

Archaeological
Building
Recording
Services

**An Archaeological Standing Building Survey.
Sedge Hollow,
West Haddon,
Northamptonshire.**

(NGR SP 62630 71118)

On Behalf of Mrs E.A Heygate



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Gerwyn Richards

Summary

This document is an archaeological standing building survey of an outbuilding at Sedge Hollow, West Haddon, Northamptonshire (SP 62630 71118), commissioned from Archaeological Building Recording Services (ABRS) by Mrs E.A Heygate in advance of the proposed conversion of the outbuilding to residential use.

The outbuilding is mid 19th century in date, an inscribed brick records the date 1840, it is likely to be accurate, probably built as a field hovel for stock rearing as part of one of the village farms of West Haddon. The building is a simple and common design with a few unusual features, including occasional use of flared headers as a design touch. The southernmost bay is slightly unusual in plan form, but is likely to be also for stock rearing, possibly calf pens. There is a lack of historical evidence for the building, but early Ordnance Survey maps indicate there were a number of fold yards to the south and to the east of the building, now lost.

The archive will be retained by ABRS under the temporary site code 2014-SWHN until deposition with Northamptonshire County Council can be arranged.

1. Introduction

Archaeological Building Recording Services (ABRS) were commissioned by Mrs E.A Heygate to undertake an archaeological standing building survey of an outbuilding at Sedge Hollow, West Haddon, Northamptonshire (SP 62630 71118 (*Figures 1 & 15*)). Prior Approval to convert the outbuilding to residential use has been granted by Daventry District Council (Planning Application No PD/2014/0014). The building is a traditional farm building, believed to date from the mid 19th century. The Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council, as advisor to Daventry District Council has recommended that an archaeological standing building survey to English Heritage Level 2 as defined in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (English Heritage 2006) be carried out prior to any proposed works being carried out. The outbuilding is not statutory listed, nor included within a Conservation Area.

A Brief for a Programme of Archaeological Building Recording has not been issued, the Assistant Archaeological Advisor, Northamptonshire County Council has been consulted and a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been submitted and approved. The project was completed in accordance with and following the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct*, and adhered to their *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (2008).

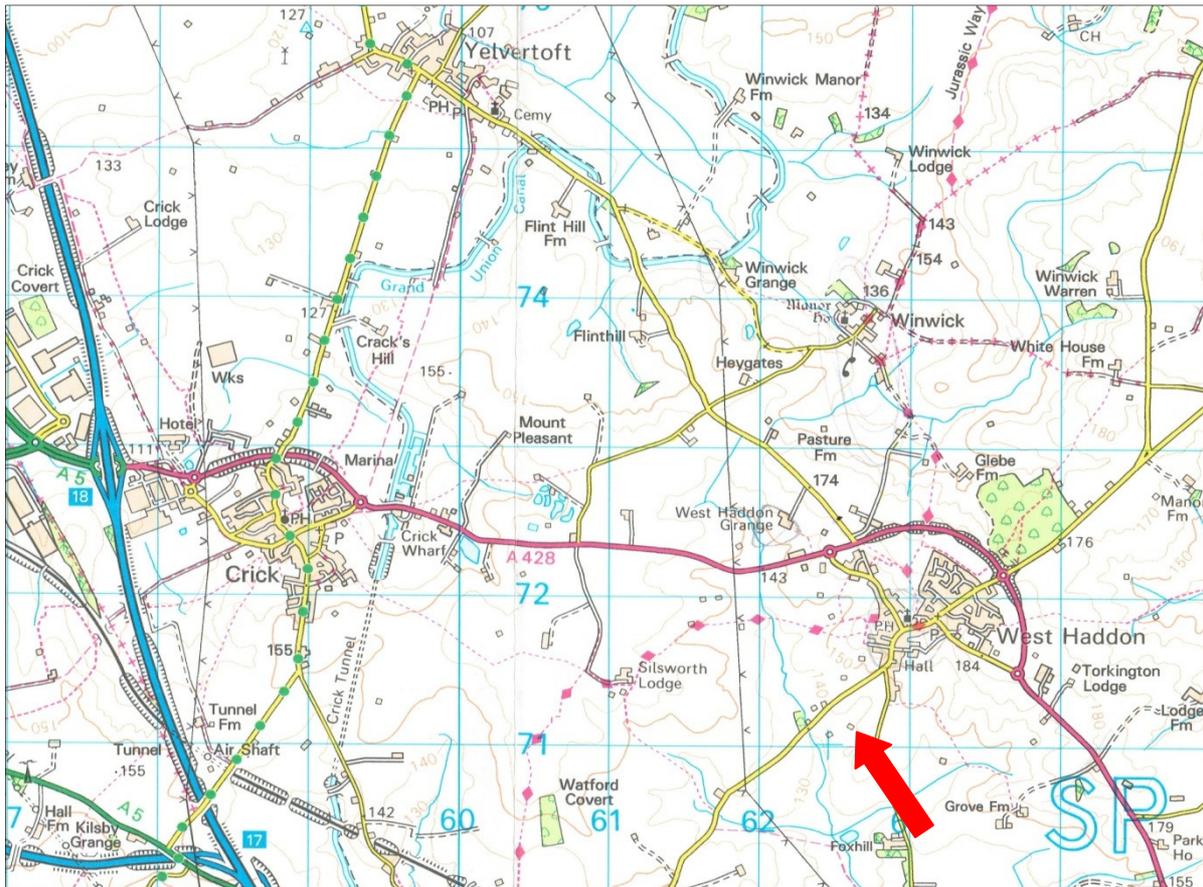


Figure 1
Site Location

Reproduced from 1:50000 map by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office.
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The modern parish of West Haddon is likely to have Saxon origins as it is recorded in The Domesday Book as *Hadone*, by the 12th century the name had mutated to *Westhaddon*. Towards the end of the 13th century the market at West Haddon was described as being a threat to the market of Northampton. The village was enclosed in 1765; this resulted in rioting and the burning of the new fences in August of that year. In the 1730s a new Doctor moved to the village, his sons, including John Heygate became one of the largest farmers in the village and later endowed the village with a school, while his heir, William Lovett, established the Almshouses.

Unfortunately, there is lack of historical background to the building, probably as a result of its isolated location as a field hovel away from the village and the farms. There are no existing tithe maps of the parish and only the enclosure apportionment survives. A c.19th century map recording the estate of Thomas Smith in West Haddon (NRO Ref 2914) records the land to the east of Foxhill Road, south of West Haddon and east of Sedge Hollow, there is, however no detailed recording to the west of the road. A pencil written annotation on the map records that the land to the west of Foxhill Road was either the property of, or tenanted by George Jackson. It is likely that the pencil annotation is later than the map itself, but the map itself is un-dated. There is no George Jackson listed in the available Trade Directories spanning the 19th century.

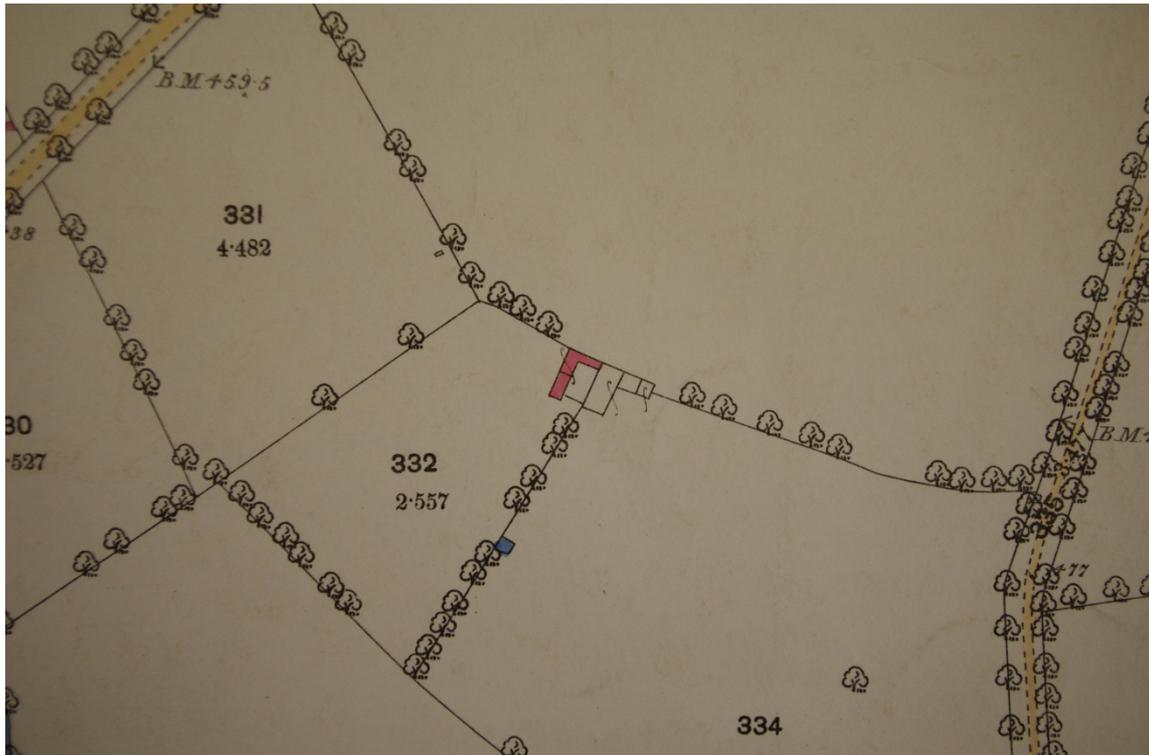


Figure 2
First Edition Ordnance Survey (1885)
(Sheet XXIX.16)

The first edition Ordnance Survey was published in 1885 (NRO Ref XXIX.16 (*Figure 2*)), the map clearly records the building at Sedge Hollow. The southernmost end of the building is shown as a separate bay, but the northernmost bay is not recorded as open fronted, open fronted buildings are normally recorded as such by the early edition Ordnance Survey. To the south and to the east of the building is series of fold yards, these, along with the building location with access to three separate fields confirms that the building is most likely for stock rearing, in all likelihood a cow hovel or field hovel.

Later editions show only small changes to the yards, the building itself remains un-altered throughout its history.

2. Aims and Methodology

The specific objectives of the standing building survey were as follows:

- To provide a written, drawn and photographic record of the building prior to its permitted conversion.
- To ensure the long term preservation of the information through deposition of the record and a summary written report with an appropriate depository.
- The site based element of the Historic Building Recording programme involved the production of measured survey drawings and the completion of photographic and written records.
- Desk-based research included the analysis of readily available documentary and cartographic sources including Northamptonshire Historic Environment Record (HER) & Northamptonshire Records Office (NRO).

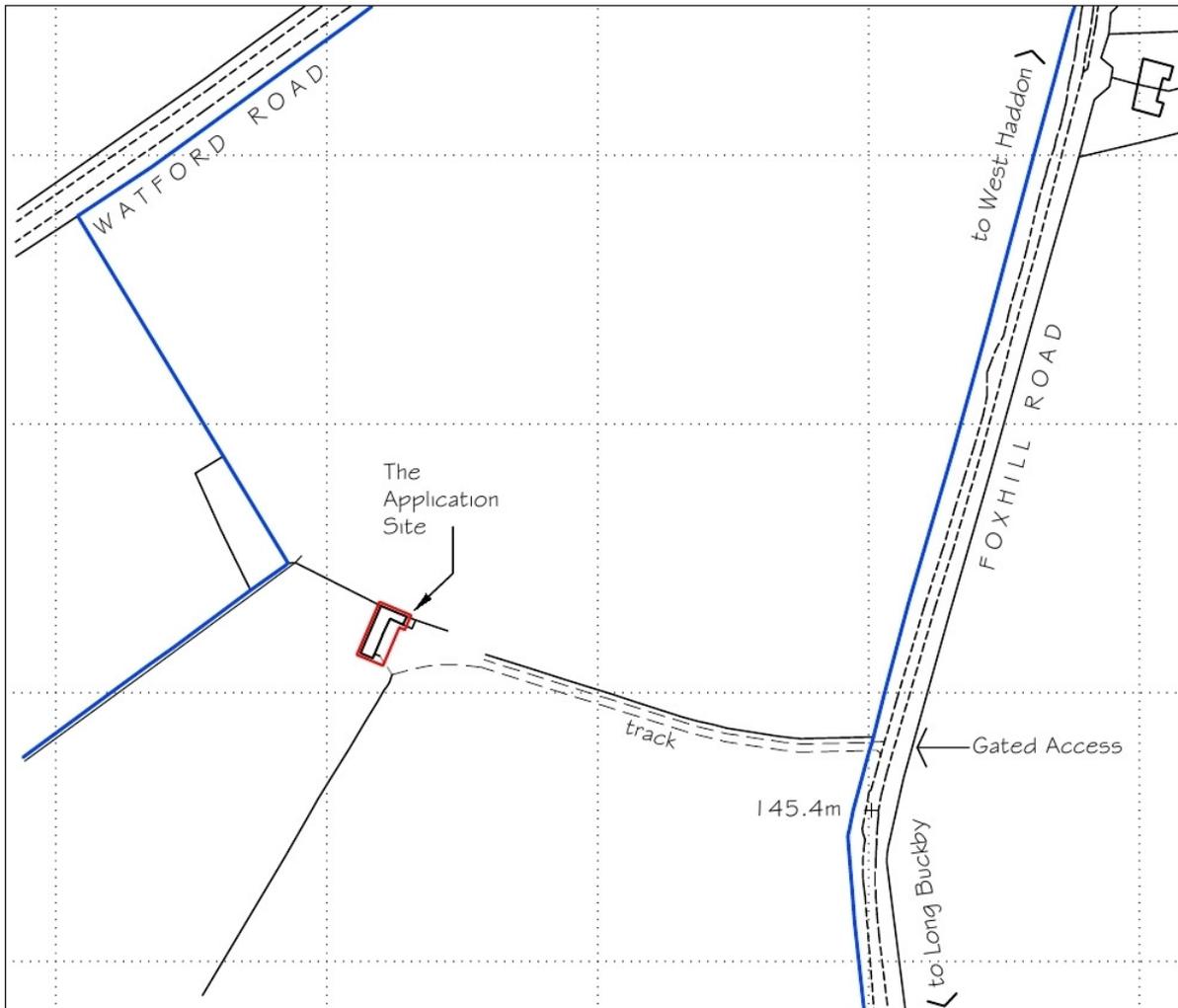


Figure 3
Plan of the proposed development area & Recorded Buildings in Red.
(Provided by client. Not to Scale).

Orientation: The building subject to this historic building recording is 'L' shaped in plan. The long axis is orientated north-north east – south-south west, the shorter axis is orientated west-north west – east-south east (*Figures 3 & 15*); for ease of description this is taken hereafter to be north to south and east to west with the principal elevations facing south and east. Where the terms 'left', 'right', 'front' and 'back' etc are used in the report, this is in relation to these principal elevations as viewed from the south and from the east. For the purposes of this historic building recording a letter prefix added for significant partitions where required.

All historic maps are reproduced with north to the top of the page, following Ordnance Survey standards unless indicated otherwise with appropriate north arrow and key.

As far as is known, no previous historic building recording has been undertaken of the building.

The site visit was carried out by Gerwyn Richards on October 15th 2014.

3. Description of the Building

The building consists of two ranges in an 'L' shape, the largest of the two (A & B), consisting of 4 bays is aligned north south, the second, consisting of three bays (two bays are A & a single bay, C) is aligned east west. The easternmost bay, C is roofless and survives to approximately eaves height on the northernmost wall (*Figure 8*). An early Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 2) indicates the building originally formed the northern and western boundaries of a yard, wall stubs projecting from B and C confirms this.

The building is brick-built, under a corrugated asbestos cement roof; the bricks themselves are 2 ¾ x 9 x 4 inch laid in a Flemish Garden wall bond (three stretcher bricks to one header brick in each course) with lime mortar pointing, all handmade and the size of the inclusions seen in some bricks suggests early 19th century rather than late. Interestingly, there are a number of instances of flared headers (over-fired/vitrified header bricks) laid as a decorative feature, especially on the northernmost wall of A (*Figure 10*). The use of polychrome brickwork began in the medieval period and reached its heights in the 17th century with diaper patterning, there was a revival in the early 19th century as part of the wider Gothic Revival, the lack of uniformity suggests the bricklayer responsible for this unnecessary and grandiose flourish carried it out under his own initiative and may have been influenced by the wider Gothic Revival. On the south facing gable there is a pitching hole, above which is a brick inscribed "G·J 1840" (*Figure 9*). Physical evidence that the land was owned by George Jackson, as indicated by earlier cartographic sources.

B is an enclosed twin bay with an off centre door (*Figures 5 & 15*); C is also enclosed, but smaller, only a single bay, there is no clear indication of the location of the door, although the lack of brick rubble in the north east corner suggests a likely location. It is likely that C was originally a loose box. The open fronts of A are carried on brick piers, all built of bull nosed bricks (*Figure 6*), the door reveals are also bull nosed, as are the corners of the southernmost gable (*Figure 7*). There is door at the eastern end of the east – west range of A creating a cross passage through the building.

Internally, as expected there is little of architectural significance. The roof is carried on trusses and twin purlins, the trusses of the north - south range are king post trusses, bolted at the heel of the king post (*Figure 11*). There is no truss on the east – west range, there is however a truss on the floor, its dimensions suit the building and the location of a missing truss can be seen in the roof, so it is likely that this truss is the missing truss. The truss, however is of a different design (*Figure 12*) and does not have a king post, the principal rafters are also pegged, unlike the in-situ trusses. The reason for this is unclear, although it is possible that this truss is an earlier truss, salvaged and re-used from an earlier building. There are brick and terracotta-built feeding troughs along the rear walls with timber finishing (*Figure 12, top left*). The floor of A is largely earth, although there is possible evidence of a cobbled surface. The cross passage at the eastern end of the east – west range of A is cobbled. Interestingly, there is a timber-built loft over the southern end of the north - south range of A (*Figure 13*); the door has a lock indicating the loft was most likely for the storage of a valuable commodity, probably grain for feed. The probable cat hole to the west is likely confirmation of this.

B is an unusual layout, it consists of two bays with an off centre door. There are troughs along the north and south walls and a blue brick floor. It has the appearance of a stable, but there is no evidence of stalls, so it is unlikely to be stabling. There are tether rings on the

troughs (*Figure 14*), so it is likely that **B** was also a cowhouse. Tether rings were used in place of partitions or stalls. It is possible that **B** was a calving pen, however it would be unusual to have a calving pen for 8 animals, so its exact use is unclear, although it is almost certainly pastoral.

4. Conclusion

The outbuilding at Sedge Hollow is a common midlands farm building from the mid 19th century, built as a largely open-fronted cow hovel or field hovel. There are two additional enclosed bays, possibly calving pens or a loose box. There are a number of interesting features including the decorative flourish of flared headers. The layout of the southernmost bay is unusual and difficult to confirm its original use. The extensive use of bull nosed bricks as well as the quality of the troughs indicate the building was built to higher than average standards for the period. However, the apparent re-use of a single truss suggests the budget was still controlled.

The building was built in the early 19th century as a cow or field hovel. This reflects the change from arable to pastoral farming. A study of the modern Ordnance Survey indicates a number of similar isolated field hovels surrounding West Haddon suggesting that the farmers of the village readily adopted this change and created an interesting landscape of grazing meadows and field hovels. The grazing has largely been lost, however the field hovels still remain.

5. Archive & Publication

The site archive consists of

- 1 A3 permagraph sheet containing plan, profile & notes
- 1 A3 paper sheets containing external elevations & plans
- DVD containing 64 digital images
- 3 A4 contact sheets
- 2 A4 photo record sheets
- 1 Unbound copy of this report

The archive will be held by ABRS under the temporary site code 2014-SWHN until deposition with Northamptonshire County Council can be arranged.

A version of the summary (above) will be submitted to the editor of the local journal for inclusion in the next edition.

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7. Colour Plates



Figure 4
General View (looking South West).



Figure 5
A & B Principal Elevation (looking West – North West).



Figure 6
A & C Principal Elevation (looking North – North East).



Figure 7
B South Facing Gable (looking North – North West).



Figure 8
© General View (looking North- North West).



Figure 9
Inscribed Brick on South Facing Gable.



Figure 10
Decorative Flared Headers on North Facing Elevation of A.



Figure 11
A King Post Truss.



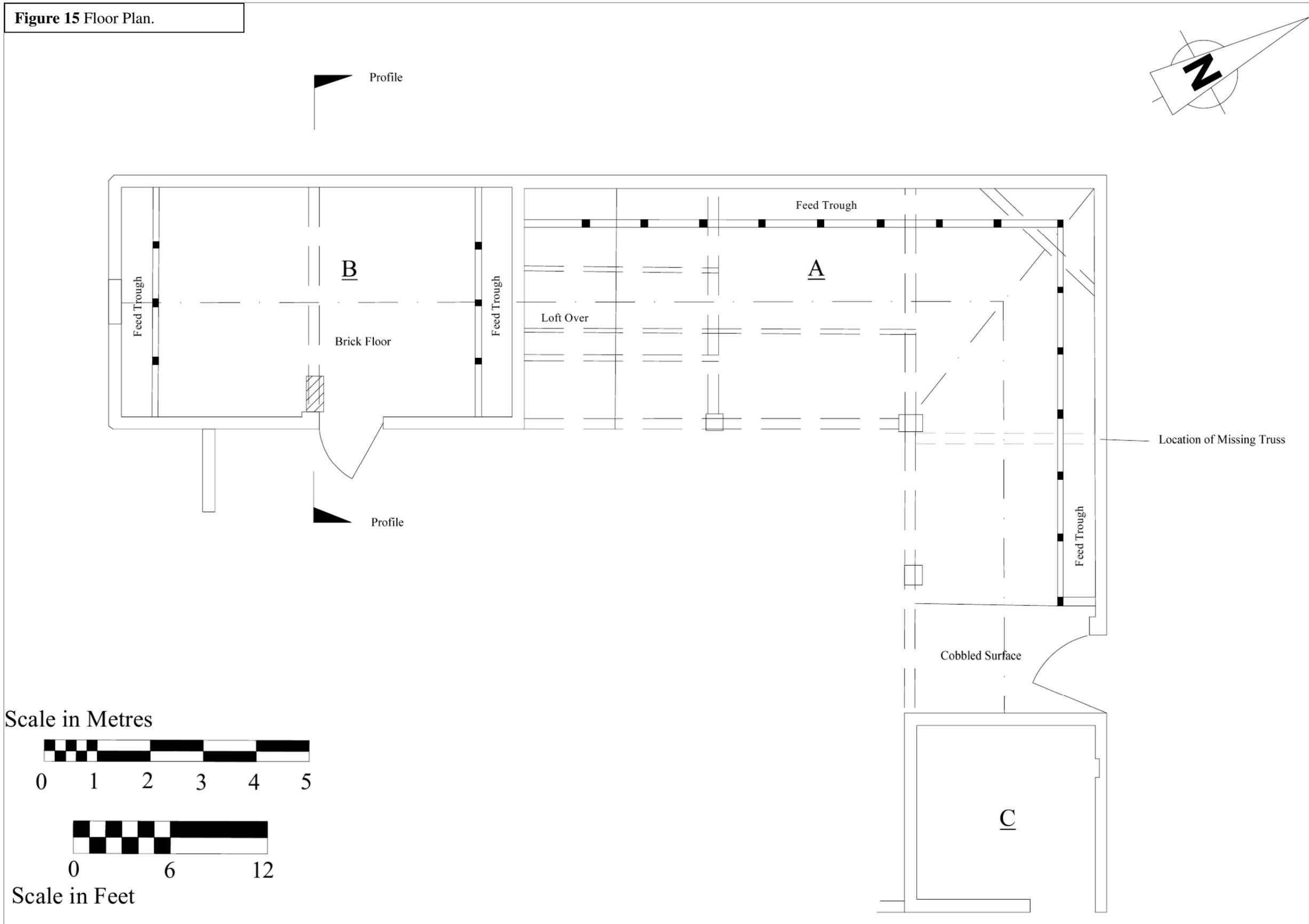
Figure 12
Common Truss on the Floor of A.

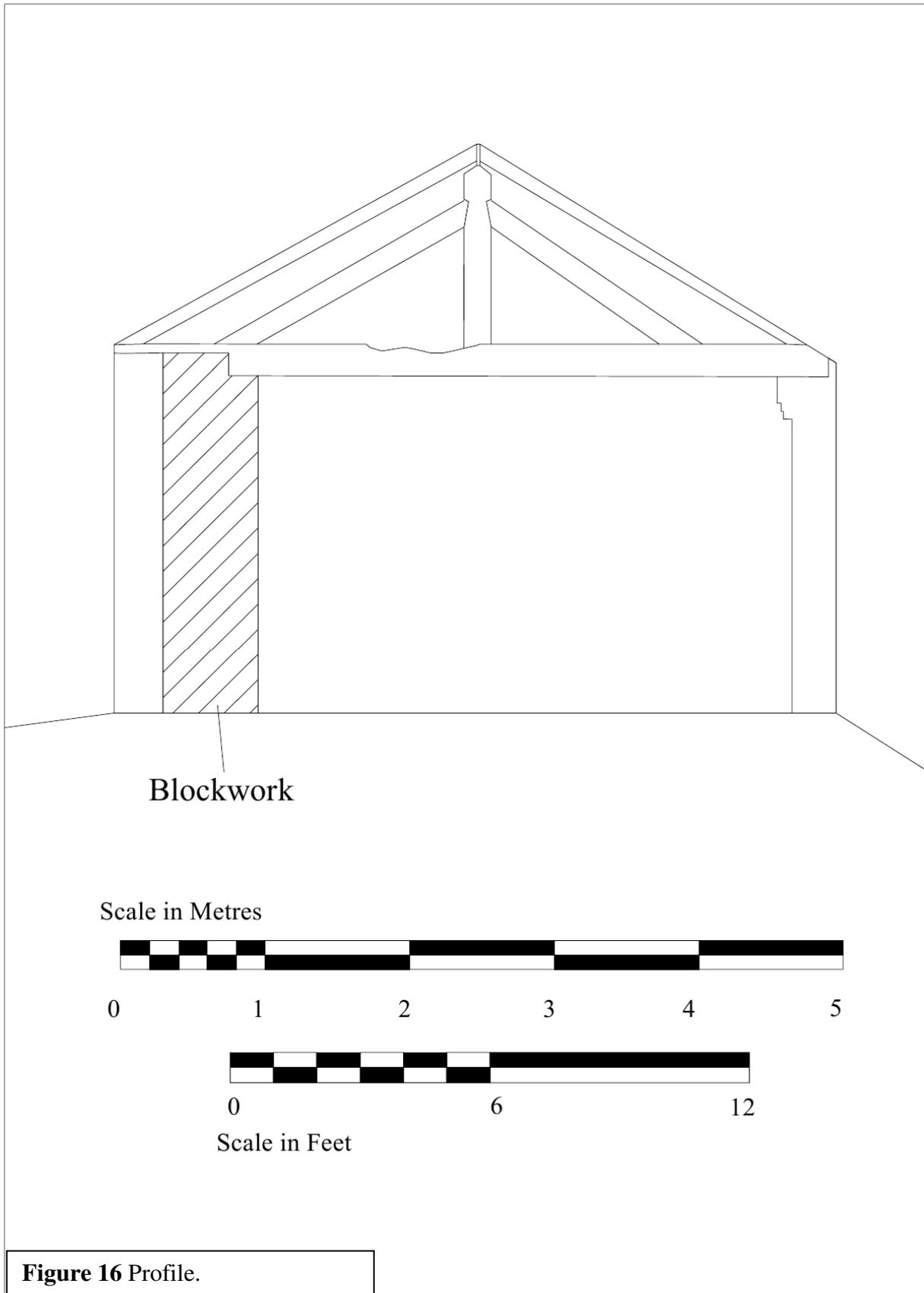


Figure 13
Loft Over Southern End of A (looking South).



Figure 14
Trough & Tether Rings on Southern Gable of B.





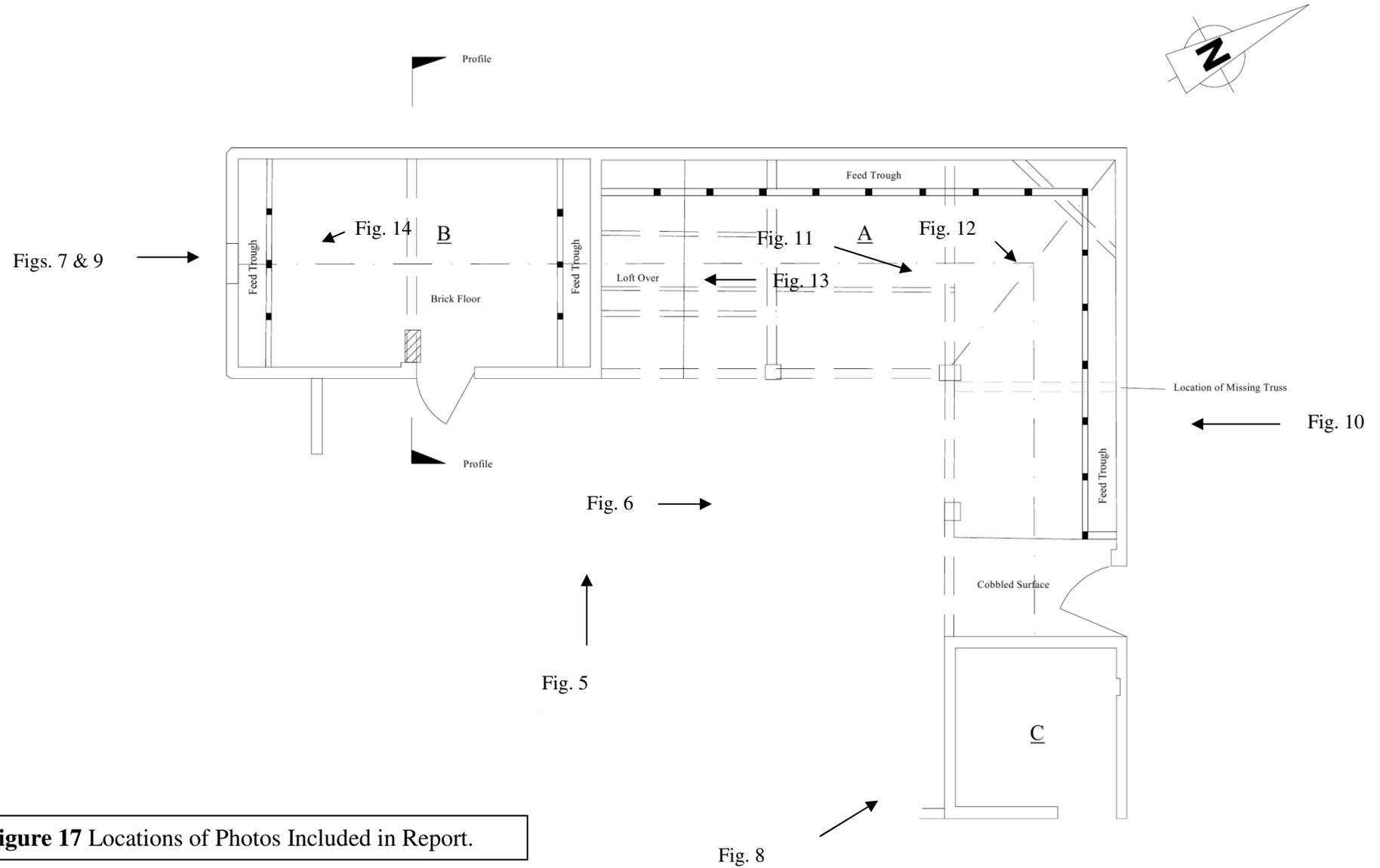


Figure 17 Locations of Photos Included in Report.

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