

**Towns House, Irvine, North Ayrshire:
Historic Building Recording**
Data Structure Report

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Overview

1. This Data Structure Report presents the results of a programme of archaeological works required by North Ayrshire Council in support of site investigation works, undertaken in respect of the proposed development of the Towns House site in Irvine, North Ayrshire. An enabling element of this redevelopment scheme is the demolition of two buildings: the town's former police station, and its former industrial school.
2. The works are intended to assess any heritage management issues at an early stage in the project, and will generate a baseline record of these historic structures, preserving by record the historic remains prior to their demolition.
3. The West of Scotland Archaeology Service (WoSAS) who advise North Ayrshire Council on archaeological matters provided guidance on the structure of archaeological works required on this site, and in particular on the structure of the Historic Building Recording works. In particular they have specified a Level 1 survey in accordance with *Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification* (RCHME Third Edition, 1996).
4. Rathmell Archaeology Limited was appointed by LA Architects Ltd on behalf of North Ayrshire Council to undertake the development and implementation of archaeological mitigation works as *per* the terms of the Written Scheme of Investigation (Rees & Turner 2012).

Historical Background

5. This Data Structure Report forms a supplement to the larger report which will follow subsequent archaeological works on site. It assumes cogniscance of the previously circulated Written Scheme of Investigation for the Towns House, Irvine (Rees and Turner, 2012). Detailed information relating to the site location and the proposed development can be found with 11-13 of this document, with the discussion in this particular report focussing entirely on developments relating to nineteenth century activities on the site.
6. Both of the structures discussed in this report – the former police station and the former industrial school – have their origins in wider social changes and reforms which were transforming urban life throughout Scotland in the early to mid-nineteenth century. This is clearly reflected by the map evidence: the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of the town shows no trace of either structure (Figure 1a), nor indeed of the Towns House which would eventually replace the earlier tolbooth as a more appropriate reflection of Victorian civic pride.
7. By contrast, the 2nd edition map of 1897 features both structures, though it is not until the 3rd edition map of 1911 (Figure 2a) that the Towns House is also featured, with this revised layout retained right through to the mid-twentieth century (Figure 2b) and still evident in vestigial form within the streetscape at the time of writing.
8. Clearly, the period between the 1830s and the 1860s was one of profound change in Irvine, with several civic institutions formalised, if not exactly instigated, during this period, and the historic backgrounds of both institutions are worth summarising in brief.

The Police Station

9. Before the formal introduction of a police force, the town's residents were required to perform their own law enforcement, with burgh officers functioning as constables. Originally, every burgess was required to take turns at 'watch and ward', patrolling the streets and the ports to prevent disorder, but eventually this task fell to hired watchmen who undertook these onerous duties on the residents' behalf (McJannet, 1938, 127).



Figure 1a: Extract from 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1860

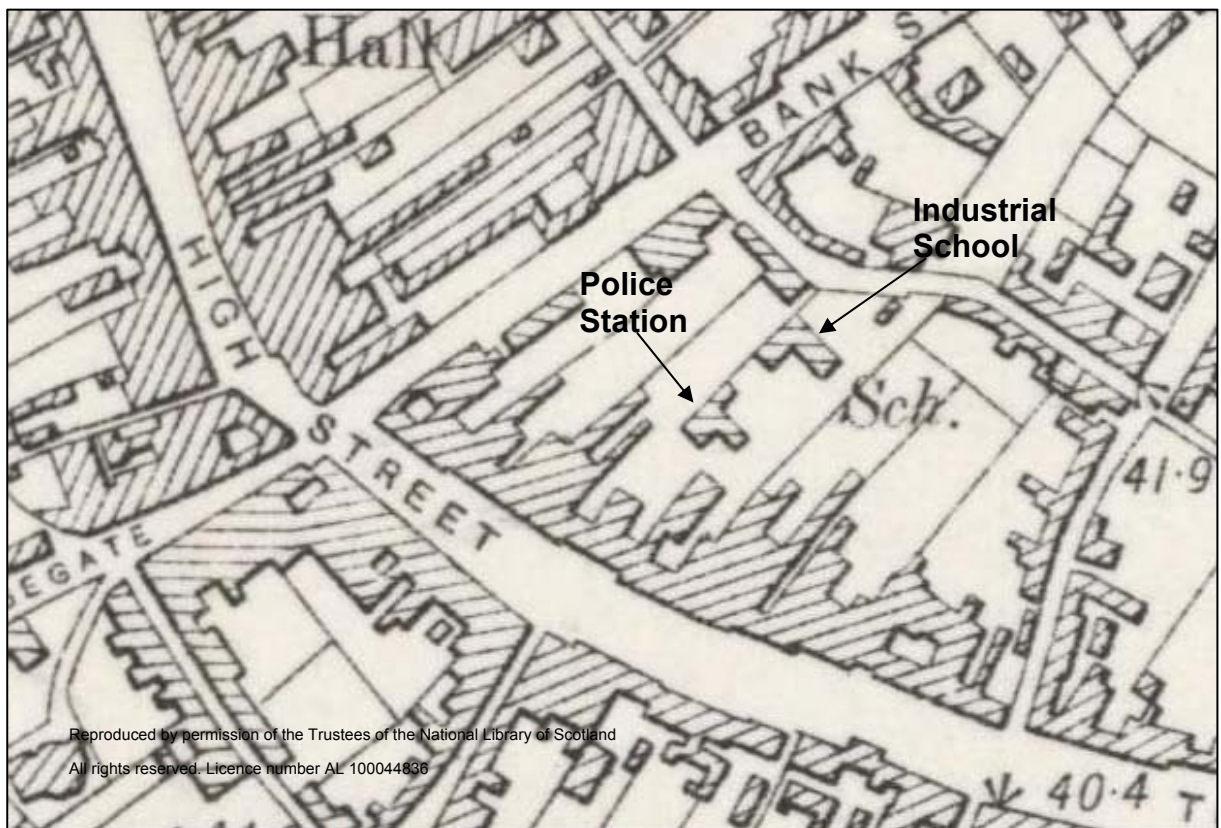


Figure 1b: Extract from 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1897



Figure 2a: Extract from 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1911



Fig. 2b: Extract from 4th Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1947

10. The formal introduction of a police force within the county of Ayrshire did not take place until 1839, when the Ayrshire Commissioners of Supply created a county force with constables at Beith, Girvan and Newmilns (Strawhorn 1985, 130). Though constables were present in Irvine, they were employed on a part-time basis, with accommodation provided in the tolbooth, a structure which had been traditionally been used in the meting out of justice since the medieval period.
11. The need to prevent civil disorder became apparent in 1842, when a miners' strike resulted in sufficient levels of unrest to justify the deployment of a squadron of Ayrshire Yeomanry, who were quartered in the town to impose order. Nonetheless, there was some opposition to the use of Yeomanry and by the 1840s, thirty constables were enrolled throughout Ayrshire and by 1857 this number had been doubled (Strawhorn 1935, 130). Just three years later, a police station was built by the County Constabulary, on a site to the rear of the former fleshmarket (Strawhorn 1985, 130).
12. Map evidence suggests that the building was subject to little if any alteration following its construction in 1860. The development of this structure will be discussed in detail at a later point, but first impressions – as implied by the map evidence – might suggest that it was built during a single construction episode and that it fulfilled its purpose perfectly adequately until recent times, when it was extended, and potentially remodelled internally, in the late twentieth century.

The Industrial School

13. The origins of Irvine's industrial school lay in Lyle's Free School, an institution founded in 1839 following a bequest by William Lyle which instructed trustees (comprising local ministers and church elders) to found a free school for the education of poor children in the district.
14. This institution predated the introduction of the public and industrial school system, implemented in 1854 'for the religious and moral instruction of poor and destitute children' (McJannet 1938, 237). The death of another prominent Irvine businessman, John Ferguson, resulted in another substantial bequest which the then-provost, Thomas Campbell, thought might be put towards the creation of such a school in Irvine. Further monies were collected by public subscription, and an appropriate site obtained.
15. With the aims of both institutions being similar in many respects, the decision was made to amalgamate the Free School with the Public and Industrial School. Classes began at nine and ended at three, with an hour's break at twelve, and no holidays granted without prior leave. The working arrangement on the weekends are not stipulated, but it may be the case that, as in the Free School, the children were granted every alternative Saturday as a holiday.
16. Parents were expected to contribute financially to their child's education, with modest fees of a penny charged per week per child. Some of the poorest pupils, were, however, fully supported: McJannet cites a report by a schools Inspector in 1862, which noted that 37 pupils were fully supported by the parochial boards and that 'generally, the children's raggedness was extreme and their appearance unusually dull and inanimate'.
17. Following the circulation of this report, a schoolmaster was appointed, and the situation began to improve. McJannet recounts a later report which states that 'the school has made decided progress, and that it was civilizing the children to a considerable degree' (McJannet 1938, 238). By 1865, 230 children were registered with an average attendance of 185, and this had risen to 396 by 1876 (Strawhorn 1985, 164). At this time, the schoolmaster, Mr Lumsden, was being assisted in his duties by a female teacher and five pupil teachers, had extended his services to include the teaching of writing and arithmetic to young men during evening classes.
18. In 1891, the Public and Industrial School was renamed the East Road Public School (McJannet 1938, 240), and under this guise it remained in use until 1937 (Strawhorn 1985, 197), when it finally closed. Pupils were transferred to the newly extended Bank Street School, but the old industrial school premises were retained, and brought back into use as a community centre, known as the Annick Centre.

Project Works

19. The programme of works was undertaken on various dates during April and July 2012 and included Level 1 building recording on the upstanding remains of the police station and the industrial school. The first floor level of the police station was omitted from the survey for reasons of health and safety.
20. All works were conducted in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists' Standards and Policy Statements and Code of Conduct and Historic Scotland Policy Statements.

Findings: Building Recording

21. The purpose of the building recording was to investigate and record two structures – the former police station and the former industrial school – which were to be removed as an enabling element of the redevelopment scheme. Both structures were of mid- to late nineteenth century date: neither building is featured on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map of 1860 (published 1860, but surveyed several years earlier) but both are shown on the 2nd edition map of 1897. This is entirely consistent with the documentary sources, which suggest that both structures were in place and operation by 1860.
22. Both structures remained in use until very recent times: as a consequence the interiors have been reworked and the internal layouts altered to differing degrees. The aim of the building recording was as much to try and establish the original plans of the structures as to record the surviving fabric and features within them.

The Police Station: Exterior

23. The police station is a large 'L'-shaped structure in plan, comprising a 19th century core with a large extension of 1960s or 70s date, to the east (Fig. 3a). It is the early core of this much bigger structure which formed the focus of these works and which will be discussed in detail below.
24. The west and south elevations of the 19th century structure are still exposed in their entirety and are both clearly meant to function as street frontages. The masonry is coursed blond sandstone rubble: the blocks are squared and of consistent size, and stugged throughout. The margins, also of blond sandstone, are ashlar. The south elevation (Fig. 3b) is three bays in extent, with the eastern bay advanced and equipped with tripartite windows in ground and first floors and a pedimented gablet above. Sitting above the window at first floor level is an armorial panel depicting the saltire (Fig. 3c).
25. The masonry employed in the construction of the west-facing elevation does not appear to be as finely finished: again, squared coursed rubble is employed, but here the blocks are not of equal size and there is abundant use of cherry-cocking. This may suggest that this elevation was originally intended as secondary to the adjacent south elevation, though attention to detail is still evident in the margins of windows and doors and the style of masonry used here once again contrasts with the much more modest form of coursed rubble used in the adjacent north, gable end wall (Fig. 3d).
26. An interesting feature of note is the datestone which sits above a now-disused doorway in the west elevation (Figs. 3e, f). This features the inscription 'Constabulary Station 1892' and its presence suggests that the building was remodelled in the 1890s. This datestone, combined with the presence of two wrought iron lamp brackets over the doorway (Fig. 4a), suggests that the core of the structure changed, with the west elevation now emphasised as the public entrance.
27. While the style of construction remains similar throughout, it is possible to identify a potential running joint in the stonework between the gable at the south end of the west-facing elevation and the adjacent two storey block (Fig. 4b). This suggests that the building originally comprised a rectangular 3 x 2 bay two storey structure, which was later extended to the north through the addition of a rectangular 4 x 2 bay annexe.



Fig. 3a: Police Station, S Elevation



Fig. 3b: Police Station, S Elevation, 19th century core of Structure



Fig. 3c: Police Station, S Elevation Armorial Panel over 1st floor window



Fig. 3d: Police Station, N & W Elevations



Fig. 3e: Police Station, W Elevation with blocked doorway



Fig. 3f: Police Station, W Elevation, detail of 1892 Datestone



Fig. 4a: Lamp Brackets, W Elevation



Fig. 4b: Police Station, S Elevation possible Running Joint



Fig. 4c: Police Station, E Elevation



Fig. 4d: Police Station, N Elevation, Cell Block



Fig. 4e: Police Station, N Elevation, visible Phasing in Cell Block



Fig 4f: Police Station, Room d, *in situ* Timber Panelling

28. The E elevation, now partly concealed beyond a 1960s/70s stairwell, uses masonry which is similar in character to the north, gable end wall, i.e. coursed rubble, with squared blocks restricted for use in quoins and margins, and no evidence of cherry-cocking (Fig. 4c). This is consistent with the area's location to the rear of the building. A former doorway – now partly infilled for use as a window – once opened out into the yard from this elevation.
29. Also visible to the rear of the building is the cell block. Forming a low, one-storey outshot to the rear of the main structure (Fig. 4d), this part of the structure is now partially concealed beneath a modern 1960s/70s stair tower. However, it is evident that this feature has also been extended: a running joint is visible on the external wall between the westernmost cell, and those lying to the east (Fig. 4e). This suggests that this portion of the structure was also extended, with an initial single cell proving inadequate for the facility's needs.
30. Both structures retained their original functions until very recent times, though the interiors were reworked and the internal layout as a consequence substantially altered. The aim of this building recording exercise was therefore aimed as much to try and establish the original plans of the structures as to record the surviving fabric and features within them.

The Police Station: Interior

31. Throughout much of the interior of the police station, original features still remained *in situ*. A number of the windows, for example, still retained their original timber panelling (Fig. 4f), though no fireplaces could be identified. Of particular interest, however, was a simple, roll-moulded cornice which was an integral feature of the original rooms (Fig. 6a). By tracking the presence of this cornice throughout the building, it was possible to identify changes to the original internal layout, and to plan the structure's original extent (Fig. 5).
32. It is possible that the structure originally comprised a square two-storey three by two bay building with an attached stair tower. This latter feature is now completely concealed by the cell block and the modern stair, which makes it impossible to establish the original configuration. The outline of the cornice suggests that the original ground floor plan would have comprised four rectangular rooms arranged around a central access corridor that ran from north to south and linked with the rectangular stair tower allowing access to the first floor in the rear. Traces of this stair tower can still be seen projecting at attic level (Fig. 6b).
33. However, it is also possible that the original structure incorporated a single cell adjoining the rear of the building. This may have been accessed by a doorway (now blocked) which led into this area from the east side of the north end of Room i, directly opposite Room j.
34. These facilities appear to have been insufficient for the town's needs, and the building was extended in the 1890s, with the addition of the W-facing wing (Rooms j-n), which originally had a separate external access from the west in Room l (now blocked). The configuration of the rooms had been altered in recent times, but once again, the lines of the original cornices had survived giving an indication of the earlier layout.

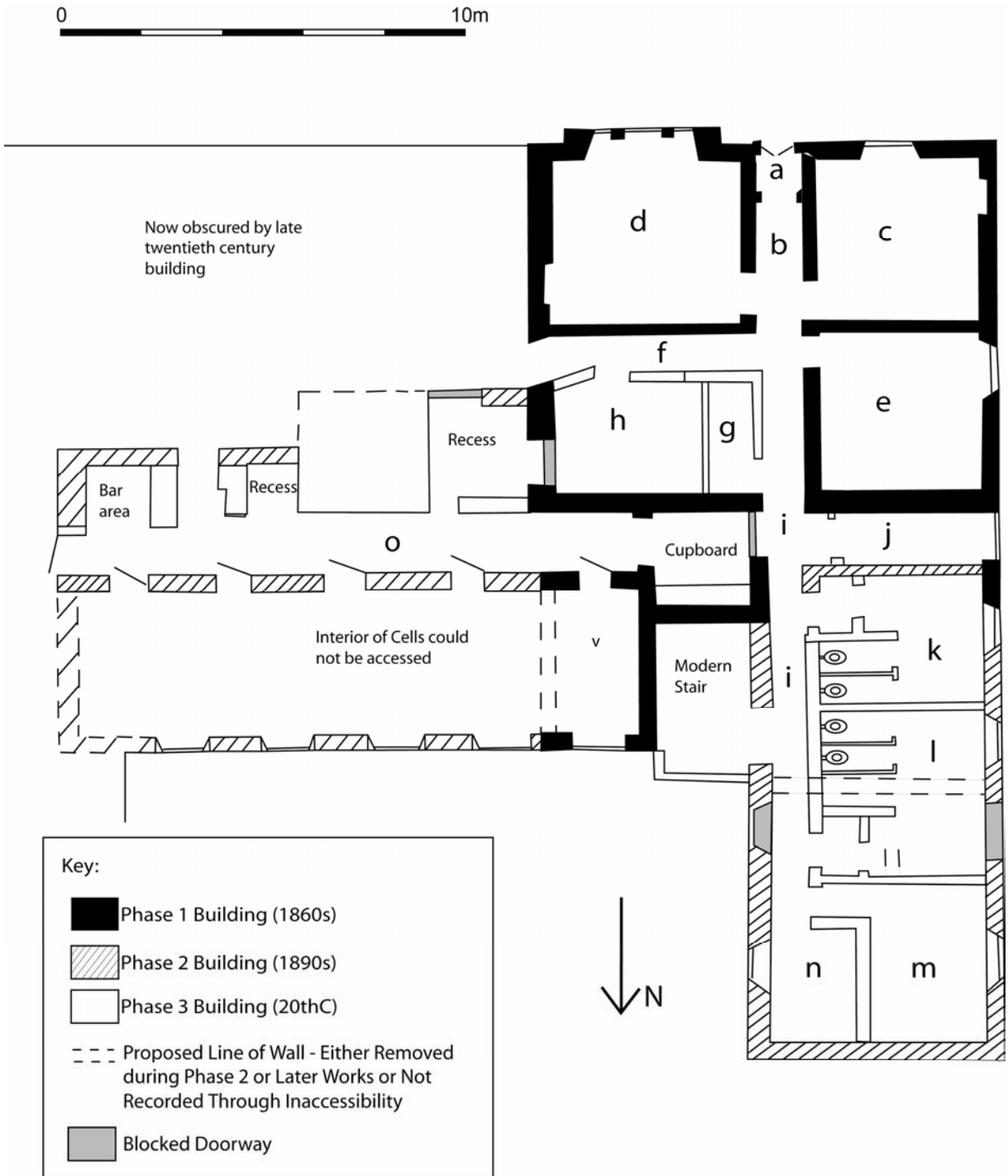


Fig. 5: Plan of 19th Century Police Station



Fig. 6a: Example of Original Cornice, Room d



Fig. 6b: Exposed Upper Storey, with Projecting Stair



Fig. 6c: Room I, W wall, with Window to left



Fig. 6d: Cornice, N end Room i



Fig. 6e: Room i, Break in Cornice



Fig. 6f: General View of Cell Bay

35. Originally, the room now occupied by Room k had been larger on plan, extending north into Room l. The northern window in Room l, equipped with straight as opposed to splayed embrasures, corresponded with a blocked doorway in the external wall. It was therefore apparent that the termination of the cornice, roughly halfway along the western wall (Fig. 6c), marked the location of an original wall (now removed) which had marked the limits of an entrance vestibule, similar perhaps to Room a. The remains of a similar cornice along the northern wall of Room l indicated that this earlier vestibule had led into an 'L'-shaped corridor, mostly incorporated within the northern end of Room i which in turn allowed access to Rooms m and n (Fig. 6d). Room i, the north corridor, may in turn have been subdivided further, either by a door or a narrowed opening, as the cornice is broken along its length by what might represent the remains of an earlier dividing wall (Fig. 6e).
36. Unfortunately, first floor levels could not be accessed for reasons of health and safety. The internal woodwork was waterlogged and rotten throughout the building, with evidence of ceiling collapse in places, and widespread presence of dry rot. With the structural integrity of the upper floor in question, it was decided to restrict the survey to the ground floor level.

The Police Station: Cell Bay

37. Externally, the cell bay (Fig. 6f) showed evidence of two discrete building phases, but this was not reflected with any great clarity internally. Some variation in cell design was apparent. The most striking example of this was the contrast between the cell door set within a recessed embrasure at the east end of the cell bay (Fig. 7a), and the remaining four cells which had the doors set virtually flush against the surrounding wall (Fig. 7b).
38. Some variation was, however, evident in the design of the windows, with the westernmost cell (Cell v) having a rectangular window equipped, presumably, with a flat lintel (Fig. 7c). By contrast, the windows of the four cells to the east which make up the later build are shaped in the form of a segmental arch (Figure 7d), with the external lintel shaped to accommodate the convex upper surface of the window frame. It should however be borne in mind that the differing shape of the window of the westernmost cell (cell v) may reflect a later remodelling, as externally this feature incorporates modern brick, suggesting that perhaps the lintel failed and repairs were required as a consequence.
39. Each cell had ventilators set within the windows, with external ventilation grilles at low level suggesting that, right from the outset, gas was employed, at least for lighting purposes. All the cell doors were locked, so access to the interiors was impossible, but the fittings were visible nonetheless. Toilet bowls of pedestal type with integral wooden strips were located in a corner of each cell – the fact that these were ceramic, as opposed to stainless steel, might suggest that they were fairly early features which had – perhaps surprisingly – remained intact throughout the structure's later history of use. Wall-mounted cisterns for flushing the toilets were located outwith the cell.
40. Accommodation within the cell appeared spartan, with integral beds cast from concrete taking up the entire width of the rear portion of the cell. Since the cells could not be accessed, their size can only be estimated, but each appeared to be roughly the same size as a modern double bed. Their design varied between a raised flat slab (Fig. 8b), and a more contoured feature with a sunken interior and a raised broad lip at both sides (Fig. 8c).
41. With the addition of mattresses and bedding, these features would not have been quite so harsh and austere as they appear at first glance, though it should be borne in mind that their unexpectedly large size (and the presence of the rim at both ends) indicates that originally, these cells would have intended for the confinement of two or perhaps even more individuals simultaneously.



Fig. 7a: Recessed Cell Door (Cell i),
E end, Cell bay



Fig. 7b: Cell Door Flush With Walls
(Cells ii-v)



Fig. 7c: Rectangular Window, Cell v



Fig. 7d: Window in Segmental Arched
Setting (Cells i - iv)



Fig. 7e: Alterations to Window,
exterior of Cell v



Fig. 7f: Ceramic Toilet Bowl



Fig. 8a: Wall-Mounted Cistern Outside Cell



Fig. 8b: Flat 'bed' feature within cell



Fig. 8c: Bed, raised rims and sunken interior



Fig. 8d: Cable Moulding & Bar Area



Fig. 8e: W Side Cell Bay, With Recess

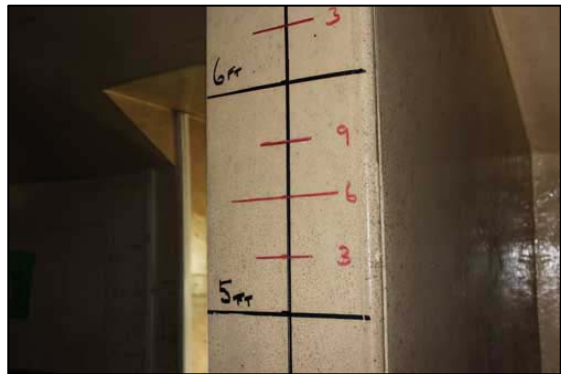


Fig. 8f: Handwritten Height Chart



Fig. 8g: Possible Prisoner Processing Area

42. Moving beyond the cells themselves, the layout of the cell bay remains largely unchanged from its original plan. The presence of a cable moulding at dado height (Fig. 8d) on both north and south walls of the corridor is consistent with a 19th century date for construction, with the slope of the pitched roof surviving in relict form on the south side (Fig. 8e). The late use of the structure is denoted by the presence of an alarm strip on the south wall of the corridor, overlying the cable moulding over much of its length, a security feature which would have been added in the late 90s or early 2000s.
43. The various alcoves, open areas and recesses which can be identified within the cell block have each been put to use for prisoner processing and welfare. At the east end, the presence of a wooden counter with hinged wooden half-door near the entrance in the south wall denotes the area where the bar officer was located (see Fig. 8d). Moving westwards, there is a recess which once held a sink (see Fig. 8e). Beside this, an area of wall has been utilised as a height chart (Fig. 8f), with a handwritten scale added, presumably in fairly recent times.
44. Again on the south side, there is a further recess which may have been used as a prisoner processing area (Fig. 8g). A white cloth curtain hung over a blocked doorway may have been used as a backdrop for photographs, and a set of wooden shelves could have been used for fingerprinting (though the lack of a brass plate for inking, or screw holes for the attachment of such a plate was notable).
45. The cell block terminates at the west end in a doorway which opens into a large cupboard, equipped with shelves on the north and west sides. The recess on the west side may represent a blocked doorway which originally allowed access from the original 1860s structure. In later years, this cupboard appears to have functioned as an area where bulky items such as bedding and/or prisoners' clothing/personal effects were stored.
46. As recorded in the survey, the plan of the cell bay as it survives today does not quite match up with what would surely have been a rectangular one by five bay structure. An examination of the modern build to the south suggests that this apparently 'dead' space has in fact been used to house switchgear, fuses & other electrical equipment required to power what was, in recent times, a large and complex structure.

The Industrial School

47. The Industrial School is an 'L'-shaped structure of one storey height (Fig. 8a), which is built throughout of squared coursed blond sandstone rubble, roughly stugged and with widespread use of cherry-cocking evident. The quoins and margins are stugged blond sandstone, with contrasting red sandstone used to dramatic effect in the main doorways (Fig. 8b). Additional embellishment is evident around the skewputts and the chimneys (Fig. 8c)
48. The fenestration varies between the two main - north and west - elevations. On the north elevation, the windows are evenly distributed and consist throughout of large rectangular sash-and-case windows subdivided into twelve smaller rectangular lights. On the west elevation, by contrast, the fenestration varies throughout, the main feature being a large mullioned window flanked by smaller examples.
49. A large arched window in the north gable end wall in the west elevation may be the only surviving example of a feature which was repeated elsewhere in the building: arched features of similar scale still survive on the gable end walls in the south and west elevations and it may be the case that these were originally similar features which were blocked up at a later date.
50. The presence of chimneys above these arched windows suggests that diagonal flues must have been incorporated into the wall fabric. No fireplaces were, however, identified in the vicinity of these arched features, and it is possible that the rooms were heated by way of a stove rather than an open fire.



Fig. 8a: Industrial School, N Elevation



Fig. 8b: Industrial School, E Elevation, Blocked Entrance



Fig. 8c: Industrial School, W Elevation Detailing on Chimney



Fig. 8d: Industrial School, W Elevation Irregular Fenestration



Fig. 8e: Arched Window, W-Facing Elevation, N End



Fig. 7d: ?Former Arched Window, S-Facing Elevation

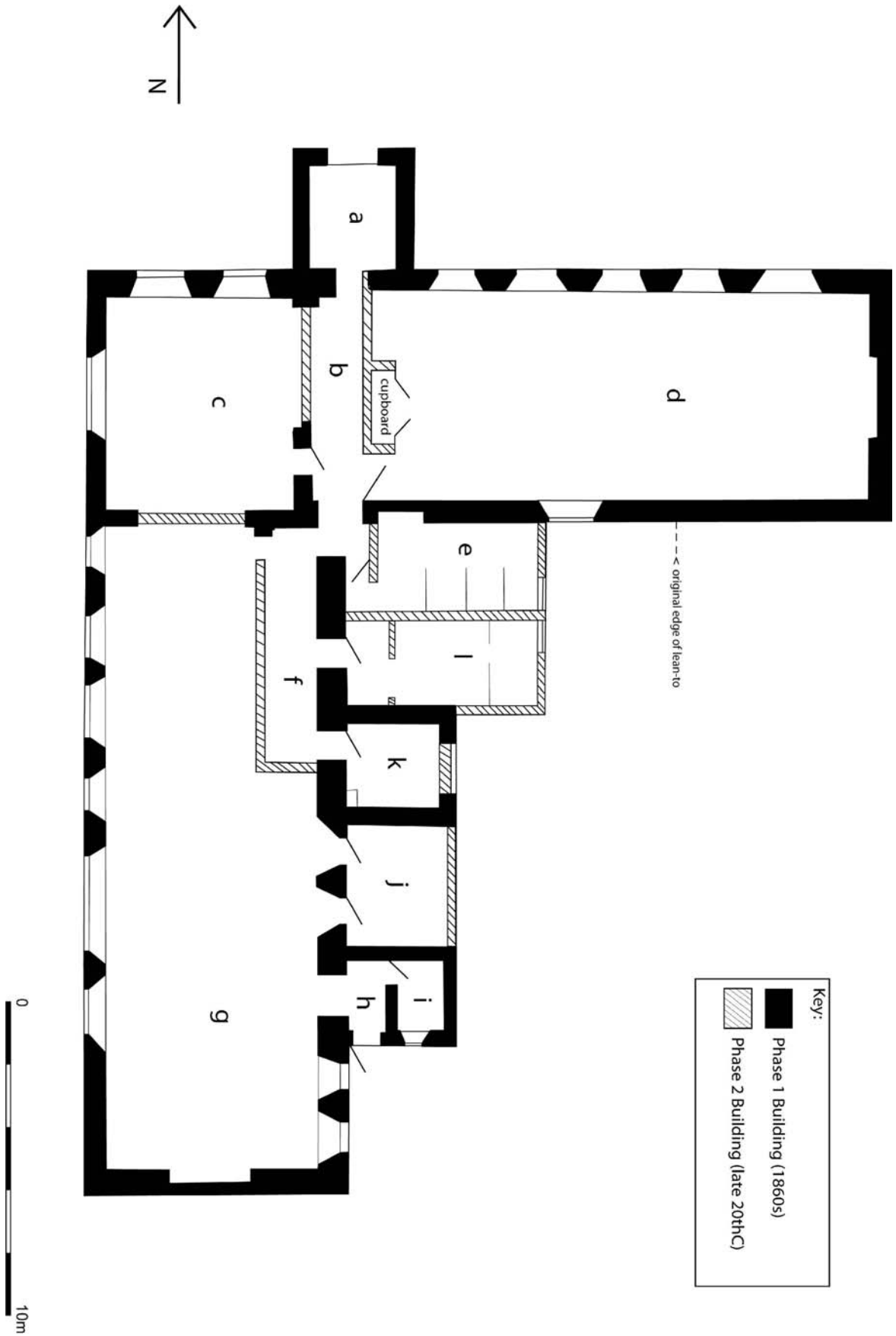


Fig. 9: Plan of Industrial School

51. The school was originally accessed by two entrances, one on the north elevation and one on the east elevation. Both entrances were grand in appearance, comprising a projecting portico and a double set of doors with a fanlight above. These outer doors opened into a vestibule, which survives in its original form in Room a. Here, the outlines of coat hooks can still be identified on the west wall, suggesting that the vestibule may have doubled up as a cloakroom. The presence of two identical doorways accessing vestibules configured in an identical fashion reflects the fact that the pupils were segregated according to gender, with their respective classrooms accessed by separate entrances, and with similarly segregated playgrounds. In one instance, however, one of these entrances (Room k) has now been converted into a disabled toilet, with the external doorway converted into a window.
52. A third means of access was possible via a less prominent doorway placed in the south-facing elevation of a small outshot projecting from the east elevation. This led into a cramped vestibule (Room h) with a tiny closet or cupboard leading off to the east (Room i). This could have allowed access to the school building by a caretaker, janitor or similar, without their having to rely on access via entrances more frequently used by the pupils.
53. The internal layout is less easy to interpret. Some internal subdivisions have clearly been added: though all internal walls sport timber panelling to dado height, the new fabric can be differentiated by the fact that the width of the planks varies from the original. In some cases it may be narrower, and in others, wider. In Room d, for example, closer investigation of what appeared to be original *in situ* panelling reveals instead that it comprised a layer of veneer moulded to resemble the earlier panelling (Fig. 10a). It was also possible to identify original doorways and window embrasures by the presence of a cable moulding which served to define the edges of the rybats. New fabric could also be established by the width and character of the skirting.
54. It was apparent that while the west wall of Room b) (the north corridor, shown in Fig. 10b) included some original elements, the east wall was much more recent in origin, and that the doorway between Rooms a and b had in fact been made narrower (Fig. 10b). Similarly, the south corridor, Room f), which had no panelling present on the west wall, was a later insertion: when viewed from within the adjacent Room g, its intrusive nature was clearly evident.
55. By stripping out these two intrusive corridors, we are left with two large, open spaces, one measuring eight by two bays in extent, the other measuring seven by two. These would have formed the classrooms, one of which would have housed the girls, the other the boys. These spaces are light and airy, as befitting an environment where children are being housed in conditions deemed conducive to their health and well-being, and where they are expected to undertake manual tasks (Figs. 10 d & e). The presence of a large arched window in the gable end wall, as per the example which still survives in the west wall of Room c, would have allowed even more light into the interior.
56. The spacious nature of this environment is further emphasised by the use of the roof-space. Instead of being enclosed behind a ceiling, the king-post roof is left exposed and has in fact been turned into a decorative feature, with carved details evident (Fig. 10f).
57. It is the relationship of Room c to these two larger spaces which remains uncertain. The south and east walls appear to represent later infill (Fig. 11a), but it is evident that this area was separated from the two classrooms to some degree, perhaps by an opening as opposed to a solid partition wall. Perhaps this area housed the schoolmaster, who could monitor both groups of pupils from this location and instruct them as required.
58. More evidence of earlier subdivision was found in Room g, where a space measuring three x two bays in extent may once have been partitioned off at the south end of the room. Evidence of this earlier subdivision came in the form of glazed panels within the roof truss (Fig. 11b) associated with timber pilasters in the east and west walls (Fig. 10c).



Fig. 10a: Modern Veneer over Original Panelling

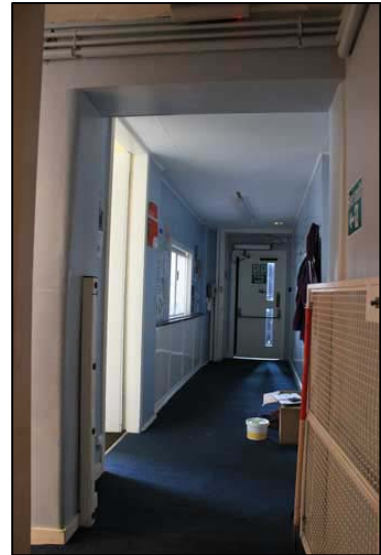


Fig. 10b: Room b – North Corridor



Fig. 10c: Room a, Altered Skirting



Fig. 10d: Room g, with Later Insertion (Room f) to right



Fig. 10e: General View, Room d



Fig 10f: Room g, Detail of Roof Trusses



Fig. 11a: E Wall, Room c



Fig. 11b: Room g, Glazed Panels in Roof Truss



Fig. 11c: Room g, Pilaster in E Wall



Fig. 11d: Room g, Panelling at S end



Fig. 11e: Room g, Panelling at S end



Fig. 11f: Room g, *in situ* Cupboard



Fig. 11g: Inserted Doorway, N Elevation



Fig. 11h: Site of Outbuilding, S Elevation

59. Though nothing survived which could establish a purpose for this apparent subdivision, small details in the decoration further served to set this space apart and mark it out as different in some way. Here, the timber panelling extended above dado height, forming a simple decorative feature which ran level along the east and west walls (Fig. 11d), then tapered down slightly to the central arched recess which, as discussed previously, may once have held a window (Fig. 11e).
60. Given this area's location, i.e. immediately adjacent to the minor S-facing entrance into Room h, it could be suggested that this smaller subdivision of space formed an area which housed either a teacher or a janitor/caretaker. With no surviving traces of any permanent subdivision, it could therefore be postulated that the subdivision was either short-lived or perhaps even temporary, the potential to extend the classroom when required being ever-present.
61. Besides the insertion of access corridors, the floor plan has changed in recent times through the creation of new toilet blocks (Rooms e, k, j). In some instances, this appears to have involved the creation of new doorways into what was previously a solid wall. In others, however, existing window embrasures have been reutilised. These can be identified by their splayed embrasures (see doorways to left of pilaster, Fig. 11c).
62. The conversion of windows to doorways appears to have been a relatively straightforward one: the external wall is thin along the entire extent of the feature, with the base of the window embrasure used to form cupboard space (Fig. 11f). Three window embrasures have been used in this way, two in the east wall of Room g to allow access to Room j, and one at the east end of the north elevation (Room d). This latter doorway was created to improve disabled access to the building (Fig. 11g), and is particularly interesting as imitation quoins have been added (made from concrete) to ensure the new feature remains in keeping with the rest of the structure.
63. One further feature which is worthy of note is the site of a former outbuilding, still visible on the east end of the south elevation as a series of joistholes, a raggle marking the extent of a sloping roofline, and an area of paint or whitewash (Fig. 11h). Now largely obscured by the construction of a free-standing lock-up shed of modern date, this feature makes its first appearance on the Ordnance Survey 3rd edition map of 1911. That it may have been an integral part of the school building from its construction must, however be borne in mind. The lack of fenestration in the south wall of Room d, compared, say, with the large number of windows in both the east and west walls of Room g may indicate that the addition of an outbuilding in this location was always intended to be part of the original build, even if it was not executed immediately.

Discussion

64. This combined study of the police station and the industrial school in Irvine allows an ideal opportunity to compare and contrast two mid- to late-nineteenth century municipal buildings of modest size, both of which played an important, and arguably a vital, role in the smooth running of a Royal burgh. With map evidence providing only a limited insight into how these buildings developed throughout their early years, it is down to the evidence present in the building fabrics themselves to further elucidate their histories, and perhaps shed further insights into the changing problems and issues which faced the town itself.
65. Of the two structures, it is the industrial school which shows the least change through the years. The basic layout of the structure remained virtually consistent throughout the nineteenth century. The only change evidenced throughout the whole of this period is the addition of an outbuilding projecting from the east end of the south elevation, shown first on the Ordnance Survey 3rd edition map of 1911, and this supposedly 'new' addition may reflect a lack of detail in the available mapping rather than a change to the structure itself. The Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map, on which this structure first appears, also fails to show either of the projecting entrance vestibules located on the north and east elevations, and with no evidence of any blocked windows present in the south fenestration, it seems likely that the presence of this outbuilding (now lost) formed an

integral part of the original build from the outset.

66. As far as the industrial school is concerned, the only alterations to the fabric, both internally and externally, appear to date to very recent times, i.e. the late twentieth century. These alterations included the reworking of the interior space through the creation of two access corridors, the conversion of the east-facing entrance vestibule into a disabled toilet, the conversion of a window at the east end of the north elevation into a doorway allowing disabled access, and the infilling of gaps on the east elevation to create additional spaces used for male and female toilets, and additional storage space.
67. The police station is, by contrast, more complex in terms of its development. Though known to have been built in 1860, it bears a datestone over a disused entrance in the west elevation which yields the date '1892'. This suggests two phases of building. With the earliest Ordnance Survey mapping predating the construction of the police station, and the 2nd edition map post-dating 1892, evidence for a two-phase build may be sought in the fabric of the structure itself. Such evidence is clearly visible in the north-facing cell-block, but it is less easy to establish in either the west-facing elevation or the internal layout.
68. It is possible, however, that the original structure, built in 1860, comprised a simple two by two bay structure, looking south onto the rear of plots fronting High Street (later to become the site of the Town Hall). On the rear, northern, elevation was a projecting rectangular stair tower, plus an outshot to the east which housed a single prison cell. The original layout of this north elevation must, however, remain uncertain on account of later alterations.
69. This accommodation must have soon proved itself insufficient, and in 1892 the building was extended to the north, forming a two-storey, seven bay west-facing façade which overlooks an unnamed vennel or lane running south from East Street. With the construction of this extension, the focus seems to have shifted from the south to the west elevation, the latter having then been adopted as the public entrance to the police station if the presence of the datestone and the survival of not one but two lamp brackets over the doorway and the generally fine appearance of the masonry are anything to go by.
70. At this point, it could be envisaged that the original 1860 core of the structure found use as a domestic residence for a senior police officer, with the extension functioning as offices for any junior or part-time officers. The cell bay was also extended, with a further four cells added. These alterations created the plan of the building as it is depicted on the 2nd edition map of 1897, and the structure appears to have remained unchanged until the late twentieth century, when it was incorporated into a much larger structure and subject to some internal remodelling in the process.
71. Since both buildings are roughly contemporary, and funded from the municipal purse, some similarity in character might be expected. This is not immediately apparent, though it may be the case that later west elevation of the police station, with its coursed rubble masonry and abundant use of cherry cocking, was deliberately styled in a manner which compliments the pre-existing industrial school building which lies immediately to the north. Excepting this, any perceived similarities may merely reflect the fact that these buildings were designed and built by local firms, employing local craftsmen who made widespread use of local materials.

Conclusion

72. A programme of archaeological works was required by North Ayrshire Council in advance of redevelopment works at the site of the Towns House in Irvine. An enabling element of this work is the demolition of the two 19th century buildings: the former police station and the former industrial school.
73. The historic building recording exercise revealed that while the layout of the industrial school had changed very little through the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the police station showed two discrete building phases. The first was the construction of a

three by two bay building in 1860, associated with an external stair to the rear and a single bay. This building was subsequently extended to the north in 1892. The cell block extended, presumably at the same time, with four cells added to the isolated example which appears to have formed an integral part of the original build.

References

Documentary

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Cartographic

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|-----------------|------|---|
| Ordnance Survey | 1860 | 1 st Edition Map of Ayrshire. Sheet XV11 |
| Ordnance Survey | 1897 | 2 nd Edition Map of Ayrshire |
| Ordnance Survey | 1911 | 3 rd Edition Map of Ayrshire |
| Ordnance Survey | 1947 | 4 th Edition Map of Ayrshire |
- |

Appendix 1: Discovery & Excavation in Scotland

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	North Ayrshire
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Towns House, Irvine
PROJECT CODE:	11068
PARISH:	Irvine
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:	Louise Turner
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Rathmell Archaeology Limited
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Building Recording
NMRS NO(S):	NS33NW 352
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Police Station; Industrial School
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NS 322 389
START DATE (this season)	19 th April 2012
END DATE (this season)	17 th July 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (may include information from other fields)	<p>Two nineteenth century buildings located in the centre of Irvine– the former police station and the former industrial school – were subject to historic building recording in advance of redevelopment.</p> <p>While the industrial school showed no sign of large-scale changes prior to minor remodelling works carried out in recent times, the police station revealed evidence of two phases of building. Originally built in 1860 as a two by two bay structure with external stair and single cell, the building was extended in 1892 through the addition of a two-storey extension aligned north-south and measuring five by two bays in extent. The cell block was also extended at this time.</p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	North Ayrshire Council
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	Unit 8 Ashgrove Workshops, Kilwinning, Ayrshire KA13 6PU
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ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Report to West of Scotland Archaeology Service and archive to RCAHMS Collections.

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