

Loire country (Anjou, Poitou, Saintonge and so on), the Centre country (Berry, Orléanais, Touraine, and so on), Champagne, Burgundy, Franche-Comté (see 2.111.1.b), Lorraine, plus Brittany in the west and Alsace in the east (see 2.111.6.a). In the southern half are found Gascony, the Basque country, Béarn, Périgord (including Quercy), Auvergne (including Limousin), Languedoc (including Roussillon), Provence, plus Savoy and Dauphiné in the southeast.

Classification of farmhouses

On the scale of the entire country, house plan-forms may serve as a basis for the classification of farmhouses, this designation to be taken in the stricter sense of lodging unit rather than in the wider sense of residence unit (the latter comprising both human quarters and agricultural quarters).

The following house plan-types can be distinguished: the single-room house; the *longère* (lengthwise house); the upper-floor hall (*salle haute*); the house with central-corridor plan; and the depthwise house with nave and aisles. All these house-plans exist in elementary as well as derivative forms.

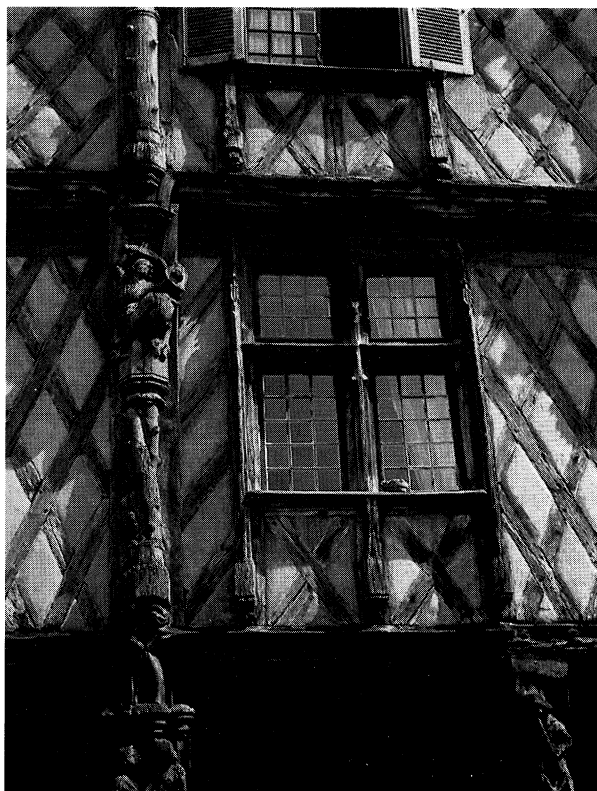
The single-room house used to be the house of the agricultural worker without land, implements or livestock, tied to a large estate. It consisted of a single room, closer to a square than a rectangle in plan, single-storeyed, with a hearth and oven at one of the gables. The facade, generally in a long wall, had for its openings a doorway and a small window. A table, benches, beds, and a wardrobe were the total furniture. A single family, often a large one, dwelt there, the loft providing overspill sleeping accommodation.

These single-room houses sprang up in numbers during the first half of the 19th century, in response to a population boom in rural areas. As their tenants acquired smallholdings, some of these houses had a few dependent buildings added (for example a byre or a wine-cellar) and so turned into small farms. However, the flight from the land in the second half of the 19th century was to bring about their gradual desertion, so that today they have almost totally disappeared from the countryside.

The *longère* was the house of the small peasant (day-labourer holding a small plot, sharecropper and smallholder) and the small craftsman. It was widespread in poverty-stricken areas, and in particular throughout western France. It is a narrow house, extending lengthwise (i.e. in the direction of the roof-ridge), with its openings placed more often in a long wall than in a gable wall.

The strictly agricultural *longères* fall into three types according to the relationship of the dependent buildings to the dwelling room: the *longère* with a single-room shared by men and animals alike; the one with a barn-cum-byre added to the living-room; and the type with a freestanding byre as a first step toward an open courtyard.

In the *longère* with cohabitation of man and beast at opposite ends of a single room (as evidenced in lower Brittany, Normandy, Mayenne, and Anjou, but also in Cantal, Lozère and the Ariège Pyrenees), the livestock was confined to the end opposite the hearth, on a sloping floor to stop the room from being submerged by liquid manure. At best, a wooden



Detail of a timbered jettied house, at Angers, Loire.

partition separated the lower-end byre from the upper-end living-room.

The interior layout was most rudimentary: a fireplace placed against the gable wall and extended by an outside oven, and a sink set into the long wall next to the entrance. The furniture consisted of a table (succeeding the plate and trestles common before the 17th century), covered or curtained beds, a kneading-trough, a chest (replacing the coffer in which clothes and valuable items were put away), a dresser, a wardrobe, and benches or chairs (the latter becoming common only after 1850).

The upper-floor hall (*salle haute*) used to be the dwelling of village leaders, wealthy rural tradesmen and craftsmen (e.g. weavers and blacksmiths) as well as wine-growers of early modern times. With the advent of the industrial age in the first decades of the 19th century, it fell in the social scale and became the house of the small peasant by having a barn-and-byre added to it lengthwise.

The *salle haute* consists of a ground-floor level reserved for production and storage while living accommodation is confined to the upper-floor level. Entry to the upper floor is by an external staircase and landing which are normally set against a long wall and protected by overhanging roof eaves supported by posts or pillars.

While there survive only a few specimens of upper-floor halls in northern France, the type is still extant in large numbers throughout the rest of the country, notably in wine-growing areas such as higher Quercy, the Rhône and the Saône valleys, and Touraine.

Originating in the upper classes in the Renaissance period (with the Renaissance manor house), the house with central-corridor plan and symmetrical facade spread gradually to the