



Northamptonshire Archaeology

A Photographic Survey of The British Red Cross Building Lower Chantry Lane, Canterbury



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QUALITY CONTROL

	Print name	Signed	Date
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OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project title	A Photographic Survey of the British Red Cross Building at Lower Chantry Lane, Canterbury	
Short description	A photographic survey of the British Red Cross building at Lower Chantry Lane, Canterbury, was carried out in December 2010 prior to demolition and in advance of the construction of a new building on the site. The survey provides a photographic record of the building constructed in 1954, which served as an office for the British Red Cross.	
Project type	Photographic Building Survey	
Site Status	None	
Previous work	None	
Current land use	Office Building	
Future work	Demolition, archaeological excavations and re-build	
Monument type and period	None	
Significant finds	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
County	Canterbury	
Site address	British Red Cross Centre, Lower Chantry Lane, Canterbury	
Post code	CT1 1UF	
OS co-ordinates	TR 1545 5750	
Area (sq m/ha)	668 sq m	
Height aOD	c18m above Ordnance Datum	
PROJECT CREATORS		
Organisation	Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA)	
Project brief originator	Richard Cross, Canterbury City Council	
Project Design originator	Jim Brown, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Director/Supervisor	Angela Warner, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Project Manager	Jim Brown, Northamptonshire Archaeology	
Sponsor or funding body	British Red Cross	
PROJECT DATE		
Start date	20/12/2010	
End date	20/12/2010	
ARCHIVES	Location (Accession no.)	Contents
Physical		35mm Colour slides and monochrome contact prints
Paper		Photographic register and notes
Digital		Client PDF
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Journal/monograph, published or forthcoming, or unpublished client report (NA report)	
Title	A Photographic Survey of the British Red Cross Building at Lower Chantry Lane, Canterbury	
Serial title & volume	11/126	
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Fig 12: The serving hatch between the Hall and Kitchen

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Back cover: Rear elevation

**A PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF
THE BRITISH RED CROSS BUILDING
AT LOWER CHANTRY LANE, CANTERBURY**

DECEMBER 2010

Abstract

A photographic survey of the British Red Cross building at Lower Chantry Lane, Canterbury, was carried out in December 2010 prior to demolition and in advance of the construction of a new building on the site. The survey provides a photographic record of the building constructed in 1954, which served as an office for the British Red Cross.

1 INTRODUCTION

A photographic survey was carried out by Northamptonshire Archaeology (NA) in December 2010 at the British Red Cross building, Lower Chantry Lane, Canterbury (NGR: TR 1545 5750, Figs 1-2). The work was commissioned by the British Red Cross through Sursham Tompkins & Partners and was undertaken following a specification of works produced by Northamptonshire Archaeology and approved by Canterbury City Council (Brown 2008). The purpose of the photographic survey of the building prior to its demolition is to provide a permanent record of the former structure, which has been a part of the community since after the Second World War.

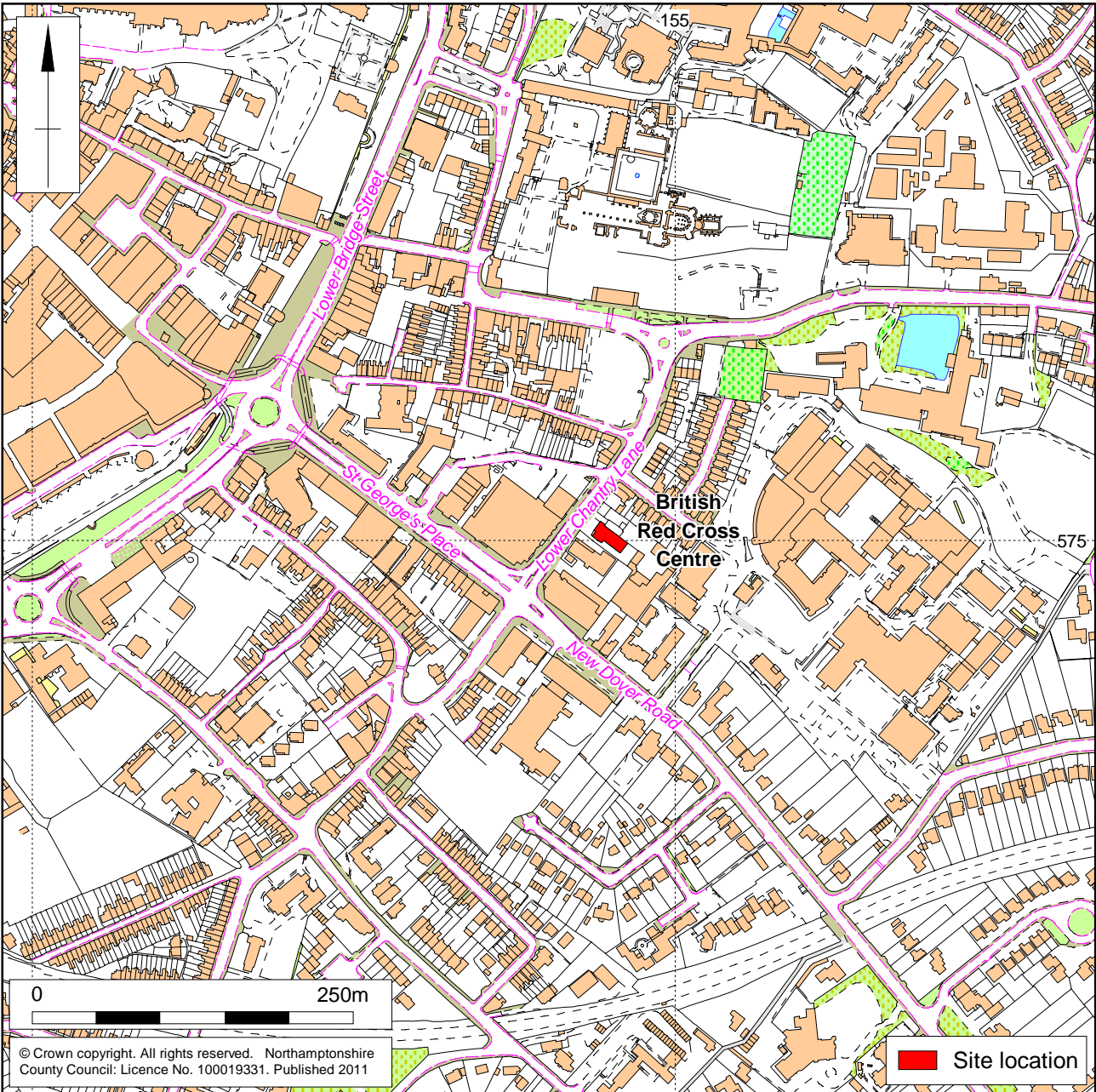
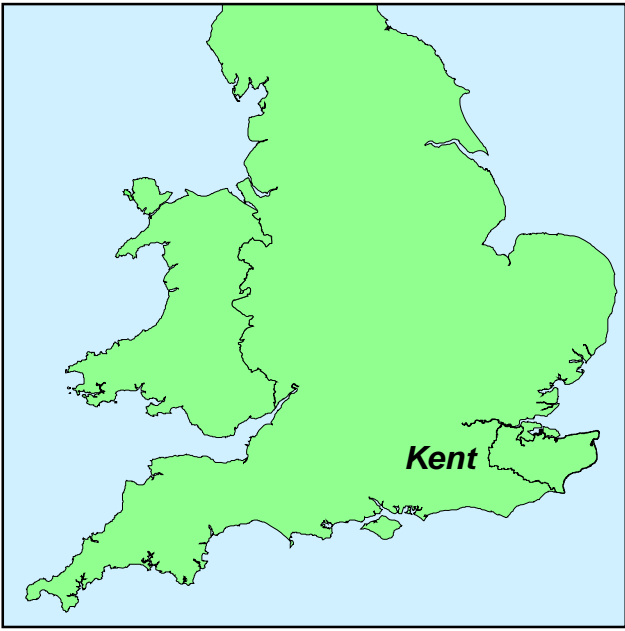
2 OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

A photographic survey consists of a full visual record supplemented by a brief written account. A comprehensive photographic survey may be appropriate for a building of a well-known type which is under threat but for which existing documentation is in other respects adequate (EH 2006).

The work was carried out in accordance with the guidelines set out in the English Heritage document *Understanding Historic Buildings, a guide to good recording practice* (EH 2006) and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (IfA 2008).

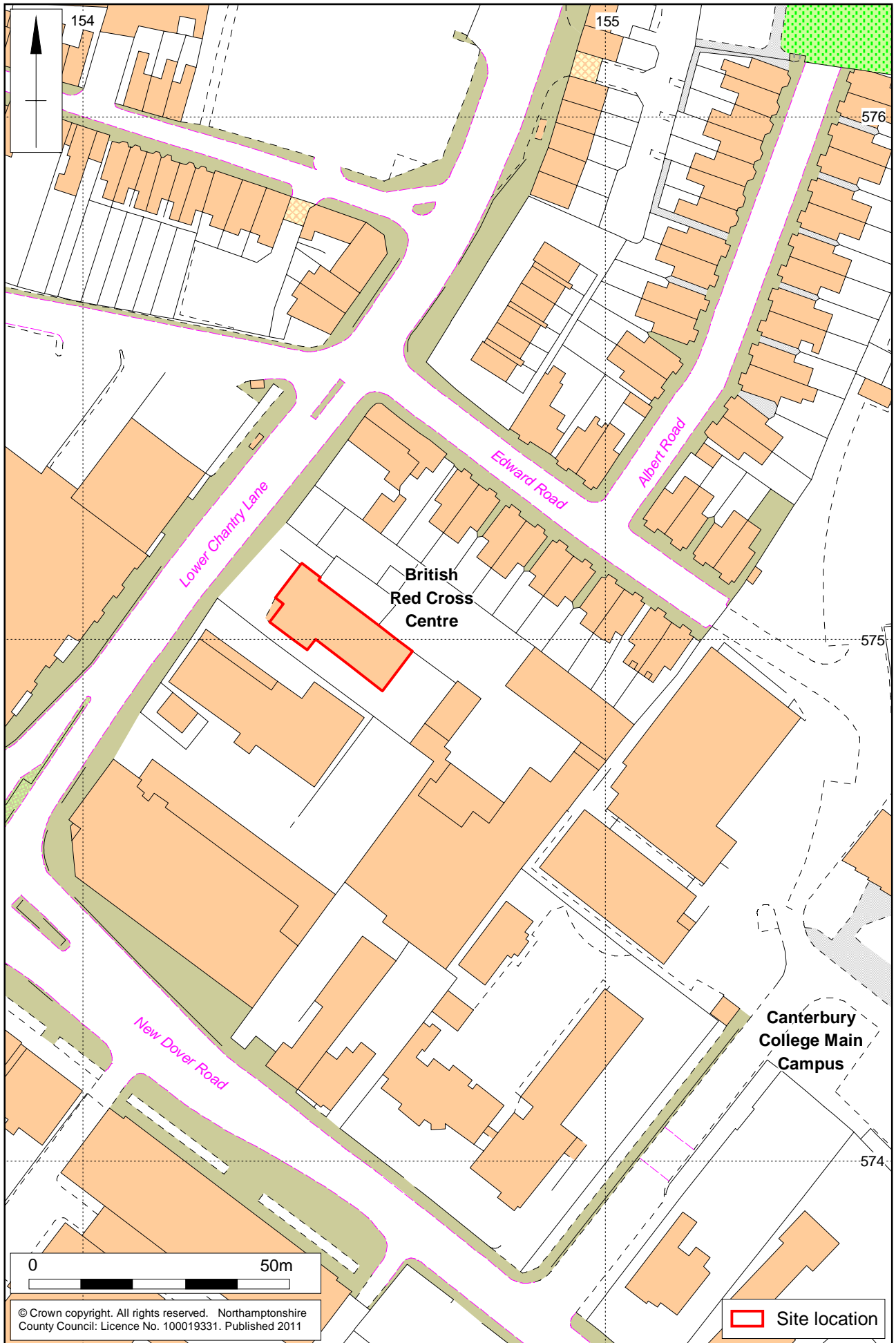
The photographic record was created using 35mm colour slide film, 35mm monochrome film and digital photographs.

For ease of identification of the rooms, a plan, based on drawing number 3151se-02 by Survey Solutions (South East) has been included as Figure 3.



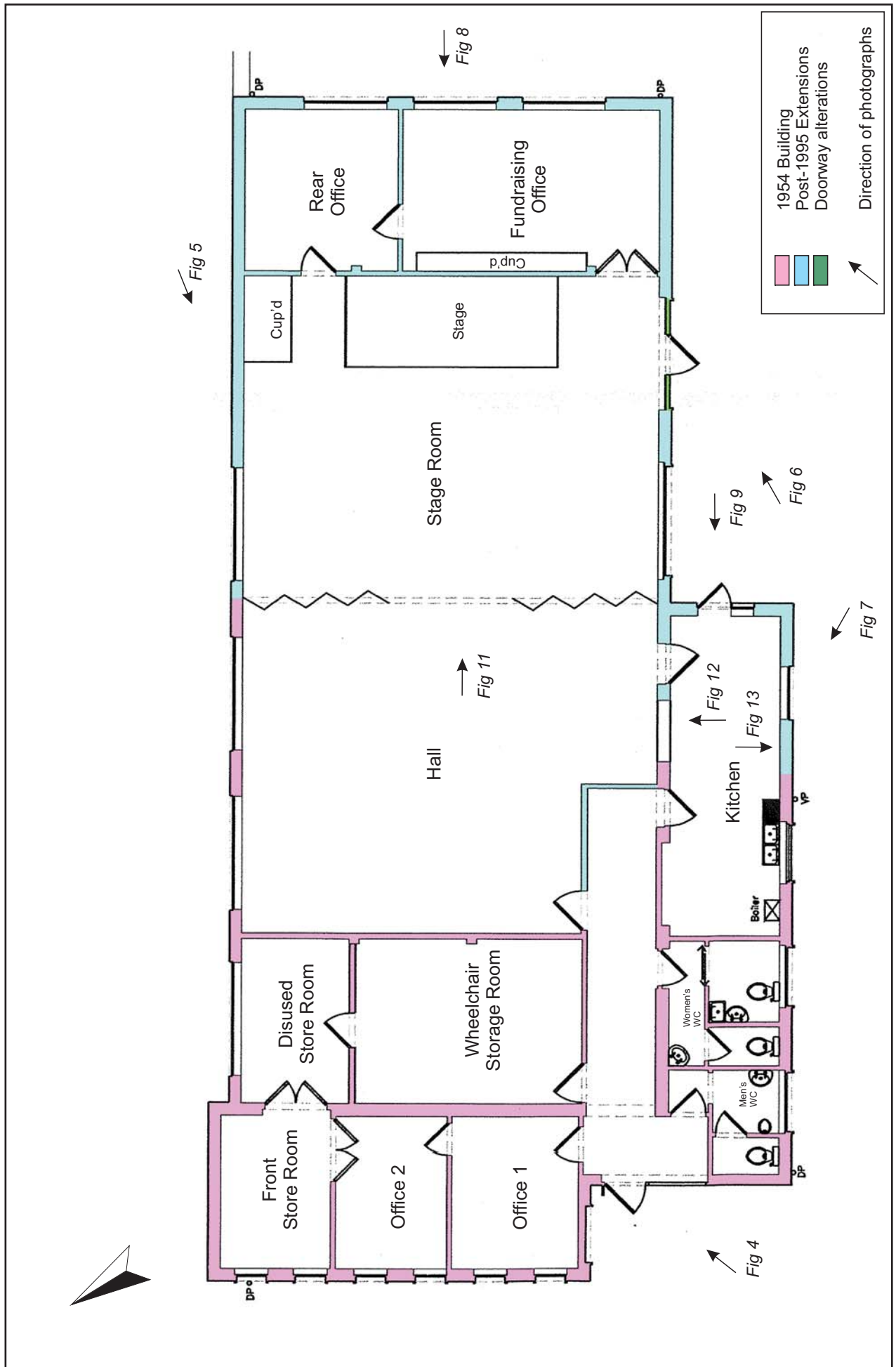
Scale 1:5000

Site location Fig 1



Scale 1:1000

Location of the building Fig 2



Not to Scale

Plan of existing building showing direction of photographs Fig 3
 Taken from drawing number 3151se-02 by Survey Solutions (South East)

3 THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SURVEY

The opening day at the British Red Cross Centre took place in March 1955 and was recorded by a local photographer, showing the building outside of which young members were greeted by the Archbishop (Crampton 1997, plate 91a). A photograph taken in 1955 showed the west side of the street in the process of redevelopment following wartime destruction; the Doge's Chantry Cafe is visible at the corner of Edward Road and blocked the view of the British Red Cross Centre (Crampton 2006, plate 67). It is likely it was built at roughly this time.

3.1 Exterior

The building consists of a single-storey brick building with a felted pitched roof. Flat roofed single-storey extensions are to the front and south side of the building (Fig 4).



The front elevation of the building, looking east, showing the extensions Fig 4

The extensions appear to consist of at least two phases of alterations as several changes in brickwork and fenestration are apparent. The main building demonstrates this towards the rear of the east elevation where the length of the main building had been extended, with the same pitched roof, and an enclosing yard wall added (Fig 5). This change of brickwork corresponds with the addition of offices at the rear of the building. In the covered area at the rear of the south-west elevation, the doorway was later enlarged to accommodate more light (Fig 6).



The north-east elevation showing a rear extension of the 1955 building Fig 5



The south doorway showing the change in brickwork Fig 6

The rear half of the kitchen may be contemporary with the extension of the main building to the rear, demonstrated by the change in brickwork and fenestration (Fig 7), both of which exhibit similarities in the exposed plain concrete lintels and metal frames (Fig 8).



The kitchen extension showing the change in brickwork and fenestration Fig 7



The rear elevation showing window and lintel styles Fig 8

Most of the original metal framed doors and windows survive with the exception of the front entrance door with adjoining window and the rear access door with adjoining window which consist of modern UPVC replacements (Figs 4-5). An original metal framed door with adjoining window survives in the kitchen (Fig 9).



The external door to the kitchen Fig 9

The roof was covered with snow at the time of survey, however, the internal structure, visible through the suspended ceiling, indicates that it is of a metal frame construction (Fig 10). Skylights are present along the north-east pitch.



The roof frame visible through the ceiling Fig 10

Rainwater guttering consists of a mixture of original metal trough gutters with asbestos cement downpipes and modern replacement plastic drains.

3.2 Interior

There are suspended ceilings in the main, pitched roofed building and plasterboard ceilings in the flat roofed extensions. The floors are covered in vinyl or linoleum.



The concertina doors between the Hall and Stage rooms Fig 11



The serving hatch between the Hall and Kitchen Fig 12

The internal walls consist of both half-brick partitions and stud wall partitions, both decorated with magnolia emulsion. The partition between the Hall and the room containing the stage consists of wooden concertina doors enabling the rooms to become one large space (Fig 11). The wall between the Kitchen and the Hall is pierced by a serving hatch with wooden doors (Fig 12). Few further internal fixtures

and fittings are of note. An original Xpelair extractor fan fascia is visible behind a modern ventilation cover (Fig 13).



The original Xpelair fascia in the Kitchen Fig 13

4 DISCUSSION

Aerial photographs taken on 2nd June 1942, the day after the first wave of bombing by the German Luftwaffe (RAF/HLA/565-6054/5/6/7) show the site as an area of undeveloped ground, populated with trees. Four years later, 19th March 1946 (RAF/106G/UK/1246-5053/4/5), Lower Chantry Lane was largely cleared on its west side all the way from St. Georges Place to Longport Street. The east side was largely unaffected, the site lay vacant with some trees, although less dense than on the 1942 image, suggesting some clearance which might substantiate a bomb hit. The evidence of these photographs corroborates the location of the bomb damage, but suggests that Lower Chantry Lane was hit late on in the War.

The building was identified during the archaeological desk-based assessment amongst the published photographic histories of Canterbury (Brown 2008; Crampton 1997; 2002; 2006). It was built in 1954 as part of the post-war redevelopment of the area and was opened in March 1955 by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The building displays alterations, demonstrated by the changes in brickwork and fenestration on the north-east and south-west elevations. With the exception of the UPVC replacement door and window frames, the external alterations and extensions were carried out within twenty years of building. Very few contemporary internal fittings survive, the building having been altered to suit the occupant's needs as required.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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