coloured illustrations.
ISBN 84 03 80005 3

***** in preparation.

A beautifully illustrated and well produced set of volumes. The illustrations are mainly the authors own photographs and represent many years fieldwork throughout Spain. The country is examined by districts and the buildings considered range from primitive huts, byre dwellings, caves and underground dwellings to large town and farm houses. Also included are stone houses, granaries, doocots, mills, farm buildings and workshops. In addition to large format photographs, the illustrations include maps, plans, sections, diagrams and sketches.

Feduchi, Luis. Spanish Folk Architecture 1 - The Northern Plateau. (Editorial Blume, Milanesado 21, Barcelona) 1977. English edition. 373pp. Illustrated 25 x 28 cms. Hardcover. Originally published, 1974 in Spanish under the title "Itinerarios de Arquitectura Popular Espanola - La Meseta Septentrional". ISBN 84 7031 017 8. (Volume 1).

This volume examines the ten provinces forming the northern plateau. It deals with the same types of buildings as Carlos Flores but suffers from a rather slight text and from the use of too many photographs. The illustrations comprise 1064 black and white photographs and 111 line drawings, mainly plans and sections. Fewer photographs to a larger scale on better paper and more analytical drawings would have greatly improved the usefulness of the book perhaps at a much increased cost.

Forthcoming volumes :

II : The Cantabrian Coast - The Spain of the Horreu.

III : The Ancient Kingdoms of the Four Bars.

IV : Southern Spain - The White Villages.

V : The Central Plateau - La Mancha, from the Guadiana River to the Mediterranean.

ISBN 84 7031 020 8 (complete work)

Cox, Philip and Freeland, John. Rude Timber Buildings in Australia (Thames and Hudson, London) 1969. 215pp. 134 photographs by Wesley Stacey. 28 x 27 cms. Hardcover. ISBN 500 340 35 8.

A general history of timber building in Australia illustrated with 134 full page photographs, examples include log cabins, corrals, woolsheds, shelter sheds, homesteads, settlers' cottages, barns, slaughter house, haybarns, bull sheds, boats, cattle sheds, cattle pens, huts, houses, crane, police lock ups, miners' huts, post office, hotels, shop, bank, pavilion, ballroom, churches, school, granaries, wharves and condenser units.

The text includes a list of native woods, with their properties and a glossary of building terms.

Denyer, Susan. African Traditional Architecture : An Historical and Geographical Perspective (Heinemann Educational Books Ltd., 48 Charles Street, London) 1978. 210pp. Illustrated. 18 x 25 cms. Hardcover or paperback. ISBN 0 435 89058 I (paper) ISBN 0 435 89059 X (cased)

An ambitious and wide-ranging study of the traditional architecture of Africa south of the Sahara Desert. The study is considered under the following headings - Rural Settlements : States and Towns : Sacred, Ceremonial and Community Buildings : Defense : The Building Process : Decoration : House Forms : Distribution of Styles : and The Impact of Modernisation. It is a very useful book presenting a broad perspective of the range of building forms and materials found in this immense area together with a general bibliography.

Andersen, Kaj Blegvad. African Traditional Architecture - A Study of the Housing and Settlement Patterns of Rural Kenya (Oxford University Press, Nairobi, Kenya) 1977. 240pp. Illustrated. 18 x 25 cms. Hardcover. ISBN 0 19 572380 5.

A useful book with excellent drawings of the different types of buildings, both in plan and section together with many very fine black and white photographs, of both the building interiors and exteriors, the occupants, household utensils and constructional processes. The text is direct in its descriptions and deals as much with the use of the building as with its construction. The book forms an excellent reminder that the use of simple materials such as grass, wattle, mud, and rough timber does not necessitate living in squalor and that these materials can result in a house that is as neat as any other.

Moser Oskar. Das Bauernhaus und Seine Landschaftliche und Historische Entwicklung in Kärnten (The Farmhouse and its General and Historic Development in Carinthia) Verlag des landesmuseums für Kärnter, Klagenfurt. 1974. 300pp art paper, 17 x 24 cms. Paper boards, 63 photographs and numerous plans, diagrams, details and distribution maps. Text in German.

A fine study of the farm buildings of Carinthia illustrating the development and distribution of building types and constructional techniques. Unfortunately, this book is not available through normal book distribution channels in this country. Oskar Moser is one of the authors of "Haus und Hof in Österreichische Landschaft" described in Alexander Fenton's contribution "Recent Books in Buildings". Other recent publications include Die Bauerlichen Sachgüter in Aufbau der Karntner Volkskultur (Possessions in Carinthian Peasant Dwellings)(Die Karntner Landsmannschaft) 1976; Die Hausangaben in St. Paulus Ehrungsbüchern und die Rauchstubenhäuser Unterkarntens [Houses with smoke parlours in lower Carinthia] (Zeitschrift für geschichtliche landeskunde) 1977; and Der "Lobnig-Kasten" [A log-built larder in the Carinthian Open Air Museum]. (Die Karntner Landsmannschaft) 1976.

Itoh, Teiji. Traditional Domestic Architecture of Japan : Volume 21 of the Heibonsha Survey of Japanese Art. (John Weatherhill Inc., 149 Madison Avenue, New York and Heibonsha of Tokyo) 1972. (English edition - Originally published in Japanese by Heibonsha under the title - Minka) 152pp. Illustrated 18 x 25 cms. Hardcover. Price 10 US Dollars.

An excellent photographic survey backed by a comprehensive text but lacking plans, details and diagrams.

L'Architecture Rurale Francaise - Corpus des Genres, des Types et des Variantes. 22 volumes. (Berger-Levrault, 229 bd Saint-Germain, Paris) 1977 to 1983. 24 x 31 cms. Hardcover. Text in French.

- Vol. 1 : Nord, Picardie.
- Vol. 2 : Normandie, Perche.
- Vol. 3 : Ile-de-France, Orléanais.
- Vol. 4 : Champagne, Ardennes.
- Vol. 5 : Lorraine.
- Vol. 6 : Alsace, by Marie-Noëlle Denis and Marie-Claude Groshens. 1978. 291pp. ISBN 2 7013 0174 2.
- Vol. 7 : Bretagne.
- Vol. 8 : Maine, Anjou, Touraine.
- Vol. 9 : Berry, Nivernais, Bourbonnais.
- Vol. 10 : Bourgogne.
- Vol. 11 : Franche-Comté, Lyonnais.
- Vol. 12 : Poitou, Charente, Angoumois.
- Vol. 13 : Limousin, Auvergne.
- Vol. 14 : Savoie, by Henri Raulin 1977. 242pp. ISBN 2 7013 0143 2
- Vol. 15 : Périgord, Quercy, Agenais.
- Vol. 16 : Haut-Languedoc, Rouergue.
- Vol. 17 : Dauphiné, by Henri Raulin. 1977. 278pp. ISBN 2 7013 0149 1
- Vol. 18 : Gascogne, Pays Basque, Béarn.
- Vol. 19 : Les Pays Toulousains et Pyrénées Ariégeoises.
- Vol. 20 : Languedoc, Méditerranée, Roussillon.
- Vol. 21 : Provence, Côte d'Azur.
- Vol. 22 : Corse by Henri Raulin and Georges Ravis-Giordani. 1978. 253pp. ISBN 2 7013 0161 0

This series plans to cover the vernacular buildings of France in 22 volumes to be published between 1977 and 1983. The volumes are based on 1,759 surveys of buildings carried out between 1942 and 1945. The drawings (showing the buildings in plan, section and elevation) are very clear and detailed and show furnishings, fittings, implements and utensils and in some cases the materials being stored. These together with brief survey notes form the core of the book and both are supplemented by photographs taken in the 1970's. This is the weakest part of the whole exercise but must be excused as many of the buildings in the original survey, or even the building types may have disappeared or been altered substantially in the intervening 30 years.

There is a slight variation in approach between the four volumes already published, the volume on Corse making more use of sketches than the others.

An excellent contribution to the literature on vernacular building providing a sound body of knowledge on which to build more detailed regional and national studies.



Bakó, Ferenc. *Parasztházak és Udvarok a Mátra Videken* : Peasant Houses and Farm Yards in the Mátra Region (Műszaki Könyvkiadó, Budapest) 1978. 152pp art paper. 22 x 24 cms hardcover Price 62 forints [approx. £1.75]. ISBN 963 10 2088 6.

An interesting and well illustrated historical - ethnographic study of the peasant houses of Heves county in north west Hungary. This county incorporates part of the Mátra Mountains in the north and a plain in the south giving an interesting comparison in usage of building materials and architectural style.

The study deals with the evolution of dwelling units only, from the eighteenth to the twentieth century.

Although the text is in Hungarian, the provision of many diagrammatic plans and sections as well as excellent photographs and a three page English summary make it a very useful book.

Allen, Edward. Stone Shelters (The M.I.T. Press, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts). 1969. 210pp illustrated. 18 x 25 cms. Hardcover. Library of Congress Number 74-76447.

A very fine study, beautifully illustrated both in drawings and photographs of the corbelled stone structures of Apulia in Southern Italy and more particularly the area known as "Murgia of the Trulli". A "Trullo" is similar in size and construction to the corbelled doocots of Scotland (Bee hive type) and obviously related to the bee hive cells of the West Coast of Scotland and Ireland, the corbelled cornkilns of Caithness and Orkney and to the English, Irish and Welsh corbelled pig sty. The book deals with the trullo's adoption as a dwelling unit and the degree of sophistication achieved in this respect.

Hosken, Fran P. The Kathmandu Valley Towns - A Record of Life and Change in Nepal (John Weatherhill Inc., 149 Madison Avenue, New York) 1974. 328pp. Illustrated. 25 x 26 cms. Hardcover. Price 40 US dollars. ISBN 0 8348 0096 9

Primarily a photographic account of the life and buildings of the Kathmandu Valley towns but including a brief history of the country, its society, religion and festivals. The book forms an extremely rich visual essay of the man-made environment with 505 illustrations mainly black and white photographs with the occasional map, drawing or coloured photograph. The drawings by "Danish architects' group" are very clear and informative and more of these would have greatly increased the usefulness of the book.

Lewcock, Ronald. Early Nineteenth Century Architecture in South Africa - A study of the interaction of two cultures 1795 - 1837 (A.A. Balkema, publisher, Cape Town) 1963. x + 451pp. Illustrated. 22 x 28 cms. Hardcover.

This book is based on the author's PhD research carried out at University of Cape Town and forms a very interesting commentary on the early settler architecture of South Africa. Studies of this kind can be extremely useful as settlers from Scotland took with them building techniques from the home country. House types and constructional techniques appear at first in their original form then gradually merge with techniques from other countries to form a South African vernacular architecture.

Welsch, Roger. Sod Walls - The Story of the Nebraska Sod House. (Purcells Inc., Broken Bow, Nebraska) 1968. xvi + 208pp illustrated. 22 x 20cms hardcover. Price 10 US dollars. Library of Congress Number 68 - 21835.

This book combines a detailed study of turf building construction in Nebraska, based on field interviews, previous studies of the "Soddy", (Nebraskan turf house) and the Solomon Butcher photographic collection (1886 to 1900), with a subjective treatment of pioneer plains culture. It is particularly interesting to Scottish readers as the Nebraskan turf building period starts in 1860 and finishes in 1900 coinciding with the destruction of the last of the turf built houses in Scotland and does much to disprove the impermanence of turf built structures suggested by many Scottish writers. The book contains ninety plates from the Solomon Butcher collection together with many enlarged details from these plates plus diagrams and sketches.

A. Fenton

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Gwyn I. Meirion-Jones : La Maison Traditionnelle. Bibliographie de l'Architecture Vernaculaire en France (Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, 54 Boulevard Raspail - BP - 75260, Paris) 1978. 153pp.

This valuable bibliography, arising out of five years of research, comprises seven sections. The first deals with general sources, including research methods, structural details, conservation and repair. Next comes regional and local studies, followed by rural houses that were used for habitation or otherwise, town buildings, construction and materials, and primitive buildings. Archaeological sources are also included.

Haus und Hof in Österreichs Landschaft : Rural Dwelling Houses and Farm Buildings in Austria's Countryside (notring der wissenschaftlichen Gesellschaften Österreichs, 1070 Wien, Lindengasse 37) 1973. 242pp.

An outline in German, French and English of the range of house-types to be found in Austria. The different regions, and different themes relating to buildings, are discussed by a number of authors. Good photographs and a number of diagrams help to make the book usable and useful.

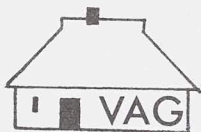
A. Steensberg : Gamle danske bøndergårde (Old Danish farmhouses) Copenhagen 1978 (published by Forum A-S, Kronprinsensgade 6, 1114 Copenhagen K, Denmark).

The first edition of this book appeared in 1943 and the second, with alterations, in 1962. This third edition again includes changes. It is in essence a survey of Danish farmbuildings, region by region, with a range of excellent photographs that can be "read" in spite of the lack of an English summary. It is now a unique form of visual history of the older buildings, all the more valuable because many of the illustrations represent buildings that exist no longer. The author, himself a farmer in origin, is not a sentimentalist : "one should preserve the best of the old without becoming a fanatic".

This book should be read in conjunction with two other books by the same author :

1) Den danske bondegård (The Danish farm), first published in 1942 and re-issued by Forum in 1974. It outlines, with photographs, plans and diagrams, the history of the development of the Danish farm and its buildings from about 4000 BC onwards.

2) Den danske landsby gennem 6000 år (The Danish village over 6000 years), first published in 1940, and re-issued in 1942 and 1973. This is a remarkable digest of the history and functioning of the farming villages of Denmark, done in such a way that the people themselves can be visualised at work in them.



"VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE"

This journal, published by the Vernacular Architecture Group (England) on 1st December each year since 1970, may be of interest to many of our members. Anyone wishing to see a copy of a recent issue (on sale or return) should write to : VAG, c/o Dr. Kenneth Hutton, 22 Clifton Green, York, YO3 6LN, requesting a copy of "VA" on sale or return, and giving, in block capitals, name, address and postcode.

Return postage is 15p, or the cost of the journal if retained is £2.25.

The current number is VA9 (1978).

J.B. Caird

Book Review

Fenton, Alexander. The Northern Isles : Orkney and Shetland.
John Donald Publishers Ltd. Edinburgh. pp. X + 721. £15.00.

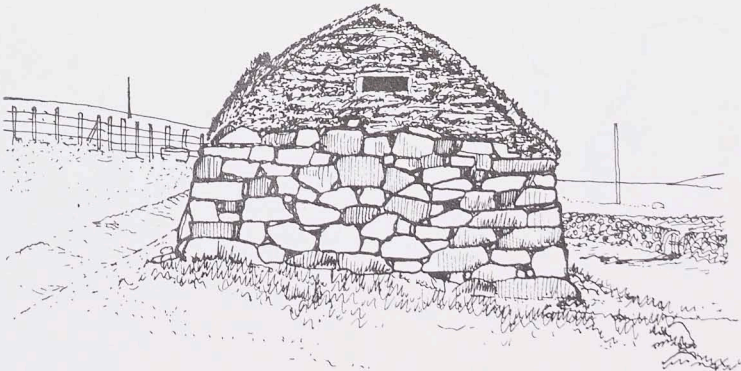
Alexander Fenton broke new ground in 1976 with the publication of Scottish Country Life, a study of rural Scots, their activities, material culture and their way of life written from an ethnological point of view. He puts us more deeply into his debt in writing The Northern Isles, a major and quite remarkable study of Orkney and Shetland from the same viewpoint : "an approach to history through people and things they did, the tools and equipment they used, the houses they lived in, the stock they reared, the crops they grew, the food they ate" (p. 624) : a people-oriented study which focusses in often very minute detail on these islanders and their material culture but within the context of the Scandinavian world of which they are very much a part and in the greater context of European ethnology of which he has a profound appreciation.

The book consists of thirteen sections of varying lengths, appropriate to the topic under discussion, further divided into 71 parts, each encapsulating the significant details. Each section is written in historical depth, carefully assembling the evidence for the feature under discussion. Land and land-holding is thus examined from the earliest settlements to the establishment of the modern units, with analysis of the terminology locally used, related to the linguistic origins of the term - Scandinavian, Scots, or more rarely, Gaelic and this linguistic analysis throughout the book gives a depth to the discussion and establishes links with similar cultural features, mostly in the Scandinavian world. Furthermore, as income from kelp was one of the formative influences in the advance of Orkney farming, the author inserts a detailed section on the processes of kelp making widening the value of the volume to readers seeking information on a particular process. The detailed exposition of the process of division from what appears to be a form of proprietary run-rig in Papa

Stour is just one other section which will interest a wider readership, for such detailed analysis is rare in print. Be it land, vernacular architecture, fuel, animal traction, cereals, roots, gardens, stock, textiles, rabbits or fishing and fishermen, exact detail is recorded with a drawing or contemporary illustration for further clarification and throughout the analysis different facets of a topic are interlinked with other objects or strands in the total pattern of living.

A further valuable contribution is the use of contemporary testaments and diaries which help to explain levels of living among members of the different social strata or the sequence and time taken to build steadings or perform farming tasks. And social and agricultural customs are not forgotten : mutual help and good neighbourliness in harvest, peat cutting or textile production and customary gifts all illuminating not only the fabric, but the working of these societies. Students of all rural societies will find comparisons to be made, new ideas to be explored.

Throughout the book, there is a fine balance of material for both Orkney and Shetland - different communities in different environments with varying strengths of linkage with Scandinavia and Scotland. And it is a most readable and well illustrated work, generously referenced, with some 700 works listed in the bibliography, and an excellently devised comprehensive index : a masterly work of profound scholarship and deep insight for which a wide range of readership is assured.



SCOTLAND



ORKNEY

Stroma

CAITHNESS

HIGHLANDS

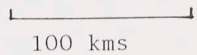
Drumdeewan

Kilninian

Kilfinan

IRELAND

ENGLAND



S.V.B.W.G. Membership

Applications for membership enclosing £2.00 annual subscription should be made to the Hon. Treasurer, S.V.B.W.G., 149 Strathern Road, West Ferry, Dundee, DD5 1BR. (Telephone : Dundee (0382) 79484).

Articles and reports on work in progress should be submitted to the Hon. Editor not later than the beginning of August for inclusion in the following issue of VERNACULAR BUILDING.

