

**HISTORIC BUILDING  
RECORDING OF THE  
FORMER WEST HAM  
MUNICIPAL BATHS  
(ATHERTON LEISURE  
CENTRE), ROMFORD ROAD,  
STRATFORD, LONDON  
BOROUGH OF NEWHAM**

**PCA REPORT NO. R11536**

**OCTOBER 2013**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

**Historic Building Recording of the former West Ham Municipal Baths (Atherton Leisure Centre), No. 189 Romford Road, Stratford, London Borough of Newham E15 4JF**

**Researched and written by Adam Garwood**

**Site Code: ALC13**

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**Commissioning Client: Mulalley and Company Limited**

**Central Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference: TQ 39820 84823**

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**PCA Report Number: R11536**



## DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

# FORMER WEST HAM MUNICIPAL BATHS (ATHERTON LEISURE CENTRE), ROMFORD ROAD, STRATFORD, LONDON BOROUGH OF NEWHAM

## HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

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## **1 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

- 1.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Mulalley and Company Limited to undertake historic building recording of the former West Ham Municipal Baths (Atherton Leisure Centre), Romford Road, Stratford, London Borough of Newham. The work was carried out in response to a planning condition (A7) imposed by the Local Planning Authority (Newham Council) on planning permission (Ref 13/00926-FUL) for the demolition of the building and the redevelopment of the site. The building was not listed nor did it lie in a Conservation Area.
- 1.1.2 The building recording established that the West Ham Municipal Baths were constructed between 1931-1934 on a site previously occupied by Fern Bank, a large detached villa with extensive grounds to the rear and a pair of Victorian semi-detached houses. The site was chosen due to the size of the plot. The corporation had intended to build new baths in Stratford since 1895. There was a pressing need to replace the baths at the former Carpenters' Company's School in Jupp Road, Stratford, but this site was seen to be inadequate.
- 1.1.3 Following initial construction works carried out in 1931 and the laying of the foundation stone by J.T. Scoulding on July 5th 1932, the West Ham Municipal Baths, built at a cost of £147,477 were finally opened to the public on the 9th June 1934. The baths were constructed to the designs of the Borough Engineer W. Lionel Jenkins, assisted by the Deputy Architect A.H. Roe (ARIBA) and the Borough Surveyor T.V. Griffiths. The complex originally housed three pools, including the 'major' pool for first class patrons, the 'minor' pool for second class patrons and the 'schools' pool for swimming instruction. Other facilities included class segregated slipper baths, Turkish baths, vapour rooms and even an ultra-violet sun ray room, equivalent to a modern tanning saloon. In the late 1990s the schools' pool was infilled and the laundry facilities removed to provide a bowling hall. At the same time the roof above the minor pool was replaced and the pool was remodelled to have two shallow ends. Other later alterations include the removal of the slipper bath and the refitting of the vapour baths with modern sauna facilities. Despite these alterations a number of the principal spaces and internal treatments still remain little altered, including the neo-classical style entrance hall and the barrel vaulted major pool.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 Background**

- 2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Mulalley and Company Limited to carry out historic building recording of the former West Ham Municipal Baths (latterly known as the Atherton Leisure Centre), Romford Road, Stratford, London Borough of Newham. The work was carried out in response to a planning condition (A7) imposed by the Local Planning Authority, Newham Council on planning permission (1300926-FUL) for its demolition and redevelopment of the site.
- 2.1.2 The historic building recording was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Eastbury 2013) agreed in advance of the work with the Local Planning Authority (LPA). The recording was carried out in accordance with National Planning Policy Guidance, specifically National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2012) and the LPA's policy towards built heritage and archaeology (Archaeology and Safeguarding of Heritage Assets).
- 2.1.3 The aim of the building recording was to 'preserve by record' the building prior to its demolition. The purpose of the project was to clarify the development of the site and to compile a final record of the building, its historic and structural development, fabric, current spatial relationships, historic decoration and fixtures and fittings which will be lost as a result of the proposed redevelopment. The results will then form part of an ordered archive and report which can be disseminated to mitigate the loss of the building.

### **2.2 Site Location**

- 2.2.1 The building is situated midway between Stratford and the Forest Gate Centre and c.2km to the east of the 2012 Olympics development, within the London Borough of Newham (**Figure 1**). The former West Ham Municipal Baths (Atherton Leisure Centre) at No. 189 Romford Road, Stratford, London Borough of Newham, E15 4JF fronts onto the A118 and lies at its junction with Atherton Road. It is roughly centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference TQ 39820 84823.
- 2.2.2 The general area is primarily suburban in character although many large retail developments lie to the west of the site and towards the Olympic site at Stratford. An area of public realm, the West Ham Park is located at a short distance to the south of the site and the Greater Anglia Railway Line from Liverpool Street runs to the north (**Figure 2**). The building was owned by the London Borough of Newham and latterly operated by Greenwich Leisure Limited as a leisure centre for the local community. Prior to its closure in 2012, facilities offered included two swimming pools, gymnasiums, a bowling hall and a dance studio.

### **3 PLANNING BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

- 3.1.1 National legislation and guidance relating to the protection of historic buildings and structures within planning regulations is defined by the provisions of the *Town and Country Planning Act 1990*. In addition, local planning authorities are responsible for the protection of the historic environment within the planning system and policies for the historic environment are included in relevant regional and local plans.

#### **3.2 Legislation and Planning Guidance**

- 3.2.1 Statutory protection for historically important buildings and structures is derived from the Planning (Listed and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. Guidance on the approach of the planning authorities to development and historic buildings, conservation areas, historic parks and gardens and other elements of the historic environment is provided by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which was adopted on 27 March 2012. Historic buildings are protected through the statutory systems for listing historic buildings and designating conservation areas. Listing is undertaken by the Secretary of State; designation of conservation areas and locally listed buildings is the responsibility of the local planning authority. The historic environment is protected through the development control system and, in the case of historic buildings and conservation areas, through the complementary systems of listed building and conservation area control. Buildings of local importance or local heritage assets, though not statutorily protected, enjoy some protection from indiscriminate demolition via the local planning authority.
- 3.2.2 Prompted by London Borough of Newham's decision to close Atherton Leisure Centre at the beginning of 2012, English Heritage received three separate listing applications. Thereafter Newham Council commissioned a report to provide an assessment of the building with a view to adding Atherton Leisure Centre to the statutory list. The assessment concluded that whilst the Atherton Leisure Centre is a building of clear local architectural and historic interest, it does not have the architectural quality or level of survival to meet the criteria for listing. Based on this assessment the Atherton Leisure Centre was refused listed status.
- 3.2.3 The site does not lie within a Conservation Area nor has it been locally listed by Newham Council. It has previously been proposed for designation by the Conservation Officer but was turned down. The site is partly within an archaeological priority area as defined in the Borough's Local Plan and lies on or near the line of the Roman road from London to Colchester.
- 3.2.4 Planning permission (Ref 13/00926/FUL) was granted by the London Borough of Newham in 2013. The consented scheme involves the demolition of the existing leisure centre and associated chimney, buildings/structures and its replacement with a new two-storey leisure centre (three-storey's in scale) including swimming pools, health and fitness suite, crèche, assessment, treatment, studio and changing rooms, cafe/viewing area, with associated plant rooms and flues, bin and cycle and general stores and external parking and servicing area.
- 3.2.5 And the erection 9 four bedroom houses, arranged in 2 x 2 pair of 3 storey semi detached properties fronting Atherton Road, and 1 x 2 pair and a terrace of 3 houses backing onto McGrath Road. These houses will be part two and part three-storey in height. The proposals include associated parking, manoeuvring and amenity areas, stop up existing accesses and form pedestrian accesses onto Romford Road, Atherton Road and McGrath Road and vehicular accesses onto Atherton Road and lay out coach, and disabled persons parking spaces in Atherton Road.
- 3.2.6 A planning condition (A7) was imposed by the Local Planning Authority (Newham Council) on the planning permission (Ref 13/00926/FUL) on the advice of Adam

Single, the Greater London Heritage Archaeological Advisor to the LPA. His advice reads: 'In view of the possible impact on Roman and later remains, it would be appropriate to archaeologically evaluate the site and secure appropriate mitigation for any groundworks impact. It would also be appropriate to secure historic building recording of the former swimming baths complex. The programme of work could be secured by attaching the following condition to any consent that the Borough is minded to grant:

Reason: Heritage assets of archaeological interest survive on the site. The planning authority wishes to secure the provision of archaeological investigation and historic buildings recording and the subsequent recording of the remains prior to development, in accordance with recommendations given by the borough and the NPPF.

Condition Part A: No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works and historic building recording in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the local planning authority.

Condition Part B: No development or demolition shall take place other than in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under Part (A).

Condition Part C: The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation and post investigation assessment has been completed in accordance with the programme set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation approved under Part (A), and the provision made for analysis, publication and dissemination of the results and archive deposition has been secured.

Informative: The development of this site is likely to damage heritage assets of archaeological interest. The applicant should therefore submit detailed proposals in the form of an archaeological project design. The design should be in accordance with the appropriate English Heritage guidelines'.



## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Aims and Objectives**

- 4.1.1 The aim of the building recording was to provide an English Heritage Level 3 record of the building prior to its demolition. The purpose of the project was to clarify the development of the site and to compile a final record of the building, to chart its historic and structural development, and record the historic fabric, current spatial relationships, historic decoration and any original fixtures and fittings which will be lost as a result of the proposed development. The aim was to provide a better understanding of the building, to compile a lasting record and to analyse and disseminate the results.

### **4.2 Documentary Research**

- 4.2.1 A search of relevant primary sources was carried out at Newham Archives and Local Studies Library at Stratford and at the British Library. This information was used to supplement the historical background information already gathered for the Atherton Leisure Centre Initial Assessment of Listability Report (Alan Baxter, 2011) which was carried out following applications to English Heritage to list the building. The results of historical research are provided in Section 5 of this report.

### **4.3 On-Site Recording**

- 4.3.1 The historic building recording was carried out on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013. Plans of the building were provided by the client and were checked on site for accuracy, amended where appropriate and used as a basis for the illustrations in this report (**Figures 6 to 8**).
- 4.3.2 A photographic survey including high quality digital images was carried out to record key features and interior spaces, as well as the external elevations of the building. A selection of photographs has been included in this report (**Plates 1 to 56**) and **Figure ?** shows the location and direction of these photographs.

### **4.4 Project Archive**

- 4.4.1 The project archive is currently held at the offices of Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited in Brockley, London, under the site code ALC13. It is anticipated that the archive (copies of the report, drawings and photographs) will be lodged with the LAARC (London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre).

### **4.5 Guidance**

- 4.5.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with standards set out in:
- Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers (1997) *Analysis and Recording for the Conservation and Control of Works to Historic Buildings*
  - British Archaeologists and Developers Liaison Group (1986) *Code of Practice*
  - British Standards Institution (1998) *Guide to the Principles of the Conservation of Historic Buildings (BS 7913)*
  - Clark, K (2001) *Informed Conservation: Understanding Historic Buildings and their Landscapes for Conservation*, English Heritage
  - English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (2009) *Standards for Archaeological Work*. External Consultation Draft
  - English Heritage (2000) *The Presentation of Historic Building Survey in CAD*
  - English Heritage (2006) *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*
  - IfA (1996, revised 2001 and 2008) *Standards and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*

## 5 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 5.1.1 The holdings of the Newham Archives and Local Studies Library and the British Library were consulted and a number of historic maps including 19<sup>th</sup> century and Ordnance Survey maps were collated to illustrate the development of the site. Secondary sources were also consulted including local publications on the history of the Borough of West Ham and a Souvenir Brochure held at the British Library.
- 5.1.2 The Municipal Borough of West Ham, formed in 1886, was divided into four wards, with a council comprising 36 councillors and 12 aldermen. It became a County Borough in 1889 under the Local Government Act, 1888. The number of wards was increased to 12 in 1899, and to 16 in 1922. Under the London Government Act, 1963, West Ham became part of the London Borough of Newham. The earliest public baths in the borough were privately owned. In 1886 and for a few years after, there was a swimming bath in Manbey Park Road, Stratford, on the site later occupied by Boardman's furniture depository. The Carpenters' Company Institute, Jupp Road, Stratford, founded in 1886, also contained a swimming bath. Municipal swimming baths were opened at Plaistow in 1901 and at Silvertown in 1922. The Silvertown baths were badly damaged by bombing during the Second World War and were finally closed in 1948. The Corporation was planning baths for Stratford as early as 1895, but this project lapsed, and in 1905, when the Carpenters' Company's School closed, the council leased the bath in Jupp Road, retaining it until 1934, when the West Ham Municipal Baths were built in Romford Road and the open air baths at Canning Town opened in 1937.
- 5.1.3 The Third Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1919 (sheet LXXXVI.2) (**Figure 3**) shows that the site was part occupied by a large detached villa with a curving carriage drive extending north from the Romford Road and to the east a pair of semi-detached Victorian houses occupying two plots along the Atherton Road. The villa known as 'Fern Bank' came onto the market and was acquired by the Borough as the site for the new baths c.1930, as the existing provision at Jupp Road was seen to be inadequate. Using the provisions of the West Ham Corporation Act of 1925 the Borough obtained the powers of compulsory purchase for the adjoining housing along Romford Road (anon. 1934). Fern Bank and the adjacent houses are shown on an historic photograph taken at the junction of Atherton Road (**Plate A**). The extensive grounds to the rear of the villa were completely developed when the West Ham Municipal Baths were built.
- 5.1.4 After the funds were obtained site clearance and the construction of the foundations commenced in June 1931 by H.C. Horswill Ltd. Following their completion the contract for the construction of the main building was secured by the construction company E.D. Winn & Co Ltd (Knightsbridge) for the sum of £147, 477. Work commenced on December 1931 and the foundation stone was laid by J.T. Scoulding (J.P.) on July 5<sup>th</sup> 1932. The new West Ham Municipal Baths opened to the public on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 1934 (anon. 1934). The Revised Ordnance Survey map of 1939 (sheet LXXXVI.2) (**Figure 4**) is the first map to depict the baths on its present site. It is clear from the building shown on this map that the footprint of the baths have changed little since their initial construction to present day (compare **Figures 2 and 4; Plate B**).
- 5.1.5 The West Ham Municipal Baths were built between 1931-34 to the designs of the Borough Engineer W. Lionel Jenkins assisted by Deputy Architect A.H. Roe (ARIBA) and T.V. Griffiths, Borough Surveyor. The complex originally housed three pools, including the 'major' pool, for first class patrons, the 'minor' pool, for second class patrons and the 'schools' pool for swimming instruction. The baths were entered through an ornate entrance hall and foyers ornamented with Sienna and Light Golden Cipolina Scagliola wall panelling and Sienna marble Columns by Fenning & Co. Ltd (Hammersmith) (**Plates C and D**).
- 5.1.6 The major pool (**Plate E**) was the principal venue for swimming galas and featured a

stage at the north end and galleried seating for spectators. Particularly during the winter months the pool could also be floored over (using a steel framed sprung oak floor) and used for sports events, dances and bowling matches. The Major Pool measured 100ft by 35ft with a maximum depth of 10ft 3 inches and minimum of 3ft 9 inches and was equipped with Olympic standard diving boards (5m and 3m high). The wall panelling within the pool area below the gallery used Scagliola marble by Fenning & Co. Ltd (Hammersmith) and special non-slip tiles laid by the Carrara Marble Co. Ltd. Ventilating air ducts providing 'warm, washed air' were incorporated along the poolside. The gallery, along with the swimming pool structures and foundations were built by specialist engineers, the Concrete Engineering Co. Ltd (Westminster). When built the gallery it had a capacity for 272 spectators. The Minor Pool was built slightly smaller than the first class pool at 100ft by 30ft, with a maximum depth of 10ft 3 inches and minimum of 3ft 6 inches while the School's pool was much smaller than the two main pools measuring 60ft by 30ft. It was remarkable in that it had two shallow ends, specifically designed to enable several swimming lessons to take place simultaneously (anon. 1934).

- 5.1.7 The dressing rooms were class and gender segregated and included dressing partitions or boxes constructed in pre-cast Terrazzo supplied by the Camden Tile and Mosaic Company. A feature of all three pools was that the dressing rooms were so arranged that bathers had to pass through an ablutions chamber before accessing the baths, to reduce levels of dirt being brought to poolside (McDougall, 1936).
- 5.1.8 In addition to recreational pursuits the 'baths' provided the venue for public bathing and included gender specific first and second class slipper baths for individual bathing, Turkish baths, vapour baths (in the basement) and a sun ray room. The Turkish baths in the south-western corner (**Figure 5**) incorporated a large waiting room, rest room with 14 beds, shampoo room and three hot steam rooms, where temperatures of up to 270 degrees F were reached using special plant. The vapour rooms, plunge pool, Ultra-Violet (sun ray) room and massage treatments were in the basement. A total of 51 second class male slipper baths with porcelain baths and white glazed brick partitions were built on the ground floor while a further 37 first class baths were provided on the first floor. The first floor also included segregated 24 first class and 27 second class slipper baths for ladies (anon. 1934).
- 5.1.9 Engineering for the pool was carried out under the supervision of J. R. Preston (M.I. Mech. E) and the pool was equipped with the latest plant and services. Three double return tube economic steam boilers by Edwin Banks & Co Ltd (Oldbury) provided 7250lbs of steam pressure per hour via calorifiers to warm the water for the baths. The Minor pool was kept at 76 degrees F during the winter months, when the Major pool was covered over for events. The air within the baths was 'washed', warmed and distributed via a network of ducts to various rooms and heating throughout by various means including concealed panels (Major pool and Turkish baths) and standard low pressure (hospital type) radiators. The filtration plant filtered, warmed, aerated and sterilised the water to contemporary drinking water standards and could recycle 120,000 gallons of water per hour (anon. 1934).
- 5.1.10 All service rooms were located to the rear (north) of the building, including the engineer's workshops and the washhouse and drying room for towels and bathing costumes (later demolished). The resident engineer lived on site, in a flat at the rear of the Major pool that was accessible from a private front door on Atherton Road (Alan Baxter, 2011).
- 5.1.11 An Ideal Home exhibition was held at the West Ham Municipal Baths in 1935 and a photograph taken at the time (**Plate F**) shows one of the exhibition displays and part of the main stage and arched opening within the Major pool area.

## 6 BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS

### 6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The following descriptive text provides objective information about the former Atherton Leisure Centre at the time of the survey (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2013). Interpretation of function and the phasing of the building is based on information gathered during the fieldwork, analysis of the building fabric and documentary information.
- 6.1.2 For ease of description the rooms surveyed on each floor have each been given a unique identifying number 1 to 40. The main entrance lies at the centre of the Romford Road (south) frontage, with alternative entrances along Atherton Road. The main entrance comprises two openings which lead into an entrance hall and foyer with offices to the west and fitness rooms to the east. A central door to the north of the entrance hall leads onto a long spinal corridor which separates the Major and Minor Pools (**Figure 6**). An east-west corridor intersects the main corridor at its north end, beyond which is the Bowling Hall. To the rear of the building are the service areas. The pools, though sunk into the basement are all of double height and take up the majority of the building internal space. At the southern end of the building, the sauna/steam rooms and music rooms are located within the basement and the gymnasiums occupy most of the first floor.
- 6.1.3 The West Ham Municipal Baths were built as Pevsner describes to a 'typical interwar Neo-Georgian' design (Cherry et al, 2005). The building occupies a large corner plot at the junction of Romford Road and Atherton Road and is a complex building arranged over one and two storeys with a basement. Accordingly the roof-scape is equally complex comprising a series of hipped roofs, obscured from the roadside by parapet walls, over the front (south) entrance bays (**Plate 1**), larger pitched roofs above the three (former) pool areas and a multifarious range of pitched rooflines within the utility and service areas to the rear (north). Large expanses of flat roofing occupy the central area between the two pools (**Plate 48**) and between the rear projecting wings of the front (south) range. Roof coverings are all modern, comprising either Roman pan tiles to the more visible front (south) range (**Plate 1**) or corrugating sheeting to the larger roofs of the pools and rear hall. The latter has a shallow pitch and has clearly been rebuilt in recent years. The principal south and east elevations are constructed in red brick with Portland and artificial stone dressings, while the less visible west and north elevations are much plainer and are built in yellow stock brickwork.
- 6.1.4 The building is broadly comprised of three main areas, a two-storey entrance range to the front (south) laid out to a reverse E-plan with three north projecting wings, two large, double height parallel set swimming pools (Major and Minor Pools) divided by a single storey spinal corridor and changing areas within the centre of the building and a large perpendicular-set bowling hall, formerly partly incorporating another pool (School Pool) within the northernmost bays (**Figure 6**). An attached boiler house and a service yard occupy the area to the north of the main building, while a tall brick-built chimney stack and sectional water tower lie toward the north-west corner of the site. The building is part two-storey (mainly the front (south) range), part single storey (swimming pool and hall areas) and is constructed over a considerable concrete basement storey which extends the full length of the building and incorporates the sub-structure of the pools and the boiler house/filtration plant to the north.

### 6.2 External Elevations

#### *Principal (South) Elevation (Figure 9; Plates 1 to 7)*

- 6.2.1 The principal and most visible elevation fronts onto the Romford Road (A118) to the south and is set out over 15 bays with a 1:5:5:5:1 window arrangement and is built over two storeys in red brick with stone dressings (**Figure 9; Plate 1**). The brickwork

uses good quality red bricks showing little sign of over firing or kiss marks and laid using a hard cream-coloured flush pointed mortar in Flemish bond. The central and end bays of the elevation break forward from the wall plane and are flanked by strip pilasters. The two principal main entrances lie within the Neo-Classical themed central three bay section. This was built to resemble a tetra-style portico using four Portland Stone pilasters, rising to a moulded stone cornice and entablature, the latter bearing the inscription 'West Ham Municipal Baths' carved into the stonework (**Plate 3**). The architectural stonework was supplied by E.J. & A.T. Bradford and the Patent Victoria Stone Company. The entablature raises the height and arguably the importance of the central bays, when compared to the slightly lower stone parapets along the eaves to each side. The entablature also partly obscures the roofline, which is hipped above the central bays and over the end bays where the roof turns 90 degrees.

- 6.2.2 The door and windows are symmetrical in spacing and height across the elevation and similar in appearance, although the door architraves and ground floor window architraves of the central bays and end bays are more elaborate, incorporating an integral canopy/cornice. All of the window or door apertures have stone or fake stone (cement) mouldings, the sills of the ground floor windows coinciding with a flush stone sill band running the length of the frontage. Another stone band is present along the base of the wall, forming a decorative plinth and the bases of the four columns which form the stylised portico. The ground floor windows are taller than those at first floor and incorporate original small paned 6 over 12 or 8 over 16 iron framed windows (**Plate 6**), the former narrower frames only present within a two mullioned opening in the central bay. The first floor windows are set directly below a moulded stone eaves cornice, which projects beyond the wall plane and in turn supports the parapet. The first floor windows are quite squat square apertures which, apart from those in the central bay, have modern plastic replacements.
- 6.2.3 A series of light wells, edged with low brick walls and stone copings, providing light to the basement rooms are present at intervals along the base of the elevation. These areas are enclosed by boundary features, either low brick boundary walls or walls and original decorative iron railings (supplied by the Morris Singer Company). An unsympathetic enclosed fire-escape stair wraps around the south-western angle of the frontage (**Plate 7**).

***East (side) Atherton Road Elevation (Figure 9; Plates 8 to 11)***

- 6.2.4 The east (side) Atherton Road elevation continues in the same architectural style as the frontage but is plainer and without a feature comparable to the grand central entrance bays. This elevation can be broken up by function and architectural treatment into three main sections. The southern five bays are a continuation of the front (south) range and accordingly is similarly proportioned and echoes the same architectural treatments (**Figure 9; Plate 8**). The next, central, eleven bays form the east wall of the Major swimming pool (**Plate 9**) while the northern eight bays are associated with those rooms outside and to the north of the Major pool and latterly the Bowling Hall (former School Pool area) (**Plate 10**).
- 6.2.5 Whilst the architecture is plainer, this elevation was built with its visibility in mind and like the principal (south) front used stone dressings for window and door openings and the same higher quality brickwork. This elevation included two wide arched headed openings, toward the southern and northern end, both built flush to the wall line and in front of a recessed double arched doorway (**Figure 9**). The southern door opened into the foyer adjacent to the Major Pool while the northern door formerly gave access to the School Pool. Both were identical in form and were built with a fake stone arch, a tile voussoir and a pronounced over-sized key stone (**Plates 8 and 10**). The other door openings along this elevation were flat headed openings with stone architraves and provided access or egress to/from the pool or to northern stairwell up to the viewing gallery.
- 6.2.6 The central section, by the use of a brick parapet wall, appeared to be slightly elevated in height above those sections to either side and repeats the use of a raised



central section, similar to that along the facade (**Figure 9; Plates 8 and 9**). The Classical theme is continued with a series of twelve full height brick pilasters, capped with stylised stone capitals and supporting an entablature or cornice which runs along the base of the parapet. Small windows, set lower than the first floor windows within the front (south) range, provide light to the viewing gallery and pool in general. These openings were replicated on the western flank wall, but were much plainer.

- 6.2.7 The northern bays were distinctive in that the area of the arched opening and the pilaster to the north of that opening were relatively unaltered, but the northernmost section between the aforementioned pilaster and the north-eastern corner had been considerably rebuilt (**Plates 10 and 11**). This was evident by a change in the brickwork directly above the four brick-blocked windows up to the eaves level (**Figure 9**). The corner pilaster which had been completely rebuilt and the stone cornice and capitals, which were later additions failed to exactly match the colour of the older stonework. Extensive rebuilding is also evident in the northern end wall which similarly had been considerably rebuilt from the lower wall courses up (**Plates 12 and 15**). During the war a high explosive bomb was dropped just adjacent to this area, and this may explain some of the rebuilding in this area. The rear northern wall however was plainly modern and is associated with the remodelling of the northern bays to create a new bowling hall in c.1997.

#### ***Utility Buildings (Plates 12 to 16, 53 to 55)***

- 6.2.8 The rear service yard was accessed through a gated entrance from Atherton Road (**Plate 12**). This narrow open area included a weighbridge manufactured by Avery of Birmingham at the entrance threshold (**Plate 16**) and a number of yellow stock brick utility buildings along the northern boundary including a weighing office next to the weighbridge, a switchgear room to the east and a garage and water softener room to the west (**Figures 5 and 6**). The basemented boiler house, aligned north-south and with a gable elevation to the north was located against the western boundary. It was constructed with walls built using yellow stock bricks laid in Flemish bond beneath a pitched roof with modern corrugated panels and ridge-line ventilators (**Plate 14**). The roofs also incorporate in-pitch panels of corrugated clear plastic sheeting to top light the interiors. The form of the gables, with a raised central ridge section, suggests that the former roof was built with a ridge lantern and that the intermediate wall was built as a fire-break, isolating the boiler house by rising above the plane of the roof. Two large openings in the eastern elevation gave access into the two sections of the building. The northern bays containing a large air extractor (**Plate 55**) but probably originally accommodated the three steam boilers by Edwin Banks & Co. Ltd (Oldbury). The southern half was basemented and contained the main filtration tanks for both swimming pools (**Plates 53 and 54**). The roof trusses manufactured by Sanders and Forster (Thames Works, Barking) were an angle iron scissor brace design, bolted at the strut junctions and reinforced with gussets (**Plate 54**). The internal planes of the roofs were covered using the same style of herringbone matchboard panels as seen in the roofs over the first floor rooms in the main building. The chimney stack is octagonal in section and built using yellow stock brick with red brick dressings to the angles (**Plate 14**). The stack gradually tapered up to an over-sailing cap.

### **6.3 Internal Descriptions**

#### ***Ground Floor (Figure 6)***

##### ***Room 1 Central Entrance Hall (Plates 17 to 22)***

- 6.3.1 The central entrance hall/vestibule could be accessed via two separate doorways from Romford Road or via an arched double door from Atherton Road (later adapted). The room was a 3 bay space, top lit by two large rectangular ceiling lights set into the outer (east and west) bays (**Plates 17 and 19**). The glazing for the ceiling lights was slightly elevated above the level of the ceiling and in a recess with a fluted internal decoration and a decorative plaster border. Both comprised stained glass and obscure glass and were designed using a simple geometric pattern, supported on a

heavier grid-like frame. These lights were supplied by a local glazier, the British Challenge Glazing Company (Stratford). Both lights survived intact and as part of their design included numerous small ventilation apertures. The ceiling lights were positioned below glass lanterns mounted on the flat roof above.

- 6.3.2 The ceiling was crossed north-south by two downstand beams (delineating the room bays, **Plate 17**) supported along the opposing walls by strip pilasters with decorative capitals using an Ovolo detail to the soffit and bases with a Torus moulding. Pilasters are also used on the angles of the full height openings into the vestibule from the east and west sides. These pilasters rest side by side with two pairs of circular columns (in antis) built with simple capitals and set onto square stone bases (**Plates C and 18**). The columns were originally finished in Sienna Scagliola marble, but have been over-painted in recent years. The ceiling was plain apart from a decorative cogged plaster cornice extending around all three bays (**Plate 17**). The present wall decoration was reserved and included a plain plaster impost band (10cm wide and c.2m from the floor) and undecorated 9 inch high plaster skirtings. However the lower walls beneath the plaster band and later paintwork were originally clad using Sienna and Light Golden Cipolino Scagliola.
- 6.3.3 The side bays to the east and west of the Entrance Hall were original top lit by ornate domed lights glazed with the same style of geometric glass used in the Entrance Hall lights (**Plates 20 and 21**). Only one of the domed lights, to the east of the Entrance Hall survived intact, the western examples had been latterly replaced post-war by a more functional grid pattern glass brick construction (**Plate 22**).
- 6.3.4 In addition to the two large openings to the east and western foyers, there were originally six further openings, three in the north wall and three in the south wall. These were symmetrically positioned directly opposite each other comprising two arched openings (from the main entrances) set either side of a central flat headed doorway to room (2). This form is reversed in the northern wall, where a central archway to the spinal corridor 16 is flanked by a pair of flat headed door openings (the eastern latterly blocked). The arches have a moulded detail to the soffit and architraves to the door openings, though extensively removed by the time of the survey, appear (from photographic evidence) to adopt a typical classical motif of entablature and cornice. The removal of the architraves exposed the core of the walls and showed that the main structural walls were built in Fletton brickwork and were 1 ½ brick wide or 16 inch brickwork. Cinder bricks were also used in areas where fittings such as door hinges were located or along the base of wall where the skirtings were fixed. Non-structural internal dividing walls were 5 inches or ½ brick wide or used the ceramic pot type bricks used extensively for the first floor construction. The lower walls below the impost band had also been re-plastered in room (1).
- 6.3.5 The impost band continued into and along the walls of both entrance corridors and coincided with the height of the transom of an internal glazed mullioned window along the eastern side of former ticket room (2). The eastern corridor was sub-divided by a partition into two bays with an inner door (door removed) below a glazed fanlight. The equivalent door and fan light had been removed in the western corridor, as had the internal windows to room (2). The original two-leaf, three panel, centre closing, oak doors and the moulded architrave remained. Both had a rectangular door light and an open ironwork grill in fish scale design.

#### *Rooms 2 to 4 (Plate 23)*

- 6.3.6 Room 2 was situated just south of the Entrance Hall (1) and flanked by the entrance corridors. It was originally used as the main Ticket Office (**Figure 5**). As mentioned the two internal windows along its western side had latterly been blocked, although an original mullioned and transom window with clear glass panels remained to the east. The other window along this wall had been converted to a doorway (**Plate 23**). The room was principally lit by three windows in the south wall but also by the vestiges of borrowed light from the remaining internal windows. The original fenestration along the south wall comprised a large stone mullioned window of three lights with iron framed windows. These were small paned (10 x 12 inch) with a 4 x 3 fixed lower

section and a smaller 3 x 2 centrally pivoting ventilating section above. The door architraves and skirtings had been removed although a wall length of skirting, 11 inches high with a bead moulding remained as did a plaster ceiling cornice of two orders with an upper cavetto and ovolo soffit.

- 6.3.7 Room 3, originally the Refreshment Room, retained the same style of ceiling cornice and the same fenestration as room 2 (**Figures 5** and **6**). It also showed evidence, as imprints within the bitumen floor preparation, of a removed herringbone parquet floor confirming a non-wet area. Room 4 originally formed part of the Turkish Bath and was a Cooling Area adjacent to the steam rooms. It remained as a large area which extended the full depth of the front range along the western side of the entrance hall. It retained a herringbone parquet floor (latterly covered over) and was unsympathetically decorated with a rough-cast spray on wall covering which masked all evidence of detail but through which a simple cavetto cornice could be recognised. The fenestration to the south wall was similar to that in rooms 2 and 3 but was slightly larger, using two 4 x 2 side opening casements below a pair of 2 x 2 ventilating upper lights. The area was also top lit by two square ceiling lights with modern glazing. Vents in the north wall provided low level heating to the room.

*Rooms 27-31 Turkish Baths (Plates 24 and 25)*

- 6.3.8 The principal wet area for the Turkish Baths comprised the series of rooms (27 to 31) along the western wall. Whilst these spaces had latterly been used for a number of utility functions (drying room, plant room and maintenance room) evidence of its former use was most apparent in room (27), where most of the original room décor, fitted shower cubicles and mosaic floor remained (**Plate 24**). The floor comprised small rectangular tesserae (2cm x 4cm) with a non-slip textured upper surface laid in a herringbone pattern (**Plate 25**). The main floor was cream in colour but incorporated a 13cm wide decorative geometric band of brown/light brown tesserae towards the edge of the floor and 13cm from the base of the wall where it joined a curved tile skirting to form a waterproof joint. This mosaic floor extended into the corridor to the north (with a band either side) and as far as room (29/30). The walls were covered in 6 inch cream and pink tiles (supplied by the Carrara Marble Company), the latter used to accentuate openings, angles and as floor, mid wall and ceiling bands. They were also used to cover an original and integral three bay shower cubicle built against the north wall and below a reinforcing arch (also tiled) replacing the structural wall (**Plate 24**). The sinks once present along the opposite wall had been recently removed, although an original private shower, later used as a laundry cupboard, remained in the north-west corner. Both window openings in the west wall had latterly been blocked and plastered over.
- 6.3.9 Room 28 retained evidence of the same mosaic floor but was less decorative, the walls covered in plain white ceramic bricks (laid as Flemish bond and measuring 220 x 70 x 105mm). The floor had the same curved waterproof skirting detail and the angles, to the corners and the window sill were rounded as bull-nose. Drainage gulleys were integral to the floor while a simple small cove extended around the ceiling. The room presently housed two large industrial sized clothes driers. Rooms (29 and 30) were very similar in detail, retaining the same floor and white ceramic brick faced walls. Two original openings with segmental or soldier ceramic brick heads were present between the two rooms. Room (29) latterly housed a small boiler and other apparatus, while (30) was empty. Room (31) was created by opening a door opening in its south wall, when the present service lift was inserted into the north-eastern corner.

*Room 6 Stairwell (Plate 26)*

- 6.3.10 Stairwell (6) solely provided access to the facilities in the basement. It was a fireproof dog-leg stair with a half pace landing, built using cream coloured terrazzo treads with a black banded decoration toward the nosing. The terrazzo stairs and all terrazzo work were executed by the Camden Tile and Mosaic Company. The stair had a wrought iron balustrade with a moulded oak handrail and alternately paired stick balusters or single shaped balusters with a central floral disc medallion. A similar



moulded oak handrail with scrolled ends, attached to the stair wall provided additional support. The stairwell was heated by an original six panel radiator with a rouletted design (**Plate 26**). This style of radiator was also seen in the main corridor and in the principal public areas. Much simpler (hospital type) radiators were used in non public and less visible areas.

*Rooms 8 to 10 Offices (Plate 27)*

- 6.3.11 Rooms (8 to 10) were former offices, originally including the Superintendent's Office and Typing Room, situated to the east of the main entrance and along the facade of the building (**Figures 5 and 6**). Access to these rooms from the Entrance Hall (1) was at the time of recording via an inserted opening at the south end of the east wall of this room.
- 6.3.12 Room (8) the Superintendent's Office, was originally a larger room (comparable in size to room 3) which had been sub-divided with the insertion of a part-glazed partition wall. This created a corridor along the north wall of (8) which linked into an original corridor to the east and north of Office Room (9) and Typing Room (10). Room (8) retained some decoration with plaster cornice (same style as that in room 3), a 9 inch skirting along the south wall and a herringbone parquet floor. A built-in safe set into a recess with reinforced steel door was present along the west wall of the room.
- 6.3.13 The decorative treatments for Rooms (9 and 10) were the same as Room (8), although these rooms retained an original part glazed partition wall along their northern side (**Plate 27**). This screen, 4 bays in room (9) and a slightly narrower 3 bay in room 10 followed a neo-Georgian style using a half round fan-light design at the top of each section. Each section comprised 5x3 rectangular glazed panels fitted with obscure glass measuring 8 and 13½ inches. The party wall between the two rooms was lightweight (4 inch thick) and comprised of on-edge ceramic hollow pot bricks (as used in the floor above) manufactured by 'CRANHAM'. An original opening in the northern wall of the adjacent corridor had latterly been enclosed behind a modern stud wall, extending into room (26), created to provide private access to these rooms from the double doorway to the east.
- 6.3.14 The rooms to the east of room (10) were modern and were created using lightweight stud walls. This area was originally a cloak room (**Figure 5**) and was a single space, as seen by a continuous cornice around the top of the walls. It also included a single flight to the basement floor in the south-western corner.

*Room (26) Foyer (Plate 28 and 29)*

- 6.3.15 Room (26) lay to the east of the main entrance and adjacent to the Major Pool and stairwell (7) to the first floor viewing balcony and basement. It had the same decorative treatment as room (1) with a heavy dentil cornice to the ceiling (missing along the western wall) and a comparable rectangular ceiling light with geometric glazing (**Plate 28**). The walls were plain and as room (1) was divided by a simple plaster impost band. Two wide elliptical arches along the east wall gave access to stairwell (7) and the double eastern entrance (**Plate D**). The latter was built with a pair of arched headed openings, each with a glazed half round fanlight. A small office (32) lay between the two elliptical arches. It had a parquet floor, a plain cavetto cornice and a hatch opening onto the adjacent corridor in its south wall. Stairwell (7) was of a similar design to stairwell (6), a dog-leg stair with a decorative wrought iron handrail (**Plate 29**). It varied slightly in the design of the balustrade which incorporated a Lotus Bud designed baluster for every 5 plain stick balusters. The treads were cream terrazzo with a black banding detail to the nose. The use of terrazzo may be both decorative and to address the need for a fire-proof stair.

*Corridor (16) (Plates 30 and 31)*

- 6.3.16 Extending north from the central door opening in the north wall of entrance hall (1) was the spinal corridor (16). This provided access to the changing rooms and the two pools which flanked the corridor either side and to the rooms and former school pool

in the northern bays. The corridor was laid out over seven bays and top lit by a series of replacement glass block ceiling lights, in each bay (**Plate 31**). The bay divisions were apparent by the presence of opposing strip pilasters, down-stands and decorative stone brackets with a sunburst motif and scrolling (**Plate 30**). The corridor also had a plain plaster skirting.

*Changing Rooms 14-18 (Plates 32 and 33)*

- 6.3.17 The changing rooms to the pools had been extensively modernised in recent years. Those to the east of the corridor serving the Major Pool (the first class dressing rooms) were more capacious and better lit than those serving the (second class) Minor Pool to the west. The eastern changing rooms (14 and 15) were both top lit by a pair of large replacement ceiling lights, of glass block construction (**Plate 33**). The walls and floors were covered in modern tiles. The internal wall divisions and provisions were also all modern. An exception was the shell of the Pool Attendants Office (13), which lay central to and divided the two changing rooms and looked out onto poolside (**Plate 32**). A similar office is mirrored within the western changing rooms. Whilst this small office had been extensively altered in recent years, it was built with a canted façade overlooking the pool, with a central door and multi-pane fixed glazing below and painted timber frieze and cornice. The western changing rooms had been extensively remodelled, redecorated and sub-divided in recent years to form areas of poolside disabled toilets and associated facilities; relating to the Minor Pool's later use for schools and disabled swimming. These changing rooms were less well lit, relying on borrowed light via a series of fixed glazed fan light windows with radial bars along the poolside and a series of modern fixed lights from the corridor and corresponding clerestory lights above and along the eastern wall. The latter were metal-framed and could be opened remotely to ventilate using a worm gear mechanism and were set with a light well or recess within the ceiling.

*Major Pool 12 (Figures 10 and 11; Plates 34 to 36)*

- 6.3.18 The Major or First Class Pool has remained relatively unaltered by significant later works (**Plates E and 34**). The internal décor at poolside was essentially modern with modern tiled walls (possibly laid over original Scagliola panelling) and modern non-slip tiles surrounding the two pools. The smaller and much shallower 'toddlers' pool at the southern end appears to be a later adaptation entered via a pool wide flight of steps along the western side (**Plates 34 and 36**). A tiled bench seat and modern water jets are present in the south-eastern corner of the toddlers pool. The main pool has its shallow end to the south (**Figure 10**) and in common with the smaller pool has been refurbished using modern tiling. The flank walls at poolside are pierced by a series (9) of equally spaced ventilation portals, included to provide warm washed air into the pool area. All retain their original decorative iron covers. At the northern end of the pool is the former stage area (**Figure 10; Plate 35**). It has a large arched opening which has latterly been blocked, to create a separate room, using a lightweight part glazed partition. The stage arch was built with a decorative fluted plaster surround and sprung from stylised plinths with bull-nose jambs (**Figure 11**). The West Ham Boroughs Coat of Arms with a banner reading PROGRESS WITH THE PEOPLE was proudly positioned at the apex of the arch.
- 6.3.19 A cantilevered balcony or gallery accessed from stairwell (7) and two further stairs to the north, extended around the east, west and south walls. It was built with a simple but elegant wrought iron balustrade and incorporated a small forward set viewing platform central to the pool (**Plate 36**). The original seating had been removed but the terrazzo floor of the gallery remained. The long walls were interrupted by original equally spaced metal framed 2 over 4 windows (one per bay) and by a series of smaller (than below) wall vents with original grates. A ½ inch thick wall plinth extended along the base of the gallery wall up to the level of the window sills. Whilst the décor at poolside was modern, that at gallery level was mainly original. Most notable was a large stylised sunburst motif rising out of a seascape with plaster waves present across the southern end wall (**Plate 36**).
- 6.3.20 The Major Pool was built over 11 equal bays (**Figure 11**) and with an impressive

elliptical vaulted roof designed to span the entire width of the space without the need for obstructive internal supports. Structural detail of the domed structure was obscured although each bay division represented a spanning arch. The roof was interrupted by three tiers of in-line square roof lights running the length of the pool and which provided considerable levels of light into the building. These lights were designed to match the fenestration seen elsewhere using small paned lights and as the roof lights elsewhere, used frosted/obscure glass. Vents with later extractors were built at intervals into the recessed panelled roof structure between the roof lights. Externally the dome was covered by a pitched roof, which had a mix of modern corrugated steel sheeting and clear corrugated plastic over the areas of the roof lights.

- 6.3.21 To the north of the Major Pool are a series of rooms, formerly dressing rooms, which had latterly been fitted out as offices. They retain some evidence of former treatments with plain cavetto cornices and areas of parquet flooring. Where ceiling lights were present they followed the general theme of later glass block replacement.

*Minor Pool 5 (Figure 11; Plates 37 to 40)*

- 6.3.22 The Minor or Second Class Pool (5) comprised a large single pool re-built with two shallow ends following the loss of the School Pool in 1997. The pool was set out over 11 equal bays (**Figure 11**) and comprised a large double height space. The original roof structure with its central ridgeline lantern has been replaced (c.1997) with the present unlit pitched roof (though the original trusses remain) (**Plates 37 and 38**). Although the original eleven half round openings along the west wall remain, the fenestration now comprises replacement windows of glass block construction. Despite these losses the internal decoration is mainly original with ceramic brick faced walls laid in a Flemish bond pattern. The lower wall (1.43m high) comprises green glazed bricks (supplied by the Shaws Glazed Brick Company) with two single bands of darker green bricks to the top and a 3 course dark green skirting at the base of the wall. The rest of the walls are covered in cream glazed bricks with a further round of single and double bands of green bricks at the top of the wall.
- 6.3.23 The fenestration adopts a theme of half round openings, with windows along both long walls and two larger openings high in the gable walls. The latter had been blocked in using brick, the southern window now accommodating the ventilation ducting. Those openings along the west and east wall measured 2.22m in width and were built with bull nose sills and ceramic brick voussoirs. While those to the west have been reworked some original fanlight windows retaining their radial glazing bars survive within the eastern wall to the changing rooms (the northern and southern pair) (**Plate 39**). Two of the fanlights had been converted into doorways serving the changing rooms (noticeable by a slight change in the colour of the ceramic bricks along the jambs of the new doorways). The original openings to the changing rooms are markedly different, built with a flatter segmental arch in green glazed brick voussoirs. The original part glazed canted Pool Attendant's Room, central to the east wall is also covered in the green ceramic brickwork (**Plate 40**) as is a blocked door opening with a glazed brick soldier head (to a former lavatory) in the northern wall. Original vents with decorative grills were present in alternate bays (5) along both long walls, although two had been removed in the east wall due to re-modelling works.
- 6.3.24 The roof structure comprised 10 steel trusses set at regular bay intervals and built with gently curving ties, reminiscent of the domed roof over the Major Pool. The trusses are a scissor brace construction with L-section struts bolted together at their junctions and strengthened using plate gussets. Each truss is set into a pilaster and onto high compressive stone blocks. Suction or cross-bracing has been added to five of the bays (three central and two outer) in order to strengthen the roof structure, which in turn supports 6 purlins per roof pitch. All the structural steel was manufactured and supplied by Sanders and Forster of the Thames Works, Barking.

*Room 19 Basketball Court (Mens Second Class Slipper Baths) (Plates 41 and 42)*

- 6.3.25 Latterly used as a basketball court, room (19) is located directly north of the Minor

Pool. The visible walls and the roof are modern construction. Blockwork has been added to the east and west walls and modern plasterboard to all internal elevations. Its present use as a basketball court has required the addition of a modern court floor of wooden rectangular blocks in a basket weave design (**Plate 41**). The room is laid out over 6 equal bays and has modern roof comprised of 7 trusses (**Plate 42**). Each truss is a prefabricated scissor braced truss of box-beam construction, manufactured in two halves and bolted together along the line of the king strut. The trusses hold four H section, back purlins per pitch which in turn support a modern roof with alternate clear plastic panels. A roof valley is visible internally along the south wall. Originally the space functioned as the second class male slipper baths. A small connecting room (11) to the east was originally the slipper baths waiting room. It has a large central rectangular ceiling light (with later glass blocks) and is set out over three bays with pilasters to walls and downstands to the ceiling. The lower walls, to dado level, were covered in green glazed 4 inch tiling with a decorative chequer band just below the dado rail (missing). The ceiling had a simple coving while the floor was modern.

*Room 20 Bowling Hall (Figures 10 and 11; Plates 43 and 44)*

- 6.3.26 Room (20) is a large open space latterly used as the Bowling Hall. Following an application in 1997 to create a new bowling hall the area was considerably reconfigured internally and rebuilt externally. The northern and eastern walls were significantly rebuilt as was the visible section of the south wall, where modern mastic joints are apparent. The scheme also entailed the removal and infilling of the School pool and the loss of the original wash house and drying rooms (compare **Figures 5 and 6**). As most of these spaces have been lost, very little of historic interest remains. A series of strip pilasters at c.2.6m intervals along the south wall show the extent of the former School Pool (**Plate 43**) and remnants of green glazed brickwork (as on the walls of the Minor Pool (5)) are present along the base of the wall (**Plate 44**). Little other evidence of the former pool remains at this level. An arcade is present at the western end of room 20. This opens into an area of mainly modern rooms (toilets etc) but which occupy an original narrow building built with a pitched roof with iron trusses of a similar construction to those used in the adjacent Minor Pool. This area was formerly occupied by the male slipper baths, but no evidence remains (compare **Figures 5 and 6**). A length of part-glazed partition walling had been inserted into a former entrance hall adjacent to the double door in the east wall, to form the south-eastern corner of room 20 and to segregate access.

*First Floor*

- 6.3.27 The majority of the first floor rooms are located over the front southern end of the building. This area was originally used for slipper baths and latterly used as gymnasiums and dance studios (**Figure 7**). This included a large single room to the front (22; **Plate 46**) and perpendicular ranges 23, 25 and 33). Whilst the later re-use considerably compromised the original internal layout and decoration of the rooms, some elements still remained.

*Rooms 22 to 35 (Plates 45 to 47) Former Slipper Baths (Male and Female)*

- 6.3.28 Room (23) comprised the north-south aligned 6 bay eastern range, directly accessed from stair (24) and a nearby short flight of stairs. The present rooms within this range were modern additions with blockwork walls built only up to the bases of the roof trusses. This was because the trusses and the internal roof line were built to be visible, lined using match-boarding in herringbone panels and not hidden behind a suspended ceiling. The roof trusses were a composite of wrought iron tie bars and L section struts, arranged as scissor bracing, which could be tensioned latterly and vertically through the tie bars (**Plate 45**). The trusses in a three bay section also incorporated an additional raised principal to accommodate a series of glazed clerestory lights along the inner western elevation. These ventilating lights, opened via a worm gear mechanism, were repeated along the length of the northern wall of (22) and the corresponding 3 bays in the eastern wall of (25). The roof trusses across the entire first floor apart from the section of hipped roof above the central bays used the same iron scissor brace truss. The roof over the central bays was part obscured



by a ceiling, but was of a timber construction and possibly a later replacement.

- 6.3.29 The lower walls of room (23) were modern plasterboard, added to cover the original ceramic white tiling and tile skirtings of the slipper baths, present across the lower wall beneath the window sills and half way up the height of the windows (impost level). The tiling within the central area used more ornate brown tiles with a decorative band, suggesting a division of first and second class bathers, and some loss of original internal divisions between the central and outer bays. The majority of the windows in this area were replacement UPVC units. The internal divisions within (25) were all modern and included a service lift (from ground floor room 31) in the north-eastern corner. The central rear (north) range (33) was considerably longer than (23 and 25) and was laid out over 12 bays. In common with (23) part of the area comprised modern blockwork divisions, in this case changing and shower rooms for the gymnasium. The roof trusses were similar to those elsewhere on the first floor, but also incorporated a raised ridge lantern and ventilator (**Plate 47**). The windows were all modern UPVC units. The central rear stair (34) provided access to (33) and to original toilets/private bath room along the eastern wall of the rear foyer. Both were built with terrazzo floors and had tiled walls with polychromatic bands.
- 6.3.30 The only other area which included a two-storey element was the former engineers flat (35), latterly offices, located to the north of the Major Pool. The flat, accessed via the dog-leg stair to the north-east of the pool and a private door onto Atherton Road, comprised a large open room with a bathroom/toilet along the western wall. The room was bereft of original features, had lost its fenestration and appears to have been considerably altered along its northern wall, possibly a consequence of the rebuilding works associated with the former School Pool area (20). A door in the western flank wall opened on the flat central roof and between the two pools (**Plate 48**) and also a small terrace area for the flat.

#### ***Basement (Plates 49 to 52)***

- 6.3.31 Access to the basement area was constrained by the absence of sufficient lighting and more notably abandoned following the discovery of detached sheet asbestos. The western and central bays of the front (south) range and the southern part of the service area were accessed. The former showed very little survival of original treatments and beyond the location of the main structural walls, little spatial integrity.
- 6.3.32 The basement broadly comprised two main areas, with recreational activities focused below the front or southern bays and service areas, including the sub-structures of all three baths (including the original School Pool), storage rooms and the plant rooms to the north and reached via a central corridor (**Figure 8**). The main front (south) basement could be reached via three flights of stairs, in the central (34), western (6) and eastern (7) bays (**Figures 6 and 8**). The western stair (6) led down into an area flanked to the east by an open light well. An area reserved for massage (36) was situated near to the stair and adjacent to a large open area with a central rectangular modern plunge pool (37; **Plate 49**). This wet area was extensively redecorated using modern tiling for the walls and floor surfaces. At a short distance from the plunge pool (37) and within the western and north western bays was a series of saunas and steam rooms (38). Whilst this area was built within the former Vapour Rooms, the present facilities were extensively modern, as were the changing rooms to the south-west corner. To the east of the plunge pool was a room reserved for a Jacuzzi (39; **Plate 50**). Outside and to the east of the wet area and central to the front (south) range was a large area reserved for lockers (40; **Plate 51**), reached from stair (34). This area was originally three distinct rooms as evidenced by downstands in the ceiling, replacement piers and three flights of steps (the outer two blocked) to the south.
- 6.3.33 A door to the north of (40) led to the central service corridor, flanked either side by a series of unlit storage/utility rooms. The infilled School Pool lay at the northern end of the corridor while cross passageways to the east and west provided access to the two main pool sub-structures and associated plant. A corridor down the east side of the Major Pool was lit by a series of basement window from lights along the eastern

(Atherton Road) elevation (**Plate 52**). The ceilings/ground floor around the pools, were built using shuttered concrete although those ceilings above the central corridor and presumably the flanking storage rooms used a lighter fireproof Frazzi pot and beam construction, laid by Frazzi Ltd.

## 7 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.1 The survey has shown that the West Ham Municipal Baths were constructed between 1931-1934 on a site previously occupied by Fern Bank, a large detached villa with extensive grounds to the rear (north) and a pair of Victorian semi-detached houses. The site was chosen due to the size of the plot and, despite the corporations intent to build new baths in Stratford since 1895. There had been a pressing need to replace the baths at the former Carpenters' Company's School in Jupp Road, Stratford, which were seen to be inadequate.
- 7.1.2 Following initial construction works carried out in 1931 and the laying of the foundation stone by J.T. Scoulding on July 5th 1932, the West Ham Municipal Baths, built at a cost of £147,477 were finally opened to the public on the 9th June 1934. The baths were constructed to the designs of the Borough Engineer W. Lionel Jenkins, assisted by the Deputy Architect A.H. Roe (ARIBA) and the Borough Surveyor T.V. Griffiths. The complex originally housed three pools, including the 'Major' Pool for first class patrons, the 'Minor' Pool for second class patrons and the 'Schools' Pool for swimming instruction. Other facilities included class segregated slipper baths, Turkish baths, vapour rooms and even an ultra-violet sun ray room, equivalent to a modern tanning saloon.
- 7.1.3 The baths were built in a 'typical' inter-war Neo-Georgian architectural style relying heavily on classical themes. This is apparent across the principal facades and within the decoration and symmetry of the main reception areas of the entrance hall and foyers. The West Ham baths were built after the golden era of pool design from the 1880s to 1914, when over 600 baths were constructed, many of them rich in architectural detail and technological innovation and during a further burst of activity between the wars that saw the emergence of a new generation of concrete and glass modern movement baths (Gordon and Inglis, 2009).
- 7.1.4 During the interwar period the design of baths and lidos were heavily influenced by the modern movement and by new attitudes toward health and exercise, particularly from the naturalist movements prevalent throughout northern Europe and the open-air designs used in many contemporary municipal buildings (schools, hospital etc). With its plain classical architectural style these baths clearly only briefly touched the modern movement, seen within the internal decoration of the Major Pool which incorporated sun burst motifs, but nowhere else within the design or treatments. Despite the outward appearance of the baths, they were engineered to a high level using up to date air ventilation and circulation systems, in-wall heating and water filtration.
- 7.1.5 The survey showed that although the building had been extensively refurbished many times during its lifetime, particularly the wet areas of the swimming pools, changing rooms and steam rooms, the external shell of the building, the main external elevations and many original internal spaces remained intact and relatively unaltered. This was particularly the case for the principal internal spaces of the entrance hall and foyers, which retained many original decorative treatments and until recently, architraves. The decorative but rather fragile ceiling and skylights had been substituted throughout most of the building by glass block replacements while the most significant alteration was the loss of the innovative School Pool and adjacent laundry, to provide a new Bowling Hall. Following this alteration the Minor Pool was re-engineered to a double shallow end design and the Minor Pool's lantern roof was replaced. Possibly the most noticeable internal change is the removal of the slipper baths which occupied large areas of the ground and first floor. Their removal is most likely due to increased redundancy following the upgrading of sanitary facilities within households during the post-war period.
- 7.1.6 The West Ham Municipal Baths reflected the civic pride of their creators, the greater awareness of hygiene and physical fitness and the conduit to provide safe swimming,

tuition and recreation to the urban masses.



## **8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

- 8.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited would like to thank Mullalley and Company Limited for commissioning the project. Thanks are also given to the staff of the Newham Archives and Local Studies Library and the British Library for their help and assistance.
- 8.1.2 The project was managed for Pre-Construct Archaeology by Charlotte Matthews. The documentary research and building recording was carried out by Adam Garwood, who also wrote this report. Strephon Duckering undertook the photographic survey and Jennifer Simonson compiled the illustrations.

## 9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

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### **Historic Cartographic Sources**

Third Edition OS Map of 1920

Revised Third Edition OS Map of 1939

## APPENDIX 1: PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Image Ref. No.	Description	Location	View
ALC13 D100 - 1	Eastern pool, general view	Grnd Fl Rm 12	N
ALC13 D100 - 2	Eastern pool, general view	Grnd Fl Rm 12	S
ALC13 D100 - 2a	Detail of decorative relief and clock placement	Grnd Fl Rm 12	S
ALC13 D100 - 3	Proscenium arch at north end of Eastern Pool	Grnd Fl Rm 12	NW
ALC13 D100 - 3a	Detail of crest over proscenium arch	Grnd Fl Rm 12	NW
ALC13 D100 - 4	Eastern pool side view showing roof lights, balcony, entrances and kiosk	Grnd Fl Rm 12	W
ALC13 D100 - 4a	Eastern pool side view showing, balcony, entrances and kiosk	Grnd Fl Rm 12	W
ALC13 D100 - 5	Detail of balcony tier and iron work safety rail	1st Fl Rm 12	S
ALC13 D100 - 6	Detail of crittal type window with decorative vents on either side	1st Fl Rm 12	E
ALC13 D100 - 7	Detail of decorative relief and clock placement	1st Fl Rm 12	SW
ALC13 D100 - 8	Stairwell view from landing	Grnd Fl Rm 7	W
ALC13 D100 - 9	Stairwell view from top of stair	Grnd Fl Rm 7	N
ALC13 D100 - 10	View across lobby showing arches, foot of stair and decorative skylight	Grnd Fl Rm 1	NE
ALC13 D100 - 11	Rectangular, decorative skylight with stained glass, in detail	Grnd Fl Rm 1	E
ALC13 D100 - 12	Diagonal view across	Grnd Fl Rm 2	SE
ALC13 D100 - 13	View along central corridor	Grnd Fl Rm 1	N
ALC13 D100 - 14	Western most rectangular, decorative skylight with stained glass, in detail	Grnd Fl Rm 1	E
ALC13 D100 - 15	View along central corridor	Grnd Fl Rm 1	S
ALC13 D100 - 16	Radiator type, in detail	Grnd Fl Rm 1	W
ALC13 D100 - 17	Decorative moulding in corridor, sunburst with papyrus forms	Grnd Fl Rm 1	W
ALC13 D100 - 17	Decorative moulding in corridor, scrolled side piece	Grnd Fl Rm 1	SW
ALC13 D100 - 18	View across main entrance lobby	Grnd Fl Rm 1	E
ALC13 D100 - 19	View of entrances missing architraves and modern circular skylight	Grnd Fl Rm 1	W
ALC13 D100 - 20	View into stairwell with missing architrave detail	Grnd Fl Rm 1	N
ALC13 D100 - 21	Circular decorative skylight with original stained glass, to E of main entrance	Grnd Fl Rm 1	W
ALC13 D100 - 22	View across main entrance lobby showing position of circular skylight	Grnd Fl Rm 1	SW
ALC13 D100 - 23	Main entrance and positions of rectangular deco skylights	Grnd Fl Rm 1	SW
ALC13 D100 - 24	Main door detail	Grnd Fl Rm 1	S
ALC13 D100 - 25	Bathroom, diagonal view	Grnd Fl Rm 17	SW
ALC13 D100 - 26	Bathroom, diagonal view	Grnd Fl Rm 17	NE
ALC13 D100 - 27	Detail of decorative, non slip, mozaic floor	Grnd Fl Rm 17	N
ALC13 D100 - 28	West pool, diagonal view	Grnd Fl Rm 5	NE
ALC13 D100 - 29	Western poolside view showing, entrances and kiosk	Grnd Fl Rm 5	E
ALC13 D100 - 30	West pool, general view along length	Grnd Fl Rm 5	E
ALC13 D100 - 31	Detail of internal fan light	Grnd Fl Rm 5	S
ALC13 D100 - 32	View along eastern side of western pool	Grnd Fl Rm 5	S
ALC13 D100 - 33	Detail of kiosk on eastern side of western pool	Grnd Fl Rm 5	SE
ALC13 D100 - 34	View across southern half of western pool	Grnd Fl Rm 5	W
ALC13 D100 - 35	Diagonal view across western pool	Grnd Fl Rm 5	NW
ALC13 D100 - 36	Partition	Grnd Fl Rm 9	NE
ALC13 D100 - 37	Changing room	Grnd Fl Rm 15	N
ALC13 D100 - 38	Changing room	Grnd Fl Rm 15	S
ALC13 D100 - 39	Changing room	Grnd Fl Rm 14	SE

ALC13 D100 - 40	Interior of kiosk of western pool	Grnd Fl Rm 17	W
ALC13 D100 - 41	Interior of kiosk of eastern pool	Grnd Fl Rm 13	E
ALC13 D100 - 42	Detail of exterior of kiosk of eastern pool	Grnd Fl Rm 12	SW
ALC13 D100 - 43	View through corridor linking kiosks	Grnd Fl Rm 13	W
ALC13 D100 - 44	Diagonal view across Northern pool room (gym)	Grnd Fl Rm 20	SW
ALC13 D100 - 45	Diagonal view across Northern pool room (gym)	Grnd Fl Rm 20	SE
ALC13 D100 - 46	Detail of original tiles viewed through hole in plasterboard dado	Grnd Fl Rm 20	S
ALC13 D100 - 47	View across basket ball/tennis court	Grnd Fl Rm 19	SW
ALC13 D100 - 48	Detail of roof trusses	Grnd Fl Rm 19	W
ALC13 D100 - 49	Diagonal view of tiled room	Grnd Fl Rm 19	NE
ALC13 D100 - 50	Detail of radiator type in tiled room	Grnd Fl Rm 19	E
ALC13 D100 - 51	Diagonal view of first floor gym (above rm 17)	1st Fl Rm 23	NE
ALC13 D100 - 52	Detail of roof trusses, boarded ceiling and ventilation ducts (above rm 17)	1st Fl Rm	N
ALC13 D100 - 53	External view between east and west swimming pools	1st Fl Rm	S
ALC13 D100 - 54	External view between east and west swimming pools	1st Fl Rm	SW
ALC13 D100 - 55	External view between east and west swimming pools	1st Fl Rm	SE
ALC13 D100 - 56	View through 1st floor gym (ex slipper baths)	1st Fl Rm 24	W
ALC13 D100 - 57 + 57a	Detail of skylight and mechanism in corridor between R19 and R20	Grnd Fl Rm	W
ALC13 D100 - 58	Detail of roof and skylights over east pool	1st Fl Rm 12	E
ALC13 D100 - 59	Detail of decorative vent in upper wall/roof of east pool	1st Fl Rm 12	W
ALC13 D100 - 60	Detail of lifted roof truss in south eastern first floor corridor	1st Fl Rm 23	N
ALC13 D100 - 61	External view of rectangular sky light on west side of entrance lobby	1st Fl Rm	SE
ALC13 D100 - 62	External view of ventilation system for western pool	1st Fl Rm	NW
ALC13 D100 - 63	Detail of first floor tiled room (above rm 1)	1st Fl Rm	E
ALC13 D100 - 64	Plunge pool in basement	Basement 37	S
ALC13 D100 - 65	Tables in tiled room in basement	Basement	E
ALC13 D100 - 66	Jacuzzi	Basement 39	S
ALC13 D100 - 67	Locker room	Basement 40	NE
ALC13 D100 - 68	Corridor between east and west pools	Basement	N
ALC13 D100 - 69	Corridor to east of east pool	Basement	S
ALC13 D100 - 70	Filter tanks	Basement	W
ALC13 D100 - 71	Venting system	Basement	E
ALC13 D100 - 72	Pool filtration machinery	Basement	W
ALC13 D100 - 73	Principal Elevation (2588)	External	NW
ALC13 D100 - 74	Principal Elevation (2584)	External	NE
ALC13 D100 - 75	Central Range (2585)	External	N
ALC13 D100 - 76	Detail of Pilasters (2592)	External	NW
ALC13 D100 - 77	Detail of Entrance (2579)	External	N
ALC13 D100 - 78	Window Detail (2591)	External	N
ALC13 D100 - 79	Fire Escape (2581)	External	N
ALC13 D100 - 80	Atherton Road Junction (2590)	External	NW
ALC13 D100 - 81	Atherton Road Junction (2573)	External	SW
ALC13 D100 - 82	Atherton Road two storey bays (2571)	External	W
ALC13 D100 - 83	Rebuilt Upper Wall (2599)	External	W
ALC13 D100 - 84	Entrance to rear yard (2570)	External	W
ALC13 D100 - 85	Utility Buildings (2568)	External	NE
ALC13 D100 - 86	Boiler House (2550)	External	NW

ALC13 D100 - 87	Rebuilt Northern Wall (2552)	External	SW
ALC13 D100 - 88	Weighbridge (2601)	External	W

## APPENDIX 2: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-161212

### Project details

Project name	Historic Building Survey of the Atherton Leisure Centre, Stratford
Short description of the project	The historic building survey of the undesignated Atherton Leisure Centre (formerly the West Ham Municipal Baths) was undertaken prior to its demolition. The work was carried out in response to planning condition imposed by Newham Council on the planning permission (ref 13/00926-FUL). The survey has shown that the West Ham Municipal Baths were constructed between 1931-1934 and on a site previously occupied by Fern Bank, a large detached villa with extensive grounds to the rear and a pair of Victorian semi-detached houses. Following initial construction works in 1931 and the laying of the foundation stone by J.T. Scoulding on July 5th 1932, the West Ham Municipal Baths, built at a cost of £147,477, were finally opened to the public on the 9th June 1934. The baths were constructed to the designs of the Borough Engineer W. Lionel Jenkins, assisted by the Deputy Architect A.H. Roe (ARIBA) and the Borough Surveyor T.V. Griffiths. The complex originally housed three pools, including the 'major' pool for first class patrons, the 'minor' pool for second class patrons and the 'schools' pool for swimming instruction.
Project dates	Start: 02-10-2013 End: 03-10-2013
Previous/future work	Not known / No
Any associated codes	ALC13 - Sitecode
Any associated codes	13/00926/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Building Recording
Site status	Local Authority Designated Archaeological Area
Current Land use	Community Service 1 - Community Buildings
Monument type	BATHS Modern
Monument type	LEISURE CENTRE Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON NEWHAM WEST HAM Atherton Leisure Centre
Postcode	E15 4JF

Study area	0 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 3982 8482 52 0 52 26 34 N 000 03 26 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 9.10m Max: 9.50m

#### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	GLAAS
Project design originator	Charlotte Matthews
Project director/manager	Charlotte Matthews
Project supervisor	Adam Garwood
Type of sponsor	Private company
Name of sponsor	Mulalley & Co. Ltd

#### Project archives

Physical Exists?	Archive No
Digital Archive recipient	LAARC
Digital Media available	"Text", "Images raster / digital photography", "Survey"
Paper Archive recipient	LAARC
Paper Media available	"Plan"

#### Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Historic Building Recording of the former Atherton Leisure Centre, No. 189 Romford Road, Stratford, London Borough of Newham E15 4JF
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Garwood, A.
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	Pre-Construct Archaeology
Place of issue	Brockley
Description	unpublished grey literature report

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Entered by Adam Garwood (agarwood@pre-construct.com)





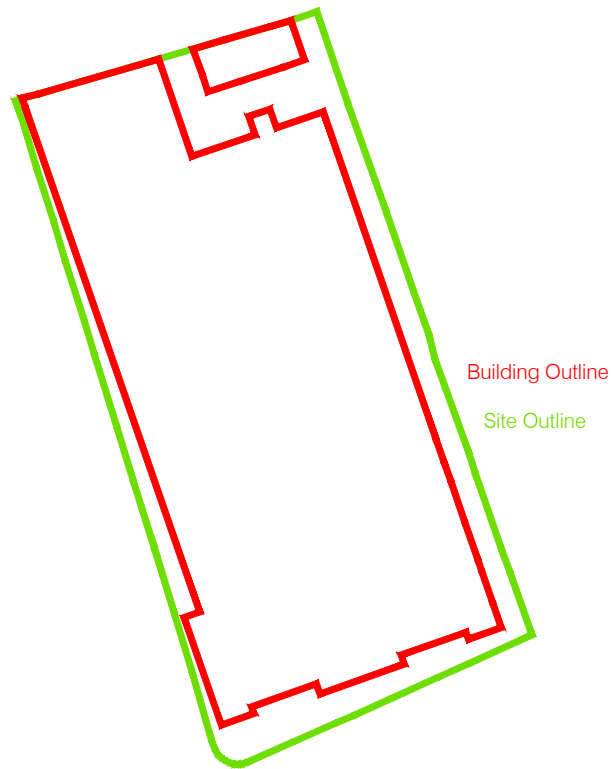
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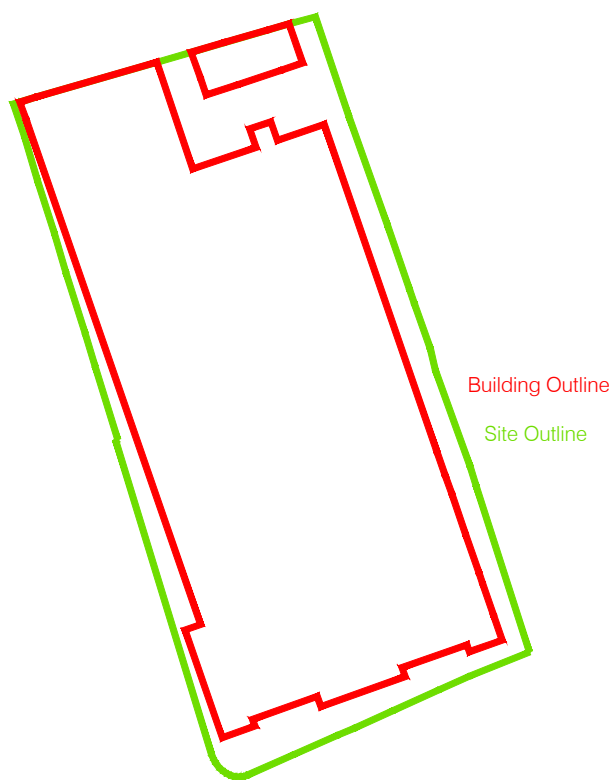
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18/10/13 JS

Figure 1  
Site Location  
1:20,000 at A4





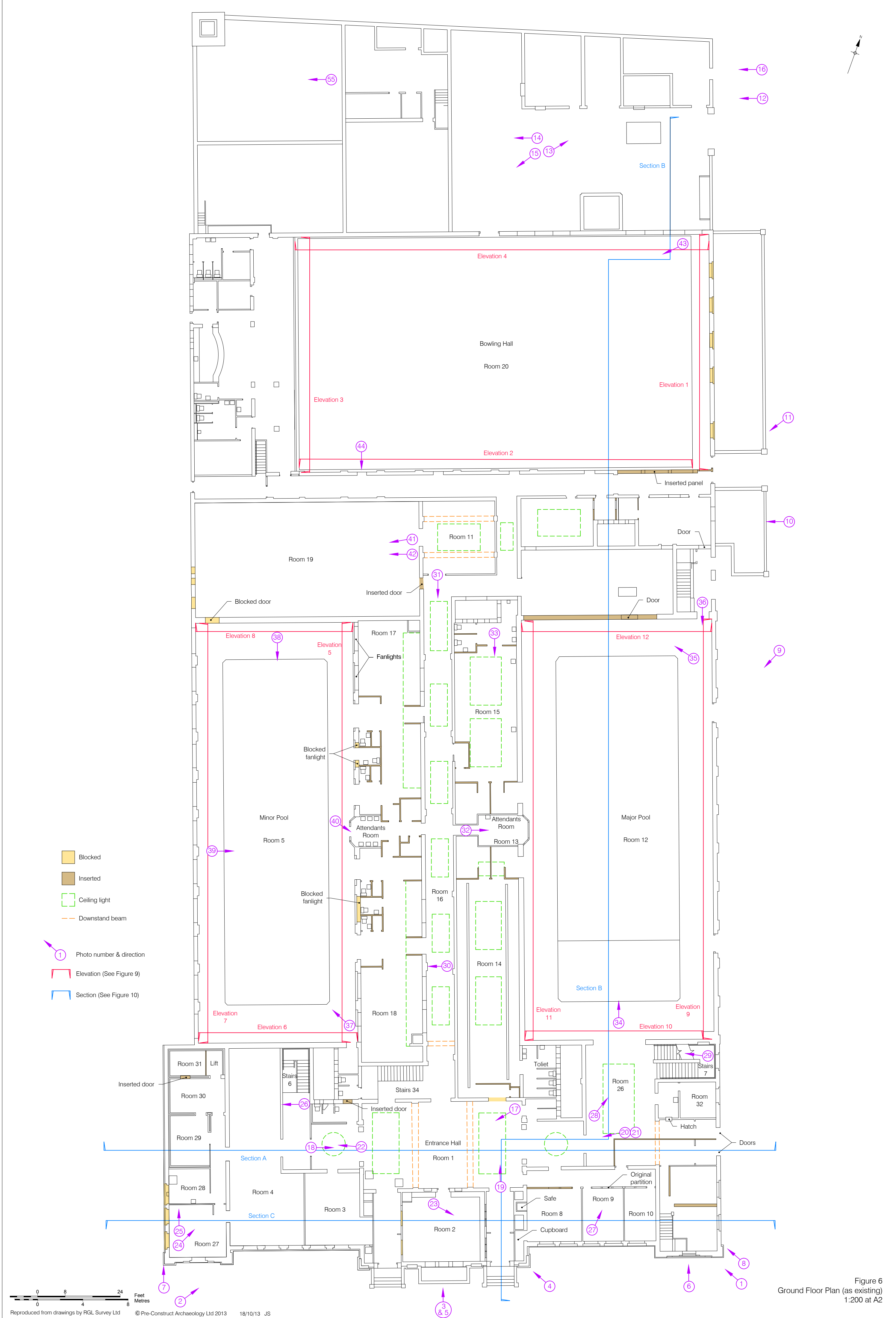


Building Outline






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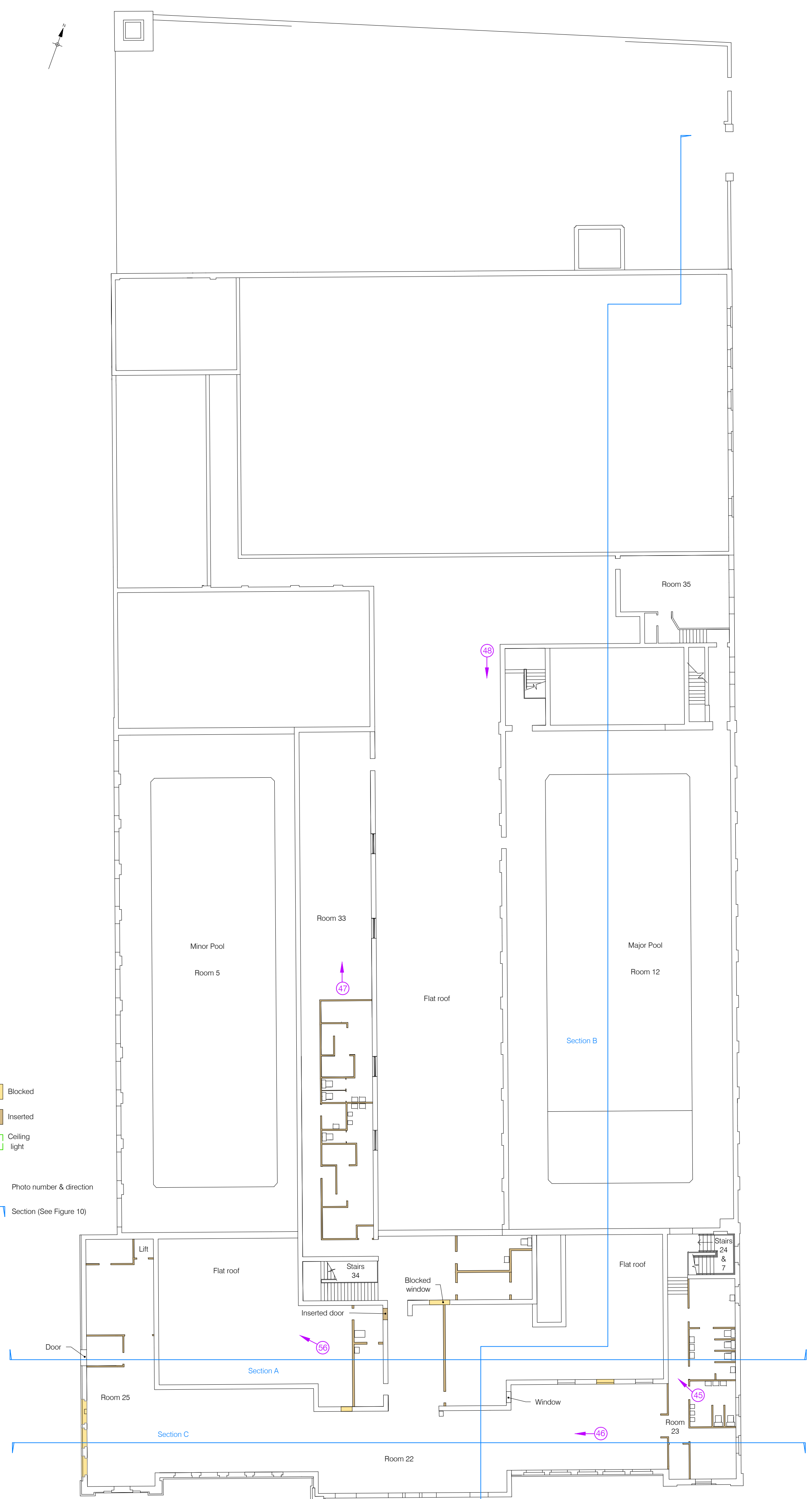








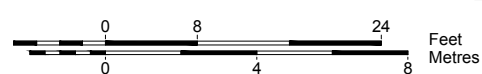
-  Blocked
-  Inserted
-  Ceiling light
-  Photo number & direction
-  Section (See Figure 10)







1 Photo number & direction  
Section (See Figure 10)



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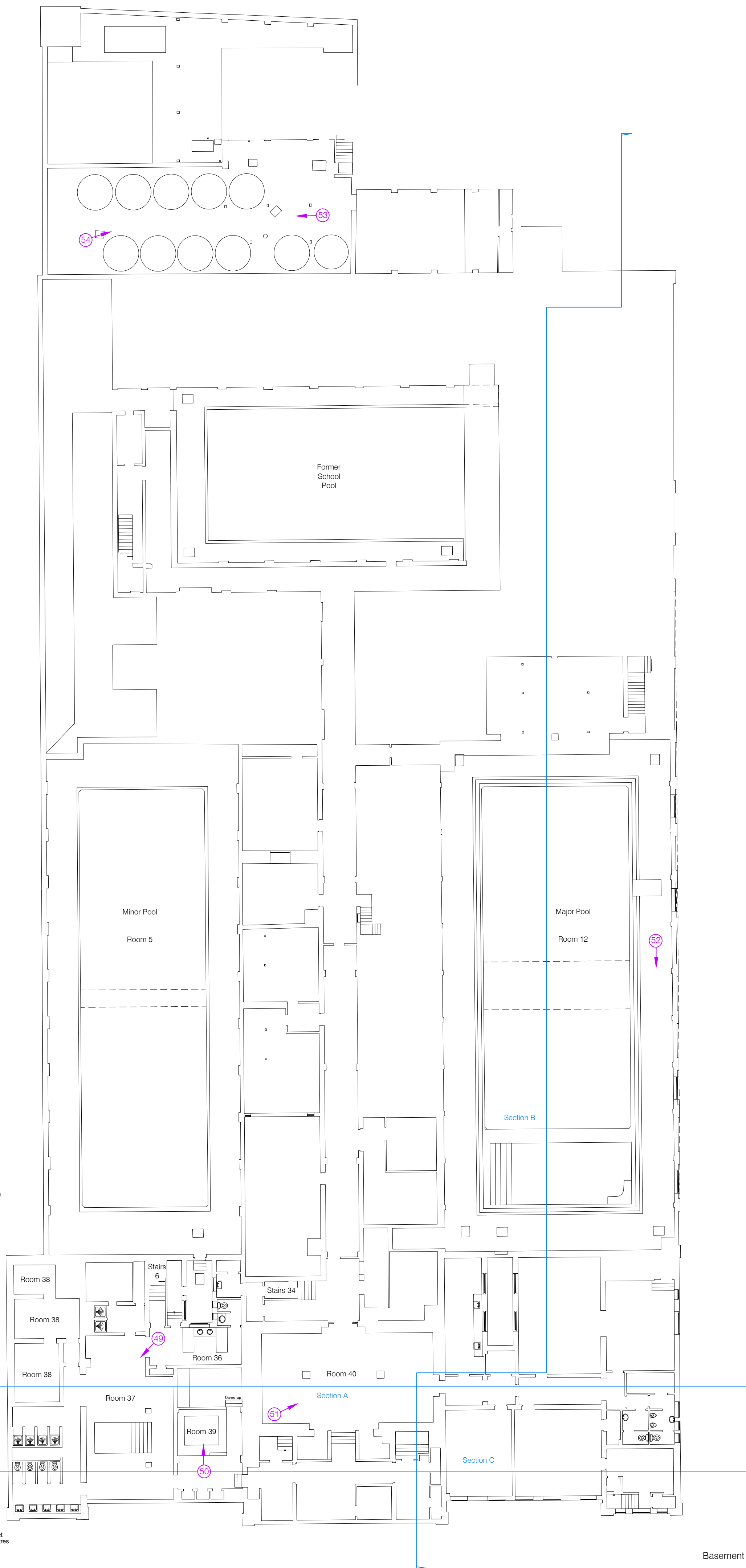
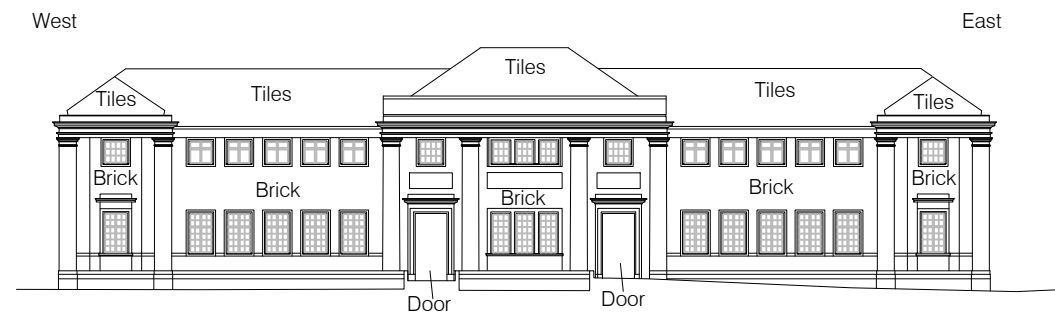


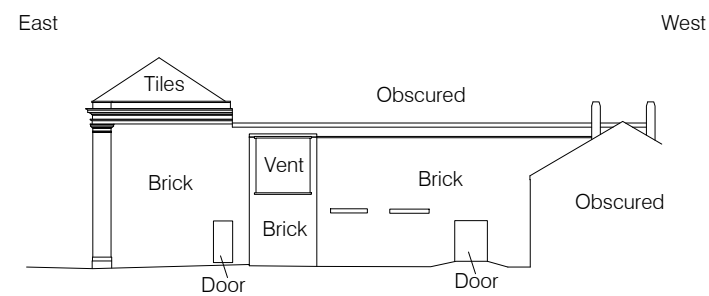
Figure 8  
Basement Plan (as existing)  
1:200 at A2



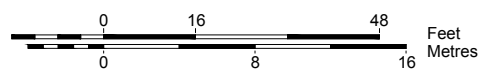
Front Elevation  
South Facing

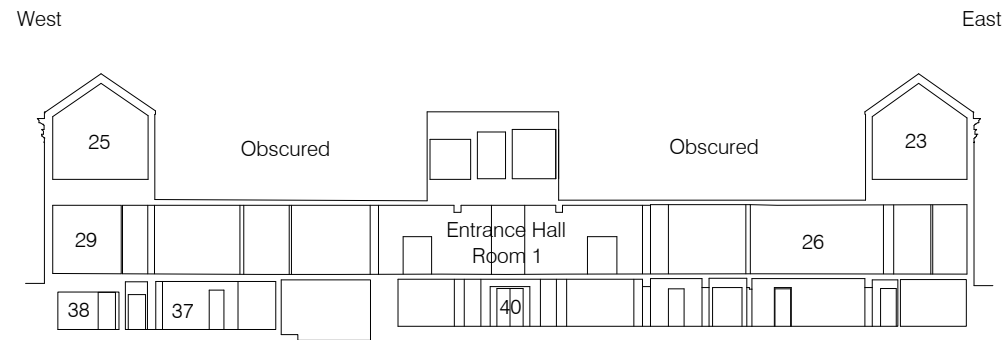


Side Elevation  
East Facing

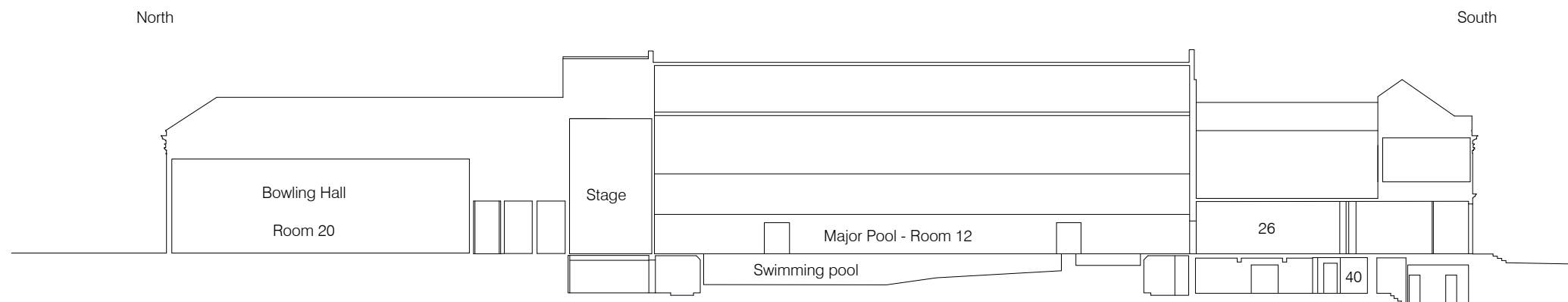


Partial Rear Elevation  
North Facing





Section A  
South Facing

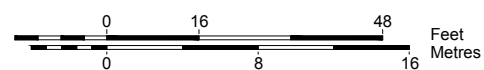


Section B  
West Facing



Section C  
North Facing

40 = Room Number



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Figure 10  
Sections through building  
1:400 at A3

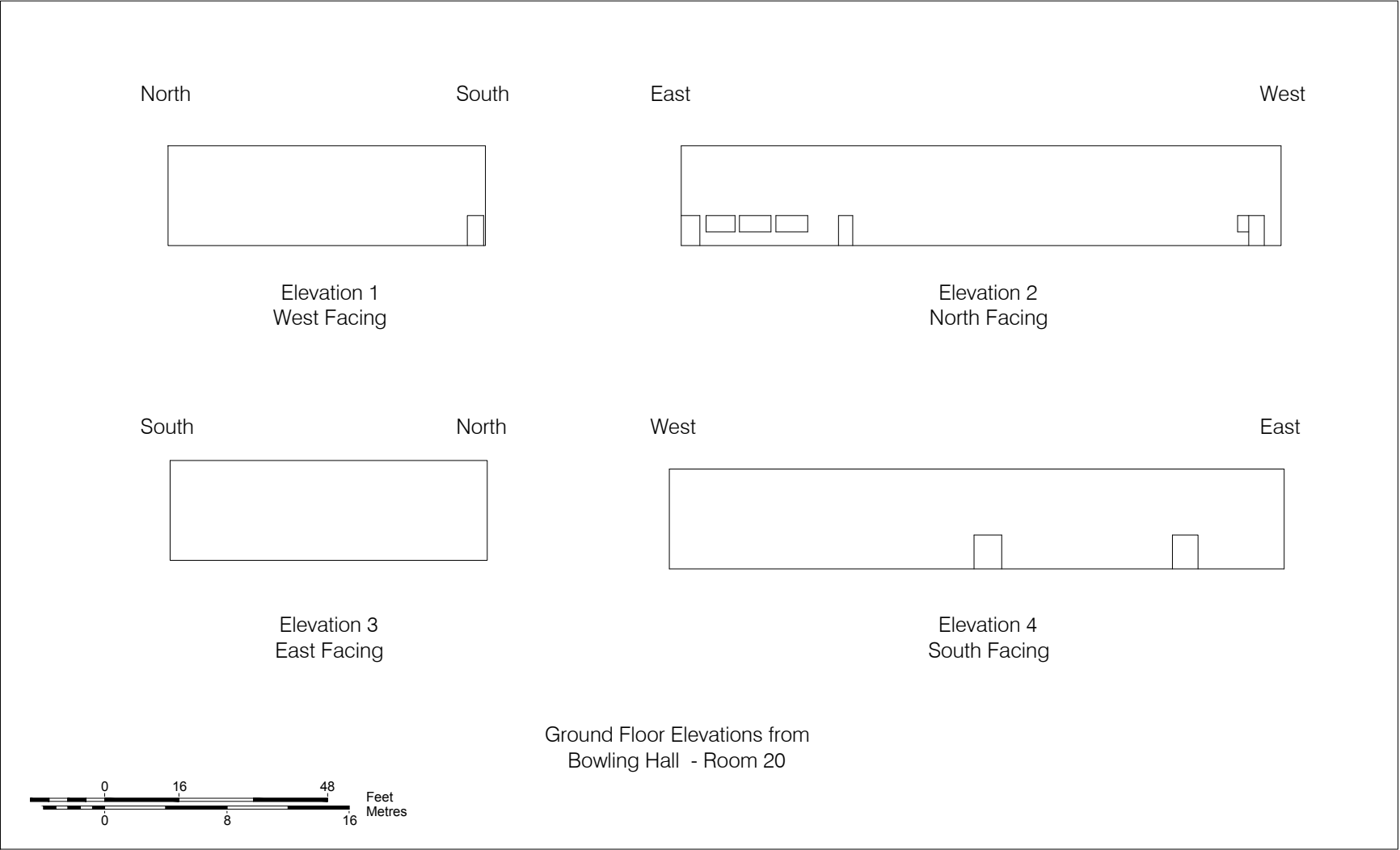
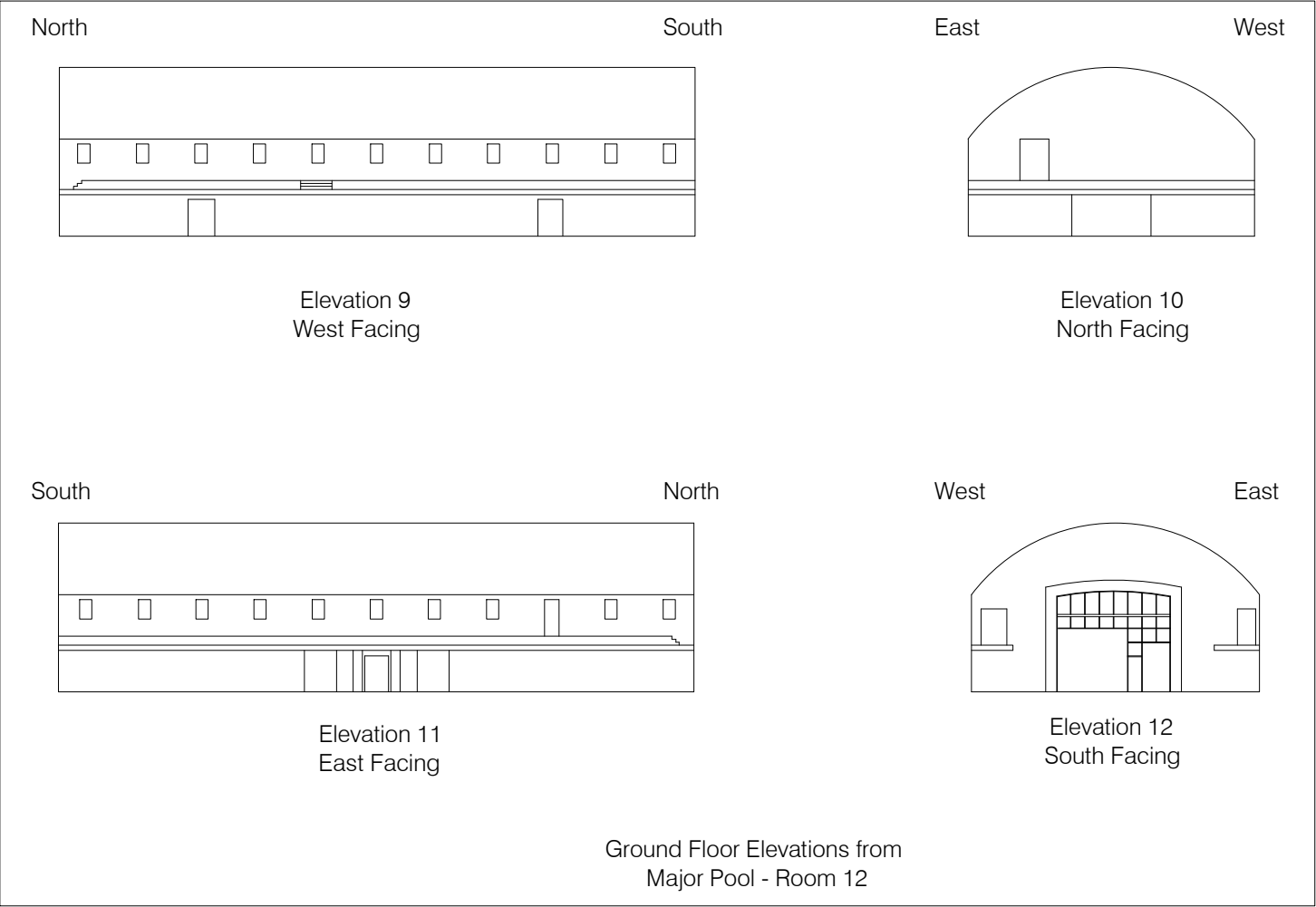
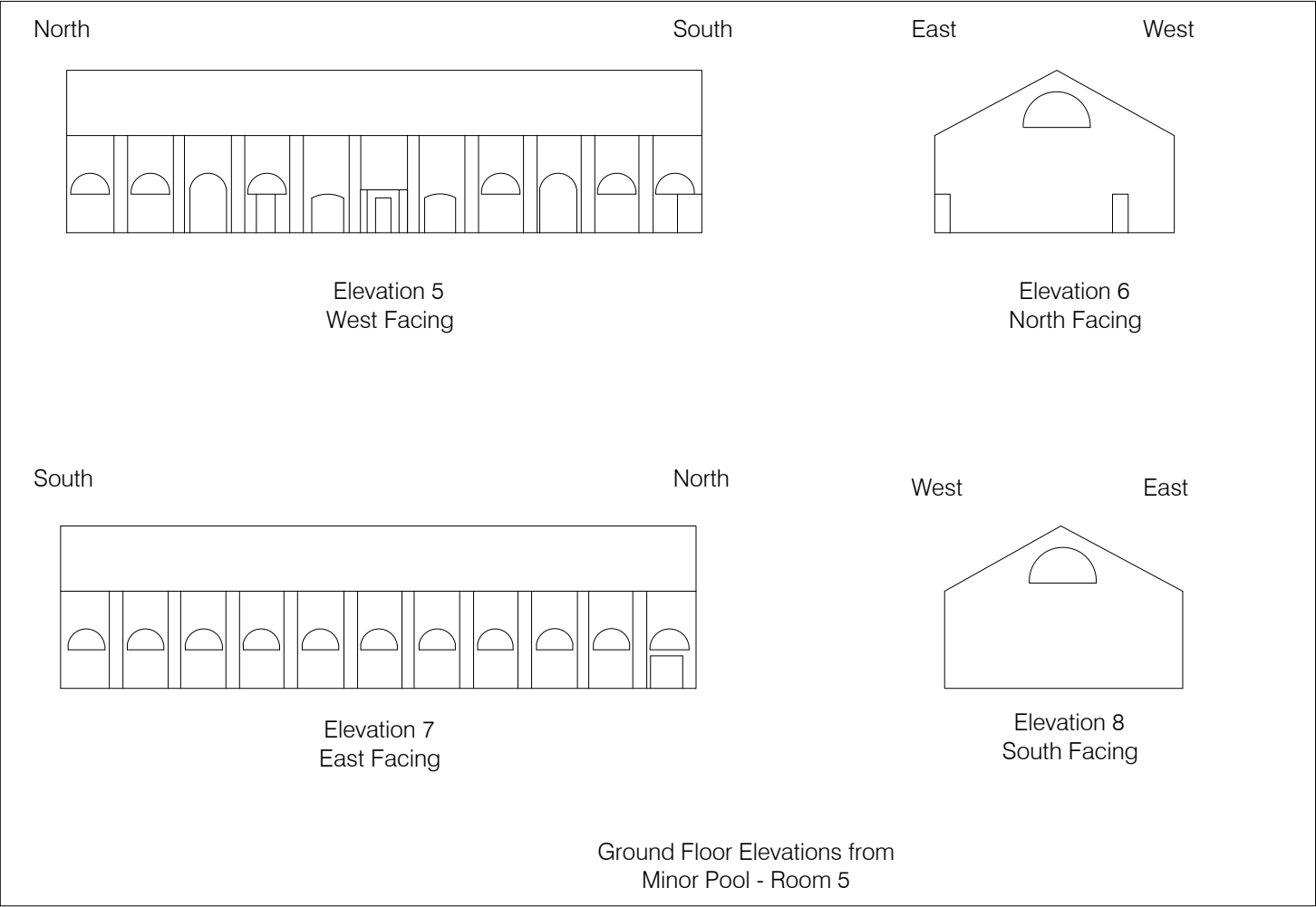


Figure 11  
Internal elevations of Minor Pool, Major Pool  
and Bowling Hall  
1:400 at A3



**Plate A** Photograph taken before 1931 of the junction of Romford Road and Atherton Road showing Fern Bank (set back centre), looking north-west



**Plate B** Façade of West Ham Municipal Baths, c.1934, looking north-west



**Plate C** Entrance Hall (1) c.1934, looking west



**Plate D** Foyer (26) c.1934, looking north-east





**Plate E** Major Pool c.1934, looking north



**Plate F** Exhibition in Major Pool area showing stage to rear (north), c.1935, looking north-east





Plate 1 Principal (south) elevation on Romford Road, looking north-west



Plate 2 Principal (south) elevation on Romford Road, looking north-east





Plate 3 Central entrance range in the south elevation fronting Romford Road, looking north



Plate 4 Detail of Pilasters and Mouldings in the south elevation fronting Romford Road, looking north-west





Plate 5 Entrance in the principal (south) elevation, looking north



Plate 6 Ground floor window and surround at the east end of the front (south) elevation, looking north





Plate 7 Enclosed fire escape added to the west end of the front (south) and side (west) elevations, looking north



Plate 8 Side (east) elevation and Atherton Road, looking north





Plate 9 Atherton Road side (east) elevation, looking south-west



Plate 10 Northern two storey bays and rebuilt hall in Atherton Road side (east) elevation, looking west





Plate 11 Rebuilt upper wall of hall and mismatching cornice in Atherton Road side (east) elevation, looking west



Plate 12 Entrance to rear (north) yard with rebuilt northern elevation (left), looking west





Plate 13 Utility buildings (former water softener room and weigh room) along northern boundary, looking north-east



Plate 14 Boiler House and chimney stack, looking west





Plate 15 Rebuilt rear (north) elevation and southern bays of the Boiler House, looking south-west



Plate 16 Weighbridge, looking west





Plate 17 Entrance Hall (1), looking south-west



Plate 18 Entrance Hall (1), looking east



Plate 19 Detail of rectangular ceiling light in Vestibule (1), looking north



Plate 20 Entrance Hall (1) showing east domed ceiling light, looking west

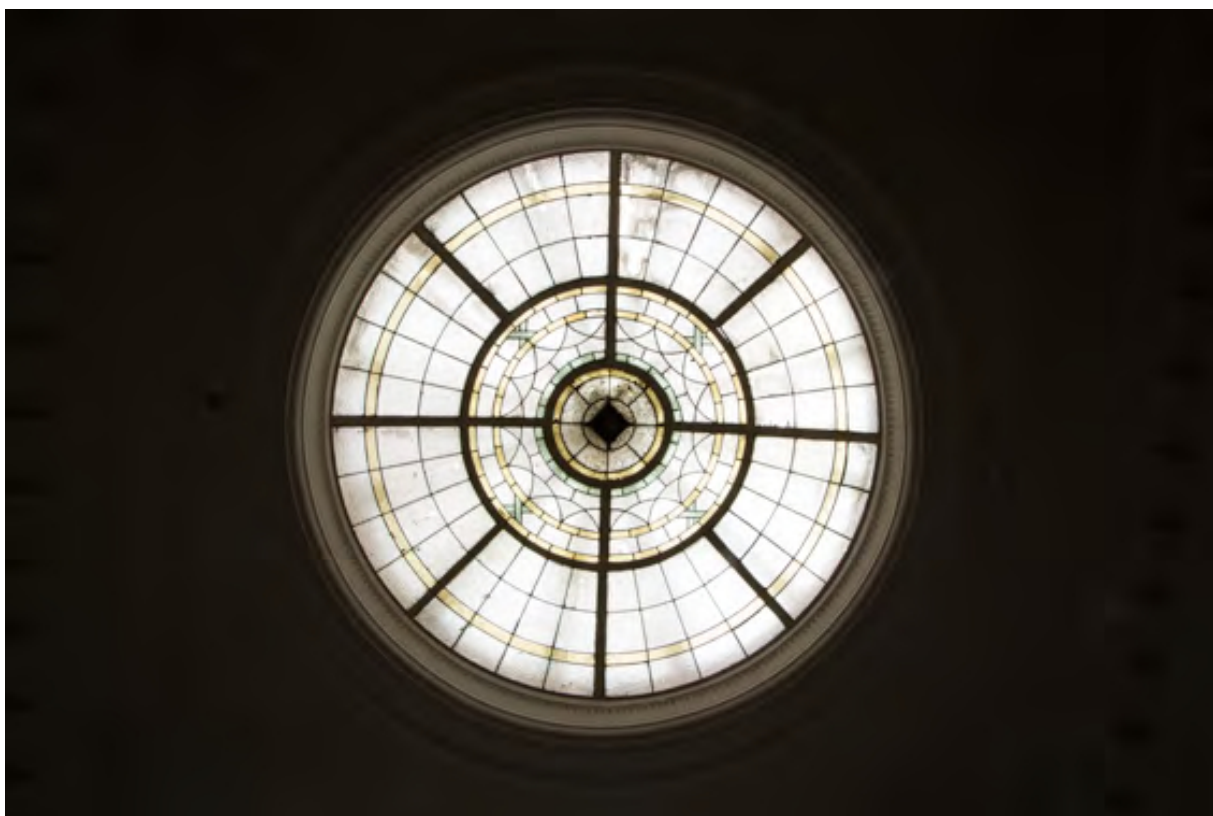


Plate 21 Detail of east domed ceiling light in east part of Entrance Hall (1), looking west



Plate 22 Replacement ceiling light in west side bay to Entrance Hall (1), looking west





Plate 23 Original and altered glazed internal windows in Room (2) Ticket Office, looking south-east



Plate 24 Shower cubicles for Turkish Baths (27), looking north-east



Plate 25 Detail of mosaic flooring in Turkish Baths (27), looking north



Plate 26 Original four panel radiator on the west wall of Room 6, looking west





Plate 27 Original part glazed partition wall in Office Room (9), looking north-east



Plate 28 Eastern Foyer (26) showing ceiling light and Stairwell (7), looking north-east



Plate 29 Stairwell (7), looking north-west



Plate 30 Decorative Bracket with Sunburst Motif in Corridor (16), looking west





Plate 31 Corridor (16), looking south



Plate 32 Interior of Attendants Office (13) looking east



Plate 33 Changing Rooms (15) looking south





Plate 34 Major Pool (12) looking north



Plate 35 Former Stage Area (latterly blocked) with Borough Coat of Arms at the south end of the Major Pool (12), looking north-west



Plate 36 Viewing Gallery, vaulting and sunburst motif on south wall of the Major Pool, looking south





Plate 37 Minor Pool (5) looking north-west



Plate 38 Minor Pool (5), looking south





Plate 39 East elevation of the Minor Pool showing fanlight windows, looking east



Plate 40 Attendant's Office in the east wall of the Minor Pool (5), looking south-east



Plate 41 Basketball Court (19), looking west



Plate 42 Roof trusses in Basketball Court (19), looking west





Plate 43 Bowling Hall (20) looking south-west, showing pilasters on the south wall



Plate 44 Exposed area of ceramic brick wall in the south wall of the former School Pool (20), looking south





Plate 45 Adapted truss and clerestory lights in west wall of room (23), looking north



Plate 46 Former Gymnasium (22), looking west



Plate 47 Former Gymnasium (33), looking north



Plate 48 Flat roof area between the Major (left) and Minor (right) Pools, looking south





Plate 49 Plunge Pool (37) in the basement, looking south-west



Plate 50 Jacuzzi (39) in the basement, looking north



Plate 51 Locker Room (40) in the basement, looking north-east



Plate 52 Sub-structure of Major Pool (right) and access corridor in the basement, looking south





Plate 53 Water filtration tanks in the Filtration Plant House, looking west



Plate 54 Water filtration tanks viewed from the gantry in the Filtration Plant House, looking north-east



Plate 55 Air extractor unit in the Boiler House (northern Bays), looking west



Plate 56 Air extractor/conditioner unit mounted on flat roof south of the Minor Pool, looking north-west



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