

Archaeology Wales

Hebron Chapel, Clydach Swansea

Standing Building Recording



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Report No. 1008

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Hebron Chapel, Clydach Swansea

Building Recording

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Non Technical Summary

This report results from work undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) for Mr Dyfrig Owen on the Hebron Chapel, Clydach, Swansea. The report details the results of a level two building recording exercise. The survey noted that the Chapel was in a very good state of repair, having apparently been altered little during its 130 year lifetime.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of work

1.1.1 In February 2010 Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) carried out a level two building recording survey of a structure known as Hebron Chapel located on Hebron Road, Clydach, Swansea at NGR SN 68792 01164 (Fig 1). The site is due to be converted into a residential dwelling.

1.1.2 Prior to redevelopment it was agreed with the Glamorgan Gwent Archaeological Trust that a level two building recording survey be carried out so as to provide a lasting record of the site.

1.2 Geology and topography

1.2.1 The Chapel lies at approximately 19m above sea level on the north side of the B4603 through Clydach. The River Tawe runs parallel with this road through Pontardawe, Clydach and on into Swansea. Clydach itself is a relatively small urban settlement to the north of Swansea.

1.2.2 The underlying solid geology of the area is comprised of Upper Westphalian, including Pennant Measures, a Carboniferous Limestone (British Geological Survey, 1979).

1.3 Archaeological and historical background

1.3.1 The foundation stone of Hebron Chapel bears the inscription 'This stone was laid by David Davies Esq J P Beaufort... 1881'. The Chapel is clearly depicted on the 1879 1:2500 Glamorganshire OS map which predates the foundation stone by a clear two years. The structure depicted on the 1879 map must therefore represent the Old Hebron Chapel which was apparently replaced in 1882. The following is an extract from records held at the West Glamorganshire Archives relating to the chronology of Chapels on this site:

'When Gellionnen Chapel turned Unitarian, members from Mynydd Bach took a dwelling house at Pentremalwod, Clydach, for holding religious services. About 1805, a church was formed there, the first minister was Daniel Evans. The first Hebron, built on the site later occupied by the Cloth Hall, was opened in 1821. The second pastor, William Thomas, came in 1830 and left in 1834 with a number of members to form a new church in Glais. In the same year, David Jones became minister at Hebron and remained until his death in 1845. He was followed by Thomas Thomas in 1846, during his time a larger chapel was built (old Hebron), opened in 1849. The next minister was David Evans, ordained in 1853, left in 1859. Then came Esay Owen, 1861 - 1903, in his time the old Hebron was demolished and the present building replaced it in 1882. In 1905 D Eiddig Jones came, he left in 1921, he was followed by J J Roberts in 1923, he retired in 1953.'

1.3.2 The structure occupying the site today then can be clearly dated to 1881/2. The 1889 1:2500 OS Map shows that between its construction in 1881/2 and 1889, a small extension was added to the NW end of the chapel. Both the 1918 and 1935 1:2500 OS maps shows no change from the 1889 map. The 1962 1:2500 OS map shows a small encroachment onto the NW end of the building which may represent the more modern additions still visible on the site. The 1972 1:2500 OS map shows no change from the 1962 version. The 1987 1:2500 OS map also shows further addition to the NW end of the Chapel.

1.3.3 The archive source and the Cartographic evidence show that the Chapel was built on the site of an earlier Chapel in 1881/2. Little external structural change is evidenced apart from some slight additions to the NW end of the structure between 1960-1987.

1.3.4 The following are extracts from Carlisle's Topographical Dictionary of The Dominion of Wales (1811), regarding the Parish of Llangyfelach in which Clydach is located:

'LLAN GEFELACH, in the Cwmwd of Derfedd, Cantref of Ffiniog (now called the Hundred of Llan Gefelach), Co. of GLAMORGAN, South Wales: a V., valued in the King's Books at £9..14..9 1/2: Patron, The Bishop of St. David's: Church ded. to St. Cyfelach. The Resident Population of this Parish, in 1801, (containing the Hamlets of Blaenegel, Cae Gerwyn, Clâs Higher, Clâs Lower, Mawr Higher, Mawr Lower, Pen Derw Higher, Pen Derw Lower, Rhwng dwy Clydach Higher, and Rhwng dwy Clydach Lower) was 4944. The Money raised by the Parish Rates, in 1803, was £982.19.0. It is 5m. N. b. W. from Swansea. The Impropriation of this Benefice is in The Lord Bishop of St. David's, as Dean of the College of Brecknock; he is also Lord of the Manor, and holds two Courts here annually. The Vicarage is endowed with the small Tythes. This is a very extensive Parish, containing nearly 10,000 acres of Land. It is rather a singular circumstance, that the present Curate is both Curate and Clerk of the Parish. As the Salary of the Clerk amounts to about £100. per annum, and the nomination being with the Vicar, the Father of the present Curate, he nominated his Son (The Rev. William Davies), who afterwards became Curate. He appoints a person to perform the common offices of a Clerk, for which he receives the fees; but the Curate receives the bulk of the Salary, which arises from Easter Offerings.'

2 Aims and Objectives

2.1 Building Recording

2.1.1 To provide a permanent paper and digital record of the structure prior to substantial internal change through redevelopment.

2.1.2 To assess evidence of phasing within the structure.

2.1.3 To assess evidence of construction techniques and original features within the structure.

3 Building Recording Methodology

3.1 Scope of Fieldwork

3.1.1 The recording was carried out to level 2 standards as laid down in English Heritage's 2006 publication – *Understanding Historic Buildings*.

3.1.2 Project Manager Chris E Smith BA (Hons) MA MifA undertook the building recording. All recording was undertaken using a high resolution (14MP) digital camera.

3.1.3 All works were undertaken in accordance with both the IfA's *Standards and Guidance: for an archaeological building recording survey* and current Health and Safety legislation.

4 The Building Recording

4.1.1 Figures 2-7 show the ground plan and wall elevations of Hebron Chapel. Figures 8-10 show the direction from which the photograph plates were taken. The number after each red arrow corresponding to that particular photo plate.

4.1.2 Plates 1-53 show views both internally and externally of Hebron Chapel. Plates 54-57 show features of architectural note or general interest. The building recording survey found Hebron Chapel to be in a good state of preservation. This appears mainly due to the fact that the Chapel has remained in constant use and appears to have been very well maintained. Noted modern additions to the structure include:

- The structural additions at the NW end, previously mentioned (para 1.3.2), Plates 41-45, 52.
- The 'Office' space within the Chapel itself (Plates 15, 17-19)
- The blocked window in the NW end of the Chapel, Plate 53.

4.1.3 The building is approximately 19.5m long by 14.5m wide and consists of two floors. The ground floor contains a reception area, access to which is gained through the main front doors of the Chapel. On either side of the reception area are flights of stairs leading to the upper level. The upper level itself consists of a large open area with views down onto the pulpit located on the ground floor at the NW end of the Chapel. The main area of the Chapel on the ground floor is accessed from the reception area by two doors leading into the aisles. The majority of the space on the ground floor is taken up by pews facing towards the ornately carved wooden Pulpit area with the Organ pit behind this. In the NW corner of the Chapel a small enclosure is present within which War memorials are located on the walls. In the NE corner of the Chapel a small modern office space has been constructed largely in keeping with the style of the church. Behind the Pulpit area is a small cloakroom which can also be accessed from the outside at the NW end of the Chapel. This in turn leads to a small bathroom. The blocked window, visible from the outside at the rear of the Chapel, is not visible from the inside.

4.1.4 The removal of the War memorials from the walls afforded the opportunity for the fabric of the Chapels walls to be observed. The walls appear to be constructed of faced stones which have been rendered in mid to dark off grey lime mortar.

4.1.5 Graveyards are located on both sides of the Chapel. Should any groundworks be undertaken in these areas the likelihood of disturbing Human remains is high.

5 Discussion and Interpretation

5.1 Reliability of field investigation

5.1.1 The overall findings of the recording were consistent with the Chapel being in constant use for at least the last 130 years. All of the original architectural features do remain as little

change is evident. Some evidence of recent change can be seen in the modern additions at the NW end, this appears to have occurred in two periods, the 1960s and the 1980s and is backed up by cartographic evidence.

5.1.2 Only a representative collection of the photographs taken have been included within this report. An appendix containing all of the photographs taken is contained on a separate disc.

5.2 Overall interpretation

5.2.1 The structure is typical of a late Victorian Independent Chapel which has seen very little structural change.

6 Acknowledgements

6.1.1 Thanks to Mr. Dyfrig Owen for his on site liaising.

7 Bibliography and references

British Geological Survey, 1979. Ten mile map, South Sheet.

1889 25 Inch Ordnance Survey Map
1918 25 Inch Ordnance Survey Map
1935 25 Inch Ordnance Survey Map
1962 25 Inch Ordnance Survey Map
1972 25 Inch Ordnance Survey Map
1987 25 Inch Ordnance Survey Map

West Glamorganshire Archive extract *Cited on:-*

<http://www.tytwp.plus.com/Waun/Chapels.html> – Accessed 14/3/2011

Carlisle, N. 1811, *Topographical Dictionary of the Dominion of Wales*, London

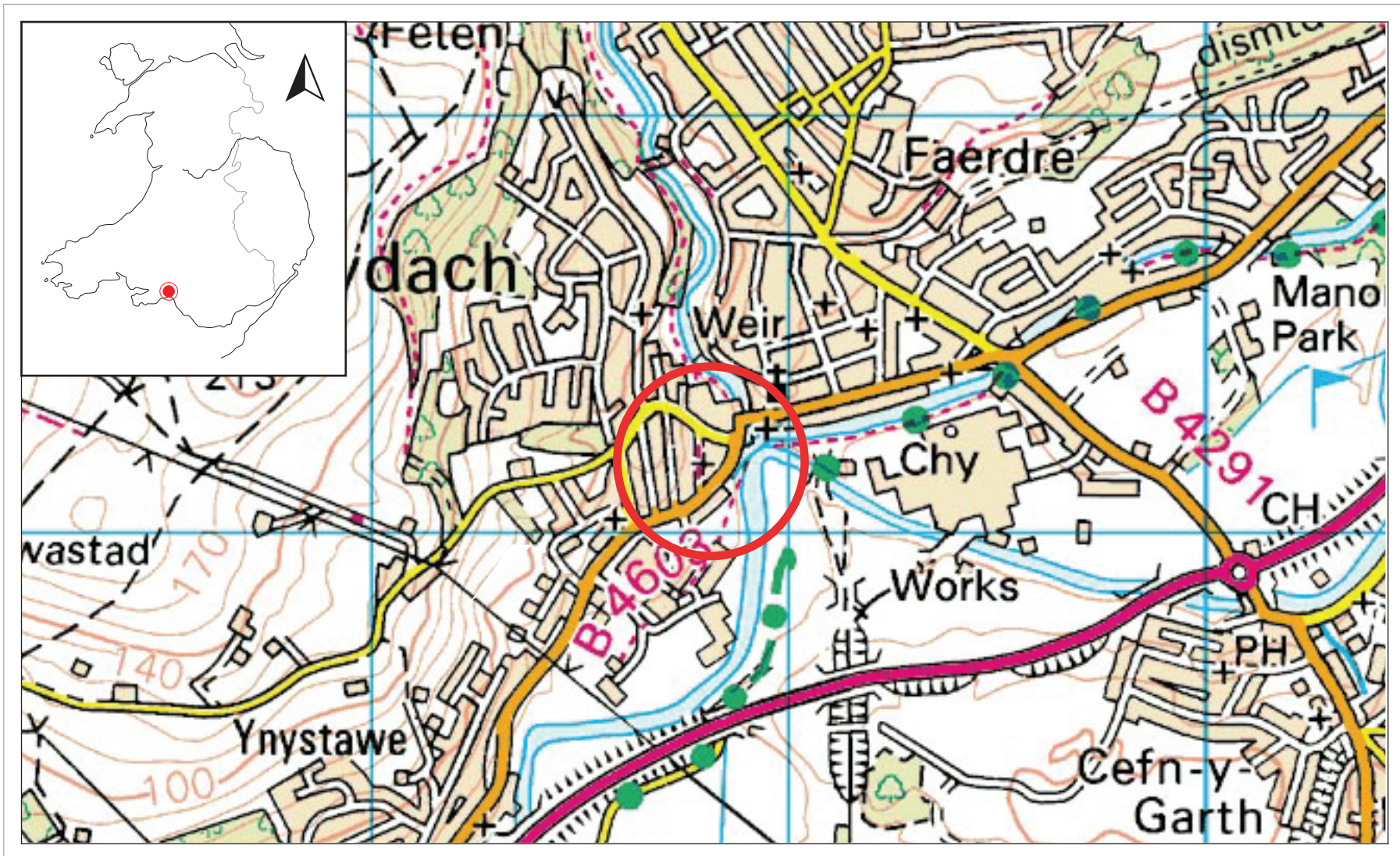


Fig 01: Map showing location of assessment area

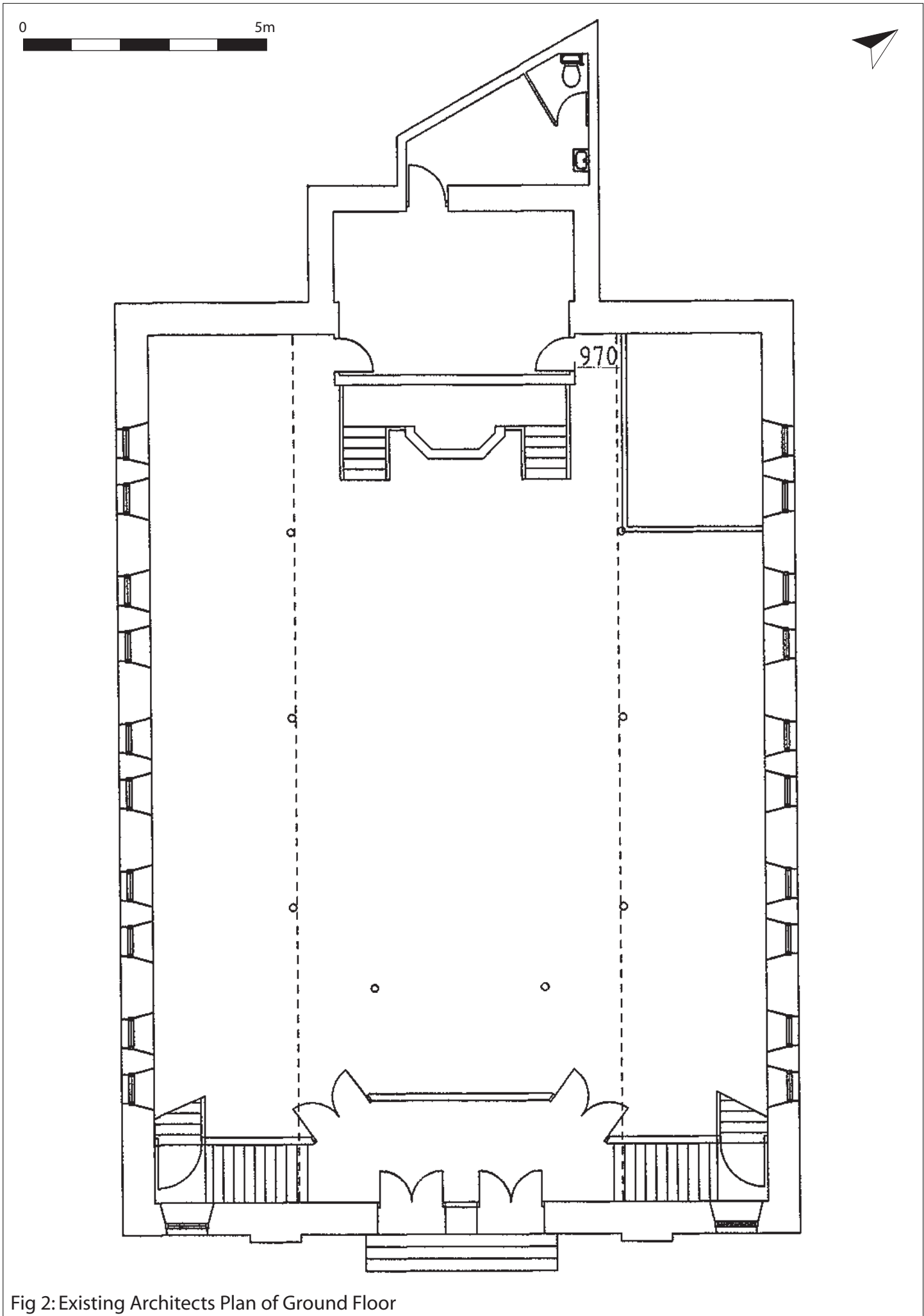


Fig 2: Existing Architects Plan of Ground Floor

0 5m

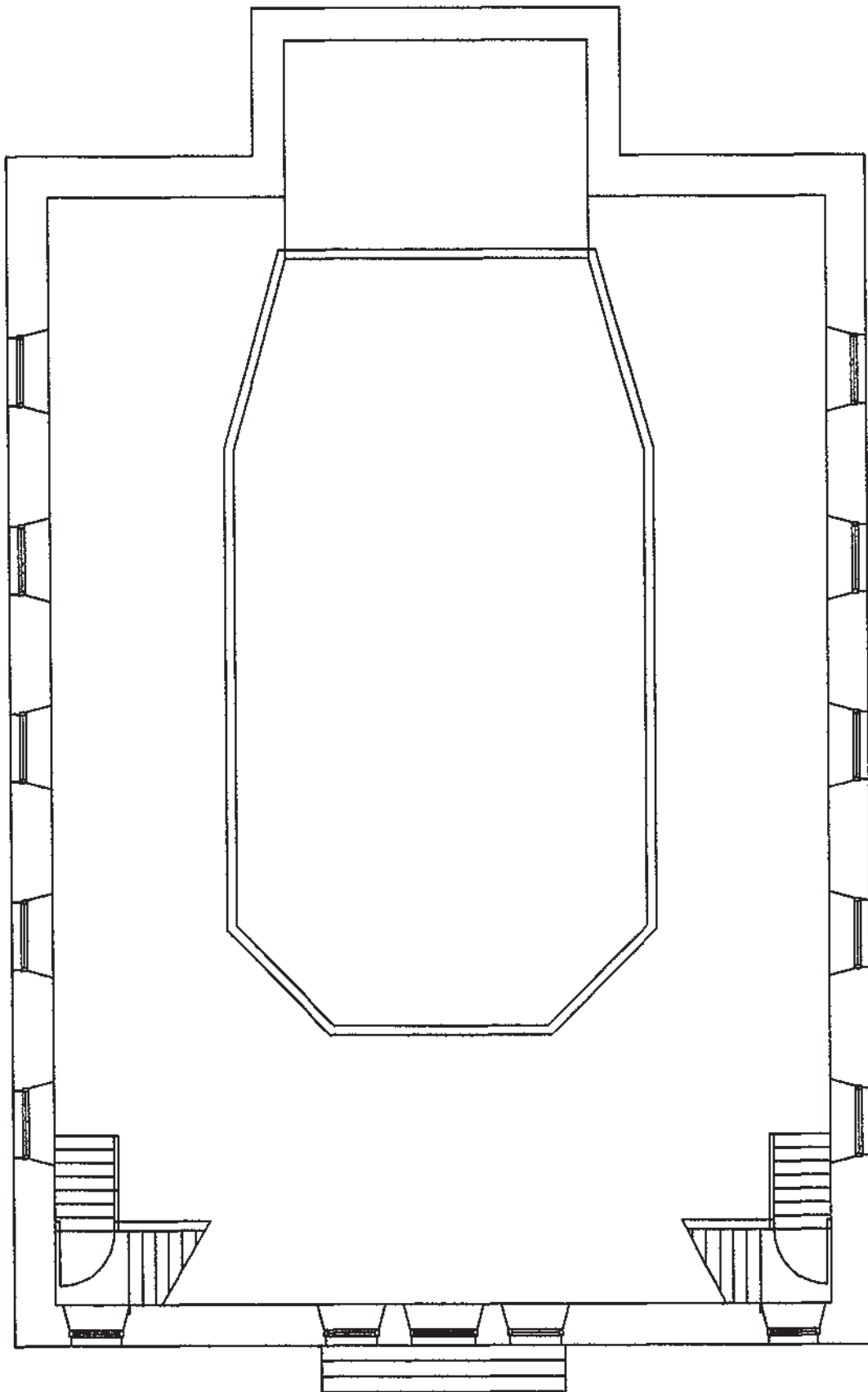


Fig 2: Existing Architects Plan of First Floor

0 5m

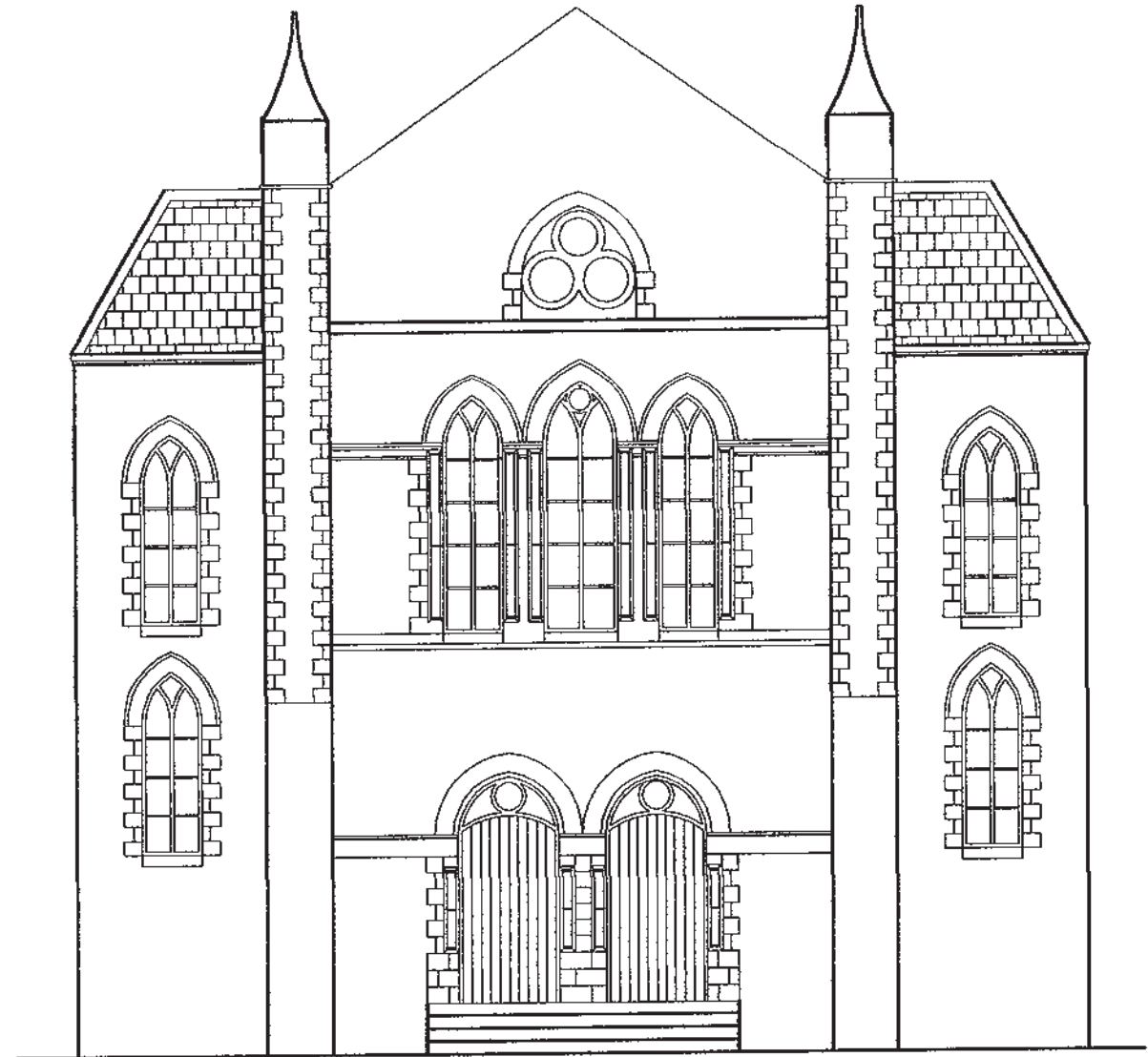


Fig 2: Existing Architects Elevation of Front of Hebron Chapel

0 5m

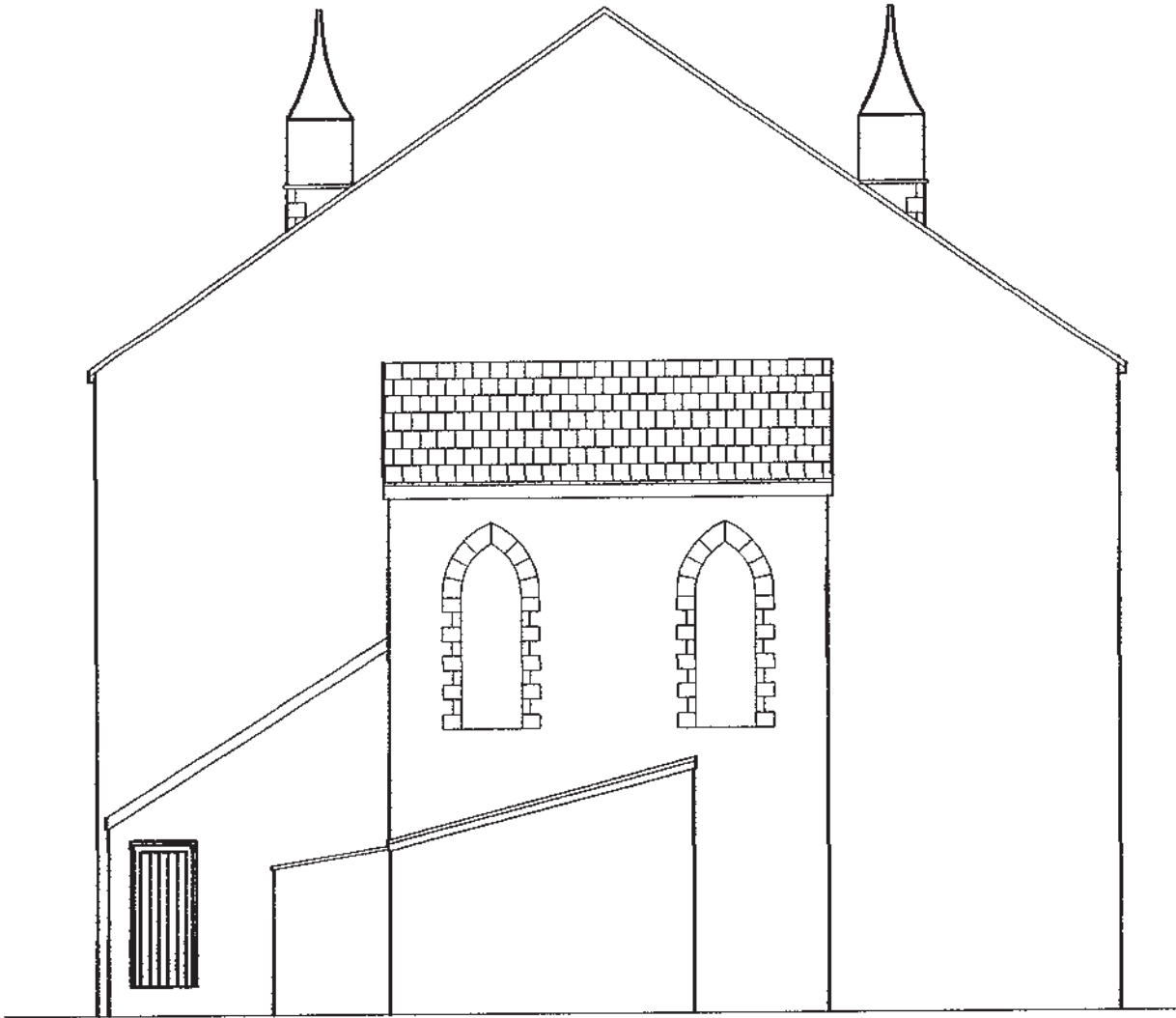


Fig 2: Existing Architects Elevation of rear of Hebron Chapel

0 5m

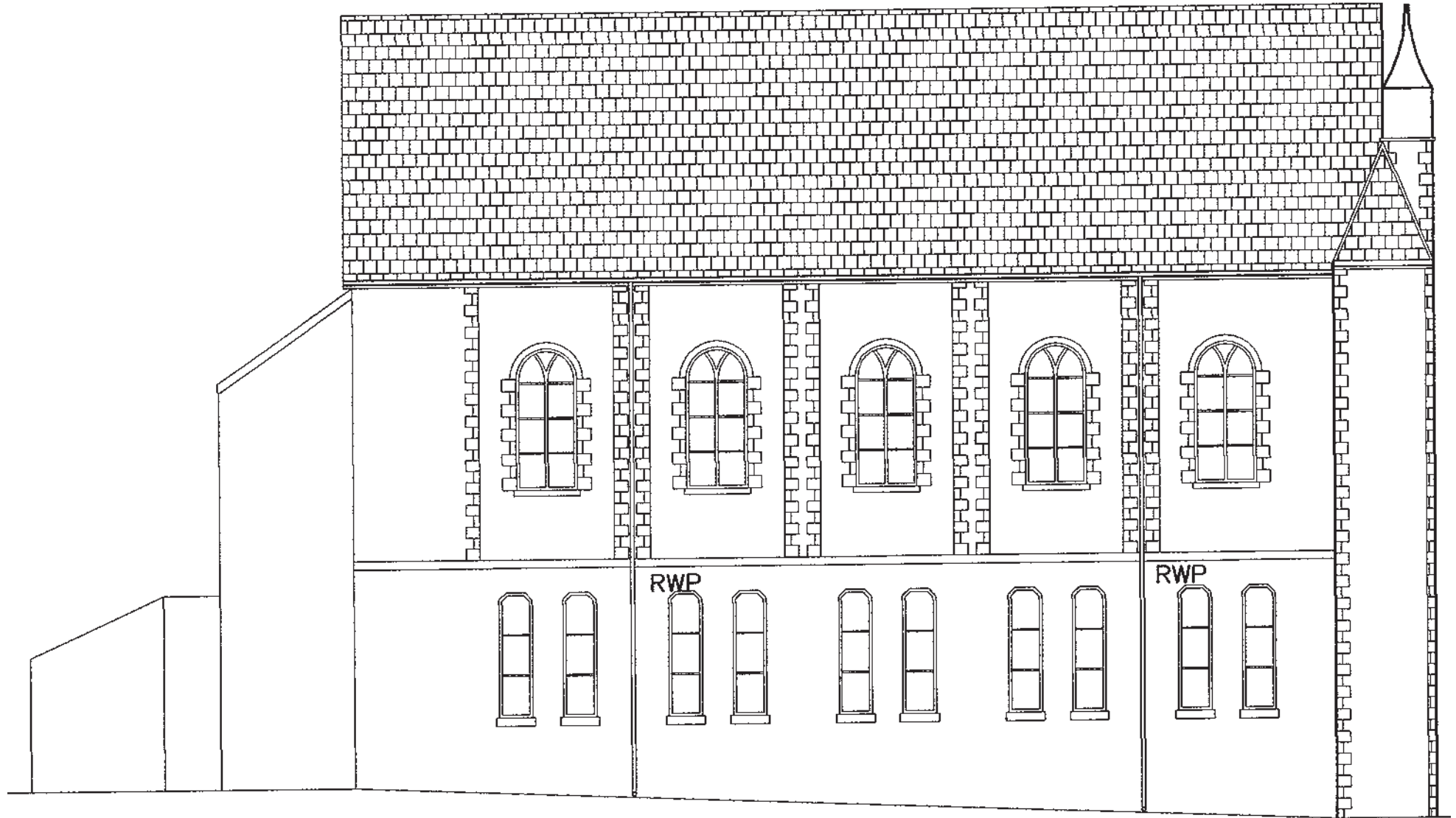


Fig 6: Existing Architects Eastern Elevation of Hebron Chapel

0 5m



Fig 6: Existing Architects Western Elevation of Hebron Chapel

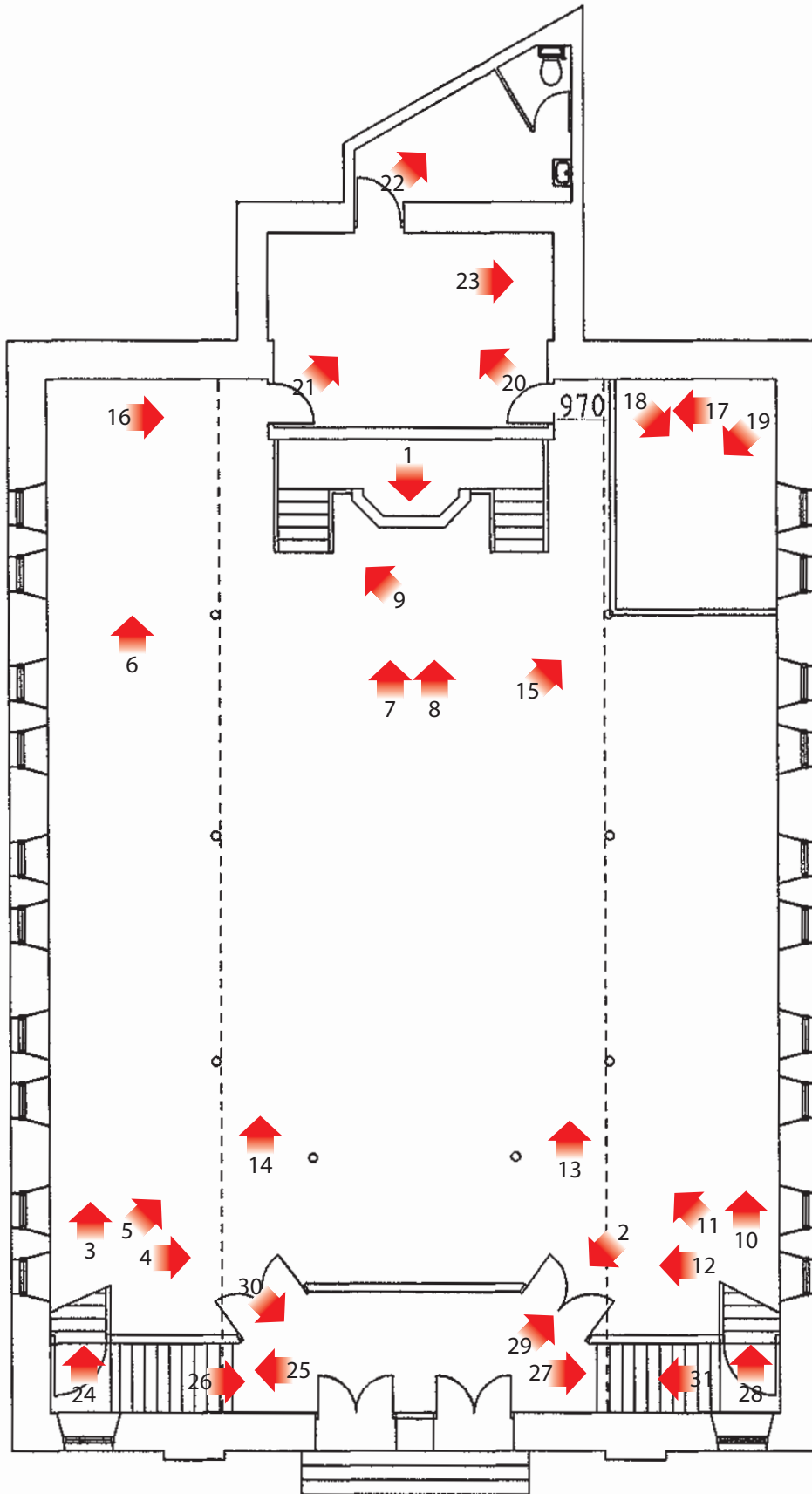


Fig 8: Ground Floor Plan, Arrows Correspond to Photograph Directions



0 5m

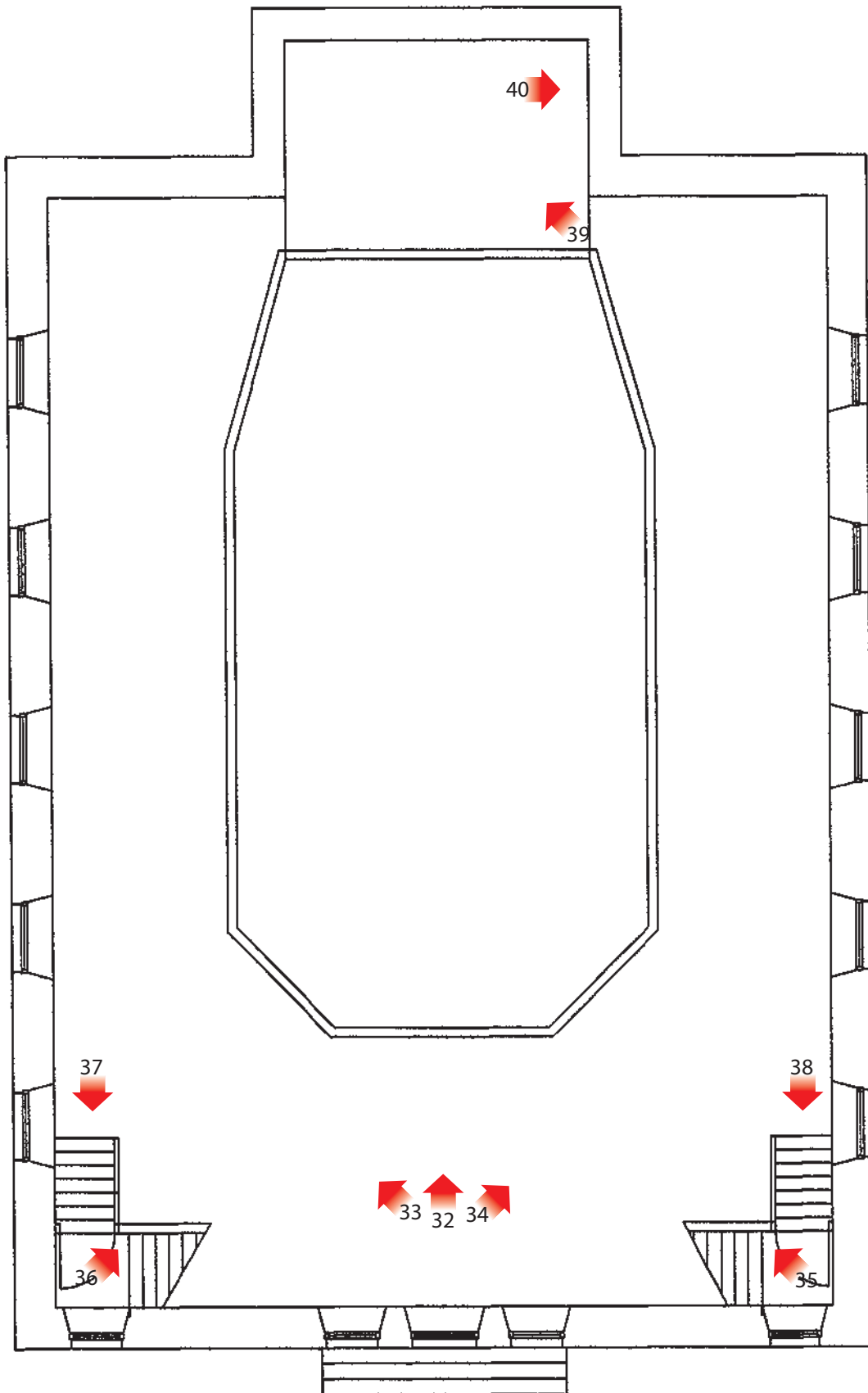


Fig 9: Plan of First Floor, Arrows Correspond to Photograph Directions

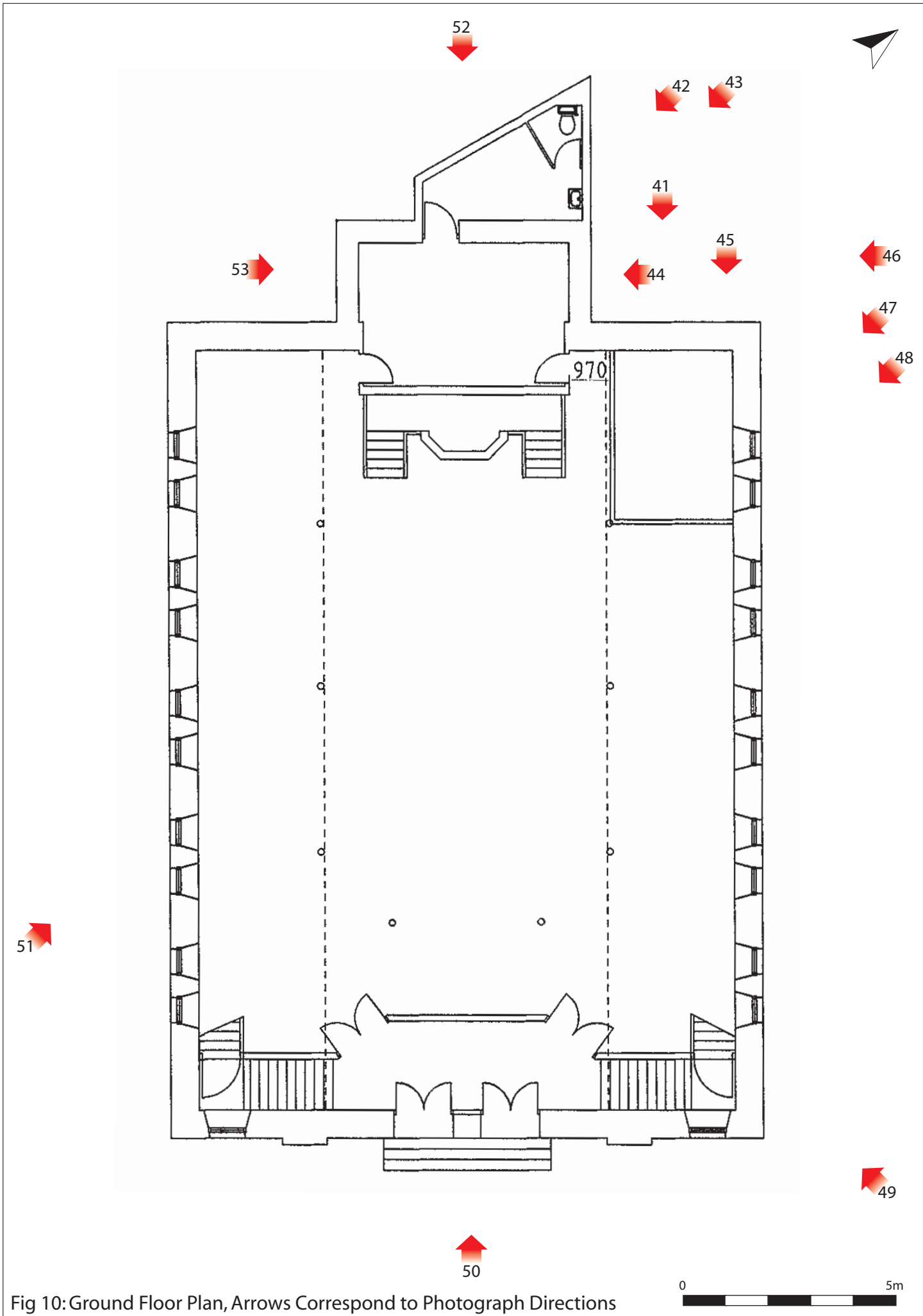


Fig 10: Ground Floor Plan, Arrows Correspond to Photograph Directions



Plate 1: View from Pulpit within Chapel



Plate 2: View of inner face of internal door



Plate 3:View from rear of Chapel

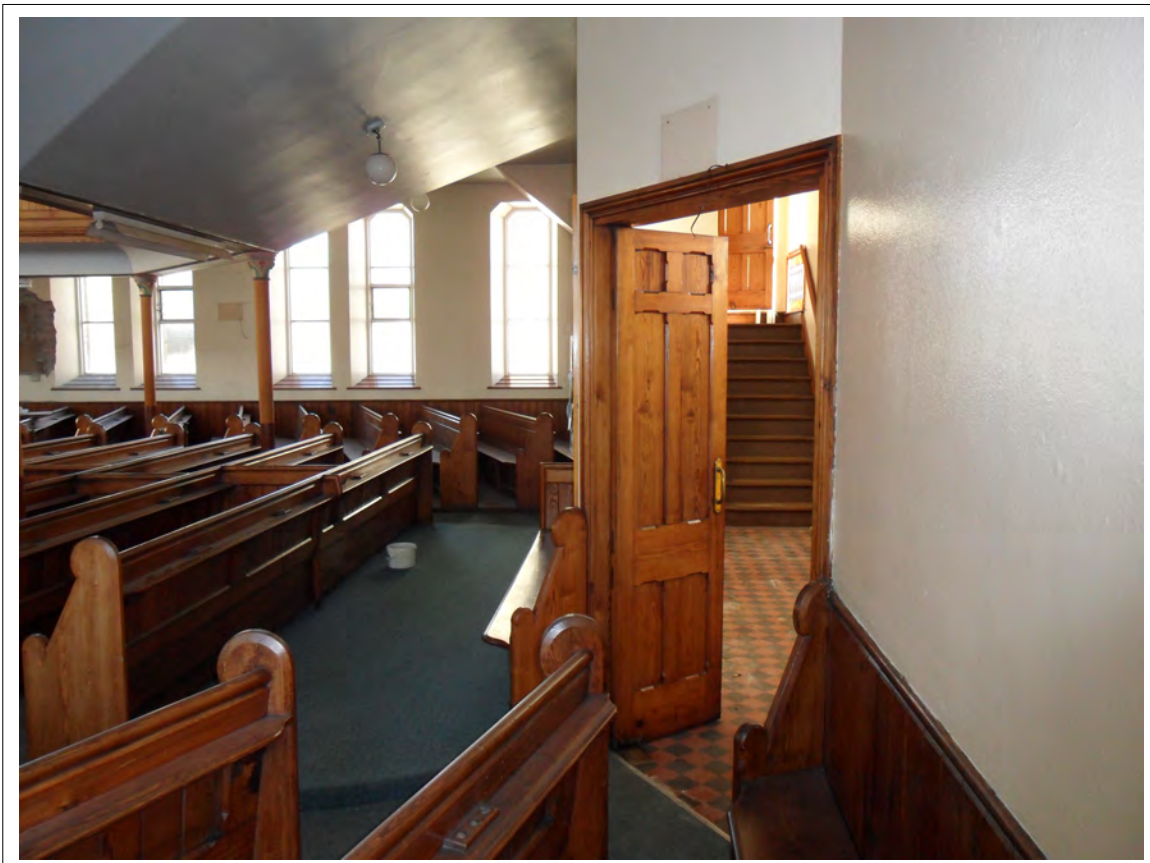


Plate 4:View from rear of Chapel



Plate 5:View from rear of Chapel



Plate 6:View of small enclosure within Chapel during memorial removal



Plate 7: View of Pulpit from Front Pew



Plate 8: Arch to accommodate organ above Pulpit



Plate 9:View of steps up to Pulpit



Plate 10:View from rear of Chapel



Plate 11: View from rear of Chapel

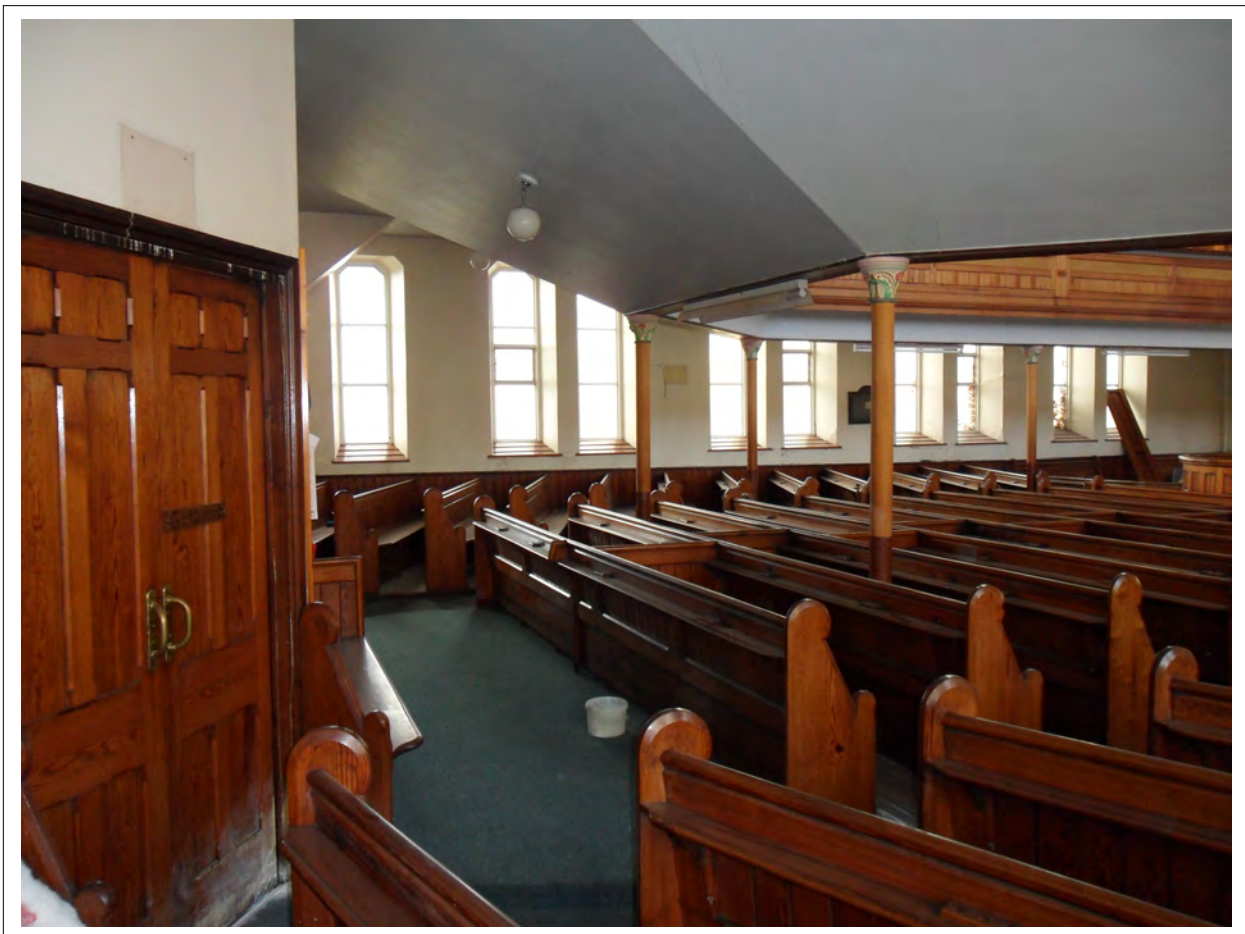


Plate 12: View from rear of Chapel



Plate 13: View from rear aisles looking towards Pulpit



Plate 14: View from rear aisles looking towards Pulpit



Plate 15: View of small office enclosure in north east corner



Plate 16: View into door behind Pulpit from memorial enclosure



Plate 17:View into second access door behind Pulpit



Plate 18:View within modern office enclosure



Plate 19: View within modern office enclosure



Plate 20: View within small room at NW end of Chapel



Plate 21:View within small room within NW end of Chapel



Plate 22:View of Bathroom at far NW end of Chapel



Plate 23: View of rear entrance to Chapel from within

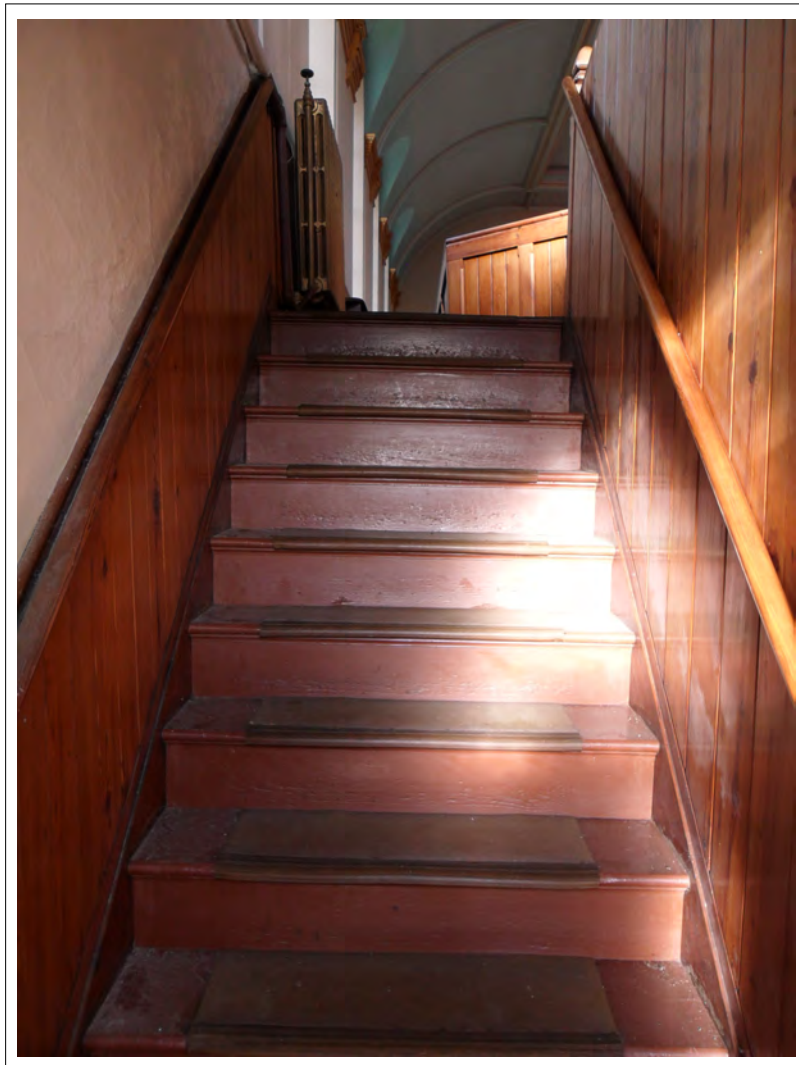


Plate 24: View of staired access to upper level



Plate 25: View of staired access to upper level



Plate 26: View of tiled floor in reception area



Plate 27: View up staired access to upper level

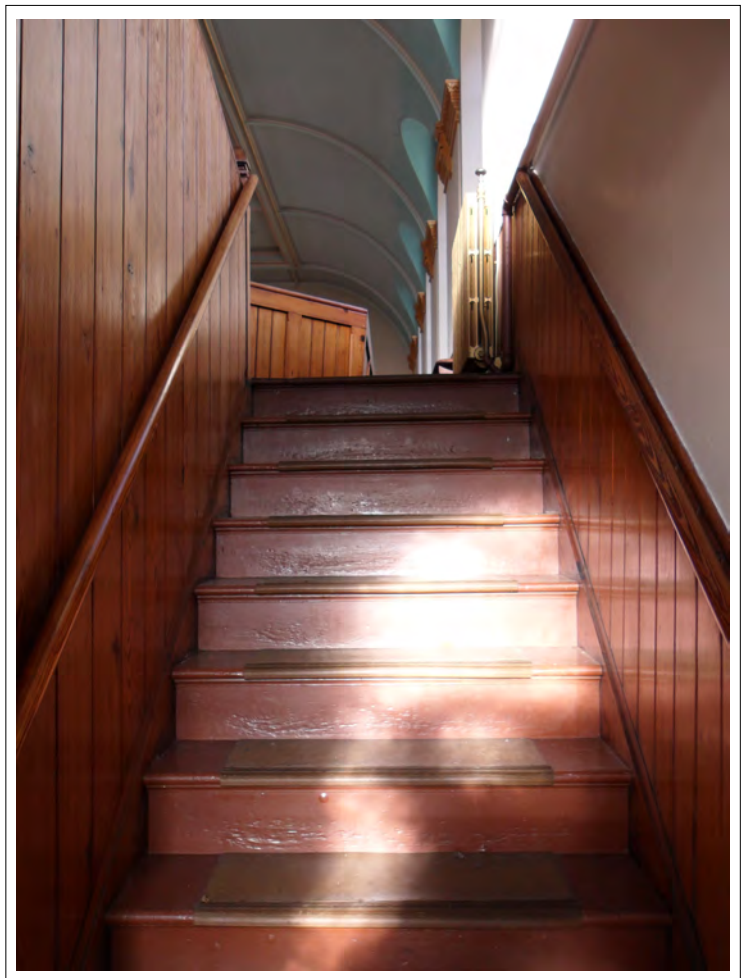


Plate 28: View up staired access to upper level



Plate 29: View of internal doorway from reception to rear of Chapel



Plate 30: View of rear of main entrance doors



Plate 31:View of tiled reception area from mid level of stairs



Plate 32:View from upper level showing Pews and Pulpit



Plate 33:View of upper level from rear of Chapel

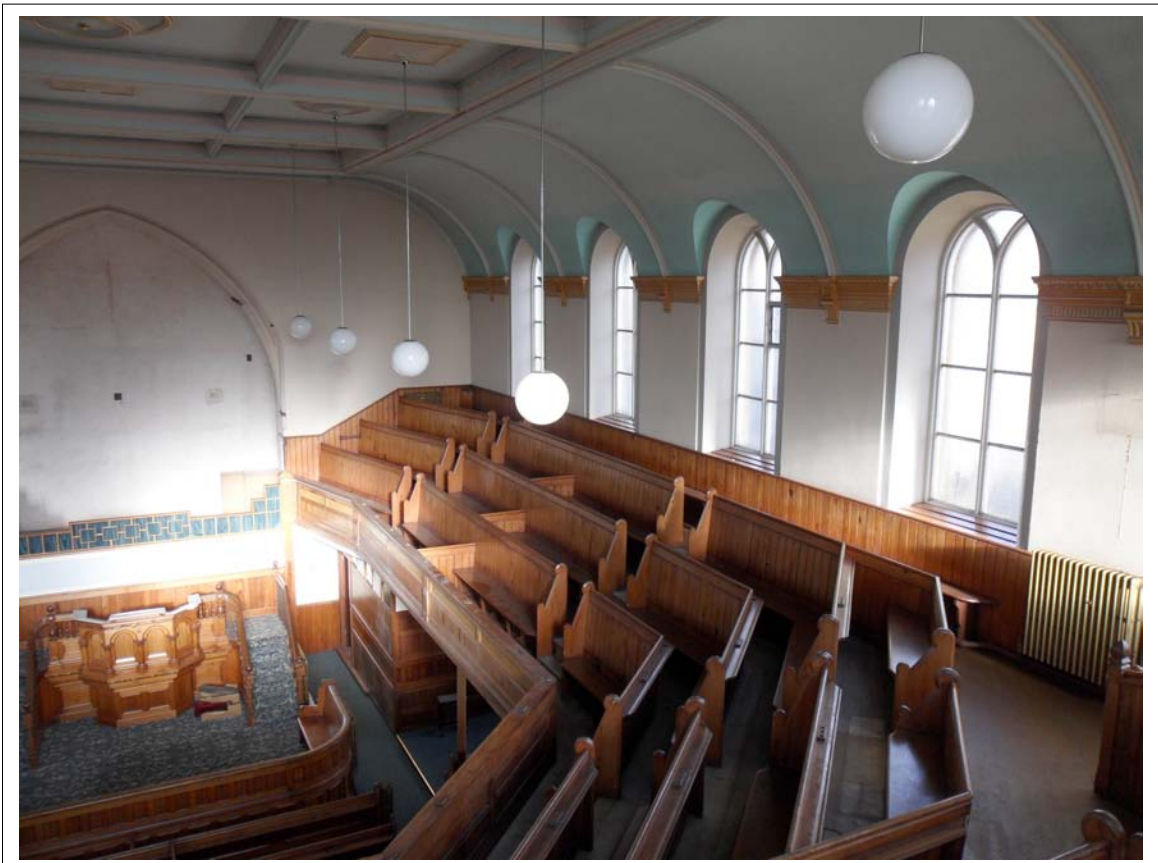


Plate 34:View of upper level from rear of Chapel



Plate 35: View of upper level from rear of Chapel

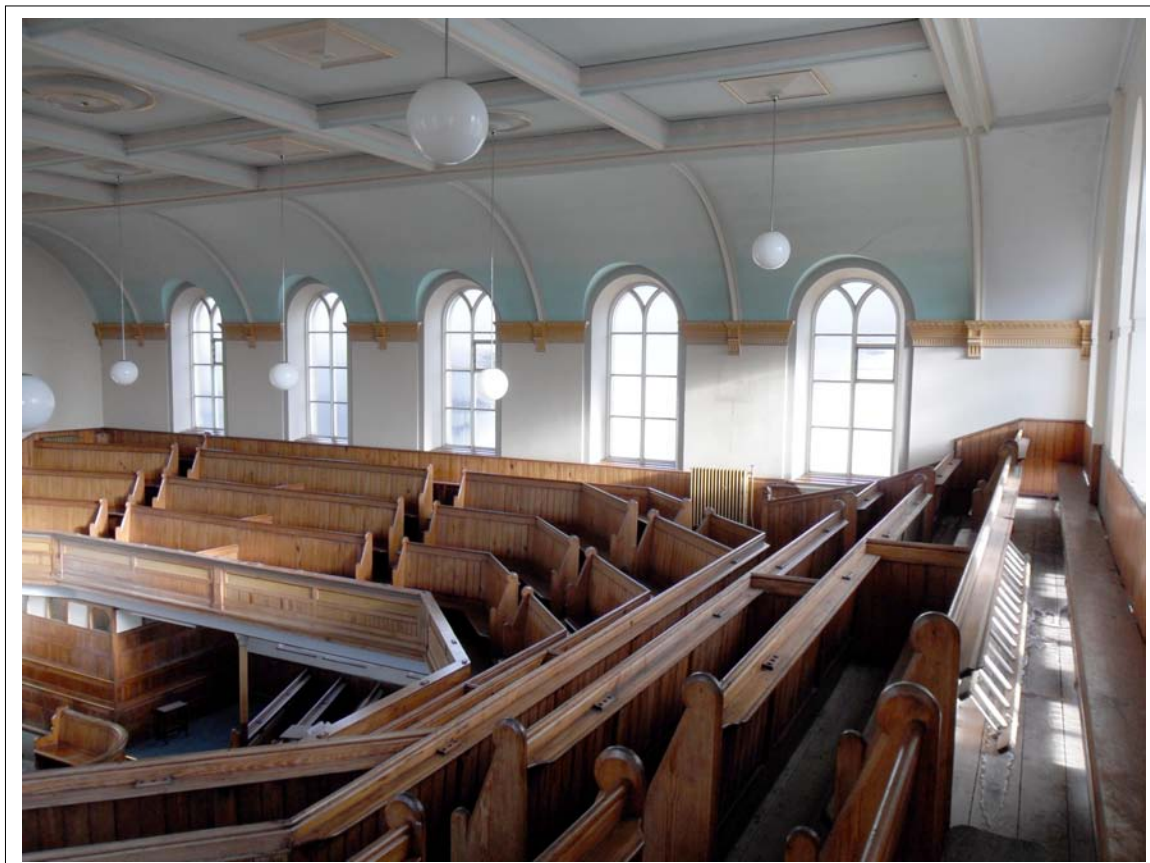


Plate 36: View of upper level from rear of Chapel

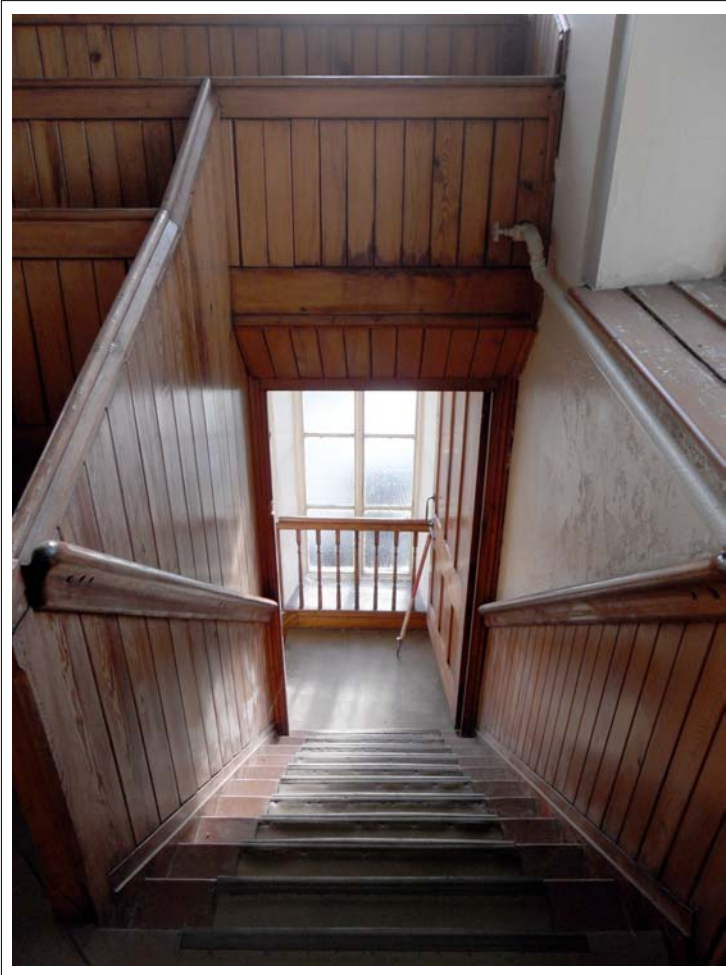


Plate 37: View down to stair mid level from upper level

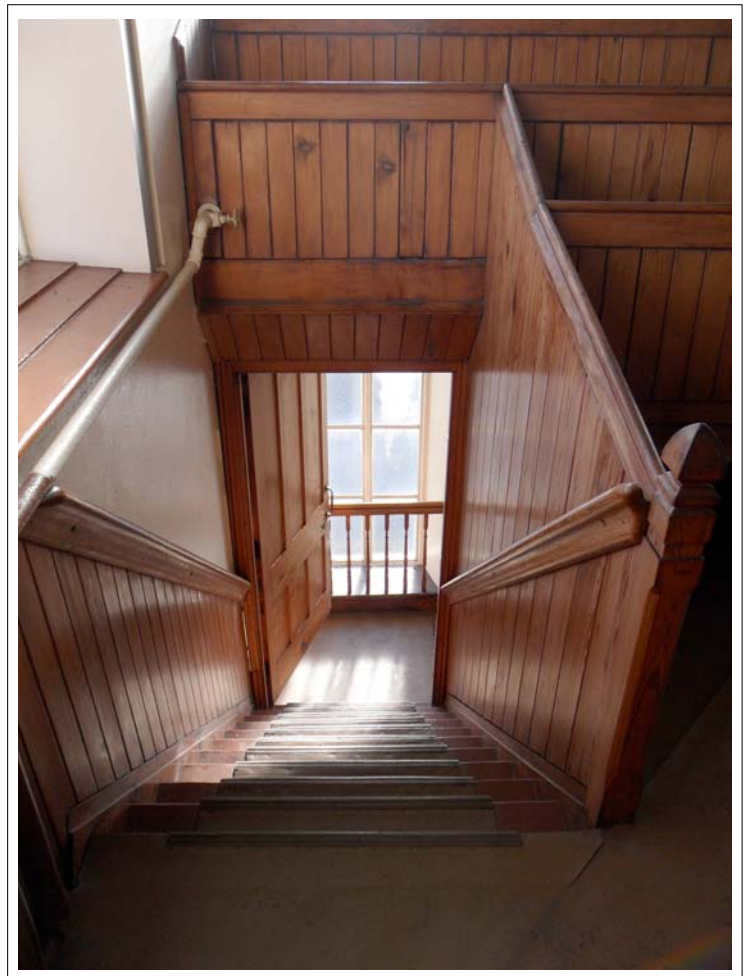


Plate 38: View down to stair mid level from upper level



Plate 39: View of Organ pit



Plate 40: View of access to outside from sidewall of Organ pit



Plate 41:View of door leading from outside to upper level Organ Pit



Plate 42:View of outside wall of Bathroom adjacent to access to Boiler tunnel



Plate 43:View of rear of Chapel



Plate 44:View of rear door into Chapel



Plate 45: View of NW end of Eastern Graveyard



Plate 46: View of building additions at NW end



Plate 47: View along eastern Graveyard



Plate 48: View of eastern elevation of Chapel



Plate 49: View of eastern elevation of Chapel



Plate 50: Front elevation of Chapel



Plate 51: Western elevation of Chapel



Plate 52: Rear elevation of Chapel



Plate 53: View of small blocked window in rear of Chapel



Plate 54:View of detailed decoration on pillars supporting the Upper Level

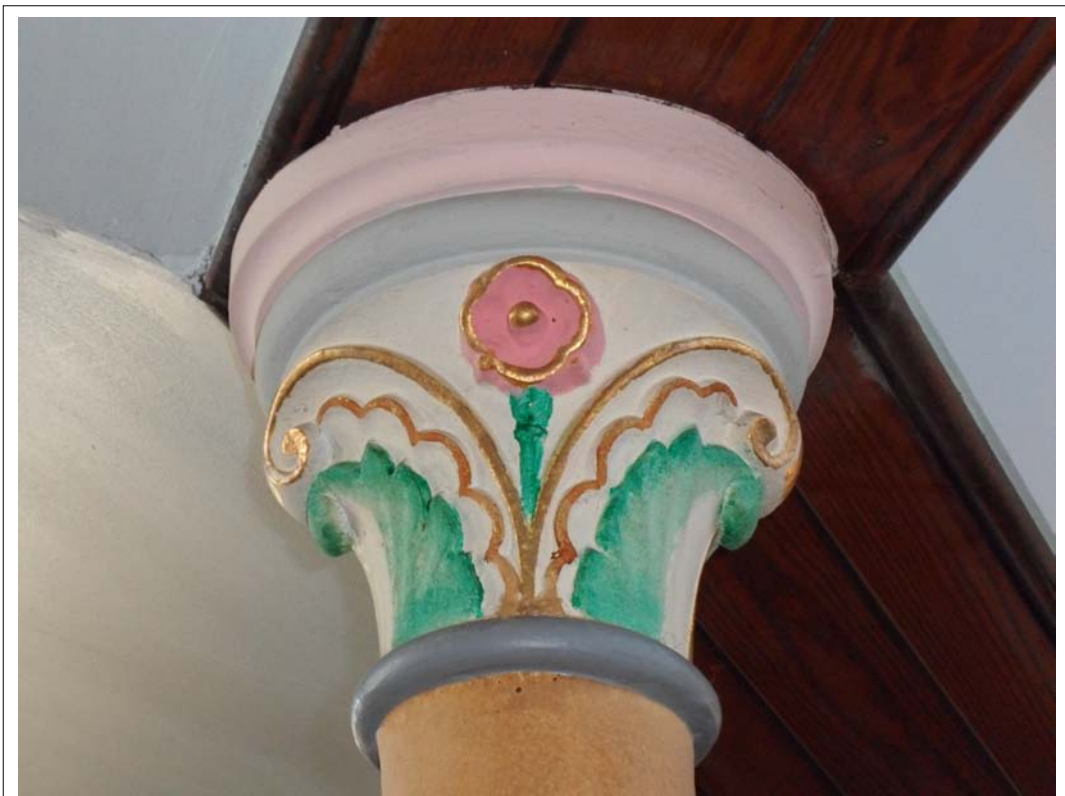


Plate 55:View of detailed decoration on pillars supporting the Upper Level



Plate 56: View of Ceiling detail



Plate 57: View of wooden church collection box

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APPENDIX I: Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Hebron Chapel, Clydach, Swansea

Site Name:	Hebron Chapel
Site Code:	HCC/11/BR
PRN:	-
NPRN:	-
SAM:	-
Other Ref No:	-
NGR:	NGR SN 68792 01164
Site Type:	Independent Chapel
Project Type:	Building Recording
Project Manager:	Chris E Smith
Project Dates:	March 2011
Categories Present:	Victorian - Modern
Location of Original Archive:	AW
Location of duplicate Archives:	-
Number of Finds Boxes:	-
Location of Finds:	-
Museum Reference:	-
Copyright:	AW
Restrictions to access:	None

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