Author: Michael Cressey HND BA MSc PhD FSA Scot MCIfA
Illustrator: Graeme Carruthers MA MCIfA
Editor: Tim Neighbour BSc FSA Scot MCIfA
Commissioned by: Ben Tindall Architects’ on behalf of the Cowane’s Hospital Maintenance Trust
Date issued: November 2016
Version: 2

This document has been prepared in accordance with CFA Archaeology Ltd standard operating procedures.

Cowane’s Hospital, Stirling: Historic Building Appraisal
Report No 3490
CONTENTS

1. Introduction 3
2. Methodology 3
3. Appraisal Results 4
4. Recommendations 8
5. References 8

Appendices

Digital photographic record 9

List of Figures (bound at rear)

1. Existing basement plan with unit numbers and photo-locations
2. Unit 1, 16th century fireplace with segmented arch
3. Unit 1, Boiler A, general view
4. Unit 1, Boiler B, hidden behind pipe work
5. Unit 1, Wrought-iron grate contemporary with the installation of boilers A-B
6. Unit 1, Inter-mural foul water drain opening on the west wall
7. Unit 1, Interior of the drain with a small iron grill at its rear
8. Unit 6, Reduction work at the base of the turnpike staircase

Thumbnail images (bound at rear)
1. **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 **General**

This report presents the results of a standing building appraisal carried out at the Category A Listed Cowane’s Hospital, 49 St. John Street, Stirling. The work was commissioned by Benjamin Tindall Architects on behalf of the Cowane’s Hospital Maintenance Trust and was confined to the former hospital kitchen, which is now the existing basement boiler room.

The historical significance of the hospital, including its origins, patrons and architectural importance, and the conservation issues and policies relating to its future refurbishment, have been comprehensively described in the Cowane’s Hospital Conservation Plan (2015).

1.2 **Objectives**

The objectives of the programme of archaeological works were:

1. To carry out an historic buildings appraisal of the existing basement in order to identify any features of historical significance relating to the former kitchen
2. To assess and identify the need for any further recording work prior to refurbishment works
3. To produce an illustrated report outlining the results of the work.

2. **METHODOLOGY**

2.1 **General**

CFA follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist’s Code of Conduct, Standards and Guidelines for Historic Building Survey as appropriate.

2.2 **Building recording**

Fabric recording to Appraisal standards as defined by ALGAO:Scotland (2013) was carried out on the interior elevations of the basement. A written descriptive record of each elevation was made on pro-forma building recording forms to record any significant building fabric and blocking work and any other features of historical and architectural significance.

A Nikon D300 camera was used to take high-resolution digital photographs of the internal elevations. All photographs taken were recorded onto photographic record sheets which are appended at the back of this report (Appendix 1). Selective representative images have been included in the report (Figs. 2-8) and all photographs are presented at the end in contact sheet format. Figure 1 shows the orientation at which each photograph was taken.
3. **APPRaisal RESULTS**

3.1 **General**

For descriptive purposes each room within the basement was given a unique number (Units 1-6) and the dimensions are listed in Table 1. The rooms are described in more detail below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit No</th>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Dimensions (m)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Boiler Room</td>
<td>5.9 x 5.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Store</td>
<td>2.9 x 1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Passage</td>
<td>3.6 x 1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Store</td>
<td>6.7 x 4.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Store</td>
<td>2.1 x 1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Staircase lower entry</td>
<td>1.6 x 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Table 1 List of individual units, function and dimensions*

3.2 **Unit 1: Boiler Room / Former Kitchen (Figs 2 to 7)**

Unit 1 is still in use as the boiler room but was in the past the central feature of the hospital kitchen.

The lower half of a 16th century segmented arched kitchen fireplace has been masked by brickwork associated with two domestic coal-fired boilers. The interior of the fireplace has also been reduced and strengthened with a brick-built relieving arch to accommodate the flues of the two boilers. The addition of a wrought-iron fire grate appears to be contemporary with the two boilers and both additions probably date to the late 19th or early 20th century.

Possibly contemporary with the fireplace is a possible waste water outlet on the west wall. The remains of a degraded iron grill at its rear may have acted as a sediment trap.

In the Conservation Plan it was noted that placing the kitchen in the basement at the bottom of a narrow winding stair could never be as functionally convenient as a ground floor location. Also, while the kitchen appears to be big enough to prepare meals for the planned number of residents and the basement had a large fireplace that was certainly big enough to cover the culinary requirements of hospitals patients and formal banquets, curiously it seems from the historical records that food was not bought and prepared communally as a general rule.

_North Wall_

The north wall is of random rubble with an off-centre entrance leading into Unit 2 a store room. Ashlar long and short work surrounded the door opening.

_East Wall_

The east wall is constructed of random rubble. A doorway with ashlar chamfer-moulded surrounds is present at the north end of the elevation. The wall head has been repaired with grey cement and a steel I-beam inserted at the centre of the wall. At the base, large boulders have been incorporated into the wall fabric.
South Wall
The south wall has a boarded-up window at its east end. The window has splayed reveals and is c.1.1m square and 1.2m deep. Situated at the west end of the wall (right-hand side facing) is a segmented arched fireplace. The fireplace is 2.1m wide and c. 2m high at its centre. Fifteen chamfer-moulded voussoirs make up the fireplace arch. The fireplace has been reduced in size using brick and stonework to accommodate the installation of two coal fired boilers (Boilers A-B below). The brickwork supports an off-centre wrought iron grate. The rear of the fireplace is lined with rubble, above which is a brick-arch that narrows the flue. The brickwork appears to be contemporary with the boiler brickwork. The lower sections of the stone fireplace are hidden by the boiler flues.

A stone corbel is present on either side of the fireplace arch. The corbels support a bearing beam that in turn carries the floor joist for the great hall at ground floor level.

Boiler A
Boiler A is brick-built using 9 1/2x 2 3/4 inch brick and is rendered with cement and whitewashed. The boiler pan (or copper) is cast-iron and 0.75m in diameter. The cast-iron fire door has a ring-pull handle. The flue for the boiler is integrated into the brickwork that masks the left-hand side section of the stone fireplace.

Boiler B
Boiler B was the same as Boiler A, with the exception that the cast-iron fire door has a wrought-iron door latch. The boiler’s fire-box has a cast-iron grate with a void for an ash-pan below it. The flue is incorporated into the brickwork that adjoins the right-hand side of the stone fireplace.

West Wall
The west wall is constructed of random rubble and has three openings. At the south of the elevation, an opening measuring 0.5m x 0.3m and 0.9m deep has ashlar surrounds. The opening has a sloping base and a small iron grill at the rear and probably functioned as a small inter-mural foul water drain. To the right hand side of the probable drain is a pair of window openings, each measuring c.1m x 1m. One window opening is boarded and one is infilled with rubble. Both window openings have splayed reveals. The wall between the windows is featureless.

3.3 Unit 2: Store room
This is a windowless storeroom accessed from Unit 1 the boiler room.

North Wall
The north wall is constructed of random rubble using large boulders of basalt (whinstone). Brick repair work is present at the wall head.

East Wall
The east wall has a brick-built panel laid in stretcher bond, which abuts the long and short work of a possible cellar light currently hidden behind the brickwork.

South Wall
The south wall is of random rubble, masked by an array of modern pipe work.
West Wall
The west wall is of random rubble with brick repair work and is pierced by a large pipe.

3.4 Unit 3: Passage

This passage leads from the turnpike staircase (Unit 6) through to Units 1, 2 and 4.

North Wall
The north wall is rubble-built with a possible blocked window (or cellar light) opening with a roughly 45 degree angled rear interior wall. The wall fabric includes rounded cobbles and fragments of flagstone. At the east end of the elevation is a door opening to the turnpike staircase. The door surrounds are chamfer-moulded ashlar.

East Wall
The east wall is rubble-built and has remnants of a pale cream cement render and modern cement pointing at the wall head.

South Wall
The south wall contains the ashlar door surround with chamfer moulding leading into Unit 4, a store room. The wall flanking the door is rubble built. There is a distinct vertical risband joint where it abuts the partition wall running north to south between Units 1 and 4. This indicates that the north to south wall was built first and the passage wall was then added to it.

West Wall
An ashlar door surround leads into Unit 1.

3.5 Unit 4: Storeroom

This rectangular storeroom is lit on its south side by two windows. It is largely unaltered except for the installation of structural supports (I beam, brick pillar and buttress) a brick-built storage area. A small 20th century storeroom (Unit 5) has been created in its north-west corner.

North Wall
The north wall is of random rubble with a heavy coat of white-washed render. A door opening into the hall (Unit 3) is present at the approximate centre of the wall. On the east side of the plank-built door the wall joins the brick wall of Unit 5. A plywood door allows access into its interior.

East Wall
The east wall is rubble built and whitewashed.

South Wall
The south wall is rubble built and has two windows set within splayed reveals and framed with ashlar dressings. As with Unit 1 two corbels are present.
West Wall

The whitewashed west wall is rubble-built and featureless.

3.6 Unit 5: Small store

All four walls are lined with brick laid in stretcher bond. The ceiling is shuttered concrete. This is a modern 20th century inclusion and of no historical interest.

3.7 Unit 6: Turnpike staircase (Fig 8)

The turnpike stair provides the only access into the basement. It is possibly a 16th century feature that was altered in the 19th century with the addition of the reduction work resting on the third tread. The walls were lined in part with lath and plaster in the 19th century. The staircase is the only surviving access into the kitchen and it seems plausible that another straight timber stair linked the basement and the great hall.

North Wall (entry)
The north wall of the rectangular stairs entry is of plain rubble and is partly covered by a board for holding hand tools.

West Wall (entry)
The west wall facing the turnpike stair is rubble-built.

Turnpike staircase
The turnpike staircase has nine treads. On the third step from the bottom a section of rubble and brickwork has been built against the newel posts in order to reduce the width of the stair opening. The stone reduction work supports a black slate lintel. The staircase is flanked by a plain rubble wall to its east. The western flanking wall and the ceiling are of lath and plaster. The lath and plaster work appears to be of 19th century date. At the top of the staircase is a 6-panelled doorway.

3.8 Timber work

The majority of the timber beams supporting the floor of the great hall appear to be of pine with occasional oak timbers present. It is possible that the pine relates to later repairs and that the oak is original.

3.9 Observations

Judging by the quality of the fireplace with its fine ashlar voussoirs it is possible that this dates to the late 16th century and is comparable to similar fireplaces recently discovered at Riddle’s Court, a 16th century merchant’s house in the Lawnmarket on Edinburgh’s Royal Mile.

The floor joists within Unit 1 the boiler room have evidence that they once supported a lath and plaster ceiling.
The presence of the two domestic boilers strongly suggest that the boiler room functioned as a laundry.

The present floor within the boiler room is concrete and uneven. The concrete probably replaced a flagstone floor.

The door in Unit 4 appears to be of some antiquity and has been constructed from pine floor boards. Evidence for stud work is present in the form of diamond-shaped incisions with small stud holes at their centre.

4. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on the results of the appraisal the following recommendations are made:

- Formal standing building survey.

- Watching brief during development works. In particular, the 19th century domestic boilers and fire grate in Unit 1 mask the lower half of the historic fireplace and their removal is likely to reveal features of historical interest related to the original fireplace.

- Dendrochronology to test if the oak and pine used in the ceiling of Unit 1 are contemporary or whether the pine relates to later repair work. Historical accounts for major repair to the great hall floor might lend support to any future dendrochronological research.

- The scope of recording work will need to be agreed with Historic Environment Scotland (HES) and set out in an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI).

5. **REFERENCES**


### APPENDIX 1 DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shot No</th>
<th>Summary description of subject</th>
<th>Facing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>001</td>
<td>Unit 1, N wall, W end, fabric detail masked by pipework</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>002</td>
<td>Unit 1, N wall, E end, random rubble with long and short work</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>003</td>
<td>Unit 1, N wall (SW-facing) general view with entrance to Unit 2</td>
<td>NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>004</td>
<td>Unit 1, E wall doorway to passage (Unit 3) with chamfer-moulded ashlar surrounds</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>005</td>
<td>Unit 1, E wall genera; view on fabric detail</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>006</td>
<td>Unit 1, S wall, boarded splayed window at E end and corwall near the wall head</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>007</td>
<td>Unit 1, S wall, two corbels supporting a timber joist carrying the ground floor joists</td>
<td>Oblique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>008</td>
<td>Unit 1, Boiler A, general shot</td>
<td>SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>009</td>
<td>Unit 1, Boiler A cast-iron fire door, general view</td>
<td>Oblique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>010</td>
<td>Unit 1, Boiler A brickwork masking the toe of the fireplace</td>
<td>SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>011</td>
<td>Unit 1, Fireplace segmented arch</td>
<td>SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>012</td>
<td>Unit 1, interior view of the fireplace and grate</td>
<td>SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>013</td>
<td>Unit 1, detailed shot of the grate and associated brickwork</td>
<td>SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>014</td>
<td>Unit 1, Boiler B, lower brickwork and fire door</td>
<td>SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>015</td>
<td>Unit 1, bearing beams either side of the fireplace supporting a bearing beam</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>016</td>
<td>Unit 1, bearing beams either side of the fireplace supporting a bearing beam</td>
<td>SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>017</td>
<td>Unit 1, Boiler B, interior of the firebox</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>018</td>
<td>Unit 1, Boiler B, exterior of the firedoor with hinges and latch</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>019</td>
<td>Unit 1, W wall, interior view of the foul water drain</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>020</td>
<td>Unit 1, W wall, interior view of the foul water drain grill</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>021</td>
<td>Unit 1, wall, interior view of the foul water ashlar opening</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>022</td>
<td>Unit 1, W wall, boarded window opening</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>023</td>
<td>Unit 1, W wall, rubble-filled window opening</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>024</td>
<td>Unit 1, W wall and floor joist detail</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>025</td>
<td>Unit 1, S wall, boarded window opening</td>
<td>SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>026</td>
<td>Unit 1, S wall, general view of the fireplace</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>027</td>
<td>Unit 2, interior SW-facing passage wall showing ashlar</td>
<td>NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>028</td>
<td>Unit 2, N wall fabric detail</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>029</td>
<td>Unit 2, E wall showing stretcher-bonded brickwork</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>030</td>
<td>Unit 2 S wall hidden behind pipework</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>031</td>
<td>Unit 2, W wall showing brick repair and fabric detail</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>032</td>
<td>Unit 1, general view of the concrete screed floor and natural bedrock</td>
<td>Oblique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>033</td>
<td>Unit 3, N passage wall with infilled opening</td>
<td>NW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>034</td>
<td>Unit 3 N wall, door to foot of the turnpike staircase</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>035</td>
<td>Unit 3 E wall, fabric detail</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>036</td>
<td>Unit 3, chamfer-moulded door entrance to Unit 4</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>037</td>
<td>Unit 3 S passage wall risband joint from abutting stonework</td>
<td>SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>038</td>
<td>Unit 3 S passage wall, general view</td>
<td>SW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>039</td>
<td>Unit 4 N wall, fabric detail and long and short work near door</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>040</td>
<td>Unit 4 plank-built door</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>041</td>
<td>Unit 4, rear of the plank-built door</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>042</td>
<td>Unit 4, brick-built partition wall for Unit 5 storeroom</td>
<td>NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>043</td>
<td>Unit 4, E wall hidden behind chairs</td>
<td>E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>044</td>
<td>Unit 4, S wall with a splayed window opening and brick-built buttress</td>
<td>SE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>045</td>
<td>Unit 4, S wall with two splayed windows and wall with corbels in between</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>046</td>
<td>Unit 4, W wall general view hidden behind shelving</td>
<td>W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>047</td>
<td>Unit 5 general interior shot of brick-built interior</td>
<td>NE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>048</td>
<td>Unit 5 general interior shot of brick-built interior</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shot No</td>
<td>Summary description of subject</td>
<td>Facing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>049</td>
<td>Unit 4 exterior ashlar door surrounds with chamfer molding</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>050</td>
<td>Unit 4, foot of the staircase showing reduction work</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>051</td>
<td>Unit 4, foot of the staircase showing reduction work on tread three</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>052</td>
<td>Unit 4 looking down the turnpike stair with brickwork and slate lintel</td>
<td>Oblique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>053</td>
<td>Unit 4 looking up the turnpike stair on six-paneled door</td>
<td>N</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>054</td>
<td>Unit 4 looking down the turnpike stair on lath and plaster ceiling</td>
<td>Oblique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>055</td>
<td>Unit 4 looking down the turnpike stair on lath and plaster ceiling</td>
<td>Oblique</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>056</td>
<td>Main external elevation, one of two ground level vents (or cellar lights) below drip sill.</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The copyright in this document (including its electronic form) shall remain vested in CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) but the copyright may only be used for the purpose for which it was provided. CFA shall not be liable for the use by any person of this document for any purpose other than that for which the copy was provided by CFA. The document shall not be reproduced in whole or in part or relied upon by third parties for any use whatsoever without the express written authority of CFA.

Title:
Existing Basement Plan with photo location arrows

Project:
Cowane's Hospital, Stirling: Historic Building Survey

Client:
Ben Tindall Architects' on behalf of the Cowanes Hospital Maintenance Trust

Scale at A3: 1:100

Drawn by:
GC

Checked:
SW

Date:
31/10/2016

Reproduced with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office,

CFA ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Eskmills Park, Musselburgh EH21 7PQ   AL100034785

T: 0114 327 1108
sheffield@cfa-archaeology.co.uk
www.cfa-archaeology.co.uk
M: 07469 853 850
Office 5
Ecclesfield Business Centre
46 Stocks Hill, Ecclesfield
Sheffield, S35 9YT

Key:

1. Unit number
2. Photo location and direction
A. Boiler

Fig. No:

Existing Basement Plan with photo location arrows
Fig. 2 Unit 1, 16th century fireplace with segmented arch

Fig. 3 Unit 1, Boiler A, general view
Fig. 4 Unit 1, Boiler B, hidden behind pipe work

Fig. 5 Unit 1, Boiler A, Wrought-iron grate contemporary with the installation of Boilers A-B
Fig. 6 Unit 1, Inter-mural foul water drain opening on the west wall

Fig. 7 Unit 1, Interior of the drain with the small iron grill at its rear
Fig. 8 Unit 6, Reduction work at the base of the turnpike staircase