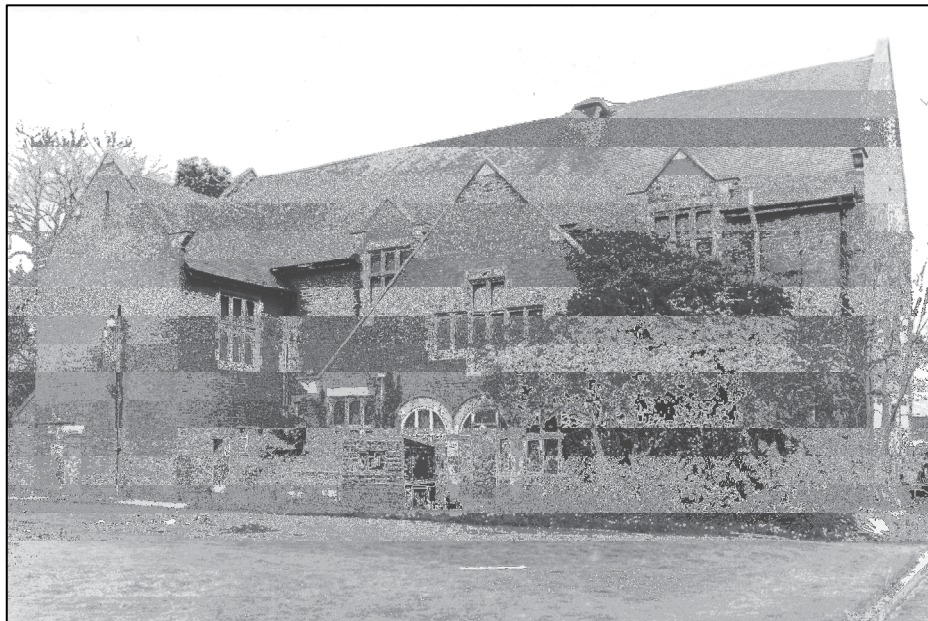


MINER'S WELFARE HALL, HANGAR HILL,
WHITWELL, DERBYSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BUILDING RECORDING



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MINERS' WELFARE HALL, HANGAR LANE, WHITWELL, DERBYSHIRE**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In February 2009, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Townsend Planning Consultants, on behalf of Northern Taverns (Yorkshire) Ltd, to undertake a programme of archaeological building recording at the Miners' Welfare Hall, 15 Hangar Hill, Whitwell, Derbyshire (NGR SK 5305 7673). The work was required to provide a pre-intervention survey of the building in advance of its redevelopment for residential use. The project involved the collation of historical information, and the production of a detailed architectural survey of the building, augmented by a descriptive and photographic record, and report; this work accords to a Level 2 survey as defined by English Heritage.

The Miners' Welfare was built in 1926, and was one of nearly 1,500 such schemes funded by the Miners' Welfare Fund between 1920 and 1944. It appears to have been fairly typical for a larger example of its type, and in the use of the shallow projections with steeply pitched roofs to the east and west elevations perhaps shows the influence of the architect Charles Voysey, who designed housing for mine officials at Whitwood, Castleford, West Yorkshire. The pairing of the Miners' Welfare with an adjacent bowling green, laid out in 1928, was also fairly typical, and the presence of an arcade to the west elevation of the building indicates that the provision of a bowling green was almost certainly envisaged from the start of construction.

In its original 1926 form, the Miners' Welfare had an almost symmetrical T-shaped plan, with two main entrances, in the south gable and at the north end of the east elevation. The two entrances suggest that, even at this early date, there was a separation of internal spaces when required, so that perhaps two different functions or activities could be carried on in the building at the same time. It seems unlikely that the building was originally licensed (although there are extensive original cellars), and so the ground floor may have been occupied by the committee, billiards and other rooms. The first floor auditorium would always have formed the main space for activities, ranging from theatrical productions and other entertainments, perhaps including temporary film exhibition, to larger meetings. The first floor stage was provided with changing rooms to either side, a toilet, and also a back stairway at the north-west corner of the building. The building was used for ENSA concerts during the Second World War, and horses, and perhaps also troops, were apparently stationed in the adjacent grounds during the same period.

Two substantial additions were made to the building, most probably during the 1950s or early 1960s, to provide living accommodation for the Steward and also a ground floor stage and dressing room for live acts. It appears that these alterations marked a decline in the importance of the first floor auditorium space, and a corresponding increase in the use of the ground floor, remodelled as a bar with dance floor and a stage, and with a separate bar and function room at the south end. The provision of these new facilities also required the circulation through the building to be altered, and it is likely that additional toilet facilities were also created at this time. Such changes are typical of how such a building is forced to adapt over time in response to changing economic circumstances and prevailing fashions in entertainment. However, continued adaptation is not always possible, and the Miners' Welfare appears to have entered a period of decline from the late 1980s onwards, and had been disused for a period of at least ten years at the time of survey.

1 INTRODUCTION

Reasons and Circumstances for the Project

- 1.1 In March 2009, Ed Dennison Archaeological Services Ltd (EDAS) were commissioned by Townsend Planning Consultants, on behalf of Northern Taverns (Yorkshire) Ltd, to undertake a programme of archaeological building recording at the former Miners' Welfare Hall, 15 Hangar Hill, Whitwell, Derbyshire (NGR SK 5305 7673). The recording work was made a condition of planning permission (application 08/00220/FULMAJ, condition 3), which required a pre-intervention survey of the building in advance of its proposed redevelopment for residential use.
- 1.2 The project involved the collation of readily available historical information, and the production of a detailed architectural survey of the building, augmented by a descriptive and photographic record, and report. The scope of the recording was defined by an EDAS methods statement (see Appendix 2; see below), which was approved by the Local Planning Authority in advance of any work.

Site Location

- 1.3 The former Miners' Welfare Hall (hereafter referred to as the Miners' Welfare, the name by which it is known locally) stands on the north side of Hangar Hill, in an elevated position in the eastern part of the settlement of Whitwell in Derbyshire (at NGR SK 5305 7673) (see figures 1 and 2).
- 1.4 The building is aligned virtually north-south and is set behind a substantial roadside wall. To the west of the Miners' Welfare there is a near contemporary bowling green, disused at the time of the survey, with a larger area of disused ground to the north, formerly used for car parking. A later dwelling (Welbeck House) attached to the east side of the Miners' Welfare was still occupied at the time of the survey, and the interior was specifically excluded from the recording work. Access to the site was via a narrow lane running alongside the east side of the building, between Hangar Hill and the former area of car parking to the north.
- 1.5 The building lies within the Whitwell Conservation Area but is not Listed, although it is designated as an "unlisted building of merit" in the Whitwell Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (Clarke 2008, 35).

Survey Methodology

- 1.6 The scope and methodology of the archaeological building recording was defined by an EDAS methods statement (see Appendix 2), which was discussed and agreed with Steve Baker of Derbyshire CC, in his capacity as archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority, in advance of any work.
- 1.7 The aims and objectives of the project were:
 - to gather sufficient information to provide a documentary archive of the building, as it existed prior to its conversion to residential use;
 - to identify and objectively record by means of photographs, drawn records and written descriptions, any significant evidence for the original and subsequent historical form and functions of the building, to achieve "preservation by record";
 - to place the resulting report and photographic record in the public domain.

1.8 The site recording was undertaken on 20th April 2009, with additional photographs being taken on 30th April 2009. The building was in relatively good overall structural condition at the time of the survey, although the ceilings over the first floor were decayed in parts. There was a small amount of debris within the interior of the building, but a thorough inspection during the survey work established that this did not obscure any features of historic interest. The field records were checked and approved by Steve Baker of Derbyshire County Council on 18th May 2009.

1.9 The survey methodology comprised three broad elements.

Documentary research

1.10 The Whitwell Local History Group (WLHG) have undertaken extensive research into the history of the settlement, including the colliery, and their publications and website (www.wlhg.co.uk) also contain some information on the Miners' Welfare, which has been included in Chapter 2 below.

1.11 Additional enquiries were also made with the History Group to recover any further information that they might hold on the building, including unpublished primary material and/or oral testimony. Unfortunately, they were not able to respond within the time available, but any information that is subsequently received by EDAS will be forwarded to Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (DHER). A limited amount of background information to place the recorded structure into context, primarily from secondary sources, was also obtained from local and regional libraries. A full list of the sources consulted for the project is given in the bibliography (Chapter 5) below.

Drawn record

1.12 A detailed topographical survey of the site had already been prepared by the client, together with "as existing" ground and first floor plans at 1:50 scale. These were used as the basis of the drawn record.

1.13 New ground and first floor plans of the building were produced at a scale of 1:50, using a combination of hand and electronic survey techniques, and the drawn data previously gathered by the client. The drawings show all significant detail such as openings (blocked or unblocked), constructional detail, fixtures and fittings etc. During the survey work, a way into the cellar space beneath the south-western part of the building was discovered, and so a 1:50 scale plan of this area was also produced.

1.14 No elevations drawings were produced, the internal and external elevations being recorded photographically (see below). Any internal areas which were inaccessible as a result of structural decay, such as the roof space, were recorded in as much detail as possible using both photographs and written description. All drawings were produced in accordance with the guidelines established by English Heritage (2006, 19-21). The full size finished plans are contained within the project archive, with reduced versions reproduced in this report.

Photographic record

1.15 A general external and internal photographic survey of the Miners' Welfare was carried out, together with detailed photography of significant features, using a combination of medium format and digital cameras. The black and white

photographic record was produced using a Mamiya 645 medium-format camera, with perspective control lens where appropriate, using a tripod; all black and white record photographs were taken using conventional silver-based film (Delta 400 Pro). The colour digital photographs were taken with an Olympus E410 SLR camera with a resolution of 10 mega pixels. Artificial lighting (stand-alone lights and/or flash) were used where necessary.

- 1.16 A total of 50 black and white shots were taken, supplemented by 76 colour digital photographs. The black and white shots were printed at 6" x 4" size on good quality archival-stable silver-based photographic paper, and a small selection of shots were also printed at 10" x 8". Bracketed shots of identical viewpoints were not reproduced, but all viewpoints have been represented. Colour digital prints were printed at 6" x 4" size on appropriate archive paper, with a resolution of at least 300dpi. All photographs have been clearly numbered and labelled with the subject, orientation, date taken and photographer's name, and have been cross referenced to film and negative numbers or digital files. All photographic film was exposed and processed to ensure high quality definition, and was processed to archival standards according to the manufacturer's specifications.
- 1.17 A photographic record (see Appendix 1) includes a register detailing the location, direction and subject of each shot, differentiating between the black and white and colour photography. The floor plans of the building prepared during the survey work have been used to identify each shot, and the position and direction of each photograph is marked on these plans; separate plans have been annotated for each floor of the building. Thumbnails of the digital photographs are also reproduced in Appendix 1. Good quality copies of selected prints accompany this report, while a full set of black and white, and colour, prints has been deposited with the Derbyshire Record Office as part of the project archive (see below).

Survey Products

Survey report

- 1.18 A detailed written record of the building has been produced from the records and written observations made on site, and cross-referenced to the drawn record. This describes the surviving structure, and analyses its form, function, history and sequence of development, and places the building in its historical, social and industrial contexts, as far as possible using the available documentary and secondary evidence.
- 1.19 The project is fully OASIS compliant (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis>). Prior to the start of any fieldwork, an OASIS online record was initiated and key fields were completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. All parts of the OASIS online form were subsequently completed for submission to the Derbyshire Historic Environment Record (HER). This included an unloaded pdf version of the entire report.

Project archive

- 1.20 A fully indexed project archive has been prepared, ordered and indexed according to the standards set by the National Archaeological Record. The archive comprises primary written documents, field notes, photographic prints, negatives, contact sheets, digital files etc (all stored in archival-stable wallets as appropriate), and an index to the archive. The full archive has been deposited with the Derbyshire Record Office (DRO) on completion of the project, and the DRO was

contacted prior to the start of any work on site to determine their deposition requirements. An index to the archive has also been sent to the Derbyshire HER. A CD containing a pdf copy of the survey report, scanned black and white photos, and a full set of digital photographs, was also provided to the Local Planning Authority.

2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Introduction

- 2.1 The following chapter provides a general background to the Miners' Welfare Fund, in order to place the recorded building within its proper context, before outlining the history of the Whitwell Colliery and of the building itself.

The Miners' Welfare Fund

- 2.2 The Miners' Welfare Fund, or to give it its full name, the British Miner's Welfare Fund, was established as part of the provisions made by the Mining Industry Act of 1920. The Fund gained its income from a levy of 1d on every ton of coal mined, and the income was to be used to provide grants in the areas of health, recreation and education. The Fund was administered by the Miners' Welfare Committee, which later became known as the Miners' Welfare Commission. In 1926 a separate Baths Fund was established for the purpose of building pit-head baths (Thornes 1994, 64; Dennis, Henriques & Slaughter 1956, 122-123).
- 2.3 An important aspect of the provision made by the Miners' Welfare Fund was for recreation grounds and Miners' Welfare Institutes. Between 1920 and 1944 the Fund had provided financial assistance to 1,500 such schemes at a cost of nearly £6,000,000, with Miners' Welfare Institutes varying in size from very small buildings to those examples described as:

"a building of conspicuous architectural merit with provision for leisure-time activities of members of the community of all ages and both sexes, such as dances, concerts, plays, discussions, gymnastics and the cinema" (Thornes 1994, 106-107).

- 2.4 A detailed description of the functioning of a typical Miners' Welfare was given by Dennis, Henriques and Slaughter in their 1956 book *Coal is our Life*, a study of the mining community in Ashton, South Yorkshire. The Ashton Miners' Welfare was the biggest building in the settlement, and had been built in 1897 to accommodate a Working Men's Club and a theatre, being purchased by the Miners' Welfare Commission in 1925; the running costs were to be raised by means of a weekly deduction from the wages of each miner at the Ashton colliery. The Miners' Welfare served a variety of functions. The large hall and stage were used by the local Dramatic and Musical Society, who staged one or two elaborate shows a year. The stage was also used by other organisations when wishing to raise money or obtain publicity, and the building also served as the centre for the local Labour party and union branch committee meetings (Dennis, Henriques & Slaughter 1956, 123-125).
- 2.5 Another important function of the Ashton Miners' Welfare was dancing. Ballroom dancing took place throughout the year every Saturday, each dance being attended by between 400 to 500 people, the majority of whom were aged between 17 and 20. The Miners' Welfare also accommodated a boys' club, a boxing club, a reading room and a billiard room (Dennis, Henriques & Slaughter 1956, 125-128). However, the study of the Ashton Miners' Welfare concluded that the institute did not play a very important part in the leisure time of the local miner who was aged over 20. At the age of 18, many youths were keen to become members of Working Men's Clubs, of which there were six in Ashton, together with two smaller social clubs. The principal form of income of these clubs was bar takings, although

they also housed regular concerts (Dennis, Henriques & Slaughter 1956, 128 & 142-154).

- 2.6 The range of activities undertaken at the Ashton Miners' Welfare appears to have been fairly typical, when compared to those at other Miners' Welfares. For example, Hatfield Main Miners' Welfare Hall, in Stainforth, South Yorkshire, was furnished with a well equipped kitchen, a main hall and a billiards room. Plays were staged in the building during the 1930s, and it also served as a Working Men's Club and a central meeting point for the National Union of Mineworkers. Outside, there were six tennis courts, two bowling greens and cricket and football pitches (Dumville 2001). At Garforth in West Yorkshire, the Miners' Welfare offered a similar range of activities, including a boxing club and billiards room (LeRoy 2007).

Whitwell Colliery and the Whitwell Miners' Welfare

- 2.7 As has already been noted, the history of Whitwell and district is covered in some detail by the Whitwell Local History Group on their website (www.wlhg.co.uk), and the following information, particularly that regarding the colliery is taken largely from this source. Other than this, the Whitwell Miners' Welfare has received scant attention in secondary sources. No information as to the name of the architect or the initial cost of the building has been uncovered, and the detailed research required to gather these details, for example in contemporary publications such as the Miners' Welfare Fund Annual Reports, lies outside the scope of this study.
- 2.8 Miners' Welfare buildings are also not well covered in general publications dealing with Derbyshire's industrial history (Fowkes, Sissons & Mitchell 2005), although whether this reflects a paucity of surviving examples or a lack of detailed consideration is uncertain. There are however some detailed histories of Miners' Welfares in the Yorkshire mining districts published on local history websites which provide useful comparisons, and they are also mentioned in more general publications dealing with the deep coal-mining industry (Thornes 1994).
- 2.9 Whitwell Colliery was one of five collieries originally owned by the Shireoaks Colliery Company Ltd, the other four comprising Shireoaks, Steetley, Clowne Southgate and Harry Crofts. Shaft sinking at Whitwell commenced in 1890 and coal production started on a regular basis in 1894. The opening of the colliery had a significant impact on the existing settlement, the population increasing from 1,945 in 1871 to over 4,000 by 1911 (Clarke 2008, 11). The Shireoaks Colliery Company were involved in building three separate housing schemes at Whitwell between 1895 and 1907; Southfield Villas (four brick houses), Colliery Row, Whitwell in 1895 (two blocks, each of 12 houses) and Colliery Row, Hodthorpe in 1907 (27 brick houses) (www.wlhg.co.uk). The growing population would have required new facilities to serve their economic, social and spiritual needs, including different forms of social activity and entertainment, and the Miners' Welfare Hall formed one of these facilities. Other buildings included the Methodist Church on Portland Street, opened in 1892, and the Infants' School (now the Community Centre and Library) near the square, re-located from here to new purpose-built premises in 1898. The Co-Operative store in Welbeck Street in the village was opened in 1928 and there was also a cinema, The Ritz (Clarke 2008, 11 & 35; www.wlhg.co.uk).
- 2.10 The Whitwell Miners' Welfare was built in 1926, with the adjacent bowling green opened in 1928 for both flat link and crown green bowling. During the Second World War, the Miners' Welfare was the venue for visiting concert parties

organised by ENSA (Entertainments National Service Association) on Tuesday nights, and it appears that troops were also stationed in the vicinity, as it was reported that the bowling green suffered from the horses of the Cheshire Yeomanry and so had to be re-laid in 1949. The County Library service was initially held in the building, and memories of ex-miners recorded on the Whitwell Local History Group website also recall occasions when awards for long-service either at the colliery or in union activities were presented at the Miners' Welfare. In 1950, the Whitwell Colliery brass band, under the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation (CISWO), moved to the Miners' Welfare (www.wlhg.co.uk).

- 2.11 During the current survey work, a number of documents relating to the history of the Miners' Welfare were found abandoned amongst the general debris in the building. Although these were in too poor a condition to save, they were inspected on site for any useful information that they might contain. A CISWO cash book covering the period 1960 to 1967 gives an idea of the operation of the Miners' Welfare during this period. In the early 1960s, a typical week's receipts appear to have been as the following given for January 19th 1960:

<i>Receipts 19th January:</i>	<i>Bar</i>	<i>£161</i>
	<i>Billiards</i>	<i>8s</i>
	<i>Insurance</i>	<i>10s 4d</i>
	<i>Dance</i>	<i>£2 7s</i>
	<i>Subscriptions</i>	<i>16s 10d</i>

- 2.12 There were not dances every week throughout the year, and they are no longer listed after 1963, although they were possibly replaced by a receipt listed as "Hire of Hall". The bar formed the major source of income and, as might be expected, the most regularly listed payments relate to its operation, purchasing supplies from Sam Smith, Flowers Breweries, William Stones and Tennant Bros. Regular payments were also made for coal, gas and coke, electric lighting, and for the groundsmen at the Bowling Club and the Cricket Club (on Station Road, Whitwell). Bowling and cricket were not the only sports in which the Miners' Welfare was involved, and donations were made to the Whitwell Intermediate Football League, money was spent on repairs to the tennis pavilion, and a Chess Club was formed in c.1967.
- 2.13 The 1960-67 cash book also provides some idea as to the changes that the Miners' Welfare underwent in the 1960s and what the building was being used for. On 29th January 1961, £380 was spent on a fruit machine, although tombola books remained a fairly regular purchase. Several times a year there were events to raise money for local or national causes relating to coal mining, such as the Concert for the Paraplegic Fund in October 1963 or the Concert for Disabled Miners in October 1967. Several times in 1961 and 1962 monies were spent on the "living quarters" or "Steward's quarters", suggesting that the person running the club lived on the premises. The "band room" also appears in expenses, as do the "dressing room", "small bar", "committee room" and "dance hall". Finally, it appears that there was a major scheme of redecoration in June 1965, when over £238 was spent on interior decoration.
- 2.14 Coal production at the Whitwell Colliery ceased in June 1986, with the last worker on the site finishing in July 1987. The headwork of the No. 1 shaft was demolished in March 1987, and the No. 2 shaft in April 1987 (www.wlhg.co.uk), although in 1995 the site still retained a range of buildings, including stores, heavy machinery store and rescue station (Gould & Ayris 1995, 111). It is not certain when the Miners' Welfare ceased to be used on a regular basis; local information suggests

that the building had been disused for over 15 years, although at the time of the survey there were one or two surviving notices inside indicating at least partial use into the late 1990s.

3 ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Introduction

- 3.1 The Miners' Welfare is described below in a logical sequence. The plan form, structure and architectural detailing of the building are described first, followed by the external elevations and a circulation description of the interior, from the lowest to the uppermost floor level. Reference should also be made to the floor plans (figures 3 to 5), and the photocopies of the photographs appended to this report. Appendix 1 includes a catalogue of all the photographs taken, and the photographs are referenced in the following text in bold type, the number before the stroke representing the film number and the number after indicating the frame (e.g. **5/32**). Appendix 1 also includes thumbnails of the colour digital photographs and figures A1/1-3 which depict the various photographic location points.
- 3.2 As noted above, the Miners' Welfare is aligned north-north-west/south-south-east but, for ease of description, it is considered to be aligned north-south. Unless otherwise noted, the terms used to describe the roof structures are taken from Alcock *et al* (1996) and Campbell (2000). Where possible, specific architectural terms used in the text are as defined by Curl (1977). Finally, in the following text, "modern" is used to denote features or phasing dating to after c.1945.

Location and Plan Form

- 3.3 The Miners' Welfare stands on the north side of Hangar Hill, with the principal elevation facing west onto the adjacent bowling green and the south gable facing the street frontage, from which it is separated by a limestone rubble wall and hedge (**5/2**) (see plate 1). The wall contains a former gateway, now blocked and with a single surviving stone stoop, aligned on the entrance doorway in the south gable (**5/4**). To the east, there is a narrow lane separating the building from the gardens of adjacent residential properties, and to the west, the bowling green. The green is surrounded by a drain, kerbed border and concrete paths, with the whole enclosed by a hedge; all the seating and the associated hut are of relatively recent date (**4/7** and **6/76**). To the north, there is an area of former car parking. Although the Miners' Welfare is raised above the level of Hangar Hill and is a prominent feature within the wider settlement landscape, especially when viewed from High Hill to the south-west, it does not have an overbearing influence on those parts of the settlement to the immediate east and west.
- 3.4 Before a number of later additions were made, the Miners' Welfare had an almost symmetrical, T-shaped, plan, with maximum external dimensions of 25.65m north - south by 21.05m east-west. Later additions of one and two storeys are present on the north elevation and at the south end of the west elevation; these are discussed in more detail below as part of the external elevations.
- 3.5 The main body of the building is a tall two storeys, with two storeyed projections at the north ends at the east and west elevations. The north elevation and south gable are of three storeys in height, but they do not rise above the general volume of the building. The roofs over all parts of the building are pitched and covered with clay roof tiles. The ridge is punctuated by a single wooden vent placed approximately one-third of the way along its length from the south end. There are cellars, now accessed internally, beneath the south-east part of the building. Circulation through the building is based around three stairs, situated at the north-east, north-west and south-east corners of the building.

Structure and Materials

- 3.6 The Miners' Welfare has load-bearing external walls built primarily of neatly cut machine-made red brick (average dimensions 230mm by 115mm by 75mm) laid in Flemish bond and set with a hard pinkish-cream lime mortar; the external walls have an average width of 0.45m. Extensive use of Magnesian limestone dressings is made to the frames and surrounds of the mullioned and transomed windows, although in some places, both frames and lintels appear to be in a cast stone or concrete, rather than natural stone. Away from the windows, lesser use is made of stone for external door surrounds, kneelers and architectural detailing. The internal walls separating the main spaces from the ancillary and circulation spaces are of similar width to the external walls.
- 3.7 Extensive internal use of concrete is made to the stairs and to some floor areas, although many areas of lath and plaster ceiling survive throughout the building, most notably to the ground floor of the shallow projections to the east and west elevations, and to the first floor north-west stair hall. The vault over the first floor auditorium is also constructed entirely in lath and plaster and timber, with surviving decorative plasterwork. It is assumed that the majority of the grid of downstand beams visible over the ground floor are steel, although they were obscured by plaster or artex at the time of the survey. The intersections of some of the beams are supported by plastered brick pillars.

External Elevations

- 3.8 Despite later alteration and additions, the Miners' Welfare retains much of its original appearance, and it forms an integral part of the landscape of Whitwell as it developed after c.1890 with the creation of the colliery. The architectural detailing of the building is not elaborate but is suitable for its purpose, and it shares several characteristics with other prominent structures erected within colliery settlements during the early 20th century, such as large Methodist chapels, early cinemas and schools.

South elevation

- 3.9 The south gable faces Hangar Hill, and is of three bays and three storeys (**5/2**, **5/3**, **5/10** and **6/68**) (see plate 1). The central ground floor doorway has a plain stone surround with narrow recessed panels, but the original doorway had been removed by the time of the survey. There is an area of re-pointing/rebuilding to the brickwork immediately above the doorway, suggesting that a cornice and brackets, similar to those surviving over the side entrance to the east elevation, were once present. The doorway is flanked by six-light mullioned and transomed windows, with similar windows over to the first floor and a smaller four-light mullioned and transomed window between. There is a single centrally-placed narrow transomed window to the second floor. The gable has moulded kneelers with ball finials, and flat stone coping. The upper area is an expanse of blank brickwork, broken only by triangular stone insets beneath the coping and a similar feature to the apex.

West elevation

- 3.10 The west elevation faces out over the bowling green, and is also the most prominent side of the building as viewed in the wider landscape, and so, as might be expected, has received the greatest degree of articulation (**5/6**, **5/8**, **6/63**, **6/64** and **6/66**) (see plate 3). There is a projection at the north end of the elevation, a single bay in width, housing an internal staircase (**5/1** and **6/63**). It is largely blank,

with a plain ground floor doorway, a single centrally positioned first floor two-light window and a narrow slit in the apex of the gable; as with the main south gable, there are moulded kneelers with ball finials and flat stone coping, while the staircase is lit by a tall six-light mullioned and transomed window in the south face (6/66).

- 3.11 To the main part of the west elevation, there is a second, much shallower projection, of two storeys but beneath a steeply sloping roof line running parallel to the elevation (5/6 and 6/65). The ground floor has a tripartite central arcade formed by semi-circular headed openings, the central of which has a projecting key block. The arcade is now infilled with modern glazing set within a timber-frame, and the form of the original infill is unclear, although it seems likely that the arcade was designed to give a view over the adjacent bowling green (5/7). The wide gable of the projection rises from low-level moulded kneelers with ball finials, and contains a wide tripartite mullioned and transomed window, formed by a central panel of four-lights flanked by outer panels of two lights. Below the window, there is a stone plaque bearing the shallowly but elegantly incised upper case inscription "WHITWELL AREA MINERS' WELFARE AD 1926" (6/67). At ground floor level, the projection is flanked by six-light mullioned and transomed windows, while to the first floor, the projection's gable is flanked by tall nine-light (three rows of three) mullioned and transomed windows. The upper three lights of each window break the eaves line of the west elevation and are themselves surmounted by small gables to form low dormers.

North elevation

- 3.12 Much of the base of the north elevation of the Miners' Welfare, facing the former car park to the rear (north), is obscured by a later single storey extension with a single pitch roof, housing the internal ground floor stage and dressing room (4/4, 4/6 and 6/75). This extension is built of similar brickwork to the main building, and also incorporates identical windows, which were presumably removed and re-used here when the extension was added. Prior to its addition, the north elevation comprised a three-storey three bay wide central section, flanked by two storey single bay blocks. The central section appears originally to have had three four-light mullioned and transomed windows to the ground and first floors, separated by shallow brick buttresses; the inner pair of buttresses rise the full height of the first floor, while the outer ones rise only half way up the first floor windows. There is a narrow louvred light towards the upper part of the gable, which retains the same simple detailing noted elsewhere on the building. Each of the two storey outer blocks has a tall six-light mullioned and transomed window to the ground floor, and a much lower three-light window to the first floor; the eastern windows light an internal staircase.

East elevation

- 3.13 Like the north elevation, the east elevation is also partly obscured by later additions. The largest of these is the domestic dwelling known as "Welbeck House", positioned towards its south end, which possibly originated as the "Steward's Quarters" which are referred to in the 1960s cash book. This dwelling is of two storeys (i.e. lower than the main body of the Miners' Welfare), brick built and with a pitched slated roof; a large flat ridge stack at the west end of the roof ridge appears to predate the dwelling. There is a doorway at the east end of the south elevation, covered by a plain canopy over supported on consoles, with single three-light windows to the ground and first floors, both with modern glazing (5/11, 6/69 and 6/70). The north elevation, where visible, is completely blank. The east

gable is also largely blank with the exception a few small windows, but the kneelers and gable detailing are of the same form as seen elsewhere on the building (5/12 and 6/71). The space between the dwelling and the projecting side entrance at the north end of the elevation is filled with a wooden lean-to structure and a single storey flat roofed brick addition, itself post-dating “Welbeck House”.

- 3.14 All of these later additions to the east elevation obscure an original shallow two-storey projection with a steeply pitched roof, of the same proportions as that surviving to the west elevation (5/11 and 6/69); it may be that when “Welbeck House” was erected, some of the original windows were taken out of the shallow projection and re-used in the later dwelling. As with the west elevation, the projection’s gable is flanked by six-light mullioned and transomed windows, with tall nine-light (three rows of three) mullioned and transomed windows to the first floor. The upper three lights of each window break the eaves line of the west elevation and are themselves surmounted by small gables to form low dormers.
- 3.15 At first glance, the projection housing the side entrance of the Miners’ Welfare, at the north end of the elevation, might also be thought to be a later addition. It has a flat roof, rather than the pitched roofs seen elsewhere on the building, and there is what appears to be a neat staggered joint between the flat roofed section and that part of the building to the immediate west. However, the Flemish bond coursing of the brickwork of both elements runs through, while the wall coping of the flat-roofed section supports the moulded kneelers of the gable rising above, and so it appears to be a part of the original 1926 layout (4/1 and 6/73). The front (east) elevation of the side entrance has a ground floor doorway offset to the north. This doorway has a chamfered surround, a shallow arched head and is covered by a substantial stone cornice supported on scrolled consoles (4/3, 5/13, 6/72 and 6/74) (see plate 2). There is a small window to the south, and a two-light mullioned window above; these are some of the few such features within the building which retain what appear to be the original Critall-style steel-framed glazing. The south elevation of the side entrance projection has a small window at the east end of the first floor, with a larger six-light mullioned and transomed window to the west; the north elevation is blank.

Circulation

- 3.16 At the time of the survey, the Miners’ Welfare had been disused for a period of about ten years. Although the overall body of the building remained structurally sound, the interior had decayed somewhat, particularly the soft furnishings, lath and plaster ceilings, and decorative plasterwork; there were also some limited areas of internal demolition perhaps caused by the removal of internal fittings, particularly on the stairs at the south-east corner of the building where there was a concentration of fallen concrete. Finally, there had been some small-scale internal vandalism prior to the survey, mostly limited to graffiti rather than structural damage. Despite the above, the interior of the Miners’ Welfare retained a great deal of structural evidence for its historic use, former function and original decorative schemes. The interior is described below in a logical fashion, commencing with the cellar areas and rising through the ground and first floors.

The cellars (see figure 3)

- 3.17 The principal existing access to the cellars at the time of the survey was via a steeply inclined flight of stone steps (6/28) positioned to the rear (east) of the bar area. The steps lead down into a small passage, from which the other rooms of the cellar can be reached.

- 3.18 All the rooms in the cellar area are characterised by whitewashed bare brick walls and flat concrete ceilings. The arrangement of the smaller rooms to the north and south of the passage shows that they were once contained within the shallow two-storey projection to the east elevation. A blocked doorway in the north wall of the north room may well have formerly lead to steps rising to the external ground floor, now concealed by “Welbeck House”; a chute to the east may represent a former coal chute. A small room to the south of the passage has blocked doorways in the west and south walls. The latter may have led through to a cellar space visible through a section of collapsed floor at the south end of the ground floor, but it was not accessible at the time of survey.
- 3.19 At the west end of the passage, a doorway with a shallow-arched head leads through into the former barrel and pump room (6/30). This room has a very plain interior, the principal feature of interest being the rusted base of an oil-pump (6/29) adjacent to a low opening in the east wall; this had presumably been used to power an oil-fired heating system. A wide doorway with a shallow-arched head in the south wall of the barrel/pump room gives access to a slightly smaller room to the south. This was boarded out with plasterboard, and contained no visible features of historic interest.

Ground floor (see figure 4)

- 3.20 The two original principal points of access to the ground floor were the doorways in the centre of the south gable and the side entrance located at the north end of the east elevation. The side entrance doorway has an external barred gate, which opens into a small lobby fitted with outer and inner modern double doors; an electric sign over the inner double doors probably once read “EXIT” (1/5 and 6/4). These in turn open into an entrance hall, which has a grey linoleum floor covering with black edging and a high skirting board (1/1 and 6/1). Adjacent to a shallow recess in the south wall, a scar in the linoleum marks the position of a former ticket or admission booth with a canted front (1/3 and 6/2). At the west end of the hall, concrete dog-leg stairs rise to the first floor over a small below-stairs room; the stairs retain part of a wooden rail formerly supporting the handrail, but the handrail itself has now gone (1/4 and 6/3). In the south-east corner of the entrance hall, a step down leads into a small space with coat hooks to one wall, giving access either to the main body of the ground floor (see below) or a male toilet comprising urinal and W.C. (1/6, 6/5 and 6/6).
- 3.21 The main body of the ground floor is divided up into three distinct areas. The north area comprises a stage and dance floor. The dance floor is rectangular in plan, measuring up to 12.00m in length (north-south) by 9.50m in width (east-west), and has the stage at the north end (1/13 and 6/12) (see plate 4). The stage is slightly raised above the dance floor, with a curved front, and is accommodated within the single-storey extension to the north elevation of the building. The rear (north) wall of the stage is decorated with a coloured mural in the style of Picasso, perhaps dating to the late 1950s or early 1960s (1/16 and 6/14). To the west, there are a number of rooms specifically associated with the stage. The small space leading directly off the stage was once used as a make-up/dressing room for acts, and has a make-up table with mirror along the west wall (6/17). This space leads, via a short concrete ramp and step, down into the north-west corner room (6/19). There is another mirror mounted on the wall at the south-west corner of this room, retaining stickers from a number of acts who presumably performed at the Miners’ Welfare (6/20). This room would have been used for bands and acts to load and unload their equipment, as it is directly connected to an external doorway in the

west elevation; it could also have been used to access the narrow stair at the north-west corner of the building rising to the first floor (6/18).

- 3.22 The dance floor itself, tiled with linoleum at the time of the survey, by the nature of its use, is largely devoid of features. It has the same high skirting board as seen in the entrance hall, with evidence for both peripheral bench seating and electric signage, now removed (1/7, 1/9, 1/11, 1/15, 6/7, 6/8, 6/9, 6/10 and 6/13). A single radiator survives to the east of the stage (1/17 and 6/15). The dance floor is served by a female's toilet situated on its west side. The walls of the W.C. are tiled to dado level with powder blue tiles (6/22 and 6/23) and over the three cubicles there is a corrugated timber panel painted pink and with a central rectangular vent (6/21); both the tiling and the corrugated panel may date to the 1950s. The doorway to the toilet retains a four-panelled door, comprising three narrow panels beneath a deeper rectangular one (1/18 and 6/16); although heavily stained, this is one of the original 1926 doors, a number of which survive around the building.
- 3.23 The central area comprises the bar and adjacent seating. The bar fittings are entirely modern, containing no features of historic interest. A doorway to the rear (east) of the bar leads into a narrow passage from which the cellar stairs can be accessed. To the north of the passage, there is a narrow space formerly contained within the shallow projection to the east elevation. This space is floored with small red square quarry tiles, one of the few areas within the Miners' Welfare to preserve any early floor surface, although these are largely obscured by fallen roof structure, including smashed clay roof tiles bearing the impressed mark "Lightmoor Broseley", a prominent Shropshire brick and tile works. There is a brick blocked window in the north wall (6/27) and blockwork blocked doorway in the north-east corner; it is probable that the latter was an external doorway prior to the erection of the adjacent "Welbeck House".
- 3.24 That part of the central area to the west of the bar might once have been occupied by billiard tables. The remains of bench seating within the shallow projection on the west elevation are very tattered, and partly rotted by water ingress, as is the lath and plaster ceiling above (1/12 and 6/11). The tripartite arcade to the west wall was once expressed internally in the same way as externally, with a projecting key block to the central semi-circular headed opening. Although much altered, surviving panels of early appearance survive to the base of the central opening, suggested that it originally formed an external doorway, with the flanking openings glazed for the majority of their height (1/10 and 6/9) (see plate 5).
- 3.25 The southern area of the ground floor comprised an additional bar area, and the entrance in the south gable. The west part of the bar was known as "The Tudor Room", and it retains moulded brackets to the soffits of the exposed beams, as well as seating around the edges (2/1 and 6/24); a Miners' Welfare rule book notes that children under 14 years of age were only allowed into this part of the bar area. The south part also retains some seating (6/25).
- 3.26 The doorway in the south gable is fitted with modern doors, which open into an angled stair hall. The stair hall has a male toilet comprising urinal and W.C. on the east side, with a dog-leg concrete staircase rising to the first floor. The staircase retains the original 1926 cast-iron circular newel, complete with ball finial, and associated tubular metal handrail to the inner side of the staircase. The outer side is fitted with a wooden handrail (2/2 and 6/26).

The first floor (see figure 5)

- 3.27 As noted above, there are three stairways rising to the first floor. That at the north-west corner is slightly narrower than the other two (6/57) and rises from a relatively constricted area, and so appears always to have served a secondary function, perhaps used by those wishing to access the stage area of the auditorium. The principal routes used by the public were located at the north-east corner and south end (6/58) of the building. The stairway at the north-east corner rose to a first floor landing (3/5 and 6/44), which retains evidence for a dado and also has coat hooks to the south and east walls. It had a male toilet, comprising urinal and W.C., located on its east side (6/46), and at the west end, a doorway opens into the auditorium proper.
- 3.28 The auditorium is formed by a large rectangular space, measuring 17.75m in length (north-south) by 9.60m in width (east-west), with narrow ancillary spaces to the east and west sides contained within the shallow external projections to these elevations, and a stage at the north end (2/5, 2/6 and 6/31) (see plate 6). The auditorium is floored with narrow softwood boards, most recently marked out for racquet sports and is covered by a broad lath and plaster barrel vault, divided into six bays of unequal size by five ribs retaining decorative plasterwork (2/10, 6/34, 6/40 and 6/43). At either end, each rib rises from an enriched scrolled console and is decorated with a Greek key design (2/12 and 6/36). Between the ribs, within the second and fourth bays from the south end of the auditorium, there are ceiling vents formerly serving the heating/air conditioning system. The vents are in the form of either metal or timber grilles; that within the fourth bay retains its decorative plasterwork covering, comprising strapwork surrounded by a wave-scroll border, punctuated by raised circular panels at the corners (2/15, 6/32 and 6/37) (see plate 7). In addition to the five ribs defining the bays of the ceiling, there is a sixth rib, only half the width of the others, rising over a high level opening in the auditorium's south wall. This opening has a broad moulded cornice over, supported on enriched brackets at either end (2/16, 6/38 and 6/41) and served a space located above the south stair landing (see below). Other than this opening, the long side walls (2/17, 2/18 and 3/4) and south wall (3/1) of the auditorium are relatively plain. They are pierced only by the ancillary spaces contained within the shallow external projections to the east and west elevations. The east ancillary space accommodated a modern bar or drinks serving area (3/2 and 6/42), but the west ancillary space was empty (6/39).
- 3.29 As noted above, the stage area lies at the north end of the auditorium. The wooden stage once projected slightly beyond the proscenium and was set c.1m above the auditorium floor, but it had largely collapsed at the time of the survey (2/7, 2/9 and 6/33). The proscenium opening itself is a maximum of c.4m in height to the centre of the shallow arched head, and is framed by a decorative plaster surround. The surround comprises a narrow outer band of egg and dart moulding, and a wider inner band of combined guilloche and fan-like moulding, with floral rosettes to the upper corners (2/11 and 6/35) (see plate 8). The backstage areas flanking the stage are accessed via short flights of wooden stairs positioned in either of the stair halls at the north-east (3/6 and 6/45) and north-west corners; the north-west stair hall also has a small W.C. for use by those performing on the stage (6/54). The stage is flanked to the east and west by dressing rooms. The east dressing room retains an original 1926 door and clothes hooks around three of the walls (6/47 and 6/48), while the west dressing room has similar, and evidence for a fitted wardrobe to the north-west corner (6/55 and 6/56).

- 3.30 The stage area retains a number of features relevant to its former operation. To the back of the panel to the west of the proscenium opening, there are blocks with cleats mounted on them, around which ropes securing backcloths etc could be wound (6/53), while to the back of the panel to the east, there are electric boxes and switches (6/52). Above the stage, there is a simple framework of wooden beams (3/7, 6/49, 6/50 and 6/51), not as complex as the gridiron that would be present in a larger theatre, but performing a similar purpose, allowing the movement of scenery, backcloths etc up and down off the stage (Leacroft 1984, 107-110).
- 3.31 At the south end of the auditorium, a doorway fitted with original 1926 panelled double doors (6/62) leads off the south stair hall. On the east side of the stair hall, there is a small room fitted with shelving (6/60), and to the west, a larger room that may once have been fitted with W.C.'s or functioned as a cloakroom (6/61). Off the south-west corner of the stair hall is a very small space, resembling a walk-in cupboard, fitted with an original 1926 door with an original architrave (6/59); the door has later been altered by the insertion of a small hatch, and the removal of the upper panel, perhaps to function as a ticket booth.
- 3.32 There also appears to be a small room or space over the south stair hall, but this was not accessible at the time of the survey, and indeed it is difficult to see how it was formerly accessed, unless a metal wall ladder was once present in one of the rooms flanking the stair hall. The room was lit by a window in the south gable, and has the large opening visible in the upper part of the auditorium's south wall placed on its south side. Although the room is floored with concrete, it appears to lack any of the other requirements for a cinema projection room as laid down in the 1909 Cinematograph Act (AOC Archaeology 1998, 5; Upson & Richardson 2001, 26; Spencer 1999, 3). It is therefore more likely that the room was used for stage lighting, spotlights etc, although it is still possible that temporary cinema exhibition may have taken place (see Chapter 4 below).

Roof space

- 3.33 The roof space was no longer accessible at the time of the survey. However, through the gaps in the fallen lath and plaster of the ceiling vault, parts of the roof structure were visible. Above each of the ribs with decorative plasterwork visible within the auditorium, there is a softwood bolted truss of principal rafter and collar form. It is evident from the two vents visible in the auditorium ceiling that the majority of the roof space once was or still is occupied by the remains of a ventilation/air-conditioning system. Comparison with other similar systems installed in contemporary cinemas (e.g. Richardson & Dennison 2004) would suggest that the system was never complex, and it probably relied on fresh air being drawn in through vents either in the side walls of the auditorium or the windows, and then up through the ceiling vents in the auditorium. It is likely that a large fan was originally positioned within the roof space over each ceiling vent, and that each fan would have had a separate pipe rising to a ridge vents, although only one single such structure remained visible at the time of the survey.

4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The archaeological building recording undertaken at the Miners' Welfare, has raised a number of topics meriting further discussion. However, it should be noted that it has not been possible to contact the Whitfield Local History Group within the timescale allocated for the production of this report.
- 4.2 Previous experience of recording buildings within colliery settlements has shown that a far greater degree of interpretation can be achieved through the involvement of local oral testimony (Richardson 2005) than through a structural/architectural record alone. Buildings such as the Miners' Welfare can generate a strong emotional response within the local community, perhaps particularly relevant in the light of the 25th anniversary of the 1984 Miners' Strike, and their decay can be seen as representative of the decay of personal relationships or indeed entire communities; this comes across clearly in a description of the Hatfield Main Miners' Welfare Hall, which notes ruefully that "Neglected for many years, the hall eventually went the way of many of Stainforth's other landmarks" (www.stainforthonline.co.uk). It is hoped that through contact with the local history group, a more rounded consideration of the Whitwell Miners' Welfare might be offered for publication at some point in the future.
- 4.3 The Miners' Welfare was built in 1926, and was one of nearly 1,500 such schemes funded by the Miners' Welfare Fund between 1920 and 1944. It appears to have been fairly typical for a larger example of its type, and in the use of the shallow projections with steeply pitched roofs to the east and west elevations perhaps shows the influence of the architect Charles Voysey, who designed housing for mine officials at Whitwood, Castleford, West Yorkshire (Thornes 1994, 86). The pairing of the Miners' Welfare with a bowling green was also fairly typical, and the presence of the arcade to the west elevation indicates that the provision of a bowling green was almost certainly envisaged from the start of construction.
- 4.4 The consideration of the Miners' Welfare as part of a wider urban landscape, including the adjacent bowling green, is important. As has been noted elsewhere (Clarke 2008, 9, although the opening of the colliery had a substantial impact upon Whitwell, the historic street pattern was well established by the late 19th century, and so the village preserved a strong rural character, retaining a mixture of older and new buildings of which the Miners' Welfare forms part. In this regard, a useful comparison might be made between Whitwell and a colliery settlement such as Moorthorpe in West Yorkshire, essentially an infill development between two older centres and one which developed very rapidly in the early 20th century (Richardson & Dennison 2004). In addition, in order to consider the Miners' Welfare properly, one also needs to understand the full range of contemporary leisure and social activities available to the population of Whitwell, their levels of disposal income, and the motives of those providing the activities, before one can understand the choices that the population made. For example, it would be interesting to establish if the auditorium of the Miners' Welfare was used for temporary film exhibition; this is quite possible, as miners' halls, along with Co-operative Society halls, formed important "alternative" venues for film exhibition, using 16mm film stock which fell outside the provisions of the 1909 Cinematograph Act (Burton 1995, 32-33). If this were the case at Whitwell, then was the Miners' Welfare in direct competition with the Ritz cinema, or were they showing very different kinds of films?
- 4.5 In its original 1926 form, the Miners' Welfare had an almost symmetrical T-shaped plan, with two main entrances, in the south gable and at the north end of the east elevation. The two entrances suggest that, even at this early date, there was a

separation of internal spaces when required, so that perhaps two different functions or activities could be carried on in the building at the same time. The level of later alteration makes it difficult to suggest the original functions and layout of the ground floor rooms, although it seems unlikely that the building was originally licensed (although the extensive cellars are original), and so the ground floor may have been occupied by the committee, billiards and other rooms. The first floor auditorium would always have formed the main space for activities, ranging from theatrical productions and other entertainments to larger meetings. The first floor stage was provided with changing rooms to either side, a toilet, and also a back stairway at the north-west corner of the building. The building was used for ENSA concerts during the Second World War, and it seems likely that bar facilities would have been available by this date; horses, and perhaps also troops, were apparently stationed in the grounds around the Miners' Welfare during this period, damaging the bowling green.

- 4.6 It is clear from the cash book found in the building that by 1960 the bar formed the principal source of income for the Miners' Welfare, although it continued to be the focus of a number of local social and sports clubs. Several additions were made to the 1926 building, principally the single storey extension to the north elevation and the domestic dwelling to the east elevation, now known as "Welbeck House". The latter almost certainly formed the "Steward's Quarters" or "living quarters" referred to in the 1960s cash book, while the extension to the north elevation was done to provide a stage and adjacent band/dressing rooms. Both of these principal alterations most probably date to the post-war period, perhaps the 1950s or early 1960s, and were done in keeping with the appearance of the original 1926 building; indeed, both appear to re-use original windows which were taken out of the parts of the 1926 building that they obscure.
- 4.7 It may be that these alterations marked a decline in the importance of the first floor auditorium space, and a corresponding increase in the use of the ground floor, which was remodelled as a bar with dance floor and a stage for live acts, and with a separate bar and the "Tudor Room" at the south end. The provision of these new facilities also required the circulation through the building to be altered, with the provision of a ticket booth within the side entrance hall at the ground floor's north-east corner for those attending dances or live acts in the main ground floor area. It is likely that additional toilet facilities were also created within the building during the same period. Such changes are typical of how such buildings are forced to adapt over time in response to changing economic circumstances and prevailing fashions in entertainment, for example. However, continued adaptation is not always possible, and the Miners' Welfare appears to have entered a period of decline from the late 1980s onwards, and had been disused for a period of at least ten years at the time of the survey.

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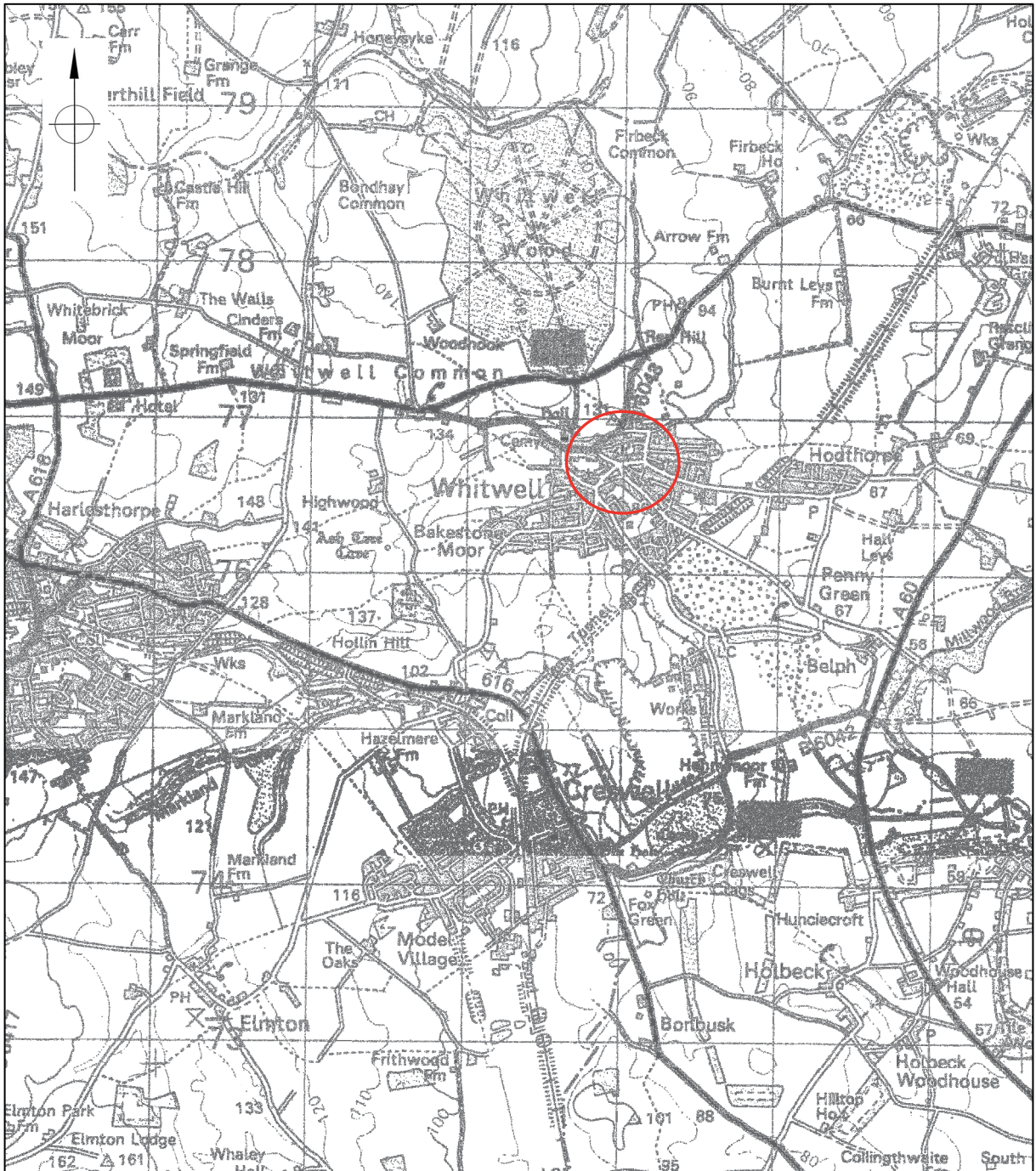
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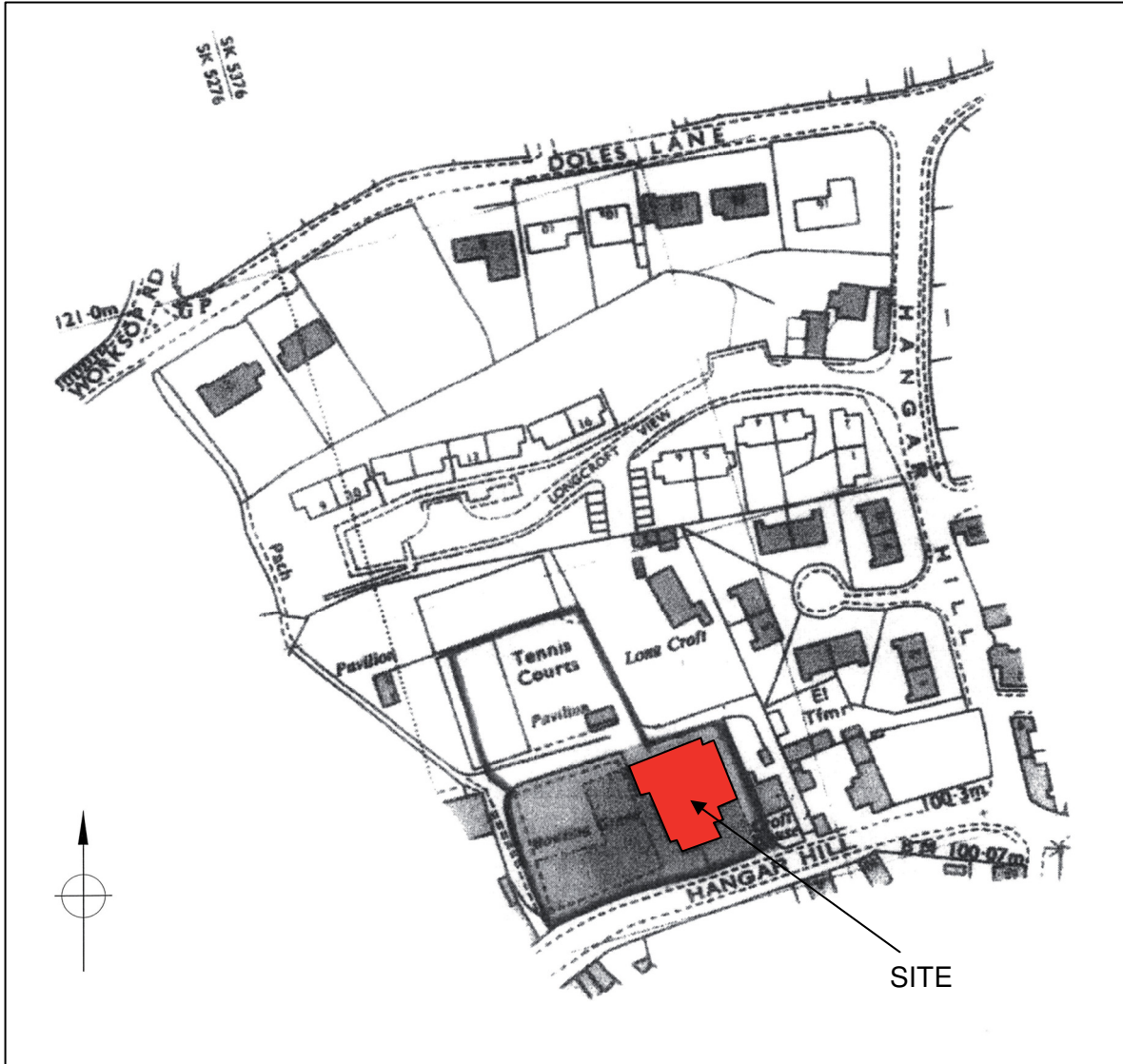
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- 6.3 The copyright of this report and site archive has now passed to Townsend Planning Consultants and their client, although EDAS and the individuals concerned retain the right to be accredited as originators and authors, as appropriate. The project archive has been deposited with the Derbyshire Record Office.



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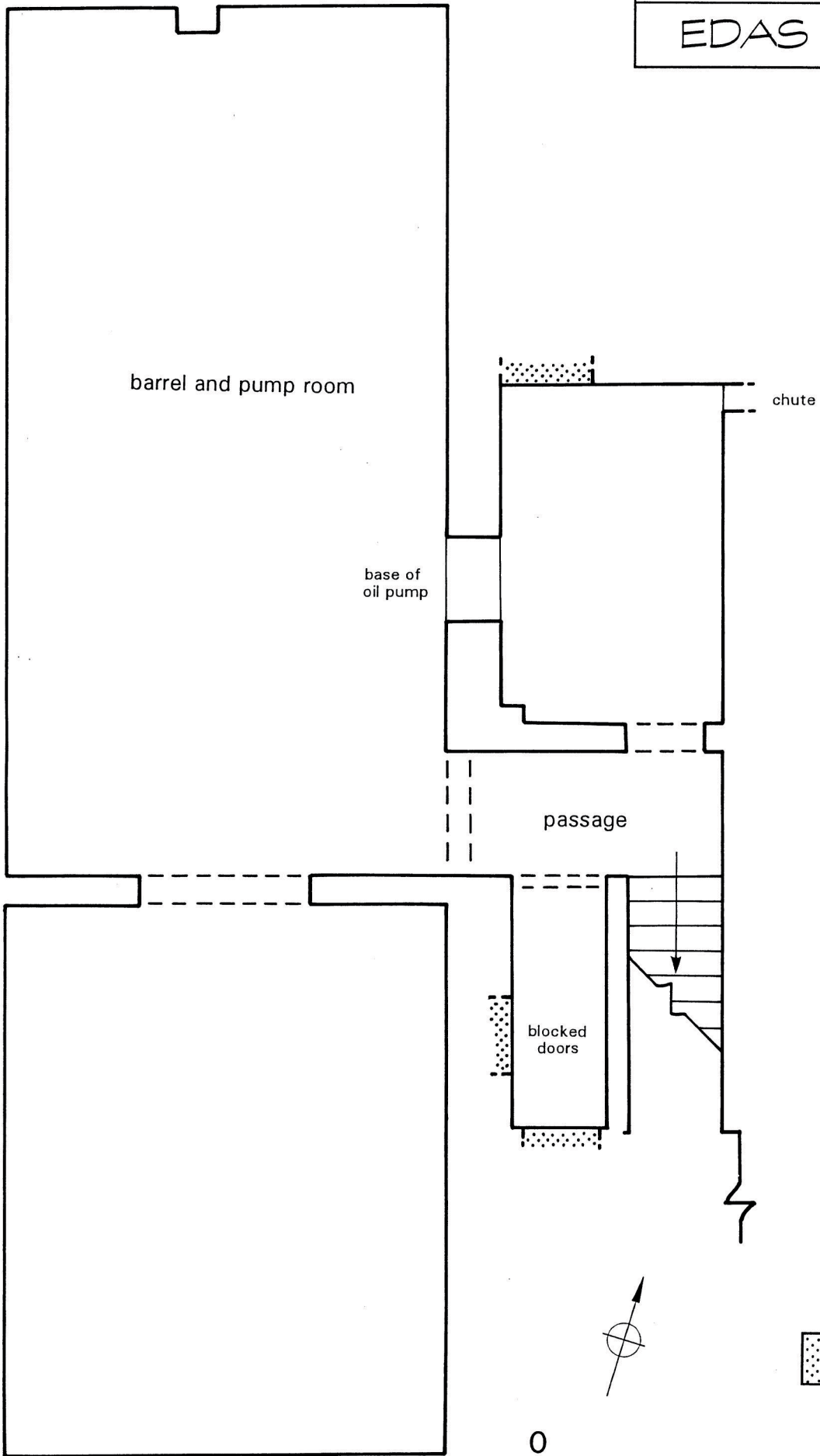
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EDAS		FIGURE	1



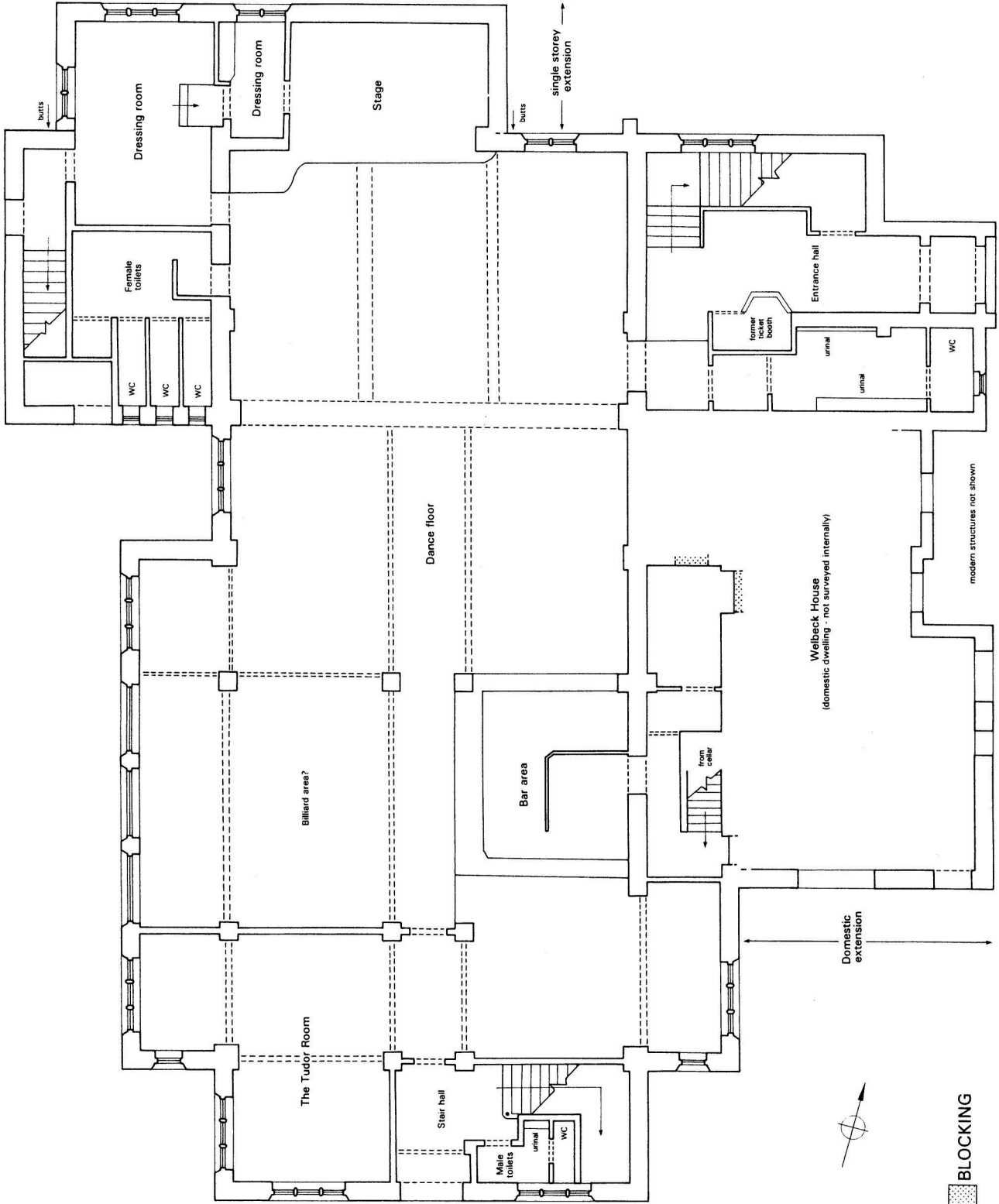
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TITLE			
LOCATION			
SCALE	NTS	DATE	JAN 2009
EDAS		FIGURE	2

PROJECT		MINERS' WELFARE, WHITWELL	
TITLE		CELLAR PLAN	
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	JUNE 2009
	EDAS	FIGURE	3



PROJECT	MINERS' WELFARE, WHITWELL		
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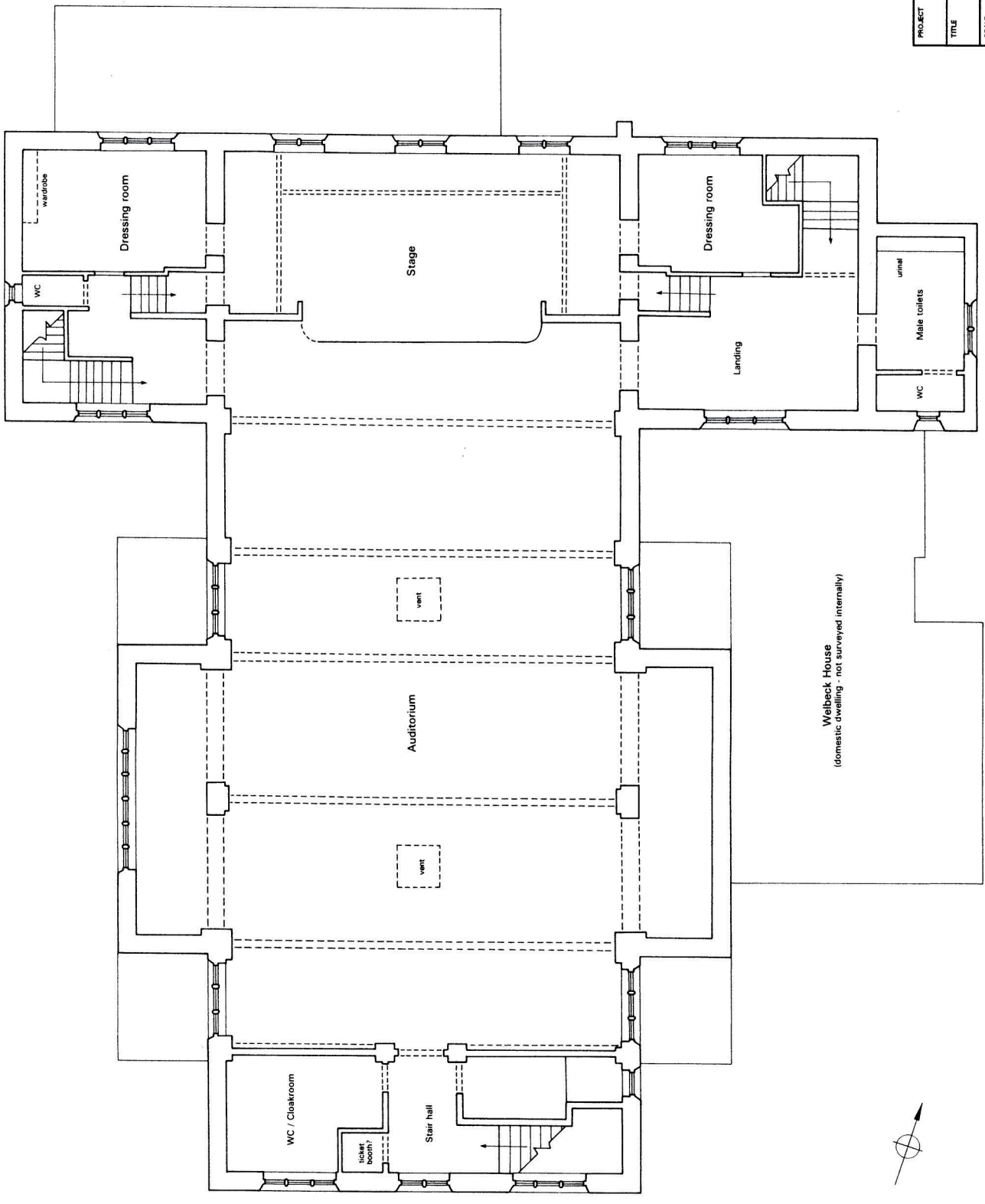


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PROJECT	MINERS' WELFARE, WHITWELL		
TITLE	FIRST FLOOR PLAN		
SCALE	AS SHOWN	DATE	JUNE 2009
	EDAS	FIGURE	5



Plan based on drawings
supplied by Mark Brotherton Ltd



Plate 1: Miners' Welfare, from Hangar Hill, looking NE (photo 5/2).



Plate 2: East side entrance, east elevation, looking NW (photo 5/13).



Plate 3: West elevation, viewed from bowling green, looking NE (photo 6/66).



Plate 4: Main ground floor dance area looking towards stage, looking N (photo 6/12).



Plate 5: Ground floor arcade, west of bar area, looking W (photo 6/9).



Plate 6: First floor auditorium and stage, looking N (photo 6/31).



Plate 7: Detail of plaster moulding to ceiling vent over first floor auditorium (photo 6/37).



Plate 8: Detail of moulding around proscenium arch of first floor stage, looking N (photo 6/35).