

NORTH YORKSHIRE (W.R.)

AUSTWICK, Battle Hill. SD 769686. Mr and Mrs Carter. visited 3-5-80.

The house stands in the village at a point where the road runs southwest-northeast, and so the house faces northwest. It stands back about 10m. from the street with no other houses immediately adjacent, nor has it any outbuildings. There is a working farm about 75m. to the south of it which according to Mr and Mrs Carter was once in common ownership with Battle Hill. There is a small garden behind the house and beyond it a close called Battle Hill Close in the 19th century.

The house is of superior quality, with a three-unit plan, two storeys throughout, of rubble stone roughly mortared and now whitened. There are ashlar quoins(?). From an architect's plan of 1921, in the house, it was once divided into two but the parts were then reunited by removing a blocking on the ground floor between hall and parlour. At the same time new openings were made in the rear elevation; the added garage at the north corner is presumably more recent.

The most impressive feature is a storeyed porch with an original studded door. The entrance doorway has a Pennine head with rectangular pendant panel (of Lunedale type) containing the date 1673 and the initials I- and L- M-. The head and jambs have a cyma moulding, over both doorhead and the chamber window are angled hood-moulds. On its south side the porch has a small window; there is none on the other side because a stair turret of quadrant plan abuts the porch there. In the angle of porch and main wall to the right there is a hall firewindow. Beyond it, the ground floor parlour window has been enlarged; but the chamber window above it has been renewed, without a mullion, though a rough and undressed hood survives over it. The gable wall to the south has a new small opening to the parlour; over it is the blocking of a doorway into the chamber which presumably implies outside access at a phase when the chamber over the parlour was used as a granary. The architect's plan of 1921 labels the parlour as a barn, but there was no opening large enough for live-stock so presumably granary is more likely than hayloft for the chamber.

The whole south part of the house - i.e. the front, side and back walls of the parlour end with the back wall of the hall up to the modern bay window - has very large footings indeed, of rough blocks projecting out to 15 cm and rising up to 30 cm. Since the north (service) end has no such footings, and is about 1m deeper from back to front, it is at least possible that the footings were retained from an earlier building.

On the rear elevation one original window survives, to the chamber over the parlour; it has two lights with a chamfered mullion. There are no visible traces of other original windows. The parlour now has a french door flanked by narrow windows; this and the ground and first floor windows of the service end, together with the doorway of the kitchen in the north gable, are marked by jambs and lintels of rusticated stone, not whitened - presumably all architects' work of 1921.

Returning to the front elevation, the ground-floor service room retains an original two-light window, without a hood mould, and the chamber over it retains an original two-light window with a rough hood. The service room window is nearer to the corner of the house. The stair turret is lit by one small opening.

There are three chimney-stacks, one at each gable end and a third between hall and parlour; the plan therefore has an entrance into the hall not strictly into a lobby but immediately in front

of the fireplace (c.f. Lumb Farm, Rathmell 578). Whether there was a spere it is impossible to tell.

The hall is now reduced by a passage along the north side, but the fireplace bressumer survives across the full width of the house. From it two lesser timbers run back into the wall, evidently to take the sides of a firehood. The hood may have survived until 1921, since the architect's plan shows a half-round projection in the chamber above, and within the roof-space are two very large slabs corbelled out from the wall to make the top of the hood. (see sketch).

The parlour has a fireplace backing onto that of the hall, with a segmental arch made of two blocks of stone, its jambs and arch having a slightly hollow chamfer. The opening is high (about 1.5m) in relation to its width (also about 1.5m). The two ceiling beams, like all the woodwork, are of poor quality and irregular, with a chamfer wherever possible but no stops. The two outer walls have a slighter beam, supported on shaped blocks, to carry the wall end of the joists, and the same feature once existed in the other ground-floor rooms.

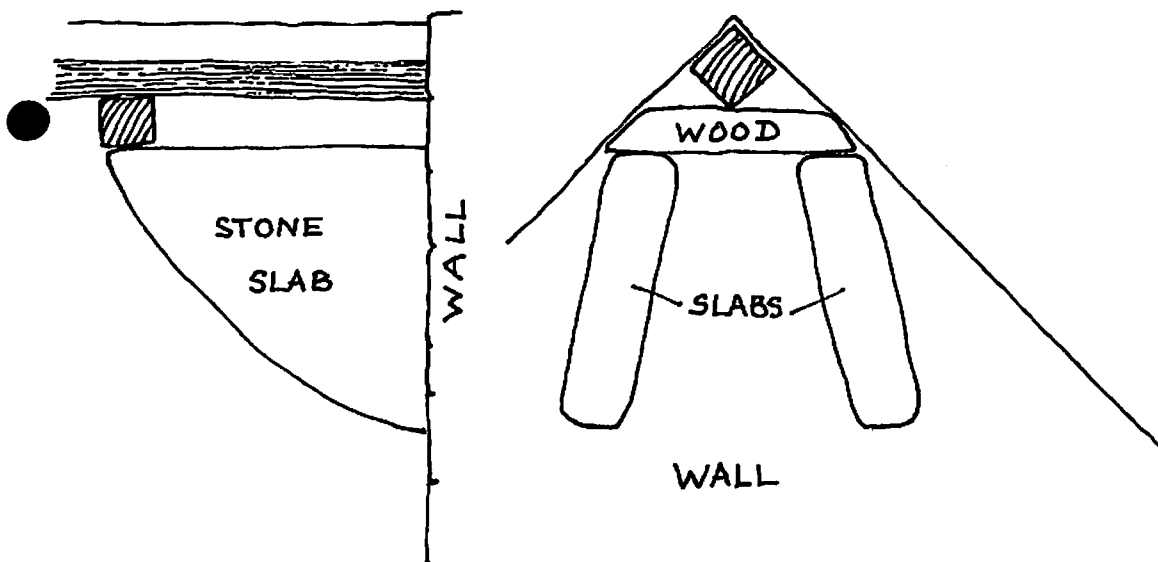
At the service end there are two rooms, the dairy towards the front retaining slate shelving being now a very small room. It was no doubt originally the larger of the two, the division probably coming under the boxed-in ceiling-beam. The other service room was unheated, and the gable end chimney served only the upper chamber.

The staircase now has wooden treads, and plain newels and rails on the inner curve; presumably all this woodwork is later than the house.

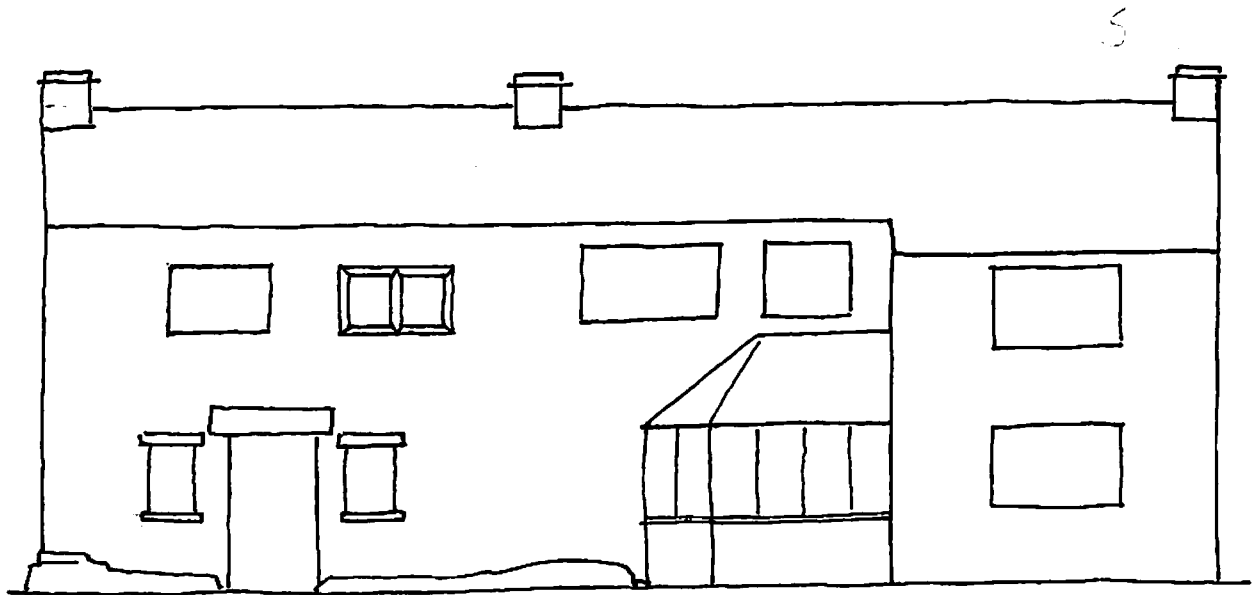
The roof has principal rafters with trenched purlins and slight, raking struts. It is covered with a thinnish slate with a stone ridge.

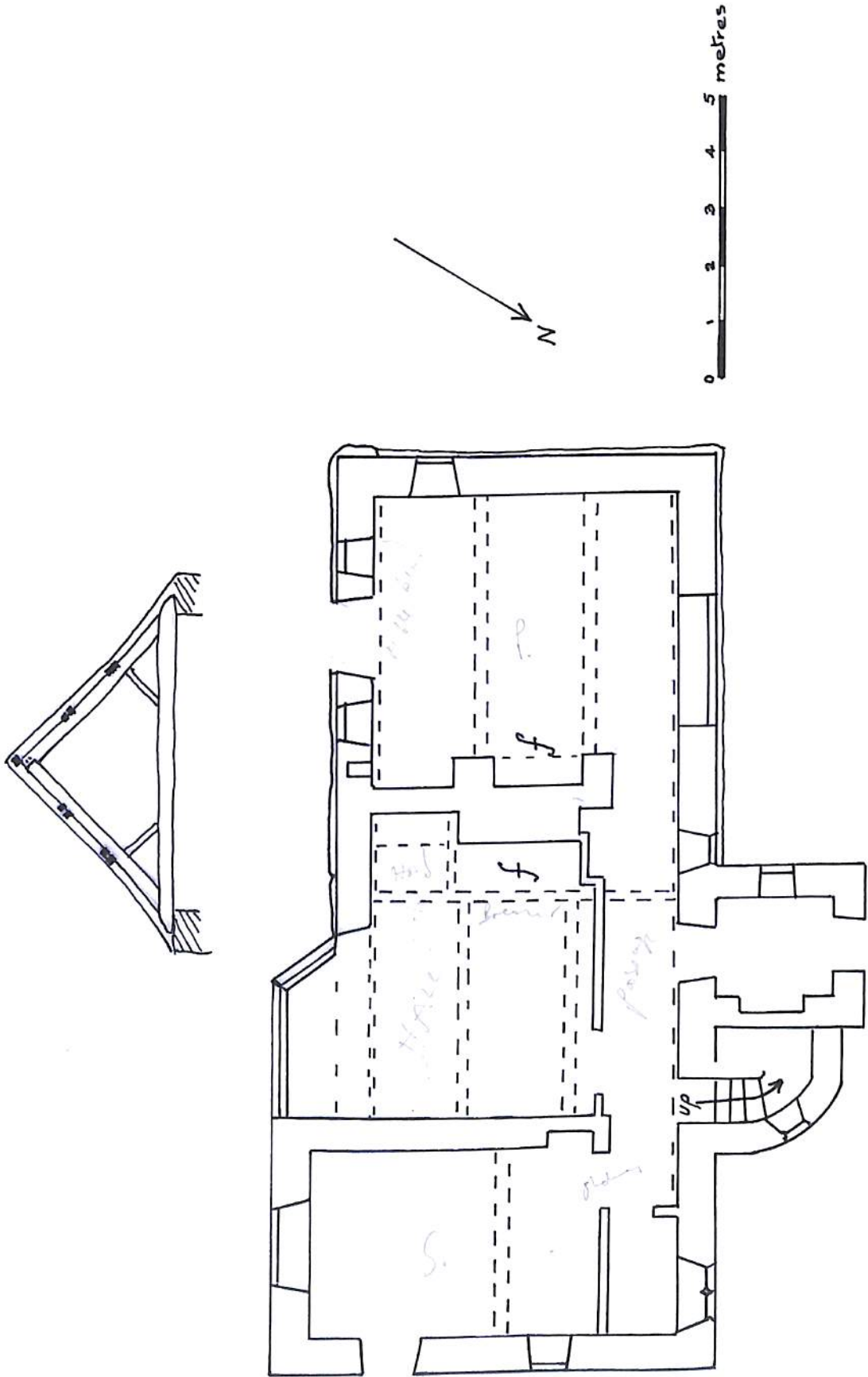
The house is evidently of one build (1673), and more recent alterations have not obscured the original plan.

M... Barley.

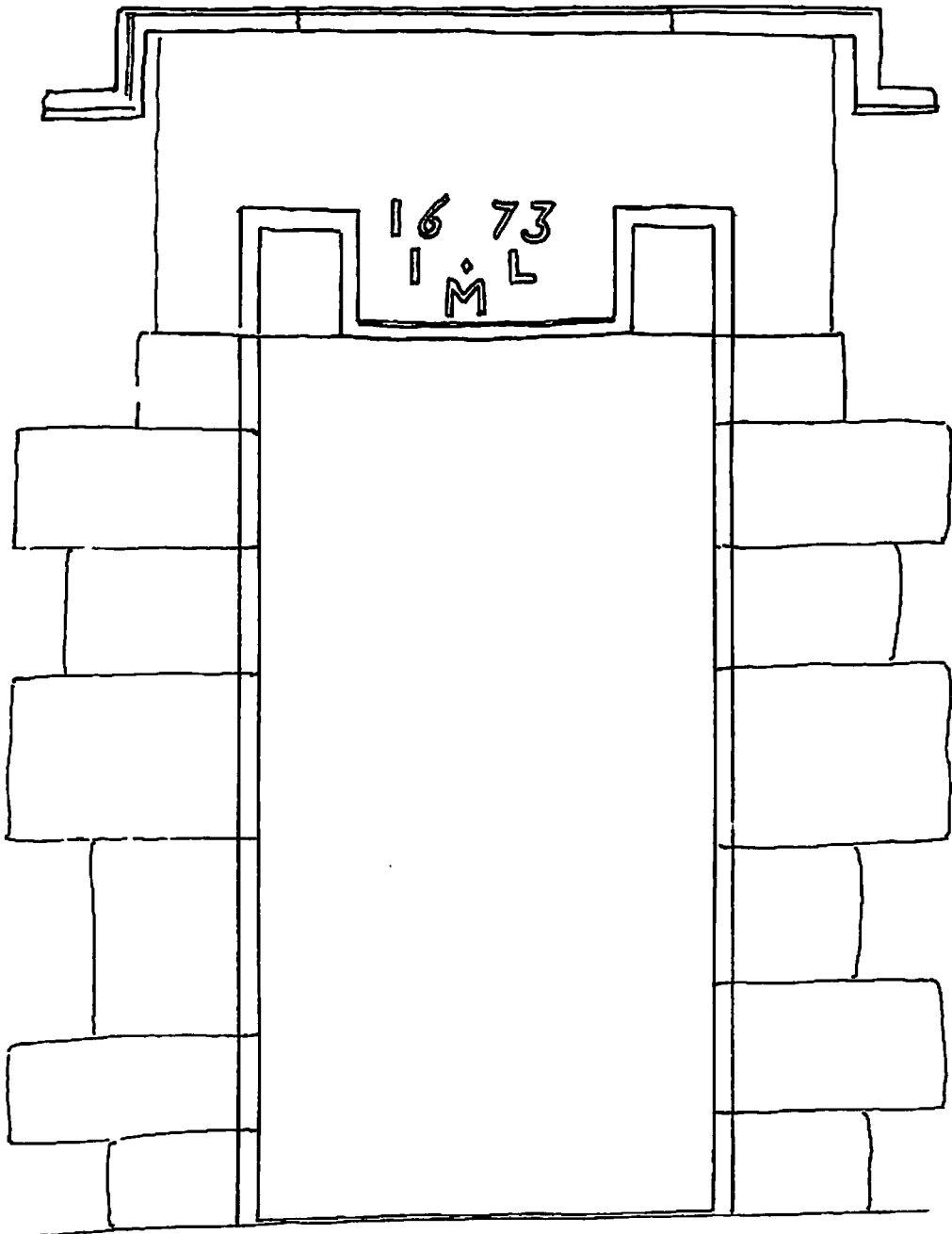


sketch of fire-hood top in roof-space.





Measured and drawn by Shirley and John Brayshay.



FRONT DOORWAY _NOT TO SCALE