

**Archaeological Building Recording at
St Augustine's Care Home
Cobridge Road
Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire
NGR SJ 8750 4848**

Planning Ref. SOT/45986

Site Code: SAC 07

Accession Number: 2007.LH.15

Produced for The Meteor Group

by

Zoë Sutherland and Dr. Faith Cleverdon

for

Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology

Bethesda Street, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent

Staffordshire ST1 3DW

Tel: 01782 235413

Fax: 0172 232500

Email: jon.goodwin@stoke.gov.uk

Website: www.stoke.gov.uk/archaeology

Report No. 212

December 2007

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Non-technical summary

Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology carried out an archaeological building recording at St Augustine's Care Home, Cobridge Road, Stoke-on-Trent (NGR SJ 8750 4848). St Augustine's was built in 1902 by the Little Sisters of the Poor as a care home for the aged poor. It continued in use as a care home for one hundred years, latterly under the management of Prime Life Ltd. Recently the building was used as a hostel for asylum seekers until its closure in 2004.

The building recording took place between 22nd and 31st October 2007 and identified a main east to west range with a wing at either end and a chapel at the rear. The project confirmed the chronological development of the building as is shown on the OS maps of 1899 to the present day. Some idea of the original layout and use of the individual rooms was also achieved. In the context of similar institutions of the time, St Augustine's seems to have offered relatively comfortable accommodation and, unsurprisingly, to have provided for spiritual as well as physical needs, possibly with a great deal of tolerance towards non Catholic faiths. The later alterations that took place at St Augustine's concentrated upon the subdivision of rooms and illustrate an increased regard for residents' individuality and privacy.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 A planning application was received by Stoke-on-Trent City Council (ref: SOT/45986) for a development at St Augustine's Care Home, Cobridge Road, Stoke-on-Trent (NGR SJ8750 4848) (Fig.1). The proposal included the demolition of the existing building and the erection of a new care home. Stoke-on-Trent City Council, acting on the advice of the City's Planning Archaeologist, required that a scheme of archaeological work be a condition of planning consent. A programme of archaeological building recording prior to demolition was deemed an appropriate level of mitigation. Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology was subsequently appointed to undertake the work by the developer, The Meteor Group.

2.0 Scope and aims of the project

2.1 The recording programme was carried out in accordance with brief and specification prepared by the City's Planning Archaeologist (Boothroyd 2007) and a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology (Goodwin 2007). The brief required that the building recording should be carried out to Level 2 standard of the English Heritage guidelines *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (2006) and should comprise of drawn, written and photographic elements.

2.2 The primary purpose of the project was to carry out a programme of archaeological building recording and to record structural elements and phasing evidence illustrative of the development and changing function of the site. This was to be achieved through a visual inspection and written description, a measured survey with accurate floor plans and a photographic survey.

2.3 The survey and report were undertaken in accordance with guidance as laid down in the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) *Standards and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings and Structures* (revised September 2001) and the English Heritage publication *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2nd Edition).

3.0 Methodology

3.1 The survey was carried out between the 22nd and 31st October 2007. It comprised a

photographic record including the context of the buildings, external views, internal views and significant details. Photographs were taken on 35mm monochrome print and with a digital camera, using 2.0m, 1.0m and 25cm scale bars as appropriate. A measured survey was made using 30.0m and 5.0m hand tapes, in order to update and supplement the architect's plans supplied by the Meteor Group, which were produced in 1993 during conservation work. Field notes were made of all structural elements with particular attention to those that provided evidence of alterations and additions. The archive is stored at The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent, site code **SAC07** (Accession no. 2007.LH.15).

4.0 Historical background (by Dr. Faith Cleverdon)

4.1 St. Augustine's House occupies high ground to the south-west of Cobridge crossroads on a prominent site occupied in the 18th and 19th centuries by the home of the Hales family (Jenkins 1963, 272). Unlike its predecessor, the building of 1902-3 faced southwest, making optimum use of sunlight through the windows of the main façade, giving its occupants wide views and creating the building that still dominates the approach road from the southwest (Plate 1). With three acres of land, the site was generous enough to accommodate the large three-storey building, a substantial chapel at the rear, a mortuary, and a garden.

4.2 In 1899 the site was sandwiched between Port Vale Football and Athletic Ground to the north, and a cricket ground to the south (Fig. 3). While land to the south west was largely open, it included railway lines, a brickworks, and the scars of coal and clay extraction, while to the north-east the area was heavily industrialized. Both the 1899 and 1924 maps of the area (Figs. 3 and 5) show the Globe Pottery, with its five bottle ovens, to be the immediate neighbour, and a series of 'Earthenware Manufactories' (1899), namely the Brownfield Works, Regal Pottery, and the Elder, with terraced housing for their workers (1924).

4.3 The Roman Catholic order of the Little Sisters of the Poor developed from the work of Jeanne Jugan (1792-1879). Its basis was compassion for the poor and a determination to assist them regardless of personal cost. Those who came to Jeanne in the early days of her work were beggars, and the order developed on the basis of begging for its financial support. In 1849 they took the name Little Sisters of the Poor and adopted a habit and a

religious name; Jeanne became Sister Mary of the Cross. A visit by Charles Dickens to their house in Paris was followed by an article that helped the Little Sisters to establish themselves in England. By the time of her death in 1879 there were 2,400 sisters helping the poor of ten countries. When St. Augustine's House was founded at Cobridge, the order still relied on begging for at least part of its income, although the scale and cost of the building suggests that by 1902 they knew how to find the doors of the rich (Little Sisters of the Poor 2007). The order still has two residential homes and nine nursing homes in England.

4.4 In the Potteries, the first home of the Little Sisters was established in 1890 at Druid's Hall, Albion Street, Hanley. In July 1892 they took Cobridge House with three acres of land, which they purchased in 1899, the avowed aim being to keep the aged poor from entering the workhouse. Three years later the Sisters started to build their new home, and its foundation stone was laid on April 29th, 1902 (Jenkins 1963, 272).

4.5 The newspaper article recording the laying of the foundation stone is the principal source of information and states:

'On Tuesday, the foundation stone of a new building for the Little Sisters of the Poor was laid at Cobridge. The Little Sisters of the Poor is work in connection with the Roman Catholic community, and is carried on with the object of keeping the aged poor from entering the workhouse.'

The scheme was first introduced into this district in August 1890, the first home being in Albion Street, Hanley. In July, 1892, Cobridge House was taken with three acres of land attached, and in 1899 it was purchased.

The new building will provide accommodation for 74 inmates and 12 sisters. The Home when completed will accommodate 159 inmates and 20 sisters. Care has been exercised in the planning to ensure the Home being up-to-date in its sanitary arrangements. There will be good bath accommodation, and the building will be heated throughout with hot water. The cost will be £6,600. Messrs. R. Scrivener and Sons, Hanley are the architects, and Messrs. C. Cornes and sons, the contractors.

The Very Rev. Dean Hendron performed the ceremony, attended by the Rev. Father Mitchell (Hanley), the Rev G. Smith (Swynnerton Hall), and there were present:-

The Rev. Father J.V. Hymers (Burslem), the Rev. Father Sutherland (Tunstall), and the Rev. Father Askew (Kidsgrove) and Dr. Predergast.

Mr. Basil Fitzherbert laid the foundation stone and underneath it a bottle containing a history of the home, a list of the present sisters, two current coins, and copy of the "Staffordshire Advertiser" and the "Staffordshire Weekly Sentinel." In the course of a few remarks, Mr. Fitzherbert said that anything they could do to help and support and encourage the Little Sisters they should do. Their life was one of self-denial, giving themselves up to the poor for the sake of God. He was certain the aged poor heartily appreciated their kindness. Mr. Fitzherbert appealed for subscriptions to the home, referred to the origin of the work, and stated that the Little Sisters of the Poor provided homes for the aged poor of both sexes, and fed and clothed and ministered to their wants, collecting alms daily from house to house. The institution was founded in 1840, and had gradually spread over all the world. They had 279 homes, containing 40,000 people. Of these 27 were in the United Kingdom, two being in this diocese' (Sentinel, 1902).

4.6 In 1963 the care home still had 100 elderly occupants, but this was reduced to 70 when the home was taken over by Prime Life Ltd in the early 1990s. More recently the building was used as a hostel for asylum seekers until its closure in 2004.

5.0 Description and analysis of the building

5.1 General description

5.1.1 St Augustine's Care Home is located on the north western side of Cobridge Road, approximately 90m south west of the junction with Waterloo Road (Fig. 2). The foot print of the building occupies 1558m² on the south side of the surrounding 9788m² of landscaped grounds. The primary entrance to the grounds is from Cobridge Road, at the front (south side) of the building. St Augustine's seems to have been provided with its own post box built into the wall flanking this entrance. Judging from its worn condition the 'ER' with which it is inscribed probably refers to Edward VII, rather than Elizabeth II. Secondary access is from Waterloo Road, past the Mercedes Benz dealership and round to the rear of the building. At the time of survey, the care home comprised a main east to west range with a wing at each end and a central chapel. The east wing extended further south than its counterpart making the building asymmetrical; something which was further accentuated by the north extension to this wing. Both wings had small extensions to the front, south-facing elevation. A small outbuilding remained to the

north of the care home, on the boundary with the Mercedes Benz dealership.

5.1.2 The original building was constructed with red brick in an English bond with flush mortar jointing. Decorative details on the main, south facing elevation and around all sides of the two wings, took the form of egg and dart moulding at the eaves, with plain moulded string courses above the basement and first floor windows in blue brick and red brick respectively (Plate 2). Further decorative details were present above the semi-circular archway into the open front porch and the two windows that flanked it (Plate 3). These were separated by brick pilasters and topped with a plain moulded string course. The two flanking windows had semi-elliptical arches, with the key-stone and sides picked out in white. Similar detailing was used in the porch archway. The attic windows to the front and rear were dormer windows with straight stone sills and lintels. The remaining windows at the front of the building and on all sides of each wing had flat brick arches with voussoirs and straight stone sills. The frames were upvc and the bottom lights had casement fittings that hinged from the top and opened outwards. The remaining windows at the rear of the building had segmental brick arches and straight stone sills (Plate 4). Here, the original wooden frames remained, with outwards-opening, side-hung casements. The west wing was notable for the absence of windows to the front of the building (Plate 5). The doors all had straight stone lintels and those letting out into the basement areas were glazed.

The slate roof was constructed in several sections, pitched over the main part of the building and the main part of each wing and hipped over the far end of each wing and the central section with the attic dormer windows. The west wing stood out in that the pitch of the roof at the south gable turned horizontal in order to meet the main east to west section of building (Plate 5), forming a valley between the two. This slightly odd and aesthetically unpleasing detail was necessary in order to make the roof shed water correctly. No chimney stacks were visible protruding from the roof, however a chimney stack was visible on the north side of the building between the central section and the western half of the main range, extending above the height of the building (Plate 4). This was presumably for the boiler supplying the hot water heating system referred to in 1902 Sentinel article.

5.1.3 Several extensions were added to the building during the course of its history.

These comprised two small extensions built onto the south-facing elevation of each wing. Both were two-storey red brick buildings with flat felt roofs. The extension to the west wing was built in English garden wall bond (Plate 5). The wooden-framed windows, with opening top-lights, formed an almost continuous band around the extension, broken only by brick pilasters. The area between the windows on each floor was rendered. The extension to the east wing was built with Flemish stretcher bond below the windows and English bond above (Plate 6). The ground floor windows formed a near-continuous band around the building, broken only by brick pilasters. The windows on the first floor were within separate apertures. Windows on both floors had straight wooden sills and lintels, with a concrete band above. The frames were upvc and had opening bottom lights. The flush wooden doors in each extension had straight concrete lintels and were approached by a short flight of concrete steps.

A further extension was constructed to the north side of the east wing. This seemed to incorporate two phases, one to the south west and the other to the north, both built with red brick in stretcher bond with flush mortar jointing. The windows in both sections had flat brick arches and straight stone sills, the frames were upvc with bottom lights that hinged from the top and opened out. Blocked doorways were visible on the west-facing elevation of the north section, presumably intended as doors onto a fire escape that has since been removed. A neat line of sealant was visible where the two sections were butted against each other (Plate 7). The south-west section extended a little further west than the north section and had a flat felt roof. The north section had a pitched slate roof, with the exception of a projection at the south-west corner which matched the construction of the south west section.

In addition to these extensions, two lift shafts had been added to the back of the building, one towards the west end and one towards the east (Plate 4). Some repair to the brick work of the main building could be seen where the lift shafts had been bonded in. These were constructed with red brick in a stretcher bond with flush mortar jointing, divided by concrete bands at each floor level. Both lift shafts had north-facing wooden framed, fixed light windows into the space that housed the winding gear. The westerly lift shaft was taller than the east as only it accessed the attic floor. This lift shaft also had external

access at ground floor level through a small single-storey porch on its north-east side. This was also built in stretcher bond and had a pitched slate roof.

5.1.4 The chapel on the north side of the building was rectangular with an apse at its north end. Two smaller rooms extended from each side of the chapel. It was constructed with red brick in an English bond with flush mortar jointing. A band of oversail brickwork below the eaves gave some decorative detailing. In the main part of the chapel, the semicircular brick arched windows were set within blind segmental arches with brick pilasters between. These windows had original wooden frames with leaded lights and rippled glass. Those in the apse had a similar opening shape, but the wooden frames were simpler in form with plain, yellow-stained panes. It was suggested that the yellow glass had at some point replaced more elaborate, stained glass. The windows in the small rooms to each side had segmental brick arches, wooden frames and rippled glass. External access to the chapel was available via an original wooden five-panel door from the room at the west side of the chapel. Otherwise access was internal through the main part of the care home. The internal access was via two side ‘porches’ on the north side of the main corridor, added when the chapel was built. As in the chapel and the main building, they were of English bond with flush mortar jointing. The east porch was single storey with some patching visible in the brickwork of the main building where it had been bonded in. The west porch was three storeys in height and had been built against the chimney stack for the boiler. The main part of the chapel had a pitched slate roof with a gable end to the north east and a hipped end where it joined the care home. This roof construction would have made the north wall of the care home vulnerable to water shed from the chapel roof, suggesting that the chapel was a later addition. The remaining sections of the chapel all had hipped slate roofs.

5.2 The basement (Rooms 000 to 031)

5.2.1 The basement floor (Fig. 7) covered the probable footprint of the first phase of building, with the addition of rooms 013 to 015 below the chapel, and room 026 below the north-west extension to the east wing. An east to west corridor (005, 008 and 016) extended along the main section of the building. To the north were the two lift shafts, and rooms 013 to 015. To the south were rooms 006 to 012, a stairwell 031 and rooms 017 to 022. An area between room 011 and 012 appeared to be inaccessible and the building may never have extended into this space. Open basement areas which extended

along both the north and south sides of the building could be accessed from the corridor 005/008/016 and from rooms 007, 009 and 021. These provided light and outside space to the basement rooms and had steps giving access to ground floor level. Each wing of the building had a stairway from the higher floors. These were 002 and 029, situated at the west and east ends of corridor 005/008/016 respectively. Rooms 000 to 004 were situated in the west wing and rooms 023 to 030 in the east wing. In both wings, external access was via a north-facing door, with steps ascending to ground level.

5.2.2 The rooms on this floor of the building provided workshop, storage, service and staff space. Toilet and shower room facilities were provided in the west wing of the building. Unlike the rest of the building, no emergency call system was in place, so that it seems likely that these were for staff use only. Of the rooms off corridor 005/008/016, room 006 was fitted with kitchen base units and a sink and was furnished with a fridge, armchairs and an electric organ. The room had no cooking facilities, but along with adjoining room 007 may have been used as a staff kitchen and sitting room. Room 009 appeared to have been used as a laundry room. It was fitted with concrete plinths and plumbing for both washing machines and tumble dryers. Free-standing wooden slatted shelves and clothes-airers also remained in the room. Adjoining room 010 was also furnished with free-standing wooden shelves. These were labelled with room numbers and the names of residents and appear to have been used to dry or store clean clothes or linen. Much of room 011 was taken up by two large galvanised water tanks fitted to the floor, presumably part of the hot water or heating system. The room had also been used as a store room and maintenance workshop, with the resulting residue of old paint tins, spare light bulbs and pieces of wood. Room 012 was fitted with wall shelves and kitchen base units and had been used as a similar workshop. Room 013 provided access into room 014, fitted with two boilers and a hot water tank, and to an external door onto steps leading up to ground floor level. Room 015, situated in the corner of room 013, was almost entirely occupied by a galvanised metal water tank, and could only be accessed through a wooden hatch in the south west wall. Further toilet facilities were provided in room 017. Adjoining room 018 appeared to have been used to store craft supplies. Room 019 was a large area with few fittings or furnishings left to suggest use. Adjoining room 020 was fitted with kitchen base units and a sink and, given its proximity, it may have been used in conjunction with room 019.

The main kitchen appears to have been in room 021. This room was fitted with stands and pipes for two ranges of gas cookers and a free-standing stainless steel sink unit. The floor of this room sloped down to the external door, suggesting that use of water in some quantity was important in its original use. The adjoining room 022 was fitted with 1950s-style wooden kitchen base units, but had been furnished with a desk and chair, suggesting its use as an office. Within the east wing, the lack of surviving fixtures and fittings made it hard to determine a use for the rooms, although most were labelled as store rooms on the architect's plans produced in 1993 (Appendix 1a). Room 024, however, had plumbing for dishwashers and a free-standing stainless steel draining board, suggesting its use as a scullery. Room 026 was used as a store room for old doors, wash basins, and other fittings, with a brick stall-like structure in the west corner identified as a possible coal bunker. Room 030 was a tiled room with a Belfast sink in one corner. Given its proximity to an external door, with steps to ground floor level, it was suggested that this was used as a caretaker's, or grounds-keeper's room.

5.2.3 Relatively few alterations were observed within the basement and it seems that the spaces, and the uses to which they were put, have changed little. Many original features were retained including wooden-framed windows in most of the rooms, with the exception of the windows in the toilets and shower rooms in the west wing, which had been replaced with upvc frames and double glazing. The original red brick floors remained in the corridors and stairways and blue brick floors remained in rooms 011 and 026, although elsewhere these had been concreted or laid with vinyl flooring. Most of the doors had been replaced with fire doors but in rooms 011, 019, 023, 027 and 030 the original wooden panel doors had been retained and fitted with door closers. Ceilings were largely plaster work, although in rooms 000, 002 in the west wing and in kitchen 021, these had been lowered so that they cut across the top of the windows. The ceilings had been similarly lowered in corridors 005, 008, 016 and in room 023 in the east wing, although in these rooms polystyrene ceiling tiles had been used.

Most of the walls between rooms were plaster on brick, suggesting that these were the original divisions. These divisions had been changed in only three cases. The 1993 architect's plans show that rooms 012 and 018 were originally one space, partitioned later with a brick wall. The doorway to room 013 was originally wider and had been blocked with breeze blocks. Rooms 020 and 022 also seem originally to have been one,

based on the stud partition wall dividing them. This partition was originally glazed at the higher level but was later boarded over. A door between Room 020 and kitchen 021 was blocked, making access from the kitchen to 020 and 019 less direct. A second door was blocked between room 010 and corridor 008. As this room was latterly used in conjunction with the laundry room 011, it was perhaps felt that it did not require a separate entrance, and that blocking up the door would give extra space for shelving. Several windows were also blocked in the east wing. The north windows in rooms 026, 027 and 028, and the east window in room 025 were probably blocked when the north and south extensions to that wing were built against them.

5.3 Ground, first and second floors: common elements

5.3.1 The ground, first and second floors of St Augustine's Care Home all had a similar layout. As in the basement an east to west corridor extended along the north side of the main range, with a central staircase and rooms off its south side. Each wing also had a hallway and staircase, located at each end of the main east to west corridor. As the larger wing, the east wing had a north to south corridor which continued from the front of the building into the rear extension. Most of the rooms were accessed off this corridor, as was a fourth staircase in the rear extension.

5.3.2 The bulk of the rooms on the ground, first and second floors of St Augustine's were bedrooms, many with *en suite* toilets, and nearby toilets, bath and shower rooms. These types of room all shared a similar layout and furnishing and, as such, the following general descriptions can be applied to all floors. The same can be said of corridors and stairwells which will also be described here.

Bedrooms: Each room had an individual front door, a wooden three-panel fire door with a brass knocker and number plate. The doors had yale locks that could be locked from the inside. It is probable that the locks were changed when the building was used as a hostel for asylum seekers as interior locking doors could hinder the care of sick or disabled residents, but there was no obvious sign of this. The doors were colour coded according to which floor they were on. Doors on the ground floor were painted dark green, those on the first floor were pale blue and those on the second floor were dark green. The doors typically opened into the room facing the window in the opposite wall. The rooms were all wallpapered in cream or pastel shades of pink or green and were

carpeted in dark blue, green or grey. The windows were fitted with floral pattern curtains. The rooms were provided with a wash hand basin in one corner, along with a mirror and towel rail. One of the blank walls in each room was fitted with a pull cord wall lamp, alongside an emergency call button which triggered an alarm light in the corridor above the room door and on a central board in corridor 111. Most rooms were also fitted with a television aerial point. The twin rooms could be distinguished from the singles as they were each provided with two emergency call buttons and two wall lamps. In several of the twin rooms, curtain tracks remained fitted to the ceiling, which would have separated the bed areas and given additional privacy. Many of the bedrooms also had *en suite* toilet facilities. Stud partitions had been constructed in the corner of these rooms in order to contain these facilities. The doors into these rooms were flush wood, without door closers. The *en suite* toilets were painted in a cream colour and fitted with a grey vinyl floor colouring. The wooden skirting boards had been overlaid with a plastic finishing strip. Each room was equipped with a toilet with grab rail and a wash hand basin with a tiled surround, mirror and towel rail. Extractor fans provided ventilation to the *en suite* toilets.

Bathrooms, shower rooms and toilets: Similar to the *en suite* toilets, these rooms were painted and had vinyl floor covering with a plastic finishing strip over the skirting for ease of cleaning. All the rooms had frosted or patterned glass for privacy and were fitted with blinds. Both the alarm call system and the lights were operated by pull cord, for safe use with wet hands. The toilets were all fitted with wash hand basins and usually contained more than one cubicle. In some instances the toilets adjoined a utility room. This comprised a cubicle containing a low ceramic basin with a metal grill over it, identified as a sluice hopper, alongside a standard wash hand basin. The sluice hoppers were provided for the disposal of bodily fluids, no doubt important in the building's role as a care home. The bathrooms were all equipped with a bath, toilet and wash hand basin. Both toilets and baths were provided with grab rails, although no aids for those with severe mobility problems, such as lifts or winches, were in evidence. Showers were usually located within or alongside the toilet rooms, but in several cases (205 and 318) they were an addition to the bathrooms. No special provision was made for those with reduced mobility; all were of standard size and required a step up. It is possible that some were added during the building's occupation by asylum seekers.

Corridors: The corridors were all wallpapered and carpeted, and the windows fitted with floral curtains. As with the bedroom doors, each floor had a different colour scheme; blue on the ground floor, cream and green on the first floor and bright green on the second floor. Access onto the corridors was through single or double fire doors with narrow, glazed panels. The longer corridors were subdivided by fire doors fitted across them at regular intervals; hence they were given more than one number in recording. The doors were fitted with electro-magnetic catches to hold them open. These consisted of a magnetic plate on the door, with a corresponding magnet in a box fitted to the floor or wall. The boxes also had a release button in order to close the doors.

Staircases: The staircase off the main corridor and those in each wing at the ends of the main corridor were all of the same style. They were constructed in wood with square-sectioned banisters and decorative wrought-iron swirls on top of the handrail. The whole construction was painted in white. The newel posts were finished with decorative caps on top and drops on the underhangs. The middle staircase was rather steeper and narrower than those in the wings and was fitted, or had been fitted, with wooden gates at the top and bottom of each flight, presumably to discourage access and to prevent falls. The narrowness and steepness of the stair, along with the gates, would suggest that it was not originally intended for the use of residents, but was a service stair for the convenience of staff. The stair in the north extension to the east wing was somewhat simpler, although some attempt had been made to follow the style of the original staircases. Like the middle staircase this too had gates at the top and bottom of each flight, suggesting that this was also a service staircase. The staircases were numbered and recorded on all floors along with the associated halls and landings.

5.4 The ground floor (Rooms 100 to 163).

5.4.1 The ground floor (Fig. 8) main corridor 115, was bisected by a north to south corridor 111, which led from the main entrance to the chapel (rooms 100 to 108). The chapel had been decorated in a neo-classical style with pale blue walls and moulded plasterwork in white, including an egg and dart pattern cornice and a shell and foliate decoration at the head of the pilasters (Plate 10). There was no sign of alteration and it seems that this was part of the original decoration, although it does seem plain within the context of a Catholic chapel. The wooden floor had been painted with a games court, although it was divided by a black and white tiled central aisle. Each side of the room

was furnished with chairs, suggesting that it was used as a both a recreational and a community space. The apse at the north end had a higher floor level than the rest of the chapel and this had been modified for wheel chair access with the addition of a ramp. An external glazed double door, which had been added into the north end of the apse, would suggest the ramp was built to facilitate overall access to the chapel, not just to the apse. An enclosed gallery at the south end of the chapel overlooked the room from first-floor level. Amenities for the chapel were provided in the rooms to either side. The room on the west side was furnished as a kitchen with base units, wall cupboards, a sink and a cooker. A built in cupboard, still with the original five-panel mahogany-stained door, was located in the north-east corner and a similar door in the south wall offered external access. Toilet facilities were located within 103 to 108 on the east side of the chapel.

5.4.2 The bulk of the communal areas and offices were located on the ground floor off corridor 115. Room 152 was fitted with kitchen base units and wall cupboards and was connected to room 151 both via a hatch and an original five-panel wooden door. Room 151 was described as a day centre on the 1993 architect's plans (Appendix 1b), but given the access to the kitchen and the vinyl floor covering, it may also have been used as a dining room. Rooms 148 and 149 were both furnished with desks and appear to have been used as offices. A wash basin, and plumbing for a toilet were found in Room 150, off room 149. A second large room at the east end of corridor 115 was described as a meeting room on the 1993 architect's plan and the presence of a wooden structure, possibly used as a projector booth, seems to confirm this. Room 109 at the south end of the chapel was fitted out as a hair dresser's salon with two hair-wash basins and two mirrored work stations. Room 110 opposite was furnished with a sun/tanning lamp, with a sign on the door reading 'health clinic'. Room 156 in the west wing was fitted as a clinic, with base units and wall cupboards labelled for contents such as catheter and dressing packs.

5.4.3 The ground floor of St Augustine's provided accommodation for 20 people within fifteen bedrooms, of which five were twin rooms (113, 119, 126, 136 and 144) and ten were single rooms (116, 124, 132, 133, 135, 138, 145, 146, 147 and 160). Four of the twin rooms had *en suite* toilets (119, 126, 136 and 144), as did two single rooms (116 and 147). Most of these rooms were located in the east wing, with rooms 113, 116 and 119 in the main east to west range and room 160 in the west wing. Bedroom 116 was

identified as a probable staff bedroom as the adjoining facilities not only included a shower room in 118, but also a kitchen in 117. The nearby toilet in 150 was accessed through an office room 149 and was probably for the use of staff rather than residents. The west wing was provided with a bathroom in room 157, and ladies and gents toilets in 162 and 163 respectively. The east wing had one toilet with an adjoining utility room in 131 and 130 respectively, and bathrooms in 134 and 143. Two shower rooms were located at the far end of the east wing in rooms 141 and 142.

5.4.4 Few of the original fittings remained on the ground floor of the care home. All the original ceilings had been covered by a low polystyrene tile false ceiling, although the original ceiling height was retained around the windows to avoid cutting out light. The original wooden-framed casement windows remained in the corridor, but elsewhere had been replaced with upvc frames and double glazing. Likewise the doors had all been replaced with fire doors, with the exception of the doors into rooms 101, 102, 107, 108, 118 and 150, the doors in 109 and 110 into corridor 115, and the door between 151 and 152, which were the original wooden 5-panel doors. Some indication of the subdivision of rooms was evident in rooms 109, 110 and in rooms 119 and 121. The north and east walls in room 109 were constructed with stud partition walls and lacked the moulded plaster cornice present on the two brick walls. In the north wall the stud partition was constructed within an opening supported by a pilaster and beam (Plate 10). Room 110 opposite shared the same details but in mirror image. This would suggest that these rooms, and presumably the section of corridor 111 between, were originally within the chapel in the area below the gallery. A similar opening had been blocked with stud partitioning between rooms 119 and 121, indicating that the two rooms had been connected. Stud partition walls were also present within the main part of the east wing and its northern extension, as well as in rooms 102 to 106 in the east side chapel room and rooms 155 to 157 in the west wing. As a later part of the building the northern extension may well have used stud partitions in the original construction of internal walls, but those used elsewhere may represent later divisions. Blocked doors and windows also indicated alterations. A boarded-up door between room 113 and room 116, suggested that 113 had previously been used in conjunction with staff bedroom 116 and its kitchen and bathroom. In corridor 115 the internal face of two blocked windows were observed in the north wall by rooms 109 and 110, supporting the suggestion that the chapel was an addition to the main care home building. The external faces of three

windows were seen in lobby 139 in the east wing. These would have looked out from rooms 142 and 143, but were presumably blocked when the southern extension was built, creating lobby 139. In room 149 an internal window looking out to corridor 115 had also been blocked.

5.5 The first floor (Rooms 200 to 253)

5.5.1 On this floor 32 people could be accommodated in 24 rooms (Fig. 9). Two single rooms were located in the west wing (219 and 220) and ten *en suite* bedrooms were located on the south side of the corridor in the main range, of which six (202, 209, 211, 213, 223 and 224) were identified as twin rooms. Twelve rooms were located in the east wing. These consisted of nine single rooms (228, 229, 231, 239, 242, 244, 246, 247 and 251), and three twin rooms (232, 243 and 250), of which one single and one twin room were *en suite*. There was some doubt as to whether or not rooms 219, 239 and 251 were primarily used as bedrooms, although they were equipped so that they could be used as such. Room 219 differed from the usual bedroom furnishing in that it had a double fire door without room number. In addition, only half of the room was carpeted, the remainder having been fitted with a vinyl floor covering. The 1993 architect's plans (Appendix 1c) describe this as a sitting room and it was suggested that it was used as waiting room for the nearby toilet, shower room or clinic. Room 239 also had double fire doors and was similarly described as a sitting room on the 1993 architect's plans. It may also have been used as a waiting room for the neighbouring toilets and shower rooms. Room 251 was unusual in that it was fitted with an *en suite* bathroom and a large walk-in cupboard fitted with wooden shelves. Otherwise, the room was fitted as a care home bedroom, with an emergency call button and a wall lamp. The room may have been provided with these facilities so that it could be used by staff or by the more infirm residents of the care home. The west wing was equipped with a toilet in room 216 and a shower room in 218. The main range had a bathroom, including a shower, in room 205 behind staircase 204. A small toilet was also situated in room 207, above the side 'porch' to room 109 on the ground floor. The washing facilities in the east wing consisted of two bathrooms in 231 and 245 and two shower rooms in 235 and 238. Toilet 249 also included a shower cubicle and a utility room. Room 237 contained two toilets with high bowls, identified as disabled toilets.

5.5.2 The first floor was also equipped with both welfare and communal spaces. Room

217 in the west wing was fitted with base units, wall cupboards and a sink. It was identified as a small clinic on the 1993 architect's plan, but the furnishing was ambiguous so it may equally as well have been used as a kitchen during the occupation by asylum seekers. Room 206, in the main range of the building, was labelled as an ironing room on the door and had been furnished with free standing wooden slatted shelves, with 'towels' and 'sheets' written on the attached labels. Room 226, otherwise known as the 'Portmerion Room', occupied a large space at the east end of the main range. The large space suggested that it was intended as a reception room and various notices on the door indicated that it had most recently been used as a drop-in centre for those asylum seekers living outside the hostel. One emergency call button on the north wall was the only evidence of a prior use for the room.

Room 200 was situated on the north side of the main corridor, within the chapel gallery. This room had the same decorative plasterwork as the chapel which it overlooked. The windows at each end of the room were also of the same design as seen in the main chapel. The gallery floor cut across these windows and wooden railings had been put across each window to prevent accidents. Two original five-panel mahogany-stained doors were retained in the south wall. As in room 219, the floor was fitted with carpet in the east half and a vinyl covering in the west half. It is possible that this room was also used as a sitting room and it was labelled as such on the 1993 architect's plans. More recently room 200 may have been used as a language classroom for the asylum seekers. A pin board on the north-west wall had various small everyday household objects attached to it, along with their names written in English and Arabic.

5.5.3 In keeping with the rest of the building, many of the original fittings had been changed on the first floor. The high ceilings had been lowered in all the rooms and corridors and obscured with suspended polystyrene tiles. Most of the windows had been replaced with upvc frames and double glazing, with the exception of those in the main corridor (208/201/221). Likewise, the rooms had been refitted with fire doors, with the exception of room 200. Relatively few changes were apparent in the structure and layout of this floor. Most obvious were those changes that had taken place since the 1993 plans were drawn. The position of the *en suite* toilets had been changed in rooms 209 and 224. *En suite* toilets had also been added to rooms, 202 and 203. The *en suite* toilet in room 232 had been reduced in size to allow for the construction of cupboard 234 to its north

side. The shelved cupboard in room 251 had also been constructed since 1993. Most significant of this phase of alteration was the construction of the room 226, which was created by removing a north to south dividing wall between two bedrooms, the original extent of which can be seen in the irregular shape of the current room. Other alterations could be detected from an examination of the structure. The north wall of room 200, separating the main chapel from the gallery was a stud partition with a modern wooden-framed, fixed-pane window. It seems likely that this wall was a later addition and that room 200 was originally open to the chapel. Two blocked doorways at the west end of the main corridor were also indicative of alteration to the layout of the building. These were marked by pairs of wooden blocks, remaining in the south wall of the corridor, which would have been at the base of the architrave (Plate 11). The first pair of these was to either side of the door to room 212, suggesting it had once been much wider. The second pair was to the west of the door into room 209 and seems to have been narrower. Further alteration to this part of the building was suggested by the use of stud partition walls between rooms 212, 211, 210 and 209, and between rooms 202 and 203. Stud partition walls had also been erected to form the ironing room 206, the divisions between the bedrooms in both the rear extension to the east wing and in the south section of the east wing. Those in the rear extension to the east wing were probably original, given the later construction of this part of the building. Those used elsewhere, however, might represent the alteration and subdivision of the first-floor rooms.

5.6 The second floor (Rooms 300 to 347)

5.6.1 The second floor of St Augustine's (Fig. 10) provided accommodation for 29 people within 21 rooms. One twin room only was located in the west wing (305). Eight *en suite* bedrooms were located off the main corridor, of which four were single rooms (307, 310, 311 and 315) and four were twin rooms (308, 309, 314 and 320). The east wing housed thirteen bedrooms; eleven singles, and two twin *en suites* (325 and 333). These were served by a toilet (302) and a shower room (300) in the west wing, and two toilet rooms (313 and 317) and a bathroom with shower (318) off the main corridor. The east wing had one toilet with an adjoining utility room (328), three bathrooms (331, 337 and 345), and two shower rooms (336 and 338).

5.6.2 The second floor of St Augustine's was also provided with some communal areas. Room 301 in the west wing was fitted with kitchen base units and a sink, although it was

shown as a bathroom on the 1993 architect's plans (Appendix 1d). The alteration could equally well have been made for the care home as it could for the asylum seekers hostel. Two more communal rooms were located at the east end of the main corridor. Rooms 321 and 322 were both large reception rooms fitted with brass chandeliers. Room 321 was further decorated with a wooden reproduction mantelpiece and a high-level shelf that circuted the room. Room 321 is labelled as a dining room on the 1993 architect's plans and room 322 as a sitting room. Their use as communal rooms, however, seems to have been maintained, as the presence of a white board in room 321 would suggest that it was most recently used as a classroom.

5.6.3 As in the rest of the building many of the original fittings had been replaced with more modern equivalents. The high ceilings in all the rooms were lowered with suspended polystyrene ceiling tiles and most of the wooden framed windows had been replaced with upvc frames and double glazing, with the exception of those in the corridors and stairways, and in room 301. Some changes to the structure and layout were evident on this floor. Most noticeable were the columns at the north east end of the dividing walls between rooms 307, 308, 309 and 310 (Plate 12). The columns seemed to be butted by stud partition walls, indicating that the partitions were constructed at a later date and that this area of the building may have originally been more open in plan. The south wall of the corridor, at the narrower sections only, were also stud partitions, although it was established that they were covered with lathe and plaster rather than plaster board as elsewhere, a construction method contemporary with the original phase of building. Stud partition walls were also used between rooms 314 and 315, 317 and 318, and between the bedrooms in the east wing. Although the material with which they were clad could not be established they were most likely clad in plaster board, given the layout and materials used on the two floors below.

5.7 The attic (Rooms 400 to 413)

5.7.1 The attic floor of St Augustine's (Fig.11) was within the main range of the building and was of considerably smaller area than the floors below. Four main rooms and the central staircase comprised the middle section. These rooms had canted ceilings and dormer windows. Room 404 was painted and carpeted. The door into the landing 405 was a fire door, one of only two on this floor. It was fitted with a bolt and a 'keep locked' sign on the outside, suggesting that the room was used for storage, rather than

living accommodation. A king-post roof truss was open to the room, against the north wall (Plate 13). Room 407 was almost entirely occupied by a large galvanised water tank, fitted in October 1984 according to the graffiti on the tank. Perhaps as a result the room had fallen into some disrepair, with plaster having fallen away from the brick walls and floor boards having been replaced with flooring grade chipboard.

Rooms 408 and 409 occupied the full width of the attic. A wooden partition with glazed panels divided the two rooms. The panes of glass had been covered with semi-transparent paper in a stained glass style design. The space was further subdivided by a wooden partition at the south end of room 409. Both 408 and 409 were furnished with cupboards along the length of the room.

Further, narrower rooms were located to either side of this middle section. Rooms 400, 401, 402 and 403 were located to the east side, with rooms 410, 411 and 412 to the west. These rooms had sloped ceilings and were subdivided by the open roof trusses, this time of a simplified queen-post type construction. The rooms had no windows or sky lights, with the exception of room 412. Room 400 was furnished with cupboards along the north and west walls. A galvanised metal pipe, probably a flue for the heating system, extended through the east wall and up through the roof on the north side of the room. Room 401 was unfurnished. Room 402 was fitted with base units and wall cupboards, and may have been used as a small kitchen. Room 403 was partitioned off room 402 with wooden boards. The room had been fitted as a small bathroom with a toilet, wash hand basin and shower. At the opposite end of the building, room 410 gave access to a second staircase, leading down to a small door that opened onto the south side of the second floor main corridor. A blocked window at the bottom of the stairs had originally looked out onto the second floor corridor. Back in room 410, a blocked aperture at the top of the north wall was identified as a possible sky light. Both rooms 410 and 411 were unfurnished. Room 412 had been extended to the north to accommodate an entrance into the lift. This area had a flat roof with a hatch above allowing access into the top of the lift shaft for maintenance

5.7.2 There were very few signs of alteration in the attic. As in much of the rest of the building, the windows had been replaced with upvc double glazed units, with the exception of the window in room 407, which may have been inaccessible due to the

water tank. Kitchen units and a bathroom suite had also been fitted in rooms 402 and 403. The construction of the partition for room 403 was harder to date and a pre-existing space may have been converted into a bathroom. The principal alteration seems to have been to room 412 to allow access to the lift.

6.0 Phasing

6.1 Phase 1: 1902

The original build included the main east to west range with a wing at each end and rooms 014, 013 and 015 in the basement (Figs. 7, 12a and b). There was no evidence of alteration to suggest that these rooms were a later addition and as they housed the boiler would presumably have been required for the hot water heating system installed when the building was first built. Room 026 would also appear to be of this phase; the thickness of the walls, the spacing of the windows and the blue brick floor all suggest that it is contemporary with rooms 027 and 028.

6.2 Phase 2: 1902 - 1912

The roof structure and blocked windows on the ground floor would suggest that the chapel was a later addition (Figs. 8 and 12a). References to an extension to the building in 1911 (Jenkins 1963, 272) probably relate to the construction of the chapel. It was certainly built by 1912 when it appears on the Land Valuation map of the area (Fig. 4). The side 'porches', off the north side of the main ground floor corridor seem to be of the same build. Some disturbance in the brickwork of the main range is visible where these have been bonded in.

6.3 Phase 3: 1937 – 1950

A small extension was added onto the back of the east wing, above basement room 026. A small extension was also added to the front of this wing and blocked windows were evident where it had been added. A similar extension was added to the front of the west wing. The two lift shafts were also added at this time (Fig 12a). These are all evident on the 1950 OS map (Fig. 6) and can easily be distinguished from the rest of the building by architectural style, brick colour and bonding (Plates 5, 6 and 7).

6.4 Phase 4: 1950 – 1993

A large extension was built at the rear of the south-east wing. This was built by 1993 when it appears on the architect's plans of that date (Appendix 1). It was built in roughly the same style as the original building, but with no decorative detailing and using a slightly redder brick (Plate 14). A join can be seen between this and the first extension where the two were butted against each other (Plate 7). Some slight patching can be seen in the original part of the south east wing where the extension was bonded in. Much of the subdivision of rooms on the ground, first and second floors (Figs. 12b, c and d) was in place by 1993 and given the choice of stud-partitions as a construction method, was probably carried out during this phase.

6.5 Phase 5: 1993 - present day

This phase is based on changes in layout evident since the production of architect's plans in 1993 (Appendix 1). During this time some alterations were made to the internal divisions on the basement and first floors (Figs 12a and c):

Basement - The wall between rooms 012 and 018 was constructed and a door between rooms 020 and 021 was blocked (Fig. 7).

First floor - Alterations largely related to the addition and modification of the *en suite* toilets in the main range. The *en suite* toilet in room 203 was moved from the east side of the room to the west, and those in rooms 202 and 203 were added. In room 224 the *en suite* was modified from an L-shape block to a rectangular block. In the east wing the *en suite* toilet in room 232 was reduced in size to allow for the construction for a cupboard off corridor 234 to the north. A walk-in cupboard was also constructed in room 251 (Fig. 9).

7.0 Discussion (by Dr. Faith Cleverdon, with contributions by Zoë Sutherland)

The exterior

7.1 The eastern crosswing is contemporary with the main range, has two windows to each floor of its southern gable including the basement and a series of evenly-spaced windows on the long sides. A west wing of similar design appears to have been intended, judging from the absence of windows on the south face and the slightly awkward roof structure necessary between this wing and the main range (Plate 6), but only the rear was

built. Such a change in design may suggest that the Little Sisters of the Poor had difficulty in raising sufficient funds to complete the house as it had first been planned. The Little Sisters of the Poor were, and still are, run as a charitable organisation. As such they had to rely largely on the vagaries of donors in order to build, maintain and run a home suitable for the care of the elderly.

7.2 Presumably the chapel (completed by 1912) was given priority over the completion of the original design and the original intention of enlarging the home was postponed. While plain by comparison with the fine Roman Catholic churches provided in north Staffordshire by Pugin a half century earlier, it is nonetheless a substantial building intended to house all those who could reach it, and must have represented a sizeable input of capital. Why an Italianate style was used in preference to the more usual gothic style is a mystery (Plate 10). The plainness of its finish seems likely to relate to finance, but might reflect a desire to make all-comers welcome. While the list of clergy attending the opening (Sentinel 1902) indicates a number of Roman Catholic churches in or around the Potteries, it is by no means certain that all those served by the Little Sisters were themselves Catholic.

The interior layout

7.3 Reservations must be expressed over comments on the most important aspect of the building, the interior layout. Comments are here based on both the present layout and instances of structural alteration.

7.4 Given the projected numbers, the bulk of the elderly inmates must have been housed in the main range, supplemented by accommodation in the cross-wings. Apart from bedrooms/wards, day/dining rooms were necessary and the sisters themselves required accommodation within easy reach of their charges. Central areas for administration were also required as were substantial service areas for cooking and laundry. Provision would also have been needed for the ‘*up-to-date... sanitary arrangements*’ boasted of in the initial newspaper article (Sentinel 1902).

7.5 A key feature on each floor is the corridor that runs along the north side of the main range, providing access to a series of rooms on the front (south) side of the building. Judging by the relationship of various chimney breasts to the rooms they were intended

to heat, this arrangement is part of the original plan and demarcates a series of rooms of varying proportions.

7.6 A total of 45 windows served rooms on the southern side and provided the sole means of lighting and ventilation for these rooms unless the corridor doors were open and through-draught created by opening the rear windows.

7.7 An irregular series of rooms flanking the front entrance presumably provided administrative space, while the larger rooms on each floor served by fireplaces in addition to central heating will have been required for communal day rooms/dining rooms. Large rooms on the ground floor, each served by a single chimney breast suggest these were the principle day rooms (Fig. 8). If so this must have initially caused considerable problems in moving residents as the lifts are a secondary feature. Whether there were day rooms on the upper floors is less certain.

7.8 The claim that the building was to be heated throughout by 'hot water' presumably indicates central heating in the form of pipes and radiators to produce background heat throughout the building, whether in sleeping/nursing areas, or in day/dining rooms. Cast iron radiators remained in the chapel (Fig. 8), which may have been those originally installed. Elsewhere the rooms may have been heated by pipes as was still the case on the second floor of the main range. The chimney breasts, however, are a feature of a number of the upper rooms and of the large 'meeting room', and 'day centre' on the ground floor (as indicated on the 1993 plans). These are present on all three living/nursing floors, in some cases attached to a sizeable space likely to have been a day/dining room (Figs. 8, 9 and 10). Despite the presence of chimney breasts within the rooms, no stacks were visible on the roof and it seems these were removed at a later date, probably when a more modern central heating system was installed.

7.9 Given the number and size of the remaining rooms (some of which are now subdivided) many of the inmates must have shared wards/dormitories with at least four to six occupants; convenient in providing the nursing care necessary for those reaching the end of their lives. Presumably, wards for single residents would have been segregated by sex, possibly split between the larger rooms on the first and second floors. Smaller rooms may have been provided to serve married couples, as it is unlikely that the Sisters

followed the workhouse practise of splitting them; a practise which was in any event coming under heavy criticism by the date this building came into being. The use of stud partition walls, however, between rooms 212, 211, 210 and 209, in combination with the altered positions of doorways, would suggest that these rooms were originally one as on the ground floor (Figs. 8, 9 and 12c). A stud partition wall also separates rooms 202 and 203, but it may only be that the position of this has been changed, as indicated by the stubs of wall at each end of room 203. The remainder of the rooms in the main range of this floor are divided by brick walls which are likely to be original. The uneven spacing of the partitions west of centre on the second floor suggests these were also once larger rooms (Fig. 10 and 12d). The pillars between rooms 307, 308, 309 and 310, now partially concealed by the dividing stud partition walls, would also suggest that these rooms had been connected (Plate 12). The use of a stud partition wall on the west side of room 311 suggests that it was part of the same space as 307, 308, 309 and 310. Rooms 314 and 315 may also have been one. The larger rooms at the eastern end of this floor may be original, but the presence of two chimney breasts in rooms 321 and 322 may indicate that they were intended to be smaller rooms.

7.9.1 The rooms in much of the east wing were divided by stud partition walls, but inferences were harder to make without the additional clues offered by architectural details such as pillars or fireplaces. These walls may have been clad either in plaster board or lathe and plaster (as in south walls of the two narrow sections of the main corridor on the second floor) but they could not be distinguished unless the wall had been damaged. Potentially those plaster board clad stud partition walls within the original extent of the building would represent alterations, while those with lathe and plaster would be contemporary. The chimney breasts present in both rooms 232 and 341 at the south end of the wing, may have been intended to heat a larger space, at most incorporating all the rooms south of the hallway, suggesting the room stud partitions are later and so covered with plaster board (Figs. 9,10, 12c and d). The rooms in the rear extension to the east wing were built at a time (phase 4) when the use of stud partitions for internal walls was the norm and in any case is likely to have been built to meet the current standards for bathrooms and the preference for individual bedrooms, meaning little alteration would have been required if any.

7.10 The up-to-date sanitary arrangements mentioned in the newspaper article may have

been housed in the projections at the extreme ends of each wing. The toilet blocks seen at the far end of each wing during archaeological recording had undergone very little alteration, only those in the west wing on the ground and first floors had been subdivided with stud-partition walls. The remaining rooms were divided by brick walls, original to the phase 1 building. It seems likely that such small rooms, particularly 162 and 163 (Fig. 8) in the east wing of the ground floor, which have such narrow divisions, were intended to house toilets and washing facilities.

7.11 The layout of the east crosswing varies from floor to floor. The simple layout of the ground floor, where the main north corridor runs straight into a well-lit corridor at right angles along the western wall seems the most logical and may be original. This is partially mirrored on the first floor, while the second floor plan, with its unlit and congested internal corridor seems the least satisfactory (Figs. 8, 9 and 10). As has been noted above, the internal divisions were probably later stud partitions, but if these were constructed with lathe and plaster they could have been accommodation for the Sisters themselves. Rooms for the sisters were almost certainly provided in rooms 205/206 on the first floor and 317/318 on the second floor (Figs. 9 and 10). Situated as they were behind the narrower, gated 'service' stair, they are likely to have been used by the Sisters, reflecting the central position of the administrative rooms on the ground floor. Such a central position next to the stairway would have meant they were in easy reach of their charges on all floors. While some of these rooms might have provided sleeping quarters for the Sisters, it is more likely that they served as an administrative area, and that as with nursing staff in an infirmary, the Sisters will have had a rota that covered what was required at night. The attic was also used by the Sisters (Fig. 11). Until the addition of the lift at the west end of the floor, it was served by the central 'service' stair and an enclosed stair (413) rising from behind a small door on the second floor main corridor, also likely to have been a 'service' stair. Conversation with the caretaker of the last twenty years or so, revealed that it had eventually been deemed unsatisfactory for the Sisters' accommodation due to fire regulations and had subsequently been used for storage.

7.13 Judging by the elevations, the basement (Fig. 7) will always have been a service area since the windows, with the exception of those in the eastern crosswing, are concealed in sunken 'areas' making it unsuitable for living accommodation, while the

functions intended in 1993 and used until 2004 (cooking, laundry, heating, storage etc), would have been equally relevant at an earlier date.

7.14 The building required some alteration as the standards of care for the elderly were changed. Lifts were added to the rear of the building, increasing the mobility of less able bodied residents and, no doubt, helpful in moving deliveries around the building. As has been discussed previously many of the rooms were subdivided; to allow for individual bedrooms with *en suite* facilities, allowing increased privacy for the residents. The bathrooms behind the central staircase and in the south end of the east wing may also have been added at this stage. Such facilities were sufficient for the accommodation of asylum seekers and very few of the alterations identified seem to have been made specifically with them in mind. Room 301 (Fig. 10) may have been converted into an additional kitchen at this point, giving a greater degree of independence to the asylum seekers than the elderly residents of the care home would have required. The yale locks on the bedrooms doors may also have been fitted at this point, providing a level of security that would have been potentially life-threatening in the care of elderly and possibly sick residents.

7.14.1 The remaining alterations seem to have been made either to keep up with modern fire regulations or in the attempt to effectively heat such a large building. Fire doors replaced most of the original room doors and were probably also added to circulation areas. The front extensions to both wings (phase 4) seem to have been built principally with fire regulations in mind. Considering the investment necessary, they provided relatively little accommodation, whereas they did offer additional exit routes for the ground floor, previously only found in the centre of the building. The installation of double glazing was probably done to help retain heat, but may have simply been the modern equivalent for windows in need of replacement. The lowering of the ceilings would have reduced the area in each room to heat, but would also have made the rooms darker and less airy.

8.0 Comparable buildings (by Dr. Faith Cleverdon)

8.1 A direct comparison between St. Augustine's and other contemporaneous local or regional institutions has proved difficult. This is primarily because no studies of other care homes of this date, either religious (of any denomination) or secular, have been

undertaken. The most readily available local and regional institutions with which the layout and level and types of care offered by St. Augustine's can be compared are workhouses and, specifically, the pavilion-plan infirmaries added to many such institutions during the late 19th and early 20th centuries (Morrison 1999, 103). Architectural similarities exist between St. Augustine's and these workhouse elements, which also accommodated individuals of identical age and circumstances to those accommodated by St. Augustine's.

8.2 By the late 1860s, criticism of the building types used to accommodate paupers under the auspices of the New Poor Law of 1834 was growing. In the 18th century, the buildings required for the Old Poor Law were widely variable. Norton-in-the-Moors parish workhouse (1798), for example, was no more than a large cottage, with a single room on each floor heated by a central stove, with a bay added for the master in 1824-5 (Baker nd, 6-7). In 1810 the number of inmates peaked at ten. By contrast in 1793-4 the parishioners of Easebourne in Sussex built a workhouse with a three-storey nine-windowed range fronting a courtyard flanked by two-storey, eight-window ranges (Morrison 1999, 26). Ground floor rooms included a shoemaker's shop, weaver's shop, dining rooms, and range of service rooms including kitchen, bake-house, brew-house and washroom. A five-window projection to the front housed the governor's room and a committee room. Comparable workhouses, housing hundreds of paupers became increasingly common in the 19th century.

8.3 The requirements of the New Poor Law of 1834 meant many earlier buildings were either outdated or too small and various architects took a hand in developing model plans to embody the principles of classification, segregation (on the grounds of sex, age and ability) and supervision. One of the earliest was the courtyard plan with ranges on all four sides of an exercise yard subdivided by high walls to separate the categories of inmates. A 'square' plan, such as that used at Leek, was another common form (Fig. 14). These had a major range housing the administrative building and communal rooms, with a cruciform arrangement of blocks with a central hub from which the separate exercise yards could be overseen. Many were massive, intended to house inmates by the hundred, the largest housing 500 or more.

8.4 The larger buildings on whatever plan were intended to provide the most Spartan of accommodation and were often designed to both penalize and intimidate the potential inmates. Many of the earlier examples, particularly in the south of England, were built with blind outer walls, cutting their occupants off from the outside world, and providing ill-lit and poorly-ventilated rooms, which, coupled with poor food, frequently led to illness and ensured that epidemic diseases ran rife.

8.5 Vigorous criticism from many sources was slow to have effect, but by the 1870s the idea of corridor plan buildings in which various classes of inmate, male, female, able-bodied and sick were housed in single subdivided buildings was becoming unacceptable. As early as 1773 cross ventilation from opposing windows had been advocated, an idea reiterated by Kempthorne in the 1830s in relationship to his four model designs that influenced so many of the New Poor Law Buildings (Morrison 1999, 105). Despite this the connection between good ventilation and health was not taken seriously until the introduction of pavilion plan buildings in the 1870s.

8.6 Pavilion plans were most frequently applied to infirmaries and mental asylums, where a series of separate blocks, each containing a ward with windows on each long side to give cross ventilation were linked by covered walkways. This coincided with a move to subdivide still further the different categories of workhouse, creating separate blocks linked by covered ways rather than housing them within a single building, a move which tended to begin with the building of separate buildings for the infirm (Morrison 1999, 103).

8.7 The new infirmaries were seen primarily as living accommodation for the aged poor, rather than places in which people could be made well and, as such, are the closest parallel to St. Augustine's and the other homes run by the Little Sisters of the Poor. The principles applied to infirmaries were designed to stem the spread of disease. These included opposing windows to create a through draught, with beds arranged singly or in pairs between windows, with an optimum number of beds in a pavilion of 32, giving each patient approximately 800 cubic feet of air (Morrison 1999, 104). This resulted in long narrow wards, with tall sash or hopper windows and the provision of separate sanitary facilities, often placed in a projecting tower. Against this background corridors were now equated with poor ventilation and easy transmission of disease. While these

ideas came to be adopted for the infirmaries, they were considered unnecessary for the elements containing the able bodied which continued to be built on a corridor plan.

8.8 At a local level the development of an ever-increasing level of segregation can be seen at Stoke Union Workhouse (Fig. 13), where a series of detached buildings dating from the 1830s onwards formed a response to a growing population and new requirements from the authorities. Of the buildings that formed this complex, those nearest in date to St. Augustine's were built for 'imbeciles' in 1894. Two ranges, each over 100m long, were built on the pavilion plan for 'idiots' 'imbeciles' and 'epileptics' housing 140 inmates in four huge dormitories and some day rooms, all with tall sash windows on each side of the room. Projecting turrets for bathroom and toilet facilities provided contemporary best practise. External stair turrets suggest that escape from fire was also a consideration.

8.9 At Leek (Fig. 14) the Infirmary was added in 1911 with pavilion plan wards on two floors, linked to the administrative range of the former workhouse. Again turrets provided the necessary separation for the sanitary facilities. Similar, end of gable projections for the Isolation Hospital (now demolished) suggest a similar arrangement there for the buildings dating to either side of 1900.

8.10 The pavilion plan was carried to its logical extreme in the 1890s at Cheddleton, when Staffordshire finally provided its own accommodation for the insane (Fig. 15). Here the echelon plan was adopted as an answer to the need for a single vast complex requiring a series of pavilions. The administrative block was to the apex of the pyramid, with service facilities, hall and water tower behind. The pavilions, linked by covered corridors, fanned out to either side

9.0 Conclusion (by Dr. Faith Cleverdon and Zoë Sutherland)

9.1 It is against this background, in both social and physical terms that the 1902-3 building built for the Little Sisters of the Poor at Cobridge needs to be judged. By the standards of those advocating pavilion buildings it was backward looking, having a series of rooms on each floor served by a corridor and lacking through ventilation. Whether through-ventilation with a series of pottery kilns as neighbours was entirely desirable is less certain, and in any event the main corridors could be ventilated and a measure of

cross-ventilation achieved at the expense of privacy. In terms of its ethos it was probably ahead of its time, providing a less impersonal setting than the dauntingly large units provided by the various categories of public care.

9.2 Uncertainty as to the original subdivisions within the building make precise conclusions elusive, as the present divisions may mask the former units. Evidence on both the first and second floors, however, suggests there were larger rooms at the west end of the main range and possibly at the south end of the east wing. The original plan included toilet and washing facilities in the crosswings, providing the isolation of such facilities that had for some time been deemed essential.

9.2 By workhouse standards the accommodation was good, with tall outward facing windows to each room in the main block giving views across the garden to the outside world. In addition, inmates seem to have been housed in relatively small rooms or wards creating a more homely situation than the vast wards of the workhouse infirmaries. Segregation of the inmates by sex, however, is likely to have been enforced, although married quarters may have been supplied.

9.3 The heating seems to have been realistic, with background heat provided by radiators served from a boiler house in the basement and additional heat in certain areas provided by fireplaces. There is no evidence on which to assess the level of food and nursing care, but given the avowed intention of the Sisters it seems likely to have been generous in the extreme, at least by workhouse standards.

9.4. At Cobridge worship would have played a central role in the lives of the Little Sisters of the Poor and it is no surprise to find the chapel centrally placed at right angles to the main axis, part of the main building and of sufficient size to welcome all-comers. This was in sharp contrast to the cramped and overcrowded conditions provided for worship that obtained in some inner-city workhouses, where a series of narrow tables and benches might be set out facing forwards in an area which did double duty for both dining room and chapel (Morrison 1999, 99). The building of a workhouse chapel was not unusual, but by no means universal. While the poor might be blamed for their poverty, some authorities believed that an element of moral redemption might be achieved through worship and provided a detached chapel somewhere on the premises, as

at Stoke. The relatively plain, somewhat neutral décor of the chapel may suggest a shortage of funding or alternatively a deliberate attempt to provide a place of worship for residents of all denominations.

9.5 Given the lack of original plans and some uncertainties as to the nature of alterations these conclusions are open to debate, but there seems little doubt that the elderly poor that the Sisters welcomed through the door will have felt relieved to avoid the rigours of the workhouse, where old ideas and in some cases older buildings lingered well into the 20th century.

9.6 The continuity of use seen in St Augustine's, providing accommodation and care for the elderly under the auspices of the Little Sisters of the Poor and private care companies, and more recently for asylum seekers, has meant that the building has undergone relatively few alterations. Most significant change was the division of larger rooms into single or twin rooms often with *en suite* facilities, as the trend in care moved towards offering residents a greater degree of privacy and individuality. Although considering the relatively small wards at St Augustine's such alterations would have been far less than those required in other institutional buildings of a similar date. Despite the modernisation St Augustine's did eventually close as a care home around 2000, perhaps in part due to the difficulties in maintaining such a large, old building. Few if any alterations seem to have been made for the subsequent occupation by asylum seekers as the modernised accommodation was easily adapted for more individual living.

9.7 The recording of St. Augustine's has been largely successful in determining the original layout of the building, although in some cases this remains somewhat speculative. The recent use of rooms was easy to discern, due to the 1993 architect's plans and surviving fixtures and fittings, and was important in identifying some of the probable functions and activities for which the original rooms would have been required. Little, if any work has been undertaken on early 20th-century care homes such as St. Augustine's and this served to limit the range of institutions with which it could be compared. Fortunately, a sizeable body of work exists for workhouses and the infirmaries that eventually formed a part of them, providing a useful comparison in terms of architectural style and organisational ethos. Institutions such as St. Augustine's offered paupers an alternative to workhouse care offered by the state and, as such, are worthy of

further study in order to gain a fuller appreciation of the types of care available to the destitute during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

9.8 If the newspaper report on the laying of the foundation stone is to be believed, further information on the founding of St. Augustine's should be contained in the time capsule buried beneath the foundations. If possible, an attempt to retrieve this item should be made.

10.0 Acknowledgements

This report was written by Zoë Sutherland of Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology and Dr. Faith Cleverdon. Illustrations are by Zoë Sutherland. Fieldwork was carried out by Richard Cramp, Deborah Forrester and Zoë Sutherland. Thanks are due to Ken Forbes of the Meteor Group and to Gordon Parkman. Thanks are also due to Christopher Wakelin and Andrew Dobraszczyk for providing a list of potential sources.

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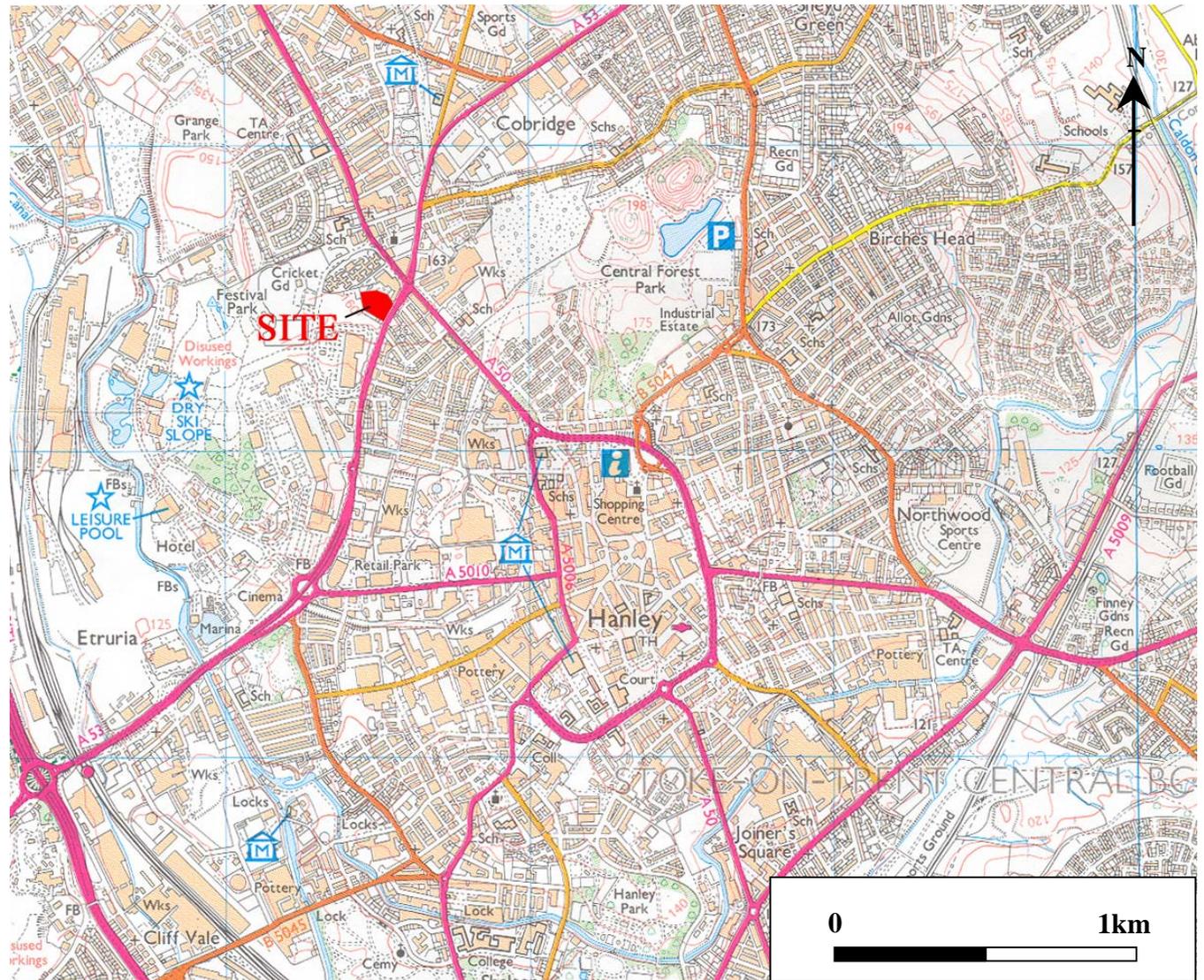
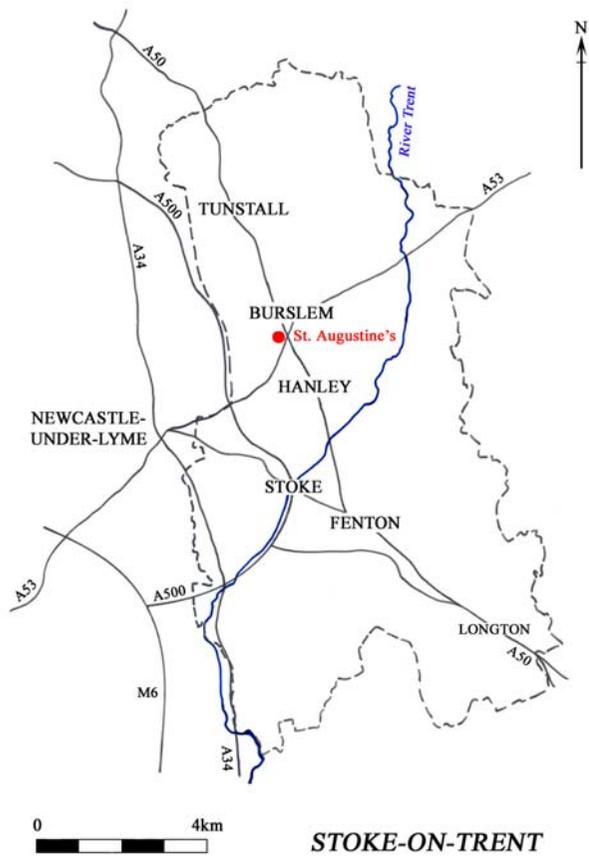


FIG. 1
Site location

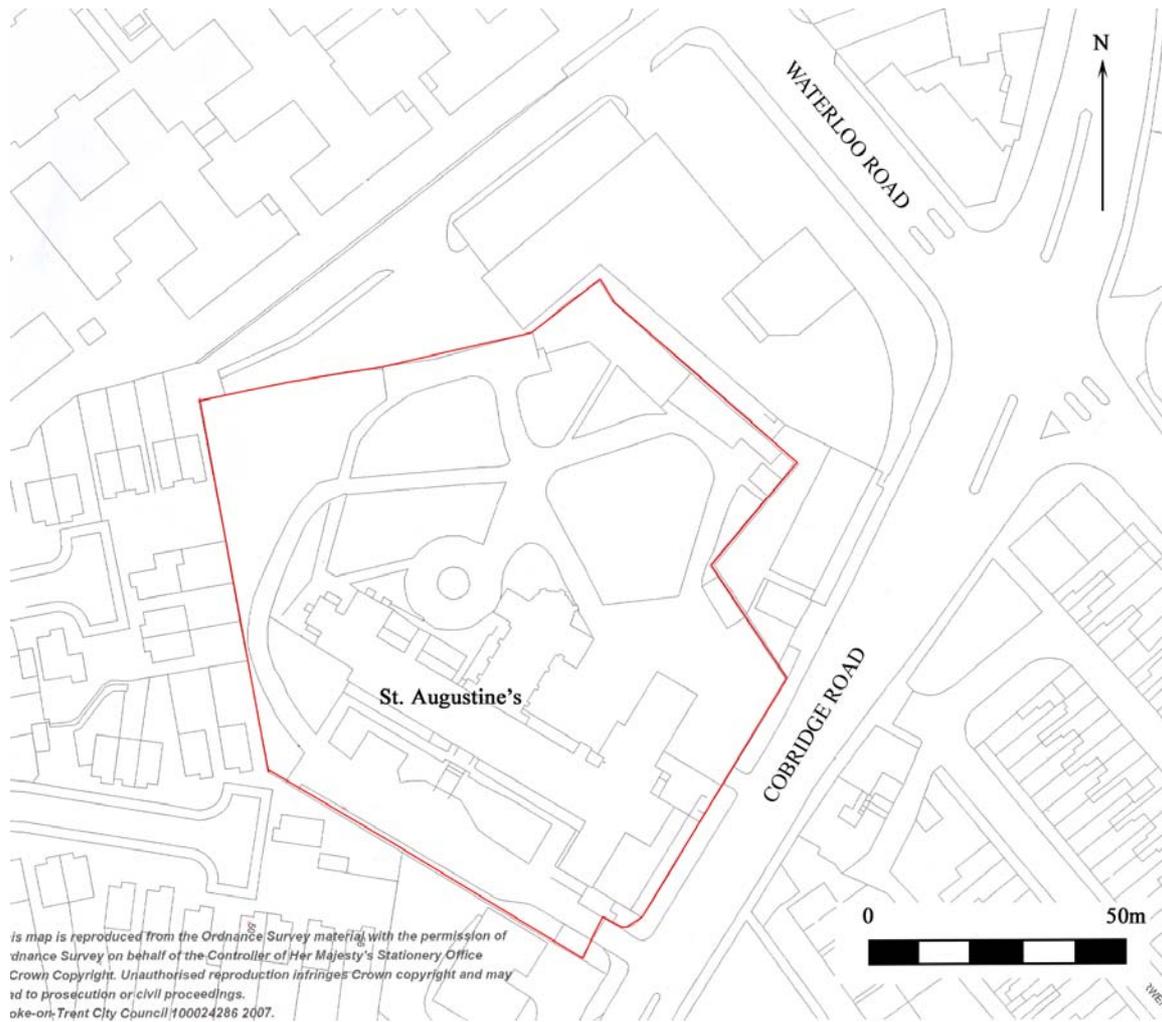


FIG. 2

St. Augustine's Care Home

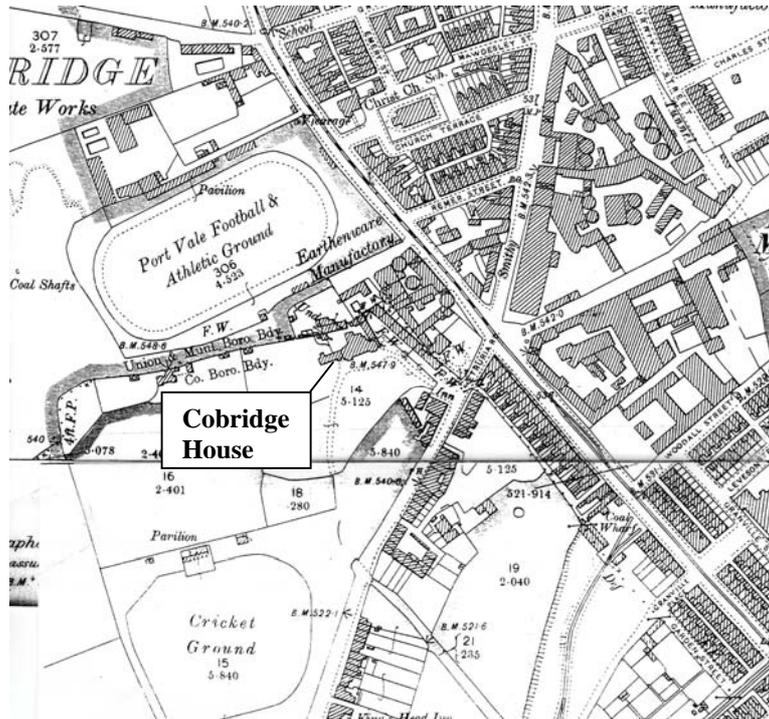


FIG. 3

Detail from the 1899 OS map showing Cobridge House on the site subsequently occupied by St. Augustine's

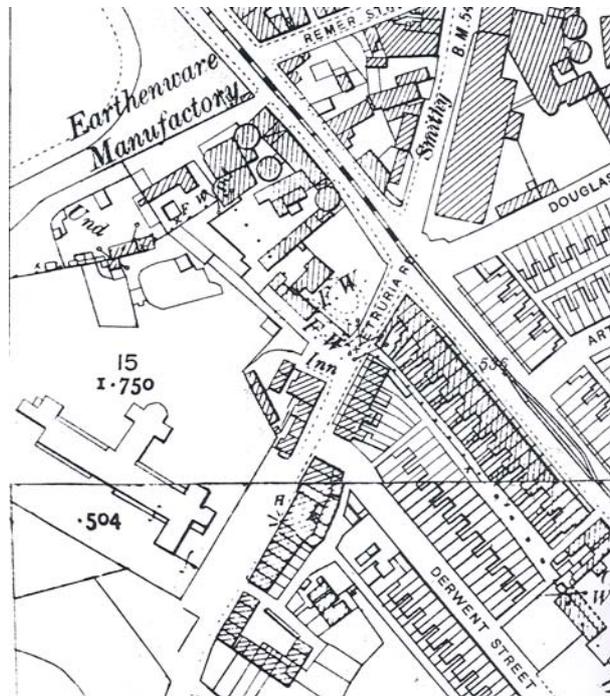


FIG. 4

Detail from the 1912 land valuation map showing St. Augustine's

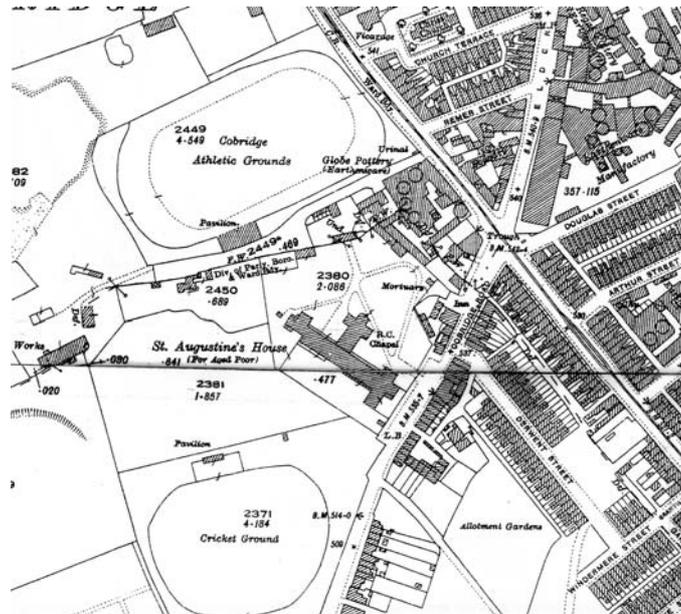


FIG. 5

Detail from the 1924 OS map showing St. Augustine's

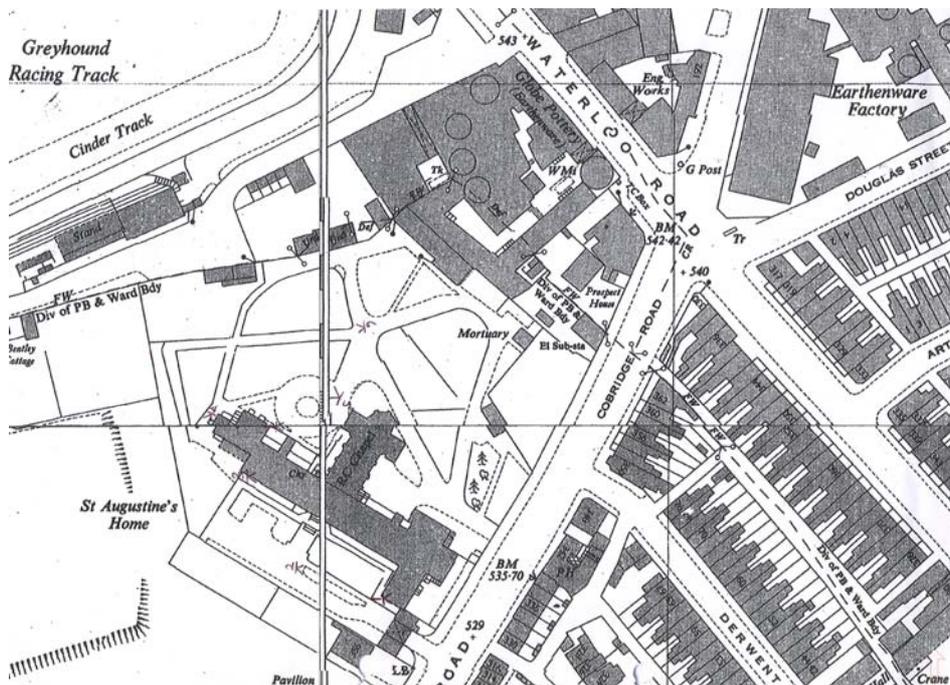


FIG. 6

Detail from the 1950 OS map showing St. Augustine's

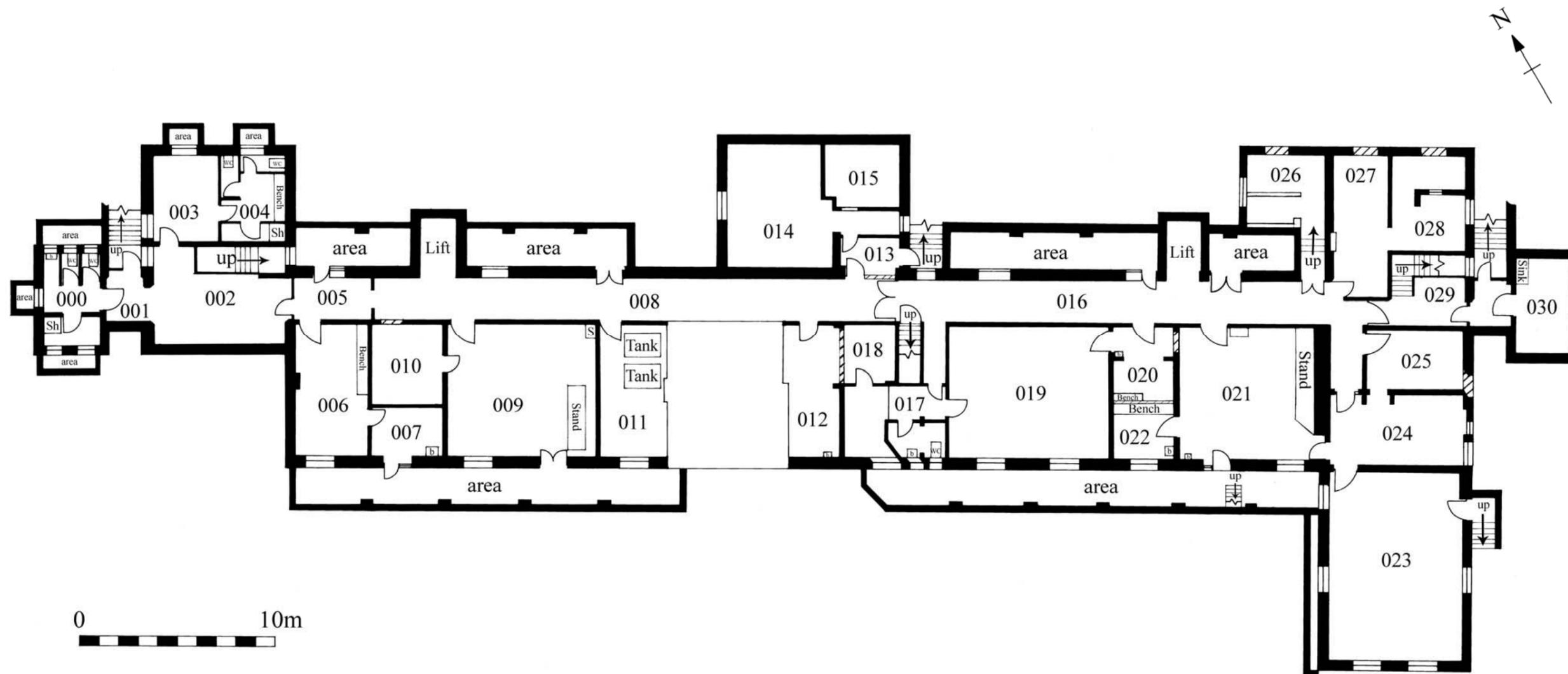


FIG. 7
Basement plan of St Augustine's Care Home

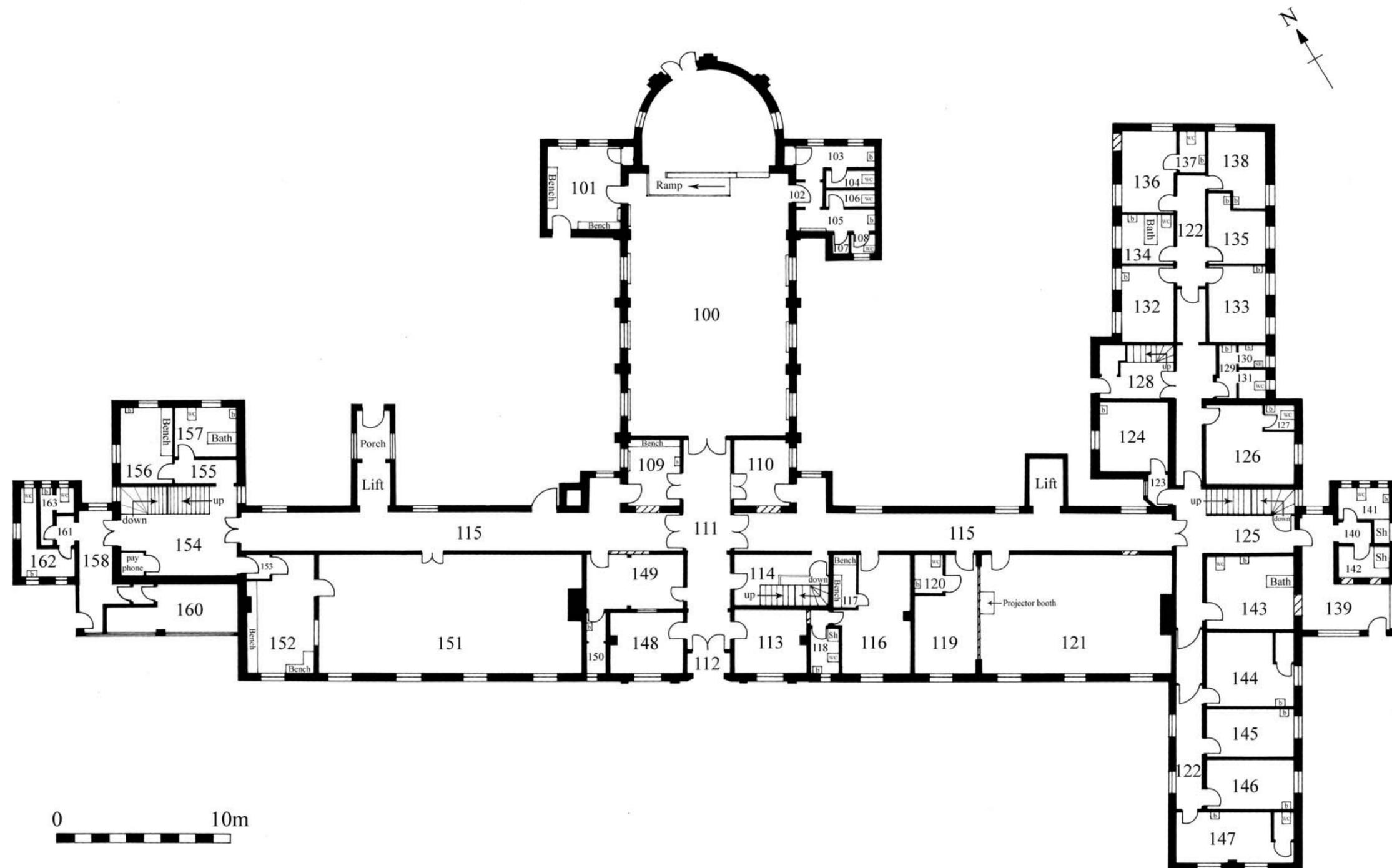


FIG. 8

Ground floor plan of St Augustine's Care Home

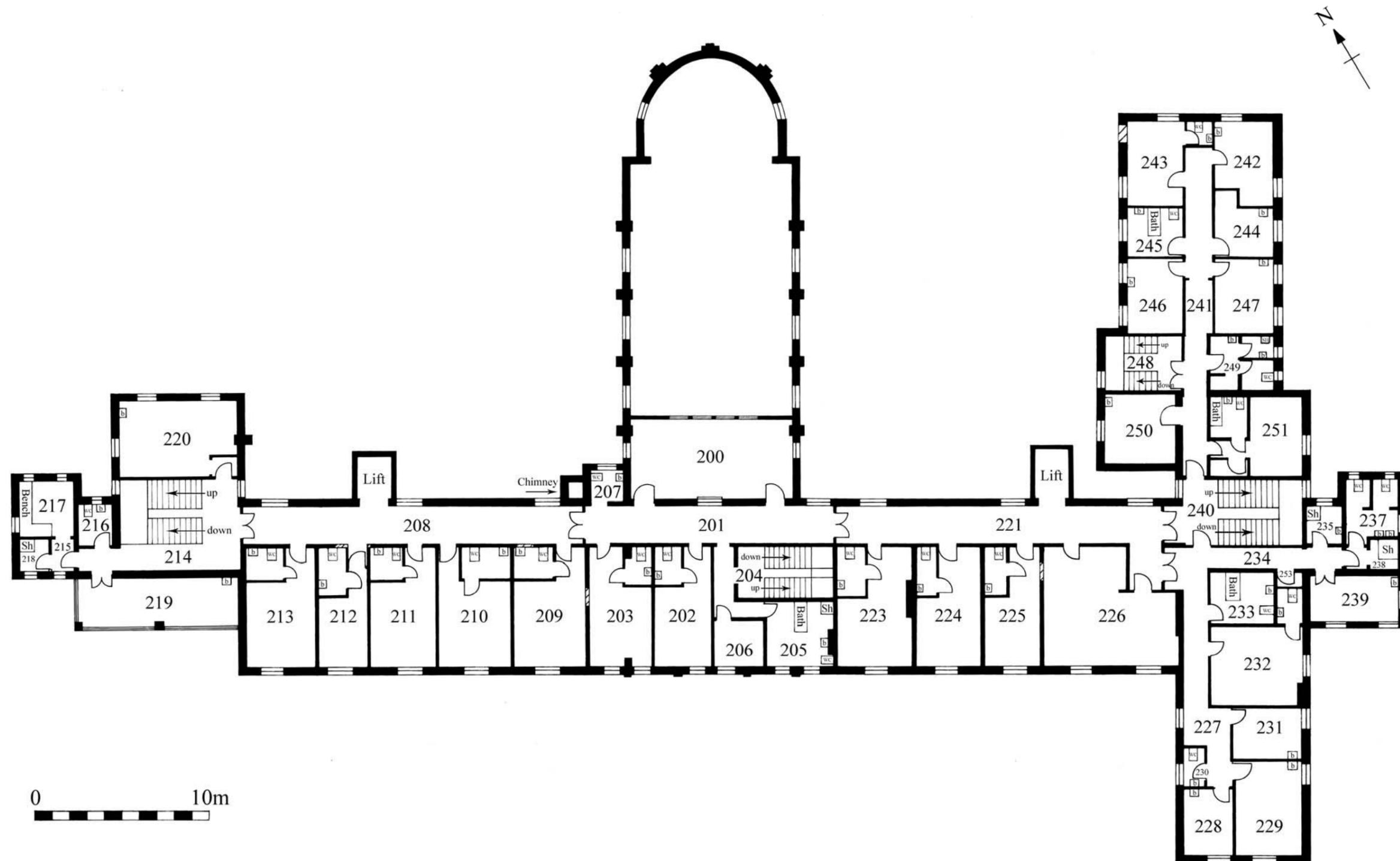


FIG. 9

First floor plan of St Augustine's Care Home

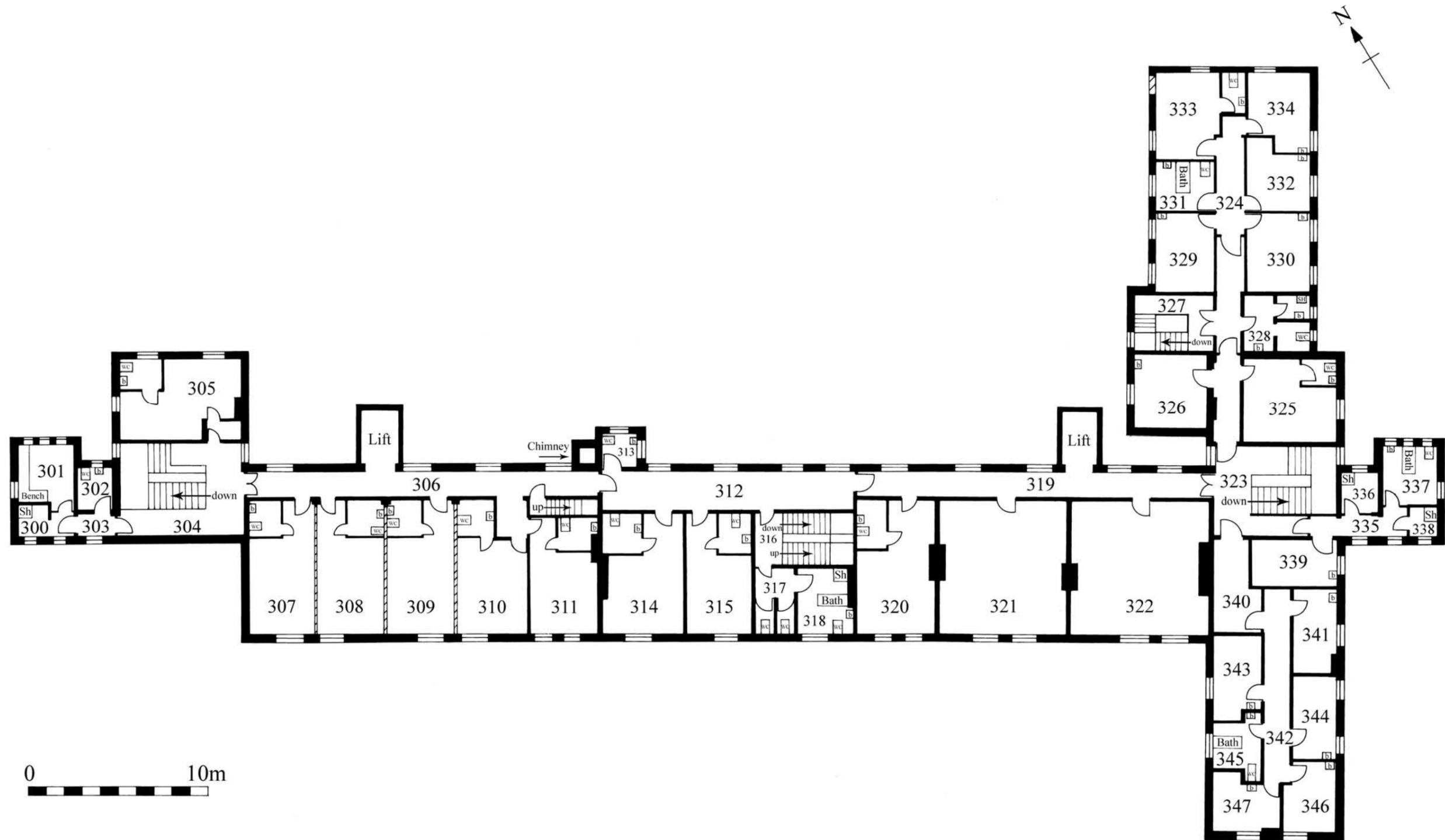


FIG. 10
Second floor plan of St Augustine's Care Home

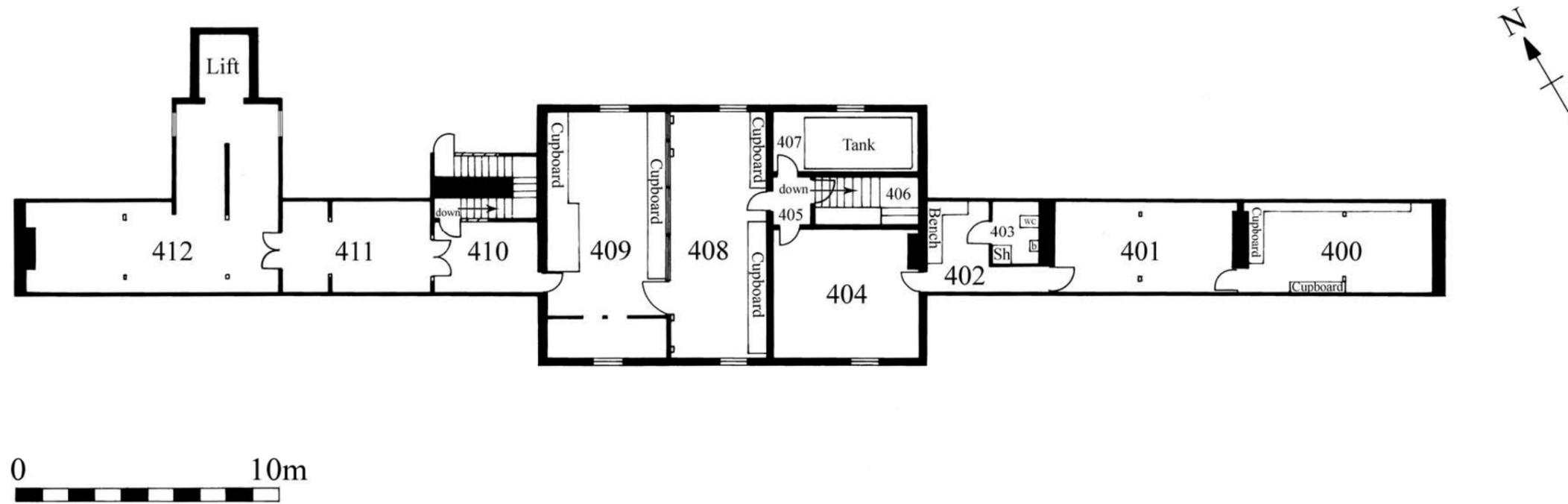


FIG. 11
Attic plan of St Augustine's Care Home

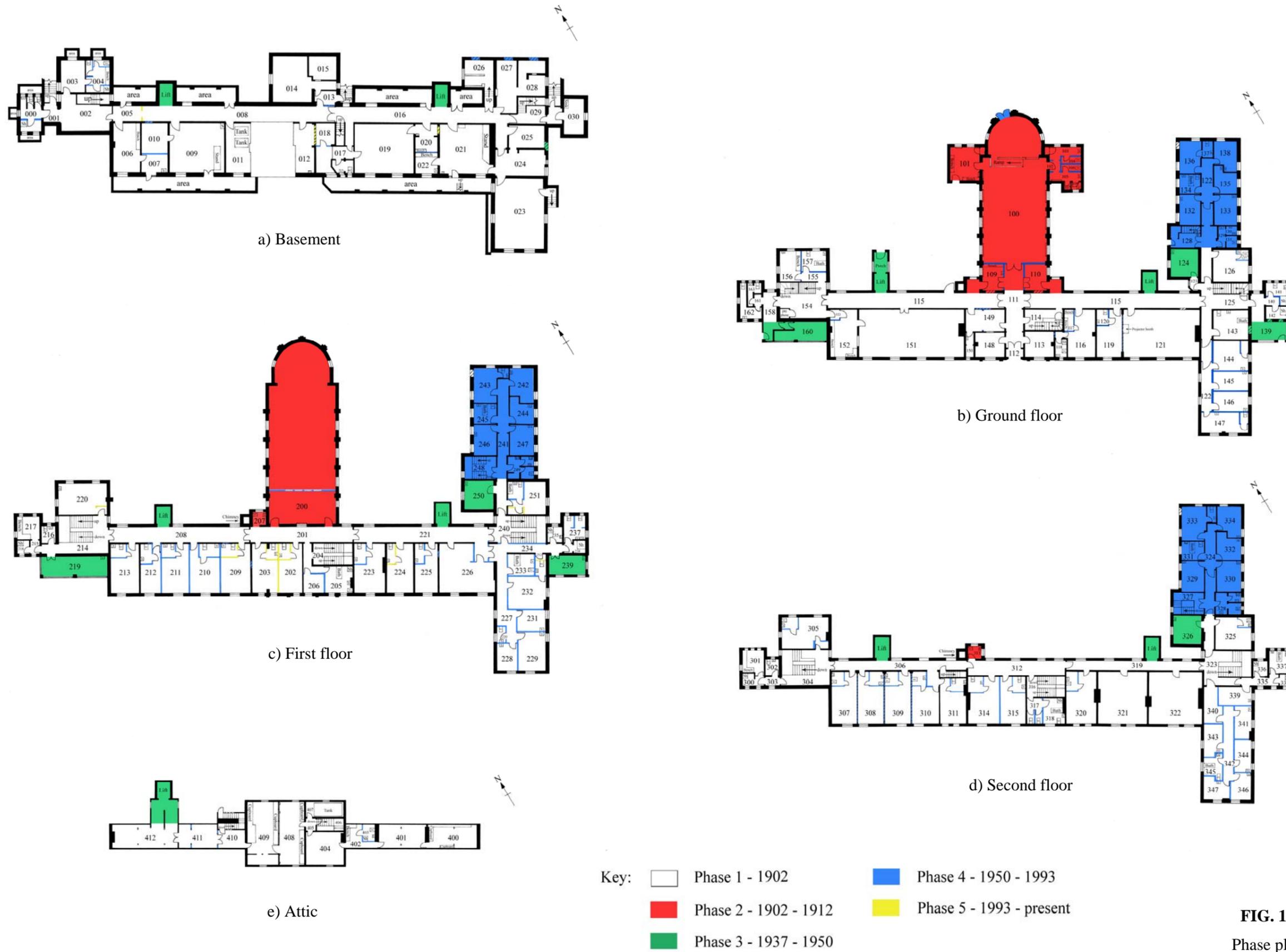


FIG. 12
Phase plan

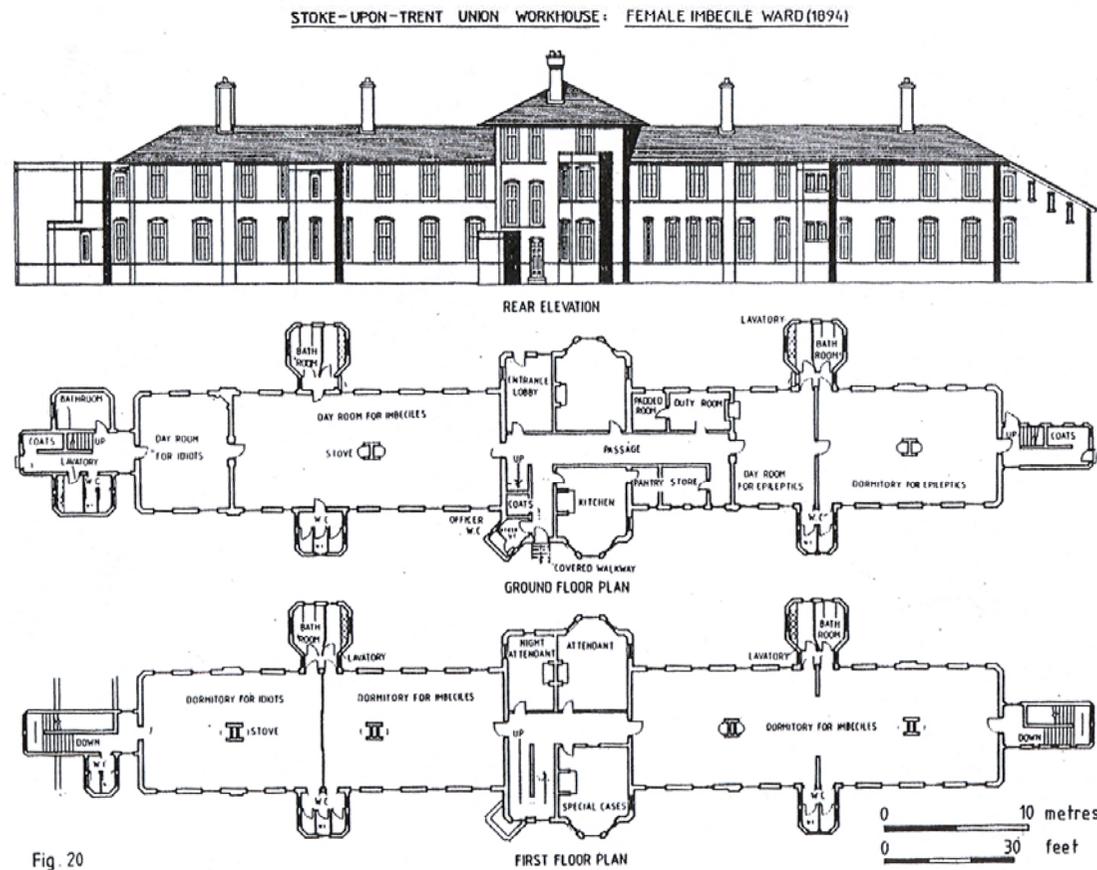


Fig. 20

FIG. 13

Stoke-upon-Trent workhouse, 1894

(from Baker n.d., 28)

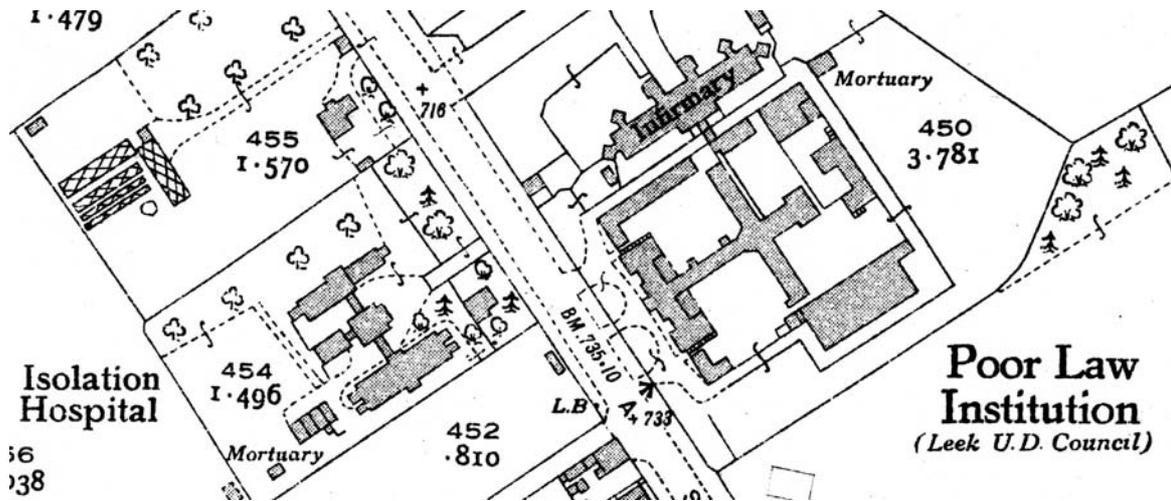


FIG. 14

Leek: the Poor Law Institution (founded 1839) (as shown on the 1940 OS map)
The administrative range was at the roadside. The cross-shaped range provided a supervisory 'hub' to overlook segregated exercise yards. The Infirmary was added in the 20th century, as was most of the Isolation Hospital.

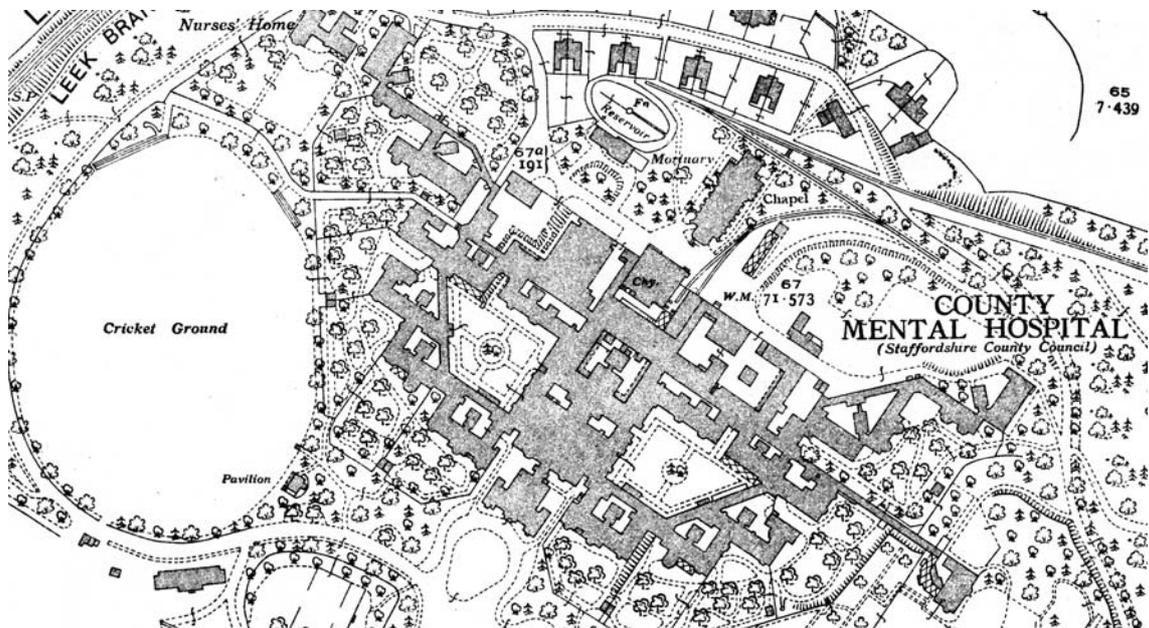


FIG. 15

The County Mental Hospital at Cheddleton (as shown on the 1924 OS map)

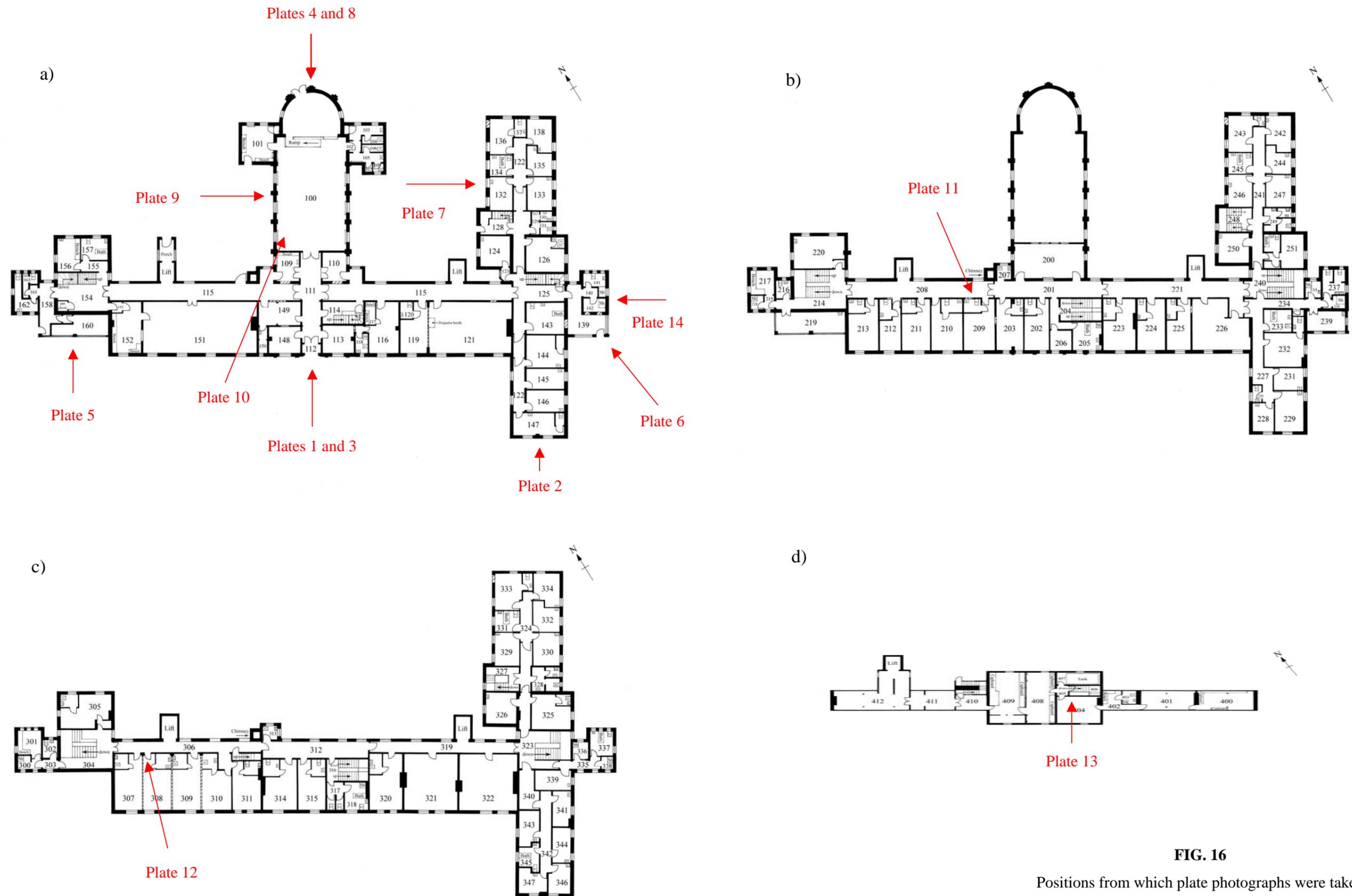


FIG. 16

Positions from which plate photographs were taken
 a) Ground floor, b) First floor, c) Second floor, d) Attic



PLATE 1

St Augustine's, south elevation from Cobridge Road



PLATE 2

East wing, south elevation



PLATE 3

Main range, south elevation



PLATE 4

Main range, north elevation



PLATE 5

West wing, south elevation



PLATE 6

East wing, extension to south



PLATE 7

East wing, west elevation of the northern extension



PLATE 8

Chapel, north elevation



PLATE 9

Chapel, west elevation



PLATE 10

Chapel interior, looking north

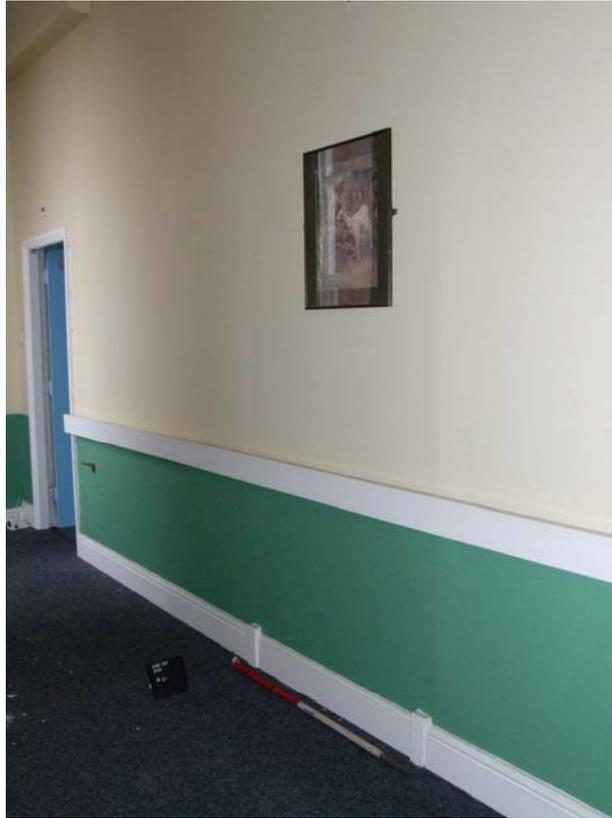


PLATE 11

Outline of a blocked door into room 209 on the first floor



PLATE 12

One of the columns at the west end of the main range, second floor



PLATE 13

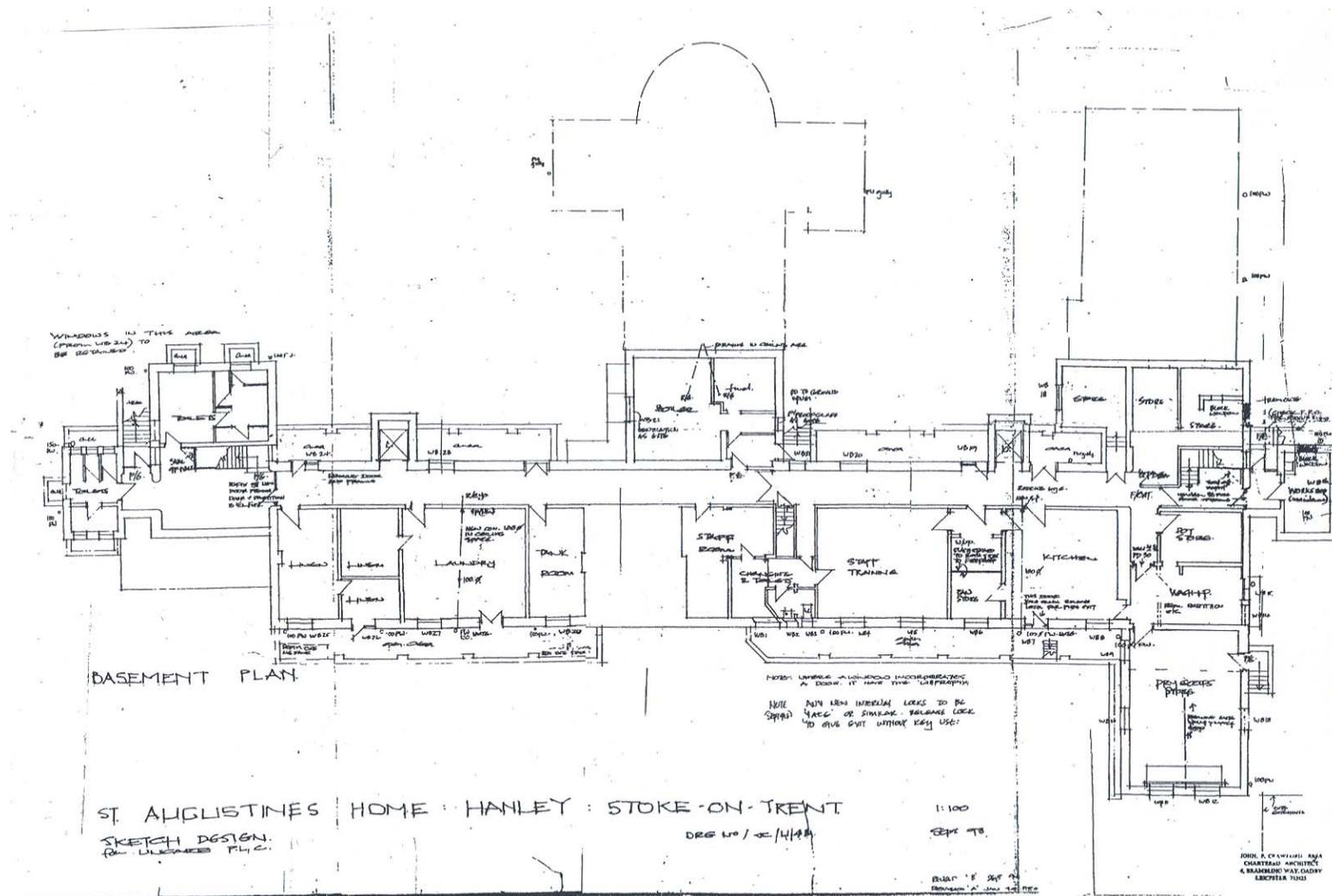
Roof truss in room 404, the attic



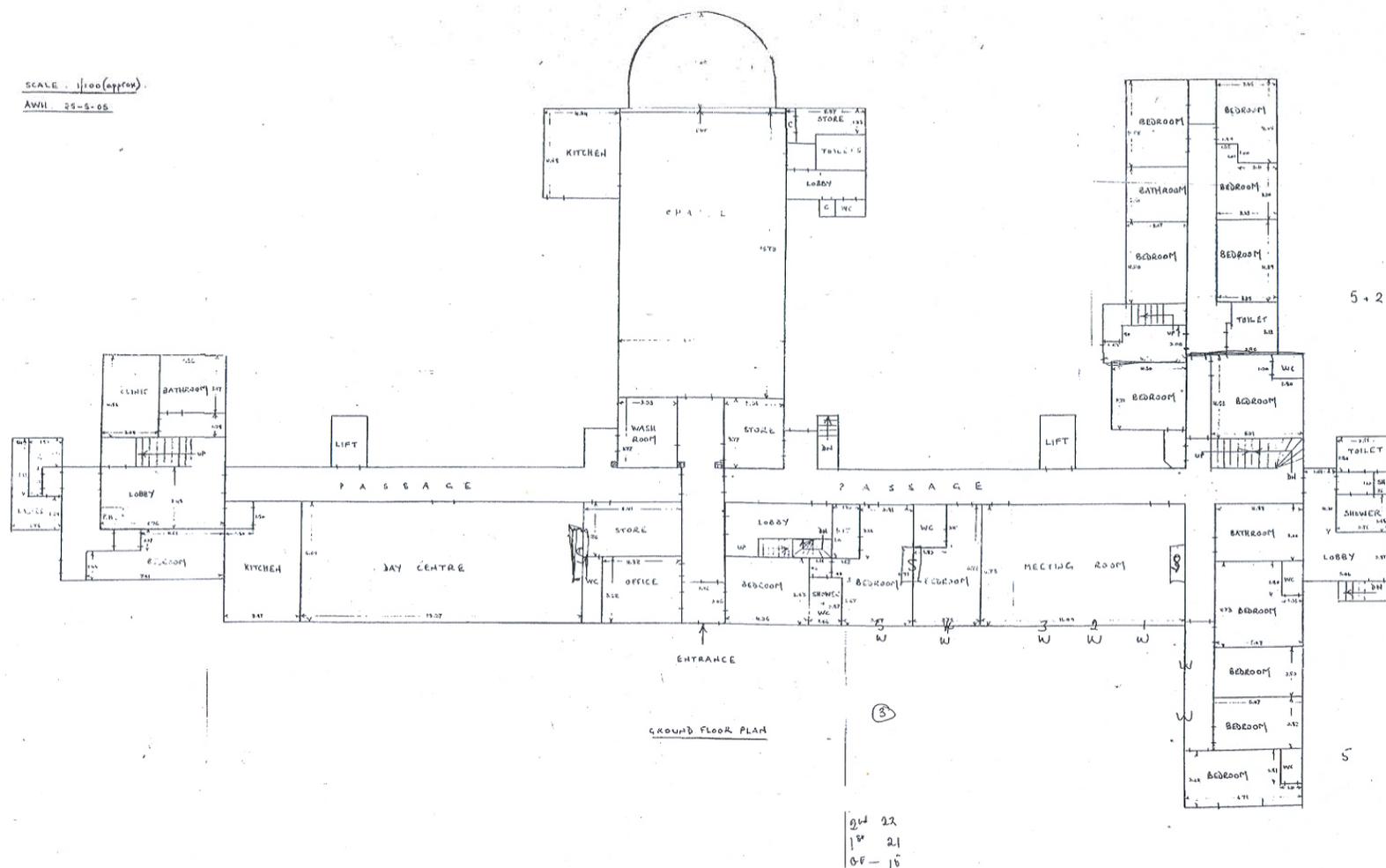
PLATE 14

East wing, east elevation from Cobridge Road

APPENDIX 1a: Architect's plans, 1993 – basement



APPENDIX 1b: Architect's plans, 1993 – ground floor



APPENDIX 1d: Architect's plans, 1993 – second floor

