

**FORMER METHODIST CHURCH,
381C OLD FORD ROAD, TOWER HAMLETS, LONDON, E3 2LU**

(NGR: 536902 183760)

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORD



**Commissioned by
CgMs Consulting
Report No. 2013109**

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(English Heritage Level 3)

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Site Code: OFR13

Project No. 6119

Report No. 2013109

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SUMMARY

In May 2013 Archaeology South-East (a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, UCL) carried out a programme of historic building recording of a former Methodist Church fronting the northern side of Old Ford Road. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, prior to the redevelopment of the building as residential units.

The church is not depicted on the Ordnance Survey of 1881, but does appear on the 1895 map, and documentary sources indicate that building was complete by March 1881 when the first sermon is known to have been preached.

Stylistically the building is a composite of various architectural traditions, resulting in an ornate pedimented principle façade with baroque/neoclassical elements.

At the time of recording, the redevelopment of the building had already commenced: some demolition had taken place, internal walls had been constructed and the entire building was encased in scaffolding.

CONTENTS

- Summary
- List of Contents
- List of Plates
- List of Figures
- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Scope & Methodology
- 3.0 Site Location
- 4.0 Historic Background
- 5.0 Description of the Building
 - 5.1 General
 - 5.2 South Elevation
 - 5.3 West and East Elevations
 - 5.4 North Elevation
 - 5.5 Roof
 - 5.6 Interior
 - 5.7 Adjoining Wall
- 6.0 Discussion
- 7.0 Sources Consulted
 - 7.1 Primary Sources
 - 7.2 Bibliographic
 - 7.3 Cartographic
- 8.0 Deposition of the Archive
- 9.0 Acknowledgements
- Plates
- Figures
- Appendix 1 OASIS Data Collection Form
- Appendix 2 Index of Digital Photographs

LIST OF PLATES

- Plate 1. General view of south elevation at the time of survey (29)
- Plate 2. General view of interior (2)
- Plate 3. Arcade in south elevation (22)
- Plate 4. Arches to arcade in south elevation (20)
- Plate 5. Arch over arcade in south elevation (4)
- Plate 6. Detail of decoration to arch in south elevation (11)
- Plate 7. Detail of roundel in south elevation (12)
- Plate 8. Detail of pediment decoration, south elevation (13)
- Plate 9. Window in western turret, lower level (21)
- Plate 10. Buttress at west of south elevation capped with limestone, and window of west elevation (7)
- Plate 11. Buttresses in west elevation dividing it into alternating wide and narrow panels (23)
- Plate 12. Lower part of window, upper level of west elevation (19)
- Plate 13. Blocked windows in west elevation, upper level (17)
- Plate 14. Blocked fire escape and window from interior, east elevation (34)
- Plate 15. North elevation where the stair block has been removed, sockets visible below scaffold (18)
- Plate 16. Coping to gable end of roof, south elevation (16)
- Plate 17. Timber corbels supporting roof trusses (46)
- Plate 18. Tie plate and rods securing roof truss to buttress (9)
- Plate 19. Roof trusses (41)
- Plate 20. Roof structure showing purlins notched into principle rafter (15)
- Plate 21. Interior wall of south elevation (48)
- Plate 22. Doorway between main body of the building and southwest turret (37)
- Plate 23. Adjoining wall, north end of west elevation (24)
- Plate 24. Inscription on lintel over doorway in adjoining wall (25)
- Plate 25. Photograph of south elevation, 1979. © Frank Phillips
- Plate 26. South façade, photograph taken by Ewan Munro, 2009.

LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1. Site Location
- Figure 2. Building location plan
- Figure 3. Ordnance Survey map, 1881
- Figure 4. Ordnance Survey map, 1897
- Figure 5. Ground floor plan with photograph locations
- Figure 6. First floor plan with photograph locations
- Figure 7. Roof plan with photograph locations
- Figure 8. Elevations, south and north façades
- Figure 9. Elevation, west façade
- Figure 10. Elevation, east façade
- Figure 11. Schematic diagram of a main truss
- Figure 12. Proposed redevelopment

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In May 2013 Archaeology South-East (a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, UCL) carried out a programme of historic building recording of a single building, formerly a Methodist Church, located on Old Ford Road, Tower Hamlets, London (NGR - site centre: 536902 183760; Figure 1 and Figure 2). The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, prior to the redevelopment of the building as residential units (Figure 12).
- 1.2 The London Borough of Tower Hamlets granted planning permission for the redevelopment of the site in 2010 (PA/10/00502) with an amendment in 2013 (PA/13/00120), the work being subject to a planning condition (Condition 17 of application PA/10/00502). The English Heritage Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service has stated that as part of this condition a comprehensive record of the former church should be made prior to demolition.

2.0 SCOPE & METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The scope of work and methodology for the building recording is detailed in a Written Scheme of Investigation produced for the work by Archaeology South-East, dated May 2013. The work was also carried out in accordance with the relevant IfA standards and guidance.
- 2.2 The building was recorded to English Heritage Level 3 as defined in Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice (English Heritage 2006). A Level 3 record is essentially an analytical record, though in this case the subsequent modifications to the building has limited the potential for the analysis of the building and this report is by necessity primarily a detailed descriptive record.
- 2.3 The site was visited by Amy Williamson and Guy Hopkinson on the 7th May 2013 in order to carry out the recording work. This entailed the compilation of written notes and the production of a photographic record, as well as the verification of existing measured survey drawings. The drawn record comprises floor plans and elevation drawings produced by LRM Survey Services, annotated and amended as necessary. Some errors in the plans and elevations were not immediately apparent in the field; where these were encountered during the report writing phase, a best fit correction has been made based on site photographs.
- 2.4 The photographic record was made using 35mm black and white photography, duplicated with digital photography. Within the report selected digital images have been reproduced as plates, together with a full index of the digital photography and location plots (Appendix 2 and Figure 5 to Figure 7). A full catalogue of all the photographs is included in the archive.
- 2.5 At the time of recording the building was encased in scaffolding and safety mesh, and the elevations were therefore obscured unless viewed at close proximity (Plate 1). The interior of the building had been stripped and floor

levels reduced, as well as having new build block-work walls erected at various locations (Plate 2). The rear elevation had also been partially demolished, and an extension to that façade was in the process of being constructed.

3.0 SITE LOCATION

3.1 The site, centred at NGR: 536902 183760, comprises a roughly rectangular area, and is bounded by Ruston Street to the north, 381A Old Ford Road to the east, Old Ford Road to the south, and Birtwistle House to the west. The former Methodist Church itself occupies almost all of this area, facing south onto Old Ford Road, and is aligned on a north-northwest to south-southeast axis, hereafter simplified as north to south (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

4.0 HISTORIC BACKGROUND

4.1 The Methodist movement is a group of related denominations of Protestant Christianity, deriving inspiration from its founding father, John Wesley, an 18th century evangelist and son of a Church of England rector (1703-1791). One of the main concerns of early Methodism was a focus on those who tended to be left outside the realms of organised religion such as the poor, widows, orphans and criminals, and Methodism thrived in deprived areas such as the East End of London and the old mill towns of Yorkshire and Lancashire, where Methodists stressed the equality of all classes in the eyes of God; not surprisingly an appealing concept to the local populations.

4.2 The Methodist church is governed by an over-arching body, the Connexion, and divided into districts which, like Church of England dioceses, often correspond in geographical terms to counties. These districts are further divided into 'circuits', the church at Old Ford Road falling within the Bow Circuit.

4.3 The minutes of the Trustees of Old Ford School Chapel record that their inaugural meeting was held on Monday 30th January 1871 at the Chapel premises, and that the School Chapel, erected by the Circuit Committee, was handed over to the trustees free of debt. From the cartographic evidence, however, it is not entirely clear which building this statement relates to as the 1881 Ordnance Survey does not show the building later labelled as 'Sunday School' (Figure 3). This is first depicted on the 1895 Ordnance Survey, along with the Methodist Chapel under consideration here (1895 map not illustrated, see Figure 4 for 1897 map). It is assumed that the building immediately to the west of the site was the Chapel School.

4.4 It is clear, however, that the School Chapel was in existence prior to the Methodist Chapel being built, as the minutes of a special meeting of Old Ford School Chapel, dated 12th October 1877 recount:

“The Chairman informed the meeting that he had instructed The Secretary to call the Trustees together in order to lay before them the question of the desirability of erecting a large chapel on the site at

Old Ford adjoining the present School Chapel ... to hold not less than 1000”.

- 4.5 The minutes of the first official meeting of the Trustees of The Old Ford Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, held on the 18th March 1881, gives a list of the Trustees, and also a breakdown of the rents to be charged for seating which gives some indication of the internal layout. In the centre of the chapel the first six pews were to be charged at 3/- while the remainder charged at 2/6 apart from one pew to be kept free of charge. At the right and left sides, under the gallery, six pews were to be kept free of charge while the remainder were 2/- each. Cross seats to right and left of the rostrum were 1/- per seat. No seats were to be let in the gallery, which was reserved for use during opening services, and children were to sit in the gallery above the lobby.
- 4.6 The Chapel opened a few days after that inaugural meeting, at noon on the 29th March 1881, the first sermon being preached by the Reverend Joseph Parker, D.D of The City Temple. At the time there was a deficit in the accounts of £600 which had to be recovered in order to discharge the chapel's liabilities. The minutes of a meeting held in June the same year give details of the purchase and construction costs, the site having cost £500, architects fees of £195.8s.0d, and builders etc £3868.0s.10d. With the addition of furnishings and ancillary costs etc, the final expenditure was £4757.3s.10d.
- 4.7 A pamphlet commemorating the opening service suggests that plans to construct a church may have been developing long before the special meeting mentioned above, and also eloquently conveys the sentiment behind Wesleyan Methodism:
- “The beautiful sanctuary now erected is the result of a noble effort which has been made by our own people *after twelve years' toil* in the same locality. The New Chapel will be the centre of an earnest Evangelism. *Our mission is to the people - the masses* outside the pale of Christian Churches, we seek not those who are already folded, but the lost or wandering sheep. Such will ever find a warm welcome to our ministry and fellowship”.
- 4.8 In 1883 seat rents were generating in excess of £44 per annum, and by 1891 attendance was high enough for the Circuit Committee to consent to the erection of an organ in the church at a cost of £150.
- 4.9 Attendance at the Sunday School was also on the rise, and a letter dated March 1884 highlights the need to provide more extensive school premises in connection with the Chapel at Old Ford, as several classes were by necessity being taken in the Chapel itself. At that time there were 650 names on the school register, with attendance increasing every Sunday. Proposals were made to extend the school and construct a Ladies Church Parlour, three commodious class rooms and a hall for infants, but it was not until 1895 that the stone-laying ceremony took place. In September of the same year the Reverend David Roe came to minister at Old Ford, and gave an account of the land at the rear of the building being used to extend the Sunday School.

4.10 The 1895 Ordnance Survey shows a new building, labelled 'Sunday School', to the west of the Chapel, and if this reflects the requested extension to the school facilities adds weight to the suggestion that the building to the south, fronting Old Ford Road, may have been the original school premises. The 1916 Ordnance Survey shows this new building having been extended to the east, joining the rear of the Chapel, and by the 1948 Ordnance Survey had been extended still further to occupy almost all the area between the rear of the Chapel and Ruston Street.

4.11 The Sunday School was demolished sometime before 1984 (Dicks, 2013), and eventually the Methodist Church became redundant, later being used as the offices of Old Ford Catering Equipment Limited.

5.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING

5.1 GENERAL

5.1.1 In plan the building is symmetrical along its long axis, with the exception of a stairway shown at the northwest corner on the survey drawings but no longer extant at the time of recording, and measures approximately 16.9m by 31.6m (Figure 5). It is formed of a rectangular main range with narrower projections to the front and rear, which extend approximately 4.0m from the main range. The projection to the front is flanked by quarter circle turrets rising to the height of the eaves of the main range.

5.1.2 The structure is built in Flemish bond yellow stock brick, with decorative elements highlighted in Staffordshire Blue engineering bricks and moulded panels, the latter being used extensively on the southern façade.

5.1.3 The roof is gabled to the front, and prior to the removal of the north elevation was hipped at the back. At the time of recording the roof covering had been removed, though it had previously been finished with concrete or asbestos tiles. The two turrets in the main façade are flat roofed.

5.2 SOUTH ELEVATION

5.2.1 The south elevation (Figure 8) forms the principle façade, fronting Old Ford Road, and is formed by a central gabled section projecting some 4.00m from the main body of the building, with quarter circle turrets to either side. The lower five courses of brickwork are offset, with a decorative moulded limestone capping above. This offset is apparent throughout the elevation, and wraps round the first buttress of the east and west elevations, but is not continued across the blocked portion of the arcade (see below).

5.2.2 The lower part of the central elevation comprises an arcade with three semi-circular arches spanning approximately 7.75m (Plate 3), the main entrance to the building being located in an opening beneath the easternmost arch (the door to which had been removed but is illustrated in Figure 8 and shown in Plate 25 and Plate 26). A photograph in the London Metropolitan Archives (LMA) shows that all three sections of the arcade originally had doors of the

same style (Plate 25), and quarry tiled steps (a fragment of which survived), which led into the building. The measured survey provided (dated 14th September 2012) shows two of the opening mostly blocked, with semi-circular lights within the arches. These lights are of four equal segments, divided by wooden frames and of plain glass. They currently have metal bars to the interior and grills to the exterior. At the time of recording the central section of the arcade had been unblocked. Given the existence of the archive photograph showing all three openings with similar doors, the semi-circular lights may be later additions, perhaps added at the time of blocking in order to maintain a degree of daylight to the lobby.

- 5.2.3 The openings to the arcade are framed by pilasters with slightly recessed panels in the brickwork. The pilasters rise to decorated capitals from which the arches spring. The arches themselves are formed of ashlar cut stone with decorative moulding to the front (Plate 4).
- 5.2.4 Pilasters at either side of the arcade rise above it to moulded capitals. The decoration of the capitals is continued across the recessed area between them, comprising a lower string course of moulded orange-red brick, above which is a frieze of alternating long and short recessed panels, and above that a further string course of orange-red brick with egg and dart decoration to the cornice above.
- 5.2.5 From the pilasters springs a large ornately decorated arch (Plate 5) spanning most of the upper section of the elevation, and holding a large central circular window of eight segmented lights (diameter approximately 2.70m). The glazing bars are of bevelled wood and there is no frame to the masonry. The lights are of reinforced safety glass. This window is likely a replacement as the windows to the east and west elevations are of a much more decorative form (see below). The masonry of the window is of curved ashlar cut blocks with moulding to the exterior face, surrounded by brick headers which are in turn surrounded by moulded orange-red brick. The panels formed between the arch and circular window are outlined by a band of moulded decoration.
- 5.2.6 The decoration of the arch is formed by two bands of tile. The inner band has a bevelled lower edge with a stylised floral pattern above. The outer band again has a bevelled lower edge and a circular stud pattern above. The tile bands are enclosed by a semi-circle of moulded orange-red brick (Plate 6). The entire arch is framed by a horizontal course of Staffordshire Blue engineering bricks running the full width of the gabled part of the elevation (also extending along the protruding parts of the west and east elevations) flush with the top of the arch, and vertical bands of the same engineering bricks rising from the outer edges of the arch to meet the horizontal course.
- 5.2.7 In each corner formed by the engineering brick frame is a large roundel of decorative tiles, approximately 1.40m in diameter (Plate 7). The inner section is cream coloured with the same stylised floral decoration used in the main arch. This is surrounded by a band of pinkish segments with a bevelled inner edge, flat central section and circular studs to the outer edge. The whole is

enclosed by a band of moulded orange-red brick. One of the inner segments is stamped with "Doulton Lambeth".

5.2.8 Five courses above the horizontal band of engineering bricks is an ornate string course, the top of which is level with the eaves of the gabled section. This comprises a band of slightly moulded orange-red brick, a band of modillions, a further band of moulded brick, a band of egg and dart decoration, and an upper band of moulded orange-red brick cornice (Plate 8). Matching decoration to the gable verges forms a pediment to the gable end, the tympanum of which is plain apart from a band of moulded orange-red brick following the pitch of the roof, and a central inscribed stone plaque. The inscription is undecipherable, having been filled with mortar. The gable is capped with slabs of artificial stone coping and the ends decorated with 'scallop' shaped castings, with a similar cast finial existing at the apex.

5.2.9 The quarter circle turrets flanking the pedimented façade each hold two windows, one above the other, separated by a continuation of the decorative moulded orange-red brick banding on the pedestal capitals of the central façade. This wraps around the turrets and the first buttress on either side of the south elevation. The windows are tall and narrow (approximately 1.80 by 0.80m) with semi-circular arches formed by two courses of on-edge headers (Plate 9). String courses of moulded orange-red brick extend around the turrets at the level from which the window arches spring, and the same moulded bricks have been used to surround the arches. The sills are chamfered and of orange-red brick. At the time of recording the upper windows had been removed, as had that in the lower opening on the eastern turret. The lower western window, however, partially survived. Within the arch, and extending four courses below it, the window opening is shuttered with sheet metal, below which a single light remained formed of white frosted glass diamond segments and green frosted glass circles with lead muntins. The lower part of the window does not survive.

5.2.10 At the upper level each turret has a string course of moulded orange-red brick, and two courses above that another band of moulded orange-red brick to the flat roof. These two bands continue across the walls and buttresses that form the remainder of the south elevation.

5.2.11 The verges of the gable to the main range of the building are decorated in a similar (though slightly less ornate) fashion to those of the pediment, also with a coping of artificial stone, the ends being decorated with the same 'scallop' shaped casting.

5.2.12 The two buttresses forming the edges of this elevation are capped with chamfered limestone blocks (Plate 10).

5.3 WEST AND EAST ELEVATIONS

5.3.1 The west and east elevations are of similar design, and therefore dealt with together. Only the upper level of the east elevation was accessible at the time of recording.

- 5.3.2 The central section of both west and east elevations are divided into alternating long and short panels by a series of paired brick buttresses which rise to eaves level, with four wide and three short panels in each elevation (Figure 9, Figure 10 and Plate 11).
- 5.3.3 Within the panels a string course of moulded orange-red brick separates the upper and lower levels at first floor height, the walls above this being stepped in. A further string course of moulded orange-red brick runs level with, and wraps round, the top of the buttresses (Plate 10). The majority of the buttresses are capped with mortar immediately above this, apart from those at the southern end of both elevations where the brickwork stops seven courses below the string course, the remaining height being attained by a limestone block capping as mentioned above. The buttresses at the north and south ends of both elevations are decorated by string courses continued from the north and south elevations respectively, and are stepped in at the lower string course. The remaining buttresses rise vertically and without decoration. Above the buttresses are two courses of yellow brick, then two courses of decorative orange-red brickwork to the eaves.
- 5.3.4 At the lower level each wide panel originally held two tall narrow window openings (approximately 1.85 by 0.75m) with semi-circular arches above formed by two courses of on edge headers (Plate 11). None of the windows survive, and prior to any redevelopment the two openings at the northern end of the west elevation had been knocked through and a lintel inserted below the arches. At the time of recording the openings in the west elevation had all been extended to ground level and additional openings made in some of the narrow panels, which were originally without any openings at the lower or upper level.
- 5.3.5 At the upper level each of the wide panels holds a single arched opening containing a large, almost full width window, semi-circular at the top and squared at the bottom (Plate 10 and Plate 12). The sills of these openings are of chamfered brick, the arches above of three courses of on edge headers. The windows themselves are fairly ornate, the main body being formed by two concentric circles, the outer circle divided by iron radial glazing bars into eight equal segments. The inner portion is further sub-divided by curved glazing bars which span the inner ends of alternate radial glazing bars, creating a central octagonal area with concave edges. This central portion is hinged laterally to create a cantilevered opening. The central octagonal section is decorated by a floral motif in green and white stained glass with a web-like surround, which is continued in less detail to the edge of the inner circle and bordered by a ring of small circles in green glass. The outer circle is divided into radial segments with rounded ends (seven segments between each radial glazing bar). The lower corners of each window hold circular panels, each with a central circle of white glass and smaller circles of green glass at each cardinal point.
- 5.3.6 The northern end of both elevations was previously formed by a projecting section of the building, with a block containing the staircase in the northwest

junction of that and the main body of the building. At the time of survey, however, the entire staircase block and much of the projecting section had been removed, and a new extension to the rear partially constructed, leaving only the western wall of the projecting section extant. The remaining visible western elevation held three blocked windows at first floor level, situated directly above a string course of moulded orange-red brick which also ran round the north elevation (Plate 13). A further string course ran directly above the blocked windows, with a single course of artificial stone blocks immediately above. Both of these previously extended into the north elevation. Images on Google Street View (15/05/2013) show an apparent roof scar on the northern end of the east elevation, presumably associated with the previously adjoining Sunday School building.

5.3.7 Much of the east elevation (Figure 10) was inaccessible, but in general is assumed to have been a mirror image of the western elevation, one of the few differences being the insertion of a (subsequently blocked) fire escape at first floor level (Plate 14).

5.4 NORTH ELEVATION

5.4.1 Little of the north elevation survived at the time of survey, the projecting section having been almost completely demolished, and the remaining eastern end being inaccessible. The drawings provided show the central projecting section having two narrow buttresses, one at either side, with a wider central buttress (Figure 8). Six blocked windows are apparent at the same level as the blocked windows in the west and east elevations with the same string courses above and below. The lower part of the elevation was rendered, presumably where the Sunday School adjoined. Where the stair block had been removed, sockets were visible to support the roof joists (Plate 15).

5.5 ROOF

5.5.1 The roof of the building is gabled at the south elevation, both over the main range and over the projecting section which is pedimented, while at the north elevation it is gabled to the main range body but hipped over the projecting section. The gable ends at the southern elevation have artificial stone coping (Figure 7, Plate 16).

5.5.2 The roof is supported internally by princess post trusses resting on timber corbels that project from the brickwork (Plate 17, Figure 11), and also tied into the external buttresses (Plate 18). The tie beam gives rise to square sectioned queen posts with moulded base and cap, which support a square sectioned collar part way along their height, slightly lower than the principle rafter (Plate 19). The collar in turn supports a king post extending to the apex of the roof and supporting the ridge board, with raking struts to either side. The tie beam also supports princess posts located towards the edge of the roof, rising to the principle rafter with raking struts to the outer edge. The queen posts also support decorative beams running along the same axis as the roof, pierced with quatrefoil and circular ornamentation. The queen and king posts are attached to the tie beam and collar respectively with stirrup

straps, and each principle rafter has four in-pitch purlins riding over the back, notched in and supported by cleats (Plate 20).

5.5.3 The end truss to the northern elevation, at the junction of the main range of the building and the projecting section, is slightly different. In this case the tie beam is at the same level as the collars of the other trusses, and rests on brick corbels projecting from the side walls (Plate 20). Ornate pendants hang from the tie beam at the point where the queen posts descend from the collars of the main trusses. A similar king post rises from the centre of the tie beam to the ridge board, again with raking struts to either side, but here the principle rafters only support the two uppermost purlins on either side.

5.6 INTERIOR

5.6.1 At the time of recording the interior had been completely stripped and the floors lowered, either during the current refurbishment or when the building changed use from a church to premises for Old Ford Catering Equipment Limited. The existing survey plans do provide some information on the interior layout but these also contain the layout of the later phase of use of the building. The only fact that can be stated regarding the interior is that the internal walls were plastered apart from those to the south elevation, the internal walls of both the turrets and the pedimented façade of the south elevation apparently having been painted exposed brickwork (Plate 21).

5.6.2 The turrets appear to have been largely decorative in nature, and while they may at one time have acted as stair turrets, there was no physical evidence to suggest this, and the vertical positioning of the windows suggests they contained two storeys rather than stairs. At the lower level they seem to have therefore formed small storage or utility areas. At the upper level it would appear that they provided access between the side galleries and that above the lobby, with doorways to both the upper level of the lobby and the main body of the building (Plate 22).

5.6.3 To the rear of the building, though not extant at the time of survey, the lower level of the northern projection was divided into two small rooms with a doorway between, each room having a corner fireplace presumably with a shared stack (Figure 5). These were probably used as a combination of office space and vestry. The survey drawings show this as an open area at the upper level, but give little indication as to how the room might have been used. The stair block in the northwest corner, would have given access to this area and also to the galleries.

5.7 ADJOINING WALL

5.7.1 A short section (approximately 5.30m in length) of wall survives adjoining the west elevation at its northern end (Plate 23). This contains a single partially blocked doorway at the east with chamfered jambs, which has a stone or concrete lintel; this, however, has been painted, and the material could not be ascertained. Due to having been painted an inscription on the lintel was difficult to decipher, but contains the words "The ... The Social And Religious

... David Roe ... October 29th 1895" (Plate 24). A second opening to the west holds a blocked window, facing south, with headers on edge above and a tile sill below. Between the window and door a buttress has been chopped away at its lower level, probably during the construction of a later abutting structure of which only a plinth at the lower level now survives.

6.0 DISCUSSION

- 6.1 The building appears to be of one phase of construction, and although the stair block at the north-western corner spoils its symmetry and could be a later addition, the fact that the surviving brickwork appeared to be keyed into the main body of the building and the sockets for roof joists seemed integral suggest that it is contemporary with the main build. Unfortunately the cartographic evidence is not of sufficient detail to shed any light on the matter.
- 6.2 Given that the interior had been completely stripped prior to recording little can be said regarding its layout or use, though the historic evidence clearly indicates that the main building was open at both levels with a gallery at the upper storey extending around at least three sides.
- 6.3 The adjoining wall at the northern end of the west elevation would appear to relate to the extension of the Sunday School in 1895, the name 'David Roe' and date 1895 on the door lintel inscription presumably commemorating its foundation and corresponding with the historical reference to a Reverend David Roe ministering at the church that year (see 4.9).

7.0 SOURCES CONSULTED

7.1 PRIMARY SOURCES

Covenant by 10 people to pay £37.10 each twice a year to the Chapel Building Fund until 1 Apr 1892. LMA, ACC/1850/219

Bill of costs and receipt. LMA, ACC1850/220

Minute book of meetings of Trustees. LMA, ACC/1850/243

Directions for appointment of new trustees: Old Ford Chapel. LMA, ACC/1850/221

Memorandum concerning the appointment of too many trustees at Bow. LMA, ACC/1850/222

Photograph, south façade, 1979. © Frank Phillips. LMA 80/35/788/34

Munro, E. *Photograph of south façade, taken 14/03/2009.*
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/55935853@N00/3354277714/>

7.2 BIBLIOGRAPHIC

Dicks, S. 2013. *Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: 381C Old Ford Road*. CgMs Consulting, SD/14779

7.3 CARTOGRAPHIC

1881 Ordnance Survey 1:1,056 scale map

1895 Ordnance Survey 1:1,056 scale map

1897 Ordnance Survey 1:1,056 scale map

1916 Ordnance Survey 1:1,056 scale map

1948 Ordnance Survey 1:2,500 scale map

8.0 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

A full archive has been prepared in accordance with the principals of English Heritage's Management of Archaeological Projects (1991) for deposition with the Bancroft Library. The archive has been assigned the site code OFR13, and comprises a hard copy of the full report, a pdf version of the report on CD, the full photographic record with registers, field notes and drawings.

9.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology South-East would like to thank Sally Dicks of CgMs Consulting for commissioning this Historic Buildings Record.



Plate 1. General view of south elevation at the time of survey (29)



Plate 2. General view of interior (2)



Plate 3. Arcade in south elevation (22)



Plate 4. Arches to arcade in south elevation (20)



Plate 5. Arch over arcade in south elevation (4)



Plate 6. Detail of decoration to arch in south elevation (11)



Plate 7. Detail of roundel in south elevation (12)



Plate 8. Detail of pediment decoration, south elevation (13)



Plate 9. Window in western turret, lower level (21)



Plate 10. Buttress at west of south elevation capped with limestone, and window of west elevation (7)



Plate 11. Buttresses in west elevation dividing it into alternating wide and narrow panels (23)



Plate 12. Lower part of window, upper level of west elevation (19)



Plate 13. Blocked windows in west elevation, upper level (17)



Plate 14. Blocked fire escape and window from interior, east elevation (34)



Plate 15. North elevation where the stair block has been removed, sockets visible below scaffold (18)



Plate 16. Coping to gable end of roof, south elevation (16)



Plate 17. Timber corbels supporting roof trusses (46)



Plate 18. Tie plate and rods securing roof truss to buttress (9)



Plate 19. Roof trusses (41)



Plate 20. Roof structure showing purlins notched into principle rafter (15)



Plate 21. Interior wall of south elevation (48)



Plate 22. Doorway between main body of the building and southwest turret (37)



Plate 23. Adjoining wall, north end of west elevation (24)



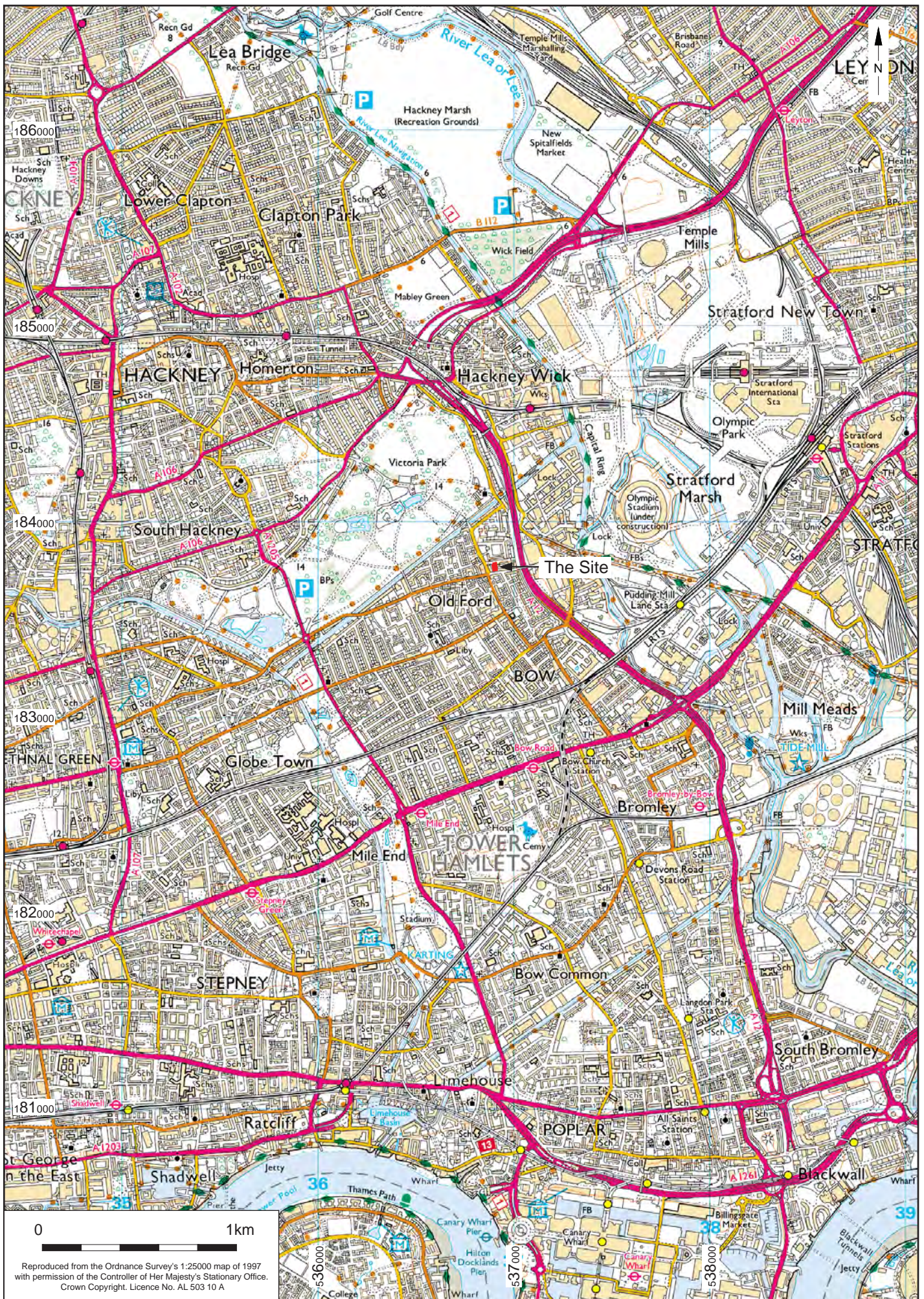
Plate 24. Inscription on lintel over doorway in adjoining wall (25)



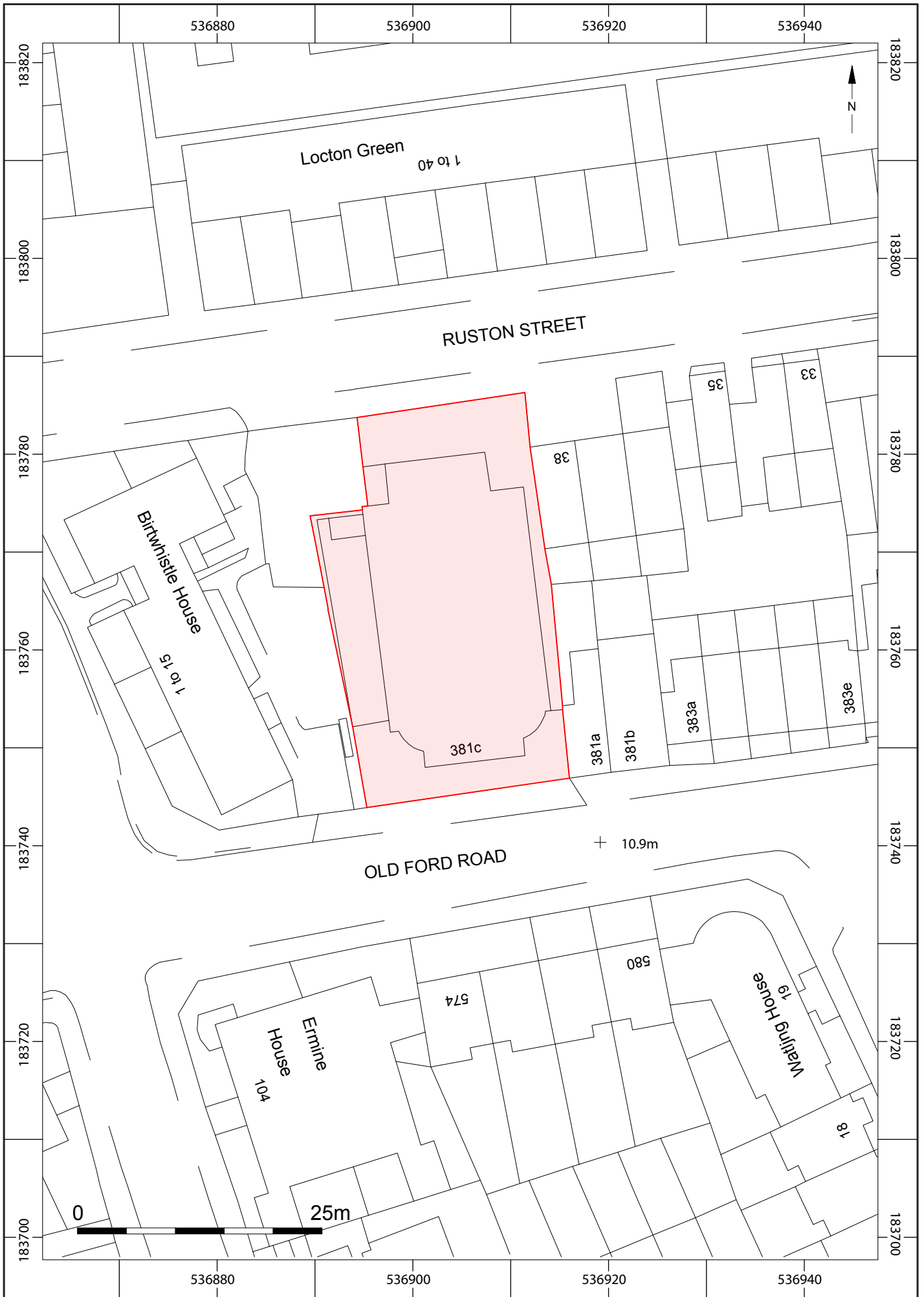
Plate 25. Photograph of south elevation, 1979. © Frank Phillips



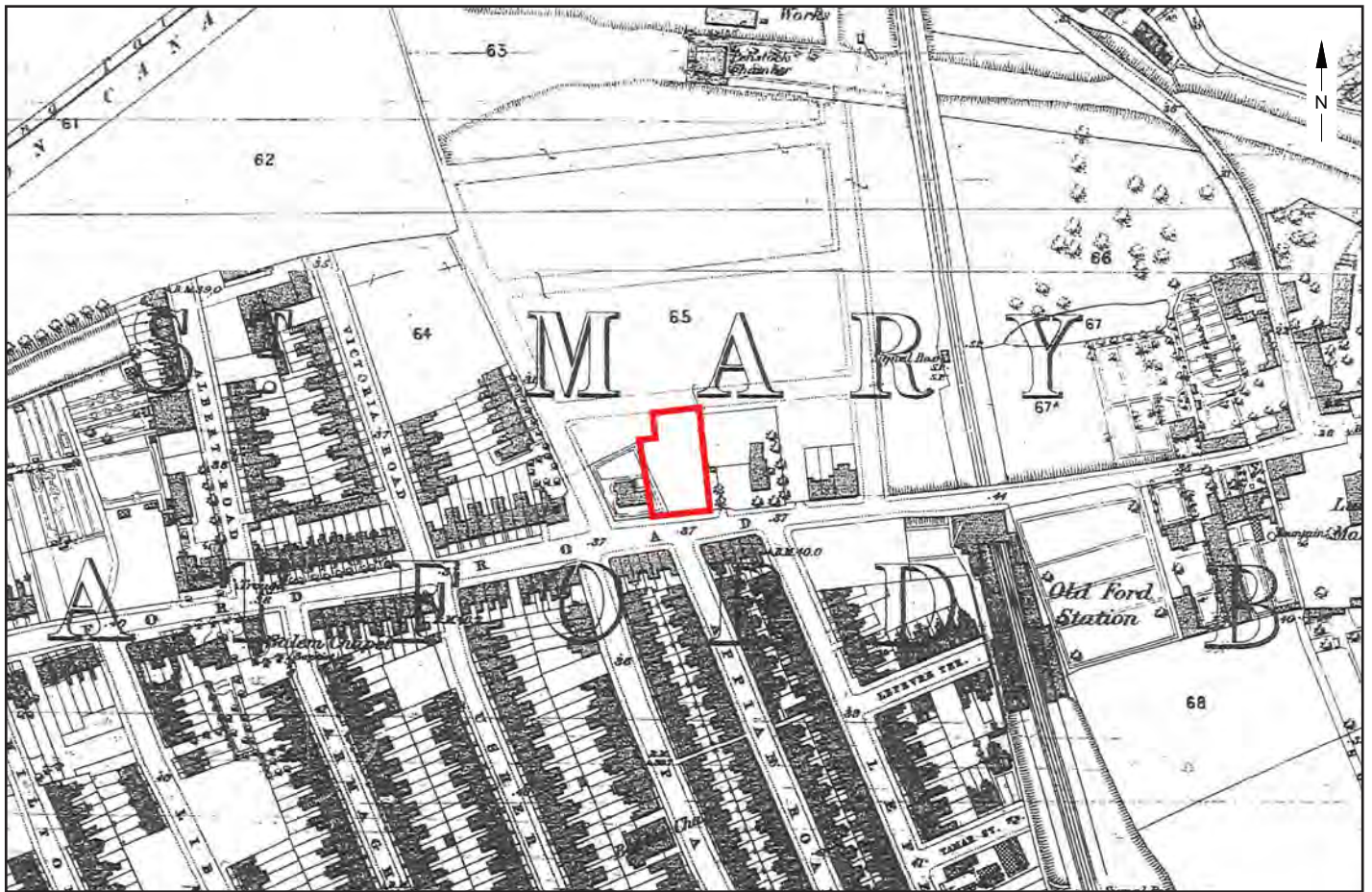
Plate 26. South façade, photograph taken by Ewan Munro, 2009. Reproduced with permission



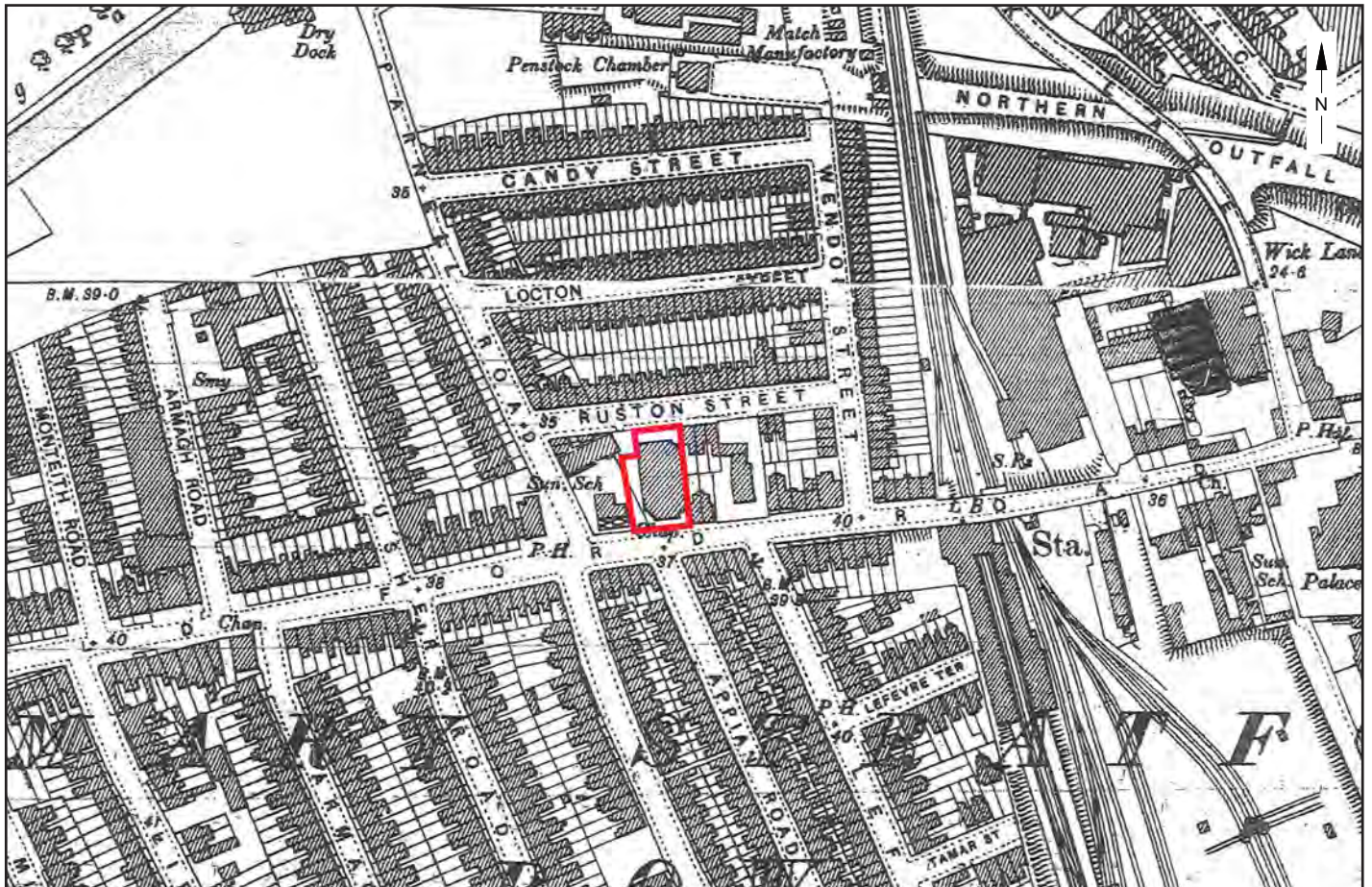
© Archaeology South-East		Former Methodist Church, 381C Old Ford Road, Tower Hamlets		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6119	May 2013	Site Location		
Report Ref: 2013109	Drawn by: GH			



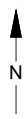
© Archaeology South-East		Former Methodist Church, 381C Old Ford Road, Tower Hamlets		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6119	May 2013	Building Location		
Report Ref: 2013109	Drawn by: GH			



© Archaeology South-East		Former Methodist Church, 381C Old Ford Road, Tower Hamlets	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 6119	May 2013	1881 Ordnance Survey	
Report Ref: 2013109	Drawn by: GH		



© Archaeology South-East		Former Methodist Church, 381C Old Ford Road, Tower Hamlets	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 6119	May 2013	1897 Ordnance Survey	
Report Ref: 2013109	Drawn by: GH		



30
1/30

26
1/26

25
1/25

27
1/27

23
1/23

24
1/24

47
2/12

31
1/31

32
1/32

33
1/33

48
2/13

21
1/21

20
1/20

29
1/29

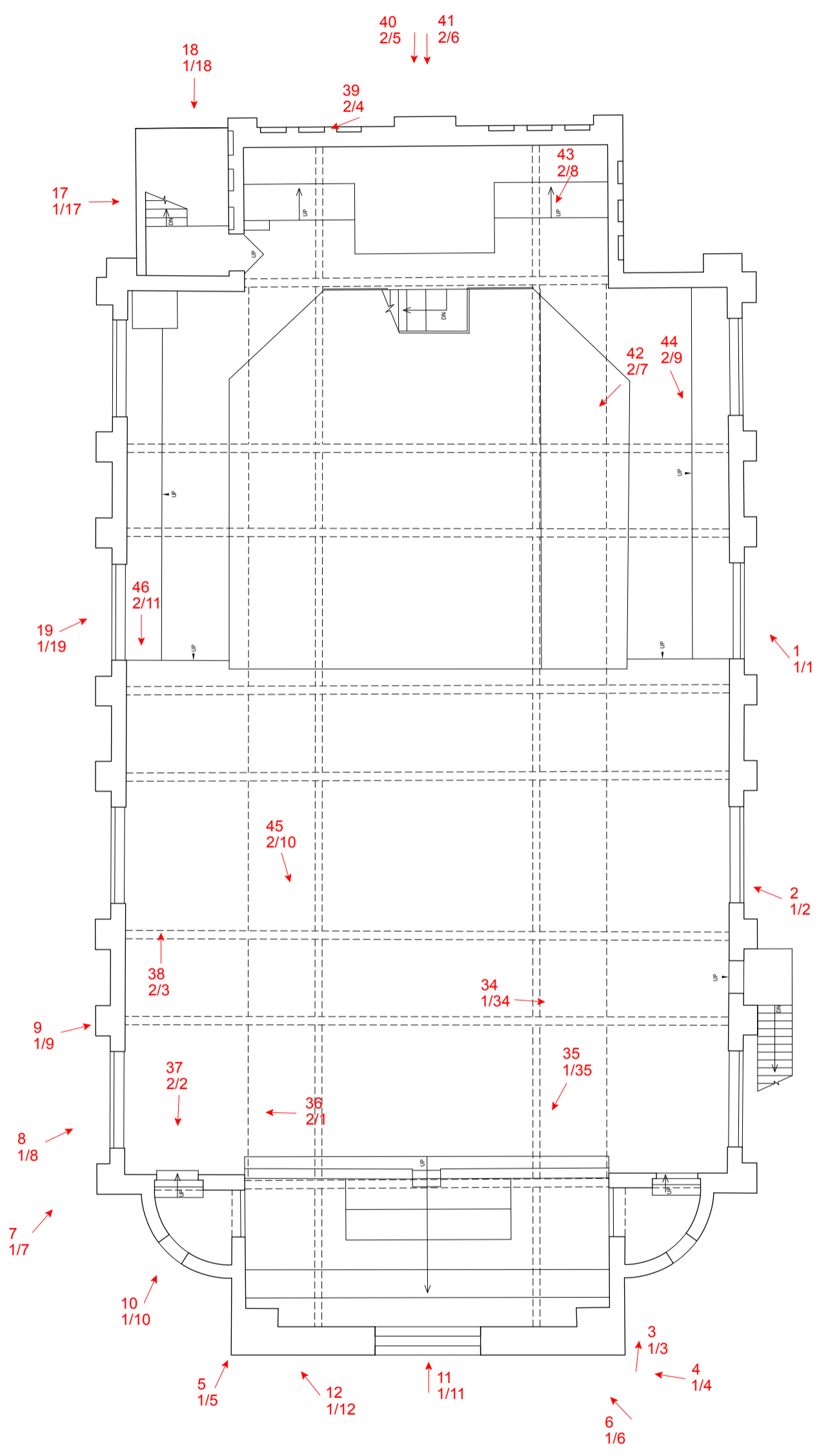
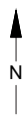
28
1/28

22
1/22

0 5m

Key to photographic locations
↗ Direction of shot
1 Digital photograph no.
1/2 35mm black and white film/frame no.

© Archaeology South-East		Former Methodist Church, 381C Old Ford Road, Tower Hamlets		Fig. 5
Project Ref: 6119	May 2013	Ground Floor plan and photograph locations		
Report Ref: 2013109	Drawn by: GH			



Key to photographic locations
↗ Direction of shot
1 Digital photograph no.
1/2 35mm black and white film/frame no.

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Project Ref: 6119	May 2013	First Floor plan and photograph locations	
Report Ref: 2013109	Drawn by: GH		

Fig. 6



15
1/15

14
1/14

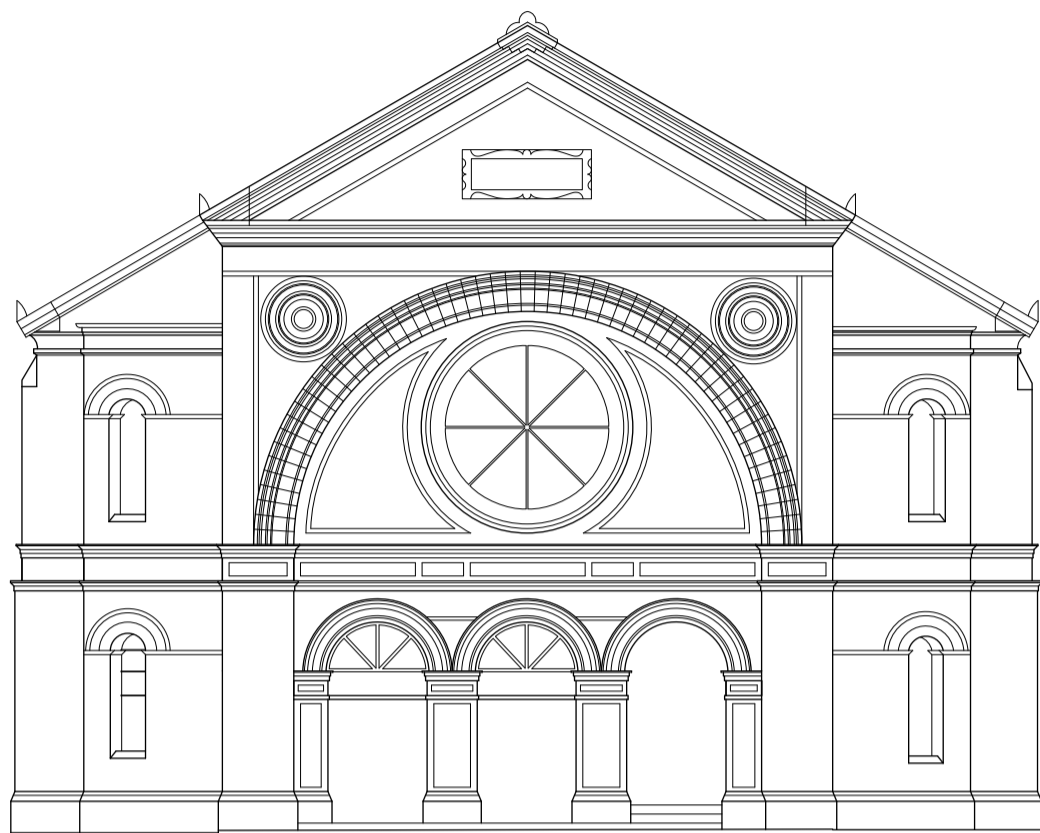
16
1/16

13
1/13

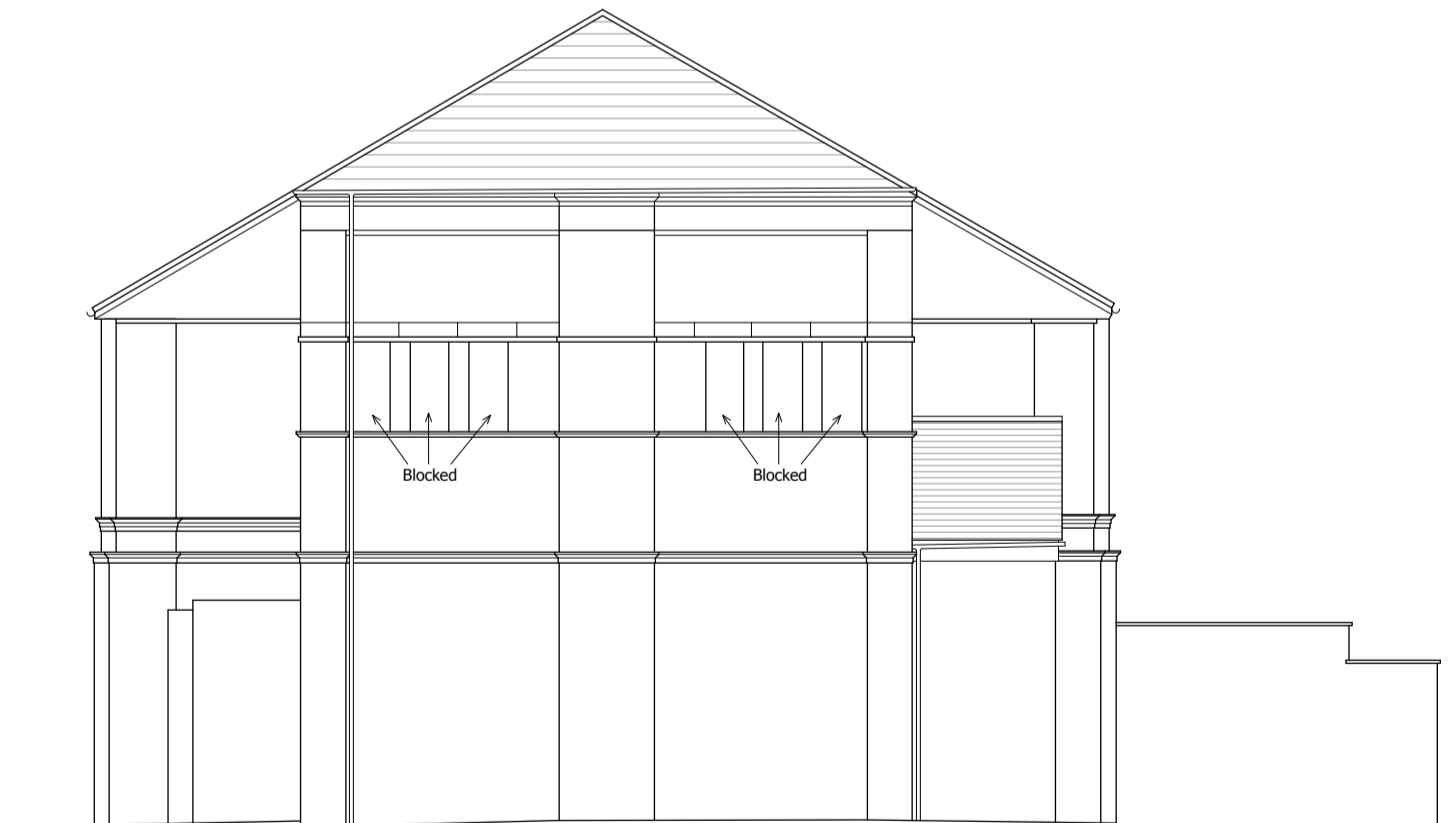
49
2/14

0 5m

Key to photographic locations
↗ Direction of shot
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1/2 35mm black and white film/frame no.

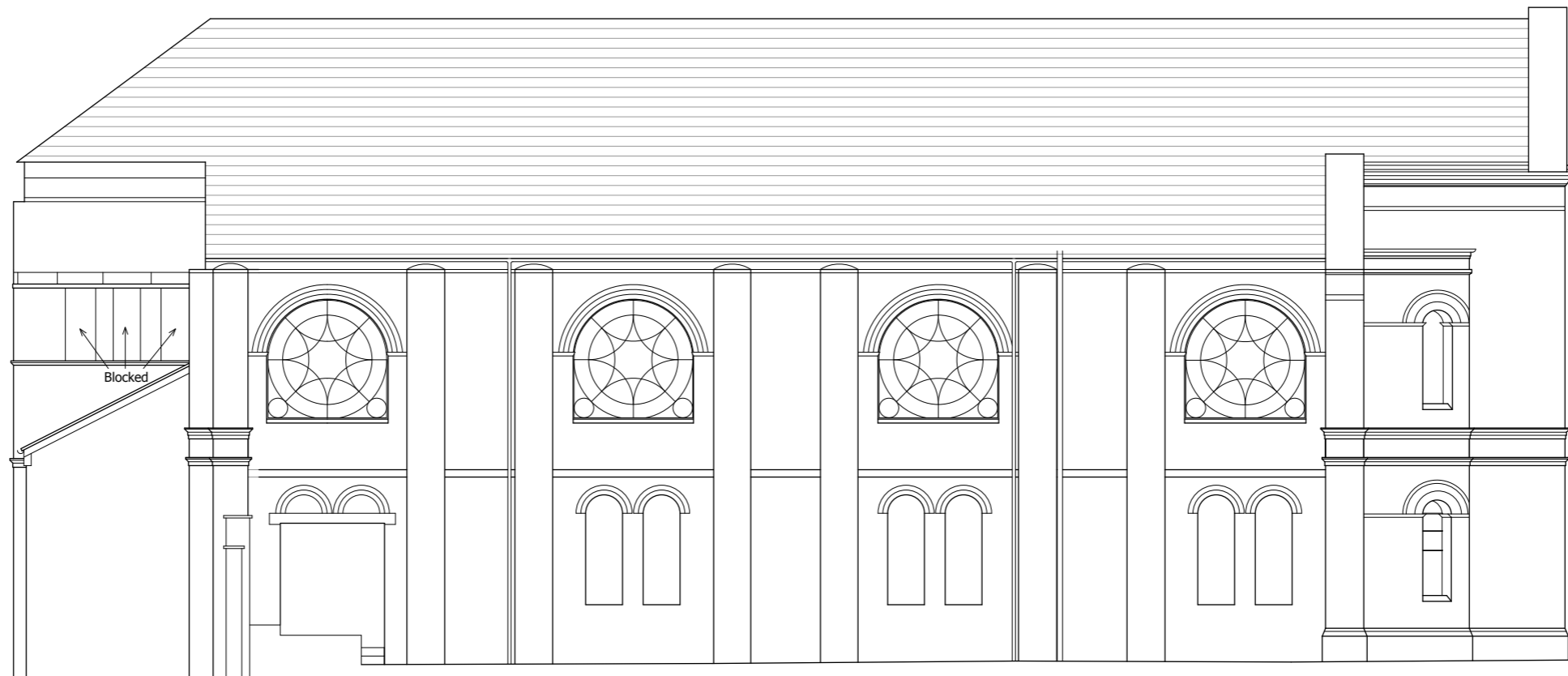


South Elevation

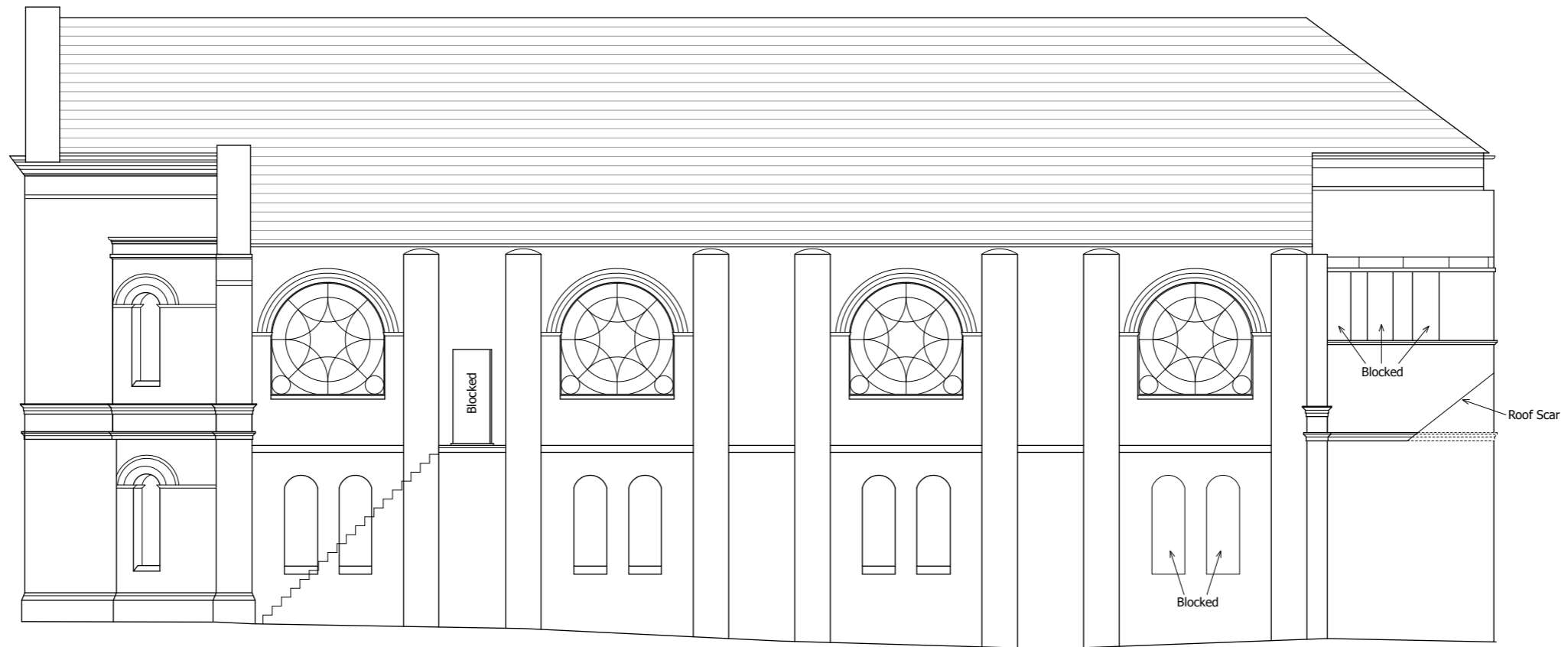


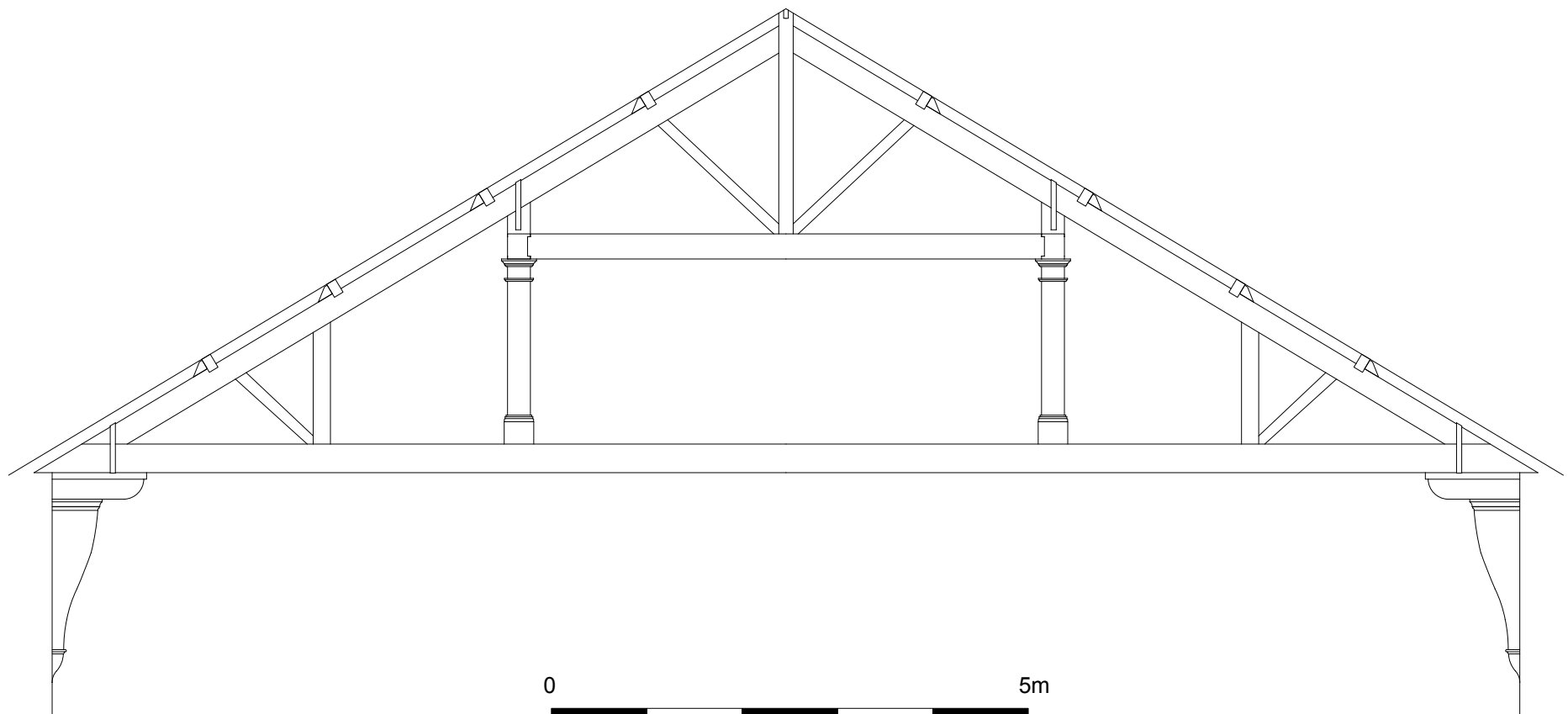
North Elevation

0 5m

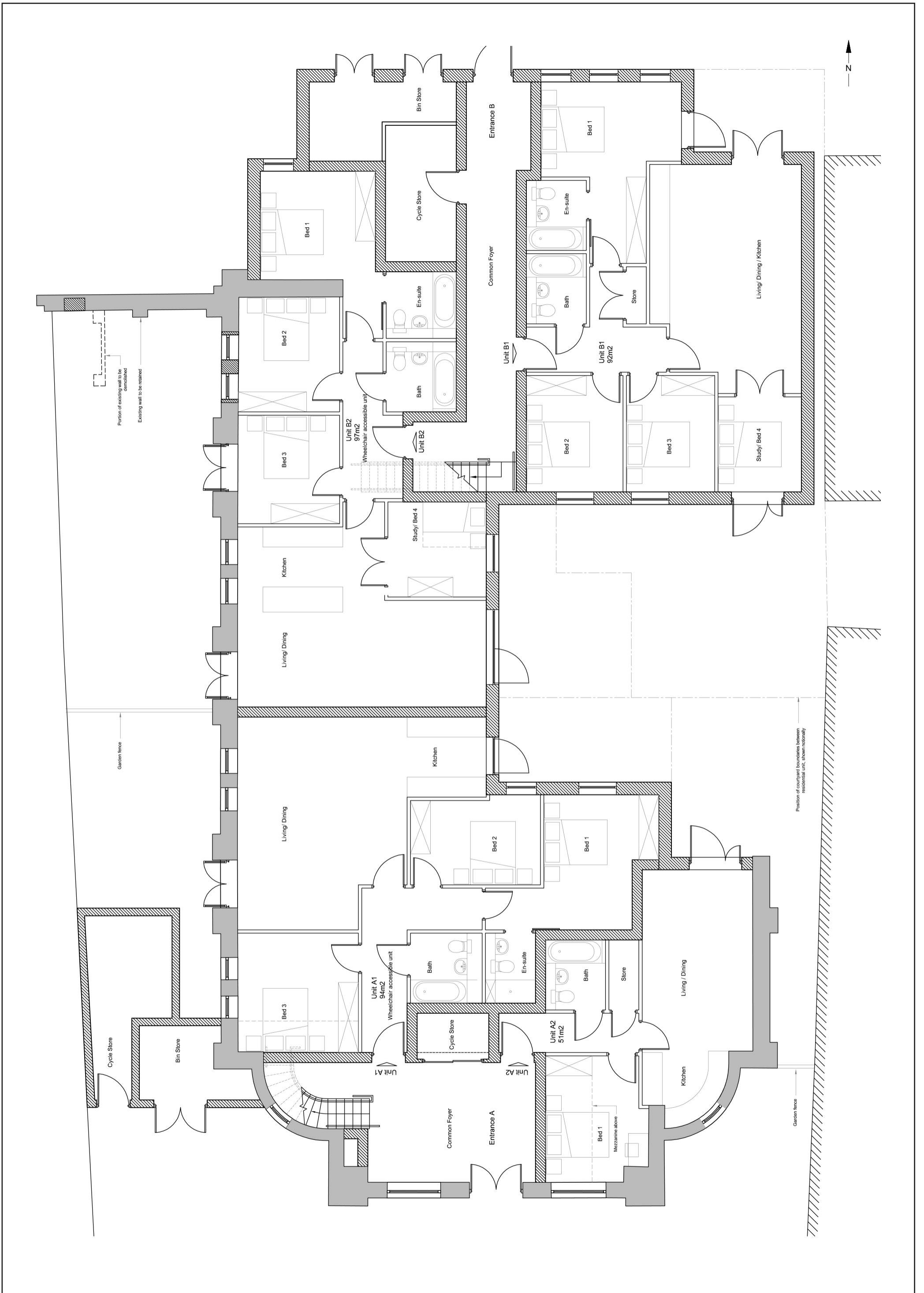


0 5m





© Archaeology South-East		Former Methodist Church, 381C Old Ford Road, Tower Hamlets	Fig. 11
Project Ref: 6119	May 2013	Schematic diagram of princess post roof truss	
Report Ref: 2013109	Drawn by: GH		



APPENDIX 1. OASIS DATA COLLECTION SHEET

OASIS ID: [archaeol6-150910](#)

Project details

Project name	Former Methodist Church, 381C Old Ford Road, Tower Hamlets, London E3 2LU: Historic Building Record
Short description of the project	In May 2013 Archaeology South-East (a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, UCL) carried out a programme of historic building recording of a former Methodist Church fronting the northern side of Old Ford Road. The work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting, prior to the redevelopment of the building as residential units. The church is not depicted on the Ordnance Survey of 1881, but does appear on the 1895 map, and documentary sources indicate that building was complete by March 1881 when the first sermon is known to have been preached. Stylistically the building is a composite of various architectural traditions, resulting in an ornate principle façade. At the time of recording redevelopment of the building had already commenced: some demolition had taken place, internal walls constructed, and the entire building was encased in scaffolding.
Project dates	Start: 07-05-2013 End: 07-05-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	OFR13 - Sitecode
Type of project	Building Recording
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 2 - In use as a building
Monument type	CHURCH Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	""Annotated Sketch"",""Photographic Survey"",""Survey/Recording Of Fabric/Structure""
Prompt	Planning Condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER LONDON TOWER HAMLETS BOW Former Methodist Church, Old Ford Road
Postcode	3 2LU
Study area	485.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 36902 83760 51 0 51 32 08 N 000 01 33 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
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Project brief originator CgMs Consulting
Project design originator CgMs Consulting
Project director/manager Ron Humphrey
Project supervisor Amy Williamson

Type of sponsor/funding body Consultant

Name of sponsor/funding body CgMs Consulting

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Bancroft Library

Digital Archive ID OFR13

Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient Bancroft Library

Paper Archive ID OFR13

Paper Media available "Notebook - Excavation", " Research", " General Notes", "Photograph", "Report"

Project bibliography

1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title Former Methodist Church, 381C Old Ford Road, Tower Hamlets, London E3 2LU

Author(s)/Editor(s) Hopkinson, G.

Other bibliographic details 2013109

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Place of issue or publication Portslade, Brighton

Entered by Guy Hopkinson (m.hopkinson@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on 17 May 2013

APPENDIX 2. INDEX OF DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS



6119-01 (1/1)
East elevation, central cantilevered opening in large window. Facing northwest



6119-02 (1/2)
Interior, general view. Facing northwest



6119-03 (1/3)
South elevation, stair turret at upper level. Facing north



6119-04 (1/4)
South elevation, decorated arch above arcade. Facing west-northwest



6119-05 (1/5)
South elevation, detail of moulded decoration below main arch. Facing north-northeast



6119-06 (1/6)
South elevation, decorated arch above arcade and roundel. Facing northwest



6119-07 (1/7)
West elevation, large window and buttresses. Facing northeast



6119-08 (1/8)
West elevation, large window. Facing northeast



6119-09 (1/9)
West elevation, truss tie set within buttress. Facing east-northeast



6119-10 (1/10)
South elevation, window, upper level of stair turret. Facing north-northeast



6119-11 (1/11)
South elevation, detail of decorative arch over arcade. Facing north



6119-12 (1/12)
South elevation, roundel. Facing northwest



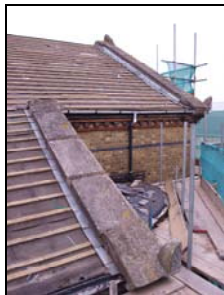
6119-13 (1/13)
South elevation, detail of gable end. Facing northeast



6119-14 (1/14)
Roof, general view. Facing southeast



6119-15 (1/15)
Roof, structure visible where east elevation has been removed. Facing southeast



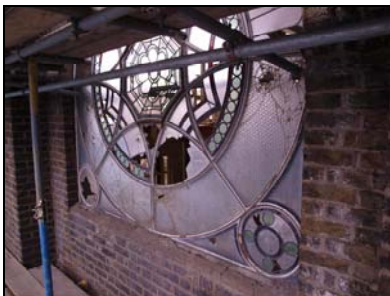
6119-16 (1/16)
Roof, coping to gable end. Facing southeast



6119-17 (1/17)
West elevation, blocked windows at upper level. Facing east



6119-18 (1/18)
North elevation, after removal of part of the east end. Facing south



6119-19 (1/19)
West elevation, large window. Facing north-northeast



6119-20 (1/20)
South elevation, arcade. Facing east-northeast



6119-21 (1/21)
South elevation, window in stair turret, lower level. Facing north-northeast



6119-22 (1/22)
South elevation, general view. Facing northwest



6119-23 (1/23)
West elevation, general view. Facing south-southeast



6119-24 (1/24)
Wall at north end of building. Facing north



6119-25 (1/25)
Wall at north end of building, inscription. Facing north



6119-26 (1/26)
Wall at north end of building, inscription. Facing northeast



6119-27 (1/27)
Wall at north end of building, inscription. Facing northwest



6119-28 (1/28)
South elevation, general view. Facing north



6119-29 (1/29)
South elevation, general view. Facing east-northeast



6119-30 (1/30)
North and west elevations, general view. Facing southeast



6119-31 (1/31)
Interior, north end of building, only the section of brickwork to the left of workman is original. Facing northeast



6119-32 (1/32)
Interior, general view. Facing east-southeast



6119-33 (1/33)
Interior, east elevation showing blocked windows. Facing east-southeast



6119-34 (1/34)
Interior, east elevation showing blocked windows. Facing east



6119-35 (1/35)
Interior, south elevation showing central window. Facing southwest



6119-36 (2/1)
Interior, large window in west elevation. Facing west



6119-37 (2/2)
Interior, doorway in south elevation to stair turret. Facing south



6119-38 (2/3)
Interior, general view showing jowled posts supporting roof trusses. Facing north



6119-39 (2/4)
Interior, blocked windows in west elevation. Facing west-southwest



6119-40 (2/5)
Roof, view of trusses. Facing south



6119-41 (2/6)
Roof, view of trusses. Facing south



6119-42 (2/7)
Roof, view of trusses. Facing southwest



6119-43 (2/8)
Roof, view of trusses. Facing south-southwest



6119-44 (2/9)
Roof, view of trusses. Facing south-southeast



6119-45 (2/10)
Roof, view of trusses. Facing south-southeast



6119-46 (2/11)
Roof, jowled posts and 'corbels' supporting trusses. Facing south



6119-47 (2/12)
Interior, general view. Facing south



6119-48 (2/13)
Interior, doorway in south elevation. Facing south-southeast



6119-49 (2/14)
South elevation, detail of gable showing inscribed plaque. Facing northwest

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