

OLD CHAPEL BETWEEN 14 AND 16 MARSH STREET, BARROW-IN-FURNESS, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Building Recording



Client: RS Properties Ltd
Planning Ap. Ref. 142/2005/0722
NGR: 320634 468901

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Non-Technical Summary

Following submission of a planning application by RS Properties Ltd to demolish the Primitive Methodist Chapel in Marsh Street, Barrow-in-Furness, for redevelopment, Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned to carry out an archaeological recording of the structure. As the old chapel is considered to be of some historic importance the recording condition was put in place by Barrow Borough Council, following a recommendation by Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES). The Assistant Archaeologist at Cumbria County Council verbally confirmed this was to comprise a Level 2 recording of the building.

An examination of the documentary sources revealed that the building was built c1875 by the Primitive Methodists and was used as a place of worship until 1953 when it was sold to the North Western Electricity Board. The building was then owned by various local retailers who used it as a storage depot.

The building recording did not identify any distinct phases of construction or major alterations. The building, which is gothic in style and quite ornate compared with other Methodist chapels in Barrow, was largely unchanged throughout its existence. Plans were put forward by one of the previous owners to add a first floor, but this was not carried out. The furnishings and fittings within the hall are no longer extant, as are the fittings in the galleries.

Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank RS Properties for commissioning and supporting the project, and for providing copies of the 1977 planning application drawings, and deeds. Additional thanks are due to the staff of the Cumbria Record Office in Barrow-in-Furness.

The desk-based assessment was carried out by Steve Clarke, who also undertook the building recording with the assistance of Dean Williams. The report was compiled by Steve Clarke, who also produced the illustrations. The project was managed Daniel Elsworth, who also edited the report together with Jo Dawson.

1. Introduction

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

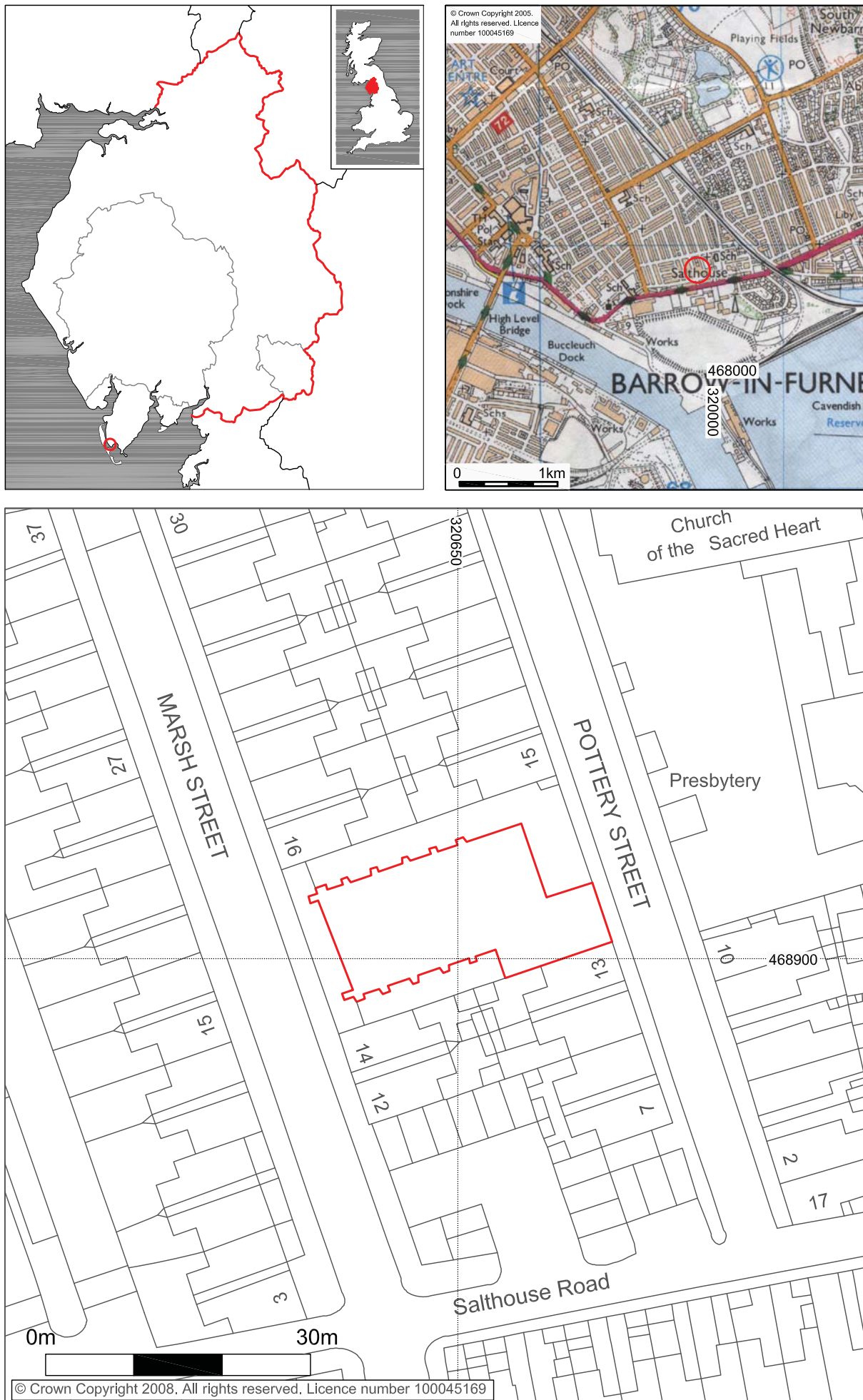
1.1.1 In advance of the submission of a planning application (142/2005/0722) by RS Properties Ltd (hereafter 'the client') to demolish the Primitive Methodist Chapel, in Marsh Street, Barrow-in-Furness (NGR 320634 468901) for redevelopment, a recording condition was put in place by Barrow Borough Council, following a recommendation by Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES).

1.1.2 The record is intended to provide a detailed account of the present state of the building, its arrangement, architectural detail, and historical associations, as well as establish the phasing and significance of all aspects of it.

1.1.3 Greenlane Archaeology produced a project design (*see accompanying CD*), which was approved by Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer at Cumbria County Council. The on-site recording was undertaken on the 21st and 22nd August 2008, following the completion of the first stage of the desk-based assessment.

1.2 Location, Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The local topography is urban, with Marsh Street situated on the southwest edge of the town centre (Fig 1). Barrow-in-Furness is largely situated on an area of red Sherwood sandstone of St Bees type, but there is a large area of Carboniferous limestone to the north-east (Moseley 1978, plate 1). The overlying drift deposits comprise glacial material such as boulder clay, which forms a hummocky rolling landscape outside of the town (Countryside Commission 1998, 27). The site is situated at approximately 7m above sea level (Ordnance Survey 2005; Fig 1).



2. Methodology

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The architectural investigation comprised three separate elements intended to provide a suitable record of the structure, in line with English Heritage standards (English Heritage 2006) and the guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 2001). In addition a desk-based assessment was carried out in accordance with the project design (*see accompanying CD*), and a suitable archive was compiled to provide a permanent paper record of the project and its results in accordance with English Heritage and IFA guidelines (English Heritage 1991; Brown 2007).

2.2 Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 A desk-based assessment was carried out. This principally comprised an examination of early maps of the site, which could demonstrate the basic phasing and development of the building, as well as other documentary sources. A number of sources of information were utilised during the desk-based assessment:

- **Cumbria Record Office, Barrow (CRO(B))**: this was visited in order to examine early maps of the site, and other primary and secondary sources;

2.3 Building Recording

2.3.1 The building recording was carried out to English Heritage Level-2 standard (English Heritage 2006). This is a largely descriptive investigation, with only a limited level of interpretation of the phasing and use of the buildings, which incorporates evidence compiled during the rapid desk-based assessment. The recording comprised several parts:

- **Written record**: descriptive records of all parts of the building were made using Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets;
- **Photographs**: photographs in colour digital format and colour prints were taken of the main features of the building, its general surroundings, and any features of architectural or archaeological interest. A selection of the colour digital photographs is included in this report, and many of the remaining photographs are presented on the accompanying CD;
- **Drawings**: drawings were produced by first digitising paper 'as existing' illustrations (produced as part of a planning application from 1977; Oxley 1977) of the building supplied by the client, reproducing these at a suitable scale for use on site, and hand-annotating additional detail onto them. These comprised:
 - i. 'as existing' ground and gallery floor plans, at 1:100;
 - ii. a general cross-section was also produced by hand at a scale of 1:50 based on an existing drawing;
 - iii. in addition, two external elevations were also produced by drawing detailed elements at a scale of 1:20, which were added to a measured sketch plan.

2.4 Archive

2.4.1 A comprehensive archive of the project has been produced in accordance with the project design (*see accompanying CD*), and current IFA and English

Heritage guidelines (Brown 2007; English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited in the Cumbria Record Office in Barrow-in-Furness on completion of the project. One copy of this report will be deposited with the client and one will be retained by Greenlane Archaeology. Three copies of this report will be deposited with the Cumbria Historic Environment Record, and in a digital copy will be offered the OASIS scheme, together with a record of the project details.

3. Desk-Based Assessment

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 As outlined in the methodology, the desk-based assessment included an examination of a number of sources, with the intention of providing a relatively comprehensive historical background to the site, and evidence for the manner in which the building has developed through time. The results are divided into three sections based on the types of evidence and information that they can provide:

- A history of the site from the earliest references through to the present day, placing the property in its context but also providing specific information about the building where possible;
- A map regression, concentrating on the physical development of the structure through time;
- Information relating to any previous planning applications, where available, so that recorded modern alterations can be easily identified.

3.2 History

3.2.1 **Marsh Street:** Marsh Street was built during the 1860s and 1870s on the south-west edge of the town with little development to the west. Barrow was a rapidly growing town with a population of 19,000 which expanded to 47,000 by 1881 (Widdup 1981, 116). Even by this time the town had not expanded much beyond the Furness Railway which ran north to south from Salthouse Bridge, Marsh Street extended north as far as Greengate Street and consisted mainly of back to back terraced housing with small rear yards. The Marsh Street area was full of minor local industries (see *Section 3.4*), the nearest of which a pottery established in 1866 by James Myerscough (Elsworth and Dawson forthcoming). This particular establishment was clearly one of the first in the area and quite influential on the local topography as Pottery Street is named after it and Myerscough Street is almost certainly named after its owner. Many of its employees lived in the local area and James Myerscough and his wife Elizabeth lived on Raglan Street, where they also ran a grocery shop (*ibid*).

3.2.2 **The Chapel:** the Primitive Methodist chapel was built in the early part of the 1870's. The exact date is not clear as primary sources contradict each other; an Ordnance Survey map apparently surveyed in 1873 shows the chapel (see *Section 3.3* below), yet the conveyance for the land that the chapel was to be built on is dated 1876 (Deeds 1876). A number of other near contemporary sources suggest it was built in 1875. The Marsh Street Chapel was the third chapel to be built by the Primitive Methodists in Barrow and cost £2,750 and had a capacity of 400 (Mannex and Co c1882). The first to be built was in Foreshaw Street in 1866 at a cost of £1,300, followed by one in Hartington Street in 1874 at a cost of £2,750; both of these had capacity for 600 (*ibid*). The land on Marsh Street was purchased by the Trustees of the Primitive Connexion (Deeds 1876), which included local luminaries such as Benjamin Fish, who at the time of the purchase was a town councillor, successful businessman and landowner (Trescatheric 1985, 65).

3.2.3 From the outset the chapel was always struggling for funds, mainly due to its location within one of the poorest areas of Barrow and financial mismanagement by the trustees. In 1890s the chapel was at the centre of a financial scandal, caused by the fraud and embezzlement by successive treasurers and a lack of resolution of the crisis by the District Committee (Burgess 1979, 20). The chapel struggled on into the 20th century, continually in debt (*ibid*). With the outbreak of WWII came more financial

burdens. In 1941 enemy action caused bomb damage, but worse was the near flattening of the Hartington Street chapel which cost thousands of pounds to repair. It was to be 1948 before the repair work to Marsh Street chapel was completed at a cost of £372 (*ibid*). With continuous costs for the upkeep of the building and a falling congregation a resolution was put forward by the trustees to get permission to sell the chapel, which was granted in February 1954. The Chapel was closed down in 1953 and sold to the North Western Electricity Board in 1954 (CRO(B) BDFCBPM 4/1/2 1926-1953). Later owners of the chapel were Stoller's, the local furniture retailer. Material found on site suggests that Dandy's, another local furniture retailer, may have also owned or leased the building.

3.2.4 Primitive Methodism was created in 1812 in the area of the midlands known as the 'Black Country' by Hugh Bourne and William Clowes; Bourne adopting the name from a statement that had been made by John Wesley in 1790: "*I still remain a primitive Methodist*" (Kendall 1890, 15). These men, who had been ejected from the Wesleyan Methodists due to their behaviour being contrary to Methodist discipline, were heavily influenced by Lorenzo Dow, an American evangelist (*op cit*, 8). The early meetings called Camp Meetings were held out in the open and lasted for two or three days; Bourne built his first chapel in 1811 and by 1842 there were nearly 1300 across the country (*op cit*, 38).

3.3 Map Regression

3.3.1 **Introduction:** a number of early maps showing the property, or the site of it, in are available, ranging in date from the mid 19th to the 20th century, and these discussed in chronological order below.

3.3.2 **Ordnance Survey c1873:** the first of these maps shows Marsh Street not yet developed with only four terraced houses and no chapel (Plate 1). What must be a later edition, although curiously apparently surveyed in the same year, shows the chapel as built and Marsh Street developed up to Lumley Street and beyond. The chapel is the large building situated between Marsh Street and Pottery Street (Plate 2). A pottery is shown on the opposite side of Pottery Street on both maps.



Plate 1: (left) map of c1873 (Ordnance survey c1873a)



Plate 2: (right) map of c1873, apparently a later edition (Ordnance Survey c1873b)

3.3.3 **Map of 1876:** the original conveyance of 1876 includes a map, which marks the plot of land on which the chapel was to be built (Plate 3). This does not provide

any additional information, although it does show the position of several streets and the pottery on the other side of the road.

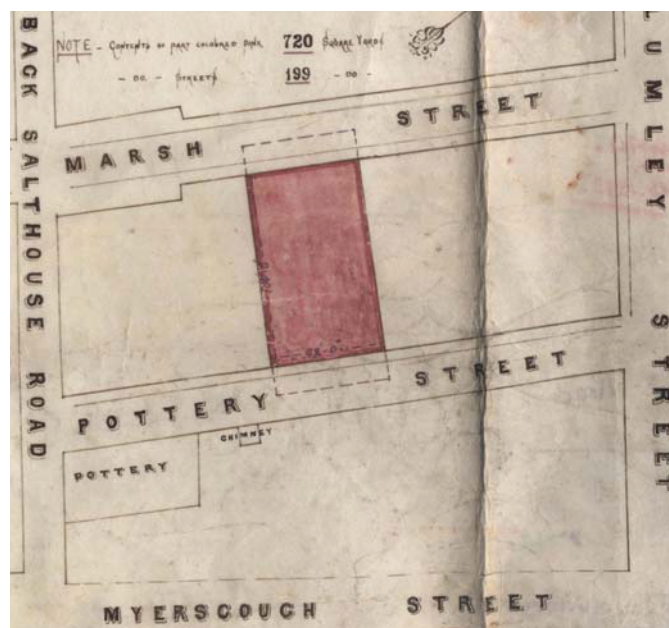


Plate 3: Plan of 1876 included with the original conveyance

3.3.4 **Ordnance Survey Map of 1893:** over the next 20 years there is little evident change although the chapel is shown with projecting buttresses all around it by this date, unlike on the previous maps (Plate 4).

3.3.5 **Ordnance Survey Map of 1933:** again, little change has evidently occurred to the chapel, although it is referred to as a church rather than a chapel, but the surrounding landscape has been significantly altered (Plate 5). The pottery has evidently been demolished and replaced with a row of houses and a Roman Catholic Church has been built to the north of this.



Plate 4: (left) Ordnance Survey map of 1893

Plate 5: (right) Ordnance Survey map of 1933

3.4 Planning Applications

3.4.1 **Introduction:** the details of a single planning application from 1977 were available (Plate 6). These indicate that the building was used as a furniture store at this time, and relate to the installation of a proposed first floor (Oxley 1977). It appears that these plans were not carried out.

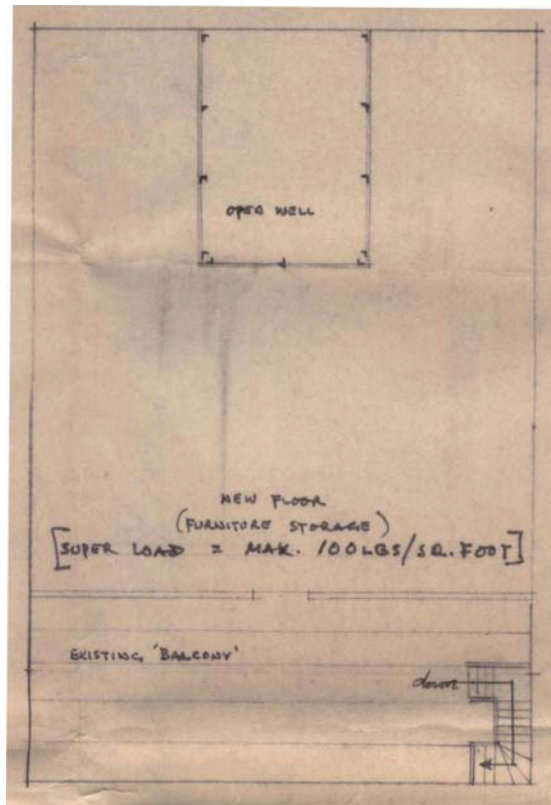


Plate 6: Proposed plan for a new first floor from a planning application of 1977 (Oxley 1977)

3.5 Discussion

3.5.1 The documentary and cartographic sources demonstrate that the chapel remained much the same as when it was built until it ceased to be a place of worship. There is however, some evident disagreement regarding the date of construction of the building. The documentary sources almost all suggest that the date is 1875, but it is shown on an Ordnance Survey map supposedly surveyed in 1873. The most convincing evidence is perhaps the original deeds, which show that the land on which the chapel was to be built was not acquired until 1876, so the chapel must have been built later. It is not obvious what caused this discrepancy in dating.

4. Building Recording

4.1 Arrangement and Fabric

4.1.1 The former chapel is orientated east/west, with the main entrance onto Marsh Street at the west end with additional access at the east end and to the rear of the north elevation (Fig 2). The building is constructed of machine-made red brick with string courses of blue engineering bricks. The details around the doors and windows are in red and yellow sandstone and the gabled roof is finished with slate with ceramic ridge tiles. The building consists of the main hall with a schoolroom and vestry to the rear. These rooms butt the east end of the meeting hall, and each has a gabled roof.

4.2 External Detail

4.2.1 **East elevation:** this elevation forms the rear of the building, facing onto Pottery Street (Plate 7) and consists of the rear walls of the schoolroom and vestry, and the rear gable end of the meeting hall. The south end of the elevation is the gable end of the schoolroom which has three centrally situated rectangular windows. These windows are separated by stop-chamfered brick columns, which support the chamfered yellow sandstone lintels. The large sills are also yellow sandstone, the tops sloping down from the window. Above the lintels are decorative round arches of brick. Two pairs of decorative string courses, of blue brick, run the length of the elevation at the height of the window sills and lintels, the top course following the curves of the decorative pointed arches. The base of the wall has a slight plinth topped with a course of chamfered blue brick.

4.2.2 The gable end of the meeting hall is coped with sandstone slabs and sandstone crested ridge tiles. Immediately below the apex of the roof is a narrow slot with a sandstone lintel and sill. Three pairs of string courses of blue brick decorate this part of the elevation.

4.2.3 The north side of the elevation forms the rear wall of the vestry and entrance into the schoolroom, which has a wide doorway set above a loading platform of brick and concrete. This doorway, which has a plain yellow sandstone lintel, has a set of timber ledge and batten doors within a timber frame. Adjacent to these double-doors on the north side is a single doorway set at the same height accessed by stone steps. Within this doorway is a timber batten and ledge door within a timber frame. Between the roof line and the window lintels is a string course of blue brick in a dog-tooth pattern.



Plate 7: East elevation from Pottery Street

4.2.4 **North elevation:** this elevation forms the side of the meeting hall, with the gable of the vestry and side of the schoolroom at the east end (Fig 2). The elevation of the church hall is supported by six brick built buttresses, which are evenly spread along the wall with one at each corner. These are stepped with chamfered sandstone coping at the top and above the centre. Centrally positioned between each of the buttresses is a tall rectangular window with sandstone lintel and sill. The tops of the windows are decorated with a pointed arch of red and yellow sandstone lined with a string course of blue bricks. The sides of the windows are moulded and contain a recessed window frame of 18 leaded lights. These consist of three large lights with a border of smaller red rectangular and square lights. The top two courses of the wall project the width of a single brick and are supported by decorative brick corbels closely spaced with a string course of blue bricks below, which support the guttering.



Plate 8: (left) North elevation



Plate 9: (right) North elevation of schoolroom

4.2.5 The east end of the elevation, the gable end of the vestry, has a truncated brick wall butting at right-angles from the east end. At the west end of the gable is an arched doorway (Plate 8). The brick jambs have been chamfered and curve inwards to form a pointed arch, the apex of which has a sandstone keystone. The space within is plain brick above a yellow sandstone lintel. The door itself is a timber batten and ledge within a timber frame. Adjacent to the east side of the door is a rectangular window with stop-chamfered jambs, and sandstone stop-chamfered lintel and sloping sill. At the east end of the elevation are two more rectangular windows separated by a brick column with the sides stop-chamfered. This column supports the sandstone lintels. The window frames are timber with single lights. The wall base and decorative string courses continue round from the east elevation. In the east end corner of the elevation below ground level is a doorway to the basement accessed via a flight of steps alongside the elevation. This doorway has a sandstone lintel with timber frame and a batten and ledge door. The west side of the gable is coped with sandstone slabs and a sandstone crested ridge, while the east side has been covered with lead sheeting. Below the apex of the gable is a narrow slot with stop-chamfered jambs and sandstone lintel and sill.

4.2.6 The north elevation of the schoolroom (Plate 9) has two tall rectangular blocked windows. One window is situated at the west end and the other just off centre to the east. They have stop-chamfered yellow sandstone lintels and sloping sandstone sills, and the jambs are also stop-chamfered. Between the roof line and the window lintels is a string course of blue brick in a dog-tooth pattern.

4.2.7 **West elevation:** this elevation is the front of the building (Plate 10; Fig 2). At each corner is a buttress similar to those on the north elevation. Running across the lower half of the elevation are three string courses of blue brick (continuing from the north elevation). In the upper half within the gable are three pairs of string courses of blue brick. The two entrance doors are situated centrally within a large decorative archway. The geometric arch is constructed of yellow and red alternating sandstone with a roll-moulded edge within which is a large circular motif of yellow sandstone. There is a moulded sandstone drip-hood over the arch with decorative corbels. Skirting the top of the drip-hood is a string course of blue bricks. Below the arch are the two entrance doors separated by a column. The column between the doors is carved from yellow sandstone with the corners stop-chamfered. The top of the column is splayed to the sides and carved with a crocket to give the appearance of a Corinthian capital. The lintel of each doorway has been decorated with a string of small pointed arches. The doors are reached by three steps, which are stone but have been repaired with concrete. Above the doorway plastic letters 'S...' and '...LER...' (presumably originally spelling 'STOLLERS') are attached to the arch.



Plate 10: (left) West elevation

Plate 11: (right) Detail of windows on west elevation

4.2.8 On each side of the arch is a pair of arched windows separated by a column (Plate 11). The style of each window is similar to the central arch, but with a pointed arch and a recessed orb of yellow sandstone within the apex of each one. The arch is constructed from alternating red and yellow stone with a roll-moulded edge, above which is a moulded stone drip-hood on decorative corbels, above which is a further decorative band of blue brick. The column supporting the arches is cylindrical with a Corinthian style capital carved with crockets. The windows, which have been blocked and skimmed with cement, have a sloping sandstone sill below which is a narrower projecting sill, also of yellow sandstone, both of which have suffered severe erosion. Below this sill is a string of bricks in a dogtooth pattern.

4.2.9 Immediately above the archway is a string course of sandstone which steps down slightly on either side and forms the sill of a large geometric arched window in the centre. This window (Plate 11) comprises four rectangular apertures above which is an arch containing a central light in the shape of a trefoil surrounded by eight circular lights, on either side are two further trefoils, all of which are glazed. Like the central arch below, the arch is constructed from alternating red and yellow stone with a roll-moulded edge above which is a moulded sandstone drip hood on moulded corbels, above which is a further band of blue bricks. The window jambs and lintels are in the same style as the doorways below, with each window having three lights within a timber frame. Situated just below the apex of the gables is a small circular light within a sandstone arch with sill and drip mould seated on a moulded corbels. The top of the gable is laid with sandstone coping slabs, the base of which has a moulded sandstone corbel. At the apex is a crested ridge of sandstone.

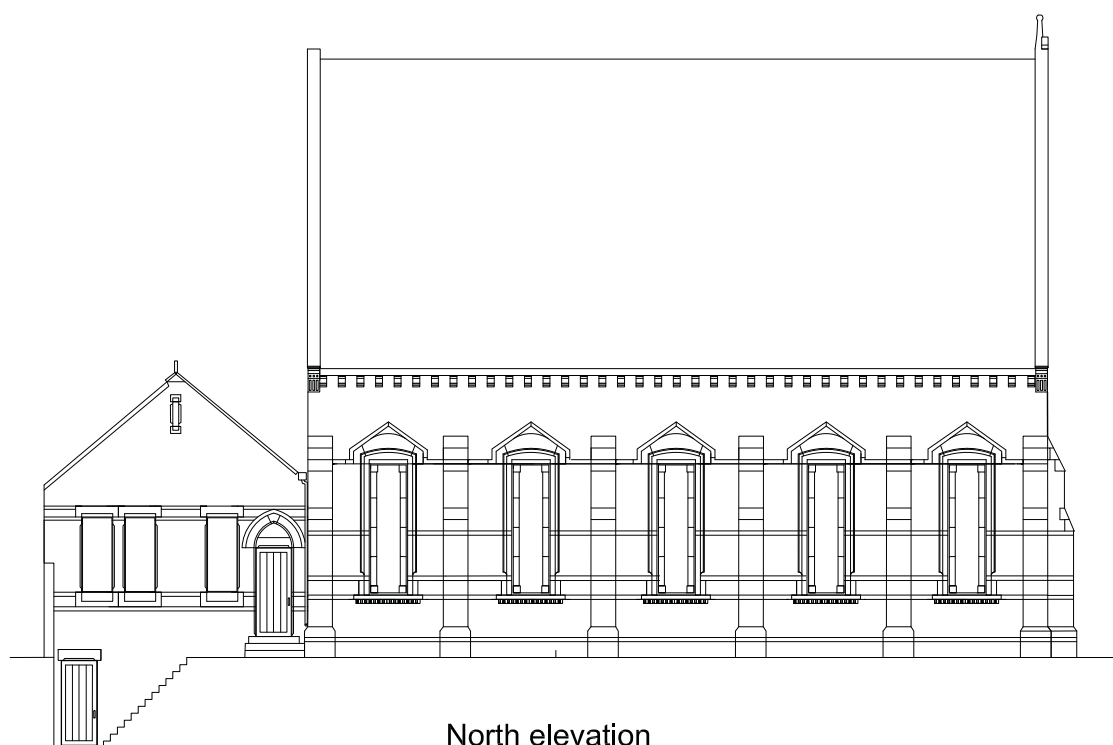


Plate 12: Main window on west elevation

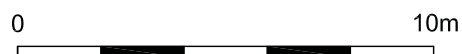
4.2.10 **South Elevation:** there was limited access to this elevation but it appeared to be similar to the north elevation of the church hall. The south elevation of the schoolroom was not accessible.

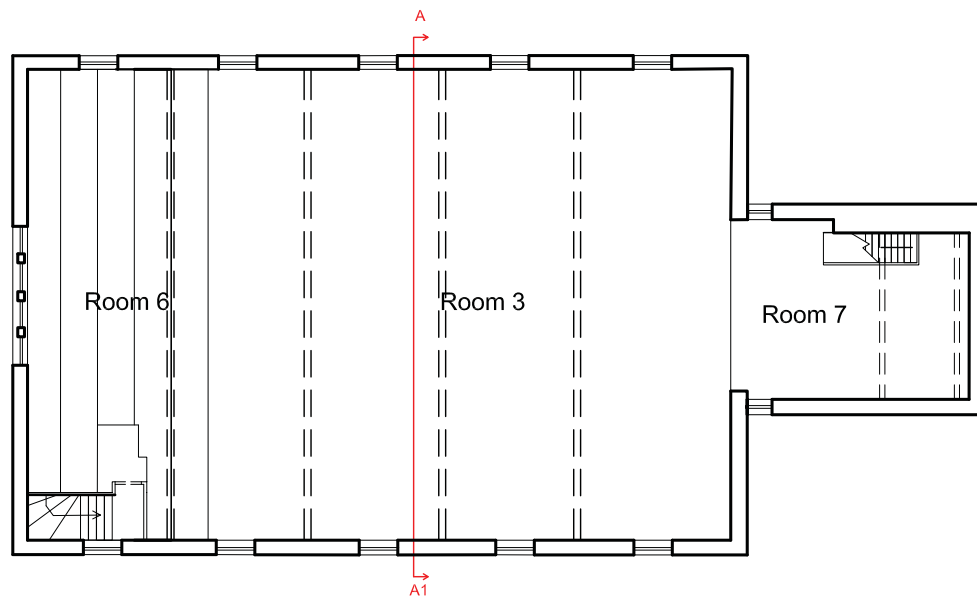


West elevation

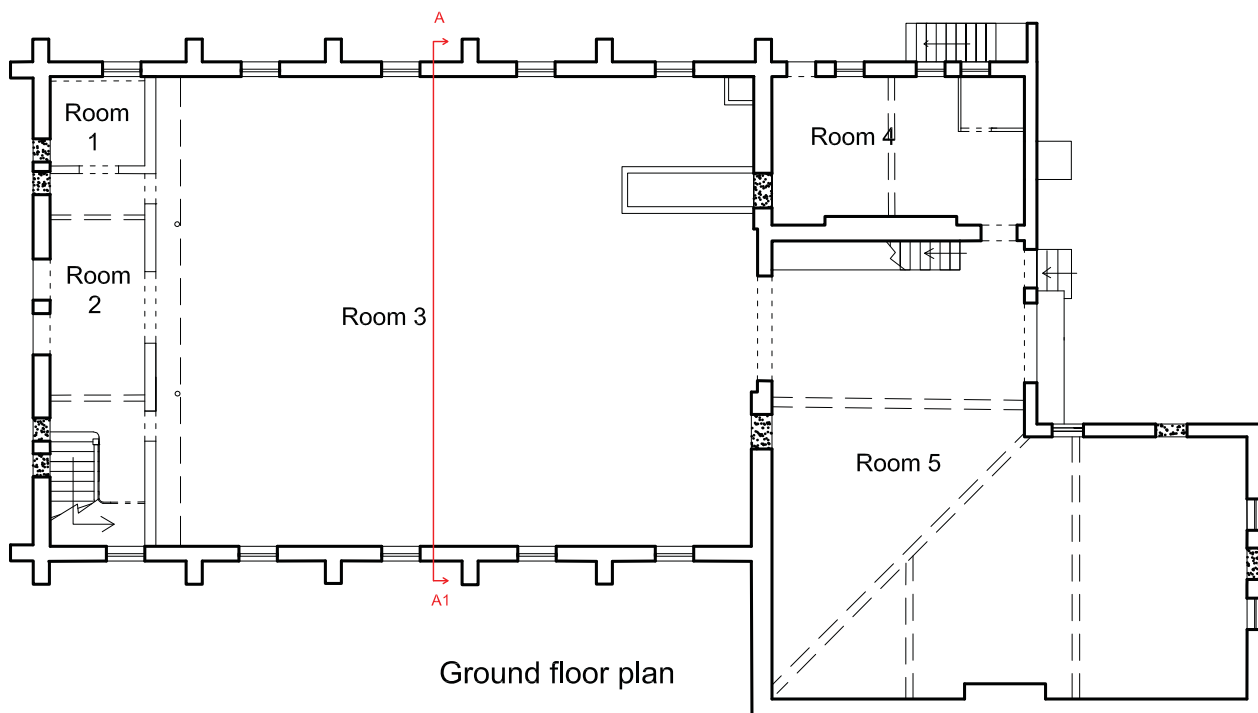


North elevation








Gallery plan




Ground floor plan

Key:

-  sectional timber
-  blocking
- A section line
-  stairs up

0 10m




4.3 Internal Detail – Ground Floor

4.3.1 There are four rooms and two galleries within the building, although a basement was also present but not accessible due to the entrances being choked with rubble. Room 1 is the cloakroom, Room 2 is the vestibule, Room 3 is the church hall, Room 4 is an ante room, perhaps the vestry, and Room 5 is the schoolroom (Fig 3).



Plate 13: North elevation of cloakroom (Room 1)

4.3.2 **Room 1:** this is room is very small, probably a cloakroom, in the north-west corner of the building accessed via the vestibule (Room 2). The east elevation is painted and wallpapered and a scar from a coat rack is visible. The north elevation has a window on the east side that extends higher than the ceiling (Plate 13). The timber frame has a sloping sill and the jamb is moulded on the west side. There are two cast-iron vents at the base of the wall, and there is an exposed beam set into the wall below the ceiling running east/west which forms part of the structure supporting the floor of the gallery above. The west elevation has been plastered and painted and there is a blocked window on the south side; a scar from a coat rack is visible running between the window and the north corner. The south elevation is lath and plaster and wallpapered and has a coat rack attached. There is a central doorway with a moulded timber surround. The floor is made from timber planks running in an east/west direction and the ceiling is plastered and painted.



Plate 14: (left) North elevation of vestibule (Room 2)



Plate 15: (right) South elevation of the vestibule (Room 2) with staircase to west gallery

4.3.3 **Room 2:** this narrow room is the vestibule and runs north/south at the east end of the building. The east elevation has a centrally placed wide doorway into the meeting hall (Room 3). The walls are plastered and painted and another doorway is situated between the wide doorway and north corner. The door frame has a moulded timber frame with a four panel door. The panels are made of tongue and groove battens set at an angle. The frame has been stop-chamfered on the sides facing the panels. A doorway is also present on the south side fitted with a similar door and frame.

4.3.4 The north elevation (Plate 14) is a lath and plaster stud wall with a central doorway and moulded door frame. The west elevation is plastered and painted and the two entrance doorways situated centrally have moulded timber frames with braced batten and ledge timber doors. There are two low arched windows on the south side and one on the north side, all of which are blocked. Also at the south end are the stairs (Plate 15) to the west gallery (Room 6). The stairs rise up to the south corner and return to the east along the south elevation.

4.3.5 The south elevation has a large window that extends beyond ceiling height, of which the top half of the staircase to the gallery passes in front, rising from west to east. The staircase has a square chamfered newel post with plain chamfered balusters and a moulded banister. The underside of the stairs is battened and there is a batten and ledge door to the space beneath. The floor is made from timber with the planks running east/west. The ceiling slopes down from the west, due to the stepped gallery (Room 6) above, and supported by two timber half-trusses. These have a king post strut against the west wall and a raking brace supporting the rafter; all of the timber has stop-chamfered edges (Plate 14).



Plate 16: (left) East elevation of the meeting hall (Room 3) with east gallery



Plate 17: (right) The west elevation of the meeting hall (Room 3), west gallery and roof structure

4.3.6 Room 3: this room is the meeting hall. Situated centrally in the east elevation is a very wide and high shallow-arched opening (Plate 16). The wall below this arch has been knocked through to create a large doorway, slightly off-centre. On the ground floor, either side of the arch, are two blocked doors. The top half is open to the east gallery (Room 7). At the height of the gallery floor there are four roughly knocked out holes in the wall, evenly spaced. The top half of the opening is the east gallery (Room 7) which has a moulded archway with the inscription 'Enter His Courts With Praise' inscribed in black with gold capitals. The wall is plastered and painted. The north elevation is also plastered and painted, with some repair to the plaster. There are four rectangular windows evenly spaced; three are leaded with 18 lights while the fourth (at the west end) has a single light. Approximately half way up the walls there are three corbels, each spaced between the windows, which support the roof trusses (Plate 18). The west elevation supports the west gallery (Room 6), above which is the large central window at the front of the church (Plate 17). The south elevation is similar to the north elevation, although the two windows at the west end have been blocked. In the east corner is a remnant of the early timber panelling (Plate 19). The ceiling is mansard shaped, plastered and painted white. The braced arched trusses supporting the roof are visible as are the purlins, and have been painted black (Fig 4). On either side of the ridge purling situated centrally between the trusses are square vents. The timber floor has been recently removed. In the north east corner of the room is a backfilled stairway down to the basement under Room 4 (Plate 20).



Plate 18: Ends of the trusses supported on corbels

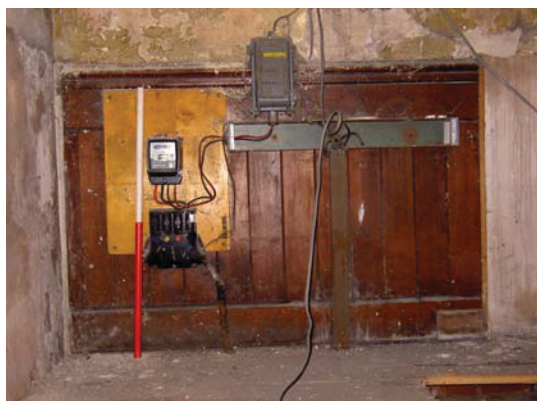


Plate 19: (left) Remnant of timber panelling in the church hall (Room 3)



Plate 20: (right) Backfilled stairway to basement in the church hall (Room 3)

4.3.7 **Room 4:** this room is situated in the north-east corner of the building to the rear of the building, and probably formed the vestry or equivalent. All four elevations are plastered and painted with a picture rail set at the height of the top of the windows. The skirting boards are plain painted timber on all the elevations except the south, which has a cement skirting.

4.3.8 The east elevation has a small stud wall cubicle in the north corner within which is a toilet and hand basin. The north elevation is plastered and painted. At the west end of the elevation is a doorway with moulded timber frame and batten and ledge door. The three windows in the elevation have single lights within a timber frame (Plate 21). The west elevation has a blocked doorway and a scar between the doorway and the north corner was probably for a coat rail (Plate 22).

4.3.9 The south elevation has a shallow recess at the west end, the top of which slopes upwards to the east. At the east end of the elevation is a doorway with plain timber surround giving access to Room 5. The ceiling is painted lath and plaster with a chamfered beam running north/south. On either side of the beam against the south

elevation are two small hatches with moulded timber surrounds. The floor is laid with timber boards running north/south.



Plate 21: (left) North elevation of Room 4



Plate 22: (right) West elevation of Room 4

4.3.10 **Room 5:** this room (Plate 23) is situated at the east end of the building and can be accessed from Pottery Street. It probably originally formed a schoolroom. The east elevation is not plastered but the top two thirds are painted. At the south end, situated in the centre, are three rectangular windows with single lights within a timber frame, except the middle window which is blocked. The sills are yellow sandstone and lintels are timber. The wall returns to the west, in which are two rectangular windows similar to those previously described. The wall returns again where there is a large doorway with timber double doors and frame. Adjacent is another doorway with a timber batten and ledge door and frame.

4.3.11 The north elevation has a doorway at the east end giving access to Room 4. The rest of the elevation is obscured by the staircase to the east gallery (Plate 24). The timber staircase rises from east to west and is enclosed within timber planking, the space below the stairs acting as cupboard space with a door at the west end. The west elevation has a large opening at the north end into Room 3 with a blocked doorway on its south side. At the south end of the elevation is a doorway with a timber batten and ledge door and frame. The walls are without plaster and partially painted.

4.3.12 The south elevation is also not plastered and partially painted and has a shallow chimney breast with blocked fireplace situated centrally. The ceiling over the main area of the schoolroom is high, with the edges on the south, east, and west sides sloping and constructed of lath and plaster. A chamfered timber beam runs diagonally from the south-west corner, from which two other beams run in a north/south direction. These beams are secured to the exposed ends of roof trusses. On the west slope of the ceiling is a large timber framed four-light skylight. The ceiling at the north end of Room 5 is approximately two meters lower and supported by a chamfered timber beam running east/west from the corner of the return of the east elevation. The wall above the beam is painted lath and plaster. The ceiling is also of lath and plaster and the floor is concrete.



Plate 23: (left) The schoolroom (Room 5) from the south-east



Plate 24: (right) North elevation of the schoolroom (Room 5), showing the low ceiling below the gallery

4.4. Internal Detail – First Floor

4.4.1 The first floor consists of the galleries which are situated at the west and east ends of the meeting hall. Room 6 is the west gallery and Room 7 is the east gallery (Fig 3).

4.4.2 **Room 6:** this area is the west gallery, which is accessed via a staircase from the vestibule (Room 2). The gallery is directly above the vestibule with the floor projecting approximately two meters into the upper part of the church hall (Room 3). This part of the floor is supported by two plain cast-iron columns with timber capitals. The floor is constructed from timber boards and tiered, stepping down from the west elevation. The middle tier has been raised to that of the preceding tier with a platform constructed of chipboard. The east side of the gallery is open to the meeting hall (Room 3). At the south end of the gallery is the staircase, which is enclosed; its walls and ceiling are constructed of timber boarding (Plate 25).



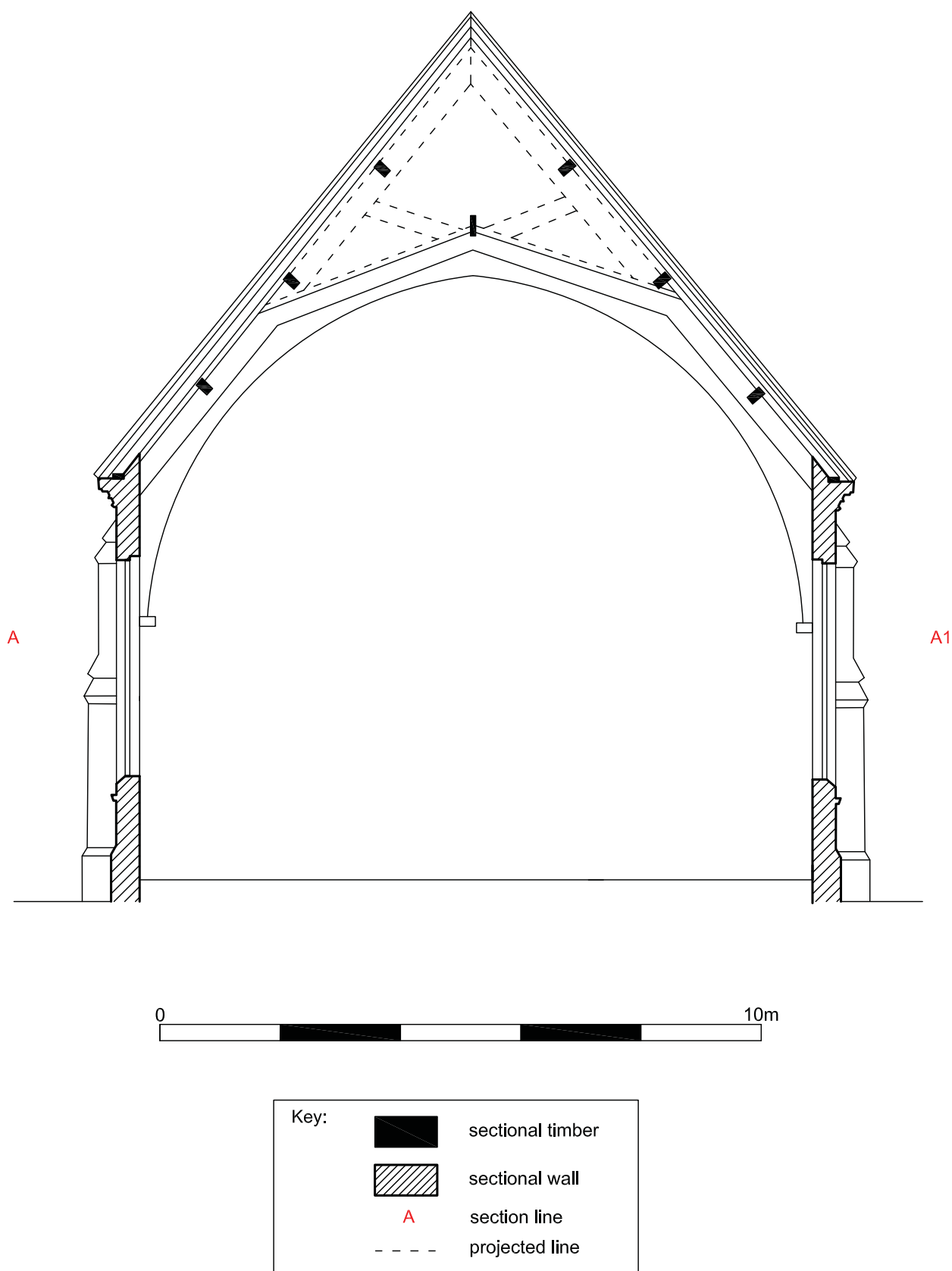
Plate 25: (left) The enclosed staircase at the south end of the west gallery (Room 6)



Plate 26: (right) The east gallery (Room 7)

4.4.3 **Room 7:** this room (Plate 26) is the east gallery situated at the east end of the church hall above the north end of the schoolroom (Room 5) and was where the organ was housed. The east elevation is formed by the ceiling, which comprises lath and plaster. The ceiling follows the roof, which slopes down from the centre of the ceiling to the top of a plain timber skirting board. From the apex of the roof the ceiling slopes down to the west elevation, which is open with a shallow arch with a moulded

edge. There are small scars on the edges of the opening and the archway indicating that there was some type of railing previously installed. The north elevation is plastered and painted with the staircase from the schoolroom (Room 5) entering at floor level, around which is a plain timber railing. A small single light in a timber frame is set high at the west end of the elevation. The south elevation is plastered and painted, with a small light situated high at the west end of the elevation. The floor is tiered and of timber construction with the planks laid north to south. There are three tiers, each of which is fairly wide and shallow.



5. Discussion

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 This project provided the opportunity to record the present state of a late 19th century chapel and to establish the phasing and significance of all of its aspects. Such buildings are relatively under studied in the area, and while many are still in use, others are now derelict and facing conversion or demolition. The documentary sources provide a useful outline of the buildings history, although there is evidently little change throughout most of its history. It is apparent that the building recording was able to add relatively little to the detailed understanding of the physical development of the structure but was able to record its form and a number of original architectural and historical features.

5.2 Phases

5.2.1 The chapel building has seen few alterations during its lifetime, most of which probably occurred after the chapel ceased to function as a place of worship. The concrete floor in the schoolroom is one of the obvious changes, probably to replace a rotten timber floor, though the date at which this was added is unknown. The internal furnishings such as the pews, pulpit and organ were probably removed when the church was closed, possibly to be donated to other churches. The platform in the west gallery and the *ad hoc* stud walled water-closet in Room 4 were probably added when the chapel was used for furniture storage. The large doorway in the east elevation of Room 3 also was probably knocked through at this time, and doors either side blocked. The windows that have been blocked were probably also altered at this time, presumably because they were no longer necessary and in order to increase security. The four holes knocked into the east elevation of Room 3 may have been in preparation for the new floor as proposed in the 1977 planning application (Plate 6), which appears to have never been carried out.

5.3 Conclusion

5.3.1 Compared with the other extant Methodist chapels in Barrow the Marsh Street chapel is quite ornate. Whereas the others are mainly of brick and fairly plain, the Marsh Street chapel, with its liberal use of sandstone for the Gothic styled frontage, is quite elaborate. The history of this chapel is fairly representative of Methodist chapels in the area and elsewhere: for example the Fellowship Methodist chapel in Roose Road and the United Methodist chapel in Millom (Greenlane Archaeology 2006), many of which have now fallen out of use and subsequently, as a result of their large size, been used for storage or converted into dwellings.

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