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5 Aug 1996

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Dear Hilary & Wulf,

Many thanks for letting us see your interesting house and measure the roof truss.

I enclose the notes we made, and the roof truss drawing, which is clearly made of re-used timber, (from the first phase of building probably.)

The only surviving original window seems to be the mentioned window fragment you showed us at the back. It was probably a 1½ storey house with outshot originally, and very likely thatched.

Many thanks again.

Yours sincerely,

Alison

In the roof the rest of the truss is seen. (see drawing) The stone wall of the outshut has been raised to make a double depth roof, but this meant purlins were not needed. The roof is curiously braced and the chiselled construction marks and chamfering show this was intentional. It is also evident that timber was reused for this, perhaps from the lower roofed house. The tie beam is from a roof of cruck-like construction and large straight angled halvings are seen on the top side. These show the original building was about 4.60 m between the trusses. The larger principal rafter has purlin trenches which are too big, and a too large ridge notch, with a now off-centre centering line, and has a hewing mark X111 scratched on. Two of the purlins are of large, reused, heartwood timbers and one has X11 on it. The smaller principal rafter has a too large mortice into which the brace fits and no construction mark and may be reusing a mortice. The wedged-in ridge piece has a redundant mortice, perhaps for a former wind brace. Another feature are the two parallel red lines which run all the way round the inside of the truss principals. Is this decoration or carpenters chalk and of which period ? (Amazingly, ACA saw this the same week on an arch-braced roof truss in a house dated 1635 in Cononley near Skipton, but why carpenters marking should be so visible in an open, high-status parlour chamber room is odd. If the old timber at The Shaws is reused from an open roof , then perhaps this was a common basic decoration?)

5. Plan form;

Direct entry two or three cell with outshut originally. Changed to double depth central entry plan later.

DATING

6. Identify the oldest part of the building and likely date;

Lower walling and some of roof truss indicate a 1½ storey, possibly thatched house with curved principal rafters and halved on windbraces. There was probably an outshut .

7. major extensions or alterations;

The house was 'Georgianised' by raising the roof and rear wall to two full storeys. (The truss is not unlike the " half a kingpost" structure in Farfield Cottages, Addingham , raised in the 18 th C)

c 1890 when the house changed hands the vernacular style mullioned windows of the frontage were put in, possibly replacing what was already there, and the porch added for effect, having been brought from elsewhere.

SETTING

8. Orientation;

Faces E by the road

9. Relationships;

Beck flows down on the N gable and barns and outbuildings at rear.

OTHER INFORMATION

10. Initials/date stones

Porch (imported) JJ 1738

11. Oral information from owner/occupier;

Original pieces of restored porch stonework have been kept

12 Documentation, maps, inventories etc;

Report 459 (YVBSG.)

13. Plans etc annexed (please tick)

block plan of site

ground floor plan

first floor plan

analytical plan

copies of inventories, maps etc

sections

elevations

detail drawings

photographs

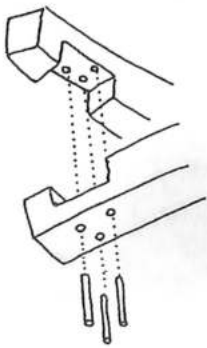


Diagram showing blades halved together at apex

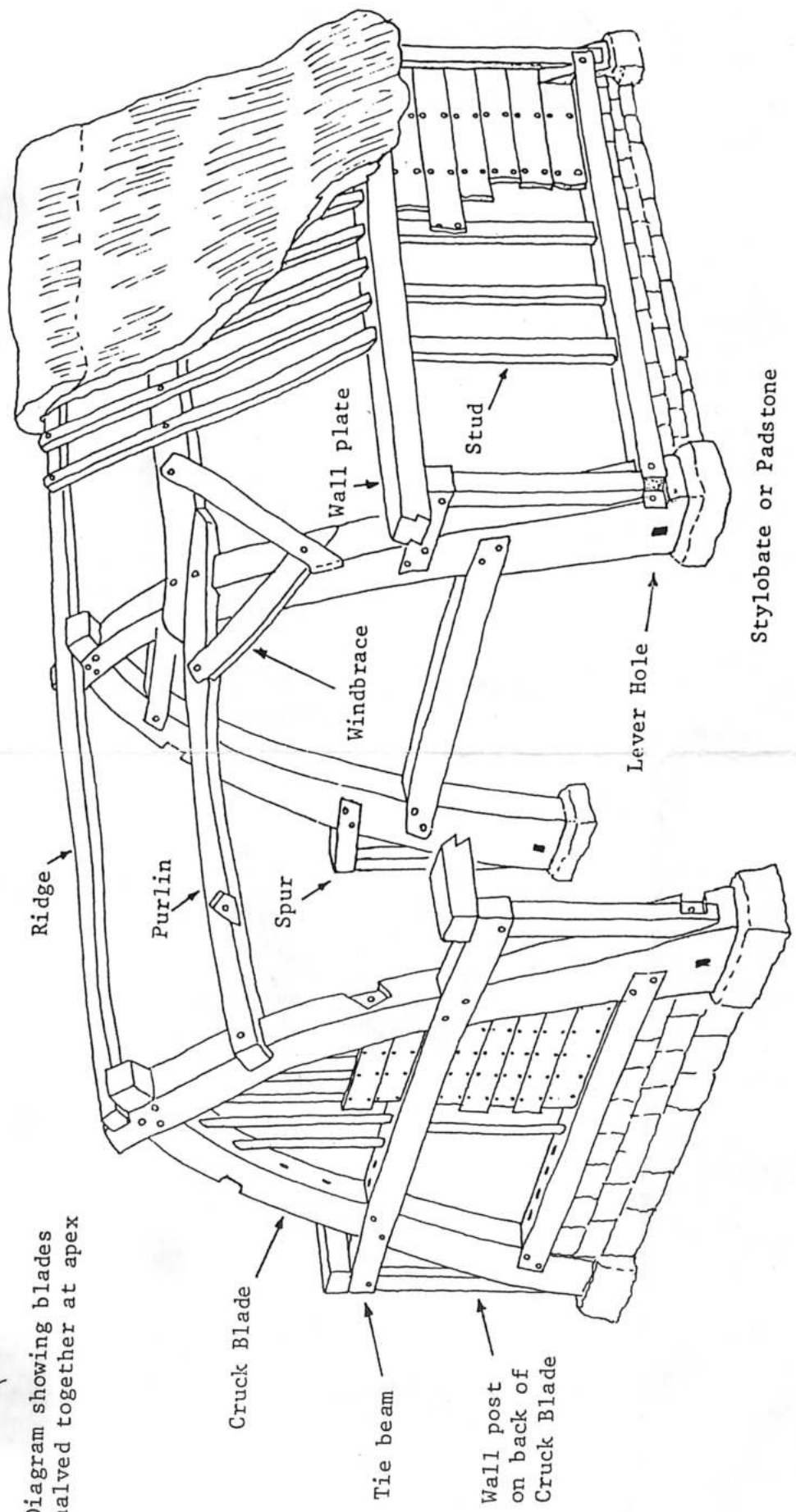
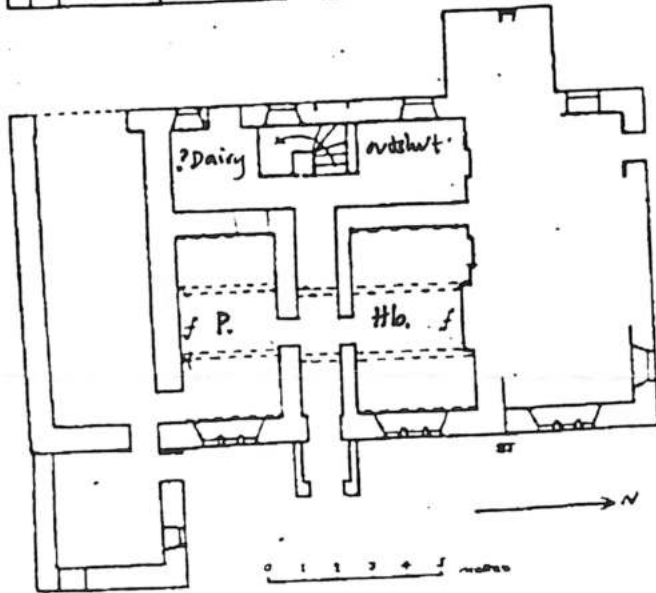


Fig. 1. CRUCK CONSTRUCTION.

From 'Timber Framed Buildings in South Yorkshire' by Peter Ryder



raised roof
& remade
truss.

earlier 1 1/2
storey house
with outshut



NORTH YORKSHIRE (W.R.)

HORTON IN RIBBLESDALE: The Shaws, Selside. Mr and Mrs Morphet.
SD 784756. visited 28-10-78

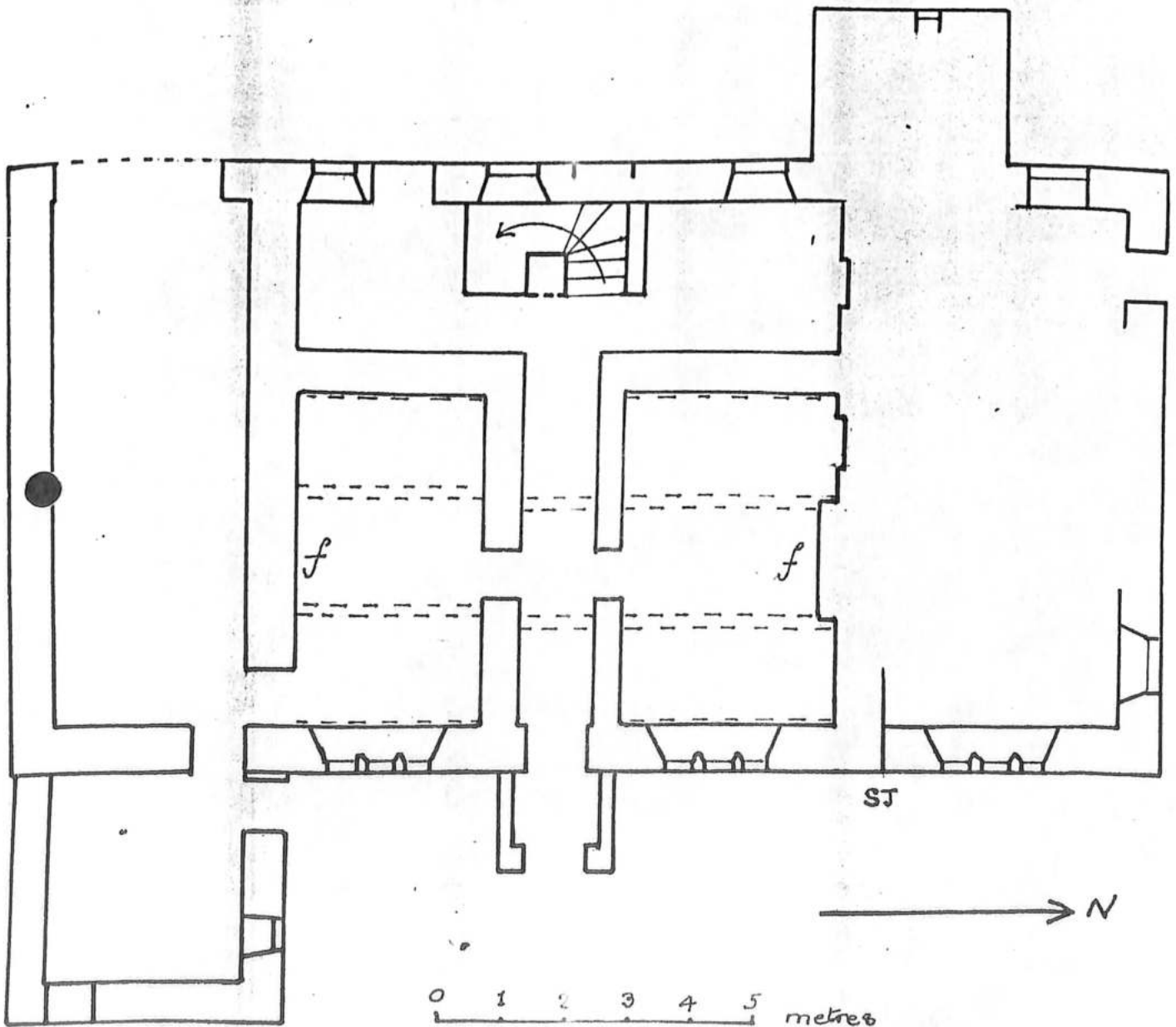
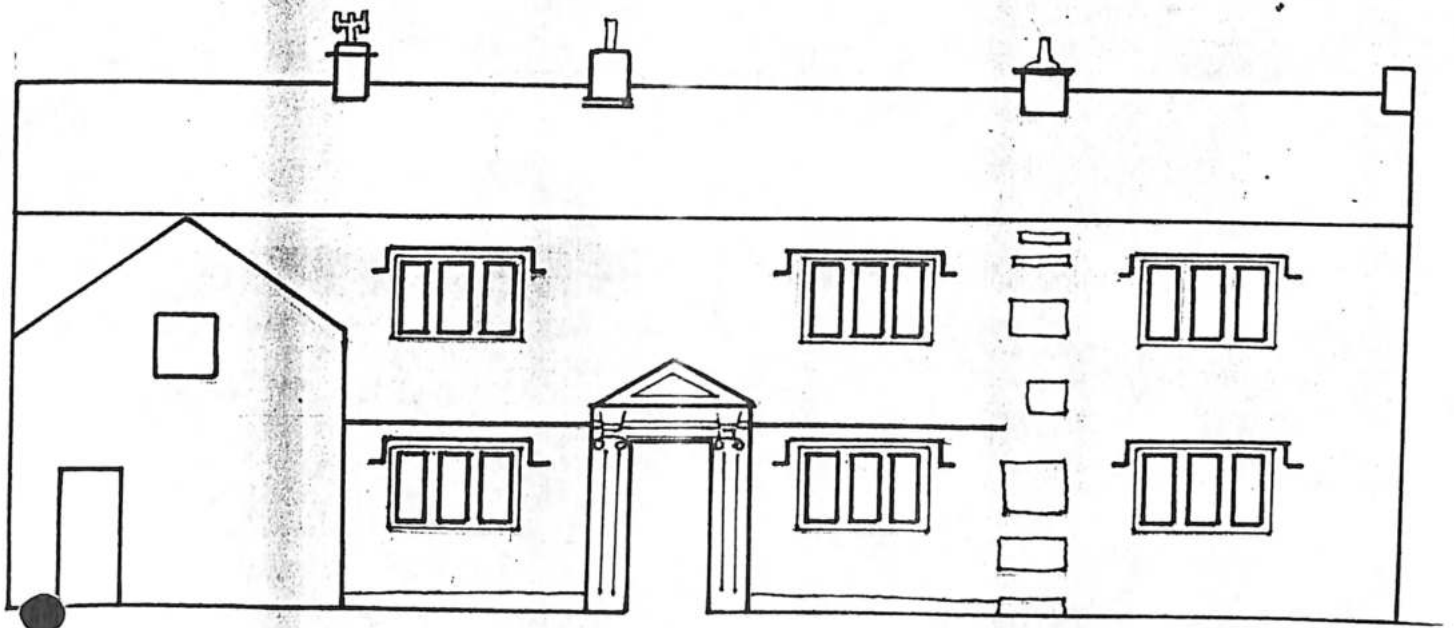
The house faces east, standing a little back from the road that curves through the hamlet. It is faced with well squared and coursed blocks of limestone and sandstone with sandstone dressings and a stone roof; the back wall is of ordinary mixed rubble. The windows are framed in flat tooled blocks with moulded rims and the mullions are flat outside and splayed within. There are hood moulds over each window and in addition a string course across the middle part of the house. Where this terminates at its north end is a line of massive squared quoins. The porch is an elegant renaissance design with fluted Ionic pilasters above which are inscribed J - J and J738 respectively. The door itself is made of vertical planks with an over-frame of lugged panels, a design some 50-70 years earlier than that of the porch. There are four chimneys, each with one flue.

The door opens into a passage with the living room to the right and kitchen to the left. The ceiling-joists in these rooms are carried on two parallel beams and their ends rest on timber girders set into the side walls and held in position by wooden corbels. Behind are two service rooms flanking a staircase with turned balusters of late 17th century type, but these show some signs of re-use. The treads are of wood up to the turn and above that of stone, which, combined with evidence of a blocked doorway in the outside wall, indicates a change in the way the stairs ran. Perhaps originally they went straight up in stone beside the back wall, were then cut short to allow the doorway to be made (perhaps when the house was divided) and finally the door was blocked up and the stairs rebuilt round a well. The upper storey was not seen, but Mrs Morphet told us that the chimney over the front door belongs to a bedroom fireplace.

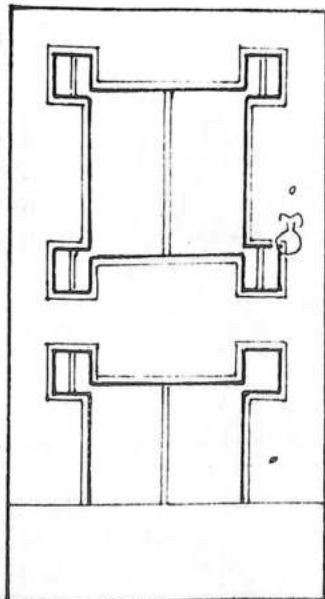
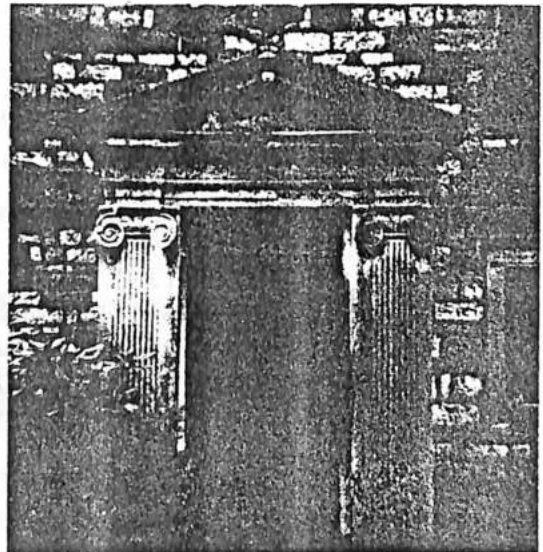
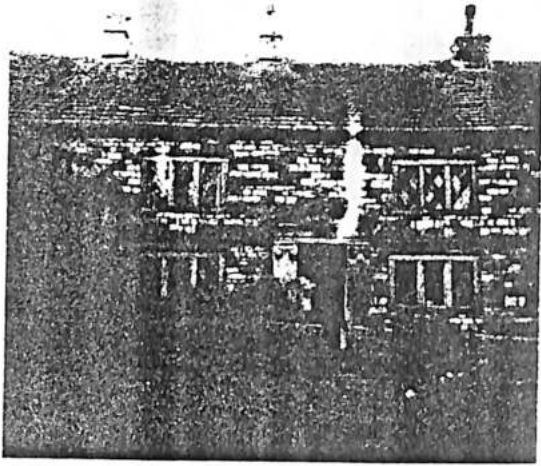
To the south of the rooms so far described is a room the full width of the house, unplastered, open to the roof but lofted over at one end only. The roof is made of three pairs of purlins and a ridge-piece spanning from wall to wall. The purpose of this room is not at present understood. At the north end the house was enlarged about 1900, possibly earlier since the school opposite was built in 1877 and the style is somewhat similar. This end was not seen inside.

From the plan, the house could date from the late 17th or early 18th century, with the entrance originally straight into the main living room. The porch was added in 1738, but at the end of the 19th century the front was radically improved and all the window frames renewed, no doubt imitating the original ones, and with a substantial addition at the north end (why was the south end not brought into use instead?). It is of course possible that the porch, the front door and the staircase balusters have all been brought in from elsewhere in the course of this renovation, but even if this were found to be so, the original date of the house is probably that indicated by the plan type.

Features peculiar to the region are the chimney stacks made for single flues only, which results in a lot of stacks on the roof line, and the corbelled side-girders to support the ceiling joists, an unexpected feature in a region hardly rich in timber. The south end room is also a regional peculiarity whose explanation must lie in the economic history of Ribblesdale.



The news, which, however, is not...



Dear



NORTH YORKSHIRE (W.R.)

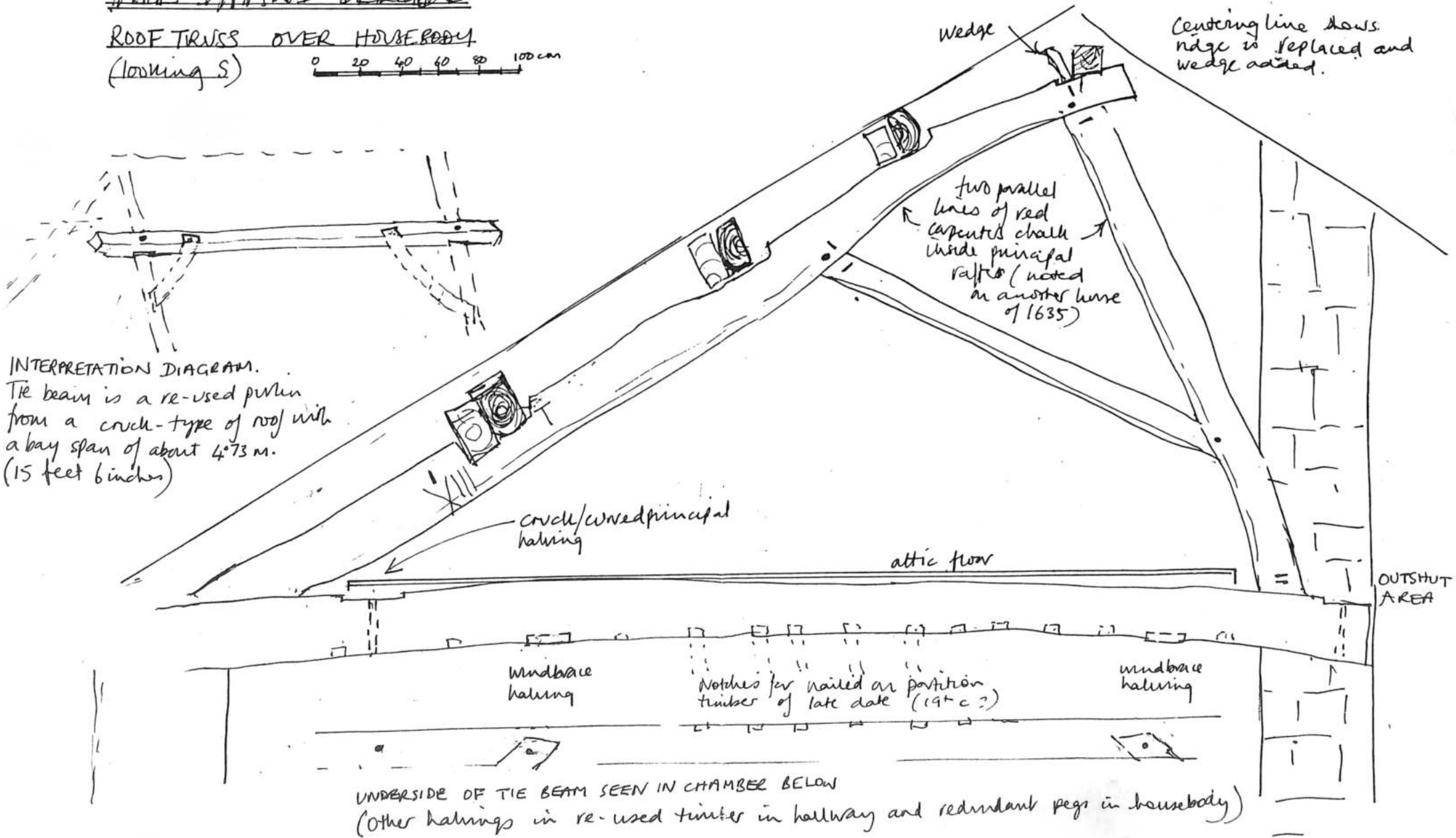
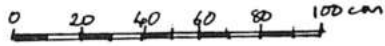
HORTON IN RIBblesDALE, The shaws, Seaside. photograph 1982.

NORTH YORKSHIRE
AND CLEVELAND
VERNACULAR BUILDINGS
STUDY GROUP 489



THE SHAW'S SELSIDE

ROOF TRUSS OVER HOUSEBODY
(looking S)



Centering line shows ridge is replaced and wedge added.

two parallel lines of red carpenter's chalk inside principal rafters (noted in another house of 1635)

INTERPRETATION DIAGRAM.
Tie beam is a re-used purlin from a crotch-type of roof with a bay span of about 4.73 m. (15 feet 6 inches)

crotch/crowned principal halving

attic floor

windbrace halving

Notches for nailed on partition timber of late date (19th c?)

windbrace halving

OUTSHUT AREA

UNDERSIDE OF THE TIE BEAM SEEN IN CHAMBER BELOW
(Other halings in re-used timber in hallway and redundant pegs in housebody)