

Standing Building Survey

Dunsinane, Station Road, Murthly



General view of Buildings surveyed adjacent to Dunsinane Cottage, Station Road, Murthly looking North West.



27th May 2021

Introduction

The planning consent for this development (Perth and Kinross Planning Reference 21/00213/FLL) included an archaeological condition specifying the need for Historic Building Recording using ALGAO Scotland's Historic Building Recording Guidance (2013) prior to the refurbishment of the two buildings on the site. This Level 1 survey was carried out as specified by Sophie Nicol of Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust and was carried out by the author on Monday 24th May 2021 (Site Code MUR01), weather conditions were overcast with heavy rain.

Location (Illus 1 and 2)

The two buildings which are the subject of this survey lie on the North side of Station Road in Murthly to the West of Dunsinane Cottage. The buildings are joined to form an L shape and are set back from the road.

Historical Background (Illus 3)

(all map references from www.nls.uk/maps)

Murthly is the location of the Perth District Asylum, later known as Murthly Hospital, which was opened in the village on 1 April 1864 for 'pauper lunatics'. It was the second district asylum to be built in Scotland under the terms of the 1857 Lunacy (Scotland) Act. It closed in 1984 and was later demolished. The village formerly had a railway station on the Perth and Dunkeld Railway, which closed in 1965. The buildings which were surveyed are first mapped on the Ordnance Survey map of 1901 and Building 1 is labelled as 'smithy'. From limited documentary research the buildings are listed in the 1905 Valuation Roll as a 'joiner's shop' and 'smithy' owned by John Thomson and occupied as tenants by James Mitchell (joiners' shop) and John McIntosh (blacksmith in the smithy). By the 1915 Valuation Roll James Mitchell is listed as the owner of both buildings and J. Millar blacksmith, Airntully is the tenant of the smithy. The smithy and joiner's shop are still listed in the 1940 Valuation Roll, James Mitchell is still the owner and Andrew Smith, blacksmith, Airntully is the tenant of the smithy (<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>).

Survey (Illus 4 to 24)

The two buildings on site have been labelled 1 and 2 for this survey. Building 1 is roofed externally with corrugated iron sheets and is aligned North to South, Building 2 is roofed with slate and is aligned West to East. The two buildings are joined at the North West and form an L-shape around a gravelled courtyard on the West side of Dunsinane Cottage. A detailed photographic survey of external and internal elevations of the buildings was carried out and a graduated 2m scale was included where possible in all photographs. Written descriptions were made of the buildings both internally and externally.

Building 1

Exterior (Illus 4)

Aligned North to South the building is roofed with corrugated iron sheets painted light blue grey and is built of mortared green sandstone.

External

East facing External Elevation (Illus 5 to 8).

The lower courses of this wall face are built of mortared rough green sandstones, the middle courses and the windows and doorways are defined using cut green sandstone slabs. From the South end there is a doorway with a wooden door, a window with overlapping single panes of glass defined by vertical 'muntins', another window of a similar style, an open doorway and another wide doorway with double wooden doors.

South facing External Elevation (Illus 9).

This a gable end and is built of mortared green sandstone it is a blank wall face.

West facing External Elevation (Illus 10 and 21).

This is built of mortared green sandstone. From the North there is a window with nine separate panes of glass defined by vertical and horizontal wooden bars and then another window with individual overlaid panes of glass between vertical 'muntins'. This elevation joins with the West elevation of Building 2 and both seem integral.

North facing elevation (Not visible).

Building 1 is joined to Building 2 at this point.

Internal

There is a concrete floor and a wooden partition wall at the Northern end.

North facing Internal Elevation (Illus 11).

This is built of mortared rough sandstones and contains a small fireplace/hearth that measures 0.45m by 0.62m and is 0.20m deep. The hearth/fireplace sits 1.30m above the floor level.

East facing Internal Elevation (Illus 12).

This is built of mortar bonded rough sandstones and contains two windows with glazed wooden frames.

South facing Internal Elevation (partition) (Illus 13).

This is built of wooden panelling and contains a wooden door.

South facing Internal Elevation (building) (Illus 14).

This is built of mortar bonded rough sandstones and has a cupboard built of concrete breeze blocks built into it. The wall face is blank.

Building 2

Aligned East to West this has a timber framed roof that is slated. It contains an inaccessible attic space (Illus 26). It is built of mortared green sandstone.

External

South Facing External Elevation (Illus 15).

The lower courses of this wall face are built of mortared rough green sandstone, the middle courses and the window are defined using cut green sandstone. The Eastern corner of this wall face is built of cut sandstone blocks. The single window is large and glazed with a concrete sill and there is a doorway with a wooden door.

East Facing External Elevation (Illus 16).

This is a gable end and is half built of mortared green sandstone and wooden planking. There is a single glazed window at attic floor level.

North Facing External Elevation (Illus 17 to 19).

This is built of mortared green sandstone with large cut sandstone quoins at its Eastern and Western ends. It contains a glazed window at its Eastern end and a glazed window at its Western end both of which are defined by green sandstone blocks.

West Facing External Elevation (Illus 20).

This is built of mortared green sandstone and contains a single window at ground floor level that is defined by cut green sandstone blocks.

Internal

The building has a concrete floor and its Eastern end is used as a garage. The remainder of the building is lined with wooden panelling and is used for storage.

South facing Internal Elevation (Illus 22).

This is a combination of wooden panelling and mortared sandstones at the garage end. There is a glazed window at its Western end and another glazed window at the garage end.

East facing Internal Elevation (Illus 23).

This is wooden panelled and contains a single window with a glazed wooden frame.

North facing Internal Elevation (Illus 24).

This is a combination of mortared sandstone and wooden panelling. It contains a doorway at its Eastern end and a large glazed window.

West facing Internal Elevation (Illus 25).

This is built of mortared sandstones and is a blank wall face.

Suggested Phasing of Buildings and general comments

The external, outward facing Western and Northern elevations of Buildings 1 and 2 present a more finished look than their external inward facing Eastern and Southern elevations suggesting a wish to give the fronts of these two utility buildings a more orderly look. The windows in the Eastern elevation of Building 1 and the window at the Southern end of Building 1 are of an unusual design that is also visible in the windows in the Southern, Northern and Western elevations of Building 2. This comprises single overlapping small panes of glass separated by vertical 'muntins', the other window at the Northern end of the Western elevation of Building 1 has nine separate panes of glass defined by vertical and horizontal wooden bars. As with the difference in the construction of visible wall faces this is presumably being done to give the buildings a more formal appearance.

Buildings 1 and 2 appear to be of contemporary build and probably date to the late 19th / early 20th centuries. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map dated to 1901 shows that Buildings 1 and 2 are in a different plot to Dunsinane Cottage but the Valuation Roll of 1905 lists John Thomson, retired as the owner of all three properties suggesting that all three buildings are contemporary. The hearth/fireplace above floor level in the internal North facing elevation of Building 1 is the only remaining evidence for its documented use as a smithy. The interior of Building 2 has been lined with wooden panelling and contains nothing to suggest its previously documented use as a joiner's workshop.

Recommendations

The author feels that the photographic survey and written notes of the two buildings at Dunsinane, Station Road, Murthly are an adequate record of the buildings prior to their refurbishment. The final decision on that however rests with Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust.

References

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

Ordnance Survey Maps – 25 "2nd and Later editions 1892-1949 <https://maps.nls.uk/os/25inch/>

Valuation Rolls

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

Illustration List

Illustration 1- Location of site at Dunsinane, Station Road, Murthly (red dot) (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2020. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100060449).

Illustration 2- location of Buildings 1 and 2 at Dunsinane, Station Road, Murthly (based on supplied architects drawing)

Illustration 3- Buildings 1 and 2 at Dunsinane, Station Road, Murthly (red arrow) as shown on Ordnance Survey map of 1901 (© Trustees of the National Library of Scotland).

Illustration 4- Buildings 1 and 2 at Dunsinane, Station Road, Murthly looking North West.

Illustration 5- Eastern elevation of Building 1 looking South West.

Illustration 6- Doorway at Southern end of Eastern elevation of Building 1.

Illustration 7- Window in Eastern elevation of Building 1.

Illustration 8- Window and doorways at Northern end of Eastern elevation of Building 1.

Illustration 9- Southern gable elevation of Building 1 looking North.

Illustration 10- West facing external elevations of Buildings 1 and 2 looking South.

Illustration 11- North facing internal elevation of Building 1 showing hearth/fireplace in wall (red arrow).

Illustration 12- Internal East facing elevation of Building 1.

Illustration 13- Internal South facing wooden partition wall in Building 1.

Illustration 14- South facing internal elevation of Building 1 (red arrow).

Illustration 15- South facing external elevation of Building 2 looking North.

Illustration 16- East facing external elevation of Building 2 looking North West.

Illustration 17- North facing external elevation of Building 2 looking South East.

Illustration 18- Eastern end of Northern elevation of Building 2 looking South.

Illustration 19- Western end of North facing elevation of Building 2 looking South.

Illustration 20- External West facing elevation of Building 2, junction with Building 1 also visible.

Illustration 21- Southern end of Western external elevation of Building 1 showing window of similar design to those in its external Eastern elevation.

Illustration 22- South facing internal elevation of Building 2 at Eastern end (garage).

Illustration 23- North facing, West facing and South facing internal panelled elevations of Building 2.

Illustration 24- Internal North facing elevation of Building 2 at its Eastern end (garage).

Illustration 25- Internal West facing elevation of Building 2 (garage end).

Illustration 26- Access to attic roof space in Building 2.

Discovery & Excavation in Scotland Entry

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Perth and Kinross Council
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Dunsinane, Station Road, Murthly
PROJECT CODE:	MUR01
PARISH:	Little Dunkeld
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):	Not listed
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Vernacular buildings
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	None
NGR (2 letters, 6 figures)	NO 09987 38364
START DATE	24 th May 2021
END DATE	24 th May 2021
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. <i>DES</i> ref.)	None
MAIN (NARRATIVE) (May include information from other fields)	A photographic and written survey was carried out of two vernacular buildings at Dunsinane, Station Road, Murthly prior to their refurbishment.
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	Not Known
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Steven McKenzie
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 site at Dunsinane, Station Road, Murthly (red dot) (based on Ordnance Survey map Crown Copyright 2020. All Rights Reserved. Licence number 100060449).

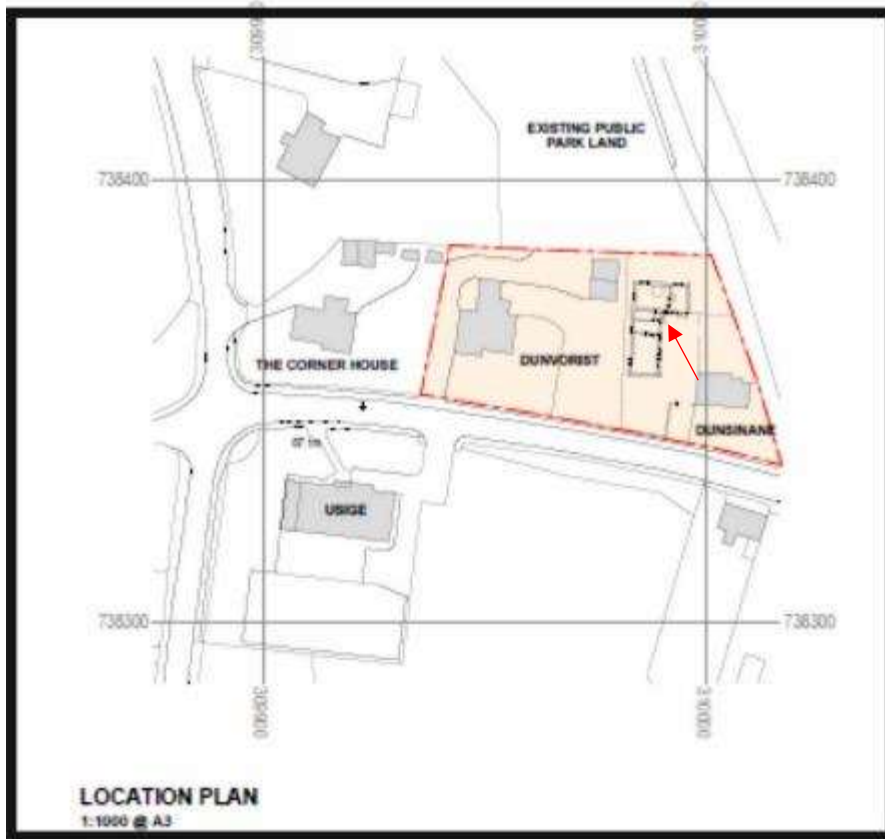


Illustration 2- location of Buildings 1 and 2 at Dunsinane, Station Road, Murthly (red arrow) (based on supplied architects drawing)

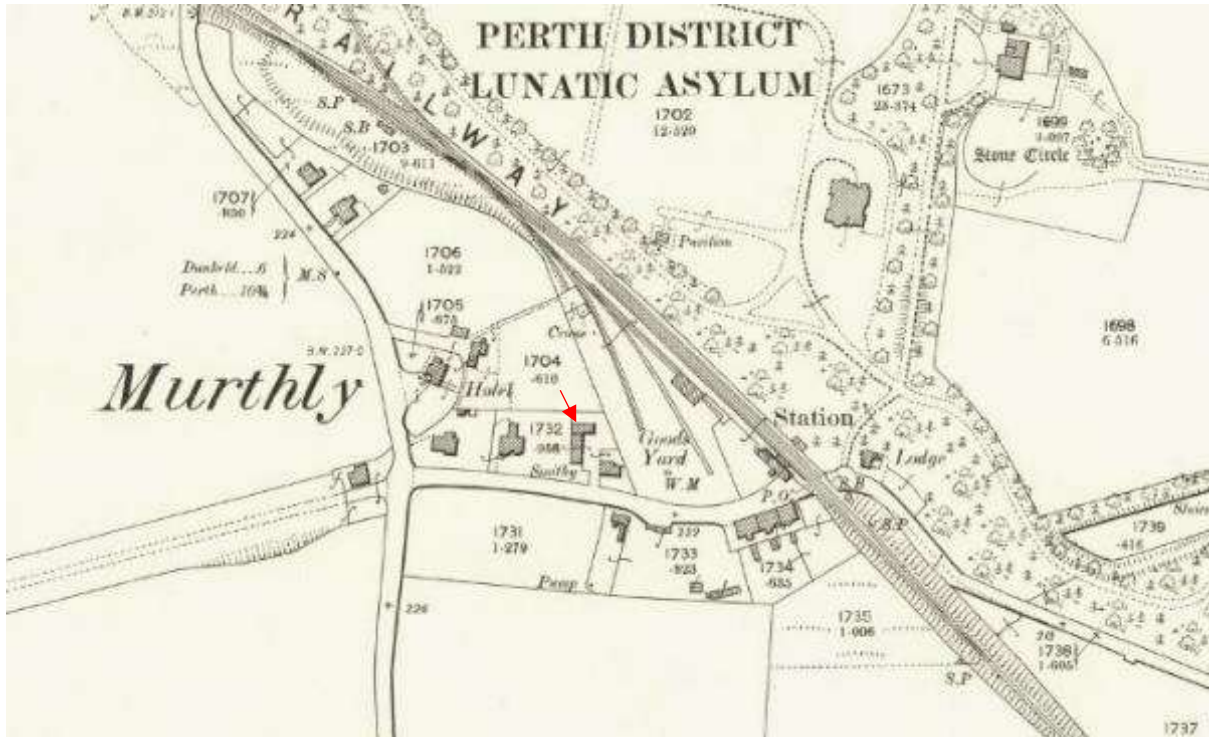


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