

Photographic Survey of The Fitzwilliam Arms, Elsecar,
South Yorkshire



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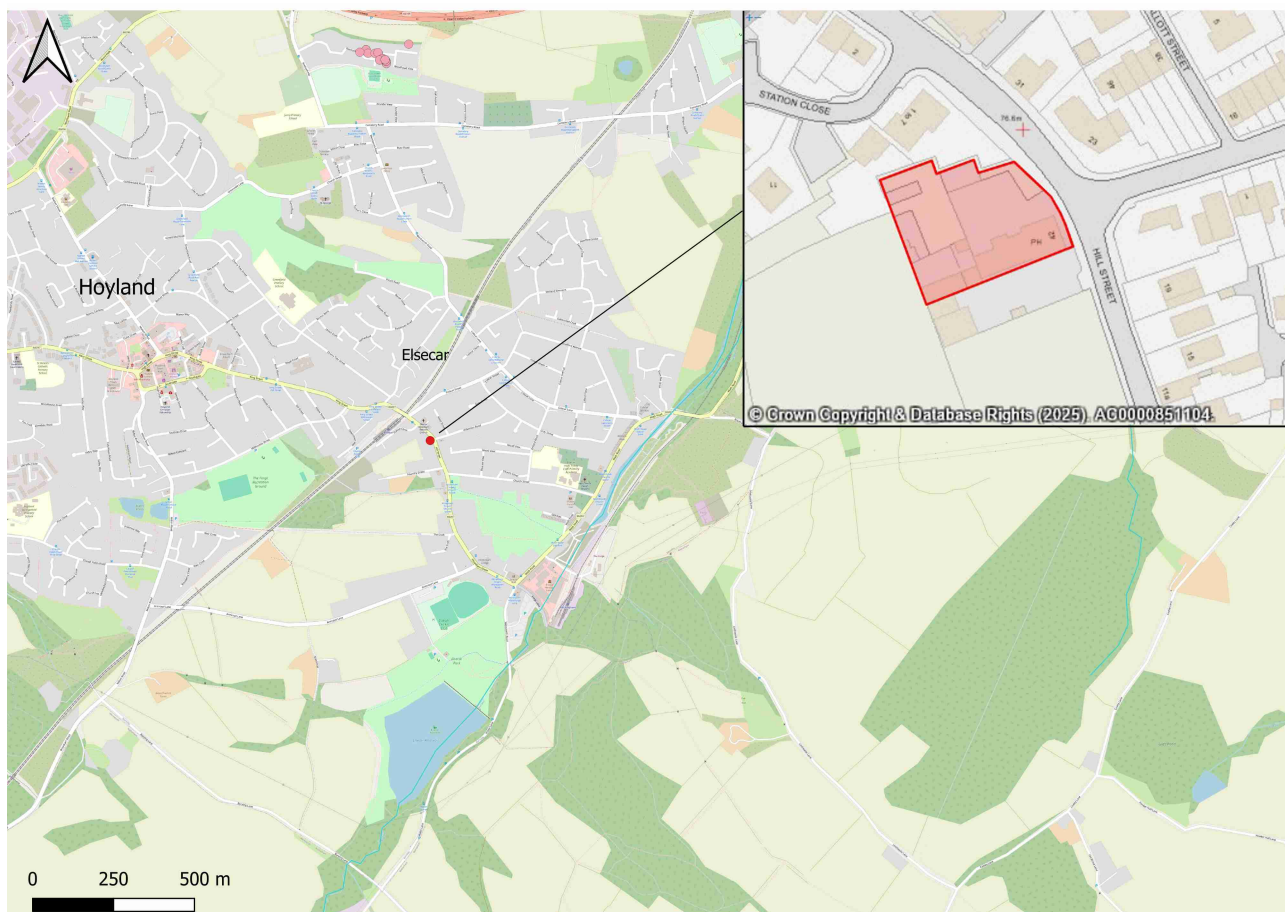
Non Technical summary

The author has undertaken a photographic survey (Historic England Level 1) of The Fitzwilliam Arms, Elsecar, South Yorkshire. The building has been subjected to two structural surveys, both of which concluded that it was structurally unsafe and must be demolished. The building will, however, be rebuilt to the same design and reusing many original features. The present survey records the building and its details in its existing state in order to preserve those by record. It is hoped that the resulting report and archive will inform the replication of the building. A particular challenge has been to prepare a photographic record while the building is partially obscured by scaffolding. This cannot be removed to facilitate recording due to the dangerous condition of the building. To account for this, in addition to the photographic record, a drawn elevation of the front of the building was prepared, based on images generated from a virtual 3d model, with as much of the scaffolding removed as possible (digitally).

1. Background

Site location

The Fitzwilliam Arms public house is located at 42 Hill Street, Elsecar, Barnsley S74 8EL (NGR 438190, 400338) (Figure 1).



*Figure 1: Location of the development area (shaded, inset) including 42 Hill Street.
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Context

The purpose of the present document is to present the results of the recording of a building scheduled for partial demolition. A very basic level of photographic was required (Historic England Level 1) forward of that. Planning permission (reference 2025/0016) for the demolition and redevelopment has been given, conditional on the photographic record being prepared. This has been agreed in consultation with Mr Tony Wiles, a conservation officer at Barnsley Council. No previous archaeological works are known to have taken place at the site.

Monitoring

Andrew Lines (South Yorkshire Archaeology Service) monitored the project.

2. Site information

The site is located on the western side of Hill Street within the settlement of Elsecar. The original public house is a two-storey building facing the road with a brick frontage, rendered south elevation and painted brick north elevation. There are a number of later brick-built extensions to the rear which are two storeys high (but lower than the original building). To the north of the building is a car park together with a timber hut, beer garden, an outdoor eating area and playgrounds.

Immediately to the south of the site is a small car sales area with an open grass area beyond. To the north of the car park and beer garden is a small area of new housing that is currently under construction. On the opposite side of the road is housing, a takeaway and a church.

3. Historical and archaeological background

The following is heavily dependant on the very detailed Historic England Historic Area Assessment Monograph authored by Jane Rimmer, David Went and Lucy Jessop.

Undated cropmark features thought to relate to the Iron Age or Roman period are all that is known about the earliest settlement at Elsecar itself (Rimmer, Went and Jessop 2019: 7), but the Fitzwilliam Arms is situated only 1km southeast of Roebuck Hill, the site of a regionally significant assemblage of chipped stone largely relating to the Late Mesolithic (Cockrell 2017: 95; 97), representing a rare survival on the coal Measures of South Yorkshire. The site also produced Neolithic flintwork and an Iron Age roundhouse (Rimmer, Went and Jessop 2019: 7).

Elsecar existed at the interstices of the townships of Hoyland, Brampton and Wentworth during the early medieval period and consequently does not appear in Domesday (Rimmer, Went and Jessop 2019: 7). Prior to the Norman conquest, these townships fell within the ownership of several estates, including that of Earl Harold Godwinson. Subsequently, some lands were granted to Roger De Busli and the lands of Godwinson went to the Earls de Warren. Brampton went to the great fee of Tickhill. The lands of Hoyland and Wentworth, in 1086, appear to have been under the plough and remained so for centuries to come.

The earliest reference to Elsecar is in the Wentworth court role of 1576 (Rimmer, Went and Jessop 2019: 10), with the name indicating that the settlement was low lying. The name later reappears as the name of a water corn mill (1678). Agriculture is implied as the main economic activity in the area but another mill for the fulling of cloth from as early as 1292 indicates that textiles were a supplementary industry.

Apart from agriculture, coal mining is an activity that gained increasing importance throughout the late medieval and post medieval periods. The earliest reference to it is from 1300 (Rimmer, Went and Jessop 2019: 13). From the 16th century, land was being leased for the extraction of coal with increasing frequency.

The date from which so much of Elsecar's subsequent reputation derives is 1748, with the birth of William, 4th Earl Fitzwilliam (1748-1833). The Earl was not only a very active industrialist but a

noted philanthropist, concerned with the wellbeing of the poor (Rimmer, Went and Jessop 2019: 17-18). Throughout the 19th century, not only were important ironworks established in the valley bottom near Elsecar Green, but associated installations and supporting transport infrastructure along with collieries in the near vicinity. Together, these form a microcosm of the industrial development and history that characterises South Yorkshire and indeed Britain (Rimmer, Went and Jessop 2019: 266). Much of this heritage survives as upstanding structures such as the Newcomen Engine, the last surviving structure of the “new colliery” begun in 1795 (Rimmer, Went and Jessop 2019: 138).

The activities of the 4th and 5th Earls were not confined to industrial development. With the expansion of an essentially rural hamlet into a major regional industrial centre came the need for housing for an expanded population, along with amenities. The design and building of these were as important to the philanthropic aims of the Earls as the industries themselves and this is reflected in the surviving built heritage. The housing and amenities form a cohesiveness together with the industrial buildings because they were designed and built over the same time period (late 18th to mid 19th century), with the same philanthropic aims in mind, utilising sandstone for the most part, and sharing very similar decorative features and details. These included distinct horizontal tooling on the monolithic lintels on many buildings, scored so as to resemble several blocks rather than a single block, tooled and margined quoins, sunken aprons and classical design features.

During the later 19th century piecemeal speculative developments, probably by local builders, began to fill gaps in the urban environment and spread upslope from the original core of the aforementioned. These mark a design and decorative departure from the exacting standards provided by the Fitzwilliam Estate (Rimmer, went and Jessop 2019: 169). Stubbin, where The Fitzwilliam Arms is located, was one such area of later development.

Stubbin is situated on the routeways that once connected Hoyland Green and Elsecar, which during the late 18th century consisted of small irregular enclosed fields. Evidence for that still survives (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Rigg and furrow field systems to the rear (southwest) of The Fitzwilliam Arms. Source: author.

This rural district was partitioned during the final phase of enclosure towards the end of the century (Rimmer, Went and Jessop 2019: 211), when the routeways were formalised. The area of what became Hill Street and Wilkinson Road lies directly on this routeway. The Fitzwilliam Arms appears on the Ordnance Survey first edition 25-inch map, surveyed in 1890 and published in 1892. It is one of two public houses that once stood to the north of Forge Lane. It consists of a three-bay brick building with tooled voussoired lintels and a central doorway with a simple Tuscan-style door surround (cover photo; Rimmer, Went and Jessop 2019: 231). The interior was updated during the 1960s. It continued to be used as a public house until its recent closure.

3. Aims and Objectives

Aims

The aim of the archaeological survey (Historic England level 1) was to prepare a photographic record of a building prior to partial demolition.

The resulting archive and report preserves by record a valued structure that forms part of the history of urban development at Elsecar, within the framework of a recognised and distinctive local sequence. It is to be hoped that this will inform planned attempts to replace the present structure with a near identical replacement, utilising many of the original features.

Specific research aims relating to questions asked in the Research Framework for South Yorkshire were addressed by undertaking the survey. These included understanding the relationship between different components of the post-medieval and industrial landscape (Industry section). Also, the character and extent of cultural and recreational amenities in urban areas, variation in the style and design of residential architecture in urban areas, and the impact on rural districts of the expansion of urban areas in the industrial period (Urban Townscapes).

Objectives

The key objective was to record by photograph No. 42 Hill Street (Figure 3), focussing on its façade.

Although not of the same quality or architectural distinctiveness as the estate led phase of building at Elsecar, the later piecemeal development phase, to which The Fitzwilliam Arms belongs, is valid testimony to the changing face of industrialised rural landscapes. This forms part of the expansion of industrial settlements in rural districts identified in the South Yorkshire Research Framework (section 7). Since little now remains in the immediate locale at Stubbin of that late 19th century phase of development, the record resulting from the present project will contribute towards addressing that need.

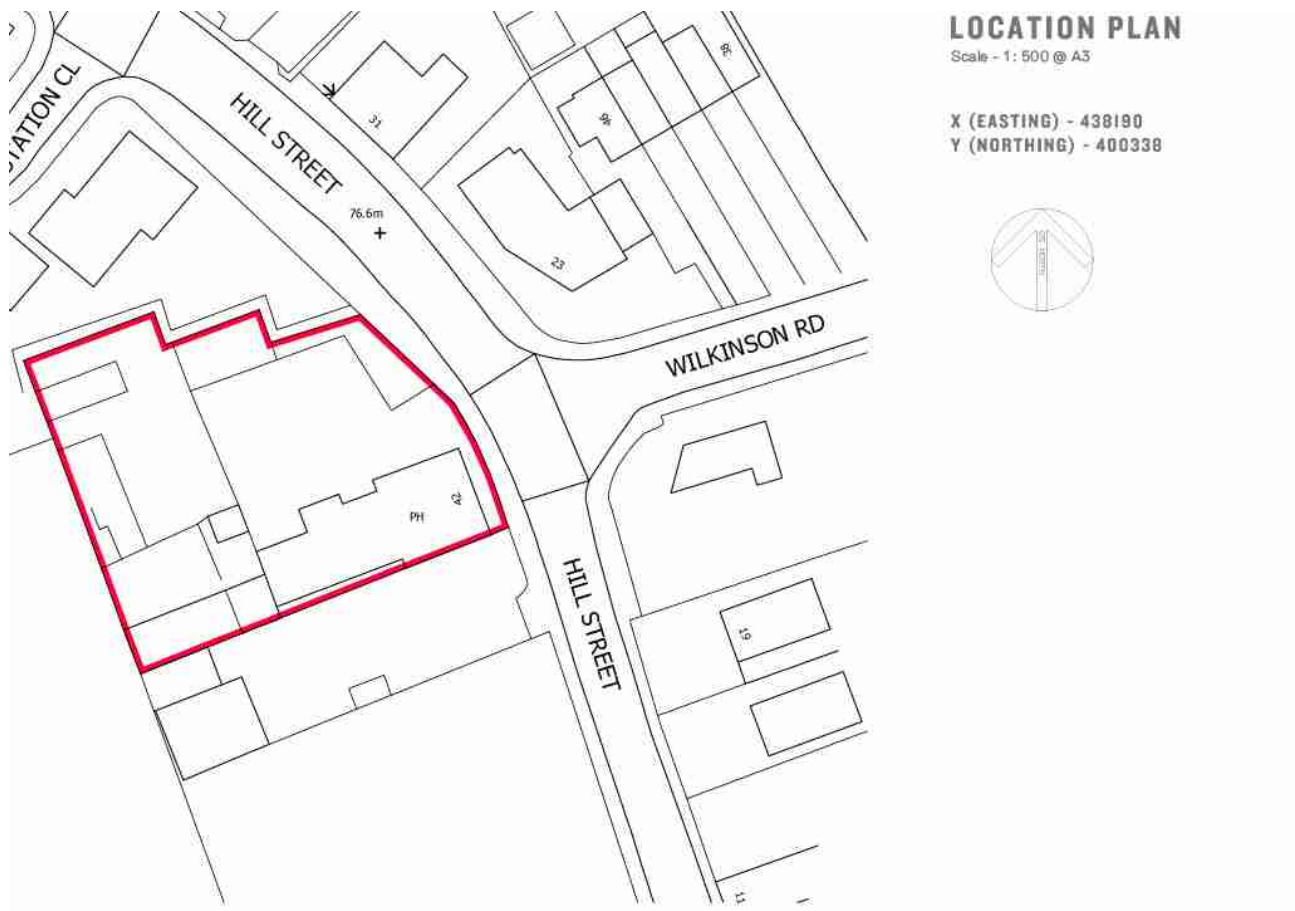


Figure 3: Plan of the development area including No. 42 Hill Street (The Fitzwilliam Arms).

Outputs and dissemination

The main output of the project will be the production of this report and the digital record archived with the Archaeology Data Service. These have the potential to form the basis of, or contribute towards, full publication and public lectures at later dates.

4. Fieldwork

The scheme of archaeological photographic recording was undertaken in accordance with guidelines produced by the Chartered Institute for Archaeology (2020), Historic England (2015; 2016) and best professional practice. South Yorkshire Archaeology Service standards of archaeological building recording (appendix 1) were adhered to.

Photographs taken included wide, contextual images, oblique images, complete elevations, as well as specific elements in more detail and from a variety of angles (Appendix 2). The interior was not accessible, but photographs of the interior were taken through windows, and from above the wall (the roof has been dismantled). Plans were annotated to record the locations from which photographs were taken, and the directions they face (Appendix 1).

The ground floor windows were boarded up with sheets of chipboard. It was noted that all window frames were of uPVC and all downpipes were of plastic. Two contemporary light fittings were in place above the first floor windows on the northeast facing elevation (shown as black squares on Figure 5). Along with two decorative mouldings (photos 33-35, appendix 2), a crude ovoid hollow at the centre of the frieze above the door indicates the former presence of another decorative feature or possibly a light fitting (Figure 5; photo 36, appendix 2). The gutter to the front (northeast facing elevation) was of traditional square sectioned wood. That to the rear (southwest facing elevation) was of plastic. Neither the southeast facing elevation or the southwest facing elevation were fully accessible. However, the southeast facing elevation was featureless apart from the presence of two wall ties (Figure 4; photo 43, appendix 2). The southwest elevation was abutted by built extensions (photo 8, appendix 2).



Figure 4: Southeast facing elevation of The Fitzwilliam Arms. Source: author.

Structural scaffolding is in place in order to prevent the collapse of what is a structurally very weak building and cannot be removed prior to demolition. In addition to the more traditional

photographic record, seventy photographs were taken from as many angles as possible to prepare a 3d model. A drawn version of the northeast facing front elevation was extrapolated from this, supplemented by conventional photographs (Figure 5). This mitigates for the loss of visual detail resulting from the presence of the scaffolding.



Figure 5: The northeast facing elevation of The Fitzwilliam Arms.

5. Discussion and recommendation

Access to the interior of the building was not possible on health and safety grounds, but some of the internal arrangements were able to be recorded by photographing through windows, and gaps in the structure.

The challenge presented by the presence of scaffolding was successfully mitigated for by the expedient of preparing a drawn elevation of the facade, the most sensitive part of the building (Figure 5). Details were adequately recorded by photograph.

There are no recommendations for further work following this survey.

6. Archive

The photographic record has been archived with the Archaeology Data Service (Project id: 20039466). Copies of the report will be supplied to South Yorkshire Historic Environment Record, Barnsley conservation team and Mr Mario Monfredi.

7. Staffing

Fieldwork was undertaken by Tim Cockrell BA, MA, PhD.

8. Acknowledgements

Andrew Lines, who monitored the project on behalf of South Yorkshire Archaeology Service, is thanked for his advice and guidance throughout. Additional guidance was provided by Tony Wiles, Conservation Officer at Barnsley Council. Colt Swift kindly provided much information at an early stage. Mario Monfredi funded the project and facilitated access to the site during the recording stage.

8. References

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CifA). 2020. *Standard and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures*.

Cockrell, T. 2017. *Remembered Places Forgotten Pasts. The Don Drainage Basin in Prehistory*. Oxford: Archaeopress.

Historic England 2015. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide*.

Historic England 2016. *Understanding Historic Buildings: a guide to good recording practice*

Rimmer, J., Went, D., and Jessop, L. 2019. *The Village of Elsecar, South Yorkshire, Historic Area Assessment*. Portsmouth: Historic England.

Appendix 1

Photographic Register and viewpoint location maps

Photo number	Description	Scale	Facing
1	Landscape setting from downslope	N/A	W
2	Northeast and southeast facing elevations	N/A	W
3	Landscape setting of northeast facing elevation	N/A	SW
4	Northeast facing elevation	2m	SW
5	Landscape setting from upslope	N/A	S
6	Northeast and northwest facing elevations	2m	S
7	North Corner showing downpipe and gutter	2m	SW
8	Northwest facing elevation	N/A	SW
9	Downpipe and architrave at north corner	N/A	S
10	Window sill	1m	W
11	Window sill	1m	S
12	Window sill	1m	W
13	Window sill	1m	S
14	Lintel, from underneath	N/A	SW
15	Lintel, from underneath	N/A	S
16	Anta, frieze and architrave from underneath	1m	W
17	Anta, capital, frieze and architrave close up from underneath	N/A	W
18	Anta, capital, frieze and architrave close up from underneath	N/A	S
19	Door, frame and architrave	1m	W
20	Door and antae	1m	S
21	Door and antae	1m	W
22	Wall tie	N/A	SE
23	Lintel	1m	S
24	Lintel	1m	S
25	Wall tie	N/A	SE
26	Window sill	N/A	SE
27	Lintel	N/A	W
28	Detail showing top of lintel	N/A	WNW
29	Lintel	N/A	W

30	Keystone of “corbelled” lintel	N/A	SW
31	“Corbelled” lintel detail	N/A	SW
32	Wall tie	N/A	SW
33	Antae capitals and entablature	N/A	W
34	Detail of decorative coat of arms moulding at northwest end of frieze	N/A	WSW
35	Southeast end of entablature featuring decorative moulding	N/A	WSW
36	Gap for missing feature at the centre of the frieze	N/A	WSW
37	Window sill	N/A	W
38	Window sill	N/A	S
39	Window sill	N/A	S
40	Window sill	N/A	W
41	Window sill	N/A	S
42	Window sill	N/A	W
43	Wall tie	N/A	NW
44	Northwest end of architrave surmounting southwest facing wall	N/A	SE
45	Northwest end of architrave surmounting southwest facing wall from underneath	N/A	E
46	Lintel	N/A	S
47	Lintel	N/A	SE
48	Lintel	N/A	S
49	Northwest end of architrave surmounting northeast facing wall from underneath	N/A	W
50	Lintel	N/A	W
51	Lintel, Architrave and gutter	N/A	SW
52	Lintel, Architrave and gutter	N/A	SW
53	Southeast end of architrave surmounting southwest facing wall	N/A	N
54	Southeast end of architrave surmounting southwest facing wall	N/A	NNW
55	Interior from south corner	N/A	N
56	Interior, featuring chimney breast	N/A	S
57	Interior corridor	N/A	SW
58	Interior corridor	N/A	SSW
59	Interior	N/A	SSE
60	Interior	N/A	SSE

Table 1: Register of photographs

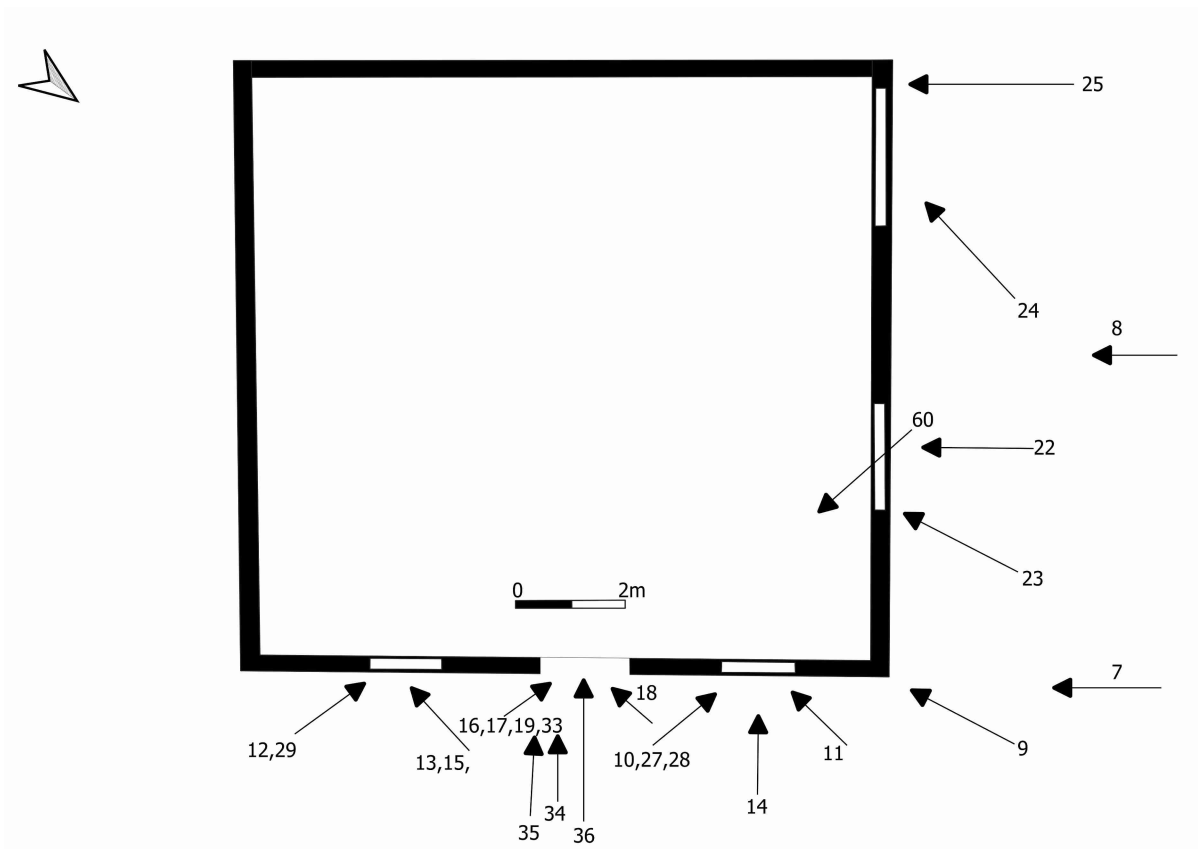


Figure 6: Location and direction of photographs for the ground floor

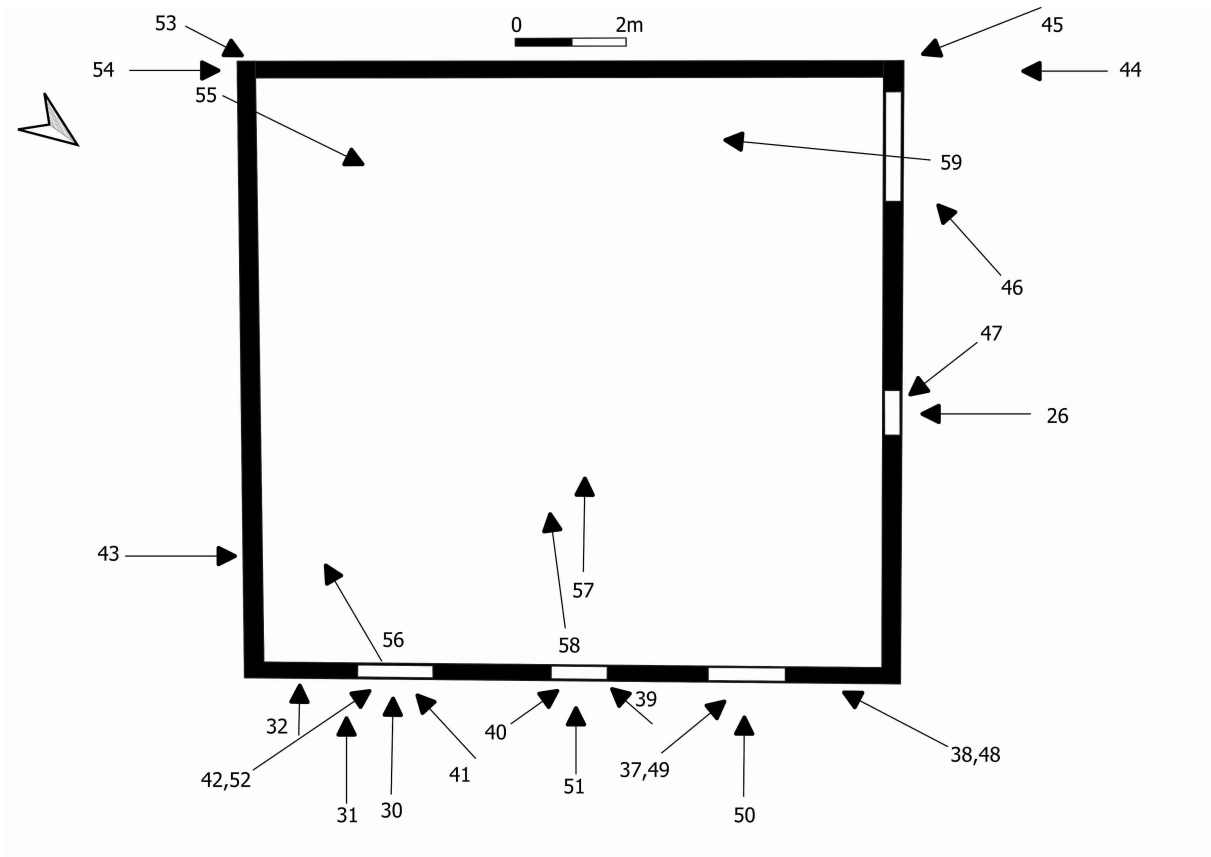


Figure 7: Location and direction of photographs for the first floor

Appendix 2

Record photographs



Figure 8: Photo 1. Landscape setting from downslope



Figure 9: Photo 2. Northeast and southeast facing elevations



Figure 10: Photo 3. Landscape setting of northeast elevation.



Figure 11: Photo 4. Northeast facing elevation.



Figure 12: Photo 5. Landscape setting from upslope.



Figure 13: Photo 6. Northeast and northwest facing elevations.



Figure 14: Photo 7. North corner showing downpipe and gutter.



Figure 15: Photo 8. Northwest facing elevation.



Figure 16: Photo 9. Downpipe and architrave at north corner.



Figure 17: Photo 10. Window sill.



Figure 18: Photo 11. Window sill.



Figure 19: Photo 12. Window sill.



Figure 20: Photo 13. Window sill.



Figure 21: Photo 14. Lintel, from underneath.



Figure 22: Photo 15. Lintel, from underneath.



Figure 23: Photo 16. Anta, frieze and architrave from underneath.



Figure 24: Photo 17. Anta, capital, frieze and architrave from underneath.



Figure 25: Photo 18. Anta, capital, frieze and architrave close up from underneath.



Figure 26: Photo 19. Door, frame and architrave.



Figure 27: Photo 20. Door and antae.



Figure 28: Photo 21. Door and antae.



Figure 29: Photo 22. Wall tie.

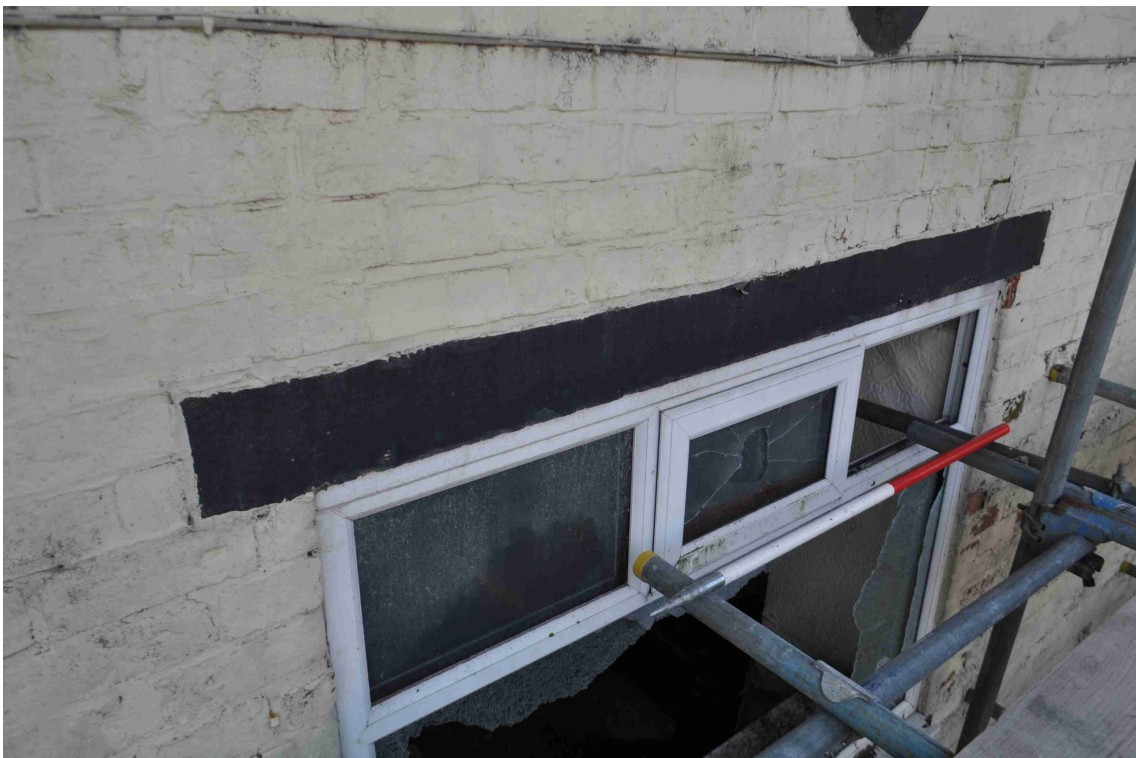


Figure 30: Photo 23. Lintel.

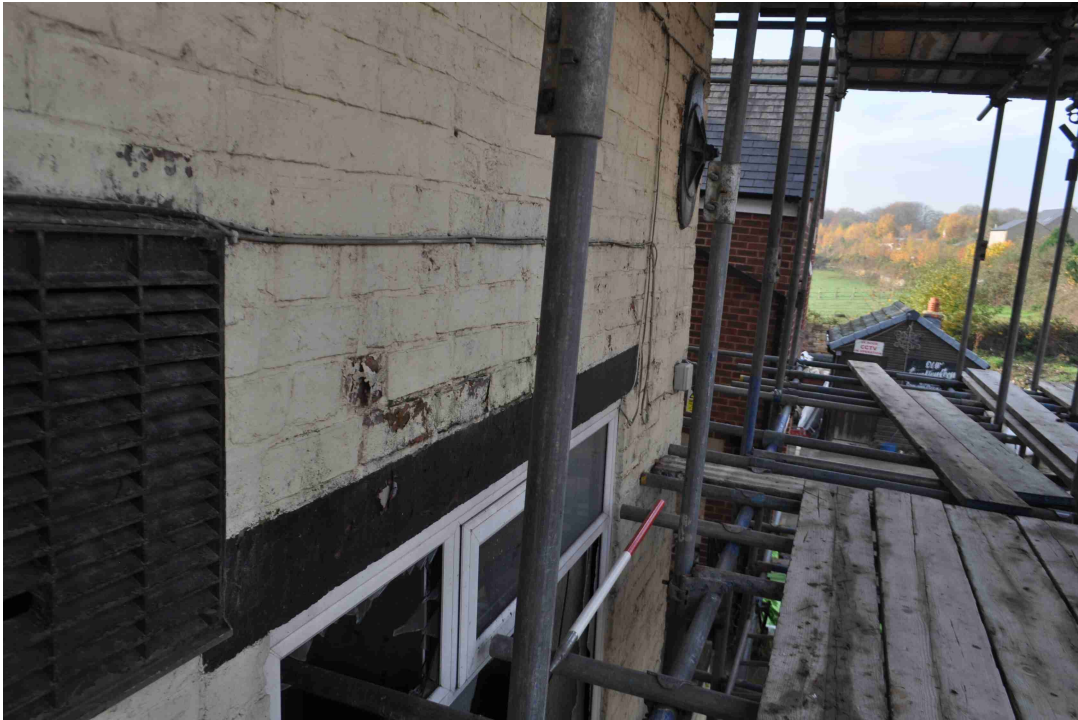


Figure 31: Photo 24. Lintel.

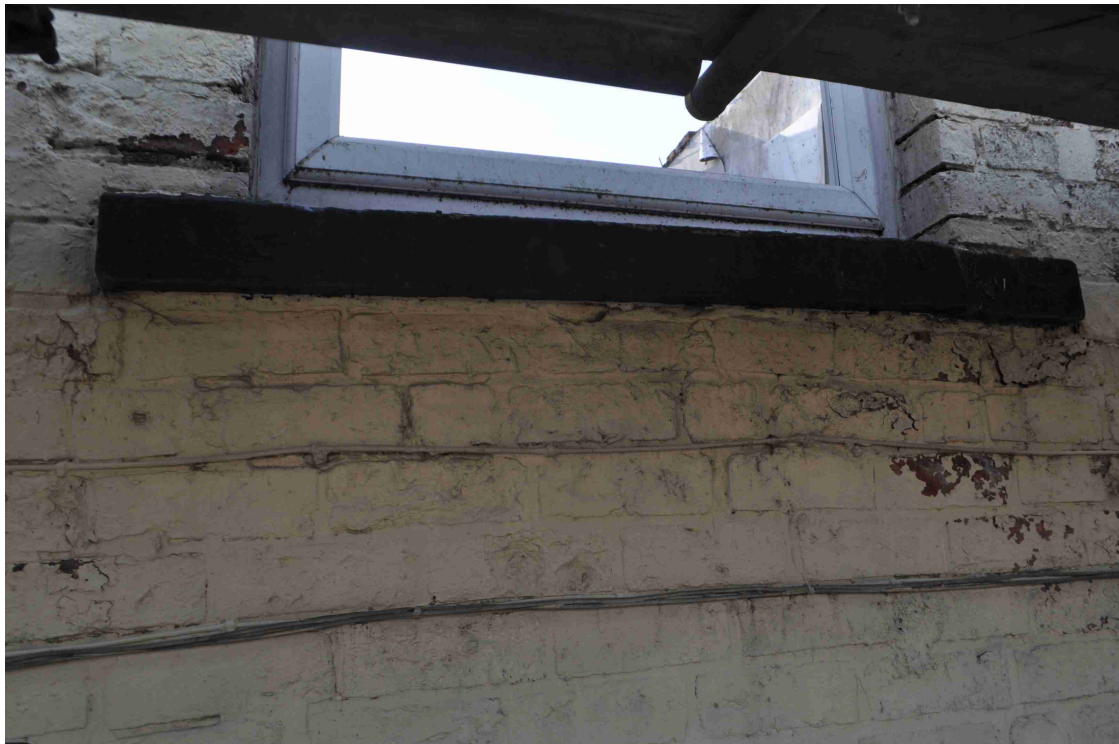


Figure 32: Photo 26. Window sill.



Figure 33: Photo 27. Lintel.



Figure 34: Photo 28. Detail showing top of lintel.



Figure 35: Photo 29. Lintel.



Figure 36: Photo 30. Keystone of "corbelled" lintel.



Figure 37: Photo 31. "Corbelled" lintel detail.



Figure 38: Photo 32. Wall tie.



Figure 39: Photo 33. Antae capitals and entablature.



Figure 40 Photo 34. Detail of decorative coat of arms moulding at northwest end of frieze.



Figure 41: Photo 35. Southeast end of entablature featuring decorative moulding.



Figure 42: Photo 36. Gap for missing feature at the centre of the frieze.



Figure 43: Photo 37. Window sill.



Figure 44: Photo 38. Window sill.



Figure 45: Photo 39. Window sill.



Figure 46: Photo 40. Window sill.



Figure 47: Photo 41. Window sill.



Figure 48: Photo 42. Window sill.



Figure 49: Photo 43. Wall tie.



Figure 50: Photo 44. Northeast end of architrave surmounting southwest facing wall.

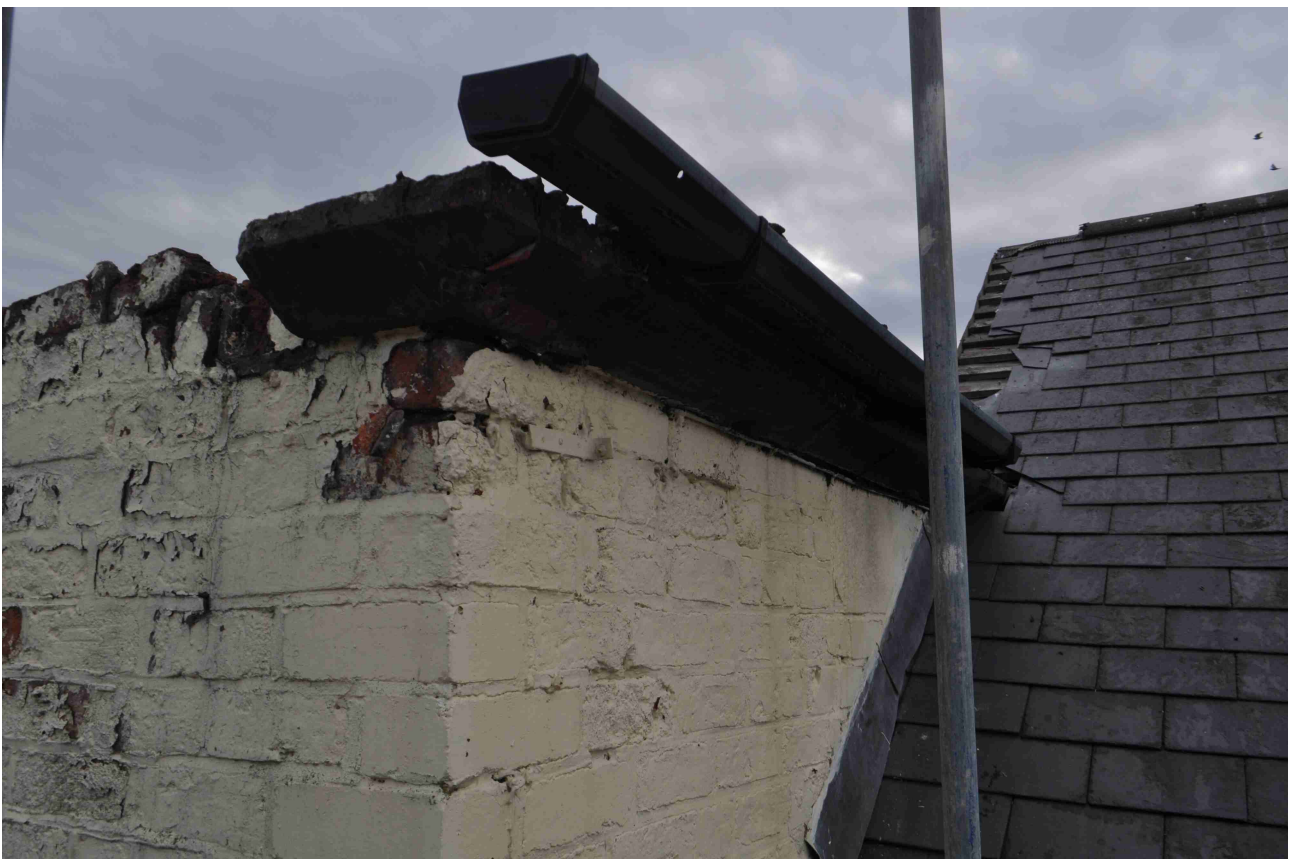


Figure 51: Photo 45. Northwest end of architrave surmounting southwest facing wall from underneath.



Figure 52: Photo 46. Lintel.



Figure 53: Photo 47. Lintel.



Figure 54: Photo 48. Lintel.



Figure 55: Photo 49. Northwest end of architrave surmounting northeast facing wall from underneath.



Figure 56: Photo 50. Lintel.



Figure 57: Photo 51. Lintel, architrave and gutter.



Figure 58: Photo 52. Lintel, architrave and gutter.



Figure 59: Photo 53. Southeast end of architrave surmounting southwest facing wall.



Figure 60: Photo 54. Southeast end of architrave surmounting southwest facing wall.



Figure 61: Photo 55. Interior from south corner.



Figure 62: Photo 56. Interior, featuring chimney breast.

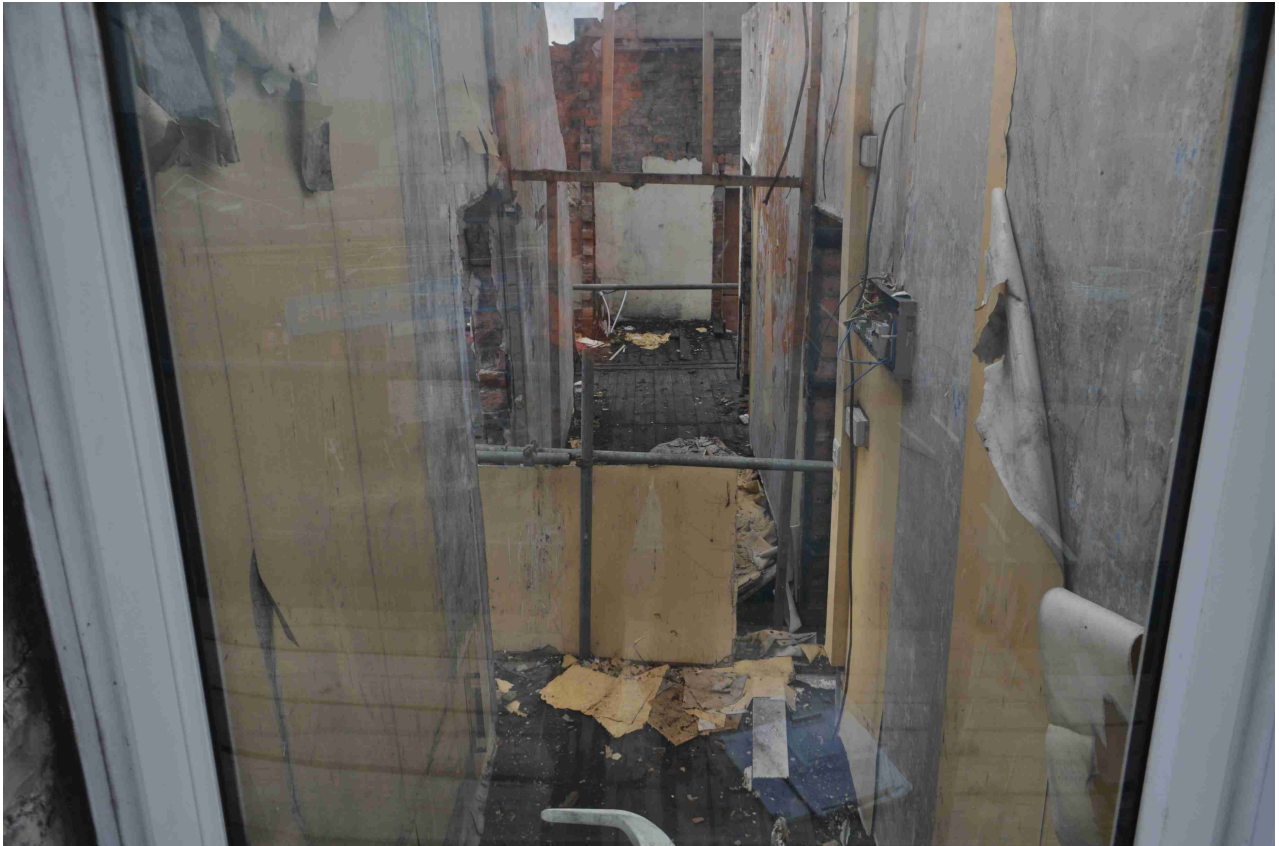


Figure 63: Photo 57. Interior corridor.



Figure 64: Photo 58. Interior corridor.



Figure 65: Photo 59. Interior.



Figure 66: Photo 60. Interior.