

9. THE FIRST FLOOR

The impact of works on the first floor was variable, with significant evidence being recorded in the central corridor (F-02) and the Porch Chamber (F-03), both internally and on the external wall of Room F-04, and most extensively within the rear extension Room F-07.

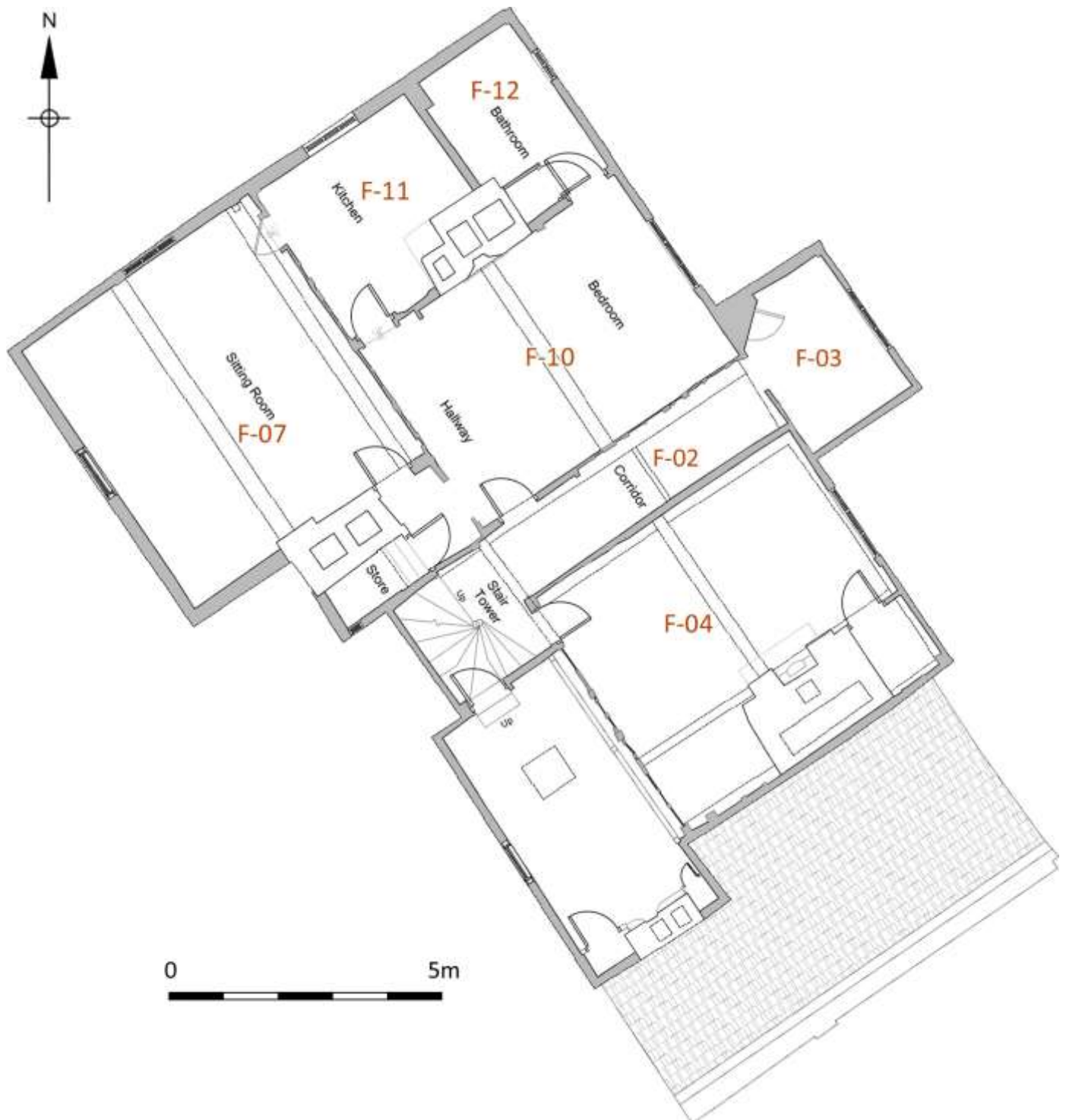


Fig.129: *First floor plan*

Based on an original drawing by Curl la Tourelle Head Architecture. Drg. No. 957 201

9.1 Central corridor F-02

The principal work in the first floor corridor comprised the cutting of a new doorway through to the southern room F-04. This necessitated the removal of one stud and adjacent mid rail, plus lathe and plaster wall covering on either side.



Fig.130: Looking along the corridor towards the front of the building: on the right hand (southern) side lath & plaster removed in the area of the new doorway

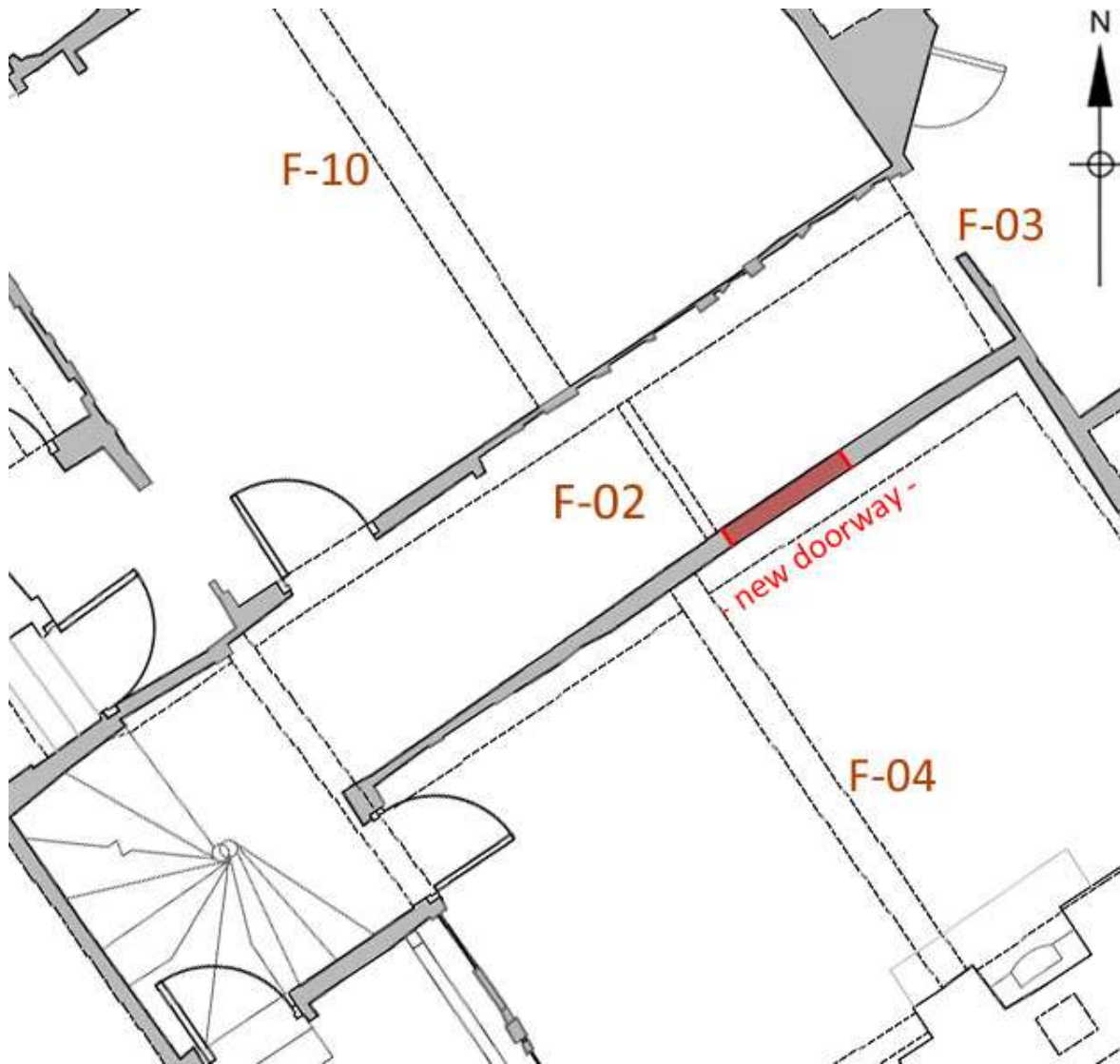


Fig.131: Plan showing the location of corridor F-02 and adjacent rooms

The present corridor presents two differing aspects: on the southern side a unbroken wall covering and on the north side exposed timberwork with recessed plastering, plus a substantial tie beam running at ceiling level. It was assumed that this arrangement had derived directly from the original layout, in particular the presence of a staircase immediately to the south of the wall between the corridor and Room F-04 to the south (see Section 9.3.2.2).

However, removal of the lath and plaster wall covering on the corridor side of the new doorway (and also a strip of plastering on either side of this) revealed that there was an earlier finished surface between the studs – essentially matching that on the other side of the corridor (Figs.132-33). Thus it is assumed that originally this was intended to be seen, and only subsequently covered over. Why one side of the corridor should have been treated in this way but not the other is unknown.



Fig.132: *The outline of the new doorway looking approx. southwest, after removal of the outer lath and plaster covering and showing the earlier finished surface behind (1m scale)*



Fig.133: *As above, looking approximately east*



Fig.134: *Detail looking towards the base of the new doorway and showing the earlier wall face (0.5m scale)*



Fig.135: *View from Room F-04 after cutting through the new doorway*

9.2 Room F-03 (the Porch Chamber)

Fairly substantial works took place on the small jettied room above the porch – the lifting of most of the floorboards and also repair/ replacement of parts of the supporting beams and adjacent jetty bressumer. A detailed record was made of the structures that were exposed, and much of the removed timber was retained for further analysis and potential dating.

It was also possible to confirm that the structure formed an addition to the original building, as suggested by external observations and discussed further below (Sections 11.1, Fig.317 & 9.2.2). This has been proposed by previous studies (Gravett 1966; Quiney 1983), although also questioned in the most recent assessment (Archaeology South-East 2012, 7.1.2). This last study focussed on the existing doorway into the room, and the apparent absence of any evidence for an earlier arrangement (such as a removed stud in what would otherwise presumably been a solid wall).

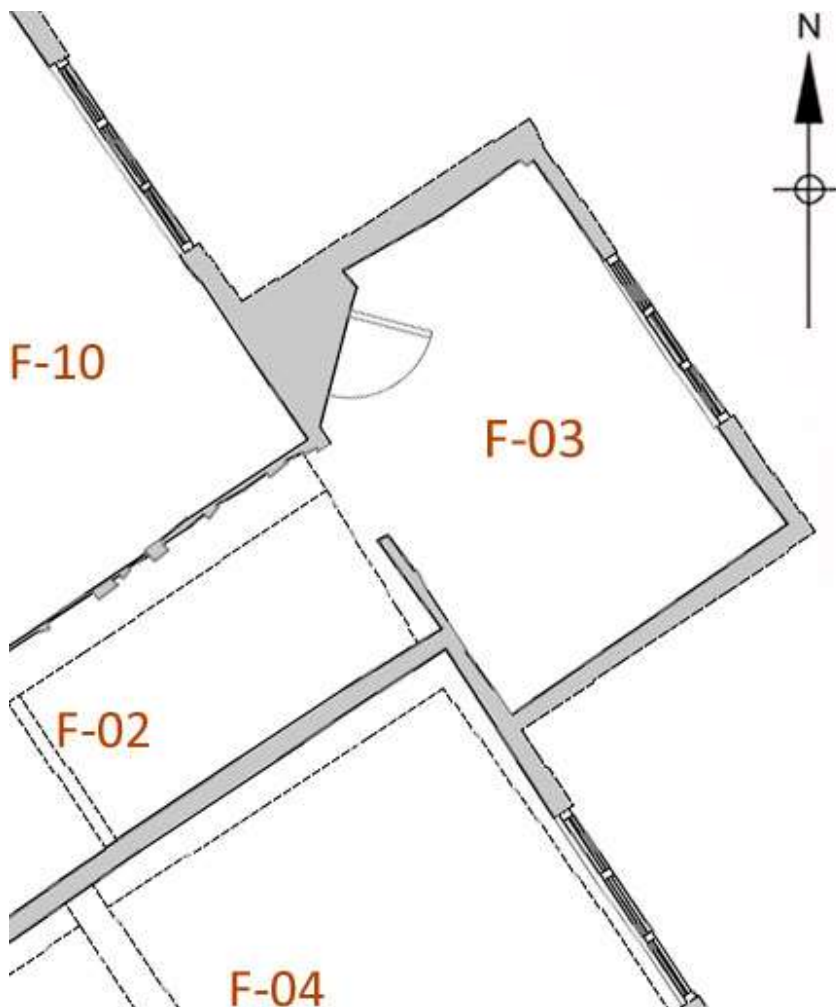


Fig.136: Plan showing the location of Room F-03 and adjacent rooms

This issue would require further examination to fully resolve, but it seems likely either that there has been some alteration that has removed original evidence, or that there was always some variation at this point – perhaps a window opening (or possibly a joint between two sections of the original jetty bressumer). The studs along this section of wall also bear carpenter's marks near their base (clearly visible on that now forming the northern side of the doorway), and closer inspection of these may also help to determine if any changes have been made.

It is also noted in the assessment that timbers on the front wall of the main range now enclosed by the porch chamber are unweathered (& as reflected in the preceding not on carpenters' marks). However, this may simply indicate that the porch was an early addition to the building.

9.2.1 The exterior of the Porch chamber



Fig.137: *General view of the porch and overlying room, looking northwest. The lines of weatherboarding have been removed to expose the projecting joists and overlying jetty bressumer*

Fig.138: *As above, frontal view looking southwest*





Fig.139: Detailed view of the jettied section of the porch. On the front (east) face the dowels securing the close-studded wall are also clearly visible



Fig.140: *The outer ends of the first and second joists on the south side of the porch (0.2m scale)*



Fig.141: *The front face of the porch; first and second joist ends from the southeastern corner*



Fig.142: *The third & fourth joists from the southeastern corner of the porch (0.2m scale)*



Fig.143: *As above, view of underside of the jetty bressumer plus close-studding just visible at top*

9.2.2 The relationship to the main building

With the removal of the floorboards and external weatherboarding the ends of several main joists were visible, along the line of the junction between the porch and the building frontage wall. Three of these are circled in Fig.144 below, and detailed views on the central joist and one further shown in Figs.145-46.

All the joist ends were finished off with a rounded lower edge, and the top more or less flush with the face of the overlying beam. This arrangement is exactly that seen to the rear of the main building, exposed within and on the eastern side of the later extension (Room G-04; cf. Fig.11).

It seems clear that the porch forms an extension to an originally unbroken and jettied building frontage. This design is also closely reiterated in that of the porch itself as originally constructed, with its' projecting and rounded-off joists to create a jettied upper storey. Clearly the intention was to match the extension with the existing and adjacent frontages, as they would then have appeared.



Fig.144: View looking from the outer side of the porch chamber back to the main building frontage, with the finished ends of three joists visible and circled. It seems clear that these originally formed part of an uninterrupted jetty along the frontage, with part of the overlying bressumer now forming the door threshold (0.5m scale)



Fig.145: Exterior view on the north side of the junction between the porch and main wall. On the left is a joist with a rounded lower edge carrying the porch jetty: just right of centre (& now hidden within the porch structure) the similarly finished end of one of the main joists



Fig.146: Detail of the central joist in Fig.144, on the line of the original jettied frontage and with the porch extension in the foreground (0.2m scale)

9.2.3 The interior of the Porch chamber



Fig.147: *Exposed floor timbers, looking from the outer side of the porch chamber back to the main frontage (0.5m scale)*



Fig.148: *A view looking in the opposite direction to the above, and after removal of further boards and some repair work to the underlying beams*



Fig.150: A further view of the partly exposed floor joists, from the southeast corner of the porch (0.5m scale)

9.2.4 Repair work & removed timbers

In the course of works several timbers (or at least parts at the outer corners of the porch) found to be decayed and in need of replacement. This process was also recorded, and sections of removed timber salvaged for further off-site examination and potential dendrochronological dating.

The timbers removed included parts of the diagonal oak beams, which – as well as the arrangements illustrated here – were also morticed into the underlying jetty brackets at the corners of the porch. Sections of the overlying jetty bressumer at each corner were also replaced (*cf.* Figs.151 & 153).



Fig.151: A view during repair works, the new lighter-coloured timberwork clearly visible at the southeast corner of the porch

Fig.152 (below): A general view of the floor after replacement of the outer sections of the diagonal beams





Fig.153: Removed sections of the jetty bressumer from the northeast corner of the porch, with a series of mortices for the studding. The two sections were originally held together at the corner by a pegged mortice (0.2m scale)



Fig.154: *Detail of the oak diagonal beam close to the northeast corner of the porch, showing a carpenter's mark (100mm scale; see Fig.149 for location)*



Fig.155: *Detail of the diagonal beam close to the southeast corner of the porch, showing carpenters' marks (see Fig.149 for location)*



Fig.156: Oak dowels removed from the beams shown in Figs.154 & 155



Fig.157: Cross-section of the diagonal beam from the northeast corner of the porch, showing c 100+ growth rings with sapwood at lower right

9.3 Room F-04

9.3.1 The external southern wall

Removal of modern weatherboarding on the external wall of Room F-04 (at the southern gable end of the building) exposed an earlier phase of boarding, plus some of the underlying timber framing (*cf.* Fig.159).

There were at least two phases of development preceding the present facing. The first and potentially original was represented by a continuous beam (girding beam or summer) that ran the full length of the end wall.

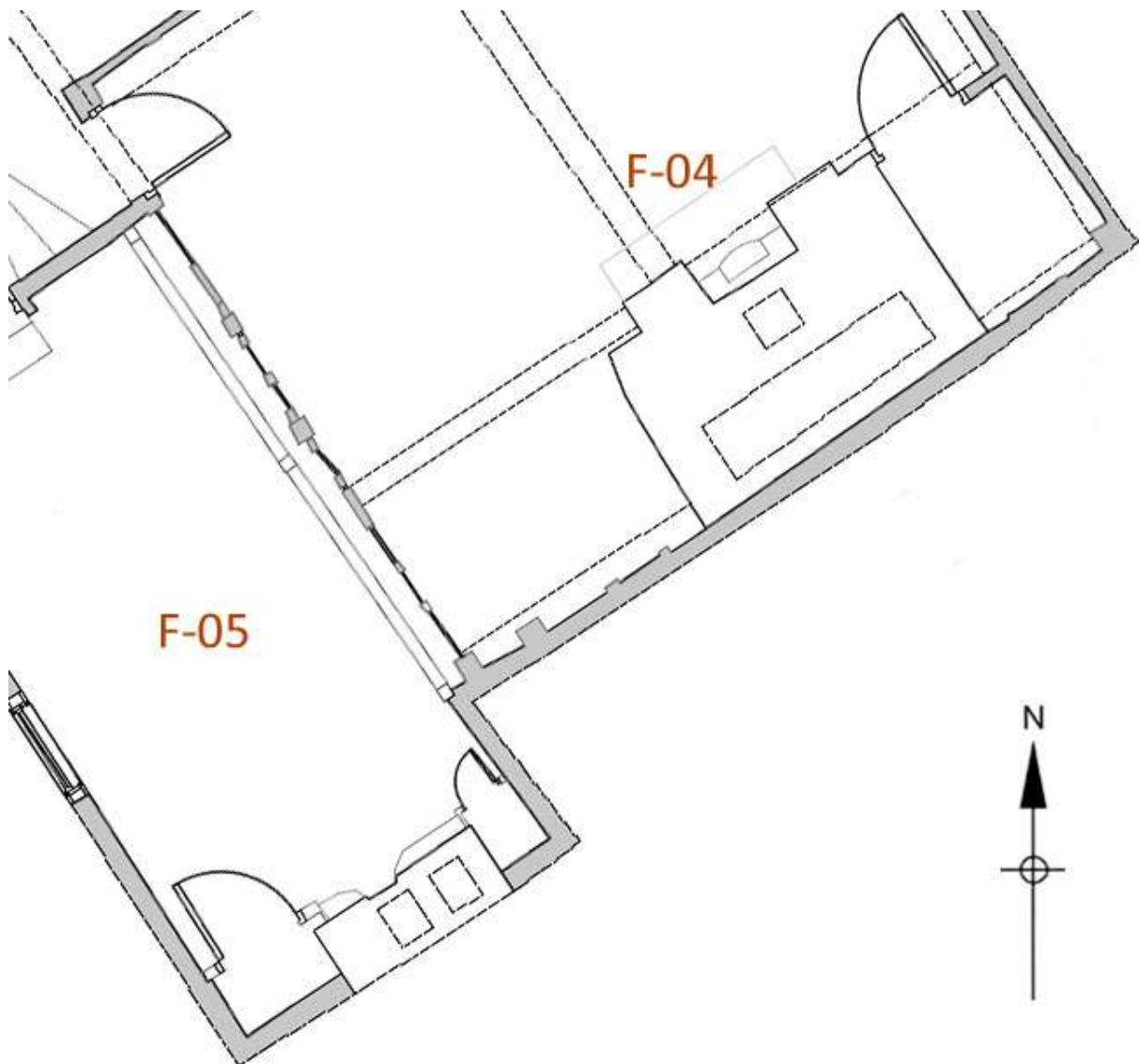


Fig.158: Plan showing the southern parts of Room F-04 and 19th century addition F-05

The overall length of the girding beam was *c* 5.74m, and cross-sectional dimensions approximately 200mm by 215mm (width x height): the height also reduced slightly towards the western end, to *c* 195mm. The beam had an apparently continuous V-

shaped groove cut into the upper face: where surviving intact this was some 40mm wide and a similar depth, and set back some 25mm from the front face (see Fig.163 inset).

All the timberwork above this level was secondary, although some of the individual timbers may be reused. The construction itself was not of a comparable standard to the original, with the down braces quite roughly set near the top of the beam and nailed rather than pegged into substantial lap joints (Fig.166). Similarly the studs were variously placed on or stepped over the front beam, or utilised existing mortices or slots (*eg.* Figs.165, 169 & 174).

The down braces had also been slightly repositioned towards the centre of the wall, so presumably were a bit longer than their predecessors. However, to judge by the associated lap joint in the girding beam the eastern brace at least (at *c* 200mm by 80mm) may not have been quite as large as the original. The western brace was slightly larger, *c* 230mm by 80mm. The angle of the original braces also appears to have been slightly steeper, again taking the outline of original eastern joint as a guide.



Fig.159: General view of the southern end of the building looking towards Malden Road and showing earlier weatherboarding and the underlying beams. NB. The exposed lath & plaster in the foreground is a much more recent part of the extension Room F-05



Fig.160: View of the southern end of the building looking towards the rear, showing the earlier weatherboarding and underlying beams



Fig.161: As above, closer view (0.5m scale)



Fig.162: Overall view of the exposed timberwork, looking directly towards the southern wall

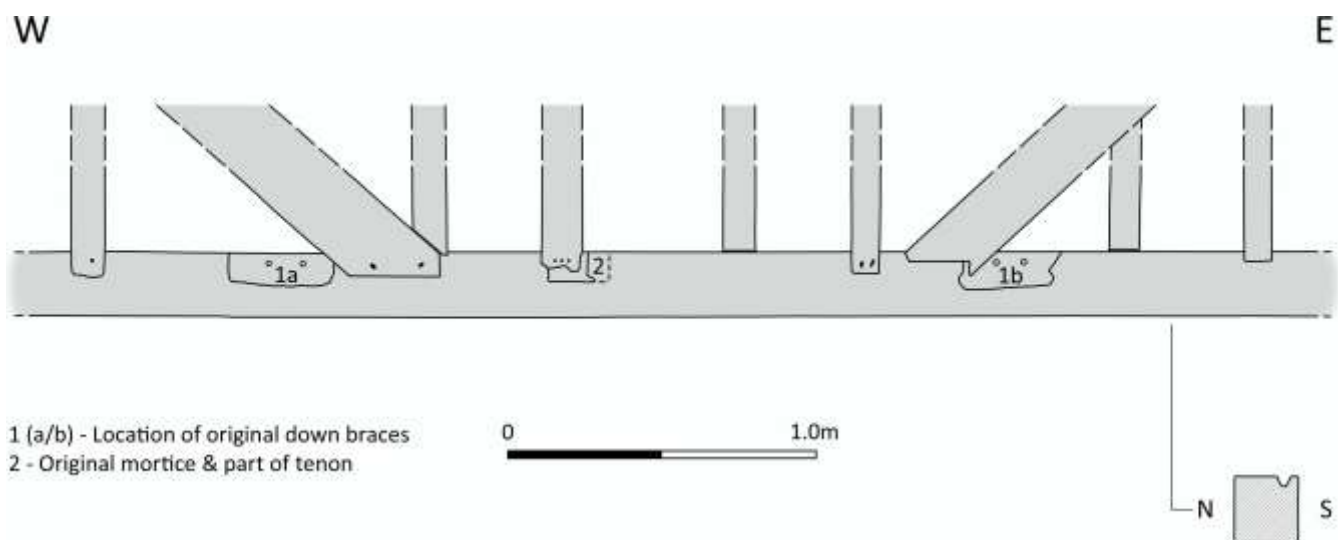


Fig.163: *Elevation of the central part of the girding beam and associated timbers*



Fig.164: *View of the area covered in the above elevation*



Fig.165: *The junction between a stud and the girding beam at the west end of the exposed section. The slotted front of the beam has been cut away and the stud roughly stepped & nailed over this*



Fig.166: *The base of the western down brace, fixed with two large nails, and just to the left an earlier lap joint and pegholes, presumably for a similar but slightly shorter brace (0.2m scale)*



Fig.167: *Oblique view of the western down brace, with the earlier cut-out in the foreground*



Fig.168: *As above, looking the opposite way from the centre line of the wall*



Fig.169: View of the studs and girding beam between the two down braces, looking north (0.2m scale)



Fig.170: Detail of the base of one the above studs. This is set into one side of an earlier and wider (200mm) mortice within the girding beam. Part of the earlier tenon & dowel are visible immediately to the right, sawn off flush with the surface of the beam (see also elevation Fig.163)



Fig.171: Detail of the base of the eastern down brace, slightly overlapping one side of an earlier lap joint and pegholes. The construction is quite rough, the brace apparently nailed into a shallow cut on the top of the beam rather than the previous deeper and pegged joint



Fig.172: As above, oblique view with the earlier cut-out in the foreground



Fig.173: The eastern end of the girder beam, extending over the jetty to the right. Immediately to the right of the 0.2m scale the base is cut away to form a lap joint with the adjacent N-S beam



Fig.174: Detail of the heavily eroded joint between the two principal beams. The top of the E-W beam also has two smaller cut-outs: that immediately above the 0.2m scale containing a piece of timber below the later stud, and that to the left empty

9.3.2 Room F-04 – Interior

There was some indication on the internal face of the southern wall for the rebuild observed outside and described in the preceding Section. Evidence was also obtained for fairly recent (probably mid 1970s) blocking within the chimneystack, to the rear of the fireplace (*cf.* Figs.178-79).

The only major change to the layout of the room under the present scheme involved the cutting of a new doorway from the central corridor F-02, as described elsewhere (Section 9.1, Figs.130-35). Apart from this the information that was obtained came very largely from lifting of floorboards, for the installation of new services, *etc.*

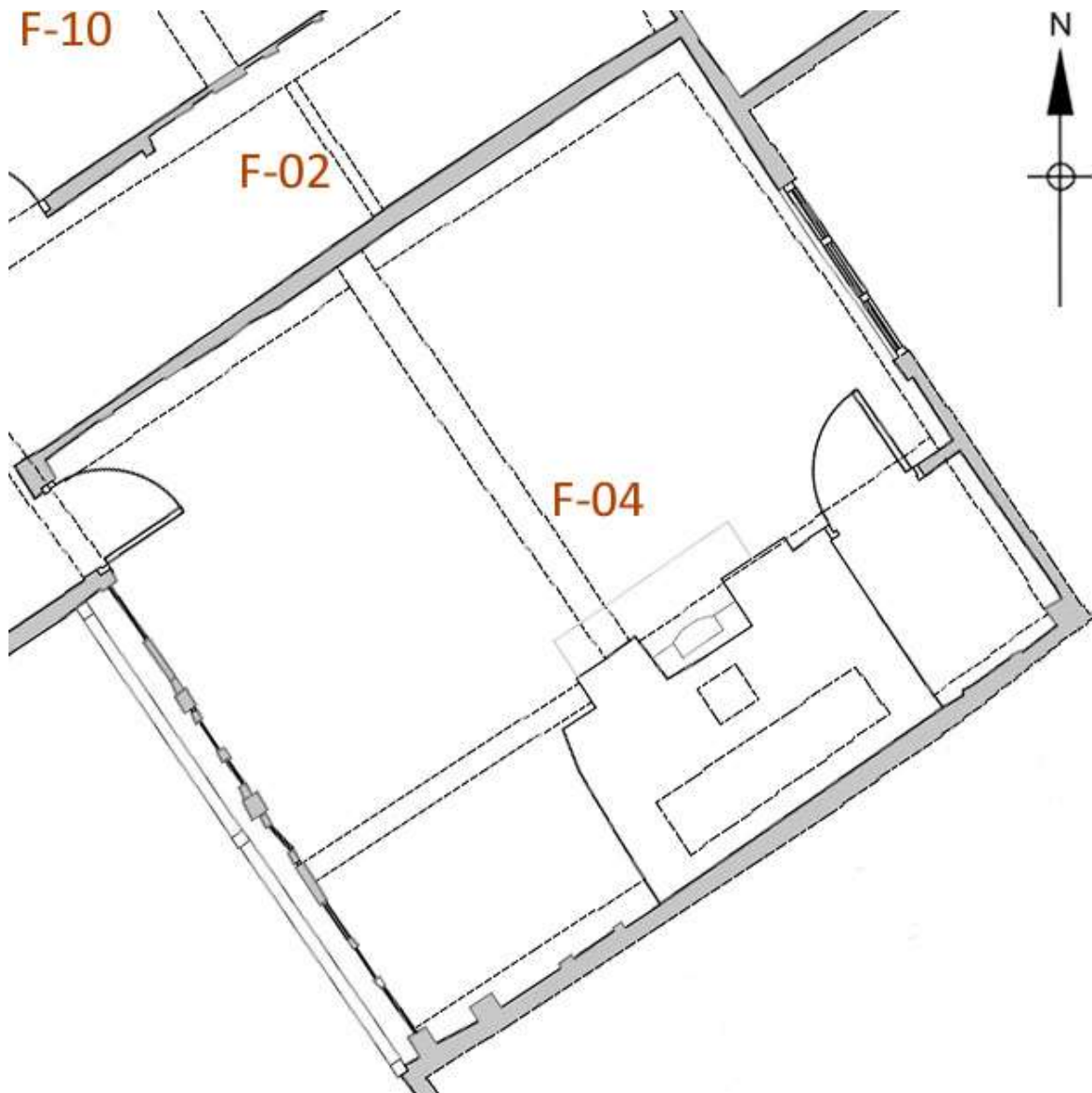


Fig.175: Plan showing the location of F-04 and adjacent rooms



Fig.176 (above): *Studs & tie beam to the east of the chimneystack. The underside of the beam has four empty or blocked mortices, c100mm x 30mm up to 290mm x 45mm in size, though given that the wall has been rebuilt this may simply be reused (cf. Section 9.3.1)*



Fig.177: *The southwestern corner of the room, the principal post also containing several redundant mortices or lap joints – in the east face roughly level with the top of the 1m scale, and two above & below this in the north face (c 100mm to 200mm in length)*



Fig.178: Views looking straight up the southern chimney, at the base of the frame showing the recent brick blocking to the rear of the fireplace in Room F-04



Fig.179: Another view of the above, looking approximately northeast

9.3.2.1 Previous & initial investigations

The preliminary (2016) investigations in this area included removal of a small section of flooring on the south side of the room. This revealed earlier boards immediately under the present covering, as illustrated below. However, subsequent works to east and west did not expose any further evidence, so the actual extent of these is probably quite limited.



Fig.180: *Earlier floorboards immediately in front of the hearth (at top of frame), exposed during preliminary investigations in March 2016*

Investigations during the refurbishment of the mid-1970s also revealed one particularly significant feature on the northern side of Room F-04, namely the location of the stairs from ground to first floor level within the original two-floor and three bay building (Quiney 1983, 136-37). Evidence for this took the form of a large blocked opening, running east to west along the line of what is now the northern wall of the room: the outline of this was subsequently marked out on the floor for the benefit of visitors, as shown overleaf (Fig.181).

The former opening was primarily defined by two trimming pieces – lengths of timber set at right angles to and interrupting the otherwise continuous line of east-west joists. They thus formed either end of a rectangular space just over a metre wide by nearly four metres in length, and bordered on either side by joists. It was also noted that the upper faces of the both the trimming pieces and adjacent joists

were grooved, which suggested that the opening was screened or partitioned from the adjacent first floor rooms.



Fig.181: A picture taken during the preliminary investigations in Room F-04, which also shows part of the outline of the original stair opening marked out on the floor against the north wall

During the recent programme of works floorboards were lifted in two areas, close to the front (eastern) wall and across the western part of the room. The latter proved the most significant, once again revealing evidence for the original staircase opening as well for as arrangements around the western side of the chimneystack (and probable preceding smoke-bay). These findings are outlined in plan on Fig.184 below, and described in the following text from north to south

9.3.2.2 Floor construction and staircase opening – original arrangements

The lifting of floorboards across the western side of the room exposed a total of eleven approximately east-west aligned timbers. The northernmost – which should probably be referred to a crossbeam as it falls within the truss between two bays – underlies the wall between Room F-04 and the central corridor, and also forms the northern side of the original staircase opening. The cross-section measured *c* 243mm wide by 170mm high, and the northern end of the staircase trimming piece was morticed into its south side.



Fig.182: A general view of works in Room F-04, looking towards the northeast corner and new doorway



Fig. 183: As above, looking towards the southwest corner

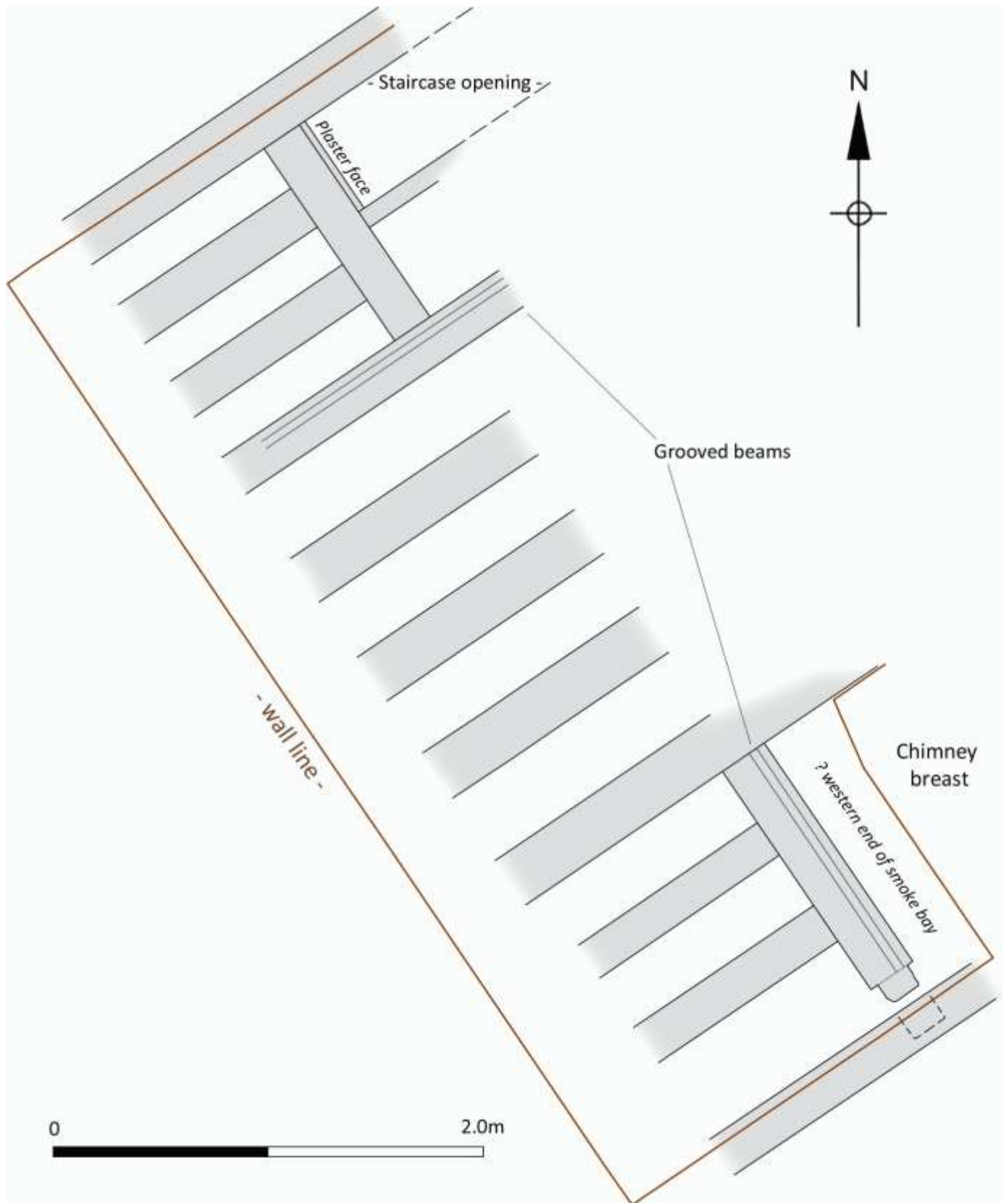


Fig.184: Room F-04 – Plan of the exposed area of the original joists, staircase opening and possible southern smoke-bay

Immediately to the south of the crossbeam were two short common joists, whose eastern ends abutted the west face of the trimming piece (probably morticed in, although details of the jointing were not visible). Beyond these was a single grooved joist, which continued to the east to form the southern side of the staircase opening. The three joists were between 205mm and 222mm wide, and 148mm to 155mm high. The spacing between each – and the crossbeam to the north – was between 207mm and 230mm, noticeably less than elsewhere to the south. The upper face of the trimming piece was hidden so the presence of a groove here couldn't be confirmed, but it is noted that the groove in the east-west joist continued to the west beyond the staircase opening – suggesting a continuous partition in this direction.

The overall length of the trimming piece – and hence original width of the staircase opening – was 1.08m. On its eastern side and laid into a cut-out on its top edge was a small beam (c 95mm by 56mm high), forming part of the later blocking.

Between the grooved joist and the southernmost girding beam were six joists. The first four of these ranged in size from 240mm to 251mm wide by 132mm to 170mm deep, with intervening spaces of 298mm to 370mm. The final two joists were similarly spaced but slightly smaller (c 170 to 185mm wide by 140-145mm high), and were morticed into a trimming piece to the east (& on more or less the same line as the staircase opening). The trimming piece itself was about 1.22m in length, and up to 240mm wide by 150mm high. It was morticed into the adjacent beams at either end – although to the south had become detached and was also quite decayed. On the eastern side of the upper face was a continuous groove, approximately 30mm deep and comparable to that on the staircase joist.

It is assumed that this arrangement of timbers adjacent to the south wall of the building relates to an original smoke-bay, which is thought to have preceded the present chimneystack. This interpretation is given further credence by the gap – some 0.3m or more – that now exists between the trimming piece and the eastern side of the chimney stack.

9.3.2.3 Later developments

Except at the northern end of the exposed area the present floorboards did not directly overlie the original joists, but were progressively built up above these by a series of blocks and secondary beams. This was particularly marked over the final three joists and external girding beam, which were overlain by smaller beams 145mm to 200mm wide by 50mm to 90mm high. Moreover, the southernmost three of this continued beyond the eastern side of the trimming piece more or less to abut the secondary chimneystack.



Fig.185: View from the northwestern corner of the room, with a series of joists in the foreground and the staircase opening beyond – the trimming piece at its western end below the in situ floorboard but represented by the white line (0.5m scale)



Fig.186: As above, but an oblique view looking towards the northern wall. In the centre foreground is a grooved joist, which to the east forms one side of the staircase opening



Fig.187: View from the centre of the room with the western end / southwest corner of the staircase opening in the foreground, including the grooved joist on its southern side



Fig.188: View of the former staircase opening looking west, the grooved joist to the left and the trimming piece forming its western end below the 0.5m scale & in situ floorboard. Also on the right-hand side and just below the wiring that runs under the floorboard is a short length (c 300mm) of plastered face, which presumably also relates to the original opening



Fig.189: A view of the joists and trimming piece on the western side of the chimneystack – although in this area both overlain by later and narrower beams on which the floorboards rest



Fig.190: A further view of the above, looking south and with the chimneystack to the left



Fig.191: *Detailed view of the grooved trimming piece to the west of the chimneystack, adjoining a continuous beam at the left-hand (northern) edge of the frame – both overlain by later joists supporting the present floor*

9.4 Rooms F-10 to F-12 incl.

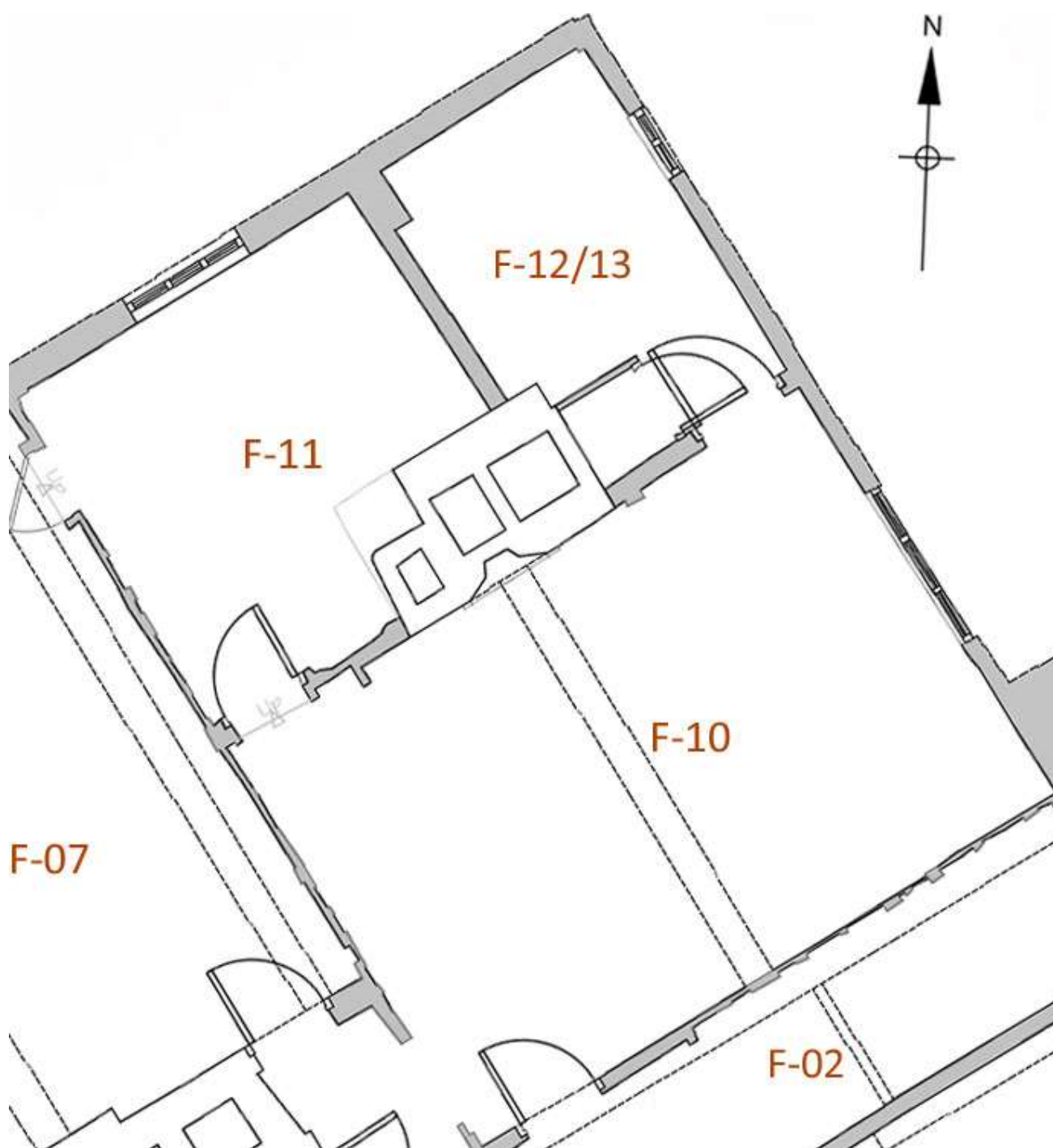


Fig.192: Plan showing the location of F-07 and adjacent rooms

9.4.1 Room F-10

A modern partition across the southern part of the room (not shown on plan) was removed in the early stages of works. Apart from that changes were limited: a shorter partition between the chimneystack and the front (east) wall was replaced and the doorway relocated, as shown in progress below (Fig.193). This partition was also

quite recent, although Gravett's plan in 1964 records the presence on this line of an 'Ancient partition recently removed' (Gravett 1966, Fig. 1).



Fig.193: *General view of works in Room F-10*

Below the window several floorboards were lifted in order to locate new services (Figs.194-95). As elsewhere this revealed that the present floor was a fairly recent reconstruction: the previous floor had been removed and narrow secondary timbers laid over the original joists.

The seven east-west joists that were examined had a quite uniform cross-section, 222mm to 240mm wide by 140mm to 148mm high: the spacing between was also fairly constant, at 312mm to 350mm. The narrow overlying timbers ranged in depth from 33mm to 71mm, increasing towards the centre of the floor and presumably laid in this fashion to correct a previous downward bow. The floorboards themselves also appeared to be fairly recent, softwood timbers *c* 217mm to 230mm wide by 20mm to 21mm thick.



Fig.194: *Detail of the floor construction, with floorboards supported on narrow and quite recent secondary timbers (0.5m scale)*



Fig.195: *As above, oblique view looking approximately east*

9.4.2 Rooms F-11 & F-12

The principal work in Rooms F-11 and F-12 involved the opening up of the existing north-south partition wall to insert a connecting doorway. The eastern room was also then subdivided to create two new spaces.

The dividing wall between F-11 and F-12 basically comprised three studs quite widely spaced between timbers on the adjacent walls, plus a horizontal timber spanning the upper central section, and three pieces of timber at ceiling level that held the studs in place|. The outer two studs in particular were quite minimally worked, with traces of bark on one side. Laths had been applied to the eastern side of the timbers and plastered on both sides, giving a continuous surface to the east but recessed between the projecting timber framework to the west. Modern development – probably that of the mid 1970s – had then seen both faces covered with plasterboard, and that to the west also partly tiled.

The wall is evidently later than the adjacent building, and probably formed the subdivision of an originally single room. The construction was quite rough, with several specific observations to support this conclusion:

- The upper horizontal timber was reused, with chamfered ends that didn't properly abut the studs, whilst the central short piece of timber between this and the ceiling appeared to be relatively modern (*cf.* Figs.200 & 210).
- Although the base of the northernmost stud was not seen the other two simply rested on underlying joists, in the case of the central stud only part supported and partly overlapping the southern edge.



Fig.196: *Lath & plaster in Room F-12, exposed by preliminary works in March 2016*



Fig.197: *The area after removal of lath and plaster wall coverings, looking from Room F-11 towards the front of the building with the chimney stack on the right*



Fig.198: *As above, looking from Room F-10 towards the northern end wall*



Fig.199: View from the northeast corner of the building, with timber framing of the original rear wall in the background – the same perspective as the earlier Fig.196 (1.0m scale)



Fig.200: *Detail of the upper part of the frame, looking approximately west from Room F-12. The structure is roughly constructed, with minimally worked or reused timber (0.2m scale)*



Fig.201: *As above but looking east from Room F-11. On this side the horizontal beam includes three mortices along its length, the tenons cut off flush with the surface*



Fig.202: A further view of Room F-12 to highlight the jowled corner post (or root-stock) at top right – a widening of the vertical timber to accommodate jointing with the tie beam (to left) and wall plate

9.4.2.1 Room F-11 flooring

A single floorboard was lifted across the western part of Room F-11. This revealed a similar reconstruction to that in F-10 (& quite possibly contemporary), with the boards set on narrow secondary timbers that had been laid over the original joists (see Figs.204 & 205 below).

The joists that were examined were however more variable in cross-section than those of F-11, with widths ranging from 190mm to 260mm and heights of 142mm to 176mm. By contrast the spacing between joists was quite constant (& similar to F-11), at 312mm to 350mm. The overlying timbers ranged in depth from c 30mm to 100mm, increasing towards the northern external wall. The floorboards themselves also ranged quite widely in width, from c 215mm to 310mm; where visible the thickness was 19mm to 21mm thick.



Fig.203: *General view of Room F-11, looking towards the northern wall*



Fig.204: Room F-11, looking towards the rear (western) wall



Fig.205: Detail of joists and overlying floor build-up, looking approx. northeast (0.5m scale)