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ARCHITECTURE OF THE AGRICULTURAL REVOLUTION:  
HOME FARMS AND THEIR ESTATES IN NORTH FIFE, *circa* 1800  
to *circa* 1850.

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Submitted in application for the degree of M.Litt.  
August, 1988.



I, JULIAN ST JOHN TOVEY, hereby certify that this thesis, which is approximately 30,000 words in length, has been written by me, that it is the record of work carried out by me and that it has not been submitted in any previous application for a higher degree.

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## ABSTRACT

The nature and design of farm buildings was profoundly affected by the changes which took place in Scotland during the period commonly termed the Agricultural Revolution. This dissertation focuses on a group of eight home farms, constructed in North Fife in the first half of the nineteenth century, which embody the influence of the developments which promoted the Revolution and of others which were consequences of it. The buildings had dual functions: (i) as decorative features of a designed landscape - in each case one of the elevations of the buildings is of an ornamental character; and (ii) as working farm buildings - they provided a vital contribution to the agriculturally-based prosperity which in turn financed a new life style among landowners.

Chapter One is an investigation of agricultural developments and of their effects in North Fife. Chapter Two is an examination of contemporary theoretical writing on agricultural architecture. The central chapter is a gazeteer in two sections: the first describes the home farms and their estates and includes references to relevant sources; the second includes buildings in the survey area of a form related to that of the home farms. Chapter Four deals with the ornamental architecture of the home farms and its relation to new attitudes among the landowners towards the physical setting for their lives. These were manifested in the landscaping of their estates for the first time and in the construction of new houses. The agricultural functions of the home farms are considered in Chapter Five

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## INTRODUCTION

The transformation of farm buildings was one consequence of the profound changes in agriculture in Scotland, generally known as the Agricultural Revolution, which became universal from the last decades of the eighteenth century. The vernacular tradition was replaced by new types of farm buildings which, in line with the standard appellation for most new things arising in agriculture, were termed "improved" farms. In accordance with contemporary theoretical writing, these incorporated the newest technology and were built of good materials with carefully planned layouts.

This dissertation focuses on a group of eight improved steadings in North Fife, all home farms, which were built in the first half of the nineteenth century. The home farm was that farm on any estate which was particularly associated with the house and which occasionally included stabling for it. Its special status derived from the fact that in general the farm was run directly by the estate.<sup>1</sup> The significance of this was registered in a variety of ways by contemporary theorists. For example, J.C.Loudon took the rather extreme view that the main purpose of the home farm was as a place for the young landowner to learn the art of land management rather than for the production of food. Beyond this, it was an "additional source of outdoor amusement to a person residing in a retired part of the country".<sup>2</sup> Direct management by the estate was reflected in the fact that the accommodation provided in the steadings was of a type suitable for servants rather than that of the substantial houses generally occupied by tenant farmers. On smaller estates the home farm might be the only farm, on larger ones it could be one of many. The lands of the home farm were continuous with the policies - the term used to describe the gardens and parks which surrounded the house - and were generally treated as the same entity.<sup>3</sup>

The buildings in question have one common characteristic which distinguishes them as a group. In each case one of the elevations of the steading, its most public front; is handled differently from the others; is constructed of better quality stone; and is of an ornamental architectural character which is in striking contrast to the rest of the steading. A particularly clear example of this contrast exists in the case of Tarvit Home Farm (Pls 1 and 2). In all cases, the home farms are situated in close proximity to the house, being either visible from it or from the approaches to it, within or on the edge of the area of parkland which surrounded it. The architecture of other home farms not in this relation to a house is different and, like other steadings, they lack an elaborate "show front". The home farm at Kilmaron is an example of this type of unadorned steading (Pl. 3).

A parallel movement to the agricultural changes which occurred in Scotland in the eighteenth century concerned another revolution, a revolution in manners, which most notably affected the landowning class. Although the link between these movements is not immediately obvious, it is argued here that it is of fundamental significance. The effects of a broad education, the influence of newcomers to the landed classes and, perhaps most importantly, a growing awareness of the lifestyle of English landowners resulted in changed aspirations among Scotsmen of this class and the pursuit of a more comfortable and sophisticated lifestyle for themselves. It is worth noting in this context that the steadings under investigation are called "home farms", which is the English term for the type. The common Scots name for farm buildings in this category is "mains".

For most people, a new lifestyle could only be financed by a more efficient exploitation of the land and from higher rents. This was a central reason for the great interest shown in agriculture, witnessed

particularly by the growth of theoretical writing on the subject, and for the feverish pace of improvements carried out in agriculture from the last decades of the century.

The home farms discussed in this dissertation are a fascinating subject because they embody the influence of developments which took place both in agriculture and in the lifestyles of the people that owned them. On the one hand they played a vital role in a more efficient agricultural system. On the other, as the only important buildings, except for the house itself and, in some cases, a separate stable block, they were ornamented in a way which was designed to make them appropriate features of the new landscape which was created in the policies of the estates. The timing of the construction of the buildings is of significance. They form part of range of improvements lasting well into the nineteenth century which shed light on the chronology of the events of an Agricultural Revolution commonly thought to have been completed in the previous century. From an aesthetic point of view, the handling of the home farms in relation to changes taking place on their estates provides a valuable insight into the operation of taste, mitigated by practical considerations, among a group in society able for the first time to make such expressions.

The starting point for this study was a survey which was carried out in North Fife, an area which is taken to comprise those parishes which adjoin the northern part of the Parish of Cupar and the parishes between them and the Tay. Home farms which were likely to have survived and to be of interest were initially identified from the Scottish Development Department's List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Importance and subsequently were visited and surveyed. In addition, a number of stable blocks and a tenanted farm, which conform to the basic architectural formula of the home farms, were surveyed. The distribution of the buildings is shown on a map of North Fife (Pl. 4). They were compared to a sequence of maps in order to assess the original arrangement of the offices: Sharp, Greenwood

and Fowler's map of 1828, the 6-inch Ordnance Survey of 1855 and the 25-inch Ordnance Survey of 1893. These maps, General Roy's map of *circa* 1750 and Ainslie's map of 1801 were used to assess the changes which occurred in the arrangement of the policies and lands of the home farms on each estate.

The use of maps in putting together a picture of the development of the buildings and estates and in arranging them in a tentative chronological order was imperative due to the complete lack of documentary records for most cases. A considerable length of time was devoted to a search for documentary sources relating to the home farms, unfortunately with little success. Only in the case of one estate, that of Over Rankeillour, has a considerable body of documentary material survived. An important portion of this derives from the fact that the estate was held in entail and is contained in the group of Sheriff Court records which relate to the operation of the 1770 Entail Act. This act was an important factor in promoting agricultural change, especially in relation to buildings and to other large scale projects. It allowed landowners to become creditors to the succeeding heirs of entail for up to three-quarters of the money expended in making improvements. One condition of this was that accurate records had to be kept of all transactions which related to the cost of the improvements and that these should be presented to the clerk of the local Sheriff Court. None of the original plans for the home farms have survived even for those estates where the plans for the house exist. As is the case for documentary records, this may well be because later generations of landowners have not considered the plans to be important. Furthermore, all the steadings have undergone modifications, some of them on many occasions, and it is possible that the plans have disintegrated through frequent use.

In addition to the paucity of documentary records for the buildings, the research undertaken for this dissertation was difficult due to a shortage of relevant secondary sources - reflecting the relative lack of research on farm buildings, especially on those

designed by architects. The most useful research so far in the general area has been that promoted by the Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working Group which focuses on the vernacular tradition and on the functional significance of steadings. The only study which deals specifically with those agricultural buildings in which architects were involved is John Martin Robinson's introductory survey, *Georgian Model Farms* (1983). Unfortunately, this touches only briefly on Scotland, although it includes a valuable, if understandably limited, gazeteer.

The structure of the dissertation is as follows: the first two chapters are an investigation of the background to the home farms in relation to the course of agricultural change and to the body of theoretical writing on agricultural architecture. The aim here is to establish a context in which to assess the developments which took place. In researching Chapter Two, particular use was made of the substantial collection of contemporary printed works in St Andrews University Library.<sup>4</sup> The central chapter is a gazeteer, the first section of which describes the home farms as they existed when surveyed; includes references to sources of information relating to the home farms and their estates; and places them in a provisional chronological order. The second section of the chapter deals with two buildings of the same architectural formula as the home farms which are in the survey area. They are symptomatic of the same range of influences that produced the home farms and are included here to facilitate comparison. Chapter Four is an examination of the ornamental architecture of the buildings in relation to the developments in the landscape in which they were situated. In the final chapter the agricultural functions of the home farms are looked at and assessed in relation to what is known of improved farms in general and to the published advice of theorists.

The length of the period of time available for the preparation of this dissertation encouraged the adoption of a focus which is relatively narrow in terms of the number of buildings with which it deals. The home farms are considered from the point of view of social and economic history as well as from architectural history, a situation which is necessitated by the extent of the range of developments which influenced the nature of the buildings. This dissertation can only be viewed as a preliminary study and it is recognised that its broad-based approach leaves much unsaid, especially about specific details of the functional aspects of the steadings. Further research is vital in order to create a wider context in which to assess patterns of change. The Sheriff Court records relevant to the Entail Act are a particularly useful source for further work on farm buildings. They are an unrivalled source of information concerning a large group of estates all over the country and, in addition, provide an unparalleled insight into the provincial building trades and potentially into details of the involvement of architects in this area.

If for no other reason, the home farms deserve attention because they are under threat, principally due to the effects of modern agricultural practices which demand larger buildings for animal housing and for the storage of machinery. These practices lead either to massive alterations or to disuse and the threat of decay. It is hoped that if nothing else this dissertation stands as an accurate record of the buildings and of sources relevant to them before the seemingly inevitable course of further change.

The land measurements, unless otherwise stated, are given in Scots acres which were generally used by contemporaries. The proportionate value of the Scots acre to the Imperial is approximately five to four.<sup>5</sup>

## INTRODUCTION

## Notes

1. The volume for Fife of the 1855 Valuation Rolls (Scottish Record Office V.R.101/1), the first systematically kept records which list the occupiers of properties, indicates that all the home farms included in this study, with the exception of that at Over Rankeillour, were farmed directly by their owners.
2. J.C.Loudon, *The Encyclopaedia of Cottage, Farm and Villa Architecture and Furniture* (London, 1833), pp.809-10.
3. T.R.Slater, "The Mansion and Policy" in *The Making of the Scottish Countryside* eds M.L.Parry and T.R.Slater (London, 1980), pp.223-43.
4. Until 1837 the Library was entitled to copyright deposit privileges although these privileges were not exercised concerning all publications.
5. William Grant, ed., *The Scottish National Dictionary* (Edinburgh, 1931), Vol.1, p.13.

## CHAPTER ONE

## Agricultural background

Writing in 1795, James Donaldson praised the condition of agriculture in Fife where, in the previous two decades, improvements had been undertaken with great ardour. There were few places "where success has more eminently attended the exertions of the inhabitants, than in the middle and towards the north part of this county".<sup>1</sup>

However, as was true of Scotland in general, this had not been the case for very long in the area. Agricultural change in the first seventy or so years of the eighteenth century, though sometimes substantial, was generally isolated when it did occur. This view is confirmed if we look at General Roy's map which was prepared around 1750 in the wake of the 1745 Jacobite Rising (Pl. 5). The map demonstrates that the 1695 "Act anent lands lying runrig", by which the Scottish Parliament attempted to facilitate the enclosure and consolidation of estates, had enjoyed some success but that its influence was limited. The pattern which emerges from studying the map is one in which the old runrig system of cultivation, encompassing the division of land around settlements known as fermtouns into infield and outfield, which were farmed using traditional methods, remained as the norm but was punctuated sporadically by improved areas of land in the policies around the seats of substantial landowners. The enclosed parks of the estates of Over Rankeillour and Melville appear as well-ordered islands in a sea of open fields.

Significant early developments in agriculture were restricted, as Roy's Map suggests, to a relatively small group of estates. The reason for this concerned the weak economic incentive for agricultural change. Low land prices and rents meant that, for the majority of landowners, the earnings potential of land was not sufficiently elevated to warrant investment in new methods of farming and in enclosure. Of course, low revenue from the land meant also that there was insufficient capital available for investment. Those men

who did embark on programmes of agricultural reform were not motivated primarily by economic concerns. They were people of a wide and cosmopolitan education whose interest in agriculture was an aspect of an intellectual and cultural fascination with the land and with nature. Agriculture was imbued with an almost religious significance which was echoed by many contemporary writers including Lord Kames, for whom it was "of all occupations the most consonant to our nature, and the most productive of contentment, the sweetest sort of happiness".<sup>2</sup> There was also an element of competition involved and many of this type of landowner went in for farming as a form of "conspicuous consumption, just as some of their neighbours might fall into a rage for building or landscape gardening of the Grand Tour of Italy".<sup>3</sup> In Fife, Sir Thomas Hope of Over Rankeillour was just this sort of man. Of considerable means, Hope was involved in such notable feats as the draining of the South Loch in Edinburgh as an example of land reclamation, as well as in continuing the work of his father in improving his estate. Hope was a central figure in setting up the Society of Improvers in the Knowledge of Agriculture in 1723 which was the first agricultural society in Europe.<sup>4</sup> As its first president, Hope travelled around Europe in the pursuit of knowledge about agriculture and in 1724 was co-author, with Robert Maxwell, of a treatise on farming.<sup>5</sup>

It is generally agreed that the process of change in Scotland, in which individuals such as Hope were involved, began to be converted into a much more general movement towards the end of the eighteenth century. The main features of this have been summarised by Lenman as being the process of enclosing, consolidating and extending farms; the abolition of cotenancies and feudal servitudes facilitating individual leases; the reduction or removal of cottagers; the use of a three-course rotation of crops with regular liming; the reconstruction of farm buildings; an increase in the number of country houses, the enlargement of them and of their policies; the reclamation of marginal land such as

moor and bog; and the improvement of livestock and agricultural implements.<sup>6</sup> Although this is common ground, the significance and timing of these events is disputed by historians of the period. Controversy tends to focus more on the reasons underlying agricultural change rather than on the nature of the changes themselves.

The evidence of Roy's map alone is sufficient to demonstrate that the first changes in the physical arrangement of the land occurred in area of substantial estates. The motivation for such change must be seen within a context of profound developments in Scottish society which ultimately changed the basis of economic activity and social ordering. This process concerned the beginnings of a meaningful integration of Scottish and English society. At its higher levels, society in Scotland became more outward looking than ever and England began to have a stronger cultural influence.<sup>7</sup>

The first men to respond to these influences included those who were the first to instigate agricultural change. As has been suggested, their motives were not primarily economic - agricultural improvement was an aspect of the same body of ideas which had led them, in exceptional cases as early as in the seventeenth century, to begin to rebuild their houses, to improve the lands of their policies and generally to adopt a lifestyle which was not traditionally Scots. However, for lesser men who improved their estates in the later decades of the eighteenth century, the relationship between new lifestyle and agricultural improvement would have been different. No longer two aspects of the same process of change, for the vast majority of landowners, agriculture constituted the financial base on which their new lifestyle was built.

For I.H.Adams, one of the main figures in the debate in this area, the role of landowners was central to the progress of agricultural change in Scotland. Indeed, he interprets the whole pattern of development as being a result of a collective act of will on their part, which was made after the 1745 Rising, when they emerged as a supposedly united force. "determined to institute

great changes in the fabric and society of Scotland".<sup>8</sup> Adam's reading of the situation is based on a fairly rudimentary cause and effect analysis. His main idea is that landowners needed money to subsidise the kind of lifestyle to which they felt they ought to become accustomed and therefore, in an attempt to achieve this end, demanded higher rents from their tenants and instructed "implementors" (land surveyors and important estate officials) and "managers" (factors) to establish and nurture a new system of agriculture.

There is little doubt that economic motives were a central force in bringing about general change in the eighteenth century, but a simple reading of events such as that of Adams does not explain the complexity and disharmony of events. He is particularly impressed by the work of the land surveyor, who was vital to the course of agricultural improvement and through his role in mapping and laying out land:

Before him he saw an open, fragmented scene, half moorland, but he visualised an ordered, geometrical, fenced landscape.<sup>9</sup>

Adams attempts, through the use of an analysis of the numbers of land surveyors, to establish the "dynamic" period of agricultural change. He thinks this coincided with the years when their numbers were largest, which he calculates was a period between 1748 and 1770.<sup>10</sup> This is in agreement with the traditional view that there was a "revolution" in agriculture and with Adams' supporting view that this was led from the top. In an attempt to increase the strength of this argument Adams minimises the role played by agricultural societies and contemporary publications in promoting agricultural change. Since the numbers of these were highest in the late part of the century and early decades of the nineteenth, Adams argues that they had a role in diffusing ideas about improvements which only partly affected a well-established system.

Adams' thesis gives only a partial explanation of the reasons behind the reality of agricultural change in Scotland, which was that it was tentative, patchy and

often unsuccessful.<sup>11</sup> In addition, the overwhelming majority of sources, including the work by Donaldson (part of which is quoted at the head of this chapter), show that agricultural change in a meaningful and general form began to be achieved only late in the eighteenth century. Why should this time lag have existed if the motive given by Adams for agricultural change was as compelling and universal as he suggests?

Whittington, Whyte and Lenman head a group of historians whose ideas help to explain some of the problems of interpretation in this area which are left unanswered by historians who subscribe to the views expressed by Adams. Theirs is a quantum-based approach which deals with agricultural development as a process of gradual and sometimes halting change which had its roots in the previous century.<sup>12</sup> The pursuit of a new lifestyle by landowners with all its economic demands, Adams' "push-factor", remains as a motive for change but is treated as having been one of several factors which shaped it. These included the penetration of capitalist aims in landed society, the movement into the country of people with money made outside it which led to the emergence of new types of landowners and tenant farmers, the improvement of the transport system, the development of the transport system and the 1770 Entail Act which encouraged the improvement of entailed estates.

Real improvement in agriculture was necessary if tenants' incomes were to be enhanced sufficiently to enable them to meet the higher levels of rent desired by landowners. In turn, this required substantial investment in agriculture on the part of landowners. For most of the eighteenth century this investment was generally not made. Increased incomes for the tenants were dependent on there being high food prices created by a high level of demand. In this period, however, food prices were not sufficiently elevated to tempt most landowners to risk money by investing in the improvement of their land. The bankruptcy of men such as the noted improver John Cockburn of Ormiston operated as a powerful disincentive.<sup>13</sup>

From the 1770s there was an unrelenting trend of food-price increases caused by the sustained growth of Scotland's population. By the end of the century the population had increased by a quarter compared with its size in 1755. During the first ten years of the nineteenth century, the population grew at an unprecedented annual rate of 1.5 per cent.<sup>14</sup> In addition to the boost to agriculture provided by a burgeoning population, the long period of the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars from the 1790s, during which food imports from Europe were prevented, contributed to the inflation in prices. Increases in revenues created an atmosphere of confidence amongst landowners. In the case of the estate of Over Rankeillour, for example, records exist which show that rent returns from some of the tenanted farms rose by well over 100 per cent between 1805 and 1816.<sup>15</sup> The availability of money was such that landlords sought to invest money in a variety of ways, such as in turnpike roads and planned villages, for the indirect but good effects they had on their revenues.<sup>16</sup> Despite the remarkably beneficial effects which agricultural improvements had in the long-term in Scotland, they, together with the new capitalism of landlords and the greater stratification of society with which they were associated, were regretted by some people as representing the passing of the old order. Ramsay of Ochertye wrote at the beginning of the nineteenth century of the commercialisation of the landowning classes:

Indeed for nearly twenty years after I commenced a country gentleman in about 1750 no character was in lower repute than that of a harsh and avaricious land lord...it could not be foreseen that the time would come when the raising of rents should occupy the attention of proprietors great and small.<sup>17</sup>

As the potential for making profits from agriculture increased through the last decades of the eighteenth century and into the nineteenth, interest in agriculture on an intellectual level soared. Landowners and the new class of substantial tenant farmers which emerged during the period spent heavily on books concerning agricultural matters. In fact, the rate at

which books on agriculture were published between 1790 and 1820 was twice as high as that which it had been in the 1780s.<sup>18</sup> That agriculture was regarded as a subject for serious study was underlined by the establishment in 1790 of a Chair in Agriculture at Edinburgh University.

Agricultural societies were another vehicle by which new ideas about farming were disseminated around the country. Such societies in the early part of the eighteenth century had fairly limited memberships which were normally of an aristocratic variety. The Society of Improvers in the Knowledge of Agriculture in Scotland was successful in setting up some local societies to spread ideas to the provinces.<sup>19</sup> Unfortunately, these tended to fold up after the death of their aristocratic founders.

The most important development concerning agricultural societies, and one which ranks as being of major importance in the history of agricultural improvement, was the institution in the 1780s of the Highland Society of Scotland, which later became the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society. The Society grew dramatically in numbers, from 39 members in 1783 to 1400 in 1820. Membership lists for the Society are included in the volumes of *Prize Essays and Transactions* which it published. These show that in the 1780s the vast majority of the membership consisted of substantial landowners and lawyers. The composition changed in the following decades as the Society became more broadly based. By the 1830s, the membership was more varied, including tenant farmers and other interested groups such as clerics and a considerable number of factors. Many landowners from Fife belonged to the Society, including Henry S. Wedderburn of Birkhill (admitted 1819) and James Home Rigg of Tarvit (admitted 1824). The Society became something of a pressure group in the interests of agriculture. For instance, in 1799, it persuaded Parliament to legislate that thirlage, a feudal duty on tenants to use their landlord's mill for grinding their grain, could be converted to a cash payment. Through the giving of

premiums, for subjects as diverse as cottage design and ideal crop rotations, and through its own programme of publication, the Society fostered new standards of excellence in Scottish agriculture.

Local agricultural societies grew up in every part of Scotland. In North Fife there were two, the Fife Farming Society, based in Cupar, and the Trafalgar Society, which met annually on the anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar in Collessie. The activities of these groups were regularly noted and praised in the local newspaper, the *Fifeshire Journal*, and must have been well known. It is unfortunate that the records of these societies do not survive and it is impossible therefore to trace the range of issues with which they were concerned. However, it is notable that the distinguished writer on agriculture, Robert Beatson, was sufficiently impressed by the work of such bodies that he recommended more should be set up in Fife.<sup>20</sup>

The picture which emerges of agriculture in Fife around 1800, in the *Old Statistical Account* and in the various agricultural views of the county, is one of achievement and of energetic activity, but with much remaining to be done. In the entry for the Parish of Cupar in the *Old Statistical Account* reference is made to advances made in the region of North Fife - "that part of the county, in particular, which lies between the Eden and the Tay, naturally fertile, has been subjected to a new and better mode of cultivation".<sup>21</sup> Concerning his own parish, the author noted that the "instruments of husbandry, used in the parish, are all of the newest and best constructed, and the farmers begin to build, at their own expence, mills for threshing out their corns". Beatson reported that "lands everywhere are better divided and laid out in proper farms", but thought that one third of agricultural land remained to be enclosed.<sup>22</sup> Thomson sounded a more negative note a few years later when, concerning enclosure, he wrote, "Few counties need this improvement more than Fife, and there are few perhaps, where it is so far behind."<sup>23</sup>

It is clear that agricultural change was still taking place at a fairly basic level in Fife at the end of the eighteenth century. In fact, there were exceptional instances of this well into the next century. As late as 1844 it was said of the farm of Little Kinneir, the property of Henry Wedderburn of Birkhill, that it "requires only to be enclosed to become a first rate farm for its size".<sup>24</sup> The period of "dynamic" and far-reaching change judged by Adams to have taken place in the third quarter of the century would seem to have had limited effects in Fife.

In general, land in Fife was farmed according to a mixed system of husbandry, encompassing the cultivation of crops and the keeping of livestock. Farming benefited from the breadth of new agricultural practices and ideas. These included the improvement of animal breeds and crops and the introduction of new types. Better management of the land was a central aspect of successful change - particularly in the development of suitable rotations, the standard in the county being of five- or six-year cycles - and in the improvement of the quality of the soil by drainage and by the application of lime, manure and bone fertiliser. Approximately half the land available for farming in Fife was kept in pasture, including land in the policies on estates, principally for cattle grazing. The Fife breed of black cattle, which was much in demand by butchers south of the border, was that most commonly kept.<sup>25</sup> In addition to beef cattle, a variety of breeds of sheep were maintained, especially in upland areas. The principal crops in the county were oats followed by barley, with a smaller amount of wheat being grown. From the late eighteenth century a significant proportion of land was used for the cultivation of potatoes and turnips. As animal feed they were a vital element in the growth of the practice of wintering cattle. This development was one of the most significant seen in agriculture in the period. In addition to

providing for the local market, there was an important trade in grain and potatoes with other parts of the country, exports often being shipped from the nearest available port.<sup>26</sup>

The relative backwardness of agriculture in the county in terms of enclosure seems unusual when the high number of resident landowners is considered. The majority of estates in Fife were quite small, being between 50 and 300 acres in size. Thomson thought that there were more landowners in Fife than in any other county. Sir John Sinclair confirmed the unusually large numbers of people in this class. In 1814 there were 638 estates in Fife compared with 661 in Edinburgh (Midlothian) and 755 in the much larger county of Perth.<sup>27</sup> The 1825 *Analysis of the Statistical Account of Scotland* spoke of the advantages for agriculture of resident proprietors:

By introducing into their farms in their own possession, the most improved means of managing the different kinds of soil, they exhibit an example to their tenants, by which a change of culture is produced, no less beneficial to the proprietor and tenant, than delightful to the judicious spectator.<sup>28</sup>

However, Cant has suggested that the small size of estates in Fife and the relatively tight-knit society on the land actually constituted a force which worked against agricultural change. Wary of social disturbance, landowners are thought to have effected change slowly. An example of this was the very gentle pace at which new tenants were brought in from outside the county.<sup>29</sup>

Despite limitations to agricultural development in Fife, major investment certainly took place. Particular improvements such as the draining of the Rossie Loch at the end of the century were the result of the investment of considerable concentrations of capital. On a more general level, much enclosure had been undertaken in a few decades, even if more needed to be done, many plantations had been sown and money and energy had been applied to the road network, by the effective use of statute labour, with good effects for the movement of agricultural produce.<sup>30</sup>

Farm buildings represented the other important area in which there was considerable investment in Fife. Robert Brown, "a most competent judge" in the words of Sir John Sinclair, wrote in 1814:

There is no criterion by which the agricultural prosperity of a country can be better determined, or the condition of those who exercise it, more correctly ascertained than by the general state and appearance of farm-houses and offices.<sup>31</sup>

From the comments made about farm buildings at the end of eighteenth century, it would seem that agriculture in Fife was in a fairly healthy state. Thomson described the existence of a large number of new farmsteads with well-built and "neatly finished" houses and offices which were "conveniently arranged and of sufficient dimensions for the size of the farm". Fife was entirely typical of Lowland Scotland in this respect. County views of agriculture from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries are full of accounts of new farm buildings, generally of quadrangular form and constructed of good materials: stone and lime with slated roofs. But as in the case of enclosure, Thomson had serious reservations about the situation in Fife. Many buildings remained unimproved, "in a barbarous state and these upon the ground of proprietors from whom better things might have been expected".<sup>32</sup> This was a vast improvement, though, on the situation of forty years before. Beatson described the farm buildings in Fife then as being "irregular and mean buildings, both for protecting the grain and the cattle".<sup>33</sup> However, by the nineteenth century the old type of single-storey steading on a linear plan with rubble walls, which included a small dwelling house, a barn and byre under the same thatched roof, was very much a thing of the past and was not generally seen.

By the middle of the nineteenth century the transformation of agriculture which had begun with isolated occurrences of improvement, as early as the seventeenth century, and which developed into a general movement of change in the last decades of the eighteenth century was very largely completed. Due to the prevalence

of a mixed system of farming Fife was relatively unharmed by the depression which occurred in the decade following the end of the Napoleonic War, which hit hardest those areas in which farming was exclusively arable.<sup>34</sup>

Improvement continued through the decades of the century, financed by higher profits which were linked to the rapid growth of the population. In the period between the beginning of the century and the 1840s the population grew at a staggering rate, from 1.6 millions to 2.6 millions.<sup>35</sup> The *New Statistical Account* (NSA) provides a wealth of evidence for the extent of change in Fife. One contributor observed that since the time of the previous statistical account the level of agricultural production had risen by a multiple of three, accompanied by a doubling of rents.<sup>36</sup> On all sides there were tangible signs of greater prosperity and a common feeling that, in the creation of a new landscape of enclosed farms with efficient, well-constructed buildings displaying modern features, many with threshing mills, the basic work of agricultural improvement had been achieved. Concerning the Parish of Cupar, it was reported that "every spot wears the appearance of the highest cultivation". In the case of Collessie, the minister suggested that there was "little if any unimproved land which would repay the cost of cultivation".

A less tangible, but vital aspect of the changes agriculture underwent during the period was to do with the new attitudes which emerged among the people involved in farming. This was an important factor in the continuance of growth after 1850 and in the development of high farming. The Reverend Adam Cairns of Dunbog, in a rather painfully adulatory description of farmers, encapsulated the essentials of their outlook:

An enlightened, active and enterprising body of men, who embrace every opportunity of extending their knowledge of the important subjects connected with the cultivation of the soil, and eagerly adopt every suggestion that may conduce to the improvement of the rapidly advancing science of husbandry. Perhaps no class of men is more free from prejudices, - more unaffectedly kind - more sound and steady in their principles, - and more full of solid and useful information than the farmers of Fifeshire.<sup>37</sup>

CHAPTER ONE  
Notes

- 1 J.Donaldson, *Modern Agriculture or the Present State of Husbandry in Great Britain* (Dundee, 1795), p.98.
- 2 Lord Kames, *The Gentleman Farmer*, 4th edn (Edinburgh, 1798), p.XVlll
- 3 T.C.Smout, *A History of the Scottish People 1560-1830*, 5th edn (Glasgow, 1979), pp.271-81. This includes an important discussion of the cultural context for agricultural improvement. See also J.M.Robinson, *Georgian Model Farms* (Oxford, 1983), pp.5-8.
- 4 J.E.Handley, *The Agricultural Revolution in Scotland* (Glasgow, 1963), p.74.
- 5 Ibid., p.74. Sir T.Hope and R.Maxwell, *A Treatise concerning the Manner of Fallowing of Ground, Raising of Grass Seeds, and Training of Lint and Hemp* (1724).
- 6 B.Lenman, *Economic History of Modern Scotland 1660-1976* (London, 1977), p.137.
- 7 Ibid., pp.135-6.
- 8 I.H.Adams, "The Agents of Agricultural Change" in *The Making of the Scottish Countryside*, edited by M.L.Parry and T.R.Slater (London, 1980), p.157.
- 9 I.H.Adams, "The Land Surveyor and his Influence on the Scottish Rural Landscape", *Scottish Geographical Magazine*, 1968, 84, pp.248-255.
- 10 I.H.Adams, "The Agents of Agricultural Change", p.167.
- 11 The most easily accessible evidence for this is given by the various agricultural views of the period, the most notable of those for Fife being R.Beatson, *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Fife* (Edinburgh, 1794), and J.Thomson, *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Fife* (Edinburgh, 1800).
- 12 I.D.Whyte, "Early Modern Scotland: Continuity and Change" in *A Historical Geography of Scotland* edited by G.Whittington and I.D.Whyte (London, 1983), pp.119-40.
- 13 T.C.Smout, op.cit., p.277.
- 14 B.Lenman, *Integration, Enlightenment and Industrialization* (London, 1981) p.116.
- 15 Scottish Record Office, Hope of Luffness MSS, GD364/1/145 and GD364/1/129. The rent returns contained in these records show changes in the level of rent of two tenanted farms. Between 1805 and 1816 the rent of Westhall Farm increased from £158 to £367. In the same period the rent of Easthall Farm increased from £300 to £840.
- 16 B.Lenman, *Integration, Enlightenment and Industrialization* (London, 1981), p.117.
- 17 Cited in T.C.Smout, op.cit., p.280.
- 18 I.H.Adams, "The Agents of Agricultural Change", p.172, Figure 7.6.
- 19 J.E.Handley, op.cit., pp.73-4.
- 20 R.Beatson, op.cit., p.35.
- 21 *Old Statistical Account (OSA) 1791-1799* (East Ardsley, 1978), Vol.X, p.224.
- 22 Ibid., p.19.
- 23 J.Thomson, op.cit., p.134.

- 24 *New Statistical Account (NSA)* (Edinburgh and London, 1844), Vol.IX, p.50.
- 25 *OSA*, p.224.
- 26 *Ibid.*, p.83. The minister of Balmerino reports the export of considerable quantities of grain, which had been bought at market in Cupar, from the jetty in the parish.
- 27 Sir J.Sinclair, *General Report of the Agricultural State and Political Circumstances of Scotland* (Edinburgh, 1814), p.27, Table A.
- 28 Sir J.Sinclair, *Analysis of the Statistical Account of Scotland* (Edinburgh, 1825), Part 1, p.236.
- 29 R.G.Cant "Introduction" in *OSA*, p.xviii.
- 30 O.Silver, "The Roads of Fife" (Ph.D. thesis, University of St Andrews, 1984).
- 31 Sir J.Sinclair, *General Report of the Agricultural State and Political Circumstances of Scotland*, p.131.
- 32 J.Thomson, *op.cit.*, p.131.
- 33 R.Beatson, *op.cit.*, p.19.
- 34 J.E.Handley, *op.cit.*, p.276.
- 35 *Ibid.*, p.287 and T.C.Smout, *A Century of the Scottish People* (London, 1986) p.8.
- 36 *NSA*, p.46.
- 37 *Ibid.*, p.213.

## CHAPTER TWO

The Theoretical Background to Agricultural Architecture  
in Contemporary Printed Sources.

The early Nineteenth century witnessed an explosion of activity in the book trade. One aspect of this was a dramatic increase in the volume of publishing on architectural subjects, including the architecture of farm buildings. Several studies of architectural pattern books have been undertaken which indicate that the rate of publishing peaked in the first decades of the century.<sup>1</sup> Robinson's survey of the collection of books on farm buildings in the RIBA library underlines this fact. It reveals that thirty books were published on the subject between 1800 and 1837, in sharp contrast with the eight published during the whole of Queen Victoria's reign.<sup>2</sup> Books of the period should not be studied now in an attempt to identify designs on which individual buildings might have been modelled as this is generally unsuccessful. Ideas were not lifted from books in that way since the form of the buildings was dictated primarily by practical considerations concerning the nature, size and location of the farm. Rather, the importance of studying works on agricultural architecture today lies in the way they reflect the fluid body of ideas of agricultural and architectural backgrounds which shaped the progress of change. They constitute points of reference for people undertaking research in this field and are a valuable aid in constructing a framework for the ideas and their inter-relationships which underpin the design of farm buildings.

To date, studies of architectural books from this period are profoundly limited, it might even be said flawed, in one important respect. This is due to the relative lack of success of efforts to investigate the relationship between these books and the people who bought and read them, in order to assess the likely extent of the books' influence. For example, very little is known about the basic point of how many copies were

sold. It is to be hoped that future research on as yet unexplored publishers' records will unearth more information in this area.

The number of editions in which particular works were produced is one possible means of gauging their popularity, most books in this subject area being produced in multiple editions. For example, the well-known *Encyclopaedia of Cottage, Farm and Villa Architecture and Furniture*, first published in 1833, was eventually reissued in thirteen more editions by 1883. This underlines the buoyancy of the market for books of this kind. In many cases there are references contained in the text of the books to other authors which give further clues about the influence enjoyed by some writers. A notable example of this concerns the heavy reliance shown by Loudon on the ideas of Robert Beaton and Charles Waistell.

Records of contemporary library holdings are a largely untapped and possibly valuable source of information for the distribution of books on architectural subjects. Early nineteenth century inventories exist for the libraries of two of the estates in North Fife which are covered in this study: Over Rankeillour and Melville. That for Over Rankeillour lists a group of over thirty books on agricultural subjects, including several which deal with aspects of agricultural architecture.<sup>3</sup>

A sensible starting point for an appraisal of works relating to the architecture of farm buildings is to investigate the causes of the wider publishing boom in the Nineteenth century to gain a sense of the books' context. This approach can be expected to uncover the form of the market which writers aimed to exploit and something of the nature of their aims and the methods they adopted.

The use of iron instead of wood to make letters from around 1800 vastly speeded up the rate at which type could be set and benefited the whole publishing industry, especially newspaper publishing.<sup>4</sup> The production of illustrations was another area which experienced radical

changes promoted by new technology. Towards the end of the eighteenth century copper engravings ceased to be the standard method used to produce architectural illustrations and gave way to the techniques of wood engraving and aquatint which better suited the demands of Picturesque aesthetics for subtle shading. From the 1840's the durability of iron type was matched for illustrations by the use of the resurrected technique of wood-cuts, which, though cruder than other techniques, was less expensive.

Books on farm buildings were typical of the new kind of publications which were published in the early nineteenth century which were more modest in conception than books on similar subjects in the previous century. This was most obvious in their format. Blutman's study of pattern books for country houses indicates that the majority of volumes produced were of quarto rather than the folio size which had been the norm earlier. This was matched by the lower quality of the paper and binding as well as of that of the printing and illustrations.

The corollary of the decline in the numbers of high-quality books was a new category of publication, the illustrated journal or magazine which began to appear in the 1830s, famous examples being the *Penny Magazine* (1832-45) and the *Penny Encyclopaedia* (1833-44). Several architectural magazines were available, including Loudon's *Architectural Magazine* (1834-39) and the influential *Builder* (from 1842). These were quite different from eighteenth-century publications, such as the *Builder's Magazine* which first appeared in the 1770's, which were in effect pattern books published in parts.

The dynamic part of the market for all works of the new genre lay in the middle classes. This was reflected in comments made by authors concerning the readership at which their books were aimed and about what was provided for the readers. Lugar said of his *Architectural Sketches* that they were "suitable to persons of Genteel life and moderate fortune". In Charles Middleton's case this category was extended to include

"poorer country people".<sup>5</sup> The idea of economy as well as convenience was stressed in most works and the increasingly large amounts of technical information included were aimed at making it easier for people to design buildings without the help of a professional architect.

The catholicity of the taste of the new readership was reflected in the wide range of architectural styles which were illustrated at the time. This market was fertile ground for architects interested in the stylistic variety which became a dominant feature of architecture from the late eighteenth century. Books appeared which showed illustrations of buildings in Neo-Classical guise, Gothic, Castle, Fancy, Italianate, Old English and, in the hands of an architect of the convinced Picturesque school, such as P.F. Robinson, even the Swiss style. It is notable that, with the exception of Soane and limited contributions by others, the vast majority of pattern books were not written by the leading exponents of the styles which they publicise. Presumably, the potential for making profits was not sufficiently strong to tempt the leading architects of the period to become involved in this kind of work or to take time off from their architectural commissions. Surveys, such as that by Blutman, show that in general terms from the late Eighteenth century, there was a movement away from the illustration of lavish houses towards a humbler class of building which, as well as farm buildings, included cottages and other small-scale rural buildings. These were the only kinds of buildings which most of the authors could hope to be asked to design.

Since for most people architecture was only one of a whole range of subjects in which an interest might be taken meant there was much cross-fertilisation of ideas between related fields. The subject of agricultural architecture was intimately related to thought on agriculture in general. In fact, the two developed in parallel. An investigation of thought in this area must necessarily cover relevant ideas in works which are not

of an overtly architectural nature since non-architectural developments had a fundamental effect on the way in which this class of buildings was conceived.

Books which are relevant to the design and construction of farm buildings fall into two closely related categories which ultimately give way to a third. The first of these includes architectural pattern books of a type similar to those for other classes of buildings such as country houses; the second includes a variety of works on the whole sphere of agriculture, including agricultural treatises and the publications of organisations involved in agriculture, but which encompass ideas on architecture; the third category includes the encyclopaedias which were published of great and comprehensive detail.

A survey of pattern books on the subject of rural architecture beginning in the eighteenth century reveals the same range of stylistic alternatives to basic Classicism which affected all branches of architecture, whilst before the late eighteenth century they reveal little real appreciation of the demands of agriculture. Many authors continued to support the Classical idiom in some form - this group includes authors such as Middleton in the late eighteenth century and William Gray in the 1850s. Some writers, such as P.F. Robinson and Loudon, responded more positively to the variety of styles which were promoted by Associationist and Picturesque aesthetics. The boundaries of this stylistic contest were dramatically altered by an input of ideas from the second category of books which showed a much keener appreciation of the needs and priorities of agriculture and which were very influential from the end of the eighteenth century. A new utilitarianism began to be displayed in pattern books, underpinned by a more professional understanding of agriculture. This was appropriate to the concern for economy which was a feature of practical farming. Good farm buildings were a necessity, the form of these being dictated by the needs of the farm. If the buildings could be constructed in a way which was aesthetically pleasing at no significant cost to their usefulness or to their

owner's purse, so much the better. The *Communications to the Board of Agriculture* (from 1797), the *Surveys of the Agriculture of Great Britain by Counties* (1793-1816) and the *Prize Essays and Transactions* of the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society, because of their large circulation, were particularly well-known constituents of this category.

Writers of a primarily agricultural background set new standards for those who concentrated more particularly on architecture. In the nineteenth century much closer links were established between architecture and agriculture and an increasingly well-informed public demanded books which were of practical use. One sign of this was manifested in a new kind of publication, the encyclopaedia. Rural architecture was dealt with in a way which was based on its real context, with many illustrations and great detail in the usually wide-ranging text. The chief pioneer of this medium was John Claudius Loudon, whose *Encyclopaedia of Agriculture* (from 1825) and *Encyclopaedia of Cottage, Farm and Villa Architecture and Furniture* (from 1833) were of enormous and long lasting influence. Much of what is written assumes a high level of knowledge in the reader. In turn this presented new demands to authors working in this area if they were to satisfy a well-informed readership. Loudon's major works established a tradition of this kind of publishing which continued throughout the century. The *Book of Farm Buildings* (1861) by Stephens and Burn and C.J. Richardson's *The Englishman's House* (1871) are examples of this, which, like Loudon's encyclopaedias, were in octavo form, of considerable length and apparently comprehensive scope.

One of the earliest authors to take a genuine and serious interest in agricultural buildings was Isaac Ware in his *A Complete Body of Architecture* (first published in 1756). He had earlier been involved in popularising Palladio and would seem to have been influenced by the Italian's formalised courtyard layouts - in his own work, Ware included a variety of plans for different kinds of farms. Ware realised the aesthetic

possibilities of farm offices and discussed them in terms which betray the influence of the incipient movement towards the Picturesque. Farm buildings were to be considered as a picture and "under the direction of a skillful architect, the barns, stables and cowhouses, will rise like so many pavilions and the very sheds will assist in the design".<sup>6</sup>

By contrast, Timothy Lightoler's *The Gentleman and Farmer's Architect* (1762) is more typical of other early pattern books which were a world away from the good sense expressed by Ware. It displays no real knowledge of agricultural matters. The illustrations, which include a design for a Dutch barn with pagoda roof and two designs for "sheep coats" in a ruinous castle style, are typical of the approach common at that stage which was to treat farm buildings as little more than potentially decorative objects.

Some years after this, two important books by well-known agriculturalists appeared which included ideas for the design of farm buildings informed by practical experience. These were *The Gentleman Farmer* by Lord Kames and Nathaniel Kent's *Hints to Gentlemen of Landed Property*, both originally published in 1775. The books were aimed clearly at landowners who intended to make substantial improvements in all aspects of their estates and offered them practical advice. The common-sense approach yielded a general emphasis in both works on the need for economy and the appropriateness of designs to be borne in mind when building.

The 1790s were a decisive period in the development of ideas concerning farm buildings. In the early years of the decade, pattern books continued to appear in a form which was little altered from earlier in the century, with illustrations of fairly regular farm layouts and elevations in various architectural styles. Middleton's *Picturesque and Architectural Views for Cottages, Farm Houses and Country Villas* (1793) is an example of this sustained phase of publication which displayed only a limited appreciation of the needs of agriculture. His design for a "Farm House and Yard"

(Pl. 6) shows a simple Classical farm layout which is ornamented in a rather quirky style combining rustic thatch and timber columns with the occasional crudely applied Gothic detail. It was into this context of slow development in rural architecture that the *Communications to the Board of Agriculture* were launched, the first part appearing in 1797. The most important of several essays concerning farm buildings was that by Robert Beatson, a native of Fife who had three years previously published the *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Fife*. Beatson's essay on agricultural buildings continued in the same tradition of common sense towards rural affairs in which Lord Kames and Nathaniel Kent had been important figures, though Beatson focuses specifically on architecture. This essay had enormous influence at the time and was very well-known, in architectural circles at least.<sup>7</sup> Loudon relied heavily on Beatson's ideas and designs in his *Encyclopaedia of Agriculture* as did, for example, the less well-known R.W.Dickson. His book *Practical Agriculture* (1805) includes most of Beatson's illustrations and many of his ideas. The timing of Beatson's article, as well as the fact that it appeared in a government-sponsored publication, had much to do with its success. It coincided with the increase in the popularity of books on the subject of rural architecture and its practically inspired ideas were in tune with those sections of society who were able to construct new buildings.

The central thrust of Beatson's article concerns the demands posed by efficient farming and was aimed at those people for whom fear of the potential costs of new building prevented them from making new improvements. Much of the article's text comprises detailed advice about particular aspects of steading design which display an up-to-date knowledge of the latest agricultural technology. Very little is said about architectural style as such, though Beatson places a consistent emphasis on the need for "uniformity" in building. Architectural ornamentation is given a low priority relative to the need for utility which is

revealed in Beatson's comments on the designs which are illustrated:

Such ornaments are unnecessary in farm buildings, and are therefore in the following sketches entirely omitted. At the same time a strict attention to uniformity is particularly observed and although the windows are in general made something wider in proportion to their height than is permitted by the rules of architecture, in order to answer the purpose of giving as much light as possible (the chief use of windows). It is however hoped that no great or offensive deviations are made from these rules, even in that case.<sup>8</sup>

Understood in conjunction with the illustrations, such as his "Design for a Farm House and Offices" (Pl. 7), these comments represent support on Beatson's part, though one which is hardly pedantic, for the basic principles of Classical architecture which at the time was the lowest common denominator in architecture.

Most works published after the appearance of Beatson's essay reflect some kind of appreciation of the practically rooted ideas which he expounded and which were of growing importance to an agricultural system with an increasingly strong commercial base. The spirit of Beatson's ideas is most eloquently expressed in books of a primarily agricultural focus. For example, John Thomson's *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Fife* (1800) includes two illustrations of farm steadings (Pls 8 and 9) which are representative of the regular planning, economy and uniformity which Beatson advocated. Contemporary illustrations of this sort confirm the view that Beatson's special gift was not originality, but lay in his ability to elucidate the guiding principles adopted by serious improvers and which dictated the form in which farms were constructed. The section on farm houses and offices by Robert Brown of Markle in Sir John Sinclair's important *General Report of the Agricultural State and Political Circumstances of Scotland* (1814) is very much along the same lines as Beatson's article and is similarly typical of an increasingly sophisticated understanding of agricultural practice.

The development of a practical approach can be traced in books of a more obviously architectural focus. As was true of works on agricultural matters, the axis of writing shifted, though this was not always reflected in predictable ways. For example; in *Designs for Cottages, Cottage Farms and other Rural Buildings* (1805), the Neo-Classical architect Joseph Gandy developed the work of Adam and Soane and attempted to found a new style of simple rural architecture, appropriate for farm buildings, which was striking because of its lack of conventional ornament and its complex geometrical plans (Pl. 10).

A new realism in thought on farm architecture can be detected even in books by architects of the avowedly Picturesque school. The "Address" written in 1827 by the experienced writer P.F. Robinson to his *Designs for Farm Buildings* (1829) displays the influence of the new spirit. Robinson recognises the advances that had been made in the diffusion of knowledge about agricultural architecture, diffusion of such extent that even bailiffs were able "to erect buildings in the most convenient form, and to place them exactly where they should be". The aim of his book was not to offer new ideas about the arrangement of steadings, but rather to discuss how the external form of farm buildings might be improved in line with Picturesque notions of beauty without detracting from the efficiency of their plans. This indicates the changing nature of the market for books on this subject and emphasises two facts: (i) that the market became increasingly specialised, with authors looking for specific rather than general focuses for their books; and (ii) that many improved steadings had been constructed without particular attention being paid to the style of the architecture, the field which Robinson hoped to cash in on. All buildings could be made to look interesting and it was hoped that "by degrees we may improve on the unseemly features which the village carpenter, unassisted must constantly produce".<sup>9</sup>

In line with the new spirit, Robinson stresses the need for economy, though the Picturesque clothing he

proposes for farm buildings belies this. For example, the group of illustrations for "Design No.13" were based on a simple plan for the yard of a medium-sized farm which is regularly arranged along basically symmetrical lines. Several alternatives are included for ways in which the buildings might be decorated, including the Old English and Swiss styles, depending on individual taste (Pls 11 and 12). It is doubtful that the reader would have accepted that these buildings would prove to be "generally useful" or that Robinson had succeeded in avoiding "meretricious ornament".

The same year that Robinson completed his "Address" saw the appearance of *Designs for Agricultural Buildings* by another architect, Charles Waistell. The book's aims are quite different from those of Robinson. Its utilitarian tone sets it in the developing tradition of writing of which Beatson had been an early member. Waistell quotes extensively from agricultural sources and this gives his writing a quality of erudition. For example, he draws on the expertise of Arthur Young in the *Annals of Agriculture* as evidence for the great disadvantages caused by the bad arrangement of farm buildings. Practical considerations such as these dominate Waistell's thought and colour his approach to the question of architectural style. His sole concern is to ensure the utility of farm buildings which "should be simple in their forms and perfectly plain". Notions of architectural style are dominated by a concern for the usefulness of buildings and consist in no more than "regularity and neatness". Even these simple qualities are given no special priority - they are "not essential", though they "may generally be made to consist with economy and convenience and in that case regularity ought certainly to be preferred to irregularity, and neatness to clumsiness and deformity ... The effect of orderly distribution and regular arrangement, is sometimes a modest neatness bordering on simple elegance; these are desirable accompaniments to utility, but ought never to be allowed to rival it: to utility alone, everything else must be subordinate."<sup>10</sup>

As in the case of Beatson, the architectural style which emerges in Waistell's designs is simple and Classical, with embellishment severely restricted, though this was fundamentally different from the Romantically-inspired pursuit of Neo-Classical simplicity in Gandy's work. In his design for a farm house and outbuildings (Pl. 13), Waistell illustrates a regular and almost symmetrical ground plan with a simple elevation - the sole decorative features lie in the handling of the openings to the Cart Lodge and the unadorned pediment applied to its gable end. Waistell was one of the earliest authors to include isometrical views for some of his building designs - a form of refined and regularised birds-eye view. These, with the other well-produced illustrations and its very detailed advice about building construction made the book a particularly useful source of practical information.

The *Prize Essays and Transactions of the Highland Society of Scotland* (later the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society (RHAS)) first appeared in the 1790s. They had an influential voice in the world of agriculture and contained articles on rural architecture, though these tended mainly to concern model cottage design. An essay of anonymous authorship was published in 1831 on the subject of farm buildings, which developed the ideas held by Waistell.<sup>11</sup> A variety of sophisticated ground plans and elevations are given for specific sizes and types of farm. There is no attempt at elaboration in the architecture and the idea that convenience should outweigh even uniformity is adopted as a guiding principle. The large membership of the RHAS spread throughout the country constituted an important vehicle for the popularisation of such ideas.

The most prolific and influential writer in the nineteenth century on the whole of rural architecture, including farm buildings, was John Claudius Loudon (1783-1843). The sheer volume of his writing is staggering, those works on architecture reflecting just one aspect of the remarkable range of his interests which included horticulture, landscape gardening, cartography, furniture

design and which were manifested in a large number of books and contributions to magazines.<sup>12</sup> The two most important works in the area of this study are the *Encyclopaedia of Agriculture* (from 1825) and the *Encyclopaedia of Cottage, Farm and Villa Architecture and Furniture* (from 1833).

In the *Encyclopaedia of Agriculture* (Second edition 1831) Loudon deals with the world history of agriculture, the state of contemporary farming worldwide, all categories of relevant buildings, scientific study of botany and zoology, and diverse subjects including roads, mines and fisheries. Something of the reason for this kind of breadth is reflected in the rather extravagant aims stated in the "Preface" to the *Encyclopaedia of Cottage, Farm and Villa Architecture* but which are equally applicable to both works. Loudon had discovered that improvement had so far been "confined to those departments which are open to the understanding and amenable to the judgement of mankind generally". Essentially, his aim was to reach, and educate in all regards, all those who had not yet been enlightened: a group which included young people and women.

Loudon was the only major writer who dealt at length with questions of style relevant to agricultural buildings. Unfortunately, his blanket approach to writing, which was to include as much information as possible, tends to detract from the clarity of his ideas, and the massive variety of designs and buildings which are illustrated do not at first sight leave a definite impression of quite what style it was that he advocated for farm buildings.

In the *Encyclopaedia of Agriculture*, perhaps because the readership was likely to include many farmers, Loudon takes a utilitarian line which stresses the practical aspects of the design of farm buildings. He describes them as "one great stationary machine operating more or less on every branch of labour and produce". He relies heavily on the ideas of Beatson and Waistell and many of their illustrations are reprinted including those shown here (Pls 7 and 13). However, Loudon displays a

personal interest in planning in accordance with geometrical formulae which is somewhat out of line with the practical thinking of the earlier writers. For example, he includes three pairs of plans and views for the same farm, one octagonal, one square and the other circular.<sup>13</sup> Several of the illustrations betray Loudon's interest in unusual decorative styles - for example, a design for an Egyptian-revival pigeon house - and in the use of innovative building materials.

The *Encyclopaedia of Cottage, Farm and Villa Architecture and Furniture* gives a much deeper insight into Loudon's thought about the architecture of farm buildings as part of a much wider consideration of rural architecture in general. This emerges in Loudon's discussion of the principles by which architecture may be criticised. Buildings should display a fitness for their purpose and their form should represent the appropriate expression of their function. Colvin has identified Loudon's debt in this matter to the tradition of Scottish Rationalist philosophy and to the philosopher Alison in particular.<sup>14</sup> It was quite definitely not an argument for functionalism in the modern sense, and did not in itself answer the question of which was the appropriate architectural style to deploy in farm architecture. Though he illustrated nearly every style in the architectural vocabulary to suit every taste, Loudon's preference seems to have been for the "Grecian" style which he thought suited the basic shapes of farm buildings and in which he produced sophisticated designs (Pl. 14).

Loudon had many very original ideas about farm buildings, the usefulness of which is sometimes doubtful. An example of this was his suggestion that farm steadings need only be of temporary construction, an idea which was at odds with prevailing views and which was likely to have little appeal to farmers:

As the improvements which are constantly taking place in agriculture necessarily occasion change in the buildings for storage or consuming its produce, it does not seem essential that the construction of a farm ought to be of the same degree of durability as those for a dwelling house or for a public building.<sup>15</sup>

Related to this is Loudon's enthusiastic support for the use of innovative materials in building and he drew on a wide range of sources for these. For example, he advocates the use of timber and mud in wall construction, especially in America and Australia, quite different from the stone and brick that improvers had advocated for decades. He actually regrets use of tiles and slates for roofs, preferring thatch, paper and corrugated iron.

Loudon was the last major author in the period of this study. Much of what he has to say is based on the work of earlier writers, though his integrated approach was new, and judging from the longevity of his influence it would seem that his books were successful in encapsulating those ideas which proved to be most relevant and useful to people interested in agriculture and rural architecture. Despite the retrospection in Loudon's focus on what was best in earlier thought, the form and character of his most important books, those of an encyclopaedic nature, give a taste of how publishing was to develop as traditional pattern books disappeared.

The last work to be considered here is the *Treatise on Rural Architecture* (1852) by another Scottish writer, the architect William Gray. It is an example of the continuing tradition of writing founded by Beatson. The book is a practical guide which emphasises economy and has plans and specifications for buildings which in the "Preface" are described as intelligible to any country workman. In line with the practice of earlier works the designs are tailored to the demands of contemporary agricultural technology. For example, the plan and elevation for Sunlawshill Farm Offices (Pl. 15) incorporate sophisticated provision for the housing and feeding of cattle and a steam engine house. The book shows that aesthetic considerations continued to be important in the middle of the nineteenth century but, as

with Beatson and Waistell, these were kept within the limits imposed by the needs for economy and for the efficient working of the buildings. The basic Classical forms used during the previous 50 years persist in Gray's designs. In that for farm offices (Pl. 16) the author goes as far as to include a false opening to mirror the one on the right and to maintain symmetry.

CHAPTER TWO  
Notes

- 1 M.McMordie, "Picturesque Pattern Books and Pre-Victorian Designers", *Architectural History*, 18, 1975, pp.43-59; and S.Blutman, "Books of Designs for Country Houses, 1780-1815", *Architectural History*, 11, 1968, pp.25-33.
- 2 J.M.Robinson, *Georgian Model Farms* (Oxford, 1983), p.26.
- 3 Scottish Record Office (SRO), Hope of Luffness MSS, GD364/2/96.
- 4 F.Jenkins, "Nineteenth Century Architectural Periodicals" in J.Summers, ed., *Concerning Architecture* (London, 1967), p.153.
- 5 These are cited in S.Blutman, op.cit., p.28, in a discussion of the social status of the potential readership for this type of publication.
- 6 I.Ware, *A Complete Body of Architecture* (1756), p.352.
- 7 J.M.Robinson, op.cit., p.32.
- 8 R.Beatson, "On Farm Buildings in General", *Communications to the Board of Agriculture*, Vol.1, 1797, pp.1-65.
- 9 P.F.Robinson, *Designs for Farm Buildings* (London, 1829), p.2.
- 10 C.Waistell, *Designs for Agricultural Buildings* (London, 1827), p.2.
- 11 Anon., "Designs of Farm Buildings", *Prize Essays and Transactions of the Highland Society of Scotland*, Vol.VIII, 1831, pp.365-89.
- 12 For a complete list of Loudon's published works see E.B.MacDougall, *John Claudius Loudon and the Early Nineteenth Century in Great Britain* (Dumbarton Oaks, 1978), pp.127-33.
- 13 J.C.Loudon, *Encyclopaedia of Agriculture*, 2nd edn (London, 1831), figs 418-20.
- 14 H.M.Colvin, *Biographical Dictionary of British Architects 1600-1840* (London, 1978), p.525.
- 15 J.C.Loudon, *Encyclopaedia of Cottage, Farm and Villa Architecture and Furniture* (London, 1833), p.416.

## CHAPTER THREE

## Gazeteer

## Section One: The Home Farms

## Cairnie Lodge Home Farm c.1805-1810

The estate is situated in the Parish of Cupar, on the east side of the road which runs north from Cupar to Rathillet. The lands occupy an elevated but level site on the southern edge of the hilly area which runs north to the Tay. The home farm is close to Cairnie Lodge on the north west. The main approach to it is a short drive which runs at right angles from the public road (Pl. 17).

A few records which relate to the history of the estate and buildings are possessed by the present owner. These are mostly title deeds and legal papers but there are two early nineteenth century estate plans which show the outline of the steading and some later architectural plans and drawings of it. Though many of these are of a much later date than the steading, they are a valuable aid in piecing together the original form of the home farm and in tracing developments to the buildings which have now ceased to have any agricultural function.

The steading is built around three sides of a square court with additional buildings to the east. The main front, which is to the west, is built in squared purple whinstone with yellow ashlar dressings. It has nine symmetrically arranged bays with a cill course and is articulated by broader, taller and advanced outer and central bays (Pl. 18). The central bay has been altered, a considerable second storey having been added to form a two-stage square tower. The lower stage of the tower has a segmentally headed opening, with the flight holes of a dovecote set in it, above a carriage opening. The upper stage of the tower has a three light window with drip mould below a four-part slate ogival roof with a semi-circular opening with fan-light tracery. Above this is a smaller square lantern which is topped by a smaller four-part ogival roof in lead, capped by a weather vane. The tower's main function is as a container for water. There

are three water tanks, one in the upper stage, another in the roof space and the last in the lantern. The surrounding area lacks a major natural water source. In the nineteenth century water needed to be stored at height in order to produce sufficient pressure for a supply to the upper storeys of the house. There was a possible correlation between the timing of the construction of the stages of the tower and the introduction of extra storeys in the house late in the nineteenth century.

The outer bays have round-headed openings. Within that to the south there is a central door; that to the north has a carriage opening with a window above it. They have gabled slate roofs with overhanging eaves. The outer bays are linked to the central bay by a three-bay cottage on each side. These have been considerably altered and have been extended to the front and the rear. A drainage plan of the house and the steading, drawn in 1870, shows that these were originally two apartment cottages (Pl. 20). An architectural plan dated 1939 for "Garage, Squash Court and Cottage alterations" by Lindsay Gray of Dundee contains detailed designs for the conversion of the loft space above the cottages and for the addition of extra rooms, the form they are in now.

The north range of the steading has a loft storey and is built in whinstone rubble with sandstone dressings and a pantile roof. That portion of the range adjoining the west range was a byre or farm horse stable. The east end of the range was occupied by the threshing barn. Plans of the estate of Cairnie Lodge dated 1812 and 1820 (Pls 21 and 22) show the outline of a circular horse engine house to the south of the range; the 1820 plan also shows a stack yard to the east. This had changed by the time of the 1855 Ordnance Survey map which shows that the building had been removed. The 1870 plan shows a rectangular building to the north of the range with its own water supply from a well. This building was very probably a steam engine house. The blocked holes for the drive shaft from an engine to the threshing machine are visible in the north wall of the range (Pl. 19).

The obvious differences between the quality of the materials and the standards to which they are finished in the north range and those in the rest of the steading suggest that the range is an older building which was extended to form the Home Farm. This impression is confirmed by the ground plans shown on the 1812 and 1820 estate plans. In each of these the west range is quite clearly outlined indicating that this was regarded as a different building.

The handling of the south range is similar to that of the west range. The materials used are the same and the outer bays are of a similar plan and proportions. The buildings have been substantially altered internally and externally to form workshops that are now used for storage. The range was originally occupied by stabling and associated offices for the house

The 1870 plan indicates that the buildings to the east of the steading, not shown on earlier plans, were constructed before that date. The 1855 Ordnance Survey map shows the outline of what was probably a cattle court occupying part of the main court of the offices. This is now a roofed garage. It is adjoined on the north by a squash court which was converted in 1939 from buildings which on the 1870 plan are shown to be occupied in part by cattle byres.

Cairnie Lodge is a symmetrical house of two main storeys with flanking wings. It has undergone numerous extensions and additions which continued into the twentieth century. The main building material is yellow ashlar with purple whinstone used in places. There is a rectangular walled garden to the east of the house, the original arrangement of which appears in detail on the 1812 and 1820 estate plans.

Amongst the legal papers for Cairnie Lodge there is a Feu Charter dated 25th, February, 1796 which relates to the creation of the estate which was originally part of the neighbouring lands of Pitbladdo and Hilton. The detailed description of the lands in the charter contains no mention of buildings on the land at the time. In 1805 the estate was bought by James Thomson

who was a part owner of the iron works at Balgonie. Bankruptcy forced him to sell the estate in 1810. One of the conditions of the roup of the estate which was conducted on November, 1810 by judicial trustees related to the "thrashing mill lately erected on the said lands, with the whole machinery attached thereto and connected therewith." The importance of the mill was reflected in the fact that it was sold separately from the estate and was to be offered to the purchaser of the estate as optional extra. The estate was bought on behalf of Major Davis Foulis of the East India Company's Cavalry service at Madras for the "reduced upset price of five thousand pounds sterling". On the strength of the evidence of the 1812 plan of the estate and of the documentary evidence, it seems likely that the Home Farm was built in the period 1805 to 1810.

The extent of the estate in 1812 was remarkably small, the total area being a little over 75 acres, which the estate plans show were kept in grass. By 1820, the area marked in outline on the 1812 plan as "Lowrie's feu" had been added to the estate, as had the park to the south, which was bought from the estate of Hilton, making a total of 92 acres.

#### Tarvit Home Farm c.1810

The estate of Tarvit adjoined the town of Cupar to the south east, to the south of the River Eden and of the Cupar to Pitscottie (B940) road. The home farm is situated on a small hill to the south of the site of the former house, blown up in 1963, and was linked to it by a curved drive (Pl. 23).

There is very little information in existence concerning the estate and its buildings. The apparent disappearance of the Home Rigg family who owned the estate in the nineteenth century and the destruction of the house probably accounts for the paucity of records. The home farm is included in Robinson's "Gazeteer of Model Farm Buildings in Scotland".<sup>1</sup> Unfortunately, the description which is given represents a conflation of information concerning the home farm and a near neighbour

with a similar name, Scotstarvit Farm. The latter is a steading without any ornamental features and is described in R.Scott Morton's study of farm buildings in Scotland.<sup>2</sup> The date given by Robinson for the home farm, 1836, is that marked on the other building.

At present, the buildings of the home farm, which had a dual function as farm offices and as stabling for the house, have ceased to be used for their original purposes although some are still in use as storage. The domestic accommodation in the west section of the north range continues to be inhabited and much of the east range is used as a workshop for a manufacturer of fences. In 1987 a proposal was submitted to North East Fife District Council to convert the steading into a leisure centre. To date, the home farm's category A status in the Scottish Development Department's List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Importance seems to have forestalled the granting of planning permission for redevelopment.

The steading is built in continuous ranges around three sides of a square court which is open to the south. Most of the buildings are of one main storey and a loft storey. The 1855 and 1893 Ordnance Survey maps show the position of a covered cattle court which was in the centre of the court and which has recently been demolished.

The north elevation of the steading, that facing the site of the former house, is of great architectural elaboration. There are eleven bays, the outer and central bays being wider, taller and advanced (Pl. 24). The central bay has blind windows on two levels, which, like all the blind windows in the elevation, have been repainted as sashes. There is a central segmental arch with a rusticated keystone. The bay is completed by a simple pediment. Behind and above this is a tower which has an octagonal base, on the angles of which there are applied pilasters. The sides to the north and the south have clock faces, those to the west and east have round-headed slit openings. The base is surmounted by a narrower plain octagonal spire. There

are circular openings on three levels on four faces of this which serve as flight holes for the dovecote contained in the tower. The spire is topped by a metal ball finial.

The outer bay on the east has a rectangular coach opening with a blind window up to the level of the cill course. Above this is a lunette window with finely carved fan tracery (Pl. 26). The outer bay on the west is identical except that the coach opening has been partially blocked and replaced by a window. The blocking course along the whole front is stepped up over the outer bays. The linking bays have blind arcading. Within each of the recessed panels that is formed there is a single window, all blind save that furthest to the east. Above each of these is a window in the loft storey. The whole front, including the tower, is constructed of polished yellow ashlar, and is a striking contrast to the side elevations of the range which are built in squared sandstone. The west end of the north range has been converted into a house on two levels with a lean-to extension serving as a porch. The rest of the range to the central arch was occupied by a cattle byre, now gutted, with a loft above, the floor of which has been removed. The outer bay on the east contains a large coach house above which is former domestic accommodation occupying the whole of the loft storey in this half of the range. The ground floor of the linking bays contains workshops. The court elevation is also built of polished yellow ashlar.

The greater part of the east range has a loft storey - the court elevation is of yellow ashlar. This area contained a threshing barn and its associated offices, the interiors of which have been stripped. The circular or polygonal horse-engine house, shown on the 1855 Ordnance Survey map, which stood to the east of the range has been demolished within the last few years.

The section of the west range which intersects with the north range is of one storey and has a large altered opening in the court elevation and a door and glazed windows to the west. The latter suggest that this

was some kind of domestic accommodation. The remainder of the range has a loft storey, the floor of which has been demolished along with many of the internal walls, and a variety of door and window openings, most of which have been blocked. The present occupant of the steading recalls that was the part of the steading occupied by stables and loose boxes for horses. Squared sandstone has been used for the walls.

It is not possible to date the buildings of the home farm on the basis of documentary evidence. However, Sharp, Greenwood and Fowler's map (1828) (Pl. 27) shows a U-plan building in the same position as the home farm and provides a terminal date for its construction since it is unlikely that there was an earlier improved steading in this position. Any further attempt at dating must be based on stylistic grounds. There are no similarly conceived buildings in Fife. Examples do exist, however, in other parts of Scotland, for instance at Duns Castle, Berwickshire and at Doune Park, Perthshire (Pl. 25), which were built around 1800.

Upon closer investigation, general similarities between Tarvit Home Farm and that at Doune Park are seen to run much deeper and that, both in terms of architectural style and in their arrangement, there are very close parallels between the two buildings. The general conception of the main elevations is very close, especially in the handling of the central pedimented bay with blind windows on two levels and the outer bays which have similar openings. The deployment of the byre and domestic accommodation in the front range of the buildings is identical. There are obvious similarities in the handling of the central two-stage towers of the buildings, though the tower at Doune Park is more complex in terms of its ornamentation.

The design of Doune Park Home Farm which was built between 1807 and 1809 is attributed to William Stirling of Perth (1772-1838), who specialised in estate buildings, including stables, offices and farm houses.<sup>3</sup> No source for a design of this type has been discovered and on the strength of stylistic and functional parallels

it is likely that Stirling's influence is seen in Tarvit Home Farm.

The only documentary source which is known to exist for the estate of Tarvit is a "Statement of measurement of inclosing lands of Tarvit and expense" dated 1776.<sup>4</sup> This is further evidence for the process of enclosure which Roy's Map shows had begun on the estate before the middle of the eighteenth century. In the nineteenth century, a considerable proportion of the estate, which was in excess of 200 Imperial acres, was parkland with much tree planting, especially around the house and between it and Cupar. A serpentine lake was constructed before the preparation of the 1828 map which was an unusually sophisticated feature among estates in the region. A considerable proportion of the parkland is still kept in grass.

Millar records that the estate was bought by James Rigg of Downfield, a medical doctor, in 1720 who was succeeded by his son Patrick in the 1780's.<sup>5</sup> Tarvit House was built around this time. It was a fine Classical house of two main storeys on a basement, with a symmetrical south front of eight bays and two flanking wings (Pl. 28). The estate was inherited by James Home Rigg in 1801. During his period of ownership the home farm was built.

#### **Over Rankeillour Home Farm 1818-1819**

The estate of Over Rankeillour lies in the Parish of Monimail and straddles the main (A91) road between Cupar and Auchtermuchty, a little to the east of Bow of Fife. It is at the most eastern end of the low-lying area known as the Howe of Fife. The home farm is situated on the south side of the road, opposite the entrance to the west drive to Over Rankeillour House, its north elevation overlooking the former parkland, now mostly in cultivation, which runs up to house (Pl. 29).

A large body of records to do with the estate survive. These fall into two main categories. The first of these form part of the collection of the Hope of Luffness MSS held by the Scottish Record Office. These

are of varied subject matter but are of somewhat patchy cover and information concerning the buildings on the estate is relatively sparse. However, there are records relating to the development of the estate in the late eighteenth century and in the early part of the next, when the construction of the home farm was first being considered, which facilitate a limited understanding of the context of the farm buildings, both in terms of agriculture and of the estate. The second category of records stem from the fact that the estate was entailed. These form part of the Sheriff Court Records relevant to the working of the 1770 Entail Act. They deal in great detail with the costs of the construction of the home farm, listing every sum of money which was spent, the subject of the expenditure and the people to whom payments were made.

A consideration of both categories of records enable the date of the buildings' construction to be established as 1818 and 1819, when the estate was owned by General Charles Hope, at a total cost of over £3055. Particular aspects of this information are discussed below and the accounts for the home farm are reproduced in the Appendix.

The exteriors and some of the interiors of the buildings survived basically in their original form until late 1987 - the original court of buildings had been added to rather than being substantially altered before then. The arrangement of the buildings at that date are shown in a ground plan (Pl. 30). Since then, the steading has been extensively modified to accommodate new facilities serving a leisure centre. This is based on a deer farm which uses the modern buildings and land adjoining it on the south. In May, 1988 the home farm was opened as the Scottish Deer Centre. In outline, redevelopment so far has involved the conversion of the block to the north of the court into a restaurant, the west range of the steading into a shop and the south range into an interpretational centre. In completing this, the interiors of the buildings, undoubtedly modified since the time of construction, were completely

guted and all interior signs of the original function of the different offices were obliterated. A more noticeable casualty still were external fittings, including the original doors, hinges and windows, which were in place when the steading was first surveyed in the Autumn of 1987. Unfortunately the buildings had not been recorded in detail before the conversion began. The scale of the changes at the steading can be gauged by comparing photographs taken before and after work began at the steading (Pls 31 and 32).

The home farm is constructed in unbroken ranges around three sides of a square court. The fourth side on the north is occupied by a separate range which projects outwards, beyond the ends of the east and west ranges. It is in the north elevation of the home farm, that is, the elevation towards the road, which is made up of the north side of the north range and the end faces of its flanking wings, that architectural interest is focused. The buildings are clothed in simple, but nonetheless dignified Classical dress and appear as three pavillions when viewed from the north (Pl. 33).

The central block is of four bays with a hipped slate roof, each of the outer bays having a single, symmetrically placed sash window. The two inner bays of this block project forward slightly and are surmounted by a pediment. This is embellished by a simple moulding and, in the centre of the tympanum, an oculus. This central section has a single door and a window.

The main features of the end faces of the two flanking wings are identical and closely parallel the handling of the central block. Each has a pediment at the gable end which is similar in detail, though not in proportions, to that in the centre, with an oculus and a centrally placed door. The end face of the east range, which has been converted into domestic accommodation, has an additional sash window and a tiny rectangular two-pane window.

The three fronts which make up the north elevation of the home farm are constructed entirely from droved yellow ashlar which is heavily weathered and

seriously decayed in places, especially in the area of the pediments. Records of payments made for the construction of this area are included among the vouchers for entry 5 of the first set of accounts for the improvements on Over Rankeillour, which are listed in Section 1 of the Appendix (This is referred to below as Appendix 1). The central block was built by Thomas Thomson, Mason, at a cost of £22 and 8 shillings. Payment made for the "Ashlar Front", which presumably included the end faces of the east and west ranges, since there is no separate account listed for them, was £31 and 3 shillings.

The rest of the steading complex, including the elevation of the north range facing the court, is of a quite different architectural character from its main front and lacks any kind of deliberate architectural ornamentation. The buildings are of one main storey with a loft over the north part of the east range and over the entire length of the west range. There is a two storey tower in the middle of the south range. These buildings are constructed entirely of roughly squared sandstone with droved sandstone dressings and slate roofs.

The courtyard elevation of the north range has had many modifications, the principal addition being a second storey in the central section of the range. Two doors have been blocked up, one at either end of the range. In recent years the building was used as a single dwelling house. It seems likely, however, that the range was originally made up of three sections. The divisions are suggested by the position of the thickest interior walls shown on the 1987 ground plan and by the position of the blocked doors. The problems in establishing the original pattern of domestic accommodation at the steading are discussed below.

The west range of the steading has a loft, formerly housing the granary and a sheaf-loft. Access to this is by an internal staircase at the south end of the range and by a ramp on the west to a large swept-roof loft opening (Pl. 34). Immediately behind the pedimented north end of the range is a small windowless room which

was presumably for some kind of storage. Approximately half of the range was occupied by a cart shed. Three of the segmentally arched openings survive, a fourth has been altered to make an opening for a bigger cart which is situated below a large loft opening, facilitating easy loading from above. All the openings originally had wooden doors (Pl. 31).

To the south of the cart sheds is the area in which the threshing machine was housed, with a straw barn rising through both storeys beyond it. Within the records relating to the estate there is evidence that there was a threshing machine in the steading - James Scott was paid £21.12.2 for "removing the Thrashing Mill from old to new steading"(entry 14, Appendix 1) and John Bell received payment of £1.9.7 for boarding which enclosed the machinery and for a dressed beam to support it (the voucher for this relates to entry 8, Appendix 1). No signs remained of the threshing machine or of the horse engine house which powered it in 1987. The position of the horse engine house is shown on nineteenth century maps of the estate, including the first edition of the Ordnance Survey map (1855), and copies of vouchers for the payments made to masons and a wright for the "mill shade" exist within the Sheriff Court records. At some stage in the last few decades the horse mill was demolished and a modern grain drier constructed in its place.

The whole of the south range was concerned with the feeding and housing of cattle, two large byres, open into the roof space, occupying most of its length. The area between them was a shed, with a large opening from the court and doors into it from each byre. It is likely that dung from the byres was removed by cart from this area. A corridor runs the length of the south range, originally at the head of the cattle stalls. This made for the easy movement of food and straw along the length of the byres and allowed the feeding of the cattle to take place from the head of the stalls.

The original floor of the byres, which was "rough pavement" was replaced in the past by concrete,

though the layout of the byres, based around massive division stones between the stalls, with a drain running behind the stalls was preserved. Plate 35 is a photograph taken in the byre on the east during the gutting of the interiors of this range of buildings in 1988. It shows the passage behind the stalls, the massive division stones, traces of the bases of wooden trevices which extended from these and, in the extreme right hand corner, the drain which ran throughout the byre. The court elevation of the range originally had windows, the bottom half of which contained wooden shutters that opened inwards for ventilation, and glazed skylights. A later building, shown on the 1855 Ordnance Survey map, is attached to the north wall of the east byre. This was a simple shed with a cart opening and may have been used as an additional cart shed.

In the centre of the south range is a two storey square tower with a pyramidal slate roof, topped by a weathercock. This was a dovecote and is well preserved, despite having been disused for some years. Inside, the walls are lined with hewn stone pigeon holes. A payment for the construction of the pigeon house of £30.9.3 was made to Thomas Thomson, a remarkable figure when compared with the cost of building work for the rest of the south range and the low part of the east range which was £47.10 (vouchers for this work relate to entry 5, Appendix 1). The flight holes for the pigeons were situated on the south side of the tower in the second storey. There is a door in the second storey of the north face of the tower for access to the pigeon holes. Originally, there was a staircase up to this from the court which is known because John Bell received payment for the installation of a wooden rail on this staircase.

The section of the south range which intersects with the east range was probably reserved for the turnip shed. References are made in various places in the accounts for the steading to the fitting out of a turnip shed without giving any clues about its location. The area in question was connected to the feeding passage in the byres and had an opening large enough for carts in

its east wall which is not marked on the ground plan of the steading.

The function of the section of the east range which adjoins the turnip shed is unclear. Like the south range, this is of a single storey with open roof space above. When surveyed, the room was devoid of features save for a central drain that crossed the concrete floor on a line from the door to the wall. There was a modified skylight. The situation of the room and these few features suggest that this was originally another byre of some sort, or possibly the calf house, to which reference is made in the accounts. The next part of the range, which was an enclosed room without windows, was described in accounts for repairs to the steading as the "wright shop".<sup>6</sup> This section and the rest of the range is surmounted by a loft storey, originally over stables. The north part of the range has in the past been converted into domestic accommodation and is distinguished by dormer windows on each side of the range in the loft storey.

When the steading was surveyed in late 1987 the interior of the surviving stable had already been stripped of most of its fittings. However, the original pavement floor was in position as were the cast iron end posts of the trevices, indicating that there were stalls for four horses, and the wooden hay racks and mangers. There were openings in the floor of the loft to allow direct feeding from above.

There is a small cottage which adjoins the steading complex to the west of the intersection of the west and south ranges (not included in the 1987 ground plan) which may have formed part of the original buildings. It has been considerably altered - internal walls have been realigned, windows replaced and an extension added on the south. A building in this location is shown on the map by Sharp, Greenwood and Fowler (1828), though the scale of the map is too small to be relied upon. The ground plan on the 1855 Ordnance Survey map indicates a building of similar proportions to the cottage in its position.

Many questions remain unanswered concerning the original location of offices mentioned in the accounts for the Home Farm. These include a "Henhouse", a "Boilinghouse", "Milkhouses", "John Keir's house", "Pighouses" and a "Cattle reid" or cattle court. Unfortunately, the modern construction around the steading complex, the gradual modification of the interiors of the buildings over the years and their gutting in the first months of 1988 means that it is virtually impossibility to locate these parts of the original buildings. An exception is perhaps possible in the case of the cattle reid for which John Bell was paid £4.2.6 for "Racks for Cattle reid" and £1.2.2 for beams to support its roof. The cattle reid would have been a large enclosed area, at least partially roofed, in which the cattle could move around relatively freely. The most likely location for this was to the south of the south range. The outside wall of the range contains three openings suitable for the movement of food, straw and dung to a the area on the south. The 1855 Ordnance Survey map shows a south range which is broader in its proportions than that on the 1987 ground plan and a semi-circular enclosure next to the range. This is probably the cattle reid - an open area with lean-to roof against the south range. The 1893 Ordnance Survey map shows the same extra breadth in this range plus additional buildings to the south, constructed after 1855, which occupy the area of the walled enclosure suggested by the earlier map (Pl. 36). At present, this area is occupied by a large modern, flat-roofed shed.

The nature and location of domestic accommodation in the original home farm is difficult to pin down. There are three places where houses were sited before the alterations of 1988: the north range; the north part of the east range; and the cottage which adjoins the south range on the west. The last two continue to be occupied. It is not clear what were the accommodation needs of the farm since no references to the number of servants employed on the farm have been discovered. However, evidence of this kind exists for the

farm on the estate in the period immediately before the home farm was constructed. A memorandum written in July, 1816 for General Charles Hope lists the employees on the farm, their wages and perquisites which in some cases included accommodation.<sup>7</sup> If this pattern of employment was repeated on the home farm, a number of houses would have been provided for the more senior workers at least in the environs of the steading, if not actually as part of it. Reference is made in the accounts for the building of the Home Farm to payments made to John Bell for work he did on the house of John Keir, the herd at the time of the 1816 memorandum, including flooring, lathing and joisting (vouchers for these relate to entry 8, Appendix 1). Unfortunately, there are no other references to the house and it is difficult from this information to locate the position of the house in the steading. It is mentioned again in accounts for work at the home farm in 1835, in relation to payments made to "John Bell for fitting up John Keir's house for a Dirie at Rankeillor steading".<sup>8</sup> No signs of a dairy now remain at the steading, but the fact that John Keir had responsibility for the cattle and that a location close to the byres would probably have been chosen for a dairy suggests the view that his house was the cottage at the west end of the south range.

In several places in the accounts references are made to the materials that were used in the construction of the Home Farm. They are by no means comprehensive and it is not possible to trace the provenance of particular raw materials. The major payments were to James Burns of over £400 in total for the tasks involved in preparing a site for a quarry, for quarrying stones and transporting them to the site of the steading (entries 1-4, Appendix 1). What type of stone this was is not stated, neither is the location of the quarry. It is likely, however, that the quarry was situated in the locality of the Home Farm as it was a common principle of building to utilise the nearest source of suitable stone. The 1893 Ordnance Survey map shows the site of several quarries in the immediate

vicinity of the home farm, including one in the obviously named Quarry Park to the east of the steading. A memorandum dated 1778 about "Quarrys at Rankeillor" lists six in total, two of which were of whinstone fit for dykes and one of freestone, though it was noted that this was expensive to work.

The payment which was received in Newburgh by William Archer (entry 6, Appendix 1 ) was for a single consignment of twenty five Swedish logs. John Mackie was paid for the tolls and expenses involved in transporting wood from Newburgh to the new steading, presumably including the timber from Sweden (entry 15, Appendix 1 ). Mackie was also involved in carrying slates for the steading from Guardbridge. William Kyd was paid for tiles from Cupar and for bricks ( entry 17, Appendix 1 ). A considerable quantity of the timber used in the steading was cut on the estate itself. Note is made in the accounts of the value of the timber provided by from the estate. One of the sums paid to John Mackie was an allowance for carters who transported timber from Mount Hill, which was located in the northern part of the estate.

The policies of Over Rankeillour, of which the lands of the Home Farm were a part, consisted of 381 acres of land, centred on the mansion house, when the new buildings were constructed. Approximately one third of this land was to the south of the Cupar to Auchtermuchty road. This information is based on a sketch plan drawn in 1816 (Pl. 37) which shows the arrangement of the policies and lists the size of the various parks. The estate owned a number of farms in the locality. These are listed in a report on the estate which was compiled in 1806 and include the farms of Hospital Mill, Easthall, Westhall and the Mount.<sup>9</sup> The total amount of land owned, including the policies, was in excess of 1,500 acres.

The records which relate to the farming functions of the Home Farm are rather fragmented and it is difficult to make a chronological survey of agricultural developments. A general point which emerges from a consideration of the various valuations and rent

returns for the estate is that a very large proportion of the policies were divided into grass parks. An account of estate rents from 1805 lists the grass parks which were let, including Blackhall Park, Mackinnas Park, Garden Park and Redford Park (numbers 7, 16, 19 and 20 respectively on the 1816 sketch plan).

The major source of information concerning the reasons for the inception of the Home Farm and for the agricultural situation of the lands immediately before its construction lies in a group of memorandums, with which the sketch plan is associated, written in July, 1816 by General Sir John Hope for his younger half-brother General Charles Hope.<sup>10</sup> In 1816 Sir John succeeded his elder brother as fourth Earl of Hopetoun and the estate of Over Rankeillour, which Sir John had inherited in 1771 from Sir Thomas Hope, was settled on Charles Hope. Sir John had been heavily involved in the campaigns of the recently completed Napoleonic Wars. However, he was able to relate much information about the estate the new owner, presumably provided by Mr. Reid, the factor, who was said to be trustworthy.

In 1816 the Myre Parks (numbers 21, 22, 24 and 25 on the sketch plan), to the north of the house, were under lease to Mr. Aitken, the tenant of Westhall farm. Of the rest of the policies, only sixty or sixty five acres were planted with crops. Apart from woodland and the walled garden, the rest was in grass. Sir John recommended that only two pairs of horses need be kept for the small area in cultivation.

Before the construction of the home farm, the farm within the policies of Over Rankeillour was known as Blackhall. No sign remains of the steading but it was almost certainly located in Blackhall Park (number 7 on the 1816 sketch map). There is evidence for this apart from the obvious association of the name. In the 1806 report on the estate Alexander Low writes that the offices were "rather awkward lying and a little detached being very much in sight of the house." This supports the view that the offices were situated in Blackhall Park which adjoins the area of the former lawn that runs up to

the front of the house. Ainslie's map of 1801 shows the outline of a group of buildings within Blackhall Park (Pl. 38).

Perhaps the most important information which Sir John relates refers to the condition of the farm offices and to possibilities for the future:

The only offices on the farm are the old buildings at Blackhall. It would not be very convenient to allow them to be occupied by a tenant and nobody would take them in their present state. New buildings would probably be required, if any considerable Tillage farm is let off. To keep the whole in Grass would hardly answer, because it would make you dependent on the market for the rent of the Grass Parks, or you must become a Grazier.

Various points emerge from this. The farm offices were thought to be too old to attract a tenant, though it should be noted that the farm was not without modern features. There was certainly a threshing mill in the steading since payment was made for moving it to the new Home Farm (voucher relates to entry 14, Appendix 1). It would seem that Charles Hope's intention was to take only a minimal role in farming on the estate. Both the alternatives which Sir John adumbrated involved the letting of all the lands within the policies which could be farmed, either as a combination of agricultural land and grass parks or the whole in grass.

In support of the idea to let enough land to make a viable farm, Sir John suggests that fields 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 (1816 plan) on the south side of the main road and 11 and 12 on the north should be let and "a suitable steading built in a central situation, adjoining the public road", making a farm of 130 acres. If a slightly larger area of land was required, fields 10 and 15 might be added. Much improvement work had been done on this land, including drainage, liming and marling, all of which made it a more attractive to a potential tenant.

In 1818 a statement of intention by Charles Hope in accordance with the Entail Act of 1770 was recorded by the Sheriff Clerk at Cupar:

The said Charles Hope under the authority of the

said act, intends forthwith to lay out money in new buildings and improving and altering Farm Offices at Rankeillour, the family residence, and also in planting, inclosing, draining and otherwise improving various parts of the said Entailed Estates in the intention of being a creditor to the succeeding Heirs of Entail in terms of the forsaied Act of Parliament.<sup>11</sup>

Some preliminary work towards the construction of the new steading had taken place well before this date. A set of accounts for the estate dated 1816 includes records of payments made to the mason James Burns for quarrying stones and constructing pillars of a gate to the new steading.<sup>12</sup>

It is not clear if the new home farm was let after it was completed in line with Sir John Hope's advice. Preparations for the letting of the farm in 1837 to Mr. Dickson, the tenant of Westhall Farm, indicate that was farmed directly by the estate at that stage.<sup>13</sup>

There was a tradition of agricultural improvement on the estate which had begun in the seventeenth century. Sir Archibald Hope, Lord Rankeillour, was the first member of the family to live there, buying the estate from the Sibbald family around 1660. Sir Archibald came from a distinguished family of lawyers and was a lord of session himself. He was an early agricultural improver of some note. A memorandum in the records concerning the Bruntsward Park details a particular example of his activities (number 14 on the 1816 plan):

It got its name from Lord Rankillor's having burnt the surface to destroy the Rushes with which it abounds and afterwards Planted it thick with Pines commonly called Firs which grew extremely well and proved to be very good timber.<sup>14</sup>

Sibbald described the estate in 1710 as having "a very fine new House, with Gardens, large inclosures and much planting, all done by Sir Archibald Hope."<sup>15</sup> He was succeeded by Sir Thomas Hope, whose achievements in were mentioned in Chapter One. Roy's map and that of Ainslie give a limited visual representation of the results of improving activities on the estate in the eighteenth century (Pls 5 and 38).

Sir John Hope's chief contribution to the improvement of the estate was to build the present mansion house and stable block between 1796 and 1800. It is probable that the plans used were those that were provided, along with an estimate of costs, by the architect James McLaren of Edinburgh in January, 1792.<sup>16</sup> In 1796 final amendments were made to these in a memorandum sent by Sir John from Barbados, in which he sets out modifications to be made to the plans.<sup>17</sup> Over Rankeillour House is a simple symmetrical Classical mansion of two storeys built in polished yellow ashlar (Pl. 39). The main elevation faces south, towards the main road, and is of nine bays, the central three being slightly advanced. The central pedimented bay has four applied giant Ionic pilasters. It has twelve-pane sashes, a mutule cornice and a balustrade.

The stable block which comprises two ranges has one main storey and a loft. Its main elevation to the south has nine symmetrically arranged bays and is built in droved yellow ashlar (Pl. 40). The central three bays are slightly advanced and are topped by a simple pediment which has a blind Diocletian window within it.

A reduced sketch plan of Over Rankeillour and Westhall from 1862 (Pl 41) shows the relative positions of the mansion house and stable block. To the south west of the latter, the site of the old house of Rankeillour is marked in pencil. The old house was approached by a straight, tree-lined drive which is marked on Roy's Map, a section of which, that closest to the home farm, is marked on the 1862 map and is in existence today. This drive was altered, presumably when the present house was built and the north of it was redirected into a curve. Another drive to the east replaced the old drive as the main approach to the house. This is in the form of a gentle serpentine curve and is situated in a slight depression in the land from which occasional glimpses of the house are afforded. At some stage between 1816 and 1862 the road to Easter fernie, to the east of the main drive, was redirected further to the east and the policies extended by the addition of land, formerly part

of the farm of Uthrogle, which had been excambed with the estate of Melville.

Improvements on the estate were not restricted to the home farm and to the policies. For example, there are records which relate to the continuing process of timber planting and drainage within the policies. However, the main thrust of later improvements was directed towards the tenanted farms on the estate. The Sheriff Court Records include references to improvement work on the farms of Westhall, Easthall and the Mount, including that of rebuilding the steadings and cottages and constructing new walls, which lasted into the 1850's. This work was supervised in the 1830's by the architect Thomas Brown of Uphall and later by the local architect Hugh Birrell.<sup>18</sup>

#### **Inchrye Home Farm 1827**

This is in the Parish of Abdie, to the south of the Cupar to Newburgh (A913) road, less than a mile to the east of Lindores. Inchrye Abbey, which has been demolished, lay at a short distance to the south of the home farm (Pl. 42).

Little is known about the history of the estate save that which can be gleaned from secondary sources, amongst which Millar records that the house was built by "George Ramsay of Inchrie" in 1827.<sup>19</sup> A group of plans and views of the house are held by the National Monuments Record of Scotland, including an architectural plan for the house on paper which has a watermark with the date 1824.<sup>20</sup> The earliest evidence for the existence of the farm buildings is provided in the 1828 map of Sharp, Greenwood and Fowler which shows a building in the position of the home farm (Pl. 27). On the basis of the strong architectural parallels between the house and the farm, it seems likely that they were built at the same time and probably by the same architect.

The home farm is in an advanced state of decay, most of it having been disused for many years. Of the buildings which surrounded the court in the north of the steading, only the outer wall survives. The situation is

not quite so bad in the rest of the steading, though it is has been exacerbated by the present occupiers. The interior walls within most of the east and west ranges have been demolished to facilitate the storage of large crates and bails of straw. In order to gain access to these areas for modern machinery, the broad arched entrances which were situated at the south end of the ranges have been demolished, seriously weakening their structure, and causing the collapse of the roof at the south of the west range (Pl. 43).

Those ranges which remain are built around three sides of a square court which is open to the south (Pl. 44). The main buildings of the steading are constructed of roughly squared whinstone rubble with ashlar dressings. Traces of harling all over the buildings suggest that the steading was entirely harled in the past. The roof material is slate which has been replaced in some areas by modern corrugated asbestos.

The south faces of the east and west ranges, which are the parts of the steading which were closest to the house, are identically handled. Each has two engaged octagonal towers, of three stages, one on each corner of the front, which flanked a central Tudor arched cart entrance, now destroyed. The towers are divided into sections by projecting mouldings and are capped by small crenellations (Pl. 43). The sheds immediately behind these faces provided covered shelter for loading to take place from and into the lofts situated in the ranges.

The west range was occupied by stables under a hay loft. Areas of the stone pavement floor with inset drains survive. It is not clear what kind of stabling facilities were required in the steading, since it is not known whether the house had stables attached to it. At the north end of the range there is a house of four rooms, its main elevation being to the west (Pl. 45).

The north range of the steading contained cattle byres, one on each side of a central tower. Wooden trevises are still visible in the roofless byre towards the east. There was good access from the byres to the court to the north. A narrow passageway between two walls

leads from the byre on the west into the court. This facilitated the controlled movement of cattle. The buildings shown in plan on the 1855 Ordnance Survey map, which have now collapsed, were probably open cattle sheds with lean-to roofs.

The central tower rises through three storeys, the top two being occupied by a substantial dovecote (Pl. 46). The south face of the second storey has a rectangular mullioned opening in which the flight holes are situated. The top storey, which has ashlar battlements, has a rectangular opening with hood-mould on each face. Those to the east and west are divided into two blind lancets, that to the north bears the remains of a clock face, that to the south has been altered and is now blocked with modern bricks.

The buildings at the intersection of the north and east ranges a dairy and its associated offices. The dairy is situated in the first storey, is tiled and has two lunette windows which contain traces of the wire gauze which originally filled them (Pl. 47). There was domestic accommodation comprising a single room in the storey above, presumably for a dairy maid. The section of the east range, to the south of the dairy, is narrower than the rest of it. The ground plans of the steading, shown in biggest scale on the 1893 Ordnance Survey map (Pl. 48), show that the area within the court in front of the narrower section was roofed. This roof provided shelter for the dairy and for the cheese-making rooms along side it. A massive stone from a cheese press was found in this area. The rest of the east range was occupied by offices associated with the processing of grain with a granary in the loft storey. Remains on the ground and evidence provided by the maps confirm that there was a covered horse-engine house, probably of hexagonal form, to the east of the range.

Inchrye Abbey, of which no trace now survives, was a large asymmetrical house, of one main storey, built in a heavy Castle Gothic style (Pl. 49). One of the main architectural features of the house was the profusion of octagonal projections of several sizes, including the

chimney stacks, which were ornamented in a variety of ways. The design of the house is attributed on stylistic grounds by Macaulay to Robert Dickson (1794-1865) of the partnership he formed with his brother, Richard (1792-1857), which was based in Edinburgh.<sup>21</sup> Inchrye is typical of their unscholarly, richly decorated Gothic style which owed little to the work of Pugin.<sup>22</sup>

The estate of Inchrye Abbey was of 127 acres, much of which was kept in grass and a considerable area in trees. The estate owned the larger farm of Woodmill to the south.<sup>23</sup>

#### **Kinloss Home Farm 1834**

The estate of Kinloss House is about a mile to the north west of Cupar, to the east of the Cupar to Newburgh (A913) road. It occupies a position on the margin of the upland area to the north of the Eden valley (Pl. 17). The home farm is approximately a quarter of a mile to the east of the house, in a position adjacent to the area of parkland. It is approached by the main drive which forks into the park to reach the house. There are no documentary sources for the estate and what little is known is based on secondary sources. These reveal that Kinloss House was owned in the early decades of the century by a Colonel Don.<sup>24</sup>

The original buildings of the home farm comprise ranges of one main storey with a loft around three or four sides of a square court. Due to the major alterations that have taken place in the northern part of the steading it is difficult to tell whether the north range was contemporary with the others. There are later buildings attached to the west of the steading and a large modern shed to the north. Virtually all the steading complex has undergone substantial modification to accommodate modern farming methods. A water mill was situated to the north of steading which powered the threshing machine. This has been demolished.

The main elevation is that approached by the drive from the south. It is built in squared grey whinstone with long and short ashlar dressings, save for

the central bay, and has a slate roof. The range has nine bays, the outer and central bays being slightly advanced (Pl. 50). The central bay is of two storeys and has a Tudor-arched entrance to the court. The second storey, which contains a room with a window on its north side, is ornamented by a wide elliptical recessed panel. The whole bay is topped by a simple pediment with an opening with flight holes in the tympanum, behind which there is a dovecote. The bay is built in droved ashlar with rusticated quoins. The outer bays are of the same basic design with blocked Tudor-arched openings and similar ashlar quoining.

The three bay sections on either side of the central arch are handled identically and have a central door, a mullioned window in the outer bay, a sash window in the inner and square windows in each bay in the loft storey. The whole of the main storey of the range is occupied by domestic accommodation which has been extended into the outer bays. There is a stone built staircase to the loft space in the south west corner of the court.

The other buildings of the steading are of squared whinstone with sandstone dressings. The west range contained accommodation for horses. The original provision was for both farm and saddle horses since there were no other stabling facilities at the house. One of the stables is remarkably well preserved (Pl. 51). The ceiling of the stable, which was plaster, and the floor of the loft have been removed. The stable is wood-lined and is divided into two stalls for single horses, with a larger loose box at the north end. The divisions are formed by wooden trevises with cast iron end posts and feeding troughs and hay racks which unfortunately lack foundry marks. There is a wooden feed chest by the door. The floor is cobbled with densely packed small stones, its level being slightly raised in the stalls. There is a gentle slope at the back of each stall into a common drain. Alongside the outer wall of the west range is an open cart or implement shed with lean-to roof, screened by a quadrant wall to the south. It has four substantial

roof supports in stone which divide it into three sections. Though this building is marked on the 1855 Ordnance Survey map, differences between the stone used in it and in the rest of the steading suggest that it is of a later date.

The north range which has been substantially altered was formerly occupied by cattle byres. Many of the walls have been demolished and it is now part of a large covered area which is used for the storage of crops and machinery and for the housing of cattle. This includes a modern shed which extends from it to the north and an older barn which occupies the site of a cattle court, shown on the 1855 Ordnance Survey map, which took up approximately half the area of the main court on the east. The rest of the east range contains three cart sheds with large altered openings.

The *Edinburgh Courant* of August 27, 1809 refers to Kinloss House as Spring Garden, one mile north-west of Cupar, and records that the house was built in 1805.<sup>25</sup> It is a symmetrical, five bay house, of two storeys and a basement, which is built in whinstone with long and short ashlar dressings. The date given for the steading is based on the Scottish Development Department List which indicates that the buildings are dated. This must be regarded with suspicion. No date has been found on the buildings, nor does the owner know of one. Sharp, Greenwood and Fowler's map shows a U-plan building, open to the north, in the position of the home farm. It seems possible that this was the original arrangement of the buildings and this leads to the tentative view that the home farm was constructed at the same time as the house, with which it has strong architectural parallels. The 1855 Ordnance Survey map shows the area of parkland which still exists to the south of the house. The estate continues to be farmed directly by its present owners.

#### **Melville Home Farm 1841**

The estate of Melville House is in Monimail Parish, to the north of the Cupar to Auchtermuchty (A91) road, to the east of Collessie. It is on the northern edge of the

plain known as the Howe of Fife and the majority of it is low lying. The home farm is within the policies, to the south west of the house. The main ornamental front is that to the east which is approached by a straight road which intersects with the main drive to the house at the end closest to the house (Pl. 52).

A considerable body of records survive concerning the estates of the Earls of Leven and Melville, the original owners of Melville House.<sup>26</sup> A search undertaken of these failed to reveal any source of information about the history of the home farm or about the area of land which was farmed from it.

The buildings are constructed in unbroken ranges of markedly different architectural character around four sides of a virtually square court. A connected range of buildings lies to the south. Much of the steading is not now in active use and parts of it have been altered.

Architectural interest is concentrated in the front towards Melville House (Pl. 53). It is symmetrical and of a main storey with a loft. There are nine bays, the outer and central bays are taller, broader, advanced and gabled. The outer bays have large altered doors in front of depressed arched openings and single, centrally placed windows with drip moulds in the loft storey. The central bay has a central segmental arch to the court surmounted by a two-light opening with drip mould. The bay is topped by a clock tower which has a clock face on each side, a small cap and a weather vane. The tower carries the date "1841" on the face towards the court. The linking bays of the range have square loft openings with drip moulds in the upper storey and blind sashes in the lower storey. All the windows in the loft storey of this range have wooden louvres.

The north end of the elevation to the court (Pl. 54) has four depressed arched cart openings, now blocked. At the south end there are a number of blocked openings to the area which was occupied by stabling. There are square openings in the loft storey. Set within the central arch is an opening to the loft for loading.

The whole of the range is constructed of ashlar. The original roof has been replaced by modern corrugated roofing material.

The single storey south range contained cattle byres and has been modified to form a larger interior space for cattle. This range is adjoined to the south by a cattle court, with sheds along its north side, which is shown on the 1855 Ordnance Survey map. This is now covered by a modern roof.

The west range which is of a much less sophisticated aspect than the east range and has a main storey with a loft with loft openings. Each side of the range at the north end has an altered large opening. The buildings were originally concerned with the processing of grain. The 1855 Ordnance Survey map shows the outline of a horse-engine house adjoining the middle of the range on its west side. The 1893 Ordnance Survey map shows that this had been replaced by a rectangular building, probably a steam engine house, though this does not survive. Both the west and south ranges are built in droved ashlar of a lesser quality than the stone used in the east range.

The north range of the steading is of two storeys and is occupied by domestic accommodation. This range is constructed from a grey-blue whinstone with sandstone dressings and a slate roof. There are similar sash windows in both storeys and two doors. That portion of the range to the west has walls built of whinstone rubble at the level of the first floor which give way to squared whinstone above. The east end of the range is constructed of squared whinstone of a different type from that on the west. This suggests that there was originally a single storey building at the west of the range which was later extended, probably before the main steading complex was completed. The only evidence that buildings existed on the site before 1841 is based on the 1828 map by Sharp, Greenwood and Fowler which shows a building termed "Melville Barn" on the site of the home farm (Pl. 27). This raises the question of whether the steading should be seen as an accumulation of buildings,

with the north and west ranges being perhaps older than the rest of the buildings.

The land surrounding Melville House was some of the earliest to be improved in Fife. The estate was owned by the illustrious George Melville, Secretary of State, who in the 1690's built the house which was one of the finest in the country at the time. Sibbald described the condition of the estate in the early eighteenth century:

A great, noble and regular new House richly furnished with Office houses without, large Gardens, vast enclosures for pasture and barren planting".<sup>27</sup>

Roy's map (Pl. 5) shows the results of early improvements on the estate, with very considerable enclosures and large plantations being particularly notable. The 1855 Ordnance Survey map shows the parks and policies of Melville House which were in grass and were farmed by the home farm. The lines of the enclosures conform broadly to those of a century earlier.

#### **Birkhill Home Farm 1842**

The estate of Birkhill lies along the shore of the Tay estuary in the Parish of Balmerino, to the north of the coast road between Lindores and Balmerino. The home farm is situated in an elevated position, at a considerable distance from the Birkhill House. It is linked to the latter by a drive to the north, which runs via the stable block, although the main approach to the farm is by a road from the south east of the estate. The main drive to the house is from the south west and passes to the north of the farm at a lower level (Pl. 55).

A considerable body of documentary material exists in the Earl of Dundee's archives in Birkhill House. The National Register of Archives (Scotland) survey of the archives includes references to several documents, including plans, which would seem to be relevant to the history of the home farm.<sup>28</sup>

Unfortunately, access to the archive material has not been possible. The date which is given for the steading is based on a dated architectural plan for the buildings.<sup>29</sup> The home farm is included in Robinson's

gazeteer and is given a date of 1800.<sup>30</sup> It is not clear on what basis this judgement is made. The steading is not marked on the 1828 map of Sharp, Greenwood and Fowler (Pl. 27).

The home farm comprises unbroken ranges of buildings around three sides of a court with a number of individual buildings occupying the fourth side. There is a separate group of offices including a covered cattle court to the west. The buildings are constructed entirely of squared grey sandstone with slated roofs. They are now disused, save for the domestic accommodation and for limited use as storage space, and are beginning to be structurally unsound.

The main elevation of the home farm is that to the north which, before tree planting, overlooked the main drive to the house (Pl. 56). It is of one main storey and a loft and has nine bays. The outer and central bays are taller, wider and advanced. The central bay is slightly taller than those at the extremities of the range and has a segmentally-arched entrance in which the voussoirs are of droved stone. There is a trap door under the arch for loading to and from the loft. The bay is topped by a simple pediment, with an oculus in the tympanum, which is occupied by the flight holes of the dovecote that is situated within the bay. The outer bays have cart openings and are identically arranged. That on the east has its original doors. The linking bays have blind sash windows with drip moulds .

There is a cart shed with a loft in the east portion of the range which has five depressed arched cart openings in the court elevation. The west portion of the range, which contains a stable for farm horses, has been extended into the court by a lean-to barn. This is divided by tall, upswept wooden trevises into eight stalls along the outer wall. There are stone feeding troughs at horse head height with modern wooden hay racks. Above each trough is a hatch from the loft for feeding. The original floor has been replaced by concrete. There is drain which runs the length of the stable behind the stalls.

The west range is of a single storey, the northern part of which was occupied by two cattle byres. A room in the middle of the range, which has a blocked chimney piece (the stack is still in position) and which has been converted to extra accommodation for cattle, was probably a boiling house or possibly a bothy.

Approximately one third of the adjoining south range is of one storey. There are two depressed arched cart openings flanking a cattle byre which has stone trevices dividing four stalls on each side wall. There are hatches through to the stalls from the sheds on either side of the byre for feeding. The remainder of the range, which has a loft, was involved in the processing of grain and contains a barn through both storeys and a straw barn with an altered large opening onto the court (Pl. 57). Power for the threshing machine was provided by a water mill which was to the south of the barn and which has been completely razed.

Next to the barn on the east side of the court is a poultry house with a sash window and a door. The nesting boxes, constructed of flagstone slabs, are still in position. To the north of this is a cottage which has two sash windows and an altered central door. The accommodation has been extended in the the adjoining buildings which are contiguous with the north range and which originally housed dairy offices.

The arrangement of the main front of the home farm is mirrored in the stable which is between it and the house (Pl. 58). The stable block has taller, wider and advanced outer and central bays which are gabled rather than pedimented. It is constructed of much more finely worked whinstone. Birkhill House was built in the eighteenth century. It was altered beyond recognition in the 1860's by substantial additions in the Scottish Baronial style.

The home farm is situated on the edge of approximately 200 Imperial acres of park land and woods which is marked on the 1855 Ordnance Survey map. There are several other tenanted farms on the estate of Birkhill, including Coultra, Corbiehill and the Grange.

### Pittormie Home Farm 1855

This is found to the west of the Cupar to Dundee (A92) road, a short distance to the north of Dairsie (Pl. 59). The steading is to the south of Pittormie House and its principal front faces east. The house is approached by two curved drives from the road which form a parabola - the one to the south also serves the steading.

Few records have been unearthed concerning the inception of the farm buildings although a certain amount is known about their subsequent history by the present owner, Captain J. Anderson. His father purchased the estate in 1918 from the Meldrum family, who had built the steading. The buildings, many of which are disused, are remarkably well-preserved, thanks largely to the efforts of the present owner. Wherever possible modernisation has been undertaken sensitively and there has been no demolition of any building which is superfluous to modern needs.

The steading is arranged around two courts, the larger of which to the west is known as the close, and is mostly of one main storey with a loft. The entire steading is constructed in droved ashlar with slate roofs which in places have been replaced by modern corrugated asbestos roofing.

The main front to the east has seven bays, the outer and central bays being broader, taller and advanced with a loft storey (Pl. 60). The central bay has a depressed arched opening above which is a carved datestone with the date "1855" and the initials "R M" which stand for Robert Meldrum. The upper portion of the bay has a triangular opening containing four rows of flight holes for the dovecote within. The bay is topped by an unusual pyramidal roof, each face being slightly concave, with a metal finial.

The outer bays have depressed arched cart or coach entrances surmounted by blind square windows and gabled roofs. The steading lies on a gentle slope which descends from north to south which means that the range is slightly taller at the south end. Account has been

taken of this in the degree of the depression of the arches of the openings which is greatest at the north end. The linking bays in the east elevation are of one storey with blind sash windows. The area behind the main front was originally an open cattle court with sheds onto the court situated in the east range. It was roofed over between 1855 and the time of the survey for the 1893 Ordnance Survey map. A modern roof is now in place.

The north range of the steading is occupied by a turnip shed at the east end, with openings onto the court and to the cattle byre to the west. The main entrance of the byre is onto the larger open court to the west. The byre, which has a loft, as do all the ranges around the court, has a closely cobbled floor. There are four stalls divided by stone trevises, each stall being for two beasts, with individual feeding troughs. There is an access passage at the head of the stalls. To the west of the byre is a segmentally arched entrance onto the court. It has wooden doors which, when opened, fit into recesses in the walls inside the entrance. The last part of the range is occupied by what is now a store room and which is described by the owner as having been a washroom for the sub-dairy that was situated in the west range.

The range which lies in the centre of the steading and which divides the two courts contains a house to the north and a stable for farm horses beneath a hay loft to the south. The house has three rooms, two on the ground floor and one in the upper storey. The stables are quite well preserved. There are stalls for six horses and an additional loose box. The stalls are divided by high-sided wooden trevises and there is a wooden feed rack at the head of each stall with feeding hatches from the loft above (Pl. 61). There is a harness rack between the two doors from the court on which some of the now decaying harness still hangs (Pl. 62). The stalls are floored with cobbles and running behind them is a drainage channel.

In the section of the west range where it intersects with that on the north, there is a small stable which was used for saddle horses kept for use by

the house (Pl. 63). There are two stalls and a loose box, divided by wooden trevices which are part of an elaborate wooden framework. In the corner of the stable is a trapdoor with access to the granary above. Alongside is an office described as a sub-dairy. This was probably used as a collection point for milk, some of which was transferred to the domestic offices of the house in its south wing. The remainder of the range contains a cart shed. This has four segmentally arched cart openings (Pl. 64). A granary runs the whole length of the range in the loft storey, in which there are square loft openings. These are filled with a system of closely spaced narrow metal bars in front of opening glazed panels. The granary contains a portable threshing machine (Pl. 65).

The adjoining part of the south range was the threshing barn and has been substantially altered to accommodate modern grain drying equipment, including the addition of a small ventilation tower on the roof. A straw barn to the east connects with the shed behind the cart opening at the south end of the main elevation. There is access in the upper storey of the threshing barn into the granary.

A large hexagonal horse-engine house with open sides stands to the south of the threshing barn (Pls 66 and 67). The holes for the drive shaft from the engine to the machine are still in place. The six-sided slate roof, topped by a metal finial, is supported by massive ashlar piers at the corners. The building is now used as an implement store.

At the east end of the south range there is an additional storage building, the east face of which forms an extension to the main elevation of the steading. It is of one storey with two blind sash windows to the east and was built in 1922. The stone used is of the same type as that in the rest of the steading and was obtained, there being no other source available, from the demolished Cupar Gaol. The walled enclosure to the south of the range was the stack yard. Some of the staddle stones are still to be found in this area.

The former steading on the estate, which was known as Old Pittormie, lay to the west of the Cupar to Dundee road by the Moonzie burn. Its position is marked on Ainslie's map (Pl. 38). At present the estate consists of approximately 300 Imperial acres, which represents a considerable augmentation of its size in the nineteenth century.

The original Pittormie House, which consisted of a central block with small flanking wings, was built in the eighteenth century and is shown on the 1855 Ordnance Survey map, with a formal, walled garden immediately to the west and a small area of tree planted parkland to the east. The surviving arrangement of the trees suggests that there was a central avenue through this area from east to west. Ten years after the steading was constructed, the house was considerably enlarged and ornamented in the Scottish Baronial idiom by John Milne of St. Andrews. At some point before the Ordnance Survey in the 1890's the garden behind the house was extended and replanted in an informal manner.

## Section Two: Buildings Similar to the Home Farms.

### Foodie Steading 1830

This is an independent farm and is situated in the Parish of Dairsie, on the west of the road which runs north from Cupar to Kilmany (Pl. 68). The land covers part of Foodie Hill and the steading is in a slightly elevated position. The farm house lies to the east of the steading complex.

In the nineteenth century the farm, which now stands at over 400 Imperial acres, was operated by a tenant farmer, the landowner living elsewhere. In the first half of the nineteenth century the farm was owned by Alexander Christie then by John Small. The Kirk Session papers for Dairsie contain evidence that Christie owned Foodie in 1826 and that Small had taken over in 1835, though it is not clear which of them owned the farm in 1830.<sup>31</sup>

The steading, the main ranges of which were built in 1830, has been considerably altered and extended over the years. It is built around a square court and is

of one storey with a loft. A major extension to the steading occurred in 1857 - this date is on one of the iron roof supports in the east range - when the east half of the court was roofed over and the ranges extended to the east and north. In recent years many of the internal walls of the buildings have been demolished to create a large covered space which can be put to a variety of uses.

Architectural interest is focussed in the west elevation of the steading which, like all the ranges, is built of squared grey whinstone rubble with droved ashlar dressings (Pl. 69). The elevation is symmetrical and of seven bays, the outer and central bays being broader, taller and slightly advances with simple pediments at the gables and rusticated quoins.

The central bay has a door below a round headed loft opening with a projecting keystone which breaks unto the pediment (Pl. 70). In the middle of the tympanum is a carved datestone with an unidentified coat of arms and the date "1830". The pediment is extended by a cupola which rests on four simple columns and is surmounted by an octagonal obelisk on a small drum with recessed panels. The faces of the obelisk are ornamented alternately with elliptical and quatrefoil recessed motifs. The outer bays have single windows in the first storey and blind elliptical openings in the tympanum and a simple rectangular chimney stack above. This range seems to have originally contained cattle byres and now is used for the drying of grain.

The adjoining part of the south range contains domestic accommodation on two floors which was used as a bothy. Next to this is a cart shed which has seven segmentally arched cart openings (Pl. 71). The former granary above has square loft openings, part-glazed and with wooden shutters. Alongside a large altered opening to the east is a building with a square chimney stack. This was formerly occupied by a steam engine which powered a threshing machine located within the range (Pl. 72).

### Kilmaron Stable Block 1820

The estate of Kilmaron is situated in the north part of the Parish of Cupar, to the east of the Cupar to Newburgh (A913) road. The stable block is approached by a drive which runs east from the main road. Shortly before reaching the stable block the drive turns sharply back on itself and ascends to the west to the site of the site formerly occupied by Kilmaron Castle (Pl. 17).

The buildings of the stable block are symmetrically arranged around three sides of a court, with some additional buildings to the east. Architectural interest is focused in the ashlar-built west front which faces the site of the former house and is visible from the drive (Pl. 73). The front has seven bays, the outer and central bays being wider and advanced. The central bay, which is taller, has a large pointed panel which contains two joined lancet lights within a pointed window. Two engaged octagonal towers flank the central bay, rise above the height of the wall and are capped with crenellations. Each of the projecting faces of the towers has blind windows on three levels. The outer bays have Tudor arched recessed panels; that to the north has a central door, that to the south a blind round-headed window. The inner bays are articulated by blind pointed windows with slit loft openings between the bays. The front is topped with battlements which are built up in the central and outer bays. The whole of the west range was occupied by stables. The gutted north end is used as a shelter for sheep.

The other ranges of the stable block and additional buildings are constructed in sandstone rubble with ashlar dressings. The north range has a segmentally arched entrance into the courtyard, above which there is a dovecote, the flight holes being in the courtyard elevation. The stable block contains a variety of offices associated with stables, including a coach house and a number of dwellings and barns. The 1893 Ordnance Survey map shows the ground plan of what was probably a horse-engine house adjacent to the north range.

The stable block was almost certainly constructed around 1820 when the house was built, probably by the same architect, James Gillespie Graham. The house was constructed in a heavy Castle Gothic style on an asymmetrical plan, with considerable additions completed at a later date. Around 1800 the lands of Kilmaron were sold by Oliver Gourlay of Craighall, a notable agricultural improver, to Mr. Lumsden and then to Admiral Maitland. Leighton records that Maitland spent over £12,000 on the house and estate buildings.<sup>32</sup>

The estate of Kilmaron was of about 350 Imperial acres in the middle of the nineteenth century.<sup>33</sup> It has a tenanted mains farm which is situated at some distance to the north west of the site of the house. The farm displays all the features of improved steadings elsewhere but without architectural elaboration (Pl. 3). There is a well-built two storey farm house with Gothic detailing around the windows.

CHAPTER THREE  
Notes

- 1 J.M.Robinson, *Georgian Model Farms* (Oxford, 1983), p.170.
- 2 R.Scott Morton, *Traditional Farm Architecture in Scotland* (Edinburgh, 1976), p.31.
- 3 H.M.Colvin, *Biographical Dictionary of British Architects 1600-1840* (London, 1978), p.783.
- 4 Scottish Record Office (SRO), RHP 4329, "Measurement of Inclosing land and Expençe".
- 5 A.H.Millar, *Fife Pictorial and Historical* (Cupar, 1895), Vol.I, p.139.
- 6 SRO, Sheriff Court Records, SC20/44/7, p.174, "Accounts for Rankeillour Farm, 1853."
- 7 SRO, Hope of Luffness MSS, GD364/1/129, "Memorandum, 27th July, 1816."
- 8 SRO, Sheriff Court Records, SC20/44/5, p.358.
- 9 SRO, Hope of Luffness MSS, GD364/1/757, "Valuation and Report on the Estate of Rankeillour" by Alexander Low, 1806.
- 10 SRO, Hope of Luffness MSS, GD364/1/753, "Memorandums for General C.Hope July, 1816".
- 11 SRO, Sheriff Court Records, SC20/44/3, p.446.
- 12 SRO, Hope of Luffness MSS, GD364/1/145.
- 13 SRO, Hope of Luffness MSS, GD364/1/129, "Memoranda relating to the places of Rankeillor and Luffness, Chelsea June 5, 1837". One of the conditions of the lease was that the new tenant should buy the farm's stock which was owned by the estate. This indicates that the farm was not tenanted at that time.
- 14 SRO, Hope of Luffness MSS, GD364/1/757, "18th Sept 1778. Mem. about the Park at Rankeillor called the Bruntsward".
- 15 Sir R.Sibbald, *History of Fife* (Edinburgh, 1710), p.154.
- 16 SRO, Hope of Luffness MSS, GD364/1/92, "30th Jan 1792. Mr.McLeran's Estimate".
- 17 Ibid., "10 Jan 1796. Deviations from Mr.McLeran's Plan".
- 18 SRO, Sheriff Court Records, SC20/44/5 and SC20/44/7. The first of these groups of records contains references to Thomas Brown of Uphall who designed farm buildings and supervised their construction on the tenanted farms on the estate between and 1831 and 1836. In that year a payment was recorded for work completed by the "deceased Thomas Brown Architect Uphall for plans etc." (p.350). In 1838 a payment was made to another Thomas Brown of Uphall for supervisory work (p.411). These were presumably father and son. The latter (alive from 1806 to 1872) is recorded in H.M.Colvin, op.cit., p.149. The second group contain references to Hugh Birrell who worked there as an architect and in a supervisory capacity between 1851 (p.126) and 1855 (p.185).
- 19 A.H.Millar, op.cit., Vol.II, p.357.
- 20 National Monuments Record of Scotland (NMRS), plan FID/489/2.
- 21 J.Macaulay, *The Gothic Revival 1745-1845* (Glasgow, 1975), p.222.

- 22 H.M.Colvin, op.cit., p.260.
- 23 "Plan of the Estates of Inchrye and Woodmill", NMRS, plan FID/489/3.
- 24 J.Leighton, *History of the County of Fife* (Glasgow, 1840) Vol.II, p.264.
- 25 Information from the Building of Scotland Research Unit, cited in the relevant entry of the Scottish Development Department's List of Buildings of Architectural or Historic Importance.
- 26 SRO, Earls of Leven and Melville MSS, GD26.
- 27 Sir R.Sibbald, op.cit., p.153.
- 28 National Register of Archives (Scotland), survey SRO783.
- 29 Information from Mr.W.M.Jack.
- 30 J.M.Robinson, op.cit., p.151.
- 31 St.Andrews University Archives, Dairsie Kirk Session Papers, MS37227-37270.
- 32 J.Leighton, op.cit., Vol.II, p.36.
- 33 For sale notice for the estate of Kilmaron, *Fifeshire Journal*, 20th March 1845, p.1.

## CHAPTER FOUR

## Home Farms as Elements in a New Landscape.

The construction of new home farm buildings in the first half of the nineteenth century was part of a broad range of improvements which began to be instituted from the last decades of the eighteenth century. An important aspect of this involved the landscaping of the policies of estates which had a basic agricultural function in a way which retained their agricultural role but which gave them an obvious aesthetic impact. The architectural character of buildings set in these areas was developed in a manner which complemented the character of the emerging landscape. A major source of the capital invested in the changes was produced by increases in the profitability of agriculture from the 1780s and by sustained growth during the war years at the end of the century, underpinned by the intense improving activities of landowners and tenants which were considered in Chapter One. The serious intellectual interest which was widely shown in agriculture was one important cause of greater prosperity amongst landowners and was symptomatic of a new outlook among landowners and of their pursuit of a new lifestyle.

The most obvious effects of the new attitudes involved the substantial alteration by resident landowners of old houses in a modern style, or the construction of new ones - a process which increased dramatically in Fife towards the end of the eighteenth century. In 1800, Thomson listed 39 houses which had been altered or built during the previous 24 years in the county. He was correct to see these as signs of a new prosperity amongst landowners. The list contains the houses on three estates which are included in this survey, namely Tarvit House, Over Rankeillour House and Birkhill House.<sup>1</sup>

Over Rankeillour House is an interesting case because the man who built the house, Sir John Hope, a high ranking army officer, had a major source of income independent of that produced from his estate. The

significance of this lies in the link which it provides with a new group of landowners who began to appear in Fife around this time. These people invested money, which had not been made from the land, in developing new estates and in constructing substantial houses where they had not previously existed. This was not a new phenomenon in Fife. The fortunes of the Hope family, for example, were based on money made in the seventeenth century from legal practice. The new landowners had one thing in common which distinguished them as a group, namely, that in some form they derived substantial income from the war years of the period. An apposite example of this concerns the estate of Kinloss which was established in the early years of the nineteenth century and where a new house was built by an officer of the East India Company. Another is the estate of Cairnie Lodge, created in the closing years of the eighteenth century and on which a new house and home farm were constructed, probably between 1805 and 1810, by an industrialist and which was bought in 1810 by another officer engaged in colonial service. Because of their new status these men were likely to be acutely sensitive to, and to want to develop their estates in line with, the taste fashionable among their new peers.

The spate of house building was paralleled by the new approach of landowners to the policies on their estates. The vast majority of the policies in North Fife had had a short history. In the middle of the eighteenth century, Roy's map shows that very few estates had substantial areas of enclosed land around the house, including three in this survey: those of Melville, Over Rankeillour and Tarvit (Pl. 5). The first of these was uniquely wealthy in the region. The large stretches of formally planned gardens and plantations surrounding the house which are marked on the map are quite untypical of other estates in which there were only small areas of garden close to the house. What were common to each of the three named estates were the formally arranged, basically rectangular grass parks enclosed by shelter belts and situated close to the houses, which, as well as being a place for riding and other recreational

activities, were exploited as grazing land and played an important part in the mixed farming system common in Fife. The situation did not change substantially during the remainder of the century. Ainslie's map, which was published in 1801, shows that considerable enclosure had taken place around Birkhill House and in a small area at Pittormie (Pl. 38). In addition, the map shows that an extension of the policies had taken place at Tarvit House.

From the beginning of the nineteenth century the policies continued to be improved but with an emphasis on aesthetic considerations and on their development as landscape. Those estates which appear for the first time after 1800 were subject to the same influences. Together, these developments represent the perfection of the dual function of the policies, as agricultural land and as ornamental parkland - a situation which was dictated by the small size of the estates necessitating the utilisation of all available land, and by a compelling need to produce as high a revenue as possible. An example of this kind of dual function is given by the use of the lawn at Over Rankeillour which was discussed in the 1806 report on the estate.<sup>2</sup> The lawn, an area of 50 acres, is marked on the 1816 plan of the estate, immediately to the south of the house, in an area described as the "pleasure ground" (Pl. 37).<sup>3</sup> The report noted that this was "well suited for a sheep walk" and suggested that 300 or 400 sheep might be kept on it.

This approach was not in keeping with the current theories on landscape design such as those of Repton, the leading theorist and practitioner of the subject in the early nineteenth century. He severely criticised any landscape in which it was attempted to retain "all the advantages of a farm, blended with the scenery of a park". His advice was that this kind of union was impossible and undesirable:

The country gentleman can only ornament his piece by separating the features of farm and park; they are

so totally incongruous as not to admit of any union but at the expense of beauty or profit.<sup>4</sup>

Repton's criticism of the use of parkland for agricultural purposes focused particularly on arable farming which was "for ever changing the colour of its surface in motley and discordant hues". However, he was also against the use of parkland as pasture. In general Repton encouraged the presence of animals within parkland but only in as much as they added to the picturesqueness of the scene. Any kind of intensive grazing was to be avoided and he criticised this use in terms which betray an aversion for the visible signs of practical agriculture:

Instead of the cattle enlivening the scene by their peaceful attitudes, or sportive gambols, animals are bending beneath the yoke, or closely confined to fatten within narrow enclosures, objects of profit, not of beauty.<sup>5</sup>

The realities of life for landowners in North Fife dictated a rather different set of priorities from Repton's. For them, the size of their estates and economic necessity meant that the division within the policies of parkland and agricultural land was not a viable option.

The crucial period in which changes took place in the landscape of the estates in this survey was in the first three decades of the nineteenth century. This fact emerges from a comparison of the maps of Ainslie (1801) and of Sharp, Greenwood and Fowler (1828) (Pls 38 and 27). The latter constitutes evidence for the re-ordering of the estates of Over Rankeillour, Melville, Birkhill and Tarvit, shown in Ainslie's map to be made up of formally arranged grass parks. The 1828 map also shows the newly established estates of Inchrye, Kinloss (Springfield) and Cairnie Lodge. It is drawn to a small scale but the main lines and shapes of the landscape are clear. In outline, the effect of the thinning of shelter belts and the

planting of trees in a more naturalistic manner was to introduce more space into the landscape of the policies, de-emphasising or removing the divisions between individual parks.

The estate of Over Rankeillour is the best documented example of those on which substantial enclosure had taken place by the time of the preparation of Ainslie's map. The new house which was built together with a separate stable block at the end of the eighteenth century is marked on the sketch plan which was drawn in 1816 (Pl. 37). The house occupied a new site close to the position of the former house but in a more elevated situation on a small hill which commanded better views of the surrounding area. Although the accuracy of the representation of the estate on either of the maps is doubtful, it is clear that the landscape had been considerably modified in the intervening period. The most striking change concerned a re-ordering of the boundaries of the grass parks into a less geometrical form which took greater account of the contours of the land. These changes are clearly illustrated in the 1855 Ordnance Survey map (Pl. 29) in which the outlines of the original grass parks, indicated by the shelter belts of trees which enclosed them, are still visible within the new scheme of the parks.

A substantial campaign of tree planting took place before 1816, a number of irregularly shaped copses being established on the boundaries of parks. Another note of informality was introduced by a new curved drive which approached the house across the area which was described on the sketch plan as lawn and which superseded the straight tree-lined drive to the old house, half the trees of which had been felled. Perhaps the most telling sign of the new handling of the landscape concerned the introduction of a sunken fence, now unidentifiable, "to the west of Blackhall".<sup>6</sup> This was a standard device in use in informal landscapes from the middle of the eighteenth century in England and was particularly valuable in dividing up parkland used for grazing without creating visible barriers. The area of parkland was

increased at some stage before 1828 when the course of the road on the eastern boundary of the estate was moved further east. The new road was screened by the planting of a naturalistic, but thick belt of trees. In the south and east parts of the policies - the main areas visible from the house - the tree planting was particularly irregular: the plantations had soft outlines and there were clumps and individual trees planted within the parks. Unfortunately, many of these features can not now be seen. As is true of the majority of estates, much of the area formerly kept in grass is now used for the cultivation of crops and trees growing within the boundaries of new fields have been felled.

Of those estates which were established in the early nineteenth century, most is known about the original landscape of the estate of Cairnie Lodge. Everything on this estate, which was only 92 acres in total, was on a small scale. The informal handling of the landscape was restricted to the parks to the south of the house. There is a sunken fence on the southern edge of the area of lawn in front of the house which is marked on an 1820 estate plan (Pl. 22). This gives an increased impression of the size of the area of land to the south and the clumping of the trees which was marked on the plan and on the 1855 Ordnance Survey map served to strengthen the visual impression it gave as parkland. The boundaries of this area were planted with a belt of trees.

In the nineteenth century there was a general movement away from the traditional arrangement of the policies based on what Sir Walter Scott described as a pattern of "fields resembling parallelograms, divided like a chess-board by thin stripes of plantation".<sup>7</sup> The results of this encompassed a range of responses to the contemporary taste for a more informal and apparently natural landscape. The response to this was unique to each estate depending on the amount of money available for this kind of improvement, the size of the estate, the degree to which a new approach to the policies was compatible with the agricultural needs of the estates as

well as the kind of landscape which was actually desired. An important aspect of the development of landscapes within the policies concerned the establishment of belts of trees around the edges of the parkland, whose primary aim was not to provide shelter, but to form a visual barrier to the land outside. This is of crucial significance and represents a fundamental change of approach which coincided with the completion of the work of enclosure in Fife in the first decades of the century. The regularisation of the countryside put a premium on nature and was an important additional factor in the promotion a new handling of the policies which depended for its aesthetic effect on appearing as much as possible to be non-functional.<sup>8</sup> The contrast in the nineteenth century between the ordering of enclosed countryside and naturalistic parkland in the policies of estates was a complete reversal of what Roy's map showed in the 1750s.

An overview of the survey group reveals that the general outcome of change in the policies embodied a mitigated response to the taste for an apparently natural landscape. In most examples, some traditional elements survived - these included sections of the formal drive at Melville House and part of that at Over Rankeillour, and traditionally placed walled gardens, examples of which continue to exist on some of the estates. In other cases, such as at Cairnie Lodge and Kinloss, the influence of new ideas was restricted to a relatively small area close to the house. It is not known whether professional landscape designers were employed on any of the estates in North Fife or whether the landscapes were perhaps the product of joint efforts between landowners and land surveyors, such as Brown and Jackson, who were known to have worked at Cairnie Lodge and at Over Rankeillour.<sup>9</sup>

The chief features of the landscapes concerned a conservative handling of grass and trees which gave them a pastoral quality aligning them with the ideas of the followers of "Capability" Brown and Repton. This was a standard outcome in landscapes in Scotland at the time which were influenced by a similar range of practical and economic considerations. A.A.Tait has identified a number

of professional landscape designers who were working in the early decades of the nineteenth century and who created landscapes of this kind, including the two Thomas Whites and Walter Nichol who undertook commissions in Fife.<sup>10</sup> There was a resistance to newer ideas deriving from theories of the Picturesque style which produced far less well-groomed landscapes in which it was difficult to incorporate agricultural functions.

The architecture of the home farms in this study must be considered in relation to the changing landscape of the policies in which they were situated. It was the same sensibility amongst landowners that influenced them to landscape their grass parks in ornamental fashion which also led them in the first half of the nineteenth century to construct steadings with elaborate show fronts. Like the re-ordered policies, the home farms had dual functions, as working, hopefully efficient farms on the one hand and as ornamental buildings, features of the landscape, on the other. In the case of the home farms, however, the tangible signs of the functions of the buildings were not integrated as they were in the landscapes, and architectural ornament was limited to a single elevation of the otherwise plain offices. The restriction of ornamentation to a single elevation, which did not interfere with the operation of the rest of the complex, was in line with the published designs of writers such as Beatson and Waistell (Pls 7 and 13). It was an eloquent expression of the aspirations of the landowners, tempered by their practical needs.

One characteristic common to all the buildings is that they could be seen from the house or were visually associated with it. The steading within the policies at Over Rankeillour was removed from a position in the newly landscaped policies in which it had been described as "rather awkward lying ... being very much in sight of the house".<sup>11</sup> However, the site chosen for the home farm, though less visible from the house, was at the end of one of the drives to the house and in full view of the public road. In eighteenth-century pattern books the major school of thought (of which Timothy Lightoler was

one noted exponent) tended to treat farm buildings as architectural scenery, and offered ideas for their design which were intended to disguise their agricultural function. This was not true of the handling of the buildings in this study which was not as extreme - the ornamental fronts were nothing more than the elaboration of the architecture of the offices which lay behind them. The basic intention was to render the buildings as incongruous elements in a new, aesthetically-inspired landscape, the continuing agricultural functions of which required their presence.

In each example there is a correspondence between the architecture of the home farm and that of the house as it existed at the time of the construction of the steading. This was manifested in a variety of ways, ranging from a use of the same basic architectural idiom, which was true in most cases, to close stylistic and conceptual parallels between the buildings, as seen at Over Rankeillour and Inchrye. A form of Classical architecture is used in six of the home farms, and also in the steading at Foodie, which reflects the generally conservative style of domestic architecture in the period in North Fife. A parallel to this exists in the handling of the stable blocks at Birkhill and at Over Rankeillour. In addition to considerations of stylistic harmony, Classical architecture was an obvious choice because it accommodated itself easily to the basic structural shapes formed by the intersecting ranges, including gable ends and long ranges of which the main front was easily arranged in symmetrical form. This was recognised by Loudon, whose preference in the design of farm buildings was for "Grecian" architecture.<sup>12</sup> This preference is also implicit in the writing of Beatson and Waistell and all those authors of a practical bent, such as Gray, while it is explicit in their illustrations in which the sparingly applied ornamentation is derived from Classical architecture.

A basic formula applies to the main elevations of the home farms of Cairnie, Tarvit, Kinloss, Melville and Birkhill and to that of Foodie steading, which are

unbroken and symmetrically arranged. In each example the central and outer bays are the most noticeable, being of greater proportions than the other bays, with, in some cases, the application of pediments or emphasised gables and large openings in each example save Foodie. In line with the principles of Classical architecture, the central bay is the main focus of attention, a fact which is true of all the buildings in the study. This is achieved by making it the tallest bay and in most cases by the addition of some unique feature. For example, the central bay of Kinloss Home Farm has a raised loft storey which is ornamented by a recessed elliptical panel. Those at Tarvit, Melville and Foodie have some sort of tower above the central bay. That at Cairnie is a later addition - it is not clear what was there before. The linking bays between the outer and central bays in all cases are handled in a simple and regular manner.

The architecture of the main elevation of Tarvit Home Farm is of a degree of refinement and drama not seen elsewhere in North Fife. Partly due to this and partly to its position, it is a more imposing and much more noticeable building than was the house itself (Pls 1 and 28). The handling of the architecture, which is of a sophisticated Neo-Classical style, and the remarkably supported central tower indicate that it was the work of an architect of ability. In Chapter Three it is argued that strong parallels between the architecture of Tarvit Home Farm and the home farm at Doune Park in Perthshire suggest that it was influenced by, if not actually the work of William Stirling, to whom the design of the Perthshire steading is attributed (Pl. 25). The main elevation of Tarvit Home Farm is of great architectural complexity and it constitutes a coherent architectural statement. The effect of this is that the contrast between the elevation and the other ranges is more pronounced than elsewhere. The high quality of the architecture of the home farm is reflected in the handling of the policies of the estate (Pl. 23). These comprised a large area of parkland shielded from the town

of Cupar on the west by a substantial belt of trees. The introduction of a serpentine lake was a unique feature.

In the only major survey undertaken of post-vernacular farm buildings - that by Robinson - the combination of one elaborate main elevation with a considerable central tower or steeple seen at Tarvit Home Farm has been identified as a particularly Scottish response to a desire that home steadings should be of architectural consequence.<sup>13</sup> There are no precedents for this arrangement in contemporary architectural pattern books although the architects Robert and James Adam and Archibald Simpson have left designs which encompassed these features.<sup>14</sup> Buildings of this type were intended to draw attention to themselves. Developing from their function as ornamental buildings and as features of the landscape, these buildings had unusually great significance as status symbols. Tarvit Home Farm is visible from miles around the estate. When it was built it had no equal in North Fife as a visible architectural symbol of private ownership.

The buildings of the home farm at Over Rankeillour are rather differently arranged from those of the other home farms. This is reflected in the main front which is comprised of a projecting long central section with separate flanking wings (Pl. 33). This configuration was for ordinary steadings in which there was often a separate house for a resident farmer in this position. One example of this was a design for a steading which was illustrated with Beatson's article in the *Communications to the Board of Agriculture* (Pl. 7). The principal elevation in Beatson's design, though different in detail, has a similar degree of simple ornamentation to that deployed in the main front at Over Rankeillour. The architectural formula of the main elevation of the home farm, which was a symmetrical block with a central section which was pedimented and advanced, was closely linked to those of the house and the stable block (Pls 39 and 40). The harmonisation of the appearance of the main buildings of the estate was pursued more deliberately than on any other.

The home farm at Inchrye was associated with the massive Inchrye Abbey and is the only home farm in North Fife which is ornamented in a form of the Gothic style. As in the example of Over Rankeillour, the arrangement of the buildings of the steading at Inchrye is somewhat unusual among the survey group. Architectural attention is focused in large-scale ornamentation in the south elevation of the steading which faces the site of the former house. This consists of the end faces of the east and west wings, which have flanking octagonal towers and the south face of the north range, in the centre of which there is a battlemented square tower (Pl. 44). This configuration has a significantly different effect from the main elevations of the other home farms, since the ranges of farm offices are visible. Instead of the impression created by a unified decorative front, the aesthetic impact of the buildings lies in the striking outline which is created by the ornamental elements in the design. There was a clear parallel between the architecture of the home farm and the large-scale ornamentation and powerful massing of the elements of the house (Pl. 49).

The ornamental Gothic front of the stable block at Kilmaron is of a more conventional form than the main elevation of the nearly contemporaneous Inchrye Home Farm, being constructed along one of the main ranges around the court (Pl. 73). It is symmetrically arranged, and, like most of the Classically ornamented home farms, the central and end bays are emphasised, that in the centre being the focus of attention. The same arrangement was seen at Pittormie, which was the last home farm with an ornamental front to be built in North Fife (Pl. 60). The main elevation is in a hybrid Classical style but corresponds to the usual convention of being symmetrical and is articulated by the outer and central bays. Save for a pyramidal roof over the central bay and a decorative triangular opening to the dovecote, the ornamental effect of the elevation is achieved solely by the arrangement of the bays.

The architectural handling of the main fronts of the home farms represents a late flowering of a movement to add interest to the architecture of farm buildings which lay in areas of landscaped parkland of which Isaac Ware had been an early supporter in the middle of the previous century. Ware recognised the future potential for commissions for architects working in this area:

The construction of a gentleman's farm may be finished, and the satisfaction as well as advantage attending such a building would be so great, that if the fashion were once properly set on foot, numbers would follow it. Perhaps there is not in the whole extent of the builder's profession, any part so worthy his consideration as this, in point of profit. The mixture of farm and garden is become very much admired and would be more and more if it were carried to this height.<sup>15</sup>

Due to the lack of documentary evidence, a frustrating aspect of this study stems from the elusiveness of information illuminating the involvement of architects in the home farms. The only two examples for which there is any evidence which suggests the involvement of an architect, Tarvit Home Farm and Inchrye Home Farm, are also the most polished from an architectural point of view. The same points apply to the stable block at Kilmaron which is of a similar standing. The quality of the handling of the architecture of the main fronts of the buildings, which was reflected in the landscape on their estates, embodies the most sophisticated attempts to integrate the practical functions of the home farms with the landowners' aesthetic desires.

In the light of suggestions by contemporary theorists that it was possible to design steadings without the aid of an architect, an obvious question raised by those estates for which there is no evidence to the contrary is that of the possibility that architects were not involved at all. However, this seems unlikely. The sophistication of the designs of the home farms suggests the involvement of people who were experienced and skilled in this field. In addition, the importance of the buildings in economic terms meant that they were not

suitable subjects for amateur architects. The rare survival of evidence for the estate of Over Rankeillour indicates that professional architects were employed there to design the tenanted farms on the estate.<sup>16</sup>

The presence of the home farms, within or close to the landscaped areas of the policies, witnessed to the continuing agricultural use of the land necessitated by the small size of the estates. Their location dictated that the architecture of the farm buildings, as of stable blocks in these areas, should be appropriate for the landscape. In most examples, the architectural handling of the main fronts of the steadings, in line with their setting, was conservative and fairly simple. Even in the more sophisticated examples of Tarvit Home Farm and Inchrye Home Farm, the restriction of ornamentation to a single front underlined the importance of the buildings' practical functions.

However, despite inherent limitations to the possibilities for the development of the ornamental aspects of the home farms and of the landscape, because of their agricultural use, the extent of the changes which occurred in the period is phenomenal. The pattern of improvements, financed principally by enhanced profits from agriculture, which included the construction of new houses and home farms and the development of the landscape, were based on a new attitude amongst landowners to the physical setting for their lives.

CHAPTER FOUR  
Notes

- 1 J.Thomson, *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Fife* (1800), pp.60-3.
- 2 Scottish Record Office (SRO), Hope of Luffness MSS, GD364/1/757, "Valuation and Report on the Estate of Rankeillour" by Alexander Low, 1806.
- 3 SRO, Hope of Luffness MSS, GD364/1/753, "Memorandums for General C.Hope July, 1816".
- 4 J.C.Loudon, *The Landscape Gardening and Landscape Architecture of the late Humphrey Repton* (1840), p.207.
- 5 Ibid., p.208.
- 6 SRO, Hope of Luffness MSS, GD364/1/145, "Accompt of Charge and Discharge Betwixt the Honourable Lieutenant General Chs.Hope of Craighall and William Reid his factor, 1816".
- 7 Sir Walter Scott, "On Planting Waste Lands", *Quarterly Review*, 72, 1827, pp.558-600.
- 8 A.Bermingham, *Landscape and Ideology* (London, 1987), pp.11-14.
- 9 See the 1812 and 1820 plans for the estate of Cairnie Lodge (Pls 21 and 22); and SRO, Hope of Luffness MSS, GD364/1/145, entry 13, which includes records of payments for measuring various improvements in the landscape.
- 10 A.A.Tait, *The Landscape Garden in Scotland 1735-1835* (Edinburgh, 1980), pp.132-73.
- 11 SRO, Hope of Luffness MSS, GD364/1/757, "Valuation and Report on the Estate of Rankeillour" by Alexander Low, 1806.
- 12 J.C.Loudon, *Encyclopaedia of Cottage, Farm and Villa Architecture and Furniture* (London, 1833), p.416.
- 13 J.M.Robinson, *Georgian Model Farms* (Oxford, 1983), p.22.
- 14 Ibid., Plate 42; and G.Worsley, "Stables with Steeples", *Country Life*, Sept.10, 1987, pp.134-5.
- 15 I.Ware, *A Complete Body of Architecture* (London, 1756), p.352.
- 16 SRO, Sheriff Court Records, SC20/44/5/ and SC20/44/7. See Chapter Three, note 13.

## CHAPTER FIVE

## The Agricultural Functions of Home Farms

In some ways new studies of farm buildings constructed in the period of the Agricultural Revolution can be said to be too late. The profound changes in agriculture that have occurred since the Second World War have been reflected in changes to the buildings of such a magnitude that they often obscure their original form and functions. In North Fife the demands of modern intensive farming have produced a range of survivals amongst the buildings of the home farms in this study. In some cases the offices have become completely redundant and are disused and in decay, others are used for non-agricultural purposes or they remain in agricultural use but with substantial modifications. However, sufficient remains to facilitate a tentative reconstruction of their original physical form. Maps, particularly that prepared by the first Ordnance Survey of 1855, are vital to this process since there are virtually no original architectural drawings and very few contemporary estate plans which show the arrangement of the buildings.

While it is not difficult to assess the probable physical form of the buildings, any understanding of their functional significance can at best be partial since, in the vast majority of cases, the interiors of the buildings have been gutted. A further problem in this area concerns the lack of detailed knowledge of the way the land was farmed and of the demands this made on the buildings. Of the relatively small amount of research that has been undertaken in recent years on the subject of agricultural buildings, very little has been done on Fife apart from a small number of studies undertaken by Bruce Walker and some of his students.<sup>1</sup> In view of the limitations to research at present, there can be no attempt within the scope of this study to make comparisons between the buildings under investigation and those elsewhere in the region as a whole. Instead, this chapter is an appraisal of the main functional parts of the home farms in the context of the

works on farm buildings by contemporary agricultural theorists and of research on improved farms in general.

One of the main preoccupations of writers who dealt with agricultural buildings in the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century concerned the question of layout.<sup>2</sup> Good layout was universally considered to be of vital significance for the efficient functioning of the farm and the lack of it to have been a crippling failing in traditional farm buildings. Waistell quotes the writings of the noted agriculturalist Arthur Young in support of this imperative:

There ought not to be the smallest convenience built on a farm, down to a pigsty, that is not so precisely in the right spot, that to move it anywhere else would be a loss of labour or manure.<sup>3</sup>

The general consensus in the early nineteenth century supported the view first voiced at the end of the seventeenth century by Lord Belhaven in *The Country Man's Rudiments* (1697), that farm buildings should be laid out in ranges around a square courtyard which generally had a central midden for dung, carefully calculated to be in precise accord with the needs of the farm. In 1800 Thomson was able to report that the arrangement of farm offices in a square, of which isolated examples had existed twenty years before, was a feature of the great number of "excellent farmsteads" which recently had been built in Fife.<sup>4</sup> He included illustrations of two farms in Fife which were examples of this kind of improved layout (Pls 8 and 9).

In North Fife, the standard arrangement of new farm buildings, in line with the prevailing view, was of ranges around three or four sides of a basically square courtyard, forming distinctive U-plan or quadrangular steadings. Maps constitute the most easily accessible evidence for this, the 1855 Ordnance Survey map being particularly important since it shows the ground plan of buildings before additions which took place widely in the later part of the century and which in many cases obscure the original arrangement. The home farms in this study conform to the normative layout in the region with an equal number of each type. In two examples, Inchrye and

Pittormie, the main buildings of the steading are arranged in a more complex manner which includes an additional court. In both of these the buildings around this court were concerned with the housing of cattle. Of course, the most important aspect of the layout of farm buildings was not to do with the shape of their ground plans but, as Young suggested, concerned the deployment of individual offices. This needed to be done in a way that took account of their functional relationships so that the movement of materials around the steading and its day-to-day operation could be speeded up and the number of man-hours minimised.

The threshing barn of improved farms contained a threshing machine, the most outstanding of the many pieces of machinery which were developed for use in agriculture. The machines were relatively small and could be fitted into the normal width of a range of buildings. It was the power source for the machine, whether horses, water, steam or, much less commonly and not found in North Fife, wind, which had the chief influence on the form of the buildings. Before the perfection of the threshing mill in 1786 by Andrew Meikle and its uptake in farms all over the country, the process of threshing was undertaken by hand with the use of the flail. The barns in which this took place were much larger, with high roofs to allow for the overhead movement of the flail.

The significance of the introduction of the threshing mill was generally noted by agricultural writers at the time. For example, Beatson underlined the greater efficiency of the new machine which he calculated had been "introduced with a saving of one boll in twelve in comparison with the flail."<sup>5</sup> Thomson considered threshing mills to be a "most important invention ... now very common in Fife and their number is increasing. Every parish has one and seven or eight are to be found in single parishes. Some are moved by water, when a convenient stream can be had, but the greatest number are wrought by horses."<sup>6</sup> New-style threshing barns and power sources for the machines were incorporated in published designs for improved farms as they started to appear

around the country. With his article in the *Communications to the Board of Agriculture* Beatson illustrated several designs for threshing barns, including that of his own at Kilrie in Fife which was water-powered, and several for barns with horse engines as the motive power. One of the plates was a "Design for a Barn, Granary and Powerful Thrashing Mill" which was to be worked by three or four horses or possibly cattle (Pl. 74). Theorists at the time grappled with the problem of how best to arrange the offices to take full advantage of the properties of threshing machines and the chaff-cutters, bruisers and fanners which were often associated with them. As was typical of most advice which was offered on the subject of the design of farm buildings, many detailed prescriptions were made about the way in which offices should be integrated. In practice, however, the obvious considerations of the particular needs of the farms, of the availability of power sources and of the nature of the site produced unique results every time.

There are no surviving examples of fixed threshing mills in the buildings in this study. In fact, only one major piece of machinery was discovered. This is a portable threshing mill, originally manually operated and most recently used for the threshing of seed grain, and which is situated in the granary at Pittormie (Pl. 65).

Concerning improved farms in general, many of the buildings which housed the power sources for the threshing mills can still be seen around Scotland. In Fife, for example, the distinctive polygonal roofs of horse-engine houses are a familiar sight in the countryside. Unfortunately, this is not true of the home farms in this study. The only extant examples of engine houses in the survey group are a horse-engine house at Pittormie (Pls 66 and 67) and a gutted steam-engine house at Foodie (Pl. 72). There are some physical remains of what was probably a hexagonal horse-engine house at Inchrye and of a water-powered engine at Birkhill. The use of maps is necessary in assessing the original power sources of the other home farms.

It has been suggested that in general the presence of a large circular building adjoining a farm should not be regarded as conclusive proof that there was a horse-engine house in this position as similarly shaped buildings are known to have existed.<sup>7</sup> However, in North Fife the evidence of maps concerning horse-engine houses seems to be reliable since there is no other building type which would have had a similar ground plan. The sum of evidence for the steadings indicates that horse-engine houses existed at Pittormie, Inchrye, Over Rankeillour and Tarvit. The threshing mills at the steadings at Foodie, Cairnie Lodge and Melville were powered at the time of the first Ordnance Survey by horse-engines which at some stage after the middle of the century were replaced by steam-engines. At Kinloss and Birkhill the threshing machines were powered by a form of water mill. The dams and sluices for these are marked on the 1855 map. It is of note that at Kinloss the advantages of water power were thought to outweigh the disadvantages caused by the separation of the threshing barn from the main buildings. The relative size of the numbers of the different power sources in the middle of the century, although they do not have any inherent significance because of the small size of the group of buildings surveyed, are in accordance with the findings of the study of threshing mills in Fife conducted by Davie.<sup>8</sup> Basing his calculations of the number of threshing mills and of the relative proportions of their different power sources on the evidence of contemporary surveys of the county, he shows that in 1854 over 70 per cent of the 371 mills thought to be in Fife were powered by horse-engines. Of the rest, 13 per cent were powered by water and only 3 per cent by steam.

The well-preserved horse-engine house at Pittormie attains extra significance because of the lack of surviving examples at other steadings in this category. Unfortunately, the wooden horse-engine has suffered the same fate as the threshing mill it powered, although some of its dismembered parts can be found in various locations around the farm buildings. Walker has

given a useful and succinct description of the normal form of this piece of machinery:

The timber horse-engine normally had a central vertical shaft or axle, pivoted top and bottom, and supporting arms which carried the "limbers" or hanging pieces, to their outer ends, on which the animals drew when operating the machine. These arms were normally stiffened by struts supported off the base of the axle and meeting the arms just short of the inner "limber". Over the arms was placed the great timber cogged wheel which engaged the drive shaft. Both engine and drive shaft were restrained by the engine frame comprising normally a large timber beam lying parallel to the wall of the barn and linked to the barn wall by two lesser beams, the drive shaft being supported between these lesser beams on heavy transverse struts or dwangs.<sup>9</sup>

In all these buildings there was a tension between their basic function of providing protection for the wooden engine and the horses' need for ventilation. This is reflected in the design of the engine house at Pittormie. The roof is supported by ashlar-built piers at the angles formed by the facets of the roof, leaving large open spaces on each side for the movement of air. The roof is notable because it combines a hexagonal plan with a roofing material of slate. In Fife, the choice of a polygonal roof for these buildings originally seems to have been necessitated by limitations in the way in which pantiles, the standard roofing material, could be laid. The horse-engine house at Pittormie should be seen as example of what had become a standard form in Fife, one familiar to builders, even when the materials used in their construction did not dictate this.

The operation of the threshing mill was the pivot for the main activities which took place on the farm due to its vital role in the processing of grain, for food and seed, and of straw:

It was mainly in terms of its position that it influenced the layout of the steading. The threshing barn was central to the working of the farm. Unthreshed sheaves were kept in the stackyard as was excess straw. A close relationship between stackyard and barn was therefore desirable to minimise handling. After threshing, both grain and straw had to be stored until required. This was done in the granary and straw barn respectively. The granary had to be capable of storing the following year's seed,

the surplus grain for sale, and the grain prepared on a weekly or fortnightly basis for feeding to the livestock. The granary therefore had to be sited to allow easy access to carts, for the transporting of grain to the fields or market. Easy access to the bruiser and subsequently to the stable, byre and poultry houses was also important. The straw barn, for the storage of straw for day-to-day use, also required to be close to both the threshing mill and to the stables, byres, cattle courts or yards etc. where it was used.<sup>10</sup>

The response to the need for an efficient arrangement of the offices centring on the threshing barn was different in each of the home farms. The arrangements which were adopted are described in detail in Chapter Three. In each example there is a loft over the area in which the threshing machine was housed, save at Kinloss where the form of the demolished engine house is not known. The function of the lofts varied depending on their size and on the availability and nature of the loft space elsewhere in the steading. When it was in operation, the loft over the threshing mill would have contained at least a small number of sheaves which were available to be processed at short notice. Where possible, there was conformity to the prevailing view stated in printed works that the granary should be situated in the loft. In cases where this arrangement was not convenient, the granary was situated over the cart shed which was the alternative location favoured by writers because of the good ventilation it afforded.

An interesting feature of the lofts in the steadings is the variety of forms of access to them. The most common method involved the use of internal wooden ladders or staircases for personnel, and large loft openings for the loading of materials to the loft from the court and vice versa. At Kinloss access to the main lofts is by a stone-built staircase within the court. There are openings with trapdoors under the arch of the entrance to the court both at Melville and Birkhill which connect with the loft that occupies the whole of the range making for direct and easy loading. The most sophisticated example is at Over Rankeillour where the main access to the loft space in the west range (which

contained the sheaf loft and granary) was by a ramp to a swept-roof loft opening of sufficient dimensions to allow a cart to be backed into it (Pl. 34).<sup>11</sup>

In general, the handling of stables in improved farms reflects the special status which the horse enjoyed in agriculture, being central to most of its operations. Loudon described the horse as an animal in "a highly artificial state and requires to be treated with a degree of care beyond that bestowed on any other domesticated quadruped".<sup>12</sup> Particularly detailed advice about the design of stables and their fittings was given in the knowledgeable works on agricultural buildings which were in the tradition of the writing of Beatson. The common features recommended included individual stalls divided by trevices with upswept ends to stop the animals biting each other, an occasional loose box for horses that were sick or in foal, a ceiling for warmth, hatches from the loft for direct feeding into the hay racks, and elaborate provision for the removal of dung and for ventilation. Beatson illustrated a design for stable fittings which encapsulated these ideas and which was later reprinted by Loudon (Pl. 75).

Though in general stables have been out of use for decades, fairly well-preserved examples survive at three of the home farms: at Birkhill, Kinloss (Pl. 51) and at Pittormie (Pls 61 and 63). The latter is of special interest because it is the only example of the home farms with surviving stables which had an additional function of providing stabling for the house. The smaller stable at Pittormie, which is for saddle horses, is finished to a higher standard than that for the farm horses, differences being particularly noticeable in the quality of the plastering of the ceiling and walls and in the elaborately designed woodwork of the stalls. The improved stables which survive at the three steadings are broadly in line with published ideas on stable design, in the provision and standard of their fittings and in their location under lofts.

By contrast with stables, cattle byres continued in use until much more recently. However, this

means that much of what survives has been subject to significant alterations in accordance with modern farming practice. For example, in most of the home farms, the original flooring of the byres, which would have been stone pavement or cobbles, has been replaced by concrete. As for stables, a great deal of advice was given by writers about the ideal form of byres. Theoretical writing was of added significance because the planning of cattle byres was a new phenomenon which was not widely known before the sustained period of agricultural change at the end of the eighteenth century. The development of new buildings for the housing of cattle was necessitated by the increasingly general practice of wintering of cattle - facilitated in Scotland by the widespread cultivation of root crops, principally turnips and by the introduction of artificial foods.<sup>13</sup>

Advice given on the design of cattle byres was of a similar nature to that given on stables and similarly focused on the design of the stalls, methods of feeding, the disposal of excreta and ventilation. If anything, there was a broader range of ideas for byres - since these tended to be considerably larger and had more specialised uses than stables, there was much more scope for variety in the layout and form of the buildings. Points on which there was a general consensus were that byres should be of a single storey; open into the roof space, thus promoting good ventilation; and ideally should have an access passage at the head of the stalls wide enough to allow the movement of a wheel barrow and enabling the beasts to be fed directly.

The cattle byres at Over Rankeillour, Melville, Birkhill and Inchrye were of a single storey without a ceiling. Those at Pittormie, Tarvit and Cairnie Lodge had lofts over them. The examples in which the original arrangement of the interiors of the byres could be assessed when surveyed were fitted with stalls suitable for two beasts, with stone divisions in place at Birkhill, Pittormie and Over Rankeillour (Pl. 35). The byres at Pittormie and Over Rankeillour, in which the stalls were arranged along one side of the byre, were

equipped with access passages at the head of the stalls. At Pittormie the passage was connected to the turnip shed and at Over Rankeillour it ran between the turnip shed and straw barn which were situated at either end of the byres.

Six of the home farms - those at Pittormie, Inchrye, Melville, Birkhill, Over Rankeillour, Cairnie Lodge and Kinloss - originally had cattle courts or fold-yards in which the cattle were able to move around freely with shelter provided by sheds. Cattle courts were strongly recommended by contemporary theorists. The advantages of keeping cattle in this way were underlined by Waistell who particularly noted the savings which could be made in the amount of food used, since it could all be deposited in one place avoiding wastage, and that as the cattle moved around they trod their dung into the straw which constituted a ready supply of manure.<sup>14</sup>

At Pittormie and Inchrye the cattle courts were incorporated within the main ranges of the steading. The example at Over Rankeillour, which adjoined the steading on one side, was constructed at the same time as the rest of the buildings. It is not possible to say with any certainty whether those examples at Birkhill and Melville, where the buildings of the cattle court are separate from the main ranges, and at the altered example at Kinloss, where it occupied part of the main courtyard of the steading, were introduced at the same time as the main ranges of the home farm were constructed or not. That at Cairnie Lodge was certainly built after the rest of the steading.

With the exception of the example at Melville, there was a dovecote, or pigeon-house as they were more usually called at the time, located at each of the steadings. There is a separate, older square dovecote at Foodie. In most examples, the dovecote was situated over the central arched entrance in the main elevation of the steading as was a common practice in Scotland.<sup>15</sup> There is also a dovecote over the entrance to the stable block at Kilmaron which is in a side elevation. At Over Rankeillour, Inchrye and Tarvit the considerably large

dovecotes were situated in towers, which at Inchrye and Tarvit were handled in a way which made them the main ornamental features of the steading. Traditionally, pigeons were an important source of fresh meat in Scotland. Their importance declined, however, as the wintering of cattle became common. Many agricultural theorists of the period deprecated the practice of keeping pigeons close to farms because of the damage they were thought to do. Thomson cautioned that the pigeons always ate more food than they could possibly produce.<sup>16</sup> In the light of this, it is interesting that dovecotes continued to be constructed in home farms and it reflects an unusual break with a view commonly held by theorists, that dovecotes should not be situated within steadings. The reason for this lies probably in the strength of the tradition for building dovecotes and in the fact that, as a generally perceived status symbol, they were thought appropriate to buildings which very publicly declared their owners' social standing.

The buildings of the home farms included a variety of domestic accommodation, the amount and arrangement of which was unique in each example. The nature of the provision was dependent on the size of the farm and its manpower needs, the status of the workers, and the availability of other accommodation, which on many of the estates existed elsewhere. The most basic provision was that at the home farms at Kinloss and Cairnie Lodge, both relatively small estates farmed directly by their owners. It consisted of two, two-room cottages situated in the front range of the steading. The provision in some of the larger examples included a dwelling with superior accommodation, intended for use by a grieve or other senior worker. At Inchrye, Pittormie and Melville this took the form of a house of several apartments on two floors. The principal dwelling at Tarvit was uniquely located in the upper storey of the building. This accommodation was notably inferior, however, to that typically provided for tenant farmers, such as that found at Foodie and Kilmaron, which consisted of substantial, independent houses. Only in the

case of the steading at Foodie has it been possible with any certainty to establish the location of a bothy which was the standard accommodation provided on farms in the region for single male workers and which generally consisted of a one- or two-room communal living area.

As in the case of bothies, many of the offices which were incorporated in the buildings of the home farms can not now be identified due to changes which have occurred. Certain categories of office, examples of which are the dairy seen at Inchrye, the well-preserved poultry house at Birkhill and the saddle horse stable at Pittormie, exist only as isolated examples within the survey group.

In line with contemporary practice elsewhere and with most published advice, the offices of the home farms are constructed from good quality materials. The stone employed, of a kind which had only been used previously for important houses and churches, is of a similar type to that in the main ornamental elevation of the steadings, though it does not have anything like the same degree of finish. The only exception to this is Pittormie where the whole steading is built in the same droved ashlar. In each case the stone was almost certainly quarried in the locality of the home farm since it is of the common local type.

Thomson noted in connection with the construction of farm buildings in Fife, that "the materials are to be found everywhere in plenty, and of the best kinds".<sup>17</sup> In broad terms, those home farms in the southern part of the study area are built in yellow sandstone, whilst the stone seen in the northern part is more various, encompassing grey and purple whinstones and grey sandstone, which in all cases have ashlar or sandstone dressings. The roofing material which was originally slate is a notable feature of the home farms emphasising their special status. As Thomson recorded, the normal roofing material in Fife was pantiles, there being no source of slate in the area. In the case of the steading at Over Rankeillour it is known that the slates used for the roof were brought into Fife via Newburgh.

Since Newburgh was the principal port for North Fife, it is probable that the slate for the other steadings was brought into the county in this way. The particular sources for timber used in the buildings are not known although, as for stone, they were probably local, as is confirmed by the documentary evidence for Over Rankeillour, with special needs met from outside.

In none of the home farms was the advice followed of those theorists who advocated the use of experimental buildings materials, such as paper for roofing and pisé for walls or the deployment of materials not usually employed in building, an example of this suggested by Loudon being the positioning of stacks on the roofs of the cattle sheds as a form of temporary thatch. Cast iron was the one new material of which there are limited occurrences in the survey group, having been used at Kinloss and Over Rankeillour in the construction of the stalls in the stables. It was of obvious practical use in these circumstances and was received favourably, unlike the more peculiar materials suggested by some theorists at the time.

The response shown to the ideas of those theorists advocating the use of innovative building materials is representative of the receptiveness to theoretical works in general, which was positive only in as much as the ideas expressed were in agreement with the perceived needs of the farms and with the experience of those people involved in their design. In line with most other improved steadings, the offices of the home farms are broadly in accord with the ideas of Beatson, Waistell and other practically minded writers of the period, though it is not clear whether this was because these works were particularly influential or, as seems more likely, that they were particularly successful at articulating in a systematic form those features generally accepted to be worthwhile elements of improved farm buildings.

As noted at the beginning of this chapter, the limited scope and incomplete survivals of the home farms together with the necessarily tentative ordering of the

dates of their construction would render any conclusions drawn about the developments of the studied period highly conjectural. However, the evidence issuing from the subjects of the survey does seem to warrant the formulating of several hypotheses about the buildings. The ornamental handling of the principal front of the home farms was an obvious sign of their special status. However, the restriction of architectural ornamentation to one front meant that both symbolically and in reality, the utility of the offices was given the highest priority. In the introduction of new forms of technology, the adoption of systematic arrangements and the use of good materials, the buildings were symptomatic of the improving spirit of the age which brought about dramatic changes in all aspects of agriculture. The ways in which this was manifested in the buildings were tempered by the demands of the agricultural context in which they operated. This betrayed the real motives of improvers which, as far as the buildings in this study are concerned, were more practical and financial than they were idealistic.

## CHAPTER FIVE

## Notes

- 1 B.Walker, "The Influence of Fixed Farm Machinery on Farm Building Design in Eastern Scotland", *Scottish Archaeological Forum*, 8, 1977, pp.52-74; K.Davie, "The Threshing Machine" (B.Arch. thesis, Dundee University (Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art), 1979); J.Brewster, "Seven Fife Farms (Kerse Estate)" (B.Arch. thesis, Dundee University (Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art), 1977).
- 2 J.C.Loudon, *Encyclopaedia of Cottage, Farm and Villa Architecture and Furniture* (1833), pp.376-415.
- 3 C.Waistell, *Designs for Agricultural Buildings* (London, 1827), p.3.
- 4 J.Thomson, *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Fife* (Edinburgh, 1800), pp.75-6.
- 5 R.Beatson, *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Fife* (Edinburgh, 1794), p.13.
- 6 J.Thomson, op.cit., pp.131-2.
- 7 A.Fenton and B.Walker, *The Rural Architecture of Scotland* (Edinburgh, 1981), p.177. Reference is made by the authors to the so-called "roundy byres" which were common around Perth and perhaps in other areas.
- 8 K.Davie, op.cit., p.102.
- 9 A.Fenton and B.Walker, op.cit., p.168.
- 10 Ibid., p.160.
- 11 J.Brewster, op.cit. Several examples of this kind of opening are included in this detailed survey of one estate in North Fife.
- 12 J.C.Loudon, op.cit., p.375.
- 13 J.M.Robinson, *Georgian Model Farms* (Oxford, 1983), p.85.
- 14 C.Waistell, op.cit., p.35.
- 15 G.A.G.Peterkin, *Scottish Dovecotes* (Coupar Angus, 1980), p.20.
- 16 J.Thomson, op.cit., p.270.
- 17 Ibid., p.386.

## EPILOGUE

In many respects the chances for the survival of the home farms covered in this study are significantly better than can be said for traditional farm buildings in general. Most examples remain attractive features in the landscapes surrounding substantial inhabited houses and their importance is underlined by their status as Listed Buildings. Of those surveyed, only the home farm at Inchrye, which is unlisted and where the house has been demolished, seems doomed to imminent destruction. However, only two of the home farms remain in active agricultural use. It is doubtful whether buildings that are unused, even when afforded a degree of protection through being listed, will in the long term be preserved.

The fashionable alternative to disuse is re-use and this is currently enjoying support from the Government.<sup>1</sup> A number of examples of the sensitive re-use of farm buildings are described in the Scottish Civic Trust's manual *New Uses for Older Buildings in Scotland* (1981). These include the conversion of a steading into a college, and an architecturally important home farm into a visitor centre, which is a popular choice. Perhaps the most famous example of leisure-based re-use is the former home farm by Robert Adam at Culzean Castle.

The continued survival of the buildings is to be welcomed in any circumstances. It is hoped, in order to ensure a continued understanding of one of the most significant periods in Scottish history, that a number of traditional farm buildings can be preserved with their fittings, even if this can only be achieved by the creation of museums. The National Trust for Scotland possesses many buildings of this type. It is a sad reflection of the organisation's priorities that it has done so little to make these accessible to the public or to present them in a way which deals effectively with their role in a period of change which had beneficial effects for all sections of society.

In the current economic climate it seems likely that the commercial potential for the re-use of those

farm buildings which are of architectural interest and which are conveniently located will be realised and that a significant number of these buildings will be preserved in some form. In North Fife, there are plans to convert the home farm at Tarvit into a leisure centre and earlier this year the home farm at Over Rankeillour was opened as part of a new tourist attraction, after a period of conversion taking only a few months. The pace and extent of change in cases such as these can be phenomenal as in those where buildings are altered or demolished in line with the demands of modern agriculture. This underlines the need for further surveying and research in this area.

The fate of the home farms and the landscape in which they are situated is a microcosm of the changes involved in the new agricultural revolution which is taking place, in which commercial ends are paramount, and an aspect of the all-embracing contemporary conservation problem. The balance struck by landowners such as those in North Fife in the early nineteenth century, between economic and aesthetic considerations, admittedly only in limited areas, has been lost. Perhaps, the most *avant garde* judgement on the dangerous effects of the single-minded commercial exploitation of the countryside was made by Humphrey Repton - it is one which is very appropriate in the 1980s:

The monopolist only can contemplate with delight his hundred acres of wheat in a single enclosure. Such expanded avarice may *enrich the man* but will impoverish and distress; and (I had almost added) will ultimately *starve mankind*.<sup>2</sup>

## EPILOGUE

## Notes

- 1 Scottish Development Department, *Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas* (Edinburgh, 1987).
- 2 J.C.Loudon, *The Landscape Gardening and Landscape Architecture of the late Humphrey Repton* (London, 1840), p.212.

## APPENDIX

Accounts relating to the construction of Over Rankeillour Home Farm from the Cupar Sheriff Court records (Scottish Record Office SC 20/44/3), pp.515-45.

## Section One

Accounts for the period January 1, 1818 to August 30, 1819

	£	s	p
1. Discharged account per James Burns for Quarry tiring for new farm steading at Rankeillour	90	17	3
2. Discharged account for quarrying stones			
3. Discharged account for driving stones for driving stones for new steading	322	13	10
4. Discharged account for pumping water out of quarry	10	13	4
5. Discharged account per Thomas Thomson for mason work in building new farm steading	577	16	8
6. Discharged account per William Archer for wood furnished for new farm steading	98	12	6
7. Discharged account per David Lyal for wood furnished for new farm steading	30	4	8
8. Discharged account per John Bell for wright and plaster work for new farm steading	228	4	11
9. Discharged account per Alexander Kirkaldy for Slater and Plumber work for new farm steading	426	11	1
10. Discharged account per William Kirks for smiths work for new farm steading	18	6	3
11. Discharged account per Andrew Thomson for Locks hinges furnished for new farm steading	9	19	4
12. Discharged account per George Duncan for surveying wood for new farm steading	81	5	5
13. Discharged account per William Reid for Lime furnished for new steading	121		8
14. Discharged account per James Scott for removing Thrashing Mill from old to new farm steading	21	12	2
15. Discharged account per John Mackie for Toll and Expenses of driving wood and slates for new farm steading	14		6
16. Discharged account per James Wanton for bread and beer furnished to sundries while driving the wood and slates for new farm steading	5	8	6
17. Discharged account per Willlliam Kyd for Cupar-Tile-work, for bricks furnished for new farm steading	5	3	3
18. Discharged account per John Bell for wright work for new farm steading	14	14	4
19. Discharged account per Brown and Jackson for measuring Mason, Wright and Slater work	12	1	6
20. By value of timber furnished by the said Charles Hope for the said works per certificate of Messrs Brown and Jackson measurers and John Bell the contractor	631		

(TOTAL) £ 2756 18 2

## Section Two

Accounts for the period August 30, 1819 to December 31, 1819.

	£	s	p
1. Discharged account per Thomas Thomson for mason work within new farm steading at Rankeillour	79	4	
2. Discharged account per James Burns for quarrying stones for new farm steading	41	6	5
3. Discharged account per William Reid for lime for new farm steading	9	6	8
4. Discharged account per David Lyell for timber for new farm steading	25	3	8
5. Discharged account per John Bell for wright work for new farm steading	17		9
6. Discharged account per George Duncan for sawing wood for new farm steading	12	7	8
7. Discharged account per Alexander Kirkaldy for slating for new farm steading	38	4	6
8. Discharged account per William Kirk for smith work for new farm steading	5	16	6
9. Discharged account per Andrew Thomson for locks for new farm steading	1	5	8
10. Discharged account per James Webster for sinking well for new farm steading	1	10	
11. Discharged account per A. Middleton for plumber work for new farm steading	31	18	
12. Discharged account per Jamew Wanton for entertainment to sundries employed	6	6	6
13. Discharged account per Brown and Jackson for measuring for new farm steading	1	11	6
14. By value of timber furnished by the said Charles Hope for the said works per certificate of Messrs Brown and Jackson measurers and John Bell the contractor	28	2	

(TOTAL) £ 299 4

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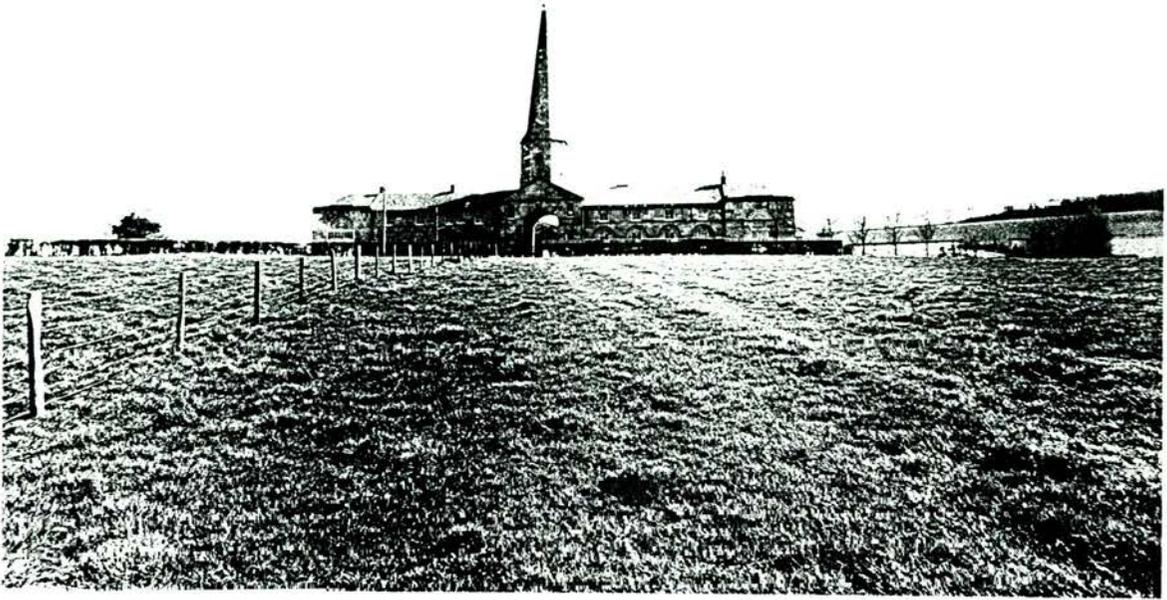
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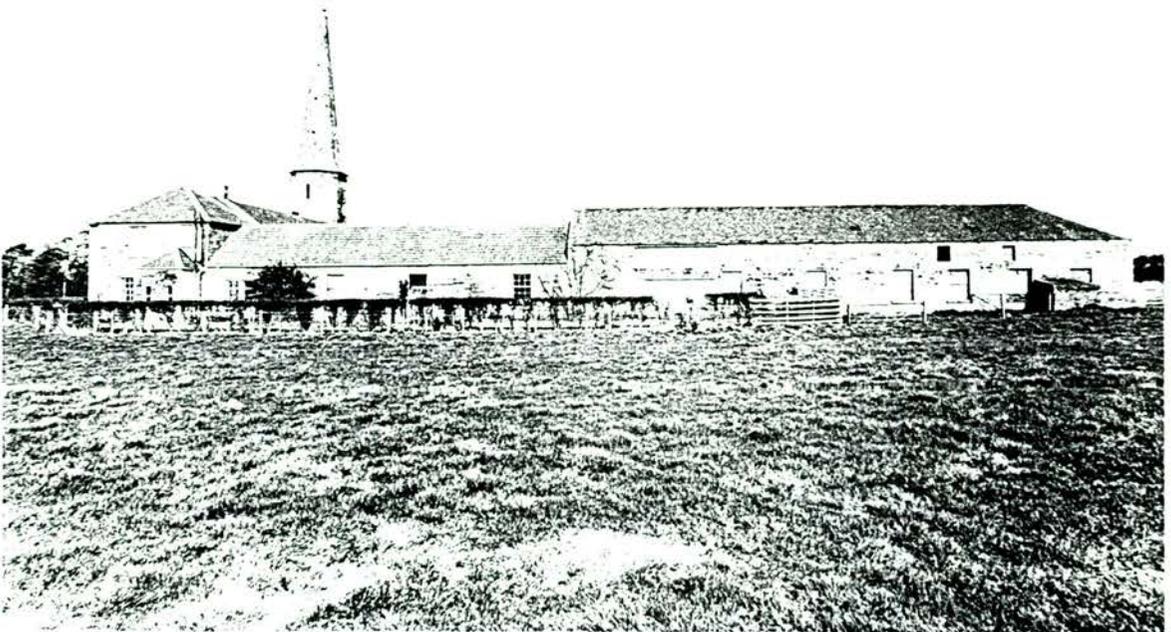
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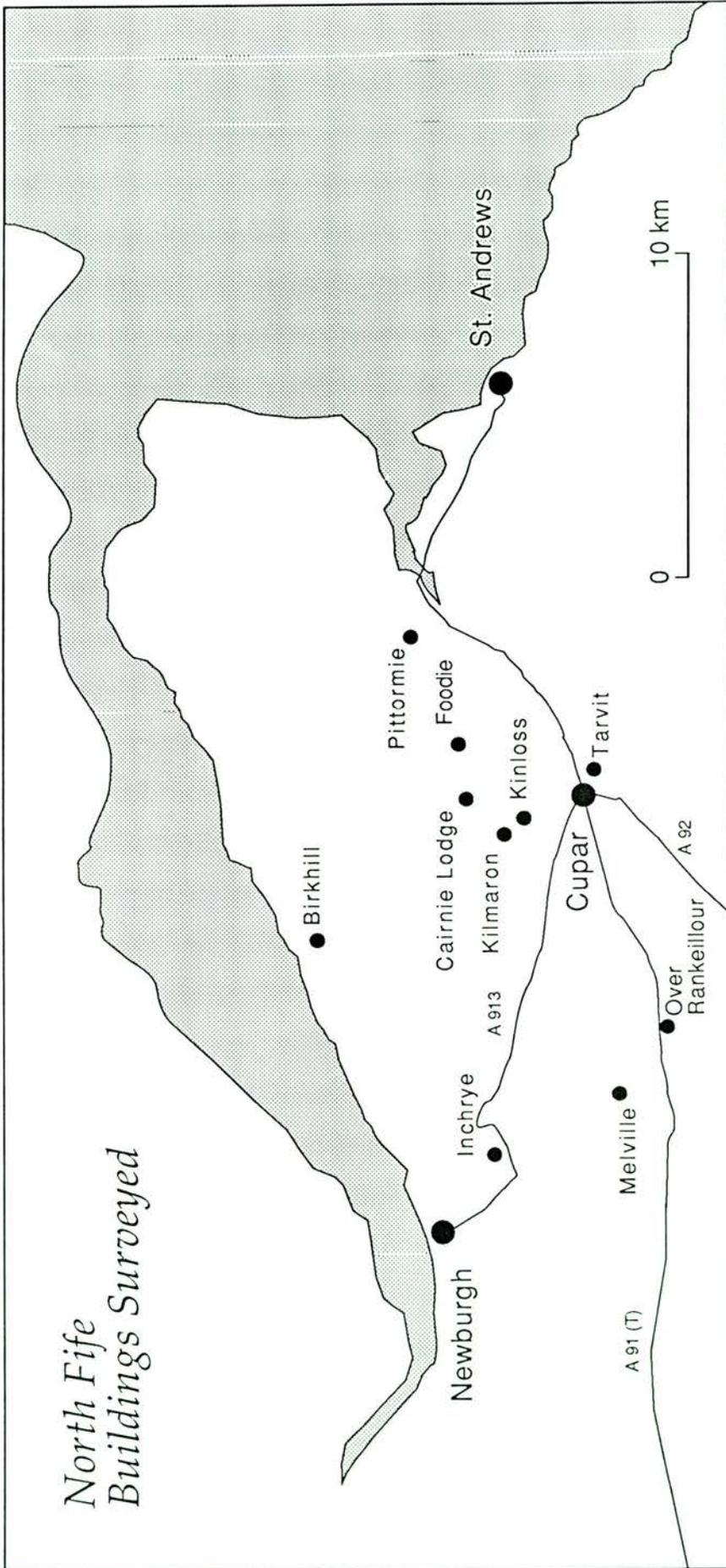
1 Tarvit Home Farm, north elevation from the approximate position of the former house, in 1988.



2 Tarvit Home Farm, west elevation, in 1988.



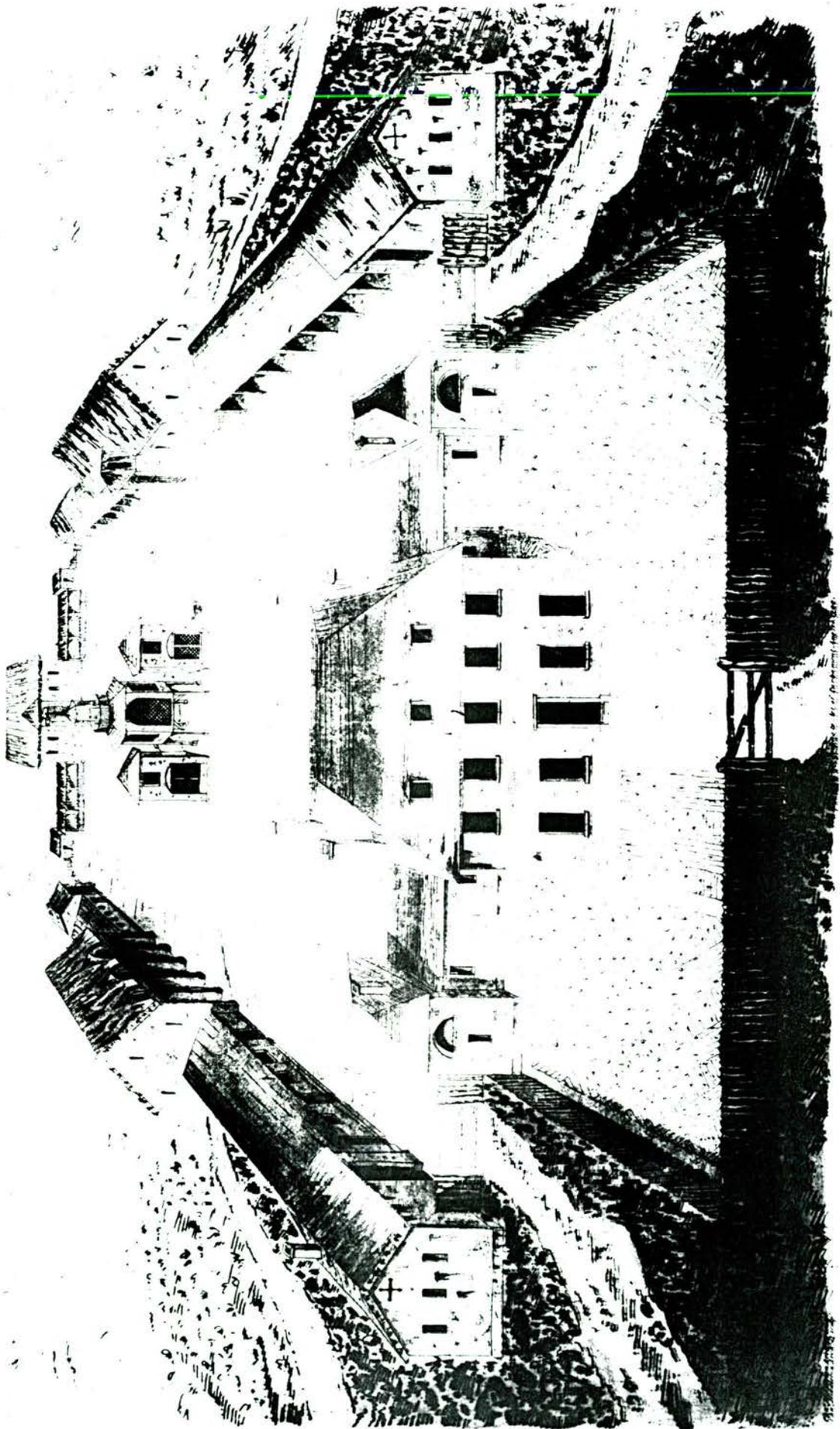
3 Kilmaron Home Farm, south elevation, in 1988.



4 Map of North Fife showing the distribution of the buildings surveyed.

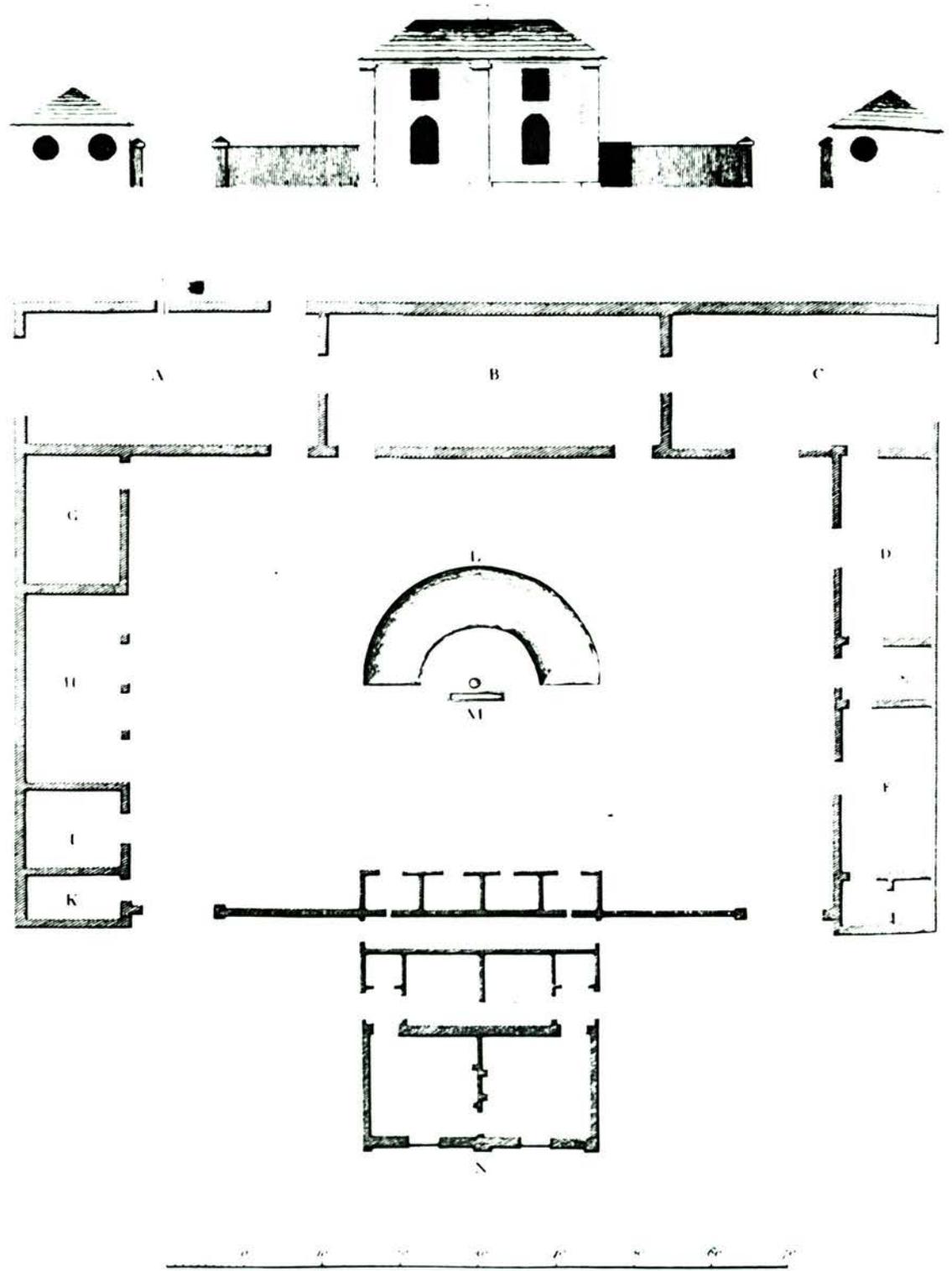


PERSPECTIVE VIEW OF A FARM HOUSE & YARD.



6 Design for a "Farm House and Yard" from C. Middleton, *Picturesque and Architectural Views for Cottages, Farm Houses and Country Villas*, 1793.

*Design for a Farm House and Offices.*  
*Vide Page 55.*



7 "Design for a Farm House and Offices" from R. Beatson in *Communications to the Board of Agriculture*, Vol. 1, 1797.

Plan of the Farm Stead of Kinninmouth in the Parish of Kinglaskie the property of James Blyth Esq<sup>r</sup>

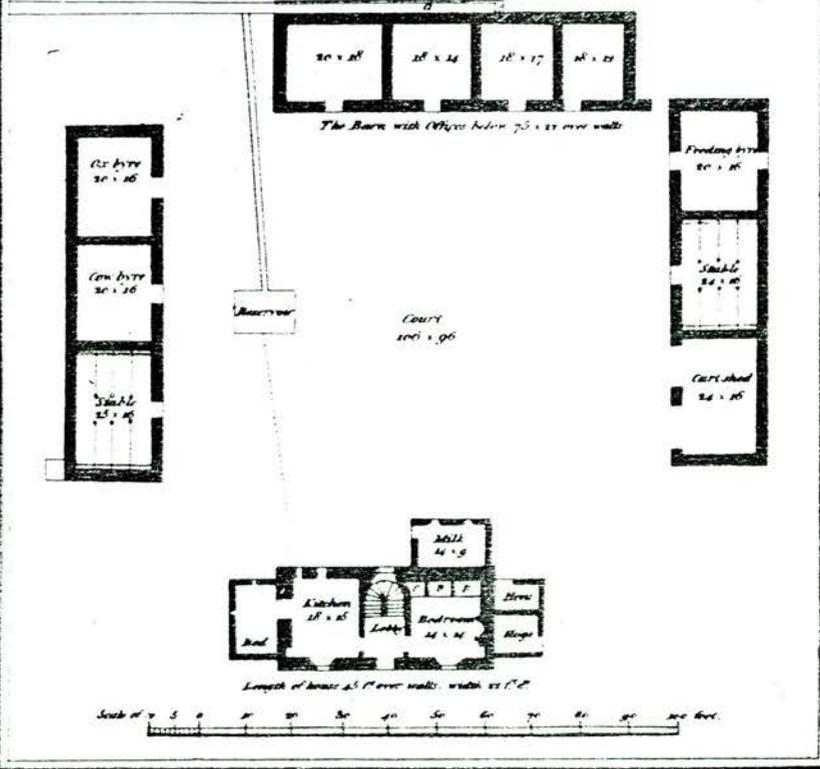


Second Storey of House

The Room above the Byres is 9 feet of wall above joists. Two doors in the back, one 5 feet & the other 4.7 high. One door in the front & one window. a. Threshing mill wheel.

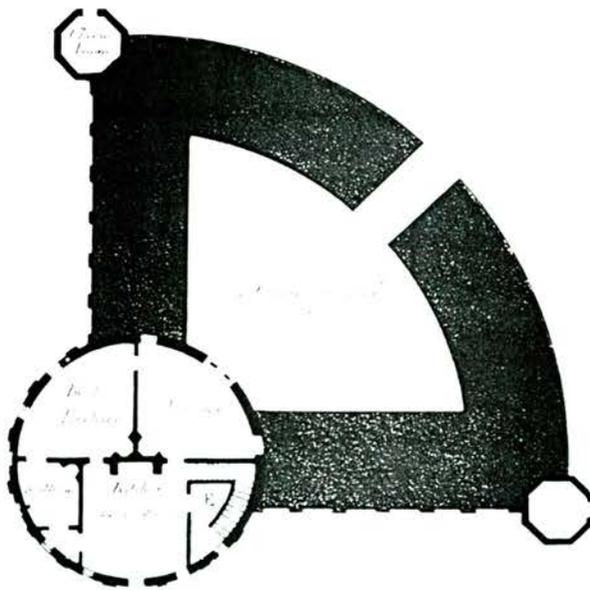
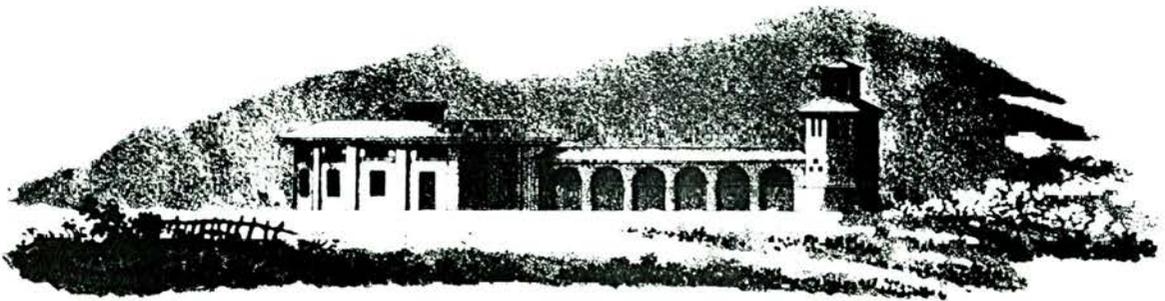


Ground Plan



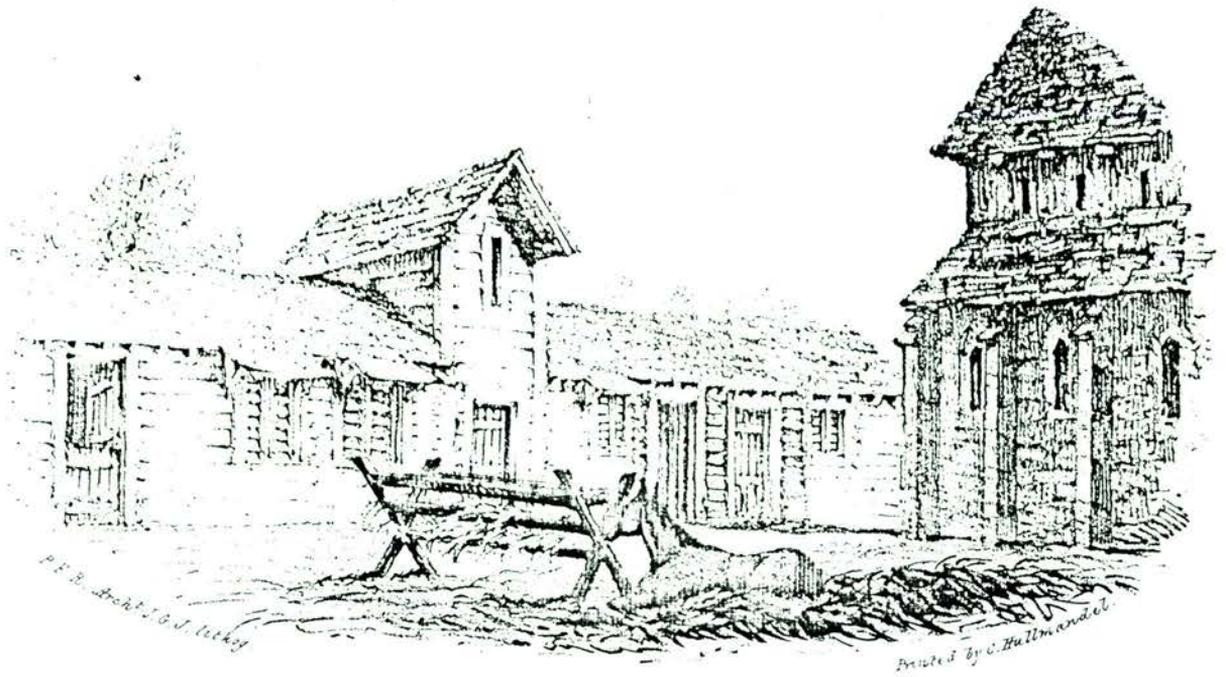
8 "Plan of the Farm Stead of Kinninmouth" from J. Thomson, *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Fife*, 1800.





*Dairy Farm*

10 Design for a dairy farm from J.Gandy, *Designs for Cottages, Cottage Farms and other Rural Buildings*, 1805.

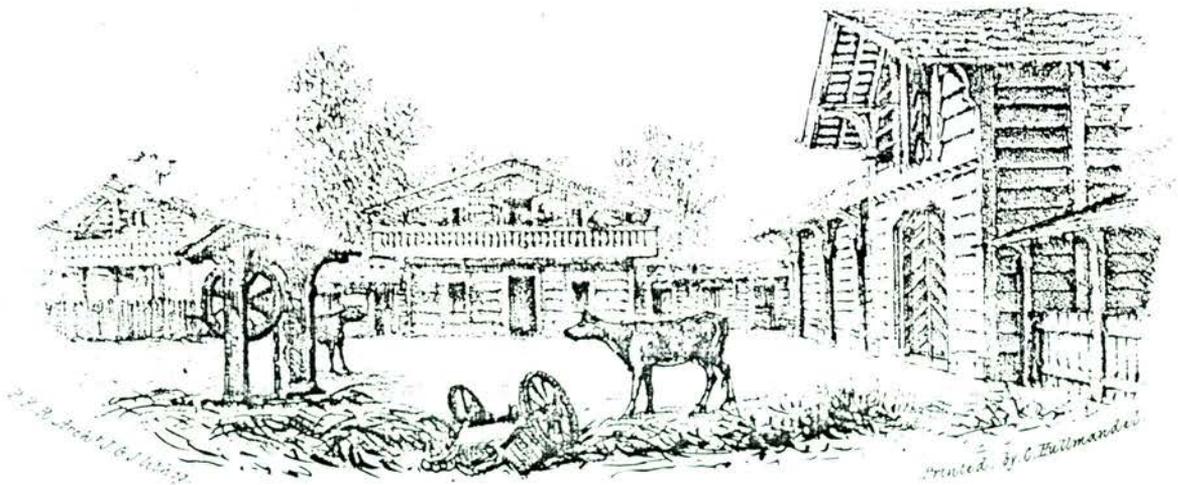


DESIGN N<sup>o</sup>. 13. PL. 28. FARMYARD.

OLD ENGLISH

London Pub<sup>d</sup> by Carpenter & Son Old Bond Street November 1827

11 Design for a farmyard (No. 13) in the Old English style from P.F. Robinson, *Designs for Farm Buildings*, 1829.



DESIGN N<sup>o</sup>. 13. PL. 29. FARM YARD.

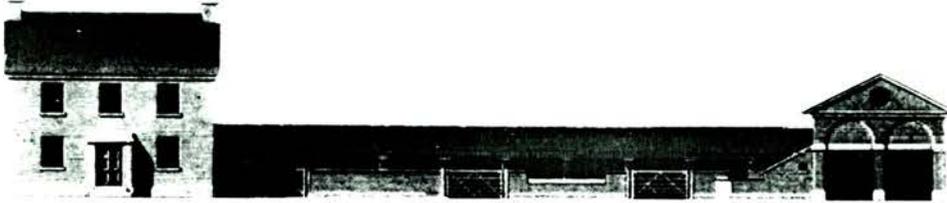
SWISS.

London Pub<sup>d</sup> by Carpenter & Son Old Bond Street Dec<sup>r</sup> 1827

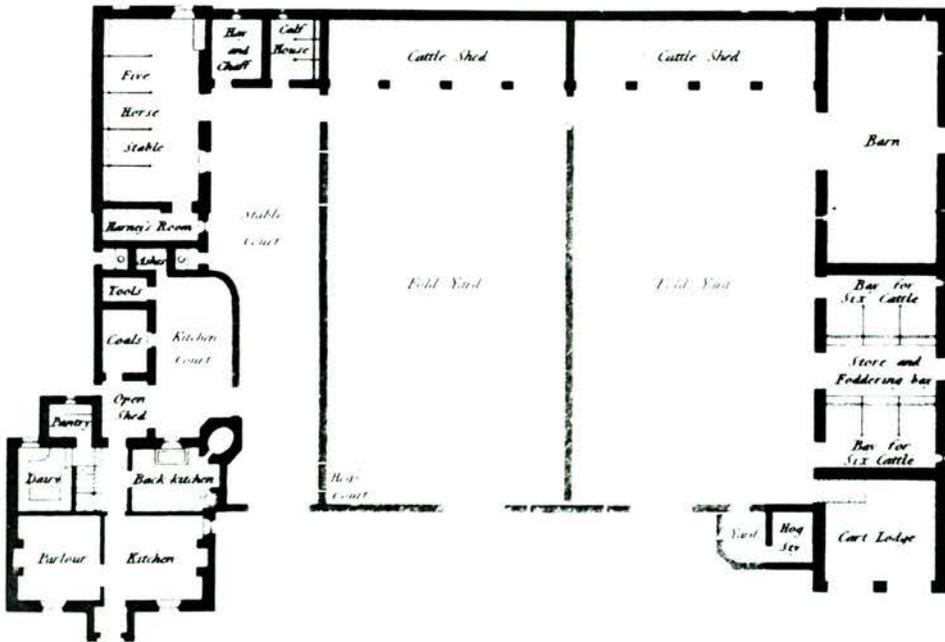
12 Design for a farmyard (No. 13) in the Swiss style from P.F. Robinson, *Designs for Farm Buildings*, 1829.

FARM HOUSE AND OUT-BUILDINGS.

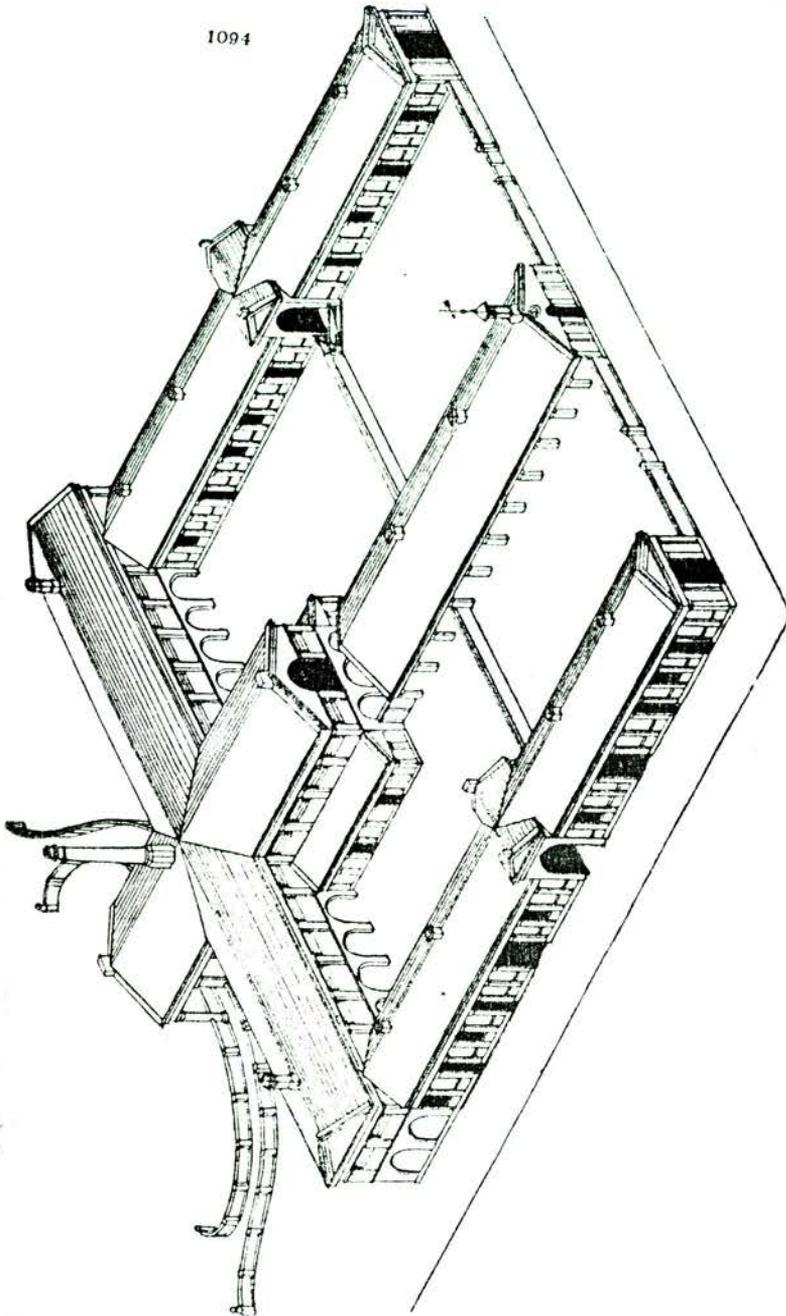
Nº V.



*South Elevation*



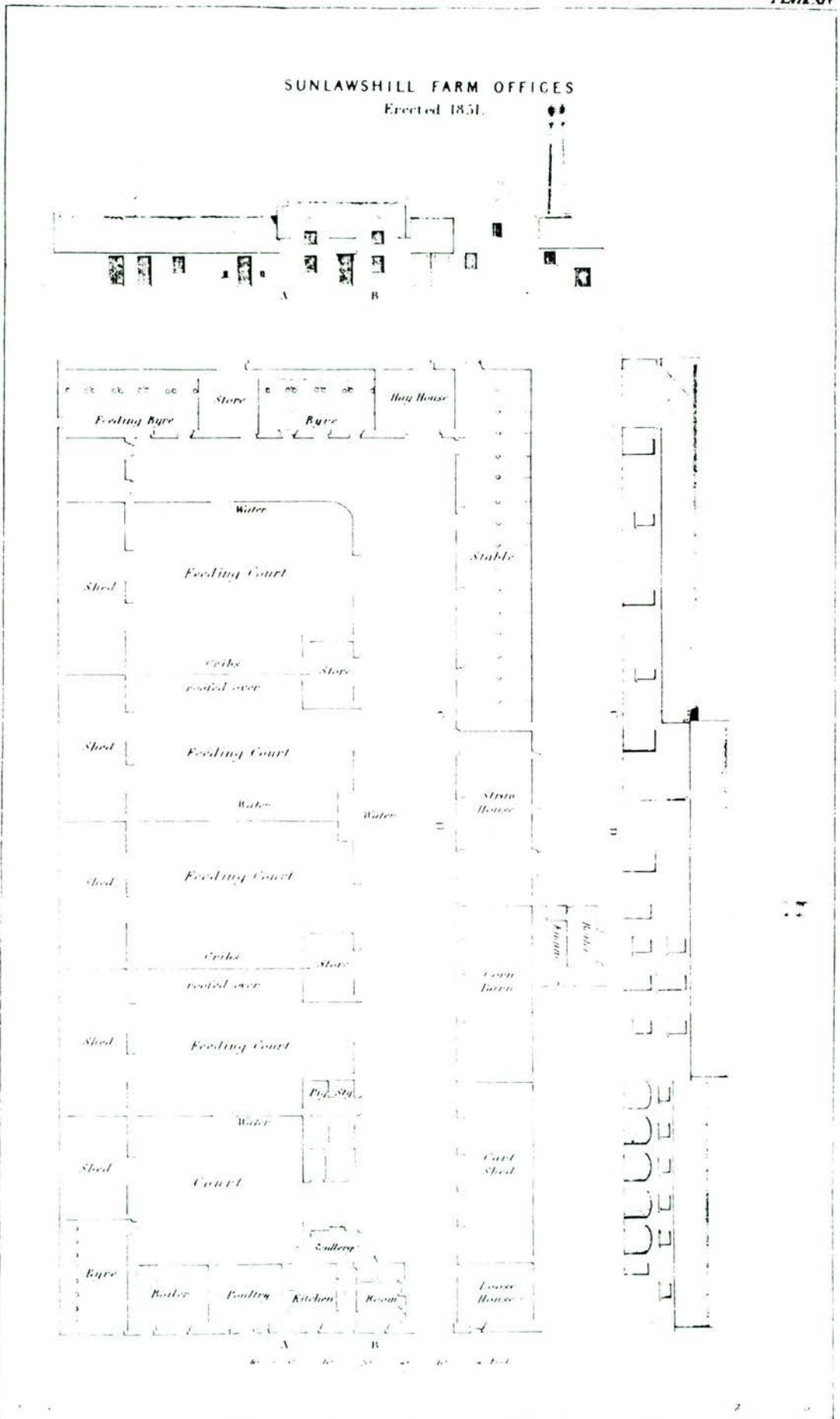
1094



variable for a door or window, but also for a single stall in a stable or cow-house, viz., 8 feet and a half from centre to centre; but this is by no means necessary, and we have only adopted it for the sake of illustrating some observations on temporary and portable

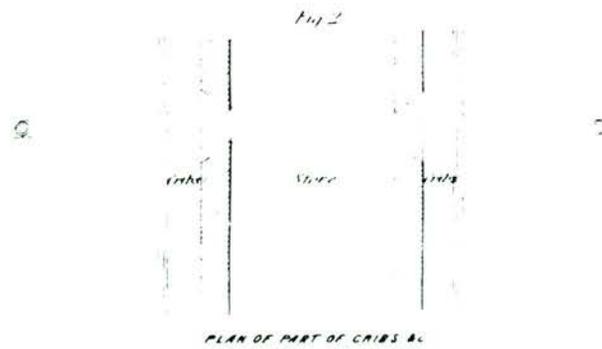
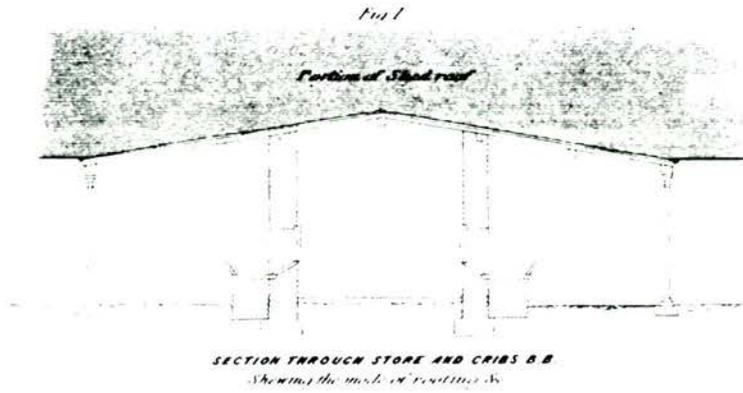
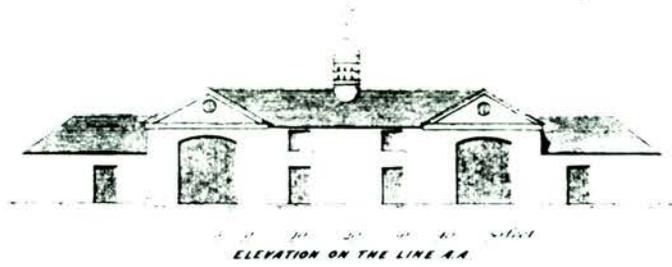
3 q

14 Design for a farmery in the Grecian style from J.C.Loudon, *Encyclopaedia of Cottage, Farm and Villa Architecture and Furniture*, 1833.



15 Plan and elevation of Sunlawshill Farm Offices from W.J.Gray, *Treatise on Rural Architecture*, 1852.

FARM OFFICES N° 2



Scale, 5000000/100



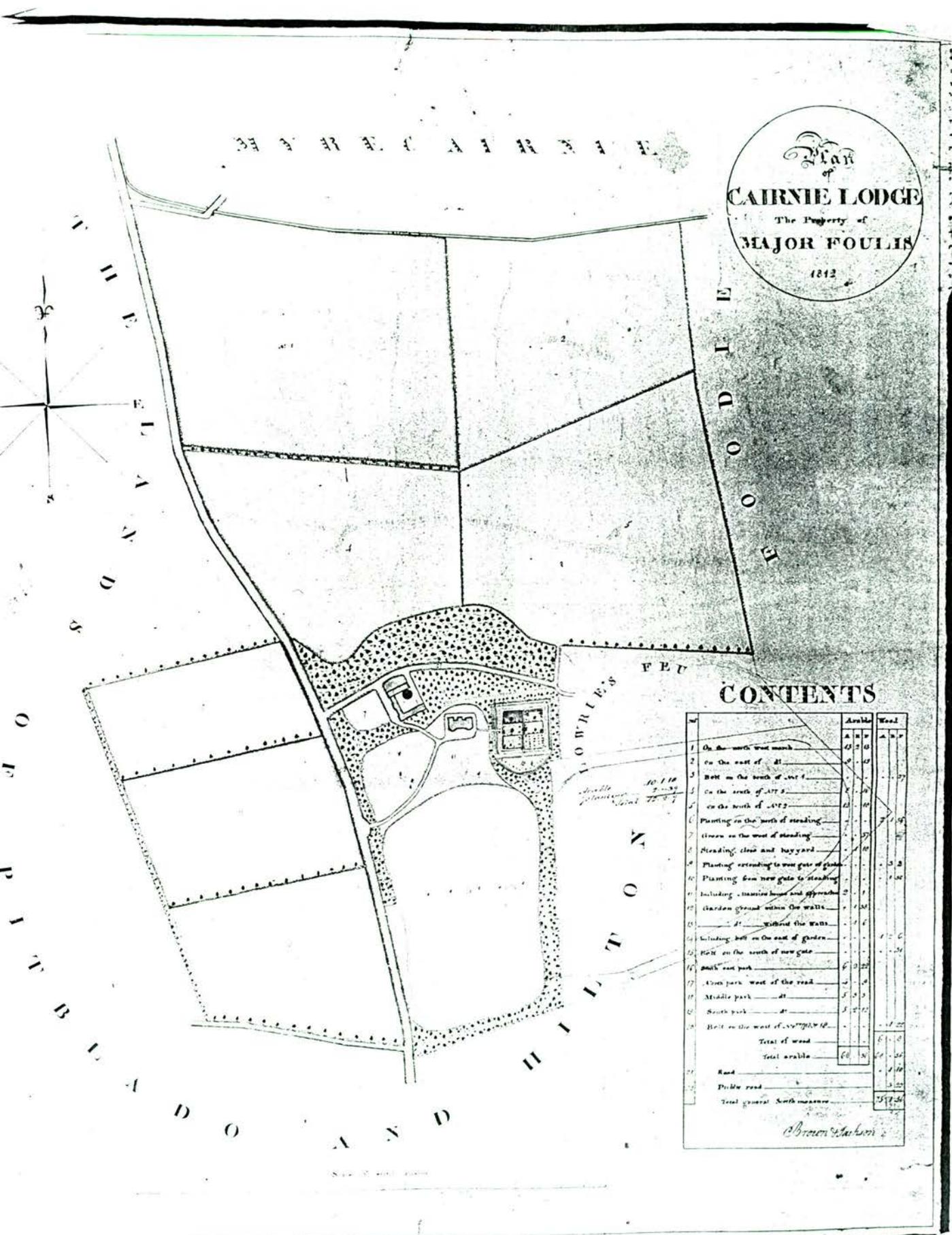


18 Cairnie Lodge Home Farm, west elevation, in 1988.



19 Cairnie Lodge Home Farm, north elevation, in 1988.





  
 Plan  
 of  
**CAIRNIE LODGE**  
 The Property of  
**MAJOR FOULIS**  
 1812

**CONTENTS**

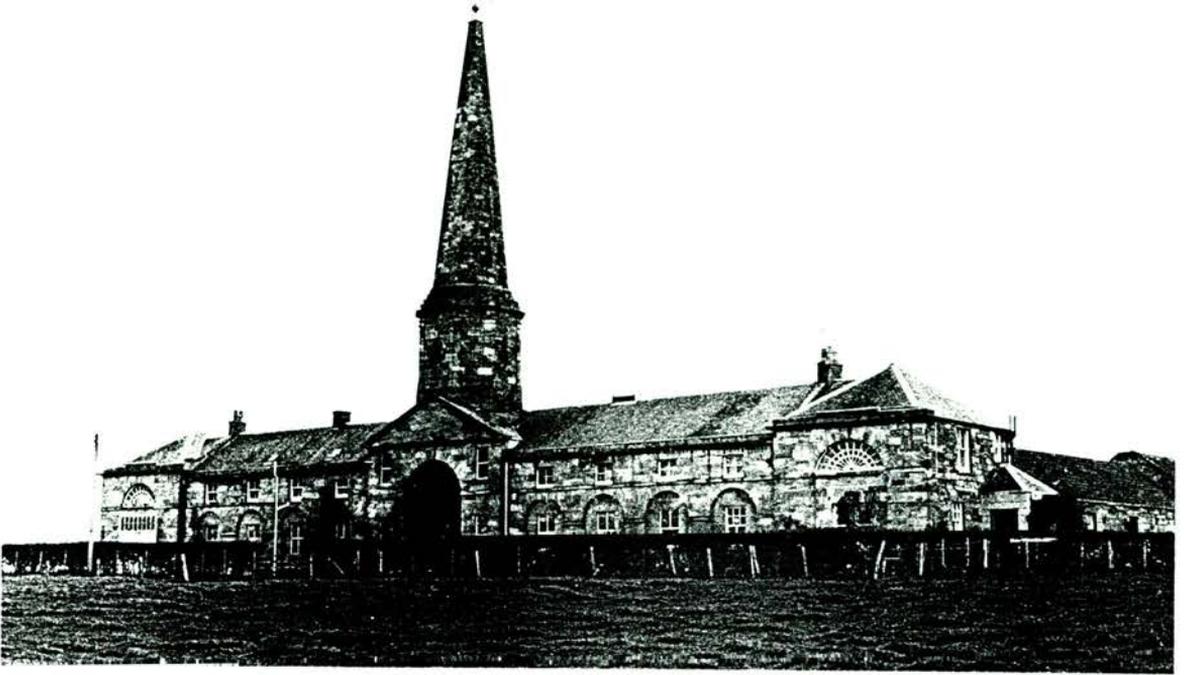
No	Description	Arable		Wood	
		Acres	Roods	Acres	Roods
1	On the north west marsh	43	0		
2	On the east of do	0	10		
3	Belt on the south of do				27
4	On the south of do	1	28		
5	On the south of do	13	10		
6	Planting on the north of standing			7	10
7	Green on the west of standing		27		
8	Standing close and hayyard		10		
9	Planting extending to west gate of garden			3	3
10	Planting from new gate to standing				1 1/2
11	Including staircase and approach	2	1		
12	Garden ground within the walls	1	53		
13	do without the walls	1	1		
14	Including belt on the east of garden			1	2
15	Belt on the south of new gate				2 1/2
16	South east park	6	3 1/2		
17	Open park west of the road	2	1		
18	Middle park do	5	5 1/2		
19	South park do	5	2 1/2		
20	Belt on the west of do				17 1/2
	Total of wood			61	0
	Total arable	68	50		
21	Road			1	10
22	Public road				3 1/2
	Total general South measure			157	3 1/2

*Brown & Ashburn*

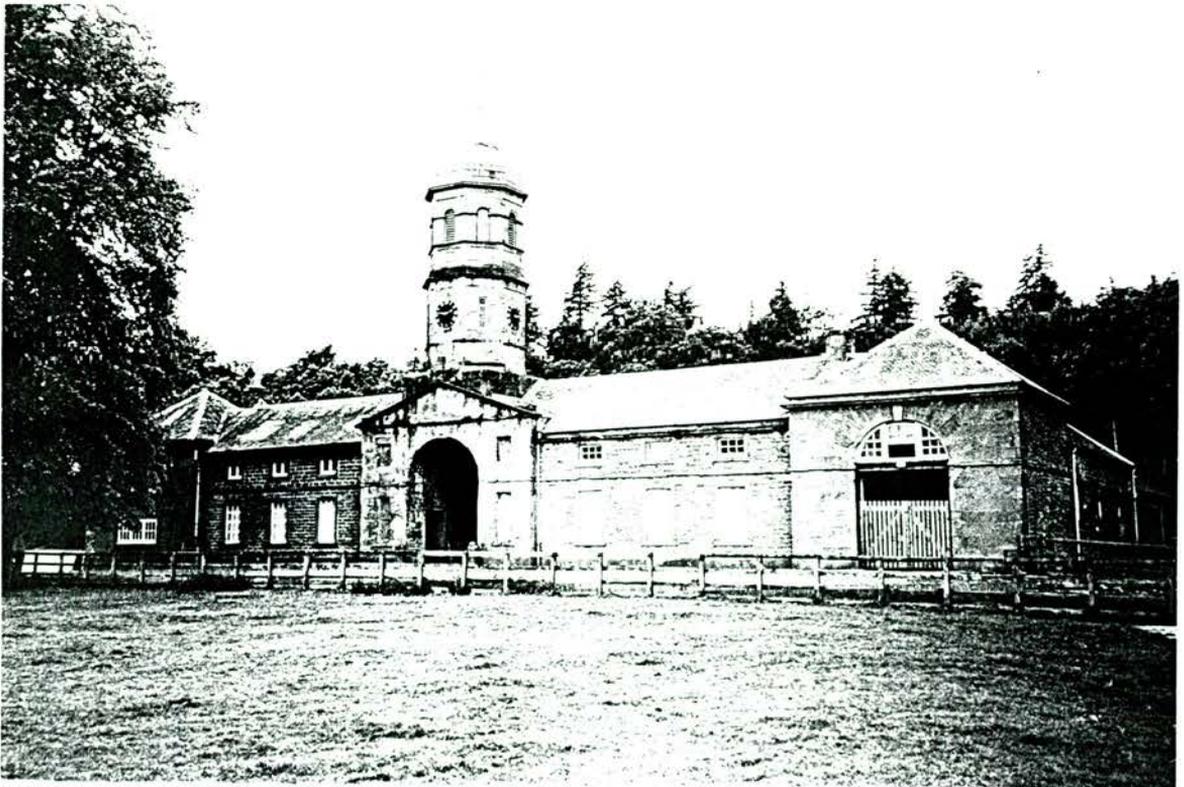
21 Plan of the estate of Cairnie Lodge, 1812. By courtesy of Mr Laird of Cairnie Lodge.



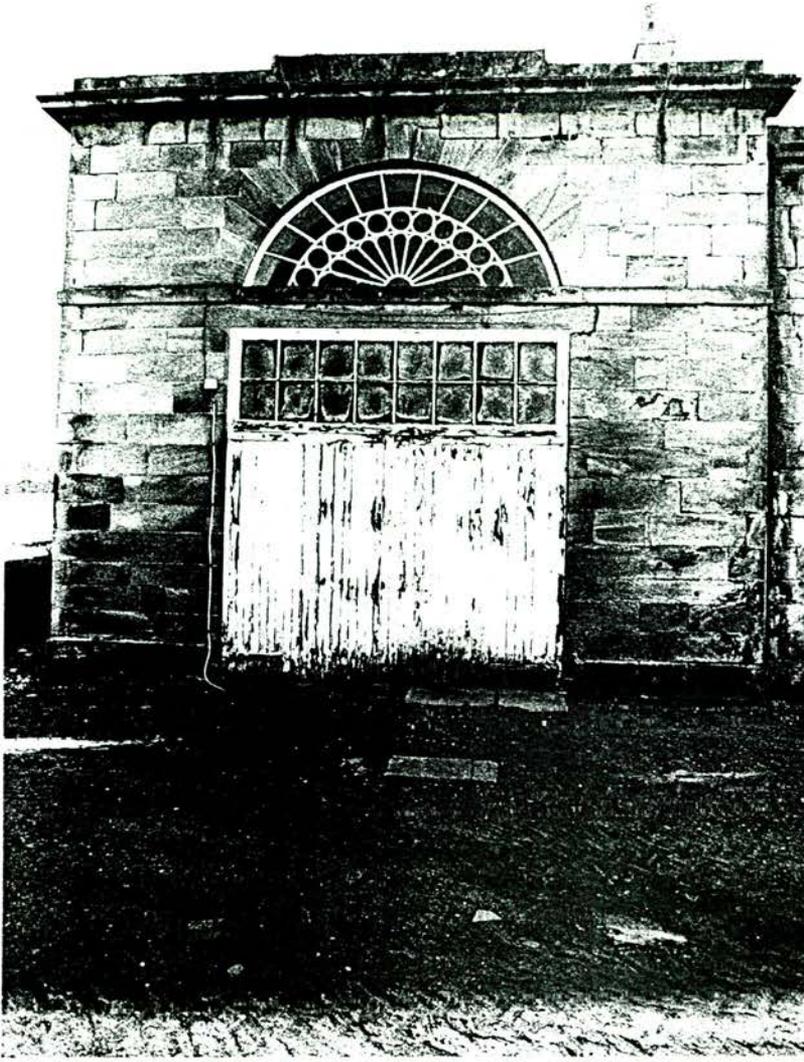




24 Tarvit Home Farm, north elevation, in 1988.



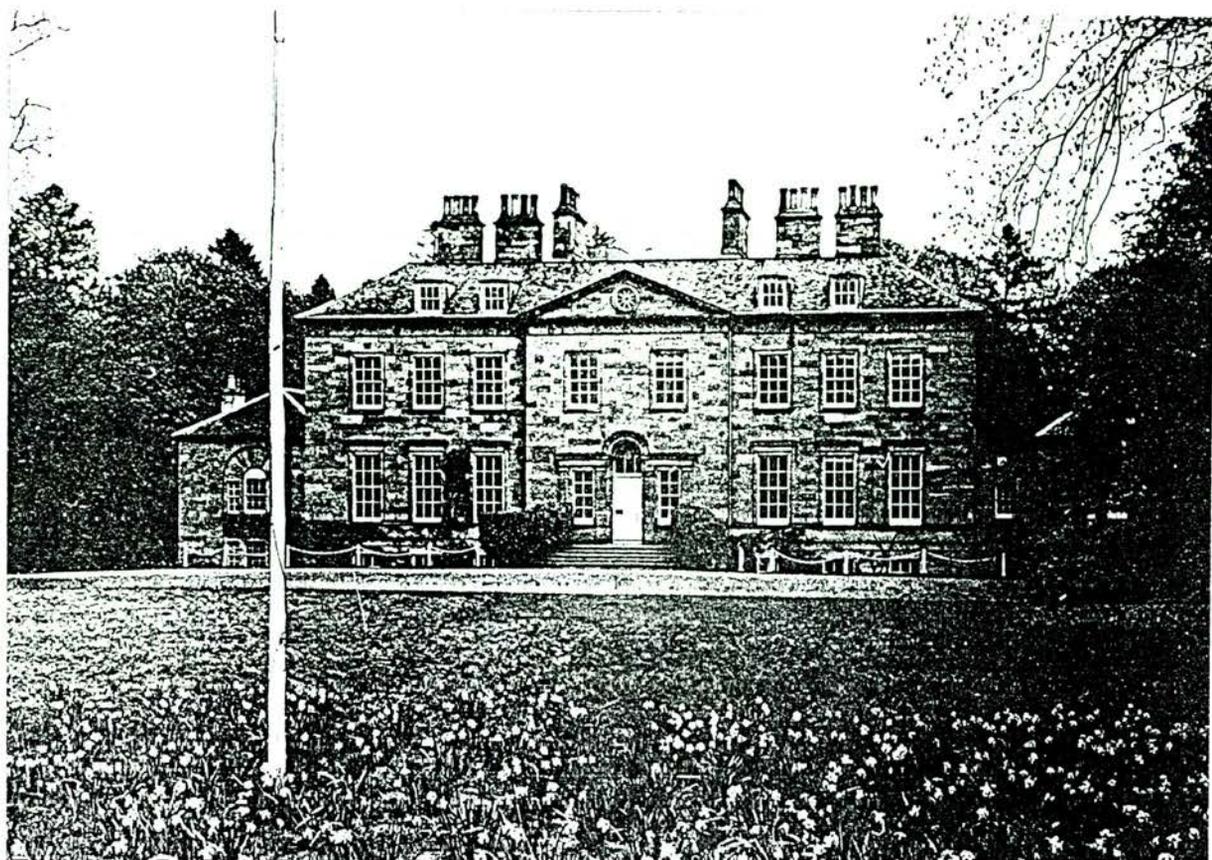
25 Doune Park Home Farm, south elevation, in 1988.



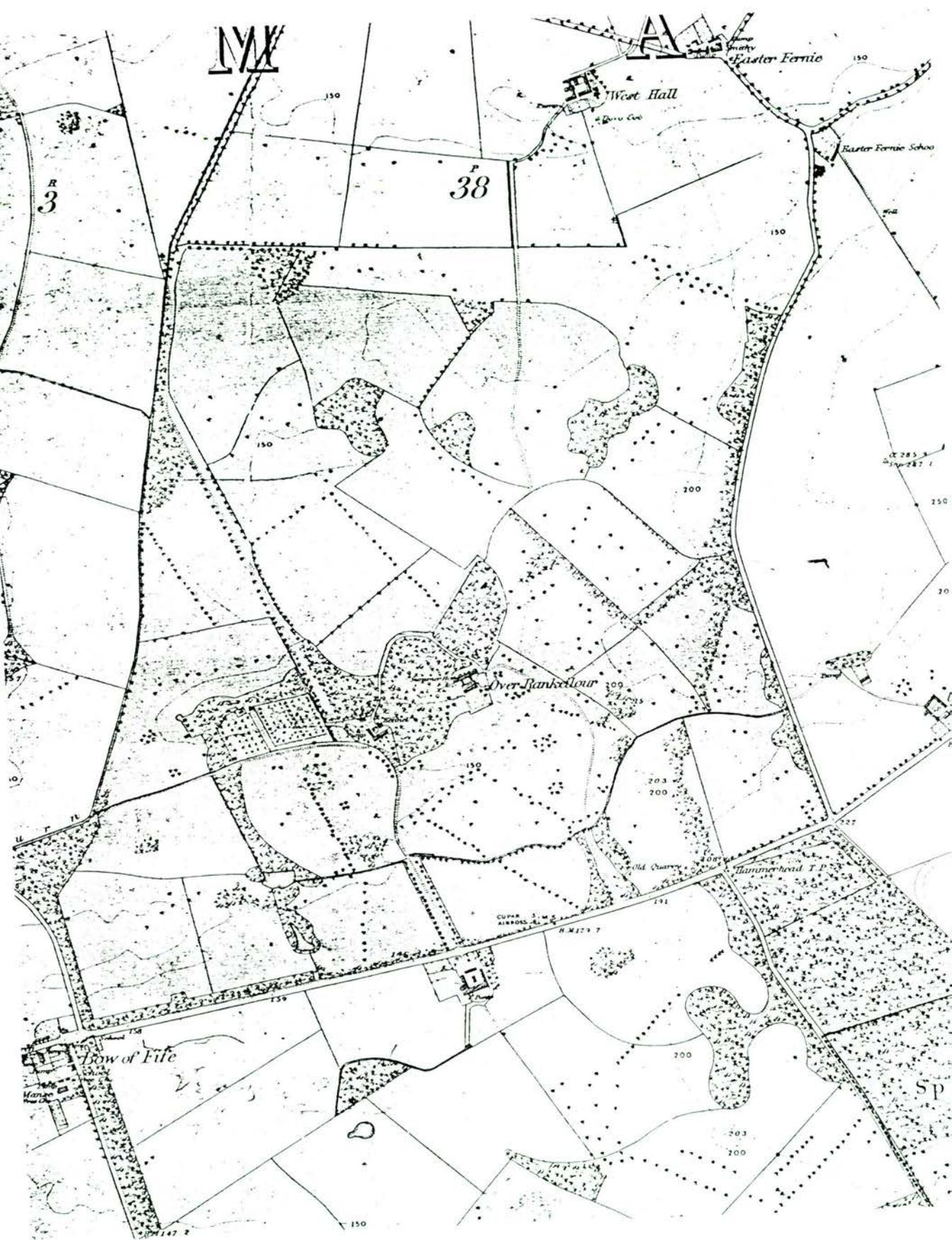
26 Tarvit Home Farm, east coach house, in 1988.



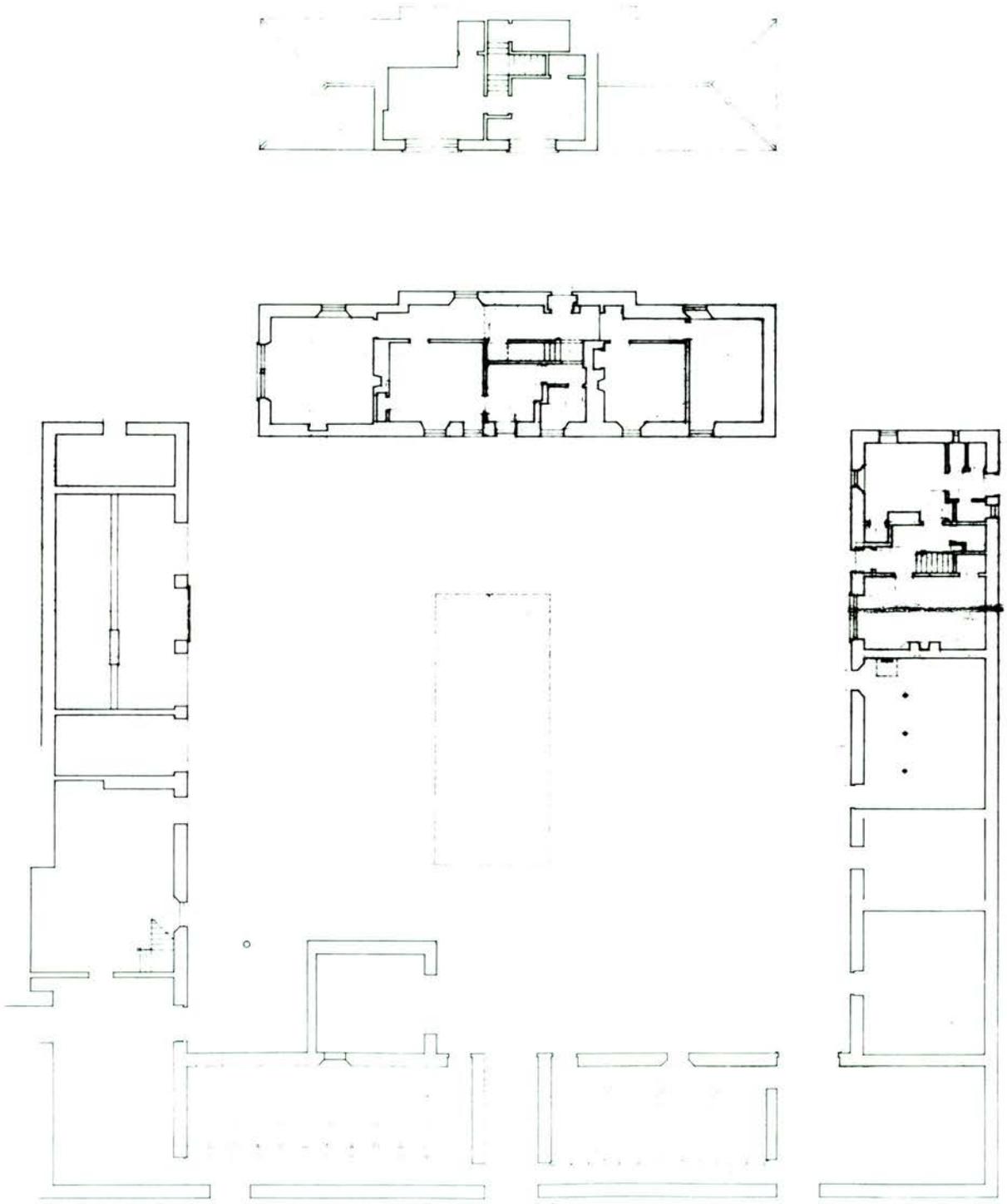
27 Part of Sharp, Greenwood and Fowler's map of Fife and Kinross, 1828, showing North Fife.



28 Tarvit House, south elevation, pre-1963, National  
Monuments Record of Scotland.



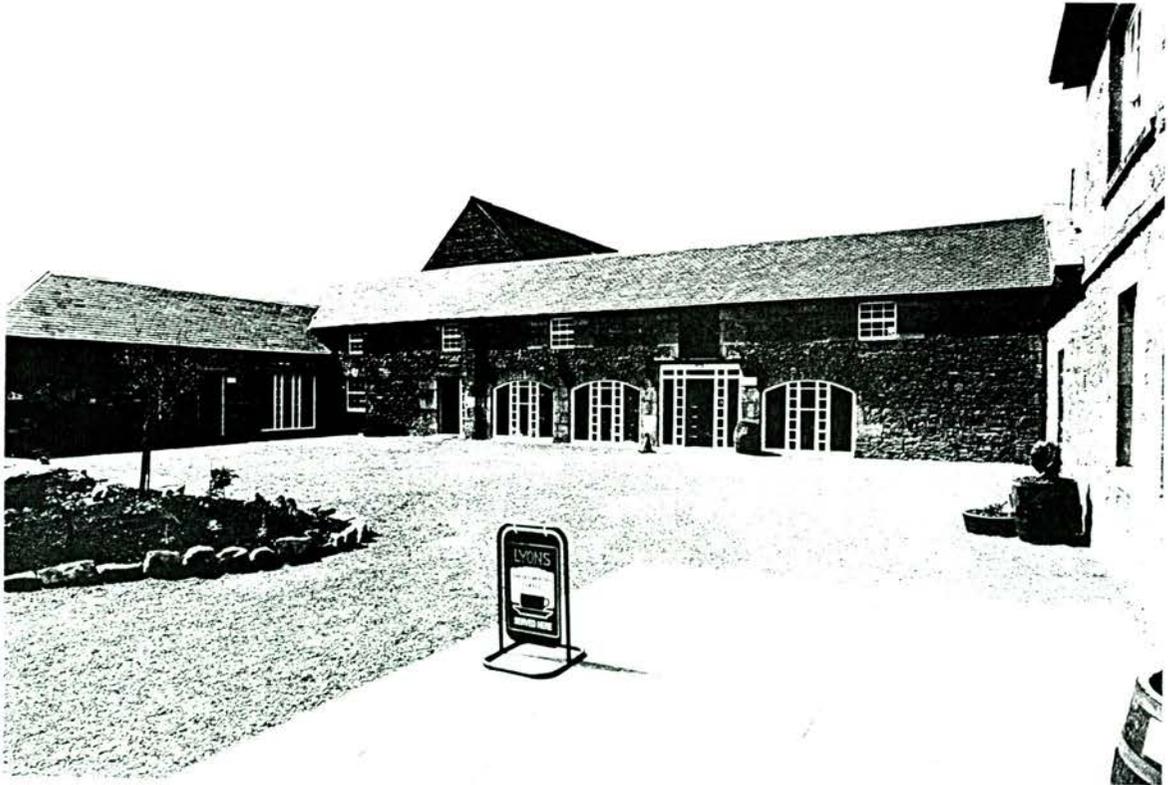
29 Part of the 6-inch Ordnance Survey map, 1855, showing the estate of Over Rankeillour.



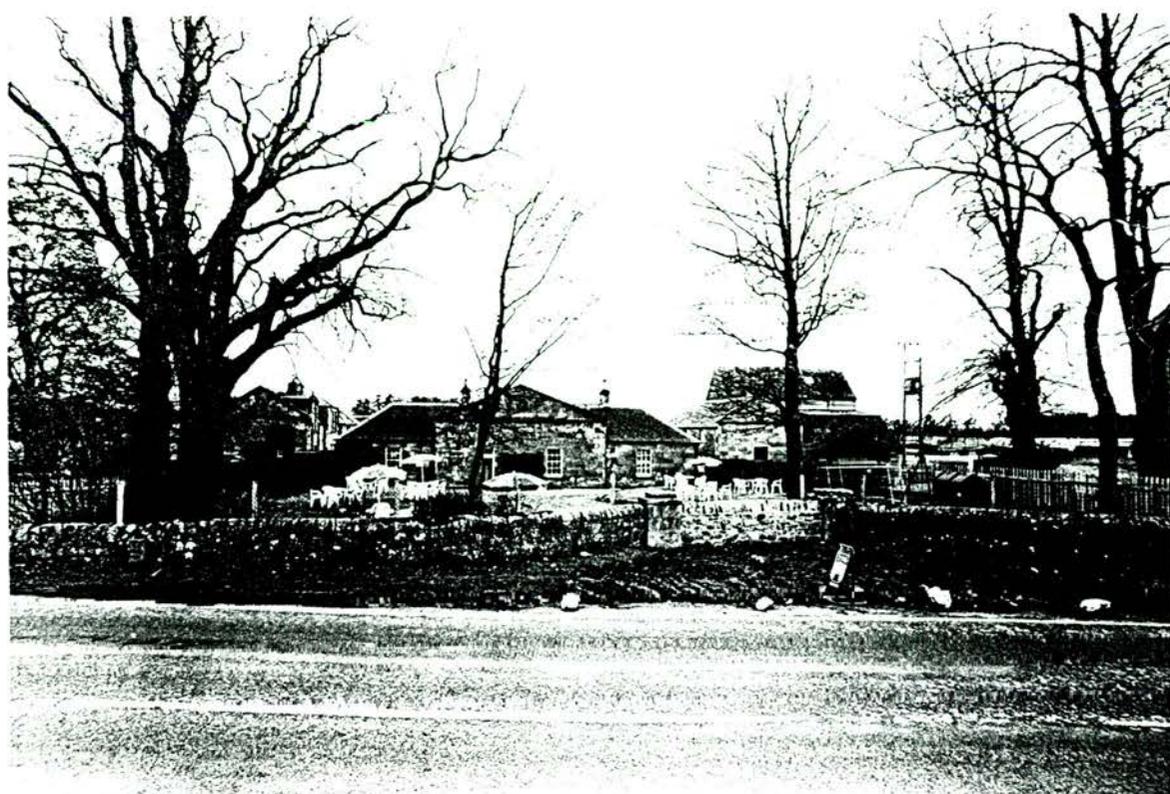
30 Ground plan of Over Rankeillour Home Farm in 1987.



31 Over Rankeillour Home Farm, west range from court, in 1987.



32 Over Rankeillour Home Farm, west range from court, in 1988.



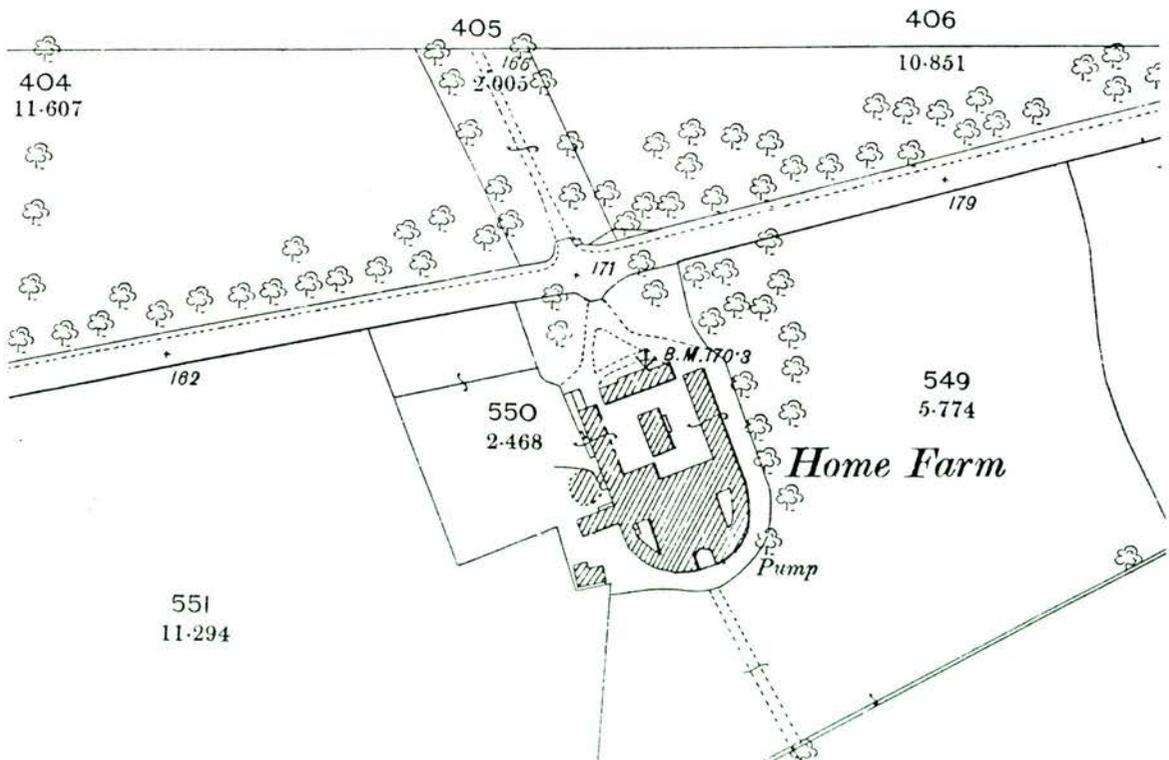
33 Over Rankeillour Home Farm, north elevation, in 1988.



34 Over Rankeillour Home Farm, loft opening to granary and sheaf loft in west range, in 1988.



35 Over Rankeillour Home Farm, interior of the east byre in the south range, in 1988.



36 Part of the 25-inch Ordnance Survey map, 1893, showing Over Rankeillour Home Farm.





38 Part of Ainslie's map of Fife, 1801, showing North Fife.



39 Over Rankeillour House, south elevation, in 1988.



40 Over Rankeillour Stable Block, south elevation, in 1988.

SCOTTISH RECORD OFFICE					
1	2	3	4	5	6
	1			2	

Reference:-

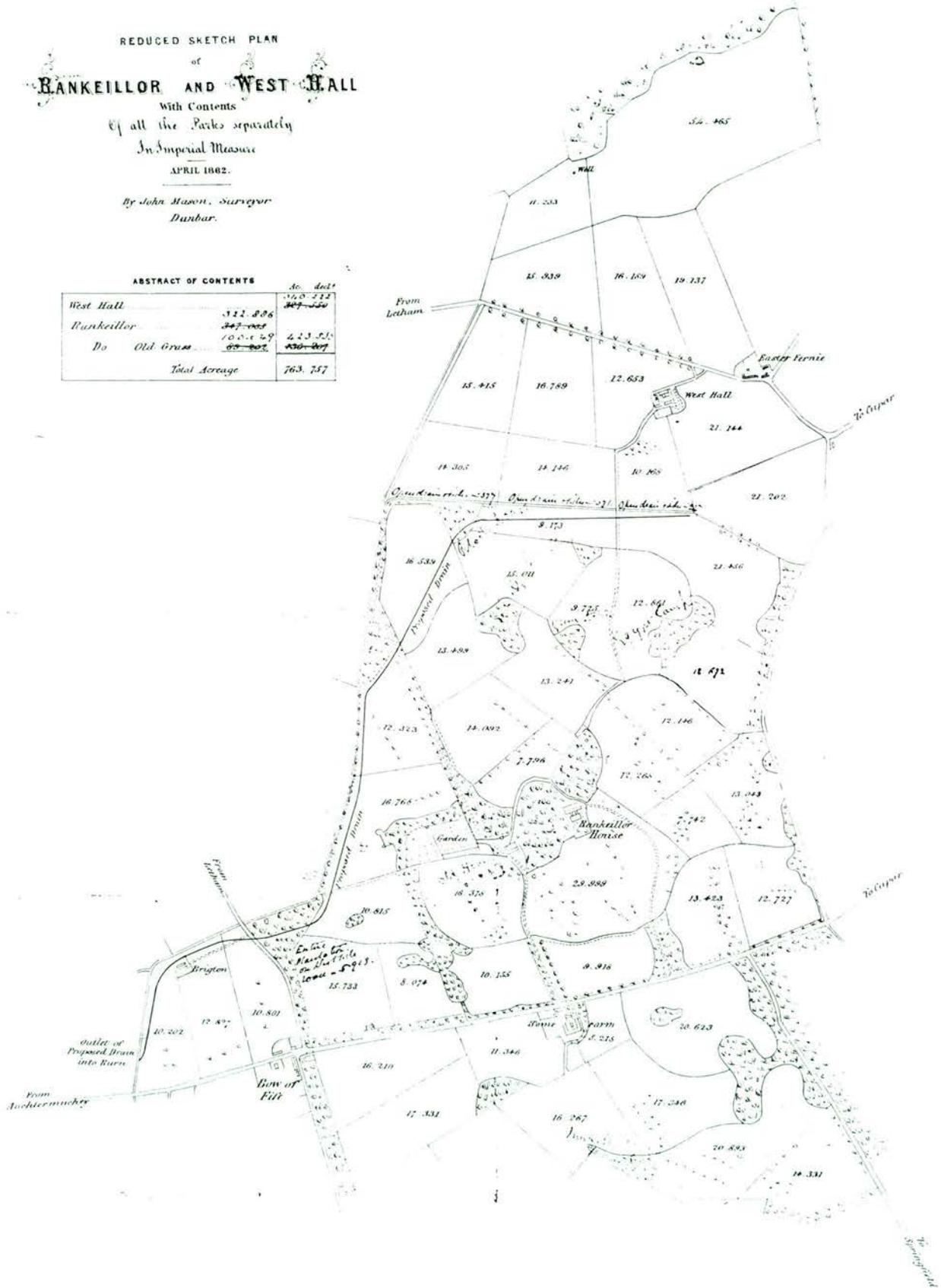
RHP 42589

COPYRIGHT NOT TO BE REPRODUCED PHOTOGRAPHICALLY WITHOUT PERMISSION

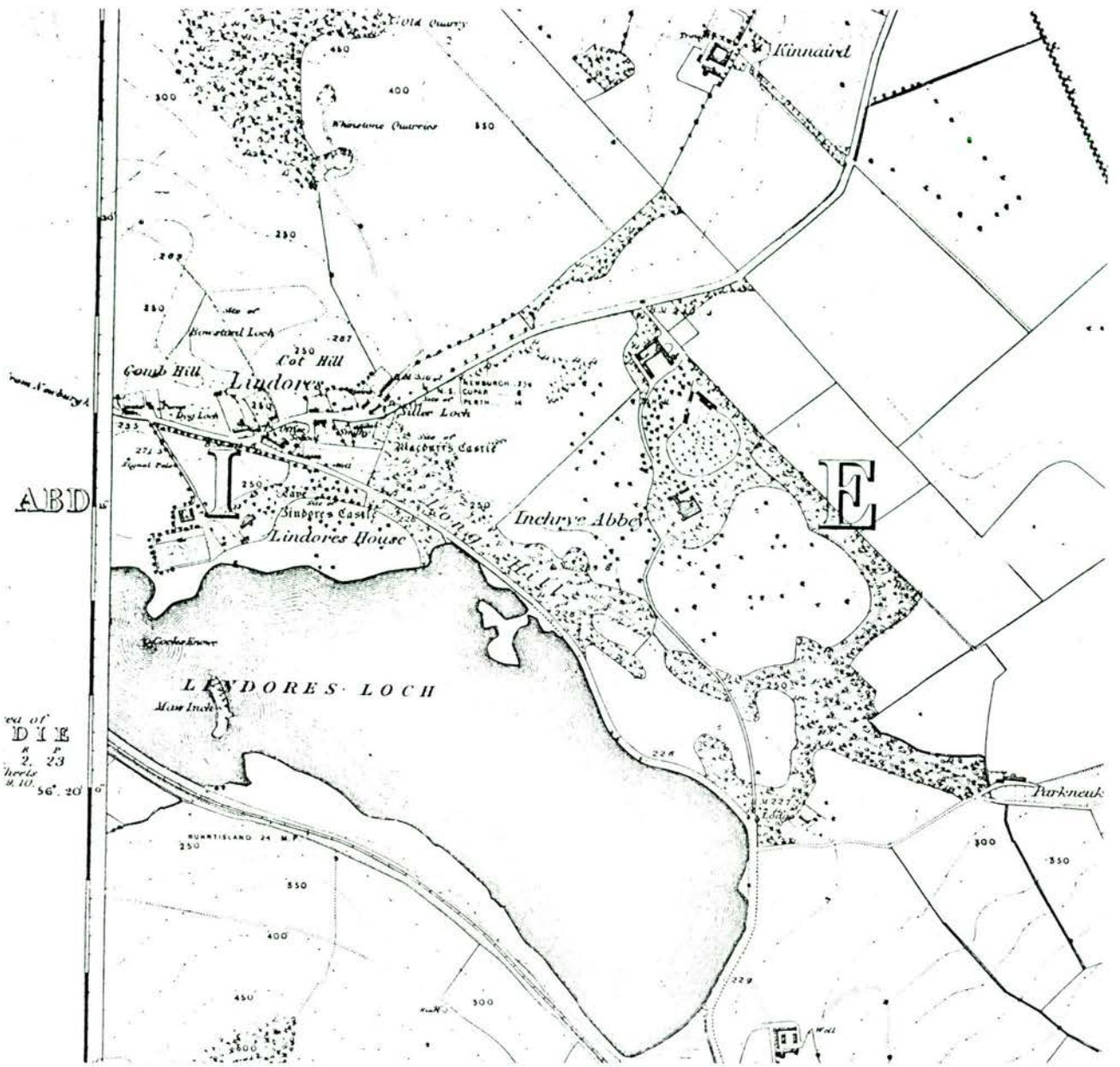
REDUCED SKETCH PLAN  
of  
**RANKEILLOR AND WEST HALL**  
With Contents  
Of all the Parks separately  
In Imperial Measure  
APRIL 1862.  
By John Mason, Surveyor  
Dunbar.

ABSTRACT OF CONTENTS

	Ac.	Dec.
West Hall	512.886	170.222
Rankeillor	247.002	807.550
Do Old Grass	10.000	623.551
	97.000	430.007
Total Acreage	763.757	



41 Plan of Over Rankeillour and Westhall with table of contents, 1862, Scottish Record Office (RHP 42589).



42 Part of the 6-inch Ordnance Survey map, 1855, showing the estate of Inchrye.



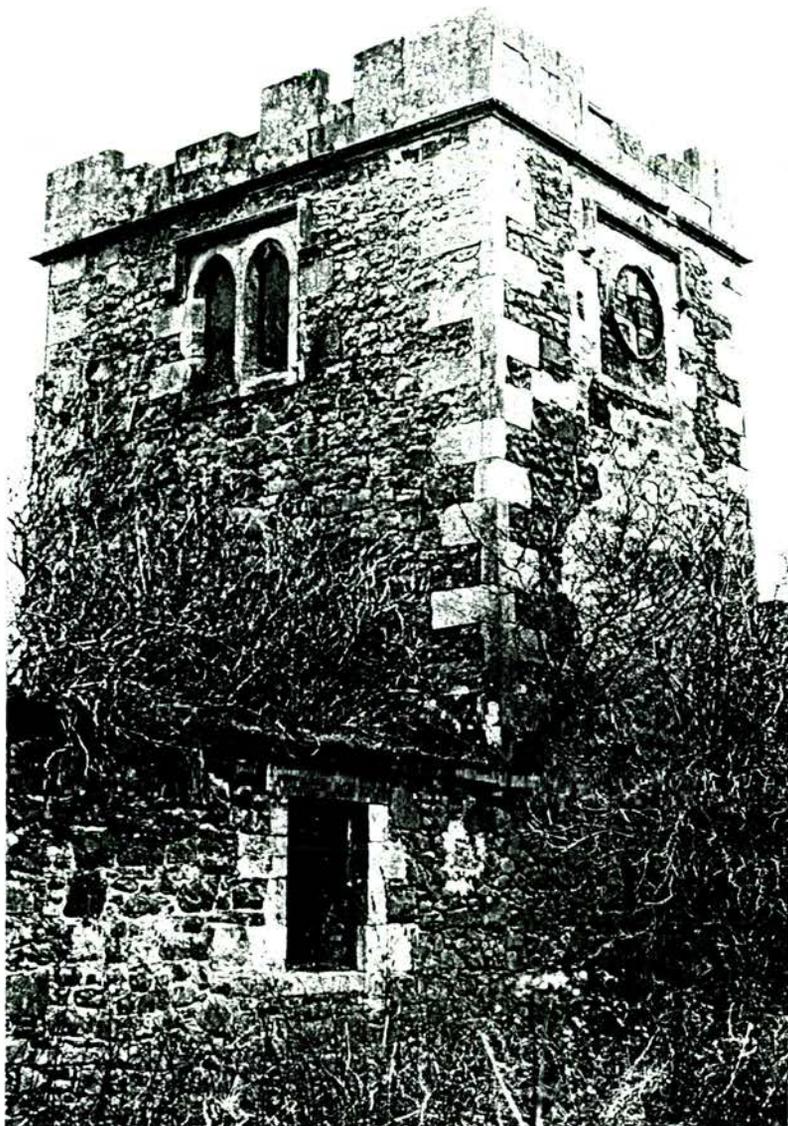
43 Inchrye Home Farm, west range (south end), in 1988.



44 Inchrye Home Farm, south elevation, in 1988.



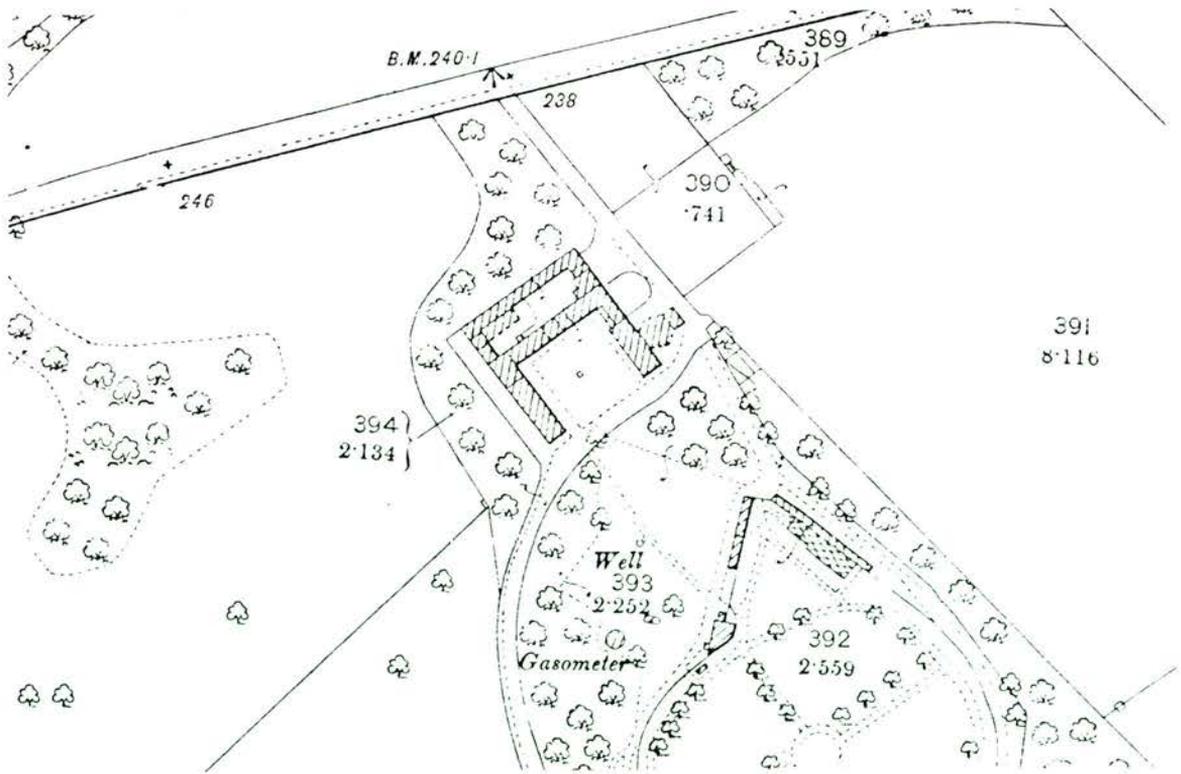
45 Inchrye Home Farm, west elevation, in 1988.



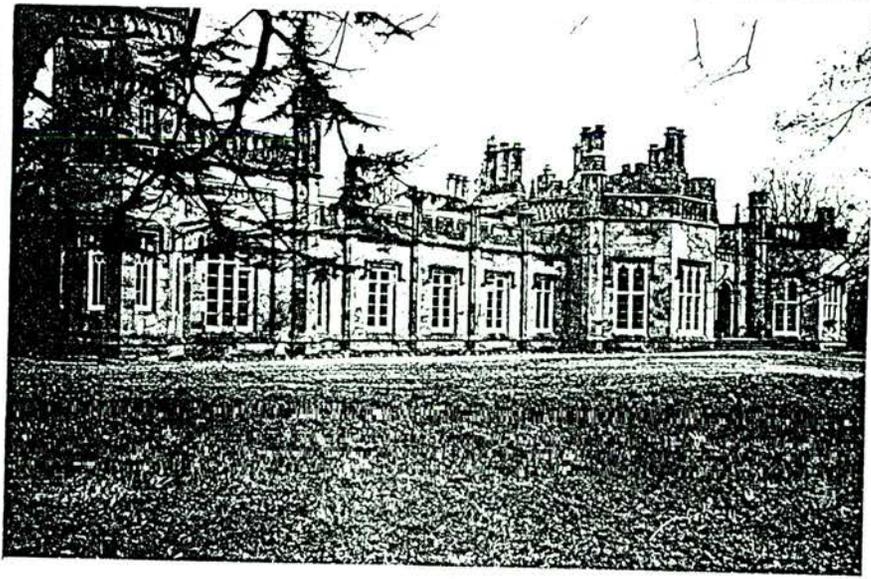
46 Inchrye Home Farm, tower containing dovecote, in 1988.



47 Inchrye Home Farm, interior of dairy, in 1988.



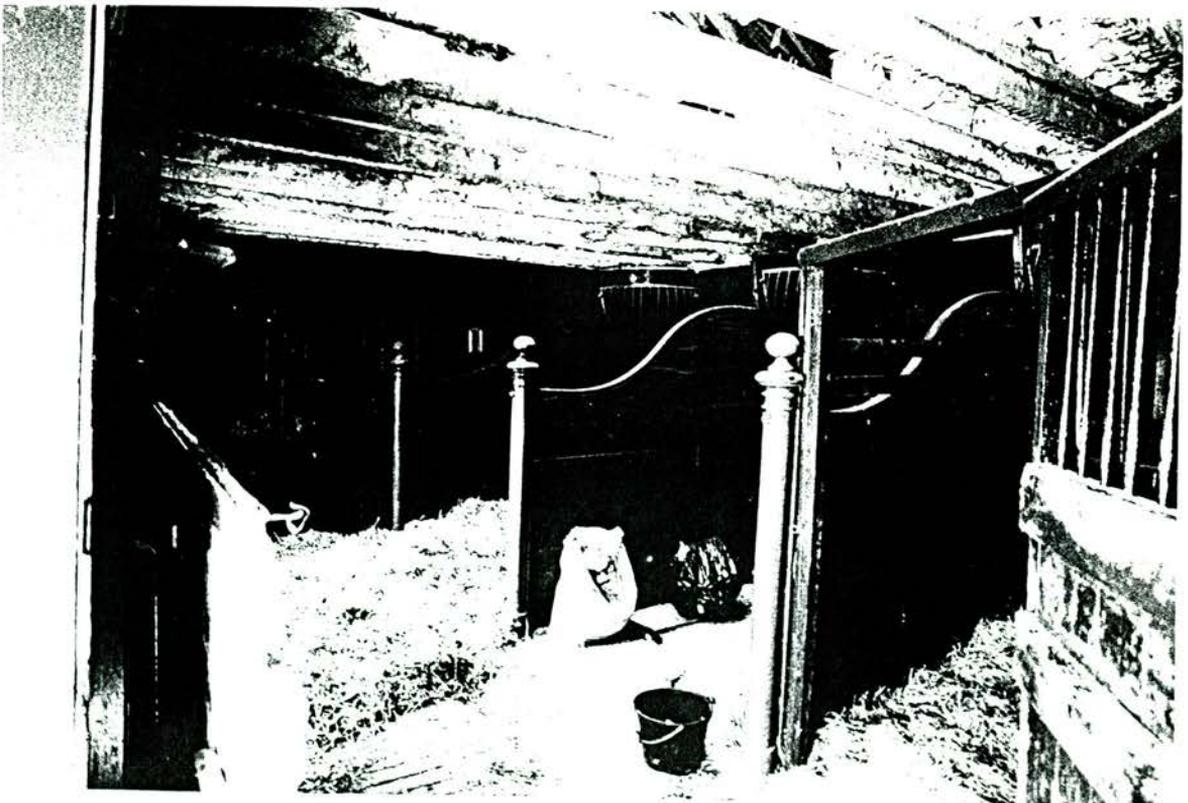
48 Part of the 25-inch Ordnance Survey map, 1893, showing Inchrye Home Farm.



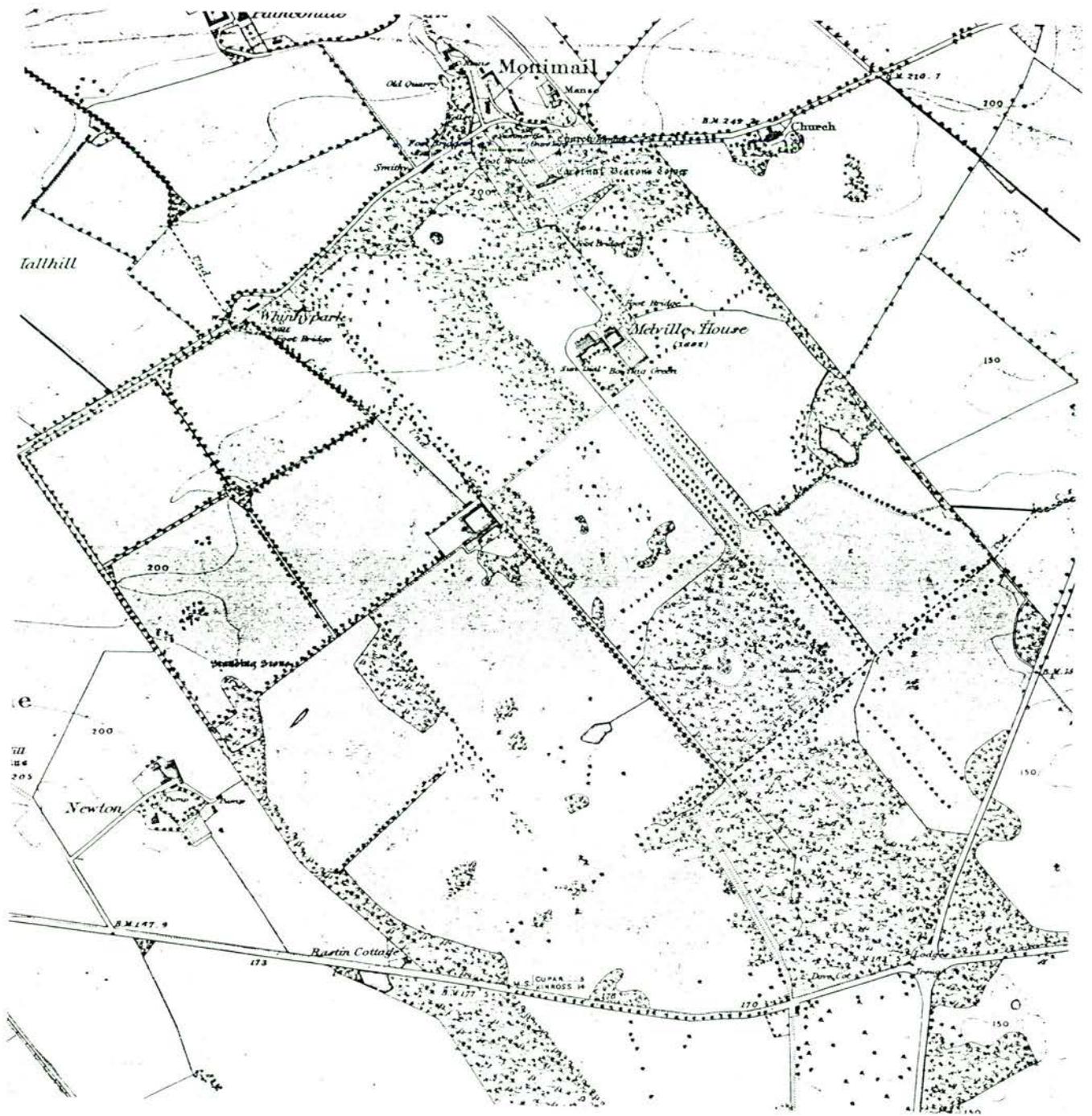
49 Inchrye Abbey, west elevation, undated, National  
Monuments Record of Scotland.



50 Kinloss Home Farm, south elevation, in 1988.



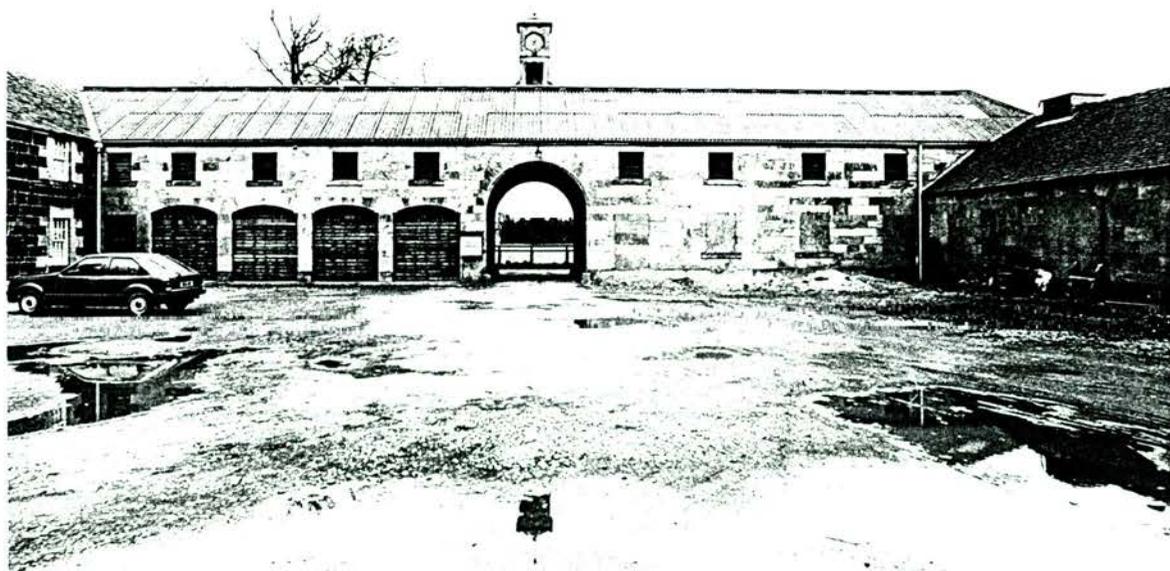
51 Kinloss Home Farm, interior of stable, in 1988.



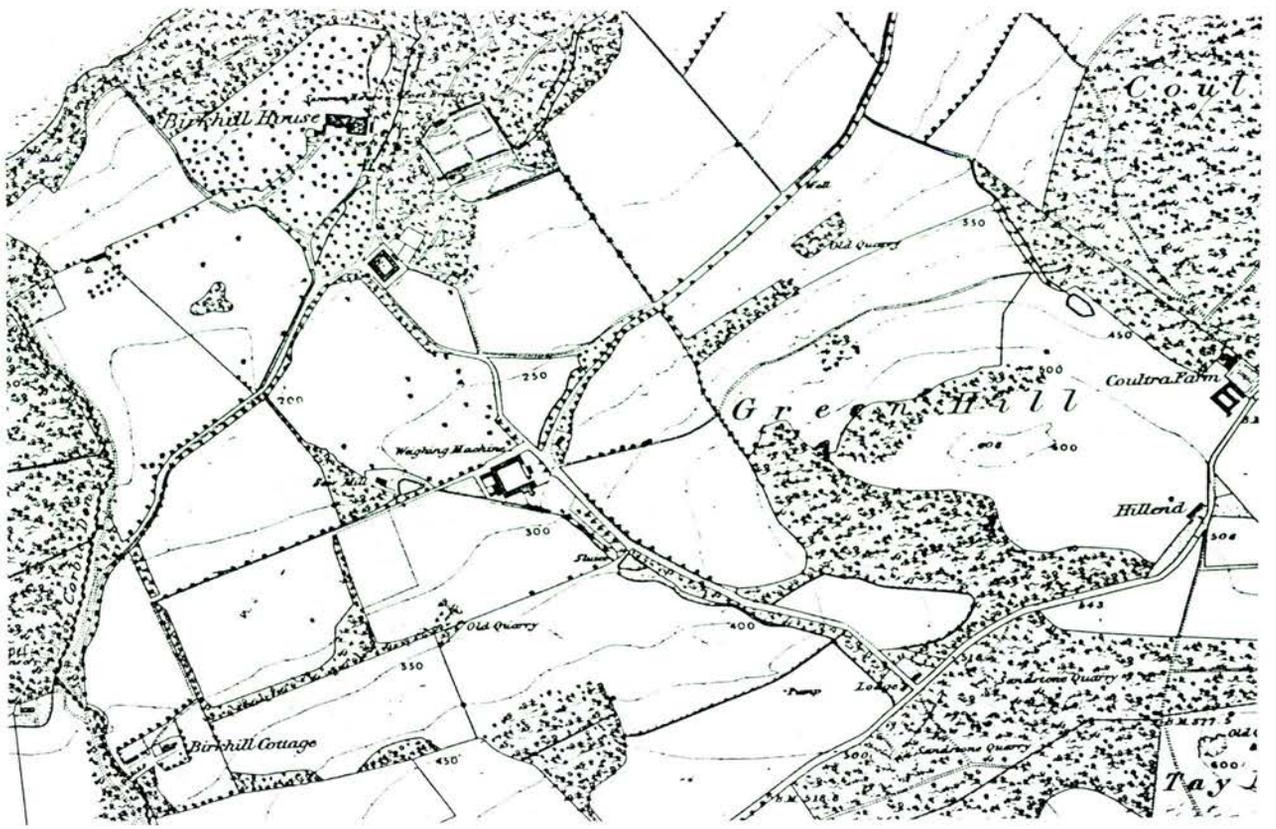
52 Part of the 6-inch Ordnance Survey map, 1855, showing the estate of Melville.



53 Melville Home Farm, east elevation, in 1988.



54 Melville Home Farm, east range from the court, in 1988.



55 Part of the 6-inch Ordnance Survey map, 1855, showing the estate of Birkhill.



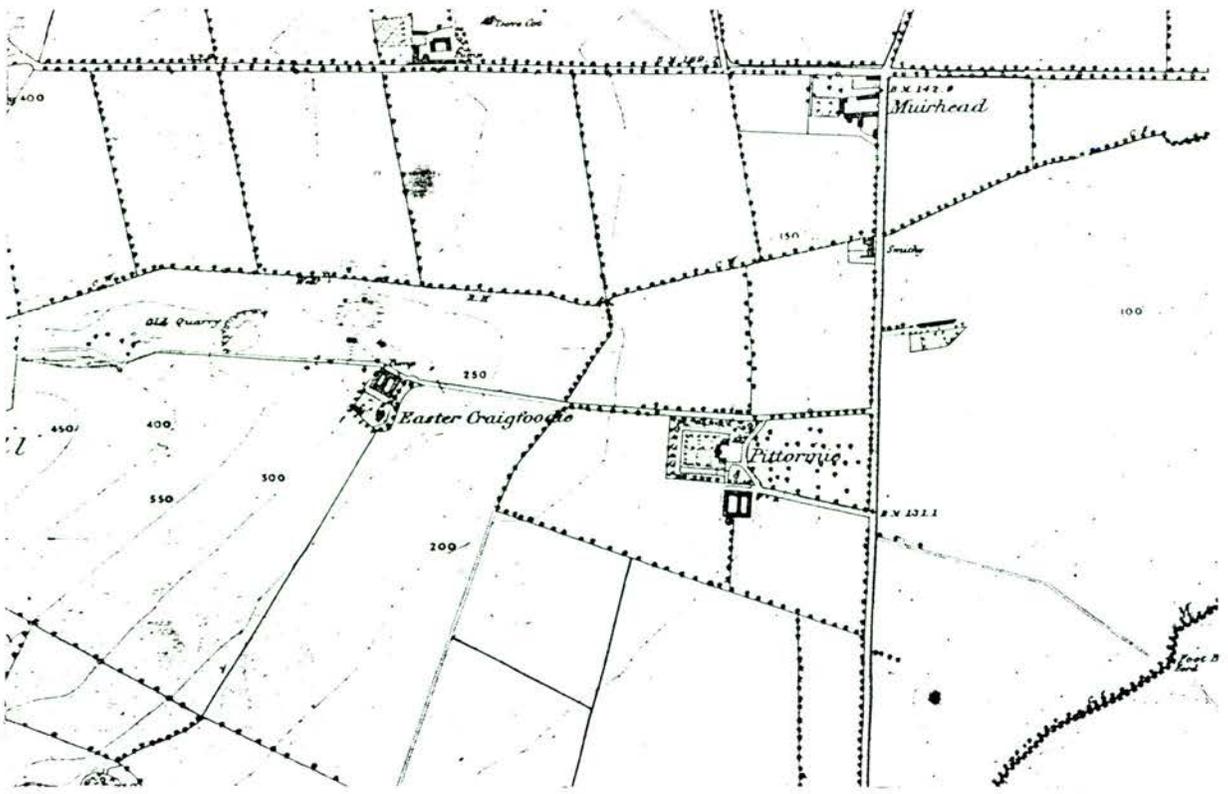
56 Birkhill Home Farm, north elevation, in 1988.



57 Birkhill Home Farm, south range from the court, in 1988.



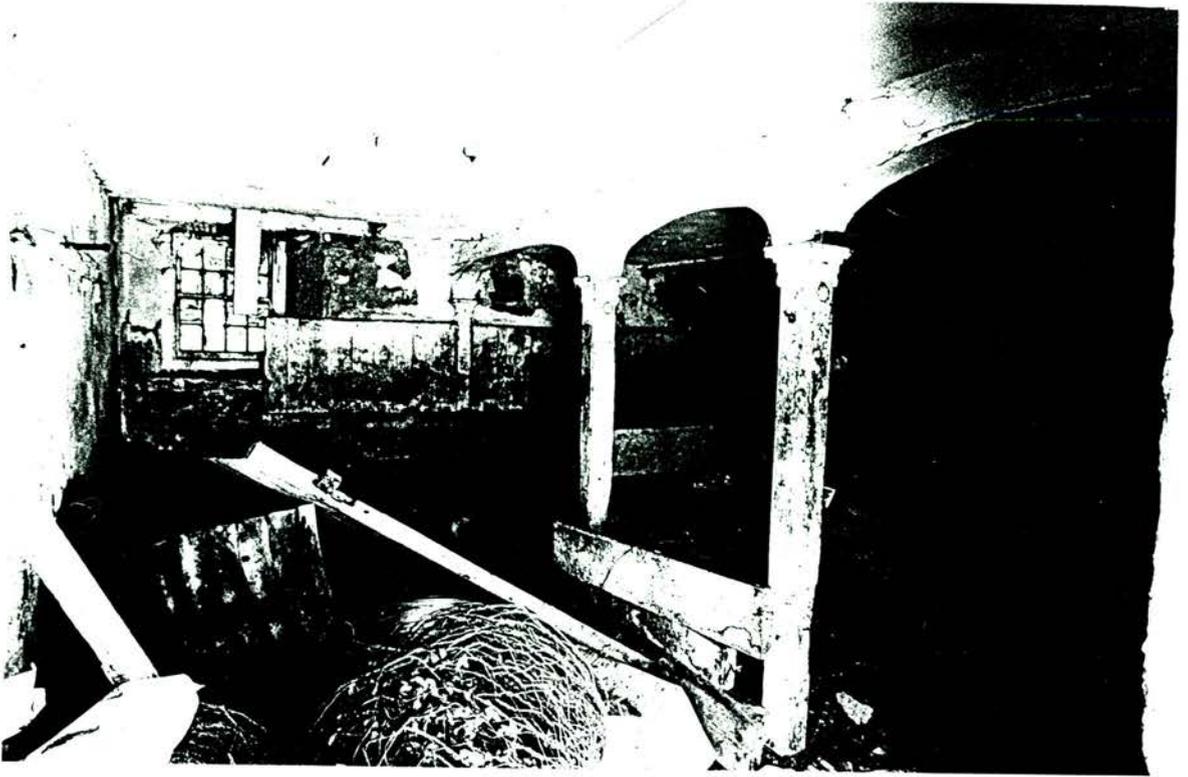
58 Birkhill Stable Block, west elevation, in 1988.



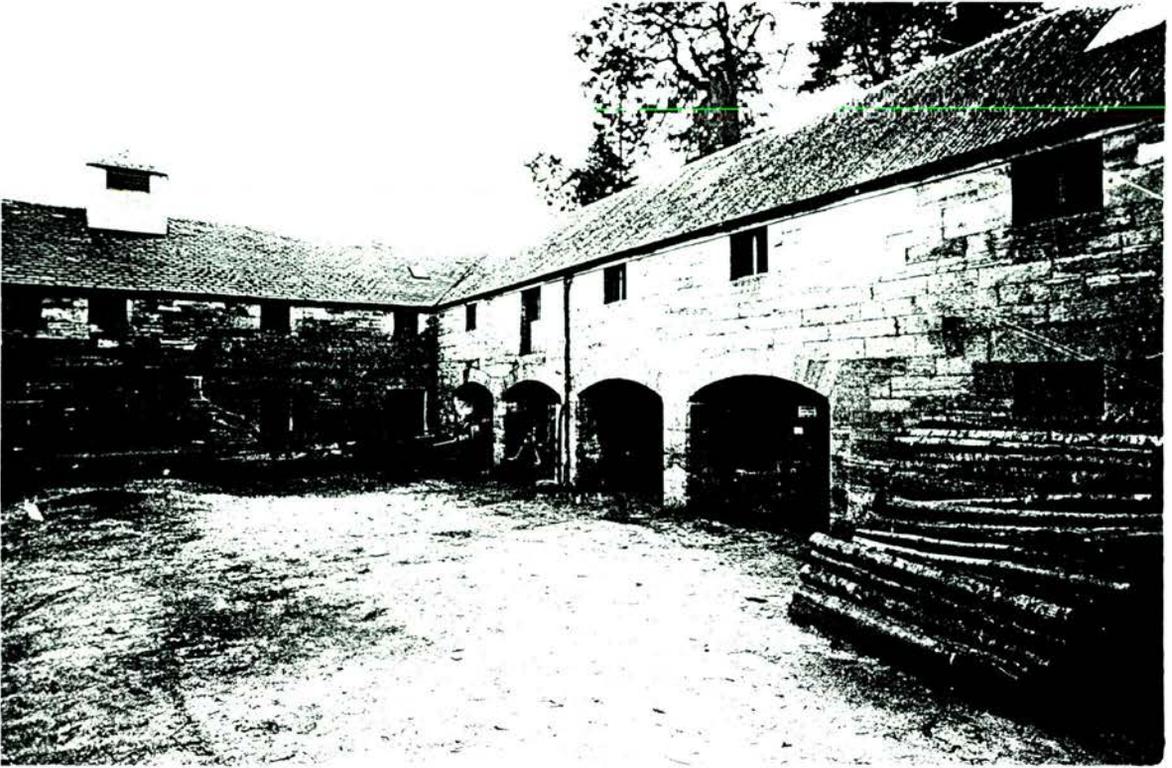
59 Part of the 6-inch Ordnance Survey map, 1855, showing the estate of Pittormie.



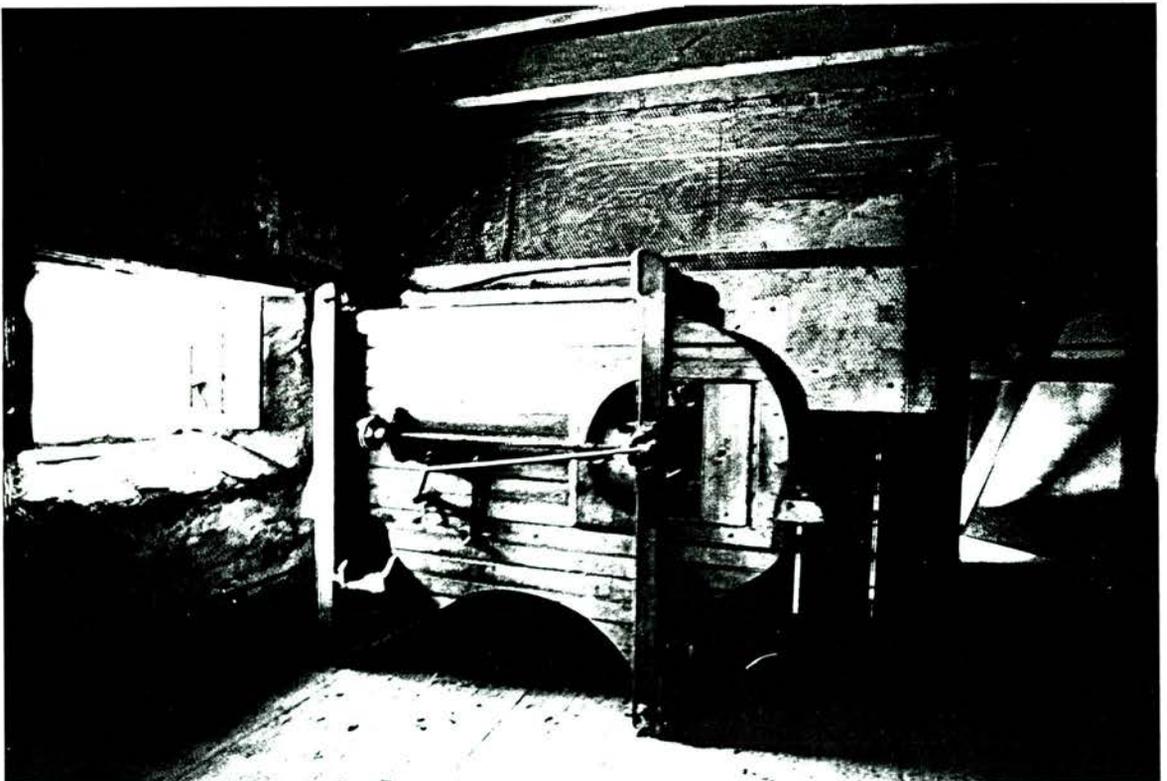
60 Pittormie Home Farm, east elevation, in 1988.



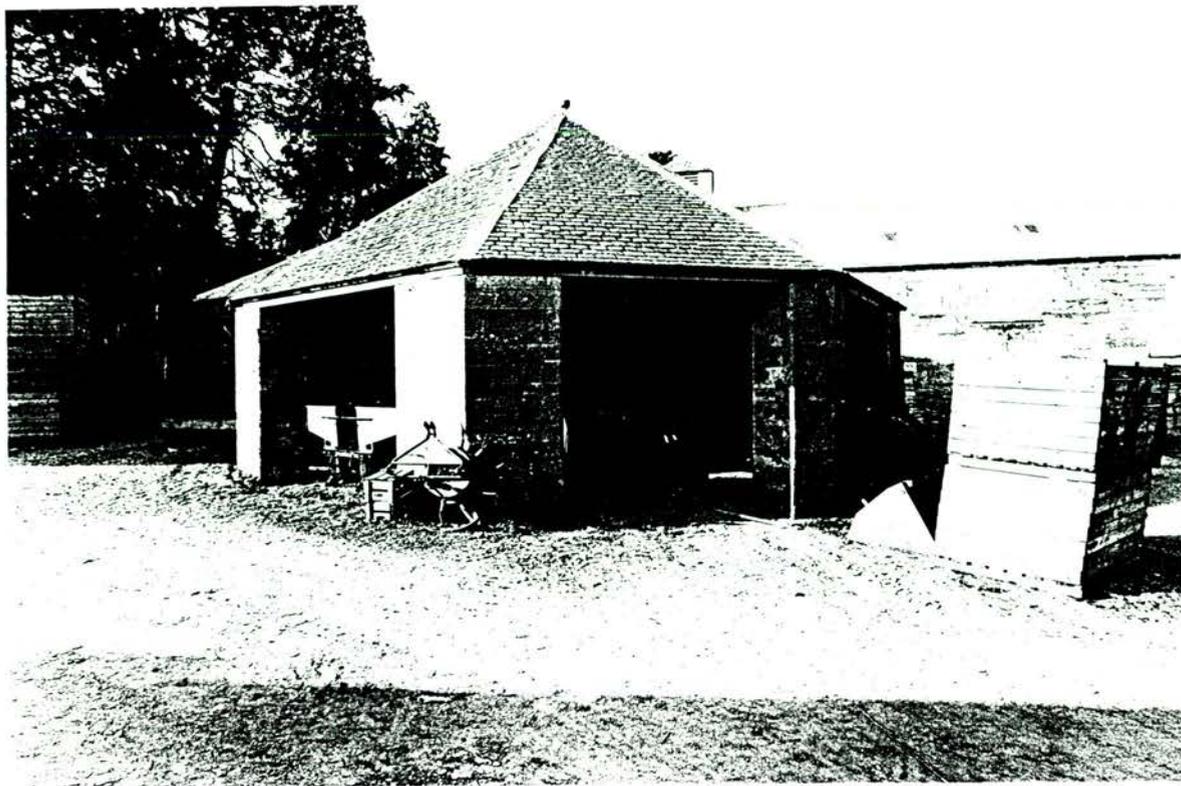
63 Pittormie Home Farm, interior of saddle horse stable, 1988.



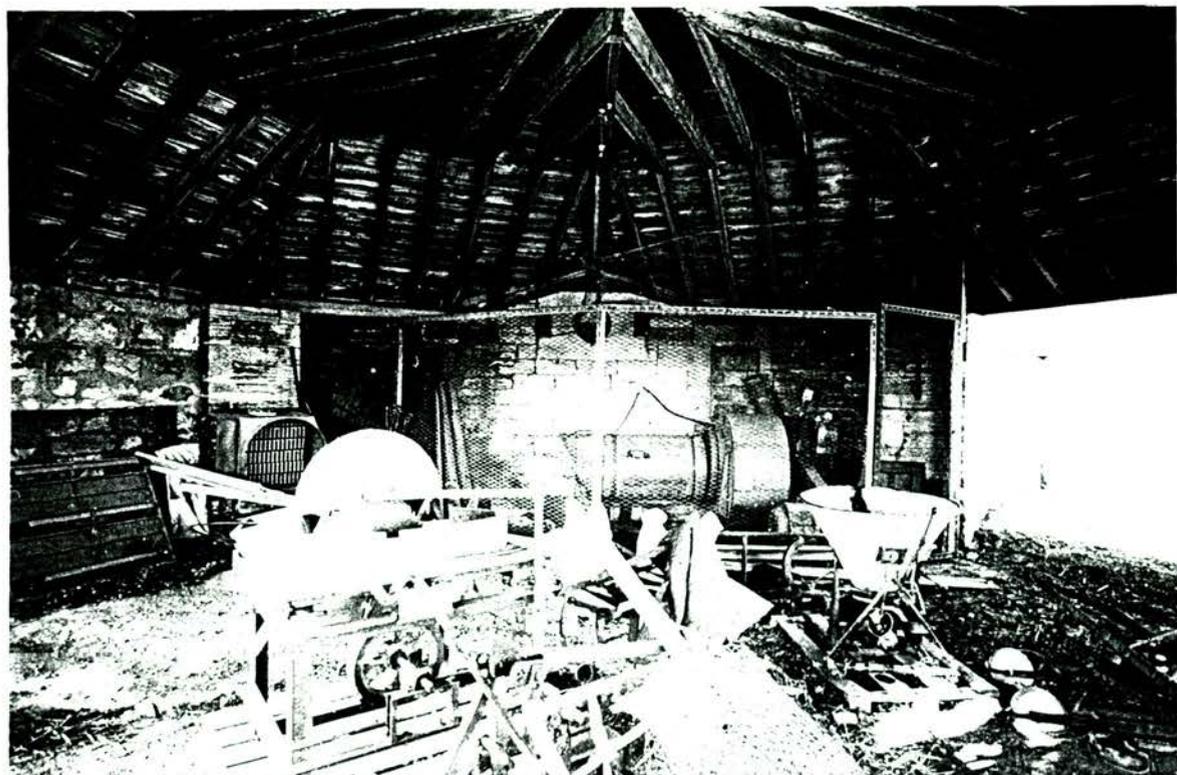
64 Pittormie Home Farm, cart shed and threshing barn, 1988.



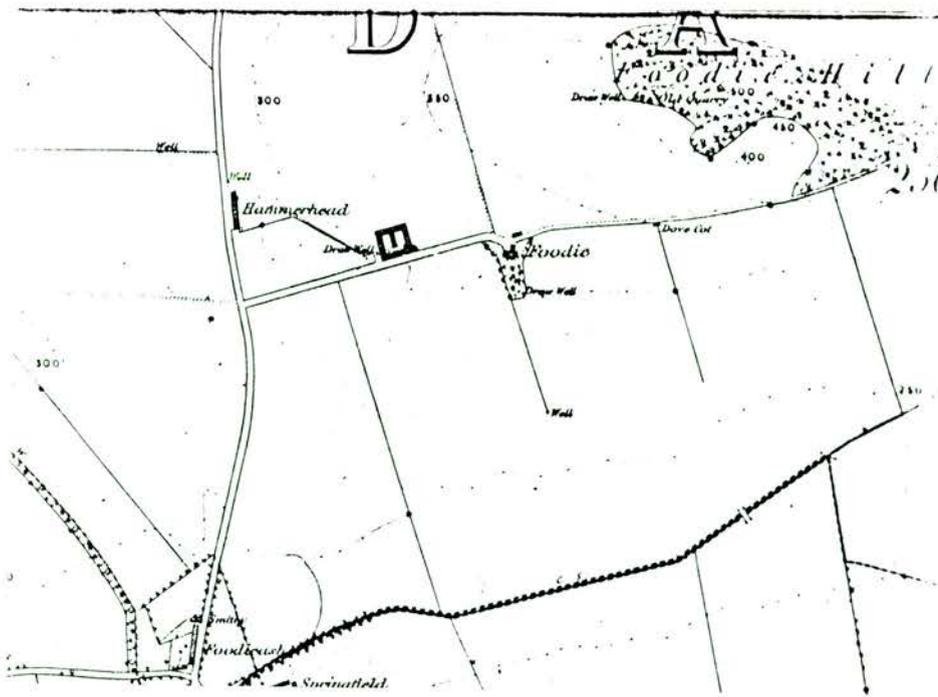
65 Pittormie Home Farm, portable threshing machine in granary, in 1988.



66 Pittormie Home Farm, horse-engine house, in 1988.



67 Pittormie Home Farm, interior of horse-engine house, 1988.



68 Part of the 6-inch Ordnance Survey map, 1855, showing the lands of Foodie.



69 Foodie Steading, west elevation, in 1987.



71 Foodie Steading, south range, in 1987.



72 Foodie Steading, steam-engine house, in 1987.



73 Kilmaron Stable Block, west elevation, in 1988.

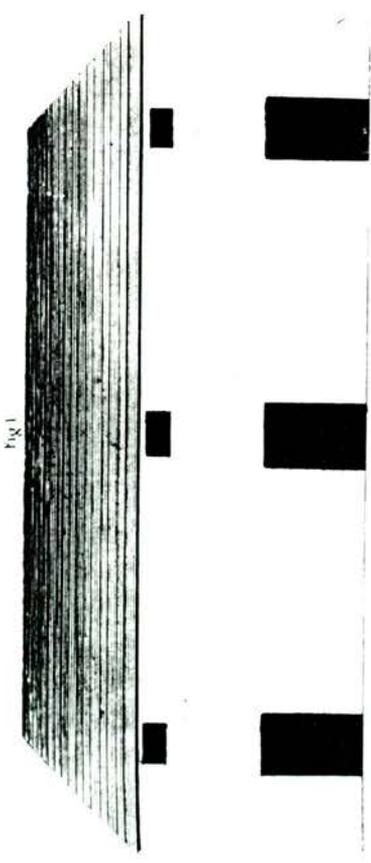


Fig 1

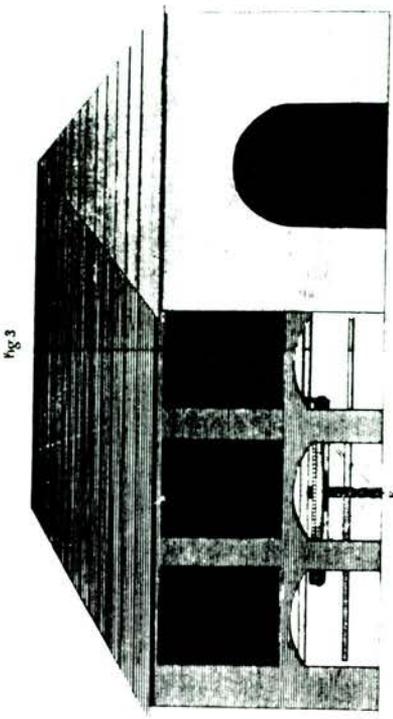
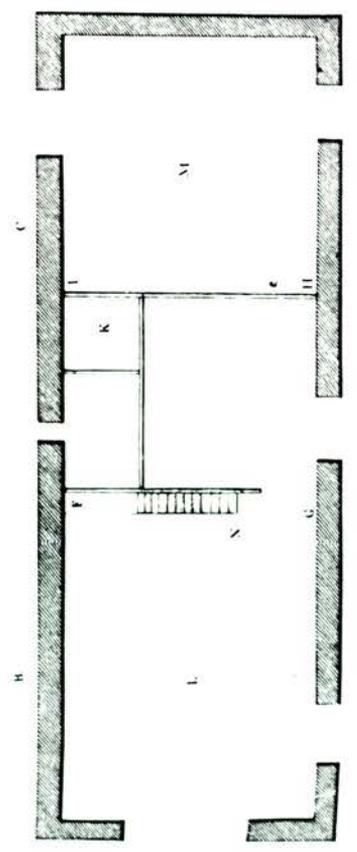


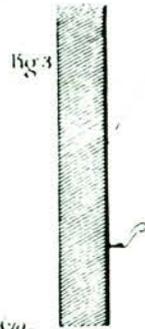
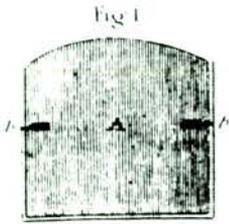
Fig 3



Fig 2



74 "Design for a Barn, Granary and Powerful Threshing Mill" from R. Beatson in *Communications to the Board of Agriculture*, Vol. 1, 1797.



*Inside parts of Stables.*

*See Pages 18 & 19.*

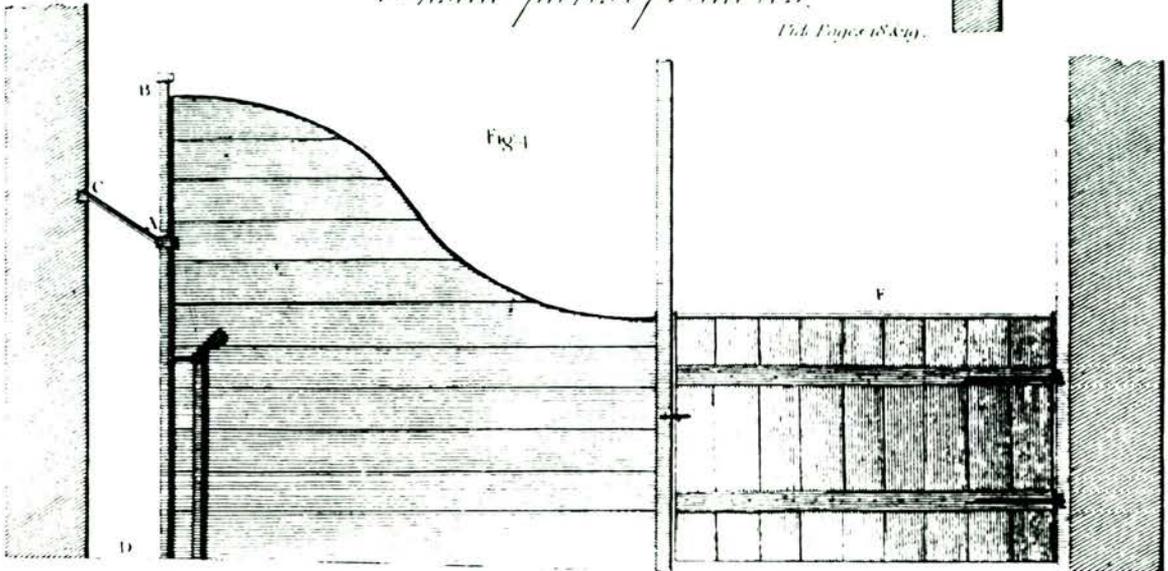


Fig 5



Fig 6

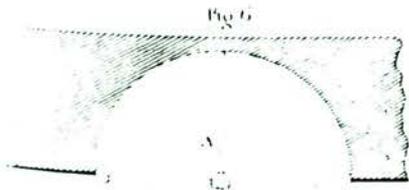


Fig 7

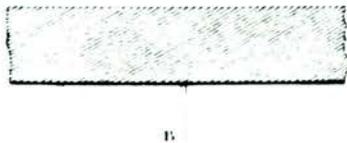


Fig 8

