

Standing Building Survey

Former United Free Church, Wolfhill, Perth and Kinross



North wall and pinnacled bellcote of former United Free Church looking South from road



26th June 2015

Introduction

The planning consent for this development, Perth and Kinross Council Planning Application 15/00319/FLL dated 7th May 2015, included a planning condition that required an archaeological building survey of the standing remains of the former Wolfhill United Free Church. This standing building survey was carried out by the author on Friday 19th June (Site Code WOL01); weather conditions were bright and slightly overcast.

Location (Illus 1 and 4)

The ruins of the former Wolfhill United Free Church lie due East of Wolfhill House (its former Manse), in garden ground and have been reused as a walled garden area since it ceased in use as a church and its roof was removed.

Historical Background (Illus 2 and Appendix)

The United Free Church at Wolfhill (normally referred to as Cargill Free Church) was built in 1845 and its accompanying manse in 1852. From a congregation of 360 in 1848 the building of a church at Burrelton, and the depletion of the population, tended to reduce the membership. By 1901 the congregation was listed being 201 (Ewing 1914). After the local union with Wolfhill this church ceased to be used in 1948 and was sold (Lamb 1961).

Building Survey (Illustration 3)

The former church building comprises four separate elements which were labelled A to D and recorded in turn.

Building A (Main church building)

This structure is built of mortar bonded cut red sandstone blocks and has quoins at each of its external corners. It is now roofless.

Northern Elevation (External) (Illustrations 5 to 9)

This elevation has a central gabled pediment that is capped with a pinnacle bellcote. The pediment contains a single Tudor arched window 2.4m above ground level which has four vertical arched lights below a central rounded light with diamond shaped lights on either side. The gable wall head has overlapping coping stones. The wall faces on either side of the pediment are blank and are also capped with coping stones.

Eastern Elevation (External) (Illustrations 10 and 11)

This elevation contains 3 rectangular windows, 2 of these are on the North side of Building D the third one on the South side. The wall head is capped with coping stones.

Southern Elevation (External) (Illustrations 12 and 13)

This elevation has a blank face, a central gable in the same position as that on the North elevation and has Building B built against it. The wall head is capped with coping stones. A blocked relieving arch is visible on the western side of the west elevation of Building B.

Western Elevation (External) (Illustrations 14 and 15)

This elevation contains 3 rectangular windows, 2 of these are on the north side of Building C and the third is on its south side. The wall head is capped with coping stones.

Building A Internal elevations

The interior of Building A is grassed over and contains small trees and shrubs; there is a raised garden area in its South Eastern corner.

Northern Elevation (Internal) (Illustration 16)

This elevation contains the inside face of the Tudor arched window, which has wooden uprights for three of its lights. The inside face of the wall projects out into the interior of the building for 0.70m along its entire length. At a height of 1.70m from internal ground level there is a recessed slot running along the wall face which contains the remains of wooden planks. This stops at the position of the window but then starts up again on its western side.

Eastern Elevation (Internal) (Illustration 17)

This elevation contains the inside faces of three windows and a doorway in from Building D. The doorway has a wooden frame and still contains a half wooden door with wire mesh infill. A recessed slot at 0.13m above ground level indicates the former location of the floor level inside this building. At 1.30m above ground level a recessed slot similar to that in the northern elevation is visible but it contains no wooden planks. At 1.3m south of the north eastern corner there is a small recess in the face of the wall measuring 0.28m by 0.30m.

Southern Elevation (Internal) (Illustrations 18 and 19)

This elevation contains a doorway in from Building D and the other side of the relieving arch which measures 1.88m by 0.68m and is blocked with stones and bricks. A recessed slot at 0.26m above ground level indicates the former level of the floor. At 1.40m above ground level there is a recessed slot which contains timber planking.

Western Elevation (Internal) (Illustration 20)

This elevation contains the inside faces of three windows and a small recess similar to that in the Eastern elevation. A recessed slot at current ground level indicates the former internal floor level. A recessed slot at 1.10m above current ground level is also visible but contains no timber.

Building B

This structure is built against the Southern side of Building A and will be demolished in order to build the new house. It has an internal concrete floor and there is concrete harling on parts of the faces of its internal Southern, Western and Northern walls. It is now roofless.

Southern Elevation (External) (Illustration 21)

This elevation is blank and is a gable end.

Eastern Elevation (External) (Illustration 22)

This elevation has two windows.

Western Elevation (External) (Illustration 23)

This elevation contains a doorway that is 1.97m high and 0.91m wide.

Internal Elevations

Northern Elevation (Illustration 24)

This is part of the Southern external wall of Building A and contains a fireplace and a cupboard on its western side. There is also a doorway into Building A which is 0.92m wide and 2.07m high. The doorway contains the remains of a wooden doorframe and there is a wooden lintel. A roof raggle is visible in the wall face. There are three frogged bricks sitting on the fireplace mantel, one is marked 'Blairadam' and the other two 'Wellwood' (both were Fife brickworks).

Eastern Elevation (Illustration 25)

This contains the internal faces of two windows.

Western Elevation (Illustration 26)

This contains a doorway.

Southern Elevation (Illustration 27)

This contains a fireplace and a cupboard to the east.

Building C (Illustration 28)

This is built against the Western side of Building A and is a former porched doorway into that building. It has a doorway in its external southern elevation 1.42m high and 2.28m wide and a blocked doorway in its eastern internal elevation. All the other elevations are blank and it seems to have had a flat roof.

Building D (Illustration 29)

This is built against the Eastern side of Building A and is a former porched doorway into the building from that side. It has a doorway in its external southern elevation 1.42m high and 2.28m wide and another in its internal western elevation. All the other elevations are blank and it seems to have had a flat roof.

General Comments

The recessed grooves running along the internal walls of Building A were provided as supports for internal wooden panelling. Building B presumably acted originally as the church vestry, Buildings C and D are porched doorways allowing the congregation to enter from both Eastern and western sides.

Recommendations

The author feels that the photographic survey and written notes on the building are an adequate record of the church building prior to its redevelopment and that there is no requirement for any further work. However the final decision on that rests with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.

References

Ewing, Reverend W (ed) 1914 **Annals of the Free Church of Scotland** (Volume2)

Lamb, J A (ed) 1956 **Fasti of the United Free Church of Scotland** 1900-1929

Appendix

Ministers of Cargill United Free Church up to 1926 (Lamb 1956).

Michael Stirling 1843-1865

J.B.Irvine 1854-1856

Alexander Yule 1857-1867

George C Baxter 1869-1908

A.A.Strathearn 1909-1915

Angus Peter Fletcher 1915-1926

William Thomas Weir 1926-

Illustration List

Illustration 1 Location of former United Free Church at Wolfhill (red dot) (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2015. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)

Illustration 2 United Free Church and Manse as shown on Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1899 (Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)

Illustration 3 Ground plan of former United Free Church showing buildings as labelled for survey (based on Architects drawing)

Illustration 4 Former United Free church is behind tree and hedge on left, former manse visible in background

Illustration 5 Northern elevation of Building A looking East

Illustration 6 Central window in external Northern elevation of Building A looking South

Illustration 7 Pinnacled bellcote on Northern elevation of Building A looking North

Illustration 8 Northern elevation of Building A looking West

Illustration 9 Detail view of coping stones on wall head of Northern elevation of Building A at its North Western corner and on gable wall head looking East.

Illustration 10 Northern end of Eastern elevation of Building A looking South West

Illustration 11 Southern end of Eastern elevation of Building A, Building D to right of scale

Illustration 12 Southern elevation of Building A looking North

Illustration 13 Western end of Southern elevation of Building A looking North East

Illustration 14 Western elevation of Building A looking North East (Scale is leaning against Building C)

Illustration 15 Northern end of Western elevation of Building A looking South East

Illustration 16 Internal Northern elevation of Building A looking North (recessed panelling groove is visible behind scale)

Illustration 17 Internal Eastern elevation of Building A looking East

Illustration 18 Internal Southern elevation of Building A looking South

Illustration 19 Relieving arch in internal Southern elevation of Building A, panelling recess is visible (red arrow)

Illustration 20 Internal Western elevation of Building A (recessed groove for panelling support visible at red arrow)

Illustration 21 External Southern elevation of Building B looking North

Illustration 22 Eastern External elevation of Building B looking North (red arrows indicate position of windows)

Illustration 23 External Western elevation of Building B looking East

Illustration 24 Internal Northern elevation of Building B (Bricks on fireplace mantle visible at red arrow)

Illustration 25 Internal Eastern elevation of Building B looking West

Illustration 26 Internal Western elevation of Building B looking West

Illustration 27 Internal Southern elevation of Building B looking South

Illustration 28 Southern elevation of Building C looking North

Illustration 29 Southern elevation of Building D looking North

Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Former United Free Church, Wolfhill
PROJECT CODE:	WOL01
PARISH:	Cargill
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):	Former church
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 1516 3337
START DATE	19 th July 2015
END DATE	19 th July 2015
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	A rapid photographic and written survey was undertaken prior to the sites redevelopment for a house.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	None
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mrs A Holtie
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

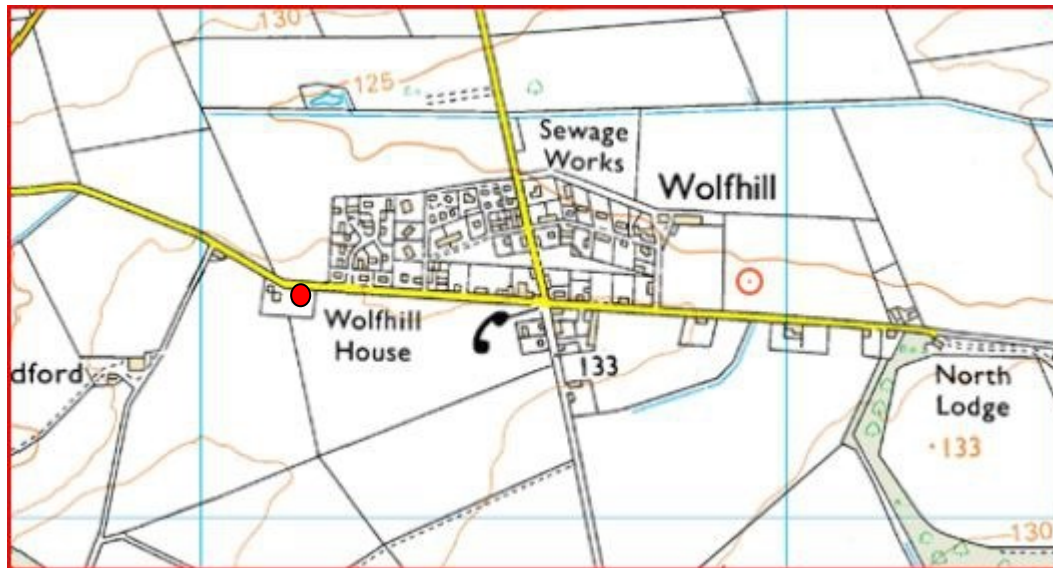


Illustration 1 Location of former United Free Church at Wolfhill (red dot) (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2015. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)

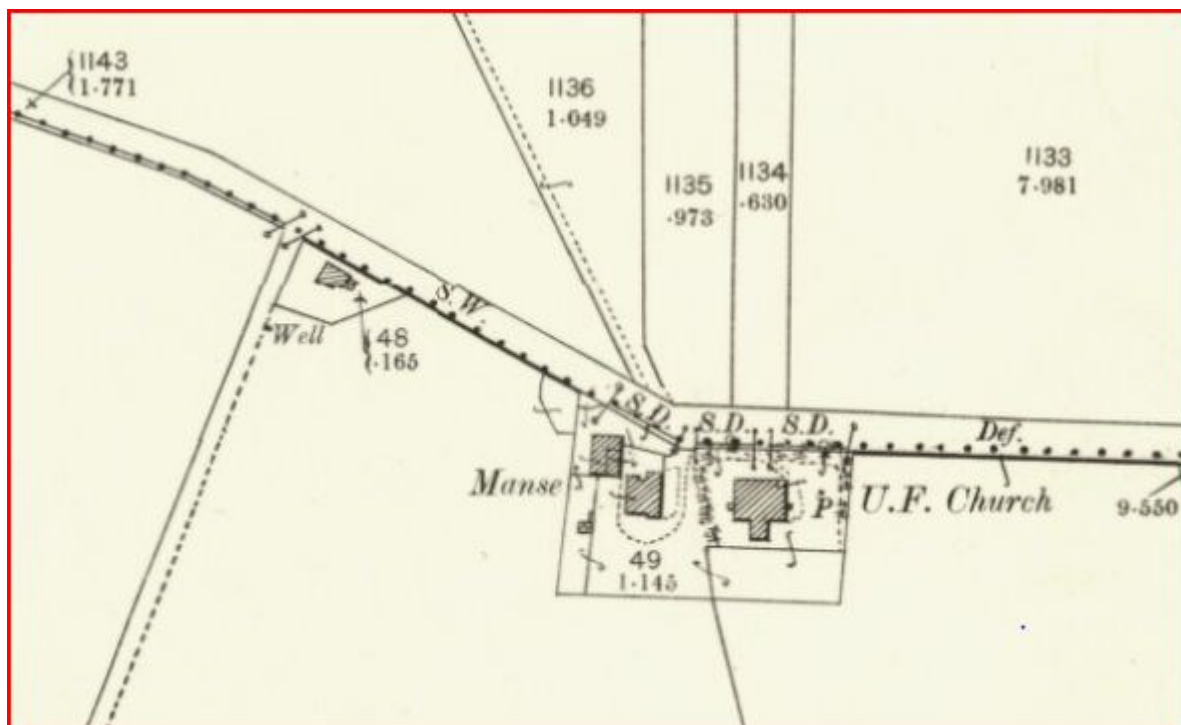


Illustration 2 United Free Church and Manse as shown on Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1899 (Trustees of the National Library of Scotland)

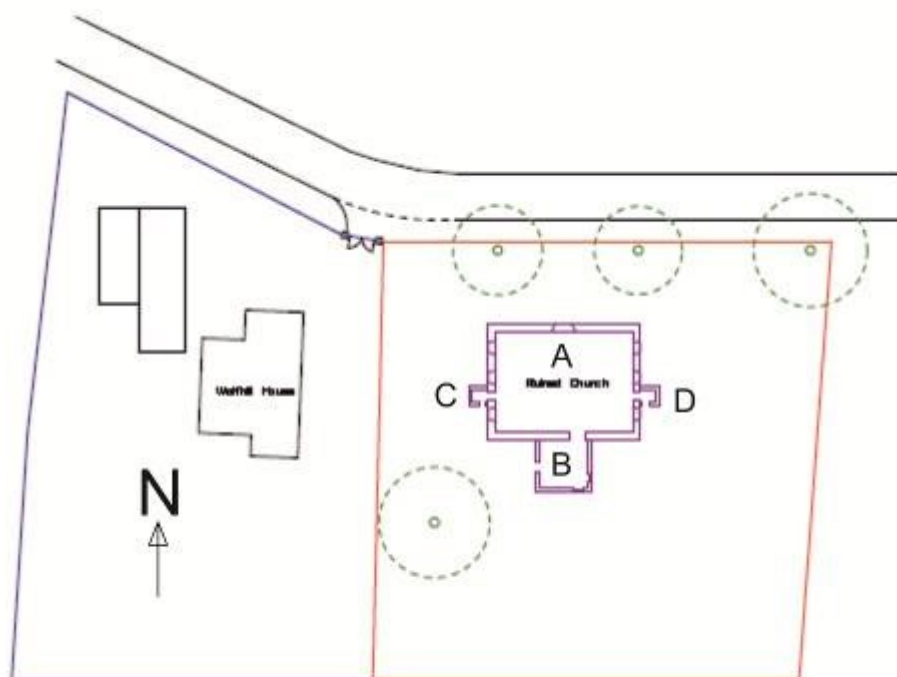


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Illustration 12 Southern elevation of Building A looking North



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Illustration 14 Western elevation of Building A looking North East (Scale is leaning against Building C)



Illustration 15 Northern end of Western elevation of Building A looking South East



Illustration 16 Internal Northern elevation of Building A looking North (recessed panelling groove is visible behind scale)



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Illustration 18 Internal Southern elevation of Building A looking South



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Illustration 24 Internal Northern elevation of Building B (Bricks on fireplace mantle visible at red arrow)



Illustration 25 Internal Eastern elevation of Building B looking West



Illustration 26 Internal Western elevation of Building B looking West



Illustration 27 Internal Southern elevation of Building B looking South



Illustration 28 Southern elevation of Building C looking North



Illustration 29 Southern elevation of Building D looking North