

GLEBE FARM

As you may be aware the word GLEBE means that it is part of the local Vicars stipend, at one time there may have been a vicar of Brattleby but I can only remember it being part of the Scampton Vicars living. This living was one field wide from the A15 Ermine Street to the fork in the road nearly at Thorpe Le Fallows to the west. RAF Scampton claimed part of it when the airfield was extended.

Our family moved to Glebe Farm in 1939 when our accommodation at Ingham Cliff was required to build a RAF base there. The house and farm buildings were constructed from Limestone, which we assumed was obtained from the quarry about 100 yards to the east of the farmstead. Glebe Farm was rented by Mr R Fieldsend of Aisthorpe and my Father was employed to look after the running of the farmstead and work on the farm.

From the layout plan I have drawn the front, or South side of the house, was where the Farmer and his family lived. While the rear part was where the cooking, washing and general upkeep was done by the servants who were employed and "lived in", and "waited on" their employer. It should be noted that nowhere was there any facilities for the people living in the front part of the house to bathe.

In about 1946 the front part of the house was partitioned off and a brick built addition was built onto the East side with a copper and sink unit installed. A fireplace with a side oven was put into one of the downstairs rooms. These alterations then made it a self contained dwelling where another employee and family could live, they still had to carry water from the pump for cooking, washing, and drinking and the two tenants who came there didn't have transport so the buses had to be used from Brattleby village to go shopping in Lincoln. These tenants didn't stay very long before moving on. One moved away to another employer and the other moved down into Brattleby village where there was all modern conveniences.

Our family had always used the rear of the property because of the facilities it offered, when the house was partitioned, a toilet was built in a outhouse and using it was a pretty cool experience on a cold and snowy morning. This toilet was a large bucket placed under a wooden toilet seat and had to be emptied frequently, this was done by digging a hole in the orchard West of the house, putting the contents down the hole and covering with soil.

Our living room had the water heater and side oven installed as part of the open firegrate. Lighting was by kerosene wick lamps. We had also a battery operated radio for listening to the news broadcasts. In about 1948 the side oven wore out and the farm foreman and the vicar of Scampton "found" an old firegrate with a side oven which was cleaned up and installed, as this grate did not have water heating a back boiler was fitted with a tank in the adjoining kitchen, this had to be kept plenished by water carried from the pump or in winter by lumps of snow.

In colder weather when larger fires were used to stay warm in the living room, this tank could be heard rumbling and burbling as the water boiled, then the kitchen filled with steam. At about this time also it was decided to modernise the lighting so a Calor gas bottle and copper piping was installed from the kitchen into the living room where a single mantle lamp was placed in the centre of the room. A double gas ring was placed in the kitchen for cooking along with a connection from where a gas iron for ironing clothes could be used. The reasons for these modernisations are as follows.

In 1947 - 1948 Electricity and Water was reticulated to the villages, we had our own pump so we didn't get mains water and the farm animals used the tank water from the barn. To install power was considered by the vicar of Scampton to be too costly. My Father and myself offered to dig the holes for the power poles from the village to our house to save on costs but this was rejected, so therefore we didn't get power and still had to go to bed by carrying a candle in a holder. As mentioned the animals was watered from a large, about 400 gallon, tank installed in the barn. Water for this was pumped by a windmill from a pond, in the valley to the west, and from the tank to a trough adjacent to the animal yards, this tank could also be filled from a rainwater reservoir under the shed floor the trough was near to, or

from water pumped and carried from our drinking water pump in dry weather. This well dried out when the thrashing machine used up all the water, once, and it was decided to go down there to see what was in it. A 40 tread step ladder plus a 10 step fastened to the end was required to get to the bottom. Be careful if it's still there.

In the living room was a large beam running across the room in an east/west direction. As my father kept and fed a pig until it was about 25 stone in weight then it was butchered, salted down in the scullery for a while then the Hams were wrapped in old bed sheeting and sealed with a mixture of flour and water paste and hung from this beam until required to be used. Other parts of the pig were also hung there. Sausages were hung in the scullery. Large Pork pies were made but as our oven was not large enough to bake them 13 were made and grocer called Lucas from Sturton baked them and kept one for his fee. In 1947 we were isolated for 6 weeks so the grocer left our groceries at the Brattleby Post Office where I collected them on my sledge and dragged them home. Also we could not get coal or wood fuel so we chopped a tree down in the woodland near the house which belonged to the Brattleby estate. My father was subsequently summoned and found one pound sterling by the magistrates.

In the kitchen area was where water was heated to bathe. Before this could happen, water had to be pumped and carried to fill one of the coppers. Wood was cut to heat the copper and a galvanised bath placed in the kitchen and filled. The younger members of the family was bathed first then the older one's. One cold winters morning I arose early and on going into the kitchen saw a drift of snow across the floor from the entrance door whose step had worn hollow by countless feet, the drift was about 2.5 yards long by about 3 inches deep, the wind had blown snow under the door to form this. Some morning before water could be drawn from the well by the pump hot water had to be poured down the pipe to thaw the pump. Often our hands stuck to the pump handle as it was metal and frozen.

When the Pig was killed the copper was used to render down the lard which was then used in baking. It's main reason was to boil the clothes on washdays which were then put through a manual wringer and then hung out to dry.

In 1944 4 out of 7 Lancaster bombers on the airfield caught fire each with a 4000 lb bomb and fuel load which exploded.

The front of the house was damaged from blast, all the windows were blown out while the roof tiles were also removed to the roof trusses. Some of the outbuilding were also damaged. No structural damage occurred so the tiles were replaced and the roof made serviceable.

In the orchard there were about seven apple tree's, the varieties were Bramley, Keswick, and Cox's orange pippin. There were also three plum trees of the Victoria variety.

the Air Raid shelter built in the orchard was visited on many occasions when a German raider was about. The last time was in 1944 when we heard aircraft engines and a burst of cannon fire after which a Junkers 88 narrowly missed the house and crashed where the large dump installations now are, on the Scampton RAF Base. The German aircrew members are buried in Scampton churchyard.

The Farm Outbuildings

In it's heyday the surrounding paddocks and the farm buildings supported maybe 20 head of stock with eight shire horses in the stable. All of these had to be sheltered and fed in wintertime

Oats were chopped and stored in the loft above the cart shed for the horses, while hay was collected in the Autumn and made into stacks, this was then fed out in wintertime together with feed supplements stored in the barn to the animals in the cattle yards. These also had bedding from stacks of straw obtained when the sheaves of wheat were thrashed. At calving time the calves were separated and placed in the sheds usually with their mothers to protect them from rough treatment and the cold.

The Pig was always in the sty, feed was prepared from cooked potatoes cooked in the

copper in the pig shed . Meal was also mixed in a trough there together with food scraps from the house.

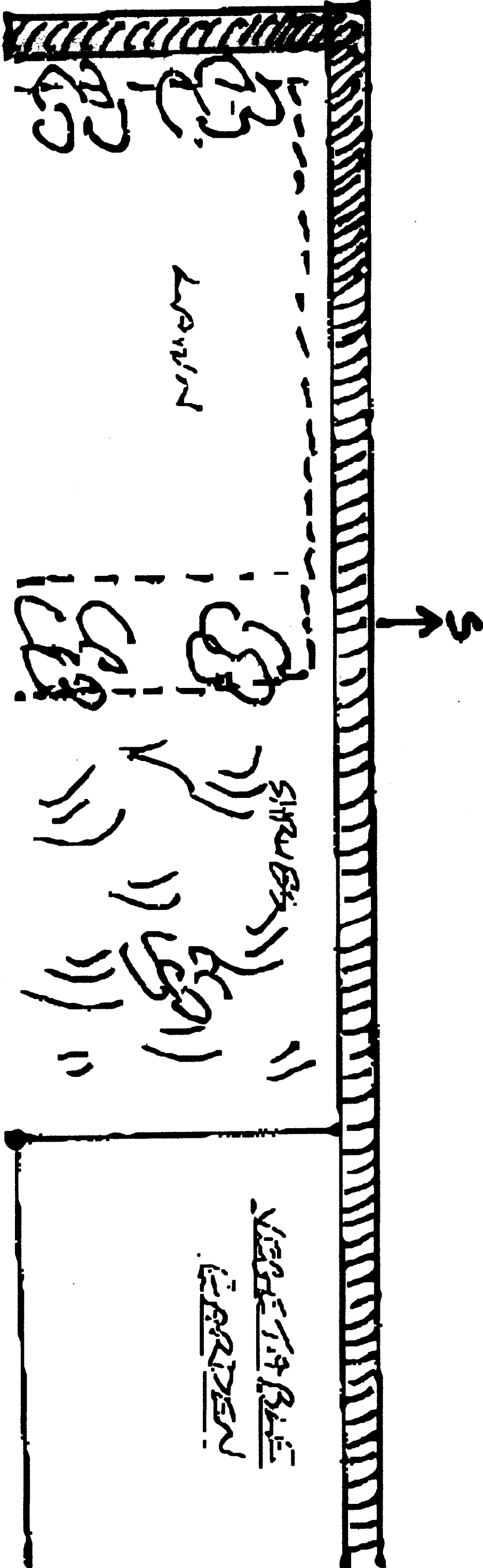
As time progressed ,Horses were replaced with tractors and the beef cattle got rid of so saving on labour intensive work and the storage of food . Combined harvesters were used for harvesting the crops therefore there was no need of thrashing machines or straw stacks so the land was then used to grow crops .

By 1963 the farm buildings were mostly derelict and falling into disrepair. Our family continued to live there until about 1970

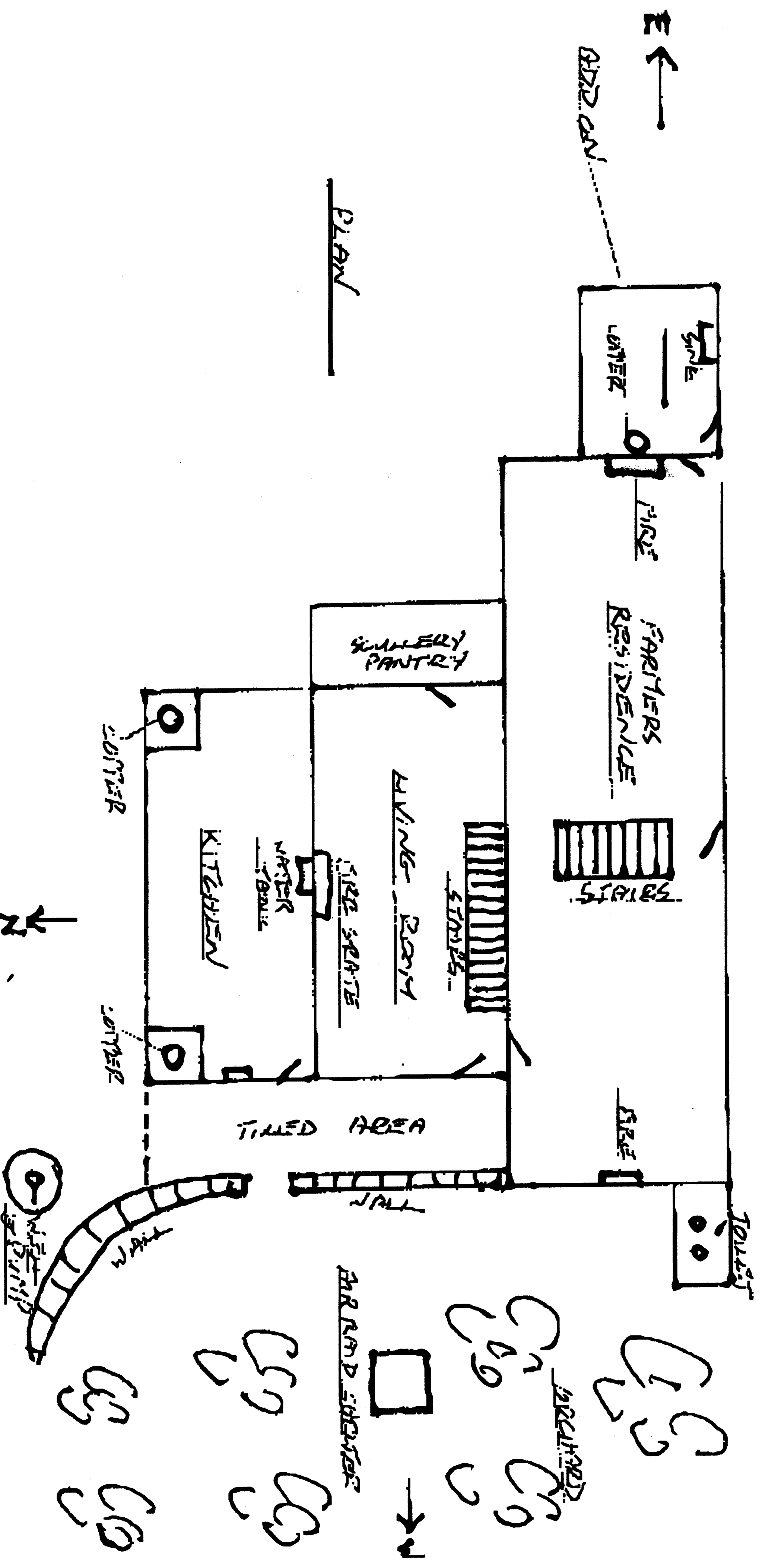
SEER FORM

BRITAIN

PRE 1983

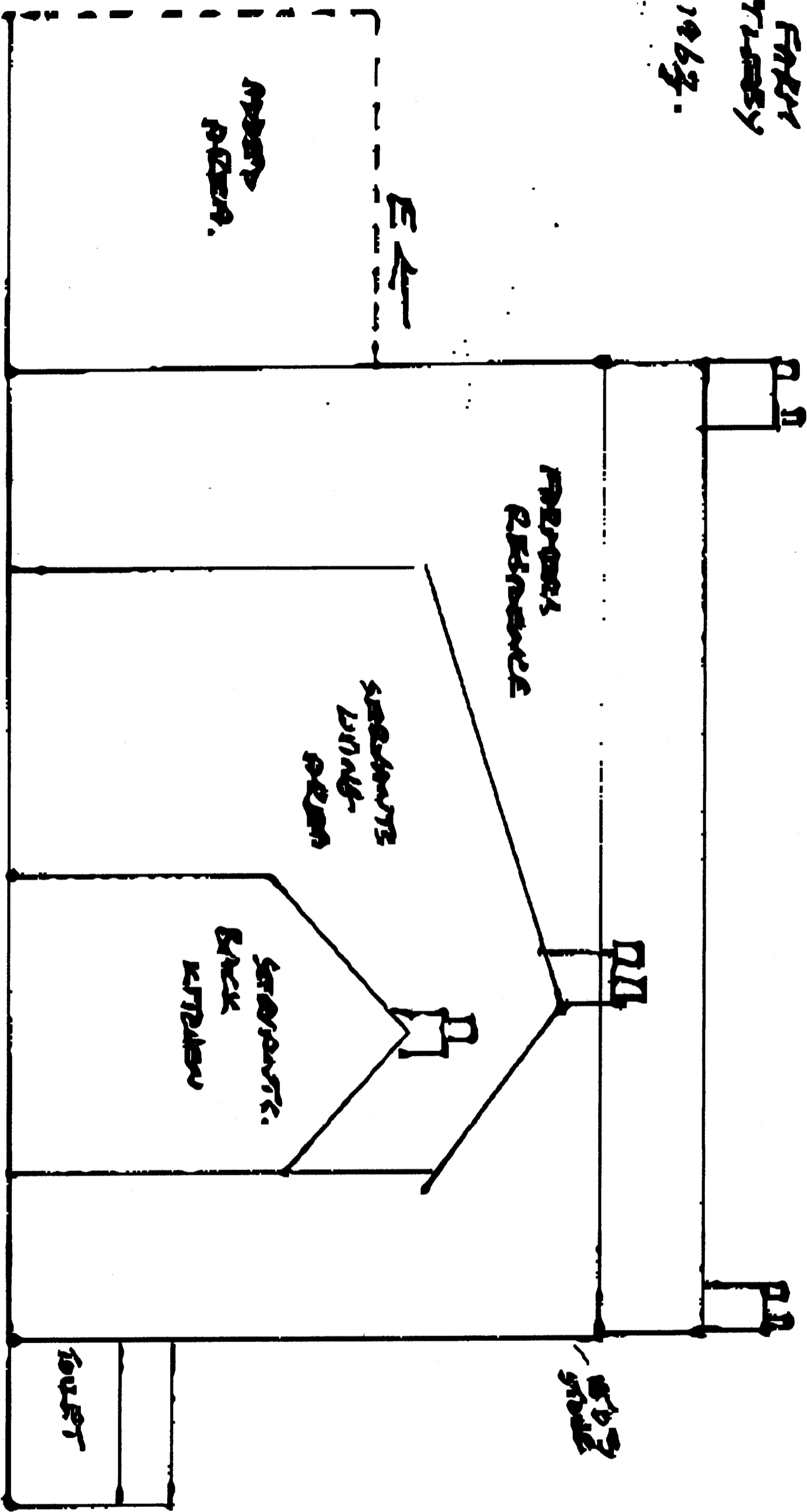


PLAN



GLEBE FARM
BATTERY

PRE 1963.



VIEW FRONT NORTH

GLEBE FARM, BRANTLEY

FARM LAYOUT
PRE 1923

