

**Archaeological building recording at
the former Westcliffe Hospital
Turnhurst Road
Stoke-on-Trent
NGR SJ 86715 53090**

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Produced for
Stoke-on-Trent City Council

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Non-technical summary

Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology carried out a programme of building recording at the former Westcliffe Hospital, Turnhurst Road, Stoke-on-Trent (NGR SJ 86715 53090). The project was undertaken between the 13th and 15th June 2011 and focused upon six of the remaining buildings which had not previously been recorded.

The buildings were originally part of the Wolstanton and Burslem Union workhouse hospital complex and included two infirmaries and two nurses' accommodation blocks. Associated service buildings included a possible mortuary and laundry, later extended and adapted to become a boiler house and workshops. The hospital complex at the workhouse was established with the construction of an infirmary in 1893 and the buildings recorded as part of this project were built between 1900 and 1924. Following the abolition of the Poor Law in 1929 the workhouse and its infirmary were taken over by the local authority and, in common with many workhouses, eventually formed the core of an NHS hospital.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 A notification (SOT/52209) was received by Stoke-on-Trent City Council for the demolition of the remaining buildings at the former Westcliffe Hospital, Turnhurst Road, Stoke-on-Trent (NGR SJ 86715 53090) (Fig. 1) in advance of the redevelopment of the site. In response, the Local Planning Authority required that a programme of archaeological building recording be carried out on six of the buildings prior to their demolition. Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology was subsequently appointed to undertake the work by Stoke-on-Trent City Council.

1.2 The buildings to be surveyed (Buildings 1-6, Fig. 2) originally formed part of the Wolstanton and Burslem Union workhouse, but were latterly part of the Westcliffe Hospital. The site formed part of the Stoke-on-Trent Historic Buildings Survey (HBS) of 1982 and the main 1832 workhouse building, demolished shortly thereafter, was subject to an intensive record (ref: T149). Further recording was carried out by Ironbridge Archaeology (Wallis 2008), which examined the ‘new infirmary’, the lodge and the vagrants’ ward, all built 1893/4. The 1893/4 buildings are to be demolished along with the six that are the subject of this report.

2.0 Scope and aims of the project

2.1 The recording programme was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by the City Council’s Planning Archaeologist (Goodwin 2011) and with a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology (Sutherland 2011). The brief required that the buildings should be subject to a Level 2 photographic survey and written record, and a Level 1 drawn record (as per the recording levels defined by English Heritage guidelines, *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice, 2006*).

2.2 The primary purpose of the project was to carry out the recording of the remaining buildings, noting structural elements and phasing evidence illustrative of their development and changing function. This was to be achieved through visual inspection and written description, measured survey and photographic survey.

2.3 The survey and report were undertaken in accordance with guidance laid down in the Institute for Archaeologists’ (IfA) *Standards and Guidance for the Archaeological*

Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings and Structures (revised October 2008) and the English Heritage publication *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2nd Edition).

3.0 Historical background

3.1 The former Westcliffe Hospital is situated on the east side of Turnhurst Road in the Chell area of Stoke-on-Trent, approximately 1.8km north-east of Tunstall (Figs. 1 & 2). The buildings on site originally formed part of the Wolstanton and Burslem Union workhouse.

3.2 The Wolstanton and Burslem Union workhouse was built following the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act. The act established the workhouse as the sole means of relief to the poor and established a policy of ‘less-eligibility’, which meant that living conditions for inmates of the workhouse were to be less comfortable than for the self-sufficient poor. The inmates were to be segregated into four categories: the aged and impotent; children; able-bodied females and able-bodied males (Morrison 1999, 43). These policies were intended to make conditions within the workhouse harsh enough that all but the most needy would be discouraged from applying for relief with a consequent reduction of expenditure on paupers (Baker 1984, 18). The new system was to be administered by regional Poor Law Unions, replacing a parish based organisation. Each union was directed by a board of guardians, elected by the ratepayers and responsible to London based Poor Law Commissioners (Morrison 1999, 44).

3.3 The workhouse for Wolstanton and Burslem Union was designed by architects Boulton and Palmer of Stafford and built 1839-40. It utilised the linear layout popularised by architects Scott and Moffatt (Morrison 1999, 73) and comprised three parallel ranges with a capacity for 300 paupers (Baker 1984, 32). The guardians particularly requested that it be built in the Italian rather than the Elizabethan style (Baker 1984, 32). The front range was administrative and included the porter’s lodge, board rooms, paupers’ waiting room, and receiving and tramps wards. The middle range contained a centrally-positioned master’s house separating accommodation for male and female inmates to either side. An infirmary stood at the rear of the site (Baker 1984, 33). Besides this accommodation, the workhouse also incorporated workshops, a bakehouse,

mill, stables and attached agricultural land on which the inmates were set to work (Baker 1984, 40).

3.4 The gradual increase in numbers (rising from 129 inmates in 1841 to 277 inmates in 1881 and to 527 in 1901) in conjunction with the regard for classification and segregation of inmates, meant that the workhouse had to be continually re-arranged and extended. Male and female venereal, itch and vagrant wards were added in 1849; an infirmary and children's wards in 1857; and a new school in 1875. The new infirmary, porter's lodge and vagrants' ward (subject of the 2008 Ironbridge Archaeology survey) were constructed in 1893 along with a boiler house and a workshop. A new steam laundry and a disinfection building were added about the turn of the century (Baker 1984, 39-40).

3.5 The majority of the buildings considered in this report formed part of the hospital provision for the main workhouse complex. In addition to the 1893 infirmary, a second infirmary was added in 1906 (Building 1) and a third (Building 2) in the period 1900-1924 along with a nurses' home (Building 3). A structure (Building 4), believed to have been a mortuary (Wallis 2008, 3) was also erected between 1900 and 1924 and an annex to the nurses' home was built between 1924 and 1937. Building 5, latterly workshops and a boiler house, was constructed 1878-1900, extended 1900-1924 and extended again 1924-1937. The eastern end of the building incorporates a former mortuary dating to the period 1878-1900 (Baker 1984, 33).

3.6 In 1922 the Wolstanton and Burslem Union was amalgamated with the Stoke-on-Trent Union and the workhouse became the 'Poor Law Institution' (Baker 1984, 40). Following the abolition of the Poor Law in 1929 the complex was taken over by Stoke-on-Trent Corporation as a 'public assistance institution'. With the foundation of the National Health Service in 1948 the buildings were adapted for use as the Westcliffe 'Home for the Aged and Infirm', later to become the Westcliffe Hospital.

4.0 Methodology

4.1 The building survey was carried out between the 13th and the 15th June 2011. The survey concentrated upon the external elevations as the presence of asbestos within the buildings, as well as the removal of floors within Building 3, prevented internal access. The survey comprised a photographic record including the context of the buildings,

external views and significant details. Internal views were captured through open doors and windows where possible. Photographs were taken on 35mm monochrome print and with a digital camera, using 2m, 1m and 25cm scale bars as appropriate. Existing plans (c.1950) of the buildings were checked and annotated as an aid to both photographic location and to interpretation. Field notes were made of all structural elements with particular attention to those providing evidence of alterations and additions. The archive is stored at The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, Stoke-on-Trent (site code **WCH11**).

4.2 The surveyed buildings were all on a slight north north-west to south south-east axis, but for ease of understanding, north north-east has been taken as north, both during the survey and in the following descriptions. Location plans for the plates used within this report are provided in Figs. 13-16.

5.0 Description and analysis of the buildings

5.1 The surveyed buildings were originally located to the south of the main workhouse (Fig. 2). Building 1 (the 1906 infirmary) was positioned just to the rear (east) of the 1893 infirmary and a covered walkway linked the two buildings (Plate 1). Building 2 (also an infirmary) was located just to the south of these. The covered walkway also extended north-east towards Building 3 (the nurses' home) and Building 4 (Plate 2). Building 5 was located to the rear of the 1893 lodge and vagrant's ward, between the infirmary buildings and the former site of the main workhouse. Building 6 (the nurses' annex) was next to Building 3 (the nurses' home) and behind Building 1.

5.2 Building 1 (Fig. 6)

5.2.1 Building 1 was a two-storey structure with a basement. Of linear plan, it comprised a deep central block with narrower wings to either side. Projecting tower stacks were positioned to either side of the central block on the front (west) elevation and towards either end of each wing on the rear (east) elevation (Plate 3). The building was constructed with red bricks in a stretcher bond and had a red-brick plinth topped with canted bricks. A moulded brick course extended around the building at the level of the eaves. Projecting piers capped with blue canted bricks were visible on the rear elevation (two on the north wing and three on the south wing) and on the north elevation of the building. These may have represented external chimney breasts, the stacks of which had been removed. The roof was hipped and covered with plain grey clay-tiles. Decorative

fleur-de-lys finials surmounted the roof ridge at the outer end of each wing and at either end of the central block. The ground- and first-floor windows were all tall and narrow and had plain stone sills, which had been painted white, and brick segmental-arched heads. Where the window frames remained or had not been boarded over, these were wooden-framed 1/1 pane sliding-sashes with a hopper light section at the top. A single basement level window with a segmental-arched head was visible on the north elevation of the building (Plate 4). Ceramic vents were located in between the windows at ground and first floor and ceiling levels.

5.2.2 The west elevation of the central block of Building 1 served as the principal entrance to the building and also provided some decorative focus (Plate 5). The centrally-located entrance bay was pedimented and projected forward slightly of the rest of the block. The entrance itself was concealed behind a wooden open-sided porch with a hipped plain-tile roof, the terminus of the covered walkway which linked Building 1 to the 1893 infirmary, Building 3 and Building 4. The main doorway within, approached *via* a couple of stone steps, was topped by a semi-circular pediment with dentilated decoration. The pediment was inscribed with the word 'INFIRMARY' (Plate 6). More visible, the first-floor window located above the main doorway also had a semi-circular pediment at its head, in this case inscribed with the date 'AD 1906' (Plate 7). In contrast to the formal west elevation of the central block, the east elevation was asymmetrical in design, with a pair of narrower windows that presumably related to the layout of rooms within (Plate 8).

5.2.3 Entrance to the ground and first floor of each wing was also possible *via* wide doorways with brick segmental-arched heads. One ground-floor door was centrally located at the south end of the south wing and two more were located on the west side of the north wing. The first-floor doors were positioned directly above the ground-floor doors and could be reached from iron verandas with wrought iron balustrades that extended along the south end of the south wing (Plate 9) and along the west side of the north wing (Plate 10). The verandas were supported on cast iron pillars, stamped with 'J. & A. LAW, GLASGOW' at the base, and with decorative wrought iron brackets of foliate design to either side (Plate 11). An upper row of columns visible on the south wing veranda supported a glazed roof and the sides of the veranda had been boarded over, enclosing the space. Paint on the walls at first-floor level, behind the north wing

veranda, suggested that this balcony was also formerly roofed. External stairs ascending to both the verandas allowed direct access to and from the first floor of each wing. The north wing veranda opened on to an aerial walkway linking Building 1 with the 1893 infirmary.

5.2.4 The projecting tower stacks on either side of the building are noteworthy in that the majority of soil stacks for the building exited from them, which would suggest that the main toilet facilities for Building 1 were located here. The tower stacks had windows on each side and the soil stacks were located on the windowless end walls (Plate 12), giving an unattractive blank face to the main east and west elevations of the building, but no doubt most convenient in terms of the internal layout.

5.2.5 The *c.*1950 plans of Building 1 (Fig. 6) indicate that the central block comprised a T-shaped hall and stair way on both floors, with small rooms to either side of the shaft of the 'T' at the front of the building and a row of small rooms located above the arm of the 'T' at the rear of the building. The rooms at the front of the block, except that in the north-west corner, were used as small wards/bedrooms and some of those to the rear were used as bathrooms. Other rooms within the central block may have served as offices, staff rooms or store rooms. Each floor of each wing was divided into one large and one small ward, except for the ground-floor of the north wing which was divided into three. The front tower stacks served the large wards and the small rooms at the front of the central block, and the rear tower stacks served the large wards as well as the small wards.

5.3 Building 2 (Fig. 7)

5.3.1 Building 2 was a two-storey linear structure on the same north-south alignment as Building 1 and similarly with three projecting tower stacks to the rear (east) side (Plate 13). It was constructed with red bricks in an English garden wall bond and had a projecting eaves course. The roof was hipped and covered with plain grey clay tiles. The outer two tower stacks also had hipped roofs, each topped with a decorative fleur-de-lys finial. The middle tower, however, had a catslide roof. A pair of chimneys was evident towards the middle of the building and another rose from the centre of the north elevation.

5.3.2 The ground floor windows had stone lintels, painted white, and segmental-arched heads. The first-floor windows were set within recessed panels and had plain stone sills and lintels, both painted white (Plate 14). The original window frames were wooden-framed 2/4 pane sliding-sashes, but many had been removed and some replaced with modern upvc frames. As in Building 1, pairs of ceramic vents were located above and below each window. The first-floor windows at the front (west elevation) were, however, obscured by an enclosed veranda which extended the length of the building (Plate 15). The veranda was of steel and had been enclosed with plywood sides, incorporating a continuous band of windows, and a corrugated plastic roof. The veranda opened onto a high-level walkway at its northern end, connecting Building 2 to Building 1. A single-storey structure with a brick plinth and plywood board walls was located below the north end of the veranda.

5.3.3 The building's principal entrance was central to the west elevation and was a double wooden door with glazed panels at the top and a segmental-arched head above. A pair of double doors with segmental-arched heads was located to each side of the central entrance, and two further double doors were positioned in the rear (east) elevation, one towards each end of the building. First-floor double doors opened out on to the veranda and were placed directly above the outer pairs on the ground-floor. There were also first-floor level doors at each end of the building, each with separate external access in the form of stairs to the northern door and a ramp to the southern door. The first-floor door at the north end of the building was reached *via* wrought iron stairs with a fleur-de-lys detail at the head of each banister (Plate 16). The door itself had a plain stone sill and lintel and was, like the adjoining window, set within a recessed panel. The foot of the door extended below the recessed panel, but despite this there was no evidence to suggest that it was a later insertion. The first-floor door at the south end of the building was accessed from a steel ramp (Plate 13), similar to the high-level walkways connecting the Buildings 1 and 1 and the 1893 infirmary. A small brick porch structure had been built on the ramp, enclosing the door itself.

5.3.4 The tower stacks were similar to those seen on Building 1 and, like them, probably contained WC facilities for the building, although soil stacks could also be seen on the rear (east) elevation to either side of the central tower. The Building 2 towers, however, were also intended to provide ground-floor access. Each tower had a single doorway

with a segmental-arched head on its south side, although those on the outer towers had been bricked up. The doorway to the central tower had been left open and gave view of a tiled entrance lobby, with a wash basin, to the west and a WC cubicle to the east (Plate 17).

5.3.5 Building 2 had been extended with the construction of a two-storey block on its west side (Plate 18). The new block was built against the veranda, towards the south end of the west elevation, so that it formed a separate but linked annex to the main building. A single-storey section, built in front of the main entrance, formed a lobby between the main building and the extension. The extension was constructed with red bricks in a stretcher bond and had a pitched roof covered with grey clay roman-tiles. The extension windows were wooden-framed casements with wooden sills. The double doors on each side of the single-storey lobby had been removed.

5.3.6 The *c.* 1950 plans of Building 2 (Fig. 7) show that both ground and first floors comprised a central entrance hall with a large ward on each side. Each floor of the entrance was divided into four small rooms by a cruciform corridor incorporating the stairs at the back. Each ward had its own WC block in the towers to the rear. Additional WC facilities were located in the central tower at the back of the entrance hall.

5.4 Building 3 (Fig. 8)

5.4.1 Building 3 was a three-storey structure with a basement. The third storey, however, was narrower north to south than the lower two storeys. A single-storey extension was located to the rear (east side) of the main building. The original building was constructed with red bricks in a stretcher bond and had a red-brick plinth, capped with canted bricks, and a moulded brick eaves course. The west elevation of the building formed its principal face and was distinguished by a pedimented central section which projected forward slightly of the main wall line (Plate 19). A single-storey bay-windowed section with a lean-to roof extended across the front of the building. The north and south sides of the building also incorporated central pedimented sections (Plate 20). The roof was hipped and covered with plain grey clay tiles. The roofs over the two-storey sections on the north and south sides of the building were each divided into two hipped sections by a narrow balcony with wrought iron rails, which could be accessed from the top floor. Similar first-floor balconies were located directly below those on the second-floor.

Fleur-de-lys finials topped the apex of each pediment as well as each hipped section of roof. A large chimney stack, stepped out at the top and with ceramic chimney pots, rose from the centre of the building. Projecting chimney breasts capped with a concrete coping were also seen towards the west end of the north and south elevations. These had probably been reduced in height.

5.4.2 The windows in Building 3 generally had segmental-arched heads and plain stone sills, which had been painted white. That directly below the pediment on the front of the building, however, had a semicircular-arched head and those in the bay section had a continuous plain stone lintel band, also painted white. All the window frames had been removed. The main entrance to the building, central to the west elevation, was hidden by an open-sided wooden porch, the link between Building 3 and the covered walkway. The entrance was recessed between the bays to either side and sheltered by the roof which extended between them. It comprised an outer wooden double-door with glazed panels at the top and a rectangular fan-light above, all of which had been boarded over. The door head was a semi-circular pediment, similar to that seen above the main entrance to Building 1, inscribed with the words 'NURSES HOME' (Plate 21). Within the main door, a small porch with a red and cream tiled floor and a single inner door with Art Nouveau-style stained glass fan-light above and glazed panels to each side (Plate 22). The second-floor doorways opened out onto the balconies on the north and south sides of the building were situated below pediments and had semicircular-arched heads. Those on the first-floor, however, had segmental-arched heads. A wooden door, glazed at the top and with a fan-light above, survived only in the northern first-floor doorway.

5.4.3 The single-storey extension to Building 3 comprised a roughly L-shaped block built onto the rear of the main building. The west range of the extension did not extend as far north as the east range, so that a small courtyard was created between these and the main building (Plate 23). The extension was constructed with red-bricks in a stretcher bond and had a flat felt roof with a concrete coping at the edge. A chimney was visible towards the south end of the east wall. The windows had concrete sills and lintels and contained metal-framed casements and the doors had brick lintels and bull-nose brick sills. The concrete lintel of the easternmost window in the north elevation of the east range extended over the brick lintel of the neighbouring door, indicating that one or other

had been altered. A metal flight of steps ascended from the bank at the rear of the building up onto the extension roof (Plate 24).

5.4.4 The *c.*1950 plans of Building 3 (Fig. 8) indicated that the ground-floor was divided by a cruciform-shaped hall/corridor with a stair to the rear. The rooms off the hall/corridor included a lounge and sister's sitting room at the front of the building and a dining room and WC facilities at the back of the building. As far as could be seen through open windows at the time of survey, the basic arrangement remained unaltered. Cream and green ceramic tiles could be seen up to dado height in the hall/corridor and in a small room at the north end of the corridor (Plate 25). Moulded cornice and picture rails survived in the ground-floor rooms at the front of the building (Plate 26). The *c.*1950 plans of the upper two floors shows that these contained bedrooms, in each case accessed off a north-south aligned corridor with the stairs to the rear. The first floor contained eight bedrooms and the second floor five; most were heated with a corner fireplace. A bathroom was situated on the first floor. Some view of the upper floors was possible at the time of survey as the floor boards had been removed and the joists cut out. Archways could be seen towards either end of the first-floor corridor, situated below the north and south walls of the smaller second floor and presumably designed as additional support (Plate 27). A remaining Art Nouveau-style fireplace was also visible in one of the second-floor rooms. The plans also indicated that a kitchen was located in the west range of the extension, and store rooms and a maid's room in the east range. The interior of the former kitchen could be seen through an open doorway at the time of survey, indicating that it had a red quarry-tiled floor and white, glazed tile walls (Plate 28). The west wall had been partially removed allowing through access to the former dining room in the main building.

5.5 Building 4 (Fig. 9)

5.5.1 Building 4 was a rectangular two-storey building (Plate 29) with the remains of a single-storey extension to the rear (east side) of the building. It was constructed with red bricks in an English garden-wall bond and had a moulded brick eaves course. The roof was hipped and covered with grey clay plain-tiles. Fleur-de-lys finials decorated each end of the roof ridge and chimney stacks, probably reduced in height, were visible at the north-east and north-west corners of the building. The windows were arranged in pairs down each long elevation and had segmental-arched heads and plain stone sills, painted

white. The frames, however, had been removed. Several of the windows had been bricked up; namely one ground-floor window and two first-floor windows on the west elevation and the westernmost first-floor windows on the north elevation. The principal access to the building appeared to be *via* a double doorway in the west elevation. This had a segmental-arched head and was approached from a tarmac ramp that extended along the elevation. The door had been removed, but the wooden frame of a fan-light remained *in-situ*. Direct access to the first-floor of the building was also possible from either the north or south side of the building. The first-floor entrance on the south side of the building was reached *via* a flight of metal steps (Plate 30). The doorway appeared to have been adapted from a window, with a straight stone lintel inserted below the original segmental-arched window head. The first-floor entrance on the north side of the building was accessed *via* a covered wooden stair (Plate 31). The structure enclosing the stair was built with asbestos sheets and a felt covered roof, which sloped away from the main building and down over the stairs. It was lit by a pair of wooden-framed windows at the head of the stairs. The door itself was hidden by the enclosed stair. One original doorway, at the west end of the north elevation, had been blocked.

5.5.2 The single-storey extension to Building 4 remained merely as an enclosure at the rear of the building (Plate 32 & 33). The roof had been removed and the interior space had become overgrown with vegetation. The surrounding brick walls had been reinforced to retain the higher ground on the east and south sides of the extension. A smaller extension, in the form of a brick porch with a sloped concrete roof (Plate 32), was evident at the east end of the original building's north elevation. The arched-head of an original window could be seen above the porch and this had presumably been adapted as a doorway.

5.5.3 The *c.*1950 plan of Building 4 (Fig. 9) indicates that at that time it was used as a store. The extension to the rear, however, housed WCs and urinals. The plan shows that the ground floor comprised an entrance lobby at the west end of the building, beyond which it was divided into two rooms. The lobby contained a goods lift in the north-west corner, the insertion of which presumably resulted in the blocked door in the north elevation. The first floor contained just one large room. No internal stair between the two floors is apparent on the plans. Inspection through open windows at the time of survey indicated that the layout had not been significantly altered since the *c.*1950 plans

were drawn. It could be seen that the ground-floor rooms had plastered walls, a tiled floor and that the ceilings were supported in steel I-beams (Plate 34). The first-floor room was open to the eaves, leaving the King-post roof trusses exposed (Plate 35).

5.6 Building 5 (Fig. 10)

5.6.1 Building 5 was a largely single-storey, multiphase building, comprising several adjoining blocks (Plate 36) and latterly used as a boiler house and workshops. Access was restricted to the south, east and west side of the building.

5.6.2 The earliest element of the building appeared to be the former Power House block. The Power House was a rectangular north to south aligned block constructed with red bricks in a Flemish bond and had a moulded brick eaves course. The block had been extended to the south slightly, aligning it with the adjoining Smithy/Pump House (Plate 37). A small projection had also been added to the east side of the block at its northern end (Plate 38). Both of these additions were constructed in stretcher bond and with a slightly redder brick. The block had a pitched roof, clad in blue/grey clay plain-tiles, and incorporated louvered vents, although these had been boarded over. The original windows, on the east side of the block had segmental-arched heads, but these had all been bricked-up or had been converted to doorways (Plate 38). The head of a blocked window visible at the south end of the east elevation above the roof of the Softener Room block (Plate 39) indicated that this element was a later addition to the building. Access to the Power House block was *via* a single doorway in the eastern projection. The door was flanked by a pair of windows, with which it shared a segmental-arched head. The door had been removed, but the wooden frame of a hopper-light, which would have been located above the door, remained. Two new doors had been inserted in the east elevation of the block, the northernmost adapting a former window aperture. A blocked door with a semicircular-arched head, and formerly adapted as a window with the insertion of a concrete sill, was also visible in the south elevation of the block (Plate 37).

5.6.3 The Smithy/Pump Room block, adjoining the west side of the Power House, was constructed with red bricks in Flemish bond and had a moulded brick eaves course. The roof was pitched and covered with corrugated asbestos sheets. Four cylindrical vents were ranged down each side of the roof. As only the south elevation of the building was accessible (Plate 40), it was not possible to determine its phasing in relation to the Power

House. Some repair to brickwork at the east side of the south elevation did, however, indicate that the southern extension to the Power House post-dated the construction of the block. An original circular window was evident in the south gable, below which two newer windows with concrete sills and lintels had been inserted. The easternmost of the inserted windows had a louvered grill fitted to it and the westernmost had been blocked with breeze block, excepting an aperture through which a galvanised vent tube passed.

5.6.4 The block built onto the west side of the Smithy/Pump Room block was constructed with red and blue bricks in a Flemish bond and had a projecting eaves course. The headers in the bond were all of blue brick and the stretchers red brick, giving the walls a checker-board effect. The pitched roof was covered with grey clay plain-tiles and crowned by louvered vents. Like the Smithy/Pump Room block, only the south end of this block could be seen (Plate 41). At the east end of the south elevation, the lower half of the Smithy/Pump Room block wall had been re-built with the blue and red bricks, suggesting this block was constructed after the Smithy/Pump Room. A straight joint, however, was visible between the two in the upper part of the wall. A wide doorway with a sliding framed, ledged-and-battened door was located in the south wall of the block. A steel I-beam, which hung below the lintel and projected out through the door, had likely been used in loading goods in and out of the building. A small window with a concrete lintel and a brick sill had been inserted to the west of the door, but this had latterly been bricked-up. A single-storey flat-roofed extension had been built onto the west end of the south elevation. This was constructed with red bricks in English garden-wall bond and featured two boarded over windows on its east side.

5.6.5 The Boiler House was a mid-20th-century warehouse-type structure, built at the western end of Building 5. It was constructed with a steel-frame on a red-brick plinth and was clad in corrugated metal sheets (Plate 42). The roof was flat and, as the north half of the block sat at a lower level, was stepped. The south elevation featured three large loading doors, separated by brick piers but sharing a continuous concrete lintel. The easternmost doorway had a metal roller-shutter, whereas the other two had been boarded over.

5.6.6 The Fitting Shop was a square structure located at the eastern end of Building 5. It was constructed with red bricks in a Flemish bond and had a red-brick plinth capped with

blue canted bricks, and a projecting eaves course (Plate 43). The roof was hipped and clad with plain grey clay tiles. A square vent was located at the apex of the roof. The windows had all been boarded over, but their plain stone sills were still visible. The windows on the south-west elevation had, however, been bricked-up, presumably as a result of the construction of the adjoining block (the Softener Room on the c.1950 plan of the building). The entrance to the block was placed centrally in the north-west elevation and was flanked by two windows (Plate 44). It took the form of a double-framed, ledged-and-battened door with a rectangular fan-light above and a plain stone lintel.

5.6.7 The Softener Room was built between the Fitting Shop and the Power House, post-dating both (See **5.6.2** and **5.6.6**). The block was constructed with reddish-brown bricks in an English garden-wall bond and had a pitched roof covered with grey clay plain-tiles. Two bricked-up windows in the south elevation had segmental-arched heads and plain stone lintels (Plate 45). The doorway to the block was located in the north elevation and also had a segmental-arched head (Plate 46).

5.6.8 The c.1950 plan of Building 5 (Fig. 10) indicated the uses of each block as described above. The plans show that there was through access between the blocks with the exception of the Boiler House and the Fitting Shop, which were each self contained. The Power House and the Pump Room blocks were both subdivided, with an Engineer's room at the north end of the former and a Smithy at the north end of the latter. Otherwise each block was open plan. Steps depicted at the south end of the Power House and Pump Room indicated that they were split level or had basements. Some view of the Power House and the Boiler House was possible at the time of survey. It could be seen through open doorways that the walls and ceiling of the Power House were lined with tongue-and-groove boarding. A free standing fuse and switch-gear panel was located towards the north end of the main room (Plate 47). A void at the south end of the room opened onto a tiled basement area which was accessed *via* metal stairs (Plate 48). The view through the easternmost roller-shutter door indicated that the large boilers were still *in-situ* (Plate 49).

5.7 Building 6 (Fig. 11)

5.7.1 Building 6 was a single-storey rectangular block built with reddish brown bricks in a monk bond and had a plinth course consisting of soldier bricks (Plate 50). The roof

was hipped and covered with plain grey clay tiles. A brick chimney stack was visible on the east side of the roof towards the north end of the building. The original windows were all metal-framed casements. Wide windows ranged down each long side of the building and were linked by a continuous concrete sill. Smaller, higher-level windows were located at each end of the long elevations and at the north and south ends of the building. The smaller windows in the south elevation (Plate 51) and at the south end of the east elevation had been re-fitted with wooden-framed casements. Repair to the brickwork on the east elevation indicated that the southernmost wide window had been replaced with three smaller wooden-framed windows (Plate 52). The building was accessed on its western side through one of three doorways; one located just the south of centre and the others towards each end of the elevation. Those doors located towards each end of the elevation had canted brick surrounds and concrete sills. The northernmost of these was flanked by brick-built planting boxes (Plate 53). Scars to either side of the southernmost door indicated that it had also formerly been flanked by planting boxes. The door located towards the centre of the building had a wooden lintel. Repaired brickwork to either side of the door indicated that it had been converted from a window (Plate 54).

5.7.2 The *c.*1950 plan of Building 6 (Fig. 11) indicates that it comprised a central north to south aligned corridor with rooms of similar size off each side. Spurs off each end of the corridor linked it to the original doors in the west elevation and divided the main corridor from a large room at the north end of the building and smaller rooms, probably bathrooms, at the south end of the building. As far as could be seen at the time of survey, this layout had not been significantly altered. Some alteration must, however, have been carried out in consequence of the inserted door in the west elevation and the inserted windows at the south end of the east elevation. The insertion of the windows in particular is a likely indicator of the sub-division of the original space.

6.0 Discussion (see Fig. 12 for phasing)

6.1 The surveyed buildings at the former Westcliffe Hospital originally formed part of the hospital complex of the Wolstanton and Burslem Union Workhouse. Such hospital complexes were built following the Metropolitan Poor Law Amendment Act of 1867, which attempted to reform hospital facilities in the London workhouses but also highlighted the poor standard of health care in workhouse institutions elsewhere

(Higginbotham 2011). Until this time workhouse sick wards were not generally regarded as hospitals in which to treat patients, but rather as accommodation for sick inmates (Morrison 1999, 155). The sick wards were often part of the main workhouse building and the inmates were treated by a doctor who visited once or twice a week and by untrained nurses drawn from the workhouse inmates (Morrison 1999, 157). Only a handful of workhouses offered up-to-date medical treatment in modern pavilion-style hospitals (Morrison 1999, 159). The 1867 Act, however, in conjunction with a series of epidemics (cholera in 1866, relapsing fever in 1869-70 and smallpox in 1871-3) prompted the construction of separate infirmary buildings at many workhouses (Morrison 1999, 168).

6.2 The infirmary buildings at the Wolstanton and Burslem Union workhouse were essentially built on a separate but adjoining site to the main workhouse, albeit with shared access in the form of the 1893 lodge. The 1893 infirmary was the first element of the complex to be built, followed by Building 1, the 1906 infirmary. Buildings 3 (the nurses' home) and 4 were stylistically similar to Building 1, with the same moulded eaves course and fleur-de-lys finials, suggesting that they belonged to the same phase of building. Furthermore Buildings 1 and 3 were both connected to the 1893 infirmary by the covered walkway, with which they were presumably contemporary. The covered walkway also extended partly towards Building 4, but whether it was intended to connect Building 4 specifically with the other buildings, or the north-eastern corner of the hospital site more generally, is unclear. The complex was also expanded with the construction of Building 2 in the period 1900 to 1924. Although Building 2 shared features such as the fleur-de-lys finials with the 1906 buildings it was generally much plainer in style and was probably built after them. Buildings 1, 2, 3 and 4, as well as the covered walkway, are all depicted for the first time on the 1924 Ordnance Survey (OS) map (Fig. 4). Building 6, the nurses' annex, was built by 1937, by which time it is evident on the historic OS map of that date (Fig. 5). Reference to historical OS maps of the site indicates that the first blocks of Building 5 were the Fitting Room, the Power House and the Pump Room, which were built between 1880 and 1900 (Fig. 3). The Softener Room was present by 1924 and the block to the west of the Pump Room had been added by 1937. The building had achieved its current form by 1951.

6.3 Buildings 1 and 2 were both typical linear plan infirmary buildings of the period, built on the pavilion principles. The term pavilion generally describes a series of separate ward blocks connected by corridors or covered walkways and with a shared administration block. This arrangement was designed to aid infection control. Features within the ward blocks such as opposing windows to provide a through-draught and the location of sanitary facilities in separate towers, separated from the wards by cross-ventilated lobbies, were also brought in as disease control measures (Morrison 1999, 103-104). The same pavilion principles of good hygiene and ventilation were introduced to smaller infirmary buildings in the form of the linear plan, which comprised a central administration block with cross-ventilated wards to either side (Morrison 1999, 159). Pavilion buildings of both kinds were popular by the turn of the 20th century (Morrison 1999, 171).

6.4 Buildings 1 and 2 both followed the linear plan described above. In each case the central rooms would likely have formed the hub of the building, with offices for on duty staff. The central location provided easy access to the wards and also separated them, aiding in the categorisation of patients seen throughout the workhouse. Further separation, and therefore categorisation would have been possible in Building 1, where the ward wings were subdivided into one small and one large room. The three infirmary buildings on the site may as much represent the desire to further separate and categorise patients as the general expansion of the complex. In addition to buildings for infectious diseases, separate buildings were commonly provided for venereal disease patients and sometimes for expectant mothers (Morrison 1999, 169).

6.5 The pavilion principles of good ventilation and hygiene can be seen in the wards of Buildings 1 and 2. They both had opposing windows and Building 1 features typical sash windows with hopper-lights at the top to draw the fresh air through more effectively (Morrison 1999, 105). Numerous vents were also seen in both buildings. The lack of hopper-lights in Building 2 raises the possibility that its function was slightly different to that of Building 1. Accommodation for the aged and infirm for instance, sometimes took the form of infirmary-type buildings, and these usually had ordinary sash windows without hoppers (Morrison 1999, 119). The sanitary facilities for both buildings were probably located in the towers. The towers were not separated from the main building by cross-ventilated lobbies, but improvements in plumbing and drainage in the early 20th

century had made this less necessary (Morrison 1999, 175). The verandas seen on both buildings were also a common feature of infirmaries into the 20th century. Although often used for tuberculosis wards, they were regarded in infirmary buildings of all types as a means of increasing patients' exposure to fresh air, and, with the addition of external stairs, verandas could be used as fire-escapes (Morrison 1999, 175).

6.6 With the expansion of the Wolstanton and Burslem Union hospital complex, there would have been an increase in staff and a consequent need to provide accommodation for them. Most workhouses employed professional nurses by the 1890s, and it was expected that they should be provided with a nurses' homes at least as comfortable as those found at voluntary hospitals (Morrison 1999, 171). The accommodation in Building 3 seems to have comprised a Sitting Room and Dining Room and at least thirteen bedrooms. The home would have been run by a lady superintendent (Morrison 1999, 171). The nurses' annex (Building 6) was built between 1924 and 1937, during which time the workhouse had become a Public Assistance Institution run by the Stoke-on-Trent Corporation. The requirement for further staff accommodation may have resulted from the general expansion of the hospital complex or indeed from any re-organisation carried out to the whole establishment as a result of the change from workhouse to Public Assistance Institution. Building 6 contained a further 20 rooms, presumably bedrooms, located to either side of the central corridor. The large room at the north of the building may have served as a sitting room, but it is likely that the main sitting room and dining room were still located in the original nurses' home.

6.7 Buildings 4 and 5 seem, at least latterly, to have operated in a service role. Their location between the main workhouse and the hospital complex suggests that they may have served either or both sections of the site. The Fitting Shop element of Building 5 has already been identified as the new mortuary, built in the 1890s (Baker 1984, 33). Workhouse mortuaries seem generally to have been small buildings, often placed discreetly on the periphery of sites amongst other service buildings, such as workshops and laundries (e.g. those at the Greenwich, Woolwich Road workhouse, built in 1844), or even coal and wood sheds (e.g. buildings at the Wharfedale Union workhouse in Yorkshire, built 1873) (Higginbotham 2011). The roof vent was no doubt necessary as a hygiene measure as well as to provide a less odorous working environment. The Power House and Pump Room blocks of Building 5, may relate to the new steam laundry built

on the site in 1899. Certainly the form of the blocks corresponds well with the requirements for laundry buildings laid down by The Local Government Board from 1870, which stated that they should be detached single-storey buildings with an open roof carrying a louvered ridge ventilator (Morrison 1999, 126). Eventually, however, Building 5 housed the boiler house and workshops, originally located in a structure located between it and the vagrants' ward (Baker 1984, 33). The original use of Building 4 is less clear. The *c.*1950 plan indicates that at that time it was used as a store, but the WC block to the rear might suggest that it had previously been used for accommodation. Building 4 has also been identified as a mortuary (Wallis 2008, 3), but whether it was original intended as such is perhaps doubtful; such a two-storey building placed prominently next to the nurses' home and in close proximity to the workhouse bake-house, seems at odds with the discreet 1890s building.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 Archaeological building recording at the former Westcliffe Hospital site on Turnhurst Road, Stoke-on-Trent concentrated on six buildings, all originally part of the Wolstanton and Burslem Union workhouse hospital complex. Internal access to the buildings was not possible, but a general picture of their form, function and development has nonetheless been gained with the help of reference to historic OS maps and the *c.*1950 plans of the site.

7.2 The exteriors of the buildings did not appear to have been much altered and whilst their interiors may have been subject to some reorganisation, the general use to which each building was put had remained much as originally intended. This was particularly so in the case of the infirmaries (Buildings 1 and 2) and the nurses' accommodation (Buildings 3 and 4). Following the establishment of the NHS in 1948, these buildings, along with the infirmary built in 1893, formed the core of a municipal care home for the aged and infirm and then the Westcliffe Hospital. In this respect the complex at Westcliffe is similar to many workhouse hospital buildings, which often became NHS hospitals in their later years. Many general voluntary hospitals in the early 20th century did not have enough capacity and workhouse hospitals were sometimes known to fill the gap by taking in paying patients. Once the poor law was abolished in 1929, the way lay clear for local authorities to use the buildings as municipal hospitals with little or no

adaption required, many forming the basis of NHS hospitals in the late 1940s (Morrison 1999, 1770).

8.0 Acknowledgements

8.1 This report was written and illustrated by Zoe Sutherland of Stoke-on-Trent Archaeology. Fieldwork was carried out by Richard Cramp and Zoe Sutherland. Thanks are due to Mark Dean, Stoke-on-Trent City Council and to the staff of Cuddy Group for their help and cooperation on site. Valuable assistance was also provided by Jonathan Goodwin, Stoke-on-Trent City Council's Planning Archaeologist.

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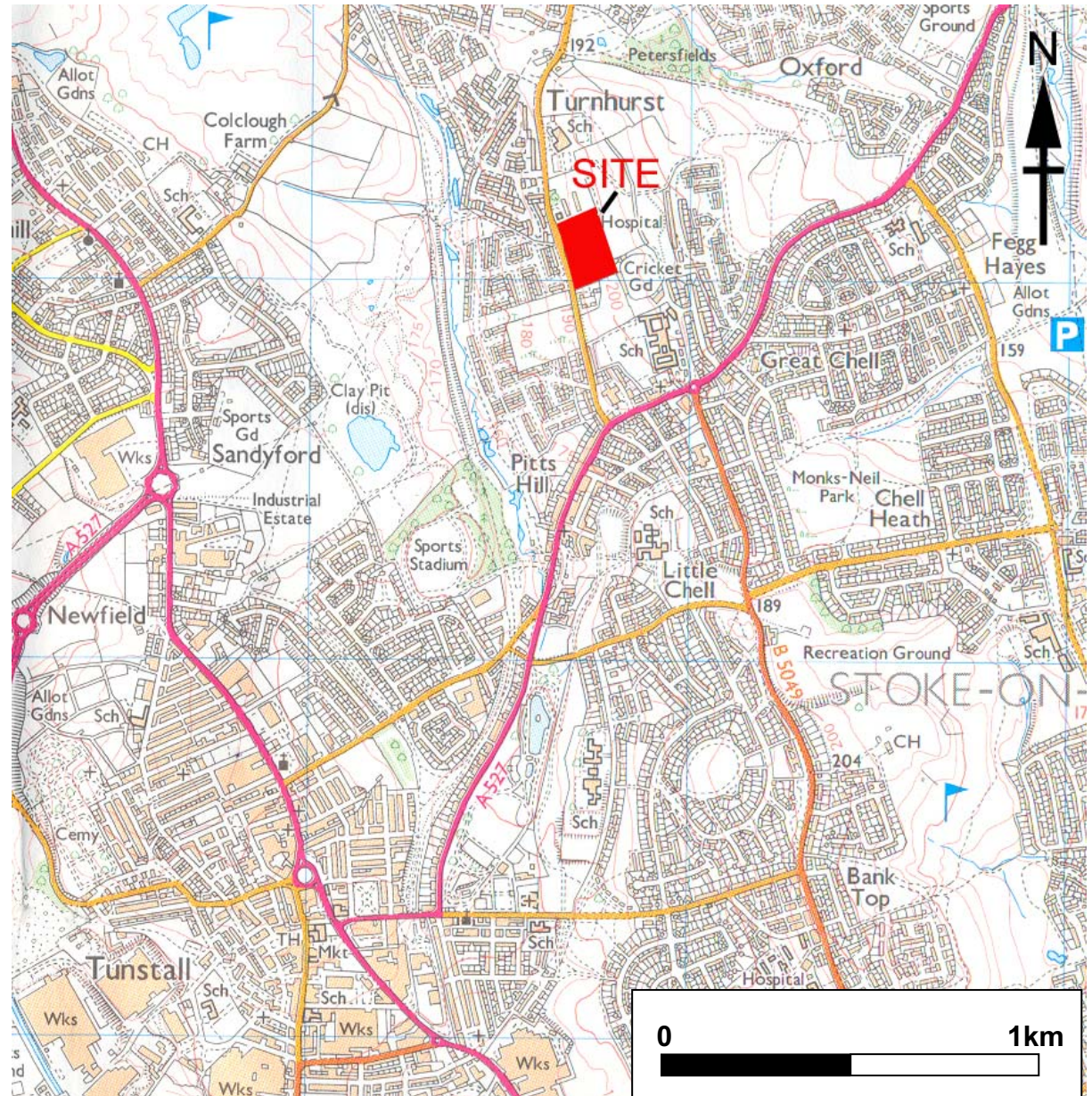
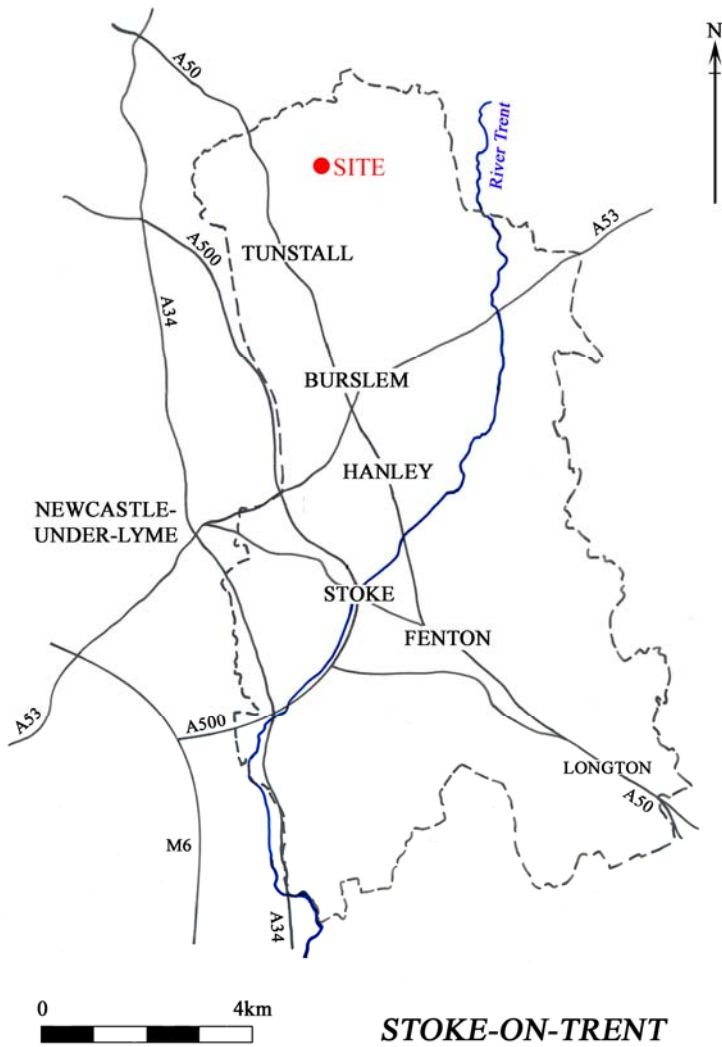


FIG. 1
Site location.



FIG. 1

Site plan showing the surveyed buildings in red.

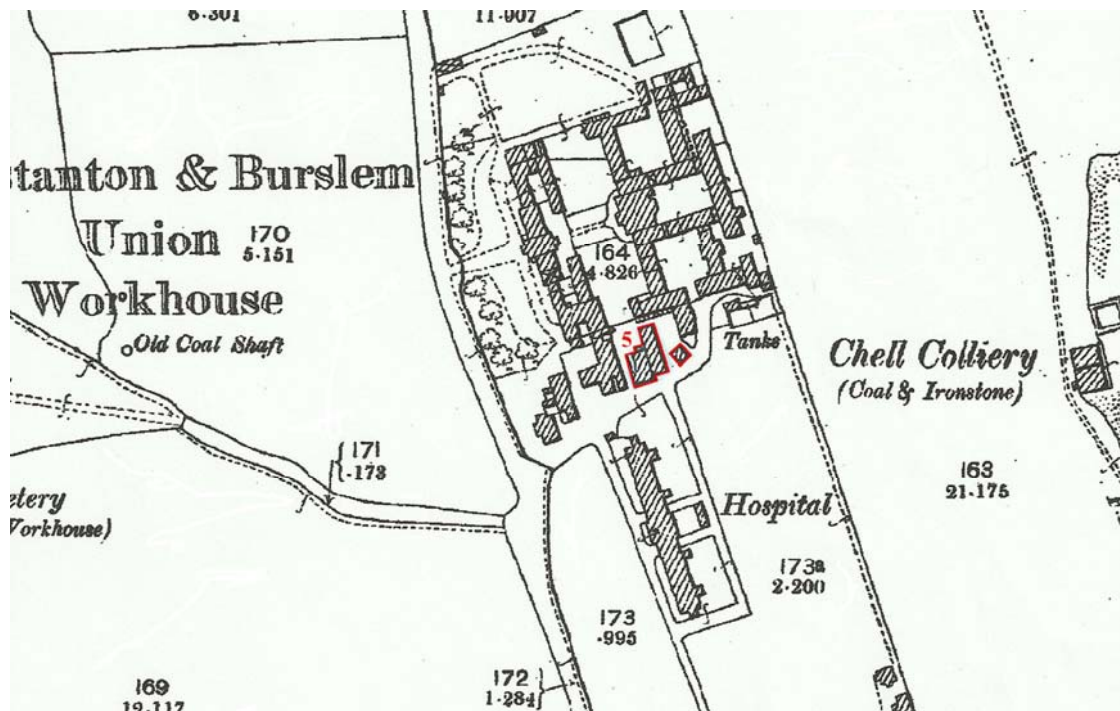


FIG. 3

Extract from the 1900 OS map showing the surveyed buildings outlined in red.

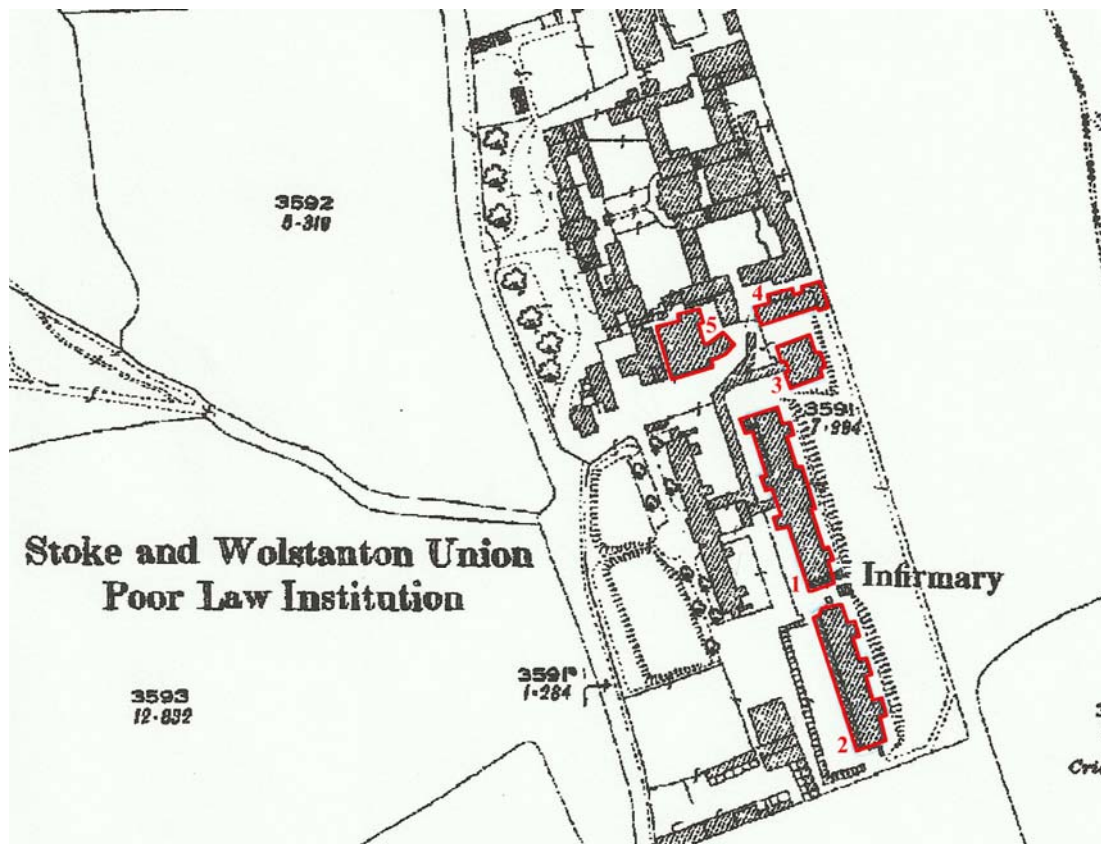


FIG. 4

Extract from the 1924 Os map showing the surveyed buildings outlined in red.

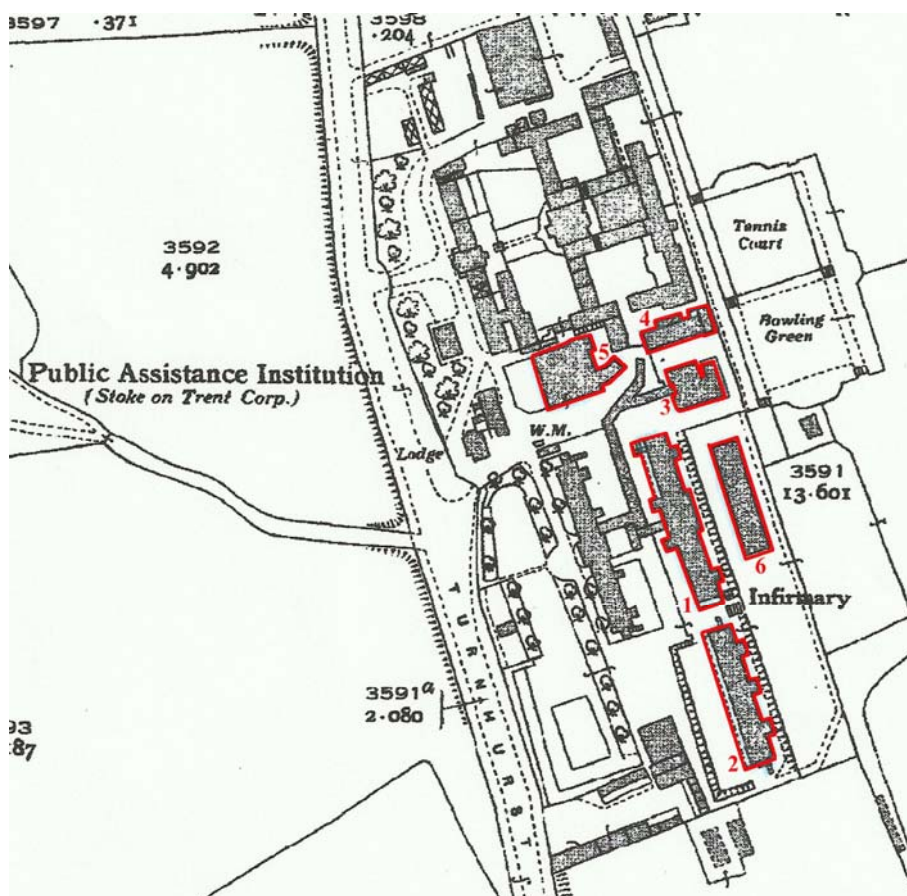
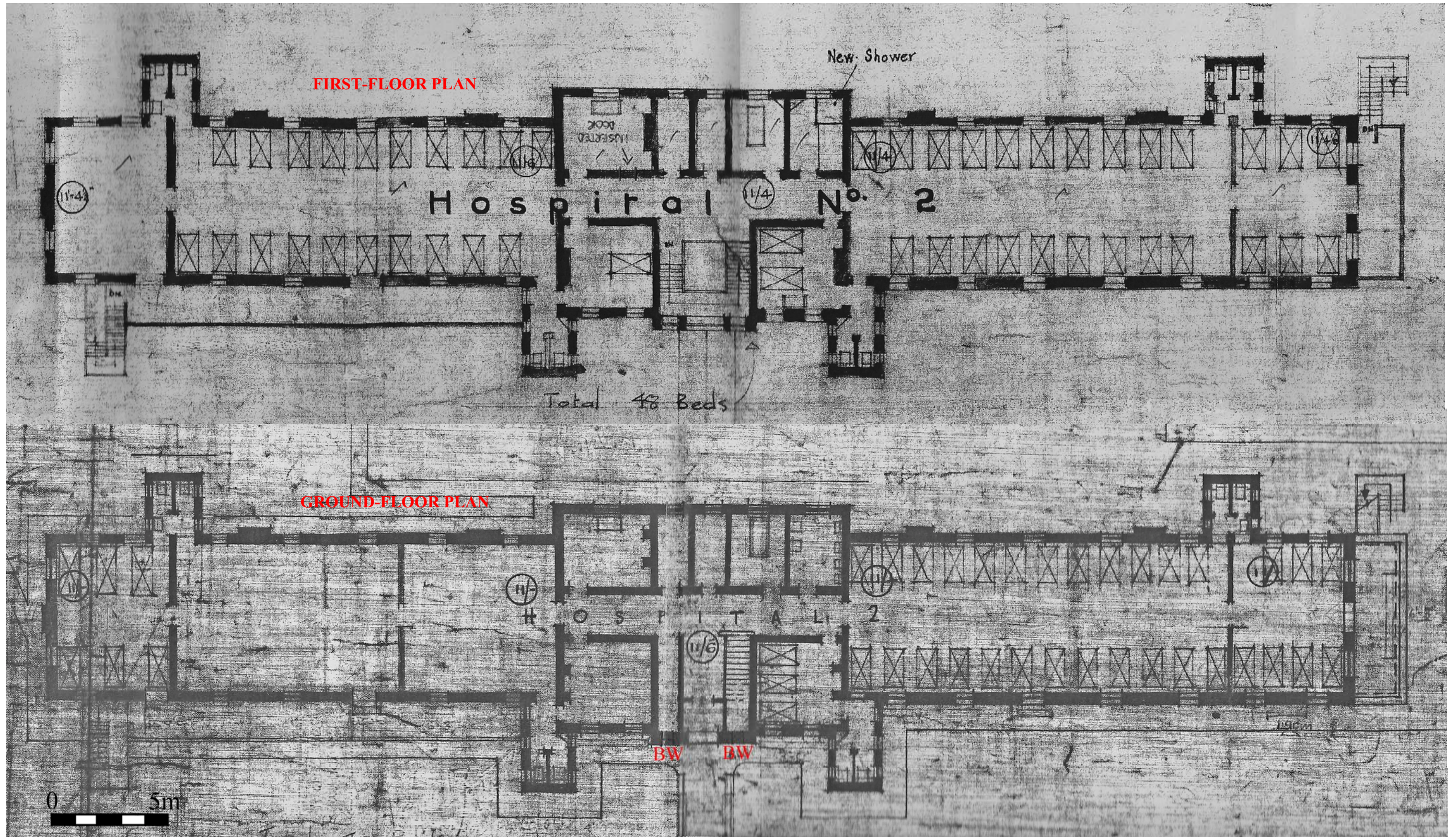


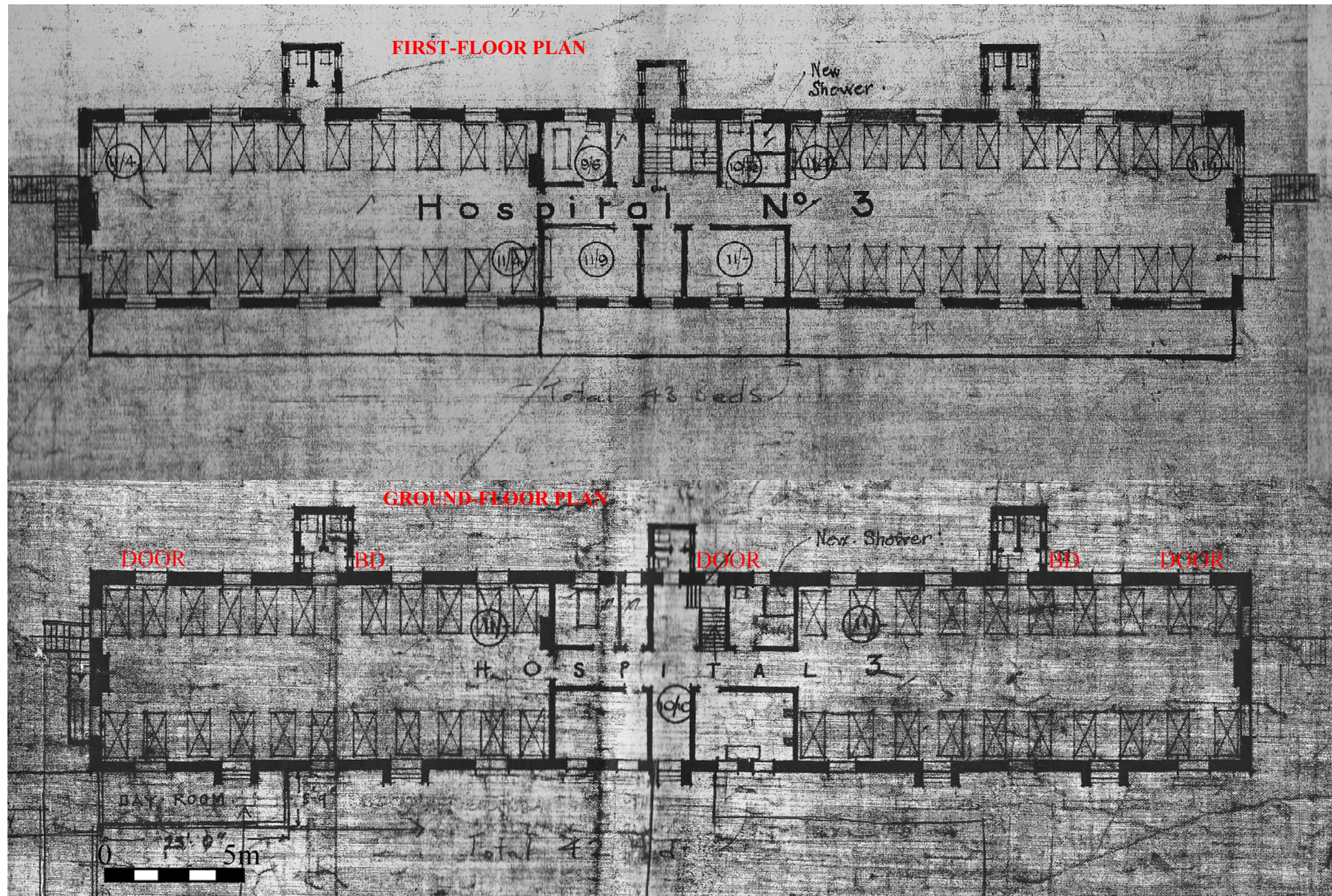
FIG. 5

Extract from the 1937 OS map showing the surveyed buildings outlined in red.



Key: BW – Blocked Window

FIG. 6
c. 1950 plans of Building 1.



Key: BD – Blocked Door

FIG. 7
c. 1950 plans of Building 2.

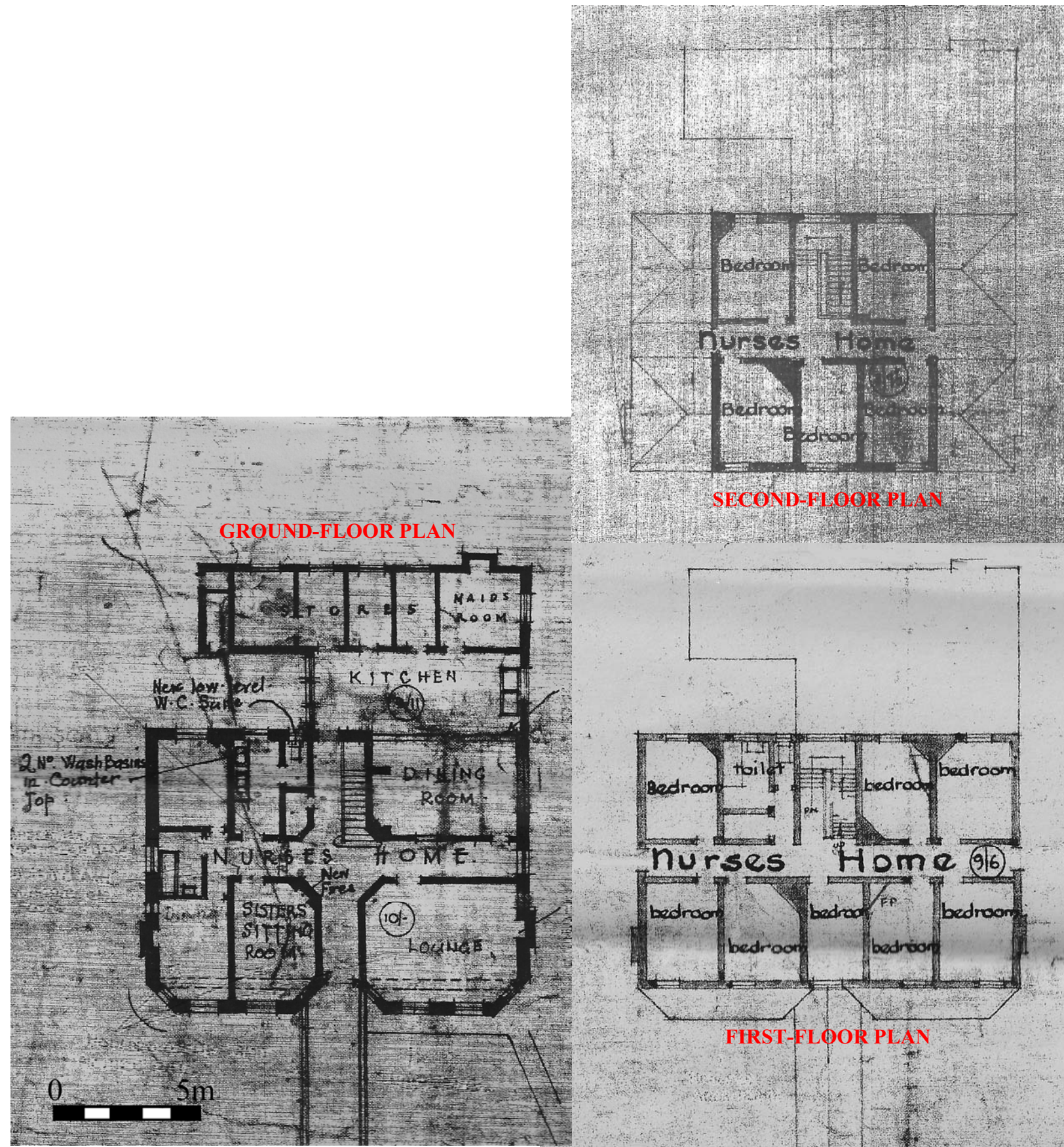


FIG. 8
c. 1950 plans of Building 3.

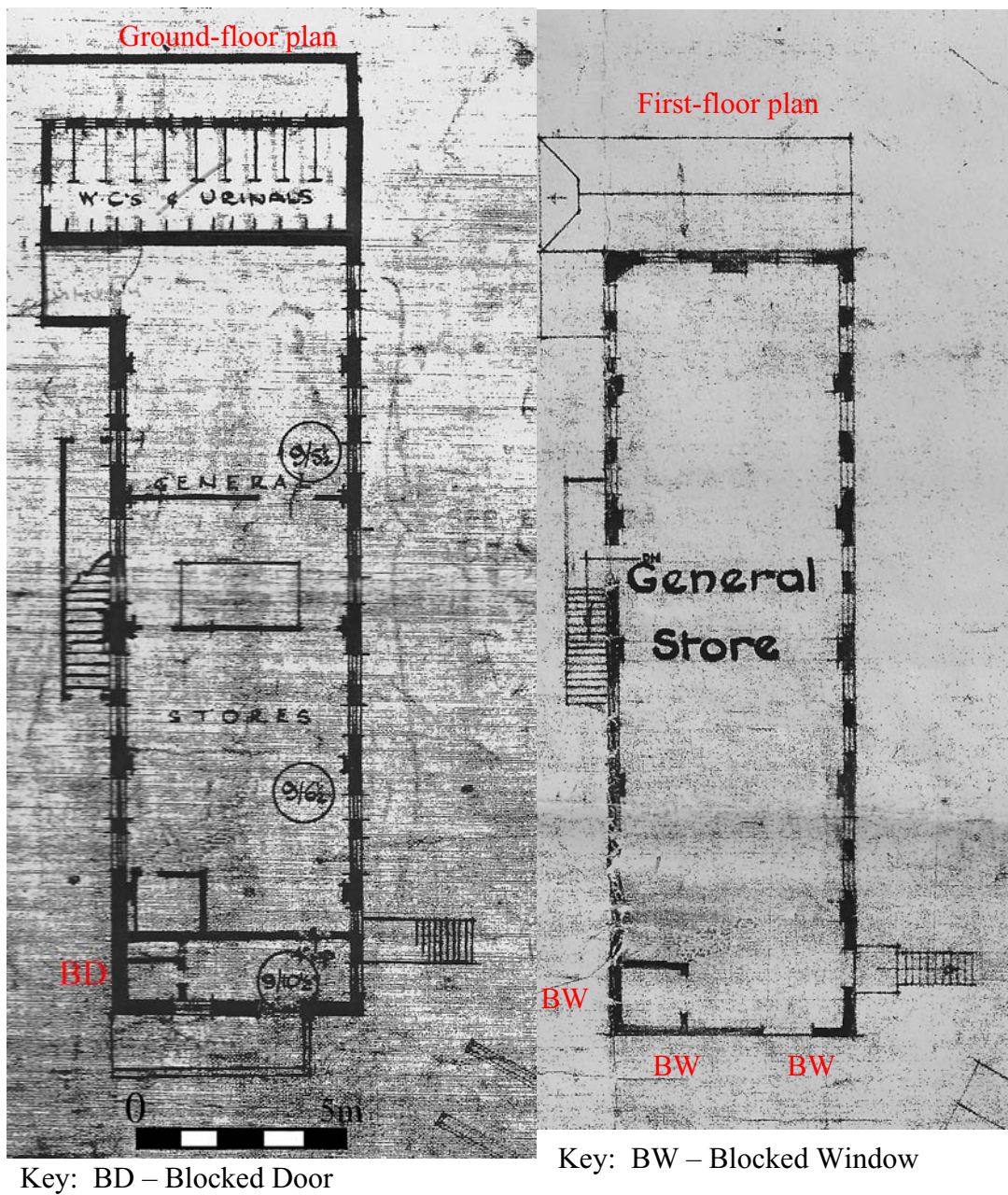
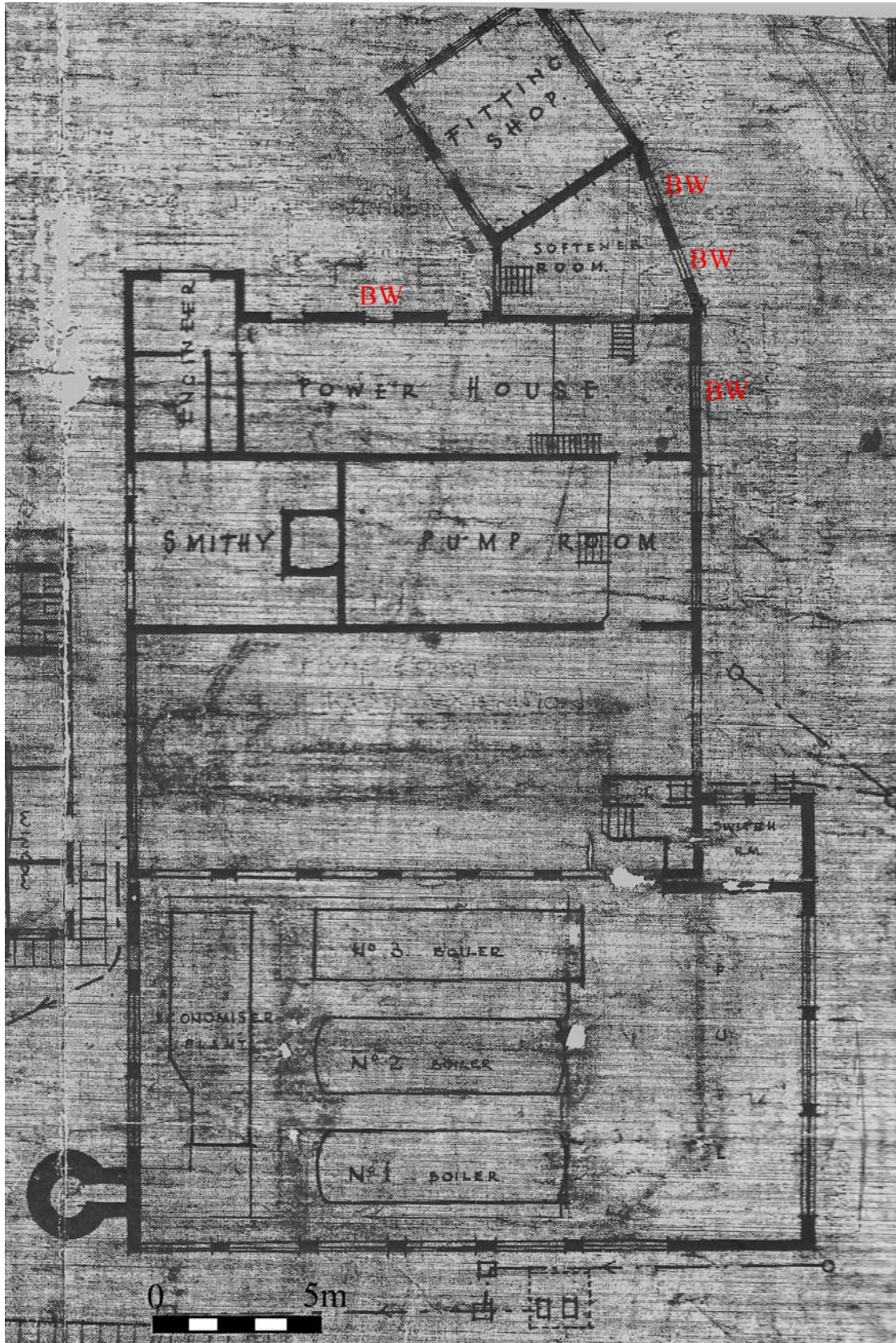


FIG. 9
c. 1950 plans of Building 4.



Key: BW – Blocked Window

FIG. 10

c.1950 plan of Building 5.

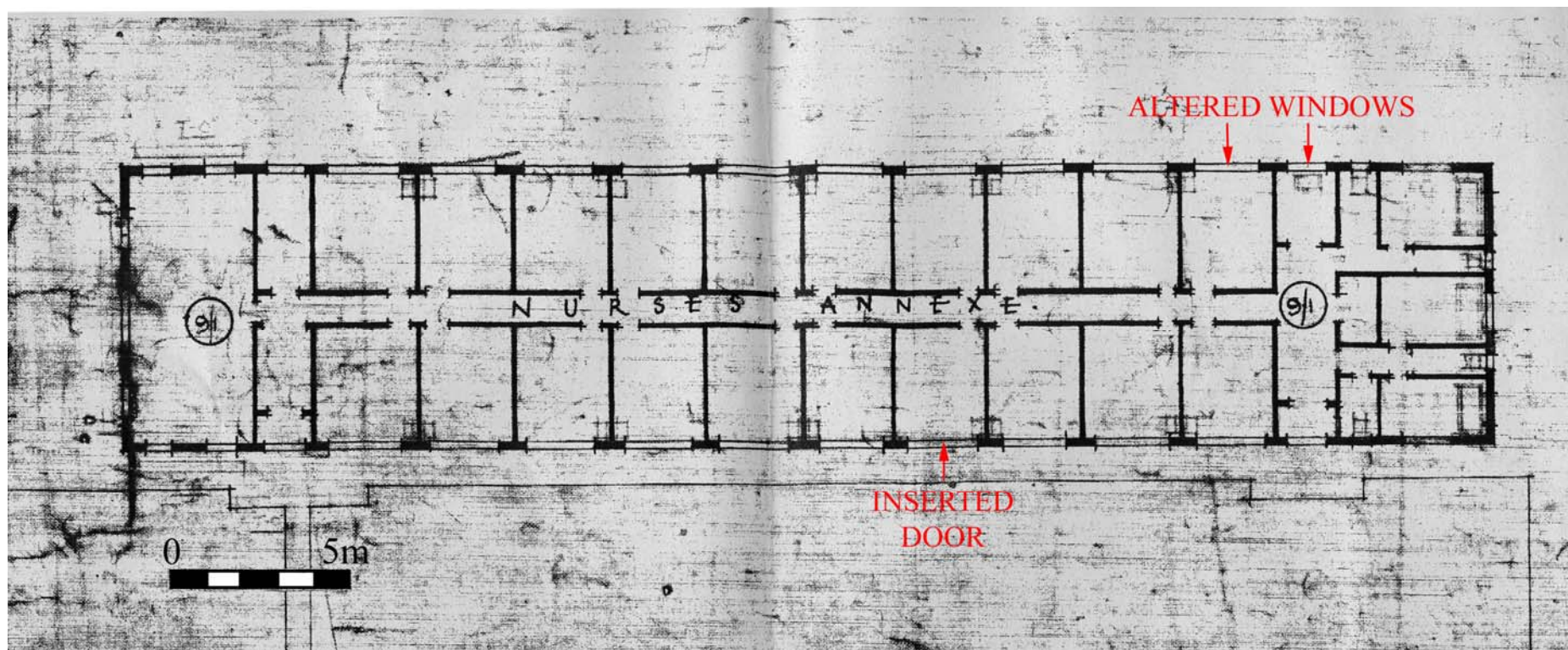


FIG. 11

c.1950 plan of Building 6.

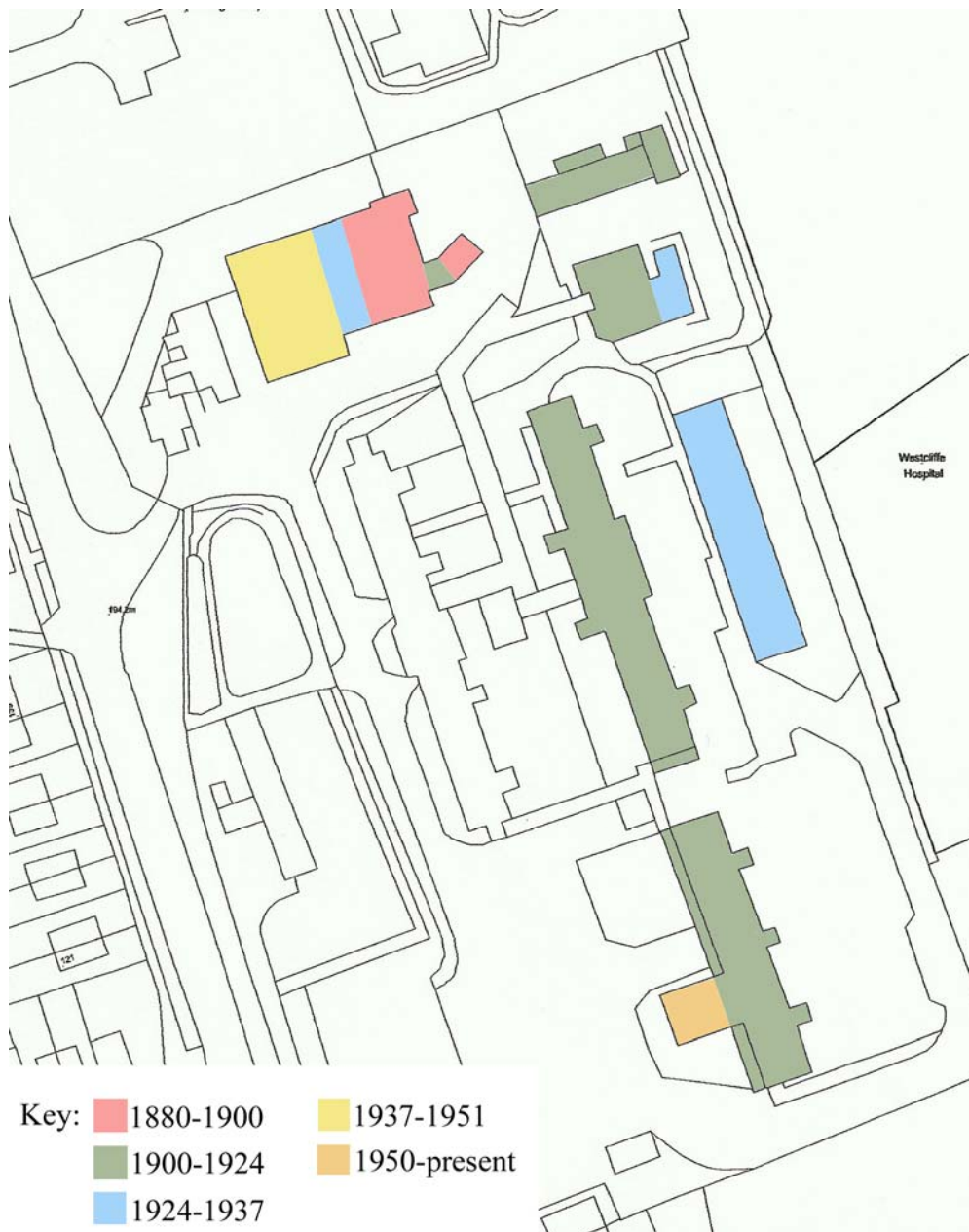


FIG. 12

Phase plan showing the development of the surveyed buildings.

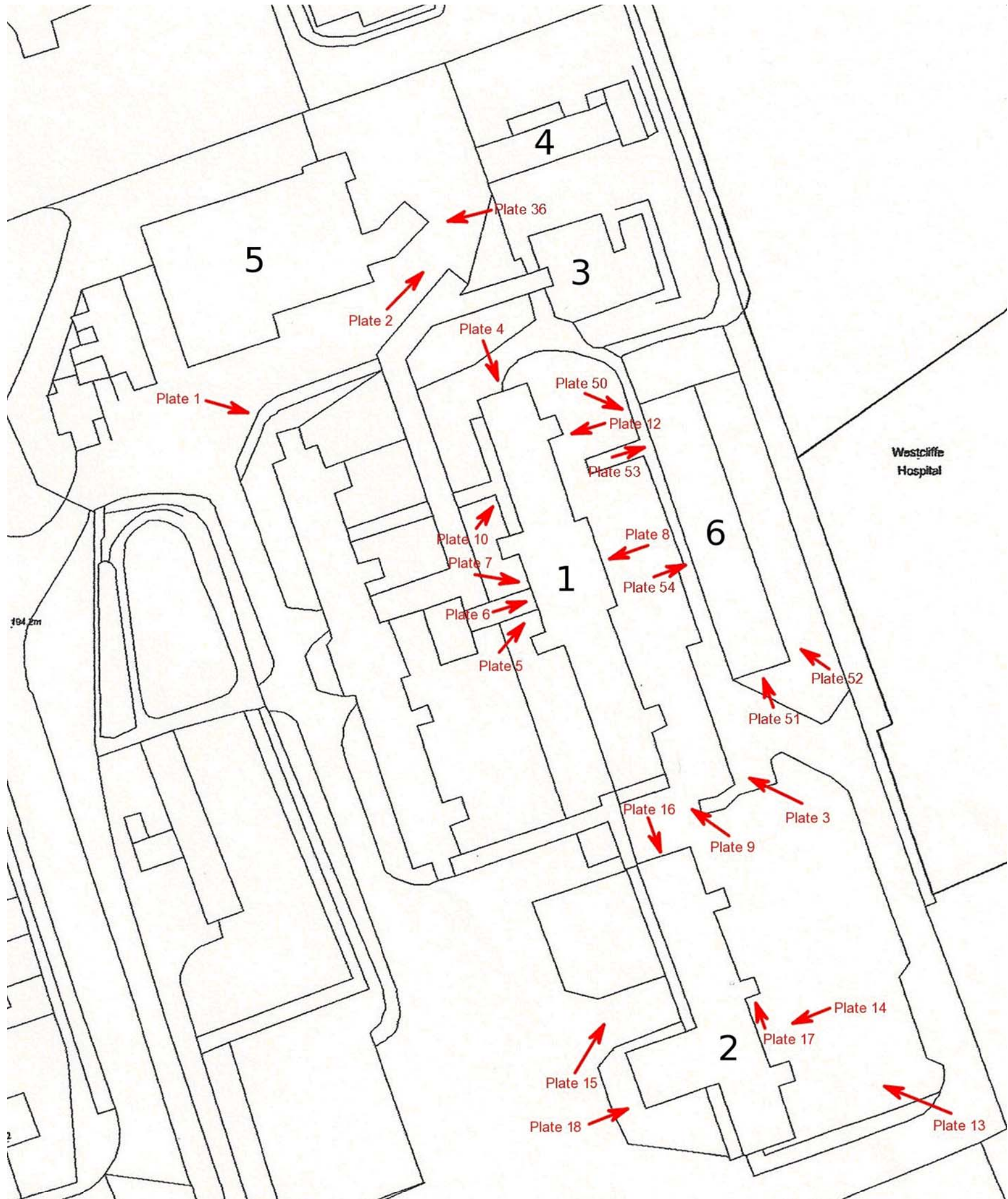


FIG. 13

Site plan showing the position from which Building 1, 2 and 6 plate photographs were taken.

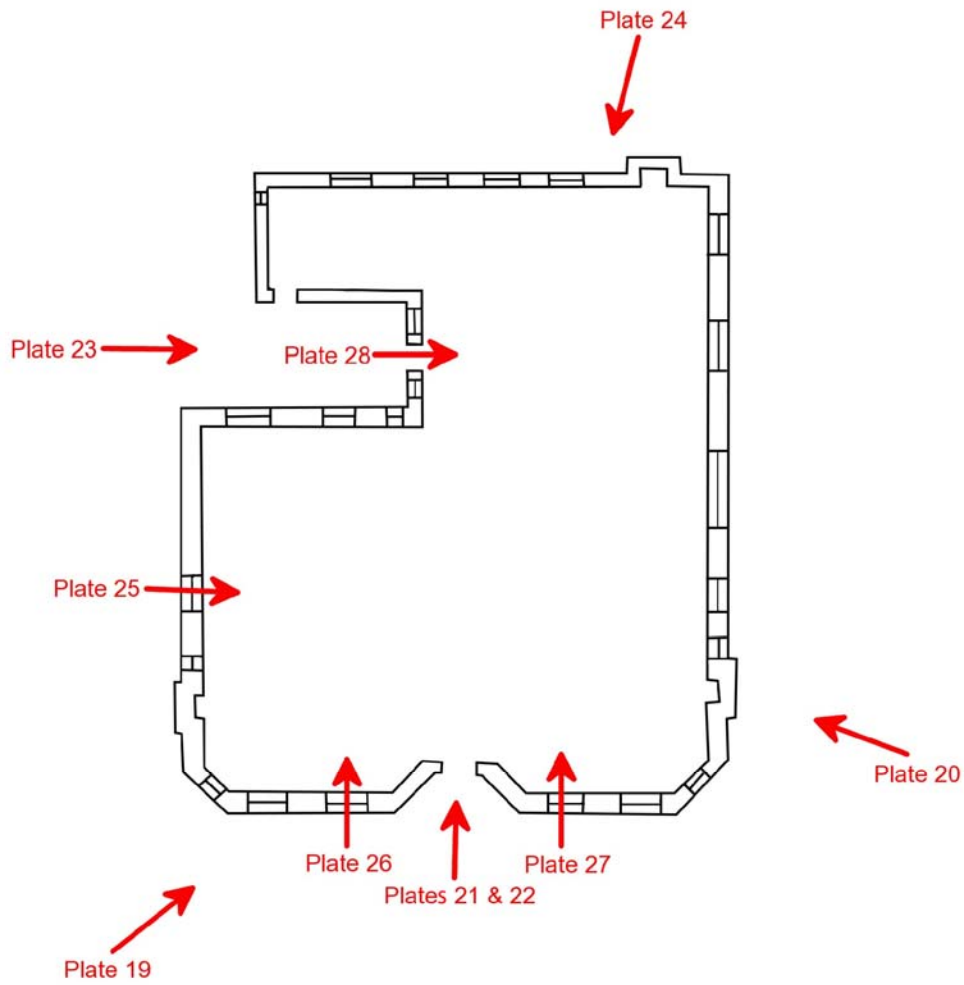


FIG. 14

Ground-floor plan of Building 3 showing the position from which plate photographs were taken.

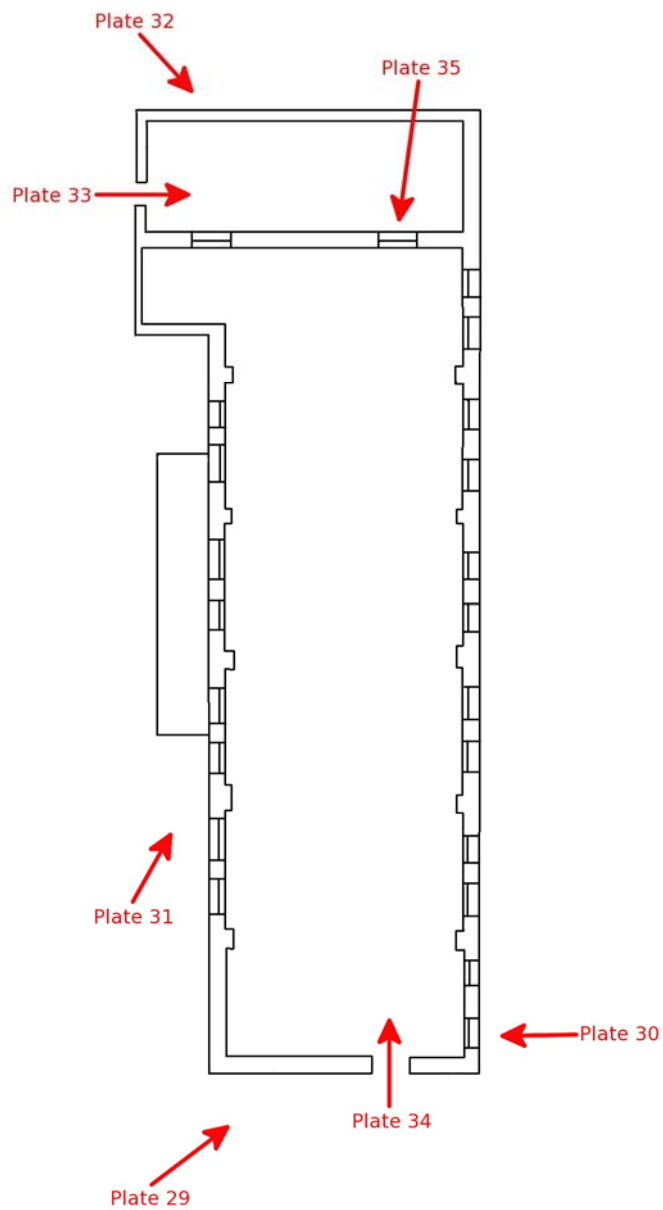


FIG. 15

Ground-floor plan of Building 4 showing the position from which plate photographs were taken.

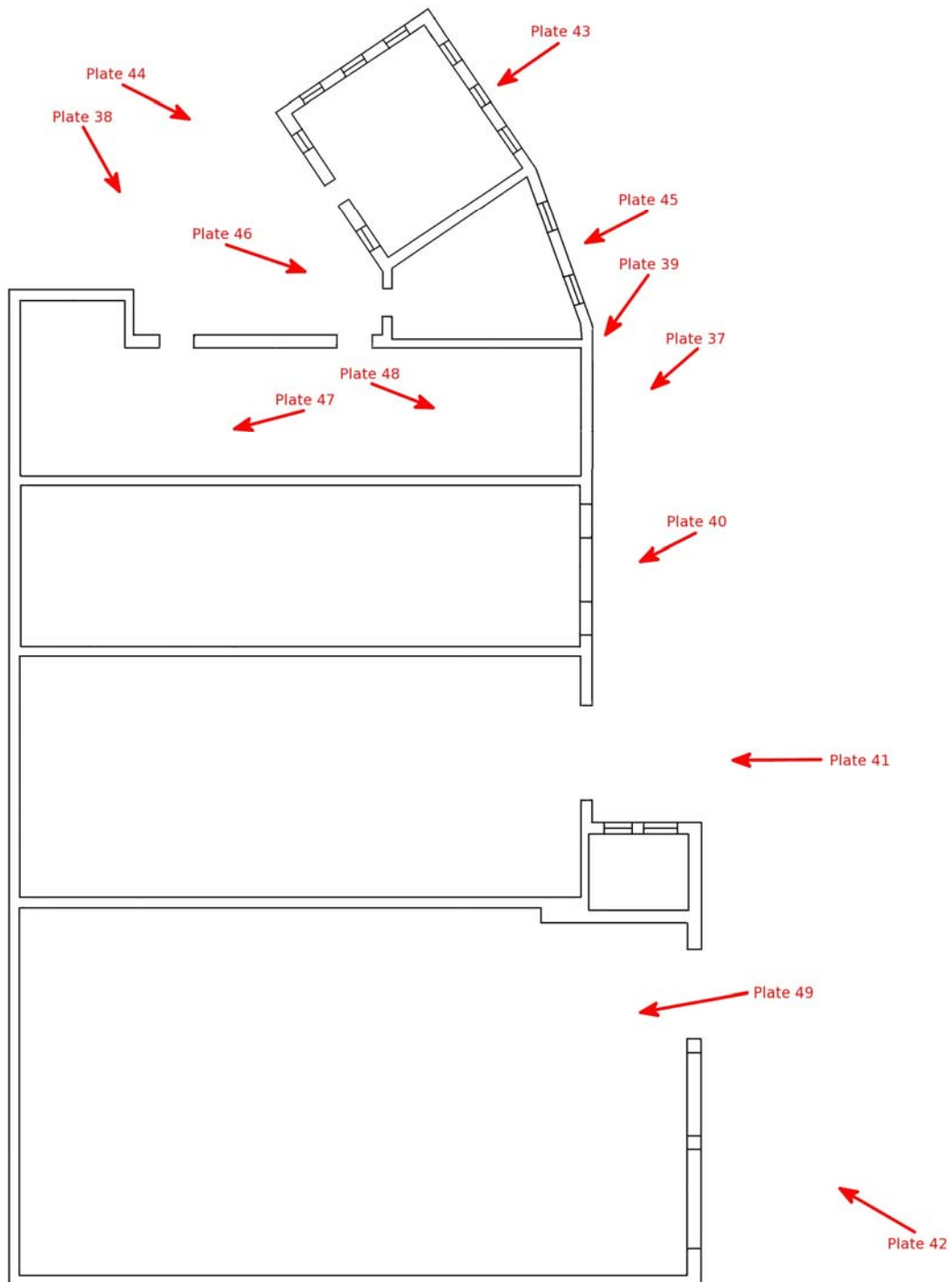


FIG. 16

Plan of Building 5 showing the position from which plate photographs were taken.



PLATE 1

The covered walkway with Building 1 behind, looking south east (the 1893 is just off the right side of the picture).



PLATE 2

The covered walkway extending north-east towards Building 3 (right) and Building 4 (left).



PLATE 3

The rear elevation of Building 1, looking north west.



PLATE 4

The north elevation of Building 1 showing the basement window.



PLATE 5

The pedimented entrance bay central to the west elevation of Building 1 (scale: 2m).



PLATE 6

The pediment over the main door to Building 1.



PLATE 7

The pedimented window in the entrance bay of Building 1 bearing the 1906 construction date.



PLATE 8

The rear elevation of the Building 1 central block.



PLATE 9

The south elevation of Building 1 (scales: 1m, 2m).



PLATE 10

The west elevation of the Building 1 north wing.



PLATE 11

Detail of the decorative brackets on the Building 1 veranda columns.



PLATE 12

The tower to the rear of Building 1's north wing.



PLATE 13

The rear elevation of Building 2.



PLATE 14

The windows on the rear elevation of Building 2 (scales: 1m, 2m).



PLATE 15

The veranda on the west side of Building 2.



PLATE 16

The north elevation of Building 2 (scales: 1m, 2m).



PLATE 17

The door in the south side of Building 2's central tower (scales: 1m, 2m).



PLATE 18

The extension built on the west side of Building 2.



PLATE 19

Building 3 looking south east.



PLATE 20

The south elevation of Building 3.



PLATE 21

The main door to Building 3.



PLATE 22

The inner door to Building 3.



PLATE 23

The north elevation of the Building 3 extension.



PLATE 24

The stairs up to the extension roof on the east side of Building 3.



PLATE 25

Cream and green glazed tiles on the ground-floor of Building 3.



PLATE 26

Moulded cornice and picture rail in one of the ground-floor rooms in Building 3.

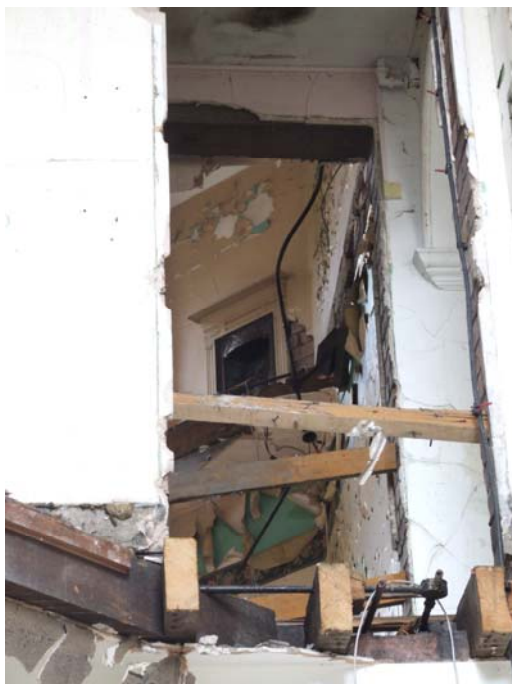


PLATE 27

One of the arches in the first-floor corridor of Building 3 and one of the fireplaces surviving on the second floor.



PLATE 28

The former kitchen in Building 3, looking south.



PLATE 29

Building 4 looking south east (scale: 2m).



PLATE 30

The south elevation of Building 4.



PLATE 31

The north elevation of Building 4.



PLATE 32

The extension at the rear of Building 4, looking west.



PLATE 33

The extension at the rear of Building 4, looking south.



PLATE 34

The ground floor of Building 4, looking east from the main door.



PLATE 35

The roof trusses visible in the first-floor room of Building 4.



PLATE 36

Building 5 looking west.



PLATE 37

The extended south end of the Power House block.



PLATE 38

The east elevation of the Power House block.



PLATE 39

Blocked window on the east side of the Power House block.



PLATE 40

The south elevation of the Smithy/Pump Room.



PLATE 41

The south elevation of the Pump Room extension.



PLATE 42

The south elevation of the boiler house.



PLATE 43

The south elevation of the Fitting Shop (scales: 1m, 2m).



PLATE 44

The Fitting Shop looking south west.

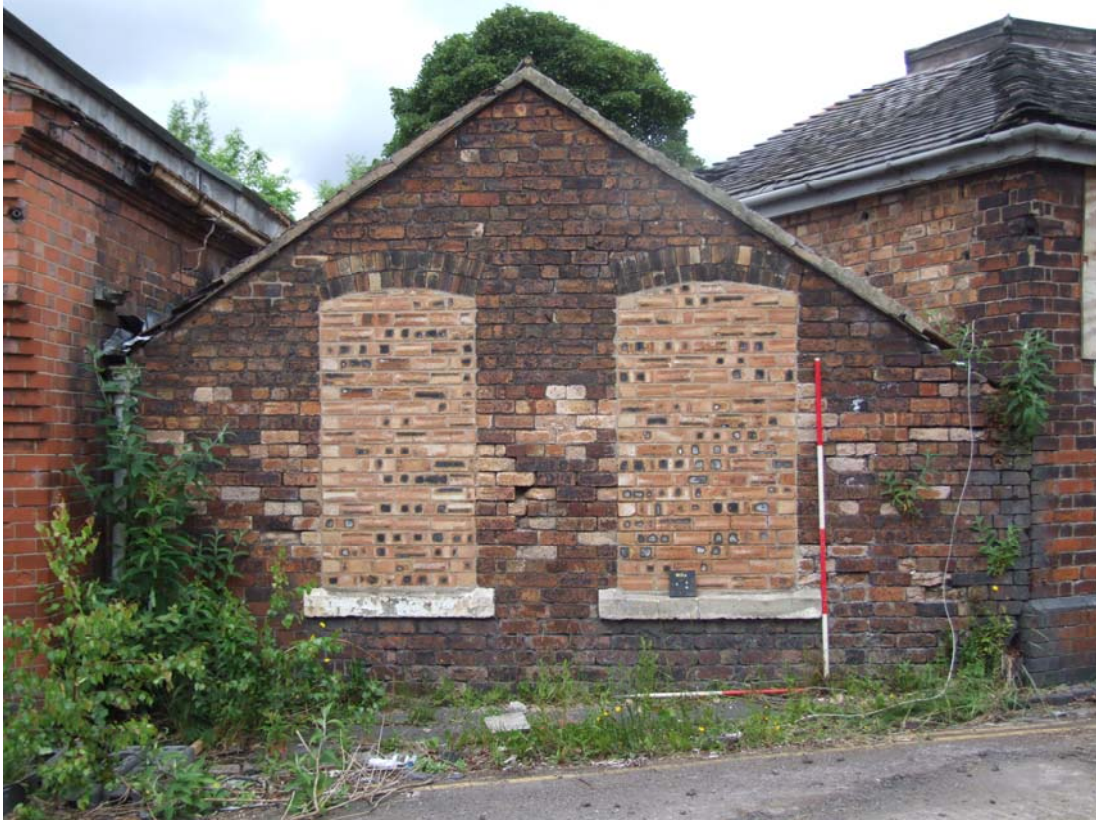


PLATE 45

The south elevation of the Softener Room (scales: 1m, 2m).



PLATE 46

The north elevation of the Softener Room.



PLATE 47

The interior of the Power House looking north west.



PLATE 48

The interior of the power house looking south west.



PLATE 49

The interior of the boiler house looking north.



PLATE 50

The west elevation of Building 6 (scales: 1m, 2m).



PLATE 51

The south elevation of Building 6 (scales: 1m, 2m).



PLATE 52

The east elevation of Building 6 showing the inserted windows at the south end (scales: 1m, 2m).



PLATE 53

The original door at the north end of Building 6's west elevation (scales: 1m, 2m).



PLATE 54

The inserted door in the west elevation of Building 6 (scales: 1m, 2m).