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PART 11

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
1830-1915
THE GREAT NORTHERN COALFIELD

PART II

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
1830-1915
THE GREAT NORTHERN COALFIELD

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE

PART 11
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THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
1830-1915
THE GREAT NORTHERN COALFIELD

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
COTTAGE TYPE

The method of study and analysis of dwelling type has been considered in catalogue form. In the analysis of cottage type the categories described by John R. Leifchild in his chapter entitled 'Habitation of Pitmen and Pit Villages' have been adopted as a base.

> Of these cottages there are three kinds :- First, those containing two rooms on the ground floor. Second, those containing one room on the ground floor, and a loft above. And third, such as possess two rooms below and a loft above.[1]

Research revealed a much wider range of house types than those described by Leifchild. For example plans of one room dwellings were traced, and also dwellings constructed or converted post Leifchild's study with four or five rooms.

The following main categories have been selected, but under the headings variations have been described. The order of the categories was based on the approximate volume of the dwellirg.

CATEGORY ONE	ONE ROOMED COTTAGE	1 ground floor room
CATEGORY TWO	TWO/THREE ROOMED COTTAGE	2/3 ground floor rooms
CATEGORY THREE	TWO ROOMED COTTAGE	1 ground floor room 1 first floor room
CATEGORY FOUR	THREE ROOMED COTTAGE	1 ground floor room 2 first floor rooms
CATEGORY FIVE	THREE ROOMED COTTAGE	2 ground floor rooms 1 first floor room
CATEGORY SIX	FOUR/FIVE ROOMED COTTAGE	2 ground floor rooms 2/3 first floor rooms
CATEGORY SEVEN	ANCILLARY ACCOMMODATION	

Study of cottage type necessitated a visual presentation in the form of plan, section and elevation, supplemented by photographic evidence. Information collected was assembled in standard drawn format enabling examples of cottages to be catalogued. Many of the cottage types have been described by using colloquial terminology for example 'back to back', 'blind backed' and 'but and ben'.[2]

1830 broadly marks the start of the selected study period when cottages were built in the North East to house miners. There are descriptions of housing conditions in which undoubtedly miners lived, prior to the study period.

> The writer can testify from some experience, having lived for some time in one of the old cottages close to the pit, built about 1802, in the old West Moor village of Killingworth Colliery, Northumberland (famous for its associations with George Stephenson, who designed his first locomotives when employed there as colliery engine-wright). The rooms were small and low, and the windows as a rule would not open. Sanitary appliances were non-existent. The only sewers were open, running past the cottages near the doors, so that they had to be crossed by those going in and out. No miners, however large their families, had more than two rooms, and newly married men had to be content with one small room.[3]

The number of rooms in a dwelling appears to be used colloquially to describe the size of the cottage.'Room' has been interpreted as main habitable space, and does not include larders, pantries privies etc. In each category examples have been considered chronologically. In category seven, examples of ancillary buildings considered,include Managers Houses, Foremens Houses, Privies, Bread Ovens, Reading Rooms, Offices and Shops.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1 J.R. Leifchild op.cit., 189-190.

2 Note: The use of inverted commas for these terms has been limited to the initial description or where particular emphasis was required.

3 H.F. Bulman op.cit., 250.

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
COTTAGE TYPE
CATEGORY ONE - ONE ROOMED COTTAGE 1 ground floor room

SINGLE STOREY

In this category the term single room dwelling is considered synonymous with single storey dwellings. Throughout the North East of England examples of single storey dwellings are evident. These dwellings are associated with many different activities agriculture, fishing and coalmining.

T. H. Hairs 'Sketches of the coal mines in Northumberland and Durham' was first published in 1839 and contains early illustrations of many collieries and their associated buildings.[1] Examination of the original watercolours from which the engravings for the book were made, reveals information regarding the form of the cottages, building techniques and the general use of materials.

The work dated 1838 of Jubilee Pit, Coxlodge, Plate 25 shows a row of single storey dwellings with small windows and a projecting rear 'off-shoot'. These may have been early dwellings with only one room. The attics were not open between one dwelling and the next; evident on the drawing by the presence of the projecting water tabling.

There is limited record of simple dwellings of only one room, pre Leifchilds categories. The single room cottage is illustrated in plan and section in a drawing prepared by H. S. Triscott in 'Coal and Power'.[2] Figure 7.

> The earliest type in Durham seems to have consisted of long rows of one-roomed houses built of stone of the locality, to which sometimes, larders were afterwards added. There was generally no window or door at the back, the only door being that which led straight on to the cinder-strewn yard - a quagmire in winter...[3]

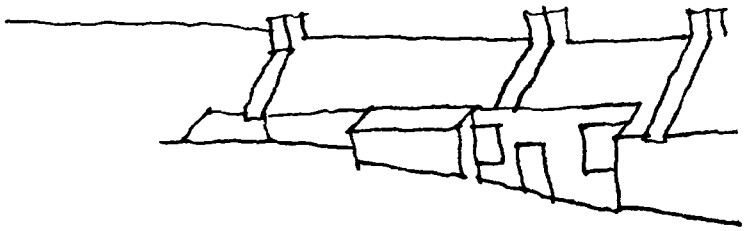


Plate 25 Jubilee Pit, Coxlodge, 1838

T.H. Hair. Sketches of the Coal Mines
in Northumberland and Durham, 1839



Plate 25 Jubilee Pit, Coxlodge, 1838

T.H. Hair. Sketches of the Coal Mines
in Northumberland and Durham, 1839



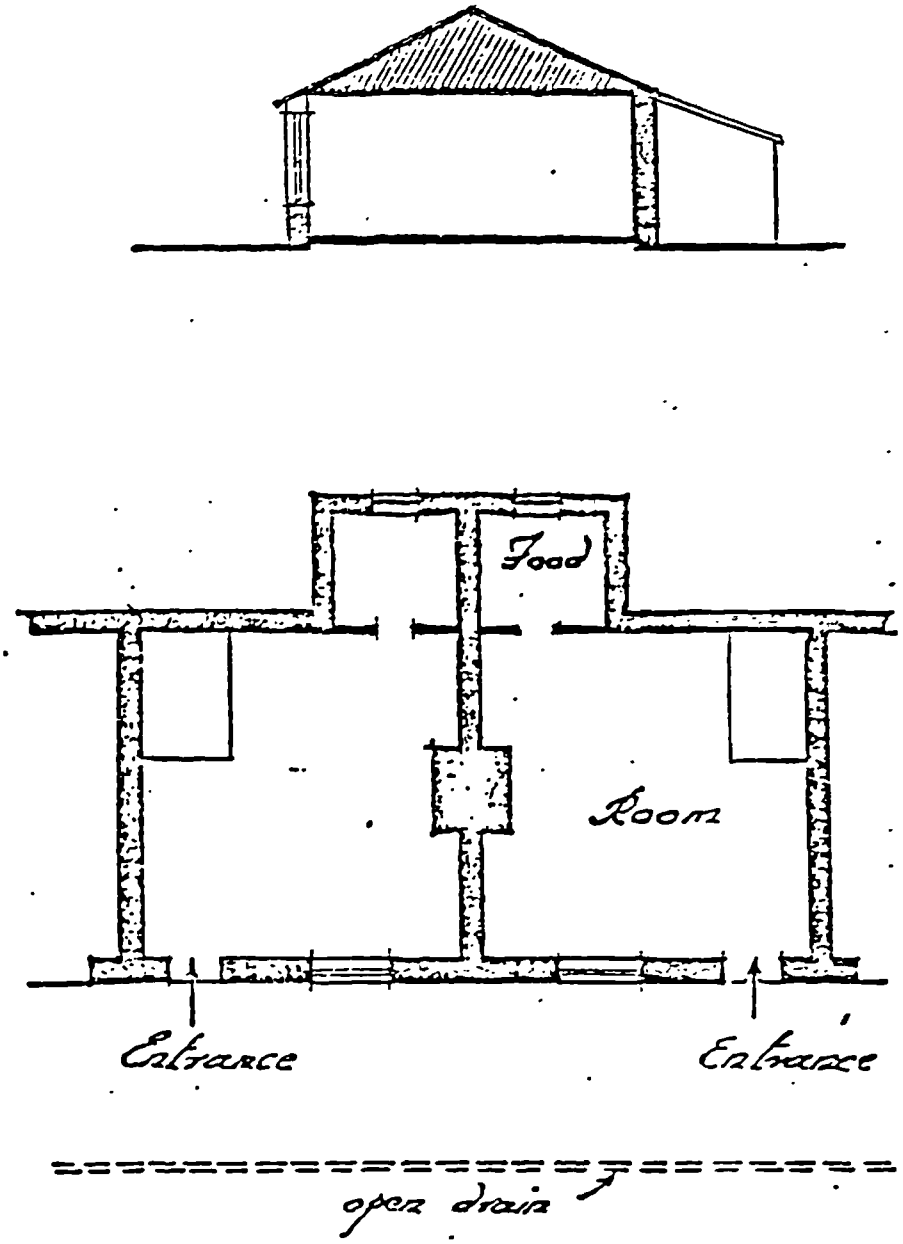


Figure 7 CATEGORY ONE ONE ROOMED COTTAGE 1 ground floor room
SINGLE STOREY

FRAMWELLGATE MOOR

Scott James Coal and Power
Drawing by H.S.Triscott

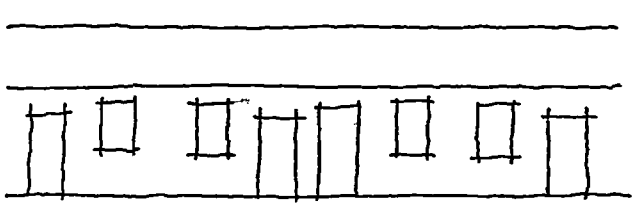
These dwellings were served by an open drain running along the front of the houses. This carried away the slops of all the tenants. At intervals in the middles of the yards were huts which were divided into privies, ash pits and perhaps coal-houses. Water was drawn from a stand pipe, one for each row of houses.

An example of this category of dwellings is described further in the text:

> Mr. Triscott and I went into a dwelling at Framwellgate Moor. It was gloomy, but its furniture and curtains and couterpanes were clean and neat - much had been made out of little.

The elevation pattern of the cottages would be door, window[4] window, door. At Framwellgate Moor, two houses had been converted into one by putting an inter-connecting door between them.[5] There was no indication of a window at the rear, but there was a pantry. The dates of these houses are unknown, but in these early cottages the one room served as a living room, bedroom and kitchen, with an unceiled loft or garrett over. It is possible that these garretts were open from one dwelling through to the next.

The single ground floor room is the seminal plan, of the colliery cottage; the generator of a whole series of permutations of plan form.



SINGLE STOREY
One ground floor room
FRAMWELLGATE MOOR

ELEVATION PATTERN

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1 Thomas Hair Sketches of the Coal Mines of Northumberland and Durham op. cit.

2 R. A. Scott James Coal and Power, the report of an enquiry presided over by D. Lloyd George , O.M., M.P. (London:Hodder and Stoughton, 1924) Appendices, 137. Plans drawn by Mr. H. S. Triscott.

3 ibid, 136.

4 ibid., 129.

5 See Category Two.

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
COTTAGE TYPE
CATEGORY TWO - TWO/THREE ROOMED COTTAGE 2/3 ground floor rooms

SINGLE STOREY
SINGLES - ONE ROOM DEEP

The census returns show that the two roomed dwelling predominated in Northumberland and Durham throughout the nineteenth century, and the assumption is that the majority of miners lived in dwellings of this order.

The single storey cottage appears to have been common on the Great Northern Coalfield. In certain areas, for example in Sunderland and at Leadgate in County Durham large areas of single storey dwellings remain in the 1980's, Plate 26. During the period of study the majority of the single storey cottages appear to have been two roomed, however, some examples of three roomed dwellings have been identified. Category two focuses on single storey cottages with two rooms, but with reference to a limited number of three roomed examples.

SINGLES - One room deep

The miners dwellings dating from the start of the study period, as with the agricultural workers, and the cottages of the fishing communities, were only one room deep. In the North East of England they were referred to colloquially as 'singles'. The 'singles' plan form, with one room on either side of the front door, may have derived from the seminal one room unit. In category one there is a description of the conversion of two single room houses at Framwellgate Moor into one larger, two roomed dwelling.[1]

Plate 26 Leadgate near Consett
Single storey cottages

Photograph by F. Diana Brown June 1987

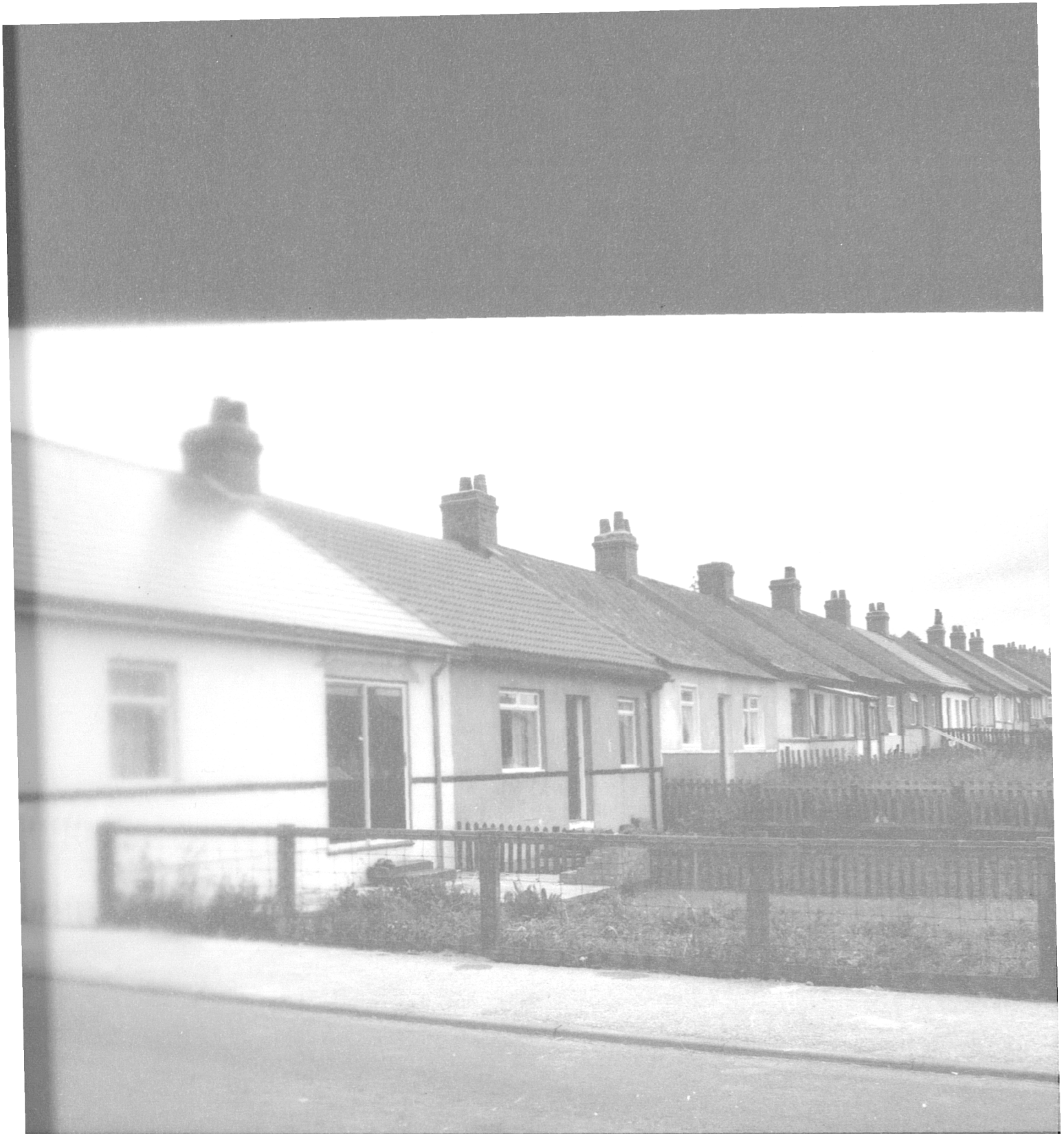


Plate 26 Leadgate near Consett
Single storey cottages

Photograph by F. Diana Brown June 1987



SUNNISIDE

A series of articles entitled 'Our Colliery Villages' was published in the Newcastle Weekly Chronicle from 1872 to 1874. The 'Our Colliery Villages' article published July 12th 1873 describes some single storey cottages of the 'single'plan type at Sunniside.

> If we get 'aback of behind' of the south side of the main street, however, we come upon a quiet little row of cottages-perhaps half-a dozen- in the regular almshouse style of bygone centuries. Each cottage consists of two rooms, one on each side of the front door, together with a pantry and a back door. In several of the houses the second room has been partitioned so as to make two rather small sleeping apartments. Happily the families dwelling in this little back room are at present small if also progressive. One of the little houses has a little shop, and, unless from sympathy with sore affliction we should fancy a very little business.
> [2]

This quotation is taken from the same article and is presumably by the same author who describes in glowing terms the colliery houses at Sunniside, Gladstone Terrace. The elevational pattern of these cottages would be window door window window door window, unlike those of the one roomed cottage at Framwellgate Moor.[3] [4]

REDWELL AND CROOKED OAK COTTAGES
MINSTER ACRES

Included in this section, although not strictly speaking a colliery cottage is the plan of a two roomed single storey cottage of the 'single' type. This drawing has been included as plans of 'singles,' single storey dwellings have been difficult to trace, Figure 8.

A letter of 1845, describes Redwell Cottage and Crooked Oak Cottage, a two storey dwelling included in Category 4, as being used by miners.[5] The plan form clearly shows the kitchen and the parlour on either side of the door. In this case the pantry, pig sty, and privy are all located to the rear.

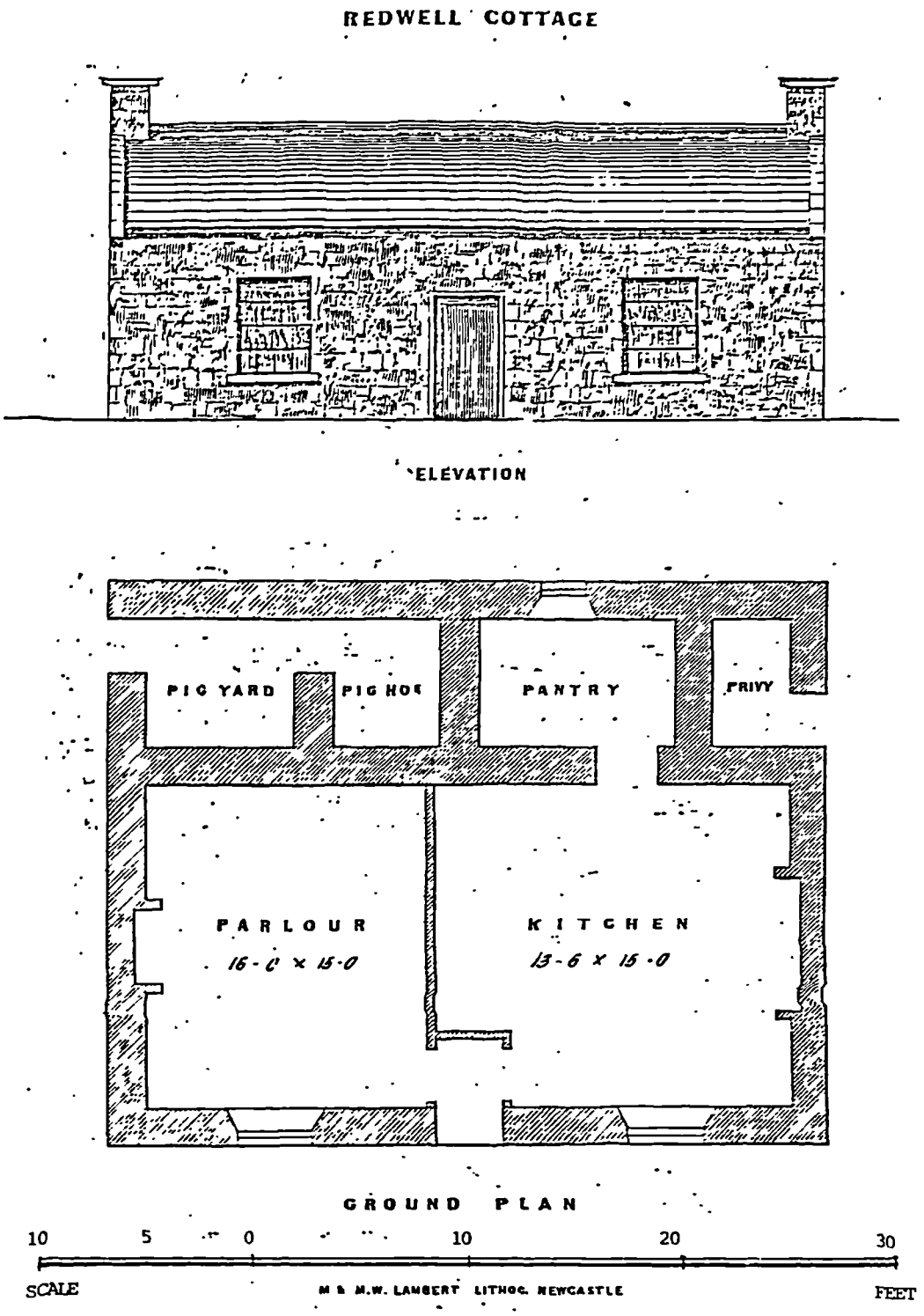


Figure 8 CATEGORY TWO TWO ROOMED COTTAGE
SINGLE STOREY
SINGLE one room deep

2 ground floor rooms

REDWELL COTTAGE
MINSTERACRES 1845
Map Reference NZ034512

Reconstruction of original draw ing
Grey Pamphlet No 726
Department of Palaeography University of Durham

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
COTTAGE TYPE
CATEGORY TWO - TWO/THREE ROOMED COTTAGE 2/3 ground floor rooms

SINGLE STOREY
TWO ROOMS DEEP

WHEATLEY HILL
EASINGTON

The majority of nineteenth century single storey miners' cottages would appear to have been two rooms deep, with a scullery in the rear 'off-shoot'. Plate 27 shows an old photograph of some single storey cottages at Woolmer, Wheatley Hill.[6] The elevational 'pattern' of door, window, window door and the depth of the gable confirms that these single storey cottages were two rooms deep. Note also from the photograph the sloping eaves and ridge line, the building following the ground contour, an alternative detail to the more familiar stepped gable.

Plate 27 Woolmer near Wheatley Hill
Single storey cottages, two rooms deep

Stefan Muthesius. The English Terraced House



Plate 27 Woolmer near Wheatley Hill
Single storey cottages, two rooms deep

Stefan Muthesius. The English Terraced House



LEASINGTHORNE

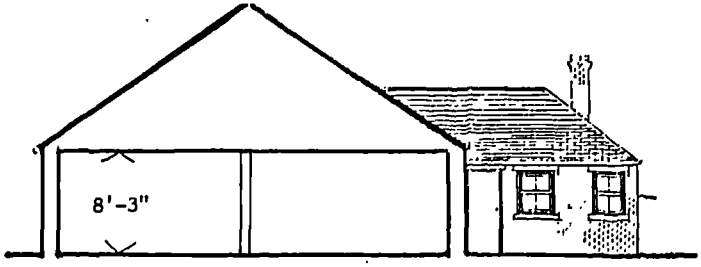
Through some strange quirk of history the colliery cottages of Leasingthorne have been well recorded and examples of different cottages from the settlement are used throughout this thesis. Leasingthorne was a large village, near Bishop Auckland situated in the Lower Wear Valley.

STONE ROW
LEASINGTHORNE

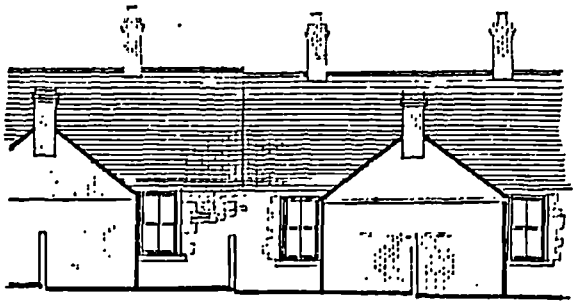
The single storey stone cottages at Leasingthorne were demolished in about 1975. Figure 9 is the authors interpretation of the 1972 survey and the 1977 drawing by S. M. Linsley. It is this plan type of the two roomed deep single storey dwelling which developed into the 'but and ben' cottage.
7

There is a good photographic record of these cottages which shows they were built following both the curving line of the existing lane and following the contour as the track wound down the hill. The name Stone Row suggests that the cottages were built from the first stone raised from the pit shaft as it was being sunk. Stone Rows of this type were usually occupied by the shaft-sinkers as they constructed the early pit. So Stone Row would be the typical dwelling house of the 'client' sinker identified in Part One, Plate 14. At the time that these houses were demolished it could be seen that the roofs had been raised when the cottages were modernised in the 1920s. Plate 28 shows Stone Row with slate roofs and hipped gables. As with the cottages at Wheatley Hill, the original roof was constructed so the eaves and ridge line follow the natural contours of the land. In the later photograph Plate 29 the cottages have been re-roofed and the roof line steps up, dwelling by dwelling ..

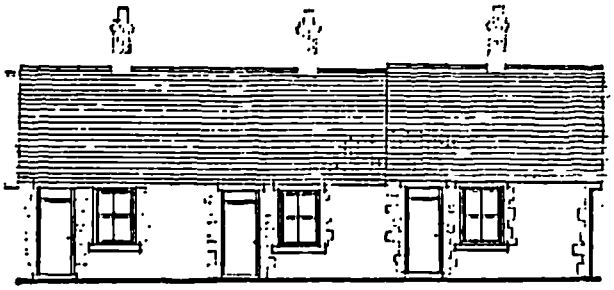
An enlarged version of the photograph suggests that originally the cottages had horizontal sliding sash windows which were replaced with vertical sash windows. These fifty five low one storey houses were built by the colliery owner at the time Nicholas Wood.[8] Although the date of construction of Stone Row is unknown, the cottages were in existence before 1850 when five rows of colliery houses comprising one hundred and thirty eight houses were built at Leasingthorne. These were known as Tottenham and were to accommodate the influx of new miners into the district.



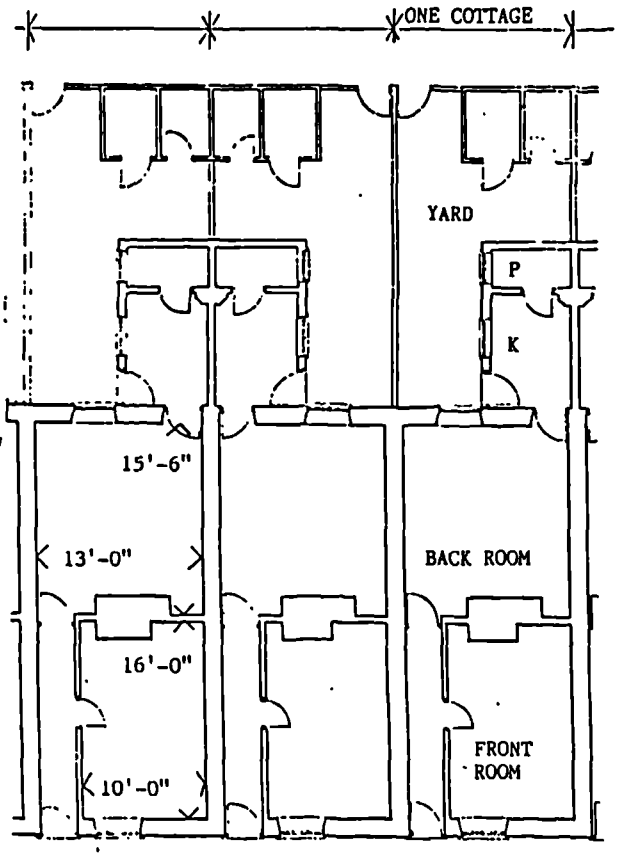
CROSS SECTION



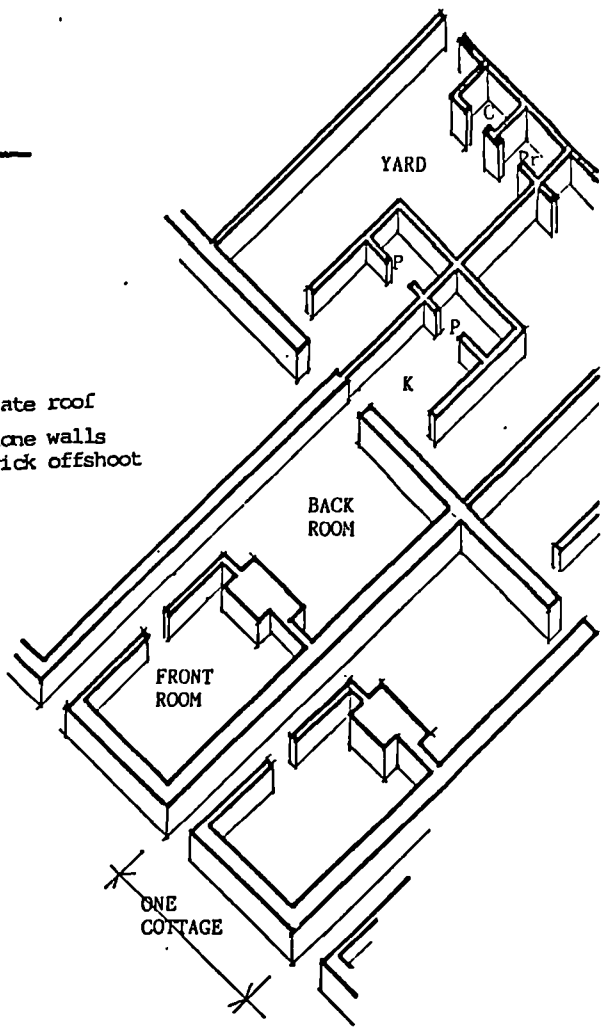
REAR ELEVATION



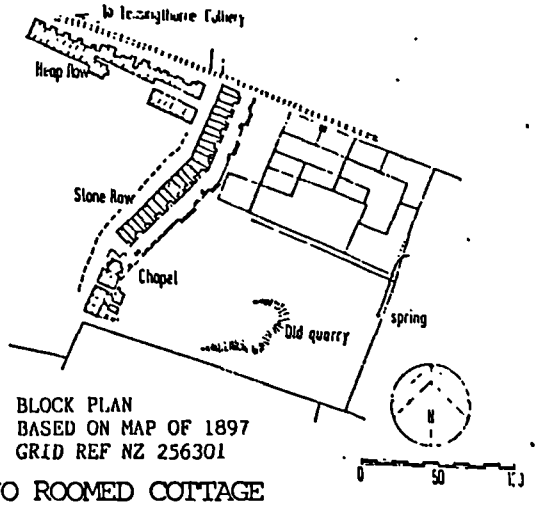
FRONT ELEVATION



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



AXONOMETRIC



BLOCK PLAN
BASED ON MAP OF 1897
GRID REF NZ 256301

Figure 9 CATEGORY TWO TWO ROOMED COTTAGE SINGLE STOREY

2 ground floor rooms

STONE ROW
LEASINGTHORNE
Map Reference NZ256301

0 5 10 15 20 FEET
SCALE

Authors interpretation of
S.M. Linsley survey 1972 - drawing 1977

Plate 28 Stone Row, Leasingthorne
Sloping ridge with hipped gable
Horizontal sliding sash windows

A. Temple. The Derelict Villages of Durham County
M. Litt 1940

Plate 29 Stone Row, Leasingthorne
Horizontal ridge with stepped gables
Vertical sliding sash windows

F. Atkinson. North-East England, People at Work
1860-1950.



Plate 28 Stone Row, Leasingthorne
Sloping ridge with hipped gable
Horizontal sliding sash windows

A. Temple. The Derelict Villages of Durham County
M. Litt 1940

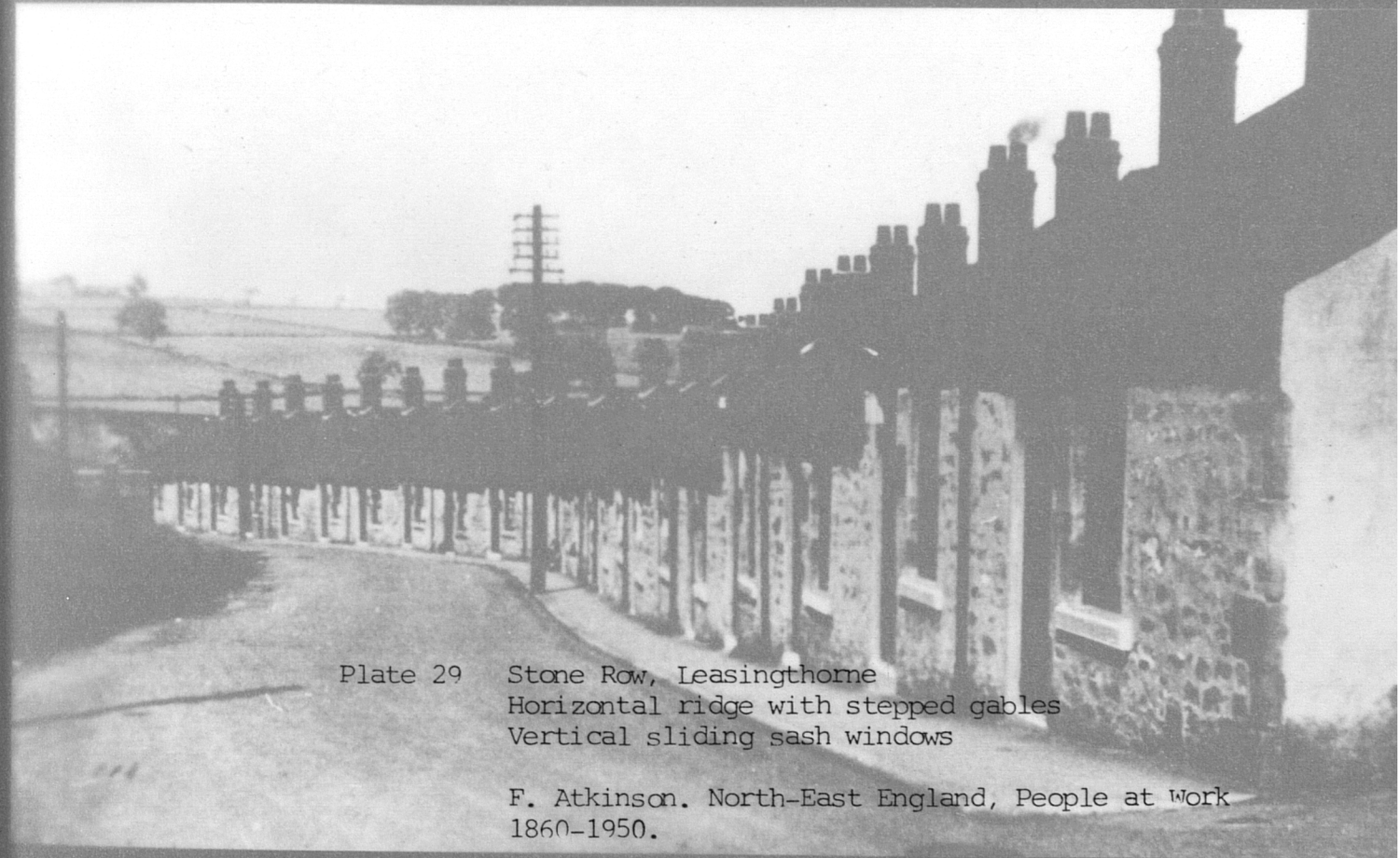


Plate 29 Stone Row, Leasingthorne
Horizontal ridge with stepped gables
Vertical sliding sash windows

F. Atkinson. North-East England, People at Work
1860-1950.





WOOD ROW
LEASINGTHORNE

Leasingthorne had several rows of timber construction. Four rows of wood-faced houses (100 in all) were built at the south end of the village. At the time of Ada Temple's thesis in 1939 these houses were kept in good condition by the then colliery owners, Dorman Long and Co Ltd.[9]

The colliery cottages with the timber facing were intended to be relatively temporary, having been put up to serve a colliery which was not expected to have a long life.[10]

The cottages depicted in Plate 30 fall within the category of two ground floor rooms. They are timber faced with brick gables, the layout is reported to be similar to those in Stone Row in that each house is only one room wide, but two rooms thick. Originally the door opened directly into the bedroom and the living room/kitchen was behind.[11] Although the internal plan is similar it is interesting to note the different disposition of the dwellings.

The elevational pattern of Stone Row was window door window door; Wood Row door window window door door.

Plate 30 Wood Row, Leasingthorne
Single storey cottages, two rooms deep
Timber clad

F. Atkinson. North-East England, People at Work 1860-1950.



Plate 30 Wood Row, Leasingthorne
Single storey cottages, two rooms deep
Timber clad

F. Atkinson. North-East England, People at Work 1860-1950.



BYERS GREEN

There are several detailed descriptions of housing in this category in Ada Temples work. The single storey cottages at Byers Green were a row of four or six houses known as The Barracks. These houses were unoccupied in 1939 at the time of writing of her thesis.[12] The cottages were situated in the colliery yard behind Michael Terrace.

> These low one storey cottages, with two rooms, were over shadowed on the east side by the pit heap and on the west by the higher houses of Michael Terrace. Now their empty shells have a gloomy dismal appearance. Perhaps their situation was less dreary, though it could scarcely be more healthy before 1931, when the blaze of the coke ovens and the glow of the burning pit heap lighted up the pit yard.[13]

EAST HEDLEYHOPE

A larger number of single storey two room dwellings are described at the village of East Hedleyhope.

> 100 houses arranged in five streets, near the colliery from which it takes its name. The houses are mainly of two rooms. Two rows at the upper end of the village were built of zinc sheeting and wood and have already been demolished.[14]

This form of construction will be referred to again at a later stage.[15] The three remaining rows still standing at the time of writing of Miss A. Temple's thesis 1939 were Office Row, Post Office Row, and School Row.[16]

Further examples of single storey dwellings of this type have been located at Broomhill, and at White Lea one of the older colliery villages of the Great Northern Coalfield.

TOWNELEY COLLIERY
BAR MOOR

A comprehensive set of drawings in the Stella Coal Company Records are entitled 'Plan of two cottages built at Towneley Colliery, drawn in 1857 by J.S. Hindburgh'. These dwellings in common with others of this category have only a single entrance. In this case the entrance is indicated on the rear elevation and the front elevational pattern is simply, window window window , Figure 10.

The plan sections and elevation show only two rooms on the ground floor. As with the single room dwelling of Category One the attic was accessible for storage and could also serve as sleeping accommodation.. The drawings for these cottages are very similar to those entitled 'Plan of three roomed cottages built at Emmaville for the Stella Coal Company'.
17

The distinct difference between the two sets of drawings is the inclusion of the staircase on the plan and the section of the cottages at Emmaville. However, it is significant that the dimensions on the two sections are identical. The drawing of the cottages at Towneley Colliery are the derivation of the three roomed cottage, two rooms on the ground floor and one room upstairs known in the North East as 'but and ben'.
18

The three roomed cottage is a direct development of the two roomed cottage, making use of the attic as a sleeping space, reached by a ladder staircase.

Verbal evidence suggests that in early examples, perhaps these cottages built at Towneley Colliery, the floor boarding was only laid on the ceiling joists and not secured by nails. This enabled sections of the attic to be exposed to the ground floor.[19] If the attic space was used for sleeping in at the cottages at Towneley Colliery, there is no evidence of any form of roof lighting or ventilation.

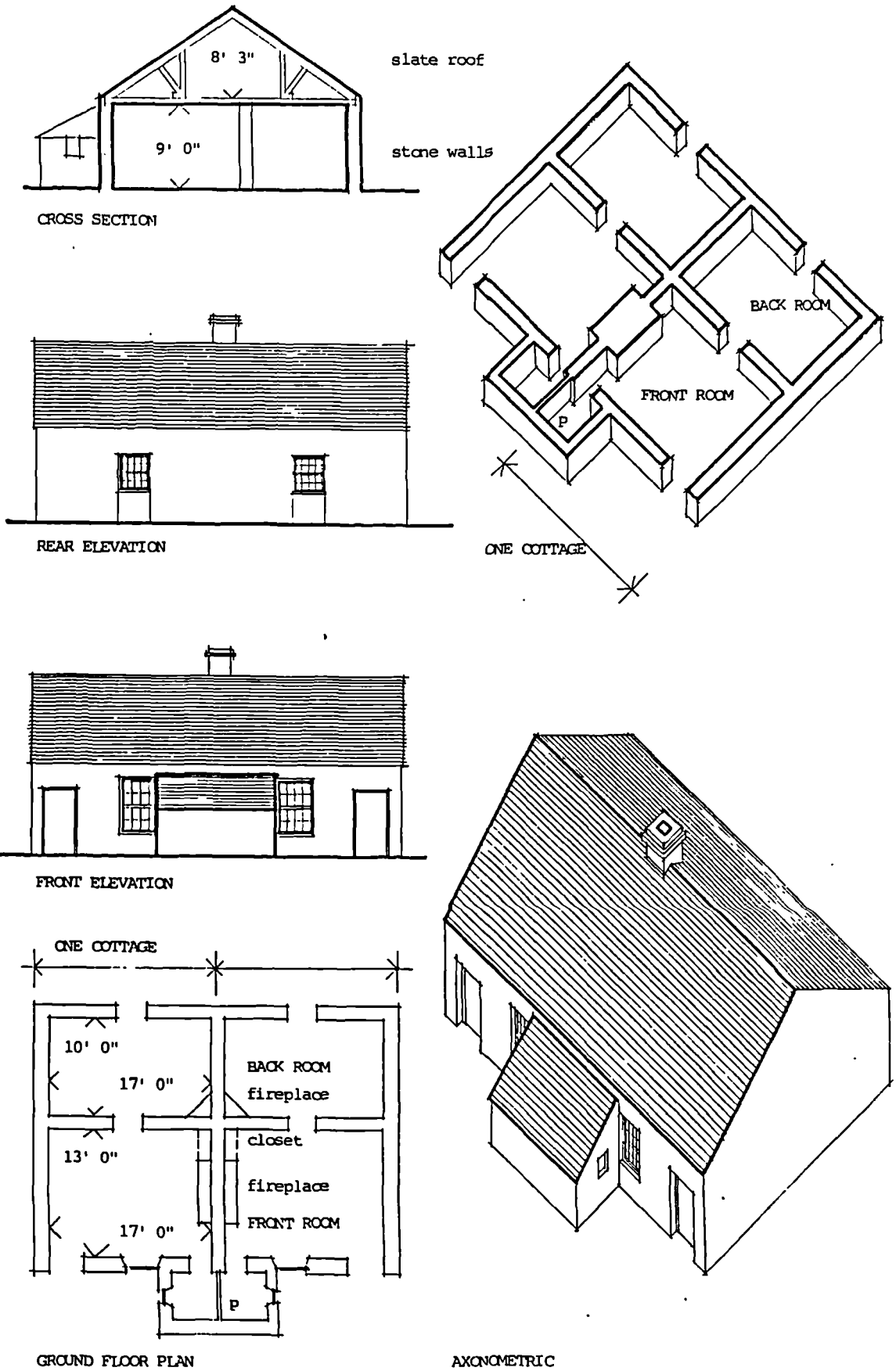


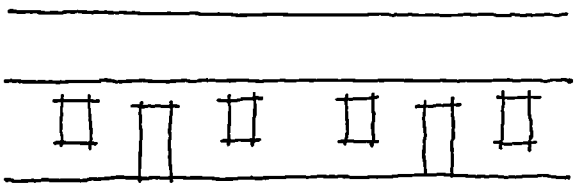
Figure 10 CATEGORY TWO TWO ROOMED COTTAGE 2 ground floor rooms
SINGLE STOREY
Two rooms deep

TOWNELEY COLLIERY
BAR MOOR 1857
Map Reference NZ142638

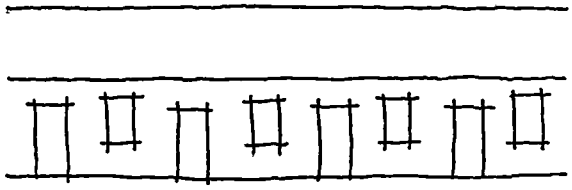
0 5 10 15 20 FEET
SCALE

From original drawing entitled
Plan of 2 Cottages built at Towneley Colliery
Drawn in 1857 by J.S. Hindburgh
Stella Coal Company Durham County Record Office

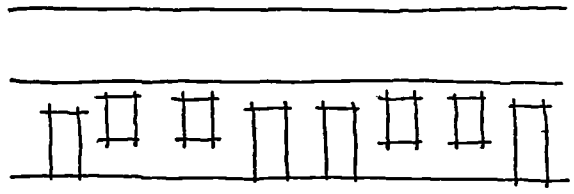
Category Two dwellings reveal some interesting factors; single storey cottages were common in the first half of the nineteenth century on the Great Northern Coalfield. Despite great similarity in section there is a wide variety in elevational treatment in what is considered generally to be a simple and 'similar' dwelling type.



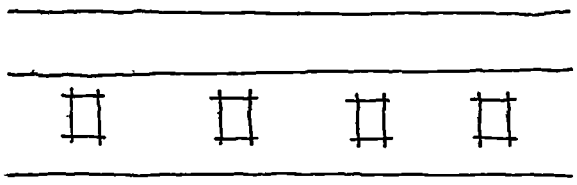
SINGLE STOREY
two ground floor rooms
'SINGLE' plan type
SUNNISIDE



SINGLE STOREY
two ground floor rooms
two rooms deep
STONE ROW
LEASINGTHORNE



SINGLE STOREY
two ground floor rooms
two rooms deep
WOOD ROW
LEASINGTHORNE



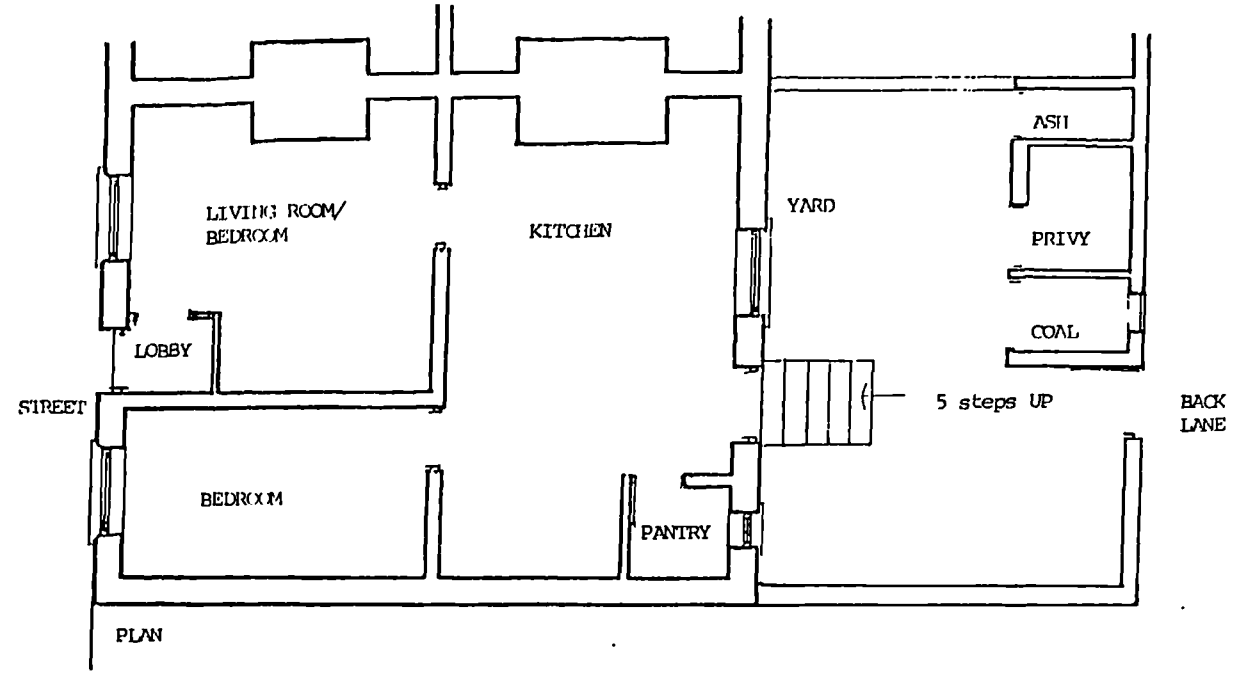
SINGLE STOREY
two ground floor rooms
two rooms deep
TOWNELEY COLLIERY
BAR MOOR

ELEVATION PATTERN

FRONT STREET
EAST STANLEY

In the period of study three roomed single storey dwellings, appear to have been less common. At Front Street, East Stanley a row of three roomed cottages were built on a steeply sloping site. They were constructed of stone with a slate roof. Entrance to the front door was level, but five risers were required to get up to ground floor level at the back door. The houses were built of uncoursed stone, with cut quoins at the corners and decorated lintols and cills on the front elevation. The architectural expression was simpler on the rear elevation, Figure 11.

The plan indicates the front door entered via a lobby into a living room, this room also served as a bedroom. The second bedroom was also at the front of the dwelling and the kitchen to the rear, the back door opening on to a yard. A small pantry opened directly off the kitchen.



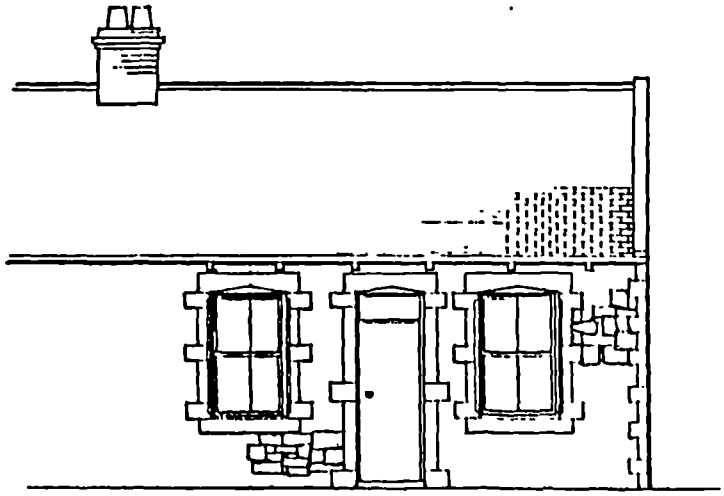


slate roof

stone walls with simple stone lintols and stone cills

five steps up to the back door

REAR ELEVATION



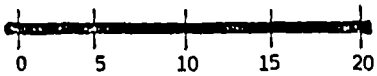
uncoursed stone walls with cut quoins and decorated stone lintols and cills

FRONT ELEVATION

Figure 11 CATEGORY TWO THREE ROOMED COTTAGE
SINGLE STOREY
Three rooms, two rooms deep

3 ground floor rooms

FRONT STREET
EAST STANLEY
Map Reference NZ202532



From survey drawings by S.M. Linsley 1971
Adult Education Department Newcastle University

SEA VIEW
MURTON

Four terraces of single storey three roomed cottages were built at Murton. Sea View was a row of sixteen cottages which were built in 11" cavity brickwork. Patterning was achieved with buff coloured bricks to emphasise wall openings. The lintols were formed with segmented brick arches. The eaves height was low, and internally there was a sloping back ceiling, Figure 12.

As with the single storey cottages at Leasingthorne these cottages were built with the roof ridge and eaves line following the contours of the sloping ground. These cottages, were constructed of brickwork, the brick courses following the ground line, however the cills are horizontal and the chimney stacks, door and window openings are vertical. The overall impression was one of distortion particularly at the lower end of the street, Plate 31. This method of building was said to be an economical form of construction and common practice in the coalfield, several examples have been identified, but little or no evidence remains today. These cottages were demolished in 1975. The cottages were roofed in slate, and internal walls constructed in 4½" brickwork. The floor was constructed in solid concrete, and the yard paved.

The accommodation consisted of a living room with access direct from the street. The two bedrooms were adjacent and the pantry at the rear of the living room. The chimney breast would originally have accommodated a cooking range, but before demolition the cottages were fitted with a domestic grate. There were also fireplaces in both bedrooms. There was a sink built in the pantry suggesting

the use of the room for food preparation as well as storage. The rear yard with coal store and toilet provision was enclosed with four foot high wall, Plate 32.

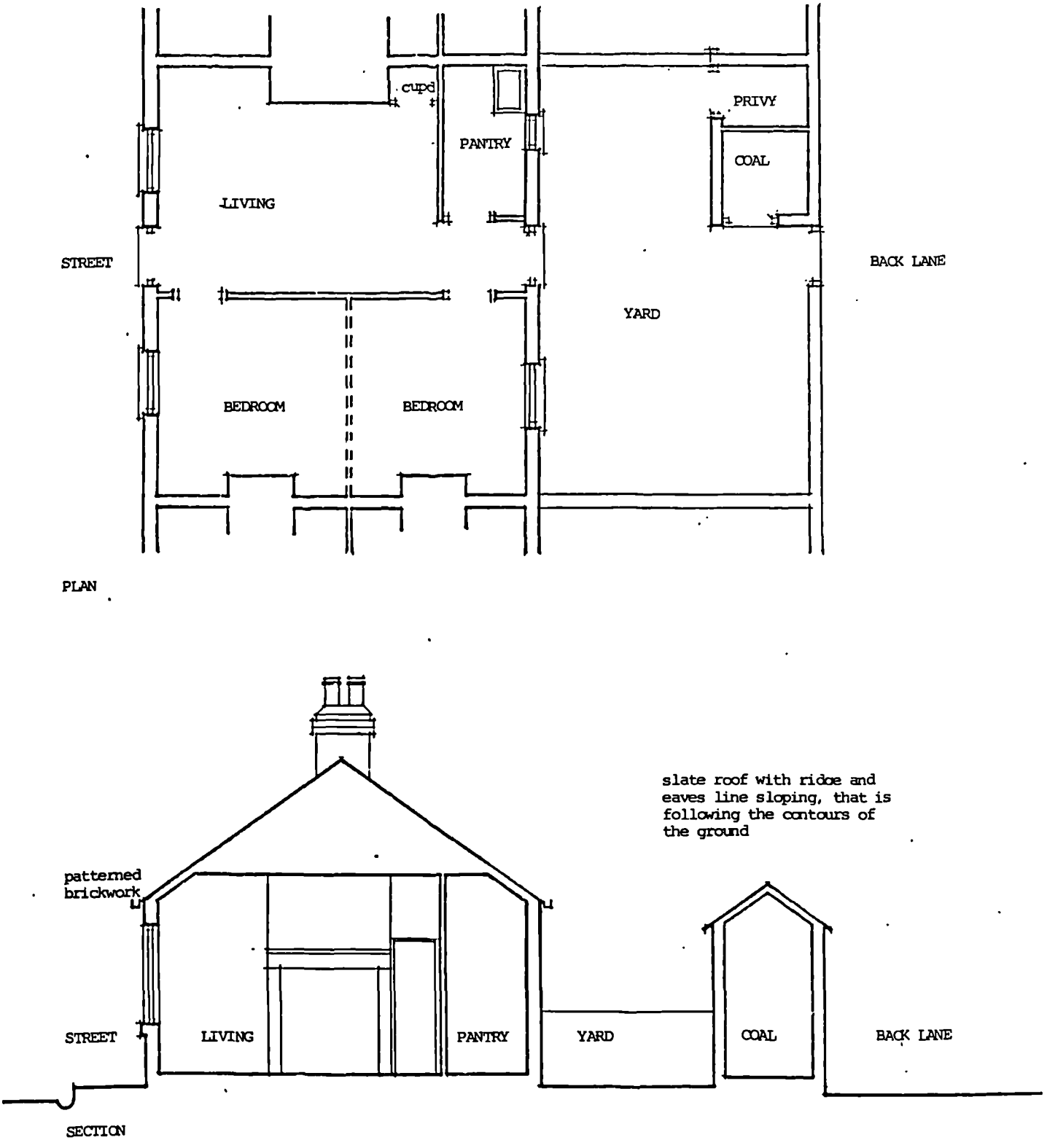


Figure 12 CATEGORY TWO THREE ROOMED COTTAGE
SINGLE STOREY
Two rooms deep

2/3 ground floor rooms

SEA VIEW
MURTON 1901 - 1903
Map Reference NZ 400475

From drawing by Roy Snaith
The Growth of Mining Communities
unpublished dissertation

0 5 10 15 FEET
SCALE

Plate 31 Sea View, Murton
Front
Sloping ridge line with eaves and brickwork
following the contours of the ground
Patterning of brickwork to emphasise openings

Roy Snaith. The Growth of Mining Communities in County Durham
Dissertation 1975

Plate 32 Sea View, Murton
Rear
Yard with coal store and toilet provision
Yard enclosed with a four foot high wall

Roy Snaith. The Growth of Mining Communities in County Durham
Dissertation 1975

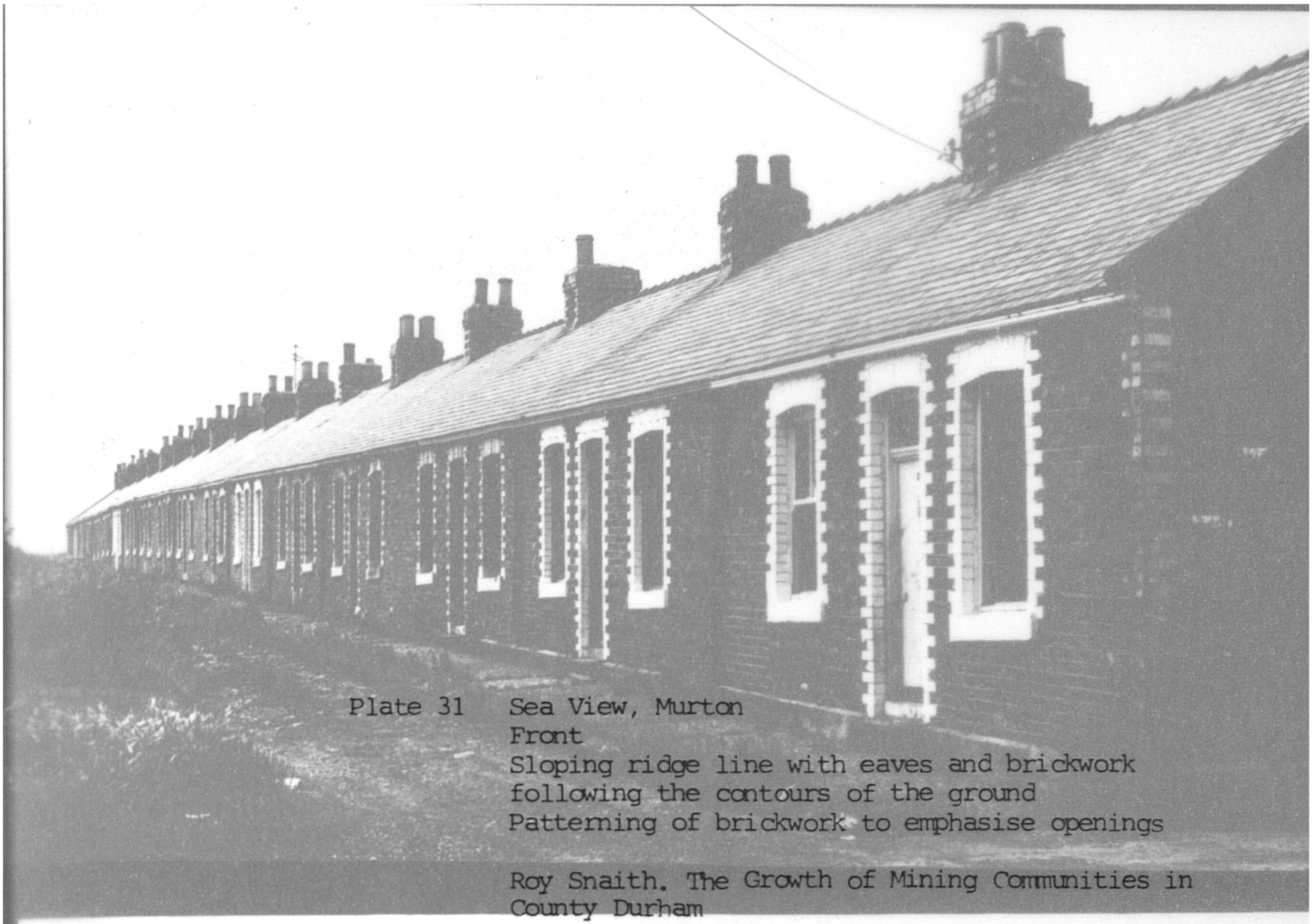


Plate 31 Sea View, Murton
Front
Sloping ridge line with eaves and brickwork following the contours of the ground
Patterning of brickwork to emphasise openings

Roy Snaith. The Growth of Mining Communities in County Durham
Dissertation 1975

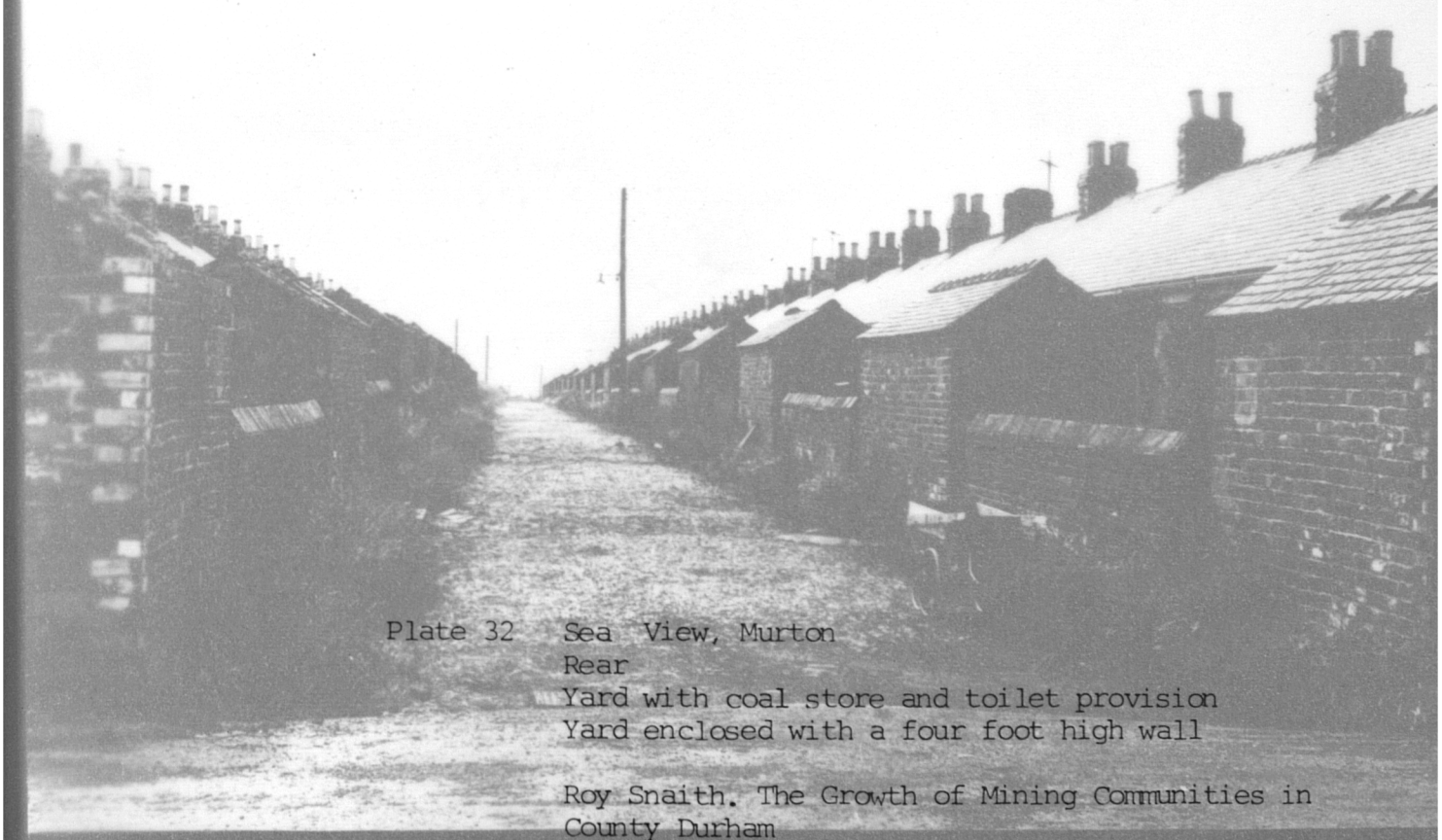


Plate 32 Sea View, Murton
Rear
Yard with coal store and toilet provision
Yard enclosed with a four foot high wall

Roy Snaith. The Growth of Mining Communities in County Durham
Dissertation 1975





CONVERSION

Within this category which deals with units of accommodation two rooms in size should be included some examples of conversions of existing buildings. The colliery owners were enterprising and energetic in the realisation of natural resources. Where there were redundant existing buildings in close proximity to the pit, the existing building stock was converted to provide modest dwellings for the new population. The dwellings provided were usually only of two rooms in size.

NEW MOOR
SOUTH FARM
ASHINGTON

New Moor, South Farm was situated to the north of Ashington Colliery and in 1868 it was leased to the company to provide temporary accommodation for migrant pitmen, until more colliery rows could be built to provide more permanent accommodation.[20] The stone out buildings of the farm were converted into thirteen two roomed cottages by raising the roof and building at first floor level.[21][22]

OLD HALL
KIBBLESWORTH

A further example of existing buildings being converted was the Old Hall at Kibblesworth. Here the accommodation was divided into twelve tenements and included a shop and a village school. It was re named 'The Barracks', Plate 33.[23]

THE OLD MANOR HOUSE
HAMSTERLEY

The old Manor House at Hamsterley was also converted into tenements.[24]

Plate 33 The Barracks, Kibblesworth Old Hall
The building was divided into twelve tenements, village school and shop

R. Dixon, E. McMillan and L. Turnbull
Changing Kibblesworth



Plate 33 The Barracks, Kibblesworth Old Hall
The building was divided into twelve tenements, village school and shop

R. Dixon, E. McMillan and L. Turnbull
Changing Kibblesworth



NOTES AND REFERENCES

1 R.A. Scott James op.cit., 138.

2 'OCV' Sunniside and Roddymoor NWC 12.7.1873 (XXXVII)

3 See page 269-270

4 See page 170

5 Grey Pamphlet No 726
Redwell and Crooked Oak Cottages on the Minster Acres Estate, University of Durham Department of Palaeography and diplomatic letter dated 6 January 1845 'Dear Carr.... Yours most sincerely, Geo Silvertop'.

6 Stefan Muthesies op.cit., 103

7 See page 324 and Glossary of terms

8 Ada Temple op.cit., 459.

9 ibid., 473.

10 Frank Atkinson North East England People at Work 1860-1950 op.cit., 33.

11 ibid., 33.

12 Ada Temple op.cit., 373.

13 ibid., 374.

14 ibid., 283.

15 See page 536-538

16 Ada Temple op.cit., 284.

17 See Figure 50

18 See page 324

19 See page 542-543

20 B. R. Nichol 'Colliery Housing in Ashington and South East Northumberland 1848-1926. (unpublished B.A. dissertation Newcastle upon Tyne, University, 1980).

21 ibid., 68 and Ashington Coal Company Memoranda Book 1880-1919,95.

22 B. R.Nichol op.cit., 68 and his conversation with Bill Combs, November 1979.

23 'OCV' Kibblesworth NWC 18.4.1874 (LXXII).

24 'OCV' The Spen and Hamsterley NWC 21.12.1872 (XII).

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
COTTAGE TYPE
CATEGORY THREE - TWO ROOMED COTTAGE 1 ground floor room
                                     1 first floor room

ONE UP ONE DOWN

ONE UP ONE DOWN

As the mine developed more workers were introduced; they were accommodated either by building more houses or by enlarging the existing houses. The initial development was to increase the attic area, into a first floor attic room. So the single ground floor room of the seminal plan, plus the enlarged attic room over formed the origins of the 'one up one down' colliery cottage.

Within the one up one down category of colliery cottages there are a whole range of dwellings, all with derivative titles. In this category are 'back to back' cottages, that is those dwellings which could be defined as having no backs. The 'back-end' or 'tee fall' cottage which bears some resemblance to the back to back cottage. The 'single house' and the 'blind backed' house as well as the single house in the context of the composed row or terrace.

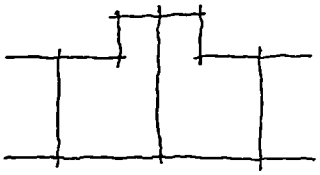
THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
COTTAGE TYPE
CATEGORY THREE - TWO ROOMED COTTAGE 1 ground floor room
                                     1 upper floor room

ONE UP ONE DOWN
BACK TO BACK

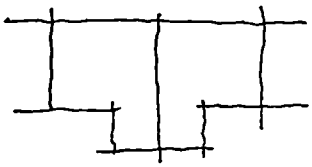
ONE UP ONE DOWN
BACK TO BACK

Leifchild did not identify 'back to backs' as a separate category as they were a type of 'one up one down' cottage. By the 1850s there were many rows of back to back cottages on the Great Northern Coalfield at Stanley, Hobson, Craghead, Perkinsville, Emmaville, Redwell Hills, Prudhoe, Middle Rainton, Marley Hill, Fell-em-Doon Ashington, Page Bank as well as many other villages.

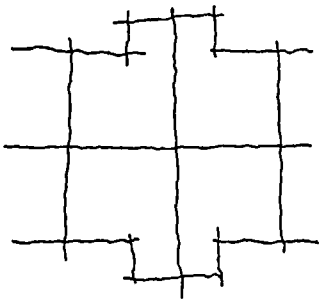
Reference to the seminal unit of Category One, suggests that the single room dwellings had a 'blind back' that is no windows except for the pantry window. By transferring the door and the window from the front to the pantry side, three unpierced walls to the dwelling are left. Group four of these units, blank wall to blank wall, and a row is the next logical step. The single row of blind backed cottages, the intervening stage, is identified under 'blind backed' cottages.



Seminal Plan Form
Framwell Gate Moor
Category One



Blind Backed
Thorp Cottages
Category Three



Back to Back
Mickley Square
Category Three

CHAPEL ROW
MARLEY HILL

In 1870 the village of Marley Hill achieved notoriety through a report to the Local Government Board on the housing in the Whickham Urban District with particular reference to the Marley Hill back to backs.[1] This report was the precurser to Darra Mairs National report.

The Medical Officer of Health for County Durham, Doctor Hill had recommended to his County Health Committee that the Local Government Board be asked to hold an enquiry since Whickham Urban District Council were alleged to be in default in the performance of their duty under the Public Health Act of 1875.[2] Whickham Council, suggested that the instances of overcrowding referred to by Doctor Hill in his report were isolated and unavoidable, remedial work which was necessary was in hand.

The basis of Whickham's discounting of the overcrowding is that they considered the volume of the dwelling and divided it by the number of occupants which gave a cubic allowance per individual, but, made no reference to the number of rooms available. This totally disregarded the traditional view of overcrowding as more than two people per room.[3]

Darra Mair picked up this point and through examination of the 1901 census material for Whickham, and other coal mining districts,showed that based on the two persons per room standard 38% of the total population of Whickham Urban District were overcrowded.

The Board estimated the date of building of the cottages in Marley Hill as 1820-30.

Information regarding the dwellings is contained in the report to the Local Government Board. The lower living room, measured 18'0" x 16' 0" and had a small pantry opening off it. This was used as the kitchen, living room washing room and generally also as a bedroom. The upper floor had an attic ceiling and the height varied from 7' to 8' at the highest point and sloped to the eaves where the height of the wall was 3'. There was one small window, 2'6" high and level with the floor. Many of the upper rooms were lit by skylights measuring 1'8" by 1'2". However, both skylights and window could only be placed on one side of the room, because of the disposition of the back to back cottage plan.

In some houses the upper room had been divided by a partition to lend extra privacy to the sleeping space. This upper room was reached by an

inconveniently placed step ladder.[4]

the top of which emerged through a square hole in the floor, which was

usually unprotected by a door or otherwise.[5]

The photograph of 1907 contained in the Local Government Report shows many typical features, Plate 34. The Marley Hill cottages were constructed of stone with two course brick lintols to the door and ground floor window. The roof as shown on the photograph is of slate. The yard wall of brick and the concrete floor are of a later construction, 1890. Note the half door or stable type door which was a common feature of the time. Also the one shutter on

the ground floor window, and the 'Yorkshire' or horizontally sliding sash window. The skylights are open in the photograph suggesting the first floor room was in use. The vents of the pantry window to the right of the picture are also typical of those found throughout the region.

Plate 34 Chapel Row, Marley Hill
Back to back cottage
Photographed in 1907 to illustrate
the Local Government Board Report
The door was a half door
horizontal sliding sash windows

Beamish Open Air Museum

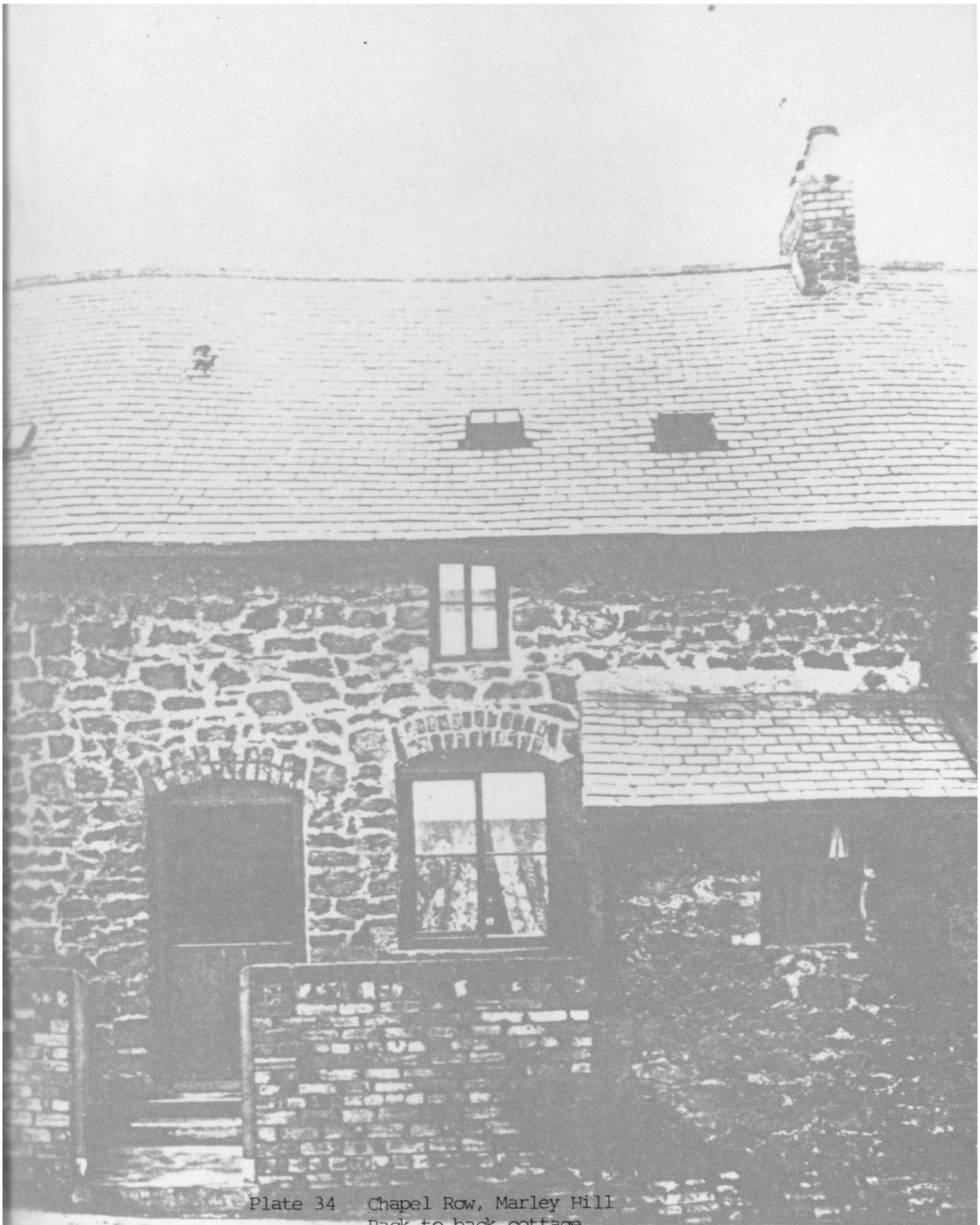
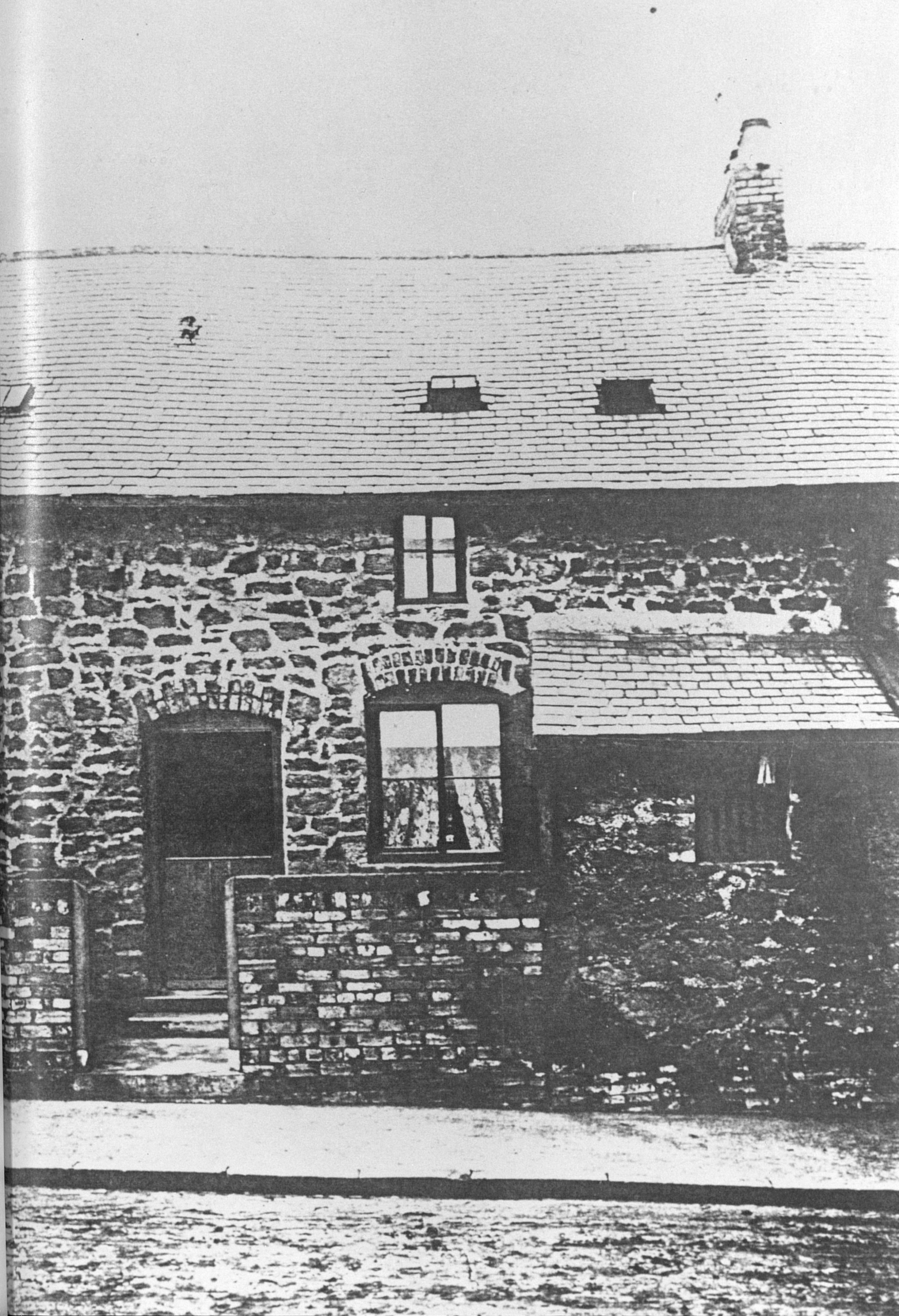


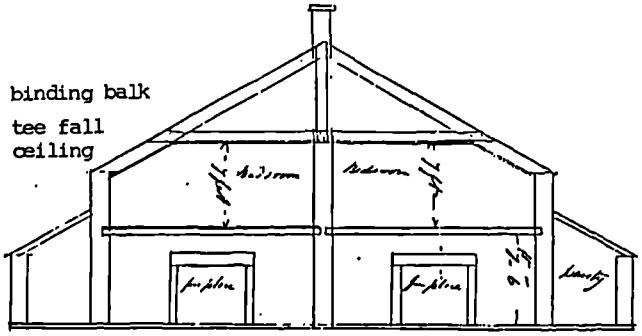
Plate 34 Chapel Row, Marley Hill
Back to back cottage
Photographed in 1907 to illustrate
the Local Government Board Report
The door was a half door
horizontal sliding sash windows

Beamish Open Air Museum



MICKLEY COLLIERY

An undated drawing entitled '4 cottages Mickley Colliery' Figure 13, shows a similar arrangement to that described at Marley Hill. The drawing was in the Stella Coal Company records at the Durham County Records Office. The cottages were constructed of 18" stone with a slate roof. The ground floor room was 17'0" x 16' 0" slightly smaller than at Marley Hill. A brief specification in the form of notes on the drawing gives further information on the plan. The step ladder was situated behind the door, and must therefore have been very narrow. The maximum floor to ceiling height at first floor level was 7'0" with a tee fall ceiling.[6] The upper rooms were ceiled to the binding balk.[7] The middle wall was carried up to the underside of the ceiling where it gave support to the king post roof truss. On the ground floor the internal floor finish was bricks laid flat. The chimney tops were also built with bricks.



CROSS SECTION

SPECIFICATION NOTES
ON ORIGINAL DRAWING

Step ladder behind the door

Upper rooms ceiled to the
Binding Balk

Pots to hold 9 gallons

Ovens 18" diameter

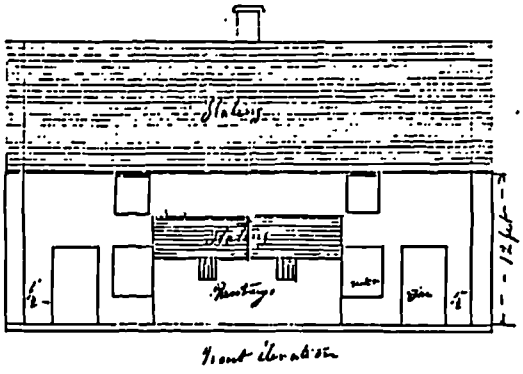
Rooms 17' x 16'

Chimney tops Built with Bricks

Floors laid with Bricks Flat

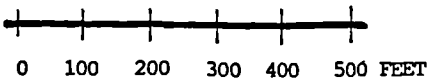
The middle wall carried up to
the Binding Balk

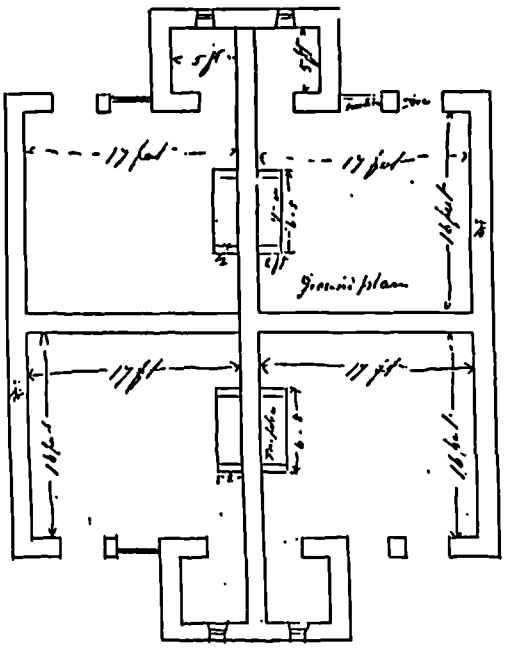
1 King Post in the couples
resting on the Middle Wall



ELEVATION

1859 O.S. MAP NOT
INCLUDED ON ORIGINAL DRAWING





GROUND FLOOR PLAN

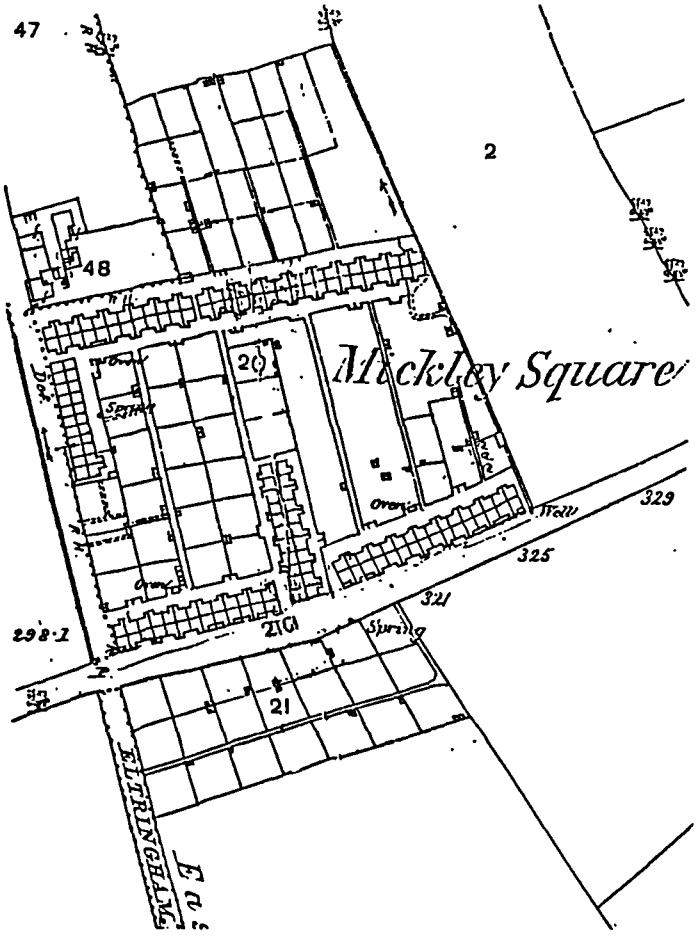
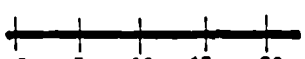


Figure 13 CATEGORY THREE TWO ROOMED COTTAGE
BACK TO BACK

1 ground floor room
1 first floor room

MICKLEY SQUARE
Map Reference NZ076622



SCALE

Reconstruction of original drawing entitled
4 Cottages Mickley Colliery
Stella Coal Company Durham County Record Office

EMMA VILLE

Some early back to back cottages have been identified on a drawing entitled 'Plan showing the ends of two rows at Emma Ville' from the Stella Coal Company records. The purpose of the drawing was to show the Reading Room at the end of the existing back to back cottages, Figure 94 . The First Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1856, Map 8, shows the relationship of the two ends of the rows of back cottages and the Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map 1896, Map 9, shows the addition of a Reading room, (marked Infant School) and the extension of the terrace.

From the Stella Coal Company records, it appears that the cottages were built in 1849. A few of the cottages are still standing today in the 1980s , Plate 35. They were converted into four roomed 'through' houses in the 1930s . The area of stone between the two front doors is where the original pantry and coal house were situated, see the Ordnance Survey Plan shape, Maps 8 and9.Note the use of the parapet detail where the roof terminates at the change of level. An item of particular interest regarding the cottage plan, is the inclusion of a staircase compared with the use of a ladder, more common for this date, as in the specification for the cottages at Hedgefield.

8

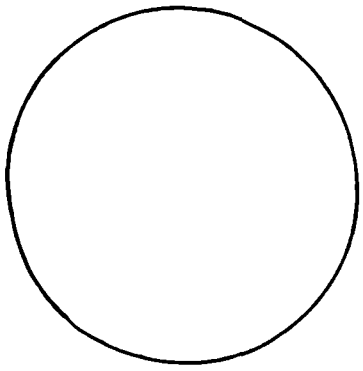
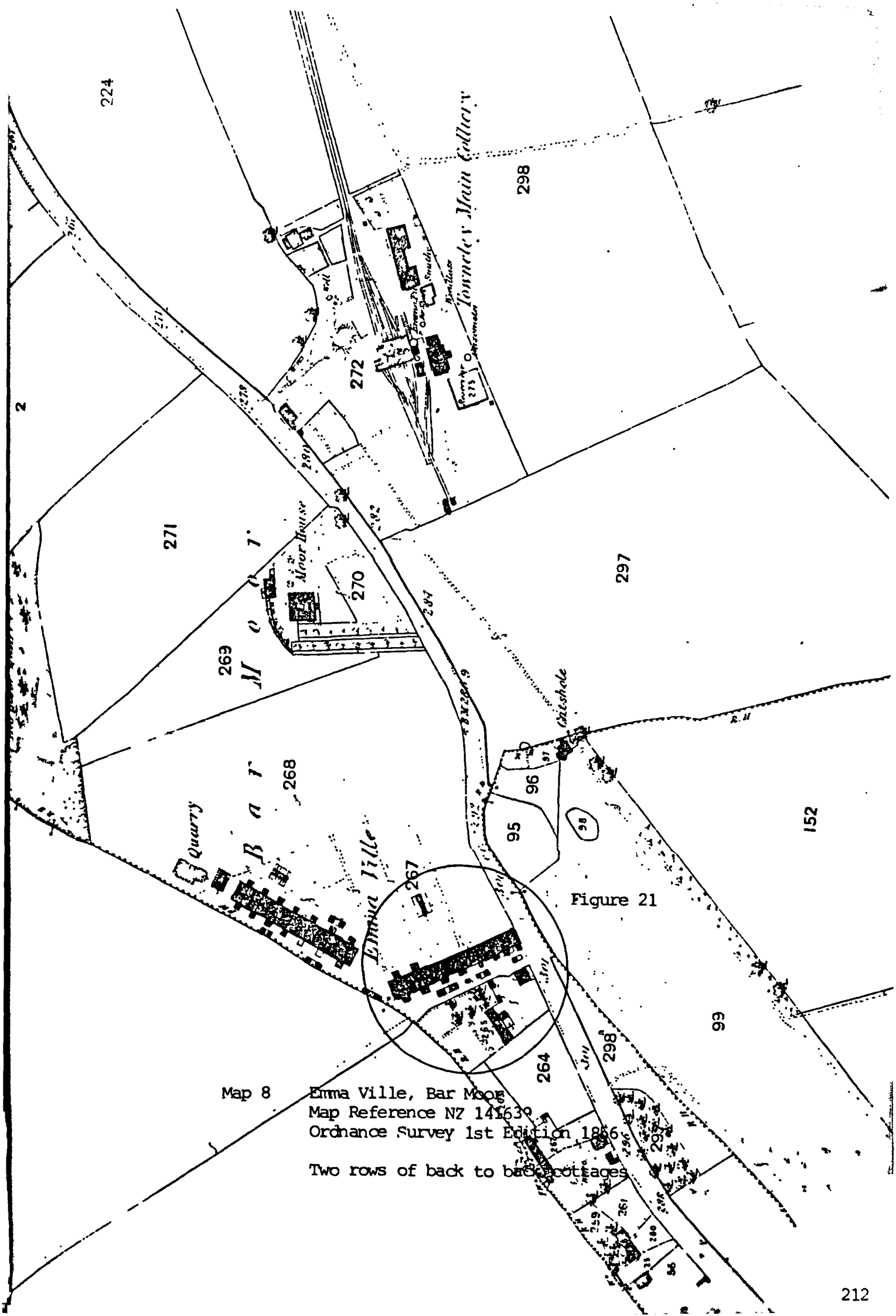


Figure 21

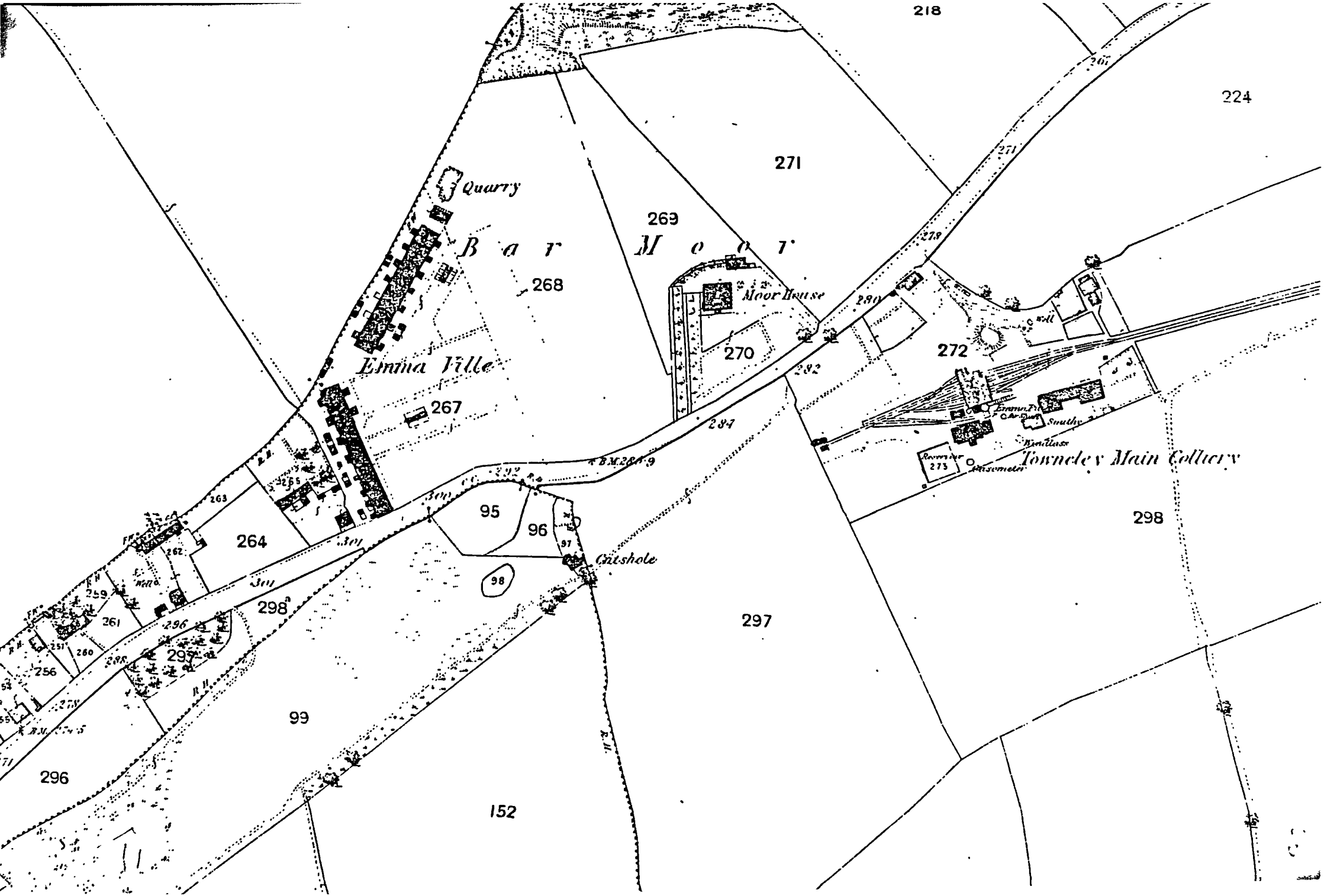
Map 8 Emma Ville, Bar Moor
Map Reference NZ 141639
Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1856

Two rows of back to back cottages

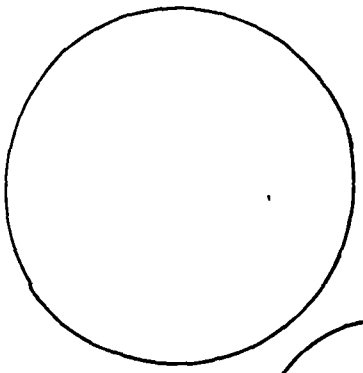


Map 8 Emma Ville, Bar Moor
Map Reference NZ 141639
Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1856

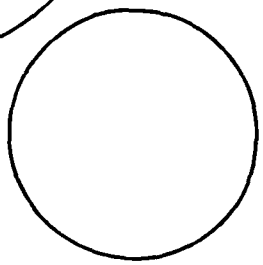
Two rows of back to back cottages



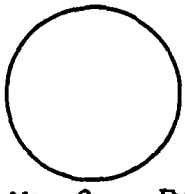
218
224
271
269
Quarry
Bar Moor
268
Moor House
270
272
Emma Ville
267
Townley Main Colliery
Gasometer
Windlass
Smithy
273
298
95
96
97
98
Catshole
264
263
262
259
261
260
256
298
297
99
296
152



Thorp Cottages
Figure 27



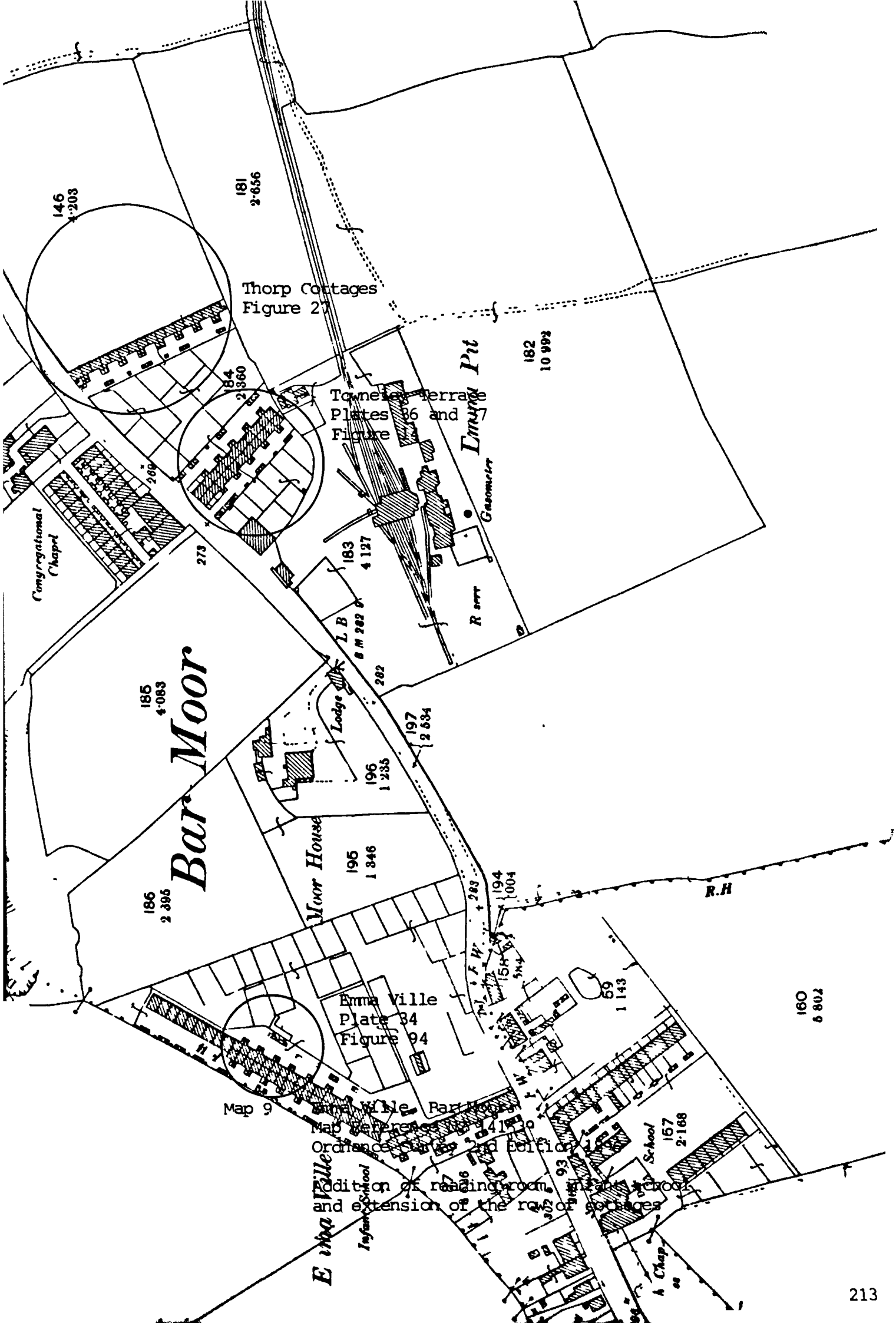
Towneley Terrace
Plates 36 and 37
Figure 14

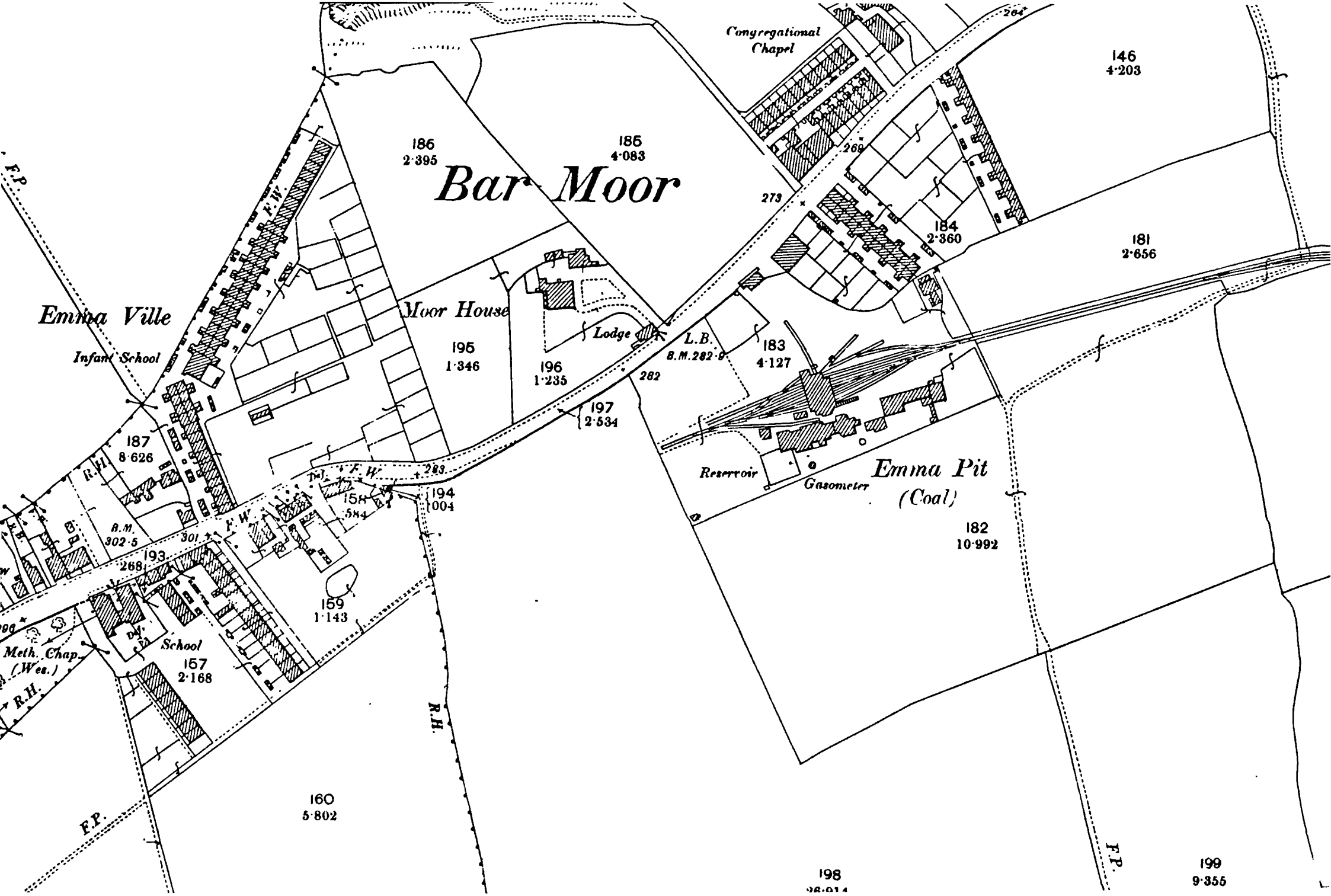


Emma Ville
Plate 34
Figure 94

Map 9 Emma Ville, Bar Moor
Map Reference NZ 14163°
Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 1896

Addition of reading room, infant school
and extension of the row of cottages


Thorp Cottages
Figure 27
Towneley Terrace
Plates 36 and 37
Figure 14
Emma Pit
Gasometer
Congregational Chapel
Bar Moor
Lodge
Moor House
Emma Ville
Plate 34
Figure 94
Emma Ville
Infant School
School
R.H
146
4·203
181
2·656
184
2·360
182
10·992
183
4·127
185
4·083
186
2·395
195
1·346
196
1·235
197
2·534
194
·004
160
6·802
157
2·168
93
59
1·143
Map 9
Emma Ville, Bar Moor
Map Reference No. 141
Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 1896
Addition of reading room, infant school
and extension of the row of cottages


Congregational Chapel
264
146
4·203
186
2·395
Bar Moor
185
4·083
269
273
184
2·360
181
2·656
F.P.
F.W.
Emma Ville
Infant School
Moor House
195
1·346
Lodge
196
1·235
L.B.
B.M.282·6
183
4·127
282
197
2·534
187
8·626
R.H.
283
194
1·004
158
584
Reservoir
Gasometer
Emma Pit
(Coal)
182
10·992
B.M.
302·5
301
193
268
159
1·143
Meth. Chap.
(Wes.)
School
157
2·168
R.H.
160
5·802
198
199
9·355

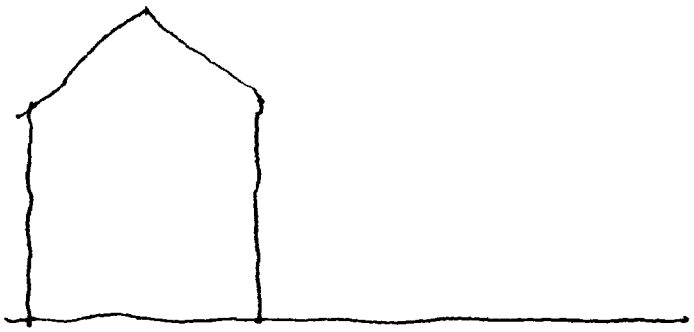


Plate 35 Emma Ville, Bar Moor
Back to back cottages 1849
Converted to through houses in the 1930's
Front elevation, showing where earlier
coal house and pantry were situated

Photograph by H. Diana Brown June 1987



Plate 35 Emma Ville, Bar Moor
Back to back cottages 1849
Converted to through houses in the 1930's
Front elevation, showing where earlier
coal house and pantry were situated

Photograph by H. Diana Brown June 1987



TOWNELEY TERRACE
BAR MOOR

The cottages at Towneley Terrace are another example of early back to back houses which have been converted into 'through houses in the 1930s, and are still standing in 1987, Plates 36 and 37 and Map 9.

The original drawings for these houses were found in the Stella Coal Company's records entitled:

Plan of Four Cottages Built at Towneley Colliery.
Drawn in 1857 by J.S.Hindburgh .
9

Figure 14 shows clearly that, gabled pantries, shown on the overlay, were an original part of the design. The cottages were of stone construction with slate roofs. The walls were 20" thick, more than the usual 18" as indicated on the other drawings. Obviously the design was considered fairly successful as a later drawing was found dated 1863 showing 40 cottages to be built to the same design, these however have not been identified on the O.S. maps. Towneley Terrace cottages were of a superior quality to the back to backs of Mickley. The elevations here show the proportions of the windows
10
and give a degree of quality to the building. The pantries at Mickley were small and constructed as a 'lean to' compared to the gables of the cottages at Bar Moor. The floor to ceiling dimensions were much greater at Bar Moor.

These cottages had thicker walls and a superior roof truss, Towneley Terrace still stands today. Perhaps survival of the fittest was a philosophy which prevailed throughout the coal industry.

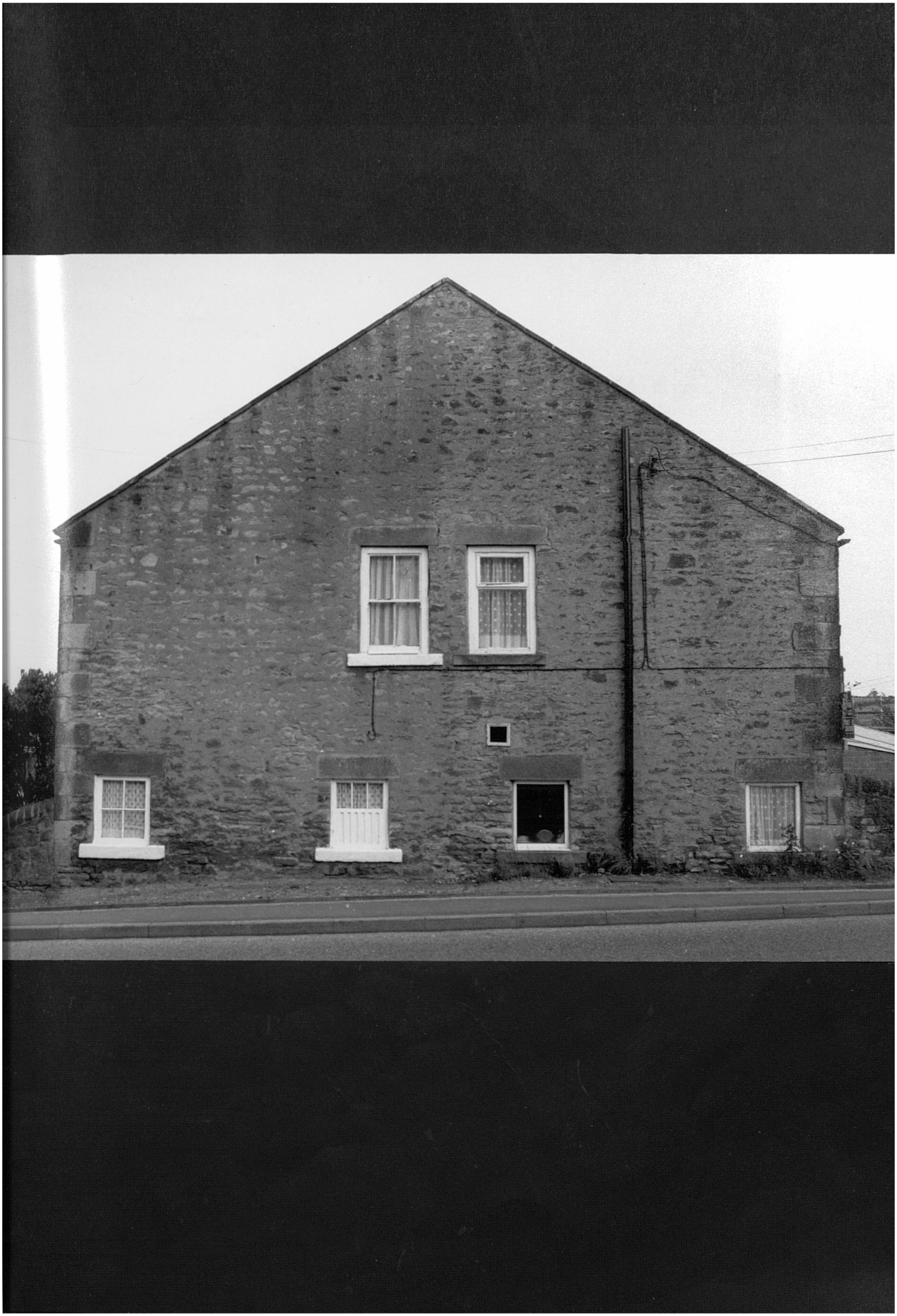
Plate 36 Towneley Terrace, Bar Moor
Back to back cottages 1857
Converted to through houses in the 1930's
End elevation

Photograph by H. Diana Brown June 1987



Plate 36 Towneley Terrace, Bar Moor
Back to back cottages 1857
Converted to through houses in the 1930's
End elevation

Photograph by H. Diana Brown June 1987



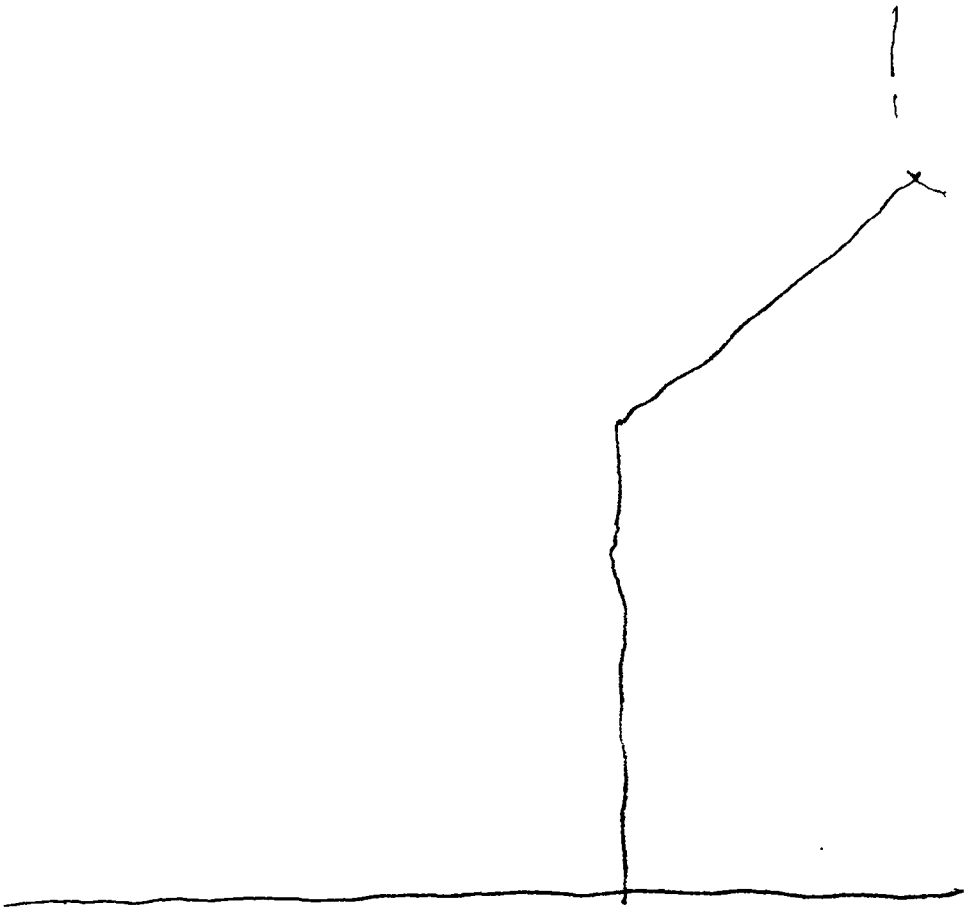


Plate 37 Towneley Terrace, Par Moor
Back to back cottages 1857
Converted to through houses in the 1930's
Front elevation, showing where gabled
pantry was situated

Photograph by H. Diana Brown June 1987

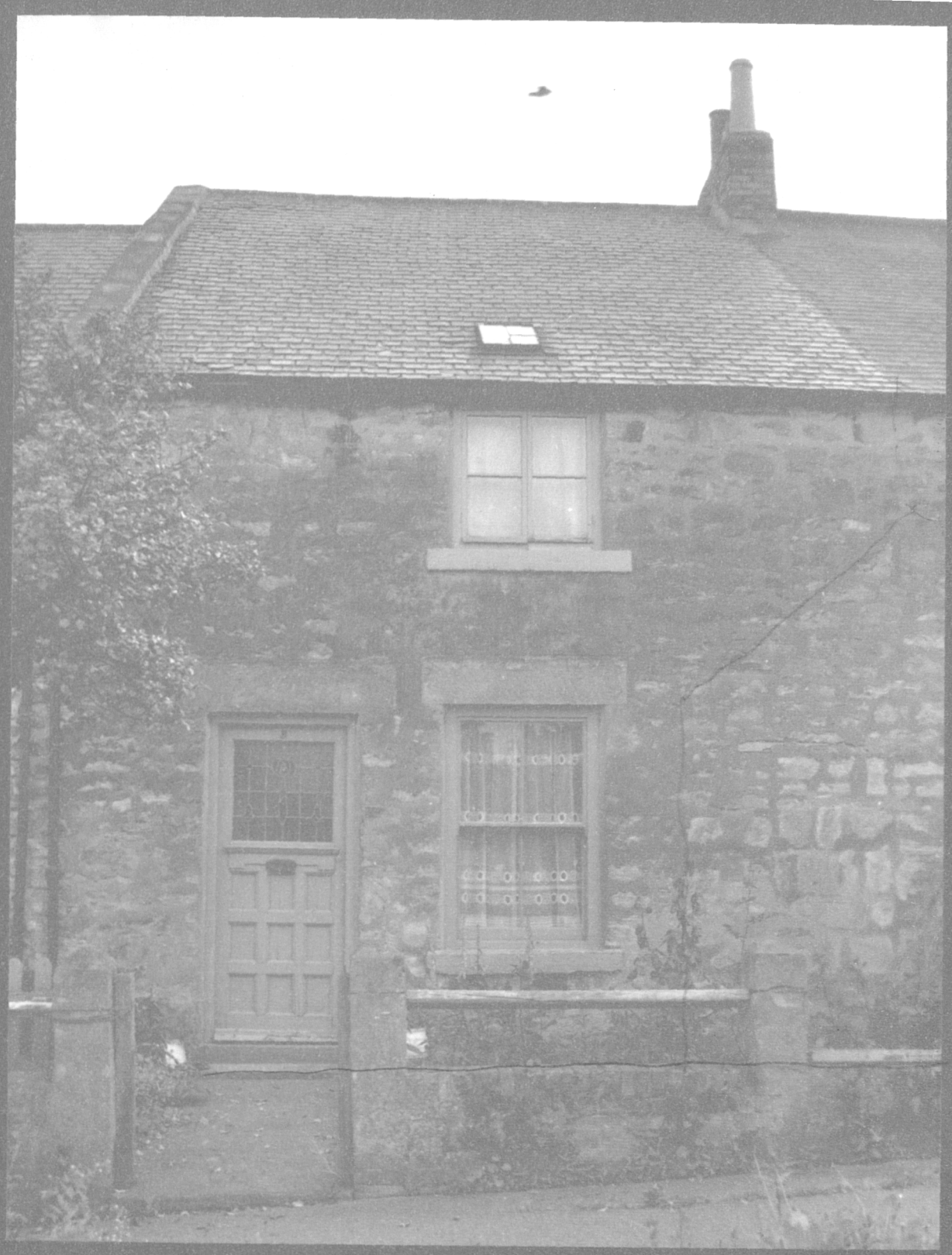
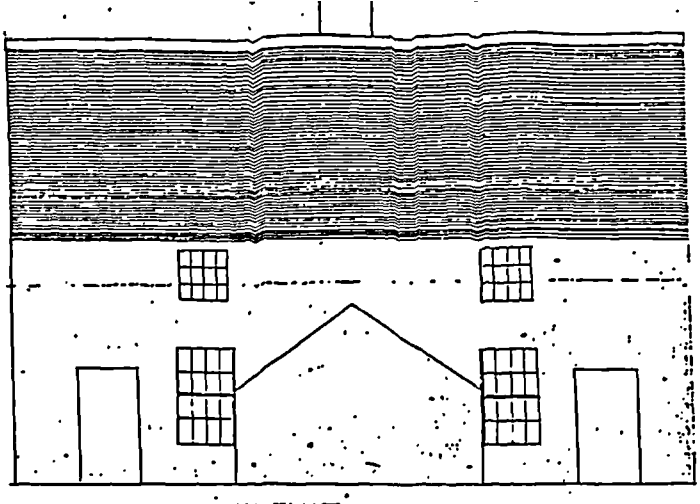


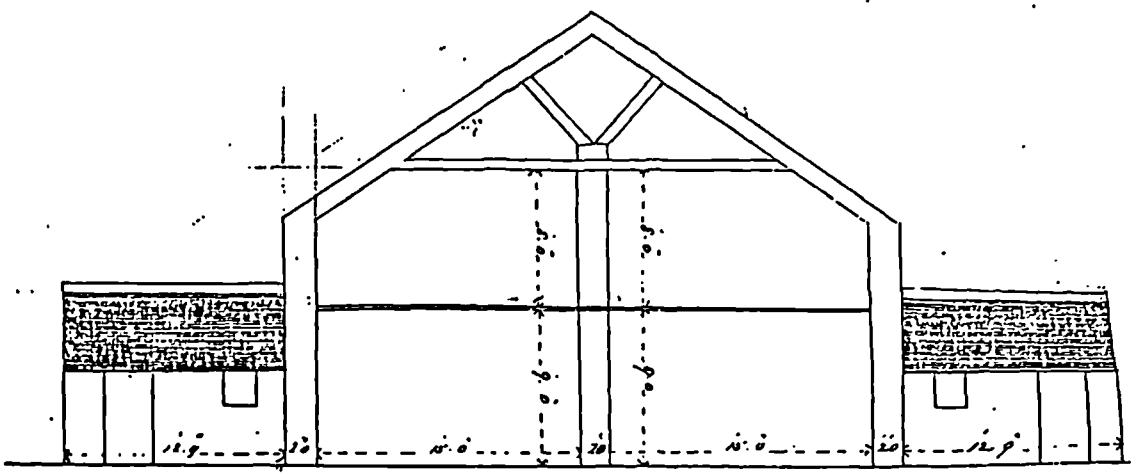
Plate 37 Towneley Terrace, Bar Moor
Back to back cottages 1857
Converted to through houses in the 1930's
Front elevation, showing where gabled
pantry was situated

Photograph by H. Diana Brown June 1987

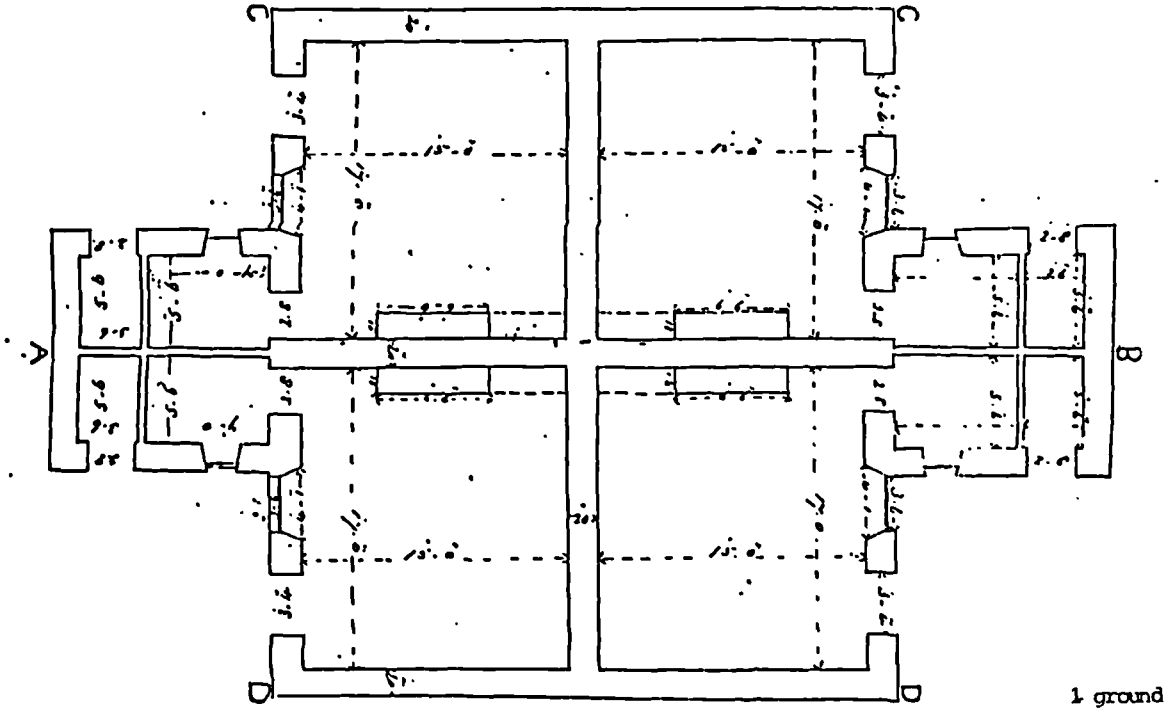




ELEVATION C.D.



SECTION. A.B.



1 ground floor room
1 first floor room

Figure 14 CATEGORY THREE TWO ROOMED COTTAGE BACK TO BACK

TOWNLEY TERRACE
BAR MOOR 1857
Map Reference NZ142638

0 5 10 15 20 FEET
SCALE

Reconstruction of original drawing entitled
Plan of Four Cottages, Built at Townley Colliery
Drawn in 1857 by J.S. Hindburgh

THORP FIELD

The drawing of back to back cottages at Thorp Field has been included as it is slightly later in date than the two previous examples and does give more technical information, Figure 15 and 16. The drawing was entitled:

> Plan of 20 workmens cottages intended to be built in the West portion of Thorp Field by the Stella Coal Company December 1864.

There is also a note on the drawing to the effect that it was supplemented by a detail specification. Reference to the specification is included in Construction and Detail, Part IV.[11]

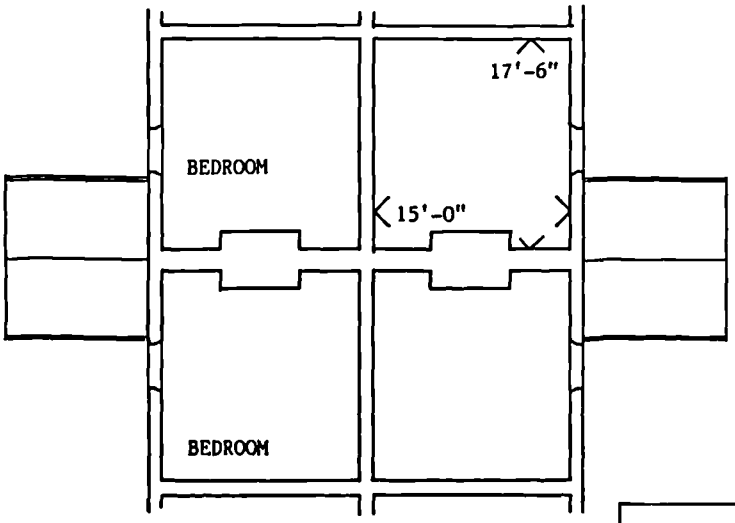
> The above plan is that in which my offer in the foregoing specification is based. Jan 18th 1865 signed John Rippon.[12]

The drawing includes the drainage details, reflecting common practice of the Stella Coal Company.

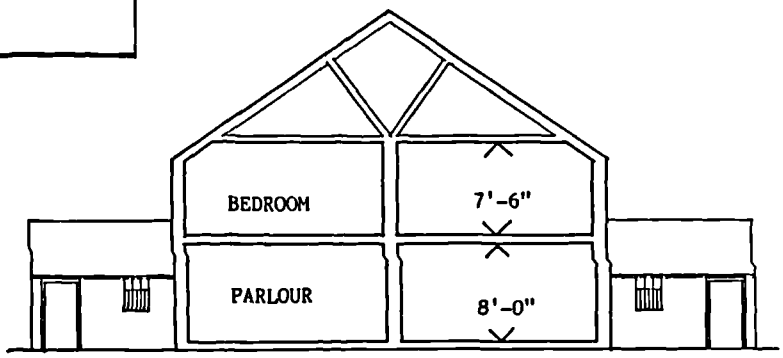
This drawing provides greater information about the size of windows and the fact that a wooden lintol was used over the bedroom windows 7"x2½". The typical pantry window used through out the region was shown on this drawing with timber sliding section below and glazing above. Privies and bread ovens were also shown. The location of these cottages however was not identified.[13]



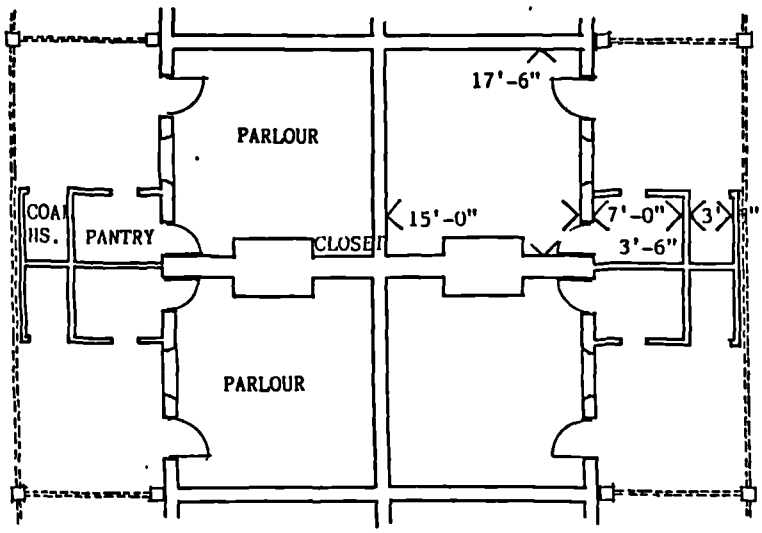
WEST ELEVATION AND EAST ELEVATION



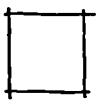
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECTION (see detail - Part of
of original drawing)



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



BREAD OVEN
6'-0" x 6'-0"

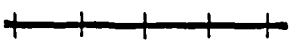
PRIVY & ASH PIT
Not shown

Main drain 9" diameter

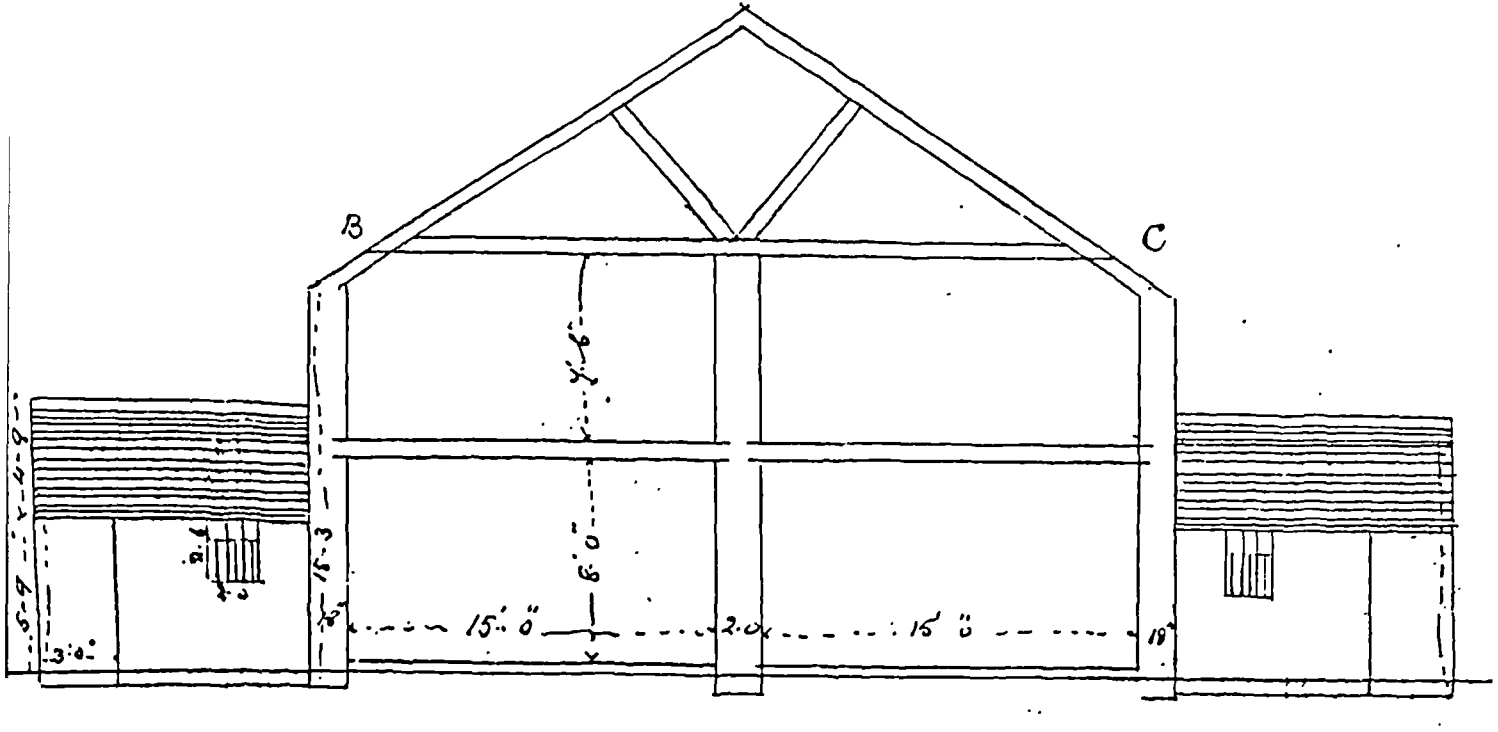
Figure 15 CATEGORY THREE - TWO ROOMED COTTAGE
BACK TO BACK

1 ground floor room
1 first floor room

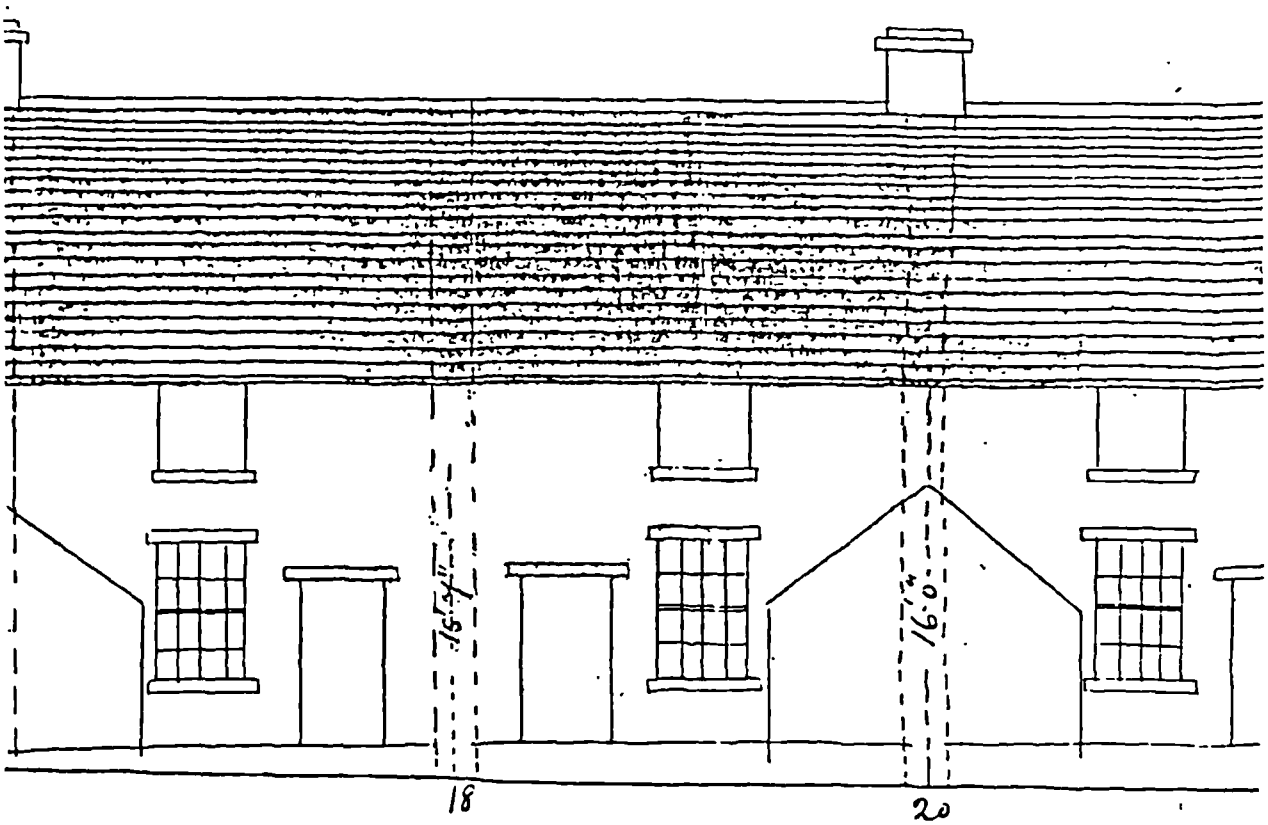
THORP FIELD 1864 December
Location unidentified



From original drawing entitled Plan of 20 Workmens Cottages
intended to be built in the west portion of Thorp Field
Stella Coal Company Durham County Record Office



Average Section of Cottages.



West. Elevation

Figure 16 CATEGORY THREE TWO ROOMED COTTAGE BACK TO BACK

20 Workmens Cottages intended to be built in the west portion of Thorp Field by the Stella Coal Com^{y} December 1864.

Part of original drawing

0 5 10 FEET
SCALE

HEDGEFIELD

The last example of this category of cottage considered was shown on a drawing entitled

> Plan and section of 50 cottages to be built at Hedgefield for the Stella Coal Company. Designed by Robert Simpson April 1864.[14]

These are particularly interesting as included with the drawings were:

> Specification and description of Masonry required in building fifty two cottages and conveniences at Hedgefield New Colliery Winning as per specification, plan and section following.
>
> Estimates for Hedgefield cottages
>
> Copy of Mr March's final tender for 52 cottages, 28 privies, 14 ash pits and 12 bread ovens. Dated May 5th 1864.[15]

It is likely that some of the fifty two cottages are those identified on the 2nd Ordnance Survey map of 1896, Map 10. Hedgefield or Addison Colliery was sunk in 1864. The price of a cottage was £52.14.5 compared with the price of £57 per cottage for the one up one down, back to back cottages at Mickley.[16]

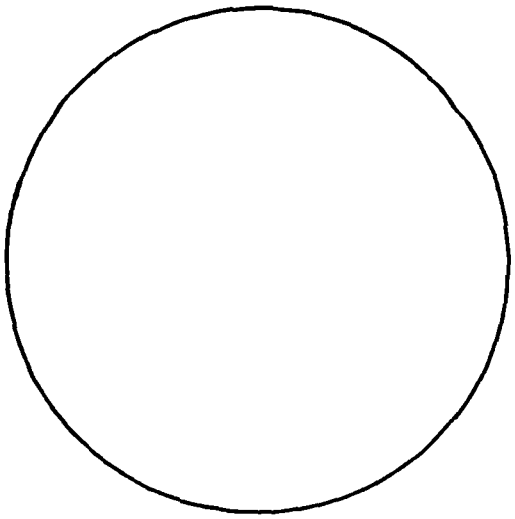
The specifications contain an enormous amount of valuable technical information. This will be analysed at greater length in the technical section, Methods of Construction. In principle it can be stated that in terms of the technology available in 1864 the dwellings were of a good basic standard of construction.

The original drawings of the Hedgefield cottages shows some interesting factors, Figure 17. The cottages were to be sited on a fairly steeply sloping piece of ground and the two back to back cottages have a different ground floor level,the floor to ceiling heights are not the same and nor is the eaves height. The end elevation is therefore

asymmetrical in form, the pitch of the roof is different on the front and rear elevation in order to achieve a quality of scale. The actual plan form and area is virtually identical to the previous two examples. However, in the lower cottage the pantry is one step below the living room. The problem in these dwellings was that the lower cottage was susceptible to damp along the back wall.

However the specification is informative about other details regarding the general waterproofing of the structure and fastenings around chimneys. This is the most comprehensive set of information to be found about a colliery cottage of this date.

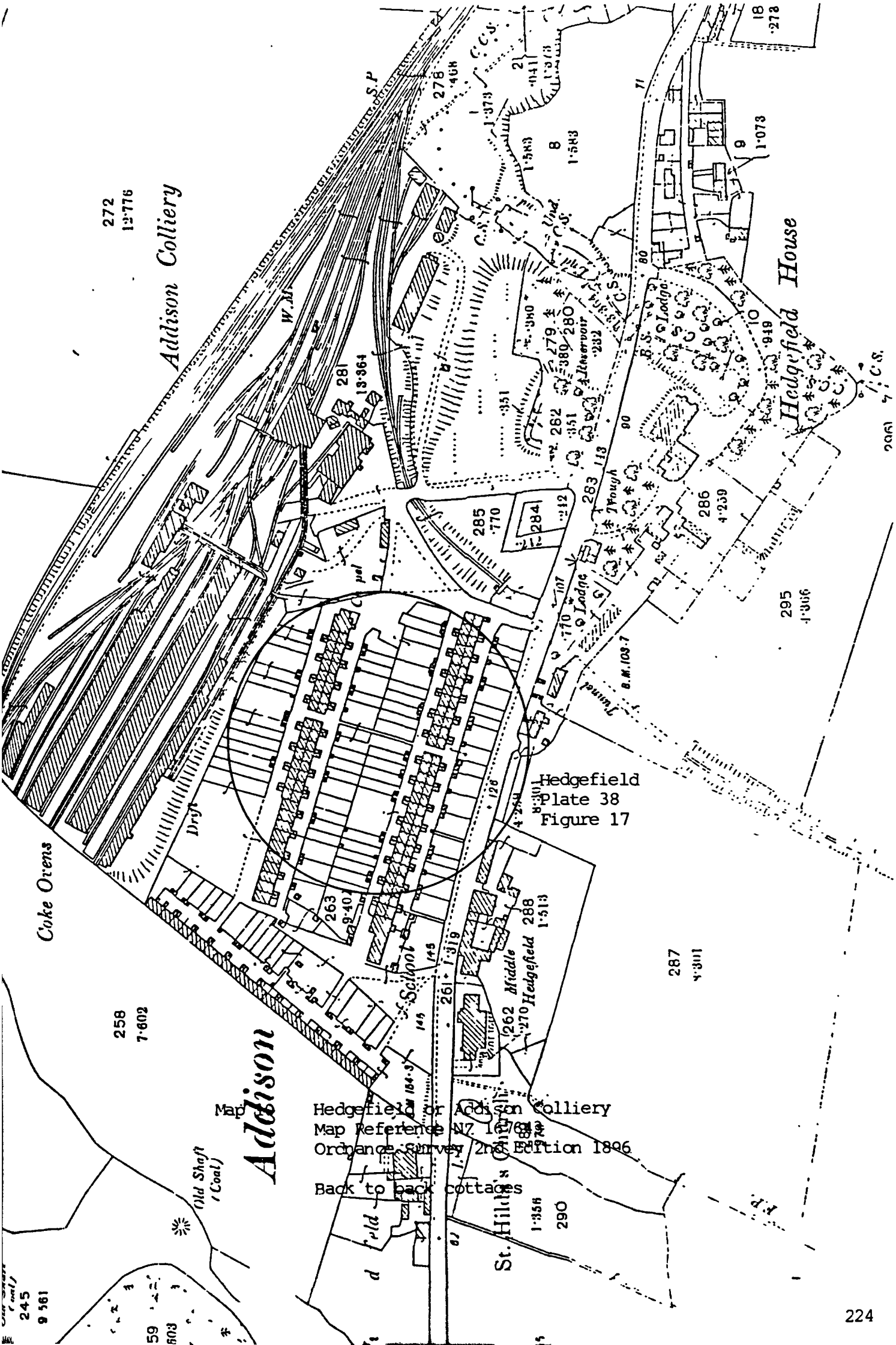
The most interesting fact of all is the title of the drawing 'Designed by Robert Simpson'. The designs for these dwellings were carefully considered both functionally and aesthetically. The cottages were demolished in 1958 as illustrated in the rather poor photograph from the Beamish records, Plate 38.



Hedgefield
Plate 38
Figure 17

Map 10 Hedgefield or Addison Colliery
Map Reference NZ 167643
Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 1896

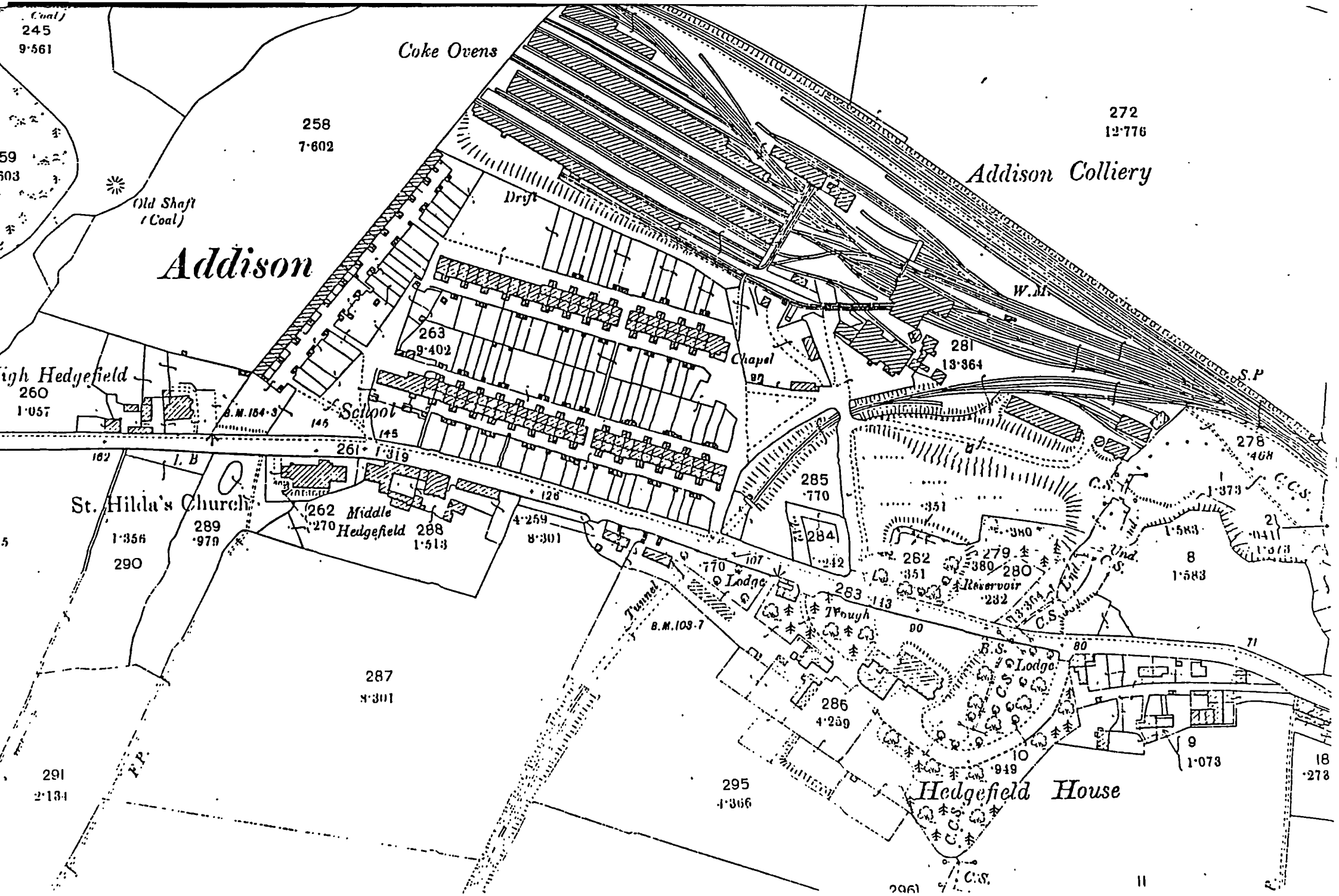
Back to back cottages



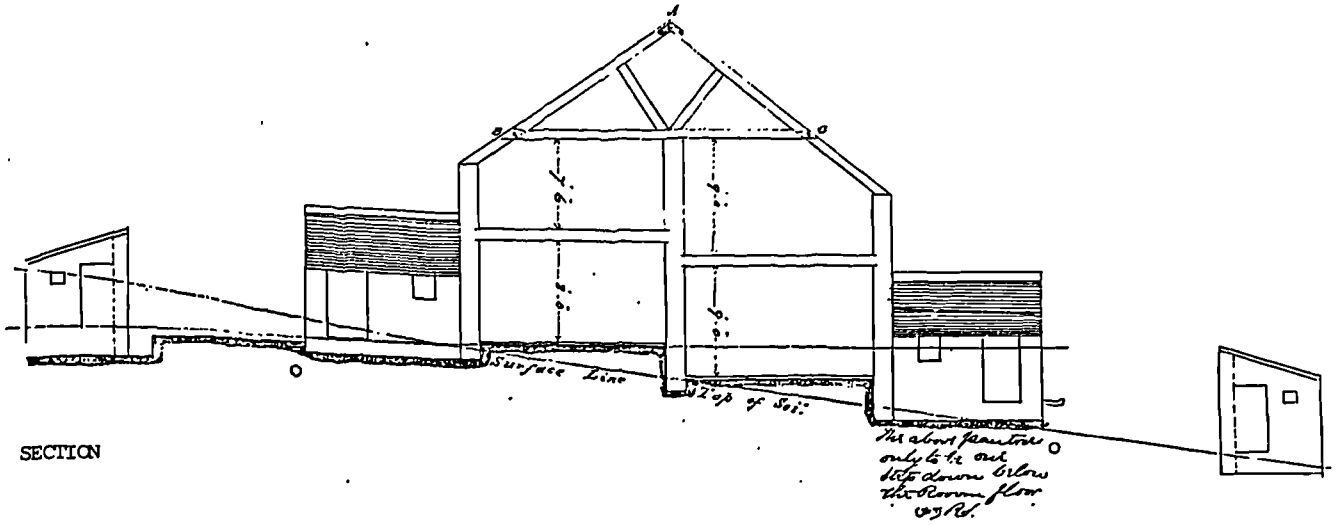
Hedgefield
Plate 38
Figure 17

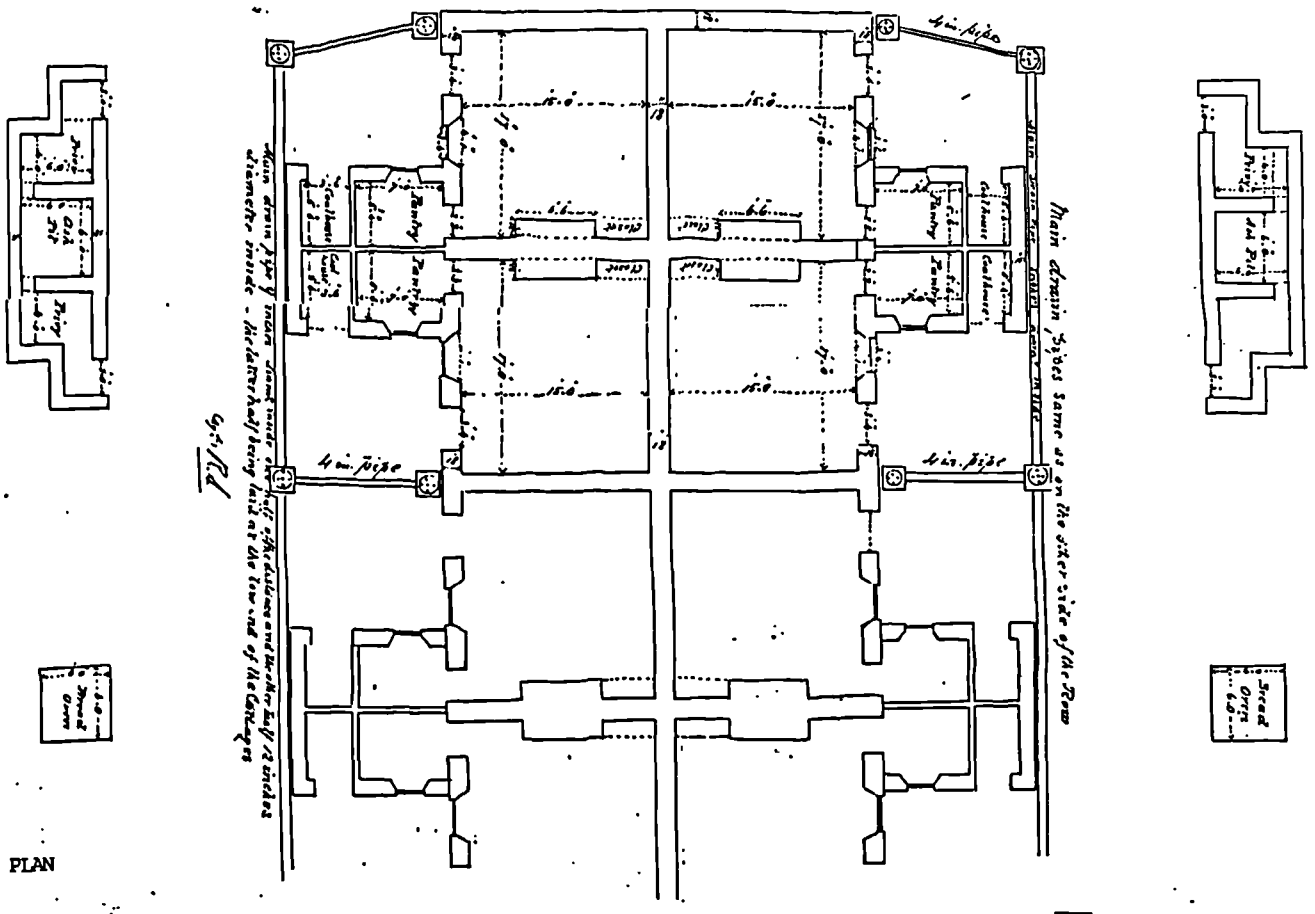
Map 10 Hedgefield or Addison Colliery
Map Reference NZ 167643
Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 1896

Back to back cottages



Coke Ovens
Addison Colliery
Addison
Old Shaft (Coal)
Drift
Chapel
School
St. Hilda's Church
Middle Hedgefield
Lodge
Trough
Reservoir
Hedgefield House
Tunnel
W.M.
S.P.
C.S.
B.S.
Und.
245
9·561
258
7·602
272
12·776
263
9·402
281
13·364
260
1·057
261
1·319
285
·770
284
·242
262
·351
279
·380
280
·232
283
·113
278
·468
1
1·373
2
·041
1·583
8
1·583
289
·979
1·356
290
262
·270
288
1·513
4·259
8·301
287
8·301
286
4·259
295
4·366
291
2·134
10
·949
9
1·073
18
·273

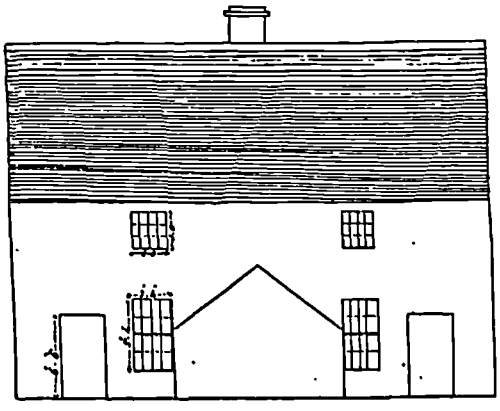




PLAN and SECTION of FIFTY COTTAGES to be built at Hedgefield for the Stella Coal Company

Designed by ROBT SIMPSON

April 1864.



FRONT AND REAR ELEVATION

Figure 17 CATEGORY THREE TWO ROOMED COTTAGE BACK TO BACK

1 ground floor room
1 first floor room

(REDUCED)
Scale of 8 feet to an Inch

HEDGEFIELD
ADDISON 1864
Map Reference NZ167643

Reconstruction of original drawing
Stella Coal Company Durham County Record Office

Plate 38 Hedgefield, Addison Colliery
Back to back cottages 1864
Demolition in December 1958

Beamish Open Air Museum



Plate 38 Hedgefield, Addison Colliery
Back to back cottages 1864
Demolition in December 1958

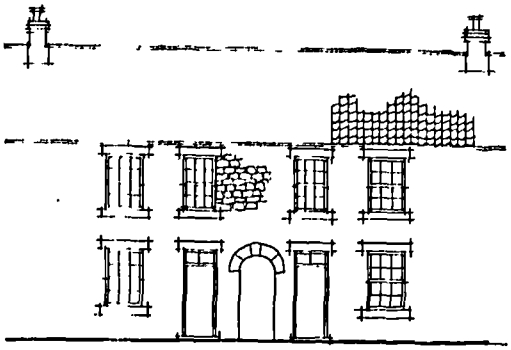
Beamish Open Air Museum



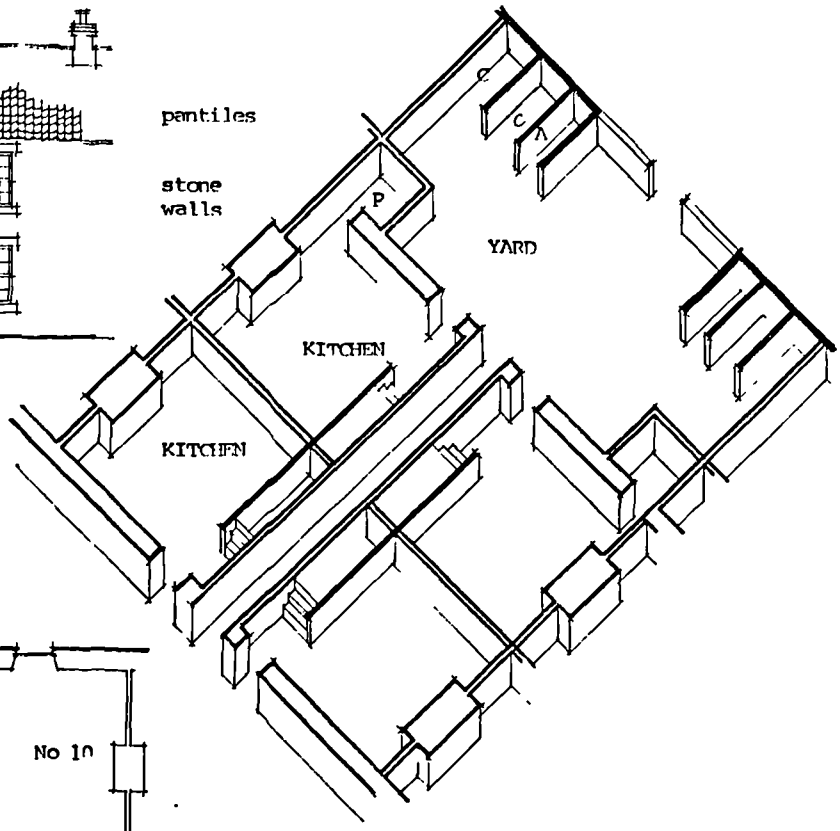
DARLINGTON ROAD
WEST AUCKLAND

Darlington Road, West Auckland is included in this section as it shows two and three roomed, back to back dwellings with the addition of an open alleyway running between the blocks. These houses were surveyed in 1972 by Stafford Linsley and have since been demolished. They were built before 1897 in stone with pantiled roofs. The doors and windows had stone lintols and the alleyway was expressed elevationally with an arch. The alley way provided access to the coal store and privy yard, on one side of the cottages . Unlike many examples of colliery cottages where there was no private access to the privy, which was located across the road, in this case the yard with its enclosing wall provided privacy of access. The alley way afforded the opportunity of a slightly larger area of accommodation at first floor level and an opportunity for different floor layouts. The houses illustrated are both one and two bedroom plans, Figure 18.

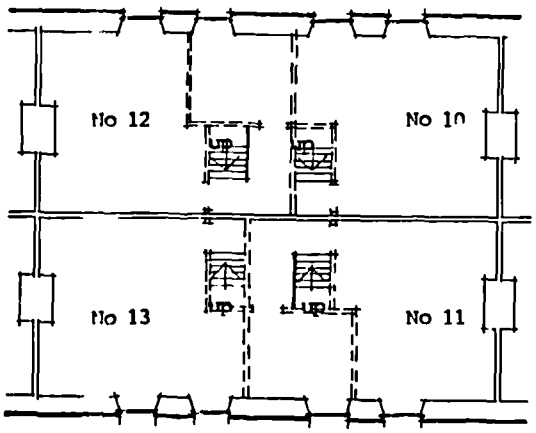
By its terminology 'back to back' implies a dwelling with a front door and no back door. Significantly other back to back cottages illustrated have not had 'back yards'. In this example the design made great effort to provide a compact back to back dwelling with the privacy of a yard on the side of the dwellings away from the main road. The front doors of one side of the back to back cottages opened directly to the yard. These units also had a projecting pantry and therefore the slightly larger ground floor plan area.



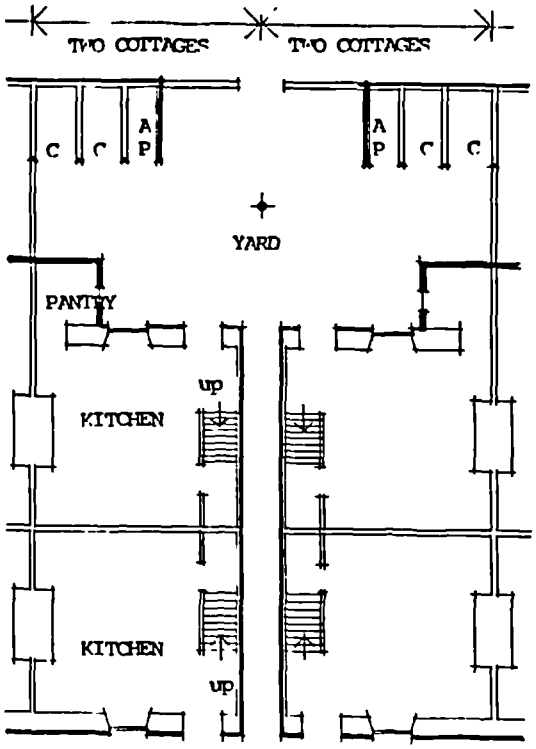
FRONT ELEVATION



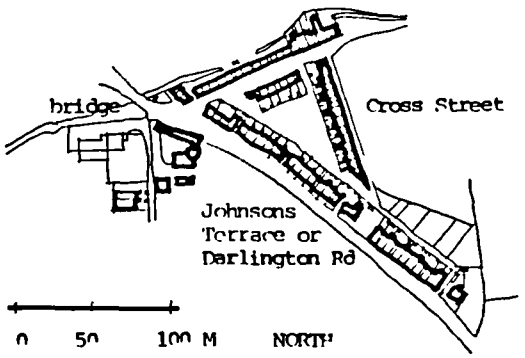
AXONOMETRIC



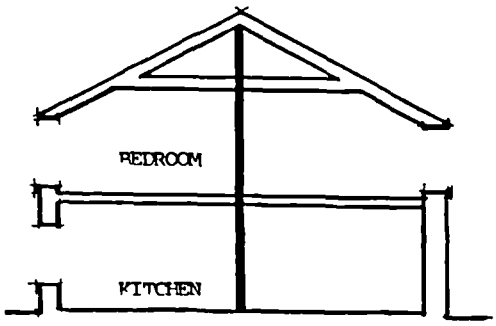
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



LOCATION PLAN
based on O.S. Map 1897



CROSS SECTION

Figure 18 CATEGORY THREE TWO/THREE ROOMED COTTAGE 1 ground floor room
BACK TO BACK 2 first floor rooms

DARLINGTON ROAD
WEST AUCKLAND Pre 1897
Map Reference NZ183262

0 5 10 15 20 FEET
SCALE

Authors interpretation of
S.M. Linsley survey 1972 and drawing 1977
Adult Education Department Newcastle University

The North East is not generally known for its back to back housing. The plan type is associated with areas such as Leeds; however, large numbers of back to back cottages have been identified on the Great Northern Coalfield. Although it has not proved possible to estimate what percentage of dwellings were back to back, Darra Mair in his report of 1907 stated that 34% of the total number of dwelling units in the North East of Britain were of two rooms as opposed to the National figure of less than 10% . Furthermore, the percentage of two room units to the total number in Northumberland and Durham 28% and 26% respectively, was very much greater than in comparable mining areas elsewhere, none of which exceeded 11% . It has not proved possible to identify a precise date when back to back cottages were finally abandoned on the Great Northern Coalfield. The building of back to backs by the Stella Coal Company was taking place beyond 1864, at Hedgefield and Thorp Field, but by this time full two storey 'single houses' had been built.[17]

The interesting factor is that the back to back cottage of the Great Northern Coalfield never developed beyond the modification of the seminal plan form; i.e. of the single ground floor unit with one attic room over. This lack of development was partly due to legislative controls but it is interesting that in other parts of the country for example in Leeds full two and three storey houses were built back to back. All examples of back to back cottages identified have been of the type where the eaves are raised only slightly to give a section of sloping ceiling, and usually a smaller first floor window.

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
COTTAGE TYPE
CATEGORY THREE - TWO ROOMED COTTAGE 1 ground floor room
                                     1 first floor room

ONE UP ONE DOWN
BACK END or TEE FALL COTTAGE

ONE UP ONE DOWN
BACK END OR TEE-FALL COTTAGES

The Back End or Tee-Fall cottage was a variation of the one up one down cottage, bearing some resemblance to a back to back' cottage.[18]

No drawings of this house type have been traced but descriptions of the Tee-Fall cottages indicate dwellings about eighteen feet long and ten feet wide. That is about five feet narrower than houses to which they were attached. The Back-Ends appear to be divided from the Front House and can therefore be classified as a form of Back to Back . Examples of this type have been identified near Killingworth Colliery at West Moor and Netherton.

A particular feature of the design of the Back-End cottage was that the roof was of a very shallow pitch. The roof had to be almost flat as the high point of this roof connected to the bottom of the front house roof.[19] As the walls were low this was often only 7' 6" high. Roofs of this type were the origin of the 'cat-slide roof',[20] however, as they were shallow in pitch they were very prone to leaking, and very ineffectual, resulting in a damp interior to the cottages. The ground outside was usually poorly drained and wet because the roofs had no gutters or spouts; rain water pipes. Many floors were below ground level.

Not only were the back-end cottages damp but by the very nature of the plan form, they were poorly lit. It was also poorly ventilated having no through ventilation. Most of the cottages of this type were more than ten years old in 1870 and some were eighty or one hundred years old. [21]

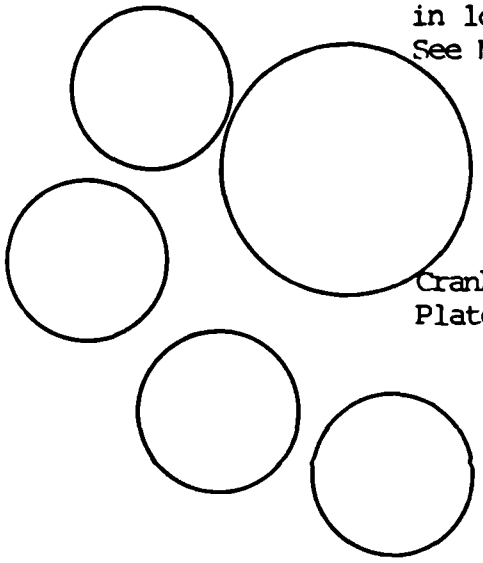
KILLINGWORTH COLLIERY
WEST MOOR

No detail drawings of this category cottage have been traced but from careful inspection of the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 25" to 1 mile 1860 and the 2nd edition 1897, Map 11 and Map 12, and from detailed descriptions of the cottages at West Moor, an interpretation of the accommodation has been made.

> The Back-ends are additions to the original structure and appear as if they had been built on as a happy after thought, whereby more houses could be erected at a comparatively low price, and more experiments tried as to how many human beings might sleep in one room without being suffocated. In many cases it is hard to tell whether these tee-falls are supported by the walls against which they are built, or act as a weakly buttress to the parent dwelling.[22]

The internal dimensions of each back-end, were eighteen feet long by ten feet broad by seven and a half feet high. The roofs were almost flat and at the level of the bottom of the roof of the parent dwelling.[23][24] The houses to which these back-ends were attached were of the category, one room downstairs and an unceiled attic above.

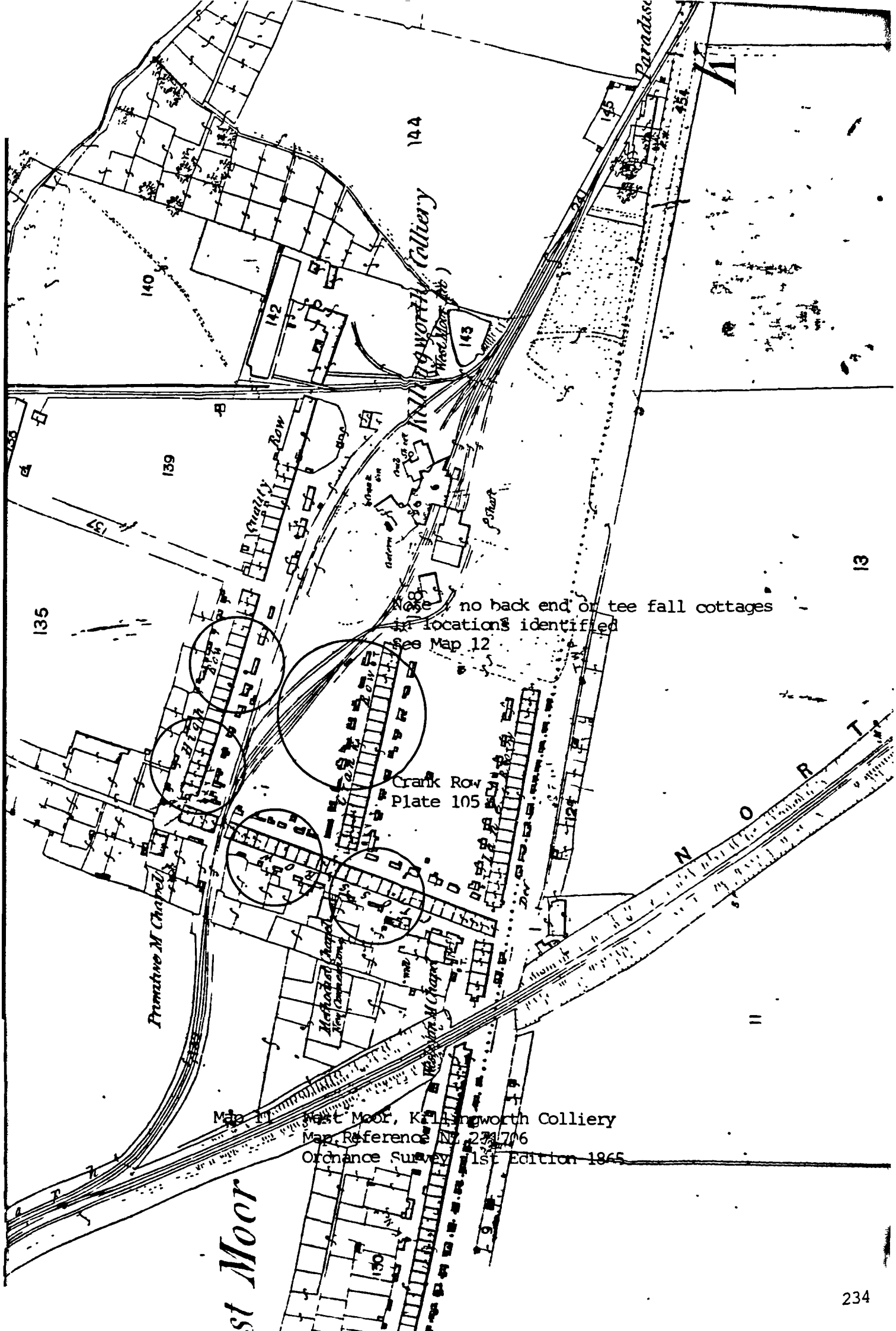
J.Y.E. Seeley showed a diagramatic drawing of her own interpretation of the cottages. By enlarging the areas identified on Ordnance Survey Map 12, 25 Cross Row and High Row, Seeleys diagram has been developed, Figure 19.[25] It is difficult to offer an explanation for the fact that the subdivsion of the plan shown on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition of 1897, Map 12, does not occur on the earlier Ordnance Survey map of 1860, Map 11. One theory considered was that the earlier existing houses were subdivided to create more dwellings. However if this were the case it does not provide explanation for the asymmetrical cross section of the cottages, as described, Figure 19. Nor does it correlate with the description of the back-ends as additions to the original structures.



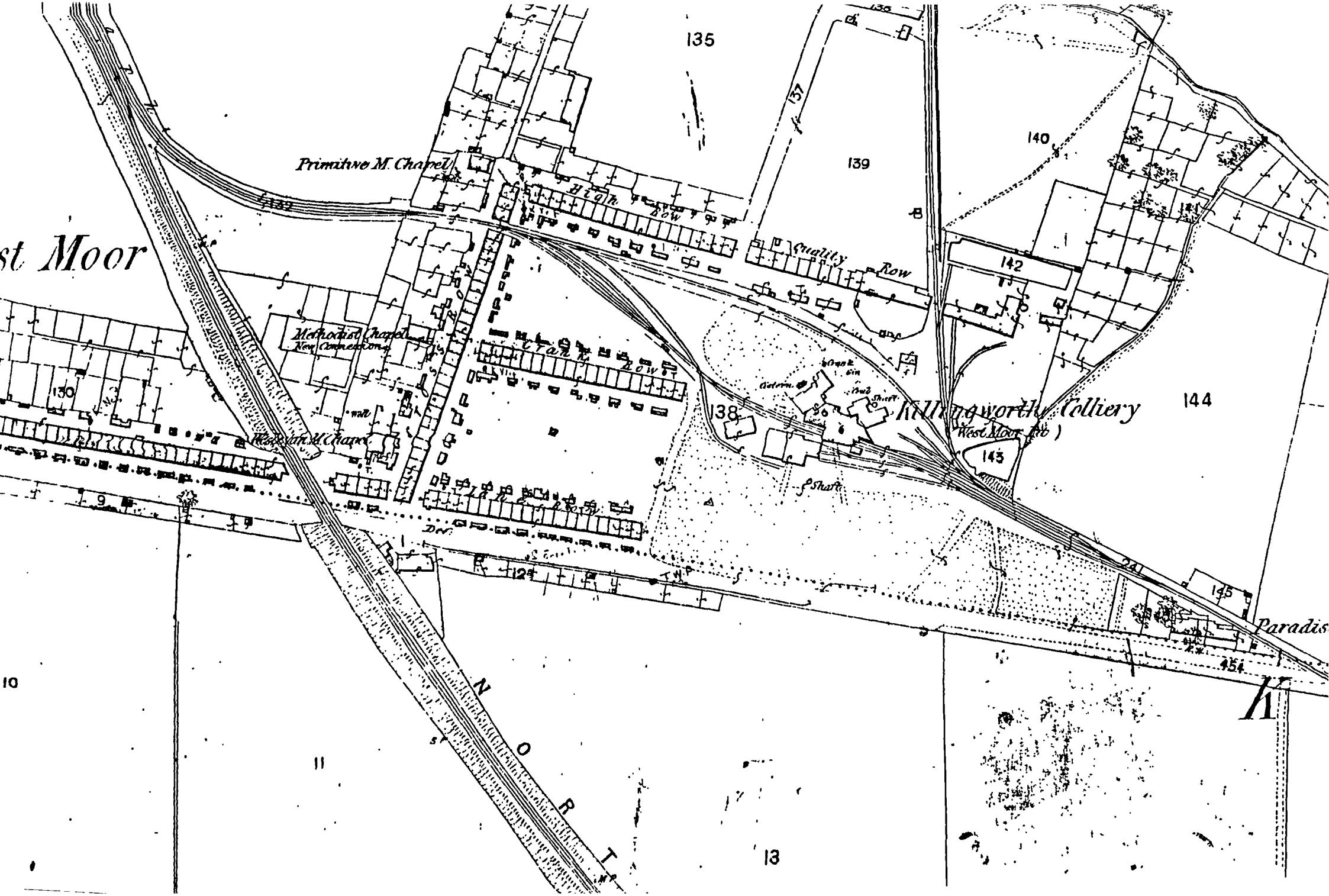
Note : no back end or tee fall cottages
in locations identified
See Map 12

Crank Row
Plate 105

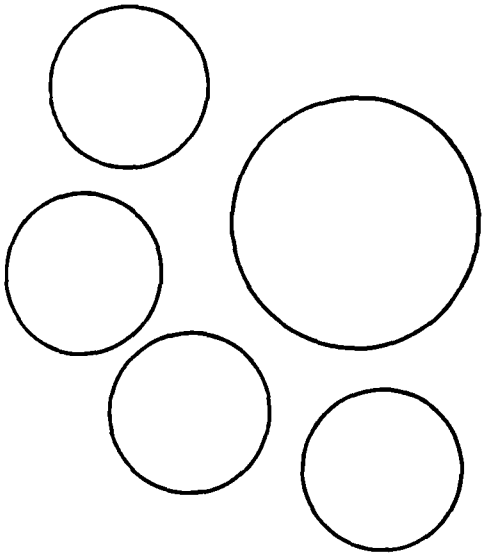
Map 11 West Moor, Killingworth Colliery
Map Reference NZ 271706
Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1865



Map 14 West Moor, Kirkheaton Colliery
Map Reference NZ 221706
Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1865



st Moor
Primitive M. Chapel
High Row
Quality Row
Methodist Chapel
New Connection
Crank Row
Killingworth Colliery
West Moor Pit
Paradis
NORT
135
137
139
140
142
144
143
145
138
130
9
10
11
13

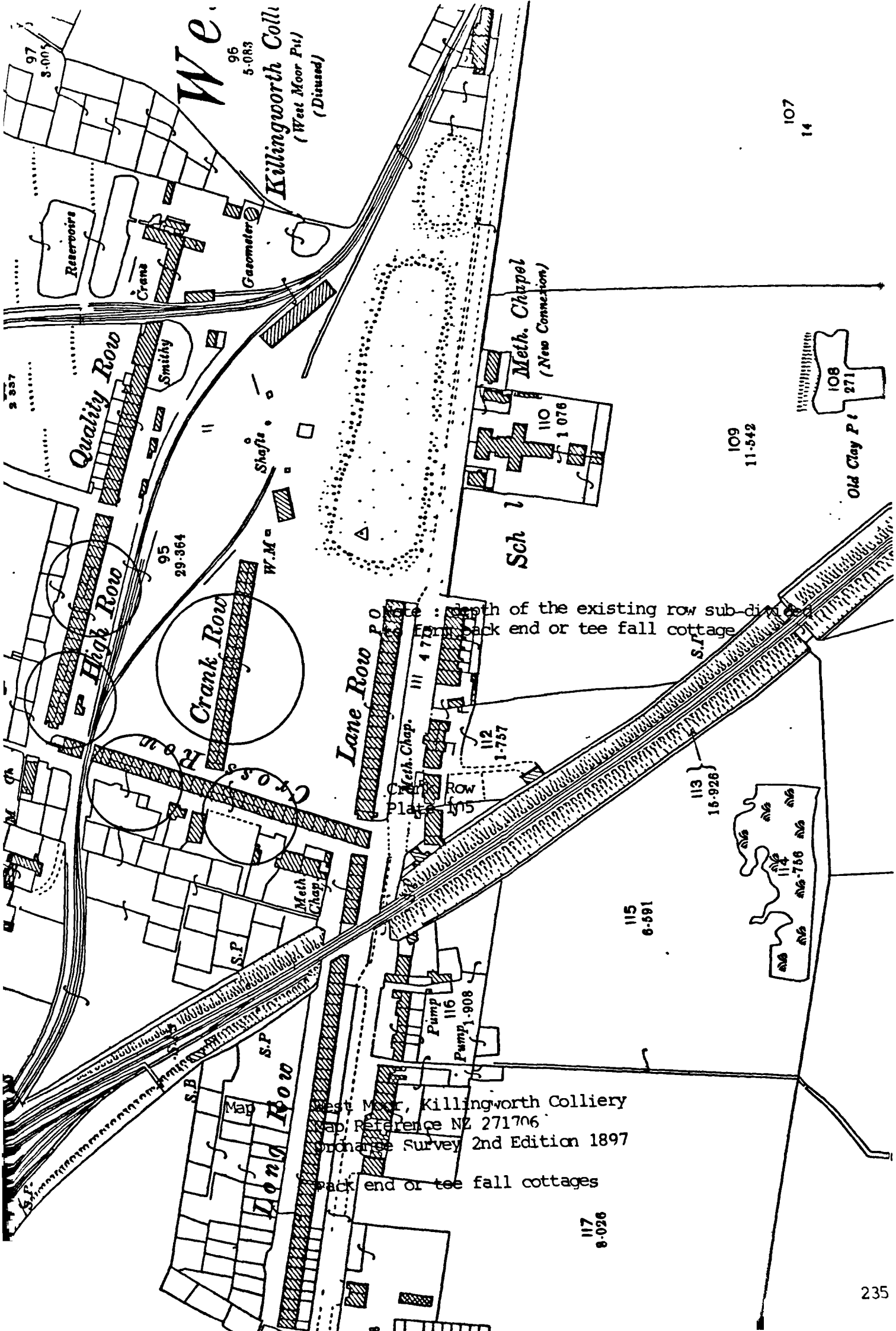


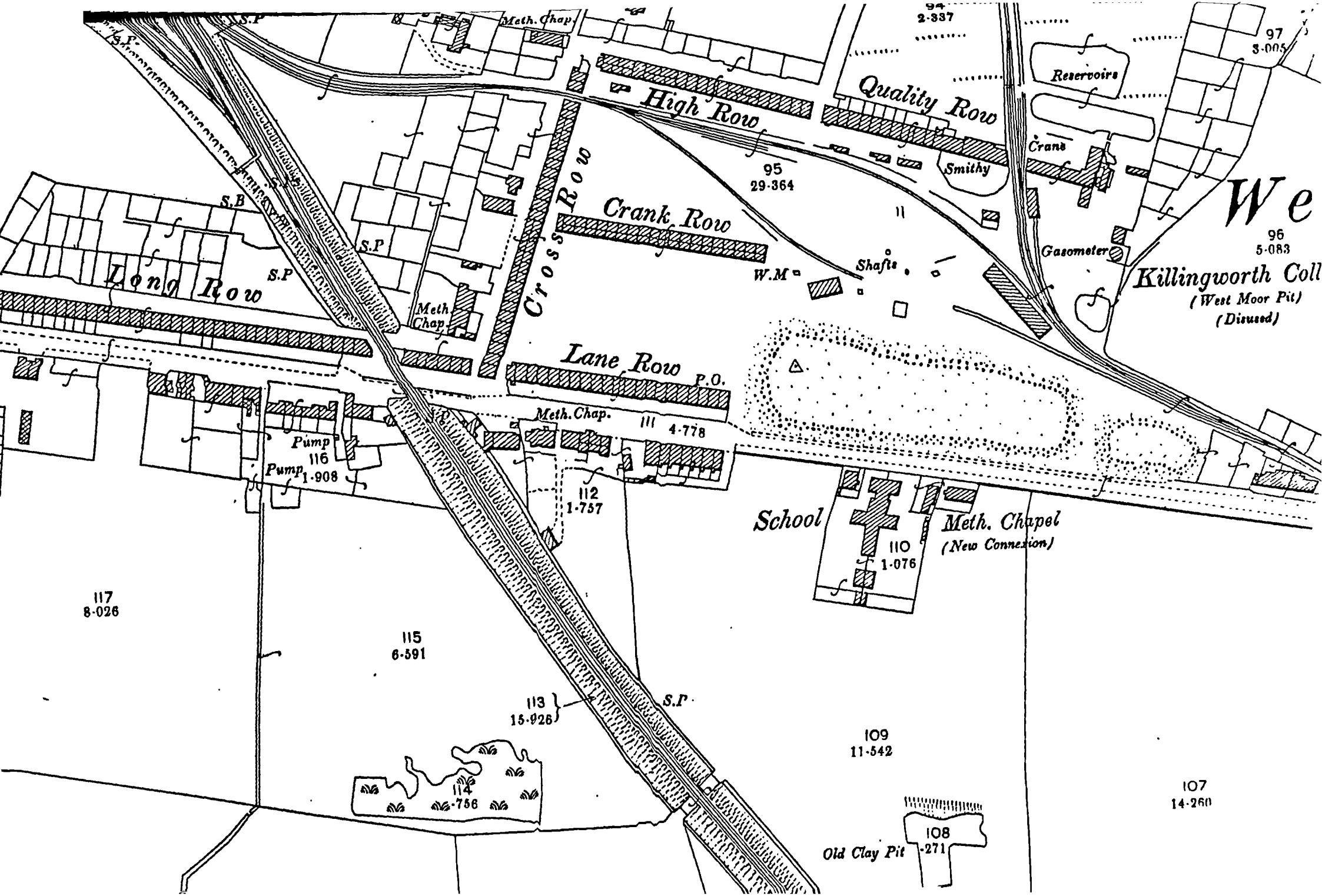
Note : depth of the existing row sub-divided to form back end or tee fall cottage

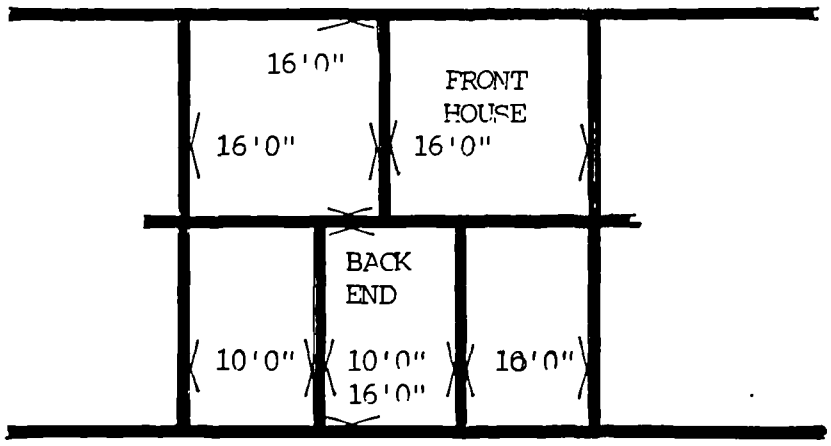
Crank Row
Plate 105

Map 12 West Moor, Killingworth Colliery
Map Reference NZ 271706
Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 1897

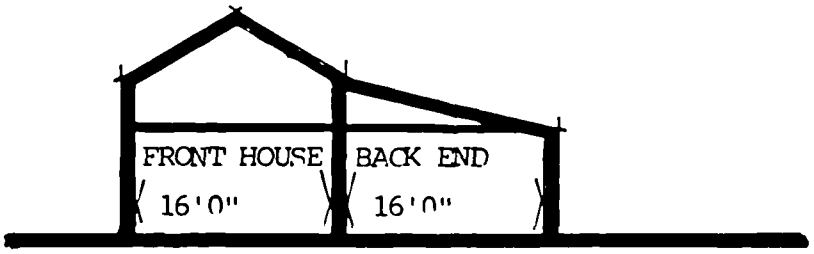
Back end or tee fall cottages


Killingworth Colli
(West Moor Pit)
(Disused)
Reservoirs
Crane
Gasometer
Smithy
Quality Row
High Row
Crank Row
Lane Row
Cross Row
Long Row
Meth. Chapel
(New Connexion)
Meth. Chap.
Meth Chap.
Shafts
W.M.
Pump
Pump
Old Clay Pit
Note : depth of the existing row sub-divided to form back end or tee fall cottage
Crank Row
Plate 105
Map West Moor, Killingworth Colliery
Map Reference NZ 271706
Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 1897
Back end or tee fall cottages


S.P
Meth. Chap.
94
2·337
High Row
Quality Row
Reservoirs
97
3·005
Cranes
Smithy
95
29·364
Cross Row
Crank Row
S.B
S.P
Long Row
W.M
Shafts
Gasometer
96
5·083
Killingworth Coll
(West Moor Pit)
(Disused)
Meth Chap
Lane Row
P.O.
Meth. Chap.
111
4·778
Pump
116
Pump
1·908
112
1·757
School
Meth. Chapel
(New Connexion)
110
1·076
117
8·026
115
6·591
113
15·926
S.P
109
11·542
114
·756
107
14·260
108
Old Clay Pit
·271



PLAN
ENLARGED FROM O.S. 2nd Edition 25" to 1 mile 1897



SECTION
AUTHORS INTERPRETATION

Figure 19 CATEGORY THREE TWO ROOMED COTTAGE
BACKEND or TEE FAIL
KILLINGWORTH COLLIERY
WEST MOOR
Map Reference NZ271706

Authors Diagramatic Interpretation

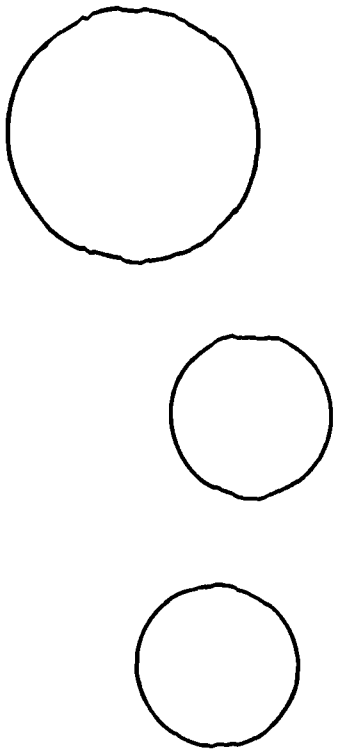
NETHERTON COLLIERY

A similar plan form has been identified at Netherton Colliery, on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition of 1897, Map 14 . However in this example, the back-end is indicated as an addition to the plan on the 1st edition of 1860, Map 13,supporting the theory that back-end or the tee fall cottages were additions to existing cottages.

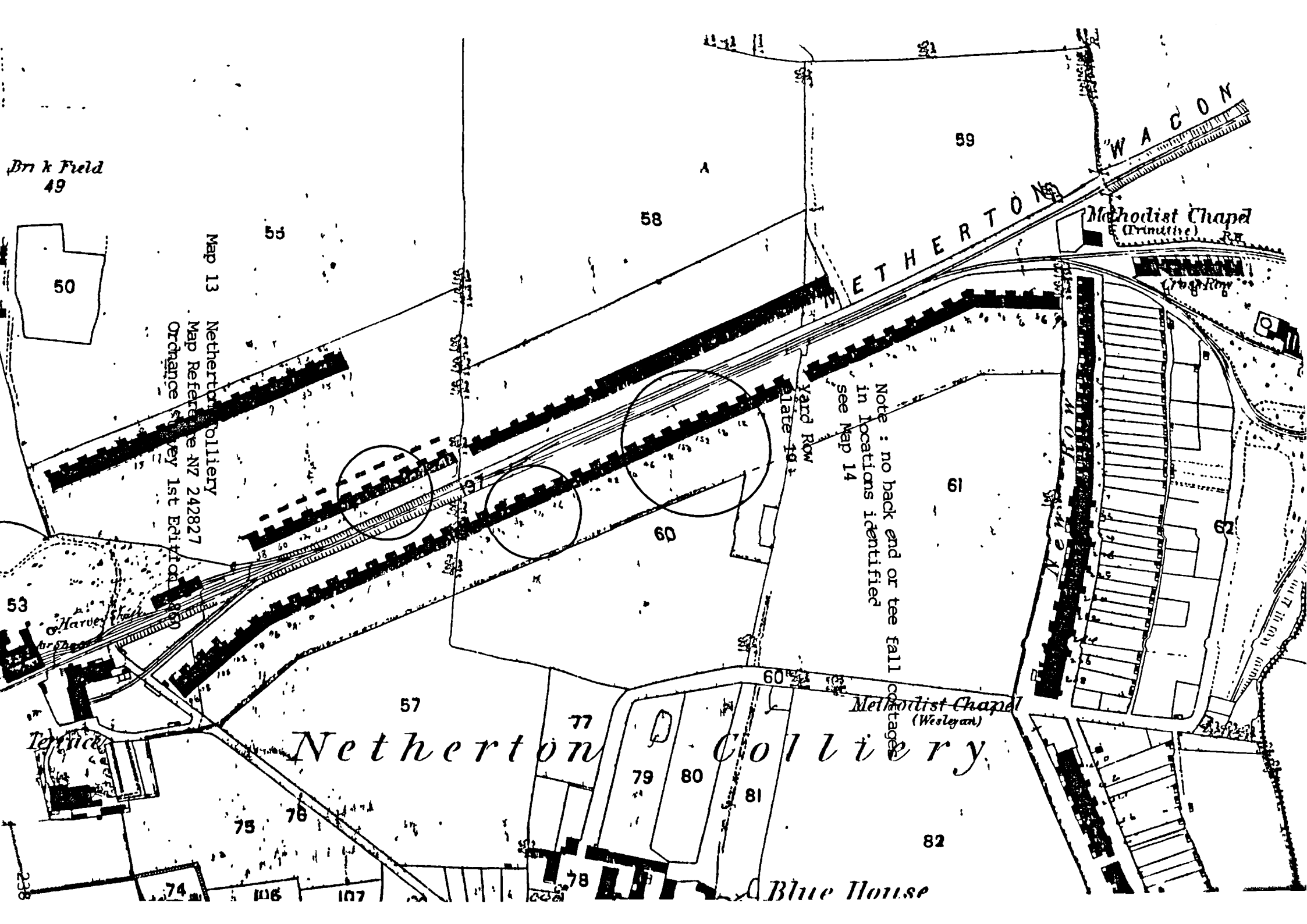
Despite inconclusive detailed evidence of this category of colliery cottage, clearly the cottages did exist and by their very nature they were of a type that had similarities with the back to back.

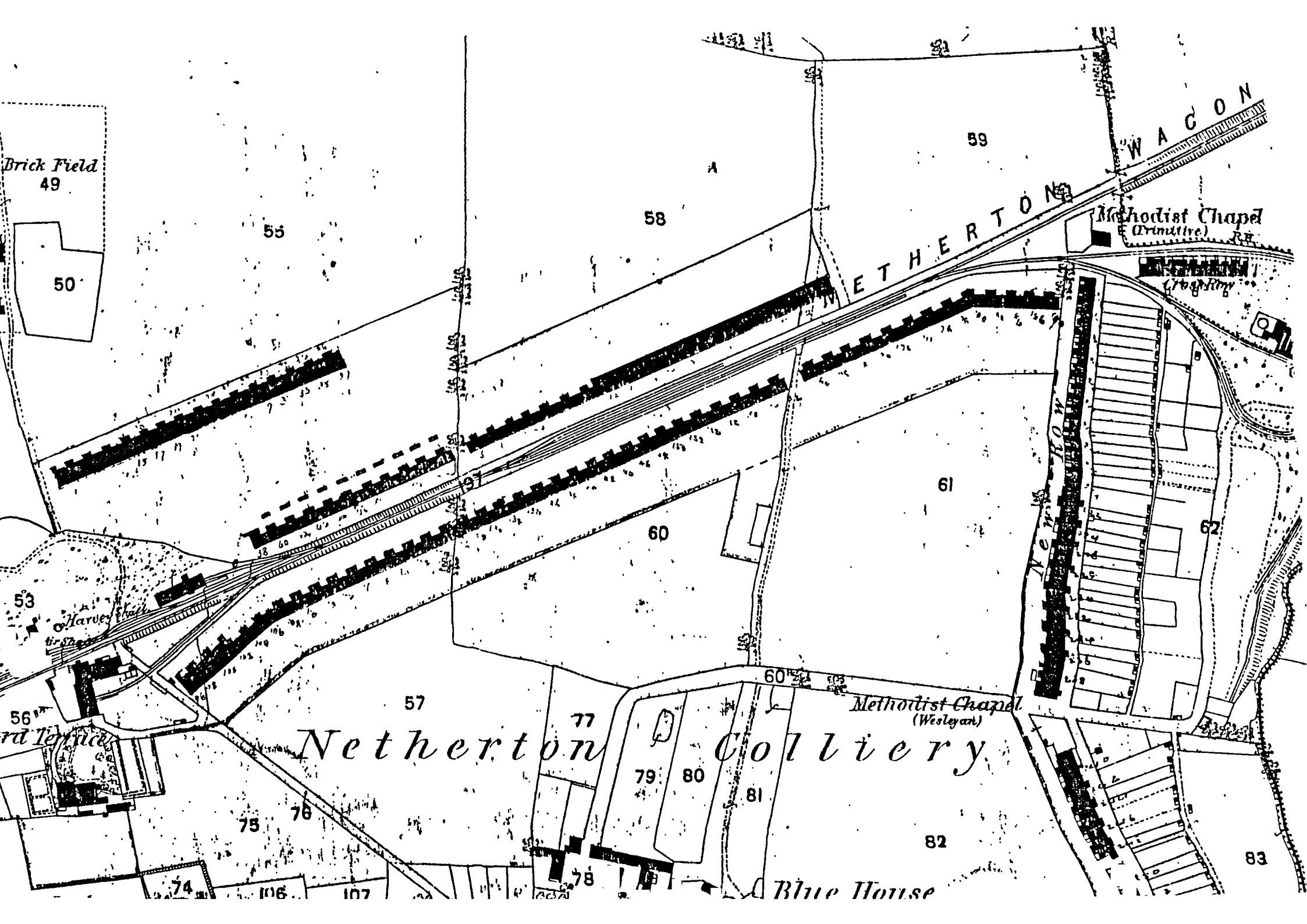
Note : no back end or tee fall cottages
in locations identified
see Map 14

Yard Row
Plate 19



Map 13 Netherton Colliery
Map Reference NZ 242827
Ordnance Survey 1st Edition 1860

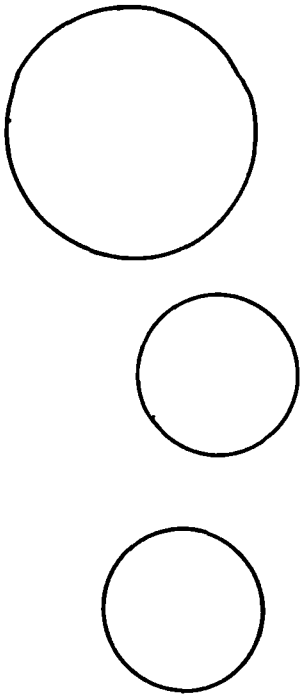

Brick Field
49
50
53
55
58
59
60
61
62
57
77
79
80
81
82
75
76
74
106
107
78
Map 13 Netherton Colliery
Map Reference NZ 242827
Ordnance Survey 1st Edition
Harvey Shaft
Terrace
Netherton Colliery
Methodist Chapel
(Primitive)
Methodist Chapel
(Wesleyan)
Yard Row
Plate 19
Note : no back end or tee fall cottages in locations identified see Map 14
NETHERTON
WAGON
Blue House



Brick Field
49
50
55
58
59
NETHERTON WAGON
Methodist Chapel
(Primitive)
Cross Row
61
62
60
53
Harvey Shaft
56
57
77
Netherton Colliery
79
80
81
82
83
75
76
74
106
107
78
Blue House
Methodist Chapel
(Wesleyan)
New Row

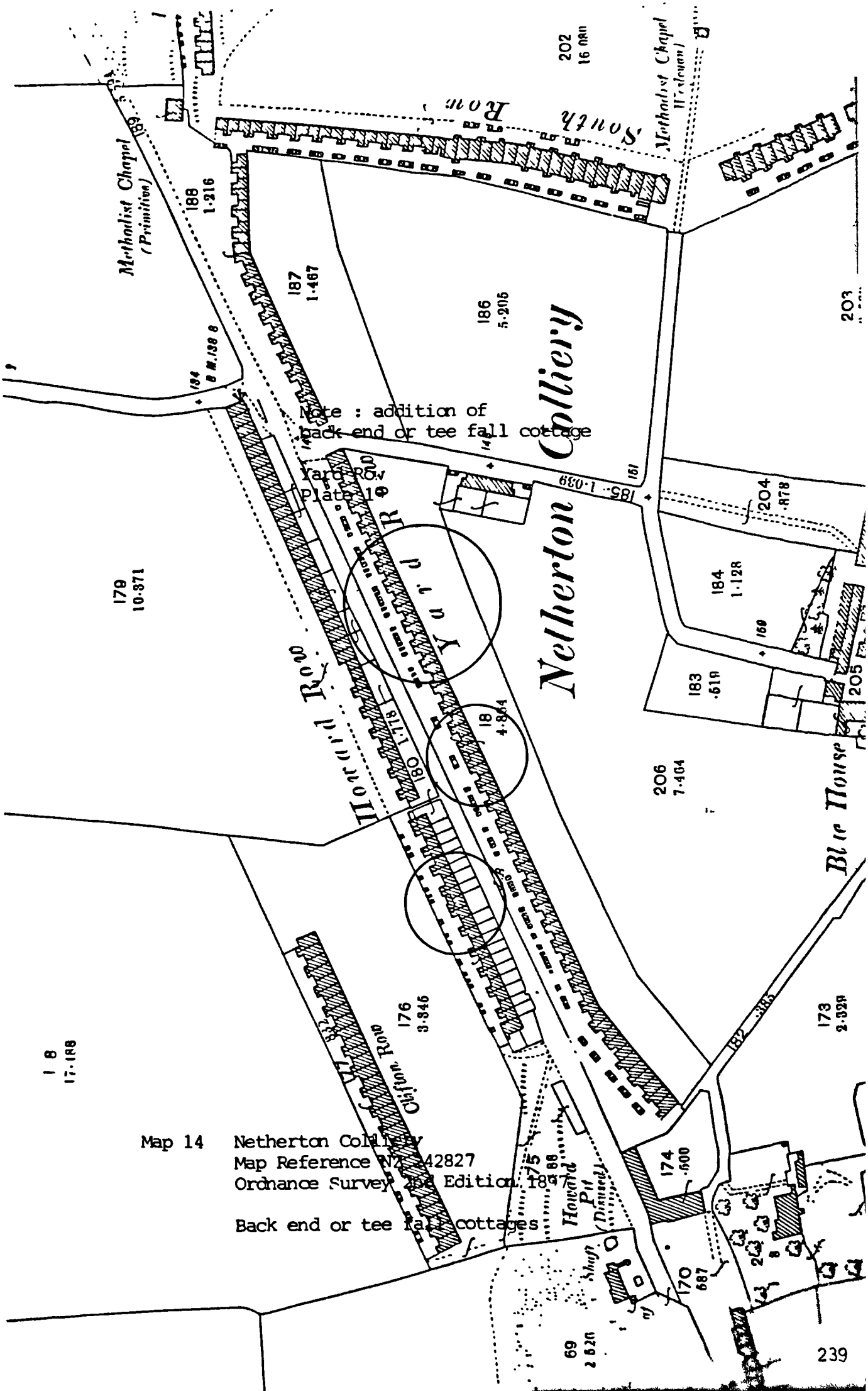
Note : addition of
back end or tee fall cottage

Yard Row
Plate 19



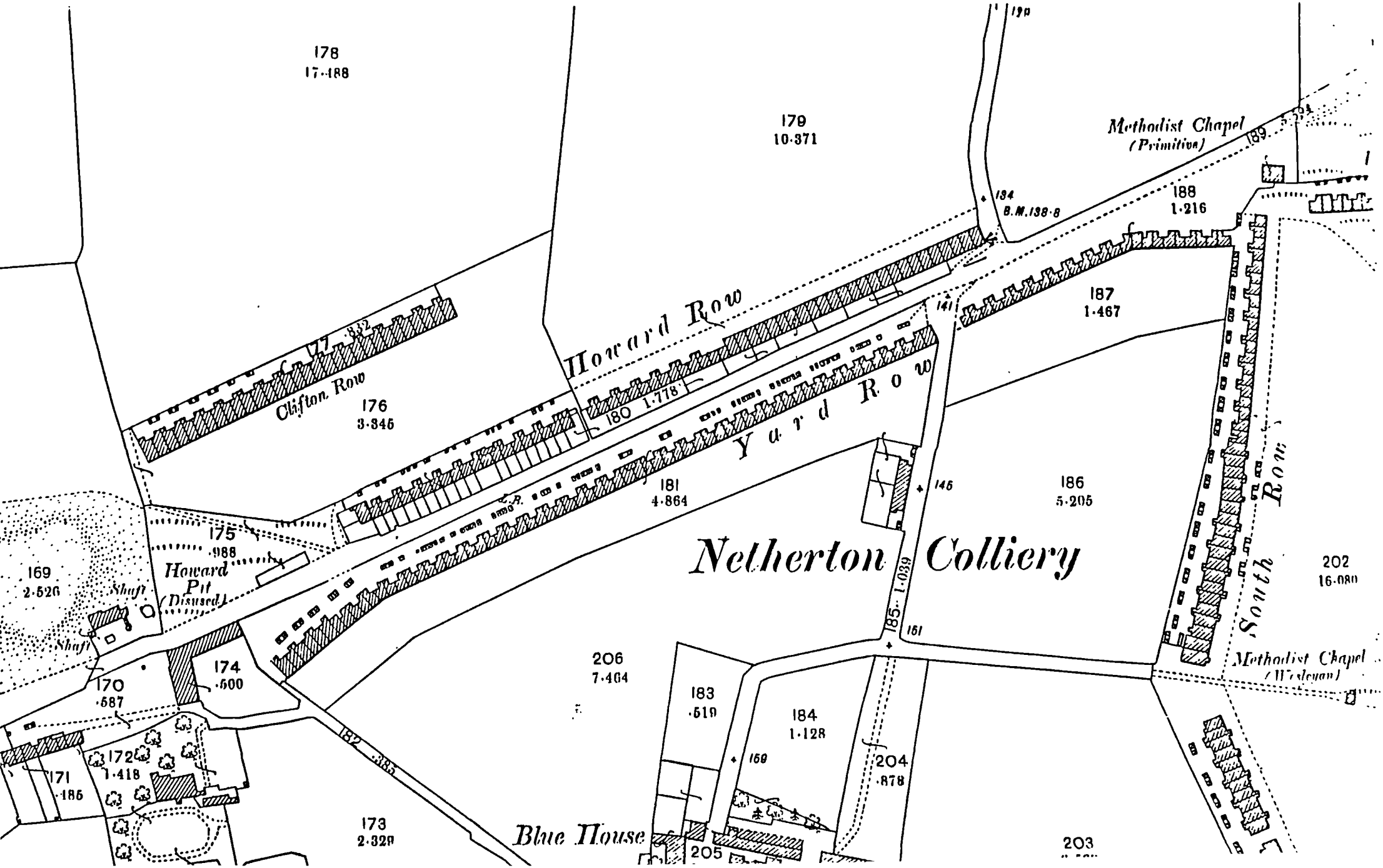
Map 14 Netherton Colliery
Map Reference N7 242827
Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 1897

Back end or tee fall cottages



Map 14 Netherton Colliery
Map Reference NZ 242827
Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 1897

Back end or tee fall cottages



178
17·488
179
10·371
Methodist Chapel
(Primitive)
189
134
B.M.138·8
188
1·216
187
1·467
141
Howard Row
Clifton Row
177
·832
176
3·345
180
1·778
Yard Row
181
4·864
145
186
5·205
175
·988
Howard
Pit
(Disused)
169
2·526
Shaft
Shaft
Netherton Colliery
185
1·039
151
South Row
202
16·080
Methodist Chapel
(Wesleyan)
206
7·464
174
·500
170
·587
183
·519
184
1·128
159
204
·878
172
1·418
171
·185
182
·385
173
2·329
Blue House
205
203

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
COTTAGE TYPE
CATEGORY THREE - TWO ROOMED COTTAGE 1 ground floor
                                     1 first floor

ONE UP ONE DOWN
THE SINGLE HOUSE

ONE UP ONE DOWN
THE SINGLE HOUSE

The seminal one roomed house was extended by building another storey on top, the colloqially termed one up one down. This dwelling was also called the 'single house' that is one room deep. These cottages developed from the enlarged attic room. The house type is illustrated by Mr. Triscott in Coal and Power, Figure 20.

> We found many houses of this kind at Leadgate and Consett inhabited by large families, but small sculleries had been provided. [26]
>
> An oblong hole was left in the corner of the floor of the top room, and through this the inhabitant climbed - and still climb - by means of a steep ladder from the lower room. [27]

The watercolours of Thomas Hair provide evidence of this early dwelling type.[28] The Isabella Pit, Ellison Main, Plate 39, shows clearly a gable end elevation of what was possibly a single house. The proportions of the elevation appear to be accurately represented and suggest there is one room downstairs. The high level window and the relationship of the eaves height to the ground floor window give evidence of the presence of an attic bedroom. The Isabella Pit, watercolour also shows the use of the external shutter and an indication that the off-shoot pantry could have been constructed in timber. The use of timber in the colliery buildings themselves is indicated in the drawing of Jubilee Pit Coxlodge, dated 1839, Plate 25.

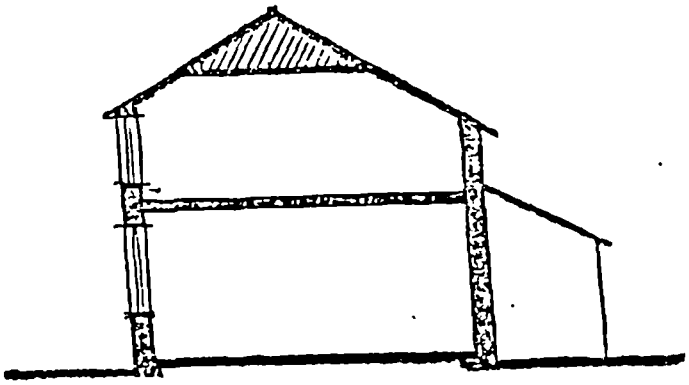


Figure 20 CATEGORY THREE TWO ROOMED COTTAGE
THE SINGLE HOUSE

1 ground floor room
1 first floor room

LEADGATE and CONSETT

Scott James Coal and Power
Drawing by H.S. Triscott

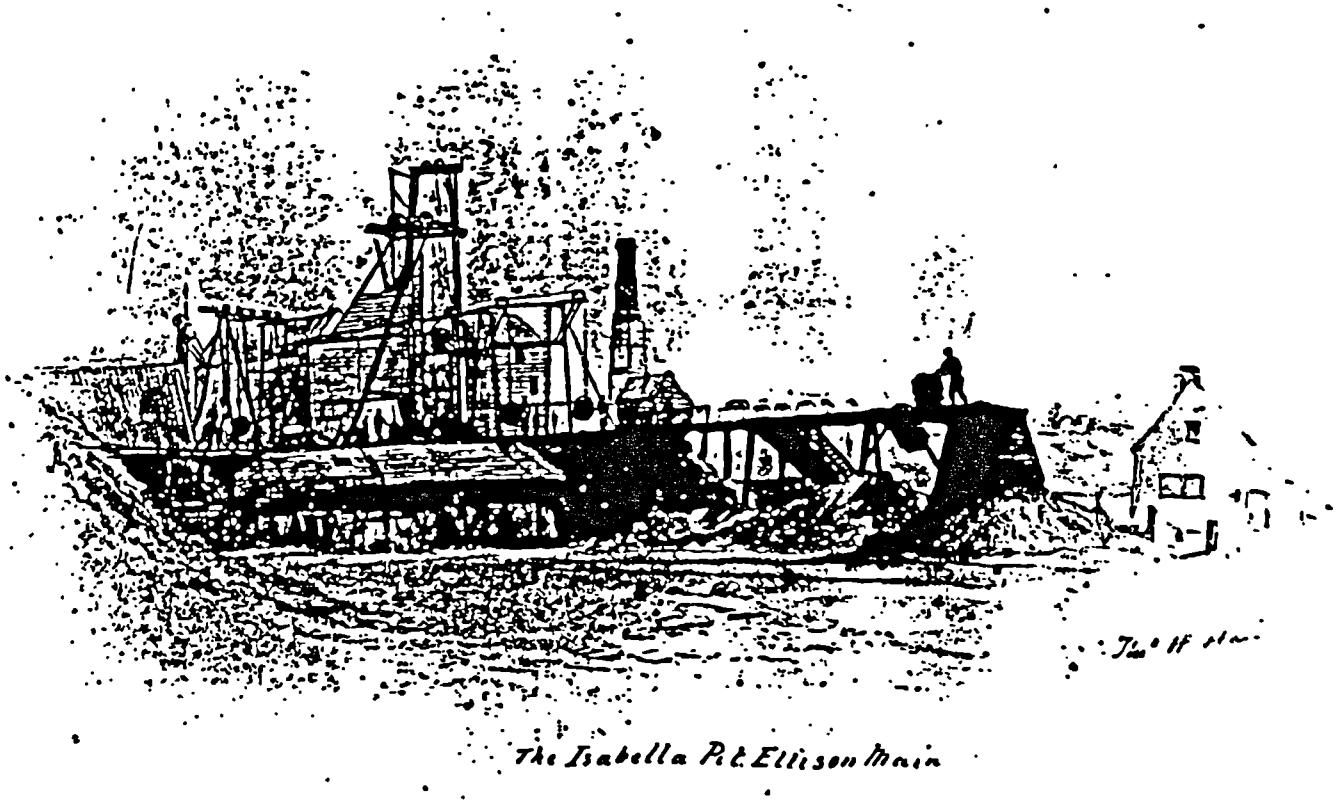


Plate 39 Isabella Pit, Ellison Main
The single house 1839

T.H. Hair. Sketches of the Coal Mines
in Northumberland and Durham 1839
Part enlargement

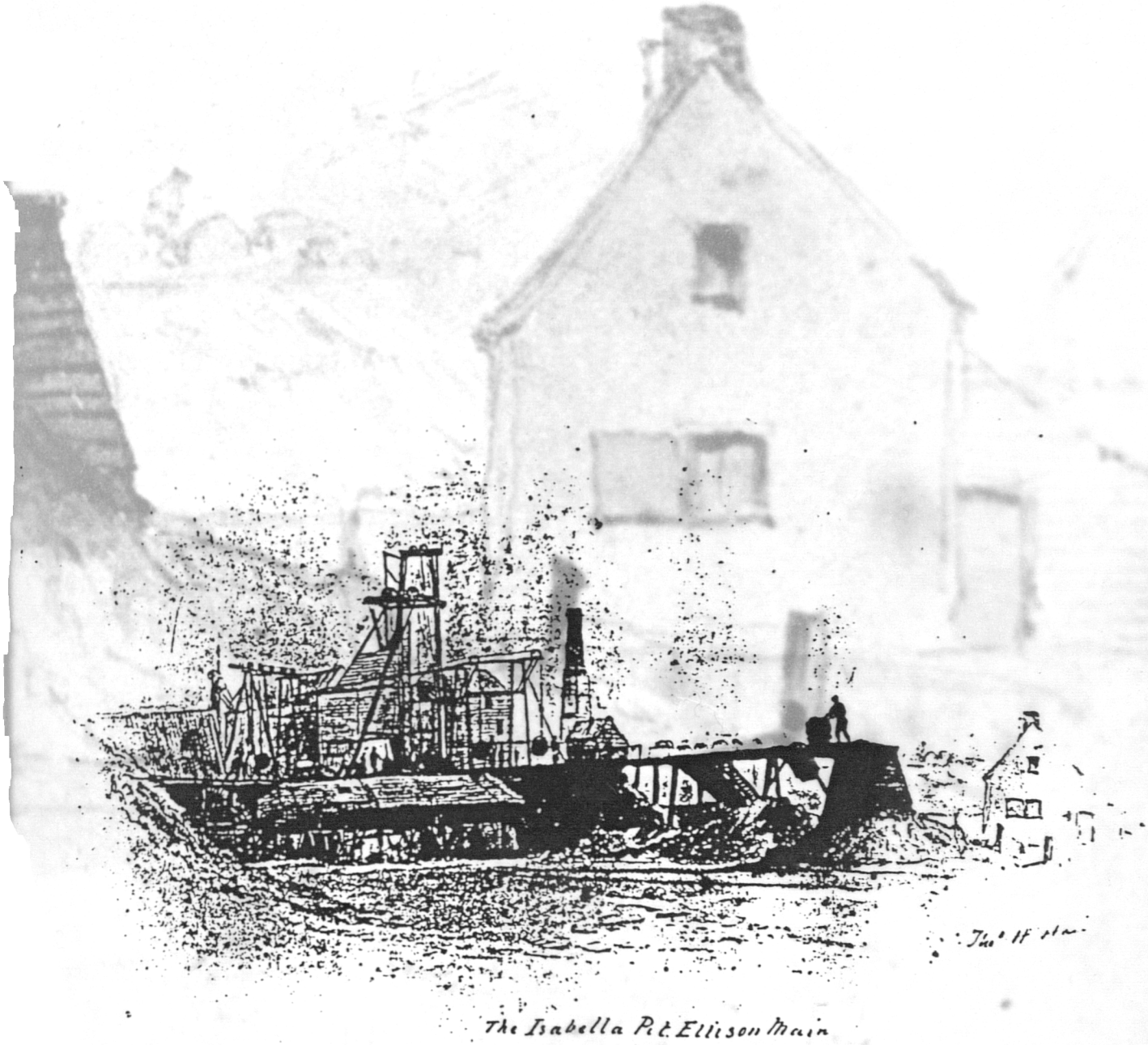
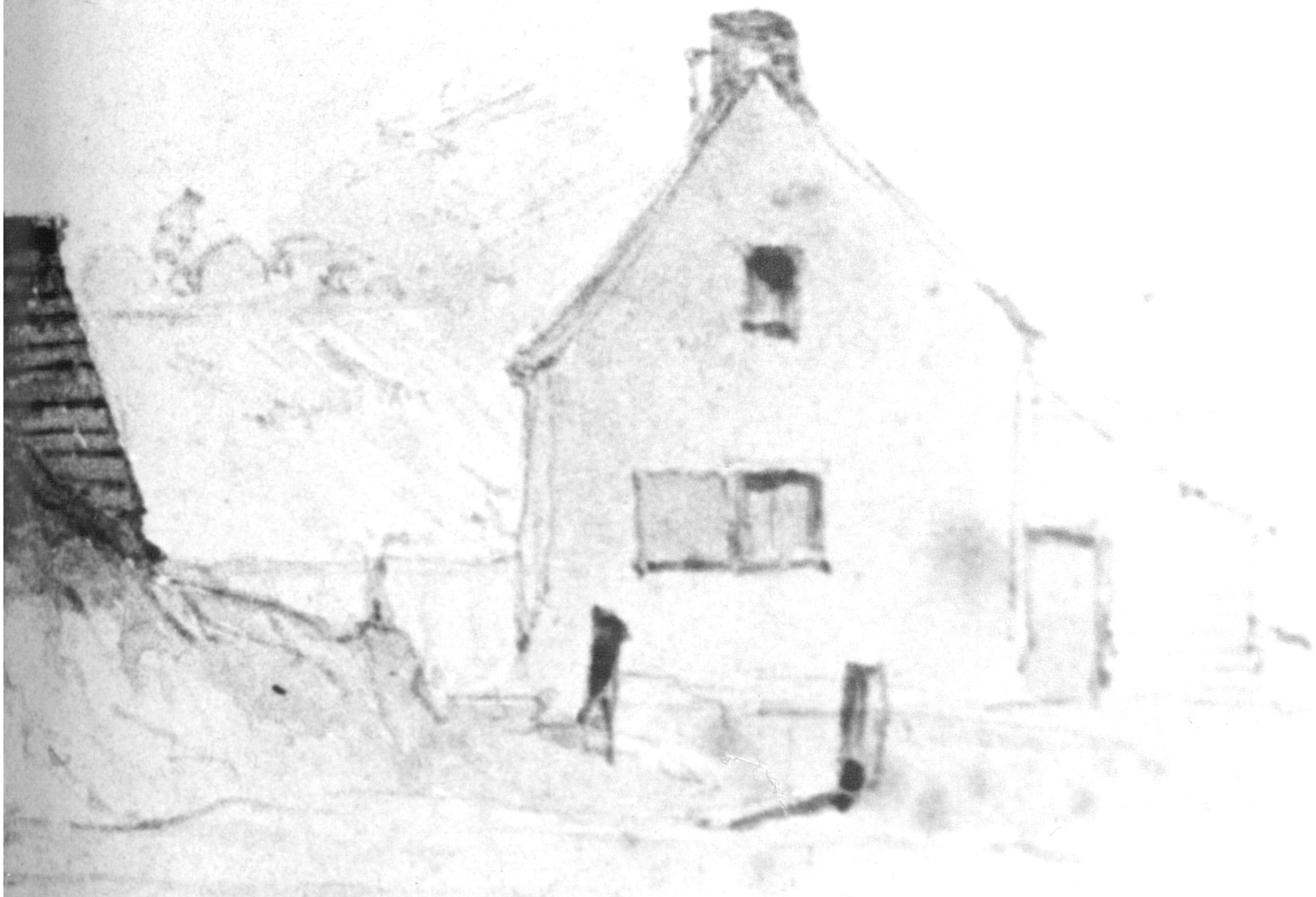


Plate 39 Isabella Pit, Ellison Main
The single house 1839

T.H. Hair. Sketches of the Coal Mines
in Northumberland and Durham 1839
Part enlargement

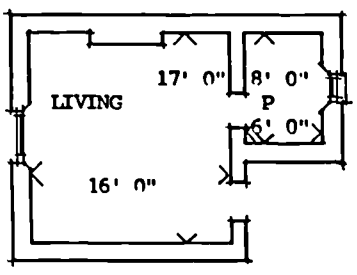


Thos. H. Hair

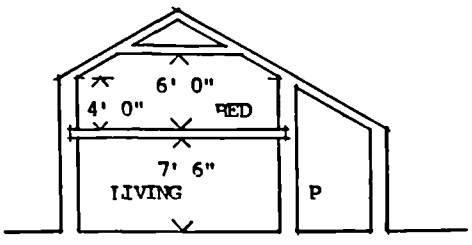
STELLA COAL COMPANY COTTAGE

The drawing of 1838 for the Stella Coal Company is one of the earliest plans of a miner's dwelling to be traced, Figure 21. For an example of the graphic quality of drawings of this period refer to the original drawing for Murton Street, Figure 25. Pre 1848 there was no requirement to deposit drawings and consequently drawings were often very simplistic. The Stella Coal Company cottage shows a simple dwelling with one lower room 16'0" x 17' 0" and a pantry 6' 0"x 8' 0" at the rear and one upper room. This design therefore corresponds with Leifchild's First Category of two roomed houses, one ground floor and one upper floor room, and corresponds with the evidence found in Thomas Hair's watercolours.[28] The section indicates an internal floor to ceiling height in the first floor room of 6' 0" at its highest point and 4' 0" at the lowest, providing a bedroom with a fairly extensive sloping back ceiling.

The drawing indicates a simple form of roof truss. This means that the building could be constructed without relying on the party wall as a structural element for the roof construction. However it is likely that the party wall was taken up to the underside of the roof and this is certainly evident in the drawings of Thomas Hair where the wall was exposed as a parapet.[29] The cottages were constructed in stone, the external walls being shown 18" thick. Inspection of the 1856 1st edition Ordnance Survey map reveals a small group of cottages at Emmaville possibly those described, Map 8.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



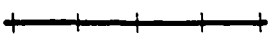
CROSS SECTION

Figure 21 CATEGORY THREE TWO ROOMED COTTAGE
THE SINGLE HOUSE

1 ground floor room
1 first floor room

STELLA COAL COMPANY COTTAGE 1838

Map Reference NZ141639



From original drawing entitled
Plan and Section of a Miners Cottage
built by the Stella Coal Company
Stella Coal Company Durham County Record Office

BERRY EDGE

The 1838 drawing of the Stella Coal Company cottage corresponds with a description for some two roomed houses at Berry Edge 'The upper rooms, approached by moveable ladders are barely seven feet high'
30

PHOENIX ROW

Phoenix Row situated near Low Etherby and built, according to a wall plaque in 1854 stands in the 1980's and originally consisted of two-roomed houses with a projecting pantry. The houses have now been extended to form comfortable four-roomed dwellings but the dimensions and walls of the original two rooms are preserved within the modernised house.
31

RAMSHAW

Ramshaw has some remaining two roomed dwellings which have likwise been modernised. These were built between 1857 and 1856.
32

COTTAGES ON THE ROAD FROM ELTRINGHAM TO MICKLEY

The best illustrated example of one up one down cottages is the undated drawing of 13 stone cottages between Eltringham and Mickley. Figure 22 shows clearly the internal dimensions and the 6'0" ceiling height in the loft with the small window at floor level. The kitchen range is drawn in elevation. The original drawing also indicates the cost.

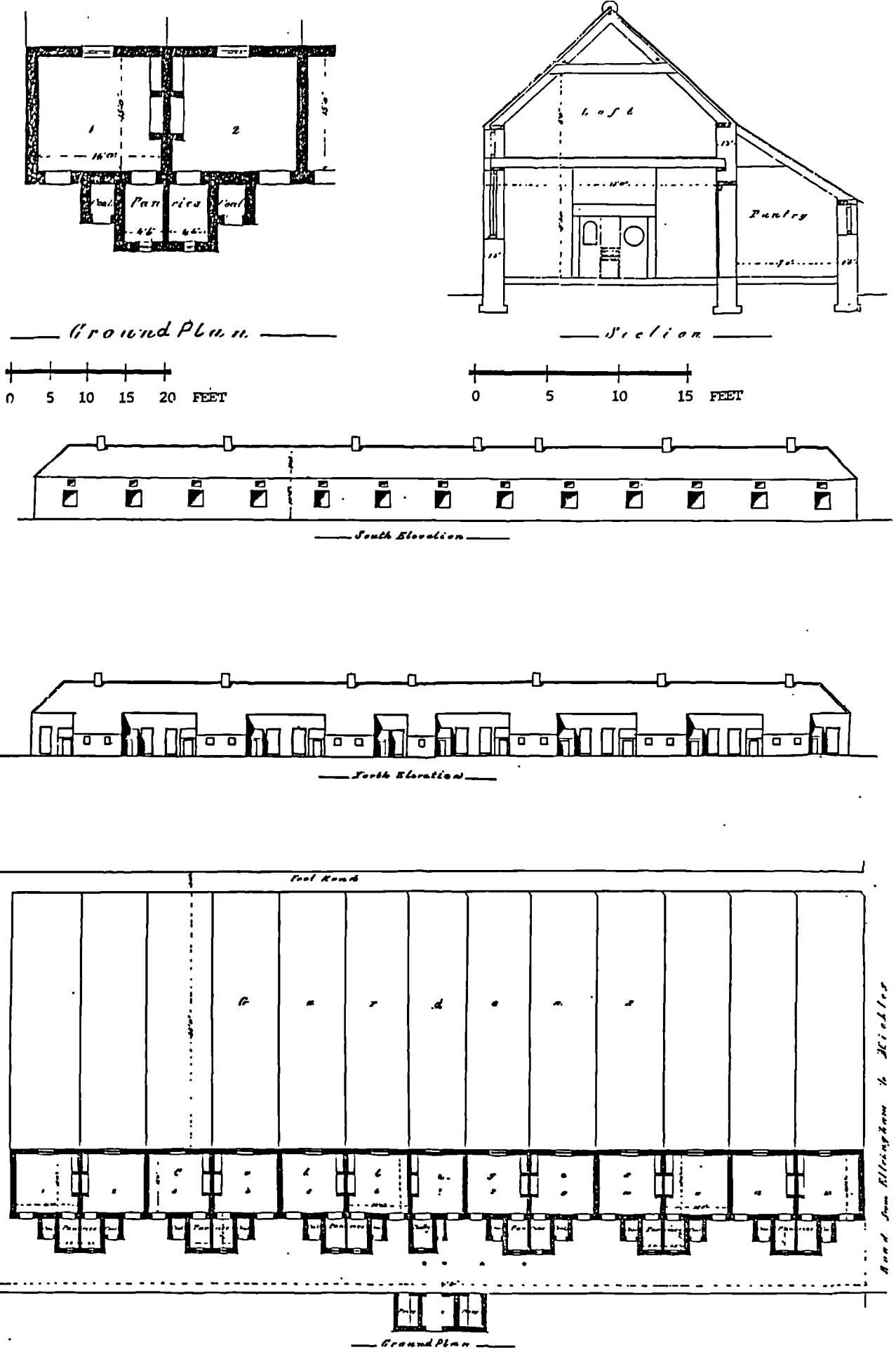
Total Cost of the Whole	£741:0:0
or for each cottage	£ 57:0:0 [33]

The drawing shows construction details of timber wall plates for rafters and floor joists, and timber lintols. Foundations are also indicated.

It is worthy of note, that the drawings themselves are well prepared compared with others traced, unfortunately there is no signature but the quality of draughtmanship suggests that the drawings were prepared by possibly an architect or other with technical ability. They are certainly not drawn by a colliery official as was suggested by H.F.Bulman in Coal Mining and the Coal Miner. [34]

Two privies were indicated to serve thirteen cottages. It is worth noting that the row is not entirely symmetrical in its composition. At cottage number 7 the pattern is broken and there is only one pantry unit.

It can only be presumed that these cottages were not built as it has not been possible to identify their location on any of the Ordnance Survey maps.



Total Cost of the Whole. £ 741 : 0 : 0
Ditto for each Cottage. £ 57 : 0 : 0.

1 ground floor room
1 first floor room

Figure 22 CATEGORY THREE TWO ROOMED COTTAGE
THE SINGLE HOUSE

ELTRINGHAM, MICKLEY undated
Location unidentified

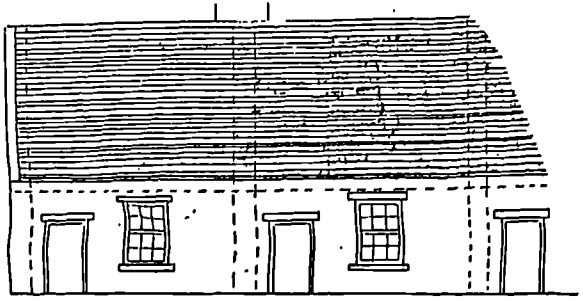
0 10 20 30 40 50 FEET
SCALE

Reconstruction of original drawing entitled
Colliery Cottages on Road from Eltringham to Mickley
Stella Coal Company Durham County Record Office

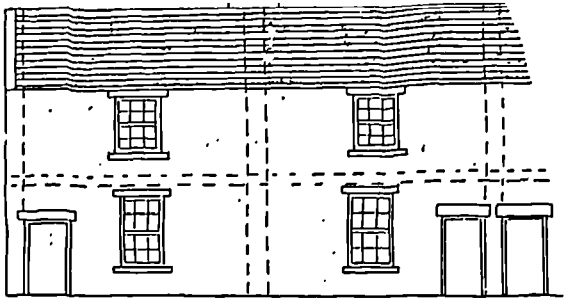
STARGATE

Also well documented are some two roomed and three roomed cottages at Stargate, Figure 23. The original drawing dated July 1872 stated that it was a tracing. The two roomed cottages at Stargate were of a superior quality to those at Eltringham in that they had an 8'6" floor to ceiling height at first floor level with only a small section of back ceiling. The drawing is particularly interesting as it shows the relationship of the two rows of houses and the line of the drain. Also this drawing indicates vertical sliding sash windows.

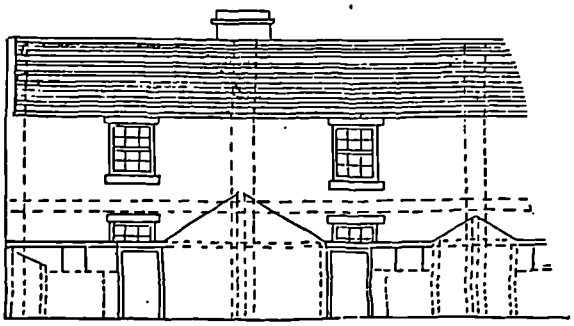
These cottages have been clearly identified on the Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map of 1896,Map 15. The three roomed cottages at Stargate have been used to illustrate the cat slide roof cottage.[35] It is worthy of mention that the cat slide roof in this example extends down to the front elevation. The Stargate cottages were still standing in 1987, many extended and adapted, some in a poor state of repair.



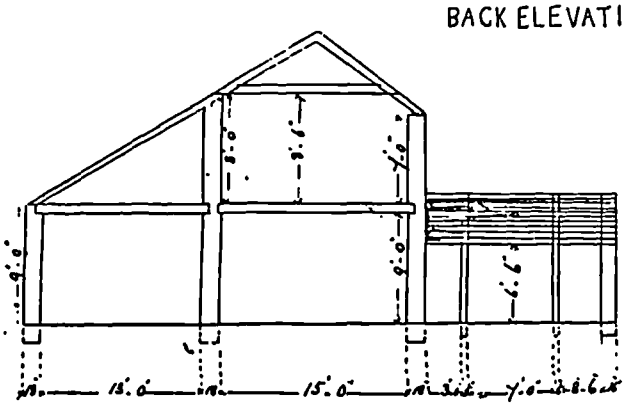
FRONT ELEVATION OF THREE ROOMED HOUSES



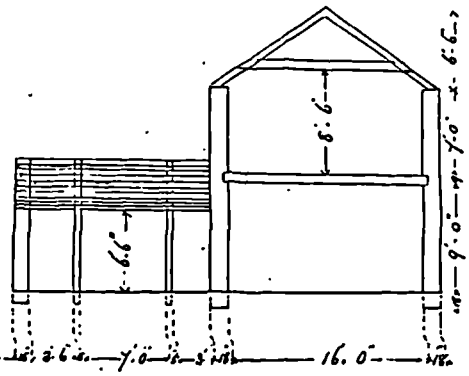
FRONT ELEVATION OF TWO ROOMED HOUSES



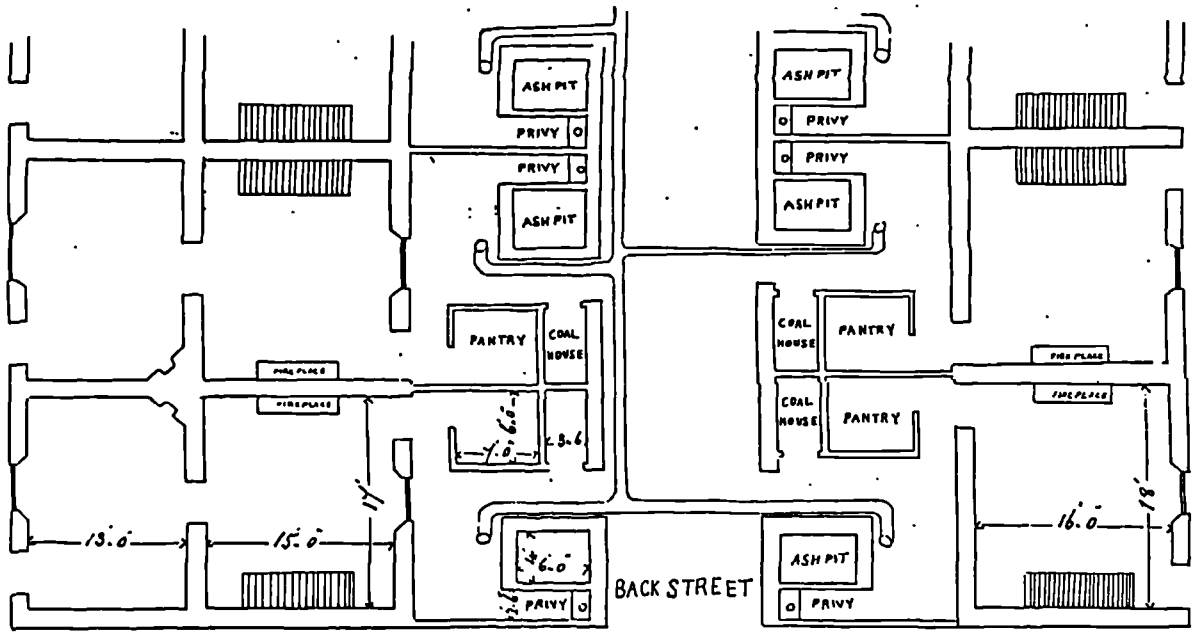
BACK ELEVATION OF THREE ROOMED HOUSES



SECTION OF THREE ROOMED COTTAGES



SECTION OF TWO ROOMED COTTAGES

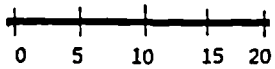


GROUND PLAN

GROUND PLAN

1 ground floor room
1 first floor room

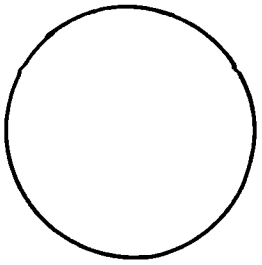
Figure 23 CATEGORY THREE TWO ROOMED COTTAGE
THE SINGLE HOUSE
STARGATE 1872 (July)
Map Reference NZ162633



Reconstruction of original drawing entitled
Tracing of some cottages to be built at Stargate
Stella Coal Company Durham County Record Office

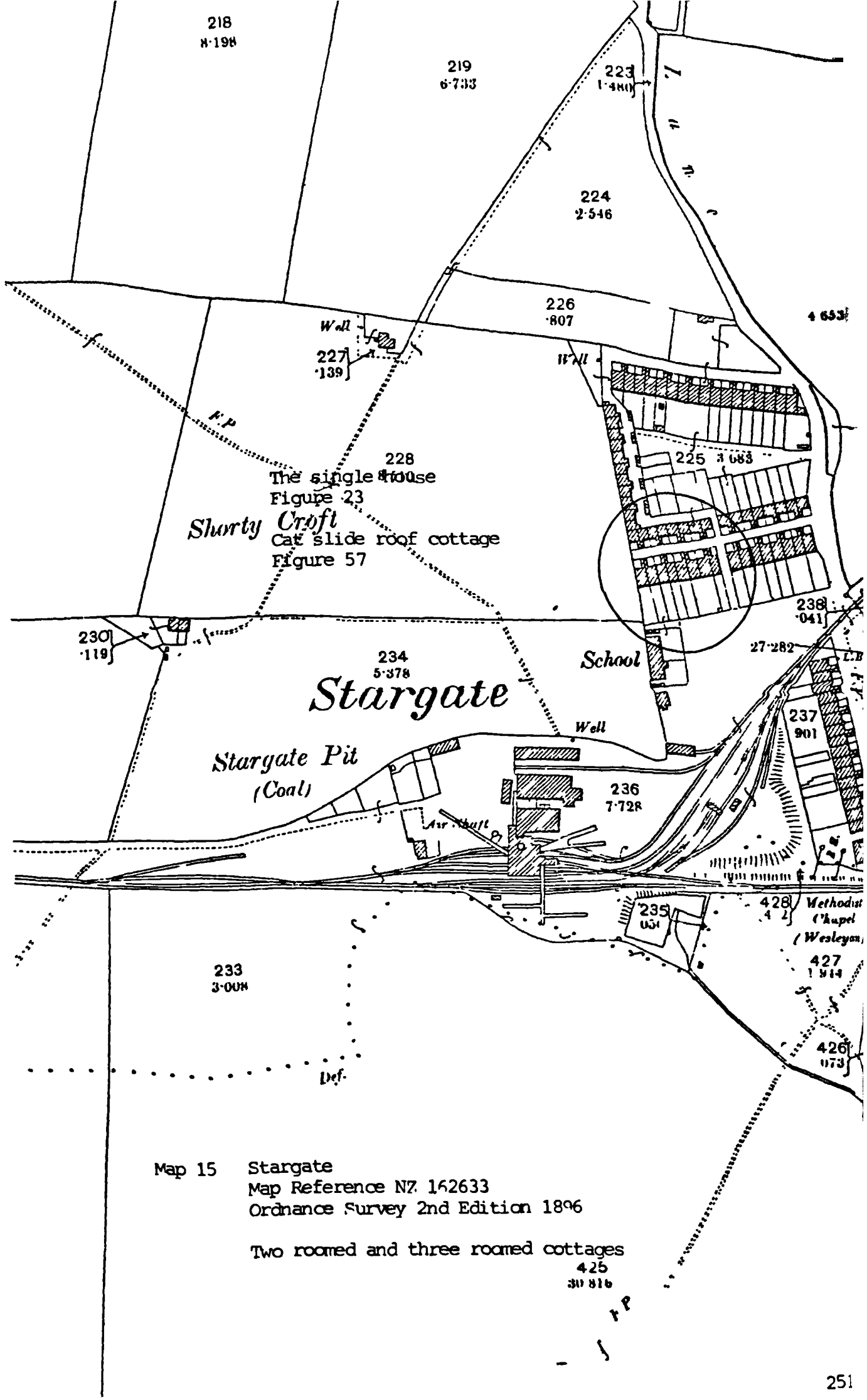
The single house
Figure 23

Cat slide roof cottage
Figure 57



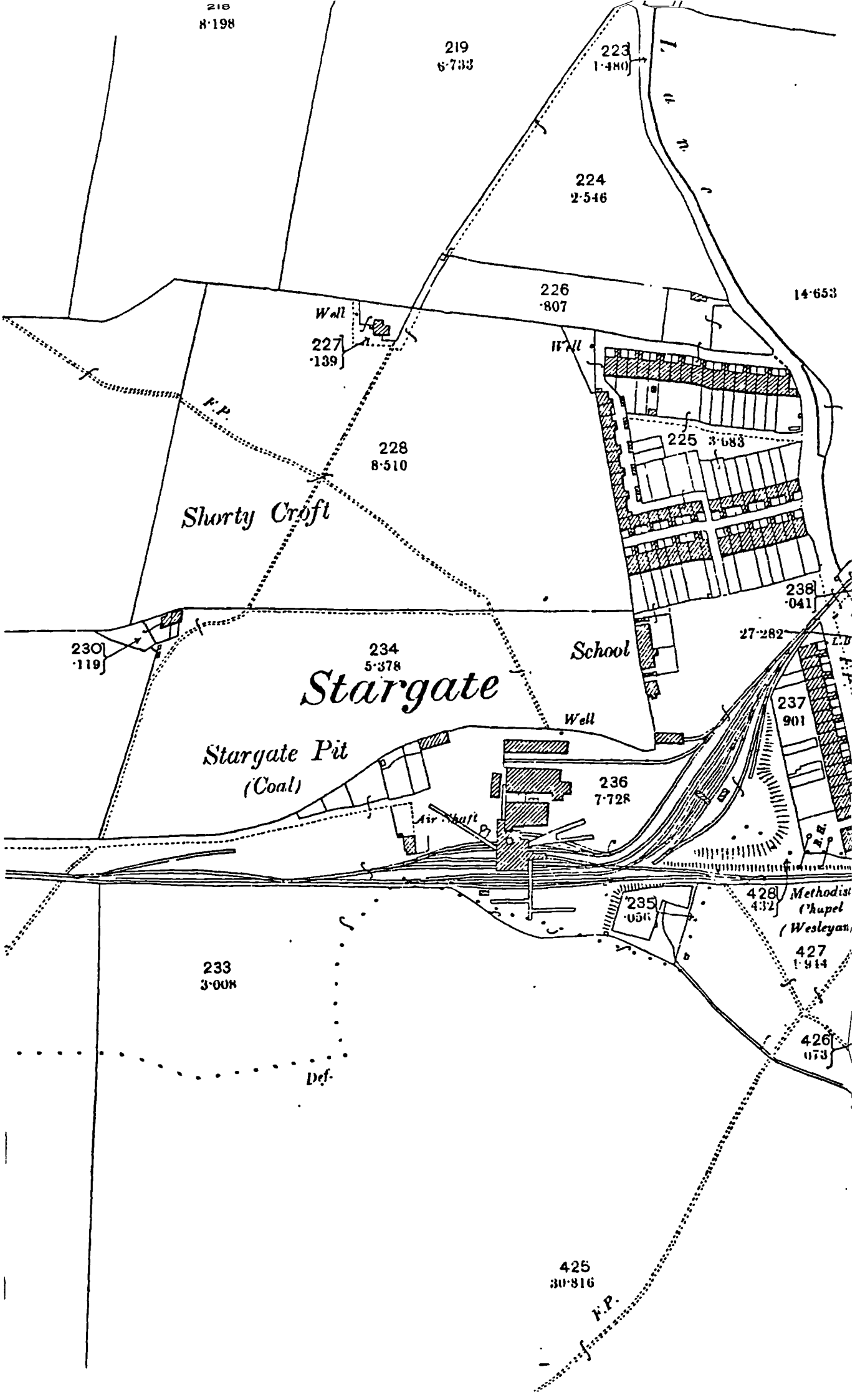
Map 15 Stargate
Map Reference NZ 162633
Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 1896

Two roomed and three roomed cottages



Map 15 Stargate
Map Reference NZ 162633
Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 1896

Two roomed and three roomed cottages

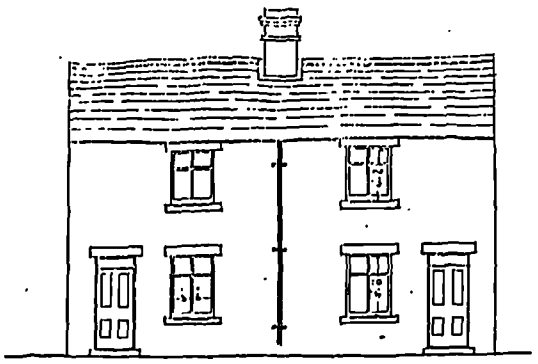

218
8·198
219
6·733
223
1·480
224
2·546
226
·807
14·653
Well
227
·139
Well
F.P.
228
8·510
225
3·683
Shorty Croft
238
·041
27·282
230
·119
234
5·378
School
Stargate
Well
237
901
Stargate Pit
(Coal)
236
7·728
Air Shaft
428
432
Methodist
Chapel
(Wesleyan)
235
·056
427
1·944
233
3·008
426
073
Def.
425
30·816
F.P.

LEASINGTHORNE

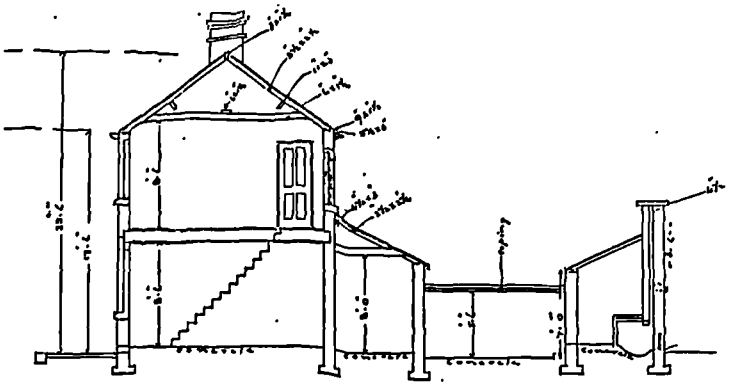
An undated drawing of some cottages at Leasingthorn has been used to illustrate the progression of the one up one down dwelling from cottage, to what would generally be termed a house, Figure 24. It appears that in the north-east of England many properties of this type in the nineteenth century were colloquially referred to as cottages and so named on the drawings.

The dwellings were built of 9" brick work and the sections of timber used in the roof truss were fairly substantial. Water was piped to the scullery which had a Belfast sink with a waste leading to a gulley. The drain picked up the connection with the gulley in the yard as it crossed to the street drain, clearly shown on the site plan. One row of these houses backs directly (14'0") on to the Coundon Depot Railway. The section drawing shows the use of concrete floors throughout the ground floor. Note the detail of the privy and the attention being paid to the problems of ventilation.

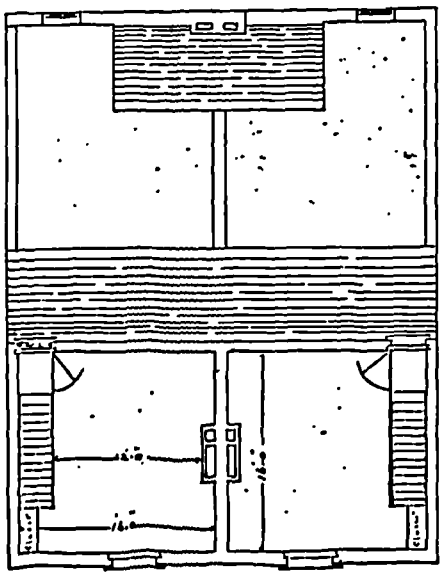
On the ground floor the scullery had now extended right across the rear of the property. The access to first floor level which was not even shown on some of the earlier drawings is now a steep staircase. The staircase was enclosed at both ground and first floor level. As in the cottages at Stargate, the first floor room had a floor to ceiling height of 8' 6" with only a small sloping back ceiling .



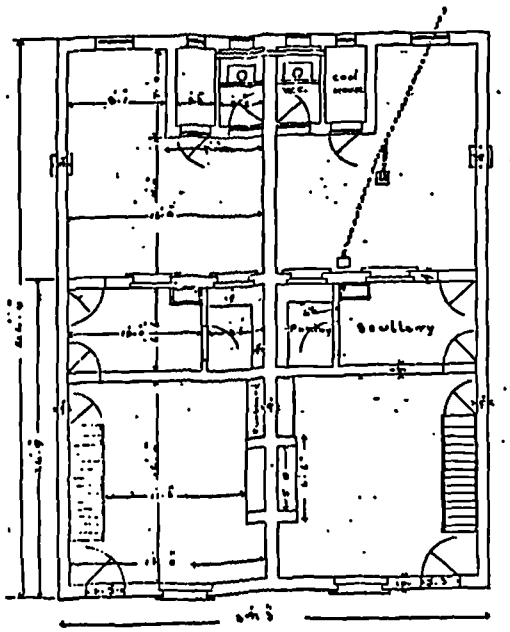
Front Elevation



Section



Bed Room Plan



Ground Plan

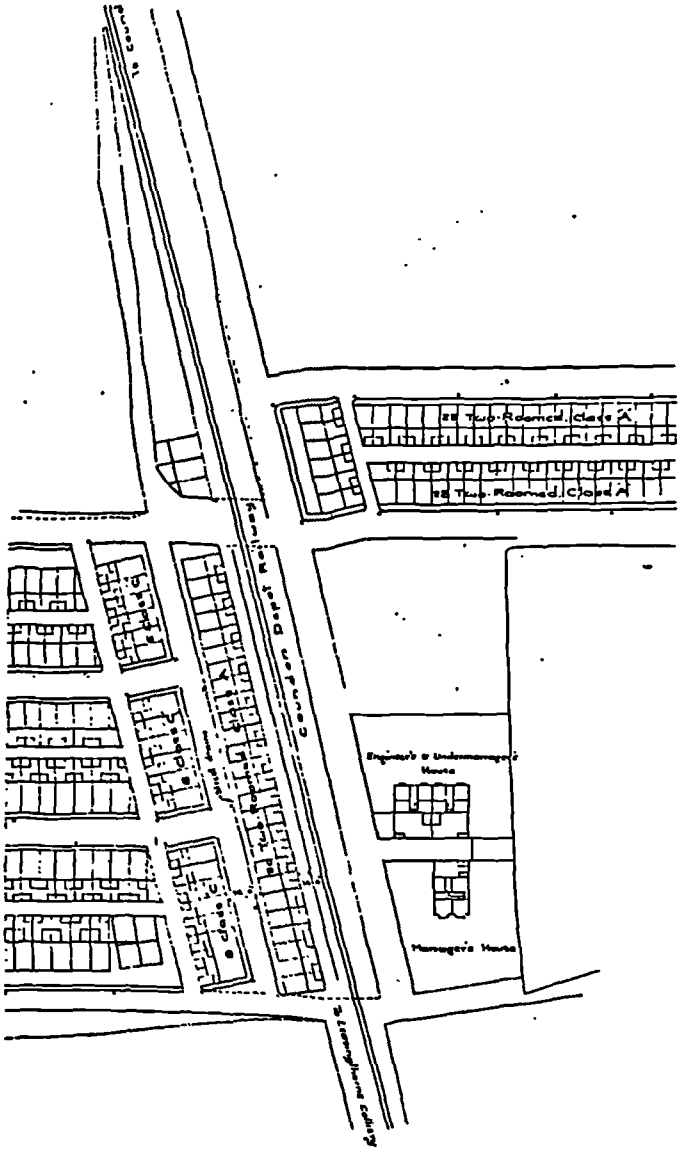


Figure 24 CATEGORY THREE. TWO ROOMED COTTAGE
SINGLE HOUSE

1 ground floor room
1 first floor room

LEASINGTHORNE (TYPE A) 1909
Map Reference NZ256301

Reconstruction of original drawing
by W. Ward

0 5 10 15 20 FEET
SCALE

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
COTTAGE TYPE
CATEGORY THREE - TWO ROOMED COTTAGE 1 ground floor
                                     1 first floor room

ONE UP ONE DOWN
BLIND BACKED

ONE UP ONE DOWN
BLIND BACKED

The term 'blind backed' has been used to describe cottages with no window or door openings in the rear elevation of the property. Interest is not so much in defining the category but offering explanation as to why many houses were built on the Great Northern Coalfield in this way. Blind backed cottages appear to have existed in many locations, obviously, it is not possible to identify which houses were blind backed from the ordnance survey maps. However blind backed cottages can only be single houses, one room deep.

MURTON STREET
MURTON

Built in 1838 this row of cottages was built for the colliery sinkers in Murton. The original drawing shows one ground floor room with direct access from the street, and a loft above, Figure 25. There was no indication of any doors or windows in the rear elevation. The pantry off shoot, was shown on the original drawing. The external walls were solid 18" thick random local limestone and slates covered the roof. The floor was of lime and gravel.

The original drawing showed two plan types 'First Class Cottage' with two ground floor rooms and a loft over and 'Second Class Cottage',[36] Figure 25, showing one ground floor room with loft above. The drawing records the cost of the second class cottage including all materials as £37.10.0.

There was no section or elevation for the second class cottage included on the original drawing. Interpretation from the elevation for the first class cottage reveals a section very similar to that shown in Figure 26. The quantity of information given on the drawing is very little in comparison with that given on the Stella Coal Company drawings.[37] The location of the cottages, identified on Map 5 reveals no explanation for the blind-backed form of the cottages. These dwellings were demolished in the 1930's.

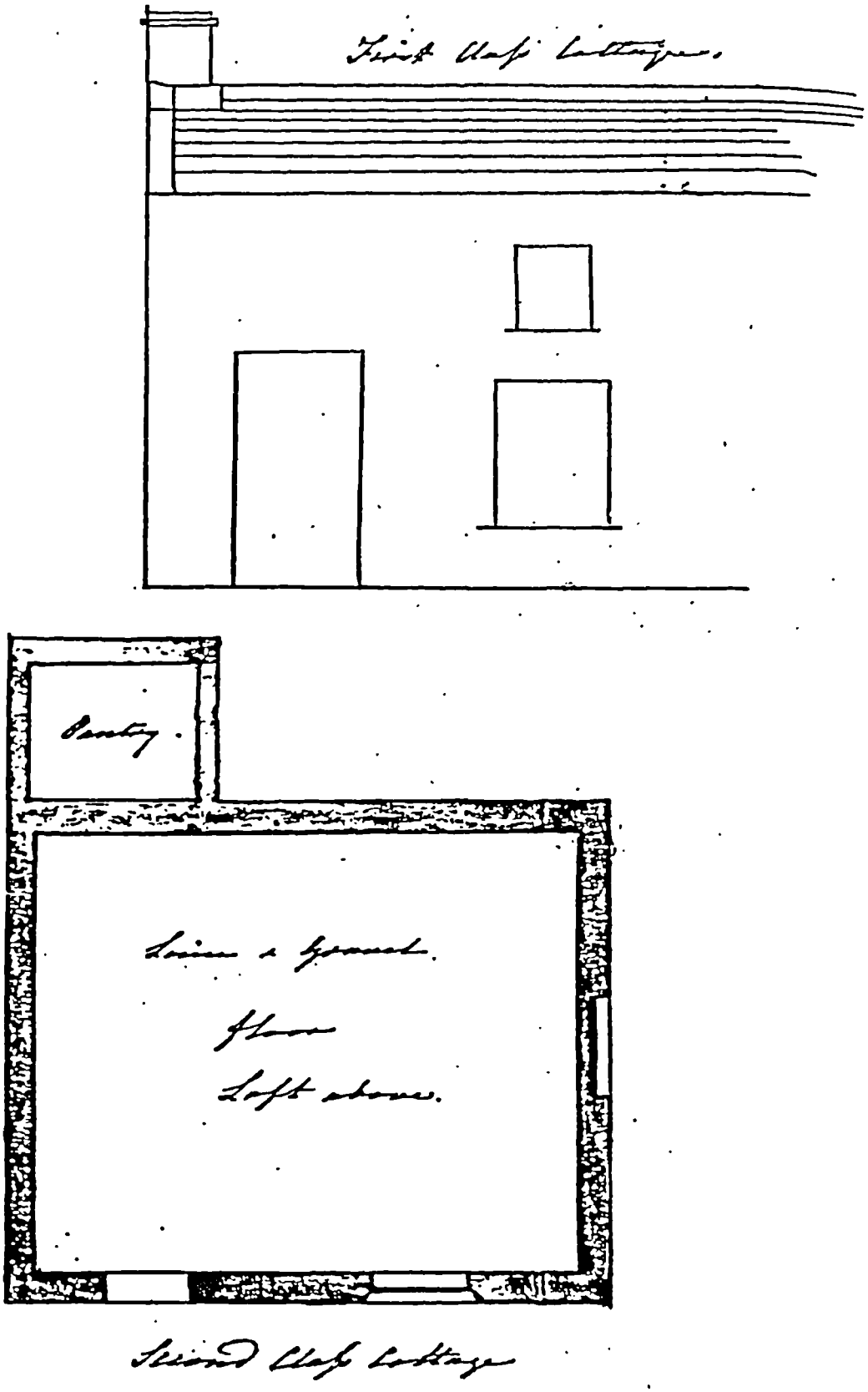


Figure 25 CATEGORY THREE TWO ROOMED COTTAGE 1 ground floor room
BLIND BACKED 1 first floor room

MURTON STREET
MURTON 1838
Map Reference NZ399470

Original drawing
Public Record Office Ref S.B.P. 555

THORP COTTAGES
BAR MOOR

A complete set of documents relating to Thorp Cottages are deposited at Durham County Record Office. The drawing is entitled 'Plan of a 4 Roomed House and 14 Cottages intended to be Built in a Field near Stella Coal Company' and dated May 1860, Figure 26 and 27.
There is a revision to the drawing 'Owing to the end of the 4 roomed house not running parallel with the road it was altered as shown'. The Turnpike on the drawing is the Hexham to Ryton Road., Map 9.

The specification and description of masonry and carpentry work with the original drawing is dated September 1854. Attached to the specification is an advertisement taken from the Newcastle Weekly chronicle of August 15th 1854 asking Builders and Contractors to submit tenders for the construction of the cottages.
39

On the 1st edition 1856 Ordnance Survey map the Stella Coal Company Pit at Bar Moor is identified as Towneley Main Colliery Map 8, however, on the 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map 1896 the Pit is called Emma Pit, Map 9. The Towneley Emma Pit was sunk in 1845 and worked until 1901. The cottages were built in December 1864 and in 1865 a Dr. Hunter commented on the fine construction.

> Nothing can be better than the Thorp Cottages here-
> with the exception that they have no back windows.
> Everything else is excellent.
> 40

Thorp blind backed cottages had windows added to the east elevation in the 1930 s. The cottages are still standing today, 1987, basically in their original form and all occupied 125 years after construction.

The cottages were constructed with 18" thick stone walls and as the dwellings stepped down the slope the change in ridge height was accommodated by the projecting water tabling detail described earlier. On the ground the internal floor finish of flags in these cottages was superior to that of the earlier cottages at Murton. The section showed the familiar 'teefall' ceiling in the bedroom with a clear height of 8'0" and the lowest height of 5' 6".

The ground floor of each house consisted of a living room with cooking range and a small pantry. A ladder at the rear of the room led to the bedroom above. There was a coal store behind the pantry, and on the opposite side of the access path, blocks of ashpits and privies, with one privy per two dwellings. Also indicated on the plans are bread ovens, one per four houses.

As can be seen from the copy of the masonry and carpentry specifications, the houses although economical in space standards were of sound construction and finished to a good standard. Several features are of interest, for example, further expansion of the row was planned, as the section of the specification headed Quoins includes the instruction 'the east end of the cottages to be left with projecting stones to be built against at some future time'.[42] The windows were the commmon vertical slding sash on the ground floor but at first floor level a type of 'Yorkshire' sash is specified;'Windows to the upper rooms to be made with solid frames 3½" x 3" and made to slide (horizontally)'.[43] This horizontal sliding window is found in many examples. Another feature is the inclusion of the shutters at ground floor level; 'Battened outside window shutters

to kitchen windows of ¾" American deal with proper hinges and fasteners'.[44] The pantry window is of an involved design with a transom across for glass above and a moveable iron trellis below.[45]

Surface water drainage was provided. A 2' 2" square gully outside the front of each pair of cottages connected by a 4" drain to a 'sink stone'. These sink stones were connected by a main drain pipe of 9" internal diameter which in turn connected to the Emma Pit drain. The documentation and quality of specification for the Thorp Cottages is far superior to those for the blind backed cottages at Murton.

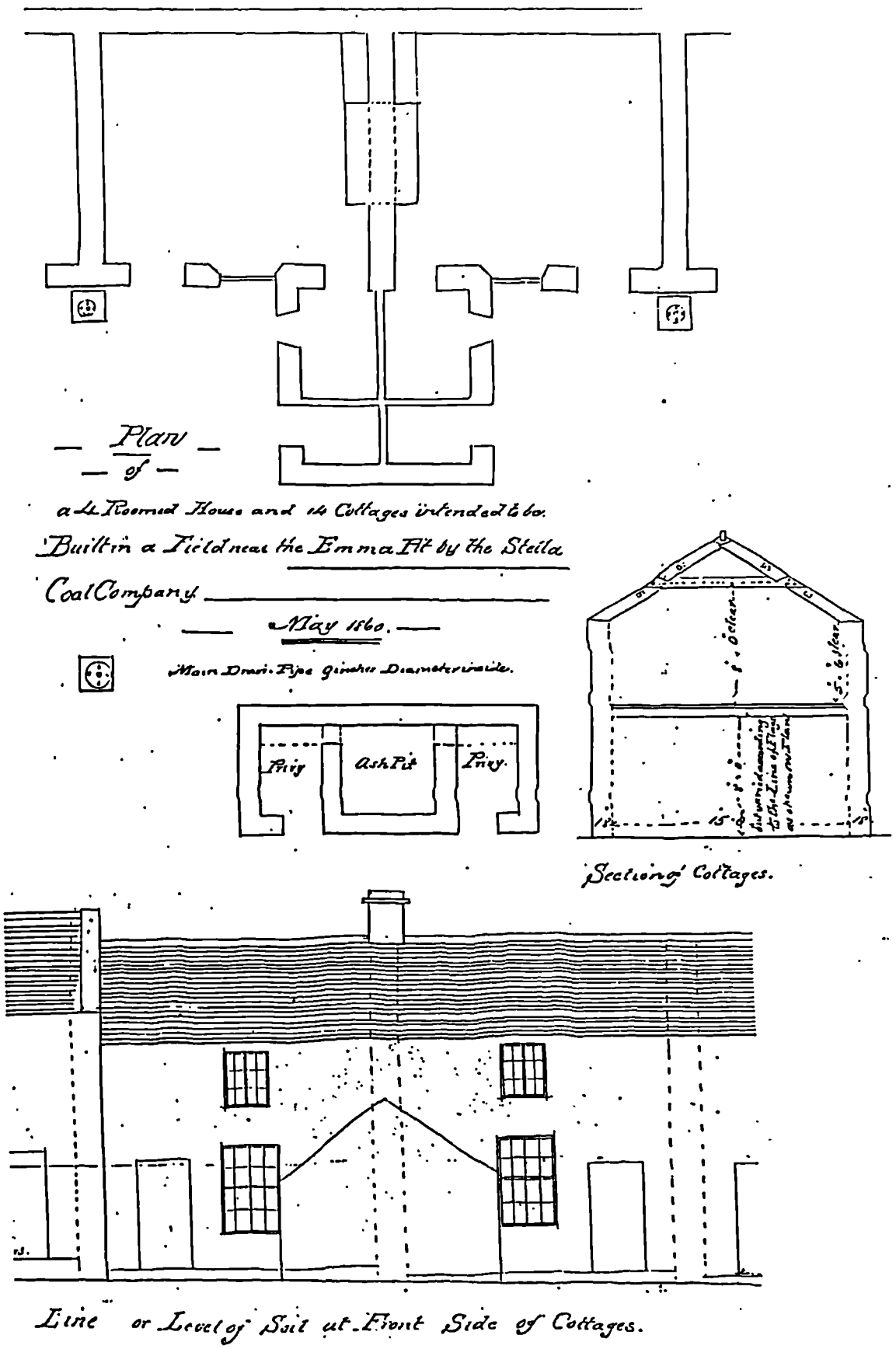


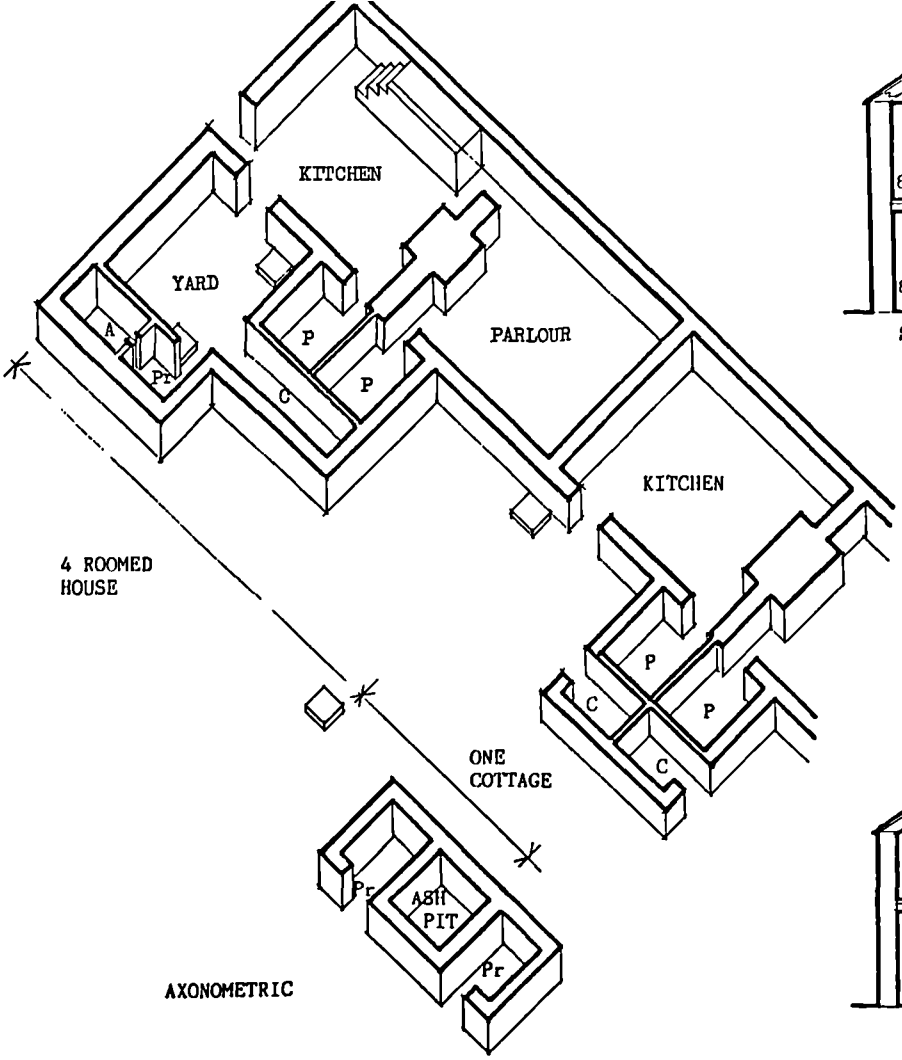
Figure 26 CATEGORY THREE TWO ROOMED COTTAGE BLIND BACKED

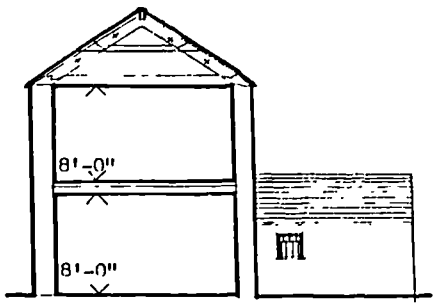
1 ground floor room
1 first floor room

THORP COTTAGES
BAR MOOR 1860
Map Reference NZ145640

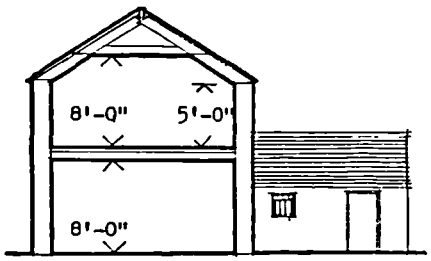
0 5 10 15 FEET
SCALE

Reconstruction of part of original drawing
Stella Coal Company Durham County Record Office





SECTION OF 4 ROOMED HOUSE

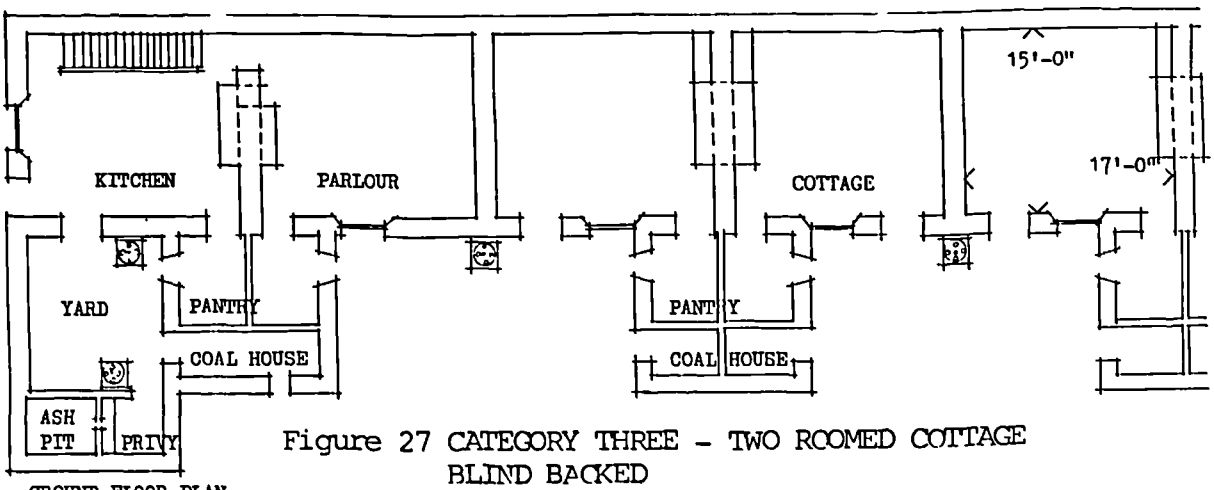


SECTION OF COTTAGES



FRONT ELEVATION

4 ROOMED HOUSE — ONE COTTAGE



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

0 5 10 15 20 FEET

SCALE

Figure 27 CATEGORY THREE - TWO ROOMED COTTAGE
BLIND BACKED

1 ground floor room
1 first floor room

THORP COTTAGES BAR MOOR 1860
Map Reference NZ145o40

From original drawing entitled Plan of a 4 Roomed House and 14 Cottages intended to be built in a Field near the Emma Pit Stella Coal Company Durham County Record Office

The question must be asked as to why one should build in this way with no openings on one side of the dwelling. An argument has been used in the past to suggest that it was connected with the question of access, a miner only requiring one door. This is an unlikely answer as it gives no explanation of the complete lack of windows in this elevation. An alternative philosophy is that the aim was to have as few openings in the external wall as possible as this only increased draft and cold. In the planning of colliery settlements, little if any attention appears to have been paid to orientation, and in the case of Thorp cottages this would provide an unlikely reason, as the windows are omitted from an east elevation.

A possible explanation of the blind back cottages could be related to privacy and over looking. In many cases colliery rows are situated 'Front to Front' and 'Back to Back', and in some cases the rows are 'Front to Back'. Privacy is an unlikely explanation for blind backed cottages as in the examples traced there are no other rows in the immediate vicinity. Privacy could offer a possible explanation in urban areas where pressure on land for development was at a premium. However, generally speaking on the Great Northern Coalfield, with the possible exception of Ashington, development is in rural locations where the land itself was of less value.

Other theories regarding the origins of the blind backed cottage include the use of the rear wall for the staircase. However, in the Thorp cottage example a ladder was used to provide access to the first floor. A further consideration related to plan form could be that where a cat slide occurs at the rear of the property

there is then little opportunity for windows in the first floor of the rear elevation.

The hypothesis which answers most queries is based on the plan type. As suggested when back to back cottages were under consideration there appears to be a very strong relevance in the development of the plan form through from the seminal unit to the back to back and the blind backed cottage. The question which has to be considered is was the progression as indicated previously - was the blind backed cottage the intervening stage between the seminal unit and the back to back cottage? Or was the blind backed cottage a development of the back to back cottage?.

Order is difficult to ascertain through the dates of the dwellings. As noted earlier back to back cottages were still being built in 1864 at Hedgefield and the Thorp blind backed cottages were apparently built at the same time. The first earliest drawing found for back to back cottages was 1857.
46

One wonders if the blind backed cottages simply stemmed from the plan form of the back to back and that colliery dwellers were simply familiar with a dwelling which had no rear access or light. There is evidence of terraced cottages, perhaps blind backed being subsequently doubled in width for example at Newfield.
47

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
COTTAGE TYPE
CATEGORY THREE - TWO ROOMED COTTAGE 1 ground floor room
                                     1 first floor room

ONE UP ONE DOWN
THE SINGLE HOUSE
in the context of the COMPOSED ROW or TERRACE

SINGLE HOUSE
in the context of the COMPOSED ROW or TERRACE

Falling within Leifchild's Category One, that is one ground floor room and one upper floor room, is the 'single house'. This regional term refers more particularly to the type of house found in pairs at the end of a row. The two single houses are arranged transversely to the other dwellings, which may be 'single houses' or 'double houses ' that is four roomed dwellings. It is interesting to note here that the term 'cottage' is dropped in preference for 'house' possibly implying something a little more imposing. There are variations on this theme with special cross houses or 'officials' houses in the middles of rows. This treatment of the layout is evidence of a new kind of care in architectural terms. The care inherent in the manipulation of the plan form is also expressed in the balanced composition of the whole facade. Attention is paid to windows, lintols, cills and brickwork detailing.

In the regional use of the word this is felt to be the early form of the 'terrace'. The naming of colliery rows has often an obvious derivation, examples are numerous First Row, Second Row... and so on (Ashington), Stone Row (Leasingthorne), Smokey Row (Shotton), Long Row, Cross Row (Ashington). However, the examples referred to in this section are called 'Gladstone Terrace', 'Wooley Terrace', 'Arthur Terrace' and 'Stanley Terrace'.

The term 'terrace' meaning a row of adjoining houses of uniform style, was first used in 1769. From its origins the use of the word developed into what might be described as a 'row' with a sense of order. Although the house types under examination here are small,

there is apparent in these dwellings aspiration to a grander way of life.

Examples of the 'composed row' plan form were fairly common throughout the North East. In 1871 single houses in a composed row were built at Boldon Colliery[49]. Many of these composed rows or terraces remain today. As with the back to back cottages the majority of single houses at the end of rows have now been converted into one through house.

On the Great Northern Coalfield the nature of all the housing is very modest in comparison with the fine terraces of Nash and other architects. The symmetrical composition of architectural elements was to persist in housing design through into the twentieth century. The influence of the London squares of the 1830's and 1840's is interesting to observe in these humble dwellings of the cold and remote North East of England, Plate 40.

Plate 40 Foster Terrace, Cambois
The composed row or terrace
with special end houses

Photograph by H. Diana Brown September 1979



Plate 40 Foster Terrace, Cambois
The composed row or terrace
with special end houses

Photograph by H. Diana Brown September 1979



GLADSTONE TERRACE
SUNNISIDE

An example of the single house and the 'composed' plan form is to be seen at Sunniside, Figure 28 and Plate 41. There are three blocks in the row and at each end of each block were two single houses. To-day these single houses have been converted to one dwelling.

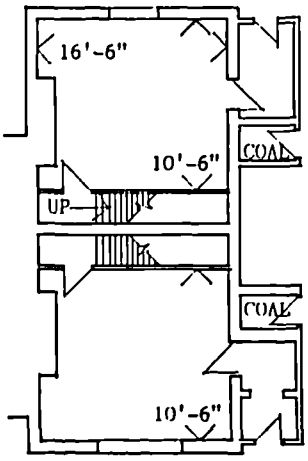
These particular houses were sought out largely because of a very descriptive passage in the Newcastle Weekly Chronicle of Saturday July 12 1873:

Sunniside - Old Hedley Hope and New Hedley Hope

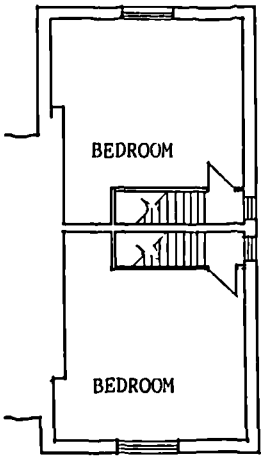
> But what is that out to the left yonder. It looks like a separate hamlet, and is a world too fine for association with the common looking cottages straight before us. It stands aloof in Pharisaic whiteness and self-righteous pride. As first impressions are of great importance we will inspect Pharisee Row, fearing much lest we should find it a white sepulchre. But we are agreeably disappointed. The nearer we approach the more favourable is our impression. It is a long row of 50 or 60 houses in the tip top style of colliery architecture. There are three blocks in the row, and each block is finished off by a transverse arrangement of two single houses back to back, which pleasantly relieved the long line of sameness otherwise prevailing... The houses, as already sufficiently intimated, are of white-shining white brick, and being built with high pitched roofs, they ought not to be troubled with damp walls. Some of the corner transverse cottages, however, have rheumatic patches on their northern walls. The fact is that the mortar has been either scanty in bulk or defective in quality. In the jolly summer time there is nothing to complain of. The lace curtains and window flowers both above and below, give a light and radiant appearance to the entire row. And, indeed, altogether there is an upper crust air of gentility about the whole place that would lead ill-regulated minds to pharisaism and haughty disdain for the low people over the way, if by chance there should be any ill-regulated minds in the bodies of honest folk who inhabit the row.
>
> 50

Gladstone Terrace, referred to in the text as 'Pharisee Row', this is a reference to their appearance, 'Pharisaic' a strong and complementary description of Gladstone Terrace. The words 'in the tip

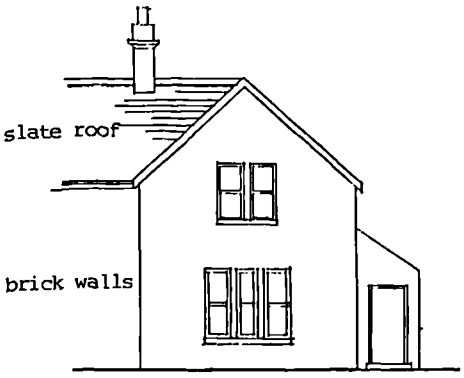
top style of colliery architecture' made the investigation necessary. There are a total of forty six[51] houses now one hundred and ten years old still standing and fully occupied. Conversions have been carried out and the 'single houses' have not only been converted to through houses but have been extended as well. One hopes that the longevity of these houses is due partly to them being of architectural significance. Although the houses are no longer built 'of white-shining white brick' they do occupy an elevated site, and have a degree of style.[52] These then are the first colliery cottages studied to have been described in their own time with a sense of dignity and appreciation of quality.



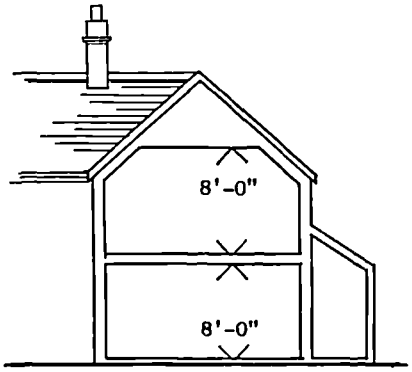
GROUND FLOOR



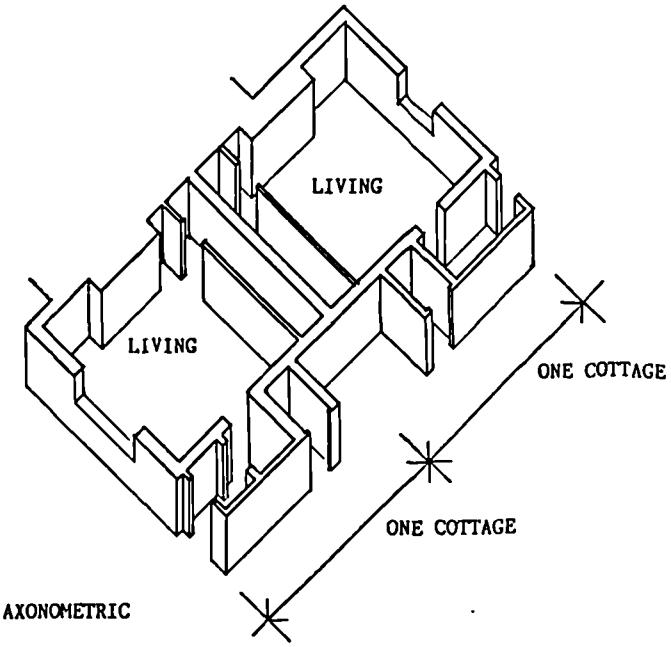
FIRST FLOOR



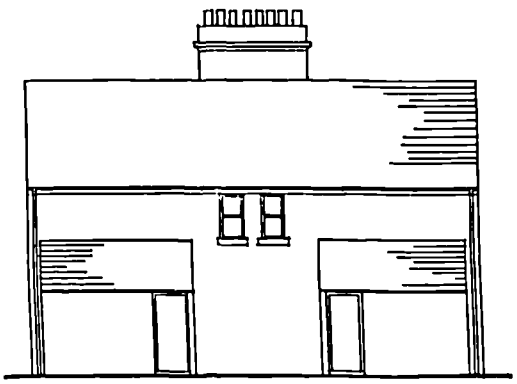
FRONT ELEVATION



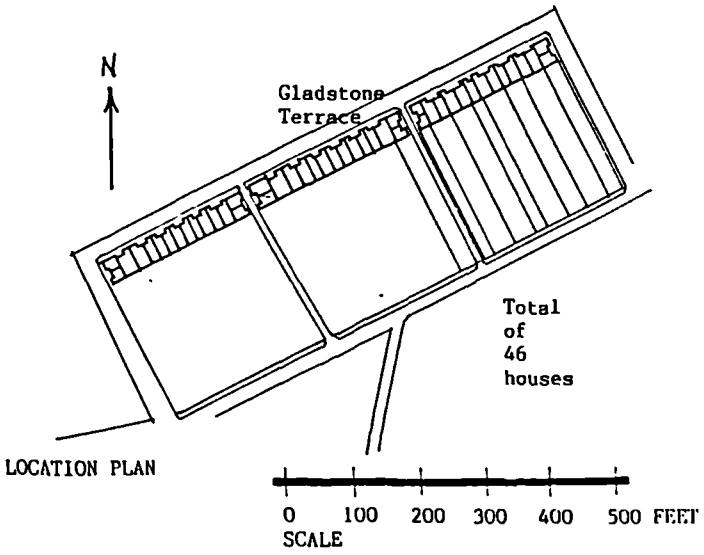
CROSS SECTION



AXONOMETRIC



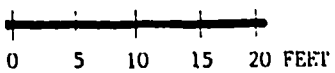
SIDE ELEVATION



LOCATION PLAN

Figure 28 CATEGORY THREE TWO ROOMED COTTAGE
THE SINGLE HOUSE
In the context of the COMPOSED ROW or TERRACE

1 ground floor room
1 first floor room



GLADSTONE TERRACE
SUNNISIDE 1870
Map Reference NZ140386

Authors own survey with assistance
from Alan Rebair

Plate 41 Gladstone Terrace, Sunniside
The single house in the context of
the composed row or terrace, 1870

Photograph by H. Diana Brown September 1979



Plate 41 Gladstone Terrace, Sunniside
The single house in the context of
the composed row or terrace, 1870

Photograph by H. Diana Brown September 1979



STANLEY TERRACE
STANLEY

The plans for the above cottages were very similar to those for Gladstone Terrace, Sunniside. Two 'single houses' stood at each end of the four roomed houses in Woolley Terrace, Arthur Terrace and Stanley Terrace at Stanley near Crook. These cottages, as with many of this type were built by Messrs Pease and Partners.

53

The cottages were built about 1865 and constructed of 18" stone. The living room/kitchen and the bedroom over, were 17'x 0" x 15' x 9". The ground floor was paved with bricks. These houses were described in the Newcastle Weekly Chronicle of Saturday 5 July 1873:

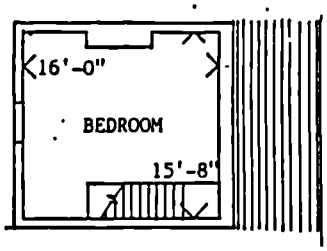
> The fact is that Stanley and Wooley Terrace form one great settlement. There are two collieries, and as far as practicable, the men of Wooley live in Wooley houses and the Stanley folks in Stanley houses;but the two localities are so far one and the same that they form 3 sides of a quadrangle. With breaks at two of the corners no larger than are interposed at intervals in each of the tree sides..... At right angles to this row (Mount Pleasant) runs a long length of houses called Wooley Terrace, erected in 1865, Some part of this row, or perhaps the whole of it, is known as the Porch Row. The houses are in blocks of about 18 and each block is finished off with a tranverse gable, and containing two single houses. This most agreeably breaks the monotony of the long terrace,
> The fronts of the houses are not readily accessible.

54

EAST HEDLEYHOPE TERRACE
WATERHOUSES

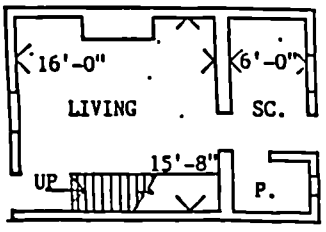
The previous examples were of single houses at the end of a row of double houses, however, at East Hedleyhope the single houses were at the end of a row of one up one down houses. Figure 29 shows the plan of the house, between the transverse blocks. These houses built in the 1860s were of brick construction and had a single room downstairs 16'0" x 15' 8" with a scullery and a pantry, and upstairs one bedroom directly over the main living room. The section shows this room with a spacious 8'.0" height at ground and first floor level. As in the example of the houses at Emmaville [55] this plan also indicates a conventional width staircase, rather than the ladder access to first floor described in the cottages at Hedgefield. [56]



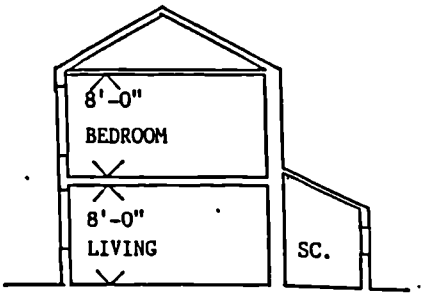


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

REAR VIEW



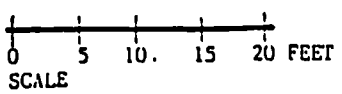
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



CROSS SECTION

1 ground floor room
1 first floor room

Figure 29 CATEGORY THREE TWO ROOMED COTTAGE
THE SINGLE HOUSE
In the context of the COMPOSED ROW or TERRACE



SCALE

EAST HEDLEYHOPE TERRACE
WATERHOUSES 1860
Map Reference NZ171405

Beamish Open Air Museum

The Two Roomed, one up one down cottage of the Great Northern Coalfield took on a wide variety of forms, both in its plan shape and elevational treatment. Many were very humble and have not survived in any form which can be represented, for example the Tee Fall Cottage. Others are still standing in the 1980s and occupied although not in their original form. Many of these cottages were built in the early years of the study period. The last back to back cottages identified are Darlington Road West Auckland which were built in 1897. Blind Backed Cottages proved difficult to identify with any certainty as windows have been added at a later date in nearly all examples. One of the most surprising factors is the large number of dwellings built at one time in often remote locations, 'fifty cottages to be built at Hedgefield'.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1 L. W. Darra Mair Report to the Local Government Board on the sanitary circumstances of the Whickham Urban District, with special reference to its housing accommodation generally,and to certain Back to Back houses at Marley Hill in particular. (London:HMSO, 1906).

2 H. Wallace and T. Lambert Report to the Whickham Urban District Council as to the condition of Marley Hill and District referred to in the report of the Medical Officer for the County of Durham for the quarter ending 31 March 1896 (Whickham:June 1896) and Public Health Act, 1875. 'A landmark in the history of English sanitary institutions....' 6.10.1. Apart from giving controlling powers to various levels of Authority it made strict provisions over sewers, banned new cellar dwellings and specifically included over-crowding as a 'nuisance' requiring inspection and giving additional powers of abatement. Local Authorities were obliged to make bye-laws regulating new layout and construction and the Local Government Board, formed as a result of the Act, drafted model bye-laws. Since the bye-laws did not have the force of the law and many Local Authorities had framed their own bye-laws by different methods, anomalies such as the continuance of back to backs continued well into the twentieth century.

3 V. Hole and Pountney Trends in Population Housing and Occupancy Rates: 1861-1961 (London:H.M.S.O.).

4 L.W. Darra Mair Report to the Local Government Board. op.cit.

5 ibid.

6 See Figure 13 and Glossary of Terms.

7 See Figure 13 and Glossary of Terms.

8 See page 544

9 Stella Coal Company Records (hereafter SCCR) DCRO. Drawings 1857.

10 See Figure 13 .

11 SCCR, DCRO. Drawings1864 .

12 ibid.

13 See page 556-558.

14 SCCR, DCRO. Drawings 1864 .

15 ibid.

16 See page 209 .

17 L.W. DarraMair Report to the Local Government Board op.cit. Diagram to show the extent of overcrowding and the proportion of tenements of 1,2,3, 4 and 5 or more rooms, respectively in the Whickham Urban District, in England and Wales, in certain counties including their county boroughs, in certain districts the chief industry of which is coal mining, and in certain districts, the industries of which are chiefly other than coal mining.

18 J.Y.E. Seeley op.cit., 289.

19 See Figure 19

20 See page 354-356

21 J.Y.E. Seeley op.cit., 290.

22 S. Tremenheere Report of the Commissioner into the state of the population in the Mining Districts. (London:HMSO, 1847).

23 'OCV' West Moor and Burradon NWC 12.10.1872 (II)

24 A. Forbes, Daily News 2.10.1872 and 'OCV' Seghill NWC 5.10.1872 (I).

25 J.Y.E. Seeley op.cit., 162.

26 R. A. Scott James op.cit., Appendices, 139.
Plans drawn by Mr. H. S. Triscott.

27 ibid, 138.

28 Thomas Hair Sketches of the Coal Mines of Northumberland and Durham op.cit.

29 ibid, Jubilee Pit Coxlodge.

30 'OCV' Black Hill and Berry Edge NWC 28.12.1872 (X111).

31 Beamish Open Air Museum 'Consideration of some aspects of the construction and use of miner's dwellings and related domestic dwellings in Co. Durham (unpublished notes.)

32 ibid., 10.

33 SCCR, DCRO. Drawing of Cottages between ELtringham and Mickley, undated

34 See page 431
and H. F. Bulman op.cit., 248.

35 See page 367.

36 See page 330.

37 See Figure 26.

38 Appendix 4.

39 ibid.

40 Dr. Hunter. Inquiry into the State of the Dwellings of Rural Labourers op.cit.

41 See page 167

42 Appendix 4.

43 ibid.

44 ibid.

45 See page 556-558

46 See page 215-218

47 See page 441-443

48 See page 110
and Stefan Muthesius op.cit.,14.

49 Beamish Open Air Museum, unpublished notes, op.cit.

50 'OCV' Sunniside and Roddymore NWC 12.7.1873 (XXXV11).

51 ibid.

52 ibid.

53 See page 365and Figure 56. Woolley Terrace is examined as an example of a cat slide roof cottage.

54 'OCV' Stanley and Bowden Close NWC 5.7.1873 (XXXV1).

55 See page 211

56 See page 544

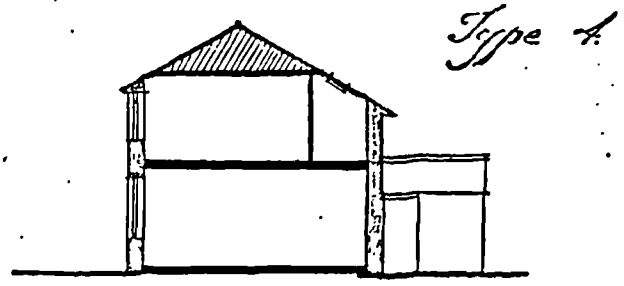
57 See page 222

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
COTTAGE TYPE
CATEGORY FOUR - THREE ROOMED COTTAGE 1 ground floor room
                                      2 first floor rooms

As further pressure was put on the existing accommodation to house more and larger families of miners the houses were subdivided or extended in a variety of ways. One simple device was that of projecting a window through the slanting roof so making room for a small additional upstairs attic room, also, many small sculleries were added at this stage. Initially a three roomed house was the adaption of the one up one down or single house design. The plans took a variety of forms; from three roomed back to back cottages, single entry cottages to those with and without sculleries. The sub-division of the upper floor into two rooms was achieved in a variety of ways and using different forms of construction, from that of properly constructed brick walls to very simple timber partitions.

Three and four roomed cottages were identified by Scott James in Coal and Power, Figure 30.

> Mr. Triscott and I saw many examples of (4) and (5) in Ludworth, Haswell, Shotton, Wingate, Bearpark and many other places.
> 1



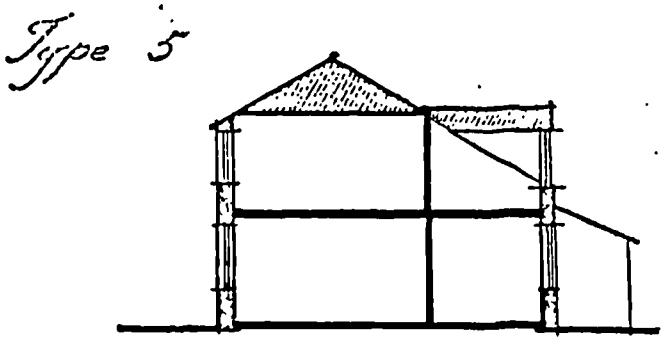


Figure 30 CATEGORY FOUR THREE ROOMED COTTAGE 1 ground floor room
2 first floor rooms

LUDWORTH HASWELL SHOTTON
WINGATE BEARPARK and many other places

Scott James Coal and Power
Drawing by H.S. Triscott

CROOKED OAK COTTAGES
MINSTER ACRES

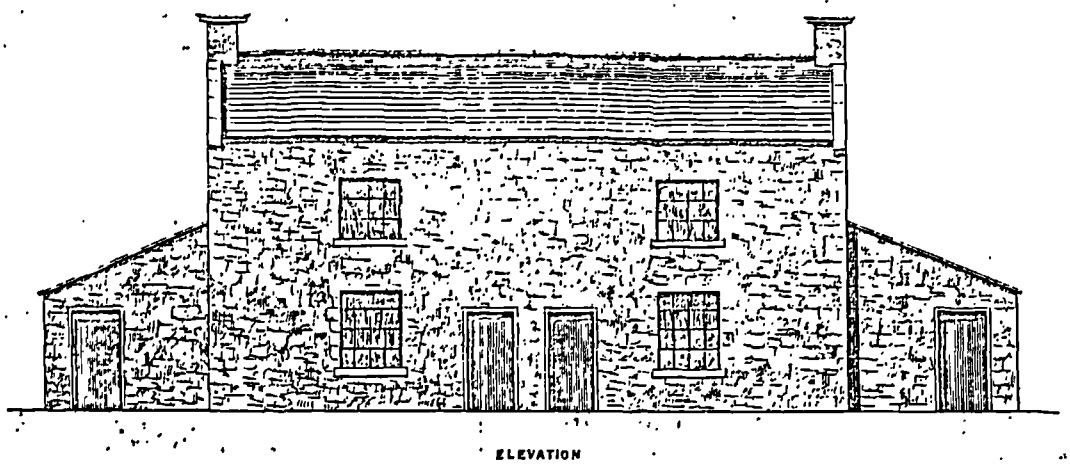
An early example of a plan in this category was dated 1845, Figures 31 and 32. Crooked Oak Cottages plan was developed to serve a particular purpose. There was a letter accompanying the plans written to one Ralph Carr from George Silvertop:

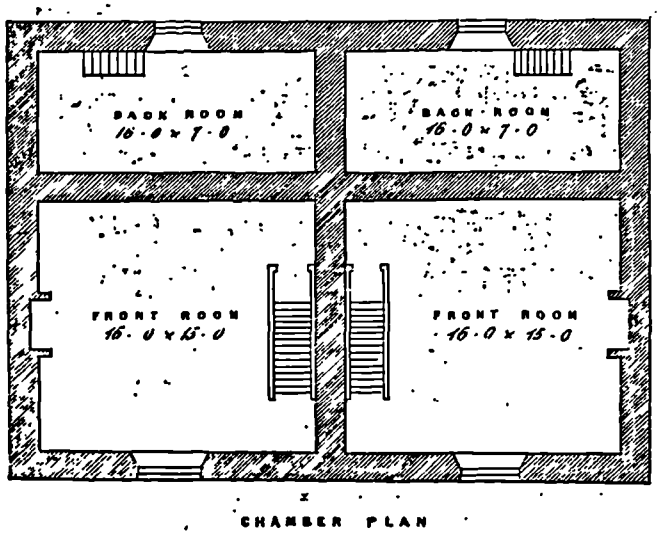
> In two of the houses, you will observe that there is a room over the pantry and back kitchen - each of these rooms contains two beds, and each bed is slept in by a miner who pays to the cottages 1s a week for his bed and room.
>
> 2

The plan was very unusual as it had a single entrance point and two staircases,one staircase and one ladder. The lodger miner was catered for with his own independent access to his bedroom from the back kitchen or scullery. The other staircase led off the main ground floor room called the kitchen. On the first floor plan there was no inter-connecting door between the front room and the back room. The houses were well constructed of stone with slate roof and sash windows. In addition to the living accommodation each house had a privy, a pig house and a byre.

The single storey version of these cottages Redwell Cottage was referred to in Category Two. The quality of the original drawings for both dwellings Figure 8 and Figure 31 was excellent.

3





Note separate back staircase (ladder) providing access to a room slept in by two miners

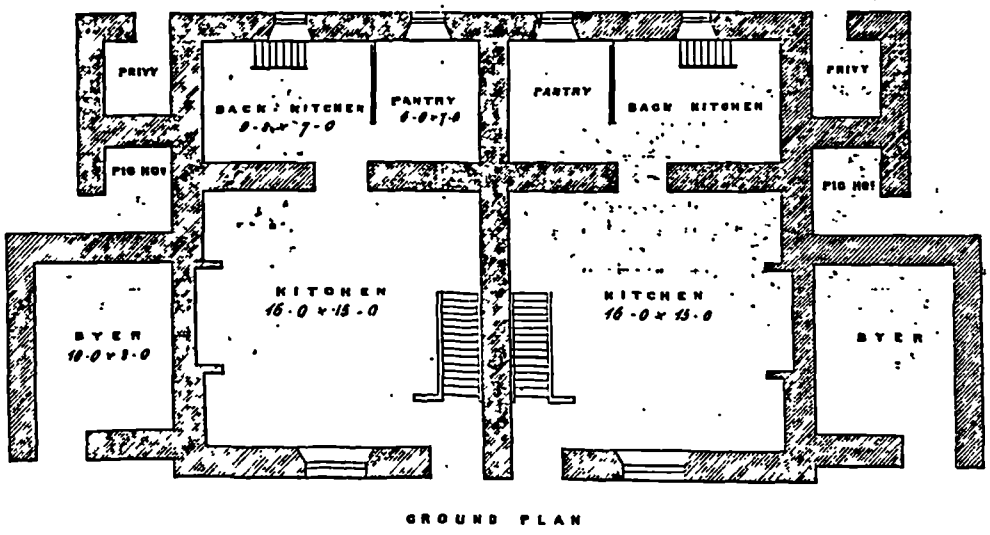


Figure 31 CATEGORY FOUR THREE ROOMED COTTAGE

1 ground floor room
1 first floor room

CROOKED OAK COTTAGES
MINSTERACRES 1845
Map Reference NZ 054496

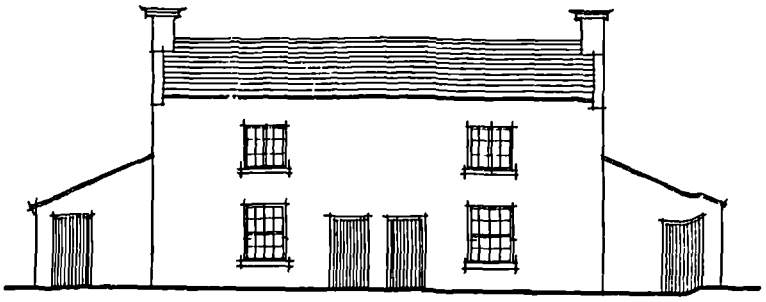
Reconstruction of original drawing
Grey Pamphlet No 726
Department of Palaeography University of Durham

10 0 10 20 30

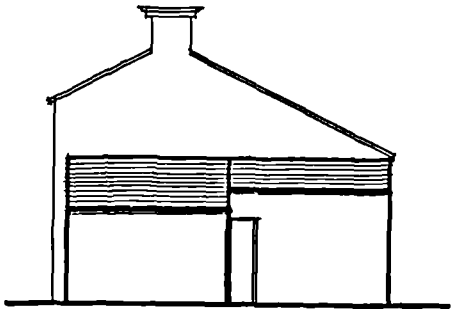
SCALE

M & N W. LAMBERT LITHOG. NEWCASTLE

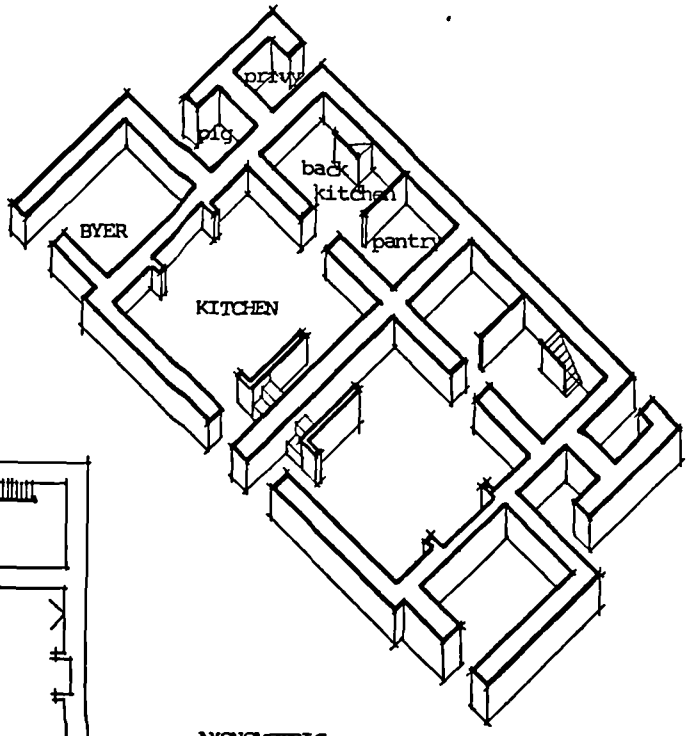
FEET



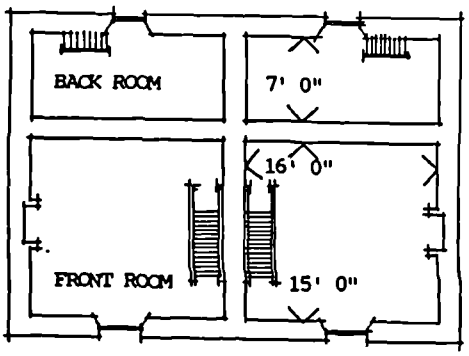
FRONT ELEVATION



END ELEVATION

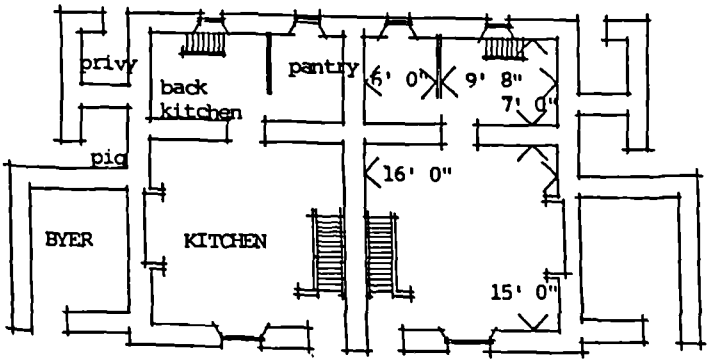


AXONOMETRIC

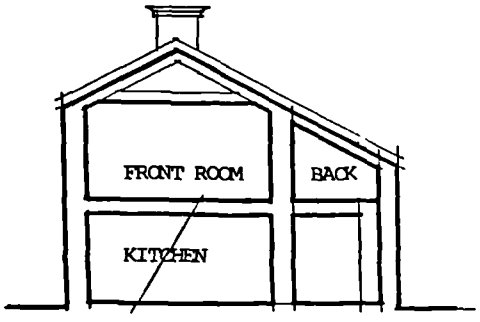


FIRST FLOOR





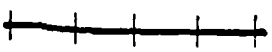
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



CROSS SECTION

Figure 32 CATEGORY FOUR THREE ROOMED COTTAGE

1 ground floor room
2 first floor rooms



CROOKED OAK COTTAGES
MINSTERACRES 1845
Map Reference NZ 054 496

From original drawing
Grey Pamphlet No 726
Department of Palaeography University of Durham

BRIDGE ROW
HIGH ESCOMB

The Escomb cottage is a further example of the two bedroom house type; the cottages were constructed of stone and step down a steeply sloping site, Figure 33 and Plate 42. The yards were not enclosed at the rear, and the privies and outhouses were built of brick at a later date. As with the other cottages to be looked at in this category the scullery was formed into a larger area at the rear, containing a scullery or wash house as well as a pantry. This is an important development as it is a first step in the direction of a separate room downstairs to be used as a kitchen.

The plan is a direct development of the one up one down type of house, with a few additions to suit a gradually improving life style.



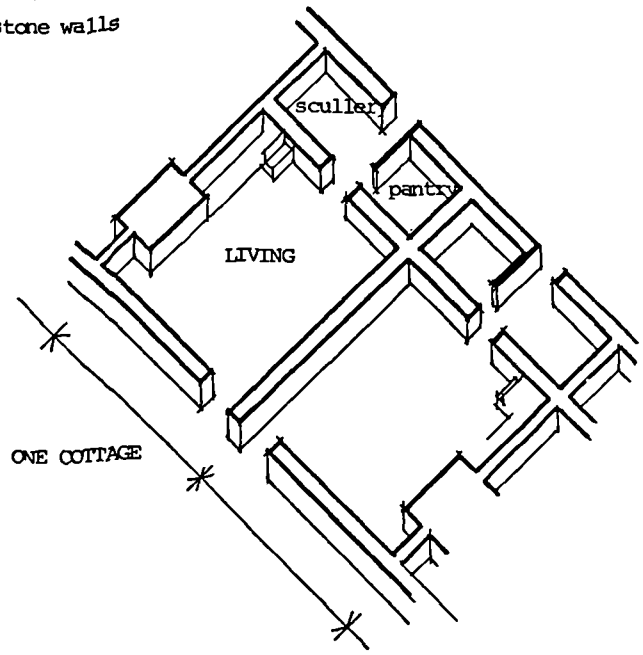
PANTILES

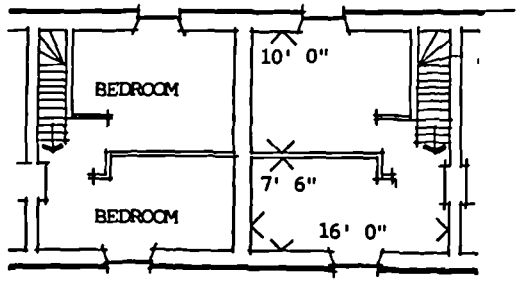
pantiles

note difference in ground and first floor windows

stone walls

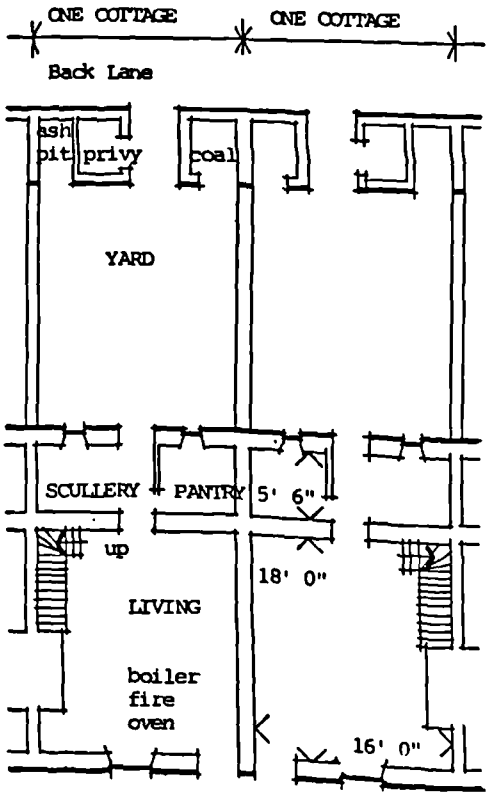
FRONT ELEVATION





FIRST FLOOR PLAN

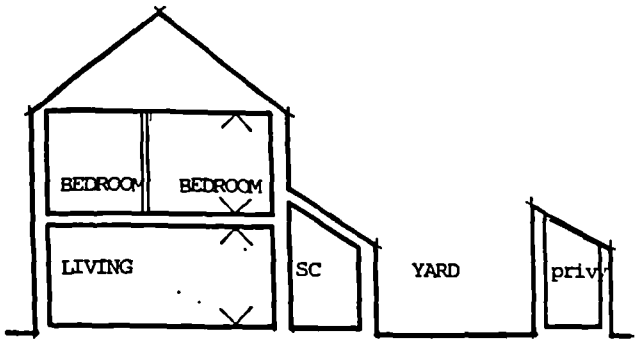
AXONOMETRIC



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



REAR ELEVATION



SECTION

Figure 33 CATEGORY FOUR THREE ROOMED COTTAGE

1 ground floor room
2 first floor rooms

BRIDGE ROW
HIGH ESCOMB 1855
Map Reference NZ189361

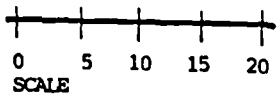


Plate 42 Bridge Row, High Escomb
Three roomed cottage 1855

Beamish Open Air Museum



Plate 42 Bridge Row, High Escomb
Three roomed cottage 1855

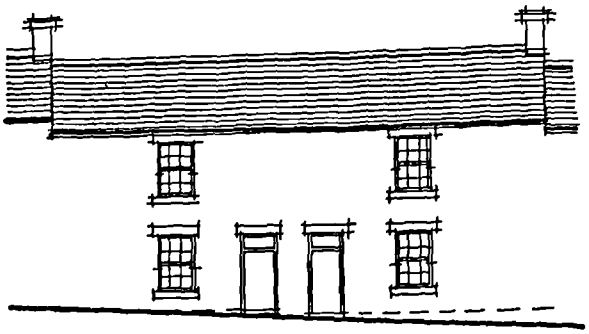
Beamish Open Air Museum



SINGLE BURDON STREET
RYHOPE

Of a very similar date and plan form are the cottages at Single Burdon Street, Ryhope. There is some dimensional variation but the major difference is the first floor plan, where the staircase is open to the bedroom area, Figure 34.

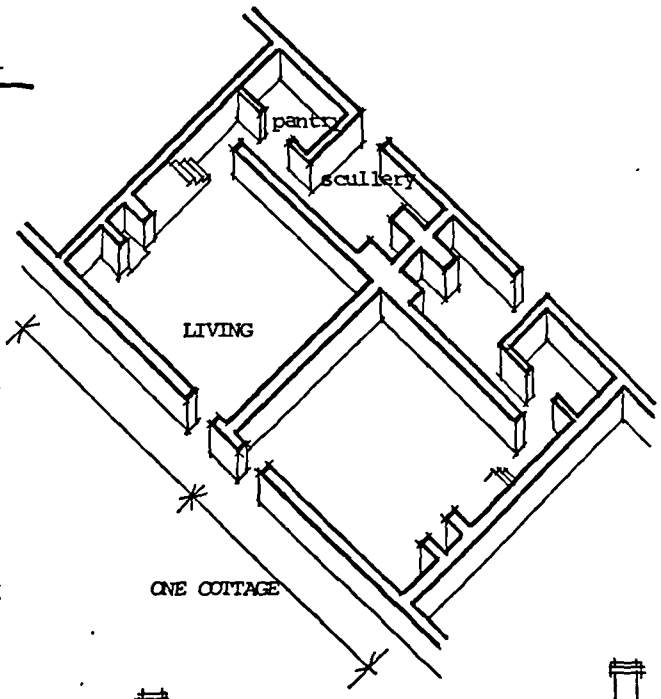
Single Burdon Street has been demolished but there is a good photographic record, Plate 43. The half door is clearly shown, as is the special window to the pantry. Another interesting feature is the use of the leaded light with coloured glass inserts into the scullery window. Also note, the use of the timber gutter with projecting timber brackets; the chimney to the rear which serves the set pot in the scullery. These houses were built on a very steeply sloping site and the changes in floor height were quite considerable in places.

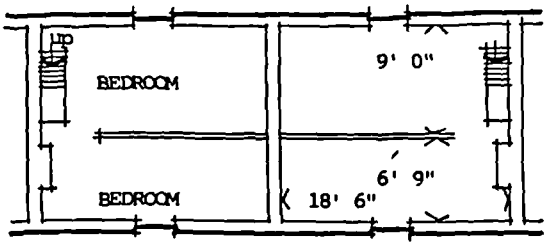


slate roof

brick walls

FRONT ELEVATION





FIRST FLOOR PLAN

slate roof

brick walls

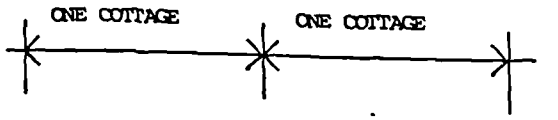
set pot chimney

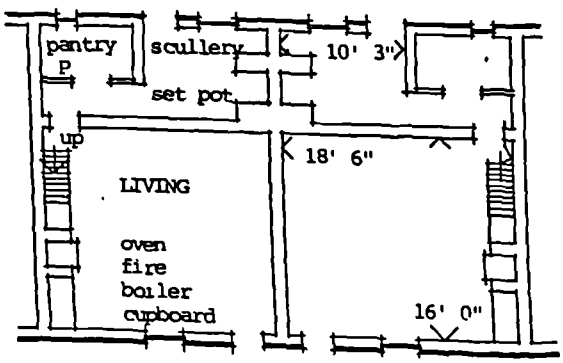
scullery window

stable door

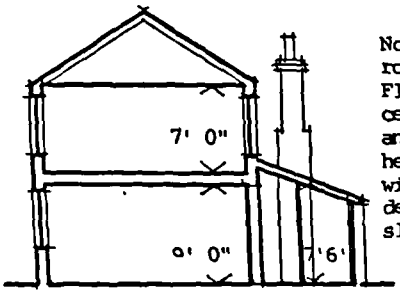


REAR ELEVATION





GROUND FLOOR PLAN



SECTION

Note shallow roof pitch
Floor to ceiling heights and relative heights of windows varied depending on slope

1 ground floor room
2 first floor rooms

Figure 34 CATEGORY FOUR THREE ROOMED COTTAGE

SINGLE BURDON STREET
RYHOPE
Map Reference NZ413 528

From survey notes
Beamish Open Air Museum

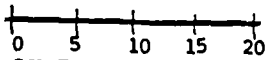


Plate 43 Single Burdon Street, Ryhope
Three roomed cottage 1860

Beamish Open Air Museum



Plate 43 Single Burdon Street, Ryhope
Three roomed cottage 1860

Beamish Open Air Museum



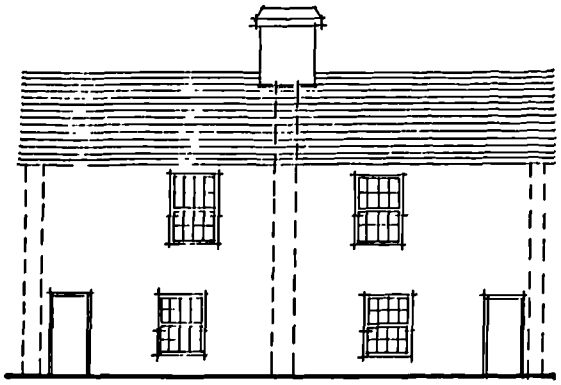
TOWNELEY COLLIERY COTTAGE

A drawing showing very similar developments to those interpreted from the High Escomb cottages was found in the Stella Coal Company records, Figure 35. The drawing is dated December 1862 and is entitled:

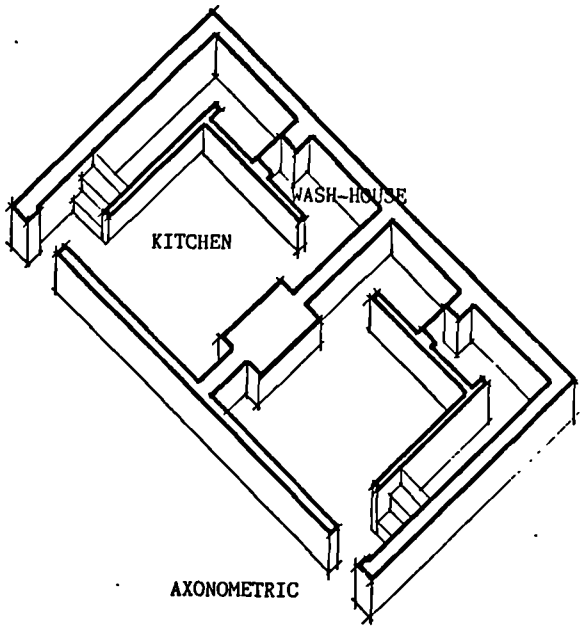
> Plan of two cottages of which description it is proposed to build a considerable number for the owners of Towneley Colliery. Chairman Thomas Sopwith. Designed by R.J.B. Simpson. [4]

Figure 35 shows a cottage plan similar to that at Escomb in the treatment of the wash-house and pantry across the rear of the house. Also, a staircase is clearly indicated by both its length and width. The Stella Company cottage staircase leads to a long landing giving access to both bedrooms . The first floor rooms have a full 8'0" floor to ceiling height.

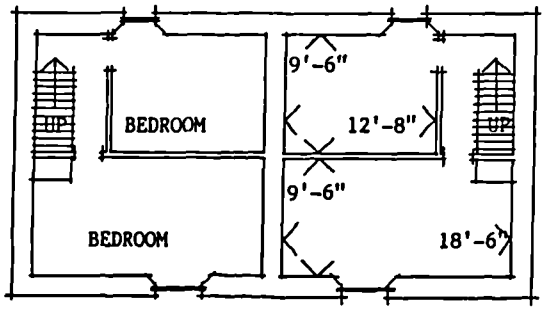
Unlike the High Escomb cottage, the Stella Coal Company cottage is a single entry dwelling. The cottages were not blind backed as they clearly had windows in the rear elevation but no back doors.



FRONT ELEVATION

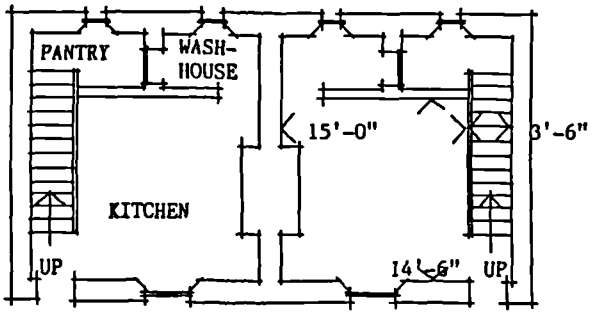


AXONOMETRIC

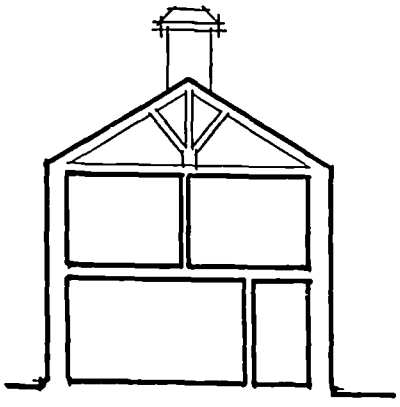


FIRST FLOOR PLAN





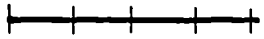
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



CROSS SECTION

Figure 35 CATEGORY FOUR THREE ROOMED COTTAGE

1 ground floor room
2 first floor rooms



SCALE

TOWNELEY COLLIERY 1862
Location unidentified

From original drawing entitled
Plan of two cottages of which description it is proposed to build a considerable number for the owners of Towneley Colliery. Chairman Thomas Sopwith. Designed by R.J.B. Simpson
Stella Coal Company Durham County Record Office

OFFICE ROW
HAMSTEELS

This is a further example of a similar type of plan to the cottages at Bridge Row, High Escomb. The houses built in 1868 were photographed in 1975 prior to demolition, Plate 44 . The cottages were constructed of uncoursed stone with slate roofs and sliding sash widows. Unlike the houses at Ryhope there are no chimneys to the set pots projecting from the scullery/pantry roof. The name of the row suggests that the cottages were built for officials. From the photographic record it can be observed that the last four dwellings in the row had dormer windows. These were possibly the larger dwellings for officials, one of the many villages which had rows of cottages with a class identity.

6

Plate 44 Office Row, Hamsteels
Photograph 1975

Roy Snaith. The Growth of Mining Communities in County Durham
Dissertation 1975

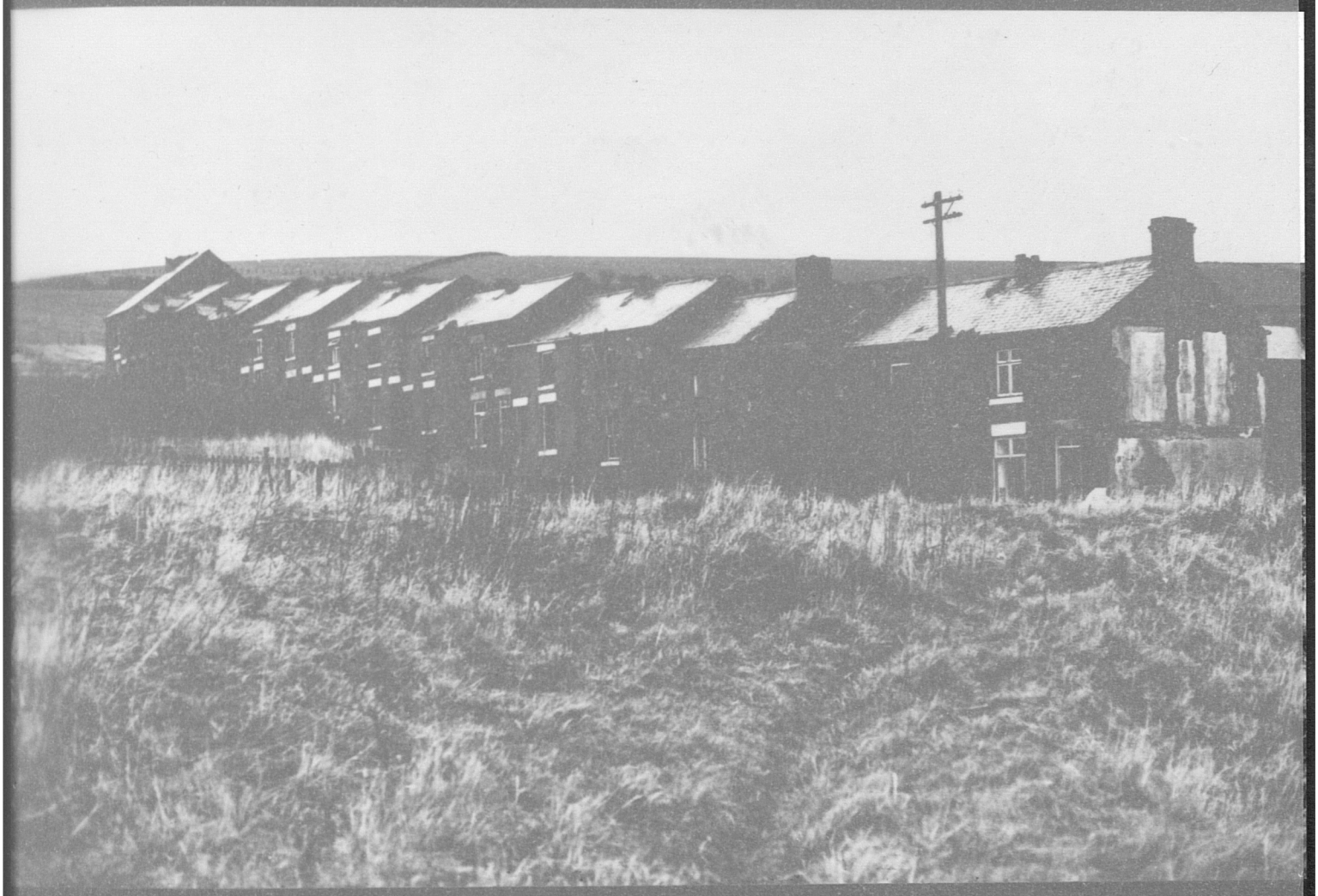


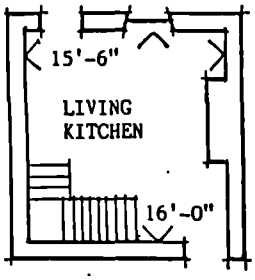
Plate 44 Office Row, Hamsteels
Photograph 1975

Roy Snaith. The Growth of Mining Communities in County Durham
Dissertation 1975

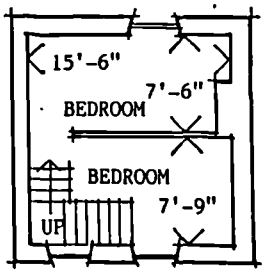


COLLINGWOOD STREET
HETTON-LE-HOLE

Built in 1870 of uncoursed stone with stone lintols and with slate roofs these cottages are similar to others in this category. The brick built pantries which were added at a later date are not indicated on the plan. Privacy is less apparent here as the staircase appears to open directly on to the bedroom,Figure 36. The majority of staircases in cottages of this period, appear to have been of a straight flight, presumably derived from the ladder access to the loft. However, in this example the staircase wraps round the corner of the ground floor room.



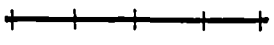
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Figure 36 CATEGORY FOUR THREE ROOMED COTTAGE

1 ground floor room
2 first floor rooms



SCALE

COLLINGWOOD STREET
HETTON-LE-HOLE
Map Reference NZ355475

From survey notes
Beamish Open Air Museum

ASHINGTON

The drawing of First Row, Ashington; and Pont Street, Clyde Street, Medway Street and Severn Street , Hirst is based on interpretation, made by Bruce Nichol in his work on Ashington. The source material was the Newcastle Weekly Chronicle series 'Our Colliery Villages'[7] and the Ashington Coal Company Ltd. Minute Book,[8] Figure 37.

FIRST ROW

The First Row was built in 1875 of white bricks with Welsh Blue slate roof and faced onto the main roadway, Market Place. The eastern portion of the row was probably occupied by hewers and contained 18 three roomed cottages.

> Assistant colliery manager stated his present four roomed house was too small, two cottages in First Row to be connected to make one, six to seven room house.[9]

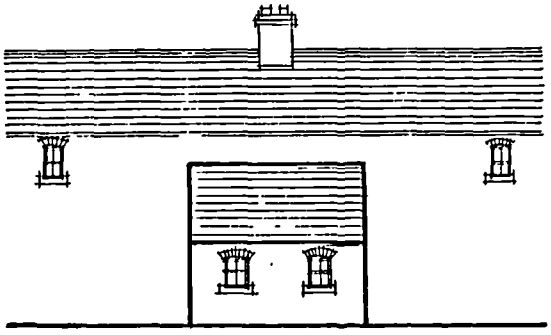
These cottages had a 'good sized kitchen'[10] with a cement floor and a pantry built on the rear. The first floor, reached by a narrow timber staircase leading from a small passage behind the front door had two bedrooms formed by the addition of a partition. It was stated at the time that one of the rooms 'could be used as a sitting room if not required as a bedroom'.[11]

PONT STREET, CLYDE STREET, MEDWAY STREET AND SEVERN STREET, HIRST

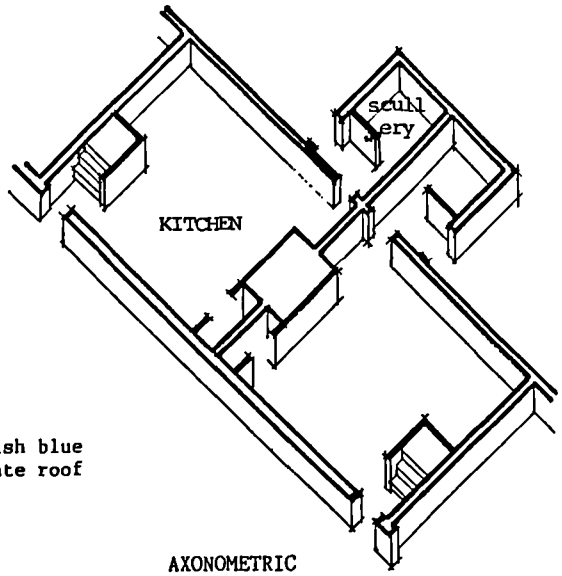
In approximately 1890 the acquisition of a piece of land to the south east of Ashington Colliery marked the beginning of a new phase in the development of colliery housing in Ashington. At first progress was slow and building work was unable to keep pace with demand for rent free housing. The demand was so great that in 1895 the company decided to take advantage of the other house building agencies at work in the area. There was considerably more housing at Hirst than just that built by the Ashington Coal Company. The majority of those houses were privately owned and let to miners who received an allowance from their employer instead of a rent free house.

In 1896 the owners of the North Seaton Estates proposed to erect [12] houses on their own land to the south of the company housing and lease it to the company for their employees. During this period [13] North Seaton Estates contributed thirty four terraces to the spreading Hirst. Clyde Street, Medway Street, Severn Street and Pont Street were all terraces of three roomed houses, Map 16 and 17. [14]

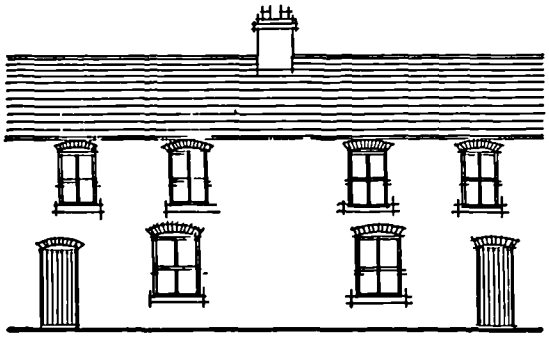
Figure 37 is only an interpretation, but it is very representative of what the houses would have been like. However it is worth mentioning that it is unlikely that all the houses were identical in plan.



REAR ELEVATION



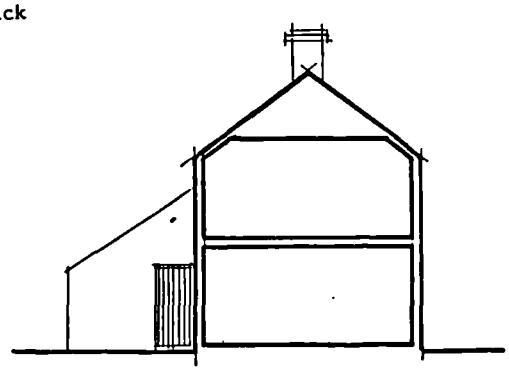
AXONOMETRIC



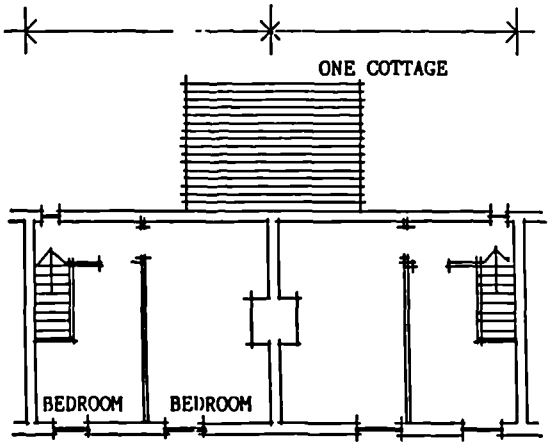
Welsh blue slate roof

White brick

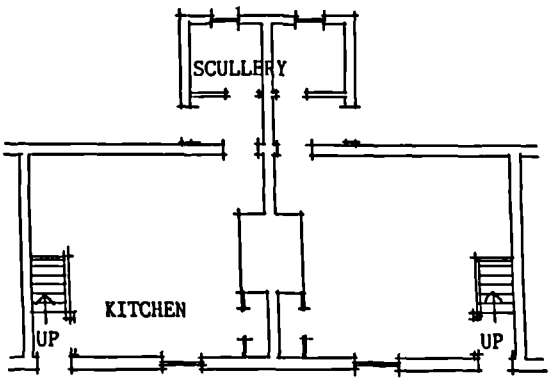
FRONT ELEVATION



CROSS SECTION



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

For location of
FIRST ROW
OLD COLLIERY ASHINGTON 1875
See Map 16

For location of
PONT STREET CLYDE STREET
MEDWAY STREET SEVERN STREET
HIRST
See Map 17

Figure 37 CATEGORY FOUR THREE ROOMED COTTAGE

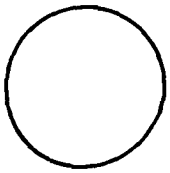
1 ground floor room
2 first floor rooms

FIRST ROW
OLD COLLIERY ASHINGTON 1875
Map Reference NZ258879

PONT STREET CLYDE STREET MEDWAY STREET SEVERN STREET
HIRST 1905
Map Reference NZ280867

0 5 10 15 20 FEET
SCALE

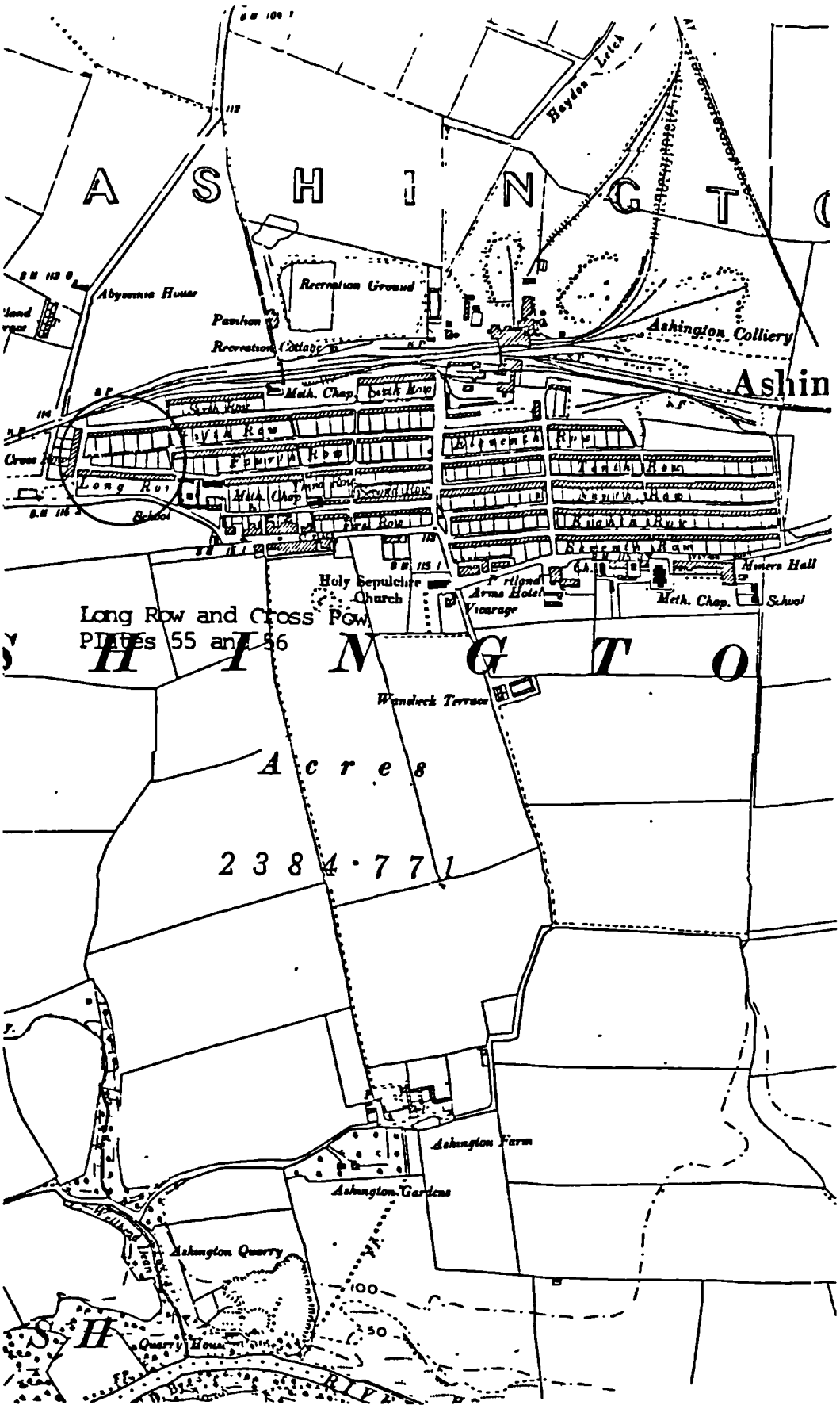
From original drawing by R.B. Nichol Colliery Housing in Ashington and South East Northumberland unpublished dissertation



Long Row and Cross Row
Plates 55 and 56

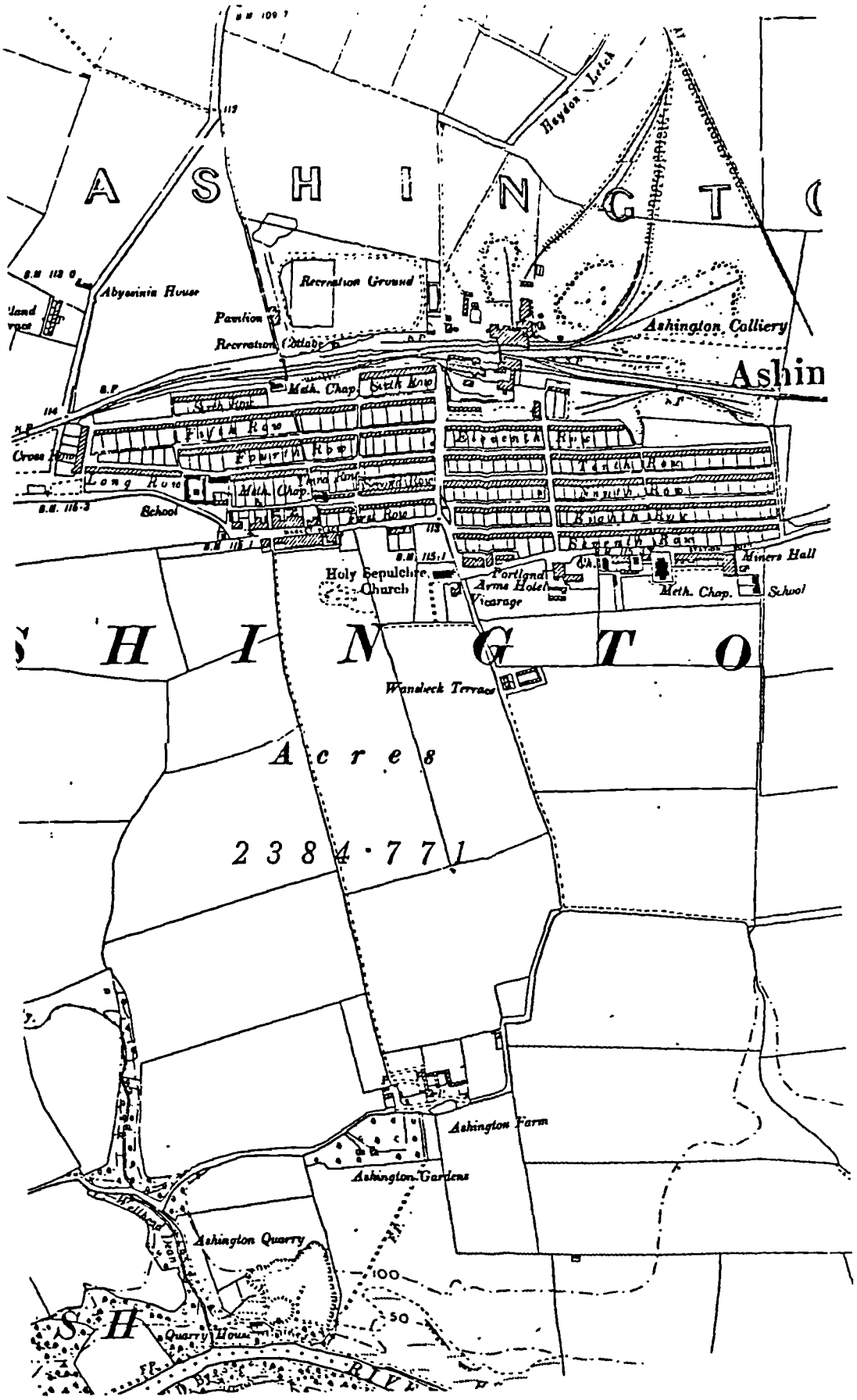
Map 16 Ashington
Map Reference NZ 25887a
Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 18a5

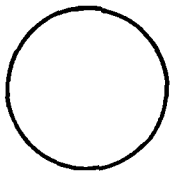
Ashington Old Colliery Rows
Plate 97 Aerial view from West End



Map 16 Ashington
Map Reference NZ 25887ª
Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 18ª5

Ashington Old Colliery Rows
Plate 97 Aerial view from West End

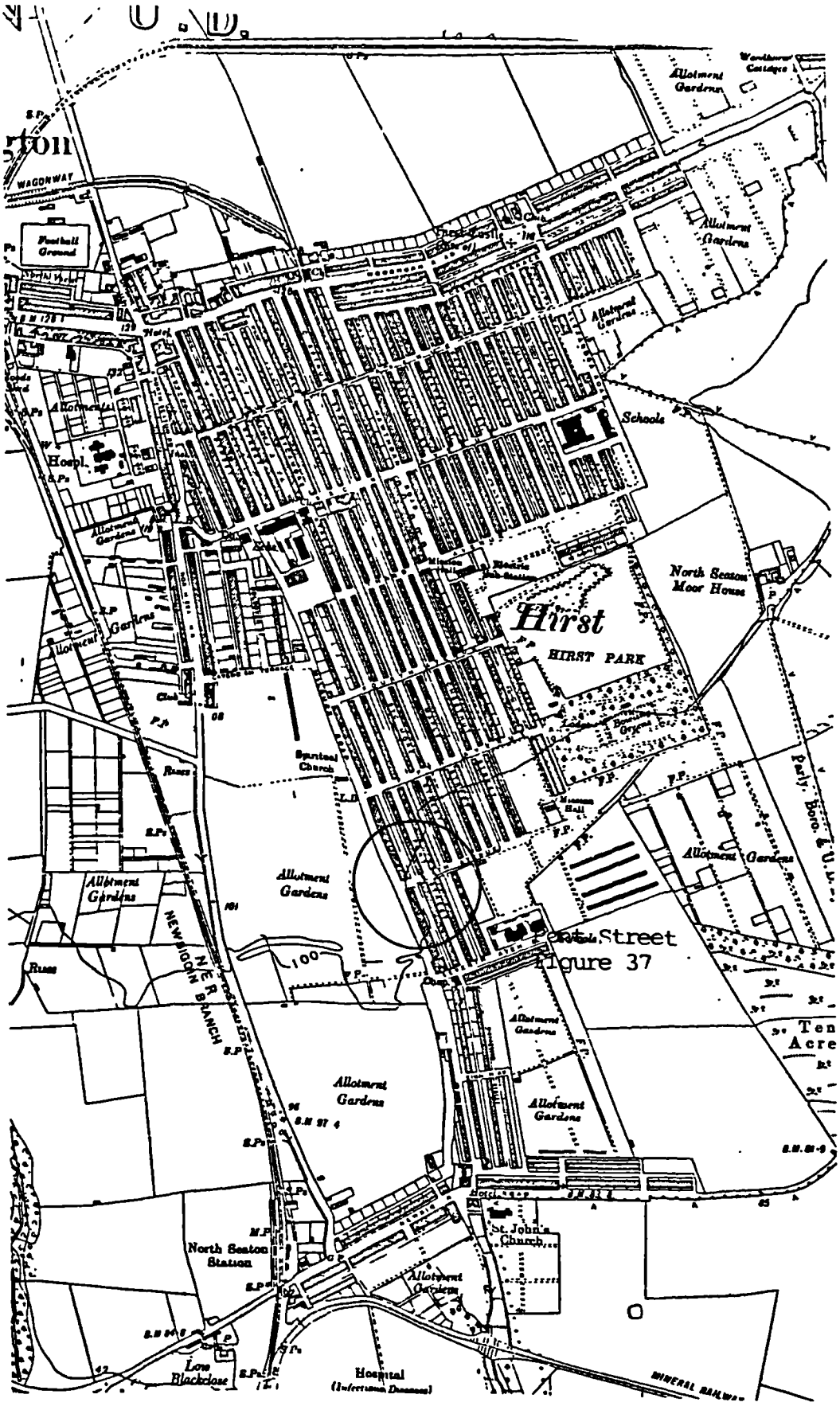

A S H I N G T
Abyssinia House
Recreation Ground
Pavilion
Recreation Cottage
Meth. Chap.
Sixth Row
Fifth Row
Fourth Row
Long Row
Meth. Chap.
Third Row
School
Ashington Colliery
Ashin
Eleventh Row
Tenth Row
Ninth Row
Eighth Row
Seventh Row
Holy Sepulchre Church
Portland Arms Hotel
Vicarage
Meth. Chap.
School
Miners Hall
S H I N G T O
Wansbeck Terrace
A c r e s
2 3 8 4 · 7 7 1
Ashington Farm
Ashington Gardens
Ashington Quarry
Quarry House
100
50
R I V



Pont Street
Figure 37

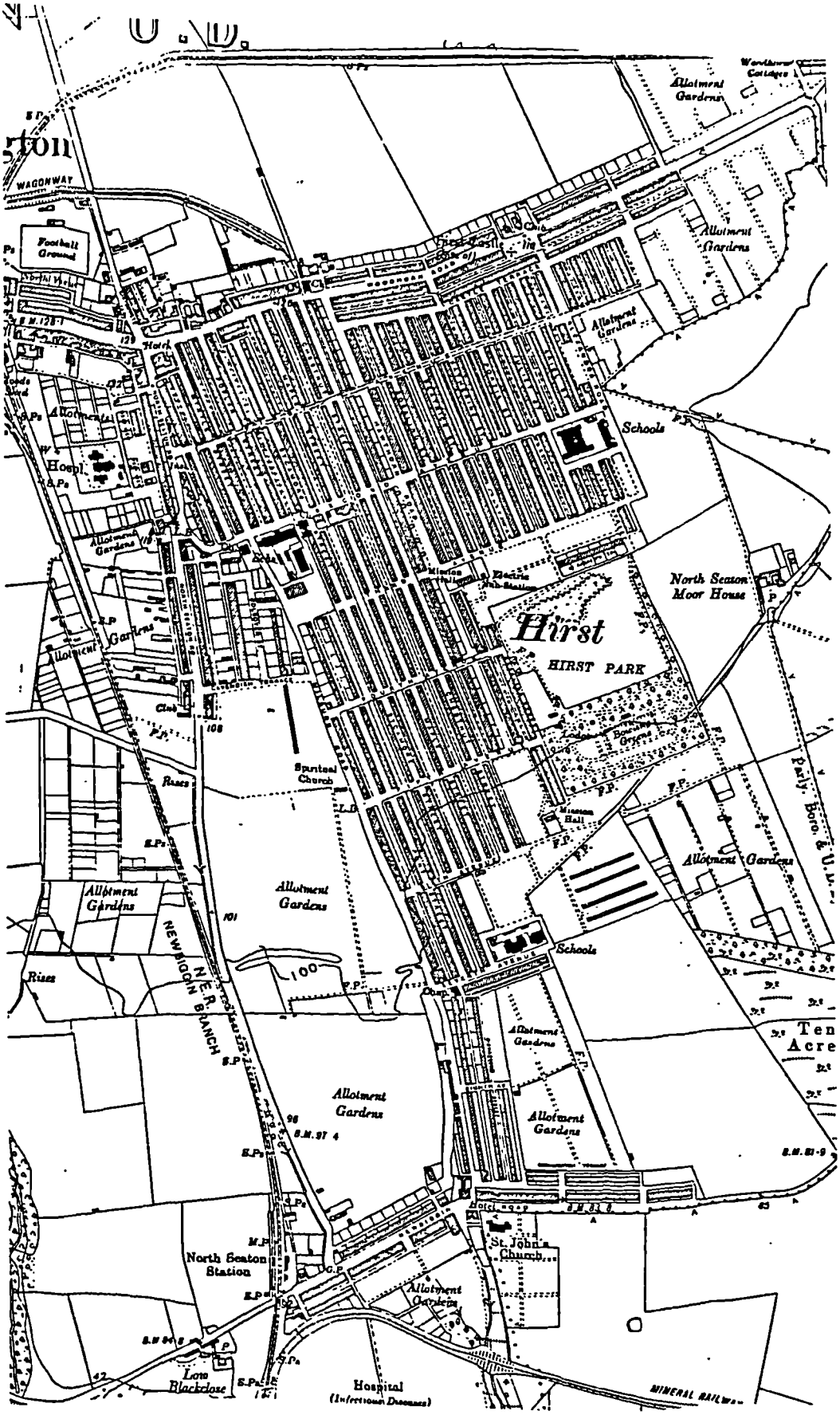
Map 17 Hirst
Map Reference Nz 280867
Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 1895

Grid Iron Pattern of Development
Plate 98 Aerial view of centre with Grand Hotel



Map 17 Hirst
Map Reference Nz 280867
Ordnance Survey 2nd Edition 1895

Grid Iron Pattern of Development
Plate 98 Aerial view of centre with Grand Hotel



WAGONWAY
Football Ground
Allotment Gardens
Schools
North Seaton Moor House
Hirst
HIRST PARK
Spiritual Church
Mission Hall
Allotment Gardens
Schools
Allotment Gardens
Allotment Gardens
Allotment Gardens
Allotment Gardens
Allotment Gardens
Allotment Gardens
Allotment Gardens
Allotment Gardens
Rises
Rises
NEWBIGGIN BRANCH
N.E.R.
Parly. Boro. & U.D.
Ten Acre
St. John's Church
North Seaton Station
Low Blackclose
Hospital (Infectious Diseases)
MINERAL RAILWAY

D'ARCY PLACE, ST ANDREWS TERRACE , HESLEDON TERRACE
COLD HESLEDON OR NEW HESLEDON

The cottages at Cold Hesledon are included in this section, they include three roomed cottages and single storey dwellings. These cottages were built in a very decorative style of brickwork. In order to investigate why the cottages were constructed in this manner, the development of the village is traced.

Following the success of the Hetton pits in East Durham, the South Hetton Coal Company extended their lease and sank shafts between the farming villages of Murton and Dalton in 1838. The mining at Murton Colliery was one of the most difficult and expensive on record, taking five years and an estimated cost of £300,000. After the initial difficulties the colliery expanded steadily in output and labour force, and Murton Village grew rapidly. The workings were further enlarged in 1867 and 1880, and in 1882 another settlement was established to the west of the pit behind the spoil heap on the approaches to Dalton Dene. It was named New Hesledon, now known as Cold Hesledon.

The village was built along the A19 Sunderland to Stockton Road and the road to Murton and Hetton le Hole, opposite the water works pumping station. It consisted of two curved terraces of single storey cottages and one long straight terrace of eighty four, two storey houses, three roomed dwellings, Figure 38 . There were also shops, a post office, Methodist Chapel and a school, all built in a distinctive style of decorative brickwork. However there was considerable variation in the design of the decoration.

In D'Arcy Place the decorative features around the windows and doors were carried out in brickwork, Figures 38 and 39. Similar brick detailing was found in the single storey cottages, Figure 40 and Plate 45. However, in Hesledon Terrace the decoration at the head of the window and doors was with special tiles, Figure 41 and Plate 46. Even within the particular type variations, can be identified, for example in the single storey cottages, the dormer window had either an arched lintol , Figure 40, or a conventional flat head, Plate 45.

Number 21 Hesledon Terrace consisted of a living room or kitchen with cooking range and a small lobby giving access to the pantry and rear yard and coal store. Toilet accommodation was positioned on the opposite side of the unmade back lane. A timber staircase led from the living room to the two bedrooms above. There was a fireplace in the larger bedroom.

External walls with the very decorative treatment were constructed of 9" brickwork. Cream bricks were used for quoins at corners, doors, windows, (except small back windows) and chimneys; for arches, lintols and string courses. The coupled upper storey windows were triangular headed and accommodated in small gables which broke the horizontal line of the eaves, and were terminated by a decorative iron finial. All windows were of the timber sliding sash variety, originally with very small square panes of glass. The whole design was based on an axial symmetry and in particular it is interesting to note the use of a central pier in the window design to provide three windows per dwelling, Figures 39 and 41. Externally this

gave the general impression of making the cottage appear larger. Grey slates were used for the roof covering with the decorative brickwork theme carried through on the chimney stacks. The ground floor was made up of stone slabs while the timber board first floor was carried on joists spanning between the external walls. The majority of houses in the terrace were modified by the addition of a timber built lean-to kitchen in the yard, and by converting the coal store into a watercloset.

One can only assume that the special decorative quality of the cottages was an expression of achievement in terms of having successfully sunk a very deep and difficult shaft.

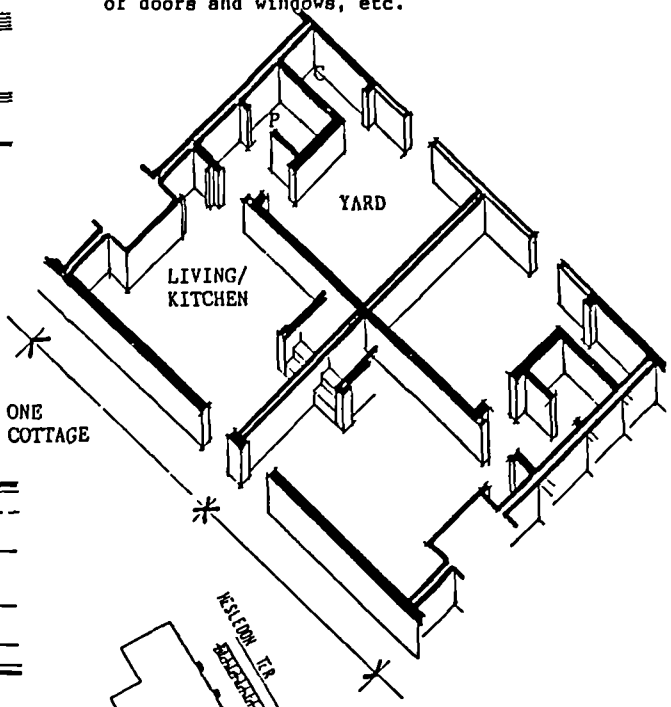


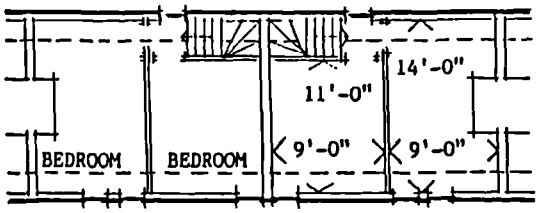
FRONT ELEVATION

Decorative use of brickwork on chimney stack.

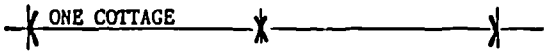
Slate roof.

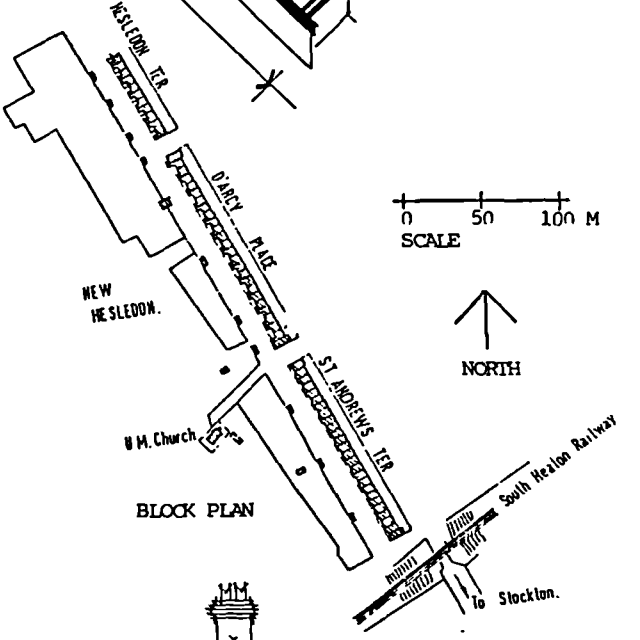
Decorative brickwork with cream bricks used for quoins at corners of doors and windows, etc.



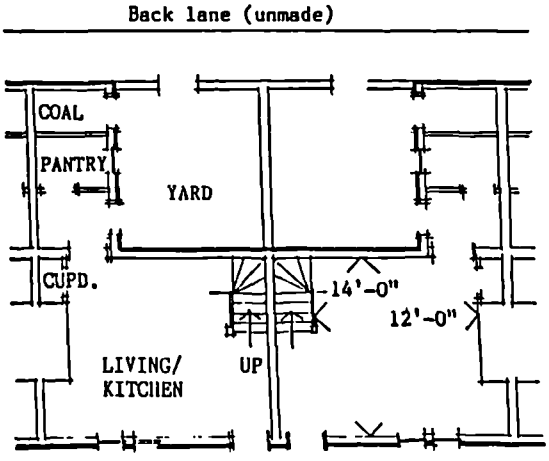


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

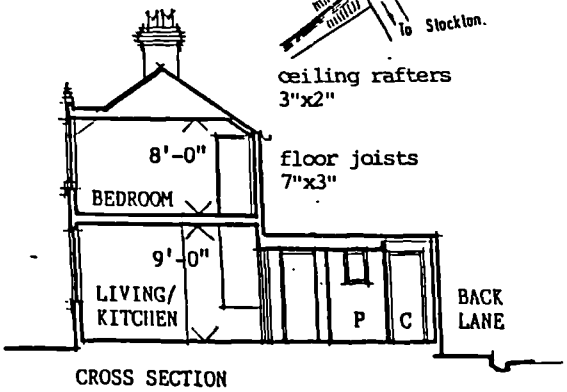




BLOCK PLAN



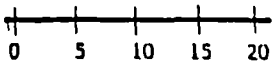
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



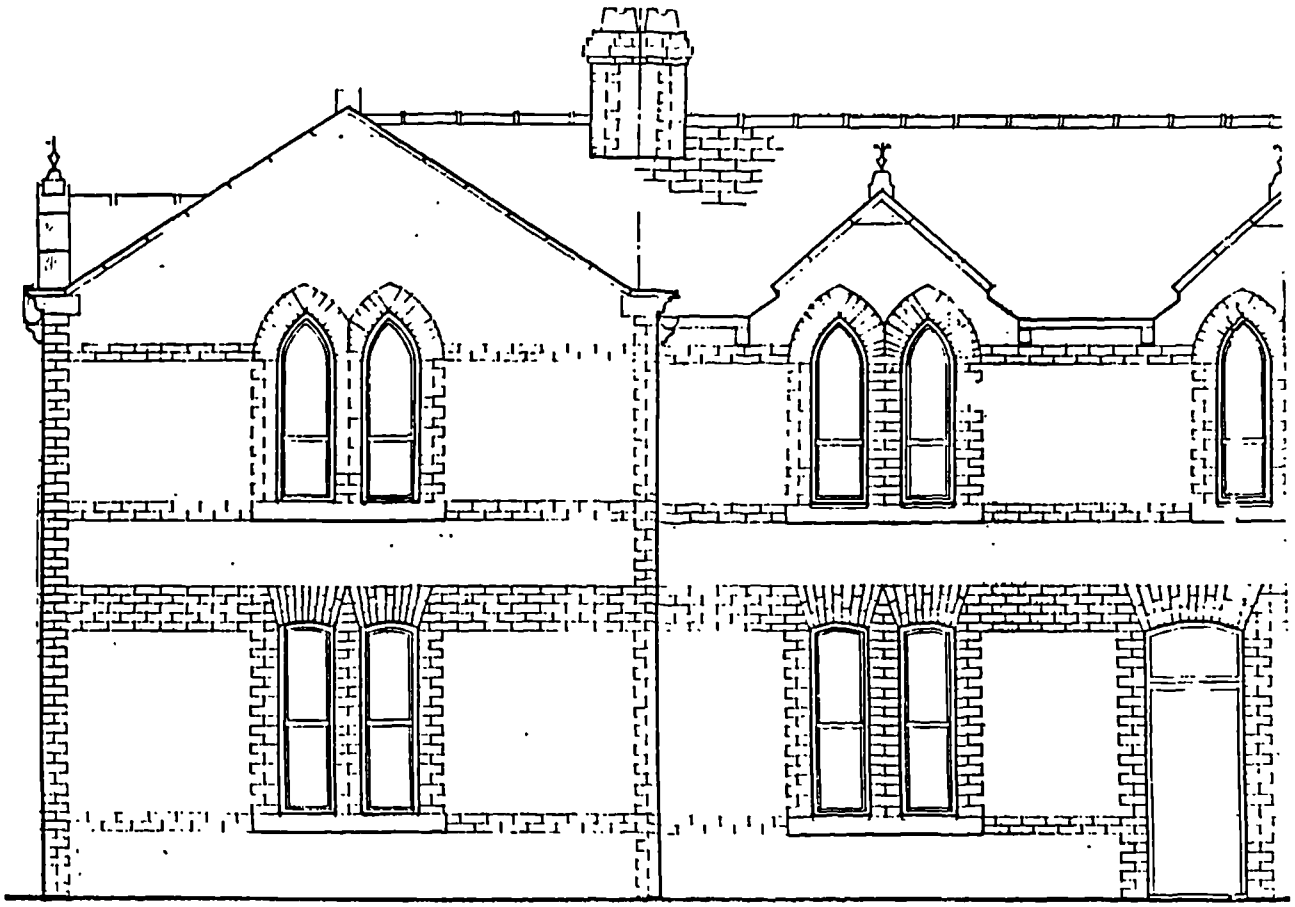
CROSS SECTION

Figure 38 CATEGORY FOUR THREE ROOMED COTTAGE $\frac{1}{2}$ ground floor room
first floor room

D'ARCY PLACE
COLD HESLEDON (NEW HESLEDON)
Map Reference NZ410470



Authors interpretation of
A.Matthews survey
Adult Education Department Newcastle University



FRONT ELEVATION

Figure 39 CATEGORY FOUR THREE ROOMED COTTAGE

1 ground floor room
2 first floor rooms

D'ARCY PLACE
COLD HESLEDON (NEW HESLEDON)
Map Reference NZ410470

Authors interpretation of
A.Matthews survey
Adult Education Department Newcastle University

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 FEET
SCALE



FRONT ELEVATION

Figure 40 SINGLE STOREY COTTAGES

COLD HESLEDON (NEW HESLEDON)
Map Reference NZ410470

From photograph by Roy Snaith 1975
unpublished dissertation

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 FEET
SCALE

Plate 45 Single storey cottages, New Hesledon
Photograph 1975

Roy Snaith. The Growth of Mining Communities in County Durham
Dissertation 1975

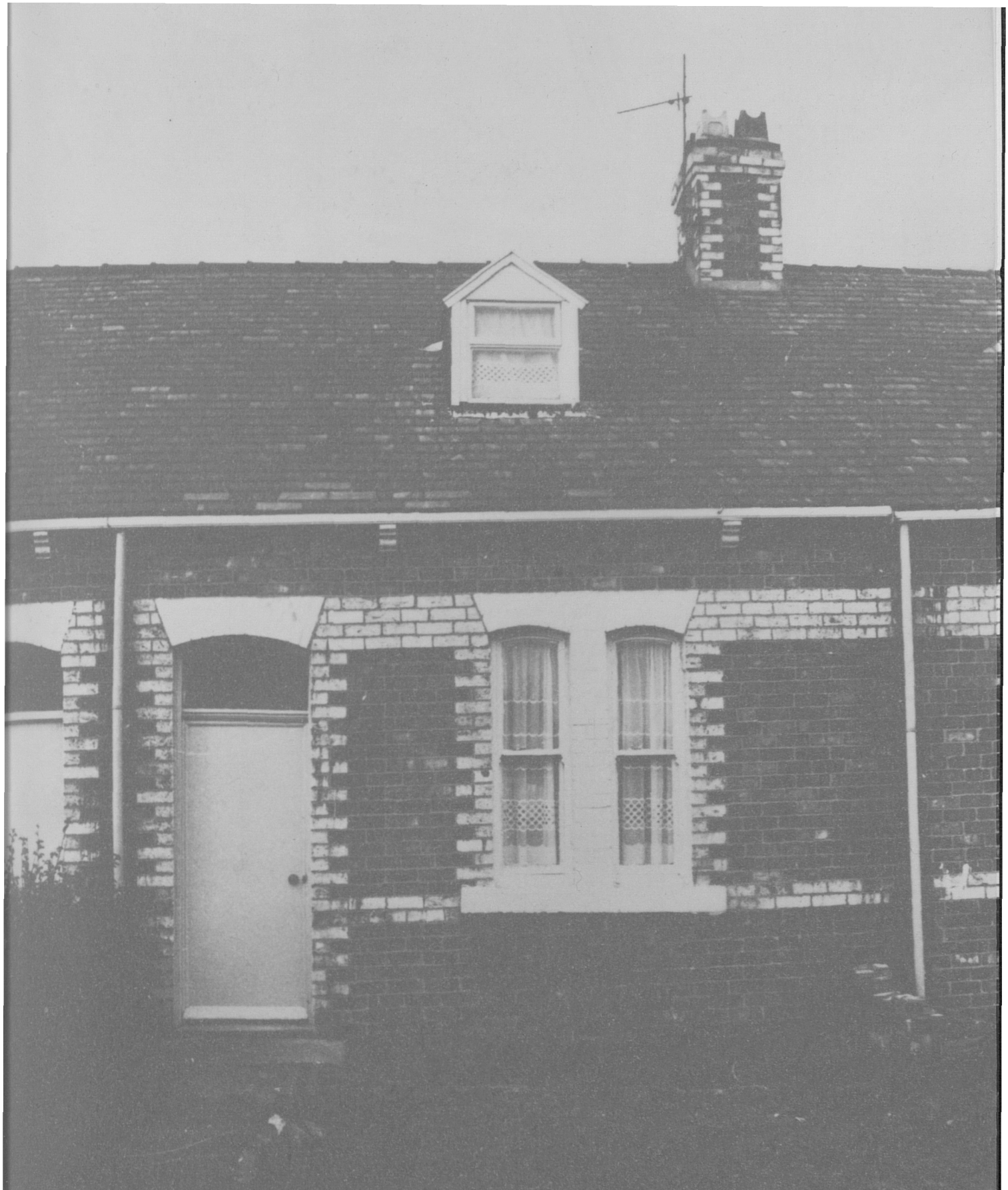
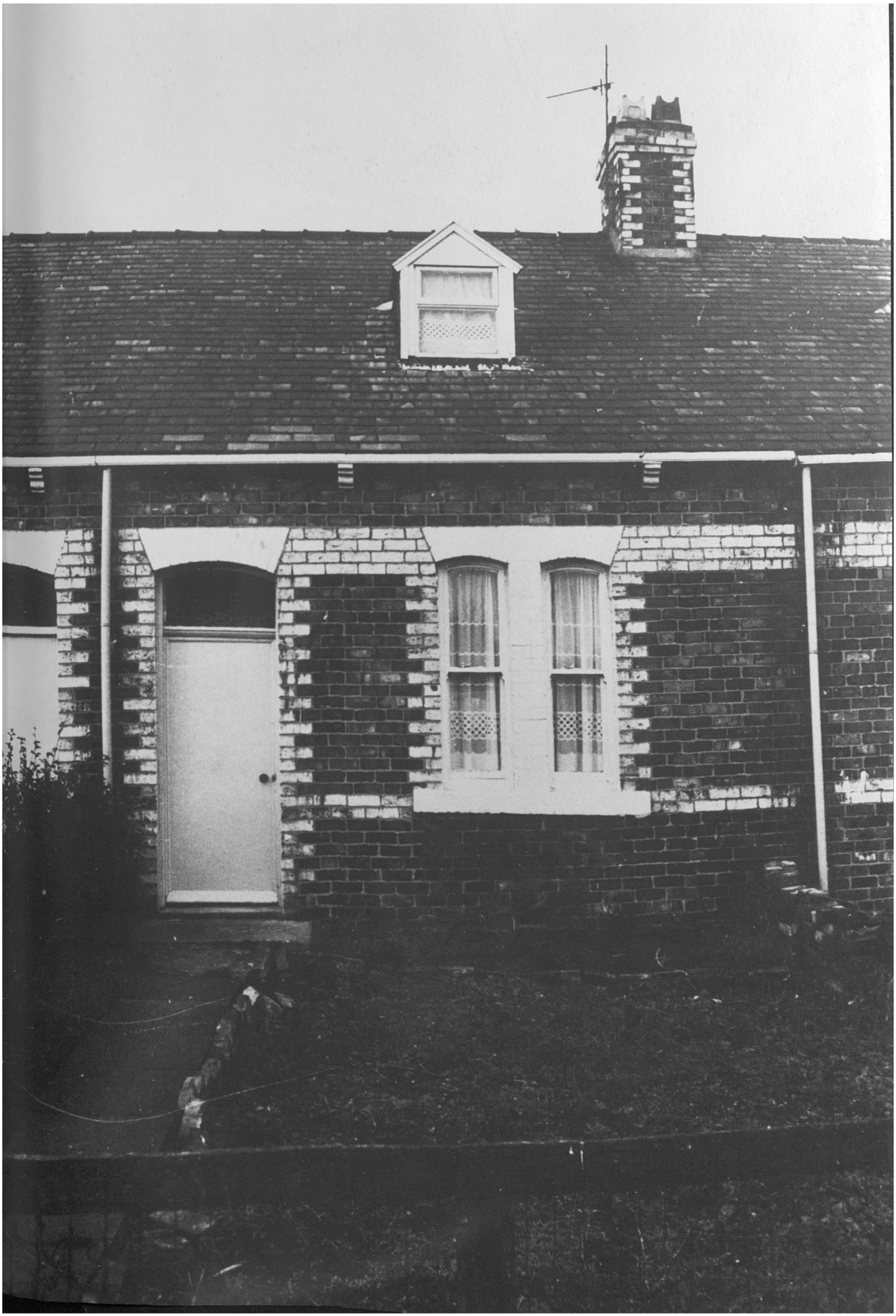
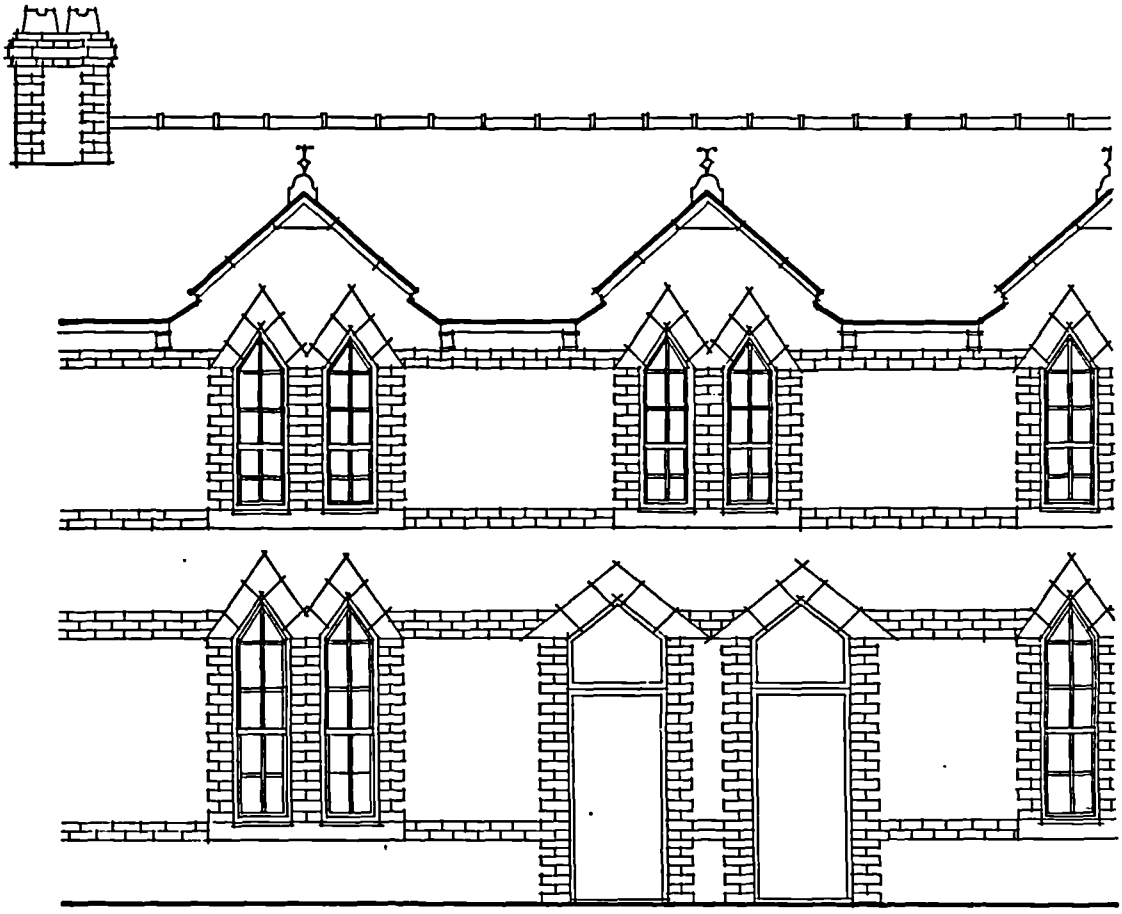


Plate 45 Single storey cottages, New Hesledon
Photograph 1975

Roy Snaith. The Growth of Mining Communities in County Durham
Dissertation 1975





FRONT ELEVATION

Figure 41 CATEGORY FOUR THREE ROOMED COTTAGE

1 ground floor room
2 first floor rooms

HESLEDON TERRACE
COLD HESLEDON (NEW HESLEDON)
Map Reference NZ410470

From photographs by Roy Snaith
unpublished dissertation

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 FEET
SCALE

Plate 46 Hesledon Terrace, New Hesledon
Photograph 1975

Roy Snaith. The Growth of Mining Communities in County Durham
Dissertation 1975



Plate 46 Hesledon Terrace, New Hesledon
Photograph 1975

Roy Snaith. The Growth of Mining Communities in County Durham
Dissertation 1975



SHOP STREET
WHEATLEY HILL

Wheatley Hill Colliery was sunk in 1869 by the Hartlepool Collieries Company and a settlement was built to accommodate the workers on the site of an isolated farming hamlet. The colliery had a varied history until it was acquired by the Weardale Steel, Coal and Coke Company. The workings were extended in 1889 and colliery then worked continuously until 1968. At the beginning of the twentieth century new housing was provided on any sites available within the central parts of the village, in order to ease the housing problem and suppress the criticism of the sanitary officers of the time. Shop Street was built on the waste ground between the earlier colliery rows and the pit yard in 1909., Figure 42.

The house plan is similar to previous examples with one main ground floor room and a pantry 'off shoot' with two bedrooms above. In this example the staircase is parallel to the row and is partitioned off from the living room with access from the rear lobby. Construction consisted of 11" brick cavity walls and slate roof with a concrete ground floor and timber joists at first floor. External decoration in the form of the fine lintols is shown on the photograph, Plate 47. The windows were large and of the timber vertical sliding sash design with an intricate pattern of leaded lights. Timber stud partitions were used to divide the bedrooms and enclose the timber staircase. Here the bedrooms are divided front to rear resulting in much better proportioned bedrooms.

Externally, the rear yard was concreted with a coal store and w.c.

built in 9" solid brickwork with concrete slab roofs. The back lane was also concreted with a central drainage channel. Most of the houses were modified internally by replacing the iron cooking range with a domestic grate and adding a lean-to kitchen, constructed in timber, between the pantry and the yard wall. There were no gardens attached to the houses, but allotments were provided to the south of the terraces.

Following the closure of the pit in 1968, much of Wheatley Hill has been cleared away and Shop Street is now demolished.

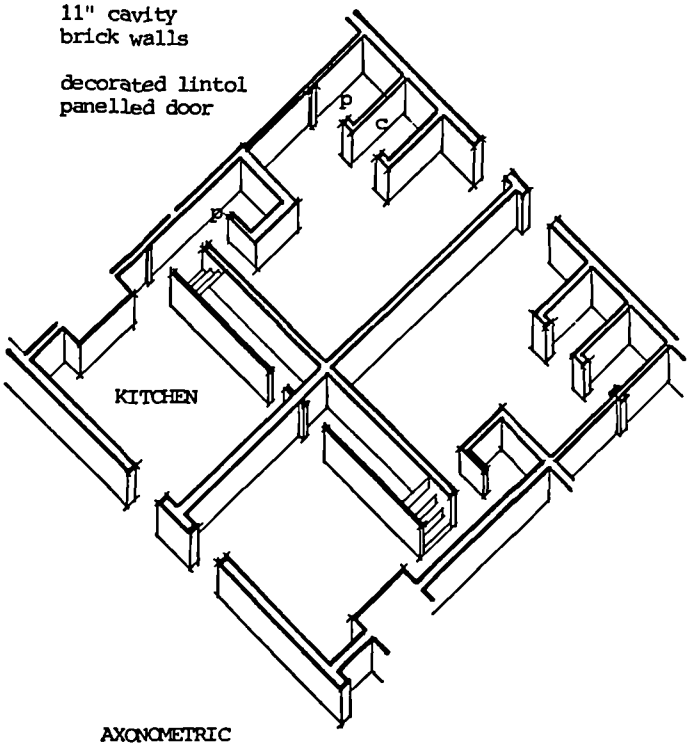


FRONT ELEVATION

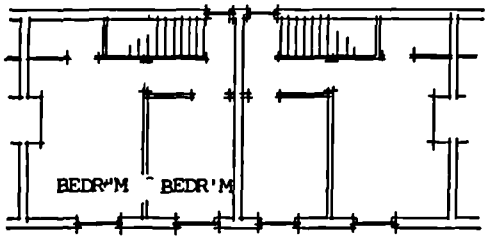
slate roof
timber gutter
leaded lights

11" cavity
brick walls

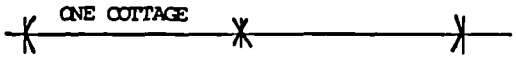
decorated lintol
panelled door



AXONOMETRIC

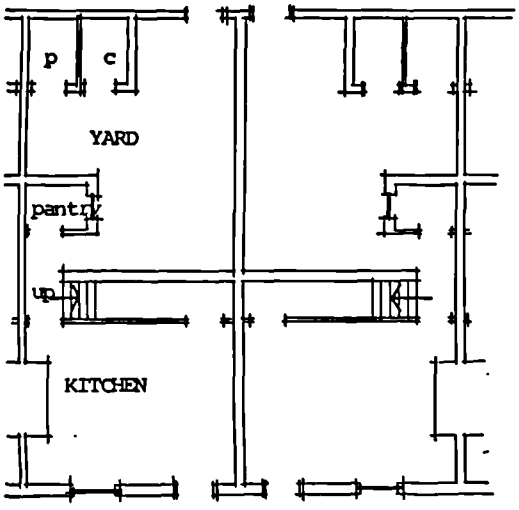


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

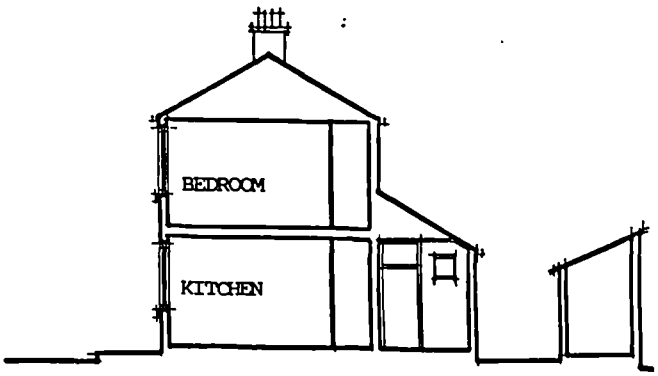


central drainage channel

back lane

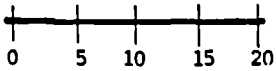


GROUND FLOOR PLAN



CROSS SECTION

Figure 42 CATEGORY FOUR THREE ROOMED COTTAGE 1 ground floor room
2 first floor rooms



SCALE

SHOP STREET
WHEATLEY HILL 1909
Map Reference NZ 382384

From drawing and photograph by Roy Snaith
unpublished dissertation

Plate 47 Shop Street, Wheatley Hill
Photograph 1975

Roy Snaith. The Growth of Mining Communities in County Durham
Dissertation 1975

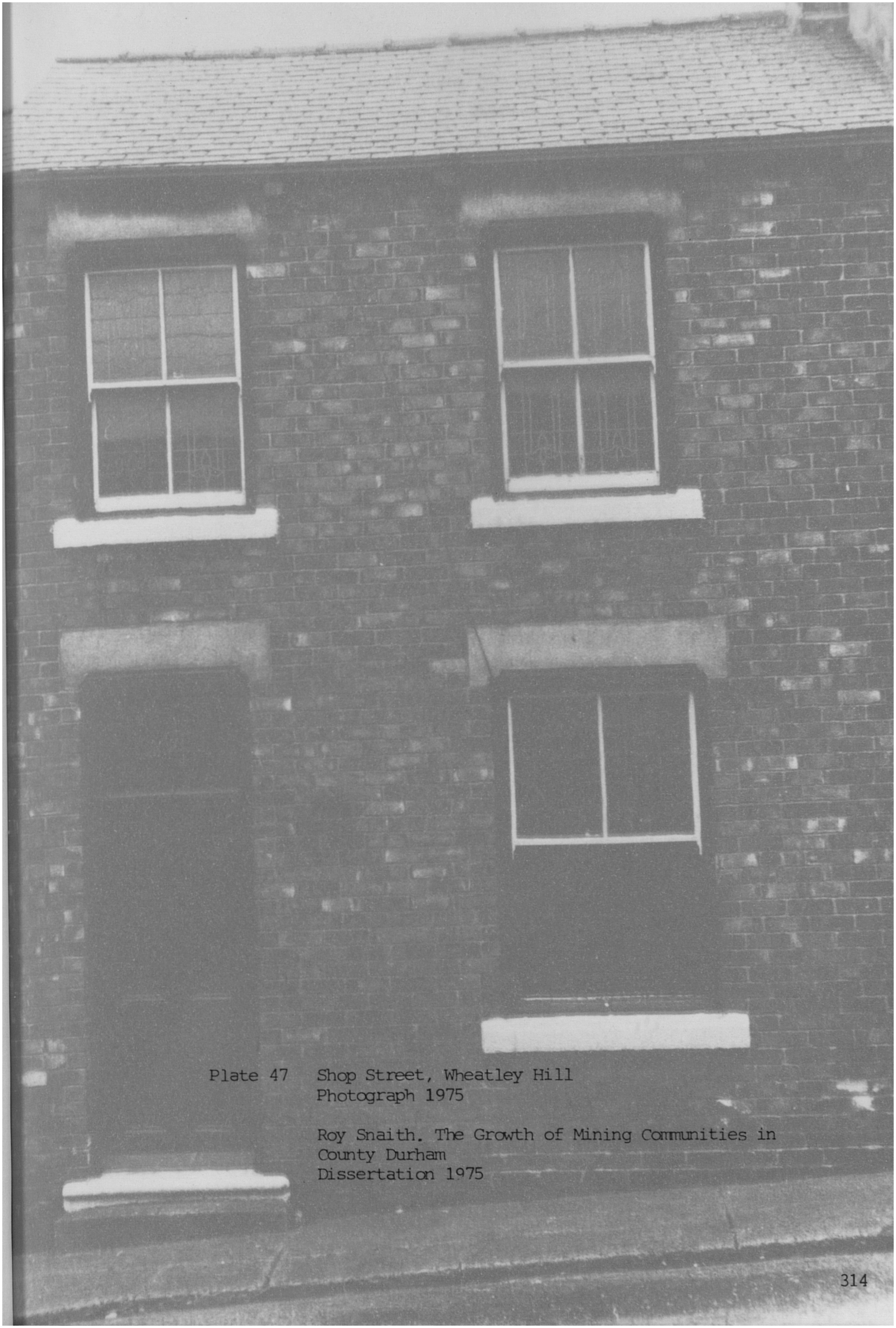


Plate 47 Shop Street, Wheatley Hill
Photograph 1975

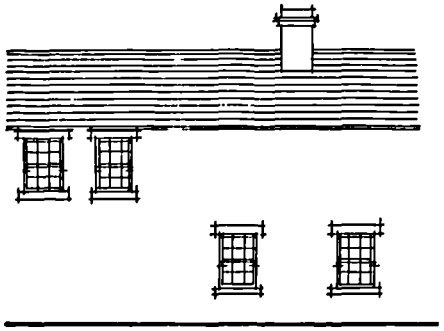
Roy Snaith. The Growth of Mining Communities in County Durham
Dissertation 1975



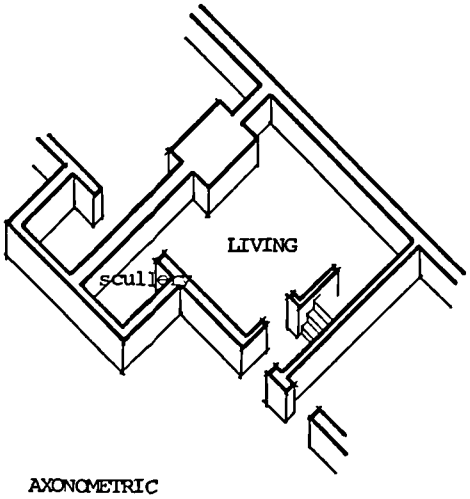
RADCLIFFE

These cottages are an example of a single entry dwelling with the door on the same side as the scullery. The majority of examples of the cottages examined so far in this section have had the original rear off-shoot pantry converted into a scullery pantry. The Collingwood Street house at Hetton-Le-Hole was an exception as there was no off-shoot and the brick built pantry was added at a later date.

The colliery houses at Radcliffe which were surveyed in 1971 and have since been demolished are a classic example of the 'one up one down' cottage described in Category Two; the upstairs room has been sub-divided into bedrooms. The resulting upstairs rooms are small and of difficult proportions. Elevationally it does mean that there tended to be more windows, one to give light to the landing and one for each bedroom, Figure 43. Many of the houses of this type were previously blind backed or back to back.



REAR ELEVATION



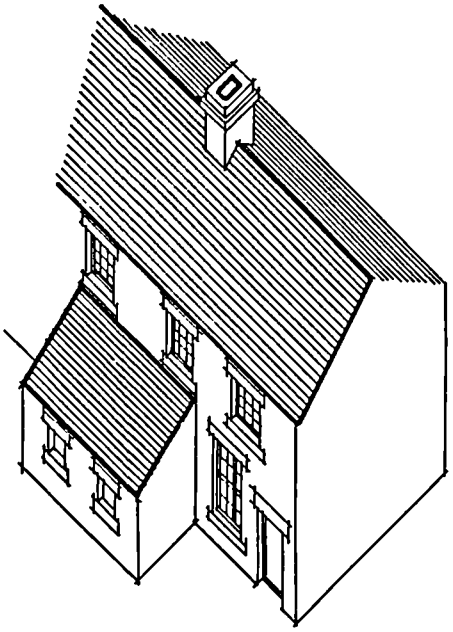
AXONOMETRIC



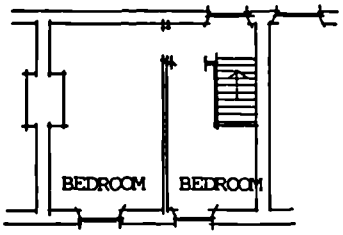
FRONT ELEVATION

slate roof

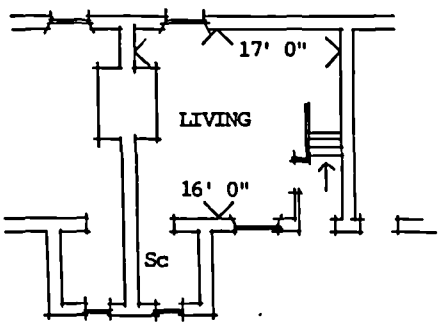
brick walls



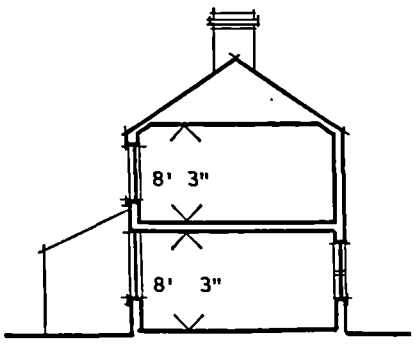
AXONOMETRIC



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



CROSS SECTION

1 ground floor room
2 first floor rooms

Figure 43 CATEGORY FOUR THREE ROOMED COTTAGE

RADCLIFFE
Map Reference NU 269026

0 5 10 15 20 FEET
SCALE

From survey draeings S.M. Linsley 1971
Adult Education Department Newcastle University

LIMESTREET
BOMARSUND

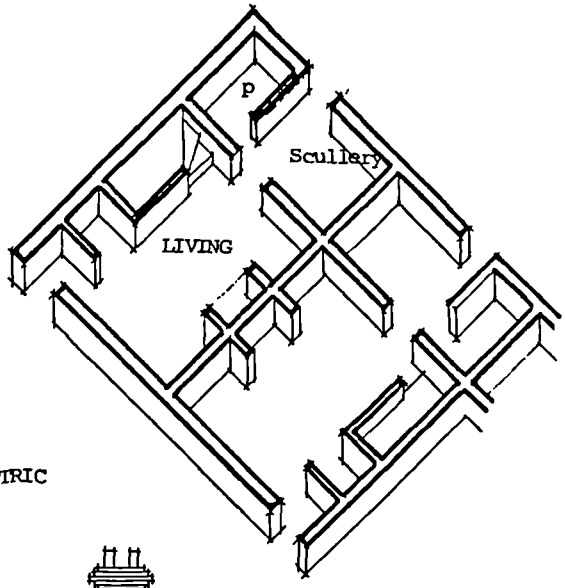
This example is particularly interesting as the information is taken from the original drawings for the cottage which was built for the Bedlington Coal Company. Although illustrating many of the points mentioned previously in this category there are several items of detail worth noting., Figure 44.

There is a partition forming an entrance or draught lobby which is quite clearly shown as a part of the original house design. Many draught lobbies were added after houses were built but when incorporated as a part of the original design there are many implications. There was obviously an awareness of the distinction of stepping straight from the street into the main room of the house or entering a more private lobby before entering and interupting the activities of the main living space of the house. On this drawing the main room is entitled 'living room'. Not only was an entrance lobby provided, but a front garden with a boundary wall, decorated palisading and gate all contributing to a new awareness of a 'sense of place'and a feeling of well being.

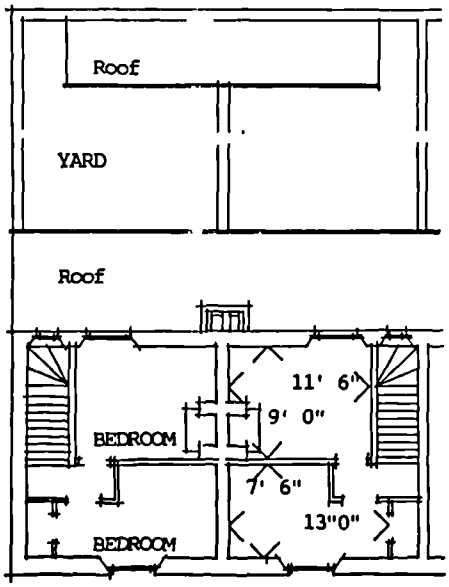
The drawings indicate a soundly built house of 14" brick with damp proof course, concrete ground floor and timber first floor. The living room is a little smaller in size than some of the previous examples but the scullery has increased in size with a set-pot clearly indicated in the corner. Windows are generally larger than previously used possibly suggesting a more affluent life style.



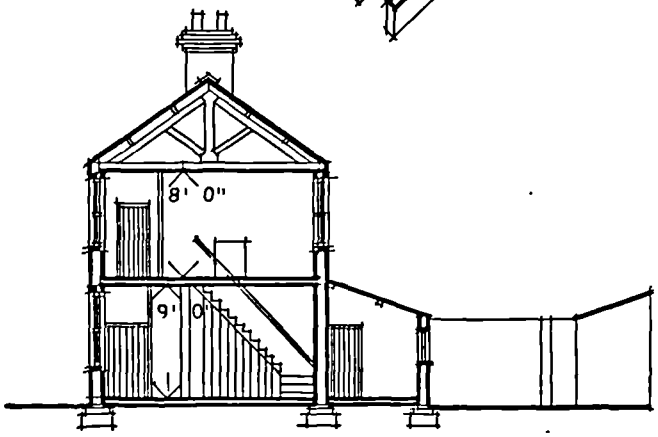
ELEVATION OF PALISADING
(palisading removed during the war)



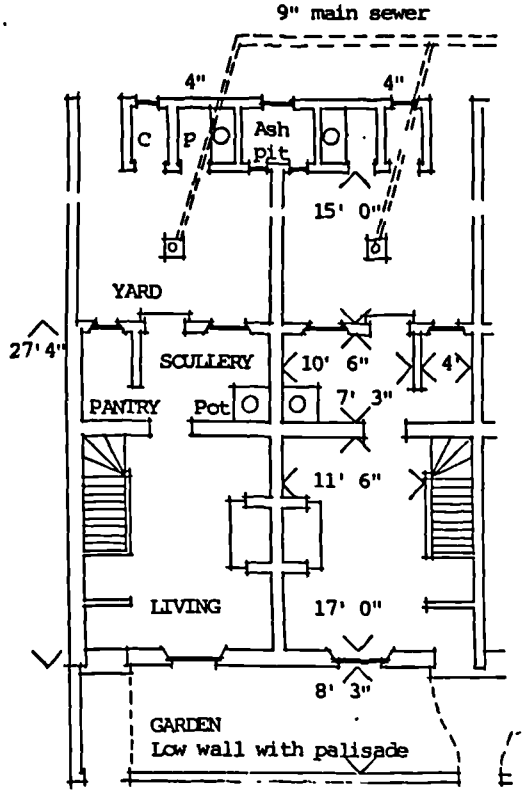
AXONOMETRIC



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



CROSS SECTION



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



REAR ELEVATION

slate roof

brick walls



FRONT ELEVATION

Figure 44 CATEGORY FOUR THREE ROOMED COTTAGE

1 ground floor room
2 first floor rooms

LIME STREET
BOMARSUND 1912
Map Reference NZ277854

From original drawing
Bedlington Coal Company

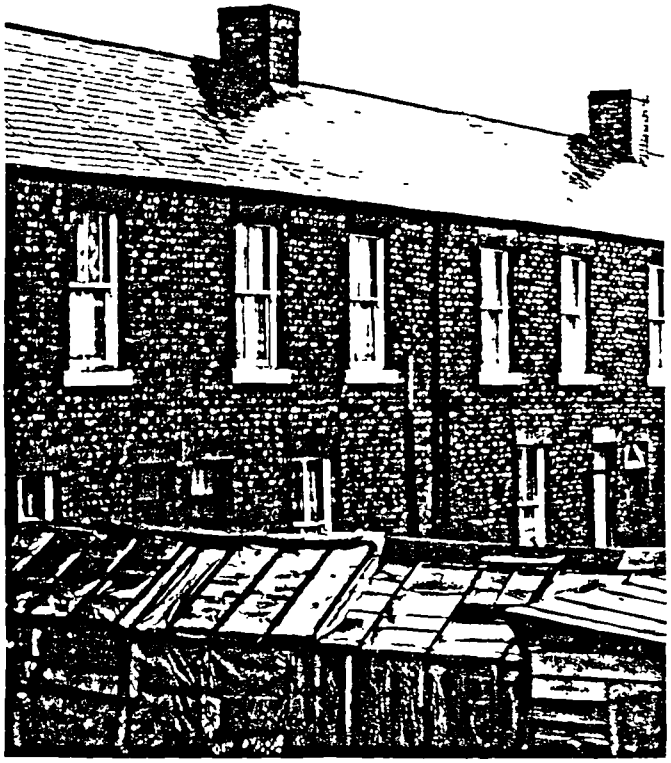
0 5 10 15 20 FEET
SCALE

LIME STREET,PINE STREET,POPLAR STREET,OAK STREET
THROCKLEY

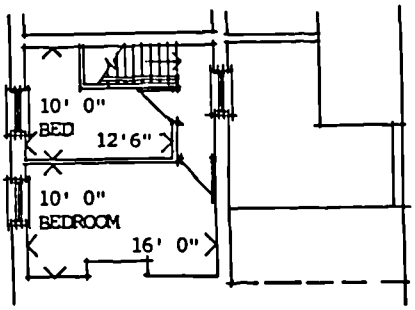
These streets are the final example in this section and they illustrate yet another variation on the same theme., Figure 45.. The element to note, however,,is that as with the previous example entrance to the dwelling is no longer directly into the main living space. Here the entrance lobby is more neatly incorporated with the enclosure of the stairs so that circulation through the house from the ground floor entrance to the bedrooms no longer necessitates passing through the main living space. An important development towards a more sophisticated life style. The names of these streets too indicate aspirations away from the pit. The houses are still standing in 1986. They were renovated in 1981 and have new houses built between the existing rows; an exciting attempt at introducing new life to some old colliery cottages.



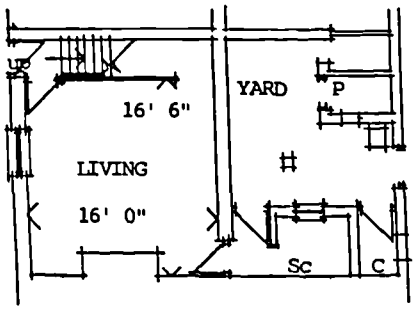
REAR ELEVATION



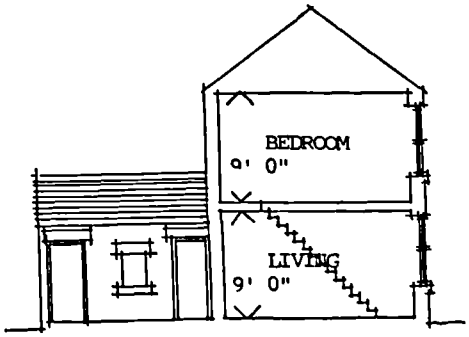
FRONT ELEVATION



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



CROSS SECTION

Figure 45 CATEGORY FOUR THREE ROOMED COTTAGE

1 ground floor room
2 first floor rooms

LIME STREET PINE STREET POPLAR STREET and OAK STREET
THROCKLEY
Map Reference NZ155674

Authors own survey with assistance
from Alan Rebair

0 5 10 15 20 FEET
SCALE

Unlike the previous category, the Three Roomed Cottage was built throughout the study period. Examples illustrated were built between 1845 and 1912. All were modest in size. Although many variations in plan form are identified, the cottage type remained basically the same.

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1 R. A. Scott James op.cit., Appendices 139-140.

2 Grey Pamphlet No 726 op.cit.

3 See page 176

4 SCCR, DCRO. Drawings for Towneley Colliery Cottages, 1862.

5 ibid.

6 See page 641

7 'OCV' Ashington and Pegswood NWC 6.9.1873 (XLIV)

8 Ashington Coal Company Ltd, Minute book No. 2. op.cit.

9 ibid.

10 'OCV' Ashington and Pegswood NWC 6.9.1873 (XLIV)

11 ibid.

12 North Seaton Estates and the Ashington Coal Company Ltd., were separate companies in the same ownership.

13 Ashington Coal Company Ltd, Minute Book No.1 op.cit., 19 February 1896.

14 B.R. Nichol op.cit.,91.

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
COTTAGE TYPE
COTTAGE FIVE - THREE ROOMED COTTAGE 2 ground floor rooms
                                     1 first floor room

BUT AND BEN

BUT AND BEN

The two ground floor rooms and one upper floor room dwelling is known in the North East of England as 'but and ben'. The New English, Dictionary on Historical Principles defines 'but' as 'the outer room of a house into which the outer door opens,' and 'a but-and-ben,' 'a house having an outer and inner apartment, a 2 roomed house'. [1]

This type of cottage is described in Leifchild's third category of housing. It also illustrates an interesting development from the seminal plan form of a single room, through to two ground floor rooms with a space in the attic into the but and ben with two ground floor rooms and one room over. An example of two cottages built at Towneley Colliery in 1857, Figure 10 was used to illustrate the cottage with two ground floor rooms but where the attic space was not used.

Early examples of drawings of but and ben cottages are not common, and any remaining examples of cottages of this type still standing have been disappearing rapidly during recent years. There are however several vivid descriptions of but and ben cottages.

> rows of damp two-roomed cottages with tiny additional attics in the roof. Their 'backs' were a miserable narrow alley made nauseous by the open drain down which soap-suds were pouring. [2]
>
> In the mining villages of Ludworth and Haswell I saw no houses which were really fit for habitation, but their defects were increased by over-crowding. The pleasantest block of dwellings was that most remote from the slag-heap from which the cinders and fine ash tended to percolate through every door and window.
>
> The block in question consisted of 20 cottages, with two rooms on the ground-floor and a small attic above. Six of these were double-tenanted, that is to say, one family lived in the front room, and another family lived in the back room and attic.

> A young women. who, with her husband and child, was occupying a front room told me that she was on bad terms with the tenant in the back room. She could not therefore pass through her neighbour's house when she wanted to reach the yard. If she wanted to fetch coal, draw water, or throw away rubbish she was obliged to walk to the end of the row, and round the corner to the back.
>
> In Haswell nearly all the houses are dilapidated and falling to pieces, but those which have roofs are inhabitated and rents are paid for them. We found an energetic ex-service man setting to work to repair the floor and walls of the two ground-floor rooms before bringing in his family, but the upstairs room was given up as a bad job. The ceiling had caved in so that I could not stand upright;" and the room was regarded by the tenant as unsafe. He had lived in worse places, he said, since the war.
> 3

The houses were extended to accommodate this ever increasing mining population. The most obvious method of expansion was to use every available inch of floor space including the attic.

> An oblong hole was left in the corner of the floor of the top room, and through this the inhabitants climbed - and still climb - by means of a steep ladder from the lower room. (It is dangerous for children, but they are taught to be careful).
> 4

GURNEY VALLEY

The but and b en cottages at Gurney Valley were probably built by Backhouses soon after the sinking of the Black Boy colliery in 1830. They are the earliest examples of this category dwelling which have been traced. The houses were still standing in 1979 when they were measured and photographed, a life span of some one hundred and thirty five years.

The cottages were constructed of uncoursed rubble stone with a slate roof. The plan consisted of two ground floor rooms with a pantry off shoot at the rear and a first floor bedroom which at the time of the survey was lit by a projecting dormer window at the front, Figure 46.

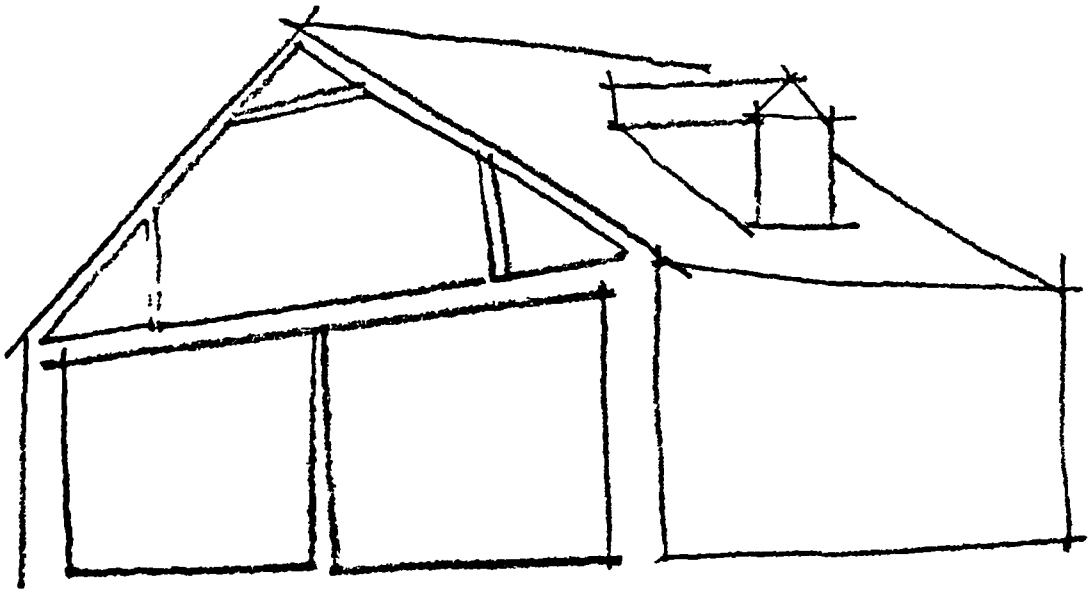
Two photographs Plate 48 and 49 show the same or similar cottages pre and post re-roofing. Gurney Valley cottages were a further example of cottages built where the ridge line and eaves line of the roof, slope, following the natural contours of the ground, see Stone Row at Leasingthorne and the cottages at Easington.

5 6

The overlay to Figure · 46 provides analysis of cross section of two similar cottages one which has been re-roofed and had the dormer window added to the attic room. To the rear of these cottages the roof continued down over the off shoot pantry. T he photograph of the row half demolished shows clearly the proportions of the attic bedroom and the fireplace in the centre of the room.

The second section of Figure 46 shows the eaves level of the roof raised and the dormer window with barge boards sitting directly

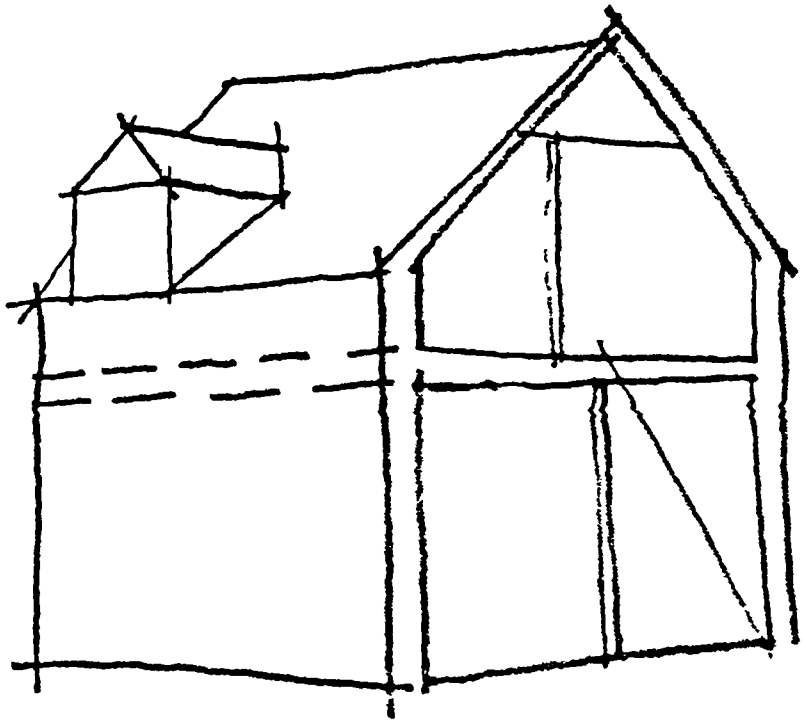
above the line of the eaves. This adaptation would have taken place when the loft was converted into a larger bedroom, possibly when the houses were improved in the 1870s. On the partly demolished gable of these cottages the photograph clearly shows the line of the steep ladder access to the bedroom.



NOTE : differences in cross section

relative positions of dormer window

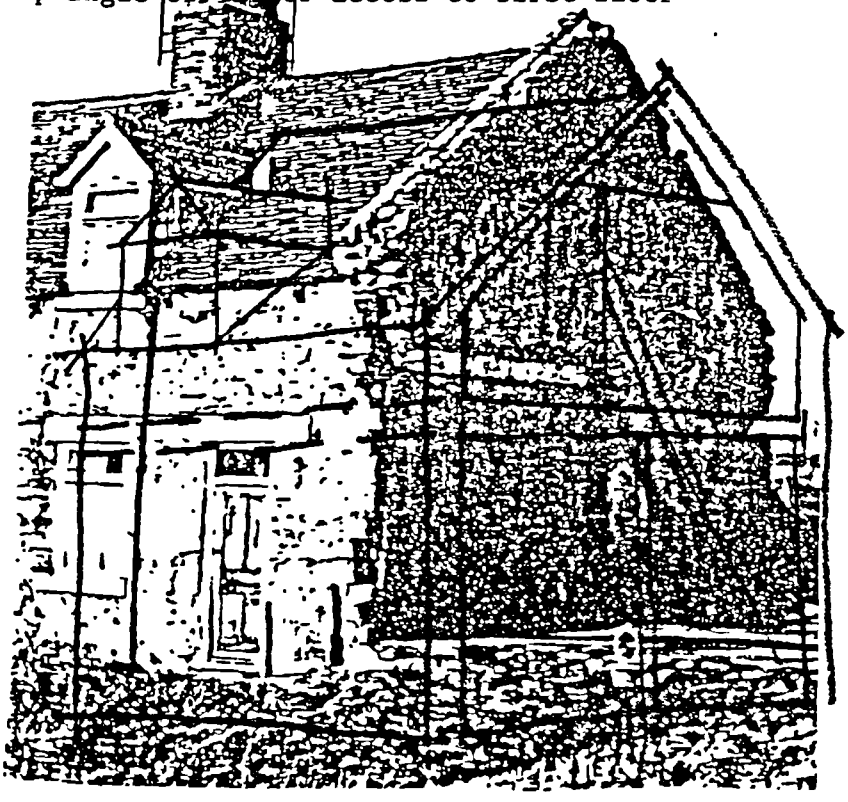
steep angle of ladder access to first floor

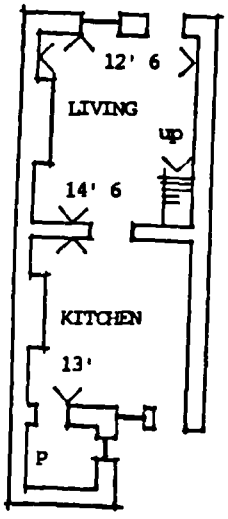


ANALYSIS OF CROSS SECTION



NOTE : differences in cross section
relative positions of dormer window
steep angle of ladder access to first floor





GROUND PLAN

ANALYSIS OF CROSS SECTION

2 ground floor rooms
1 first floor rooms

Figure 46 CATEGORY FIVE THREE ROOMED COTTAGE
BUT AND BEN

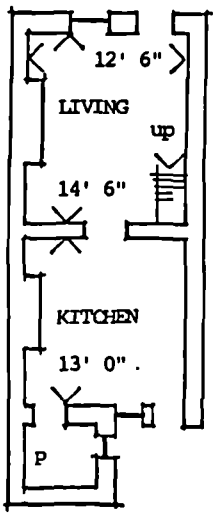
GURNEY VALLEY 18 5
Map Reference NZ232283

Authors own survey

0 5 20 FEET
SCALE







GROUND FLOOR PLAN

2 ground floor rooms
1 first floor rooms

Figure 46 CATEGORY FIVE THREE ROOMED COTTAGE BUT AND BEN

GURNEY VALLEY 1835
Map Reference NZ232283

Authors own survey

0 5 10 15 20 FEET
SCALE

Plate 48 Gurney Valley
But and ben cottages
Sloping eaves and ridge line

Beamish Open Air Museum

Plate 49 Gurney Valley
But and ben cottages
Possibly the same cottages re-roofed

Photograph by H. Diana Brown September 1979



Plate 48 Gurney Valley
But and ben cottages
Sloping eaves and ridge line

Beamish Open Air Museum

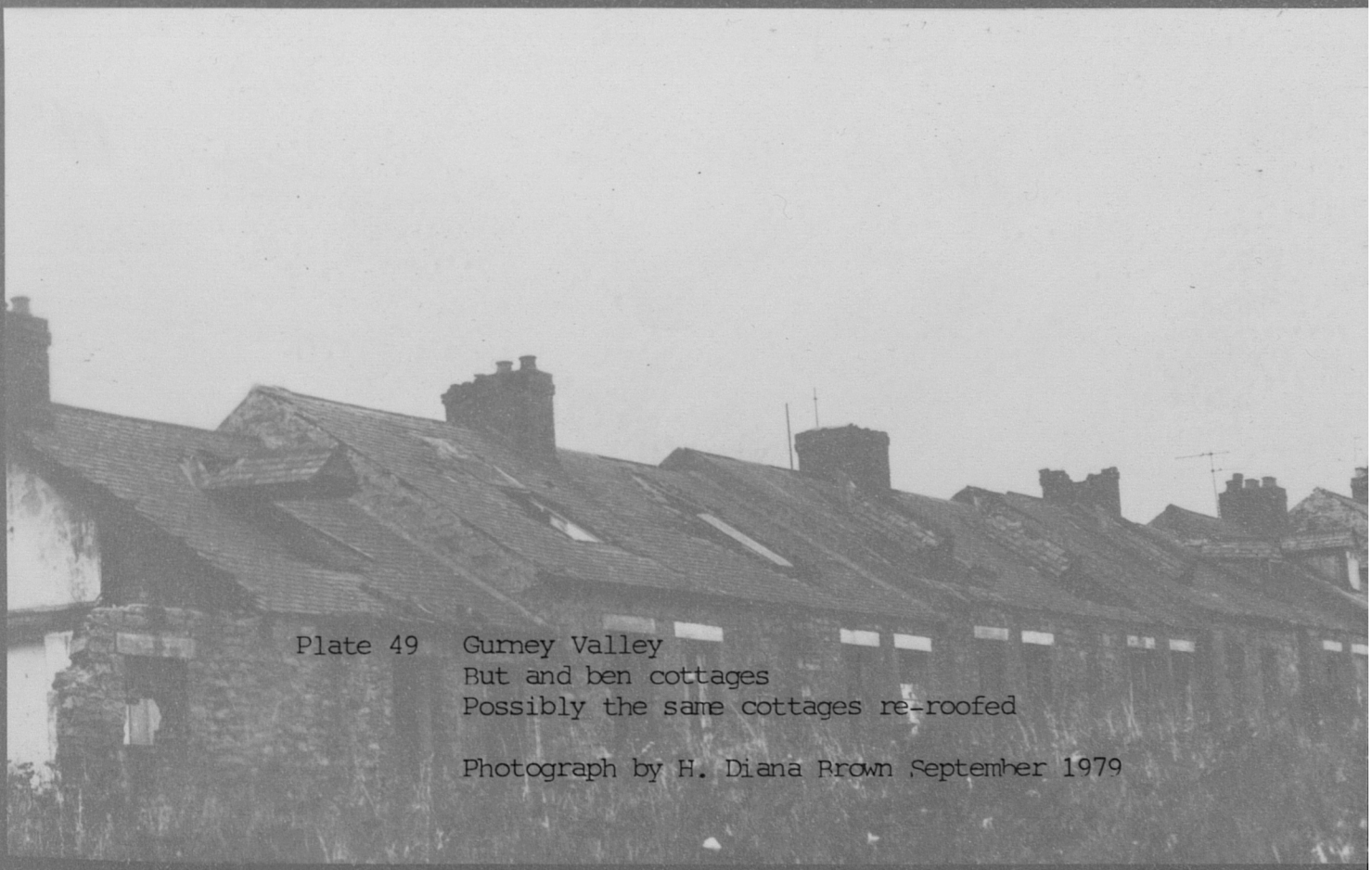


Plate 49 Gurney Valley
But and ben cottages
Possibly the same cottages re-roofed

Photograph by H. Diana Brown September 1979





MURTON STREET
MURTON

The but and ben cottages at Murton near Houghton-le-Spring are another early example of this category of dwelling. The original drawings entitled 'First Class Cottages' was traced in Sir John Walshams Poor Law Commission Report 1836. The drawing was one of three used to illustrate different plans of cottages on improved principles, Figure 47.

> Plan of Pitmens' cottages recently built near Houghton-le-Spring at a cost including all materials except ground, of £55.0.0 for the First Class and of £37.0.0 for the Second Class. These cottages are substantially built of stone and generally roofed with blue slate.[7]

The second class cottages are shown in Category Three, blind backed cottages.[8]

Although no section was shown, the cottages are identified as but and ben as they are annotated to the effect 'Loft Above'. These cottages were built for the colliery sinkers in 1838 and demolished after one hundred years in the 1930s. The drawing was annotated to the effect that the floors were of lime and gravel. The external walls were 18" thick stone with very few external openings. No openings were shown in the rear wall, not even giving access to the pantry. The original drawings are very diagramatic, but it was not until 1848 when drawings had to be submitted under the Public Health Act. The front elevation of the first class cottages was included on the original drawing, Figure 25.

It is of particular interest to note that these very simple dwellings were considered worthy of note, to use the plan, to illustrate the principles of improved workers dwellings.

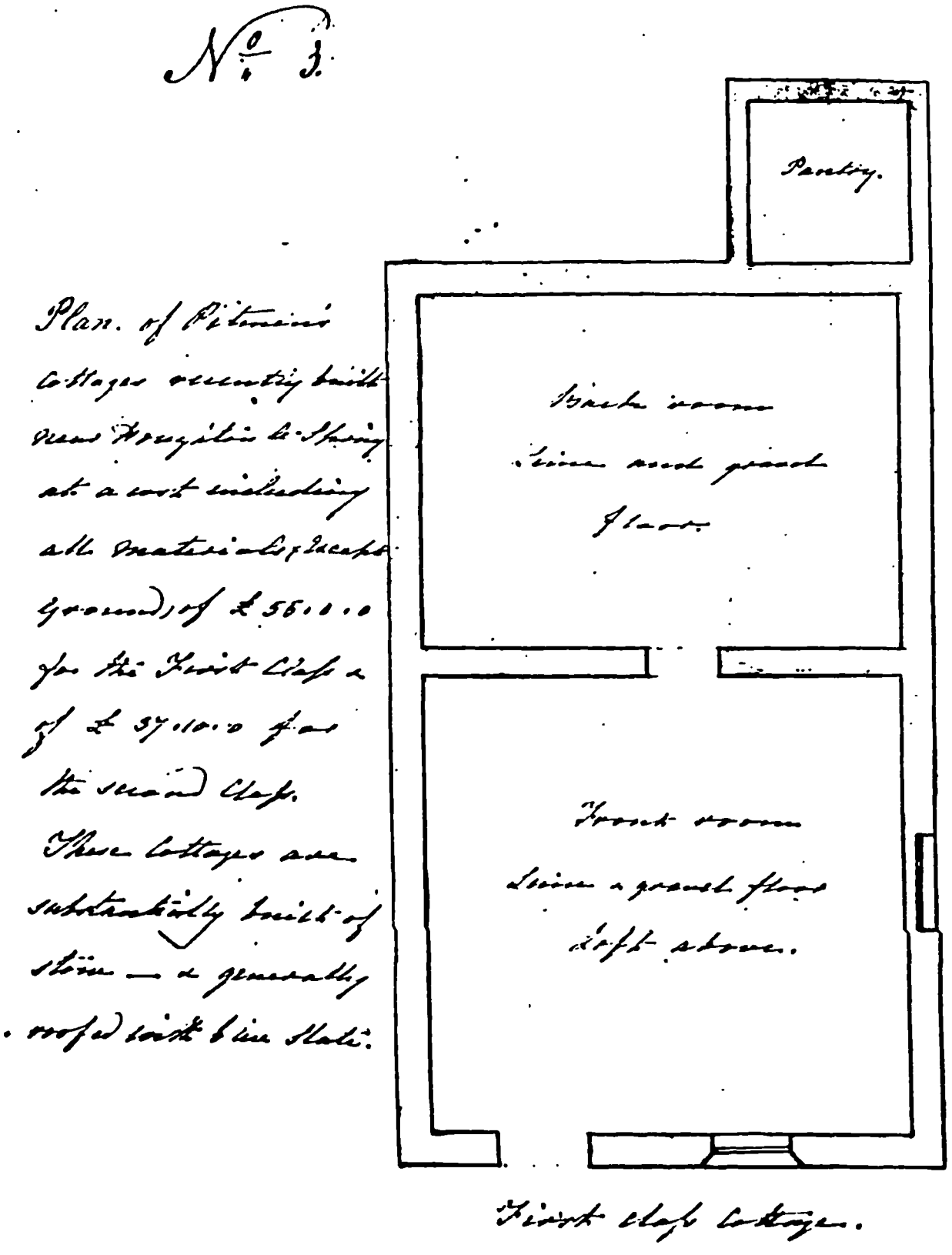


Figure 47 CATEGORY FIVE THREE ROOMED COTTAGE 2 ground floor rooms 1 first floor rooms
BUT AND BEN

MURTON 1838
Map Reference NZ399470

Original drawing
Public Record Office Ref S.B.P. 555

LYONS STREET
FRANCIS STREET
BARRINGTON TERRACE

EPPLETON COLLIERY HETTON-LE-HOLE

Lyons Street, Francis Street and Barrington Terrace were three rows of but and ben cottages constructed at Eppleton Colliery, Hetton-Le-Hole. The ninety two cottages have the advantage of being well recorded. The cottages in Lyons Street were surveyed by Roy Snaith as part of his work on the growth of the mining communities in County Durham, and the cottages in Francis Street formed the basis of a very special study which was carried out by the Beamish North of England Open Air Museum.

The original Francis Street has been demolished, but Nos 1-6 of it have been taken, stone by stone, to Beamish Colliery site where it has been rebuilt depicting the developing exterior and interior conditions during the life of these cottages. It is understood that Barrington Terrace was of the same style, as Lyons Street and Francis Street.

During the 1820s and 30s the Hetton district was the first to be exploited on the East Durham escarpment in a whole new phase of mining activity. Hetton Blossom and Minor pits were sunk through the magnesian limestone strata to the Hutton seam below in 1822, and became famous for the quantity and quality of household coal raised. The associated settlement was well established by the time the Eppleton Colliery was sunk in 1833, and rows of houses were added northwards alongside the colliery to accommodate the new workers. Lyons Street and Francis Street to be considered next were part of this development. The colliery closed in 1972.

LYONS STREET

Thirty two but and ben cottages constituted Lyons Street. The dwellings were similar to those at Gurney Valley with two rooms and a pantry on the ground floor and a bedroom with a dormer window in the roof space. Some of the houses in Lyons Street were built with two rooms in the roof space, with a dormer window front and rear. The rear ground floor room with its iron cooking range and staircase gave access to the bedroom and was used as a general living room. The front room had only a narrow domestic fireplace, and was used both as a bedroom and a sitting room.

The houses were built for the Hetton Coal Company in approximately 1850 to house the colliery employees and their families. The external walls were of 18" solid regular coursed rubble limestone with ashlar lintols and cills, and timber vertical sliding sash windows. Grey slates were used for the roof covering and the chimney stack was constructed in brick work. The ground floor was made up of flat stone slabs while the upper timber boarded floor was carried on joists spanning between the external walls and internal brick work partition.

When these houses were surveyed by Roy Snaith as a part of his work on the growth of Mining Communities in County Durham, he recorded[9] that one occupier of the houses in the terrace, a man in his early eighties, had lived there all his life, taking over the tenancy from his parents. He remembered the cottages when there were no ceilings and the joists on the ground floor and the rafters in the bedroom were visible. He also recollected that the original rear door was of the stable type with the upper and lower portions

capable of being open independently. The stair-case which replaced a ladder may have been a later addition to these cottages.

On the 1st ed. Ordnance Survey of 1856, the houses were shown without yards and with the rear door opening directly into the back lane, with rows of privies, ashpits and coal stores on the opposite side. The yards were enclosed and the lane metalled during the 1930s, with each dwelling being provided with a WC and coal store of brick construction. At the front the generous garden area was divided into plots and enclosed by a low stone wall.

FRANCIS STREET

The twenty seven cottages in Francis Street were built in 1860 and numbers 1-6 have since been reconstructed at Beamish Open Air Museum. The cottages built for the Hetton Coal Company were constructed of stone, and the pantries of brick and roofed in slate, Figure 48. It is not clear whether the pantries were a later addition or whether an integral part of the original design. The fact they were constructed of brick and that the roof was constructed at a different angle to the main dwelling is indicative that the pantries were added at a later date. If this were the case the occupants would not have been provided with an internal water supply. They would therefore have been dependant on a water seller or pumps which may have been provided in the back lane.

The ground floor rooms of the Francis Street cottages had an 8'0" floor to ceiling height, and the first floor room a maximum of 7'6" with a large area of sloping back ceiling. The walls in the roof space were set in some 5'0" on either side and were 3'9" high. This

made the first floor room 18'0" wide, but one could only stand up in a part of this space. Sometimes the first floor was divided into two rooms, this created very small spaces with low ceiling heights, Figure 48, the dotted line indicates the position a first floor partition when two bedrooms were formed.

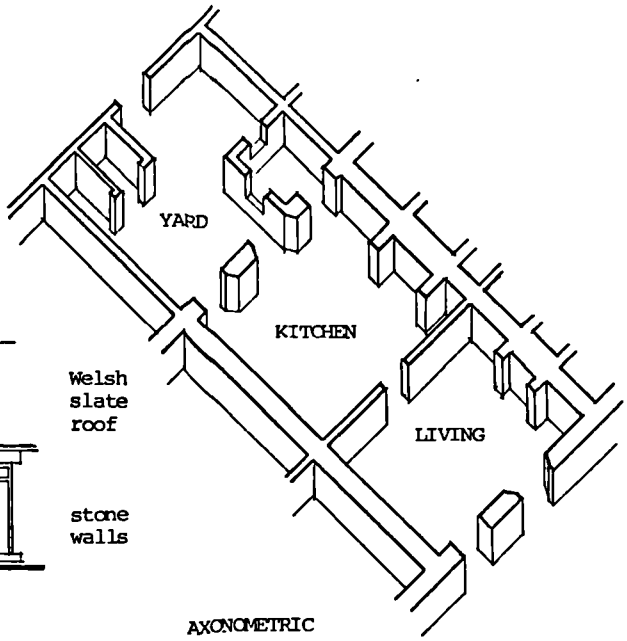
The yards pantries and kitchens were paved with quarry tiles, the front rooms with floor boards. The yards were not originally walled but opened onto the unsurfaced back lane. Across the lane from the back door were the ash pits or netties[10] and the coalhouse. At the front of these cottages were the gardens; these were unfenced originally but occupants fenced the garden, in order to keep in the animals and poultry which were widely reared to supplement their food supplies. Most of the gardens were used predominantly for vegtable growing, sometimes with a small flowerbed in front of the window.[11]

Certain colliery companies recognised the importance of pig-keeping and made provision for it when constructing houses. Shortly after 1900, the number of people keeping pigs dropped because of the bye-laws. Pigs were kept in Francis and Lyons Streets, but it seems unlikely that the pig-sties were built by the colliery.

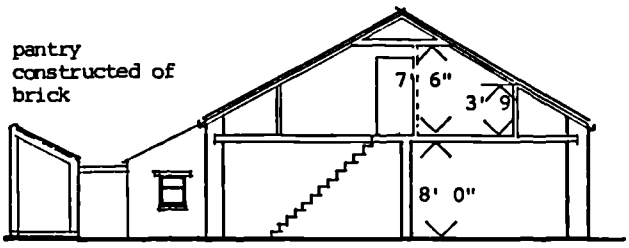
As these cottages have formed the basis of a special study by Beamish Open Air Museum they will be referred to again with special reference to their interior.



FRONT ELEVATION



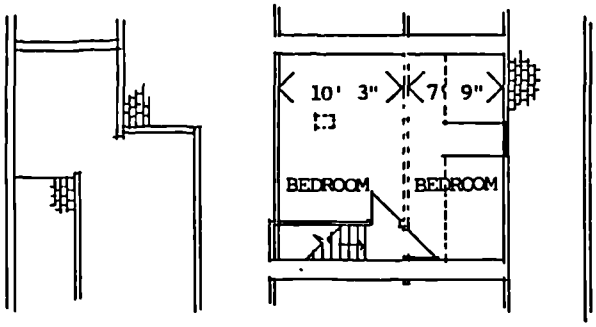
AXONOMETRIC



SECTION

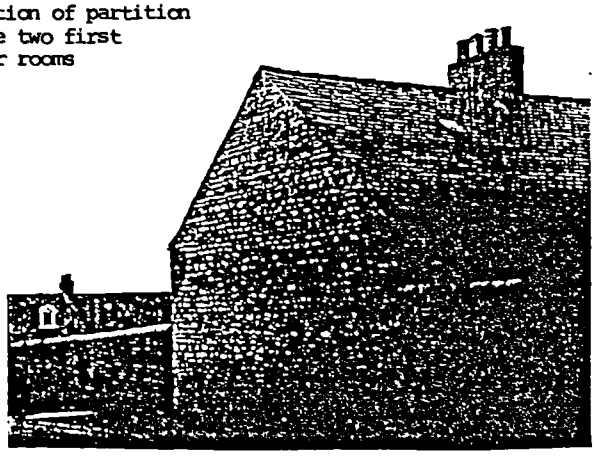


FRONT ELEVATION

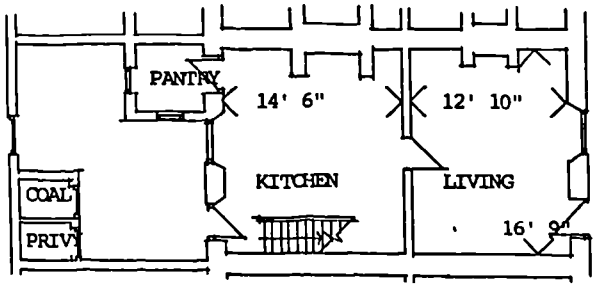


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

dotted line indicates position of partition where two first floor rooms



GABLE



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Figure 48 CATEGORY FIVE THREE ROOMED COTTAGE BUT AND BEN

2 ground floor rooms
1/2 first floor rooms

FRANCIS STREET
EPPLETON COLLIERY, HETTON-LE-HOLE 1860
Map Reference NZ355479

Cottages now reconstructed at Beamish Open Air Museum

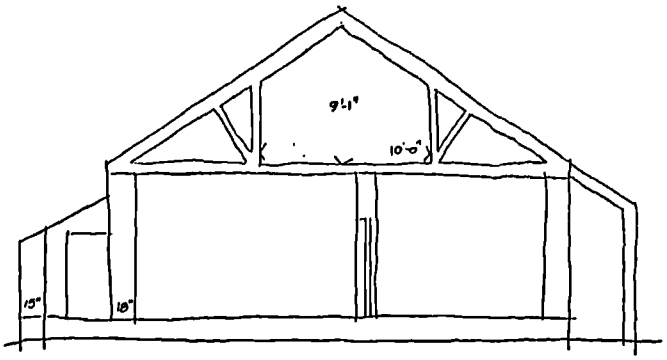
0 5 10 15 20 FEET
SCALE

BARMOOR FIELD

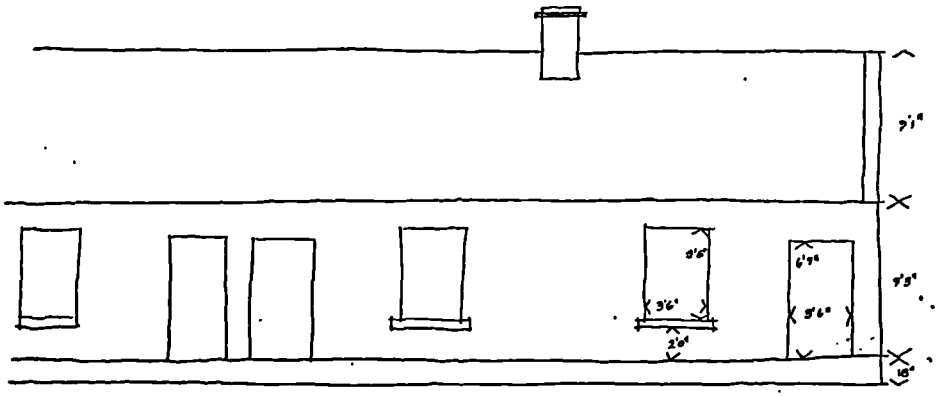
The original drawings for six but and ben cottages for the Stella Coal Company at Barmoor are very simple. A tracing of the original drawing, Figure 49 shows very little detail. The location of these six cottages has not been traced on the Ordnance Survey maps.The 1848 Health Act stipulated the handing in of plans, not only for streets and drainage, but also for all buildings. These drawings of 1854 showed insufficient information for submission, therefore they may have only been sketch proposals which were never developed, so offering an explanation as to why the cottages have not been identified on the Ordnance Survey maps.

Figure 50, analytical drawing facilitates comparison with the Eppleton Colliery but and ben dwelling. The Barmoor Field cottage was considerably smaller in floor area, and its first floor room only 10'0" wide. The underside of the roof appears to have been exposed to its apex giving a maximum height of 9'1". The larder although having an independant roof, that is not a continuation of the main structure, appears to have been an integral part of the original plan. However access is only shown from the exterior.

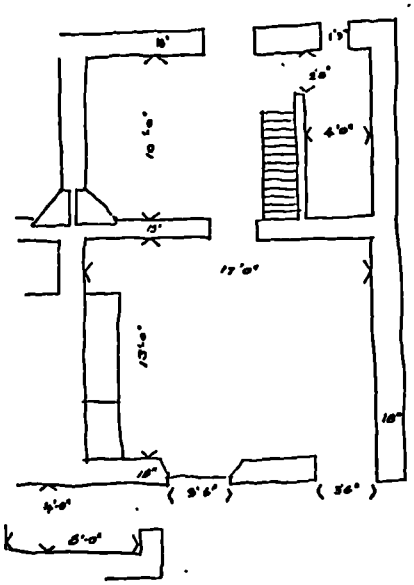
The poor quality of the dwellings may have been a reflection of the fact that it was early days in the development of Barmoor Field. The cottages at Lyons Street and Francis Street were probably of a superior standard as they were built in conjunction with a settlement which was already well established when Eppleton Colliery was sunk in 1833.



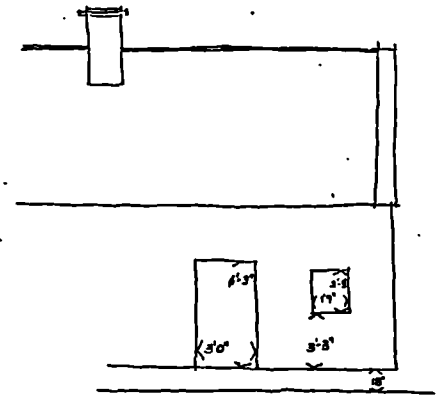
SECTION



WEST ELEVATION



PLAN



EAST ELEVATION

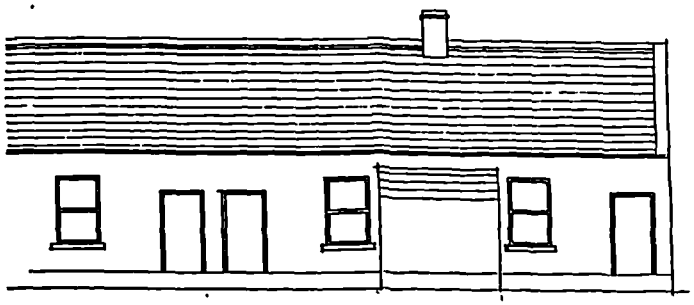
Figure 49 CATEGORY FIVE THREE ROOMED COTTAGE
BUT AND BEN

2 ground floor rooms
1 first floor room

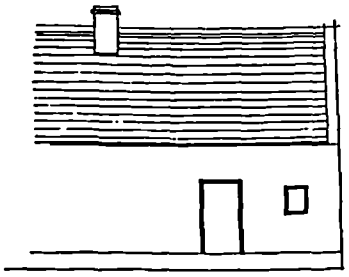
BAR MOOR FIELD 1854
Location unidentified

Authors accurate tracing of original drawing entitled
6 houses or cottages erected according to this plan
in Bar Moor Field
Stella Coal Company Durham County Record Office

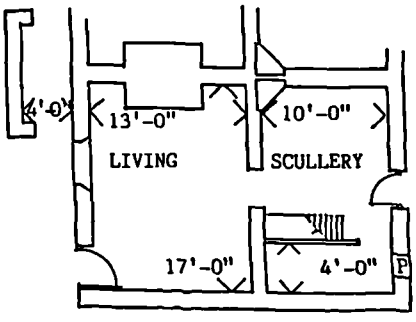
0 5 10 15 20 FEET
SCALE



WEST ELEVATION

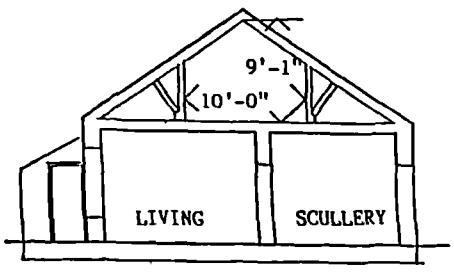


EAST ELEVATION



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

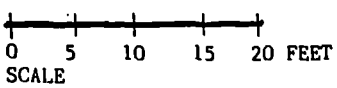
18" stone walls



CROSS SECTION

2 ground floor rooms
1 first floor room

Figure 50 CATEGORY FIVE THREE ROOMED COTTAGE BUT AND BEN



BARMOOR FIELD 1854
Location unidentified

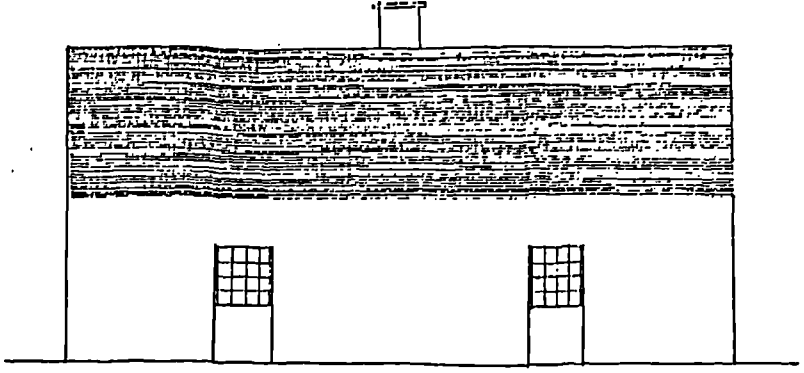
From original drawing Figure 49
entitled 6 Houses or Cottages erected according
to this plan in Bar Moor field
Stella Coal Company , Durham County Record Office

EMMAVILLE

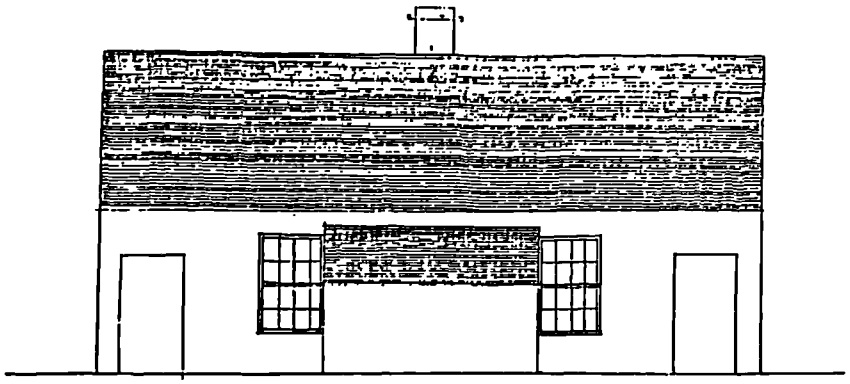
A further set of original drawings for but and ben cottages were included in the Stella Coal Company records. These drawings also giving minimal information were entitled 'Plan of Three Roomed Cottages Built at Emmaville for the Stella Coal Company' Figure 51.

The section although similar to the Barmoor but and ben cottage has a lower ceiling height to the first floor, 8'3" to the apex. The floor to ceiling heights of the ground floor is 9'0", high by most standards. The staircase leading to the first floor room is indicated on the section; a very steep flight of steps, but not a ladder.

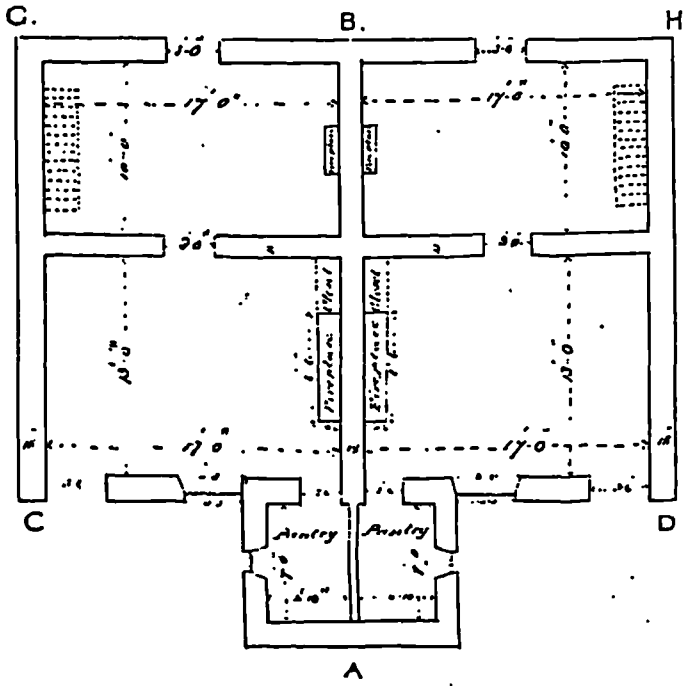
The plan is of particular interest as the dwelling appears to be a single access cottage. There is only one opening in the rear elevation this is indicated as a window with a recess in the wall beneath. The pantry was an integral part of the original plan, and has access from the interior of the dwelling.



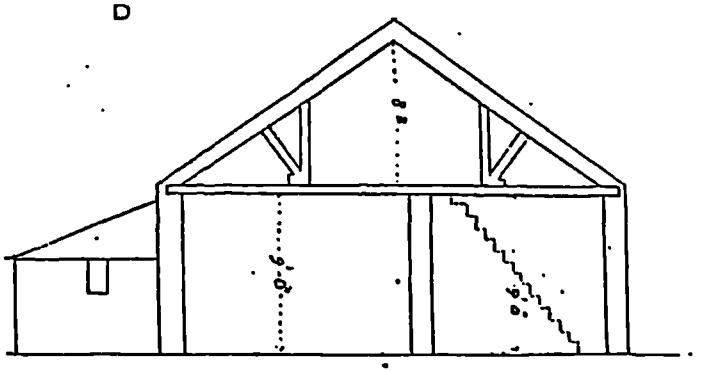
EAST ELEVATION. C.H.



WEST ELEVATION C.D.

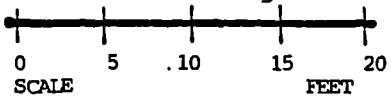


GROUND PLAN



SECTION A.B.

Figure 51



CATEGORY FIVE THREE ROOMED COTTAGE
BUT AND BEN

2 ground floor rooms
1 first floor room

EMMAVILLE undated
Location unidentified

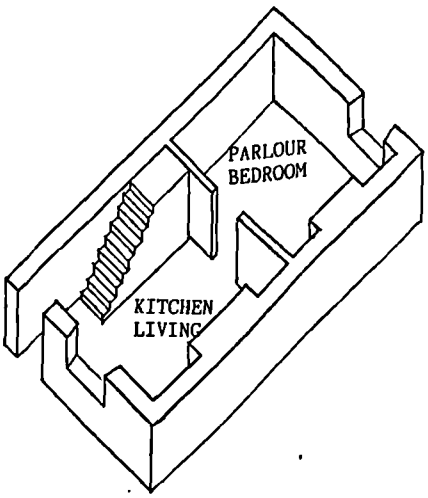
Reconstruction of original drawing entitled
Plan of Three Roomed Cottages built at
Emmaville for the Stella Coal Company
Stella Coal Company Durham County Record Office

NEW MOOR COTTAGES
EVENWOOD GATE

Further examples of but and ben cottages were found at the now ruined New Moor Cottages near Evenwood Gate. It may be misleading to include this group of five cottages in this study as the 1861 census return describes the inhabitants as pottery workers. However, the Beamish records refer to one of the cottages as 'Mrs Priestlys miners cottage'.[12]

The cottages were built of uncoursed stone and it is worthy of note that like the previous examples the kitchen/living room had a stone floor, whereas the ground floor room parlour/bedroom had a timber floor.

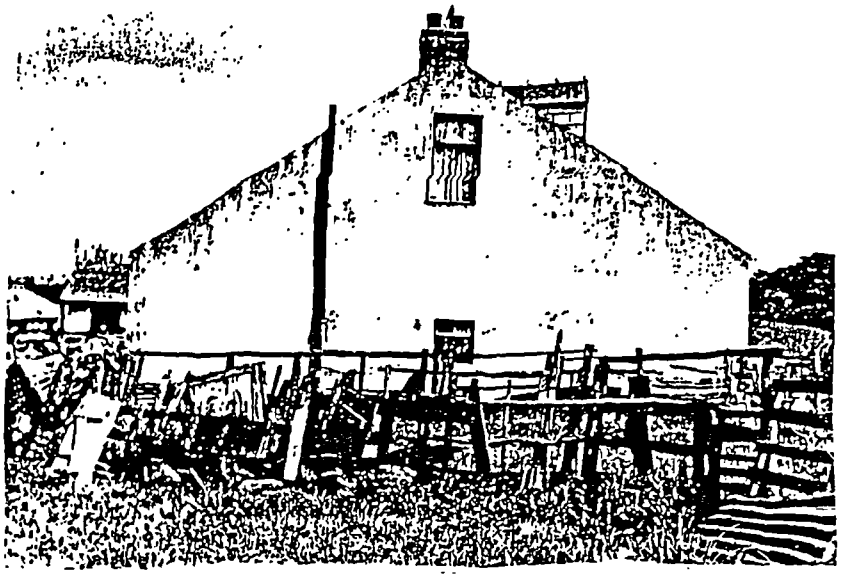
The unusual element in the design of these cottages was that the dormer window was very high in the roof, and the ridge of the dormer was the same height as the ridge line on the main roof. This must have resulted in a very interesting spatial effect internally and gave the room an appearance of being much larger than it was. As with the Emmaville but and ben cottage these cottages were single access dwellings, however in this instance there was no pantry,[13] Figure 52.

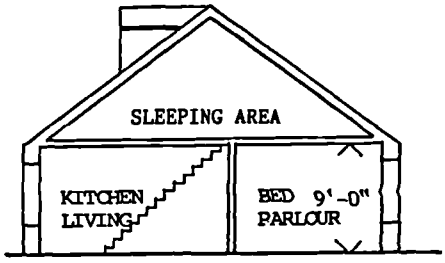


AXONOMETRIC

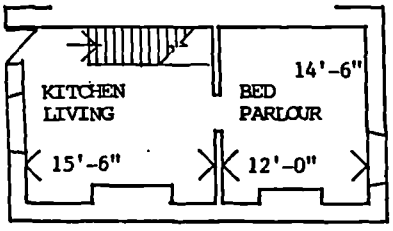


ELEVATION





SECTION



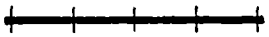
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



Figure 52 CATEGORY FIVE THREE ROOMED COTTAGE
BUT AND BEN

2 ground floor rooms
1 first floor room

NEW MOOR COTTAGES
EVENWOOD GATE 1856 - 1861
Map Reference NZ 166239



Beamish Open Air Museum

THOMAS STREET
AUCKLAND PARK COLLIERY

The photograph in Ada Temple's work was taken in 1939 and shows a long terrace of but and ben dwellings all with dormer windows,[14] Plate 50. The row starts with a larger two storey house presumably a colliery officials house. In the distance one can see two-storey houses with an extreme bend in the roofline due to subsidence.

The same houses are described in the Newcastle Weekly Chronicle, 'Our Colliery Villages' series of Saturday 22 March 1873:

> The pit-rows proper present almost all the familiar types of houses in such places. Thomas Street is a long row of near upon fifty dwellings, one third of which are double houses. They occupy very little more ground than the single houses, and are much lower in the walls though not in the pitch of the roof. The fact is, the extra rooms are got by partial ceiling of the attics, and they are windowed dormer fashion. Both double and single houses, however are admirably provided with yards and all needful out houses. These yards in all respects resemble the enclosures usually to be found at the rear of first class terraces in towns. Each house has its own spacious enclosure, and everything in the shape of out house to itself.
>
> ....These gardens are large and well walled in and three of them can boast of green-houses; a still greater number piggeries. At the south and up this terrace facing the pit like the cross of the letter T, is a commodious reading room.[15]

Plate 50 Thomas Street, Auckland Park Colliery
But and ben cottages

A. Temple. The Derelict Villages of Durham County
M. Litt 1940



Plate 50 Thomas Street, Auckland Park Colliery
But and ben cottages

A. Temple. The Derelict Villages of Durham County
M. Litt 1940



STONE BANK
NEWFIELD

This stone terrace of but and ben dwellings built about 1860 with two bedrooms on the upper floor are still standing in the 1980s. and have been modernised by a housing association.

Evidence of brickwork around the lower windows and the form of the dormer windows suggests that this is an example of a but and ben plan of two ground floor rooms with a single attic room over, being converted at a later date to a larger four roomed house, two ground floor rooms and two first floor rooms, Plate 51.

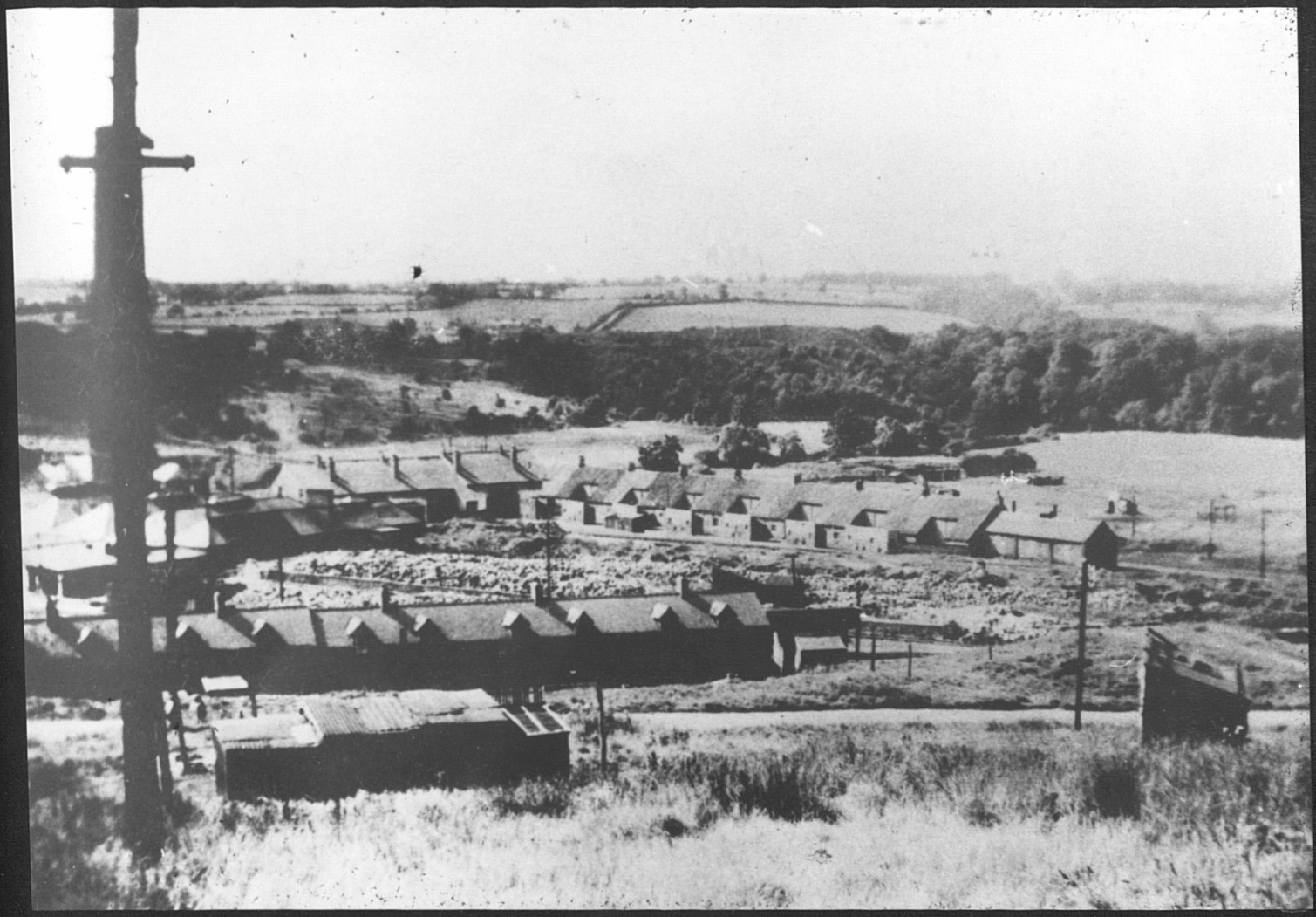
Plate 51 Stone Bank, Newfield
But and ben cottages

A. Temple. The Derelict Villages of Durham County
M. Litt 1940



Plate 51 Stone Bank, Newfield
But and ben cottages

A. Temple. The Derelict Villages of Durham County
M. Litt 1940



In addition to examples illustrated there is evidence of a large number of cottages of similar design.

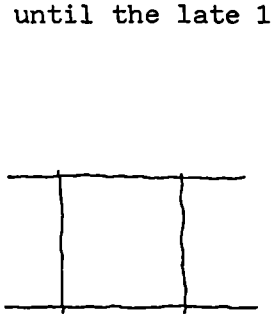
At Billy Row the houses were

> equal to the usual houses built by the Peases, having two rooms on ground floor level and an attic reached by a ladder. The attic is very low having only three feet of wall before the slope to the roof begins.
> 16

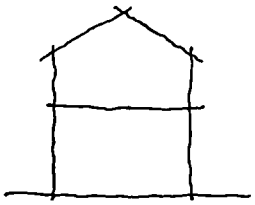
From the same source there is a description of a row on the High Street, Willington.
17

There is evidence of cottages of the but and ben type at Church Row, West Rainton, 1875, and at Hamsteels, 1868. There is a good photographic record of some but and ben cottages at Brick Row Ryhope, Plate 52.

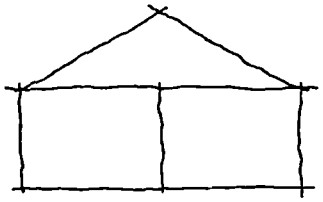
The basic design of the but and ben type cottage is an old one and many rural dwellings must have been built like it. The characteristic but and ben profile, Figure 53 appeared widely throughout the Great Northern Coalfield. The earliest date of construction traced is 1835 and but and ben cottages appear to have been built until the late 1860s.



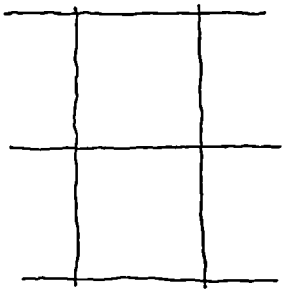
single room
ground floor unit

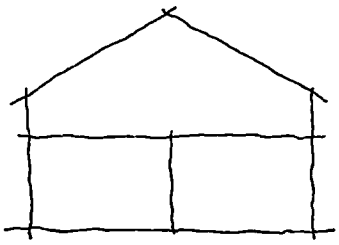


single room
ground floor
attic room



two room
ground floor
unit





two room
ground floor
unit and
attic room
over

The derivation of the but and ben from the seminal unit appears relatively straight forward.

Plate 52 Brick Row, Ryhope
But and ben cottages

Beamish Open Air Museum



Plate 52 Brick Row, Ryhope
But and ben cottages

Beamish Open Air Museum



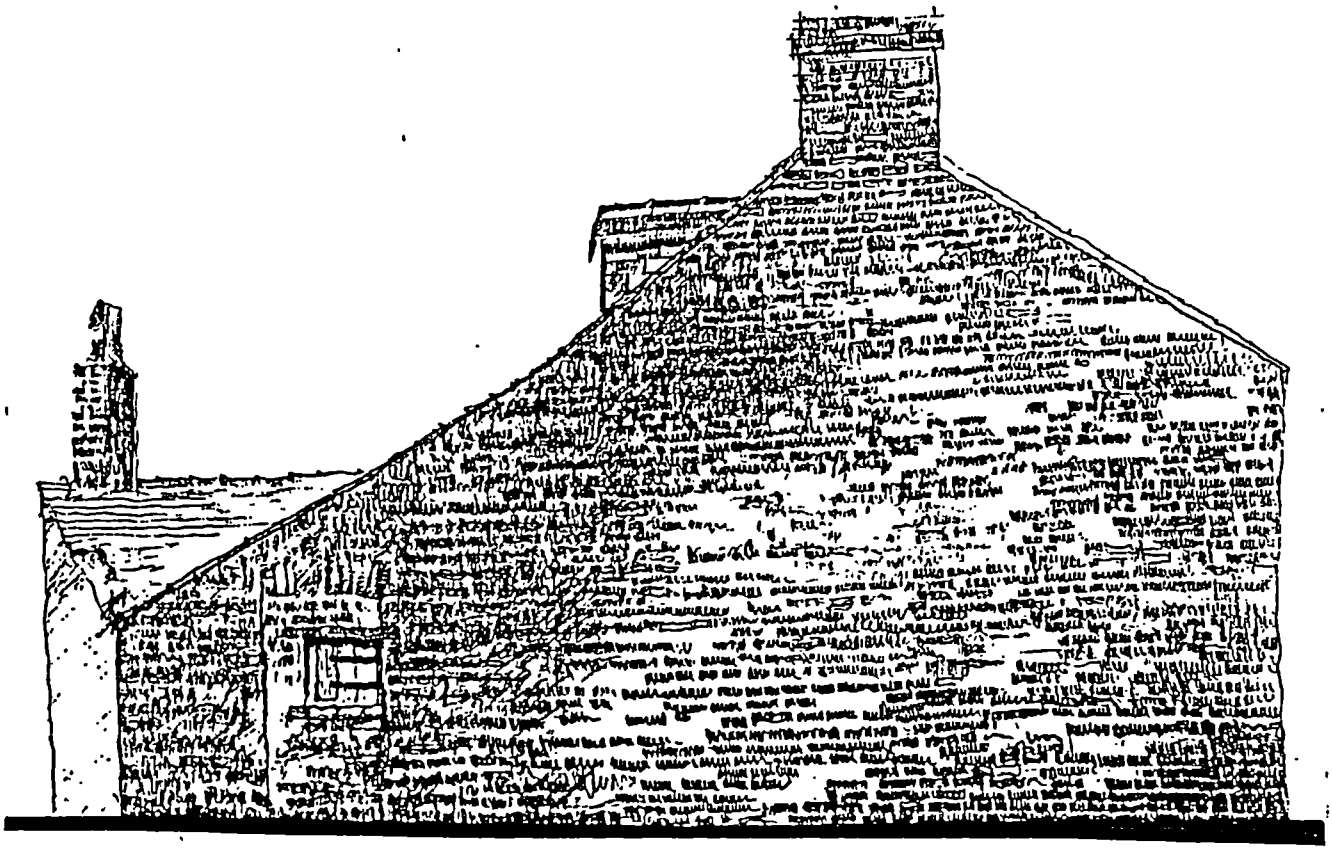


Figure 53 CATEGORY FIVE THREE ROOMED COTTAGE
CHARACTERISTIC PROFILE OF BUT AND BEN COTTAGE

BRICK ROW
RYHOPE

Authors sketch from photograph
Beamish Open Air Museum

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1 A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles. Vol 1 Edited by James A.H. Murray (Oxford:Clarenden Press, 1888)

2 R. A. Scott James op.cit., Appendices 142.

3 ibid., 142-143.

4 ibid., 138-139.

5 See page 181

6 See page 179.

7 Sir John Walsham's Poor Law Commission of 1836. Supplement to Sir John Walsham's first report on the state of the dwellings of the labouring classes in his district. Enclosure C comprising some plans of cottages on improved principles for workers dwellings.

8 See page 256.

9 Roy Snaith 'The Growth of Mining Communities in County Durham (unpublished dissertation, Manchester University, 1975) , 30-31.

10 Beamish Open Air Museum, unpublished notes, op.cit.

11 ibid.

12 ibid.

13 See page 340.

14 Ada Temple op.cit., 424.

15 'OCV' Auckland Park NWC 22.3.1873 (XXV)

16 'OCV' Billy Row and North Roddymoor NWC 28.6.1873 (XXXV).

17 ibid.

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
COTTAGE TYPE
CATEGORY SIX - FOUR/FIVE ROOMED COTTAGE 2 ground floor rooms
2 first floor rooms

In the late 1860s and early 1870s. a number of factors combined to generally improve the quality of the miner's dwellings. As a result of pressure from the miners for better housing, many of the existing houses were enlarged and improved. The pressure from the miners was largely as a result of overcrowding, and eventually the colliery companies built four-roomed dwellings.

With the more recent examples of colliery dwellings there is more information readily available. The increase in legislation, although affecting the plan and form of these rural dwellings very little, did in fact mean that plans had to be deposited with the Local Authority. Many of these plans are now deposited with the Local Record Office and therefore are readily available. There is also the remaining housing stock which although adapted through the years gives considerable evidence of the original form of the house.

There are several forms of the four bedroom house. From the 1830s to 1860s the majority of miners working on the Great Northern Coalfield lived in 2 or 3 roomed houses.[1] At that time some colliery companies built larger 4 roomed houses for their officials. Examples of houses of this type will be included in the special category at the end of this section.

Development traced from the single unit of the seminal plan form has shown how the area of the plan increased in size in two different ways. From the single ground floor room to the 'one up one down' to the 'one down two up'. Secondly from the single room, single storey cottage, to the two roomed single storey cottage, to the but and ben cottage type.It is in the light of this form of development

that it is proposed to examine the four roomed house. From the analysis of plan and section there are two main types of four roomed houses the 'cat slide roof cottage', and the 'double house'.

With the increased prosperity of the colliery owners, some houses were built which could be described as prestige symbols, in other words not low cost housing. These houses were obviously a reflection of security and stability. There was a growing general awareness of a need to improve housing quality and there are examples of houses being built on the Great Northern Coalfield which were begining to adopt standards and ideals used elsewhere in the country, for example the worker's housing of the Garden City Movement.

The question posed, is when, and where were the first of the larger four roomed dwellings purpose built for the ordinary miner? It is a well known fact that the colliery companies looked favourably on larger families, particularly large families with sons. About 1860 the colliery companies started to build houses in order to attract miners to the area. It is therefore likely they built some larger houses in order to attract families with a number of sons of working age.

The earlier of the four roomed cottages tend to be those referred to in this thesis as the 'cat slide roof cottage'. The very form of the cat slide roof determines that there are rooms in the roof space; the derivation from the but and ben cottages with their attic rooms. The category is clearly identified by Triscott in Coal and Power as Type 5, Figure 30.

2

The 'double house', two rooms deep appears to have derived from the 'single house'. Double houses were also formed by knocking through two 'back to back' cottages. As with the term 'single house' the use of the term 'cottage' is dropped for the 'double house'. However it is interesting to note, the original drawing for the four roomed dwellings at Star Gate, used the term 'cottage'. the word 'house' was not therefore used, simply to imply a larger size.

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
COTTAGE TYPE
CATEGORY SIX - FOUR/FIVE ROOMED COTTAGE 2 ground floor rooms
2 first floor rooms

CAT SLIDE ROOF COTTAGE

CAROLINE STREET
HETTON-LE-HOLE

These houses are still standing in 1986 and a wall plaque indicates that the houses were built in 1856. This is confirmed by the first edition of the 6" Ordnance map which shows sixty seven houses. The article on Hetton in OCV spoke of Caroline Street:-

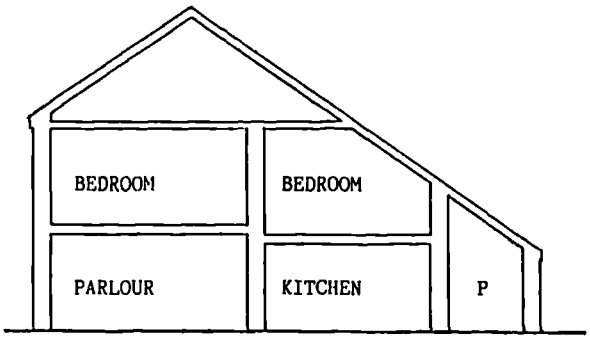
> Stately, solemn and dull looking... nobody could walk down that street and imagine untidiness or uncomfortableness behind those clean and curtained windows. [3]

The report enthusiastically described the interior of the house:-

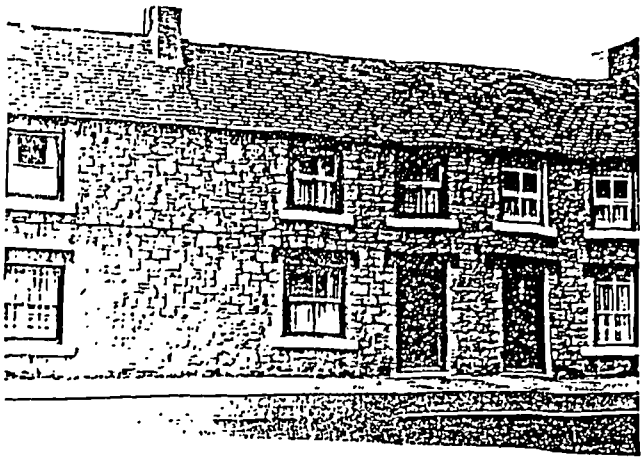
> Lo, it is a gem, a small place, full of radiant furniture, soft carpeting, harmonium, violin, brave flitches of bacon, handsome pictures, curiosities, conveniences, utilities of all sorts. Below are two rooms, and it is hard to choose which is the more cosy. Upstairs, there are two rooms, every bit as good as those below. [4]

The houses are constructed of stone with a slate roof and are an excellent example of the house type which is found throughout the North East where the back bedroom is still in the roof space and is lit by a skylight only. The houses are two storey at the front and single storey at the rear. The roof extends down in one long slope from the ridge to the eaves of the pantry. This is known colloquially as a 'cat slide roof'. these types of houses are typified by the asymmetrical gable wall, Figure 54, End Elevation.

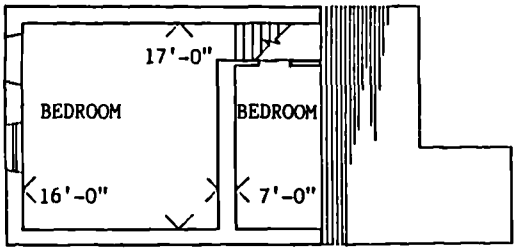
Access to the second bedroom in the roof is often difficult in houses of this type, the houses on Caroline Street are no exception. The stair ascends from the kitchen directly to the main bedroom; to enter the back bedroom one has to step up from the main flight of stairs. The front ground floor room has a suspended timber floor and the kitchen red quarry tiles. [5]



CROSS SECTION



FRONT ELEVATION

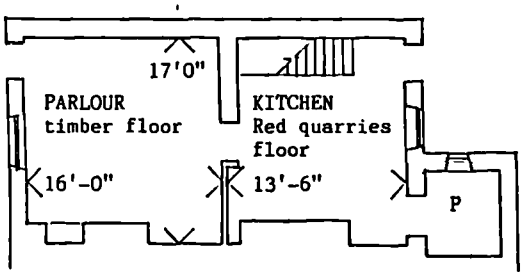


Bedroom lit by skylight
Entered by stepping
up from the stairs

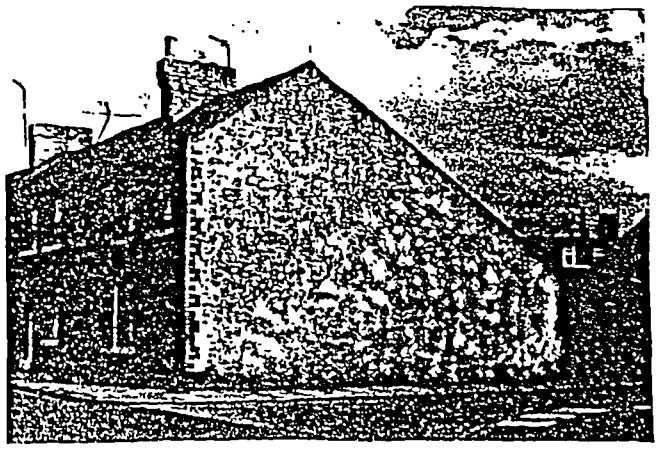
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



REAR ELEVATION



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



END ELEVATION

2 ground floor rooms
2 first floor rooms

Figure 54 CATEGORY SIX FOUR ROOMED COTTAGE
CAT SLIDE ROOF COTTAGE



SCALE

CAROLINE STREET
HETTON-LE-HOLE 1856
Map Reference NZ 355475

Beamish Open Air Museum

RAILWAY TERRACE
WILLINGTON

The Brancepeth Colliery was sunk in 1842 by the firm of Messrs, Straker and Love and worked until 1965. The houses of Railway Terrace were built in 1862 in association with this colliery. Railway Terrace ran parallel to the main line of what was the West Durham (Hartlepool) railway, the line which carried the coal to the coast for export. There was a similar row of houses behind Railway Terrace and then the spoil heap and gas works behind.

Plate 53 shows one of sixty eight houses in three rows which make up the terrace. These houses illustrate the early use of brick work in colliery cottages. The roof was slate covered, the external walls constructed of nine inch solid brickwork with the added element of decorated brick arches over the window openings and flat ashlar cills on the front elevation. The windows were of the timber vertical sliding sash type.

Although conforming to the category of house with the two storey front and single storey rear elevation, the plan form is different from the houses at Hetton-le-Hole, Figure 55. The large ground floor living room had an iron cooking range, a large pantry and a separate rear lobby with an enclosed timber staircase giving access to the first floor. The house was divided at right angles to the row at first floor level enabling each bedroom to have a window to the front elevation. There were no windows, only small roof lights in the roof of the rear elevation, echoing the 'feel'of the 'blind backed' cottages. The larger bedroom had a fireplace. There was

also a large store in the roof space at the rear of the first floor. This plan had the advantage that the staircase arrived at a landing of which both bedrooms and the cupboard had access.

The ground floors internally were solid, with the first floor supported on timber joists spanning between the external walls and the ground floor brick partition. The long rear roof was supported by a 10"x3" timber beam which was exposed internally and spanned between the crosswalls supporting the rafters.

As with other old colliery cottages alterations have been carried out during the life of the property. The houses as shown on the 1896 Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map had no yards and various out buildings were shown on the other side of the rear access road.

The yards were enclosed in the 1920s and each house was provided with a wash house, coal store and dry closet. The closets were demolished after nationalisation and the ground floor pantry was divided into a bathroom, ventilated lobby and larder. The old lobby became the kitchen.

Plate 54 shows a variation of the theme where Railway Terrace cottages had only one first floor front window which was expressed with a gable. Brick banding was also introduced in the design of the elevation. Both treatments are attractive and the cottages are a further example of colliery dwellings reflecting security and well-being.

Plate 53 Railway Terrace, Willington
Cat slide roof cottage
Fine detailing of the front elevation
Photograph 1975

Roy Snaith. The Growth of Mining Communities in County Durham
Dissertation 1975

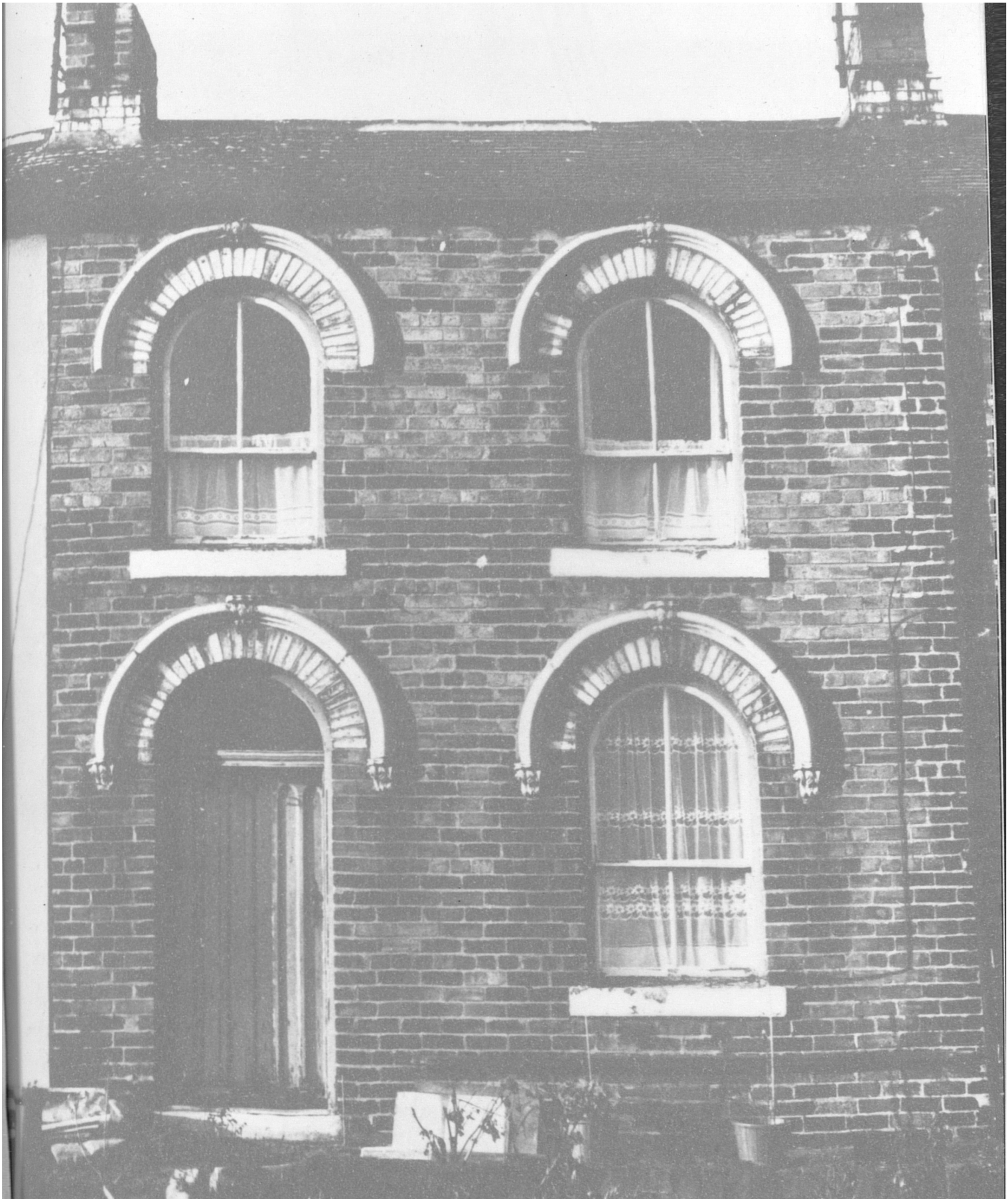
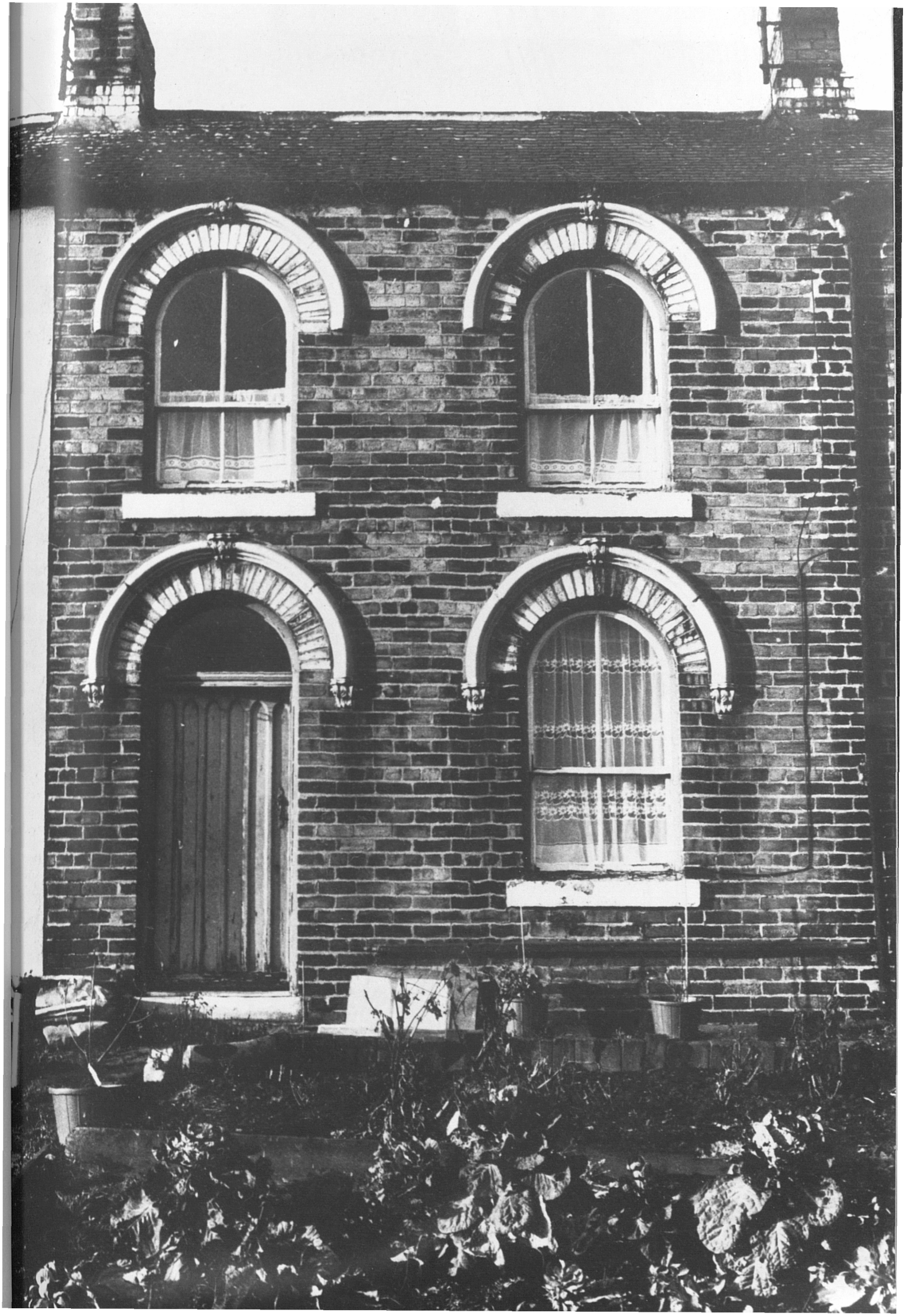
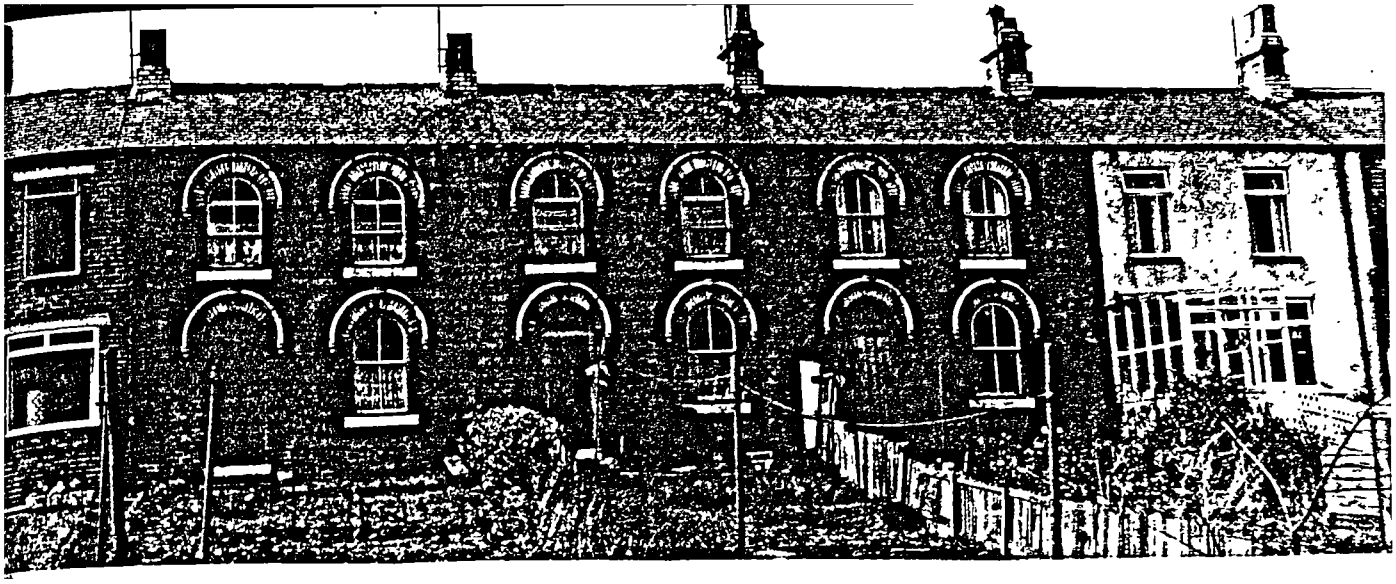


Plate 53 Railway Terrace, Willington
Cat slide roof cottage
Fine detailing of the front elevation
Photograph 1975

Roy Snaith. The Growth of Mining Communities in County Durham
Dissertation 1975

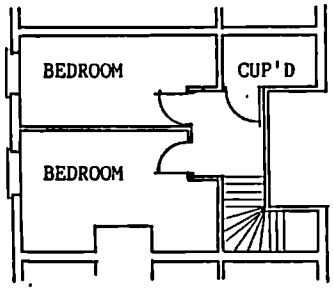




FRONT ELEVATION

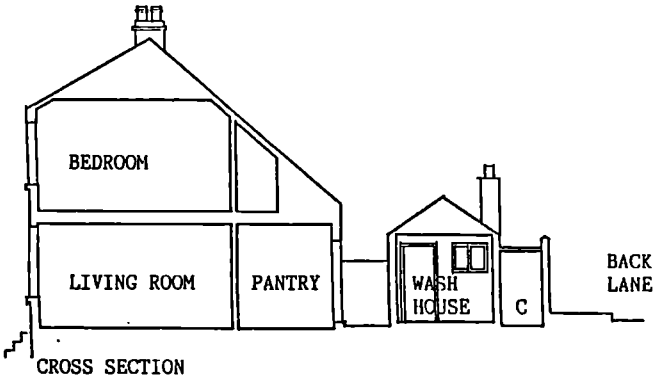


REAR ELEVATION



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Note the chimneys to the set pot in the wash house.



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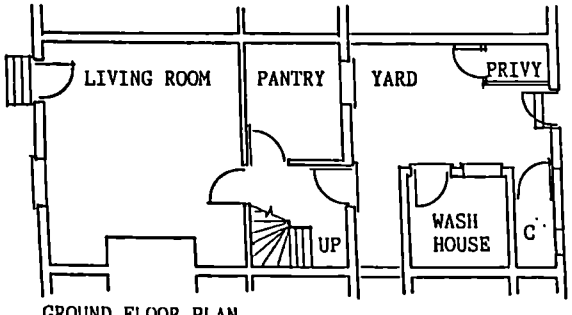
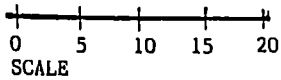


GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Figure 55 CATEGORY SIX FOUR ROOMED COTTAGE
CAT SLIDE ROOF COTTAGE

2 ground floor rooms
2 first floor rooms



RAILWAY TERRACE
WILLINGTON 1862
Map Reference NZ200354

From drawing and photograph by Roy Snaith
unpublished dissertation

Plate 54 Railway Terrace, Willington
Cat slide roof cottage
Note the variation in the front elevation
The single first floor window with gable
Photograph 1975

Roy Snaith. The Growth of Mining Communities in County Durham
Dissertation 1975



Plate 54 Railway Terrace, Willington
Cat slide roof cottage
Note the variation in the front elevation
The single first floor window with gable
Photograph 1975

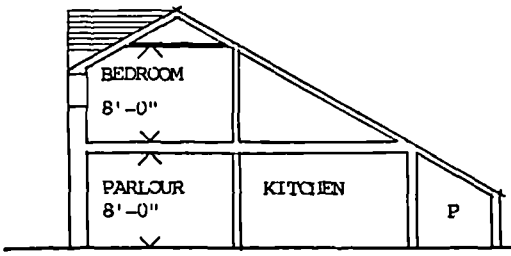
Roy Snaith. The Growth of Mining Communities in County Durham
Dissertation 1975



WOOLLEY TERRACE
STANLEY

The houses in Woolley Terrace, were built by Pease and Partners in 1865. The houses were constructed with stone walls at the front and brick walls at the rear in the form of the 'composed row'.[6] The report in the OCV article of 5.7.1873 described the houses as being built in blocks of about eighteen, each block being finished off with a transverse gable containing two single houses.[7] Many houses of this type were constructed by Pease and Partners. The front elevation had dormer windows with most of the window set below the eaves line. The dormers were gabled with barge boards. The window openings at ground and first floor level were lined with brick work in the stone wall. This suggests that some alterations may have taken place during the life of the property, Figure 56.

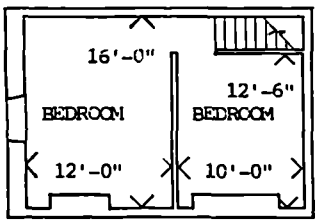
The plan of the houses at Woolley Terrace is very similar to those at Caroline Street, Figure 54. The cat slide roof here however is even longer than at Caroline Street as it extends from the ridge right down over the pantry to about 4' 0" above ground level. This very low eaves height on the rear elevation is also common to the region. At Woolley Terrace stone corbels were used on the gable walls to support the guttering.



CROSS SECTION



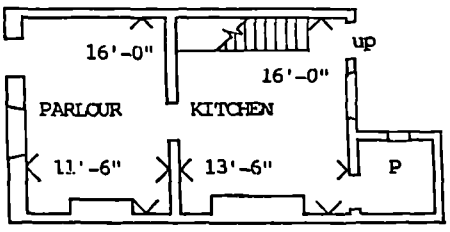
FRONT ELEVATION



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



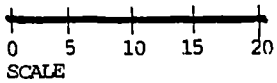
REAR ELEVATION
Note: the low eaves height of the cat slide roof



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Figure 56 CATEGORY SIX - FOUR ROOMED COTTAGE
CAT SLIDE ROOF COTTAGE

2 ground floor rooms
2 first floor rooms



WOOLEY TERRACE
MOUNT PLEASANT 1865
Map Reference NZ168387

From drawing at
Beamish Open Air Museum

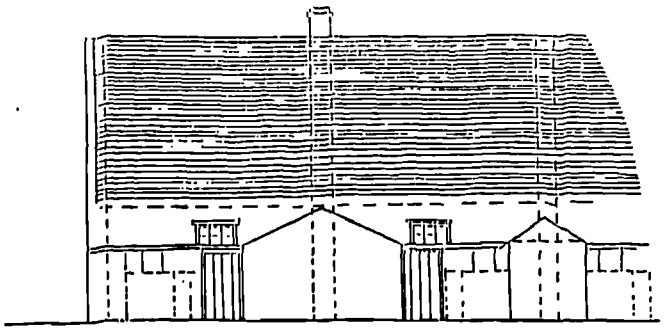
STAR GATE

The drawing for the cottages at Stargate was entitiled 'May 19 1873: Plan of improved cottages for Star Gate'. The term 'improved' was used to imply cottages providing a higher standard of living - not to suggest conversion of existing cottages. This reinforces the view that there was an increased awareness to improve standards.[8] The original drawing shows a very simple plan with two ground floor rooms and a staircase rising directly off the parlour, Figure 57. Upstairs there was one main bedroom where there was an almost full floor to ceiling height, and the back bedroom where the ceiling height reduced from a maximum height of 7'0" to nothing.

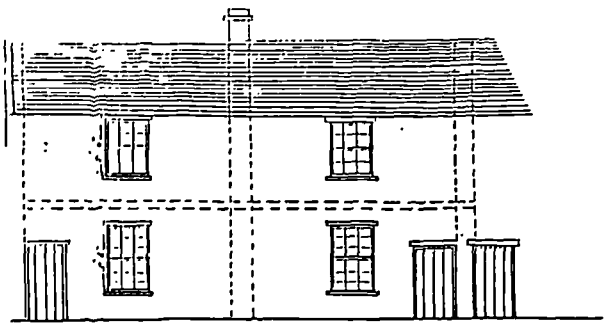
The houses were shown with enclosed back yards, a privy and an ash pit, a pantry and a coal house. Unlike some other examples the cat slide roof was not taken down over the pantry and coal house, but this offshoot had a separate roof, pitching in the opposite direction to the main roof.

The houses are shown with vertical sliding sash windows, and vertically *boarded main* doors. The drawings show considerable detail including the drains provision, and were therefore suitable for submission under the 1844 Health Act.

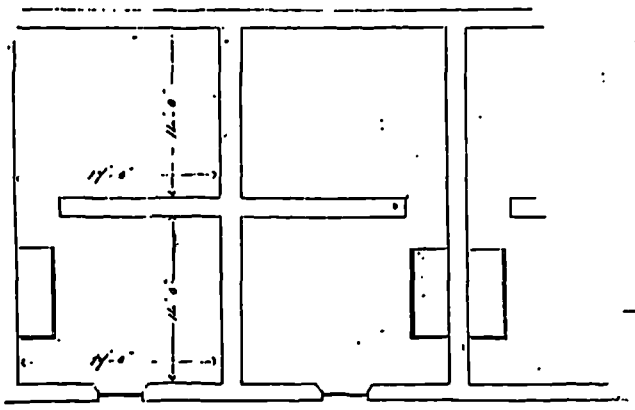
There were two types of cottages at StarGate Square. The three roomed dwellings decribed in Category Three are also 'cat slide roof' cottages but the cat slide roof slopes down to the front elevation.[9] The cat slide roof of the four roomed dwelling is the more common plan form. Star Gate square is still standing in 1987.



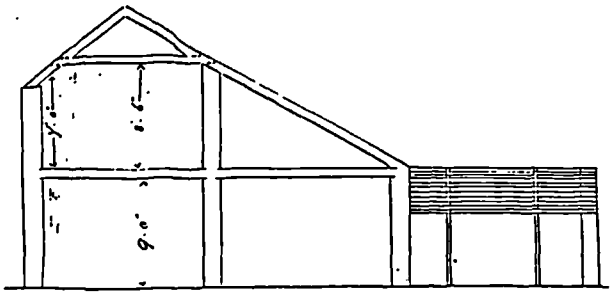
BACK ELEVATION



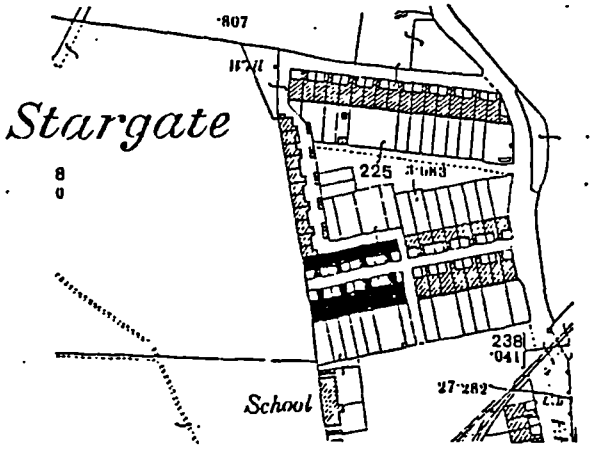
FRONT ELEVATION



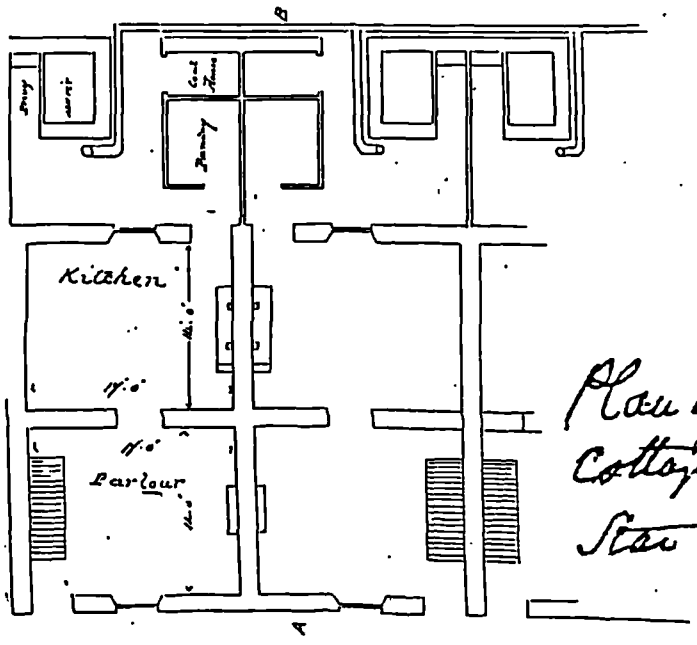
BED ROOM FLOOR



SECTION THROUGH A.B.



LOCATION 2nd Edition O.S. 1896



GROUND FLOOR

Plan of improved cottages at Stan Gate May 14. 1873.

Figure 57 CATEGORY SIX FOUR ROOMED COTTAGE
CAT SLIDE ROOF COTTAGE

2 ground floor rooms
2 first floor rooms

STARGATE 1873
Map Reference NZ 162633

Reconstruction of original drawing entitled
Plan of improved cottages at Stargate
Stella Coal Company Durham County Record Office

0 5 10 15 20 FEET
SCALE

NINTH ROW
ASHINGTON

A total of six hundred and seventy five houses had been built at Ashington Colliery by 1890. The Eighth, Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Rows were built in an assortment of two, three, four and five roomed houses,[10] Map 16. The Ninth Row was the only one to have five roomed houses, Figures 58 and 59. The first block had twenty nine four roomed dwellings, number one was made larger for the company's chief engineer and later subdivided into two houses 1 and 1A. The second block of Ninth Row had twenty seven, five roomed houses and the third block had five roomed houses. The four and five roomed cottages were basically the same but with a further sub-division of the roof space. The rear bedroom was entirely in the roof space and lit by a roof light. The cat slide roof extended down over the scullery as seen at Wooley Terrace.

11

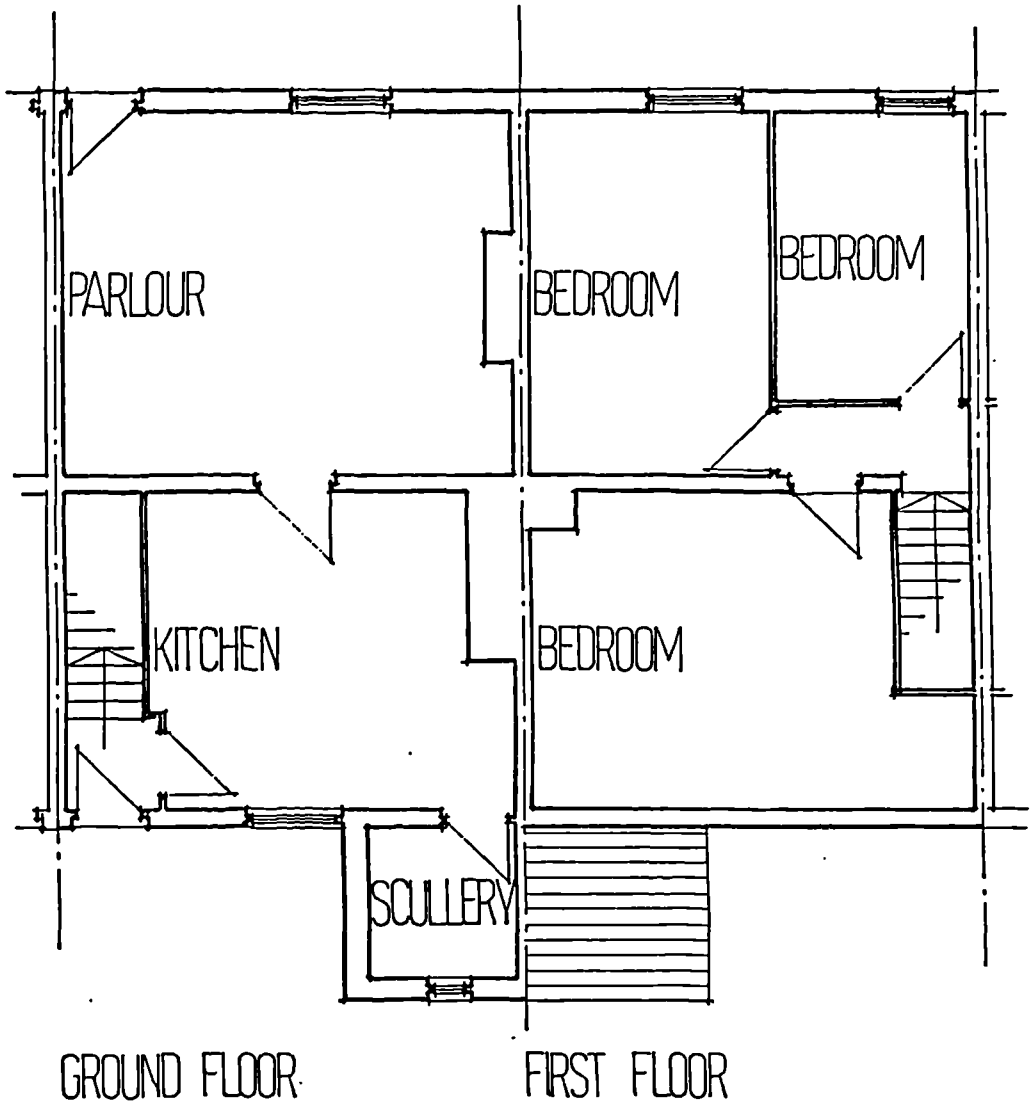


Figure 58 CATEGORY SIX FIVE ROOMED COTTAGE
CAT SLIDE ROOF COTTAGE

2 ground floor rooms
3 first floor rooms

NINTH ROW
ASHINGTON 1890
Map Reference NZ252879

R.B. Nichol Colliery Housing in Ashington and South East Northumberland 1848 - 1926 unpublished dissertation

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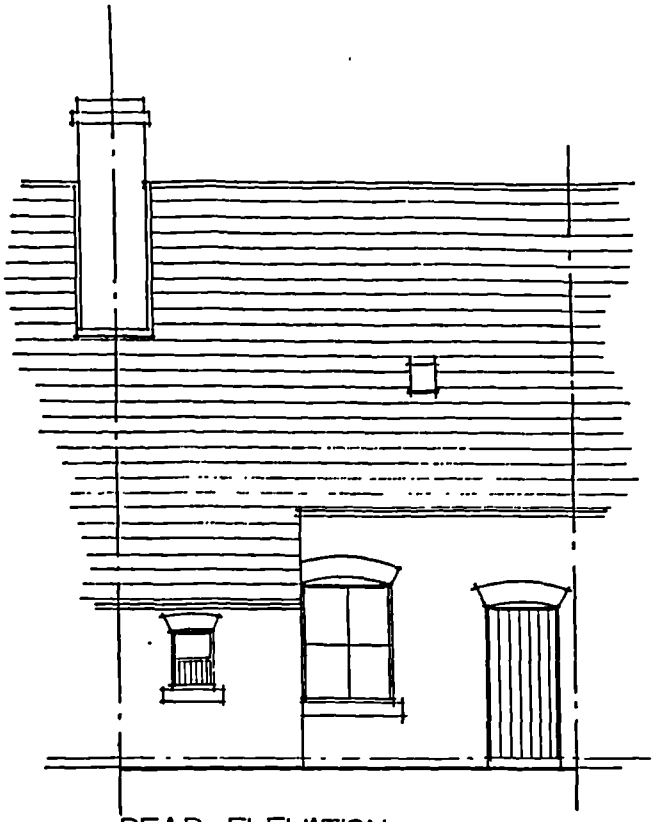
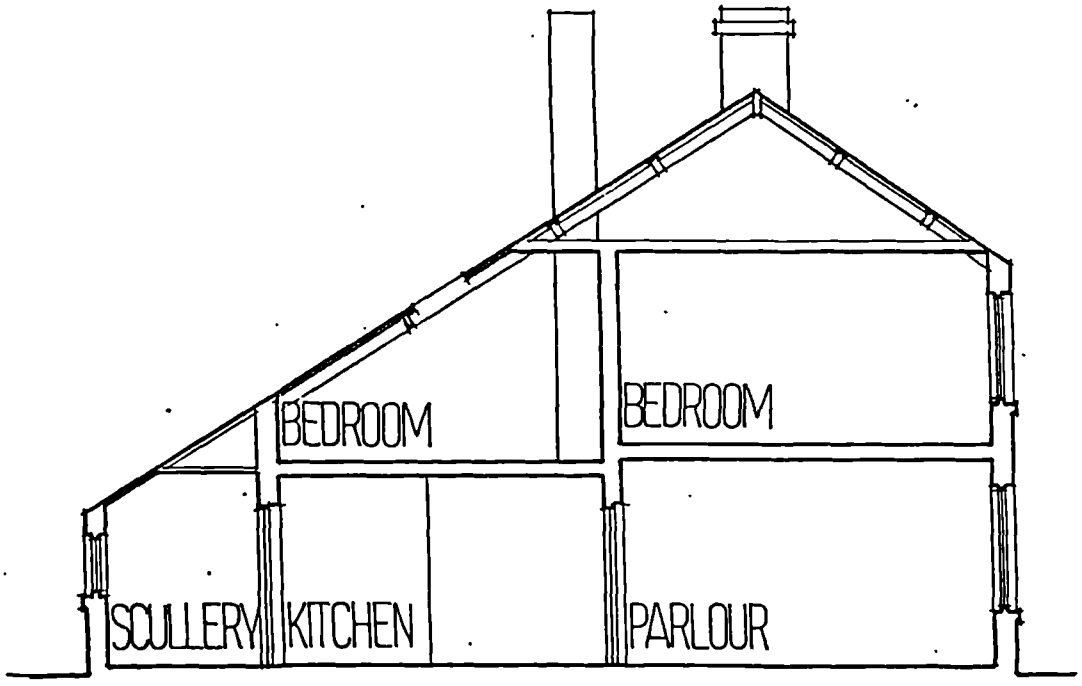
SCALE



REAR ELEVATION



SECTION

Figure 59 CATEGORY SIX FIVE ROOMED COTTAGE
CAT SLIDE ROOF COTTAGE

2 ground floor rooms
3 first floor rooms

NINTH ROW
ASHINGTON 1890
Map Reference NZ252879

R.B. Nichol Colliery Housing in Ashington and South East Northumberland 1848 - 1926 unpublished dissertation

0 5 10 FEET
SCALE

GLADSTONE TERRACE
SUNNISIDE

Further examples of four roomed dwellings falling within the category of the 'cat slide roof cottage' are those at Sunniside, Gladstone Terrace. These cottages have already been discussed in detail under single houses when the special end houses were the subject of study.
12

There is evidence of 'cat slide roof cottages' elsewhere on the Great Northern Coalfield at Hamsteels and Netherton to name two further examples. The derivation from the but and ben cottage has already been identified but it is interesting to note the variety of plan forms which also occurred and the combination of the themes within this category.

NEW ROW
OAKENSHAW

New Row, Oakenshaw provides an interesting example of one continuous row of sixty four cottages where the accommodation in the cottages alternates between a larger dwelling and a smaller dwelling. From the outside the dwellings appear to be identical, and the house frontage is the same, Plate 96. The variation in floor area occurs at first floor level where the plans interlock, Figure 60.

ACCOMMODATION TO LARGER COTTAGE (COTTAGE ONE ON DRAWING)	ACCOMMODATION TO SMALLER COTTAGE (COTTAGE TWO ON DRAWING)
GROUND FLOOR	GROUND FLOOR
hall	living room
living room	kitchen
kitchen	scullery
scullery	
FIRST FLOOR	FIRST FLOOR
2 bedrooms	2 bedrooms
2 attics	1 attic

This means that one attic bedroom is over the kitchen of the adjoining property. This kind of interlocking does occur in other cottages as at South View Mickley. In some instances at New Row Oakenshaw a partition divides the hall from the main living space, thus providing a more sophisticated arrangement of space. One can circulate through the house without walking through the main living area.

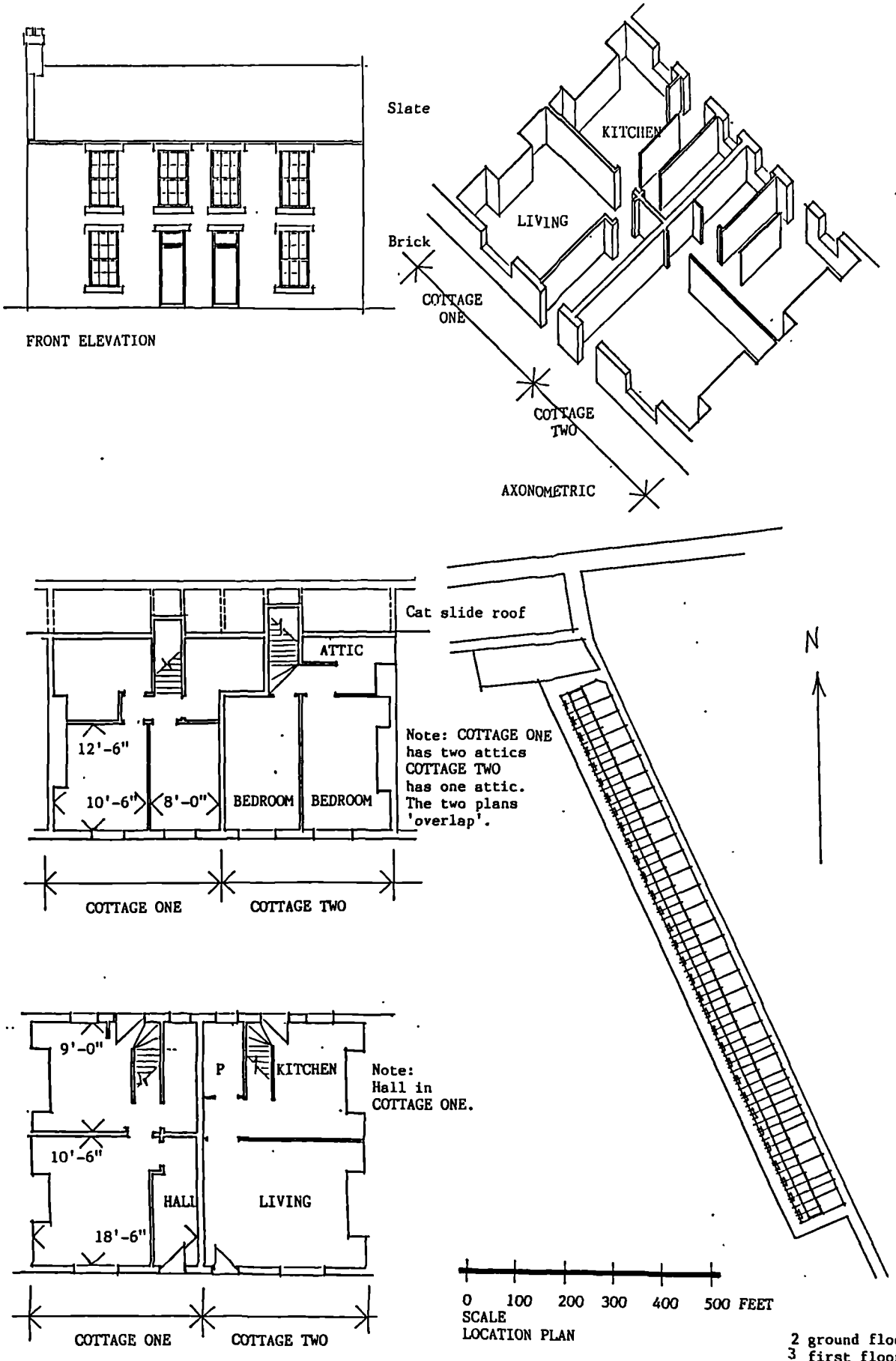


Figure 60 CATEGORY SIX - FOUR/FIVE ROOMED COTTAGE
CAT SLIDE ROOF INTERLOCKING COTTAGE

0 5 10 15 20 FEET
SCALE

NEW ROW
OAKENSHAW
Map Reference NZ200373

Authors own survey with assistance from
Alan Rebair

LONG AND CROSS ROW
FEL-EM-DOON
ASHINGTON

Included in this section are two rows of cottages which originated as back to backs and were converted into through cottages with a form of 'cat slide roof', Figure 61.

In 1848 the 'Fel-em-Doon' shaft was sunk and by 1858, in addition to the shaft, there was an engine house, smithy, a railway platform and two rows of cottages, the Long Row and the Cross Row.Map 16.
14
Cross Row was completed in 1857 and consisted of fourteen cottages. Long Row was completed a year later with sixty six cottages. The rows were built at right angles to each other. The local historians have interpreted this as an indication that the original idea was to continue Cross Row further north then complete a square formation with two more similar rows. The theory is that this did not occur
15
because the line of the railway ran to the north.

The cottages were originally back to back with a kitchen on the ground floor and an attic above. The kitchen was approximately 15'0" square with one window which provided little light. Ventilation was poor in all back to back houses as there was no possibility of through circulation of air. As in other examples the attic was reached by a ladder from the kitchen.

The cottages were constructed of red brick walls and a slate roof. The walls were carried up only 18" above first floor level and the original tiny window actually sat on the floor. There was no ceiling and from the underside the timber roof members and the underside of the roof slates were visible.
16

By 1852 forty two cottages of Long Row had been built and it was decided that the cottages were too small. A pantry off shoot was incorporated into the design and by 1859 pantries had been added to the forty two cottages originally built without.

Before 1860 the only service available was a cold water supply pumped from the pit and piped to a single tap behind the rows. The whole village at this time shared six privies and ash-pits, the latter were scavenged by the company and the contents removed by horse and cart. There were no made-up roads or pavements at this time.[17]

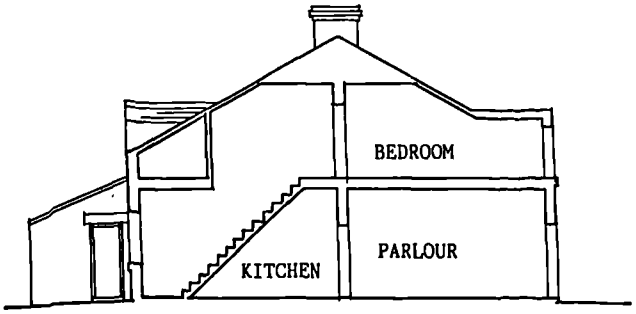
In 1873 Cross Row was extended to the north with the addition of fourteen similar back to back houses and to the south with a larger house intended for use as a school. This building had several uses including a shop and a bakery, before being converted finally into two houses.

By 1844 a lease had been acquired for the piece of land to the east of the 'Old Colliery' known as 'Hirst Land' Seventh Row was built. To the south of Seventh Row a short terrace of six stone houses was built for the sinkers working on the Duke shaft. These houses were of similar design to the Cross and Long Rows but not built back to back. As these rows were built some of the occupants of the Long and Cross Rows were transferred into them. With the population of the two original rows reduced,[18] each pair of back to back cottages was knocked through to form four-roomed houses. Each house had the pantry on the front side of the terrace removed and the original ladder access to the first floor replaced with a proper staircase.

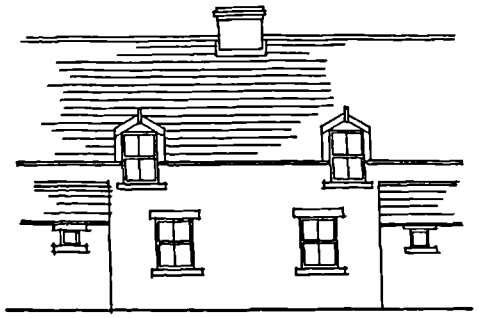
The attics were lined to provide habitable bedrooms and an area of the roof above the 18" high window was removed in every cottage to facilitate the installation of dormer windows, Plates 55 and 56.[19]

The two rows of cottages built as back to backs in 1852 were converted in about 1884 and were finally demolished in 1972. It is clear that additions had been made to the cottages, porches to the front and extensions between the pantry off shoots to the rear. Of particular interest was the double house at the south end of Cross Row. This was altered for the Pattinson family who ran the brakes and the traps to Longhirst Station. Stables surrounded this house for the horses and the tank was installed to provide water for the horses.

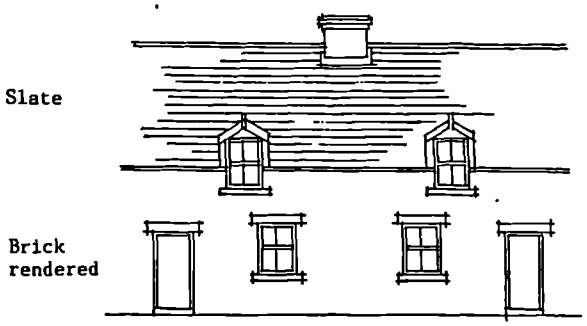
The rows of cottages in Ashington, were well spaced from each other with their own parallel rows of facilities and all being serviced by a narrow gauge tram line system. Ashington often referred to as the largest village, had a system to cope with its large population.[20]



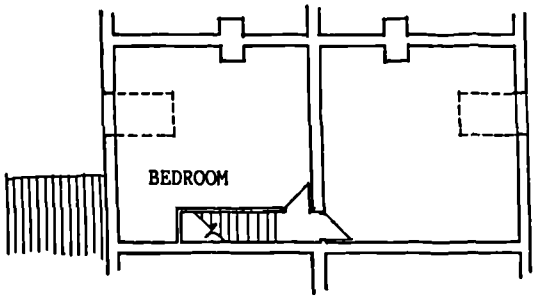
SECTION



REAR ELEVATION



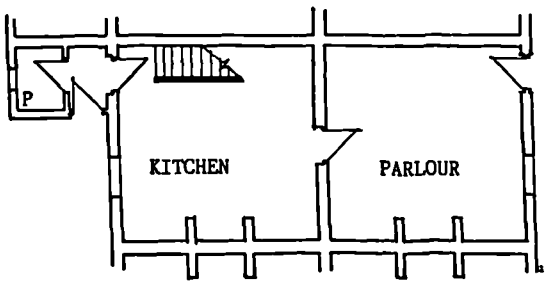
FRONT ELEVATION



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



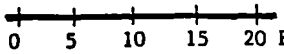
THE BACKS OF LONG ROW ASHINGTON
1972 DEMOLITION IN PROGRESS



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Figure 61

CATEGORY THREE TWO ROOMED COTTAGE 1 ground floor room
1 first floor room
BACK TO BACK converted to
CATEGORY SIX FOUR ROOMED COTTAGE 2 ground floor rooms
2 first floor rooms
CAT SLIDE ROOF COTTAGE



SCALE

LONG AND CROSS ROW
FEL-EM-DOON ASHINGTON 1852 converted 1884
Map Reference NZ252879

From photographs and conversations with
Steve Martin retired miner

Plate 55 Cross Row and the end of Long Row
Fel-em-Doon, Ashington
Photograph 1969

National Coal Board

Plate 56 Front of Long Row looking east
Fel-em-Doon, Ashington
Photograph 1969

National Coal Board



Plate 55 Cross Row and the end of Long Row
Fel-em-Doon, Ashington
Photograph 1969

National Coal Board

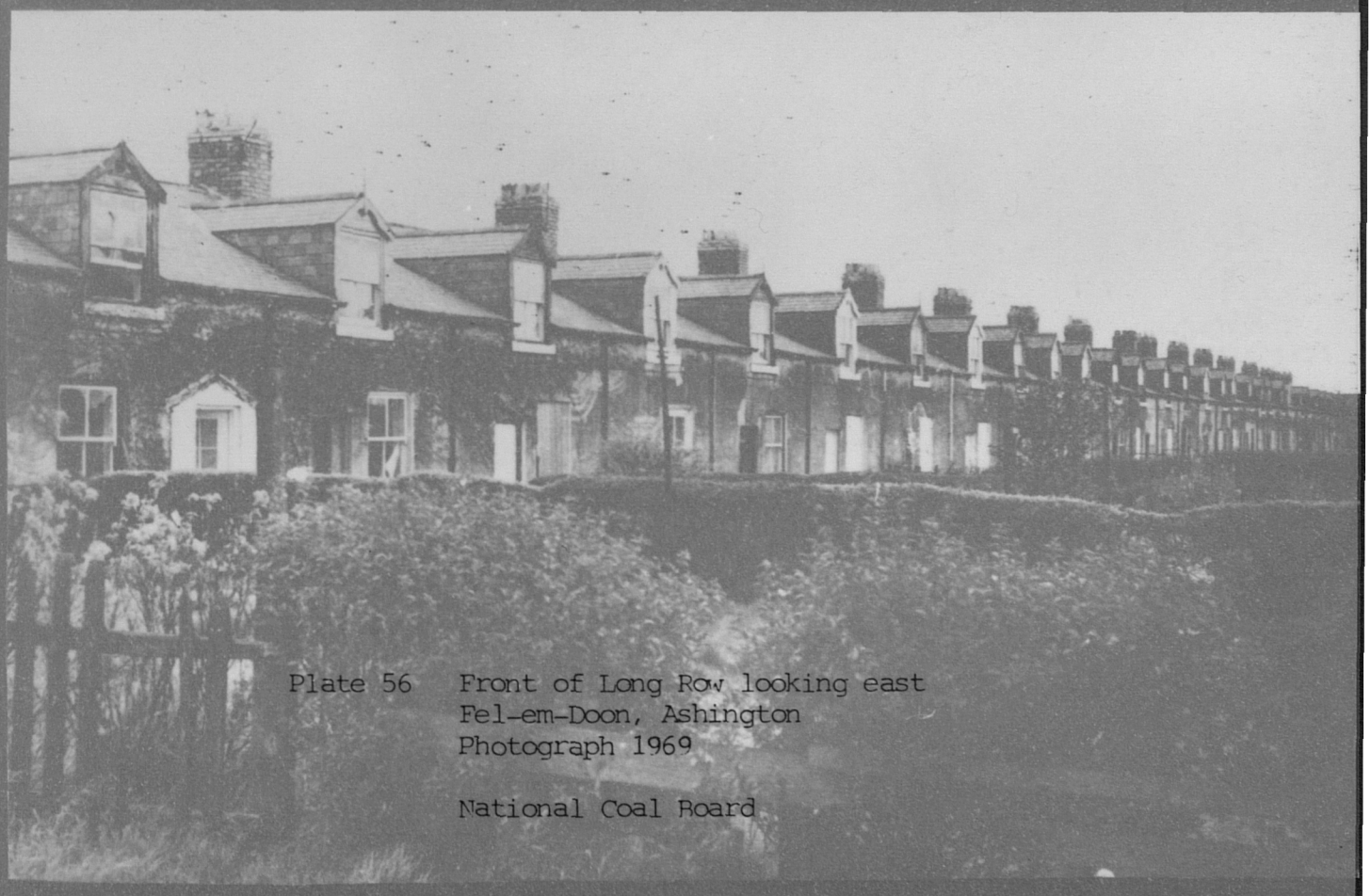


Plate 56 Front of Long Row looking east
Fel-em-Doon, Ashington
Photograph 1969

National Coal Board


LONG R W



THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
COTTAGE TYPE
CATEGORY SIX - FOUR/FIVE ROOMED COTTAGE 2 ground floor rooms
2+ first floor rooms

DOUBLE HOUSE

The earliest four roomed dwellings appear to demonstrate an extension of the attic room in the roof principle . After about 1890, however the larger dwellings built were constructed with full height rooms to front and rear. A far wider range of evidence is available of this generally more recent type of dwelling and only [illegible] examples have been selected to illustrate specific points.

The definitive element in the plan of a 'double house' is the staircase. It is in the positioning of the staircase that the main plan variations occur. The staircase has been used as the key element in the analysis of plan form. The first group to be studied is identified when the staircase rises directly from the front door. Four examples of cottages have been selected to illustrate this category, the earliest example being the cottages at Fife Terrace at Blackhall Mill. Third Row, Fourth Row and Fifth Row Ashington serve to illustrate how common this particular form of housing was. The cottages at Bomarsund built by the Bedlington Coal Company have been included as they show an excellent example of an original drawing of the period. The Leases, Throckley are typical of houses built towards the close of the study period. As a variation of this theme, [illegible], the cottages at South View Mickley, have been used to illustrate the plan form when the staircase still rises from the front of the property but on the opposite side of the room to the front door.

In the second group the staircase is identified as rising from the rear of the property. There are two variations on this theme, either the staircase rises from a lobby in conjunction with the

rear 'off shoot' as is the case at Whittonstall Terrace, Chopwell and Institute Street, Oakenshaw; or from the opposite side of the kitchen as in the case of the houses at Laburnam Street and Maple Street, Ashington; Mersey Terrace, Hirst and the cottages at Cornsay Colliery. The houses at Ellington for the Ashington Coal Company, are also included as a good example of original drawings of the period.

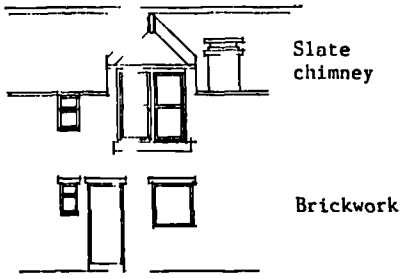
In some cottages the stair rises from the centre of the house. This is particularly so in the larger dwellings as it provides an economical circulation pattern. This is illustrated by reference to the house plans of Leasingthorn and New Hartley.

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
COTTAGE TYPE
CATEGORY SIX - FOUR/FIVE ROOMED COTTAGES 2 ground floor rooms
2 + first floor rooms

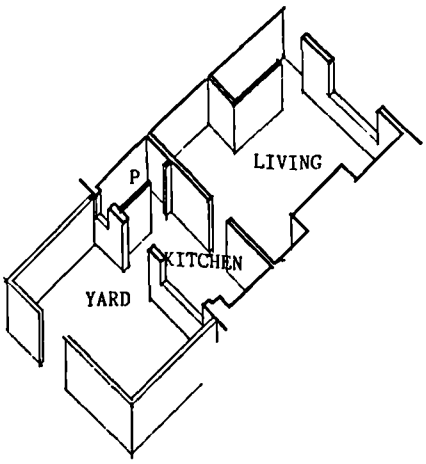
DOUBLE HOUSE
STAIRCASE RISING FROM THE FRONT OF THE DWELLING
FIFE TERRACE, BLACKHALL MILL
THIRD ROW, FOURTH ROW AND FIFTH ROW, ASHINGTON
COTTAGES BUILT AT BOMARSUND BY THE BEDLINGTON COAL COMPANY
THE LEASES, THROCKLEY
SOUTH VIEW, MICKLEY

FIFE TERRACE
BLACKHALL MILL

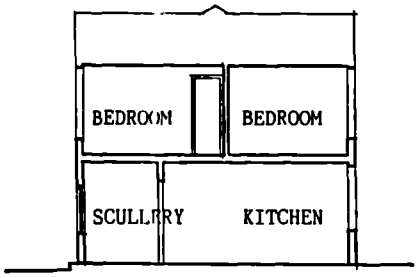
The form of these dwellings is clearly derived from earlier examples with attic rooms. The cottages at Fife Terrace illustrate the theme of a double house with the staircase rising from the front of the property, Figure 62. The front door opens to a lobby providing access to the foot of the stair and a door leading to the main living room. In terms of circulation patterns this meant that to pass from the kitchen to the upstairs bedrooms one had to cross the living room. However the hall/staircase area did act as a draught lobby, in that every time the front door was opened and closed the warm air in the main living spaces was still contained. The lobby also provides a degree of privacy in that one can enter the dwelling from the street without immediately passing into the main living room. At the top of the stair is a landing with individual doors leading to each of the bedrooms.



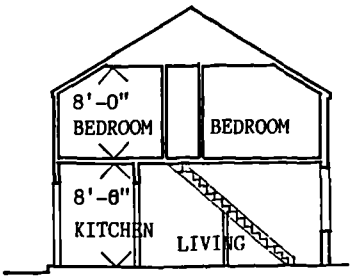
FRONT ELEVATION



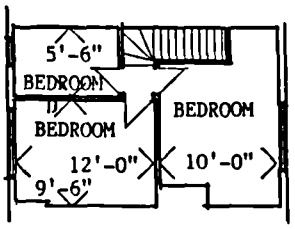
AXONOMETRIC



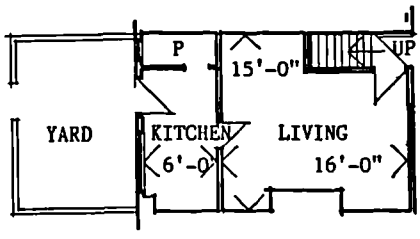
CROSS SECTION



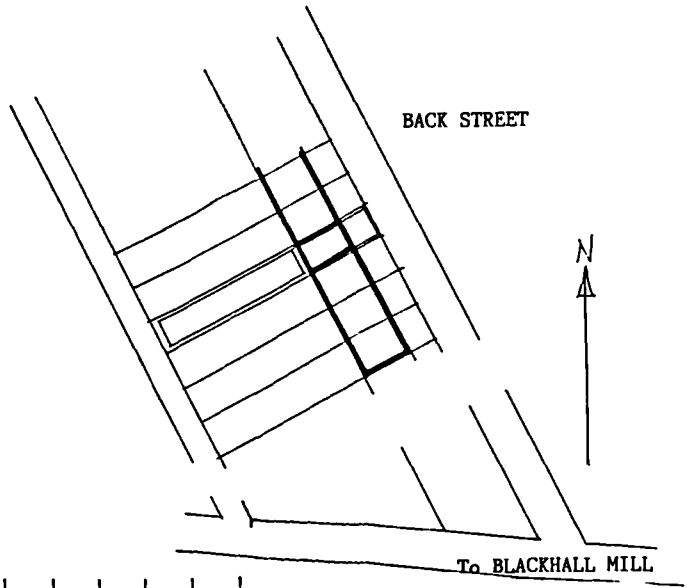
CROSS SECTION



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

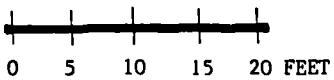


0 20 40 60 80 100 FEET
SCALE

LOCATION PLAN

Figure 62 CATEGORY SIX FIVE ROOMED COTTAGE DOUBLE HOUSE

2 ground floor rooms
3 first floor rooms



0 5 10 15 20 FEET
SCALE

22 FIFE TERRACE
BLACKHALL MILL
Map Reference NZ 115569

Authors own survey with assistance
from Alan Pebair

THIRD ROW, FOURTH ROW AND FIFTH ROW
ASHINGTON

In Ashington many houses were built to the double house pattern, Figure 63. Third Row, was made up of three terraces, one of which had twenty four, four roomed dwellings, another thirteen three roomed houses and the last was a composite terrace of eleven, three roomed and ten four roomed houses, Map 16. These four roomed dwellings were the same basic design as those with three rooms, but with a kitchen built on to the rear. In addition, the terrace of twenty four had pantries behind the kitchen. Fourth and Fifth Rows were also made up of terraces of three and four roomed dwellings and the Sixth Row was entirely of four roomed houses.[21]

The single terrace of twenty two houses in Sixth Row was unique in Ashington in that they were built in concrete. These cottages are examined when considering the materials and method of construction. Although the First and Second rows at Ashington were built in the white colliery bricks all the subsequent brick building was in red bricks.

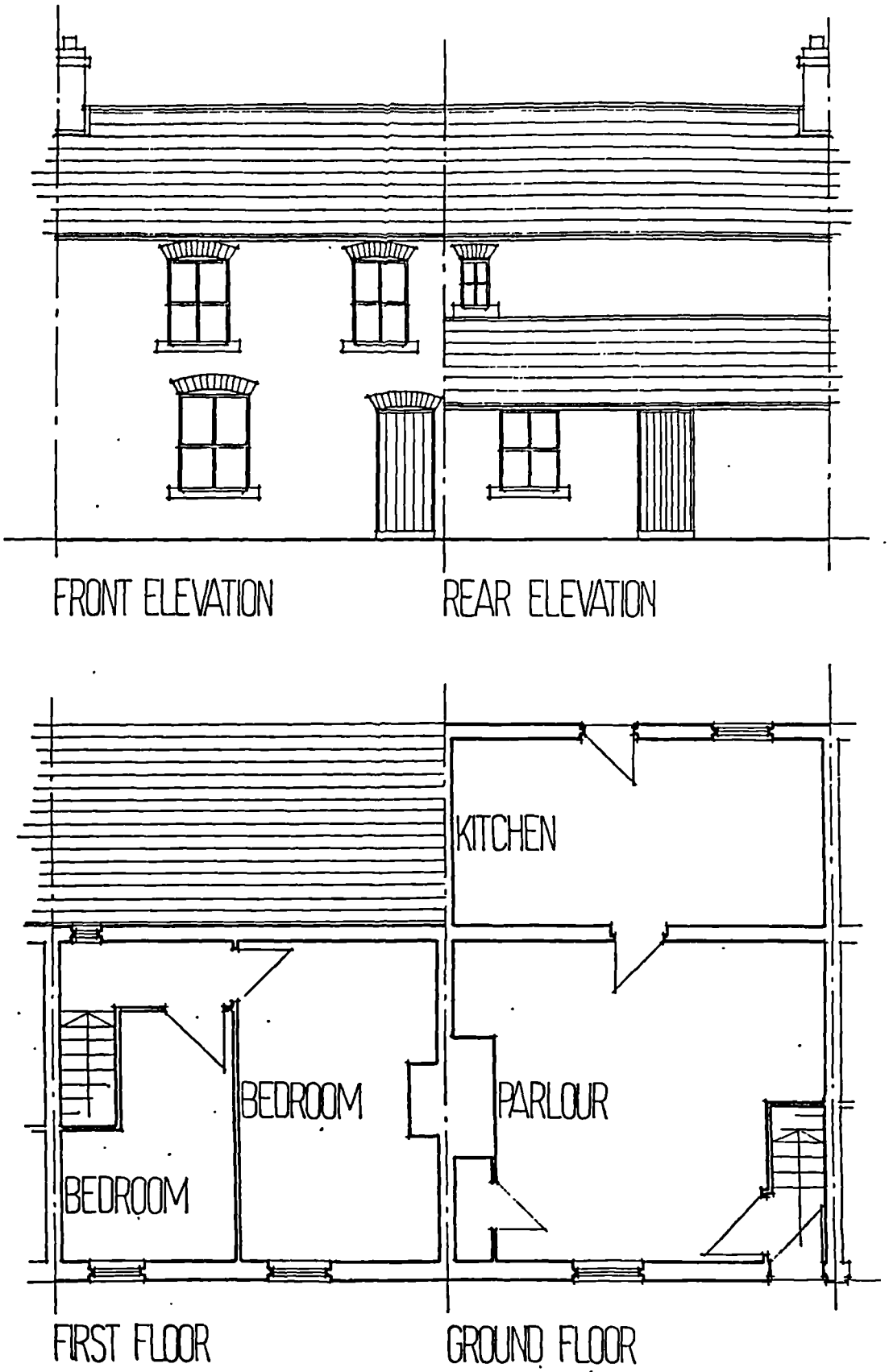


Figure 63 CATEGORY SIX FOUR ROOMED COTTAGE DOUBLE HOUSE

2 ground floor rooms
2 first floor rooms

THIRD ROW FOURTH ROW AND FIFTH ROW
ASHINGTON 1870
Map Reference NZ252879

R.B. Nichol Colliery Housing in Ashington and South East Northumberland unpublished dissertation

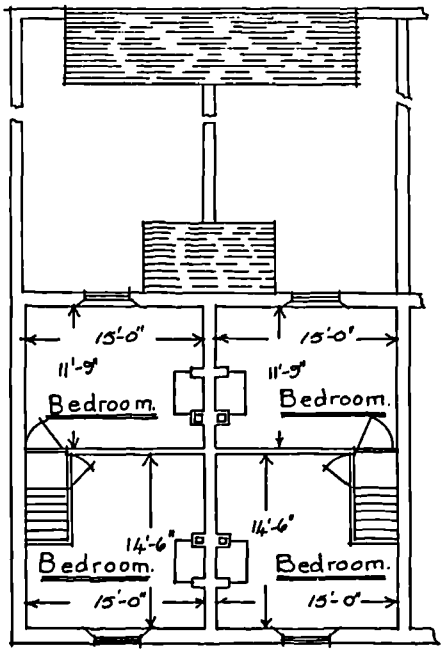
0 5 10 FEET
SCALE

BOMARSUND

The orginal drawing extitled 'cottages built at Bomarsund by the Bedlington Coal company' was undated, but it clearly shows the level of detail provided for the construction of a dwelling of this type, Figure 64.

The drawings are dimensioned and the section shows the structure, damproof course and foundations. The roof structure, details the sizes of the timbers, which appear to be satisfactory in design terms. What is not clear is the centres used for the spacing of the roof truss. Drainage provision is indicated with a 4" drain pipe leading to a main sewer for waste water disposal. The privy situated in the back yard shares its ash pit with the neighbouring property.

The details of the front wall,palisading and gate express the general care in attention to detail design. This is also expressed in the treatment of the elevations with windows shown with one third two thirds one third glazing pattern. Recognition of the significance of the front door is shown by the use of a panel door, while the back door is a boarded door.



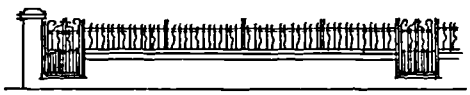
First Floor Plan.



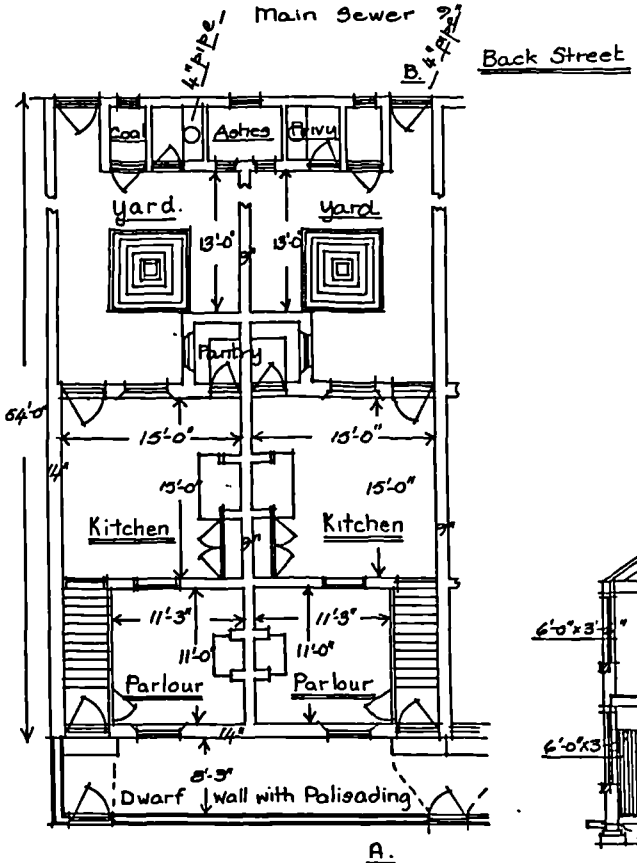
Back Elevation.



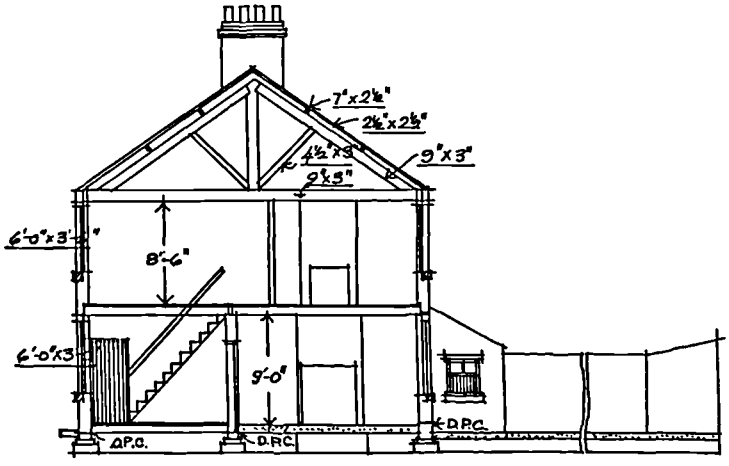
Front Elevation.



Palisading



Ground Plan



Section on Line A.B

Figure 64 CATEGORY SIX FOUR ROOMED COTTAGE DOUBLE HOUSE

2 ground floor rooms
2 first floor rooms

BOMARSUND
Map Reference NZ 270845

Authors reconstruction of original drawing entitled 'Plan of Cottages proposed to be built at Bomarsund by the Bedlington Coal Co. Ltd.
Source Steve Martin (retired miner)

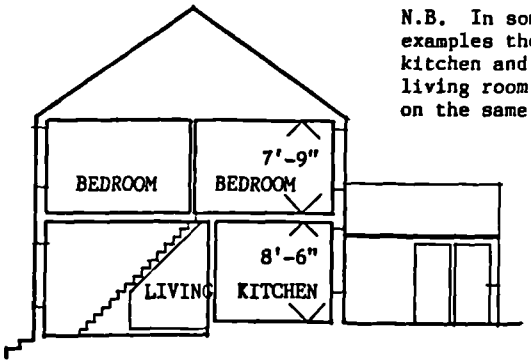
0 5 10 15 20 FEET
SCALE

THE LEASES
THROCKLEY

Situated on the north bank of the Tyne, near Throckley and yet totally isolated from the village were two rows of cottages,The Leases, Figure 65.Planned as though in an urban situation the two rows are compactly placed back to back. They are of the 'composed row' type with the gables at each end of the row turned through 90°. These cottages are a further variation on the theme of the double house, with the staircase rising from the front of the dwelling. The fenestration of the rear elevation is of a different disposition to that of the previous example. The Leases were renovated in the early 1980s.



FRONT ELEVATION

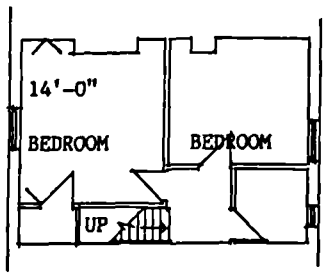


SECTION

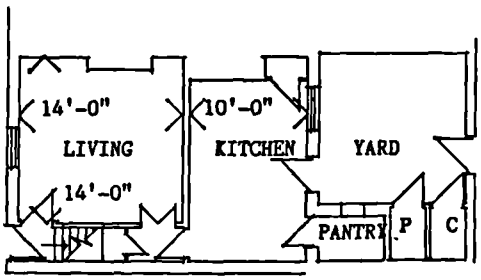
N.B. In some examples the kitchen and the living room are on the same level.



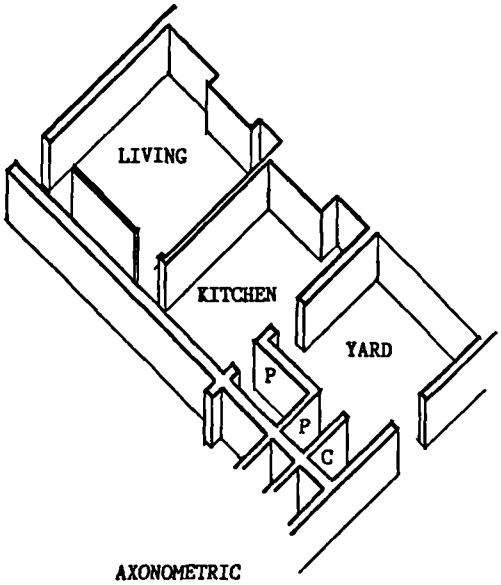
REAR ELEVATION



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

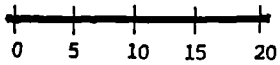


AXONOMETRIC

Figure 65 CATEGORY SIX FOUR ROOMED COTTAGE DOUBLE HOUSE

2 ground floor rooms
2 first floor rooms

THE LEAZES
THROCKLEY
Map Reference NZ155662



Authors own survey with assistance from Alan Rebair

SOUTH VIEW
MICKLEY

South View Mickley illustrates a double house which has been adapted over the years to provide an increase in the area of accommodation, Figure 66. Some cottages were built with an interlocking plan form so they provided variety in the size of accommodation, others were adapted to increase the area.

22

South View, Mickley would originally have been a two up two down cottage. Three cottages have been combined to provide two dwellings. The cottage in Figure 66 has the equivalent of two ground floor areas and one first floor. The adjoining property has one ground floor area and two first floor areas. The staircase has been removed from what was the middle cottage, and it now rises from the front of the dwelling but not adjacent to the front door.

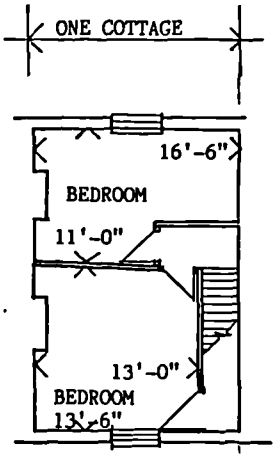
Re-surfacing of the back lanes serving these cottages was carried out in the early 1980's, contributing to the general improvements of amenities in the area.



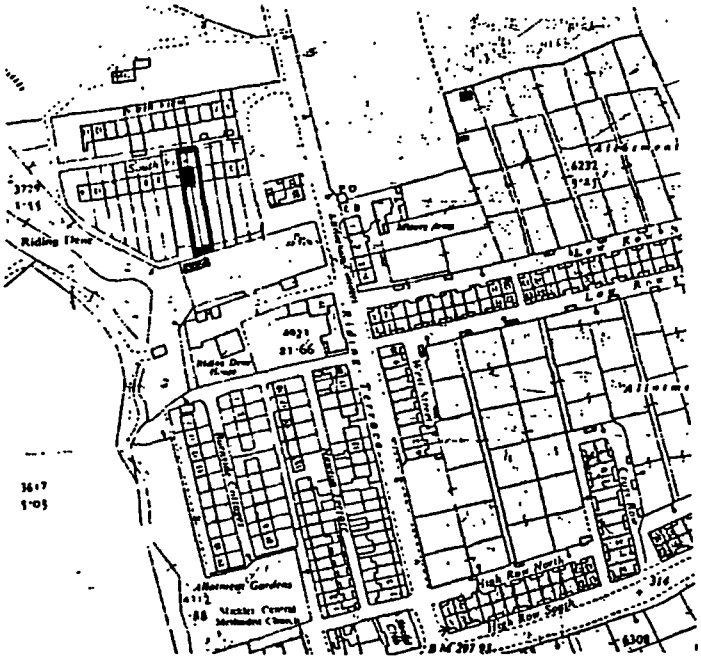
FRONT ELEVATION

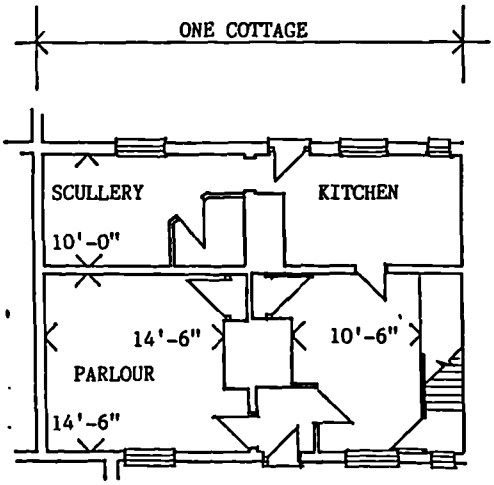


REAR ELEVATION

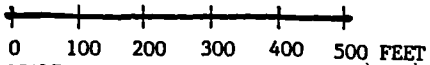


FIRST FLOOR PLAN





GROUND FLOOR PLAN

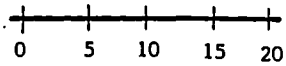


SITE PLAN

Figure 66 CATEGORY SIX FOUR/SIX ROOMED COTTAGE
DOUBLE HOUSE/INTERLOCKING

4 ground floor rooms
2 first floor rooms

SOUTH VIEW, MICKLEY
Map Reference NZ 074624



Authors own survey with assistance
from Alan Rebair

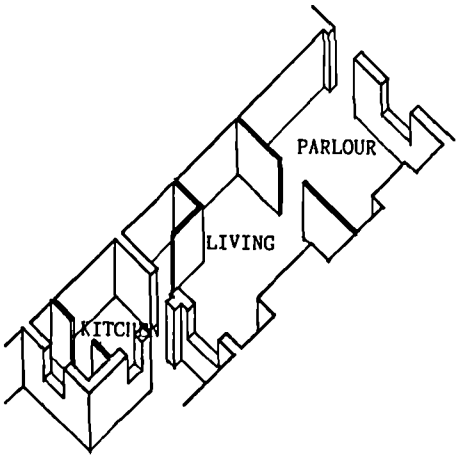
THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
COTTAGE TYPE
CATEGORY SIX - FOUR/FIVE ROOMED COTTAGES 2 ground floor rooms
2 + first floor rooms

DOUBLE HOUSE
STAIRCASE RISING FROM THE REAR OF THE DWELLING
IN CONJUNCTION WITH REAR OFF-SHOOT
WHITTONSTALL TERRACE, CHOPWELL
INSTITUTE STREET, OAKENSHAW
LEASINGTHORNE

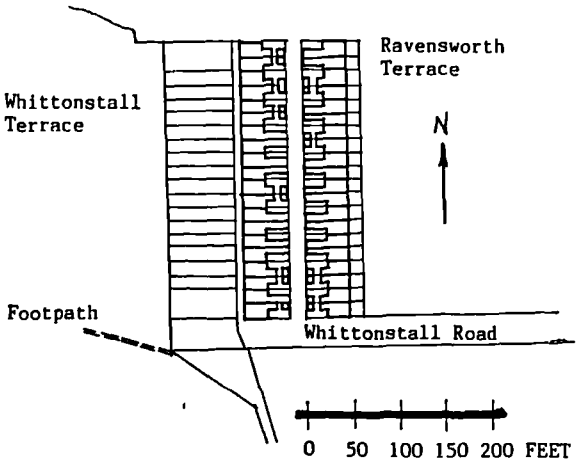
WHITTONSTALL
CHOPWELL

Built in 1907 seven streets collectively known as 'Whittonstall' and all named after local farms were built at the western extremity of Chopwell, Figure 67. These cottages were larger than the 1895 cottages of Wear Street, Tyne Street and Tees Street; Whittonstall was built to accommodate an expanding workforce.
23

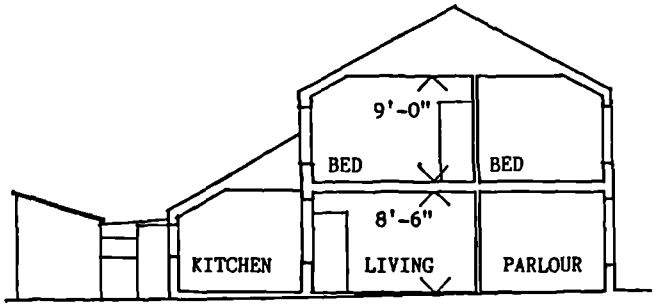
The dwellings had the double house plan form of two ground floor rooms, and two first floor rooms with the staircase rising from the rear of the property. The bedrooms had sloping back ceilings. The roof to the rear off shoot was of the cat slide roof type, with a break between the main roof and the lean too. The staircase rose in conjunction with the rear off shoot but unlike the cottages where the staircase rose from the front of the dwelling, here there was no enclosing lobby for protection from draughts and cold air. This was reflected in the fact that at the front of the house access from the street was directly into the main living room. Access to the bedrooms necessitated circulation through the entire house.



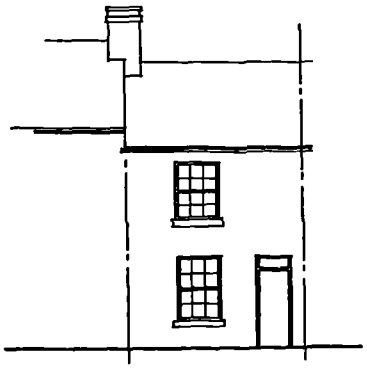
AXONOMETRIC



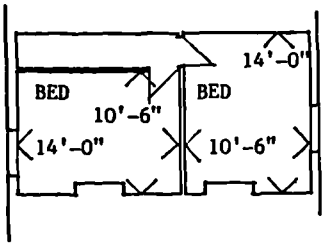
SCALE
LOCATION



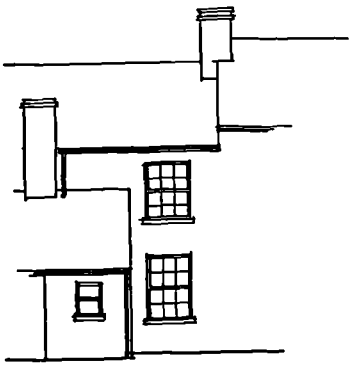
CROSS SECTION



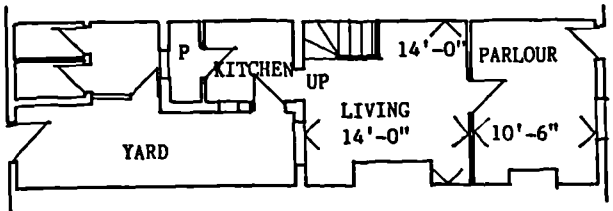
FRONT ELEVATION



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



REAR ELEVATION



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Figure 67 CATEGORY SIX FOUR ROOMED COTTAGE DOUBLE HOUSE

2 ground floor rooms
2 first floor rooms

WHITTONSTALL TERRACE
CHOPWELL 1907
Map Reference NZ 114584

Authors own survey with assistance from Alan Rebair

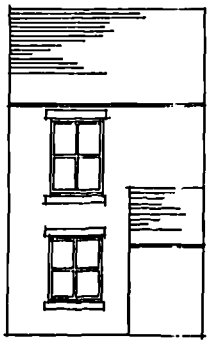


SCALE

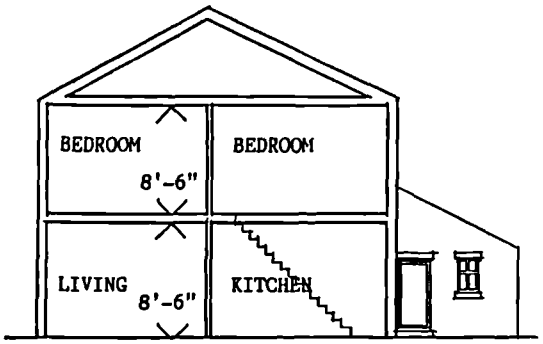
INSTITUTE STREET
OAKENSHAW

Forming a visual continuation of the sixty four dwellings in New Row, Figure 60, Plate 95, Institute Street is a shorter terrace of four roomed dwellings, Figure 68. The plan form is very similar to the cottages at Chopwell but there are indications of sophistication.

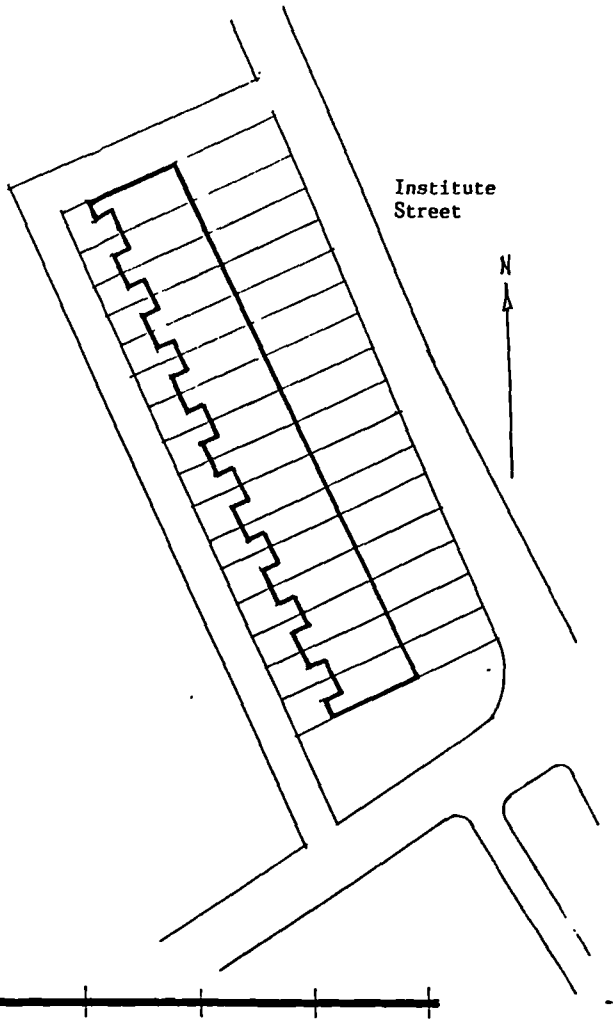
Examination of the section reveals a development to full height rooms at first floor level and in plan form there is the suggestion of screening at the foot of the stair. This was probably in response to requirements associated with privacy and the need to be able to enter and leave the property without subjecting its occupants to direct exposure of the cold air from outside.



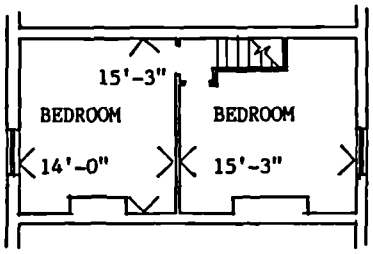
REAR ELEVATION



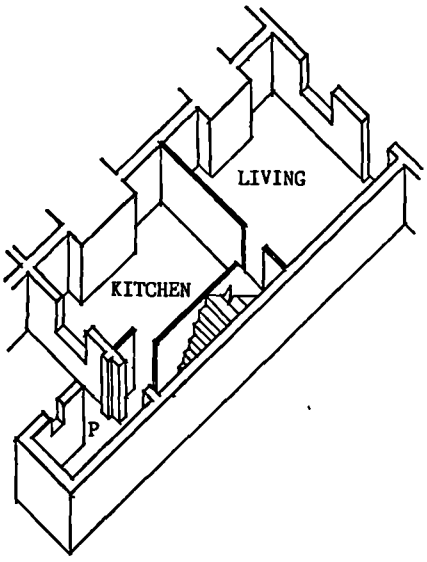
CROSS SECTION



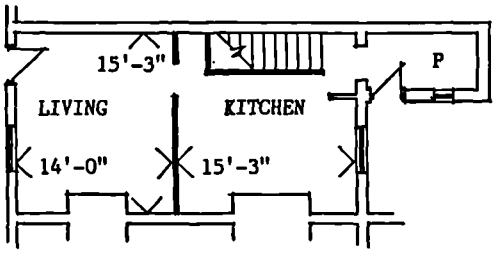
LOCATION PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



AXONOMETRIC



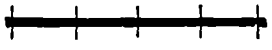
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Figure 68 CATEGORY SIX - FOUR ROOMED COTTAGE
DOUBLE HOUSE

2 ground floor rooms
2/3 first floor rooms

INSTITUTE STREET
OAKENSHAW
Map Reference NZ202370

Authors own survey with assistance
from Alan Rebair



TYPE 'C'
LEASINGTHORNE

Bearing a strong resemblance to the previous two examples are the houses at Leasingthorne. The drawings are included in their original format, Figures 69, 70 and 71. These houses appear to be constructed in a different way to the houses built by the Bedlington Coal Company.[25] This constructional difference is not necessarily surprising because although both fall within the category of cottages of the Great Northern Coalfield the Leasingthorne cottages are some thirty five to forty, miles due south of Bomarsund.

The cottages at Leasingthorne appear to be constructed without roof trusses. Cross walls between the dwellings would have been carried up into the roofspace. Purlins shown as 11"×3" fairly substantial pieces of timber, spanned from one cross wall to the next. The rafters 3½" x 2½" then spanned from purlin to purlin. In some respects this was a superior method of construction, as it meant that walls penetrated up into the roof space between dwellings, and so reduced the risk of the spread of fire from one dwelling to the next.

Also important to note these drawings clearly show the inclusion of a water closet. The use of the word 'privy' has disappeared from the drawing, as has the extra cubicle, the ash pit.

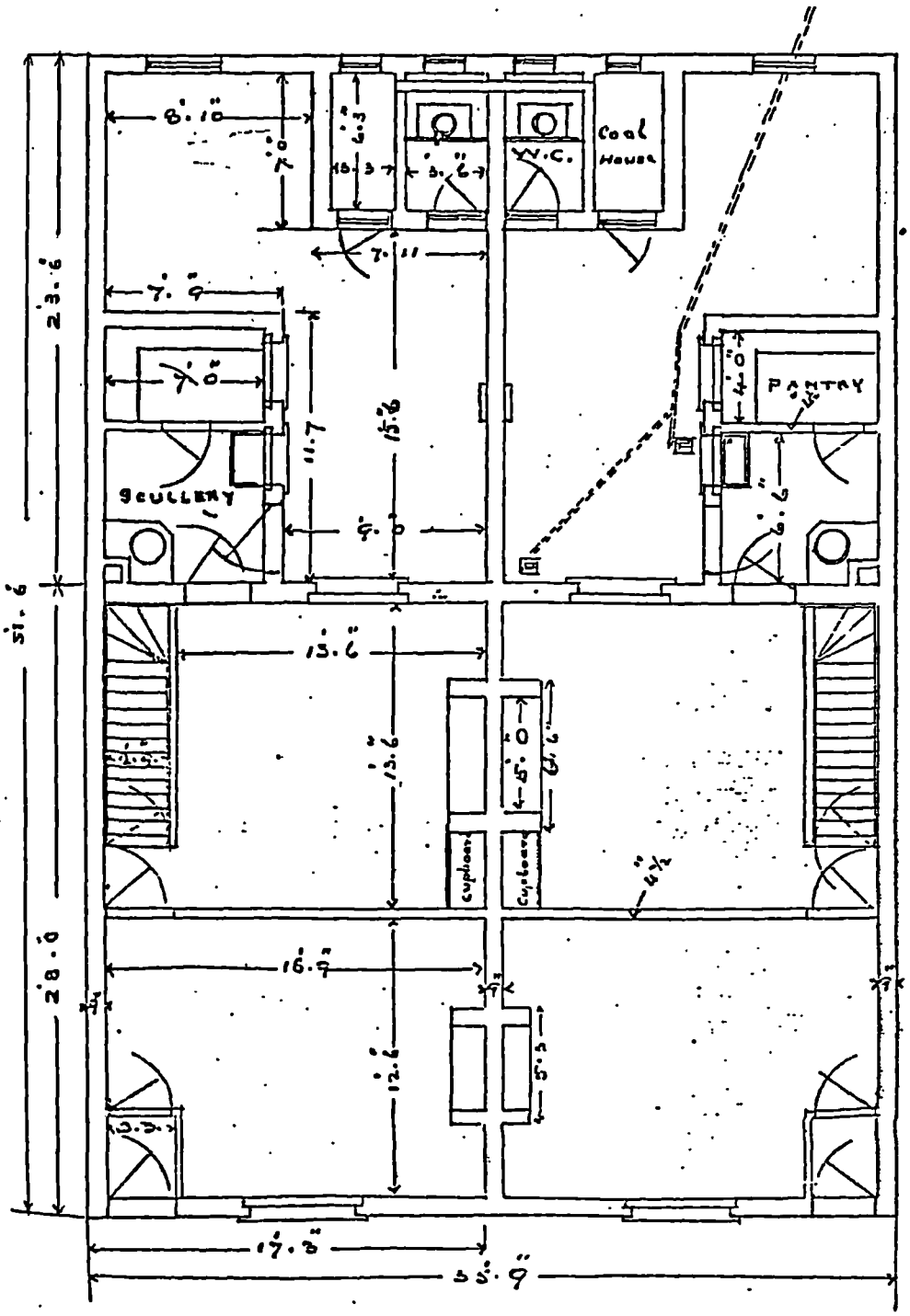


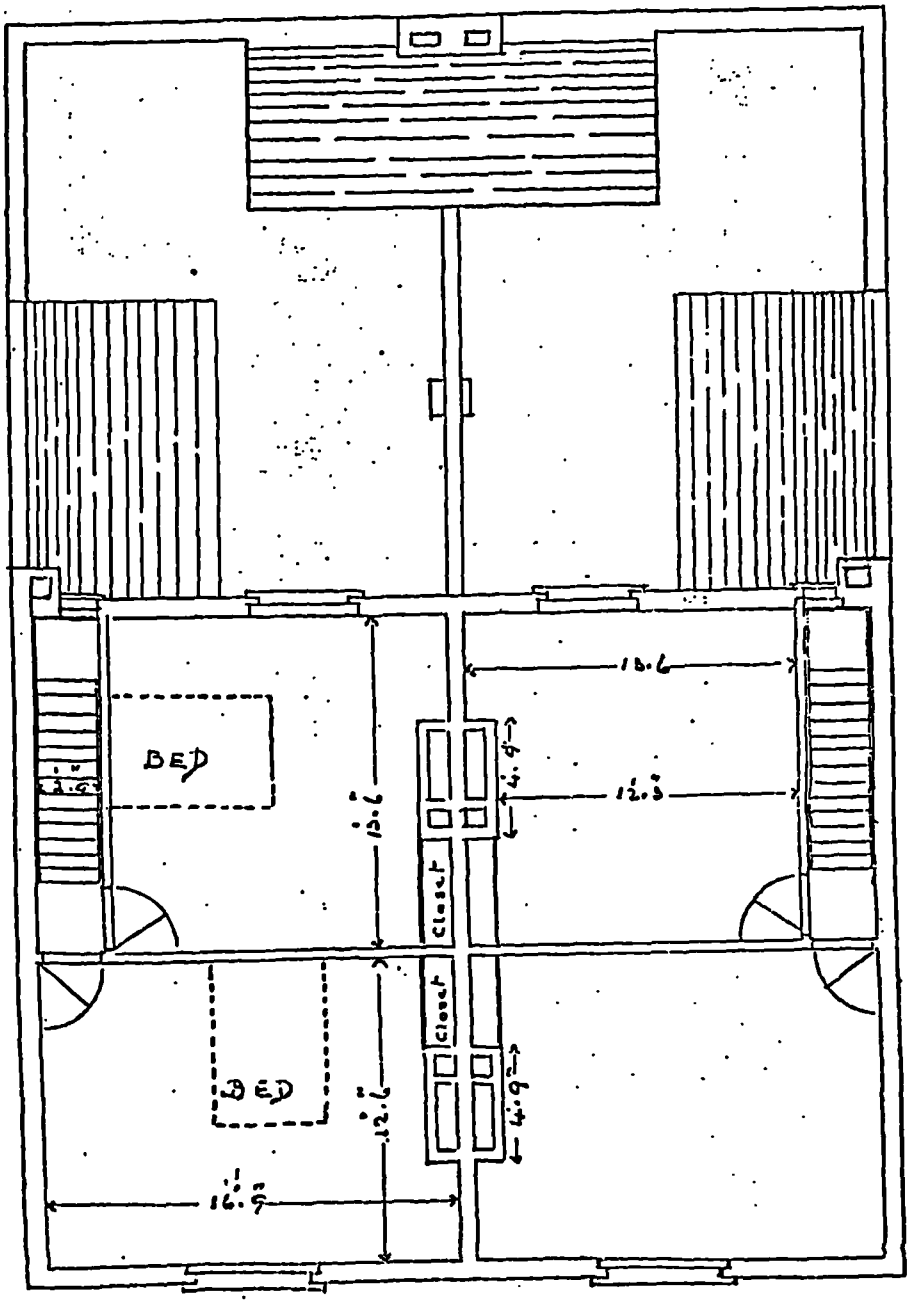
Figure 69 CATEGORY SIX FOUR ROOMED COTTAGE
DOUBLE HOUSE

2 ground floor rooms
2 first floor rooms

HEASINGTHORNE (TYPE C) 1909
Map Reference NZ256301

Original drawing by W. Ward
Ground Plan

0 5 10 FEET
SCALE



Bed Room Plan

Figure 70 CATEGORY SIX FOUR ROOMED COTTAGE
DOUBLE HOUSE

2 ground floor rooms
2 first floor rooms

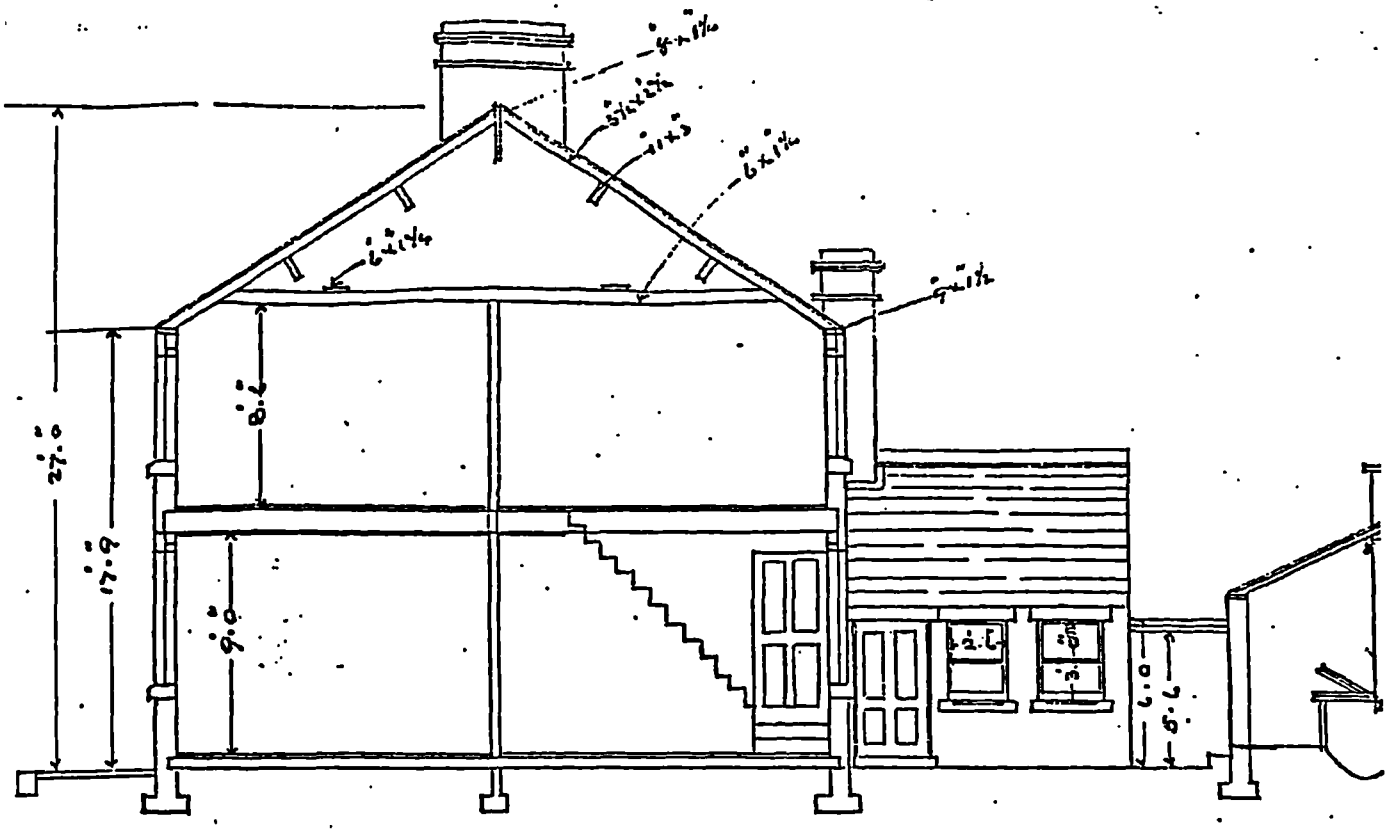
LEASINGTHORNE (TYPE C) 190°
Map Reference NZ256301

Original drawing by W. Ward
Bed Room Plan

0 5 10 FEET
SCALE



Front Elevation



Section

Figure 71 CATEGORY SIX FOUR ROOMED COTTAGE DOUBLE HOUSE

2 ground floor rooms
2 first floor rooms

LEASINGTHORNE (TYPE C) 1909
Map Reference NZ256301

Original drawing by W.Ward
Front Elevation and Section

0 5 10 FEET
SCALE

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
COTTAGE TYPE
CATEGORY SIX - FOUR/FIVE ROOMED COTTAGE 2 ground floor rooms
2 first floor rooms

DOUBLE HOUSE
STAIRCASE RISING FROM THE REAR OF THE DWELLING
ON THE SIDE OPPOSITE TO THE OFF-SHOOT
LABURNHAM STREET AND MAPLE STREET, HIRST, ASHINGTON
HOUSES AT ELLINGTON FOR THE ASHINGTON COAL COMPANY
HOUSES AT CORNSAY COLLIERY

LABURNHAM STREET MAPLE STREET
HIRST ASHINGTON

The construction of seventeen, five roomed houses in Laburnham Street was completed in 1900. Maple Street had fifty two five roomed houses none of which at that time had back yards, Figures 72 and 73. These larger houses were combined with a total of one hundred and two cottage flats, Map 17.

Laburnham Street and Maple Street were constructed of brick with a slate roof. The window and door openings were elegantly treated with brick arches. The accommodation provided in these ordinary pitmens cottages was superior, being economically and well planned. One entered a lobby at both the front and the back door before entering a living space. The position of the stairs was such that one could enter the kitchen from the front or the rear of the house. The stairs rose straight from the rear lobby to a small landing off which three well proportioned rooms opened. Each house had an off shoot scullery and wash house. Bruce Nichols drawings show

his own interpretation of the plan based on information provided by the National Coal Board.

PONT STREET AND MERSEY TERRACE
HIRST ASHINGTON

During the same period North Seaton Estates, a separate company but in the same ownership as Ashington Coal Company were also building four/five room dwellings. Pont Street had some five roomed houses between the Fourth to Seventh Avenue, and there were two more blocks of five roomed houses in Mersey Terrace, Map 17.

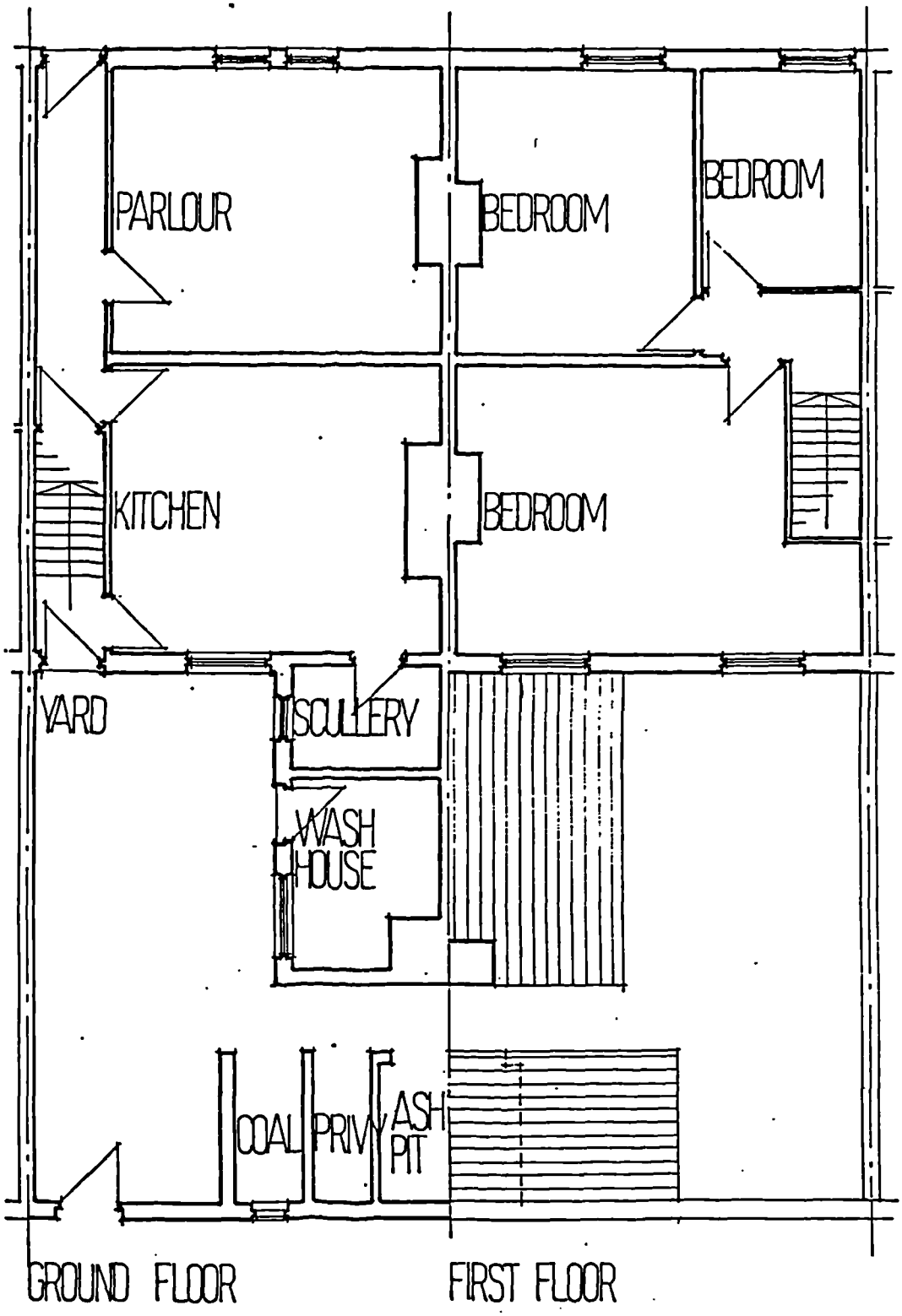


Figure 72 CATEGORY SIX FIVE ROOMED COTTAGE
DOUBLE HOUSE

2 ground floor rooms
3 first floor rooms

LABURNUM STREET AND MAPLE STREET
HIRST ASHINGTON 1900
Map Reference NZ280873

0 5 10 FEET
SCALE

R.B. Nichol Colliery Housing in Ashington and South East Northumberland 1848 -1926 unpublished dissertation

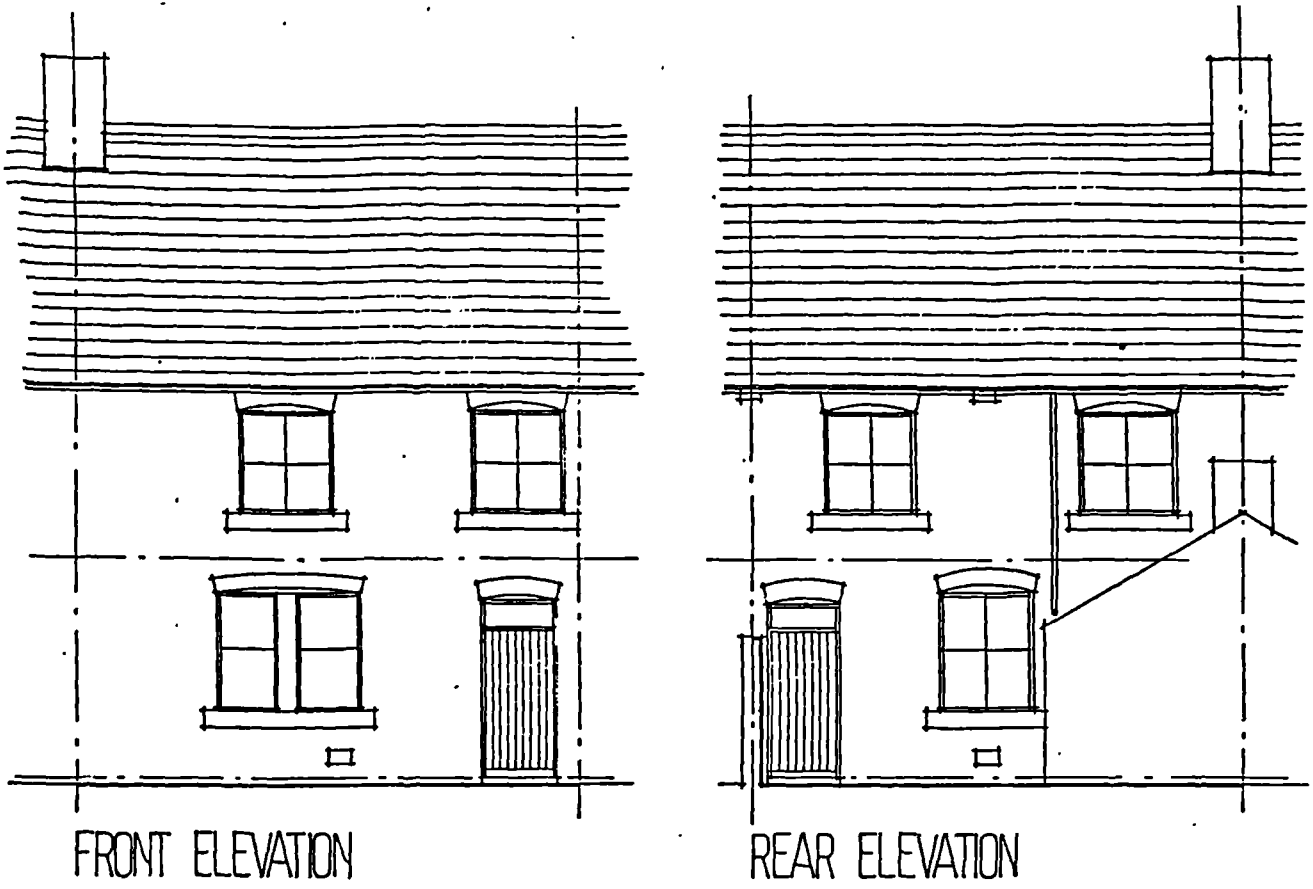




Figure 73 CATEGORY SIX FIVE ROOMED COTTAGE
DOUBLE HOUSE

2 ground floor rooms
3 first floor rooms

LABURNUM STREET AND MAPLE STREET
HIRST ASHINGTON 1900
Map Reference NZ280873

0 5 10 FEET
SCALE

R.B. Nichol Colliery Housing in Ashington and South East Northumberland 1848 - 1926 unpublished dissertation

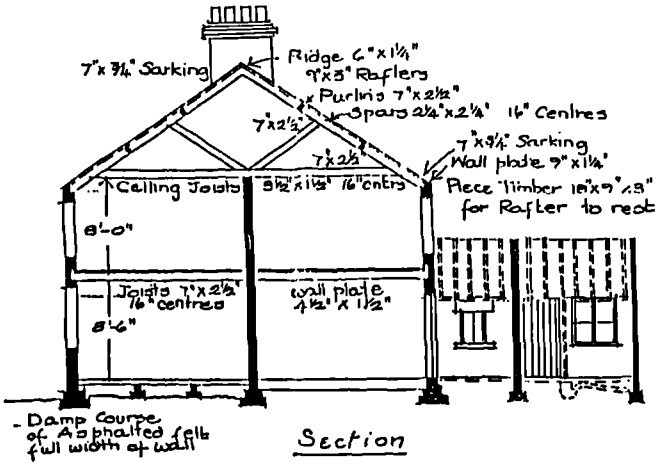
The colliery housing for the Ashington Coal Company was amongst the most superior on the Great Northern Coalfield at the turn of the century. The standard of building and the accommodation provided were good. The majority of houses had individual back yards with coal houses and privies. The two feet gauge railway track was extended from the old colliery to run down Hirst's long back lanes to facilitate coal deliveries and scavenging of ash-pits.

In the year before the 1914-1918 war the housing of the Ashington Coal Company spread to the east in a mixture of two, three, four, and five roomed houses. The First World War brought the building of rent-free houses by the Ashington Coal Company to an end. There was a massive exodus of men who left the mines to join the forces and many good quality houses were left empty in the area.

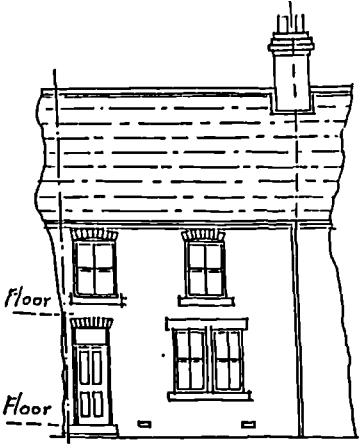
ELLINGTON
EAST MOOR

Deposited with the Local Authority were the drawings for '10 self contained houses' at Ellington, Figure 74. The submission was made to Morpeth Rural District Council on the 15th December 1909 by one, E. O. Southern, Mining Agent on behalf of the Ashington Coal Company Ltd.

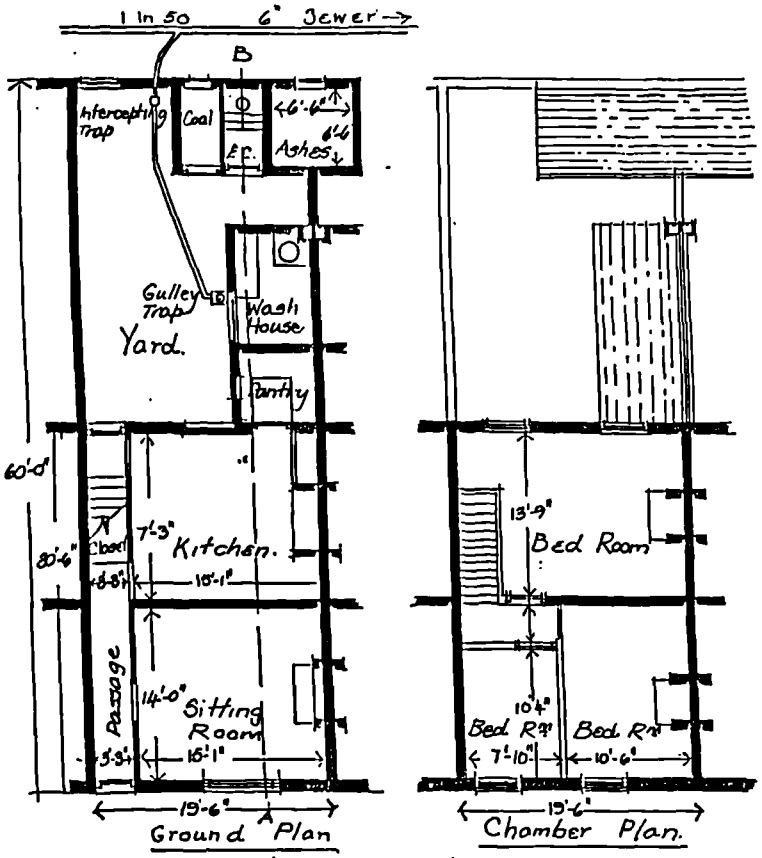
In conjunction with other houses built for the Ashington Coal Company, these too, were superior substantial houses. The drawings show a complete submission, very similar in nature to the drawings which are required by the Local Authority in the 1980's. It is interesting to note that the drawings show a gulley, with trap, taking water from the Wash House, to an intercepting trap, to a 6" sewer. However the toilet was still an earth closet, sharing an Ash pit with the adjoining property.



Section

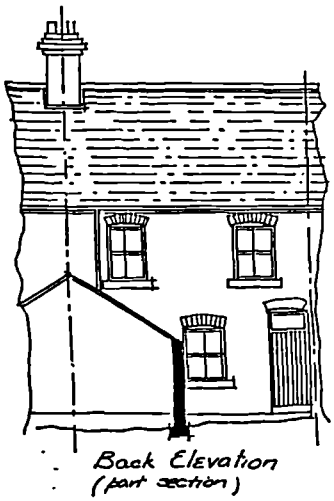


Front Elevation

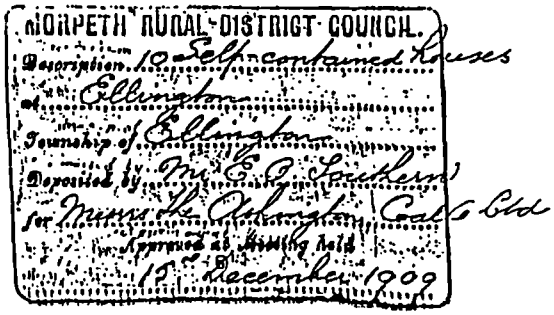


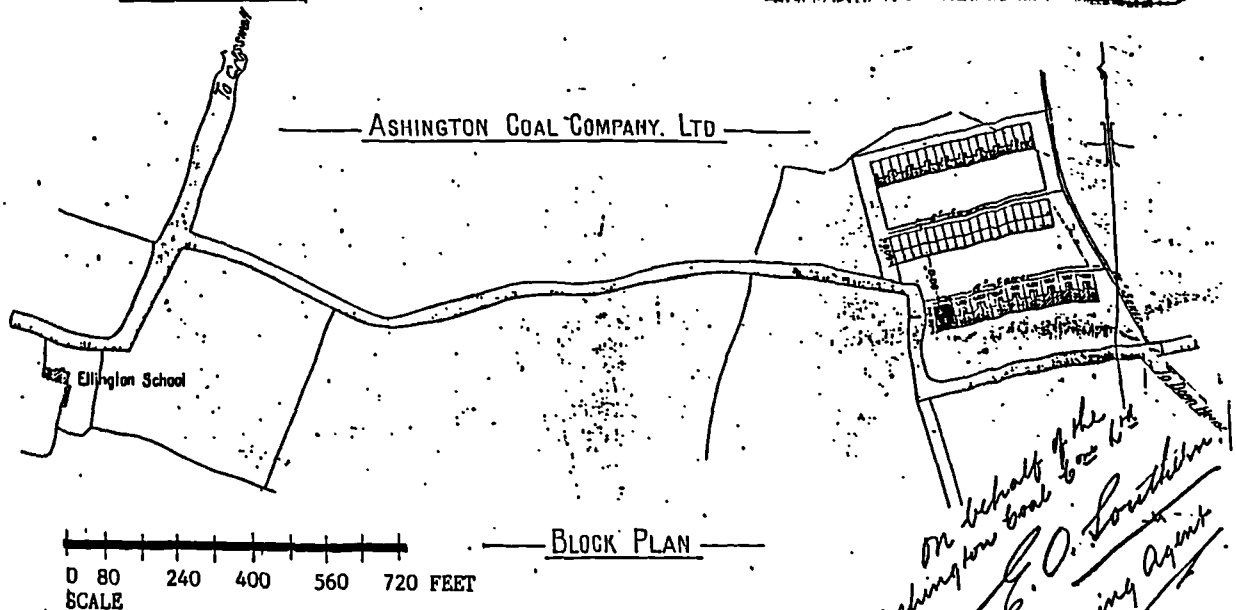
Ground Plan

Chamber Plan.



Back Elevation
(part section)





BLOCK PLAN

0 80 240 400 560 720 FEET
SCALE

Figure 74 CATEGORY SIX FIVE ROOMED COTTAGE

ELLINGTON 1909
Map Reference NZ277909

2 ground floor rooms
3 first floor rooms

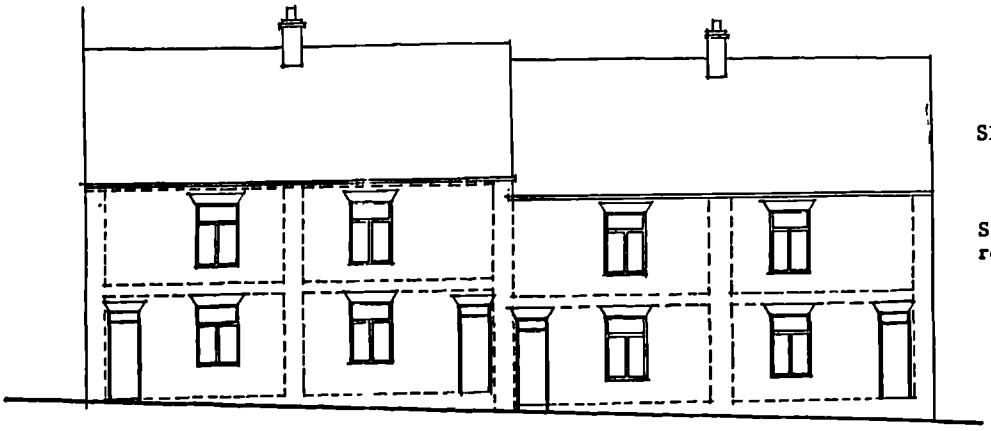
0 5 10 15 20 FEET
SCALE

Reconstruction of original drawing entitled
Plan of ten Five Roomed Self Contained Houses at Ellington
for the Ashington Coal Company Ltd .
L.A. Deposited Plans Northumberland County Record Office

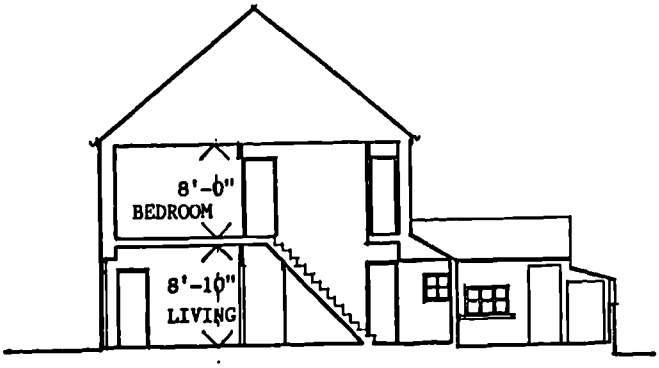
CORNSAY

The two previous examples, although some miles apart were both cottages built for the Ashington Coal Company. Demonstrating that examples of this plan type were located in other areas of the Great Northern Coalfield are a group of four cottages which step down the hillside at Cornsay, Figure 75.

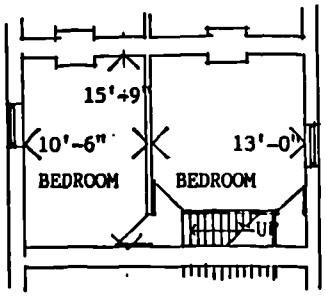
These cottages,show that although the plan type with the staircase rising from the rear of the dwelling was common it was by no means standard, variations on the theme did occur. At Cornsay the cottages had two rear off-shoots; the larger formed the scullery and incorporated the external privy and coal house, the smaller off-shoot formed the lobby at the bottom of the staircase. This off-shoot did not contain the back door, the only access to the rear of the property was through the scullery.



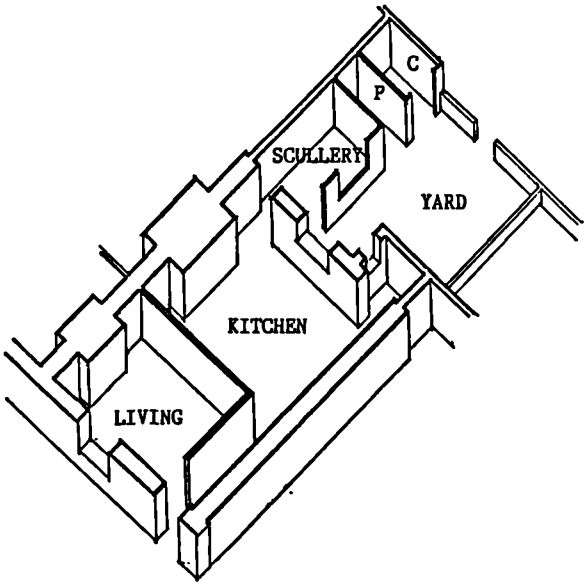
FRONT ELEVATION



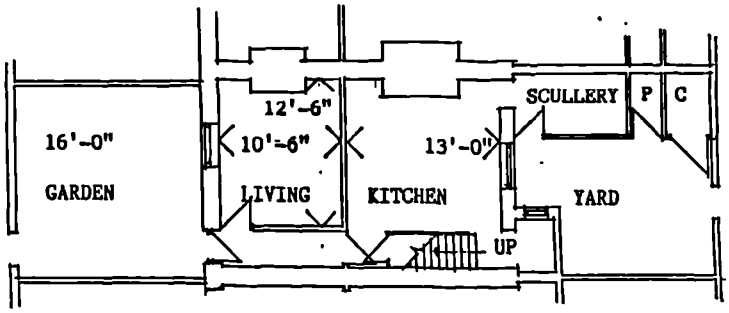
CROSS SECTION



FLOOR PLAN



AXONOMETRIC



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Figure 75 CATEGORY SIX FOUR ROOMED COTTAGE DOUBLE HOUSE

2 ground floor rooms
2 first floor rooms

CORNSAY
Map Reference NZ145435

Authors own survey with assistance from Alan Rebair

0 5 10 15 20 FEET
SCALE

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
COTTAGE TYPE
CATEGORY SIX - FOUR/FIVE ROOMED COTTAGES 2 ground floor rooms
2+ first floor rooms

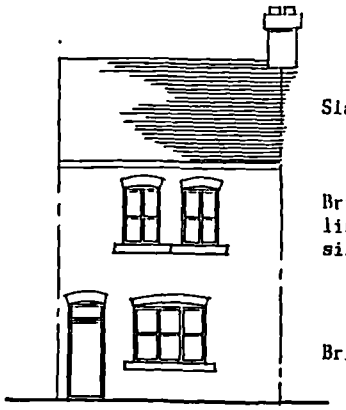
DOUBLE HOUSE
STAIRCASE RISING FROM THE CENTRE OF THE DWELLING
GLOUCESTER STREET, NEW HARTLEY
BRISTOL STREET, NEW HARTLEY
LEASINGTHORNE

GLOUCESTER STREET
BRISTOL STREET
NEW HARTLEY

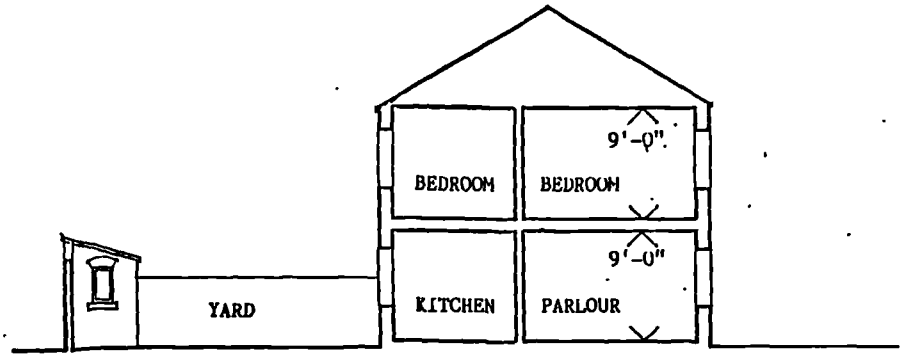
At New Hartley two examples illustrate the plan type where the staircase rises in the centre of the house,Figure 76 Gloucester Street and Figure 77 Bristol Street. Both types are very similar showing three bedroomed houses. However, there are variations, the Bristol Street house had a single bedroom at the front of the property and two bedrooms at the rear. The Gloucester Street house had two bedrooms at the front and one at the rear. This alternative arrangement had an effect on the elevational treatment of these two very similar house plans.



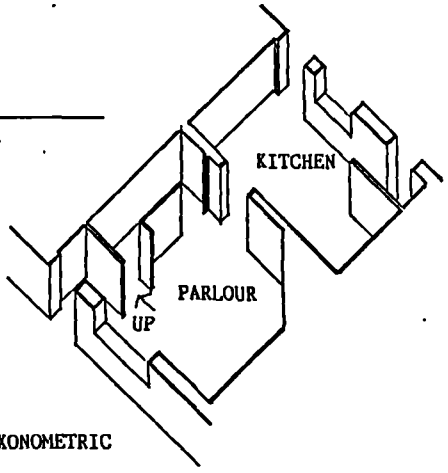
REAR ELEVATION



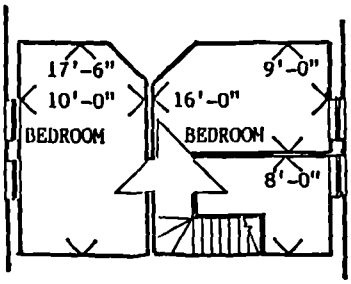
FRONT ELEVATION



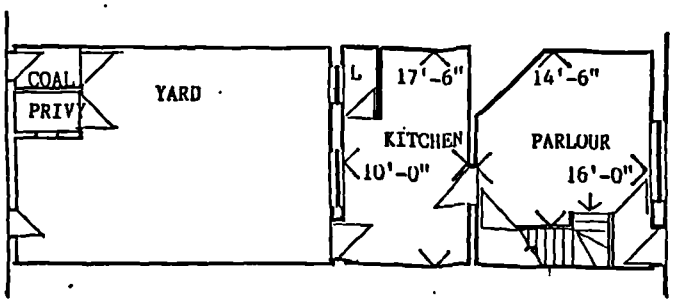
SECTION



AXONOMETRIC



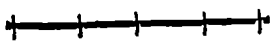
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

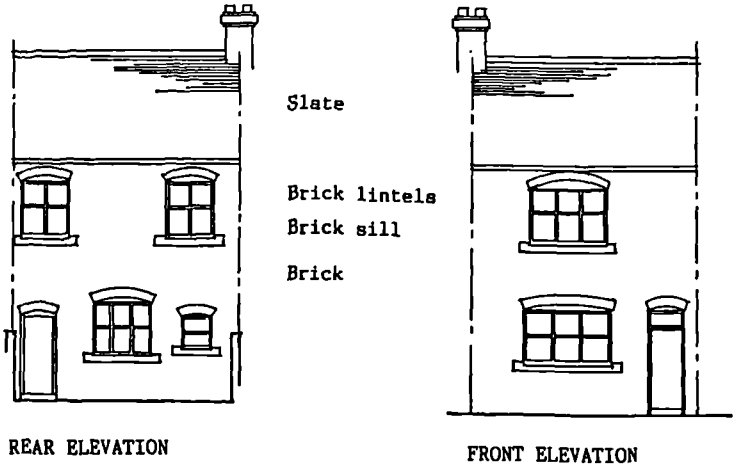
Figure 76 CATEGORY SIX FIVE ROOMED COTTAGE DOUBLE HOUSE

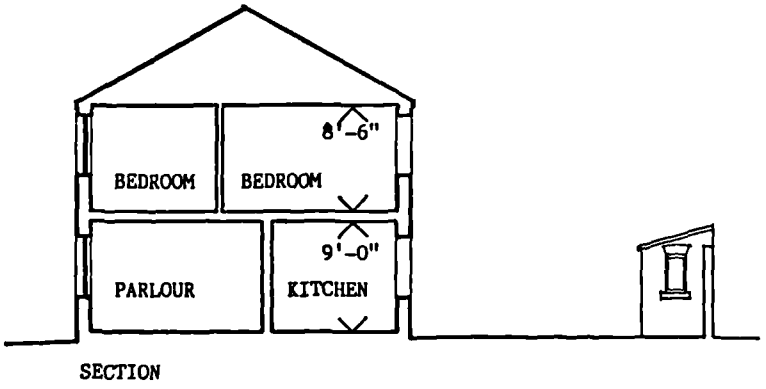
2 ground floor rooms
3 first floor rooms

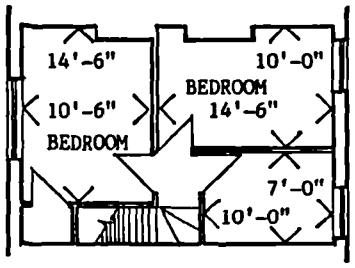


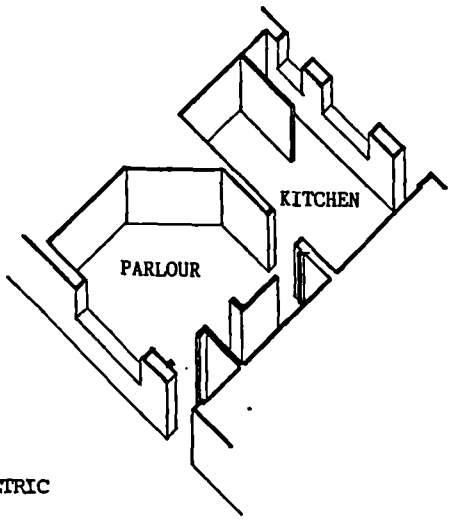
GLOUCESTER STREET
NEW HARTLEY
Map Reference NZ309769

From survey by Coulson Swinburne and Partners









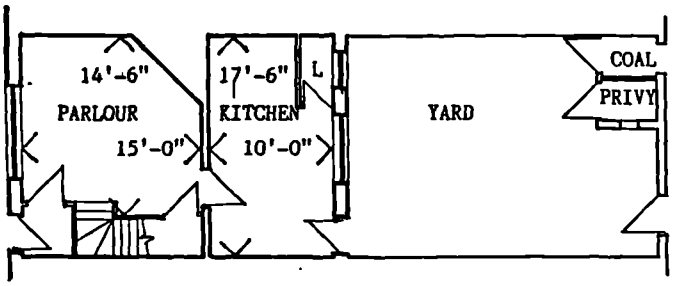


Figure 77 CATEGORY SIX FIVE ROOMED COTTAGE DOUBLE HOUSE

2 ground floor rooms
3 first floor rooms

BRISTOL STREET
NEW HARTLEY
Map Reference NZ309769

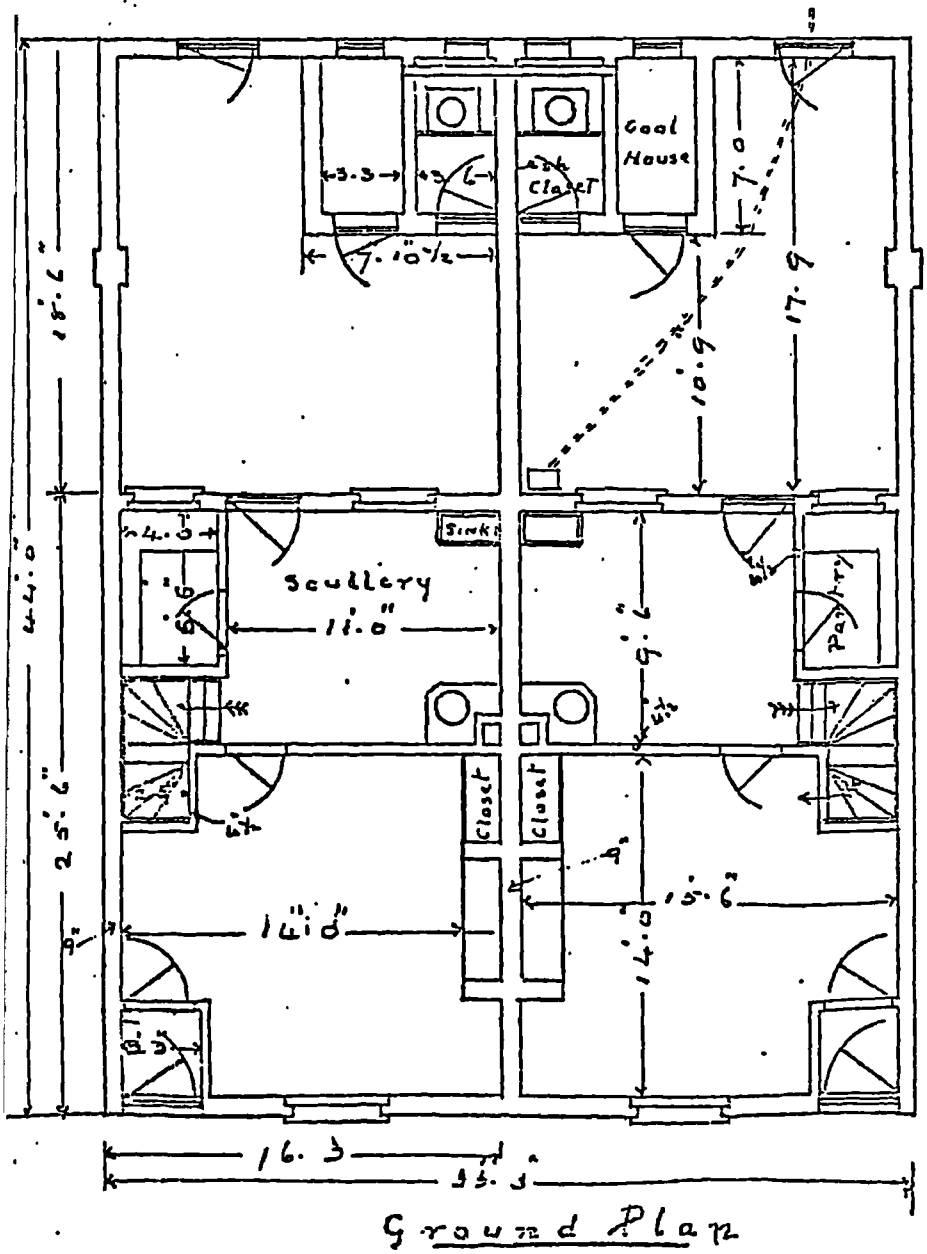
From survey by Coulson Swinburne and Partners

0 5 10 15 20 FEET
SCALE

TYPE B
LEASINGTHORNE

Two types of houses at Leasingthorne had staircases rising from the centre of the house. The plan entitled Type B on the original drawings is particularly interesting as it provided a full three bedroomed house in a very small area, Figures 78,79 and 80. The original drawings are presented full size and it can be seen that each bedroom was intended to take a double bed.

The plan was only 15'6" wide internal dimension, which was narrower than most of the previous examples. Unlike all the previous examples it had no rear off shoot and yet the total depth of the house was similar to the other examples. The pantry was located in the space previously occupied by the staircase. The stair using winders occupied a small area in the centre of the plan. The result was a very economically planned five roomed double house.



W. Ward.
R. War
F. Ward
H. H. Hawes

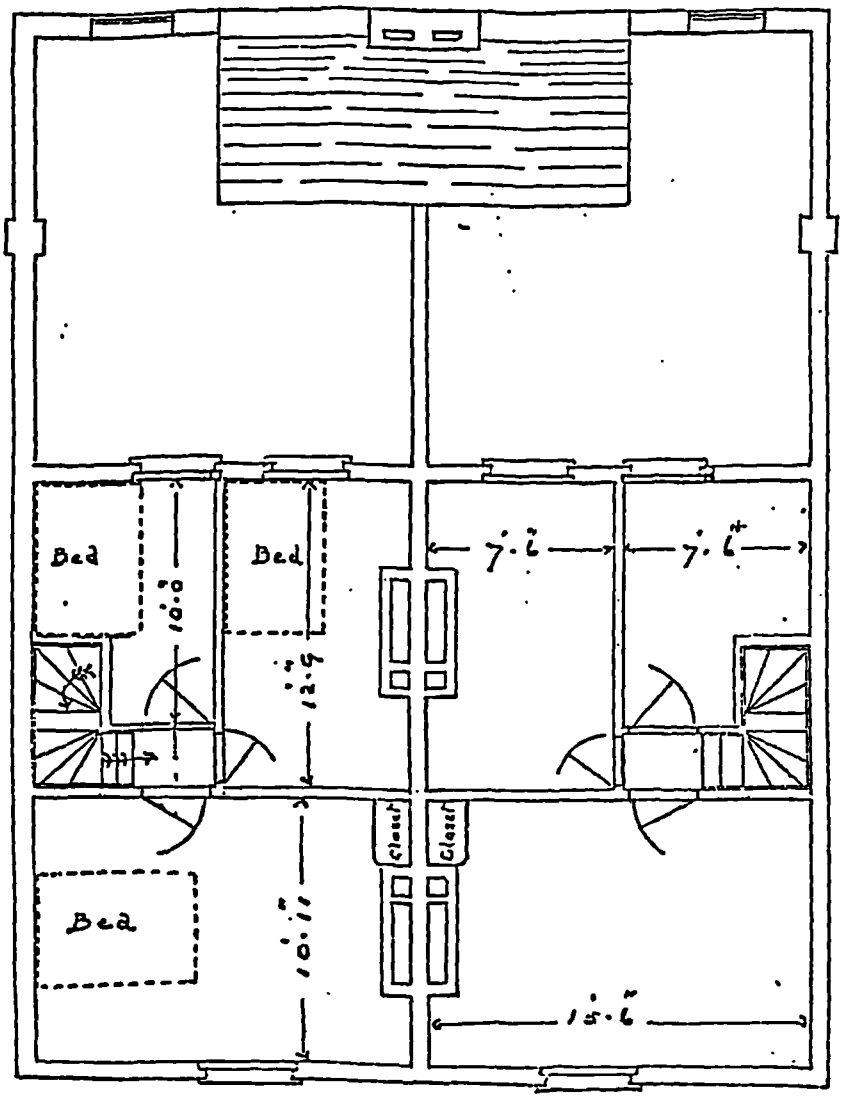
Figure 78 CATEGORY SIX FIVE ROOMED COTTAGE
DOUBLE HOUSE

2 ground floor rooms
3 first floor rooms

LEASINGTHORNE (TYPE B) 1909
Map Reference NZ256301

Original drawing by W. Ward
Ground Plan

0 5 10 FEET
SCALE



Bed Room Plan.

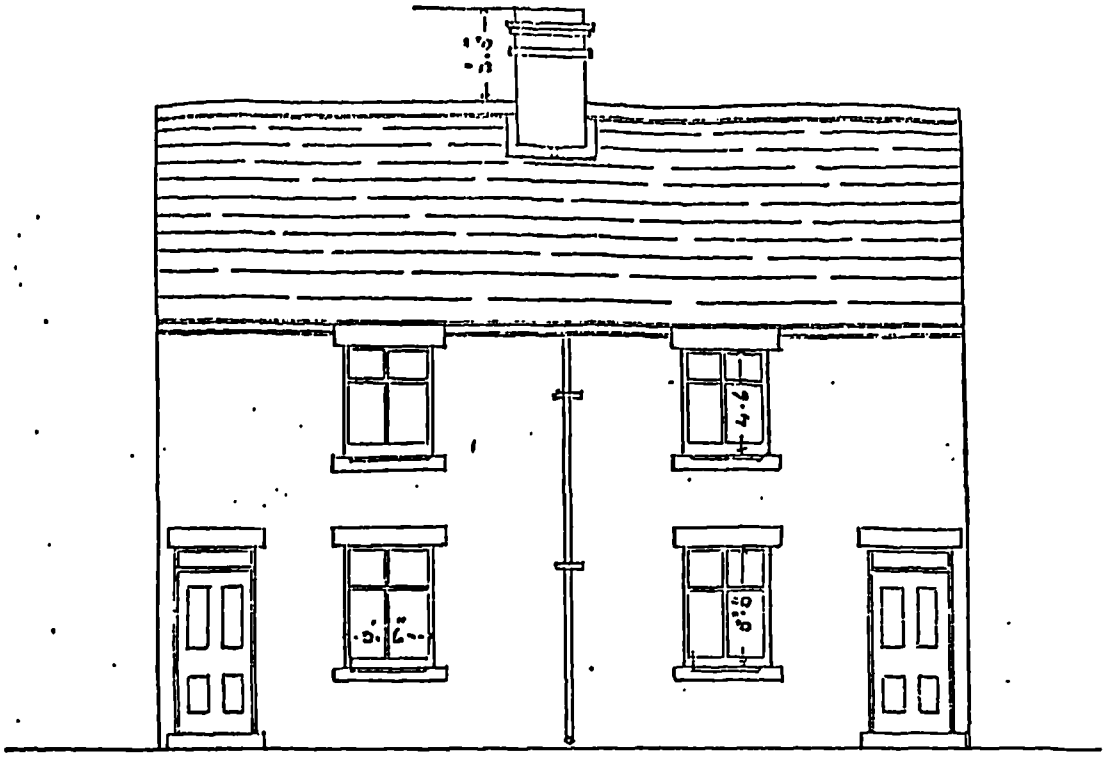
Figure 79 CATEGORY SIX FIVE ROOMED COTTAGE
DOUBLE HOUSE

2 ground floor rooms
3 first floor rooms

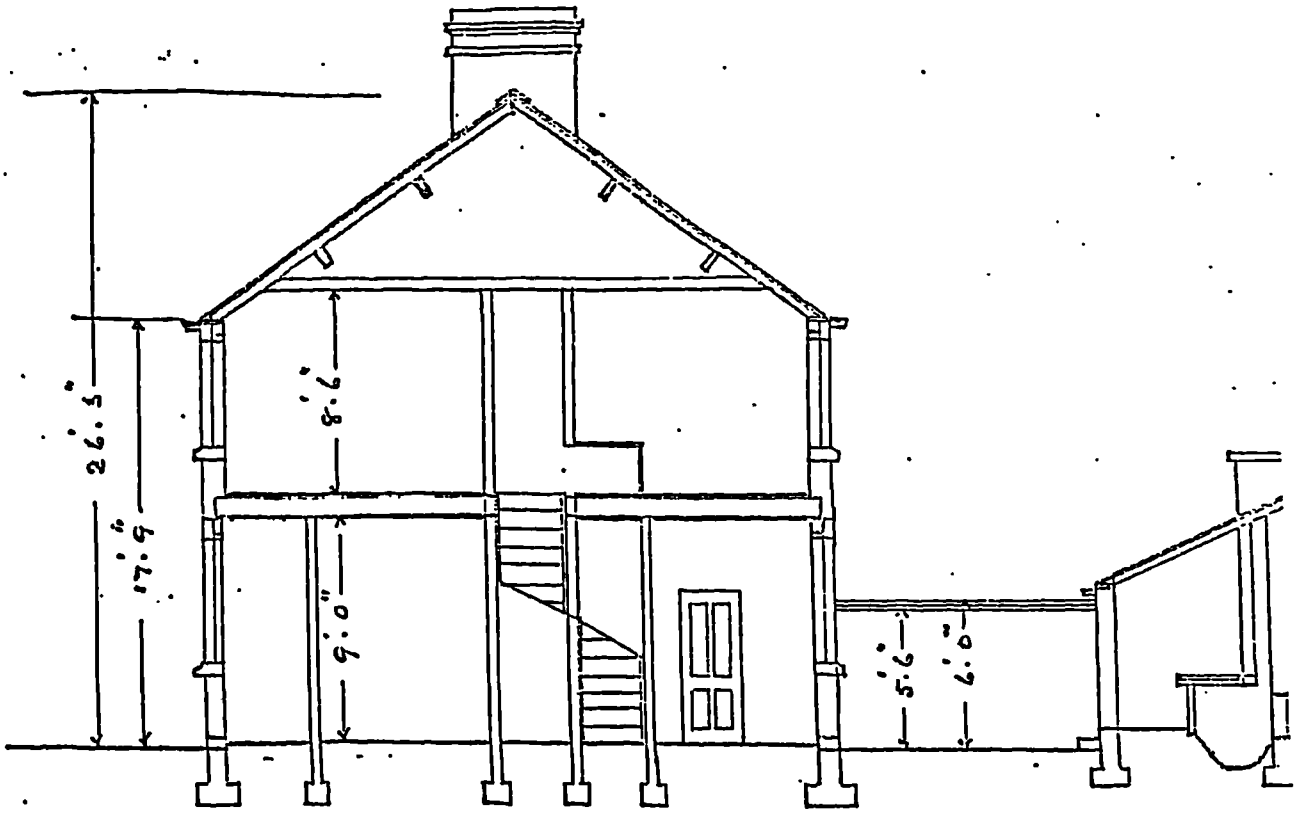
HEASINGTHORNE (TYPE B) 1909
Map Reference NZ256301

Original drawing by W. Ward
Bed Room Plan

0 5 10 FEET
SCALE



Front Elevation



Section

Figure 80 CATEGORY SIX FIVE ROOMED COTTAGE
DOUBLE HOUSE

2 ground floor rooms
3 first floor rooms

LEASINGTHORNE (TYPE B) 1909
Map Reference NZ256301

Original drawing by W. Ward
Front Elevation and Section

0 5 10 FEET
SCALE

TYPE D 33, AGENTS HOUSES
LEASINGTHORNE

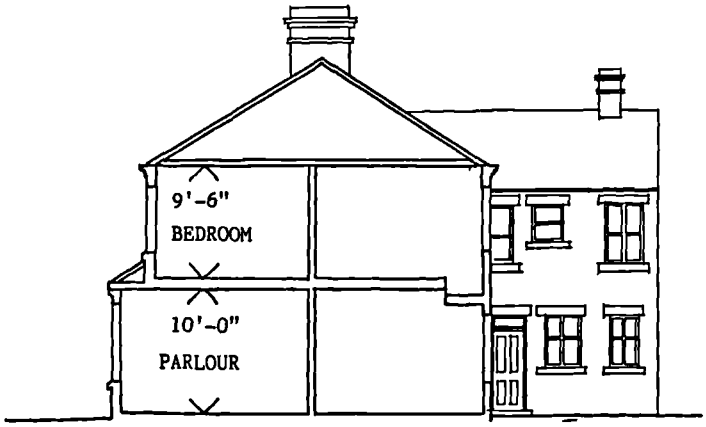
This house type is the final example in this category of most sophisticated of the terraced houses illustrated. There were twenty three houses in this row of Agents houses situated on the southern perimeter of the village of Leasingthorne, Figure 81.

The plan was interesting in its form. The staircase rose from the centre of the house to a mid level, serving an internal bathroom and separate W.C. A further five risers took one up the full storey height to three bedrooms. The accommodation on the ground floor consisted of a draught lobby, and a hall, two substantial ground floor rooms and a scullery at the rear. In the back yard there was an ash closet and a coal house.

In the series of drawings of the different house types at Leasingthorne there appear to be a combination of ash pits and water closets. The drawings were dated 1909 and were signed W. Ward, K. Ward, F. Ward and H.H.France.

The House Type 'D' reflects the status symbol requirements of an Agents house. The elevation had a greater window area than seen elsewhere, an indication of affluence. This was emphasised with the projecting bay windows at ground floor level. Also apparent in the overall proportions of the elevations is the increased heights, making the building appear tall and imposing. The floor to ceiling height at the ground floor was 10'0" in these houses, a marked increase on 8'4" and 9'0" of some previous examples.

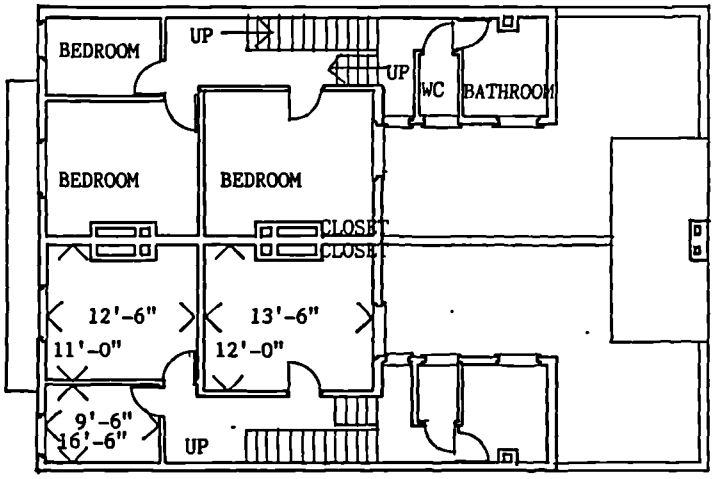
The type 'D' houses were designed to impress, to awe and possibly to instill in others the desire to succeed. They created a society where there was a hierarchy. The colliery company was not only housing its officials in a manner which created respect, but also investing in its future by building good quality houses to attract a high quality work force.



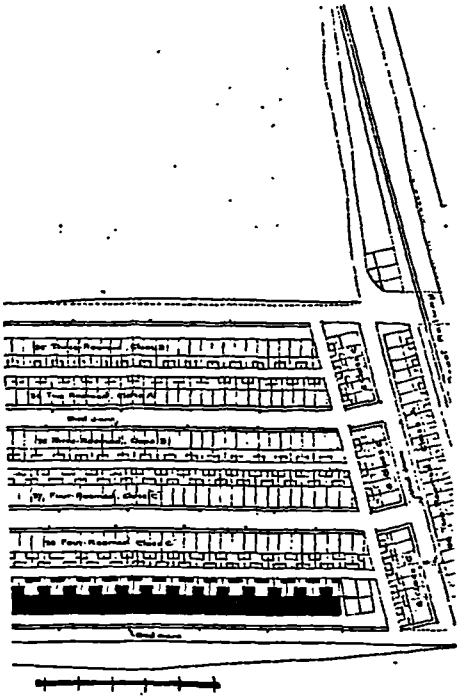
SECTION



FRONT ELEVATION



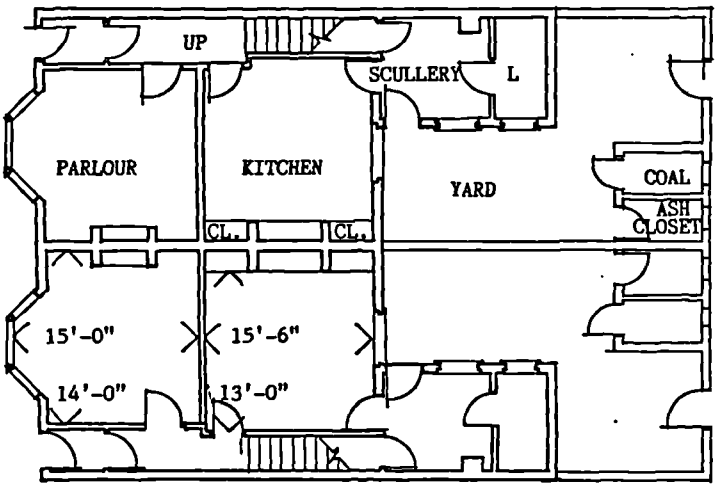
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



0 100 200 250 FEET
SCALE

33 AGENTS HOUSES

PART OF ORIGINAL SITE PLAN
entitled
Plan of Building Sites
for New Houses.
Leasingthorne Colliery.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Figure 81 CATEGORY SIX FIVE ROOMED COTTAGE DOUBLE HOUSE

2 ground floor rooms
3 first floor rooms

LEASINGTHORNE (TYPE D) 1909
Map Reference NZ256301

From original drawing by W.Ward
for Messrs. Blockow Vaughan and Co. Ltd.

0 5 10 15 20 FEET
SCALE

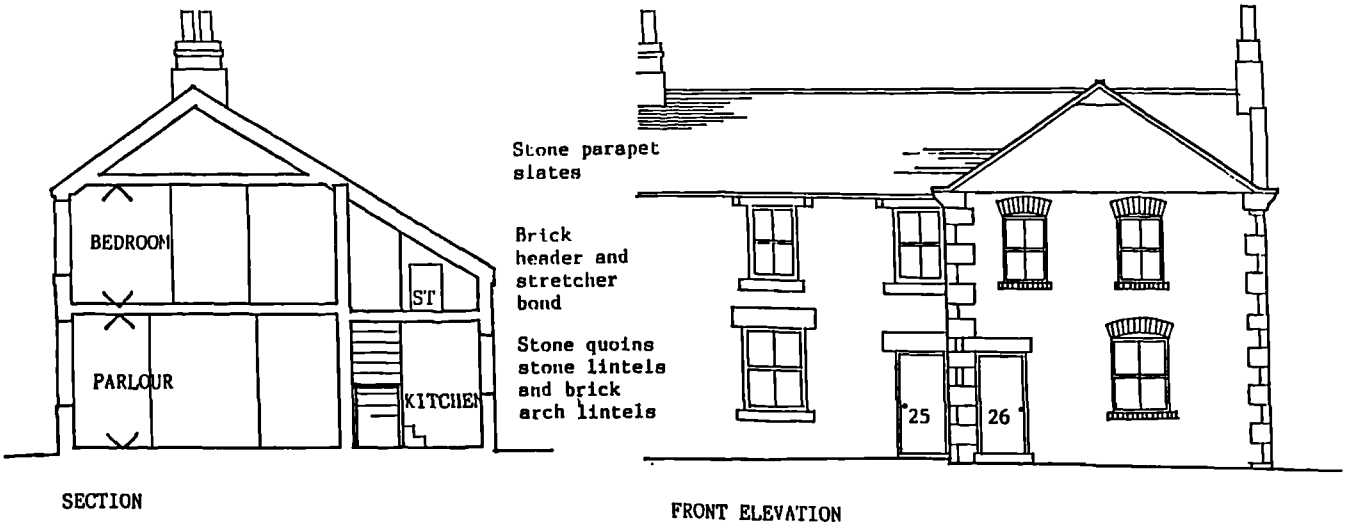
THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
COTTAGE TYPE
CATEGORY SIX - FOUR ROOMED COTTAGE 2 ground floor rooms
                                    2 first floor rooms

DOUBLE HOUSE
in the context of the COMPOSED ROW or TERRACE

COW GATE
CAMBOIS

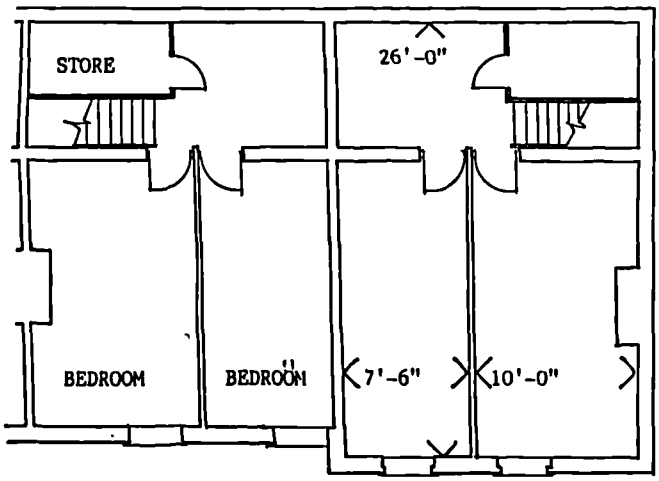
The cottages built at Cambois bear a strong resemblance to those terraces referred to as a 'composed row'. The term was used to describe a row of cottages with a transverse gable element at both ends of the row. Cow Gate was a row of twenty six double houses where the two end cottages were given a special elevational emphasis, Figure 82. Where this form of 'composed row' was illustrated previously the transverse gable end block contained two single houses. The cottages at Cow Gate were all double houses, the dwellings at the ends of the row also had two ground floor rooms and two first floor rooms, but were slightly larger in floor area. The elevational treatment of the composed row occurred only on the front of the cottages there being a cat slide roof to the rear. In the single houses the transverse gable projected at the front and the rear of the row.

At Cambois the houses were built in brick with different colour brick banding being used on the front and rear elevation. The roofs were covered with slates. On the front elevation the transverse gable at both ends of the row was accentuated by the use of stone quoins and stone parapet. The windows in the gable were also given a different treatment with expressed brick arches. The doorways were treated in the same way as other doorways in the row with a single rectangular ashlar lintol.

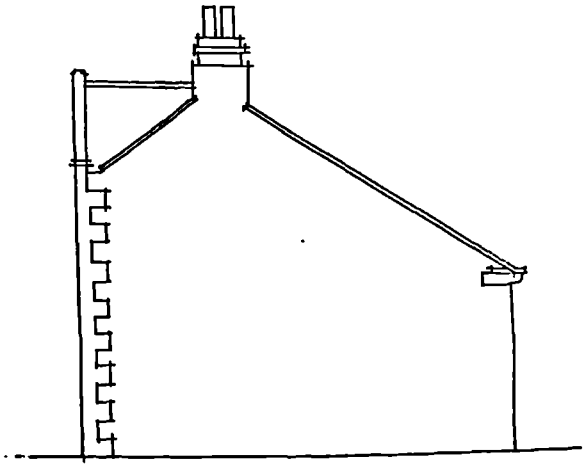


SECTION

FRONT ELEVATION

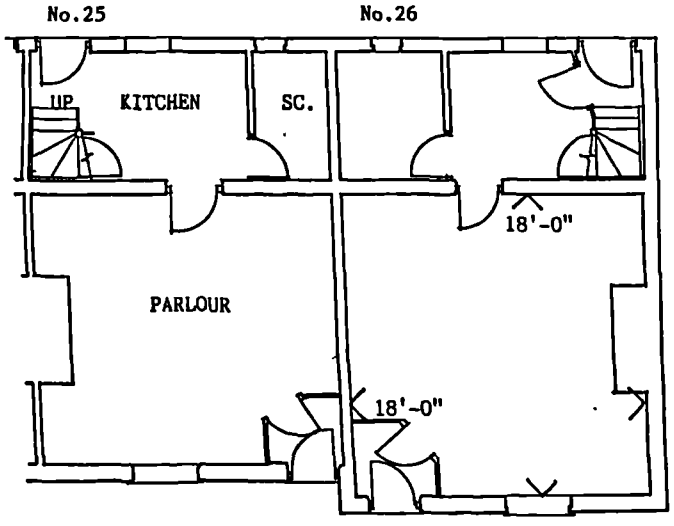


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

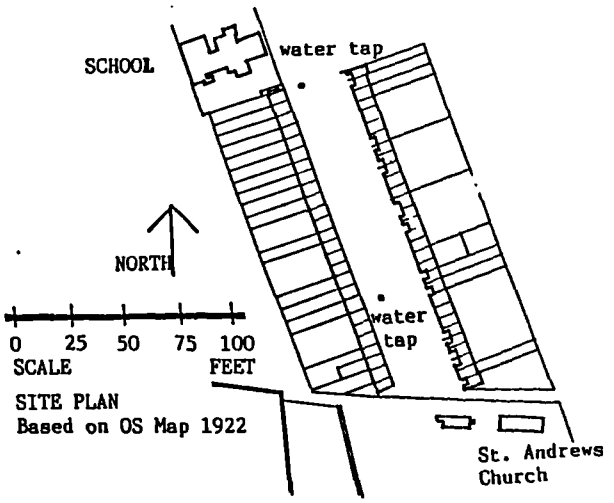


END ELEVATION

Note stone quoins to front and not to rear.

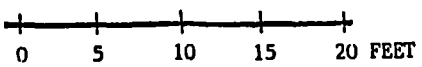


GROUND FLOOR PLAN



2 ground floor rooms
2 first floor rooms

Figure 82 CATEGORY SIX FOUR ROOMED COTTAGE DOUBLE HOUSE in the context of the COMPOSED ROW or TERRACE



COW GATE
CAMBOIS Prel922
Map Reference NZ305838

From survey drawings by S.M. Linsley and G. Douglas May 1977
Adult Education Department Newcastle University

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
COTTAGE TYPE
CATEGORY SIX - FOUR/FIVE ROOMED COTTAGE 2+ ground floor rooms
2+ first floor rooms

COMBINATION COTTAGE

The examples which have been studied so far, illustrate one cottage plan type and elevational treatment which has been repeated many times in the row. Occasionally there have been examples where two plan types have alternated, for example, New Row Oakenshaw,[28] or where cottages have been adapted in order to provide variation in accommodation, for example South View Mickley,[29] but there has been no external elevational variation to reflect these changes.The composed row with single houses[30] and double houses[31] in the transverse gable has given an elevational emphasis to the row. The window and door openings in the row have been decorated or expressed in a way to create an impression of well being, but there has been very little evidence of any individual architectural expression. The very 'sameness' of the dwellings giving a common bond to the inhabitants. This uniformity was undoubtedly a contributory factor to the strong sense of community spirit identified in the North East.

There are a few examples of rows of cottages on the Great Northern Coalfield where the plan and the elevational treatment is not consistent along the length of the row. The cottages included in this category have a variety of plan forms and a different architectural expression in the elevational treatment. For the purposes of this study they have been entitled 'Combination Cottages'.

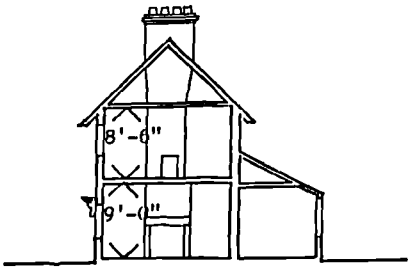
FERNEY BEDS
ULGHAM

The drawings entitled 'proposed Cottages at Widdrington Colliery Village 1910', are very reminiscent of workers dwellings to be found elsewhere in the country. The Drawings were with the Local Authority deposited drawings at NCRO, Figure 83.

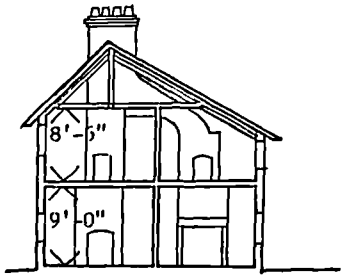
The drawing shows seven cottages with a variety of plan form. They were numbered 3 to 9. The ground floor plan of Numbers 3,4,5, and 6 was the same with an entrance hall, parlour, kitchen and scullery.In the ground floor plan of number 7,8 and 9 one entered a small lobby which led directly to the kitchen, and there was a scullery with a small pantry off. There were three variations of the first floor plan. Numbers 3 and 6 had a small landing with three bedrooms off. Numbers 4 and 5 had the same size landing but the bedrooms were divided to provide three smaller bedrooms and a bathroom. Numbers 7, 8 and 9 had only two bedrooms. Only two of the seven dwellings were provided with bathrooms. The rear yards were all divided with brick walls 4'6" high.

Not only was there variation in the plan form of the cottages, there was also variation in the elevational treatment. The houses were built in brick and about 3' above ground level the brick work was rendered. The roof was a gable at one end and hipped at the other. In addition there were three gables along the front elevation and these were emphasised by the use of decoration in the render. Added significance was given to the doorways which had a small timber porch over them.

These cottages had an air of well being, security and some simple expressions of individuality about them. They could not be described as being architecturally significant but they were certainly more desirable dwellings than many of the previous examples of colliery cottages, and very reminiscent of the Garden City Movement. The sense of well being was probably an indication of the greater security in the coalfield at this time, and general desire to improve the quality of living of the colliery workforce, in line with the general improvement in standards for other workers dwellings.



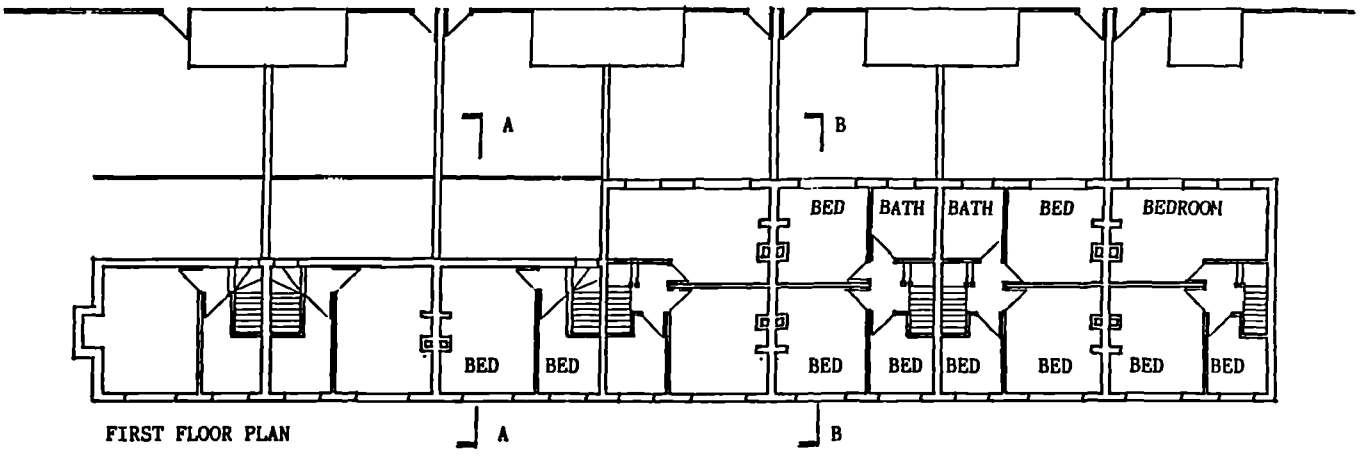
SECTION A ' A
Two bedroom cottage

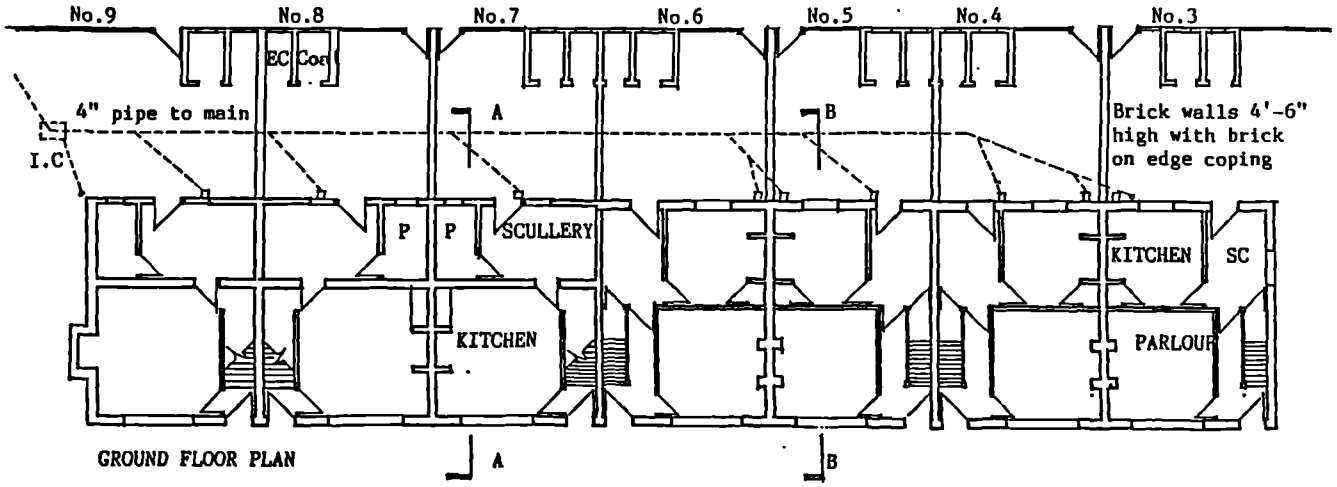


SECTION B ' B
Three bedroom cottage



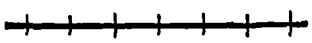
FRONT ELEVATION





2 ground floor rooms
2/3 first floor rooms

Figure 83 CATEGORY SIX FOUR ROOMED COTTAGE
COMBINATION COTTAGE



FERNEY BEDS
ULGHAM 1910
Map Reference NZ249939

From original drawing entitled
Proposed cottages at Widdrington Colliery Village
7 cottages at Ferney Beds Ulgham
L.A. Deposited Plans Northumberland County Record Office

MOOR HOUSE

Very little is known about the following two examples but they have been included in this study on colliery dwellings as they were found in the Stella Coal Company records with the other colliery house plans. The drawings entitled 'Design for Cottages' were in an envelope with the name Simpson on, the manager of the Stella Coal Company and addressed 'Moor House'. William Bourne, writing in 1895 on the history of the Parish of Ryton says Moor House was bought for the engineer of the Stella Coal Company.[32] However, Kelly's Directory of 1902 lists Moor House as the address of an architect J.J. Lish.[33] It is possible therefore that the drawings for these cottages are an example showing the involvement of an architect in the design of colliery cottages.

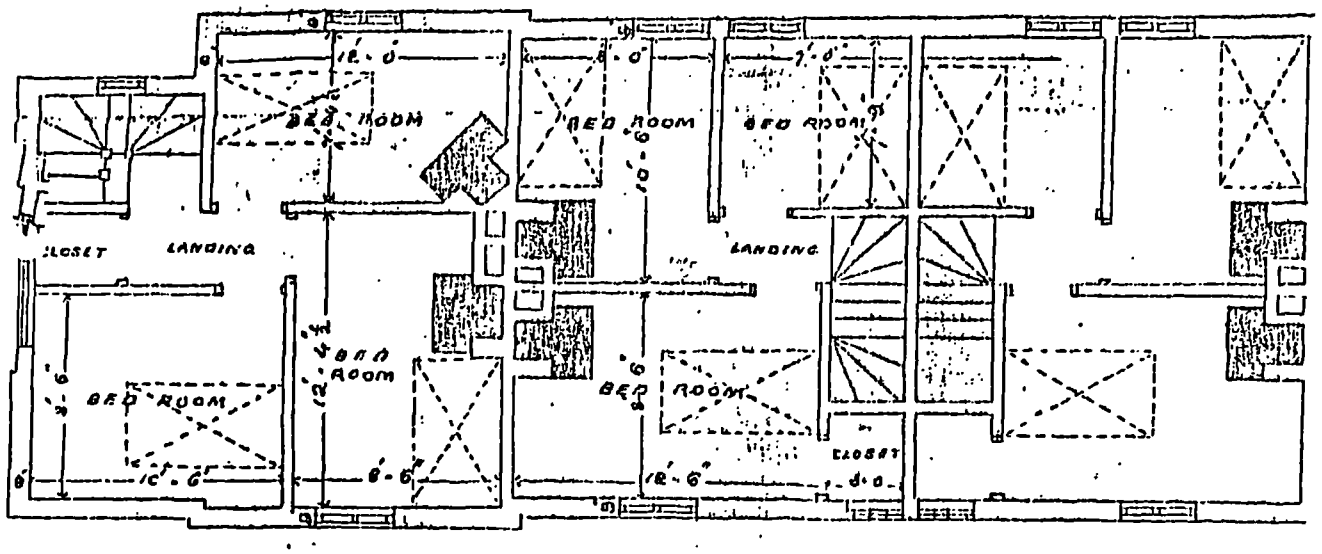
The first example shows a very attractive row of cottages, Figures 84 and 85. Although the plan was not identical in each case, the accommodation was similar in all the cottages. On the ground floor there was an entrance lobby with a living room, scullery and pantry, the staircase rose in the centre of the house with three bedrooms at first floor level. The cottages were rendered with elaborate decorative brickwork around all the door and window openings. There was a decorative motive in the door which was picked up elsewhere in the design, providing ventilation to the first floor closet.

The second drawing found in the Stella Coal Company's records shows some cottages which are slightly less distinguished in their architectural style, but offer a greater variey of plan form, Figures 86 and 87. Two cottages shared an enclosed porch which opened directly into a main living room. Some cottages had two ground floor rooms and a rear off shoot with a pantry. Other cottages had three ground

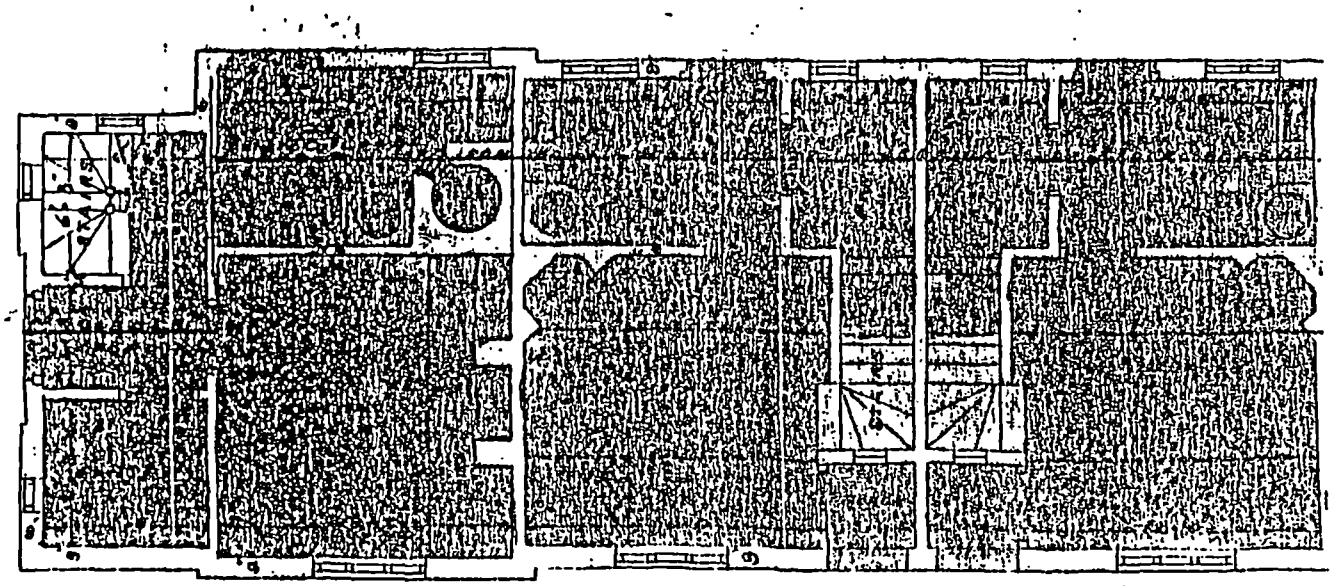
floor rooms with a similar rear off shoot and pantry. The plan provided a window to all the rooms.The cottages with the two ground floor rooms had only two rooms at first floor level.

The elevational treatment gave an air of prosperity, with the exposed stone quoins at the corners and round the window openings. The shared porch had a single storey pitched roof giving added emphasis to the entrance, and gave the impression of serving a much larger dwelling, each entrance doorway led to two dwellings and not one as was the impression.

The concept of the 'composed row' with the transverse gable at the end of the terrace has been developed in these cottages. There are single gables at the end of the row and double gables occurring along the row, so breaking any visual monotony that might occur. It is disappointing that the location of these cottages has not been traced. They are very similar to the theme of the cottages at Widdrington, giving the individual the feeling of identity.



CHAMBER PLAN



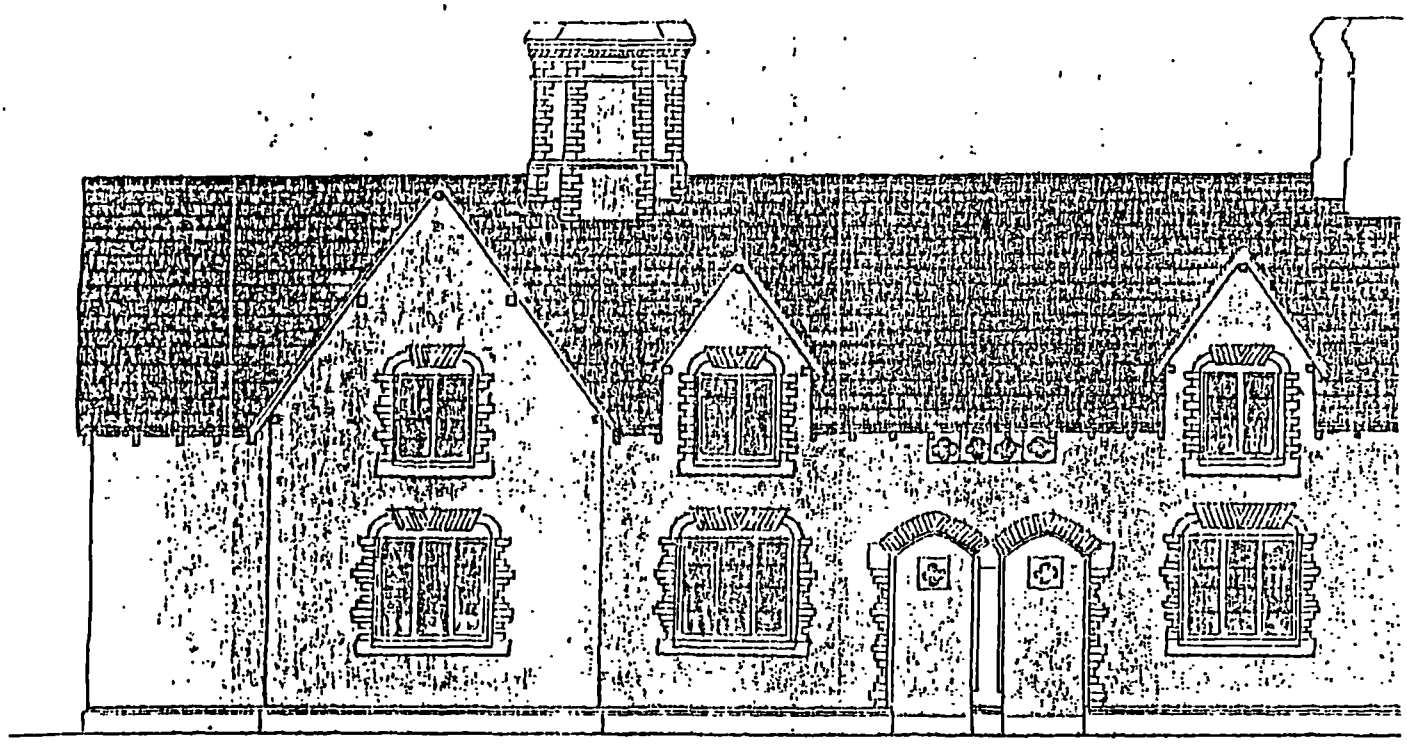
GROUND PLAN

Figure 84 CATEGORY SIX - FOUR /FIVE ROOMED COTTAGE
COMBINATION COTTAGE

MOORHOUSE
Location unidentified

Original drawing entitled Design for Cottages
Ground Plan and Chamber Plan
possibly by Architect J.J. Lish

0 5 10 FEET
SCALE



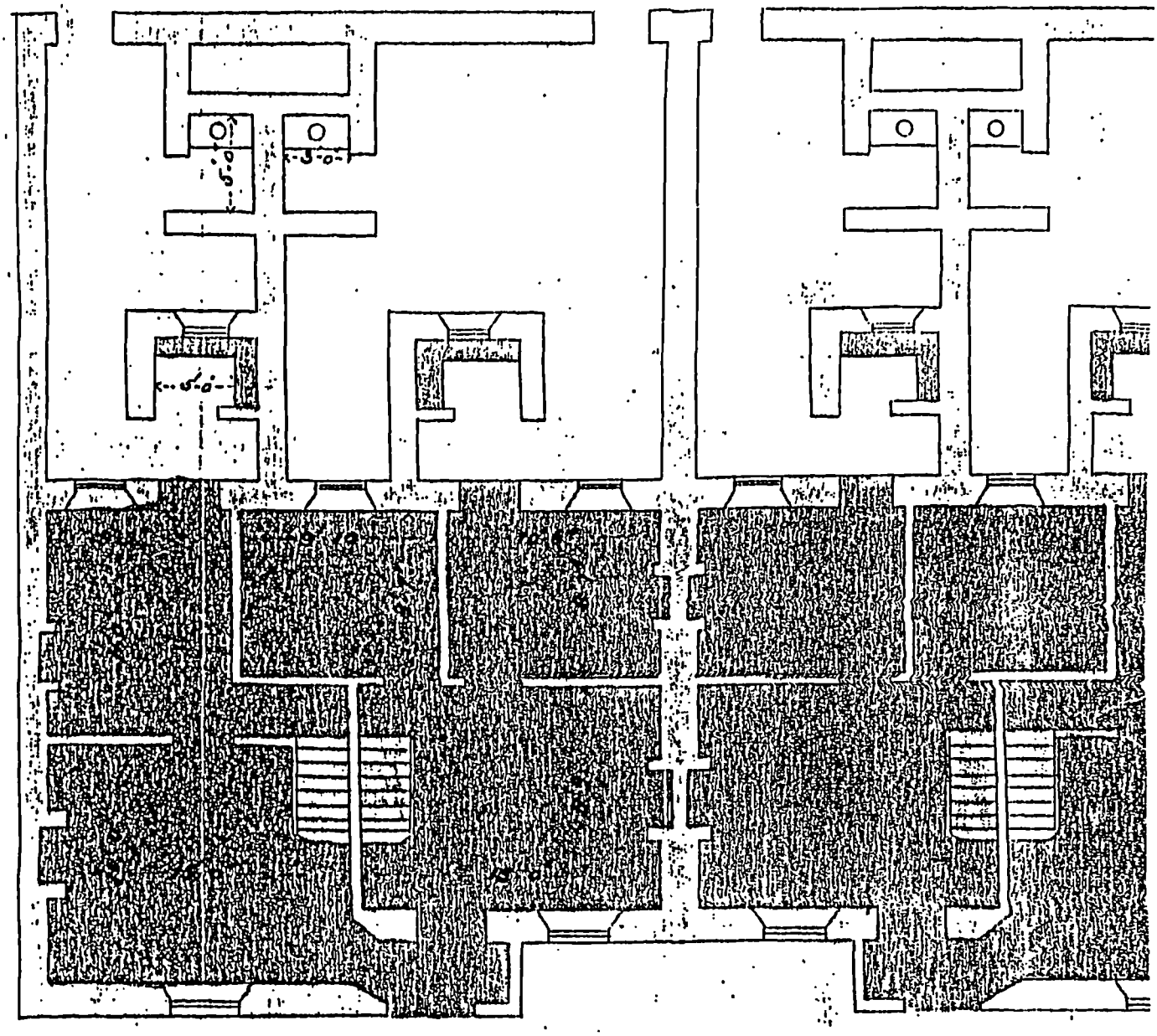
FRONT ELEVATION

Figure 85 CATEGORY SIX - FOUR / FIVE ROOMED COTTAGE
COMBINATION COTTAGE

MOORHOUSE
Location unidentified

Original drawing entitled Design for Cottages
Front Elevation
possibly by Architect J.J. Lish

0 5 10 FEET
SCALE



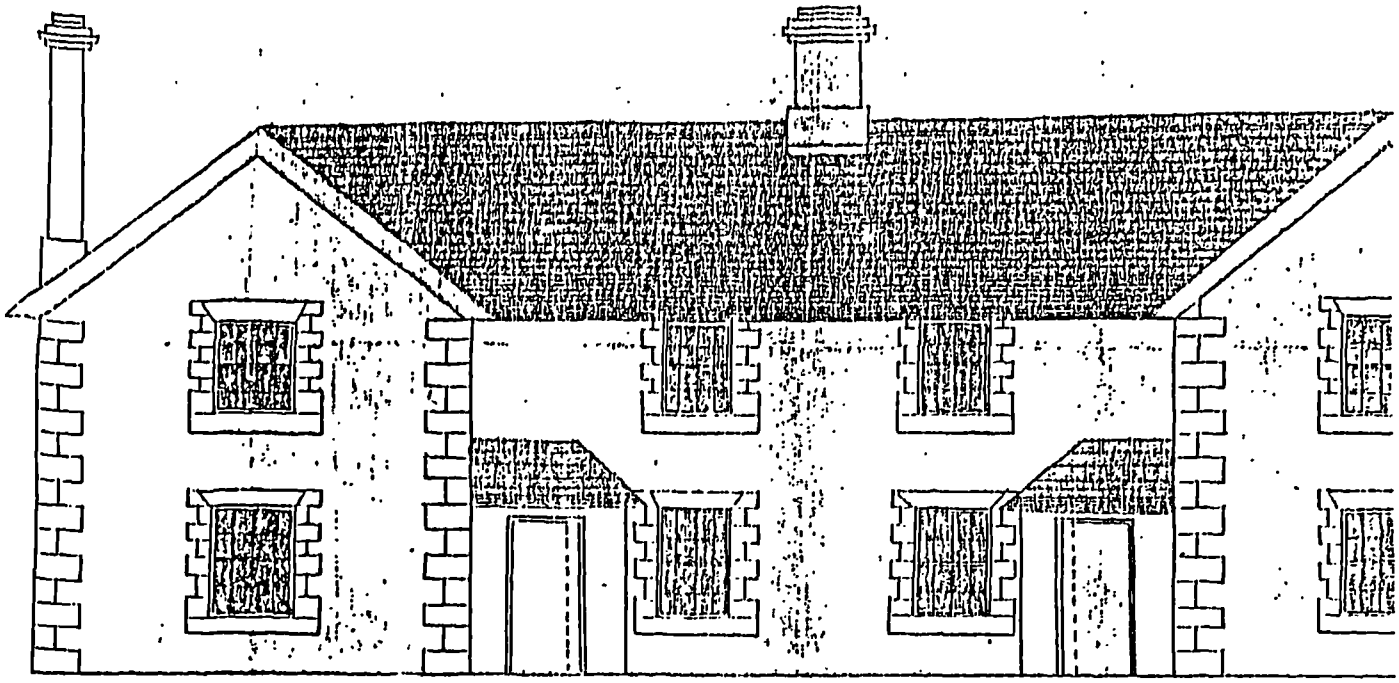
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Figure 86 CATEGORY SIX - FOUR / FIVE ROOMED COTTAGE
COMBINATION COTTAGE

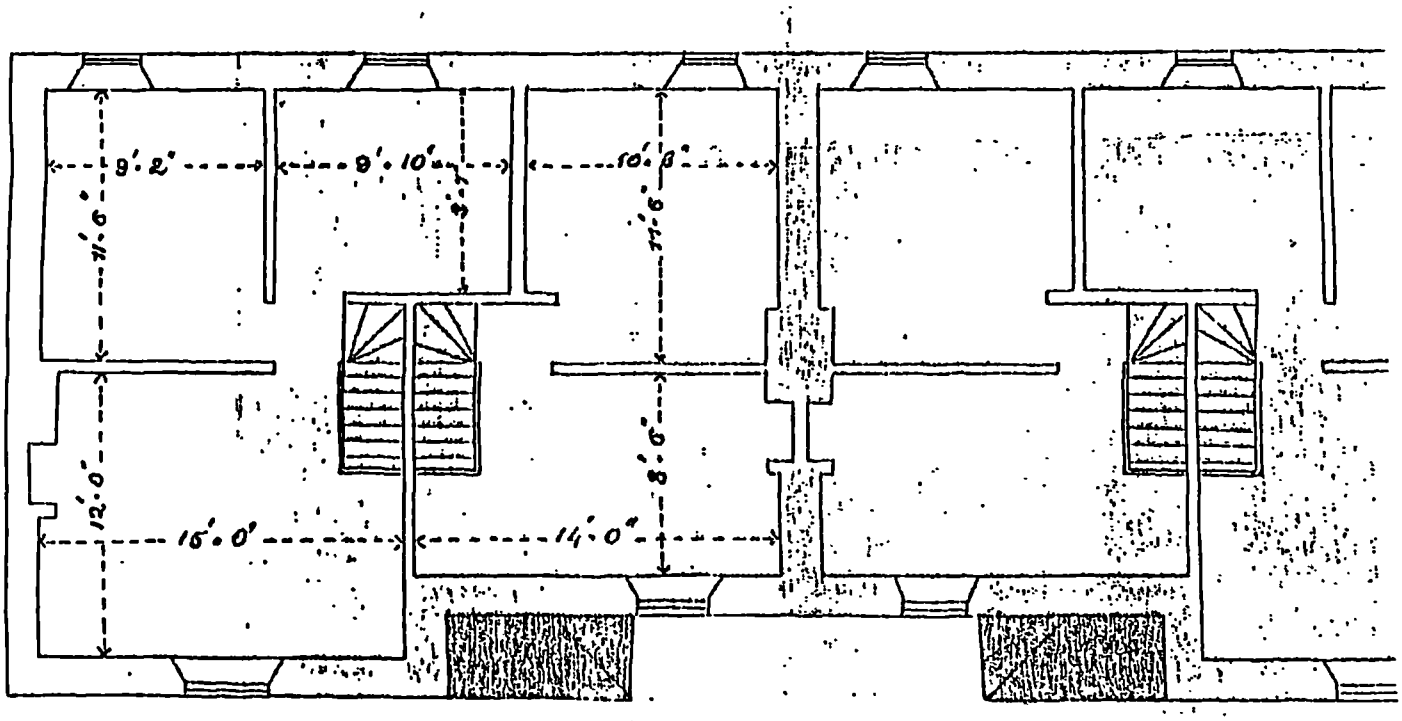
MOORHOUSE
Location unidentified

Original drawing entitled
Ground Floor Plan
possibly by Architect J.J. Lish

0 5 10 FEET
SCALE



FRONT ELEVATION



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Figure 87 CATEGORY SIX - FOUR / FIVE ROOMED COTTAGE
COMBINATION COTTAGE

MOORHOUSE
Location unidentified

Original drawing entitled
First Floor Plan and Front Elevation
possibly by Architect J.J. Lish

0 5 10 FEET
SCALE

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
COTTAGE TYPE
CATEGORY SIX - FOUR/FIVE ROOMED COTTAGE 2+ ground floor rooms
2+ first floor rooms

COTTAGE FLATS

MYRTLE STREET
SYCAMORE STREET
ASHINGTON

Included in this category on the basis of size of accommodation (2 ground floor rooms 3 first floor rooms) are two streets of 'flats', Figure 88. By definition this thesis is a study of so called 'cottage' dwellings in the rural areas of the Great Northern Coalfield. It is surprising to find 'flats' in a rural area falling within the scope of the study. Defined as 'cottage flats' the examples identified are at Hirst Ashington, Map 17.

Myrtle Street and Sycamore Street had a total of two hundred and four flats. The ground floor and the first floor flats had their own entrance doors. The ground floor flat had a front door from the street and a back door opening from the yard. The first floor flat had its only access from the back yard. Each ground floor flat had one bedroom, a kitchen, scullery and wash house, while the flat on the first floor had two bedrooms, a kitchen and a scullery. The pair of flats shared the enclosed back yard. Although each yard had two coal houses there was only one privy common to both flats! A single midden ashpit was situated between two yards, in the centre of each range of out houses, so that each one could serve two privies. It is hard to offer explanation as to why flats were ever built in a rural village. However in 1901 the population of this 'village' was fourteen thousand, and there was some pressure on availability of land.

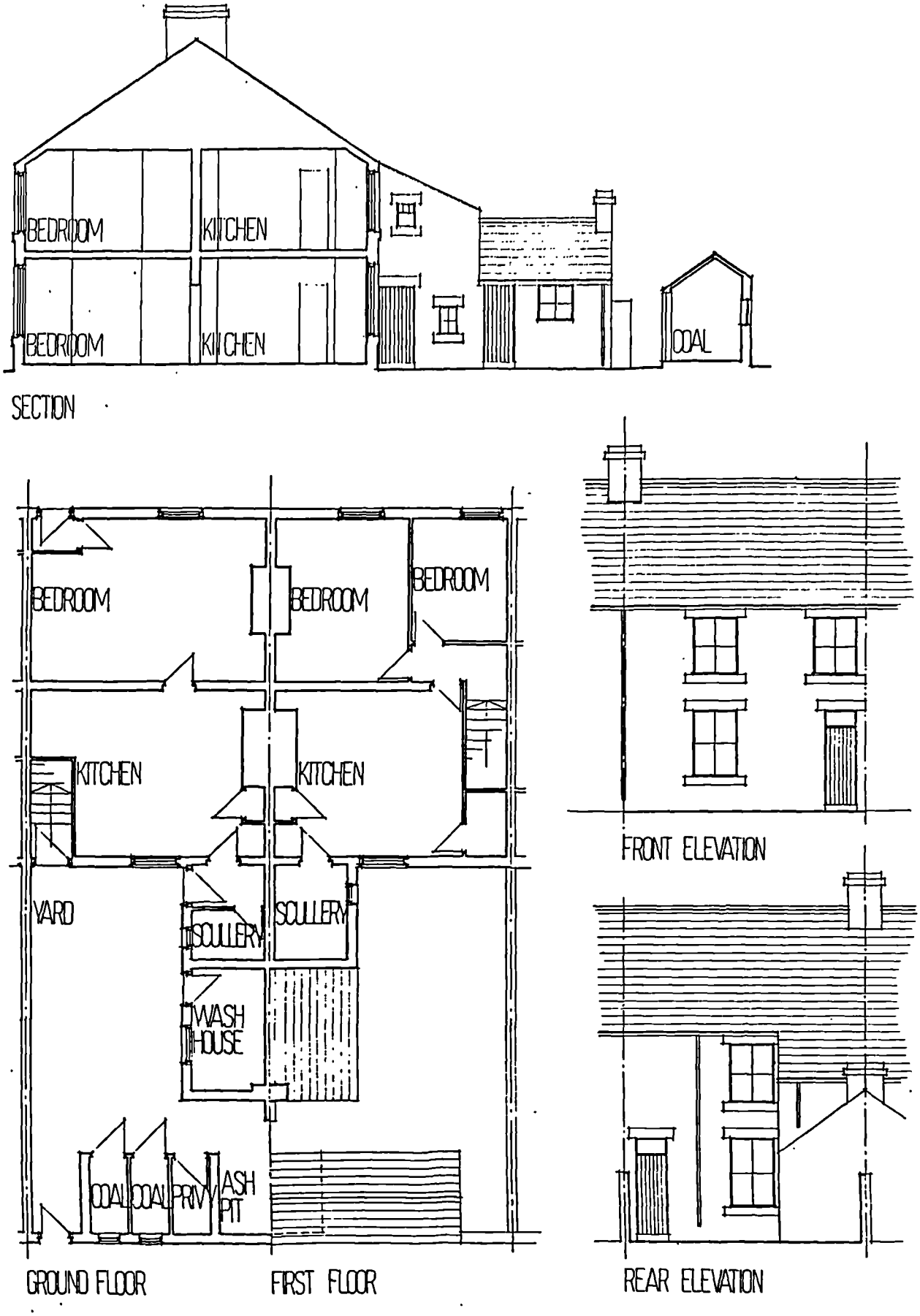


Figure 88 CATEGORY SIX
COTTAGE FLATS

2 ground floor rooms
3 first floor rooms

MYRTLE STREET AND SYCAMORE STREET
HIRST ASHINGTON 1900
Map Reference NZ280873

R.B. Nichol Colliery Housing in Ashington and South East Northumberland 1848 - 1926
unpublished dissertation

0 5 10 15 20 FEET
SCALE

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
COTTAGE TYPE
CATEGORY SIX - FOUR/FIVE ROOMED COTTAGE 2 ground floor rooms
2+ first floor rooms

CONVERSION

HIGH ROW
NEWFIELD

Previous examples have been cited where buildings were converted in some way to either increase or provide living accommodation; Kibblesworth Old Hall known as the Barracks was divided up into tenements, Plate 33. Many properties were changed and adapted during their lives to suit changing needs.

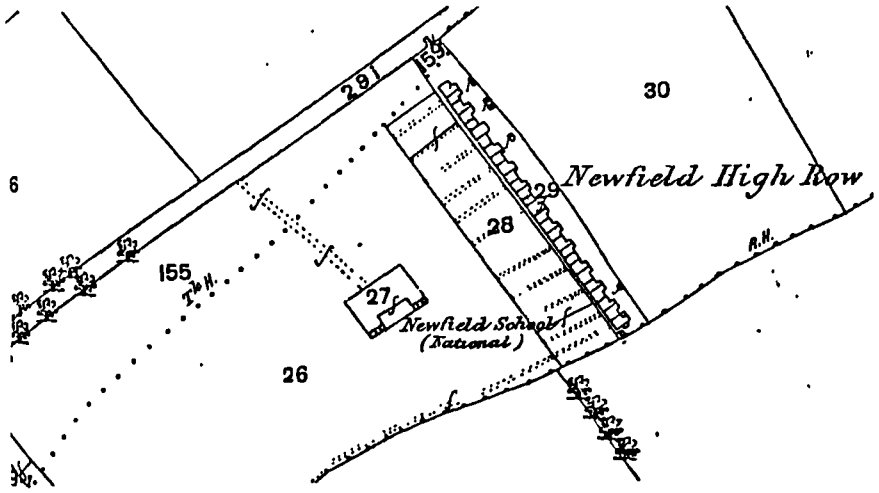
High Row, Newfield is an example where the cottages were gradually converted over the years to improve the standard of accommodation. Map 18 shows High Row on four editions of the Ordnance Survey Map On the 1874 edition there were twenty eight cottages in the row. The 1897 and 1920 edition show twenty five or six cottages and the addition of the privies across the back lane.

On the 1964 Ordnance sheet the plan shows a marked increase in the depth of the dwelling, from what was apparently a single house to a double house. Inspection revealed a row of cottages with brick fronts and totally rendered rear elevations, Figure 89. On survey the cottages were found to have a massive central wall, probably stone which was originally the wall of the front elevation.

These cottages are now about 120 years old and during their life span they have been adapted several times, and in 1987 are double their original size.

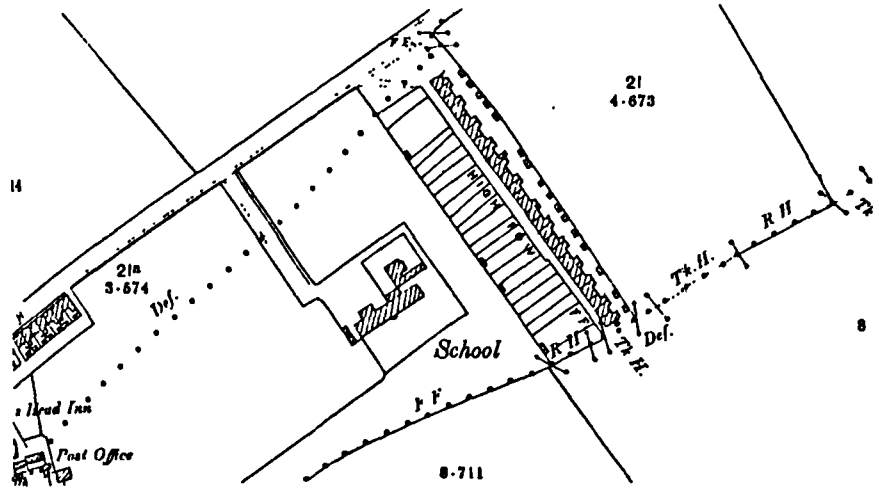
Map 18 High Row, Newfield
Map Reference NZ 208338
Ordnance Survey Editions 1874, 1897, 1920, 1964.

Conversion of a row of cottages



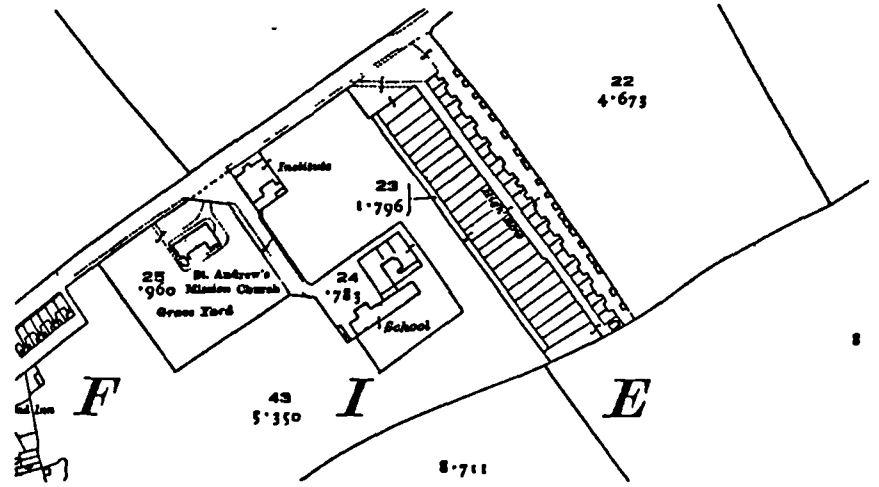
28 Cottages in Row
Pattern along the row varies
some large cottages with off-shoot
some small cottages with no off-shoot
Footpath access to front

O.S. Edition 1874



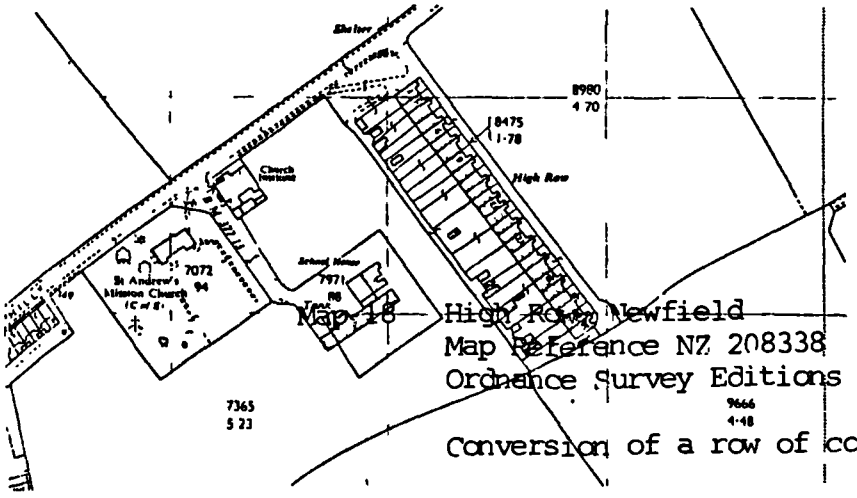
26 Cottages in Row
Privies added across back lane
Formal boundaries to some gardens

O.S. Edition 1897



25 Cottages in Row
25 gardens
New access at bottom of front garden

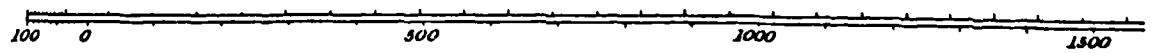
O.S. Edition 1920

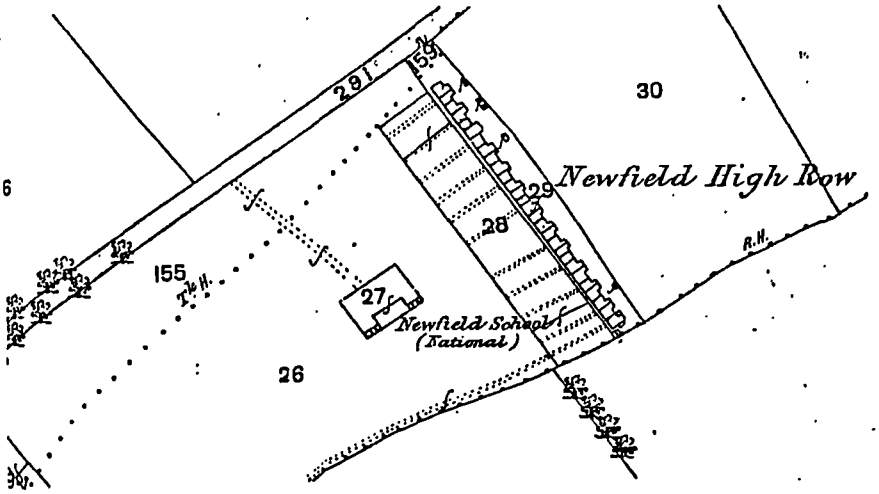


26 Cottages in Row
Depth of cottages increased
New brick front elevation
No 1. cottage appears to be new
Brick off-shoot at end of row
Garages constructed at end of front gardens
Vehicular access to front gardens
No footpath access direct to front
No privies in back lane, bathrooms added
Rear yard enclosed

O.S. Edition 1964

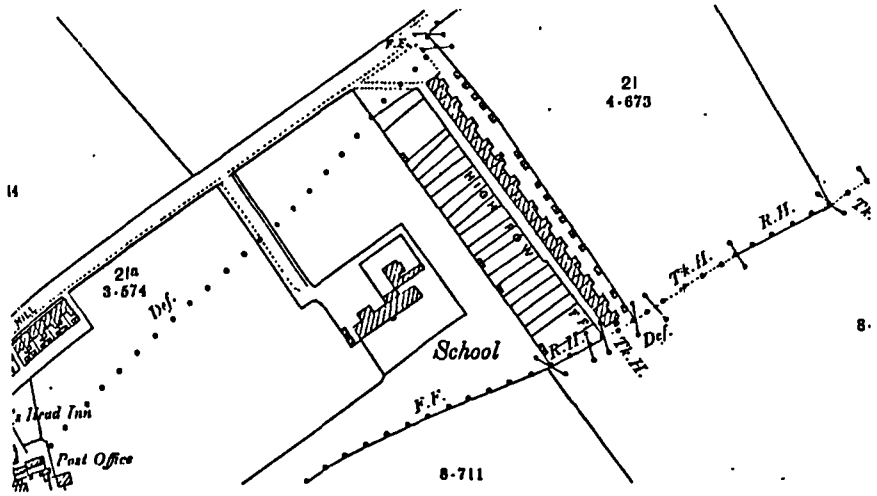
Map 18 High Row Newfield
Map Reference NZ 208338
Ordnance Survey Editions 1874, 1897, 1920, 1964.
Conversion of a row of cottages HIGH ROW NEWFIELD
Map Reference NZ 208338





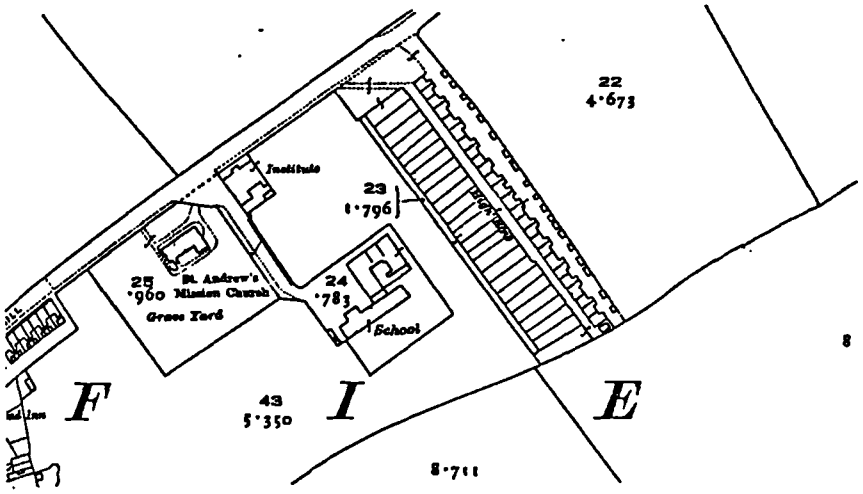
28 Cottages in Row
Pattern along the row varies
some large cottages with off-shoot
some small cottages with no off-shoot
Footpath access to front

O.S. Edition 1874



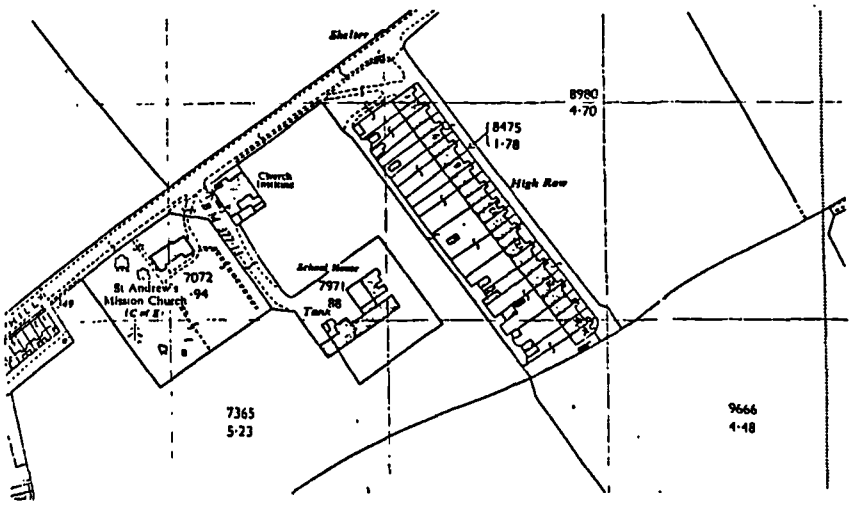
26 Cottages in Row
Privies added across back lane
Formal boundaries to some gardens

O.S. Edition 1897



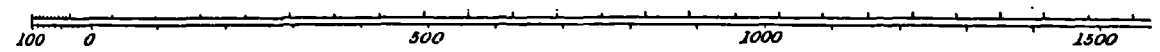
25 Cottages in Row
25 gardens
New access at bottom of front garden

O.S. Edition 1920



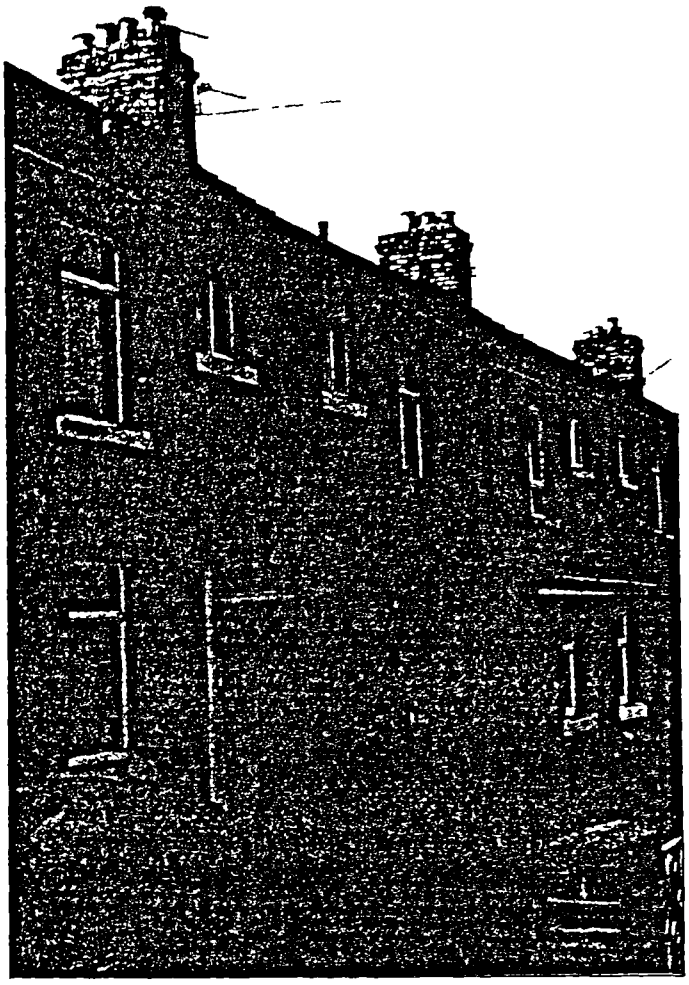
26 Cottages in Row
Depth of cottages increased
New brick front elevation
No 1. cottage appears to be new
Brick off-shoot at end of row
Garages constructed at end of front gardens
Vehicular access to front gardens
No footpath access direct to front
No privies in back lane, bathrooms added
Rear yard enclosed

O.S. Edition 1964
HIGH ROW NEWFIELD
Map Reference NZ 208338

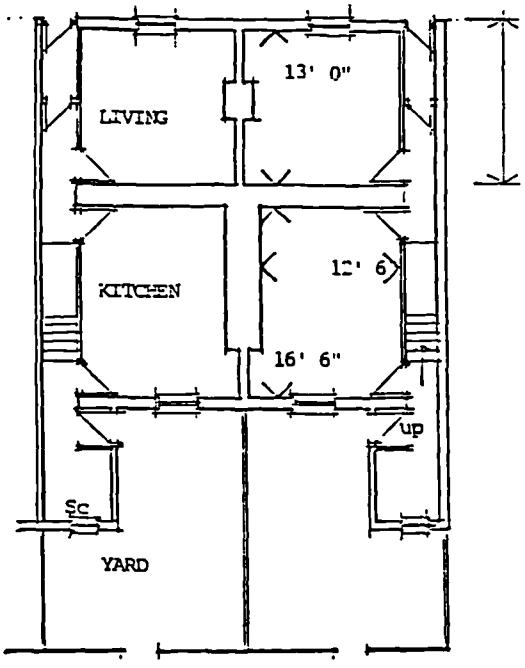




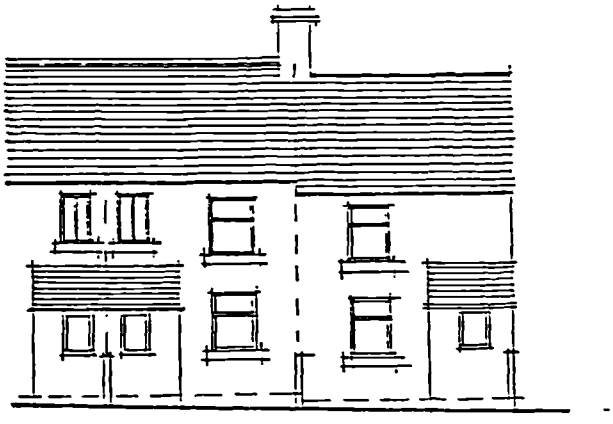
FRONT ELEVATION



REAR ELEVATION



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

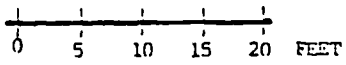


REAR ELEVATION

Figure 89 CATEGORY SIX
CONVERSION TWO ROOMED TO FOUR ROOMED COTTAGE

HIGH ROW
NEWFIELD
Map Reference NZ208338

Authors own survey



SCALE

NOTES AND REFERENCES

1 See page 173, Census Returns op.cit.

2 R. A. Scott James op.cit. Appendices, 139.

3 'OCV' Hetton-le-Hole NWC 18.1.1873 (XVI).

4 ibid.

5 See Figure 54.

6 See page 273
Woolley Terrace is examined as an example of a cat slide roof cottage in a composed row.

7 'OCV' Stanley and Bowden Close NWC 5.7.1873 (XXXVI).

8 See page 103.

9 See page 249.

10 R. B. Nichol op.cit. 79-80.

11 See page 273.

12 See page 269-270.

13 See page 392.

14 R. B. Nichol op.cit., 60.

15 R. B. Nichol op.cit., 60 and conversation with Mr. Steven Martin and Mr. Ross Miles, September 1979.

16 'OCV' Ashington and Pegswood NWC 6.9.1873. (XLIV)

17 ibid.

18 ibid.

19 ibid and R. B. Nichol op.cit., 79 and conversation with Mr. Steven Martin and Mr. Ross Miles, September 1979.

20 See pages 470 and 628.

21 'OCV' Ashington and Pegswood NWC 6.9.1983. (XLIV)

22 See page 373

23 Les Turnbull Chopwell's Story (Gateshead: Metropolitan Borough Council, Department of Education, undated), 7.

24 See page 373.

25 See page 388.

26 R. B. Nichol op.cit., Figure 43.

27 See page 269.

28 See page 373.

29 See page 392.

30 See page 269-70.

31 See page 424.

32 W. Bourn History of the Parish of Ryton
(Carlisle:The Wordsworth Press, 1896).

33 Kelly's Directory of Durham, 1902
(London Kelly's Directories Limited
182,183 and 184, High Holbourne, W.C. and Middle Mill,
Kingston upon Thames), 315-316
J.J. Lish listed under Private Residents and under
commercial as Architect.

34 Census Returns, 1901.

Ashington	6,284
Hirst	7,672
	13,956

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
CATEGORY SEVEN - ANCILLARY ACCOMMODATION

It is impossible to study the colliery cottages of the Great Northern Coalfield without consideration of some of the buildings which are ancillary to the main body of housing. Some investigation of the level of provision for the manager and under managers houses was considered necessary in order to ascertain in what way their accommodation was superior to that of the ordinary pitman. An area of study also requiring consideration, the history and level of provision of dwellings for aged miners. Less significant elements, the privies and bread ovens, the reading rooms, offices and shops all require mention in order to complete the picture.

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
CATEGORY SEVEN - ANCILLARY ACCOMMODATION

MANAGERS HOUSE, UNDER MANAGERS AND FOREMANS COTTAGES

Throughout the Great Northern Coalfield it was the practice of many of the colliery companies to provide rent free 'special' accommodation for colliery officials. Generally speaking the official's accommodation took one of three forms.

The greatest distinction between the colliery manager and the pitman occurred when the managers house was a large detached house and garden situated some distance from the pit rows.

The under manager, the next official down in the hierachy was often provided with a dwelling attached to the end of a row of pit cottages. The other colliery officials, the foremen and overmens houses were sometimes grouped together. This was found most commonly in the larger settlements like Ashington and Leasingthorne where there was a greater work force and therefore a larger number of officials.

MANAGERS HOUSE
STOCKLEY LANE OAKENSHAW

The Managers House at Oakenshaw was a large detached imposing stone house. The house was situated on Stockley Lane at the head of, and at right angles to New Row, the terrace of sixty four cat slide roof cottages, Figure 60, Plate 96, and Institute Street, Figure 68. The Managers house here clearly held an 'overseeing' situation of the colliery Pit B, and the Pit Rows. Map 26. The Overman's row of cottages were grouped together fronting the reservoirs. The map of Oakenshaw provides a very interesting plan of a colliery settlement.
1

UNDER MANAGER'S HOUSE

ELLINGTON COLLIERY

The Under Manager's house at Ellington Colliery is situated at the end of a row of colliery cottages. The original drawings, Figure 74, were submitted to the Local Authority and found in the deposited plans at NCRO. It is interesting to note that in the Morpeth Rural District Council Stamp, the dwelling is described as "9 roomed cottage"! The property therefore still falls in the definition of a colliery cottage, Figure 90.

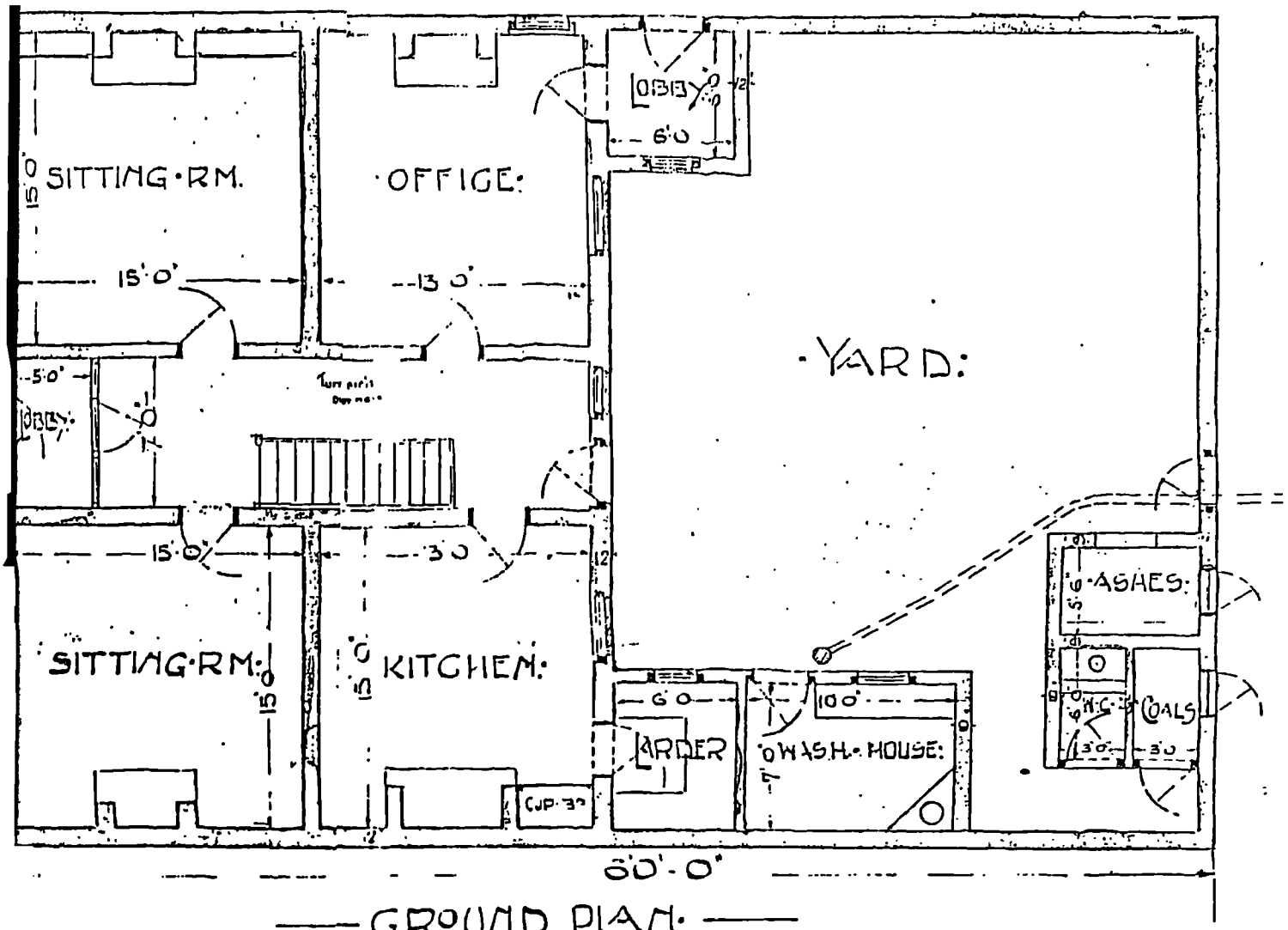
The Block plan, Figure 74, shows the Under Manager's house at the end of a row of sixteen double houses. The double houses were large, well built houses, with two ground floor rooms and three bedrooms. The accommodation provided in the Under Manager's house was large in terms of floor area, Figure 90 and 91.

The entry was from an outer draught lobby into a light and spacious 7'0" wide hall, which had a door and window to the rear yard. The staircase rose in a straight flight from the entrance door, through an arch way to the first floor. The landing was again large and well-illuminated with a window to the rear. There were five bedrooms opening directly off the landing, the largest being 15'0" by 14'0" and the smallest 9'0" by 12'0". On the ground floor there were four main rooms. A kitchen of 15'0" x 13'0" with a larder of 6'0" x 7'0". Two sitting rooms and an office with an independent access lobby.

The enclosed yard at the rear gave access to the wash house, WC and coal store. The wash house had a gulley which connected with a 6" sewer which ran down the back of the row. The siting of the WC, the coal house and ash pit was rather strange as it involved a very tortuous access to the WC.

The house was constructed of 12" brick cavity walls and the out buildings of 9" brick. The house was roofed in slates on a good substantial king post truss. The windows were all timber vertical sliding sash. The kitchen and office had a solid concrete floor and the two front rooms had suspended timber floors, Figure 92.

Although the external elevations were not architecturally stimulating there was an indication of decoration internally in the plastered cornice of the sitting room. The dwelling although not architecturally significant was large and well constructed offering superior accommodation.



GROUND PLAN.

PROPOSED.

UNDER·MANAGERS·HOUSE

ELLINGTON·COLLIERY.

FOR THE ASHINGTON COAL COMPANY LTD.

SCALE·8 FEET·TO AN INCH.

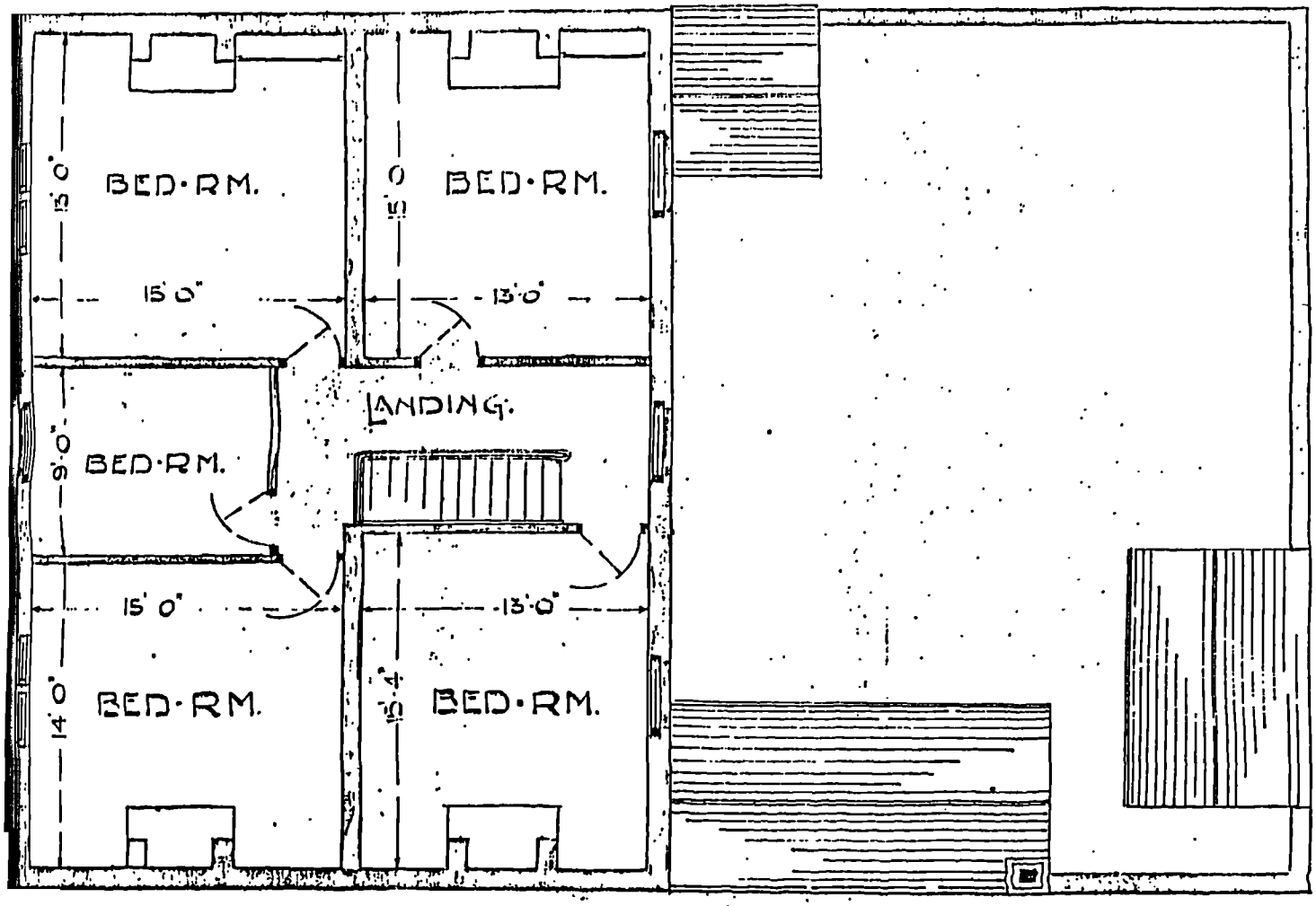
MORPETH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.
Description of proposed cottages
at Ellington Colliery
Township of Ellington
Deposited by E. O. Southern Esq.
for Ashington Coal Co.
Approved at Meeting held

Figure 90 CATEGORY SEVEN UNDER MANAGERS HOUSE

ELLINGTON 1911
Map Reference NZ277909

0 5 10 FEET
SCALE

Original drawing Ground Plan
Proposed Under Managers House Ellington Colliery
for the Ashington Coal Company Ltd
L.A. Deposited Plans Northumberland County Record Office



CHAMBER·PLAN.

on behalf of the Ashington Coal Co. Ltd
E. O. Lowthian
Mining agent

Figure 91 CATEGORY SEVEN UNDER MANAGERS HOUSE

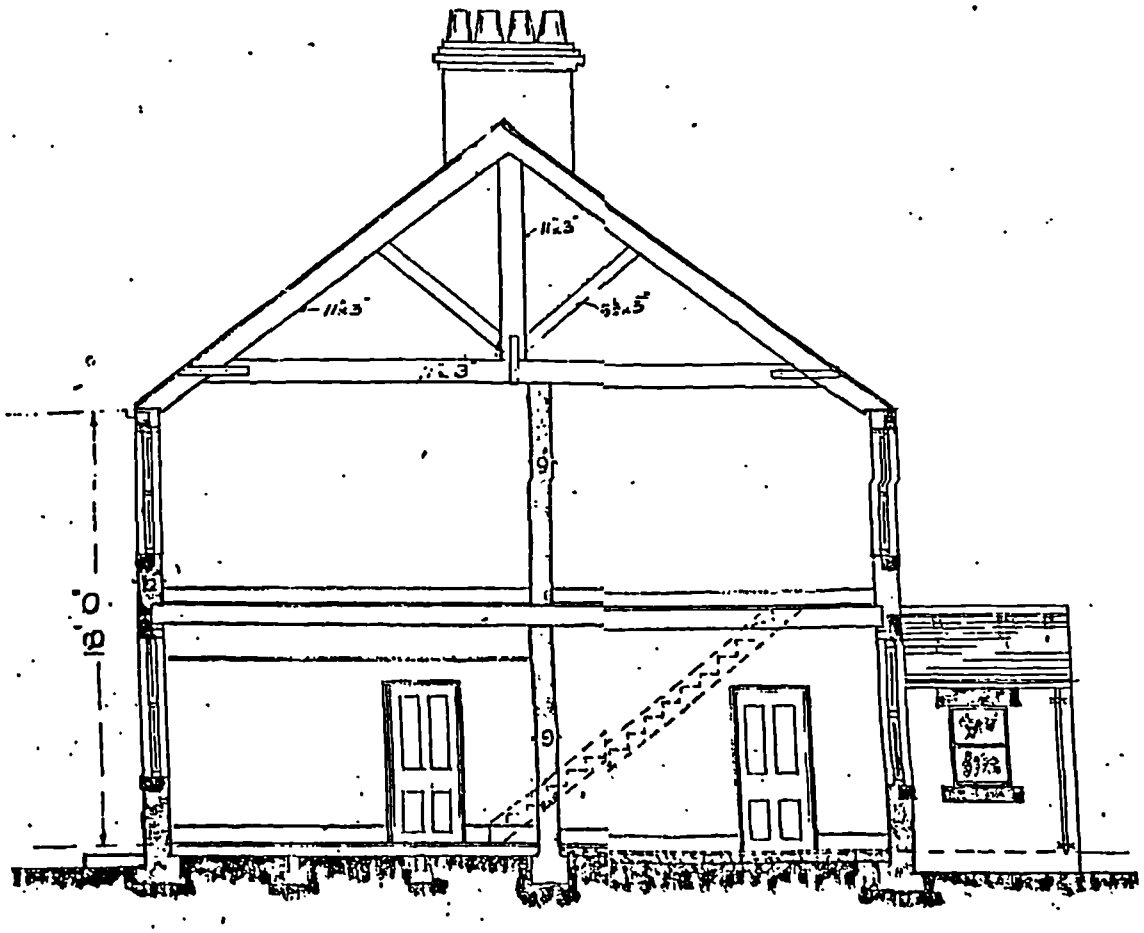
0 5 10 FEET
SCALE

ELLINGTON 1911
Map Reference NZ277909

Original drawing Chamber Plan
Proposed Under Managers House Ellington Colliery
for the Ashington Coal Company Ltd
L. A. Deposited Plans Northumberland County Record Office



— FRONT ELEVATION: —



— SECTION: —

Figure 92 CATEGORY SEVEN UNDER MANAGERS HOUSE

ELLINGTON 1911
Map Reference NZ277909

0 5 10 FEET
SCALE

Original drawing Front Elevation and Section
Proposed Under Managers House Ellington Colliery
for the Ashington Coal Company Ltd
L. A. Deposited Plans Northumberland County Record Office

WESTERN TERRACE, FIRST ROW, ASHINGTON
COLLIERY MANAGER's HOUSE
UNDER MANAGER's HOUSE
THREE OVERMENS HOUSES

The western terrace of First Row Ashington provides an example of the grouping of colliery officials in one row of cottages. The row comprised of five, five roomed houses with one three roomed house at the end. These houses were occupied rent free by the colliery manager, under manager and three overmen. It was reported at the time that similar houses in Newcastle would demand a rent of £18 per annum.[2]

The five roomed houses had two rooms on the ground floor, a large kitchen to one side of the front door, and a sitting room, 'Large enough for small prayer meetings' to the other. Pantries were built as off shoots out from the backs[3] of the kitchen. A timber staircase led from a passage behind the front door and was illuminated by a small window at the top. The first floor was divided by partitions into three bedrooms. These houses although not particularly affluent were definitely superior to the ordinary pitmen's house which surrounded this row. Grouping managers, under managers and foremen together, did create a certain 'elite' in the population, and the 'pitman' were obviously conscious of this. These areas were particularly evident in the names of the streets, 'Quality Row', 'Foreman's Row' or 'Shiney Row'. Shiney Row being a reference to the shiny leather cap worn by officials.

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
CATEGORY SEVEN - ANCILLARY ACCOMMODATION

AGED MINERS COTTAGES

Many cottages, were built to house retired miners and their wives.

> I thank God for my cottage home
> so kindly lent to me
> By the miners of Northumberland
> On whom God's blessing be

4

On the Great Northern Coalfield there were two bodies, NAMHA, Northumberland Aged Miners Homes Association and the DAMHA, Durham Aged Mineworkers Homes Association. The largest of these two bodies, the DAMHA developed under the inspiration of Joseph Hopper local union leader. The work was described by Lord Joicey as :

> the most remarkable philanthropic work done by any body of workmen .
> 5

The success of the movement owed a great deal to its first president John Wilson MP, DCL, the then secretary of the Durham Miner's Union. The scheme was inaugurated in 1898 by John Wilson, Dr Moore then the vicar of Gateshead, and a few others. The controlling body of the DAMHA consisted of a President, a secretary and an Hon. Treasurer, and a committee, representing the mineworkers. The movement relied upon the voluntary contributions of workmen,coal owners, private individuals and organisations to finance its work. The major part of the contributions came from the mineworkers themselves.

The DAMHA built its first homes at Haswell Moor in October 1899, and soon after this in 1900 the Northumberland Aged Mineworkers Homes Association met in Burt Hall Newcastle (1900). The finance was to be based on a sum of 1/- a year per full member and 6d per half member.

Some of the earliest Aged Miners Homes built in Northumberland were at East Chevington Built in 1902. M. Tulip, an architect was consulted and on 28th November 1901, the plan for a group of cottages was approved.[6] There were ten cottages in a straight row of white brick with a small walled-in garden at the front. The roof of the terrace was hipped at both ends. The south facing verandahs encouraged neighbourly contact, and the overall appearance was orderly. The internal accommodation was fairly standard with the front facing living room being backed by a bedroom and pantry. Amenities were minimal with an outside WC, no electricity and all the cottages being served by one outside tap. The cottages were built by a local builder in six months at a cost of £1205 (although the contract was for four months at £1115).[7] Occupancy was decided by ballot as there were a great many miners who wanted one of the houses.

Strict rules were laid down regarding the occupation of the cottages, the main ones being 'no tenant shall be allowed to keep lodgers or to have anyone working living with them',[8] and 'no tenant be allowed to beg for their living during their tenancy'.[9] However the committee did sanction the opening of 'small shops for the sale of sweets and aerated waters' with the proviso that they could at anytime, cancel the privilege 'if anyone went beyond that'.[10][11]

The DAMHA also worked enthusiastically and by January 1915, the Association owned four hundred and seventy five cottages which were valued at £41,190.[12] These generally followed the pattern described for Northumberland of single storey two roomed cottages, grouped in ten or twelve cottages together with a small garden. Many of

the tenants had worked for the mines for periods of fifty to sixty years, and in 1915 four of the tenants of the DAMHA homes could claim seventy years of service.[13]

During 1914, thirty eight new cottages were opened in Durham and over fifty were nearing completion at the end of the year.[14] One hundred and fifty three houses were being built at ten different places in the county, Plate 57. In the 1914 Annual Report of the DAMHA, the total cash income of the Association since its foundation in 1898 was £80,000 of which £46,000 had been contributed by the miners. The remainder was subscribed by colliery owners and the general public.[15]

The work of the organisation continued through the years of the depression in the early 1920's until 1925 when government money was made available. After the First World War and during the 1920's work progressed on a new type of home. The format was more individual with hipped roofs appearing on each house, if not one of a pair. There are examples at Shilbottle built in 1927 and at Holywell built in 1928. The plan form of many of the Aged Miners dwellings was a single storey row often situated on the outskirts of the village. Neighbourly contact was considered an important aspect, and in later examples the cottages were sometimes planned as a three sided square, encompassing a 'village green'.

By 1925 the DAMHA had built one thousand two hundred homes and the NAMHA two hundred and sixty two homes, a fantastic achievement for a voluntary organisation. The subject of the Aged Miners cottages is worthy of study in its own right.

> This provision for the veterans of the industry is evidence of the spirit of kindliness and of self-help which activates the best type of north-country miner'.
> 16

Plate 57 Hetton Elemore and Eppleton Aged Miners' Homes
Opened March 11th, 1916

Beamish Open Air Museum



Plate 57 Hetton Elemore and Eppleton Aged Miners' Homes
Opened March 11th, 1916

Beamish Open Air Museum



Hetton, Elemore and Eppleton Aged Miners' Homes, Opened March 11th, 1916.

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
CATEGORY SEVEN - ANCILLARY ACCOMMODATION

ANCILLARY BUILDINGS
The netty, Privies and Middens
Pig Sties
The Brick Oven

THE NETTY
PRIVIES AND MIDDENS

An examination of buildings ancillary to the dwelling house must include the out-buildings of the immediate vicinity. These buildings usually contained the privy, with the adjoining ash-pit or midden, coal house and sometimes a pig sty and bread oven.

The derivation of the north eastern term 'the netty' was the modest 'the necessary'. 'The privy' was the fairly universal term for the privy midden and was sometimes referred to as the 'earth-closet'. The 'midden' was infact a cess pit placed below the toilet seat, and it was emptied weekly by the 'midden men', 'night soil men' or the 'scavengers'. They came with a horse and cart, powdered disinfectant and a shovel to collect the manure, the cost of which made its collection a worthwhile business.
17

The relationship of the privy to the dwelling, or 'the netty to the cottage' appears to have regional variations. Most early miners cottages did not appear to have either their own facilities or their own yards. The netty was originally across the lane and was shared by several cotages. Mr. Gibbons senior of 28, Lyons Street recorded that he had assisted in the rebuilding of 'the netties' when the yards were enclosed with walls. The main explanation for the distanc-
18
ing of the toilet from the dwellings can only be the fact that the netty was often linked with the pig sty, both being 'rather smelly'!. The detachment from the dwellings was probably the result of the privies initially being built on the site of the pile of

ash which ran behind the row, and which the privy replaced. It is difficult to explain why the netty was built in isolation without yard walls for so long. Many rows of colliery cottages had the netty across the back lane with no yard walls, at Bedlington, Doctor Terrace and Escomb Plate 58.[19] Many remained in this form until they were demolished, East Chevington, Plate 59.

Privies and netties were usually built of stone or brick and had pitched roofs covered in slates. There are many records which tell of the interior. Referring to the cottages which have been reconstructed at Beamish Open Air Museum, Mr. Gibbons of Lyons Street recorded

> the netties still had ash-pits and the access hatches opened on to the back lane, which was still unsurfaced and unlit. The coal house also had access hatches. The netty seat was wooden with a wooden lid over and rested on bricks which were plastered over and whitewashed. The floor was concrete.[20]

Plate 60.

The form of netty varied very little, but the number of netties in relation to the number of cottages increased gradually over the years. The plan and siting of the facilities also varied.

1850 is the earliest traced example of a detail drawing 'Ground Plan of Privies and Ash Pit' at Emma Colliery, Figure 93. The drawing shows a stone constructed building 21'0" long by 8'0" wide comprising two privies and a central ash pit 'midden'. The building was situated 11'0" away from the rear off shoot, coal house and pantry.

A later drawing entitled 'Plan showing the ends of the two rows at the Emma Ville 1859' Figure 94, shows a similar arrangement

Plate 58 Escomb
Unmade back lane
Netties, no yard walls
Photograph 1975

Roy Snaith. The Growth of Mining Communities in County Durham
Dissertation 1975

Plate 59 East Chevington
Netties, no yard walls
Awaiting demolition

Photograph by H. Diana Brown September 1979

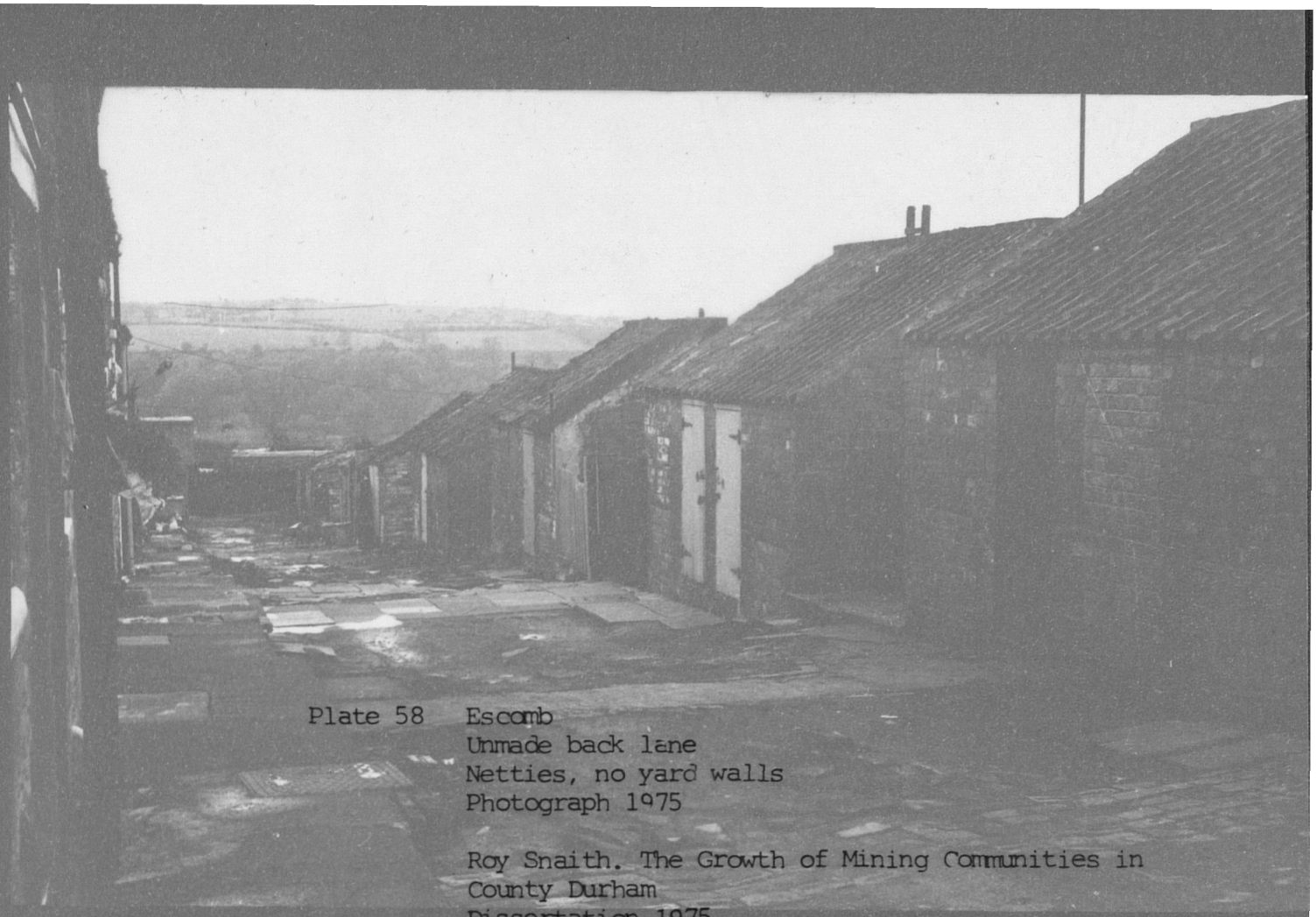


Plate 58 Escomb
Unmade back lane
Netties, no yard walls
Photograph 1975

Roy Snaith. The Growth of Mining Communities in County Durham
Dissertation 1975

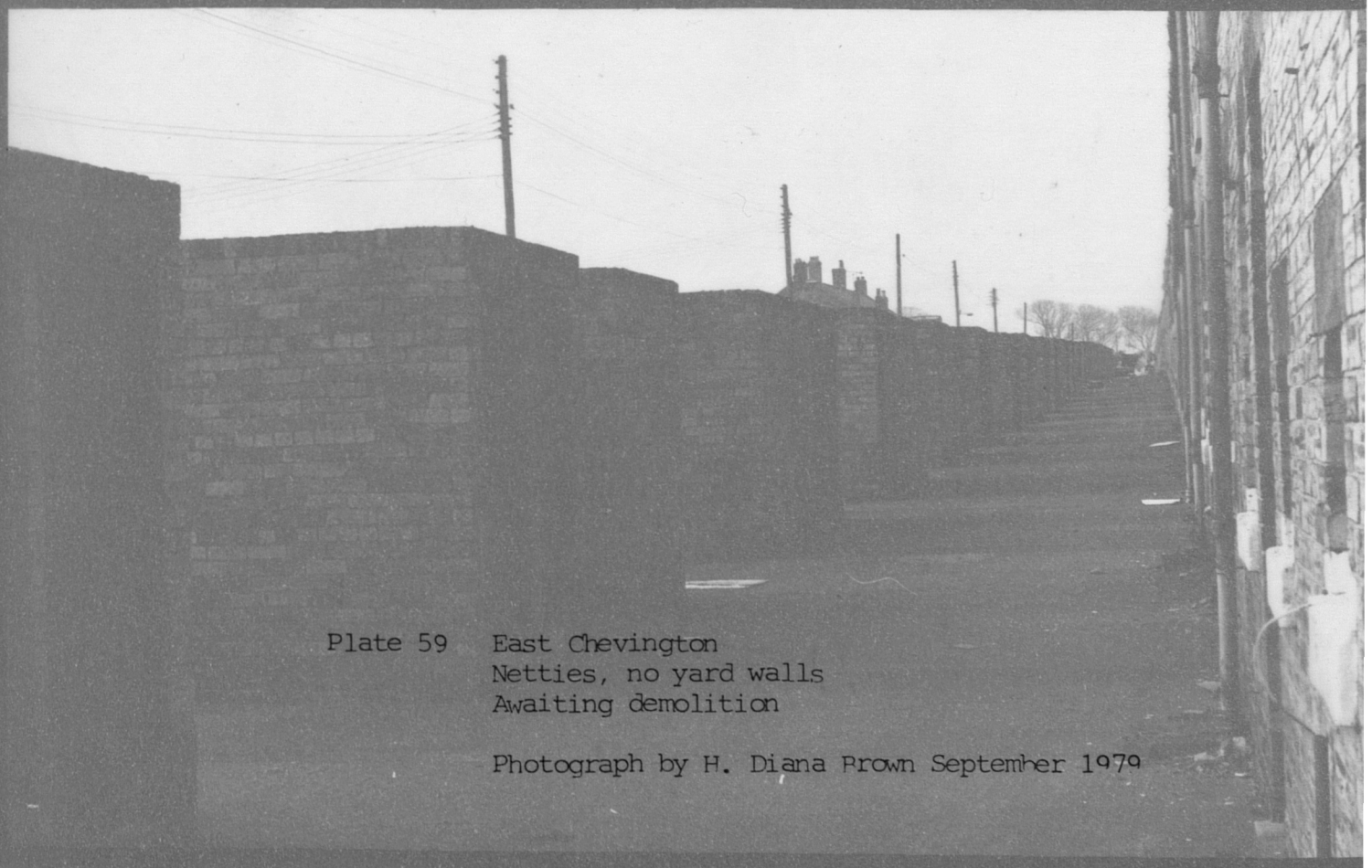


Plate 59 East Chevington
Netties, no yard walls
Awaiting demolition

Photograph by H. Diana Brown September 1979





Plate 60 Lyons Street, Eppleton Colliery
Rear view showing access hatches to ash pits
and coal houses
Photograph 1975

Roy Snaith. The Growth of Mining Communities in
County Durham
Dissertation 1975



Plate 60 Lyons Street, Eppleton Colliery
Rear view showing access hatches to ash pits
and coal houses
Photograph 1975

Roy Snaith. The Growth of Mining Communities in
County Durham
Dissertation 1975



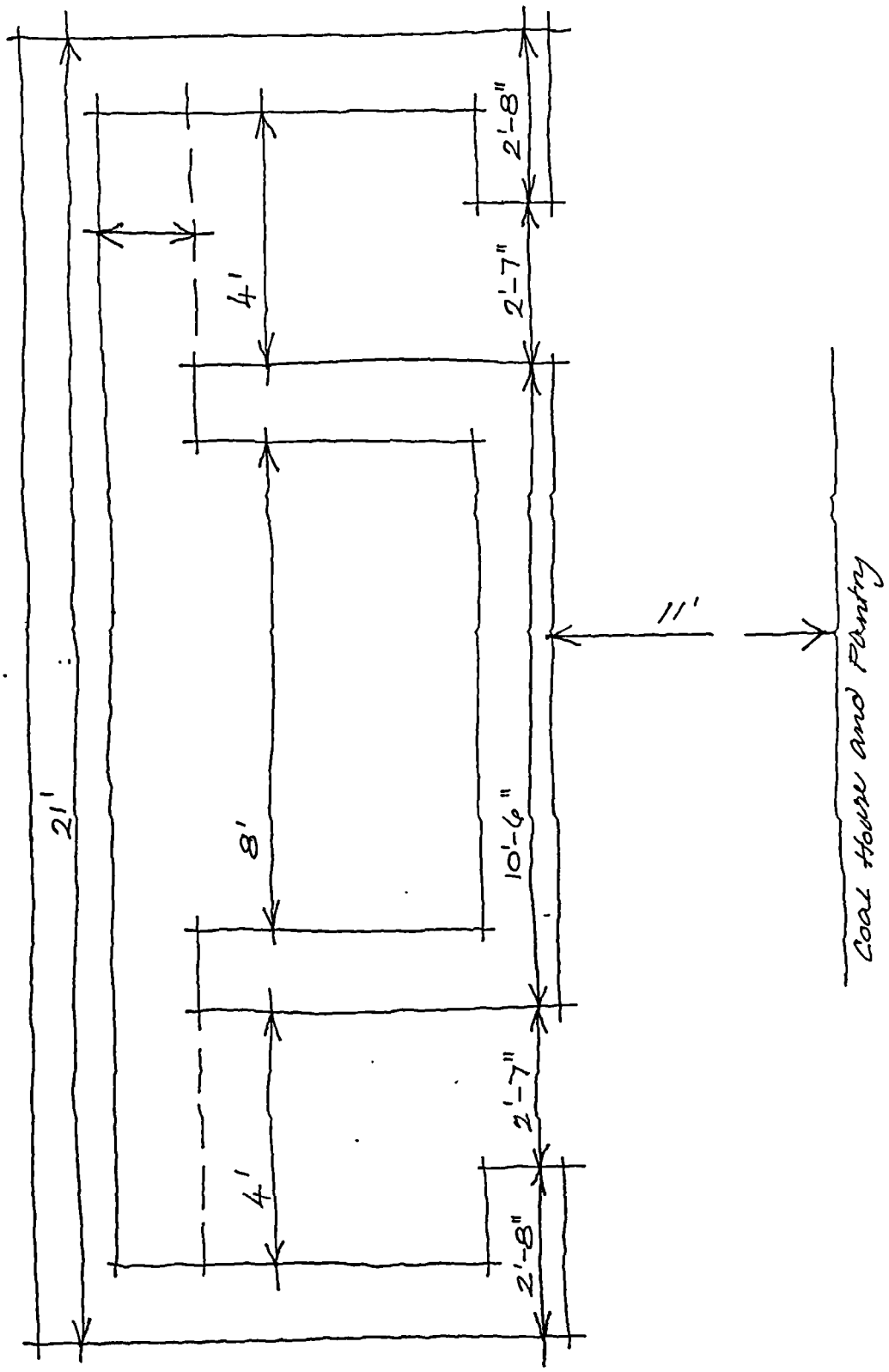


Figure 93 CATEGORY SEVEN - ANCILLARY ACCOMMODATION
PRIVIES and ASH PIT

EMMA COLLIERY

Accurate tracing of original drawing entitled
Ground plan of Privys and Ash Pit at Emma Colliery
Stella Coal Company Durham County Record Office

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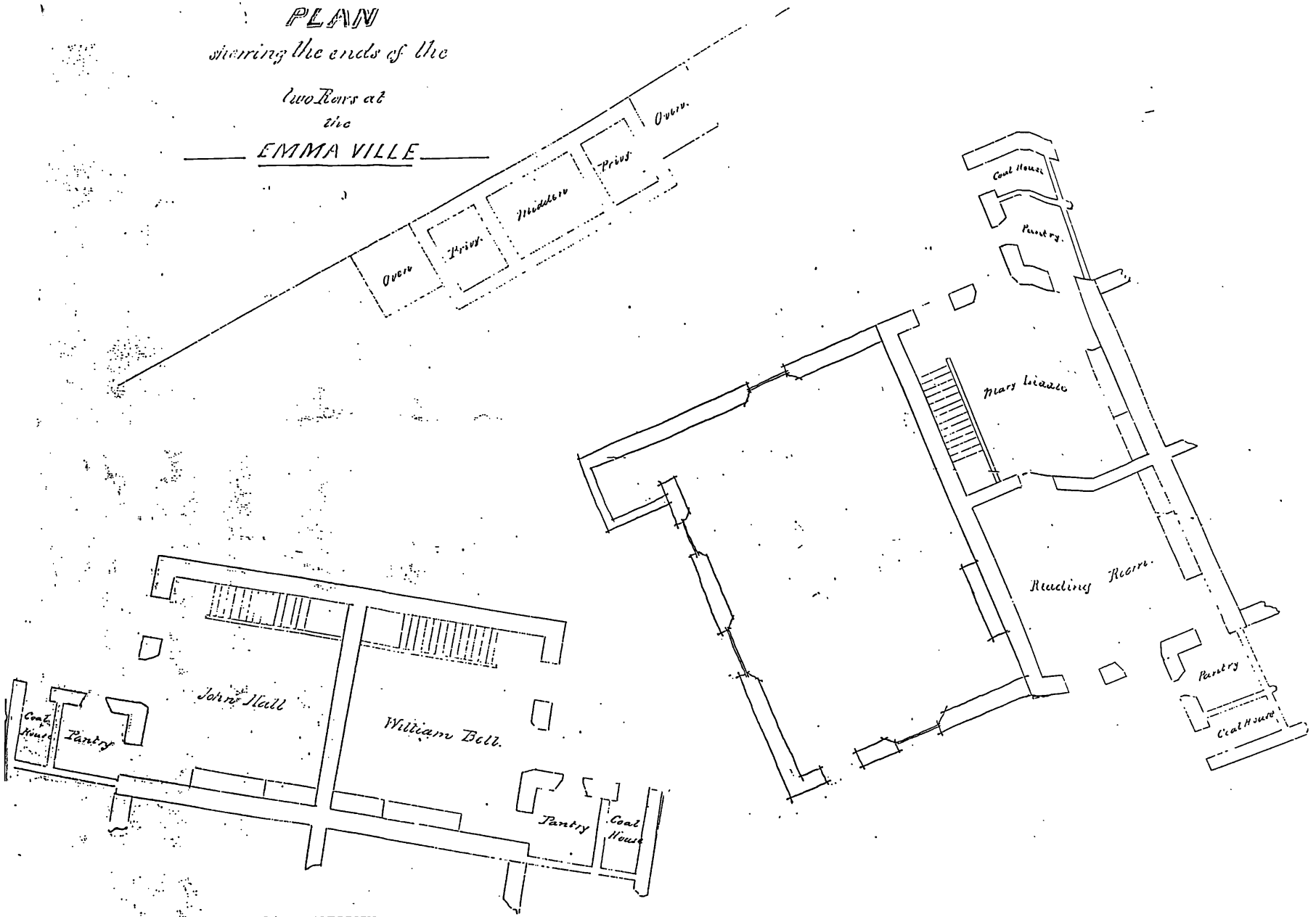


Figure 94 CATEGORY SEVEN - ANCILLARY ACCOMMODATION
PRIVIES, ASHPITS and COMMUNAL OVENS
READING ROOM

EMMA VILLE 1859
Map Reference NZ141639

Original drawing
Plan showing the ends of the two Rows
at the Emma Ville
Stella Coal Company Durham County Record Office

0 3' 4" 6' 8" 10 13' 4" FEET
SCALE

of privy and midden, but the building is situated at the end of a row of back to back cottages at Emma Ville, Ryton, Map 8. A further example of a stone constructed outbuilding, but in this instance with communal ovens. The proximity of the oven to the privy does not give the impression of any great sanitary consideration having been given to the planning of the facilities.

The layout of out-buildings at the rear of the dwellings at Tudhoe Grange, appears to be a more hygenic combination of facilities, *Figure 95. These brick out* buildings comprised two privies, ashpits, coal houses and pig sties. It is likely that these facilities were built by Mr. Marmaduke Salvin for his estate of semi-detached miners houses built between 1865 and 1870, Map 39 and Plate 99. This development was the work of a forward thinking man and each pair of semi detached houses stood in a quarter acre plot of land, hence the provision of two pig styes. It also suggests that each of these dwellings was provided with its own privy, at a time when the majority of miners' houses shared communal facilities.

Every terrace at Ashington Colliery was well spaced from the next, and each row had its own parallel line of privies, ash pits and coal houses behind it, all being serviced by the two feet gauge tram line system Plate 61. This was used not only for the delivery of 'free coal' but also for the scavenging of the ash pits. The Ashington Coal Company carried out the scavenging on a regular basis, removal being by horse and cart of an area south of the development.

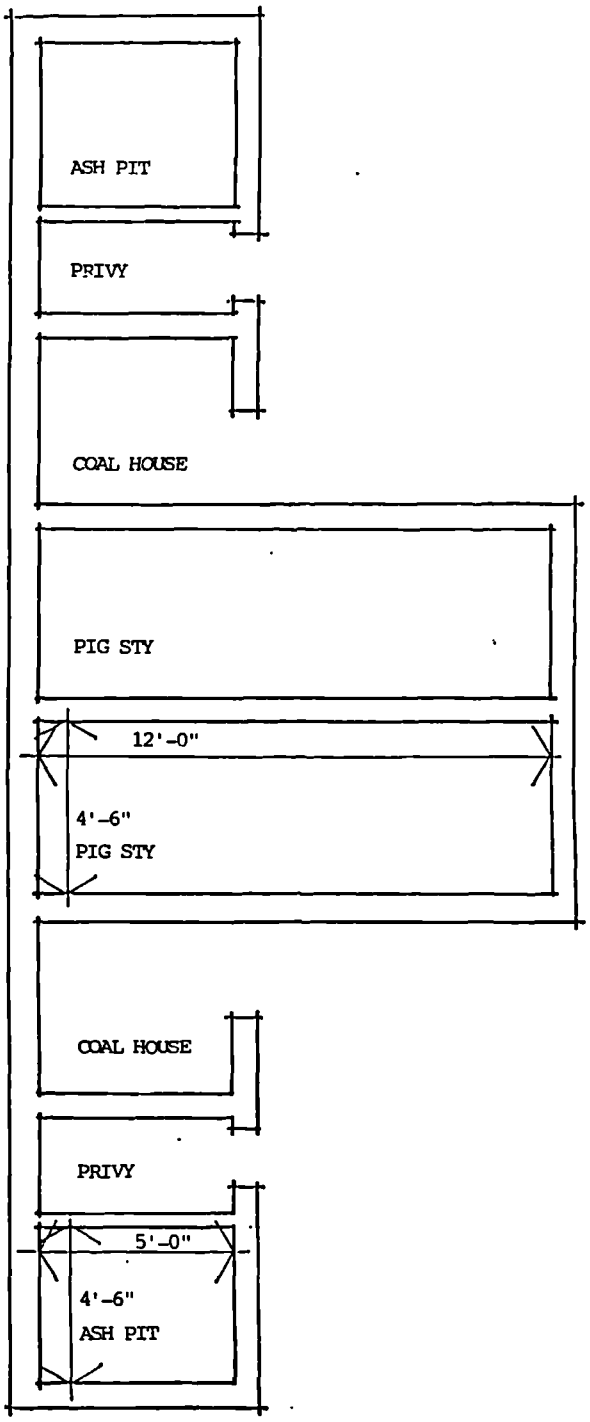


Figure 95 CATEGORY SEVEN - ANCILLARY ACCOMMODATION
PRIVIES, ASH PITS, COAL HOUSES and PIG STIES

TUDHOE GRANGE 1875
Map Reference NZ250342

From drawing at
Beamish Open Air Museum

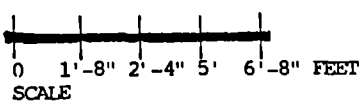


Plate 61 Horse pulling coal bogies, Ashington
Photograph about 1920
The Ashington Coal Company laid a network of tram rails along the colliery rows to supply pitmens' coals and remove the ashes

Northumberland Yesteryear, edited by Robin Gard

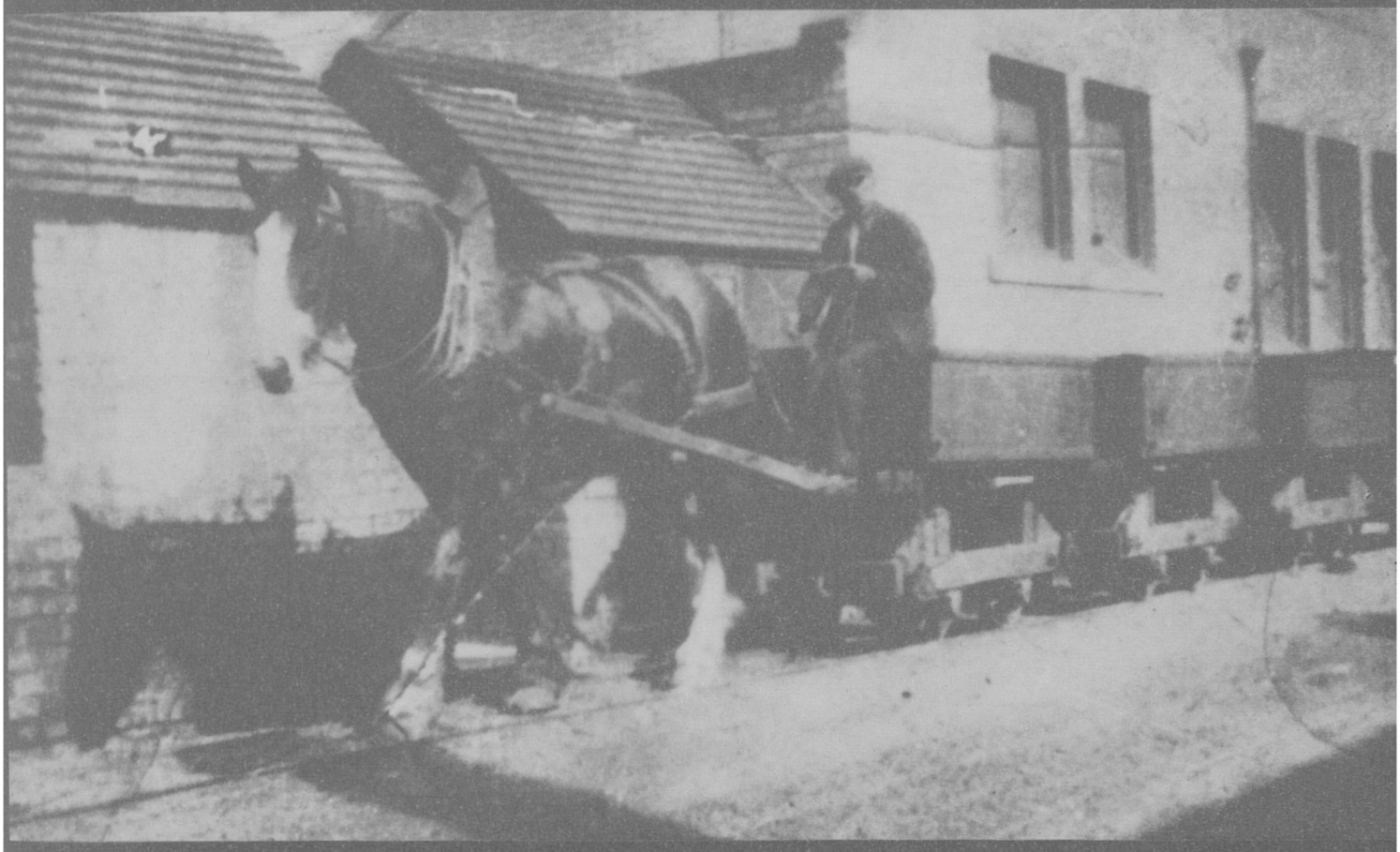
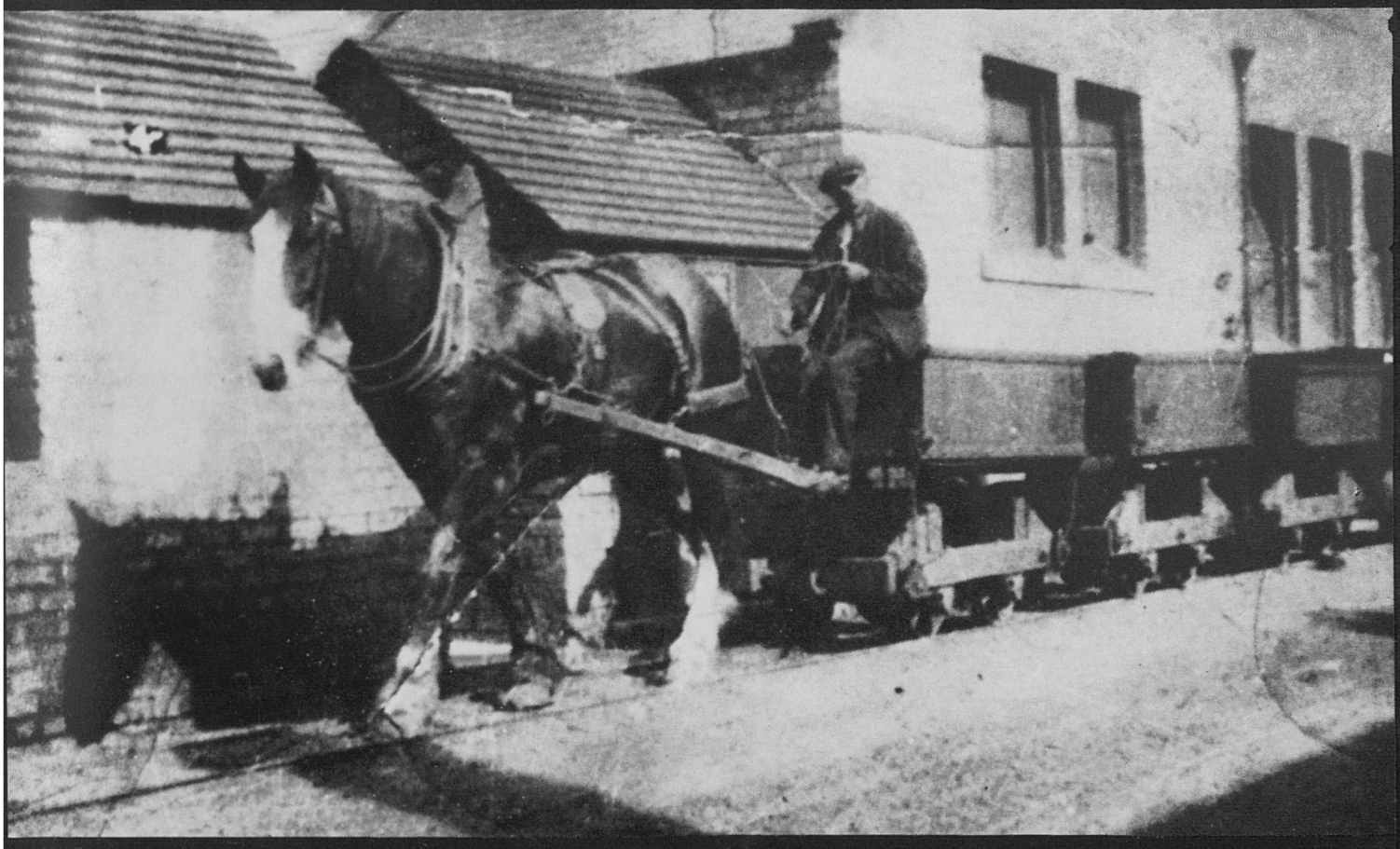


Plate 61 Horse pulling coal bogies, Ashington
Photograph about 1920
The Ashington Coal Company laid a network of tram rails along the colliery rows to supply pitmens' coals and remove the ashes

Northumberland Yesteryear, edited by Robin Gard



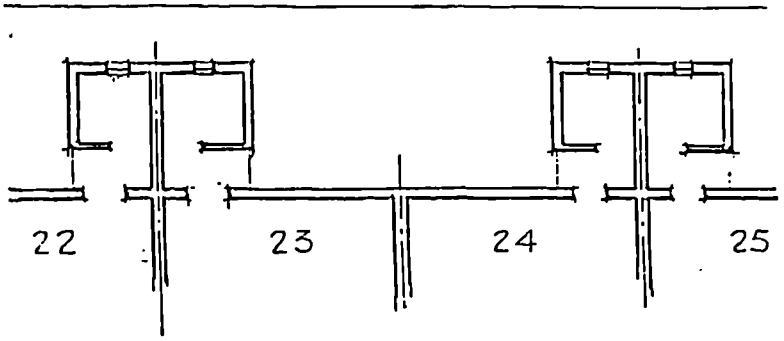
Because of the large population of Ashington the conveniences were planned compactly in order to facilitate ease of servicing. There were a variety of arrangements of privies, ashpits and coal houses. Figure 96 shows the plan of the facilities in Fourth Row, 1880 and Ninth Row, 1890. In the later example the planning is very compact, one large ash pit served four privies.

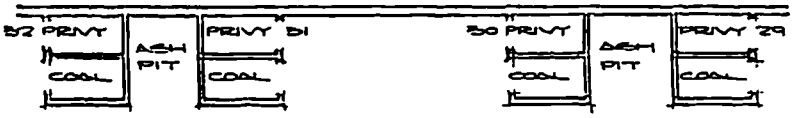
An example of an individual privy with its own earth closet and access panel is shown in Figure 97, where used in conjunction with colliery housing in Murton, 1915. Brick built with a slate roof and concrete floor the drawing shows a ventilation flue and air outlet to the earth closet.

In common with colliery cottages themselves the variety of provision in terms of facilities was wide. Early examples demonstrated variety in layout and different elevational treatments, one with a non pitch roof, one with a double pitch roof and so on.Plate 62 shows 'double decker' two storey privies, built on a sloping site in 1859. Access to the lower level conveniences going from one side and the higher level from the other. Towards the end of the study period, although the level of provision was more uniform still the location of the facilities varied. Some linked to the dwelling by walls in a yard and others totally isolated.



NINTH ROW





FOURTH ROW

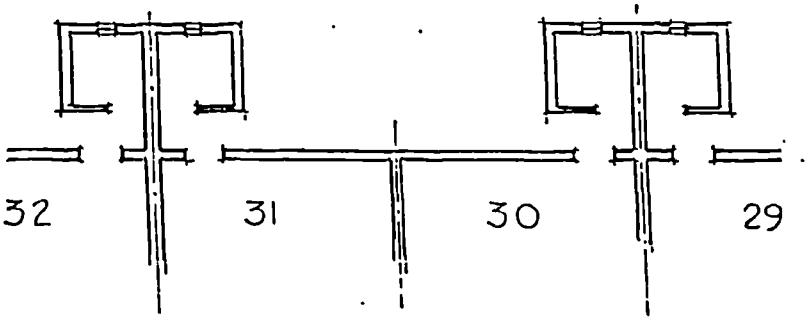
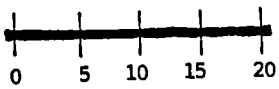
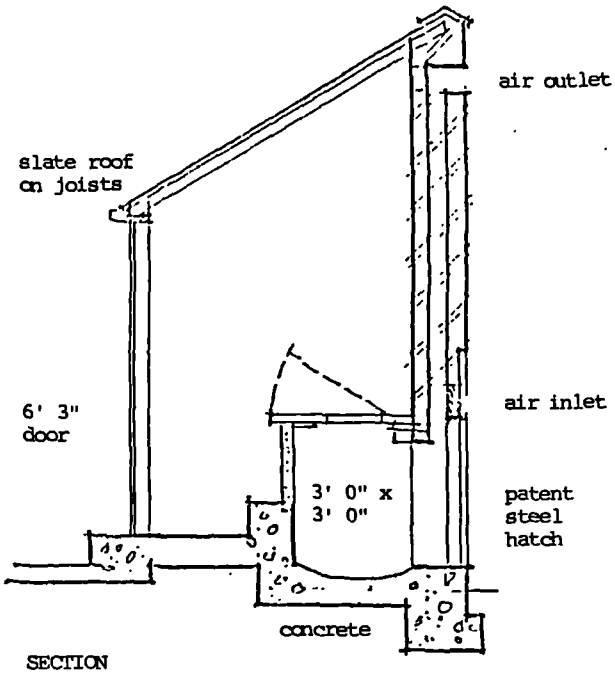


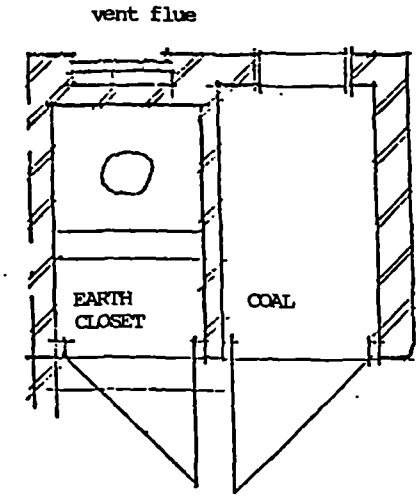
Figure 96 CATEGORY SEVEN - ANCILLARY ACCOMMODATION
ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS OF
PRIVIES, ASH PITS and COAL HOUSES

NINTH ROW FOURTH ROW
ASHINGTON 1880
Map Reference NZ252879



R.B. Nichol Colliery Housing in Ashington and South East Northumberland 1848 - 1926 unpublished dissertation





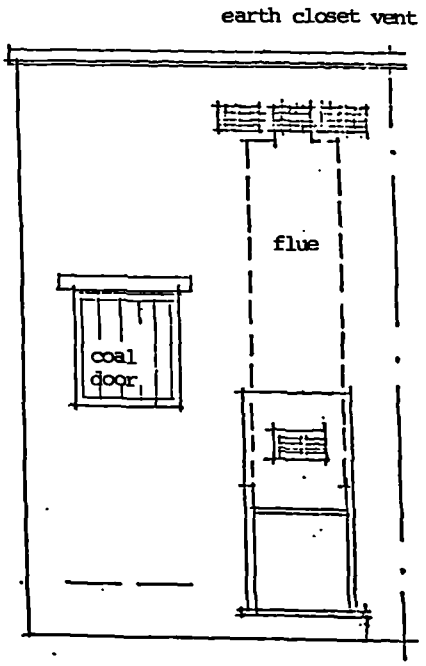


Figure 97 CATEGORY SEVEN - ANCILLARY ACCOMMODATION
PRIVY EARTH CLOSET AND COAL HOUSE

MURTON 1915
Map Reference NZ399470

A.Reynolds Colliery Housing in Murton
unpublished dissertation

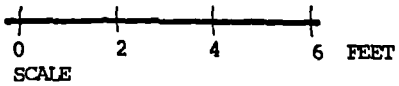


Plate 62 North Seaton Colliery
Wood Row with 'double decker' two storey privies at the rear
Built on a steeply sloping site, access to privies at low level on one side and high level from the other

Photograph from A. Jenson, 28, Canterbury Close, Ashington



Plate 62 North Seaton Colliery
Wood Row with 'double decker' two storey privies at the rear
Built on a steeply sloping site, access to privies at low level on one side and high level from the other

Photograph from A. Jenson, 28, Canterbury Close, Ashington



PIG STIES

Reference has already been made to the keeping of pigs. An unpublished manuscript of recollections of Pelton Fell by a miner born in 1890 states that 'nearly everybody had a pig'. William Kelly, born in 1893 formerly of Mainsforth remembers two pigs being kept, 'one for pork, one for bacon'.[22] One description of a house in Chopwell gives a vivid picture:[23]

> We had lodgers, pigs and gardens. We used to come in from school after playing marbles and my father would shout, 'hey feed the pigs...'
> We often used to have a pig lying on the pantry floor. We used to kill our own pigs of course and we used to cure them. We used to go to the store and get a big block of salt and would rub the salt into the pig (into the various joints, cover it with salt) and it would lie for six weeks. Then you turned it over and you did the same with the other side. Then it was cured and ready for eating.[24]

Throughout the nineteenth century and to a much lesser extent in the twentieth century the pig was an important element in the household economy of the mining village.

The pig sties were sometimes an integral part of the original plan but often they were later additions. The pig sties and privies at Boldon Colliery were described in the 'Our Colliery Villages' article of 7.3.1873.

> All the rows are provided with separate privies and ash-pits as well as pig sties for each house, but all these out buildings are open. Presently they are to be enclosed and parted off by walls, except that the pig sties are to be removed bodily into the middle of the wide space between the rows, shortly to be laid out in gardens.[25]

Some colliery companies, for example the Stella Coal Company recognised the importance of pig keeping and made provision for it constructing rows of sties. In 1855 the Stella Coal Company received an

account from a local carpenter for wood and labour expended upon thirty pig sties - a total of £21.14.0. A specification for the carpentry work to be carried out upon twenty new cottages,[26] dated April 2nd 1856 includes a section referring to the building of twenty pig sties - one for each cottage.[27] The specification points out that on this occasion rubble walling is to be used instead of brickwork as in the previous batch of pig sties. A similar specification dated May 1860 included a section concerning the building of pig sties but this was later deleted.[28] Whether this signalled the end of the Stella Coal Company's building policy in relation to pig sties is not clear. It would not have been in response to an outbreak of swine fever as this was not recognised in the United Kingdom until the early 1860's.

The 'Colliery Guardian' of 24.10.1863 carried a report of the opening of the Pease Company's 'model village' at Waterhouses, where each house had been provided with a pig sty.[29] The 'Our Colliery Villages' article of 28.6.1873 described the Pease Company's houses at Grahamsley as being 'well provided with gardens and pig sties in front'.[30] It suggests a planned provision of pig sties, 'the house looks out upon a very long and neat garden, at the end of which is a piggery and privy',[31] Figure 95, of the conveniences at the rear of Tudhoe Grange showed an example of a combined out building, privies, ash-pit, coal house and pig sties.

In many villages, however, pig sties seem to have been provided in quite an arbitrary manner by the miners themselves. Sometimes a rough structure would be constructed immediately outside the

back door.[32] The doctor reporting on Thornley and South Hetton Collieries for the Child Employment Commission in 1841 referred to pig sties often being adjacent to the back door. Alternatively, a wooden sty, perhaps paved with bricks and with a tarred roof would be built in the garden or on the nearby allotment.[32] The pigs of Evenwood lived in grander style, for there the locals removed stone from Evenwood Castle in order to build pig sties.[33]

The pig is not noted for its cleanliness and its reputation could scarcely be expected to improve amidst the sanitary chaos experienced in most mining villages. The sanitary inspector's report on East Howdon complained about the danger to health presented by the stables, sheds and pig sties on the opposite side of the 'lane of communication between the cottages'.[34] The Newcastle Weekly Chronicle reporter wrote of Marley Hill on 30.11.1872 'There is a separate piggery a ruinous looking settlement'.[35]

Two factors seen to have been responsible for the decline in the keeping of pigs. Firstly, the occurrence of swine fever, recognised in the United Kingdom in 1862 and made notifiable in 1879, seems to have discouraged further pig keeping in those areas where it broke out. There were outbreaks in County Durham at about the turn of the century. The Pelton Fell miner recalls the first notifiable outbreak of swine fever in 1900 and describes the mass slaughter of the pigs and their carcasses being burned in colliery gas house fires. Very few people continued to keep pigs afterwards.

The second factor was that pig sties were often built so close to the houses that it made them particularly vulnerable to the housing bye-laws put into practice early in the twentieth century. Section 12 of the Bye-laws with respect to Nuisances issued by Bishop Auckland Urban District Council in 1902 stated 'The occupier of any premises shall not keep any swine or deposit any swine's dung, within the distance of 90 feet from any dwellings house...' Benfieldside Urban District Council banished the pig a further 10 feet from 'any dwelling house'.

After the turn of the century pig sties were no longer evident in either the central position of the mining village nor were the pigs evident in the position they played in the mining village economy.

Plate 63 Brick bread oven, Clara Vale
Baking bread at a communal oven

L. Turnbull and S. Womack
Home Sweet Home, A Look at Housing in the
North East from 1800 to 1977



THE BRICK OVEN

The women folk of the colliery cottages on the Great Northern Coalfield worked hard to keep clean and tidy homes. With large families and men working different shifts there was little time for socialising. The community spirit and social contact stemmed from popping in and out of each others back doors and activities such as communal baking days. The communal or so called 'brick oven' was therefore a significant element of the pit rows.

The earliest regional evidence of the brick oven is in the Report of the Child Employment Commission of 1841. Here it was recorded that 'each row generally has a large communal oven'.[37] In the same report Dr. Mitchell refers to the communal ovens at Coxhoe as 'little brick buildings'. The Stella Coal Company records indicate that small brick bread ovens were being built simultaneously with houses which contained fireside ovens as late as 1865.[38]

Boyles 'The County of Durham' published in 1892 describes a large form of communal oven.

> In some of the colliery villages there are public bakehouses, one to a certain number of houses, and each containing a large brick-built oven. Early in the morning the wife and daughters of a pitman may be seen assembled at these places, gossiping with their neighbours, and baking the week's bread for their family. To a person who has no previous conception of the capaciousness of a pitman's appetite the number and bulk of these loaves will be a matter for marvel .[39]

A further reference to communal ovens is included in the unpublished manuscript of recollections about Pelton Fell by a miner born in 1890 which referred to a conversation with an older man about early housing conditions. A communal oven had been provided for each street and they were used for:

twenty years until each house was provided with its own cooking facilities .[40]

The actual dimensions of these brick bread ovens do not appear to have been recorded in any of the detailed specifications, however, several of the Stella Coal Company drawings show the ovens as 5'6" x 6'0" on plan, Figure 94.

In 1855 Thomas March a local builder who carried out work for the Stella Coal Company included in his accounts for thirty new cottages an item for three outside bread ovens at 55/- each. In 1860 three bread ovens were built for the Stella Coal Company to service fourteen new houses and in 1864 twelve bread ovens were built for fifty two new cottages in Hedgefield. In the Schedule of prices the bread ovens were listed at £3/5/- each complete, total £39.[41] In 1865 a further four bread ovens were recorded as being built for twenty new cottages erected on Thorp Field outside Ryton.[42]

Several descriptions exist which describe the method of baking in the bread oven. Dr. Mitchell stated:

> small coals are put into them and heated. The embers are taken out, the bread put in and by the heat of the bricks it is well baked'.[43]

Jessie Campell Reid gave a more vivid description:

> When few cottages had an oven, there was what was called a 'brick oven' in most districts. Each woman took it in turn to prepare the oven. She would collect firewood beforehand. Early in the morning of baking-day, the inside of the oven was cleaned out, the wood put inside, lighted and kept burning until the right heat had been reached. The embers were then removed, the oven floor wiped clean with a wet cloth, and it was ready for the first batch of round loaves, enough to last the household a week .[44]

When these were cooked another neighbour brought hers to bake and so on, until all had used it. The bread was made with wholemeal, white flour being an expensive luxury. The yeast used was got at the nearest brewery, in this instance possibly Stella. For those who lived at a distance from a brewery, pedlars carried 'Brewer's Yeast' in cans. However, the careful housewife would keep a little uncooked dough from one baking day till the next; this was called a 'sit on' which acted in the same way as yeast.[45]

A further reference to the bread oven occurred in the Hexham Courant of 1935 describing Ryton in 1840. It refered to 'six to eight round loaves being cooked at a time' and added that the baking time was one hour'.[46] The Hexham Courant article went on to describe the scene around the oven:

> Baking day was religiously looked forward to by the youngsters, who could be seen hanging round when the large brown loaves were being taken out. In the baking many of the loaves had developed a bump. This the good wife broke off and many hands were ready to catch the delicious morsel.[47]

Communal ovens were being constructed by the Stella Coal Company until 1865. However, there are details of individual cottages being built and fitted with internal ovens as early as 1854. In the Specification and Description of Masonry required in building twelve cottages for the Stella Coal Company September 1854,[48] reference is made to fire places containing an oven, 18" in width. This would have been the standard cast iron cylinder oven 18" in diameter, with a circular door found throughout the North East of England, Plate 94. It is open to conjecture as to whether such ovens were

fitted to all subsequent Stella Coal Company houses. In the 'Specification of masons, slaters, plasterers, joiners, glaziers and painters work required for the single cottages at Seaton Delaval Colliery March 2nd 1858', the following is the item under fireplaces:

> 'The Fire Places on the Ground Floors to be fit up with metal fronts and 20 inch grates 17 inch Cylinder Oven and a 6 Gallon Pot.
> 49

Were the Stella Coal Company conscious of the social significance of the communal oven? In the same way that they pioneered reading rooms which fostered the strong community spirit had they continued to build the brick oven, long after it was necessary? For what other reason would a facility be duplicated in its provision for some ten years. Or was it simply the case that until every dwelling in the village had an internal oven, new communal ovens had to be provided. Certainly the use of the brick ovens continued through into the twentieth century. A photograph from the Beamish Open Air Museum records shows two women working at a bread oven at Emma Ville photographed in 1904. Plate 63.
50

Examination of the 1856 6" and 25" Ordnance Survey Maps reveals several indications of bread ovens. In some instances they are annotated, Mickley Square, High Downs Square, Hetton-le-Hole and the 'Square' at Hetton-le-Hole and Chilton Moor. However the majority of these had disappeared on the 1896 edition. The evidence is fairly conclusive that early in the twentieth century the brick communal bread oven was generally abandoned, and with its passing, the pit village suffered the loss of one of its communal focal points.

THE COLLIERY COTTAGE
CATEGORY SEVERN - ANCILLARY ACCOMMODATION

SERVICE BUILDINGS
Shops and Offices
Public Houses
Church
School
Reading Room

The early colliery settlements consisted of no more than the colliery buildings themselves and the cottages. The rapid increase in population and the pressures of a community necessitated the provision of amenity buildings. The range of buildings was vast and a study of each of the facilities is a subject in its own right.

Within the context of this thesis a brief description of a few examples of accommodation, directly associated with the housing are referred to. The interpretation of 'directly associated' is where the accommodation is an integral part of the housing or has been provided by conversion of housing units. This restricts the study to some shops, offices, public houses, early places of worship and education but rules out all purpose built buildings such as schools, pit head baths and all types of assembly halls. This is not a major part of the study and only single examples have been selected to illustrate the type of accommodation provided rather than the range that was to be found in the region.

Plate 64 The 'house shop'
Single storey row of cottages with window used for display and simple sign over door
Supplies being delivered about 1925 to the remote Plashetts Colliery village in the North Tyne along the colliery tramway from Plashetts Junction on the Border Counties section of the North British Railway

Northumberland Yesteryear, edited by Robin Gard



Plate 64 The 'house shop'
Single storey row of cottages with window used for display and simple sign over door
Supplies being delivered about 1925 to the remote Plashetts Colliery village in the North Tyne along the colliery tramway from Plashetts Junction on the Border Counties section of the North British Railway

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JONES
SEWING MACI

Plate 65 The specialist shop
A complete set of horse harness made for the Ashington Coal Company and displayed by Frank Coulson, saddler and ironmonger, Front Street, Bellingham, about 1905

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Plate 65 The specialist shop
A complete set of horse harness made for the Ashington Coal Company and displayed by Frank Coulson, saddler and ironmonger, Front Street, Bellingham, about 1905

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COULSON SADDLER IRONMONGER &c
PRATTS
PLUVEX ROOF FELT
Fluxite
PLUVEX ROOF FELT

Plate 66 Office
Bomar House, Romarsund

Photograph by F. Diana Brown September 1979



Plate 66 Office
Bomar House, Romarsund

Photograph by H. Diana Brown September 1979


BOMAR
HOUSE

PUBLIC HOUSES

Early 'public houses' were also converted dwellings, as the name suggests. George Parkinson described a public house.

> 'The only place for social gatherings or recreation was a public house, formed by uniting two cottages, which with a fenced cockpit and quoit ground at the front, and a quiet place for pitch-and-toss just round the corner, provided opportunities for votaries of these sports'.
> [53]

Quoits was predominantly a miners game, Plate 67. Later more substantial 'purpose built' public houses were constructed, some of which survive today. The number of public houses was high, Edward Potter recorded in the first report of the Children's Employment Commission published in 1840 that at South Hetton there were twelve public houses all doing a thriving business for a population of 2,150 in 1831.
[54]

Plate 67 A game of quoits on Wark on Tyne
village green about 1910
Quoits was predominantly a miners game

Northumberland Yesteryear, edited by Robin Gard



Plate 67 A game of quoits on Wark on Tyne village green about 1910
Quoits was predominantly a miners game

Northumberland Yesteryear, edited by Robin Gard



CHURCH

As in the case of shops and public houses, early religious buildings were also conversions of dwelling houses. A front room of a dwelling in Ashington was described as 'large enough for small prayer meetings'. As the pressures of community living increased many colliery villages had a choice of religious creed.[55] Methodism particularly had an important influence on pit village life in the nineteenth century and chapels were erected either by subscription from the colliery companies or by the communities themselves.[56] George Parkinson described the conversion of one dwelling at Lambton.

> He offered to alter Jacob Speed's cottage at the end of the row, so that it could be used as a chapel. The colliery workmen were sent, and part of the needful timber was provided. The roof was raised several feet, partitions removed, and a gallery at each side and at the back was put up, two large windows put in, and the doorway protected by a small porch. Thus the chapel was provided, which with necessary alteration, has served its purpose to the present day.[57]

SCHOOL

Early teaching in the colliery villages took place in the larger rooms in cottages within the community hence the expression 'school room'. However by the mid nineteenth century some form of educational establishment existed in the larger colliery settlements. This provision was well before the parliamentary acts of 1870 made them compulsory. They were maintained by endowment of religious bodies, for example, the Quakers or philanthropic individuals, and many coal owners provided schools for the village, Plate 68.

By 1880 children were required to attend shool until they were ten years old.The increasing number of children attending school had obvious implications on the changes that were necessary in terms of increased accommodation and purpose built schools.

Plate 68 Wylam School
The Blackett family of Wylam established a school in the 1840's for the children of their employees at Wylam Colliery and a British School (on the right) was built in 1854.
Photograph about 1910

Northumberland Yesteryear, edited by Robin Gard



Plate 68 Wylam School
The Blackett family of Wylam established a school in the 1840's for the children of their employees at Wylam Colliery and a British School (on the right) was built in 1854.
Photograph about 1910

Northumberland Yesteryear, edited by Robin Gard



READING ROOM

The Stella Coal Company appears to have had fairly forward-thinking managers when it came to the provision of facilities for the pit man and his family. A drawing in the Stella Coal Company records shows the Reading room at Emma Ville, Ryton. The drawing illustrates the point made previously that converted colliery houses were used initially for the provision of community facilities.

The drawing 'Plan showing the ends of the two rows at Emma Ville' 1858 shows the junction of two rows of back to back cottages, Figure 94. The end units are clearly annotated with the occupiers name, Mary Liddle. One of the end units is marked Reading Room and as a later addition to the drawing dated 1858 a room was added measuring 31' x 21'.

The original drawing suggests this room is an extension of the existing Reading Room . However the 1856 Ordnance Survey Map shows the extension as an Infant School, Map 9. There is no record of the appearance of the extension but there is a doorway, several windows, fireplace and coal house indicated on the plan. Whether Reading Room or . Infant Schol this indicated a substantial level of provision for 1858 in a colliery village.

SUMMARY OF CATALOGUE

The catalogue of colliery cottages presents an analysis of cottage types. Using the plan form and the section of selected examples Figure 98 shows a diagramatic representation of the development pattern. Where possible the models selected to illustrate the development were based on original drawings. This presents an accurate picture of the authors intention for the design of the dwelling. Examples of cottages which have been surveyed and recorded after years of use may show cottages adapted to suit a change in life style or occupation by more than one family.

The development diagram is simplified in order to visually identify the thread of development. There are different types of cottage within some categories. The diagram shows a limited selection, and the examples illustrated bear no relationship to numbers of cottages built. In some categories large numbers of cottages have been identified, in other categories only a few examples.

The seminal plan form of the dwellings was the single storey, single room unit, Category One. This developed on the one hand to cottages with two ground floor rooms, Category Two and on the other to the cottage with one room on the ground floor and an attic room above, Category Three. The cottages with two ground floor rooms took two forms one where the cottage was two rooms wide and the other it was two rooms deep. Examples of cottages with three ground floor rooms were also identified.

As more accommodation was required the cottages increased in size. The one and a half storey cottage increased to the two storey 'one up one down' or single house. Within this category there were many variations back to back cottages and blind backed cottages.

The single house developed into a unit with one ground floor room and two first floor rooms, the upstairs area subdivided with a timber partition, Category Four. The single ground floor area became two rooms the front room and the back room. The two ground floor rooms, two first floor rooms so formed the double house, Category Six.

The single storey two room deep dwellings developed to the but and ben cottage using the attic space Category Five. Following the concept of a dwelling with two ground floor rooms and two first floor rooms, one of which is a room in the roof, is the cat slide roof cottage, Category Six. These cottages have one full size first floor room and one attic room. The cat slide roof cottage took a variety of forms, in some instances the entrance was on the single storey side of the dwelling and in other cases the entrance is on the two storey side.

The cat slide roof cottage and the single house developed into the double house of two ground floor rooms, two first floor rooms, Category Six. The analysis of plan type facilitates not only the knowledge of development pattern, but it indicates the type of accommodation generally experienced by the pitman working on the Great Northern Coalfield during the period of study.

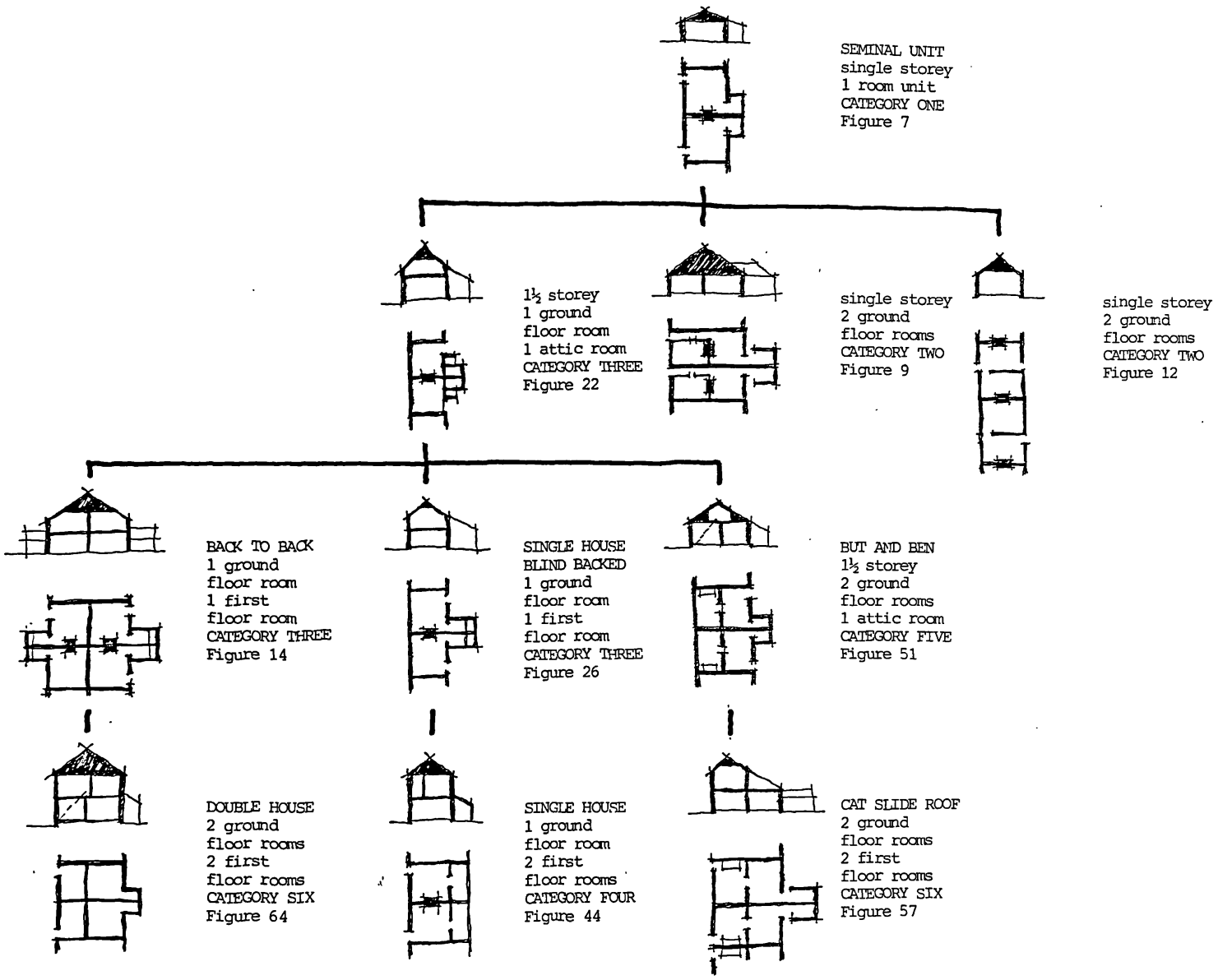

Figure 98 DIAGRAMATIC REPRESENTATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT PATTERN OF THE COLLIERY COTTAGES OF THE GREAT NORTHERN COALFIELD

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53 George Parkinson op. cit., 10.

54 First Report of the Childrens Employment Commission 1840, Edward Potter, 19.

55 'OCV' Ashington and Pegswood NWC 6.9.1873 (XL1V).

56 See page 80.

57 George Parkinson op. cit., 13.

58 See page 82.