

byre and at the other by a bread-oven set against the gable fireplace inside. Standing on the top of the facade wall, a *lucarne-porte* with its fixed external ladder gave access to the loft. Set into the internal wall, next to the entrance, was a rudimentary stone or brick sink (*bassie*). Twin *locatures*, or even a whole terrace of *locatures*, were a common sight on the outskirts of small towns.

#### References

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Originating in the 17th century, the *locatures* were to become independent small farms (*fermettes*) in the 19th century and merge into the number of small farmsteads originating from the sale of state property (*Biens Nationaux*) and stringing together living quarters and dependencies in a single range, notably in the areas of enclosed land (*bocage*) combing cattle-raising and mixed farming.

Apart from the *domaine-locaturiers* association and the *fermette*, the rural habitat of the Centre region also included several other types of house. In the Sancerre area was the vinegrower's house, which was either a single room above an underground cellar, or a *longère* with an added cellar at the back. In the Val d'Orléans, the *closerie* was a two-storey house built by a bourgeois town-dweller, with accommodation for himself at upper-floor level and for the hired labourer (*closier*) at ground-floor level. In the *Iles* of the lower Touraine flood plains, the hemp-grower's one-room house had walls of soft limestone (*tuffeau*) under a saddle-back roof of flat clay tiles (hemp being stored in the loft and dried in an oven leaning against a gable). Along the Loire river, the waterman's bourgeois-looking house was built of cut stone, with a ground floor used as a storage place topped by living quarters with an external staircase. And in Sologne was the gamekeeper's two-roomed brick house, built by a castle owner.

Deserving special mention are the cave dwellings (*caves demeurantes*) excavated in the *tuffeau* hill cliffs along the Loire river and its tributaries in the Vendôme area and Touraine. While these dwellings were inhabited by all levels of society prior to the 17th century, they were later to be gradually abandoned to the poorer sector of the population or used as agricultural dependencies.

Lastly, mention must be made of a temporary habitat linked to vine-growing and lumbering activities, namely: the dry stone huts of the Châteauneuf-du-Cher vineyard; the small vineyard houses (*loubites*) of Touraine; the half-sunken woodcutters' huts (*culs-de-loups*) of Sologne; and the wood-and-thatch cartsheds (*loges*) of Touraine and Berry.

The rural habitat of the Centre region underwent, in the 19th century, a drastic rebuilding, making use of quarried stone materials or factory-produced materials.

Half-timber, infilled with daub, resting on a low foundation walls of flints or bricks, had been the prevailing construction material in Sologne, Puisaye, the Gâtinais and the Pays Fort until about 1840, with timber patterns of railing-like small posts or of piled-up small frames. From this date onwards, brick walling became widespread, notably in Sologne and the Perche, first as a substitute for daub infill (brickwork of headers laid flatwise or in chevron patterns), then, on reaching neighbouring areas, as the privileged material of the entire wall (lozenge patterns of brown bricks).

In Berry, Touraine and a large part of the Orléanais, quarried limestone became prevalent, for example as roughly coursed blocks (with or without rendering) in Beauce, Berry and the northern Gâtinais, but above all as finely cut and coursed *tuffeau* blocks from the Vendôme area to Touraine.

On roofs, thatch and wood shingles were replaced by flat clay tiles and slates which allow the same steep pitches. Roof slates imported from Anjou along rivers or by train became prevalent, especially in Touraine and the Val de Loire.

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#### 2.III.5.n Périgordian (France, c, sw)

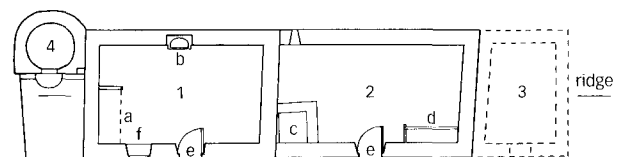
Stretching from Limousin to Aquitaine, the former province of Périgord corresponds to the present *département* of Dordogne. None of its various geographical regions boasts any single rural housetype, as the same plan-forms occur from one region to another; only building materials and external appearances differ. Walling materials are granite in the Nontron region, soft limestone in the Ribérac region and central Périgord, sandstone and schist in the northeastern part of the *département*, half-timber in the Double and the Landais regions, and so on. Roofing materials are, for example, slates in the eastern part of the *département*, stone tiles in the Sarlat region, and half-round tiles in Périgord Blanc. All the same, these are only the most commonly used materials among other existing materials: for example, the nibbed flat tile, too, is not uncommon in the latter three regions. Likewise, in the Double and the Landais regions, building stone was imported from neighbouring areas.

The majority of rural houses visible in Périgord were built or rebuilt between 1750 and 1900. Their plan-forms mirror the socioeconomic fabric of the rural population as well as its evolution over this period.

At the bottom of the scale is the landless peasant's cottage (*borderie*), a one-cell single-storey rectangular house, standing isolated on a smallholding rented from the owner of a big estate in return for a few days' work. It had no outbuilding, as the cottager (*bordier*) cultivated his patch with the landlord's implements and teams of draught animals.

The next level is occupied by the *métairie* of the sharecropper who cultivated a 5–10 ha (12–25 acre) landholding, i.e. a *longère*, (lengthwise house), consisting of a dwelling room with added byre or barn-and-byre under a single roof. All the openings are set into one and the same long wall and there is no connecting passageway. More rarely, in the southwestern part of the *département*, the *métairie* follows another plan-type, that of the house with nave and aisles, with its openings in the gable wall, under a recessed porch. The nave housed a threshing floor, a barn and a wine-cellar; the aisles provided accommodation for men and animals.

At the level immediately above is the house of the small



Ground-floor plan of a small farmer's 19th-century house in the higher Quercy region.

Interior dimensions:  
 living room: L 6.50 ×  
 W 4.00 m – sheep shelter:  
 L 7.55 × W 4.00 m

#### Ground-plan

- 1 living room  
 2 sheep shelter topped by hayloft  
 3 uncovered cistern  
 4 bread oven  
 a fireplace  
 b stone sink  
 c interior cistern  
 d feeding trough  
 e entrance  
 f window