

DUDLEY ROAD SCHOOLS

Dudley Road, Blakenhall, Wolverhampton, West Midlands

[WWHER ref. 13675]

Historic Building Record and Assessment, 2016



FINAL REPORT

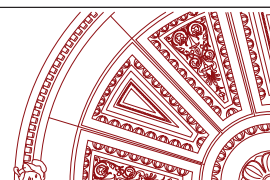
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FORMER DUDLEY ROAD SCHOOLS

Dudley Road, Blakenhall, Wolverhampton, West Midlands

Historic Building Record and Assessment, 2016

Summary

The current report summarises the results of a programme of archival research and historic building recording/assessment undertaken in September/October 2016 in respect of the buildings of the former Dudley Road Schools, Dudley Road, Blakenhall, Wolverhampton, West Midlands (NGR SO 9158 9759). The project was commissioned by the Blakenhall Action Community Forum, further to the receipt of Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant funding. The intention of the BACF is to develop a community focussed, enterprise-led, mixed development proposal for the Dudley Road Schools site, with the current study forming part of a suite of initial works to be completed in advance of submitting a range of further funding applications, including a stage one Heritage Grant, to restore and refurbish the school buildings. The proposals will include a significant element of heritage-based restoration.

The Dudley Road Schools represent the earliest surviving school buildings built by the Wolverhampton School Board under the terms of the Forster 'Elementary Education Act' of 1870; they were completed in 1873 to the designs of Board architect George Bidlake, with Philip Horsman as principal contractor, and opened on 9th June of that year. The buildings originally occupied a site of ½ acre and comprised elementary girls' and boys' schools within the main school range, with a discrete infants' department for mixed pupils aged 5-7 years within a smaller, single-storey range to the north. The original school buildings, solidly built in red-brick, survive essentially intact and are fairly characteristic examples of early School Board architecture, both in their plan form and their detailing, predating the characteristic 'Queen Anne' style and 'central hall' plan which were to evolve as standard elements of school buildings in the later years of the 19th century. An unusual feature of note is that virtually all internal partitions, which survive to a significant degree, appear to have been of ½-glazed timber construction and some of which were movable such that rooms could be combined and/or separated as required.

Documentary sources have identified several early phases of expansion during the 'school board' era (viz. 1870-1902). Firstly, in 1896, the school site was extended, girls' and boys' playsheds built and latrine blocks replaced, the north wing of main school range was enlarged and remodelled, and the infants' department enlarged significantly. In 1898, a 'cookery centre' was appended to the rear side of the main school, with a boys 'manual training centre' being built within the extended playground to the east. In 1901 a new 'mixed-school' classroom was added to the east of manual training centre, providing an additional four classrooms to serve a growing school population. Modifications of the early-mid 20th century were limited in nature and the original buildings survived largely intact. Following the closure of the school in 1986, the school has functioned as a community centre and social services offices. Associated modifications to the ground floor of the main school range were significant, with original partitions being largely removed and new walls introduced to accommodate new patterns of use. The first floor of the main block, however, remained largely untouched. The manual training centre and mixed classroom block were demolished in the late 1990s for the development of the adjacent 'Sycamores' nursing home.

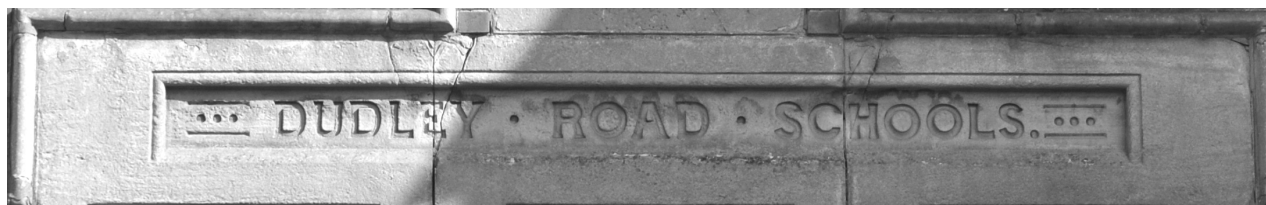
In broad terms, although the buildings of the Dudley Road Schools have been removed comprehensively from their historical context by late-20th-century redevelopment of the surrounding area, they remain a tangible link to the development of the area in the late-19th century. This significance is, if anything, amplified by the instance of their isolated survival, while the removal of adjacent buildings has served to accentuate their status as a landmark building on one of the main, arterial routes into the city centre. As the earliest surviving Board School in Wolverhampton, they represent an important monument, illustrative of a decisive phase in the history of educational provision, both in the Victorian town and within the nation as a whole.

With respect to the buildings themselves, the historic integrity and thus the illustrative historical and aesthetic (design) value of the several ranges can be seen to survive essentially intact with interventions within the primary fabric having been strictly limited, both in nature and extent. Internally, the good survival of original detailing (early windows and doors, original/early ½-glazed partitions, roof trusses, axial brick stacks, glazed-brick dados, ceiling vents and wall-mounted ventilators etc.), in particular at first floor level of the main block where post-school interventions have been minimal, mean the school buildings retain a considerable level of evidential, and illustrative historical value.

The current report represents a 'desk-based assessment and field evaluation' of the site, proportionate to the building's status as a non-designated heritage asset, as required under the terms of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It presents a detailed record and assessment of the school buildings, set within an established historical context, in accordance with government guidelines as set out at paras. 128-9 of NPPF and in line with the agreed 'statement of approach'. An assessment of relative significance values establishes a heritage framework within which detailed design proposals can be developed.

The proposed refurbishment presents a valuable opportunity to bring the constituent buildings of the school complex into viable, long-term use and thereby to ensure the ongoing maintenance and conservation of the heritage assets. In developing detailed proposals and designs for the future refurbishment and remodelling of the school and the wider site, the relative significances, heritage values and sensitivities outlined within this document, along with national and local planning guidelines, should be taken into consideration. Heritage value will represent but one driver in the development of detailed proposals and it is clear that certain parts of the site, relatively unchanged since the closure of the school, display an enhanced level of heritage significance when compared to areas that have undergone more recent phases of, at times unsympathetic, modification. The retention of original / early features such as windows, roof trusses, ½-glazed timber partitions, panelled doors, dado treatments, wall-mounted ventilators etc. can be seen to have the potential to preserve the historical integrity of the school complex and should thus be considered and favoured wherever possible. Subsidiary buildings, such as the covered playshed, while of reduced aesthetic value and intrinsic historic significance when compared to the more dominant school ranges, are not without inherent interest, not least in the contribution they make to the 'group value' of the wider site as a whole, and their retention and adaptive re-use, where possible, should be encouraged.

Final decisions on the suitability of any final design proposals, together with the need for, and the nature and extent of, any supplementary programme of archaeological work required as the project progresses, lie with the Historic Environment department of City of Wolverhampton Council.



FORMER DUDLEY ROAD SCHOOLS

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Historic Building Record and Assessment, 2016

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Project

- 1.1.1 The current report summarises the results of a programme of archival research and historic building recording/assessment undertaken in September/October 2016 in respect of the buildings of the former Dudley Road Schools, Dudley Road, Blakenhall, Wolverhampton, West Midlands.
- 1.1.2 The project was commissioned by the Blakenhall Action Community Forum (BACF),¹ further to the receipt of Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant funding. The BACF intend to develop a community focussed, enterprise-led, mixed development proposal for the Dudley Road Schools site, with the current study forming part of a suite of initial works to be completed in advance of submitting a range of further funding applications, including a stage one Heritage Grant, to restore and refurbish the school buildings. The proposals will include a significant element of heritage-based restoration.

1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 The former Dudley Road Schools are located on the east side of the A459 Dudley Road, a main arterial route leading southwards out of Wolverhampton City centre towards Dudley via Sedgley; it is sited 1.25k south of the historic city centre as represented by St Peter's Collegiate Church, and 0.5km south of the southern, St John's section of the city ring road. The school occupies the south-western quarter of a street block formed by the Dudley Road to the west, the A4123 Birmingham Road (formerly Green Lane) to the east, Cartwright Street to the north and Johnson Street (formerly Derry Street)² to the south; the complex is centred on NGR SO 9158 9759 (Figure 1) and lies at an elevation of c.158m AOD. The buildings occupy a composite plan with their principal elevations facing westwards onto Dudley Road (Plate 1).

1.3 Designations

- 1.3.1 The Dudley Road Schools are not Statutory listed, nor do they lie within a designated Conservation Area. The buildings are, however, included upon the City of Wolverhampton Council (CWC) register of 'locally listed buildings' (added in 2001) and on the Wolverhampton and Walsall Historic Environment Record (WWHER), ref. 13218 / 13675.³ As such, they clearly represent a 'non-designated heritage asset'⁴ under the terms of government guidance as outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF; DCLG, 2012).⁵ The WWHER entry (13218)⁶ describes the school buildings as follows:

¹ <http://www.bacf.org.uk/>

² Derry Street formerly extended between Dudley Road to the west and Birmingham Road to the east; with the closing off of the street to both east and west in the latter years of the 20th century, the street became accessible by motor vehicle from Johnson Street to the south only, and eventually changed its name to reflect this arrangement.

³ http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=MBL5577&resourceID=1025

⁴ 'A building, monument, site, place, area or landscape identified as having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest. Heritage asset includes designated heritage assets and assets identified by the local planning authority, including local listing.' (NPPF 2012, 52).

⁵ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf

⁶ NB. Entry 13675 is a duplicate record.

'Opened 1875 [sic.]. One of the first two Board Schools in Wolverhampton, the other has been demolished. Now in use as a Community Centre. Significant landmark building on a major route into the City Centre. Historically important, having played a formative part in the history of Education Provision in Wolverhampton. The exteriors of the buildings generally survive well, being brick with buff sandstone dressings. These early Board Schools are considered to be historically important due to the part they played in the history of education provision in Wolverhampton.'

1.4 Reasons for Work and Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 The project was undertaken in accordance with NPPF, para. 128 which states that:

'In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation'.
(NPPF; DCLG, 2012, 30).

- 1.4.2 No official brief was issued in respect of the current project, which has thus been prepared in accordance with a 'statement of approach' prepared by the current author and approved in advance of works (See **Appendix A**).
- 1.4.3 The current report has been prepared in accordance with Historic England guidelines as published in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (HE, 2016), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures* (CIfA, 2014) and the Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers' *Analysis and Recording for the Conservation of Works to Historic Buildings* (ALGAO, 1997).
- 1.4.4 Documentary research at Wolverhampton City Archives was undertaken on 21st September 2016 in advance of fieldwork, the latter completed over a period of two days, 5th-6th October 2016; this report has thus been prepared based upon information current and available as of October 2016.

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The objective of the historic building record, as outlined in the 'statement of approach' (**Appendix A**), was to undertake a non-intrusive, physical inspection of all former school buildings on the site and to generate a drawn, photographic and written record of the same, to a level commensurate with a hybrid 'Level 2/3' record as defined by Historic England.⁷
- 2.2 Further to the generation of a physical record, an assessment of the buildings was to be made, with reference to guidelines set out by Historic England in *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* (EH, 2008), with a view to identifying the evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal value of the building complex.

⁷ See *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (HE, 2016; 26, §.5.2-3).

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Documentary Research

- 3.1.1 As required at paragraph 128 of NPPF (see §.1.4.1), a standard search was commissioned from the Wolverhampton and Walsall Historic Environment Record (WWHER) in respect of the school buildings themselves, and extending to include a buffer zone of 200m radius, centred on SO 9158 9759 (see §.4.1).
- 3.1.2 In addition, a rapid programme of documentary research into the historical background, origins and development of the Dudley Road Schools was undertaken prior to on-site recording and assessment. A search was made of all relevant and readily available published and unpublished documentary source material, including historic maps, early photographs and drawings, written descriptions, and primary and secondary sources related to the buildings held by the Wolverhampton Archives and Local Studies (WALS) at Molyneux House, Whitmore Hill, Wolverhampton. Standard on-line catalogues including the National Archives (www.nationalarchives.gov.uk) and Heritage Gateway (www.heritagegateway.org.uk) were also consulted. A general historical background to the site is included at sections §.4.2.2-4 below, with a specific to the schools at section §.5; a full list of sources consulted and a bibliography are included at section §.9.

3.2 Historic Building Record

- 3.2.1 The building record comprised an examination of all safely accessible areas of the school buildings and the preparation of drawn, photographic and written records of the same, all carried out to a level commensurate with a 'Level 2/3' survey as defined by Historic England in '*Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*' (HE, 2016).

Drawn Record

- 3.2.3 The drawn record comprised the preparation of principal floor plans and exterior elevations, sufficient to illustrate the dimensions, features (including phase breaks, blocked features, former doorways etc.) and construction of the buildings, together with phasing and outline development so far as was practicable from a non-intrusive survey. Drawn survey was based as far as possible upon existing survey drawings prepared by City of Wolverhampton Council property services, dated July 2009 (plans)⁸ and by Hodson Architects of Cleethorpes, dated August 2010 (elevations).⁹ Drawings were checked on site with additional architectural / archaeological detail being added as necessary, measurements being obtained by a combination of taped measurement and hand-held laser. Resultant site drawings have served as the basis for the illustrations included within the current document.

Photographic Record

- 3.2.4 To complement the drawn survey, a photographic record was made comprising high resolution digital photography using a Nikon D3000 DSLR camera. The survey extended to include general and detailed shots, contextual views of the buildings and accessible external elevations, general and detail views of principal interior rooms and circulation spaces, together with visible structural and decorative details (both external and internal). Where practically feasible, photographs included graded photographic scales. Selected site record photographs are reproduced as plates within the current document.

⁸ Drawing Nos. ADO09_0744-FS-01/02, July 2009

⁹ Drawing No. 2161-006, August 2010.

Written Record

- 3.2.5 A written record was maintained in the form both of annotations to site drawings and as free text to accompany the drawn and photographic records, which together form the basis for the following building descriptions (§.6). This extended to cover a summary of the buildings' form and type, their function (both historically and at present), materials of construction, date and sequence of development so far as practicable from a non-intrusive survey.

4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Wolverhampton and Walsall Historic Environment Record

- 4.1.1 A standard search of the Wolverhampton and Walsall Historic Environment Record (WWHER) revealed that there are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs), statutory Listed Buildings (LBs) or Scheduled Parks and Gardens (SPGs) within a 200m radius of the school site. Three locally listed buildings are located within the 200m buffer zone, namely The Kings Arms PH, Dudley Road (WWHER 13689), the Nippon Works in Lower Villiers Street (WWHER 8599) and the Forseters Arms PH on Birmingham Road (WWHER 13817); none of the latter are visible from the current site and thus do not have an immediate effect upon the setting of the school buildings (or *vice-versa*).

- 4.1.2 The school site is included on the WWHER 'Historic Landscape Character' (HLC) database as unit **HBL629**, listed as 'Dudley Road and Derry Street', though the accompanying entry affords only limited information:

'Originally built as a school in the late-19th century, now used as a community centre. Terraced housing, including back-to-backs, existed in the area until the mid-20th century. The building facing onto Dudley Road appears on the first edition [Ordnance Survey map] when it was a school. The school grew in size and was a school on all four epoch maps.'

4.2 Development of Wolverhampton

It is beyond the scope of the current project to present a detailed history of the origins and development of the City of Wolverhampton and Blakenhall in particular, though a short summary is included below to set the recorded school buildings within a broad historical context.

- 4.2.1 Wolverhampton first appears in the documentary record in 985AD, when a grant of ten *cassata* of land at a place known as 'Heantun' (High Town) was made by Æthelred, King of Mercia to Lady Wulfrun (or Wulfruna) a Mercian noblewoman (Upton 1998, 1). Nine years later, in 994, Wulfrun endowed a Minster Church at Wolverhampton; this date is often taken as the foundation of the town, though the wording of the charter may suggest a pre-existing church. Indeed, a tradition exists that a church was founded by Wulfhere, King of Mercia, as early as 659AD and that the town originated as a royal estate centre with an attached Minster Church.
- 4.2.2 The town gradually grew around the hill-top church and by medieval times it was divided into two manors, one royal (Stowheath) and one ecclesiastical (Deanery). A market is recorded from around 1180AD, being originally held on a Sunday and presumably located close to St Peter's Church, moving to a Wednesday in 1204 (Upton 1998, 12). A royal Market Charter was granted by Henry III in 1258 regularising a weekly Wednesday market and an annual fair in June, at which time it is probable that the location was changed to High Green (renamed Queen's Square in 1866). In 1236, the Dean of Wolverhampton obtained a Borough Charter, recognising the town's status, a significant development in both commercial and political as well as religious terms (*ibid.*, 13). Town growth was encouraged by the settlement's role as a market centre, and also its role as an important centre for the wool trade.

- 4.2.3 The 16th century saw the discovery of coal, ironstone and fireclay in the area, a discovery that was to radically transform the trajectory of development of the town. Industrial development began fairly early, and by the mid-17th-century many of the trades that later became important features of industry in the town in the nineteenth century, such as buckle and lock manufacture, were being carried out (White and Wade 1997, 4). By the close of the 17th century, Wolverhampton was also starting to play an important role in the distribution of raw materials required by industry, such as iron (*ibid.*).
- 4.2.4 The development of the town gained momentum in the 18th century, largely due to its central location within the coal fields of south Staffordshire, and its position within the developing layout of what was to become the Birmingham Canal navigation system from the 1770s onwards (Brennan 1948, 19). Wolverhampton became increasingly industrialised from the later 18th century on, and throughout the 19th century. Heavy industries, such as iron production, became established on the outskirts of the town, with a particular concentration of sites along an 'iron belt' stretching south-east from Wolverhampton as far as Oldbury (Quigley 2010, 14, fig. 2.4), while many smaller-scale industrial processes, such as lock making and japanning, became established within the town itself. Continued industrial growth in the 19th century led to the infilling of open areas in the town with small works to accommodate these trades and with back-to-back housing to accommodate a burgeoning population fuelled by inward migration from the both the local area and from Wales and Ireland; the population rose from c.7,500 in 1750 to 12,500 by the beginning of the 19th century and to c.94,000 by 1901.

4.3 Development of Blakenhall

- 4.3.1 The modern electoral ward of Blakenhall, lying to the south of the historic core of Wolverhampton City centre, is broadly defined by the Penn Road to the west, Dudley Road / Birmingham Road to the east, the St John's section of the ring road to the north and (loosely) by Goldthorn Park to the south. Historically, the name derives from OE *'blæc'* meaning 'dark-coloured' (rather than the OE personal name 'Blaca') and *'halh'* meaning 'corner' or 'nook' (Horovitz 2005, 128). The core of Blakenhall originated, most probably in the middle ages, as a small, satellite settlement of Wolverhampton and remained, effectively, as a discrete hamlet until the middle years of the 19th century.
- 4.3.2 Beyond the core of Blakenhall, prior to the mid-19th century the land between Dudley Road and Penn Road was largely undeveloped with historic mapping showing an open landscape of enclosed fields. East of the Dudley Road / Green Lane, land was being fairly extensively exploited for extractive industries with coal mining at Cockshutt, Rough Hills and Parkfields Collieries, and with clay-digging and brick-making being particularly prominent (Figure 3). The area of the future Dudley Road Schools lying between Blakenhall centre and the town, was annotated as 'Seven Houses' on Wallis's map of 1827 (Figure 4)¹⁰ suggesting at least limited residential development of the area in the early-19th century,¹¹ though it was principally in the later-19th century that the expansion of Wolverhampton witnessed a spread of both industry and related residential development along the main arterial routes out of the town (Upson, 2005). Initial, mixed industrial development included the 'Continental Works' (iron and brass foundries) in Derry Street,¹² the 'Nippon Works' (tin-plate) in Lower Villiers Street,¹³ and the 'Phoenix Works' (japanning) at Green Lane.¹⁴ The main arterial routes, and an evolving network of related side streets,¹⁵ were gradually colonised by housing as the population of Wolverhampton expanded (§.4.2.4), developed by private individuals on a sporadic, speculative

¹⁰ WALS: MAP/554a/b.

¹¹ 'Seven Houses, Dudley Road' is included on a street index included in Parson and Bradshaw's 'Staffordshire General and Commercial Directory' of 1818 and in White's Staffordshire Directory of 1834, though it would appear to go out of use after this date, probably as the area became more intensely occupied.

¹² WWHER ref. 10666.

¹³ WWHER ref. 8599.

¹⁴ WWHER ref. 13673.

¹⁵ A series of roads extending between Dudley Road and Green Lane (Johnson Street, Elm Farm Road, Cousins Street, Curzon Street, Bryne Road, Napier Road) were laid out in the years around the turn of the 20th century.

basis, and spreading out generally from north to south,¹⁶ such that Blakenhall eventually became a conjoined suburb of the town. A number of higher-status 'villas' were erected on the Penn Road to the west,¹⁷ though much of the early residential development around Dudley Road was of lower status, arranged in terraces or, in certain cases, on insanitary 'back-to-back' plans around courts (see Figure 8).¹⁸ It is within this context of a growing urban population that the establishment of the Dudley Road Schools must be set.

- 4.3.3 In the early years of the 20th century, the automotive industries became dominant in the area, characterised by larger-scale concerns, for example the Sunbeam Works at Upper Villiers Street. Industrial expansion required additional and renewed housing and Blakenhall witnessed some of Wolverhampton's first social housing programmes in the years immediately following the First World War, with council houses on Green Lane being erected and occupied in 1919.¹⁹ Much of the poorer quality 19th-century housing around the Dudley Road area was demolished during post-WWII clearance programmes,²⁰ such that the present townscape character is dominated by industrial and larger-scale retail developments, particularly along the major arterial routes, with little remaining to reflect the former residential mix (Upson, 2005).²¹

4.4 Map Regression

- 4.4.1 Taylor's town plan of 1750 (not illustrated)²² does not extend as far south as Dudley Road and thus the first cartographic source to cover the future school site is Godson's map of 1788 (Figure 4);²³ the accompanying schedule²⁴ records plot numbers 513-515, upon which (in part) the schools were later to be constructed, as follows:

Plot No.	Owner	Occupier	A	R	P
513	William Forester	John Pearson	0	3	16
514	William Forester	John Pearson	0	2	18
515	Timothy Harthill	Himself	0	0	13
TOTAL			1	2	7

Table 1:
Recorded ownership of land in schedule accompanying Godson's map of 1788

- 4.4.2 Wallis's survey of 1827 (Figure 5) illustrates the Dudley Road area, at the southern limit of the map, in outline only though, as noted above (§.4.3.2, fn.11), the annotation 'Seven Houses' to the eastern side of Dudley Road clearly indicates some level of residential development in the area of the future school site in the early years of the 19th century. The first plan to show the area in detail is the Wolverhampton tithe map of 1842 (Figure 6).²⁵ This clearly delineates the land upon which the Dudley Road Schools were later to be erected (plot 1027 and the western part of plot 1026) while the associated schedule records both, by this date, as being in the ownership and occupation of one Edward Cooke (see fn. 48 below). Plot 1026 is described as 'Brick Yard' (though with no evidence it was being used as such at the time),²⁶ extending to 1a 1r 3½p (c.5,145m²) with

¹⁶ See Sharman F; <http://www.historywebsite.co.uk/articles/blakenhall/history/history02.htm>

¹⁷ Viz. Graiseley House, Claremont, The Hollies, The Lindens, The Mount, Graiseley Villa.

¹⁸ See also WALS: P/4686 & 4687.

¹⁹ The first Council contracts for houses went to Parkinson & Son (Blackpool) Ltd., in respect of 48 houses at Green Lane for the sum of £33,848. (WALS: WP/6800).

²⁰ Barnsby, G: 'A History of Housing in Wolverhampton 1750-1975'. (http://www.gbpeopleslibrary.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9&Itemid=10&showall=10). Indeed, the HM Inspectors' report on Dudley Road Schools of October 1950 (WALS: D-EDS-36/5/1) noted that the establishment was located in 'an area that is gradually being re-housed'.

²¹ Much of the historical street pattern of the northern part of the area was lost to the early stages of the ring road development in the 1960s, which effectively cut Blakenhall off from the City centre.

²² WALS: MAP/1.

²³ WALS: D/JSR/44/46 (copy).

²⁴ WALS: DX-349/3.

²⁵ WALS: MAP/702a.

²⁶ As noted above, reference to historical Ordnance Survey mapping (Figure 3) indicates fairly extensive clay digging and brick works at Elm Farm to the south and to the east of Dudley Road / Green Lane towards Monmore Green. The latter area lay to the east of the fault which defined the land which contained coal, ironstone, limestone and brick clay.

(Sharman F., <http://www.historywebsite.co.uk/articles/blakenhall/history/history01.htm>).

plot 1027 recorded as a 'garden' extending to 11p (278m²). Courts of housing are evident to the south of the future school site (to the north side of the western part of Derry Street, here unlabelled) and to the north-east, aligned perpendicularly to and accessed from Green Lane, while a long terrace of housing (with limited back-buildings) occupied the Green Lane street frontage to the east of plot 1026 (see Figure 16b). Development along Dudley Road was intermittent at this date, more predominant to the western side of the road and generally petering out to the south of the future school site.

- 4.4.3 Robert Syer Haggard's 'Health of Towns' plan (Figure 7)²⁷ indicates limited development by 1852. The line of Derry Street had been carried through to Green Lane to the east, with additional 'court' housing along the northern side, though the southern side of the road remained undeveloped. To the north of the future school site, Cartwright Street had been laid out extending between Dudley Road and Green Lane, with the beginnings of residential development evident. The future school site itself remained undeveloped and would appear to have been laid out as gardens. A more detailed picture is afforded by Steen and Blackett's 1:528 town plan of 1871 (Figure 8).²⁸ The north side of Derry Street was effectively fully developed by this date, with houses arranged around seven courts and including a Primitive Methodist Chapel occupying the corner with Green Lane to the east. The gardens to the rear of the Green Lane terrace, evident on the 1852 map, are depicted as comprising seven east-west aligned 'strips' extending almost as far as Dudley Road, though with a vacant, 50ft-wide plot flanking the street frontage. To the southern angle of Derry Street and Dudley Road, the Bethel Chapel of 1865 is shown for the first time (see Figure 16a).
- 4.4.4 The first cartographic source to show the school buildings, as-built, in detail is the Ordnance Survey 1:500 town plan of 1886 (Figure 9);²⁹ this and later Ordnance Survey editions will be discussed with specific reference to the development of the school buildings at section §.5.2 below.

5 THE DUDLEY ROAD SCHOOLS

5.1 The National and Local Context of Educational Provision

- 5.1.1 Prior to 1870, elementary educational opportunities for the working classes in the towns of England and Wales varied enormously, both in terms of availability and quality, with no state provision. Historically, education was based predominantly upon the charity sector (eg. the 'Bluecoat Schools' and 'Ragged Schools'), and upon church-based institutions.³⁰ In respect of the latter, the two principal (often conflicting) bodies were the Anglican 'National Society' (est. 1811),³¹ and the non-sectarian 'British Society' (est. 1808),³² whose establishments were accordingly known as 'National Schools' and 'British Schools' respectively. This piecemeal nature of educational provision is reflected in Wolverhampton's school attendance level in 1870, when only c.45% of children were receiving any form of regular tuition (Upton 1998, 142).³³
- 5.1.2 In 1870, the Gladstone government passed the 'Elementary Education Act' (33 & 34 Vict. c.75),³⁴ drafted by the liberal MP William Edward Forster (see inset below) and thus commonly known as the 'Forster Education Act', which set out a framework for elementary education in England and Wales.³⁵ The act allowed for the

²⁷ WALS: MAP/388a.

²⁸ WALS: MAP/560 (DX-673).

²⁹ An identical layout is illustrated, in less detail, by the Ordnance Survey 1st edition 2½in. map of 1888-9 (Figure 9a).

³⁰ Supplemented variously by so-called 'Dame Schools', generally small institutions run by private individuals with no qualifications, offering a very basic level of education (www.heritage-explorer.co.uk/file/he/content/upload/7984.doc).

³¹ 'National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church in England and Wales'.

³² 'Society for Promoting the Lancasterian System for the Education of the Poor', later (1814) renamed as the 'British and Foreign School Society for the Education of the Labouring and Manufacturing Classes of Society of Every Religious Persuasion'.

³³ John Williams, certified teacher at Dudley Road Schools, remarked in the first week of the school's existence, on the poor state of education of many of his students, describing the first boys intake as being 'very backward', with ten not able to 'say their letters' (School Log Book 1873-1889; WALS: D-EDS-36/2/1).

³⁴ <http://www.educationengland.org.uk/documents/acts/1870-elementary-education-act.html>

³⁵ A separate Act extended similar provisions to Scotland in 1872 (www.parliament.uk/about/living-heritage/transformingsociety/livinglearning/school/overview/1870educationact).

continuation of existing denominational schools as 'voluntary' schools, but where provision was shown to be inadequate, locally elected 'School Boards' were to be established with a view to overseeing local schools, to build and run new schools, and to pay the school fees for poorer children, supported by rates revenue.

'There shall be provided for every school district a sufficient amount of accommodation in public elementary schools (as herein-after defined) available for all the children resident in such district for whose elementary education efficient and suitable provision is not otherwise made...'

(Elementary Education Act, 1870; para. 5.)



Mr William Edward Forster MP

- 5.1.3 The issue of making elementary education compulsory was not settled by the 1870 Act, but was addressed by a further Act of 1880 (43 & 44 Vict. c.23),³⁶ known as the 'Mundella Act',³⁷ for children between the ages of five and ten (Clay 1902, 297), extended to eleven in 1893 and to twelve in 1899 (Harwood 2010, 33). Fees were applicable until 1891, when a further Elementary Education Act (54 & 55 Vict. c.56)³⁸ dispensed with direct fees in favour of a 50 pence per year 'fee grant' paid by the government for each attending child, with additional charges forbidden.
- 5.1.4 In line with national policy, the Wolverhampton School Board (WSB) was established on November 28th 1870, comprising 11 elected members,³⁹ with Mr. Henry Hartley Fowler (one-time Mayor of Wolverhampton and, from 1908, 1st Viscount Wolverhampton) as its first chairman; its first official meeting was held on 15th December of that year at rooms in Stafford Street.⁴⁰ By 1892, the WSB controlled seven schools in the town, details as follows:

³⁶ <http://www.educationengland.org.uk/documents/acts/1880-elementary-education-act.html>.

³⁷ Named after Anthony Mundella, liberal MP and Vice-President of the Board of Education from 1880-1885.

³⁸ <http://www.educationengland.org.uk/documents/acts/1891-elementary-education-act.pdf>

³⁹ Thomas Bantock, William Augustus Cornwall, William Edwards, Henry Hartley Fowler, John Hartley, Henry Hampton, John Hawksford, Harry Jones, Rupert Alfred Kettle, Henry Loveridge and Sir John Morris.

⁴⁰ WSB Minutes Dec. 1870- Oct. 1874 (WALS: D-WSB/1). The Board moved to purpose-built premises in 1885 in Stafford Street, on the corner with Whitmore Street (Kelly's Directory 1896, 448-9; see WALS: P/3964).

School Name	Date	Capacity		
		Boys	Girls	Infants
Dudley Road School	1873	317	318	270
Redcross Street School	1873	425	350	310
Brickkiln Street School	1874	321	260	216
Monmore Green School (former Chillington School)	1874	270	224	230
Willenhall Road School	1875	260	230	240
Walsall Street School (former British School)	(adapted)	207	170	221
Industrial School (formerly Ragged School, Salop St.)	Est. 1852	140 children		

Table 2:

Schools under control of WSB in 1892 (Kelly's Directory 1892, 448-9).

- 5.1.5 Although the provision of secondary schools was not included in the 1870 Act, Wolverhampton set up its first secondary school, the 'Higher Grade School' in Newhampton Road, in 1894.⁴¹
- 5.1.6 The Education Act of 1902 (2 Edw. 7 c.42),⁴² also known as the 'Balfour Act', saw the abolition of the former School Boards, and the passing of responsibility for all education to Local Education Authorities (LEAs), at Borough level for elementary education and County level for secondary education. The new LEAs were given powers to establish new secondary schools and technical colleges, as well as developing existing networks of elementary provision. Wolverhampton set up an Education Committee in 1903.
- 5.1.7 The implementation of the Hadow Reports of 1926⁴³ and 1931⁴⁴ saw the division of elementary education at the age of 11, with primary schools catering for the under 11s, and senior schools for older. The Hadow reports prompted a major reorganisation of schools in Wolverhampton in 1931, resulting in the creation of senior departments in elementary schools and a large-scale transfer of pupils and teachers. The Dudley Road Boys' School was thus repurposed as the 'Dudley Road Senior Mixed School' and the Girls' School became the 'Dudley Road Junior Mixed School', both opening in 1931.
- 5.1.8 The 1944 Education Act (7 & 8 Geo. 6 c.9),⁴⁵ also known as the 'Butler Act', raised the school leaving age to 15 and introduced secondary education for all pupils in three types of secondary school. In Wolverhampton, the schools were reorganised in 1946. The three Grammar Schools remained the same; Wolverhampton Grammar School (boys), the Girls High School and the Municipal Grammar School (mixed) plus two Roman Catholic Grammar Schools. The Intermediate School became the Technical High School and the old senior departments of the elementary schools became sixteen Secondary Modern Schools.
- 5.1.9 In 1966 local government re-organisation brought Bilston, Wednesfield and Tettenhall into Wolverhampton Borough. Schools in these areas, which had formerly been run by Staffordshire, now came under Wolverhampton's control, along with other schools that had been just outside the boundary in places such as Bushbury, Castlecroft and Lanesfield. Wolverhampton schools were reorganised along comprehensive lines in the early 1970s. This led to a number of mergers between secondary schools that had formerly been Grammar, Technical, Bilateral or Secondary Modern Schools while the remaining separate boys' and girls' schools became mixed and some were closed completely.

5.2 The Dudley Road Schools

- 5.2.1 As noted above (§.5.1.4), the Wolverhampton School Board (WSB) was established on November 28th 1870. One of its first tasks was to make an assessment of the extant provision and the requirements for additional

⁴¹ WWHER ref. 13195. Now the Newhampton Arts Centre.

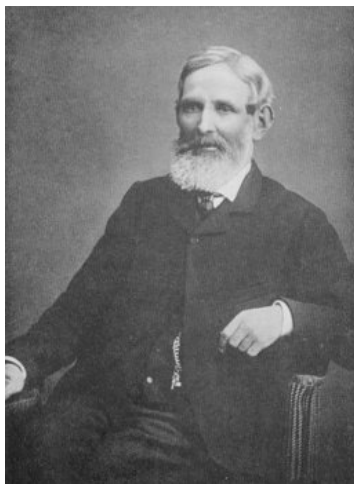
⁴² <http://www.educationengland.org.uk/documents/acts/1902-education-act.html>

⁴³ <http://www.educationengland.org.uk/documents/hadow1926/hadow1926.html>

⁴⁴ <http://www.educationengland.org.uk/documents/hadow1931/hadow1931.html>

⁴⁵ <http://www.educationengland.org.uk/documents/acts/1944-education-act.pdf>

elementary education within the borough, and to investigate possible sites for new schools. Four sites were identified; at Dudley Road/Green Lane (the site currently under consideration), between North Road and Stratford Street (Redcross St.), between Monmore Green and Horsley Fields (Bilston Road), and at Springfields (Willenhall Road).



Mr Philip Horsman J.P.



Wolverhampton Municipal Art Gallery (left) with Horsman Fountain (right).

(both images: www.historywebsite.co.uk)

5.2.2 Following a review of possible sites, the purchase of the $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of land on which the Dudley Road Schools stand was first proposed in March 1872,⁴⁶ and finalised in April of the same year;⁴⁷ it was acquired by the WSB for the sum of £726 from Mr (later Sir) Rupert Alfred Kettle (a Judge of the Worcestershire County Courts),⁴⁸ who was coincidentally, an elected member of the School Board (see §.5.1.4, fn.39). In the interim, plans, specifications and estimates were drawn up by Mr George Bidlake of Waterloo Road,⁴⁹ who had been appointed as architect to the Board in December 1871.⁵⁰ The brief was for a school *'to be erected on the site recommended in the report of the sites committee for the southern district – such school to afford accommodation for 500 children and as nearly as might be in the following proportions viz. 150 each boys and girls and 200 infants'*.⁵¹ Following review by the Board, plans were approved and adopted in May 1872,⁵² and a principal contractor, Mr Philip Horsman (see inset above), appointed in July;⁵³ work was reported as being 'progressing satisfactorily' by October and the buildings were completed by the middle of the following year (see below). The total cost of the school, inclusive of the purchase of land, the erection of buildings, the architect's commission and the supply of fittings, was £3,844 9s 11d.⁵⁴

⁴⁶ WSB Minute 160, 22nd March 1872; WALS: D-WSB/1.

⁴⁷ WSB Minute 179, 19th April 1872; WALS: D-WSB/1.

⁴⁸ For biographical notes on Kettle, see <http://www.historywebsite.co.uk/genealogy/kettle/SirRupert.htm>. In 1851, Kettle had married Mary Cooke, daughter of William Cooke of Merridale; it has not been possible within the timeframe of the current project to trace a familial link between Mary/William Cooke and the Edward Cooke recorded in the Wolverhampton tithe schedule of 1842 (see §.4.4.2), though a connection is clearly possible (Mary's great-uncle was named Edward; see WALS L92.K43) and would account for Kettle's ownership of the Dudley Street /Green Lane land in 1870.

⁴⁹ For brief biographical notes on Bidlake, see <http://www.historywebsite.co.uk/articles/VictorianBuildings/Architects.htm>

⁵⁰ WSB Minute 112, 15th December 1871; WALS: D-WSB/1.

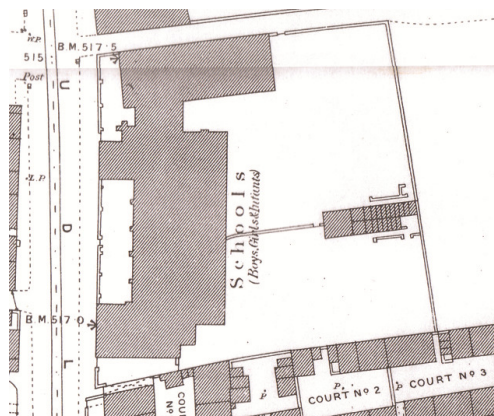
⁵¹ WSB Minute 161, 22nd March 1872; WALS D-WSB/1.

⁵² WSB Minute 190, 3rd May 1872; WALS D-WSB/1.

⁵³ WSB Minute 232, 19th July 1872; WALS D-WSB/1. Horsman was a successful local building contractor and civic benefactor, responsible for, *inter alia*, the Wolverhampton Town Hall of 1871 and Municipal Art Gallery of 1884; he is commemorated by the 'Horsman Fountain' in St. Peter's Gardens (WWHER ref. 6577).

⁵⁴ WSB Minute 436, 3rd October 1873; WSB D-WSB/1.

- 5.2.3 The Dudley Road Schools were officially opened on Monday 9th June 1873,⁵⁵ one of the first two purpose-built Board Schools to be erected in Wolverhampton under the auspices of the 1870 Forster Act (together with the Redcross Street School). They provided segregated elementary educational facilities for boys and girls (the 'Dudley Road Boys School' and the 'Dudley Road Girls School'), together with a separate (though physically connected) 'infants' department for pupils aged between 5 and 7 years, hence the plural form of the official name. Although no original drawings for the school survive, a good overall appreciation of the extent of the buildings is afforded by the Ordnance Survey 1:500 town survey of 1886 (Figure 9; inset below left), which can usefully be read in conjunction with an early photograph of the Dudley Road frontage (Figure 16a; inset below right).⁵⁶



Extract of OS 1:500 town plan (see Figure 9)



Detail of late 19th century photograph (see Figure 16a)

- 5.2.4 Annotated as 'Schools; Boys, Girls & Infants', the complex occupied a reduced site of c.150ft. x 150ft., corresponding to the ½ acre of land purchased by the WSB in 1872. The buildings illustrated on the OS plan comprise a main block, of two full storeys, aligned parallel to, and set back slightly from, the Dudley Road with projecting wings to north and south. The northern wing was of a smaller, narrower plan than that to the south and reference to the late 19th-century photograph (inset above right) indicates that it was originally of a single-storey only.⁵⁷ To the north side of the site, a separate, linked range, also of a single storey, was aligned slightly off east-west, with an access path flanking its northern side. The original playground to the rear of school measured c.100ft. x 150ft.,⁵⁸ and was divided by an east-west aligned wall, segregating boys' from infants'/girls' playgrounds, with associated latrines. Although not indicated on the plan, convention and other archival sources indicate that the main block originally housed the elementary schools, with girls' accommodation to ground floor and boys' to first floor (see Figure 14), the latter accessed via a stair at the south-east corner of the range; the detached, single-storey block to the north accommodated the infants department. The separate departments were furnished with discrete entrances.

- 5.2.5 Archival sources indicate that, in addition to the minor pre-1886 alterations noted above, the schools underwent several further phases of alteration and extension during the Board School era (*viz.* 1870-1902), specifically in 1896, 1898, 1899 and 1901/2. Firstly, School Board minutes of 1895⁵⁹ record a programme of 'additions and alterations' to the school in 1896, and though the accompanying plans do not survive, the price of £2,796 tendered by the chosen contractor (Mr H Cave), representing approximately two-thirds of the cost

⁵⁵ School log book, June 1873-June 1889 (WALS D-EDS-36/2/1). Opening reported in *Wolverhampton Chronicle* of Wednesday June 11th, 1873, p.6.

⁵⁶ WALS: P/9182. The image is undated though it must pre-date 1886 (the year of publication of the Ordnance Survey 1:500 town plan) as the (extant) two-storey north 'wing' of the main block is absent. It is also of note that the earlier, single-storey range is shown on a different plan to that illustrated on the OS plan (Figure 9) indicating a two-phase modification prior to 1886.

⁵⁷ The discrepancy between the form of this block shown in the early photograph and the OS town plan indicate that a phase of modification, if limited in extent, occurred between 1873 and 1886.

⁵⁸ Equating to 15,000 sq. ft., following Board of Education requirements for 30 sq. ft. per head (Clay 1902, 312) for an envisaged capacity of 500 pupils (see §.5.2.2).

⁵⁹ WSB Minutes, 6th December 1895. WALS: D-WSB/10, p.97.

of the original school buildings, clearly implies a significant phase of expansion.⁶⁰ Given the known extent of later works (see below), it seems reasonable to infer that 1896 works (PHASE II) comprised the following:

- The purchase of land and extension of the school site eastwards by c.100ft. affording additional playground space (and possibly also including the introduction of two new covered playsheds and latrines).
- The extension/remodelling of the north 'wing' of the main block, reconstructed on an enlarged plan and raised to two full storeys to match that to the south (as survives).
- The enlargement of the single-storey 'Infants Department', more than doubling its footprint from c.1,900 sq. ft. to 4,300 sq. ft.

5.2.6 Secondly, a programme of work was effected in 1898 (PHASE III), recorded in the School Board minutes as follows:

*'subject to the consent of the Education Department, the plans prepared by the architect Mr TH Fleeming for the following additions to the Dudley Road Schools be adopted and tenders obtained by public advertisement for the consideration of the Board: erection of Manual Instruction Centre for boys;⁶¹ erection of Cookery Centre for girls; structural alterations to the boys and girls departments to increase the accommodation and improve that already provided, including an additional exit from the former department.'*⁶²

5.2.7 The 1898 works were completed by Messrs. Willcock and Co. of Darlington Street,⁶³ for the sum of £1,130.⁶⁴ The Manual Instruction Centre opened on 12th June 1899, serving the Brickkiln Street, St John's, Monmore Green and Darlington Street (Wesleyan) Schools in addition to Dudley Road Schools.⁶⁵

5.2.8 Thirdly, Board minutes of 1899 record correspondence related to the formation of an additional entranceway and approach to the school from Green Lane (Birmingham Road) to the east,⁶⁶ the gateway of which (see Figure 17b; Plate 112) survives on the Birmingham Road.

5.2.9 Finally, a deposited plan of 1901,⁶⁷ by architect TH Fleeming,⁶⁸ illustrates the a new, single-storey 'mixed-school' classroom block to the east side of the school site, backing onto the 1898 manual instruction centre (Figure 13). The block comprised four additional classrooms which would have significantly increased the school capacity, allowing for an additional c.240 pupils. The deposited plan is also useful in identifying the new elements introduced in the 1890s; viz. the enlarged infants' department, the cookery block and manual instruction workshop, along with the playsheds and latrines, and the new entrance way from Green Lane. A further feature of interest is a Boys' Entrance from Derry Street to the south, via a covered entry flanking the caretaker's house, which may possibly represent the 'additional exit' formed in 1898 (§5.2.6, fn. 62). All of these elements, save the mixed-school classroom, which was presumably introduced too late for inclusion on the updated survey, are also illustrated on the second edition 25in. OS map of 1902-3 (Figure 10b).

⁶⁰ The school was closed for a period of c.2 weeks between mid-May and the beginning of June 1896 to allow for the completion of these works (WALS: D-WSB/10, p.147; 1st May 1896).

⁶¹ The 'Manual Instruction Centre', together with an adjoining schoolroom block (see below) was demolished in 1999 to make way for the construction of the Sycamores Nursing Home.

⁶² WSB Minutes, 1st April 1898; WALS: D-WSB/11, p.72. The 'additional exit' from the boys' department presumably refers to the stair incorporated within the cookery centre range (Stair B; Figures 19/20), but may also refer to the additional entrance to the school site from Derry Street to the south, illustrated on a deposited design drawing of 1901 (Figure 12; see §5.2.8).

⁶³ Henry Willcock had previously worked in partnership with Philip Horsman, the contractor responsible for the original school buildings; becoming established as an independent concern (Henry Willcock and Co. Ltd.) in 1892, the company continued to trade until the late 1990s, though based latterly at offices in Bristol. (info: <https://takingaccountproject.wordpress.com/2012/05/30/henry-willcock-co/>).

⁶⁴ WSB Minutes, 1st July 1898. WALS: D-WSB/11, p.123.

⁶⁵ Manual Instruction Centre Log Book, 1899-1925. WALS: D-EDS-36/10/1.

⁶⁶ WSB Minutes, 7th July 1899. WALS: D-WSB/11, p.340.

⁶⁷ WALS: WP/2549.

⁶⁸ Thomas Henry Fleeming was a local architect with offices at 102 Darlington Street. Notable works include Barclays Bank in Queen Square (1876) and the Eye Infirmary (1888) in Chapel Ash. (info: <http://www.historywebsite.co.uk/articles/VictorianBuildings/Architects.htm>).

- 5.2.10 A further plan of 1905 (Figure 14),⁶⁹ again by Fleeming, outlines a proposed new 'hat and cloak room' flanking the north side of the 1898 Cookery Room. Although the cloak room itself has been subsequently superseded, the drawing is of nonetheless of interest in depicting the internal arrangements of adjacent blocks and also the form of the original 'Queen Anne' style, shaped gable of the cookery room.
- 5.2.11 The buildings of the school had essentially reached their maximum extent by the time of the 1919 map (Figure 10a), with subsequent editions showing little in the way of significant additions. Later editions (Figures 11/12) illustrate the gradual redevelopment of the surrounding street and the removal of much of the 19th-century housing, which occurred in phases principally from the later 1950s through to the 1970s (compare Figures 11b/12b). Little documentation survives (or has been traced in a search of the standard repositories) relating to the development / pattern of use of the school buildings during the course of the 20th century;⁷⁰ post-school modifications (see below) have resulted in the loss of much of the former internal arrangements at ground floor level within the main range, though survival of early features, including primary/early room partitioning, to the upper floor would appear to suggest that modifications were limited in nature and extent.
- 5.2.12 The Dudley Road Schools closed in 1986 after 113 years of use,⁷¹ when most of the pupils were transferred to the Graiseley School in Pool Street.⁷² After a short period of redundancy, a scheme was devised for the conversion of the premises to accommodate a community centre and social services offices,⁷³ though no documentation pertaining to this phase of works, beyond the approval notice,⁷⁴ would appear to survive (J Beesley WCC, *pers. comm.*).
- 5.2.13 The 1898 'manual instruction centre' and 1901 'mixed school' classroom building were demolished in the late-1990s,⁷⁵ presumably as part of the redevelopment of the eastern part of the street block for the extant 'Sycamores' nursing home.⁷⁶

6 BUILDING DESCRIPTION

6.1 Overview

- 6.1.1 The extant buildings of the Dudley Road Schools (Plate 1) occupy a composite plan and can be broken down into three main groups (**A-C**) with two subsidiary ranges (**D/E**) to the eastern, playground area; these groupings can be summarised as follows and are illustrated in the inset plan below (see also Figures 19/20):

- **Building A:** Principal, two-storey school building with projecting, gabled wings, originally housing girls' and boys' schools (GF and 1F respectively); largely of 1873 but with later modifications.
- **Building B:** Original, single-storey 'Infants' Department', separate from though linked to the main range; two principal phases of development, 1873 and 1896.

⁶⁹ WALS: WP/3482.

⁷⁰ A single deposited plan of 1971 (WALS: D-LEG/1971/8-1) details the introduction of the extant toilet facilities within the infants block together with the demolition of an early latrine block within the girls playground.

⁷¹ School Closure Ceremony programme, dated 9th July 1986. WALS: D-EDS-36/16/12.

⁷² A large complex of post-'Board School' buildings, still extant, dating to c.1910 (Oldnall, 2000). See WWHER ref. 13219.

⁷³ Planning App. **D/3382/89** (15/11/1989) for conversion of single-storey block to community centre; conversion of ground floor of two-storey block to social services offices; provision of covered link; Planning App. **C/0294/92** (19/03/1992) for internal alterations and refurbishment to GF of disused infants school.

⁷⁴ Approved 12/01/1990 (http://planningonline.wolverhampton.gov.uk:2707/online-applications/files/0FE65B835BF39D43E9E662D921A06D12/pdf/D_3382_89-89-3382-1-325239.pdf).

⁷⁵ The buildings are shown on the Ordnance Survey 1:1,250 edition of 1996 but are absent from aerial photographs dated 01/01/1999 (Google Earth, historical imagery).

⁷⁶ Planning App. **99/0609/OP** (01/07/1999). **NB.** Condition 10 of approval required the retention of 1899 brick archway to Birmingham Road (formerly Green Lane); see Figure 17b, Plate 115.

- **Building C:** 'Cookery Block' and related accommodation, largely 1898 with attached mid-20th-century block to north side.
- **Building D:** Boiler house and fuel store, late-19th century, probably 1896.
- **Building E:** Former open-fronted, covered play shed, late-19th century, probably 1896.



Dudley Road Schools
Key block-plan showing principal elements referred to in text

6.1.2 The school buildings will be described in turn below; the following section should be read in conjunction with the detailed survey drawings (Figures 19-26) and photographic plates included at the back of this report.

6.2 Building A: The Main School Block

Date:	1873/1896
Function:	Main School Block; Girls' (GF) and Boys' (1F)
Architect:	George Bidlake
Key Sources:	WSB Minutes OS 1:500 town plan Late C19 th photograph (pre-1886)



Overview

6.2.1 The principal school building comprises a double-pile, two-storey range, sub-rectangular in plan and aligned parallel to the Dudley Road (ie. north-south), flanked by transverse, two-storey gabled wings to north and south. The building dates largely to 1873, though the northern projecting wing, originally occupying a reduced plan and of a single storey (see Figures 9/16a), was enlarged (apparently over two separate phases) and rebuilt in its present form in the later years of the 19th century, most probably forming part of the 1896 works. The building originally housed the girls' and boys' schools at ground and first floor level respectively. Externally, the building retains much of its late 19th-century aspect, though modifications post-dating the closure of the school have had an impact upon the internal arrangements, in particular at ground floor level.

Exterior

- 6.2.2 The principal **west elevation** (Figure 21; Plates 2/3) faces towards the Dudley Road. It is of two storeys throughout, brick-built in mid orange/red brick laid to English bond,⁷⁷ with buff stone dressings. The elevation comprises a recessed main range of five 12ft. bays (Plate 4; bays here numbered 1 to 5 from north to south), defined at ground floor level by shallowly projecting brick buttresses (Plate 5), flanked to north and south by transverse gabled wings, the latter projecting up to the line of the pedestrian footpath (Plates 2/3) and thereby enclosing a small 'yard' area at the front of the main range. The recessed block (Plate 4) rises 28ft. above a low offset plinth (Plate 5) to a plain eaves with timber fascia beneath a pitched, clay-tile clad roof which stands 43ft. to ridge (originally enhanced by decorative ridge tiles; see Figure 15).⁷⁸ Ground floor fenestration is of regular, paired timber multi-pane casements (one pair per bay) with upper hoppers,⁷⁹ separated by narrow piers of brick and set within flat-headed openings with stone lintels and moulded cills (Plate 6). First floor fenestration comprises shorter, paired timber casements beneath timber lintels at Bays 1, 3 and 5 (Plate 7) while Bays 2 and 4 are furnished with three, grouped lights, beneath common, two-centred arches of gauged-brick with stone drip moulds, which break the eaves line in decorative, coped gables (Plate 8). Rainwater goods are in cast-iron throughout.
- 6.2.3 Transverse wings to north (Plate 9) and south, although of different phases, are identical in aspect, 25ft. wide rising 28ft. to eaves level and 44½ft. to the apex of stone-coped gables,⁸⁰ the latter furnished with raised parapets supported on stone kneelers. The gable ends of the projecting wings stand 16ft. proud of the recessed block. Ground floor fenestration is of triple, flat-headed lights separated by brick piers, while first floors are lit by triple lancet windows beneath gauged-brick arches and stone drip moulds (Plate 11); upper gables are pierced by grouped, narrow vertical vents (five in each case). A distinct change in the colouration of the brick in the lower part of the northern wing (Plate 10) may indicate the retention of fabric of the original single-storey block (see Figure 16a), incorporated into the building as enlarged in 1896 (PHASE II).⁸¹
- 6.2.4 The returns of the projecting wings are each furnished with single, triple-light windows to ground floor level, with first floor being blind in each case (Plate 12). Both ground floor windows have been disturbed by the insertion of secondary doorways, approached via sloping ramps; these secondary doors were present by 1979 (see Figure 16b) though the precise date and context of their introduction has not been established.
- 6.2.5 A ridge-stack rises to the north side of Bay 1 of the main block (the original gabled end of the primary range see Figure 16a) while further, tall stacks rise in the angles of the main range and projecting wings. Horizontal articulation is provided by continuous, moulded-stone strings at the level of ground floor window head and first floor cill, extending across both the recessed block and the flanking wings and onto the northern and southern elevations.
- 6.2.6 The rear, **east elevation** (Figure 22; Plates 13/14) is plainer in aspect, brick-built, though of softer fired orange-red brick, again laid to English bond. An irregular pattern of window openings to ground floor level are furnished with segmental brick arches and moulded stone cills, one of which to the north end of the elevation has been converted to a doorway,⁸² while upper level openings are flat-headed beneath timber lintels. Two symmetrically-opposed gablets break the eaves line to either side of the centreline of the range, accommodating taller openings beneath flat, stone lintels lighting internal classroom spaces. Windows are multi-paned timber casements throughout, with upper hoppers. The central section of the original elevation is

⁷⁷ Regular bond pattern comprising alternate courses of headers and stretchers.

⁷⁸ Decorative ridge tiles are present as late as an historical photograph of 1979 (Figure 15b), though have subsequently been replaced. WALS: D-LEG/1977/7-43 pertains to re-slating of roofs, but relates to the Manual Instruction Block only and the date of the re-slating of the main school buildings remains unknown.

⁷⁹ A number of several lower hoppers may represent secondary insertions.

⁸⁰ ie. slightly higher than the ridge of the main block.

⁸¹ See §.7.1.2 below for discussion of early north wing.

⁸² Evidenced by clear areas of secondary brickwork / repair to the lower jambs; the opening is shown as a window on a 1905 plan (Figure 14).

obscured by the abutting link range serving the 1898 (Phase III) cookery block extensions; any pattern of original openings here was modified to form internal openings between the two elements of the building when the Phase III ranges were added. To the southern end of the elevation, a recessed block housing principal stair **A** is located in the angle of the eastern pile of the main range and the southern cross-wing (Plate 15).

6.2.7 The **north elevation** (Figure 23a; Plate 16) is of two principal phases of development, though it retains an overall unity of form. To the east stands the tall gable end of the eastern 'pile' of the primary (Phase I) school block. This is pierced at ground floor level by two asymmetrical window openings beneath segmental brick arches (single-light to west, double-light to east) and, at first floor level, by a tall, axial window opening flanked to the east by a lower window, both again beneath segmental brick arches. The asymmetry of the upper floor openings is accounted for by the presence of a tall, brick stack rising at the western side of the gable, serving a first-floor angle fireplace. Extending to the west of the Phase I gable end, and offset slightly forward thereof, is the exterior lateral wall of the remodelled (Phase II) north-wing. This is of two full storeys and closely mirrors the construction of the Phase I block, with horizontal articulation provided by the moulded stone strings that continue from the western (street) façade and extend onto the short, eastern return (though they are absent from the Phase I gable end; see Plate 16). A ground floor doorway to the east opens to the interior of the wing, while two flat-headed windows occupy the centre of the elevation; at first floor level, a tall window opening beneath a small gablet breaks the eaves line to the east, flanked to either side by flat-headed windows, all multi-pane timber casements. The western end of the elevation is blind at both ground and first floor levels.

6.2.8 The **south elevation** (Figure 23b; Plate 17) is composite in form. To the west is the lateral wall of the Phase I transverse wing, rising through two storeys to a plain eaves to the west, and with wide gable to the east, finished with a timber barge-board and reflecting the southern end of the western 'pile' of the main range. Ground and first floor levels are pierced by two multi-pane casement windows beneath flat stone lintels, openings being grouped below the eastern, gabled section, with the western end of the wing being blind at both levels, as to the north. Horizontal articulation is again afforded by the continuation of the moulded stone strings, extending from the street façade. An area of variant brickwork was noted around the easternmost window, rising from ground level to the mid-line of the window opening and extending as far as the south-east angle of the range, though the significance of this is not clear. To the east of the transverse wing is the recessed gable end of the eastern 'pile' of the main range, with a single, segmental-headed window to ground floor level. The angle of the two ranges is occupied by the two-storey block, square in plan, housing principal stair **A**, which is gabled to this elevation.

Interior

6.2.9 Internally, the main school building comprises distinct four distinct elements; a 'double-pile' central range aligned north-south, flanked by transverse wings to north and south, projecting to the west, and a small, square stairwell to the south-east corner, in the angle of the main range and southern wing.

6.2.10 At **ground floor** level (Figure 19), the main, central section of the school block is formed of two parallel, rectangular ranges **[G1]** (Plate 18) to the west and **[G2]** (Plate 19) to the east, each 20ft. wide and aligned north-south, **[G2]** to the east being somewhat longer, projecting significantly behind the transverse wing to the north. Both ranges stand 14ft 3in. tall internally, to the soffit of a lath and plaster underdrawn ceiling.⁸³ The ranges were originally partitioned along their shared central axis, with the primary party wall surviving at high level, though the lower section of walling has been removed, most probably as part of the 1989 modifications (see §.5.2.12), to form one large, conjoined space.⁸⁴ This space is interrupted by two brick-built stacks (Plate 20), which rise through the full height of the building, aligned on the axis of the former partition; each is furnished with a lower, dado level of glazed-brick (painted over) terminating in a moulded timber dado-rail,

⁸³ Classroom height was dictated by the needs of ventilation and lighting and was directly linked to room depth. Recommendations were set down by the Board of Education with 13ft generally held to be sufficient height for a room up to 25ft in depth (Clay 1902, 96).

⁸⁴ Surviving fabric at first floor level suggests that the original longitudinal partitions would have been of ½-glazed, timber construction.

and each displays evidence for blocked fireplaces to both east and west. Room [G1] is lit by ten tall windows to the west, grouped into five pairs of openings (Plate 21) housing double-light timber casements with central, pivot-hinged upper panes and lower hoppers; cill heights are set at 5ft above internal floor level,⁸⁵ corresponding to the height of the dado, which is here of 6in. square tiles (painted over). To the east, four surviving windows and one partly blocked window light [G2], while other (presumed) original windows were blocked in when the abutting Phase III additions were introduced to the east in the late 1890s (Phase III). Both of the original ranges were originally subdivided by transverse partitions, reasonably of ½-glazed form (as at first floor level), the upper sections of which survive (Plate 23). To the eastern range [G2], paired upper partitions define the extent of a former, 6ft wide transverse passage (Plate 22); such a feature would have presumably served a doorway in the east wall, as is the case at first floor level.⁸⁶ An angled fireplace (blocked) at the south-west angle of [G2] may indicate the original presence of a small enclosed office at the southern end of the range, though any further evidence for this arrangement has been lost to subsequent remodelling.

- 6.2.11 Flanking, **transverse wings** to north [G4] (Plates 24-6) and south [G3] (Plates 27-8) both originally formed single classroom spaces, 36ft x 22½ft. (810 sq. ft.),⁸⁷ though both have been subject to late-20th century sub-division related to post-school use. In each case, rooms are lit by three, grouped windows to the west and by further windows to their external lateral walls. Glazed-brick dados, standing generally 5ft. tall survive in both cases, with the northern dado of the (secondary) north wing rose to a height of 6ft. 6in. (Plate 26), presumably to accommodate original timber staging for desks to the north side of the room to improve visibility.⁸⁸ Further features of historical significance are limited, though a ½-glazed lobby partition (Plate 25) forms and integral part of the Phase II north wing, while an isolated, decorative ceiling vent survives over the eastern part of [G4].
- 6.2.12 Vertical access between floors is afforded by a single **stair (A)** located to the south-east corner of the range, housed within a brick projection, 11ft square internally, attached at the southern end of the eastern 'pile' of the main block (Plate 15). The stair itself (Plate 29) is of timber construction, arranged on an 'open-well' plan with closed string and stop-chamfered newels topped by ball finials. It comprises short, straight-flights (4ft wide) comprising 4-5 risers with quarter-landings; the timber handrail is set high (4ft.) for security reasons, and is supported and enclosed by square-section, timber stick-balusters.⁸⁹ The stair is well lit by large windows to south and east and is furnished with a glazed-tile dado (6in. tiles, painted over) topped by a moulded timber rail.
- 6.2.13 The arrangements at **first floor** level (Figure 20) essentially reflect those of the ground floor, though at this upper level, which was not subject to conversion as part of the late 1980s modifications, more survives in terms of original/early partitioning and historical fixtures and fittings; all rooms at this level retain a 5ft. high dado of glazed brick, Flemish bonded, cream in colour with a single course of green-glazed immediately beneath rail level (Plate 49).
- 6.2.14 Stair **A** rises to a small, trapezoidal landing (**F1**; Plate 30) occupying the south-western angle of the eastern pile of the main range. The landing is enclosed to east and north by timber, ½-glazed partitions and affords access to rooms [F2/F3/F5/F6]. Opening directly off the east side of [F1], room [F5] is relatively small and originally unheated, and may have formed a cloak room; as will be discussed below however (see §.6.2.17), the current space may represent a secondary modification.

⁸⁵ A window height recommended by Robson in his *Practical Remarks on School Architecture* (1874, 222), designed to allow sufficient light into a classroom while limiting the distraction to pupils presented by exterior views. This standard height was reduced to 4ft in early-20th century Board of Education regulations (Clay 1902, 111).

⁸⁶ Such an arrangement would logically be related to the introduction of the Phase III additions to the east and, as such, one of the extant upper partitions may be reasonably argued to be secondary, as appears to be the case at first floor level (see §.6.2.17, fn. 94). It is of note that neither aligns with the transverse partition of the western range [G1].

⁸⁷ Allowing for a maximum occupation of 54 pupils, calculated at the accepted standard allowance of 15 sq. ft. per pupil (Clay 1902, 87).

⁸⁸ Clay (1902, 104) notes that 'it is customary in elementary schools to raise the back rows slightly, the back rows being placed on steps of 4 or 5in.'

⁸⁹ Dimensions and arrangements of stairs was another element of school design closely regulated by the Board of Education. A maximum width of 4ft was stipulated, wide enough to allow two children to pass in opposite directions, but not wide enough for children to go three abreast and thus risk a child not having access to an external wall or handrail (Clay 1902, 72-3).

- 6.2.15 The main body of the range is arranged to reflect the ground floor layout, with a series of individual classrooms, 20ft wide and between 22-30ft in length, occupying the two 'piles' of the main block. The main spine wall of the block survives at this level, extending to north and south of, and between the axial brick stacks, and is of ½-glazed timber construction,⁹⁰ beneath longitudinal I-section beams (encased in timber) which carry solid brickwork above. Integral doorways within the longitudinal spine wall formerly afford direct access between the east and west ranges. To the west range, rooms [F3] (Plate 31) to the south and [F4] (Plate 33) to the north are of equal size (30ft x 20ft),⁹¹ standing 17½ft. tall, ceiled at the collar level of the roof, and are generously lit by extensive fenestration to the west wall. The roof structure itself is of five bays, each classroom occupying 2½ bays, and is formed of timber collar-beam trusses with angled, iron tension-rods and a vertical king-bolt (the latter not visible); to the lateral walls, principals are supported on short timber uprights which sit on moulded stone corbels (Plate 48). The roof is carried by two tiers of side purlins, one of which is visible internally, supported on timber cleats.
- 6.2.16 The southern wall of [F3] is of particular note, being ½-glazed and of 'sliding' form (Plates 32/50), thus allowing [F3] and the upper room [F2] of the southern transverse wing to be combined/separated as required.⁹² A further original fixture of interest is a 'Tobin tube' type ventilator to the south-west corner, one of three examples surviving at this level (see Plate 35).⁹³ To the north, classroom [F4] has been modified by the insertion of longitudinal wall to the east (Plate 33), forming a 6ft. wide corridor [F4a] aligned against the main spine wall of the range (Plate 34), the introduction of this feature making the fireplace in the axial stack redundant.
- 6.2.17 To the east range, landing [F1] leads on to a series of three classrooms ([F6/7/8]) and a transverse passage [F9] (between F6/7) opening onto the upper level of the adjacent Phase III 'Cookery Centre' extension.⁹⁴ Classrooms are again 20ft wide, though they vary in length from 22-24ft. The southern classroom [F6] (Plate 36) extends from the north side of [F5] to the partition forming the southern side of transverse passage [F9], being lit by three tall windows to the east wall and originally heated by a fireplace within the southern axial stack (Plate 37), the latter offset towards the northern end of the room. However, as previously noted (fn. 94), the partition forming the north wall of [F6] is reasonably a secondary (Phase III) insertion and thus the classroom presumably originally extended further to the north, as far as the wall defining the southern extent of classroom [F7]. A further anomaly is presented by a variation in floor treatment towards the southern end of the room (Plate 38), with the northern section being of transverse softwood boarding, and the southern section being screeded (as per [F1/5]). The demarcation between the variant floor finishes aligns with an atypical, wide upright in the timber spine-wall and it thus seems reasonable to argue that the southern limit of [F6] may also have been originally set somewhat to the north.⁹⁵ The implied arrangement of the original classroom would have placed the axial stack central to the west wall. The northern end of the range is occupied by two classrooms [F7] (Plates 39/40) and [F8] (Plates 41/2), divided by a transverse, ½-glazed screen of retractable 'concertina' type, by Kingfisher Ltd. of West Bromwich (Plate 43; see inset below);⁹⁶ the head beam of this partition, formed of an I-section beam, displays clear signs of having been inserted (Plate 44). Room [F7] is lit by a single window to the east wall, and was originally heated by a fireplace in the northern axial stack. A second original window was blocked when the Phase III extensions were appended to the east, at which time a skylight was introduced (Plate 40). Room [F8] is lit by a single window to the east and by two windows to the north gable end, and was originally heated by an angled fireplace to the north-west corner.

⁹⁰ The upper, glazed section being boarded over.

⁹¹ Thus 600 sq. ft., sufficient for a class size of 40 pupils (see fn.87).

⁹² The eastern section of the wall slides behind the western part to form a 9ft wide opening between the two rooms; the eastern section of the partition includes a standard door to afford access between rooms when the partition was closed. No maker's mark was noted.

⁹³ Ventilators also survive within [F4] and [F7]. Maker's plate present though difficult to read; possibly (?) 'Samuel Taylor Ltd. of Birmingham'.
⁹⁴ As at ground floor, passage [F9] and the connecting doorway would only have become necessary once the Phase III extensions were erected to the east, and so it reasonably represents a secondary insertion/modification; this is supported by evidence of the variant form of the enclosing partitions, with that to the southern side of the passage being of a different construction to partitions elsewhere at this level.

⁹⁵ The walls enclosing [F5] to the southern and of the range would thus present a secondary arrangement.

⁹⁶ Kingfisher Ltd. of Charles Street, West Bromwich were operational from 1907 to 1977 (<http://www.blackcountryechoes.org.uk>) which indicates this screen partition must represent a secondary insertion.

Significant original fabric around the juncture of classrooms [F7/8] and passage [F4a] has been removed (Plate 42).

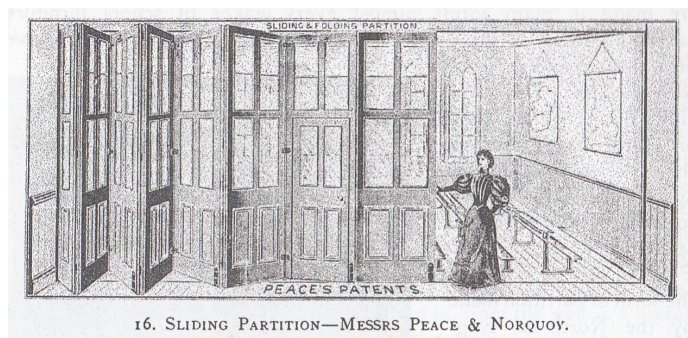


Illustration of folding screen (from Clay 1906, 76).

- 6.2.18 As noted above, transverse passage [F9] (Plate 45) represents a secondary insertion, formed against the partition defining the south side of classroom [F7]. It is 6ft wide with northern and southern flanking walls of ½-glazed timber construction, the southern wall being of a variant form to primary partitions elsewhere at this level and representing an insertion within the body of room [F6]. Passage [F9] opens to the east onto the upper level of the Phase III 'Cookery Centre' block of 1898, with which its formation is related and therefore reasonably contemporary.
- 6.2.19 The roof over the eastern range is of similar form to that to the west (see above), through truss alignments are staggered in relation to the west range; it is of eight unequal bays in total, reflecting the extended form of the range compared to the west range.
- 6.2.20 As at ground floor level, the flanking **transverse wings** form two additional classroom spaces, [F2] (Plate 46) to the south and [F10] (Plate 51) to the north (secondary). Both form single unencumbered rooms, measuring 36ft (E/W) x 22½ ft. (N/S) and standing 18ft 3in. to underdawn ceilings, closed at collar level. Room [F2] is of four bays defined by three timber trusses of standard design (see §.6.2.15), the southernmost bay being half-hipped (Plate 47), while [F10] is of three, uniform bays, abutting the eastern range of the main block to the east. Both classrooms are lit by three lancet windows to the west (street façade) and by further flat-headed casements to the east end of the exterior lateral walls, while each was originally heated by a fireplace within the angle of the wing and the recessed section of the main block (Plate 52). As at ground floor level, the dado of the secondary north wing rises to the north side of the room (Plate 53) reflecting former desk arrangements (see fn.88).

6.3 Building B: The 'Infants Department'

Date:	1873/1896
Function:	Infants' Department
Architect:	George Bidlake / Thomas Fleeming
Key Sources:	WSB Minutes OS 1:500 town plan/2 nd Edition (1902-3) Deposited plan of 1901



- 6.3.1 The former 'infants' department' is located to the north side of the school site, discrete from the main block though formerly with a short connecting range (see Figures 9/10), the latter apparently removed when the

north wing of the main school was heightened to two full storeys in 1896. It comprises a long, single-storey block, rectangular in plan and aligned slightly off east-west,⁹⁷ with two, gabled extensions appended to the east end of the south elevation, projecting into the area of the original playground. The extant range is of two principal phases of construction, with the western section forming part of the original school buildings; this was extended eastwards in the late-19th century, probably as part of the 1896 (Phase II) modifications.

Exterior

- 6.3.2 The principal **west elevation** (Figure 25a; Plate 54) faces towards Dudley Road. It is of a single storey, brick-built in orange/red brick laid to English bond rising above a low, offset plinth to a stone-coped gable with a low, parapet wall supported on moulded stone kneelers (Plate 55). The elevation is pierced by three tall, flat-headed window openings with moulded stone cills and a common stone lintel;⁹⁸ the latter incorporates a recessed, rectangular panel bearing the legend 'DUDLEY ROAD SCHOOLS' and is surmounted by a stone quatrefoil plaque beneath a two-centred arch of gauged brick, the whole being furnished with a projecting, roll-moulded drip hood (Plate 56).
- 6.3.3 The **east elevation** (Figure 24b; Plate 57) again presents a single-storey gable end, in orange/red brick laid to English bond, though here lacking the offset plinth and raised, coped-parapet of the street façade. The gable is here alternatively treated with a simple, plain-verge and is finished with a timber bargeboard, the latter obscuring the projecting ends of wall-plates and two tiers of side purlins. The elevation is pierced by three window openings, all set beneath segmental brick arches; viz. a wide, central four-light window, flanked to north and south by narrower/lower two-light openings. The apex of the gable is furnished with a small, rectangular vent. The variant construction and detailing of the eastern gable reflects its secondary origin, representing a Phase II (1896) in-line extension of the original infants' department. To the left (south), and set-back slightly from the gable end, a contemporary (Phase II) flat-roofed block (**G15**; Figure 19) flanks the eastern side of a further transverse classroom block, gabled to the south (**G13**; see Plate 63). The eastern, lateral wall of the flat-roofed block includes a single doorway to the north, though most of the elevation is obscured by a later, Phase IV (?1950s) single storey, flat-roofed extension (**G17**; Figure 19, Plate 58).⁹⁹
- 6.3.4 The **north elevation** (Figure 25a; Plate 59) presents a long, low elevation (115ft. long and standing c.12½ft. to eaves/28ft. to ridge), brick-built to English bond, and of a single storey rising to a plain eaves with timber fascia beneath a pitched, clay-tile clad roof, gabled to east and west. A single ridge stack rises towards the western end of the range. The elevation encompasses two principal phases of construction. The western 70ft. forms the original infants' department of 1873 (Phase I), lit by regular three-light, flat-headed timber casements beneath timber lintels, and including a primary doorway to the west end. Towards the eastern end of the Phase I range, a doorway has been inserted (1971) to serve an interior boiler room, the introduction of which necessitated the modification of two of the primary windows (Plate 60).¹⁰⁰ The eastern 45ft. of the range represents an in-line extension of 1896 (Phase II), maintaining the ridge line of the earlier block; it is lit by two tall windows under gables which break the eaves line and by a further, flat-headed window set between the former. The Phase I and Phase II blocks meet in a clear staggered-joint (Plate 61).
- 6.3.5 The **south elevation** (Figure 25b; Plates 62-3) is again of two principal phases of construction. To the west lies the lateral wall of the Phase I (1873) infants' department incorporating a single, original doorway and three, regularly-spaced flat-headed, three-light windows beneath timber lintels, essentially reflecting the arrangements of the north elevation. East of this, the elevation comprises the projecting gable ends of two

⁹⁷ The building will be described here as being aligned east-west for reasons of clarity.

⁹⁸ Two of the windows have here been renewed by uPVC double-glazed units, the only apparent incidence of such replacement in the school complex.

⁹⁹ Currently housing a small kitchen, a drawing of 1971 (Figure 15) annotates this block as 'toilets'. This block is not precisely datable; cartographic sources are unhelpful as it is absent from all OS editions down to 1996, but this clearly results from the base-survey data not having been updated. The form and character of the extension and its detailing suggest a date of c.1950.

¹⁰⁰ Primary stone cills have been cut through, while the original timber lintels extend well beyond the width of the extant window openings (see Plate 60).

additional classrooms [G13/14] (Plate 62), appended in the 1890s (Phase II), each pierced by three tall windows beneath segmental brick arches, viz. a wide, central three-light window, flanked to east and west by narrower/lower single-light openings. To the far east end of the elevation, the Phase II flat-roofed block [G15] and Phase IV extension [G17] meet in a straight-joint (Plate 63). The western return of western classroom [G14] (Plate 64) incorporates a former stack (truncated) and an angle porch (Plate 65), the original doorway of which has been blocked on the south side and replaced on the west; a flat-headed dormer breaks the roof line above the porch, lighting the classroom within.

Interior

- 6.3.6 The infants' department was originally accessed via opposing doorways in the north and south elevations, located towards the west end of the range and opening onto a small enclosed space, remodelled as lobby/office [G8/9] in 1971 (see Figure 15), though presumably originally forming a single room, heated by a fireplace in the eastern wall. In its current state, [G8/9] are floored over with a small office at first floor level, accessed via a timber dog-leg stair at the north-west corner of [G8] (Plate 67). The arrangements of this upper room sit somewhat uncomfortably with the layout of the range, however, cutting across the tall windows of the western gable end, for example, and with restricted headroom encroached upon by the angled tension-rods of the westernmost roof truss (Plate 68). The form of the fireplace within the western wall, with timber and brown glazed-tile surround (Plate 69) is suggestive of an early 20th-century date, and so it seems likely that this upper room constitutes a secondary modification.
- 6.3.7 The main body of the range is formed of two classrooms [G10] (Plate 70) to the west (within the primary range) and [G12] (Plate 73) to the east (within the Phase II extension), these being separated by a group of secondary rooms [G11] created by the introduction of a series of internal partitions in 1971 (Figure 15), viz. a boiler room (a), store (b) and toilets (c/d), with a through-passage (e) formed against the southern side of the range. The original arrangement of the Phase I range would appear to have comprised two classrooms, c.23ft. x 24ft., separated by a primary, ½-glazed partition which survives at high level within [G10] (Plates 70/71). Each classroom would have been well-lit by regular fenestration to north and south, and the western room was heated by a fireplace located centrally to the west wall, backing onto that within [G9] and served by the surviving ridge stack. The eastern end of the Phase I range has been lost to subsequent extensions and modifications, though the lack of evidence for a stack within the north or south walls suggests it was probably originally heated by a gable stack to the east. The roof structure over the primary range, evidently of six original bays, matches details of the main range being formed of regular timber, collar-beam trusses with angled tension-rods and king-bolt, carried on moulded stone corbels and supporting two tiers of side purlins. Room [G10] retains a decorative ceiling vent (Plate 72) similar to that recorded within [G4] of the main range.
- 6.3.8 To the east end of the range, classroom [G12] (Plate 73) represents part of the Phase II (1896) in-line extension of the original building. It measures 27ft. x 24ft. in plan and is open to collar level of its three-bay roof (roof trusses display alternative arrangements of horizontal tension-rod and longer king-bolt; Plate 74). The room is well-lit by three tall windows to the east gable end (Plate 73) and by a further, single window to the east end of the north wall. A fireplace to the south wall (blocked) is flanked by a cupboard within an arched recess (Plate 75). Further Phase II classrooms [G13/14] (Plates 76/7) occupy the two southern, gabled extensions appended to the east end of the range. Room [G13] is slightly smaller, 21½ft. square,¹⁰¹ of two bays, while [G14] is longer at 27ft., of three bays, and slightly narrower at 19ft.¹⁰² Both rooms are lit by three windows to the south, while [G14] benefits additionally from a dormer to the western roof slope. Both display the variant roof truss form recorded within [G12].

¹⁰¹ Thus 462 sq. ft. (30 pupils at c.15 sq. ft. per pupil).

¹⁰² Thus 513 sq. ft. (35 pupils at c.15 sq. ft. per pupil). Room [G14] has been historically sub-divided and re-purposed to form a kitchen and dining area, these modifications post-dating 1971 (see Figure 15).

6.4 Building C: The Cookery Block

Date:	1898
Function:	Cookery Block etc.
Architect:	Thomas Fleeming
Key Sources:	WSB Minutes Deposited plan of 1901 OS 2 nd Edition 1902-3



Overview

- 6.4.1 The 'cookery centre' occupies a composite plan, located to the east of the main school range, to which is connected at both ground and first floor levels by integral passageways via inserted openings in the east wall of the latter building. It was erected in 1898 to the designs of Board architect Thomas Henry Fleeming (§.5.5.5), together with a 'Manual Instruction Centre' to the east (demolished in the late 1990s). It combined a high, single-storey cookery room (with attached pantry) with a three-storey block housing office accommodation and a secondary stair.¹⁰³ The upper storey, corresponding to the first floor level of the main block, has been historically extended (date unknown), while a Phase IV, single-storey utilitarian block was appended to the northern side, most probably in the 1950s.¹⁰⁴
- 6.4.2 Cookery rooms for female pupils (together with 'manual instruction rooms' for boys) were seen as a necessary part of larger schools (Clay 1906, 419-22). They were arranged so as to be usable both for demonstration purposes for a large number of pupils and/or for practical lessons for smaller groups.

Exterior

- 6.4.3 The **north elevation** (Figure 26a; Plate 78) is bipartite in aspect. To the west, the range is of three storeys (Plate 79), with the lower two levels being accommodated within the height of the ground-floor storey of the adjacent main school block. The block is brick-built in orange/red brick laid to English bond with the lower two levels (partly obscured by the Phase IV extension) pierced by three, regularly spaced, segmental-headed window openings. The upper storey, which is defined by a moulded stone string that continues onto the adjacent cookery room, displays a single original, flat-headed window opening to the east, while three openings to the west represent secondary modifications (compare Plate 79/Figure 14). The roof is fully hipped and clad in clay-tiles. The eastern section of the elevation represents the back wall of the tall 'cookery room' block, with a brick eaves stack rising centrally. The elevation has been raised by the addition of an upper floor, corresponding to the first floor level of the adjacent building, comprising a narrow, east-west aligned block, one room deep, gabled to the east and lit by three-light casement window set symmetrically to either side of the central stack. The original form of the upper elevation, illustrated in Fleeming's 1905 design drawing for a small cloakroom extension (Figure 14), comprised a shaped gable and somewhat narrower, taller stack rising above the stone string, though these former arrangements are not physically evidenced within the fabric of the extant range. The date of the addition of the upper storey has not been established and, though probably slightly earlier, it has been grouped here with the probable 1950s additions as Phase IV.

¹⁰³ The middle storey (1F) of the office section is accommodated within the height of the adjacent, single-storey cookery room; although fully enclosed and discrete from the latter, it will be referred to here as a 'mezzanine' level to avoid confusion with the floor levels of the adjacent block.

¹⁰⁴ As with extension [G17] at the east end of the infants' department range (see §.6.3.3; fn. 100), this block is dated on stylistic grounds alone.

- 6.4.4 The **south elevation** (Figure 26b; Plate 80) is again bi-partite in aspect, and is here more clearly defined with the tall single-storey 'cookery room' to the east (Plate 81) and three-storey office section to the west (Plate 82). The 'cookery room' rises 18ft to a flat-roof, enclosed by a stone-coped parapet wall incorporating three sections of iron railings, and is generously lit by three tall, flat-headed windows beneath segmental brick arches. Appended to the east side of the cookery room, a single-storey pent-roofed projection originally accommodated a pantry (Figure 14), though this has been modified to form a secondary entrance, with an inserted doorway within the southern wall (Plate 81). Above the flat roof, set back to the north side of the cookery room, rises the secondary extension, gabled to the east, pierced by two, three-light casement windows and a single doorway to the west opening to the interior of the range.
- 6.4.5 The western section of building **C** is of three storeys (Plate 82), rising 25ft. to eaves level beneath a fully hipped, clay-tile clad roof, the lower storeys two being accommodated within the high, ground-floor level of the adjacent main school block to the west and 'cookery room' to the east. The block has a canted angle to the south-west corner, beyond which a recessed, blind link-block connects through to the main school range at both ground and first floor levels. A ground floor doorway to the west opens to the interior while a second door to the east side of the range opens onto **Stair B**, which rises on a dog-leg pattern to serve both mezzanine and first floor levels, the stair being lit by a wide, segmental-arched window at mezzanine level. Other windows, variously segmental- (ground/mezzanine) and flat-headed (first floor), light interior offices.

Interior

- 6.4.6 At **ground floor** (Figure 19), 'cookery room' **[G18]** originally formed a single, unencumbered space, 32ft x 25ft and standing 14½ft. high (Plates 83/4), generously lit by a series of tall, rectangular window openings to the south and east, and originally by a central window to the north (now blocked and obscured above an inserted, suspended ceiling; Plate 86). The room is floored in 6in. quarry tiles and was originally furnished with opposed, angled fireplaces to north-east and north-west; that to the north-east has been ceiled over, though that to the north-west survives intact with a high, stone surround (Plate 87). The room has been sub-divided by the introduction of a series of breeze-block partition walls, post-dating the closing of the school,¹⁰⁵ forming a discrete room **[G19]** at the north-west angle and an enclosed passageway **[G20]**. The north wall of the original cookery room has been broken through to form a link to Phase IV extension **[G30/31]**, the original entrance from the girls' playground being located slightly to the west, where it is visible (blocked in breeze-block) within room **[G23]** (Plate 88). Passage **[G20]** leads westwards from the cookery room, formerly linking through to the main school block via a doorway formed in the east wall of the latter (subsequently blocked, though see Figure 14). The north side of passage **[G20]** originally accommodated a girls' cloak room, enclosed by a ½-glazed screen (see Figure 14), though this arrangement has been historically modified and it now comprises two discrete rooms **[G22/23]** defined by single-skin brick partitions. As noted above, room **[G23]** incorporates a primary access doorway from the exterior (girls' playground), though this was blocked, probably when the Phase IV extension was added in the (?)1950s. Opening off the south side of **[G20]**, stair **B** (Plate 89) rises as a straight-flight to a single, mezzanine level office **[M1]** (Figure 19 inset; Plate 90) occupying the south-west, canted angle of the block; a further doorway (blocked) formerly opened onto a second office **[G21]**, immediately below and occupying an identical plan to **[M1]**.¹⁰⁶
- 6.4.7 **Mezzanine level** office accommodation (Figure 19; inset), served by dual flights of stair **B**, comprises two discrete elements reflecting the original gender division of the block with girls'/boys' accommodation to ground/first floor respectively. Office **[M1]**, described above, is accessed solely from the interior of the range via a straight-flight rising from ground-floor passage **[G20]** connecting the 'cookery room' and main school, and thus formed part of the girls' school accommodation; office **[M2]** and store **[M3]** are, alternatively, accessed from both the exterior, via a straight-flight rising from the exterior (south), and internally from first floor level via a flight descending from passage **[F11]** (Plate 91), thus forming part of the boys' school accommodation.

¹⁰⁵ The partitions are absent from an 'as-existing' survey of 1992 (App. No. C/0294/92, drawing No. 90122/100).

¹⁰⁶ Office **[G21]** has been sub-divided to form male and female toilet facilities and the access modified, with two doors having been inserted to the west.

Of the mezzanine level rooms, office [M2] (Plate 93) would appear to have remained essentially unused for a considerable period of time, with the result that original finishes and features survive to a significant degree, including moulded skirting, herring-bone woodblock floor and, in particular, a primary fireplace surround with integral cast-iron range to the south wall (Plates 92).

- 6.4.8 **First floor** level (Figure 20) is accessed internally via passage [F11],¹⁰⁷ opening off the east side of the main school range (Plate 94) and via stair **B** which rises on a dog-leg pattern from the exterior, where it opens onto the former boys' playground. The head of stair **B** (Plate 96) is enclosed by a half-height wall topped by decorative wrought-iron safety railings, the latter sharing stylistic similarities with those enclosing the flat-roof over the cookery room (*viz.* ovoid and spiral terminals; Plate 97). To the north side of passage [F11], a series of toilets [F13] have been introduced (Plate 95; date unknown), enclosed by a series of single-skin brick walls, though it is likely that the space originally functioned as a cloakroom, as per the ground-floor girls' accommodation (Figure 14). To the south, office [F12] (Plate 98) reflects the location and arrangements of [M1] and [G21] at mezzanine and ground floor levels respectively. Towards the east end of passage [F11], the northern section of the original exterior wall has been removed and the north side of the range extended eastwards over the 'cookery room' to form [F14] (Plate 99), the north wall of which incorporates the brick stack originally serving the two ground-floor fireplaces of [G19] (Plate 100). Room [F14] is well-lit by three-light timber casement windows to north, south and east, while a doorway in the south wall of [F11] opens onto the flat-roofed area over [G19].

6.5 Building D: The Boiler House / Fuel Store

Date:	Late C19 th (pre-1901)
Function:	Boiler / fuel store
Architect:	(?) Thomas Fleeming
Key Sources:	Deposited plan of 1901 OS 2 nd Edition 1902-3



- 6.5.1 **Building D** is a simple, brick-built block extending between cookery centre **C** to the west and covered playshed **E** to the east, and is assumed contemporary with the latter with which it shares a common wall. It would appear to have originally functioned as a boiler house (with brick stack) and fuel store (room [G25] is labelled 'coals' on a plan of 1905; Figure 14), though it now serves as storage.
- 6.5.2 The block is brick-built in red brick laid to a mixed bond, standing 7ft. 4in. tall to eaves and 12ft. to ridge level of a pitched, felted roof. Paired, planked doors open to the north (Plate 101), with a single window opening to the far east end, in the angle with playshed **E**, all beneath timber lintels. To the south (Plate 102), a central doorway opening appears to be original (queen-closers to eastern jamb), though modified while a further door to the east is a secondary insertion. A single-flue brick stack breaks the southern roof-slope against the west wall of playshed **E** (Plate 103), formerly serving an internal boiler.
- 6.5.3 Internally, the block is assumed to have originally formed a boiler room [G26/7] and coal store [G25], though little physical evidence survives and the building is currently used for storage purposes. The building is of limited architectural merit and historical significance.

¹⁰⁷ Forming a continuation of transverse passage [F9] within the main range.

6.6 Building E: The Playshed

Date:	Late C19 th (pre-1901)
Function:	Covered Play Shed (Girls)
Architect:	(?) Thomas Fleeming
Key Sources:	Deposited plan of 1901 OS 2 nd Edition 1902-3



Overview

- 6.6.1 **Building E** originally formed a covered playshed, introduced when the playground area of the original school was extended, probably in 1896 or in 1898; it is first depicted *in-situ* on the deposited design drawing for the 'mixed-school' classroom of 1901 (Figure 13). It was originally built up against an extension of the free-standing wall segregating the boys' and girls'/infants' playgrounds, serving the latter playground to the north, and was flanked by a block of latrines to the east (shown on OS editions down to 1968/9; Figure 11a), though this was demolished as a part of 1971 modifications. A corresponding boys' playshed and latrine block is shown on Ordnance Survey editions down to 1987-8 (Figures 9-11; see also Figure 12), built up against the southern playground wall towards Derry Street.¹⁰⁸
- 6.6.2 Covered playsheds were seen as an essential element of elementary school accommodation, with possible additional uses for summer drilling classes or as suitable spaces for pupils to eat lunchtime meals during inclement weather (Clay 1902, 317).

Exterior

- 6.6.3 The playshed (Plate 104) is a simple structure, rectangular in plan, measuring 50ft. (E/W) x 23ft. (N/S), standing 7ft. high to eaves and 13½ft. to ridge (Figure 19). It is bounded to three sides by solid walls of red brick (only in part to the west; see Plate 104), laid to a regular Sussex bond (Plate 105), and was originally open-fronted to the north. The northern, stop-chamfered wall-plate is carried by a series of four circular-section, cast-iron columns topped by 'shoes' to receive both wall-plate and tie beams of roof trusses, secured by iron bolts (Plate 106); the central column incorporates integral rainwater drainage, no longer functional (Plate 107). The roof is pitched and gabled to east and west, asphalt-clad in its current state, and incorporates a large, timber-louvered ridge-vent over the central two bays (Plate 108). A blocked doorway in the east wall originally afforded access from the interior of the playshed to the former, adjacent latrine block. The north elevation (Figure 26a) has been infilled with breeze-block and plywood sheets to form an enclosed storage space, while the easternmost bay has been enclosed in modern, stretcher-bond brickwork to form a small office with steel roller door.

Interior

- 6.6.4 Internally, bay divisions are defined by shallowly-pitched, timber king-post trusses with raking struts, resting on brickwork piers to the south and carried by shoes to the north, integral to the head of the cast-iron columns (Plates 106/7). The roof is carried by two tiers of plank-section side-purlins, the upper tier being set orthogonally (*viz.* at right angles to the ground as opposed to the angle of the roof slope) and acting as the base for the structure of the roof vent. The soffit of the roof slope is lined with match-boarding.

¹⁰⁸

The boys' playshed and related latrine block had been removed by 1999 (Google Earth; historical imagery - 1/1/1999) though the exact circumstances of its removal have not been ascertained.

6.7 Site Boundaries

- 6.7.1 The western site boundary, to Dudley Road, is formed of a low brick wall, coped variously in buff stone (between transverse wings of main range: Plate 109) and in cast-iron (north of north wing; Plate 110). Original wrought-iron railings survive to the north only, fronting the infants' department (Plates 111/112) and include an original gate between stone-capped brick piers (Plate 113), though reference to historical photographs (Figure 16a) indicates that the latter has been historically re-sited as the layout of the northern transverse wing was modified. To the far south end of the street frontage, a length of high brick wall, with recessed panels and capped by cast-iron coping, includes a doorway with a stone lintel inscribed with the legend 'BOYS' (Plate 114).¹⁰⁹ The wall meets the body of the school building in a clear straight-joint, and the type-face of the legend is at variance with that on the Infants' Department (Plate 56), which together suggest that, although the location is original (see Figure 9), the current arrangements may be secondary. An interesting, if isolated, survival is the secondary girls'/infants' entrance archway on the Birmingham Road (Plate 115), introduced in 1899 (see §5.2.8; Figure 17b) and retained *in-situ* as a condition of planning consent for the erection of 'The Sycamores' nursing home in 1999/2000.

7 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

7.1 Origins and Development

A total of five principal phases of development have been identified during the current project. The main body of the extant buildings evolved over a relatively short period of time in the late 19th century, between 1873 and 1899 (Phases I-III). Later phases relate to relatively minor subsequent additions during the lifetime of the school (Phase IV), and to modifications made post-dating the closure of the school in 1986 (Phase V).

PHASE I: 1873

- 7.1.1 Documentary sources have allowed for a precise date and context for the construction of the Dudley Road Schools, it being one of the first two schools erected in the town under the auspices of the Wolverhampton School Board, and first opening on the 9th June, 1873.



PHASE I: conjectural layout

¹⁰⁹

Separate entrances were provided for girls, boys and infants; these are clearly labelled on Fleeming's plan of 1901, with an additional girls/infants entrance to Birmingham Road (formerly Green Lane) to the east, introduced in 1899.

- 7.1.2 The school as originally built comprised elementary girls' and elementary boys' school housed to ground and first floor level of the main school range, with an infants' department within a smaller range to the north.¹¹⁰ The original north transverse wing of the school was of a single storey and occupied a smaller footprint than the extant structure (Figure 16a). That it was well fenestrated and included a large dormer providing 'top-light', located significantly to the northern roof slope, may indicate that the interior space functioned originally as a drawing room or studio (see Clay 1902, 150), which would have been a facility available to both genders.
- 7.1.3 The Phase I school buildings are fairly characteristic of early School Board architecture, with the use of essentially 'gothic' detailing (multiple gables, lancet windows, decorative ridge tiles), albeit somewhat restrained when compared to some of the earlier, more elaborate voluntary and denominational schools. In the later years of the 19th century, the 'Queen Anne' style was to become dominant (Harwood 2010, 37-8). In plan-form too, the Dudley Road Schools were essentially traditional, following the 'schoolroom' plan, with a series of separate rooms for boys, girls and infants (*ibid.*, 39). Given the presence of at least some movable partitions, the plan adopted at Dudley Road allowed for the combining of adjacent rooms to form larger spaces as and when necessary (for whole school assemblies, for example), though the arrangements pre-date the adoption of the classic 'central hall' plan, first pioneered by the architect T. Roger Smith at Jonson Street, Stepney in 1873 and a feature that was to become a characteristic feature of Board Schools in the later years of the 19th century (Seaborne and Lowe 1977, 26-7).
- 7.1.4 An unusual feature of note is that, if the evidence of the surviving fabric at first floor level is representative of the original buildings as a whole, then virtually all internal partitions at Dudley Road would appear to have been of ½-glazed timber construction. As Clay states (1906, 357)¹¹¹ such an approach would result in a building 'excellently lit and produced at an extraordinarily low price'. As noted above, partitions were, at least in part, movable such that rooms could be combined and/or separated as required.

PHASE Ib: undated (pre-1886)

- 7.1.5 Cartographic evidence indicates an interim stage of development of the northern transverse wing before the first phase of major building and extension in 1896 (Phase II). This interim stage involved the enlargement of the ground plan of the wing and the probable introduction of some form of 'link' to the adjacent infants' department (illustrated on OS 1:500 plan of 1886; see Figure 10a); it is unclear whether the range was heightened to two full storeys at this stage, though it seems more likely that this was effected at Phase II (1896). All trace of the Phase I and Phase Ib arrangements were lost at Phase II, and so any conclusions drawn from the available evidence must remain to a large extent speculative.

PHASE II: 1896

- 7.1.6 The first major phase of modification and extension occurred in 1896, recorded in contemporary School Board minutes (see §5.2.4) and, although no drawings or written details of the work survive, it seems reasonable to deduce that they comprised the eastern extension and enlargement of the infants department, the widening of the northern transverse wing of the main block, and the raising of the latter to two full storeys, together with the introduction of new play sheds and toilet facilities within the enlarged playground area to the east of the school buildings. These modifications had the effect of increasing the capacity of all three departments, though in particular that of the infants' department which was provided with three new classrooms.

¹¹⁰ The infants' department and main school range were linked by 1886, though it is not clear whether this was the case for the earliest phase; the link range may well have been added at Phase Ib (pre-1886) when the form of the north wing was modified. It had been removed by 1901 (Figure 13).

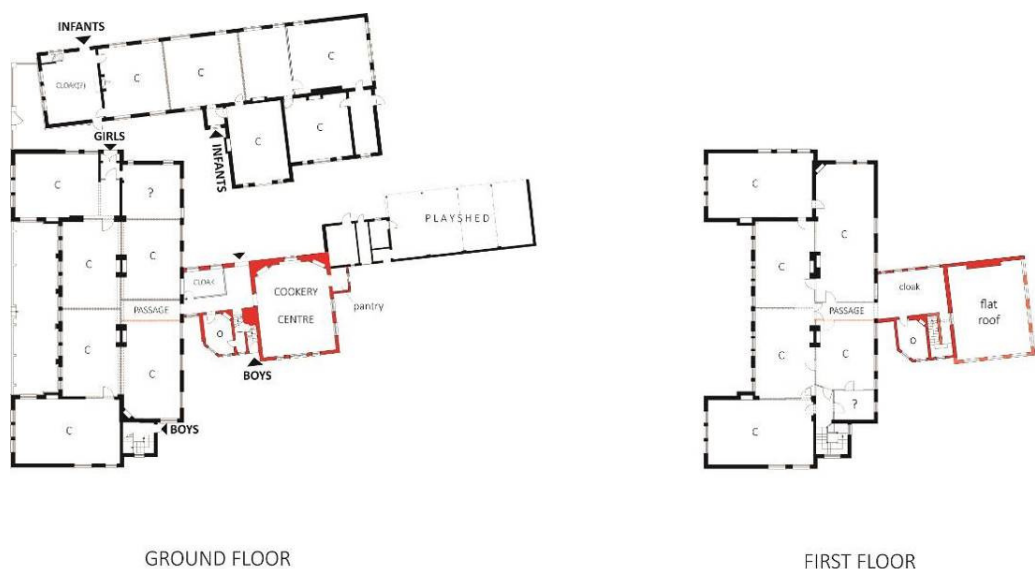
¹¹¹ With reference to the Varna Street School in Openshaw, Manchester of 1896-7. (http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results_Single.aspx?uid=1403128&resourceID=5).



PHASE II: conjectural layout (new accommodation in red)

PHASE III: 1898

- 7.1.7 The second major phase of enlargement followed soon afterwards, with the introduction in 1898 of the 'cookery centre' block (C), immediately east of and abutting the main school range, erected to the designs of Thomas Henry Fleeming (see §5.2.6). A contemporary addition was a 'manual training centre' to the east of the enlarged school playground; the latter structure was demolished in the late 1990s. The addition of the 'cookery centre' witnessed related alterations within the main school block, related principally to the formation of through access between the two elements (*viz.* new doorway openings, blocking of original windows and the formation transverse passageways within the main block to aid circulation, the latter requiring the modification of primary classroom arrangements.



PHASE III: conjectural layout (new accommodation in red)

PHASE IV: early-mid 20th century

- 7.1.8 The two main Phase IV modifications, probably of the mid-20th century, were the addition of a toilet block at the east end of the Infants' department and a single-storey extension to the north side of the 'cookery centre' block (original function unknown). Both are undated by documentary sources,¹¹² though the evidence of their fabric suggests that they are contemporary, and date most probably to c.1950. A further modification of the early 20th century was the eastern extension of the first floor accommodation over the cookery room; this is again undated, though it clearly post-dates 1905 (Figure 14) while the detailing suggests it is probably earlier than the postulated 1950s modifications.

PHASE V: post-1986

- 7.1.9 Phase V relates to modifications effected since the closure of the school in 1986. These are covered principally by two archived planning applications (see §.5.2.12; fn. 73) and comprised the removal of a number of original internal partitions, in particular at ground floor level, and the introduction of new, studwork walls to reformulate the sub-division of interior space to accommodate new patterns of use. The upper floor of the main school range has been subject to a lesser degree of change, with the result that survival of significant early features is enhanced.

7.2 Assessment of Significance

- 7.2.1 In broad terms, although the buildings of the Dudley Road Schools have been removed comprehensively from their historical context by late-20th-century redevelopment of the surrounding area (compare Figures 10a/12b), they remain a tangible link to the development of the area in the late-19th century. This significance is, if anything, amplified by the instance of their isolated survival, while the removal of adjacent buildings has served to accentuate their status as a landmark building on one of the main, arterial routes into the city centre. As the earliest surviving Board School in Wolverhampton, they represent an important monument, illustrative of a decisive phase in the history of educational provision in the Victorian town and within the nation as a whole. These significances are reflected in the inclusion of the buildings on the 'local list' and on the Historic Environment Record. As a public building, functioning for over 100 years as a school and latterly in community use, the 'communal' and 'social' values' can be seen to be high.¹¹³ A degree of 'associative historical value' is afforded by the involvement of the Mr Philip Horsman, a successful building contractor and figure of considerable significance in the civic life of Wolverhampton in the later 19th century (see fn.53 above).

Communal Value is defined by Historic England as 'deriving from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory'

Social Value is 'associated with places that people perceive as a source of identity, distinctiveness, social interaction and coherence'.

Aesthetic Value 'derives from the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place'; it can be the result of conscious *design*, or *fortuitous*, arising out of the way a place has developed over time.

- 7.2.2 With respect to the buildings themselves, the historic integrity and thus the illustrative historical and aesthetic (design) value of the several ranges can be seen to survive relatively intact. Externally, interventions within the primary fabric have been limited. Original / early windows survive extensively, with only two examples of

¹¹² As noted above (fn.99), these elements are absent from all edition OS maps as late as 1996. The toilet block at the end of the infants department is shown as extant on a design drawing of 1970 (Figure 15), affording a 'terminus ante quem' for their introduction.

¹¹³ For definition and discussion of heritage values, see *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* (EH 2008).

unsympathetic uPVC units identified within the western gable end of the infants' department; otherwise timber casements and sashes survive throughout, though occasionally in a poor state of repair, with steel casements to the later, mid-20th century ranges.¹¹⁴ The loss of original railings to the Dudley Street frontage is unfortunate, though their absence, removed most probably in the 1940s as part of the war effort, is of itself of historical significance. The access ramps serving inserted doors to the flanking wings are intrusive and could perhaps be improved upon as part of a revised plan for disabled access.

- 7.2.3 Internally, the good survival of original detailing (early windows and doors, original/early ½-glazed partitions, roof trusses, axial brick stacks, glazed-brick dados, ceiling vents and wall-mounted ventilators etc.), in particular at first floor level of the main block where post-school interventions have been minimal, mean the school buildings retain a considerable level of evidential, and illustrative historical value. The retention and incorporation of such original features within any proposed scheme would be beneficial to preserving the historical integrity of the building.

Evidential Value is defined as 'the potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity' with physical remains as the primary source of evidence and is particularly strong in the absence of documentary records.

Historical Value is defined as 'deriving from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present'. It tends to be *illustrative or associative*.

Illustrative Value 'has the power to aid interpretation of the past through making connections with, and providing insights into, past communities and their activities through shared experience of a place.'

- 7.2.4 The relative significances of the various elements of the building complex of the Dudley Road Schools are dependent to a large degree upon the extent of survival of historical fabric, features, fixtures and fittings. Together, these elements have the potential to form a tangible link with the original functionality of the building, and thus to be illustrative of a significant period, not only of the development of Wolverhampton, but of educational provision at a national scale.
- 7.2.5 Heritage value will represent one driver in the development of detailed design proposals and it is clear that certain areas of the site, in particular the upper levels of the main block (Building **A**) which have survived relatively unaltered since the closure of the school in 1986,¹¹⁵ display an enhanced level of heritage significance and sensitivity to change when compared to areas that have undergone more recent phases of, at times unsympathetic, modification. The retention here of original / early features such as windows, exposed roof trusses, ½-glazed timber partitioning, panelled doors, dado treatments, wall-mounted ventilators etc. can be seen to have the potential to preserve the historical integrity of the school complex and should thus be considered and favoured wherever possible. The benefits of such 'an heritage-based' approach to restoration could be manifold - moveable timber partitions for example, not only present a feature of historical interest, but may also have the continuing potential to enhance the adaptability of space within the refurbished building. Subsidiary buildings, such as the Phase II playshed, while of reduced aesthetic value and intrinsic historic significance when compared to the more dominant school ranges, are not entirely without inherent interest, not least in their contribution to the 'group value' of the wider site as a whole, and their retention and adaptive re-use, where possible, should be encouraged.

¹¹⁴ It should be noted, for example, that approval for earlier schemes (Planning App. 10/01373/FUL) highlighted the desirability for retention of original windows where feasible, recommending thermal upgrading through the use of secondary glazing. Memo: J Beesley to C Noakes, Development Control, 8th March 2011: (http://planningonline.wolverhampton.gov.uk:2707/online-applications/files/1BD66E1DE0303C6EF248337B0E8DCBEE/pdf/10_01373_FUL-Consultees_10-01373-FUL-934147.pdf; p.18).

¹¹⁵ An unexpected survival is presented by the mezzanine level office [**M2**] within the Phase III 'cooking centre' (Plate 93) with surviving wall finishes, fixtures, fireplace surround and cast-iron grate.

- 7.2.6 The relative significances of the various areas of the site, and thus their sensitivity to change, are presented in graphic form at Figure 27.

7.3 Current Proposals

- 7.3.1 No detailed proposals were in place at the time of preparation of the current report.
- 7.3.2 The proposed refurbishment presents a valuable opportunity to bring the constituent buildings of the school complex into viable, long-term use and thereby serve to ensure the ongoing maintenance and conservation of the heritage assets. In developing detailed proposals and designs for the future refurbishment and remodelling of the school and the wider site, the relative significances, heritage values and sensitivities outlined within this document, along with national and local planning guidelines (section §.7.4 below), should be taken into consideration.

7.4 Relevant Legislation and Policy Guidelines

National Guidance

- 7.3.1 Government planning policy for England is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), published by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in March 2012.¹¹⁶ Although the buildings of the Dudley Road Schools are not statutorily listed, their inclusion on the WWHER and upon the WCC register of 'locally listed' buildings means that they constitute 'non-designated heritage assets', as defined under the terms of NPPF (see §.1.3.1, fn. 4). As such, paragraphs 131 and 135 of NPPF can be seen to be pertinent:

Para. 131

'In determining planning applications, local planning authorities should take account of:

- *the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;*
- *the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and*
- *the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness'*

Para. 135

'The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.'

(National Planning Policy Framework, 2012, 31).

Local Guidance

- 7.3.3 At a local level, guidance has been set out in The Black Country Core Strategy (adopted February 2011);¹¹⁷ in respect of historical and cultural heritage, Policy **ENV2**: 'Historic Character and Local Distinctiveness' can be seen to be pertinent:

¹¹⁶ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf.
¹¹⁷ <http://blackcountrycorestrategy.dudley.gov.uk/>

'All development should aim to protect and promote the special qualities, historic character and local distinctiveness of the Black Country in order to help maintain its cultural identity and strong sense of place. Development proposals will be required to preserve and, where appropriate, enhance local character and those aspects of the historic environment together with their settings which are recognised as being of special historic, archaeological, architectural, landscape or townscape quality....

...Particular attention should be paid to the preservation and enhancement of locally listed historic buildings and archaeological sites.'
(Black Country Core Strategy, 2011, 106-7).

7.3.4 Retained policies from the Wolverhampton Unitary Development Plan (UDP, adopted 2006),¹¹⁸ are as follows:

Policy **HE18**

'The conservation of locally listed structures and sites through their retention, proper maintenance, sympathetic use and, where appropriate, restoration, will be encouraged'

Policy **HE19**

'Development affecting local list buildings or sites will not be permitted if it involves:

- alterations, extensions or change of use which would have an adverse effect on features of special character or historic interest.*
- any adverse effect on setting of a local list building or structure*

Unless it can be demonstrated that:

- the proposed development is essential to the success of a scheme which would provide other, overriding benefits and*
- all reasonable alternatives which would avoid adverse effects have been investigated and proved not to be feasible.'*

(Wolverhampton Unitary Development Plan, §.6.5, p.86)

7.5 Conclusion

7.5.1 The current project has allowed for a detailed record and assessment of the school buildings to be made, so far as possible from a non-intrusive inspection, within an established historical context, in accordance with government guidelines as set out at paras. 128-9 of NPPF and in line with the agreed 'statement of approach'. The assessment of significances can be seen to establish a heritage framework within which detailed design proposals can be developed.

8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

8.1 The project was commissioned by Ms Anwen Muston of the Blakenhall Action Community Forum, to whom thanks are given for help and co-operation throughout. Thanks also to Mr Tony Bunsie at Dudley Road Schools for arranging free access to the site for the purposes of inspection, and to Mr Jon Beesley (Urban Design and Conservation Officer) and Ms Ellie Ramsey (Archaeology and Historic Environment Officer) at City of Wolverhampton Council. Thanks also to staff at Wolverhampton City Archives, Molineux House.

¹¹⁸

<http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=7157&p=0>. See 'Wolverhampton Local Development Scheme 2014-2017; Appendix D' (WCC, 2014), for a full list of saved UDP policies.

- 8.2 Site recording and assessment were undertaken by Mr Ric Tyler MCI(A) who also wrote, collated and illustrated the current report.

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- D-WSB/7 : Copy minutes (Dec. 1885 - Nov. 1888).
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- **WP/3482:** Dudley Road School - additional hat and cloak room, Jun 1905.
- **D-LEG/1971/8-1:** Dudley Road School - alterations and new toilet block, June/Oct. 1970.

Historical Photographs

- **P/9181:** Dudley Road frontage, 1979.
- **P/9182:** Dudley Road frontage, late-19th century.
- **P/3453:** Dudley Road looking north, c.1900.
- **C2/COCK/4/1:** Terrace of housing to Green Lane.
- **DX-1010/3/4:** Dudley Road Schools infant class c.1917.

Other

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- **C/0294/92:** Internal alterations and refurbishment to GF of disused infants school.
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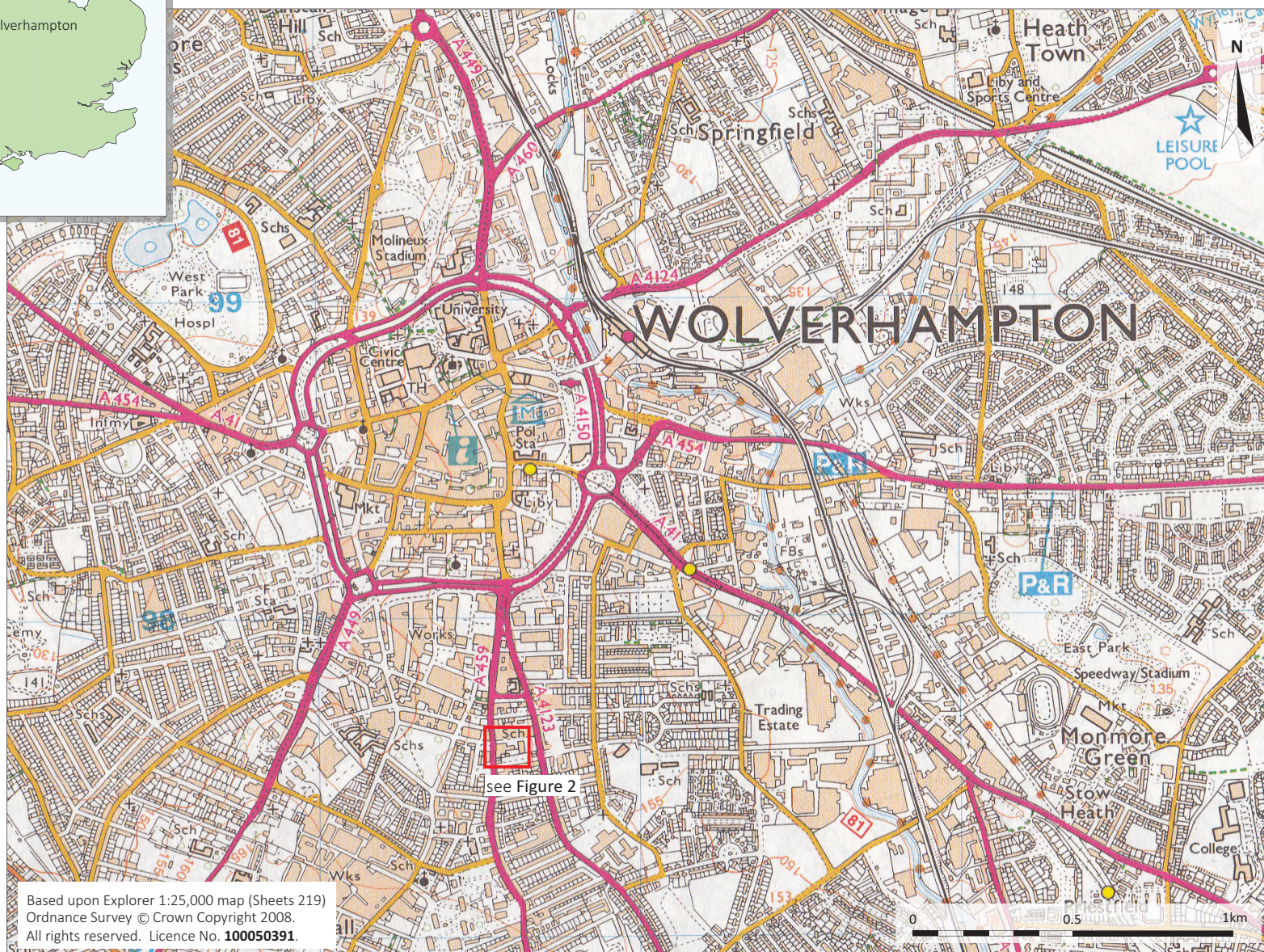
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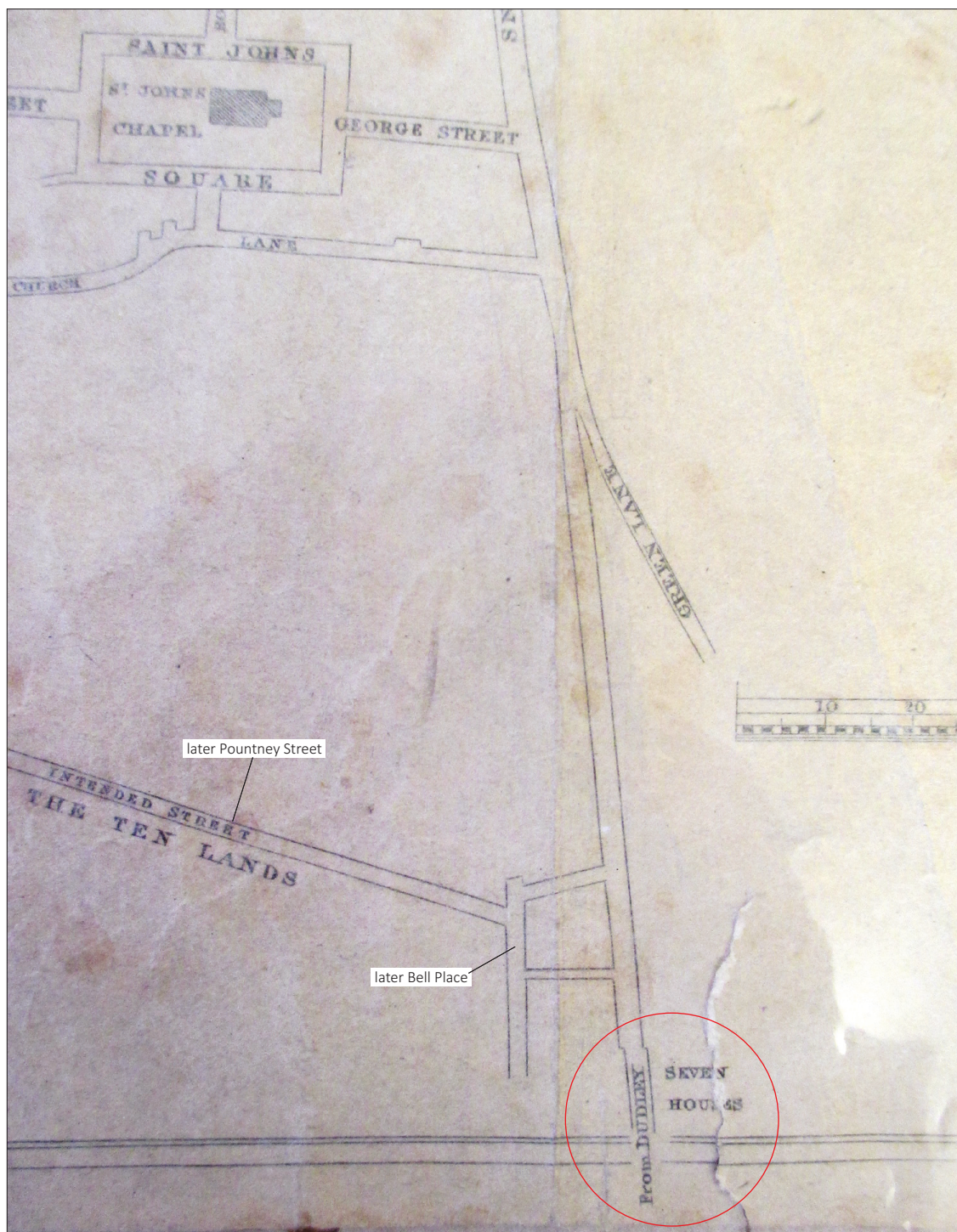








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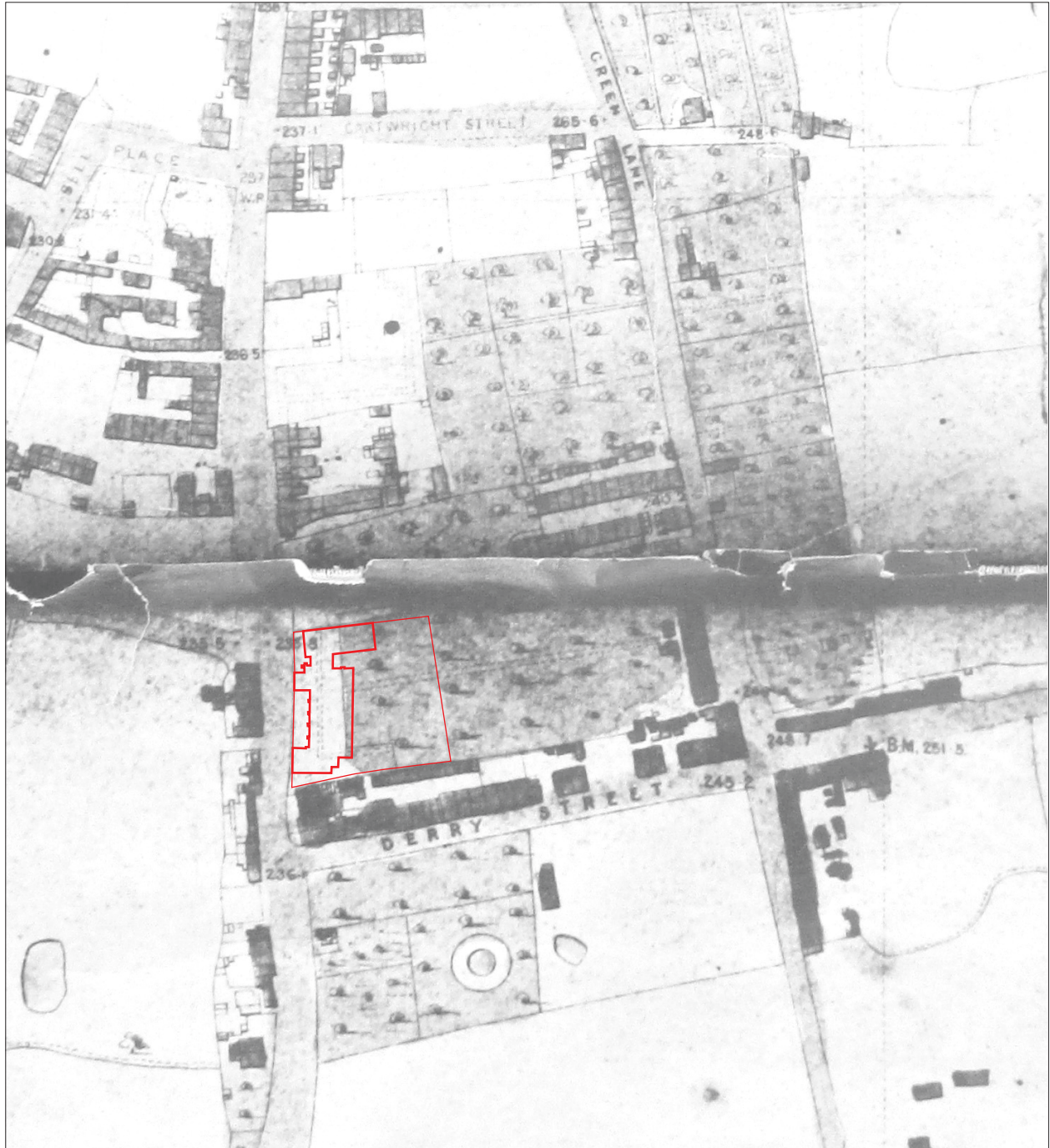


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WALS ref. MAP/702a. Reproduced with permission.

 site of future Dudley Road Schools



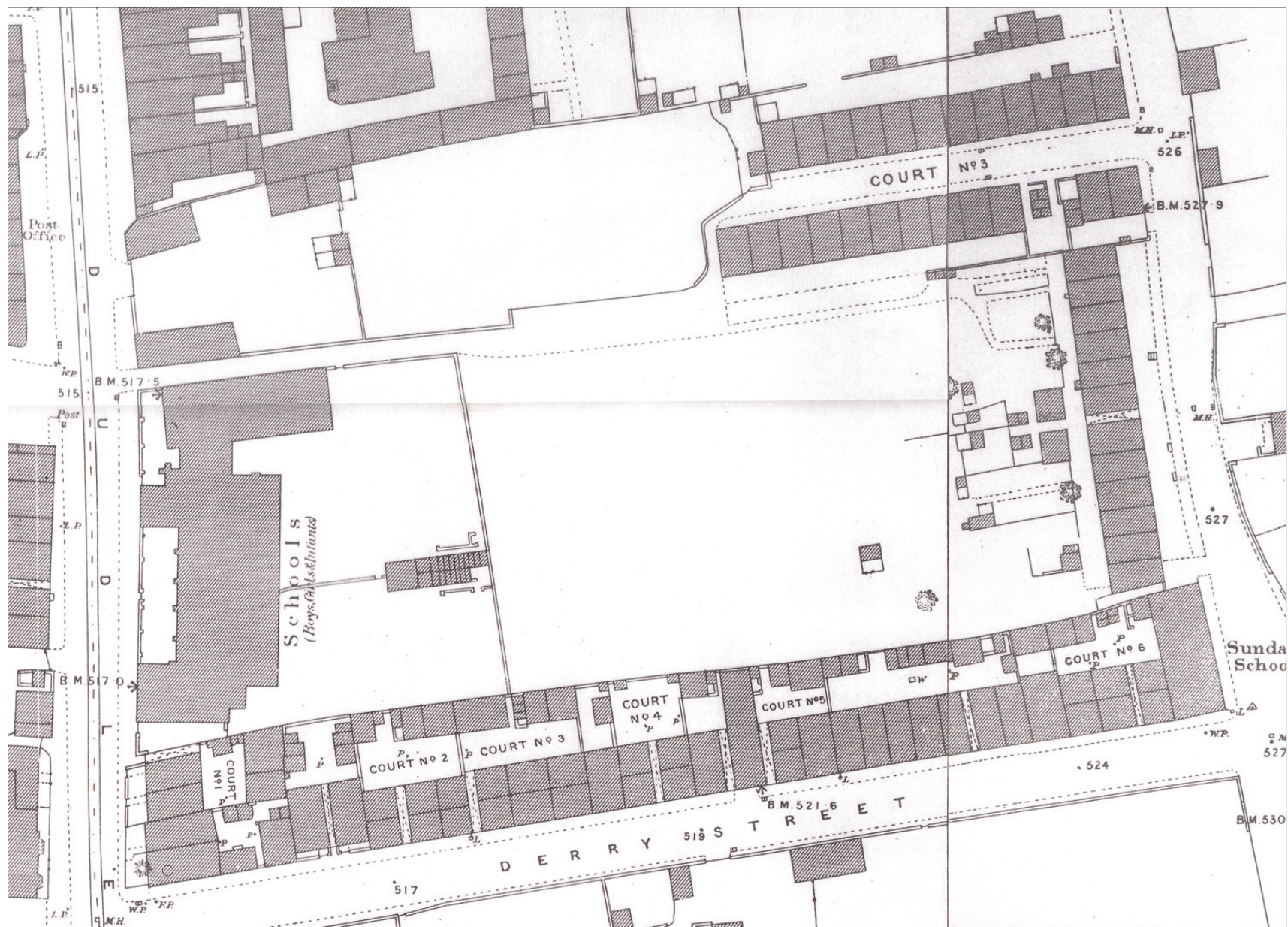
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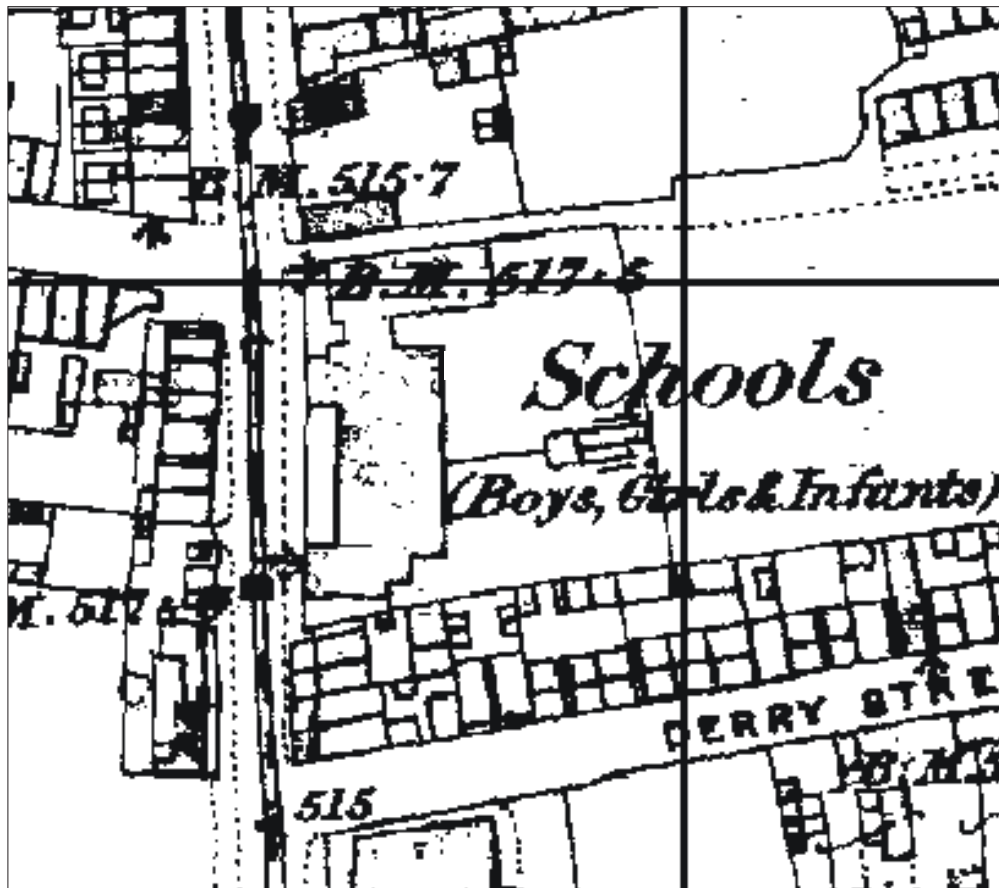
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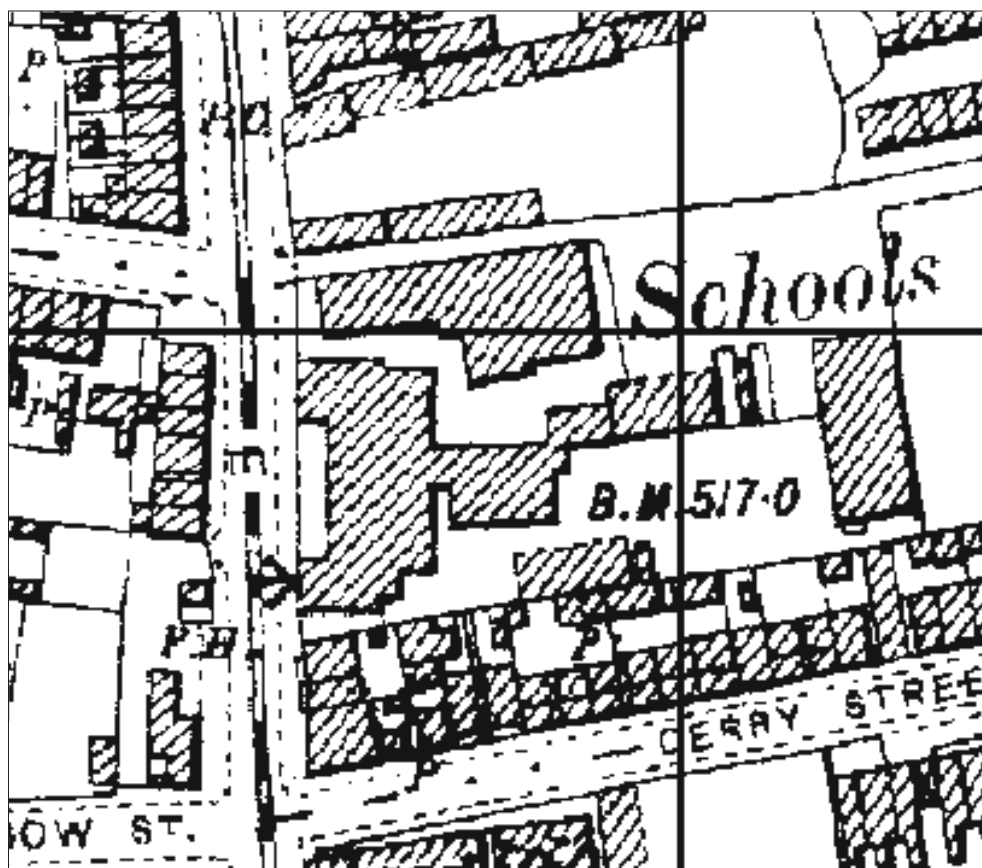
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site of future Dudley Road Schools

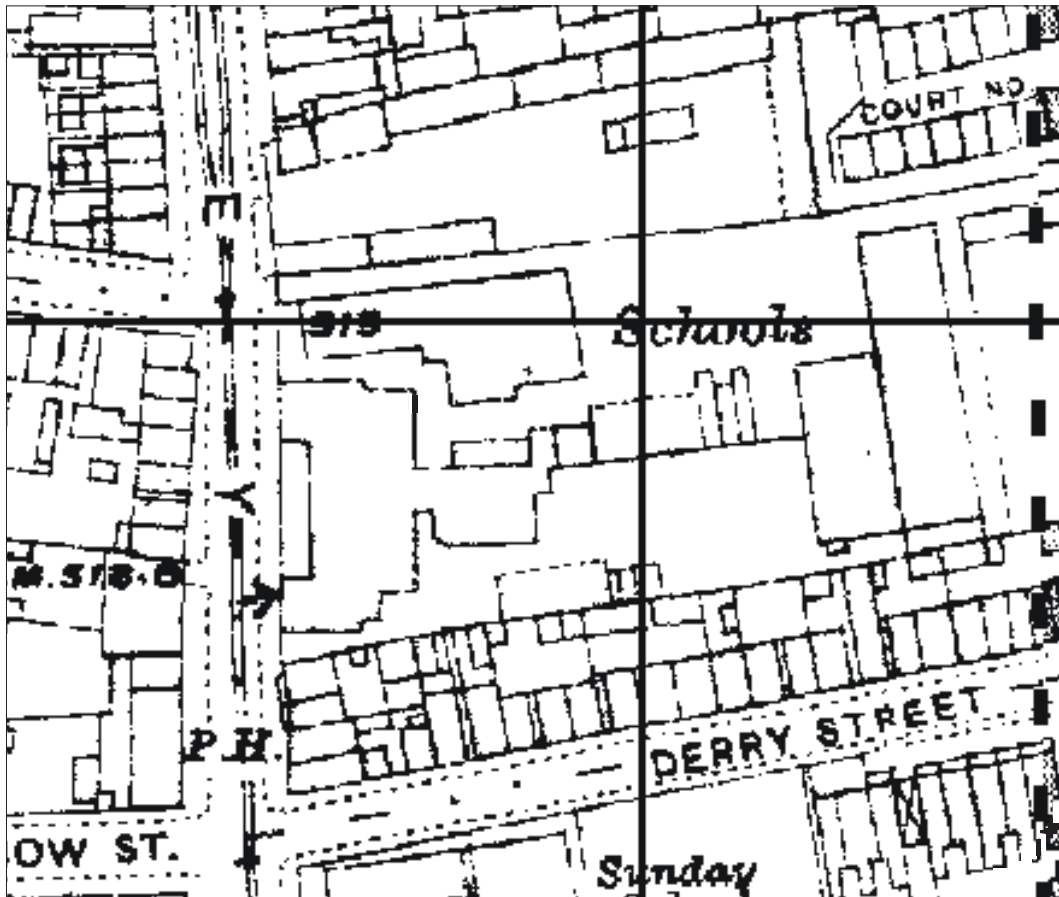




(a) First Edition 25in. map of 1888-9



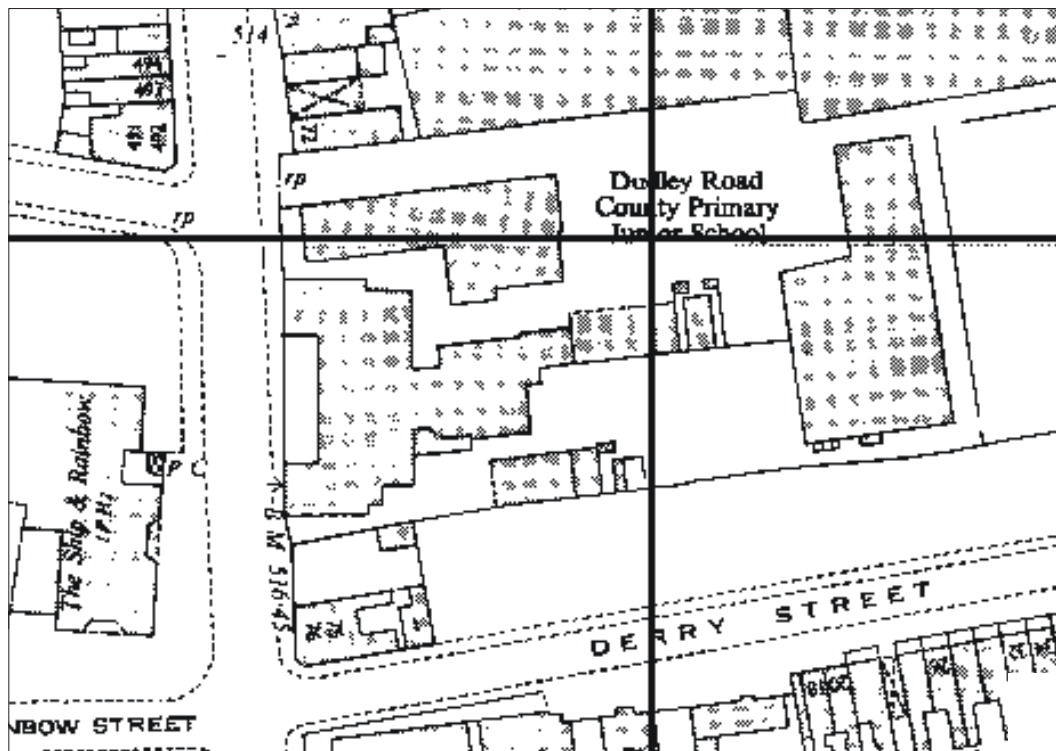
(b) Second Edition 25in. map of 1902-3



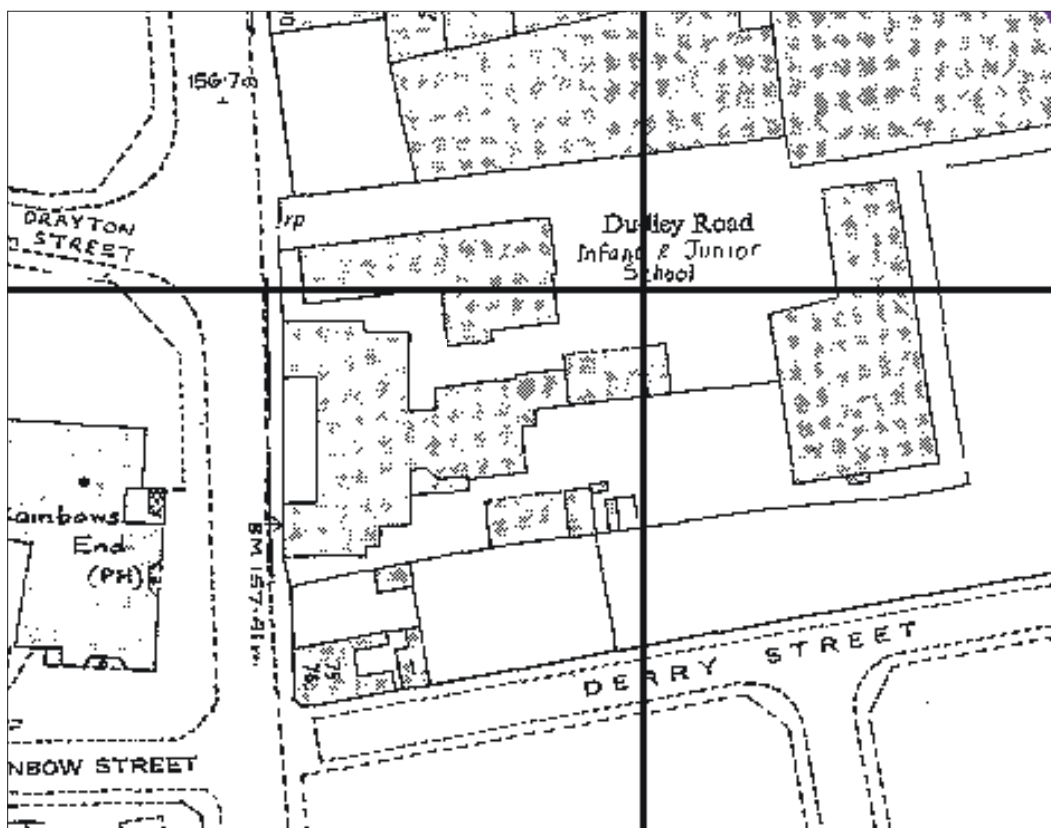
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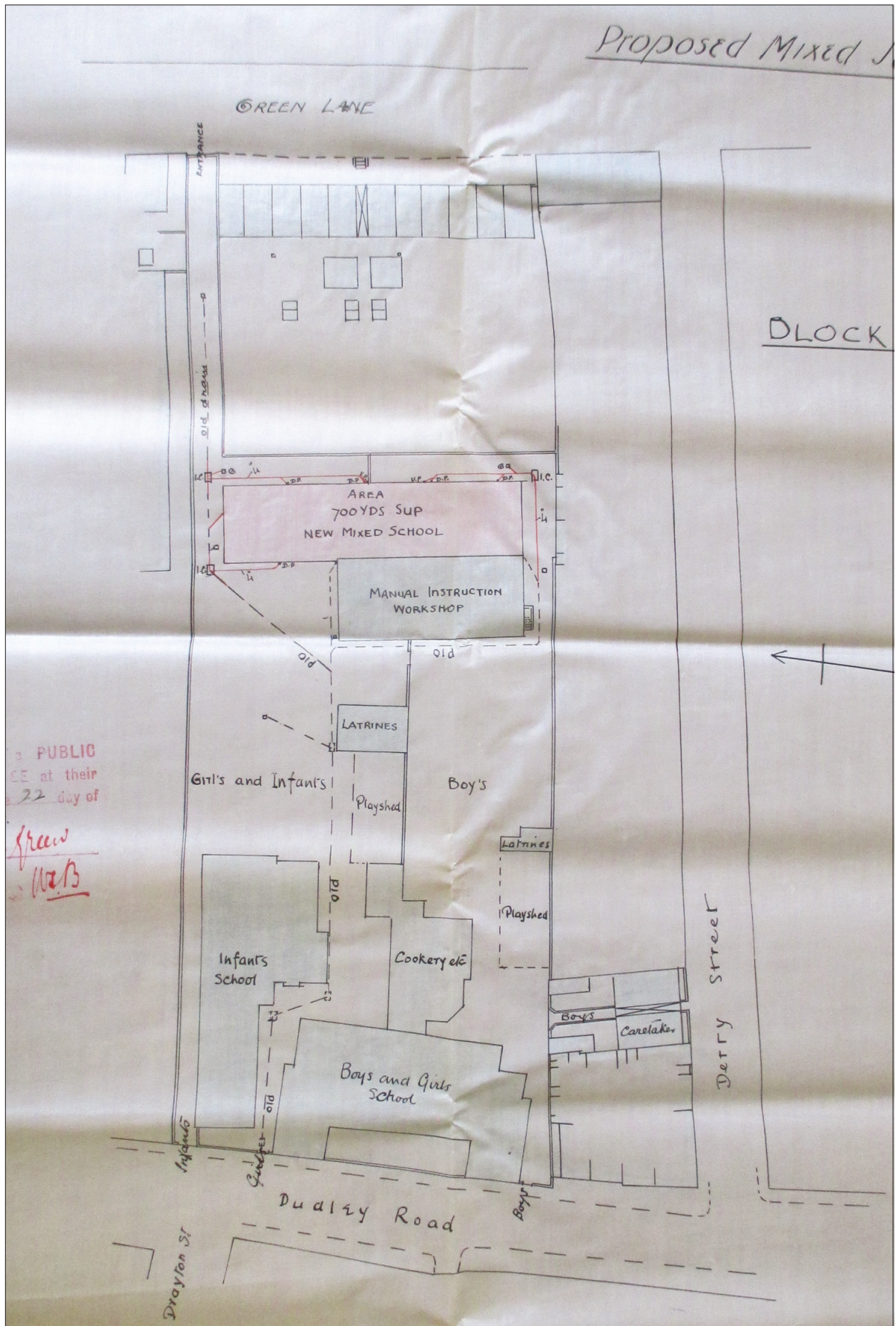
(b) Fourth Edition 25in. map of 1938



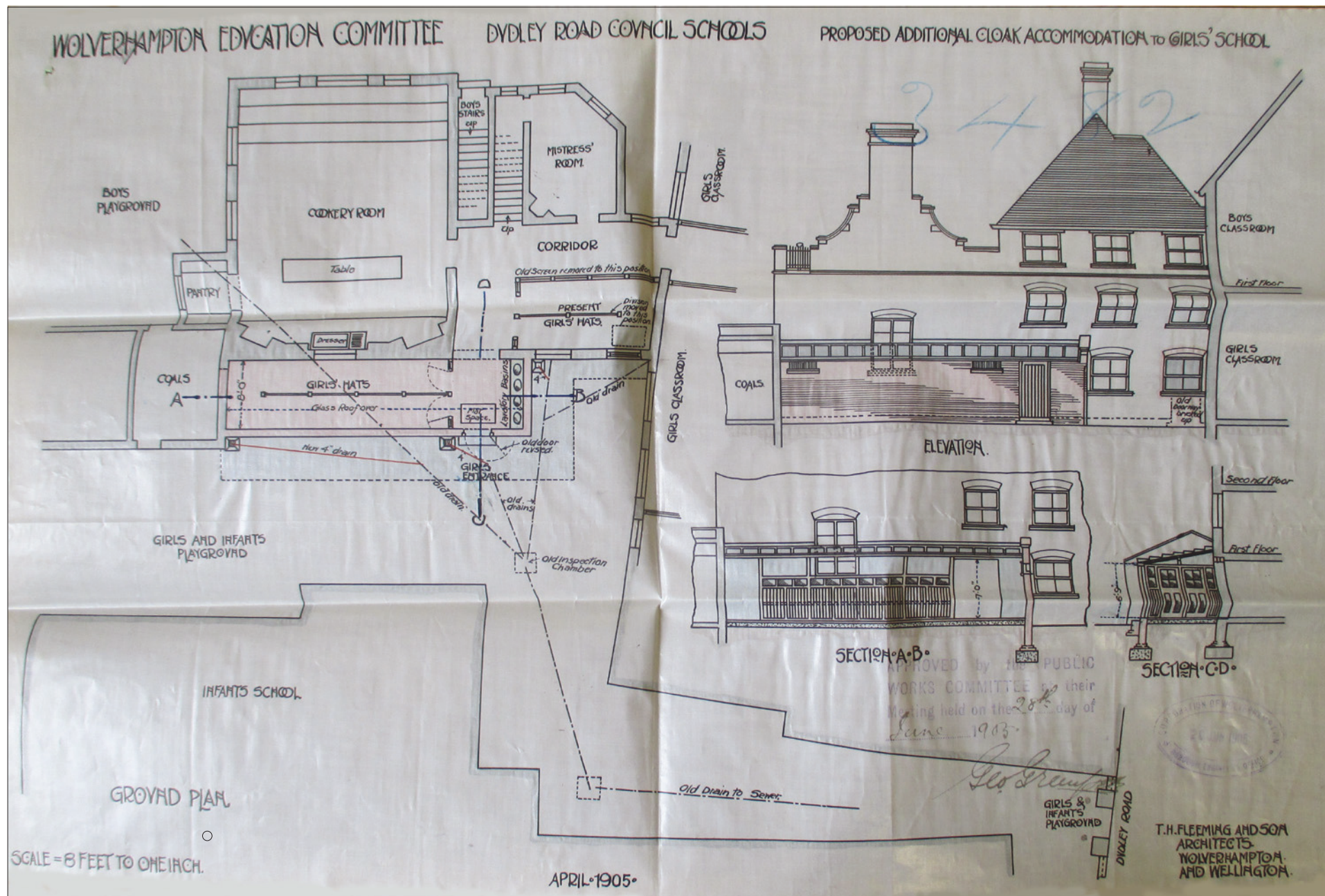
(a) 25in. map of 1968-9



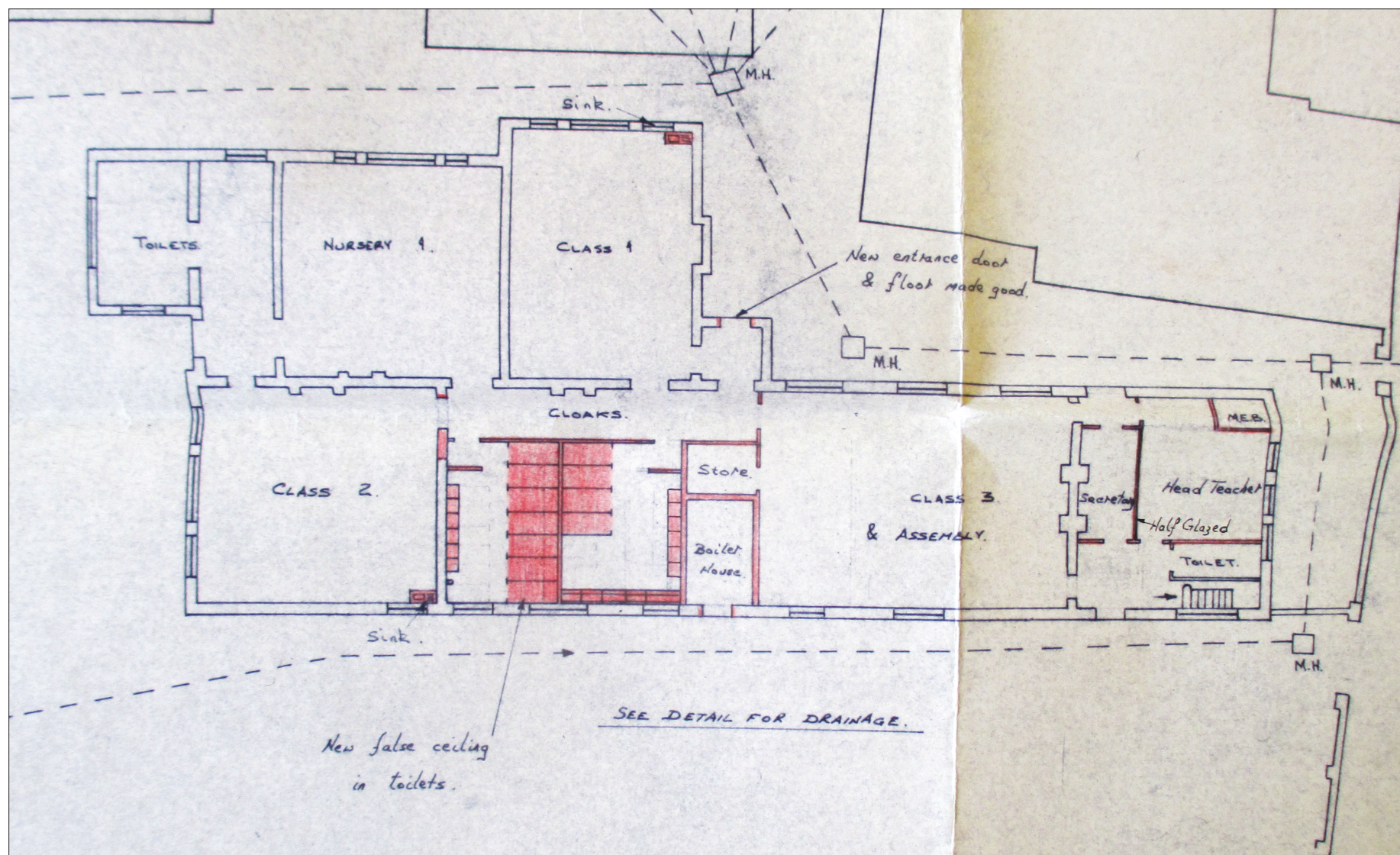
(b) 25in. map of 1987-8



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WALS ref. WP/3482. Reproduced with permission.



WALS ref. D-LEG/1971/8-1. Reproduced with permission.

WALS ref. P/9182. Reproduced with permission.



(a) Dudley Road frontage, late-19th century.

WALS ref. P/9181. Reproduced with permission.



(b) Dudley Road frontage, 1979.

WALS ref. P/3453. Reproduced with permission.



(a) Contextual view; Dudley Road looking north, c.1900 with Bethel Chapel (foreground right) and Dudley Road Schools (marked with arrow).

WALS ref. C2/COCK/4/1; reproduced with permission.



(b) Terrace of housing to Green Lane with 1899 arched entrance (marked with arrow).



(a) Classroom interior, early-20th century- precise location unknown. Note mixed class with pupils seated at dual desks, (sufficient space for 60 pupils), the rear rows of desks being raised on low steps to enhance visibility.

NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing

DUDLEY ROAD



NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



KEY

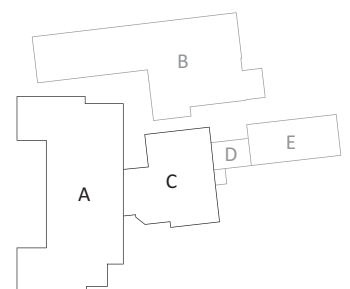
- PHASE I original build 1872/3
- PHASE II pre-1901 (prob. 1896)
- PHASE III pre-1901 (1898)
- PHASE IV early-mid-C20th (?1950s and earlier)
- PHASE V late C20th insertions (1970s/1990s)



SCALE 1:200 @ A4

KEY

- A** Main School Building
- B** Infants Department
- C** Cookery Block etc.
- D** Boiler House / Fuel Store
- E** Playshed



NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing



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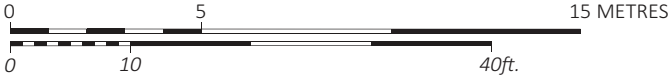
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(a) North elevation



(b) South elevation

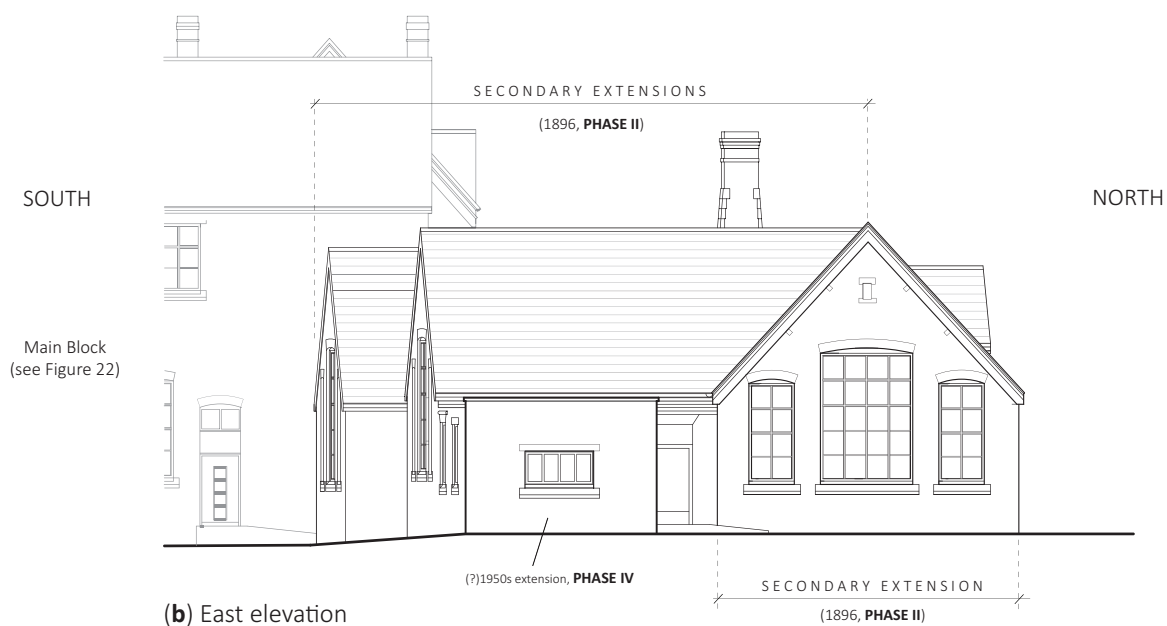
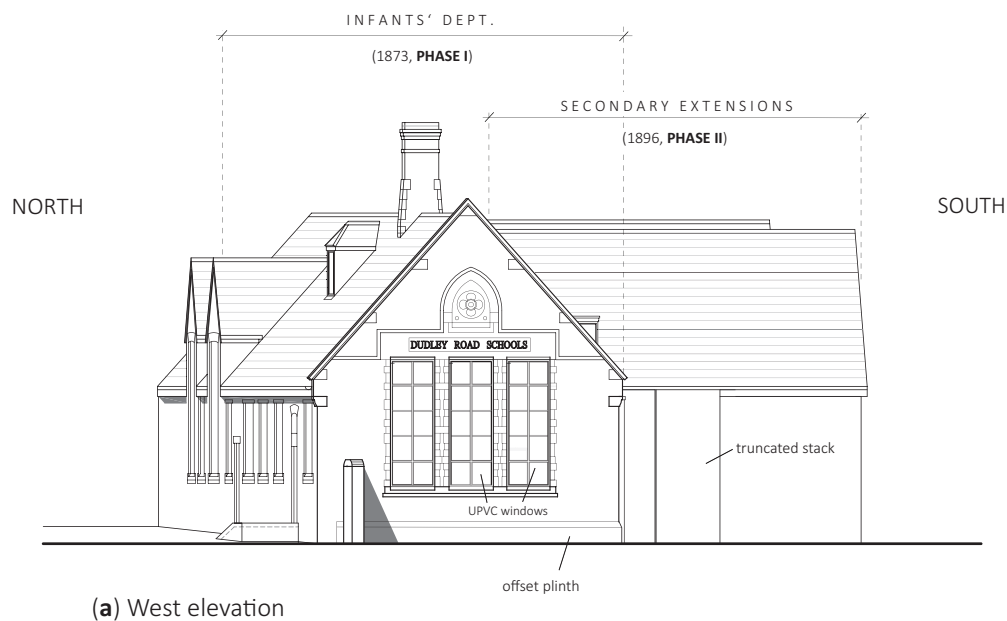


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Former Dudley Road Schools
Dudley Road, Blakenhall, Wolverhampton, West Midlands

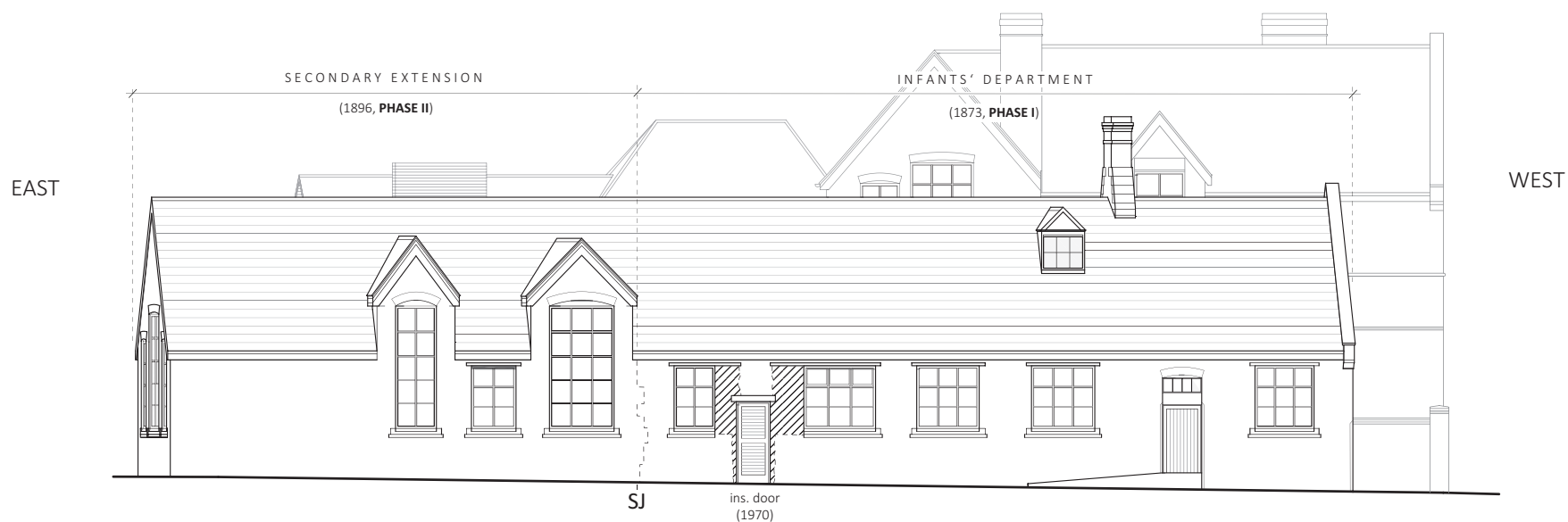
Figure 23: Main block; short elevations
Based upon Hodson Architects Drawing No. 2161-006

NB: for illustrative purposes only, **do not scale** from this drawing



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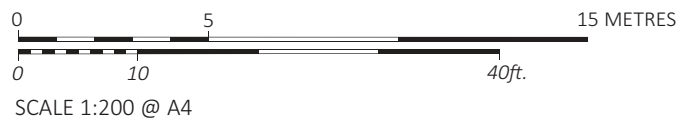
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(a) North elevation



(b) South elevation

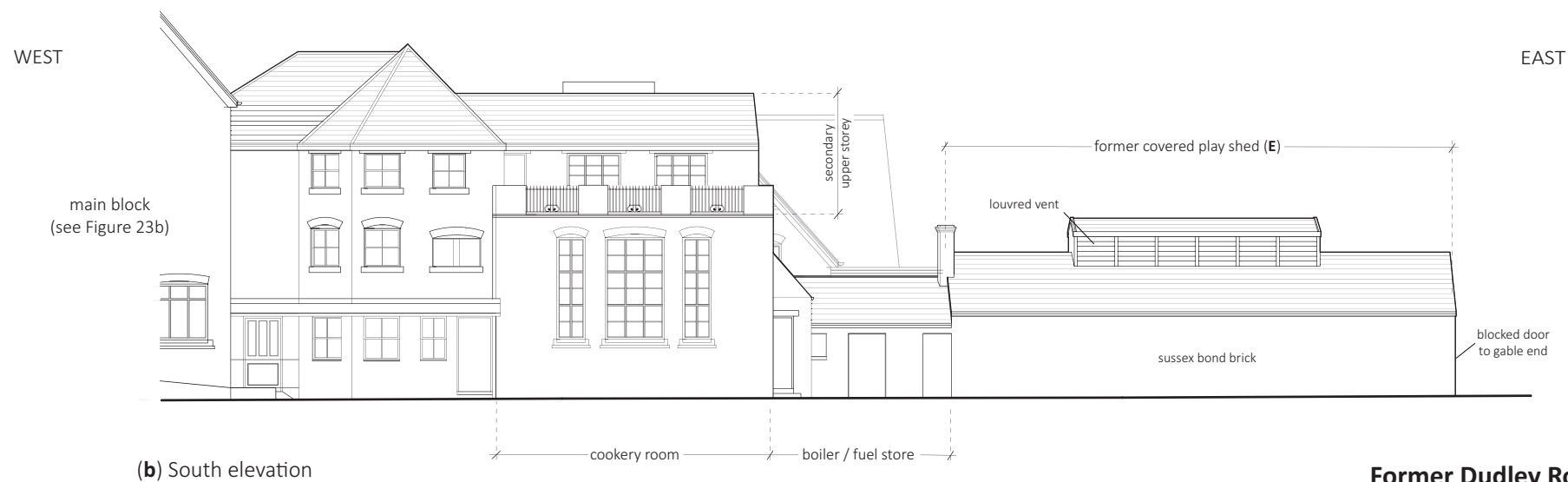
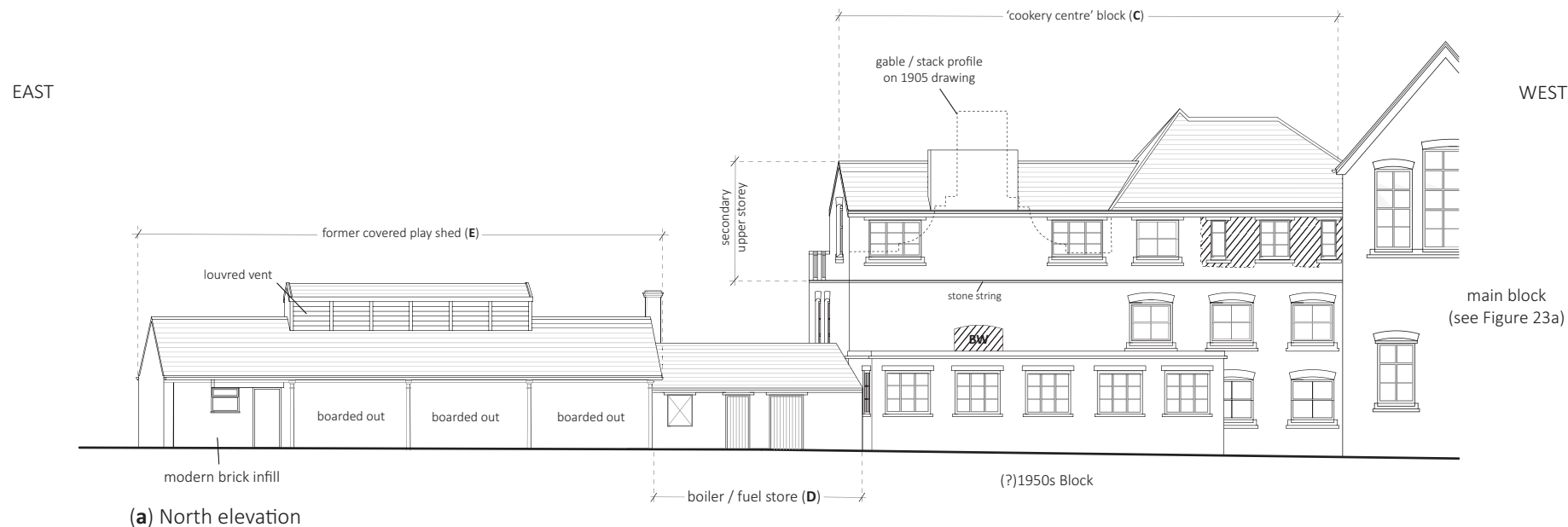


Former Dudley Road Schools
Dudley Road, Blakenhall, Wolverhampton, West Midlands

Figure 25: 'Infants Block'; long elevations

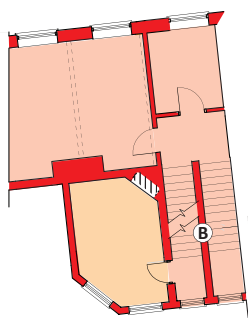
Based upon Hodson Architects Drawing No. 2161-006

NB: for illustrative purposes only, do not scale from this drawing

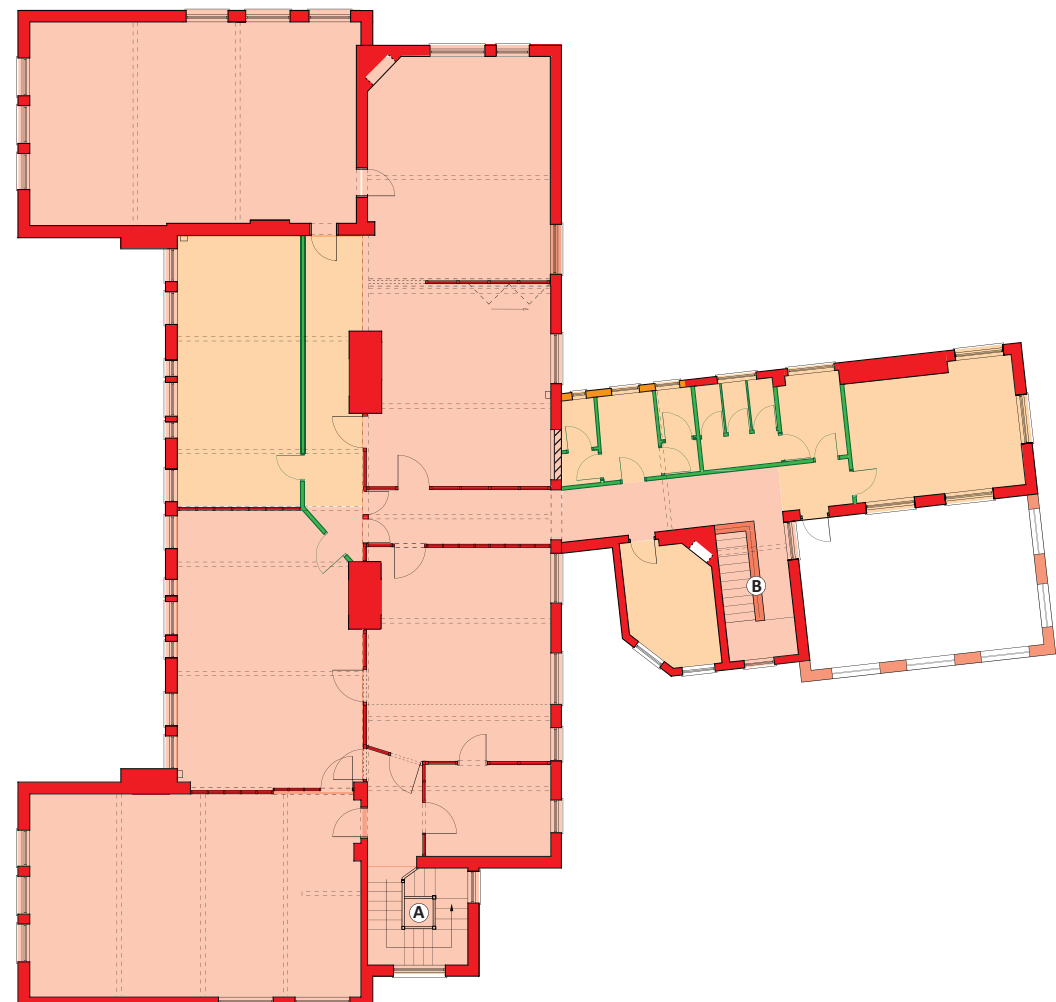




(a) Ground floor



(b) Mezzanine floor over (c)



(c) First floor

KEY	
■	High Significance / Sensitivity
■	Medium Significance / Sensitivity
■	Low Significance / Sensitivity



Plate 1: Contextual, birds-eye view of Dudley Road Schools looking north-east with Dudley Road to foreground and Birmingham Road to background. **NB.** The Sycamores nursing home to rear of schools, erected in 2000 (image: Bing Maps).



Plate 2: General view of Dudley Road frontage looking south-east; main school to right, infants department to left.



Plate 3: General view of Dudley Road frontage looking north-east. **NB.** Boys entrance to right foreground.



Plate 4: Recessed, 5-bay central section of main school building.



Plate 5: Detail of brick buttress and offset plinth.



Plate 6: Detail of paired, ground-floor windows.



Plate 7: Detail of paired, first-floor windows.

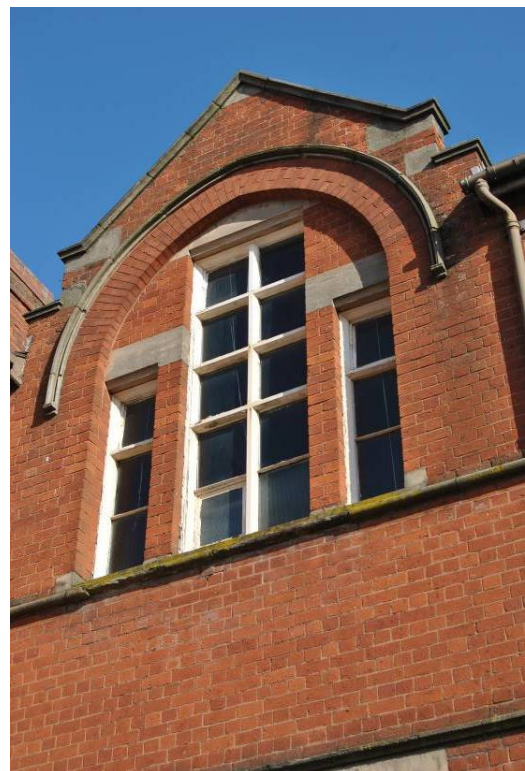


Plate 8: Detail of triple window beneath gable.



Plate 9: Northern projecting gable (arrow marks change in brickwork; see Plate 10).



Plate 10: Change in brickwork beneath GF window; possibly related to early, single-storey range.



Plate 11: Triple lancets with gauged-brick heads and stone drip mouldings light 1F of north wing.



Plate 12: Southern return of north wing with secondary doorway approached via sloping ramp.



Plate 13: Rear (east) elevation (north end).



Plate 14: Rear (east) elevation (south end).



Plate 15: Stair tower at south-east angle of main block.



Plate 16: Main block, north elevation (oblique).



Plate 17: Main school block, south elevation.



Plate 18: Western range [G1] of main block looking north.



Plate 19: Eastern range [G2] of main block looking North.



Plate 20: Southern of two original axial chimney stacks
NB. glazed-brick dado.



Plate 21: Paired windows to west elevation; cills at 5ft above interior floor level.



Plate 22: High level partitions defining former 6ft. wide corridor across eastern range of main block.



Plate 23: High level partition over western range.



Plate 24: Representative interior view of north 'wing'.



Plate 25: ½-gazed partition at [G6].



Plate 26: Dado rising to north side of north wing [G4].



Plate 27: Representative interior view of south 'wing'.



Plate 28: Store within south 'wing' with ex-situ primary doors, desk etc.



Plate 29: Open-well stair **A** rising to first floor level.



Plate 30: Landing **[F1]** looking north.



Plate 31: Room [F3] looking north.



Plate 32: Timber 1/2-glazed partition with sliding panel.



Plate 33: Room [F4] looking north.



Plate 34: Corridor [F4a] looking north.



Plate 35: Tall, 'Tobin Tube' type ventilator, room [F4] (north wall) also present in [F3/F7].



Plate 36: Room [F6] looking south.



Plate 37: Fireplace (blocked), room [F6].



Plate 38: Room [F6]; variation in floor treatment demarcating former room division.



Plate 39: Room [F7] looking north.



Plate 40: Room [F7] looking south-east, note ventilator to east wall and skylight replacing original window.



Plate 41: Room [F8] looking north-east.



Plate 42: Room [F8] looking south-west.

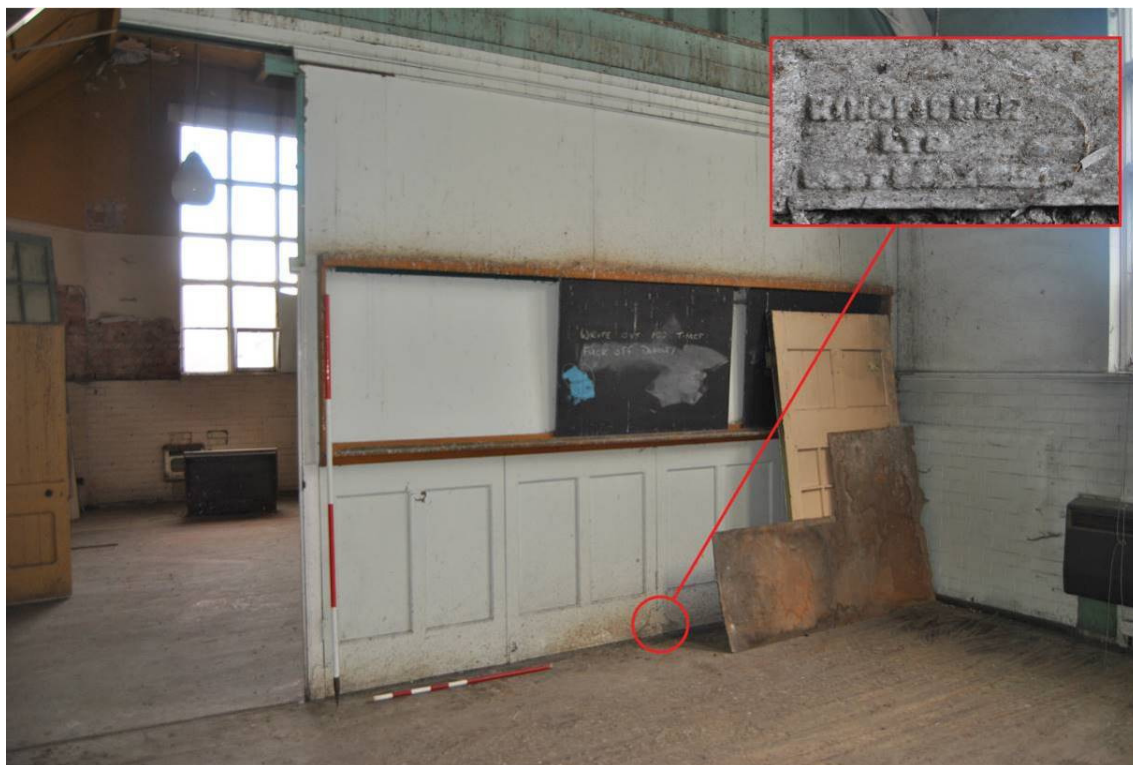


Plate 43: 'Concertina' type, folding screen by Kingfisher Ltd. of West Bromwich (inset makers' plate) forming north side of room [F7].



Plate 44: RSJ head of 'Kingfisher' screen; patching of brickwork indicative of insertion.



Plate 45: Transverse passage [F9] looking east.



Plate 46: Room [F2] looking west.

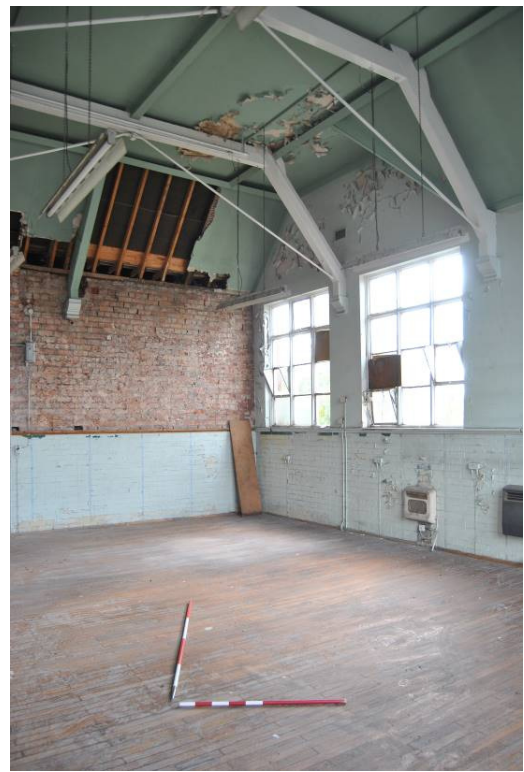


Plate 47: Room [F2] looking south-east.

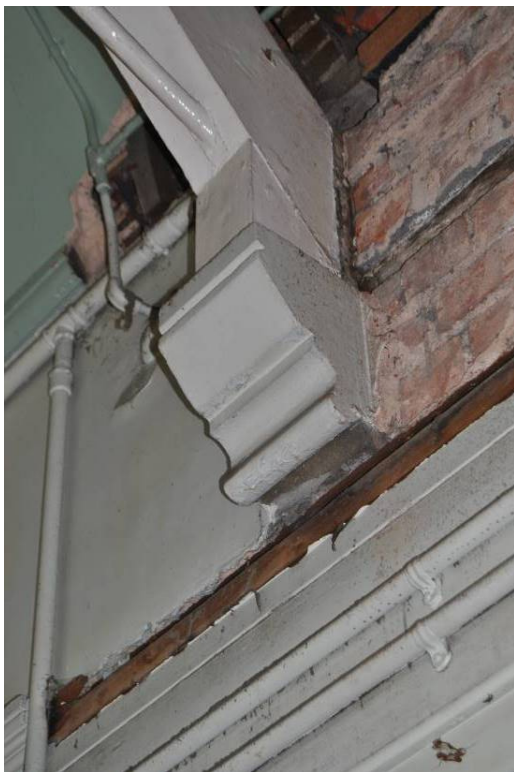


Plate 48: Detail of moulded stone corbel.



Plate 49: Detail of glazed-brick dado, cream with single course of green at rail level.



Plate 50: Timber 1/2-glazed partition with sliding panel (right).



Plate 51: Room [F10] looking west.



Plate 52: Blocked fireplace, Room [F10].



Plate 53: Rising dado evident to east wall of room [F10] (see also Plate 26).



Plate 54: Infants Department, west gable end.

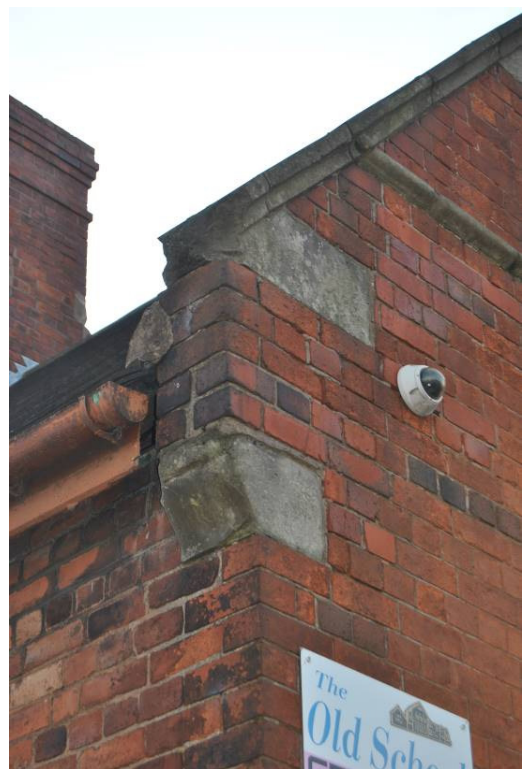


Plate 55: Detail of stone kneeler.



Plate 56: Detail of name plaque to west gable of Infants Department.



Plate 57: Infants Department, east elevation with flat-roofed extension to left.



Plate 58: Phase IV (?)1950s, flat-roofed kitchen extension.



Plate 59: Infants Department; north elevation, oblique view.



Plate 60: Detail of inserted door (1970/71) and reduced window (NB: truncated cill and infill brickwork).



Plate 61: Detail of staggered-joint at phase break.



Plate 62: Staggered gables of 1896 extensions.



Plate 63: Phase-break between 19th-century block and Phase IV (?)1950s extension.



Plate 64: Western return of Phase II classroom [G14].



Plate 65: Angle-porch with modified doorway .



Plate 66: Office [G9], current arrangements dating to 1970 (see Figure 15).



Plate 67: Stair rising at north-west corner of [G8].

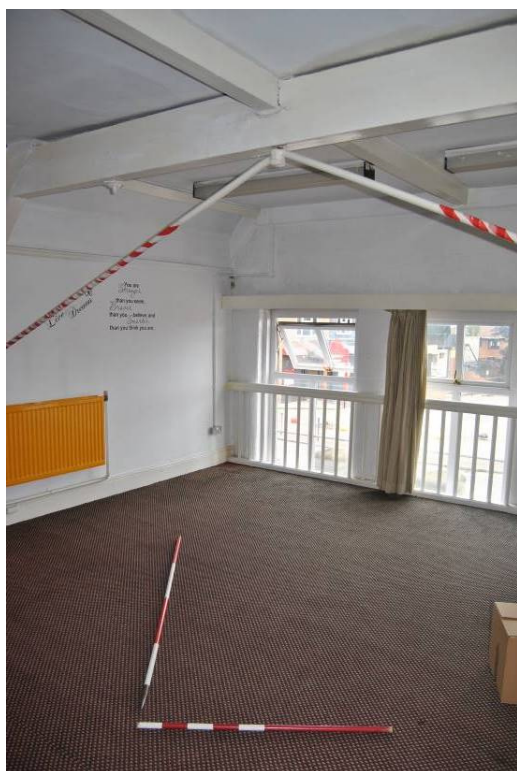


Plate 68: Office over [G9].



Plate 69: Edwardian fireplace within office over [G9].



Plate 70: Classroom [G10] looking east with original, 1/2-glazed partition surviving at high level.



Plate 71: Juxtaposed partition and roof truss, [G10].

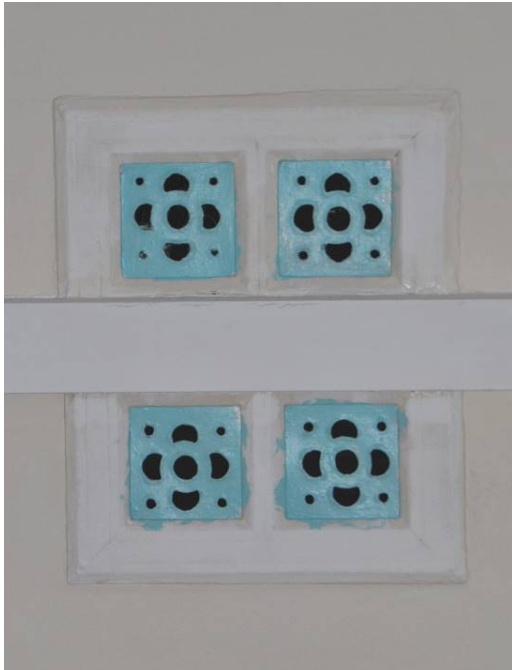


Plate 72: Decorative ceiling vent, room [G10].



Plate 73: Classroom [G12] looking east.



Plate 74: Classroom [G12] looking north-west, note variant tension-rod arrangement.



Plate 75: Blocked FP and adjacent cupboard, [G12].



Plate 76: Classroom [G13] looking south-east.



Plate 77: Classroom [G14] looking south-east.



Plate 78: Block (C) looking south-west with secondary upper storey over cookery room (gabled block, upper left; compare Figure 14) and (?)1950s single-storey extension to foreground.



Plate 79: 3-storey section of Block (C); north elevation.



Plate 80: 'Cookery Block' etc. (C); south elevation, general view looking north-east.



Plate 81: Tall, single-storey section of Cookery Block, looking north-west, with lean-to former pantry to right.



Plate 82: 3-storey section of Block (C); south elevation.



Plate 83: Room [G18] looking south-west.



Plate 84: Room [G18] looking north-east.



Plate 85: Inserted partitions to north side of [G18].



Plate 86: Former high window, surviving above [G18/19].



Plate 87: Surviving angle FP with stone surround in Room [G19].



Plate 88: Original access door to Cookery Block [G23] (see Figure 14).



Plate 89: Stair **B** rising from **[G20]** to mezzanine office **[M1]**.



Plate 90: Mezzanine level office **[M1]**.



Plate 91: Stair **B**; 'Boys' flight rising from exterior.



Plate 92: Detail of cast-iron grate **[M2]**.



Plate 93: Mezzanine level office [M2]; surviving fireplace with small cast-iron range.



Plate 94: Passage [F11] looking east.



Plate 95: Toilets [F13] inserted to north side of range.



Plate 96: Head of Stair B.

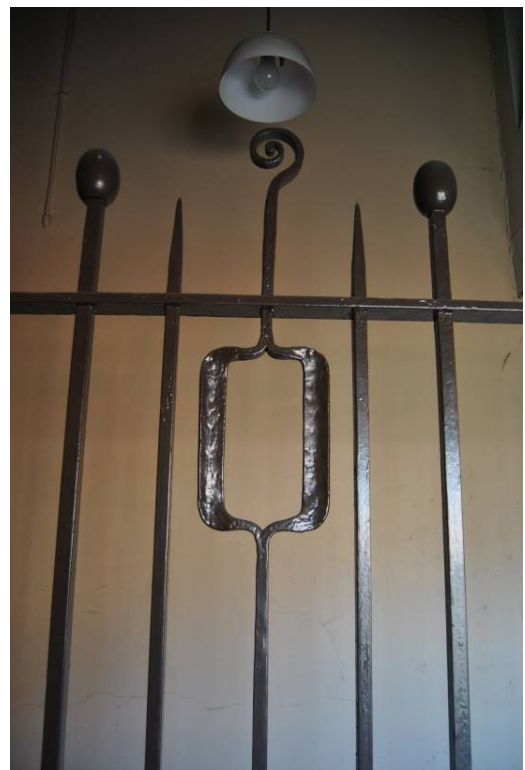


Plate 97: Detail of decorative safety railings at head of stairwell.



Plate 98: Office [F12] looking south.



Plate 99: Room [F14] in secondary extension.



Plate 100: Stack with 'tumbled-in' brick incorporated into north wall on [F14].



Plate 101: Boiler / fuel store D looking south.



Plate 102: Boiler / fuel store **D** looking north.



Plate 103: Detail of stack.



Plate 104: Covered playshed **E** looking south-east.



Plate 105: Covered playshed E looking north-east.



Plate 106: Detail of cast-iron column at north-west angle.

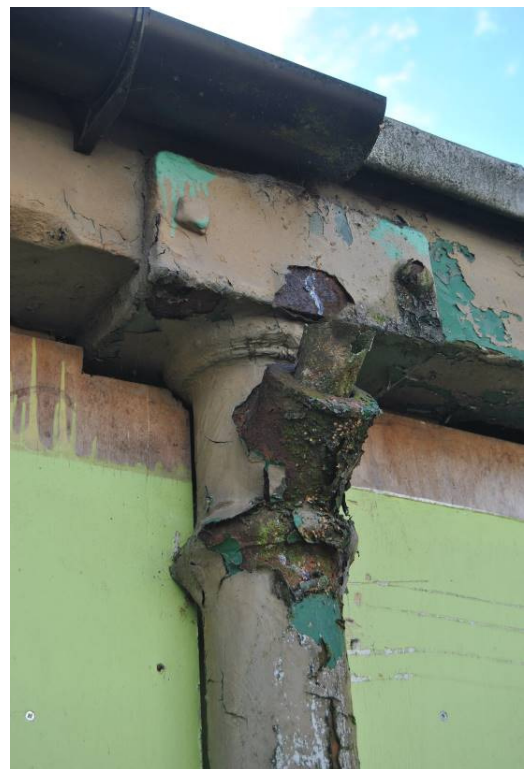


Plate 107: Detail of integral rainwater drainage.



Plate 108: Covered playshed E; detail of louvred roof vent.



Plate 109: Low bounding wall to main building, railings lost. **NB.** Stone coping.



Plate 110: Cast-iron coping to north of north transverse range.



Plate 111: Original iron railings in front of Infants' Department (compare Figure 16a).



Plate 112: Detail of decorative railings.



Plate 113: Detail of original gate.



Plate 114: Bounding wall and Boys entrance to south end of Dudley Road façade, (NB. cast-iron coping).



Plate 115: Relic Girls/Infants gateway to Birmingham Rd.
(introduced 1899).

APPENDIX A: Dudley Road School, Wolverhampton: Statement of Approach (July 2013)

Approach

Significant historic research has already been undertaken by project partners and so it is not envisaged that any extensive programme of new background research will be undertaken as part of the current assessment. However, a day has been allowed to visit Molineux House to examine early maps, school log books, historical images, trade directories etc. to supplement existing historical sources.

Building Record

A full record of the building will be made by means of a physical inspection of the school structure, both externally and internally, in line with English Heritage guidance published in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (EH, 2006). The proposed record will be commensurate to a 'hybrid' level somewhere between EH Levels 2 ('descriptive') and Level 3 ('analytical') and will comprise drawn, photographic and written records. Existing floor plans and principal elevations will be used as a basis for on-site drawn survey, copies will be marked up and annotated to indicate significant archaeological and architectural detail including blocked doorways/windows, inserted walls, primary fabric, surviving features of historical significance etc. It is not envisaged that significant new survey will be generated at this stage, though cross-sections may be generated from existing drawings and limited site measurement if appropriate. A full colour digital photographic record will also be maintained. A systematic written account of the building will be made as free text describing the form, function, date and sequence of development.

Building Assessment

An assessment of the building will be made with reference to English Heritage guidelines as set down in *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* (EH, 2008). This will comprise an evaluation of the evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal value of the building complex.

An assessment of the relative significance and sensitivity of the various areas of the complex will be made, based upon such indicators as the extent of survival of original spaces, fixtures and fittings etc., and will be presented as free text and as a 'traffic light' diagram incorporating a scale of 'sensitivity to change'.

Report

The results of the programme of building recording and assessment will be presented as a fully illustrated, interpretive report, incorporating the following elements:

Text

- Non-technical summary
- Introduction and site location
- Aims and objectives
- Methodology
- Historical background
- Description and analysis of the building complex
- Discussion (incl. assessment of significance)
- List of sources consulted, Acknowledgements.

Figures

- Location plan and a selection of historic maps / images
- Plans, elevations and cross-sections of school buildings as appropriate
- A phase plan to illustrate the development of the school as apparent from historical sources and a non-intrusive examination of the built fabric
- Diagrammatic representation of 'sensitivity to change' ('traffic light').
- A selection of colour plates

Appendices

- A register of project drawings

- A register of project photographs

Timetable

A draft report will be generated normally within four weeks of completion of fieldwork. A draft version of the report will be issued as a PDF for discussion ahead of issuing of the final report. Timetable to be agreed.

Ric Tyler MlfA
09.07.13