

Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, The Kingsway, Swansea

Level 2 Historic Buildings Record

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Acknowledgements

With thanks to Carl Morgan for commissioning this historic buildings record on behalf of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church.

Abbreviations

HER	- Historic Environment Record.
LPA	- Local Planning Authority.
NGR	- National Grid Reference.
NMR	- National Monuments Record.
OS	- Ordnance Survey.

All other abbreviations will be referred to in text.

Project Team

Ross Cook – A buildings archaeologist and dendrochronologist with a background in archaeology and buildings conservation. He has undertaken archaeological fieldwork throughout Wales and has also worked to produce detailed surveys of a wide range of Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings throughout Wales and England; this has included Neath Abbey, Llansteffan Castle, Tretower Castle, Cilgerran Castle, Newport Castle Pembrokeshire, Picton Castle, and Brymbo Ironworks. Ross is the Cathedral Archaeologist to St Davids Cathedral, and Consultant Archaeologist to Christchurch Priory, Dorset. He previously worked for the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales as a Historic Buildings Investigator (Archaeology), where he recorded buildings and Monuments, and provided advice on historic buildings at a national level. Currently he is involved with project work with Cadw, The Brymbo Heritage Group, and The Buildings of Medieval and Ottoman Palestine Research Project.

Ross also works as an Associate Dendrochronologist with the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory, through which he has undertaken work on sites such as Hampton Court Palace, Winchester Cathedral, Queens House Greenwich, The Tower of London, Christ Church and Magdalen College Oxford, Llwyn Celyn (Mons), and many other smaller listed buildings and scheduled sites throughout Wales and England.

ArchaeoDomus Archaeological & Heritage Services is the trading name of Ross Cook, an affiliate member of the CIFA, and adheres to the CIFA codes of conduct.

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Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Mount Pleasant, Swansea

Level 2 Historic Buildings Record

Summary

ArchaeoDomus were commissioned by Carl Morgan, on behalf of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation, and undertake a Level 2 Historic Buildings Record of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Swansea. The aim of this work has been to produce a record of the building and to understand its development and phasing, prior to works to remove the pews, and make a number of structural openings in the east and west walls of the chapel hall.

The Historic Buildings Record was undertaken on 7th January 2022, and concluded the same day. The results of this work have been this Level 2 Historic Buildings Record, including interpreted drawing and a photographic archive.

Mount Pleasant neatly represents the sequential development of a Baptist Church and its growing community over the course of the 19th century, with the addition to the main chapel of an expanded vestry, lecture hall, and schoolrooms. Its origins within the earliest Baptist community in Wales and association with one of the most celebrated 19th century chapel architects, George Morgan of Carmarthen, endow Mount Pleasant with a significant historical legacy, placing it as part of the national story of Wales. The quality of the design and craftsmanship of all periods paint a picture of a continuously expanding community, with the finances to improve and develop their chapel to further the educational, religious, and political needs of its members. This was enabled by the expansion of Swansea as a world leading centre for the copper industry, which drew in many tens of thousands of inhabitants throughout the 19th century. It forms part of a large pattern of nonconformist chapel building throughout Wales during the 19th and early-20th centuries, whose legacy still dominate the character of many cities, towns, villages, and rural areas throughout the country today.

Eglwys Mount Pleasant, Mount Pleasant, Abertawe

Cofnod Adeiladau Hanesyddol Lefel 2

Crynodeb

Comisiynwyd ArchaeoDomus gan Carl Morgan, ar ran Eglwys y Bedyddwyr Mount Pleasant, i baratoi Cynllun Ymchwilio Ysgrifenedig, ac ymgymryd â Chofnod Lefel 2 o Adeiladau Hanesyddol Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Abertawe. Nod y gwaith hwn oedd cynhyrchu cofnod o'r adeilad a deall ei ddatblygiad a'i ddileu'n raddol, cyn gwaith i dynnu'r pews, a gwneud nifer o agoriadau strwythurol ym muriau dwyreiniol a gorllewinol neuadd y capel.

Cafodd y Cofnod Adeiladau Hanesyddol ei wneud ar y 7fed o Ionawr 2022, a daeth i'r casgliad yr un diwrnod. Canlyniadau'r gwaith hwn oedd Cofnod Adeiladau Hanesyddol Lefel 2 hwn, gan gynnwys lluniadu wedi ei ddehongli ac archif ffotograffig.

Mae Mount Pleasant yn cynrychioli'n daclus ddatblygiad dilyniannol Eglwys y Bedyddwyr a'i chymuned gynyddol yn ystod y 19eg ganrif, gyda'r ychwanegiad at brif gapel festri, neuadd ddarlithio ac ystafelloedd ysgol estynedig. Mae ei gwreiddiau yng nghymuned gynharaf y Bedyddwyr yng Nghymru a chysylltiad ag un o benseiri capel enwocaf y 19eg ganrif, George Morgan o Gaerfyrddin, endow Mount Pleasant ag etifeddiaeth hanesyddol bwysig, wedi ei rhoi yn rhan o stori genedlaethol Cymru. Mae ansawdd dylunio a chreffftwaith pob cyfnod yn rhoi darlun o gymuned sy'n ehangu'n barhaus, gyda'r cyllid i wella a datblygu eu capel i hyrwyddo anghenion addysgol, crefyddol, a gwleidyddol ei haelodau. Galluogwyd hyn trwy ehangu Abertawe fel canolfan oedd yn arwain y byd ar gyfer y diwydiant copr, a dynnodd mewn degau lawer o filoedd o drigolion drwy gydol y 19eg ganrif. Mae'n rhan o batrum mawr o adeiladu capeli anghydfurfiol ledled Cymru yn ystod y 19eg a dechrau'r 20fed ganrif, gyda'u gwaddol yn dal i ddominyddu cymeriad nifer o ddinasoedd, trefi, pentrefi, ac ardaloedd gwledig ledled y wlad heddiw.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

- 1.1.1 ArchaeoDomus were commissioned to undertake an archaeological programme of recording and investigation in advance of works for the renovation and alteration of the Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Swansea (hereafter also referred to as ‘the site’). This work included a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ArchaeoDomus 2021) and this Level 2 Historic Buildings Record (HE 2016) of the Church prior to a planned programme of renovation and alteration.



Fig. 1 – Mount Pleasant Baptist Church

1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 Planning permission has been granted for two separate applications on 12th November 2020 under number 2020/2322/LBC and 15th September 2021 under number 2020/2371/LBC. The local planning authority is the City and Council of Swansea.

- 1.2.2 The first provides consent for the

Creation of new ramped access, new access doors to West elevation, addition of glass baluster and glass door, relocation of existing signs and addition of one new sign with external illumination, the removal of the chapel hall pews, the provisional of a new external power and lighting scheme. 2020/2322/LBC

- 1.2.3 With this permission Archaeological Conditions were recommended by the Conservation Officer of the Local Planning Authority, in line with Planning Policy Wales section 6.5.7, and TAN 24 sections 4.13 and 4.14. The conditions states:

Recording to English Heritage Level 2 (descriptive) before starting any works and the final report is to be deposited with the RCAHMW, GGAT HER and West Glamorgan Archives.

- 1.2.4 The second provides consent for the

*Removal of 3 no. industrial vents from the roof of the main chapel and the removal of a defective chimney from the school rooms to the West.
2021/2371/LBC*

- 1.2.5 With this permission Archaeological Conditions were recommended by the Conservation Officer of the Local Planning Authority, in line with Planning Policy Wales section 6.5.7, and TAN 24 sections 4.13 and 4.14. The conditions states:

Prior to any work the vents and chimney are to be recorded to English Heritage level 2 (descriptive) standard and the report deposited in both the Historic Environment Record and West Glamorgan Archive.

Reason: In order to provide appropriate recording of the Listed Building.

- 1.2.6 The Local Planning Authority is City and Council of Swansea, full documentation relating to the application is available on request from the authority. A general works plan can be found in **Appendix III**.

1.3 Fieldwork

- 1.3.1 The fieldwork was commenced on 7th January 2022 and concluded 2nd February 2022, in accordance with the guidance laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, CIfA *Standards and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings* (2014; updated 2020), Historic England's *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good practice* (2016).
- 1.3.2 The opening to West Courtyard, and the first floor opening between the chapel hall gallery and upper lecture hall were not undertaken under this programme of works. These will be undertaken at a later date, which will be recorded and appended to this report.
- 1.3.3 This report documents the results of the Historic Buildings Record and presents an assessment of the buildings development.

2 SITE AND LOCATION

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 Mount Pleasant Baptist Church is located in a prominent position to the northern edge of The Kingsway, a major thoroughfare close to the centre of the city of Swansea. To the east, the church is bounded by Dynevor Place, to the north the Swansea College of Art, and to the west Kingsway Surgery. The nearest watercourse Afon Tawe, which lies some 675m to the east. Just under 1km to the south is the coast of Swansea Bay. The site is centred around NGR SN 65425 93167 / 51°37'16"N 003°56'43"W / What3Words future.foster.lamps.

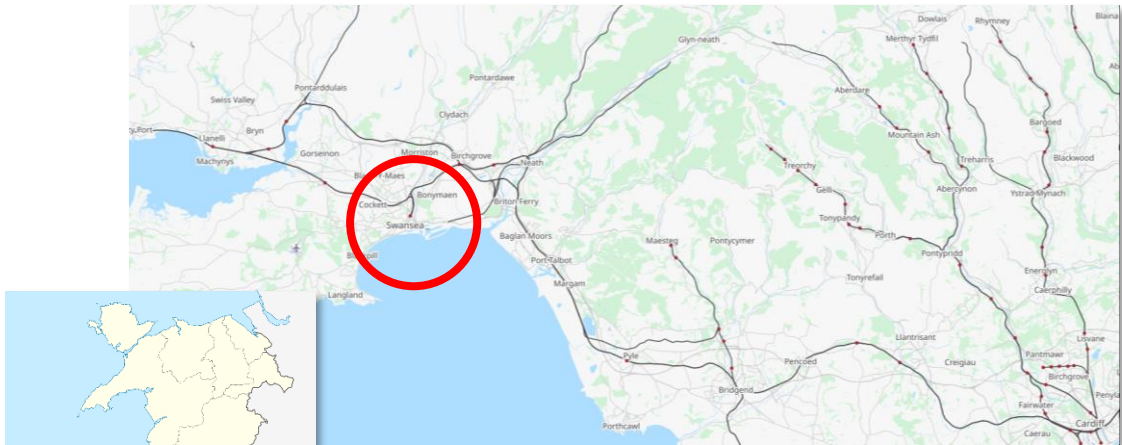


Fig. 2 – Location – Swansea.
OpenStreetMap. All rights reserved. 2021.

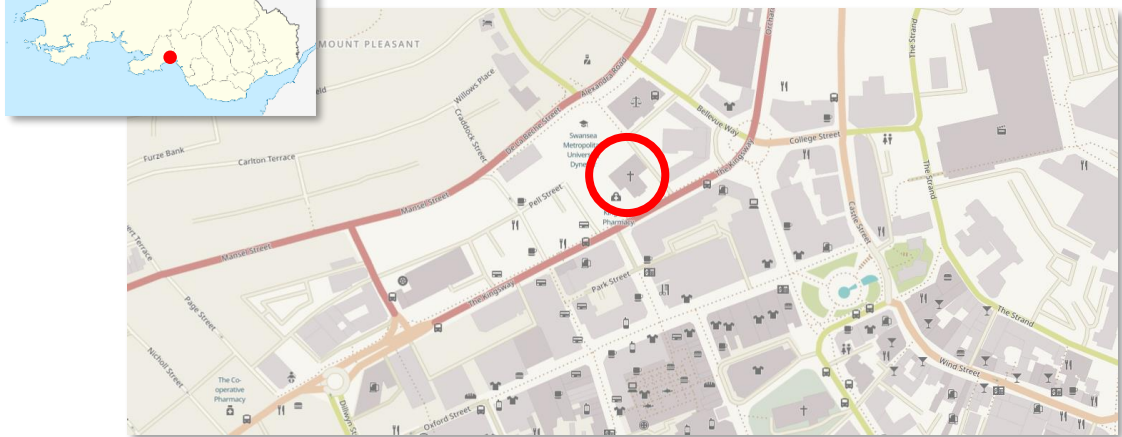


Fig. 3 – Location – Mount Pleasant Baptist Church.
OpenStreetMap. All rights reserved. 2021.

2.2 Geology

- 2.2.1 The underlying geology is formed of a sandstone known as the Llynfi Member (BGS) with glaciofluvial ice contact deposits of Devensian sand and gravel superficial deposits recorded (BGS). The local soil type is unclassified (UKSO), is unsurveyed on the world reference base (UKSO).

3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 This historical background has been produced using readily available sources and materials.
- 3.1.2 Mount Pleasant Baptist Church is located in the parish of the Township of Swansea. The parish is in the medieval Welsh Commote of Gwyr and Cantref of Uwch Coed.

3.2 Previous Archaeological Events

- 3.2.1 There are no previous archaeological events recorded in association with the church.

3.3 Site Specific

- 3.3.1 The history of nonconformism in Wales has its earliest history in Gwent in 1639, when an Independent chapel and community was founded at Llanfaches. The second community was founded by the Baptists on Gower at Ilston in 1649, at the end of the English Civil War. The chapels founding member, and the founder of Baptism in Wales, was John Miles (sometimes Myles). The chapel was built away from the urban centre so as not to attract attention, as, during the 17th century, attendance was compulsory to the established church, the Church of England. During the Commonwealth, in which England and Wales were tightly governed by the Puritans, the Baptist continued to be persecuted, so continued to hold secretive meetings, often in fields, woodland, or secretly constructed chapels or converted farm buildings. The Restoration of 1660 did not change much for nonconformists, with the Corporations Regulation Act of 1661 being passed restrict public offices in England and Wales solely to members of the Church of England. As a result of this act, seen as the targeted persecution of Catholics and Nonconformist, John Miles and other members of the community emigrated to North America in 1662. On arrival in Massachusetts, the congregation purchased lands from the Native Americans, where they founded a new colony, Swansea.
- 3.3.2 In 1688, the Glorious Revolution deposed the openly catholic James II in favour of his protestant daughter, Mary Stuart, and her husband, William of Orange. The following year, the joint monarchs signed the Toleration Act, which gave dissenters and nonconformists the freedom to worship publicly, providing they took an oath of allegiance. In the following twenty years, some 2,535 dissenting places of worship were licenced. By this time, Baptists in Swansea were meeting at a chapel in Back Lane, now under Alexandra House.
- 3.3.3 The Baptists continued to meet at Back Lane as a single community until 1825, when the community amicably split into English and Welsh speaking congregations following the death of their Baptist Minister, Joseph Harris. The new congregations left Back Lane, and built Bethesda for the Welsh Speakers, and Mount Pleasant for the English, on what was then known as Gower Street.

- 3.3.4 Mount Pleasant opened in October 1826 with a sermon from Christmas Evans, who was known as the greatest Baptist preacher to have ever lived in Great Britain. The new chapel had cost £4,510 to build, a huge sum at this time and even more so when the congregation numbered just 54 members.
- 3.3.5 The congregation continued to grow alongside Swansea's industrial expansion and population growth throughout the 19th century. In 1875, the original chapel was enlarged, reseated, the galleries lowered, and a new classical façade was added to the designs of George Morgan of Carmarthen. Development of the chapel was continued with the addition of a lecture hall in 1885, and school rooms with new vestry in 1905. The 1905 works also undertook alterations to the chapel hall and installed a new organ.
- 3.3.6 Between 1900 and 1941, vents were added to the chapels roof.
- 3.3.7 During the Swansea Blitz of 19th to 20th February 1941, the chapel was one of very few buildings to survive the bombing campaign.

3.4 Cartographic Sources

- 3.4.1 The earliest map to show a building in the location of the church is the First Series Ordnance Survey Map of 1830. However, this does not clearly show the size of the building.
- 3.4.2 The Tithe Map of 1868 shows the chapel as a much shorter building, with a vestry attached to its north end, reflecting the size of the building pre-1875 facelift and extension.
- 3.4.3 The First Edition 25-inch Map of 1879 (**Fig. 10**) clearly shows the extended church of 1875, with a new vestry/schoolroom to the north-west corner, and porch with steps facing onto Gower Street, later The Kingsway.
- 3.4.4 By the Second Edition of 1899 (**Fig. 11**), the map shows the 1885 addition of lecture hall to the north-east corner of the chapel.
- 3.4.5 The 1919 edition (**Fig. 12**) shows the final addition of the school room and vestry, which were added in 1905, with the plan remaining unchanged since.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 Historic Buildings Record

- 4.1.1 The aim of the buildings report is to produce a lasting record of the property prior to any development and alterations, defined by the CIfA (2014, updated 2020: 3) as:

A programme of archaeological building investigation and recording will determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource associated with a specified building, structure or complex. It will draw on existing records (both archaeological and historical sources) and fieldwork. It will be undertaken using appropriate methods and practices which satisfy the stated aims of the project, and which comply with the Code of conduct, Code of approved practice for the regulation of contractual arrangements in archaeology, and other relevant by-laws of the CIfA. The programme will result in the production of drawings, an ordered accessible archive and a report.

- 4.1.2 Produce a descriptive and photographic record of the building, internally and externally, prior to any alterations and adaptations made to the building through the planned programme of works.

- 4.1.3 Supplement the descriptive and photographic record with drawn records, when and where these are required.

- 4.1.4 The results of the investigation and report will aim

'to seek a better understanding, compile a lasting record, analyse the findings/record, and then disseminate the results.' (CIfA 2014: 3)

4.2 Report and Archive

- 4.2.1 To communicate the results of the archaeological investigation to the client in the form of an illustrated report, and to provide digital copies to the Regional HER and the NMRW.

- 4.2.2 To prepare a digital archive of the projects report, photographic archive, all drawn elements for deposition with the National Monuments Record of Wales, and the Regional HER held by the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 All archaeological works have been conducted by a qualified archaeologist in accordance with the methodology set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ArchaeoDomus 2022) and in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for Recording Historic Buildings and Structures* (2014; updated 2020) from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

5.2 Measured Survey and Drawn Record

5.2.1 A Level 2 Historic Buildings Record, in line with Historic England *Understanding Historic Buildings; a guide to good practice* (2016), was undertaken to record the building and understand its development.

5.2.2 A measured architectural survey was undertaken for the client by ArchaeoDomus in 2020, and has been used for the production of interpreted plans.

5.2.3 The interpreted plans were produced in Rhino 7.

5.3 Photographic Recording

5.3.1 A photographic record was made of the building, which included:

- ❖ General views of the building and its surroundings.
- ❖ All elevations.
- ❖ Detail/features of specific building elements.
- ❖ Interior views and details.

5.3.2 The photographic record has been compiled into an archive, which has been appended to this report (**Appendix III**).

5.3.3 Photographs were taken with a Pixel 5 with 16-megapixel sensor.

5.3.4 All photographs have been named using the project code, in this instance AD124, which are followed by a reference and number. The reference codes used are as follows:

- ❖ HBR – Historic Buildings Record

5.3.5 All photographs in this report are watermarked with the photographs' name, code, and number.

5.4 Documentary Research

5.4.1 Documentary research was undertaken using readily available resources with additional research aided by map regression and Tithe Map searches. Historic trade directories were used to help establish a timeline of events for the building. Further research was undertaken using unpublished and published sources.

5.5 Reporting

5.5.1 This report has been written and compiled by Ross Cook, following the guidance provided by Historic England's *Understanding Historic Buildings; a guide to good practice* (2016) and the CIfA's *Standards and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2011).

5.5.2 This report has been written in Microsoft Word and uses Adobe Garamond Pro as its typeface.

5.6 Health and Safety

5.6.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and Health and Safety Advice in Archaeology (BAJR 2005).

6 HISTORIC BUILDINGS RECORD

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 The historic buildings record was undertaken on 7th January 2022 and concluded on 2nd February 2022. This comprised a visual investigation, measured survey, and photographic record.

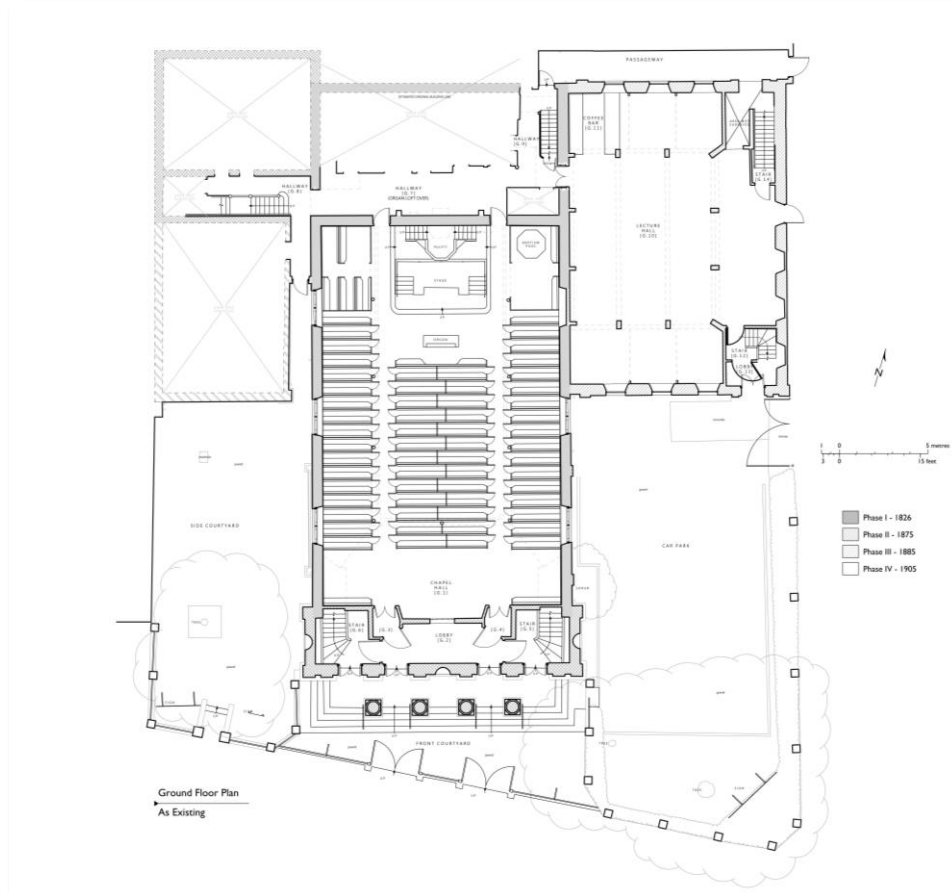


Fig. 4 – Phased ground floor plan.

6.1.2 The Baptist Church forms a range of buildings, comprising a church, vestry, Sunday school and lecture hall, which sit in a parcel of land bounding the northern edge of The Kingsway in Swansea.

6.1.3 The scope of the historic buildings record is to provide a written, drawn, and photographic account of the buildings to a Level 2 Record as specified by Historic England (2016), prior to the commencement of a planned programme of works.

6.1.4 The drawn record is available in **Appendix II** and the photographic in **Appendix III**.

6.2 Phase I – 1826

- 6.2.1 The church was originally built in 1826, after the Baptist community in Swansea split into Welsh and English congregations. This comprised of a three-bay church, as defined by the large windows to the lateral walls, and a vestry to the rear. It was built in local limestone, bonded in a lime mortar, and likely rose to a slate roof, as it does today. Internally, the pews were probably in a plainer form than those seen today, with a balcony over.
- 6.2.2 The footprint of the original church is clearly shown on the 1868 Tithe Map of Swansea.
- 6.2.3 The congregation continued to grow alongside Swansea's industrial expansion and population growth throughout the 19th century. In 1875, the original chapel was enlarged, reseated, the galleries lowered, and a new classical façade was added to the designs of George Morgan of Carmarthen. Development of the chapel was continued with the addition of a lecture hall in 1885, and school rooms with new vestry in 1905. The 1905 works also undertook alterations to the chapel hall and installed a new organ.

6.3 Phase II – 1875

- 6.3.1 In 1875, the chapel underwent its first major programme of development since its original construction. This enlarged the chapel with portico and lobby at the front, lowered the gallery, reseated the chapel hall, and added a new classical façade (**Plates 1-6, 7-9**). The works were all done to designs of George Morgan, one of Wales' most celebrated chapel architects and famed for his classical designs.
- 6.3.2 The new frontage brought the classical style in its fullest form to Mount Pleasant, with tetrastyle Corinthian portico, central scalloped niche, oculus, and acanthus key blocks to the ground floor doorways. Vermiculitied details decorate the doorway reveals, window key blocks and pediment. Baulstered aprons separated the floors, and plasters separate the openings. The elevation sits under a dentil frieze and pediment. The addition to of the new frontage can most clearly be seen internally, where the wider addition steps out awkwardly from the earlier lateral walls.
- 6.3.3 The entrance lobby was floored with geometric tile of crossed (**Plate 35**), square panels with boarder. The lobby gave access to the gallery stair, and chapel hall lobbies, which sit behind broad four-panel doors (**Plate 40**). The stair lobbies (**Plates 33-34, 36-38**) were floored with a plain black-and-white checkerboard in quarry tile. The stairs were made of large, limestone blocks, with cast iron newels and balusters, and mahogany hand rails (**Plates 38-39**). The chapel hall lobbies, continued the geometric tiling, and had felted doors with brass studs and handles (**Plates 43-44**).
- 6.3.4 The chapel hall (**Plates 46-90**) contained 13 rows of central pews and 16 rows of outside pews. These were of pine and decorated with pew row numbers, and brass fittings, along with umbrella drip-trays. The gallery seating were plainer in form, and without end ornamentation. The gallery was carried on cast iron Tuscan pillars, and its front was plain panelled. A decorative cornice ornaments the junction of the walls and ceiling, and two large roses decorate the ceiling.

- 6.3.5 Beyond the chapel hall, to the north, was the vestry, which was expanded to the west, with a new stair installed (**Plate 111**), and retains fireplaces at ground and first floor (**Plates 116, 133**).
- 6.3.6 The chapel today still retains Morgan's fine façade and internal details to the chapel hall, including the pews, doors, stained glass windows, and stairs. To the rear, the vestry was enlarged to the west.
- 6.3.7 These alterations are reflected in the Ordnance Survey First Edition 25-inch map of 1879 (**Fig. 10**).

6.4 Phase III - 1885

- 6.4.1 In keeping with the ethos of the chapel community to support the educational and political development of its members, a lecture hall (**Plates 19-28, 145-17**) was completed in 1885. The hall was built in sandstone under a slate roof. A gallery was incorporated into the lecture hall, over which a large roof lantern was constructed (**Plates 164-165**), which was once glazed to allow in natural light. The lecture hall copied the classical styling of Morgan's front, though in a plainer fashion. A memorial stone to its south-east and corner reads:

THIS
MEMORIAL STONE
WAS LAID BY
LADY VIVAN
JANUARY 13TH 1884



Fig. 5 – Early 20th century view of chapel and lecture hall, showing original gothic windows to chapel.

- 6.4.2 The addition of the lecture hall is made clear from the more simplified classical style used in its construction, with the use of sandstone echoing the works of the 1875 works, and a blocked lateral window in the chapel. Internally, the addition is made clear at the gallery level in the chapel hall, where the north-east window was blocked by the addition of the lecture hall.
- 6.4.3 Whilst the lecture hall has undergone a large amount of alteration, the tiers for the pews remain (**Plate 161-163**), as does one of the entrance lobbies, with its stair (**Plate 168-172**) and quarry tile floor.
- 6.4.4 Opening up works showed the window between the lecture hall and chapel hall were blocked with red brick in a black mortar. The window frame was painted white from the outset, with no sign of any different historic finishes.
- 6.4.5 These alterations are reflected in the Ordnance Survey First Edition 25-inch map of 1879 (**Fig. 11**).
- 6.5 Phase IV - 1905**
- 6.5.1 This phase saw the addition of the two-storied school rooms to the west side of the church (**Plate 13-16**), which includes space for an enlarged vestry at first floor. The new schoolrooms copy the simpler classical styling of the Phase III. The use of sandstone continued, though this time for the main façade only, with everything behind in brick. Its design and form are more utilitarian than previous works.
- 6.5.2 Internally, the schoolrooms have a single room at ground floor (**Plate 122-124, 131-137**), and a smaller schoolroom and vestry office at first floor. Other minor internal works were undertaken at this time, including refurbishment of the chapel hall, which had a new organ was installed.
- 6.5.3 The windows seen at the chapel today replaced the earlier gothic tracery of and earlier phase scheme, with early-20th century photographs showing their replacement (**Fig. 5 and 7**).
- 6.5.4 Shortly after this addition, or perhaps during this phase, the tin cowls (**Plate 29**), visible in a 1941 photograph (**Fig. 9**), were added to the roof of the chapel hall to help with ventilation.
- 6.5.5 The Ordnance Survey 25-inch map show the addition of the school rooms between the editions of 1899 and 1919.

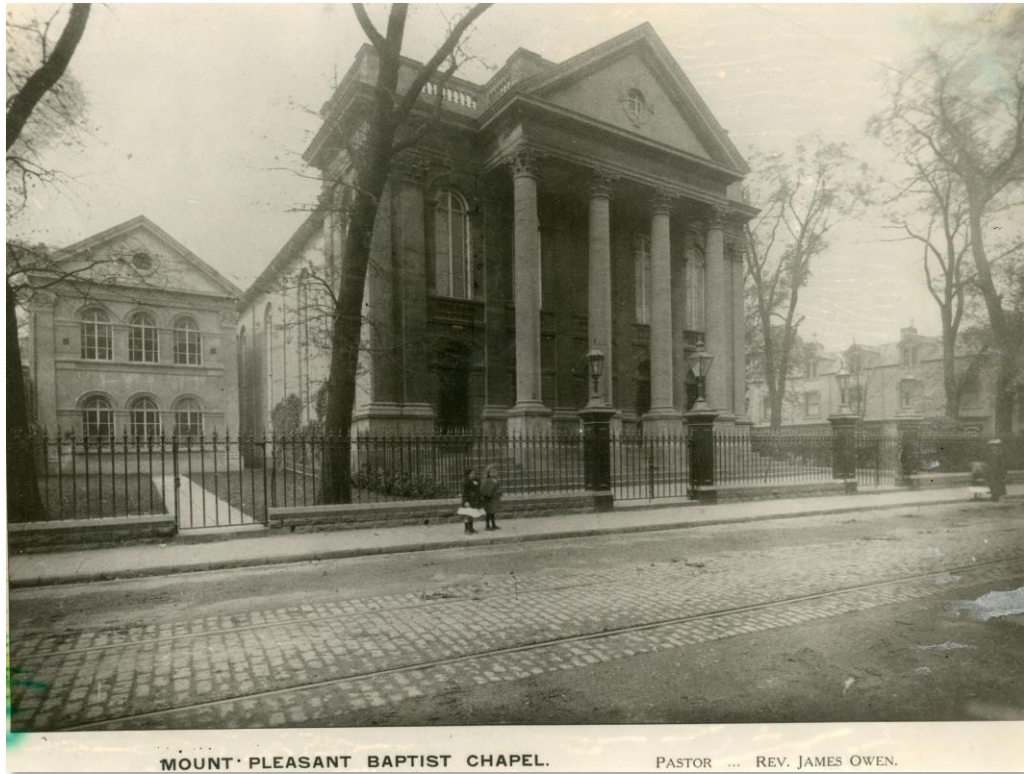


Fig. 6 – Early-20th century view of chapel and schoolrooms.

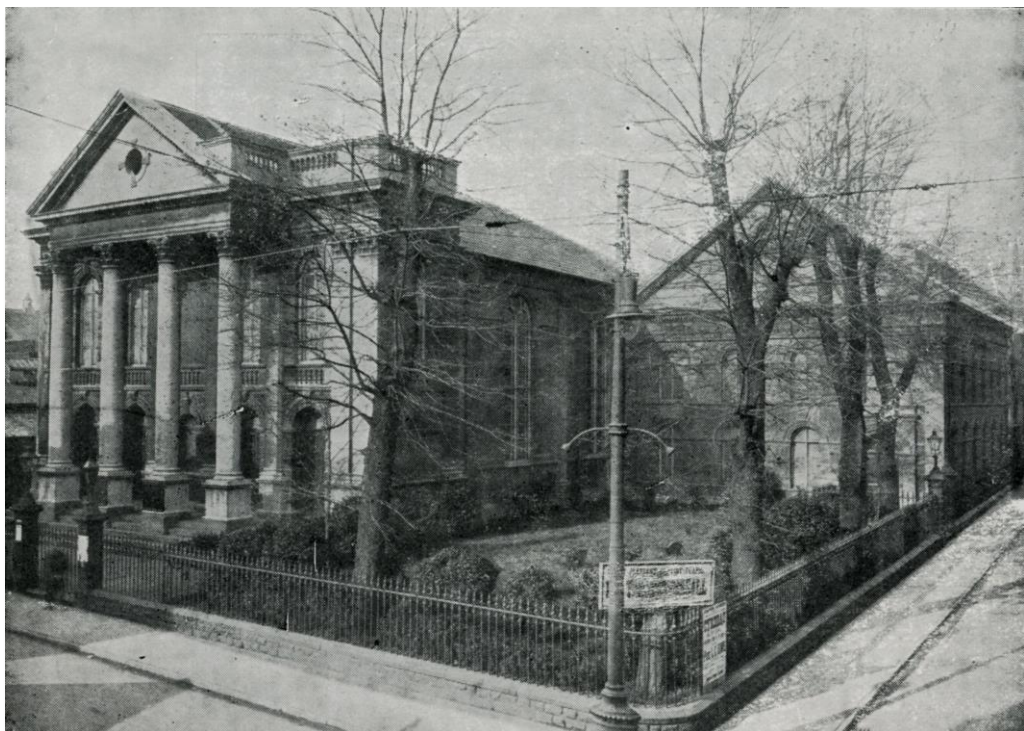


Fig. 7 – Early-20th century view of church and lecture hall, showing replacement of church windows.

6.6 Phase V – 1940s

- 6.6.1 During the Second World War, Swansea was severely damaged by the Blitz of 19th to 21st February 1941. This devastated a large swathe of the city, including the area around Mount Pleasant (Fig. 8). Fortunately, the bombs missed Mount Pleasant Baptist Chapel, despite laying waste to the areas immediately surrounding. The bomb blasts caused some limited damage to the chapel, which lost its windows, and some of the roof slates.



Fig. 8 – Bomb damage surrounding Mount Pleasant, WWII, 1941.



Fig. 9 – Bomb damage around Mount Pleasant, WWII, 1941. N.B. Ventilation cowls to roof.

6.7 Phase VI – Late-20th Century

- 6.7.1 The late-20th century a small series of upgrades update the chapel to reflect more modern usage requirements of the building. This includes the flooring of the lecture hall, to create a first floor, and the alteration of the vestry, to the north of the chapel hall, to create W/Cs and a kitchen.

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1.1 The historic buildings record has demonstrated that the known development of Mount Pleasant Baptist Church matches neatly with the identified phases seen in the buildings physical structure, and map regression.
- 7.1.2 The construction of the church in 1826 comes at a significant moment in the history of the Baptist Church in Swansea, and in Wales, when congregations have grown significantly and made the decision to separate into Welsh and English-speaking congregations able to sustain their own places of worship.
- 7.1.3 The direct link to the roots of the Baptist Community in Swansea is highly significant, as this community becomes the progenitor of the Baptist cause in Wales. The founder of the Welsh movement, John Miles, would later take the cause to Massachusetts, where he settles the town of Swansea.
- 7.1.4 The continued development of the Church, through alteration and addition, demonstrated the combined finances and effort that the community were able to muster for their cause. This is particularly evident in the works of 1875, where Bath stone was used for an opulent and imposing new façade, later addition of a lecture hall and school rooms, and in the quality of the doors, windows, and pews.
- 7.1.5 Photographic evidence shows that the original gothic tracery windows of the east and west elevations were replaced sometime between 1905 and 1941, probably because a century of weather had caused these to rot and degrade. The new windows may have been part of the same works that saw the installation of the ventilation cowls to the roof of the main chapel hall. The same photographs also demonstrate the addition of the cowls sometime between 1905 and 1941, and may be a part general programme of refurbishment of the chapel.
- 7.1.6 The creation of a new doorway, utilising the blocked Phase I window, demonstrated its blocking in brick, with a black mortar. This mortar type was common in industrial Swansea, and utilised lime mixed with some of the crushed slag generated by the copperworks as aggregate, which was also found to make the set much harder. This became more common in the Swansea valley from the mid-19th century, and fits neatly with the construction date of 1885.
- 7.1.7 Overall, Mount Pleasant neatly represents the sequential development of a Baptist Church and its growing community over the course of the 19th century, with the addition to the main chapel of an expanded vestry, lecture hall, and schoolrooms. Its origins within the earliest Baptist community in Wales and association with one of the most celebrated 19th century chapel architects, George Morgan of Carmarthen, endow Mount Pleasant with a significant historical legacy, placing it as part of the national story of Wales. The quality of the design and craftsmanship of all periods paint a picture of a continuously expanding community, with the finances to improve and develop their chapel to further the educational, religious, and political needs of its members. This was enabled by the expansion of Swansea as a world leading centre for the copper industry, which drew in many tens of thousands of inhabitants throughout the 19th century. It forms part of a large pattern of nonconformist chapel building throughout Wales during the 19th and early-20th centuries, whose

legacy still dominate the character of many cities, towns, villages, and rural areas throughout the country today.

8 ARCHIVING

- 8.1 The results of the Historic Buildings Record and Watching Brief are this written report, interpreted survey, and photographic archive. This will be held by and will be deposited with the regional HER and the NMR. A PDF copy of the report will be made available from www.archaeodomus.co.uk.

9 SOURCES

9.1 Written Sources

- 9.1.1 **Historic England**, 2016, *Understanding historic Buildings; A guide to good practice*.
- 9.1.2 **CIfA**, 2014, *Standards and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*.
- 9.1.3 **CIfA**, 2014, *Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*.
- 9.1.4 **Welsh Government**, 2017, *Planning Policy Wales; Technical Advice Note 24: The Historic Environment*. Crown Copyright.

9.2 Online Sources

9.2.1 British Geological Survey

Accessed: January 2022

www.bsg.ac.uk

9.2.2 UK Soil Observatory

Accessed: January 2022

www.ukso.org.uk

9.3 Maps

9.3.1 1879 OS 25 Inch to One Mile Map First Edition

9.3.2 1899 OS 25 Inch to One Mile Map First Edition

9.3.3 1919 OS 25 Inch to One Mile Map Second Edition

APPENDIX I

Historic Mapping

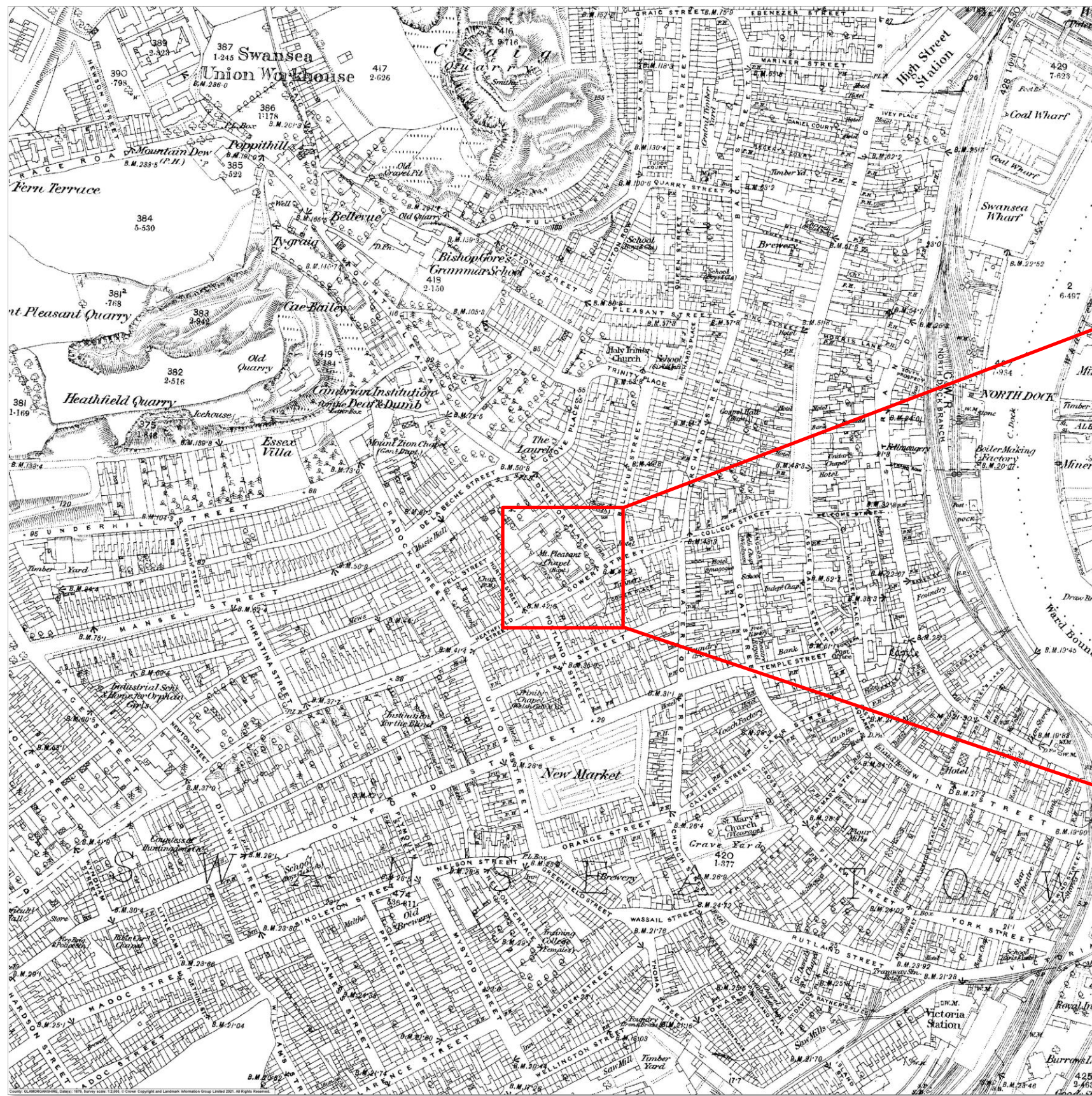
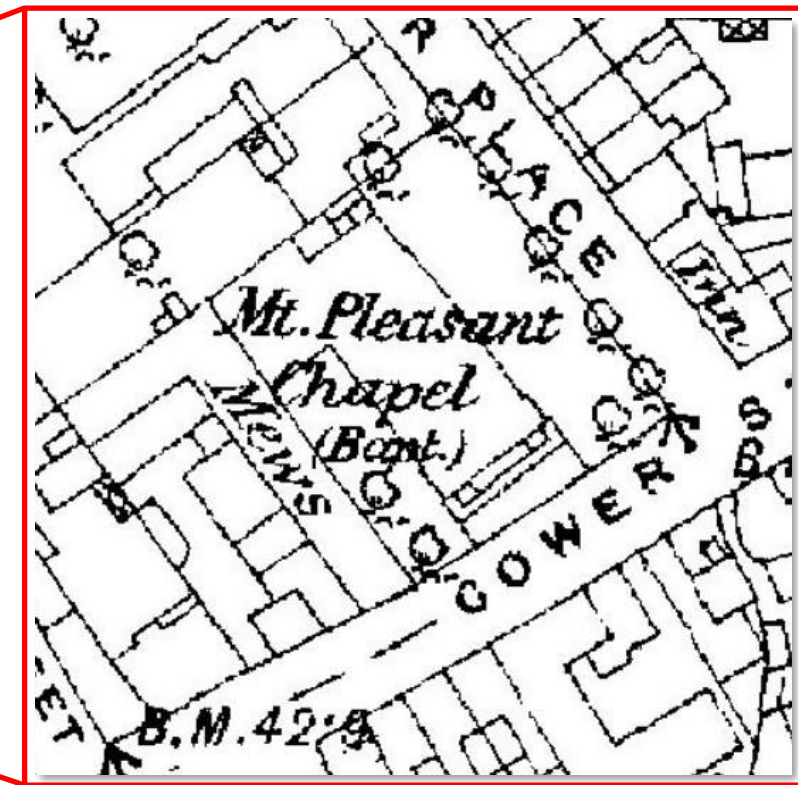


Fig. 10 – 1879 25 Inch to One Mile, OS.



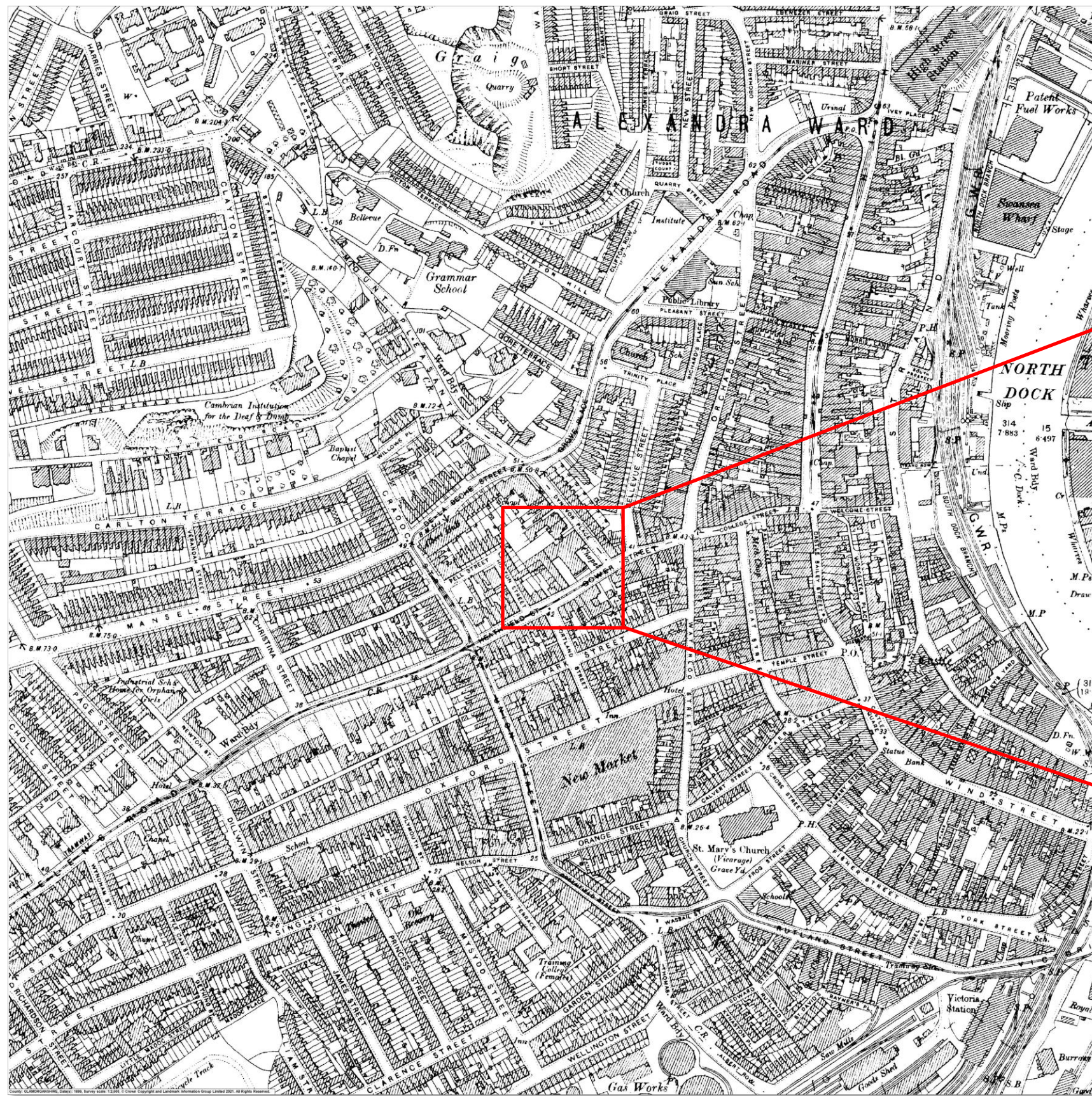
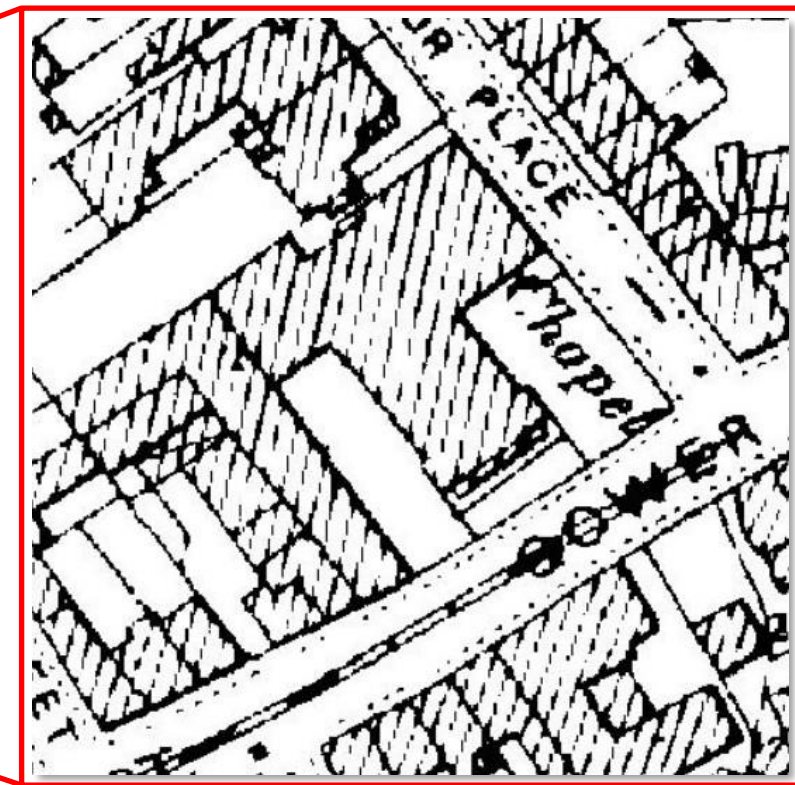


Fig. 11 – 1899 25 Inch to One Mile, OS.



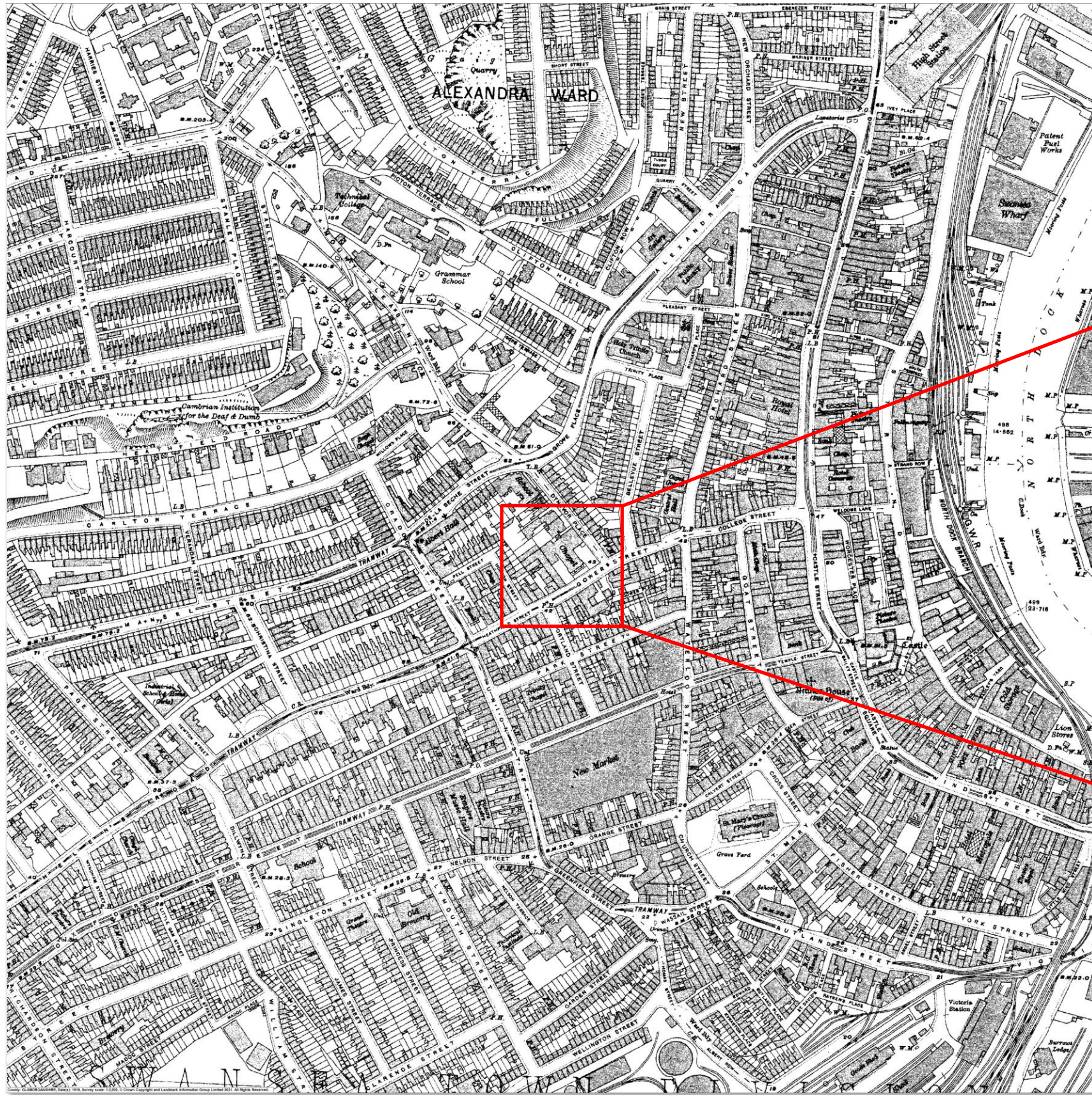
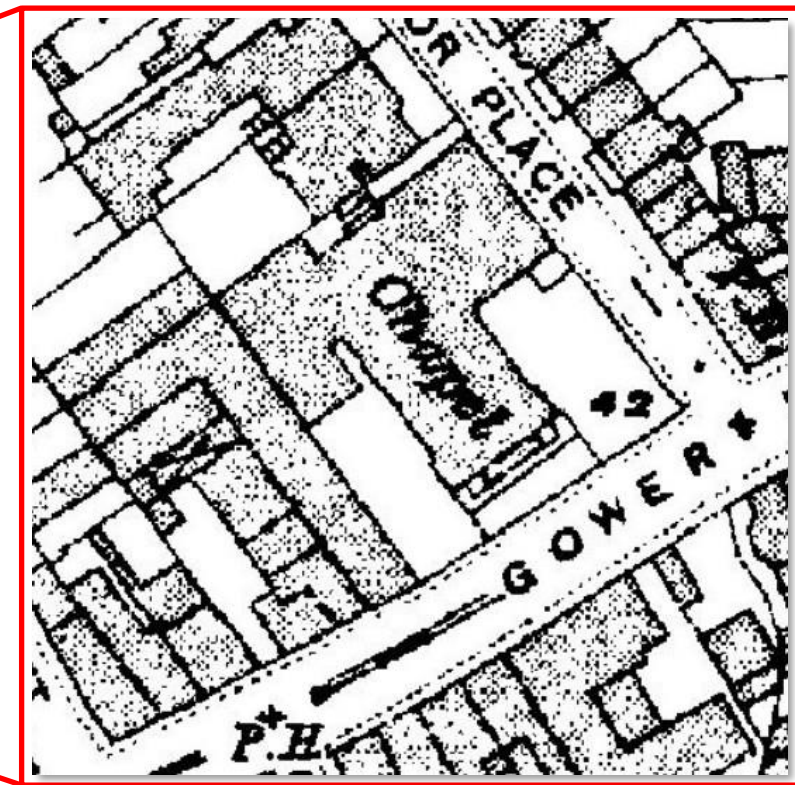


Fig. 12 – 1919 25 Inch to One Mile, OS.



APPENDIX II

Plans

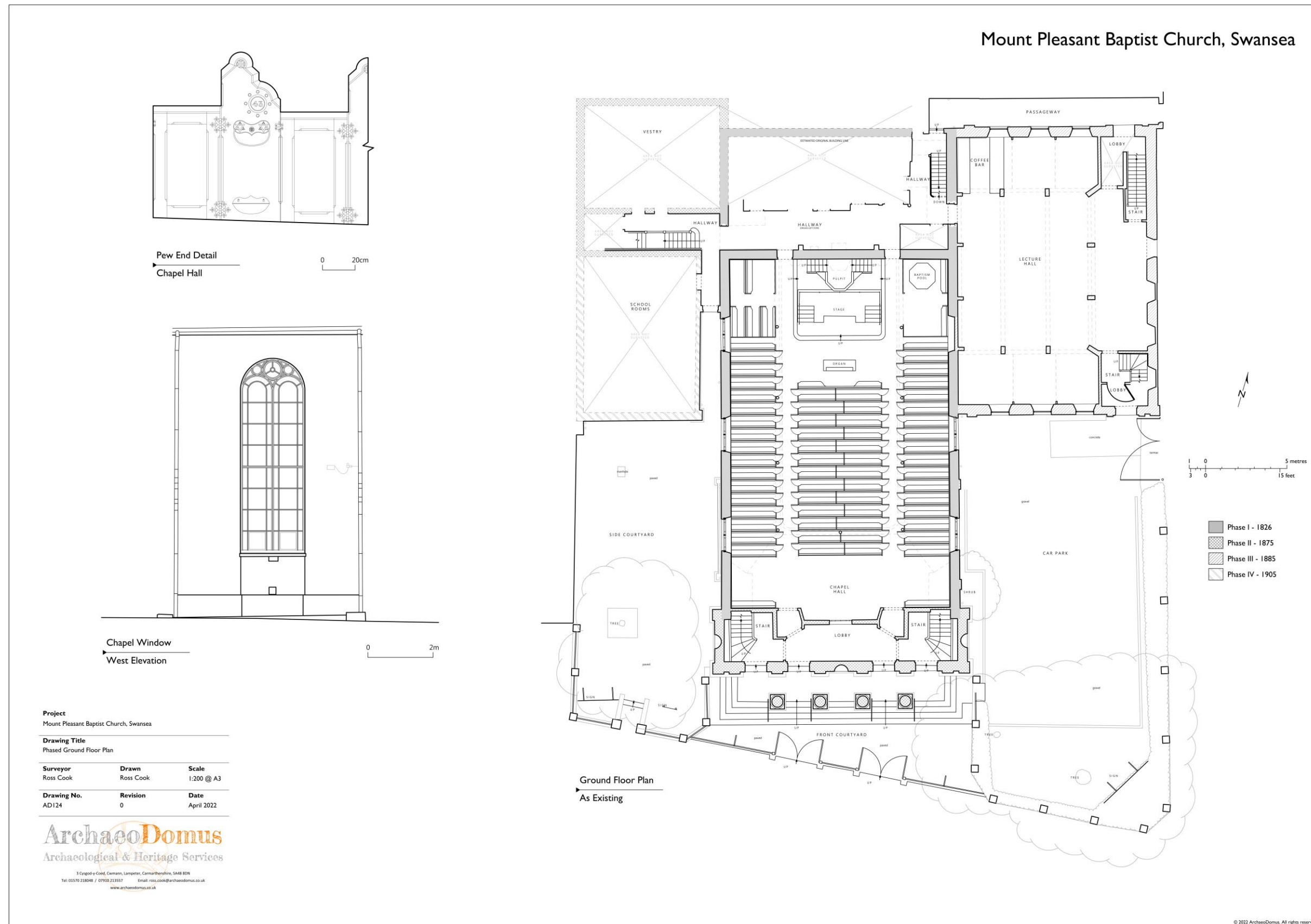


Fig. 13 – Phased plan, pew, and window detail.

APPENDIX III

Historic Building Record

Photographic Archive



Plate 1 – View north, showing principal elevation.



Plate 2 – View north, showing pediment of principal elevation.



Plate 3 – View north-east, showing $\frac{3}{4}$ view of main chapel, with school rooms to west.



Plate 4 – View north, showing principal elevation, with lecture hall to east.



Plate 5 – View north-west, showing main chapel and lecture hall.



Plate 6 – View west, showing east elevation of main chapel.

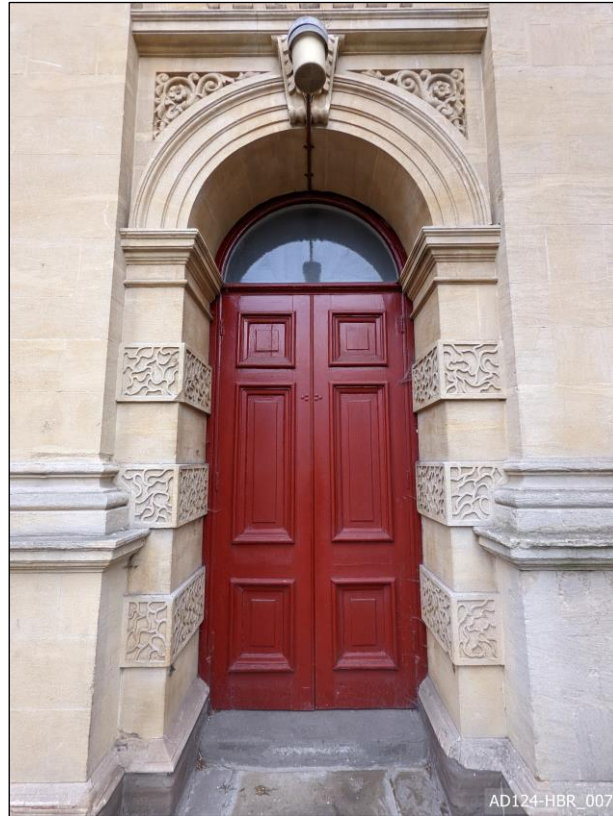


Plate 7 – View north, showing entrance to chapel lobby.

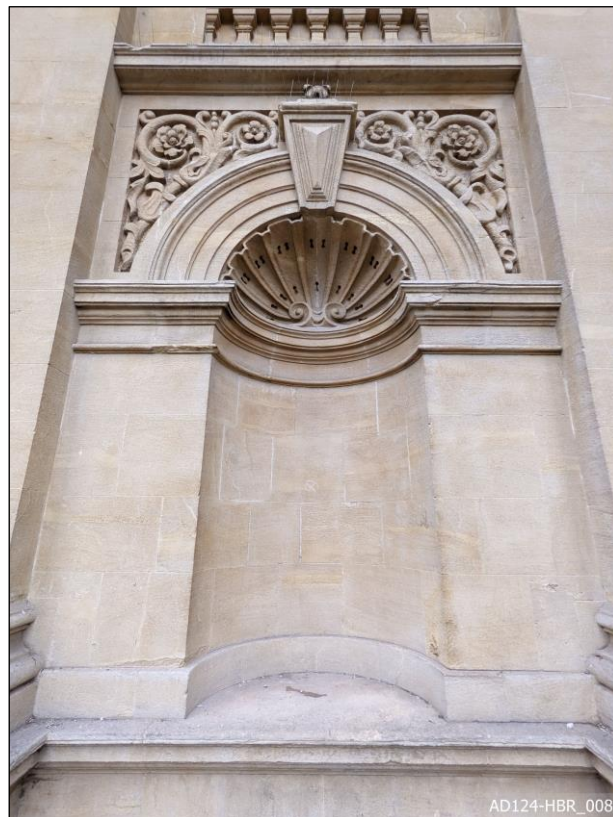


Plate 8 – View north, showing scalloped niche to principal elevation.



Plate 9 – View north-west, showing pilaster.



Plate 10 – view north-east, showing west elevation of chapel.



Plate 11 – View east, showing location of new disabled access (through window).



Plate 12 – View east, showing scalloped niche to west elevation.



Plate 13 – view north, showing south elevation of school rooms.



Plate 14 – View north, showing window of school rooms.



Plate 15 – View north, showing Corinthian capital of pilaster of school rooms.



Plate 16 – View north-west, showing brick lateral wall to school rooms.



Plate 17 – View north, showing first floor window of principal elevation.



Plate 18 – View east, showing balcony to main chapel, with vermiculいた panels, and Corinthian pilaster capitals.



Plate 19 – View north, showing south elevation of lecture hall.



Plate 20 – View north, showing window of south elevation of lecture hall.



Plate 21 – View north, showing pediment windows in south elevation of lecture hall.



Plate 22 – View north, showing entrance to lecture hall from south.



Plate 23 – View north-west, showing $\frac{3}{4}$ view of lecture hall.



Plate 24 – View west, showing east elevation of lecture hall.



Plate 25 – View west, showing doorway and blocked window in east elevation of lecture hall.



Plate 26 – View west, showing date stone in east elevation of lecture hall.



Plate 27 – View south-west, showing $\frac{3}{4}$ view of lecture hall.

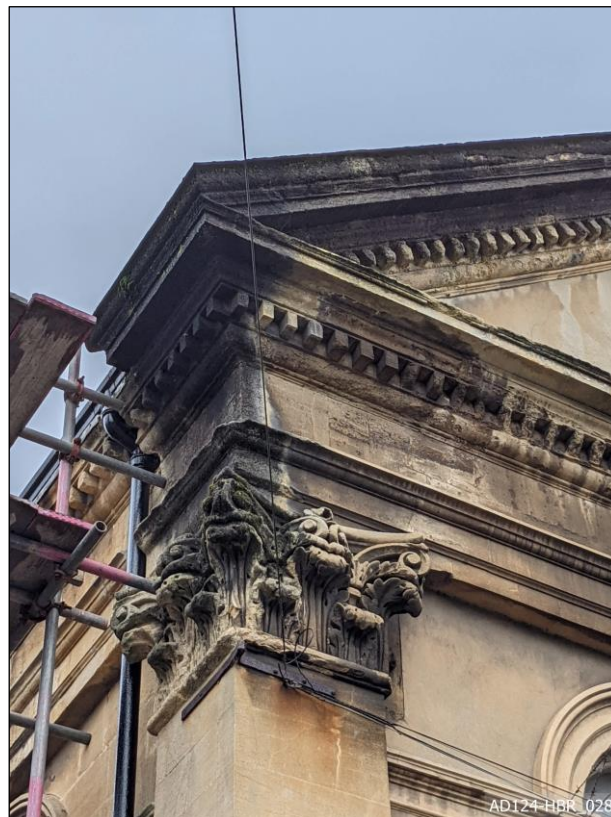


Plate 28 – View south-west, showing mouldings and dentils of pediment and frieze. Corinthian capitals of pilasters.



Plate 29 – View west, showing ventilation cowls to roof of main chapel.



Plate 30 – View north-west, showing $\frac{3}{4}$ view of chapel.

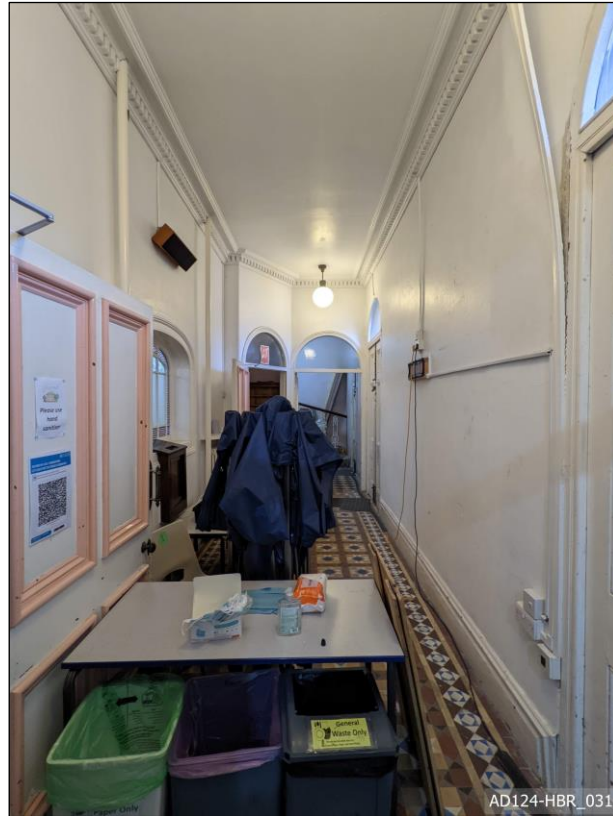


Plate 31 – View east, showing entrance hall of chapel.



Plate 32 – View west, showing entrance hall of chapel.



Plate 33 – View north-east, showing east stair to gallery.

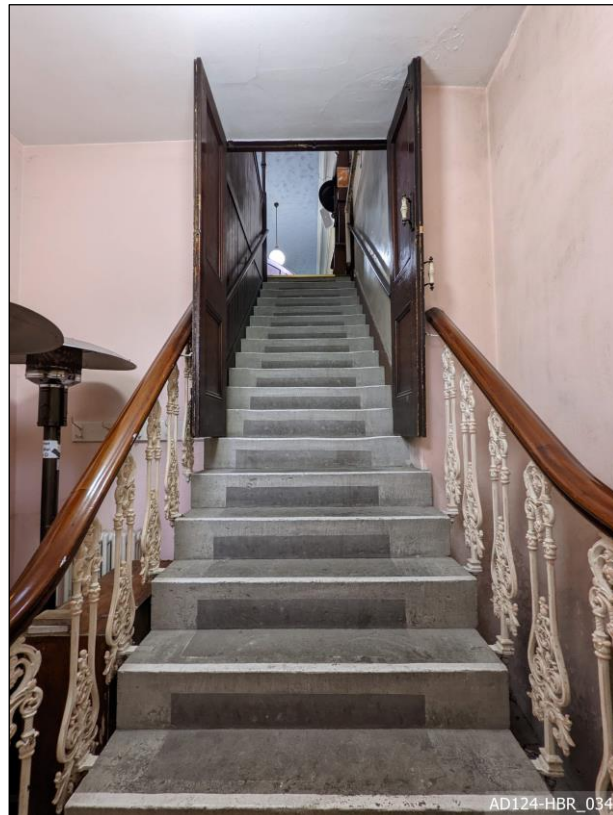


Plate 34 – View north, showing east stair to gallery.



Plate 35 – Polychromatic tiling to entrance hall of chapel.



Plate 36 – View west, showing west stair to gallery.



Plate 37 – View north-west, showing west stair to gallery.



Plate 38 – View north, showing west stair to gallery.



Plate 39 – View east, showing iron newel and baluster of west stair.

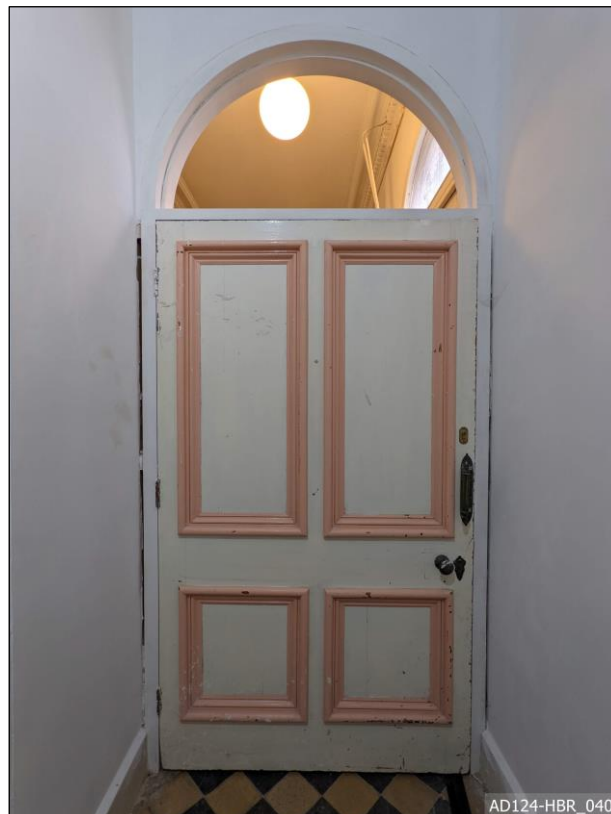


Plate 40 – View east, showing door between west stair and entrance hall.



Plate 41 – View north, showing letter box in chapel entrance hall.



Plate 42 – View showing decorative cornice of entrance hall.



Plate 43 – View north, showing east lobby from entrance hall to chapel hall.



Plate 44 – View north, showing double doors to chapel from lobby.



Plate 45 – View north, showing west lobby from entrance hall to chapel hall.



Plate 46 – View north-east, showing chapel hall.



Plate 47 – View north-west, showing chapel hall.



Plate 48 – View north-west, showing chapel hall.



Plate 49 – View south-west, showing chapel hall.



Plate 50 – View south-west, showing chapel hall.



Plate 51 – View south-east, showing chapel hall.



Plate 52 – View south-east, showing chapel hall.



Plate 53 – View north-east, showing chapel hall.



Plate 54 – View north, showing chapel hall.

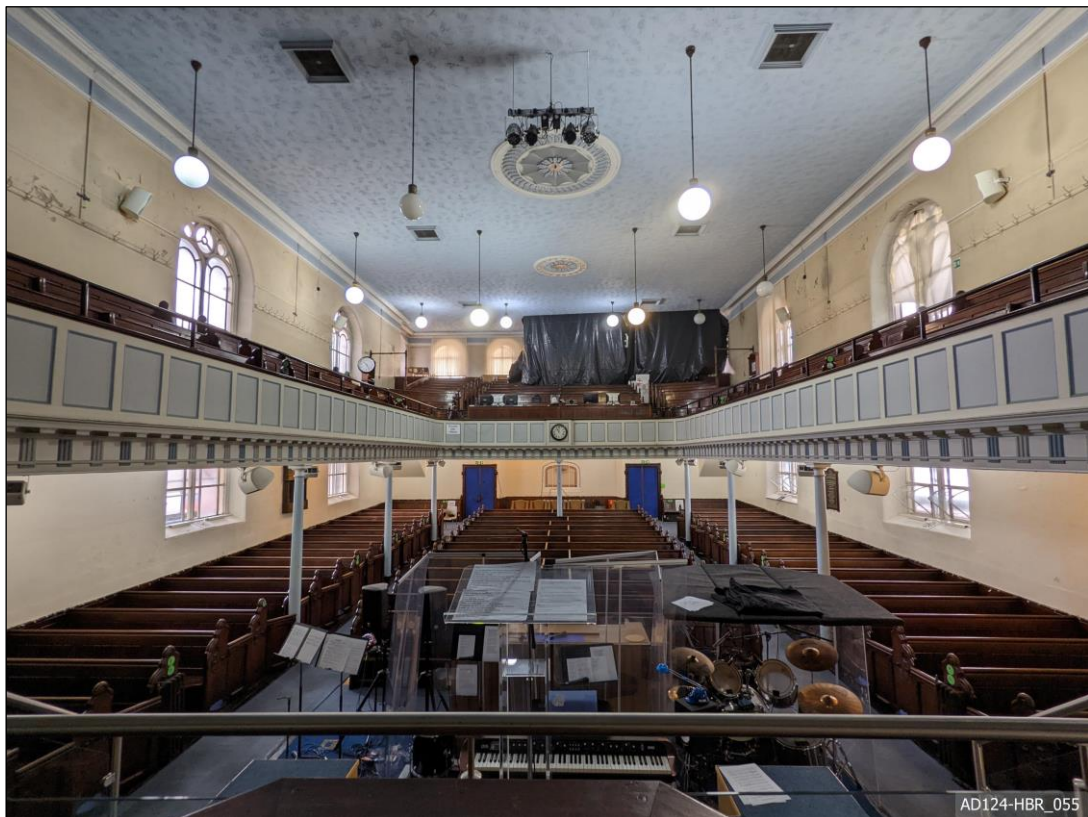


Plate 55 – View south, showing chapel hall.



Plate 56 – View south, showing window between entrance hall and chapel hall.



Plate 57 – View east, showing iron gallery column.



Plate 58 – View south, showing double doors to east lobby.



Plate 59 – View west, showing pew end details.

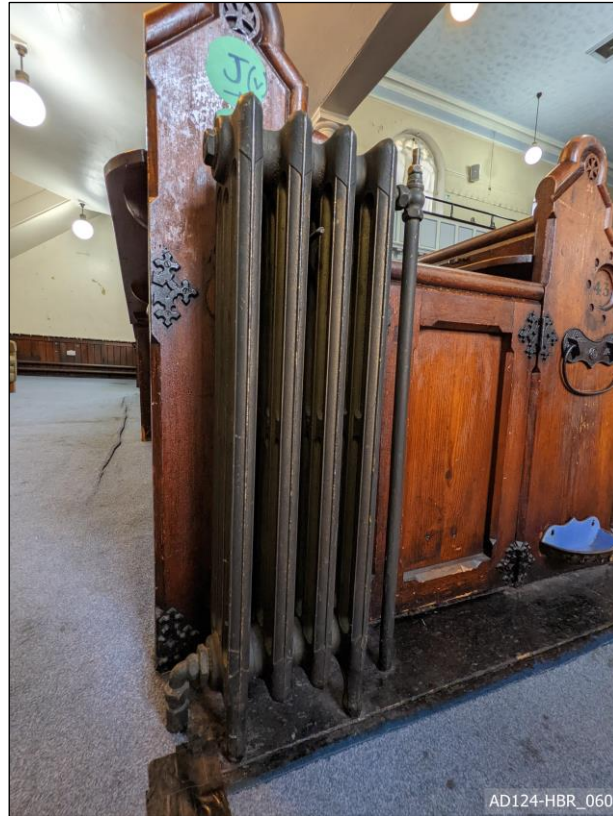


Plate 60 – View west, showing iron radiator.



Plate 61 – View south, showing chapel hall clock.



Plate 62 – View of south ceiling rose.



Plate 63 – View north, showing organ pipes.

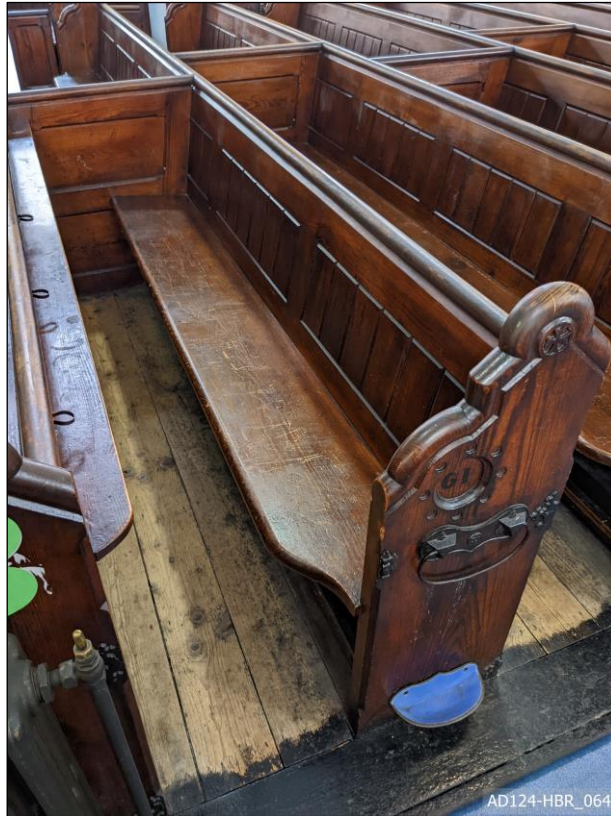


Plate 64 – View east, showing pew.



Plate 65 – View of north ceiling rose.



Plate 66 – View north-east, showing baptism pool.

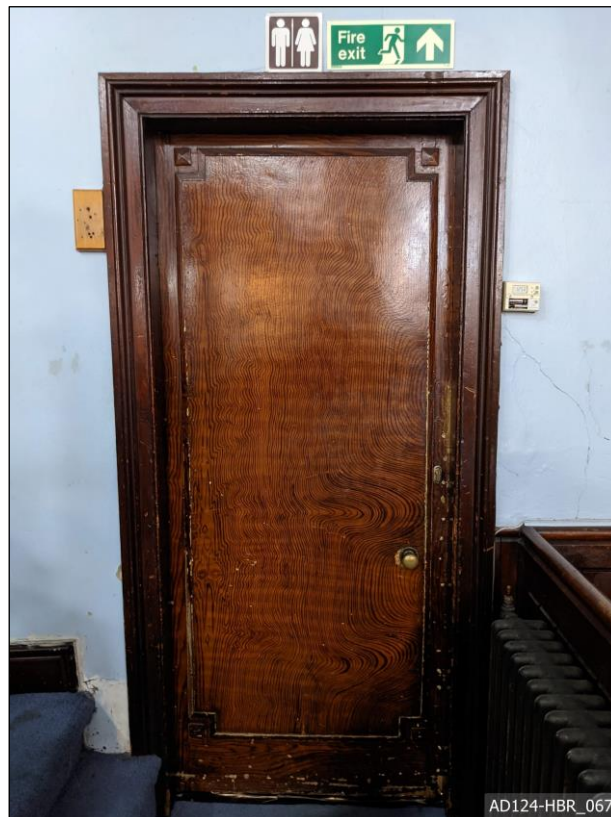


Plate 67 – View north, showing doorway from chapel hall to rear corridor (original vestry).

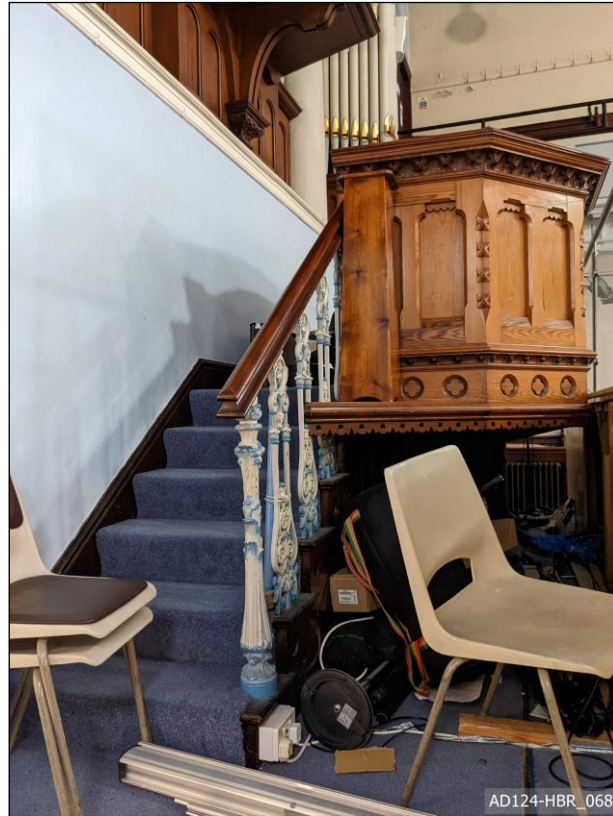


Plate 68 – View east, showing pulpit.



Plate 69 – View east, showing pulpit.



Plate 70 – View north, showing newel post and baluster to pulpit stair.



Plate 71 – View south-east, showing rear of pulpit.



Plate 72 – View south-east, showing pulpit.



Plate 73 – View south from pulpit across chapel hall.

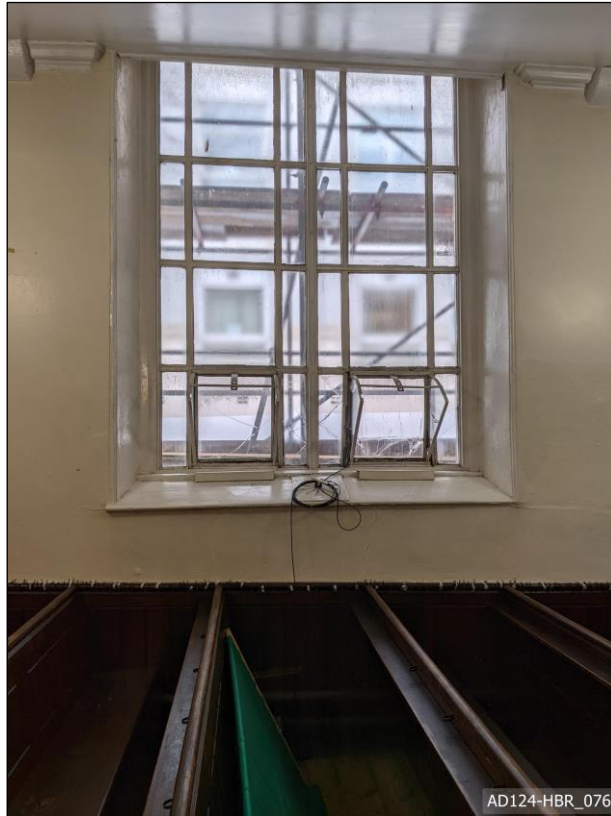


Plate 76 – View west, showing area for new disabled access ramp.



Plate 77 – View north-east, showing chapel hall from gallery.



Plate 78 – View north, showing chapel hall from gallery.



Plate 79 – View north-west, showing chapel hall from gallery.



Plate 80 – View east, showing return between original chapel of 1825 and 1875 alterations.

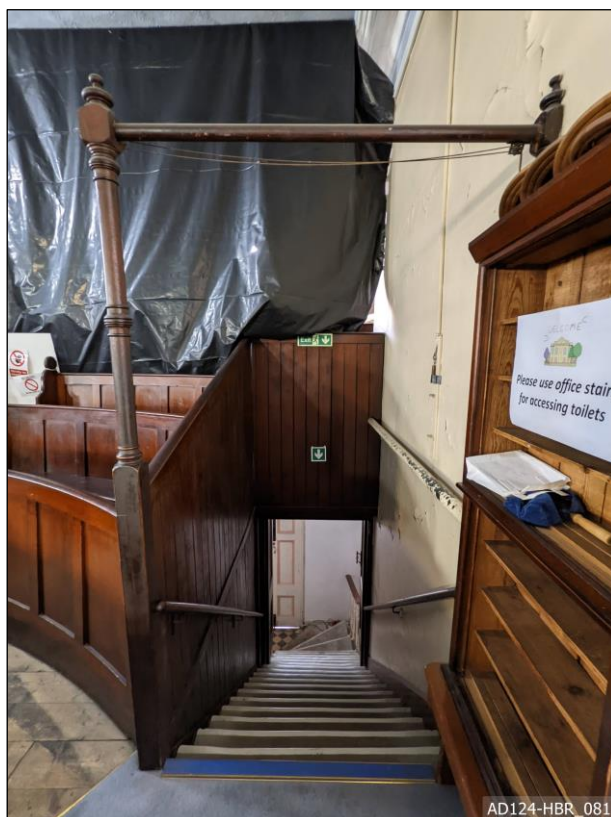


Plate 81 – View south, showing west stair from gallery.



Plate 82 – View south-west, showing gallery and area of ceiling damage.

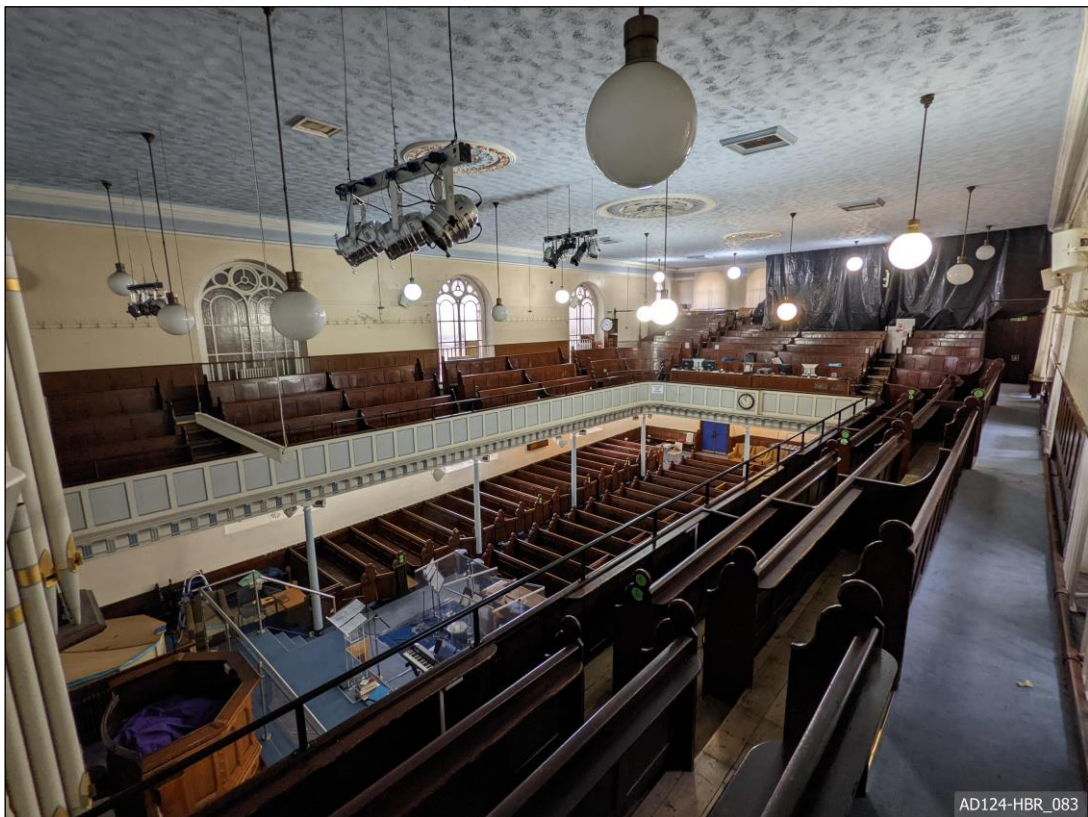


Plate 83 – View south-east, showing chapel hall from gallery.



Plate 84 – View south-west, showing chapel hall from gallery.

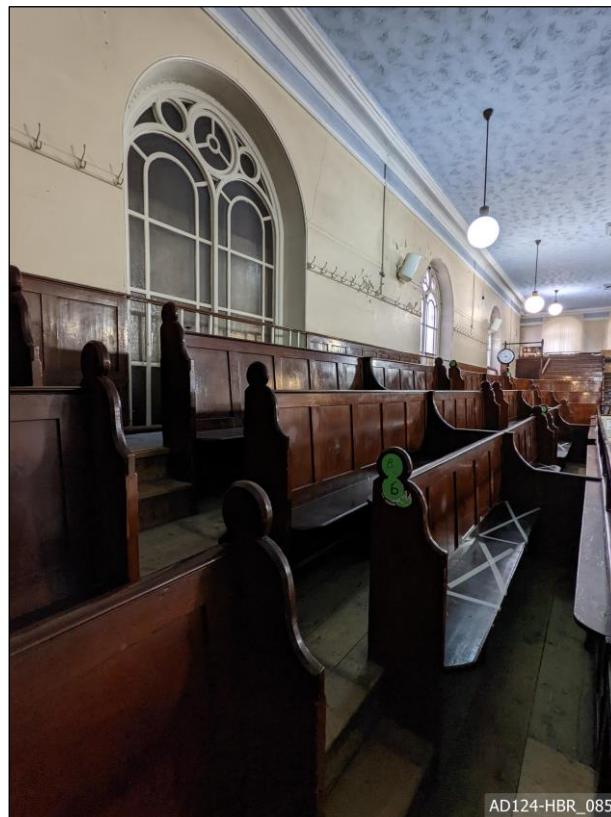


Plate 85 – View south, showing gallery pews.



Plate 86 – View south-west, showing pulpit and view across chapel hall from gallery.



Plate 87 – View east, showing window blocked by 1885 addition of lecture hall.

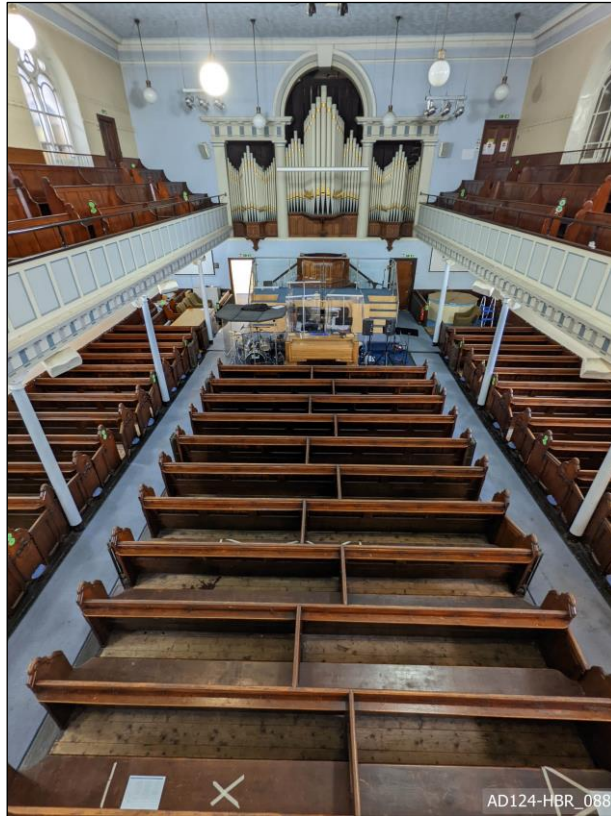


Plate 88 – View north, showing chapel hall from gallery.



Plate 89 – View showing cornice detail of chapel hall.



Plate 90 – View north, showing doorways to stairs.

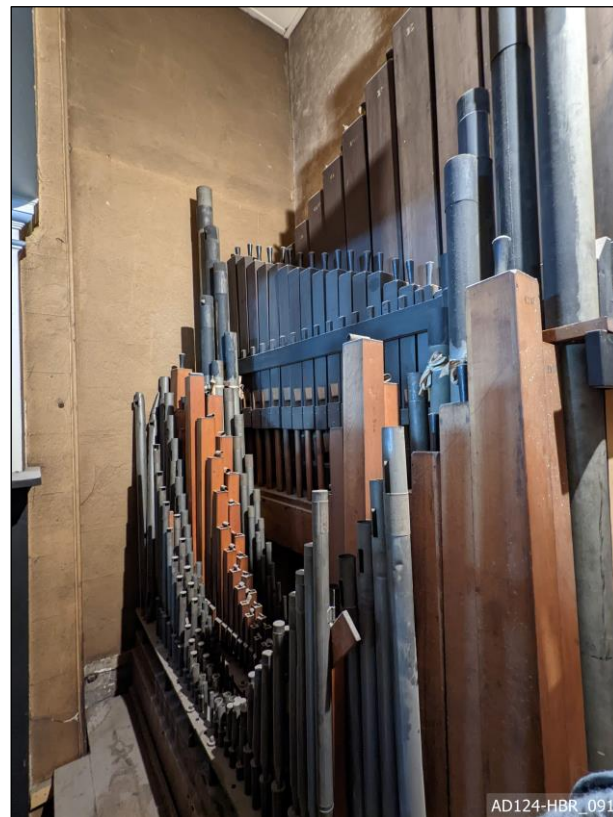


Plate 91 – View west, showing organ loft.

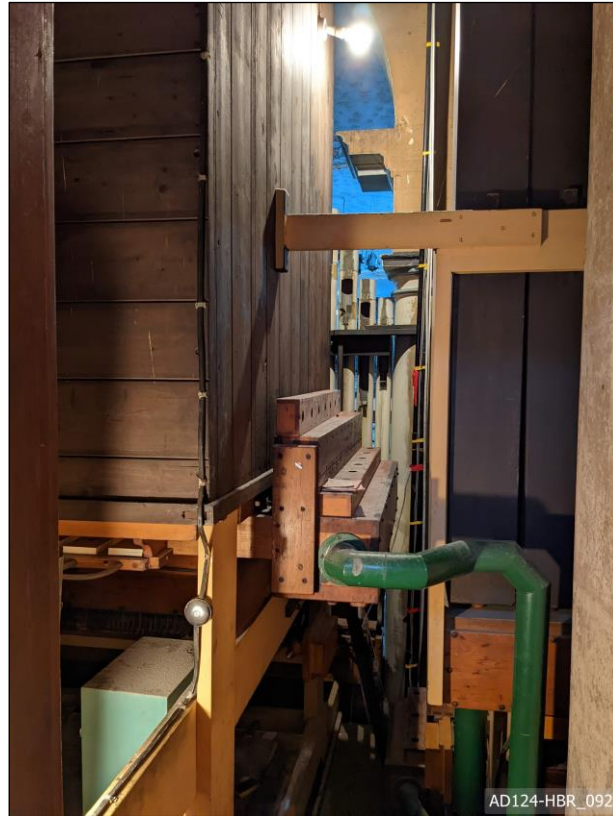


Plate 92 – View west, showing organ loft.



Plate 93 – View east, showing first floor store room.



Plate 94 – View west, showing first floor store room.



Plate 95 – View north, showing false Ashland and cornice of first floor store room.



Plate 96 – View south, showing landing and doorway to chapel hall gallery.

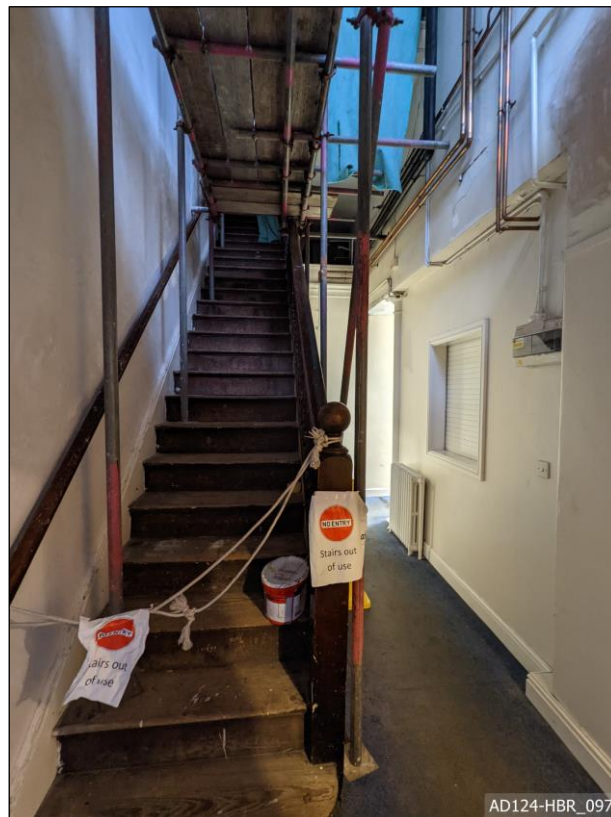


Plate 97 – View south, showing stair to gallery and organ loft.



Plate 98 – View south-east, showing mens W/C.



Plate 99 – View east, showing passageway to north of lecture hall.

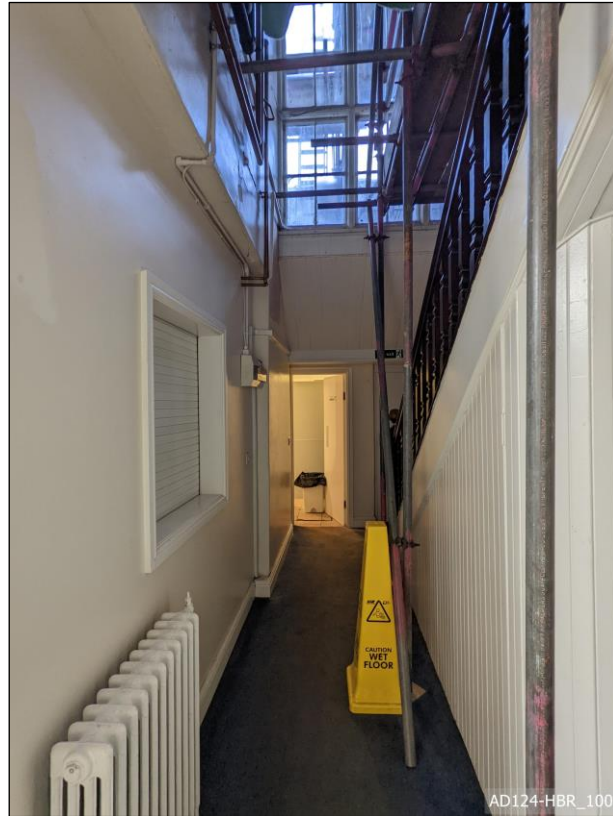


Plate 100 – View north, showing corridor.



Plate 101 – View west, showing corridor from lecture halls to vestry and school rooms.



Plate 102 – View south-west, showing corridor with doorways into chapel hall.



Plate 103 – View north-west, showing corridor with doorways to kitchen and W/Cs.



Plate 104 – View north-west, showing corridor with doorways to kitchen and W/Cs.



Plate 105 – View north-west, showing kitchen.



Plate 106 – View north-east, showing kitchen.



Plate 107 – View north-east, showing kitchen.

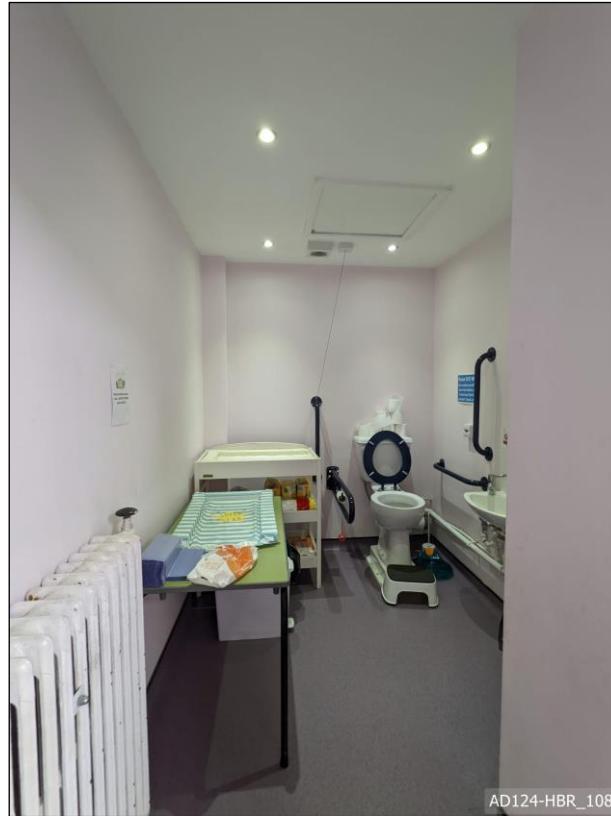


Plate 108 – View north, showing W/C.



Plate 109 – View north, showing female W/C.



Plate 110 – View south, showing corridor between chapel and school rooms, with external doorway.



Plate 111 – View west, showing stair to first floor of vestry and school rooms.



Plate 112 – View west, showing entrance to vestry and store rooms.

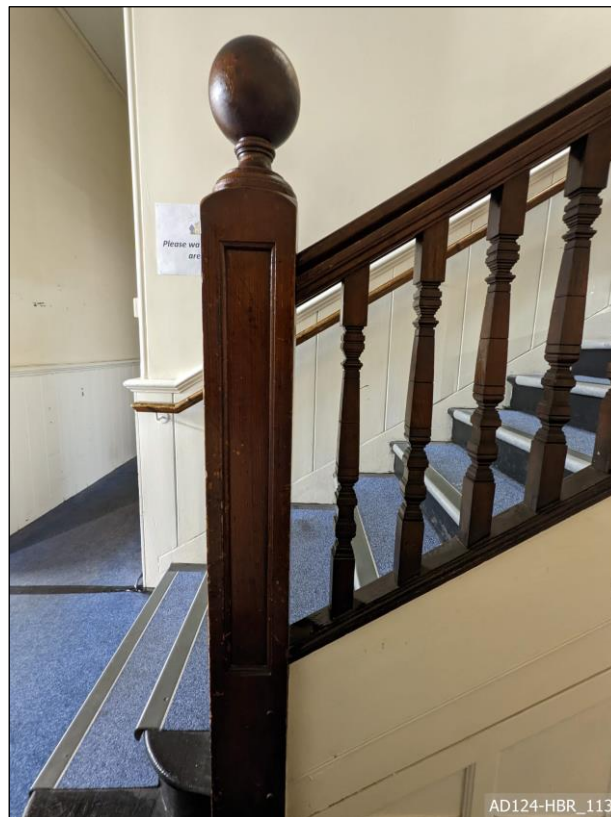


Plate 113 – View showing newel and baluster of very stairs.



Plate 114 – View north-east, showing vestry day room.



Plate 115 – View south, showing vestry day room.



Plate 116 – View north-east, showing fireplace in vestry day room.

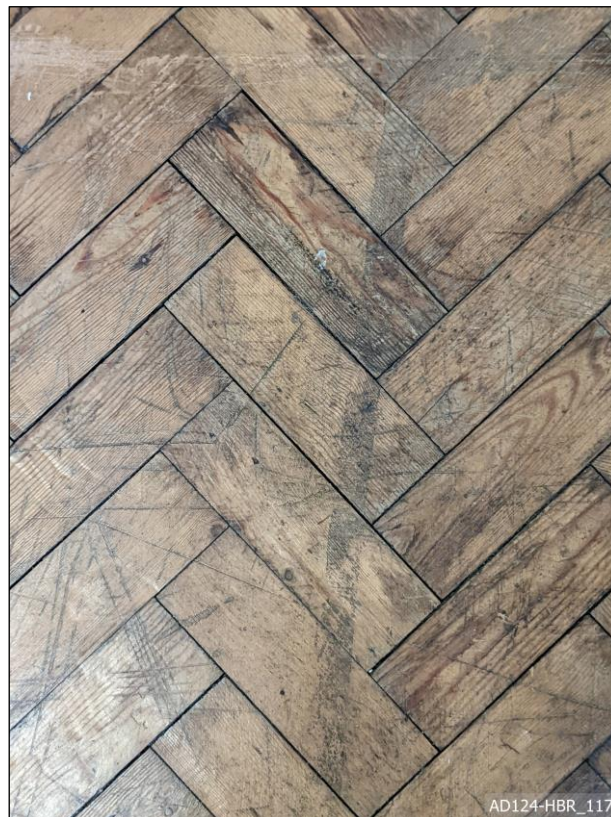


Plate 117 – View of parquet flooring in vestry day room.



Plate 118 – View north, showing vestry store room.



Plate 119 – View south, showing vestry store room.



Plate 120 – View north, showing vestry vestry W/C.



Plate 121 – View north, showing vestry store.



Plate 122 – View south-west, showing ground floor school room.



Plate 123 – View south-east, showing ground floor school room.



Plate 124 – View north-east, showing ground floor school room.



Plate 125 – View east, showing doorway to ground floor school room.

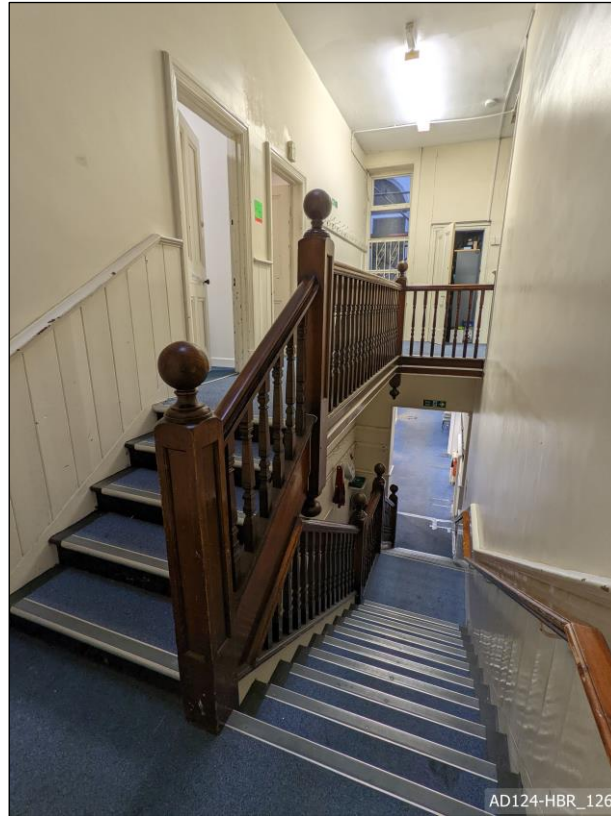


Plate 126 – View east, showing vestry stair.



Plate 127 – View south-west, showing vestry stair and landing.



Plate 128 – View south, showing vestry landing and doorways to vestry office and first floor school room.



Plate 129 – View north-west, showing first floor vestry store room.



Plate 130 – View north-east, showing first floor vestry office.



Plate 131 – View south-west, showing first floor vestry office.



Plate 132 – View north-east, showing first floor vestry office.



Plate 133 – View west, showing vestry office fireplace.

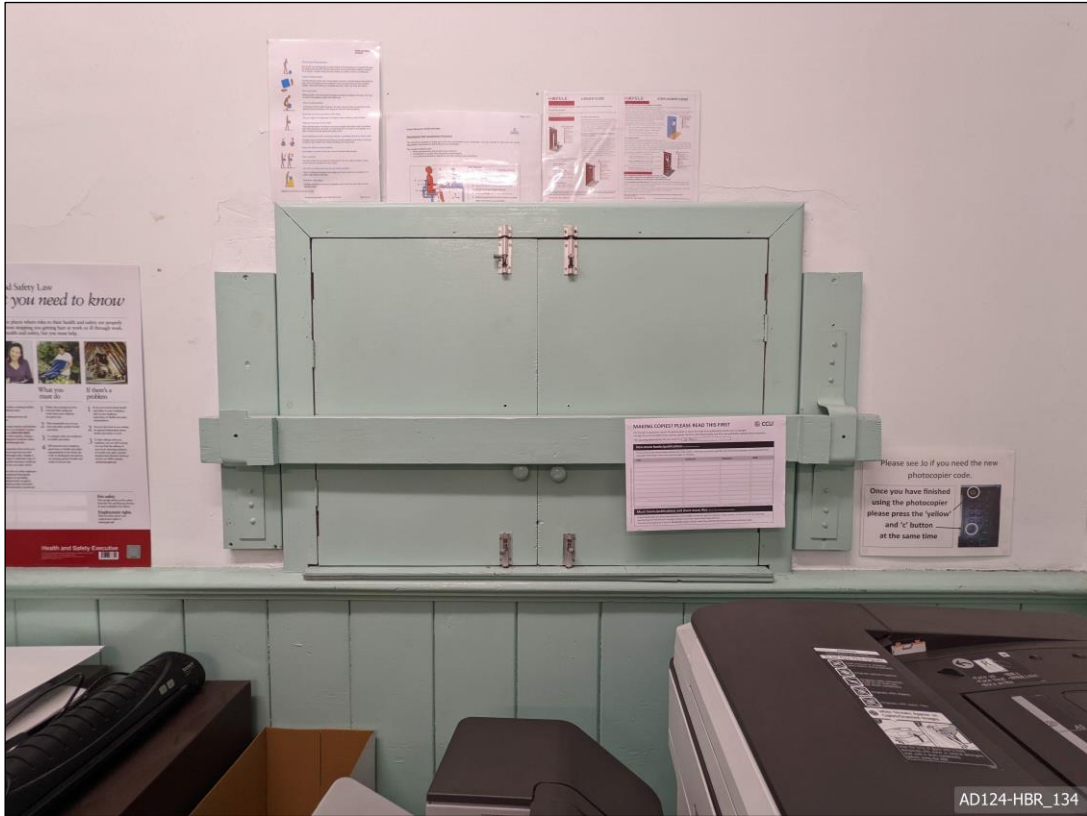


Plate 134 – View east, showing hatch to landing from vestry office.



Plate 135 – View west, showing hatch to office from vestry office.



Plate 136 – View south-west, showing first floor school room.



Plate 137 – View north-east, showing first floor school room.

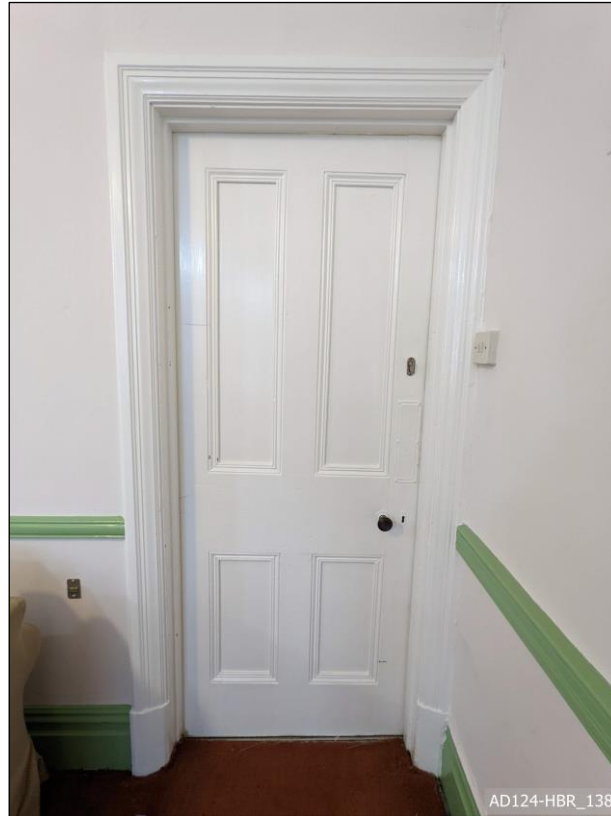


Plate 138 – View north, showing first floor school room door.

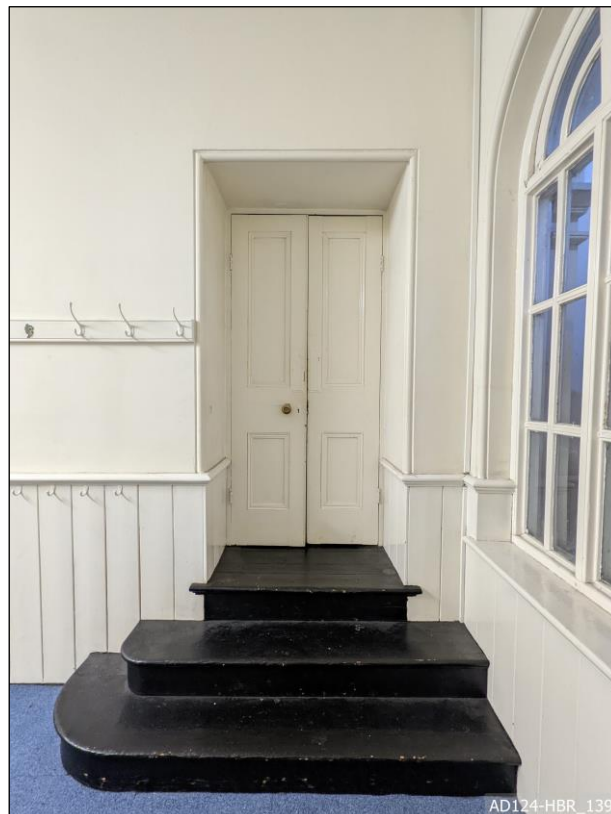


Plate 139 – View east, showing access to gallery of chapel hall.



Plate 140 – View east, showing doorway from corridor to lecture hall.



Plate 141 – View north-east, showing entrance to basement.



Plate 142 – View north, showing stairs to basement.

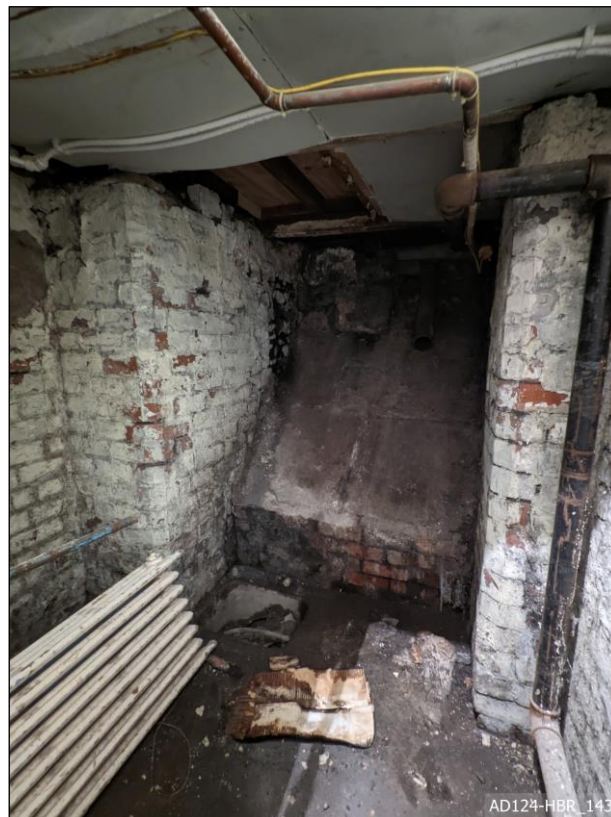


Plate 143 – View north, showing coal chute into basement.



Plate 144 – View south, showing basement.



Plate 145 – View north-east, showing ground floor of lecture hall.



Plate 146 – View south-east, showing ground floor of lecture hall.



Plate 147 – View south-west, showing ground floor of lecture hall.



Plate 148 – View north-west, showing north end of ground floor of lecture hall.



Plate 149 – View south-east, showing south end of ground floor of lecture hall.



Plate 150 – View south, showing east end of ground floor of lecture hall.



Plate 151 – View west, showing access to corridor.



Plate 152 – View west, showing access to corridor.



Plate 153 – View north, showing ground floor window of lecture hall.



Plate 154 – View north, showing doorway to cupboard (former entrance lobby) of lecture hall.



Plate 155 – View south, showing south entrance lobby of lecture hall.

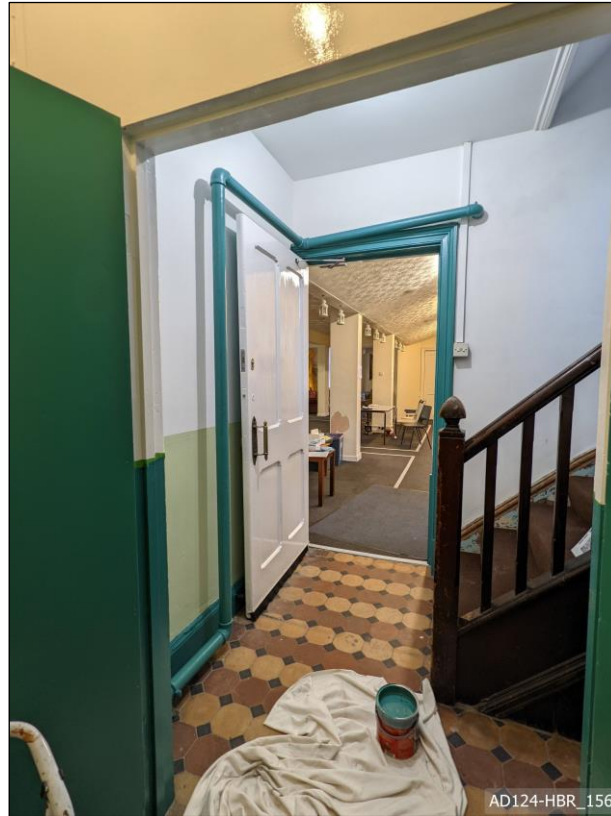


Plate 156 – View north, showing south entrance lobby to lecture hall.



Plate 157 – View north, showing former entrance lobby to north of lecture hall.

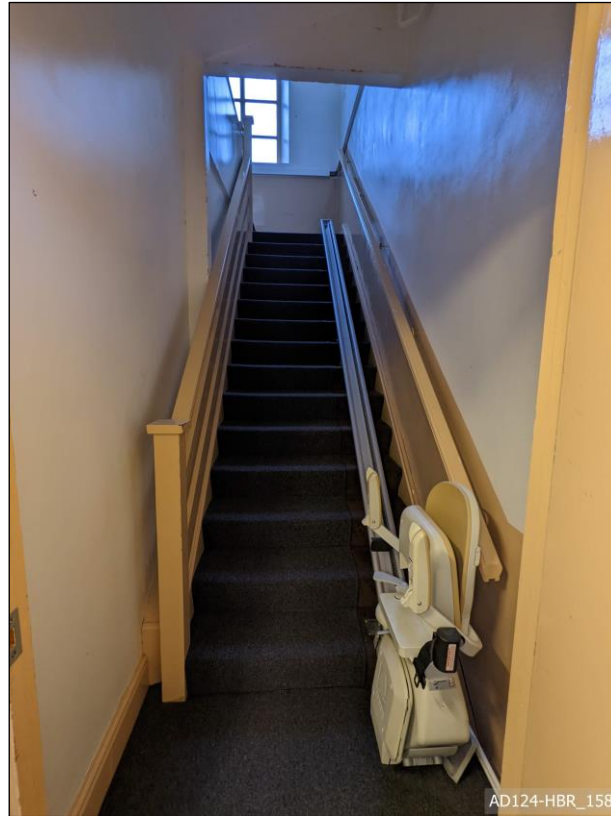


Plate 158 – View north, showing stair to first floor of lecture hall.



Plate 159 – View south-west, showing stair from ground floor of lecture hall.



Plate 160 – View west, showing first floor of lecture hall.



Plate 161 – View south, showing first floor of lecture hall.



Plate 162 – View north, showing first floor of lecture hall.



Plate 163 – View east, showing first floor of lecture hall.



Plate 164 – View south-west, showing lantern over lecture hall.

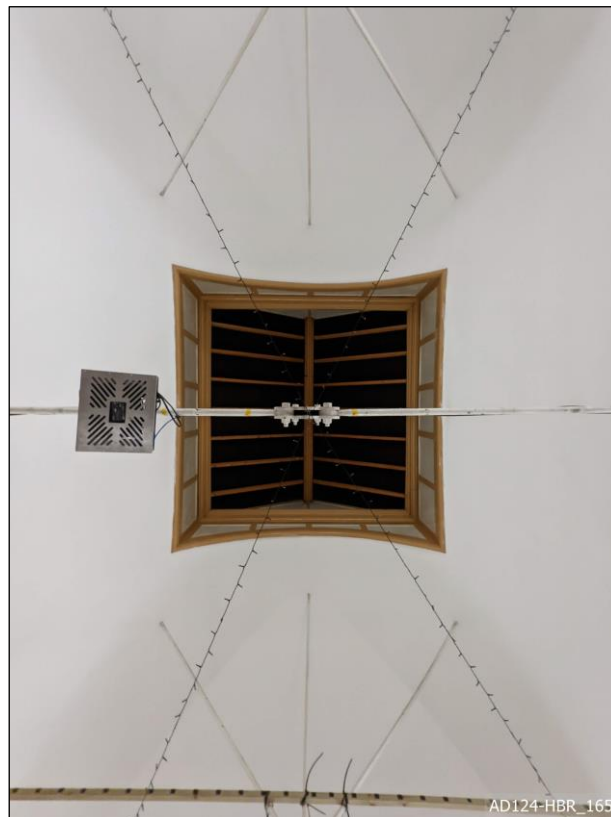


Plate 165 – View showing lantern over lecture hall.



Plate 166 – View south-west, showing stair and cupboard at first floor of lecture hall.



Plate 167 – View south-east, showing doorway to stair from south entrance lobby of lecture hall.



Plate 168 – View south-west, showing stair from south lobby of lecture hall.



Plate 169 – View north-east, showing stair from south lobby of lecture hall.



Plate 170 – View south, showing stair from south lobby of lecture hall.



Plate 171 – View showing stair from south lobby of lecture hall.

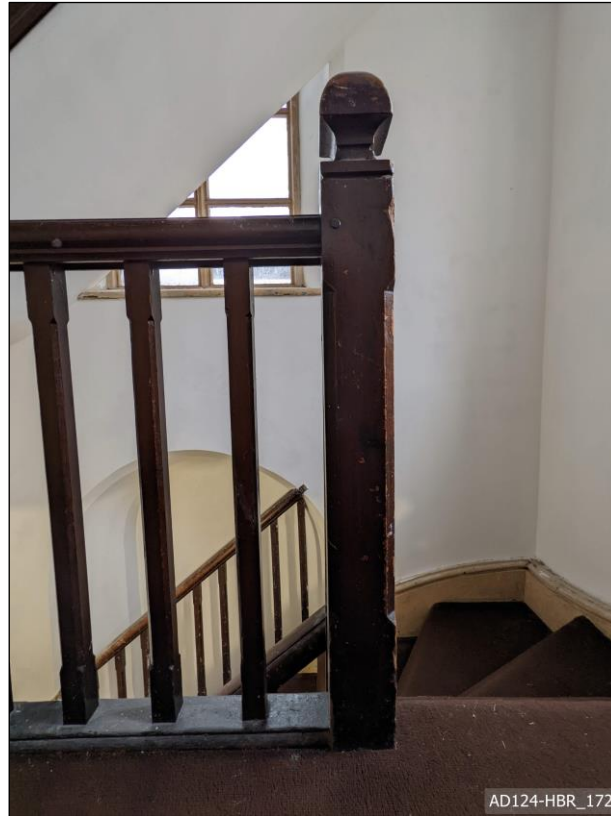


Plate 172 – View showing newel post and baluster of stair.



Plate 173 – View showing tiles in south lobby of lecture hall.



Plate 174 – View east, showing window to be opened into doorway.



Plate 175 – View east, showing opened wall.

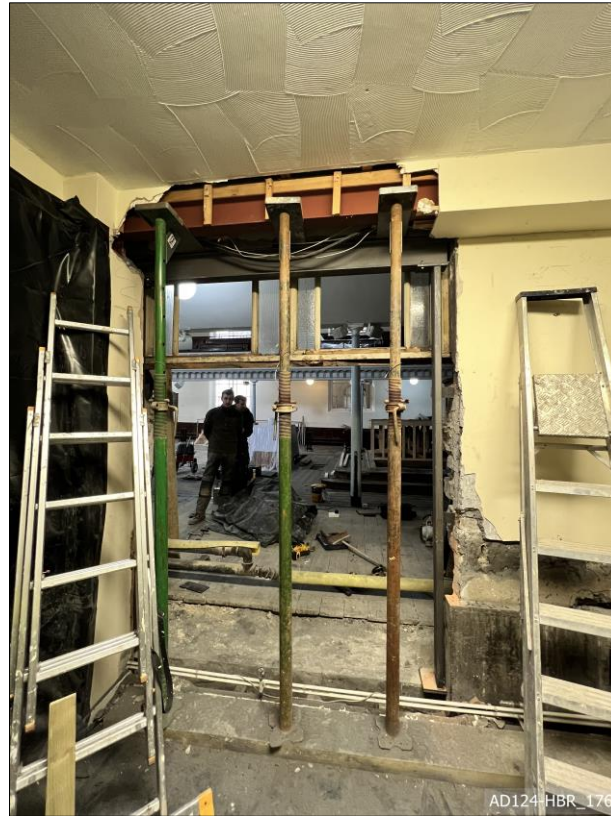


Plate 176 – View west, showing opening.



Plate 177 – View west, showing surviving plinth to chapel wall.



Plate 178 – View south, showing brick blocking (left) and stone of chapel wall, in lime mortar.



Plate 179 – View south, showing chapel hall with pews removed.

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