

The Windows Mystery

A somewhat arcane subject! Why are there so many 17th-century, yeoman style houses in North Craven with one small arch-topped window, where all the other windows on the building are rectilinear? If near the fireplace they are sometimes called fire-windows but why go to the trouble of making one curved lintel for such a modest window? Does the design have any special significance? Are they functional or just decorative and status symbols? None of the recognized authorities on vernacular architecture venture to discuss the topic.

A collection of 70 photographs (in four sets) of local arch-topped windows in about 40 places can be seen on this NCHT website, www.NorthCravenHeritage.org.uk. They are just a selection, not identified by age, and by no means comprehensive in scope. There are just a few in each village or township and several on isolated farmsteads. There are many more to be found! There are variations on the idea, with instances of multiple light windows with arch-tops.



Airton



Appletreewick



Appletreewick



Appletreewick



Bank Newton



Bank Newton



Brackenbury, Ingleton



Conistone



Downham



Downham



East Marton



Far Rome



Far Rome



Far Rome



Feizor



Field Gate



Grassington



Settle



Settle



Stainforth

