

Standing Building Survey
Whitehill Steading by Dalkeith,
Midlothian



Brick marked 'Whitehill' on window sill of Building A of steading



28th November 2012

Introduction

The planning consent for this development (Midlothian Council Planning Application 12/00475/DPP dated 17th October 2012) included an archaeological condition specifying the need for a 'Basic' level standing building record of the steading prior to its conversion into a dwelling. This standing building survey was carried out by the author on Thursday 15th November 2012 (Site Code WHT01), weather conditions were overcast, damp and occasionally sunny. Its OASIS number is derekhal1-137119.

Historical Background (Illus 1 to 4)

The steading at Whitehill is a good surviving example of a 19th century rural building in Midlothian. Limited cartographic analysis indicates that there is nothing shown on the site on General Roy's Military Survey of 1747-55 and that in its current form it is first visible on the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1892 (Illus 4). A building complex is shown on the site on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1854 but the Northernmost building runs at a more diagonal angle (Illus 3). The census entry for Whitehill Farmhouse in 1861 records Joseph Forsyth, his wife Jean and their son Robert along with four other occupants with different surnames (www.ancestry.co.uk). It is not clear if anyone ever lived in any of the steading buildings, on the face of it they appear to have had functions directly related to agriculture.

Description of building (note that letters in brackets refer to rooms as marked on Illustration 5)

Location (Illus 6 and 7)

The steading stands on the North side of a minor road heading East off the A6106 towards Edgehead. The group of buildings is laid out around a central courtyard with access onto the road and has excellent views across Dalkeith to the South West.

Steading Complex

South Western elevation (Illus 8 and 9)

The south western elevation comprises the gable end of Building A which has a single door 2.4m wide by 2.50m high which now contains a wooden door. The sliding mechanism still visible in this wall face indicated the former existence of a sliding door. This gable has a chimney at its apex. To the East of this gable is an entrance into the internal courtyard that is 3.30m wide with a corrugated iron gate. The boundary wall to the end of this elevation is blank but has a roof raggle visible at its Eastern end. The gable end of Building A is built of mortar bonded shaped red, yellow and occasionally grey sandstone blocks. The boundary wall is of a similar build but is capped with a single course of flat stone slabs.

North Western Elevation (Illus 10)

This comprises the side wall of Building A and contains four doorways one of which is blocked up with mortared bricks. The other three doorways have wooden doors, one of which is still on a sliding mechanism, another one of these doors has a sliding mechanism still surviving but not in use. The roof of this elevation is constructed of slates and has five small skylights and two metal

ventilators in its ridge line. This wall is built of mortar bonded red, yellow and occasionally grey sandstone blocks.

North Eastern elevation(Illus 11, 12, 14 to 18)

This comprises the North Western end wall of Building A which contains a single small doorway with a wooden door, there is a small blocked hole in the wall on the North side of this doorway. This end wall has a chimney halfway along its length and a pitched slate roof. The end wall of Building A is butted against the North western gable wall of Building B which is two storeys high and contains two windows at its Northern end. The lower of these is blocked with mortared bricks, the upper one has wooden shutters. There are two doorways at ground level the first of which has a split wooden door, the second has a wooden door with two small ventilation holes at its top. A small square hole is visible in this wall to the South of the second doorway which allows access to a piece of farm machinery inside the building (see below). The roof of most of this elevation is made of slate and is collapsing, it contains three skylights. The roof section at its Southern end has gone. A timber built shed/garage with a corrugated iron roof is built against the end of this elevation.

South Eastern Elevation(Illus 13)

The South Eastern end wall has a blank face and is built of shaped red, yellow and occasionally grey sandstone blocks. It is capped with a single course of flat stone slabs.

Building A

South Eastern elevation(Illus 19)

This elevation faces into the internal courtyard (D) and contains one window at its Western end and three doorways. The lower halves of two of these doorways are blocked with mortared sandstone blocks, the upper halves with wooden boards, both have the remains of sliding mechanisms above their lintels. The third doorway has a still operational sliding door.

Interior(Illus 20-22)

The main part of this building which is accessible from the courtyard is subdivided into three rooms, one to the South West is accessible through a large doorway with a wooden lintel the room to the North East is accessible through two doorways. All three of these rooms have whitewashed walls and now have laid concrete floors. The North Eastern end of Building A is subdivided into two smaller rooms (A1 and A2) which are only accessible from outside the steading complex.

Room A1 (Illus 23)

This room measures 3.3m by 3.2m and is accessed through a single doorway on its Northern side. The Southern wall of this room looks like a later insertion as it partially covers the remains of a chimney breast which is visible in its North Eastern wall (coloured purple on Illus 3). This room has a concrete floor.

Room A2(Illus 24 and 25)

This room measures 2.05m by 3.2m and is accessed through a single narrow doorway on its Eastern side. Its Northern wall is a later insertion (It is the Southern wall of A1). There is a blocked doorway in its South Eastern wall which would have originally provided access to Building B. There is a small blocked square hole in its North Eastern wall of uncertain function. The floor of this room is made up of red bricks.

Building B

South Western elevation(Illus 26, 27)

This elevation faces into the internal courtyard (D) and contains two doorways and one window. A line of rectangular holes are visible just below the roof line which may have been to support a structure tacked on to this wall face? The line of stone paving that runs along the face of this elevation seems to match the position of the holes suggesting that there may have been a covered walkway? The wall is built of red, yellow and occasionally grey shaped sandstone blocks. There are quoin stones around the doorways and window.

Interior

First Ground Floor room (Illus 28-30)

This building which is accessible from both the outside of the steading complex and the internal courtyard is subdivided into two rooms on its ground floor. The first of these rooms has a concrete floor and a wooden staircase that leads up to first floor level. The Northern wall of this room contains a blocked doorway that originally lead into Room A2 (see above). The Southern wall contains a doorway that leads into the second ground floor room (E on plan). In the South East corner of the first room there is a piece of farm machinery mounted on a brick plinth. This piece of machinery has 'BAMFORDS, UTTOXETER, ENGLAND 2583' marked on it in raised lettering.

Second Ground Floor room (Illus 31, 32)

This room is now roofless and has a concrete floor which has a patch marked 'A Lothian T Findlay 1961'. The room has a doorway that leads outside the steading complex and another one that provides access to the internal courtyard. There is a door/window in its Northern wall that provides access into the first floor of Building B.

First Floor (Illus 33, 34)

There are two rooms at first floor level both of which have very unsteady wooden floors. The South Western internal wall face of the room accessible from the staircase has several pieces of graffiti carved in it. The wooden roof rafters of the pitched slate roof provide the ceilings for both the upstairs rooms.

Building C (Illus 35, 36, 37)

This building has been largely demolished but once formed the South Eastern side to the internal courtyard. Its North Western wall still stands two courses high to a height of 0.56m. At its North

Eastern end this wall was keyed into the wall of Building B and at its South Western end the Steading boundary wall. Roof raggles are visible in the stonework at both ends of the North Western wall indicating that the building once stood 2.10m high. The remains of two doorways/entrances into this building are still visible the Northern one being 2.30m wide the Southern one 2.6m wide.

Internal Courtyard (Illus 37)

Buildings A, B and C surround an enclosed internal grassed courtyard which has an entrance gate that leads out onto the passing road.

Discussion

From limited research by the author the piece of farm machinery inside Building B is a Bamford Rapid Grinding Rolling Mill which was manufactured by the company from 1887 until the 1970's (pers comm. Phillip Wood <http://henrybamfordandsonsutttoxeterengland.co.uk/>). The small square hole in the North Eastern wall of Building B is directly adjacent to one end of this piece of machinery and may suggest that it was driven from the outside? The former functions of rooms A1 and A2 at the North East end of Building A are harder to understand.

Phasing of buildings (Illus 5)

As regards the sequence of construction of the steading complex it would appear that Buildings B and C were built first (Phase 1) and Building A (Phase 2) was then built against the North Western end of B. An internal wall is then built to subdivide the room at the North Eastern end of Building A creating rooms A1 and A2 (Phase 3). Finally the wooden shed with the corrugated iron roof (Phase 4) is built against the South Eastern end of Building B. The line of the roof raggles visible in the South Western and North Eastern elevations of the steading boundary wall (illus 8 and 37) and the red sandstone visible at its base may suggest that this wall was rebuilt at some stage possibly around the same time that Building A was constructed?

Cartographic Sources (<http://www.nls.uk/maps>)

1st Edition Ordnance Survey map Edinburghshire Sheet 7 surveyed 1852-53 published 1854

Other Sources

1861 Census <http://ancestry.co.uk>

Farm machinery <http://henrybamfordandsonsutttoxeterengland.co.uk/>

Illustration List

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Illustration 3 Whitehill Steading as marked on 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1854 (red arrow) (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)

Illustration 4 Whitehill Steading as marked on 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1892 (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)

Illustration 5 Building as recorded by survey, light blue indicates location of in situ farm machinery, red indicates blocked doorway and inserted internal wall, yellow indicates holes in wall, purple indicates chimney at East end of Building A. Green indicates suggested Phase 1 buildings, blue grey Phase 2 building, A1 and A2 indicates Phase 3 subdivision of room at North Western end of Building A Scale 1:200 (based on supplied architects plan)

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Illustration 37 South Western boundary wall to steading complex with roof raggle of South end of demolished building C (Phase 1) visible beside scale

Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Midlothian
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Whitehill Steading
PROJECT CODE:	WHT01
PARISH:	Dalkeith
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	Derek Hall
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Derek Hall, archaeologist and ceramic specialist
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Standing Building Record
NMRS NO(S):	N/A
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	None
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NT 356 663
START DATE	15th November 2012
END DATE	15th November 2012
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A photographic survey was carried out of the 19 th century rural steading complex at Whitehill by Dalkeith. Blocked windows, doorways and evidence for different phases of the buildings construction were recorded on supplied architects elevation drawings.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mr Colin Robertson
CAPTIONS FOR ILLUSTRS	N/A
ADDRESS OF MAIN CONTRIBUTOR:	34 Glenfarg Terrace, Perth, PH2 0AP
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended)	NMRS
EMAIL ADDRESS:	Derek.hall1@blueyonder.co.uk

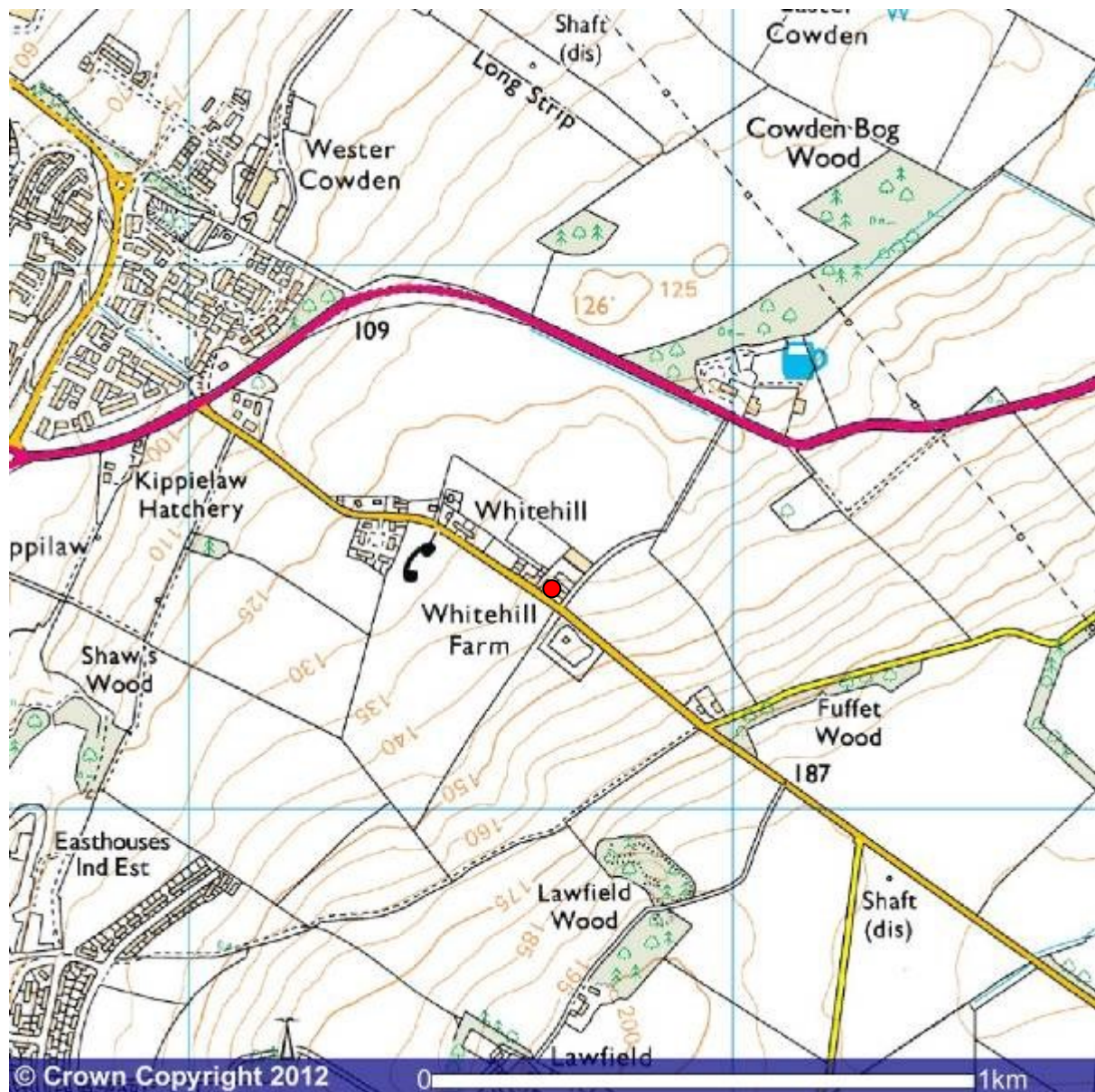


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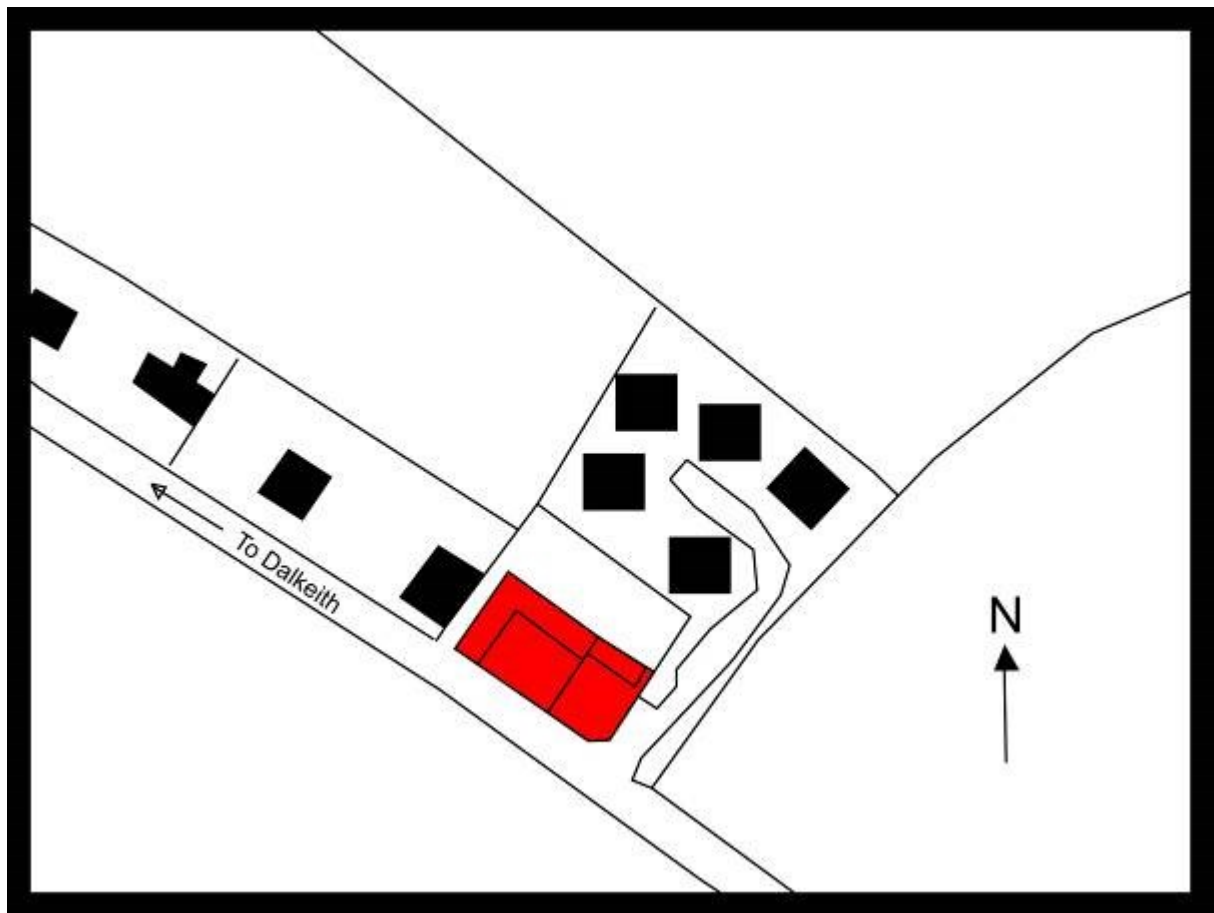


Illustration 2 Location of area surveyed at Whitehill Steading Scale 1:2000

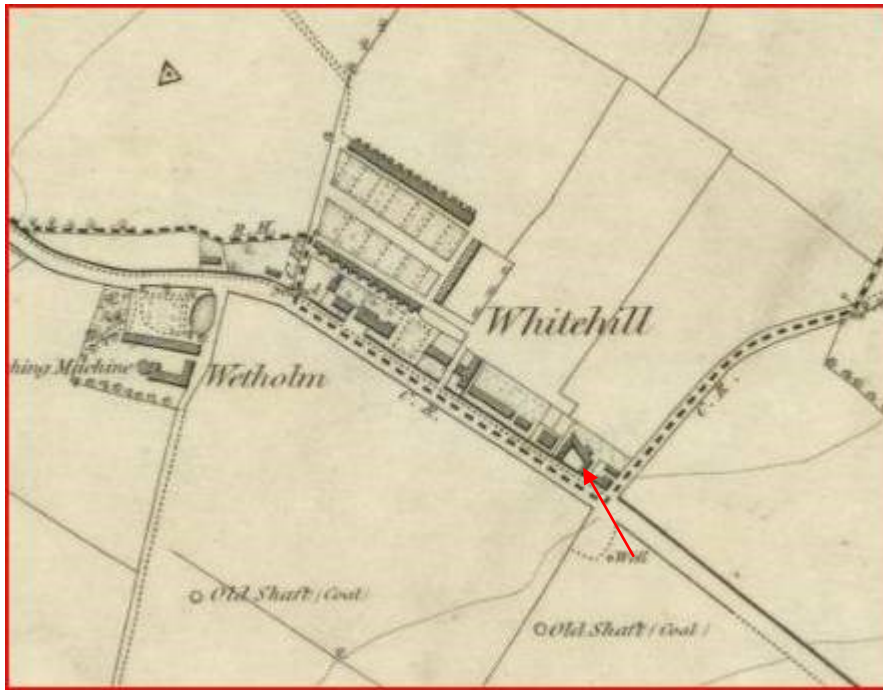


Illustration 3 Whitehill Steading as marked on 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1854 (red arrow)
 (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)



Illustration 4 Whitehill Steading as marked on 2nd edition Ordnance Survey map of 1892 (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)

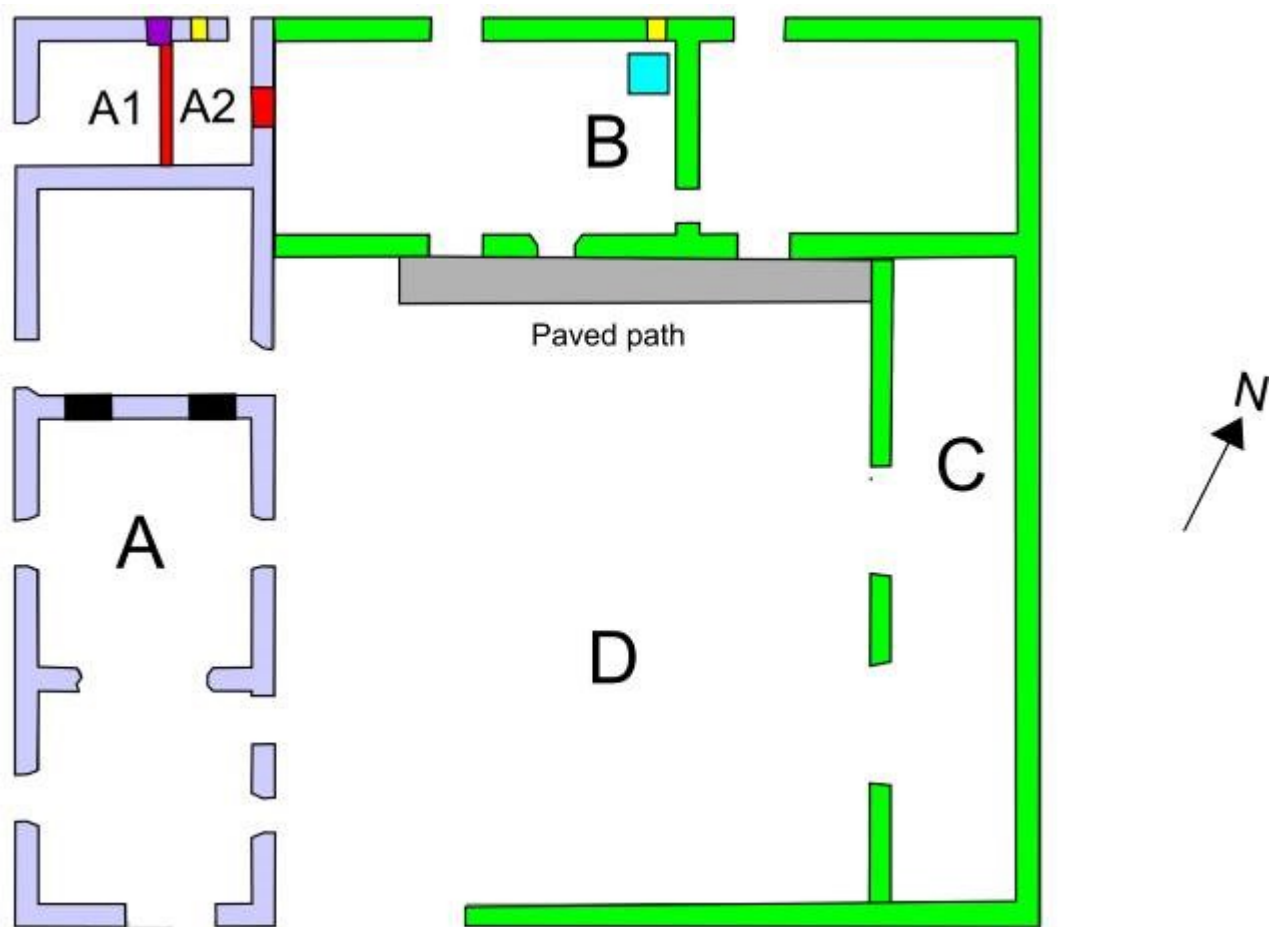


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Illustration 21 Interior of Building A (Phase 2) looking North West



Illustration 22 Interior of Building A (Phase 2) at North Western end



Illustration 23 Internal view of Room A1 (Phase 3)



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Illustration 37 South Western boundary wall to steading complex with roof raggle of South end of demolished building C (Phase 1) visible beside scale