APPENDIX 16

Characteristics of Vernacular Buildings

	Vernacular Architecture	Formal Architecture
Builder	From immediate locality Name rarely known	Usually from some distance away Name often known
Original Owner	Farmer, labourer, fisherman Often the builder	Includes wealthy & professional people Rarely the builder
Scale	Relatively small buildings	Often much larger buildings
Costs	Relatively low	Usually considerably higher
Design	Drawn from tradition Simple shapes, roofs Thick walls Little ornamentation	Often designed professionally Often complex shapes, roofs Usually much thinner walls Often ornamented, e.g. with carved bargeboards to gables
Inspiration	Tradition Strong regional character	Mainly influenced by architectural styles Designs can usually be found anywhere
Climate & Siting	Very carefully considered	Much less considered
Layout	One of two traditional plans No formal hall One room deep Kitchen is the hub of the house Small number of rooms	Can be of greatly differing type Usually a formal hall Frequently two rooms deep Kitchen is an ancillary room More rooms and more variety
Materials	From immediate locality Include mud, straw, wattle Rarely include fired brick, cement and metals Often un-sawn roof timbers Rarely produced industrially Majority originally thatched	Often transported some distance Rarely Include mud, straw, wattle Frequently include fired brick, cement, metals Usually sawn or squared timbers Often produced industrially Thatch used rarely, as ornament
Survival	Heavily rural	Greater proportion is urban
Dating	Rarely datable No longer built since c. 1900	Usually a precise date known Continues to be built today
Protection	Few protected by law	Proportionately more protected