

A report for Mr Jim George

July 2008

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Project: PJ 216

WSM 39872

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Project Background

1.1. Location of the Site

Upton upon Severn lies on the River Severn crossing point of the A4104 Pershore road, which links with the A449 at Little Malvern further to the west. Upton is some 16 kilometres to the south-west of Worcester and around 10 kilometres to the north-west of Tewkesbury. School Lane is located on the south-eastern edge of the town (NGR SO 8523 4039). The subject building, the former town police station, lies on the western side of School Lane adjacent to the new police station and town library.

1.2. Development Details

A planning application was made to Malvern Hills District Council, for the conversion of the former civil building to provide domestic accommodation (MH/08/0515). The planning process determined that the proposed development was likely to affect a building locally listed on the Worcestershire County Historic Environment Record (WSM 16857), which is also statutory Grade II Listed by the Department of the Culture, Media and Sport. As a result, the Planning Archaeologist, Worcestershire County Council, placed a 'Programme of Building Recording' planning condition on the application, for which a brief of work was written (WHEAS 2008) and a written scheme of investigation subsequently approved (Mercian Archaeology 2008).

1.3. Reasons for the Historic Building Recording

The data contained within the Sites and Monuments Record suggested that the building conversion work would affect an historically important building, which is also a statutory Grade II Listed structure: -

Images of England number: 425054

Date listed: 27 July 1983

Date of last amendment: 27 July 1983

Grade II

UPTON-UPON-SEVERN SCHOOL LANE SO 8540 2/98 (west side) No 8 (Police Station) II Circa 1800 red brick house. Three-storey and basement. Slate roof. Three window range of glazing bar sashes. Flat gauged brick window heads. Parapet. Central arched head doorway. Traceried fanlight and 6 panel door. Modern low extension to left.

In such circumstances a programme of archaeological work is attached to planning conditions for any development. In this instance, an historic building recording was suggested to record the building prior to its conversion, so that a permanent record would be made of the building before any alteration takes place.

2. Methods and Process

2.1. Project Specification

- □ The project conforms to the Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures (IFA 2001).
- □ The building was recorded to Level 3 as defined in Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice (English Heritage 2006).
- The project conforms to a brief prepared by the Planning Advisory Section, Worcestershire Historic Environment and Archaeology Section, Worcestershire County Council (WHEAS 2008 and for which a project proposal and detailed specification was produced (Mercian Archaeology 2008).
- □ The project conforms to the service practice and health and safety policy as contained within the Mercian Archaeology Service Manual (Williams 2003)

2.2. Aims of the Project

The aims of the historic building recording were to compile an archive of the building within its topographical setting. This was to consist of written, drawn and photographic records. The results of the fieldwork were to be used to produce a report chronicling changes and development within the building(s) and where possible, to attach relative dates to individual phases of building. The documentary survey was to be used to assist the chronological phasing of the complex and also, to place the building into its socio-economic context.

3. The Documentary Research

Abbreviations used: -

WRO: ~ Worcestershire Records Office

Prior to the commencement of fieldwork all known relevant and readily available documentary and cartographic sources were consulted.

The following sources were specifically consulted and were of use: -

Cartographic Sources

Source	Reference Number
Tithe Map and Apportionment of Upton-upon Severn (1840)	WRO BA 1572, f760/571
Ordnance Survey 1 st Edition 25" (1887)	WRO 11,350/19, f494:01
Ordnance Survey 1928 Edition 25".	Worcestershire Sheet XLVII.16 (1928)

Other sources used are referenced within the report.

3.1. The Historic Background

Upton is a sprawling parish of some 1300 hectares, of which historically, around one third is arable, with two-thirds pasture / meadow. The parish is also well regarded for its fruit orchards. The focus of the parish is the River Severn and its wide floodplain, the river providing a navigable communication link and the floodplain providing extensive grazing and managed hay meadow.

The earliest settlement at Upton appears to have been in the 9th and 10th centuries, when the church of Worcester held estate at Upton; there was a Minster church located at nearby Ripple (VCH IV, 214), with two-priests recorded at Domesday (Thorn and Thorn 1982, 173b). Upton was still held by the church of Worcester until the mid-16th century (VCH IV, 214).

The River Severn was being used by cargo vessels from as early as the 13th century, when it is recorded that the Bishop of Hereford had a cargo of wine delivered up the Severn from Bristol, and a fishery is recorded on the river in 1377 (Hurle 1988, 13, referenced in Dalwood *et al* 1996).

The medieval street plan of Upton had been laid out by the 15th century, with the earliest settlement around the church of St Peter and St Paul (VCH IV, 216). The towns' development

over the following two centuries owes much to its position as a river port. The towns' prosperity through the 16th to 19th century is evidenced within its vernacular architecture.

The Ashchurch, Tewkesbury and Malvern branch line of the Midland Railway opened in 1862, but did not bring further prosperity to the town; the line closed in 1952.

School Lane defines the edge of a pre-inclosure open field known as Buryfield, and the lane is referred to as Buryfield (also Berry Field) until the late 19th century.

3.2. Cartographic Evidence

In 1836 the Tithe Commutation Act was passed by Parliament, resulting in an extensive survey of land across England in order to produce a series of Tithe Apportionment Maps that relayed information about land ownership and use, aimed at converting the commutation of tithe in kind to land taxation (Hoskins 1972, 37). The Tithe Apportionment Map for Upton upon Severn was produced in 1840 (Figure 2). The map shows the subject building (number 99) in a similar configuration as today, though as referred to below, late 20th century extensions have replaced earlier lean-to outhouses. The house is listed on the tithe apportionment as 'house and pleasure grounds'. This suggests that the pleasure grounds were the small section of present garden between the house and the road; the road is listed as number 95. However, the garden appears a little too small to be labelled 'pleasure grounds' and it is suggested here that there may be a discrepancy on the plan; number 100 on the plan is listed as a garden owned and occupied by William Berkeley, though a dotted line on the plan within this area may represent a division between numbers 99 and 100, which was mistakenly all listed as number 100. This is supported by the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1887, which shows plot 100 laid out with walks, lawns, a glasshouse and a fountain (Figure 3), suggestive of pleasure grounds. This map may also cause confusion, as the County Police Station is shown as the property adjacent to the south (number 98 on the tithe plan), when in reality it was the building adjacent to the west (number 97 on the tithe map).

The later 1928 Ordnance Survey map (Figure 4) shows a pair of small square structures at the garden / road border of the subject building, these no longer exist and it is not known what form they took.

3.3. Site Specific Background

There was little documentary evidence located at Worcestershire Records Office concerning the subject building. An index search identified the location of several hundred deeds relating to Upton upon Severn, but unfortunately there were no further details that could narrow this down to the property in question without consulting each document, which was beyond the scope of this project. The bulk of the material identified relating to the subject building derived from the Census returns and Land Tax Assessments for Upton upon Severn, the relevant details from these are itemised in *Table 1* below. From this we are able to build up a picture of occupancy of the house more or less up until 1953, when the house was sold to the Police Authority. The evidence suggests that the house was constructed in 1821-22; the earliest date that it appears on the Land Tax Assessments is in 1823, when it was assessed for tax at £0-1-6d, the same rate applied until at least the 1870's. Based on this, we are able to determine that only one property in Upton assessed at this figure before 1823; this was owned and occupied by one John Drinkwater, who was a boatman however, the Tithe Apportionment of 1841 shows Drinkwater's property (at that time) to be in Old Street.

Table 1: Details of Owners and Occupiers as Identified

DATE	OWNER	OCCUPIER	REFERENCE
1823	James Chamberlain	Skey, Misses	LTA, BA823/21, 152
1824	James Chamberlain	Skey, Misses	LTA, BA823/25, 152
1825	James Chamberlain	Skey, Misses	LTA, BA823/23, 152
1826	James Chamberlain	Skey, Misses	LTA, BA823/22, 152
1827	James Chamberlain	Skey, Misses	LTA, BA823/32(ii), 152
1828	James Chamberlain	Skey, Misses	LTA, BA823/32(iii), 152
1830	James Chamberlain	Skey, Misses	LTA, BA4544/1, b260:208
1831	James Chamberlain	Skey, Misses	LTA, BA4544/1, b260:208
1833	James Chamberlain	Skey, Miss	LTA, BA4544/1, b260:208
1835	James Chamberlain	John Walker	LTA, BA4544/1, b260:208
1836	James Chamberlain	John Walker	LTA, BA4544/1, b260:208
1837	James Chamberlain	John Walker	LTA, BA4544/2, b260:208
1839	James Chamberlain	John Walker	LTA, BA4544/2, b260:208
1840	James Chamberlain	John Walker	LTA, BA4544/2, b260:208
1841	James Chamberlain	Void	LTA, BA4544/2, b260:208
			Tithe Apportionment
1842	James Chamberlain	(Blank on page)	LTA, BA4544/2, b260:208
1844	James Chamberlain	Miss Walton	LTA, BA4544/2, b260:208
1845	James Chamberlain	Miss Walton	LTA, BA4544/2, b260:208
1847	James Chamberlain	Miss Walton, widow	LTA, BA4544/3, b260:208
1848	James Chamberlain	Miss Walton	LTA, BA4544/3, b260:208
1849	David Davies	Late Walton	LTA, BA4544/3, b260:208
1860-61	David Davies	Late Walton	LTA, BA4544/3, b260:208
1862	David Davies	Late Walton	LTA, BA4544/3, b260:208
1863-64	David Davies	Late Walton	LTA, BA4544/3, b260:208
1865	David Davies	Late Walton	LTA, BA4544/4, b260:208
1866-67	David Davies	Mr Hoare	LTA, BA4544/4, b260:208
1868	Revd William Parker	William Hoare	LTA, BA4544/4, b260:208

1871		William Hoare, aged 52, Inland Revenue Officer Caroline Hoare (wife), Alice (daughter), Henry, Edward and Alfred (sons)	1871 Census
1874-75	Reverend Parker	Mr Hoare	LTA, BA4544/4, b260:208
1881		William Hoare, aged 61, Inland Revenue Officer Caroline Hoare (wife), Alice (daughter), Henry and Austin (sons)	1881 Census
1884		William Parker Hoare	Kelly's Directory
1891		William P. Hoare aged 71, retired Inland Revenue Officer, Caroline Hoare (wife)	1891 Census
1892		William Parker Hoare, Buryfield	Kelly's Directory
1901		William P. Hoare, aged 81 and his wife Caroline, aged 75	1901 Census
1908		William Parker Hoare, Buryfield	Kelly's Directory
1915		Emily Crichton	Wilkinson, 2007
1937		Mrs Jeynes	Wilkinson, 2007
1953		The house becomes the Upton police station	

The combined evidence from the tithe, land tax and Census returns as indicated in Table 1 above, show that the property was owned by coal and timber merchant James Chamberlain from 1823 until he sold it to David Davis in 1849. Chamberlain owned several properties and parcels of land around Upton, including the property next door to the subject building (number 98 on the tithe plan). This was also tenanted, with John Gask occupying it from the 1830's until 1845, various tenants occupied the property over the following decades. James Chamberlain retained this property after selling the subject building in 1849 and in the 1860's it was owned by 'Mrs Chamberlain, and in the 1870's by William Chamberlain.

Little is known regarding the tenants of the subject property. The Skeys' were a prominent Upton family during the 19th century, owning much property in the area and also in Bewdley. They appear to have made their money as merchant bankers and they are recorded as investing in canal navigation, in particular a canal link from the River Severn at Berkeley to Gloucester (VCH Gloucestershire, Volume IV), which no doubt would have benefited river trade to Upton. It was not possible to link the 'Misses Skey' listed in the table above with any specific branch of the Skey family. Similarly, little is known regarding James Chamberlain other than his profession and that he resided at Hanley Castle (Wilkinson 2007); he is also identified as valuations timber Herefordshire in carrying out in 1813 (http://www.ancestordocs.co.uk/Worcestershire.htm).

In 1868, the owner of the subject building was one Reverend Parker, with the occupier listed as William Hoare, also referred to as William Parker Hoare, suggesting a possible family link.

William Hoare is listed as an Inland Revenue Officer in the various trade directories from the period.

There were no catalogued records available at the Worcestershire Records Office concerning the conversion of the building to a police station in 1954 (Wilkinson 2007), though it is possible that they exist in the uncatalogued backlog of material waiting to be indexed. The first police station at Upton was opened in 1842 at Court Street; a counter lease of this date between William Berkeley and the Clerk to the Worcestershire Justices contains details of the property transaction and includes detailed plans and elevations (WRO 4460/40, 705:174). In 1863 the police station moved to Berry Field, when The County Justices purchased Acacia Cottage (WRO BA 9480/18), the house is shown on the tithe plan (number 97, Figure 2). The property was built around 1815 by Thomas Davis (Wilkinson 2007) and at the time of the tithe survey in 1841 it was owned by Ann Davis and occupied by Thomas Holland. A photo of the shows the subject building in the background (www.upton.uk.net/history/police/policestations.html). This shows the building with its hipped roof, raised front parapet, a pair of chimneystacks on the southern side and a lean-to outhouse, also on the southern side.

4. The Historic Building Recording

4.1. The Fieldwork Methodology

The building recording was undertaken during June 2008. A full photographic survey was carried out using digital photography. Either a 2-metre or 1-metre scale was used where possible.

The methodology adopted and the favourable working conditions meant that the aims and objectives of the brief could be fully met and the fieldwork was successfully concluded.

4.2. The Building Construction

The remaining original build is rectangular in plan, with a small service bay projecting from the north-west corner of the rear elevation (Plates 1 and 2). There is now a single storey extension on the southern side, which continues around the rear of the property. This dates from the mid-1950's and represents the conversion of the house to a police station. The extension is of brick and mortar with a roughcast pebbledash render, which is also extended to the southern and western elevations of the original build. A pair of cells and dog kennels are incorporated in the rear of the extension, with the police offices and kitchen housed in the southern part. This extension has removed a lean-to brick and tiled outhouse that existed on this side, as shown in the background of a photograph on the Upton upon Severn website (www.upton.uk.net/history/police/policestations.htmlT). The main chimney stack on the southern side is constructed in 3" Staffordshire blue bricks similar to those used in the modern extensions, indicating that the stack is a replacement for the original one, which can also be seen in the photograph referred to above.

The frontage of the building proudly displays its fashionable late-Georgian / Regency symmetry, with its three-bays lit by equally spaced box-sash windows over the three floors, with a central doorway with arched head with traceried fanlight (Plate 3). The front parapet almost embarrassedly hides the roofline from the road, whilst to the rear, the lack of parapet reveals the roof, and the casement windows are small allowing only adequate light. The rear chimneystack, which served the kitchen and the service block, is recessed, whereas the main stack was originally external allowing more space inside the main part of the house.

The frontage box-sash windows are of 12 light to the ground and first floor, with nine light units used at the upper floor level; the windows are rebated by 4 ½" (brick width). Light is provided to the cellar via pavement lights

The mass construction is of 2 3/4" x 9" brick in a Flemish bond, with joints recently repointed with a cement based mortar. The window lintels are of cut and rubbed (gauged) brick, which are all original apart from the northern cellar light lintel, which has been repaired; there is some evidence that the building has suffered some settlement in this area in the past.

The building has a hipped roof covered with slate tiles. Inspection of the roof space was possible via the inserted loft ladder. The main trusses are of the predominant 19th century king-post type, with the king-post joggled at the head to seat the principal rafters and at the foot to set a pair of raking braces between the post and the principals; the ridge plate is housed in the post head. All the visible joints are without pegs and the posts are tied to the tiebeams by an iron stirrup, which is tensioned by an iron cotter pin through the stirrup flats and the post (Plate 4).

Internally, the building has suffered from 'modernisation', but still retains many original features. The plan is typical of the period and reflects the accepted social etiquette, with the best rooms at the front and the service rooms to the rear behind the service corridor. The hall and staircase take up the majority of the central bay, with rooms off to the bays to each side. The main staircase rises from the hall to the first and second floors via half-landings (Plate 5). There is a continuous hardwood handrail supported by ½" square balusters and slender turned newels; the wall string carries on from the hall skirting, with a triple roll-moulded edge and the outer string is carved (Plate 10).

Other than the sash windows, there is little original material at second floor level. The doors are reproduction items, the fireplaces are gone, though the skirting is probably original (6" Taurus moulded), as is the architrave.

The first floor rooms and hall are better appointed with original six-panel doors retained (Plate 6). The hall has enriched modillion and flower decorated cornice and the door surrounds follow a similar theme, with fluted pilasters and cornice and flower motif at the upper corners (Plate 7), the theme is extended to the window surround and the window surround in the south room, the north room window being unembellished. The south room was probably originally a parlour, rather than a bedroom and is well appointed, though the original fireplace has gone. The room has 8" Taurus moulded skirting board, door and window surrounds in the same style as the 1st floor hall, and at the west end, a moulded elliptical recessed arch over fluted pilasters (Plate 8). The cornice is fluted with decorative French waterleaf along the base.

A doorway off the half-landing between the 1st and ground floor leads to the rear staircase, which rises to the back bedroom at 2nd floor level, and off to a further back bedroom at first floor level below the stairs. The door surround is fluted with corner flower motifs, though it is narrower than the other door surrounds on the first floor. The upper bedroom is plain, with a

simple small register grate and plain wooden surround; the handrail and balusters above the staircase are also plain (Plate 9). The original casement window has been replaced by a modern casement; the original window frame is on the floor inside the room, this has cast-iron spiral catches and stay. The room below is also plain, though original cupboards survive to each side of the former fireplace (now gone) and the stair panelling is also original. The door is a modern replica Georgian door.

There is a single front room either side of the hall at ground floor level, the south room again being the more elaborate and socially important. The north room was lately used as the reception area for the police station and the glass kiosk fittings still remain, along with the modern electronic systems (surveillance / telecommunications etc), the skirting and architrave is relatively plain compared to the hall and south room (Plate 12). The original 6-panel doors are retained at this level and the hall door surrounds have fluted pilasters and cornice with floral upper corner motifs, which differ slightly from the less elaborate first floor surrounds; the north door sits below a decorative recessed arch (Plate 11). The south room retains most of its original features, though in common with the remainder of the property, the fireplace has gone. The cornice is multi-fluted, there is a low set dado-rail, which dates from the 20th century and the room utilises 9" roll moulded skirting board, the section across the area of the former fireplace is obviously not original. To either side of the chimneybreast there are original fitted cupboards below display shelves, which are enclosed beneath recessed elliptical arches.

To the rear of the hall there is a door leading to the back corridor / service passage, it is at this point that the architecture changes from elaborate to austere, mirroring the social status of the two spaces, the front being the public face of the building, designed to display the wealth and status of the owner and the rear space simply functional. The door leads to the former original kitchen area, with a space for the cooking range, which has now gone and a further modified recess, possibly originally for a bread oven; remnants of original shelving also survive in this room (Plate 13). The rear corridor would have originally also led to the lean-to outhouse on the southern side of the building (see above) and to the rear yard; the basement is also reached via a door off the corridor.

The basement sits below the southern portion of the house and partially beneath the northern rooms (Plate 15). The southern section now houses the central heating boiler (Plate 16), which utilises the chimney flue on this side for its exhaust. There is a suggestion from analysis of the brickwork that there was previously an entrance (or coal chute) to the rear of the internal steps down (Plate 14). This would have required an external flight of steps against the western elevation, which is now beneath a concrete yard.

The rear corridor now leads to the 1950's police station extensions forming the offices on the south and the cells to the west (Plates 17 and 18). Little can be said regarding the police station extensions. There are two separate cells reached off an inner passage, with a shower area attached, male and female toilets and the office and kitchen area.

5. General Comment

Discussion of the Fabric and Dating Evidence

The subject building is of two phases, the domestic phase and the post-1950 phase when the former house was converted to a police station. Whilst there has been a certain amount of modernisation internally, the building generally retains its Regency character with many original features still in evidence.

The documentary research suggests a date of construction of 1821-1822 and this is supported by the fabric analysis. The roof trusses utilise iron stirrups to attach the king-post to the tiebeams; though not the rule, ironwork was generally only used in trusses from 1820 (Peters 1988, 29). Another dating pointer is the sash windows with slender glazing bars typical of the late-Georgian / Regency period. The windows are also rebated by the width of a brick; the 1709 London Building Act specified that windows in new buildings should be recessed into the wall to reduce the risk of fire, this rule was implemented across the whole of England by 1820.

6. Condusion

The results of the historic building recording at the former police station, School Lane, Upton upon Severn determined that the subject building was probably built in 1822-22 by local coal and timber merchant James Chamberlain, who owned the house until he sold it to David Davies in 1848. The house was tenanted along with the next-door property, which Chamberlain also owned. The house continued in domestic occupation until it was sold to the Police Authority in 1953 and converted to a police station, when cells were added to the rear and offices to the side. Bearing in mind this modification and change of use, the property still retains many of its original features and character.

7. Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank the client Jim George. Thanks are also due to Mike Glyde, Planning Archaeologist, Worcestershire County Council, and the staff of Worcester Records Office.

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Plate 1: Front eastern elevation (scale 2-metres)



Plate 2: Rear western elevation (scale 2-metres)



Plate 3: The front door (scale 2-metres)



Plate 4: King-post roof truss with iron stirrup and cleat (arrowed)



Plate 5: Staircase up to the 2nd floor, taken from the half-landing

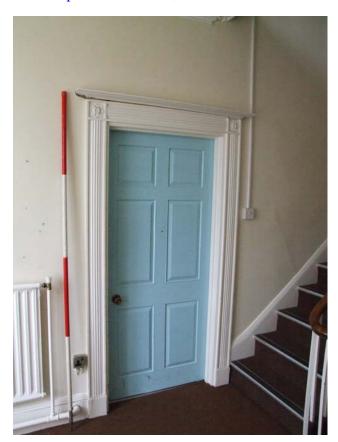


Plate 6: Original 1st floor door and surround (Scale 2-metres)



Plate 7: 1st floor cornice mouldings



Plate 8: 1st floor south room looking west (Scale 2-metre)



Plate 9: Rear servants bedroom (scale 1-metre)



Plate 10: Staircase outer string detail



Plate 11: Ground floor north room door and surround(Scale 2-metres)



Plate 12: The police station reception; ground floor northern room (Scale 2-metres)



Plate 13: The former kitchen (Scale 1-metre)



Plate 14: Cellar (below steps) showing possible alteration suggestive of blocking (Scale 2-metres)



Plate 15: The cellar steps (Scale 1-metre)



Plate 16: The boiler room in the cellar

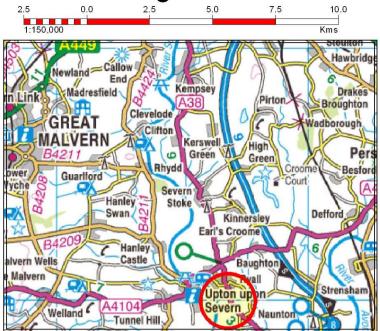


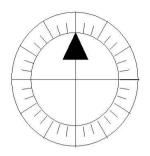
Plate 17: Entrance to the two cells (Scale 2-metres)

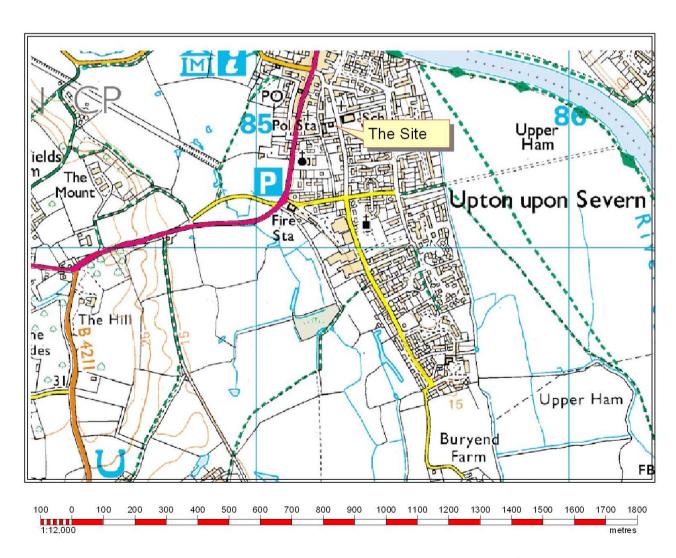


Plate 18: Inside a cell (Scale 2-metres)

Figure 1: Location of the Site







Location of the site at Upton upon Severn, Worcestershire

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Figure 2: Tithe Apportionment Map of Upton (1840)



Scaled sketch based on an extract of the tithe map of Upton, shows the subject building (number 99) with its lean-to on the southern side.

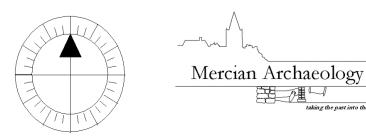
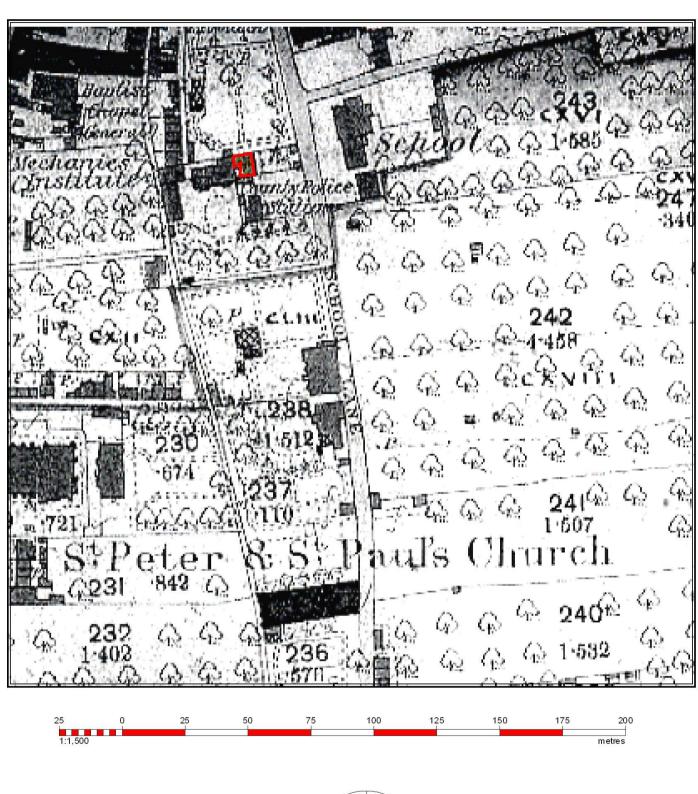
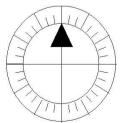


Figure 3: Ordnance Survey 1st Edition (1887)





The 1887 Ordnance Survey map with the subject building highlighted



Figure 4: Ordnance Survey Revised Edition (1928)

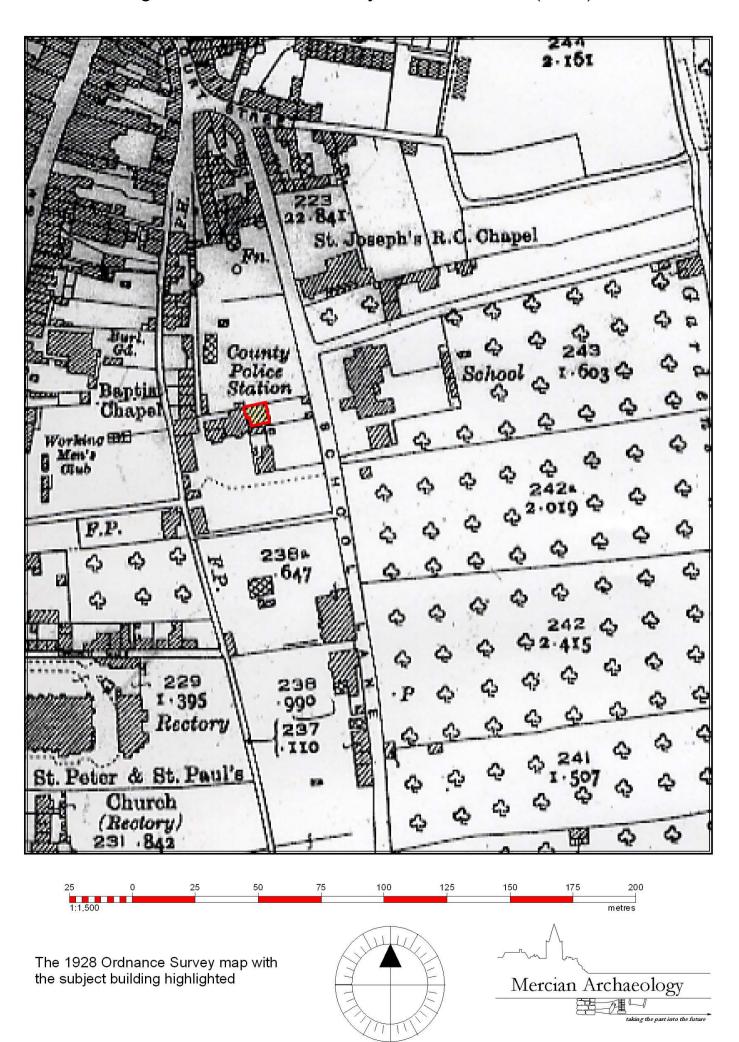




Figure 5: Floor Plans and Photograph Directions in Report (based on drawings supplied by the client)

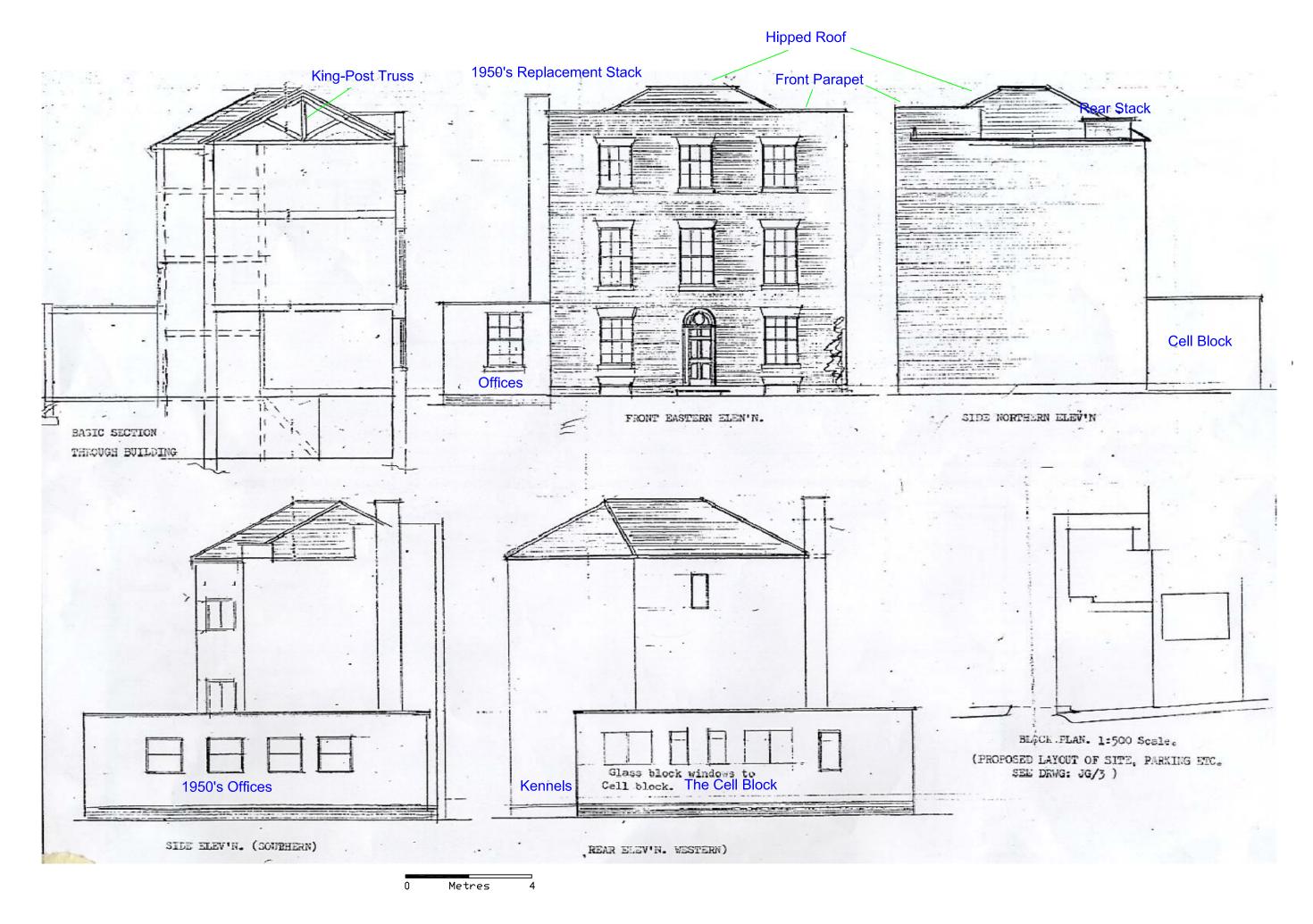


Figure 6: Elevations (based on drawings supplied by the client)