

# VICKERSTOWN SCHOOL, LATONA STREET, BARROW-IN-FURNESS, CUMBRIA

## Archaeological Building Recording



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

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

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## Non-Technical Summary

Following the submission of a planning application and application for Conservation Area consent to demolish the former Vickerstown School, Latona Street, Barrow-in-Furness, a condition was placed requiring an archaeological building recording. Greenlane Archaeology was commissioned to carry out an archaeological building recording. This work was carried out in October 2012.

Vickerstown School was constructed in 1901-1902 as part of the growing Vickerstown Estate, which was created to meet a chronic housing shortage during a period of prosperity in the Vickers, Sons and Maxim armaments works. The estate grew out of a planned sea-side resort, first proposed by a syndicate of local businessmen, but the company behind this was acquired by Vickers so that it could form new housing for their workers. The bulk of the estate, which was divided into two parts, was designed by the local architect William Moss Settle, to a uniform style with the intension of creating a Port Sunlight-style model town. The school, however, was designed by the Barrow-based architect Henry F Fowler, following a request for designs from the local Education Board. Fowler's plans, while clearly influenced by the overriding style of the rest of Vickerstown, were clearly much more traditional, and his design is very similar to Cambridge Street School, which he extended in 1906, having presumably been involved in the original design. The school remained in use for over 100 years, despite having been threatened with closure in 1982, and saw extensive new additions as recently as 2000.

The building recording revealed only a small number of phases of development, with the original period of construction clearly following very closely the original drawings by Fowler. However, there appears to have been some variation and a contemporary source mentions the presence of galleried seats in the classrooms, evidence for which was visible in the building, but this is not shown on the original plans. Later alterations do not appear to have been carried out until the later 20<sup>th</sup> century, and probably included the addition of some of the extant internal divisions, the creation of new doorways and other relatively minor changes. It is recorded that the projecting east wing was demolished in the 1970s, apparently because it was unsafe. The largest phase of alteration was the most recent, with a suite of rooms added along the north-west and south-west sides between 1999 and 2000.

Vickerstown School is a large building within the Conservation Area for Vickerstown but is, in effect, a good example of Victorian architecture trying to fit into an essentially Edwardian estate development. The different architect and the, presumed, need for the Education Board to minimise costs, means that it only makes a passing reference to the style of the rest of Vickerstown, although it still retains a number of features of architectural and historical interest.

## Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank Leck Construction Ltd for commissioning the project. Additional thanks are due to the staff of the Cumbria Archive Centre in Barrow-in-Furness (CAC(B)) for their help in accessing the records.

The desk-based assessment was carried out by Dan Elsworth. The building recording and report production were carried out by Dan Elsworth and Tom Mace, the latter of whom also produced the illustrations. The report was edited by Jo Dawson and Dan Elsworth managed the project.

# 1. Introduction

## 1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 Following the submission of a planning application (ref. B07/2012/0362) and application for Conservation Area consent (ref. B25/2012/0376) to demolish the former Vickerstown School, Latona Street, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria (NGR 318377 469293), and erect 22 dwellings on the site, a condition (No. 2) was placed by Barrow Borough Council requiring an archaeological survey be carried out prior to the development commencing. Greenlane Archaeology was approached by Andrew Murphy of Leck Construction Ltd (hereafter 'the client') to carry out a Level 3-type archaeological building recording (English Heritage 2006) in order to fulfil the condition of the planning consent. This is intended to record the form, function and phasing of the building, and incorporate the results of a desk-based assessment to aid the interpretation of its development. In response to this request Greenlane Archaeology produced a project design and carried out the work in October 2012.

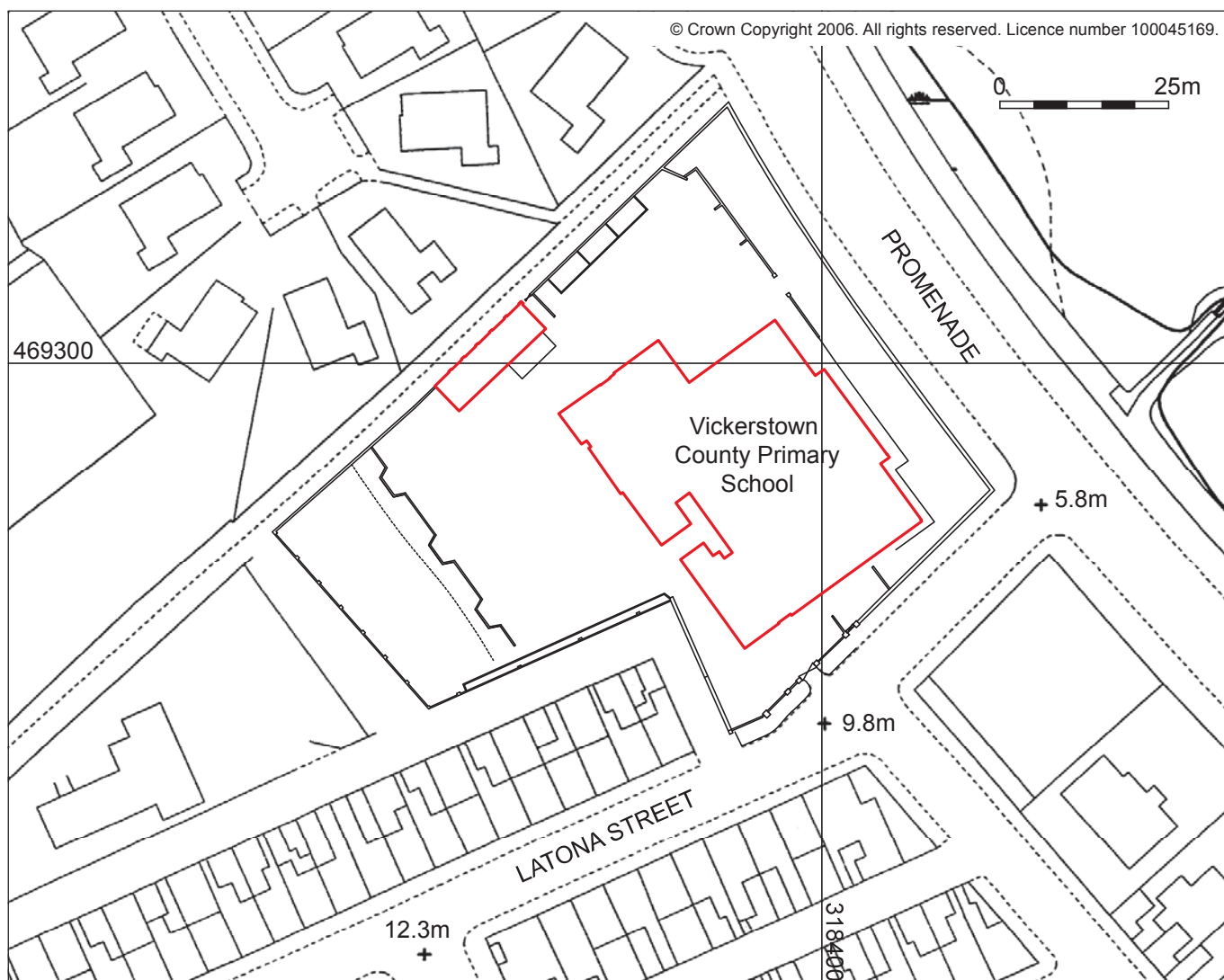
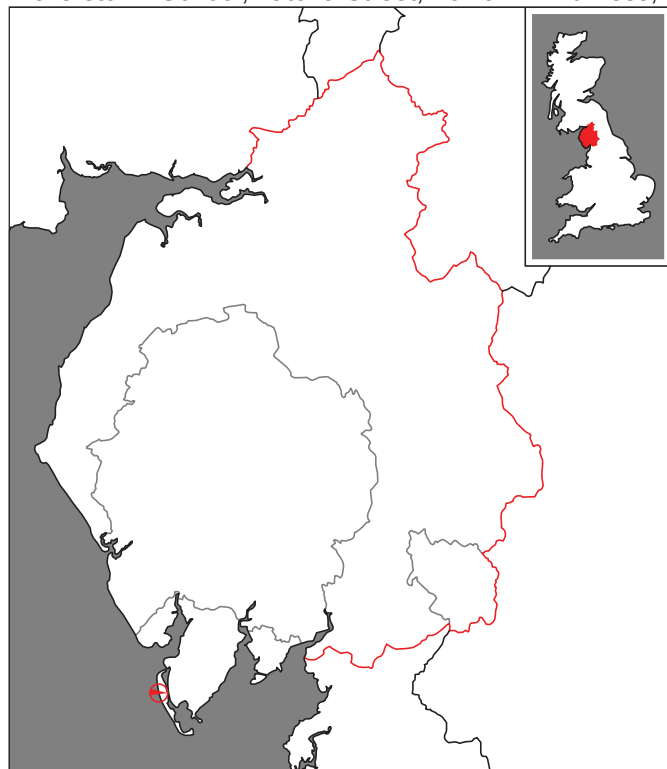
1.1.2 The building is within the Conservation Area covering the early 20<sup>th</sup> century development known as Vickerstown, much of which was constructed to the designs of the local architect William Moss Settle with the intention of providing additional housing for workers at the Vickers, Sons & Maxim armament works (Turley Associates 2012).

## 1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 The site is located at the north end of the village of Vickerstown on the east side of Walney Island, facing onto Latona Street to the south-east, the Promenade to the north-east and Cote Leys Lane to the north-west (Plate 1). Vickerstown is essentially an overspill from Barrow-in-Furness on the mainland (see Figure 1). The site is between 5 and 10m above sea level (Ordnance Survey 2011). The solid geology of the area comprises Triassic Mercian Mudstones with a thick overlay of glacial boulder clays (Moseley 1978, plate 1).



**Plate 1: The school building viewed across Latona Street, from the south-east**



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**Figure 1: Site location**



## 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 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 Archive Centre, Barrow-in-Furness (CAC(B))**: this was visited in order to examine early maps of the site and other primary sources as well as secondary sources in order to identify information about the development and use of the building;
- **Greenlane Archaeology Library**: additional secondary sources were examined to provide further background history for the site.

### 2.3 Building Recording

2.3.1 The building recording was carried out to English Heritage Level 3-type standards (English Heritage 2006), which is a relatively high level of investigation intended to record the form, function and phasing of the building, while incorporating the results of the desk-based assessment in order to aid the interpretation of its development. The recording comprised the following elements:

- **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 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 a printed plot produced by overlaying a topographic survey of the site (supplied by the client) onto plans produced by Cumbria County Council in 2001 (Cumbria County Council 2012). In addition, two cross-sections were produced by hand. The drawings produced ultimately comprised:
  - i. a plan of each floor at a scale of 1:100;
  - ii. cross-sections at a scale of 1:50.

### 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 Archive Centre in Barrow-in-Furness on completion of the project. A copy of the report will be supplied to the client, one will also be supplied to the planning department at Barrow Borough Council, 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 Site History

3.1.1 **Introduction:** the background history of the site is intended to place the building in its relevant local context and so, although the surrounding area has been occupied since at least the Mesolithic period, only information relating directly to the school and the circumstances of its construction will be included. The following is based on a previously published work on Vickerstown (Trescatheric 1983), a publication specifically covering the development of the school (Laird 1984), a previous Heritage Statement (Turley Associates 2012), a recent newspaper article (Myers 2012), and an unpublished account by Harper Gaythorpe from 1909 (CAC(B) Z/286 1909).

3.1.2 **Walney Island:** as already mentioned, Walney Island has evidence for human occupation dating from at least the Mesolithic, while on the mainland of the Furness Peninsula remains dating from the end of the last Ice Age, perhaps 10,000 years ago, have been discovered. Until the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, however, the area that was to become the modern town of Barrow-in-Furness, and by extension Walney Island, was not heavily occupied, with a population of only a few hundred clustered in the existing '*ancient villages of Biggar and Northscale, with the Church and Parsonage midway between*' (CAC(B) Z/286 1909). A situation that remained essentially unchanged even after the development of the town of Barrow-in-Furness.

3.1.3 **Vickerstown:** by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the continued expansion of the armament works of Vickers, Sons and Maxim Ltd, who had purchased the Naval Construction Works at Barrow in 1896 (Trescatheric 1983, 4; Harper Gaythorpe says this took place in 1897: CAC(B) Z/286 1909), there was a chronic need for additional housing. Municipal building schemes organised by the local council were either non-existent or ineffectual, although at least in part the lack of action was probably due to the large number of builders and associated craftsmen serving on the council, which generated considerable conflicts of interest (Trescatheric 1983, 4). In 1898 a syndicate of local businessmen established a private property development venture known as the Isle of Walney Estates Company (*op cit*, 5). Their initial intension had been to develop the island as a seaside resort with regular steamship connections to the Isle of Man and North Wales, with information coming largely from a single spokesman, Benjamin Fish (*ibid*). However, investment for the scheme was not apparently forthcoming and in 1899 Vickers, Sons and Maxim concluded that the only way to ensure the housing needs of their workers were met was to buy up the Isle of Walney Estates Company, which they did by the end of that year (*op cit*, 5-6). Initial proposals were much grander, comprising only a northern estate, still clinging to the previous idea of a leisure resort to be known as Vickersdale (*op cit*, 6). However, Vickers' need for housing soon meant that this was scrapped and a less ambitious scheme, maximising housing but still in the form of a 'Port Sunlight-style' model village was proposed (*op cit*, 6-7). Remarkably, Gaythorpe's account from less than 10 years later, seems to suggest that the transition from the old scheme to the new was relatively fluid, which may have seemed the case at the time (CAC(B) Z/286 1909).

3.1.4 Despite these revisions building work began in March 1900, with eight contractors employed to carry out the work, several of them local, with bricks produced on site (they are clearly marked on the later plans of 1905 and 1906 (CAC(B) Z/318 1905; CAC(B) Z/835 1906)), although 'slates' (presumably meaning the ceramic tiles that appear to have been used on many of the buildings) were apparently imported from America (Trescatheric 1983, 7). The designs for the buildings were devised by the local architect William Moss Settle, with extensive use of half-timber decoration, brick and roughcast, as shown in a detailed portfolio produced in c1902 (CAC(B) BDY/116 c1902; the original is in the Dock Museum). Benjamin Fish, the spokesperson for the original scheme, was also a major local building contractor and, having resigned from the Council in 1899, presumably to remove any conflict of interest, he tendered for the construction of 300 homes in what was by now known as Vickerstown (*op cit*, 8). His tender was not accepted, however, and he was replaced as manager of the Estates Company, by James Dunn and then Lord Dunluce and went on to become a fierce critic of the whole scheme (*ibid*). Despite the rapid pace of building work Vickers were increasingly forced to house workers in a range of temporary accommodation, including an old iron chapel and the former Atlantic liner *Alaska* (*op cit*, 8-9). Nevertheless, houses became available by November 1901, although the speed at which work had been

carried out meant that corners had been cut and fines were issued where certificates of lawfulness had not been issued (*op cit*, 10). North Vickerstown was largely completed by 1903 while South Vickerstown lagged behind due to uncertainty over the final size of the development, proposals for a munitions works on Walney itself, and the potential for a new factory for the construction of railway lighting equipment (*op cit*, 11-12). A further problem was the need to build a bridge to replace the inadequate ferry, but this was obstructed by the Furness Railway Company, who also acted as the Harbour Authority (*op cit*, 12). The lengthy debate and heated opposition, including Benjamin Fish among the opponents, meant that a bridge connecting Walney to the mainland was not completed until 1908 (*op cit*, 13).

**3.1.5 Vickerstown School:** the need to provide for the education of the children that would be coming to live in the new development at Vickerstown was recognised at an early stage, especially as the existing provision on Walney was very limited (Laird 1984, 11). The Isle of Walney Estates Company soon wrote to the Barrow School Board regarding the matter, suggesting that a parcel of land at the north end of North Vickerstown might be made available for the construction of a school (*ibid*). The terms of its purchase were agreed on 15<sup>th</sup> June 1900, at a slightly reduced rate than originally discussed, and by 4<sup>th</sup> September 1900 the number of children thought likely to be residing in Vickerstown led to invitations for designs being requested, the deadline, 21<sup>st</sup> December 1900, being less than three months away (*op cit*, 12). An assessment of the entries, of which there were only three, was made by Mr Bell, an architect from Burnley, and the design, entitled "Compact", produced by Henry Fowler, a local architect who had designed a number of buildings in the area including the North Lonsdale Hospital and the Workhouse, was chosen (*ibid*). Fowler had local experience in the designing of schools too, having provided plans in 1906 for an extension to Cambridge Street School (CAC(B) BDX/308 1906). The plan and cross-sections of this school are remarkably similar to those for Vickerstown, with a central hall surrounded by classrooms and entrance corridors at each corner. The truss forms are also similar as is the extensive use of gables externally, and it is likely that Fowler produced the original designs for this school too. However, Fowler evidently made some attempt to match the overarching architectural style of Vickerstown in the use of brick, dressed sandstone, and roughcast, as shown in his drawings, although in every other respect the design was arguably very traditionally Victorian (see Section 3.2.3 below). The final design was intended to house 468 mixed pupils and 180 infants, although the rate at which Vickerstown was growing meant that there were very real concerns that this would not be enough (Laird 1984, 12). 17 tenders for the construction work were received after a meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> April 1901, with Messrs Clark and Robinson taken on as the main contractors, stonework to be provided by Mr G Varley, plumbing by Mr J Gell, ironwork by Mr W Barrett, and slating by Mr J Walker (*ibid*). A heating system fed by hot water from boilers in the cellar was ordered from Messrs Seward and Company of Preston (*ibid*).

**3.1.6** Work began quickly, with the foundation stone being laid on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1901 by Mrs Crosse, the wife of Rev EF Crosse, the Chairman of the Barrow School Board, but despite this the pressing need for a school led to the purchase of a temporary corrugated iron structure at a cost of £264 9s 0d from Messrs J Tickle and Son (*ibid*). This was known to the pupils as "The Tin School" and stood to the north-west of the main school, where it remained until 1949 (*ibid*). By mid-1902 plans were being made for the staffing and equipping of the main school; a headmaster, Mr Frederick Thompson, formerly the headmaster of Roose School, was appointed on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1902, and then a headmistress, Miss Williams (*op cit*, 13). A caretaker and teachers were also appointed by June of the same year (*ibid*). The opening day was set for 30<sup>th</sup> August 1902; the construction of the school having taken on 20 months from initiation to completion (*ibid*). An account of the school from the North West Evening Mail, following its opening and dated 6<sup>th</sup> September 1902 describes it thus:

*"The school has been planned for the accommodation of 600 children in ten classrooms, which are all placed around a central hall, in addition 48 children will be placed making a total accommodation of 648. The three classrooms facing Latona Street have been prepared for use by the infant department and have through communication with each other, independently of the central hall, and two of the rooms are separated by a screen which folds back against the outer wall allowing the rooms to be used as one when required. The central hall, as the name implies, forms the centre of the building, and is 65½ feet long by 33 feet wide, and is 27 feet to the ceiling... It is possible for the Headmaster to obtain a view of the interior of each classroom without leaving the hall, thus facilitating the keeping of good order*



*throughout the building... The classrooms are each 24½ feet square and 19 feet to the ceiling... The galleries on which are placed the desks are raised in steps five inches in height with sloping passages between by which means the teacher commands a good view of each child*". In addition, the main inner doors had stained glass panels depicting "the progress of shipbuilding throughout the ages, and showed a Viking ship and the largest warship then afloat, the 'Mikasa' built for the Japanese Navy" (*ibid*), which were apparently still present in 1984.

3.1.7 There are relatively few records of substantial changes to the school in the first 70 years of its existence. During the First World War it was used to billet troops (*op cit*, 22). A related alteration to the building was the installation of a plaque commemorating the death of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant WHB Gross, who had been principal trained assistant teacher at the school and was killed on active service in 1916; the plaque was apparently no longer *in situ* in 1984 (*ibid*). The biggest change in the school's early years, resulting from massive overcrowding, came about following the construction of a second school serving South Vickerstown, on Ocean Road, which opened in 1917 (*op cit*, 24). Children living south of Walney Bridge were transferred to the new school, thus easing numbers considerably, although wartime refugees still artificially inflated the number of pupils (*ibid*). During the early to mid part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the major changes to the school were largely in its organisation. Following the summer holiday of June 1930 the children aged 11 and over moved to the Ocean Road School and Vickerstown became an infants and junior school only (*op cit*, 26). The outbreak of the Second World War led to considerable closure of the school and interruption to its daily running due to air raids and alterations were clearly made to provide air raid shelters on site (*op cit*, 27-28). The only alteration to the building in this time was the installation of a new heating system, ironically following the harsh winter of 1942 (*op cit*, 28). Again the school's capacity increased due to an influx of refugees escaping the more severe bombing seen in the south-east (*ibid*). Following the end of the War some repairs were made, including the replacement of metal window casements with timber ones, which became particularly pressing after one fell into a classroom and injured some of the children (*ibid*)! The air raid shelters, which were sited in the playground, were only demolished in 1947 but the air raid siren continued to be tested until 1950 (*ibid*).

3.1.8 Further alterations to the school were carried out from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century onwards. It was re-wired in 1949, and again in the late 1960s (*op cit*, 29). The demolition of the 'temporary' school building in 1949 freed space to increase the size of the playground, the original walls which divided girls and boys having already been removed (*ibid*). During the 1960s the increase in population led to the addition of a temporary classroom in the school playground, which was finally removed in 1983 (*op cit*, 30). During the 1970s the resulting decline in pupil numbers and re-organisation of the use of the school led to the removal of the section that originally housed the headmaster's study, which was apparently in a "precarious" condition (*ibid*), presumably meaning it was structurally unsafe. This alteration in turn led to the removal of the original foundation stone, which was apparently then put in storage in the Council Building Department Yard until 1983, before being placed in an ornamental garden within the school on a limestone plinth (*op cit*, 12). By 1983 the reorganisation of the County Council, creating the modern county of Cumbria, and changes in the manner in which schools were funded, led to the proposal, in April 1982, that Vickerstown School be closed (*op cit*, 30). In a series of tense meetings afterwards and through extensive lobbying by parents the decision was finally made on 16<sup>th</sup> November 1983, on a vote of 41 to 38, to retain the school (*op cit*, 35). Following this, further additions were made between 1999 and 2000 to provide new computer rooms (Turley Associates 2012, 14; see Section 3.2.11) and more recently a new school has been constructed on land to the west, removing the need for the original school.

## 3.2 Map and Image Regression

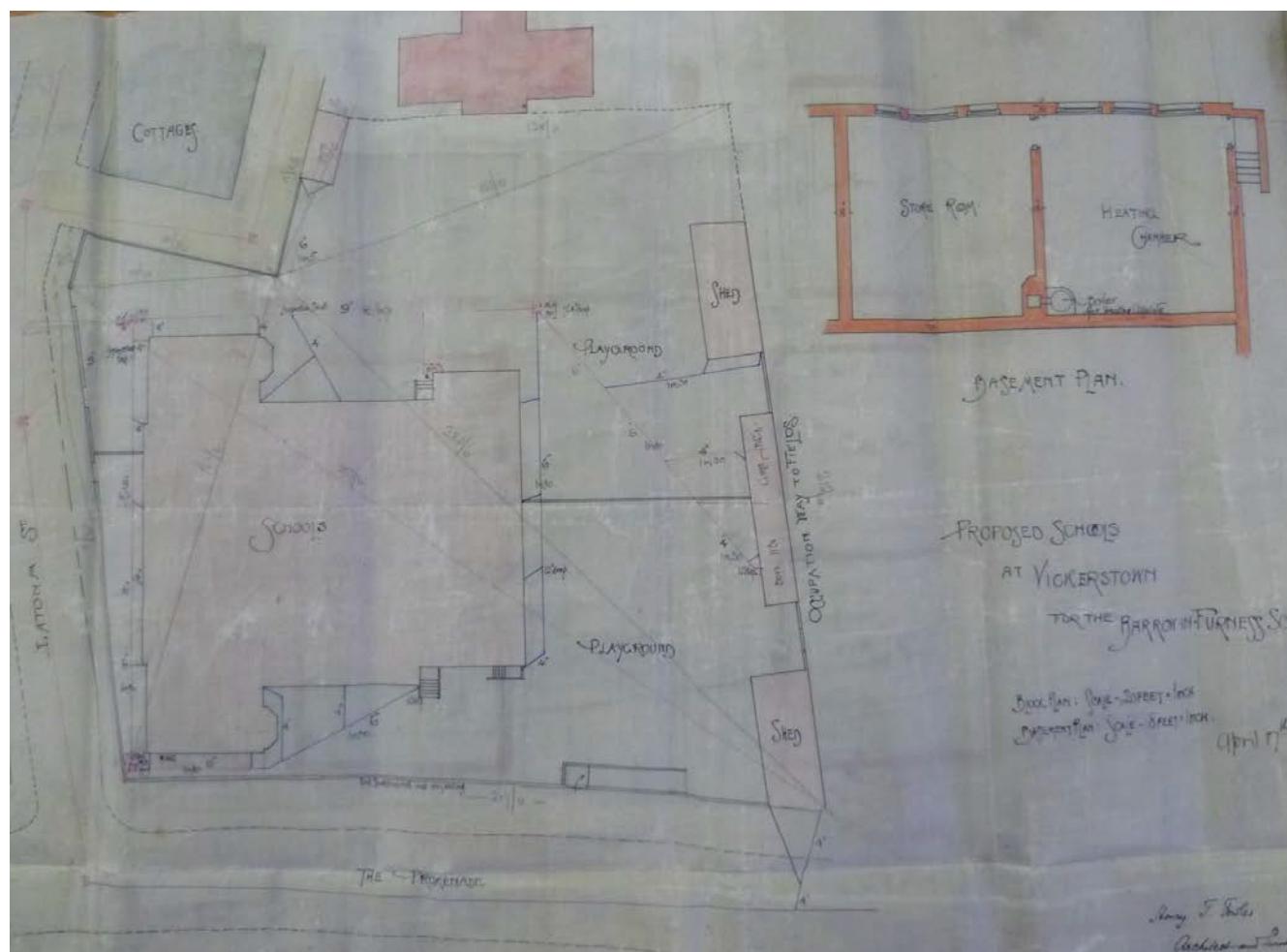
3.2.1 **Ordnance Survey 1851:** this is the first detailed Ordnance Survey map of the area and shows the site prior to the construction of the school (Plate 2). At this time the area was entirely rural, with the ancient settlement of North Scale to the north and Walney church and parsonage house to the south. The field in which the school was built can be easily identified as it has Cote Leys Lane, which now survives as a footpath, along the north-west side. On the north-east side of the field a limekiln is shown and 'Saunders Well', but the plot is otherwise unremarkable.



**Plate 2: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1851 showing the site prior to the construction of the school**

**3.2.2 Ordnance Survey 1891:** this shows much the same detail as the earlier map, the school having not been constructed by this date. The limekiln is now labelled 'Old Limekiln' and the well is not marked.

**3.2.3 Building Control Plans, 1901:** the original proposed plans for the construction of the school are held in the archives (CAC(B) Building Control Plans 4324, 1901). They are all dated within the early part of April 1901 and were produced by Henry F. Fowler, 'Architect and Surveyor' (see Plate 3 to Plate 9). The drawings show that the original proposal was for a large central hall with square classrooms arranged around it and corridors at each corner. The plan is therefore essentially a large rectangle with projecting bays at the ends of the elevation, which faces towards Latona Street (Plate 3). These projecting sections comprised smaller spaces for cloakrooms and a 'teachers' room' (with toilets in both) and both had large bay windows on the north-west side (Plate 6). The external elevations comprise rows of gables with groups of three windows with what are evidently dressed stone details, several chimneys, and domed towers on top (Plate 4 and Plate 5). The cross-sections show that the towers form part of a complex system of vents connecting to the ceilings of each classroom, and they also reveal the structure of the trusses, which comprise large principal rafters supported on corbels with curving arched braces (Plate 7 and Plate 8). A cruciform building to the south-west of the main school building is also shown and was apparently already in existence. The purpose of this is not specifically marked on the map, but it is presumably the temporary school that was constructed from corrugated iron on the site while the permanent school was being constructed (see Section 3.1.6).



**Plate 3: Block plan of the proposed school, 1901 (CAC(B) Building Control Plans 4324 1901)**



**Plate 4 (left): North-west and south-west external elevations as proposed (CAC(B) Building Control Plans 4324 1901)**



**Plate 5 (right): South-east and north-east external elevations as proposed (CAC(B) Building Control Plans 4324 1901)**

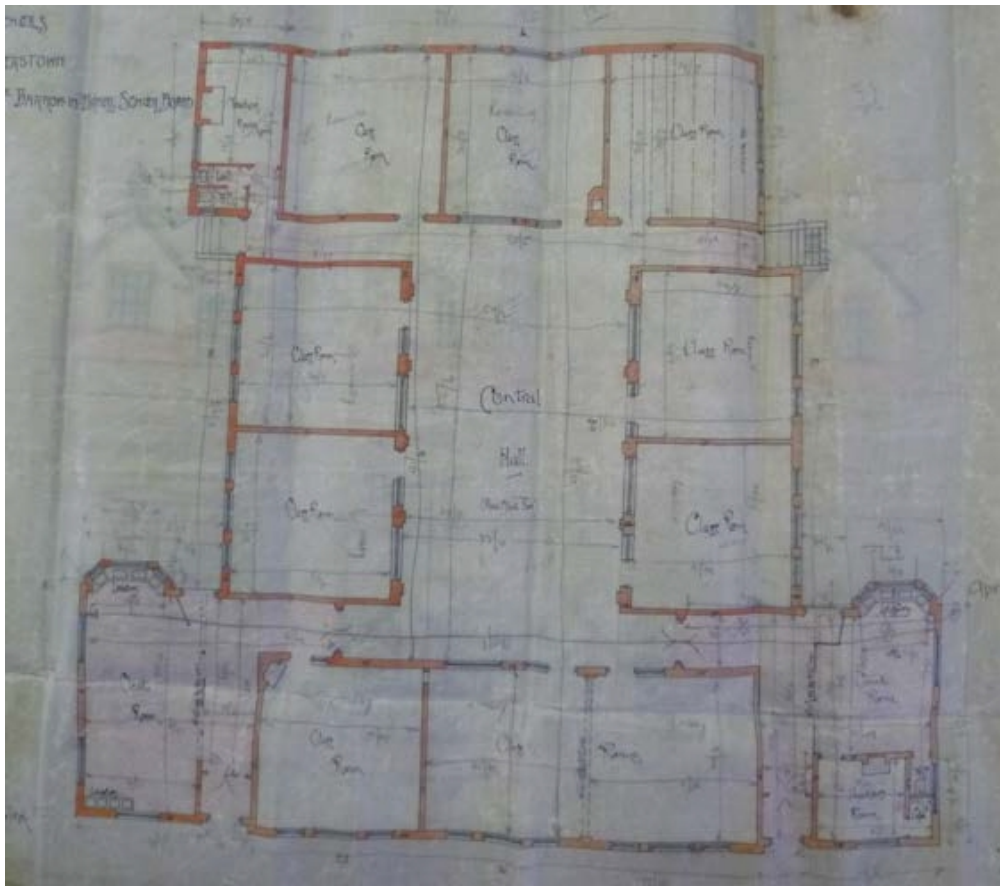


Plate 6: Ground floor plan as proposed (CAC(B) Building Control Plans 4324 1901)

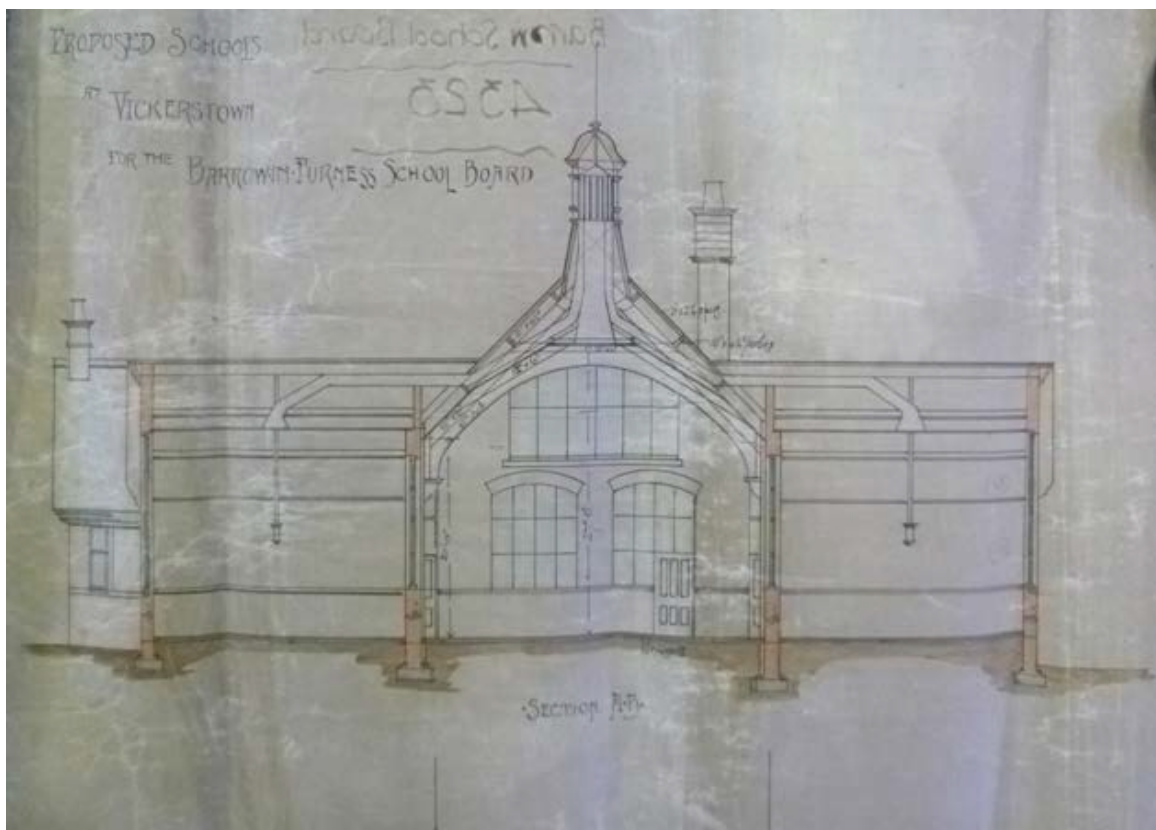
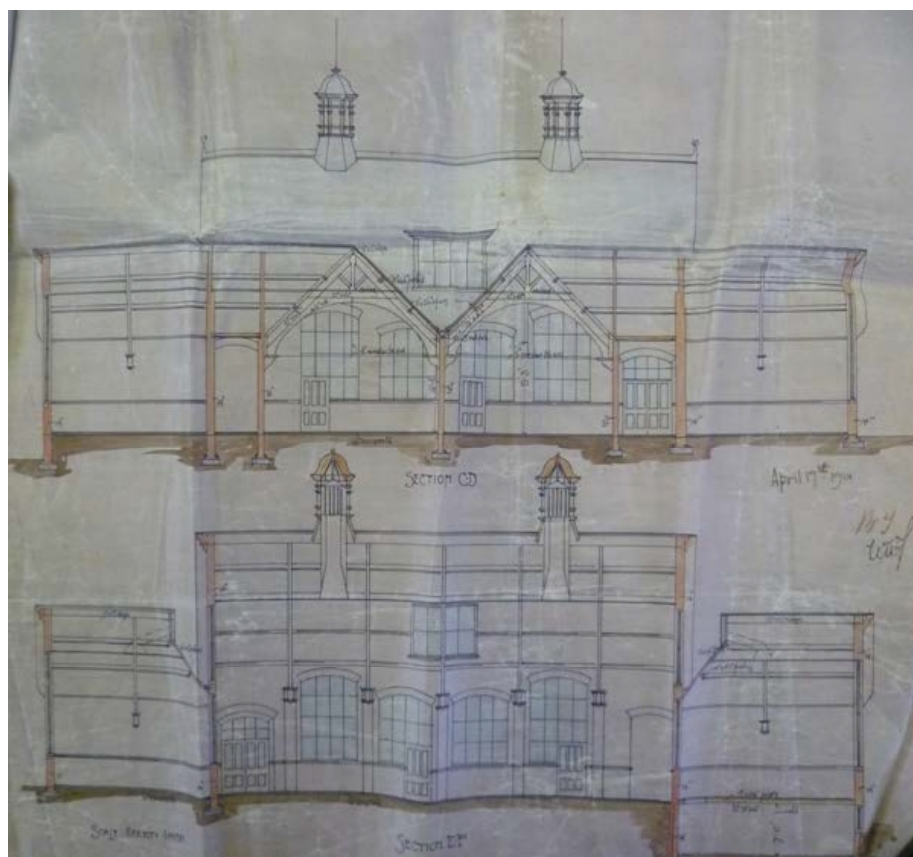
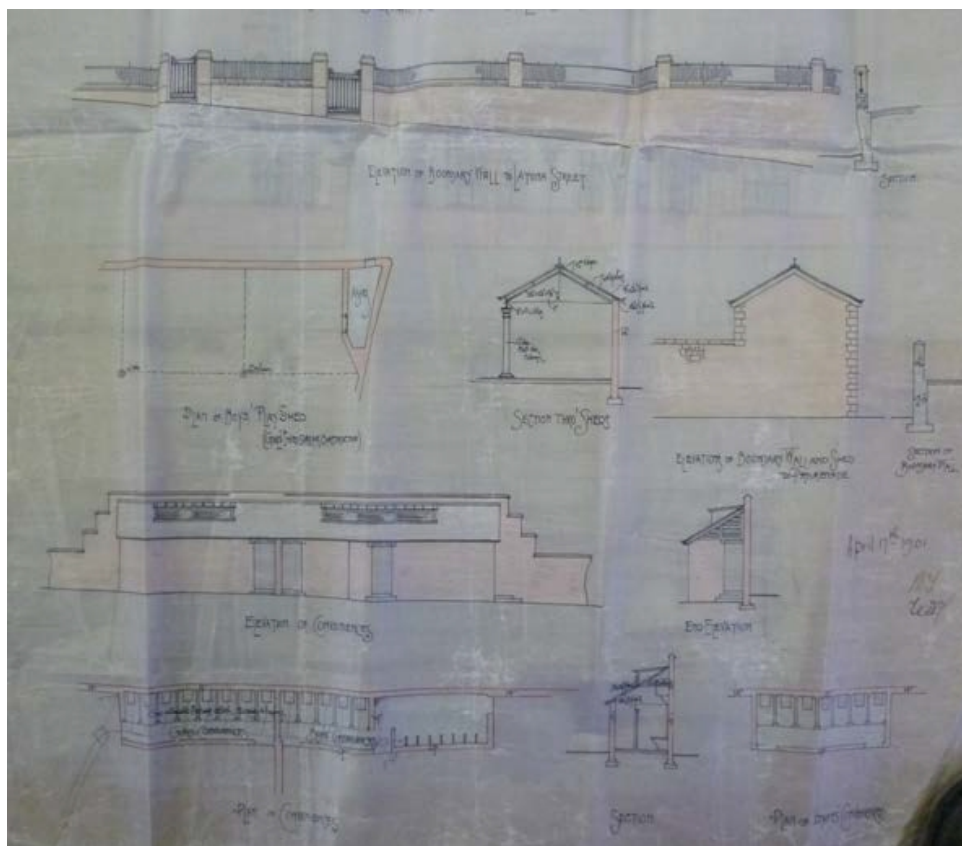


Plate 7: Proposed cross-section through the main hall and adjoining classrooms showing the arrangement of the ventilation system (CAC(B) Building Control Plans 4324 1901)





**Plate 8: Proposed cross-sections through the classrooms (CAC(B) Building Control Plans 4324 1901)**



**Plate 9: Boundary wall, 'play shed', and toilets as proposed (CAC(B) Building Control Plans 4324 1901)**

3.2.4 **Photograph of opening day, 1902:** a photograph commemorating the opening of the school on the 30<sup>th</sup> August 1902 by 'Mr John Fell Esq J.P. D.L.' (Plate 10) shows dignitaries sat outside one of the large bay windows, presumably the east one, based on the relative position of the door. The same photograph is reproduced by Laird (1984, 17), who states that Mr Fell is the gentleman in the front row with the walking stick, while the gentleman to the left holding a top hat is Rev E.F. Crosse, Chairman of the Barrow School Board, with his wife between him and Mr Fell.



Plate 10: Photograph of the opening of the school (CAC(B) Z/3396/21 1902)

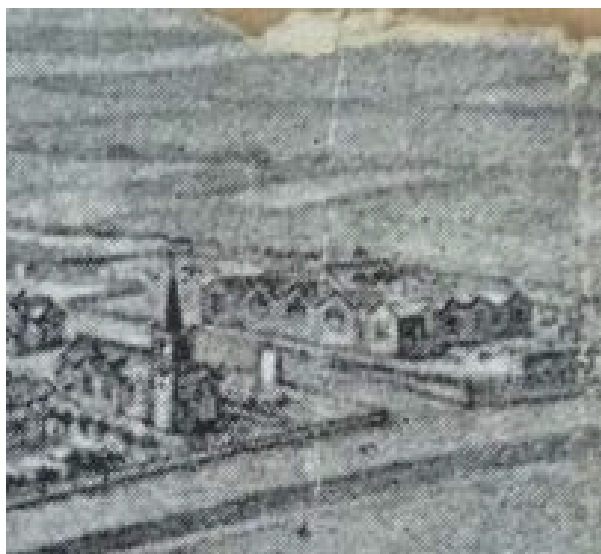
3.2.5 **Photograph, c1902 or 1906:** an early photograph of the school, taken soon after construction, shows the south-east external elevation (Plate 11). The date of this picture is uncertain; two original copies in the archives are dated c1902 (CAC(B) BLC/283/HVIC1 c1902), while one published version of the same view is described as undated (Trescaheric and Baker 1982, 78) and another dated to 1906 (Myers 2000, 117). At this time the building was clearly symmetrical and extended further to the north-east (see Plate 16) and comprised five gables with large windows, with moulded stone 'Dutch gables' at either end between two of the gabled ends. Of interest is the central tower with its dome and chimneys on either side, none of which now remain. One of the two copies in the archive has been coloured, the roof a pale blue suggesting it was slate.





**Plate 11: View of the school from 1906 (after Myers 2000, 117)**

**3.2.6 Aerial View, 1903:** a panoramic aerial view of the whole of Vickerstown, reproduced as a supplement to the Vickerstown Chronicle on October 9<sup>th</sup> 1903, includes the school, although it is not particularly detailed (Plate 12). The accuracy of the drawing is also uncertain as Vickerstown was not fully constructed by this date and it may have included elements that were only proposed as there is a church shown close to the school that was never apparently built.



**Plate 12: Vickerstown School as shown in the aerial view from 1903 (CAC(B) BDX/16/4 1903)**

**3.2.7 Plans of the Vickerstown Estate, 1905 and 1906:** two contemporary plans of the 'Isle of Walney Estates Co Ltd' Vickerstown development are available dated to 1905 (CAC(B) Z/318 1905) and 1906 (CAC(B) Z/835 1906) (Plate 13 and Plate 14), the latter of which was utilised in a portfolio of drawings produced to illustrate the different properties (CAC(B) BDY/116 c1902). Although not as detailed as the original drawings (see *Section 3.2.3* above) they demonstrate that the school was constructed as proposed and had apparently not been altered in the intervening three years.





Plate 13 (left): Extract from the plan of Vickerstown, 1905 (CAC(B) Z/318 1905)



Plate 14 (right): Extract from the plan of Vickerstown, 1906 (CAC(B) Z/835 1906)

**3.2.8 Ordnance Survey 1913:** this is the first Ordnance Survey map to be produced after the opening of the school in 1902 and the construction of North Vickerstown (Plate 15). It shows that at this time the school comprised a large rectangular section orientated north-west/south-east, with projecting wings extending from the south-east end of the south-west elevation and north-east elevations. Detail such as the access to the cellar and step up to the main entrance on the north-east elevation can also be seen (Plate 16). Curiously, the detached cruciform building to the south-west, which was shown on the original plans of 1901, is still shown, despite not being depicted on the plans of 1905 and 1906.



Plate 15 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1913 showing the position of the school relative to the rest of Vickerstown to the south

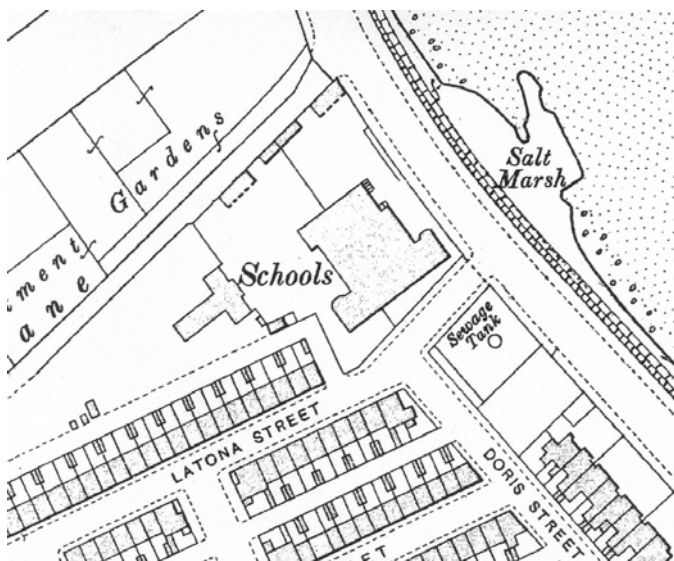


Plate 16 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1913 showing the detail of the school and associated buildings

**3.2.9 Photograph, 1917:** at least two photographs are in existence, taken on the occasion of the presentation of a military medal to Corporal WH McDowell on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1917; the original copy is in the archives (CAC(B) BLC/283/HVIC1 1917) and reproduced in Laird (1984, 23). In both of these elements of the school buildings can be seen. In the former one of the 'play sheds' is visible (this is still extant on the site) as well as what is presumably the toilet block.



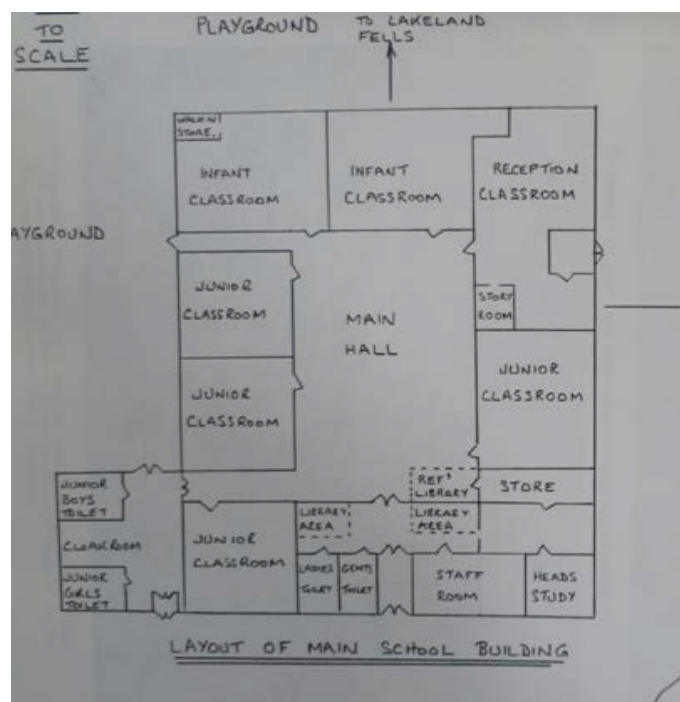


**Plate 17 (left): Children at the school during the medal presentation (CAC(B) BLC/283/RVIC1 1917)**

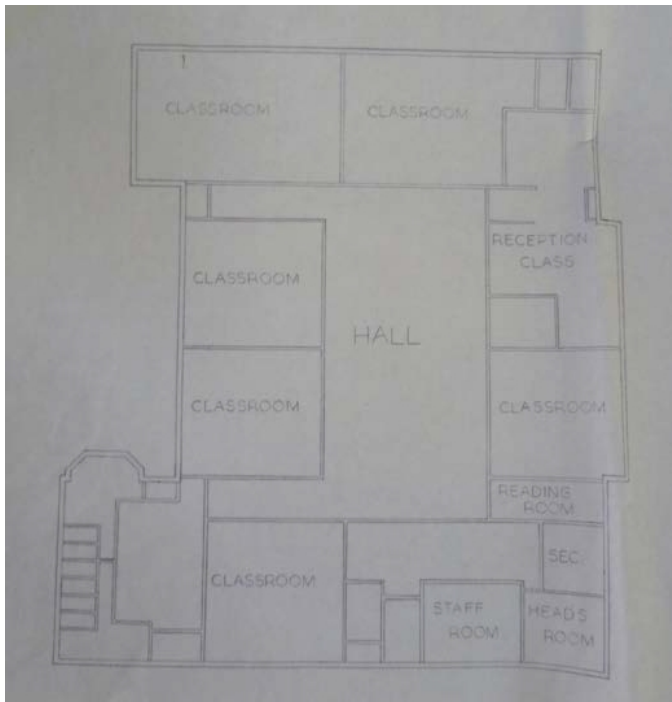


**Plate 18 (right): Children at the school during the medal presentation in 1917 (after Laird 1984, 23)**

**3.2.10 Photographs, plans, and drawings, 1982-1983:** the campaign to save Vickerstown School when it was threatened with closure in the early 1980s led to the production of various documents, several of which included representations of the building. The most useful of these are two floor plans, one very simplified (Plate 19) the other more detailed (Plate 20), and a photograph of the north-east side of the building (Plate 21). In addition, a drawing of the school, viewed from the north was also produced by a D Pollock in 1983 (Plate 22). All of these sources are of use in demonstrating that even by this date the general arrangement of classrooms around the central hall, as originally built, was still in use, albeit with some evident internal alterations in the form of new internal partitions. The most notable alteration is the loss of the projecting section to the east, which housed one of the two bay windows. This was demolished in the 1970s (see Section 3.1.8).



**Plate 19 (left): Block plan of the school building in 1983 (CAC(B) BDSO/21 1982-1983)**



**Plate 20 (right): Detailed plan of the school building in 1983 (CAC(B) BDSO/21 1982-1983)**



**Plate 21 (left): Photograph of the north-east elevation in 1983 (CAC(B) BDSO/21 1982-1983)**



**Plate 22 (right): Drawing of the school from the north by D Pollock, dated 1983 (CAC(B) BDSO/21 1982-1983)**

**3.2.11 Photographs, 1999 and 2000:** a poor quality reproduction of a photograph is reproduced in the 'Vickerstown Gazette', a magazine published by pupils at the school on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1999 (CAC(B) BDS/66/1/1 1999). This shows building work taking place at the school for the construction of a new computer room and extra classroom (see *Section 3.1.8*). A slightly later colour photograph (CAC(B) BDS/66/1/19 2000) shows the same construction work ongoing in 2000 (Plate 23).



**Plate 23: Building work for the new extension in 2000 (CAC(B) BDS/66/1/19 2000)**

### 3.3 Conclusion

**3.3.1** The documentary and cartographic sources show that the school was designed in 1901 by the local architect Henry Fowler and constructed between 1901 and 1902. It seems to have seen very little alteration, or at least nothing substantial, until the later 20<sup>th</sup> century, with the demolition of the projecting east corner in 1970s. Even then it retained the majority of its original arrangement, with more substantial change only occurring between 1999 and 2000, when a range of new extensions were added to the north-west and south-west sides.

## 4. Building Recording

### 4.1 Arrangement and Fabric

4.1.1 The main school building comprises an approximately square block, orientated approximately north-west/south-east, with a projecting section on the south-west end of the north-west elevation (Figure 1 and Figure 2). The outbuilding to the north-west is described separately in *Section 4.4*. Externally the construction comprises a band of red machine-made bricks of up to 15 courses, laid in a variety of bonds depending on the period of construction. Above this is a band of dressed ashlar red sandstone, although coloured concrete has been used in the later additions, above which it is finished with roughcast render. A single area finished with half-timber decoration is present on the north-west face of one of the south-east gables, but this is only visible through the high level window in the main hall (Room 12). Other details have also been finished in dressed and moulded red sandstone, although bricks have also been used to form quoins and arches around the windows. The elevations all comprise rows of gables with timber barge boards, the earlier ones with moulded edges, with raised gables and there are higher gables behind the north-west and south-east elevations corresponding to the position of the central hall. The roof is entirely finished with local grey slate, the eaves finished with red earthenware ridge tiles including rolled-type finish and overlapping bonnet-type. There is a single chimney amongst the gables on the north side of the building, which is constructed from brick and has a single ceramic pot.

4.1.2 Internally much of the building has been extensively modernised, especially where it has been extended on the south-west side, but a considerable amount of original fabric remains in the central part including the complex and decorative trusses, moulded rails, parquet and tile floors, and glazed bricks. Much of the detail has been obscured, however, by the addition of dividing walls and suspended ceilings. All of the windows and some doors were boarded up from the outside and so only visible internally; all were modern and the majority were timber with hinged casements, although some UPVC was also present.

### 4.2 External Detail

4.2.1 **South-west elevation:** the original structure is mostly obscured by a range of later additions which are built in a broadly similar style. The lower part of the north-west side is constructed from modern machine-made brick, laid in stretcher bond, with ceramic vents. Above this is a string course of concrete, coloured reddish pink to imitate red sandstone, and above this the wall is finished with concrete roughcast render. The north-west side comprises two gables with plain barge boards, between which is a flat-roofed section (Plate 24). There is a single window in the north-western of these two gables and two in the south-east, with a doorway with glazed section above and to the south-east, and a further small window with a concrete sill in the flat-roofed section. A brick-built ramp is situated against this section, which is topped with iron railings. All of the windows are boarded up and the door is modern. There is a slight step in the elevation to the south-east of this, at which point it is entirely finished with roughcast render and has three windows with concrete sills (Plate 25). It makes a larger return to the north-east after this, through a gated entrance, which is also finished with roughcast render, and there is a single window like those to the south-west. The elevation returns completely to the north-west, where it is also entirely finished with roughcast render and meets a timber double door below a flat roof (visible to the left hand side in Plate 26).





**Plate 24 (left): North-west end of the south-west elevation**



**Plate 25 (right): Central section of the south-west elevation**

4.2.2 The return to the south-east is part of the much taller elevation of the earlier phase of the building and comprises a double gable; the lower part is constructed in brick laid in Flemish bond and topped with ashlar red sandstone above which it is roughcast render. Each gable has three grouped large windows, the central window being taller, all with brick quoins and flat brick header arches surrounded by barge boards with moulded edges, behind which two purlins are hidden in each pitch (Plate 26 and Plate 27). In each case the outermost window (north-west and south-east) has been partially blocked by a later addition and there is a pair of ceramic vents between the windows. The south-east end returns as a porched timber doorway with a double door, and then again to the north-west, where the build is machine-made brick topped with a finely cut dressed sandstone band and roughcast render above, and the corner is finished with sandstone quoins in a similar style to the band. There is a single window in the north-east and north-west elevations, both with sandstone lintels, the sill being incorporated into the sandstone band. The roof of this return is hipped, with the gable of the earlier section raised above the hipped roof and finished with roughcast render, patches of which are more recent, and it has barge boards with moulded edges (Plate 25).



**Plate 26 (left): North-west end of the earlier phase of the building**



**Plate 27 (right): South-west end of the earlier phase of the building**

4.2.3 The south-east end proper of the elevation continues as modern brick topped with sandstone and roughcast render. There is a single window with a sandstone lintel in the later section with the hipped roof (Plate 25) and there is a slight step in the wall at the junction with the earlier part of the building, which is built from brick laid in Flemish bond topped with a sandstone band and roughcast render above and there are red sandstone quoins at the corner (Plate 28). Within the roughcast section there are two windows, both with red sandstone quoins and lintel, the sill being incorporated into the band below, and there are two iron grill vents between the windows and a double ceramic vent to the north-west. The roof line projects beyond the top of the wall and is supported by a row of rafters, the scrolled ends of which are visible. A pipe is attached at the south-east end held by *fleur de lis* shaped brackets.



Plate 28: South-east end of the south-west elevation

4.2.4 **South-east elevation:** this comprises a row of four gables, the lower parts of all of which are constructed from machine made-red brick laid in Flemish bond, with a band of ashlar red sandstone on top and roughcast render above within which is a row of large windows with metal grilled vents between (Plate 29). Each gable is finished with barge boards with moulded edges, which hide the ends of two purlins in each pitch. The south-western gable has a central large doorway, forming part of the tall window above, but it is evidently an extension from it as there is some rebuild in the jambs within the brickwork (Plate 30). The window has a sandstone lintel and ashlar sandstone quoins. To the north-east of this gable, between it and the next gable, is a recessed section housing a window with ashlar red sandstone quoins, beneath which is modern brick laid in stretcher bond, and above which is a 'Dutch gable' constructed from dressed ashlar red sandstone with a recessed panel below (now with four metal grills cut through) (Plate 31). The three gables to the north-east are all essentially the same, each with three grouped windows, the central one taller than the rest, with dressed stone quoins and flat voussoir arches with a central keystone (Plate 32). The window in the central gable has been extended through the brick work to form a doorway, within which is a UPVC double door with 'Vickerstown Primary School' and 'Welcome to Vickerstown' printed on the glazed sections. There is a stub of brick wall to the north-east of this forming one side of a gateway in a low wall extending to the boundary wall to the south-east. The bricks within this are marked 'FURNESS BRICK CO LTD BARROW'. There are two square-section down pipes between the three gables, with square hoppers decorated with a heart-shaped motif, and a satellite dish is attached on the north-east side.





Plate 29 (left): South-east elevation

Plate 30 (right): South-western gable of the south-east elevation



Plate 31 (left): Recessed section of the south-east elevation

Plate 32 (right): North-east end of the south-east elevation

**4.2.5 North-east elevation:** the south-east end comprises the side of the gable and is entirely finished with roughcast render and has two windows, one large and one small, with concrete sills (Plate 33). There is also a doorway to the north-west accessed via a single concrete step, and with flanking windows, which also have concrete sills. The main part of the elevation to the north-west of this comprises two large gables, the lower part of which is constructed from red machine made brick laid in Flemish bond, perforated by a row of ceramic vents in two styles, above which is a band of red sandstone with roughcast above (Plate 34). The gables are finished with moulded barge boards, which hide the ends of two purlins in each pitch and have sarking underneath. There are four metal grill vents in the roughcast section and each gable has three grouped windows, the central one being taller, with sandstone quoins and lintels. There are two square section downpipes with square hoppers. The elevation returns to the south-west at the north-west end where there is a flight of yellow sandstone



steps with a flanking brick wall on the north-west side topped with stone coping and an iron rail (Plate 35). The steps lead to a doorway with a modern double door with a window over and dressed ashlar red sandstone above, topped with a moulded rail. The wall returns to the north-west at the doorway and forms another gable in a similar style to those to the south-east (Plate 36). Against this is a flight of stone steps accessing the basement via a doorway at the north-west end with a beaded plank and batten door and flat brick arch (Plate 37). To the south-east of this is a wide window with a similar arch and the remains of a four-light casement (Plate 38). Around the stairs is a low brick wall with a stone coping topped with iron railings with an early gate on the south-east side (Plate 38). The north-west side has a more recent gate attached across an opening (Plate 37). An arrangement of I-beam girders is suspended between the wall and the fence over the doorway into the basement with a hook attached (Plate 37). The upper part of the wall has three grouped windows as per those to the south-east and is finished with moulded barge boards. The elevation returns to the south-west and then continues to the north-west as part of a later addition. The later addition comprises a layer of bricks laid in stretcher bond only, topped with a band of pink concrete with roughcast render above and brick quoins at the corners (Plate 39). There is a brick block on the ground at the junction of several down pipes and concrete steps to the north-west, with a brick retaining wall topped with a metal hand rail leading up to a doorway with a UPVC door. There is a single window to the south-east of this.



**Plate 33 (left): South-east end of the north-east elevation**



**Plate 34 (right) Central section of the north-east elevation**



**Plate 35 (left): Doorway in the north-east elevation**



**Plate 36 (right): North-western gable of the north-east elevation and access to the basement**





**Plate 37 (left): Access to the basement**

**Plate 38 (right): Basement window in the north-east elevation**



**Plate 39: North-west end of the north-east elevation**

**4.2.6 North-west elevation:** the north-east side of the elevation is early (Plate 40), the south-west end a later addition (Plate 41). There is a chimney on the north-east side, set back from the elevation, which is square in plan and has a single chimney pot (visible to the back of Plate 40). The lower part of the earlier part of the elevation (as with the remainder of the building) is finished with red machine-made brick laid in Flemish bond, with a row of six windows lighting the basement. Each of these has a flattened brick arch and all of them are now blocked or filled with a slatted metal vent. The brick section is topped with a sandstone band, above which the wall is roughcast rendered. There are two windows in the north-east section, the lintels of which have been re-rendered over (Plate 40). There are two gables near the centre, the north-east one has three grouped windows, the central one being taller, all of which have brick quoins and flattened brick header arched tops. The gables are finished with moulded barge boards,



which hide two purlins per pitch. The south-west gable of the earlier build is largely obscured by a later addition, which returns to the north-west. The return initially comprises a gable, built against the larger earlier one behind, with three grouped windows, the central one being taller, with brick quoins and a header lintel (the earlier gable stands slightly taller than the later addition and is visible to the right hand side in Plate 40; see also Plate 41). The brick is laid in stretcher bond only, topped with a band of pink concrete with roughcast render above and brick quoins at the corners, which continue from the north-east elevation (Plate 41; see also Plate 39). There are chamfered barge boards below the eaves, which hide decorative scrolled purlin ends (similar to those at the south-east end of the south-west elevation; see *Section 4.2.3*). The elevation continues to the south-west of this as a lower section housing three windows with concrete sills and there is a slight step near the centre.



Plate 40 (left): North-east end of the north-west elevation



Plate 41 (right): South-west end of the north-west elevation

**4.2.7 Boundary wall:** the outer boundary is slightly different on all sides, but the majority of it is evidently contemporary with the school and so has been included in the recording. The south-west side comprises modern square-section brick pillars with wrought iron fencing between (Plate 42). The south-east side comprises a series of pillars built of ashlar rock-faced finish sandstone blocks, with low walls between, topped with modern iron railings which incorporate scenes of sporting activities and the words 'VICKERSTOWN SCHOOL' (Plate 43). It includes a large double gate on the south-west side, incorporating similar scenes and the words 'WELCOME TO VICKERSTOWN 1902 2002' (Plate 44), and a smaller pedestrian gate with two steps and low flanking brick walls (Plate 45). The north-east section comprises a lower retaining wall, which is also built of ashlar rock-faced red sandstone, with a concrete skim coping and iron railings (Plate 46 and Plate 47). The north-west section is as per the north-east section at its north-east end (Plate 48), but the rest is constructed from rougher looking apparently handmade brick laid in three rows of stretchers to one of alternating headers and stretchers and has been topped with more recent brick with a textured face and iron railings. The north-east end also has a brick plinth at the base with an angled top and a row of brick buttresses against the north-west face, most of which have been added with more recent brick. A narrow gateway has been inserted where it meets the north-east end of the outbuilding and it continues beyond the south-west end of the outbuilding as more recent brick laid in a similar bond, topped by headers laid on a row of red ceramic tiles (Plate 119).



**Plate 42: South-west boundary wall**



**Plate 43: South-east boundary wall**



**Plate 44 (left): Double gate in the south-east boundary wall**



**Plate 45 (right): Smaller pedestrian gate in the south-east boundary wall**





**Plate 46 (left): South-east end of the north-east boundary wall**



**Plate 47 (right): North-west end of the north-east boundary wall**



**Plate 48: North-east end of the north-west boundary wall**

## 4.3 Internal Detail

**4.3.1 Room 1:** this room has a carpeted floor and a suspended polystyrene tile roof with a further suspended ceiling above supporting insulation. The roof structure and felt is visible above, which is all modern. The walls are plastered and painted and the room has modern heaters and fittings. The concrete block construction is visible above the suspended tiles. There are two four-light windows with modern timber casements and timber sills in the north-west elevation (Plate 49). The north-east elevation is plain apart from a double door leading to a large cupboard inside which there are water pipes against the north-east wall. The south-east elevation has a double door on the north-east side, each door having two glazed sections, and there is a two-light window to the south east (Plate 50). The south-east elevation has a single timber six-light casement window with a timber sill.



**Plate 49 (left): North-west elevation, Room 1**

**Plate 50 (right): East corner, Room 1**

**4.3.2 Room 2:** this room forms the main entrance room and lobby. The floor is a mixture of carpet and vinyl and it has a flat plaster ceiling. The room is subdivided in the south corner to form a toilet and store cupboard. The north-west elevation has a double door with a glazed two-light window in the centre. There is a modern door to the north-east of this, leading to another store cupboard with timber shelves. The north-east elevation has a single door, with two glazed panels, and a stud wall to the south-east with four glazed sections (Plate 51). There are a lot of water pipes attached above it and to the south-east. The south-east elevation has kitchen units against it and is part tiled. The door to the south-west goes into the store with timber shelves in the partitioned section at the south side of the room. The south-west elevation has a doorway to the toilet on the south-east side (Plate 52). The toilet is against the south-east wall and the sink is on the south-west wall with boxing for the pipes. There is a small single-light timber casement window in the toilet. The door to the north-west leads outside. It has two glazed panels and timber surround and is glazed around the south-east side and above.



**Plate 51 (left): Doorway at north-east end of Room 2**

**Plate 52 (right): Doors to toilet and doorway at south-west end of Room 2**



4.3.3 **Room 3:** the floor is carpeted. It has a sloping plastered roof on the north-west and south-east sides and is flat in the centres. There is an access hatch on the north-east side. The roof above is evidently modern. There is a single large timber purlin per pitch and ridge plank. The walls are finished with plaster and paint with pipes and other fittings attached. The north-west elevation is plain with a pin board attached. The north-east elevation has an off centre doorway with a plain surround and no door and boxed pipes above (Plate 53). The original external roughcast rendered wall and brick header arch of the window are visible in the roof space. The window is blocked with concrete blocks. The south-east elevation has a modern doorway in a deep recess to the north-east. The south-west elevation has two four-light windows with modern timber casements and timber sills (Plate 54).



Plate 53 (left): Doorways, east side of Room 3

Plate 54 (right): Windows, south-west elevation, Room 3

4.3.4 **Room 4:** this room has a carpeted floor and suspended foam tile ceiling with a further suspended ceiling above supporting insulation. The roof structure above this is modern. The walls are finished with plaster and painted. The north-west elevation has a single three-light window, with a timber casement and sill (Plate 55). The north-east elevation is plain. The south-east elevation has a wide central opening into Room 5 (Plate 56). The south-west elevation has a four-light glazed section to the south-east and two-light door. There is a further door at the north-west end into the gas meter room, which has pipes against the north-west elevation.



Plate 55 (left): North-west end of Room 4

Plate 56 (right): South-east end of Room 4

**4.3.5 Room 5:** this room is subdivided on the south-east side by a stud wall. The north-west part is finished with carpet but the south-east side of the room, the kitchen space, is covered in vinyl. There is a suspended foam tile ceiling to both parts. Above this the original ceiling is plastered and slopes down to the north-west with a single moulded north-east/south-west beam at the change in angle. The walls are mostly finished with plaster and painted but some are tiled over the lower part and there is moulded skirting in the north-west section. The north-west elevation has a large central opening into Room 4 and is tiled along the lower part. The lower part of the north-east elevation is also tiled. A large opening on the south-east side of this elevation has been filled in with a stud wall, leaving three lights above (Plate 57). The dividing stud wall forming the south-east elevation has the same skirting and a door to the south-west side leads through to the kitchen space to the south-east. The kitchen units are along the south-east elevation. The row of small windows continues along the top of the north-east elevation from the space to the north-west. The south-east elevation proper is tiled in part and there is a dado rail above the suspended ceiling. The south-west elevation proper has a doorway on the south-east side but no door. The north-west side has a return (possibly a chimneybreast; Plate 58) and the lower part is tiled. There is a large recess or opening visible in the roof space on the south-east side with a chamfered surround.



**Plate 57 (left): High-level windows in north-east elevation within blocked doorway**

**Plate 58 (right): Chimney breast in south-west elevation**

**4.3.6 Room 6:** this room is mostly carpeted but has a vinyl floor in the west corner. The ceiling is flat and plastered with a boxed north-east/south-west beam along the north-west side. The walls are painted concrete block. The north-west elevation is plain and partly tiled on the south-west side. The north-east elevation is open below a concrete beam with a stud wall filling the north-west side and a door with a single light to the south-east. There is a further door on the south-east side into a cupboard with timber shelves. The south-east elevation is plain. The south-west elevation has a single four-light window with a timber casement and sill (Plate 59).

**4.3.7 Room 7:** this room has a carpeted floor and suspended foam tile ceiling. Above this there is a suspended ceiling for insulation and then the modern roof structure. The walls are plastered and painted. The north-west elevation is plain and the north-east elevation has a single doorway on the north-west side. The south-east elevation has a single four-light timber casement window with a timber sill and the south-west elevation has two four-light windows in the same style (Plate 60).



**Plate 59 (left): West corner of Room 6**



**Plate 60 (right): South corner of Room 7**

**4.3.8 Room 8:** this room comprises an L-shaped corridor, the larger section forming a north-east/south-west corridor leading to Room 12. It has mostly red quarry tile finishing the floor with a black band round the edge (Plate 61) although the north-east end is a parquet floor. It has a flat plaster ceiling, which is higher in the corridor. The walls are mainly finished with plaster and paint, although below a moulded rail glazed bricks in bands of mustard yellow, blue, and brown are present (Plate 62), and with a dividing double door part way down the corridor (Plate 61). The north-west elevation of the main section has a doorway to the south-west with a modern single light and plain surrounds in a deep recess. There is a further doorway to the north-east, the door housing a metal grill, which leads to a toilet. The toilet has a vinyl floor and plain walls and ceiling. The toilet is against the north-west side of the room and there is a sink to the north-east. To the north-east there is a wide doorway in the corridor, with a plain surround and taller original opening above (Plate 61). The south-east elevation of the entrance hall has a large double door, with one light in each, and a glazed surround. The wall returns to the south-west and then back to the north-west where there is another door with a single light and plain surround. The north-west elevation has a doorway on the south-west side with a grill and plain surround. This leads to a small toilet as per that to the south-west. There is a large window to the north-east, with a flat arched top, which is divided into 11 lights (Plate 62). It has a timber casement. The wall below has a moulded rail at sill level, running beyond to the north-east and south-west, with the glazed coloured bricks exposed below. These continue to the north-east and south-west, but are painted white to the south-west. The north-east elevation comprises just a double door, with a single light in each, and a moulded rail below, forming a panel. The south-east elevation is plain apart from a moulded rail and coloured tiles as per the north-west elevation. The south-west elevation has a doorway on the south-east side to Room 7, with a single light and plain surround.





**Plate 61 (left): General view of Room 8, from the north-east**

**Plate 62 (right): Glazed bricks visible along the north-east section of the north-west elevation, Room 8**

**4.3.9 Room 9:** this is one of the large classrooms off the main hall (Room 12). It has a hatch, presumably at one stage for cellar access, on the north-west side. It has a pitched roof on the north-east and south-west sides, with 'principals' from the corners and plain purlins along the north-east and south-west sides and an additional moulded 'purlin' and lower ovolo-moulded cornice below that. It is flat in the centre where there is a rectangular panel or grill. There is a single north-east/south-west truss across the centre with a collar held to the principal rafters with a fork-ended iron strap bolted on (Plate 63 and Plate 64). Below this, timber bracing is fixed to the underside of the principals, forming a rounded arch with a chamfered edge. This in turn is sat on a scrolled bracket on the north-east side, with a moulded plinth/cornice (Plate 65). There is also a tie rod running between the principals and connecting to the king tie rod. The walls are plaster and paint finished and have pin boards attached, although the lower part is painted brick. The north-west elevation has a tall, four-light timber casement window on the south-west side, with a timber sill and moulded rail below, above tiles (Plate 66). These continue below the adjacent larger window, which has a six-light timber casement. There is a further two-light window to the north-east, which has evidently been extended to form a door. The jambs appear to have been rebuilt in brick, but the moulded band continues round. The north-east elevation has a double doorway on the north-west side with a single light and moulded bands added to form a single panel in each. This is probably cutting through the tiles, so it is likely inserted. The south-east elevation has a wide doorway on the north-east side, with two lights and two moulded panels and moulded edges round the lights (Plate 67). The surround is plain but bull-nosed and the moulded band continues around it (but not onto the north-east elevation). There is a large, 11-light window to the south-west, with a rounded arch. There is an added stepped concrete skim over the south-west side of the tiles at floor level and boxing for pipes in the south corner. The south-west elevation is plain apart from an attached bench or desk and a narrow high level five-light window (Plate 68).





**Plate 63 (left): The south-west end of the truss, Room 9**



**Plate 64 (right): The north-east end of the truss, Room 9**



**Plate 65 (left): Detail of north-east corbel, Room 9**



**Plate 66 (right): North-west elevation, Room 9, showing windows and doorway**



**Plate 67 (left): South-east elevation, Room 9, showing doorway and window**



**Plate 68 (right): South-west elevation, Room 9, showing high-level windows**

**4.3.10 Room 10:** the floor is carpeted on the north-east and there is a thin vinyl strip on the south-west side. It has a pitched roof and a plaster finish and a flat top, with two boxed north-west/south-east purlins. The walls are finished with plaster and paint and there is moulded skirting along the walls. The north-west elevation has a large group of three timber casement windows with timber sills, two six-light ones either side a central taller 12-light window (Plate 69). There is a doorway on the north-west side of the north-east elevation with a plain surround and modern timber door with a single light. There is a shelved cupboard attached to the centre and a small two-light, timber casement window with a timber sill to the south-east end. The south-east elevation has a doorway on one side, with a modern door, with four lights and a plain surround, infilling a larger opening with two lights over. There are two large windows to the south-west, a nine-light and four-light timber casement, and a bench attached below (Plate 70). A boiler is attached in the west corner. The south-west elevation is plain and has pin boards and a bench with a sink attached. There is a hatch in the floor in the east corner.



**Plate 69 (left): North-west elevation, Room 10**



**Plate 70 (right): South-east elevation, Room 10**

**4.3.11 Room 11:** this room has a carpeted floor and a pitched roof finished with plaster with principals from all corners and purlins on the north-east, south-east and south-west sides and moulded rail above and ovolo-moulded cornice below a single north-east/south-west truss as per that in Room 9, but with scrolled corbels on both ends. There is a square moulded panel in the flat section of the ceiling, possibly a light position. The walls are mostly plaster and paint finished but the lower part is painted glazed brick rather than tiles. The north-west elevation has a central three part window with flattened arches, and



there is a single vent on either side with a plain hinged metal cover with an emblem on the front. Smaller six-light casements flank the taller 12-light central one (Plate 71). All of the windows have timber casements and timber sills and there is a moulded rail below, extending across the elevation, which appears to have originally continued across the north-east and south-west elevations too. In addition, there is a short extra section of rail on the west side of the north-west and south-east elevations, above the line of the main rail. There is some patched plaster over bricks on the south-west side. The north-east elevation has a large inserted opening to the north-west with a plain surround. There are work benches to the south-east. The south-east elevation has a doorway on the north-east side and the original wide door with two glazed panels and two moulded panels below (Plate 72). There is a projecting section in the east corner, which the bricks and moulded rail run round, respecting the door. The door is set within a large window with an arched top and a nine-light timber casement. There is a further round-headed 11-light window to the south-west. There is a further raised section of moulded rail in the south corner, hidden by boxing for pipes but not obviously continuing to the south-west elevation. The south-west elevation is mostly plain, with bricks visible to a higher level, but the lower part is patched with plaster. A doorway on the north-west side houses a double door with a single light in each and moulded panels. The doorway appears to be inserted. There is a small room leading off the north-east side of Room 11 (Room 11a) via a large opening. It has a vinyl floor and a flat plastered ceiling but the end of the truss is sat on a corbel on the north-east end and north-west side. The room is further divided by a modern stud wall forming a toilet along the north-east side. The walls are mostly plastered and painted. The lower part of the north-west elevation is painted brick, with a moulded dado along the top. There is a work bench with a sink attached and a boiler to the north-east. There is a central two-light very plain timber casement window and a similar window in the toilet. The north-east elevation has a stud wall with a plain modern door on the south-east side. Inside the toilet the wall proper is plain with partitions for cubicles attached and there is a sink in the east corner. The south-east elevation is a plain stud wall, with a door on the south-west side which is plain and modern. The south-west elevation has large opening to Room 11, which has a plain surround and a dado rail above.

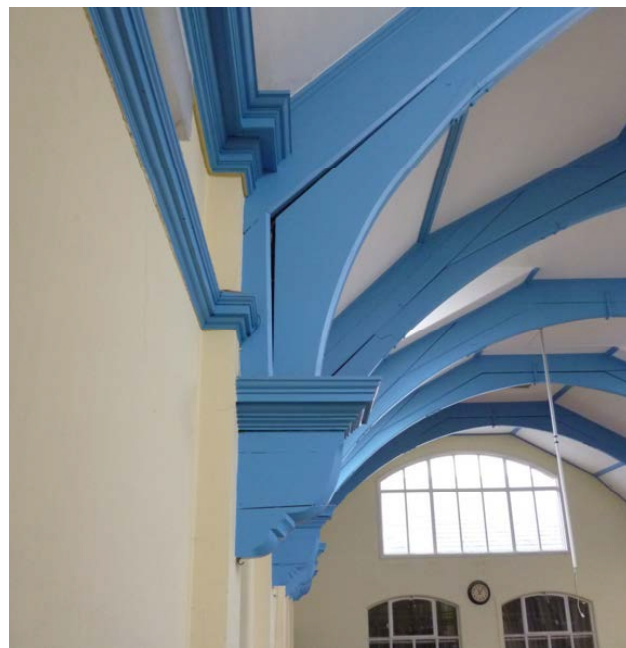


**Plate 71 (left): Windows in the north-west elevation, Room 11**

**Plate 72 (right): Windows and doors in the south-east elevation, Room 11**

**4.3.12 Room 12:** this is the main hall. It has parquet floor which is marked out as sports pitches and there are some iron fixings set into this. The roof is finished with plaster and pitched to the south-west and north-east, with two grills in the flat top section. It is supported by five trusses, each truss being

principals and collars with added bracing forming the arches (Plate 73; Figure 3). The braces are held with iron straps and bolts and sit on chamfered scrolled brackets with moulded entablatures (Plate 74). The upper part is obscured by the pitched sections and ceiling. The walls are largely plaster and paint, but the lower part is glazed bricks in bands of pale blue, yellow and brown, topped with a moulded timber rail which forms the window sills. The north-west elevation has a doorway on the south-west side and a moulded surround, with a door with two lights, moulded surrounds and two moulded panels. It is original as the bricks and rail respect it (Plate 75). There is a central large window to the north-east in the same style, with moulded casements, but with nine lights and incorporating a doorway with moulded surround and two glazed sections and two moulded panels. Again, this is original as the brickwork and banding respects it. The north-east elevation has a doorway on the north-west side, with a modern plain double door with three lights set into an earlier timber opening with a rounded head. This leads into a cupboard with shelving to the north-west and south-east sides. The main part comprises a row of combined doors and windows and windows between projecting pillars supporting corbels for the trusses. The north-west window is 15-light casement, then there is a nine-light casement window and a door with two glazed and two raised moulded panels, then an 11-light casement window, then a window with 13 lights and a doorway as per the previous one. All the windows have timber casements and moulded surrounds and there is a further double door at the south-east end, which leads into Room 18. The door is modern and plain and set into a taller opening with a rounded top. The south-east elevation has cupboards built against the north-east side and there is a wide doorway on the north-east side, which is modern. The door has gone but it was glazed above and to the north-east (Plate 76). There is a large window to the south-west. Originally a six-light window, the lower three sections are covered by the cupboard. There is another cupboard to the south-west. There is a large 14-light window at the top of the elevation, with a rounded head (which is the same as on the north-west elevation). Also, there are two high level eight-light windows in the north-east elevation. The south-west elevation has a modern doorway, with surrounding glazed panels on the south-east side, set in a taller opening with a rounded head (Plate 77). The main part is a row of large windows and windows and doors spanning the centre. It is divided by buttresses/pillars supporting brackets for trusses. The south-east window is a 15-light casement, next there is a nine-light window incorporating a door with two lights and two raised moulded panels, then an 11-light window, and then a 13-light window incorporating a similar door (Plate 78). There is an arched opening at the north-west end infilled below with a later double door, with a raised panel and single light in each and three lights over. There are two high level eight-light windows over the central opening below as per the north-east elevation.



**Plate 73 (left): Trusses in Room 12**

**Plate 74 (right): Detail of corbel end, south-west side, Room 12**





**Plate 75 (left): North-west end of Room 12**



**Plate 76 (right): South-east end of Room 12**



**Plate 77 (left): South-east end of the south-west elevation, Room 12**



**Plate 78 (right): North-west end of the south-west elevation, Room 12**

**4.3.13 Room 13:** this room is carpeted apart from a section in the south corner. The walls are mostly plaster and paint and painted glazed bricks are exposed in the lower part. It has a pitched roof to the north-west and south-east and is finished with plaster. There is a single plain purlin in each pitch and a moulded rail above with ovolo-moulded cornice below. The ceiling is flat at the top with a raised panel possibly for a light or for access. There is a single north-west/south-east truss, principals and collar with large straps and braces added below to form an arch sat on scrolled corbels with moulded entablatures and tie rods and tie king rod as well. The walls are plaster and paint, with painted brick along the lower part, topped with a moulded rail in most places and with moulded dado rail to the north-west and south-east. The north-west elevation is plain with a low bench attached. The north-east elevation has a moulded rail throughout, with two large windows as per Room 12, the north-west incorporating a door with moulded panels. The south-east elevation is plain with side units and a sink in the south corner. Some of the brick is plastered over along the floor. The south-west elevation has a group of three windows, two smaller ones and a taller central one. The south-east one has six lights and the central one has twelve, but the north-west one is now partially blocked forming just two lights. They all have timber casements and timber sills.



**Plate 79 (left): South-east end of truss, Room 13**



**Plate 80 (right): North-west end of truss, Room 13**



**Plate 81 (left): North-east elevation, Room 13**



**Plate 82 (right): South-west elevation, Room 13**

**4.3.14 Room 14:** the floor is carpeted apart from an area of vinyl in the south corner. The roof and ceiling are the same as per Room 13, with a single elaborate truss on corbels. The walls are mostly plaster and paint finished, but the glazed brick is unpainted in this room. The north-west elevation is plain and covered by fibreboard sheets and there is a moulded dado rail at the top. The north-east elevation has a large window incorporating a door on the north-west side. The door has two moulded panels and moulded surrounds to glazed areas. The door is respected by the moulded rail which runs the length of the elevation. There is a further large window to the south-east. The glazed brick pattern steps up at the south-east end and it has stepped concrete at the base (Plate 83). There is a raised patch of glazed brick at the south-east end with a further moulded band. The south-east elevation is mostly plain with a moulded dado rail and a band above tiles. The lower part is finished with a projecting skim of concrete with rough brick behind. There is a unit with sinks on the south-west side. The south-west elevation has a raised patch of glazed bricks with a rail on the south-east side matching those to the north-east (Plate 84). There were originally three grouped windows, with flattened arches. The lower part of the south-east window is now blocked leaving only the upper two lights. The central window is a very tall 12-light casement and the north-west window is a nine-light casement. All of the windows have timber casements and timber sills with a moulded rail below. There are two hinged vents, one either side of the windows.





**Plate 83 (left): Stepped bricks and concrete, south-east side, north-east elevation, Room 14**

**Plate 84 (right): Stepped bricks and concrete, south-east side, south-west elevation, Room 14**

**4.3.15 Room 15:** this comprises a group of rooms around a former changing room and includes part of the corridor and toilets. It mainly has a vinyl floor and some carpet and there are low timber walls along the north-west side screening the changing area. The room has a flat plaster ceiling but the end of the truss is visible on the south-west side, the corbel matching that in Room 11a. The room is divided by a stud wall on the south-west side. The north-west elevation is a plain stud wall in the centre with doorways to Room 11a at the south-west end and leading to a toilet at the north-east end. The wall proper is painted brick inside the room with the toilet and forming the cubicle walls. The north-east elevation is painted brick and has a grill vent on the north-west side. There is a four-light window in the toilet and a further six-light window and four-light window to the south-east, beyond the stud wall (Plate 85). All of the windows have timber casements and timber sills and a rail below. There is a unit with a sink below along the north-east elevation which returns to the south-west to a large opening, with a plain surround. The rail is cut, which possibly means that the opening is inserted. There is a hinged vent just to the south-east of the window on the north-east elevation. To the south-east of the return wall is a modern glazed area with a door forming a porch to the external door, which is modern timber with three lights over. The doorway is respected by the bricks and rail. The south-east elevation of this area has a glazed panel on the north-east side then a large opening to Room 16 with a plain surround. This returns to north-west at the south-west end and through the opening where there is stud wall filling the gap. There is painted brick with plain rail to the south-west. Continuing into a cupboard, the brick is not painted here (Plate 86) and there is a former doorway now blocked and just forming an alcove. The south-west elevation has a stud wall but the elevation proper inside the cupboard is plain and unpainted brick with a moulded rail above with boxing in the south corner. The north-west side of the cupboard has plain shelving and there is a further cupboard to north-west. Glazed brick is also visible along the south-west elevation but it is otherwise plain. The roof space over the south cupboard reveals the truss and the roof is as per Rooms 13 and 14. The windows to the north-east were much taller originally.





**Plate 85 (left): Windows in the north-east elevation, Room 15**



**Plate 86 (right): Original glazed bricks remaining the cupboard, south corner of Room 15**

4.3.16 **Room 16:** this room has a carpeted floor and low stud walling in the north corner subdividing the room. The roof is as per Rooms 13 and 14, with a north-west/south-east truss (Plate 87 and Plate 88). The north-west corbel has been removed or was never present with only the entablature remaining (Plate 89). The entablature of the south-east has been sawn off on the south-west side (Plate 90). The flat top section of the ceiling has two grilled openings. The walls are mostly plaster and paint finished, with painted brick over most of the lower parts. The north-west elevation is plain apart from a large opening (Plate 91) in the centre with a glazed section on the north-east side connecting with the porch between Rooms 15 and 16 (Plate 92). The north-east elevation has a raised patch of brickwork with a rail on the north-west side apparently continuing onto the north-west elevation. There is a hinged vent above and three windows across the centre, two six-light and a 12-light timber casement window, with timber sills and a moulded rail below. The south-east elevation is plain and has a low unit attached with fibreboard over. The south-west elevation has a nine-light window on the south-east side and a door with two moulded panels and a round head. There are similar windows to the north-west with 15 lights.



**Plate 87 (left): North-west end of truss, Room 16**



**Plate 88 (right): South-east end of truss, Room 16**



**Plate 89 (left): Damaged corbel, north-west end of truss, Room 16**



**Plate 90 (right): Damaged corbel, south-east end of truss, Room 16**



**Plate 91 (left): Opening in the north-west elevation, Room 16**



**Plate 92 (right): Porch in the space between Room 15 and Room 16**

4.3.17 **Room 17:** this room has a carpeted floor apart from a vinyl section in the north corner. The roof is as per Room 16, with a single north-west/south-east truss and plain purlin, moulded purlin, and cornice (see also Figure 3). The walls are plaster and painted and painted over brick in the lower parts with

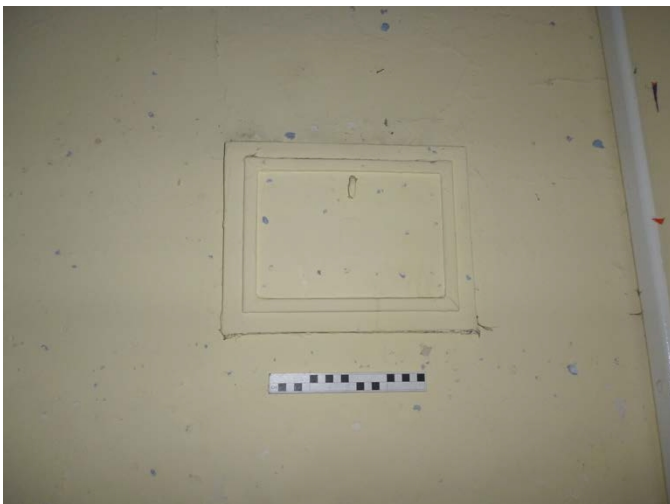


remnants of moulded rail along most elevations. The north-west elevation is plain, with concrete or plaster skim over the lower part and a sink unit in the north corner (Plate 93). The north-east elevation has a raised moulded rail on the north-west side with brick below and a concrete skim at the base (Plate 94). There is a hinged vent cover above. There is a group of three windows across the centre; the two either side have six-light casements and the centre one has 12. Each window has timber casements and a timber sill and rail below. There is a hinged vent cover to the south east which is still working (Plate 95 and Plate 96). The south-east elevation is plain and has a work bench attached and is covered by fibreboard with a moulded dado rail above. The south-west elevation has a large 13-light window in a round head with a door on the south-east side with two glazed panels and two moulded. There is a further 11-light window to the north-west. Both use the moulded rail as sill.



**Plate 93 (left): North-west elevation, Room 17**

**Plate 94 (right): Rail and concrete, north-west end of north-east elevation, Room 18**



**Plate 95 (left): Hinged vent cover on south-east side of north-east elevation, Room 17, closed**

**Plate 96 (right): Hinged vent cover on south-east side of north-east elevation, Room 17, open**

4.3.18 **Room 18:** this is a narrow room, forming little more than a corridor. It has a vinyl floor and suspended ceiling, the original plaster ceiling above with arch corresponding to buttresses on the north-



west and south-east walls (Plate 97). The walls are finished with plaster and painted. There are scars for kitchen fittings and pipes and cables throughout. The north-west and south-east elevations are plain apart from the projecting buttresses. The north-east elevation has a UPVC door and glazed flanks and six-lights over, timber, evidently extended from a window (Plate 98). The south-west elevation comprises only stud wall infilling a wide opening with a modern double door (Plate 97).



**Plate 97 (left): South-west end of Room 18, showing the arched central opening**

**Plate 98 (right): North-east end of Room 18**

**4.3.19 Room 19:** the floor is finished with carpet and the room is sub-divided in two by stud walls, originally housing three glazed panels and a doorway, all of which have now been removed (Plate 100). There was a suspended ceiling, but most of this has been removed, leaving only the timber frame, and the original roof structure is visible above. This comprises a single truss orientated north-west/south-east as per those in the adjoining rooms, with a single plain purlin, moulded purlin and moulded cornice visible against the plaster ceiling. The walls are all finished with plaster and paint although the lower part is painted brick below a moulded rail. The north-west elevation has a blocked opening on the south-west side, which is respected by the rail and bricks and so is likely to be original. It was presumably a doorway but it now has a shelf mid-way up and is covered by later cupboards (Plate 100). The rest of the elevation is plain. The north-east elevation has a window with a six-light timber casement on the north-west side and another with a single-light casement in the centre, both of which have timber sills. The dividing stud wall butts against it to the south-east of the smaller window and beyond this is the original finish of the wall, with moulded rail and brick visible behind later cupboards. The south-east elevation has two windows both of which are partially truncated by the suspended ceiling, and originally comprised part of a large grouped three part window (Plate 101). The outer parts have four lights remaining and two obscured above the suspended ceiling, while the larger has six lights with a further 12 obscured above the ceiling. All of the windows have a timber sill above the moulded rail and the stud wall to the south-west has a large opening. The south-west elevation proper is formed by a stud wall, which returns to the north-east where it forms the back of a cupboard containing electrical fuse boxes and equipment relating to the alarm system. North-west of the internal stud wall the elevation comprises a section of stud wall that formerly had five lights and a door, but these are now missing.



**Plate 99 (left): General view of Room 19, showing the dividing walls and north-east elevation**

**Plate 100 (right): Blocked doorway, south-west side of north-west elevation, Room 19**



**Plate 101 (left): Tops of windows obscured by a suspended ceiling, south-east elevation, Room 19**

**Plate 102 (right): Internal stud walls forming entrance corridor and flanking rooms, Room 20**

4.3.20 **Room 20:** this comprises a short corridor leading to what was originally the main entrance from the south-east, which is sub-divided to form offices either side of the corridor (Plate 102). The floor is finished with carpet and the ceiling covered by suspended panels, although much of this has been



removed exposing the timber frame and the original roof structure above. This comprises a single truss orientated north-west/south-east as per those in the adjoining rooms, with the same arrangement of purlins, cornice, and plasterwork. The central section of the roof is flat and fitted with a grilled panel. The walls are largely finished with plaster and paint and there are several internal divisions, which form an L-shaped corridor with rooms on either side. All of the internal doorways have modern plain doorways, the doors having been removed, and there are hatches in the rooms to the south-west. There is a dividing wall with two lights over a doorway across the corridor. The north-west elevation has a wide window on the south-west side with a fixed six-light casement, above which the wall has been stripped to reveal that it is set in a larger opening with a rounded brick header arch, rebated to fit the original glazing (Plate 103). To the north-east is a similar glazed opening with a doorway, also set within a taller opening with a brick header arch with rebate. The north-east elevation has a glazed section on the north-west side with a doorway set below a moulded beam, orientated north-west/south-east, which continues beyond the stud walling between two buttresses within the north-west and south-east walls which support the truss. The south-east end of the elevation was apparently originally open to Room G19, beyond the beam, but this space is now filled with a later stud wall. The south-east elevation has three large grouped windows, divided by the stud walls forming the entrance corridor. In each case the lower lights are still open while the upper ones are obscured behind the suspended ceiling and the central part incorporates a double doorway with glazed panels and lights above (three in use, six more obscured). At the south-west end of the elevation there is a short length of moulded rail set high between the window and the south corner. The south-west elevation has the moulded rail and painted brick seen elsewhere, although on the north-west side this is partially obscured by stud walls forming two cupboards (Plate 104).



**Plate 103 (left): Top of earlier arch over window, north-west elevation, Room 20**

**Plate 104 (right): Cupboards, north-west side of south-west elevation, showing painted brickwork, Room 20**

**4.3.21 Room 21:** this comprises an L-shaped corridor linking Room 12 with rooms to the south and south-west, and includes a range of small rooms along the south-west side. Initially the floor is parquet but it is mostly finished with red tiles with a black edging band, although this is covered by vinyl tiles over the south section. The ceiling is flat painted plaster with a later suspended ceiling to the south-west and there is a large rounded arch mid way along the north-east/south-west arm of the corridor (Plate 105) and a dividing doorway to the south-west of this with three lights over and glazed side panels. The south-west end of the elevation ends with a modern door into a toilet, which is internally sub-divided to form a lobby and main room. The main room has a window with a three-light casement in the north-west elevation proper, and a single light casement in the return to the south-east. The lobby has a window with a single light casement, before returning to the north-west where there is a doorway with a modern door with a glazed panel and single light over and glazed panel to the south-west. The return of the wall to the north-east of this has lost some plaster due to damp, exposing the original external roughcast render and a vent. The north-east side of the north-west elevation is plain, and comprises unpainted glazed tiles below a moulded rail, with a buttress supporting the rounded arch and modern wall forming the internal wall against it. The north-east elevation comprises only a tall opening with later infilling



housing a modern doorway with three lights over and flanking lights (Plate 105). The south-east elevation has a single large window, with a moulded 11-light timber casement and a timber sill above a moulded rail with the original glazed bricks exposed below. There is a further window with a seven-light casement to the south-west, which incorporates a doorway into Room 24 (Plate 106). This houses a door with two lights and moulded panels. There is a slight return to the north-west then two doorways with plain doors. The first of these leads to a wheelchair accessible toilet with a modern sliding door, which is part-tiled internally, has a toilet and sink, and a modern suspended ceiling. The second doorway leads into a small cupboard, which has shelves along the south-west side, and a sink and boiler to the south-east. The south-west elevation then returns to the south-east, where there is another modern doorway with a plain modern door into an almost entirely tiled room, with a high shelf on the north-east side. The elevation finally returns to the south-west where there is a modern door with two lights. The south-west elevation is a stud wall housing a large high-level three-light window and two doorways, both with modern doors. The south-east of these leads to a small plain room with raised boxing around the base of the wall and a grill vent and a window with a four-light timber casement and sill with a modern sink unit on the south-east side. The room to the north-west forms a toilet and is sub-divided into a small lobby and main room which a urinal and cubicles. There is a window with a two-light casement on the south-east side, which actually forms part of the window in the room to the south-east, and there is a further window with a four-light casement to the north-west of this and a grill vent between the two windows.



**Plate 105 (left): North-east end of Room 21, showing the divided opening and higher arch over the doorway into Room 12**

**Plate 106 (right): Glazed bricks and window with door, south-east side of Room 21**

**4.3.22 Room 22:** this forms one of two small rooms at the south-east end of Room 21. The floor is finished with carpet and the ceiling covered by a later suspended tile, above which the roof structure could be partially observed revealing a relatively early purlin. The walls are finished with plaster and paint and there is a tall skirting board throughout. The north-west elevation is plain apart from a doorway on the north-east side with two lights. The north-east elevation has a doorway with a sliding door with a single light on the north-west side. The south-east elevation has a central aperture, the lower part housing a door with a single light and one light to the south-west, above which are three lights (Plate

107), with the original height of the window obscured by the suspended ceiling. The south-west elevation has a window with a six-light casement, again extending above the suspended ceiling.



**Plate 107 (left): Doorway and window, south-east elevation, Room 22**

**Plate 108 (right): General view of south-east end of Room 23**

**4.3.23 Room 23:** this forms a wet room and toilet. The floor is finished with vinyl and the ceiling obscured by a later suspended plaster ceiling with a boxed beam running across it north-east/south-west. The walls are half finished with tiles, and half with plaster and paint. All of the walls are essentially plain. There is a window with a six-light casement in the south-east elevation, which again extends above the level of the ceiling, with a toilet attached in front (Plate 108). There is a sink and units attached to the south-west elevation and a doorway with a sliding door to the north-west.

**4.3.24 Room 24:** the floor is covered by carpet and the roof structure is exposed, with a single truss orientated north-east/south-west with the associated arrangement of purlins and cornice as per the similarly sized classrooms. The walls are largely finished with plaster and paint with painted brick over the lower part. The west corner is at a 45 degree angle relative to the rest of the walls. The north-west elevation has a moulded rail along the top of the painted brick, which forms the sill of two large windows, a seven-light casement incorporating a doorway and an 11-light casement, both of which have rounded heads (Plate 109). The north-east elevation is relatively plain with a sink unit on the south-east side and the lower part is covered by beaded tongue and groove boxing with a moulded lip below the top board and there is a moulded dado or picture rail set high on the wall. The south-east elevation has two hinged iron vent covers, one on either side of a three-part central window with a pair of six-light casements flanking a central 12-light casement, the top six of which are obscured. The moulded rail continues to the north-east side of the windows but there is a separate short section above this, as per the similar rooms (Plate 110). The south-west elevation is plain, with a modern workbench against it and a moulded dado rail as per the north-east elevation.

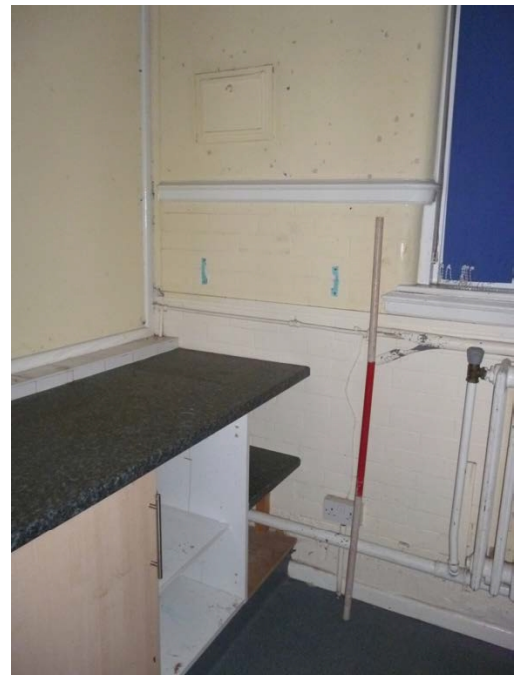


Plate 109 (left): North-west elevation, Room 24

Plate 110 (right): Raised rail and vent, south-east elevation, Room 24

4.3.25 **Basement:** this is divided into two similarly-sized rooms, north-east and south-west of a dividing wall. The south-west room forms a single space with a concrete floor and modern plaster ceiling with two beams north-west/south-east across it, which are boxed and similarly plastered. The walls are all exposed brick with traces of whitewash. The brick is relatively rough and contains large gravel inclusions compared to the finish visible externally and is laid in English garden wall bond at a ratio of three rows of stretchers to one row of headers. There are pipes set against the south-west and south-east elevations. The north-west elevation has a row of three windows, the central one slightly wider, and all of them have flat brick arches. The two to the south-west are blocked or filled with board, leaving just an alcove. The other is partially blocked with relatively modern brick with a metal grill on top. The north-east elevation is essentially plain; there is a doorway on the north-west side with an iron I-beam lintel, plain surround, and modern plank door, with timber stud infill to the north-west. There is a projecting buttress in the east corner, which continues to the south-east elevation. The south-east elevation is essentially plain, but the buttress at the north-east end has pipes/ducting entering at the top and an iron hatch with a handle marked 'IVO DRAUGHT STABILIZER' and 'IVO ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD. LONDON. W. 12'. The words 'CHIMNEY[?] FLUE CLEAR OUT YEARLY' have been written across it in chalk. The south-west elevation is plain although it has pipes attached across it.



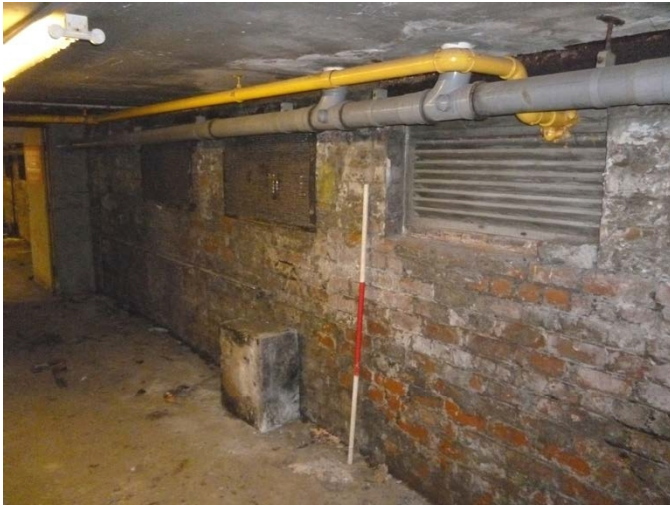


**Plate 111 (left): Windows, north-west elevation of the south-west room of the basement**



**Plate 112 (right): Vent cover in the east corner of the south-west room of the basement**

4.3.26 The north-east room of the basement also has a concrete floor and a concrete ceiling supported by iron I-beams and is sub-divided by relatively modern concrete block walls, which do not extend the full height of the room. The room forms three spaces with boilers and associated equipment on the south-east side. The north-west elevation has a row of three windows with flat arched tops, the south-western two are covered with iron mesh, behind which are the remains of two and three-light timber casements, the north-east is filled with a slatted timber grill. A single iron beam forms the lintel to all three. The north-east elevation has a doorway on the north-west side with a plain surround and heavy plank and batten door, the space to the south-east is infilled with rough boards. To the south-east of this is a wide window with a flat arched top and four-light timber casement. An iron beam again forms the lintel to the doorway and window. To the south-east of the window there is a large aperture with an iron I-beam lintel with a row of headers above and a sloping base inside. This was presumably originally a coal chute accessed externally. The south-east elevation is plain, with boilers and associated fittings sat against it. The south-west elevation has pipes and associated fittings attached on the north-west side and a doorway to the north-west of the dividing concrete block wall. Within the cellar there was a loose brick marked '½[?] W.E' on one of the north-west window sills.



**Plate 113 (left): Windows in the north-west elevation of the north-east room of the basement**



**Plate 114 (right): Doorway and window in the north-east elevation of the north-east room of the basement**



**Plate 115: Coal chute in the north-east elevation of the north-east room of the basement**



Figure 2: Plan of the basement and ground floor



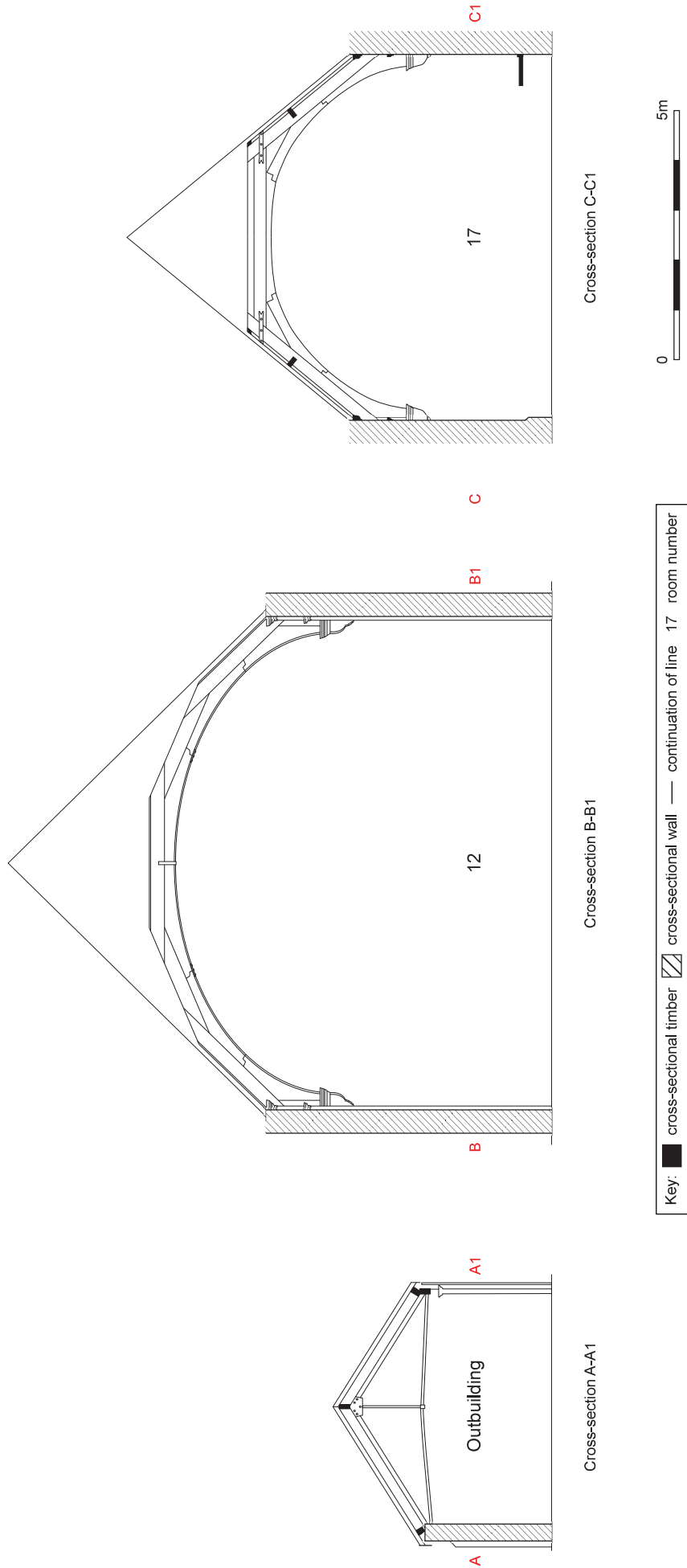


Figure 3: Cross-sections A-A1, B-B1, and C-C1

## 4.4 Outbuilding

**4.4.1 External elevations:** the south-west elevation comprises the gable, finished with roughcast render, and has a large doorway with a tongue and groove plank and batten door (Plate 116). The south-east elevation is also finished with roughcast render, although in two different shades, with a plain barge board and a corrugated fibreglass roof (Plate 117). There is a doorway south-west of the centre with a plank and batten double door and plain surround and two small high-level windows at the north-east end with single-light timber casements. Attached at the north-east end is a projecting canopy with a clear plastic corrugated roof supported by an iron frame. Some early brick is exposed at the north-east end, which continues into the north-east elevation (Plate 118). This is constructed from rough, apparently hand-made brick laid in five courses of stretchers to one of alternating headers and stretchers and has a buttress against the north corner, which forms part of the boundary wall. The north-west elevation is constructed from similar brick in three rows of stretchers to one of alternating headers and stretchers, which blend into the more modern bricks at the south-west end (Plate 119). There are five buttresses with sloping tops against the north-west elevation, one of which, at the south-west end, is modern.



**Plate 116 (left): South-west elevation of the outbuilding**



**Plate 117 (right): South-east elevation of the outbuilding**



**Plate 118 (left): North-east elevation of the outbuilding**



**Plate 119 (right): North-west elevation of the outbuilding**

**4.4.2 Internal detail:** the building is divided into two spaces internally (Figure 2), the south-west within what is clearly a later addition. The north-east room has a tarmac floor and the roof structure comprises two iron strut trusses with L-shaped beams forming the principal rafters and tie rods forming the king post and tie beam, which divides at each end around the end of the principal rafters (Plate 120; see Figure 3). There is a single machine-cut timber purlin per pitch and a ridge plank. A second purlin is present on each side, effectively forming the wall plate. All of the walls are brick, apart from the south-east wall. The north-west elevation is brick laid in three rows of stretcher bond to one row of alternating headers and stretcher. It is essentially plain apart from a row of three pieces of dressed sandstone with a chamfered edge, each c1m long, set into it close to ground level (Plate 121). The north-east elevation is a plain gable comprising brick laid in five rows of stretchers to one row of alternating headers and stretchers (Plate 120). A vertical iron strap is attached north-west of the centre and the upper part of the north-west side butts the north-west elevation. The south-east elevation was clearly originally open-fronted, with an iron I-beam spanning the whole elevation, with a beaded plank above, now supported by two iron columns, but presumably originally more, and the space filled with concrete blocks (Plate 122 and Plate 123). The columns have round capitals with flanges (Plate 124) and the concrete block walling incorporates two windows on the north-east side and a double door and a single pillar constructed from concrete blocks on the south-west side, presumably in the place of an earlier iron column (Plate 125). The south-west elevation is plain brick, again with five rows of stretchers to one of alternating headers and stretchers, although the brick type appears later than that to the north-east (Plate 125; cf. Plate 120).



**Plate 120 (left): North-east end of the north-east room of the outbuilding**

**Plate 121 (right): Detail of the north-west elevation of the north-east room of the outbuilding**





**Plate 122 (left): South-east elevation of the north-east room of the outbuilding**

**Plate 123 (centre): Iron column in the south-east elevation of the north-east room of the outbuilding**

**Plate 124 (right): Detail of an iron column in the south-east elevation of the north-east room of the outbuilding**



**Plate 125: South-west elevation and doorway in the south-east elevation of the north-east room of the outbuilding**

4.4.3 The south-west room also has a tarmac floor and a modern roof structure comprising only I-beams for the purlins supporting corrugated sheets. The south-east and south-west elevations are constructed from concrete blocks with buttresses in the south-east and a double door in the south-west with flanking buttresses (Plate 126). The north-east and north-west elevations are constructed from brick, although of relatively late type (Plate 127). The north-west wall is laid in three rows of stretchers to a single row of alternating headers and stretchers and as two buttresses, the north-east end of which is partially built of earlier brick. The north-east elevation is laid in a similar bond but at a ratio of five to one and otherwise plain, although the ends of the purlins from the room to the north-east project though it

and the top of the wall is finished with an irregular row of concrete blocks and the south-east side is covered with a skim of concrete.



**Plate 126 (left): South-east and south-west elevations of the south-west room**

**Plate 127 (right): North-east and north-west elevations of the south-west room**

## 5. Discussion

### 5.1 Phasing

5.1.1 **Introduction:** the building clearly retains a considerable amount of original fabric but has also undergone a number of alterations and modifications. In total, three phases of development were identified within the building, all of which can be referenced to documentary sources and so very closely dated.

5.1.2 **Phase 1 (1901-1902):** the original arrangement of the school as shown in the plans of 1901 essentially remains intact, albeit clad by later additions to the north-west and south-west and having lost the east corner (see *Sections 5.1.3 and 5.1.4* below). The central hall (Room 12) was surrounded by 10 essentially square classrooms (now represented by Rooms 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, which originally included Room 11a, 18, 19 and 24), with linking corridors at each corner of the hall (now forming part of all of Rooms 8, 16, 18, and 21). There was also a small room on the west corner (described as a 'Teachers Room', now Room 5), and a pair of projecting wings to the east and south, both described as cloak rooms on the original plan but the east also containing another teachers room (the east wing is now missing, the south is represented by Rooms 21-23). The major internal details, such as the form of the trusses, are much as shown in the original drawings although elements have been removed such as the domed ventilation towers. The position of all of the fireplaces shown in the original drawings can also be identified in the current building (in Rooms 5, 11, and 24); although they have all been blocked up and only one chimney (that corresponding to the flue in Room 11, which connected to the boiler in the basement) now remains. Interestingly, the coal chute in the basement is not shown on the original plans. The decorative scheme is not shown in the original drawings but it is evident from the building recording that it included deep moulded rails and glazed coloured bricks in bands of yellow, blue and brown. The stepping evident in the brick in some of the classrooms, often with a corresponding raised moulded band, stepped concrete, and raised concrete skim, indicates that the classrooms originally had tiered or gallery seating. Again this is not apparently shown on the original drawings but was clearly part of the original arrangement as they are recorded in the newspaper article from 1902 (see *Section 3.1.6*). This account also states that the main inner doors had stained glass panels with scenes relating to shipbuilding but these were clearly removed at a later date and the original drawings do not provide any details. A series of ancillary buildings were also clearly constructed as part of the original building, comprising two 'play sheds' and a suite of toilets, all of which were placed against the north-west boundary of the playground. Of these only the south-western play shed survives (referred to as the 'outbuilding' in this report). It is apparent from the original drawings that the basic fabric of this has survived intact, albeit was later modification and extension.

5.1.3 **Phase 2 (late 20<sup>th</sup> century):** it is probable that the school saw relatively little change in the first few decades after construction, although documentary sources provide little information until the 1970s, when it is recorded that the projecting east wing was demolished and the interior reorganised. The demolition is evident at the south-east end of the north-east elevation, where the wall has been relatively recently re-rendered and the stub of the original wing is still visible. Many of the existing internal divisions probably date to this period, which undoubtedly saw the loss of a considerable amount of original features such as doors and windows (although the latter had been replaced once by this time), and the creation of new entrances. The divisions in Rooms 15 (which created Room 11a), 19, 20, 22, and 23 are all likely to belong to a period of modification most likely corresponding with the changes of the 1970s, but perhaps continuing until the 1980s. It is not clear when the galleried seating was removed; there seems to be no record of this in Laird's publication, which might indicate that it was earlier than the 1970s. It is apparent that the present windows were added before the additions of Phase 3 so they too must have been an addition of Phase 2.

5.1.4 **Phase 3 (1999-2000):** the most significant period of alteration is also the most recent. A range of new extensions running from the middle of the north-west elevation, south-westwards and then along much of the south-west elevation, were added between 1999 and 2000. These were to provide additional computer rooms and classrooms, and presumably led to the loss of the former bay window in the south wing, which was knocked through to provide access. This modification meant that several



formerly external windows now only illuminated internal spaces, while new access, such as between Room 4 and Room 5 must have been created to connect a new external entrance from the north-west end of the south-west elevation (via Room 2). New doorways connecting to the corridors (Room 8 and Room 21) were also created, and where they joined the original building parts of the windows and at least one vent had to be blocked. Some re-roofing of earlier sections must also have been carried out during this period. The central block remained, however, largely untouched, with new fixtures being added and perhaps improvements to the decorative scheme, but the core of the main hall and immediately adjoining classrooms still had much of its original fabric.

## 5.2 Significance

5.2.1 The building forms an interesting and large building within the Vickerstown development, which is now a Conservation Area, but is essentially anomalous in that context. Despite being constructed at the same time as the rest of the estate it used a different architect who clearly made only a very basic effort to keep it in the same style. In fact, apart from the external use of bands of brick, sandstone and render, and a small area of half timbering, in every other aspect it was no different from other schools in the area. It is arguable that it was in fact quite old-fashioned for the period, as in terms of its arrangement, architectural style, and detailing it is similar in many ways to other schools in the local area built in the 1880s and 1890s (Greenlane Archaeology 2008; 2011). Whether Henry Fowler's relatively traditional plan was a means to cut costs is not clear, but the use of local grey slate for the roof, rather than imported red tiles, may well have been intended to save money. This is perhaps not surprising as the Education Board's remit was presumably to provide a school that was fit for purpose and economical, while the rest of the estate had somewhat loftier ambitions.

## 5.3 Conclusion

5.3.1 The recording of the Vickerstown School has provided a useful opportunity to examine another school building in the area and another piece of late-Victorian local architecture of local interest. While the availability of original plans and a considerable amount of documentation about the development of Vickerstown allow a relatively detailed understanding of the building to be made, the physical investigation enables the identification of specific changes not otherwise recorded and enhances the understanding of the original arrangement. It is clear that more recent alterations have led to a considerable loss of historic fabric, but the core of the building does still retain several elements of interest including the decorative glazed bricks, which show a remarkably bright colour scheme, and the complex trusses. Nevertheless, it is apparent that the school was built with only a passing consideration for the overriding decorative style used in the rest of Vickerstown, and is, in reality a good example of late Victorian architecture rather than early Edwardian.

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