

**FORMER CHAPEL AND SCHOOL BUILDINGS
AT CHURCH HOLLOW
PURFLEET
ESSEX**

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD



**Essex County Council
Field Archaeology Unit**

May 2010

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Client: Archaeological Risk Management on behalf of Heritage Planning Ltd

FAU Project No.: 2207

NGR: TQ 5515 7850

Planning Application: 07/1171/07/TTGLB

OASIS No.: essexcou1-77868

Dates of Fieldwork: 22nd & 23rd April 2010

1.0 INTRODUCTION

A programme of historic building recording was undertaken by Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit (ECC FAU) on three late 18th century buildings prior to their residential conversion. The work was commissioned by Archaeological Risk Management (ARM) on behalf of Heritage Planning Ltd and carried out in accordance with a brief issued by the Historic Environment Management team of Essex County Council (ECC HEM), who also monitored the work on behalf of Thurrock Council.

Copies of the report will be supplied to ECC HEM and the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) at County Hall, Chelmsford. The archive will be stored with Thurrock Museum. An OASIS online record has been created at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/oasis/index.cfm>.

The three structures, a chapel, school and headmaster's house were built in a chalk pit by the quarry owner Samuel Whitbread in 1790-91 to provide religious and educational amenities for his workforce. He also built one of the earliest surviving examples of worker housing in the county at the same time (Crosby, Corder-Birch, & Garwood 2006); a row of twelve cottages at Hollow Cottages, near Botany Pit c.0.5km to the south. The chapel was significantly altered in the 1920s when it was converted to residential usage, but the school

buildings essentially remain as they were when built. Institutional structures such as redundant chapels and schools face a high rate of loss through redundancy, conversion and demolition and the importance of their study has been highlighted in the regional research framework (Brown & Glazebrook 2000).

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 Site location and description

Church Hollow is located in the centre of Purfleet, within the western side of Samuel Whitbread's former Tank Lane chalk quarry, at TQ 5515 7850 (fig. 1). Surrounding it on three sides are modern housing estates and to the north is the former quarry face. Sat within the hollow of the old chalk pit, the site is cut-off from the modern houses and the only access is off Church Hollow road (plate 1).

The three contemporary buildings have slate-roofed brick-built structures that share common architectural themes. All are Grade II-listed and good descriptions are included on the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) held at County Hall Essex. They are as follows:

- Church House (former chapel) EHER 35179 (LBS 119631)
- Church Bungalow (former school house) EHER 35180 (LBS 119632)
- Church Cottage (former school master's house) EHER 35181 (LBS 119633)

Church House stands separately on the north side of the site with the Cottage and Bungalow to the south. The structures are derelict through neglect and vandalism over a thirty year period and have been on Essex County Council's Buildings at Risk Register since 1986 when their condition was described as 'very bad' (ECC Planning Dept. 2007). Church House was seriously damaged by fire in 2001, which destroyed much of the roof. Until recently the site has been overgrown with vegetation but has recently been cut back to access the site and allow redevelopment works to proceed.

2.2 Planning background

A planning application for the redevelopment of the Church Hollow site was submitted to Thurrock Council in November 2007. The plans involve extending, altering and refurbishing the Listed buildings for residential purposes (07/1171/07/TTGLB). In view of the impact of the proposed works upon their historic integrity and the importance of such structures as a dwindling resource, ECC HEM advised Thurrock Council that a historic building record should be made before the conversion takes place. Thurrock Council duly placed a planning

condition in accordance with PPG 16 and a brief of works was subsequently issued by ECC HEM (ECC HEM 2010).

2.3 Historical background & development

Research was undertaken at the Essex Record Office Chelmsford to understand the origins and development of the site, and relevant documentary references are supplied with the figures. Historic maps are included as figures 2-7, enlarged in the report for greater clarity. Information was also obtained from the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) and the List descriptions. Thurrock Council kindly supplied an image of a painting from 1796 that shows the buildings with the chalk face in the background (cover illustration).

Chalk for the lime industry was extracted at the Tank Lane Quarry during the 18th and 19th centuries and the quarries in and around Purfleet were responsible for supplying much of southern England during the industrial age (EHER 15142). Tank Lane Quarry is indicated as the chalk pit to the south of Beacon Hill on Chapman and Andre's 1777 Map of Essex (fig.2) that pre-dates the chapel and school buildings.

According to the EHER, the school buildings were built in 1790 and the chapel in 1791 (EHER 35179-81) by the brewer Samuel Whitbread who had also established the quarry (Crosby, Corder-Birch, & Garwood 2006). The chapel is described as a 'chapel of ease', which usually means a place of worship within a parish for those who cannot conveniently get to the main church. A row of twelve workers cottages were also built by Whitbread in 1790 (Crosby, Corder-Birch, & Garwood 2006), known as Hollow Cottages. These stand c.0.5m to the south of Church Hollow.

Church Hollow and its chalk workings are depicted in a landscape painting by George Garrard RA in 1796 (cover & fig. 3). The painting presents a pastoral view, with cattle grazing between the buildings, people working on the chalk cliff and sailing ships on The Thames (fig. 3). At the time Purfleet was a small country village with easy access from London and a reputedly popular place for the well-to-do to visit. The buildings are represented faithfully, viewed south-eastwards from Tank Lane (plate 2). The viewpoint today is screened by trees, but an approximation is provided as plate 1, viewed further to the west and looking southwards with the modern houses of Church Hollow on the left, which now occupy the same area being quarried in plate 2.

Whitbread was an established patron of the arts and his quarry was clearly a point of interest. An ink print of it was included in Arthur Young's *Agriculture of Essex* vol. II, of 1813

(I/Mp 359/1/1), included here as Appendix 1, illustrating the close relationship between agriculture and industry at the time.

The West Thurrock Tithe Map of 1838 is the first map to show the school buildings and chapel. These are circled in blue in figure 4, while the worker's cottages are circled in brown. In the map, the chapel has a vestry at the east end, stepped inwards to a point, and the school has a rectangular form, predating its southern extension. William Henry Whitbread's residence, known as Purfleet House (D/DS 260/1), is close by on the high ground above Church Hollow and is circled in black (fig. 4).

A date plaque over the former main entrance of the chapel conveys the build date of 1791 plus a 'repair' date of 1855. Little is known about these repairs, but many chapels were refurbished over time and part of this is likely to include refenestration, as the survey found the chapel windows were replaced during its lifetime.

The 1863-6 first edition Ordnance Survey map provides better detail of the site but its small scale means that the buildings are not shown clearly. Both the church and school (for boys and girls) are labelled and the extension at the back of the schoolhouse appears to have been constructed (fig. 5). The rooms at the back are not classrooms, so perhaps it was built as accommodation for a teacher, though such a small school probably did not need two. Figure 5 also shows the full extent of the quarry, with Purfleet House perched on its southern edge.

A more detailed illustration of the buildings is provided on the second edition OS map of 1897, which indicates small projections to the west and east (fig.6), an entrance porch and toilet annex. The trackway off Church Hollow road, depicted on all three historic maps, is not visible today.

Church Hollow was sold by auction in 1920 and the Ordnance Survey map of the same year (fig. 7) shows the site just before. The sale catalogue (D/DS 260/1) includes Church Hollow along with Purfleet House as Lot 40. The lot describes the survey buildings as 'a capital brick and slated cottage, brick and slated church with the adjoining land and schoolroom'. Following the sale, the chapel was refurbished and enlarged as a private residence. Little is known of the fate of the other structures, though both were fitted-out with new windows, so it is assumed they were used for residential purposes also. Sometime after this (post-1939 OS map sheet 94/4) a flat-roofed brick utility building was constructed on the west side of Church

Bungalow and a subterranean concrete structure on the east side of Church Cottage (fig. 1, plate 24 left), most likely an air raid shelter (now flooded).

Subsequent mapping shows little change to Church Hollow and its occupying structures and it is uncertain as to when they pass out of use. However the surrounding area undergoes significant development from the 1980s onwards.

The properties were registered as Buildings at Risk in 1986 (ECC planning 2003). They had been redundant for some time prior to this and the site was overgrown. Emergency works were undertaken on the failing buildings in 2001 (ECC planning 2001) primarily, it would appear, in the old schoolhouse. In the same year there was a fire at Church House.

Intentions to refurbish the buildings have been ongoing for some time (ECC 2003), during which the surrounding estates of Church Hollow have grown up. In the meantime the buildings have been boarded-up and the site fenced off, though this has not prevented them being broken into and vandalised.

3.0 OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the historic building survey was, as stipulated in the brief (ECC HEM 2010), to record the structures to RCHME Level 3 standard (1996) prior to refurbishment. This entailed an external and internal descriptive record addressing materials, architectural elements, historic fixtures and fittings and internal layout, plus full photographic record.

The following descriptive part of this report concentrates on the historic aspects of the structures rather than any modern (1920s and later) adaptations.

4.0 DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Full access was available around the site and inside the buildings, but confined to safe areas only. Thus no entry was made to the upper floors. Given their poor condition and the low survival of original interiors, this entailed a largely external record, using drawings supplied by the architects. Plans showing their existing interiors were annotated to record significant historic features or structural changes and brief descriptions made.

A series of photographs (digital and 35mm black & white print were taken to provide a record of the buildings in their dilapidated, pre-refurbishment state. Specific shots were taken of any areas of importance such as architectural detail and historic fixtures and fittings. A representative selection of photographs is reproduced at the back of the report as plates 1-27. The remainder can be found in the archive.

A location/block plan was produced to show the buildings in their current landscape setting (fig.1) and documentary and cartographic research undertaken to investigate their origins and development (section 2.3).

5.0 BUILDING DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 General description

The three structures stand in two groups either end of the site (fig. 1). They are built from yellow stock brickwork in Flemish bond with grey slate pitched roofs and share common architectural features, particularly the chapel and school whose style is very similar and formal. The school master's house is, reflecting its function, is built like a house. All share common elements. It is the chapel that has been altered the most, with the addition of the 1920s kitchen and veranda. It is worth pointing out that the chapel was refurbished during its lifetime (pre-1920), when the windows were replaced, but almost nothing is left of the original interior. The schoolhouse was extended at the back (south) in the 19th century and partly rebuilt more recently. The internal configuration has not changed and there are remnants of an interesting Arts and Crafts style interior; nor has its external character been unduly altered. Least alteration has been wrought to the school master's house, although the interiors are unremarkable and could be either late 18th century or Victorian.

Fireplaces and other internal features have been lost in all the buildings and the interiors are covered in graffiti. The windows remain boarded-up, but boarding to most of the doorways has been removed by intruders onto the site.

5.2 Church House (former chapel)

The chapel was erected in 1791 as an oblong-shaped four-bayed structure having gabled ends and a slate roof, most likely comprising a main meeting hall open to the rafters and a vestry attached to the east end. The appearance of the vestry is unknown. Garrard's painting (1796) shows a fairly accurate representation, with the main entrance on the west side (fig. 3). This entrance was lost when the entrance was changed to the southern side in the 1920s.

The multi-paned segmental arched windows also shown in the picture were probably replaced in the 1855 repair phase, and again in the 1920s with the residential conversion. The vestry was probably adapted to a kitchen wing in the 1920s and part of the north-west corner removed to create a 'veranda'. In terms of condition, this is the worst affected of the three structures, being seriously damaged by the 2001 fire.

External description

The exteriors show white-painted brickwork with a brick string course and dentilled eaves below a pitched king post roof. Wide recessed arched window panels are positioned on the long elevations (north and south) with narrower ones on the west elevation to allow for the doorway. The panels were remodelled in the 1920s when the building was converted to a house and refenestrated, with new first floor windows added within the arches. The later windows are multi-pane metal-framed casements with flat red brick heads. Those windows on the ground floor were cut into the flint panels below the original windows (fig. 3) and the surrounding panels rendered in cement.

The **south elevation** (plates 3 & 4) became the main elevation to the house in the 1920s when a front doorway was inserted into the eastern arch (fig. 8a). Above it, the top panes of an earlier window remain, which is only visible internally (see internal description). This window probably belongs to the repair phase of 1855 when larger windows, occupying the whole arch, were added to admit more light into the building. The windows in the western arch are both replaced and look entirely out of place.

The **west elevation** (plate 3) contained the original entrance into the chapel. The entrance was located centrally within a narrow recessed arch with steps leading up to it and a flat door hood (fig. 3). The doorway has been blocked-in and a fireplace inserted on the inside (fig. 9) but the original plaque above the door remains, though partially covered in ivy. It reads '*Purfleet Chapel MDCCXCI Rebuilt 1855*' (plate 5). Either side are piers capped with stone and surmounted by the arch, with a smaller arch above resting on a stone eaves string course. Metal windows have been inserted into the recessed arches either side of the former doorway, into which the upper ones cut into the tops of the arches. A burnt-out window is shown in plate 6, typical in style and materials, metal windows in wooden frames, to those in the school buildings. At ground level, in the north panel, is an open doorway onto the 1920s veranda (fig. 8a).

The **north elevation** (plate 7) probably faced onto the 1920s garden and the whole of this side of the building was quite brutally altered at this time, mainly in the formation of a crude

veranda in the north-west corner of the chapel. Here the lower part of the panel has been knocked through to create an open area attached to the interior by metal French doors. Above it on the first floor appears to be a Juliet balcony, or at least interpreted as such from the elevation in figure 8c, as its detail is hidden from view. On the second panel (to the east), a tiled feature, presumably a form of 1920s décor, is located above the later ground floor window. Interestingly, the arch above it appears not to have been disturbed and may still contain part of its 1850s window.

The **east elevation** (plates 3 & 4) contains the 1920s kitchen. Much of it is heavily covered in ivy, but closer inspection aided by elevation drawings supplied by the client, show a single storey projection with metal windows below flat brick heads (rather than soldier heads) and a back door to the north (fig. 8d). The roof is gabled to the east, hipped to north and south (fig. 9) and clad in grey slate. Those windows above, in the main building, are the same as the rest and obviously inserted. Internal inspection suggested this wall was rebuilt, as the brick bond is different (English rather than Flemish), but this would perhaps seem unlikely.

The **roof** was seriously damaged by the fire; most of the rafters and slates were lost. Three charred trusses to a king post strut roof remain (plate 3).

Internal description

The internal layout dates to the 1920s when the chapel was converted with the addition of a first floor, room partitions and extensions to the vestry to form a kitchen wing. Presumed room function of the house is included in figure 9. Basic descriptions and plates are provided to give a general record of the interiors of Church House and their condition, but there was little of historic importance to record.

The front door of Church House leads onto a hallway that provides access to all rooms as well as the stairs to the first floor (fig. 9b). Looking up the stair can be seen the window head of the presumed 1855 replacement that has survived to light the stair (plate 8). Brass fixtures show the top pane tilted open by a cord operated from below and the part on the other side (largely hidden from view) would have done the same. None of the lower frames survive.

The fireplace across the blocked former chapel entrance is shown in plate 9, which also shows the French windows to the veranda. There is perhaps a blocked doorway into the former vestry at the east end of the dining room (fig. 9a, plate 10). Quite often there were two rooms off the chapel, one for robing and the other for meetings or Sunday school. The kitchen has largely 1920s fittings, mainly panelled doors and built-in cupboards (plate 11).

Evidence from the survey and comparison of the ground plan and maps suggest the vestry was in fact simply extended by adding a back porch and pantry rather than built new (fig. 9a).

The first floor would appear to have provided four bedrooms, two of which were quite small (fig. 9b) leading off the landing, as well as bathroom and toilet. Plate 12 and figure 9b provide the only record of this part of the house, fire damage preventing entry.

5.3 Church Bungalow (former schoolhouse)

Originally the schoolhouse was built as a small three bay rectangular yellow brick structure, probably with a small entrance porch to the east and a single large classroom inside. Garrard's painting (fig. 3) shows a simple building with recessed arched panels, three-light gothic-style windows and a hipped roof with chimney on the back (south) wall, and is likely an accurate representation of the original structure. An extension was added to the south in the 19th century with a small annex to the west. The classroom has a distinctive late 19th century Arts and Crafts theme with its mock timberwork and some elaborately-styled fittings, but all its partitions would appear to be secondary. The windows have been changed to metal casements, either in the 1920s or slightly earlier. Emergency building works were carried out nine years ago to prevent the structure from falling down that included rebuilding some of the walls and the chimney.

External description

The exteriors show exposed yellow stock brickwork, a brick string course and dentilled eaves. The white-painted recessed arched window panels that are prevalent on three of the four elevations, have kept much of their form, having arched windows (albeit replaced ones) and retaining the black flint flushwork panels below; the same as panels present on the entrance porch, which is probably contemporary with the school.

The rear extension is built from matching stock bricks but is much plainer than the earlier schoolhouse. Like the school, the roof is hipped either end and clad in slate. Upstairs is a probable bathroom/WC (not entered) that suggests this part of the building was used as lodgings.

The **east elevation** (plates 13 & 14) has a small porch with a good 1920s or 30s door from its second phase of use, making an attractive feature (fig. 10a). Much of the porch roof has collapsed along with part of the main roof this side, but entry inside was possible. The south extension is certainly a separate build and has none of the significant features of the main building.

The **north elevation** (plates 14 & 16) formed the front of the building, with its large windows to let light into the classroom and is largely unaltered. Though overgrown with ivy, this side properly shows the character of the building, its row of three arched window panels in the main body of the building as well as a smaller arched window on the entrance porch (fig. 10b). There is also a round leaded window on the flat-roofed toilet annex, now boarded up, but photographed internally (plate 23).

The **west elevation** (plate 16) also remains much the same as the painting, but has suffered from the addition of the bland 19th century extension and toilet annex, though the arched panels have not been affected (fig. 10c).

The **south elevation** (plate 15) comprises the 19th century extension built up close to the quarry pit edge. There is a small yard contained in a recess with entry from the back door and a single central window above. The lower walls are rendered in cement. There was formerly a small chimney on the south-west corner of the recess (fig. 10d), probably for a kitchen range.

Internal description

The main interior has a distinctive late Victorian Arts and Crafts-style character which was worth recording, combined with modern elements dating to the emergency works carried-out in 2001 (ECC Planning 2001). The work here was quite extensive, involving rebuilding some of the walls and the chimney stack, roof repairs and plasterboarding the ceiling. Considering the extent of the works, the building must have been in a poor state, and still is. The extension retains little historic character or features.

Entry into the schoolhouse was through the porch and past a semi-glazed wooden screen (plate 17), then through a door and into the classroom (fig.11). A second room to the west was probably used as the teacher's office. Current 19th century décor is primarily in dark-varnished woodwork comprising posts, picture rails, skirting boards and ceiling panels. Posts and beams have been boxed in apart from those framing the doors (plate 18). All are chamfered and the posts have shoulders level with the picture rails. The picture rails have elaborate mouldings and survive around the north-east corner (fig. 11, plates 19 & 20). They are complimented by tall 8½ torus-moulded skirting boards, which are also found in the room beyond (plate 17), which was probably partitioned off with panelling (fig. 11). It is likely all the walls were once panelled, but probably became rotten and removed during the emergency works. The 'Tudor brick' fireplace (plates 17 & 18) is probably late 19th century too, though

the breast and stack are rebuilt. The dividing wall with the extension has been rebuilt in concrete blockwork (plate 18).

The ceiling is suspended from the original joists to create ribbed panels (plate 17), now plasterboarded. The original joists are connected to a thick beam that runs across the classroom south to north, bearing number 14 (XIII, plate 21) as a carpenter's mark. There is likely to be another beam along the fireplace wall to represent the third bay. From limited inspection of the roof, it appears to be in queen post strut style, with some machine-sawn timbers indicative of later repair.

Only limited inspection was carried out in the extension due to the roof collapse in the south-east corner. The stairs have collapsed but formerly led up to a small room, which is the only room on this level (fig. 11). If this was used as lodgings, then the two rooms downstairs perhaps functioned as kitchen and living room by the late 19th century. The only fixtures and fittings to remain are moulded picture rails and skirting boards (plate 22). The small annex at the west end contains fitted cupboards with long narrow-panelled doors indicative of the 1920s/30s and toilet fittings (plate 22). The round leaded window on the north side is a nice historic feature (plate 23).

5.4 Church Cottage (school master's house)

The school master's house has changed little since Garrard's painting (fig. 3) as its function as a dwelling has remained the same. It displays many of the characteristics of the other two buildings, but with a less formal feel, as its use would suggest. It has a three-bay T-shaped plan with utility range at the back and a more regular room layout over two storeys. The (relatively few) extant fixtures and fittings are quite ordinary and could belong to the late 18th century or Victorian era. Again there are replaced metal-framed windows that are generally found across the site and it is interesting to note that some of the workers cottages are also fitted with 20th century metal casements (Crosby, Corder-Birch, & Garwood 2006), perhaps arguing for a refurbishment stage whilst still under ownership of the Whitbread family. The roof of the building is relatively intact, but the upper floor was unsafe, so entry for the purposes of survey was confined to the ground floor only.

Church Cottage would have provided some comfort for the school master and presumably his family, with a lobby, living room and kitchen on the ground floor and three bedrooms on the first (fig. 13).

External description

The exteriors show white-painted yellow stock brickwork with dentilled eaves beneath a grey slate roof, gabled to west and east with parapetted verges. The principle elevation is to the north, with main entry to the east and rear access through the utility range (fig. 13). Chimneys are located at the west end within the gable (leaning inwards) and against the south wall, serving the kitchen.

The **north elevation** (plates 13 & 24) has a three casement window range on the ground floor. The outer two have red-painted flat heads and flush flintwork panels below, while the central one is narrower (double casement) with a segmental arched head (fig. 12a). On the first floor, which is built into the roof, are two flat-roofed dormer windows either side, set above oblong recessed panels either side of a central square panel (plate 24). These too are triple metal casements. There is a lot of graffiti on this side of the house.

The **east elevation** is pebble-dashed on the front part of the building (plate 25). An opening for the front door stands close to the north-east corner which has lost its wooden door frame as well as the door itself (fig. 12b). A small window above and to the left lights the stairs (fig. 12b). On the southern side of the elevation are casement windows that light the kitchen and back bedroom.

The **west elevation** (plate 24) is largely blank, with the exception of the chimney in the main part and a catslide roof above the kitchen, the window of which has a segmental head beside a cast iron vent (fig. 12c), which is probably a later feature.

To the rear is the **south elevation** (plate 25) which comprises a contemporary single storey utility range, containing back door, toilet and cloakroom. The roof above is single pitched and slated. The chimney at the back is plain and stands out from the gable. A small window lights the back of the third bedroom (fig. 12d).

Internal description

The ceilings of the former school master's house are falling in, walls bare and debris all around. Fireplaces have been removed from the living room. Six-inch torus-moulded skirting boards line the front rooms, combined with moulded picture rails (plate 26). Similar fittings appear in the rooms above. In the kitchen stands the remains of the old kitchen unit, with a panelled store cupboard to the left by the former sink (plate 27) and a glazed cabinet next to it with drawers/cupboard beneath. The cloakroom and WC are bare.

The upstairs rooms were viewed through gaps in the downstairs ceilings. There are three bedrooms built into the eaves, two of which (at least) are provided with fitted cupboards. The partition in the rear (south) room was difficult to see (fig. 13).

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Despite their poor condition and varying degrees of intrusion, the former chapel, school and headmaster's house at Church Hollow, still retain elements of their historic character. Although little significant internal detail has been recorded, insights into their development, broadly of three phases, have been obtained.

The former chapel (Church House) has suffered through unsympathetic additions, namely the insertion of later square windows into the main architectural feature of the building, the arches and the formation of a crude 'veranda' by knocking out some of the walls. The only sympathetic change is the kitchen annex, which appears to be an extension of the old vestry. Though its outer form is largely intact, its interiors show almost no evidence of original spatial layout or features.

Externally, the former school house (Church Bungalow) has suffered from bland extensions but these have not interfered as much with the overall impression of the building, which retains much of its character. Nothing remains of the original classroom, which, it would appear, was divided-up and replaced with an Arts and Crafts interior in the late 19th century, adjoining and incorporating the extension on the south side, which is interpreted as living accommodation for a second teacher, though this is speculation.

The school master's house (Church Cottage) is potentially the best-preserved, though it is difficult to properly date the few generic features that remain.

Despite the destructive effects of the last 30 years or more, the chapel and school buildings form an important and early group of buildings built by employers for the welfare and improvement of their workers. Their importance is further increased with their association with Church Cottages, which are one of the earliest surviving examples of workers housing in Essex. Alongside Purfleet House (no longer standing) and the quarry itself, which remains in part, they have good group value, being related historic structures (mostly) surviving within the modern town. They are therefore significant in the social history of Purfleet and the involvement of the Whitbread family in the town.

The provision of housing and spiritual and educational facilities by employers for their workforce is generally viewed as a feature of 19th century industrialisation, urbanisation and the growth of the factory system in the Victorian era. Gestures of this type were not uncommon by the larger employers, though often within an urban rather than rural context. Whether the provision of free education and religious guidance and other services were products of 'paternalism' or social philanthropy by the employers or a way of controlling the illiterate and poor masses is still debated by historians. The example of Church Hollow provides an early, almost pre-industrial example.

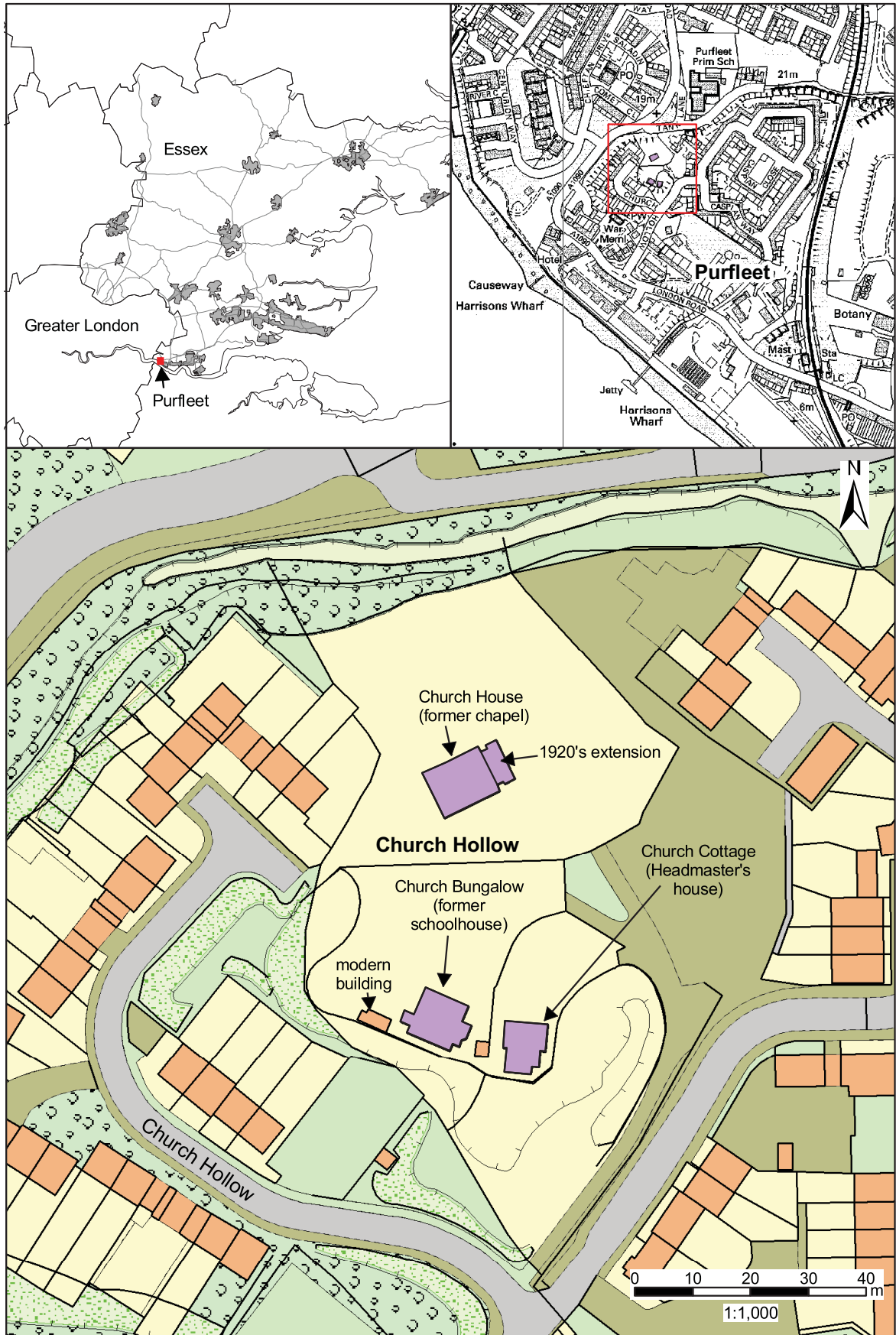
Chalk quarrying was a major industry of the Thameside area in the 18th and 19th century. The chalk edge of the Tank Lane pit is visible today as it was when Garrard's painting was made just after the chapel and school buildings were built and again when Arthur Young focused on the way the quarry was worked. These give tremendous historical depth to the survey and together with the recorded information contributes to the furtherance of understanding of these structures, the Purfleet quarry industry and the wider social history of Purfleet.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to Adrian Tindall of Archaeological Risk Management and to Brian Pooley of Heritage Planning Ltd for funding and commissioning this survey and for facilitating the works and providing the drawings. Thanks also to the staff at the Essex Records Office. Fieldwork, recording and photography were undertaken by the author. Illustrations were prepared by the author and produced by Andrew Lewsey of ECC FAU. The project was managed by Mark Atkinson and monitored by Richard Havis of ECC HEM on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.

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Fig.1. Site location and block plan

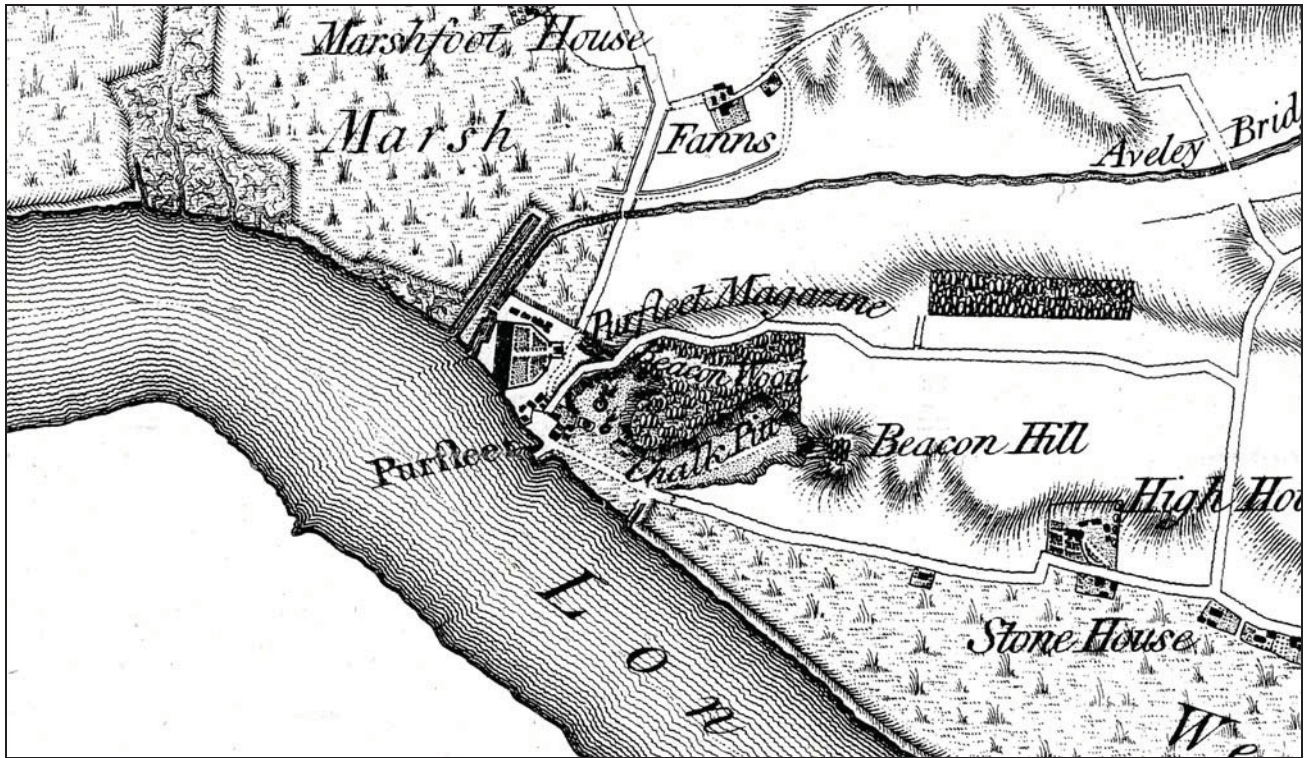


Fig. 2 Chapman and Andre's map of Essex, 1777

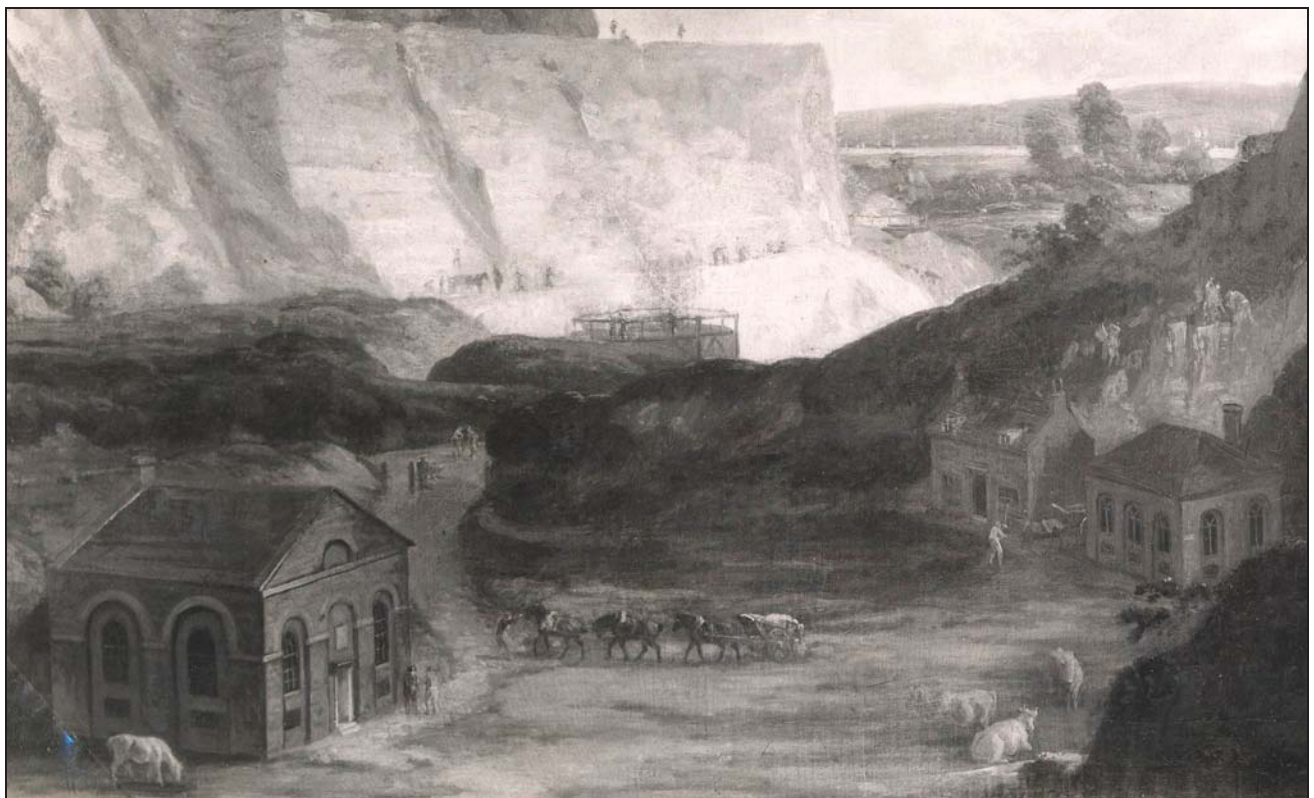


Fig. 3 Detail from painting by George Gerald RA, 1796

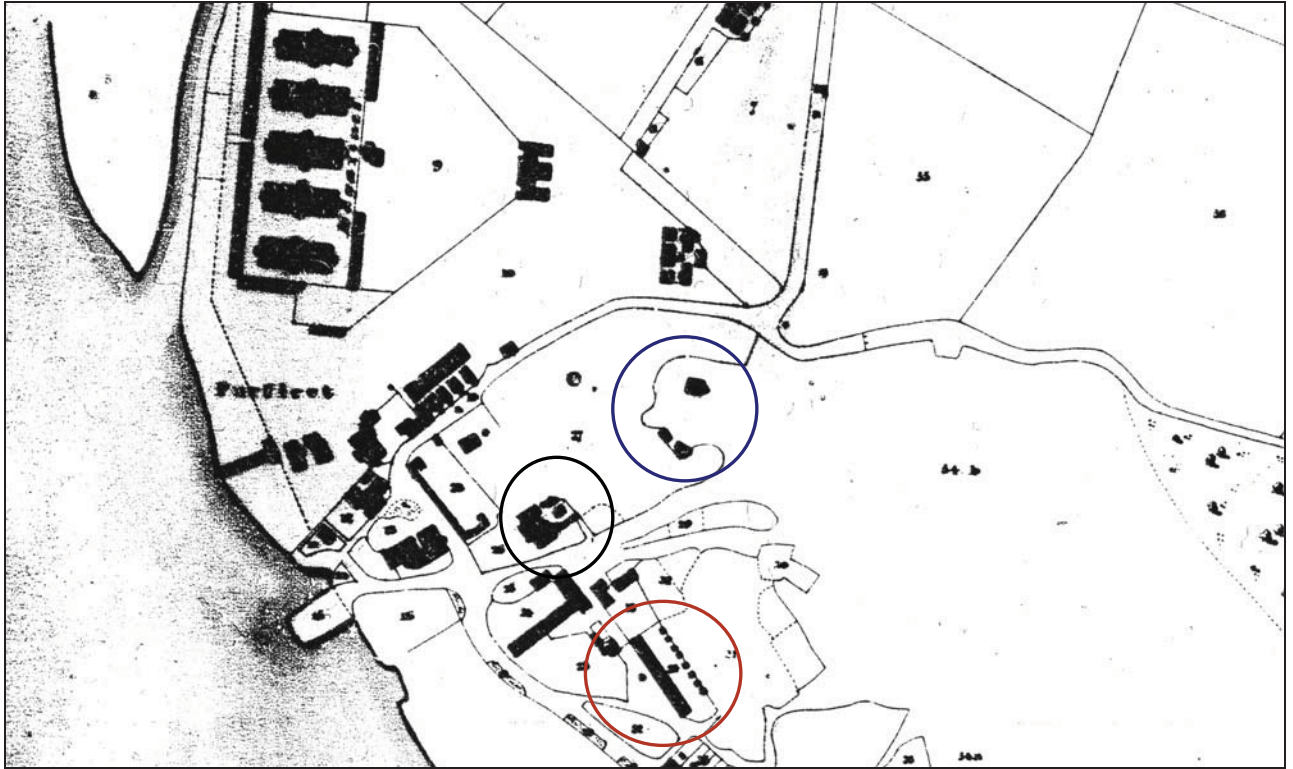


Fig. 4 West Thurrock tithe map, 1838 (D/CT 357B)

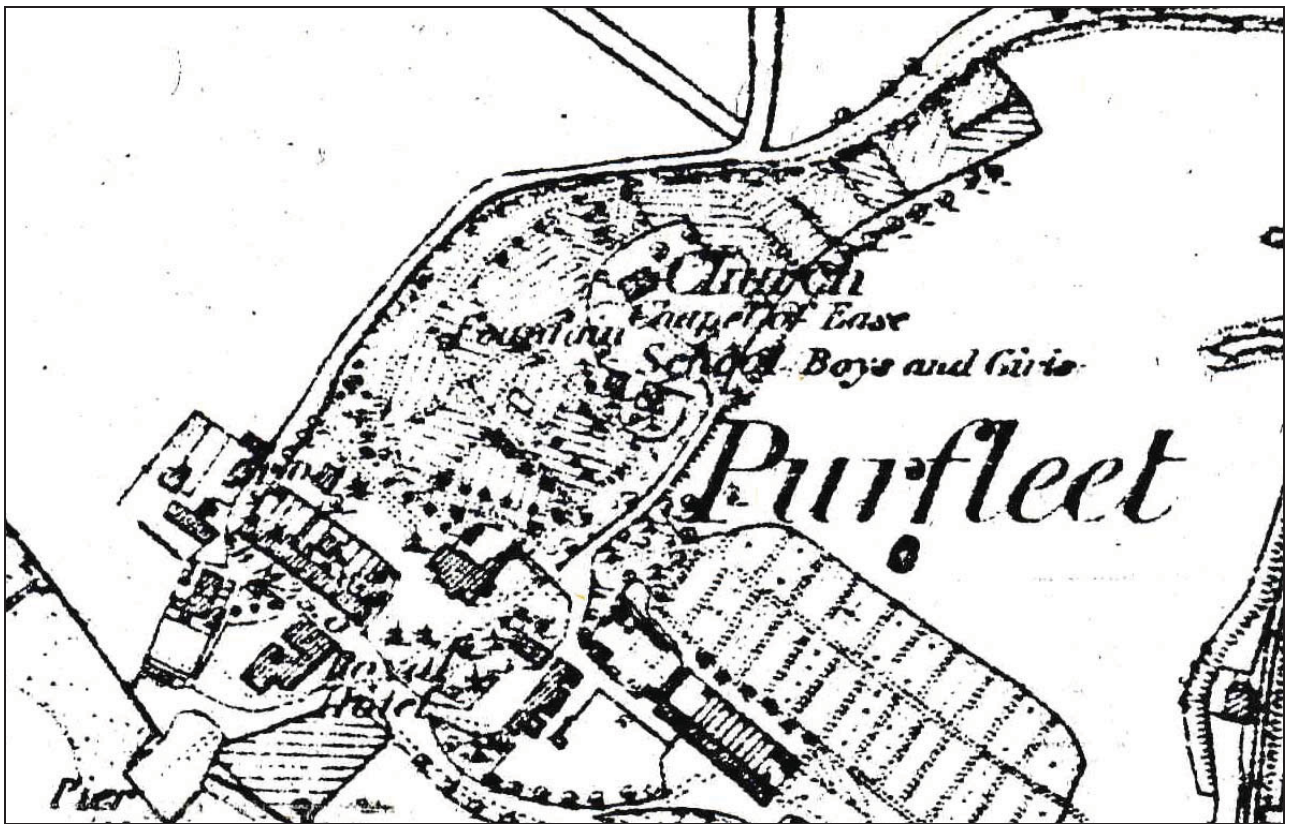


Fig. 5 First Edition 6" OS map, surveyed 1863-6 (sheet 83)

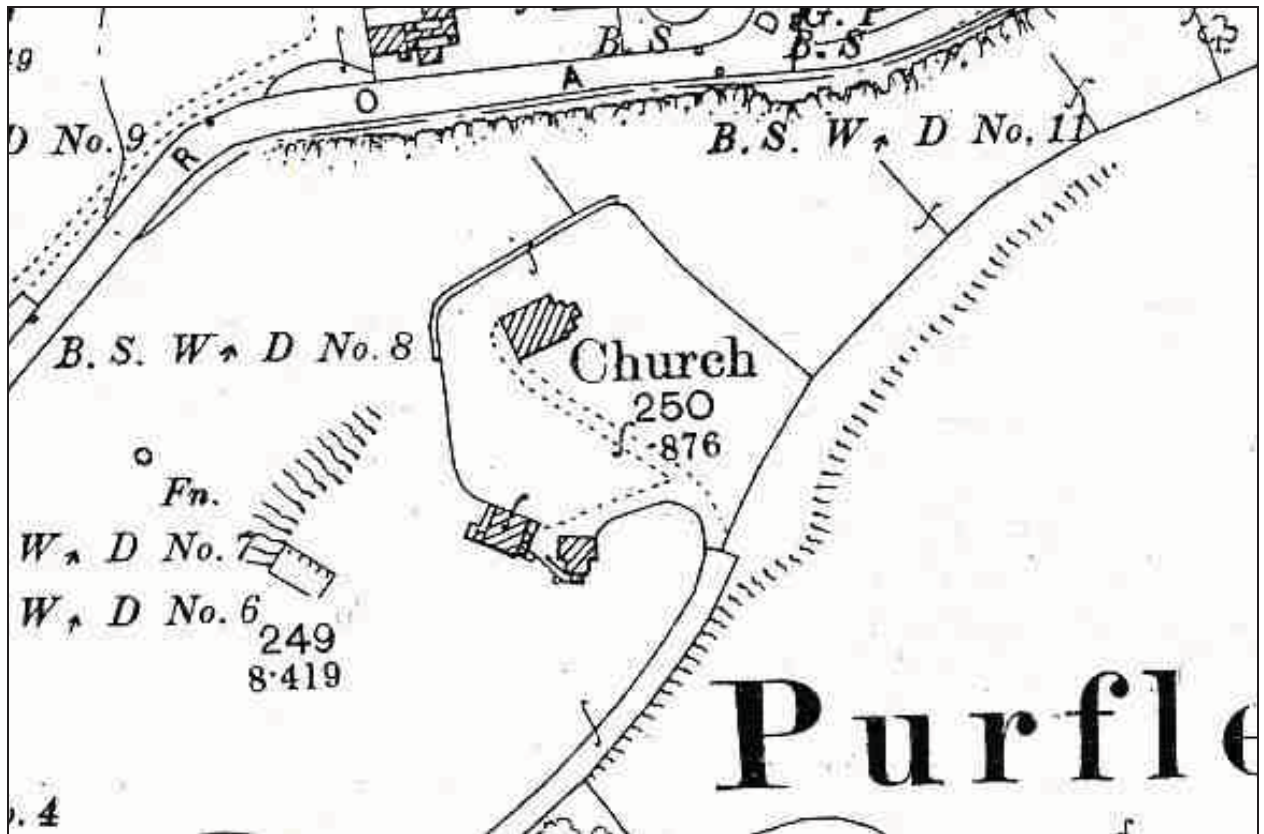


Fig. 6 Second Edition 25" OS map, 1897 (sheet 83/9)

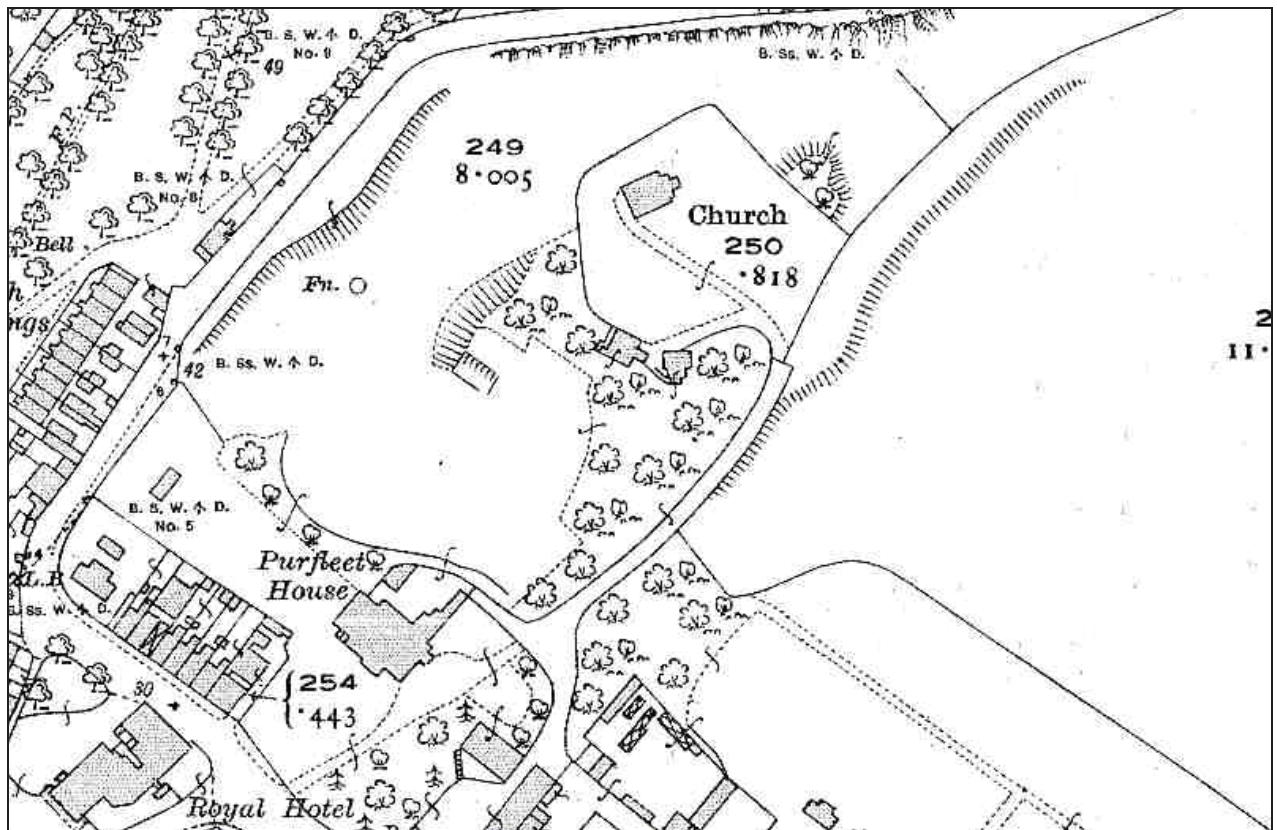


Fig. 7 New Series 25" OS map, 1920 (sheet 94/4)

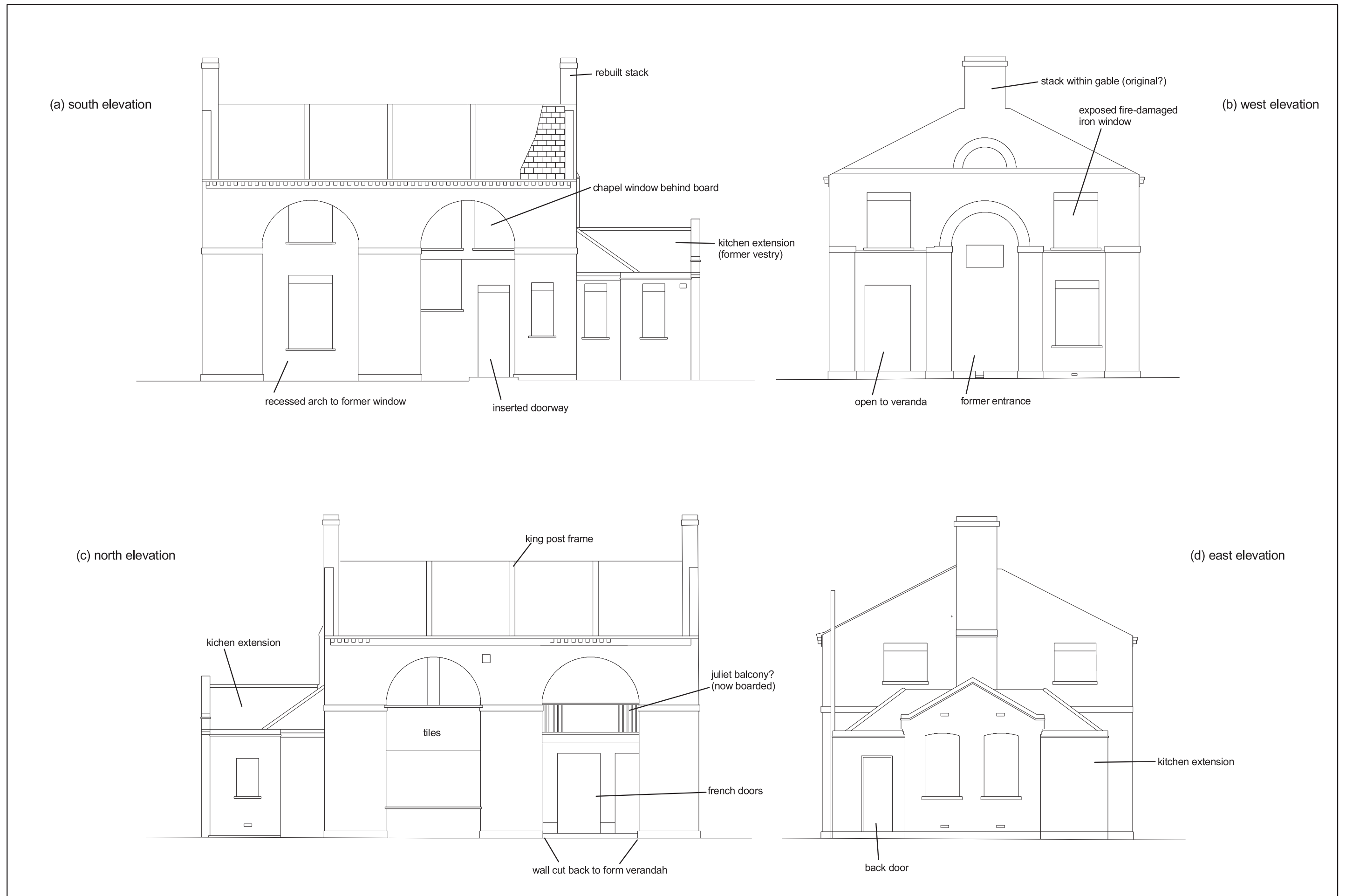
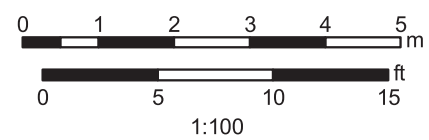
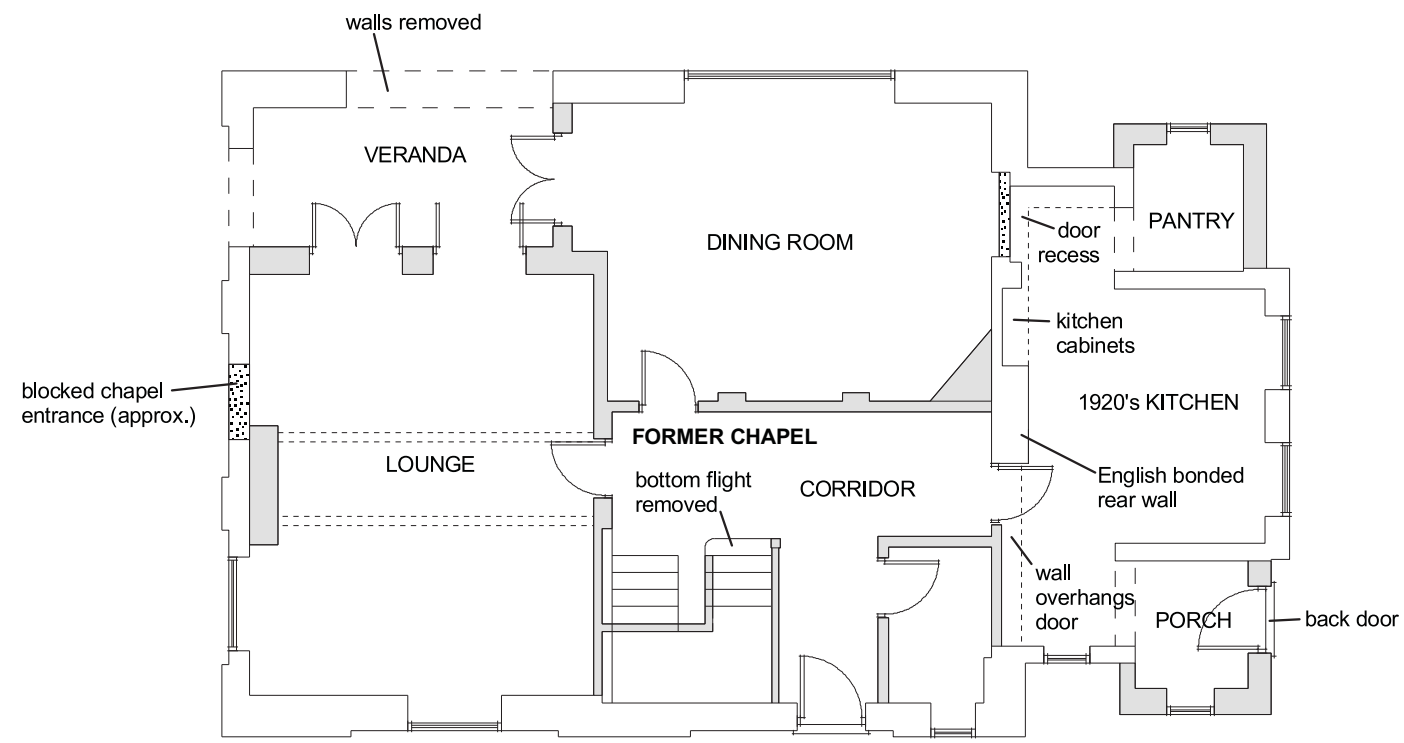


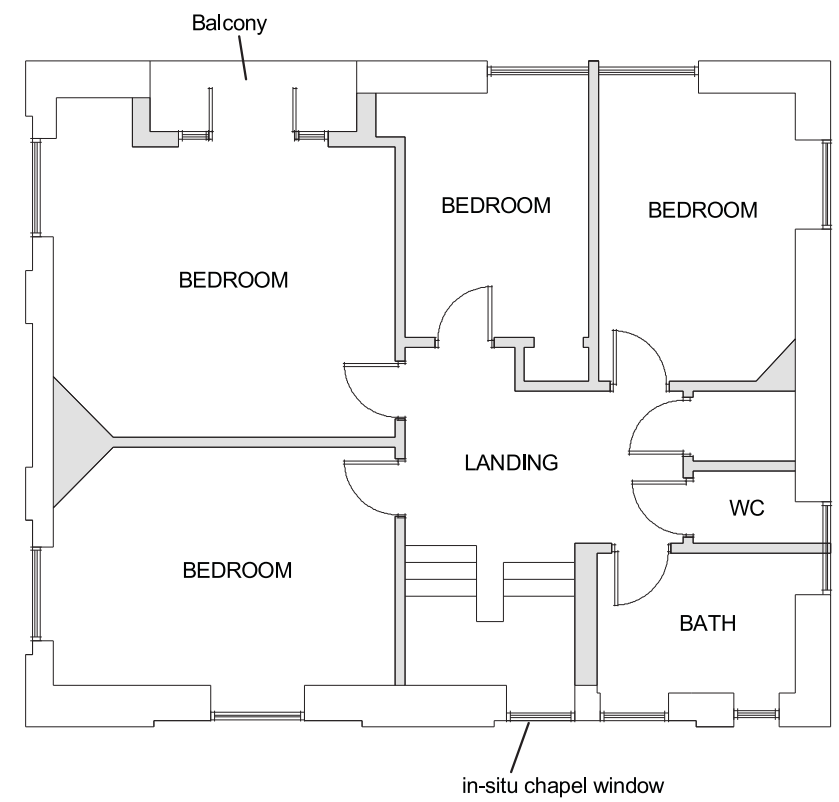
Fig.8. Church House: existing elevations



(a) Ground floor plan



(b) First floor plan



Key

- later wall
- blocked

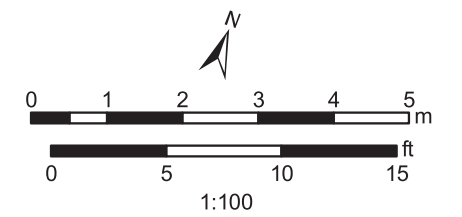


Fig.9. Church House: floor plans

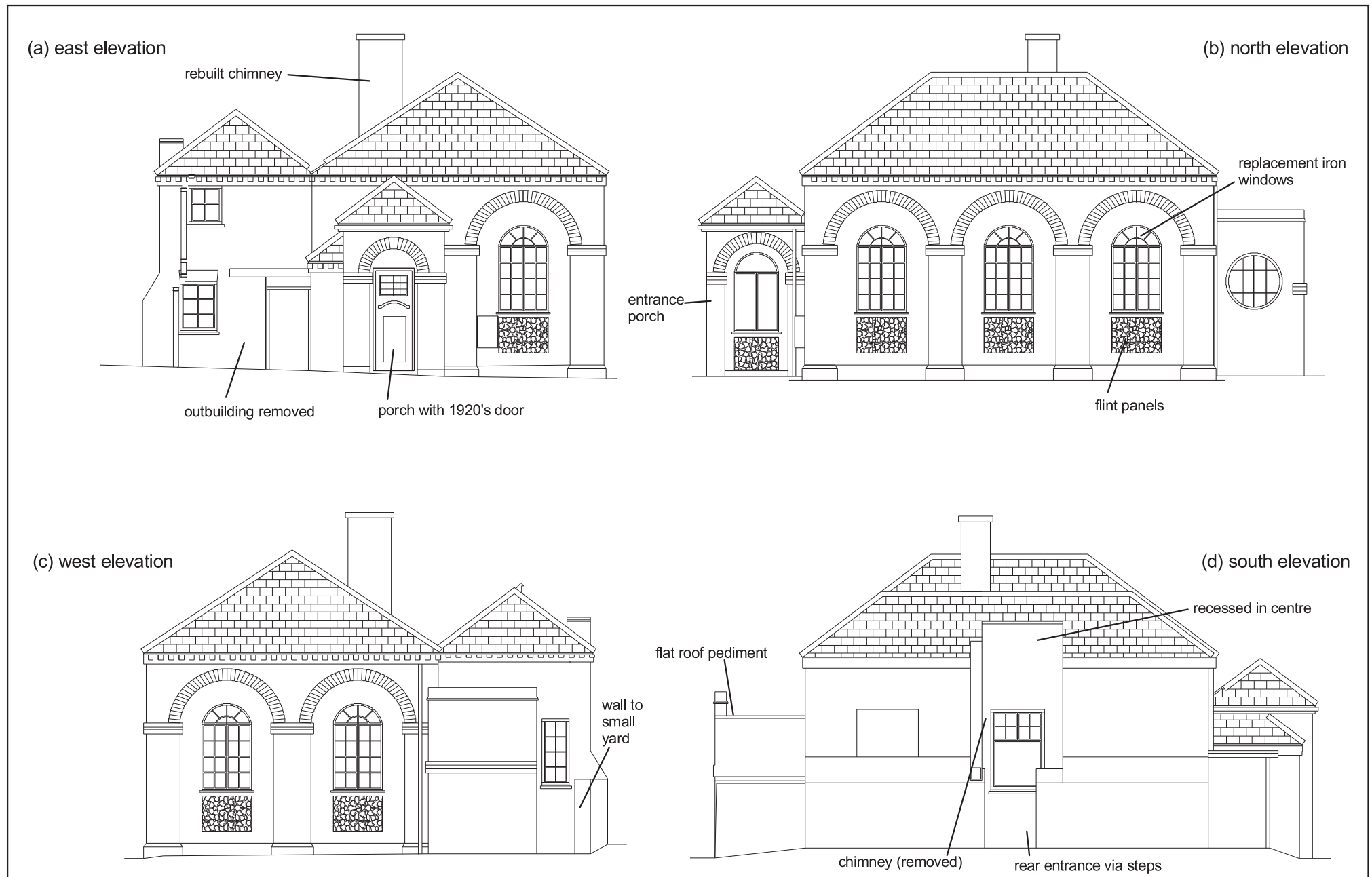
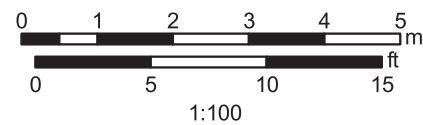


Fig.10. Church Bungalow: existing elevations



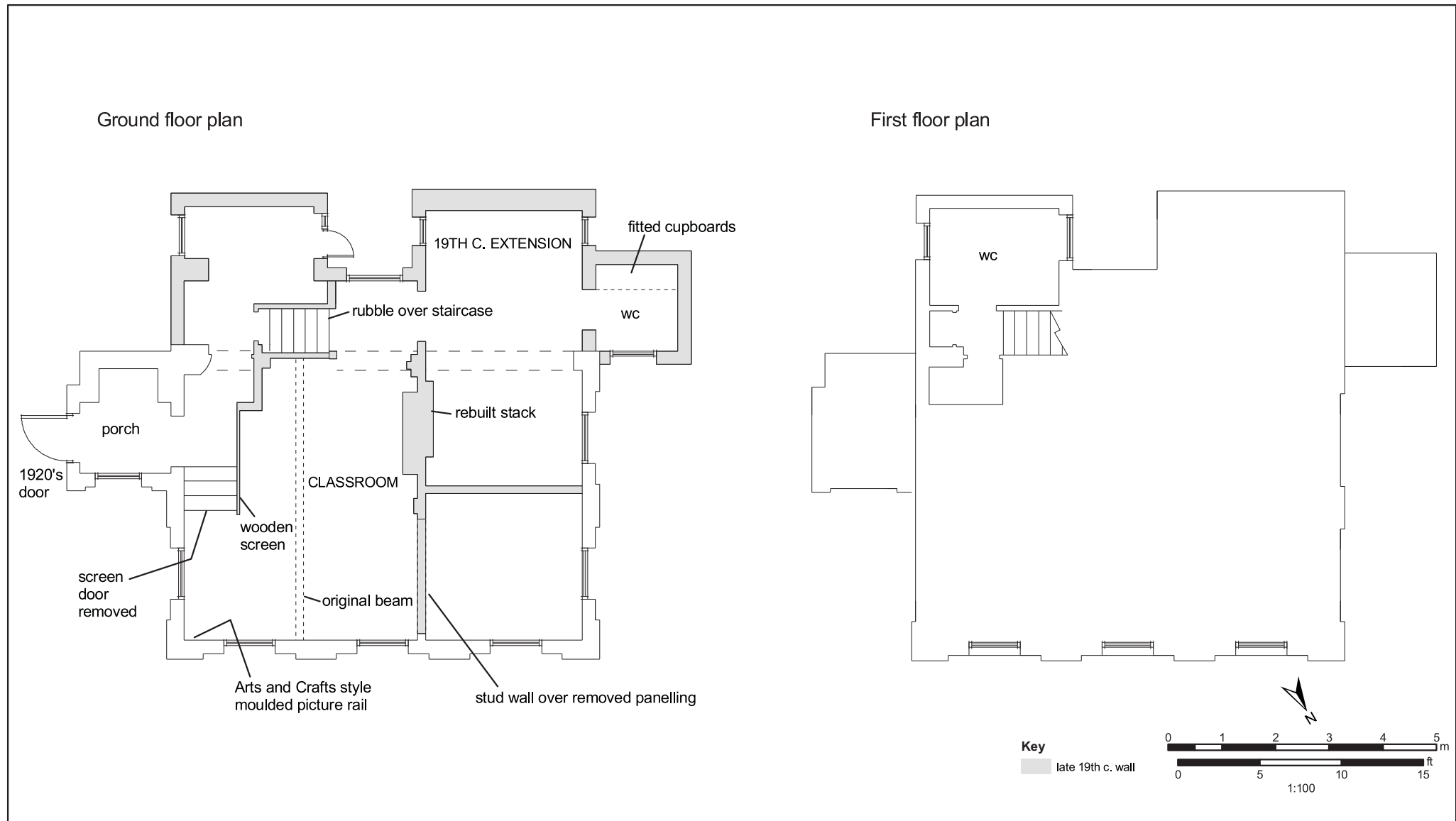
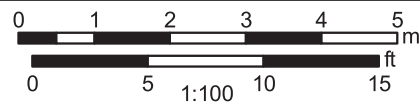


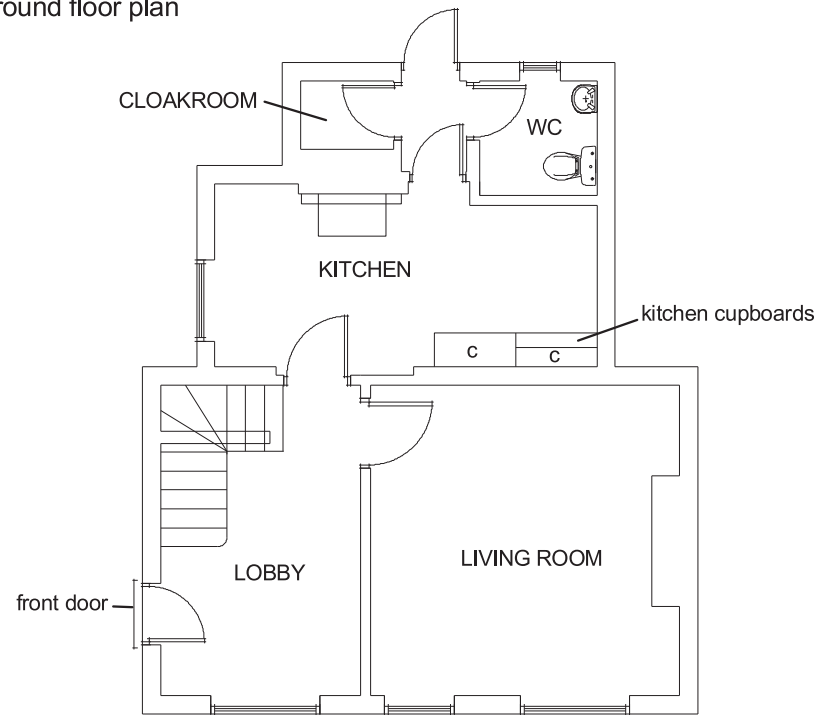
Fig.11. Church Bungalow: floor plans



Fig.12. Church Cottage: existing elevations



Ground floor plan



First floor plan

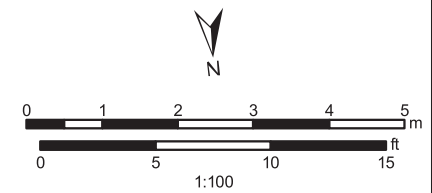
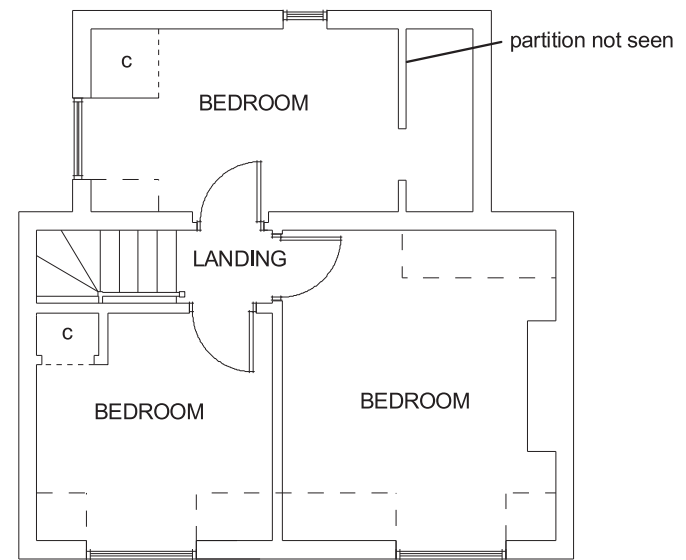


Fig.13. Church Cottage: floor plans



Plate 1 Church Hollow viewed southwards from Tank Lane



Plate 2 Detail of Church Hollow viewed south-eastwards from Tank Lane in 1796



Plate 3 Church House viewed to north



Plate 4 Church House viewed to north-west



Plate 5 Location of former doorway into chapel



Plate 6 Inserted metal-framed window on right side of chapel door



Plate 7 Church House viewed to south



Plate 8 Presumed 1850s chapel window inside Church House



Plate 9 View to veranda and former entrance inside Church House



Plate 10 View to former doorway into vestry



Plate 11 Kitchen annex at Church House in former vestry



Plate 12 View up to first floor of Church House



Plate 13 Church Cottage and Church Bungalow viewed to south-west



Plate 14 Church Bungalow viewed to south-west; school entrance



Plate 15 Church Bungalow viewed to north-west with Church House in background



Plate 16 Church Bungalow viewed to south-east



Plate 17 View from entrance to Church Bungalow into former classroom



Plate 18 View across classroom into extension and other room



Plate 19 View across classroom to entrance (east)



Plate 20 Arts and Crafts style picture rail in north-east corner of classroom (10cm scale)



Plate 21 Suspended ceiling in classroom with carpenter's mark (XIII) on 18th century beam



Plate 22 Back room in extension viewed towards western annex



Plate 23 Round leaded window in western annex



Plate 24 Church Cottage viewed to south-west



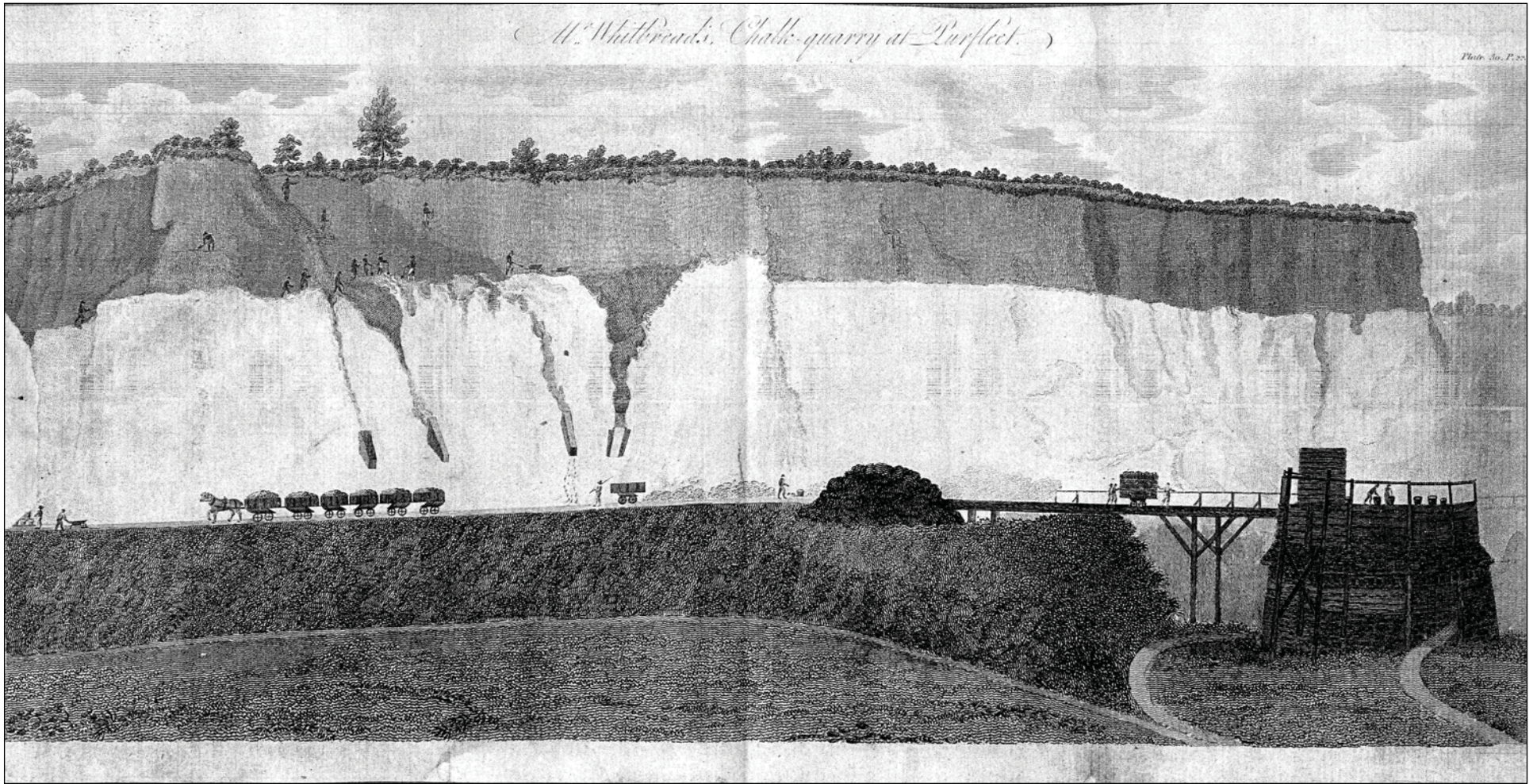
Plate 25 Church Cottage viewed to north-west with Church Bungalow and Church House in background



Plate 26 Front room inside Church Cottage



Plate 27 Kitchen inside Church Cottage



Appendix 1: Print of 'Mr Whitbread's Chalk Quarry at Purfleet, West Thurrock', 1813 (I/Mp 359/1/1)

Appendix 2: Contents of Archive

Site name: Former Chapel & School Buildings at Church Hollow, Purfleet, Essex

Project no.: 2207

Index to the Archive:

Document wallet containing:

1. Introduction

- 1.1 HEM design brief
- 1.2 FAU written scheme of investigation
- 1.3 Client/archive report
- 1.4 Unbound version of report
- 1.5 CD containing digital photographs, architect's drawings & copy of report, pdf-formatted

2. Site Archive

- 2.1 Photographic record (digital prints & monochrome 35mm prints & negatives)
- 2.2 Photographic registers
- 2.3 Site notes with annotated architect's drawings

Appendix 3: EHER Summary Sheet

Site Name/Address: Former Chapel & School Buildings at Church Hollow, Purfleet	
Parish: Purfleet	District: Thurrock
NGR: TQ 5515 7850	OASIS Record No.: essexcou-1-77868
Type of Work: Building recording (level 3)	Site Director/Team: Andrew Letch ECC FAU
Date of Work: 22nd & 23rd April 2010	Size of Area Investigated: N/A
Curating Museum: Thurrock	Funding Source: Heritage Planning Ltd
Further Work Anticipated? No	Related EHER Nos. 35179-81
Final Report: Summary in EAH	
Periods Represented: Late 18th-century onwards	
<p>SUMMARY OF FIELDWORK RESULTS:</p> <p>Three late 18th century structures, a chapel (Church House), school (Church Bungalow), and headmaster's house (Church Cottage), were recorded prior to their residential conversion/refurbishment. All were built in the Tank Lane chalk pit by the quarry owner Samuel Whitbread in 1790-91 to provide spiritual and educational facilities for his workforce. He also built one of the earliest surviving examples of worker housing in the county at the same time, a row of twelve cottages at Hollow Cottages just to the south and lived nearby in a house on the edge of the chalk pit.</p> <p>The buildings were in a derelict state, having been empty for at least 30 years and subject to collapse, vandalism and fire. All were built of yellow or grey stock bricks with slate roofs and are depicted in a landscape painting by G. Garrard RA from 1796. Architecturally, the chapel and schoolhouse are the most important, with recessed arches along the walls to carry large windows and flint flushwork panels. The school master's house has two storeys, dormer windows and flushwork panels. The chalk pit is still a feature of the landscape</p> <p>The chapel was refurbished in 1855 when the windows were replaced. It was significantly altered in the 1920s when the plot was sold and converted to residential usage. A first floor was added, new internal walls, a veranda and alterations to the vestry to provide a kitchen annex. An extension was built onto the schoolhouse in the 19th century and the classroom interior remodelled in the Arts and Crafts style, some of which remains. The school master's house remains much the same as built, though like the others, it is in a very bad state and stripped-out.</p> <p>The existing structures, along with Hollow Cottages form an interesting and rare group of late 18th century workers amenities and an early Essex example of social philanthropy/paternalism by the employer pre-dating the more prevalent Victorian examples that are more often found in an industrial rather than pre-industrial context.</p>	
Previous Summaries/Reports: none	
Author of Summary: Andrew Letch	Date of Summary: 28th May 2010