

isolated housing in Languedoc. They are built of materials ready to hand or made locally, wood being scarce. The shallow-pitched roofs are covered with half-round tiles, with the cornice of shortened tiles known as a *génoise* at the eaves. There are many windows, usually small and with surrounds of dressed stone.

The Cévennes country at the southern foot of the Massif Central is a region of mixed food crop farming and self-sufficiency, dominated by the sweet chestnut tree, known as the *arbre à pain*, the bread tree. Around 1850 average population density was about 80 people per square kilometre. Housing in scattered hamlets is the rule. These hamlets lie halfway up the slope on the sheltered sides of hills, among the many cultivated terraces ranged in tiers up to the level where the chestnut trees begin and even beyond. On the upper level are the sheep pastures, and then the mountain grazing for cattle. At this high level the architecture changes to that of the Massif Central.

In the hamlets and villages of the Cévennes, houses are of the upper-floor type, narrow, and built on one or more levels above a ground floor which is often vaulted and acts as a cellar, a stable for the goats and sheep, and as a pigsty. They are built of schist or granite, depending on the geological stratum, bonded with clay or thin, coarse mortar. Windows and doors are small, with surrounds in dressed sandstone, soft limestone, or even granite. The roofs, covered with overlapping shale roofing stones, have their ridges topped by interlocked roofing stones forming what is called a *lignolet* or *parpaillou*.

These houses, set perpendicularly to the direction of the slope, are linked to each other by small subsidiary buildings adapted to the curves of the level. Because of the slope, access can be from the ground on several levels. Stone staircases and paved paths (*calades*) link the various buildings and give access to covered wells, the bread oven, and various drying ovens for chestnuts (*dédos*), which are built away from the rest to avoid fires spreading.

As a general rule the closely built villages of Languedoc are less affected by the phenomena of development than are the isolated houses. While the demographic growth of the 19th century brought with it the vertical extension of buildings inside hamlets and villages which were already densely inhabited, it also resulted in the construction *extra muros* of houses backing on to the surrounding wall of the old *castrum* or standing along the roads leading to the villages, in a type of accommodation midway between grouped and isolated housing.

In valleys to which access was difficult, the building of new roads in the 19th century contributed to the introduction of linear grouped housing, devoted to the minor and complementary industries of the peasant economy.

Dry stone building is very well represented in Languedoc. The clearing of stones for new vineyards or the extension of existing vineyards provided plenty of material for the building of viticulturist huts known as *capitelles* in Gard and Ardèche, *chibottes* or *casournes* in Haute-Loire, *caselles* in the Aveyron, *caselles* in Lozère and *baraques* or *caselles* in Hérault.

In hilly areas the building of agricultural terraces with low walls to hold them in place is evidence not just of the shortage of soil but of the expertise of the 19th century peasant builders;



these terraces are known as *faïsses*, *échamps* or *accols* in Ardèche, *chambées* or *chambades* in Haute-Loire, and *bancels* or *traversiers* in Gard and Hérault.

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Village of Les Salles, Villeneuve de Berg, Languedoc.

See also for 2.III.5.1
1.VII.2.b Dated stones
1.IX.2.m Juniper-oil kiln
1.IX.2.x i Wine cellars

References for 2.III.5.1
Carlat, Michel, 1982
Lhuisset, Christian, 1980
Rouvière, Michel, 1979

2.III.5.i Limousin (France, s, c)

Limousin covers three *départements* – Haute-Vienne, Creuse and Corrèze – and consists of the low plateau of Marche and the cereal-growing area of Combraille in the north, together with the hedged fields of the Limousin uplands and the Limousin mountains in the centre and the north. It is a region of mainly schist and granite and the principal occupations are sheep-rearing and, since the 19th century, cattle-raising. The sandstone area around Brive is subject to the influence of Aquitaine.

Settlement is in villages of a few farms with the buildings grouped haphazardly around a communal space (*couderc*).

Farm layout bears traces of chronological and sociological evolution, the farm labourer's single-cell dwelling being succeeded by a single-storey unit comprising barn, dwelling and animal shelter all under the same roof, which in turn has been succeeded by a one- or two-storey house with detached outbuildings. Up until the 18th century it was usual to have a ground floor and a loft with one or more windows in the south or southwest-facing side walls. The walls were of local stone rubble, occasionally rendered, and from the 19th century onwards ashlar stone was used for quoins and around doorways and windows and increasingly for the entire facade. Lintels were single slabs of stone under a load-spreading arch, sometimes doubled over doorways with in between a fanlight. Very occasionally, a decorative item, such as name, date or mason's tools was carved on the lintel face – Limousin masons were famous throughout France. On the borders of Berry and Poitou there was sometimes a brick surround to doors or windows and a cornice of shortened half-round tiles, and in the uplands the wall at attic level was sometimes of wood plastered with clay.

In the Montagne in the 19th century the thatched roof was replaced by Corrèze slate for houses and in the 20th century by corrugated iron for outbuildings; in the uplands pantiles were used or, in Marche, plain tiles. Chimney-stacks with an overlap at the base and ashlar stone in the gables are indications that the roof was once thatched; there were no gutters, so the ground was paved at the foot of the side walls.

Around Brive, hipped roofs and pavilion roofs have