

**Farm Buildings at  
Blackbarn Farm,  
Monewden, Suffolk  
MWN 012**

**Historic Building Record**

OASIS ID: Suffolkc1-91000



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**(TM 239 583)**

## **Historic Building Record**

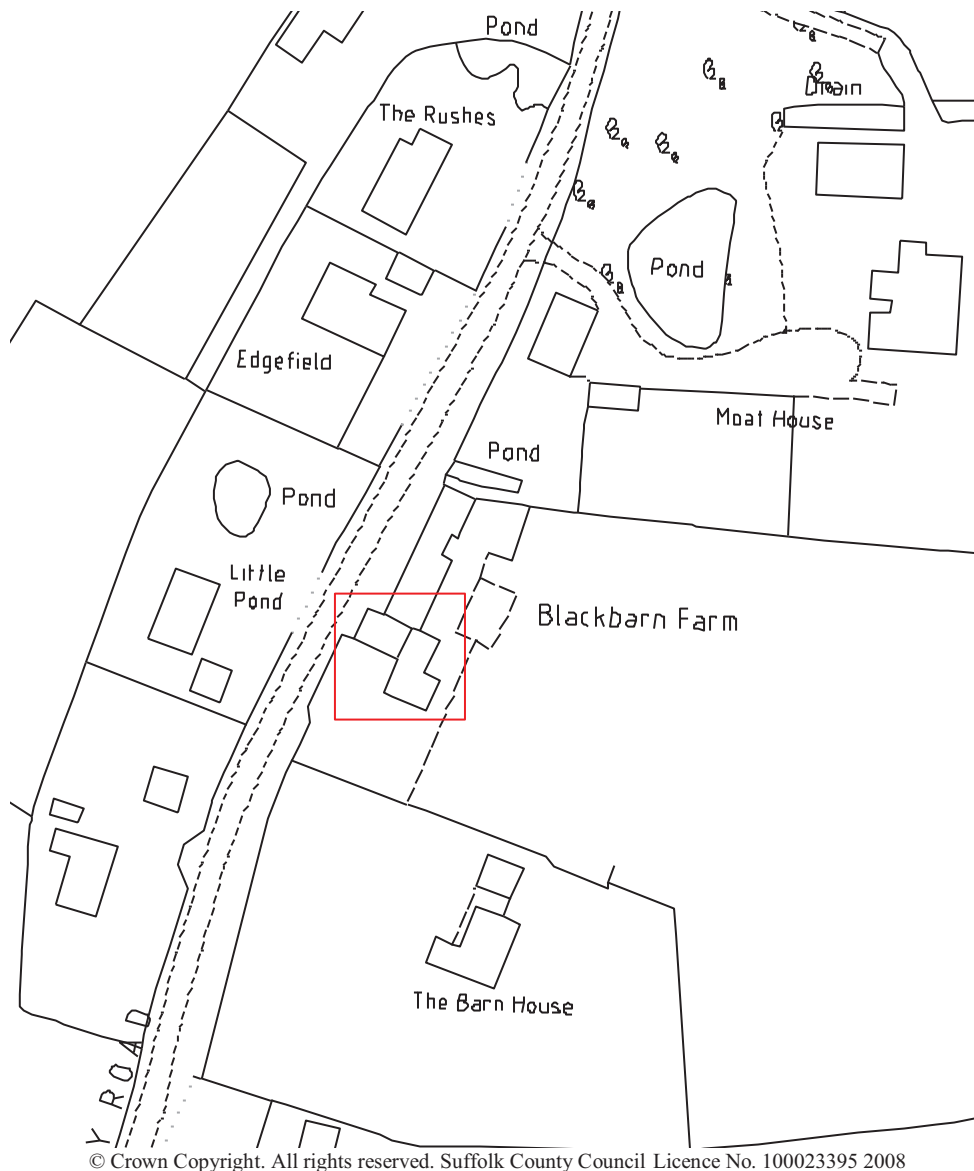
*This report provides a written and photographic record at English Heritage (2006) Level 2 of a complex of historic farm buildings adjoining the curtilage of a grade II-listed former rectory. It has been prepared to a specification written by Edward Martin of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (ref: SpecHBR(EM)\_BlackbarnFm\_Monewden\_1399\_08, dated 19<sup>th</sup> August 2010) and is intended to fulfil a condition of planning permission for conversion (Suffolk Coastal District Council application C/08/1399, condition 10).*

### **Introduction**

The report is accompanied by a CD containing a photographic record in the form of 64 digital images of 21 megapixels (Appendix 1), but also includes 12 printed photographs of key features to illustrate the text (Appendix 2). Each image is described in a separate schedule and wherever possible includes a scale rod with half-metre divisions in red and white. The site was inspected on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

### **Summary**

Blackbarn Farm forms part of a late-20<sup>th</sup> century ribbon development on the eastern side of Rookery Road, immediately south of the parish church and the grade II-listed former Rectory (now known as Moat House). The site contains a timber-framed, weatherboarded and pantiled barn of three bays at right-angles to the road, together with a series of attached sheds, but it lacks a farmhouse and formerly served the 54 acres of glebe land belonging to the Rectory. The complex was distinguished by the name Blackbarn Farm on the Ordnance Survey of 1881, reflecting the separate leasing of the glebe to a tenant farmer who lived elsewhere (and the relative rarity of tarred barns in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century). At the time of the Monewden tithe survey in 1840 it was managed in conjunction with 18 additional acres in the vicinity which belonged to the tenant, who also owned the 16<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse now known as Blacksmith's Cottage to the east of the church. The main barn dates from the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and was newly built when depicted with a simple rectangular outline on the edge of 4.25 acre paddock in 1840. It preserves its original roof structure of staggered butt-purlins with bolted knee-braces to the tie-beams, and its wall fabric remains largely intact, but most of its external cladding has been renewed. The original half-hung entrance doors also survive in the northern elevation of the central bay, facing the Rectory. A pantiled shed at the eastern end of its southern elevation is all that remains of a complex of sheds and animal yards added in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century (between 1840 and 1881) and contains an unusual internal partition consisting chiefly of re-used moulded doors of the late-16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. This shed has been much altered but appears to have formed a stable and tack room and preserves a 19<sup>th</sup> century brick floor and wooden corner hay-rack. A second pantiled shed containing three loose boxes for cattle was added to the north of the barn in *circa* 1900, obstructing the aforementioned entrance doors, but a third shed of similar layout which extended the complex to the boundary of the Rectory was rebuilt with corrugated asbestos and cement blocks in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The barn appears to have been converted into a cattle-feed store and mill by inserting a ceiling and grain floor at much the same time (the grain floor since removed but the ceiling joists extant). Although of some historic interest as a glebe farm the buildings are not of sufficient age or rarity to merit listing.



**Figure 1**  
**Current Ordnance Survey Site Plan**  
**Outlining the historic farm buildings to the east of Rookery Road in red and showing the grade II-listed former Rectory (now known as Moat House) to the north and the late-20<sup>th</sup> century 'The Barn House' to the south.**

## **Historic Context: Documentary & Cartographic Record**

Blackbarn Farm lies on the eastern edge of Rookery Road approximately 120 m south of St Mary's church. The site consists of a complex of farm buildings without a farmhouse, but adjoins the boundary of the former Rectory (now Moat House) on the north, a large paddock of some four acres on the east and a late-20<sup>th</sup> century house known as 'The Barn House' on the south. A late-20<sup>th</sup> century bungalow lies on the opposite side of the road and the site now forms part of a modern ribbon development extending south from the church. The former Rectory is a grade II-listed 'double-pile' building with a gault-brick front (eastern) range that was added to a mid-16<sup>th</sup> century three-cell timber-framed house of modest proportions in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century (personal inspection in 1997). The Schedule of Listed Buildings refers to the presence in the house of a proposal sketch of 1847 for its new brick wing, which date appears to be consistent with its relatively narrow proportions on the tithe map of 1840 when compared with those of 1881 (figures 2 and 3).

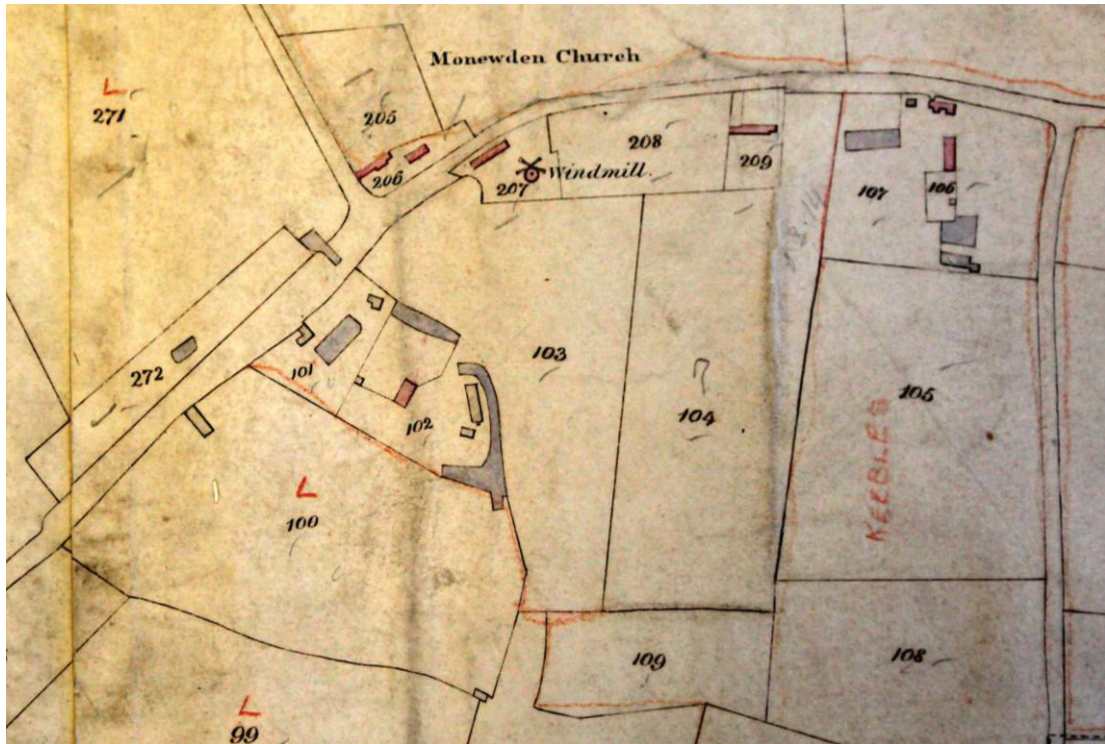


Figure 2.

The area of Blackburn Farm on the Monewden tithe map of 1840, showing the barn to the left, St Mary's church and windmill to the north of the Rectory and Blacksmith's Cottage (106), which belonged to the barn's tenant, in the top right-hand corner.

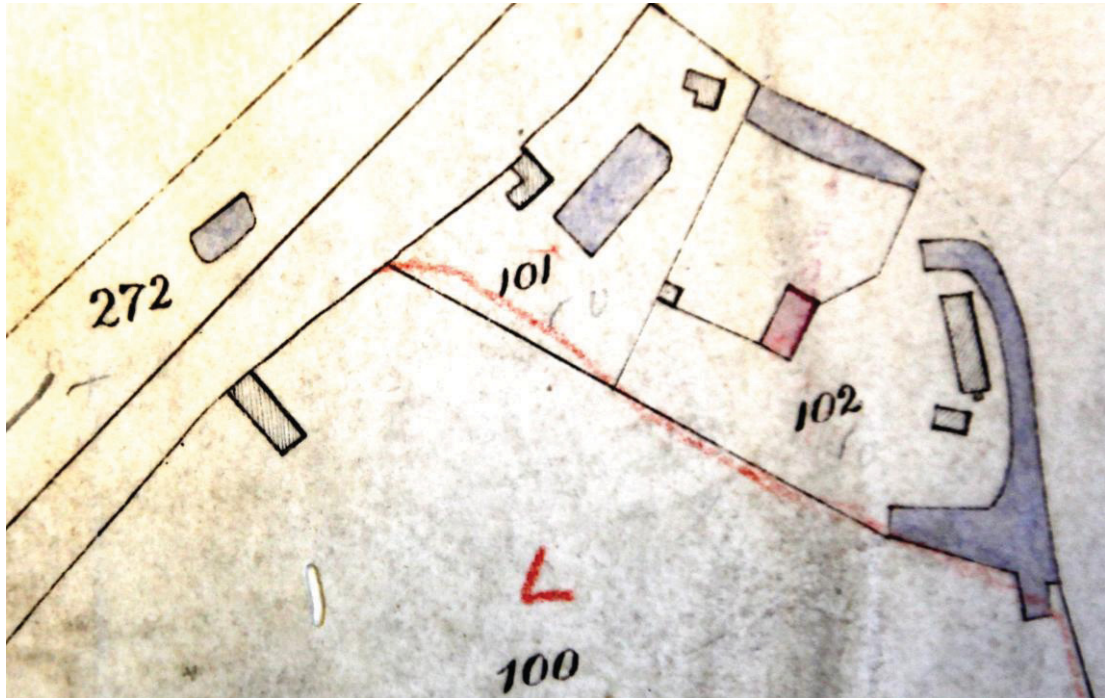
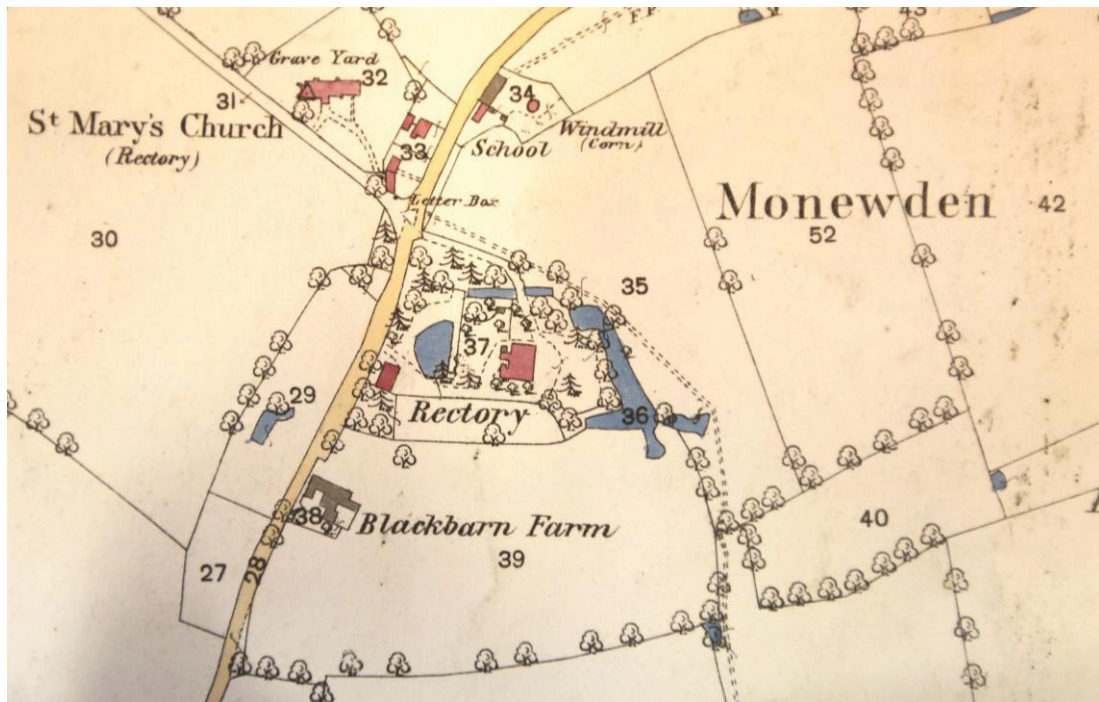
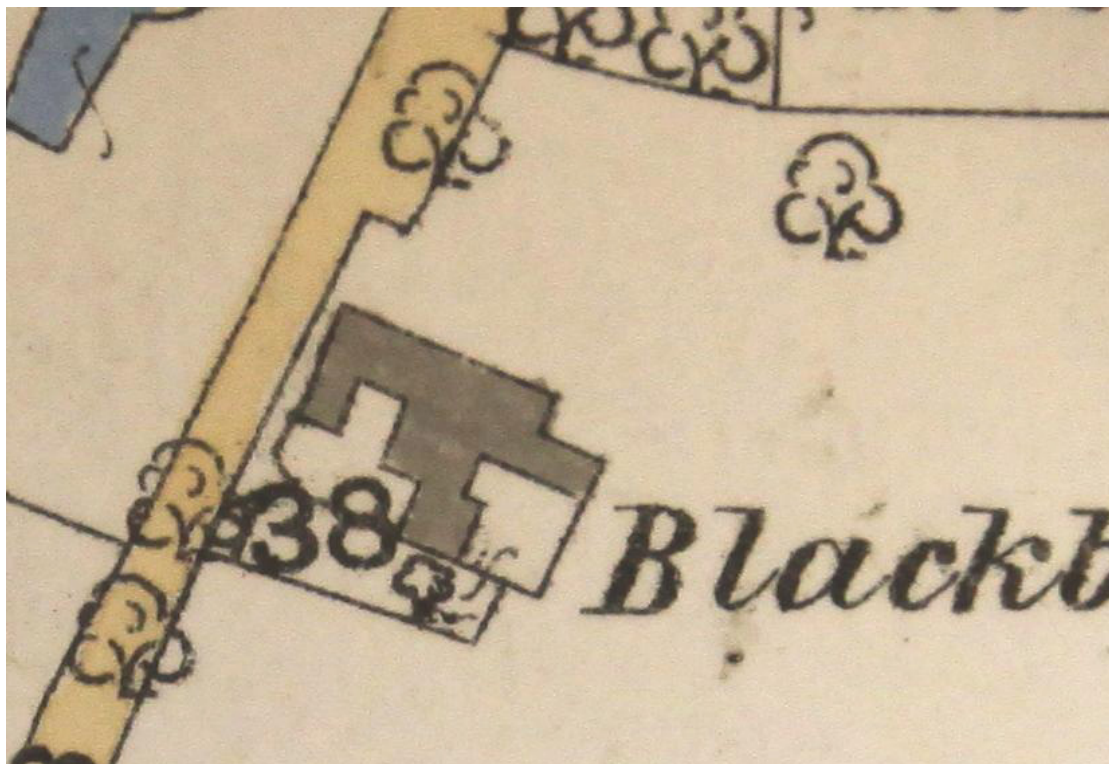


Figure 2a.

Detail of the 1840 tithe map above showing the original barn as a simple rectangular structure (left) in the glebe land adjoining and belonging to the rectory. The apportionment describes the 4.25 pasture numbered 100 only as 'glebe' and does not mention the barn. The pasture on the opposite side of the road (272) was 'pightle glebe'.



**Figure 3.**  
**Blackbarn Farm on the First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey of 1881, showing both the Rectory and barn much enlarged.**



**Figure 3a**  
**Detail of the 1881 25 inch Ordnance Survey. The simple, rectangular outline of the barn in 1840 has been complicated by the addition of a series of sheds (probably including that numbered 2 in figure 5) forming a pair of enclosed yards to the south and east. Although labelled as 'Blackbarn Farm', the site did not possess a farmhouse. (Dwelling houses are indicated in red.)**

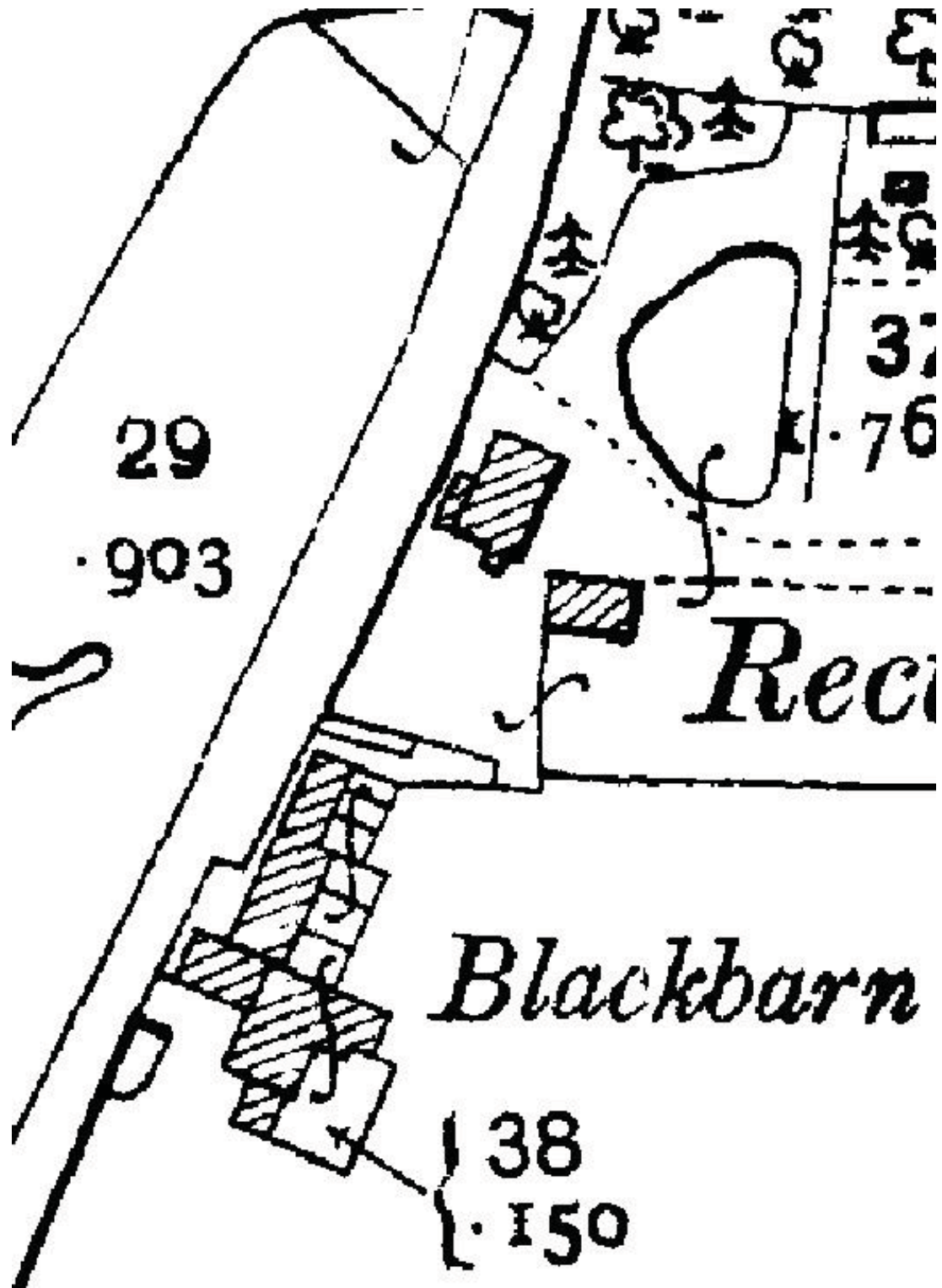


Figure 4

Detail of the 1904 First Edition 25 inch Ordnance Survey, showing the newly built roadside shed (3) which blocks the barn's original northern entrance. Three small yards correspond with its remaining internal loose boxes. The narrower adjoining shed to the north was rebuilt in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. A demolished shed clearly adjoins the eastern gable of the barn but the internal partitions are not shown accurately as the barn's eastern gable and the eastern end of its southern elevation (dividing the interior from shed 2) are omitted. A new building had also appeared at the entrance to the Rectory.

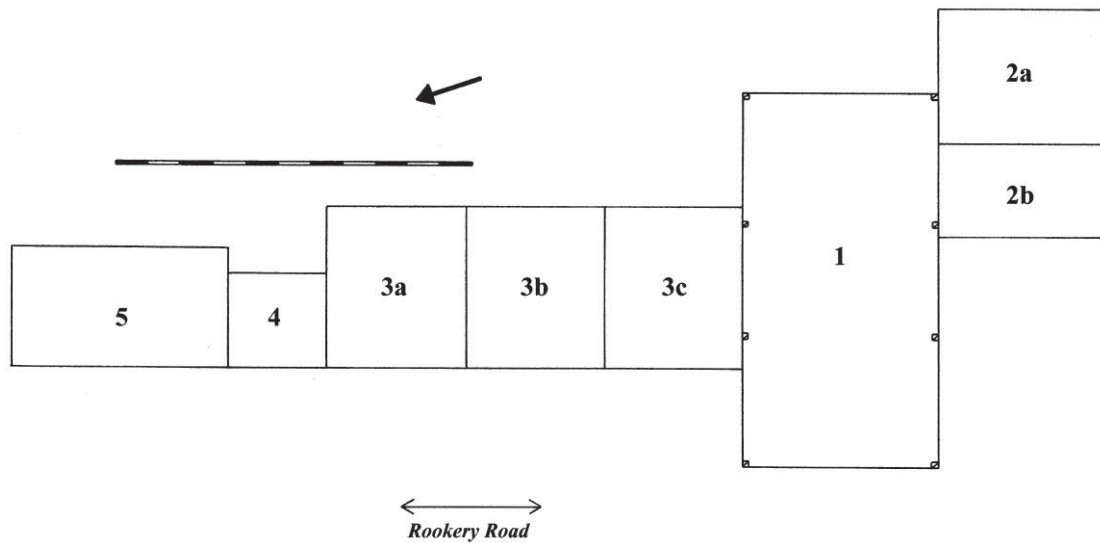
The 1840 tithe map shows a simple, rectangular barn on the site of Blackbarn Farm. This can be equated with the earliest part of the present complex, as illustrated in figure 5, which can be dated on structural grounds to the second quarter of the century (i.e. shortly before the tithe survey). No separate farmhouse lay in the vicinity, and the accompanying apportionment notes that the land formed part of a large block of glebe adjoining the Rectory (i.e. land belonging to the Rector *ex officio*). This glebe, amounting to 54 acres including the churchyard, was owned by the Reverend George Turner but let to Abraham Watkins along with the Rectory House. Watkins owned an additional 18 acres of adjoining land in his own right, including the grade II-listed 16<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse known today as Blacksmith's Cottage approximately 250 m east of the church (figure 1). White's Directory of Suffolk for 1844 records the Revd. Turner as the Rector of the parish and does not mention a curate, but it seems he lived elsewhere and allowed Watkin to rent both the relatively modest house and the glebe – although it is unclear in which of his two houses Watkin actually resided. White's Directories of 1855 and 1874 record the Reverend Henry Longe in residence at the Rectory, although he was sufficiently wealthy to also employ a curate-in-charge, and it seems likely the property was enlarged for him soon after 1847. Longe was probably also responsible for the enlargement of the barn before the Ordnance Survey of 1881, although the name 'Blackbarn Farm' shown on the same survey suggests it still formed a separate entity managed from other premises on Longe's behalf. This name is of some interest in itself, as black barns would have been a recent arrival in the local landscape at this period with the advent of tar as a cheap by-product of town-gas production (the choice suggests black was still unusual in a county where White Barns, Blue Barns and particularly Red Barns had previously been common – each named after the pigment of its weatherproofing paintwork).

The barn is not mentioned in the tithe apportionment, which refers only to the 4.25 acre pasture in which it lay (numbered 100 on the map and named simply as 'glebe'), and the building may have operated as a field barn for the storage of hay rather than a normal threshing barn. The great majority of the 54 acres of glebe was arable land (including the field numbered 99 to the south), as was Watkins additional 18 acres, but the Rectory possessed a second 'barn and yard' adjoining the road to the west of the 'house and garden' (numbered 101 and 102 respectively). A holding of 54 acres would have required a single threshing barn of modest proportions, but the site of the 'barn and yard' contained only two small 'L-shaped' structures of which neither resembled the usual outline of a barn, and it remains possible that the newly built barn in the field was the principal threshing barn of the Rectory – perhaps rebuilt at a more discrete distance from the house than its predecessor.

Such an interpretation is supported by developments of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, which included the construction of new yards and sheds to the south and east of the barn and the demolition of the earlier agricultural buildings west of the enlarged house (the site of which had apparently been converted into pleasure gardens with numerous coniferous trees screening the Rectory from the road). These additions included the surviving southern shed (building 2 in figure 5) but the rest have been demolished. The construction of animal yards and sheds to the sheltered south of a barn is a typical development of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, when cattle were increasingly kept in yards to maximise the production of manure rather than abroad in open fields as hitherto. The process continued between 1881 and 1904 (figure 4) when a further shed (building 3) was added to the north of the barn, blocking its original entrance. This new shed contains three loose boxes, relating to three small yards shown in 1904 (which no longer survive), and reflected a further shed with three smaller yards adjoining the Rectory's boundary to the north. A detached shed was later built to the east of the site, as shown on mid-20<sup>th</sup> century maps and indicated by broken lines in figure 1, but no trace of this remained at the time of inspection.



## Building Analysis



**Figure 6**  
**Block plan of the site identifying each historic building with a number for ease of reference in the text and photographic record.**  
**Scale in metres.**

### Key

**1. Early- to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century three-bay timber-framed, pantiled and weatherboarded barn with central northern entrance.**

The main barn is a timber-framed and weatherboarded structure in three bays on an approximately east-west axis at right-angles to Rookery Road. It extends to 11.5 m in length by 6.1 m in overall width and rises to 3.5 m at its roof-plates from its internal floor of 20<sup>th</sup> century concrete (38 ft by 20 ft by 11.5 ft). The walls contain diagonal primary braces which are tenoned and pegged to both the storey posts and studs, and the tie-beams flanking the central bay are secured by original bolted knee-braces (the storey posts lacking jowls accordingly). The pantiled roof structure is original, with two tiers of staggered butt-purlins and a (possibly secondary) ridge-piece, and much of the frame (including the roof-plates) is of pitch-pine rather than oak. These various carpentry features are typical of the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the barn was newly built when depicted as a simple rectangular structure on the tithe map of 1840.

The roof and wall fabric remains largely intact, together with the original full-height half-hung double doors to the northern elevation of the central bay (facing the Rectory, to which the barn belonged). These doors were blocked by the construction of another shed (3) in the late-19<sup>th</sup> century and have survived accordingly. The rear door was of similar width but lower in height as expected at this period. The building was isolated in a large paddock in 1840, and may have been designed as a field barn for the storage of hay and straw, but is structurally indistinguishable from a normal threshing barn. A ceiling of tall sectioned joists was inserted during the early-20<sup>th</sup> century, when the building was probably converted to a feed and grain store, but its lath-and-plaster has been removed together with the grain floors. Additional doors were inserted into the western gable and both elevations of the eastern bay, while both elevations of the western bay preserve 20<sup>th</sup> century glazed windows. An additional window or loading hatch was inserted above the northern door of the eastern bay but has since been blocked. The tie-beams and knee-braces were painted red when the ceiling was inserted, but there is no other trace of pigment and the tarred external boarding has been almost entirely renewed in recent years (except where protected by the adjoining sheds).

## **2. Pantiled extension of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to rear (southern) elevation of barn containing a stable to the east and a tack room to the west.**

The timber-framed, weatherboarded and pantiled shed which projects at right-angles from the eastern end of the barn's southern elevation is an addition of the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century which was not present in 1840 but was shown on the Ordnance Survey of 1881. It extends to 5.2 m in length by 7 m in width with eaves of 2.2 m (17 ft by 23 ft by 7.5 ft) and is divided into unequal sections by an unusual but original axial partition which consists largely of re-used doors nailed to vertical studs. Several doors contain moulded planks and/or battens and date from the late-16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The southern gable has been rebuilt in very recent years and the eastern elevation is a reconstruction of the mid- or late-20<sup>th</sup> century. The wider eastern section (2a) retains a 19<sup>th</sup> century brick floor and a wooden hay rack in its south-western corner, having probably operated as a small stable, while its narrower counterpart to the west operated as a tack room (linked by an internal door). The shed is all that survives of a number of additions to the south of the barn which formed a pair of enclosed animal yards.

## **3. Timber-framed and pantiled shed of *circa* 1900 containing three loose boxes (blocking the original entrance to the barn).**

The shed to the north of the barn is a post-and-rail softwood structure clad in tarred vertical boarding which extends to 12.8 m in length by 5 m in width and rises to 2.5 m at its eaves (42 ft by 16 ft by 8.5 ft). Its clasped-purlin roof structure is typical of *circa* 1900 and the building is shown on the second edition Ordnance Survey of 1904 but not the first edition of 1881. The shed is divided into three loose boxes, each entered by half-hung doors to the east and formerly adjoining three small yards. The northern box possesses a hay loft and all three were converted into what appear to be pig sties in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century by adding central partitions of cement blocks with crates of iron poles to the west. The plinths were also rebuilt in cement block-work. The shed was probably designed as loose boxes for cattle and blocked the original entrance to the barn which was probably converted into a feed store and mill at the same period.

## **4 & 5. Mid-20<sup>th</sup> century sheds of corrugated asbestos and cement block-work on site of earlier loose boxes of *circa* 1900.**

The Ordnance Survey of 1904 shows a single building adjoining three small yards to the north of the complex, but the present buildings on the site consist of corrugated asbestos and cement blocks with pentice (single-pitch) roofs and represent reconstructions of the mid- to late-20<sup>th</sup> century. The larger of the two (5) is lit by a glazed window to the east and resembles a garden potting shed, but its precise purpose is unclear.

## **Historic Significance**

The main barn at Blackbarn Farm was built shortly before 1840 to serve Monewden's Rectorial glebe and represents a typical and relatively well preserved example of its period which retains its original roof. The shed adjoining its southern elevation is all that remains of a complex of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century additions forming a pair of animal yards and has been much altered, but its unusual internal partition of re-used early doors is of some historic interest in itself. The northern loose boxes illustrate a further phase of alteration which saw the barn converted into a store and mill for cattle feed in the standard manner of the late-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Although of some historic and visual interest as a glebe barn which illustrates the development of local agriculture during the mid and late-19<sup>th</sup> century, no structures on the site are of sufficient age, rarity or architectural merit to meet the strict English Heritage criteria for listing.

## **Appendix 1 (on accompanying CD): Full Photographic Record**

### **Descriptions of Photographs in Appendix 1**

#### **Photograph no.**

1. General view of site from Rookery Road to south-west showing barn (1) in rear and entrance to The Barn House to right.
2. General view of site from Rookery Road to north showing barn (1) at right-angles to road with later roadside shed (3) to left.
3. General view of site from paddock to east showing modern dovecote to left and boundary of former Rectory to right.
4. General view of barn from site entrance to south-west showing attached shed (2) in centre and apparent folly in rear to right.
5. Detail from west of apparent medieval folly bordering paddock to east of site.
6. Exterior of barn (1) and attached shed (2) from south showing tower of St Mary's church in rear to left.
7. External western gable of barn (1) from Rookery Road showing relatively steep pitch with later shed (3) to left.
8. Northern exterior of barn (1) showing junction with later shed (3) to left and pentice-shed (4) to extreme left.
9. Western exterior of roadside shed (3) showing vertical boarding and junction with earlier barn (1) to right.
10. Detail from north-west of junction between barn (1) to right with glazed window and later roadside shed (3) to left.
11. Southern exterior of barn showing single-storied shed (2) adjoining original low rear entrance to right.
12. Western exterior of southern shed (2b) showing entrance adjoining barn (1) to left.
13. Exterior from south-east showing southern shed (2) in foreground with outbuildings of adjoining former Rectory in rear to right.
14. Eastern exterior showing from left to right the southern shed (2), barn (1), roadside shed (3) and pentice sheds (4 & 5) to right.
15. Eastern exterior of roadside shed (3) showing vertical boarding with three half-hung doors to internal loose boxes.
16. Junction of barn (1) to left and roadside shed (3) seen from north-east and showing external side-door in barn.

17. Detail from north-east of junction between barn (1) and shed (3) showing side-door of barn and pintle hinge of blocked barn door.
18. Eastern exterior of complex from north-east showing The Barn House in rear to left.
19. Eastern exterior of 20th century pentice sheds (4 to left and 5 to right).
20. Interior from north-east of northern 20th century pentice shed (5) showing corrugated asbestos wall and roof fabric.
21. Interior from south-west of northern 20th century pentice shed (5) showing eastern window to right.
22. Eastern exterior of narrow 20th century pentice shed (4).
23. Interior from east of narrow 20th century pentice shed (4) showing northern gable of roadside shed (3) to left.
24. Interior of northern loose box (3a) from eastern entrance showing boarded ceiling and cement-block partition.
25. Eastern interior of northern loose box (3a) showing double-hung entrance door and cement-block partition.
26. Softwood clasped-purlin roof structure of roadside shed (3) seen from loft above northern loose box (3a).
27. Western interior of central loose box (3b) showing louver to road and bars forming probable sow crate.
28. Roof structure of central loose box (3b) seen from east.
29. Interior of central loose box (3b) from south showing eastern entrance to right.
30. Eastern interior of central loose box (3b) showing double-hung doors to left.
31. Interior of southern loose box (3c) from east showing iron bars of probable sow crate with barn (1) to left.
32. Eastern interior of southern loose box (3c) showing double-hung doors to left & barn (1) to right.
33. Blocked original entrance doors of barn (1) seen from southern loose box (3c) to north.
34. Interior of barn (1) from west showing secondary ceiling with blocked original northern entrance to left and lower rear door to right.
35. Interior of barn (1) from east showing secondary ceiling with blocked original northern entrance to right & lower rear door left.
36. Roof structure of barn (1) from south showing staggered butt-purlins with joists of secondary ceiling in foreground.

37. Detail from south of staggered butt-purlin roof structure of barn showing through-tenons and apex of adjoining shed (3).
38. Western internal gable of barn (1) showing inserted door and glazed windows to left and right.
39. Northern interior of barn (1) showing original full-height doors in central bay now blocked by later shed (3).
40. Detail of south-western internal corner of barn (1) showing nailed primary braces and lack of jowl to post.
41. Detail of internal western gable of barn (1) showing pegged mortise linking foot of primary brace and stud.
42. Northern interior of western bay of barn (1) showing original bolted knee-brace to tie-beam and inserted glazed window.
43. Northern interior of eastern bay of barn (1) showing original bolted knee-brace to tie-beam and inserted door & (blocked) window.
44. Interior of blocked northern entrance doors of barn (1) showing lack of stud mortises to pitch-pine roof-plate.
45. Eastern internal gable of barn (1) showing intact original framing with pegged and tenoned primary bracing.
46. Internal southern elevation of barn (1) showing inserted door to southern shed (2b) to left.
47. Southern interior of eastern bay of barn (1) showing secondary door interrupting primary wall braces.
48. Southern interior of barn (1) from north-western corner showing inserted glazed window to right.
49. Southern interior of barn (1) showing original wide, low rear doorway to central threshing bay.
50. Detail of southern roof-plate of central bay of barn (1) showing original studwork and bolted knee-braces above door lintel.
51. Interior of southern shed (2b) from south showing inserted door to barn (1) in rear.
52. Interior of southern shed (2b) from north showing recently rebuilt southern gable.
53. Western interior of southern shed (2b) showing nailed primary bracing of original deal studwork with external door to right.
54. Interior of southern shed (2b) from west showing partition of re-used doors to eastern section (2a).
55. Detail of 16th or 17th century moulded plank door re-used in eastern partition of southern shed (2b).

56. Interior of southern shed (2a) from north showing recently rebuilt southern gable with hay rack in corner to right.
57. Detail from north of original brick floor in eastern section of southern shed (2a).
58. Eastern interior of southern shed (2a) showing late-20th century studwork with entrance door to left.
59. Interior of eastern section of southern shed (2a) from south showing boarded south-eastern corner of barn (1) to left.
60. Interior of eastern section of southern shed (2a) from east showing partition of re-used doors to western section (2b).
61. Interior of eastern section of southern shed (2a) from east showing hay rack & partition of re-used doors to western section (2b).
62. Detail from east of door dividing eastern and western sections of southern shed (2a & 2b respectively).
63. Detail from east of re-used 16th or 17th century plank door with moulded battens in axial partition of southern shed (2a).
64. Detail of wooden hay rack in south-western corner of southern shed (2a) with recently rebuilt southern gable to left.

*Photographic Appendix follows on pp. 13-18*

**Appendix 2 (pp. 13-18): Selected Printed Photographs**



**Illus. 1. General view of the site from Rookery Road to the south-west showing the pantiled roof of the main barn (1) in the rear and the entrance to ‘The Barn House’ to the right.**



**Illus. 2. General view of the site from Rookery Road to the north showing the main barn (1) at right-angles to the road in the rear with the later roadside shed (3) blocking its original central entrance in the centre and the overgrown wall of the pentice (single-span) 20<sup>th</sup> century sheds (4 and 5) to the left.**



**Illus. 3. The southern exterior of the barn showing the much altered single-storied shed (2) adjoining the original low rear doorway of the main barn (1).**



**Illus. 4. The eastern exterior of the complex showing from left to right the southern shed (2), the main barn (1), the roadside shed divided into three loose boxes (3) and the 20<sup>th</sup> century pentice sheds (4 & 5).**





**Illus. 5.** The interior of southern loose box (3c) in the roadside shed of *circa* 1900 seen from the east and showing the iron bars and cement-block wall of the late-20<sup>th</sup> century probable sow crates with the blocked original doors of the main barn (1) to the left.



**Illus. 6.** The interior of the main barn (1) from the east showing its secondary ceiling at eaves height with the blocked original northern entrance to the right & the lower rear door to the left. The bolted knee-braces flanking the entrance bay and straight, primary wall braces are typical of the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



**Illus. 7. The roof structure of the barn (1) viewed from the south showing two tiers of staggered butt-purlins with the joists of the inserted 20<sup>th</sup> century ceiling in the foreground.**



**Illus. 8. The northern interior of the barn (1) showing the bolted knee-braces to the tie-beams flanking the original entrance doors (now blocked by the adjoining shed, 3) and the inserted door & (blocked) upper window of the eastern bay to the right.**



**Illus. 9. The southern interior of the barn (1) from its north-western corner showing the original proportions of the low, wide rear doorway in the central bay and an inserted glazed window to the right.**



**Illus. 10. The interior of the southern shed (2b) from the west showing the unusual internal partition consisting largely of re-used doors which adjoins the eastern section of the same shed (2a).**



**Illus. 11. The interior of the eastern section of the southern shed (2a) from the south showing the boarded south-eastern corner of the barn (1) to the left and the external door in the rebuilt eastern elevation to the right.**



**Illus. 12. The interior of the eastern section of the southern shed (2a) viewed from the east, showing the unusual partition of re-used 17<sup>th</sup> century doors to the western section (2b). The recently rebuilt southern gable is visible to the left and the weatherboarded corner of the earlier barn to the right.**