

Bingham Methodist Church, Bingham, Nottinghamshire

Historic Building Record

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SUMMARY

- Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Allan Joyce Architects to undertake a Level 2 building record of an unlisted place of worship, Bingham Methodist Church, Bingham, Nottinghamshire (OS Grid Ref. SK 70375 39913) prior to its proposed demolition (Planning Approval Nos 05/01367/FUL and 05/01409/CON) as part of a scheme to build a new church and community facilities.
- At the core of Bingham Methodist Church is a late Georgian chapel probably dating to between 1800 and 1820. In the following decades a two storey extension was added to the north of the building for a choir, later becoming the organ loft. During the last decade of the nineteenth century the building was extended with the addition of a Sunday School to the west which was in turn extended south during the early twentieth century. The south elevation was altered, probably in the 1960's, with the construction of a lobby and porch. The late twentieth century witnessed further additions to the north of the building.
- The Georgian chapel retains much of its original interior, including original pews in the gallery, and as such may warrant further recording which could be undertaken during, or immediately prior to, demolition.
- This report should be treated as an interim as further archaeological work is to be undertaken during the demolition of the building which will further inform the conclusions reached within this current document.

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September 2014

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Figure 5: Bingham Methodist Church, Bingham, Nottinghamshire. Ground and first floor photographic viewpoints. (Scale 1:250 at A3)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The fieldwork was directed by Matt Hurford. Dr David Strange-Walker managed the project. Thanks are extended to Allan Joyce Architects for commissioning the work. The project was monitored by Dr Chris Robinson, Archaeological Officer for Nottinghamshire County Council.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Trent & Peak Archaeology was commissioned by Allan Joyce Architects to undertake a Level 2 building record of an unlisted place of worship, Bingham Methodist Church, Bingham, Nottinghamshire (OS Grid Ref. SK 70375 39913) prior to its proposed demolition (Planning Approval Nos 05/01367/FUL and 05/01409/CON) as part of a scheme to build a new church and community facilities (Figure 1).

1.1.2 The Methodist Church is located to the west of the former market place within Bingham, a town with medieval origins. The property is bounded to the north by the Eaton Place shopping area and to the south by Union Street which comprises office, retail and residential accommodation. Needham Street encloses the site to the west which has a Grade II listed property, No. 19 Brompton House, fronting it dating to 1819.

1.2 Building Recording

1.2.1 Where specific briefs are supplied by relevant planning authorities with regard to buildings they may require a survey based on classifications as outlined in English Heritage's guide *Understanding Historic Buildings* (2006). In this instance a Level 2 survey of the building was required by Dr C. Robinson, Archaeological Officer for Nottinghamshire County Council in a letter dated 21 May 2014. The methodology employed also follows advice from the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings and Structures* (2001).

1.2.2 Where an existing building / structure is not protected by listing and permission is sought or granted for demolition or major alteration, the local authority may require that a full archival record be made first, in order to 'preserve by record'.

1.3 The Report

1.3.1 The building recording has involved a limited examination of the Methodist Church both externally and internally. This has allowed for a brief written description of the building and its background with 5 figures and 12 plates as illustrations. A second part of the report (Section 7: Archival Record) comprises a list of illustrations to support the archival record. The latter consists primarily of 112 digital images. The report includes copies of the digital images together with plans showing their viewpoints. All 112 digital images are included in a separate CD affixed to the back of the report. This report should be treated as an interim as further archaeological work is to be undertaken during the demolition of the building which will further inform the conclusions reached within this current document.

2. SITE BACKGROUND

2.1.1 It is currently proposed as part of Planning Application Approval Nos 05/01367/FUL and 05/01409/CON to demolish Bingham Methodist Church, Bingham, Nottinghamshire as part of a scheme to build a new church and community facilities.

3. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1.1 The Methodist Church is located close to the centre of Bingham, immediately west of the former market place. The architectural style of the primary phase of the building suggests that it was constructed during the late Georgian period between 1800 and 1820. A choir was added to the north, probably in the Victorian period. The chapel had certainly been built by 1885 as it is present on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map. During the last decade of the nineteenth century the building was extended with the addition of a Sunday School to the west which was in turn extended south during the early twentieth century. The south elevation

was altered, probably in the 1960's, with the construction of a lobby and porch. The late twentieth century witnessed further additions to the north of the building.

4. BUILDING DESCRIPTION

The Exterior (Figure 2 Plates 1-5)

4.1.1 At the core of Bingham Methodist Church is a rectangular two storey high chapel which is orientated north to south dating to the late Georgian period between 1800 and 1820. It is brick built in Flemish Stretcher Bond under a slate roof which is gabled to the south and hipped to the north. The walls are rendered with the exception of the north wall. The south gable has stone coping and brick kneelers. There is dentil ornamentation beneath the cornice. Sash windows, likely to be original, are present on the ground and first floors of the west and east wall with later replacement upper floor windows in the south wall. Metal ties extend through the building of likely early twentieth century date. A large arched window, now almost entirely hidden behind a later extension, was originally present in the north wall.

4.1.2 Abutting the north wall of the Georgian chapel is a square extension built in the same style as the earlier build discussed above. It is brick built in English Bond under a slate roof which is gabled. It also has dentil ornamentation below the eaves. An arched window, since blocked up, is located in the east wall.

4.1.3 To the west of the chapel is the Sunday School, a building of two storey height orientated north to south. Inscribed bricks in the east wall suggest a date of 1898 for its construction. It is brick built in English Bond beneath a tiled gabled roof. Raised brickwork has been used decoratively beneath the eaves. In the north gable wall is an arched window with two, likely replacement, sash windows in the west wall. The building was extended to the south in the same style, probably during the early twentieth century, with the addition of a porch with double doorway and stone lintel fronting Needham Street. The roof is hipped at the south. Further alterations dating to the late twentieth comprise a sympathetic narrow single storey brick extension which extends around the northern part of the building.

4.1.4 The Methodist Church complex was further extended during the latter half of the twentieth century, initially in the late 1960's with the addition of a single storey porch and lobby extending across the entire south frontage of the Georgian chapel. Further alterations dating to the late twentieth century were made around the northern part of the chapel obscuring the original fabric of the building.

The Interior (Figure 3 Plates 6-12)

4.2.1 The Methodist Church complex is entered via the central doorway in the porch at the buildings south gable end. Four symmetrically placed doorways lead into the chapel, two providing access to the ground floor and two for the gallery. The chapel conforms to the 'auditory plan' in which its interior has been planned in order to enable the community to hear and see the preachers. Being a relatively large chapel its gallery extends along three sides of the building. The rostrum is devoid of a timber frontal or communion rail which is typical of chapels from this period, having being replaced, probably in the late twentieth century, with the current pine lectern, table used for the Communion and chairs. The later organ loft, forming a formal backdrop or frame to the rostrum area, would originally have been used for the choir with the current organ inserted in the twentieth century. The ground floor of the building has been re-seated in the Victorian period with simple pitch-pine pews. The panelled gallery is supported on seven cast-iron columns. Original pews in the gallery have survived previous refurbishments. As with many Methodist and Nonconformist chapels painting and graining has been used to pick out distinctive architectural features, including the cornice, organ loft and fine ceiling rose.

4.2.2 The Sunday School can be entered either via the southern extension or through the porch fronting Needham Street. It is a single room of five bays with four roof trusses resting on stone corbels. The roof structure is partially exposed, typical of buildings of late Victorian date. The original cornice and dado rail survive and a number of the original doors and fittings

are present. The floor is a modern laminate replacement. Three of the windows on the east wall have been blocked presumably when the kitchen was constructed. The southern extension to the Sunday School has been refurbished recently with a new false ceiling and laminate floor. The doors and windows are however likely to be original to the building.

4.2.3 The late twentieth extensions to the northern part of the chapel are of large block and brick construction and are mostly associated with the shop.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1.1 At the core of Bingham Methodist Church is a late Georgian chapel probably dating to between 1800 and 1820. In the following decades a two storey extension was added to the north of the building for a choir, later becoming the organ loft. The addition of a Sunday School during the late nineteenth century is a typical development that can be found happening throughout the country during this time (Lake 2013 12). The late twentieth century witnessed additions to the south and north of the property obscuring the architecture of the original chapel.

5.1.2 The Georgian chapel retains much of its original interior, including original pews in the gallery, and as such may warrant further recording which could be undertaken during, or immediately prior to, demolition.

6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Lake, J., 2013 *Guidance for Methodist and Nonconformist Chapels in Cornwall* English Heritage



Figure 1: Location of the Bingham Methodist Church, Bingham, Nottinghamshire. Scale 1:2500.
Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2014

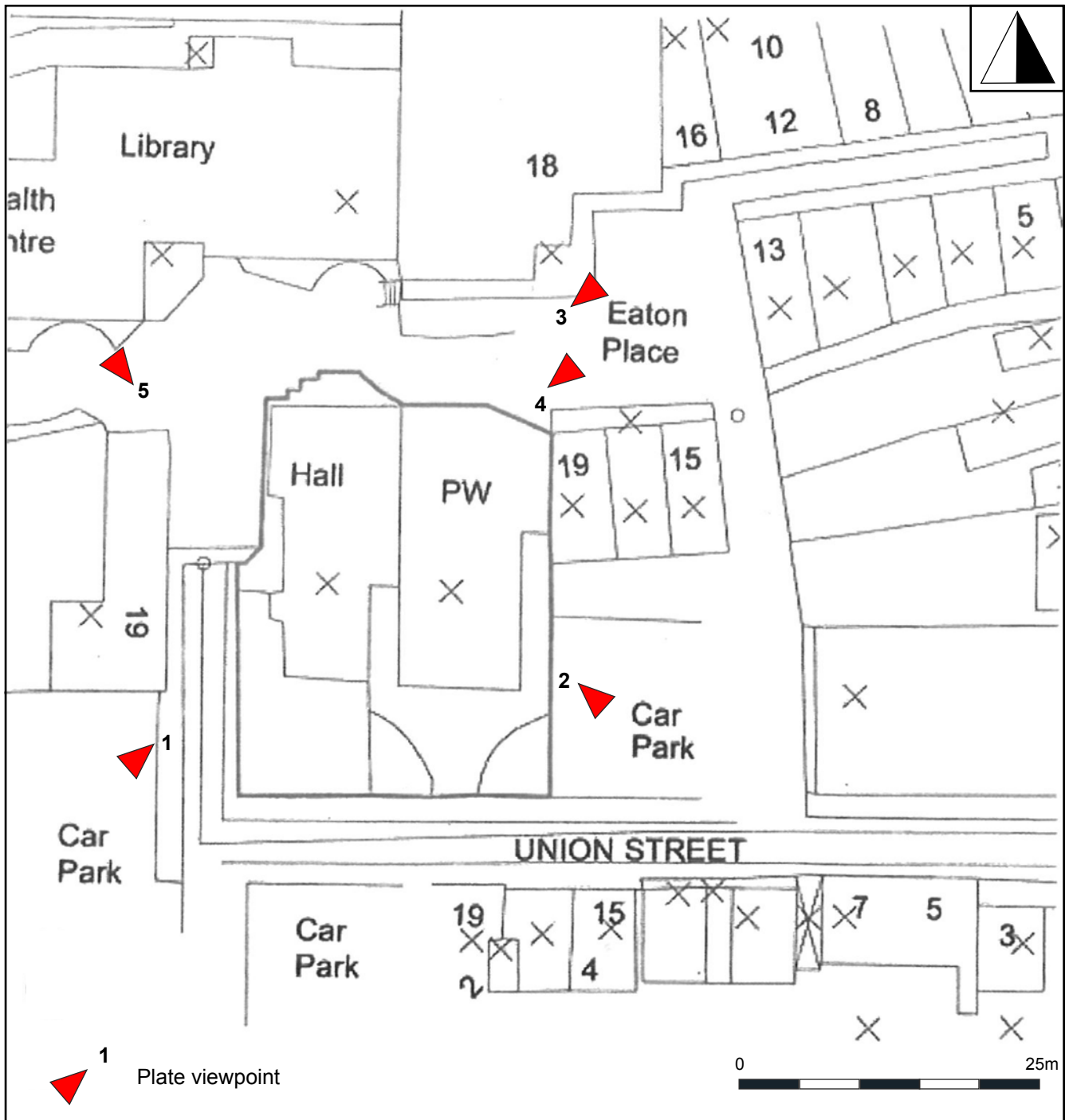


Figure 2: Plan of Bingham Methodist Church, Bingham, Nottinghamshire and the external viewpoints of the plates shown in the report. (Scale 1:500 at A4).

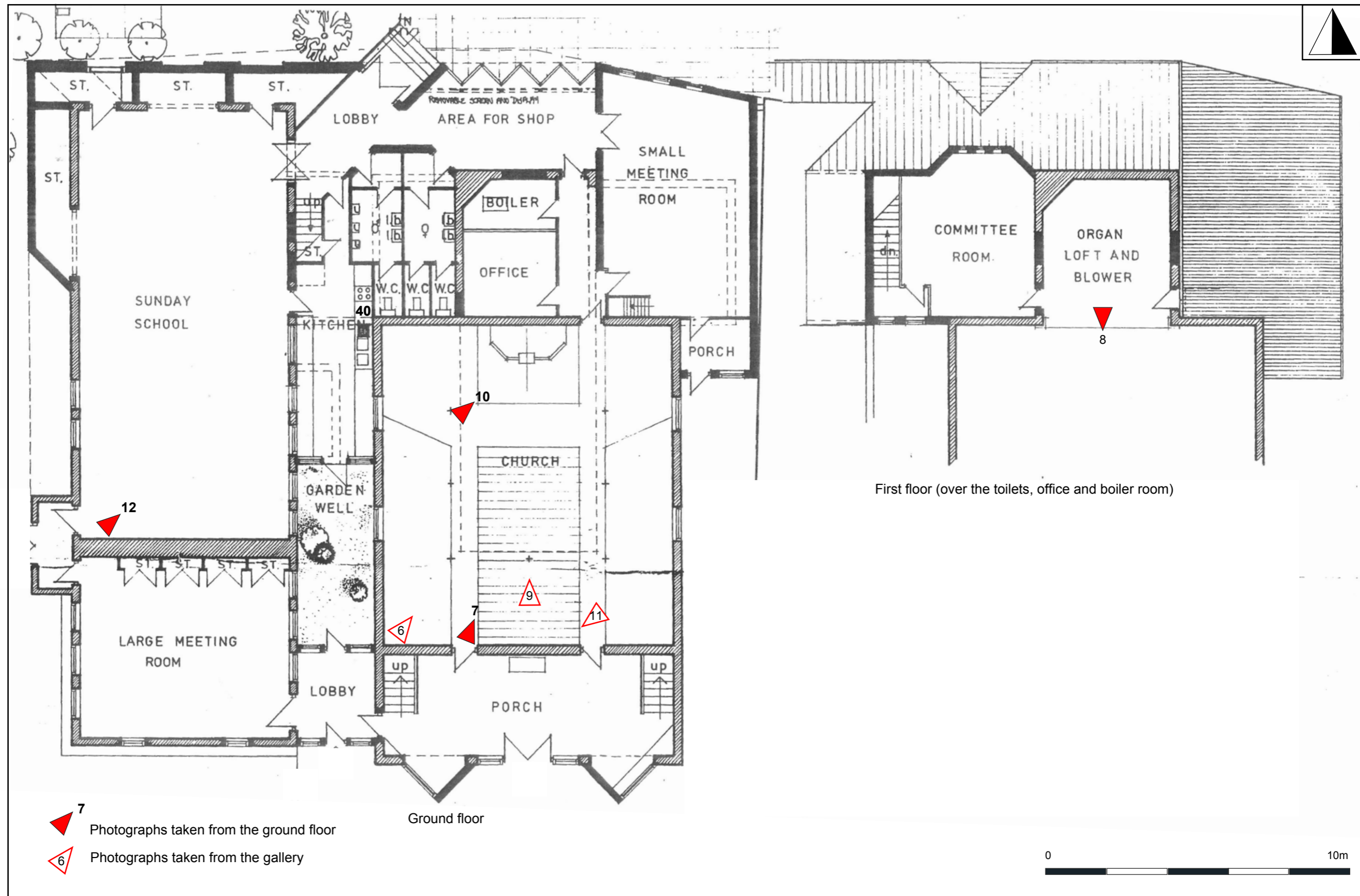


Figure 3: Plan of Bingham Methodist Church, Bingham, Nottinghamshire and the internal viewpoints of the plates shown in the report. (Scale 1:250 at A3)



Plate 1. General view of the Methodist Church complex with Sunday School and Methodist chapel viewed looking, north east.



Plate 2. The Methodist chapel viewed looking north west.



Plate 3. The north elevation of the Methodist Church complex, viewed looking south west.



Plate 4. Detail of the northern end of the two earliest phases of the building which are painted white. Note the blocked arch windows on both the north and east elevations, viewed looking, north east.



Plate 5. The Sunday School, viewed looking south east.



Plate 6. The organ loft set above the rostrum with the fine ceiling rose. Note the original pews in the gallery. Viewed looking north east.



Plate 7. The ground floor of the chapel viewed looking north east.



Plate 8. The interior of the chapel viewed looking south from the organ loft.



Plate 9. The organ loft, viewed looking north.



Plate 10. The rostrum with modern furniture, viewed looking north east.



Plate 11. An original Georgian pew in the gallery.



Plate 12. The interior of the earliest phase of the Sunday School viewed looking north east.

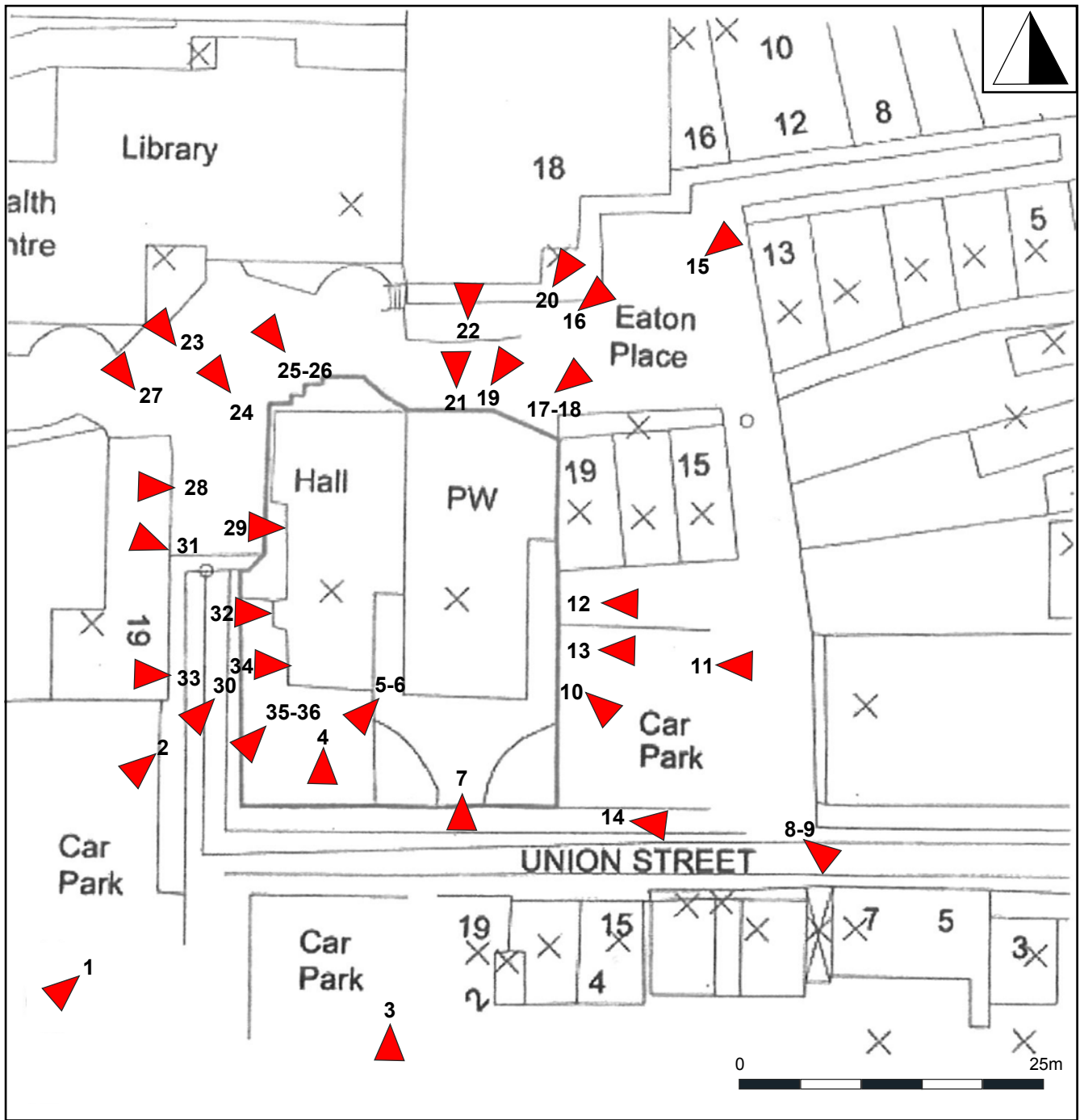


Figure 4: Bingham Methodist Church, Bingham, Nottinghamshire. Exterior photographic viewpoints (Scale 1:500 at A4)

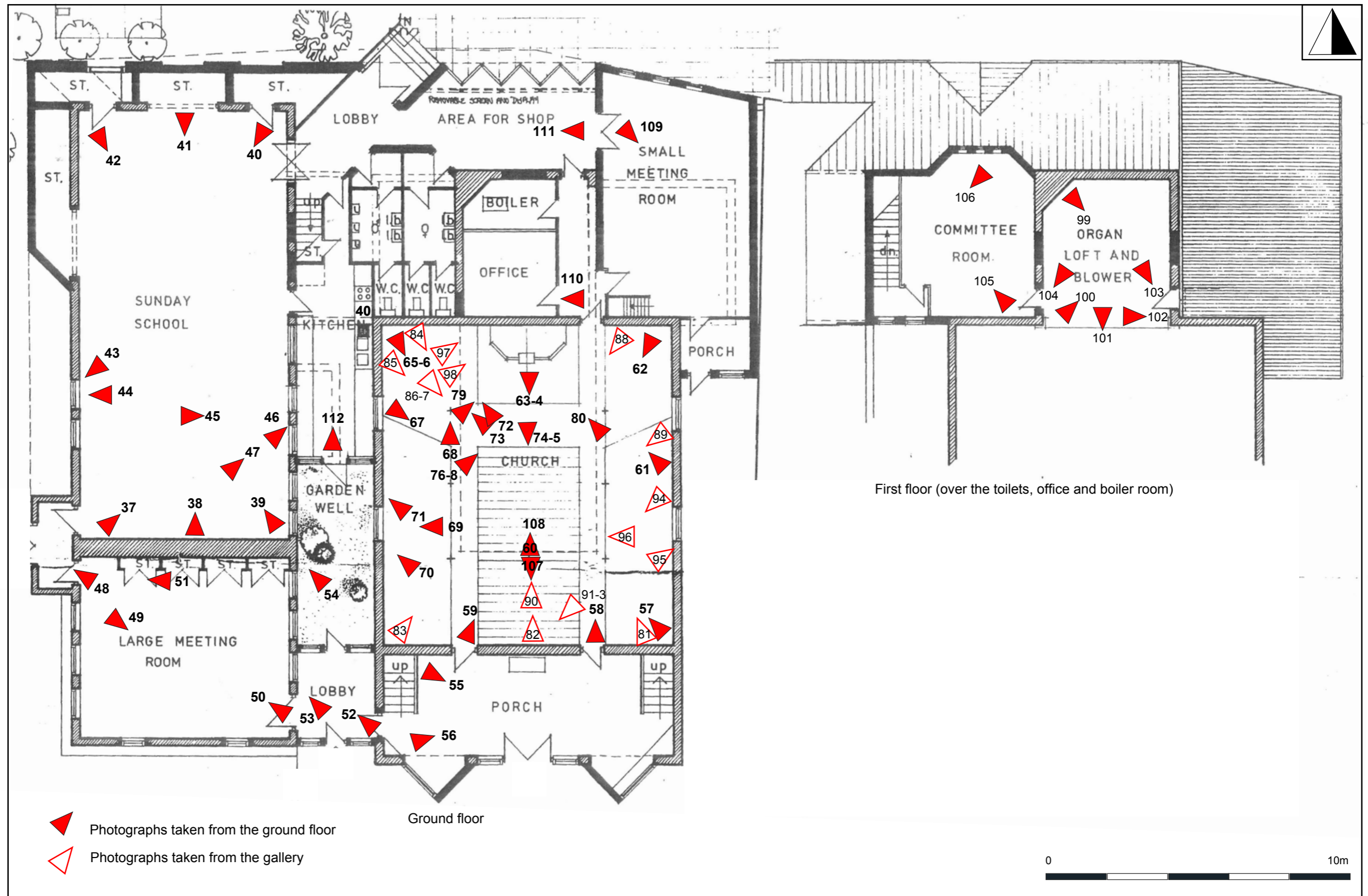


Figure 5: Bingham Methodist Church, Bingham, Nottinghamshire. Ground and first floor photographic viewpoints. (Scale 1:250 at A3)