NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

Client Report No. CP/414/06

REPORT ON AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING PROJECT AT 7 DORA CRESCENT WORKINGTON CUMBRIA

FOR JOHNSTON AND WRIGHT ARCHITECTS

NY 9980 2896
Planning Application Ref: 2/2005/0754

Fiona Wooler BA, MA, AIFA
North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
Nenthead Mines Heritage Centre
Nenthead
Alston
Cumbria CA9 3PD
Tel: (01434) 382045
Fax: (01434) 382294
Mobile: 07920105819 (M. Town)
Email: m.town@nparchaeology.co.uk

21 February 2007

Page

LIST OF FIGURES AND PLATES III
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY VIII
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS IX

1. INTRODUCTION 10

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT 10

1.2 SITE LOCATION AND GEOLOGY 12

2. METHODOLOGY 14

2.1 THE BUILDING INSPECTION 14

2.2 THE WRITTEN ACCOUNT 14

2.3 THE PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD 14

2.4 PROJECT ARCHIVE 14

3. PREVIOUS WORK 15

4. HISTORICAL CONTEXT 16

5. RESULTS 24

5.1 THE EXTERIOR OF 7 DORA CRESCENT (THE OLD RECTORY) 24

5.2 THE INTERIOR OF 7 DORA CRESCENT (GROUND FLOOR) 32

5.3 THE INTERIOR OF 7 DORA CRESCENT (FIRST FLOOR) 42

5.4 THE ROOF (INTERIOR) 46

6. CONCLUSION 49

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY 52

8. APPENDIX 1 53

9. APPENDIX 2: ADDITIONAL FIGURES 58

LIST OF FIGURES AND PLATES

Page

FIGURES

FIGURE 1 SITE LOCATION 12
FIGURE 2 ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP 1957 14
FIGURE 3 GROUND PLAN OF ST MICHAEL'S RECTORY 16
FIGURE 4 EXTRACT OF 1569 PLAN OF WORKINGTON 18
FIGURE 5 EXTRACT FROM A PLAN OF THE TOWN AND HARBOUR OF WORKINGTON 1794 19
FIGURE 6 TITHE MAP OF PRIESTGATE, WORKINGTON *C.*1844 20
FIGURE 7 FIRST EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP 1866 21
FIGURE 8 SECOND EDITION ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP 1900 22
FIGURE 9 SKETCH PLAN OF GROUND FLOOR – USE OF ROOMS IN EARLY 20TH CENTURY 24
FIGURE 10 TYPICAL PLAN OF 15TH CENTURY HALL HOUSE WITH CROSS WINGS 52
FIGURE 11 1841 ENGRAVING OF WORKINGTON 56
FIGURE 12 VIEW OF WORKINGOTON *C.*1850 57
FIGURE 13 GROUND FLOOR PLAN SHOWING LOCATION OF ROOMS ..... APPENDIX 2
FIGURE 14 GROUND FLOOR PLAN SHOWING LOCATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS ..... APPENDIX 2
FIGURE 15 FIRST FLOOR PLAN SHOWING LOCATION OF ROOMS ..... APPENDIX 2
FIGURE 16 FIRST FLOOR PLAN SHOWING LOCATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS ..... APPENDIX 2
FIGURE 17 SOUTH ELEVATION ..... APPENDIX 2
FIGURE 18 EAST ELEVATION ..... APPENDIX 2
FIGURE 19 NORTH ELEVATION ..... APPENDIX 2
FIGURE 20 WEST ELEVATION ..... APPENDIX 2

PLATES

PLATE 1 REV.CURWEN OUTSIDE THE RECTORY *C.*1921 22
PLATE 2 REV.CURWEN OUTSIDE THE RECTORY *C.*1920 23
PLATE 3 SOUTH FACING ELEVATION 26
PLATE 4 SOUTH ELEVATION OF OUTBUILDINGS 26
PLATE 5 SOUTH ELEVATION – CENTRAL SECTION 27
PLATE 6 DETAIL OF ONE-LIGHT WINDOW, SOUTH ELEVATION 27
PLATE 7 SOUTH ELEVATION OF EAST CROSS-WING 28
PLATE 8 WEST ELEVATION, CHIMNEY STACK 29
PLATE 9 EAST ELEVATION, CHIMNEY STACK 29
PLATE 10 DETAIL OF CONSTRUCTION OF PART OF EAST CHIMNEY STACK 29
PLATE 11 DETAIL OF RAINWATER HOPPER, SOUTH ELEVATION 30
PLATE 12 WEST ELEVATION 31
PLATE 13 WEST ELEVATION, SCARRING OF FORMER BAY WINDOW 31
PLATE 14 NORTH ELEVATION 32
PLATE 15 NORTH ELEVATION 32
PLATE 16 FIREPLACE, ROOM G04 33
PLATE 17 FORMER SET-POT? ROOM G04 34
PLATE 18 POSSIBLE BLOCKED-UP BREAD OVEN, ROOM G04 34

LIST OF FIGURES AND PLATES

PLATE 19 FORMER SET-POT? ROOM G04 35
PLATE 20 VIEW UP EAST CHIMNEY STACK 35
PLATE 21 DETAIL OF OAK BEAM, ROOM G04 36
PLATE 22 DOORWAY D3G05 36
PLATE 23 ARCHED MASONRY OVER DOORWAY D3G05 37
PLATE 24 STONE MULLIONS OF WINDOW, ROOM G03 37
PLATE 25 BLOCKED DOORWAY, ROOM G07 38
PLATE 26 BLOCKED DOORWAY, ROOM G07 38
PLATE 27 STAIRCASE, ROOM G10 39
PLATE 28 STAIRCASE, ROOM G10 39
PLATE 29 MASONRY EXPOSED, NORTH WALL ROOM G11 39
PLATE 30 BLOCKED DOORWAY, NORTH WALL ROOM G12 40
PLATE 31 WEST WALL ROOM G12 40
PLATE 32 BLOCKED DOORWAT EAST WALL OF ROOM G13 41
PLATE 33 EAST WALL OF ROOM G14 42
PLATE 34 BRICK-BUILT FIREPLACE ROOM F07 44
PLATE 35 FORMER CHIMNEY? ROOM F07 44
PLATE 36 PROFILED CEILING AND BOXED-IN BEAM, ROOM F09 45
PLATE 37 REMAINS OF TIMBER PARTITION, ROOM F09 45
PLATE 38 WEST WALL ROOM F12 46
PLATE 39 BLOCKED DOORWAY, ROOM F13 46
PLATE 40 PROFILED CEILING, ROOM F13 46
PLATE 41 ROOF SPACE OVER EAST WING 48
PLATE 42 DETAIL OF ROOF TRUSS 48
PLATE 43 POSSIBLE OWL HOLE? 49
PLATE 44 BRICKWORK OF CHIMNEY STACK 49
PLATE 45 EXAMPLE OF ORIEL WINDOW 52
PLATE 46 *C.*1920 VIEW OF GARDENER 57
PLATE 47 PATRICIA CURWEN SITTING IN BAY WINDOW *C.*1910 58
PLATE 48 REV. CURWEN AND P CURWEN OUTSIDE RECTORY *C.*1910 58

PHOTOGRAPHS ON CD-ROM

1. SOUTH ELEVATION
2. SOUTH ELEVATION
3. SOUTH ELEVATION
4. SOUTH ELEVATION
5. CENTRAL SECTION OF SOUTH ELEVATION
6. SOUTH ELEVATION OF EAST WING
7. SOUTH ELEVATION OF EAST WING
8. SOUTH AND EAST ELEVATIONS OF EAST WING
9. DETAIL OF CHIMNEY, EAST WING
10. VIEW OF EAST WING AND OUTBUILDINGS FROM GATEWAY ON DORA CRESCENT

LIST OF FIGURES AND PLATES

11. SOUTH ELEVATION
12. SOUTH ELEVATION
13. SOUTH ELEVATION
14. DOORWAY, SOUTH ELEVATION
15. DOORWAY, SOUTH ELEVATION
16. DETAIL OF FIRST FLOOR WINDOW, SOUTH ELEVATION
17. DETAIL OF RAINWATER HOPPER, SOUTH ELEVATION
18. DETAIL OF FIRST FLOOR WINDOW, SOUTH ELEVATION
19. DETAIL OF KNEELER AND COPING STONES, SOUTH ELEVATION
20. DETAIL OF POSSIBLE ORIEL WINDOW, EAST WING
21. DETAIL OF POSSIBLE ORIEL WINDOW, EAST WING
22. DETAIL OF WINDOW SURROUND, SOUTH ELEVATION
23. WEST ELEVATION
24. WEST ELEVATION
25. WEST ELEVATION
26. WEST AND NORTH ELEVATIONS
27. NORTH ELEVATION OF WEST WING
28. SCARRING OF FORMER BAY WINDOW, WEST ELEVATION
29. WEST ELEVATION
30. LOCATION FOR FORMER BAY WINDOW, WEST ELEVATION
31. LOCATION FOR FORMER BAY WINDOW, WEST ELEVATION
32. NORTH ELEVATION
33. NORTH ELEVATION
34. NORTH ELEVATION OF EAST WING
35. WEST AND NORTH ELEVATIONS
36. SOUTH ELEVATIONS OF OUTBUILDINGS
37. EAST ELEVATION OF OUTBUILDINGS
38. EAST ELEVATION OF OUTBUILDINGS
39. EAST ELEVATION OF OUTBUILDINGS FACING DORA CRESCENT
40. ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH AS SEEN FROM THE GARDEN OF THE OLD RECTORY
41. BOUNDARY WALL AND OUTBUILDINGS OF OLD RECTORY AS SEEN FROM DORACRESCENT
42. NORTH SIDE OF BOUNDARY WALL
43. NORTH AND EAST SIDES OF BOUNDARY WALL
44. EAST FACING SIDE OF BOUNDARY WALL
45. EAST ELEVATION OF OUTBUILDINGS
46. EAST ELEVATION OF OUTBUILDINGS AND BOUNDARY WALL
47. EAST ELEVATION OF OUTBUILDINGS
48. WESTERN BOUNDARY WALL OF OLD RECTORY AS SEEN FROM STATION ROAD
49. ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH AS SEEN FROM THE SOUTH-EAST
50. PART OF THE WESTERN BOUNDARY WALL AS SEEN FROM ST MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD
51. PART OF THE WESTERN BOUNDARY WALL AS SEEN FROM ST MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD
52. PART OF THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY WALL OF THE OLD RECTORY
53. SOUTH FACING SIDE OF THE NORTHERN BOUNDARY WALL (AS SEEN FROM GARDEN)

LIST OF FIGURES AND PLATES

54. NORTHERN BOUNDARY WALL AS SEEN FORM GARDEN
55. PART OF WESTERN BOUNDARY WALL FACING CHURCHYARD
56. SOUTH FACING ROOF OF CENTRAL SECTION
57. EXPOSED MASONRY AND BRICKWORK OF EAST CHIMNEY
58. ROOF OF OUTBUILDINGS
59. EXPOSED MASONRY OF EAST CHIMNEY
60. EXPOSED MASONRY AND BRICKWORK OF EAST CHIMNEY
61. NORTH ELEVATION OF ADJOINING PROPERTY – FORMER OUTBUILDINGS
62. VIEW OF GARDEN, NORTH SIDE OF PROPERTY
63. VIEW LOOKING EAST, NORTH SIDE OF PROPERTY
64. INTERIOR OF MAIN DOORWAY, SOUTH ELEVATION
65. INTERIOR OF MULLIONED WINDOW, GROUDN FLOOR ROOM G03
66. EXPOSED MASONRY, SOUTH WALL OF ROOM G03
67. EXPOSED MASONRY, SOUTH WALL OF ROOM G03
68. BLOCKED DOORWAY REVEALED IN EAST WALL OF ROOM G13
69. EXPOSED MASONRY, SOUTH WALL OF ROOM G13
70. EXPOSED BLOCKWORK AND BRICK, WEST WALL OF ROOM G13
71. CUPBOARD (FORMER WINDOW?), EAST WALL OF ROOM G14
72. DETAIL OF EXPOSED CUPBOARD
73. BOTTOM OF STAIRCASE, ROOM G10
74. VIEW OF UNDERNEATH OF STAIRS
75. VIEW OF STAIRCASE
76. EXPOSED MASONRY, WEST WALL OF ROOM G10
77. EXPOSED MASONRY, NORTH WALL OF ROOM G10
78. EXPOSED MASONRY AND BLOCKWORK, NORTH WALL OF ROOM G12
79. EXPOSED MASONRY, NORTH WALL OF CORRIDOR G11
80. WINDOW (FORMER DOORWAY), EAST WALL OF G07
81. ARCHED DOORWAY, D3G05, LOOKING EAST
82. EXPOSED MASONRY OVER DOORWAY D3G05
83. TIMBER PARTITION, ROOM G04 PRIOR TO REMOVAL TO EXPOSE INGLENOOK FIREPLACE
84. ROOM G04, FIREPLACE AFTER REMOVAL OF TIMBER PARTITION
85. POSSIBLE SET-POT? ROOM G04
86. SOUTH WALL OF INGLENOOK FIREPLACE, ROOM G04
87. DETAIL OF OAK BEAM, ROOM G04
88. DETAIL OF OAK BEAM, ROOM G04
89. POSSIBLE SET-POT? ROOM G04
90. POSSIBLE SET-POT? ROOM G04
91. POSSIBLE SET-POT? AFTER REMOVAL OF BRICK FIPELACE, ROOM G04
92. POSSIBLE SET-POT? AFTER REMOVAL OF BRICK FIPELACE, ROOM G04
93. VIEW UP EASTERN CHIMMEY STACK FROM INGLENOOK FIREPLACE
94. ARCHED STONEWRORK FOR POSSIBLE BLOCKED BREAD OVEN
95. WESTERN WALL OF ROOM F12, FIRST FLOOR
96. WESTERN WALL OF ROOM F12, FIRST FLOOR

LIST OF FIGURES AND PLATES

97. BOXED-IN BEAMS, ROOM F12 FIRST FLOOR
98. CHIMNEY BREAST, SOUTH WALL OF ROOM F12
99. FORMER DOORWAY, NORTH WALL OF ROOM F13
100. PROFILED CEILING, ROOM F13
101. BOXED-IN BEAMS, ROOM G13 GROUND FLOOR
102. BOXED-IN BEAM, FIRST FLOOR
103. BOXED-IN BEAM, PROFILED CEILING, ROOM F09, FIRST FLOOR
104. INTERIOR OF MULLIONED WINDOW, ROOM F09, FIRST FLOOR
105. DETAIL OF PROFILED CEILING AND BOXED-IN BEAM, ROOM F09
106. TIMBER PARTITION, WEST WALL OF ROOM F09
107. PROFILED CEILING, ROOM F09
108. CHIMNEY BREAST, WEST WALL OF ROOM F08
109. BOXED-IN BEAM, ROOM F08
110. MULLIONED WINDOW, INTERIOR, SOUTH WALL OF ROOM F08
111. WINDOW WHICH HAS HAD MULLIONS REMOVED, ROOM F07
112. ONE-LIGHT WINDOW, SOUTH WALL OF ROOM G14 GROUND FLOOR
113. DETAIL OF FLOOR, ROOM F14 FIRST FLOOR
114. FORMER FIREPLACE, ROOM F08, FIRST FLOOR
115. FIREPLACE, ROOM F07 PRIOR TO REMOVAL OF PLASTER
116. FIREPLACE, ROOM F07 AFTER REMOVAL OF PLASTER
117. BLACKENED WALL, EAST ELEVATION OF ROOM F07
118. MASONRY AND BRICKWORK PART OF EAST WALL, ROOM F07
119. EAST WALL OF ROOM F07 AFTER REMOVAL OF BRICK FIREPLACE
120. EAST WALL OF ROOM F07 AFTER REMOVAL OF BRICK FIREPLACE
121. DETAIL OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL OF FORMER CHIMNEY, EAST WALL ROOM F07
122. EAST WALL OF ROOM F07 AFTER REMOVAL OF BRICK FIREPLACE
123. EXPOSED BRICKWORK AND MASONRY, ROOM F04 FIRST FLOOR
124. DETAIL OF ROOF TRUSS OVER EAST WING
125. DETAIL OF ROOF TRUSS OVER EAST WING
126. ROOF SPACE OVER EAST WING LOOKING SOUTH
127. DETAIL OF ROOF STRCUTURE, EAST WING
128. POSSIBLE OWL HOLE, NORTH GABLE END OF EAST WING
129. DETAIL OF ROOF STRCUTURE, EAST WING
130. SOUTH GABLE END OF EAST WING, SHOWING MIX OF BRICK AND MASONRY
131. MASONRY GABLE BETWEEN CENTRAL SECTION AND WEST WING (VIEW LOOKING WEST)
132. DETAIL OF BRICK CHIMNEY STACK, CENTRAL SECTION OF ROOF SPACE
133. VIEW OF PLASTERED GABLE WALL BETWEEN CENTRAL SECTION AND EAST WING (NOTE THE DATE 1970 DRAWN IN THE DUST)
134. VIEW LOOKING NORTH FROM CENTRAL SECTION TO GABLE END OF VICTORIAN EXTENSION
135. DETAIL OF WOODEN PEGS AND JOINTS, EAST WING
136. DETAIL OF ROOF TRUSS BEDDED INTO TOP OF WALL, EAST WING
137. DETAIL OF JOINT BETWEEN EAST WING AND ROOF OF VICTORIAN EXTENSION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In November 2006, North Pennines Archaeology Limited were commissioned by Johnston and Wright Architects to undertake a Level 2 Building Recording Project at 7 Dora Crescent, Workington, Cumbria (NX 9980 2896). The work involved a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the alteration of the listed grade II* building, parts of which are believed to date from the 15th century.

During the building works an inglenook fireplace was revealed with two possible set-pots and the possible location of a former bread oven was identified. Several blocked doorways were also revealed although these could have been inserted at any time during the history of the property. The removal of plaster on several areas of the internal walls allowed a note to be made of the construction material of different parts of the house.

Externally, the only area where the cement render was removed was on part of one of the large chimneystacks. Until more of this render is removed it will be difficult to understand the development of the house. A possible 16th century oriel window was, however, identified on the exterior, which suggests that the property does indeed originate in the 15th or 16th century.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Johnston and Wrights Architects for commissioning the project, in particular Dennis Harland. Thanks also to Mike Wilson of Michael Thompson's for his help during the fieldwork. Thanks are also due to Margaret Reay who provided photographs and information regarding the rectory during the 20th century.

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd would also like to extend their thanks to Jeremy Parsons of Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service (CCCHES), Stephen White, Local Studies Librarian at Carlisle Library, Denis Perriam and all the staff at the Cumbria County Record Offices in Carlisle and Whitehaven for their help during this project.

The archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by Fiona Wooler. The report was written by Fiona Wooler. The project was managed by Martin Railton, Project Officer NPA Ltd. The report was edited by Juliet Reeves.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

1.1.1 In November 2006, North Pennines Archaeology Limited were commissioned by Johnston and Wright Architects to undertake a Level 2 archaeological building recording project of 7 Dora Crescent at Workington, Cumbria (NY 9980 2896) (Figure 1). The work involved the archaeological monitoring and recording of the historic fabric of the building during repairs and alterations (Planning Application Ref. 2/2005/0754).

1.1.2 Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service produced a brief for a building recording project, which was to be undertaken prior to the commencement of building work. A 'Level 2' Building Survey was carried out as described in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice*[1].

1.1.3 7 Dora Crescent was formerly the rectory for St Michael's Church located just to the west. The building is listed Grade II* and is recorded on the County Historic Environment Record Ref.22882. The building is believed to date to the 15th century with additions and alterations having taken place in the 17th, 19th and 20th centuries. The present structure, however, still retains elements of its 15th century origins as a hall house; a house type which is more common in south Cumbria.

1.1.4 The archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by Fiona Wooler, during works to the building, between November 2006 and January 2007.

[1] Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice, 2006, English Heritage

Figure 1 – Site Location

Reproduced from Landranger ® 1:50 000 scale by permissions of Ordnance Survey® on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown Copyright (1997). All rights reserved. Licence number WL6488

1.2 SITE LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

1.2.1 Workington is a town and port located on the west coast of Cumbria at the mouth of the river Derwent (Figure 1).

1.2.2 Dora Crescent is located at the north end of the town to the south of the river Derwent, with the main A597 road and the railway line just to the west. 7 Dora Crescent is situated to the east of St Michael's Church on a prominence where the land falls sharply to the north, but gradually to the south. This building, along with the modern vicarage to the south (constructed after 1957), are the only properties on the west side of Dora Crescent.

1.2.3 7 Dora Crescent is located within a Conservation Area which includes the whole of Dora Crescent and Falcon Place to the east, extends westwards to include the Viaduct Hotel and the railway station, north to include the remaining properties on the north side of Church Street, and to the south-west to include the north end of Belle Isle Street and the Commercial Hotel on Station Road[2].

1.2.4 Situated just to the west of 7 Dora Crescent is St Michael's Church (HER 1011) with former graveyard, and to the south-west is St Michael's School (HER 40509) (Figure 2). Many of the properties shown on Figure 2 to the north of 7 Dora Crescent, on the northern side of Church Lane and High Church Street, have been demolished.

1.2.5 The underlying geology of the coastal area around Workington consists of Carboniferous Westphalian Coal Measures with some pockets of Millstone Grit. The measure of the outcrops of Westphalian rocks are best known in the west Cumbrian coal-field between Whitehaven and Maryport and are thickest in Workington and Maryport[3].

[2] Information provided by the County Historic Environment Record at Kendal
[3] Cumbria County Council/English Heritage, *c.*2002, Page 2

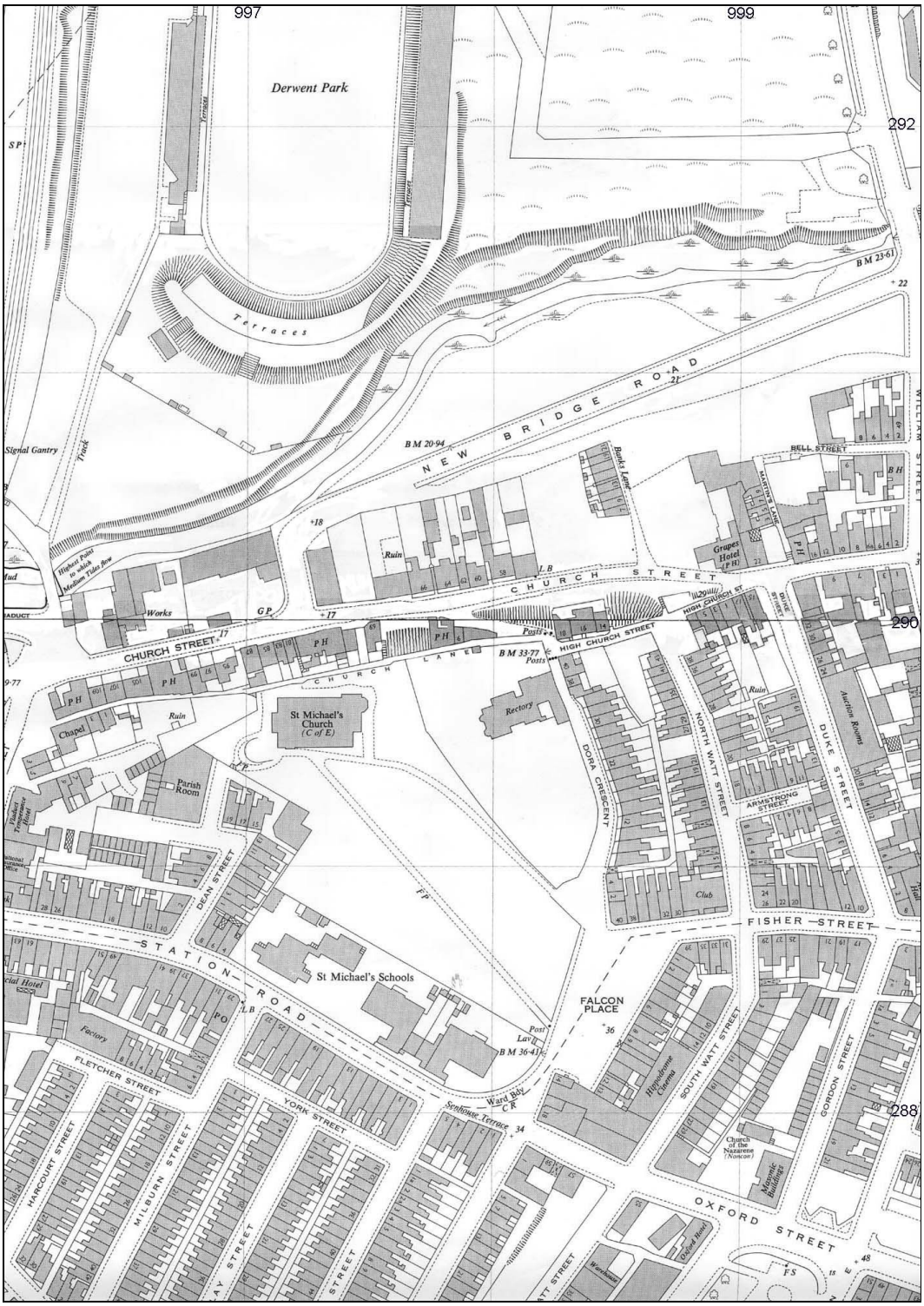


Figure 2 – Ordnance Survey Map of 1957 (Scale = 1:1250)

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 THE BUILDING INSPECTION

2.1.1 The building inspection was undertaken in all areas where the historic fabric of the building was affected by the alterations. Photographs were taken of all the rooms prior to works being undertaken, and again once existing wall coverings had been removed and blocked features were revealed. All photographs included a scale. Features dating to the 20th century or later were not recorded.

2.2 THE WRITTEN ACCOUNT

2.2.1 The written account is included in this document together with a selection of photographs, plans and appendix of documentary information.

2.3 THE PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD

2.3.1 The photographic archive consists of the following:

- a series of 35mm colour prints showing general views of the exterior of the building and its setting,
- a series of digital views of the exterior of the building, the interior of the building and specific internal details (e.g. roof structure) supplied on CD-Rom.

2.4 PROJECT ARCHIVE

2.4.1 The full archive of the desk-based assessment and Level 2 building survey has been produced to a professional standard in accordance with the current English Heritage guidelines set out in the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (MAP 2nd Edition 1991). The archive will be deposited within the County Record Office and a copy of the report given to the County Historic Environment Record, where viewing will be available on request.

3. PREVIOUS WORK

3.1 In 1926 excavations under the Norman tower of St Michael's Church revealed foundations for a possible wooden structure which may have existed on the site in the Saxon period (HER Ref.1011). Fragments of early medieval stone cross shafts dating from the 9th and 10th century were discovered in the tower and in the Curwen vault during the rebuilding of the church after the fire of 1887[4]. Some of these fragments are illustrated in Rev. Calverley's *'Early Sculptured Crosses, Shrines and Monuments of the Diocese of Carlisle'*[5]. In September 1994, St Michael's Church was once again gutted by fire and subsequent trial trenching in June 1995 revealed further fragments of early medieval stone sculpture ranging in date from the 8th to the 11th centuries[6]. Excavations, which followed, provided evidence for an earlier structure on the site as well as a substantial cemetery[7], although the results are as yet unpublished.

3.2 The Old Rectory is included in Perriam and Robinson's publication '*The Medieval Fortified Buildings of Cumbria'* (1998). A ground plan of the building is included in this book and is reproduced here as Figure 3.

3.2 Work was undertaken in the late 1990s in the gardens of the Old Rectory of St Michael's Church (7 Dora Crescent); the results of this work are unpublished but it has been suggested that there was evidence for an earlier building on the site[8].

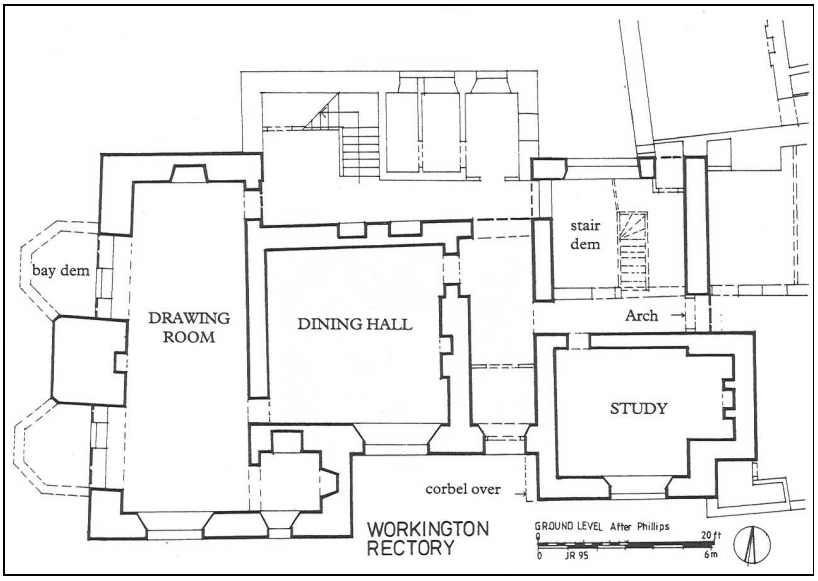


Figure 3 – Ground plan of St Michael's Rectory (after Perriam & Robinson, 1998)

[4] Proceedings, TCWAAS, 1936, Page 207
[5] Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, First Series, Vol.IX
[6] Flynn, P, Carlisle Archaeology Unit, June 1995 – September 1995
[7] Newman, R, 2006, Page 105
[8] Byers, R, 1999, Page 21

4. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

4.1 There is as yet no evidence for Roman activity on the site of St Michael's Church and the Old Rectory, despite the prominent site. The Roman fort of Burrow Walls is located just over one kilometre north of the site (HER 841) (Figure 1). The only Roman feature included within a one kilometre search of the Old Rectory in the Historic Environment Record was a third century Roman coin which was found in 1877 in a garden on William Street (HER 4923), to the east of the survey site.

4.2 Although very little is known about the history of St Michael's Church, the fragments of early medieval sculpture found during excavations and rebuilding, as described in 3.1, suggest that the site was a place of Christian worship in the 8th and 9th centuries, and continued as such into the period of Scandinavian settlement in the 10th century[9]. The place name 'Workington' means *'farm of the descendants of Wirc* [an Old English personal name]. Old English *'ingaton'* means *'home of the descendants'*[10]. Therefore place name evidence also hints at settlement in the area in the 8th and 9th centuries.

4.3 According to the Historic Environment Record (Ref.1011), the earliest known fabric of St Michael's Church is currently attributed to the 12th century, when the building was a two-celled building with a square-ended chancel.

4.3 One of the earliest representations known of St Michael's Church is on a plan produced in 1569 (Figure 4), where it is shown having a central tower. This plan also shows 'the manor house of Workington' i.e. Workington Hall (HER Ref.3690), ancestral home of the Curwen family. According to Byers, this map appears to show the road linking St Michael's Church and Workington Hall, which seems to follow the line of Church Street and Brow Top[11]. What is interesting about this map is that it may show the rectory just to the left of St Michael's Church with, what Perriam describes as, a crenellated barmkin[12] [small walled court of modest defensive strength]. There is a record of a petition of William de Egremont, rector of Workington in 1401-3, who complains of *'armed attacks on himself and his servants by Richard Goldsmith and others'*[13]*;* this evidence may support the suggestion that the building shown with a crenellated defensive wall is the rectory. Further records from 1548 note that in preparations to victual [food, provisions] 700-800 men, who were to be sent to Kirkcudbright haven, *'the most handsome place to bake and brew is. Mr Curwen's in Workington.with the aid of the parsonage there'*[14].

4.4 Writing in 1680s, Thomas Denton notes that the church [at Workington] '*stands at the west-end of the town (near the harbour), which is a rectory. The lord of the mannor is patron thereof, and the living is worth 140li a year'*[15]. In an account of

[9] Cumbria County Council/English Heritage, *c.*2002, Page 6
[10] Lee, J, 1998, Page 93
[11] Byers, R.L.M, 2004, Page 13
[12] Pers.comm. Denis Perriam
[13] Perriam, D.R and Robinson, J, 1998, Page 111
[14] *Ibid,* Page 111
[15] Denton, T, 2003, Page 114

Cumbrian parishes dating from the 17th century, it is noted that the church was finished being rebuilt in 1772 at a cost of £2700 and that the parsonage house and outhouses were in good repair, *'upwards of £450 laid out in repairing them by the present Rector'*[16].

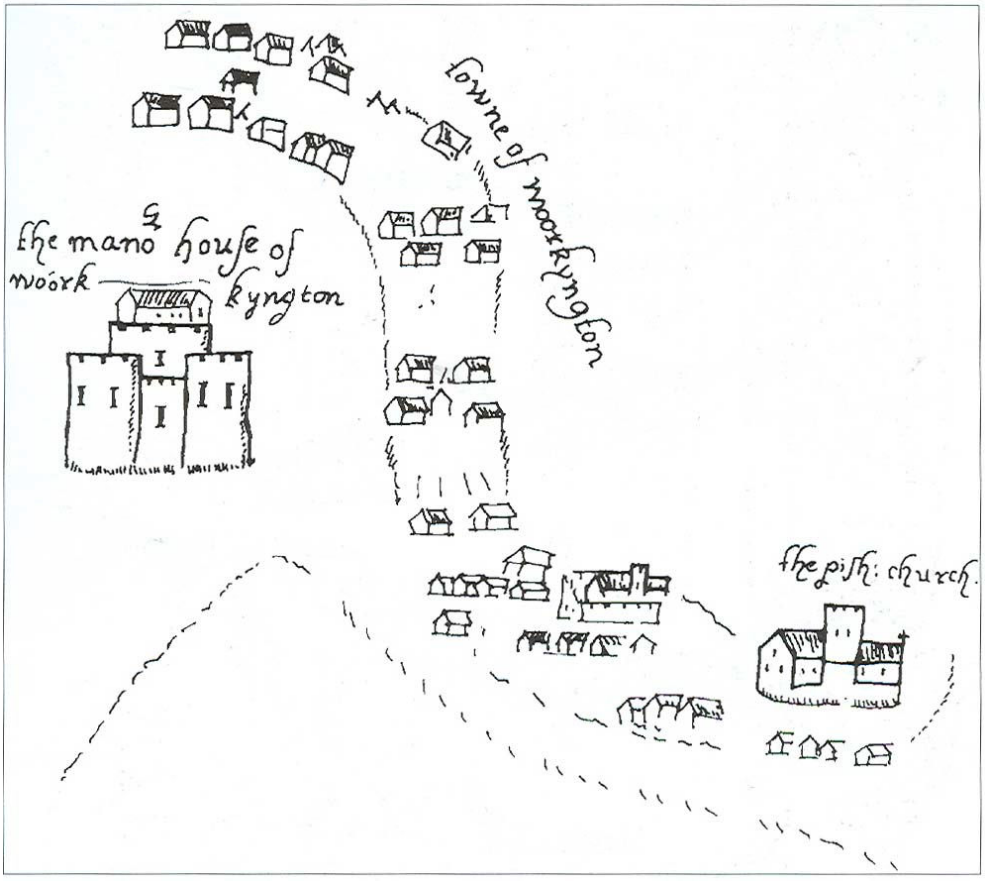


Figure 4 – 1569 Extract from a Plan of Workington (Source – Byers, 2004)

4.5 In his '*History of the County of Cumberland'*, Hutchinson describes St Michael's Church: '*The church is a handsome structure, with a tower, or steeple, in the Gothic order. The living, which is one of the best in the county, is in the gift of the Curwen family'*[17]. In this publication, Hutchinson includes a plan of the town and harbour of Workington. An extract of this plan showing St Michael's Church and the site of the rectory to the east is shown in Figure 5. This plan provides some indication as to the layout of the rectory in 1794. The plan shows a garden to the south, a row of properties along the south-west boundary of the site, and what appears to be a further property to the west within its own walled enclosure (Figure 5).

4.6 Parson and White in 1829 refer to the church at Workington as dedicated to St Nicholas, although this seems to be a simple mistake: *'The parish church, dedicated to St Nicholas, is a handsome Gothic fabric, situated at the west end of the town, in a large cemetery. The interior is neatly finished, and the altar is ornamented with a*

[16] Editor: Butler, L.A.S, 1998, Page 173
[17] Hutchinson, W, 1794, Page 138

fine painting of Christ taken down from the Cross. The living is a rectory, valued in the king's books at £23 5s, but in 1777, was worth upwards of £100 per annum. It was given by Ketel, son of Eldred, with two carucates of land, and a mill at Workington, to the abbey of St Mary's in York. The Rev. Peter How, A.M. is the present rector'[18].

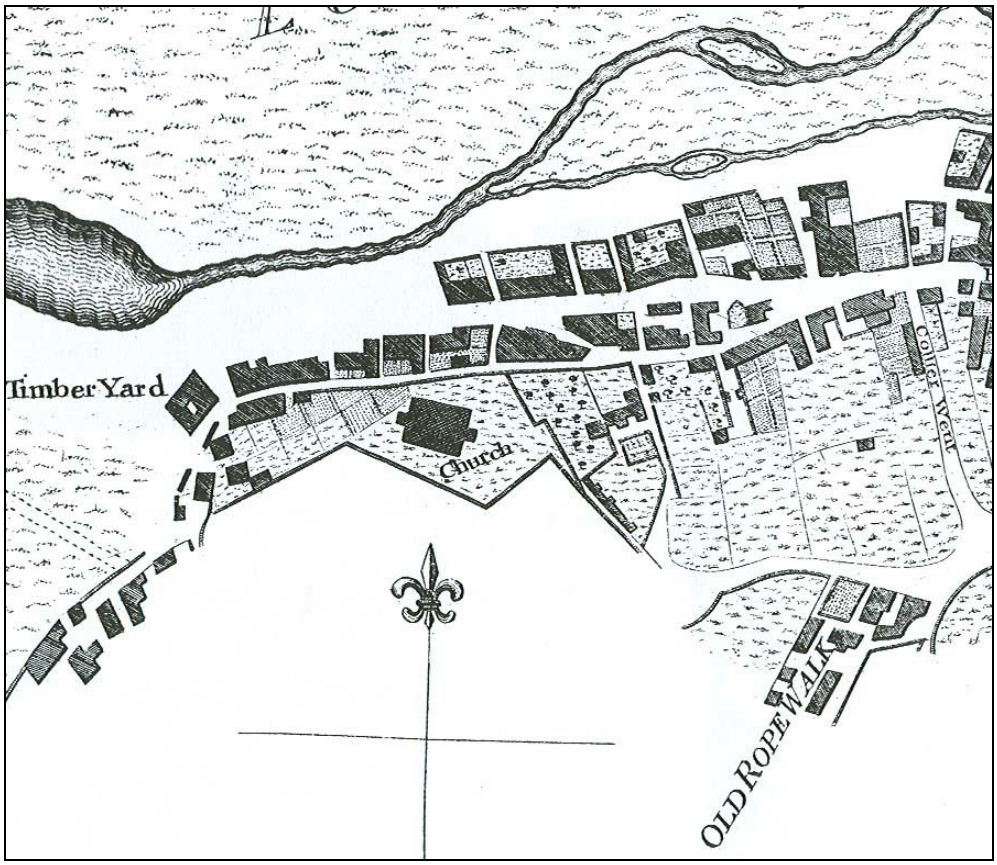


Figure 5 – Extract from a Plan of the Town and Harbour of Workington (Hutchinson, 1794)

4.7 Writing in the 1840s, Jefferson notes: '*In 1534, the abbot of St Mary's, York, presented to the rectory. In the following year it was thus entered in the Valor Ecclesiasticus of Henry VIII. After the dissolution of religious houses, Henry VIII, in the 36th year of his reign (1544), granted to Robert Brockelsby and John Dyre, the advowson and right of patronage of the churches of Workington and Haverington. On the 27th January 1545, they conveyed by fine two rectories to Thomas Dalston of the city of Carlisle, Esquire. In 1556, John Dalston, Esq. presented to the rectory of Workington. The living (which is the richest in the county) was valued in the King's Books at 23l 5s. The present curate if the Rev. Joseph Hetherington'*[19].

4.8 At Carlisle Record Office there is a Tithe Map for the Priestgate area of Workington dating to *c.*1844 [Whellan notes that there were two divisions in the manor of Workington; Priestgate and Uppergate[20]]. This map shows the properties, which

[18] Parson and White, 1829, Page 286
[19] Jefferson, 1842, Page 261
[20] Whellan, W, 1860, Page 465

were paying tithes to St Michael's Church, and for this reason neither the church nor the rectory, are shown on the map (Figure 6). The curved road in the centre of the map extract is the join of what is now known as Station Road and Falcon Place, however prior to the railways coming to the town, Station Road was known as Cooke Lane. The 'H' shaped buildings, with long thin enclosure to the south, is the rope works which are referred to as 'Old' on Hutchinson's map of 1794 (Figure 5). The award, which accompanies the Tithe Map, lists that Rev. Henry Curwen owned several parcels of land amounting to *c.*150 acres, which included plots, 16, 17 and 19.

Figure 6 – Tithe Map of Priestgate, Workington *c.*1844 (CRO Ref. DRC 8/158)

4.9 Writing in 1860 Whellan notes that the rectory of St Michael's is *'said to be the richest in the county'.* Referring to a terrier dated August 20th 1825, he continues to describe the glebe[21] houses and out building belonging to the rectory of Workington, which comprised: *'An ancient parsonage house, stable, and cow house, situated in a large court and garden ground, adjoining the church yard, Church Lane and Parson's Lane, and opposite the latter a garden and poultry yard, an old house stead at the west end of Porter's Brow and a tithe barn (now converted to a smithy) at Little Clifton'.* As well as these properties, the ancient glebe lands belonging to the rectory also included 107 acres made up of nine fields or closes[22].

[21] Glebe refers to land or property belonging to the parish church which provided an income for the incumbent
[22] *Ibid,* Page 474

4.10 The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1866 is probably the first map to provide a fairly reliable layout for the rectory (Figure 7). On this map, Dora Crescent is known as Parsons Courts and the rectory is shown with a large garden. The buildings to the east and north (presumably outbuildings) appear to be different from what exist at present.

4.11 By the publication of the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1900, the layout of the outbuildings has changed, two bay windows have been added to the western elevation and there appears to have been an extension added to the north elevation (Figure 8). The plan of the rectory buildings does not appear to have changed from the date of this map and at least 1957 (Figure 2).

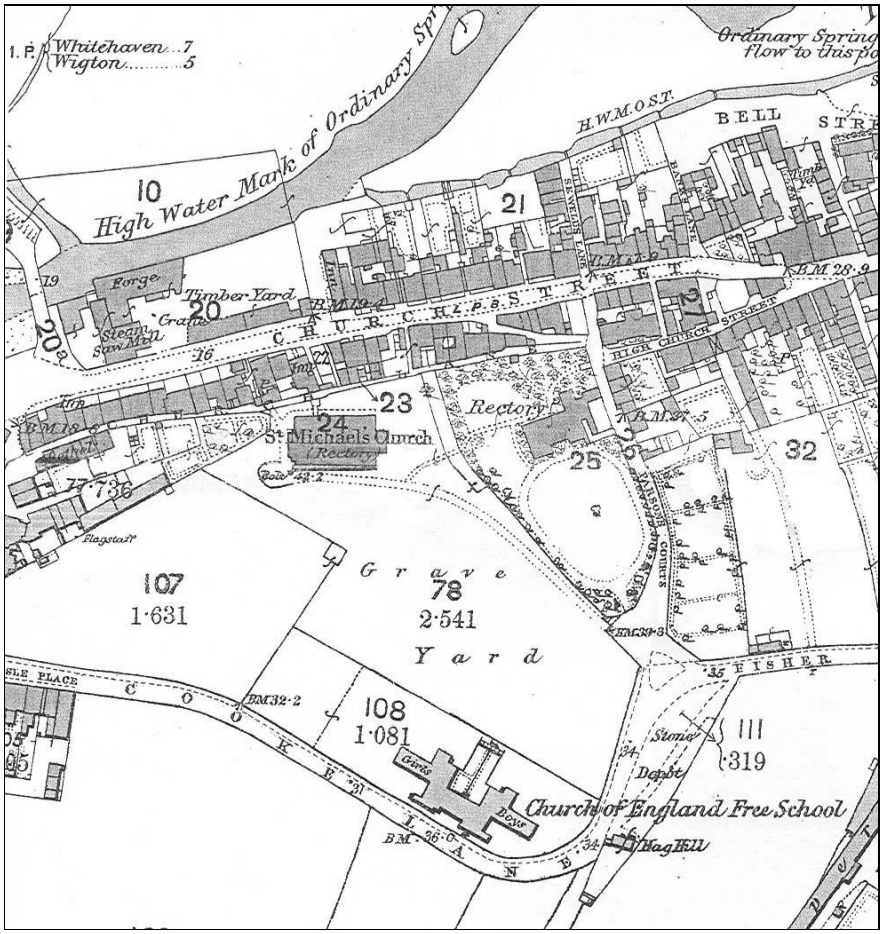


Figure 7 – First Edition Ordnance Survey map 1866 (25" to one mile)

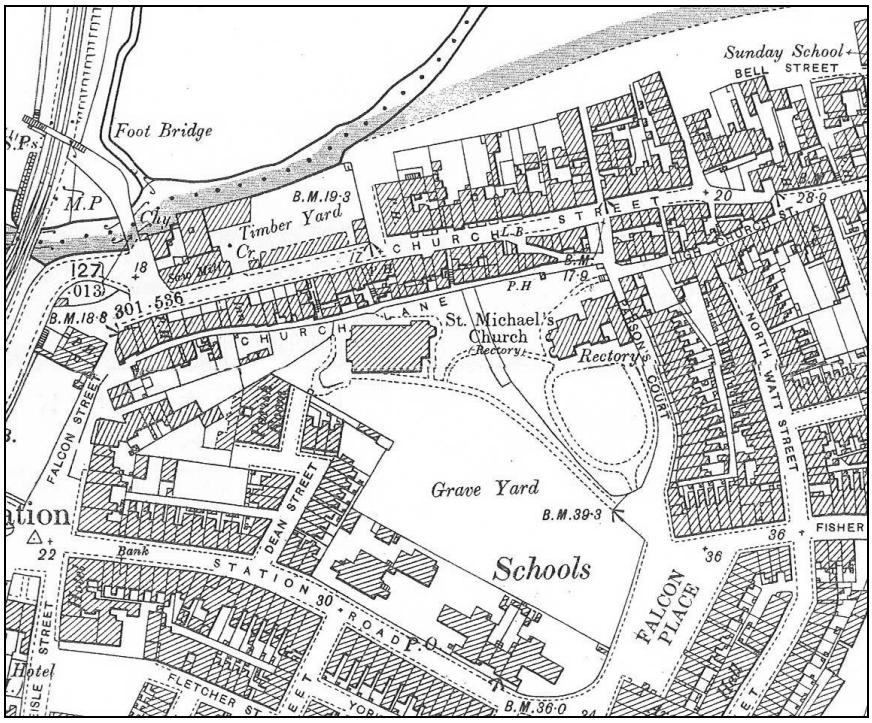


Figure 8 – Second Edition Ordnance Survey map 1900 (25" to one mile)

4.12 Information and photographs provided by Mrs Reay who lives next door to the Old Rectory have given an insight into the appearance of the building and the function of the rooms in the early part of the twentieth century. Plate 1 shows Rev. Curwen with his wife and wife's cousin posing by the car. In the upper window, a maid can be seen looking out (Plate 1). This photograph shows that the exterior of the building was rendered at this time, and covered in Virginia Creeper. Plate 2 shows the Reverend at the west side of the rectory, with one of the bay windows still extant. Further photographs are included within the Appendix.

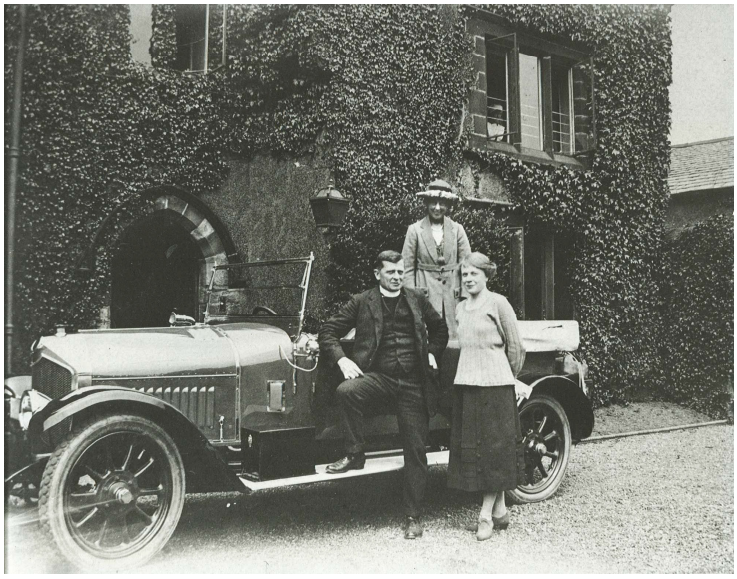


Plate 1 – Rev. Curwen outside the rectory in *c.*1921 (Courtesy of Margaret Reay)

Plate 2 – Rev. Curwen with one of the two bay windows on the west elevation *c.*1920. Note the properties in the background which have now been demolished (Courtesy of Margaret Reay)

4.13 Bridget Dillane, daughter of Rev. Curwen shown in Plates 1 and 2, has provided Mrs Reay with a sketch plan of how the rooms were used in the early part of the twentieth century when the building was still used as a rectory (Figure 9). The kitchen was situated in what is now the property next door; this side of the site did not form part of the present survey, although photographs of the exterior of these buildings are included on the CD-Rom.

4.14 The Old Rectory has more latterly been used as a homeless hostel owned by Allerdale Borough Council. The present rectory is a brick-built property located just to the south within, what was, the southern end of the Old Rectory's garden.

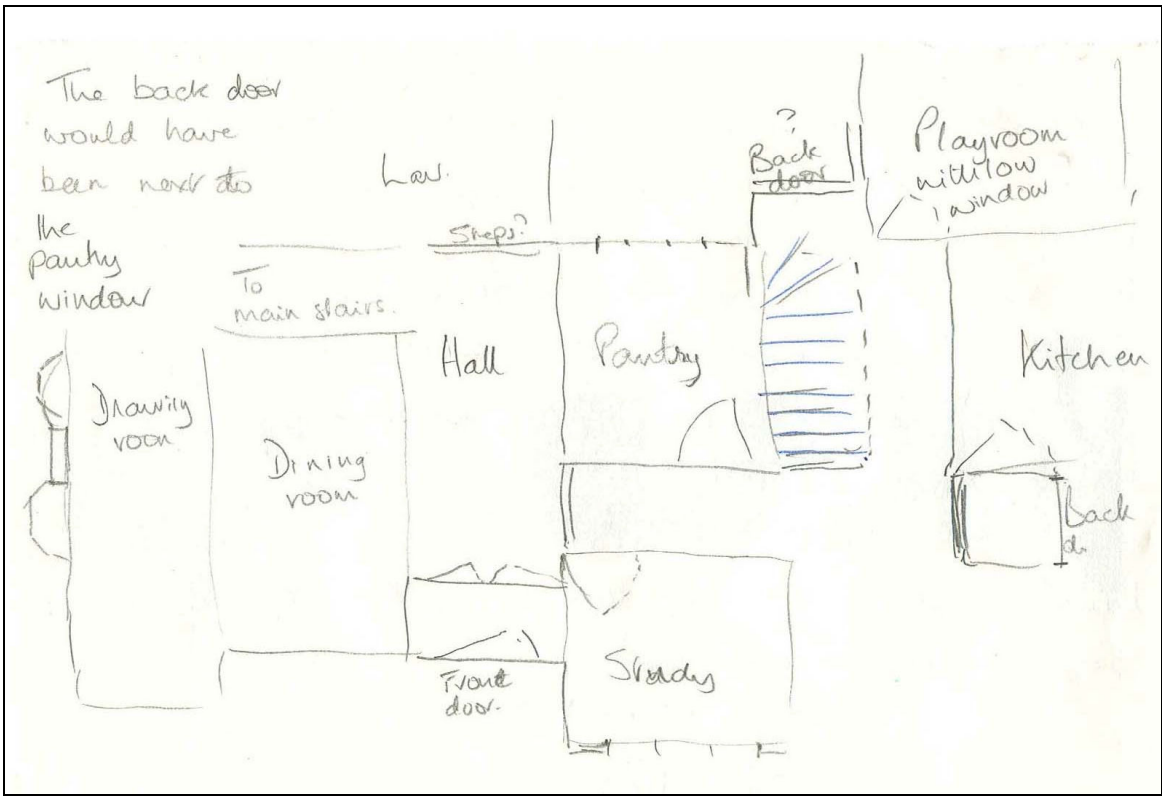


Figure 9 – Sketch plan of the function of the rooms in the early 20th century (courtesy of Margaret Reay)

5. RESULTS

5.1 THE EXTERIOR OF 7 DORA CRESCENT (THE OLD RECTORY)

5.1.1 7 Dora Crescent is a large building set in its own grounds at the north end of the road which was previously known as Parson's Courts (Figures 2 and 7 and Plate 3). At the eastern end of the Old Rectory are former outbuildings which now include a separate house, also know as 7 Dora Crescent (Plate 4). These buildings do not form part of the present survey; however photographs of these buildings have been included on the CR-Rom as historically they were outbuildings for the rectory.

5.1.2 The Old Rectory is a two-storey building consisting of a central section aligned east-west with two flanking gabled cross-wings, the western of which has a further gabled section which means the main southern façade is not symmetrical (Plate 3). The whole of the external elevations of both the former rectory and the outbuildings are cement rendered.

5.1.3 The main doorway in located at the eastern side of the central 'hall' south-facing elevation; it's surround with arched head consists of blocks of red sandstone, several of which appear to have been recently replaced, and a decorative hood-mould. There are windows of one, two, three and four lights; those of two, three and four lights are mullioned although several of the mullions have been removed (Plate 5). Interestingly, the southern elevation is the only side of the property that has mullioned windows which may suggest that an addition to the north may have hidden any that existed on that elevation. Alternatively, it is possible that the mullioned windows may be a later addition, possibly during the nineteenth century when there was a fashion for giving not only houses, but in particular railway buildings, a medieval appearance. Several of the windows on the southern elevation have hood moulds, which were designed to throw water away from the windows, and projecting sills. The surrounds, hood-moulds and sills are all constructed of red sandstone (Plate 6). One of the ground floor windows on the south elevation has part of its jamb obscured by the smaller gabled projection, suggesting this part of the building was constructed after the central section, although the blocks which make up the left-hand jamb appear to be replacements and do not have the same alternating pattern seen on the right-hand jamb (Plate 5).

5.1.4 At first floor level on the right-hand cross wing, there is a curious corbelled projection which may have been an oriel window[23]. Internally, the works did not affect this part of the building and therefore there was no evidence for a blocked aperture. This feature does obscures part of the right-hand window jamb in the central section of the property which suggests that it was incorporated after the windows were inserted (Plate 7).

[23] Oriel window = An upper-storey projecting or over-hanging window carried on corbels (Source – The Penguin Dictionary of Architecture, 1999)

Plate 3 – South facing elevation of 7 Dora Crescent

Plate 4 – Former outbuildings for the Old Rectory (south elevations)

Plate 5 – The central section of the south elevation showing main doorway and windows

Plate 6 – A one-light window with sandstone hood-mould, decorative surround and projecting sill

Plate 7 – Eastern (right-hand) cross wing showing projecting feature at first floor level

5.1.5 The roof is laid in slate with sandstone ridge tiles and the gables on the southern elevation are topped with profiled copingstones terminating in kneelers (Plate 7 and 11). None of the other elevations have the same architectural detail; therefore it is likely that the copingstones and kneelers were inserted for aesthetic purposes, to impress those approaching the property from the south. On both the west and east elevations there is a central large projecting chimneystack located mid-way along the elevations. According to Cunnington chimneystacks first appeared in small and medium sized houses from the mid-sixteenth century, often constructed against the external walls of earlier buildings. The earliest stacks were massive and rather plain[24]. After the partial removal of the cement render from the eastern chimneystack it was possible to observe that it was constructed of roughly coursed red sandstone masonry, however the thinner upper part was of brick construction (Plate 10). There are further chimneys present on the north and south gable ends of the western cross-wing; one mid-way along the ridge line and another on the south facing side of the central roof section (Plate 7).

5.1.6 Also on the southern elevation are two decorative rainwater hoppers, one located mid-way along the central section just below the eaves, and the other situated at the valley where the western cross-wing and the smaller gabled projection meet (Plate 5 and 11). As these hoppers appear to be constructed from cast-iron, it may be possible to suggest that they are Victorian or later in date.

[24] Cunnington, P, 2002, Page 160

Plate 8 – Chimney stack, west elevation

Plate 9 – Chimney stack, east elevation

Plate 10 – Detail of eastern chimneystack after partial removal of cement render showing masonry construction with brick addition

Plate 11 – Detail of rainwater hopper, south elevation, showing the valley between the west cross-wing and the smaller gabled projection. Also note the profiled copingstones and window hood moulds

5.1.7 The west elevation has, apart from the large chimneystack mentioned above, three modern windows at ground level and three at first floor level, one of which has a sash window casement and sandstone surround (Plate 12). The scarring for two former bay windows can be observed in the render (Plates 12 and 13). These bay windows, one of which can be observed in Plate 2, appear to have been removed some time after 1957 (Figure 2).

5.1.8 The northern elevation consists of the gable of the western cross-wing, two gable ends for the late nineteenth century addition and the gable end of the eastern cross wing (Plates 14 and 15). The large window visible in Plate 14 lights the staircase. The remainder of the windows in the north elevations are modern insertions.

5.1.9 The east elevation is largely obscured by a small outhouse and the former outbuildings (Plate 9).

Plate 12 – West elevation

Plate 13 – West elevation, location of former bay window shown by scarring (Scale = two metres)

Plate 14 – North elevations

Plate 15 – North elevations

5.2 THE INTERIOR OF 7 DORA CRESCENT (GROUND FLOOR)

5.2.1 The location of each room referred to, and the direction of where photographs were taken from are shown on Figures 13 – 16. Each room will be referred to as they are on the plans e.g. G04, and the photographs will be numbered the same as the Plate number for ease of reference. The plans have also been annotated to show the location of features of note.

5.2.2 In room G04 an inglenook fireplace had been hidden behind a wooden partition. Once removed, the partition revealed a brick-built fireplace which has been filled-in at its base with block work. To the right of the fireplace was a semi-circular feature with 'hood' which may be the remains of a set pot (Plates 16 and 17). Set pots are sometimes referred to as wash boilers or coppers; they are basically a brick-built feature normally located beside the fireplace which has a circular recess for a metal bowl, underneath which a fire is lit to heat up water for washing. There is some evidence that set into the wall to the right of the fireplace is a blocked-up bread oven; arched masonry was observed in this wall at a height of approximately two metres from floor level (Plate 18). As with set pots, bread ovens were often located close to the fireplace. The bread oven may relate to a period prior to the insertion of the brick fireplace, when the fire was an open hearth; set pots however continued to be inserted into houses well into the early part of the twentieth century[25]. Once the brick-built fireplace and chimney breast was removed, the location of another possible brick-built set pot or bread oven was revealed (Plate 19). The space in which the fireplace was located allowed a view up the large chimney stack showing it was constructed of roughly coursed red sandstone (Plate 20). An oak beam supports the fireplace of the floor above (Plate 21).

Plate 16 – Fireplace revealed in Room G04

[25] Yorke, T, 2006, Page 97

Plate 17 – Room G04, remains of former set-pot?

Plate 18 – Possible blocked aperture for bread oven?

Plate 19 – Former set pot or bread oven behind brick-built fireplace, Room G04

Plate 20 – View up large chimney stack in Room G04, the steel girders have been inserted during the building works to support the wall above

Plate 21 – Oak beam of inglenook fireplace, Room G04

5.2.3 Located between Rooms G04 and G05 at the eastern side of the property is a doorway with arched head similar to that of the main entrance (Ref. D3C05 on Figure 13) (Plate 22).

Plate 22 – Doorway Ref. D3G05 on Figure 13

Plate 23 – Masonry over arched doorway after removal of plaster (D3G05)

5.2.4 There no features of note within Room G03, part of the property which may originally have been the hall. The stone mullions and surround of the four light window remain *in-situ* (Plate 24).

Plate 24 – Stone mullioned window as seen from Room G03 looking south

5.2.5 Rooms G07, G08 and G09 (Figure 13) relate to the properties more recent use as a hostel having been used as a bathroom and toilets. There is a blocked doorway on both the east and west walls of G07, the eastern of which would have provided access to the outside (Plates 25 and 26).

Plate 25 – Blocked door, east wall of G07

Plate 26 – Blocked door, west wall of G07

5.2.6 Along with Rooms G07, G08 and G09, G10 forms part of what appears to be a late nineteenth century addition to the property (See Figures 7 and 8). This extension seems to have primarily been constructed to house a 17th century style staircase (Plates 27 and 28). Exposed stonework underneath the stairs show that the extension is constructed of coursed, squared masonry.

5.2.7 At the northern end of corridor G11 (Figure 13) some of the masonry was exposed to show stonework which appeared to be much larger than that used for the 19th century extension. This may form part of the original west cross-wing of the hall house; the thickness of the wall here is *c.*1.00 metres compared to *c.*0.80 metres of the extension. Within in the same wall, but in Room G12 next to the corridor, the bottom half of a doorway was exposed which has been block-up with concrete blocks (Plate 30).

5.2.8 In the western wall of Room G12 is the location of one of the former bay windows. The removal of plaster here revealed that the bay window had been replaced with a block work and brick wall and two modern windows have been inserted (Plate 31). In Room G13 similar infilling was observed where the other bay window had been located.

Plate 27 – Staircase, Room G10

Plate 28 – Staircase, Room G10

Plate 29 – Masonry, north wall G11. The brickwork to right is later addition for doorway

Plate 30 – Blocked-up doorway, north wall of Room G12

Plate 31 – West wall of Room G12 showing location of former bay window filled in with concrete blocks, brickwork and two modern windows

5.2.9 In the east wall of Room G13 a former doorway was revealed which would have provided access into the central hall Room G03 This doorway had been infilled with concrete blocks, presumably at the same time as the bay windows were removed (around the 1960s?). The stonework of this wall was also revealed to show roughly coursed rubble masonry (Plate 32).

5.2.10 In the south-east corner of Room G13 was a smaller room at a slightly higher floor level (shown as G14 on Figure 13). This is the ground floor of the smaller gabled section of the property shown on Plate 3. In the south wall is a one-light window which is of the same style as the others in the same elevation. A possible former window was exposed in the eastern wall which has more recently been used as small cupboard (a faint line could be observed on the exterior wall although it was not obvious). To the left of the cupboard a vertical line was observed which may indicate the presence of a former doorway although there was no corresponding line noted on the other side of the cupboard. Above the cupboard, the plasterwork was not flush with the rest of the wall, rather it projected slightly in a curve; as this plasterwork was not removed it is not known why this was the case (Plate 33). In the north wall of this room a further blocked doorway was observed as shown by cracks in the plasterwork.

Plate 32 – Doorway and masonry, east wall of Room G13

Plate 33 – East wall of Room G14 showing cupboard (former window?), vertical line and curved plasterwork above

5.3 THE INTERIOR OF 7 DORA CRESCENT (FIRST FLOOR)

5.3.1 The first floor was accessed via the staircase in the Victorian extension to the north (Figure 15) (an external fire escape relating to the properties former use as a hostel was present on the northern elevation). No evidence was found during the building works for the location of a staircase which may have provided access to the first floor prior to the extension being added.

5.3.2 At the east side of the first floor are Rooms F06 and F07 and corridor F05 which are at a slightly lower level than the landing from the stairs (*c.*25cm). These rooms are all separated from each other by modern timber partitions (Figure 15).

5.3.3 In Room F07 a brick-built fireplace and chimney breast was revealed in the eastern wall (Plate 34). The fireplace had been blocked-up with concrete blocks. To the right of the fireplace, the wall consisted of a mix of rubble masonry and brick-work, whilst to the left side of the fireplace the wall was heavily sooted masonry. Due to damp and structural problems, the brick-built fireplace was later removed to reveal the outline of an earlier chimney constructed of a mix of rubble masonry and brick (Plate 35). The wall to the left of this feature was black and sooty; this may have been from the original fireplace in the house which could have been an open hearth, the smoke from which may have been carried out using an inverted cone shaped fire hood.

5.3.4 The floors of Rooms F09 and F08 are at a slightly higher level than all the others on the first floor. One explanation for this may be that if the house started as a hall with cross-wings, as the listed building record suggests, then there would not have been a first floor in the original hall, instead it would have been open to the roof with possibly a central hearth. The central hall could have only been one storey originally however according to Brunskill, by the end of the 16th and into the early 17th century, the open hall was being replaced by the insertion of a first floor[26]. One interesting feature about Room F09 and the corridor F10 is the profiled ceiling; this is unlikely to have been an original feature if the house began life as an open hall with cross-wings. Also observed in Room F09 and in some of the cross-wing rooms were boxed-in beams. In the western wall of Room F09 are the remains of some timber partition which does not appear to be modern (Plate 37). This timberwork appears to be filling in two former doorways; however this could not be confirmed on the opposite side of this wall. The wall between Rooms F09 and F08, where exposed appeared to be of brick with a brick-built fireplace inserted mid-way along its length. There was a further fireplace aperture noted in the masonry-built east wall of Room F08.

5.3.5 In Room F12 (west wing), the western wall was curved with a central sash window (Plate 38). Slender glazing bars, used to separate the glass of this window, became common from the early nineteenth century[27], and the panelling beneath the window could also be a Georgian feature. What is interesting about this window is that it looks towards St Michael', therefore the curved wall may have been used to draw the eye towards the church. In the south wall of this room is a blocked-up fireplace.

[26] Brunskill, R.W, 2000, Page 40
[27] Cunnington, P, 2002, Page 157

Plate 34 – Brick-built fireplace, Room F07 first floor

Plate 35 – Former chimney? Located behind brick fireplace, Room F07

Plate 36 – Profiled ceiling and boxed-in beam, Room F09 (first floor) looking north

Plate 37 – Remains of timber partition, west wall of Room F09 (Scale = one metre)

Plate 38 – West wall of Room F12, note boxed-in beams

5.3.6 Room F13, is a small space accessed from F12, with a two-light window in its south wall. A blocked-up doorway was observed in the north wall (Plate 39). The ceiling of this space was also profiled (Plate 40).

Plate 39 – Blocked-up doorway, north wall of Room F13

Plate 40 – Profiled ceiling, Room F13

5.4 THE ROOF (INTERIOR)

5.4.1 The roof over the east wing could be accessed at the north end of Corridor F05. The east wing of the property has three roof trusses with collars, creating four bays (Plate 41). The hand-cut timbers used for the trusses have been reused as there are redundant mortice holes and lap joints. The various components of the trusses are held together with wooden pegs, compared to nails (Plate 42). The ends of the trusses are bedded into the tops of the load bearing walls, consequently the tie-beams are partly obscured by the ceiling (Plate 41). In the north gable end of the east wing is what appears to be a blocked owl hole, a feature more commonly observed in farm buildings (Plate 43). The apex of the south gable was noted to be constructed of a mix of rubble masonry and brick.

5.4.2 In the central section of the roof, the timbers of the roof trusses appeared to be machine-sawn with no evidence that could be seen of wooden pegs (Plate 44). These trusses consist of tie-beams and principal rafters with one row of through purlins on each side (Plate 44). In the centre of this section is the brickwork for the chimney visible externally in the middle of the ridge line.

Plate 41 – Roof space, east wing looking south

Plate 42 – Detail of roof truss showing reused timber, wooden pegs and through purlins

Plate 43 – Possible owl hole, north gable of east wing. Note the rubble construction

Plate 44 – Central roof section showing roof timbers and brickwork of central chimney

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 It is clear from the documentary evidence that there has been a rectory on or near the present site for centuries, although a date of construction for the property that stands today is still unknown. The Listed Building record (Ref.22882) suggests that the house could have 15th century origins as a cross-wing hall, i.e. a central section with a wing on each short axis aligned at a 90º angle. Figure 10 shows a typical ground plan of a cross-wing house which dates to the 15th century. This plan can be observed at the Old Rectory with what may have been either a single or two-storey central hall with cross-wings which housed a pantry and buttery at one end, and at the other the, more private, parlour for the householder. The hall may originally have been open to the roof with a central open hearth providing heat; the smoke from which would have risen to the rafters and escaped possibly through either a thatched roof or louvres[28]. A later development may have been the insertion of a fireplace along one of the long axis of the hall. The dais, as shown on Figure 10, was a platform which was raised slightly above the ground floor level. This was the upper end of the hall where those of a higher status would have sat possibly protected from the smoke by a timber canopy. Later developments at this end of the hall were the insertion of a window to light the dais, which subsequently developed into an external addition to provide access from the hall to one end of the cross-wing, often housing a staircase. This development could have occurred at the Old Rectory, as the smaller gabled section on the southern elevation (Plate 3) may have housed a staircase; the location of former doorways were observed at both ground and floor level.

6.2 What was not revealed from the recent works is where exactly the stairs to the first floors were prior to the Victorian extension on the north elevation. There may originally have been an external staircase to the first floor above the pantry and scullery, although Brunskill suggests that there may have been a spiral staircase located within the pantry (Figure 10).

6.3 The large chimneys on the east and west elevations may not be an original feature if the property originated in the 15th century. As mentioned above (See 5.1.5) chimney stacks first appeared in small and medium sized houses from the mid-sixteenth century and are often associated with the flooring-over of an open hall[29]. One other piece of evidence is the outline of a former chimney or chimney hood and the soot deposits on the east elevation revealed after the removal of a first floor brick-built fireplace. The right hand side of this wall has obviously been rebuilt with brick and rubble masonry as there is a distinct line where the wall is clean (Plate 35). As the inglenook fireplace occupies the base of the eastern large chimney, then this may also not be an original feature.

6.4 There is some evidence for an original open hall being split to create a first floor above. At first floor level the increase in floor level noted in Rooms F08 and F09 may relate to an inserted floor. On the south external elevation both of the first floor windows of the central hall are located just below the eaves (Plate 5), which may suggest that they were later additions.

[28] Brunskill, R.W, 2000, Page 37
[29] Cunnington, P, 1999, Page 158

6.5 One of the most interesting features of the Old Rectory is the curious first floor projection noted in 5.1.4 (Plate 7). This is reminiscent of oriel windows, which were fashionable in the Tudor period (16th century); a similar projection can be observed at Little Moreton Hall in Cheshire (Plate 45). Only the removal of the external cement render is likely to reveal the true nature of this feature.

6.6 It has been interesting to obtain an insight into how the house was used in the early part of the twentieth century when the Rev. Curwen and his family lived in the property. The sketch plan shown in Figure 9 (which was drawn by Bridget Dillan, daughter of Rev. Curwen) and notes accompanying the sketch show the function of each of the ground floor rooms at this time as well as showing that the kitchen was in what is now the property next door. In a letter to Mrs Reay, Ms Dillan notes that Rev. Curwen was rector at St Michael's until 1947. At some point after this date, possibly the late 1950s or 1960s, it appears that the property was redeveloped, with the removal of the bay windows and the blocking up of some doorways and fireplaces with cement blocks.

6.6 7 Dora Crescent (the Old Rectory) has obviously undergone several periods of alterations and addition throughout its history as a result of changing fashions and needs. There is no reason to doubt the Listed Building record which suggests a 15th century date of origin, the plan is certainly typical of a hall house with cross-wings of that period. What is difficult to assess, however, is the development of the house without the removal of the external cement render. It is hoped that in the future the opportunity will arise for this to happen, and then it may be possible observe construction breaks which may tie in with the archaeological evidence noted during the recent building works.

6.7 As an example of a 15th century hall with cross-wings, 7 Dora Crescent is unusual for this part of Cumbria. This type of house is more common in the south of the county, for example Preston Patrick Hall (late 14th century) and Selside Hall, Kendal (15th century)[30].

[30] Palmer, J.H, 1952

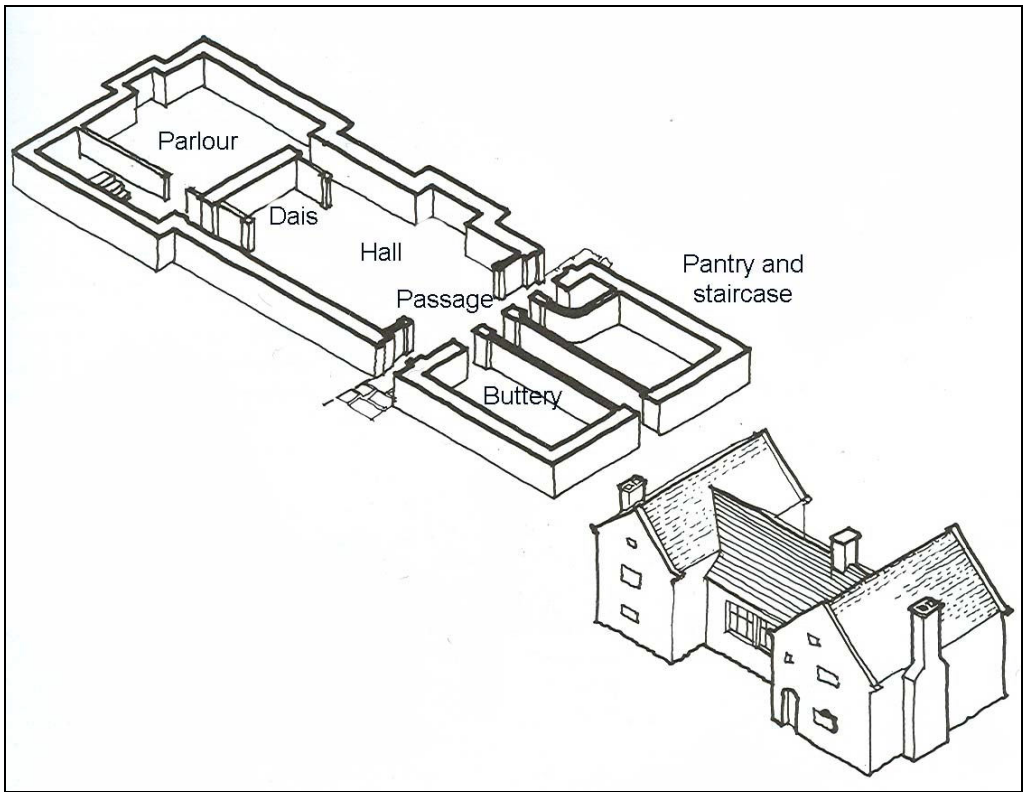


Figure 10 - Typical plan of 15th century hall with cross-wings (Reproduced from Brunskill, 2000)

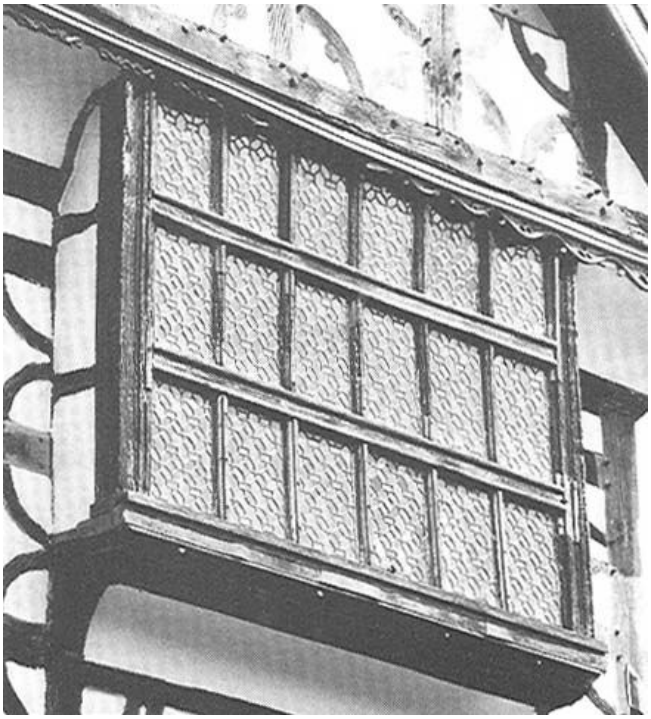


Plate 45 – Example of a first floor oriel window, Little Moreton Hall, Cheshire (Source: Yorke, 2003)

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brunskill, R.W, 1990, *Brick Building in Britain*, London: Victor Gollancz Ltd

Brunskill, R.W, 2000, *Houses and Cottages of Britain,* London: Victor Gollancz Ltd

Butler, L.A.S (Editor), 1998, *The Cumbrian Parishes 1714-1725 from Bishop Gastrell's Notika,* Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society Record Series Volume XII

Byers, R.L.M, 1999, *Workington from the Air – Past and Present*

Byers, R.L.M, 2004, *Images of England – Workington,* Stroud: Tempus

Cumbria County Council/English Heritage, *c.*2002, *Extensive Urban Survey – Archaeological Assessment Report for Workington*, Unpublished Report

Cunnington, P, 2002, *How Old is your House?,* Yeovil: Marston House

Denton, T, 2003, *A Perambulation of Cumberland 1687-1688,* The Publications of the Surtees Society Volume CCVII, Edited by A J L Winchester

Hutchinson, W, 1794, *The History of the County of Cumberland (CRO)*

Jefferson, S, 1842, *Allerdale above Derwent,* London (CRO)

Lee, J, 1998, *The Place Names of Cumbria,* Carlisle: Cumbria County Council

Newman, R, 2006, *Chapter 4 – Early Medieval Period Resource Assessment,* In 'The Archaeology of North West England – An Archaeological Research Framework for North West England: Volume 1 Resource Assessment' Edited by Mark Brennand, Council for British Archaeology

Palmer, J.H, 1952, *Historic Farmhouses in and around Westmorland,* Kendal: Westmorland Gazette Ltd

Parson and White, 1829, *Directory of Cumberland and Westmorland*

Perriam, D.R and Robinson, J, 1998, *The Medieval Fortified Buildings of Cumbria,* Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society Extra Series Volume XXIX

Proceedings, 1939, *St Michael's Church,* Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, Second Series, Volume XXXVI

Whellan, W, 1860, *History and Topography of Cumberland and Westmorland*

Yorke, T, 2003, *The Country House Explained,* Newbury: Countryside Books

Yorke, T, 2006, *The Edwardian House Explained,* Newbury: Countryside Books

8. APPENDIX 1

CRO = Carlisle Record Office

CL = Carlisle Library

WRO = Whitehaven Record Office

Maps

1569 – Extract from a Plan of Workington, the original of which also shows the harbour (Copy in Public Record Office and WRO?)

Tithe Map of Priestgate, Workington *c.*1844 (Ref. DRC 8/158) (CRO)

First Edition Ordnance Survey map 1866 (25" to one mile) (CRO)

Second Edition Ordnance Survey map 1900 (25" to one mile) (CRO)

Ordnance Survey Map 1957 (Scale 1:1250) (CL)

Publications

Iredale, T, 1910*, The Rectors of Workington,* Transactions of the Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian and Archaeological Society, Second Series, Volume X

Lists the names of known rectors of Workington:

1150 – Walter

1184 – Thomas

1201-1227 – William, son of Thomas de Wirkinton

1247-1258 – Roger de Seleby

1303 – Eudric de Wyspayns

1315 – John de Cokermuth

1330-1341 – William de Aykheved

1365 – Richard de Askeby

1375 – John Blaunchard

1379 – William de Tanfield

1387-1401 – William de Egremund

1429 – Alan Humbreston

1430 – Robert Stiel

1430 – Roger Crakenthorp

1463 – Laurence Roche

1463 – William Eure

1473 – John Lancaster

1473 – Thomas Markham

1525 – John Curwen

1534 – Edmund Whalley

1557 – Christopher Share

1557-1564 – Edward Heide

1564 – John Harison

1575 – Gregory Scott

1577-1595 – Laurence Shuttleworth

1595-1634 – George Lamplughe

1634 – Lancelot Lowther

1662 – Christopher Matteson

1679 – John Bolton

1724 – Robert Loxham

1726 – John Stanley

1753 – William Thomas Addison

1792 – Edward Christian

1803 – Peter Howe

1831 – Edward Stanley

1834 – John Wordsworth

1837 – Henry Curwen

1895 – Herbert Ernest Campbell

1905 – Stanley Patricius Lamplugh Curwen

Curwen, J, 1913, *The Castles and Fortified Towers of Cumberland, Westmorland and Lancashire-north-of-the-Sands*

No reference to St Michael's Rectory.

Borough of Workington – Award of Common lands in the Manor of Workington, 1914 (CRO)

Page 11 – Refers to Peter How as the rector

Pevsner, N, 2002, *The Buildings of England – Cumberland and Westmorland*, London: Yale University Press:

Pevsner describes St Michael's Church but he does not mention the rectory.

WRO Records

Ref YPR 36 – St Michael's Parish Records deposited by the Rev. K Hutchinson, The Rectory, Parsons Court, Workington in 1982, includes:

Court book of the Manor of the Rectory of Workington 1734-1754

Papers relating to the appointment of the Rev. Henry Curwen as curate and then rector of Workington

Memorandum relating to the profits of the rectory [not dated *c.*1700]

Deed of Exchange:

1. Rev. Peter How, rector of Workington
2. John Christian Curwen of Workington Hall, patron
3. The Bishop of Chester

'Premises, glebe land in Workington. The rector's right to use Curwen's railways, wharfs, hurnes, docks and quays for shipping. Coal was reserved, so too was Curwen's right to build railways etc over glebe land leading from Isabella Pit' [Dated 26th August 1809]

Engravings and Photographs

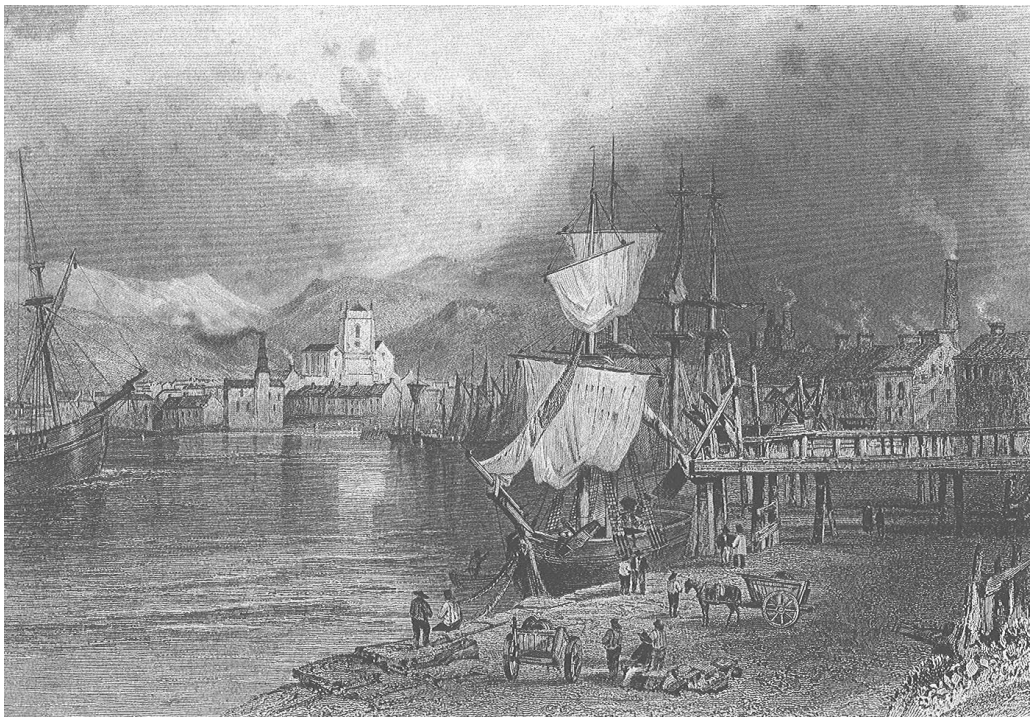


Figure 11 - 1841 view of Workington showing the western elevation of St Michael's Church (CL)

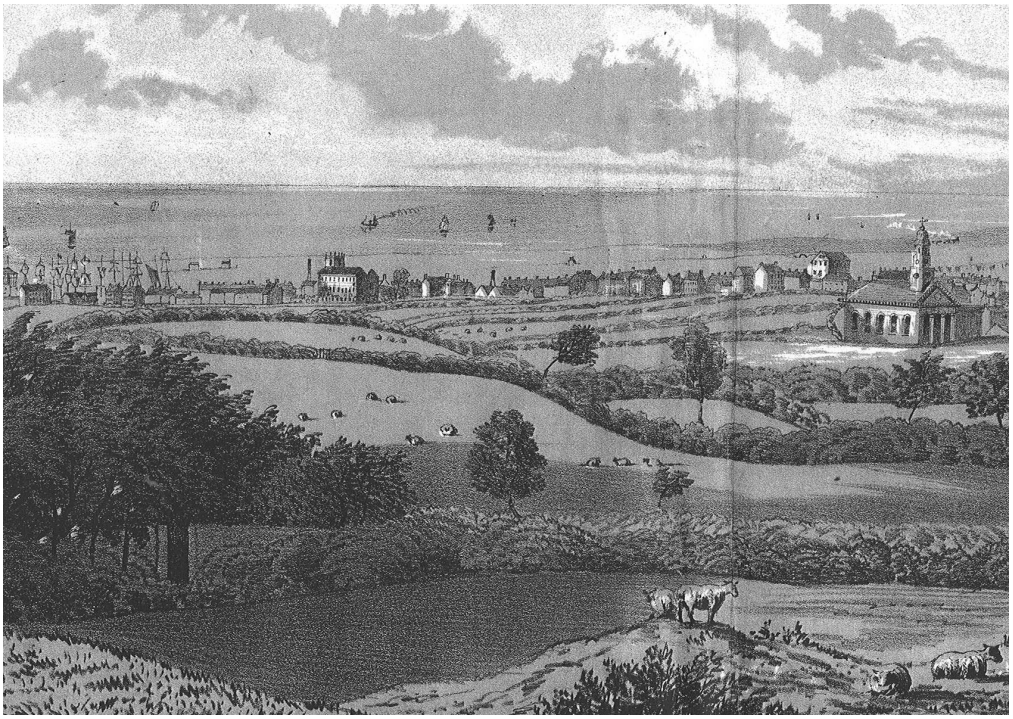


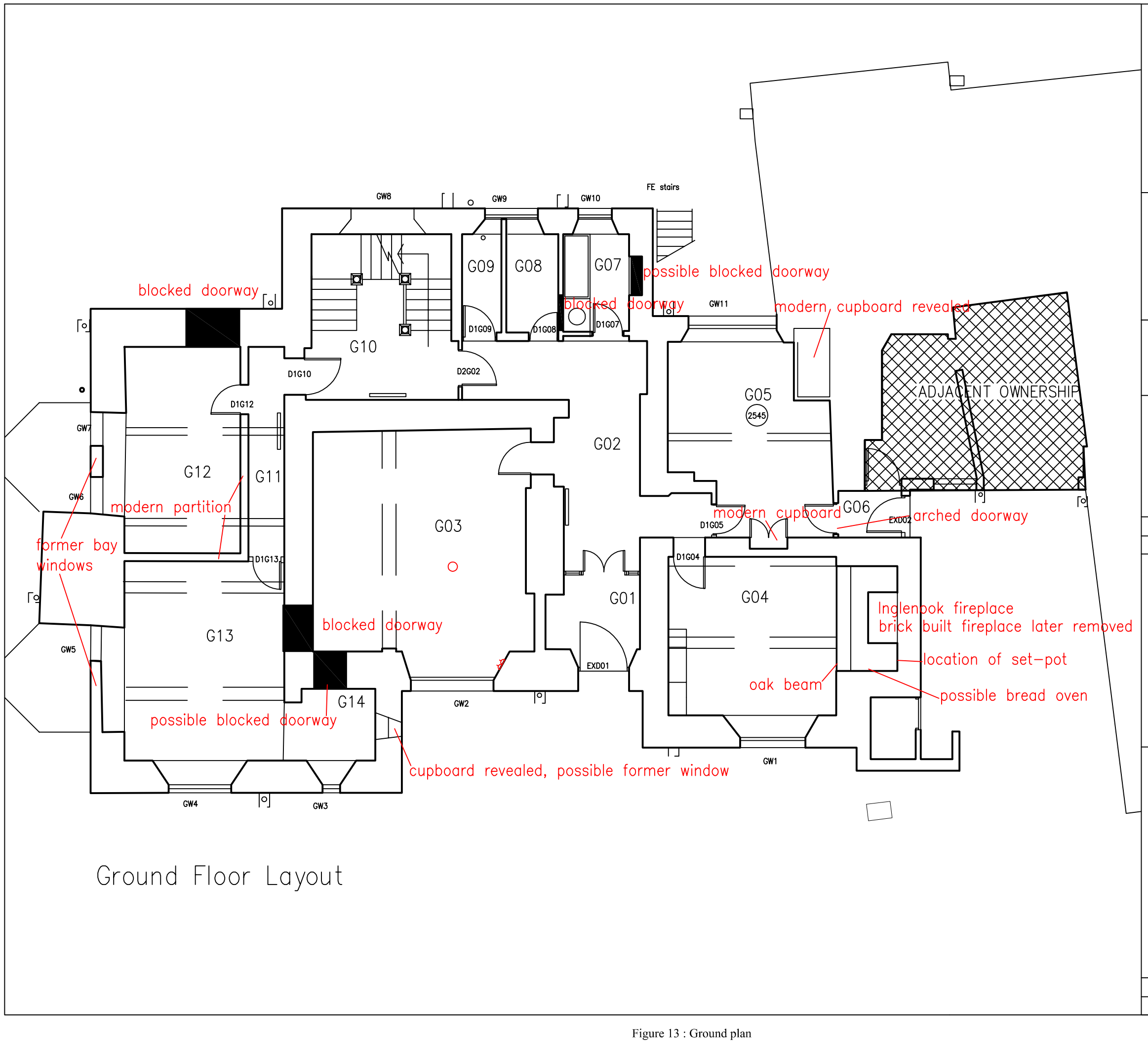
Figure 12 - View of Workington from south-east *c.*1850 showing St Michael's in the distance, and St John's to the right (CL)

Plate 46 - *c.*1920 view of the gardener, possibly 'Old' Bill Brown, note the wall and doorway to the outbuildings behind the gardener, which have now gone (courtesy of Margaret Reay)

Plate 47 - *c.*1910 photograph showing Patricia Curwen sitting one of the bay windows (courtesy of Margaret Reay)

Plate 48 - Rev. S.P.L Curwen and Patricia Curwen *c.*1910 (courtesy of Margaret Reay)

9. APPENDIX 2: ADDITIONAL FIGURES



Ground Floor Layout

NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2007
Building recording project at
Dora Crescent

COMMISSIONED BY:
Johnston and Wright

Scale 1:100

DRAWN BY: fg
DATE: 14/02/07

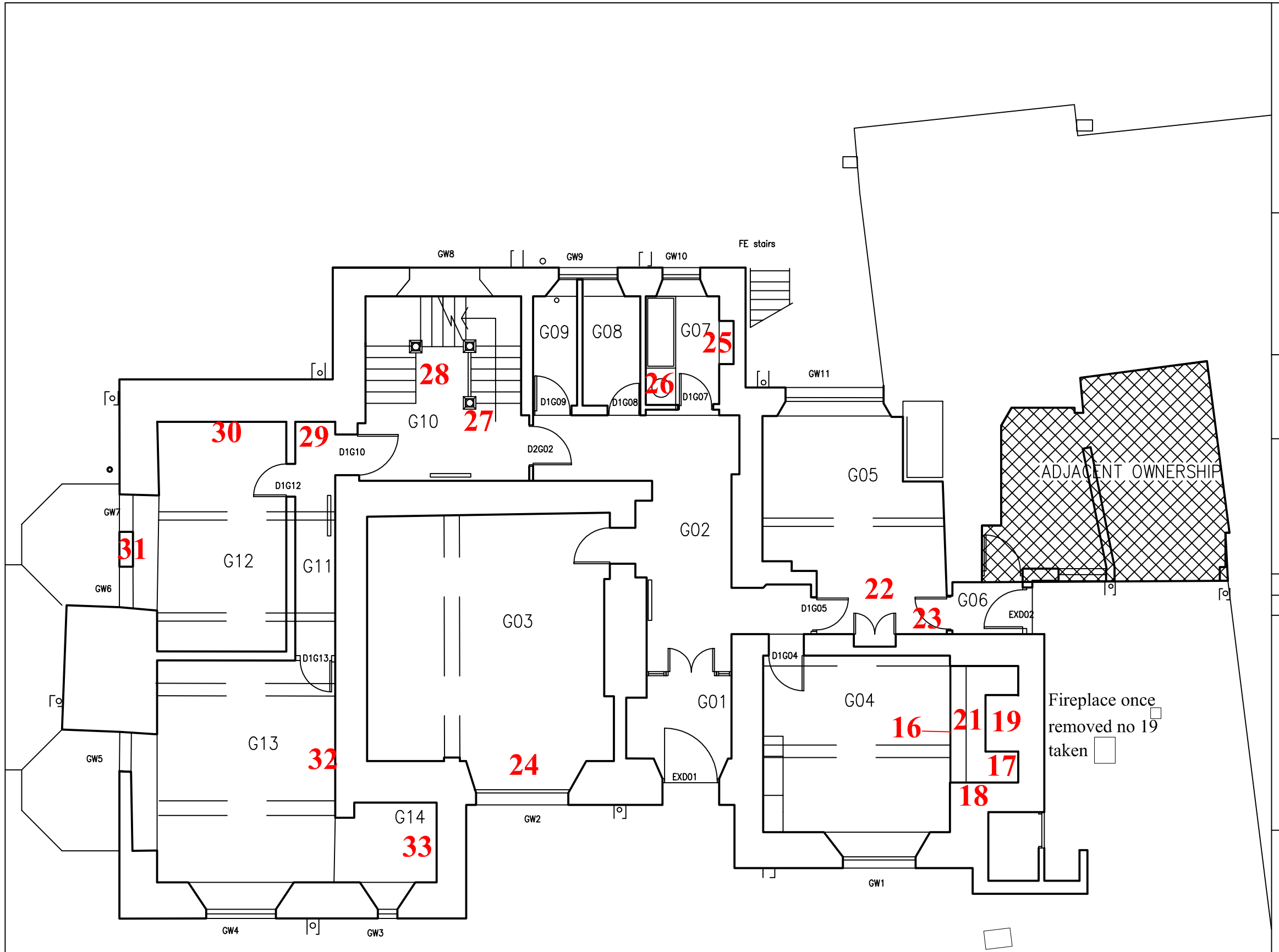
LOCATION:
St Michaels Rectory
Dora Crescent
Workington
Cumbria

North

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
© Crown copyright. All rights reserved.
Licence number 100014732.

Report No: CP 414/07
Figure No: 13

Figure 13 : Ground plan



NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2007
Building recording project
at 7 Dora Crescent

COMMISSIONED BY:
Johnston and Wright

Scale 1:100

DRAWN BY: fg

DATE: 14/02/07

LOCATION:
St Michaels Rectory
7 Dora Crescent
Workington
Cumbria

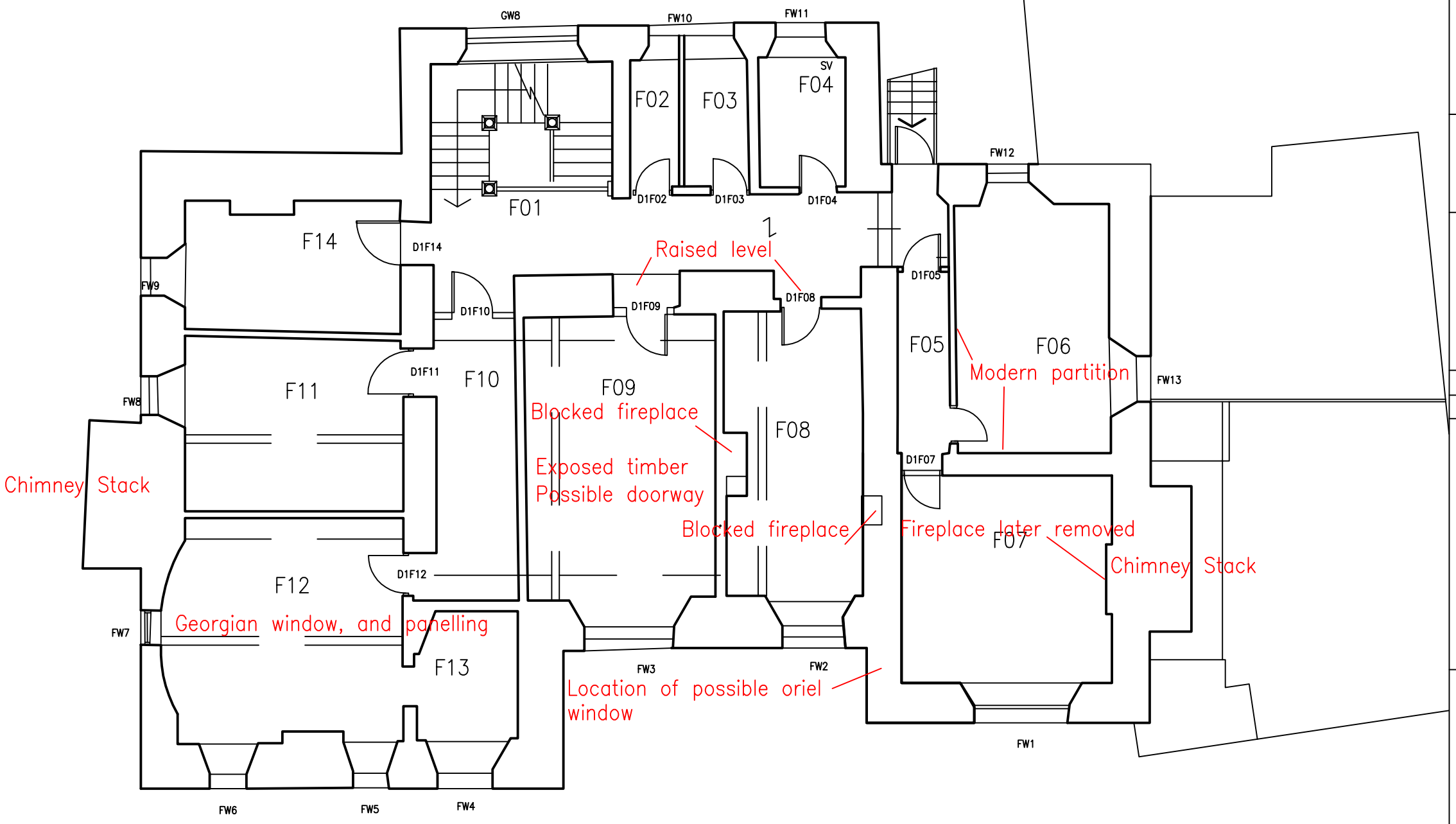
North

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100014732.

Report No: CP 414/07

Figure No: 14

Figure 14 : Ground foor plan including location of features (numbered in red)



North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2007
Building recording project at
7 Dora Crescent

COMMISSIONED BY:
Johnston and Wright

Scale 1:100

DRAWN BY: fg
DATE: 14/02/07

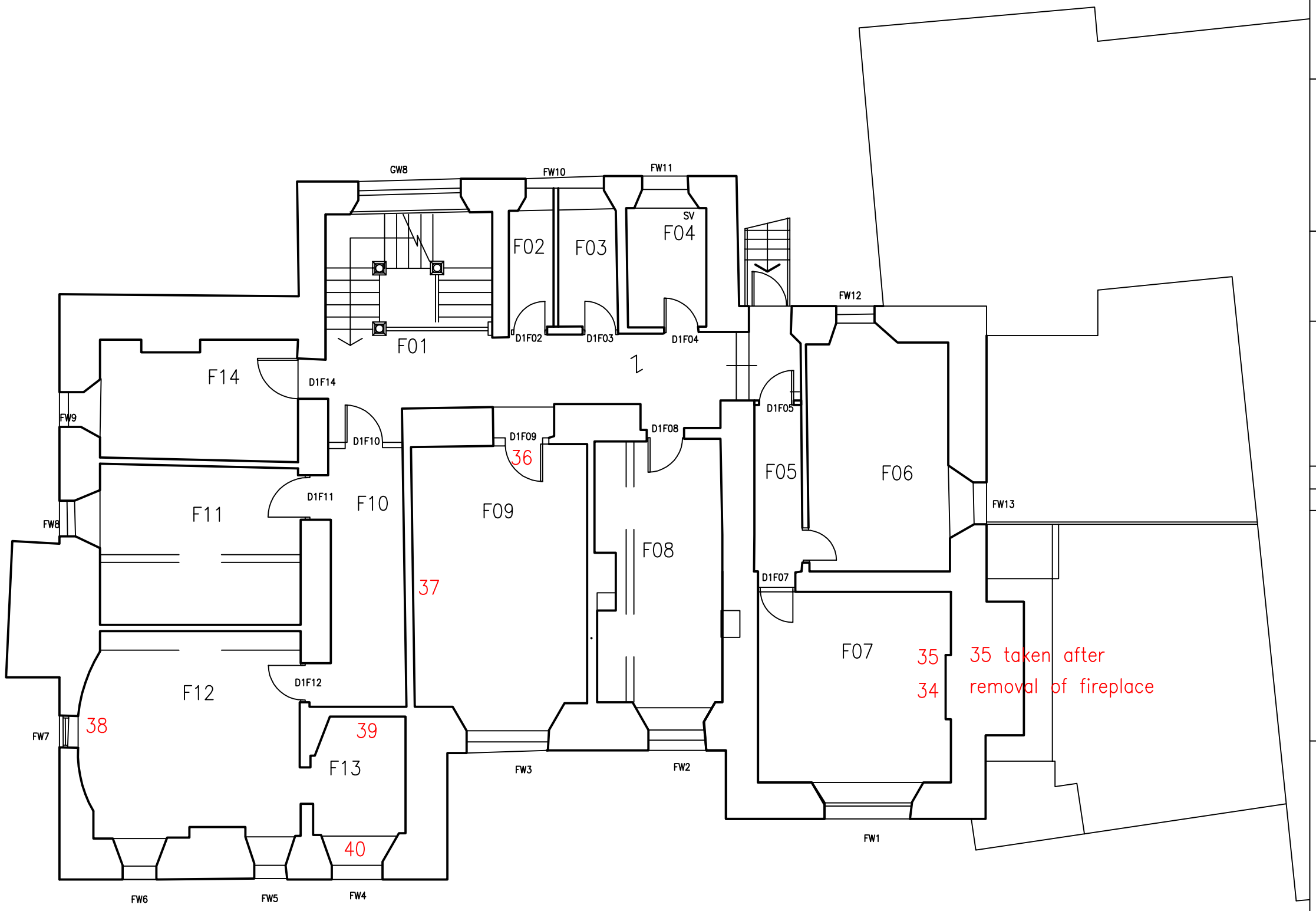
LOCATION:
St Michaels Rectory
7 Dora Creascent
Workington
Cumbria

North

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
© Crown copyright. All rights reserved.
Licence number 100014732.

Report No: CP 414/07
Figure No: 15

Figure 15 : First floor plan



NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2007

Building recording project at
7 Dora Crescent

COMMISSIONED BY:

Johnston and Wright

Scale 1:100

DRAWN BY: fg

DATE: 15/02/07

LOCATION:

St Michaels Rectory
7 Dora Creascent
Workington
Cumbria

KEY

North

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100014732.

Report No: CP XXX/07

Figure No: X

Figure 16: Location of features photographed

EXD01

South Elevation.

NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2007

Building recording project at
7 Dora Crescent

COMMISSIONED BY:

Johnston and Wright

Scale 1:100

DRAWN BY: fg

DATE: 15/02/07

LOCATION:

St Michaels Rectory
7 Dora Creascent
Workington
Cumbria

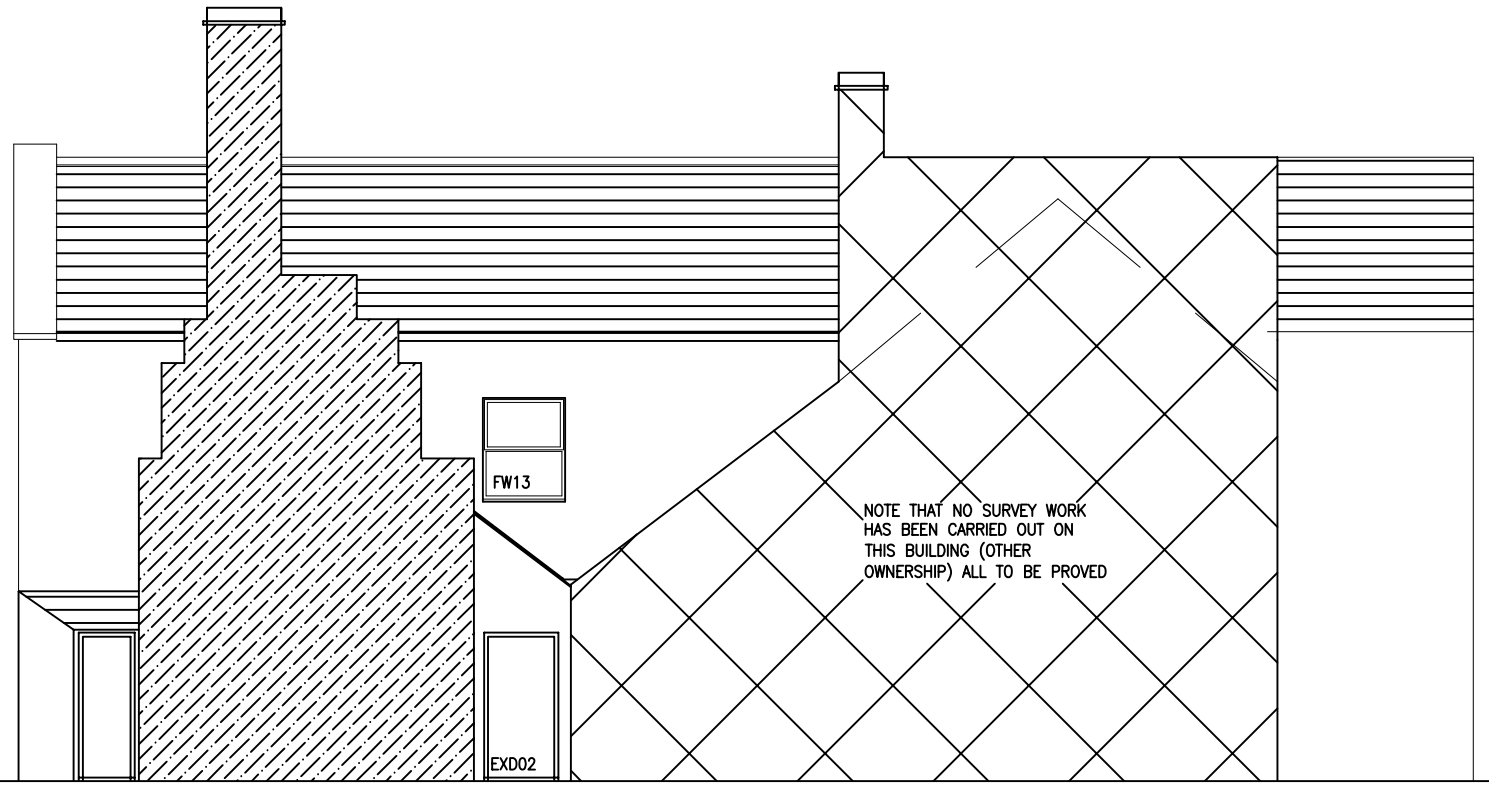
KEY

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100014732.

Report No: CP 414/07

Figure No: 17

Figure 17: South Elevation



East Elevation.

NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2007

Building recording project at
7 Dora Crescent

COMMISSIONED BY:

Johnston and Wright

Scale 1:100

DRAWN BY: fg

DATE: 15/02/07

LOCATION:

St Michaels Rectory
7 Dora Creascent
Workington
Cumbria

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Licence number 100014732.

Report No: CP 414

Figure No: 18

Figure 18 : East Elevation

Rear Elevation

NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2007

Building recording project at
7 Dora Crescent

COMMISSIONED BY:

Johnston and Wright

Scale 1:100

DRAWN BY: FG

DATE: 15/02/07

LOCATION:

St Michaels Rectory
7 Dora Creascent
Workington
Cumbria

KEY

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
© Crown copyright. All rights reserved.
Licence number 100014732.

Report No: CP 414/07

Figure No: 19

Figure 19: North Elevation

Side Elevation.

NORTH PENNINES ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED

North Pennines Archaeology Ltd
2007

Building recording project at
7 Dora Crescent

COMMISSIONED BY:

Johnston and Wright

Scale 1:100

DRAWN BY: fg

DATE: 15/02/07

LOCATION:

St Michaels Rectory
7 Dora Creascent
Workington
Cumbria

KEY

Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
© Crown copyright. All rights reserved.
Licence number 100014732.

Report No: CP 414/07

Figure No: 20

Figure 20 : West Elevation