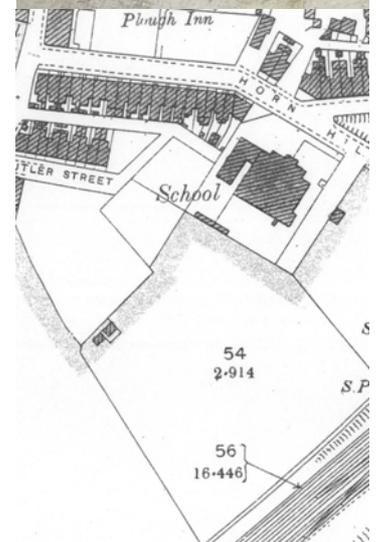


# LAND ADJACENT TO THE MILLOM CRICKET CLUB, ST GEORGE'S ROAD, MILLOM, CUMBRIA

## Archaeological Building Recording



Client: Mr Nigel Woodhouse

NGR: 317019 480227

© Greenlane Archaeology Ltd  
June 2011



Greenlane Archaeology Ltd,  
2 Albrights Yard, Theatre Street,  
Ulverston, Cumbria, LA12 7AQ

Tel: 01229 588 500  
Email: [info@greenlancearchaeology.co.uk](mailto:info@greenlancearchaeology.co.uk)  
Web: [www.greenlancearchaeology.co.uk](http://www.greenlancearchaeology.co.uk)

## Contents

Illustrations.....	2
List of Figures.....	2
List of Plates.....	2
Non-Technical Summary.....	4
Acknowledgements.....	4
1. Introduction.....	5
1.1 Circumstances of the Project.....	5
1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography.....	5
2. Methodology.....	7
2.1 Introduction.....	7
2.2 Desk-Based Assessment.....	7
2.3 Building Recording.....	7
2.4 Archive.....	7
3. Desk-Based Assessment.....	8
3.1 Background History.....	8
3.2 Map Regression.....	9
3.3 Conclusion.....	10
4. Building Recording.....	11
4.1 Arrangement and Fabric.....	11
4.2 External Detail.....	12
4.3 Internal Detail.....	15
5. Discussion.....	25
5.1 Phasing.....	25
5.2 Conclusion.....	25
6. Bibliography.....	26
6.1 Primary and Cartographic Sources.....	26
6.2 Secondary Sources.....	26

## Illustrations

### List of Figures

Figure 1: Site location .....	6
Figure 2: Ground floor plan.....	23
Figure 3: Cross-sections.....	24

### List of Plates

Plate 1: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1899.....	9
Plate 2: Extract from a photograph of c1895 published in 1904 (from Myers 1991, 24).....	10
Plate 3 (left): View of the south-west and south-east external elevations.....	11
Plate 4 (right): View of the south-east and north-east external elevations.....	11
Plate 5: Composite photo of the north-east external elevation.....	12
Plate 6 (left): North-east end of the north-west external elevation.....	13
Plate 7 (right): South-west end of the north-west external elevation.....	13
Plate 8: North-west end of the south-west external elevation.....	13
Plate 9 (left): South-east facing part of the recessed area.....	14
Plate 10 (right): South-west facing part of the recessed area.....	14
Plate 11 (left): South-east end of the south-west external elevation.....	14
Plate 12 (right): South-east external elevation.....	14
Plate 13 (left): View of Room 1, looking north-east.....	15
Plate 14 (right): Doorway in the north-east elevation of Room 1.....	15
Plate 15 (left): Decorated box covering a vent in the north-west wall, Room 1.....	16
Plate 16 (right): View of Room 1, looking south-west.....	16
Plate 17 (left): View of corridor along the north-west side of Room 2, looking north-east.....	17
Plate 18 (centre): Plank and batten door at the south-west end of the north-west elevation of Room 2.....	17
Plate 19 (right): Small alcove in the wall at the north-east end of the north-west elevation of Room 2.....	17
Plate 20 (left): Windows in the toilet block, forming part of the north-east elevation of Room 2.....	17
Plate 21 (right): Kitchen area at the south-west end of Room 2.....	17
Plate 22 (left): Toilet block to the north-west side of Room 3.....	18
Plate 23 (centre): North-east elevation of the lobby area, forming part of Room 3.....	18
Plate 24 (right): South-west elevation of Room 3.....	18
Plate 25 (left): North-west end of the centre truss in Room 4.....	19
Plate 26 (right): South-east end of the centre truss in Room 4.....	19
Plate 27 (far left): Detail of the scrolled corbels in Room 4.....	19
Plate 28 (centre left): Detail of the handle on one of the boxed vents.....	19
Plate 29 (centre right): Window split by the partition wall at the north-east end of Room 4.....	19
Plate 30 (far right): North-east elevation of Room 4 within the partitioned area.....	19
Plate 31 (left): Fireplace within the partitioned area at the north-east end of Room 4.....	20
Plate 32 (centre): Continuation of the fireplace into the central section of Room 4 at the north-east end.....	20

Archaeological Building Recording

---

Plate 33 (right): Boiler in the partitioned area at the south-west end of Room 4.....	20
Plate 34 (left): Central section of the south-east elevation of Room 4 .....	20
Plate 35 (right): South-west end of the south-east elevation of Room 4 .....	20
Plate 36 (left): Remnants of vertical tongue and groove panels on the north-east elevation of Room 5.....	21
Plate 37 (centre): Inserted doorway in the north-west elevation of Room 5.....	21
Plate 38 (right): Vent box beneath the truss in the north-west elevation of Room 5.....	21
Plate 39 (left): Windows in the south-west elevation of Room 5 .....	21
Plate 40 (right): Windows in the south-east elevation of Room 5.....	21
Plate 41 (left): Roof space above Room 1.....	22
Plate 42 (right): Decorative brace in the roof space above Room 1.....	22
Plate 43 (left): Trusses in the roof space above Room 4, north-east end .....	22
Plate 44 (right): South-west truss over Room 4.....	22

## Non-Technical Summary

Following the submission of a planning application for the construction of nine houses on land adjacent to the Millom Cricket Club, St George's Road, Millom, which would require the demolition of a standing building present on the site, a condition was placed requiring a level-2 archaeological building recording be carried out before the development took place. Following the provision of a project design by Greenlane Archaeology the work on site was carried out in May 2011.

The building comprises all that remains of the former Holborn Hill School, constructed in 1879, although apparently not fully completed until at least 1883. Early maps of the area show that it was largely undeveloped open fields until this date and maps produced after 1879 show that the school was originally considerably larger. Arguably its most famous pupil was the poet Norman Nicholson, who provides a vivid description of it. The building seems to have undergone relatively little alteration until the later 20<sup>th</sup> century, most of it having been demolished by 1975 leaving just the present section.

The building recording revealed that the initial phase of construction in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century was followed by two phases of more minor alteration and demolition. The first of these perhaps related to early work to repair structural problems, while later internal divisions were added, changes made to the heating, which affected the original fireplaces, and rebuilding carried out in relation to the demolition of the majority of the original building.

The building recording allowed a relatively rare opportunity to examine a building of this kind, although the recent alterations that had been made meant that it did not retain as much of the original fabric as some comparable buildings. Also, the lack of extensive historical sources such as the original plans has not provided as detailed a record as might have been possible, although other records may still exist.

## Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank Nigel Woodhouse for commissioning the project and David Barrett for providing the 'as existing' drawings of the building. Additional thanks are due to Jeremy Parsons, Historic Environment Officer at Cumbria County Council, for approving the project design and Neil Hodgson for his assistance on site.

The desk-based assessment was carried out by Dan Elsworth, and the building recording by Dan Elsworth and Tom Mace. The report was produced by Dan Elsworth and Tom Mace, the illustrations by Tom Mace, and it was edited by Jo Dawson. Dan Elsworth managed the project.

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 Following the submission of a planning application by Mr Nigel Woodhouse (hereafter 'the client') for the construction of nine dwellings on land adjacent to the Millom Cricket Club, St George's Road, Millom, Cumbria (Planning Application No. 4/11/2034/0F1; NGR 317019 480227), an archaeological building recording was requested by Copeland Borough Council after consultation with the Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service. This was intended to provide a record of a former school building situated on the site that was due to be demolished prior to the development taking place. The building recording formed Condition 3 on the planning consent:

'Prior to the carrying out of any construction works the existing buildings occupying the site shall be recorded in accordance with a Level 2 survey as described by English Heritage's document Understanding Historic Buildings a Guide to Good Recording Practice, 2006. Within 2 months of the commencement of construction works 3 copies of that survey report shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority'.

1.1.2 In response to this Greenlane Archaeology produced a project design for the work and following its approval by the Historic Environment Officer at Cumbria County Council the building recording was carried out in May 2011.

### 1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 The site is situated on the north-west side of the centre of Millom, approximately 200m from the railway station, immediately to the south of Horn Hill/St George's Road (the A5093; Figure 1). It is at a height of approximately 10m above sea level (Ordnance Survey 2005).

1.2.2 The underlying solid geology is complex, comprising a Ordovician deposits of Coniston limestone, Eycott and Skiddaw volcanics, and Silurian Bannisdale slate (Moseley 1978, plate 1). The solid geology is overlain by glacially derived drift deposits and boulder clay; sands and gravels are also present (Countryside Commission 1998, 27), although the essentially urban nature of the immediate area is likely to have disguised all of this.

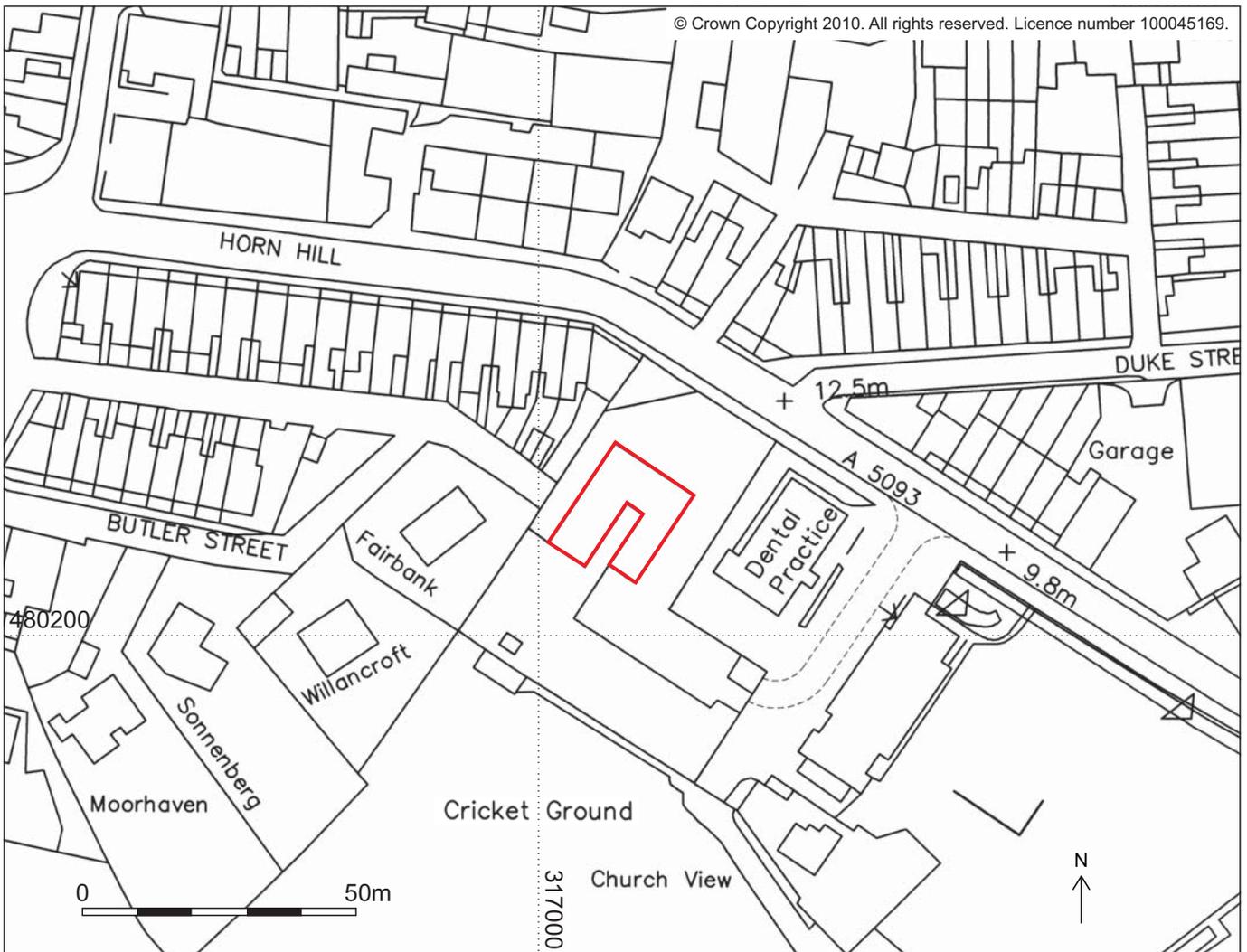
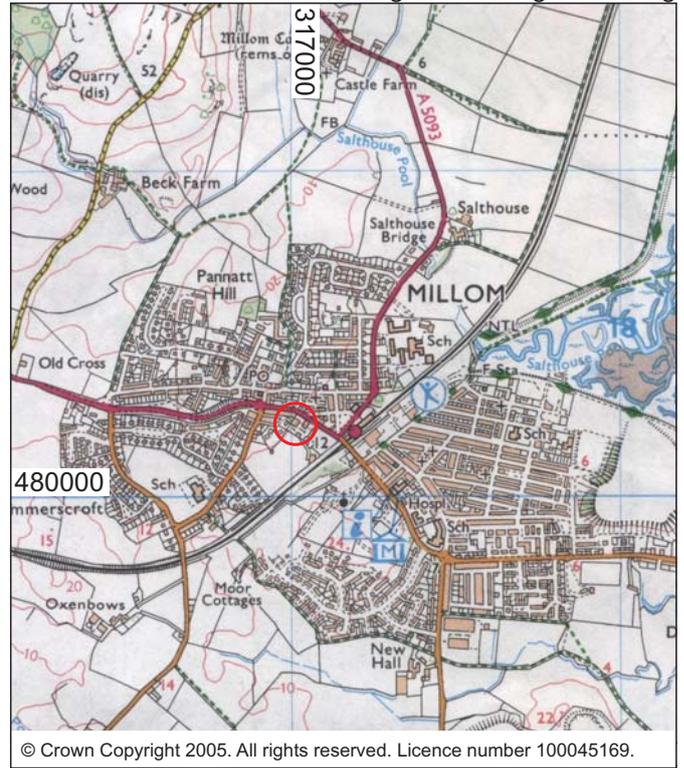
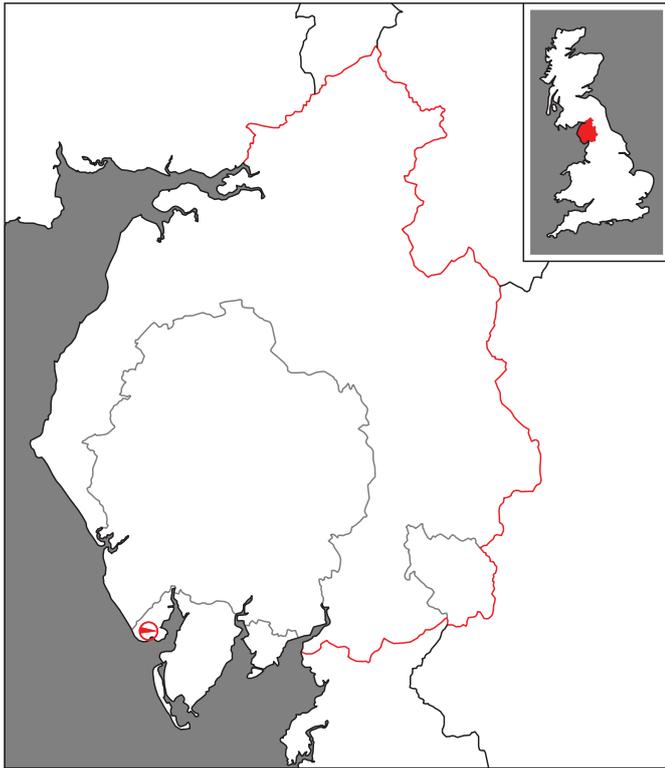


Figure 1: Site location

Client: Mr Nigel Woodhouse

© Greenlane Archaeology Ltd, June 2011

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The building investigation comprised three separate elements intended to provide a suitable record of the structure, in line with English Heritage standards (English Heritage 2006) and the guidelines of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008a). In addition a desk-based assessment was carried out in accordance with the project design and IfA guidelines (IfA 2008b) prior to the building recording, and a suitable archive was compiled to provide a permanent paper record of the project and its results in accordance with English Heritage and IfA guidelines (English Heritage 1991; Brown 2007).

### 2.2 Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 Information was gathered from the following locations:

- **Cumbria Record Office, Barrow-in-Furness (CRO(B))**: this was visited in order to examine early maps and plans of the site and relevant primary and secondary sources;
- **Greenlane Archaeology library**: additional secondary sources were used to provide information for the site background.

### 2.3 Building Recording

2.3.1 The building recording was carried out to English Heritage Level-2 type standards (English Heritage 2006). This is largely descriptive investigation, with a relatively limited level of interpretation of the phasing and use of the building. The recording comprised several parts:

- **Written record**: descriptive records of all parts of the building were made using Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets;
- **Photographs**: photographs in both 35mm colour print and colour digital format were taken of the main features of the building, its general surroundings, and any features of architectural or archaeological interest. A selection of the colour digital photographs is included in this report, and the remaining photographs are in the project archive;
- **Drawings**: drawings were produced by hand-annotating 'as existing' drawings provided by the architect. The drawings produced comprised:
  - i. 'as existing' floor plans of the building at 1:100;
  - ii. two cross-sections at a scale of 1:50 (access to the upper level was difficult so elements of this were sketched).

### 2.4 Archive

2.4.1 A comprehensive archive of the project has been produced in accordance with the project design and current IfA and English Heritage guidelines (Brown 2007; English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive and a copy of this report will be deposited in the Cumbria Record Office in Barrow-in-Furness on completion of the project. Three copies of this report will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record at the Cumbria County Council offices in Kendal, one with the client, a digital copy with the client's architect, and one will be retained by Greenlane Archaeology. In addition a digital record of the project will be made on the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) scheme.

### 3. Desk-Based Assessment

#### 3.1 Background History

3.1.1 The building is known to have been constructed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century as the Holborn Hill School; prior to this the area was undeveloped open fields (see *Section 3.2* below). Because of this only historical information relevant to the building has been included.

3.1.2 The massive growth of the town in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, as a result of the establishment of a large iron works (Harris 1966; Hughes 2006), led to a need *'To meet the educational requirements of an increasing population'* and so *'a school board was formed in 1876, which took over the existing schools, and considerably improved them, and also built a new one at Holborn Hill'* (Bulmer and Co 1883, 157). The available documentary sources show that the school was constructed in 1879 and was intended to house 304 boys, 160 girls, and 168 infants (Kelly's Directories Ltd 1925, 221). Contemporary school log books describe the boys' school as opening on July 18<sup>th</sup> 1879 (CRO(B) BDS 33/3/1/1 1879-1887), although the infants' school does not appear to have opened until April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1883 with 101 children said to have been *'transferred from the Holborn Hill Girls' and Infants' School'* (CRO(B) BDS/33/2/1/1 1883-1902), suggesting that initially these elements were combined while work on the building was finished. Indeed, there were complaints in the infants' school log book about the lack of materials making it difficult to stick to the timetable up to at least April 16<sup>th</sup> 1883 (*ibid*).

3.1.3 Perhaps the school's most famous pupil was the poet Norman Nicholson, who first attended in Autumn 1919 or Spring 1920 (Nicholson 1975, 28). He gives a description of the state of the schools in Millom at that time, and the circumstances leading to his arrival Holborn Hill:

*'There was a choice of two schools: Lapstone Road in the new part of industrial Millom, known as Newtown, and Holborn Hill in the older part. Each was about the same distance from the home, but Lapstone Road was regarded as the rougher of the two and my mother had long made up her mind that Holborn Hill was to be the school for me.'* (*ibid*).

3.1.4 The school itself he described as:

*'built of stone quarried out of the hill on which it stood – a black Silurian slate with grey "Kirkby round heads" from Furness on the roof, and blocks of mouldering St. Bees sandstone for doorsteps and window sills. In style it was mid way between an almshouse and a prison. The roofs were narrow and steep and always meeting others at right-angles to themselves, so that the roof-scape was slatted and compartmented with buttresses, gable-ends and chimney-shafts, making dozens of gutters and nooks where a cap could be thrown and remain lost for ever, though still visible to anyone from the road. Everywhere there were ventilators pushing up like periscopes, and porches with high-peaked roofs and pointed-arch doorways. The windows were vaguely in the manner of Early English lancets as copied by a boy with a fretsaw, more wood than glass, letting in the least possible light and air. And above the whole building, from the porch of the boy's school, there spiked up a vinegar-bottle turret for the school bell.*

*Boys', Girls' and Infants' Schools were all under the one roof, disposed around a central quadrangle, which may originally have been left open to the sky, like a prison exercise yard, though long before my day it had been roofed over with glass and partitioned into two class-rooms, one for the boys and one for the girls. The windows in the party-walls were all blacked out so that the boys could not look at the girls, and vice versa.'* (*op cit*, 29).

3.1.5 His first day there is vividly recalled:

*'If I remember anything at all of my first day it must surely be the smell. It was what biologists call "a culture" – a smell forced and fertilised as in a hot-house, airless, humid, fungoid, an odour of unwashed clothes, unwashed hair, sweat, spittle and mucus, adulterated with chalk-dust, stale ink and fumes from the coke stove... I wore the smell for five days a week, putting it on each morning as you put on an overcoat for the day' work'* (*op cit*, 28).

## Archaeological Building Recording

3.1.6 Nicholson also provides some detail about the eventual fate of the school, stating that by 1975 everything had been demolished, apart from the Infants' school block '*which has been patched and rough-cast and shored up to make a rehearsal room for the Amateur Operatic Society*' (op cit, 29).

## 3.2 Map Regression

3.2.1 **Introduction:** while early maps of the area were examined it is apparent that until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century the area was largely undeveloped, comprising open fields, with a small number of properties present to the north at Holborn Hill (as shown in reasonable detail on the Ordnance Survey map of 1867). Unfortunately no original architect's plans or similar drawings were discovered. The relevant cartographic sources are therefore listed below in chronological order.

3.2.2 **Ordnance Survey, 1899:** this is the first Ordnance Survey map to be produced after the building was constructed. It clearly marks the school, which is a considerably larger building than what now remains, and comprises a large approximately square block on the south-west side with a distinct L-shaped arm on the north-west side.

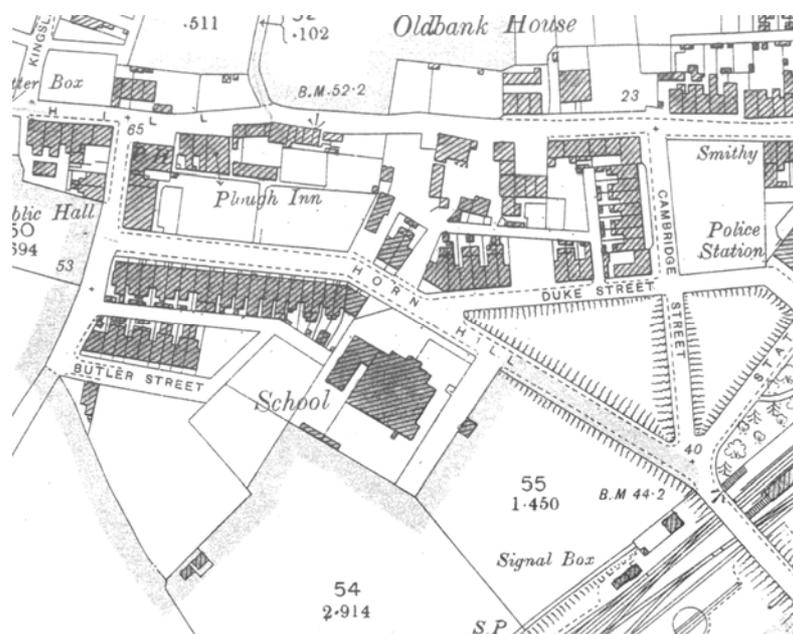
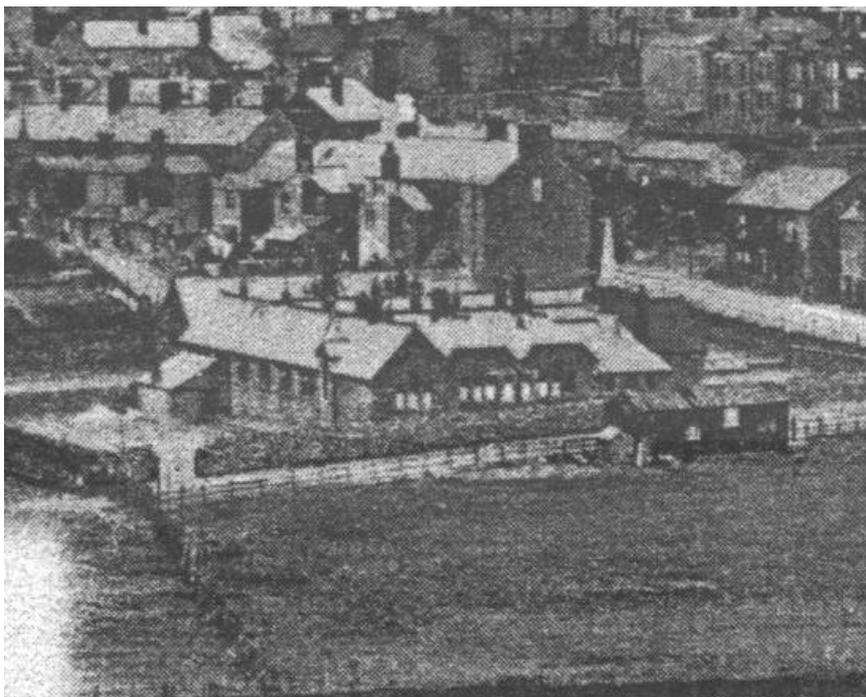


Plate 1: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1899

3.2.5 **Photograph, c1895:** this shows the building at its peak, although as it is taken from the south-east it shows very little of what now remains. Some elements of the detail of the structure can be seen, however, such as hipped gables on the south-east side (mirroring those still remaining).



**Plate 2: Extract from a photograph of c1895 published in 1904 (from Myers 1991, 24)**

3.2.6 **Ordnance Survey, 1900:** this shows that the building is essentially unchanged by this date, although the smaller scale means that less detail is evident.

3.2.7 **Ordnance Survey, 1926-1927:** although an original copy of this map was not available, an annotated version was (CRO(B) BPR 10 I/4/3 1926-1927). This too shows that the school was essentially unchanged by this date.

### 3.3 Conclusion

3.3.1 The documentary sources show that the school was built in 1879, although perhaps not completed until 1883. Cartographic sources reveal relatively little about its arrangement, however, other than demonstrating that it was originally much larger than at present. The account given by Norman Nicholson gives a detailed first hand account of its arrangement, although without more detailed plans it this is difficult to fully appreciate, but he also reveals that by at least 1975 much of it had been demolished and what remains is evidently the original infants' block.

## 4. Building Recording

### 4.1 Arrangement and Fabric

4.1.1 The building forms an almost C-shaped range orientated approximately north-east/south-west, with the open end of the 'C' to the south-west (Plate 3) and the opposing continuous elevation facing towards the A5093 (Plate 4; see Figure 1 and Figure 2). The south-west external elevation therefore includes the 'internal' faces of this section. The external ground level is significantly lower to the south-west, giving the appearance of a cellar at that end of the building, although there is no evidence for this internally. Where it is exposed, it is apparent that the entire structure is constructed from the local grey slate, which has been roughly dressed and laid in fairly random courses, although large areas have been finished with concrete render, which hides this. Details such as window and door lintels and sills, the plinth, a decorative band, and the quoins are picked out in dressed red sandstone with rusticated panels inside a rilled border. The roof is finished with local grey slate topped with terracotta ridge tiles, some perforated, finished with finials. The chimneys, present on the north-west and south-east sides, are constructed with dressed ashlar sandstone blocks with a moulded cornice or band. There are numerous iron and ceramic vents in the walls, and two cylindrical metal vents with cone-shaped tops projecting through the roof on the north-west side.



**Plate 3 (left): View of the south-west and south-east external elevations**

**Plate 4 (right): View of the south-east and north-east external elevations**

4.1.2 Internally, the building is broken into five main rooms (see Figure 2). The walls are evidently constructed from brick, typically finished with plaster and paint although in most areas the paint has been directly applied to exposed brickwork along the lower part; evidence from within the building indicates that the current paint scheme was added in 2008 by the users of the Millom Youth Centre, who were using the building at the time (see *Section 4.2.1* below). The internal walls are typically of timber stud construction; many are evidently quite modern and finished with horizontally placed tongue and groove planks. Other internal walls are brick. The floors are apparently mostly concrete, especially at the north-east end, but tongue and groove timber floorboards are present at the south-west end, corresponding with the relatively lower external ground level (see *Section 4.1.1* above). The ceilings are generally finished with plaster and paint, although a modern suspended ceiling is present in Room 1. A series of large and elaborate trusses are visible in the north-west part of the building and smaller trusses are visible to the south-east. The doors and associated surrounds and window casements are mostly quite late in date, although some original doors do remain. Several chimney breasts are present, with some scarring indicating the size and form of the original fireplace opening.

## 4.2 External Detail

4.2.1 **North-east elevation:** this is entirely finished with concrete render (see Plate 5), the majority of which has a smooth finish, although a small section remains on the south-east side which has been scored to give the appearance of ashlar blocks. This suggests that the rest has been more recently re-rendered. Only the dressed sandstone quoins, lintels, and other details have been left exposed. The south-east half is formed by a pair of hipped gable ends, finished with terracotta ridge tiles and finials. There are two pairs of three-part windows in this section, plus one off-centre doorway and a further window to the north-west of this with a concrete lintel, which was perhaps also originally a doorway. The doorway has a modern timber plank door with a sign reading 'Millom Youth Centre' attached and all of the windows are boarded up. There is a slight return to the north-east near the centre of the elevation, before a large gable that forms the north-west half, again with a decorative finial. In the centre there is a large three-part window with sandstone mullions; the central section is slightly taller than those flanking it. There are iron ventilation grills in the wall on either side at the level of the window sill, with a maker's mark 'H... H...' on the top and 'MANCHESTER' on the bottom, and at the far north-west end there is a round plastic sign reading 'citizens advice bureau'. There are a further two holes, presumably for smaller vents, in the plinth at the base of the wall and a small two-light aperture filled by slatted timbers below the apex. The top of the gable is finished with moulded barge boards with a beaded central rail and additional beaded stops and corresponding stop chamfer decoration and roundel stops.



Plate 5: Composite photo of the north-east external elevation

4.2.2 **North-west elevation:** this forms the side elevation, and it mostly comprises exposed local slate laid in rough courses (see Plate 6 and Plate 7). There are three paired windows, plus one single window, all of which are boarded up and have dressed sandstone lintels and quoins and a continuous band forms the sills. A dressed sandstone plinth extends along the bottom of the wall, through which there are occasional perforations forming vents, all of which have sandstone sills and one of which also has a lintel. There are two larger ventilation grills above the sill band and several other small plastic and ceramic vents. There is a single tall stone chimney with a cavetto-moulded step mid way and cyma-moulded entablature on top. Towards the south-west end there is an inserted doorway, with concreted jambs, scored to give the appearance of ashlar blocks, accessed via a concrete ramp with a metal hand rail. To the north-east of this there is an evident line of re-build in the wall – the sill band is noticeably different beyond it, the stonework largely has sawn faces and it incorporates an iron tie rod with square plate towards the south-west end.

## Archaeological Building Recording



**Plate 6 (left): North-east end of the north-west external elevation**

**Plate 7 (right): South-west end of the north-west external elevation**

4.2.3 **South-west elevation:** this comprises two small sections at either end (north-west and south-east) plus a large central section that returns to the north-east. The north-west side comprises a large gable, corresponding to that in the north-east elevation, although as the ground level is lower on this side the plinth is relatively taller (see Plate 8). The stonework is exposed within the plinth, where there are three modern ceramic vents and some sawn stone like that in the south-west end of the north-west elevation. The rest is finished with concrete render, with a central three-part window in the centre as per the north-east elevation, although the north-western mullion is a painted concrete replacement. It has the same decorative barge boards and terracotta finial as the north-east elevation. The elevation returns to the north-east beyond this gable, forming a central recessed area.



**Plate 8: North-west end of the south-west external elevation**

4.2.4 The south-east facing part of this recessed area has three paired windows, as per the north-west elevation, plus two large vents with iron grills (Plate 9). A rebuild line is apparent also as per the north-west elevation. A concrete ramp runs along the base of the north-east end leading to a doorway in the south-west facing central section (Plate 10). This door was perhaps a modified window, as concrete has been added to the north-west jamb and moulded and painted to give the appearance of sandstone quoins. There is a small window to the south-east. The north-west facing part of this area (Plate 11) has a doorway on the north-east side, with one concrete and one sandstone step. To the south-west there are two hipped gables both with large three part windows with stone mullions and decorative barge boards as per those elsewhere. Again the difference in ground level means that the base of the wall is

much lower than elsewhere, but there is no plinth on this side. There is a row of small holes near ground level with stone lintels and sills and ceramic vents plus one large vent with an iron grill to the north-east and one between the two large windows. Concrete render has been added to the south-west corner, which continues over the return to the south-east (Plate 11). This is essentially plain, with the render obscuring all the detail. It has a square plinth and a single ceramic vent below. A short flight of concrete steps is situated against the south-east end and runs along the south-west end of the south-east elevation.



Plate 9 (left): South-east facing part of the recessed area

Plate 10 (right): South-west facing part of the recessed area

4.2.5 **South-east elevation:** this is entirely covered by roughcast concrete render, which appears to have been added quite recently (Plate 12). It mainly comprises two gables, with a short side wall at the north-east end. There are two chimneys, both constructed from ashlar sandstone with moulded details as per that to the north-west, but larger. The south-west chimney has two ceramic pots and a projecting chimney breast, with a step on the south-west side, while the north-east chimney has a slightly projecting section near the top. There are three plain windows each with a concrete sill, and two modern vents for boilers. There are beaded barge boards and mainly plastic rain water goods at the north-east end.



Plate 11 (left): South-east end of the south-west external elevation



Plate 12 (right): South-east external elevation

### 4.3 Internal Detail

4.3.1 **Room 1:** this room forms a large hall, which occupies the main part of the south-east wing of the building. It has a tongue and groove timber board floor and a suspended fibre-board panel ceiling (Plate 13). The roof proper, above the suspended ceiling, comprises two north-west/south-east gables, with a beaded beam with moulded decoration and a cornice at the junction of the two. Each gable is supported by a pair of north-west/south-east orientated beams with stop-chamfer decoration supported at either end by an elaborate brace, also with stop-chamfer and perforated decoration in a gothic style (see Section 4.3.6 and Figure 3). The walls are all plastered and painted. The north-east elevation is brick, apparently in Flemish bond (alternating header and stretcher) and there is a central aperture, which was probably inserted, with a menu board surrounding it and with a modern counter top forming a sill. There is a doorway to the north-west of this window which has a moulded surround and houses an early, three-panel door with beaded plank infill and a glazed top panel with chamfered surrounds and an early latch plate (Plate 14). The north-west elevation has two three-part two-light windows with fixed casements and timber sills. The brick construction of the walls is exposed below the level of the sill and is also in Flemish bond. There are two boxes fixed to the wall which have side handles and dog-tooth decoration below a moulded top (Plate 15). The handle turns a flap inside to open and close a vent cover. The south-west elevation is plain (Plate 16). The lower part is exposed brick in a Flemish bond while the rest is covered by modern notice boards. The brick work of the south-east elevation is also exposed at the lower level and is again in a Flemish bond. There are two chimney breasts along this side of the room and although they are blocked there is some evidence for the extent of their original openings and the scar of a rounded top or surround is visible. There are two windows with beaded edges either side of the central pillar which supports the beam in the roof. The timber sills of these two windows are lower than those to the north-west elevation and both windows are boarded up.



Plate 13 (left): View of Room 1, looking north-east

Plate 14 (right): Doorway in the north-east elevation of Room 1



**Plate 15 (left): Decorated box covering a vent in the north-west wall, Room 1**

**Plate 16 (right): View of Room 1, looking south-west**

4.3.2 **Room 2:** this room forms the north-east corner of the block of buildings with an entry corridor along its north-west side (Plate 17) and a number of smaller rooms along its south-east side formed by modern partitions. The corridor has brick in a Flemish bond along the north-west wall with a plank and batten construction external door at the south-west end (Plate 18). The doorway has bull-nosed bricks in the north-east jamb, the top one of which has a slight chamfer. There are two further doors to the north-east, both of which have either been inserted or widened, with very plain surrounds and a modern door to the north-east. There is a small alcove in the wall at the north-east end which is 0.30m wide by 0.38m tall by 0.18m deep and accommodates the letter box (Plate 19). The rooms along the south-east side of the corridor are formed by partition walls covered with tongue and groove planks. The door at the north-east end of the corridor is plank and batten construction, but the doors are modern along the south-east side and have plain surrounds. There is a toilet block at the north-east end of the room, which has three small two-light hinged casement windows in the brick-built north-east elevation (two of which can be seen in Plate 20). The toilet block is further partitioned to form a small cubicle. The rooms immediately to the south-west of the toilet block are used as storage cupboards and the partitioned off room at the far south-west end is used as a kitchen (Plate 21). Some of the partitions appear to be brick. There is a two-light hinged casement in the south-east wall of the kitchen. The ceiling is flat and plastered throughout apart from where the slope of the roof intrudes along the north-west and south-east sides and at the north-east end of the room. The floor appears to be concrete with a vinyl (?) covering.



**Plate 17 (left):** View of corridor along the north-west side of Room 2, looking north-east

**Plate 18 (centre):** Plank and batten door at the south-west end of the north-west elevation of Room 2

**Plate 19 (right):** Small alcove in the wall at the north-east end of the north-west elevation of Room 2



**Plate 20 (left):** Windows in the toilet block, forming part of the north-east elevation of Room 2

**Plate 21 (right):** Kitchen area at the south-west end of Room 2

**4.3.3 Room 3:** this room effectively forms a small lobby between the north-west and south-east wings with a toilet block along the north-east side, which is partitioned into separate cubicles (Plate 22). There was no access to the small room at the north-west end of the lobby at the time of the survey. The ceiling is plastered and slopes at the south-west and north-east ends for the roof. The floor is probably concrete with a vinyl covering. The north-east elevation has three small windows and one large window, which formerly may have been a door, each of which has a two-light hinged casement. The brick work is exposed on this side of the room, but the bond is not clear. The rest of the walls are covered with horizontal boards. Modern doors are used for the cubicles and to the south-east. The south-west half of the room comprises a lobby area or hall. The north-east elevation is finished with tongue and groove boards horizontally and with a modern door on the north-west side, which was locked at the time of the survey (Plate 23). The rest of the walls are brick built in a Flemish bond and painted. There are modern doors to the south-east and north-east and a modern fire escape to the south-west end of the lobby. The

fire escape was probably inserted through a former window as the lower part has been rebuilt in the jambs. There is a small two-light window to the south-east of this, with a fixed casement and a timber sill (Plate 24). There is one modern six-panel door to the north-west and one original, four-panel door, with beaded plank infill and chamfered battens.



Plate 22 (left): Toilet block to the north-west side of Room 3

Plate 23 (centre): North-east elevation of the lobby area, forming part of Room 3

Plate 24 (right): South-west elevation of Room 3

4.3.4 **Room 4:** this room forms a large hall at the north-east end of the north-west wing of the building and has various subdivisions. It has a timber floor covered with carpet and a plaster ceiling and the main section has a vent grill located towards its centre. The ceiling slopes on the north-west and south-east sides following the line of the roof. There are three north-west/south-east trusses across the room (Plate 25 and Plate 26), each of which is supported by a scrolled stone (?) corbel at either end (Plate 27), and comprises an angled brace bolted between the principal rafter and collar. The principal rafter is also fixed to the collar with an iron strap (see Figure 3). The top part of the truss is not visible from inside the room, but a bolt in the centre of the principle truss evidently attaches to the king post above (see Section 4.3.7). The lower part of the centre truss is encased by iron work on the south-east side (Plate 26). There are boxed vents either side of the room near the base of the south-west truss, as per those elsewhere in the building; the one on the south-east wall is marked '...LAND MANCHESTER' and the handle is cast in the shape of a small hand holding a stick (Plate 28). There is a partition wall between the north-east and central truss, which is plain on the south-west side and tongue and groove boards on the north-east side, and there is a north-east/south-west aligned wall sub-dividing the area to the north-east side of this. Both partitions have small apertures with hinged doors. The north-east elevation of Room 4 (within the partitioned area) has a radiator, the same as those elsewhere in the building, which is marked 'REC-CLASSIC' (?) and 'IDEAL' (?). The wall is brick built in a stretcher bond. There are boxed vent covers on the south-east and north-west sides of the partitioned area and there is a large three-light top hinged/vented window, which is split by the north-east/south-west partition (Plate 29). There is a modern door through this partition at its south-west end. The north-west elevation of the partitioned area is painted brick in a stretcher bond and has a similar radiator below paired two-light windows with hinged/vent opening tops and timber sills (Plate 30) and there is a row of chamfered battens across the wall and onto the north-east elevation. Within the partitioned room to the north-west, the north-east elevation returns at the south-west end for the fireplace (Plate 31) across which the battens continue. There is a scar for a rounded aperture from the original extent of the opening of the fireplace, which is now blocked. There are doorways through the partitions from within this room to the south-west and the south-east; the one to the south-west must be blocked on the other side. The fireplace continues to the south-west side of the partition (Plate 32) and there are three further two-light windows with timber sills to the south-west of the partition on the north-west elevation and two further

## Archaeological Building Recording

small rooms formed by another partition at the south-west end of Room 4. These partitions are all modern and butt against another chimney breast at the south-west end of the north-west elevation, which has had a later boiler fitted to it (Plate 33). The south-west elevation of Room 4 is brick in a Flemish bond. The doorway on the north-west side has a plain moulding and no door. The door between the partitions is a re-used original four-panel door, with chamfering and beaded tongue and groove infill like the others. The lower part of the south-east elevation is painted brick and the rest is plastered, mostly in a Flemish bond. There are two paired two-light top hinged casement windows to the south-west (see Plate 34 and Plate 35) and an early door to the north-west of these (as per Room 3; see *Section 4.3.3*). There are chamfered battens on the north-east end extending onto the north-east elevation.



**Plate 25 (left): North-west end of the centre truss in Room 4**

**Plate 26 (right): South-east end of the centre truss in Room 4**

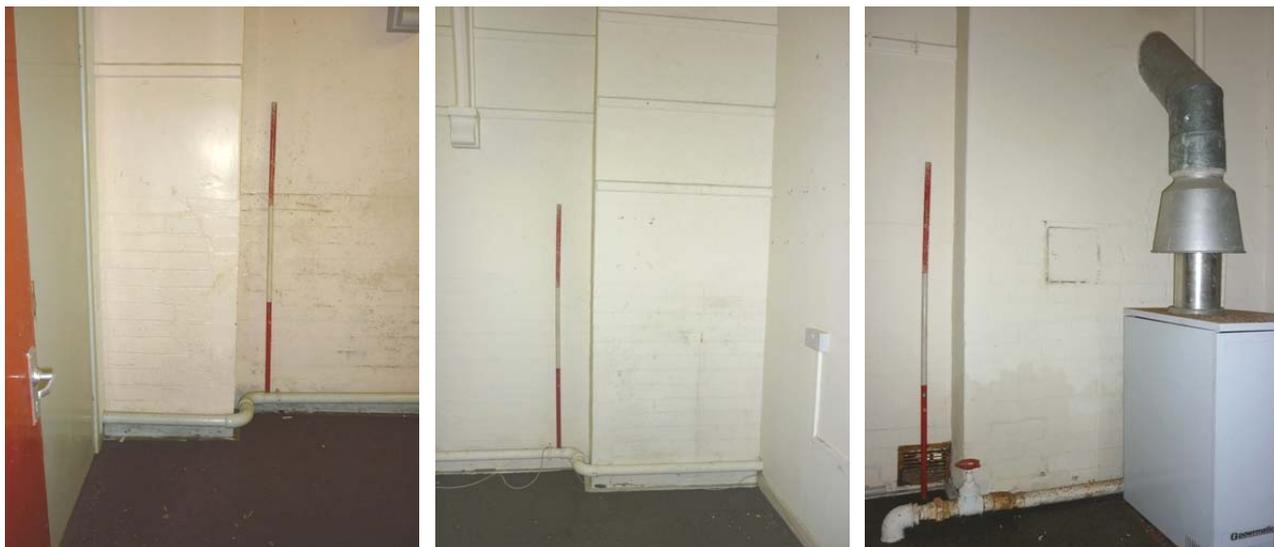


**Plate 27 (far left): Detail of the scrolled corbels in Room 4**

**Plate 28 (centre left): Detail of the handle on one of the boxed vents**

**Plate 29 (centre right): Window split by the partition wall at the north-east end of Room 4**

**Plate 30 (far right): North-east elevation of Room 4 within the partitioned area**



**Plate 31 (left):** Fireplace within the partitioned area at the north-east end of Room 4

**Plate 32 (centre):** Continuation of the fireplace into the central section of Room 4 at the north-east end

**Plate 33 (right):** Boiler in the partitioned area at the south-west end of Room 4



**Plate 34 (left):** Central section of the south-east elevation of Room 4

**Plate 35 (right):** South-west end of the south-east elevation of Room 4

**4.3.5 Ground Floor Room 5:** this room forms the south-west end of the north-west wing and is divided into four smaller rooms by modern stud walls with modern doors. The floor is finished with carpet over floorboards (?) and the ceiling is plastered and slopes down to the north-west and south-east. There is a single truss across the centre of the room, which is partially covered by the stud walling of one of the partitions but is otherwise the same as those in Room 4 (see *Section 4.3.4* above). The north-east elevation of Room 5 is plain and plastered and there is a doorway with a very plain moulded surround on the north-west side with remnants of vertical tongue and groove panels and a moulded rail on the north-west side (Plate 36). This must have originally extended around the entire building, the exposed brickwork showing where it has been removed. The north-west elevation is brick in a Flemish bond and the plank and batten construction door at the north-east end, which was probably inserted (Plate 37).

## Archaeological Building Recording

There is a vent box in the centre of the elevation (Plate 38) and a pair of two-light vent casement windows with timber sills at the south-west end. There are three three-light windows, with vent lights in the outer two (Plate 39), in the centre of the south-west elevation, which is otherwise plain and has a plastered finish. The modern partition divides the north-westernmost window from the other two. The lower part of the south-east elevation is exposed brick in a slightly random bond and has a vent box near the centre and two two-light casement windows to the north-east with vent tops and timber sills (Plate 40). The chamfered battens extend to the north-east.



**Plate 36 (left): Remnants of vertical tongue and groove panels on the north-east elevation of Room 5**

**Plate 37 (centre): Inserted doorway in the north-west elevation of Room 5**

**Plate 38 (right): Vent box beneath the truss in the north-west elevation of Room 5**



**Plate 39 (left): Windows in the south-west elevation of Room 5**

**Plate 40 (right): Windows in the south-east elevation of Room 5**

**4.3.6 Roof space above Room 1:** the tops of the windows extend above the level of the suspended ceiling into the roof above Room 1 (Plate 41), which slopes down on the south-west and north-east sides. There are four north-west/south-east beams supporting the roof, each of which has a decorative brace at either end (Plate 42), supporting the beam. All of the timber is decorated with stop-chamfer.



**Plate 41 (left): Roof space above Room 1**

**Plate 42 (right): Decorative brace in the roof space above Room 1**

4.3.7 **Roof space above Rooms 4 and 5:** the upper part of the two trusses at the north-east end has a king post truss and a pair of angled braces (Plate 43). There is one purlin per pitch and a ridge board. The braces are cut into joints in the king posts and principles. The principles and king posts have v-shaped iron straps. The wall at the north-east end is brick as is the dividing wall between Rooms 4 and 5 which has a hole knocked through for access. The south-west wall is a concrete block construction and has metal (possibly zinc, tin, or aluminium) pipes for vents leading to vents in the roof. The south-west truss over Room 4 is just overlapping the principles but does not meet the ridge, perhaps indicating that it is a later replacement (Plate 44). The wall between Room 4 and 5 has a slate core clad with red bricks, which are frogged on one side, but no maker's marks were evident. The truss over Room 5 also has a king post and pair of angled braces.



**Plate 43 (left): Trusses in the roof space above Room 4, north-east end**

**Plate 44 (right): South-west truss over Room 4**

GROUND FLOOR PLAN

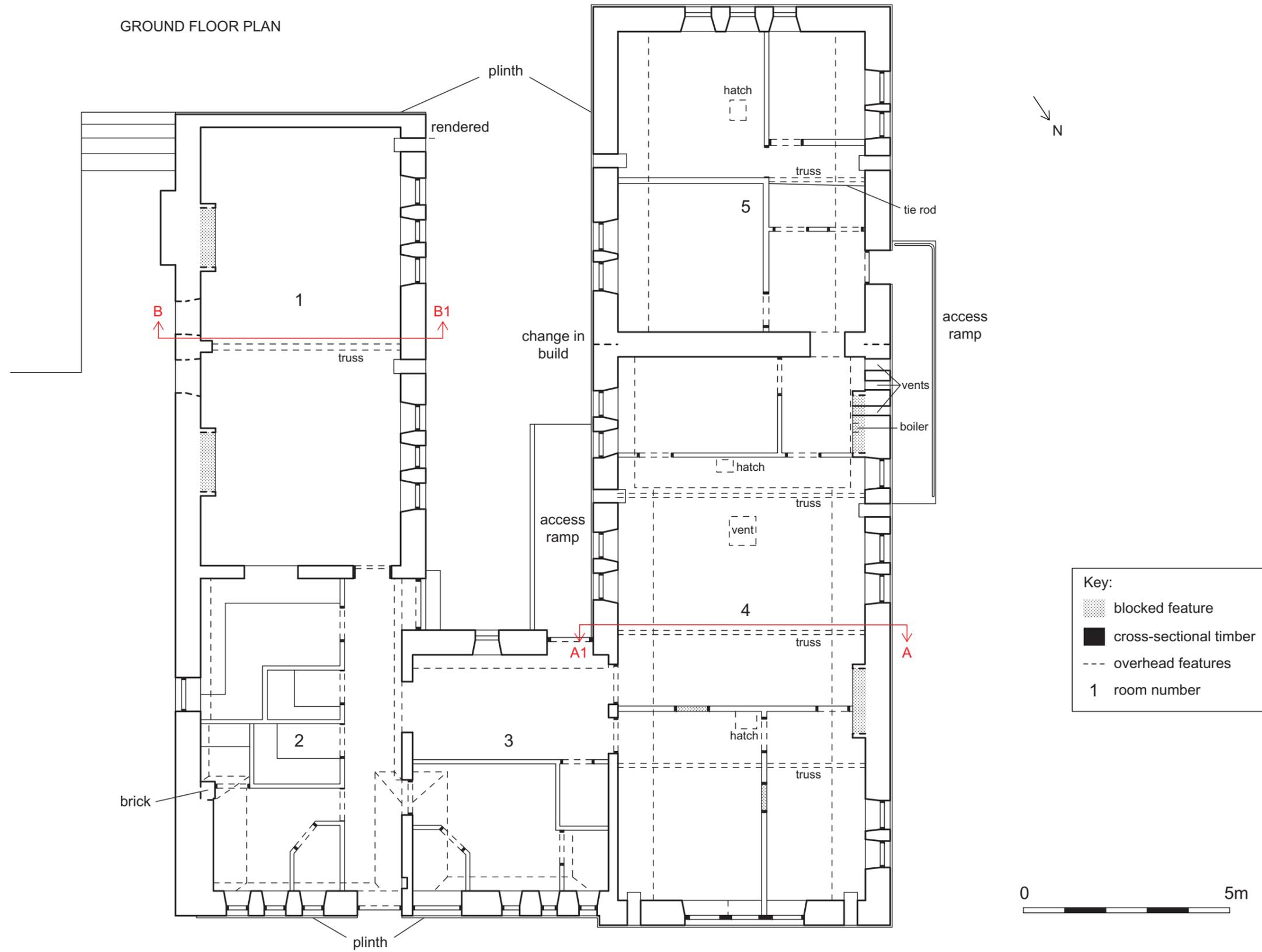
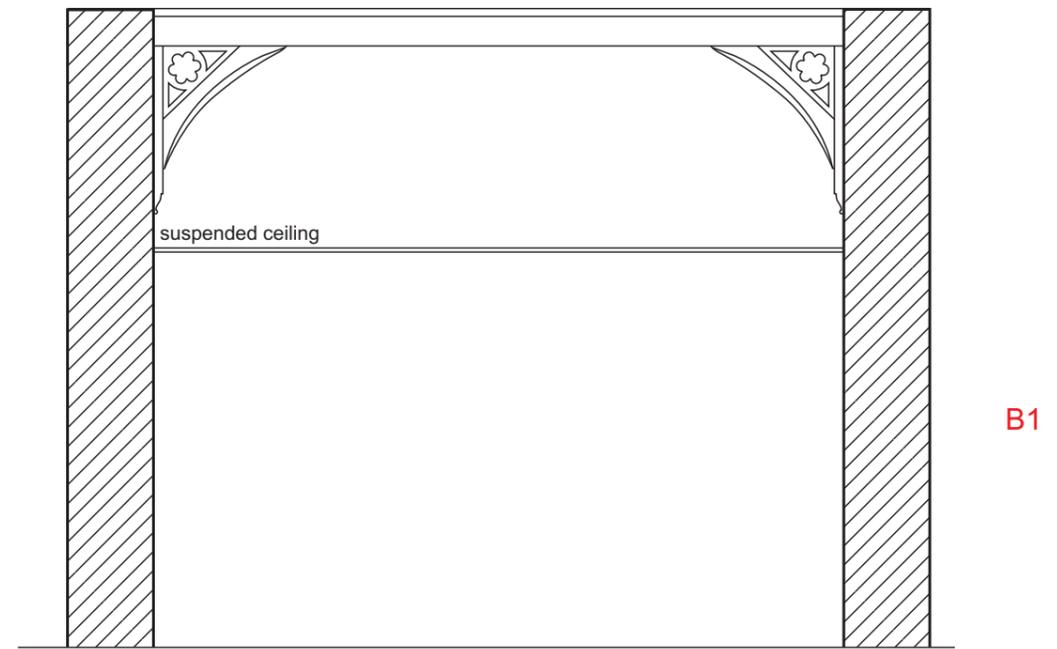
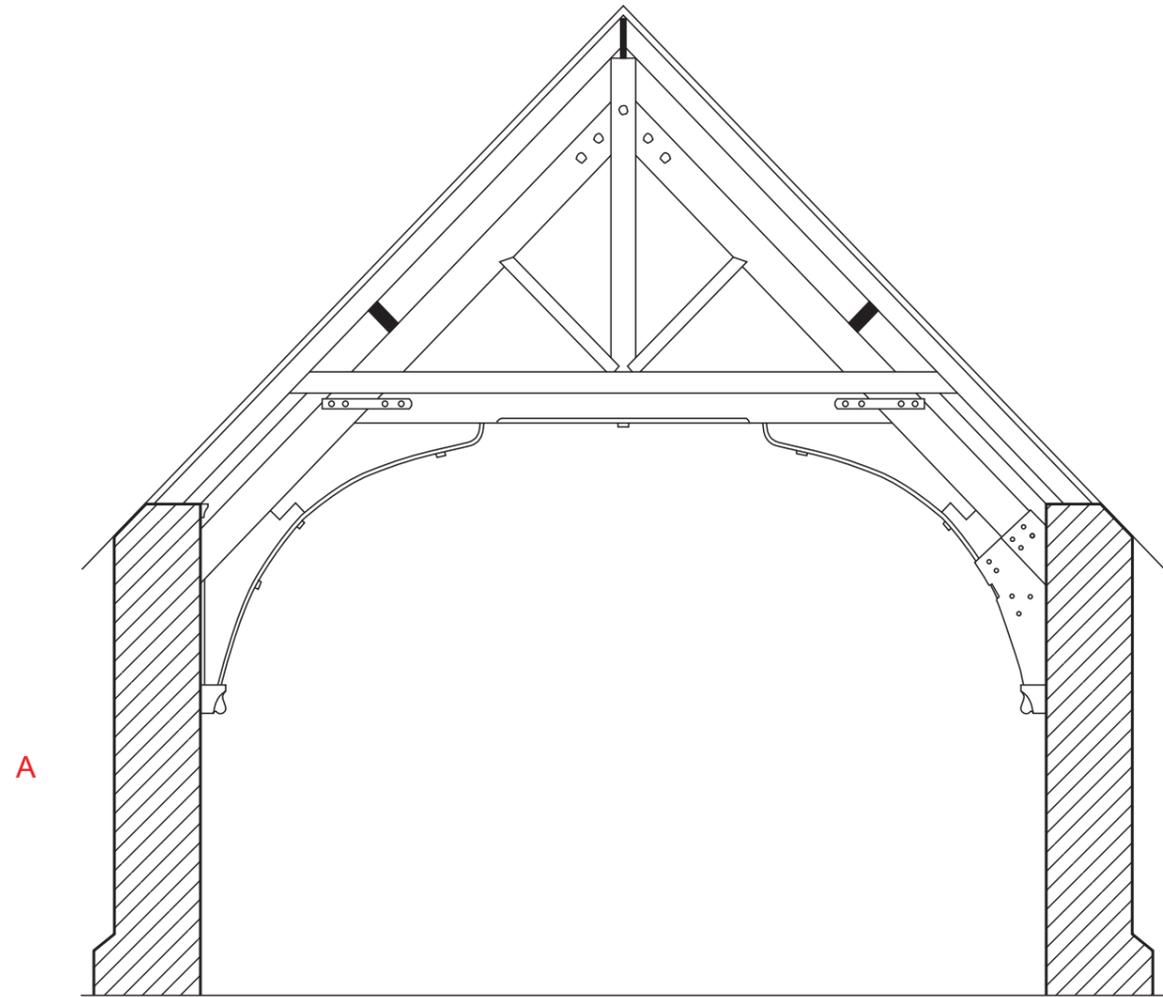


Figure 2: Floor plan

CROSS-SECTION A-A1, FACING NORTH-EAST

CROSS-SECTION B-B1, FACING SOUTH-WEST



Key:  cross-sectional wall  cross-sectional timber

0  2.5m

Figure 3: Cross-sections

## 5 Discussion

### 5.1 Phasing

5.1.1 **Introduction:** given that only a relatively small proportion of the original building is represented in the extant remains the phasing is somewhat limited. As a result only three main phases of development can be identified.

5.1.2 **Phase 1 (1879-1883):** the original construction of the school is known to have taken place in 1879, but was perhaps not completed until 1883. The full plan of this is now difficult to reconstruct as the available mapping is very limited and the remaining portion only represents one part of a much larger structure. This phase comprises the initial period of construction, which created the main structural elements of the current building. Given the proportion of the original building that remains it is difficult to reconstruct the initial arrangement, however, it seems likely that there was a pair of doorways at the north-east end (one still present in Room 2, the second in Room 3 now converted to a window). This suggests that this end acted as an entrance hall, perhaps separating the infants and girls and/or boys into their different blocks. It is known from Norman Nicholson's account that what remains at least primarily formed the infants' school.

5.1.3 **Phase 2 (late 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century):** Later but still early alterations were evidently made (see Section 3.1.4) but there is little evidence for these within the building. Some alterations were made for structural reasons, such as the addition of iron brackets to the end of one of the trusses in Room 5 (Figure 3) and the tie rod running across the south-west end of the same area, but the dating of these changes is uncertain and could easily belong to Phase 3, which evidently saw some substantial additions and even rebuilding.

5.1.4 **Phase 3 (20<sup>th</sup> century):** a large number of internal partitions were added, most likely in the 20<sup>th</sup> century to facilitate changes of use following the closure of the school and demolition of the great majority of it prior to 1975. In addition, what was evidently originally a second doorway at the north-east end of the building was partially blocked to form a window. Internally the fireplaces may also have been blocked at this time, presumably as a result of a new heating system being put in place, which also perhaps led to the addition of the suspended ceiling in Room 1, and the panelling around the lower parts of the wall was removed as well. Some rebuilding also took place, in part because of the demolition of adjoining buildings, which led to the south-east wall being rendered and new windows probably added, but also because of structural failures at the south end of the building. This required rebuilding of this end section, with concrete blocks used internally. In addition two new external doorways with concrete ramps were also added. Most of the original internal features were probably lost at this time, if not before, although a few doors were re-used.

### 5.2 Conclusion

5.2.1 The investigation into the former school at Millom has provided a useful opportunity to record a building of this type, which, like many others, was clearly originally full of architectural and decorative detail. It was, however, not as well preserved as others have been, for example the former Dale Street Board School in Ulverston (Greenlane Archaeology 2008). Unfortunately it was also not possible to identify the architect(s) of the Holborn Hill School and there was a relative lack of readily available historical information, although it is possible that other sources might yet come to light. However, its connections to one of Millom's most famous sons, Norman Nicholson, is of interest especially given his descriptions of the building in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 6. Bibliography

### 6.1 Primary and Cartographic Sources

- CRO(B) BDS/33/2/1/1, 1883-1902 *Holborn Hill Board/Council Schools: Infants Log Book*
- CRO(B) BDS/33/3/1/1, 1879-1887 *Holborn Hill Board/Council Schools: Boys Log Book*
- CRO(B) BPR 10 I/4/3, 1926-7 *OS Cumberland Sheets LXXXVIII SW and SE, XC NW and NE With Parish Boundaries Added*
- Ordnance Survey, 1867 *Cumberland Sheet 90*, 1: 10,560, surveyed 1860-1861
- Ordnance Survey, 1899 *Cumberland Sheet 90.2*, 1: 2,500, revised 1897
- Ordnance Survey, 1900 *Cumberland Sheet 90.2 NW*, 1: 10,560, revised 1897
- Ordnance Survey, 2005 *The English Lakes: South-Western Area Coniston, Ulverston & Barrow-in-Furness*, 1: 25,000, **OL6**

### 6.2 Secondary Sources

- Brown, DH, 2007 *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer, and Curation*, IfA, Reading
- Bulmer, T and Co, 1883 *History, Topography and Directory of West Cumberland*, Preston
- Countryside Commission, 1998 *Countryside Character, Volume 2: North West*, Cheltenham
- English Heritage, 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edn, London
- English Heritage, 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*, Swindon
- Greenlane Archaeology, 2008 *Dale Street School, Lund Terrace, Ulverston, Cumbria: Archaeological Building Recording*, unpubl rep
- Harris, MA, 1966 *Millom: A Victorian New Town*, *Trans Cumberland Westmorland Antiq Archaeol Soc*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ser, **66**, 449-467
- Hughes, R, 2006 *Millom: An Industrial Colony 1860-1875*, *Trans Cumberland Westmorland Antiq Archaeol Soc*, 3<sup>rd</sup> ser, **6**, 163-176
- Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), 2008a *Standards and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures*, revised edn, Reading
- IfA, 2008b *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, revised edn, Reading
- Kelly's Directories Ltd, 1925 *Kelly's Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland*, London
- Moseley, F. (ed), 1978 *The Geology of the Lake District*, Yorkshire Geological Society, occ publ **3**, Leeds
- Myers, B, 1991 *Millom in Old Picture Postcards*, Zaltbommel (Netherlands)
- Nicholson, N, 1975 *Wednesday Early Closing*, London