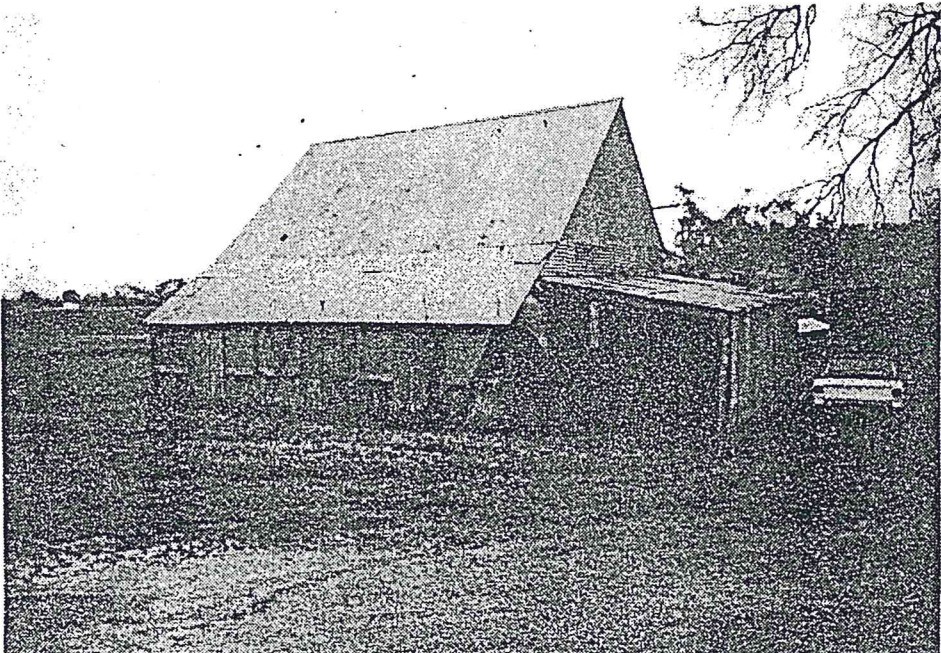


South Australian Heritage Act 1978-80	MOUNT BARKER DISTRICT HERITAGE SURVEY (STAGE ONE) ITEM IDENTIFICATION SHEET		PROJECT DATE 1840's Item Ref. No. ¹⁴⁷
	ITEM NAME: LUBASCH'S BARN Former or other Pfeiffer's Barn; Gething's Barn.		Office Use ITEM No. DOCKET No.
HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE Section 3812 (52 acres) was purchased by Gottfried Lubasch as a Special Purchase, 17th June, 1844, for £104. The barn, which has a German-style timber frame, was built by him sometime in the 1840's. Later it was owned by a Welsh ship's surgeon who practised at Pt. Adelaide, one Robert Gethings. Galvanized iron roof and gable end. (See Mt. Barker District Diagram 2 for location)			LOCATION Address Princes Highway Town Hahndorf. Postcode Section 3812 Hundred County L.G.A. S.H.P. Region 007205 A.M.G. Ref. CT.VOL.3948, Fol.73. Portion of Pt. Sec. 3812 hd. Kuitpo. 6627-10488 SUBJECT Economic History PERIOD 1837-1851 State Study Area
REFERENCES Liebelt Family History, The Liebelt Reunion Committee, 1975. Registered State Heritage 6627-10488. Anni Fox, Hahndorf. Owner : G.L. Paech, Beerenberg Products, Mt. Barker.			TYPE OF ITEM LAND Natural feature <input type="checkbox"/> Historical site <input type="checkbox"/> Historical Gdn. <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE <input type="checkbox"/> PHYSICAL CONDITION
PHOTOGRAPH Film No. Negative No. Direction of view 			STATUS Reg. of State Her. Items Reg. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interim L <input type="checkbox"/> Nominated <input type="checkbox"/> National Estate Reg. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Proposed L <input type="checkbox"/> National Trust CL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RL <input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/> Other RECOMMENDATION (A) State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (B) Local <input type="checkbox"/> PREPARED BY Date:

in the joints. These joints were pegged loosely during assembly and once the members had been positioned, the pegs were driven in to such a depth as to form a tight and stable joint.

Since its invention the use of pegs has been universally accepted by the carpenter, and as Kress* points out, during the period between the fifteenth and eighteenth centuries the practice of pegging mortice and tenon joints was grossly exaggerated - reflecting the personal pride of the carpenter.

The degree of pegging used in South Australia's Fachwerk buildings varied - as is evident when comparing the wall frames of Paechtoun house no. 2 with the Haebich house. The Haebich house lacked pegs altogether in the lower rails. The omission of pegs did not weaken the wall frame, perhaps their use in the Paech house merely exemplified the personal pride of the builder.

Where pegs were publicly visible - as in wall-frames - they were cut flush with the timber face, but in roof-truss joints the pegs extended beyond the timbering. This extension could be advantageous in cases where any periodic loosening of a joint occurs, the situation being rectified by driving the tapered peg further into the joint. On the other hand, such pegs could have been used as a decorative feature, as is the case in many German houses. However, I have found no evidence of

ornamental pegging in South Australia's Fachwerk buildings.

The most common method of marking individual members was to use a combination of lines, Roman Numerals, and pick marks. The marking system of posts and noggings on Paechtoun house no. 2 is shown in the diagram.

The left corner post as well as the left panel rails were marked with 'I', the second post and corresponding rails with 'II', 'III', and so on. The pick symbol represented the front elevation, and the number of pick marks the respective panel. The rear members were numbered in the Roman numeral system. There was no distinction between upper and lower rail members on all elevations, as members were interchangeable.

As a numbering system, the Roman numerals were well suited to the carpenter's chisel. The use of the straight lined numerals required less effort than their Arabic counterparts, and by gouging them into the timber a permanent mark was made. Confusion between the Roman 'IV' and 'VI' (Paechtoun house no. 1 had 'I' for the fourth roof truss), and especially IX and XI, due to inversion of timbers, was avoided by substituting IIII and V IIII for their respective counterparts. Different structures exhibited different markings; for example: the symbol designating the fourth member has been shown as 4, IIII, I and V on four different structures. The depth of gouging also varied from 2 mm to a mere surface scratch. This difference in the numbering may have been the personal trade mark of individual carpenters.

* Kress, F. Der Praktische Zimmerer Otto Maier Ravensburg, 1954

reason for my choice is twofold: first, the anatomy of this house is well known by its present owners who are faithfully restoring it, and second, it is at the qualitative peak of South Australian Fachwerk buildings. Although all Fachwerk buildings are structurally similar, some variations of detail do exist, and their significance will be examined.

The quality of the timber used in Fachwerk varied between split and twisted logs only roughly adzed to shape, and dimensionally perfect members of 'select' grade. The cross-section was always rectangular or square. The poorer quality, roughly dressed timbers were typical of 'on-site' preparation, where the trees were chosen, felled and adzed by the builder, whilst the degree of accuracy of later pit sawn members tends to suggest that they were purchased from nearby commercial timber merchants. The sale of dressed timbers, evidenced by the following newspaper clipping, had already begun two years after the foundation of the Province; obviously a choice of timbers was available.

"S.A. Gazette and Colonial Register

November 24th, 1838

Native Timber

On sale at the timber yard of John Crawford & Co. Timber merchants & builders, Rundle Street. Plates, Quartering, Rafters, Scantling, Battens, Posts and Rails, split or sawn. Half

inch and inch Native Pine, pine poles, large and small shingles, half inch weather boards, inch flooring boards, joists, broad and narrow pailings."

Although the earliest record of a sawyer in Hahndorf appeared in 1864, there may have been a supplier outside the Hahndorf district or the carpenters simply cut their own timber.

The most popular structural timber was River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*), also known as Blue Gum, Red Gum and Murray Red Gum. This timber, native to South Australia, is characterized by its dark red colour when freshly sawn, turning to a dark silver grey upon weathering, as well as wavy and interlocking grain. Its natural resistance to white ant and fungal attack made it a good choice.

The timber structure usually rested on a stone plinth, and when built on a slope the stone footings were used as cellar walls, sparing the builder the laborious task of excavating to include the cellar - which was common in the houses of the early settlers, both German and English. The floor consisted of hardwood boards approximately 170 x 30 mm thick, butt jointed and nailed on hardwood bearers, laid either on flat or on edge, and resting on the ground or on dwarf piers. The space between the floor bearers and the ground was filled (presumably for thermal insulation) with a mixture of clay and straw.

Usually, when structural timbers were joined, slightly tapered timber pegs of either square or circular cross-section, were driven through holes

GERMAN BARNS AT HAHNDORF

"A German farm may be distinguished from the farms of other citizens of the state by the superior size of their barns; the plain but compact form of their houses; the height of their enclosures; the extent of their orchards; the fertility of their fields; the luxuriance of their meadows and a general appearance of plenty and neatness in everything that belongs to them."¹⁴

This is not a reference to German farms in South Australia but a comment of German superiority in the agriculture of Pennsylvania in the late 18th century. The description could very well fit the farms of the German settlers in this state almost fifty years afterwards. The opening phrase "the superior size of their barns" is very well illustrated by those still remaining in the Hahndorf area. Four of these have been measured up. They include Gething's Barn* at the southern end of Hahndorf, classified by the National Trust, a barn at Friedrichstadt and two barns at Paechtown built by the Paech family. The Gething's barn was originally owned by Friederich Wilhelm Wittwer, the Hahndorf miller, and no doubt used, as were the Paechtown barns, for threshing and bagging wheat and corn. The barn was also used for storing

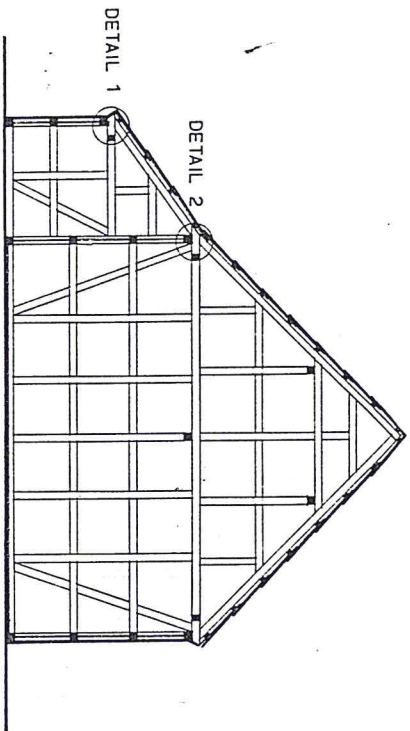
¹⁴ Jones, M.A. Destination America p.127. Comments in 1798 by Dr. Benjamin Rush, the celebrated Philadelphia physician on German farm settlements, many of which were erected by defeated German auxiliaries of the colonial armies of George III.

* Barn on Section 3812 Hd. of Kuitpo

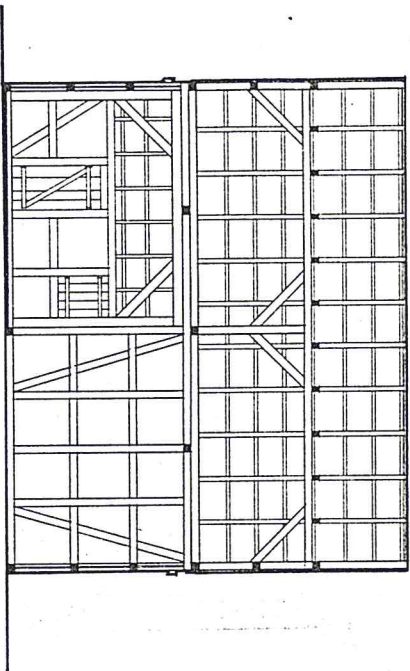
hay or grain and sheltering farm equipment. However the mild climate of South Australia meant that there was no need for barns to shelter and feed stock.

Gething's and the Paechtown barns

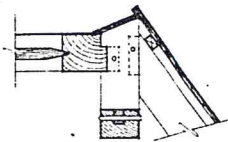
The two barns at Paechtown are remarkably similar. Their main halls are each 11 x 6 m in size and within this area are equal aisles of 6 x 2.7 m. Only the widths of the lean-to's vary (1.7 m and 2.3 m). The main doors are located centrally on the larger sides and are matched by smaller doors on the opposite wall of the lean-to. This helped to facilitate a strong draught of air for threshing the grain. The Gething's Barn is different in form but it still has a main hall 9.3 m x 7.7 m and a lean-to 2.2 m wide. There are large double doors on the ends of the barn similar in size to the ones on the other barns and a corresponding smaller door at the opposite end. All three barns have boarded floor areas in between these two doors on which threshing and bagging could take place. The timber frames have varying bay widths in each barn. Some standard sizes occur throughout; for example end bays are usually 1.3 m or 1.4 m. The framework to the main halls are divided into three bays vertically and all of the end bays are provided with gable braces. Standard post sizes are found in all the buildings. 150 mm² for the corner posts and 120 x 150 mm for centre posts. Similar sizes to the latter are used for the cross rails which are stub tenoned and pegged into the posts. 120 x 120 mm base plates into which all the posts are stub tenoned are set level on stone walling or over



SECTION A-A

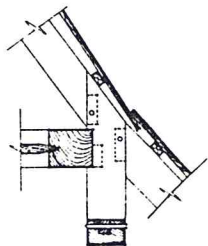


SECTION B-B

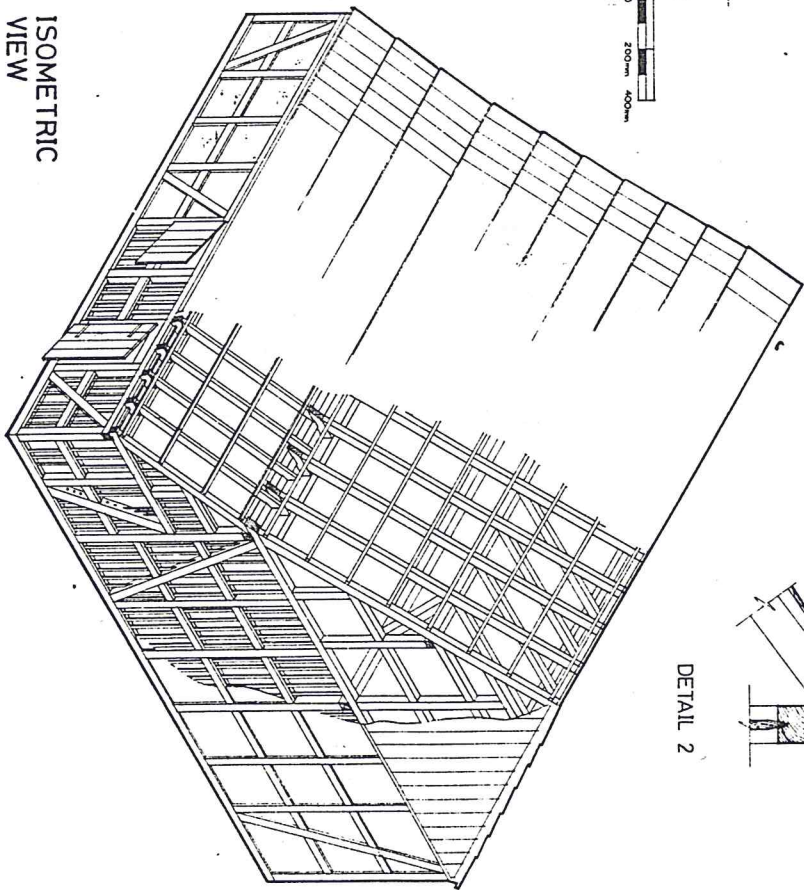


DETAIL 1

SCALE



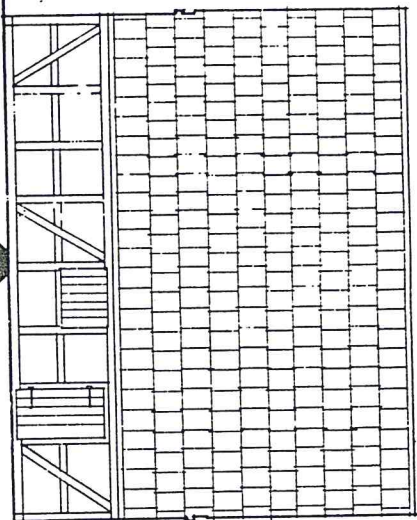
DETAIL 2



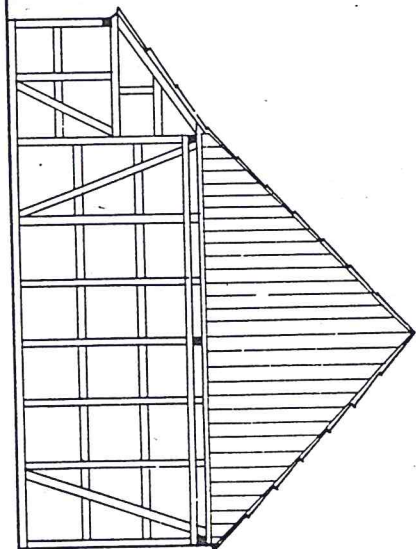
ISOMETRIC
VIEW



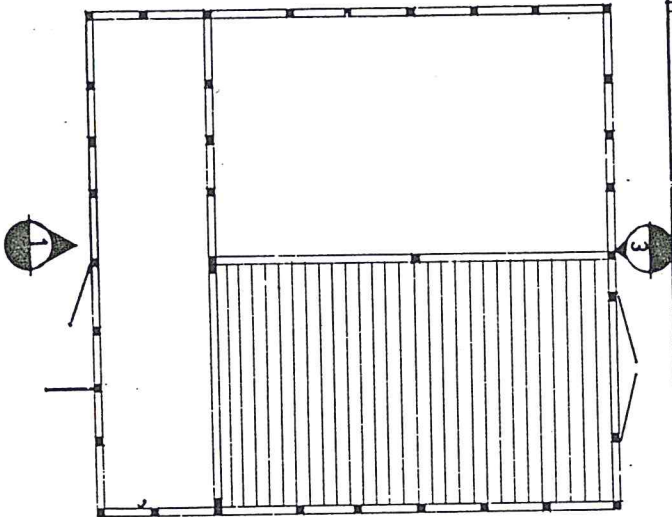
GEITHING'S BARN



ELEVATION 1

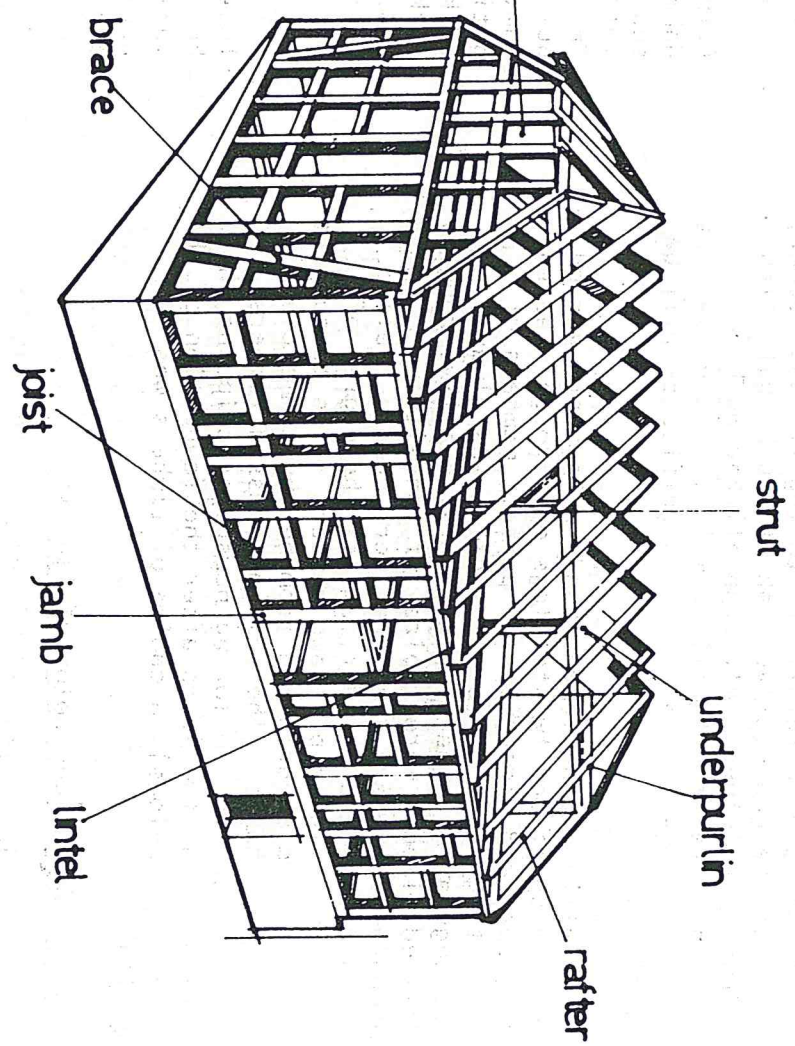
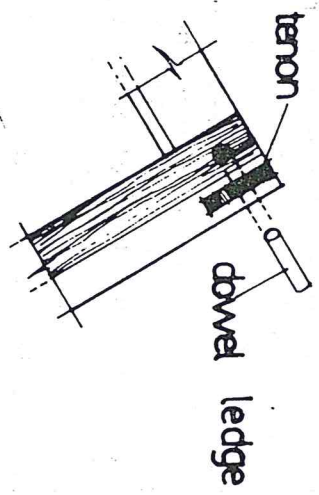
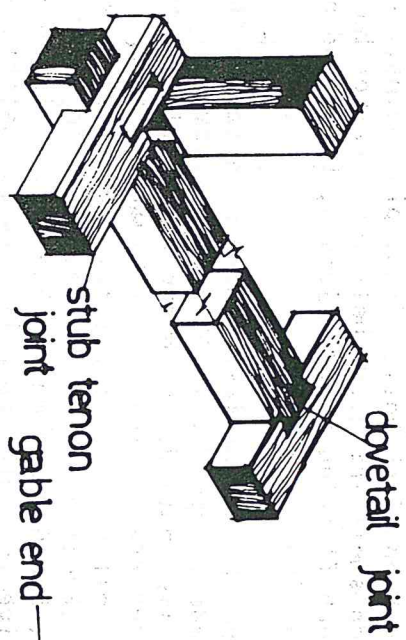


ELEVATION 2



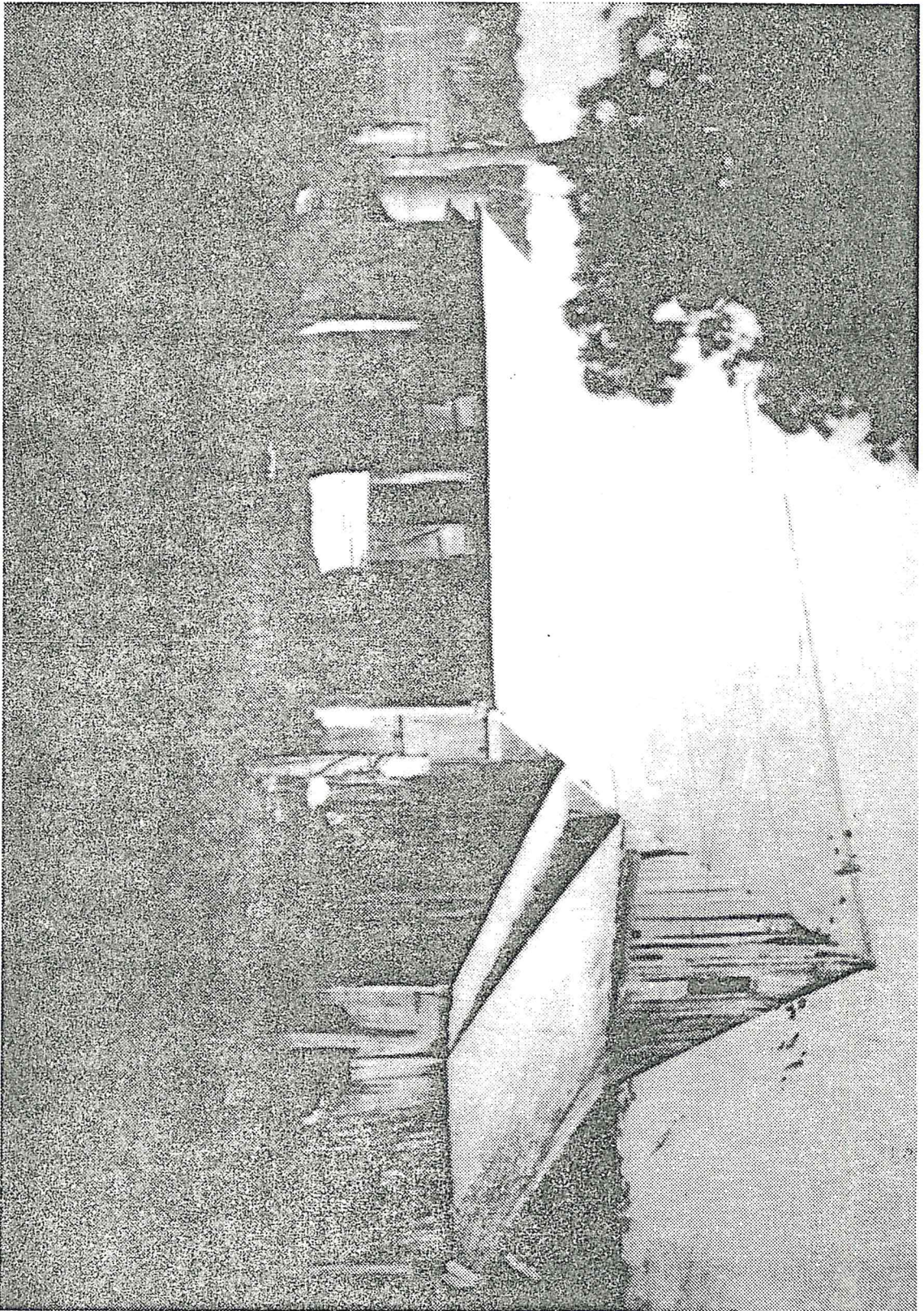
ELEVATION 3

GETHING'S BARN : HAHNDORF



Types of carpentry joints used

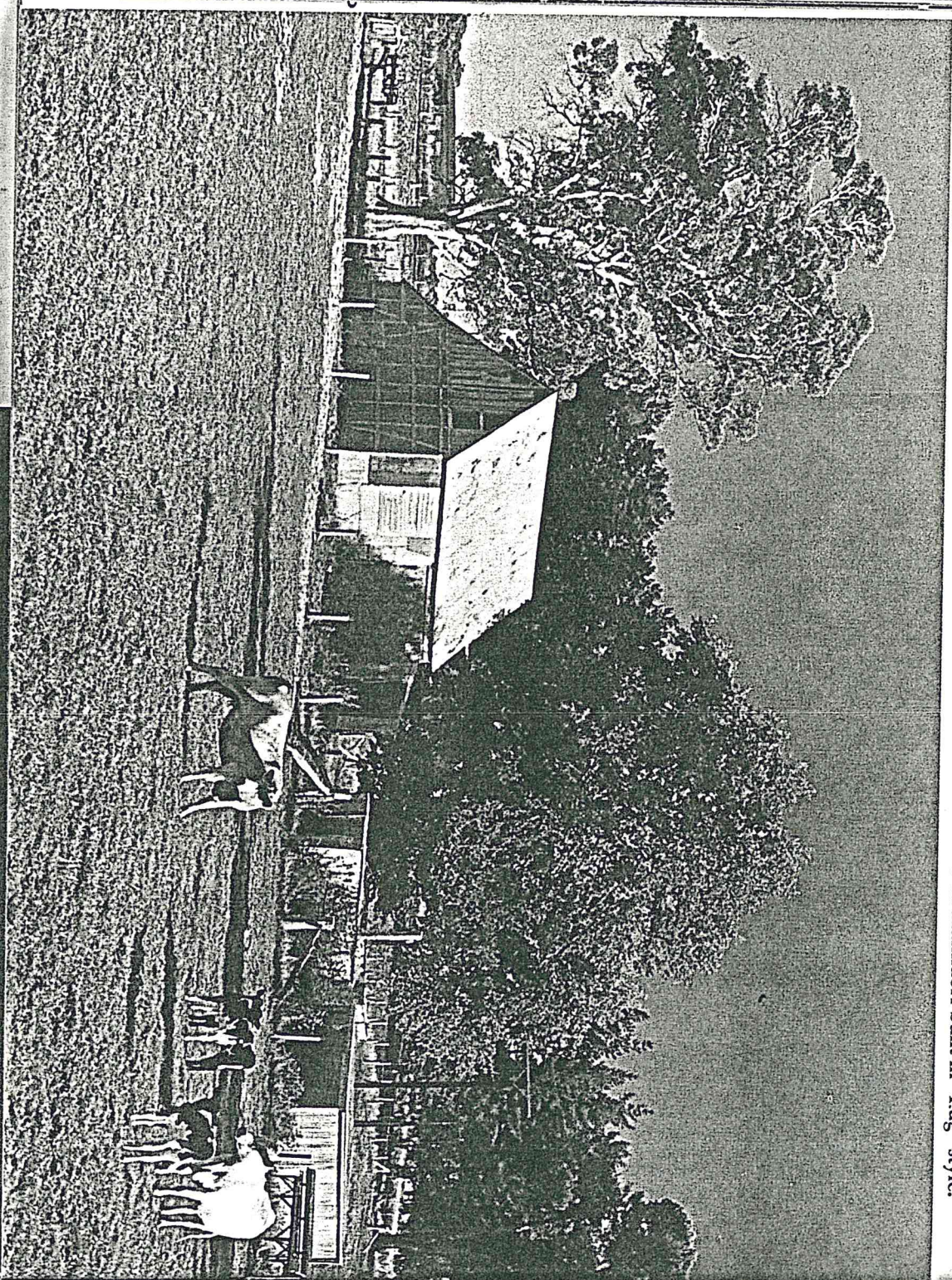
FRAMEWORK OF FACHWERK HOUSE



Gething's Barn in late 1930's.
(Lean-to now removed)

With local historian Anni Fox at Hahndorf Academy, a boarding college in 1857.

below: Old barn outside Hahndorf built in "Pug" style.



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In 1917 the South
decreed that everythi

above: Hahndorf Academy
centre: Old Mill, Hahndorf
below: The Hahndorf Inn.

PEACH AUSTRALIA