

Standing Building Survey
Kirk O' The Muir manse,
Kinclaven, Perth and Kinross



Kirk O' The Muir manse looking North East (Building B visible to left and Kirk O' The Muir church visible to rear)



8th April 2019

Introduction

The planning consent for this development (Perth and Kinross Council Planning Applications 19/00105/FLL and 19/00172/LBC) included an archaeological condition specifying the need for a standing building record of buildings at Kirk O' The Muir manse using ALGAO Scotland's Historic Building Recording Guidance (2013). This standing building survey was carried out by the author on Monday 1st April 2019 (Site Code KOM01), weather conditions were slightly overcast.

Location (Illus 1)

Kirk O' The Muir manse lies to the South of the road from Murthly to Kinclaven and on the northern side of Taymount Wood. The three buildings (Manse A, byre B and garden shed C) are enclosed by a drystone wall and are approached by a farm track from the North.

Historical Background (Illus 2 and 3)

The United Secession church at Kirk O' The Muir was built in 1744, the associated C-listed manse, which lies to the South West, is first specifically mentioned in the Kinclaven Kirk O' The Muir Parish Records of 1805 when Session Business records that 'In the Manse 4th March 1805 The Session met for religious exercises' (Haynes 2000, 145; Kinclaven Kirk O' the Muir Parish Records <https://www.oldscottish.com/kinclaven.html>). The Manse building is first mapped on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1863 and described in the Ordnance Survey Name Book as 'a fine dwelling, with offices, a garden and a very small glebe attached' (Haynes 2000, 145; OS Name Books 1859-1862 Perthshire Volume 40).

The presence of a building on the site in the 1860's would suggest that the date stone of 1870 on the North Eastern end of the manse marks the date of some alterations or additions to the structure rather than its original construction. On careful examination the building shown on the 1863 OS map can be seen to have a slightly different footprint to the existing structure (A in the survey) and there is no garden wall running between it and the adjacent building (B in the survey). By the Second Edition OS map of 1901 the bay window on the Southern side of the building, the boiler house and stores on its Northern side and the garden wall between buildings A and B have been built. The United Free Church (of which the original Seceders had become a part) reunited with the Church of Scotland in 1929 and on the retiral of the respective ministers of Kinclaven and Kirk O' The Muir in 1938 the two congregations came together under a new minister and were housed at Kinclaven church. The manse building thus has a last recorded occupation of 1938 and was certainly empty by the time of the RCAHMS C list survey of 1975 (Illus 4) (<https://canmore.org.uk/collection/1654418>).

Description of building (Illustrations 4 and 5)

The group of buildings at Kirk O'The Muir have been labelled individually for this survey (as indicated on illus 4). Individual rooms inside the manse have been numbered as indicated on illustration 5.

Building A (Manse)

This building is laid out on a North West to South East alignment and has a slate roof with chimneys at each gable end. It has a single storey boiler house and stores built against its northern elevation.

External Description

Southern Elevation (Illustrations 6 and 7)

This is built of mortar bonded rough stone with cut ashlar at the corners, it is defined by a thin 'string' course that runs down the edges and along the roof line. It was originally plastered white and traces of this remain on the wall face. There is a central doorway with a pediment that contains a red painted wooden door. At the western end of this elevation there are glazed paired sash windows separated by a thin bar of stone. These have a pediment and sill that is supported by carved stones. At the eastern end there are bay fronted glazed sash windows with a parapet that is covered with protective sheeting. At first floor level there is a single glazed sash window at the western end, paired narrow windows above the door and paired sash windows separated by a thin bar of stone above the bay window with a small wooden framed pointed gable that contains a date stone marked '1870'. The surviving gutter and down pipe are painted red.

Western Elevation (Illustration 8)

This is a gable end to the building with a chimney at its apex. It is built of mortar bonded stone with cut ashlar at its corners and is plastered white. The elevation is defined at each end by a thin 'string' course running down the edges of the building. There are pairs of glazed sash windows at each end of the elevation and wooden plank roof supports run down the roof line.

Northern Elevation (Illustrations 6 and 9)

This is built of mortar bonded rough stone with cut ashlar at the corners and is plastered white and is defined by a thin 'string' course running down the edges of the building. At first floor level there is a narrow glazed four pane sash window at its eastern end, a larger glass paned window in the middle and a glazed eight pane sash window at its western end. A boiler house and store projects out from this elevation, and there is a narrow glazed four pane window at ground level at its eastern end and an glazed eight pane sash window at its western end.

Boiler House and stores

This has a pitched slate roof.

Northern Elevation (Illustration 10)

This is built of mortar bonded rough stone with cut ashlar at the corners and is defined by thin narrow 'string' courses running down the edges of the building. It has a central gable with a small chimney at its apex above double windows that are blocked with red painted wooden boards. The wooden planks defining the gable and the gutter and down pipe are painted red.

Western Elevation (Illustration 11)

This wall face is plastered white and contains a single partially boarded up sash window. Its northern end is defined by a narrow 'string' course and the gutter is painted red.

Eastern Elevation (Illustration 12)

This wall face is plastered white and contains the back door to the property which is painted red and a partially blocked eight pane sash window. The gutter is painted red.

East Facing Elevation of Building A (Illustration 13)

This is a gable end to the building with a chimney at its apex. It is built of mortar bonded stone with cut ashlar at its corners and is plastered white. The elevation is defined at each end by a thin 'string' course running down the edges of the building. At its Southern end there is a pair of narrow glazed sash windows at first floor and ground level. Towards the Northern end of this elevation there is a four paneled sash window and a down pipe painted red.

Internal Descriptions

Boiler house and stores (Illustration 14)

This has a corridor with a stone slabbed floor running down its southern side. The corridor has a wooden lath ceiling and has plastered walls that are painted red on their lower half and white on their upper half. The northern side of the corridor contains three wooden doors that provide access into the boiler room and stores. These three rooms were not accessed as they are collapsed and dangerous. The manse building proper is accessed by a doorway at the Western end of the corridor in its Southern wall.

Manse (A)

Room 1 (Backroom) (Illustrations 15-17)

This has a wooden floor, a single doorway in its eastern wall and a fireplace in its Western wall. There is a shuttered wooden framed window in its North wall. It has wooden shelving on its Eastern wall. The room is painted white and its ceiling is not moulded.

Room 1 (a) (Store) (Illustration 18)

This is accessed through a doorway in the North wall of Room 1 and is at the western end of the boiler house and stores. It has a wooden floor and a single sash window in its Western wall. The walls are painted yellow brown, the ceiling white and there are traces of an ornate wallpaper border with scalloped decoration.

Lobby (2) (Illustration 19)

This has a wooden floor and contains the staircase to the first floor. There are doorways into the other rooms at this level and a small lobby for the main entrance into the building. It is painted white and has a plain moulding around the edge of the ceiling.

Room 3 (Kitchen) (Illustration 20)

This has a single doorway in its Western wall and has a wooden floor. It contains an Aga stove and a sink. There are shuttered windows in its Northern and Eastern walls. Its walls are painted white and its ceiling is painted red. A plain moulding runs around the edge of the ceiling.

Room 4 (Eastern living room) (Illustrations 21 and 22)

This has a wooden floor and a fireplace in its Eastern wall. The bay window in its Southern wall is shuttered and there is a shuttered window and a cupboard in its Eastern wall. An ornate floral moulding runs around the ceiling and there has been a central ornate moulding which now lies broken on the floor. The moulding runs around the top of the bay window suggesting that it may be a contemporary date. The room is wall papered with a yellow brown coloured pattern and the ceiling is painted white. The section of ceiling above the bay window is collapsing and is currently held up by wooden timbers supported on bricks.

Small entrance lobby (Illustration 23)

This is accessed from the lobby by double wooden doors with glazed panels. It was inaccessible due to the collapsing ceiling.

Room 5 (Western living room) (Illustration 24 and 25)

This has a wooden floor and a fireplace with a plain tiled surround and a cupboard in its western wall. There are shuttered windows in its Southern and Western walls. There is an ornate floral moulding running around the ceiling. It is wall papered on wooden panels, where the panelling has gone on the south wall wooden lath supports are visible in the wall. The wall paper comprises a light brown floral pattern with a decorative band running below the moulding around the ceiling that is coloured light red and shows nautical scenes.

Staircase to First floor (Illustrations 26 and 27)

There are flights of wooden stairs to the first floor with cast iron decorated balustrades with wooden banisters. Half way up the stairs there is a large leaded glass window in the North wall which contains narrow panes of red, green and blue glass forming the surround to four plain panes.

First floor

Room 6 (Upstairs hall) (Illustrations 28 and 29)

This provides access to the five upstairs rooms in the building. It has a plain moulding running along the ceiling and is painted white. The access to room 9 has an ornate arch at moulding level.

Room 7 (Bathroom) (Illustration 30)

This has a single doorway in its Western wall and has a wooden floor. It contains a bath, a sink and a toilet. It is decorated with light brown wall paper on wooden lath supported panelling and has a plain moulding running around the ceiling.

Room 8 (Eastern bedroom) (Illustration 31 and 32)

This has a single doorway in its Western wall and a wooden floor. There is a fireplace in its Eastern wall and there are shuttered windows in its Southern and Eastern walls. An ornate floral moulding runs around the ceiling. It is decorated with light yellow brown wall paper and contains uplifted floor boards leaning against the walls.

Room 9 (store rooms) (not illustrated)

These two small rooms at the southern side of the first floor were not accessible due to collapsing floor boards.

Room 10 (Western bedroom) (Illustrations 33 and 34)

This has a single doorway in its Eastern wall and has a wooden floor. There are shuttered windows in its Southern and Western walls and a fireplace in its Western wall. It is decorated with light brown wall paper and has a plain moulding running around the ceiling.

Room 11 (Back bedroom) (Illustration 35)

This has a single doorway in its eastern wall and a wooden floor. It has a fireplace in its Western wall with a landscape painting standing on it and shuttered windows in its Northern and Western walls. It is decorated with light brown wall paper and has a plain moulding running around the ceiling.

Building B (Byre and stores)

This lies to the East of Building A and has a garden wall butted against its Western elevation. It has a collapsing pitched slate roof.

Western Elevation (Illustration 36)

This gable end is built of mortared rough stone with shaped ashlar quoins at its Northern corner. It contains a single doorway with a stone lintel and a small rectangular hole with a projecting stone ledge which sits just above the doorway (bird hole?).

Northern Elevation (Illustration 37)

This is built of mortared rough stone with shaped ashlar quoins at its corners. It contains three doorways providing access to the three rooms inside the building, two of these have no surviving doors the third has a collapsing wooden door.

Eastern Elevation (Illustration 38)

This gable end is built of mortared rough stone and is a blank wall face with shaped ashlar quoins at its corners.

Southern Elevation (Illustration 39)

This is built of mortared rough stone with cut ashlar quoins at its corners and contains one doorway and three windows, one of these is blocked with a metal sheet. There is a visible straight joint between the garden wall and Building B at the Western end of this elevation.

Building B interior (Illustration 40 and 41)

Building B is split into three rooms and has an earthen floor and a surviving central section of a wooden roof to support the slate roof. The room at its western end is now full of collapsed roofing and not accessible, the central room contains a small animal pen and is now used for storage the room at its eastern end is also full of collapsed roofing and not accessible.

Building C (Illustrations 42 to 44)

This small building is built of mortar bonded rough stones is now unroofed but has a pitched roof line which slopes to the North. It has a doorway in its Southern wall and hole at a low level in its Western wall.

Suggested Phasing of Buildings and general comments

Buildings A, B and C (manse, byre/store and shed) would all seem to be of contemporary construction although map regression suggests that Buildings A and B had slightly different ground plans in 1863. For example, the manse (A) has had the bay window on its Southern side added post 1863 and this maybe what the datestone of 1870 at its North Eastern end records. The extension to Building B on its Western side shown on the 1863 map is no longer visible, the garden wall shown on the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1901 between buildings A and B still stands and has a clear butt joint against Building B's Western elevation. The manse building is a nice example of late Victorian architecture and its external appearance on all elevations is enhanced by the use of thin 'string' courses to define them. Internally Rooms 4, 5 on the ground floor and Room 8 on the First floor contain ornate floral decorative mouldings on their ceilings as opposed to the plain mouldings that are visible in the other rooms. The ornate moulding in Room 4 runs around the top of the bay window suggesting that it is contemporary with its insertion (in 1870?). Rooms 1a and 5 on the ground floor contain some good surviving examples of decorative wall paper. As regards surviving internal features of the building such as the wooden panelling, fireplaces, windows, plaster work, banister and stairs and doors and door furniture they would appear to be of a Victorian date, the bathroom and kitchen fittings are of a 20th century date.

Building B may have originally had a small dovecote at its Western end, the presence of the access hole and associated ledge suggests this. The major room in Building B may have been a small animal byre. Building C would appear to be a small garden shed.

Recommendations

The author feels that the photographic survey and written notes of the complex of buildings at Kirk O' The Muir manse are an adequate record of the buildings prior to their demolition and refurbishment and there would seem to be no need for any further work. However, the final decision on that rests with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.

References

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

Ordnance Survey Maps – 25 “1st edition, Scotland, 1855-1882

25 “2nd edition, Scotland, 1892-1949

Ordnance Survey Name Books (<http://scotlandsplaces.gov.uk>)

<https://scotlandsplaces.gov.uk/digital-volumes/ordnance-survey-name-books/perthshire-os-name-books-1859-1862/perthshire-volume-40/18>

Kinclaven Kirk O’ The Muir Parish Records

<https://www.oldscottish.com/kinclaven.html>

Canmore (National Record of the Historic Environment)

<https://canmore.org.uk/collection/1654418>

Books

Haynes, N 2000 **Perth & Kinross an illustrated architectural guide**

Illustration List

Illustration 1- Site location (red circle) (based on Ordnance Survey map 1:50000 Crown Copyright 2012. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)

Illustration 2- Manse and associated buildings as shown on First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1863 (to left) and Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1901 (to right) (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)

Illustration 3- Manse building as recorded by RCAHMS for C-list survey of 1975 (© Canmore)

Illustration 4 - Buildings A, B and C as labelled for survey (based on supplied architects plan)

Illustration 5- Ground floor and first floor of Building A (manse) as numbered for survey, ground plans of Buildings B and C shown on right (based on supplied architect's plan)

Illustration 6- Upper drawing Southern elevations of Buildings A and B at Kirk O' The Muir, Lower drawing Northern elevations of Buildings A and B (based on supplied architects' drawings)

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Illustration 8 - Building A Western Elevation

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Illustration 11 - Boiler House and stores Western elevation

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Illustration 33 - Building A Room 10 (Western bedroom) showing shuttered windows

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Illustration 36 - Building B Photograph and sketch section of Western elevation of building B showing doorway and bird hole? In wall face

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Illustration 44 - Buildings B and C looking West with Building A in background

Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

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| LOCAL AUTHORITY: | Perth and Kinross |
| PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME: | Kirk O' The Muir manse |
| PROJECT CODE: | KOM01 |
| PARISH: | Kinclaven |
| 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) | |
| START DATE | 1 st April 2019 |
| END DATE | 1 st April 2019 |
| PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.) | None |
| MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields) | A photographic and written survey was carried out of the 19 th century building complex at Kirk O' The Muir manse, Kinclaven, Perth and Kinross. Written descriptions were made of external and internal elevations and fittings. |
| PROPOSED FUTURE WORK: | None |
| SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY: | Tom Birkbeck and Katie Gibson |
| 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- Site location (red circle) (based on Ordnance Survey map 1:50000 Crown Copyright 2012. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100049628)

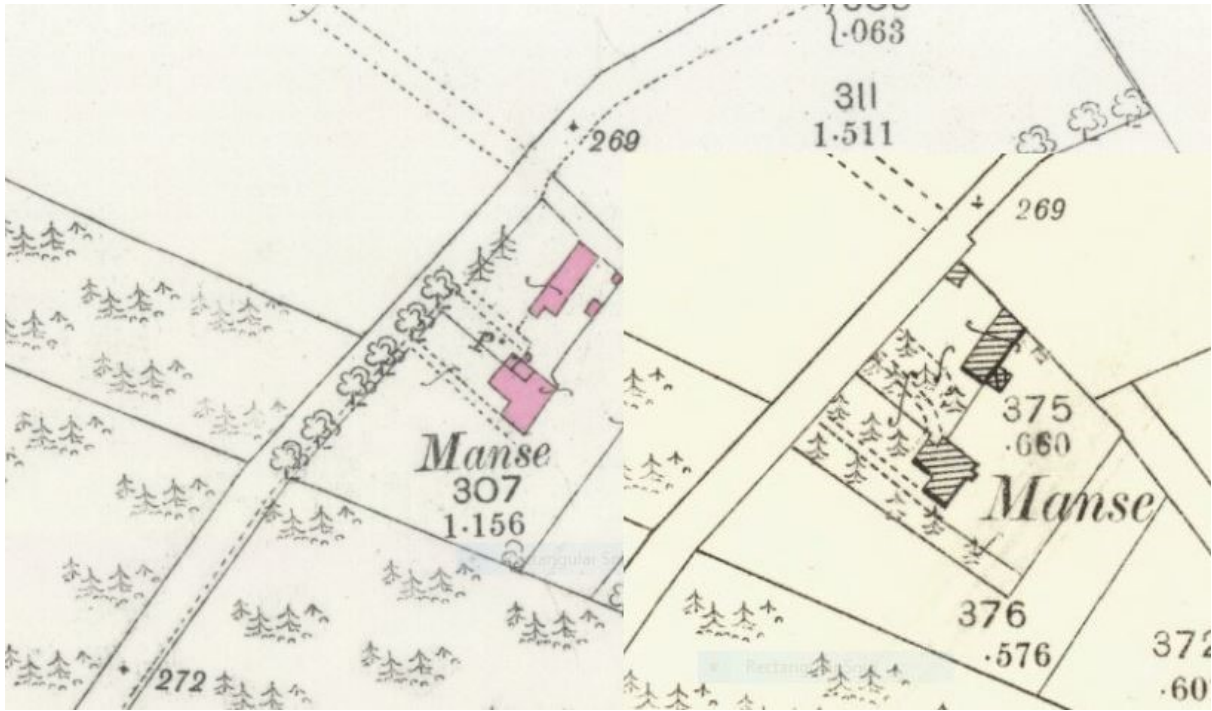


Illustration 2- Manse and associated buildings as shown on First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1863 (to left) and Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1901 (to right) (© Trustees of National Library of Scotland)



Illustration 3 - Manse building as recorded by RCAHMS for C-list survey of 1975 (© Canmore)

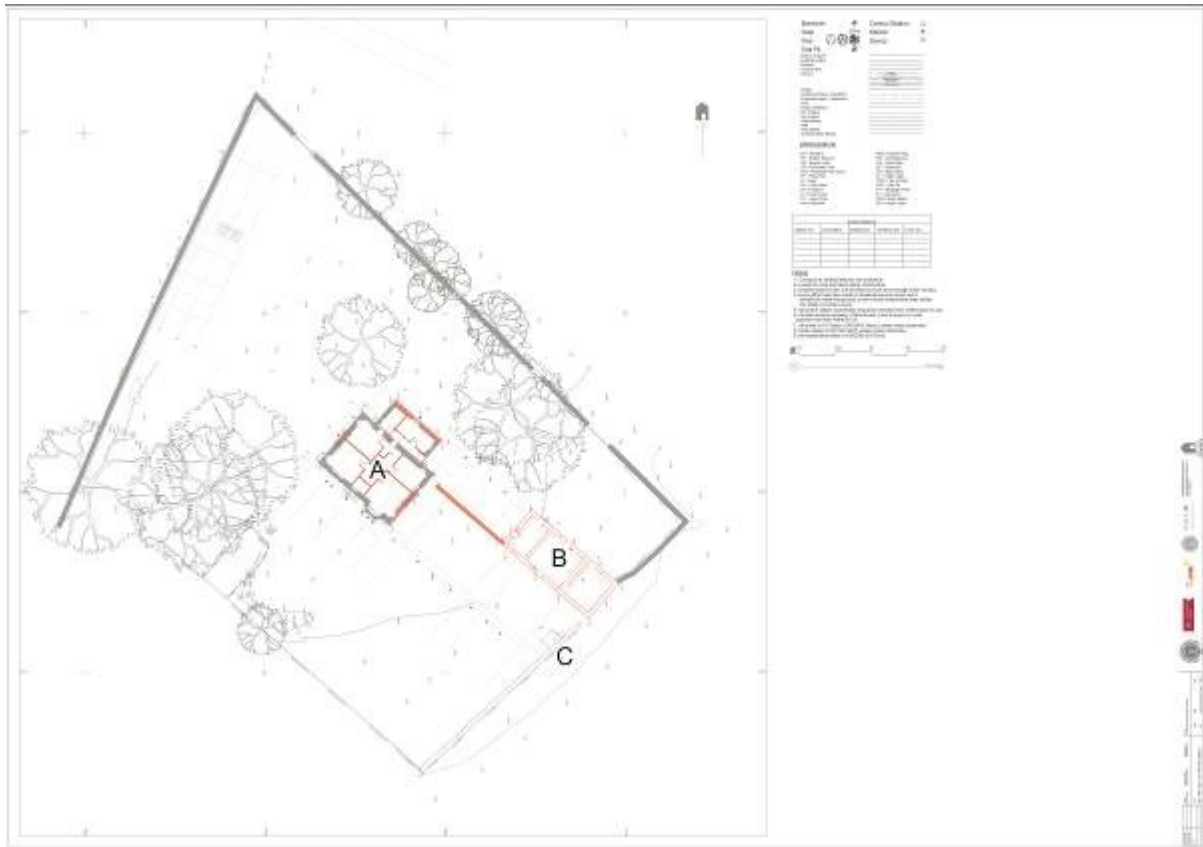


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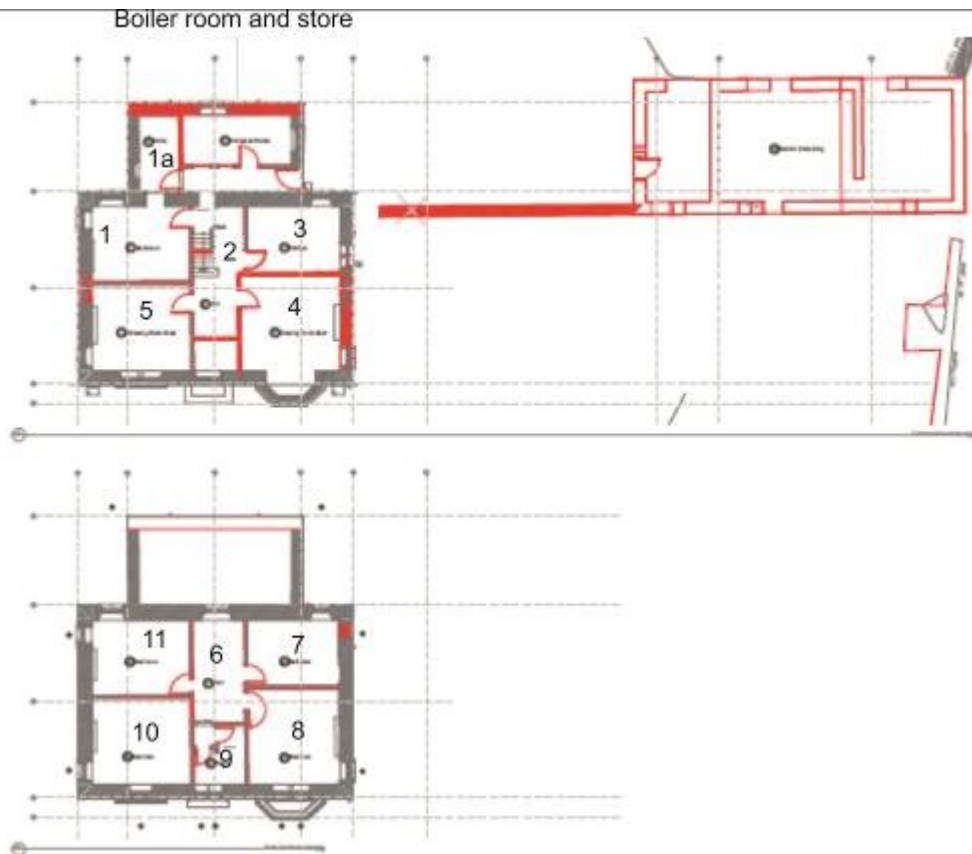


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Illustration 8 - Building A Western Elevation



Illustration 9 - Building A Northern Elevation



Illustration 10 - Boiler house and stores Northern elevation



Illustration 11 - Boiler House and stores Western elevation



Illustration 12 - Boiler house and stores Eastern elevation



Illustration 13 – Building A Eastern elevation



Illustration 14 - Corridor in Boiler House/Stores looking East



Illustration 15 - Building A Room 1 (backroom) shuttered window in North wall



Illustration 16 – Building A Room 1 (backroom) showing fireplace in West wall



Illustration 17 - Building A Room 1 (backroom) wooden shelving on East wall



Illustration 18 - Building A Room 1a surviving decorative wall paper on south wall



Illustration 19 - Building A ground floor lobby showing staircase to first floor



Illustration 20 - Building A Room 3 (Kitchen) looking East



Illustration 21 - Building A Room 4 (Eastern living room) looking East showing collapsed ceiling moulding on floor (red arrow)



Illustration 22 - Building A Room 4 looking South showing interior of bay window and decorative moulding around ceiling



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Illustration 27 - Building A coloured leaded glass window half way up staircase to first floor



Illustration 28 - Building A Room 6 Upstairs landing



Illustration 29 - Building A upstairs landing showing ornate arch over access to inaccessible room 9



Illustration 30 – Building A Room 7 (bathroom) showing shuttered window



Illustration 31 - Building A Room 8 (Eastern bedroom) showing fireplace in East wall



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Illustration 33 - Building A Room 10 (Western bedroom) showing shuttered windows



Illustration 34 - Building A Room 10 (Western bedroom) showing wallpaper and plain moulding, top of fireplace visible behind board against Western wall



Illustration 35 - Building A Room 11 (Back bedroom) showing fireplace in Western wall and shuttered windows

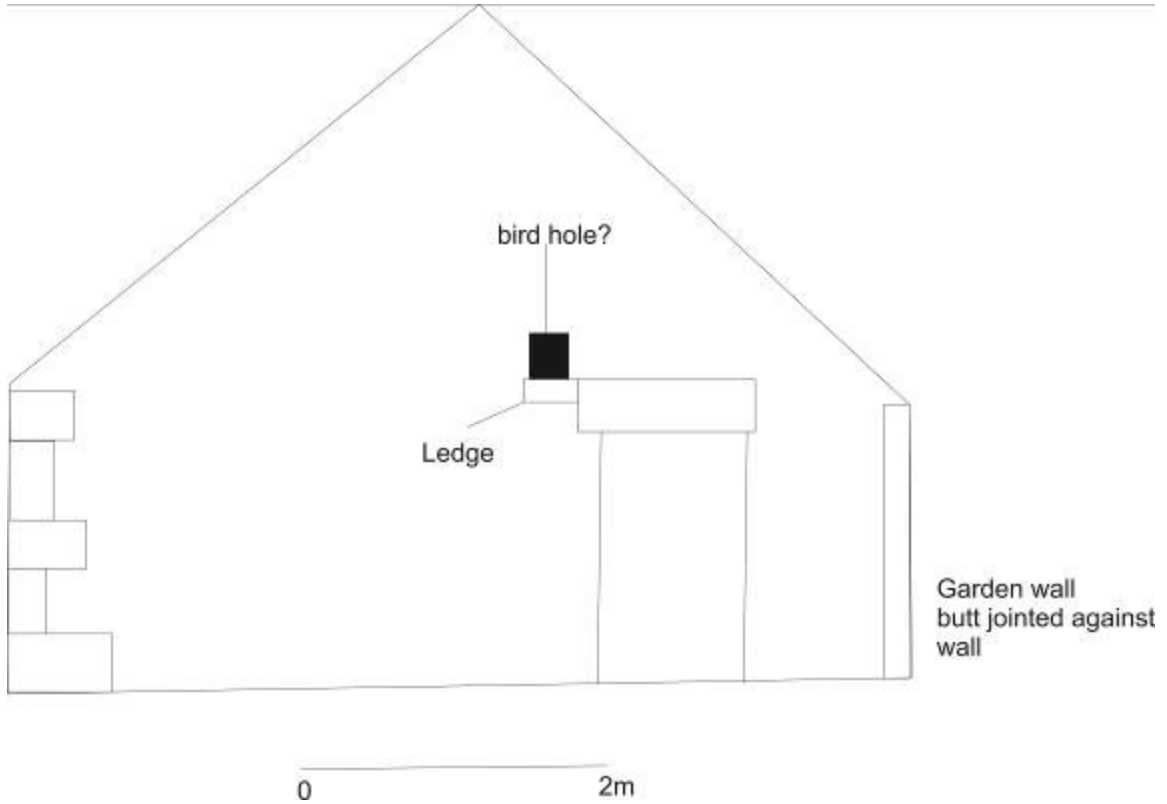


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Illustration 37 - Building B Northern elevation



Illustration 38 - Building B Eastern elevation



Illustration 39 - Building B Southern elevation showing visible straight joint with garden wall



Illustration 40 - Building B main room showing possible animal pen



Illustration 41 - Building B internal view of surviving section of wooden roof supports for slate roof



Illustration 42 - Building C Southern elevation



Illustration 43 - Building C Western elevation showing ventilation hole at base of wall



Illustration 44 - Buildings B and C looking West with Building A in background