

'FLINTS'

Britwell Salome,
Oxon.

Owner:- D. Baraclough.

Listed Buildings Grade II.
House and Barn.



East side of house before demolition of
20th C. kitchen extension - barn in the
background.

This farm is situated on the west side of Britwell Hill Road. It ceased being a working farm and has stood empty for some years. It is now being repaired and converted into two separate dwellings. The barn on the west side of the yard and the stables forming the north side will be one unit, the house, which is having a new extension built replacing the 'Edwardian'? kitchen on our plan will form the other unit.

THE HOUSE.

This brick and flint farm house was originally of a two-bay plan, one room deep and of two storey height. The roof trusses as well as the straight joints in the gable end brick work show that the outshot to the east is a later addition.

During present conversion work the wall between the two ground floor rooms has been removed. Originally only one of these rooms was heated. The north room has a large gable-end fireplace, built of irregular hand made bricks of ca $2\frac{1}{4}$ " width. A bricked-up arch, probably providing the original opening to the bread oven has been removed during present repairs to the brick work. Another opening from the outshut has been reworked. The flint base was replaced by old bricks during present work. The spine beam in both rooms is chamfered with lamb's tongue stops (see rubbing). The southern room is slightly smaller and originally had an opening in the ceiling, probably providing a companion type staircase to the bedrooms. (See groundplan and photograph).

The upstairs rooms show most of the original timber work. New ceiling joists have been inserted above the original spine beam of ca 0.20m width. This shows the mortices for the original joists. The spine beams are chamfered with lamb's tongue stops (see rubbings). The trusses have slightly cambered tie beams measuring from 0.17m to 0.27m in width, with queen struts, collars and clasped purlins. The purlins are very curved and when the common rafters were replaced and 2 additional collars inserted new purlins were also put in above the old ones. Soft roundwood was used for this work. A ridge piece was also inserted at that time; the original trusses have, however, not been altered as the consistent carpenter's marks from one to four show. The most northern marks are executed with a short wide chisel, the central ones are single straight cuts, and the southern ones are straight cuts with a flag (see enclosed rubbing). The brick stack rises through the northern bedroom but has no opening for a fire place, the southern bedroom has a modern fire place, which is now bricked up.

The outshut to the east is built mostly of flint and brick rubble and shows severe cracks in its south wall. It provides space for the turned staircase and was probably used for storage and as a scullery before the kitchen was added to the north gable (now demolished). It was probably at the time of the outshut building that the bread oven door inside the fire place was bricked up and a new opening provided from the outshut.

A further arch at the back of the hearth is a puzzle. It goes through to what used to be the kitchen extension and could have provided access for the flue of a copper. It is, however, also built of $2\frac{1}{4}$ " bricks, which may point to its existence prior to the kitchen extension, but can equally just show that re-used bricks were employed in its construction - in very much the same way as the present builder has been at pains to find matching bricks for the repair of the jambs as well as for the bricking up of the said arch.

THE BARN.



South gable and west side of barn.

The barn forms the western boundary of the farm yard, a stable/cartshed extension, running at right angles from it forms the northern one. We were not able to investigate the latter building due to work going on, but an outline architect's groundplan of it exists. Also only part of the barn was investigated. Both barn and stable are timber-framed, weatherboarded buildings on low brick and flint plinths. The barn consists of three bays with central threshing floor. Double doors open to the west, which is now an orchard/garden, but probably was the former stackyard. The door on the farmyard side is small, but since it was not possible to look at the timbers closely we could not see whether this small exit door is original or not. Since the double doors on the west side are only 2.50m high neither opening would have allowed a loaded waggon to enter the barn.

The roof material consists of old tiles. The trusses of the barn consist of tie and collar construction with inner curved principal rafters. Two sets of purlins are clasped between inner rafters and outer rafters and between collars and outer rafters respectively. The northern gable wall stands at an angle at ground floor level up to tie beam height, whilst the timbers above are jettied out, so that only the upper part of the barn forms a proper right angle and continuous line with the adjoining stable. This unusual construction may have something to do with the property boundary line, which runs next to the buildings. The wall studs are tall and closely set and strengthened by narrow diagonal braces. The trusses, as well as the wall studs are very typical for the 18th C, possibly late 18thC, as no dated barn is known with these trusses before 1750, but there are many dated examples of the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

CONCLUSION.

This farmstead seems a typical 18th century complex of buildings in the use of its local material (brick, flint and timber) and its lay-out around a farmyard, which was used increasingly as a fold yard from the 18th century onwards. This period sees the creation of many 'Georgian Model Farms' as the enclosure movement was gaining pace and as more animals were overwintered and more manure produced. An investigation of the Britwell Tithe Map of ca 1840 would probably show what kind of farm(size, type of field use, ownership) it was. If an Enclosure Award for Britwell exists it would also throw more light on the history of the farmstead.

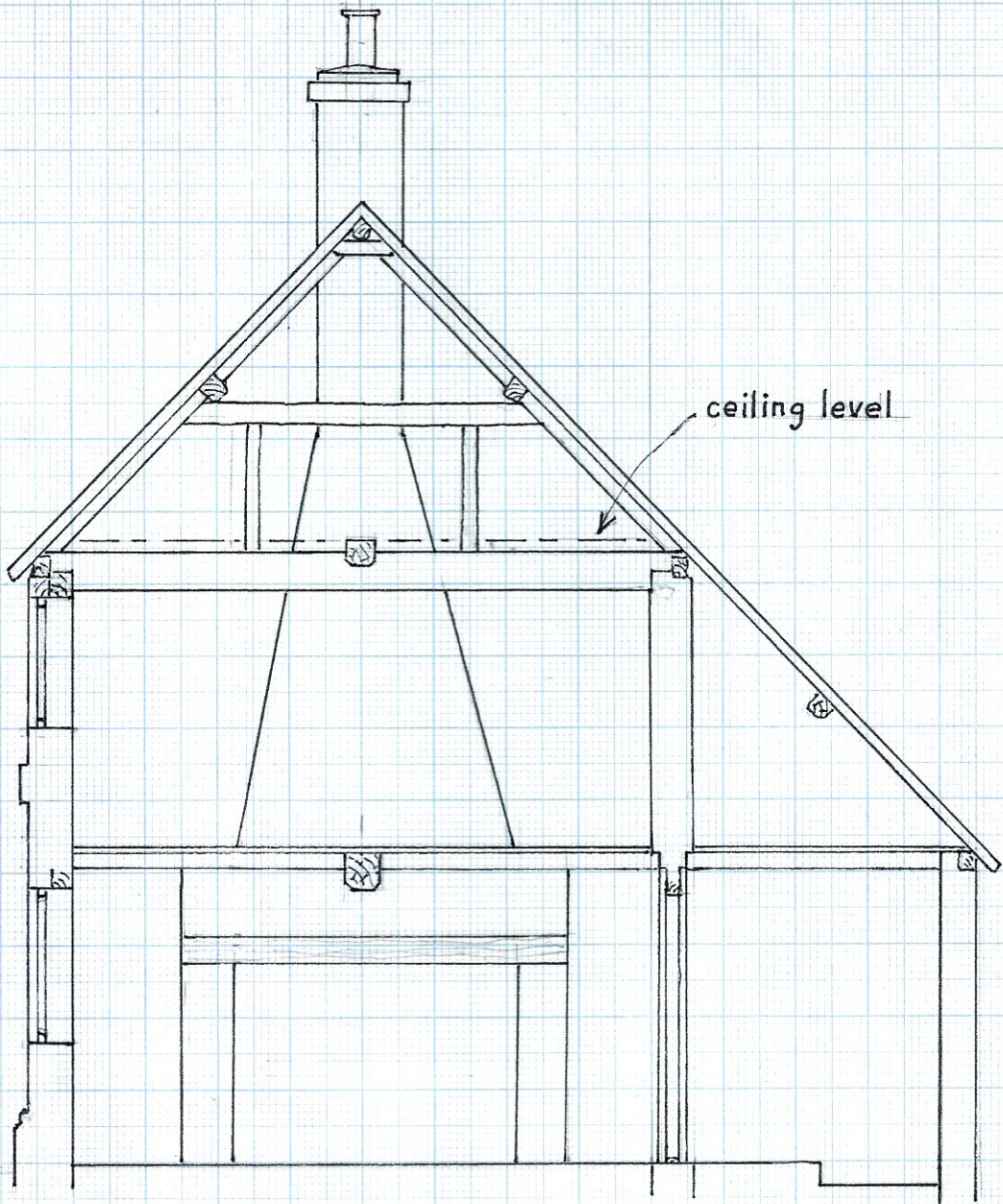
A copy of this report will go to the Monuments Record of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, London, and to the Oxfordshire County Museum, Woodstock.

Recorded by members of the Henley Archaeological & Historical Group.

Scale Drawings:- S. Bromilow, W. Clenshaw, J. Howard.

Photographs:- S. Bromilow, R. Gibson.

Report:- R. Gibson.



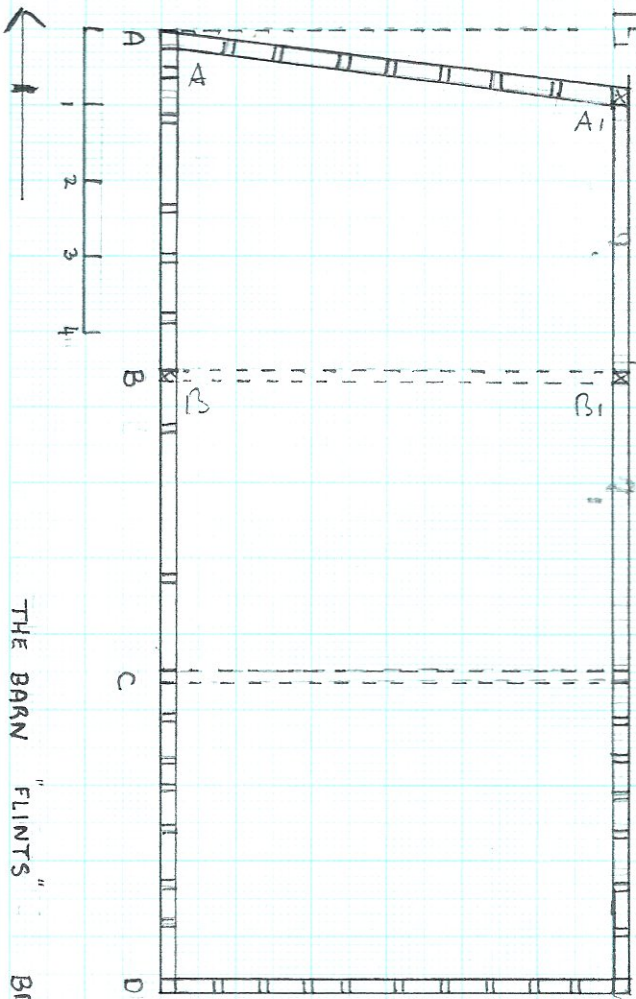
SECTION A-A

'FLINTS' - BRITWELL SALOME

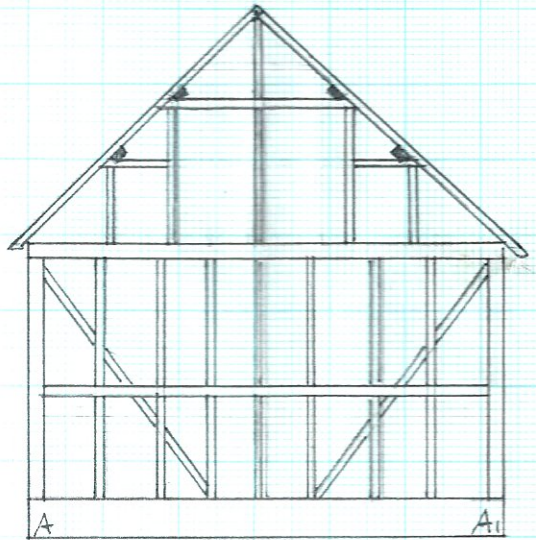
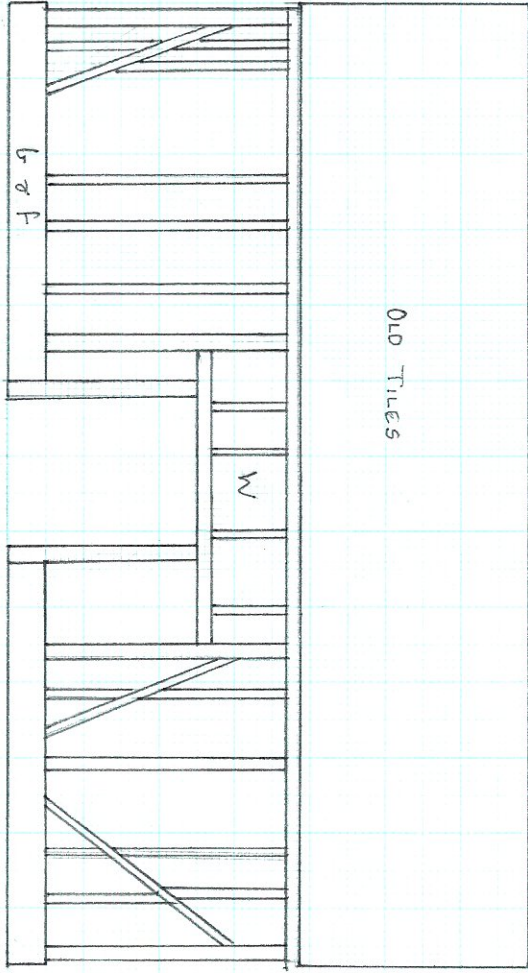
0 1 2 m

SCALE 1/50

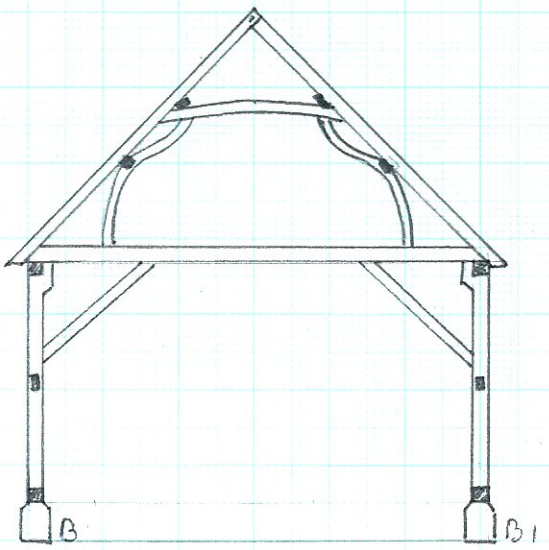
w.c.c. 9/87



THE BARN "FLINTS"
BRITWELL SALOME



END A

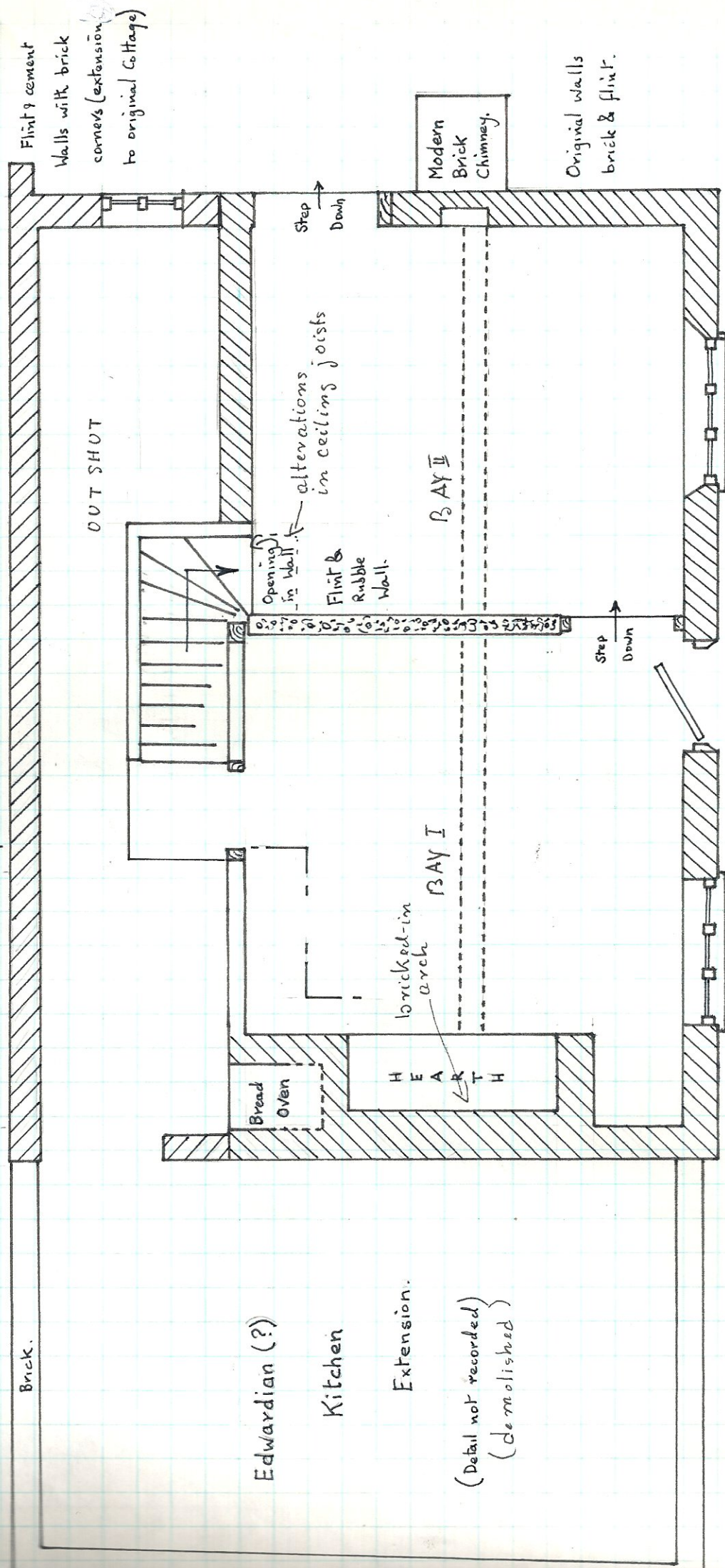


SECTION B

NOV 1987 S.B.

'FLINTS'

BRITWELL SALOME.



A ← GROUND PLAN.

Scale 1:50



(Detail not recorded)
(demolished)

Edwardian (?)

Kitchen

Extension.

Jul. 87



looking south from Bay I
looking north from Bay II

'FLINTS' BAY I, repointed chimney stack
1st floor BAY I stack and now demolished ex-
tension





BAY I before restoration

NB. blocked opening with arch at back of fireplace Ground floor

'FLINTS'




BAY I, access to outdoors and stairs



BAY I during restoration




BAY II, ceiling timbers, pos-former access to 1st floor.



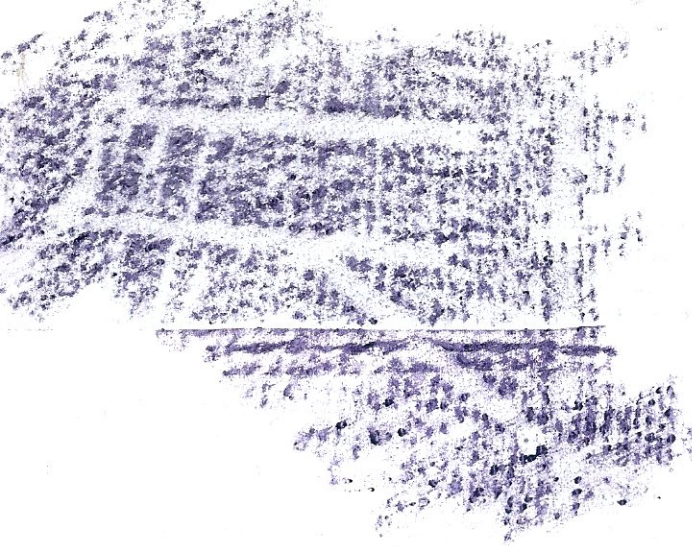
'Flints' Britwell Salome

Stops in spine beams, 1st floor



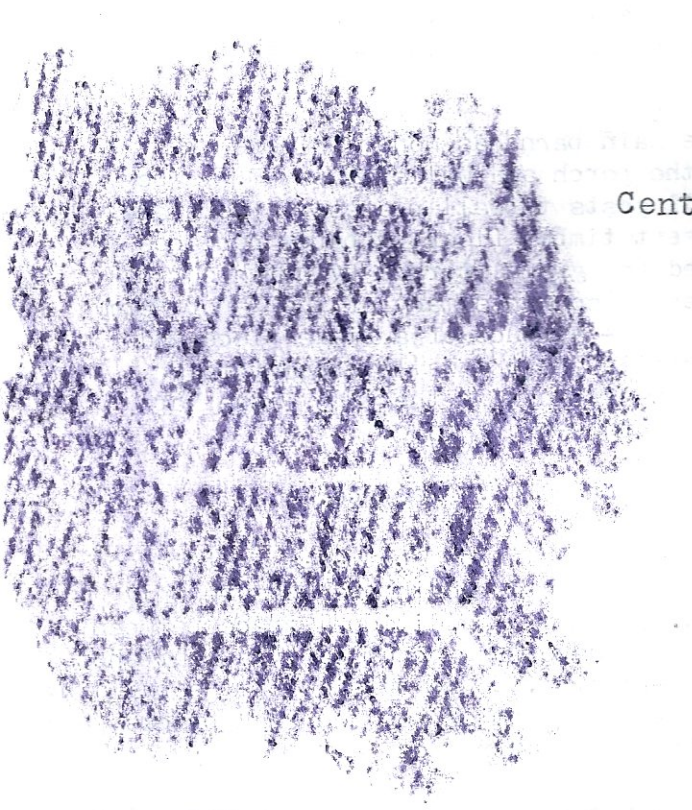
'Flints' Britwell Salome

Stops in spine beams ground floor

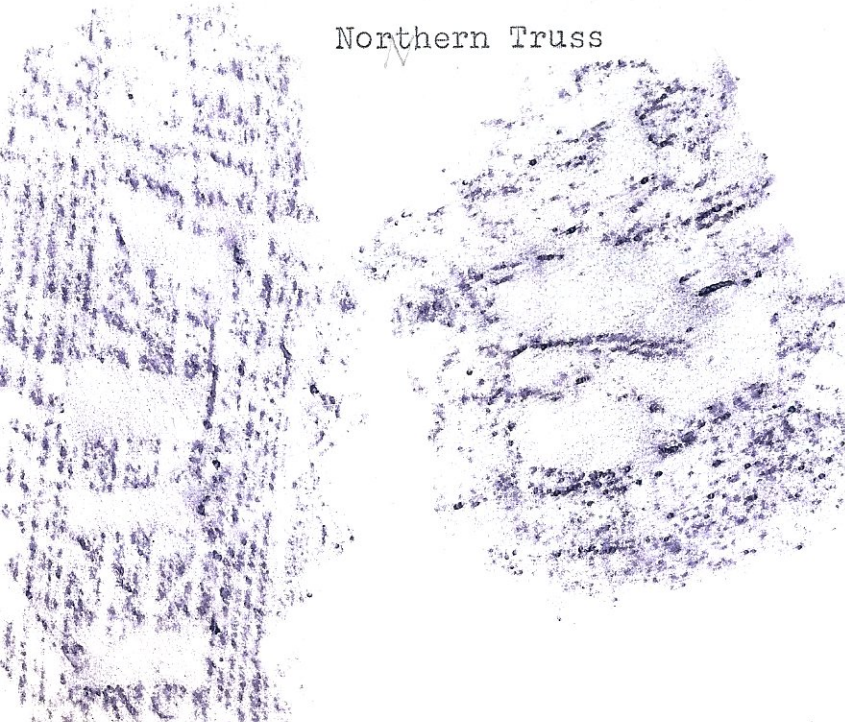


Southern truss

'Flints', Britwell Salome
carpenter's marks on ties,
principal rafters and queen
struts



Central Truss



Northern Truss



Southern Truss



FLINT'S BARN

