

FORMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SCHOOL STREET, BARROW-IN-FURNESS, CUMBRIA

Archaeological Building Recording



Client: Barrow Borough
Council

NGR: 320110 469224

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July 2012



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Non-Technical Summary

Prior to the proposed demolition of the former Presbyterian Church, School Street, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria, a programme of archaeological recording was requested by Barrow Borough Council. The building is Grade II Listed, was built to the designs of Paley and Austin and constructed by the local contractor William Gradwell.

An examination of the available documentary sources revealed that the original plans for the building were submitted in December 1873 and, following a considerable period of discussion and negotiation by the committee of the Presbyterian Church and the earlier construction of a lecture hall on another part of the same site, building work began in January 1874. Despite a number of late proposed alterations, the church was completed in time for opening in July 1875. There are few sources describing any changes to it in the following century, but by 1971 reorganisation of the local Presbyterian Church led to the closure of the School Street church. It was used for some time after that as a warehouse before being badly damaged in a fire in 2005, which left only the external walls surviving intact and destroyed much of the internal, timber, fabric.

The building recording revealed three phases of construction and alteration. These comprised the initial period of building between 1874 and 1875 as well as minor alterations that may have been carried out during construction or shortly after, perhaps resulting from last minute changes to the plans. Following its closure in the 1970s all of the interior fittings were evidently removed and some alterations made including the addition of a new staircase and blocking of windows, but essentially the fabric remained largely unchanged. An extension was added to the east corner, evidently to provide a toilet block, but it is not clear when as it is not shown on any maps prior to 1933. The fire of 2005 led to more considerable alteration, albeit mainly in terms of the loss of fabric, including the most of the roof. Remaining windows and doors were blocked or sealed and the added toilet block fell into ruin.

The former church forms an important part of the town's historic architecture, although only surviving in an essentially ruined condition. It is recommended that, ideally, it be preserved and renovated and put to new use, but it is acknowledged that is unlikely to be feasible. The condition of the building and limited access during the recording mean that further work is recommended on site in order to examine areas that were not visible.

Acknowledgements

Greenlane Archaeology would like to thank Barrow Borough Council for commissioning the project and providing relevant information, in particular Steve Solsby, Assistant Director of Regeneration and Built Environment. Thanks are also due to Steve Wharton at Croft Goode Partnership for providing digital versions of the 'as existing' drawings. Additional thanks are due to the staff of the Cumbria Record Office in Barrow-in-Furness and Barrow Town Hall for their assistance in accessing the relevant archive information and details of former planning applications.

The desk-based assessment was carried out by Dan Elsworth who carried out the building recording with Tom Mace. The report was co-written by Dan Elsworth and Tom Mace and edited by Jo Dawson. The figures were produced by Tom Mace. Dan Elsworth managed the project.

1. Introduction

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

1.1.1 Prior to the proposed demolition of the former Presbyterian Church, School Street, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria (NGR 320110 469224) a programme of archaeological building recording was undertaken by Greenlane Archaeology. The building had been acquired by Barrow Borough Council (hereafter 'the client') in June 2012 but it was considered economically unviable to renovate given its near ruinous condition. The building is Grade II Listed (see *Appendix 1*) and so a record to English Heritage Level 3-type standards (English Heritage 2006) was requested by the client. This was to provide an as-existing record of the building, describe and detail its development and changes over time, and identify documentary evidence relating to it.

1.1.2 The church is thought to have built between 1873 and 1875 to the designs of the Lancaster architects Paley and Austin for the use of the local Presbyterian community (*Appendix 1*). It went out of use in 1971 and remained largely unused from that date, before being badly damaged by fire in 2005 (*Appendix 1*).

1.2 Location, Geology, and Topography

1.2.1 School Street runs approximately north-west/south-east through the centre of Barrow-in-Furness, between Crellin Street at its north-west end and extending to Salthouse Road to the south-east. The street is largely residential, but is immediately to the north-east of one of the main retail areas, Dalton Road. To the north-east, north and south the church is surrounded by grid-pattern terraced housing.

1.2.2 Barrow-in-Furness is largely situated on an area of red Sherwood sandstone of St Bees type, but there is a large area of Carboniferous limestone to the north-east (Moseley 1978, plate 1). The overlying drift deposits comprise glacial material such as boulder clay, which forms a hummocky rolling landscape outside of the town (Countryside Commission 1998, 27). The site is situated at approximately 11m OD (Ordnance Survey 2005; Fig 1).

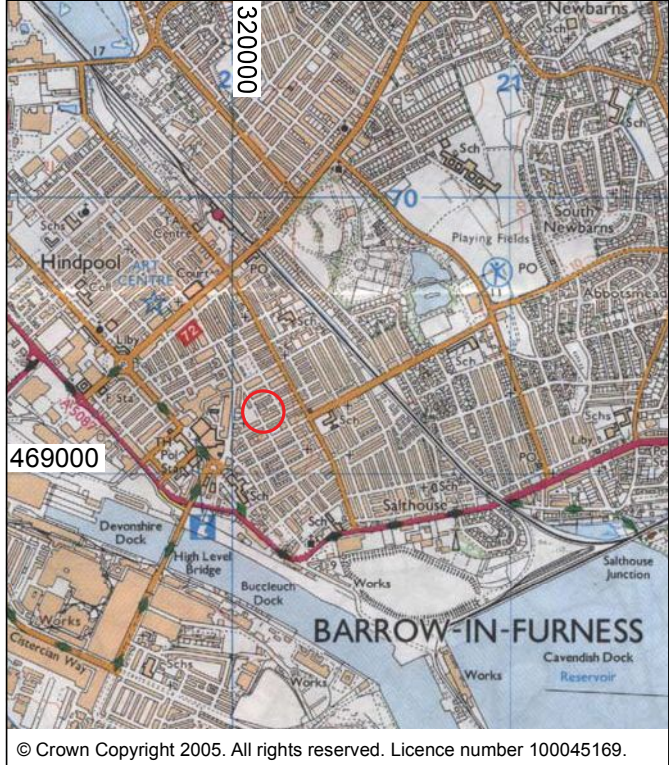
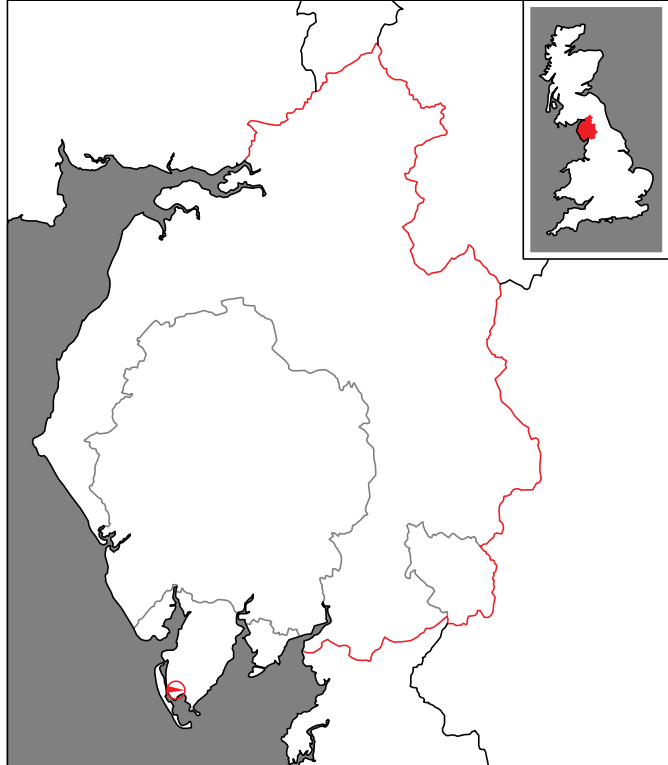


Figure 1: Site location

2. Methodology

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The building investigation comprised three separate elements intended to provide a suitable record of the structure in line with English Heritage standards (English Heritage 2006) and the guidelines of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008a). In addition, a desk-based assessment was carried out, in accordance with the project design and IfA guidelines (IfA 2008b), and a suitable archive was compiled to provide a permanent paper record of the project and its results in accordance with English Heritage and IfA guidelines (English Heritage 1991; Brown 2007).

2.2 Desk-Based Assessment

2.2.1 A number of sources of information were used during the desk-based assessment:

- **Cumbria Record Office, Barrow (CRO(B))**: these were visited in order to examine early maps of the site and other primary sources as well as secondary sources such as local histories in order to identify information about the development and use of the building;
- **Barrow Town Hall**: details of previous planning applications relating to the building were obtained from the Town Hall, including copies of relevant drawings and photographs;
- **Greenlane Archaeology library**: additional secondary sources were used to provide information for the site background.

2.3 Building Recording

2.3.1 The building recording was carried out to English Heritage Level-3 type standards (English Heritage 2006), which is a largely descriptive investigation, with a more detailed level of interpretation of the phasing and use of the building, making use of the available documentary information. The recording was considerably restricted in many ways because of access issues around the building caused firstly by its poor condition after the fire, which made some areas unsafe and had led to a considerable amount of debris being present throughout the interior and around the exterior. Secondly, the exterior had also been covered with scaffolding to provide support, which also obscured much of the detail, and the lack of maintenance meant that it was obscured by trees and other foliage. The recording comprised the following elements:

- **Written record**: descriptive records of all parts of the building were made using Greenlane Archaeology *pro forma* record sheets;
- **Photographs**: photographs in both 35mm colour print and colour digital format were taken of the main features of the building, its general surroundings, and any features of architectural or archaeological interest. A selection of the colour digital photographs is included in this report, and the remaining photographs are in the project archive;
- **Drawings**: drawings were produced by hand-annotating as existing drawings produced (by Croft Goode Partnership) for a previous planning applications (Refs. 2003/0669 and 2003/0670) and a cross-section produced for a more recent structural report (Blackett-Ord Conservation Architecture 2010). The drawings produced ultimately comprised:
 - i. a plan of each floor at a scale of 1:100;
 - ii. external elevations at a scale of 1:100;
 - iii. a cross-section at a scale of 1:100.

2.4 Archive

2.4.1 A comprehensive archive of the project has been produced in accordance with the project design and current IfA and English Heritage guidelines (Brown 2007; English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive and a copy of this report will be deposited in the Cumbria Record Office in Barrow-in-

Furness on completion of the project. Three copies of this report will be provided for the client, a digital copy will be supplied to the Cumbria Historic Environment Record, and one will be retained by Greenlane Archaeology. In addition a digital record of the project will be made on the *Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations* (OASIS) scheme.

3. Desk-Based Assessment

3.1 Background History

3.1.1 As the building is of late 19th century date the background history to the site has been largely restricted to include information which is relevant to this period in only. Some history of the building is contained in recently published sources (e.g. Pevsner 1969, 57; Hyde and Pevsner 2010, 134; Brandwood 2012, 227), but the majority of the background history has been taken from primary sources, including maps, or near-contemporary published accounts, in particular the minute books of the management committee from 1865 to 1875, within which are original records relating to the building of the church (CRO(B) BDFC/P/T/4/1 1865-1875).

3.2 The Presbyterian Church

3.2.1 **Early history:** the building was constructed to provide a church for the local Scottish Presbyterian community in Barrow, which had grown with the influx of people moving to the town to work in numerous industries, including Scottish workers, who came to work in the developing industries in the town (Marshall 1958, 355). The first meeting of the board of managers of the Presbyterian committee was held on January 24th 1865 and at the next meeting, held on 2nd February the same year, the matter of a place of worship was discussed (CRO(B) BDFC/P/T/4/1 1865-1875). A Mr Jones offered the Welsh chapel for use, but it is apparent that it was also planned to use a local temperance hall (*ibid*). Nevertheless, by the meeting of 27th September 1865 the committee decided to '*call upon the Duke of Devonshire's agent as to a piece of ground for building a church*' (*ibid*). At the meeting of 5th November enquiries were made of Mr Ramsden '*relative to securing a piece of ground for building a church. He pointed out several allotments at the back of Dalton Road in School Street running into Abbey Road the price... 5/- per yard*' (*ibid*). In early February of the following year land had apparently been granted by the mayor, James Ramsden, at the top of Ramsden Street – the founding fathers of the town, including Ramsden, were very keen to encourage the establishment of churches and regularly provided land (Marshall 1958, 331-332), but as late as 1st May 1866 discussions were still being held regarding its conveyance (CRO(B) BDFC/P/T/4/1 1865-1875). By 3rd July 1866 the situation must have moved on as the committee wrote to Messrs Hay Co, Architects of Liverpool '*relative to obtaining estimates & Plans for a church*'. Work clearly began soon after this, but on the construction of a hall rather than the church, and at the meeting held 18th October 1866 '*the question of stopping the erection of the Hall until after the winter months was discussed & it was agreed that the clerk of the works should see the Contractor and request him not to go on with the walls... until the end of February when they would not be likely to take any harm from frost*' (*ibid*). This of note because it seems to have been previously been suggested that Paley and Austin were responsible for the design of both the church and the hall (Brandwood 2012, 227), which was evidently not the case. The work on the hall evidently continued at a reasonable pace, although as late as 22nd June 1868 arrangements were being made for the placing of a memorial stone, to be carried out by Mr Robert Hannay of Springfield (in Ulverston), the date of which was agreed to be 20th July 1868 at 4 o'clock, the day after the hall was formerly opened (CRO(B) BDFC/P/T/4/1 1865-1875). By 14th September 1868 a contract relating to the drainage for the new hall had been awarded (*ibid*) and work was presumably nearing completion.

3.2.2 The completion of the hall perhaps led to the matter of a new church being considered anew, and at the committee meeting of 12th December 1871 it agreed to '*wait upon the mayor & other gentlemen for the purpose of acquainting them with the present necessities of our church*' and a sub-committee was appointed '*to get designs for a church to seat 1000 persons to cost not more than £3,000*' (*ibid*). At the next meeting of the 27th December it was reported that Mr Ramsden, was to '*take an early opportunity to lay the facts before his colleagues*' but that otherwise '*nothing had been done in the matter of obtaining plans for the new church*' (*ibid*). By November 1872 plans had evidently been received by the committee from the architects, Paley and Austin of Lancaster, as the minutes record that it '*recommended several alterations and improvements – one of which was the addition of a spire*' and a sketch of one 150ft tall was presented; '*A general conversation ensued, and, resulted in the report and plans being referred back for the committee to confer with the architects – and obtain estimates for the work*' (*ibid*). The altered plans were duly received and at the meeting of January 1873 it was proposed to submit them to

James Ramsden (now 'Sir James Ramsden') and then obtain an estimate for costs once approved. This decision obviously took some time. On 7th April of the same year it was recorded that numerous other details had been confirmed: the woodwork was to be of pitch pine, the heating by hot water, and the lighting by chandelier, but no response had been received by Sir James (*ibid*).

3.2.3 The further additions and attention to detail seems to have had an unfortunate affect on the project. On 7th August 1873 the '*Estimates for the new church were opened and read The lowest tender was Mr Gradwell for £6700 not including lighting and heating*'. This was clearly a considerable problem given on the original estimated cost of £3,000. The committee, which '*having rec^d tenders for building... find them so high*', knew it would be forced to go to the Lancaster Banking Co to enquire about raising further funds, having only £4,000 in hand (*ibid*). As a result they '*resolved that the sec^t write the Architects returning the plans and specifications and require them to prepare plans in accordance with the original instruction that is to say for a church to accommodate 800 sitting and to cost £3000*' (*ibid*). It was a case of literally going back to the drawing board. Despite this plea, on 29th October the altered plans were received '*with a note saying that the lowest price the church could be built for was £4733.0.0*' so it was proposed that the plans be accepted '*providing the church can be erected for a sum of £5000 this sum to include heating*' (*ibid*). A later meeting, of 11th November 1873, reveals that this revised price was the cost provided by William Gradwell, and following a further check of the new plans, which found them '*so carefully drawn up that they could suggest no improvement*' the contract for the work was signed by William Gradwell on 19th January 1874 (*ibid*). Plans were soon in hand for the ceremonial laying of the foundation stone by Rev. William Ferguson (Robert Hannay being unavoidably absent) on 26th March the same year (*ibid*). Beneath this stone was to be placed a bottle containing a '*copies of the "Barrow Times" of that day, and of the "Barrow Herald" and "Barrow Pilot" of the previous Saturday, also a Document giving a sketch of the History of the Presbyterian cause in Barrow, to which will be added the names of the Office Bearers of the Church. A copy of this Document will be read before this foundation stone is laid*' (*ibid*).

3.2.4 An article from a local newspaper, pasted into the minute book, which describes the laying of the foundation stone, gives a lengthy account of how the church was intended to appear on completion:

'The building is to be in limestone from Stainton, with red sandstone dressings and brick linings, and will be lighted from the sides and front with ground floor and first floor windows. There is a main entrance and two side entrances, the latter communicating with the gallery by staircases. It is intended, when funds will permit, to erect a tower in the front of the building rising to the height of 100 feet, but at the present it is wisely deemed advisable not to carry this higher than 62 feet – the height required for the staircase. The inside measurement will be 71ft 6in by 46ft., and the height to the ridge 62 feet. The seats, which are varnished pitch pine, will be approached by two aisles at a distance of about 12ft. from the side walls. The pulpit is at the head of the church, and there are three vestries in the rear. Above the central vestry is the organ loft, which is reached by a special staircase. The gallery, running on three sides of the building, is supported by iron columns. Every attention has been given to thorough ventilation, and the building will be fitted up with a heating apparatus' (*ibid*).

3.2.5 A collection of loose papers within the minute book for 1865-1875 (*ibid*) comprises receipts and memoranda from several suppliers and tenderers to the building project. These include notes from the Barrow Ship Building Company Limited relating to the supply of heating pipes, which appear to be being positioned in the aisles, and the position of gas fittings as the clerk of works '*wishes to avoid altering plaster work after it has been finished*'. Letters are also present relating to some of the finer details within the building, such as the debate over the need for a pulpit – designs for one were submitted by Paley and Austin, at a cost of £35, and include a design for an umbrella stand bracket by Hargreaves, Bolton & Co, general and furnishing iron mongers (Plate 1). Further reference is also made to the fitting of gas lighting and asphalt flooring, with tenders given for both by William Gradwell, as well as the painting of numbers on the pews, in a '*chocolate ground and cream colour*', with several tenders given for this work including one from William Gradwell (*ibid*). By as early as 22nd March 1875 work must have been progressing at a rapid pace and Paley and Austin were clearly being pressed by the committee for a completion date. Their response, following discussions with William Gradwell, initially suggested it would be further three months, but a letter from Gradwell to Paley and Austin dated 19th April indicates an intention to finish '*ready for opening on the first of July next [1875]*' (*ibid*).

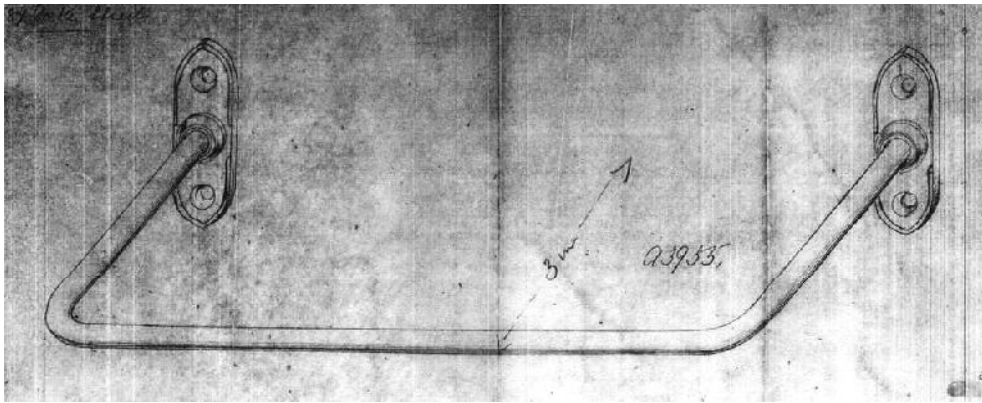


Plate 1: Design for an umbrella stand bracket (CRO(B) BDFC/P/T/4/1 1865-1875)

3.2.6 A near-contemporary description of the building, published only a few years after the church was opened, is worth repeating in full as it confirms many of the details of the interior finish and arrangement:

'The church in is the Romanesque style, and is built of Stainton limestone, with red freestone dressings and bands. The plan of the building is a parallelogram, the approach being through a large central doorway and porch extending the whole width of the church. A staircase, for access to the gallery which runs all round, occupies the south-west corner, and a tower, containing a second staircase, the north-west. The minister's room and another for his business purposes are behind the main building. The interior of the church is much admired for its spacious, light, and elegant appearance. The woodwork is of pitch-pine, varnished, the pulpit having oak panels beautifully carved. The pews are wide, with sloping backs, book-boards, hat-rails and umbrella-stands. Circulating hot water is used for warming the church, and the light is by lustres from the roof and brackets, under and also round the back of the galleries. The church was designed by Messrs. Paley & Austin, and built by Mr Gradwell, of Barrow, the total cost being over £5,000. In addition to this, the congregation had formerly built the adjoining hall at a cost of about £1,400. The site for both was the gift of Sir James Ramsden' (Richardson 1881, 114-115).

3.2.7 **Later history:** there is comparatively little information relating to the building following its initial construction. It is known to have remained in use until 1971, although the adjoining former lecture hall continued to be used for some time after that; the Presbyterian and Congregational Churches in Barrow merged in 1972 to form the United Reform Church (information in catalogue for CRO(B) BDFC/P/T) presumably negating the need for the church entirely. One alteration that is recorded in the available archive information is a series of memorial windows that were added in 1955. These comprised 12 stained glass windows *'in memory of the members of the congregation and relatives of the present families in the church'* (CRO(B) BDFC/P/T/61 1955). They were said to have been made by a firm in Lancaster, the name of which is not given although it is possible that it was the well-known firm of Shringley and Hunt, who were still operating at that time and had certainly been commissioned to carry out work in Barrow in the 19th century (Waters 2003) although Abbott and Co were also operating as stained glass manufacturers throughout this period and working in the area (Hyde and Pevsner 2010, 64). Various symbols were used in the design of the new windows: a burning bush on a blue shield (representing the Presbyterian Church in Scotland), a burning bush on a green shield (representing the church in Ireland), a burning bush in front of a rose (representing the church in England), with other windows depicting an open Bible and dark blue crosses (*ibid*).

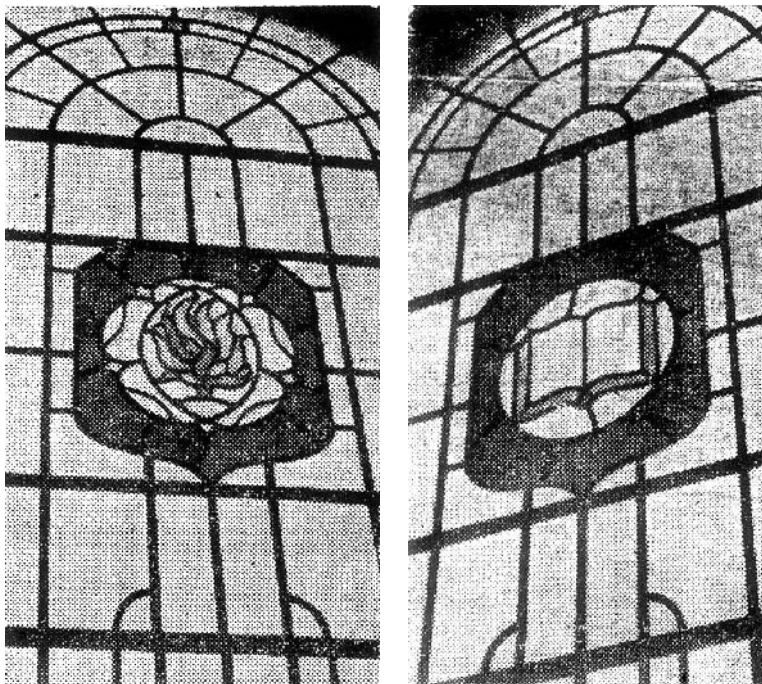


Plate 2 (left): One of the new windows installed in 1955 showing a burning bush in front of a rose, representing the Presbyterian church in England (after CRO(B) BDFC/P//T/61 1955)

Plate 3 (right): One of the new windows installed in 1955 showing an open bible (after CRO(B) BDFC/P//T/61 1955)

3.3 Map and Image Regression

3.3.1 **Ordnance Survey, 1851:** this map shows Barrow prior to its rapid development and therefore does not show the church. It does, however, emphasise the essentially rural nature of the area at this time and that the church was built in what was at this time a field on the edge of the original hamlet (Plate 4).

3.3.2 **Ordnance Survey, c1873:** this map was produced in an attempt to map the growing town. As with the earlier map the church has not been constructed by this date, but the adjoining lecture hall has, and is labelled, and the surrounding arrangement of grid pattern streets is clearly well developed by this time, but still under construction (Plate 5).



Plate 4 (left): Extract from the Ordnance survey map of 1851 showing the location of the site

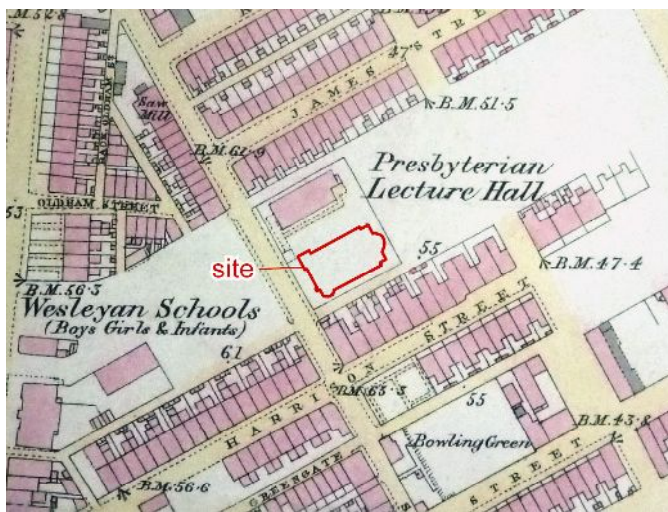


Plate 5 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of c1873 showing the 'Presbyterian Lecture Hall' and location where the church was later built

3.3.3 **Building Control Plans No. 535, 1873:** the original plans as proposed by the architects, Paley and Austin, are dated December 1873. They clearly show the building was essentially constructed as proposed, although the plans show in addition the position of the pews, pulpit and other features that were later removed (Plate 6 and Plate 7). Other features such as partition walls at the north-east and south-west ends, the position of the organ in the upper level of the apse at north-east end, the location of flues built in the walls and fireplaces, and even sunken areas for doormats at the entrances at the south-west end are also shown. The plan also labels certain rooms such as the vestry and the minister's private vestry, both at the north-east end of the building. The cross-section also shows details of some of the seating, as well as the arrangement of columns and brackets supporting the galleries and even elements of the decorative plasterwork in the apse (Plate 8).

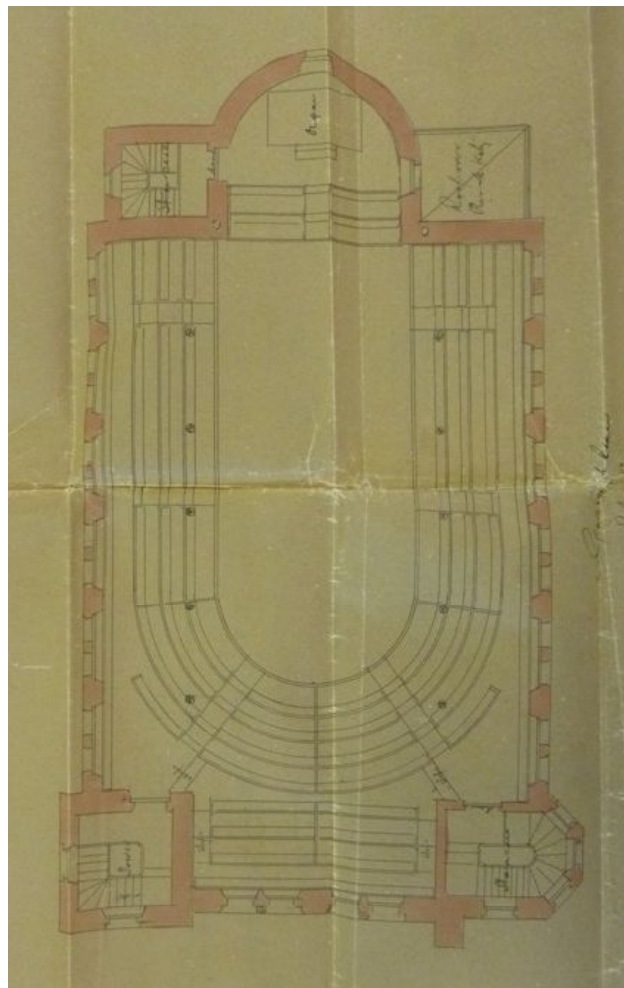
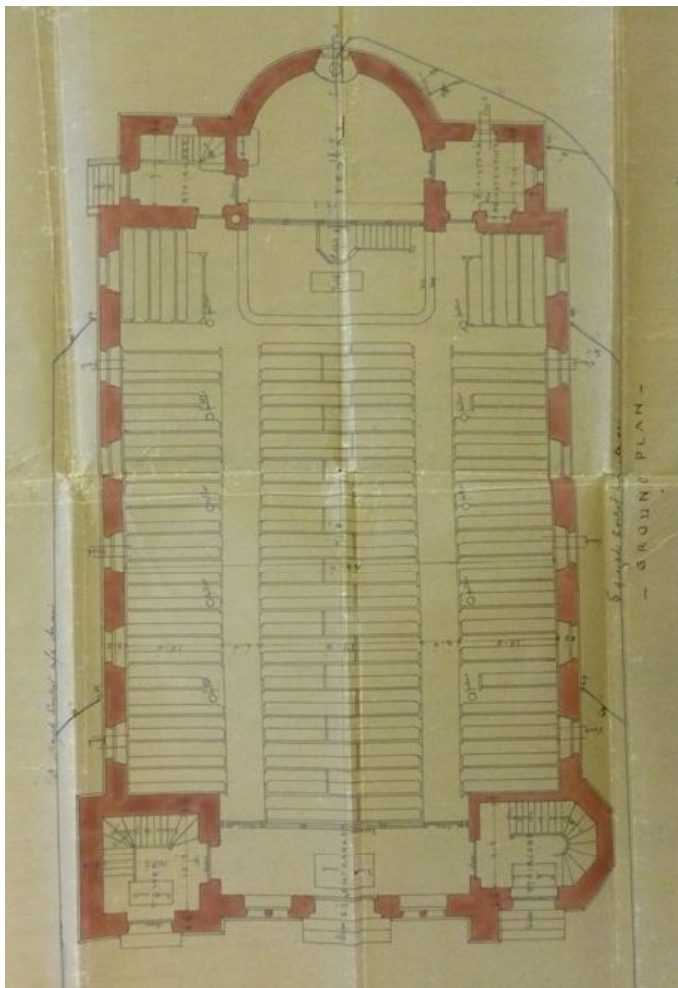


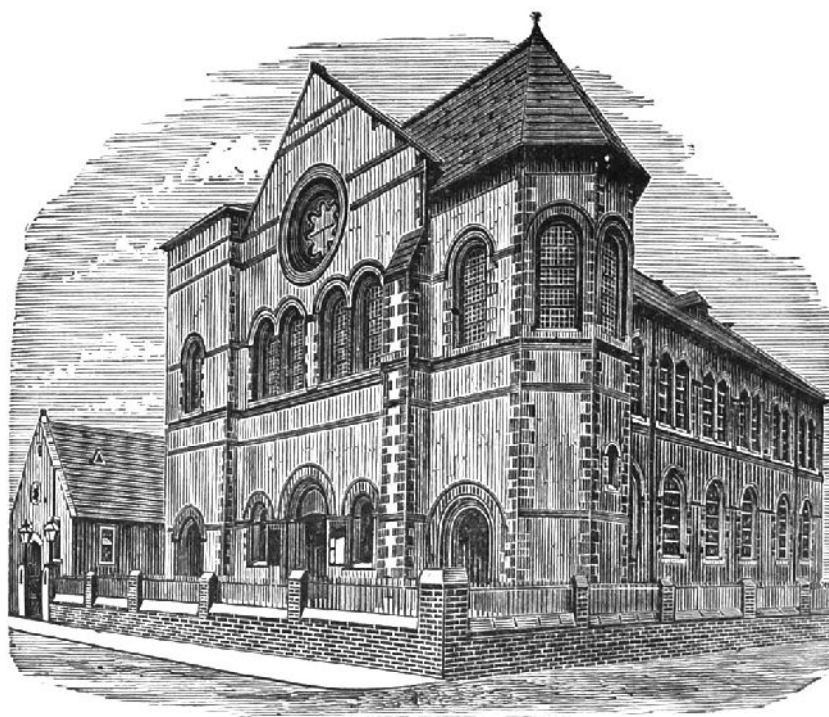
Plate 6 (left): Ground floor plan as proposed in 1873 (CRO(B) Building Control Plans No. 535 1873)

Plate 7 (right): Gallery level plan as proposed in 1873 (CRO(B) Building Control Plans No. 535 1873)



Plate 8: North-east facing cross-section as proposed in 1873 (CRO(B) Building Control Plans No. 535 1873)

3.3.4 **Richardson, 1881**: an engraved view of the church is included in Richardson's history of Barrow, published shortly after its construction. This shows the church much as it is now, only in pristine condition and without the present obstructions to the exterior. It is of interest primarily in its depiction of the boundary wall, which is shown as being much lower and topped with iron railings.



TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SCHOOL-STREET.

Plate 9: Etching of the church (after Richardson 1881, 115)

3.3.5 **Swindlehurst, 1886:** this is a useful plan as it falls between the revised first edition map, published c1873, and the later editions of the Ordnance Survey (*Section 3.3.6* below). It clearly depicts the church, although it is slightly more schematic than the later maps, which appears to have taken essentially its present form (Plate 10). The lecture hall to the north-west is also shown, although this is depicted as comprising two separate blocks, in contrast to the later maps.

3.3.6 **Ordnance Survey, 1891:** this map shows in considerable detail the well developed pattern of terraced housing amongst which the church is situated and that the church has clearly taken essentially its present form by this date (Plate 11). The lecture hall to the north-west, by contrast, has been modified, with the two separate blocks now joined by an additional section.



Plate 10 (left): Extract from Swindlehurst's plan of 1886

Plate 11 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1891

3.3.7 **Ordnance Survey 1913 and 1933:** both of these plans show the building in the same form as the previous plan (Plate 12 and Plate 13), suggesting that it had seen little alteration in this period.



Plate 12 (left): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1913

Plate 13 (right): Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1933

3.3.8 **Early 20th century plan:** an undated but probably early to mid 20th century plan contained amongst the Presbyterian archive (CRO(B) BDFC/P/T/60 n.d.) shows the building in some detail (Plate 14 and Plate 15). It largely duplicates what is shown in the original plans from 1873, although the organ appears to have been removed (assuming it was ever built) as the upper floor in the apse is labelled 'Choir Gallery' and has tiered seating, and the room below it is now 'Session Room with Choir Gallery Above'. The 'Minister's Vestry' is still present in the east corner of the ground floor and most of the pews, although a row at the front of the central block has been scored out and marked 'Removed'. In addition, a flight of steps is shown outside the building on the north-east side of the apse, labelled 'To Cellar for Heating' is shown, as well as the position of flues in the walls and the fireplaces.

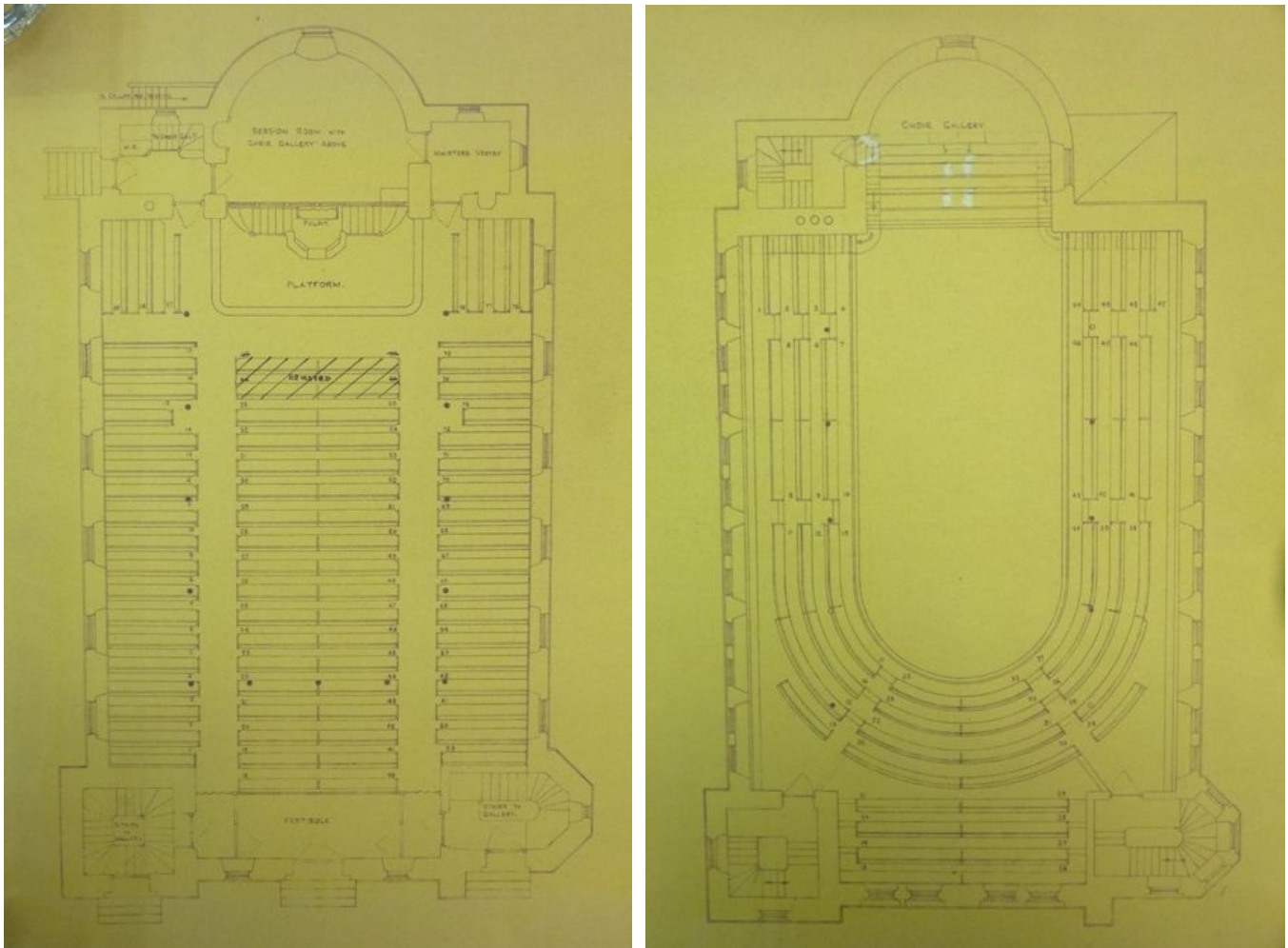


Plate 14 (left): Ground floor plan (CRO(B) BDFC/P/T/60 n.d.)

Plate 15 (right): Gallery level plan (CRO(B) BDFC/P/T/60 n.d.)

3.3.9 **Planning applications:** two planning applications from the 1970s relate to uses to which the building was put immediately after it closed as a church. In 1975 one was made for change of use to provide retail storage (1975/0832) and in 1977 one was made for the installation of a burglar alarm (1977/1096). A later planning application from 2003 (Ref. 2003/0669 and 2003/0670) was submitted to convert the building into flats, although this was withdrawn. While the drawings included with this later application add little to the understanding of its development the application includes a series of photographs, which are of interest as they show the building before the fire of 2005 (although it is clear from these photographs that it has already been damaged by fire before they were taken), at which point much of the original interior was still intact, and also before the exterior was as extensively obscured by scaffolding and vegetation. These have been included as *Appendix 2*. The most recent application, from 2009, is for demolition of the building following the fire of 2005 (Ref. 2009/0123).

3.4 Conclusion

3.4.1 The original plans and early documentary sources demonstrate that the church was built between January 1874 and July 1875, the plans having been submitted in December 1873. It was evidently built as planned and there is relatively little evidence for substantial alterations having been carried out for almost 100 years, until it closed in 1871, apart from the installation of new windows in 1955. It had clearly otherwise seen relatively little alteration until badly damaged by fire in 2005.

4. Building Recording

4.1 Arrangement and Fabric

4.1.1 The building is orientated approximately north-east/south-west, parallel to and forming part of the surrounding grid-pattern street plan (see Figure 1). The south-west elevation, which includes the main entrance, faces onto School Street. The north-west elevation faces towards the former Presbyterian Lecture Hall, now used as an auction house by Furness Auctions, while the north-east and south-east elevations overlook adjoining areas of terraced housing. The building is essentially two storeys high, although with further spaces within the roof. It is built from three components; externally, rock-faced limestone laid in irregular course and dressed red sandstone providing the detailing around windows and doorways, as well as string course and coping, all of which is bonded with raised concrete pointing, which is presumably not original. The external stonework is clearly just a skin as internally the walls are constructed from brick typically laid in an English Garden Wall bond. The roof was originally finished with green slate, presumably from the Kendal area, although only a small portion of this now remains in place. Internally almost all of the timber is decoratively finished, although little of it survives as most is badly fire damaged or collapsed, particularly the roof. The internal structure is also supported by paired decorative cast iron columns, one on top of the other, forming a ring around the interior.

4.2 External Detail

4.2.1 **North-east elevation:** the south-east side of the original external elevation is partially obscured by the later brick outshut (forming Room G5), which is constructed from machine-made red brick, marked 'FURNESS BRICK C^O L^D BARROW', laid in stretcher bond and has a window in the north-west side. This has a dressed sandstone sill and is blocked with brick. The remains of the monopitch roof including the barge board are present on top of the wall. Behind this is the external elevation proper, the south-east end of which comprises the remains of a single storey outshut (Room G4) with a relatively ragged hole in the wall forming a doorway between G4 and G5, which was evidently originally a window (Plate 16). The scar of its round head is visible but the stone work has broken away and it has dressed sandstone quoins in the jambs and what are probably the remains of a sandstone sill. The south-east side of this wall is also finished with sandstone quoins and a string course and projecting angled plinth run across the elevation. The roof of the outshut is monopitch, although little of its structure remains, with only a scar in the wall above denoting the position of the actual roof line. Above the outshut the wall is relatively plain and of limestone construction with red sandstone details. It returns in the centre of the elevation to form a rounded section (forming the apse internally). This has a window in the south-east side at the first floor level with a rounded head finished with ashlar red sandstone and similar quoins, although the position of the lower internal head is visible making it appear a different size inside and out. In the north-east face there are two windows in a similar style, one on each floor. Below the ground floor window the projecting plinth continues around the rounded section, and below this, but effectively built into it, is a plain rectangular aperture with sandstone quoins and sill, which evidently formed a vent into a below-floor area. To the north-west of the rounded section the elevation has a smaller ground floor window, but in the same general style, and below the plinth the top part of a window is evidently, clearly lighting a cellar or below-ground area, again with sandstone lintel and quoins. All of the ground floor windows, and this lower window, have been blocked with concrete blocks.



Plate 16 (left): Damaged window, on the south-east side of the north-east external elevation, latterly used as a doorway between G4 and G5

4.2.2 **South-east elevation:** the north-east end of this is continued by the brick built monopitch outshut (forming Room G5) added to the earlier outshut forming Room G4. This is constructed from machine made red bricks laid in stretcher bond with a single window on the south-west side with a vouissor brick arch and dressed sandstone sill and the remains of a two-light timber casement (Plate 17). This section butts the stone-built wall of the church proper, which is constructed from limestone with red sandstone quoins and projecting chamfered plinth. Some timber from the monopitch roof of the extension remains and the ends of the rafters for the roof structure of the earlier outshut also survive. Within this outshut there is a single comparatively small window with a dressed round head, chamfered quoins, and sill in red sandstone with the string course meeting up with the quoins (Plate 17). Across the main part of the elevation, on the ground floor, are six windows, in a similar style to that to the north-east but larger and with a moulded hood mould following the round head (Plate 18). Each of the ground floor windows also has some remnants of the metal structure of the window and is blocked with concrete blocks, although some area also covered with plywood. On the first floor there are six pairs of windows in a similar style, although these are not blocked and several have the remnants of stained glass panels still in place. The south-west end of the elevation forms a three-sided tower, originally extending above the first floor into a spire although only elements of the roof structure now survive. There is a single window in each face of this tower at first floor level with a round head with hood mould, dressed quoins, and sill incorporated into the string course. All of these retain some of the stained glass panels, and there are two further string courses in the tower below and a plinth at the base. The south-east face of the tower also has a small window mid-way between ground and first floor levels, again with dressed quoins and sill and a rounded head.



Plate 17 (left): Brick extension and outshut at north-east end

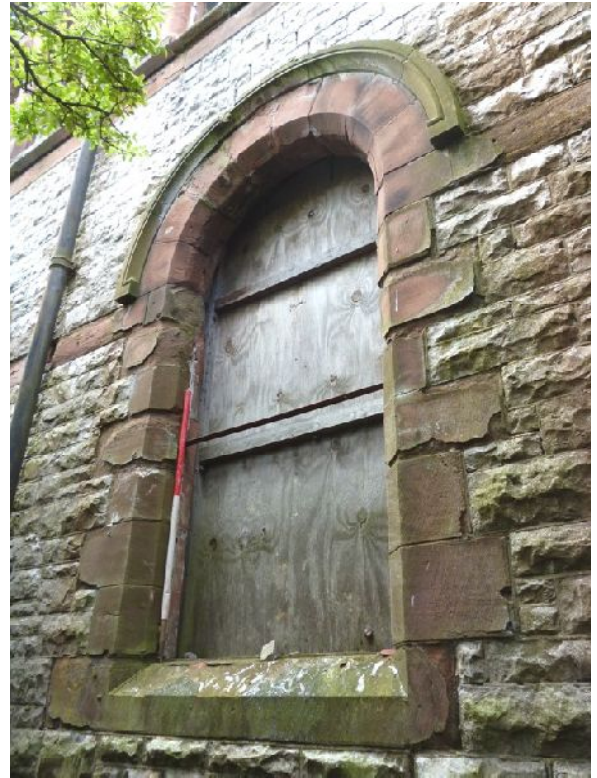


Plate 18 (right): Example ground floor window in main part of elevation

4.2.3 **South-west elevation:** this forms the front façade of the building, with the main access to and from School Street (Plate 19). It has towers at either end, on the ground floor of each is a doorway accessed by a flight of yellow sandstone steps, although some of these have been replaced with concrete. Both doors are broadly the same, with dressed sandstone quoins incorporating a moulded shaft and segmented arches forming round heads, above which is a hood mould with a projecting stop (Plate 20 and Plate 21). The doors are of heavy plank construction with decorative iron strap hinges and ring handles. In the centre is the main doorway, which has similar dressed quoins with moulded shafts, and a round headed segmented arch with a hood mould, below which is a flattened arch forming a tympanum of ashlar blocks (Plate 22). The door is again accessed via four sandstone steps, the top one being a replacement in concrete, with a later iron handrail attached between the bottom step and the quoins and a scrolled iron bracket for a gas lamp attached to the upper arch and the remains of a plastic fitting, presumably a burglar alarm, below. The actual door is largely destroyed but remnants of it remain, and it was clearly of similar construction to those at either end with the same strap hinges (Plate 23). The central doorway is flanked by a pair of windows in a similar style to those throughout the building with dressed sandstone quoins and hoodmould, both of which are blocked with concrete blocks. On the south-east side of the central section there is a projecting buttress, with an angled top and red sandstone quoins, which extends to the first floor. The first floor has a row of four windows in two pairs, again in a similar style to the rest, and above these there is a large octofoil rose window, again with dressed sandstone details and moulded surrounds with two string courses butting against it. Some remnants of the lead work and glazing remains in all of the upper level windows. At the top of the gable that forms the centre there is a further narrow slot opening and the wall top is finished with sandstone coping. The towers at either end both have a single window at first floor level, again in the same style as the rest, and they incorporate several string courses and corners are finished with red sandstone quoins. Each tower has as the remaining structure of a pyramidal roof.



Plate 19: General view of the south-west external elevation



Plate 20 (left): Doorway in south-east tower, south-west external elevation



Plate 21 (right): Doorway in north-west tower, south-west external elevation



Plate 22 (left): Central doorway, south-west external elevation

Plate 23 (right): Detail of door in central doorway, south-west external elevation

4.2.4 **North-west elevation:** the north-east end is essentially continued by the rounded apse projecting from the north-east elevation, although this is plain apart from its string courses and plinth (Plate 24). The plinth also incorporates three small essentially square openings, one beneath every other window, with dressed red sandstone quoins and sills, which evidently originally housed vents into the below-ground space. The north-east end proper is formed by a projecting 'tower' with a monopitch roof (Plate 25). Within this, at ground floor level, there is a doorway accessed by a flight of yellow sandstone steps, the sides of which are clad with limestone, which appears originally to have formed low flanking walls (Plate 25). The doorway has dressed chamfered quoins and the flat stone lintel is supported by scrolled corbels on either side. The actual door is obscured by a plank and batten door that has been screwed to it to board it up. The main, central, part of the elevation mirrors the south-east, with a string course and projecting chamfered plinth running across it and six ground floor windows on the ground floor and six pairs of windows on the first (Plate 26). All of the windows have dressed red sandstone quoins and segmental arches forming round heads, the ground floor windows with a projecting hood mould and the first floor with a projecting moulding incorporated into the string course that also forms the sills. The roof structure is almost entirely stripped of slate, although some survives just above the eaves, and the trusses are exposed beneath. The south-west end is finished with a tower, which has a window at first floor in this elevation with dressed quoins and rounded head with hood mould, above which is a smaller window in a similar style, although without the hoodmould. Again the remains of the, pyramidal, roof structure are present on top of this.



Plate 24 (left): North-east end of north-west external elevation



Plate 25 (right): Doorway and steps at the north-east end of the north-west external elevation



Plate 26 (right): General view of north-west external elevation

4.2.5 **Boundary wall:** because of the local topography of the site, whereby the church is situated on an essentially level platform on top of land that slopes down to the north-east, the boundary wall is present

above ground level to the south-west, where it originally extended to the north-west around the associated Lecture Hall. There is therefore no boundary wall to the north-west of the church, between it and the Lecture Hall, and it gradually becomes a retaining wall from the south-west to north-east end of the south-east side and entirely a retaining wall along the north-east side, again continuing to the north-west around the end of the adjacent Lecture Hall. It is entirely brick built, but with stone details. The south-west part of the wall has a yellow sandstone gate post on the north-west side, which is square in section with a ball finial. A corresponding post is positioned at the end of the wall to the north-west, indicating the position of a large gateway that led into the space housing the Lecture Hall and church. To the south of this gatepost the wall is covered with a skim of concrete (the brick below is evidently in very poor condition as a result) and is topped with a spiked iron rail. In the centre is a further pair of yellow sandstone gateposts, again with ball finials and chamfered decoration and sunken quatrefoil panels. The actual opening is blocked and skimmed with concrete. The wall to the south-east is similar to that to the north-west. The south-east wall is brick built, in generally poor condition and topped with yellow sandstone coping with a spiked iron rail on top at the south-west end. Towards the centre it is finished with bullnosed red brick and at the east corner it is finished with a square brick column with an overhanging moulded brick capital. On the north-west side it has several angled brick buttresses at the north-east end. The north-east part of the wall is relatively plain and in poor condition and has been augmented with the addition of several courses of later machine made red brick on the north-west side.

4.3 Internal Detail

4.3.1 **Ground floor, Room 1:** this essentially comprises just a single large space, the nave, but includes the space within the apse at the north-east end and below the galleries on the north-west and south-east sides. The floor is almost entirely covered by debris, but in places the floor boards, which are supported by joists orientated north-east/south-west are visible. There is a considerable space below the floorboards, which in places at least clearly houses iron pipes for the heating, and in the apse there is an entire basement level although this was not accessible. A ring of iron columns runs around the edges of the nave supporting the gallery (Plate 27). At ground floor level these comprise a single column, decorated with fluting and rolled bands with a capital decorated with foliate and scrolled designs (Plate 28); below the floor they are each apparently sat on a column of brick work, 0.6m² and at least seven courses tall. Each column supports a beam connecting to the outer wall, apart from on the south-west side where they connect to a cross-beam, and all of the beams (where they survive) are chamfered and supported on similarly decorated corbels that project from the walls. The beams in turn support a raking bracket, which originally supported the tiered floor of the gallery above, although only a small section of this now survives intact in the north corner (see *Section 4.3.9*). The gallery originally projected further towards the centre of the nave, where it formed a level walk-way and was finished with an outer rail, probably decorated with perforated arches, the posts of which had ball finials; little of this now survives *in situ* (Plate 29) but a possible piece is present amongst the debris (Plate 30). There is a gap in the centre of the south-west section of the gallery where a staircase was evidently once attached (the remains of which are lying on the ground nearby), although this appears to be a later addition as the junction is quite clumsily formed and clearly cuts through some of the earlier fabric. At the south-west end a cross-beam clearly originally supported a timber stud wall constructed of beaded rails and panels, only a short section of which survives (Plate 31). A similar arrangement was evidently also present at the north-east end within the apse, where there was evidently originally an upper floor, although this has almost entirely been destroyed. Situated against this beam is a piece of iron machinery, most probably a goods lift. In the centre of the room this floor is open to the roof, which is described in *Section 4.3.9*.

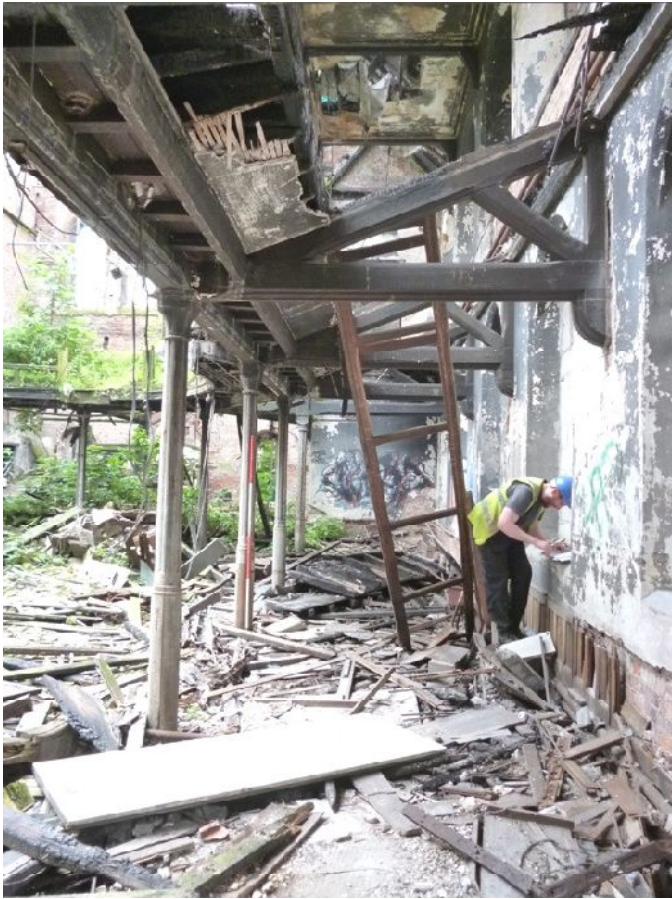


Plate 27 (left): General view of arrangement of columns and beams supporting gallery, north-west side of Room G1



Plate 28 (right): Detail of decorative capital, Room G1



Plate 29 (left): Surviving sections of gallery walk-way, south-west side, Room G1



Plate 30 (right): Loose piece of gallery amongst debris, Room G1



Plate 31 (left): Surviving section of stud wall at south-west end of Room G1

Plate 32 (right): General view of north-east elevation, Room G1

4.3.2 All of the walls were originally finished with plaster although this has come away in many areas exposing the brick, and occasionally stone, beneath. The north-east elevation is dominated in the centre by the curved wall of the apse (Plate 32). Either side of this the wall is of red sandstone construction consisting of relatively rough blocks in rough courses. The north-west side corresponds to the north-tower, and has some plaster remaining finished with paint, the scheme including bands of geometric design. There is a single doorway leading into the tower from the south-west, with a round head, although this is partially filled to accommodate the door surround, and a badly burnt 12-panel door remains. The return to the north-east, forming the north-west side of the apsidal central section, is initially also stone built, but is otherwise mainly brick, laid in English garden wall bond at a ratio of four rows of stretchers to one row of headers. There is a doorway on the south-west side of this return, with only badly burned remains of the door frame remaining. Adjacent, to the north-east of this, is what appears to be a low opening in the wall, but it is completely blocked and covered with plaster. A row of joist holes around the apse indicate the position of an upper floor. In the centre of the apse at ground floor level is a window with a round head and splayed jambs apparently extending to the floor. The return to the south-west on the south-east side is also stone built and includes a doorway, now mostly blocked with concrete blocks, with a badly burned timber lintel and frame. The south-east side of the north-east elevation is again stone built, but more of the plaster remains. It too has a doorway with a round head infilled below, similar to that to the north-west, but the opening is blocked with concrete blocks. The south-east elevation has lost almost all of its plaster finish, and the brick work is exposed; the bond is essentially the same as that in the apse (Plate 33). There is a section of timber panelling along the lower part of the wall at the south-west end, matching that against the north-west elevation (see *Section 4.3.3*), which evidently originally extended along the whole elevation (Plate 34). It is constructed from panels between chamfered studs and with a beaded rail. It has been cut along the base to accommodate the water pipes. Across the south-east elevation there is a row of six windows, all with round heads (constructed from brick laid as headers) all of which are blocked with concrete blocks (Plate 33).



Plate 33 (left): General view along south-east elevation, Room G1

Plate 34 (right): Panelling at south-west end of south-east elevation, Room G1

4.3.3 The south-west elevation, like the opposing north-east elevation, projects inward either side of the centre due to the corner towers. Unlike the other three corners the south corner is entirely brick built and the walls are noticeably thinner. The south-east end of the south-west elevation still has its plaster finish, but is otherwise plain, while the return to the south-west has the brickwork exposed (it is laid in a similar bond as the walls to the north-east, but at a ratio of three rows of stretchers to one row of headers) and has a doorway leading into the tower with the damaged remains of a panelled door and timber lintel. The central section, which forms the bulk of the elevation, also has its brickwork exposed, which is laid in the same bond. There are two windows, with round heads and angled sills, the south-east of which is blocked with concrete blocks, either side of the central doorway, which has a segmented stone arch with a lower dressed stone tympanum held by a flattened stone arch and the remains of a timber plank and batten door with elaborate strap hinges. The elevation returns to the north-east at the north-west end where it meets the west tower, and is built of red sandstone. There is a doorway within this, the timber lintel and frame of which are badly burnt and the door missing. The return to the north-west forming the end of the south-west elevation is plain although it is also of stone construction, although with more of its plaster remaining, and a scar for panelling along its base. The north-west elevation retains much of its plaster and has a short section of panelling surviving against the lower part of the south-west end, identical to that against the south-east elevation. As per the south-east elevation there is a row of six windows with round heads and splayed jambs with chamfered edges.

4.3.4 **Ground floor, Room 2:** this forms the interior of the tower in the north corner. The floor is entirely obscured by debris and the ceiling is open to the floor above on the north-east side and has lathe and plaster ceiling on the south-west. The stairs, which are positioned against the north-east elevation, are of timber construction with square newel posts (the tops of which have scars where ball finials have been broken off) (Plate 35). The side rail has beaded decoration, the hand rail is six-sided, and the balusters have been removed with only scars remaining. Beneath the stairs there is a small cupboard with a four-panel door on the north-west side, the inside of which is sub-divided by a timber plank wall with a small hinged hatch. The walls within the entire room are finished with plaster and have

a chamfered timber skirting board. The north-east elevation has a window behind the stairs with a round head with chamfered edges, which is blocked with concrete blocks (Plate 36). The south-east elevation has a doorway on the south-west side with chamfered jambs, the timber lintel and door frame of which remain but are badly burnt. The south-west elevation has a doorway on the south-east side, similar in style to that to the south-east, but with its 12-panel door remaining, although also fire-damaged (Plate 37). Remnants of the original paint scheme with a geometric a band comprising rhomboids in bands painted in dark olive green on mustard yellow, dividing a pale cream above and a dark olive green below are evident on the north-west side of the elevation (Plate 38). The north-west elevation has a doorway in the centre with a relatively plain plank and batten door remaining in situ (Plate 39).



Plate 35 (left): Staircase in Room G2

Plate 36 (right): Detail of window behind stairs



Plate 37 (left): Door in south-west elevation, Room G2

Plate 38 (right): Paint scheme on the south-west elevation, Room G2



Plate 39 (left): Door in north-west elevation, Room G2

Plate 40 (right): Stairs in Room G3

4.3.5 **Ground floor, Room 3:** this forms the interior of the tower in the west corner. Again the floor is obscured by debris and it is open to the floor above on the south-west side. The stairs are positioned against the north-east and north-west sides; the steps are constructed from pale yellow sandstone with a cast iron newel post and balusters and a moulded timber hand rail with a spiral finish (Plate 40). The walls are finished with plaster, which incorporates a roll-moulded skirting. The north-east elevation is plain and has the stairs set against it but the remains of the original painted scheme, which is the same as that in Room G2 (Plate 41). There is an iron pipe set into the wall in the north corner, presumably part of the heating system or for carrying gas around the building, and this connects to an iron box set into the wall below with a lever, presumably forming a valve. The south-east elevation has a central doorway with chamfered jambs and a round head, the top part of which has been filled leaving a recess to which is attached a scrolled iron bracket for a gas lamp. To the south-west of the doorway a chamfered timber bracket is attached to the wall, extending round the corner onto the south-west elevation, which has scrolled iron coat hooks attached (Plate 41). The south-west elevation is dominated by a large doorway with a timber door of trellis construction with iron strap hinges decorated with cross-hatching (Plate 42). Again, elements of the original paint scheme are present across this elevation and there is an early electrical fuse box in the west corner. The north-east side of the north-west corner is below the stairs and the rest is plain, apart from a row of iron pipes attached near the base, presumably also forming part of the heating system (Plate 43). Behind these is what appears to be scar for a round hole in the plaster, which has been filled and painted over (Plate 43).



Plate 41 (left): Bracket with coat hooks and paint scheme, south corner, Room G3

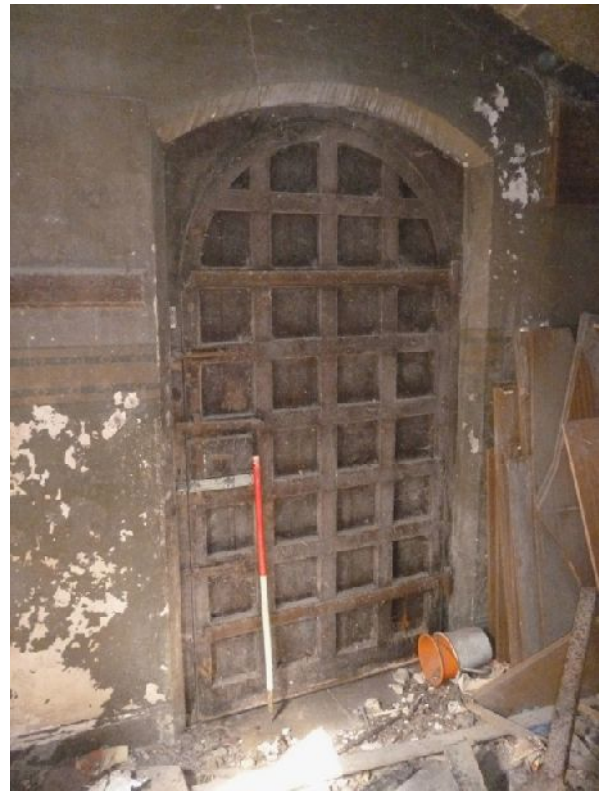


Plate 42 (right): Door in south-west elevation of Room G3



Plate 43 (left): Pipes against north-west elevation and below stairs, Room G3



Plate 44 (right): Stairs in Room G4

4.3.6 **Ground floor, Room 4:** this forms the interior of the tower in the south corner. The floor is covered by debris to a considerable depth, even covering the lower part of the staircase, making access extremely difficult. It is open to the floor above, and has a staircase against the north-east and south-east walls, the steps of which are constructed from pale yellow sandstone with a cast iron newel post and balusters and turned timber hand rail as per Room G3 (Plate 44). The walls are finished with plaster throughout with a moulded skirting and painted pattern, like that in Room G2 and G3, remaining. There is a chamfered timber bracket with iron coat hooks around the south corner (Plate 45). The south-west elevation has a central doorway with a timber door of similar construction to that in Room G3 (Plate 46). The north-west elevation also has a doorway, with the lower part of a panelled door remaining and there are iron pipes in the north corner, presumably also forming part of the heating system (Plate 47).



Plate 45 (left): Timber bracket forming coat hook around south corner of Room G4

Plate 46 (right): Door in south-west elevation of Room G4



Plate 47: North-west elevation of Room G4 showing door and iron pipes

4.3.7 **Ground floor, Room 5:** this comprises the interior of the small outshut projecting from the south-east side of the north-east elevation. Again the floor is covered by debris and it is open to the roof, although only a small amount of the structure of this remains showing it was angled and supported by a single purlin running between the east and west corners. The walls are a mixture of exposed brick and stone, the plaster mostly having come away. The north-east elevation has a large opening in the centre, which has splayed jambs although its head has largely collapsed. This was presumably originally a window, but was subsequently converted into a doorway leading to Room G6 as the original sill has evidently been broken through. The south-east elevation has a central window with a round head and stone outer detailing although internally most of the finish is lost (Plate 48). The south-west elevation has a small fireplace on the south-east side with only a very basic splayed opening below a sandstone lintel (Plate 49). To the north-west there is a doorway with a chamfered surround and 12-panel door with beading (Plate 49). Above the doorframe there is a section, which was evidently filled with timber below the lintel proper, perhaps suggesting this doorway has been modified. The north-west elevation has a metal mesh panel on the south-west side, running the full height of the wall, presumably hiding pipes or cables behind. There is a doorway to the north-east with the burnt remains of a timber lintel and what was presumably originally a 12-panel door, with the stonework above the lintel largely collapsed (Plate 50).



Plate 48 (left): Window in the south-east elevation of Room G5



Plate 49 (right): Fireplace and doorway in the south-west elevation of Room G5



Plate 50 (left): Damaged doorway in the north-west elevation of Room G5



Plate 51 (right): General view of Room G6 showing internal stud walling

4.3.8 **Ground floor, Room 6:** this comprises the interior of the later outshut added to the outshut forming Room G5, only part of which stands intact. The floor is covered with a deep pile of debris and it is open to the monopitch roof, only elements of which survive. The north-east and south-east walls are constructed from machine made bricks; the north-west elevation was evidently also constructed in the same style but is now collapsed. Internally, against the north-east elevation there is a section of stud wall

constructed from tongue and groove planks, which evidently formed a toilet cubicle, with a doorway on the north-west side with a four panel door still *in situ* (Plate 51). The north-east elevation has a window in what originally would have been the centre, with the remains of a single-light timber casement; the wall to the north-west of this has collapsed as has the north-west elevation. The south-east elevation has holes for a bracket on the north-east side for a supporting a toilet cistern, which is sitting loose amongst the debris, and there is a central window with a two-light timber casement and sill to the south-west. The south-west elevation forms part of the original external elevation and is described in *Section 4.2.1*.

4.3.9 First floor, Room 1: this comprises the upper level of the nave, including the galleries and apse. The structure of the galleries at this level only survives in a fragmentary state; it is best preserved in the north corner and covered with vegetation along the south-east side. It could not be accessed safely at any point but the north-west side could be reasonably well viewed from the south tower (Plate 52 and Plate 54). As already described (see *Section 4.3.1*) it evidently originally held tiered floors for seating, with a level walk-way along the inner side. The arrangement at the north-east end (within the apse) and south-west side (above the main entrance) is not clear as so little is remaining in these areas. It is supported by a ring of columns situated directly above those on the ground floor and bolted to the top of the beam that they support; iron poles have been fixed along the columns presumably to act as makeshift barriers. The columns are again finished with decorated capitals, and on top of each a separate shorter column is bolted, which is decorated with fluted panels and open sections to the side (Plate 53) to house timber forming arched arcades running along each the gallery (Plate 54 and Plate 55). These only survive in reasonable condition in the north corner and comprise timber fascia or framing with moulded panels (Plate 55). The tops of the iron columns support beams forming the inner edge of the arcades and beams connecting to corbels in the outer walls, and each have an ovolo-moulded corbel on the inner face with an iron tie rod projecting through a connecting to the corbel on the opposing side of the room. In addition they support queen posts and angled struts forming part of the trusses, which are essentially of simple tie beam construction with a raised collar, attached to which is a fascia forming a large central arch (Plate 56). An iron strap fixes the principal rafters to the collar and the principals meet at a lap joint, south-east on top of north-west and are fixed with an iron bolt. There are the remains of eight trusses, including one against each end wall, making seven bays. Attached between the queen posts was originally a stud wall constructed of lathe and plaster and finished with moulded plaster panels and a row of pierced foliate-style iron grills below; this now only survives on the north-east side of the north-west elevation. Below the roof the ceiling too was originally finished with lathe and plaster with moulded panels, although only traces of this now survive, with light fittings attached. Within the galleries there was originally a lower ceiling between the beams running north-west/south-east from the tops of the columns, again of lathe and plaster construction with moulded cornices, but elements of this only survive on the north-west side. At the south-west end virtually none of the upper structure survives while in the apse the domed plaster ceiling remains intact, with a beaded outer edge and moulded plaster rail.



Plate 52 (left): First floor gallery, north-west side, Room F1



Plate 53 (right): Detail of columns, Room F1



Plate 54 (left): Arcade along south-east side, Room F1



Plate 55 (right): Arcade along north-west side, Room F1, showing remaining plaster



Plate 56: Typical roof trusses, Room F1

4.3.10 All of the walls were originally finished with plaster and paint, although this only remains to any extent on the north-east and north-west sides. The centre of the north-east elevation is situated within the semi-circular apse, which has remains of its paint scheme still visible – comprising linear bands with leaves and quatrefoil panels, in what appears to be green, above a block of pale orange with further dark bands (Plate 57). The wall of the apse is otherwise relatively plain; there is a central window with a round head and chamfered surround, and the return to the south-west has a doorway into the upper floor of the north tower, with a badly fire-damaged timber lintel, the upper part of the opening below having been infilled with a lathe and plaster panel. There is also a window in the south-east return, which is relatively small compared to that to the north-east but in the same style. The flat returns either side of the apse are plain, with brackets for the arcades attached. The south-east elevation has some plaster remaining but the brickwork is exposed across most of it. There are six pairs of windows, each pair set within a large round-headed opening, several of which have elements of the stained glass remaining.



Plate 57 (left): Paint scheme within the apse, north-east end of Room F1



Plate 58 (right): Windows at the south-west end of Room F1

4.3.11 The south-west elevation projects to the north-east on the south-east side where there is a doorway leading to the gallery with a badly damaged surround. This face is finished with plaster, but the return to the south-west has been stripped of plaster, apart from a small piece of moulded cornice or rail, and the brickwork is laid in stretcher bond at a ratio of three courses of stretchers to one row of headers. There is also a row of pierced foliate-style iron grills against the wall supported by the remnants of a piece of timber. The main part of the south-west elevation is also exposed brick, again laid in English garden wall bond, at a ratio of three or four rows of stretchers to one row of headers, and has a row of four windows with round heads across it with a large octofoil window with the stone surround exposed (Plate 58). A further small slot window with splayed jambs is situated just below the eaves, which are finished with a red sandstone coping. The return to the north-east is stone built with its plaster missing, as per the ground floor, with a small section of plaster cornice remaining near the top, and there is a small above the original roof-line looking into the tower. The return to the north-west is still finished with plaster and has a doorway connecting the tower to the gallery with the burnt remains of a frame. The north-west elevation has more of its plaster remaining, and a row of six pairs of windows within larger round-headed arches as per the south-east elevation. One is blocked with concrete blocks and one has some stained glass remaining *in situ*. The tiered boards for seating have survived at the north-east end and iron pipes for heating are concealed behind.

4.3.12 **First floor, Room 2:** this is the upper floor of the north tower. The floor comprises the timber steps of the staircase, which come to a landing at the top comprising tongue and groove floorboards on north-east/south-west orientated joists. The ceiling is lathe and plaster and relatively plain, with a slight slope down to the north-east. There is a square hole through it in the north corner, below which are two timber brackets and a square timber fitting, presumably for a water tank. The scar of a pipe runs down the corner below. All of the walls are finished with plaster and a chamfered timber skirting board. There is a window at high level to the north-west, with a rounded head, angled sill and chamfered surround. There is a doorway on the south-east side, originally leading to the upper floor of the apse, which has a badly fire-damaged surround and the top part of the opening is infilled with a lathe and plaster panel.

4.3.13 **First floor, Room 3:** this is the upper floor of the west tower. The ashlar yellow sandstone staircase with cast iron balusters and turned timber handrail, as per the floor below, continue to this level where they form a landing (Plate 59). The ceiling is lathe and plaster and flat, with a square access hatch, presumably an upper level roof space in the west corner. The walls are finished with plaster and paint, incorporating a moulded skirting. There are windows to the south-west and north-west with round headed, with recessed panel in the top section, and chamfered surrounds and a doorway to the north-

east onto the gallery, with the burnt remains of a door frame with a relatively plain chamfered finish (Plate 60).



Plate 59 (left): Handrail and landing at the top of Room F3

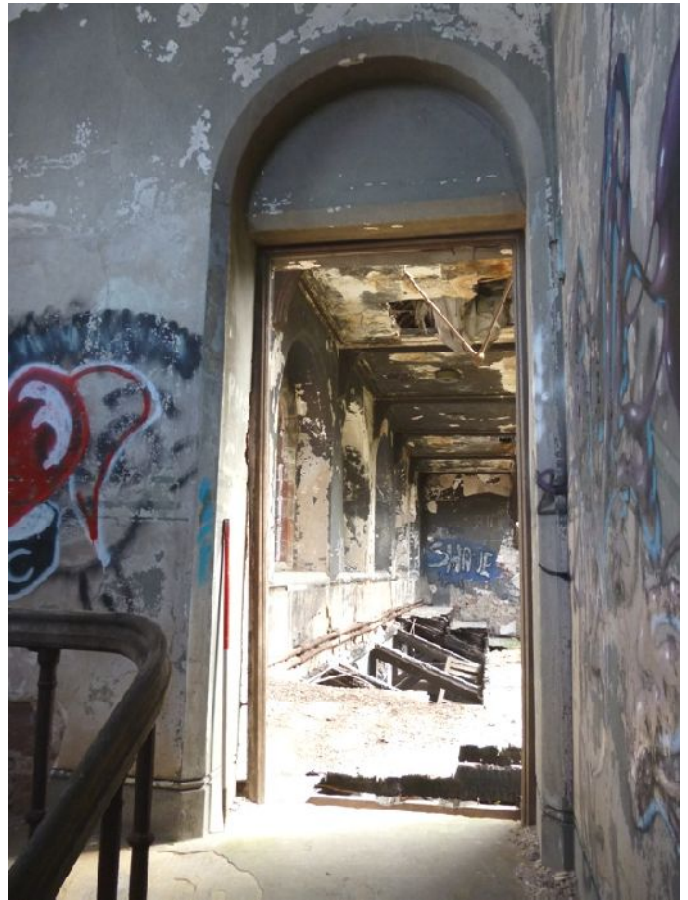
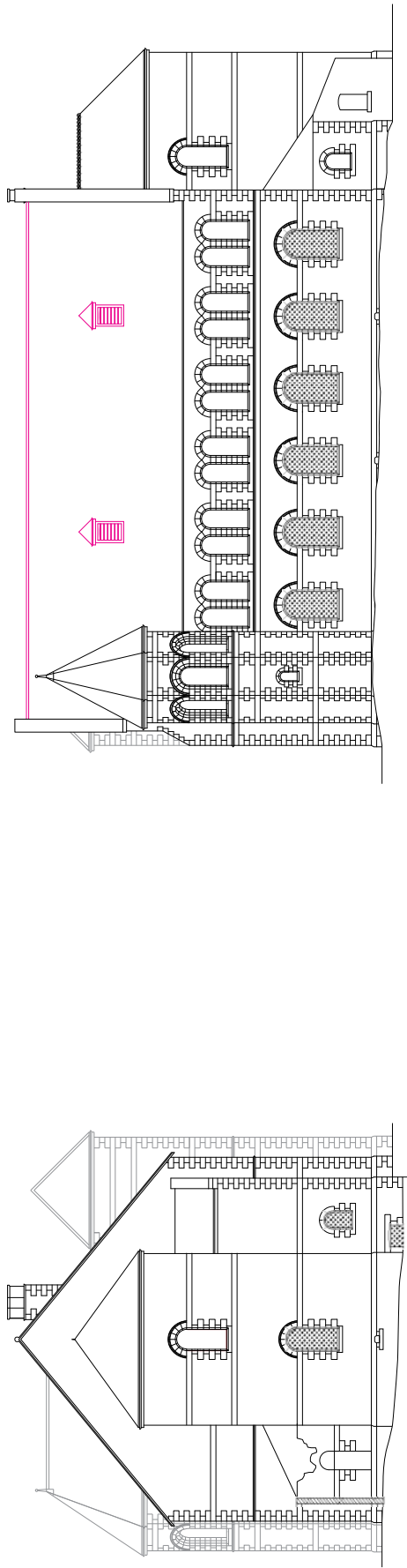


Plate 60 (right): Doorway leading to gallery to north-east from Room F3

4.3.14 **First floor, Room 4:** this is the upper floor of the east tower. It is largely choked with debris, making access difficult, but the ashlar yellow sandstone staircase with cast iron balusters and turned timber hand rail, as per the floor below, continue to this level. The ceiling is missing as the roof has been largely removed leaving only elements of its structure remaining. The walls are finished with plaster, with remnants of the paint scheme (as per the floor below) and moulded skirting visible. There is a small mid-level window on the south-east side with a round head (Plate 61) and on the top floor there are three larger windows, one in each face of the tower, again with round heads. There is a doorway on the north-east side leading onto the gallery with parts of its chamfered frame remaining.

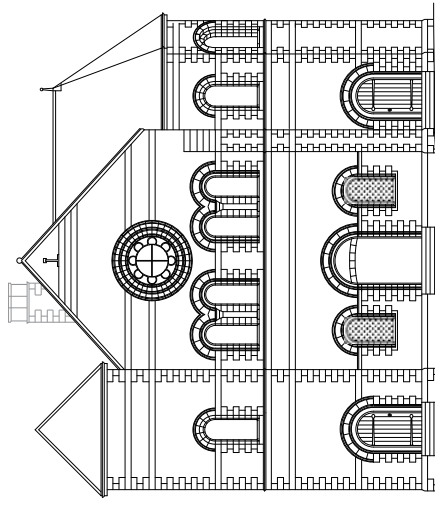


Plate 61: Small window in south-east elevation of Room F4

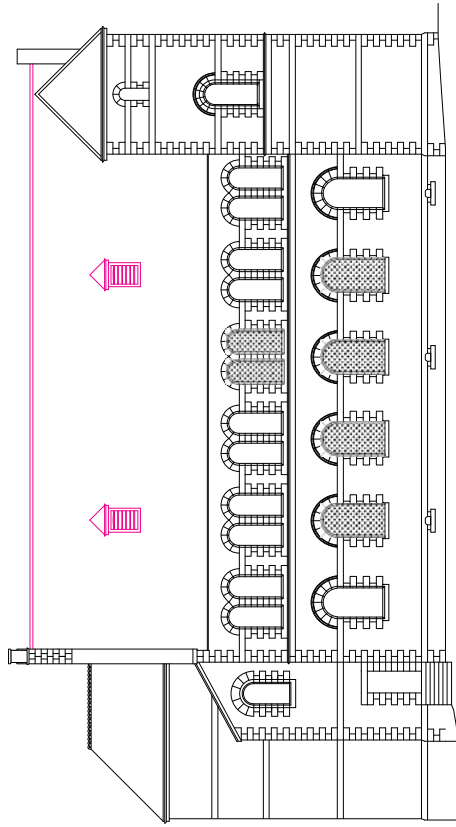


North-east elevation

South-east elevation



South-west elevation



North-west elevation

Key: — edge uncertain — destroyed by fire — blocked feature — features to the rear

0 10m

Figure 2: External elevations

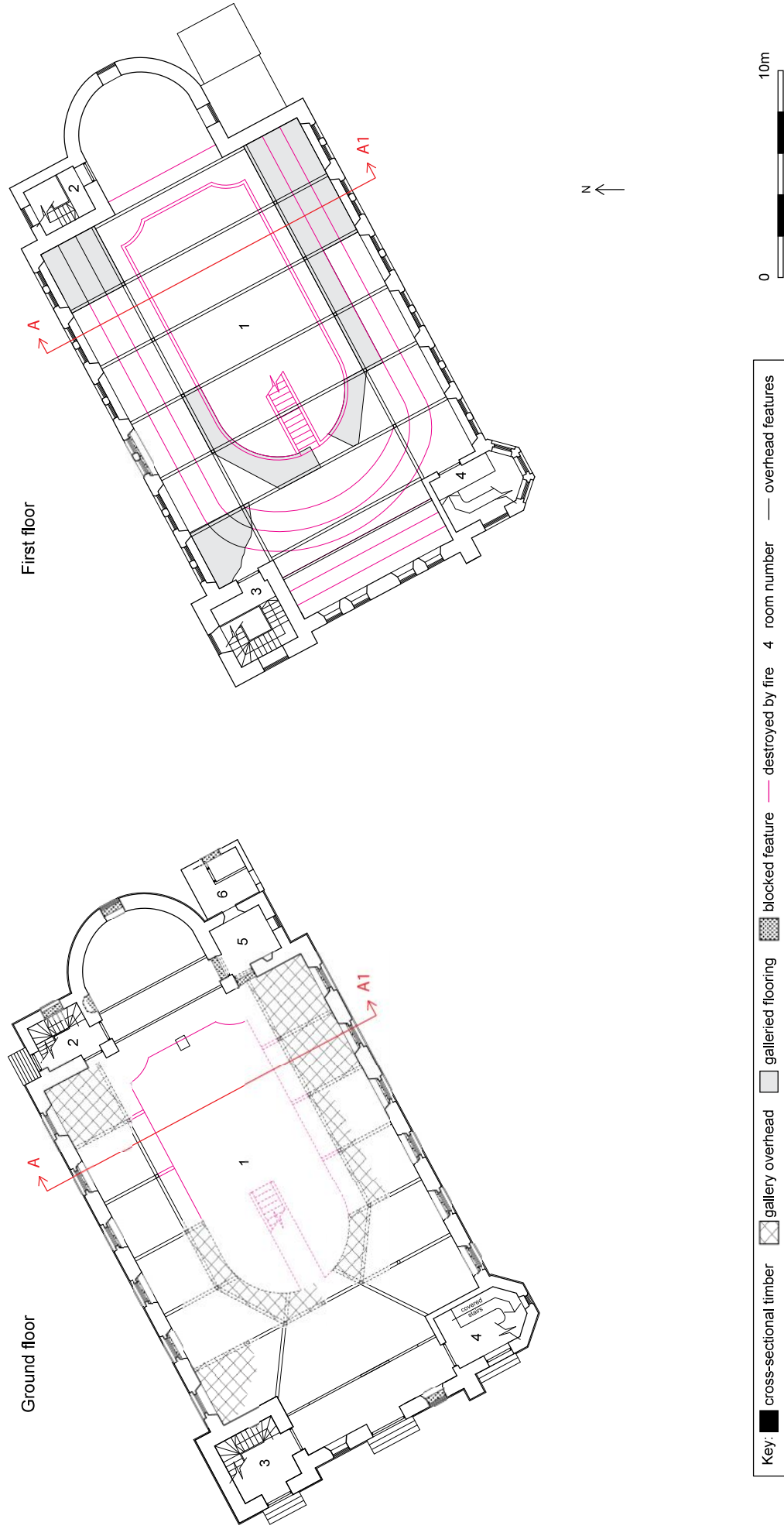
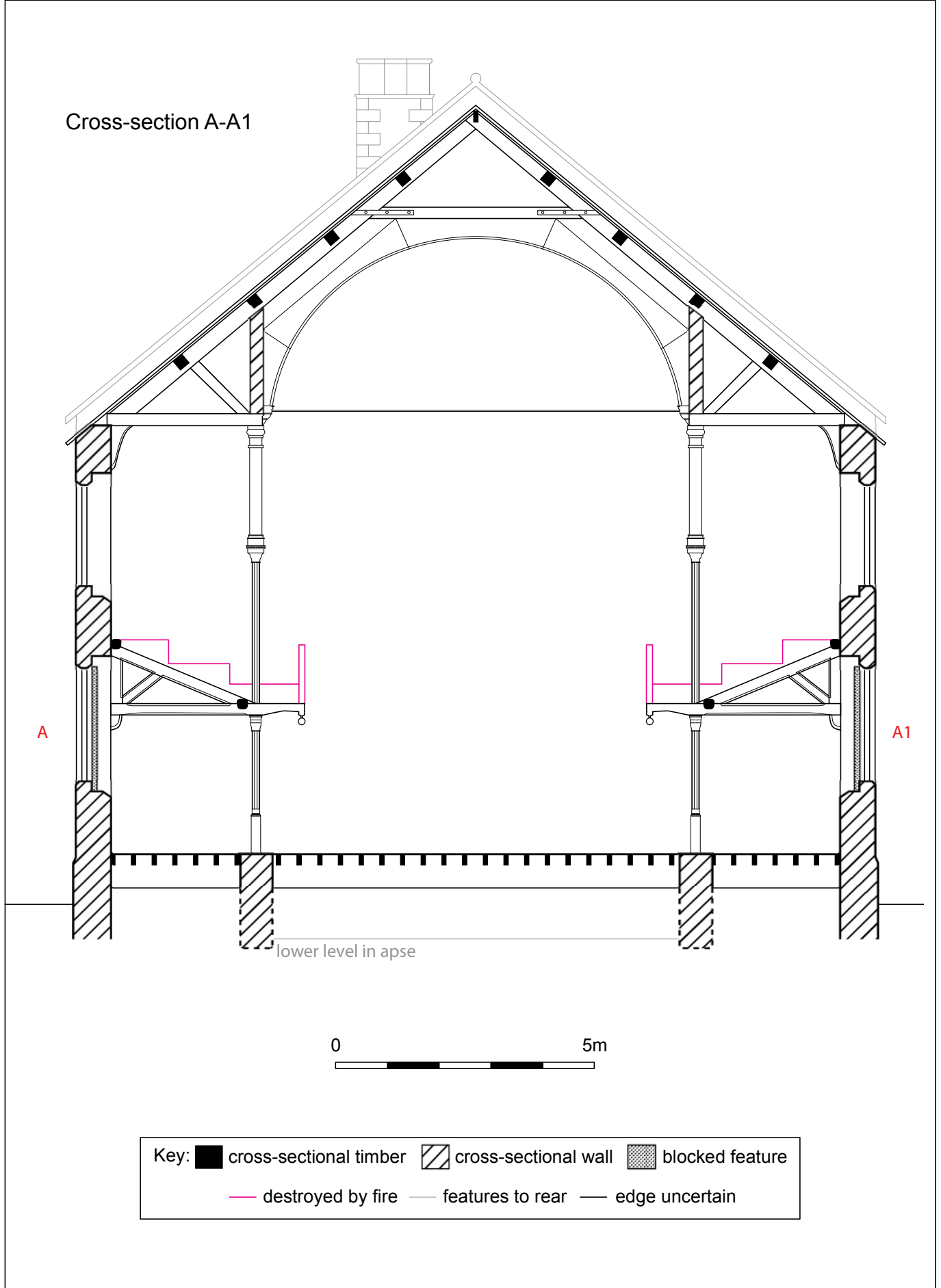


Figure 3: Floor plans



Client: Barrow Borough Council

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Figure 4: Cross-section A-A1

5. Discussion

5.1 Phasing

5.1.1 **Introduction:** the ability to phase the development of the building is greatly enhanced by the detailed documentary information available relating to its initial construction and early use (of at least part of it) as a school. These alterations would have otherwise been quite likely to be very difficult to identify.

5.1.2 **Phase 1 – 1874-1881:** the documentary sources clearly show that building was constructed between January 1874 and July 1875, although the plans were submitted by Paley and Austin at the end of 1873. The submitted plans show that the building was constructed as intended. However, it is possible that some late alterations were made on account of the modifications suggested by the committee or as a means of saving money. In particular, it is notable that the north-east wall of the south tower is considerably thinner and built of brick unlike the other two, which are stone, and this seems to have been counter balanced by the addition of a buttress on the south-east side of the south-west elevation, the only one present on the entire building. In addition, there are other elements of the building that suggest that either alterations were made soon after completion or that some aspects of the work were not carried out in the intended sequence. These changes all seem to relate to the heating system, which appears to be original but was clearly added after the majority of the building work was complete; it is noticeable that the plaster around at least some of the water pipes set in the corners of the towers was added later as there are scars running along the sides. In addition, the circular hole in the wall behind the pipes in the south-tower (Room G3) had been filled before the pipes had been put in position and the panels against the north-west and south-east elevations of Room G1 (which were presumably part of the intended decorative scheme) had been cut to fit around the pipes, suggesting that these two parts of the work had not been properly scheduled. These features may indicate that the heating system was altered at an early date, and there are certainly references in the minute books relating to issues connected to it that suggest it was intended to be placed in the aisles and concerns over avoiding the need to alter the plaster, but it is unclear whether the extant arrangement represents a last-minute change or a later modification. It is also noteworthy that the boundary wall, although clearly early, does not match that shown in the illustration of 1881 (Plate 9), which is also suggestive of either a last-minute change of plan or an early alteration, post-dating 1881.

5.1.3 **Phase 2 – late 20th century:** there is little evidence in either the documentary sources or the physical remains of the building for any substantial changes throughout the majority of the church's active use, which lasted until 1971. The installation of new windows on the ground floor of the nave (Room G1) in 1955 is recorded in the documentary sources but since these were subsequently removed there is now no evidence for them remaining. The substantial later damage has no doubt obscured a number of alterations, although externally it seems likely that the raised concrete pointing to the external stonework was also added during this period, which has in turn caused further damage (see *Section 5.1.4* below). It is apparent that as early as 1975 the building was being used for retail storage. The pews and other fittings were evidently removed at an early date, possibly before this, and it is likely that some or all of the ground floor windows were blocked up at this time to improve security. The staircase that formerly stood at the south-west end of the nave (Room G1) was evidently added during this period, to increase access to the galleries, as were the iron bars along the galleries and the probable goods lift at the north-east end. The building otherwise remained largely unchanged during this period, although it was clearly beginning to suffer the effects of damp and apparently suffered some fire damage before 2003, as shown in the photographs of that year (*Appendix 2*). The largest addition during this period was the addition of the monopitch extension (forming Room G5) to the north-east side of the former vestry (Room G6), which also involved knocking through a former window to provide access between these two rooms. This extension was clearly built to provide a toilet, and stylistically appears to be perhaps early 20th or even late 19th century date, but it does not appear on any of the early mapping, including the probably mid 20th century plan (CRO(B) BDFC/P/T/60 n.d. It was also not shown on the plans of 2003 submitted with the planning application (Ref. 2003/0669 and 2003/0670) although it must have existed by that date, although it may already have been derelict by that time) and so presumably cannot have been constructed before 1933.

5.1.4 **Phase 3 – early 21st century:** the fire of 2005 did considerable damage to the building, and has caused the most extensive alteration to the building following its construction. It resulted in the loss or damage of much of the roof timber and other internal timberwork and most of the roof slate. In addition the floors in the nave were badly damaged, in part by subsequent exposure to the elements and the accumulation of rotting debris and bird droppings, and the stud walls at either end were totally or mostly destroyed. The former vestry (Room G5) and later extension to the north-east were left almost totally ruined after the fire and, the latter in particular, have been largely buried by debris resulting from the fire and later dumping. The staircases in the towers survived in remarkably good condition, even the timber built stairs in the north tower, although subsequent vandalism and the accumulation of material dumped before and after the fire have obscured them. Further blocking of windows and the blocking or sealing of doorways, if not already carried out by this date, also occurred during this phase. In addition, the external, concrete pointing has also, in part at least, led to the considerable damage to the red sandstone detailing, where water has attempted to escape through the stone rather than the joints between, resulting in the loss of some surfaces.

5.2 Conclusion

5.2.1 The recording of the former Presbyterian church has provided a valuable record of the building, although too late to have seen it at its most complete. It has confirmed that it was constructed much as originally intended although there appear to have been some minor alterations, perhaps due to last minute changes to the original scheme or difficulties with scheduling different aspects of the work. This is notably different to another group of buildings of the same date, which were seemingly varied considerably from the proposed plans (Greenlane Archaeology 2008; 2011). Little seems to have been modified following this, however, apart from some minor alterations in the 20th century and the biggest change to the fabric was the near-total destruction of the interior during the fire of 2005. Nevertheless, the building still retains its external form in remarkably good condition and is structurally sound, although large areas are covered with debris both resulting from the fire and resulting from the later dumping of rubbish on the site.

5.2.2 Historically, the building is important not only as an example of the work of a nationally important firm of architects, Paley and Austin of Lancaster (see Brandwood 2011), but it was also constructed by the local contractor William Gradwell. It is no exaggeration to say that Gradwell was responsible for the building of a considerable amount of Barrow-in-Furness in the 1860s and 1870s (Trescaheric 1985, 61-65) and worked on a number of prominent buildings in the town (see for example Elsworth and Whitehead 2010), including others designed by Paley and Austin (eg Greenlane Archaeology 2007).

5.3 Recommendations

5.3.1 Ideally, if the means could be found, the surviving remains of the building should be preserved, suitably repaired and found a new use, but this seems unlikely to be feasible at present. The formation of a Building Preservation Trust to take on the renovation of the site could be investigated as a means for this to happen.

5.3.2 In addition, given the condition of the building, the difficulty of access, and the difficulty of even observing some areas due to the debris covering the floor both inside and outside the building, and the trees and scaffolding obscuring the exterior some further recording is recommended. This is particularly noteworthy in terms of the below ground features such as the space below the apse, which could not be safely accessed, and the external staircase apparently accessing this space shown on the undated plans (CRO(B) BDFC/P/T/60 n.d.) as being immediately to the north-west of the apse, which was not even identifiable on site.

5.3.3 Depending on how the proposed demolition is carried out it is therefore recommended as a minimum that additional photographs be taken once the debris has been removed from the building. At the same time the plans could also be annotated with any additional detail covering areas that were not accessible at the time the building recording was carried out. In addition, the position of the foundation stone was not located during the building recording – it is not described as having an inscription in the historical sources so it is unclear how it would be identified. A ‘time capsule’ was placed beneath this

during construction and it would be worthwhile making every effort to recover this during demolition so that it could be deposited in a museum.

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2003/0669, 2003 *Conversion of Chapel into Ten, One Bedroom Flats*

2003/0670, 2003 *Listed Building Consent for Conversion of Chapel into Ten, One Bedroom Flats*

2009/0123, 2009 *Demolition of Remaining Parts of Severely Fire Damaged Former Presbyterian Church, School Street, Barrow in Furness*

Appendix 1: Listed Building Details

Location: Presbyterian Church, School Street (north-east side), Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria

Date listed: 6th May 1976

Date of last amendment: 27th July 2007

Grade II

A two-storey Presbyterian Church built in the Romanesque style between 1873-75 to a design by E.G. Paley and H.J. Austin.

MATERIALS: Rock-faced limestone with red sandstone dressings beneath fire-damaged graduated slate roofs.

PLAN: The church is sub-rectangular in plan with a rear apse.

EXTERIOR: The main front W façade is of 5 bays and contains a square tower set forward on the left and an apsidal projection set back against the right return. There is a central doorway with a quoined surround with flanking shafts and segmental head beneath a round-arched tympanum with a hoodmould. To either side of the doorway there are round-arched windows linked by an impost band and hoodmoulds. There is a tall buttress on the right at the junction of the apsidal projection. There are matching round-arched doorways to bays 1 and 5. There is a 1st floor band then a moulded sill band to 2 pairs of windows with shafts and hoodmoulds. The square tower and apsidal projection have singlelight windows. The gable has an octofoil rose window, ashlar banding and copings. The square tower terminates in a shallow pyramidal roof. Roofs to the apsidal projection and the main body of the church are fire damaged. N and S facades have 6:1 bays with 1-light windows to the ground floor and paired windows above. Steps lead to a square-headed doorway at the north-east corner. The rear apse has 1-light windows to both floors beneath a conical roof. There is a 3-flue stack to the main gable.

INTERIOR: Severely fire-damaged. There is a U-shaped gallery on ribbed cast iron columns with remains of a staircase at the W end. The sides of the gallery have wooden arcading. Some archbraced tie-beam trusses survive.

HISTORY: The Presbyterian Church was built between 1873-75 to a design by the architects E.G. Paley & H.J. Austin. The building ceased to function as a church in the late C20 and was subsequently used as a warehouse for storage purposes. In 2005 a serious fire damaged the building's interior leading to substantial internal damage, the loss of the decorative finishes and much of the roof covering.

SOURCES: Listed building description: School Street (North East Side) Presbyterian Church. SD26NW. 708-1/6/132. 06/05/76.

Building Plans register: 1873-: NO.535.

SUMMARY OF IMPORTANCE: A Victorian church built between 1873-75 to a design by the eminent church architects E.G. Paley and H.J. Austin. Constructed in the Romanesque style, this handsome and imposing church provides a striking focus within its residential setting, and demonstrates a high quality of design and workmanship. Despite a fire in 2005 which damaged the structure's interior, the building's exterior remains remarkably undamaged.

Appendix 2: Photographs included with 2003 planning application (Ref. 2003/0670)

