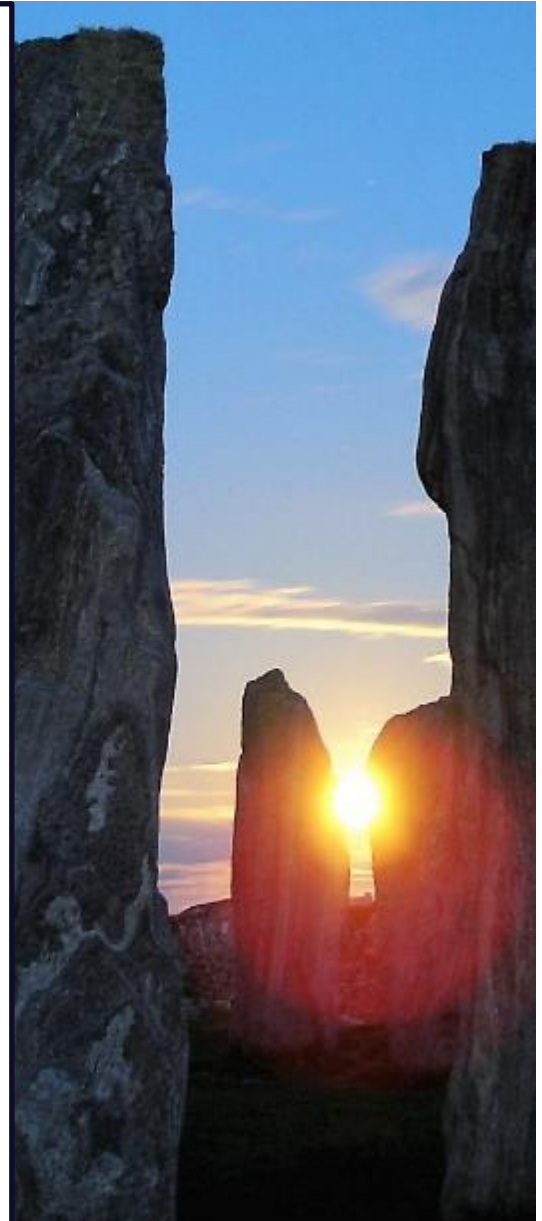


# A Detailed Building Survey of 74 Keith St, Stornoway; Lady Matheson's Industrial Female Industrial School or Seminary

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## Acknowledgements:

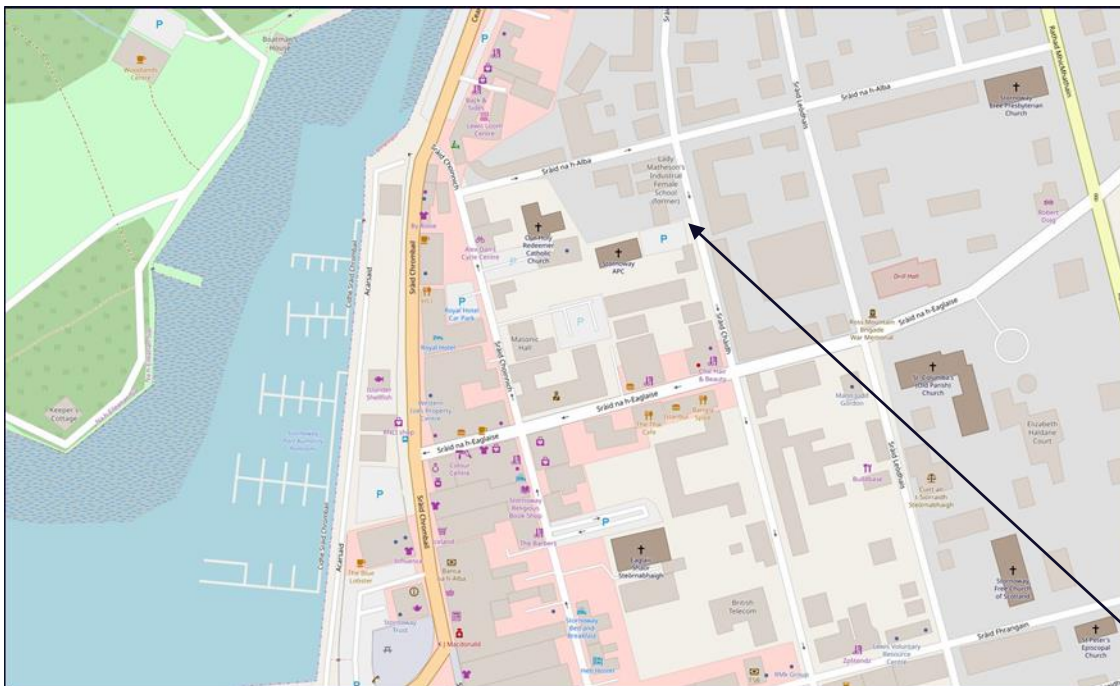
Thanks are due to local Archaeologist [REDACTED] who shared her knowledge on a site visit and also to Highland Archaeology Services who shared his archive photographs of the building.

## 1.0 Non- technical Summary

Lady Matheson’s Seminary, or Girls School, also formerly known as the Industrial Female School, is a grade B listed building close to the heart of Stornoway, Isle of Lewis. In recent years it has fallen empty and into serious disrepair, and now requires major work to prevent it being lost completely. Due to the building’s importance to the cultural and architectural history of the town, the Council’s Archaeology department has requested two archaeological planning conditions be met before this work can take place – a Detailed Building Survey of the upstanding remains and a Watching Brief in place for all ground-breaking work (planning reference 18/00141/PPD). The following report constitutes the Detailed Building Survey.

## 2.0 Site Location and description

The building is located at NGR NB 42443 33101, or 74 Keith St., Stornoway, Isle of Lewis HS1 2JG, on the corner of Keith St and Scotland Street.



**Figure 1: Stornoway, showing location of Lady Matheson’s Industrial School (courtesy of [openstreetmap.org](https://openstreetmap.org)). North to top of illustration.**

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The building occupies the corner of Keith St and Scotland St in the heart of Stornoway. However, it is not L- shaped but U- shaped, with two offshoots to the west and a small courtyard in between. Originally it also had a playground to the west of the building.

Presently the building is in an advanced state of dereliction, with water openly pouring through the roof and the first floor rotten and unsafe in many places. All doors and windows have been removed and boarded up. Scaffold surrounds the building obscuring its features and also supports the first floor inside. Slates have been removed from the Eastern elevation but remain elsewhere.

The building is unusual in being un-harled or rendered, except for the two most westerly gables and the chimney stacks. Local Gneiss is very hard to work and to 'dress' and this may be one of the reasons why most of the town's buildings are rendered. However, this building was clearly made by skilled Masons, with well dressed, squared blocks laid in courses. The walls were still in good solid condition.

A fully detailed description of all features and fabrics is presented below in Section 6.0.

### 3.0 Context of Project

The building was the subject of a Conservation Statement authored by Andrew PK Knight, a Chartered Architect and Heritage Consultant, in May 2004. His Statement covers the buildings historical background as well as comprehensive architectural description and evaluation, followed by a series of statements of significance and conservation policies to be followed. This study was carried out to inform a previous redevelopment which aimed to create a music school, which unfortunately never came to fruition. Subsequently Highland Archaeology Services carried out a comprehensive photographic Survey in 2008, which also pertained to the original Music School development.

The building has now been acquired by Lewis Builders Ltd., who are going to redevelop the building into residential flats. To this end they have already retained the services of [REDACTED] a Chartered Surveyor, who has already carried out a Photographic Survey, a

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Condition Survey and a Heritage Impact Statement (April 2018). Malcolm Crate has provided all the drawings in this report.

## 4.0 Legislative framework

### 4.1 Building survey - ALGAO

The Building survey must be carried out in accordance with ALGAO (The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers UK)'s 2013 guidance document on standing building survey - "Historic Building Recording Guidance for Curators, Consultants and Contractors". The survey requested is a "Detailed Survey". A "Detailed" building survey comprises:

- A fully enhanced description
- Detailed archive research
- Historical and landscape context of site examined
- Measured and phased ground plans
- Measured significant elevations
- Details of all features and fabrics described
- Photographs to compliment and aid written descriptions
- Photographs of all major elevations and details of appropriate features

And should also include

- an adequate record of a structure in its own right and the report should reflect that rather than being seen as evaluation of a structure.
- A narrative placing the structure in its geographical, architectural and historical Context.

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## 4.2 Other Relevant Standards

The work will also be conducted in line with the following standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), of which Ian Mchardy is an Associate:

- *Code of conduct (2014);*
- *Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (2014)*
- *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (2014).*

The work will also adhere to the following governmental standards:

- *Planning Advice Note 2/11*
- *Scottish Planning Policy, 2014.*

## 5.0 Methodology

### 5.1 Archive Research

All archive research will be carried out in advance, so that it can inform the fieldwork. As noted in section 3, quite a lot of work has already been done and it is not the intention here to replicate this work, but to make use of it where appropriate. The archive research will cover public databases such as HES's CANMORE and Listed Buildings Databases, The Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland (BARR), Early maps including the OS maps, and all previous studies where published. Other potential sources such as Mary Miers "Western Seaboard: An Illustrated Architectural Guide"<sup>1</sup> were consulted, as well as The Napier

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<sup>1</sup> "Western Seaboard: An Illustrated Architectural Guide", by Mary Miers, 2008. Published by the Rutland Press  
<http://www.rias.org.uk>

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Commission transcripts<sup>2</sup> and Hebridean Connections<sup>3</sup> and The Angus McLeod Archive<sup>4</sup> for a more personal angle.

## 5.2 Building Survey methods

As it has been some years since a comprehensive survey was completed, all possible physical details of interest will be recorded, especially where they can add to the corpus of pre-existing work, by (for example) showing how much the interior has deteriorated. Each detail will be photographed and the photographs numbered so that they can be referred to in the accompanying written description. The photographic log is presented in Appendix 1, and a CD-ROM of photographs attached to the back of the printed report.

All Drawings, Elevations and Plans were drawn by a local Chartered Surveyor. A site visit was also organized with Ms Carol Knott, an Archaeologist who is experienced with standing buildings survey and has also previously worked with the building in question.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://napier-outerhebrides.blogspot.com/2010/07/stornoway-lewis-8-9-and-11-june-1883.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.hebrideanconnections.com/>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.angusmacleodarchive.org.uk/view/>

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## 6.0 The Detailed Building Survey

### 6.1 Archive Research

Detailed Architectural and Historical research into the building has already been carried out by Andrew Wright, as mentioned above. This work will not be duplicated here, the focus of the current study being on the actual state of the building and anything else that can be gleaned about it. However for context and discussion a summary of the information held in the public databases is presented, followed by a brief History of the School.

#### 6.1.1 Listed Building Status

Firstly, the building is a Class B Listed building. The entry on the list has the following information:

***Charles Howitt with Charles Wilson, 1848. Single storey and attic former female industrial school on prominent corner site with breaking eaves nepus gable to the east elevation. Squared coursed Lewisian Gneiss rubble with some dressed margins.***

***KEITH STREET ELEVATION: 5 bays with large central breaking eaves gable flanked by two narrow piended roofed dormers. Regular fenestration at ground floor with lying pane glazing partially boarded (2008); timber mullioned tripartite window to centre gable; plain rectangular windows to flanking gables. Polished inscription panel above tri-partite window reading***

***"FEMALE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, ON THIS SITE IN 1848 LADY MATHESON THE WIFE OF THE OWNER OF LEWIS OPENED A SCHOOL TO PROVIDE YOUNG LADIES WITH THE OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN A RANGE OF DOMESTIC ACTIVITIES AND CRAFTS.***

***IT LATER PROVIDED A MORE GENERAL EDUCATION FOR YOUNG LADIES UNTIL 1906."***

***SCOTLAND STREET ELEVATION: roughly 5 bays with 2-bay gable end to east and three bay wing to west. Doorway to centre of 3-bay wing flanked by windows in plain surrounds. Single window to centre of gable; 2 smaller off centre windows above. Small piended roofed breaking eaves dormers to the west.***



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*Predominantly lying pane glazing in timber sash and case windows, some partially boarded (2008). Gablehead and ridge stacks with thin slate detailing and some clay cans. Some cast-iron rainwater goods with decorative brackets, plastic rainwater goods elsewhere.*

*The interior was seen in 2010 and contains former schoolrooms to ground floor with some timber dado panelling to walls and large raised platforms to one end and gallery at first floor (former 'infant galleries').*

#### **Statement of Special Interest**

*This building occupies a prominent corner site within the grid plan of Stornoway with a large breaking eaves gable and tri-partite window making a good contribution to the streetscape. The exposed stone is representative of early 19th century building practice in Stornoway and similar to that at Lews Castle. The school was funded by Lady Mary Jane Matheson whose husband, Sir James Matheson, acquired the island of Lewis in 1844. Lady Matheson was continuing a tradition of providing education for young women on the island from the previous owner who had founded a spinning school in 1825.*

*The building may have been designed by Charles Howitt with Charles Wilson who were the architects for the Matheson's own home at Lews Castle (see separate listing) which was being built at the same time. Although his authorship cannot be confirmed there are similarities in some elements of the design and in the choice of Lewisian Gneiss as the building material, something which had not been done before in Stornoway.*

*The plan of the schoolrooms, particularly the raised platforms and first floor gallery, were possibly inspired by the educational practices of Glasgow philanthropist David Stow who wrote two influential publications on seminary education following his work in Glasgow.*

*List description and Statutory Address updated in 2015. Previously listed as "Keith Street Industrial Female School".*

**Note:** The inscription quoted above is not above the Tripartite window, where it is described. The sandstone memorial inscription above the Tripartite window reads simply:

INDUSTRIAL FEMALE SCHOOL  
ERECTED BY  
MARY JANE MATHESON  
1848

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There is one other memorial plaque on the corner of Keith St and Scotland St, described below, but it too has a different inscription to the one quoted above. It is not known where this inscription can be found on the building today.

### 6.1.2 CANMORE

Historic Environment Scotland's database of Sites and Monuments, "CANMORE" has the following entry:

*"Former Industrial Female School (or the Seminary House and Hall), 1848. A prominent street-corner focus within the grid of wide streets that the Mathesons were instrumental in developing above the old town. A building of some historic interest, it was erected by Sir James Matheson's wife (Mary Jane Perceval), who complemented her husband's improvements by establishing, among other things, five Sabbath schools. Built of unrendered, squared rubble, with an unusually wide nepus gable to Keith Street, it has a large ground floor hall, and a dwelling above. Sash windows with 'lying pane' glazing are a rare survival. <sup>5</sup>*

### 6.1.3 BARR

The Buildings at Risk Register (BARR) has a database of listed buildings which have become empty or derelict and are therefore at risk. It is also maintained by HES, but has a different entry for 74 Keith St:

*Prominent corner building on an L-plan. The school is in rubble with squared dressings, and of 1 storey with attic. The windows are sash, with distinctive horizontal glazing. The Keith Street elevation is of 5 windowed bays at ground floor level, the centre window surmounted by a timber-mullioned tripartite window set in a shallow-pitched gable.*

*The inscription panel reads 'Industrial Female School/Erected by/Mary Jane Matheson/1848.' Piend-roofed narrow dormers flank the gable to either side, but are probably later. The Scotland Street elevation includes a 3 bay extension eastwards. A courtyard sits to the rear. It is suggested that the architect may also have been involved in the design of Lews Castle. (Historic Scotland).*

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<sup>5</sup> <https://canmore.org.uk/site/171339/lewis-stornoway-74-keith-street-school>

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***Originally established by Sir James and Lady Matheson for the education of girls from poor families, it had a variety of uses during the 20th century and was last used as a private home for the celebrated local musician, Duncan Morrison, who also had family links to Lews Castle (Western Isles Council).***

Note: The building was never L- plan – see Figure 2, 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map, surveyed only one year after the School was built. It is difficult to imagine how this mistake could have come about. This is the only source to suggest that the two Keith St dormers were not original.

#### 6.1.4 Other Sources

In 1997 a study was published into the potential effects of development in Scottish Burghs: “Historic Stornoway: the archaeological implications of development, Scottish burgh survey”<sup>6</sup>. The building in question merited the following entry:

***“On Keith Street there still stands the Industrial Female School. Of interest architecturally, a single-storeyed building, rubble-built with sash windows, it is perhaps more significant as an historical landmark in the town. It is placed strategically in a key position on the geometrically laid out street grid of what was then an expanding town. It is also one of the few remaining symbols of the ‘improvements’ effected in Lewis by the Mathesons. Although possibly partly financially supported by the Highland Society, it was erected by the Mathesons in 1848 to assist employment and bears the memorial stone ‘Industrial Female School, Erected by, Mary Jane Matheson, 1848’.”***

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<sup>6</sup> Dennison and Coleman, E P and R. (1997b) *Historic Stornoway: the archaeological implications of development, Scottish burgh survey*. Edinburgh. Page(s): 62-63 RCAHMS Shelf Number: D.14.3.STO

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## 6.2 A brief History of the School

Charity funded and usually Religious in nature, Industrial schools were a feature of Highland life from the 18<sup>th</sup> century - there was a Scottish Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge (SSPCK) school on St Kilda from 1710, for example - with the first in Stornoway created by the SSPCK in 1764. This tradition was continued by Lady Seaforth McKenzie, Lady Matheson's predecessor, who built a school in Stornoway around 1825-30. This school only lasted 15 years, being discontinued by 1845<sup>7</sup>.

Lady Matheson's Industrial school was constructed around 1848 and can be seen as a continuation of the same tradition. The school educated children until 1906, some thirty four years after the establishment of school boards (producing government funded schools) throughout the land by the Education Act of 1872<sup>8</sup>.



**Figure 2: OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition Stornoway. 1849. Lady Matheson's School is to the top of the figure, labelled "Free School".**

As can be seen from the 1<sup>st</sup> edition map of Stornoway (Figure 2, above, entitled "Free School" towards the top of figure) the U- shaped School looks to have been built a little

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<sup>7</sup> Andrew PK Knight, 2004 *The Industrial Female School, Stornoway*, Conservation Statement

<sup>8</sup> <http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/LB41702>

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distance from the rest of the town and seems to have been built upon previously undeveloped land. The school was part of the expansion of the town on the grid pattern common to many “improved” towns at the time, Ullapool being a nearby example. We can also deduce from the map that the main U-shaped part of the building was constructed in one phase, as the 1<sup>st</sup> edition was surveyed only one year after its construction.

It is important to remember here for the context of the times that the so called “Improvements” also included the creation of Sheep parks and Sporting estates which often entailed the eviction of the native population, many of whom were desperately poor or even starving at the time. Many were transported across the Seas to endure further hardships in the New World. It is difficult for us today to judge exactly how much of a villain or a Saint Matheson was:

*By the standards of the day, Matheson proved to be an enlightened landlord who invested heavily in the island and introduced a number of schemes to provide work and ease poverty. These included road building and drainage schemes and they eased the impact on the island of the potato famine by creating much needed employment. By 1850 he is said to have spent £329,000 on the island. Between 1851 and 1855 he also assisted 1,771 people to emigrate: these departures seem to have been more genuinely voluntary than most of Scotland's clearances.*

*In 1874, tenants of Matheson's on Great Bernera rose up in what became known as the Bernera Riot. Access to grazing rights had been increasingly denied by Matheson and his factor, Donald Munro, and matters came to a head when Munro sought the eviction of 58 families on Great Bernera. The riot led to a court case which the tenants won. The case resulted in a new approach to crofters' rights and land reform and continues to resonate today. Sir James Matheson died without a direct heir in Menton in France in 1878 at the age of 82.<sup>9</sup>*

However, Lady Matheson’s Female Industrial School was certainly a charitable act designed to help out some of the poorest on the island at the time, and stands testament to her wish to alleviate their poverty.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/usbiography/m/jamesmatheson.html>

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An instructive piece of evidence for understanding the School comes from a Survey of Education in the Hebrides in 1865, conducted as part of a Royal Commission on Education in Scotland:

*“It is a school for girls, founded in 1847, and endowed by Sir James and Lady Matheson. The buildings cost £2000, and the total annual expenditure in the school, including Government grants, etc, is £140. The staff consists of a Mistress, an assistant Mistress and three pupil teachers. The branches taught are English, Arithmetic, etc., ordinary millinery, Ayrshire needlework, laundry and other domestic work. The buildings are large and commodious, with accommodation at eight square feet for 211 scholars. The number on the roll in September 1865, was 233, of whom I found 192 present. I was greatly pleased with the whole establishment, which indicated life and discipline without fuss. To see so many girls, chiefly of the poorer class, clean tidy and disciplined in the midst of a population so much requiring precept and example in these special qualities, is itself delightfull, still more so if the education be on the whole so satisfactory as I found it. A committee of ladies, members of the ‘Stornoway Female Education Society’, is associated with the patron and patroness in the management, the members of which take an active interest in the school, and contribute funds. The education had been gratuitous, but it was recently resolved to make the experiment of charging the fee of 1d. a week, with discretionary power to make exceptions, and the result, I understand, has been satisfactory. This resolution was induced by experience of the disadvantages attending a system of purely gratuitous instruction. The benefits conferred by a well-conducted establishment of this kind, in such a locality, can hardly be overrated”<sup>10</sup>*

The school closed in 1905. By 1906, the upstairs flat had been rented out and became the birthplace of Duncan ‘Major’ Morrison, a famous Musician, who was actually born in the building lived there until he died, in 1998, at 92<sup>11</sup>.

The Laundry was a second hand shop called “Things” for some years, and the playground (see Figure 3, below) was even converted into a cinema for a while. However most of the building fell into disuse and began to decline after its last living inhabitant departed in 1998.

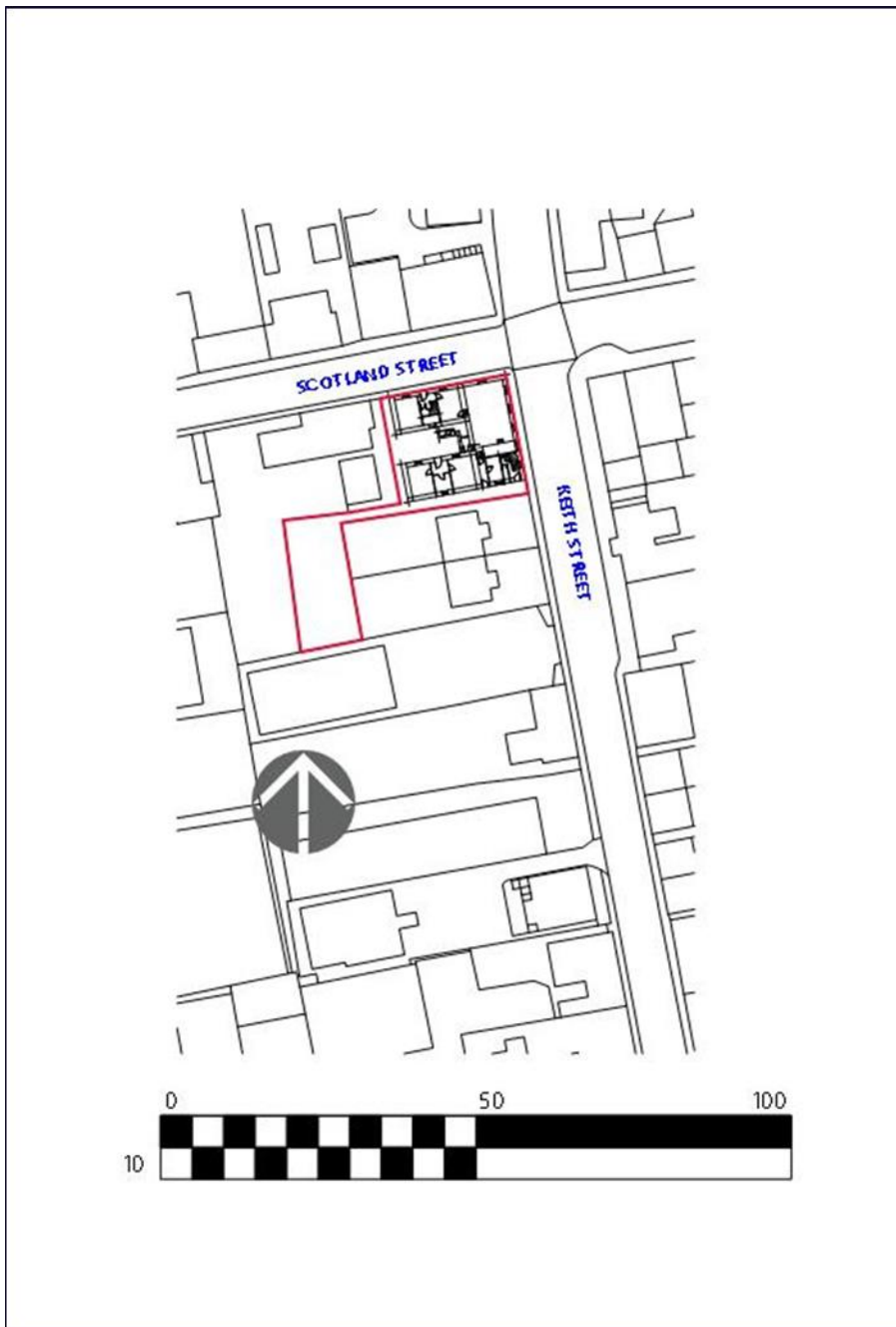
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<sup>10</sup> Nicolson, Alexander *Report on the State of Education in the Highlands*, Education Commission Scotland HMSO 1866

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.heraldsotland.com/news/12297741.duncan-morison-mbe/>

## 7.4 Plan and Elevation drawings of building

The following Ground and First floor Plans (Figures 1 and 2) and Elevation drawings (Fig.s 3, 4, 5 &6) were prepared by Mr Malcolm Crate, Chartered Surveyor.



**Figure 3: Location plan with North Arrow and Scale in Meters. Playground marked in red.**

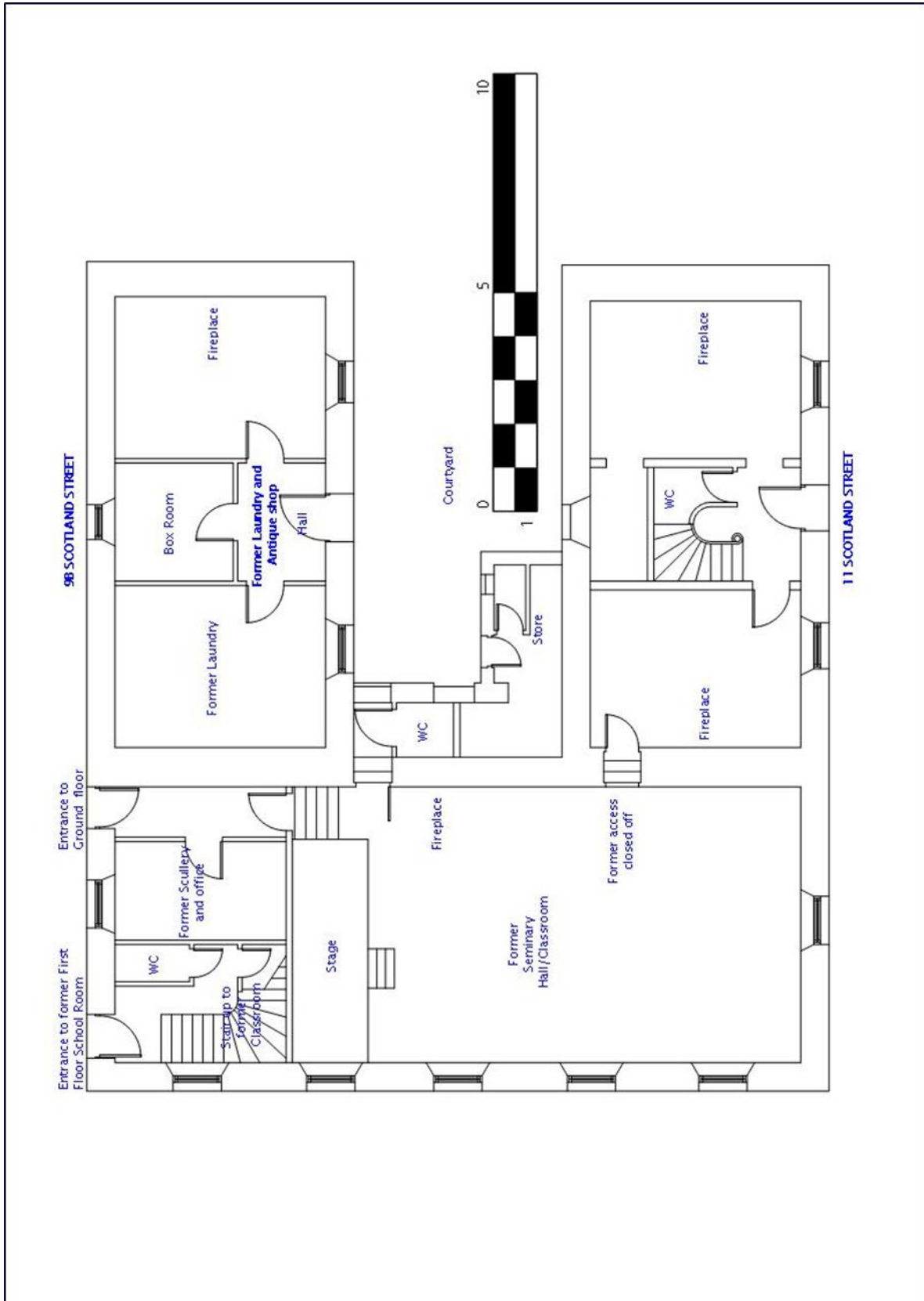


Figure 4: Ground Floor Plan of the building



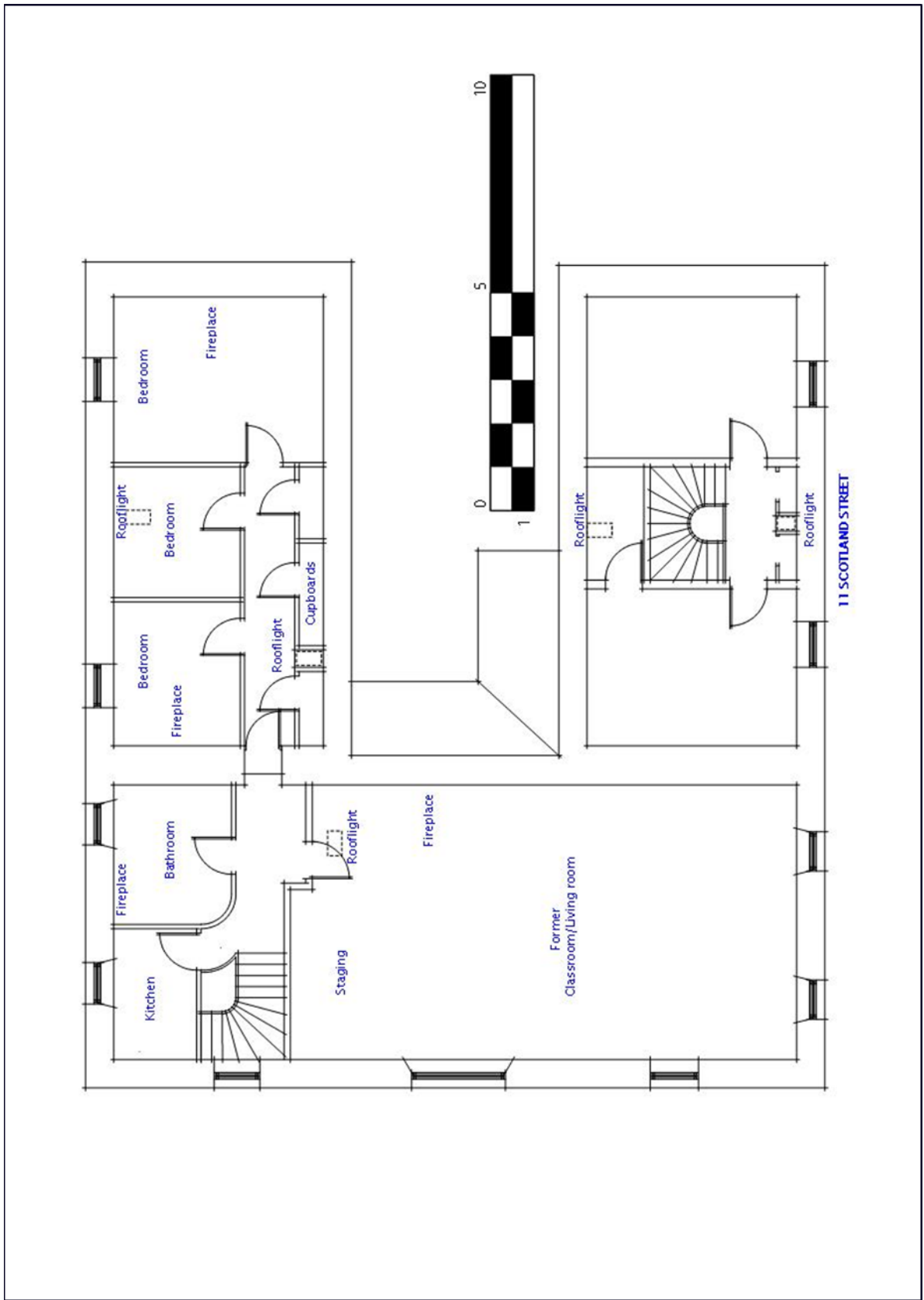


Figure 5: First floor of building

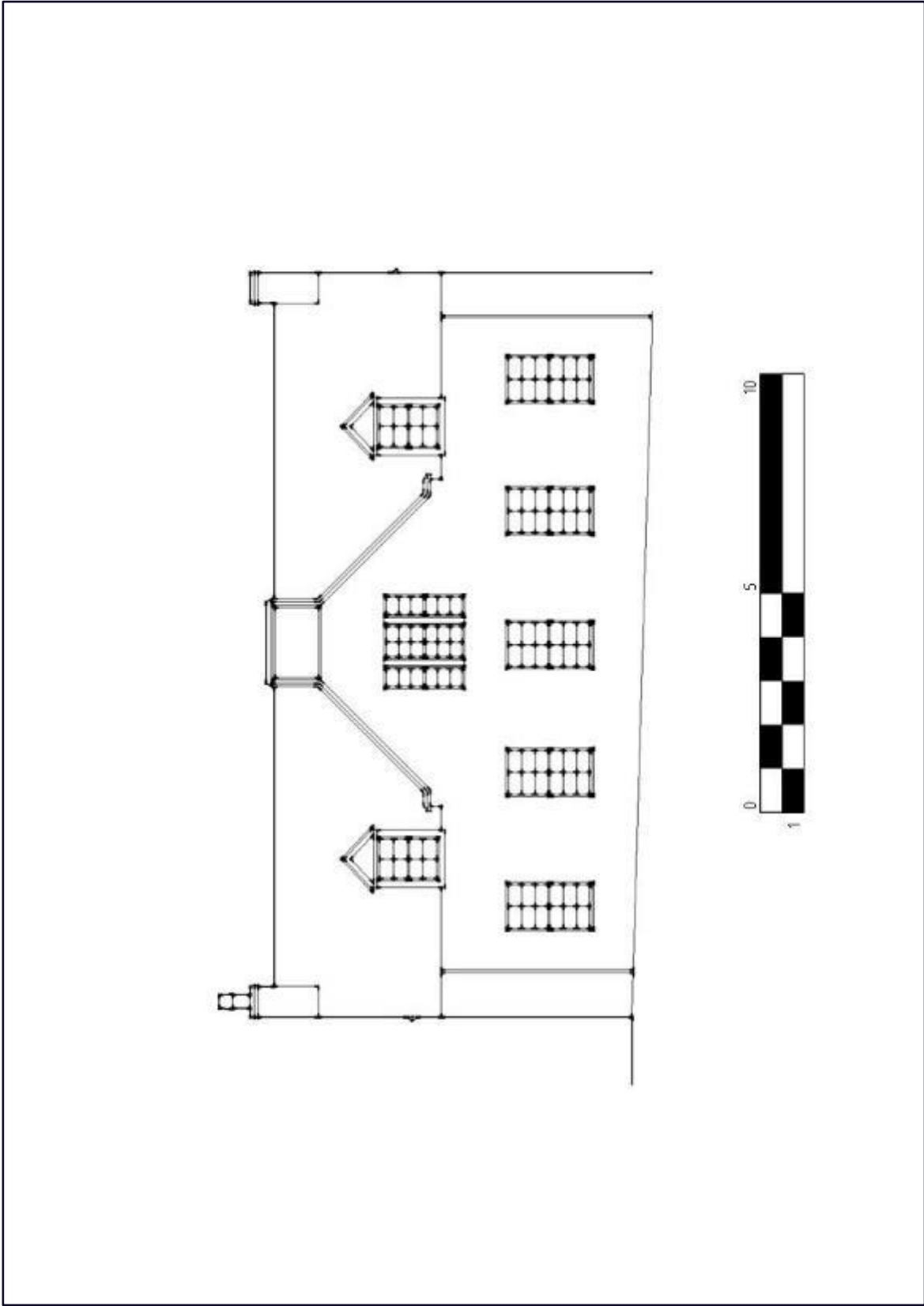


Figure 6: Main, Keith Street (East facing) Elevation

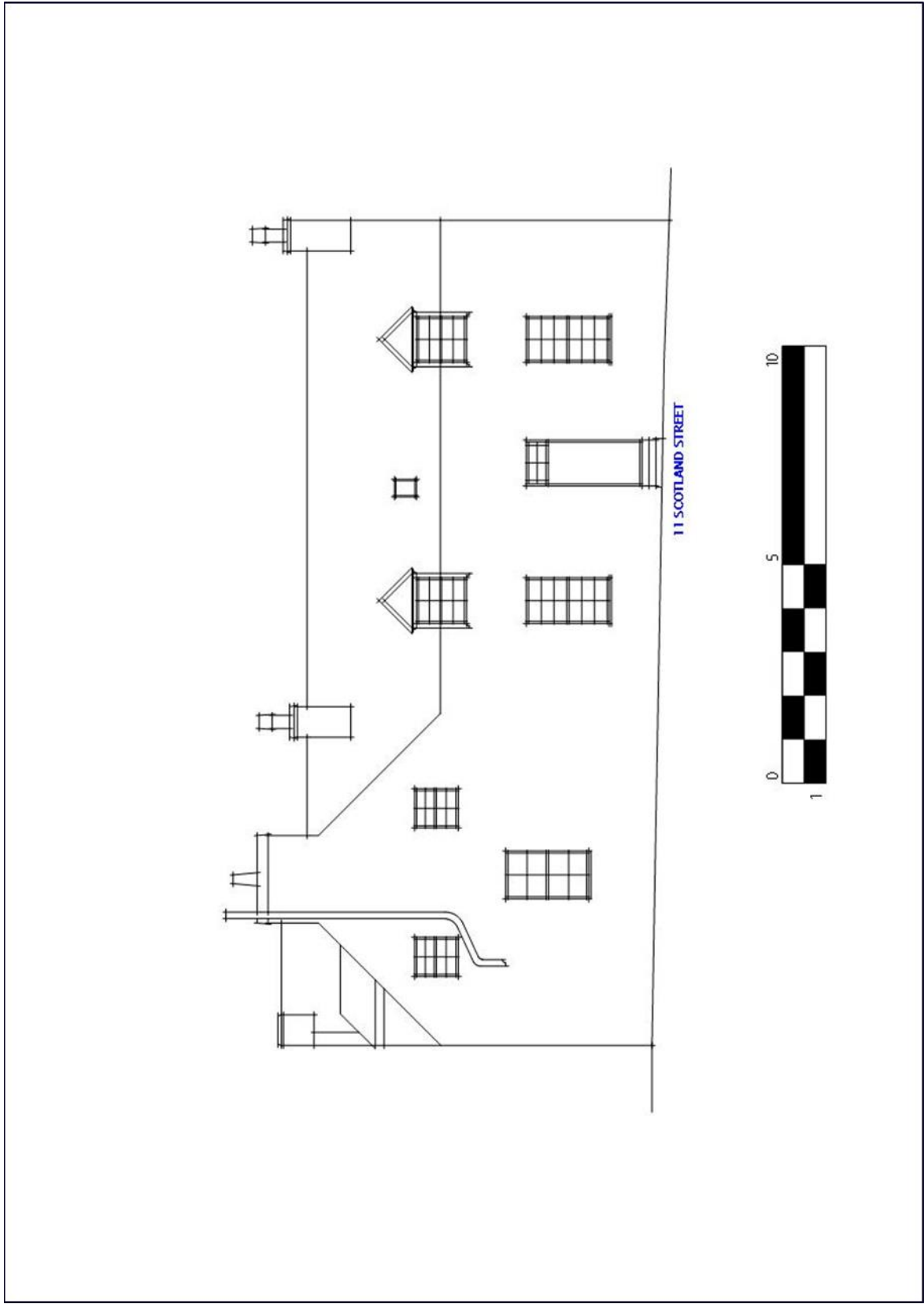
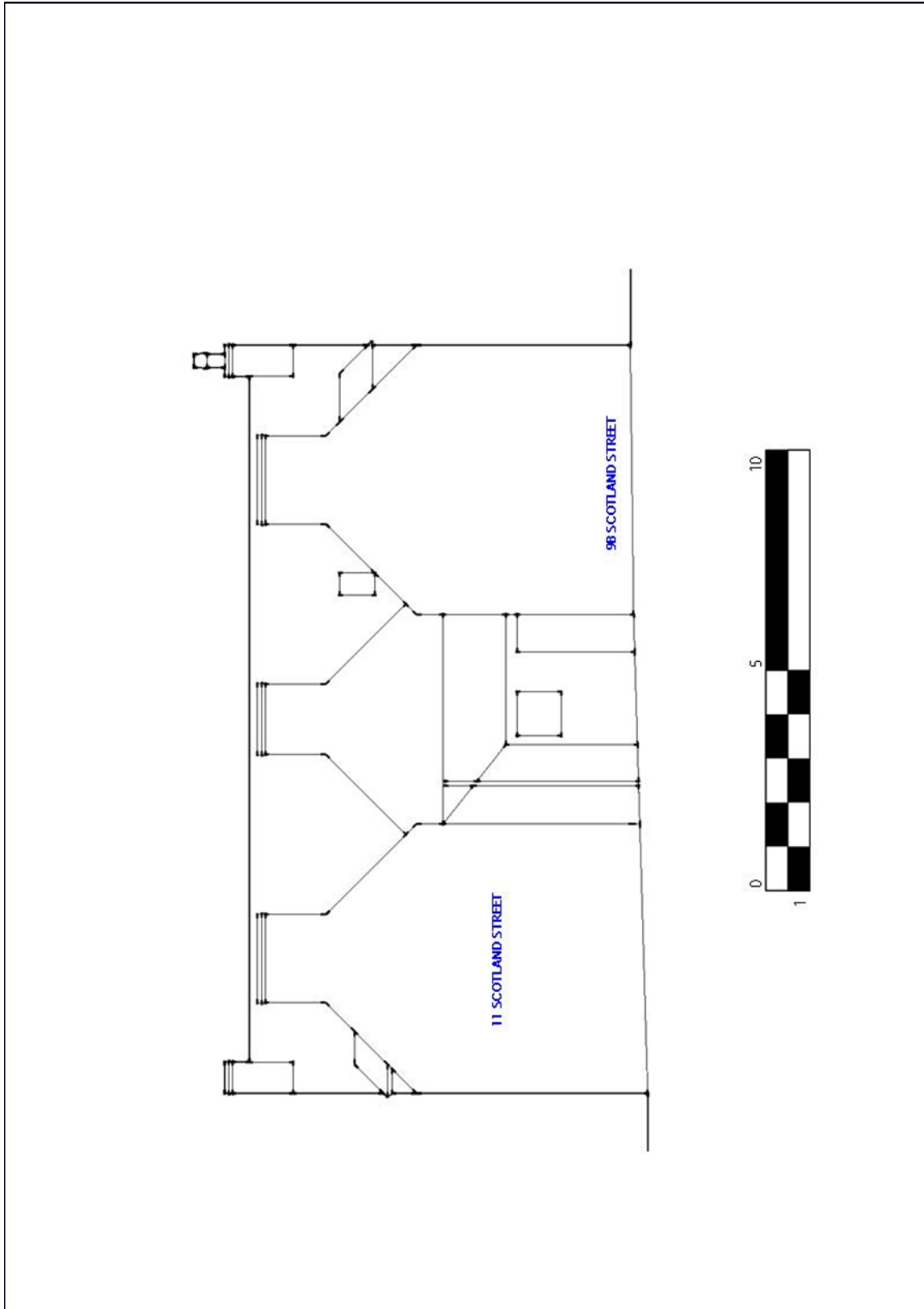


Figure 7: Scotland Street (North facing) Elevation



**Figure 8: Rear (West facing) Elevation**

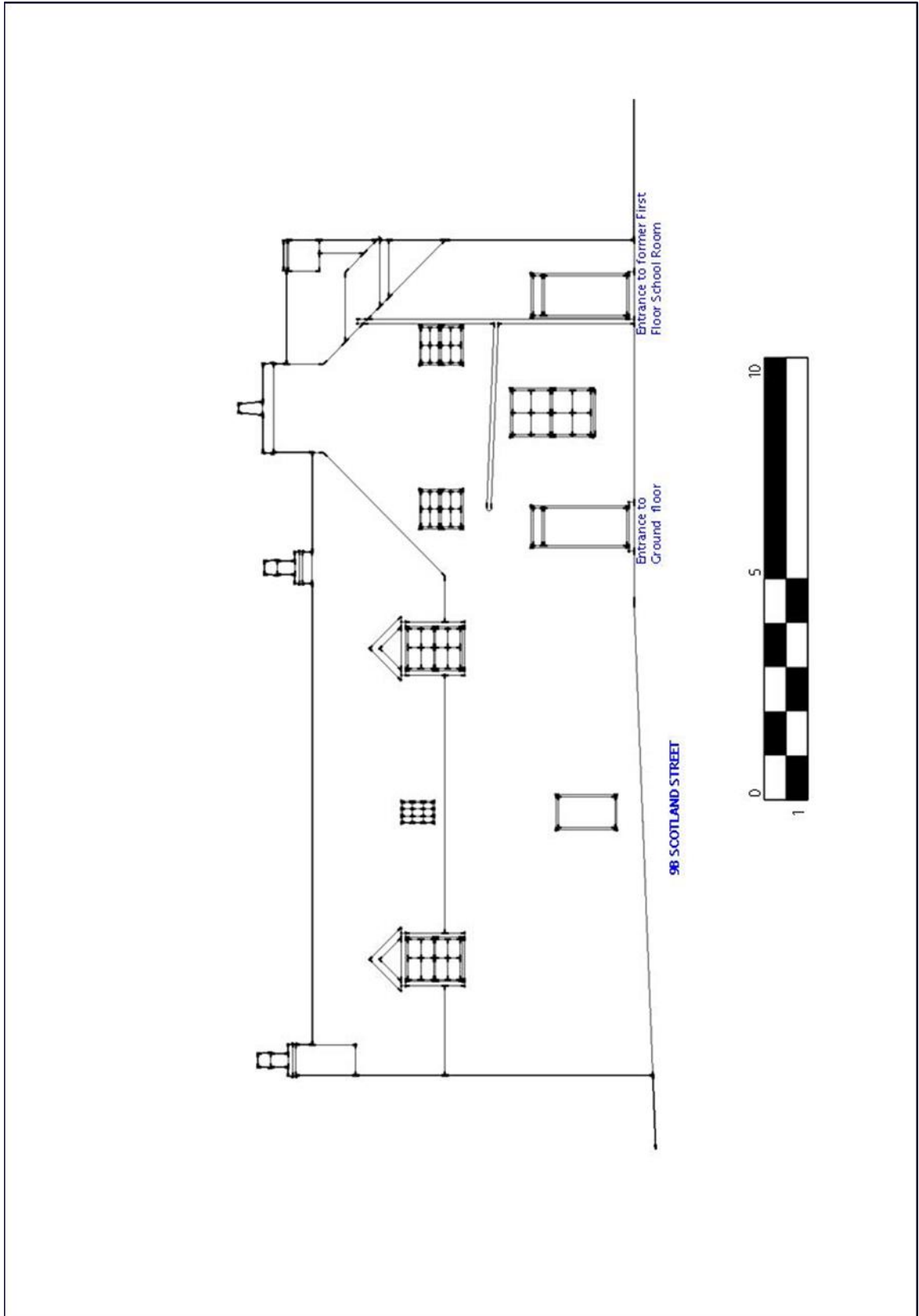


Figure 9: School Entrance and Playground (South facing) Elevation

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## 7.5 Details of all features and fabrics

There now follows a detailed written description of all features and fabrics observed. The external elements are described first, then leading on to the interior. The description of every feature mentioned has a corresponding photograph which can be found on the CD-ROM attached to the back of the report. These are not always referenced through the text for ease of reading but a full photographic log describing the subject of each photograph for cross reference can be found at Appendix 1.

It should be noted that all the external doors and their frames have been removed and replaced by security doors and the windows have been removed and/or boarded up so these details are not covered here. These have been covered previously by Wood (2008) and Wright (2004).

### 7.5.1 The Exterior and Roof

The roof has three main elements, with one main ridge running N-S, parallel with Keith St, and two lower, perpendicular offshoot ridges to the west, creating a U shape. The taller ridge houses the two schoolrooms and may have therefore needed the extra height, but the land also descends toward the offshoots. A total of six chimney stacks protrude, with one for each end gable of the School rooms (no chimney can on the north stack, probably replaced by an asbestos flue outside the gable for pot-bellied stove in GF class room) and one for its western 'Nepus'<sup>12</sup> Gable (not visible from the street); one for each Gable of the Head Teachers house, with the easternmost (internal gable) supporting three cans, the western gable two cans; but only one stack with two cans for the southern extension which housed the Laundry and Assistant Teachers apartment. Despite being unsymmetrical, the lack of two chimney stacks for this southern extension might not seem out of place, especially given the differing standards of Dormer construction in each

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<sup>12</sup> "A small gable carried up from a front or back wall of a building and having a small dormer like roof of its own, projecting from the main roof; its construction being similar to a wall head dormer window ie with its window on the same plane as the main wall" Dictionary of Scottish Building 2011, HES.

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of the three sections and remembering that a hallway runs through the internal gable wall on the first floor. Strangely however, there are Hearths in the two rooms below where the Chimney would have been. (There is a bricked up Fireplace in room GF 14 of the Laundry - photos 122, 123 and an extant (secondary) Fireplace FF6 of the teachers assistants apartment – photo 53. The puzzle was resolved when access was gained to the loft above FF6, where it could be seen that a section of the Sarkin boards and two Trusses had been replaced right above the uneven top of the internal gable. Clearly, the original building had a chimneystack here and was thus perfectly symmetrical. There was a total of seven chimney stacks, one for each gable except for the main Keith St Nepus Gable with the memorial inscription. Since then, one of these chimney stacks has been completely removed, the internal gable taken down to just above the first floor ceiling height, and the slate roof repaired over the area.

The chimney cans are of ceramic and are original, according to Architectural Historians<sup>13</sup>. However, each Chimney stack has an unusual feature just above where they join the roof. A small slab of stone, made from slate (thick slate slab such as is used on the window Cills and some of the floors) where visible, protrudes from the chimney stack c150mm above the join to the slate, which would normally be protected by lead flashing. Dan Maclennan, Managing Director of Lewis Builders Ltd., thinks that this was because the original building did not have lead flashing here (although may have done for the ridge lines and dormers) but relied instead upon Lime mortar to bed the slates and haunch up against the stack. As lime mortar is both permeable and easily weathered, this “Weathering Slate” (term used by Dan Maclennan, pers. Comm.) was provided to shed water away from the most vulnerable part of the intersection. They can be seen on the front and back of every stack.

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<sup>13</sup> Andrew PK Knight, 2004 *The Industrial Female School, Stornoway, Conservation Statement*



**Figure 10: Weathering Slate on NW Chimney stack**

The slate is thought to be from Easdale<sup>14</sup> in the inner Hebrides. Copper nails were used (see photo no. 171). Various authors mention repair with a different purple slate, although this is no longer visible. All of the slate from the main Keith St section of roof was removed around 15 years ago by the Stornoway Trust in order to make it safe (D. MacLennan pers.comm.). Large plywood sheets were then attached over the original Pine Sarkin boards, and covered in felt, with batons to hold the felt in place. 150mm of rubble and cement had to be added to the western Nepus gable to raise it up to the level of the plywood.

The Eastern Nepus Gable, on what would be the front of the building on Keith St, has an dedication stone with an inscription incised into a yellow-brown imported sandstone:

Industrial Female School  
Erected by Mary Jane Matheson  
1848

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<sup>14</sup> Andrew PK Knight, 2004 *The Industrial Female School, Stornoway, Conservation Statement*, pp16



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The same sandstone can be found on the skews and skew puts, with pleasingly chamfered edges, but nowhere else on the building. It must be noted that the stone and its treatment are very similar to that found at Stornoway castle, which was already under way when the School was commenced.



***Figure 11: Ornate carving in Sandstone at the Castle (left) and the School (right)***

### 7.5.2 Dormers

There are three different types of Dormer window provided in the roof space, with contrasting styles on the North, East and South.

The northernmost adorn the Head Teachers accommodation and are the most well-appointed. They are set so that they break the wall head, with approximately half the window below the wall head. They are hipped or piend and have been provided with a pleasing cornice molding where they join their slate roof. They make use of thick slate slab for the cill.



**Figure 12: Dormers on Scotland St facade**

Those on the main Keith St (Eastern) elevation are set higher and do not break the wall head, possibly due to practical considerations such as headroom for the classroom below and the amount of light permitted to the classroom above. However it has also been suggested that these Dormers were a later addition to the building, and not breaking the wall head would be consistent with this<sup>15</sup>. Although still hipped/piend, they are of a simpler form than those to the north, with no cornice. They also use slate for the cills.

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<sup>15</sup>[https://www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk/search/keyword/female%20industrial%20school/event\\_id/893181/building\\_name/lady-mathesons-industrial-female-school-former-74-keith-street-stornoway](https://www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk/search/keyword/female%20industrial%20school/event_id/893181/building_name/lady-mathesons-industrial-female-school-former-74-keith-street-stornoway)



**Figure 13: Dormers on Keith St facade**

Finally, the dormers on the southern side of the building are set with just a quarter of the window below the wall head, are hipped/piend but again with no cornice. Here the Cills are made from Concrete, which is unusual. Perhaps these dormers have been substantially repaired at some time.



**Figure 14: Dormers on South facing facade**

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All of the dormers may have originally had slated sides as well as slated hipped or piend roofs. Now those on the North and South have sides covered in sheet lead, and the slates have been removed from the Eastern dormers. All of the dormer windows have been fitted with distinctive “Lying Pane” Sash windows – this style is quite rare and importantly can also be found at the Castle<sup>16</sup>, further linking the two buildings.

Originally the building was fitted with decorative Ogee guttering and brackets<sup>17</sup>, although all that can be seen of these now is the rusted stumps of some of the brackets. It is not known whether the hierarchy of features noted above for the dormers extended to the rain water goods.

### 7.5.3 Roof lights

There are four roof light windows, two in the Head Teachers accommodation on the Scotland St part of the building (one facing north, one south) and two in the Teaching assistants flat (one facing north, one south) on the other extension. Unusually, the windows in the Teaching assistants flat are both bigger, 9 pane roof lights, whereas those in the usually more well-appointed Teachers house have only the smaller and more common two pane variety.

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<sup>16</sup> Andrew PK Knight, 2004 The Industrial Female School, Stornoway, Conservation Statement, pp21

<sup>17</sup> Andrew PK Knight, 2004 The Industrial Female School, Stornoway, Conservation Statement, pp15



**Figure 15: The two different types of Roof light**

#### 7.5.4 WALLS

The walls are made from dressed Gneiss, coursed, with a Lime mortar. The Gneiss blocks are extremely well dressed, being regular and square with fine flat faces. Indeed, many of the blocks have been better dressed than those at the castle. This must have taken a lot of time and effort as Gneiss is a very hard stone and not easily worked. Further to this, a decorative style has been adopted where the pinning stones between blocks have been set very regularly. Together these observations would tend to suggest that the walls are not merely “Rubble walls” as described in some of the HES CANMORE website database entries for the building<sup>18</sup>.

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<sup>18</sup> <https://canmore.org.uk/site/171339/lewis-stornoway-74-keith-street-school>



**Figure 16: Decorative pinning stones, School wall to the left, Castle wall to the right**

Again, this is echoed at the Castle, implying that it was the same group of Masons, or at least that the Masonry styles were deliberately kept similar over the two buildings.

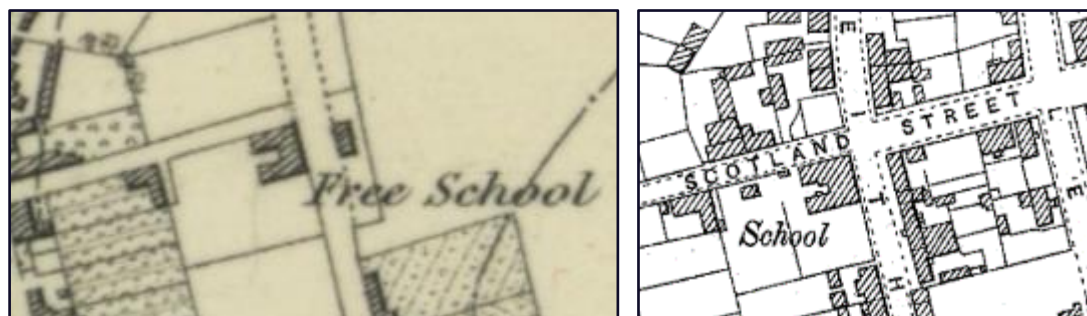
There is a hint that some of parts of the building were not treated quite so carefully. The most pronounced difference is probably that between rougher dressed faces on the south elevation, away from the street, with the perfectly flat regular faces of the Head Teachers frontage to the north, or between the stones at the base of the walls within the courtyard and those near their tops.

The original lime mortar, which has no obvious shell inclusions, has been covered over with a cement mortar in many places, obscuring some of this decorative stonework. To the west, both gables have been wet dash rendered, covering all the stone work. This may have been as protection from the westerly weather although again would not have been original.

A lean-to building was added to the west, in-between the two offshoots, housing a toilet. The lean to was built from well-dressed Lewisian Gneiss, and built in a similar style to the rest of the School, albeit with smaller blocks. It also has an original door frame – the only one still extant at this time – with a fan light above the door of the same style as those seen in John Woods (2008) Photographic survey of the other doorways. We can therefore be sure that this first lean-to was an original part of the building.

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However, this first lean-to building was then added to with the addition of a red brick structure leant against the wall belonging to the back of the Teachers house, GF 9/10/11, creating an L shaped, part stone, part brick, lean-to. This can clearly be seen on the OS 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, see figure 17, below. The structure has since collapsed into the courtyard.



**Figure 17: 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS map, surveyed 1849 to the left, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition OS map, surveyed 1895, to the right.**

The bricks were made by “Mark Hurl Glasgow” – see photo no. 272. Research has revealed that Mark Hurl, Brickmakers of Garscube, Glasgow (not to be confused with John Hurl, Brickmakers of Glenboig, North Lanarkshire) were established in 1893 and were operation for some considerable time, but out of existence by 1933<sup>19</sup>. We can therefore deduce that the brick lean to extension could not have been built until at least 45 years after the original School house. The OS maps indicate that the brick lean to was in existence by 1895, when the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition was surveyed, meaning that the brick lean-to was built at some time between 1893 and 1895.

Matheson had started his own brickworks at Garrabost, Point, in 1844, which produced bricks until 1897<sup>20</sup>. You would have thought that these bricks would have been vastly more economic during this time, yet strangely they weren't used.

The School itself closed in 1906, meaning that it would seem the brick lean to was constructed in the last years of the Schools life.

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<sup>19</sup> <https://www.scottishbrickhistory.co.uk/garscube-brickworks-great-western-road-glasgow/>

<sup>20</sup> <https://canmore.org.uk/site/4399/lewis-garrabost-brickworks>

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### 7.5.5 Doorways

Unfortunately the original door frames and doors had been removed before this study commenced. All that can be seen of the contrasting doorways now is the difference in material used to make the Thresholds. The Northern, Teachers entrance has a slate threshold, the Laundry has a slate threshold, the threshold to the door which leads to the ground floor School room is slate, and the threshold to the door to the first floor School room is Gneiss. This does not seem to fit any pattern and may simply have been expediency; whatever was to hand to the Mason at the time.

### 7.5.6 Other outside fittings

On the south side of the building, nearest the playground, the original School Bell remains. A small iron fitting in the wall below it may be a guide for the bell rope or chain.



**Figure 18: The School bell and rope guide**

Lower down and near the gable edge another small iron fitting looks like the check for the School gate. A rusty gate at the back of the former playground area west of the building might be the original gate. Also not mentioned yet is a further marble plaque on the corner of Keith Street with Scotland Street. It is quoted in Section 7, above.



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Also, there is a modern marble plaque with an inscription on the Keith St wall near the corner with Scotland St. It reads:

"FEMALE INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL, ON THIS SITE IN 1848 LADY MATHESON THE WIFE OF THE OWNER OF LEWIS OPENED A SCHOOL TO PROVIDE YOUNG LADIES WITH THE OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN A RANGE OF DOMESTIC ACTIVITIES AND CRAFTS."

## 7.6 INTERIORS

Inside the building was in a very bad condition, with rain openly entering the structure at many points. Some of the rooms were not safe to enter, and with all the windows being boarded up, very poor lighting conditions for photography were poor.

As the documentary evidence revealed the interior of the building can be split or grouped into five different parts, not three as it looked from outside. Each of these parts had a different function and were also found to have contrasting features and fabrics, some of which was due to the intervening years of contrasting use in each part but some also original.

The five different parts can be summarized as follows:

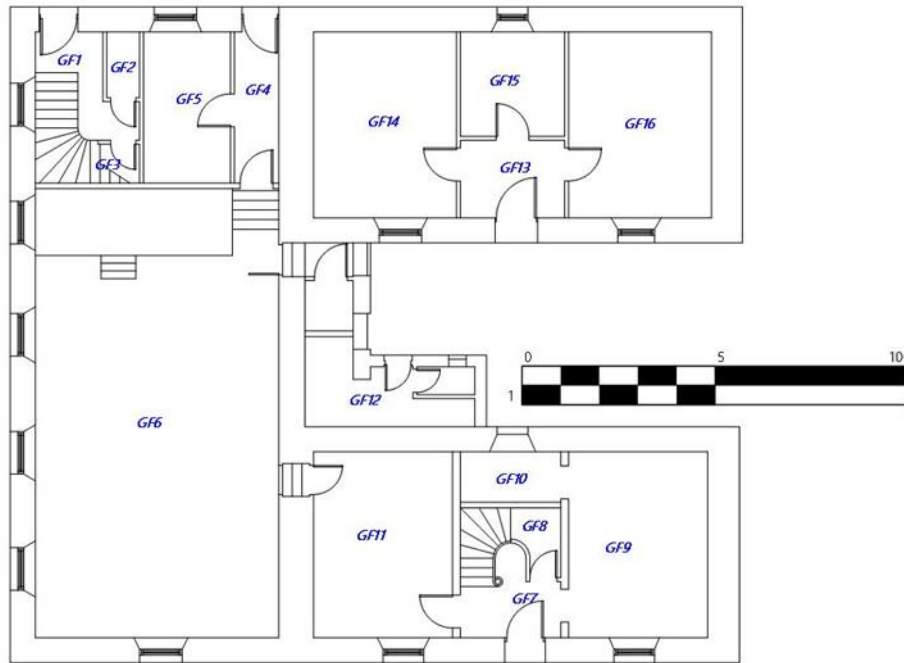
1 & 2 -The Schoolrooms, ground and first floor, to be found on the East of the building. These are quite different, may have had different subjects taught in them and deserve to be described separately. Each has a separate entrance and lobby with a stair well to the first floor class room.

3– The Head Teacher or Principals House, spread over two floors on the North of the building

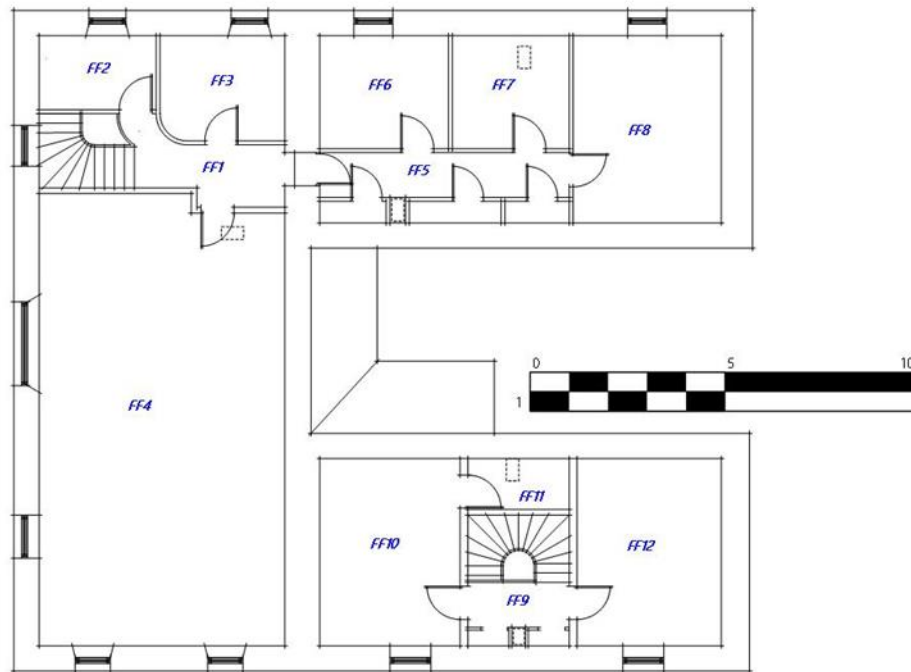
4 – The Laundry, on the south of the building, only Ground Floor

5 – The Assistant Teachers accommodation, on the South of the building, only First Floor.

Each of these 5 parts and their interlinking spaces shall be described, the descriptions making use of the following room numbering system, after by Malcolm Crate (2018).



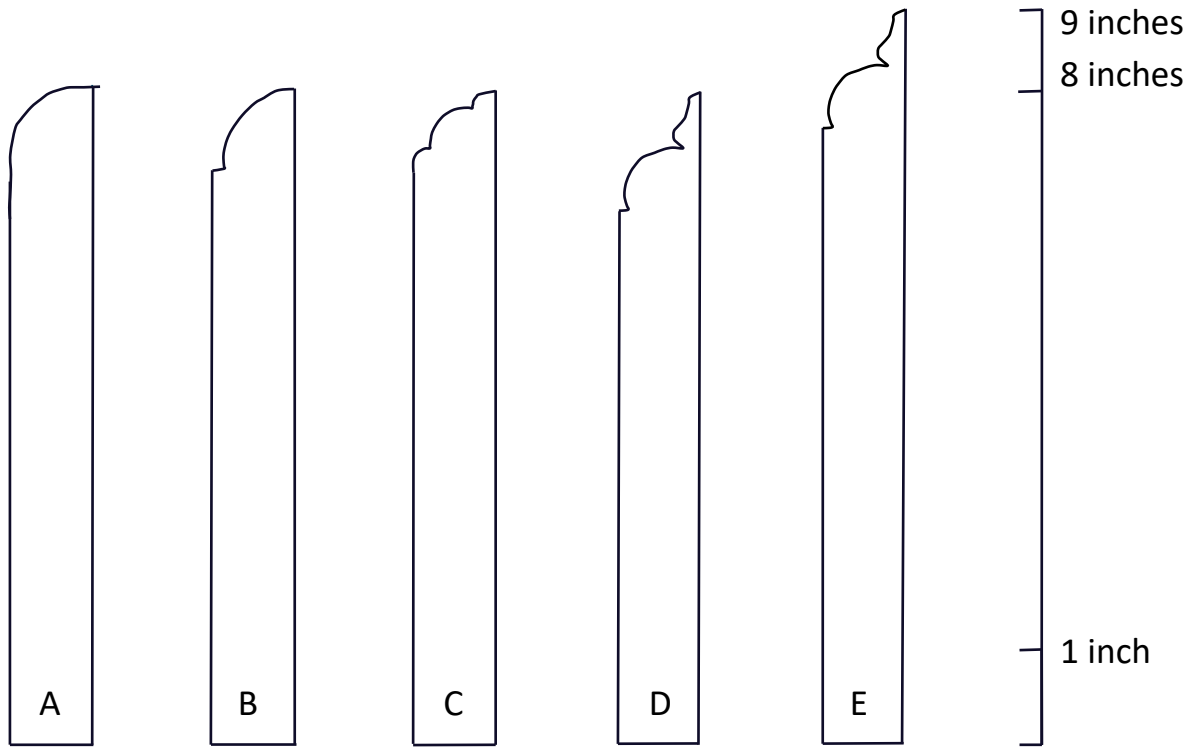
**Figure 19: Room numbering system, Ground Floor**



**Figure 20: Room numbering system, First Floor of building**

### 7.6.1 Skirting Boards

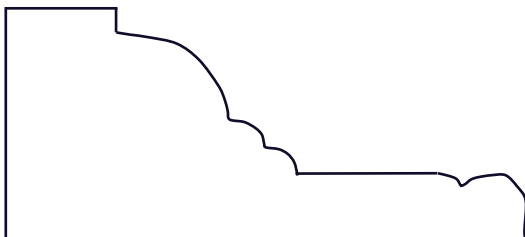
Close observation of the different features of each room has led to the classification of five different types of original skirting board and three different types of original door frame within the building. In times before mass produced molded boards, these necessarily had to be made by hand, by skilled craftsmen. Only the best rooms deserved the people and resources to fit out with the most decorative skirting and door frames. The profiles of each type of Skirting and Door Frame have been drawn and labelled and are presented below – See Figure 21 and 22 – followed by diagrams showing which types of skirting are present in each room – Figures 22 and 23.



**Figure 21: Diagram of Skirting types**

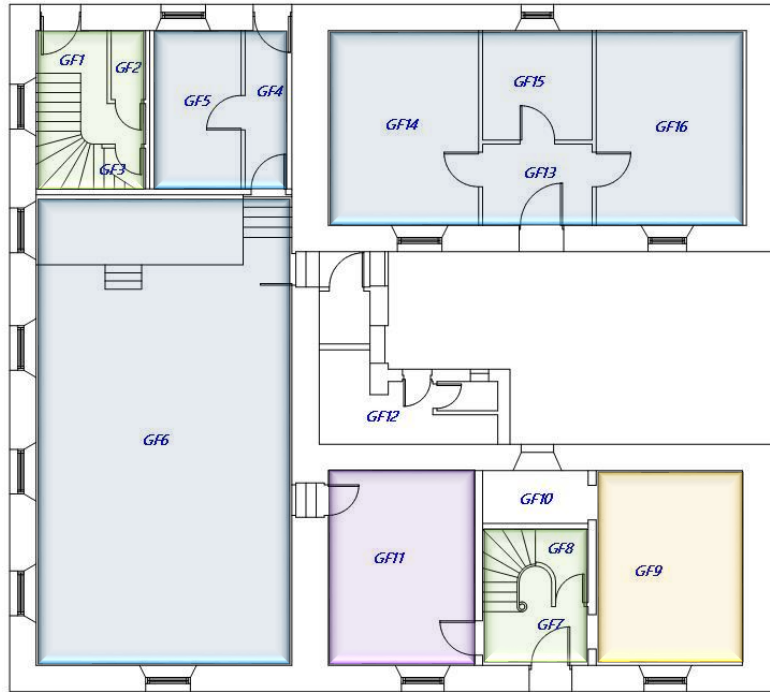


Type 1. (3" wide)



Type 2. (4" wide)

**Figure 22: Diagram of doorframe types**



- Type A
- Type B
- Type C
- Type D
- Type E

**Figure 22: Ground Floor Skirting boards**



- Type A
- Type B
- Type C
- Type D
- Type E

**Figure 23: First Floor Skirting Boards**

In some places the original Skirting or Door Frame had been replaced by simple, modern, mass produced elongated 'D' shaped soft pine molding. These have not been drawn but their locations are mentioned in the text.

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*Note: The following description will be structured around movement through and uses of each room and will not therefore ascend consecutively through the room numbers.*

### 7.6.2 Ground Floor

GF1 – This is the only entrance for the upstairs class room and Teaching assistants flat. The small entrance hall has Dado paneling to a height of 60 inches, now painted blue. This was not the original paintwork as it covers kids’ graffiti carved into the paneling. Above that height a further horizontal piece of wood forms a coat rail, upon which the remains of coat hooks can still be seen. Both these run around the south and west walls of the entrance hall. Non load bearing walls are all of Lath and Plaster, load bearing stone walls have a plaster applied directly.

A toilet, GF2, has been added to GF1 at some point and is not part of the original build. This can clearly be seen by observing that the coat rail and dado paneling run behind the wooden partition walls which create the toilet.



**Figure 23: GF1 and GF2, showing decorative ventilation and graffiti**



**Figure 23: Coat rail running behind Toilet wall, an into toilet, as seen through glass**

However the toilet incorporates a decorative pattern of ventilation holes in its design which has nonetheless been considered “an attractive feature worthy of retention”<sup>21</sup>

A stairway spirals in a left handed or anticlockwise fashion from immediately inside the door. The banister has decorative cast iron supports see figure 24 below, and a cast iron hand rail, which appears to have been designed as the finished piece, being D- shaped in section and having no attachment points for a wooden finishing.

A little room under the stairs, called GF3, was purposed as a coal store at some time before abandonment. All of these areas have Type ‘B’ Skirting.

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<sup>21</sup> Andrew PK Knight, 2004 The Industrial Female School, Stornoway, Conservation Statement, pp23





**Figure 24: Decorative cast iron Banister supports**

At the top of the staircase the first room to the left, FF2, has most recently been used as a small kitchen, belonging to the accommodation on this floor. The remains of the fittings are clearly not original, with a gas mains cooker and plywood shelves. As one moves west from here there is a bathroom FF3, with an original wooded fire surround and mantelpiece on the south wall, with no chimney serving it visible on the outside. Maybe this was an original fire surround but re-purposed as a bathroom shelf? Moving west through the internal gable we then find bedroom FF6, which has an extant fireplace in its western wall (the internal gable) with 1920's style ceramic tile fire surround. It has a dormer window in its southern wall, with a concrete cill (See section 7.5.2 above). This room was fitted with Type 'C' Skirting. Unusually, the door has a decorative fingerplate on the outside of the door. These are only found in this apartment and on doors to FF6, FF7 and FF8 – see Figure 25 below. They do not appear anywhere else in the building, and it is not known whether they are an original feature or possibly something added by Duncan 'Major' Morrison when he lived in this part of the building.



***Figure 25: Decorative fingerplates on door to FF6***

Moving west along the hall FF5 we come to room FF7, a plain little box room with a 9 pane Roof light window. It also has a fingerplate the same as in FF6. Finally, at the end of the corridor we find the living room FF8. It has a hearth in the western, gable wall with a 1920's concrete and ceramic tile fireplace and the same wooden mantelpiece and fire surround that can be found throughout the building. The room was fitted with Type 'D' Skirting, almost the same as the vanguard Type 'E' but just a little shorter, and complimented with the most decorative Door Frame, Type 3. As this was the living room, they had obviously lavished a little style. It also had a decorative fingerplate on the door.

The hallway linking these rooms, FF5, has generous storage cupboards running alongside it in the comb of the roof, very similar to those found elsewhere in the building and so quite possibly original, and one 9 pane roof-light.

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## First floor Schoolroom

If you were to turn right at the top of the stair you would enter the upstairs schoolroom, FF4. Unfortunately this room was no longer safe to enter, the floor being rotten and full of holes. The interested reader should consult Andrew PK Knight's Conservation Statement (2004) or John Wood's photographic survey (2008) for accurate descriptions and photographs. No Skirting was visible.

## Ground Floor Schoolroom

If we now return to the ground floor, we can take the other entrance on this southern side of the building into GF 4, a small hallway leading to the ground floor schoolroom with a small room off to the right. Dado paneling is found throughout again, but painted green here and reaching the lesser height 54 inches. Slate flagstone floors throughout. The small room GF5 has a window to the south, and a sink. This room and the hallway had Type 'C' Skirting. Moving into the GF schoolroom from GF4 requires descending a small flight of 3 or 4 steps, now collapsed, indicating that the room is around 1m below the level of the street outside. A stage immediately to your right is not original but stands in place of what was probably the gallery, where children would have originally sat on stepped levels so that all could see the teacher. Immediately to the left an entranceway leads to the secondary lean to structure, GF 12, a toilet, mentioned above.

Dado paneling again adorns the walls, broken only by an open fire with same wooden fire surround and mantelpiece as found throughout, on the west wall. The School room has the same Type 'C' Skirting as its hall way and ante-room, making the entire area uniform throughout. A cast iron pot belly stove sits upon a cast iron circular mount in the north east corner of the room, and is clearly secondary to the original build as it has a conspicuous asbestos flue which pierces the Scotland St gable. No sign of a makers mark could be found but consulting John Woods (2008) photographic survey, it was clear that the stove was a "ROMESSE" stove. Esse stoves commenced trading in 1854<sup>22</sup>, six years after the School opened. Further research could narrow down the date of instillation if the model number was ascertained. An Asbestos flue was added with it, this rises and

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<sup>22</sup> <https://www.esse.com/about/>

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travels through the wall at ceiling height before carrying on up outside the Scotland St Gable.

There are 5 windows on the East, Keith St wall, although only 4 allow light into the school room, and one window through the north Scotland St gable. The windows were placed high up the wall meaning that they would always provide plenty of diffuse natural daylight.

A total of three vents are provided in the school room, one on the Scotland St wall and two on the Keith St. These are interesting due to their unusual design - see Figure 26 below. A decorative grille on the outside of the wall leads through an aperture to a wall mounted ventilation adjustment device on the inside wall. These rectangular boxes were fabricated from Copper and contained a movable vane inside which could be opened or shut to the air outside. Most memorably, these internal vanes were controlled by a little handle on the right hand side of the box formed in the shape of a miniature human hand grasping a baton. The ventilators were created by a Robert Boyle and sons<sup>23</sup> from the 1870's onwards – therefore these cannot have been original features, although the aperture through the wall may well be.

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<sup>23</sup> [www.mackintosh-architecture.gla.ac.uk/catalogue/name/?nid=BoySon](http://www.mackintosh-architecture.gla.ac.uk/catalogue/name/?nid=BoySon)





***Figure 26: Wall Ventilator designed and made by Robert Boyle and sons, Glasgow***

Thanks to a website called “The Internet Archive”, a non-profit, free to access digital library, we can access Robert Boyle’s original sales brochure and find the exact models of “Air inlet Brackets” and even “Air inlet Grilles” which we find at 74 Keith St.:

## BOYLE'S AIR-INLET BRACKETS.

FITTED WITH REGULATING VALVES, BRASS FIST INDICATORS, AND DEFLECTING SHIELDS TO PREVENT THE WALLS FROM BEING DISCOLORED, ALSO AIR FILTERS WHEN REQUIRED. THESE BRACKETS ARE SO CONSTRUCTED THAT DUST CANNOT LODGE OR ACCUMULATE IN THEM. CAN BE FITTED WITH AIR WARMERS. —SEE PAGE 137.






### PRICE LIST

No 245.		No 246		No 247		No 248		No 249	
Ins.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	Ins.	£ s. d.	Ins.	£ s. d.	
18 x 8 x 3.	0 7 6.	0 8 6.	0 10 6.	0 10 6.	18 x 6 x 6.	0 13 6.	20 x 8 x 3.	0 18 6.	
18 x 9 x 3½	0 9 0.	0 10 6.	0 12 6.	0 12 6.	18 x 6½ x 6½	0 15 0.	20 x 9 x 3½	1 0 0.	
20 x 10 x 4.	0 10 6.	0 12 6.	0 14 6.	0 14 6.	20 x 7½ x 7½	0 17 6.	23 x 10 x 4.	1 2 6.	
24 x 12 x 5.	0 15 0.	0 17 6.	0 19 6.	0 19 6.	24 x 8½ x 8½	1 2 6.	27 x 12 x 5.	1 7 6.	
24 x 12 x 6.	0 16 6.	0 18 6.	1 1 0.	1 1 0.	24 x 10 x 10.	1 6 0.	28 x 12 x 6.	1 10 0.	

Canvas Air Filters 6d. to 2s. extra.  
 NOTE: When employed the Filters should be removed periodically from the Tubes and cleaned with a brush. 4s. 6d.  
 Water Troughs to wash, cool, purify or medicate the air 3s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. extra.  
 Open and Shut Indicator, Brass Letters and Pointer, 6d. extra.  
 " " " Enamel Plate, 1s. extra.

Figure 27: Air-Inlet Bracket No. 295 (or 205?) can be seen inside the GF Schoolroom

## AIR-INLET GRATINGS. CAST-IRON.



No. 440.

9 x 6 ins., 12 x 6 ins.

9½ x 9 .. 12 x 9 ..

No. 441.

9 x 6 ins., 12 x 12 ins.,

9 x 9 .. 14 x 9 ..

18 x 9 ins.

No. 442.

9 x 6 ins., 12 x 12 ins.,

9 x 9 .. 14 x 9 ..

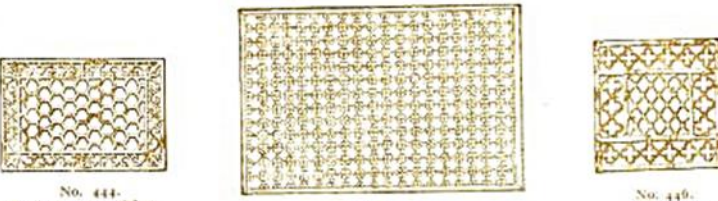
12 x 9 .. 15 x 9 ..

No. 443.

9 x 6 ins.,

12 x 6 ins.,

14 x 9 ins.



No. 444.

8 x 8 ins., 12 x 6 ins.,

9 x 6 .. 12 x 12 ..

9 x 9 .. 14 x 12 ..

No. 445.

9 x 9 ins., 10 x 10 ins., 12 x 12 ins., 14 x 9 ins.,

No. 446.

9 x 9 ins.,

12 x 12 ..

Figure 28: Air-Inlet Grille No. 445 can be seen on the Keith St and Scotland St facades

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This brochure was published in 1885<sup>24</sup>, the company in operation since sometime in the 1870's – so these features were added at least twenty years or so into the life of this 1848 building. This is direct evidence of ongoing maintenance of the building. These devices were the cutting edge of internal environmental control at the time. Robert Boyle's devices were incorporated into Charles Rennie MacKintosh's design for the Glasgow School of Art<sup>25</sup>.

It could be argued that this demonstrates Lady Matheson's continued commitment to the School and its maintenance – and indeed it seems she may even have been trying to improve it.

### The Laundry

The "Laundry" area, or ground floor of the southern off-shoot, is a plain four roomed apartment. Type C skirting and Type 1 Doorframes can be found throughout. Entrance hall GF13 has flagstone floors that have been painted red. The Easternmost room, GF14, also has a flagstone floor, with a bricked up Hearth. The middle room GF15 also has a flagstone floor, but here it has been painted green. The Westernmost room, GF16, has a wooden floor and a 1920's style modern ceramic tile hearth.

### Head Teachers House

Moving on now to the Head Teachers accommodation, we must go back out of the building and round to the Scotland St entrance. Wright (2004) informs us that the door frame and door were quite impressive, with fanlights added above the doors. The doorstep threshold is Slate slab.

Inside, a bright hallway GF7 has large room to the left – GF11, a large room to the right – GF9 and a small toilet GF8, straight ahead, which is tucked under the Stair. The toilet door

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<sup>24</sup> "The Boyle system of ventilation" - Robert Boyle & Son's latest improved patent (1882) self-acting air-pump ventilator. Published 1885 London.

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.mackintosh-architecture.gla.ac.uk/catalogue/name/?nid=BoySon>

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has glass ventilation louvres, but they seem inexpertly cut, as if an amateur has remodeled the door. The hall and stairway are fitted with Type 'B' skirting (See Figure 21).

To the right, GF9 is a large square room is fitted out with a slate flagstone floor. It has an open hearth and the same style of wooden surround and mantelpiece as found throughout the rest of the building. The load bearing stone walls have a plaster applied directly to the stone and non-load bearing partition walls are of Lath and plaster, as found throughout the building. This room is considered to be the Kitchen. It has Type 'A' Skirting, the most simple, throughout. Its inner doorway has a plain, elongated D shaped door frame which wasn't drawn as it was thought to be a modern replacement. A small ante-room GF10 can be accessed from a door in its Eastern wall, which originally could be also accessed from GF11 but has recently been blocked off. GF10 has as a small window opening south. GF10 has been renovated with modern plasterboard and modern, plain, elongated D shaped Skirting and Door Frames, and a concrete slab floor.

On the other side of the hall, GF11 is of the same dimension as GF9 but with wooden floors. Its hearth has been blocked up plastered over with modern materials, as with its former entrance to GF10. The room originally had further entrance to the GF6, the ground floor School room, down a little flight of three steps. The door is now fixed and serves as a mounting for the fuse board and electric meter. GF11 is considered to have been the Teachers living room. It is fitted with the most generous and decorative type of Skirting board, Type E, still visible except for the eastern wall which has been renovated with plasterboard and modern, plain, elongated D shaped Skirting.

The stair ascends through a right hand or clockwise spiral, with quite a simple cast iron banister support design supporting a curving mahogany banister – see photo no.s 218-222. This is in contrast with the other stairway in GF1, where a left hand or anti-clockwise spiraling staircase has more decorative supports finished with a simple cast iron banister. Close attention to the stair treads shows that they did formerly have stair rods to hold a stair carpet – photo no. 224. The Stair has Type 'B' Skirting circling up (steamed planks) to the first floor hallway.



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The upstairs hallway FF9 is fitted with generous cupboard space in the comb of the roof and a simple 2 pane Roof-light to light the stair well. There is a decorative plaster cornice running all the way around the ceiling (Not drawn, safety difficulties). Type 'B' Skirting.

To the west, Bedroom FF12 is the same generous dimensions as the kitchen below, with plastered walls, decorative ceiling cornice as in the hall and Type 'D' Skirting – as decorative as the Type E but 1 inch shorter. Door Frames are the most decorative, Type '2'.

To the east, FF10 is almost identical, also with Type 'D' skirting and Type '2' door frames, but this room also has another doorway to a small ante room FF11, described below. Interestingly, the continuing disintegration of the building has led to the discovery of an original wall covering in this room which has never been recorded before - on the three load bearing walls, the modern wall paper has fallen off since the previous study to reveal a 'Distemper' colouring, a paint applied directly to the plaster. This has been artfully applied around the (now blocked up) Hearth in the eastern wall, as if to surround the mantel piece and whatever it supported, perhaps a mirror? See figure 29, below.



**Figure 29: FF10 and decorative distemper painting around now blocked up hearth**

The ante room FF11 had a 2 pane roof light and an access hatch to the loft. It had been re-fitted with modern plasterboard and skirting.

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## 7.0 Discussion

The information presented above has documented the building in its present state, and documented some aspects in greater detail than before, such as the Distemper paint, the Vents and Grilles, the Bricks, the Skirting and the Doorframes, the fingerplates. It has also discovered something which seems to have previously gone unnoticed, which is that the building was originally symmetrical in its roof line with another Chimney Stack above the internal gable in the southwestern offshoot, which has since been removed and slated over.

Finally, a close attention to detail has revealed some subtle changes to the building which haven't been previously discussed, which when seen together can perhaps tell us something about the life of the building. It is clear that the ventilation system, for example, was fitted at least twenty years into the life of the building. We know from the HMSO report that there were around 200 children studying, which is a lot, perhaps more than it was initially designed for, so the need for more fresh air becomes understandable. Using the information we have recorded, the following changes have been made to the building since its original construction:

1. The toilet, GF2, which has the decorative vents in its wall, has been added to the entrance hall GF1.
2. The ground floor school room has vents in the wall and corresponding grilles outside, designed by Robert Boyle and Sons, Glasgow, from sometime after 1870.
3. The ground floor school room has a "Stage" which does not seem to be original woodwork. It is not known when this was added but it looks to be 20<sup>th</sup> century.
4. The ground floor school room has a pot-belly stove, as well as its open hearth. The Stove was made by Esse, a company which started producing in 1854, 6 years after the school opened. The model is not known but is likely to date from later in their history. An Asbestos flue was added with it.
5. The lean to building which is accessed from the ground floor school room was extended using bricks made by a "Mark Hurl Glasgow". The Mark Hurl brickmaking company of Garscube, Glasgow was established in 1893 and was in operation for a considerable time, but out of existence by 1933<sup>26</sup>. Therefore the brick lean to

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extension could not have been built until at least 45 years after the original School house. Further to this, the OS maps indicate that the brick lean to was in existence by 1895, when the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition was surveyed, meaning that the brick lean-to extension had to have been built between 1893 and 1895.

6. The first floor flat has been extensively remodeled in Duncan Major Morrison's era, with Kitchen fittings in FF2, Bathroom fittings in FF3, a modern hearth in FF6, but what remains of the hall FF5, bedroom FF7 and living room FF8, i.e. the cupboards, skirting and doorframes, is all still original. FF6, FF7 and FF8 have decorative fingerplates not seen anywhere else in the building, which may have been original but also may have been added by the Major.
7. The southwestern offshoot, housing the Laundry and the First floor flat, used to have a second Chimney stack. This was removed sometime after a modern ceramic tile Hearth was installed in FF6, in the era of Duncan Major Morrison. The corresponding hearth underneath in the Laundry was bricked up, presumably at the same time.
8. The Laundry had modern plasterboard and skirting added.
9. As has been documented before, the Chimney stacks and westernmost Gables were wet dash rendered.
10. The slates were removed from the part of the building running parallel with Keith St, and plywood boards covered in felt attached as a temporary fix.

What suggestions or interpretations can be drawn from this information? Firstly, the original design of the building clearly has a hierarchy of internal treatments, similar to that seen with the external dormers, with some sections of the building singled out for more lavish attention to skirting and doorframes and cornicing. This has already been pointed out by Andrew Wright but not recorded in as much detail.

Secondly, we can say that the School was not only maintained but seems to have actually been improved – with the addition of the Toilet (GF3), the Ventilation system and the pot belly stove. The Staging in the ground floor School room might also belong to this phase.

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<sup>26</sup> <https://www.scottishbrickhistory.co.uk/garscube-brickworks-great-western-road-glasgow/>

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Thirdly, as we know from the brief history in Section 6.2, the building had various other uses after the School closed, being partly residential and partly commercial. These uses had their impact upon the building before it began to fall into disrepair and finally it had the slates from the Keith St elevation removed as a safety measure.

## 8.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

This study has built upon many other studies of this building, which have contributed greatly to the present understanding. However this study has also brought to light the changes which have happened to the building since its original design, activity which has not been particularly focused upon in past studies. The changes to the building tell a story of its continued use; they also tell a story of the Benefactors continued commitment to maintenance and even improvement of the School.

The building is obviously lost, apart from the stonework, and so the question turns to what should be saved. Again, others have written extensively about this but the present report has described some extra features which may also be deemed important enough to retain.

Interesting features recommended for retention:

1. The Grilles on the outside of the walls and the corresponding ventilator brackets on the inside, made by Boyle and Sons. These are period pieces, cutting edge for the time, not just functional but stylish too; the arts and crafts style evident in everything they produced.
2. The Romesse pot belly stove is an early example and possibly one of the earliest on the island.
3. The Skirting and Door Frames should be copied. These are probably designs made and executed by the craftspeople assembled for the Castle, being put to another use by Lady Matheson. Also any other interesting woodwork that can be rescued – such as the decorative vents in GF3, the Graffiti on the dado paneling.
4. The School bell, and rope guide. This is surely the most iconic representation of what the building was designed for left in existence.

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## 9.0 Reporting and archive

This report will be circulated to the Client and the Comhairle Archaeology Service for comment before final printing and deposition.

A report shall be prepared and sent to Discovery and Excavation in Scotland (DES) within a month of completion of fieldwork.

A complete archive of the project to be deposited with Historic Environment Scotland (National Record of the Historic Environment) within 6 months of completion of the fieldwork. The inclusion of photographs, plans and illustrations will fall within the current guidelines for archival standards set by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIFA).

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## 10.0 Bibliography

**ALGAO** - The Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers UK - 2013  
“Historic Building Recording Guidance for Curators, Consultants and Contractors”.

**Andrew PK Knight, 2004** “The Industrial Female School, Stornoway, Conservation Statement”

The **Angus McLeod Archive**

<http://www.angusmacleodarchive.org.uk/view/>

**Brick History**

<https://www.scottishbrickhistory.co.uk/garscube-brickworks-great-western-road-glasgow/>

**Buildings at risk register –**

<https://www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk/>

**The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) standards**

- Code of conduct (2014);
- Standard and guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures (2014)
- Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (2014).

Which can all be found at <https://www.archaeologists.net/codes/cifa>

**Dennison and Coleman, E P and R. (1997b)** Historic Stornoway: the archaeological implications of development, Scottish burgh survey. Edinburgh. Page(s): 62-63 RCAHMS Shelf Number: D.14.3.STO

**Duncan Morrison’s Obituary**

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/12297741.duncan-morison-mbe/>

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## Esse Pot belly stove history

<https://www.esse.com/about/>

## Garrabost Bricks

<https://canmore.org.uk/site/4399/lewis-garrabost-brickworks>

## Hebridean Connections website

<https://www.hebrideanconnections.com/>

## HES's Listed buildings register

<http://portal.historicenvironment.scot/designation/LB41702>

## HES's CANMORE database

<https://canmore.org.uk/site/171339/lewis-stornoway-74-keith-street-school>

## Listed buildings register

<https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/>

**Mary Miers**, 2008. "Western Seaboard: An Illustrated Architectural Guide Published by the Rutland Press <http://www.rias.org.uk>

**Nicolson, Alexander** Report on the State of Education in the Highlands, Education Commission Scotland HMSO 1866

The **Napier Commission** transcripts

<http://napier-outerhebrides.blogspot.com/2010/07/stornoway-lewis-8-9-and-11-june-1883.html>

## Scottish Government

- Planning Advice Note 2/11 "Planning and Archaeology" 2011

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/pan-2-2011-planning-archaeology/>

- Scottish Planning Policy, 2014.

## Ventilation, Glasgow School of Arts

[www.mackintosh-architecture.gla.ac.uk/catalogue/name/?nid=BoySon](http://www.mackintosh-architecture.gla.ac.uk/catalogue/name/?nid=BoySon)

## Ventilation, 74 Keith St

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“The Boyle system of ventilation” - Robert Boyle & Son's latest improved patent (1882) self-acting air-pump ventilator. Published 1885 London, p.132 and p.138

<https://archive.org/details/RobertBoyleSonsLatestImprovedPatent1882Self-actingAir-pump/page/n137>



## 11.0 Appendix 1: Photographic log

Photo Number	Subject	Room number	Direction facing
1	Entrance to GF1		N
2	Threshold of entrance to GF1 – Gneiss		N
3	Decorative ventilation in partition wall to GF2	GF1	SW
4	Coat rail running under partition wall	GF1/2	SW
5	Graffiti on wooden dado panelling, blue paint	GF1	S
6	As above	GF1	S
7	As above	GF1	S
8	Coat rail	GF1	S
9	Decorative ventilation and light fitting on partition wall between GF1 and GF2	GF1	W
10	As above	GF1	W
11	Toilet	GF2	S
12	As above	GF2	S
13	Coat rail inside GF2	GF2	S
14	Coat rail and vents from inside GF2	GF2	SE
15	Coat rail inside GF2	GF2	SW
16	Coat rail GF1 And GF2	GF1	SW
17	Coat rail GF1	GF1	W
18	Entrance to GF3	GF1	N
19	Stairway above entrance to GF3	GF1	N
20	As above	GF1	N
21	Stairway	GF1	E
22	Cast Iron Balustrade	GF1	E
23	Cast iron supports for Balustrade	GF1	E
24	Graffiti – 1904	GF1	W
25	Coal bunker GF3 under stairway	GF3	NE
26	As above	GF3	E
27	As above	GF3	SE
28	Tickets to Music concert, 1939	GF3	
29	Stairs	GF1	N
30	As above	GF1	N
31	Stair tread showing modern carpet fixtures and trace of old carpet fittings for stairway	GF1	NW
32	Top of stairs	FF1	W
33	As above	FF1	S
34	Kitchen FF2	FF2	S
35	Kitchen FF2	FF2	E

36	Kitchen FF2	FF2	NE
37	Entrance to FF3 Toilet	FF2	S
38	Mirror on west wall	FF3	SW
39	Bath and east wall	FF3	SE
40	Entrance to FF4 – First floor Schoolroom	FF1	N
41	First floor Schoolroom	FF4	N
42	South wall of FF4 with paint silhouette	FF4	S
43	West wall of FF4	FF4	W
44	East wall of FF4 with large window	FF4	E
45	North wall of FF4 with shelves		
46	Remains of “Floor” in FF4		
47	As above		
48	Entrance to FF5, hallway	FF1	W
49	Hallway FF5	FF5	W
50	Entrance to FF6	FF5	SW
51	9 pane roof-light	FF5	N
52	FF6	FF6	S
53	FF6 with Fireplace	FF6	E
54	Window in FF6	FF6	S
55	Concrete window cill in FF6	FF6	S
56	Hallway FF5	FF5	W
57	Cupboards in comb to the north side of hallway FF5	FF5	W
58	Inside a cupboard	FF5	N
59	Entrance to FF7	FF5	S
60	FF7 with roof light	FF7	SW
61	East wall of FF7	FF7	E
62	Roof light in FF7	FF7	S
63	West wall of FF7	FF7	W
64	Entrance to FF8	FF5	W
65	South wall of FF8	FF8	S
66	West wall of FF8 with Hearth and Fire surround	FF8	W
67	Concrete Cill in South facing dormer in FF8	FF8	S
68	NW corner of FF8	FF8	NW
69	East wall of FF8	FF8	E
70	Doorway back to FF5	FF8	E
71	Detail of moulding around doorway	FF8	E
72	Cupboard in FF5	FF5	E
73	Entrance to GF4 and Ground floor schoolroom		N
74	Threshold - slate		N
75	GF4 and Dado panels with green paint	GF4	N
76	Coatrails in GF4	GF4	NE
77	Detail of wall in GF4	GF5	NE

78	Entrance to GF5	GF4	E
79	Dado panelling in GF5	GF5	E
80	North wall of GF5	GF5	N
81	Window in South wall of GF5	GF5	S
82	Entrance to GF6 – Ground floor Schoolroom	GF5	N
83	Steps down into GF6		
84	GF6 general	GF6	NE
85	Fireplace in West wall of GF6	GF6	NW
86	Entrance to GF12 - toilet	GF6	W
87	Entrance to GF11 – Teachers house – in West wall of GF6	GF6	NW
88	North wall of GF6	GF6	NW
89	North wall of GF6	GF6	N
90	Potbelly stove in GF6	GF6	NE
91	As above	GF6	N
92	Ventilation device in East wall of GF6	GF6	E
93	Makers mark on vents	GF6	E
94	Handle on side of vent	GF6	NE
95	As above	GF6	NE
96	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vent on East wall of GF6	GF6	SE
97	2 <sup>nd</sup> vent handle	GF6	N
98	As above	GF6	N
99	As above	GF6	N
100	Teachers “Stage” – not original	GF6	W
101	As above	GF6	W
102	Entrance to Laundry and GF13		S
103	Threshold - slate		S
104	Flagstone floor in GF13	GF13	S
105	Flagstone floor in GF13 - with red paint	GF13	NE
106	Entrance to GF16	GF16	E
107	Modern Hearth and plasterboarded walls in west wall GF16	GF16	W
108	South east corner of GF16	GF16	SE
109	Skirting type C in GF16	GF16	W
110	Looking east into hallway GF13 from GF16	GF16	E
111	Detail of door frame in GF16	GF16	E
112	Skirting type C near door way in GF16	GF16	E
113	Hallway GF13 and entrances to GF 14 and GF15	GF13	E
114	Entrance to GF15	GF13	S
115	East wall of GF15	GF15	SE
116	South wall of GF15 with window	GF15	S
117	Doorframe in GF15 looking out	GF15	N
118	Detail of door frame	GF15	N
119	Entrance to GF14	GF13	E

120	Detail of doorframe entrance to GF14	GF13	E
121	North wall and window in GF14	GF14	N
122	East wall of GF14 showing fireplace and bricked up Chimney breast	GF14	E
123	Bricks in chimney breast	GF14	E
124	NW corner of GF14	GF14	NW
125	Skirting in GF14	GF14	W
126	Detail of doorframe in GF14	GF14	W
127	As above	GF14	W
128	Flagstone floor	GF14	W
129	Flagstone floor with Green paint in GF15	GF15	W
130	Plaster detail around main doorway	GF13	N
131	As above	GF13	N
132	Modern plywood sheets on East elevation of roof	Exterior	W
133	Keith St dormer #1 (southernmost)	Exterior	NW
134	Keith St dormer #1	Exterior	W
135	Original Sarkin board under plywood sheet	Exterior	W
136	Sandstone Skew on Eastern Nepus gable	Exterior	N
137	Memorial inscription on Eastern Nepus gable	Exterior	W
138	Detail of memorial stone	Exterior	W
139	Detail of memorial stone	Exterior	W
140	Window in Eastern Nepus gable	Exterior	NW
141	Old vent? #1 Cemented up	Exterior	NW
142	Detail, stonework, Nepus gable	Exterior	SW
143	Old vent? #2 Cemented up	Exterior	SW
144	Keith St Dormer #2 (northernmost)	Exterior	W
145	Slate Cill on Keith St Dormer #2	Exterior	W
146	Window #1 and Asbestos Flue, Scotland St gable	Exterior	SW
147	Slate Cill for Window #1, Scotland St gable	Exterior	S
148	Window #2, Scotland St Gable	Exterior	SE
149	Slate Cill for window#2, Scotland St gable	Exterior	S
150	Scotland St Dormer #1 (Easternmost)	Exterior	S
151	Slate Cill for Dormer #1	Exterior	S
152	Roof light in Scotland St	Exterior	S
153	Scotland St Dormer #2 (westernmost)	Exterior	W
154	As above	Exterior	S
155	As above	Exterior	S
156	Detail of cornice on Scotland St Dormer	Exterior	S
157	Detail of gutter bracket on Scotland St	Exterior	S
158	Weathering slate on Western Gable of Scotland St	Exterior	S
159	Detail of weathering slate	Exterior	S
160	Gneiss Cill of large window in Eastern Nepus gable	Exterior	W

161	Detail of remaining down pipe, Keith St	Exterior	W
162	Southern Elevation	Exterior	NW
163	Dormer #1 southern elevation	Exterior	N
164	Concrete Cill of Dormer #1 southern elevation	Exterior	N
165	Detail of dormer inc. metal ring fitting	Exterior	N
166	Sides of Dormer #1 southern elevation covered in sheet lead	Exterior	NE
167	9- pane Roof light in southern elevation	Exterior	N
168	Dormer #2 southern elevation	Exterior	W
169	Chimney in SW gable showing weathering slate AND loose leadwork	Exterior	N
170	Detail showing these slates fixed to original Sarkin boards	Exterior	N
171	Detail showing slates fixed with Copper nails	Exterior	N
172	School Bell	Exterior	E
173	School bell	Exterior	E
174	Detail showing modern cement pointing	Exterior	
175	Detail showing decorative style pinner stones	Exterior	
176	Detail showing same decorative pattern on the Stornoway Castle	Exterior	
177	As above	Exterior	
178	Sandstone at Stornoway Castle	Exterior	
179	Entrance hall to GF7, Teachers House	GF7	S
180	Entrance and door to GF8, toilet	GF7	S
181	Toilet, GF8	GF8	S
182	Detail of glass louvre on door to GF8, outside face	GF8	NW
183	Detail of glass louvre on door to GF8, inside face	GF8	W
184	Detail of doorframes on GF8 and to GF9	GF7	SW
185	Entrance to GF9	GF7	W
186	Flagstone floor and SW corner of GF9	GF9	SW
187	NE corner of GF9 with window to Scotland St	GF9	NE
188	Entrance to GF10 from GF9	GF9	E
189	GF10 with boarded up door to GF11 and window to south	GF10	E
190	Detail of doorframe going from GF10 to GF11	GF10	E
191	As above	GF10	E
192	Skirting in GF10	GF10	
193	Skirting in GF9	GF9	
194	As above	GF9	
195	Distemper colour on plaster underneath modern wall paper, GF9	GF9	E
196	Lath and plaster ceiling in GF9	GF9	
197	Entrance to GF11	GF7	E
198	Detail of doorframe to GF11	GF7	E
199	As above	GF7	E

200	North wall of GF11 with window	GF11	NE
201	West wall of GF11 with door to GF6, Schoolroom and covered over fireplace	GF11	SE
202	East wall of GF11	GF11	E
203	Detail of cornice in GF11	GF11	
204	Detail of door frame around entrance to GF6	GF11	E
205	Detail of cornice in GF11		
206	Electrics and fuse board in passageway between GF11 and GF6	GF11	E
207	Boarded off entranceway from GF11 to GF10	GF11	W
208	Detail of Skirting	GF11	W
209	As above	GF11	W
210	N/A		
211	Detail of cornice and doorframe	GF11	W
212	Detail of doorframe	GF11	W
217	Boarded up window to Scotland St	GF11	N
218	Stairway – Right hand or Clockwise spiral to upstairs, iron Balustrade supports, wooden Balustrade	GF8	W
219	Detail of cast iron Balustrade supports	GF8	W
220	As above	GF8	E
221	As above	GF8	E
222	As above	GF8	E
223	Skirting on stairway	GF8	E
224	Detail of stair treads showing evidence of stair carpet rod fittings	GF8	
225	As above	GF8	
226	Looking down the stairs	FF9	
227	Detail of cornice above stair well	FF9	
228	As above	FF9	
229	Cupboards in comb and roof light on north wall of FF9	FF9	N
230	As above	FF9	NE
231	As above	FF9	NE
232	Cupboard	FF9	N
233	Detail of moulding around cupboard	FF9	N
234	Roof light	FF9	N
235	Entrance to FF12	FF9	W
236	Scotland St Dormer #2 in the north wall of FF12	FF12	NW
237	West wall of FF12 with plastered over fireplace and distemper colour on plaster walls	FF12	W
238	South wall of FF12 with Distemper colour on plaster walls	FF12	S
239	East wall of FF12 with Distemper colour on plaster walls	FF12	E

240	Detail of slate slab hearth under where fireplace used to be on West wall	FF12	W
241	Detail of skirting	FF12	
242	Detail of Lath and plaster falling off ceiling, showing Sarkin boards	FF12	
243	Scotland St Dormer #2 in the north wall of FF12	FF12	N
244	Detail of woodwork construction of hipped/Piend Dormer#2	FF12	N
245	As above	FF12	N
246	Entrance from FF12 back to FF9	FF12	E
247	Detail of mouldings	FF12	E
248	Entrance way to FF10 from FF9	FF12	E
249	Detail of door frame mouldings	FF12	E
250	Scotland St Dormer #1 in north wall of FF10	FF10	NE
251	As above	FF10	N
252	East wall of FF10 with plastered over fireplace and distemper colour on plaster walls under modern wall paper	FF10	E
253	Detail of decorative Distemper colour around fire place and above mantel piece	FF10	E
254	As above	FF10	E
255	General short of Distemper decoration	FF10	E
256	South wall of FF10 with Distemper colour	FF10	S
257	West wall of FF10 with entranceways to FF11 and FF9	FF10	W
258	Entranceway to FF11	FF10	W
259	Detail of door frame of entranceway to FF11	FF10	W
260	Detail of Skirting in FF10	FF10	W
261	As above	FF10	W
262	FF11	FF11	W
263	South facing roof light in FF11	FF11	S
264	Hatch to loft in FF11	FF11	N
265	Roof from inside loft	Loft	
266	As above	Loft	
267	As above	Loft	
268	As above		
269	North wall of FF10 with Scotland St dormer#1	FF10	N
270	Entrance from FF11 back into FF10	FF11	E
271	Detail of Door frame	FF11	E
272	Mark Hurl Brick		
273	New Sarkin and Truss in roof of southern extension	Above FF5	
274	Decorative finger plate on Door to FF6	FF6	
275	Decorative finger plate on Door to FF7	FF7	
276	Decorative finger plate on Door to FF8	FF8	
277	Section of roof in 273 which has been replaced, from outside		

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## 12.0 Appendix 2: Contacts

### Client:

Lewis Builders Ltd  
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Tel: 01851 705015  
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## 13.0 CD-ROM of photographs: