THE COACH HOUSE, STABLES AND OFFICES IN DANSON PARK, BEXLEY

An Assessment of the Surviving Fabric and its Setting

by

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Introduction

This report identifies the historical significance of the stable block associated with Danson House, Bexley, listed Grade I. The building currently lies empty, to the north-west of the main house, a Palladian villa of 1763-7, designed by Robert Taylor, set within a landscaped park.

The stable block, listed Grade II*, was built later, probably between 1802 and 1804, and incorporates some of the building material from Taylor's original service wings to the main house. In particular, the large rusticated arches of the present stable block are almost certainly reconstructions of the arches in the original service wings, shown in early illustrations. The new stable block is an outstanding example of late Georgian estate architecture.

The leases for the house and stable block have been acquired by English Heritage, as part of the Buildings at Risk initiative. Danson House is currently undergoing a major programme of repair by English Heritage prior to the determination of its long term future. As part of the programme, it is intended to dispose of the lease of the stable block separately.

In 1994, English Heritage commissioned the architects, Purcell Miller Tritton, to undertake a feasibility study on both the house and stable block. The study, *Danson House and Stables, Bexley,* July 1994, contains a Schedule of Repair, a set of 35 mm colour photographs, and a metric survey of the stable block by ELS Land Consultants.

The purpose of the present report is to examine the archaeological, historical and architectural evidence for the stable block and its association with the main house. This information should provide a basis for informing any future programme of repair and reuse. The study forms part of a much larger programme of analysis and research, currently underway on Danson House itself. The research project is being undertaken by Richard Lea and Chris Miele of the English Heritage Historical Analysis and Research Team, in conjunction with English Heritage Major Projects. A report on the house is forthcoming.

This feasibilty study by PMT was used as a basis for the archaeological analysis of the development of the fabric of the building. The analysis included the Victorian additions, as it is felt that a proper understanding of the alterations to the building is essential to an informed and coherent programme of conservation.

Documentary research for this report has focused on evidence for the physical form and historical development of the stable block itself as this is known through maps and illustrations. Again, the wider study of documentary sources will be brought together in the report on the main house.

Because of difficulties with access to parts of the building, the scope of this historical analysis is limited. Floors were unsound, some of the rooms were not accessible and the whole building was suffering from pigeon infestation.

Consequently a number of issues remain to be resolved, and it is essential that further recording and analysis is carried out during the next stage of repair.

The creation of the house and park and first stable block and offices

Historical background

Danson House was built for John Boyd, a City merchant and Director of the East India Company. He took a repairing lease on the original Danson House in July 1753, just a few years after it had been enlarged, or possibly rebuilt, by John Selwyn, the former tenant who was M.P. for Gloucester City and an important associate of the Duke of Newcastle. Within the decade Boyd was making plans to rebuild the old house. His reasons have not come down to us, but it may have been that the old property was too small for his growing family or, as seems more likely, that he wanted something in the most up-to-date and fashionable style. Boyd was, if nothing else, a connoisseur with pretentions. The principal problem with the old house was its location, at the bottom of the principal hill bisecting the site. The taste of the day called for great houses and villas to be placed on eminences, in order to overlook the landscape and in order, equally, to be overlooked. But there were legal impediments standing in the way of his ambition. The will of the freeholder, John Styleman, established a charitable trust which was funded out of the rent of the property. This could only be altered by a private act of parliament, which Boyd, well connected in Whitehall, was able to obtain in June 1762 **(Private Bills, 2 George III, 35)**. The required him to spend at least £2,500 on the new property, including stables, offices and associated buildings, and, furthermore, to complete the work within five years. At least the carcase of the new house was completed by May 1763. Boyd's architect was Robert Taylor. The principal interiors were finished between 1766 and 1770 and were largely the work of William Chambers. Originally the house -- which from this date went by the name of Danson Hill -- was conceived as a Palladian villa, standing isolated in a landscaped park on the crest of the ridge at the north end of the park.

A plan for the proposed alterations at Danson Hill, the Seat of John Boyd Esq, shows a villa standing alone, in splendid isolation, unencumbered by service wings or stables, on its present location. The date of this plan is c1763, and at this point the stables were to be sited on the east side of the park in the area marked '*4, Situation for the Stables.*'

The carcase of the house was largely complete by 1763. The death of Boyd's wife in March of this year might have slowed works, but then it was not unusual for houses to stand unfinished for several years. The work of finishing the interior commenced in 1766, the year Boyd remarried Chatherine Chapone of Charlton in Gloucestershire. The domestic organ works bears a plaque of this year. References in Boyd's correspondence show that the French painter Charles Pavillon was at work on the dining room murals in this year, and window tax returns from these years **(held in the County Record Offices; there are copies in Bexley local studies collection)** confirm that building was resuming over the winter of 1766-1767.

By this year, 1766, Boyd appears to have made up his mind to augment his villa with two wings, one for stables the other for offices. Taylor provided designs for two independent wings, square in plan, attached to the house by single-storey

curving quadrant walls. These were in all likelihood completed by 1766 and are show on the Andrews, Dury, and Herbert's *Map of Kent* **(published 1 January 1769)**. The new wings are explicitly mentioned in *The Ambulator* of 1782 and depicted in a view by Corbould of the house and lake, published as Plate 32 in Hasted's Seats in 1787. These two wings did not survive for very long. They are shown clearly on the 1799 *Ordnance Survey drawing* for this part of Kent, but they were gone by 1805-1806, the date of the *Estate Plan* drawn up in connection with the sale of the property to John Johnston (who took possession of Danson Hill on 22 July 1806). The bank accounts of Sir John Boyd's son, also John, suggest that a comprehensive programme of repair and enhancement was carried out between 1802 and 1804, during which time the new stables were constructed **(Drummonds Archives, DR/427)**. Preliminary research suggests they might be the work of George Dance the younger.

An important document in our understanding of the evolution of the house and its offices is the oil painting now hanging at Hall Place, Bexley. Once attributed to the noted landscape painter Richard Wilson, it is now known to be the work of George Barrett the Elder R.A. (1732?-1784), who specialised in Romantic landscapes and country house portraits. The diminutive figures of Boyd and his family, which are executed in a different style, were most probably painted by one of Barrett's frequent collaborators, Sawrey Gilpin, R.A. (1733-1807). This picture shows the house and completed service wings as they would have appeared from the northwest. John Boyd and his family are in the right foreground. The exact date of this painting has yet to be established. Hutcherson argued it was commissioned in 1775 to commemorate Boyd's achievement of a baronetcy, but the number of children shown in them picture matches the size of Boyd's family in 1766 or 1767, just before his second wife had their first child, and so the earlier date is much more likely.

How accurate is the Barrett view of 1766-67? A comparison between it and perspective view of the house with its wings published by Thomas Malton the Younger in 1790 as part of his record of Taylor's work shows that the earlier view is reliable with one or two small exceptions. In Malton's plan, the functions of the two wings are identified as '*Kitchen Offices*' and '*Stable Offices.*' Both plan and view are annotated '*Designed by Sir Robt. Taylor.*' They were included among thirty two views of Taylor's works published after his death in 1788 by his son M A Taylor.

From the plan, the stables in the west block provided for a total twelve horses in the north and south wings (a very considerable number for a house of relatively modest size, and necessary only for hunting) and three coaches in the bays in the east wing. Stairs in three of the corner towers indicate that these were of two stories, although the south-east tower is shown without a staircase and the ground floor is shown raised by three steps.
The east block was labelled '*Kitchen Offices.*' Staircases in the southern wing indicate that the southern pair of towers were each two stories. Various circular features suggest a bakehouse in the south tower, a possible well in the west wing, a copper in the south wing and a water butt? in the north.

The windows shown in the views of the service wings appear to have had white painted wooden frames. The square windows appear to have been sash, glazed three over three to match those in the house. The round headed windows are treated as Diocletian windows, divided into three by two larger mullions. The towers are capped with chimney stacks. Some of these were probably non-functional since there are no fireplaces shown on the plan. Where they were functional, the flues for must have been cantilevered through the roof voids.

The relevant sheet of the *Ordnance Surveyor's Drawings of the London Area*, surveyed in 1799, shows the service wings, albeit schematically, still attached to the house. The main access to the house is from the east side of the park. This corresponds with the '*Plan for the proposed alterations....*' although the track to the west side of the park does not appear to have been executed. Two avenues of trees are shown to the west and north of the house.

The estate map titled *Plan of an Estate called Danson in the County of Kent, The Property of John Johnston*, from 1829 (how dated?) shows the building with the same 'U' shaped plan with the bulge on the north side, possibly octagonal. The key refers to '1, The Mansion Offices ...' as in the 1805 map, suggesting that the building remained unaltered for the first twenty five years.

Fabric evidence

Nothing above ground survives from the original service wings. There are no surviving scars where the walls linking the service wings abutted the main building. Excavation would probably reveal foundation cuts, if not foundations themselves for service blocks, and for the quadrant walls.

The present stable block, however, was clearly built from material reused from the original wings. The four rusticated arches on the stable block are very similar to the two arches shown in Malton's view, and the five arches shown in Barrett's painting. Malton's plan implies a further sixteen arches but no information survives about their appearance. It is likely that four of these arches were re-erected as part of the present stable block. The re-used masonry in the stable block also includes ashlar, the cornice from the corner towers, band course and the plain square windows without architraves. There are also plain arches which may have come from inside the original courtyards. The building stone has been identified as a 'fairly coarse textured calcite ($CaCO_3$) Oolitic Limestone (oosparite unsorted grainstone) of Very Pale Orange (10YR 8/2) tint .....' **(Sanderson R, 1994 and 1995)**. The nearest known parallel suggested was a Bath stone from the Combe Down Oolite stratum. A similar stone was used on the house in the modillions from the main cornice and in the window surrounds. To date, no fragments from the rusticated arches with pediments and vermiculated columns originally set in the quadrant walls have been found.

1 Phase 1: construction of the present stable block, 1802-04

1.1 Historical background

On John Boyd's death in 1800, the estate passed to his son, also John, who sold the entire estate on to John Johnston, a City merchant formerly of Newman Street in Westminster, in 1806. In correspondence with Johnston now in the possession of his descendants, Boyd refers to certain works begun by his father and continued by himself. Apart from Coade stone chimney pots dated 1801 on the main house, the only alteration known is the demolition of the stable and office wings and the erection of a smaller, more compact block -- the present one -- combining both functions. Entries in the younger Boyd's account books with Drummond's Bank (DR/427) show a peak in expenditure in the years 1802 to 1804, which should be taken as the likely date for their construction.

The present structure appears on an estate plan of 1805-1806. *Plan of an Estate called Danson in the County of Kent*, shows the house standing in isolation without its service wings and the present stable block set in the middle of a small plantation.

The key on the left side of the plan identifies the stable block as,'*The Mansion Offices, Coach House, Stables, Green house, Plantations Lodge & Park on the North Side of the Sheet of Water*' indicating that the building was originally used for both offices and livery.

Although this plan records an octagonal projection on the north side of the block, there is no sign of any extension in the fabric of the block, suggesting it was a temporary or makeshift structure. Being on the north side of the block it probably would not have been used as a greenhouse. Timber porches for the washing of horses are not unknown in stables of this date.

Some landscaping also took place in this period. The track from the west side of the park appears to have been established along the lines laid down in the *Plan for the proposed Alterations...* The avenues of trees shown on the *Ordnance Surveyor's map..* are shown reduced to a single line forming a boundary running north from the house. The west avenue is not shown.

1.1.1 The Architectural Interest and the first and second stable and office blocks

Architectural tastemakers in the mid eighteenth century were captivated by the idea of the villa, of a relatively small house, neat, cubic, and, above all else, isolated in a natural landscape, rustic by virtue of its proximity to the land but at the same time immensely refined. This vision of rural domestic elegance, though immensely compelling and influential, presented one very large practical difficulty, since it it made no allowances for stabling and the less appealing side of domestic economy. Taylor had some experience in these matters before he came to design Danson. At Harleyford (1753-55) the offices were placed some distance from the house, at the foot a hill, and linked to the main building by an underground tunnel of ingenious

construction. At Barlaston (1756-58) the stables and offices were a considerable distance from the house, hidden by a copse, which was the first the solution put forward for Danson as we know it through the *Richmond plan* of c1763.

Several variables influenced the placement of stable blocks in the eighteenth century: historic circumstance, personal taste and convenience principally. Nevertheless the architects of the important neo-Palladian houses of the 1720s and 1730s (Wanstead, Stourhead, Marble Hill, Whitton Place and Combe Bank) showed a distinct preference for placing the stables away from the main house. This course was advised by Robert Morris in his *Lectures on Architecture* of 1734-6. However, there are exceptions. James Gibbs published a house with stables close by in his *Book on Architecture* of 1728. John James's Wricklemarsh at Blackheath (built for Sir Gregory Page between 1717 and 1733) also had stables adjacent. This last example is especially relevant to Danson, as Wricklemarsh was a prominent sight on the London-Dover road just as Boyd's Danson would be thirty years later. Eventually, the best professional advice came to favour James's solution at Wricklemarsh. In 1756, Isaac Ware wrote disapprovingly of the old custom of 'distancing' the stables on the grounds of convenience, writing thus in his *Compleat Body of Architecture* (p. 406): 'Beauty and use may be consulted together; and, instead of a plain square house ... it will be possible, at a small advance in charge, to add wings to the centre, and connect them by passages'.

At Danson Taylor first chose total isolation, elevating 'beauty' above 'use'. Within a few years, perhaps at the behest of the client, he changed his mind. The question of convenience may have been a factor, but the circumstances of Boyd's life, his incessant collecting and his insatiable thirst for cultural distinction, suggest that the real reason was more complicated. True, the arrangement as built would have been more efficient than the scheme shown on *Richmond's plan* of c1762, but it was also grander, more monumental, more status conscious, and it achieved this for considerably less than it would have cost to build a house with two wings and separate stabling facilities. It must be remembered that Boyd's means were ample but not unlimited. By giving the stables and offices an architectural treatment he was able to achieve the appearance of a grand establishment along the lines of a much greater house, say, Holkham, for a good deal less. The two birds which fell to this one stone were convenience and the desire for display, and, indeed, it is this desire for display, the urge to make a great public statement of personal power, which comes across most strongly in the view Barrett made of the house in 1766.

What, then, is to be made of the younger Boyd's decision to transform the grand establishment back into a neat neo-Palladian villa? Again, documentary evidence is lacking, but a few tentative conclusions can be drawn from ancillary evidence. First, it is clear that John Boyd II did not share his father's aspirations, since he sold a large part of his father's extensive collection of pictures soon after his death in 1800. Second, we know from the Boyds' personal and business correspondence, that the elder Boyd's income slipped after the construction of the house and came near to collapsing as a result of Anglo-French hostilities and the Colonial Wars. There were also some poor business decisions, one of which left the estate with a

mortgage of more than £30,000, an obligation inherited by the younger Boyd along with the house, the park and other estate lands. The new stables were designed to take fewer horses and are entirely less grand than his father's.

Then, there is the question of equine medicine to consider and the need to upgrade stabling in line with these developments. The technical specifications of stabling was improving dramatically in the early years of the new century under the influence of James Clark, the Scots veteranarian whose 1788 *Treatise on the Prevention of Diseases Incidental to Horses* set new standards in the proper care of horses and made recommendations for the improvement of stable design. At least a handful of books in the first decade of the new century took up these themes.

Finally, though, some account must be taken of changing tastes and the perennial desire of a new owner to do something up to date to mark their tenure. In 1803 Humphrey Repton, the fashionable landscape designer who developed many of Brown's principles in the late Georgian period, called for a middle way to be struck in the location of stables in his *Observations on the Theory of Landscape Gardening*. The question of convenience was important, he was certain, but what most people failed to recognise was the potential for stabling to excite rustic associations. Guests should have the chance to see the stables, but the unpleasant sights, sounds, and smells of the stables should not spoil their experience of the house. This is just the course followed at Danson.

1.1.2 The architect of the present stable block

Although the stables are faced with ashlaring reused from the older wings, the design of the block is well proportioned and elegant, and so one would expect it to have been the considered work of an architect. It has been suggested, though never in print, that one of Taylor's pupils, possibly S. P. Cockerell, may have been responsible. Recent research in Danson lease collection held in Bexley Local Studies has revealed that the architect George Dance the Younger had an interest in the estate, and these references, taken together with what is known about Dance from this period, suggest he may well have been responsible for the design of the stables as well as a series of unspecified smaller works at Danson which were carried out in the first years of the nineteenth century.

Ultimately, Dance came to be involved with Danson in connection with a mortgage bond for £39,424 which Sir John Boyd and his business partner (and son-in-law) John Trevanion took in 1794. The money had come from Captain Nathaniel Smith and his wife Hester, who was sister to George. On the death of her husband, Dance was appointed a trustee of his estate along with Nathaniel Holland of Ashstead in Surrey and Christopher Norris, which is how Dance came to be named in a lease of August 1800 transferring the obligation of the initial bond of 1794 to Sir John Boyd II **(Danson Lease, D190/1)**. Dance appears again in a lease of December 1802, this time as the vendor of one acre of land in

Welling along with Hester Smith and Nathaniel Holland. The purchaser was Sir John Boyd II **(Danson Lease, D195/6)**. Finally, Hester Smith, the trustees of her late husband (including Dance) and Boyd are named in the lease of 22 and 23 July 1806 which gave John Johnston control of Danson and its estates. In connection with this transaction Dance received £1,000 on behalf of the trustees, though in consideration of what exactly is not specified in the document **(the payment is recorded in a receipt pinned to Danson Lease, D203)**.

Dance is not normally associated with domestic architecture, as most of his active career was devoted to works of civic enhancement and speculative urban development in the City of London; however, by the turn of the century, this work began to ease. In 1800 came his first domestic commission, remodelling Dorton House for the Marquess of Camden, then in 1803 and 1804 East Stratton and Coleorton Hall respectively were entirely rebuilt according to his designs. Between 1805 and 1812, he made alterations to Laxton Hall in Northamptonshire; here the stable block is almost exactly contemporary with that at Danson. Finally, there was the commission to remodel Camden Place in Chislehurst, just a few miles from Bexley and Danson, for Thomas Bonnar in 1807. This work included the design of extensive stabling, since demolished. (The designs for this stabling survive in the Dance Cabinet at the Soane Museum **(D2/9/8])**. Other domestic commissions have been attributed to him from about this time, but this area of the architect's work awaits fuller research. It should not be forgotten that Boyd and his son, whose wealth derived from mercantile interests pursued in the City of London, were exactly the sort of client who favoured both Dance and Taylor, and, furthermore, that these two architects worked together at least twice in their careers. The connection may well date back to the late 1740s and early 1750s, when Dance's father was City surveyor and architect of the Mansion House, where the pediment sculpture was executed by Robert Taylor. The elder Dance and Taylor collaborated on alterations to London Bridge in 1756-60. In 1768 the City Bridge House Commission received plans drawn up jointly by Taylor and the George Dance the younger for alterations to the southern approaches of London Bridge. The best known instance of their collaboration came in 1774, when the two redrafted the London Building Acts.

1.1.3 The stable block within the management of the estate

The 200 acre park Sir John Boyd began to layout in 1762 comprised little more than a third of the estate. Unfortunately we have little idea how Boyd managed the agricultural side of his property, but we do know that relative to his West Indies plantations he earned very little from the estate indeed. In a letter written by John Boyd II on 8 February 1780, it is recorded that the 'country estate' netted a 'trifling amount', a mere £500. The St.Kitts plantation brought in £8,000 annually gross and the Grenada estate £4,000 (British Library, Add. Mss. 35,518, fo. 63).

The *Plan* of 1806 identifies a group of buildings on the east side of Welling to Blendon Road (now Danson Road) and on the line of the house as 'The Farm House & Barns, Yards and Buildings, Pinery, Grapery, Melon Ground and Garden', in other words the 'Home Farm', but exactly who let

it and on what terms have yet to be discovered. The Tithe Apportionment and Map for Bexley (1839 and 1844 respectively; ill. $$, **PRO Kew, IR 29 and 30 17/27**) show that the then owner, Anna Johnston, let some parcels in the west half of the estate, approximately 40 acres of arable land and plantations, leaving the rest in the care of the Home Farm, which had by this point been greatly expanded. It not unlikely that this reproduces the arrangements in Boyd's day.

Insofar as the stable block is concerned, all this means that it could have been given over entirely to the needs of the house and its occupants. The large number of horse stalls in the first block (twelve if Malton's plan is to be trusted -- ill. $$) was well in excess of what the family would have needed, even allowing for frequent entertainments, and it may have been designed to accomodate hunts. As for the present building, the number of stalls was roughly one third to one half of the original (four or possibly six -- the number must remain approximate as there was no standard stall size at this time, and the evidence of the fabric is inconclusive on this point).

1.1.4 An assessment of the stable block and its setting

The first stable block was a building of some pretension. Its strong architectural form, careful detailing, and monumentality enhanced the architectural qualities of the house, lending it an air of aristocratic splendour. With this and the accompanying offices block gone, Danson Hill appears once more as it was initially conceived, a genteel villa.

The present stables of 1802-04 are not as imposing as the earlier wings. They are well matched in scale to the modest domestic scale of the house as originally conceived by Taylor in 1762-63. Perhaps more important, though, is the relationship between the two noted above. The new stables were built to be near enough to the house to be seen as guests made their way to the principal entrance from the London-Dover road, yet distant enough to keep unpleasant sights, smells, and noises from impinging on their experience of Danson Hill and its park. The separation was achieved by an irregularly massed plantation.

This treatment marked a departure from late eighteenth-century practice, which called for stables to be either attached to the main block for the sake of convenience or shunted to the far corners of an estate for the sake of decency. This middle way was promoted by one of the leading exponents of late Georgian picturesque gardening, Humphrey Repton, at about the same time that the stables themselves were being designed and built, which marks them out as fine examples of up-to-the-minute architectural thinking.

Ashlar-faced stable buildings are not common in the southeast of England, yellow or red brick being the preferred material. The stables at Mote Park in Maidstone, Kent, are an exception to this rule. Built between 1793 and 1801 to the designs of D. A. Alexander, later architect of Maidstone

prison, they are faced with Portland ashlaring and offer an interesting point of comparison with Danson. Otherwise there is nothing exceptional in the form or appointments of the Danson block: the courtyard or 'half H-plan' at Danson is as common as the quadrangle; cupolas with clocks were more or less standard; and in many cases domestic ranges and offices with accommodation for horses and stable hands were fitted into one building. However, two factors distinguish the Danson stables from most others constructed at about this time: first, the extreme monumentality of the block, due chiefly to the reuse of the rustication in the projecting wings; second, the siting of the stables, which would have been glimpsed from the main drive as one came along the main drive but which would ultimately have been shielded from the house by a small 'plantation'. $$) of 1806 and the *Tithe Map* of 1844.

1.2 Description of the fabric

1.2.1 The original form of the present stable block

The earliest structure of one build on the site appears to be the 'U' shaped block first shown on the 1805 estate map. The stone appears to be uniform with the ashlar of Danson House. From the documentary evidence this appears to have been reused. This is not clear from the masonry itself, since there is no visible evidence of the stones having been reset or redressed.

1.2.2 The method of construction

The earliest phase of the stable block can be differentiated, in part at least, from later phases, by the choice of materials and the methods of construction. The wall construction is of brick with ashlar facing. The bricks measuring 60-65x105x210 mm were coloured orange red and plum. The small size of the bricks suggests re-use from the original service wings. The mortar used in the construction of the stable block is visually indistinguishable from that used in the construction of the upper parts of the canted side bays of the house, which were raised some time after the original building, probably *c* 1775 *(see Lea R, May 1995)*. The lime mortar contains no pebble but does include flecks of a light brown clay.

Through stones, linking the outer ashlar skin to the brick core and inner face, are exposed in the internal wall faces. These can be seen in the north wall of the coach house at intervals of approximately 1.5m, at ground level and at about 1m above ground level. Iron cramps set in lead were used as ties between adjacent ashlar. This method was also used on the house and presumably was used in the original service wings. The iron cramps themselves were probably reused, they are of the same type as those used on the house. The cramps were not used to tie the ashlar skin to the brick core. A course of timbers was set in the north wall of the central range in Room G4. It was continued in the return walls. Its position suggests that it was probably intended for panelling but it also served as a bonding timber.

1.2.3 Architectural form

The primary plan of the building was 'U'-shaped, comprising a centre block with two side wings projecting forward. There appears to be no evidence above ground for the 'bulge' in the plan to the north of the building shown in the estate map of 1805. There are no visible traces of a return in the masonry or mortice holes for a timber structure on the north side of the stable block. It is possible that such traces were concealed by the later addition of buttresses. It is also probable that evidence for the structure survives below ground.

1.2.4 The design of the elevations

The design of the elevations was probably determined in part by the re-use of building materials from the original service wings. The facades were purposely varied through the use of both plain and rusticated ashlar. The rustication was confined to the lower storey of the outer walls of the wings, plain ashlar was used for the first storey. The rustication was pierced by three square windows, each with three pronounced voussoirs. The square first floor windows were left plain. The southern bays of the side wings were emphasised by large, rusticated two storied arches set in front of the main wall face. This slight forward projection was carried up into the roof. The rusticated arches and the offset in the roofline, recall the corner towers with their pyramidal roofs, shown in Malton's view of the original service wings.

However, neither the Malton view nor the Barrett painting show rusticated ashlar facing on the service wings. Therefore, if the rusticated ashlar in the present stable block has been re-used from the earlier service wings, it must derive from elevations not included in the contemporary illustrations. The walls facing the enclosed courtyards of the original service wings are the most likely source. The rusticated wall faces with square window openings replicate the Terrace Floor of the house. The central three bays of the centre wing were given emphasis by the three linked coach house arches set in a forward projection. Again the offset was carried up into the roof.

1.2.5 Cornice mouldings

There were two types of cornice moulding used on the building. The more elaborate, comprising two courses with a cavetto and cyma-reversa above a plain band course, was used inside the courtyard and around the exterior of the corner towers at the ends of the wings. The cornice used for the outer faces of the block was a plainer cavetto moulding.

The Malton view shows a fully developed cornice used around the corner towers of the original service wings attached to the house. Between the corner towers, a plain band course was used at eaves level. It is therefore suggested here that, both cornice mouldings used on the present stable block were probably taken from the original service wing corner towers where they were used one above the other to form a full cornice. The large cavetto probably formed the upper course, with the

cavetto and cyma as the lower part of the same cornice. The mouldings have now been separated and used in a rather unorthodox fashion to provide the two different moulding types seen today.

1.2.6 Window openings

Externally, the square windows had flat arches, in the ashlar facing. Internally, the windows had splayed reveals and timber lintels. Not all of the windows were intended for glazing. Those on the outer walls of the side wings appear to have been blind; the ashlar blockings are consistent in appearance with the surrounding wall face and internally, the brick bonding of the wall face is uninterrupted. The second first floor window from the north in the west wall appears to have been altered at a later date by the insertion of a segmental brick arch of two orders. The round and square windows facing into the yard and on the north side of the building are glazed with iron framed glazing which probably dates from *c*1860 (see below). It is not clear from the present evidence whether these openings were originally glazed or simply openings into a hay loft. The round arch at first floor level, now partially concealed by the large stack in the middle of the north wall was presumably originally open. The stack probably dates from *c*1860 (see below). The opening, now blocked, for a square window at ground floor level is visible in the internal wall face. It is possible that the window joinery from the original service wings was reused in the present stable block. If so, none appears to have survived the overhaul of *c*1860.

1.2.7 Joinery

The original timber door frames to the small, round-headed doors in the side wings facing onto yard survive *in-situ*. The two doors in the north wing either side of the coach house have been altered by the insertion of smaller frames probably in the 1920s. The fan-lights above these doors with ovolo moulded glazing bars are primary. The leaves for the smaller doors have probably been replaced, but the originals are shown in photographs in the RCHME National Building Record. They appear to have been of vertical tongue and groove construction with a top rail.

The door jambs of the three large coach house doors appear to be original. These are substantial oak timbers measuring 190x150 mm in section, moulded with a simple bead on the leading edge and a rebate for the doors to open outwards. However, the coach house door leaves appear to be modern, with vertical tongue and groove boards used externally nailed to diagonally hung boards. The large iron 'HL' hinges are probably original. Above the coach house doors, the timber lintel has a cornice, with a cavetto above a cyma-reversa. This seems to have been styled to match the stone cornice at eaves level, reused from the old service wings.

1.2.8 Staircases

There are two staircases in the north wing which appear to be the only means of access between the two floors in the original build. The west staircase leads up through the west wall of the coach house G4, to a first floor landing with doors opening north into F2 and west into F1B. The actual construction of the staircase is very plain and defies stylistic dating. However, the door between the landing and room F2 has a cyma-reversa architrave and door frame which appears to date from *c*1800. The east staircase rises from the north room in the east wing to a landing in centre wing with doors opening into the room to the north, F6, and to the west F4/5. The actual staircase, like the west staircase, is very plain. However, the plain boarded cupboard with a round headed door under the staircase is consistent with a date of *c*1800.

1.2.9 Stacks and fireplaces

The stacks at each end of the central range appear to be original. They are of brick, with rendered cornices. The detailing of the cornice at the top of the stack is possibly taken from Taylor's original service wings. Two primary fireplaces survive, on the first floor at each end of the centre wing in rooms F2 and F6, although the timber surround to that in F6 has become detached. The stone slips and cast iron grates remain *in-situ*. Both fireplaces have ovolo and bead moulded timber architraves. The mantlepieces have been removed from both fireplaces. This removal has exposed evidence for the original form of the fire surrounds. From the unpainted areas of timber on the surviving frames, it is clear that the mantlepieces were originally supported on brackets which were vertically aligned with the vertical sections of the moulded architrave. Between the brackets a band of unpainted timber, 25mm deep, suggests a smaller moulding, probably a cyma-reversa, was applied to the frame immediately beneath the mantlepiece. At a later date, probably *c*1860, the brackets were removed and large coved mouldings applied beneath the mantlepiece. The profiles for these survive as outlines in the plaster of the wall face. The implied moulding in room F6 was a large plain cavetto. In F2 the cavetto was smaller and set above a cyma-reversa (cf the moulding applied to the lintels above the coach house doors). The fireplace in G3 was not observed. The fireplace in G5, probably dating from the 1860s, was altered probably in the 1920's.

1.2.10 The roof structure

The construction of the roof appears to be uniform throughout, suggesting that either it dates from the construction of the present stable block or that it was totally replaced. If the latter is the case, then the inscription 'J TEDD 1863' carved into one of the trusses presumably dates from the rebuild. Alternatively, the inscription may relate to a general overhaul of the glazing and internal arrangements (see below).

The roof is of king post construction and pine throughout. The trusses rest on timber wall plates set on the inner face and support purlins set immediately above the tie beams and halved over the mid point of the principal rafters. The rafters

meet at a ridge board. The trusses and incorporate iron bolts tying the king post to the tie-beam. The bolts are concealed within the thickness of the timber.

The roof above the centre wing comprises six king-post trusses. The side wings are each roofed with five king post trusses, the last trusses of which are 'T' shaped in plan to support the hips. The 'T' shaped truss for the hipped roof at the north end of the east range remains intact under the later C19 gable addition. The two southernmost trusses in the west wing have chamfered tie beams, plain stops. The corresponding trusses in the east wing were probably finished similarly. The trusses have a complete series of carpenters marks, numbered 'A - E' in the west wing and 'A - F' in the north wing, access to the east wing was not obtained.

Tool marks on the timbers reveal how the timber was converted. Three faces of each timber were finished with an axe or adze which has left shallow scooped depressions in the face of the timber. The fourth face was cut with a saw. The saw marks are regular and straight. It is possible that they were hand sawn. The process of conversion suggest a date earlier than the inscribed date of '1863.'

The appearance of the trusses is generally consistent with a date range between the middle of the eighteenth century through to the nineteenth century. The king post roof trusses are generally similar to those used by Taylor in houses in Grafton Street and at Barlaston. This form is typical of the mid C18 and was recommended by Francis Price in *The British Carpenter*, published in 1733. However, at Danson and in Taylor's other known buildings, the ironwork usually comprises flat section iron straps c 30x5mm in section. These correspond with those illustrated by Price. The roof trusses in the stable block incorporate iron bolts which tie the king post to the tie-beam. These bolts are concealed with the thickness of the timber. This method is illustrated in various manuals from the early C19 (David Yeomans, The Trussed Roof, its History and Development, 1992, p171, fig 9.1c). The king post roof truss was however still in general use into the later nineteenth century.

An octagonal timber cupola sits centrally above the coach house in the central range. The timber frame appears to be consistent with the rest of the roof and there is no obvious evidence for insertion. The use of iron straps to tie the cupola frame to the horizontal timbers linking to the roof trusses appears consistent with a date in the early C19. The structure incorporates a bell-wheel.

Given the reuse of the masonry, and that the roofspans in the present stable block are the same as those in the original wings attached to the house, it is likely that the original roof trusses were also reused. If the roof was rebuilt in 1863 it probably replicates the original.

1.2.11 Original internal layout

It would appear that the only means of access to the block was via the yard. None of the original openings facing outwards from the yard appear to have been doors. This presumably offered some degree of security. In the primary phase of the building, the ground floor of the central wing was divided into three sections - a

wide central bay with three large doors, and two flanking smaller rooms, with separate entrances off the courtyard. The bonding timbers used in the brick partitions correspond with those in the primary north wall. The wings were each divided into two large rooms, with doors off the courtyard. It was not possible to determine whether the subdivision in the east wing, separating G6 and G7, was primary or not. Two timber staircases survive, one from G4 and one G6. As there is no evidence for other stairs, it is likely that these are original.

The first floor of the central range was subdivided into four rooms, F2, F3, F4/5, F6, by stud partitions finished with plaster on lathe. The architraves to the doors were moulded with a simple cyma reversa. The rooms had ceilings supported by ceiling joists which appeared to be contemporary with the roof trusses. The internal walls on the first floor of the central range are plastered. It is likely that this plaster is primary as the ceiling joists appear to be contemporary with the roof joists. Access was not obtained to the first floor of the east wing. At present, the first floor of the west wing is open, but there are remains of part of a partition beneath the third roof truss. The walls of the southern three bays of the wing are plastered, but the walls of the northern section are whitewashed. A ceiling survives over the southernmost bay which originally extended to the third roof truss. A door beneath this truss survives, although the present surround of the door suggests that it is Victorian.

On balance, it is likely that there was a primary subdivision in the southern part of the west wing, on the same line as the partition on the ground floor. The most convincing evidence for this is the chamfered roof trusses. The plaster and ceiling may well be original but it is not yet possible to confirm this.

1.3 Documentary and physical evidence for room functions

The only documentary evidence for the function of the structure is the description in the 1805 plan, citing 'Mansion Offices, Coach House, Stables' (and possibly greenhouse!) Unfortunately access to much of the building was limited - if nothing else by concern for health and safety - and there have been extensive later alterations to those parts which are accessible. Virtually all the fixtures and fittings associated with the stable's original function have been removed. Thus it was difficult to identify convincing physical evidence for the use of individual rooms.

There is no doubt that the central range - because of the size of its doors - originally provided accommodation for coaches. A bonding timber set into the walls indicates that some form of panelling or racking may have been installed in this area. The walls are whitewashed, and the ceiling plastered, but there is no evidence for other subdivision, fixtures or fittings. It is likely that stables were housed in the northern halves of each wing (G1, G2, G6/7 and G8). Only G6 was accessible to this survey, and this has been heavily lined out with nineteenth century features. It was not possible to identify any fixtures or fittings. The two rooms heated by fireplaces ground floor (G3 and G5), are consistent with a multi-purpose building also providing some office space, tack room and/or groom's accommodation.

The first floor of the central range with its heated rooms at each end probably provided office accommodation. The first floors of the wings were probably originally used as hay loft. The wings probably combined office accommodation in the plastered parts to the south with hay storage in the northern parts, finished in lime washed brick.

2 Phase 2: overhaul and addition of domestic accommodation, 1861-1923

Major changes appear to have been made to the north eastern corner of the building in the mid nineteenth century. Broadly, this involves the creation of domestic accommodation, comprising a new entrance and extension, and a series of domestic rooms which gradually encroached into the stable block itself. Fireplaces were inserted into rooms on the first floor of the stable block, and into some of the ground floor rooms. Access to some of the rooms was indirect and it is possible that there was more than one person or family group occupying the house, perhaps as flats. The estate changed hands in 1861, when it was acquired by Alfred Bean. It appears he immediately set about a programme of repairs and refurbishment both to the house and stables. The addition to the stable is first shown on the OS map of 1863

2.1 Documentary and cartographic evidence

By 1865 when the first edition of the 25" Ordnance Survey map was published (surveyed 1863-4), the stable block was shown with a plain rectangular addition to the east. The bulge in the plan on the north side of the block had been removed. The addition survived until 1969 when it was photographed and surveyed by the local authority. The photographs show it to have been a two storey extension, with a stack against the existing building. It had a hipped roof. The east elevation included a door case with a plain Tuscan surround, and a single window to the south under a bracketed cornice. On the first floor were two windows under a single bracketed cornice. A plain band course continued the line of that on the stable block. The structure appears to have been rendered.

2.2 Fabric evidence

The fabric evidence indicates that the stable block was overhauled about 1860.

2.2.1 The two storey addition to the north-east

The only surviving evidence for the now demolished eastern extension is the outline of the former stack in the plaster applied to the exterior of the east wing, a burnt area from the former fireplace and a door cut through at first floor level at the north end of the east wing of the stable block. Inside the stable block a stack was built back to back with that in the new extension. The fireplaces on the ground and first floors, rooms G6 and F7, were similar with plain flat surrounds and large mantlepieces. The surround in G6 had square pyramidal paterae. A

similar surround was installed in the ground floor room immediately to the west, G5.

This evidence and that from photographs can be combined to suggest the internal layout of the extension. The addition comprised a single room on the ground floor, with a stair against the north wall, leading from the front door to a small landing at first floor level from which doors would have opened into one or two rooms, and westwards into the first floor of the stable block.

2.2.2 The addition of raking buttresses and a central chimney stack

Raking buttresses were built against each end of the north wall of the central wing. They were constructed in brick and finished with a sand cement render. A matching buttress was constructed against the centre of the north wall and capped with a stack for a fireplace at first floor level. This necessitated the blocking of the original square window in the ground floor north wall. The blocking and the outline for the original opening are still visible in the brick wall face inside the stable block in room G4. At first floor level the fireplace was built in the opening for a round headed window. The form of the surround, very plain and flat, matches that used for the fireplaces associated with the addition at the east end of the building. The blocking of the round arched opening was finished externally with render.

It is not clear why the buttresses were added to the building. There are no obvious signs of deformation or subsidence which would have prompted their construction. They were probably added after the demolition of the structure represented as a bulge in the estate plans from the first half of the nineteenth century. This earlier structure may have provided lateral support to the stable block. The thin partition wall, between rooms F4 and F5 in the central range, finished with tongue and groove panelling and the door set within it, with a late Victorian Grecian cyma architrave, presumably date from this period.

2.2.3 Introduction of cast iron glazing

The square windows and the half-round windows on the first floor have cast iron window frames. These frames were assembled from lengths of hollow chamfer glazing bars locked together at their intersections by circular castings decorated with rosettes. The windows included small opening casements which were incorporated within the glazing grid. The windows were glazed internally, so that the moulded section of the glazing bars were external, the putty internal.

This system of cast iron glazing is paralleled in the rear elevation, onto Hollen Street, of the shop and factory at 105-109 Oxford Street, built for Henry Heath Hatter in 1887-8 by the architects Messrs. Christopher and White and the builders Peto Brothers (Survey of London, vol XXXIII, p 290). An example of a similar window was also rescued from a large hospital outside Birmingham, which was originally a Victorian asylum, built *c*1868. This window is now included as an example of a window style popular in institutional and industrial buildings of the

mid-nineteenth century in the Greenwich University, Brooking Collection. Similar glazing was used in a brick building on the south bank side of Hungerford Railway bridge completed in 1864. The association of this glazing system with railway architecture and the Peto Brothers who undertook many large engineering projects, is not altogether inappropriate given Alfred Bean's background. The installation of these windows at Danson suggests a radical overhaul of the stable block in the period *c*1860.

2.2.4 Repairs to the roof

The inscription *'J. TEDD 1863'* on the diagonal strut of the northernmost truss in the west wing suggests that repairs to the roof were carried at this date. However, as discussed above, it is suggested that, although the present trusses probably date from the period *c*1863, their form replicates that of the 1805 roof. The full extent of the repair work implied by this inscription is however not clear. It is possible that it relates to the refixing of boards and tiles. A dendrochronological date for the trusses would possibly resolve the extent of the works to the roof in 1863.

2.3 Further minor additions, c 1890?

In the later part of the nineteenth century, and the early twentieth century, Danson House remained a family house until it was sold to Bexley Council in 1923. In contrast with the major alterations of the 1861-3 period, very little was done to alter the character of the estate and buildings during the later nineteenth and early twentieth century.

2.3.1 Documentary and cartographic evidence

The 2nd Edition OS map of 1897 (surveyed in 1893-4) shows the stable block in plan with much the same outline as that shown in 1865. Further structures were added to the north of the east addition and and a smaller addition to the east of the centre of the north wall of the main block. This latter addition has now been demolished, but it was photographed and surveyed in 1969.

The 1964 photograph of this extension shows it was single storey, with a hipped roof probably of slate. There is a central stack and also a roof vent to the north. The east elevation includes a window with casement and a long rectangular window, partly boarded. A view from the north shows a single door and window in the north elevation, and a lean to timber shed on the west. The building could have combined domestic use, suggested by the stack and casement window, with perhaps a dairy at the colder northern end of the building.

The OS map also shows that the paths or tracks around the block had become more formalised, with an axial approach and tracks running north on both sides of the block.

2.3.2 Fabric Evidence

The second addition was demolished some time after 1969. The surviving above ground traces consist of mortices and scars in the north face of the east range. These include rectangular recesses, presumably for the quoining of the west wall, a row of horizontal mortices for the ground floor ceiling joists and the diagonal scar of the roof.

3 Phase 3: the Council works depot and domestic house, 1923 onwards

In 1923, Danson House, the stable block and park were purchased by Bexley Council, who converted the house into a Museum. The stable block appears to have been used as a works depot, with very little adaptation. Internal evidence suggests that part of the stable block, at least, remained in domestic use during this period.

3.1 Documentary and cartographic evidence

(The 1927 OS map has not been consulted as yet) The building was listed Grade II in 1953. By the time of the drawn survey of 1969, toilets had been inserted into the stable block - gentlemen's WCs in G7, with a new entrance cut through the outside wall to an exterior enclosed urinal in a small lean-to, the roof scar of which survives, and presumably women's toilets in G2, again with two new exterior doors, both converted from windows.

3.2 Fabric evidence

A number of changes in the north-east corner of the stable block appear, on stylistic grounds, to date to the 1920s or 1930s. The mottled glazed ceramic tiles were inserted into the fireplace in rooms G5 and G6. The external door surrounds and doors in room G5 also appear to be of this date. Painted stencilling on the walls in G6 probably dates from the 1920s.

3.3 The stable block in 1964

Photographs of the building taken in 1964 show that the building had become considerably dilapidated. The windows of the domestic extension to the east were broken. Along the north wall of the stable block was a series of lean-to additions in timber, perhaps rendered. Piles of stone were heaped against the north wall, surrounded by chestnut fencing and there were planks stacked against the west wall. Two boats stood in the front courtyard, perhaps awaiting repair, as well as a grass cutter. In the foreground to the north of the building can be seen at least three cold frames, and perhaps the top of another extending south.

3.4 Photographs and drawn survey of 1969

The stable block was the subject of a planning inquiry in 1972 when a scheme was put forward which included a large scale addition on the north side of the block. The scheme was rejected.

3.5 Changes post 1969

A set of photographs taken in the late 1980s indicate that the Victorian extensions had been demolished, leaving only the original stable block. By 1982, the building was fenced and a notice erected prohibiting entry because of the dangerous state of the building. Some of the openings were boarded and breeze blocks were inserted into some of the openings to prevent access. In 1990 the Westmorland slate roof tiles survived, although these had been removed by 1993.

4 The future conservation of the building

4.1 Recording issues

Although this report outlines the historical development of the stable block, it is by no means definitive. Some of the unresolved issues could be resolved through further study, recording, analysis and excavation. Some issues are critical to an effective and sympathetic programme of conservation for the building. For example we are not at all sure of the original sub-divisions of the interior on either floor. Some of the plaster is possibly original but some parts of building were probably left unplastered.

4.1.1 Building recording

The extent of the repairs to the roof of 1863 could possibly be resolved through the use of dendrochronology but close examination, recording and analysis will also be required.

Because of problems of access, in this study, the floor frames were hardly observed. They probably contain essential evidence for our understanding of the room divisions and means access between the floors.

Sequences of paint and plaster finishes when thoroughly recorded, provide a relative chronology for many alterations which otherwise can only be broadly dated on stylistic grounds. Such a study will also probably determine which areas of the building were used for stabling and hay storage, presumably left unplastered, and which were used for other purposes, such as tack rooms or other offices.

The blocked arches in the outer walls of the side wings, are not properly understood. Investigation and recording would probably reveal why the blockings are finished in render and provide some idea of their original function. This is essential to our understanding of the stable block in its earliest phase. We still do not know if the upper floor provided storage space for hay.

Removal of loose plaster and render will probably reveal further evidence for alterations to the structure, most probably in the form of blocked openings but also in the form of blocked mortice holes for timbers and timbers themselves which were probably associated with original fixtures and fittings.

4.1.2 Archaeology

It is highly probable that excavation around the stable block would reveal traces of the Victorian additions and possibly of the structure to the north of the block shown in the early C19 estate maps. It is also likely that excavations in these areas and inside the block itself might reveal traces of a private gas plant, which would very likely have been installed in the last third of the nineteenth century.

4.2 Repair issues

The stable block is in poor condition, and any scheme for adaptive re-use of the building will have to be preceded by a repair programme. The application will require Listed Building Consent. Before a repair specification is finalised a philosophy of repair will have to be agreed. This will probably be pragmatic but it will inevitably based on a consideration of the relative dates of features within the fabric eg. which areas of plaster should be preserved? The cast iron windows are not original to the build and yet they are a significant survival from an important period in the building's development.

To some extent, repair decisions will depend upon a quantitative assessment of the surviving historic fabric, for example, how much original joinery survives and where? The domestic additions to the north and east of the block have been demolished but does this mean that the associated fireplaces no longer have a significant role in the building's future?

Any repair specification should consider whether the building should be returned to its last considered phase by removal of the 19th century domestic areas.

Even the repair of a building, such as this, may potentially result in damage or loss to features which are significant to its history. At the same time, it is essential that any repair scheme proceeds from an understanding of the nature and importance of each part of the fabric.

The adaptive re-use of the building will be most effective if the existing space within the building are exploited to their full potential. It may be desirable to retain some of the later partition walls or alterations. The partition wall between the first floor rooms F4 and F5 is clearly not original. Most of the others with the exception of the toilets are original. These issues should be considered as part of the application.

The map evidence indicates that during the first half of the nineteenth century, there was a structure attached to the north side of the stable block. The absence of supporting fabric evidence suggests that this was a less substantial structure than the stable block itself. It is possible that some physical evidence for the structure survives behind the buttresses to the north face of the building, and probably more likely that some archaeological evidence could be recovered through excavation.

Although apparently the same type of stone was used for the house, the stable has not deteriorated to the same extent. This is probably because the house was rendered in the 1950s and the stables were not.

4.3 The setting

Throughout the C19 the stable block was screened by a tree plantation, both from the house and from the rest of the park. What does the setting comprise today? What has been lost? What issues should be taken into account in future use? What is the relationship with the main house and how important is this? What factors might affect this?

Given the carefully considered relationship between the house stables and park discussed above, it may be desirable to re-instate the effect of the 'plantation' by means of carefully positioned soft landscaping, while adapting the surface area to car parking and other needs.

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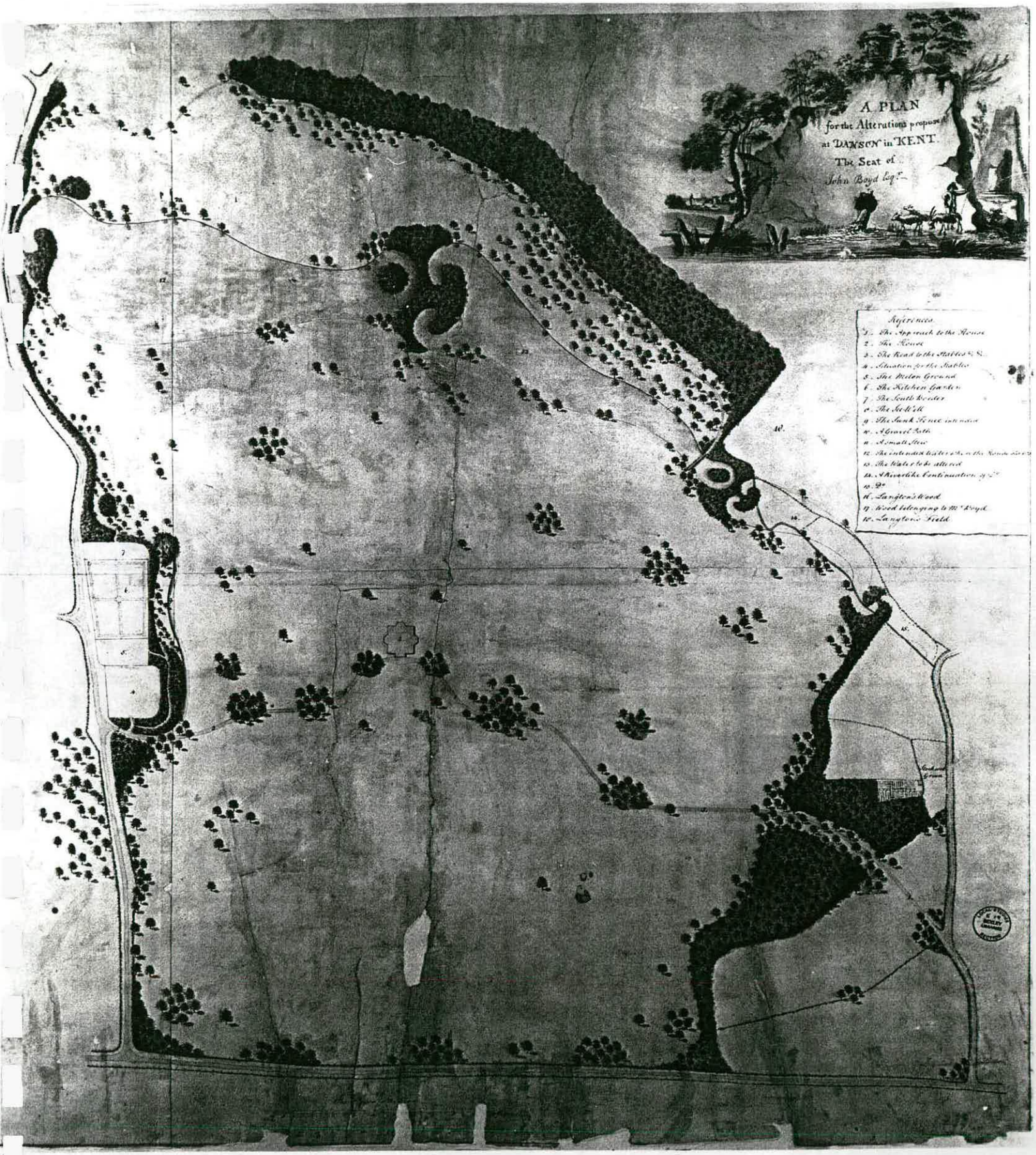
Sanderson R W: *Identification of samples of stone from Danson Park House, Bexley. Kent* (June 1994)
Petrographical Analysis and Identification of Decayed stone from Danson House, Bexley, Kent (March 1995)

Yeomans D: *The Trussed Roof, its history and development* (1992)

1. *A plan for the proposed Alterations at Danson Hill, the Seat of John Boyd Esq.* possibly by Nathaniel Richmond and probably dating from 1763.



2. A detail from the *Map of Kent* by Andrews, Dury and Herbert, published Jan 1st, 1769.

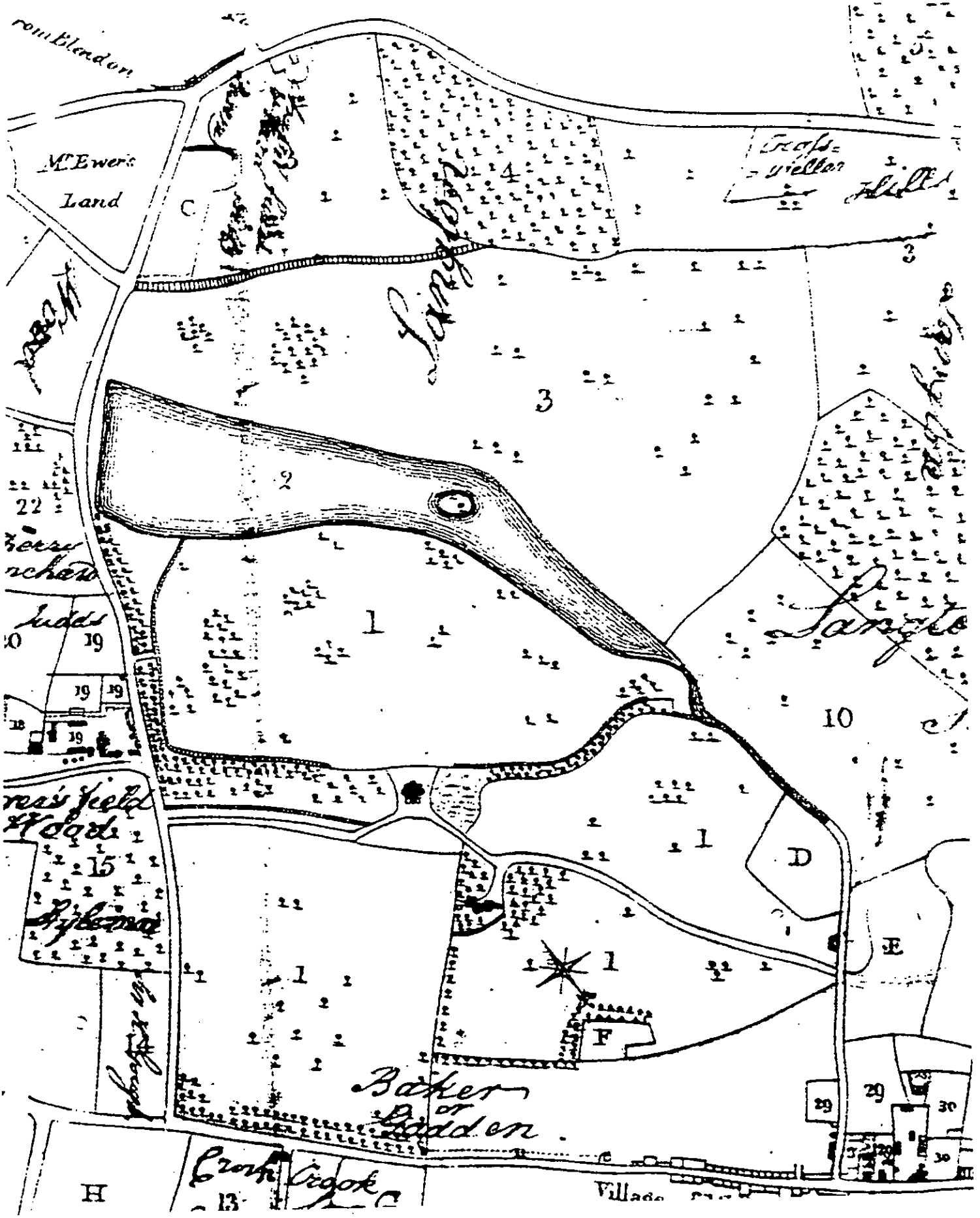
3. An oil painting now at Hall Place, Bexley, showing Danson House viewed from the north-west with John Boyd and his family in the foreground. Previously thought to be by Richard Wilson or one of his followers, but now probably by a George Barrett and dating from *c*1767.

5. *The North-west View of Danson in Kent the Seat of Sir John Boyd Bart. Designed by Sir Robt Taylor, Drawn and Engraved by T Malton, Published by M A Taylor, Jan 27th 1790.*

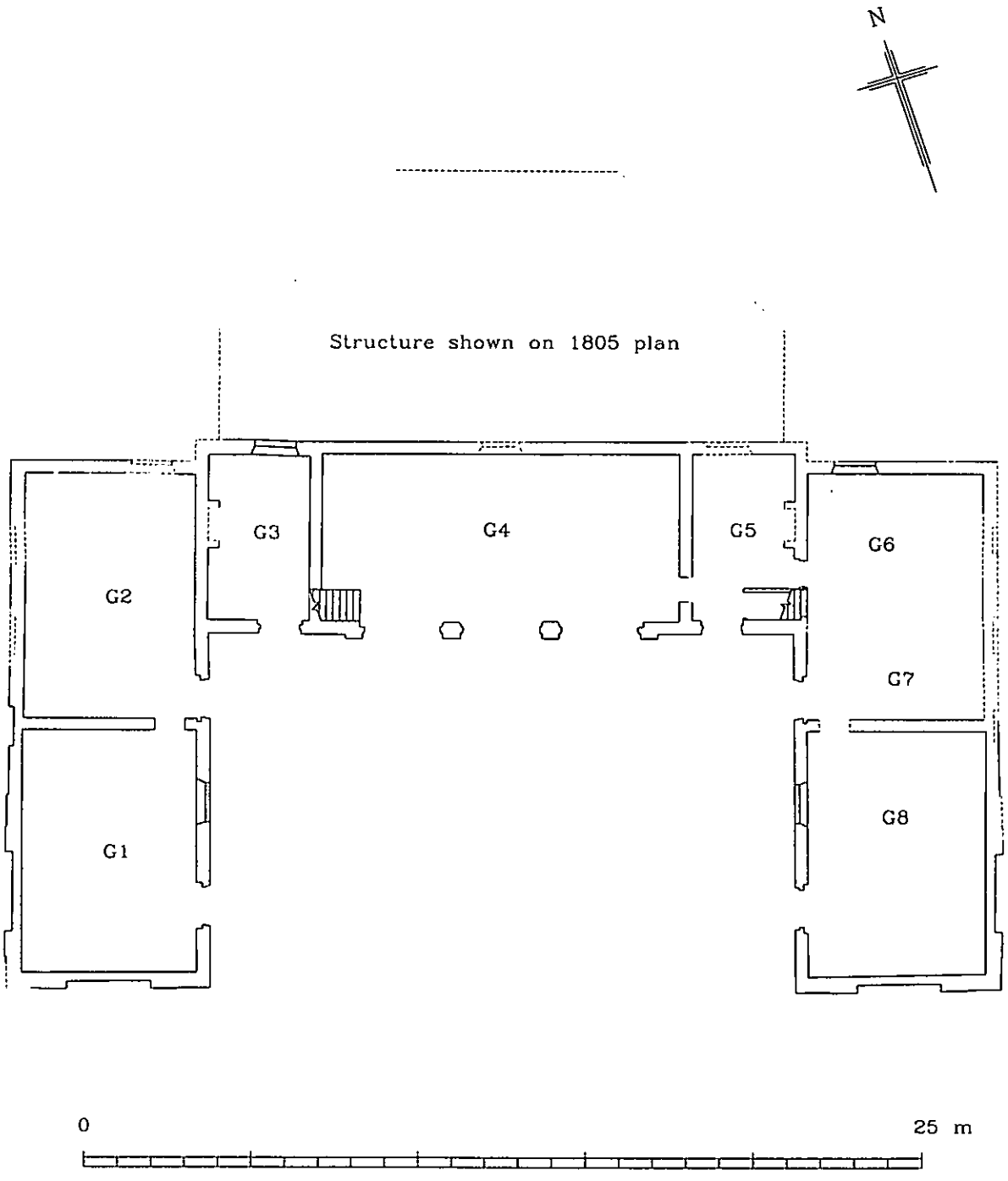
6. *Plan of the Principal Story of Danson in Kent, Designed by Sir Robt Taylor, Drawn and Engraved by T Malton, published by M A Taylor, Jan 27th 1790.*

7. A detail from the Ordnance Surveyor's Drawings of the London Area, surveyed in 1799, drawn at 3" to 1 mile.

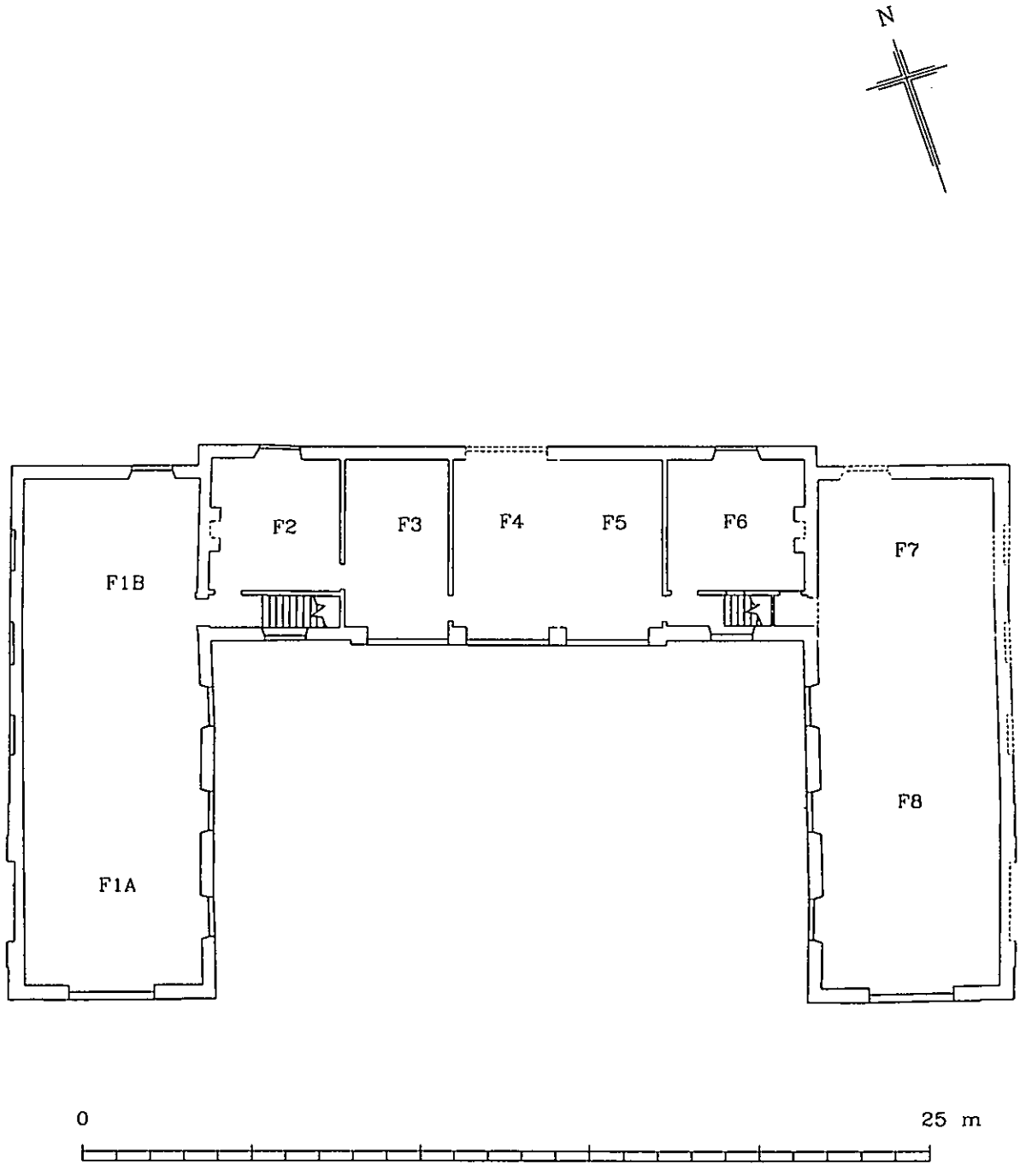
8. *Plan of an Estate called Danson in the County of Kent*, now in the Local Studies Collection at Hall Place, Bexley. Dating from 1805.



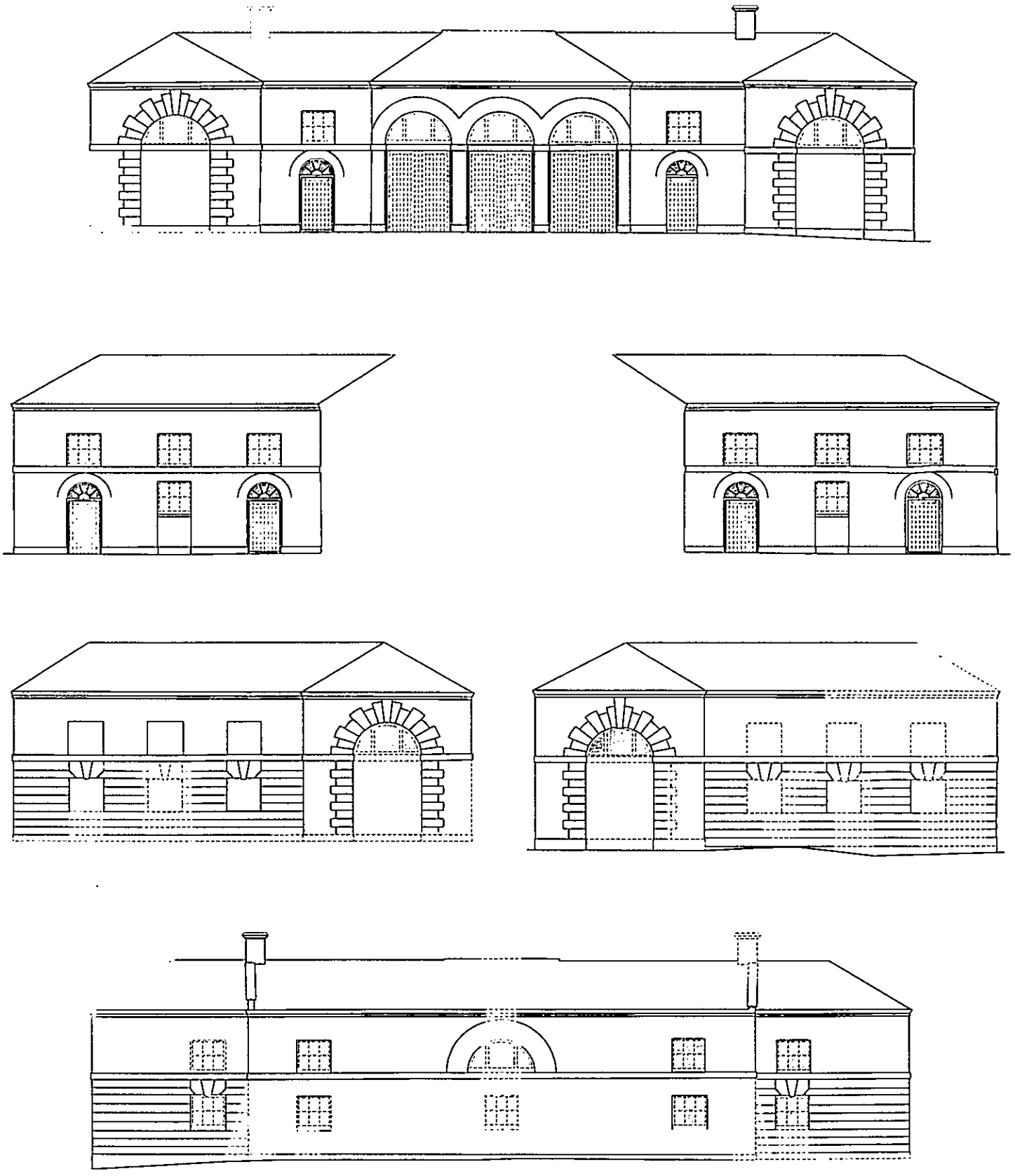
9. Reconstructed ground plan of the stable block as built *c*1804, scale 1:200.



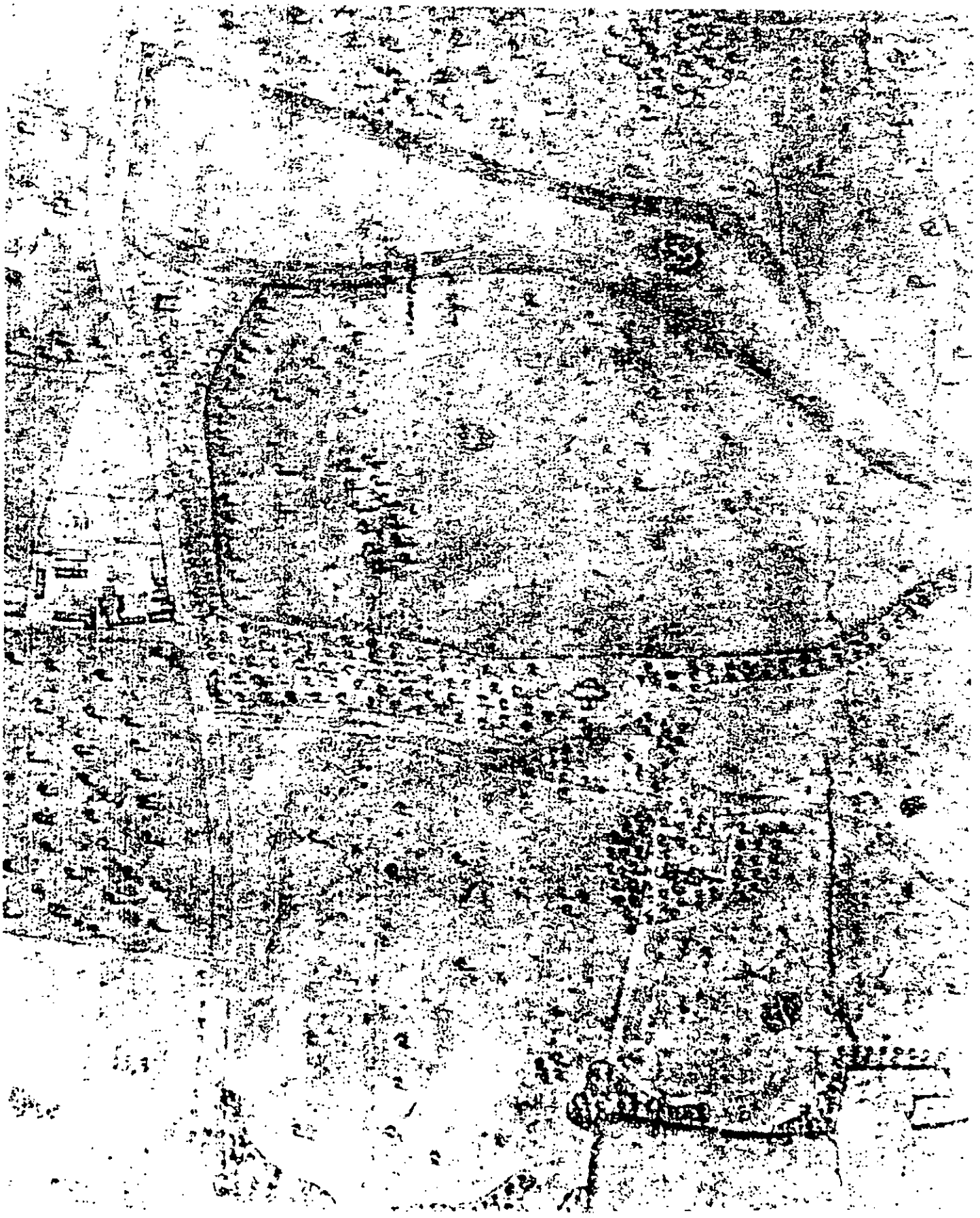
10. Reconstructed first floor plan of the stable block as built *c*1804, scale 1:200.



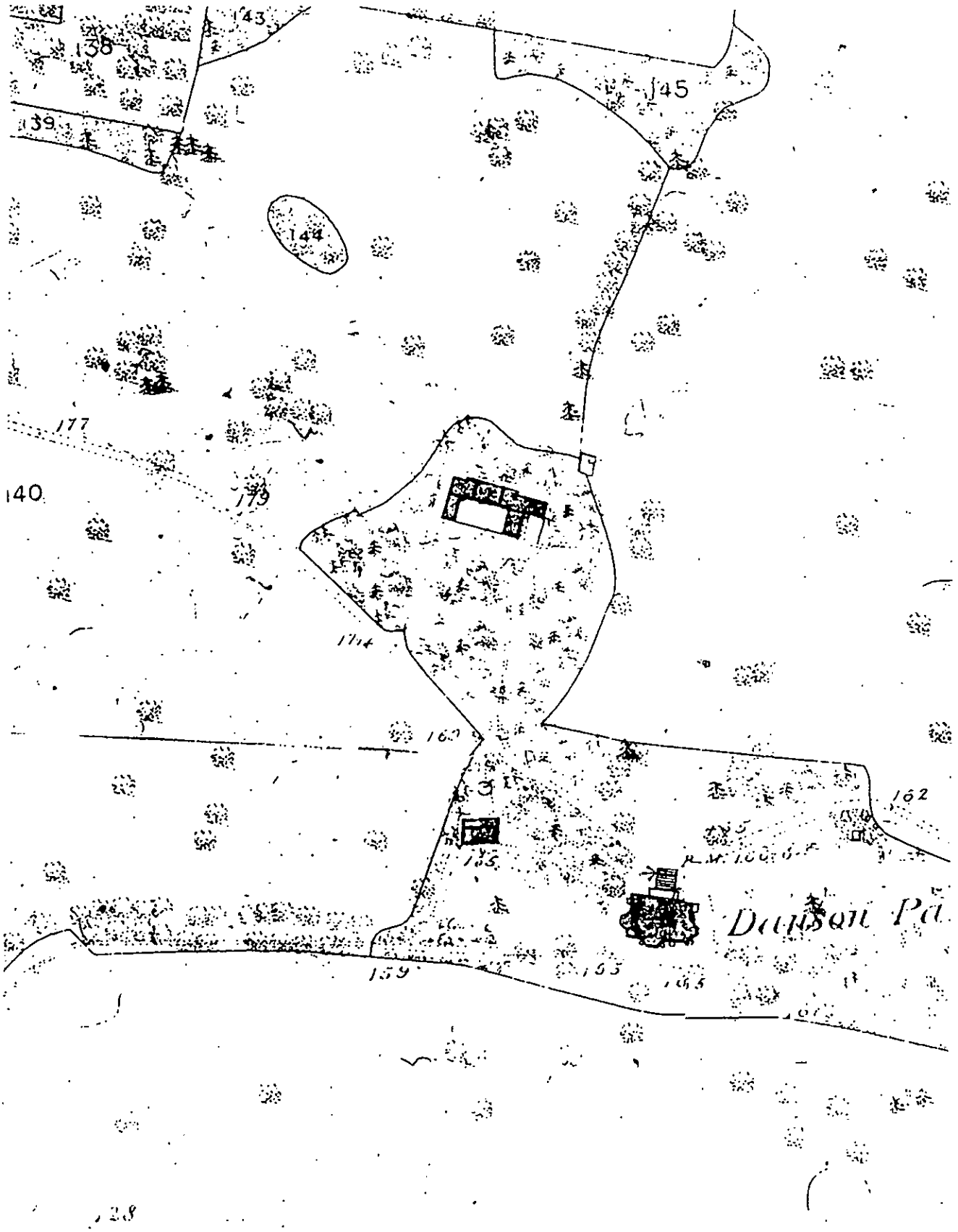
11. Reconstructed elevations of the stable block as first built *c*1804, scale 1:200.



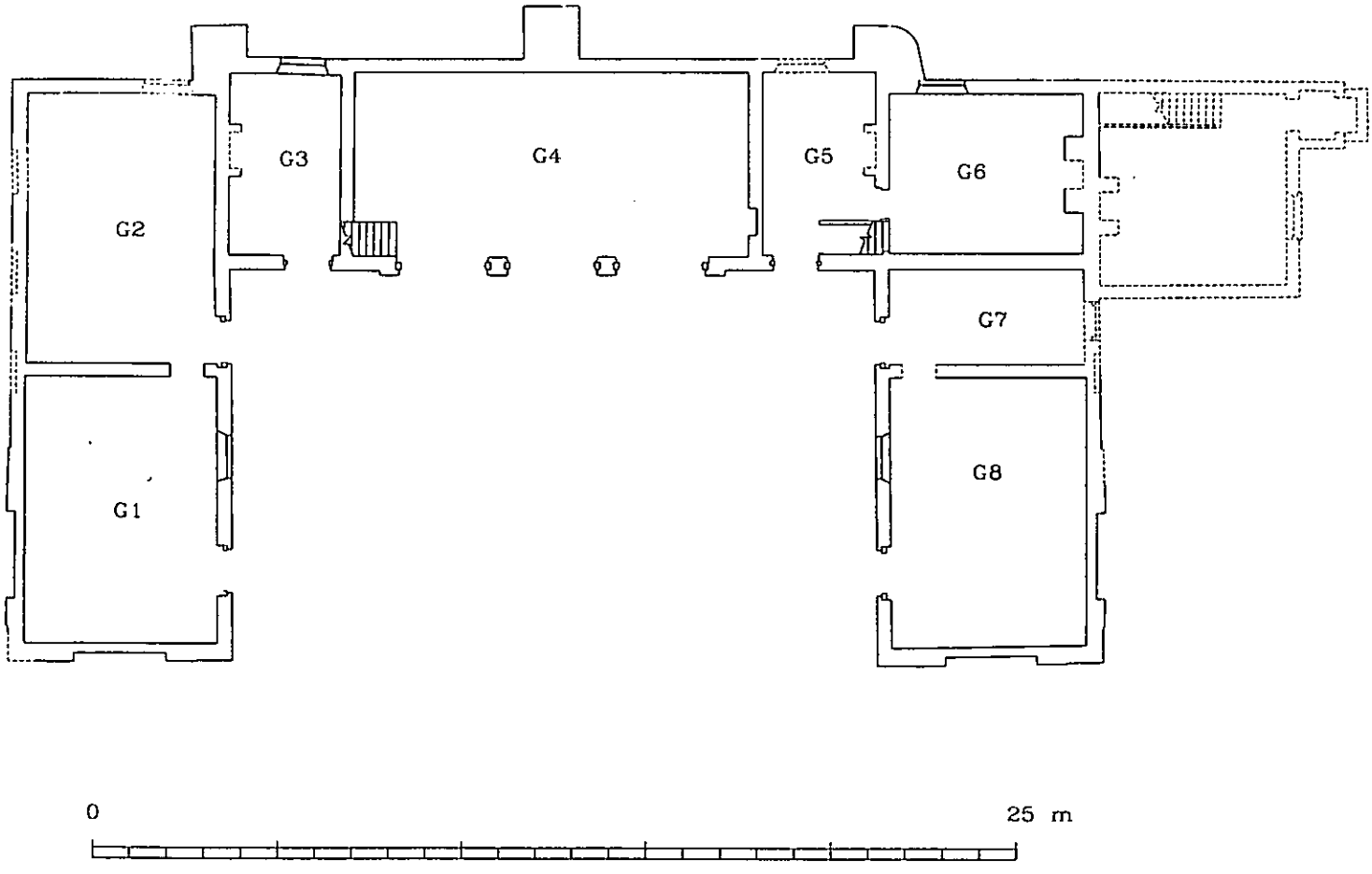
12. *Plan of an Estate called Danson in the County of Kent, the Property of Johnston*, probably 1829, now in the Local Studies Collection at Hall Place, Bexley.



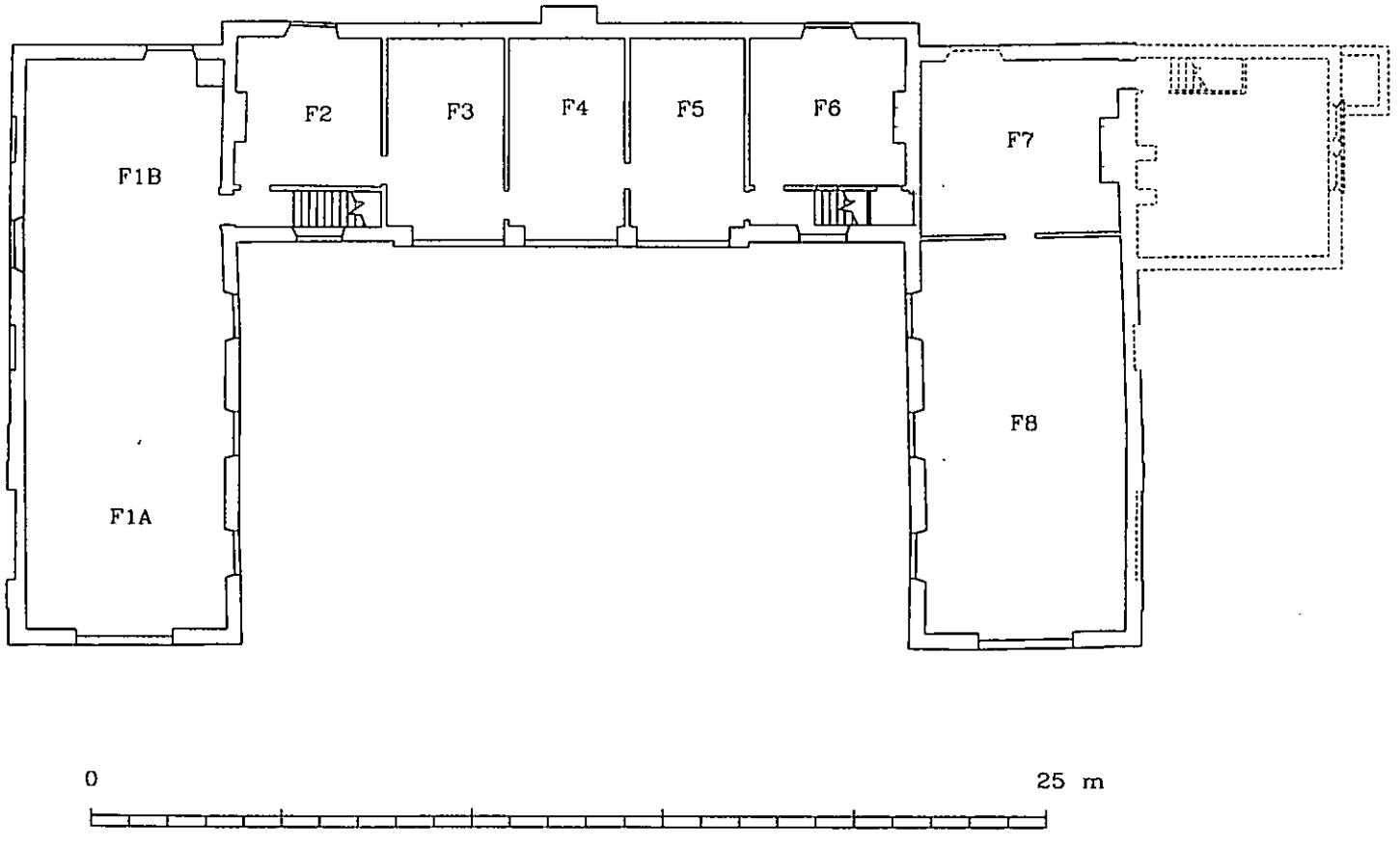
13. Detail from the First Edition of the Ordnance Survey published in 1865, surveyed 1863-4.



14. Reconstructed ground plan of the stable block after the additions of *c* 1860



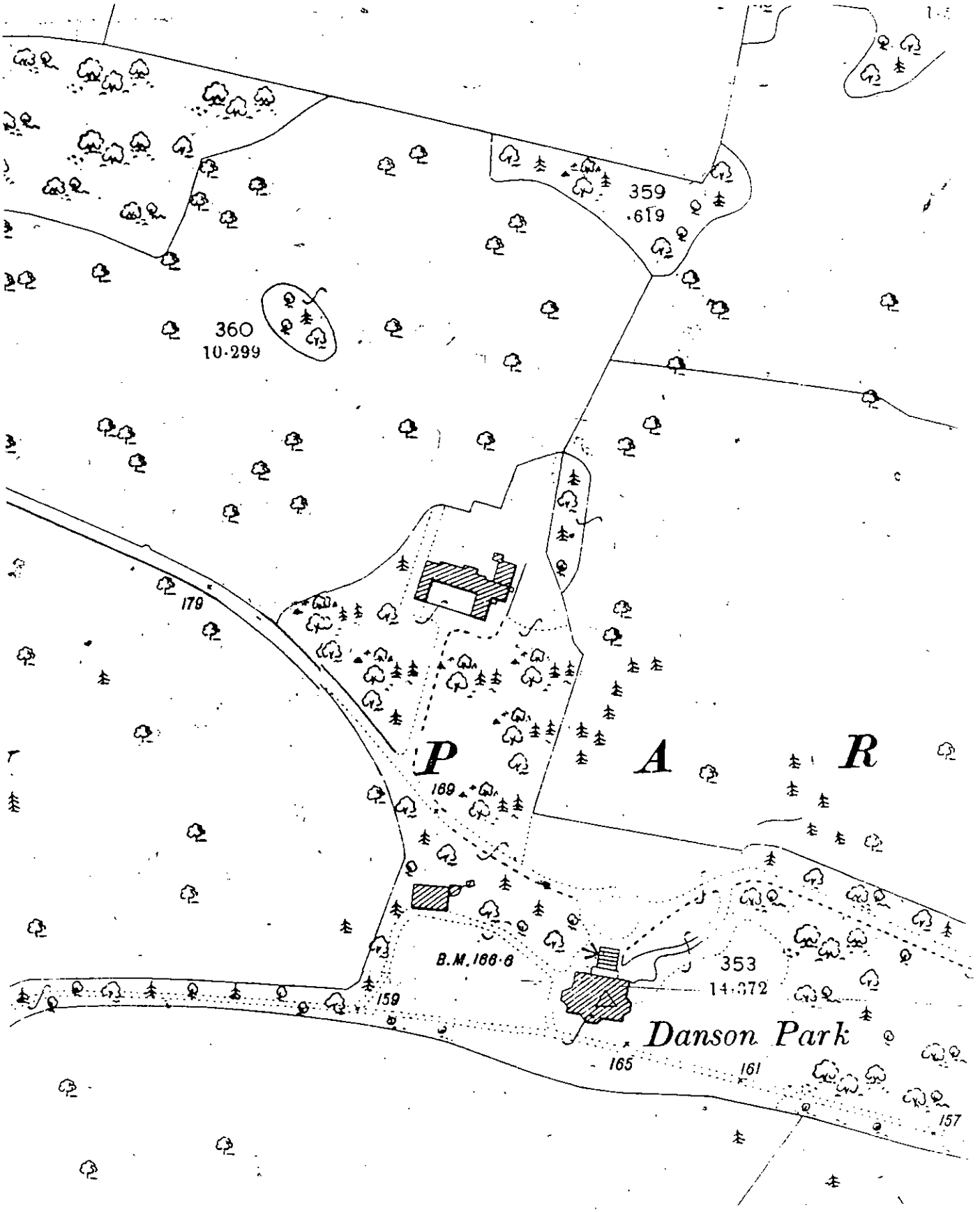
15. Reconstructed first floor plan of the stable block after the additions of *c* 1860



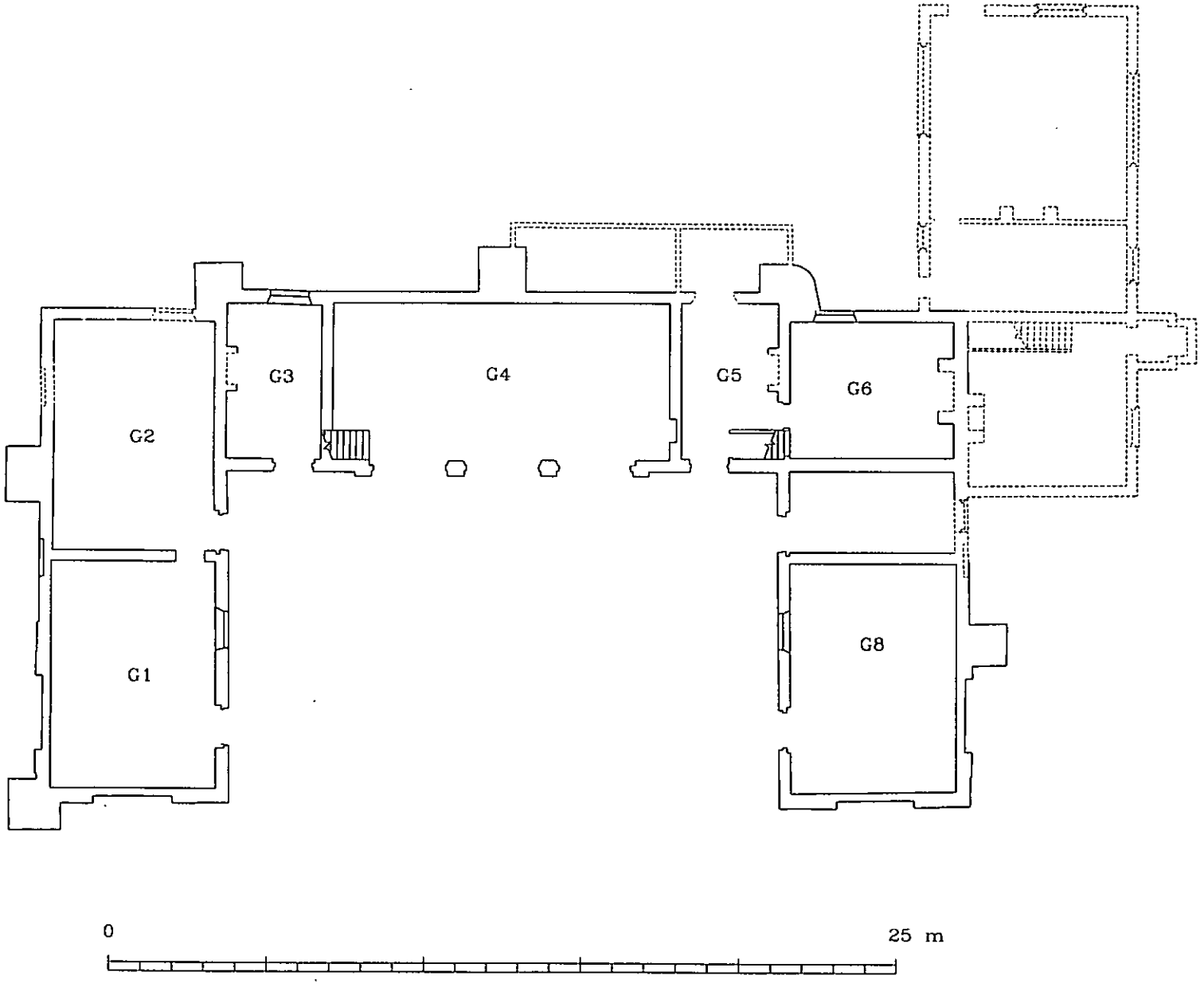
16. Reconstructed elevations of the stable block after the additions of *c* 1860

0 25 m

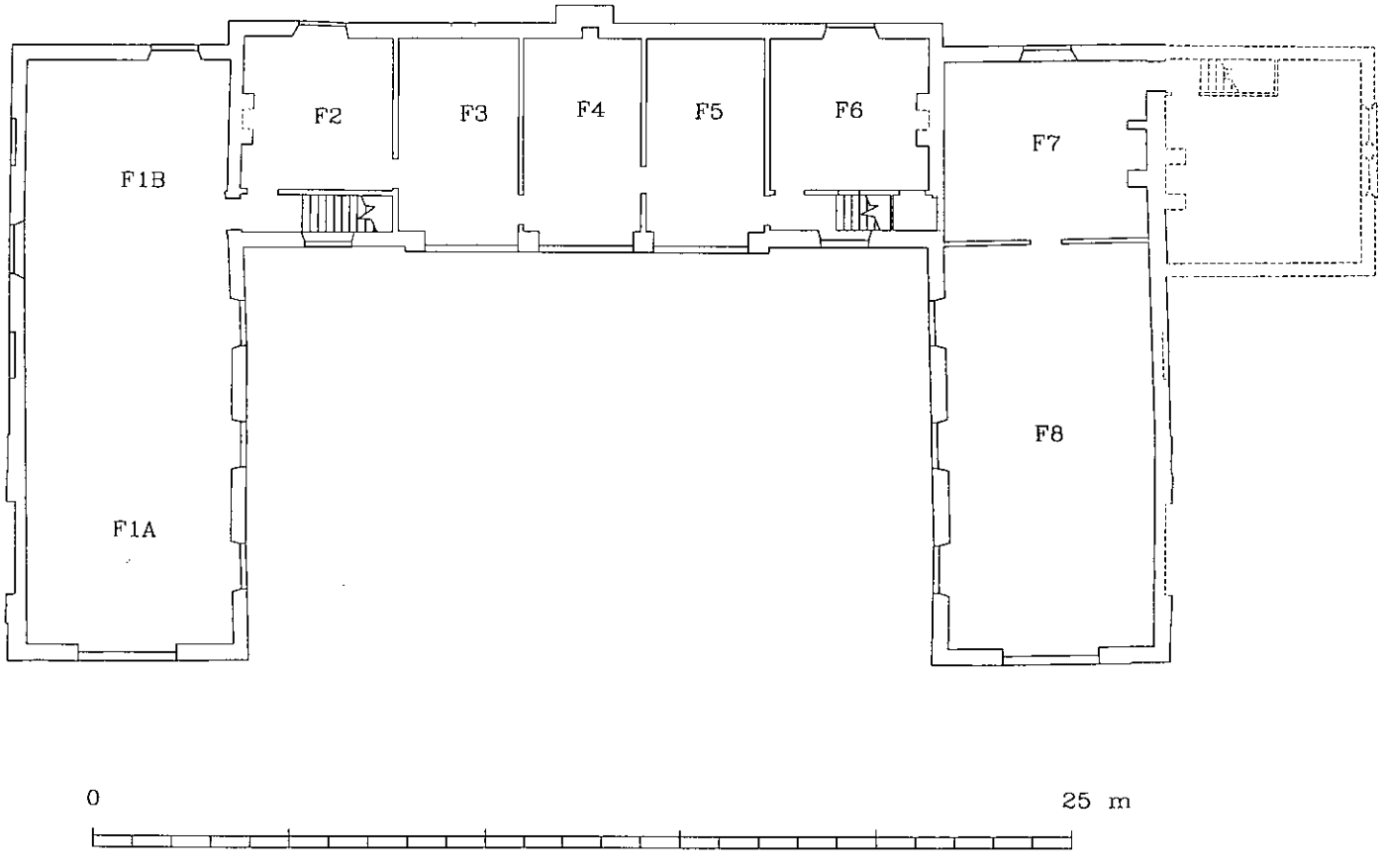
17. Detail from the Second Edition of the Ordnance Survey published in 1897, surveyed 1893-4.



18. Reconstructed ground plan of the stable block after the additions of *c* 1890, scale 1:200



19. Reconstructed first floor plan of the stable block after the additions of *c* 1890, scale 1:200

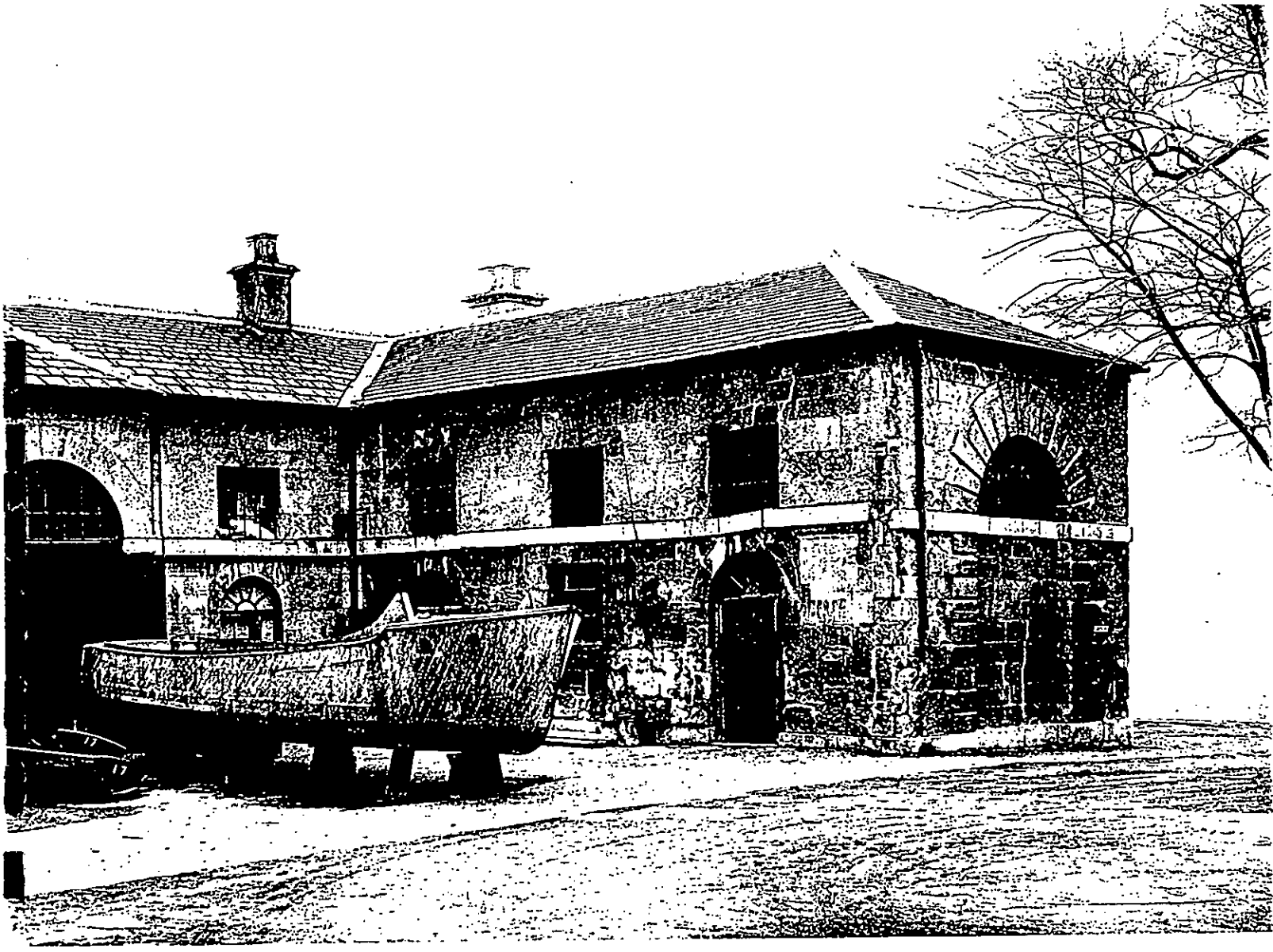


20. Reconstructed elevations of the stable block after the additions of *c* 1890, scale 1:200

0 25 m

21, Photograph of the west wing, c 1955?, National Building Record, RCHME

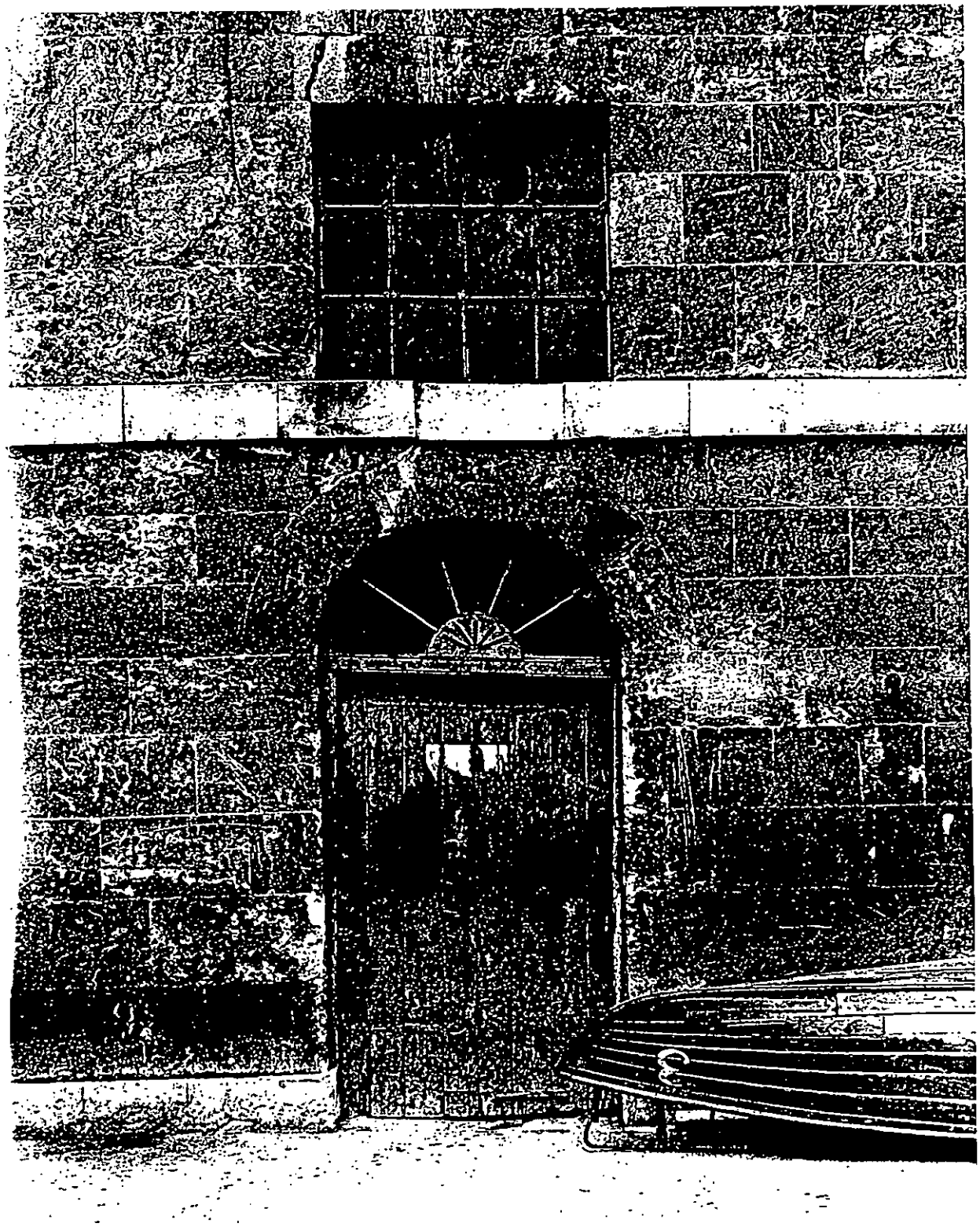
22, Photograph of the east wing, c 1955?, National Building Record, RCHME



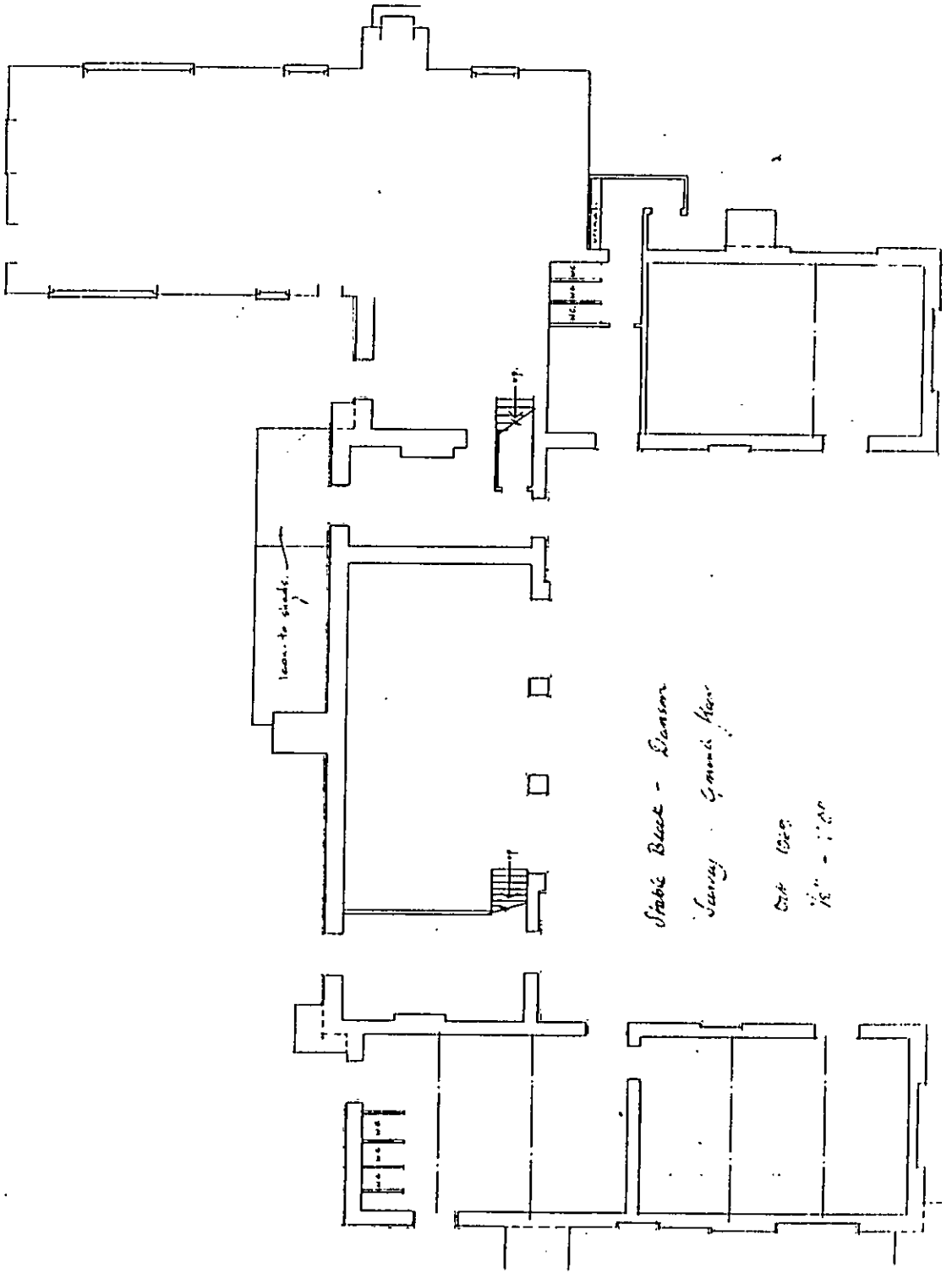
23, Photograph of the east front, c 1955?, National Building Record, RCHME

24, Photograph of the north front, c 1955?, National Building Record, RCHME

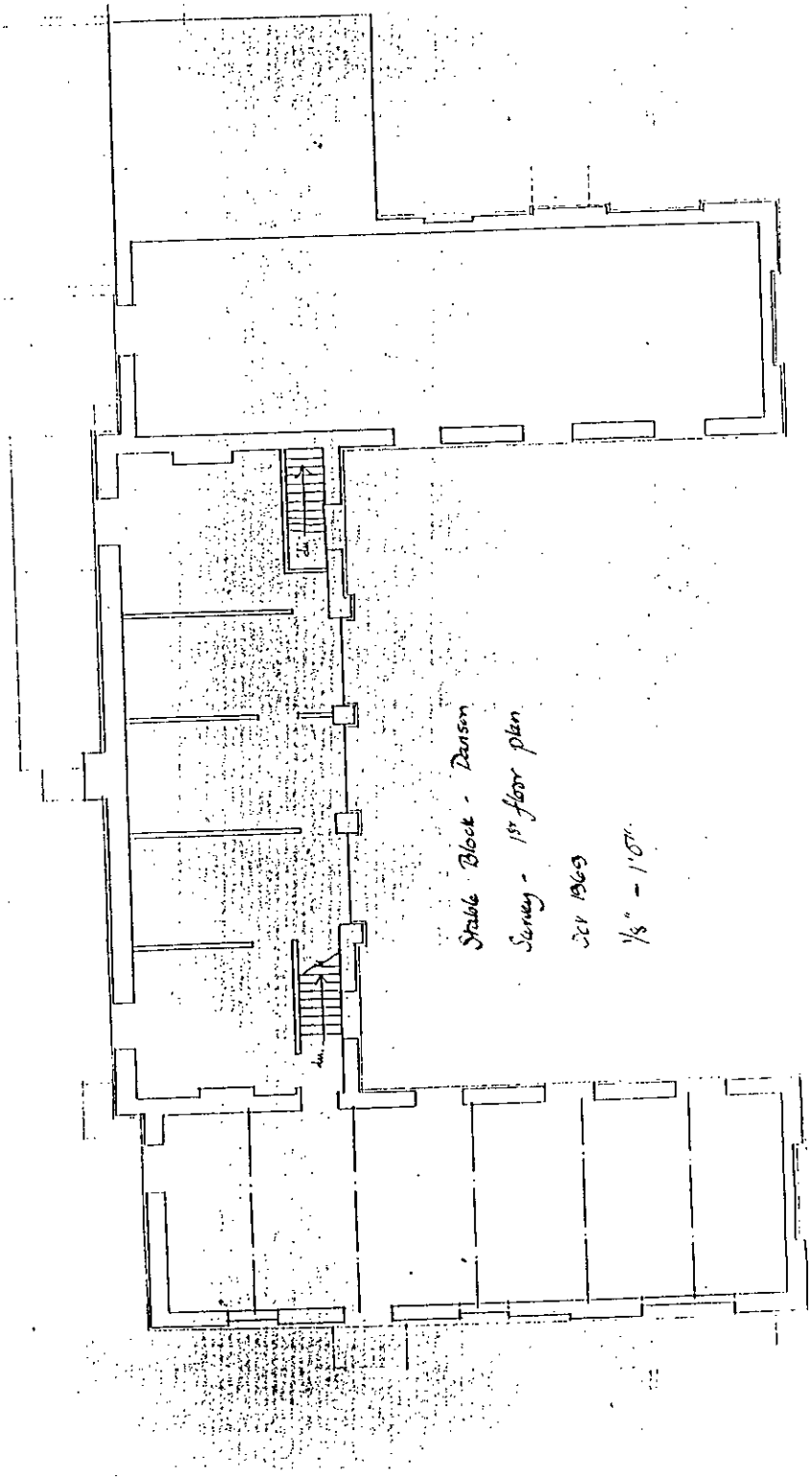
25, Photograph of a door facing into the courtyard, c 1955?, National Building Record, RCHME



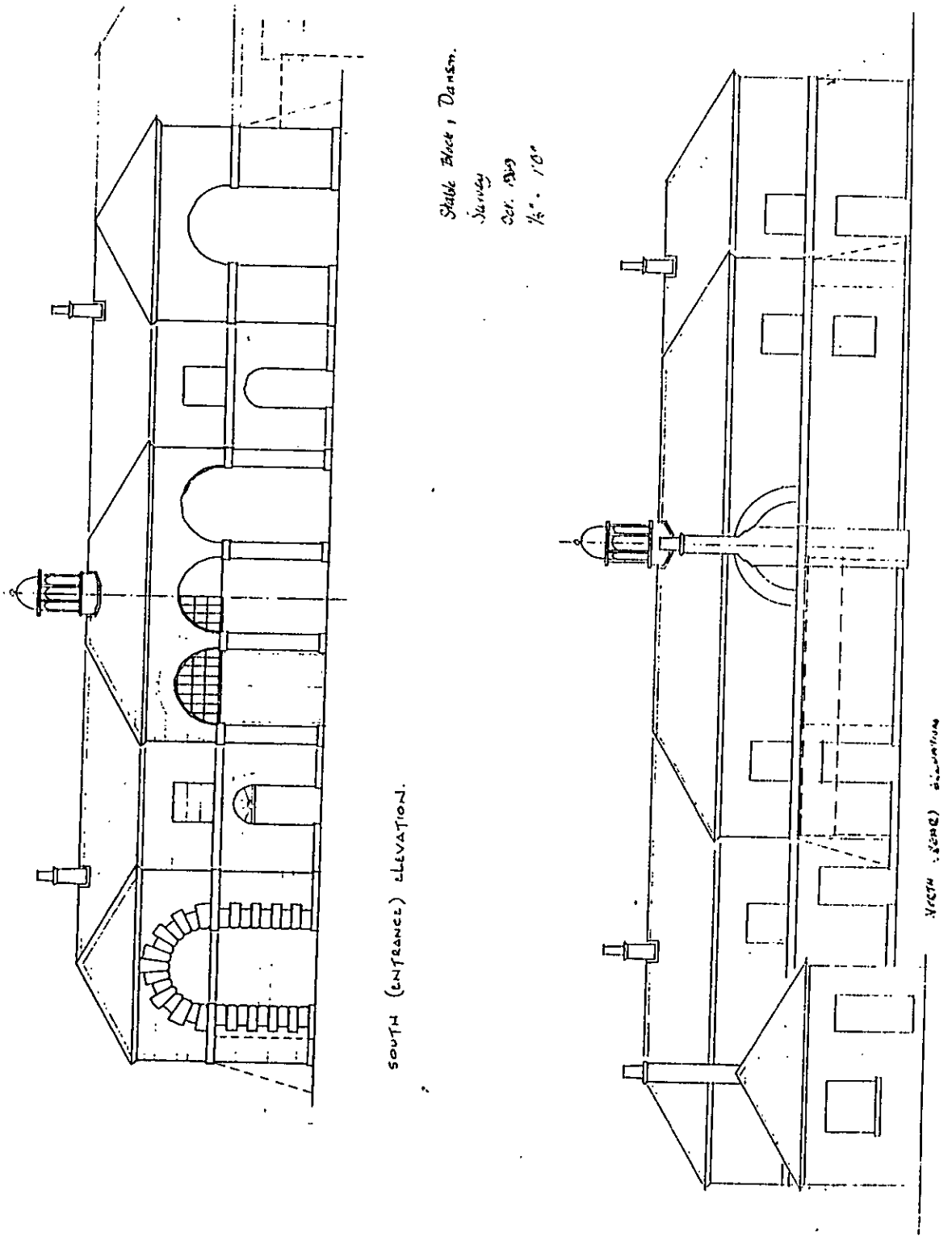
26. Survey drawing from October 1969, drawn at 1/8":1' ground plan



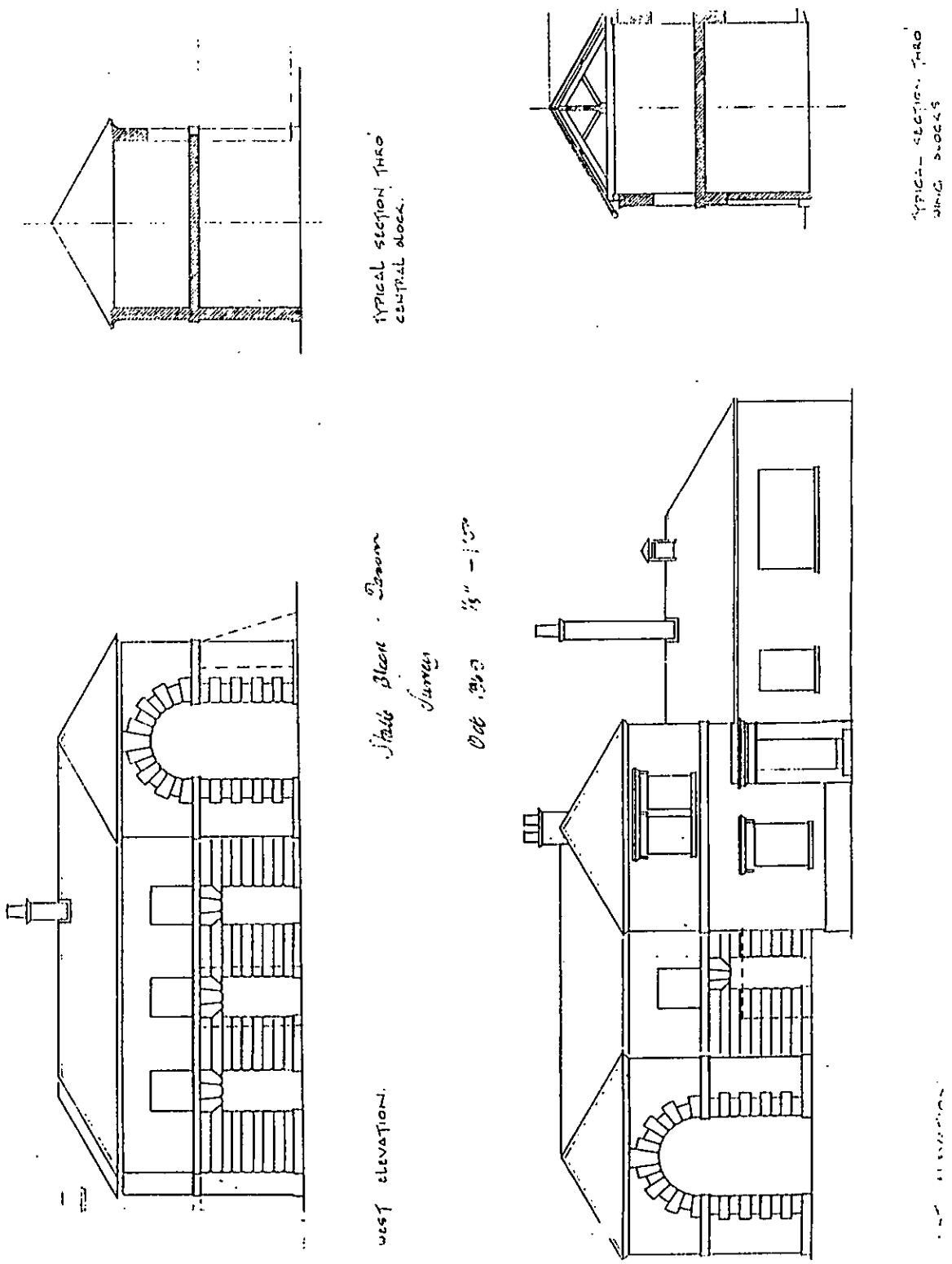
27. Survey drawing from October 1969, drawn at 1/8":1' first floor plan



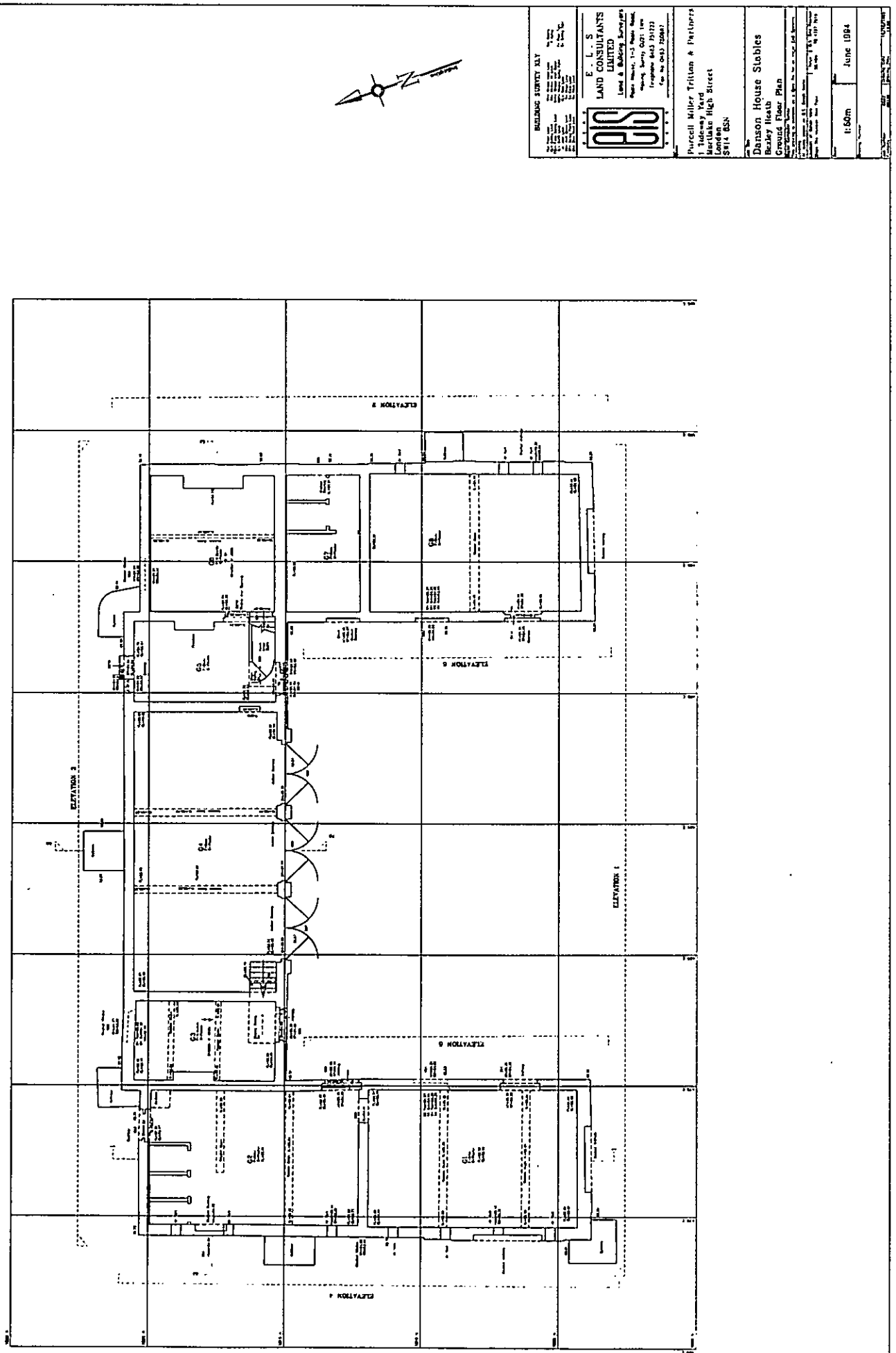
28. Survey drawing from October 1969, drawn at 1/8":1' north and south elevations



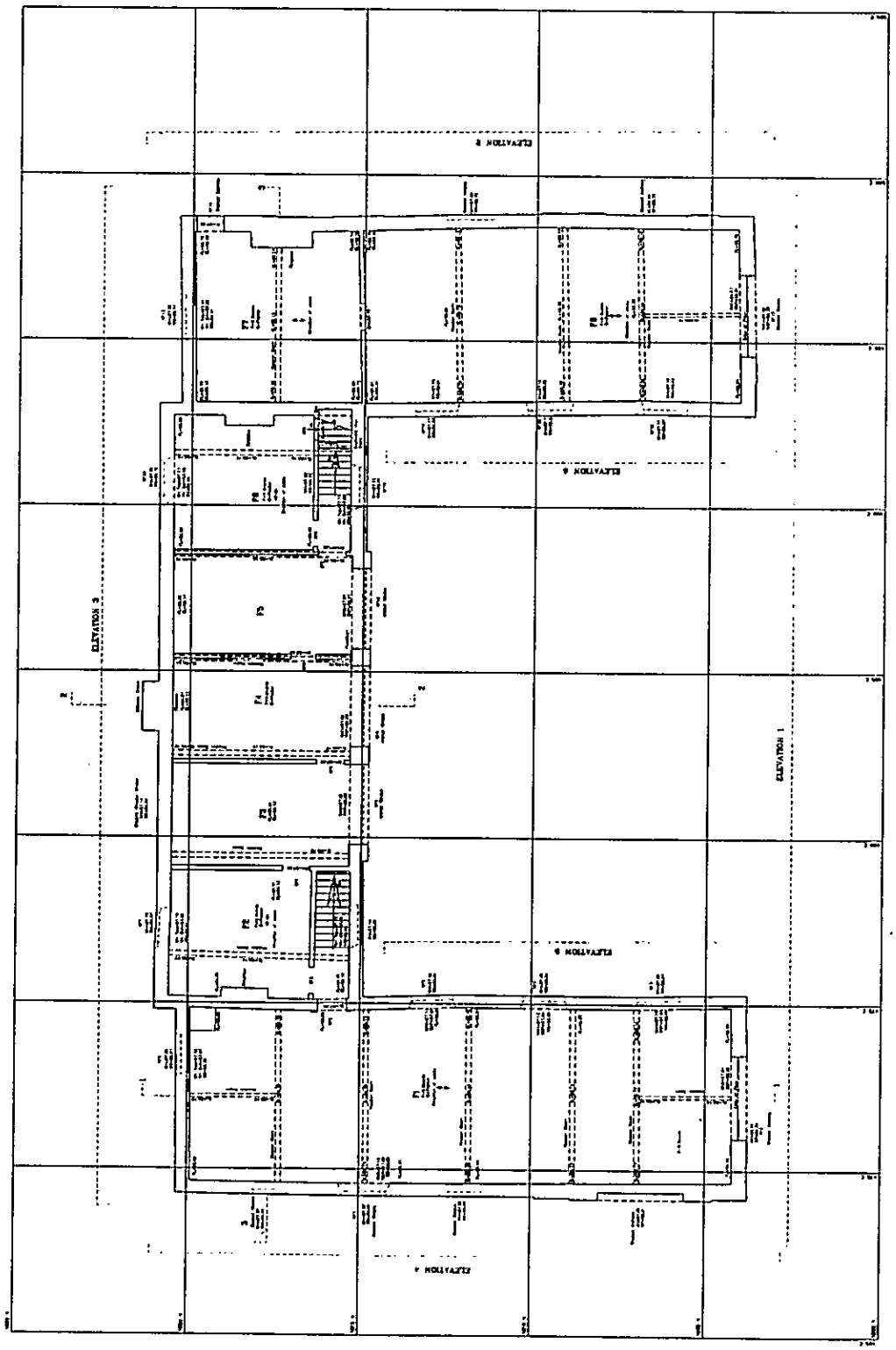
29. Survey drawing from October 1969, drawn at 1/8":1' east and west elevations and sections



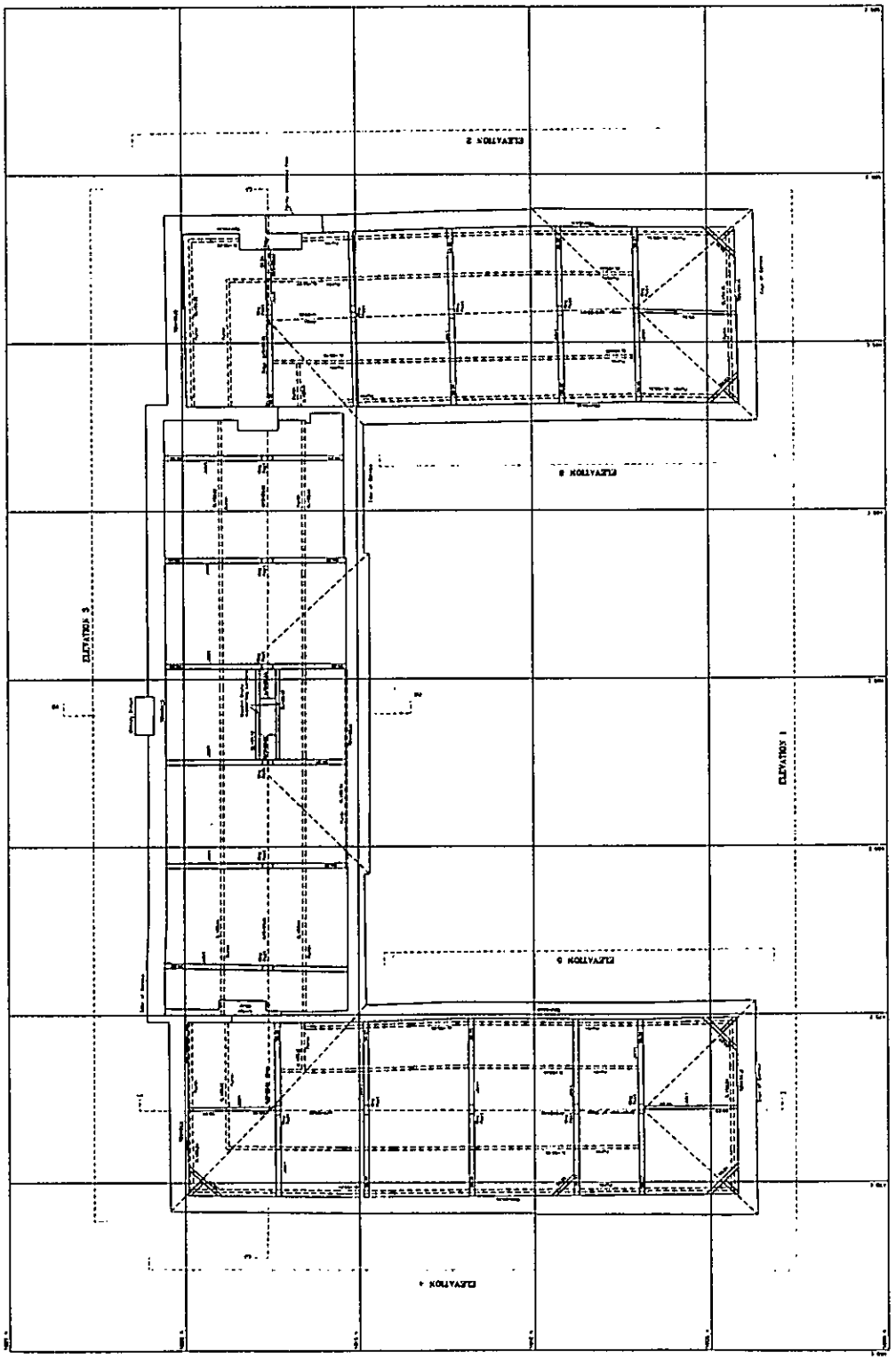
30. Ground plan of the stable block as surveyed in 1994, scale 1:200



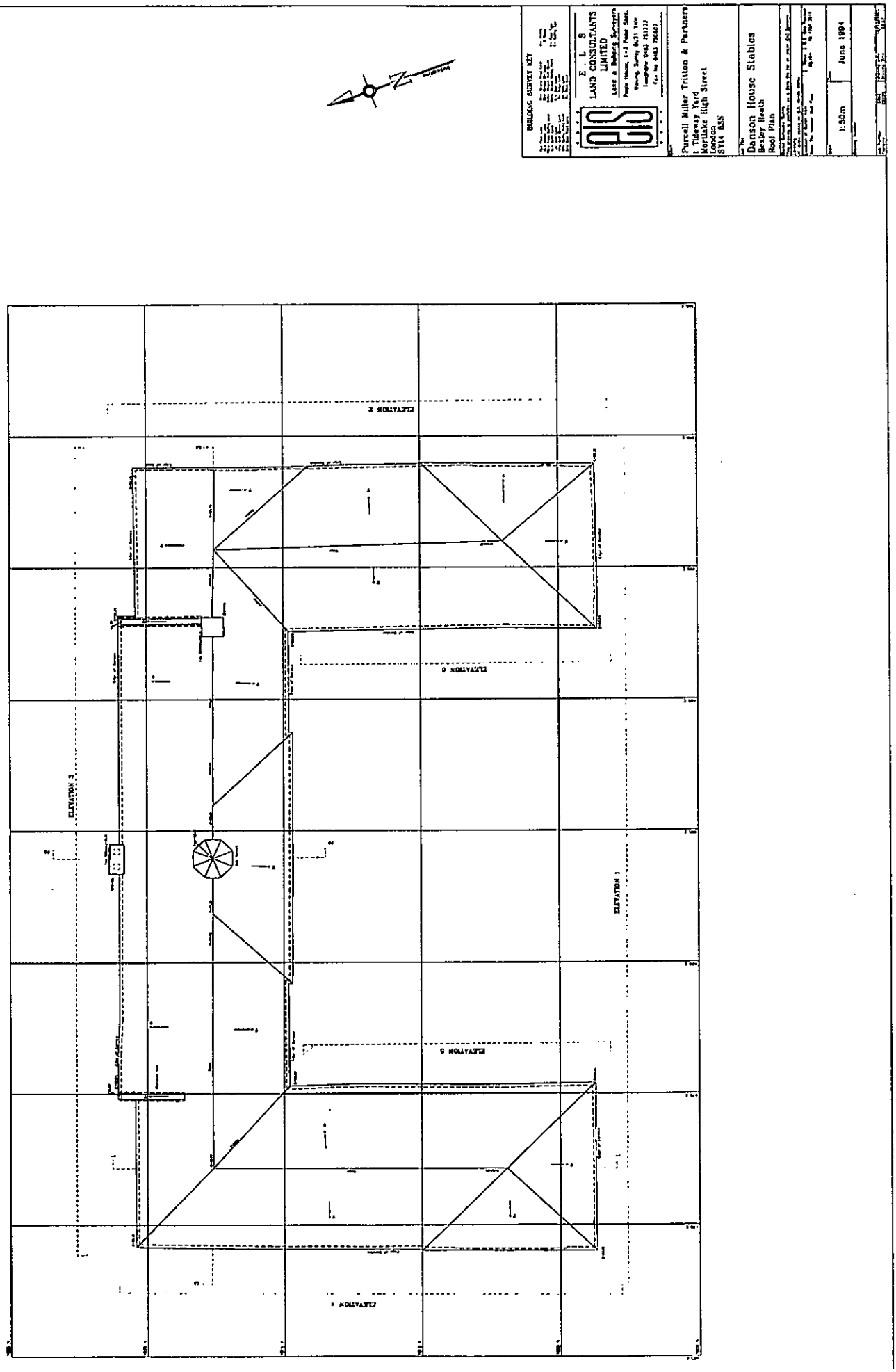
31. First floor plan of the stable, as surveyed in 1994, scale 1:200 .



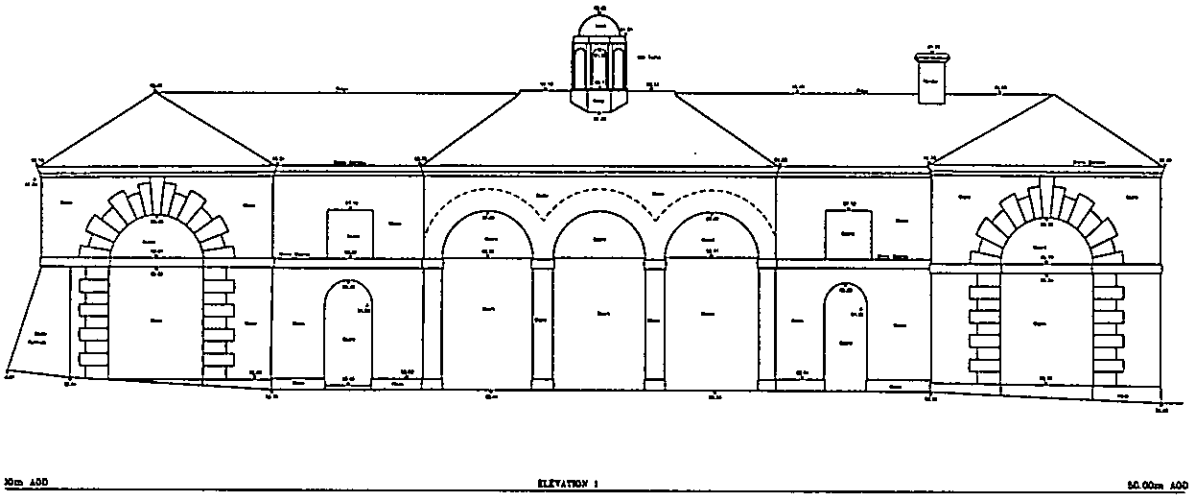
32. Plan of the loft, as surveyed in 1994, scale 1:200



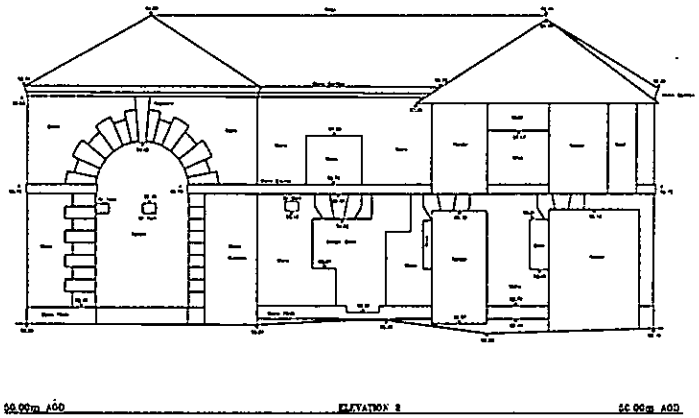
33. Plan of the roof, as surveyed in 1994, scale 1:200



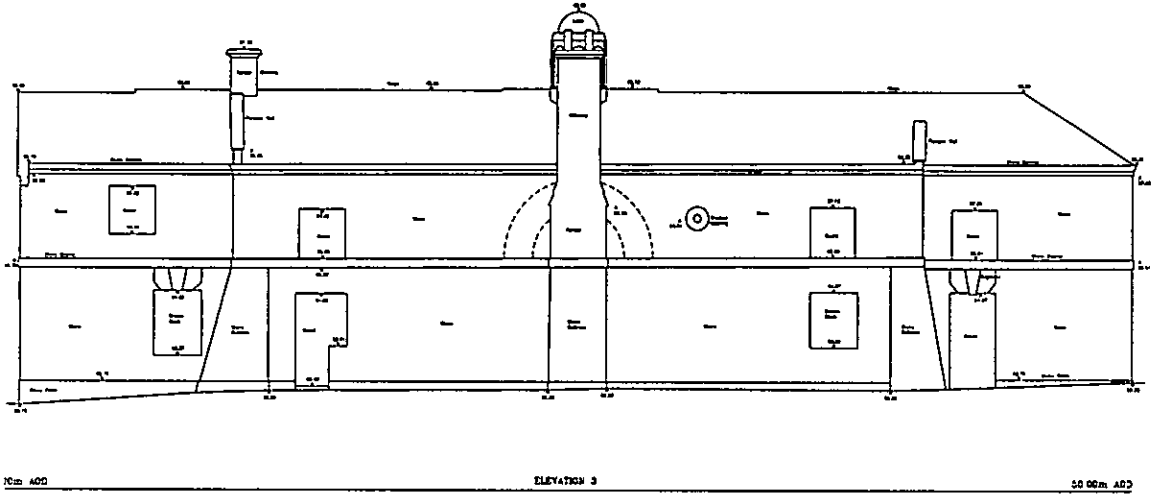
34. Elevations of the stable block as surveyed in 1994, scale 1:200



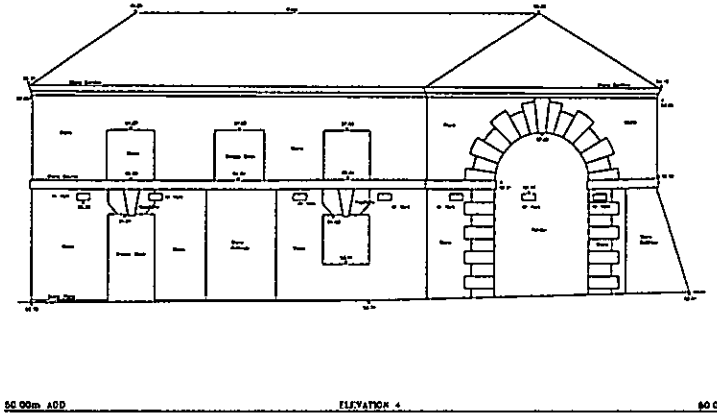
ELEVATION 1



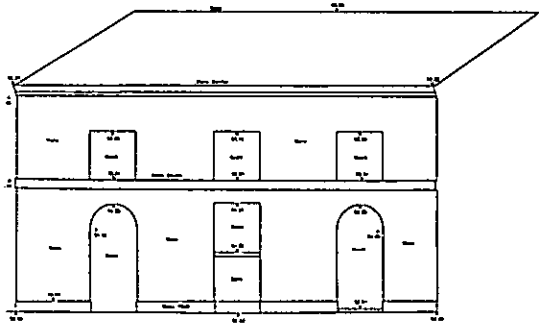
ELEVATION 2



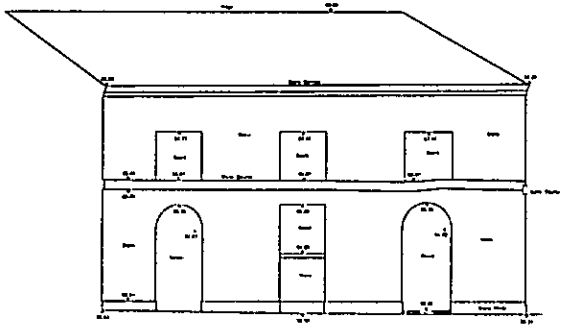
ELEVATION 3



ELEVATION 4



ELEVATION 5



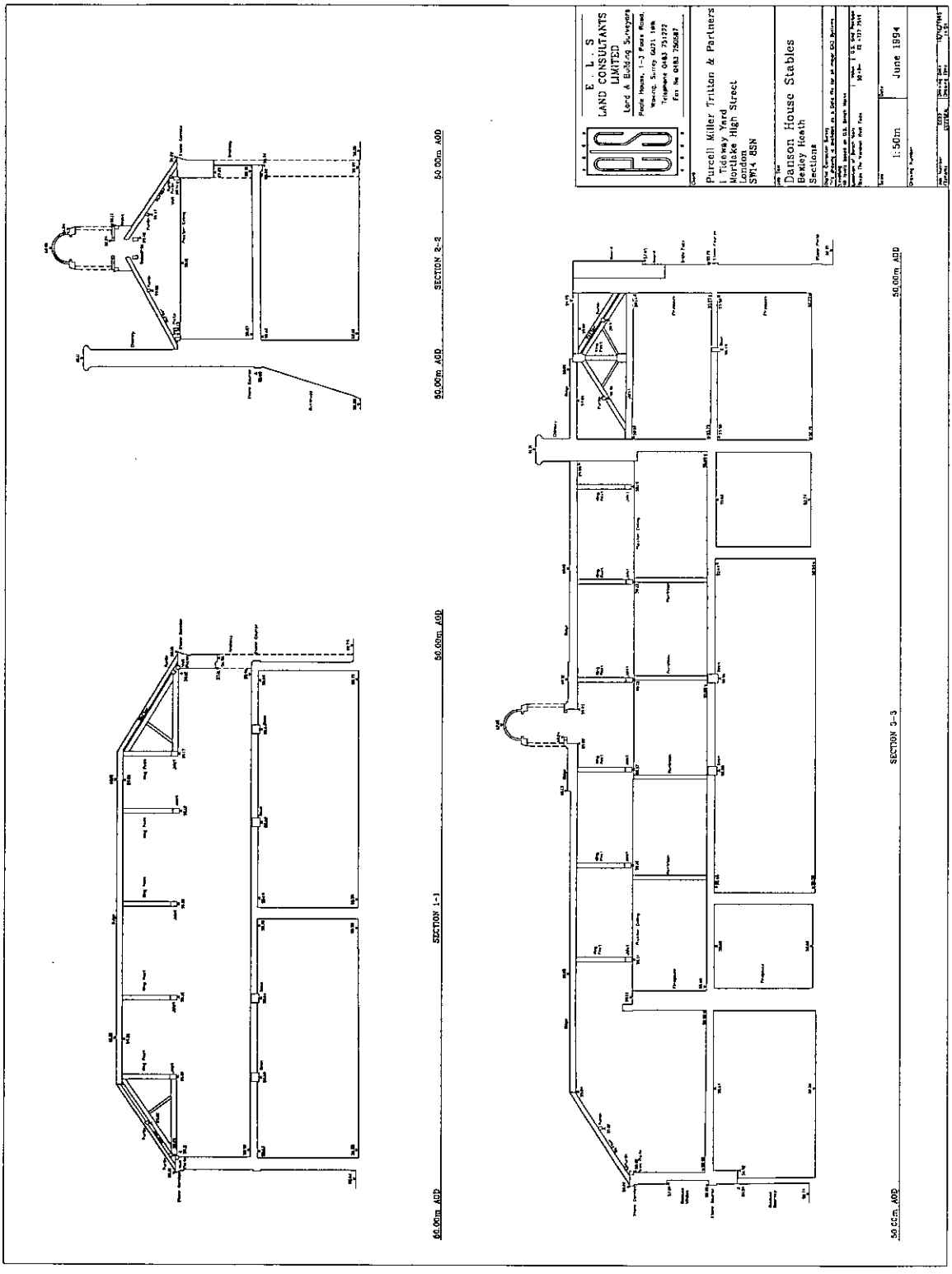
ELEVATION 6

Purcell Miller Tritton
1 Tideway Yard
Mortlake High Street
London
SW14 8SN

Danson House Stal
Bexley Heath
Elevations

1:50m

35. Sections through the stable block, as surveyed in 1994, scale 1:200



36. OS map, 1996, 1:1250, showing the locations of the house and the stable block, with, superimposed, the original service wings and the sight-lines for the Barrett and Malton views