



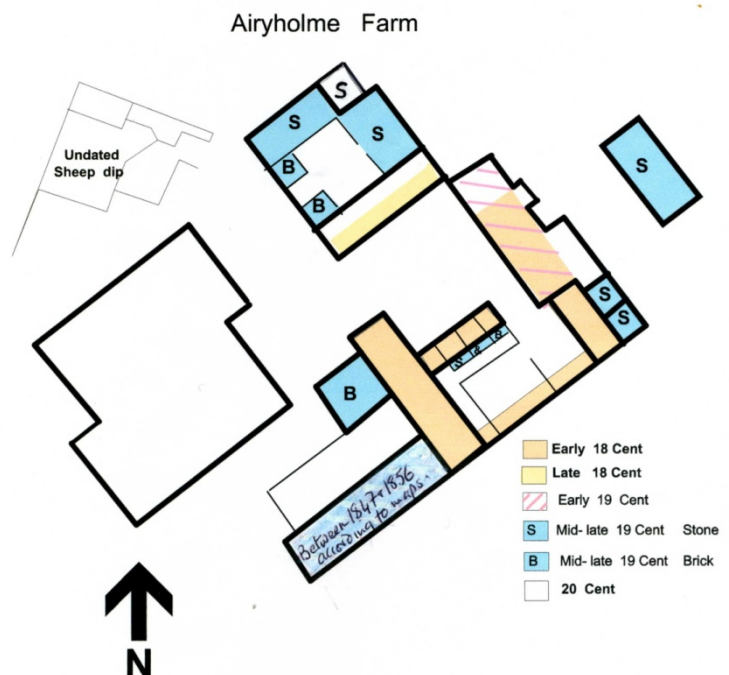
Airyholme Farm Buildings

John Crocker & Cath Small

2012

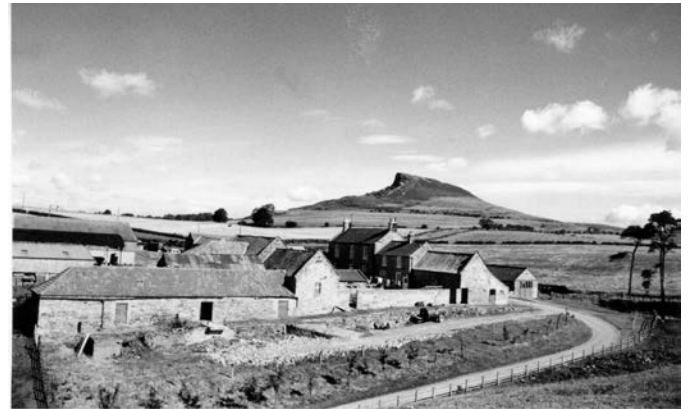
The farm complex sits in a sheltered hollow in the S.W. corner of a wide semi-circle of cultivated land. It is bounded by the steep slopes of Roseberry topping to the north, a shallow valley to the east, and a strip of woodland which follows the mined out Whinstone Dyke to the south. The top of the lower wooded slopes of Roseberry being to the west.

As seen in the plan the farm buildings date from the early 1700's to the present day. There is evidence of alterations and additions as demanded by changes in agriculture over 300 years, both nationally and locally.



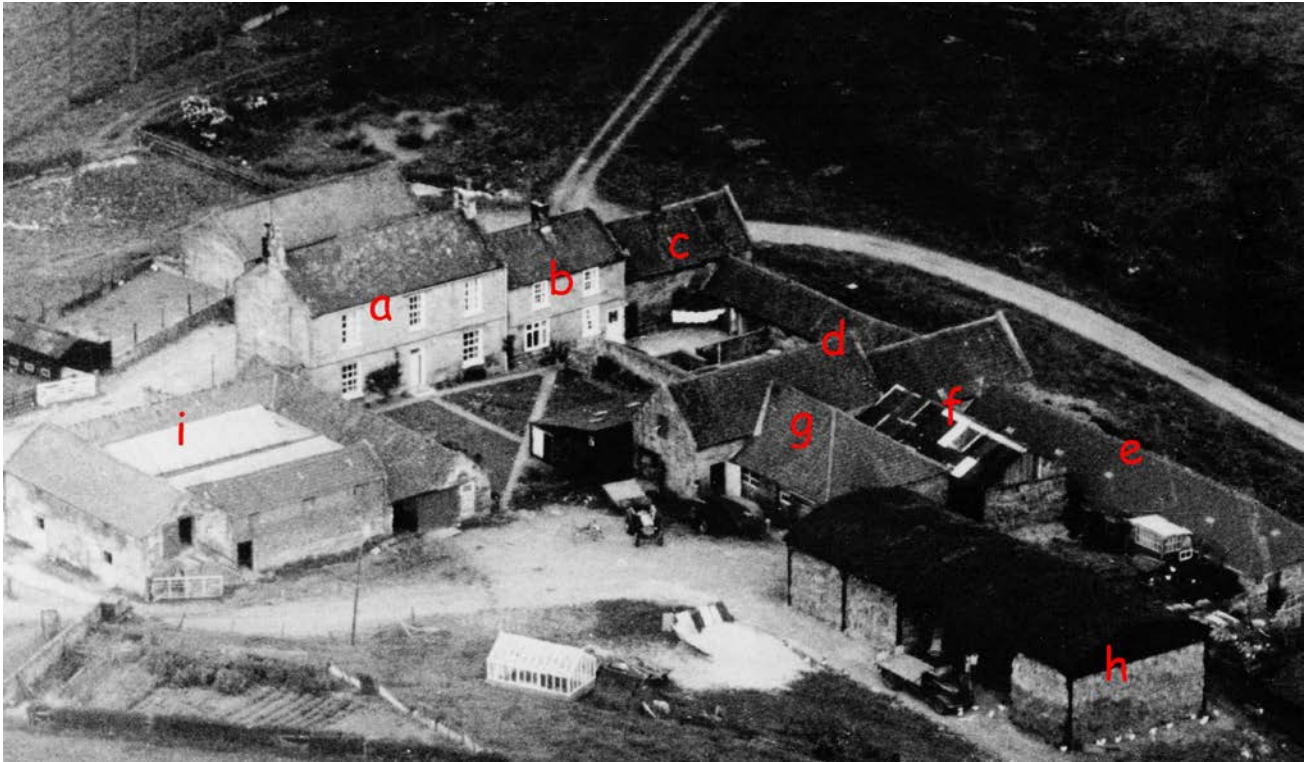
The farmstead layout

The basic layout has changed very little over its lifetime. A comparison of the pictures below taken over two hundred years apart shows this. The additions and alterations can be seen in the changes to the dwelling house and the inclusion of buildings made with modern materials.



The illustration on the left is of the farm as it was when George Cuit sketched it around 1790. He made several sketches around Great Ayton which are accurate in context and perspective leading to the assumption that his drawing of the farm is accurate..





Arial view of farmstead taken after the end of the Second World

- a. Farmhouse**
- b. Cottage**
- c. East Barn**
- d. West Barns**
- e. Sheep Byre**
- f. Old Implement Shed (replaced by modern)**
- g. Wheelhouse**
- h. Old Hay Barn (replaced by modern)**
- i. Foldyard complex**

House and Cottage

After the Enclosure Award of 1658 it is very likely that a dwelling house would have been built and comprised of a single storey long house. The present house, cottage and east barn/stable are possibly on its footprint.

It is known that by 1736 there was domestic accommodation on the farm (James, the father of Captain James Cook was the Farm Bailiff from 1736 – 1755), but no visible evidence existed of it until George Cuit drew his sketch.

George Cuits drawing shows a building with a long pantiled roof with two chimneys, one in the centre of the ridge and the other at the southern end of the roof. The south gable of the house adjoins a barn (the 1910 Farm Survey calls it a five stalled stable, but its use will have varied over its lifetime). The rooflines of the house and barn have the steep pitch and high coping associated with thatch, the drawing however shows them as being tiled in 1790. The sketch shows a building about two thirds of the length of the present one, by 1900 the farmhouse was two storied and taller than the adjoining cottage to the south. The chimneys have hollow moulding which was in use before the 1780's also the style of the kneeler on the south gable dates it to the 18C. It is likely that the kneeler and chimneys belonged to an earlier building on the same site. It is not known when the alterations took place but the style of the main house is dated to the 1820 – 1830's.



The photograph shows the house and cottage taken from the garden about 1900. Notice the lack of symmetry on the front of the house. It is possible that the house was enlarged at some time.

The present day view shows that the house from the front has not changed in over one hundred years. The cottage is also unchanged except for the left downstairs window having been replaced at some time by a larger one



The rear of the building shows more alterations than the front. There has been an entrance porch added and work done to the north downstairs window. It also shows the same lack of proportion as the front, again suggesting an extension to north end of the house.



The rear of the cottage shows a very different picture. It shows a 20th century addition in the form of a lean to extending the full length of the cottage, built of stone blocks and having modern windows and a porched entrance. Behind the shrub there is another small window.

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The East Barn – Five Stalled Stable in 1910 Survey

This building – one of the original shown adjoining the south end of the farmhouse in Cuit's sketch is probably the earliest datable on the farmstead.

The roof trusses date from the 1720 -1740's plus the earth mortar in the east wall is indicative of the first half of the 18th century or even earlier.

The south end of the barn has an entrance plus a loading door and ventilation slits (filled in). These along with the opposing doors at the north end next to the cottage point to its use for storage and being used as a threshing barn at some time in the past.



The East Barn seen from the west adjoins the cottage. The paved and grass is the small fold area, possibly the original workyard of the farm. It is no longer used for this purpose



The barn viewed from the other side shows a lean to attachment which was added sometime between 1856 and 1895.

Though now used for storage, it was used as stabling. One use of the stable was to house the horse used to pull the ambulance for the Roseberry ironstone mine. There was an entrance to the mine on the land now farmed.

The gable end of the barn from the south shows the entrance door and the top loading door through which sheaves or hay etc could have been off loaded from the hay carts. One obvious change of use was it being turned into a five stabled barn sometime before 1910 as recorded in the survey of that date. The end of the lean to can also be seen with its door and only window.





The West Barn Complex comprises of, as seen in the photo, a sheep byre to the left adjoining a small barn also used for animals and a larger barn behind. The larger barn has a now defunct wheelhouse built onto its west side. The wall running to the right runs to end of the east barn and supported a number of small work units for coal, laundry etc. These were demolished in the 1980's due to land slippage and the wall rebuilt using the original stone.



The west barn seen from over the piggeries. Externally both barns fit with mid C18 style but have no precise dating features. The roof trusses which are later with hanging king posts, could be anywhere between 1780 and 1900. Walls are one block thick and buttressed internally. The earliest known single block wall in the area is dated 1740.



The sheep byre was constructed sometime between 1847 and 1856 and has not changed since then and the present day.

Nor does its use for animals seemed to have altered.



The Piggeries These consist of three pigsties each with an enclosed exercise area surrounded by a six foot wall. The walls are pierced with slots for pouring in the swill. The structure shows signs of much rebuilding of brick on stone, the shape however has remained unchanged since it was first depicted in 1856. They show signs of having not been used for a number of years.



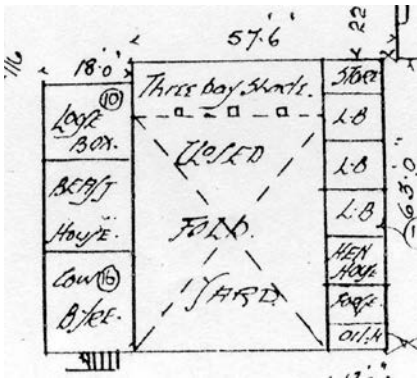
The Wheelhouse is built onto the west barn, possibly onto a threshing floor. Constructed with brick sometime between 1874 and 1856.

When its use as a horse operated wheelhouse was no longer required it seems to have been altered using modern bricks to accommodate animals.

The Fold Yard Complex

Though not shown on Cuit's sketch there is an unidentified building on the same alignment which could possibly be the start of the foldyard.

It seems to have started as a single line of animal housing. Later an upper storey was added as a granary. A parallel building for animals was added to the south with another joining them together at the east end. This formed a three sided foldyard. In time the open side was closed by a brick structure and then followed by roofing over of the open centre of the yard.



The diagram from the 1910 survey gives an idea of the development. The cow byre and beast house to the left (the loose box was a later addition) called the "Old Granary" by the present Mr. & Mrs. Phalps, probably dates from the end of the 1700's. The upper storey being added later. Walls roughly finished squared stone. The ceiling over the byres seems to have two layers of boards, the upper, the granary floor being twice the width of the lower. Possibly to keep the smells and sweat away from the grain! The loose boxes came next followed by the northern bay sheds.



The 'Old Granary'. The entrance to the upper floor can be seen on the end. The two doors have others opposite allowing access into the foldyard. The loosebox is seen as leanto on the left.

The front of the foldyard, the original entrance, seems to have been closed of f with a sandstone wall of which four courses remain sometime between 1856 & 1894. Post 1910 it becomes a two storey building with a pantile roof. The large entrance is flanked by a compartment on either side each with an upper storey with windows, now blocked off. The entrance to the Old Granary can be seen to the left





The rear of the yard, the building called the three bay sheds on the 1910 survey.



Internal view of foldyard



The present end view of south side of the foldyard . Originally described as a line of loose boxes in 1910. It retained its long narrow rectangular shape and was a separate entity until the 1970's, when it was roofed over to cover the space between it and the foldyard. Fabric etc indicate an early 18C date.



In this photo, taken about 1929, the end of loose box building can be seen as a separate building before being roofed over to make it one with foldyard in the 1970's. The adjoining double doored entrance led into the foldyard .

There are a number of modern farm buildings, some which have replaced older ones and others new to the farmstead.

The hay barn seen in the arial photo has been replaced two large animal and general purpose barns.

The old implement shed also seen on the same photo is now a modern building.

Close by is a small open sided modern barn for tractors and hay.

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