

Standing Building Survey
Old Church Cottage, Lawers



Old Church Cottage looking South East (Loch Tay in background)



29th January 2010

Introduction

Mr and Mrs Peter Slaney propose to demolish Old Church Cottage, Lawers (NN 67709 39343) and build a new house on the site. The planning consent for this development (Perth and Kinross Council Planning Application 08/01468/FUL) included an archaeological condition which specified the need for a full photographic record of the cottage prior to its demolition. The photographic survey was carried out by the author on Friday 22nd January 2010 (Site Code LAW01); weather conditions were overcast and slightly damp.

Historical Background (Illustrations 1-4)

This site was the former location of the earlier and extensive township of Tomb (called Tomalawers on Roy's map of 1747-55), which is marked on Farquharson's survey of 1769. Tomb in Lawers is on record from 1679 when half the township was set for seven years to one Robert Stirling but is not marked on Pont's map of the late 16th century (Illustration 1). On Farquharson's map a sizeable longhouse is marked on this site, rectified versions of this early map and the overlaid modern Ordnance Survey indicate that this early survey of Loch Tayside is an accurate one (pers comm. S Boyle (RCAHMS)). Tomb is still marked on John Thomson's map of Scotland which was drawn in 1832 but seems to have gone by the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1863.

It is at this date that the building known as Old Church Cottage first appears on a map and its construction appears to be contemporary with the listed 19th century Old Church House (MPK 17310) and the Free Church which were both built in 1833. From a cursory examination of the Valuation Rolls for Highland Perthshire between 1855 and 1863 the only buildings referred to are Lawers Free Church and Manse (CC1/8/1/1A-213 County of Perth valuation rolls). The absence of any mention of what is now called Old Church Cottage may suggest that whatever function this structure served it was not domestic and therefore had no valuation.

According to the local farmer, Mr Peter McDiarmuid, the cottage was used by his grandfather to store bales of hay up until it was converted into a holiday house in the 1960's.

Description of main building

Location

Old Church Cottage stands on the south side of the main road that runs along the northern side of Loch Tay (A827). It forms part of a distinct group of three buildings with the neighbouring manse and former church and overlooks Loch Tay to the South. It is built into the slope of quite a steep hill and is on two levels but essentially has a simple rectangular ground plan running from E to W. It is constructed of mortar bonded uncoursed rough stone masonry and is unharled. It has a modern concrete tiled roof and a single chimney above its Eastern gable end.

Southern Elevation (Illustration 7-10)

This elevation has two storeys, on the lower storey there are doors at either end of the building and a central arched doorway in the middle. On the upper storey there are three windows the tops of which have partial gables in the roof line.

Eastern Elevation(Illustration 12)

The wall face on this elevation is blank and there is a stove chimney at its southern end. The roof has been added to the top of the wall head as a single unit there is wooden cladding to a maximum depth of 2.25m from the apex.

Northern Elevation (Illustrations 14-17)

This single storey elevation has a window at both end and a central main doorway into the cottage. Careful examination of this elevation revealed that there are blocked former doorways at both its W and E ends. The blocked entrance at the W end lies 1.77m from the W gable end is 0.94m wide and 1.88m high with a former threshold 0.08m high. The blocked entrance at the E end lies 1.76m from the E gable is 2.54m wide and 1.84m high with a former threshold 0.20m high.

Western Elevation(Illus 18)

The wall face on this elevation is blank and there is a chimney at the apex of the gable. The roof has been added to the top of the wall head as a single unit there is wooden cladding to a maximum depth of 2.25m from the apex.

Small Outhouse (Illustration 19-23)

9m to the South of the cottage lay the derelict remains of a small outhouse with doorways in its Northern and Eastern walls. This building formerly had a gabled roof running North to South it is not marked on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map.

Observations

Southern two storey elevation

The central arched doorway in the southern elevation opens into a storage area which runs right through to the north wall of the cottage. All internal walls are blank with no further doorways or windows. The door at the western end of this elevation was locked shut and therefore in accessible. The door at the eastern end opens out into a narrow 'porch' like area before encountering a further doorway inserted into a temporary wall running across the building. This door was also locked but examination over the wall head indicated that the room beyond was also used for storage. The eastern jamb of the outer eastern doorway seems to retain evidence for an earlier method of blocking the door using timbers (Illus 11).

Northern single storey elevation (Illustrations 14-17)

This elevation shows evidence for a blocked doorway and a blocked entrance at its Western and Eastern ends respectively. The central doorway and windows have been added at the time of the buildings conversion into a holiday house.

Interior (Illustrations 24 and 25)

The central doorway opens into an internal corridor running East to West which leads to a living room and kitchen, a bathroom and bedroom. There is no access from upper to lower storey. The interior of the building has been fitted out as a modern holiday home and shows no trace of any original fittings.

Construction

The roof and windows have clearly been later additions to an existing building constructed of uncoursed rough stone masonry.

Function

The blocked doorway and entrance in the North facing elevation and the central arched entrance in the South facing elevation would seem to suggest a former agricultural function for the cottage prior to its conversion to a holiday house in the 1960's. This suggestion may be backed up by the buildings absence from the Valuation Rolls (see Historical Background).

Recommendations

The author feels that the photographic survey and written notes on the building are an adequate record of the cottage prior to its demolition. There were no obvious elements of the structure that could be seen to relate to the 17th century settlement of Tomb but given that cartographic evidence suggests that the cottage stands on the former site of that settlement consideration may need to be given to recommending the need for a watching brief on all ground breaking works that are part of the redevelopment. However the final decision on the need for any further work rests with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.

References

Cartographic Sources (<http://www.nls.uk/maps> except Farquharson)

Pont, Thomas 1580/90 **Pont 18: Loch Tay; the head of Glen Tanar**

Roy, William General 1747-55 **Military Survey of Scotland**

Farquharson, John 1769 **Survey of North side of Loch Tay** (not available for reproduction)

Stobie, James 1783 **A large scale map of Perth and Clackmannan**

Thomson, John 1832 **Atlas of Scotland**

Ordnance Survey Maps - Six-inch 1st edition, Scotland, 1843-1882

Printed

CC1/8/1/1A-213 County of Perth valuation rolls 1855-1978, 1983-1988 (Perth and Kinross Council Archives, A K Bell Library, Perth)

Acknowledgements

The author would like to acknowledge the help of Jan Merchant in Perth and Kinross Council Archives.

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Full Photographic Archive

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Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Old Church Cottage, Lawers
PROJECT CODE:	LAW01
PARISH:	Killin
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Derek Hall
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Derek Hall, archaeologist and ceramic specialist
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Standing Building Survey
NMRS NO(S):	None
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Cottage
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NN 677 393
START DATE	22 nd January 2010
END DATE	22 nd January 2010
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A rapid photographic standing building survey was undertaken in advance of the demolition of this cottage for redevelopment. Evidence was recorded for an earlier blocked doorway and wide entrance in the buildings North elevation. No structural evidence was located to suggest that the building originated as part of the 18 th century settlement of Tomb.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Watching Brief
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr and Mrs Peter Slaney
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	N/A
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	34 Glenfarg Terrace, Perth, PH2 0AP
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	NMRS
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Derek.hall1@blueyonder.co.uk



Illustration 1 Ponts map of Loch Tay 1580/1590



Illustration 2 Tomalawers on Roys Military Survey 1747



Illustration 3 Tomb on Stobies map of 1783



Illustration 4 Old Church Cottage, Manse and church on 1st Edition OS map 1863



Illustration 5 Old Church Cottage looking South South East



Illustration 6 Old Church Cottage looking North North East



Illustration 7 South Facing elevation looking North West



Illustration 8 Western end of South elevation looking North



Illustration 9 Eastern end of South Elevation



Illustration 10 Middle of Southern Elevation



Illustration 11 Evidence for former timber sockets in doorway at Eastern end of Southern Elevation



Illustration 12 Eastern gable end of cottage



Illustration 13 Cottage looking South West



Illustration 14 Western end of North elevation (window sits in blocked entrance)



Illustration 15 Middle of Northern Elevation



Illustration 16 Eastern end of Northern Elevation (blocked doorway to right of scale)

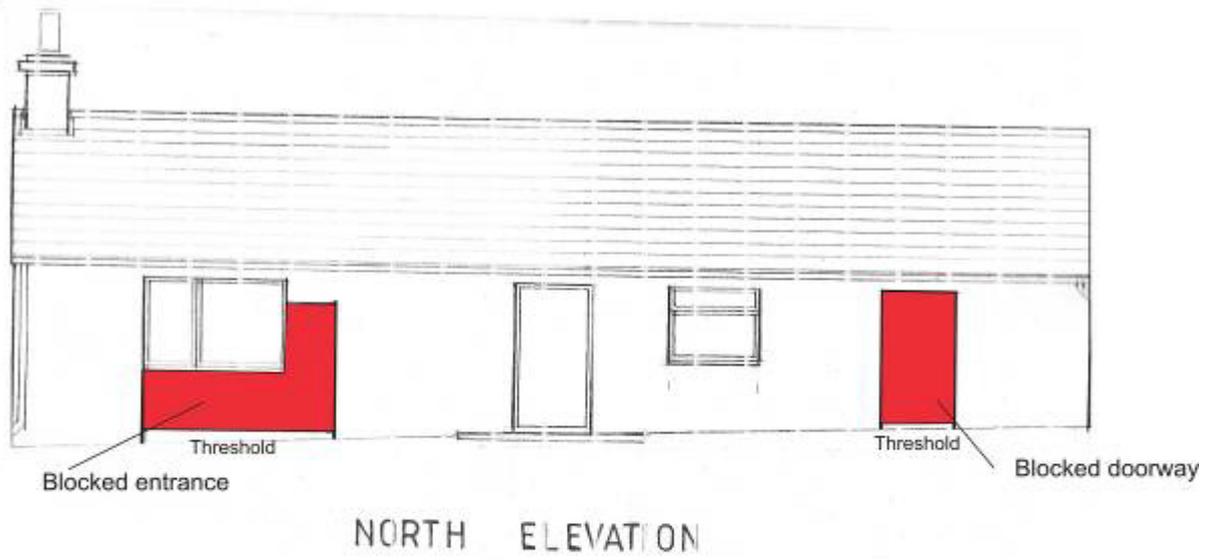


Illustration 17 North facing elevation showing blocked entrance and doorway (Scale 1:50 after H Paterson)



Illustration 18 Western Gable of cottage



Illustration 19 North facing elevation of outhouse



Illustration 20 West Facing elevation of outhouse



Illustration 21 South Facing elevation of outhouse



Illustration 22 East Facing elevation of outhouse



Illustration 23 Interior of outhouse



Illustration 24 Living room of cottage

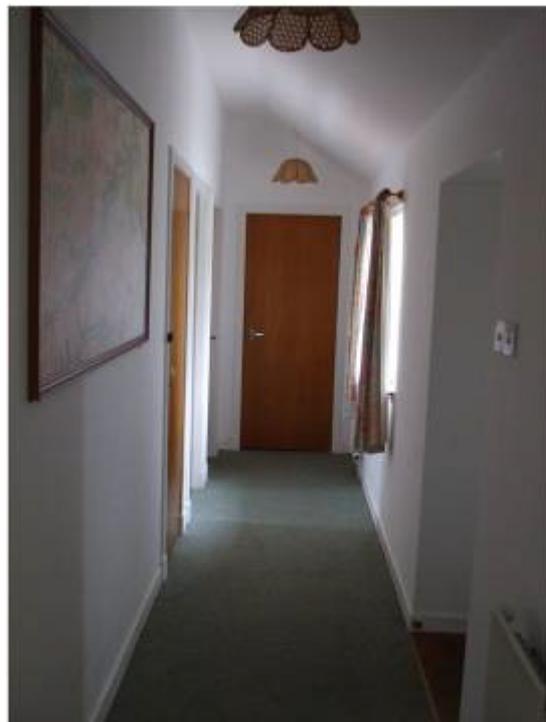


Illustration 25 Main corridor running E to W