



**Elizabeth Gaskell  
Building,  
Hathersage Road,  
Manchester**

**Archaeological  
Building Investigation**



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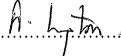
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## SUMMARY

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Nuffield Health is developing proposals for a new private hospital and integrated well-being facility on the site of the former Manchester Metropolitan University Elizabeth Gaskell Campus at Hathersage Road in Manchester (centred on NGR 385451 395812). Part of this proposal allows for the demolition of the Elizabeth Gaskell College Building, a structure erected in 1912 to house the Manchester College of Domestic Science. In order to secure archaeological interests, Nuffield Health commissioned Oxford Archaeology North to undertake an historic building investigation prior to demolition.

The historic building investigation was carried out in May 2015, and was consistent with an English Heritage level II-type survey. This allowed for the preparation of measured survey drawings, annotated with archaeological detail, coupled with a written description of the building.

The building is principally of a single phase of construction, and comprises a main range with short wing blocks at the eastern and western ends, creating a C-shaped plan. The building is of three storeys, and encloses a central courtyard. A three-storey stair tower projects from the centre of the southern elevation of the main range, with an extension to its south. The fabric of the component elements is wholly of red brick, laid in three courses of stretchers to each course of headers, although the displayed elevations employ a hard red impermeable brick. The roof is divided into several sections, but all are hipped and covered in grey slate, with the two wings and stair tower incorporating a central elongated glass canopy. A later structure to the rear of the courtyard connects the southern ends of the two wings at first-floor level, the building being raised on stilts to allow continued access to the courtyard.

Despite evidence of significant water ingress in several parts of the building, it remains in reasonable condition with access to most parts of the structure. The entrance into the basement, however, had been screwed shut, and was therefore inaccessible at the time of the survey. The interior of the building has been remodelled, and retains very few original fixtures and fittings, none of which are of particular historic interest. The buildings interest therefore is confined largely to the preservation of its original layout, which is still readily interpreted despite the erection of numerous internal partitions.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Kevin McNaull of EC Harris LLP for commissioning and supporting the project on behalf of Nuffield Health. Thanks are also expressed to Norman Redhead, Heritage Management Director with the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS), for his advice and guidance.

The survey was undertaken by Andy Phelps, who also wrote the report. The drawings were produced by Mark Tidmarsh and Andy Phelps. The report was edited by Ian Miller, who was also responsible for project management.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Nuffield Health is developing proposals for a new private hospital and integrated well-being facility on the site of the former Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) Elizabeth Gaskell Campus at Hathersage Road in Manchester. Part of this proposal allows for the demolition of the Elizabeth Gaskell College Building, a structure erected in 1912 to house the Manchester College of Domestic Science. In order to secure archaeological interests, Nuffield Health commissioned Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) to undertake an historic building investigation prior to demolition.
- 1.1.2 The scope of the building investigation conformed entirely to the guidelines provided by English Heritage, and relevant stands set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). The survey allowed for the preparation of measured survey drawings, annotated with archaeological detail, coupled with a written description and historical research. The fieldwork was carried out in May 2015, and this report sets out the results of the work in the form of a short document.

### 1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 The college building (centred on NGR 385451 395812) lies within the grounds of the former Manchester Metropolitan University Elizabeth Gaskell Campus in the Ardwick area of Manchester. The building is bounded by Hathersage Road to the north, Upper Brook Street to the east and overlooks the entrance to the site to the west, with the entrance lodge beyond (Fig 1). A range of more recent structures lay to the south, connected to the building by a single storey linking corridor.
- 1.2.2 The superficial geology comprises boulder clay with patches of sand and gravel, overlying Permo-Triassic rock formations of the Sherwood Sandstone Group (Hall *et al* 1995).



*Plate 1: Recent aerial view across the Elizabeth Gaskell Building, facing south*

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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

2.1.1 This historic building survey was carried out in accordance with the relevant Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and English Heritage guidelines (IfA 2008, *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing structures*; IfA 2012a, *Code of Conduct*; IfA 2012b, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-based Assessments*; English Heritage 2006a, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE), and English Heritage 2006b, *Understanding Historic Buildings, A guide to good recording practice and generally accepted best practice*).

### 2.2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.2.1 The aim of the desk-based research is not only to give consideration to the heritage assets in and around the redevelopment site, but also to put the site into its archaeological and historical context. The desk-based research comprised a search of both published and unpublished records held by the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (HER), the Greater Manchester Archives and Local Services Office (GMALS), the National Monuments Record, Swindon, several on-line resources, and the archives and library held at OA North.
- 2.2.2 The principal sources of information consulted were historical and modern maps of the study area, although published and unpublished secondary sources were also reviewed.
- 2.2.3 **Manchester HER:** the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (HER) for Manchester is maintained by the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service, at Salford University. It is a Geographical Information System (GIS) and has a linked database of records relating to known heritage assets; it is supported by an extensive archive, including reports, site records and publications.
- 2.2.4 **Greater Manchester Archives and Local Services (Central Library), Manchester:** a search was undertaken of the Greater Manchester Archives and Local Services for information relating to the study area, from which historic mapping was obtained, and a number of primary and secondary sources were consulted.
- 2.2.5 **Oxford Archaeology North:** OA North has an extensive archive of secondary sources relevant to the study area, as well as numerous unpublished client reports on work carried out both as OA North and in its former guise of Lancaster University Archaeological Unit (LUAU). These were consulted where necessary.



## 2.3 SITE SURVEY

- 2.3.1 In addition to this, a building survey was carried out in order to relate the results of the desk-based research to the college building. The building investigation was carried out in May 2015 to implement a rapid fabric survey of the standing structure. The investigation entailed the compilation of a descriptive record, the production of site drawings, and the generation of a photographic record.
- 2.3.2 **Descriptive Record:** written records to English Heritage Level II (2006b), using OA North *pro-forma* record sheets, were made of the principal building elements, both internal and external, as well as any features of historical or architectural significance.
- 2.3.3 **Site Drawings:** existing architectural drawings, supplied by the client, were annotated on site to include any features of historic interest and note significant changes in the buildings layout and phasing through changes in building materials and design.
- 2.3.4 **Photographic Record:** a Canon digital SLR (12 megapixels) camera was used for the photographic record. The data are stored on two separate servers, each on different sites and with appropriate back-up and disaster plans in place. In addition, hard copies of the images were created on paper of appropriate archival quality and will be deposited as part of the paper archive. A plan location map for the photography was prepared to show the locations of the archive photographs (Fig 5).

## 2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full archive of the work has been prepared to a professional standard in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (2006) and the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990). The archive will be deposited with the Manchester Museum on completion of the project. In addition, a copy of the report will be forwarded to the County Historic Environment Record (HER).

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## 3. HISTORIC BACKGROUND

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### 3.1 DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUILDING

- 3.1.1 This school was built by the Manchester Education Committee in 1912 as the Manchester College of Domestic Science. The building was intended for the training of teachers of domestic subjects, and was designed to accommodate 300 students. However, the demand for housekeepers' courses and for the training of women entering the catering industry resulted in the college providing courses in demonstration and institutional management up to the level of the National Certificate Examination. The new building comprised an architecturally impressive three-storey range along Hathersage Road, with a wider wing block at each end. The footprint of the new school is shown on the next edition of Ordnance Survey mapping, which was published in 1922. This map also marks the route of the historic township boundary between Chorlton-upon-Medlock and Rusholme, implying that it persisted as a feature of the landscape.
- 3.1.2 In 1959, the college expanded its teacher training capacity to include primary school teachers, and new buildings were erected on the campus to cater for an expansion of the student capacity to 500. A speech therapy training course was introduced during the following year, creating the first link with the University of Manchester, to which the college became affiliated to subsequently. It was during this period that the name of Elizabeth Gaskell College of Education was adopted.
- 3.1.3 By the early 1970s, the college was offering a range of courses to degree level, together with a post-graduate certificate in education. The layout of the buildings on the site at this time is captured on the Ordnance Survey map of 1970. This shows a range of adjoining new buildings in the central part of the site. In 1982, the Manchester Education Committee allowed Manchester Polytechnic (latterly MMU) to take over the college as part of a cost-cutting exercise.

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## 4. BUILDING SURVEY

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### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 Although principally of a single phase, the building is discussed below under the separate headings of Northern Main Range, South-Eastern Wing, South-Western Wing and Stair Block with extension for ease of description. The raised corridor linking the southern ends of the two wings is only given a summary description, reflecting its modern date.
- 4.1.2 Despite evidence of significant water ingress in several parts of the building it remains in reasonable condition with access to most parts of the structure. The entrance into the basement, however, had been screwed shut and was therefore inaccessible at the time of the survey.

### 4.2 FABRIC AND CONSTRUCTION:

- 4.2.1 The building was of three storeys and constructed on a C-shaped plan with its primary elevation to the north fronting the main range, and two wings to the east and west enclosing three sides of a central courtyard. A three-storey stair tower projected from the centre of the southern elevation of the main range with an extension to its south. The buildings were built wholly of red brick laid in three courses of stretchers to each course of headers, although the displayed elevations employed a hard red impermeable brick, in contrast to the southern and courtyard elevations which employed a more functional brick of variable firing colour. The roof was divided into several sections, but all were hipped and covered in grey slate, with the two wings and stair tower incorporating a central elongated glass canopy, also hipped at each end and lighting the space beneath. To the rear of the courtyard a later structure connected the southern ends of the two wings at first-floor level, the building being raised on stilts to allow continued access to the courtyard.

### 4.3 EXTERIOR

- 4.3.1 **Main Northern Range, Northern Elevation:** the northern elevation was divided visually as well as structurally into three storeys, with a shallow plinth at the base and moulded string courses at first-floor height and again at second-floor height (Plate 2). The elevation had 13 bays to each floor, each typically fitted with a rectangular window. The five central bays and two bays at either end projected forward from the face of the wall, creating further vertical divisions, enhanced at either end by shallow projecting pilasters, each with a cartouche at the head (Plate 3). The pre-eminence of the central bay was then underlined by its own flanking pilasters, which terminated at the head of the wall in a semicircular pediment (Plate 4). Similarly the elevations eastern and western two end bays were topped by triangular pediments and a parapet above the remaining bays linked each of the pediments.

- 4.3.2 At ground-floor level the central bay included what had originally been a large entrance accessed via a set of stone steps constructed on a semicircular plan (Plate 5). The doorway had been glazed and converted into a 12-light window set in timber frames, but it retained its original terracotta pilaster surrounds, incorporating panelled bases and simple capitals. The opening's jambs and cambered arch were also of terracotta, with every other stone projecting forward from the face of the wall.
- 4.3.3 Bays 5-6 and 8-9, either side of the central bay were fitted with three light rectangular casement windows, incorporating segmental brick arches, bold projecting terracotta keystones and moulded terracotta sills. The windows within bays 1-4, 10, 12 and 13 were wider by approximately a third and fitted with nine lights, but were otherwise identical in form to those described above. Only bay 11 had been fitted with a doorway, accessed via a set of steel steps and this may have been a later insertion into an earlier window (Plate 6).
- 4.3.4 The central bay of the first floor included four narrow vertical rectangular windows, divided by terracotta mullions and at the upper third by a moulded terracotta transom (Plate 4). The two central windows projected forward from those flanking on each side and were topped by a semicircular moulded drip course. The drip course then continued horizontally above the remaining two windows, referencing Palladian architecture and the pediment at the head of the wall. The square lintels were formed of interlocking terracotta voussoirs, of a form repeated above most of the first and second floor windows. A marble plaque immediately beneath the window, between two consoles, recorded the date of the building's completion in 1912 (Plate 7).
- 4.3.5 Bays 5-6 and 8-9 displayed rectangular windows of similar size to those beneath them on the ground floor but here they were fitted with plain square heads. The same applied to the wider windows within bays 1-4 and 10-13, although at this level the windows within bays 1-2, 12-13 shared a continuous moulded sill. The moulded string-course above rose briefly into a shouldered arch above each of the first-floor windows with the exception of the central bay (Plate 8).
- 4.3.6 The central bay of the second floor had three narrow windows, each separated by a slender moulded mullion and again at their upper third by a moulded transom (Plate 4). The windows had rounded arched heads and were encompassed within a larger decorative terracotta arch above with a moulded extrados, bold projecting keystone and a pair of voussoirs equally divided across each quadrant. A narrow string course divided the windows from a tympanum above, within which was displayed the crest of Manchester City Council and the motto 'CONCILIO ET LABORE' ('By wisdom and effort') (Plate 9). The two bays either side of the central bay were fitted with rectangular windows of the same type described in the same position on the floor below. Bays 1-4 and 10-13 were each fitted with a pair of narrower rectangular windows, sharing a single moulded sill.
- 4.3.7 A brick chimney stack projected from the ridge of the roof either side of the central bay with another at either end of the roof. Between the end chimneys and the central bay a small white cupola had been erected, probably as a ventilation measure (Plates 2 and 8).



Plate 2: Northern elevation of Main Range



Plates 3 and 4: Cartouche at the head of a pilaster, with central bay to right



*Plate 5: Semi-circular steps to original entrance*



*Plate 6: Doorway in bay 11*



*Plate 7: Memorial plaque at centre of the northern elevation*



*Plate 8: Northern elevation, showing string courses*



*Plate 9: City of Manchester Crest*



- 4.3.8 *Eastern and Western Elevations:* the eastern elevation extended for two bays, after which the wall was stepped forward to indicate the beginning of the south-eastern wing (Plate 10). Both string-courses and the cornice continued round from the northern elevation and the shallow plinth was also retained. The two ground-floor windows were of nine lights, and had segmental brick arches, bold projecting terracotta keystones and moulded terracotta sills. The first-floor windows were also of nine lights, and employed moulded terracotta sills, but had square lintels formed of interlocking terracotta voussoirs. Both second-floor bays had a pair of narrow rectangular windows, sharing a single terracotta lintel and using interlocking voussoirs as on the floor beneath. The northern end of the elevation was defined by a shallow pilaster of the type previously described upon the northern elevation. The western elevation was identical to the eastern elevation (Plate 11).
- 4.3.9 *Southern Elevation:* the southern elevation was interrupted at its centre by the stair tower, which projected southwards from its face but was clearly of the same build, and a privy block which had been constructed in the south-western angle between the staircase block and southern elevation of the main block. To the east of the staircase block there were two bays on each floor, each fitted with a rectangular window of six lights, employing a very shallow cambered brick arch and a moulded terracotta sill (Plate 12). A moulded terracotta cornice appeared at the head of the wall, continuing unbroken from the western elevation of the south-eastern wing to the eastern elevation of the south-western wing.
- 4.3.10 The southern elevation of the privy tower, to the west of the staircase block, had a pair of narrow rectangular windows on each floor, with another at the northern end of the western return wall (Plate 13). The remaining bay of the southern elevation, west of the privy tower had a single rectangular six-light window on each floor and both these and the windows of the privy tower used the same sill and lintel design described on the two eastern bays.



*Plate 10: Eastern elevation of main block*



Plate 11: Western elevation of main block



Plates 12 and 13: South elevation to east and west of stair tower

- 4.3.11 **Stair Tower and Extension:** the stair tower was built using the same functional brick employed on the rest of the courtyard elevations, except at the corners where a hard red brick had been used instead. It was a small, square building with a small rectangular window of similar form to that seen on the privy block, towards the southern end of the first floor on both its eastern and western elevations (Plate 14).
- 4.3.12 The southern elevation had been partly obscured by a two-storey extension, but above this height there was a semi-circular headed window with brick surrounds and a pronounced keystone (Plate 15). The opening had a moulded terracotta sill just visible the roof of the extension.
- 4.3.13 The extension had a flat roof, and was constructed of red brick of mid-twentieth-century date. It was abutted to the south at first-floor height by a bridge which connected it to the southern linking corridor. The first floor over-sailed the ground floor by approximately 1m, forming a short roof over a set of double pedestrian doors. The eastern and western elevations both had three small square windows with concrete surrounds, one above the other, while the western elevation had an additional rectangular window at the northern end of the first floor.



*Plates 14 and 15: Stair tower with extension to right and privy tower to left. Southern elevation of Stair Tower in right hand frame, facing north-east*

- 4.3.14 **South-Eastern Wing:** the gable roof was hipped to the north and U-shaped in plan, with an elongated glazed canopy at the centre, hipped at both ends. Brick chimneys rose from the ridge line above the centre of the eastern and western elevations, with another at the northern end of the north eastern hip. A fourth chimney abutted the southern end of the western elevation, and a white cupola identical to those observed on the northern range lay at the centre of the roof above the southern elevation (Plates 18 and 19).
- 4.3.15 *Eastern Elevation:* the eastern elevation was of seven bays, and was less elaborate than the northern elevation (Plate 16). It adjoined the eastern elevation of the main block to the north, from which it was distinguished by being set forward by 1.6m. The southernmost bay had a shallow plinth and both it, and bay 7 at the opposing end stood slightly proud of the remainder of the wall defining the northern and southern limits of the wing. A pair of shallow pilasters rising from the first-floor string-course either side of these bays had a cartouche at the head and were topped by a semicircular pediment.
- 4.3.16 The ground floor windows were rectangular in form, and typically of six lights with a segmental brick arch above, incorporating a bold but narrow projecting keystone and a moulded terracotta sill. Bay 7 was fitted with a set of double doors accessed via a series of stone steps flanked on either side by a rising brick wall topped with a flat coping. The door was framed with terracotta surrounds, including a pilaster with base and capital, rising from the top of the walls flanking the steps. A pair of consoles rested upon the heads of each pilaster, supporting in turn a curved terracotta canopy, beneath which lay a semicircular over-light. This over-light was formed of a single sheet of glass with a decorative wrought iron panel on the interior.
- 4.3.17 At first-floor level bays 2-6 from the south were fitted with rectangular six-light windows, each with a projecting terracotta keystone at the centre of a very shallow cambered arch. The window within the southernmost bay was similar but had a square lintel formed of interlocking voussoirs beneath a moulded string-course. Bay 7 incorporated the same string-course but rather than a single six-light window it had two smaller four-light windows, one above the other and separated by a decorated terracotta panel. Both windows had a square lintels formed of interlocking voussoirs.
- 4.3.18 At second-floor, level bays 1-7 each had a rectangular six-light window with square lintels of interlocking voussoirs and a moulded terracotta sill beneath. The entrance to the basement lay through a doorway beneath bay 2, accessed via a set of stone steps demarcated by iron railings (Plate 17). This doorway had a segmental arch over and there was a two light window beneath bays 1 and 3, lighting the basement.



Plate 16: Eastern elevation of the South-Eastern Wing



Plate 17: Cellar entrance at southern end of the eastern elevation

- 4.3.19 *Southern Elevation*: the variable colouring of the brick on the southern elevation of all three main blocks clearly distinguished it as the rear of the building (Plate 18). There were five bays upon each floor, with the central bay projecting forward slightly from the face of the wall and topped by a short parapet with a flat coping above. The rest of the elevation was topped with a moulded cornice, which continued unbroken across the base of the parapet in the central bay.
- 4.3.20 At ground-floor level, bays 1 and 5 had three-light rectangular windows, while those in bays 3 and 4 had been fitted with slightly wider six-light windows. It appeared that bay 2 probably began life as an identical six-light window, but its upper half had been blocked and the lower half converted to a doorway. A set of brick steps and a disabled access ramp led up to the doorway from the external ground surface.
- 4.3.21 The first- and second-floor arrangements were much the same as the ground floor, with the exception of bay 2 which retained its original window. A terracotta string-course ran beneath the central bay of both floors, doubling as a sill. With the exception of the window at the centre of the second floor, which employed interlocking voussoirs, the openings were fitted with very shallow cambered arches and moulded terracotta sills.
- 4.3.22 Cambered brick arches beneath bays 3-5 indicated the presence of basement windows, although those in bays 3 and 4 had been bricked up and that in bay 5 had been boarded up.



Plate 18: Southern elevation of the South-Eastern Wing

- 4.3.23 *Western Elevation:* the western elevation had been partly obscured by the construction of the raised linking corridor connecting the southern ends of the two wings, but it was possible to identify six approximately equal bays (Plate 19). Each bay had originally been fitted with a six-light rectangular window with shallow cambered arches and moulded terracotta sills, but those of the ground floor and first floor of the first two bays from the south had been removed or partially so during the construction of the linking corridor. The window of the first bay of the second floor had also been modified, and a brick-built lift shaft erected against the wall in front of it. A chimney lay immediately to the north of the lift shaft, fitting tightly against the southern jamb of the surviving second floor window in the second bay from the south (Plate 19).
- 4.3.24 Additionally, at ground-floor, level bay 4 from the south had been fitted, perhaps as a modification, with a pedestrian doorway with access via a set of steel steps (Plate 20).



*Plate 19: Western elevation of the South Eastern Wing, first and second floor visible only*





*Plate 20: Western elevation of the South Eastern Wing, ground-floor facing north-east, with doorway to right of frame*

- 4.3.25 **South-Western Wing:** the roof of the South-Western Wing was of the same design as that of the South-Eastern Wing, but had an additional chimney at the northern end (Plate 21).
- 4.3.26 *Western Elevation:* the western elevation of the South-Western Wing was almost an exact mirror image of that described on the eastern elevation of the South-Eastern Wing, except for two details (Plate 21). The first was that the absence of a basement beneath this wing meant the basement doorway, staircase and basement windows could be omitted from the design on this side. The second was that in bays 3 and 4 from the south, the six-light windows had been disregarded in favour of a narrow off centre three-light window with a segmental brick arch.
- 4.3.27 *Southern Elevation:* the southern elevation was again almost identical to that described on the south-eastern wing, but there were no basement windows and the lower courses of brick were of a rough character, perhaps due in part to the loss of their fire skins through weathering (Plate 22). Unlike the South-Eastern Wing, all of the ground-floor windows had been retained, but a doorway had been cut through the wall beneath the window in bay 2, connecting the building to the buildings to the south via a glass sided linking corridor.
- 4.3.28 *Eastern Elevation:* the eastern elevation largely matched that of the western elevation on the South-Eastern Wing, with six bays on each of its three floors (Plate 23). The linking corridor once again had required the partial blocking and removal of the two southern bays at ground- and first-floor levels, but this elevation did not have either the lift shaft or chimney blocking the second-floor opening. As with the wing's western elevation, the ground-floor windows in bays 3 and 4 from the south were of half width and off centre, but all the windows had the typical shallow cambered arches and moulded terracotta sills.



Plate 21: Western elevation of the South-Eastern Wing, ground-floor facing north-east



*Plate 22: Southern elevation facing north-east. Note the glass sided linking corridor at the base*



*Plate 23: Eastern elevation showing first and second floors only*

## 4.4 INTERIOR

- 4.4.1 Although in many rooms the internal walls had been painted white and left exposed as originally intended, the building had been extensively modernised and preserved few features of historic note. Artificial ceilings have been installed in many of the rooms, and modern stud partitions had been inserted on each floor, subdividing the original layout. In most cases, however, it was possible to determine the original layout and where possible this has been described below.
- 4.4.2 **Ground Floor (Fig 2):** internally, the northern range had a corridor running along its southern side with seven large rooms opening off of its northern wall (Plate 24). An open well staircase with a half-pace landing lay at either end of the corridor and an imperial staircase occupied the stair tower to the south of its centre (Plate 25). A pair of swing doors across the width of the corridor either side of the central staircase created a chamber at the base of the stairs. The privy tower observed externally was accessed on each of the buildings three floors by a doorway on the southern wall of the corridor, to the east of the central staircase. To the north of the central stairs there was a timber partition with a set of doors at the centre and a decorative glazed over-light above, defining what had originally been the main entrance lobby (Plate 26).
- 4.4.3 From within the original entrance lobby, the brickwork blocking the lower portions of the original northern entrance was clearly exposed beneath the current window (Plate 27). A secondary cambered arch toward the northern end of the room may once have held a second timber partition, creating a small vestibule area to the south of the entrance. The lobby was the most decorative room in the building with a moulded skirting, chair rail and a picture rail to the east and west. There were two blocked pedestrian openings on the western wall and a larger blocked doorway to the east with egg and dart motif surrounds across its upper jambs and lintel (Plate 28).
- 4.4.4 The South-Eastern Wing had a central corridor running from the eastern end of the corridor in the main range to the southern end of the building (Plate 29). Two large rectangular rooms lay to each side of the corridor, although the southern two rooms and north-eastern room had been subdivided with modern stud partitions into a series of smaller spaces. The South-Western Wing had the same central corridor, but appeared to retain its basic original layout, with two rectangular rooms to the east and a large toilet block in the south-eastern corner (Plate 30). Another large toilet block occupied the south-western corner of the wing, with three more rooms of diminishing size to the north (Plate 31). A short flight of steps led down to an inserted doorway at the southern end of the central corridor, leading to a glass-sided linking corridor.
- 4.4.5 Typically, the corridors of all three main ranges were lit by timber-framed windows set within the internal facing walls of each room (Plate 32). The windows varied in size and shape, with some incorporating part glazed panel doors, but most had cambered arches in keeping with the external ground-floor windows (Plate 33). Where they survived the original door handles were chrome plated with a thumb operated latch at the top and scalloped detailing at the top and bottom (Plate 34).

- 4.4.6 Each of the staircases were fitted with moulded stone treads and had carved timber newel posts and timber hand rails above decorative wrought iron balusters (Plates 25 and 35).
- 4.4.7 Although none of the building's original fireplaces were found intact, several blocked examples were noted (Plate 36). They typically sat at the centre of projecting chimney breasts, and had cambered brick arches and brick surrounds. They were not however fitted in every room, perhaps suggesting that the college was fitted with radiators originally.
- 4.4.8 The majority of the rooms were unfurnished at the time of the survey, but rooms 116 and 113 retained their tiered lecture hall arrangement, with the desks displaying the typical markings associated with a class room (Plates 36 and 37).



Plate 24: Main block corridor, facing west



Plate 25: Imperial staircase leading to first floor, 1m scale



Plate 26: Timber partition defining entrance to original lobby with stairs to right of frame



*Plate 27: Original entrance lobby, facing north*



*Plate 28: Egg and dart decoration within entrance hall*



*Plate 29: South-eastern corridor, facing south*



*Plate 30: South-western corridor, facing north*





*Plate 31: Toilet block in south-western corner of the South-Western Wing*



*Plate 32: Typical design of internal windows and doorways lighting the corridors*



Plates 33 and 34: Larger type of internal window, incorporating a central doorway, and original door handle at ground-floor level



Plate 35: Wrought-iron staircase rails



Plate 36: Blocked fireplace in lecture room 101, typical of those in the rest of the building. 1m scale



Plate 37: Tiered seating in lecture theatre 116, facing south



*Plate 38: Desk art in one of the lecture theatres*

- 4.4.9 **First Floor (Fig 3):** the first-floor had the same basic layout of corridors and staircases as the ground floor (Plate 39). It had eight rooms to the north of the corridor in the main range, although there was evidence towards the eastern end that rooms 218-220 may have originally formed a single space.
- 4.4.10 The corridor in the South-Eastern Wing extended only half way along the length of the building, and was lit by a pair of cambered arched internal facing windows (Plate 40). It had a large room to the east accessed through a series of tall cambered arches and another to the west with a doorway at the northern end (Plate 41). The latter room had been subdivided across its width at its southern end while the eastern room was connected via an open cambered arch in its southern wall to a large rectangular space at the southern end of the wing which had served as a library (Plate 42).
- 4.4.11 The South-Western Wing had two large rooms to the west of the central corridor, both subdivided into three smaller spaces and another room in the north-eastern corner (Plate 43). The southern-eastern corner of the building had a pair of smaller square rooms at the southern end and a larger room to the north, although again the latter had been divided into three. A small square room lay at the southern end of the corridor, but the corridor itself had been partitioned up along its length to the north to create two narrower corridors (Plate 44).
- 4.4.12 The only historic features of note were a blocked fireplace at the centre of a chimney breast on the northern wall of room 213, and another smaller fire place just to its east. Both were of the typical form, but this appeared to be the only room in the building where they occurred as a pair (Plate 45).

4.4.13 A doorway had been opened up in the southern end of the eastern wall to provided access down a flight of stairs to the raised linking corridor, and this was matched by a similar arrangement at the southern end of the western wall of the south-eastern wing (Plate 46).



*Plate 39: Northern range corridor, facing west*



*Plate 40: Internal windows in corridor in south-eastern wing, facing north*



*Plate 41: North-eastern room of library in the South-Eastern Wing, facing south-west*



*Plate 42: Library at the southern end of the South-Eastern Wing, facing east*



*Plate 43: Room 217a in north-eastern corner of the South-Western Wing, looking south*



*Plate 44: Corridor in South-Western Wing, looking north. Its narrower width is accounted for by a later partition to the right of frame*



Plate 45: Double fireplace in room 213



Plate 46: General internal view of raised linking corridor, looking west



- 4.4.14 **Second Floor (Fig 4):** the second-floor had five rooms to the north of the corridor in the main northern range, and a room at each end above the stair-wells accessed by an additional flight of steps (Plates 47 and 48). A glazed partition with doors at each end extended part way into the centre of the corridor, separating it from the central stair tower to the south. The stair tower was lit from above by a glazed canopy, supported on timber trusses, which in turn rested upon projecting corbels along the eastern and western walls (Plate 49). Two doors to the south opened off of the mid-height landing below to give access to two small rooms within the stair tower extension (Plate 50). The semicircular headed window noted on this wall externally lay above these doors and from the outline of the surviving jambs it appeared that the window had once extended further down the wall before the erection of the extension.
- 4.4.15 The corridor in the South-Eastern Wing was of half length, and had a room to the east and west and another large room to the south which occupied the southern half of the wing (Plates 51 and 52). The room to the west of the corridor included a large blocked doorway at the centre of its northern wall which was also visible from the corridor on the opposing side of the wall (Plate 53). The South-Western Wing was similarly laid out, but the room to the east of the corridor was divided into four smaller spaces and it was unclear how many of these partitions were original (Plate 54). The room at the southern end of this wing was carpeted throughout but preserved beneath it was a polished floor of narrow floorboards that were clearly designed to be originally exposed (Plates 55 and 56).



Plate 47: Second-floor corridor in the main northern range, facing east



Plates 48 and 49: Room 306 above western stairwell, facing west, and glass canopy over stair tower



Plates 50 and 51: Semi-circular headed window over doors opening into rooms 319 and 320 from mid-height landing, and corridor in the South-Eastern Wing, looking north



*Plate 52: Room 317 at southern end of the South-Eastern Wing, looking east*



*Plate 53: Large blocked opening in room 318, looking north*



Plate 54: Corridor in South-Western Wing, looking south



Plate 55: Lecture room 304, facing east



*Plate 56: Original polished floorboard beneath the carpet in room 304*

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## 5. DISCUSSION

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### 5.1 DEVELOPMENT

- 5.1.1 The building as completed in 1912 consisted of a main northern range fronting onto a tree-lined Hathersage Road behind a set of iron railings (Plate 57), and an eastern and western wing enclosing three sides of a courtyard to the rear. A stair block with attached privy block projected south from the southern elevation of the main range dividing the courtyard into two. The character of the brick work and architectural details clearly indicate the primacy of the northern elevation of the main range, followed by the eastern elevation of the eastern range and western elevation of the western range. The southern elevations and those facing the courtyard are of a more functional character, and were presumably not expected to be easily visible. The style is classical
- 5.1.2 Internally, the building's original layout was characterised by large, well-lit rectangular rooms opening off central axial corridors. At this time, the main entrance lay to the centre of the northern elevation, and it would have been necessary to pass through a lobby, embellished with moulded detailing and coloured glass before reaching the central staircase. The remainder of the ground-floor rooms in the main range and western wing appear to have seen only minor alterations, but the eastern wing originally comprised four large rectangular rooms of equal size, which have since been subdivided into much smaller examination rooms. This pattern is reversed on the first floor, with the original large rooms in the western wing subdivided into smaller teaching rooms, while the second-floor rooms were typically larger still in all three main ranges.



Plate 57: College building, early twentieth century facing south west  
([exlibrislinguist.wordpress.com](http://exlibrislinguist.wordpress.com))

- 5.1.3 The sequence of historical mapping suggests that the building remained largely unchanged for the next 50 years, after which a small extension was added to the rear of the stair block between 1965 and 1967. Its erection appears to have partially blocked a large semi-circular headed window on the original southern elevation, but provided a large covered entrance at the rear of the building and two additional rooms on each of the first and second floors.
- 5.1.4 The style of the raised corridor linking the southern ends of the eastern and western wings suggests that it was probably added in the later 1970s or 1980s. Several windows at the southern end of both wings courtyard elevations were blocked or destroyed during its construction, and similarly the erection of the glazed corridor linking the building to the rest of the college buildings to the south necessitated the opening of a new doorway through the southern elevation of the western wing.

## 5.4 CONCLUSION

- 5.4.1 Although the college building retained few features of historic significance, its primary interest can be considered to be the survival of its basic original layout which undoubtedly reflected the teaching methods of the Edwardian period and its concern with the teaching of domestic science. As the role of the college evolved, many of the rooms were subdivided to perform new roles relating to teacher training and eventually the training of speech therapists. The building's proposed demolition marks the end of this process of reuse and remodelling, but even after demolition the college will undoubtedly hold cultural significance for the many students who studied there.

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Plate 57: College building, early twentieth century facing south west ([exlibrislinguist.wordpress.com](http://exlibrislinguist.wordpress.com))



Figure 1: Site location



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Figure 2: Plan of house

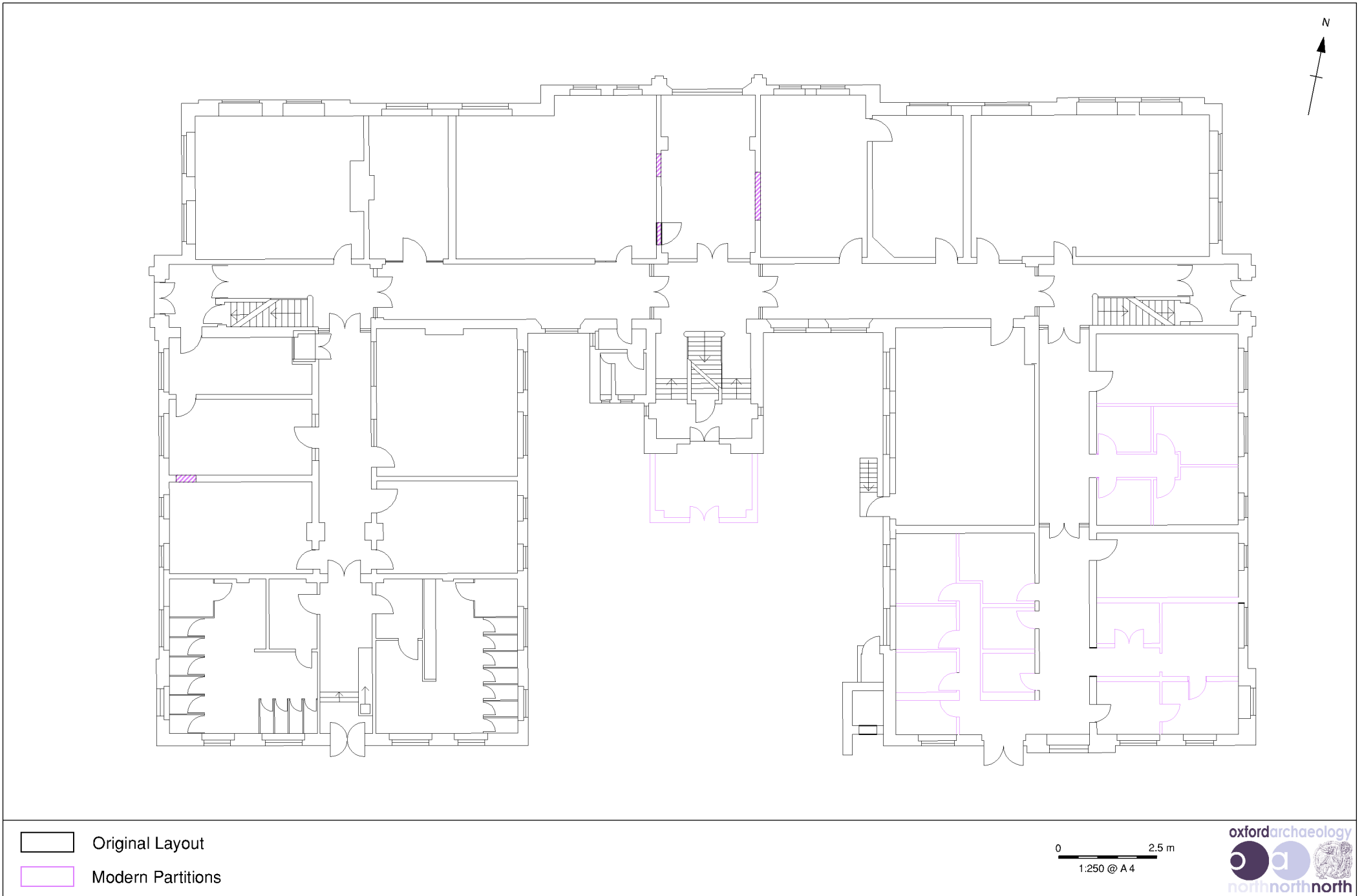


Figure 3: Plan of ground floor



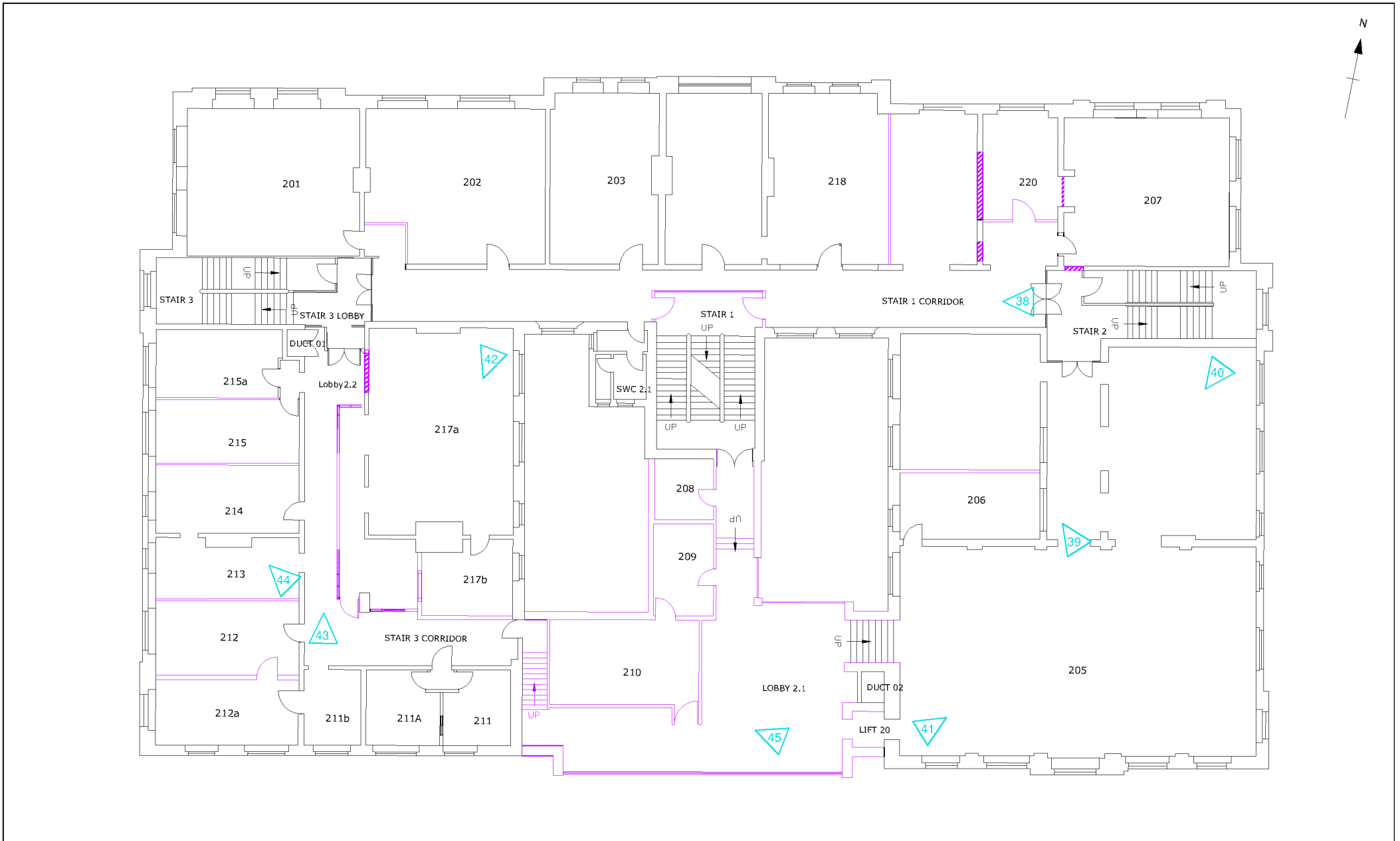
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- Modern Partitions
- Photograph Location and Direction

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Figure 4: Ground floor photograph location plan



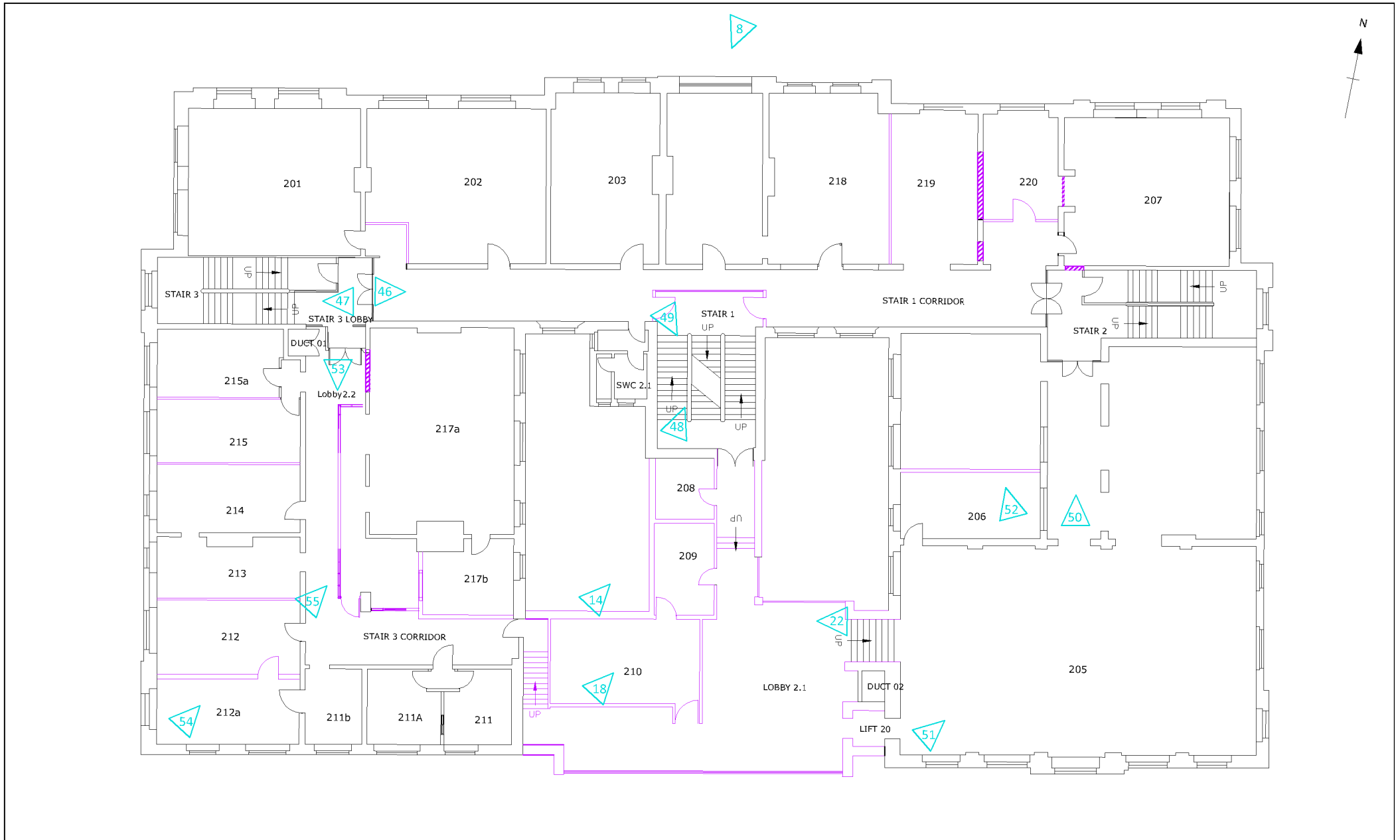


- Original Layout
- Modern Partitions
- Photograph Location and Direction

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Figure 5: Plan of first floor showing photographic locations

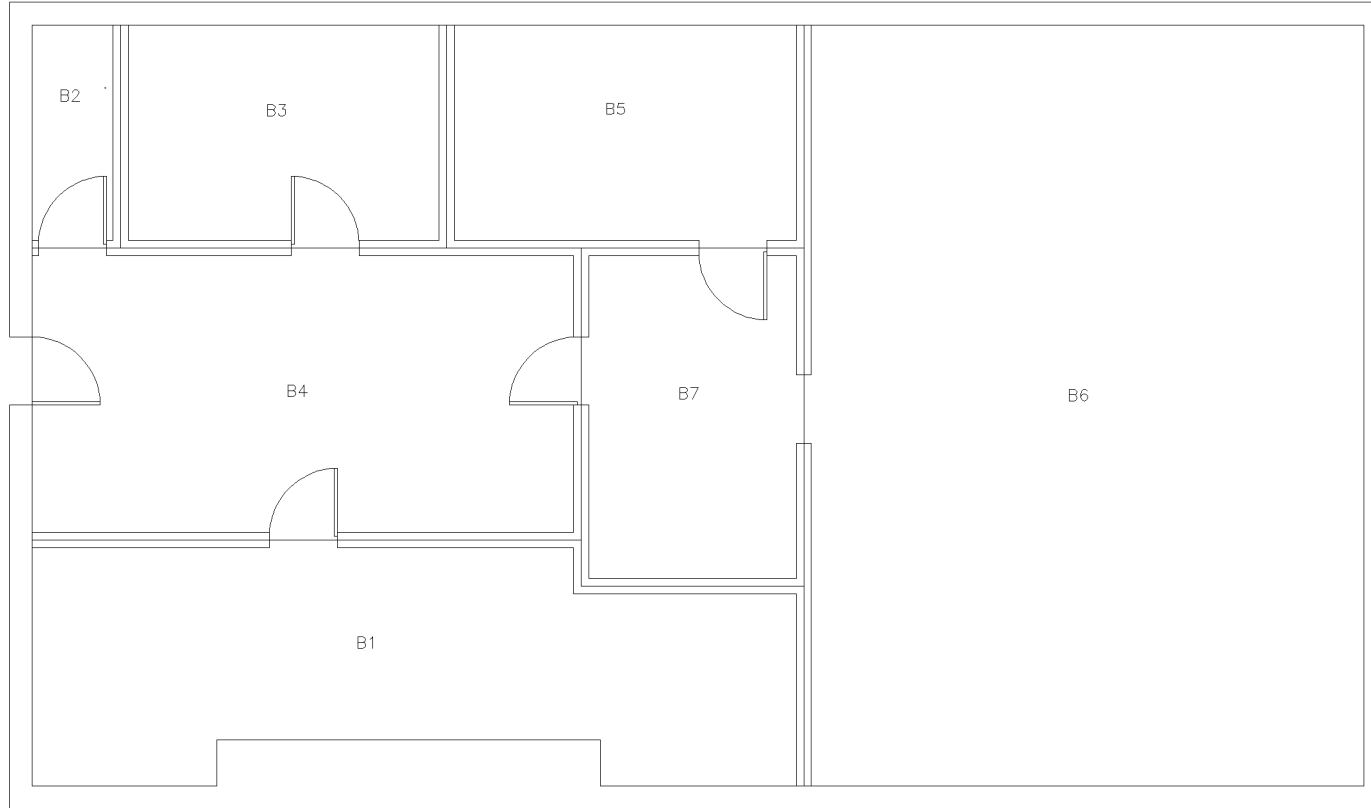




- Original Layout
- Modern Partitions
- 42 Photograph Location and Direction

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Figure 6: Plan of second floor showing photographic locations



-  Original Layout
-  Modern Partitions

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1:100 @ A4



Figure 7: Plan of basement