

sarrasine, giving off heat into the open and surmounted by a cowl. There were about a thousand around Bagé at the time of the French Revolution.

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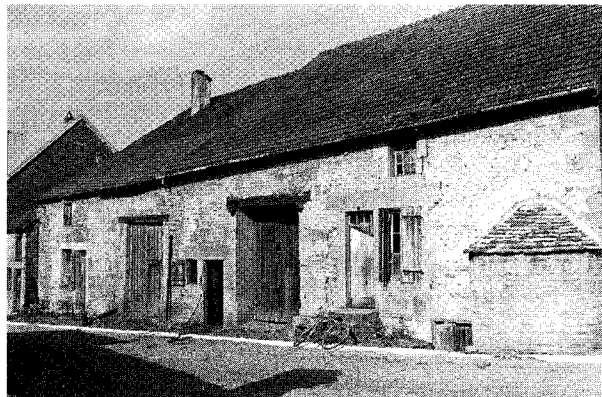
2.III.5.e **Champagne** (France, N, NC)

Contrast and diversity are the hallmarks of the rich heritage of rural buildings in Champagne and the Ardennes. The Châlons-sur-Marne area has one of the most original structures in rural French architecture, characterized by the use of bricks of calcareous earth. On the borders of Champagne, the Bric area of the Marne displays several features typical of the vast Brie plateau, with masonry in millstone grit and brick surrounds for doors and windows.

In the Ardennes, there are clear transitions between timber framing and building in stone. Timber framing, in the humid Porcien, Thiérache and Rocroi plateau areas, is clad with slate or with clapboard of the type called *bauché*, the older sort being made of oak, more recent examples of fir. The stone buildings reflect the availability of various kinds of minerals: there are houses built of shale in the upper meuse valley, with window and door surrounds of oak or of yellow or blue dressed stone; houses in the hills on the outskirts of the Ardennes in yellow limestone; houses in the Argonne extending back a long way from their facades with masonry in ochre *gaize* and gently pitched roofs of half-round tiles; and finally houses in the Ardennes area of Champagne with walls built of adobe variegated with white chalk.

One of the most widespread types of housing in Champagne covers the Langres plateau and the Bassigny area in Haute-Marne, where the building style is not far from the Lorraine model. These attached farms built as self-contained ground-level units have nothing original about their exteriors except the steep pitch of the roofs and the presence of cart entrances with large wooden lintels. The arrangement of the doors and windows is of a local character which can be dated with particular accuracy from the 19th century. A wish to economize on stone led to the placing of the kitchen window and the entrance door one on each side of the same jamb. The entrance doorway is often topped by an opening of the kind known as a *gerbière* (an opening through which sheaves are thrown for storage in the loft), with its base stone bearing directly on the lintel of the door.

These farms built as self-contained ground-level units, particularly suited to mixed farming, have the various stable, barn and dwelling house units all grouped together under their huge roofs. Limestone roofing was certainly common



left
Two farmhouses in Champagne built of earth brick. Bread oven projecting on the right with cellar under the house. Plateau de Langues, Haute-Marne.

far left
Bresse manor house with *sarrasine* chimney, Roman tile roof and cross-braced panels on balcony. Bagé.

See also for 2.III.5.d
1.IX.2.x-i Wine-cellars and vaults

References for 2.III.5.d
Bucaille, Richard, and Lévi-Strauss, Laurent, 1980
Thinlot, Françoise, 1983

in this area, and traces of it remain. The rarity of flat tiles and the relatively early occurrence of roofs in machine-made tiles suggests that builders went straight from stone to the latter type of roofing at the end of the 19th century and thereafter.

The timber framing of the humid Champagne countryside is a striking contrast with these stone houses of the plateaux. But the main timber-framing area of Champagne is differentiated with the départements of Marne and Haute-Marne on one hand and the département of Aube on the other. The farms of the Epernay region, built with a gateway (*porterue*) directly on the road, to which they are strictly aligned, cause the streets to be of some length, broken by the design of a rather sober kind of half-timbering and the doors and windows. The half-timbering consists of closely positioned posts braced by long diagonal ties. At the gable end and cross-partition walls, on the other hand, it consists of cross-pieces.

The dwelling house is at the front of the building, on a single storey, often on both sides of the gateway to the road, which opens on to a huge yard at the back, not necessarily closed at the back, and containing all the premises necessary for the work of the farm: barns, stables and carhouses.

Many of these farms are still roofed in a manner reminiscent of Roman tiling with flange tiles placed side by side, like the Roman *tegula*, and truncated half-round tiles covering the joists, like the Roman *imbrex*. The materials are usually of quite recent production, dating from the end of the 19th century or

Farmhouse with entrance opening on to interior courtyard, région du Der, Marne.

