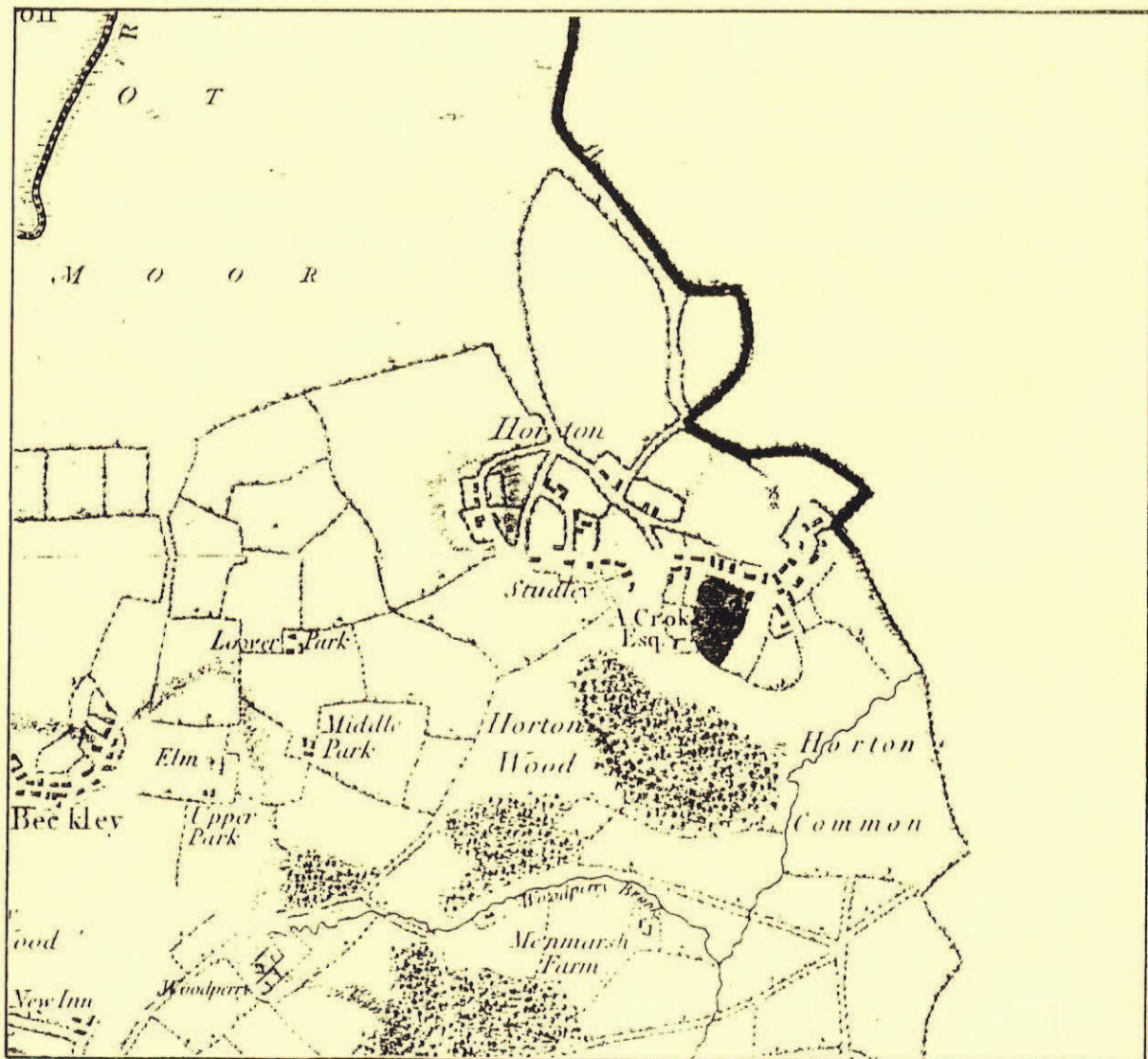


The Black Barn, Warren Farm Horton-cum-Studley

Building record prior to repairs and alterations



The Black Barn, Warren Farm, Horton-cum-Studley

Building record prior to repairs and alterations

NMR DATA	
Site Name	The Black Barn
Address	Warren Farm
Town	Horton-cum-Studley
Parish	Horton-cum-Studley
County	Oxon
NGR	SP 6055 1245
Listed Status	Grade II
Visit/Survey Date	May 1995
OAU Site Code	HOSWF 95

The Black Barn, Warren Farm, Horton-cum-Studley
Building record prior to conversion

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The Black Barn, Warren Farm, Horton-cum-Studley

Building record prior to conversion

Summary

A photographic record was made of the listed barn at Warren Farm prior to its conversion. The barn is one of a number in the region with a particular type of roof construction consisting of 'curved inner principals' which support the roof while leaving clear space in the centre off the roof. They typically belong to the 18th and 19th century, and occur in a sector east and south of Oxford.

1 Introduction

Alterations and repairs to the Grade II listed Black Barn at Warren farm were commissioned by the West Oxfordshire District College from W S Atkins. As a condition of the planning consent, and in accordance with the provisions of PPG15 & PPG16, a record was required to be made of the building as it stands, prior to alteration. This record was undertaken by the OAU in accordance with the County Archaeologist's Brief in May 1995. This brief required a visual record being made of the buildings using photography supplemented by a brief description of the main features of historic interest associated with the building and its setting. The full procedure detailing the work undertaken can be found in the initial specification for Building Investigation and Recording by the OAU.

2 History and Background

The name 'Warren Farm' appears to be derived from a field name 'The Warren' shown on a parish map of 1641; it is possible that the name originated from the previous existence of a rabbit warren associated with the former priory at Studley.

Warren Farm is an outlying farmstead located to the north east of the village of Horton-cum-Studley (SP 6055 1245) in Beckley parish, surrounded by fields whose names and shapes suggest that they originated as assarts from woodland of which only a small part remains along the parish boundary (*VCH Oxon V*, map p.65). It comprises an isolated group of farm buildings, and the first building was probably erected soon after the enclosure of farmland before 1609. The map by George Sargeant dated 1641 shows a large unnamed building on the site of the present farmhouse. This building was then at the centre of a farm of 218 acres leased by Richard Dolby from George Croke. By the late 18th century a number of the former holdings had been subdivided and a pattern of dispersed settlements had emerged. Collisson's Survey and Estate Map of 1786 shows a farmhouse at the west end of the Warren by

which time Warren Farm consisted of 180 acres and was held by William Tipping.

3 Association and Setting

The Black Barn, forming one side to a possibly later courtyard, forms part of a complex of farm buildings at Warren Farm which includes a farmhouse, two other barns, a cow shed and milking parlour, beef yard and calving boxes and stables. The site is now occupied by West Oxfordshire District College who have a number of classrooms and a workshop in addition to the teaching facilities housed in the Black Barn. The barn in its setting can be seen in the photographs noted as such on fig 1.

4 Description

A plan representing the location from which photographs were taken will be found in figure 1. Specific views of features are mentioned in italics in the main text, where numbers in italics refer to the photograph film number and negative number.

The Black Barn is listed grade II and is described as being a combined barn and stables. It is said to date from the 18th century and the stables have a date stone of 1740 above the door. The waggon porch is thought to have been added either in the late 18th century or the early 19th century. The barn is of four bays with a two-bay stable range attached to one end under the same roof: this combination is relatively unusual for the area. A shed has been attached to the stable at the west end. All three elements of the building are roofed with corrugated iron.

4.1 Barn - general

The barn is weatherboarded with elm and sits on a rubble plinth (5/32 & 4/1) which has been exposed in a test pit showing it descending for at least 1 metre. The walls are built of timber studding with downward bracing. The roof trusses have two clasped purlins and curved inner principals, and the end trusses have queenposts and interrupted collars. The stable extension was originally timber-framed but it is now brick on a stone plinth with a queenpost truss with two butt purlins on free tenons.

4.2 Exterior

From the exterior it can be seen that there is a blocked doorway in the north wall of Bay VI, raised about 0.75m from the ground (general 4/29 & 4/30 and specifically 4/31, 4/32 & 4/33). Windows have been inserted into the north wall of Bay IV (5/26) and into the easternmost wall (5/30). Windows also occur in the west and south walls of the western extension (4/20). On the

south wall, there are two windows each in Bay V and Bay VI (4/9). Bay V has evidence of another possible blocked door which has had a window inserted into its upper half which retains the round headed arch of the doorway above it (5/36). The windows in the south elevation are all of the same style and are all possibly inserted at the same date.

4.3 *Interior*

- 4.3.1 Truss I, at the easternmost end, has a queenpost truss with an interrupted lower collar and intermediate studding with both the collars clasping purlins (1/1 & 1/2). The interrupted collar may imply that there was originally a door in the upper gable.

Bay I has concrete block cupboard (electrics) in south-east corner (1/1 & 1/2), and concrete block facing on S wall (2/33). The east wall has many tall studs (1/1 & 1/2). The north wall has 5 studs and two downward braces meeting the sill beam which sits on the stone plinth (1/3 & 1/4). The roof has 9 common rafters in couples pegged at top (ridges are later), with plain windbraces to upper purlins on the west side. The purlins are scarfed just east of truss II (1/5, 1/6, 2/34, 2/35).

- 4.3.2 Truss II with curved inner principals supporting the lower purlin, neatly curved inner brace to curved inner principals, and straighter braces below tiebeam (3/2, 3/1, 2/36, 3/3); timbers very waney on east side (3/3).

Bay II is also block faced on the south wall (2/30) and the north wall is similar to Bay I (1/7, 1,8). The roof has 9 rafters with no windbraces but does have purlin scarfs just east of Truss III (2/31, 2/32, 1/9, 1/10).

- 4.3.3 Truss III has curved inner principals, similar to II (3/4), and is faced towards the central bay (3/5) (as is Truss IV) so that the better, flat side of the truss (with carpenters marks) face each other. The posts of Truss II (3/19, 3/20 - south post & 3/21, 3/22, 3/23, 3/24 - north post) and Truss IV (3/25, 3/26 - north post & 3/29, 3/28, 3/27 - south post) have a crudely decorated 'console' below the jowl of each wallpost.

Bay III has 8 rafters and plain windbraces to upper purlins on the east and west sides (2/28, 2/29 - south side & 1/15, 1/16, 1/17 - north side). The new south door is hung on door jambs tenoned to the wall plates just inside the posts of Trusses III and IV (2/26, 2/27); on the north side mortices for similar jams are present, but a porch has subsequently been thrown out.

- 4.3.4 The north porch has a brick plinth and plain framing of square-sawn elm. The roof has two purlins and a kingpost in the gable wall (1/11, 1/13, 1/14). The porch doors are new (1/12). The east (1/24, 1/25, 1/26) and west (1/18, 1/19, 1/20, 1/22) facing walls of the porch have 5 studs with a diagonal downward brace to a sill beam sitting on the brick plinth. The roof has 9

common straight rafters with one purlin (1/27, 1/28, 1/29, 1/21).

4.3.5 Truss IV (3/6, 3/9, 3/7, 3/8) is similar to Truss III.

Bay IV has 9 rafters, with purlins scarfs just west of Truss IV and two windbraces to the upper purlin at west end (2/1, 1/31, 1/32, 2/24, 2/25). The wallplate on the north side has a scarf which can be seen to have a central blade where the scarf has failed. The north (1/33, 1/30) and south (2/23) walls each have five studs with bracing.

4.3.6 Truss V is similar to Truss I with queenposts and an interrupted lower collar, and intermediate studs. Both the collars are clasping purlins and it is boarded on the west side (3/11, 3/12). The truncated framing below has 6 studs and boarding, with mortices for downward bracing (3/9, 3/10).

4.4 *The Stable*

4.4.1 The western stable extension is secondary, being added to protruding purlins of the main barn, against external (but not heavily weathered) boarding (3/12). There are two purlins and numerous short or lightweight rafters (couples pegged at top), perhaps suggesting a thatched roof.

4.4.2 Truss VI (3/13, 3/11, 3/14) has queenposts with an interrupted lower collar and butt purlins. The truss is well faced on the east side (3/13), but on the west the top of the queenpost is lapped over the waney edge of the upper collar (3/14).

Bay V has purlins which are slotted over a free tenon which passes through the principal rafter, each purlin being attached with two pegs (protruding, not cut off) (2/21, 2/22, 2/2, 1/35, 1/36). Both the north (1/34) and south (2/20) are brick and are whitewashed.

4.4.3 Truss VII is similar in appearance to VI (2/7) but is weatherboarded and the western face forms the external face of the building where it is not cut by the brick extension, tacked on the end.

Bay VI. The west (2/6), north (2/3), and south (2/17) walls are all brick and whitewashed.

4.5 *Western extension*

At the west end is a small stone byre with a plain truss roof (tiebeam truncated) with butt purlins slotted on free tenons (2/9, 2/13). The north (2/8), south (2/12), west (2/10), and east (2/15, 2/16) walls are all brick built with a blocked door in the west wall.

4.6 Construction details

The purlin scarfs have two pegs and a sloping abutment, presumably with a central blade; the wallplate scarf seen to have central blade in Bay IV, as does the sill beam scarf in Bay I. Carpenters marks are of standard post-medieval type, chiselled marks 40 mm long.

5 Discussion

The barn is fairly unremarkable for its type and construction, but nevertheless important to record as these buildings come increasingly under threat. It is of some interest for its roof construction, having curved inner principals (i.e. secondary rafters or braces) that carry the purlin in the mid-height between the tiebeam and collar. Alternative forms would have the purlin clasped by the collar-beam (as in the east gable end), or supported by a raking (i.e. an outward leaning) strut; the curved principal performs the same task but occupies less space in the centre of the roof. A preliminary impression gained by asking those with knowledge of vernacular buildings in the region is that these roofs are not uncommon in the 18th and 19th centuries, but that they have a distinct and possibly quite localised distribution. This is reported as follows:

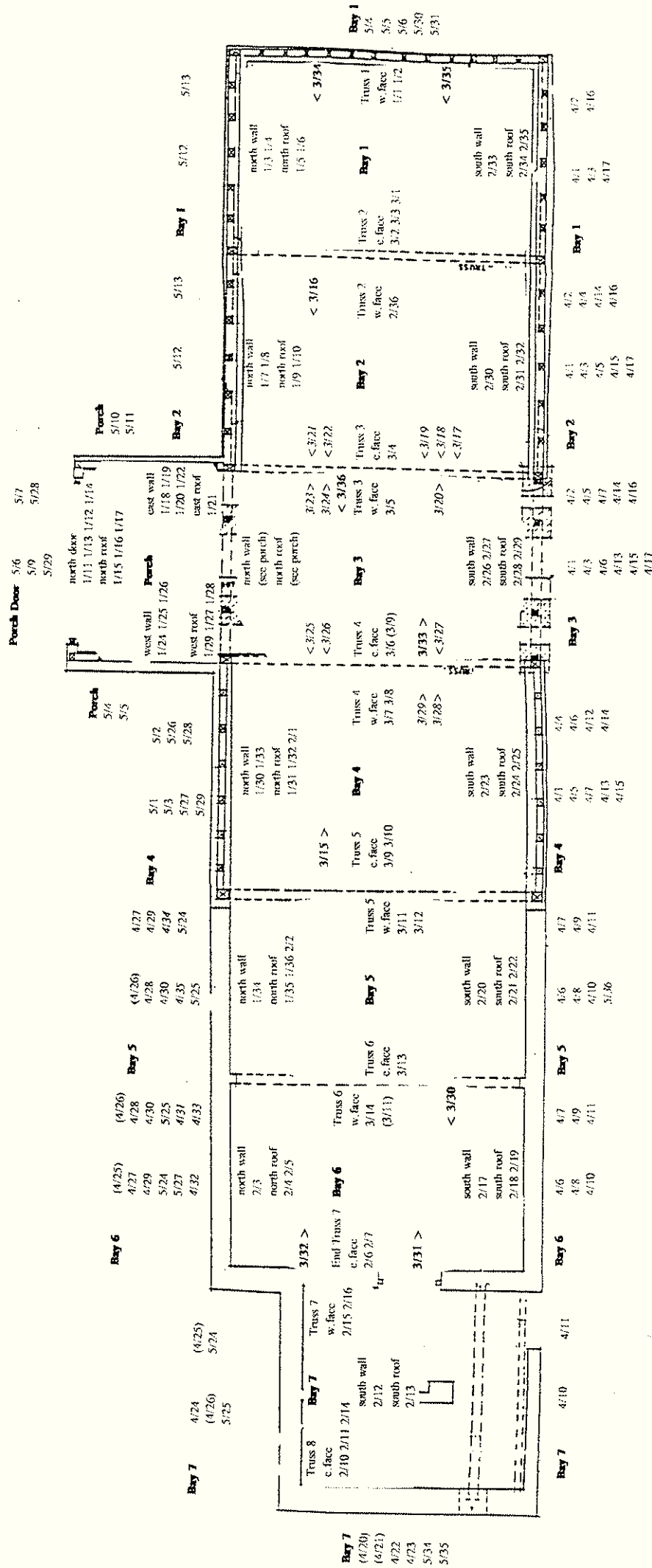
Oxon: Cherwell	<i>not reported</i>
Oxon: West	<i>not reported</i>
Oxon: Vale of White Horse	<i>sporadic</i>
South Oxon	<i>common</i>
Bucks: Chilterns	<i>common</i>
Bucks: Vale of Aylesbury	<i>common</i>

Clearly this is a subject which would repay further research into the detailed distribution.

Oxford Archaeological Unit,
December 1995.

Photographic Key to The Black Barn, Warren Farm,
Horton-cum-Studley, Oxon

The first number refers to the film number and the second to the contact print number



Photographs showing general shots of the barn and the barn in its setting

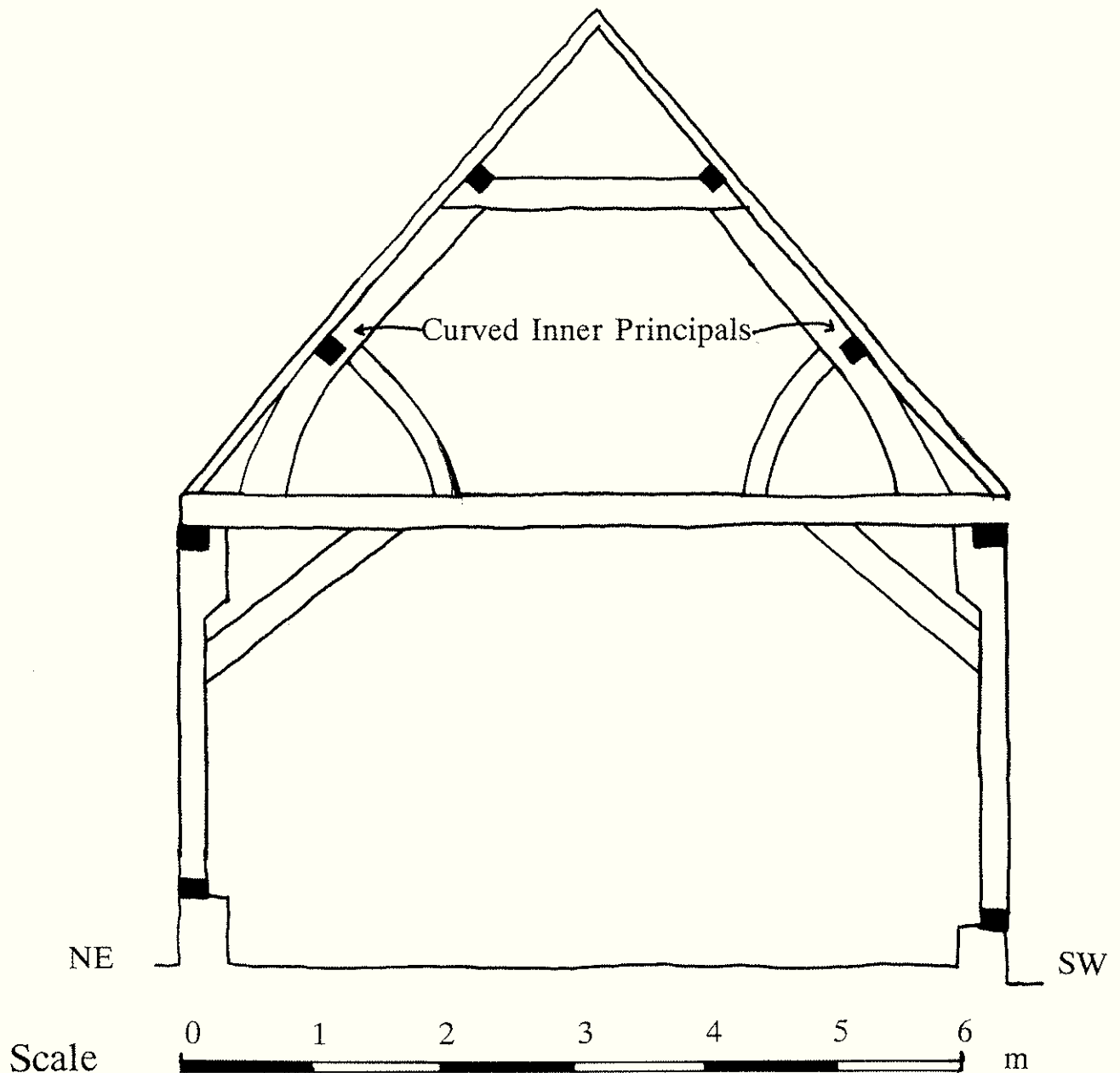
4/18 4/19 4/20 4/21 4/25 4/26 5/8 5/17 5/18 5/19 5/20 5/21 5/22 5/23 5/32 5/33 5/35

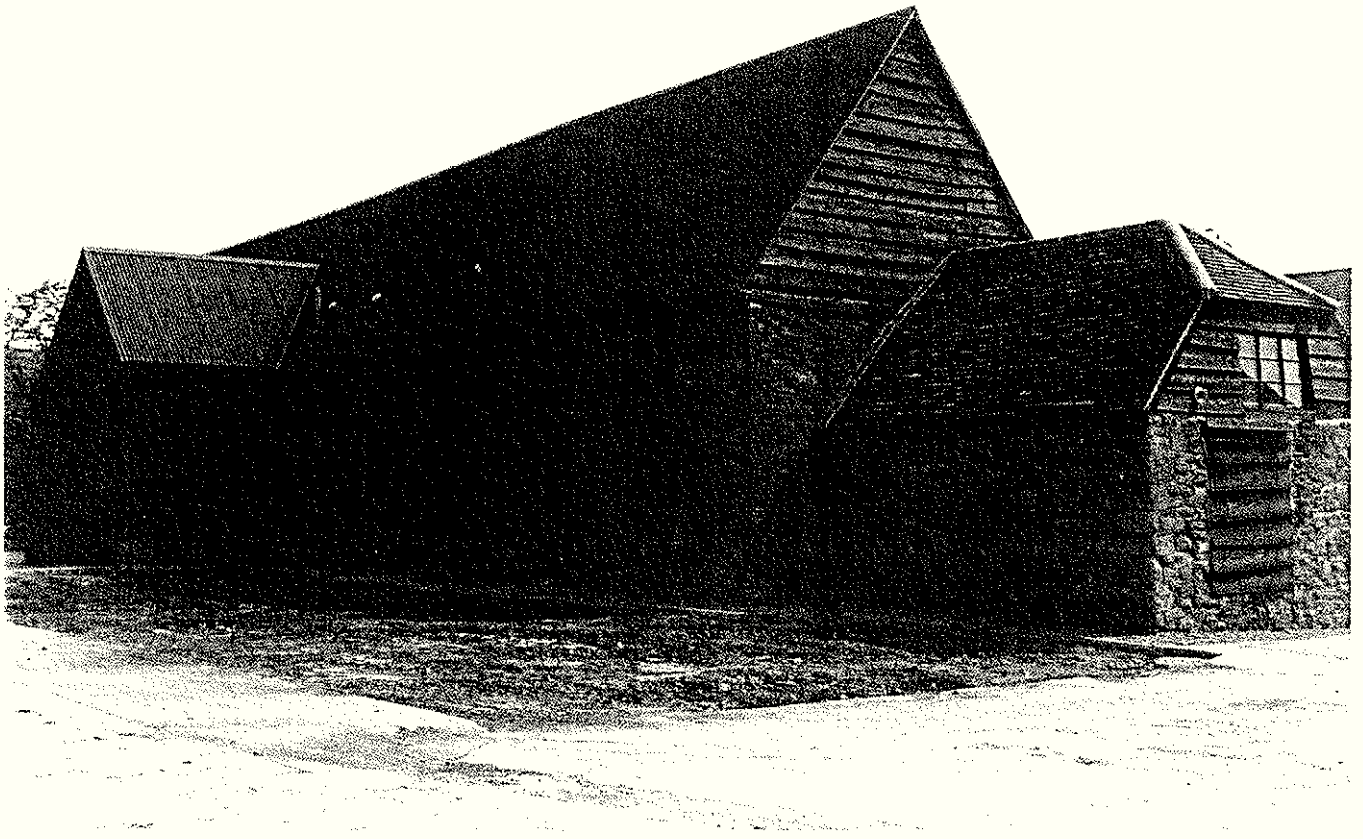
Key

Specific Photographs of structural elements c. E. Wallis Roof, Finnes

Black Barn, Warren Farm, Horton-cum-Studley

Cross Section Showing the Curved Inner Principals





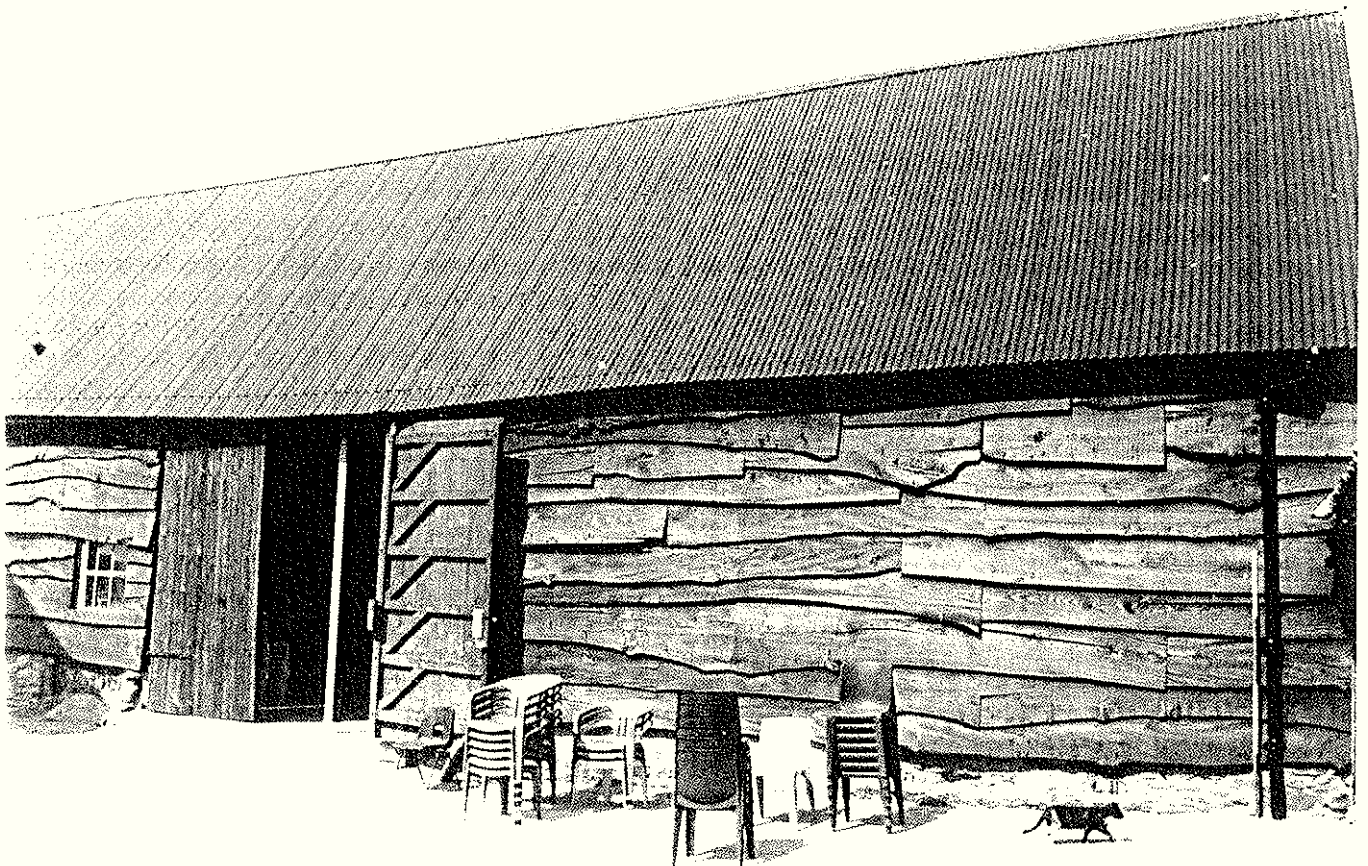
1. Exterior: N side, W end (5/20)



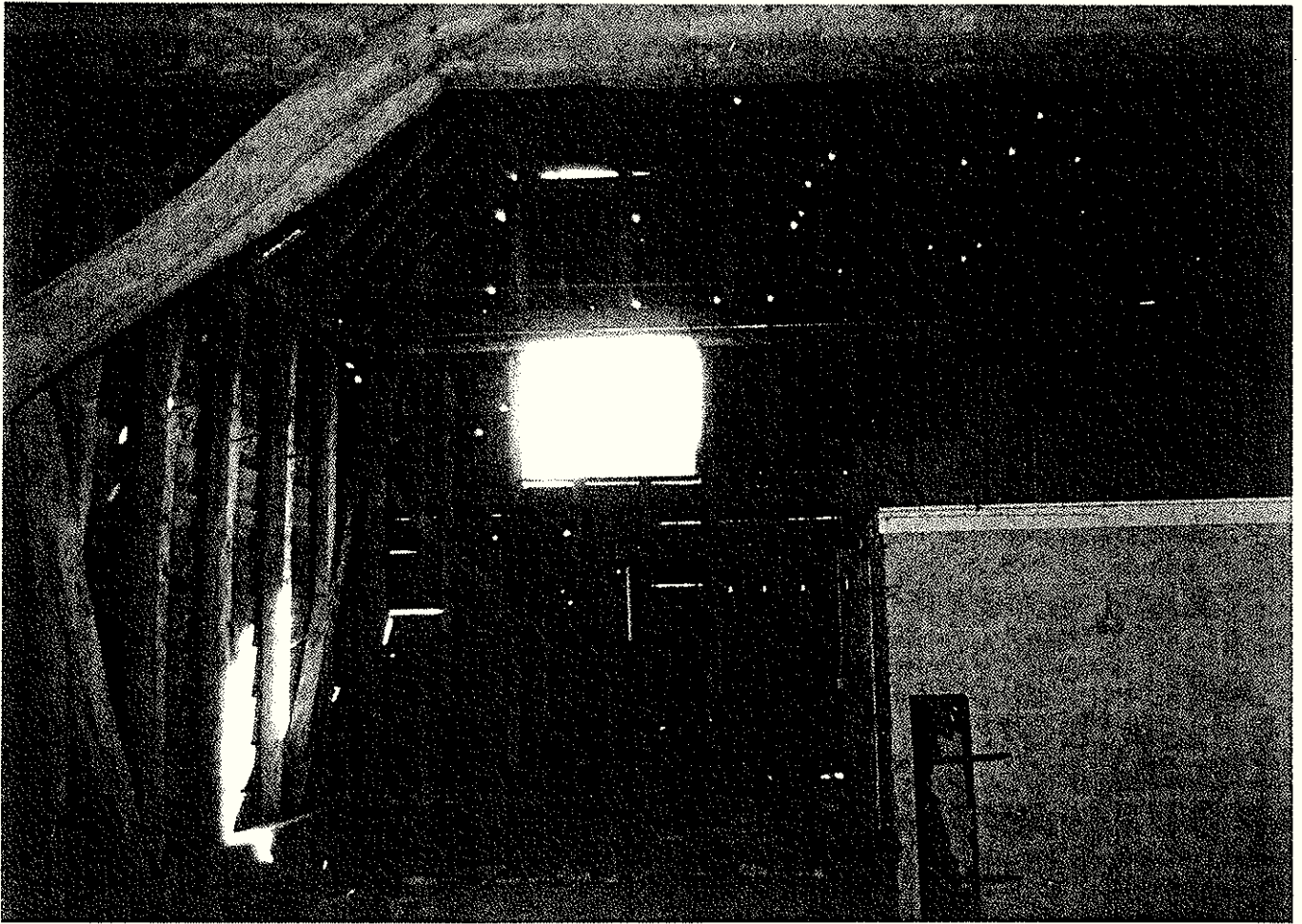
2. Exterior: N side, E end (5/32)



3. Exterior: S side W end (4/20)



4. Exterior: S side, E end (4/1)



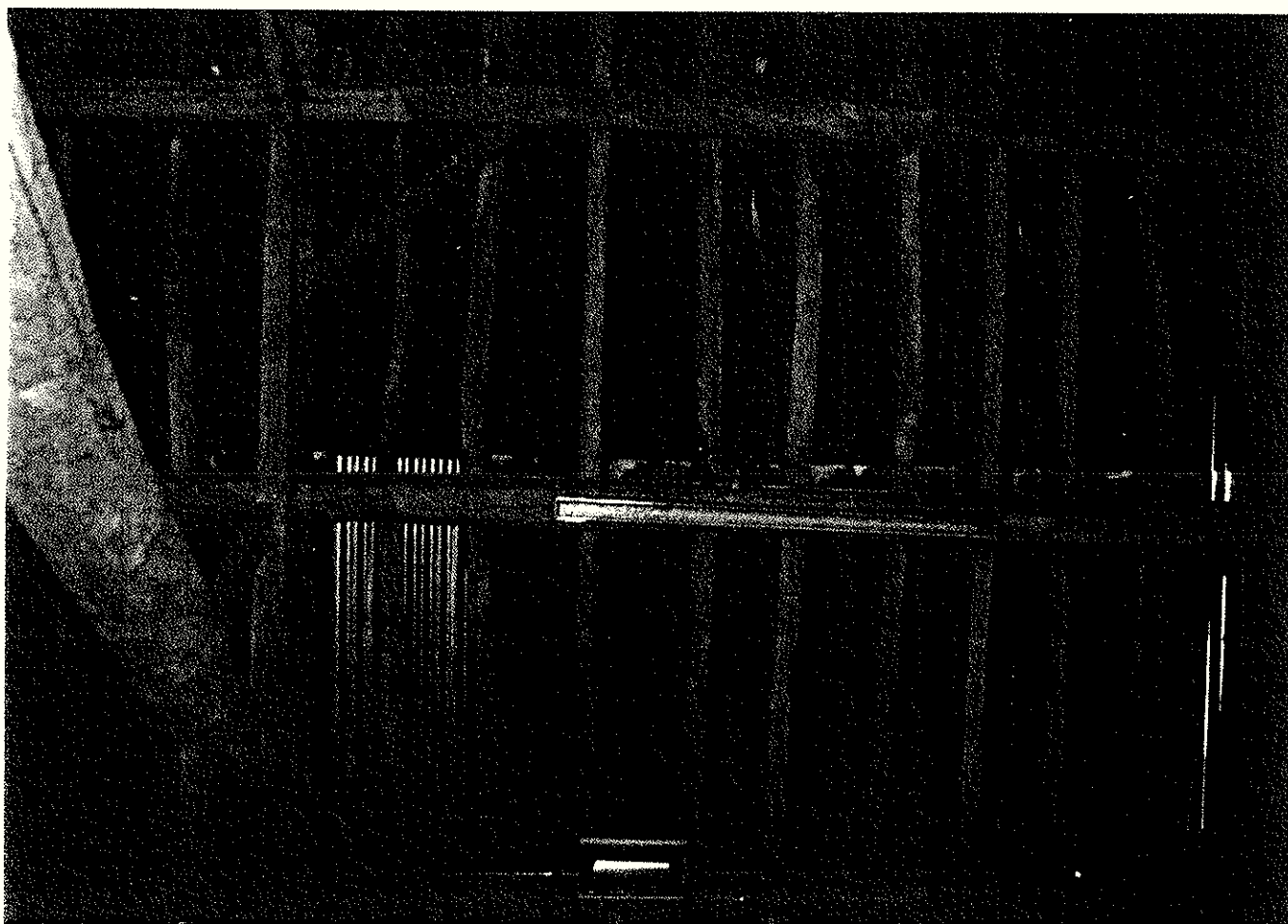
5. Interior: W end (1/2)



6. Interior: E wall, W end (1/4)



7. Roof truss 4, from E (3/6)



8. Roof: purlins and rafters in Bay 1, N side (1/6)

10. N porch and truss 3 (1/20)



9. N porch framing and truss 4 (1/24)





11. N porch (1/11)



12. Interior looking W (3/34)



13. Roof truss 6 looking W (3/13)



14. Roof of Bay 7 (2/11)



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