

BIRCHWOOD METHODIST CHURCH, BIRCHWOOD  
AVENUE, HATFIELD, HERTFORDSHIRE

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

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NGR: TL 2230 0937		Report No. 4327
District: Welwyn Hatfield		Site Code: n/a
Approved: C. Halpin MIfA		Project No. 5139
Signed:		Date: 6 June 2013

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## **CONTENTS**

### **OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

#### **SUMMARY**

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**
- 3 METHODOLOGY**
- 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORIC BACKGROUND**
- 5 THE BUILDINGS**
- 6 DISCUSSION**

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Appendix 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA**
- Appendix 2 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES**
- Appendix 3 PARISH OF HATFIELD TITHE AWARD, 1839**
- Appendix 4 HER SUMAMRY SHEET**
- Appendix 5 HBR ARCHIVE FORM**

#### **PLATES**

#### **PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX**

#### **FIGURES**

<b>OASIS SUMMARY SHEET</b>			
Project name	<i>Birchwood Methodist Church, Birchwood Ave, Hatfield, Herts.</i>		
<i>Summary</i>			
<p>In May 2013, AS Ltd carried out historic building recording at Birchwood Methodist Church in Hatfield. The recording was carried out in order to fulfil a planning condition attached to planning approval for the proposed demolition of the existing church and the erection of five three-bedroom dwellings.</p> <p>The main church was constructed in 1936 following residential development in the area. The church is a modest building although slight architectural detail has been included, typical of a 1930s date. The range has been comprehensively modernised and only one or two original elements survive such as the fine parquet flooring.</p> <p>A second phase of work was carried out in the 1950s which saw the construction of a second hall to provide for teaching and other activities. This range was constructed in sympathetic style to the original church using similar brick and utilising other motifs such as the tiled kneelers to support the eaves. This range retains most of the original fixtures and fittings.</p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	<i>22<sup>rd</sup> May 2013</i>		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>	Future work (Y/N/?)	<i>N</i>
P. number	<i>5139</i>	Site code	<i>n/a</i>
Type of project	<i>Historic building appraisal</i>		
Site status	<i>-</i>		
Current land use	<i>Former Methodist church and associated hall, now empty</i>		
Planned development	<i>Demolition of the existing church and erection of 5 three bedroom dwellings</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>1930s church</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>-</i>		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>Welwyn Hatfield</i>	<i>Hatfield</i>
HER for area	<i>Hertfordshire HER (request No. 38/13)</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>-</i>		
Area of site	<i>c. 1,500m<sup>2</sup></i>		
NGR	<i>TL 2230 0937</i>		
Height AOD (max)	<i>c. 76m AOD</i>		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	<i>-</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Tansy Collins</i>		
Funded by	<i>Woodbar Building &amp; Refurbishment Contractors</i>		
Full title	<i>Birchwood Methodist Church, Birchwood Ave, Hatfield, Herts. Historic building recording.</i>		
Authors	<i>Collins, T. Higgs, K.</i>		
Report no.	<i>4327</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>June 2013</i>		

# BIRCHWOOD METHODIST CHURCH, BIRCHWOOD, AVENUE, HATFIELD, HERTFORDSHIRE

## HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

### **SUMMARY**

*In May 2013 AS Ltd carried out historic building recording at Birchwood Methodist Church in Hatfield. The recording was carried out in order to fulfil a planning condition attached to planning approval for the proposed demolition of the existing church and the erection of five three-bedroom dwellings.*

*The main church was constructed in 1936 following residential development in the area. The church is a modest building although slight architectural detail has been included, typical of a 1930s date. The range has been comprehensively modernised and only one or two original elements survive such as the fine parquet flooring.*

*A second phase of work was carried out in the 1950s which saw the construction of a second hall to provide for teaching and other activities. This range was constructed in sympathetic style to the original church using similar brick and utilising other motifs such as the tiled kneelers to support the eaves. This range retains most of the original fixtures and fittings.*

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In May 2013 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out historic building recording at Birchwood Methodist Church, Birchwood Avenue, Hatfield, Hertfordshire (NGR TL 2230 0937; Fig. 1). The recording was carried out in order to fulfil a planning condition attached to planning approval for the proposed demolition of the existing church and erection of five three-bedroom dwellings (Welwyn Hatfield Approval Ref. S6/2011/2703/S73B).

1.2 The recording was carried out according to a specification (Written Scheme of Investigation) produced by AS (dated 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013) in response to advice issued by Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit (HCC HEU; Mr. Andy Instone), which was approved by HCC HEU. The historic building recording followed the procedures outlined in the English Heritage document *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practise* (2006) and also conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (revised 2008). The level of recording was to Level 2 as defined in the EH document. The main element of the work was a comprehensive and high quality record of the existing Methodist Church in its current state, with any additional recording/research necessary to place the findings of the recording in context, in advance of the development.

## *Planning policy*

1.3 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.4 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Figs. 1 & 2)**

2.1 The town of Hatfield lies in the Welwyn Hatfield district of Hertfordshire (Fig. 1). The modern town is framed by the railway on the east and the A1(M) motorway to the west, with the old town to the east of the railway. The site lies towards the northern extent of Hatfield, within a predominantly residential area known as Birchwood.

2.2 The assessment structure occupies an irregular corner plot of land enclosed by Birchwood Avenue on the south and Heathcote Avenue on the north-west which extends from its junction with Birchwood Avenue. To the north and east are residential properties. The site covers an area of approximately 1,500m<sup>2</sup> situated at a height of c. 76m AOD (Fig. 1). The assessment structure comprises Birchwood Methodist Church which lies in the northern half of the site, while a second smaller range comprises a meeting hall associated with the church lies to the south-east. This lies outside the scope of the investigation but was inspected and described for completeness of the record.

## **3 METHODOLOGY**

Information was sought from a variety of available sources, and reference was made to the Institute for Archaeologists' (IfA) *Standard and Guidance for historic*

*environment desk-based assessment* (IfA rev.2012) The following material was consulted as part of the assessment;

#### *Archaeological databases*

The standard collation of all known archaeological sites and find spots within North Hertfordshire district comes from the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER; request No. 38/13). Significant entries within a 750m radius of the site are listed in Appendix 1 where relevant, these sites and finds have been discussed in Section 4.

#### *Historical and cartographic sources*

The principal source for this type of evidence was the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS), based in County Hall, Hertford. All available documents were consulted, and those relevant to the project have been listed in Appendix 2 and reproduced as Figs. 2-4.

#### *Secondary sources*

The principal sources of secondary material were the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS), based in County Hall, Hertford, and AS's own in-house library. Unpublished sources regarding the assessment area, such as previous field evaluation reports and desk-based assessments, have also been consulted. All sources are listed in the bibliography.

#### Fieldwork

3.5 The site was visited on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2013 in order to compile descriptions of the building and undertake the photographic work. The written description and photographic survey was carried out by Tansy Collins. Existing plans and elevations provided by the client have been included along with a sketch plan of the meeting hall as Figs. 5-6.

3.6 The photographic recording was conducted using medium format (4.5cm x 6cm) black and white film and included all external views and general internal shots. This utilised a Zenza Bronica ETRS camera and Ilford HP5 IOS 400 120mm film. Colour photographs were taken using a Canon 1000D (10 megapixels) digital camera, duplicating the black and white photography. Supplementary colour photography used 35mm Ektachrome colour transparency. External lighting and weather conditions were good at the time of the survey. A scale was used wherever possible, and a flash was employed for internal shots. A pictorial index of the digital photography and selected colour plates are included below together with location plots (Fig. 5).

## **4 Archaeological and historical background**

4.1 The prehistory of the Hatfield area is relatively unknown and whilst the area has been occupied from the Palaeolithic period onwards, much of the evidence is thought to have been destroyed by subsequent development.

Palaeolithic tools are known from the large gravel-pit that once existed on the north side of the Hertford Road, in gravels laid down by the river Lea (Thompson 2002). The remains of a mid-late Bronze Age landscape are also known from Hatfield Aerodrome, whilst groundworks at Hatfield Business Park and 450m to the west of the site revealed two poorly struck flint flakes and a sherd of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery from the subsoil (HER 12842).

4.2 Little evidence has been found for Roman activity in the area, although 3<sup>rd</sup> century Roman coins were found at No. 88 Stonecross Road and 600m to the south-east (HER 1849). Two Roman roads are thought to cross the area, including the Roman road No. 213 from Woodside to the district boundary at Coleman Green, yet no supporting archaeological evidence has been found (HER 4649; Viatores 1964). Although place-name evidence suggests a Saxon origin for Hatfield, which derives from 'open heathy ground' (Gover, Mawer & Stenton 1938, 126), Saxon remains are limited to residual pottery sherds from Hatfield Aerodrome (Thompson 2002).

4.3 The medieval period is dominated by the establishment and expansion of the *Bishop's Palace* and Hatfield House, which stands 1.7km to the south-east in the area of Old Hatfield. Hatfield did not emerge as a market town until the 13<sup>th</sup> century and the area of the site lies away from this focus and subsequently no medieval remains are recorded nearby. Hatfield New Town was developed in the 1850s in the area of Newtown Brewery (HERs 16014 & 16015). Post-medieval and early modern features of built heritage include the former Grade II listed 1789 workhouse, the Grade II listed St Luke's Church, two railway bridges and sections of the Hatfield to St Albans Branch of the Great Northern Railway (Appendix 1).

4.4 Cartographic sources reveal that the Birchwood area remained largely agricultural until the 20<sup>th</sup> century, likely associated with Birchwood Farm which lay to the north and can be seen on historic maps such as the Dury and Andrews' map of 1766 onwards. In the early 19<sup>th</sup> century the site lay across two distinct agricultural plots though both were owned by the Marquis of Salisbury and tenanted to William Webb (App. 3). The HER database suggests that Birchwood Farm was demolished later in the 20<sup>th</sup> century to make way for new housing (HER 18697).

4.5 Modern expansion of Hatfield began after the Municipal Housing Acts of 1919 and 1923 (Thompson 2002), but the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map dating from 1924 shows the site as yet undeveloped (Fig. 2). In 1933, the Rural District Council began building in the newly assigned Birchwood area, apparently in order to house the workers associated with the newly relocated de Havilland Aircraft Co. aerodrome and factory (Kirby & Busby 1995).

4.6 It is known that an earlier Methodist church was constructed in French Horn Lane in 1889, but this was sold in 1938 and subsequently used as a furniture store until its demolition in 1968 (Kirby & Busby 1995). The assessment structure represents the replacement of the former Methodist Church. The site was purchased in 1936 and is referred to in documents associated with the St Albans Wesleyan Circuit (HALS ref. NM5E) with the foundation stone laid on the 20<sup>th</sup> November 1937 and the church opening in 1938. The outline of the church at this point can be seen on the Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1937 (Fig. 3) which follows the same plan as exists today. By 1962 a second building has



been constructed to the south-east of the main church, visible on the OS map (Fig. 4). The church fell into disuse in 2008.

## 5 THE BUILDINGS

5.1 The existing labelling system for the rooms has been utilised for ease of description with additions where necessary shown on Fig. 5.

### **The church**

#### *Exterior*

5.2 The principal church range is aligned north – south with an entrance porch at the north end (Plate 1) and an L-shaped service block attached at the south end on the east. The building is constructed of a brown stock brick laid in Flemish bond. It rises to a half-hipped roof covered with peg-tiles, with wide overhanging eaves which are underboarded and supported at the north and south ends on tile kneelers. The half hip of the roof has the same underboarded eaves.

5.3 A triangular entrance porch lies at the north end and a short lower unit projects at the south end. The latter unit and the service range have mostly plain rendered walls and flat roofs. A slight plinth extends around the building and set immediately above this are a number of probable stone blocks, now painted but likely bearing dedications. There are two each on the west and east sides of the main body of the church as well as two framing the entrance at the north end.

5.4 The hall is lit from the east and west by two large windows which rise through the eaves to flat-roofed dormers which have tile-hung sides (Plate 2). A third window lies to the north and comprises a standard dormer window. All of these windows have been replaced in UPVC but probably replicate the earlier form of three lights, each light of 15 panes with the north windows having two lights of ten-over-ten form.

5.5 The triangular porch at the north end presents slight architectural touches which reflect the 1930s date of construction. This includes a series of vertical offsets at the corners within the brickwork as well as a brick panel over the doorway of slender vertical bricks or pammments. The doorway occupies the north-west side of the porch and contains timber double doors with applied ironwork hinges. On the north-east side the porch is lit by a single light casement set beneath a soldier course of brick. The frame and sill are timber, painted, but the six-pane casement is metal-framed and contains some textured glass.

5.6 The projecting unit at the south end has eight-pane single-light casements on the east and west set beneath soldier course arches and with timber sills as at the north end though the windows are replaced.

5.7 The service block provides a secondary entrance on the south side and provides WC and kitchen facilities, all lit by small replacement casements set beneath soldier course arches. One window on the east differs and comprises a two-light timber casement of standard form.

### *Interior*

5.8 The main church space is reached through the double doors at the north end. The entrance lobby is fairly plain with a tiled floor and skirting though the floor is now covered in carpet. The walls are all painted with a wallpaper dado border. The window on the north-east has a simply moulded and pegged surround and the window is metal-framed as noted from the exterior (Plate 3).

5.9 On the south a wide aperture formerly held double doors, these now removed, and led to the church hall. The brickwork of the doorway projects slightly into the hall space. It is all painted but includes slight decorative details much as seen on the porch to the exterior.

5.10 The hall itself is a high open space, ceiled at the height of the roof hip above the window heads (Plate 4). Signs of modernisation are evident but good original parquet flooring survives set in a herringbone pattern. A modern skirting board extends around the space and the walls are all painted, punctuated only by four pilasters on either side. A door in the south-east corner leads to the service range, while a wide aperture at the south end leads to the low unit. This is reached up two steps and has narrow floor boarding which retains marks for a former pulpit.

5.11 There are six pendant lights hanging on chains from the ceiling with glass shades which appear of no particular age as well as two ventilation fans and a hatch to give access to the upper roof area.

5.12 The service range is fairly simple and there is little of particular interest. It is mostly floored throughout in modern linoleum, apart from the small office on the north which is carpeted. The doors are all plain and the windows mostly replaced.

5.13 However, there are one or two early or original fixtures and fittings which survive, for example a high-set cupboard in the kitchen which has sliding doors. Below this are 1950s fitted cupboards and otherwise the kitchen is all tiled. The window on the east has an original timber frame though the existing window is a later timber replacement with safety glass and aluminium catches and stays.

## **Building 2**

### *Exterior*

5.14 The second range lies to the south-east and although lies outside the area of investigation was considered to provide a complete record of the Methodist church and its development. It consists of a north – south aligned building added some time after the construction of the church as a Sunday school or other meeting / activity hall.

5.15 The building is constructed in a fairly sympathetic style to the main church being of brown stock brick laid in stretcher bond rising to a pitched tile-clad roof. The eaves overhang and are supported at the north and south ends with tiled kneeler as on the main building but here with plain eaves. The original doors and windows survive all round (Plate 5).

5.16 The entrance lies on the west, slightly offset to the south, and contains large double doors. These are set in a slightly decorative doorcase, while the doors themselves are panelled, each leaf with three ovolo-moulded panels. There are four windows on this side, three to the north and one to the south all of the same form set beneath brick soldier courses and with sloping tiled sills. The casements are metal-framed of six panes, the upper three panes forming a bottom-hung casement. Much of the original textured glass survives with some replacement.

5.17 The south gable is all plain brickwork, pierced only by three identical windows.

5.18 The opposing north side contains a secondary entrance and two further windows as seen elsewhere. The door is set beneath a brick soldier course and has three recessed moulded panels as on the west.

5.19 The east elevation was not accessible for inspection but the windows are noted from the interior.

### *Interior*

5.20 The range is divided into two spaces with a larger room to the north (Room GF01) and a second smaller room to the south (Room GF02). A small entrance lobby on the west gives access to both areas and there are fitted cupboards along the partition dividing the two (Plate 6).

5.21 The floor throughout is of painted screed concrete and the walls are all plain apart from an applied dado rail which is present in both rooms. The windows are all as noted from the exterior apart from those on the east which are of similar metal-framed form but all fixed.

5.22 The fitted cupboards are shared between the two spaces with two outer cupboards serving Room GF01 and a single one to Room GF02. The space between the cupboards in Room GF01 is taken up by recessed panels with latches to secure boards for display or teaching purposes. The cupboard doors are all original with three recessed ovolo-moulded panels, and retain the original 1950s catches.

5.23 Also of note are original bakelite light switches, though the existing lights are modern, as well as the original heating system. This consists of pipe radiators extending along each wall with little bakelite control switches set higher on the wall, these marked UNITY.

5.24 The ceiling is underboarded just above eaves level and so reflects the slope of the roof for a short stretch.

## **6 DISCUSSION**

6.1 The main church range was constructed in 1936 to serve the people of the Birchwood area after residential development was carried out in the 1920s and 30s following the Municipal Housing Acts of 1919 and 1923. Methodism

represents a movement of Protestant Christianity and is covered by a number of denominations, although association with the St Albans Wesleyan Circuit suggests links with John Wesley who is credited with founding the Methodist Movement.

6.2 Although the church is a modest simple building, elements of 1930s architectural style can be seen in the treatment of the external brickwork, for example the style and construction of the porch. It has been largely modernised, and almost no fixtures and fittings survive from the original layout; almost all the doors and windows are lost or replaced, the pulpit is lost though markings survive to indicate its position. Good parquet flooring survives but there is no evidence for fixed pews to seat the congregation as is often seen in earlier, Victorian Methodist churches.

6.3 A second phase of work was carried out in the 1950s which saw the construction of Building 2, apparently to provide for Sunday school and other activities. This range was constructed in sympathetic style to the original church using similar brick and utilising other motifs such as the tiled kneelers to support the eaves. This range remains well-preserved and retains all the original windows and doors, while internally most fixtures and fittings survive.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Mr Lorenzo Minichiello of Woodbar Building & Refurbishment contractors) for commissioning and funding the historic building recording and for his assistance, and Mr Robert Guinn (Hertford Planning Service) for providing the drawings.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the staff of the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record, in particular Ms. Isobel Thompson and would like to thank the staff at the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS), based in County Hall, Hertford.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Andy Instone of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit.

## **DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

An archive of all materials produced by the report has been created and listed according to English Heritage (MAP2) standards. Copies of the final report will be lodged with the Hertfordshire Heritage Environment Record (HER) and OASIS. The project archive will be lodged with Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS).

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### Web resources

[www.british-history.ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk)

[www.english-heritage.org.uk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk)

## APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

The following sites are those that lie within a 750m radius of the site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER).

HER	NGR TL	Description
<b>Prehistoric</b>		
12842	2187 0945	Monitoring of groundworks at Hatfield Business Park revealed two poorly struck flint flakes and a sherd of late Bronze Age/early Iron Age pottery from the subsoil
<b>Romano-British</b>		
1849	2279 0893	3rd century Roman coins are reported as having been found at No. 88 Stonecross Road
4649	225 091	The length of the Roman road 213 proposed by Margary and the Viatores, from Woodside through Hatfield to the district boundary at Coleman Green, but the route has not been confirmed by excavation, and is doubtful
<b>Post-medieval</b>		
5613	2233 0900	Railway bridge with brick piers and wing walls, since been demolished leaving only the embankment on Wellfield Road
5614	2203 0874	Railway bridge on Lemsford Road
9629	2252 0912	Part of the single-track Hatfield-St Albans Branch of the Great Northern Railway from its start at Hatfield Station, which opened in 1865
9634	2207 0877	A halt on the single-track Hatfield to St Albans Branch line, opened in 1942 to serve the de Havilland airfield and its works which had greatly expanded during the war
11751	2255 0886	In 1789 a new purpose-built workhouse was built in what was later known as Union Lane (now Wellfield Road), it closed in 1929 and the building became a home for the elderly but has now been demolished
16013	22679 08798	St Luke's was built as an Episcopalian chapel at the New Town civic cemetery in 1877, but soon came to provide regular services for the inhabitants of the New Town and was extended in cruciform plan in 1893
16014	22410 08716	The original Hatfield New Town dates to the 1850s
16015	22485 08694	The Newtown Brewery was set up in the 1850s by George and Charles Bradshaw behind their public house, the White Lion, in the New Town
18697	22676 09821	Birchwood Farm is shown on the 1879 OS map as a farmstead with house at the north end of an irregular rectangular yard, but all of the buildings, including the house, were demolished later in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century to make way for new housing
<b>Undated</b>		
11539	2171 0936	A series of truncated boundary ditches, possibly relating to others found nearby which appear to be associated with Harpsfield Hall

## APPENDIX 2 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES CONSULTED

<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Scale</b>	<b>Location</b>
1766	Dury & Andrews' map of Hertfordshire	-	AS
1822	Bryant's map of Hertfordshire	-	AS
1838	Parish of Hatfield tithe map	-	HALS
1879	1 <sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map, Hertfordshire sheet XXXV.3	25"	HALS
1898	2 <sup>nd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map, Hertfordshire sheet XXXV.3	25"	HALS
1924	3 <sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map, Hertfordshire sheet XXXV.3	25"	HALS
1937	3 <sup>rd</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map, Hertfordshire sheet XXXV.3	25"	HALS
1962	Ordnance Survey map, sheet TL 2209 - 2309	1:2,500	HALS

**APPENDIX 3**  
**PARISH OF HATFIELD TITHE AWARD, 1839**

<b>Plot No.</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Occupier</b>	<b>Plot Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Area (a.r.p)</b>	<b>Tithe (l.s.d)</b>
407	Marquis of Salisbury	William Webb	Great Field	-	32 acres 28 perches	-
412			Hopgrounds	-	27 acres 2 roods 4 perches	-
413			Long Field	-	28 acres 1 rood 6 perches	-



## APPENDIX 4 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b>	<i>Birchwood Methodist Church, Birchwood Ave, Hatfield</i>
<b>County:</b> Hertfordshire	<b>District:</b> Welwyn Hatfield
<b>Village/Town:</b> <i>Hatfield</i>	<b>Parish:</b> <i>Hatfield</i>
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	S6/2011/2703/S73B
<b>Client name/address/tel:</b>	<i>Woodbar Building &amp; Refurbishment Contractors</i>
<b>Nature of application:</b>	Demolition
<b>Present land use:</b>	Church, now empty
<b>Size of application area:</b>	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> <i>c. 1,500m<sup>2</sup></i>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	<i>TL 2230 0937</i>
<b>Site Code:</b>	<i>n/a</i>
<b>Site director/Organisation:</b>	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
<b>Type of work:</b>	Historic building recording
<b>Date of work:</b>	May 2013
<b>Location of finds/Curating museum:</b>	HALS
<b>Related SMR Nos: -</b>	<b>Periods represented:</b> Early 20 <sup>th</sup> century
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports: -</b>	-
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<p><i>In May 2013, AS Ltd carried out historic building recording at Birchwood Methodist Church in Hatfield. The recording was carried out in order to fulfil a planning condition attached to planning approval for the proposed demolition of the existing church and erection of five three-bedroom dwellings.</i></p> <p><i>The main church was constructed in 1936 following residential development in the area. The church is a modest building although slight architectural detail has been included, typical of a 1930s date. The range has been comprehensively modernised and only one or two original elements survive such as the fine parquet flooring.</i></p> <p><i>A second phase of work was carried out in the 1950s which saw the construction of a second hall to provide for teaching and other activities. This range was constructed in sympathetic style to the original church using similar brick and utilising other motifs such as the tiled kneelers to support the eaves. This range retains most of the original fixtures and fittings.</i></p>
<b>Author of summary:</b> Tansy Collins	<b>Date of Summary:</b> June 2013

## APPENDIX 5 BUILDING RECORDING ARCHIVE FORM

Site Details							
<b>Site Name:</b> <i>Birchwood Methodist Church, Birchwood Ave, Hatfield</i>					<b>NGR:</b> TL 2230 0937		
<b>County:</b> <i>Hertfordshire</i>				<b>Museum Collecting Area:</b> HALS			
<b>Site Code:</b> <i>n/a</i>				<b>Project Number:</b> 4494			
<b>Date of Work:</b> May 2013				<b>Related Work:</b>			
Brief/s				Specification/s			
Date		Present		Date		Present	
Advice email		Yes		1 <sup>st</sup> April 2013		Yes	
Site Records (Description)							
5 sheets A4 notes							
Site Drawings (Give Details of Formats & Size)							
1 A4 sketch plan							
Architect's Drawings:							
1 sheets A3 drawings							
Digital Drawings							
Printouts of Drawings			Printouts of Data			Digital Data	
In report						Digital photographs and drawings on CD	
Reports							
Report No		Report Type				Present	
4327		Historic building recording				Yes	
Site Photographs							
Black & White Contact Prints					Colour Slides		
Film No	Film Type	Negs	Negs Present	Contacts Present	Film No	Negs	Present
1	120mm	6-15	Yes	Yes	1	13-21	Yes
2	120mm	1-7	Yes	Yes			
Photographic Location Plans Present? (Give Details)							
In report and separate printout in archive folder							
Digital Photographs (Give Details):							
Digital photography duplicates black and white photography. Index and selected plates printed in report. Separate printout of index included in archive folder and digitally on CD.							

## PLATES



Plate 1 North elevation of the church, taken from the north-west (DP 1)



Plate 2 West elevation of the church, taken from the south-west (DP 02)



Plate 3 Fixed window in the entrance porch (church), taken from the south-west (DP 13)



Plate 4 Church hall, taken from the south-east (DP 14)



Plate 5 West elevation of Building 2, taken from the south-west (DP 8)



Plate 6 Room GF01 (Building 2), taken from the north-east (DP 20)

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1

*North elevation of the church, taken from the north-west*



DP 2

*West elevation of the church, taken from the south-west*



DP 3

*South end of the church with Building 2 on the right, taken from the west*



DP 4

*South elevation of the church, taken from the south*



DP 5

*East side of the service range of the church, taken from the south-east*



DP 6

*East side of the church, taken from the east*



DP 7

North elevation of Building 2, taken from the south-west



DP 8

West elevation of Building 2, taken from the south-west



DP 9

Entrance to Building 2, taken from the west



DP 10

View of the church with Building 2 on the right, taken from the south



DP 11

South elevation of Building 2, taken from the south



DP 12

Double doors within the entrance porch (church), taken from the south-east



*DP 13  
Fixed window in the entrance porch (church), taken from the south-west*



*DP 14  
Church hall, taken from the south-east*



*DP 15  
Projecting entrance into the church hall from the porch, taken from the south-west*



*DP 16  
Church hall, taken from the north*



*DP 17  
Office in the service range (church), taken from the south-west*



*DP 18  
Kitchen in the service range (church), taken from the south-east*





DP 19

Corridor in the service range (church), taken from the west



DP 20

Room GF01 (Building 2), taken from the north-east



DP 21

Room GF01 (Building 2), taken from the south-east



DP 22

Window on the west side of Room GF01 (Building 2), taken from the north-east



DP 23

Window on the east side of Room GF01 (Building 2), taken from the north-west



DP 24

Detail of the radiators in Room GF01 (Building 2), taken from the south



DP 25

*Bakelite light switch in Room GF01 (Building 2), taken from the south*



DP 26

*Bakelite control box for the radiators in Room GF01 (Building 2), taken from the east*



DP 27

*External doors in the entrance lobby (Building 2), taken from the south-east*



DP 28

*North side of Room GF02 (Building 2), taken from the south-west*



DP 29

*West side of Room GF02 (Building 2), taken from the east*



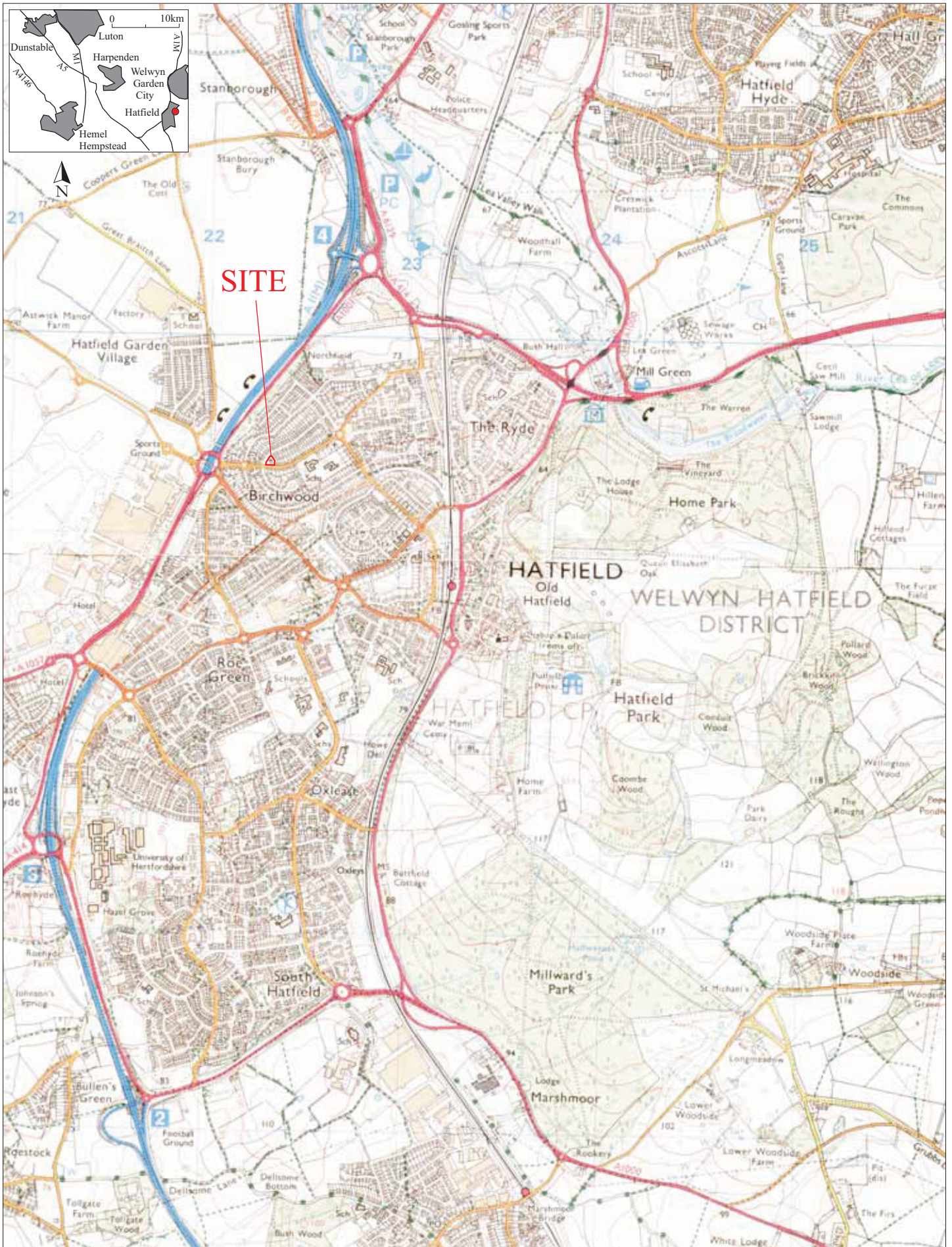
DP 30

*Catch on the cupboard door in Room GF02 (Building 2), taken from the south*



DP 31

*Door furniture on door to Room GF02 (Building 2), taken from the south-east*



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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4

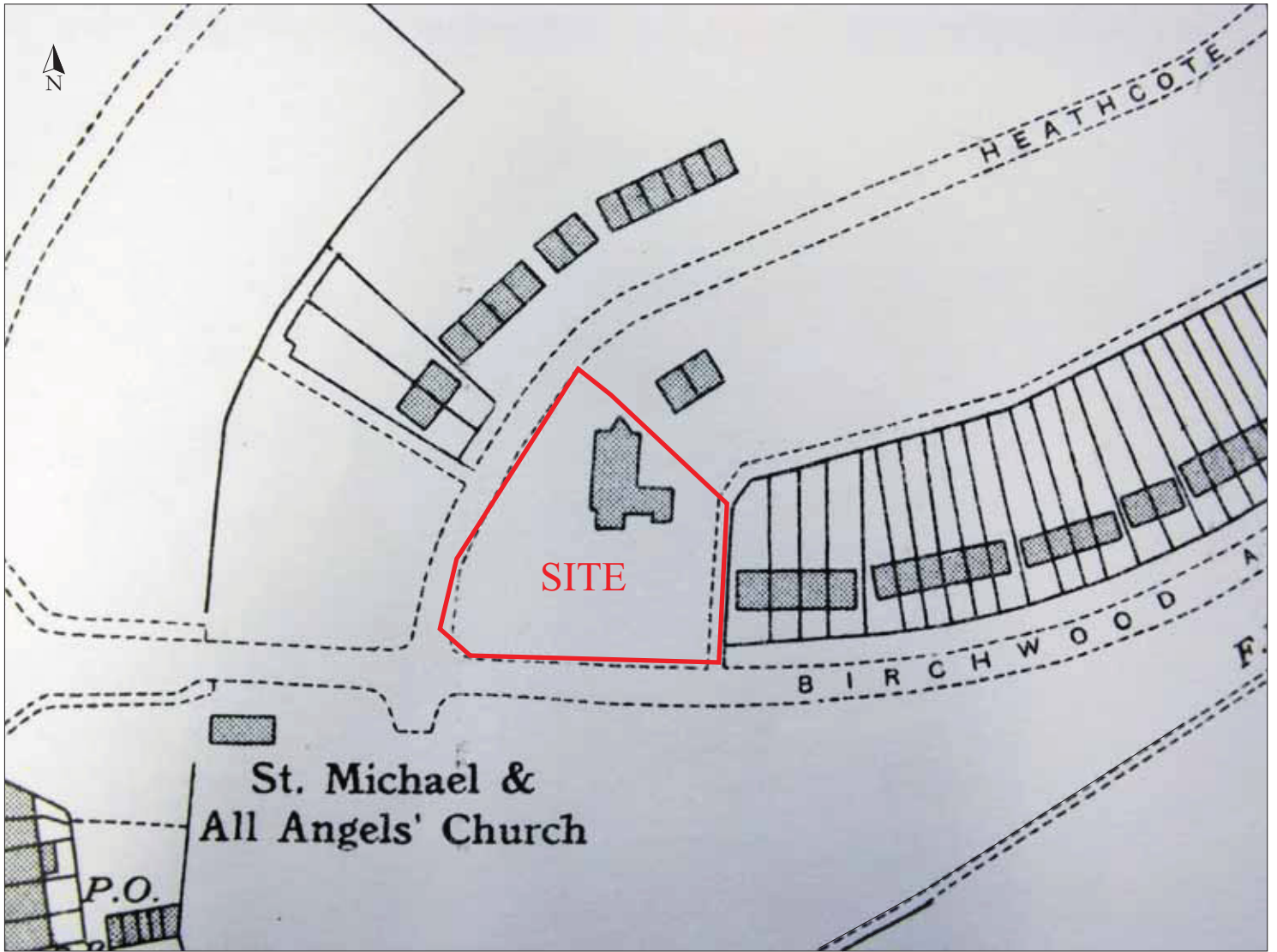


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**Fig. 2 OS map, 1924**

Not to scale



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<b>Fig. 3 OS map, 1937</b>
Not to scale

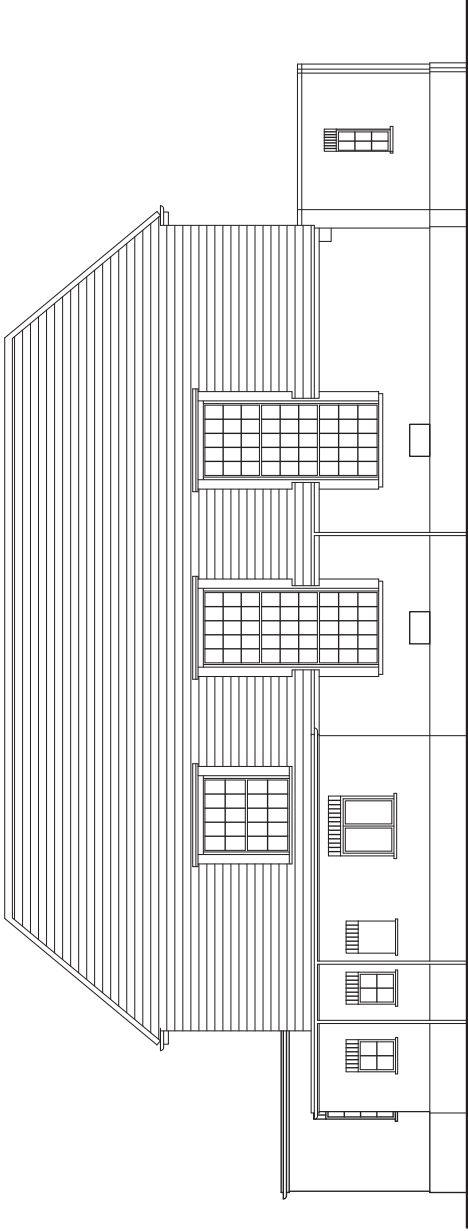


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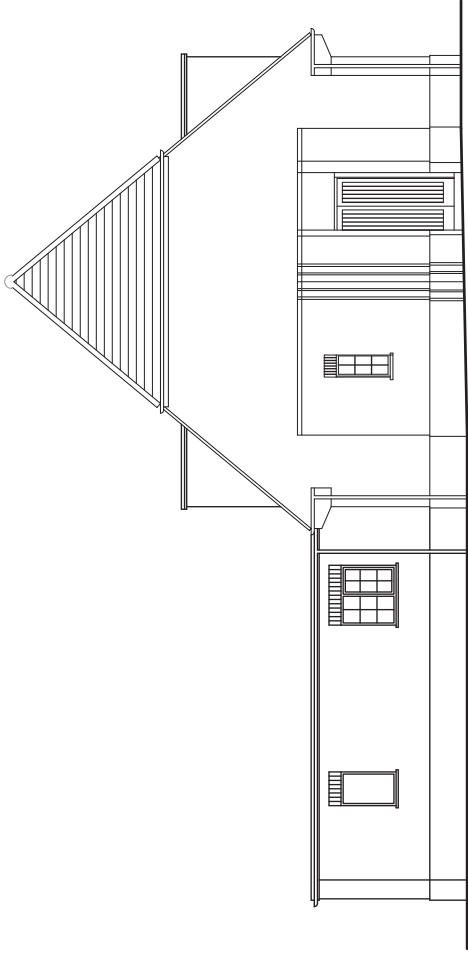
<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Fig. 4 OS map, 1962</b>
Not to scale



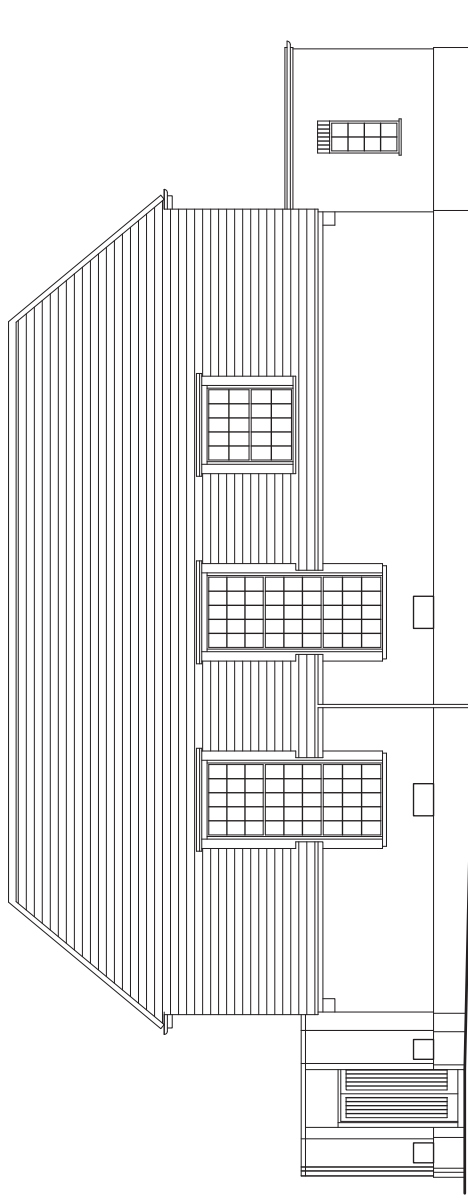




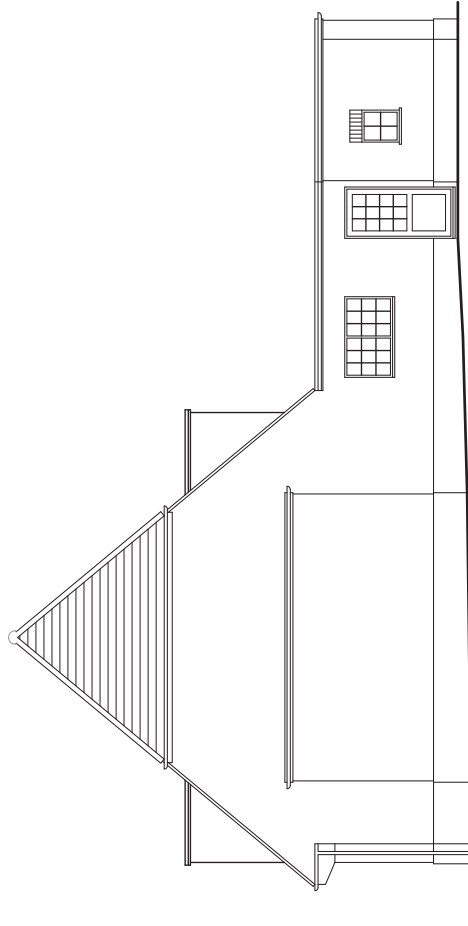
East elevation



North elevation



West elevation



South elevation

