



St Martin's Hospital
(Former Union Workhouse)
Bath
Somerset

**Historic Building Investigation
and Recording**



March 2006

Client: Future Heritage

Issue N^o: 1

OA Job N^o: 2870 & 2875

NGR: ST 7420 6218

Client Name: Future Heritage
Client Ref No:

Document Title: Historic Building Recording and Investigation

Document Type: Client Report
Issue Number: 1

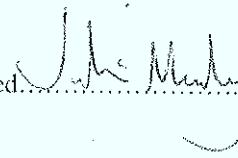
National Grid Reference: ST 7420 6218
Planning Reference:

OA Job Number: 2870 & 2975
Site Code: BASMH05
Invoice Code: BASMHBS & BASMHWB

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Document File Location
Graphics File Location
Illustrated by

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**St Martins Hospital (former Bath Union Workhouse) Odd
Down, Bath, Somerset**

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING AND INVESTIGATION

CONTENTS

Summary	1
1 Introduction	2
1.1 Background	2
1.2 Aims and objectives	2
1.3 Methodology	2
1.4 Acknowledgements	3
2 Historical Background	3
3 Description	4
3.1 Introduction	4
3.2 Block 1: Main Entrance Front, Receiving wards and Administration	5
3.3 Block 2: Boys wing and workshops	8
3.4 Block 3: Board Room, original Chapel, upper Dormitories	10
3.5 Central Hub: Kitchen and Masters and Matrons rooms.....	12
3.6 Block 4: Girls wing	14
3.7 Block 5: Men’s Day Rooms and Dormitories	16
3.8 Block 6: Women’s Day Rooms and upper Dormitories.....	20
3.9 Block 7: Men’s Work Room	23
3.10 Block 8.....	24
3.11 Laundry.....	25
4 Conclusion	26
5 Bibliography	29

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1	Site location map
Figure 2	Site Plan with OA block numbers.
Figure 3	1838 Workhouse Plan
Figure 4	OS 25 Inch Map 1883
Figure 5	Phased Ground Floor Plan

LIST OF PLATES

Plate 1	Block 1, central north elevation
Plate 2	Block 1, looking south east with extension on right
Plate 3	Block 1, later entrance porch
Plate 4	Block 1, central ground floor room looking west

Plate 5	Block 1, alcove in ground floor room, looking west
Plate 6	Block 1, Interior of west extension, looking south east
Plate 7	Block 1, arch and blocked doorway in central room after stripping out
Plate 8	Block 1, ground floor room of south east extension
Plate 9	Block 1, first floor room with fireplace looking north east
Plate 10	Block 2, northern wing looking west
Plate 11	Block 2, southern wing looking north
Plate 12	Block 2, interior of former shoemakers shop with later partition wall looking south west
Plate 13	Block 2, window in former shoemakers shop looking west
Plate 14	Block 2, fitted cupboard in ground floor room looking south
Plate 15	Block 2, large single storey room looking north east
Plate 16	Block 2, foundation of former yard wall below later extension looking south west
Plate 17	Block 3, looking east
Plate 18	Block 3, lift shaft on left, with central hub and Block 5 to right.
Plate 19	Block 3, typical first floor room looking east
Plate 20	Central hub, first floor looking east
Plate 21	Central hub, second floor looking east
Plate 22	Central hub, interior of barrel vault looking south east
Plate 23	Central hub, exposed barrel vaults looking north west
Plate 24	Access to vaults beneath hub looking south east
Plate 25	Block 4, exterior looking north
Plate 26	Block 4, single storey wing looking north
Plate 27	Block 4, blocked arches in west wall
Plate 28	Block 4, interior of ground floor room
Plate 29	Block 5, west end looking east
Plate 30	Block 5, ground floor room at east end
Plate 31	Block 5, ground floor room with fireplace west end
Plate 32	Block 5, central first floor room looking west
Plate 33	Block 5, west first floor room looking west
Plate 34	Block 5, west ground floor room after stripping out
Plate 35	Block 5, primary king post truss and secondary ceiling joists
Plate 36	Block 5, basement fill and wall below west end room looking east
Plate 37	Block 5, blocked arch in west end wall, looking east, 1m scale
Plate 38	Test trench with stone vault of reservoir in base, looking west
Plate 39	Block 6, north east elevation of central section
Plate 40	Block 6, stairwell
Plate 41	Block 6, fireplace in first floor room, looking north west
Plate 42	Block 6, east first floor room, looking east
Plate 43	Block 6, blocked windows and inserted doors in south wall
Plate 44	Block 7, looking north with Block 5 to rear
Plate 45	Block 7, looking north east
Plate 46	Block 7, interior looking north
Plate 47	Block 8, looking west
Plate 48	Block 8, kitchen looking north
Plate 49	Block 8, canteen looking south
Plate 50	Laundry looking south east
Plate 51	Laundry, Queen post roof trusses looking south east
Plate 52	Laundry with modern boiler house and chimney adjoining east end

ST MARTINS HOSPITAL, (FORMER BATH UNION WORKHOUSE), ODD DOWN, BATH

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING AND INVESTIGATION

SUMMARY

Oxford Archaeology (OA) has carried out a programme of building recording and investigation at St Martins Hospital, Bath. The main survey was in advance of conversion of some of the buildings to residential use but the work also included a watching brief element to record previously obscured features after the start of building works. The importance of the site is that the buildings were formerly part of the Bath Union Workhouse built in 1837-8 and are Grade II listed.

The workhouse was designed by Sampson Kempthorne and had a hexagonal outer range and a Y shaped inner block of radial wings with a central supervisory hub. The whole of the three storey central Y survives with later extensions. Much of the hexagon survives too including the main front block to the north and the north west and north east wings and also the former imbecile and invalid block to the south which is still part of the hospital and was not surveyed.

The buildings are all constructed of Bath stone and consist of ashlar facing over snecked rubble backing. Many old sash windows remain in original splayed openings but some openings have been straightened and some wings have had modern crittal windows fitted in old openings and some new openings inserted.

The workhouse became a hospital with the formation of the NHS in 1948 and most of the interior partition and division of the floors into individual rooms dates from after that date. In some areas primary or quite early decorative schemes and features survived, notably in parts of the north and north west wings of the hexagon and the west radial wing of the central Y.

The watching brief revealed some hitherto unexpected features. A triple stone barrel vault was exposed beneath the central hub and an external opening to the vault was seen in a trench against the north west wall of the hub. The ground floor of the hub was the workhouse kitchen and the vault may have served as a larder and/or coal cellar. Roof beams in the hub were stamped KYANS PATENT which referred to a recently patented (1832) method of timber preservation treatment.

Test trenches in the extension to the west radial wing revealed a filled in basement with windows in the north wall and the blocked arched door to this was seen in the end wall after vegetation was cleared. Another test trench south of that wing exposed an underground stone vault containing water, which corresponds to the workhouse reservoirs as marked on a plan of 1838.



1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology has been commissioned by Future Heritage to undertake a programme of historic building investigation and recording at St Martins Hospital, Odd Down, Bath (Figs. 1-2). The work relates to the proposed redevelopment and conversion of parts of the hospital to residential use. The buildings involved formerly comprised the greater part of the Bath Union Workhouse initially constructed in 1837-8. Some other former parts of the workhouse are still in use as hospital buildings. Due to the historic interest of the buildings planning approval for the development has been granted with the condition that a programme of building recording be undertaken prior to the start of site works. This is in line with national planning guidance (PPG15). The buildings are listed at Grade II.

1.2 Aims and objectives

1.2.1 The main aim of the work was to produce a record of the buildings for posterity prior to their conversion. The work particularly concentrated on the buildings' structure, construction development and use.

1.3 Methodology

1.3.1 The recording programme was generally undertaken to Royal Commission Level I-II (RCHM 1996) and consisted of three main elements: a drawn survey, a photographic survey and a written survey. The drawn survey consisted of plans based on a pre-existing survey of the building. These were enhanced with annotation to detail the construction and phasing of the structure together with other features of interest not indicated on the base survey. The photographic survey used 35 mm film (colour slide and black and white prints) and consisted of general shots and specific details (internal and external). The written survey complemented the other surveys and consisted of descriptive notes to explain and interpret the building. The initial site work was undertaken entirely before the start of building works. There was also a watching brief element to the works to record previously obscured features after the start of building works. The results of the initial survey and the watching brief are both incorporated into a single report.

1.3.2 The site work was undertaken on the 15th and 19th of September and the 11th-12th October 2005 and the 2nd of February 2006. A project archive will be ordered and deposited with Bath and North East Somerset Museum Services (or other agreed body). It will include all site drawings, photographs (contact sheets), slides, photographic negatives, a copy of this report and other site notes. A copy of this report will also be deposited with the Bath and North East Somerset Sites and Monuments Record.



1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 Oxford Archaeology would like to thank Future Heritage for commissioning the work and providing survey drawings and the contractors for their assistance co-operation during the survey and watching brief phases of the work.

2 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1.1 Historical research concentrating on documentary and cartographic evidence was undertaken on this site for an archaeological desktop study in 2001 (BRAS). The following summary is largely drawn from that work. More detailed historical background information about specific parts of the building is given in the introductory paragraphs to the Block descriptions in section 3.
- 2.1.2 Prior to the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act several parish workhouses served the paupers of Bath. A parliamentary report of 1777 names those at Bath St James, Bath SS Peter and Paul, Lincomb and Widcomb, Swanswick, Walcot and lastly Weston. These mostly housed relatively low numbers of inmates with as few as 8 at Swanswick; the largest was Weston with 100.
- 2.1.3 After the 1834 legislation a Bath Poor Law Union was formed in 1836 and the new workhouse was built during 1836-8 to a hexagon design by Sampson Kempthorne (Fig. 3). Kempthorne was commissioned to produce model workhouse plans for the Poor Law Commissioners in 1835 and produced two distinct designs; the square or cruciform plan and the hexagonal or Y plan. The former was square or rectangular in overall shape but the main feature was the cross wings with central supervisory hub. Similarly the hexagonal plan had a central hub and three large wings (the Y) radiating from this to join the lower hexagonal group of outer wings thus creating three enclosed yards.
- 2.1.4 These two designs were adapted and used throughout the country. Kempthorne built many hexagonal plan workhouses, Abingdon being the first and Bath the most expensive with coursed ashlar facings throughout. The Bath building was designed to accommodate 600 at a cost of £12,350 (Morrison, 74). The building was completed on 16th May 1838 and subsequently various additions and alterations were undertaken.
- 2.1.5 Additions to the aged and infirm wards were made in 1842. Their location is not given in the original source but they are probably the end extensions to the radial wings (Blocks 5 and 6). The separate chapel was constructed in 1843-6 of stone quarried in the workhouse garden and was built by a pauper John Plass aged 78. Land adjoining the chapel was consecrated in 1847 and used as the pauper burial ground until 1858 during which time 1107 interments took place (BRAS, 6).



- 2.1.6 Additional; sick and invalid wards were added in 1845-9: these are the L-shaped wings added to either end of the south wing of the hexagon which was the original imbecile and invalid ward. In 1855-7 a separate lunatic ward was built south of the invalid wards and in 1865 a separate bakery was built north west of the main building (BRAS, 6).
- 2.1.7 In 1867 the boys school (Block 2) was extended on the yard side (east) and in 1869 the stables (also in Block 2) were converted to a dormitory. In 1870 there were additions to the sick and receiving wards and in 1892 a small laundry was erected. The present laundry which may include the 1892 structure, was built by 1902 as it is shown on the 1904 OS map surveyed in that year. The 1904 plan also shows some further extensions to the lunatic ward and Ash House to the east a separate staff accommodation block.
- 2.1.8 In 1905 the workhouse's name was changed to Frome Road House (Cross 1989, 82) and from 1913 all workhouses were henceforward referred to as Poor Law Institutions. The Local Government Act of 1929 disbanded the Poor Law Unions and passed the administration of the former workhouses to the Local Authority (BRAS, 7).
- 2.1.9 At the start of the Second World War an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) hospital was established and new parallel blocks constructed for it east of the workhouse. In 1948 the National Health Service was established and the workhouse and the EMS Hospital were combined to form St Martins Hospital (BRAS, 7)

3 DESCRIPTION

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 The various surviving wings of the outer hexagon and central Y involved in the present development have been allocated block numbers purely for ease of identification and description (see Fig. 2) The central hub rooms and the laundry have been described under those names. The southern wing of the hexagon and the later lunatic ward to the south are still part of the hospital and therefore not included in the present survey. The former bakery and the chapel were similarly not included in the development proposals or the survey.
- 3.1.2 For each block there is a short introduction containing some general and historical background. This is followed by external and internal descriptions of the blocks as they were before any work commenced. Descriptions of any historic features revealed during the stripping out or building works follow at the end of each section.

3.1.3

3.1.4



3.2 **Block 1: Main Entrance Front, Receiving wards and Administration**

3.2.1 **Introduction:** Block 1 comprises the north block of the hexagon fronting onto Frome Road (Plate 1). This is the main entrance and face of the institution and contained the receiving wards and administrative offices. New inmates would come into this block to be processed. Husband and wife, parents and children, brother and sister were separated from each other and sent through high passages to their allotted areas. Here their fate was to live and work according to the prevailing regime that regarded poverty almost as a crime or at least the result of laziness and immorality and therefore deserving of punishment and correction not pity. Dickens after a visit to a workhouse in 1850 wrote; 'We have come to this absurd, this dangerous, this monstrous pass, that the dishonest felon is, in respect of cleanliness, order, diet, and accommodation, better provided for, and taken care of, than the honest pauper.'

3.2.2 **External Description:** This block and the rest of the building is constructed of Bath stone mostly mined at nearby Combe Down with some quarried on the site (BRAS, 5). Coursed ashlar facings cover a snecked rubble backing revealed during stripping out works. There is a three storey central range (see Plate 1) with a two storey two bay and a single storey two bay wing to either side (Plate 2). The roofs of the two and three storey sections are pitched with gable stacks and clad in pantiles; the roofs of the single storey wings are hipped and slate hung. The single storey sections also have a coped parapet with terminal ball finials. The ground and first floor windows throughout are glazing bar sliding sashes; some of the lower sashes on the first floor have been replaced with single panes. The second floor windows are small and square with pivot casements. The three storey section is of nine bays with a three bay central break with a coped pedimental gable. The first and second floor windows in the break have moulded hoods on consoles and the sills have small consoles too. There is a clock face in the pediment and a name plaque with a hood on consoles, the plaque must date from around 1948 as it names St Martins Hospital.

3.2.3 There is an added projecting single storey entrance (Plate 3) with two large square glazing bar sashes and a central door between pilaster strips. Above them is a pedimental gable with a carved Royal Coat of Arms and a fleur-de-lis finial.

3.2.4 At the west end of the block is a later single storey extension of asymmetrical shape set back slightly from the line of the main block (see Plate 2). This room is five sided as it is built across the angle between Blocks 1 & 2 but this is not clear from the exterior. It has a low slate hung roof of five irregular sections rising to a central conical topped lantern vent. There is a door in the east end of the north wall and a doorway blocked in stone at the east end of the south wall. A later small lean-to of probable early 20th century date has been built against the south end of the west wall.



- 3.2.5 **Internal Description:** Ground Floor (Fig. 5). The entrance bay contains the entrance passage and a small room to either side. The entrance passage opens through glazed doors into a large square room, originally called the Waiting Hall, which extends the width of the central break of the block and the full depth of the block. Two glazed doors on either side of the central door in the north wall of this room give access to the two small rooms either side of the entrance passage. The main room contains a modern reception desk built into the west wall with an opening above it into the next room (Plate 4). The east wall has a modern c1970s York or imitation stone low fireplace built against it. At the south ends of both walls are segmental arch headed openings to access the rest of the block (see Plate 4).
- 3.2.6 To the west in the original block are four more rooms, the reception office of one bay and the next room west of two bays both with a corridor to the south. The second room (originally the chaplain's room) has a small tiled 1930s or 40s fireplace in the west wall and some floorboards had been lifted in this room revealing primary joists. A door on the north side of the fireplace leads to the next room to the west. This room is of two bays and full width. It has a moulded dado rail and picture rail all round and a fireplace in the east wall which is blocked but parts of the moulded surround are visible. In the north wall are two windows with six over six pane sliding sashes and splayed reveals.
- 3.2.7 In the south wall a safe has been fitted which is by Phillips and Son of Birmingham. It has brass handles and circular nameplates cum lock covers with the legend 'PHILLIPS & SON BIRMINGHAM THE ALL THIEF RESISTING SAFE MANUFACTURERS'. The steel doors and surround are painted pink. West of the safe is a glazed door into the corridor in the later extension built onto the back of the original block.
- 3.2.8 In the centre of the west wall is a wide alcove under a low three centred arch (Plate 5). In the back of this is a door into the next room. Built into the alcove either side of the door are small modern shelved cupboards. The western room of the original block has plain painted walls and two windows like those already described and a door through to the rear extension.
- 3.2.9 The later extension to the rear of the west part of the block is built in the angle of Block 1 and Block 2 and as previously mentioned it contains a corridor along the back wall of Block 1. This corridor gives access at the west end to a room in the northernmost bay of Block 2 which cannot be accessed from the rest of that block and through that room to the pentagonal extension. South of the corridor the extension contains lavatory cubicles and two other rooms of unknown function. The added pentagonal room has decaying patchy remains of early decorative paint schemes on the walls including a buff yellow with a reddish dado over it (Plate 6). In the north east corner are two plank doors. One in the north wall to the exterior and one in the east wall which would



- have given access to the west room of the main block but is now blocked off in that room by cupboards. The door in the east wall may be primary.
- 3.2.10 There are primary floor joists showing and the room is open to the five-sided roof which is plastered and painted white with narrow principal rafters and purlins showing.
- 3.2.11 East of the main entrance and accessed from there are two rooms the second of which has a tiled 1930s or 40s fireplace in the east wall and a four panel door that may be primary. The rest of the ground floor to the east was blocked off and not accessible.
- 3.2.12 The first floor has been divided into mostly single bay rooms with a continuous corridor along the south side. Most of the rooms open off the corridor and do not interconnect. Some of the dividing walls are primary and many are later partitions. Thicker walls with fireplaces occur on the east side of the central bay, in the cross walls two bays in from either end which mark the division between the two and three storey sections of the block and in the end walls. The fireplaces mostly have simple moulded wooden surrounds showing and the central grates covered over. There is a dog leg staircase in the first bay east of the central break.
- 3.2.13 The second floor consists of nine bays. The central three bays are divided into two rooms and to the west of these are single bay rooms with a corridor on the south. To the east there is a room to the south and stairs to the north in the first bay and then a large square two bay room. The windows on this floor had sliding sashes with an upper pivot casement with sloping sills and angled jambs. One roof truss is partially visible and it consists of a tie beam and king post joined with an iron strap. Raking struts rise from the base of the king post to inner principal rafters.
- 3.2.14 **Watching Brief:** During stripping out of Block 1, wall plaster, later partitions and the stairs and safe were removed. Several blocked openings, fireplaces and other features were revealed. In the central room on the ground floor there were blocked doorways in the north ends of the east and west walls and at the east end of the south wall. Those in the east and south walls were blocked with stone masonry and while this blocking probably dates to the 19th century, that on the west was blocked more recently with concrete blocks. The blocked doorway in the south wall led originally into the north end of Block 3 containing the stairwell serving both Blocks 1 and 3 (Plate 7).
- 3.2.15 In the south wall of the third room east of the central bay where the later extension was built on, a new door into the extension was cut through an earlier window, which had also been blocked more recently. The ground floor room of the extension also contained a blocked door into the end of Block 4, this was an old blocking in coursed rubble. The room contained some interesting primary decoration. This consisted of painted plaster over the stone



masonry; the upper walls were painted in a red ochre colour with thick green lines dividing the field into an upper row of rectangular panels like large masonry blocks and there was a dark brown line at dado level with a slightly lighter brown coat below (Plate 8).

- 3.2.16 On the first floor later partitions were removed and cast-iron fireplaces that had been covered were exposed in the west end room and also in the first main room east of the centre (Plate 9). These fireplaces are smaller but more decorative and higher status than those seen in parts of the workhouse used by the paupers.

3.3 **Block 2: Boys wing and workshops**

- 3.3.1 **Introduction:** Block 2 comprises the north west section of the outer hexagonal ranges. The 1838 plan of the Workhouse (Fig. 3) shows tailors and shoemakers workshops in the wider northern part of the block. The area between this block and Block 3 was originally the boys yard and the block contained the boys lavatories and also stables in the original narrower southern wing.

- 3.3.2 Part of the block was used as a boys school and this was extended across part of the yard in 1867. The stables were converted to a dormitory in 1869 (BRAS 2001, 7)

- 3.3.3 **External Description:** This block is constructed of Bath stone comprising coursed ashlar facings over snecked rubble backing. The pitched roofs are slate clad with parapetted gables with some gable and some axial stacks. There is a two storey, eight bay northern section and an adjoining single storey nine bay southern range (Plates 10-11). The northern six bays of the two storey block probably comprise the original 1838 wider northern workshop section. The first floor windows differ on either elevation: those facing the yard are square with six pane sliding sashes while those facing out are larger with four pane sliding sashes. The ground floor contains several door openings and small windows which contain sliding sashes in the outside wall and hinged casements onto the yard. The southern two bays of the two storey section are a later extension as shown by an extra parapetted gable and the first floor windows which are larger than those in the earlier section. There is a cross passage through this wing in the northern bay of the extension which has a segmental arch over the opening from the yard. This passage corresponds with a passage on the 1838 plan which was then between the wider workshop wing and narrower boys lavatories etc.

- 3.3.4 The present single storey block is the same width as the two storey section (apart from a later extension at the southern end) showing it was either completely rebuilt or the inner elevation extended from the original narrower block. This was probably the work referred to in the late 1860s as conversion



of the stable and extension of the boys schoolroom (BRAS 2001, 7). The windows facing the yard in this section are large four pane sliding sashes, and there is a doorway with a chamfered surround to the north and an open segmental arch to the south of the inner elevation. The three bays at the south end are offset from the outer wall and have a shorter north west pitch on the roof and gable. The gable is parapetted with a fleur-de-lis finial and quatrefoil ventilation opening. The two window openings in the gable have crittal frames fitted and the outer wall of this inset section contains four narrow window openings with crittal frames and a door either end with overlights one etched 'LADIES' and the other 'GENTLEMEN'.

- 3.3.5 This later lavatory extension appears from the 1838 map to be built on the site of the northern end of the former south west wing of the hexagon which has been demolished.
- 3.3.6 **Internal Description:** The ground floor of the two storey section consists of various small rooms of differing size and orientation some of which contain some primary or early features of interest. The northern bay is divided off as a separate room which is accessed from the Block 1 extension on the north east side and has a door into the pentagonal extension on the west and does not link to the rest of Block 2 . This room has a fireplace and some remains of early paint.
- 3.3.7 The second bay is a separate room with access in the south east wall and no access to other rooms. This room has been made from the two former storerooms to the shoemakers and tailors workshops. The next four bays north of the cross passage are divided longitudinally. The south eastern half contains a staircase to the first floor in the south west bay and the rest is divided into two unequal rooms by a later partition and there are no early features of interest. The north western half however contains two rooms with primary or early paintwork and other features. These rooms correspond to the shoemakers shop on the 1838 plan, the stud and lath and plaster partition wall between is a later addition (Plate 12). They had sliding sash windows painted dark brown, some with horizontal iron bars fitted. The windows had deep splayed reveals curving in towards the flat heads and steeply sloping sills (Plate 13). The southern room had remains of cream yellow paint over plaster on the upper walls and the northern one had light buff brown paint on the upper walls and dark brown paint on some of the lower walls. The floors were boarded (see Plate 13).
- 3.3.8 South west of the cross passage the final bay of the two storey section was divided into two small square rooms. The north western room contained several primary features of interest. This room had a flagstone floor and window and walls with primary or early paintwork and fitted wooden shelving which may be primary or quite early (Plate 14). The window was a six pane sliding sash casement set in a segmental arched opening with splayed reveals



and a steeply sloping sill covered in later white ceramic tiles. The window was painted buff brown and the walls a creamy yellow. The fitted shelves and an adjacent tongue and groove panel blocking a former opening to the other small room were painted in the same buff brown as the window.

- 3.3.9 The first floor has been divided up by modern partitions into various size rooms and lavatory cubicles at the north end. The decoration is modern and no primary features of interest survive. The original layout probably consisted of the two bay room as existing south of the stair bay and possibly one large open five bay room to the north with a fireplace at the north end.
- 3.3.10 The single storey section of the block consists of a wider six bay section and a later narrower three bay block built onto the south end. The earlier six bay section consists of one large five bay room with windows in either side of each bay and a door in the central bay of the south east wall. The southern bay of this room had been blocked off by a later hardboard partition. This bay contained a fireplace which had the grate removed and brackets supporting a mantelpiece had been cut off. There was a tongue and groove panelled dado painted brown and the upper walls plastered and painted pink. The northern part of the room had similar panelling and another fireplace this time with console brackets intact. The roof was boarded with exposed king post trusses. The paintwork was later with white walls and roof and blue panelling and fireplace. This room was probably the former boy's schoolroom (Plate 15). The southern bay of this section contained an open segmental arched entrance on the south east leading to a small open lobby with doors into the large five bay room and into a long narrow room taking up the rest of the bay with a window in the north west wall. The later lavatory block built on the south end contains small rooms and cubicles with no features of special interest.
- 3.3.11 **Watching Brief:** A contractor's trench excavated against the exterior of part of the south east wall of the single storey section revealed the lower courses and footings of a substantial stone wall (Plate 16). This wall is below the south east wall of the block and at an angle to it and continues eastwards across the yard. Reference to the 1838 plan shows that this is the remains of the former wall separating the mens and boys yards. The fact that this wall is below the wall of Block 2 confirms that Block 2 was extended later as described above (section 3.4.4).

3.4 **Block 3: Board Room, original Chapel, upper Dormitories**

- 3.4.1 **Introduction:** This block comprises the northern arm of the Y-plan central structure and connects Block 1 to the central hub with the former boys yard to the west and the girls yard to the east. The central blocks contained the dormitories (BRAS 2001, 5) and other facilities. The ground floor of Block 3 originally contained the Board Room which doubled as the Chapel (before the



separate Chapel was built in the 1840s) and a provision store at the south end (see Fig. 3).

- 3.4.2 **External Description:** This block is of three storeys constructed of Bath stone comprising coursed ashlar facings over snecked rubble backing (Plate 17). The roof is pitched and clad with pantiles and there are no extant projecting chimneys. On the west side of the block at the south end is a later flat roofed lift shaft and stair block which dates from after 1948 when the building became a hospital (Plate 18). The ground floor windows on this side have glazing bar sliding sashes, the first floor contains seven equally spaced original window openings with sliding sashes or sash and pivot casement combinations and three smaller possibly inserted windows at the north end. The second floor contains three small windows with sliding sashes to the south and four larger crittal windows to the north which are in the positions of original openings which may have been enlarged slightly. In addition there are four smaller windows with crittal frames which have probably been inserted. On the east side there are many sliding sashes surviving in original openings on all floors with less inserted openings and crittal frames than on the west. There is also one large inserted double door opening on this side and smaller original door openings with later doors.
- 3.4.3 On both elevations the ground floor stonework is fresher and less weathered below a line with small regularly spaced double slots in the stonework. Presumably either a projecting veranda roof was formerly affixed to the walls or the open passages which originally ran along either side of this block (see 1838 plan Fig. 3) were roofed over at a later date hence the differential weathering and slots. The former open passages were designed to access the mens and womens yards from Block 1 and keep them separate from the boys and girls yards.
- 3.4.4 **Internal Description:** The ground floor originally contained the large Board Room which doubled as the chapel (prior to the construction of the separate chapel in the 1840s) at the north and the provision store at the south and a single bay stairwell at either end of this block. For hospital use the stairwell at the south end near the central hub was extended to the west and expanded into the next bay to the north in order to incorporate a lift shaft in addition to modern stairs. A narrow cross passage was then created linking the yards to either side, north of this two small rooms with a central passage were built into the space left south of the original transverse wall. North of this the former Boardroom-cum-chapel was divided by partition walls into various one and two bay rooms. No primary or early features of particular interest remained here.
- 3.4.5 The first floor probably consisted originally of one long eight bay open room with a fireplace in the west wall and a single bay stairwell at either end. The south two bays are now occupied by the stairwell and lift shaft extension with



a double door to the central hub. The east side of this area contains a separate narrow room accessed from the central hub with modern pigeon holes in the west partition wall. These are accessed from both sides of the wall and may have been for dispensing medication. The next six bays consist of a corridor on the west side giving access to six individual patients rooms on the east each with a door in the south west corner and a window in the north east corner and a modern handbasin (Plate 19). The windows in the rooms have six pane sliding sash casements with a three pane pivot casement above, the corridor windows have sliding sashes. The room windows are probably secondary, those in the corridor may be of the primary type but are probably replacements. The northern two bays before the stairs are divided into various small bathrooms, washrooms and lavatory cubicles.

3.4.6 The second floor is very similar to the first with partitions creating a corridor on the west and rooms on the east side except that here the bath and lavatory cubicles are in the centre. The bases of original tie beams project slightly below the plastered ceilings.

3.5 **Central Hub: Kitchen and Masters and Matrons rooms**

3.5.1 **Introduction:** The central hub is a key element of Kempthorne's design based on the panopticon principle as developed and espoused by Samuel and Jeremy Bentham (Morrison, 33). The idea was to be able to manage and control large institutions from the centre. By being physically at the centre the governing officials could see what was happening in all the yards from the windows of the central hub and could have access to and be accessed from all parts of the institution in the minimum time.

3.5.2 **External Description:** Externally only small sections of three of the six sides of the hub are visible and these are of continuous build with the radial wings which emanate from the hub (see plate 18). The upper two floors of the hub contain the all important windows to the masters and matrons rooms which gave them views over all the enclosed yards of the institution. These windows are larger than those in the adjacent wings and contain side hung glazing bar casements. The ground floor contains a door opening into Block 8 on the south and a sliding sash window on the north east and a blocked window on the north west side.

3.5.3 **Internal Description:** Initially the hub consisted of one large hexagonal room on each floor. The ground floor of the central hub, which was originally the workhouse kitchen, has been divided by later hospital partitions into three irregular rooms. The largest of these is on the north east and contains the north and north east and most of the south east original walls. Two large chamfered parallel beams which have been painted white support the floor above. The walls are painted green and the door is modern and contained in the modern partition wall. The floor is a modern concrete construction. The other two



rooms on the ground floor had white walls and modern tiled floors and no notable features.

- 3.5.4 The first floor hub room (Plate 20) has modern linoleum on the floor. The walls are painted blue and contain three side hung opening glazing bar casement windows with splayed reveals. The sills are of modern tile. Alternate walls have doorways to the radial blocks, there are two doorways to Blocks 3 and 5 and one to Block 6 all fitted with modern doors. The wider door openings to Blocks 3 and 5 may be modern. The narrower southern doorway into Block 5 has a shallow segmental arched and is probably primary. The floor above is supported by a pair of primary parallel chamfered bridging beams painted white as on the ground floor.
- 3.5.5 The Second floor room (Plate 21) has a lower ceiling than the ground and first floor rooms. The walls are painted pink. There are three side hung glazing bar windows which are slightly smaller than those on the first floor, they have splayed reveals and plain straight lintels and sills. The doorways to the radial wings have straight lintels and modern doors. The ceiling has two parallel beams like the other floors and a short additional cross beam between them but these have all been cased later. The floor is carpeted.
- 3.5.6 **Watching Brief: Barrel Vaults.** During the present works the floors of the building were required to be lowered by 400mm. Contractors made a start on this work by excavating a small trial hole in the north west corner of the larger ground floor hub room and this revealed solid stone at just above 400mm depth which was broken out. The stone proved to be part of a barrel vault which was infilled with rubble with a low void remaining at the top. A wall and the top of a doorway were visible on the south west side of the vault (Plate 22). The concrete floor and the loose fill below it were subsequently removed from this room to reveal the tops of two parallel stone vaults aligned north west to south east (Plate 23). Once the vaults were identified as such it was decided that no more material should be removed from the structure of the vaults and the methodology of the building work should be revised so as to preserve the vault fabric in situ.
- 3.5.7 A 1m square trial hole in the adjacent small room in the south west section of the hub revealed the top of another similar barrel vault. The doorway seen from the first hole would open into this south west vault.
- 3.5.8 **Exterior trial hole: Vault access.** A small trench excavated by contractors on the west side of the hub in the angle of the hub and block 3 revealed part of a stone segmental arch with a projecting square stone surround below ground level in the external hub wall (Plate 24). The position of this coincides with the south western barrel vault and this opening was either for light or human access or perhaps a coal chute into the vaulted cellar. The stone surround can now be identified on the 1838 plan as are two more against the other walls of



the hub. The most likely use for the vaults directly below the kitchen is probably coal storage for the kitchen ranges and other fires, and/or for provisions in addition to the provisions store in Block 3. The trench also exposed the primary offset coursed rubble foundations of the workhouse and the abutting brick foundations off the modern stairwell and lift shaft extension of Block 3.

3.5.9 **Hub roof:** During stripping out the ceiling and casing of the beams in the second floor hub room were removed revealing how the problem of roofing the centre was addressed. There are two main parallel softwood tie beams which span the room from north east to south west and are connected by a short cross beam south west of centre. The ties each support a king post truss with raking struts to the principals. These two trusses take the ends of the pitched roofs extending from Blocks 3 and 6. The short cross beam has a single king post rising from it to support the end of the ridge of Block 5. The tie beams were stamped 'KYANS PATENT' this refers to a timber treatment process patented by a Mr Kyan in 1832 (Gwilt, 507). This treatment (which was only four or five years old when this building was constructed) involved the timbers being immersed in corrosive sublimate (bichloride of mercury). This was effective against dry rot, woodworm and other insect damage and according to Brees (1852, 239) effectively reduced the time of seasoning to two to six months instead of two to six years.

3.5.10 In contrast to the radial blocks the ceiling joists in the hub appear to be primary which is in keeping with the higher status of this room. The ceiling would also serve to hide the rather inelegant roof construction.

3.6 **Block 4: Girls wing**

3.6.1 **Introduction:** Block 4 is the north west wing of the hexagon. The girls yard opened off this wing and it contained the girls school and girls lavatories. Originally (see 1838 plan; Fig. 3) this wing consisted of sections of varying widths, the girls lavatories comprised a narrow section at the north end and the girls school was a wider three bay section south of the lavatories. Then came a slightly narrower section containing small rooms and cubicles and one larger room. South of this was another narrower section which opened onto the womens yards and included at the end a work room which spanned the corner between this wing and the south east wing of the hexagon.

3.6.2 The southern end of this wing has been demolished and the surviving section is all of one width. It would appear that the narrower sections were extended to the same width as the girls school at some time in the 19th century.

3.6.3 **External Description:** The block is rectangular in plan and consists of a three storey northern section and a single storey southern section (plate 25). It is constructed of dressed Bath stone, the northern wing has a ridged roof with



parapetted gables that is clad in pantiles and the single storey section has a hipped roof clad in slates and an end gable stack. The single storey section is of five bays with vertical rectangular windows with four pane sliding sash casements (Plate 26). The ground floor of the northern wing has side hung opening glazing bar casements on the ground floor. The first and second floors have smaller square windows with six pane sliding sash casements. There is a later small rectangular two storey extension built against the angle where Blocks 1 and 4 join. This has a door and two sash windows in the ground floor and two windows in the first floor on the south and one window in each floor in the narrow west gable wall.

- 3.6.4 There is a straight joint in the south west wall between the second and third bays. The wall north of this is a later widening of the block and contains two segmental arches (Plate 27). These have been blocked later in stone and had a door and window inserted. South of the straight joint the ground floor wall is probably the original girls school structure. The first and second floors are a later addition or reconstruction as they span the wider and narrower portions of the original block. The single storey southern wing is probably a complete rebuild rather than an adaptation of the original wing as it appears to be of one build.
- 3.6.5 An external steel fire escape has been constructed at the south end of the three storey block (see Plate 25). This is accessed by a second floor door in the gable end and a first floor door in the south end of the east wall. The fire escape is in the form of a staircase which descends from the second floor door and is attached to the end wall above the roof of the single storey range and then divides into two sections from the first floor down to the ground on the east side of the block.
- 3.6.6 **Internal Description:** The single storey section has one large two bay room at the south end and the rest has been divided up into various small rooms and lavatory cubicles. There are no particularly interesting features here. A hatch in the ceiling reveals a softwood king post truss. This area was most recently used as a creche or nursery.
- 3.6.7 The three storey section contains a large room at the south end with two smaller rooms at the north and a modern staircase fitted into the irregular end bay in the angle where Block 4 and Block 1 meet. The large room was the Girls School originally. Some of the windows in this room have splayed reveals which are probably primary while others have been altered to have straight sides and tiled sills (Plate 28). One bay from the south end of the room is a rectangular column the purpose for which is unclear as it does not support a wall above and does occur again on the first floor but not the second.
- 3.6.8 The first floor has been divided up with partition walls, there are two full width rooms at the south end and a series of small rooms off a corridor and the



modern stairs crammed into the north end. The second floor was broadly similar in layout with primary tie beams projecting below the ceiling. Both floors contained some sash windows in original openings with internal segmental arches and sloping sills. Some others had been converted to flat sills.

- 3.6.9 The first floor of the extension was accessible from the stairwell in this block and contained two small rooms, the window openings had segmental arched heads and the casements were of the pivot type, those in the south wall had four small fixed panes above two large pivoting panes. These were probably primary to this extension and not seen elsewhere. The ground floor of this extension is connected to Block 1 and described above in section 3.2.15.

3.7 **Block 5: Men's Day Rooms and Dormitories**

- 3.7.1 **Introduction:** The western radial wing of the Y. This wing had the men's yards to either side and included the men's day rooms on the ground floor. The upper floors probably comprised the dormitories for the male inmates. The second stairwell and the western section of the wing were added later, probably in the 1840s, and are virtually identical in design, construction and materials to the primary block.
- 3.7.2 **External Description:** Long rectangular radial three storey block adjoining the east side of the central hub. Built of Bath stone comprising coursed ashlar facings over snecked rubble backing with a parapetted end gable and pitched roof clad in pantiles (Plate 29 & see plate 18). There are internal fireplaces but no chimney stacks survive. The block is in three main sections with stairwells between. There is a four bay section adjoining the hub then a narrow stairwell bay which projects on both elevations then a five bay section, these comprise primary fabric. East of this is a second stairwell and final five bay section. These are later additions probably from the 1840s and almost indistinguishable in style and materials from the original build. The narrow projecting north front of the stairwell is however a modern rebuild but also faced in Bath stone. The ground floor openings in the section next to the hub have been altered with modern door and window openings being inserted, new casements being inserted in old openings and old openings being blocked up. In the rest of the block the ground floor windows have six pane sliding sashes with horns in deep reveals, these are probably the primary type and some may be the original casements, some will be replacements. On the first floor all the windows have been fitted with 20th century crittal frames with ten panes, each having a four pane side hung opening light and an upper opening top hung single pane light. Two window openings fitted with the same frames have been inserted in the end wall on this floor.
- 3.7.3 The second floor contains small low windows with six pane sliding sash casements with horns in deep reveals.



- 3.7.4 **Internal Description:** The four bay ground floor section at the eastern end originally consisted of an eastern single bay room and a western three bay open room. The single bay room has had double doors inserted in the north side and is now an access area. The three bay room (originally the aged mens day room) has been divided into two rooms and a passage with an extra opening being made in the primary cross wall to access the passage. These rooms were connected via a door from the passage through the primary south wall to the kitchen in Block 8. The rooms were used in connection with the kitchen and had tiled and other wipeable wall surfaces fitted and no primary features of interest (Plate 30). The eastern stairwell has had modern stairs and crittal framed windows fitted and retains no primary features.
- 3.7.5 The central section retains a primary cross wall dividing it originally into a three bay eastern room and a two bay western one. The eastern room has a partition dividing off the northern half of the east bay. There is a projecting probable chimney breast in the east wall but any fireplace has been completely covered or blocked and plastered over (the 1838 plan shows a fireplace here). South of this is a blocked doorway to the stairwell. The two bay room (originally the able bodied mens day room) has been divided into two sections. The eastern section has a door with an overlight in either wall, the north one is an original door opening and the south one is probably an adaptation of a former window. The western room has a blocked fireplace with a stone surround in the eastern wall.
- 3.7.6 The western stairwell has been rebuilt on the north side and had modern stairs inserted. On the south side there is a wider projecting stairwell bay this contains an short access passage with an external door on the east.
- 3.7.7 The eastern five bay section was originally one open room with fireplaces at either end. The room has been divided with a stud and board partition creating a two bay room at the west end, semi partitions partially divide the east end bay from the rest. This room has retained much original character. There is a door with an overlight on the north side of this bay and a 4 panel door with an overlight on the south side of the western room both have internal segmental arched heads. The windows have segmental arched heads on the interior and sloping sills and are fitted with six pane glazing bar sliding sashes. The walls are covered in creamy yellow paint and this is possibly primary. There is a slight offset at dado height which looks as though the lower wall is plastered and the upper section is just painted over the stonework or has a very much thinner skim of plaster.
- 3.7.8 Original fireplaces are exposed at either end of the room. That at the east end has a plain four bar hob grate and stone surround and is full of demolition rubble probably from the demolished chimney stack which has been tipped down the flue from above. Either side of the fireplace is a blocked former doorway into the stairwell. The fireplace at the west end wall has a similar



stone surround and hob grate but with relief diamond motifs on the fronts of the hobs. There is a square alcove recessed into the wall on either side of the chimney breast. The cement floor is modern (Plate 31).

- 3.7.9 The first floor has three main sections with stairwells between as the other floors. All the windows in this floor have been fitted with crittal frames and modern tiled sills. The doors are all modern hospital examples. The floors are clad in linoleum and the ceilings and walls are plastered and painted, there are no original features of any note.
- 3.7.10 The section adjoining the hub is of four bays. The first bay is divided off by an original wall and would have been a separate room. It is now divided by a modern partition making a corridor on the north side. The remaining three bays of this section would have been one room originally and now one bay at the east end is divided off into a separate room and linking corridor. The west two bays are one open full width room. Next is the first stairwell which has a small room with a lavatory on the south side. The middle section of five bays has either end bay divided into two small rooms the central three bays are one open full width room (Plate 32). The second stairwell also has a small lavatory on the south, this is in a small narrow room that is in the wider projecting section of the stairwell similar to that on the north side of the Block 6 second stairwell. The west end section of this floor has double doors marked 'Sterile dept. Pharmacy staff only'. The section, originally one long room, is divided off into small workrooms in the first bay from the east and on the north sides of the second and third bays leaving the rest to comprise one large L-shaped room (Plate 33). This has fitted workbenches along the north and south walls. There are two windows in the end wall fitted with large crittal windows with tiled sills. The window openings not just the crittal frames are probably later insertions as this is the only floor with windows in the end wall.
- 3.7.11 The Second Floor has three main sections with stairwells between as the other floors. The section adjoining the hub is of four bays. The first bay is divided off by an original wall and would have been a separate room. It is now divided by modern partitions into a central corridor with a small room on either side. The remaining three bays of this section would have been one room originally and are now divided up into three rooms with a linking corridor on the north side. Passing through the first stairwell landing the second section is reached this was originally one large long room it is now divided into five rooms, four have a corridor on the north side and the western most one has the corridor to the south as it turns to link with the stairwell door. At the west end of this section is the later stairwell and additional wing. This was a five bay room identical to the second section, and now is divided into four small rooms with a corridor on the south and one full width end room.
- 3.7.12 The walls and ceilings throughout the second floor are plastered and covered in modern paint and the floors are covered with linoleum. The only interesting



original features are the windows and roof trusses. The windows are low rectangular glazing bar sliding sashes with sloping sills. The sloping sills were presumably to let more light in from the windows which are low and perhaps to discourage inmates climbing onto the sills to look out or perhaps climb or jump out. The windows in the west section have internal segmental arched heads the remainder have straight heads. The base of the tie beams of the roof trusses are visible projecting slightly from the ceiling, they are narrow and painted white. A short distance from either end of the ties the lower end of an angled plate is visible on either side. These are probably plates joining principal rafters to the tie. In the centre a strap folds right around the base of the ties and this indicates there are a king posts above. The ceilings and projecting ties are painted white.

- 3.7.13 This current rooms on this floor appear to have been mostly individual rooms for hospital patients with some shared bathrooms and lavatories.
- 3.7.14 **Watching Brief:** Stripping out works revealed the snecked rubble construction of the walls behind the ashlar facing in this block as in all the other blocks where plaster was removed (Plate 34).
- 3.7.15 Removal of the ceilings in the second floor in this block and elsewhere showed that the ceilings in the radial Y wings were a much later addition (probably post 1948) constructed of transverse softwood joists. Originally the upper floors were open to the roof pitches which were plastered.
- 3.7.16 The king post roof trusses would have been exposed but are not painted above the later ceiling line. The trusses consist of tie beams, principal rafters and king posts with raking struts and with a central bolt through the tie and post (Plate 35).
- 3.7.17 Three small test trenches (see Plate 34) were excavated by contractors inside the west end room in Block 5. Two were against the north wall and the third was positioned 2.5m south of the north wall and 6m east of the west wall. The trenches were 1m deep and revealed that below the modern concrete floor there was a rubble filled basement, the floor of which was not reached. The trenches against the north wall revealed three splayed jambs of openings in that wall. These were probably all from separate openings and each one occurred near the end of a trench so the full width of any them could not be measured. The jambs all continued below the rubble at the base of the trenches. The first was an eastern jamb 5m east of the west wall, the next was a west jamb 7.5m east of the west wall and the third was another east jamb 10.5m east of the west wall. These openings are now below ground on the outside of the building but the ground does slope away to the west here and these were probably either windows just above ground level on this side or there was a light well structure. The third trench revealed the west end of an east to west aligned stone wall, 0.4m wide with rubble fill on either side (Plate



- 36). This wall is 3m south of the north wall and 1.5m north of the south wall and was perhaps an internal wall within the basement.
- 3.7.18 As mentioned the present floor is of concrete laid on the rubble infill of the basement but originally was probably constructed of joists and boards spanning the basement. The lower north wall as revealed in the test trenches has a slight internal offset just below floor level and this probably served to support the ends of the joists (see Plate 34).
- 3.7.19 After clearance of some vegetation against the base of the west end wall a 1m wide blocked round stone arch was seen in the wall (Plate 37). This is the top of the former entrance to the basement. The basement was probably filled in after 1948 when the NHS took over the site. A former employee informed the contractors that potatoes were stored here during the war.
- 3.7.20 An external test trench was excavated by contractors south of the west end of the block. This trench was 2m square and was located between 6 and 8m south of the south wall and between 2.5 and 4.5m east of a line extended from the west end of the block. For safety reasons the trench could not be accessed but was approximately 1.5m deep. At the base of the trench a stone vault was encountered and a small hole was broken into this which revealed a void and then water some distance below (Plate 38). The hole in the vault was located at 6.5m south of the block and 3.6m east of a line extending from the west end. There was some stone masonry exposed in the upper part of the south side of the trench but this could not be examined closely. At the base of the masonry at about 1m depth was a layer of crushed stone which extended around all sides of the trench. The vault must belong to one of the large rectangular underground water reservoirs shown on the 1838 plan west of block 7 (see fig. 3). The masonry possibly belongs to some earlier access to the reservoirs. A small stone lined shaft to the reservoirs is located 7m west of block 7 and 5m north of a line extending from the south end of that block. The shaft is too small for human access but could have been for checking the water level and/or for topping the level up or drawing water off.

3.8 **Block 6: Women's Day Rooms and upper Dormitories**

- 3.8.1 **Introduction:** The south eastern radial wing. This wing had the women's yards to either side and included the women's day rooms on the ground floor. The upper floors probably comprised the dormitories for the female inmates. The second stairwell and the eastern section of the wing were added later, probably in the 1840s, and are virtually identical in design, construction and materials to the primary block.
- 3.8.2 **External Description:** Block 6 is identical in original plan and form to Block 5. The main external differences now are that Block 6 still has a gable chimney stack and that the first floor windows have not been replaced by



- critical frames but retain glazing bar sliding sash casements in deep reveals (Plate 39).
- 3.8.3 The northern projecting frontage to the later stairwell has the scar of a single storey pitched roof in the stonework (see Plate 39)). This marks the former position of the part of the south eastern range of the outer hexagon that contained the women's work rooms. This stair entrance is grander here than elsewhere with an open cambered arch leading into a small porch or lobby room.
- 3.8.4 **Internal Description:** The ground floor has three main sections with stairwells between as the other floors. The north west end section adjacent to the hub is of four bays, the end bay was always a separate room; this room is now an access passage from the eastern yard area into Block 6 and through to Block 8 with a door on either side but no door to the hub room (see section 3.8.17). The remaining three bays of the west end are divided into small secondary rooms including several showers and lavatories and washrooms. These facilities are all modern and were probably for catering staff servicing the adjacent canteen in Block 8. Block 8 adjoins to the south wall so there are no windows on that side, the former window openings have been blocked. The windows on the north side have six pane glazing bar sliding sashes with straight sills and heads and jambs.
- 3.8.5 The northern Stairwell retains its primary character and features on all floors. The stone steps of triangular section are shaped to turn the dog leg of the stair with a continuous curve. The window openings have straight lintels with deep slightly splayed reveals curving in towards them at the top, the sills are also slightly splayed. Small four pane sliding sash casements are fitted (Plate 40).
- 3.8.6 Beyond the stairwell the central section incorporated the main entrance to another hospital department which included parts of Block 8 to the south. The second bay has an inserted double door and west of this is a reception/office room and east of the door is a two bay room and then a single bay lavatory area. The south side is taken up with a corridor. As with the previous section Block 8 adjoins to the south wall so there are no windows on that side, the former window openings are now hatches or doorways into Block 8. The windows in the north wall have six pane glazing bar sliding sashes with sloping sills and straight heads and splayed reveals.
- 3.8.7 The second stairwell is a slightly later addition but retains its original stairs and windows which are the same as those in the northern stairwell described above. The projecting front on the north of this stair contains a small open lobby.
- 3.8.8 The east end is divided into six rooms; one to each bay on the south side and one to the end bay on the north with a corridor along the first four bays on the north side. The modern partition creating the north walls of the rooms and the



south wall of the corridor has upper panels glazed with reinforced frosted glass. The windows in this section have six pane glazing bar sliding sashes with sloping sills and straight jambs and heads.

- 3.8.9 The first floor has three main sections with stairwells between as the other floors. The doors are all modern hospital examples.
- 3.8.10 The section adjoining the hub is of four bays. The first bay is divided off by an original wall and would have been a separate room. It is now divided by a modern partition making a corridor on the north side and part of the original cross wall has been removed for the corridor to pass through. The remaining three bays of this section would have been one room originally and now have two main rooms partitioned off on the south side and a lavatory at the east end on the south. There is also a door through to a small room within the south part of the stairwell. The windows in this section have been enlarged and had modern crittal frames fitted, the openings have straight heads and jambs and modern tiled sills. The corridor enters the centre of the stairwell which has the stairs on the north side.
- 3.8.11 The central section has a corridor on the north and five rooms of various sizes and a lavatory on the south side. The eastern stairwell has the stairs on the south side and two small rooms in the wider projecting north section one of which contains a lavatory.
- 3.8.12 The eastern end of the block has a two bay full width room at the west end divided by a modern partition from the three eastern bays. This room has pink painted plastered walls and glazing bar sliding sash windows in segmental arched openings with sloping sills and straight jambs. The room has a fireplace partially exposed in the western wall. This has a fairly plain cast iron barred hob grate decorated in relief with a raised diamond within a cartouche on the side panels, this is similar to the fireplaces on the ground floor of this section. The fireplace is probably primary to this room and may date to the 1840s when this end section was added to the existing block (Plate 41).
- 3.8.13 The three eastern bays comprise a large L-shaped room with a small section partitioned off in the north half of the east end bay. This room has the same pink painted walls and same window type as the previous room. There are modern laboratory style benches fitted along the side walls and centre of the room. The floor is covered in linoleum (Plate 42).
- 3.8.14 The Second Floor has three main sections with stairwells between as the other floors. Each section has been divided with modern partitions into patients rooms on the south side and a corridor on the north. The western section has three rooms in the first three bays and a storage closet and service room in the last bay where the corridor turns to meet the opening in the centre of the stairwell. In the central section there are two lavatories in the first bay and four similar patients rooms in the next four bays. The corridor passes through

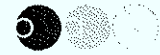


doorways on the north side of the second stairwell. There is a central alcove and a tiny room either side one with a lavatory in the projecting north side of the stairwell. The east section of the floor has a patients room on the south side of each of the first four bays and a full width room in the end bay.

- 3.8.15 The walls and ceilings throughout are plastered and covered in modern paint and the floors are covered with linoleum. The only interesting original features are the windows and roof trusses. The windows in the corridor are low rectangular glazing bar sliding sashes with sloping sills and straight heads and jambs. The windows in the rooms are similar but with straight sills with a modern tiled surface, these would have been sloping originally and were probably altered after the building became a hospital in 1948. The bases of the tie beams are visible in the ceiling and have the same features as those in Block 5 (see section 3.7.6)
- 3.8.16 **Watching Brief:** After the demolition of Block 8 the previously hidden exterior south walls of Block 6 were exposed. Blocked former windows and later doorways cut through the primary fabric to access the extension were clearly seen (Plate 43).
- 3.8.17 After stripping out and removal of plaster a blocked opening connecting the hub and this block on the ground floor was exposed. This was on the north side of the back of a chimney breast in the wall between the hub and the block. The opening was blocked with concrete blocks and this had therefore probably been done relatively recently during the hospital phase of the site.

3.9 **Block 7: Men's Work Room**

- 3.9.1 **Introduction:** Block 7 is a single storey block extending south from the end of Block 5. It formed part of the south west range of the hexagon originally. This wing was adjacent to the mens yard and contained the mens work room and some other smaller rooms.
- 3.9.2 **External Description:** This is a single storey four bay block adjoining the projecting stairwell on the south side of Block 5. This block is built of Bath stone with ashlar facings. It has a parapetted gable and pitched slate covered roof. There are four windows on the east side and these have four pane sliding sashes with stone sills and flat heads at eaves level. There is one doorway near the north end with a segmental arched head (Plate 44).
- 3.9.3 The west side has three similar windows in the first second and fourth bays from the south and a doorway in the third bay (Plate 45). This doorway has a panel of later stone blocking above the lintel which indicates it is replacing an earlier window similar to the others. Between bays three and four is a small square section projecting stack which extends to one course below the eaves and is topped with a flat coping slab, this is probably a redundant external flue for a stove.



- 3.9.4 The south gable is parapetted and coped and the gable wall is plain with one vertical offset on the west side. It would appear from comparing the modern and the 1838 plans that the offset marks the position of the original block's west wall and that it was widened by just over a metre later. This was probably done in around the 1840s when the additional western wing was added to Block 5. The end of the original Block 5 shown on the plan as cubicles of some type (probably mens lavatories) was converted into a second stairwell and the space between the ends of Blocks 5 and 7 was made into the projecting extension to the stairwell.
- 3.9.5 **Internal Description:** This block was locked and access to the interior was not gained. However the ground plan provided shows that from the north the first bay comprises one room, the second bay is divided into two equal rooms and the two eastern bays comprise one single room. Without access it was not possible to determine whether the internal walls are contemporary with the structure or are later partitions and whether any original fittings or features survive.
- 3.9.6 **Watching Brief:** After stripping out the interior of Block 7 was accessed. The floors had been removed and the stone built internal cross wall at the north end and later partitions had been removed. The ceiling was clad in tongue and groove boarding that may not have been primary but was of some age (Plate 46).
- 3.10 **Block 8**
- 3.10.1 **Introduction:** A large single storey irregular block adjoining the south elevations of Blocks 5 and 6 (Plate 47). The core of this block is a stone building which was a later addition to the workhouse complex and appears on the 1883 OS map. The rest of the block is made up of modern additions the main one being a large flat-roofed extension to the east and there was also a raised iron or steel water tank on a girder tower adjacent to the west side of the block. Most of the earlier fabric is hidden by the later additions and modern decor. This block contained the modern catering facilities and chiropody suite but no evidence was found as to the original function of the core building. This block was totally demolished as part of the current redevelopment of the site.
- 3.10.2 **External Description:** The older part of the block is a single storey building constructed of coursed ashlar Bath stone. This is aligned north to south and has a pitched slate clad roof and parapetted gables with moulded kneelers. The parts of the external wall that are exposed contain some large window openings but these have been fitted with later crittal frames. There are 20th century ashlar stone extensions on the north end of the east wall and along the west wall. The main extension is a low single storey flat roofed block on the east adjoining the older building and the south side of Block 6. This extension



probably dates from about the 1960s. The structure is stone faced between sections containing large modern windows with plain panels below.

- 3.10.3 **Internal Description:** The western part of the block contains a kitchen and large canteen either side of a central corridor which linked the central hub to the former imbecile and invalid wards to the south. The kitchen is on the west and is completely fitted out in modern materials, the ceiling is panelled and has a large central skylight/vent in the pitch of the roof (Plate 48). The corridor also has modern fittings and no historic features. The canteen is a large open room with a long modern food serving counter and wrought iron rail on the west side and large crittal windows on the east (Plate 49). There is a suspended panel ceiling and the floor is carpeted. At the north end a glazed partition divides off a smaller room with padded bench seating.
- 3.10.4 The modern eastern part of the block is accessed through double entrance doors in the north side of the central section of Block 6 which lead to several openings made through the south wall of that block to access the extension. The block contains various small examination and service rooms which are plainly decorated and contain nothing of historic interest.
- 3.11 **Laundry**
- 3.11.1 **Introduction:** The laundry is a much later addition to the workhouse built just east of Block 6. The structure is of late 19th or very early 20th century date, it did not exist at the time of the first OS map in 1883 (Fig. 4) but is shown on the 1904 map (surveyed 1902).
- 3.11.2 **External Description:** The original building is a rectangular structure faced in coursed ashlar Bath stone with slate clad roofs.. It is a double pile structure, the southern part is all of one storey with a hipped roof. The western three bays of the northern half comprise an L-shaped two storey block also with a hipped roof (Plate 50).
- 3.11.3 There is a variety of window types. The first floor section has glazing bar sliding sashes, the ground floor of the two storey section has side hung opening casements and the single storey bays on the north side have large multi pane iron casements with three pivoting sections
- 3.11.4 **Internal Description:** On the interior the construction is of brick. There is a central spine wall separating the two main sections of the building and supporting the inner ends of the roof trusses. The most interesting parts of the building are two large ground floor rooms open to the roof . The slopes of the roof have been panelled and painted and there are skylights along the ridge in both rooms. The roof has substantial softwood Queen post trusses. These have a strainer beam between the Queen posts and raking struts rising from angled offsets on the Queen posts to inner principal rafters. There are four trusses in the northern room (Plate 51) and three in the southern one. At the west end of



the southern room there is truss missing from the regular sequence. The wider gap from the west truss to the wall is spanned by two longitudinal beams with a cross beam linking them. The absence of a truss and presence of the two parallel beams must have been for a specific reason, possibly the beams supported a water tank above. At the west end of the northern side of the building is a large room with three sash windows on the north side and a dog leg staircase leading to the first floor which consists of two plain rooms. At the east end of the older part of the building is a series of smaller rooms with modern decoration and ceilings and no features of great interest.

- 3.11.5 **Boiler House:** This is a large flat roofed, double height, modern extension at the east end of the Laundry. It is constructed of Bath stone, the lower wall is of snecked ashlar the upper wall is coursed and between them is a low continuous band of fenestration (Plate 52). A single storey extension to the north also of coursed stone has a tall boiler chimney stack rising from it. This chimney is slightly tapering, circular in plan and built of red brick with regularly spaced iron bands on a stone base .

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) has carried out a programme of building recording and investigation at St Martins Hospital, Bath. The main survey was in advance of conversion of some of the buildings to residential use but the work also included a watching brief element to record previously obscured features after the start of building works. The importance of the site is that the buildings were formerly part of the Bath Union Workhouse built in 1837-8 and are Grade II listed.
- 4.1.2 Prior to the 1834 Poor Law Amendment Act poor relief was administered by individual parishes and Bath was served by several separate parish workhouses. The 1834 legislation enabled parishes to join together in Unions to provide poor relief and this was generally done by the construction of one large new workhouse per Union. Bath Poor Law Union was formed in 1836 and the new workhouse was built during 1836-8 to a hexagon design by Sampson Kempthorne. Kempthorne was commissioned to produce model workhouse plans for the Poor Law Commissioners in 1835 and produced two distinct designs; the square or cruciform plan and the hexagonal or Y plan. The former was square or rectangular in overall shape but the main feature was the cross wings with central supervisory hub. Similarly the hexagonal plan had a central hub and three large wings (the Y) radiating from this to join the lower hexagonal group of outer wings thus creating three enclosed yards.
- 4.1.3 These two designs were adapted and used throughout the country. Kempthorne designed many hexagonal plan workhouses, Abingdon being the first and Bath the most expensive. The design was based on the panopticon principle as developed and espoused by Samuel and Jeremy Bentham. The



central supervisory hub is a key element of these designs. The idea was to be able to manage and control large institutions from the centre. The governing officials could observe the inmates activities in all the yards from the windows of the central hub and could have access to and be accessed from all parts of the institution in the minimum time.

- 4.1.4 The whole of the three storey central Y survives with later extensions. Much of the hexagon survives too including the main front block to the north and the north west and north east wings and also the former imbecile and invalid block to the south which is still part of the hospital and was not surveyed.
- 4.1.5 The buildings are all constructed of Bath stone, and consist of ashlar facing over snecked rubble backing. Many old sash windows remain in original splayed openings but some openings have been straightened and some wings have had modern crittal windows fitted in old openings and some new openings inserted.
- 4.1.6 Block 1 comprises the north block of the hexagon fronting onto Frome Road and contained the receiving wards and administrative offices. New inmates would come into this block to be processed. Husband and wife, parents and children, brother and sister were separated from each other and sent through high passages to their allotted areas.
- 4.1.7 The north west section of the outer hexagonal contained tailors and shoemakers workshops where the boys learnt a trade and produced clothing and footwear for the inmates. The area between this block and Block 3 was originally the boys yard and the block originally contained the boys lavatories and also stables. Parts of this block were also used as a boys school and the stables were later converted to a dormitory. The girls were sent to the north eastern block where there was a girls school and other facilities with a girls yard between this block and Block 3.
- 4.1.8 This northern arm of the central Y (Block 3) connects Block 1 to the central hub with the former boys yard to the west and the girls yard to the east. The central Y blocks contained the dormitories and other facilities. The ground floor of Block 3 originally contained the Board Room which doubled as the Chapel (before the separate Chapel was built in the 1840s) and a provision store at the south end adjacent to the original kitchen which was in the ground floor of the central hub.
- 4.1.9 The western and eastern arms of the Y were the men's and women's wings respectively with separate day rooms for the aged and the able bodied on the ground floor and wards above with yards to either side of the blocks. The men's and women's work rooms were in the adjacent wings of the hexagon. The women's work room has gone but one of the men's survives in Block 7.



- 4.1.10 The southern wing of the hexagon which is still part of the hospital originally contained the invalid and imbecile wards with separate sections and adjacent yards for men and women of each category. A separate lunatic ward was built south of this block in the 1850s.
- 4.1.11 In 1905 the name of the workhouse was changed to Frome Road House. Poor Law Unions were officially referred to as Poor Law Institutions after 1913 and in 1929 the Local Government Act disbanded Poor Law Unions and the administration of former workhouses passed to local authorities. At the beginning of The Second World War an EMS hospital was formed on this site utilising former workhouse buildings and new parallel blocks east of the workhouse.
- 4.1.12 The site became St Martins Hospital with the formation of the NHS in 1948 and most of the interior partition and division of the floors into individual rooms dates from after that date. In some areas primary or quite early decorative schemes and features survived, notably in parts of the north and north west wings of the hexagon and the west radial wing of the central Y.
- 4.1.13 The watching brief revealed some hitherto unknown features. A triple stone barrel vault was exposed beneath the central hub and an external opening to the vault was seen in a trench against the north west wall of the hub. The ground floor of the hub was the workhouse kitchen and the vault may have served as a larder and/or coal cellar. Roof beams in the hub were stamped KYANS PATENT which referred to a recently patented (1832) method of timber preservation treatment.
- 4.1.14 A filled-in basement with windows in the north wall was revealed by test trenches in the extension to the west central wing and the blocked arched door to this was seen in the end wall after vegetation was cleared. Another test trench south of that wing exposed an underground stone vault containing water which corresponds to the workhouse reservoirs as marked on a plan of 1838.



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Plan of Bath Union Workhouse 1838

OS 25 Inch Map 1883



Scale 1:50,000

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Figure 1: Site location

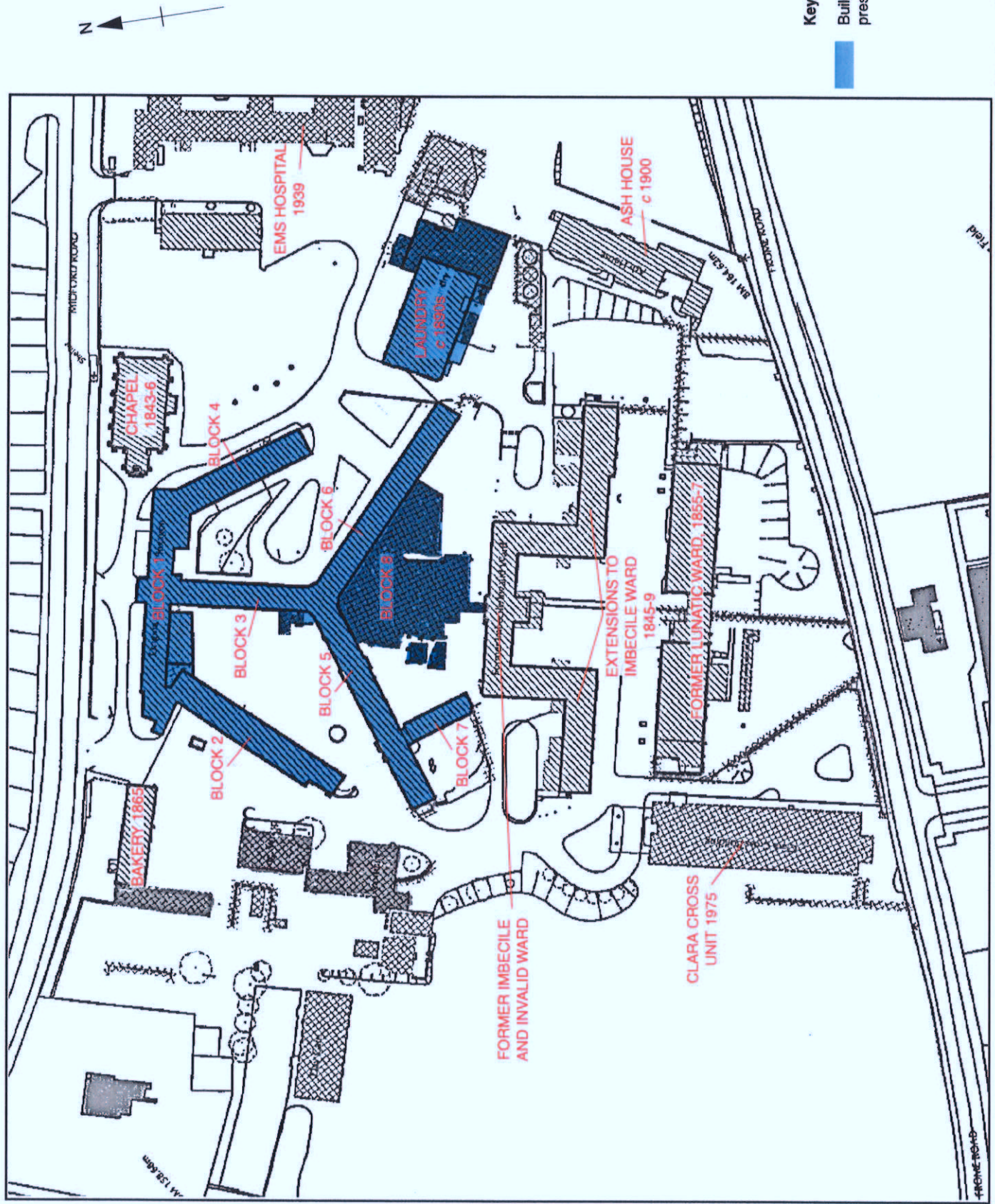


Figure 2: Site plan with block numbers.

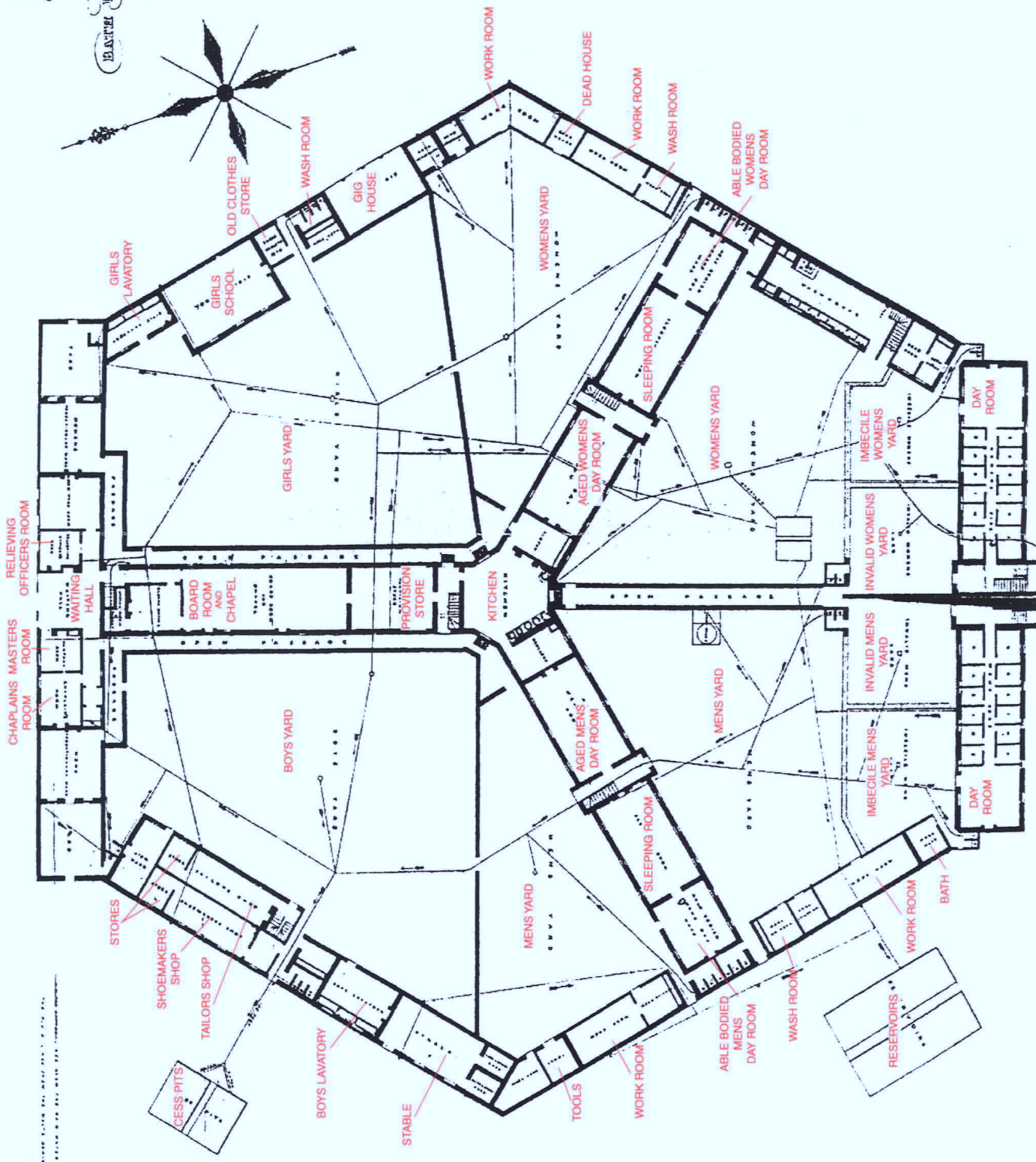


Figure 3: 1838 Plan reoriented, with annotations.

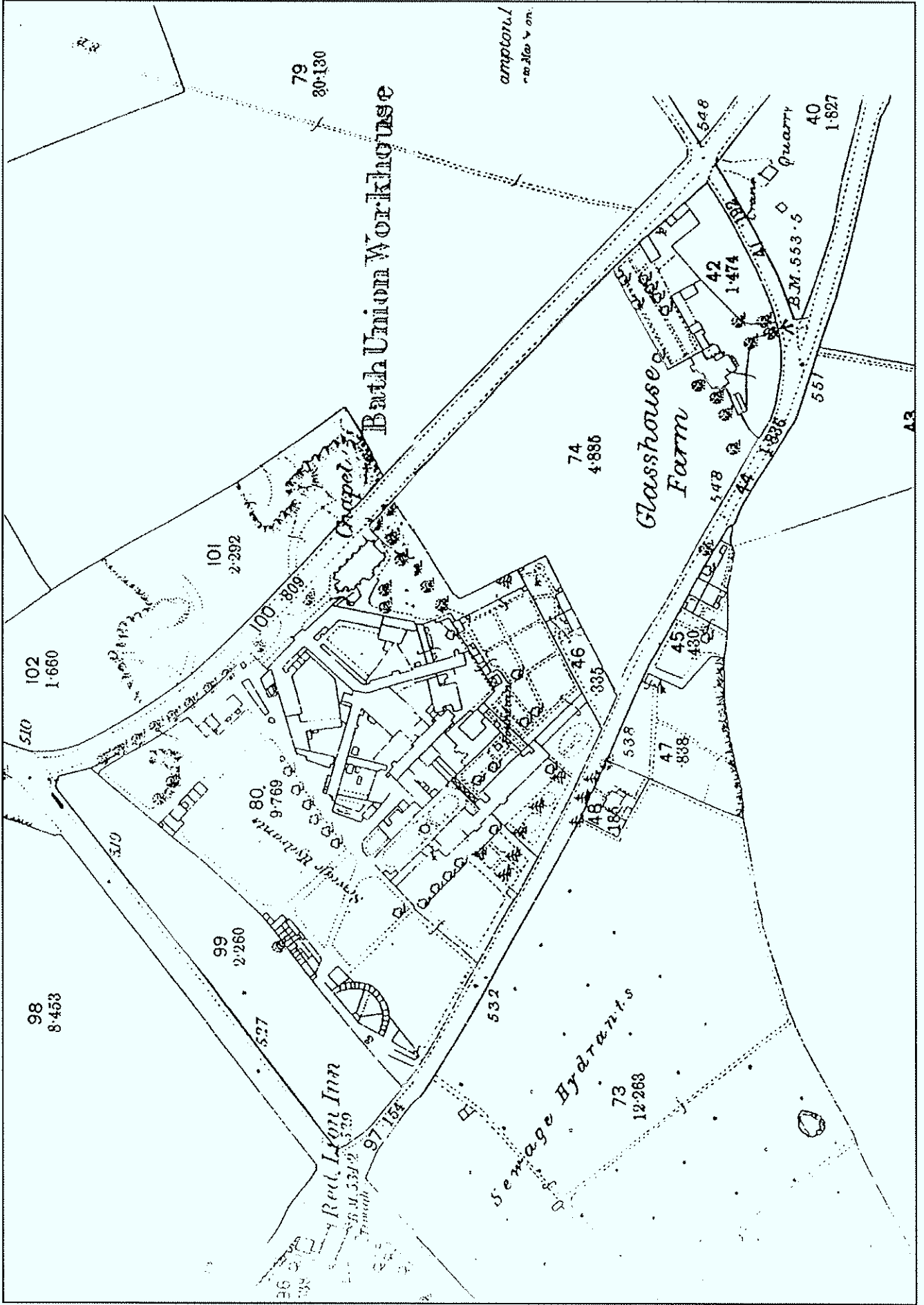


Figure 4: 1883 OS Plan.

- Key:
- 1838 hexagon
 - Site of demolished wings
 - Extensions to infirm wards c1842
 - Extensions to invalid wards 1845 - 1849
 - Bakery 1865
 - Late 1860s extensions
 - Pre 1883 extensions
 - Laundry c1890s
 - 20th century additions

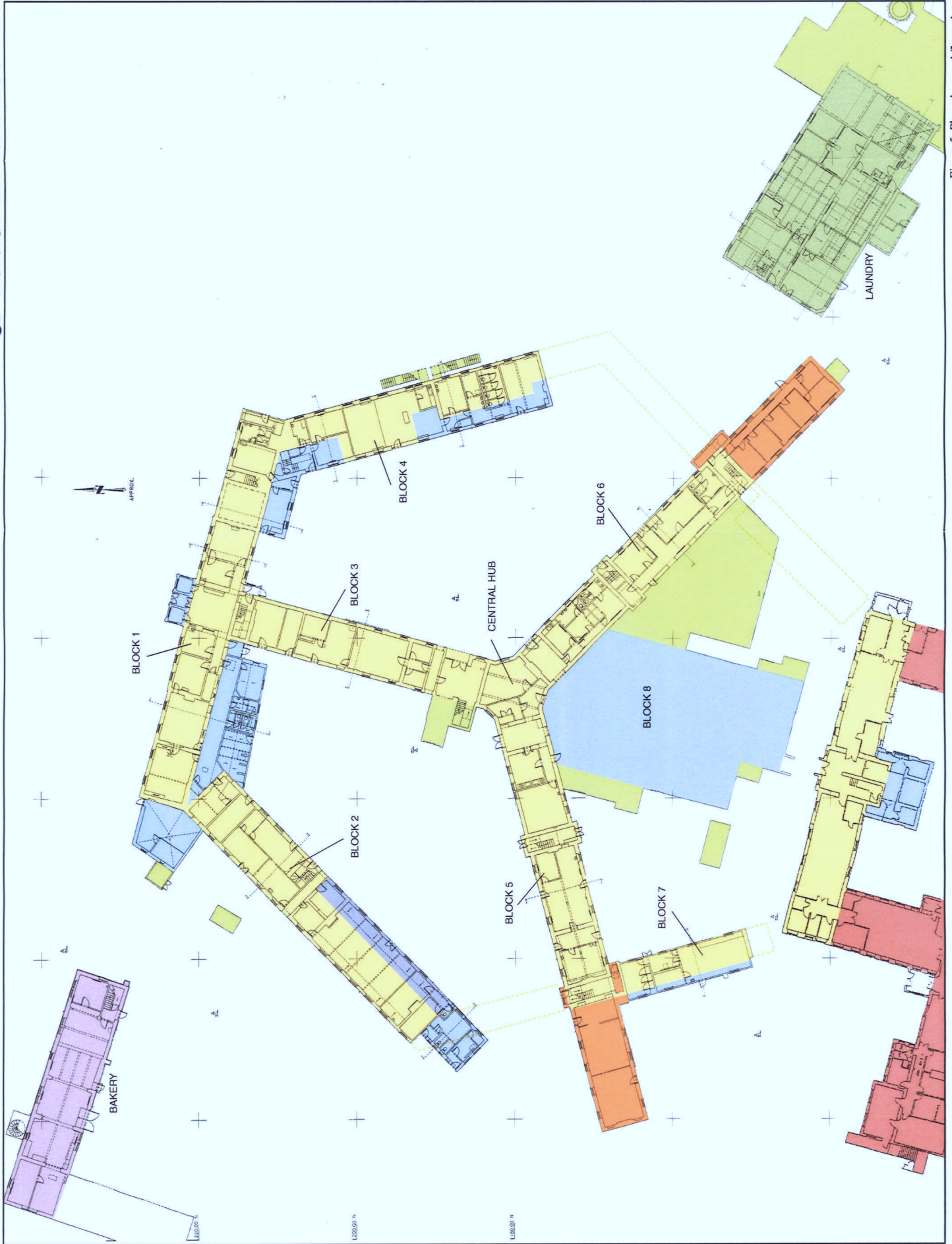


Figure 5: Phased ground floor plan.



Plate 1: Block 1, central north elevation.



Plate 2: Block 1, looking south east with extension on right.



Plate 3: Block 1, later entrance porch.



Plate 4: Block 1, central ground floor room looking west.



Plate 5: Block 1, alcove in ground floor room, looking west.



Plate 6: Block 1, Interior of west extension, looking south east.



Plate 7: Block 1, arch and blocked doorway in central room after stripping out.



Plate 8: Block 1, ground floor room of south east extension.



Plate 9: Block 1, first floor room with fireplace looking north east.

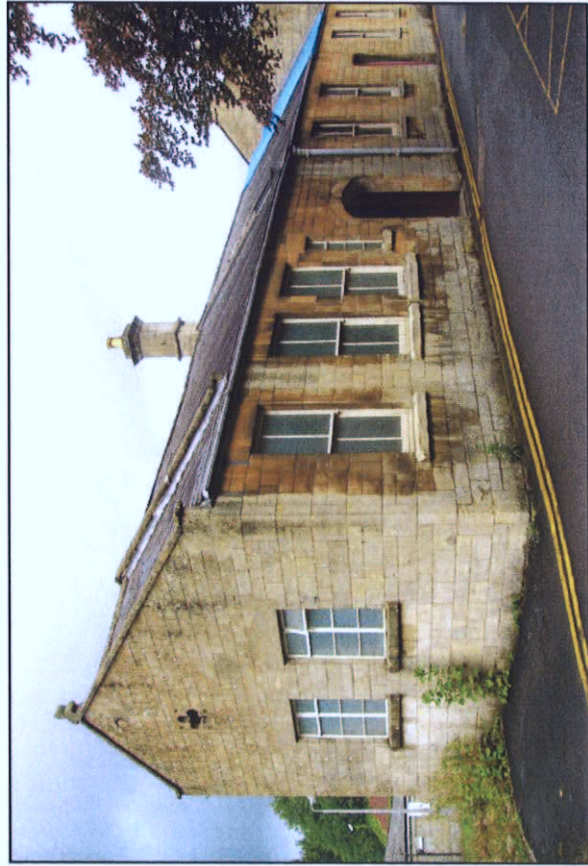


Plate 11: Block 2, southern wing looking north.



Plate 10: Block 2, northern wing looking west.



Plate 12: Block 2, interior of former shoemakers shop with later partition wall looking south west.



Plate 13: Block 2, window in former shoemakers shop looking west.



Plate 14: Block 2, fitted cupboard in ground floor room looking south.



Plate 15: Block 2, large single storey room looking north east.



Plate 16: Block 2, foundation of former yard wall below later extension looking south west.



Plate 17: Block 3, looking east.



Plate 18: Block 3, lift shaft on left, with central hub and Block 5 to right.



Plate 19: Block 3, typical first floor room looking east.



Plate 20: Central hub, first floor looking east.



Plate 21: Central hub, second floor looking east.



Plate 22: Central hub, interior of barrel vault looking south east.



Plate 23: Central hub, exposed barrel vaults looking north west.

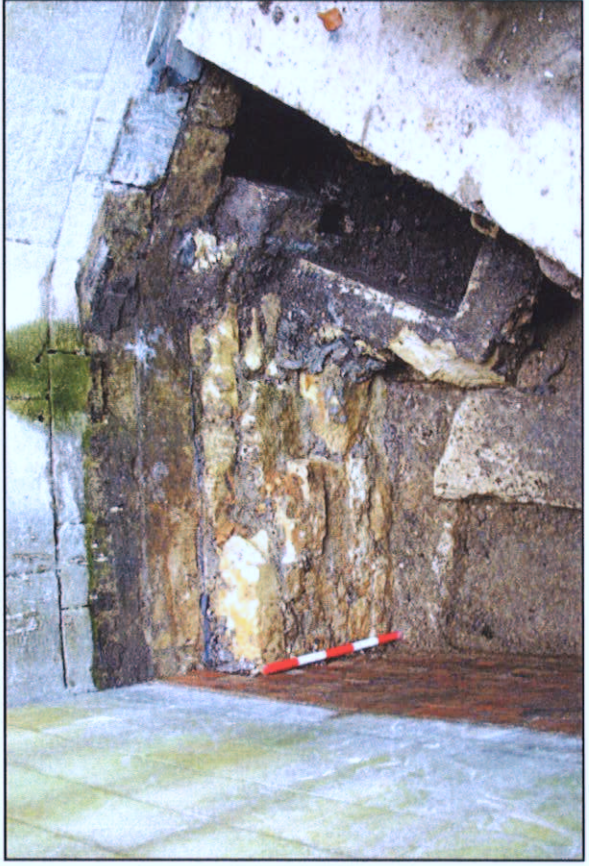


Plate 24: Access to vaults beneath hub looking south east.



Plate 25: Block 4, exterior looking north.



Plate 26: Block 4, single storey wing looking north.



Plate 27: Block 4, blocked arches in west wall.

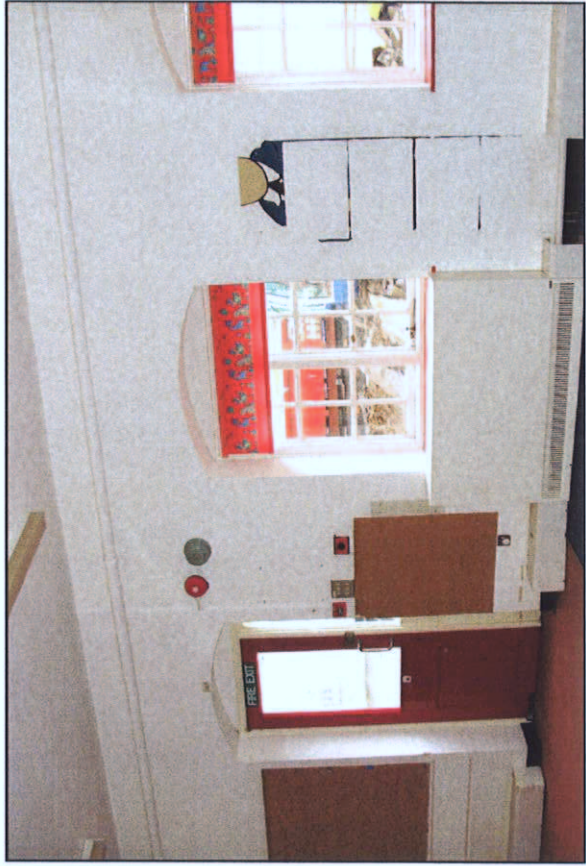


Plate 28: Block 4, interior of ground floor room.



Plate 29: Block 5, west end looking east.



Plate 30: Block 5, ground floor room at east end.



Plate 31: Block 5, ground floor room with fireplace west end.



Plate 32: Block 5, central first floor room looking west.



Plate 33: Block 5, west first floor room looking west.

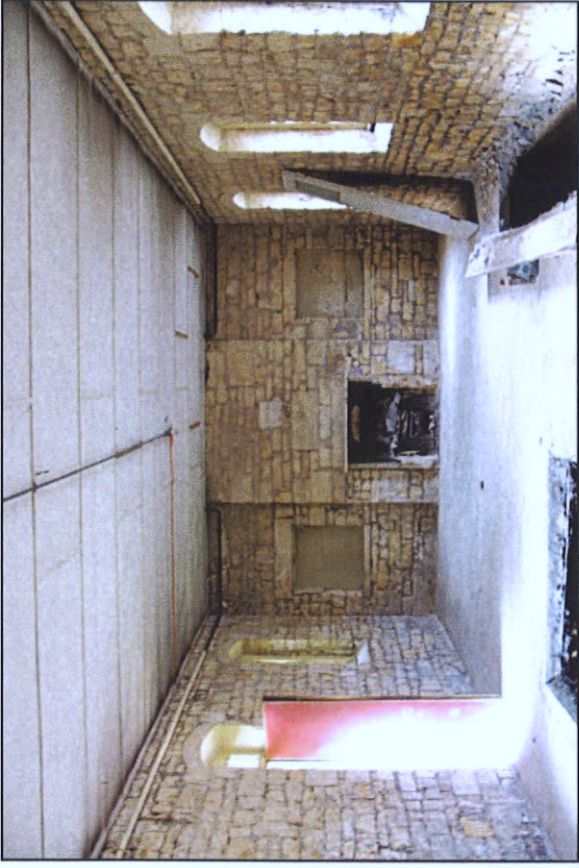


Plate 34: Block 5, west ground floor room after stripping out.



Plate 35: Block 5, primary king post truss and secondary ceiling joists.



Plate 36: Block 5, basement fill and wall below west end room looking east.



Plate 37: Block 5, blocked arch in west end wall, looking east, 1m scale.



Plate 38: Test trench with stone vault of reservoir in base, looking west.



Plate 39: Block 6, north east elevation of central section.



Plate 40: Block 6, stairwell.



Plate 41: Block 6, fireplace in first floor room, looking north west.



Plate 42: Block 6, east first floor room, looking east.



Plate 43: Block 6, blocked windows and inserted doors in south wall.

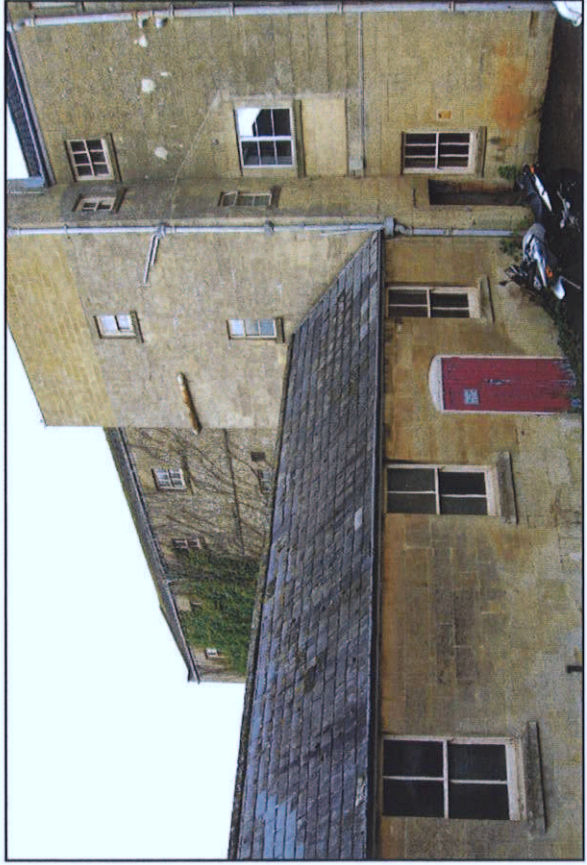


Plate 44: Block 7, looking north with Block 5 to rear.



Plate 45: Block 7, looking north east.



Plate 46: Block 7, interior looking north.



Plate 47: Block 8, looking west.



Plate 48: Block 8, kitchen looking north.



Plate 49: Block 8, canteen looking south.



Plate 50: Laundry looking south east.



Plate 51: Laundry, Queen post roof trusses looking south east.

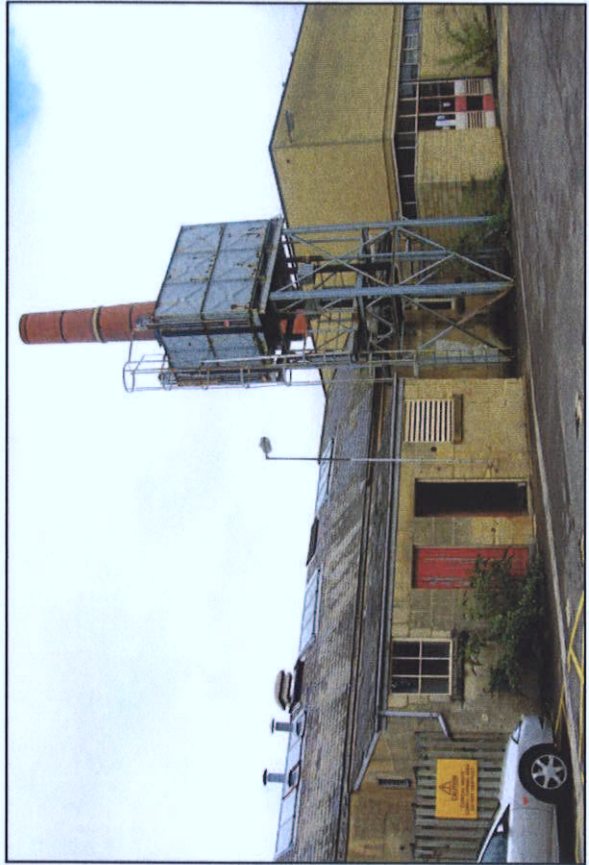


Plate 52: Laundry with modern boiler house and chimney adjoining east end.



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