

CPAT Report No. 2000




Mount Gilead Chapel, Holywell

Level 2 Historic Building Recording



YMDDIRIEDOLAETH ARCHAEOLEGOL CLWYD-POWYS
CLWYD-POWYS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

Organisation	Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust
Client Name	Dan Coleman
CPAT Project No	2745
Project Name	Mount Gilead Chapel, Holywell
Project Type	Historic Building Recording
Project Manager	Tim Malim
Project Supervisor	Evon Kirby
Grid Reference	SJ18792 76715
County/LPA	Denbighshire
Planning Reference	FUL/000679/22
CPAT Report No	2000

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Confidential until	N/A	

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with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2023-4

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Summary

In January 2024 the Clwyd Powys Archaeological Trust carried out a historic building survey at Mount Gilead Chapel, Bryn Celyn, Holywell.

The study comprised a survey of a two-storey chapel. The chapel was constructed in the mid-19th century and was typical of Methodist architecture of the period. It had modern repairs to the roof and interior windows however no other significant alteration.

Crynodeb

Fis Ionawr 2024, bu Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Clwyd Powys yn gwneud arolwg o adeilad hanesyddol yng Nghapel Mynydd Gilead, Bryn Celyn, Treffynnon.

Roedd yr astudiaeth yn galw am arolwg o gapel deulawr. Adeiladwyd y capel yng nghanol y 19eg ganrif ac roedd yn nodweddiadol o bensaernïaeth Fethodistaidd y cyfnod. Roedd ganddo atgyweiriadau modern i'r to ac i'r ffenestri y tu mewn, ond nid oedd yna unrhyw addasiadau sylweddol eraill.

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust carried out a Level 2 building survey on behalf of Dan Coleman in connection with an application for conversion of an existing disused chapel to form a single dwelling (planning reference FUL/000679/22) at Mount Gilead Chapel, Bryn Celyn, Holywell, CH8 7QF (Fig 1) (SJ 18792,76715).

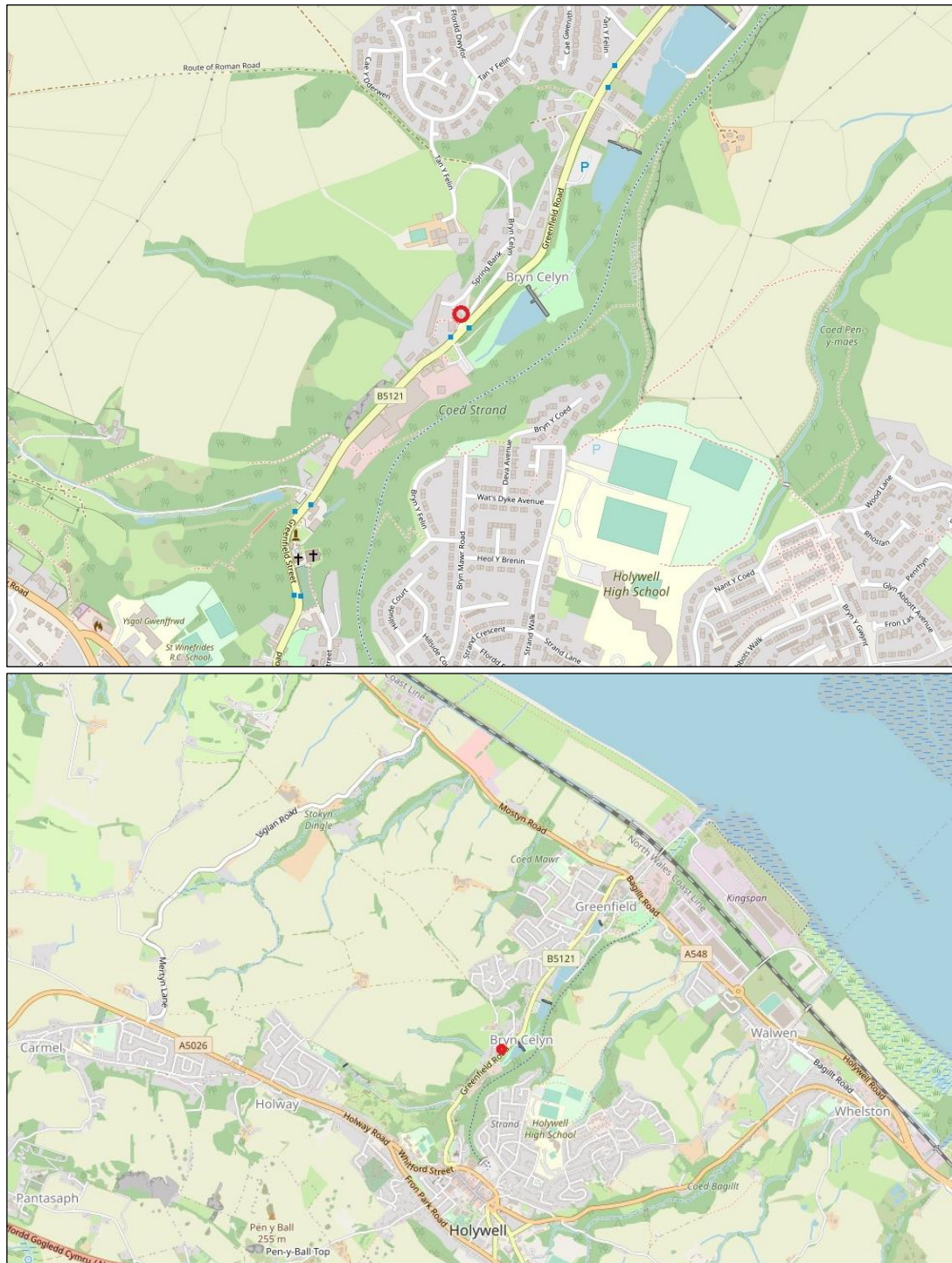


Fig. 1: Location of Mount Gilead Chapel (circled in red)

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2024

Planning Background

- 1.2. Planning permission FUL/000679/22 was approved in April 2023, subject to a number of conditions, including the following relating to historic environment:

6. No development shall take place until a programme of building recording and analysis, equivalent to an Historic England Level 2 building survey, has been secured and implemented, in accordance with a brief issued by the Local Planning Authority and a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The programme of building analysis and recording must meet the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists in their Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures. A copy of the resulting report should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust. After approval by the Local Planning Authority, a copy of the report and resulting archive should also be sent to the Historic Environment Record Officer, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the regional Historic Environment Record.

REASON: To allow an adequate analytical record of the building to be made, before it is altered, to ensure that the building origins, use and development are understood and the main features, character and state of preservation are recorded.

2 Historical Background

- 2.1. The Methodist movement emerged in the 18th century as a reaction to perceived spiritual apathy within the Church of England. In North Wales, Methodist revivalism was adopted among the predominantly Welsh-speaking population. In the 19th century, a theological divide emerged within Welsh Methodism, resulting in the formation of Calvinistic Methodism. This branch of Methodism is also known as the Presbyterian Church of Wales (Wilkinson, 2009).
- 2.2. Methodist chapels became focal points of community life in North Wales, serving not only as places of worship but also as centres for education, social gatherings, and political activism. The chapel culture thrived well into the 20th century (Young, 1893).
- 2.3. Mount Gilead Chapel first appears on the Ordnance Survey map of 1878 labelled as Capel (Fig 2). The chapel is named as Mount Gilead on the OS map of 1900 (Fig 3). The earlier tithe map for the parish of Holywell from 1841 shows no structure in the area of the chapel at this time (Fig 4). This evidence suggests that the chapel was constructed between 1841 and 1878.



Figure 3: Extract from 1878 OS map showing Mount Gilead Chapel (circled red)
(Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland)



Figure 3: Extract from 1900 OS map showing Mount Gilead Chapel (circled red)
(Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland)



Figure 4: Extract from 1841 Tithe map showing area of Mount Gilead Chapel (circled red)
(Reproduced with the permission of the Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru – The National Library of Wales).

3 Building Survey

- 3.1. The building survey was conducted on the 16th of January 2024 in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) (2014) *Standard and Guidance for the Archaeological Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings or Structures*. The contact sheets (Dwgs: 1-3) and the photographic location plan (Dwg: 4) are located at the back of the report. A written scheme of investigation was approved and is attached at Appendix 1.

Mount Gilead Chapel

- 3.2. The chapel was a two-storey stone building constructed with rendered random yellowish sandstones laid to courses, with arched window and door apertures and a hipped slate roof with half-rounded ridge tiles (Fig 5). The slate roof had been fully replaced in recent years due to damage (pers. comm.) The chapel entrance consisted of an arched doorway with a single door and a stain glass panel, flanked by two segmental curved windows with sashed frames, on its northeastern elevation. Windows of the same style were also located on the ground floor and first floor of the southeastern elevation, on the first floor of the northwestern elevation and in the centre of the first floor of the northeastern elevation.



Figure 5: Mount Gilead Chapel viewed from the north. Photo CPAT 2745_039

- 3.3. The ground floor was a single open room with five metal columnettes supporting the balcony (Fig 6). The flooring had largely been removed and brick supports running across the chapel were exposed. There were aisles running down each of the of the long elevations, under slanted ceilings for the mezzanine floor above (Fig 7).



Figure 6: View of the first floor from the entrance. Photo CPAT 2745_032



Figure 7: Slanted ceiling above aisles. Photo CPAT 2745_015

- 3.4. The first floor of the chapel consisted of an 'auditory plan' balcony on three sides (Fig 8) and was accessed via two sets of stairs in the northern and eastern corners of the ground floor (Fig 10). The centre of the chapel had no balcony and would have served as the pulpit area on the ground floor lit by two elongated rectangular windows at the height of the first floor. The balcony had a three-tiered stepped floor along the northwestern and southeastern lengths with a further two tiers along the northeastern side between two fixed wooden pews. In the centre of the ceiling was an ornate painted ceiling rose (Fig 9). The roof structure was partially visible through a damaged portion on the ceiling and comprised a king post type truss with struts. There was a narrow ridge board, two purlins either side of the ridge and substantial rafters (Fig 11). All the roof timbers were machine cut.
- 3.5. An interesting additional feature was a metal archway with Mount Gilead inscribed on it located at the entrance to the Greenfield Valley Park at the base of the hill below the chapel. The arch also has a Roman numerical inscription dated to 1830. (Fig 12)



Figure 8: Slanted ceiling above aisles. Photo CPAT 2745_007



Figure 9: Ornate plaster decoration in ceiling. Photo CPAT 2745_004



Figure 10: Stairs to balcony from ground floor. Photo CPAT 2745_018



Figure 11: Roof truss. Photo CPAT 2745_008



Figure 12: Arch with Mount Gilead inscription. Photo CPAT 2745_001

4 Conclusions

- 4.1. Cartographic evidence suggests that Mount Gilead Chapel was constructed between 1841 and 1878. An interesting metal worked arch in the vicinity of the chapel bears the inscription Mount Gilead and the date of 1830 however no documentary evidence of the history of the arch has been identified. It is possible the establishment of the 'church' predated the construction of the actual chapel building.
- 4.2. Mount Gilead is a typical example of a 19th century vernacular Methodist chapel serving a rural North Walian community and has undergone no alterations in relation to the Gothic revival of the late 19th/early 20th century that affect Methodist architecture at this time. There have been modern repairs to the roof and internal windows due to damage.

5 Sources

Published sources

Young, D., 1893. *The Origin and History of Methodism in Wales and the Borders*. London: Charles H Kelly.

Dolbey, G., 1964. *The Architectural Expression of Methodism*. Epworth Press, London.

Wilkinson, K. 2009. *Vernacular origin of Welsh nonconformist chapels*. Doctoral Thesis, Cardiff University.

Unpublished sources

Historic England, 2019. *Methodist and Nonconformist Chapels in Cornwall: Appendix 1 An Illustrated Guide to Historic Cornish Chapels*.

Cartographic sources

1841 Tithe apportionment for Holywell Parish









1878 Ordnance Survey 6" 1st edition Flintshire VI

1900 Ordnance Survey 6" 2nd edition Flintshire VI

6 Archive Selection Strategy

2745-Mount Gilead Chapel, Holywell (SJ18792 76715)	
Level 2 Building Survey	
13/01/2024	
Selection Strategy v2.0	
CPAT Project Management	
Project Manager	Tim Malim
Project Supervisor	Evon Kirby
Archives Manager	Sophie Watson
Project Stakeholders	
Project Lead / Project Assurance	Mark Walters, Development Control Archaeologist for Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust
Client / Landowner	Dan Coleman
Other	
Collecting Institutions	
Regional HER	Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust
HER Enquiry Number	N/A
HER Event PRN	215591
Digital Archive Repository	Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales
Documentary Archive Repository	N/A
Finds Archive Repository	N/A
Museum Accession Number	N/A

Digital Project Data			
Project sub-folders	Data	Retained	Selected for Archive

 Admin			
 H&S - RAMS	Risk Assessment	Y	N
 WSI	Written Scheme of Investigation	Y	Y (as report appendix 1)
 Client Data	Planning documents/other files provided by the client.	Y	N
 Correspondence	Correspondence records relevant to the project	Y	N
 Drafting	Working site drawings/illustrations	Y	N
 Finds data	Finds catalogues/specialist reports etc	N/A	N/A
 GIS data	Survey data	N/A	N/A
 Metadata	Metadata report for all files submitted as part of the archive.	Y	Y
 Photography	39 digital photographs (.tif)	N	Y
 Report	CPAT Report 2000 (.docx/.pdf)	Y	Y
 Report Illustrations	Illustrations generated for inclusion within the project report	Y	N
 Research Data	Research data – always secondary sources and available elsewhere	Y	N
 Site data	Scanned site records	N/A	N/A
 Temporary	Temporary storage for temporary files – always deleted at project completion	N	N

Appendix 1: CPAT WSI 2000

1 Introduction

- 1.1. The Field Services Section of the Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust has been invited by Dan Coleman to undertake a Level 2 building survey in connection with an application for conversion of an existing disused chapel to form a single dwelling at Mount Gilead Chapel, Bryn Celyn, Holywell CH8 7QF (SJ18792 76715, FUL/000679/22).
- 1.2. Planning permission was approved in April 2023, subject to a number of conditions, including the following relating to historic environment:
- 1.3. *6. No development shall take place until a programme of building recording and analysis, equivalent to an Historic England Level 2 building survey, has been secured and implemented, in accordance with a brief issued by the Local Planning Authority and a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The programme of building analysis and recording must meet the standards laid down by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists in their Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures. A copy of the resulting report should be submitted to the Local Planning Authority and the Development Control Archaeologist, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust. After approval by the Local Planning Authority, a copy of the report and resulting archive should also be sent to the Historic Environment Record Officer, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust for inclusion in the regional Historic Environment Record.*
- 1.4. *REASON: To allow an adequate analytical record of the building to be made, before it is altered, to ensure that the building origins, use and development are understood and the main features, character and state of preservation are recorded.*

2 Objectives

- 2.1. The objectives of the survey are:
 - To produce a descriptive and photographic record of the exterior and interior of the chapel.
 - To examine the building in order to produce an analysis of its development and use.
 - To produce plans and other drawings if required to record historical details and other features of interest, e.g. roof trusses or interior finishes relating to its former use as a chapel.
 - To prepare a report outlining the results of the survey.
 - To prepare a final publication of the results in an appropriate regional or national journal, depending on the nature and significance of any archaeology.

3 Methodology

- 3.1. The archaeological works will be conducted according to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and*

recording of standing buildings or structures (2020) and *Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment* (2020).

Building Survey

- 3.2. The survey of the building will take the form of a Level 2 building survey as defined by Historic England *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice* (2016). This level of survey is intended to create a descriptive record of the building, and will include:
- Description and photographic record of the exterior and the interior
 - Detailed account of type, construction, form, function
 - Phasing
 - Past and present use and relationship with setting
 - Identification and recording of original fixtures and fittings
 - Conclusions regarding the development and use of the building
- 3.3. The drawn record will be created using either annotated accurately measured plans supplied by the architect or conventional measured survey/total station surveying as appropriate. The end result will include:
- Accurate measured ground plan, elevations, and cross-sections as appropriate

Photography

- 3.4. The photographic survey will be conducted using digital photography with a minimum resolution of 12 mega pixels to include:
- Views of elevations
 - Views of external appearance
 - Views of all internal rooms
 - Internal and external structural detail
 - Fixtures, fittings, related contents.

Report

- 3.5. Following the on-site work an illustrated report will be prepared containing conventional sections to include:
- Non-technical summary
 - Location and NGR
 - Statutory designations
 - Date of record, recorder and archive deposition
 - Introduction
 - Site location
 - Methodology
 - Summary of the form, function, date and development of the building
 - Desk-based study, including copies of historic maps and photographs where permitted
 - Summary description of the building
 - Past and present usage
 - Evidence for former existence of demolished structures, removed fittings etc
 - Conclusions
 - Data Management Plan, Selection Strategy, Archive Content List and Archive deposition location statement.
 - References

- 3.6. The report summary will be provided in English and Welsh, in accordance with the Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) V1 (July 2018).

4 Site Archive

- 4.1. The overall archive will conform to guidelines described in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), Historic England 2015, the CIfA (2014) Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives and The National Standard and Guidance to Best Practice for Collecting and Depositing Archaeological Archives in Wales (NPAAW, 2017) and Guidance for the Submission of Data to the Welsh Historic Environment Records (HERs) V1 (July 2018). The final reports will include a Data Management Plan and Archive Selection Strategy.
- 4.2.
- 4.3. The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the National Monuments Record (NMR), RCAHMW, including a copy of the final report. This archive will include all written, drawn, survey and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken. NMR Digital archives will follow the standard required by the RCAHMW (RCAHMW 2015). A copy of the digital archive only will also be lodged with the Historic Environment Record, Clwyd-Powys Archaeological Trust.

Data management plan

- 4.4. The project will be conducted in accordance with CPAT's data management policy. All paper records will be collated, catalogued and labelled with the unique project code. All digital data will follow strict file naming, to include the unique project code, and be sorted into a standard series of sub-folders. The digital data will be catalogued, including a list of file types and relevant software.

5 Resources and programming

The survey will be undertaken by a single skilled archaeologist under the overall supervision of Tim Malim, CPAT's Principal Archaeologist who is also a member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). CPAT is also a CIfA Registered Organisation and as such agrees to abide by their *Code of Conduct* (2020).

All report preparation will be carried out by, or with the assistance of, the same field archaeologist(s) who conducted the fieldwork and completed within two months of the commencement of the survey.

Requirements relating to Health and Safety regulations will be adhered to by CPAT and its staff.

CPAT is covered by appropriate Public and Employer's Liability insurance, as well as Professional Indemnity insurance. A project-specific Risk Assessment and Method Statement (RAMS) will be prepared prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

W Logan

9th November 2023



✓ 2745_001



✓ 2745_002



✓ 2745_003



✓ 2745_004



✓ 2745_005



✓ 2745_006



✓ 2745_007



✓ 2745_008



✓ 2745_009



✓ 2745_010



✓ 2745_011



✓ 2745_012



✓ 2745_013



✓ 2745_014



✓ 2745_015

DWG 1: Contact sheet 1



✔ 2745_016



✔ 2745_017



✔ 2745_018



✔ 2745_019



✔ 2745_020



✔ 2745_021



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✔ 2745_029



✔ 2745_030

DWG 2: Contact sheet 2



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✓ 2745_033



✓ 2745_034



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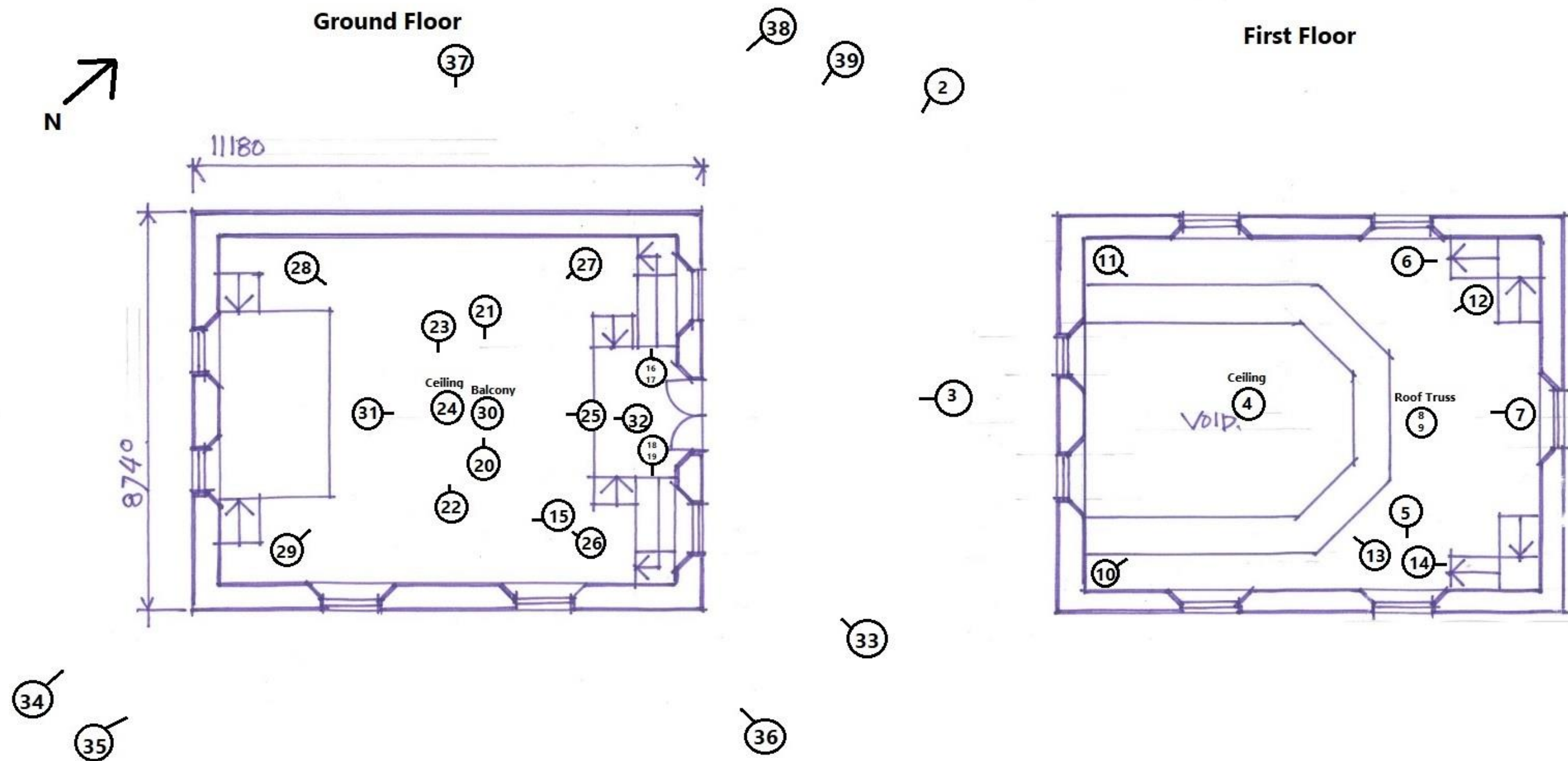


✓ 2745_038



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DWG 3: Contact sheet 3



DWG 4: Photography locations