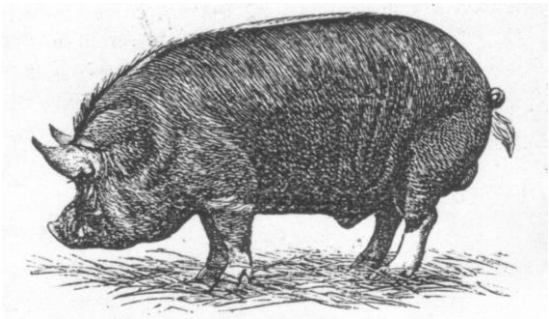
The Landmark Trust

THE PIGSTY

History Album



Written and researched by Charlotte Haslam, August 1991

Re-presented 2014

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BASIC DETAILS

Built	**c. 1889-91 or 1905-6**
Designed by	**J W Barry**
Built by	**Will Stainforth (mason), Matthew Hart and Bill Cornforth**

Acquired by the Landmark Trust 1988

Architects for restoration:	**Martin Stancliffe Architects**
Main contractors:	**A E Houghton of York**
Foreman:	**Bob Gamble**
Work completed	**1991**

Contents

SUMMARY

The Pigsty was designed and built by the owner of Fyling Hall, John Warren Barry. The date of its construction is not quite certain. Mr Matthew Hart, one of the men who carried out the work, is recorded as having said that it was started in 1889 and completed two years later, in 1891. Mr Hart was a 15-year-old apprentice when work began, and when it was finished he and a workmate celebrated by dancing on the roof – until Mr Hart fell off and broke his nose. One would suppose that such an occasion would be clearly remembered by Mr Hart; confusingly, however, the Ordnance Survey 6-inch map of 1895 (re-surveyed in 1893) does not show the Pigsty at all, although it does appear on the 1914 edition (re-surveyed in 1910). Moreover, during the 1990 restoration the date 'October 1906' was found carved on an apparently original roof timber. So the Pigsty may date either from the late 19th or the early 20th century – we cannot be sure which.

One reason why it took two years to build, according to Mr Hart, was because Squire Barry changed his mind frequently about the details. He tried out several alternative columns before settling on the final version, for instance. Perhaps this is why the building has a somewhat hybrid quality – neither fully Ionic nor Doric nor Tuscan, but containing elements of all these three styles of Classical antiquity.

Mr Hart attributed the building of the Pigsty to Squire Barry's dislike of the Victorian practice of building pigsties in the backyards of cottages, often right next to the back door. A family that kept a pig could enjoy not only an improved diet, but a little extra income from the sale of piglets as well. As there were two farm cottages on the Fyling Hall estate, the Squire provided accommodation for two pigs – Large Whites, a local breed.

We can only guess at his reasons for building the Pigsty in the style of a Grecian temple. We know that he was passionately interested in the island of Corsica, and wrote a book about it; perhaps he was inspired by some of the Etruscan and Greek buildings that have survived there since the days of antiquity. At another of his farms he built a cowshed in dressed stone with carved church windows and louvres, and an arched doorway with an iron-studded door like that of the church; the stalls were all of carved oak and looked almost like pews. One may conclude that he simply enjoyed these quirky buildings, and took pleasure in the confounding of sightseers who discovered that his temple was not for picnics but for pigs.

The design was carefully thought out. The building was divided into two by a central partition, each half with its own feeding trough, which was filled from the outside through a hinged shutter. For extra ventilation there were shuttered windows at the back as well; the shutters and the front gable were pierced so that air could circulate freely. In the portico floor were chutes down which water could be poured into two drinking troughs in the field below. It is not clear how the pigs reached their homes from the field. It is said that they went up a wooden ramp, now long vanished, and so on to the platform at the side of the building. Others have claimed that the pigs firmly refused to go up into the sty at all, and stayed stubbornly in the field.

Almost no other Landmark has attracted as much attention as the Pigsty – or so many (admittedly irresistible) feeble jokes; it has been extensively photographed, filmed and written about in the media. It seems that pigs, and anything to do with pigs, are deeply embedded in our national consciousness as a source of endless amusement and fascination.

RESTORATION BY THE LANDMARK TRUST

After Squire Barry's death in 1920, the Pigsty was used for hens and later as a kennel for dogs. It deteriorated steadily, however, and by the 1980s its condition gave cause for serious concern. At this point it came to the attention of Lucinda Lambton, who was researching her book and television programme *Beastly Buildings*. She told the owner about the Landmark Trust, a charity that specialises in rescuing buildings of architectural and historic importance, and told Landmark about the Pigsty; as a result it came into the hands of the Trust in 1988.

Even the most devoted Landmarkers would find it hard to live and sleep only in the space allotted to the pigs. The necessary extension was designed by the architect Martin Stancliffe in such a way that the main range of the building was simply extended into the hillside by a few feet, which happily gives it the proportions of a genuine temple. The adjoining privy was incorporated to provide a kitchen.

By now Squire Barry's building was in a poor state. The roof had been stripped of its copper covering long before, and much of the timber construction, including four of the columns, was severely rotted: all of it was therefore dismantled and taken away for conservation and repair. Meanwhile the Pigsty's foundations were found to be moving gently but inexorably down the hillside, and new retaining walls and drains had to be constructed to deal with the problem. The contractor, A. E. Houghton, of York, built new steps leading downward from the parking space on the road, and made good the stonework of the privy and the base of the Pigsty. It took some time to find a stone to match the original, but eventually one was found among the landslips on the moor. More stone was needed to repair the drystone walls, however; this time the need was met by seeking out unused piles of stones dumped by local farmers from redundant field walls. York stone flags were laid around the building and in the portico floor.

Once the walls of the new bedroom and bathroom had been built, the restored timbers could be reinstated, although the central partition of the Pigsty was removed (the timber division in the roof space was retained, however). One of the former window openings was transformed into a door and the other into a bookcase. The old windows and shutters were transferred to the new back wall, and the timber surrounds and columns from the original back wall were also moved, so that from the rear the Pigsty's appearance is exactly the same as before.

The tiles from the roof of the old privy had been carefully set aside, and were now replaced. The decorative ridge tiles were also put back; some were broken, but these were kept rather than patching in new ones. The carved barge boards were all either entirely rotten or missing, and had to be renewed. A new copper roof was laid, with new gutters and downpipes, copies of the originals. The side and back walls were rendered with lime plaster darkened by using black slag instead of sand, together with some black ochre. The front wall was reassembled, its opening now glazed. Finally, the outside paintwork was renewed in the original colours, based on careful analysis of surviving paint fragments: a sample of the faded original can be seen inside the portico. The Pigsty received its first visitors in June 1991. Space is perforce extremely limited, but admirers of pigs claim that there is no tidier animal, when given the right quarters.

THE PIGSTY

The pig can hardly be regarded as a classic animal - D. Mitchell Rural Studies.

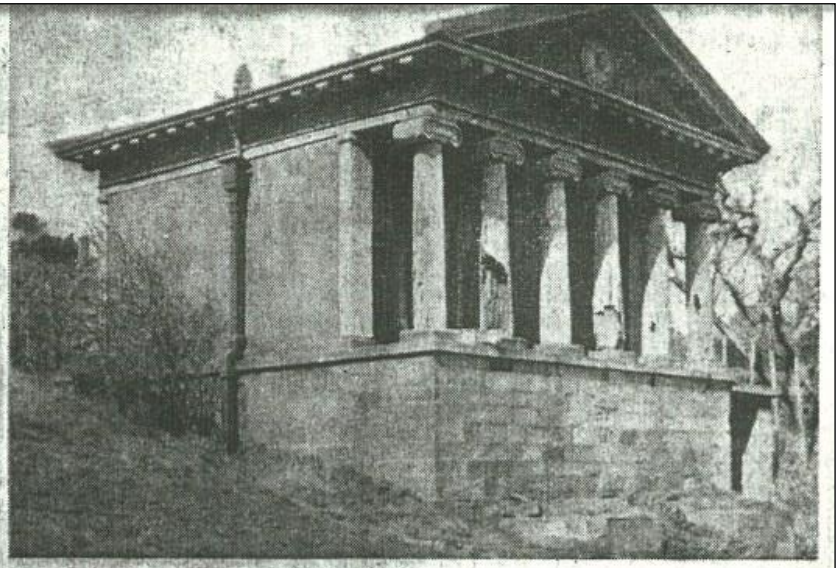
Who built the Pigsty?

The Pigsty was built by the owner of Fyling Hall, John Warren Barry, who was himself responsible for its design. Most of our information about it comes from one of the men who carried out the work, Matthew Hart. According to Mr Hart, some of whose stories about the building were recorded by his son-in-law in an article for the *Middlesbrough Evening Gazette* in 1964, it was begun in 1889 and only completed two years later, in 1891. Mr Hart was a 15-year-old apprentice when work began, and when it was finished, he and his fellow apprentice danced on the roof - until Mr Hart fell off and broke his nose.

Curiously, when restoration was in progress in 1990, the date October, 1906, was found on what seemed to be an original roof timber, which would suggest that Mr Hart's memory was out by some 15 years - which seems surprising in view of the accident with which the job ended. However, further evidence that it was not built around 1890 comes from the Ordnance Survey Map. The 1895 edition of the 6-inch map, re-surveyed in 1893, shows the adjoining cottages but not the Pigsty itself. This only appears on the 1914 edition, re-surveyed in 1910.

We are therefore left in some slight doubt as to whether the Pigsty is a late-19th-century folly, or whether it can, like Lord Berners' tower at Faringdon, be counted among the small band of those built in the 20th century, keeping alive the spirit of English architectural fun.

POSHEST PIGSTYE



Gracious living for porkers was the squire's vision. He realised it by building them a fantastic stone residence in the style of a Greek temple.

IT TOOK three men nearly two years to build the squire's Grecian-temple pigstye.

That was 75 years ago, and ever since the imposing wood and stone building, with its six graceful Ionic columns, has been an object of wonder to all who have seen it.

Set down in the picturesque Yorkshire countryside overlooking the sea, at Fyling Hall, near Whitby, it is a magnet for holiday-makers and a favourite clue for the organisers of motor treasure hunts. Yet few people know the story of its origin.

The squire, Mr. John Warren Barry, of Fyling Hall, was a man of strong likes and dislikes. One of his pet hates was the Victorian custom of building pigsties as annexes to their owners' cottages.

So, living in the happy, carefree days before planning permission had to be obtained, he built them HIS way.

The pigs, owned by two of his tenants, William Hodgson and John Cockerill, had separate entrances and even a verandah on which they could sun themselves!

Everyone was pleased, except Willie Stainforth, Matt Hart and young Bill Cornforth, who built this palatial pigstye. For Squire Barry was a very particular man, and had a passion for architecture. That was why his pigstye looked more like a Greek temple when it was finished—and why it took nearly two years to build.

Willie was the stonemason on the squire's estate, and Matt and Bill were apprentices. They cut the stone from a nearby quarry and brought it to the site by horse and sledge. Then the fun started as the squire walked among them directing operations.

* * *

Willie and Bill are dead, but old Matt, now 90 years old, still talks about the poshest pigstye he ever built. "The squire changed his mind constantly, especially over the design of the columns, and we had to put up several different kinds before he was satisfied. He said he didn't care how long it took to build so long as it was done properly."

Mr. Hart, now living in Burghley-road, Scunthorpe, Lincs., has another good reason to remember that pigstye.

"We were just lads at the time, and when it was finished Bill Cornforth and I were so delighted that we skylarked about on the roof, and I fell off and broke my nose."

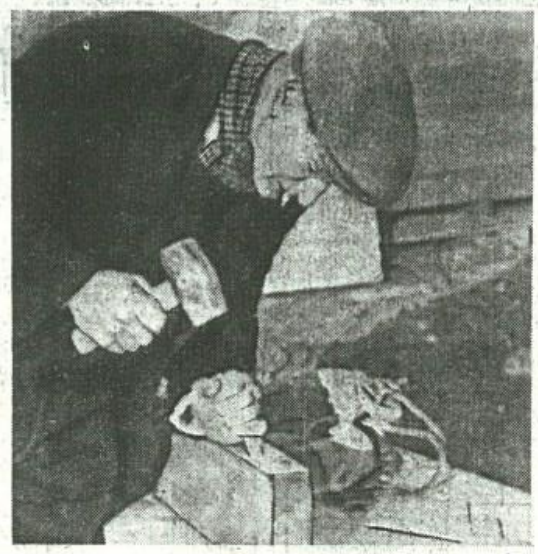
Many come to gaze upon this 75-year-old curiosity in stone, but few know its inside story.

Old Matt doesn't build pigstyes any more, not even ordinary ones, but he still turns out a neat line in stone bird baths for the garden. He was pleased to hear that the squire's pigstye had become so celebrated.

Not for many years has it housed pigs, however. Mrs. Constance Fuller, who lives with her husband, Kenneth, in the cottages once occupied by William Hodgson and John Cockerill, says there haven't been any there for over 20 years. "I think the last owner used to breed dogs and keep chickens in it," she went on. "We just use it to store junk. It's getting rather the worse for wear, especially those pillars . . . . I suppose we shall have to do something about it one day."

It looks as if the squire's Greek pigstye won't be there much longer.

Unless they send for Old Matt . . . .



Matt Hart, 90-year-old stonemason, who helped build the Grecian temple pigstye.

From Middlesbrough Evening Gazette
21/5/64.

Mr Hart was presumably right in saying that it took two years to build, and that the reason for this was because Mr Barry, or Squire Barry as he was called locally, changed his mind frequently about the details. It is no doubt for this reason that the building has a somewhat hybrid quality - neither fully Ionic nor Doric nor Tuscan, but containing elements of all three of these styles of Classical antiquity. He tried out several alternative columns before settling on the final version, for instance.

A more prosaic explanation for the length of time in building was that very probably the men, all of whom were employed on the estate, only worked on it occasionally, in between other more utilitarian jobs such as repairing and building genuine farm buildings.

From *The Baby's Opera* by Walter Crane (1872). Illustrated by Edmund Dewards.

Why it was built

Matthew Hart attributed the building of the Pigsty to Squire Barry's dislike of the standard Victorian practice of building pigsties in the back yards of cottages, often right next to the back door. Accommodation for these pigs would therefore be slightly further away, beyond the privy. It is hard to believe that he was not also conscious of the prominence of his chosen site in the broad sweep of Robin Hood's Bay, and that he was indulging in the landowner's traditional pastime of adding some new feature to the landscape.

He must surely have been enjoying a good joke as well, and one that can be taken on several levels. Sightseers would be confounded when they discovered that his temple was not for picnics but for pigs. It must have amused him to speculate, too, on the pigs' own opinion of their exalted situation. Then there was learned fun to be had out of the architectural theorists' arguments on the development of Classical architecture from simple hovels that looked not unlike pigsties. Here Western civilization would truly be returning to its ancient roots.

Pigs, and pigs dressed up as people, were clearly a favourite subject for jokes and stories in the later Victorian period. Beatrix Potter was writing about Pig Robinson in the 1890s, and Pigling Bland a few years later. Edward Lear had his "piggy-wig" in *The owl and the pussycat* of 1871. It has been suggested that J.W. Barry drew the original inspiration for his classical pigsty from the illustration in Walter Crane's *Baby's Opera* published in 1877, for the song *There was a lady loved a swine* which shows the pig and his admirer in front of a sty with a pediment. It seems likely that some such picture was in his mind, when embarking on his own building work.

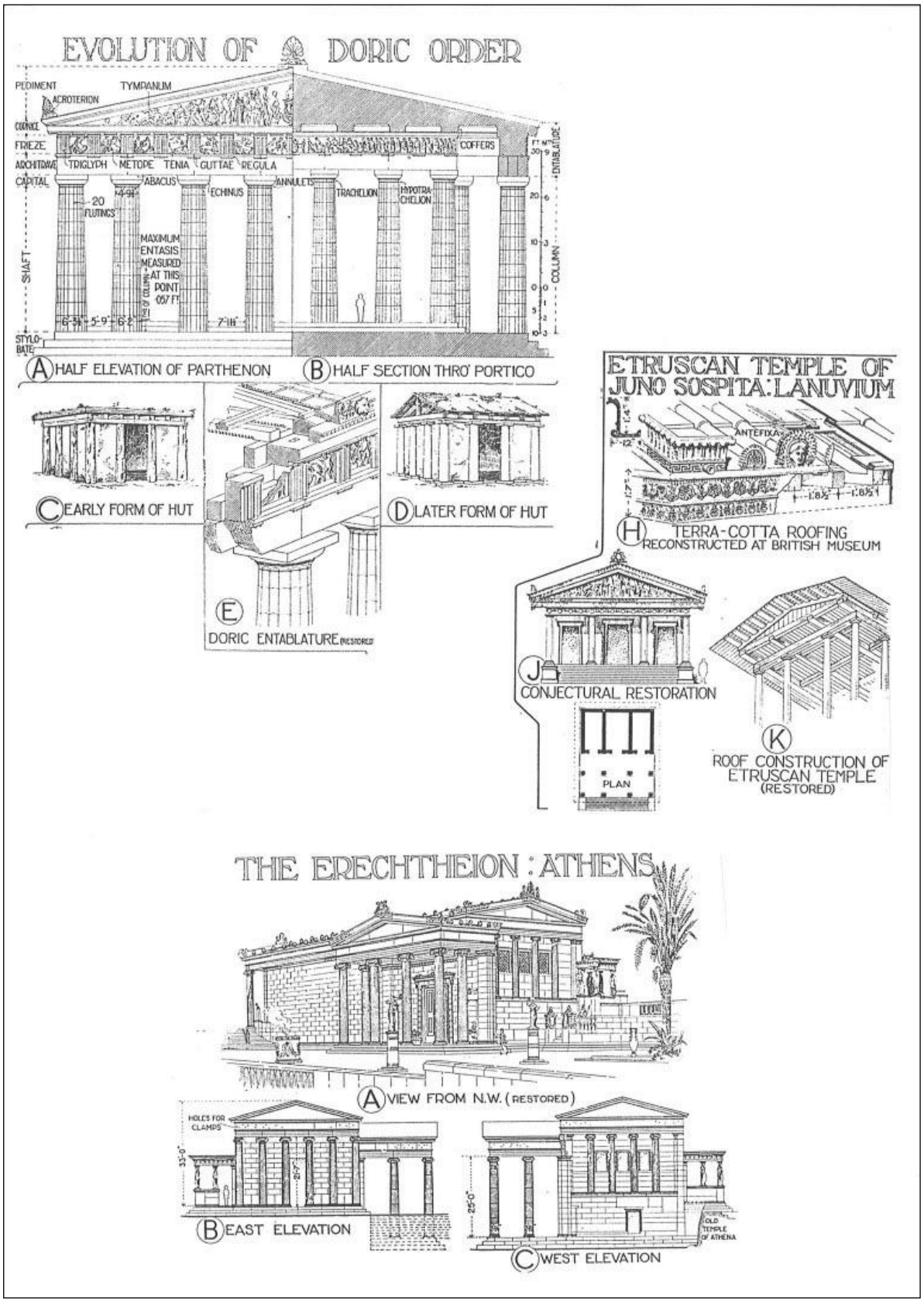
J.W. Barry was also the author of a book, published in 1893, called *Studies in Corsica – Sylvan and social.* This started off as a study of trees and woodland ("the ligneous vegetation of the seaboard region of Southern Europe" in his own words), but a 2«-year sojourn in Corsica from 1882-5, and then the subsequent six or seven years spent industriously writing up and polishing his notes, led him down so many

interesting by-ways that the book ended up as a description of the island as a whole - with quite a lot of his opinions and thoughts on other matters as well.

Unfortunately he does not mention pigs in this discourse, but there are one or two other references which provide further clues for his building of the Pigsty. Corsica, clearly his favourite spot abroad, had in antiquity a culture partly Etruscan, and partly influenced by a colony of Greeks from Asia Minor. This mixture is reflected in the Pigsty, which has Ionic capitals to its columns, but in other respects, such as the form of the windows and the general proportions of the portico, is not unlike the Etruscan buildings illustrated by Sir Banister Fletcher in his History of Architecture, especially the Temple of Juno Sospitum at Lanuvium (and bears absolutely no relation at all to the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus to which it is so often likened).

Elsewhere he speaks admiringly of the variety of styles favoured by British builders, whose houses follow the design "of their own sweet will, taking a model either from the distant past, or else one from a foreign country, or else composing a mixture of his own". This he contrasts favourably with the "stern uniformity" found in Southern France ("If the local politics be very radical, the local art is very conservative").

Barry also describes a road out of Ajaccio which runs along the coast, at some height above the sea. Lining one section of this were buildings which from the sea were usually taken by the passengers of arriving ships to be fishermen's cottages or suburban villas. On closer inspection, they turned out to be the mausolea of local families, all sited to face the bay and the view, with the prevailing type being "a rudimentary form of the Greek temple, or a classicalised variety of the common barn". His amusement at this confusion may have prompted him to carry out a less grim deception at home.

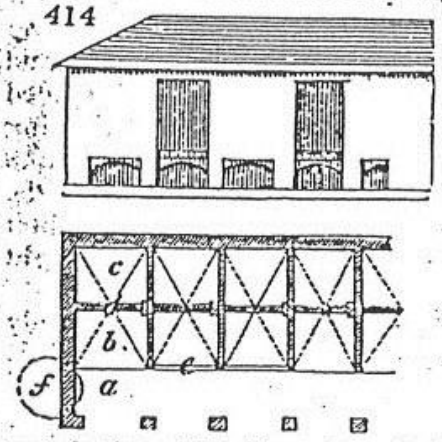


Some possible sources for the design of the Pigsty, as illustrated by Sir Banister Fletcher

2837. *Hogsties*, for the breeding or fattening of swine, are mostly built in a simple manner, requiring only warm dry places for the swine to lie in, with small areas before, and troughs to hold their food. They are generally constructed with shed-roofs, and seldom above six or seven feet wide, with height in proportion. In order that they may be convenient, they should be at no great distance from the house; and the less they are connected with the other farm-buildings the better. In some cases, it might be of utility to have them connected with the scullery, in such a way as that all sorts of refuse articles might be readily conveyed to them by pipes or other contrivances. When at a distance, they should be so placed as that the servants need not enter the farm-yard in feeding them. It is a circumstance of vast advantage in the economy of labour, as well as of food, to have them conveniently situated and built. Though swine are generally, perhaps from a too partial view of their habits, considered as filthy animals, there are no animals which delight more in a clean and comfortable place to lie down in, and none that cleanliness has a better effect upon with respect to their thriving and feeding. In order to keep them dry, a sufficient slope must be given, not only to the inside places where they are to lie, but to the outside areas, with proper drains to carry off all moisture. The outsides should also be a little elevated, and have steps up from the areas of at least five or six inches in height. Hogsties should likewise have several divisions, to keep the different sorts of swine separate; nor should a great many ever be allowed to go together; for it is found that they feed better in small numbers and of equal size, than when many of unequal sizes are put together. Proper divisions must, therefore, be made: some for swine when with the boar; others for brood swine, and for them to farrow in; for weaning the pigs, for keeping the store pigs, for fattening, &c. When convenient, the areas should be pretty large; and where it can be had; it is of great use to have water conveyed to them, as it serves many useful purposes.

2838. *Every sty should have a rubbing-post.* "Having occasion," says Marshal, "to shift two hogs out of a sty without one, into another with a post, accidentally put up to support the roof, he had a full opportunity of observing its use. The animals, when they went in, were dirty, with broken ragged coats, and with dull heavy countenances. In a few days, they cleared away their coats, cleaned their skins, and became sleeky haired; the enjoyments of the post were discernible even in their looks, in their liveliness, and apparent contentment. It is not probable, that any animal should thrive while afflicted with pain or uneasiness. Graziers suffer single trees to grow, or put up dead posts in the ground, for their cattle to rub themselves against; yet it is probable that a rubbing-post has never been placed intentionally in a sty; though, perhaps, for a two-fold reason, rubbing is most requisite to swine." In farm-yards the piggeries and poultry-houses generally occupy the south side of the area, in low buildings, which may be overlooked from the farmer's dwelling-house. They should open behind into the straw-yards or dung-heap, to allow the hogs and fowls to pick up the corn left on the straw, or what turnips, clover, or other matters are refused by the cattle. They should have openings outwards, that the pigs may be let out to range round the farmery at convenient times; and that the poultry may have ingress and egress from that side as well as the other.

414



2839. *The pig-house at Harley's dairy establishment* (*fig.* 414.)—consisted of a number of sties separated from each other by a nine-inch wall: each sty consisted of two apartments; one for exercise, which was open above (*a*), and the other for feeding in, which was covered (*b*); and a third, also covered, for sleeping in (*c*). The threshold of the opening to the sleeping apartment was formed by a cast-iron trough kept full of water (*d*), through which the pigs being obliged to pass when they went to sleep, it is said their feet were washed, and their litter kept clean. The water in these troughs was supplied by a pipe at one end, and each separate tank had a waste pipe. The floor of the sleeping place was a few inches higher than that of the feeding apartment; and the floor of the latter, and also of the open area, were inclined towards the middle (*e*), under which was a sewer with filtering plates for the urine to pass through; and at the end of the sewer a tank (*f*) received the whole. (*Harleian Dairy System*, p. 122.)

From J.C. Loudon, *An Encyclopaedia of Agriculture* (5th edition) 1844

cribs or racks, and a lump of rock-salt should always be accessible: the lambs in particular will show their appreciation of it. If water is not otherwise available it should be supplied in troughs.

CHAPTER XXVI

PIGS: THEIR BREEDS, FEEDING, AND MANAGEMENT

THE native breeds of Pigs recognised in this country include :—

Large White	Small Black (Suffolk or Essex)
Middle White	Berkshire
Small White	Tamworth

The classification of the breeds of pigs is in a less satisfactory state than that of either cattle or sheep, and in many

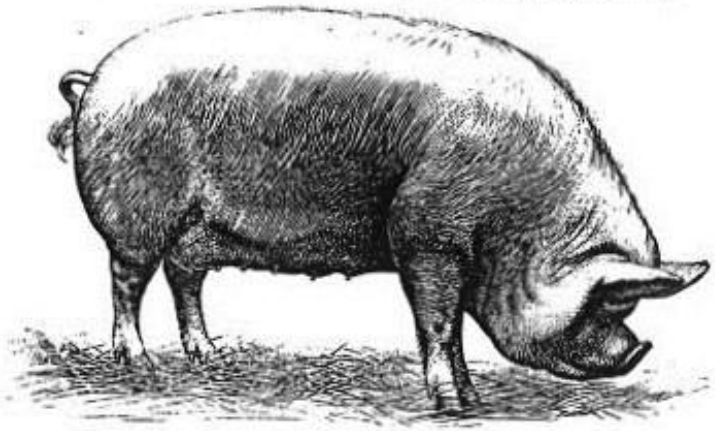


FIG. 244.—LARGE WHITE SOW.

counties of England there are numbers of swine which could not be fairly grouped under any of the above heads. The Large, Middle, and Small White breeds are, as their name indicates, white in colour; they used all to be included in the term 'Yorkshires.' The Small Black and the Berkshire breeds are black. The Tamworth pigs are red.

LARGE WHITE.—Though of white colour, these pigs (fig. 244) often have a few blue spots in the skin. The head is of fair length, light in the jowls, and wide between the eyes, with somewhat drooping ears. The neck is long but not coarse, the ribs are deep, the loin is wide and level, the tail is set high, and the legs are straight and set well outside the carcass. The whole body is covered with straight silky hair, which denotes quality and lean meat. Pigs of this breed are very prolific, and they may be grown to enormous weights.

MIDDLE WHITE.—Animals of this breed are on a smaller scale than the Large White; they are shorter in the head

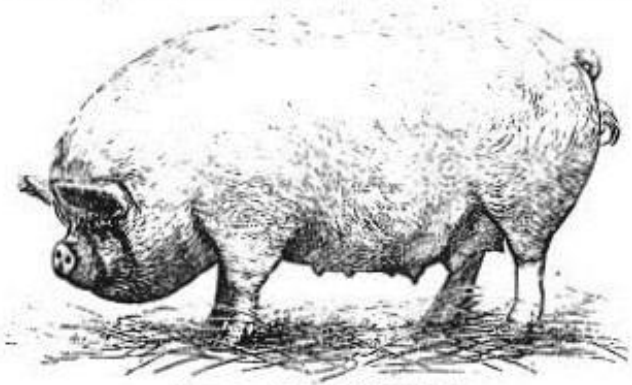


FIG. 245.—SMALL WHITE SOW.

and legs thicker and more compact in the body, and have a denser clothing of silky hair. The sows are quite as prolific as those of the Large White breed, and, as their produce matures earlier, they are more in demand for breeding porkers.

SMALL WHITE.—The pigs of this breed are (fig. 245) very much smaller than the Middle White. They have very short heads and legs, the body, which is short, thick, and wide, being close to the ground. Their jowls are heavy, and their ears are pricked. The thin skin is covered with a profusion of long silky hair, wavy but not curly. The tail is very fine. This breed is rather deficient in lean meat.

From W. Freath, *Elements of Agriculture* 1892

SMALL BLACK (SUFFOLK or ESSEX).—Save in colour and hair this breed much resembles the Small White. The Black, however, is rather longer in the body, and stands somewhat

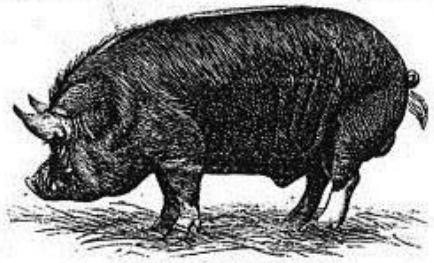


FIG. 246.—BERKSHIRE BOAR.

higher on the legs. The colour of the skin is coal-black, and the covering of hair is usually not profuse. This pig yields more lean meat than the Small White. It is valued for its

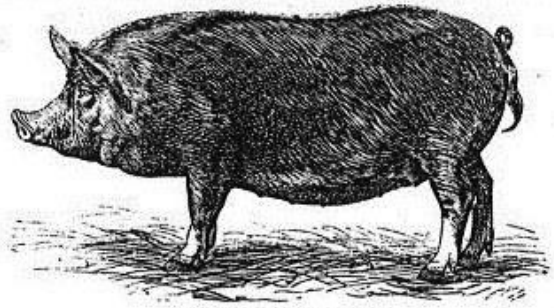


FIG. 247.—TAMWORTH SOW.

early maturity, and its aptitude to fatten. Besides in the Eastern counties, the Small Black pig, or a closely similar animal, is reared in large numbers in Dorset, Devon, and Cornwall.

BERKSHIRE.—This class of pig (fig 246) affords a good illustration of the extent to which a type of live-stock may b moulded in the hands of the breeder, although it is not unani mously agreed that the modifications which have been effectec in the Berkshire are all for the best. Though a black pig, the Berkshire usually has a white blaze or mark down the face, a white tip to the tail, and feet white up to the ankle joint. It has a moderately short head with heavy jowls; a deep carcass; wide, low, and well-developed hind-quarters, with heavy hams. The skin is free from rucks and lines, and carries an abundance of fine hair.

TAMWORTH.—This is one of the oldest breeds of pigs. The Tamworth (fig. 247) has a red colour with darkish spots on the skin. The head, body, and legs are long, and the ribs are deep and flat. Originally a local breed in the districts around the Staffordshire town from which it takes its name, it is now much more extensively bred, and is valued as a bacon pig.

FEEDING AND MANAGEMENT OF PIGS

Young pigs usually thrive best when they are born in February, so that it is desirable to arrange for the sow to farrow during this month, as the offspring then have the best months of the year before them. August is the next most favourable month. For the ten weeks after farrowing no food will suit the sow and her pigs better than that of which sharps is the basis, about one-sixth part of broad bran being added.

As soon as the little pigs begin to feed, some skim-milk, placed beyond reach of the sow, should be allowed them, and the quantity may be increased for a time after the piglings are weaned, at six to eight weeks old.

From the time of weaning, also, barley-meal should be added to the sharps, and gradually the latter should be withheld, till, at five months old, the food consists almost entirely of meal. If skim-milk is available it is always useful, as it produces in conjunction with barley-meal the choicest of meat. An additional two months of such liberal feeding should render the pig fit to kill at a weight of six score, or 120 lb., of the finest pork. Well-bred pigs, properly fed, will give an increase of 1 lb. of meat for each 5 lb. of meal consumed in the food.

In frosty or very cold weather, pigs' food should be warmed. When young pigs are fed with maize-meal, it is well to scald it beforehand. They thrive better on warm food.

Peas, oats, and maize make useful additional foods for pigs, and, during their second month, when young pigs are gradually weaning themselves, their appetite should be tempted by frequent small meals of a mixture of such foods.

In the process of fattening pigs, a too exclusive use of maize is liable to render the flesh yellow and flabby; on the other hand, if beans and peas are too extensively employed, the pork is likely to be hard and stringy. The pig is pre-eminently an animal for which a mixed diet is suitable.

The purchased foods, such as sharps, barley-meal, peas, oats, maize, and brewers' grains, constitute the expensive items of pigs' food. Pigs, however, have a special value, in that they will clear up any kind of refuse from the house or dairy. All kinds of food-scraps from the house find their way into the 'wash-tub,' whilst whey and butter-milk from the dairy can always be put to good use in the pig-trough.

It is not always a commendable practice to allow pigs to wander over stubbles after harvest, for by their activity they rapidly reduce any fat they may have acquired, and at the same time their propensity for 'rooting' is greatly encouraged, unless ringing of the snout has been resorted to. In defence of the practice, however, it may be claimed that the pig is a scavenger, and that, while on the stubbles, the animal is developing frame which can afterwards be filled in when the pig is brought into the yard. The procedure to be followed must be determined according to the object for which pigs are kept.

During summer the food may be varied by the addition of green clover, lucerne, vetches, or even grass, whilst in winter the use of swedes, kohl-rabi, mangel, and steamed or boiled potatoes, is beneficial. Pigs confined in sties should be allowed a shovelful of mould occasionally, and also some coal and cinders, whilst a lump of rock-salt should always be within access.

A variety of materials may be used for bedding pigs coarse dried grass, dead leaves, wood-shavings, sawdust, moss litter, sea-sand, and all kinds of straw. For sucking pigs, however, wheat-straw should always be employed as litter. Fattening pigs need no litter, and a bare, boarded floor will suffice; they usually keep clean the place where they lie.

Because the pig is an omnivorous feeder, the idea has—unfortunately for the pig—become prevalent that he is naturally a dirty animal, and delights to wallow in filth. This is made an excuse for allowing the sty to remain in a condition which is often repulsive. With very little trouble, a pig's sty may be kept clean and sweet, besides which it should be roomy, and well ventilated, but free from draughts. It should, if possible, have a southern aspect, for pigs love sunshine. On account of their comparatively small stomachs, pigs require their food to be more concentrated than is necessary in the case of cattle or sheep. Frequent feeding, but with no more food than the animals can clean up at each meal, is desirable.

How it was used

It is pleasant to imagine Squire Barry, like the Squire of Blandings Castle, strolling down the road after church on Sunday to scratch his own particular Empress on the back while contemplating the view from her palace. He may indeed have done so, but the Empress was not his own, because whatever prompted J.W. Barry to build the Pigsty, it was the inhabitants of the two neighbouring cottages who were lumbered with using it.

Along with the vegetable patch and the beehive, keeping a pig was the accepted way of improving a family's diet, and bringing in a little extra income from the sale of piglets. Very few cottages or farmhouses were without their sty, and on an estate with an improving landlord, as many agricultural treatises and manuals of the period show, these would be incorporated in the design of a new cottage. At Fyling Hall there were two cottages, and accordingly the Squire provided accommodation for two pigs.

Living in one of the cottages at the time was William Hodgson, Squire Barry's head gardener and woodsman. His grandson, Bill Newton, can remember as a small boy helping to feed the pig. Less pleasant are memories of the killing and curing, for which a special huge cauldron was kept. Then there would be a new pig to be fattened up for the next year, kept from the last litter.

The pigs were large whites, presumably a local breed. It is not clear exactly how they reached their homes from the field, but it is said that they went up a wooden ramp, which vanished long ago, and so onto the platform at the side of the building. An alternative tradition has it that the pigs refused to go up to the sty at all, and stayed firmly in the field. From the existence of a sizeable midden beside the Pigsty, it would seem that they spent enough time inside to build up a reasonable quantity of muck.

Inside, the building was divided by a central partition into two sties, with what seems to have been double sleeping compartments at the inner end, one for the sow and

one for the piglets perhaps. Each sty had its own feeding trough, filled from outside through a hinged shutter, with more shutters above. For extra ventilation, there were windows at the back as well, which were fitted with sliding shutters. The shutters, and front gable of the sty, were pierced to allow air to flow freely.

In the floor of the portico are shutes down which water could be poured into two drinking troughs in the field below. Each of the timber columns has a sheet of lead wrapped around the lower half, to stop the pigs chewing them, and bringing down the roof over their heads. Clearly, every aspect of the design was carefully thought out, with a scholarly attention to detail, in the best tradition of amateur model farming.

Recent History

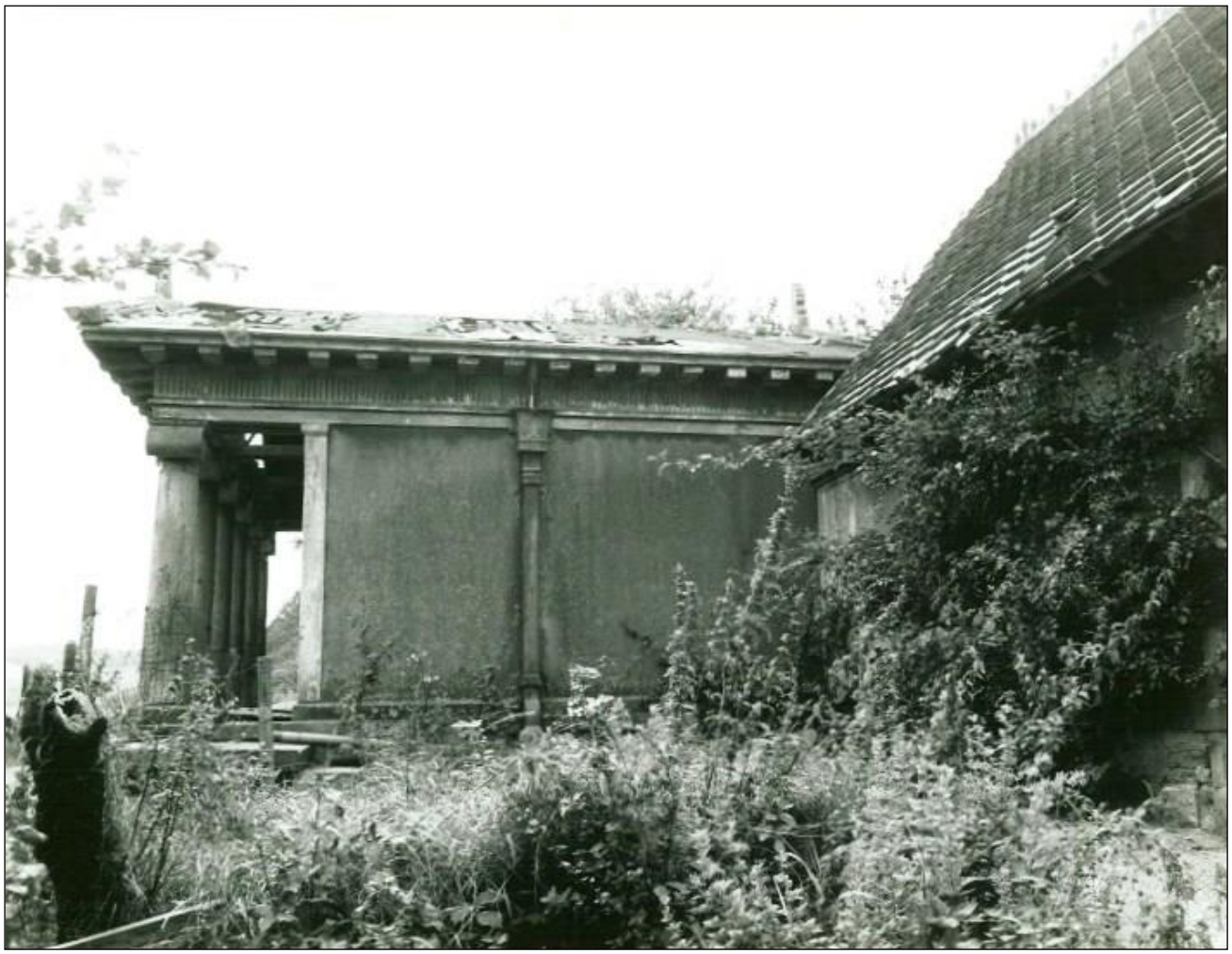
It can never have been easy to keep pigs in the Pigsty, and so it is hardly surprising that after J.W. Barry's death in 1920, when the keeping of pigs was in any case becoming a less universal practice, the inhabitants of the cottages soon gave up the struggle. Hens were kept there instead for some years, and for a time it was used as a kennel for dogs, but gradually it went the way of all unemployed buildings, and filled up with junk.

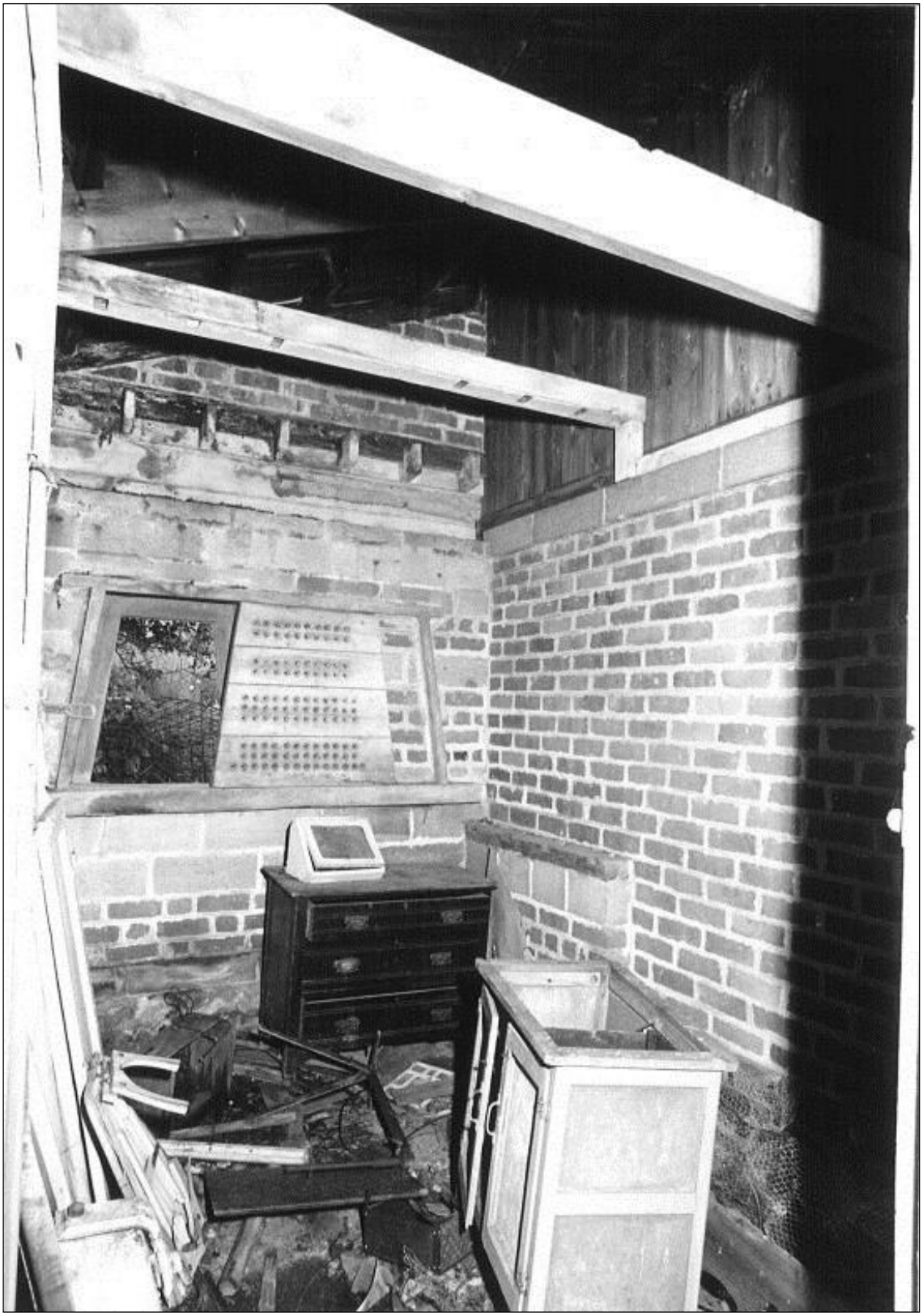
By the 1980s the condition of the building was becoming a serious concern to Mrs White, the present owner of Fyling Hall and of the cottages. Various ideas had been tossed around, all involving a lot of money that no one had, when Lucinda Lambton burst upon the scene when doing research for her book and television programme, *Beastly Buildings*. She told Mrs White about the Landmark Trust, and told Landmark about the Pigsty, and in August 1988, the building was transferred to us on a long lease.

Almost no other building taken on by Landmark has attracted so much attention as has the Pigsty - or so many (admittedly irresistible) feeble jokes. It has been photographed and filmed and written about by media both local and national. Hopeful enquiries have showered on the booking office. The Poultry House at Leighton, where humble fowl were housed in equally grandiose architectural surroundings, did not have anything like the same appeal. Pigs and anything to do with pigs, like lavatories, are clearly deeply embedded in our national consciousness as a source of endless amusement and fascination.

The Pigsty in 1988

1989





THE RESTORATION OF THE PIGSTY

The decision to take on the Pigsty carried with it the inevitable consequence of conversion - the best way of saving the building in the long term being to provide it with a new use. To make it into a Landmark, however, would also require some addition to the building: we felt that even our most devoted followers would find it hard to live and sleep only in the space allotted to the pigs. Martin Stancliffe designed the addition in such a way that the main range of the building was simply extended into the hillside by a few feet, which has the happy result of giving it the proportions of a genuine temple. The adjoining privy would be incorporated to provide a kitchen.

Next came the decision as to how much of the existing work to retain. The roof had been stripped of its copper covering long before, so that the structure was in a very poor state; four of the columns were severely rotted, and so was much of the pediment, and the frieze running right round the building. We could very well have consigned all the original work to the bonfire, and rebuilt it in replica, and saved a lot of money thereby, but we felt that it would be dishonest to do this. Instead, as much as possible has been retained, and new wood only pieced in where structurally and visually essential.

Work finally began in July 1990. To do the repairs, it was necessary to dismantle all the timber construction of the building, and take it away to the joinery workshop of A.E.Houghton Ltd, of York, the building firm appointed to carry out the restoration. In the meantime, there were unnerving moments for those who drove past expecting to see the building in its usual position, only to find that it had disappeared, apart from the side and back walls. Photographs of the structure when it was reassembled in the workshop after repair, and particularly of the two columns that it was possible to save, bear full witness to the skill with which the work was done, now invisible beneath paint.

While this was being done, extensive work was going on at the site under the supervision of Houghton's experienced foreman, Bob Gamble. One of the problems with the Pigsty is that the hillside on which it stands is by no means stable. The building was showing a tendency to slide gracefully towards the sea, and cracks were appearing in the stone base. A minor landslide had occurred at the top of the slope, just below the drive. When the ground had been dug out behind the building, to create a level space for the addition, new retaining walls were constructed to hold everything above in place, and new drains inserted to take away the water that was causing the problem. An unexpected result of the excavation was the need to underpin one end of the privy which, it was only discovered too late, stood at a higher level, both than the Pigsty and the other half of the privy itself, and was thus inadvertently deprived of its foundations.

Below the Pigsty, and in front of the privy, the midden was dug out, to see if repairs were needed to the retaining walls there, but luckily they were sound. In the course of these landscape works, some old drystone walls had been taken down around the site. These were rebuilt and extended, in slightly new positions to mark new boundaries, as does the new hedge on the field side. Since there was not quite enough old stone to complete the new walls, David Fletcher, the local waller who did the work, showed great ingenuity in obtaining new supplies of old stone from any farmer in the area who had a stack of it in their yard from redundant field walls. New steps were built from the parking space at the top.

Repairs to the stonework of the privy and the base of the Pigsty were also in progress. It took some time to find a stone to match the original, which had come from a quarry somewhere on the estate. Eventually a stone was found which comes from landslips on the moor, known as Tumbler. Mr Atkinson of Sleights Quarry has a licence from the Park Authority to use this, and it is a very good match. The York paving stones around the building are also new, including new slabs fitted over the shutes in the floor of the portico.

The walls of the new bedroom and bathroom were built by then, and the inner partition of the lobby linking it to the new kitchen, which matches the outer one already there. The central partition of the Pigsty had been taken down (although the timber division in the roofspace has been retained), and the shelves covering the sleeping compartments had also been removed. The brick supports for these have been left on the outer walls. One of the former window openings has become a door, and the other a bookcase. The old windows and shutters themselves were transferred to the new back wall and on the outside, the timber surrounds and columns from the original back wall were also moved, so that the Pigsty's appearance from behind is exactly the same as before.

The joiners were then ready to start putting the roof back on. The roof of the privy had also been stripped, carefully retaining the tiles, and the structure repaired. The tiles were then relaid, set in lime mortar rather than nailed as is the local practice (similar to the scantle-slate roofs of equally windy Cornwall). Luckily, the roofer had a few matching tiles in his yard, which had come off another building, to make up some holes. The decorative ridge tiles were also put back. Some are broken, but we felt it was preferable to keep them than to patch in new ones. The carved barge boards had to be renewed, however, since they were either entirely rotten or missing altogether.

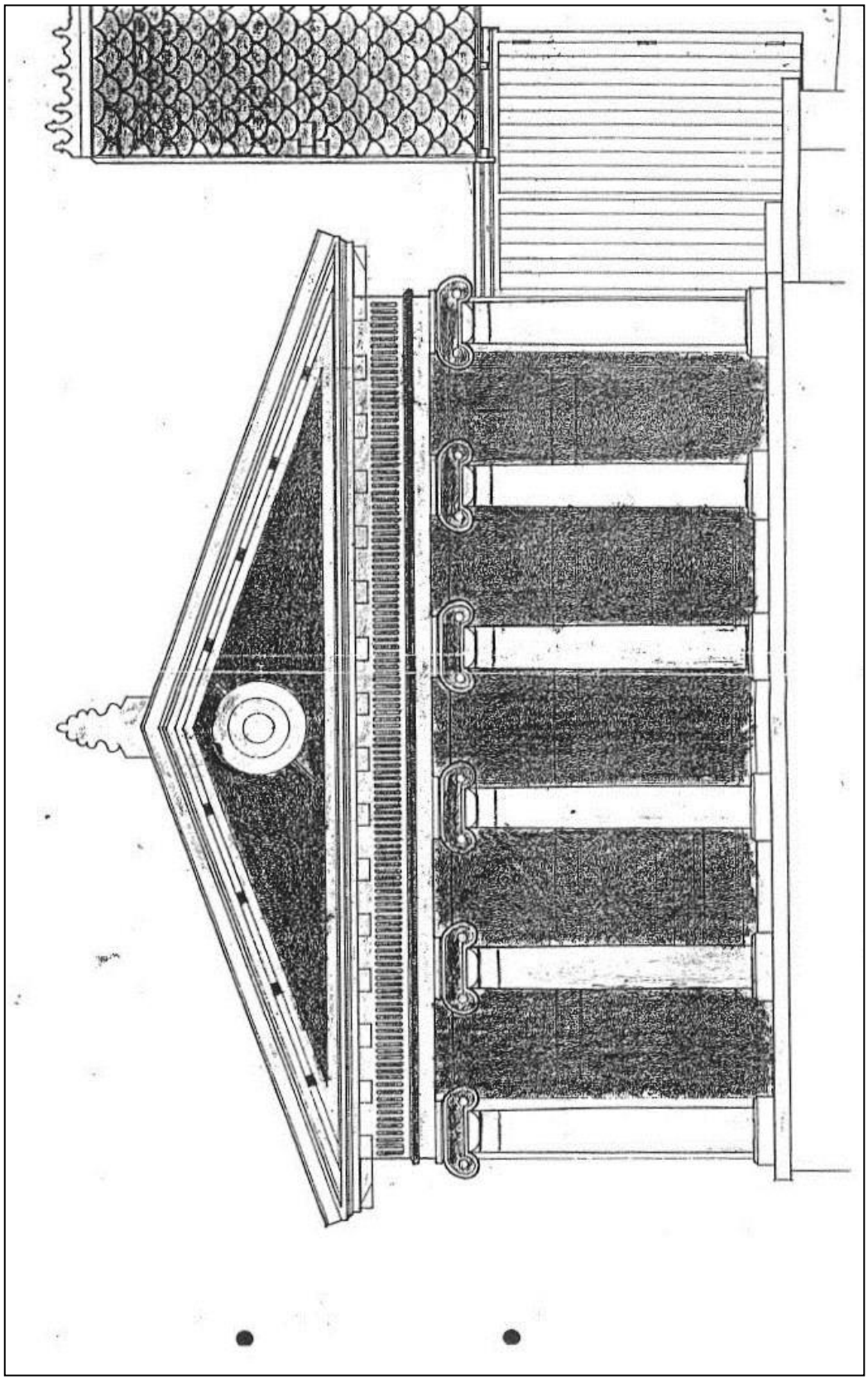
On the Pigsty itself, a new copper roof was laid, and then new gutters and downpipes fixed, copies of the originals. One cast iron hopper survived, and three more were copied from this. Finally the crowning acroteria were carefully fixed back in position.

The side and back walls of the building were rendered with a black lime plaster, which it was very difficult to match for the addition. A number of trial patches were put on, using different mixes and methods of colouring. Eventually, a mix using black slag instead of sand, darkened still further with some black ochre, was found to produce the best result.

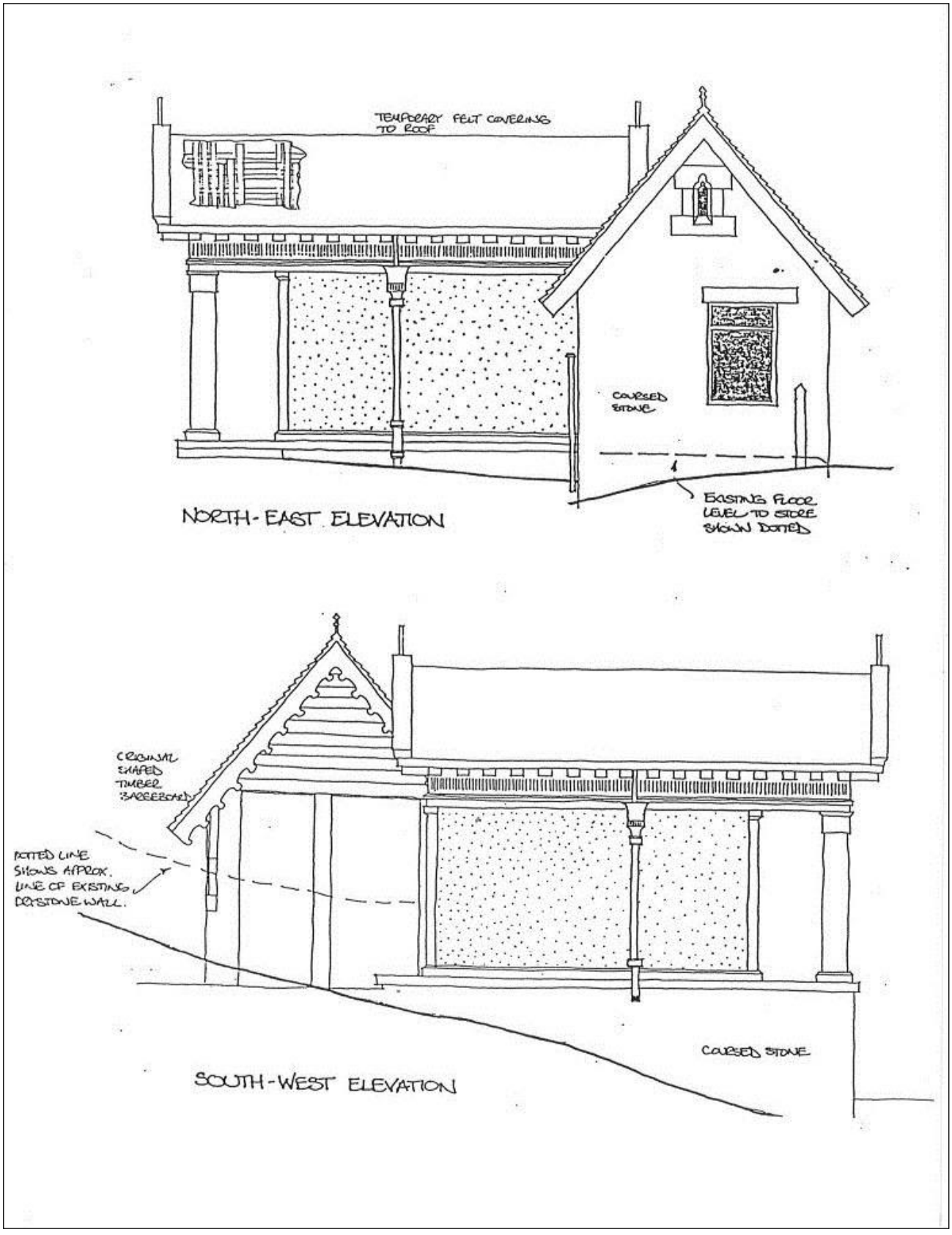
Inside, the walls were now being plastered, with traditional lime-hair plaster. The original boarded ceiling was renewed. The front wall, or screen, of the sty, was reassembled, but with glass fitted into the openings to allow the new occupants to see out. They can still be closed by the original shutters, which have been specially adapted so that they can be lifted off completely. The ventilation holes in the upper part of the screen were carefully filled with glass.

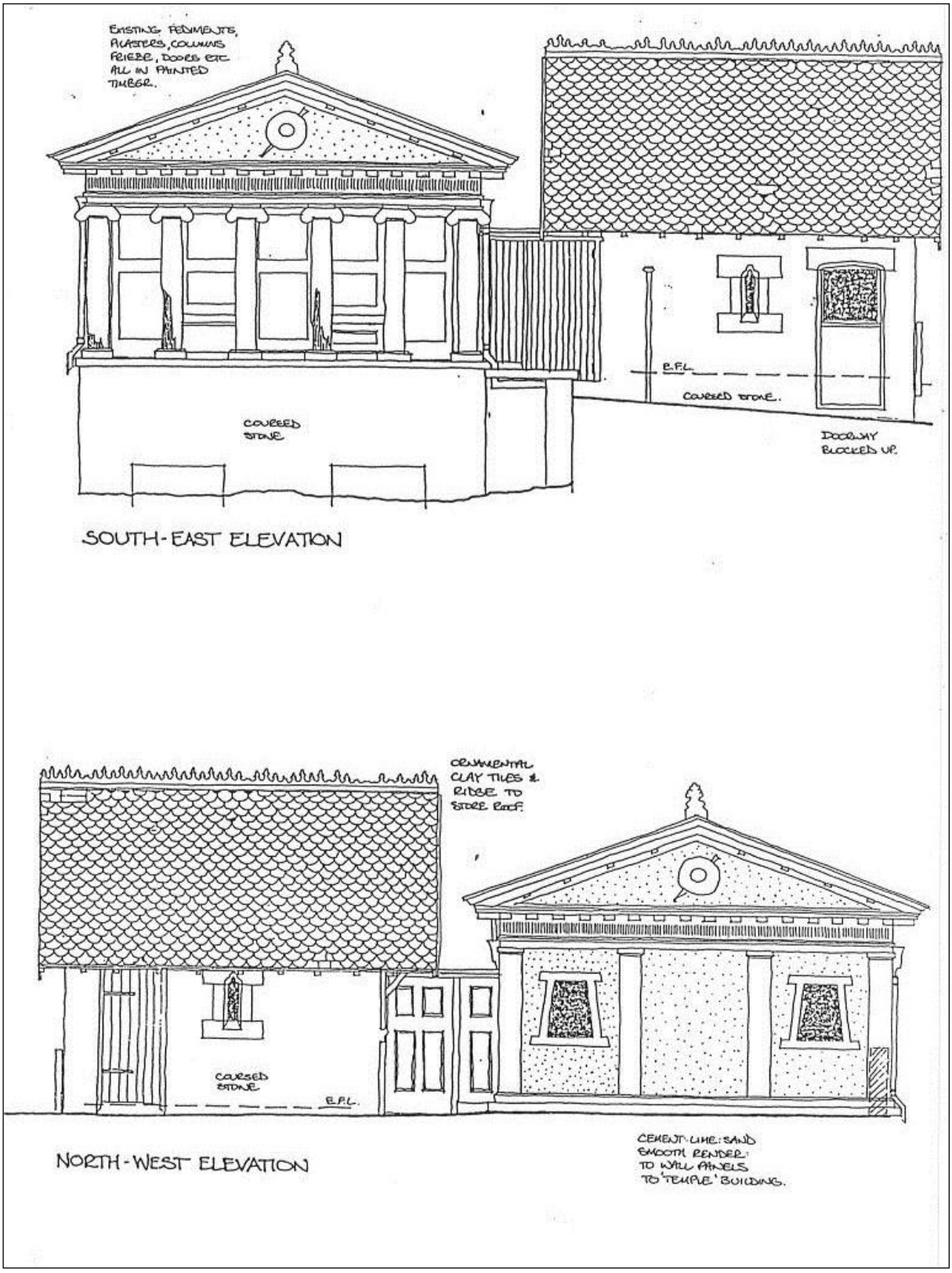
A full report on the conservation of the surviving paintwork had been carried out by the specialist firm of Herbert Read in Exeter, and an analysis of the paint fragments by Allyson McDermott. This revealed that the main colour scheme had been a yellow ochre, with the detail picked out in blue and red. The base paint of lead white had darkened and discoloured more than usual because of its exposure to greater than normal amounts of hydrogen sulphide gas - a plentiful by-product of a pigsty. The original paint colours would be reproduced, but a small patch of the faded original can be seen inside the portico, and the acroteria and shields were also left unpainted.

Work was completed in June 1991. As always, the finished result came as a surprise even to those of us who had been working with the knowledge of what it would be like, in theory. Space is perforce extremely limited still but it is worth remembering that admirers of pigs always maintain that there is no tidier animal, when given the right quarters.

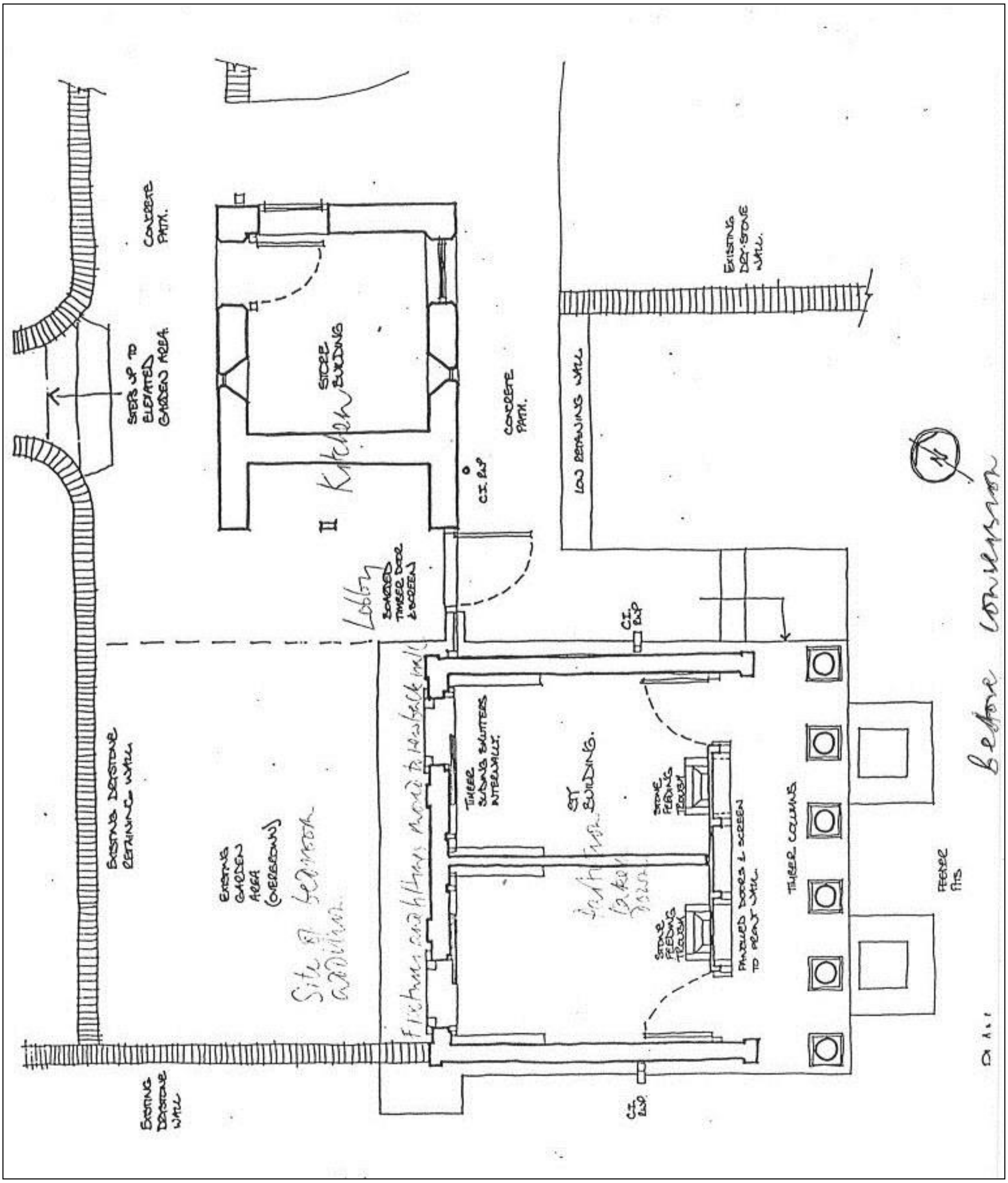


Reconstruction of the original colouring of the Pigsty, prepared by Herbert Read and based on an analysis of the surviving fragments of paint.


TEMPORARY FELT COVERING TO ROOF
COURSED STONE
EXISTING FLOOR LEVEL TO STEEL SHOWN DOTTED
NORTH-EAST ELEVATION
ORIGINAL SHAPED TIMBER BARGEBOARD
DOTTED LINE SHOWS APPROX. LINE OF EXISTING DRYSTONE WALL.
COURSED STONE
SOUTH-WEST ELEVATION

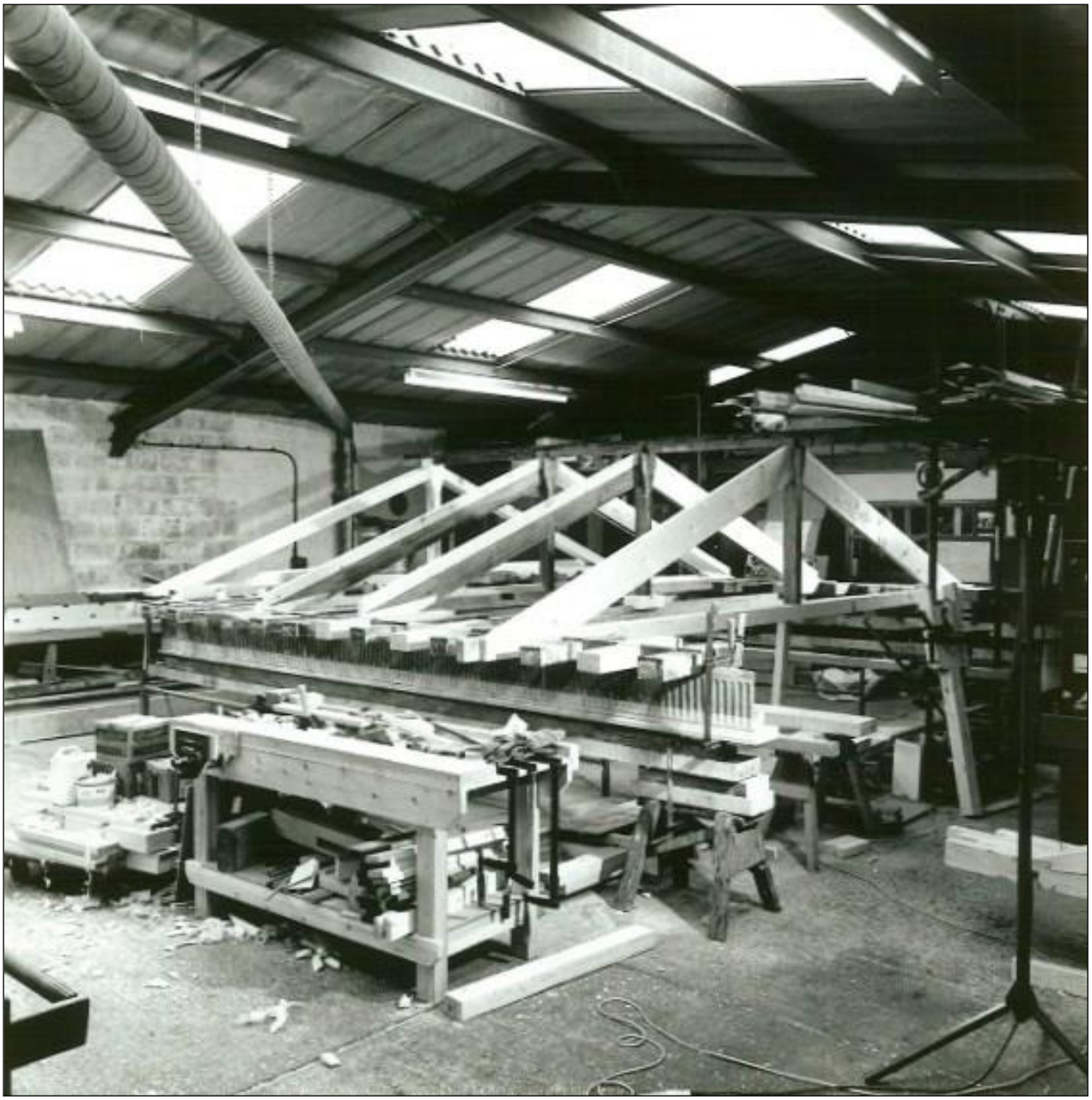


Before elevations, front and back


EXISTING DRYSTONE WALL
EXISTING DRYSTONE RETAINING WALL
EXISTING GARDEN AREA (OVERGROWN)
STEPS UP TO ELEVATED GARDEN AREA
CONCRETE PATH.
STORE BUILDING
Kitchen
CONCRETE PATH.
C.I. RWP
LOW RETAINING WALL
EXISTING DRY-STONE WALL.
Lobby
BOARDED TIMBER DOOR & SCREEN
TIMBER SLIDING SHUTTERS INTERNALLY.
STY BUILDING.
STONE FEEDING TROUGH
PANELLED DOORS & SCREEN TO FRONT WALL
TIMBER COLUMNS
FEEDER PITS
Before conversion

The bases of the columns after the portico was dismantled, and taken away for repair.

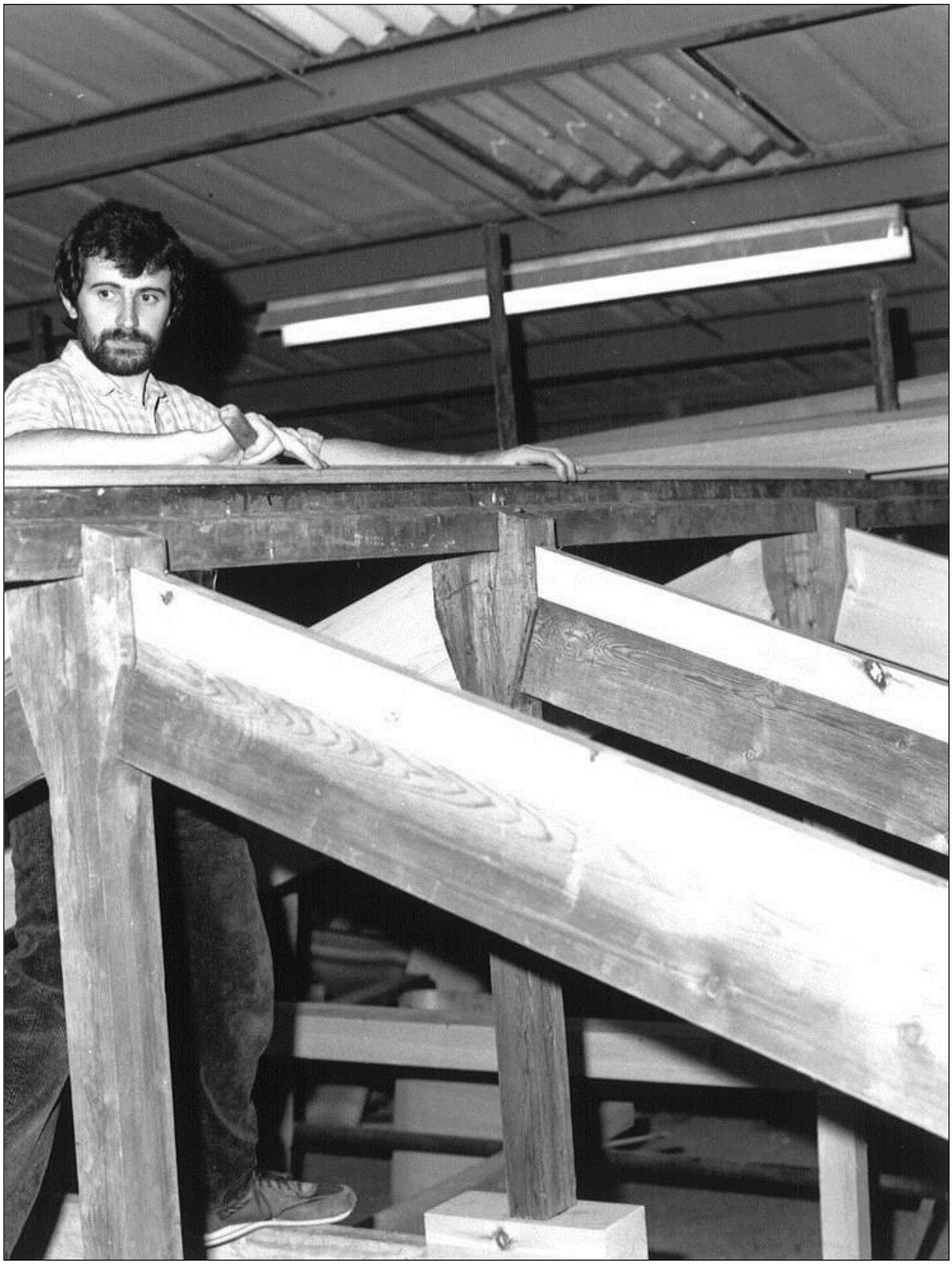
This column was too rotten to save, but helped to prevent the polythene from blowing away.

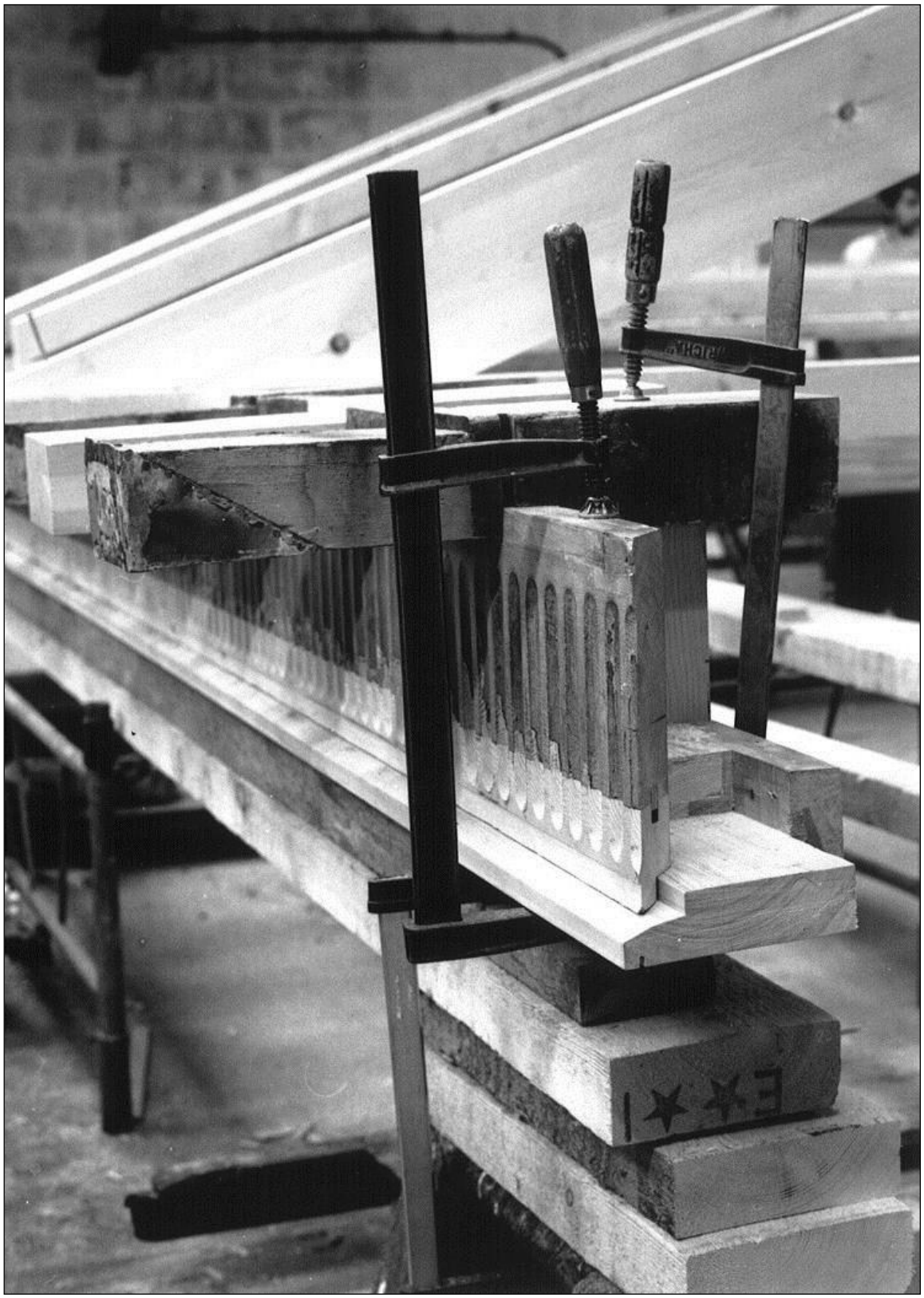


Meanwhile the roof was gradually reassembled in Houghton's joinery workshop.

The two columns that could be saved. The paler strips are where new wood has been filleted in.

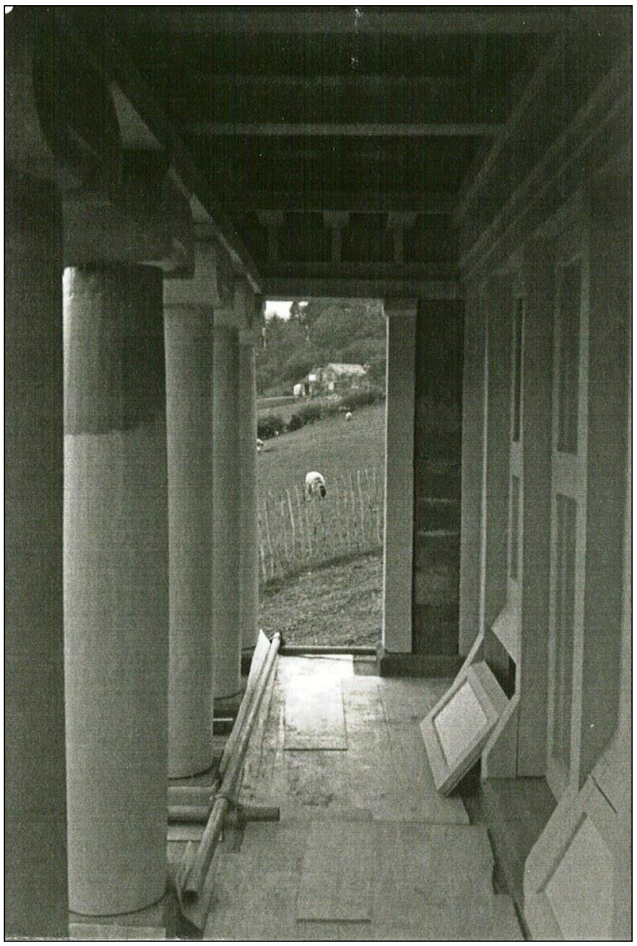
Replacements for the four that could not be saved.

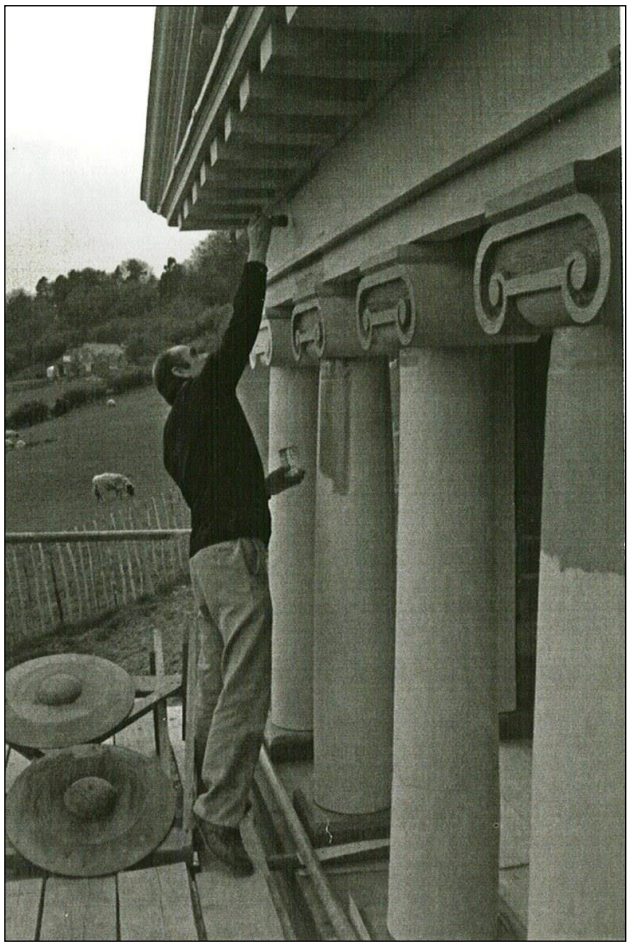




Inserting the shutters

and the windows.





The final stages

The Barrys and Fyling Hall

J.W. Barry was the third member of his family to live at Fyling Hall. His great-grandfather had bought the estate in 1819 from Lord Hotham, whose family had owned it since the 17th century. It consisted of 2000 acres, with eleven farms, and made its new owner, John Barry, one of three chief landowners in Fylingdales, the parish which extends from the north to the south of Robin Hood's Bay, which had in medieval times been the property of Whitby Abbey.

Just to the South of Fyling Hall itself was once the Abbey deer park, the upper wall of which ran through the field above the Pigsty. The original name for the present Fyling Hall was Park Hill, and the hamlet to which it belongs is called Park Gate. The name was changed to Fyling Hall by J.W. Barry in 1888, when the original house in Fylingthorpe became Fyling Old Hall.

The money to pay for the Fyling Hall estate, and the building of a new house there in the 1820s, came from shipping. The Barry family had been shipowners and shipbuilders in Whitby since at least the 18th century. Shipbuilding had been going on there since the Middle Ages, but flourished in the 18th century with the trade to America, alongside the existing coal-trade and whale-fishing. The building of a new bridge in 1767 allowed larger ships to reach the port. At that date 251 ships were registered at Whitby, and very soon ships of 400-600 tons were being built. G. Young in his *History of Whitby* (1817) noted that "the largest ship at present belonging to Whitby is of 520 tons burden, built in 1814 and called the John Barry after its builder and owner". The Barrys had offices in the Shipyard, Whitby, and John Barry's son, Robert, seems to have lived over the shop, since it is given as his private address in a Directory of 1834. On his father's death in 1837 he inherited the Fyling estate and moved there shortly afterwards, although he does not seem to have been resident at the time of the 1840-1 census.

The family retained their connection with Whitby, being registered as shipowners in Directories until the end of the century, but as they became established landowners they inevitably aligned themselves more with the county gentry than with their

mercantile interests. John Warren Barry, with one brother and two sisters, was brought up by his grandfather, Robert, at Fyling, after his father's early death. He went to Winchester and to Oxford, and then started to read for Holy Orders. However, his grandfather had died in 1871, when he was only 19, and he soon afterwards gave up his other plans to take on the management of the estate.

It was then, according to his own account in *Studies in Corsica,* that he acquired what was to become a lifelong interest in arboriculture. Searching for an authoritative work on the history and geography of European trees, he found that none existed. He therefore set out to research the subject himself. He began with a tour of Britain, but found it too laborious, in that nearly all our native woodlands lay on private estates which required permission from the owner or the agent to visit. He tried Scandinavia, but found its climate too hostile for prolonged study. A desire for the sun, prompted partly by ill health, attracted him to the South. France and Italy were too heavily cultivated, Greece too dry, Spain and Portugal were full of bugs, and the people spoke a language he did not understand. That left the islands, and in the end events conspired to send him to Corsica, first of all for a short visit of 6 months in 1880, and then for a stay of 2 ½ years from 1882-5.

At home he made new forestry plantations on his own estate, which became well-known for its tree-planting. Trees were not his only interest however. His obituary in the *Whitby Gazette* credited him with being "an intelligent student of music" and a Greek scholar. Certainly *Studies in Corsica* contains frequent quotations in Greek, and he refers to travels there and in Asia Minor. He was also a photographer, taking all the photographs for his book himself. In the Particulars prepared for the sale of the contents of Fyling Hall in 1921, photographic apparatus was listed.

Architecture was clearly another interest, which he put into practice with a number of new buildings on the estate, and a new billiard room at the Hall. He also formed an Italianate garden there. His book contains frequent descriptions of buildings, and his opinions on their design. He recommended the use of the "gutter" tiles of the Mediterranean countries for our own upland farms, because of their ability to

withstand high winds. Leo Walmsley, who grew up nearby recalls Squire Barry in *The Golden Waterwheel* (1954) as an authority on ecclesiastical architecture.

Contrasting him with another, very tall, landowner in Fylingdale he says of J.W. Barry:

> *The other squire…was by contrast, almost a dwarf. He, too, hated trespassers and poachers, but I was never really afraid of him. He was a religious man, and went to church twice on Sundays, wearing a frock-coat and a bowler hat, and driving there and back in a little dog-cart….He took a peculiar interest in the farms he owned. At one of them he rebuilt a cow-shed with hand-dressed stone with carved church windows and louvres, and an arched doorway with an iron-studded door, again like that of the church. The stalls were all of carved oak and looked almost like pews. At another farm he built a pigsty which was an exact replica in miniature of a Grecian temple, only there were two stories, in the topmost one of which the pigs were supposed to sleep, and there was a special staircase for them. They preferred the ground floor however.*

By this he must mean that the pigs preferred to spend their time in the field below the sty.

In addition to all these varied interests, J.W. Barry played the part of any local landowner, being a J.P., holding political garden parties and so on. He is remembered locally as being very strict about the manners of his staff. If a gardener or groom did not take their hat off to him, they were in trouble.

Financially, he does not seem to have thrived, since he sold three farms, with other land, in 1904, amounting to 851 acres in all. Nor did he marry, so that on his death in 1920 the estate passed to his brother, Major Robert Barry, who lived in Hertfordshire. A year later it was on the market. The remaining farms were mostly sold to the tenants, and the house and its contents were sold separately, the latter by auction.

On the first day came the furnishings of the Servants Hall, Kitchen, Scullery, Dairy, Bedrooms over kitchen, Staircase and Landing, Bedrooms 1, 2, Dressing room,

Bedrooms 4, 5, Top Floor, Smoke Room, Landing, Blue Bedroom 6, Dining Room, Library, Drawing Room, Entrance Hall, Dressing Room, Bedroom 8, Back Bedroom 9; together with photographic apparatus and the linen.

On the second day, J. W. Barry's books (lots 357-631) and remaining Household Effects were to be sold; and on the third, Farm Implements, Harness, Horses, Trap, Joiner's and Blacksmith's tools, Garden tools, Crops and Timber.

Fyling Hall with 33 acres was sold to Mrs Emily Mills, who sold it on in 1925. The house changed hands again before, in 1934, it was bought by Mr and Mrs W.A. Bradley. Mrs Bradley was a graduate of Oxford, and to oblige a friend one year had two boys to stay with her to coach them for the Common Entrance exam to Public School. So successful were they that more boys came, and the Bradleys soon found themselves running a prep school. When their daughter, now Mrs White, was old enough to be taught by a governess, they soon found themselves taking more girls, so that Fyling Hall became one of the earliest co-educational boarding schools. During the War, when the coast had to be cleared for a mile inland and the Hall was requisitioned, the school was evacuated to Cumberland. Many of the children stayed on to take their School Certificate, and on its return to Fyling, the school continued to take older children. It still flourishes today, under the direction of Mrs White.

Charlotte Haslam
August 1991

ODE TO A PIG
while his Nose was being Bored

Hark! Hark! that Pig - that Pig! the hideous note,
More loud, more dissonant, each moment grows!
Would one not think the knife was in his throat?
And yet they are only boring through his nose.

Pig! 'tis your master's pleasure - then be still,
And hold your nose to let the iron through!
Dare you resist your lawful Sovereign's will?
Rebellious Swine! you know not what you do.

To man o'er beast the sacred power was given;
Pig, hear the truth, and never murmur more!
Would you rebel against the will of Heaven?
You impious beast, be still, and let them bore!

The social Pig resigns his natural rights
When first with man he covenants to live;
He barters them for safer sty delights,
For grains and wash, which man alone can give.

Sure is provision on the social plan,
Secure the comforts that to each belong!
Oh, happy Swine! the impartial sway of man
Alike protects the weak Pig and the strong.

And you resist! you struggle now because
Your master has thought fit to bore your nose!
You grunt in flat rebellion of the laws
Society finds needful to impose!

Go to the forest, Piggy, and deplore
The miserable lot of savage Swine!
See how the young Pigs fly from the great Boar,
And see how coarse and scantily they dine!

Behold their hourly danger, when who will
May hunt or snare or seize them for his food!
Oh, happy Pig! whom none presumes to kill
Till your protecting master thinks it good!

And when, at last, the closing hour of life
Arrives (for Pigs must die as well as Man),
When in your throat you feel the long sharp knife,
And the blood trickles to the pudding-pan;

And when, at last, the death wound yawning wide,
Fainter and fainter grows the expiring cry,
Is there no grateful joy, no loyal pride,
To think that for you master's good you die?

Robert Southey
(1774 - 1843)

PIGS IN WORD & PHRASE

When a pig is offered, hold open the poke (= seize an opportunity)

To buy a pig in a poke (= to be tricked into buying inferior goods)

To give someone a pig of another's sow (= to pay them back in their own coin)

Please the pigs (= if all's well)

To carry pigs to market (= to try to do business)

To bring your pigs to a fine market (= to be disappointed in a venture)

To get the wrong pig by the ear (= to get the wrong idea)

Pigs might fly (= anything might happen)

Pigs in clover (= someone having a very good time)

A pig's whisper\whistle (= a brief moment)

A pig of a day\job\excuse (= a bad day\job\excuse)

A pig's breakfast (= a muddle or mess)

Pig-headed (= very obstinate)

Eat like a pig (= eat greedily and messily)

Pigtail (= small bunch of hair)

Go the whole hog (= to do something fully)

Hogwash or pigswill (= rubbish, nonsensical talk)

Hog's back (= a ridge or long hill)

Swinish (= unpleasant, very difficult)

Porky (= fat)

Piggy-eyes (= small eyes)

Pigsty (= an unclean place)

Pig (= a glutton; a dirty person; a policeman - first occurrence 1812; a segment of an orange or other citrus fruit; an oblong bar of metal ore - a smaller bar was called a sow)