

Modern County/Historic County  
CUMBRIA/North Yorkshire



YORKSHIRE VERNACULAR  
BUILDINGS STUDY GROUP

Parish/Township

Sedbergh

Name of Building

Wardses Cottage barn

National Grid Ref

SD 67149 91324

Date of Record; 10. 05. 2014

Names of recorders Alison Armstrong, Lynne Primmer

Building Listed -

Grade

No

Plans, drawings and other documents attached to this report (please list)

— Block plan

— Ground Floor Plan

— First Floor Plan

— Analytical Plan

— Elevations

— Sections

— Detailed drawings

— Photographs

— Copies of inventories, maps, etc

— Oral information

— Others Please List

**DATING** Older work includes steep rooflines for two bays at the east end (shippon and mew?) with low eaves, re-used timber with "halving" joinery now for lintels and purlins, use of "blue rag" Silurian walling stone and large split sandstone boulder quoins. This is likely to be pre 18thC. In the 18thC, probably as arable farming ceased, these farm buildings were rebuilt as a bigger stone-roofed barn re-using older timber and taking in the old mew and cowhouse. The new barn plan included three bays plus the old lower shippon. In the 19thC another stable/cart house was squeezed in at the west end, near the walled access lane

### PLAN FORM

A three-bay barn incorporating an older bay and with an older shippon bay on the east separated by a stone wall; added cart shed/stable on west.

### SUMMARY OF DESCRIPTION AND INTERPRETATION

A three bay barn of 18thC Georgian date, now partly converted to a dwelling. It incorporates one bay of an older barn plus a rebuilt old shippon bay. At the SW end a 19thC cart shed or stable, rather triangular in plan, was squeezed in beside the trackway from the fields below. Re-used timber with half-lap joints suggest the older work had a cruck type of roof truss, although such carpentry may well carry on into 18<sup>th</sup> as in Swaledale. The different stone sources make an interesting date study.

## Introduction

The linear barn complex is adjacent to the house but has been recorded separately. Like many barns, its structure is complex and here the barn is clearly of several phases as indicated by the stonework changes, heightening and additions.

## Site

The farm buildings range (called "barn" here), along with the adjacent house, are situated on lower hillside fields which were formerly ploughed. The ridge and furrow, now all meadow land, is prominent all around the property. The earthwork banks of the plough headlands are not always on the line of the present field walls. Arable farming was common into the 18thC around Sedbergh.

The barn and house are both built along the hill slope. The buildings face NW (called north in this report)

## Relationships

The barn belongs to Wardses Cottage, a farm house adjacent.

## Description

The walls are wavy and bulging due to rebuilds and perhaps the soft nature of the hillside here. (see plan below) Changes of materials emphasise the periods of building and local stone types available.

The frontage of the farm buildings face roughly north (see NW elevation ). The rear faces to the south (see SE elevation) and from right to left consists of a former low-roofed shippon, once with a very steep lower roof line, at the N end. A former three bay barn forms the central part but its E bay incorporates an older structure. An added cart-shed now a stable forms the west end.

The shippon has a lower roofline than the barn. (See gable elevation ) It was entered from the E gable door. The gable shows sandstone quoins used for heightening, perhaps in the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>C. The doorway has lintels of re-used timber and one has halvings possibly for wind-braces, struts or collars. A 19thC stable window adjoins the doorway. The gable wall is now white-washed. On the rear (S side) of the barn a ragged joint and change in the walling stone suggests the shippon has been rebuilt from the end of an older two bay structure, using mixed rubble stone and small quoins like the main barn. The roofing is now of small black slates.

### The three-bay barn (see elevations)

The roofing is of brown sandstone flags (from Baugh Fell quarries?) and probably 18thC. The gable rises over the low shippon (see E elevation) and displays a hood of flat flagstones, a local feature and perhaps to help shed water.

At the rear (S) side the barn shows several stone joints. The right hand bay has signs of rebuilds but ends in a wavy rebuild joint with a marked change of stone to the local dark "blue rag" (Silurian siltstone) with some through-stones. This walling ends in a joint of very large course



sandstone quoins cut from large boulders. This is the oldest walling. Like the shippon it has been heightened later. At the front (N) too, this bay has a considerable amount of blue rag and encloses a blocked-up ventilator slit. Nearer the cart door the walling has been much rebuilt with more sandstone. A plinth with larger stone slabs forms the base of the 3-bay barn.

Two bays of the three-bay barn, with their front and back cart doors, is of uniform rubble stone of mixed field stone of sandstones, some dark rag and rather small quoins, like the E end. It is notable that the rubble fieldstones on the (N) front wall of the 3-bay barn incorporates a number of plough-gashed sandstone cobbles. This suggests stone pits in the former surrounding arable fields were used as a source of walling material. The rear cart door has an arch of rough voussoirs with a flagstone hood. The main cart door at the front has a very large roughly-squared oak timber lintel with no sign of re-use. It also has a flat flagstone hood. Large quoins form the W end of the barn.

#### The west end cart shed/stable addition

This single bay has been squeezed into the field corner forming a triangular cell with an unusual curving wall. It is built of uniformly even and small size rubble stone. The cart door, now partly blocked for a stable, is the only opening. It has a re-used timber lintel with mortices for vertical studs which are still unweathered and perhaps from an old interior structure.

#### Interior

##### The shippon/stable at the east end

This bay was formerly a cowhouse or byre for overwintering 4 cows. The cobbled foddergang (feeding passage) had access through the thick dividing wall into the barn hay mew beyond. Re-used timbers form the door lintel. The shippon was lit by a small window in the north wall. The shippon has been converted to a stable with a stall made from a former double cow-standing with timber boskins. The stable window on the gable is inserted. The other cow standings have been demolished but the bases are still visible in the floor which has been concreted (possibly as a result of the 1940s Dairy Act) The concrete retains the original settle stones marking the edge of the standings and the drain (groop) in the cowhouse. A lantern niche is seen in the S wall. Above the standings was a hayloft but this has been demolished although the lime-washed "step" in the stone walls shows its position. The present ceiling is modern as is the stair to access a new upper room.

A blocked forking hole in the interior cross wall allowed hay to be forked from the adjoining hay mew. The forking hole is visible from both the shippon and the barn mew and has a timber lintel. On the shippon side it has a drip course of flagstone above it, suggesting the east side may have been an exterior gable at some time.

##### The three-bay barn

This consists of two bays with the third bay now converted to a dwelling which is separated by a breeze block wall. This wall was probably the line of a second roof truss.

The two bays are still stone-paved (probably for threshing) The roof truss is modern but retains 4 of eight original purlins. These are of local waney oak. One purlin has half-lap joints cut in and this type of joinery goes with timber of cruck construction type (or cranked principal rafters) and represents the earliest remains of the barn. The timber with a straight half-lap joint near an angled lap joint suggest this was a cruck purlin originally. On the long N wall, below the truss, is a straight joint which is quoined on the exterior. It perhaps marks the end of an older barn.



On the E wall of the barn can be seen the forking hole into the shippon hayloft. There is a significant wall crack which may be due to a former steep, thatched roofline on crucks.

The third bay of the barn is now converted to a dwelling with windows and stair. The internal floor has been raised into steps, burying the base of a former cart arch on the S side.

#### The added cartshed/stable

The former cart door has a lintel of re-used timbers. The interior shows well the boulder plinth of the three-bay barn adjoining.

#### Outbuildings

A privy stands just below the shippon door and it is likely that all manure was channelled to a midden nearby. The 1852 map shows a well near this site and this would have been essential for daily watering of cows in winter.

#### Interpretation (see plan and detail drawing)

The farm buildings can be interpreted as incorporating an older phase or phases with steep thatched roofs, blue rag stone walls, low eaves and timber with halved-on carpentry now re-used as purlins and lintels. Just one "blue rag" bay survives (as the barn hay mew) and may be the oldest work (16thC?) The walls have been heightened and there are other wall joints suggesting complex rebuilds. This older work may be the remains of an earlier two-bay structure, perhaps a mew and cow byre. The shippon was then rebuilt in stone but still with low eaves, leaving a ragged joint with the older stonework of the mew. However, the interior forking hole in the cross wall has drip stones on its E face suggesting it was once a gable end for the barn rather than a cross wall. The thick stone cross wall may be a local tradition and it added insulation in winter. Houses too seem to have these walls inside.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> C the three-bay barn was rebuilt as a sandstone-roofed structure of rubble field stone and small quoins, but incorporating the shippon. The old timbers were re-used as purlins and lintels, but a new timber was hewn for the N cart door.

Timber lintels are used for most of the old openings. A number of these display joinery with half-lap joints. In the Craven Dales dendrochronology-dating indicates cruck structures are of 16thC date. However in Swaledale, and possibly around Sedbergh, such joinery traditions seem to carry on into the 18thC where collars and braces are halved onto curved or cranked principal rafters. In this case however the evidence of steep thatched rooflines and use of blue rag stone suggests older work of 16thC date.

The roof truss in the barn is modern. The remains of the original are seen lying in the lane on the west. A tenon and peg hole from the end of a bowed principal rafter, where it fitted onto a tie beam, is seen in the grass. The re-use of some purlins which retain old half-lap joints indicates that a former thatched roof was probably re-used for the Georgian truss in the heightened roof.

The west end stable/cart shed addition with its odd curved wall is of small hammer-dressed rubble and of 19thC date.

DRAWINGS below:

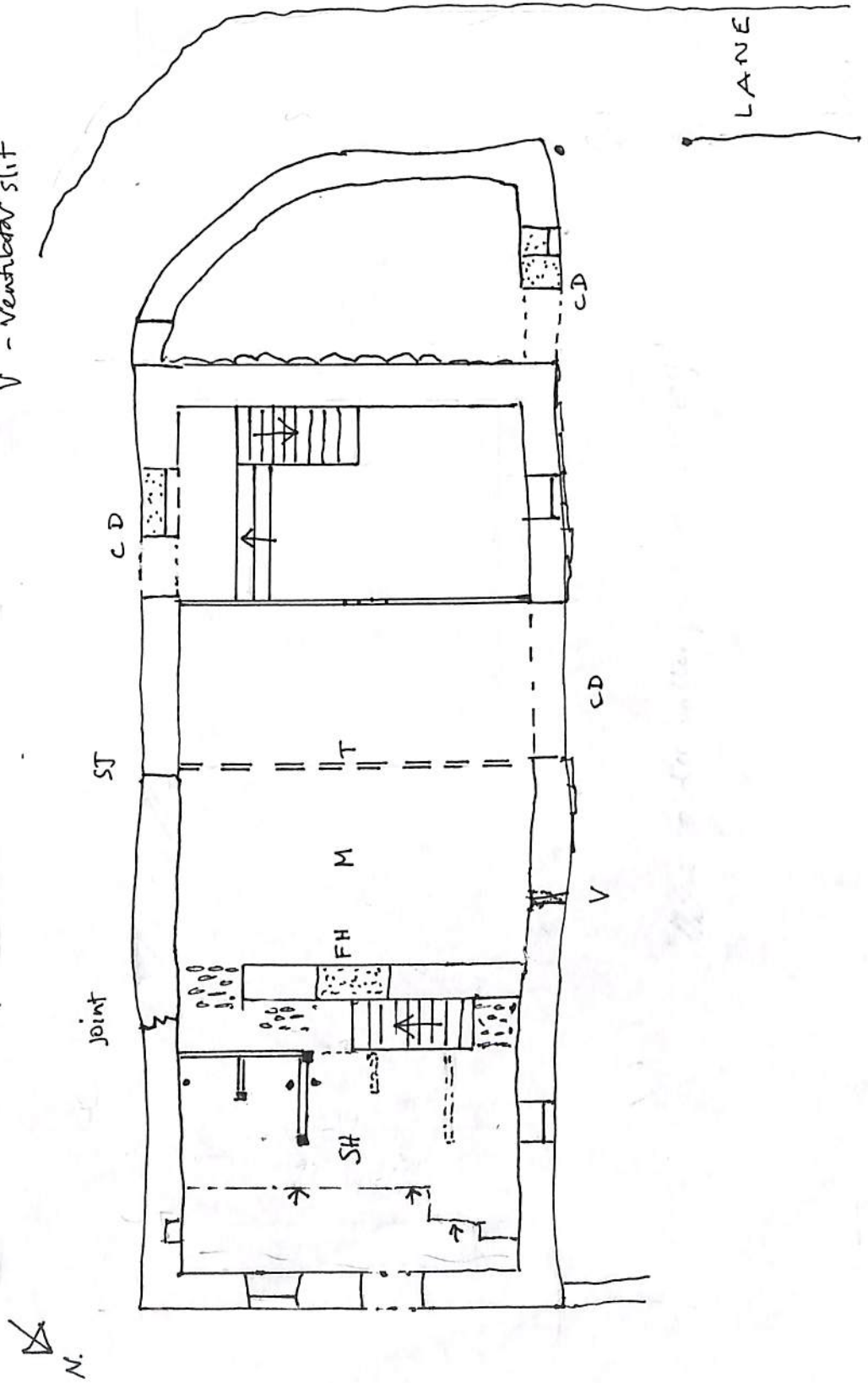
- Plan
- Interpretation (plan)
- Front north elevation
- Rear south elevation
- Detail sketches
- Gable east elevation

1. WARDES, SEDBERGH: THE BARN



10.5.2014. ACA.

- CD - cart doors
- FH - parking hole
- SH - Shupper or cow byre (4 cows) later stable.
- M - Mew
- T - Roof truss
- V - Ventilated slit



10.05.14 2. WARDESES BARN, SEDBERGH

N.W. ELEVATION

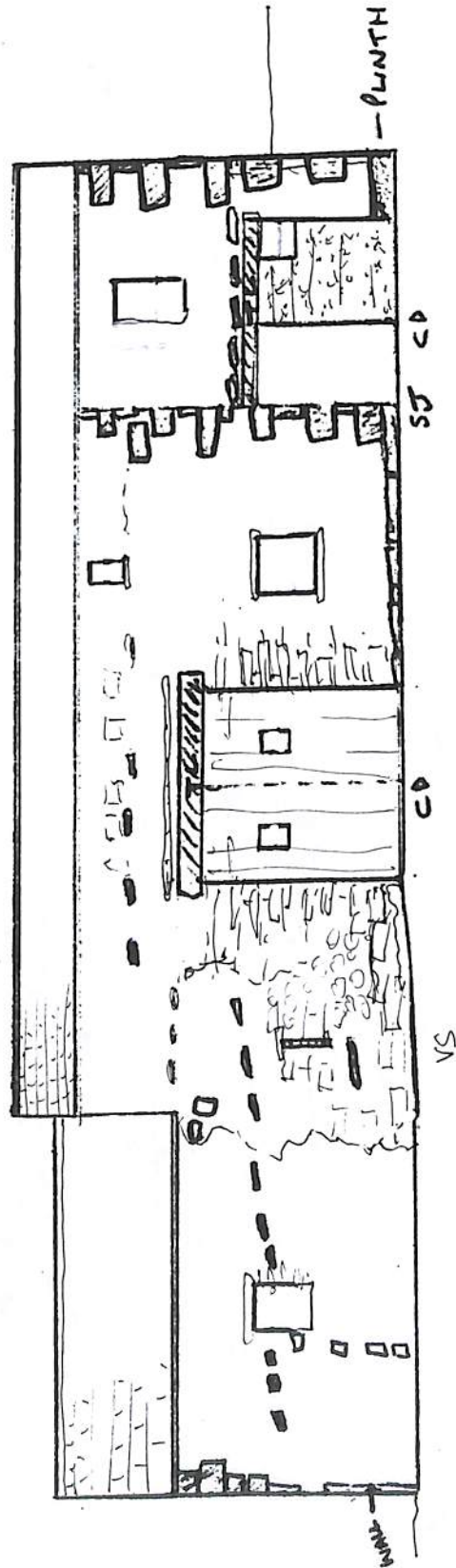
Scale 1:100



LYNNE PRUMMER



- SJ Straight Joint
- CD Cart Door
- TL Timber hinkl
- VS Ventilation slit (blocked up)





10.05.14      3. WARDESES BARN, SEDBERGH

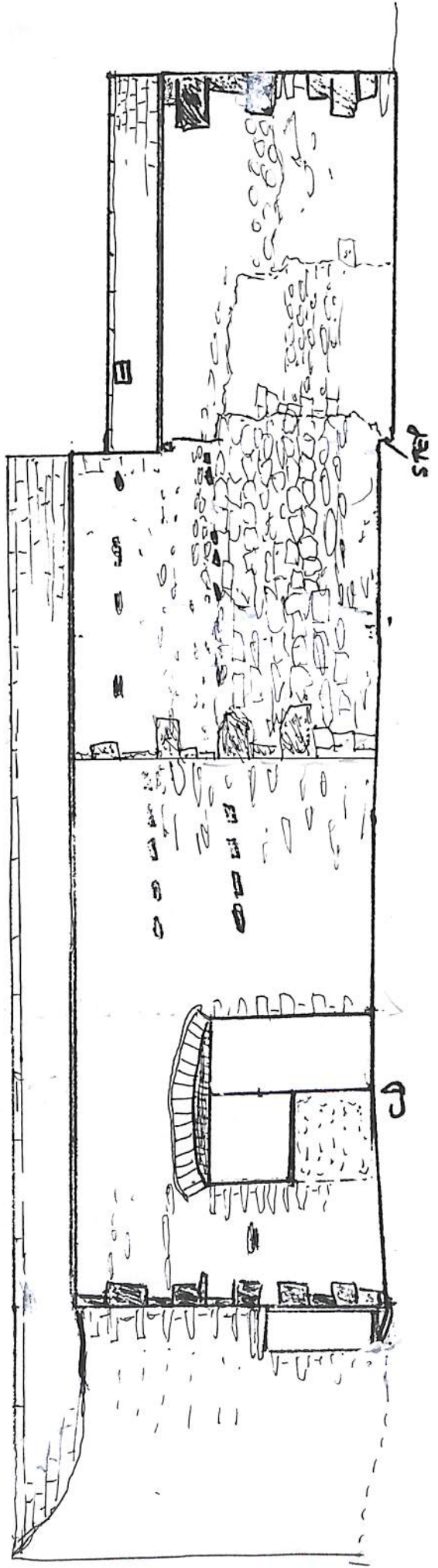
S.E. ELEVATION

SCALE 1:100      0      1      2      3      4      5

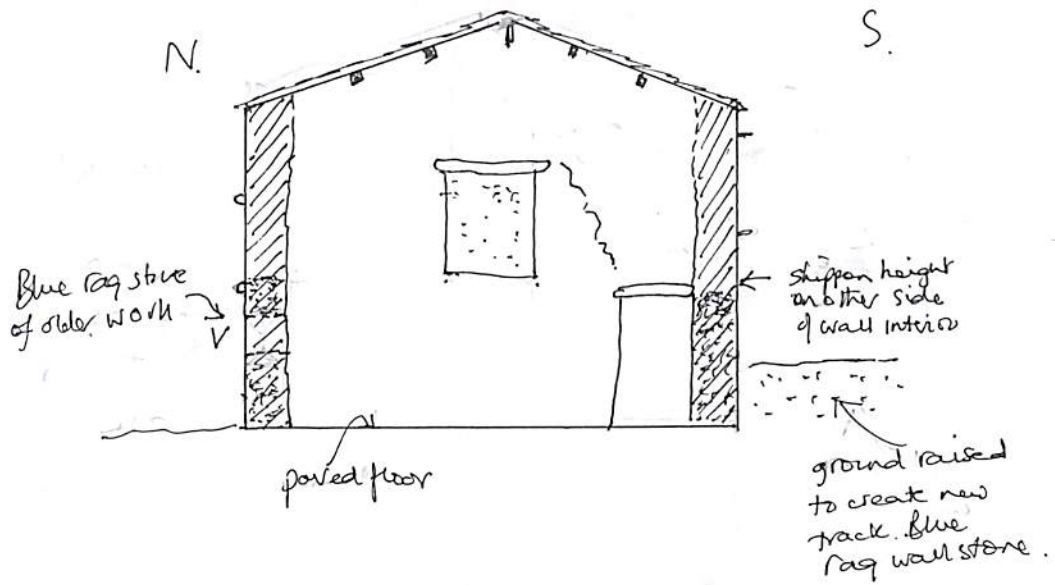
5.



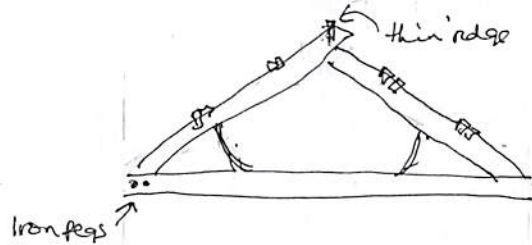
cd Cart Door  
st straight Joist







SECTION OF CROSS WALL LOOKING EAST  
 A hood mould on either side suggests this was inner side of jutting bay



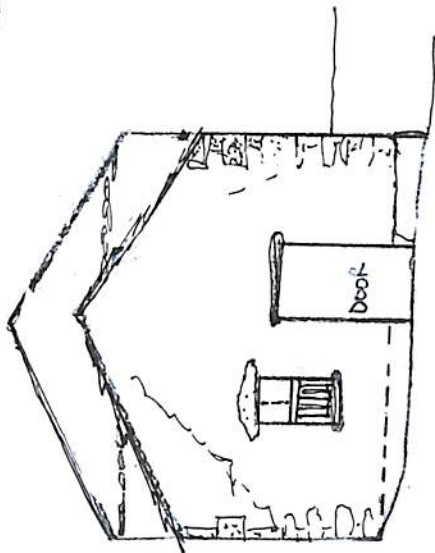
6 of the 8 purlins are original.

ROOF TRUSS (SKETCH)

10.05.14 4. WARDES BARN, SENBERGH

N.E. ELEVATION

SCALE 1:100



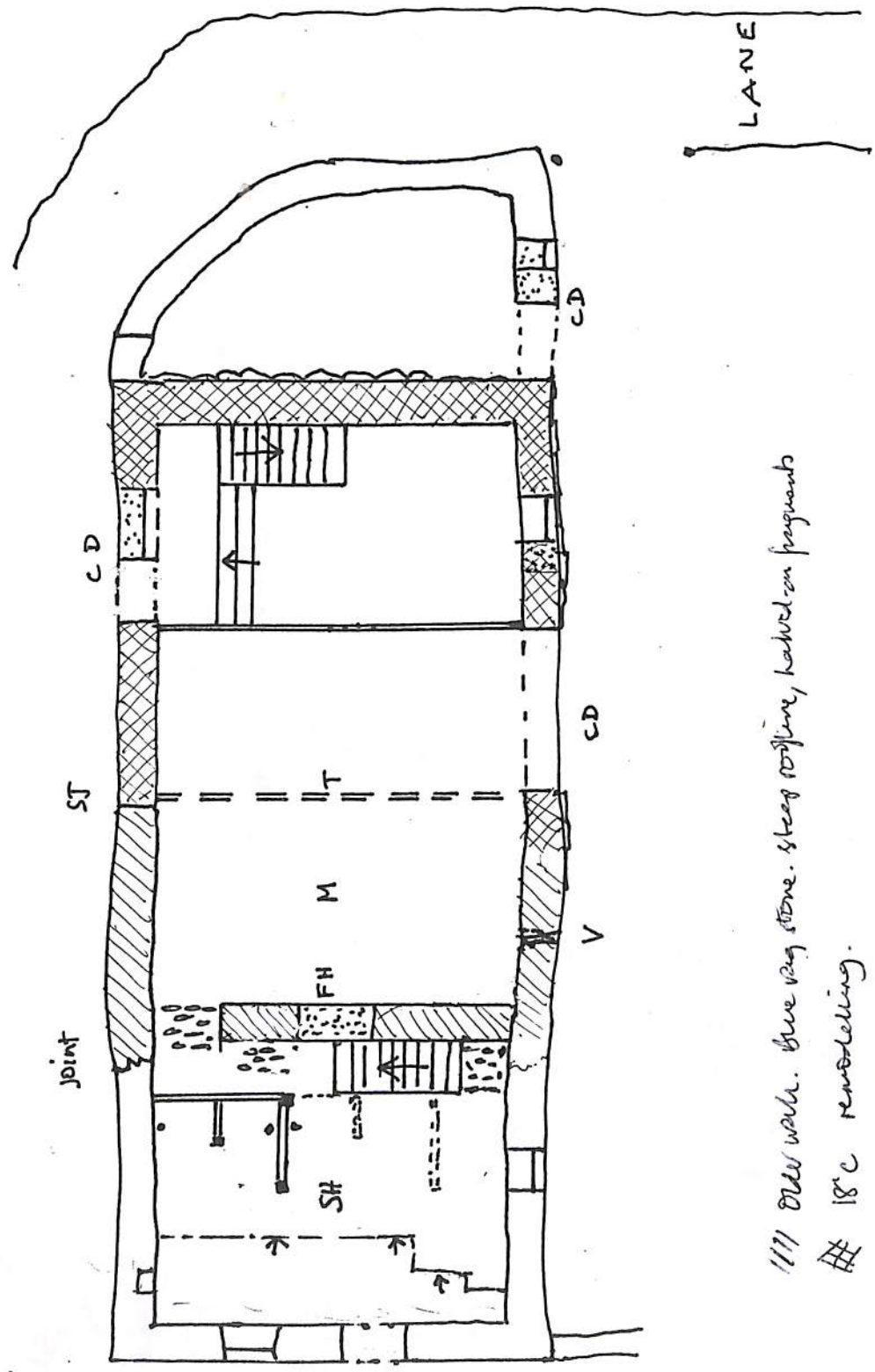
Bar limited of re-used crack fragment.



1b. WARDES, SEDBERGH: THE BARN



- CD - cart doors
- FH - forking hole
- SH - Shupper or cow byre (4 cows) later stable.
- M - Mew
- T - Roof truss
- V - Ventilator slit



- /// Old work. Blue rag stone. steep roofline, hatched on fragments
- ▨ 18<sup>c</sup> remodeling.
- ▣ 19<sup>c</sup> rebuilds and additions.