

SAMPLE REPORT PAGES

(from a variety of WBR Reports)



Photo of 1st rebuild above shows flat arch with angled bricks to window.
 Photo of 2nd rebuild to left shows flat arch with gauged bricks to window.

The range to the right appears to date from the mid-C18 and is also divided into two unequal sections. The left part rises from a continuous stone and flint chequer work base, once part of the cottage range.

During the first rebuild of this middle section around c1750 the house was rebuilt in English bond brickwork. At that time the frontage would almost certainly have been limewashed/roughcast rendered to hide the joints. During the second rebuild the house was extended to the east in Flemish bond brickwork to form a double-pile construction with different windows. The front has been unified with a painted dentilled cornice.



Axial Passage

The present doorway between the corridor to the west and the unheated parlour to the east is original as no peg-holes for missing muntins are seen in the transverse beam over. The older 2-panel doors are c1800 at the earliest, with mostly later copies.

Stair Tower

This is a largely untouched newel stair with octagonal newel post rising to the attic, with a 17th century timber-framed partition visible in the rear wall at first floor. There was very probably an arched board at the head of the doorway leading to the stair that has been removed.

Kitchen

Part of a plank and muntin partition remains to the kitchen as stub walls, opening the kitchen onto the through passage. Peg holes in the header beam to the partition show that the plank and muntin partition continued to a doorway, probably close to the west end, where the original material has been replaced, possibly in c1800.

The ceiling is probably original as it is of similar proportions, though with a rougher finish, as it was an unheated service outshot.





Larder/Utility

The larder was in existence by 1926 and contains brick and slate fittings of that date, and a zinc-screened window. The utility room was added in the 1960's with modern fittings. An axial beam on the north side of the through passage contains mortices for vanished joists which suggests that the beam is reused as the map evidence shows the house L-shaped.



First floor

First Floor

At first floor level the original L-shaped floor plan of rooms accessed from a corridor is largely unaltered except for the infilling of the L into a rectangular plan by the early- and mid-C20 brick builds, and an extension of the corridor into the principal bedroom over the hall to form access to these added rooms.



Fireplace in west bedroom



First floor corridor



Walls: The walls have been made up of assorted fielded and sunk panelling in the early C19.

Floor: Boards/carpet. 6 steps up of approximately 1 metre to access chamber over mid-C19 dining room.

Windows:W12 (north) 3-light fixed light, 2-panes each divided by small sunk double ogee timber mullions probably of early C18. There is a step in the wall of approximately 5".

W13 (south) 4x4 sash with keel-moulded glazing bars and narrow ogee architrave surround. Mid C19.

Stairs: The stair head for the ground to first floor stair reuses good, wavy splat elm balusters of c1700, probably from their original position next to the lounge hearth. Unfortunately the balusters were cut out at slightly different heights, resulting in a crooked balustrade, with an ill-fitting handrail of moulded sections nailed together and joined to plain oak newels.

The stair to the attic floor is a c1988 inclined ladder type with carpeted treads.

Bedroom 1 (chamber over dining room)

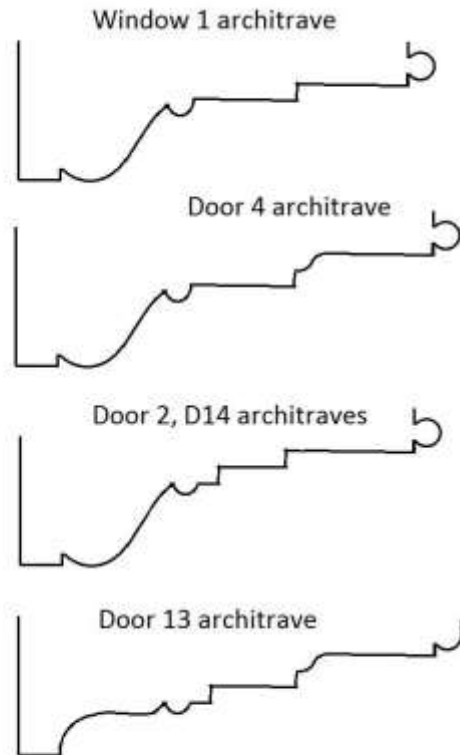


Window 15

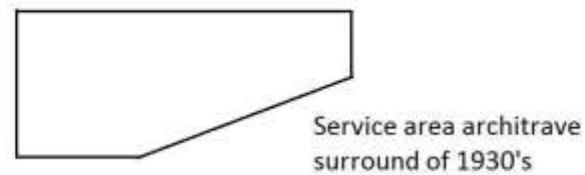
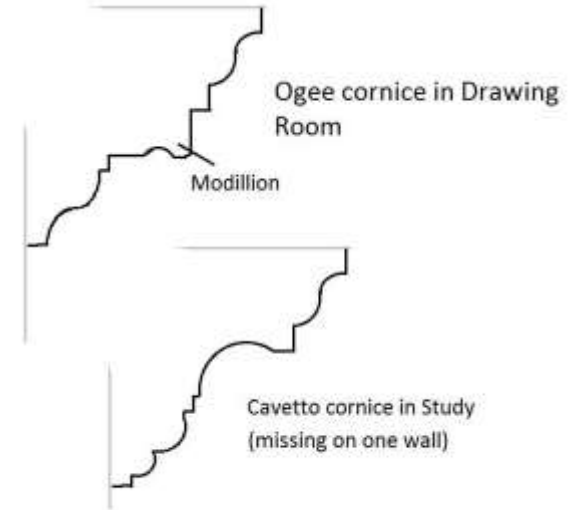
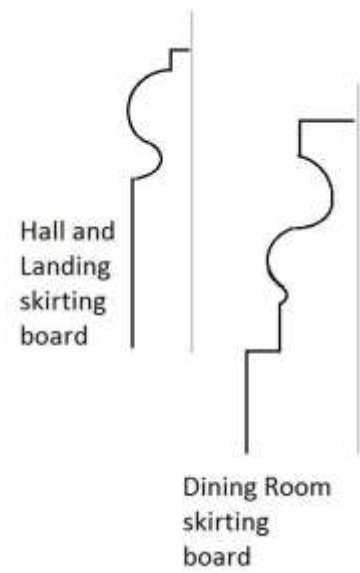
Keel-moulded glazing bars to W14 Moulded doorcase D12

Ceiling: Plastered/plain. Lined.

Profiles showing designs of window and door architraves, skirting boards and cornices



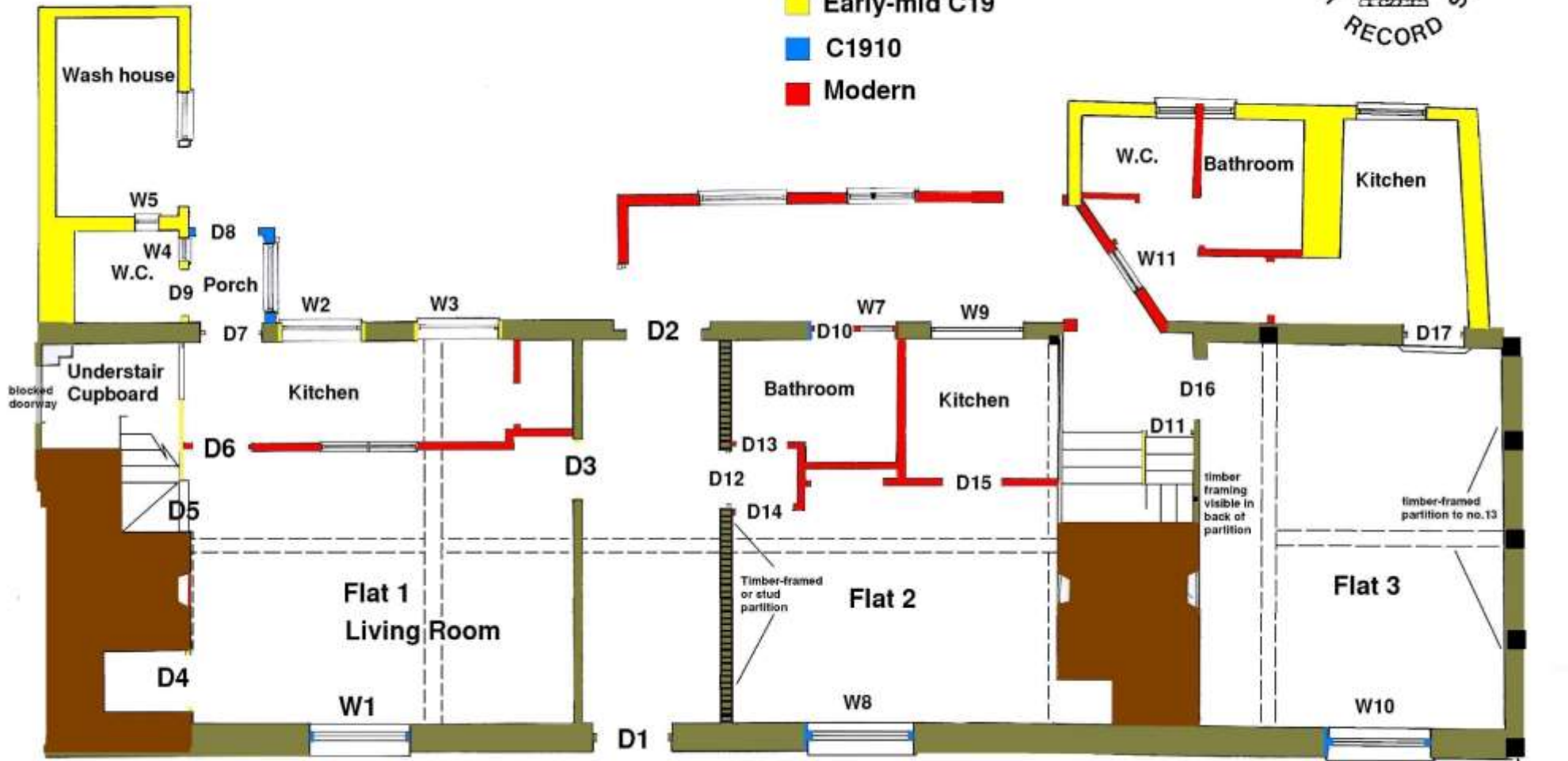
DO NOT SCALE



GROUND FLOOR

Tentative Dating

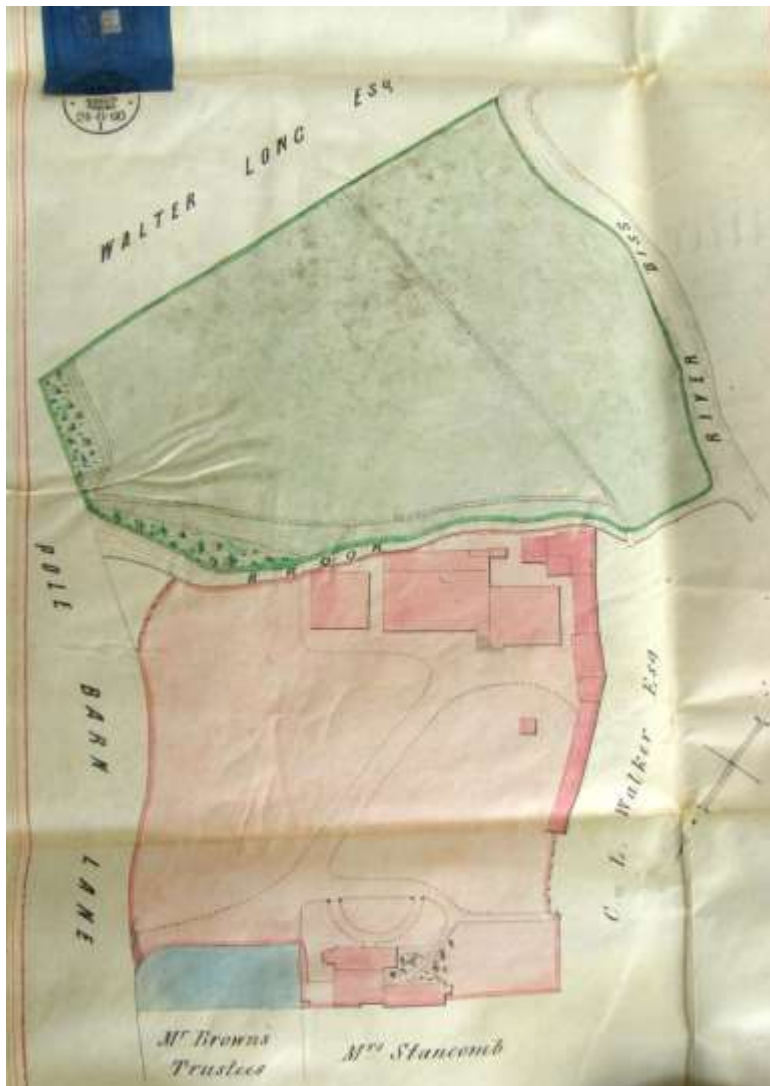
- 1597 - 1630
- Several C18 phases
- Early-mid C19
- C1910
- Modern



Redrawn from plans supplied
N Walker & D Treasure
Do Not Scale

Some notes on the History

In March 1847 Samuel Brown was declared bankrupt and in June of that year the property was sold to Henry Edmonds, a coach proprietor of Edgeware Road, London, for £650, subject to the mortgage. A deed of June 1848 re-conveyed the property from John and James Kemp, who had supplied the mortgage finance, to Henry Edmonds. This deed indicates that the mill had been damaged by fire, and J. and J. Kemp had received £1406 in compensation from the Imperial Insurance Company.



During that same year, Samuel Brown was discharged from bankruptcy and bought back from Edmonds the factory and the new buildings Edmonds had erected, for £1900. Brown chose to live at Rodney House, and in 1851 Courtfield House was occupied by Thomas Griffin, a 73 year-old retired Baptist minister, a native of Bewdley in Gloucestershire.

The 1851 census places Thomas Griffin, 73, and his wife Maria, 63, at the house, together with their three unmarried daughters – Lucy, 34, Sarah, 29, and Fanny, 25, and one servant, 24 year-old Sarah Howe. Maria and her eldest daughter Lucy had both been born in London, the two younger daughters at Stepney.

Some notes on the History

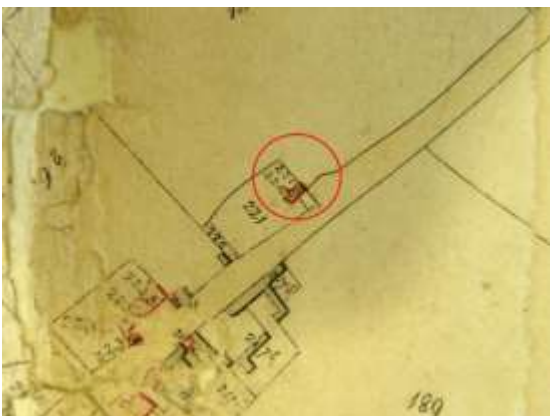
Pickwick forms part of the parish of Corsham. At the time of the Domesday Survey it contained two manors: King's and Rectory. King John gave the King's manor to his son Richard. In 1575 this manor, which during the 14th century had been the dowry of successive queens, was bought by a Corsham-born man, Thomas Smyth. He was the son of John Smyth, who built the original great house which now forms part of the present Corsham Court.

In 1602, this manor was sold to Edward Hungerford and it remained in the Hungerford family until 1684. After this date it passed through the hands of at least six different owners until it was bought by Paul Methuen of Bradford-on-Avon in 1746.



Corsham Manor in 1770 WSHC 135/65H Map of the Corsham and Biddestone estate in 1820

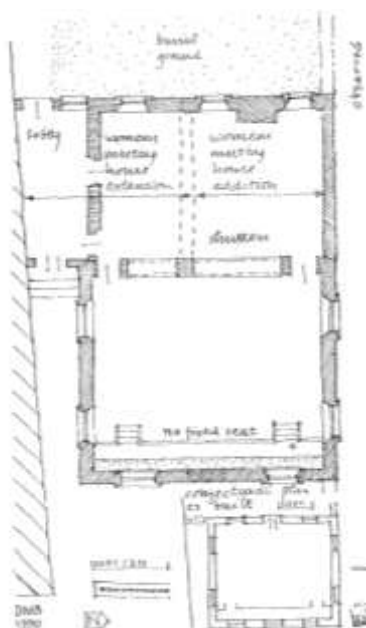
A map of the roads and adjoining waste in Corsham Manor, of 1770 (WSHC 135/65H), while showing no buildings, appears to show the area where Mead Cottage now stands as having been owned by either Thomas Bennett or William Stump, presumably as a leasehold from the Hungerfords.



Corsham tithe award, 1839

On the Tithe Map and Schedule of 1839, Rev. Timothy Conyers is named as owner of a pair of cottages which now form one cottage, presumably by lease from the Methuen family. On the map, the cottages are numbered 221a and 221b and each is described as a 'house and garden'; overall, their extent was put at 34 perches, and a tithe charge of 17/7d was payable to the vicar.

Discussion



In 1698 the first Meeting House was built on the present site. Harold Fassnidge suggested that this was extended in 1705¹. Although the listed building description quotes Pevsner's date of 1734 as the foundation of the present building², this is not borne out by any datestone found in this survey, or by Harold Fassnidge's research. In fact Fassnidge, in his book 'The Quakers of Melksham 1669-1950' found evidence that the meeting house was rebuilt in late 1776 or early 1777. The present building is largely a shell of this date – an ashlar building with a steep, hipped roof and originally three high, segmental-headed windows with keystones facing the road. Butler, in his publication on the Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain also suggests that the back wall had a fireplace, which may have been salvaged and reused. It is not known what service provision existed at the rear at this time.

Butler, 2001

Although there is no mention in the accounts, around 1800 it appears that the meeting-house was extended to provide a second, slightly smaller hall women's meeting hall at the rear. This hall was heated by a hob-grate with plain stone surround in a shallow flue – an C18 type and quite possibly reset when the old back wall was demolished. At the same time the roof of the main hall was completely replaced, and parapets added above the moulded cornice in a slightly different stone³. This gave a much more classical cube-like appearance. The interior was gutted and both rooms given a sunk-panelled dado, with plain plaster finishes to the upper wall and ceiling. Almost all the doors are the original framed flush panels with moulded architrave surrounds. In the main hall, an ingenious device above the ceiling centre allowed control of ventilation by means of a pulley. The gallery approached by twin stick-baluster stairs with mahogany handrails were added. At the back was a continuous bench interrupted by a modern pier supporting the roof truss. Inspection of the void below the gallery clearly shows the plastering stopping short of the position of the original skirting board.

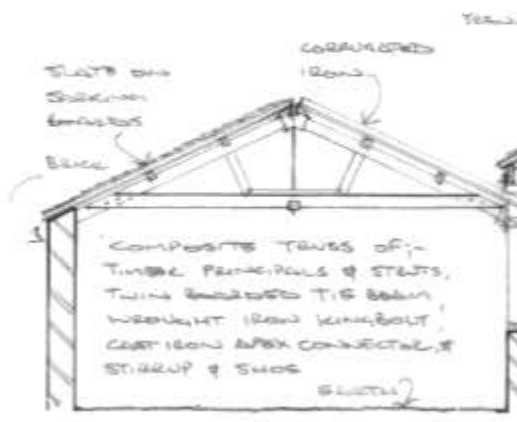
Soon after this extension, the women's meeting hall was extended again, according to Butler, which would explain the asymmetry in the gables of the rear wall, and internally, with the fireplace being set to one side. Accounts of 1811-12 here at the History Centre show that the through passage to the burial ground was rebuilt at this time using hard-wearing Pennant sandstone imported from Wales.

¹ See end-notes in history section for full reference

² The Buildings of England, Wiltshire by Nikolaus Pevsner, 1963

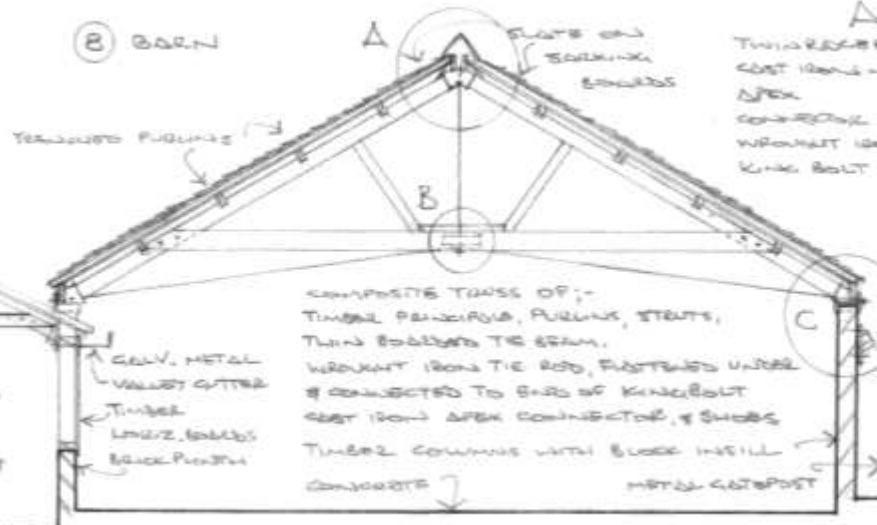
³ Bills of 1811, see notes on history

9 WORKSHOP



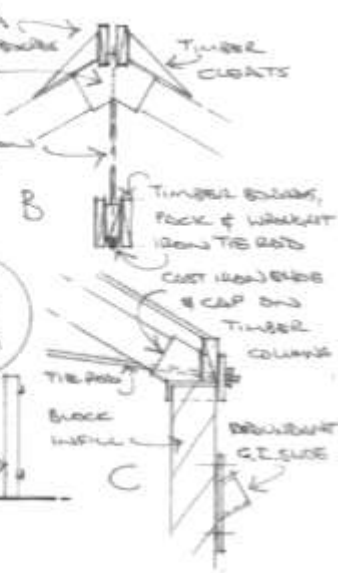
COMPOSITE TRUSS OF:-
 TIMBER PRINCIPALS & STEETS,
 TWIN BRASSED TIE BEAM,
 WROUGHT IRON KINGBOLT,
 CAST IRON APX CONNECTOR,
 STRUT & SHOE

8 BARN

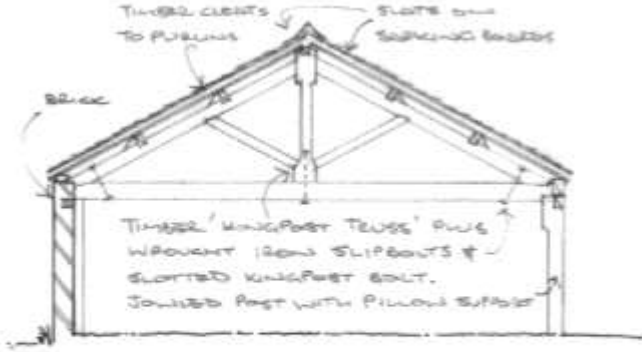


COMPOSITE TRUSS OF:-
 TIMBER PRINCIPALS, RAFTERS, STEETS,
 TWIN BRASSED TIE BEAM,
 WROUGHT IRON TIE ROD, FASTENED UNDER
 & CONNECTED TO END OF KINGBOLT
 CAST IRON APX CONNECTOR, & SHOES
 TIMBER COLUMNS WITH BLOCK INFILL
 CONCRETE

SECTION LL



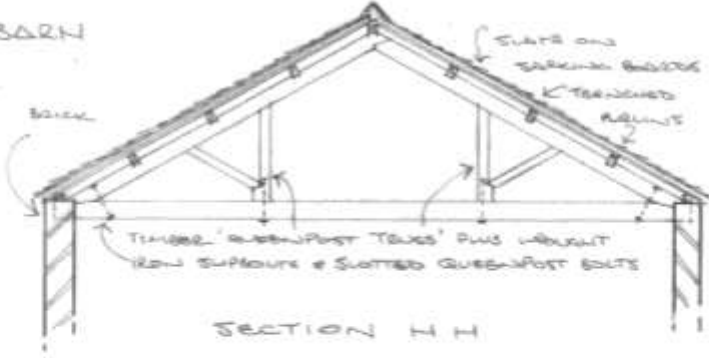
5 COWHOUSE



TIMBER KINGPOST TRUSS PLUS
 WROUGHT IRON SLIPBOOTS &
 SLOTTED KINGPOST BOLT.
 JOINED POST WITH PILLOW SUPPORT

SECTION K-K

10 BARN



TIMBER QUEENPOST TRUSS PLUS WROUGHT
 IRON SUPPORTS & SLOTTED QUEENPOST BOLTS

SECTION H-H

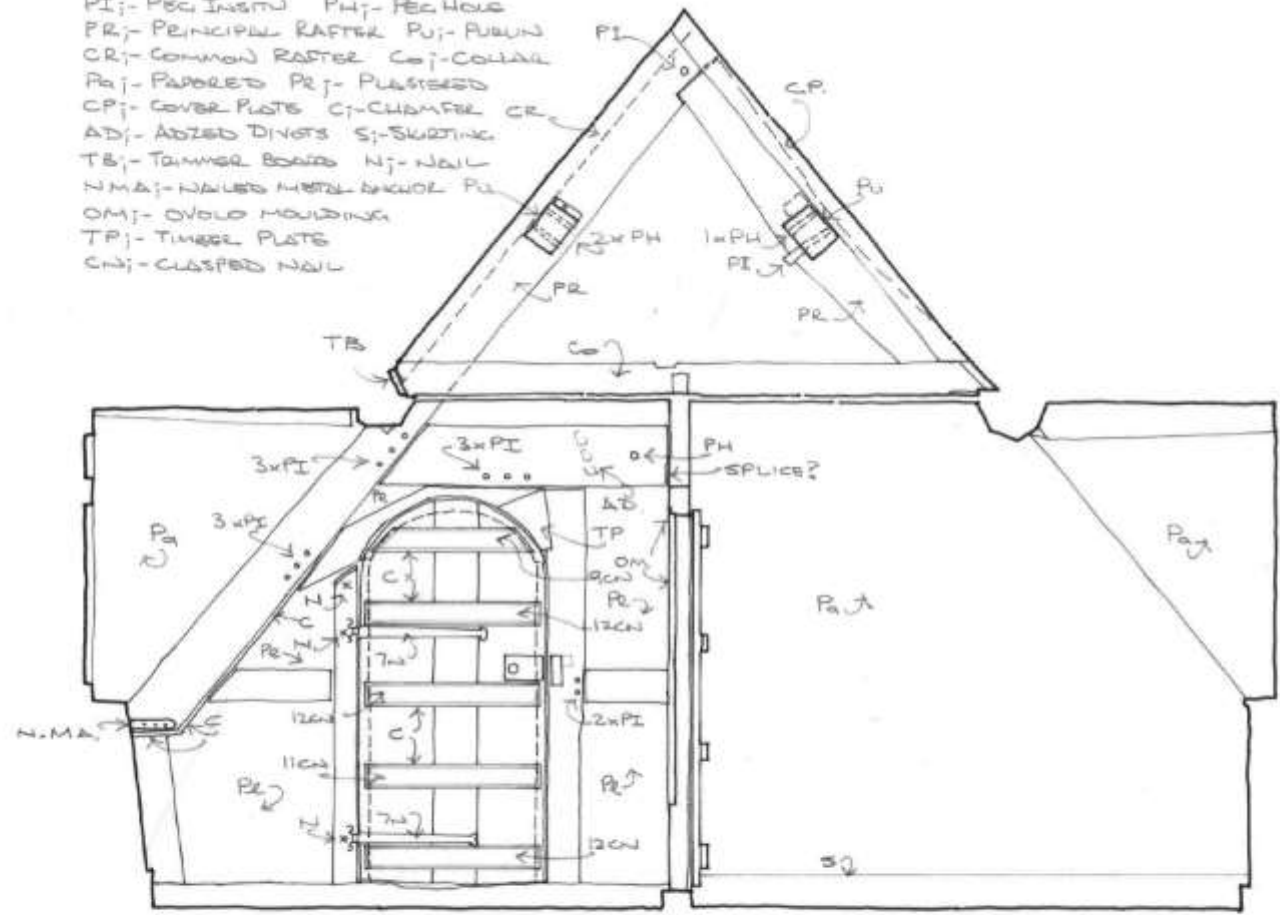
WILTSHIRE BUILDINGS RECORD





KEY

- PI;- REG INSTN PH;- REG HOLD
- PR;- PRINCIPAL RAFTER PU;- PURLIN
- CR;- COMMON RAFTER Co;- COLLAR
- Pa;- PAPERED PJ;- PLASTERED
- CP;- COVER PLATE C;- CHAMFER CR
- AD;- ADZED DINGS S;- SKUTTING
- TB;- TAMMER BOARD N;- NAIL
- N.M.A;- NAILED METAL ANCHOR PU
- OM;- OVOID MOLDING
- TP;- TIMBER PLATE
- CN;- CLASPED NAIL



VIEW TOWARDS EAST I.E. WEST FACE SHOWN

FIRST FLOOR & LOFT ABOVE

