

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	3
1 INTRODUCTION	4
1.1 Project origins	4
2 METHODOLOGY	6
2.1 Project design	6
2.2 Desk-based assessment	6
2.3 Archive	6
2.4 Walk-over survey	6
2.5 Development proposals	6
3 BACKGROUND	8
3.1 Location, topography and geology	8
4 HISTORICAL CONTEXT	8
4.1 Historical background	8
4.2 Cartography	13
5 SURVEY RESULTS	14
5.1 Methodology	14
5.2 Lay-out of the buildings	14
5.3 Elevations of the Chapel	15
5.4 Internal organisation of the Chapel	17
6 DISCUSSION	21
6.1 Academic merit	21
6.2 Discussion	21
7 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	22
8 BIBLIOGRAPHY	22

FIGURES

Figure 1	Location of survey	4
Figure 2	Location of study building in red outline	5
Figure 3	Proposed front and rear elevations	7
Figure 4	Proposed floor plan	7
Figure 5	Layout as depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1867	12
Figure 6	Layout as depicted on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1901	13
Figure 7	Layout as depicted on the Third Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1926	13
Figure 8	Cross-section showing lower ground floor and ground floor	14
Figure 9	Front and rear elevations to the Chapel	15
Figure 10	Front elevation to the Chapel	16
Figure 11	Ginnel to Dawson Place	16
Figure 12	Upper west elevation	17
Figure 13	Lower west elevation	17
Figure 14	Floor plan of the Chapel	18
Figure 15	Worship area (1), eastern end	18
Figure 16	Worship area (1), western end	18
Figure 17	Dedication to Robert Lamb	19
Figure 18	Roof truss, crossbar and air vents	19
Figure 19	Gothic style window to porch	19
Figure 20	Main door to porch	19
Figure 21	Meeting room looking west	20
Figure 22	Stairs linking the floors	20
Figure 23	Toilet (4)	20
Figure 24	Kitchen (5)	20
Figure 25	Store (6)	21
Figure 26	Pantry (7)	21

SUMMARY

The Methodist Chapel was largely a utilitarian and modest building serving a growing mid Victorian rural community endowed in 1865. In keeping with the moderation of the religion, there were no architectural or graphic embellishments except a marble tablet dedicated to Robert Lamb.

The building had been heavily renovated during its lifetime especially on the lower ground floor where a kitchen and toilet had been added.

Nonetheless, there appears to have been a constant and conservative use of space with no additions to the original building fabric save for some minor repairs.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project origins

The proposed scheme of improvement advocated by the client has the potential to affect the character and appearance of a building of special architectural and historic interest; in this case a redundant chapel formerly belonging to the Methodist Church at Main Street, St Bees, Cumbria (figure 1). Renovation will affect the character and appearance of the building and as a result, a programme of archaeological building recording has been initiated by the archaeological contractor prior to the amendments taking place.

Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service has identified these buildings as a local non-designated heritage asset under the NPPF (2019) protocols and worthy as a heritage asset of local historical interest

Jeremy Parsons of Cumbria County Council Historic Environment Service in a letter to Christie Burns of Copeland Borough Council suggested the following condition:

Prior to the carrying out of any construction work the existing historic building affected by the proposed development shall be recorded in accordance with a Level 2 Survey as described by Historic England's document Understanding Historic Buildings A Guide to Good Recording Practice, 2016. Within 2 months of the commencement of construction works a digital copy of the resultant Level 2 Survey report shall be furnished to the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: to ensure that a permanent record is made of the building of architectural and historical interest prior to its alteration as part of the proposed development.

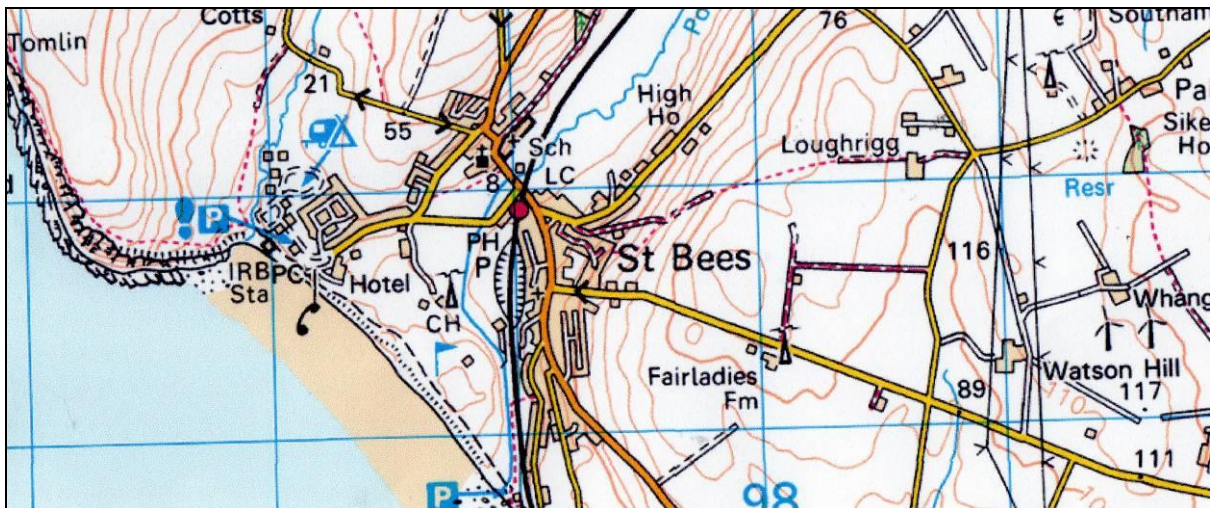


Figure 1. Location of survey. (OS copyright licence no. 100044205).

Old buildings have intrinsic conservation problems because of their age. Often they have been neglected; their function altered due to social or economic changes resulting in major structural failure or potential failure. Striking a balance between retaining the heritage asset as economically viable and their importance within a wider historic context requires compromise and understanding in order that the aims of a realistic conservation policy succeed.

To ascertain the historical and archaeological merits of the study building affected by this development, the contractor investigated known historical records through a rapid desk-based assessment and the survival of extant buildings via a programme of building recording equivalent to Level 2 as described by English Heritage: *Understanding Historic Buildings; A Guide to Good Recording Practice, 2016*.

The study building was located at NX 97122 11575 (figure 2) and is part of planning application 21/2324.

The desk-based assessment included visits to Cumbria Record Office, Whitehaven. The objective of this exercise was to collate sufficient detail to identify the issues and potential for academic research in order to provide a historical context for targeted archaeological and architectural enquiry.

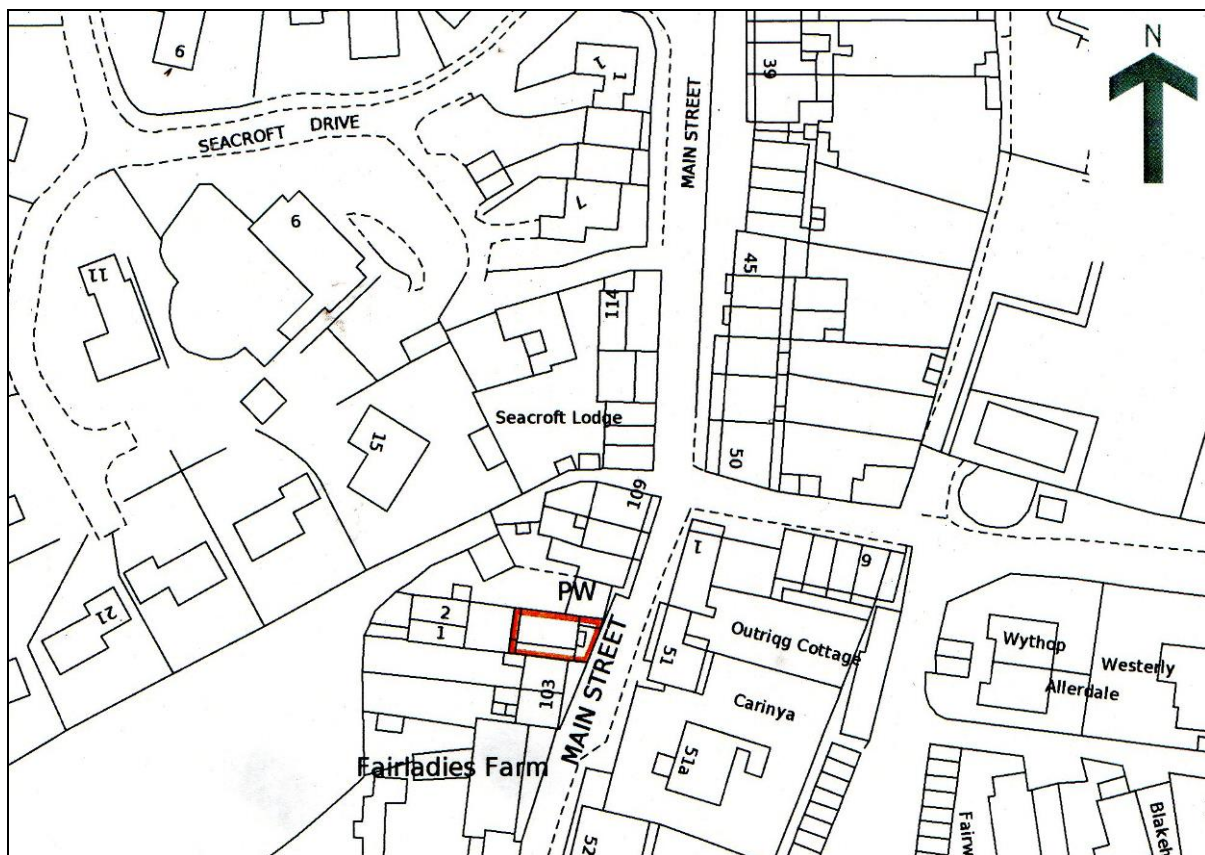


Figure 2. Location of study building in red outline (OS copyright licence no. 100044205).

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Project Design

Gerry Martin Associates Ltd proposed a project design for the archaeological recording of an extant Chapel. This proposal outlined the contractors' professional suitability, a brief historical summary of the study area, general objectives required of the project, the methodology and the resources needed for the successful implementation of this work.

Gerry Martin Associates Ltd was commissioned to undertake a rapid desk-based assessment and an archaeological building survey on behalf of the client Dave Nelson.

The following report has been assembled to the relevant standards and protocols (IFA 2014) of the Institute of Archaeologists (now Chartered Institute for Archaeologists), combined with accepted best practice and in accordance with the brief prepared by the client.

Fieldwork took place on November 5th and 6th 2021.

2.2 Desk-based assessment

In accordance with the brief, the rapid desk-based assessment investigated primary and secondary historical sources, maps and other literature in order to set the survey results into their past cultural, historical and topographic context.

The desk-based assessment comprised a search of three primary archival repositories.

- British Newspapers Online
- Cumbria Record Office, Whitehaven was sought for details of church minute books, landowners, occupiers and cartographic evidence.
- The Historic Environment Record, online, provided the Sites and Monuments Record describing previous archaeological reconnaissance and through electronic media showing the spatial distribution of these discoveries.

2.3 Archive

The archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design and the guidelines set out by Management of Archaeological Projects (English Heritage, 1991), Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (Historic England 2015) and the Chartered Institute for Field Archaeologists protocols for a Building Survey (2014).

The archive will be deposited with an appropriate repository, Cumbria Archives, Carlisle and a copy of the report donated to the County Sites and Monuments Record, as is standard practice in Cumbria.

A copy of the report will be filed online with the *Oasis* electronic archive of grey archaeological literature.

2.4 Walk-over survey

A walk-over of the site failed to reveal any associated building features or sub-surface monuments.

2.5 Development proposals

The development proposes the refurbishment of the shell of the former Methodist Chapel (figure 3).

The exterior will remain largely unchanged with skylights added within a slate roof in order to illuminate a new suspended first floor (figure 4). Perpendicular-style windows will remain *in situ* as at present (figure 3).

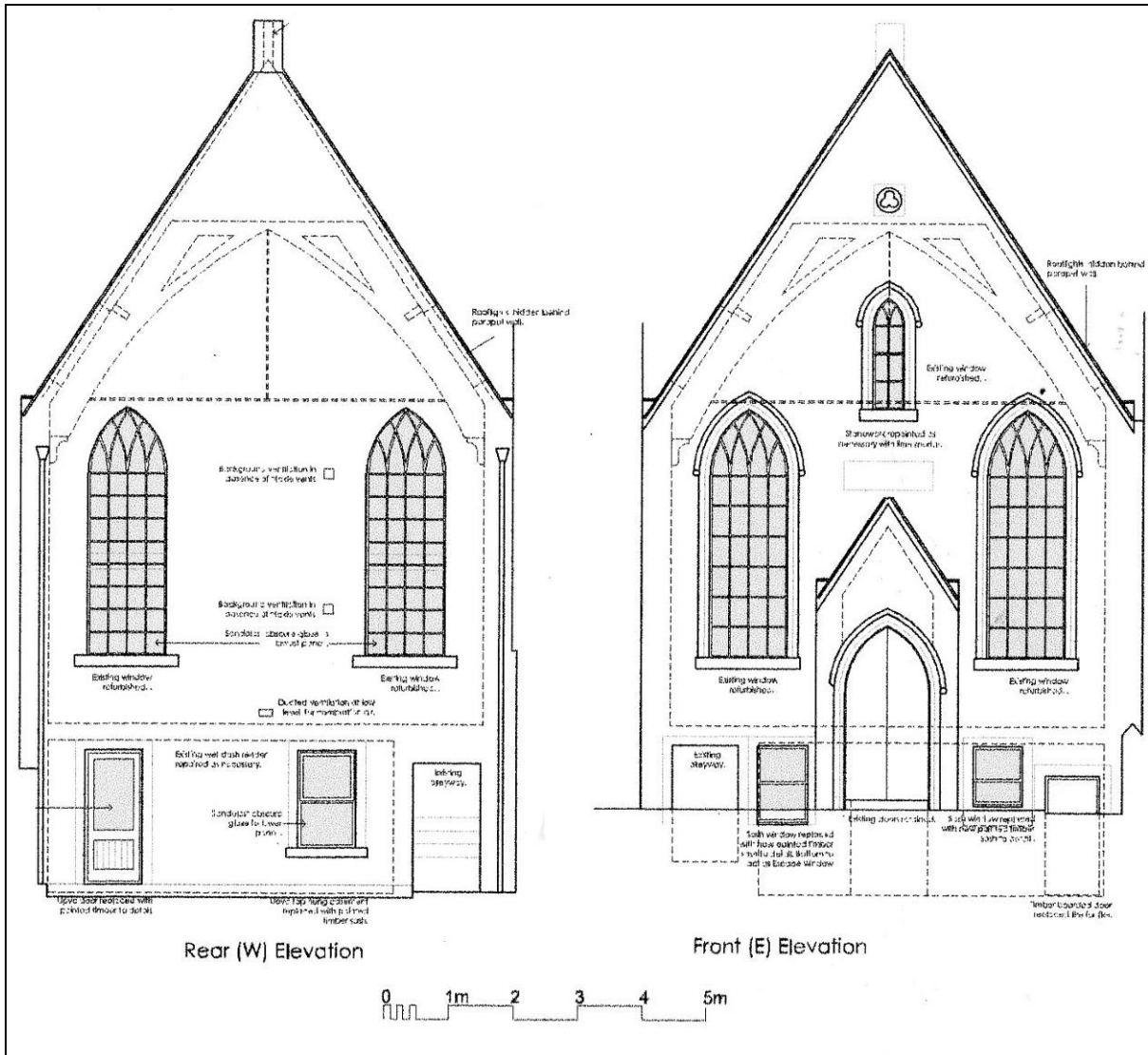


Figure 3. Proposed front and rear elevations

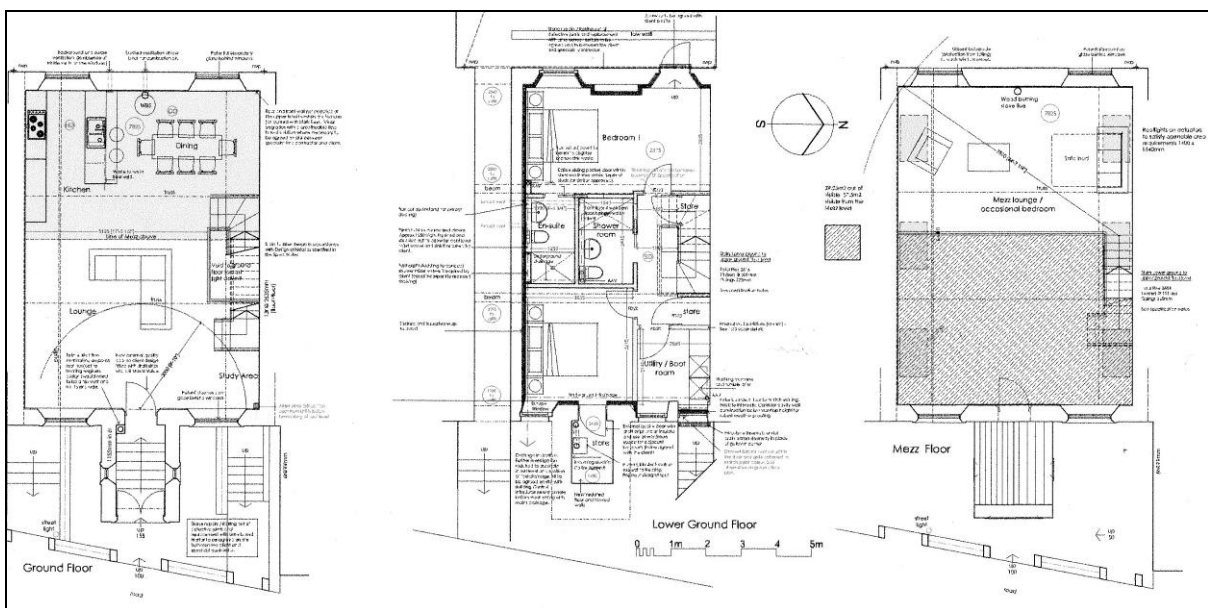


Figure 4. Proposed floor plan

The lower ground floor will be converted to a bedroom with concomitant toilet, utility room and storeroom.

The ground floor will have a mezzanine floor added. The ground floor will comprise a lounge and kitchen and the mezzanine floor will provide an occasional lounge and bedroom (figure 4).

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 Location, topography and geology

The study building is located within the southern historic core of St Bees on high ground overlooking the valley of Pow Beck at a height of 35m OD.

The British Geological Survey [Geology of Britain viewer | British Geological Survey \(BGS\)](#) describes the solid and superficial geology as follows:

St Bees Sandstone Member - Sandstone. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 247 to 252 million years ago in the Triassic Period. Local environment previously dominated by rivers.

Setting: rivers. These sedimentary rocks are fluvial in origin. They are detrital, ranging from coarse- to fine-grained and form beds and lenses of deposits reflecting the channels, floodplains and levees of a river or estuary (if in a coastal setting).

Glacio-fluvial Deposits, Devensian - Sand And Gravel. Superficial Deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by ice age conditions (UGF).

Setting: ice age conditions. These sedimentary deposits are glacio-fluvial in origin. They are detrital, generally coarse-grained, they form beds, channels, plains and fans associated with melt-water.

4 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

4.1 Historical background

This historical background is compiled mostly from secondary sources and is intended only as a brief summary of historical developments specific to the study area.

Evidence of Mesolithic and Bronze Age settlement has been found in St Bees but Iron Age and Roman occupation lacks visibility.

The name St Bees is a corruption of the Norse name for the village, which is given in the earliest charter of the Priory as "Kyrkeby becok", which can be translated as the "Church town of Bega", She was said to be an Irish princess who fled across the Irish Sea in the ninth century to St Bees to avoid an enforced marriage. Carved stones at the priory show that Irish-Norse Vikings settled here in the 10th century.

Cumbria fell to Norman hegemony in 1092, when they seized the local lordships. William Meschin, Lord of Egremont, dedicated a Benedictine priory for a prior and six monks sometime between 1120

and 1135. The priory was subordinate to the Benedictine monastery of St Mary at York. The priory dates from just after this time, probably about 1150.

The priory had a great influence on the area. The monks with the laity worked the land, fished, and extended the priory buildings. The ecclesiastical parish of St Bees was large and stretched to Ennerdale, Loweswater, Wasdale and Eskdale. The priory was closed on the orders of Henry VIII in 1539 as part of the Dissolution of the Monasteries. The nave and transepts of the monastic church have continued in use as the parish church to the present day, but much of the extensive monastic buildings were plundered or fell into decay.

The site of the priory was established on higher ground above the peat beds that fill the valley, whilst secular settlement grew up on the opposite side of the valley. The oldest existing house dates from the early 16th century. The present Main Street was based on a string of small farms and labourers cottages.

In 1816 St Bees Theological College was founded; the first institution for the training of Church of England clergy outside Oxford and Cambridge universities. To house the college, the monastic chancel of the Priory was re-roofed and served as the main lecture room, and additional lecture rooms were built in the 1860s. The establishment closed in 1895.

In 1849 the Furness Railway reached the St Bees allowing the professional classes to commute to the commercial and industrial towns of Whitehaven or Workington. This led to the building of many large villas such as Lonsdale Terrace. Moreover, the railway made possible the exploitation of St Bees Sandstone. The red sandstone was popular as a building material especially in the expanding town of Barrow-in-Furness before the industry died out in the 1970s.

The study area has not been subject to formal archaeological enquiry.

The Historic Environment Record lists five entries of no direct significance within 500m of the study building:

- HER 1182 Flint scatter of unknown date
- HER 11999 Outrigg Quarry, documentary evidence of post-medieval date
- HER 19130 Bee Bole at 52 Main Street, post-medieval
- HER 41445 Fleatham Farm. Farmstead, farmhouse, threshing barn and milking parlour of 18th and 19th century date
- HER 43484 St Bees gasworks, documentary and surviving building, Victorian

CASCAT (Cumbria Archives online) lists only one documentary record regarding a minute book pertaining to the Chapel (YDFCM 7/7/1).

The Minute Book of the Free Methodist Chapel, St Bees covers the period 1865 to 1957 and is a summary of temporal church business, focusing on income and expenditure as well as social events promoting the chapel. There are no plans or drawings within it but it provides a discourse as to the establishment of the chapel and its ensuing maintenance.

St Bee Chapel was on the Whitehaven Circuit and was founded on 27th March 1865. Land was purchased by a trustee Mr Ireland, "part of a free gift for its building site included in a subscription of £50". The Reverend W. Lawson and Mr Ireland were authorised to call a meeting at Bigg Rigg, where the building project was authorised on 12th April 1865.

The secretary (Mr Ireland) was authorised to assemble plans and costs on 18th May 1865 and these were presented as a Chapel and school-room on 15th June 1865, the architect being John Smith of Bank End.

Tenders were sent out for five construction trades, the successful applicants being as follows:

- John Brocklebank of St Bees, masonry, £167 6/-
- Isaac Jenkinson of Egremont, joinery, £97, 5/-
- Isaac Southwaite of Egremont, plastering £67
- Robert Edgar of St Bees, painting £6 10/-
- William Strathern of Whitehaven, plumbing £13 10/-

The overall fee proposal for the construction of the Chapel was £351 11/-.

On 7th August 1865, the foundation stone was laid at 2.30pm by Thomas Hudson. This was a considerable local social occasion. Five hundred adult tickets were sold for one shilling and two hundred child tickets for six pence. Twenty one railway carriages discharged eight hundred people with tea provided afterwards.

On 25th October 1865 a gale blew down a large portion of the west end gable wall with the damaged assessed to cost £30 to £40.

An entry on 2nd November 1865 fitting-out the school room was successfully tendered by Thomas Head for the cost of £11 15/-.

On 3rd May 1866 the Chapel was insured for £200.

The Chapel was officially opened for public worship on Sunday 15th June 1866. The following day, the event was celebrated with a tea party in "Mr Carter's field". A special cheap train excursion brought six hundred visitors of which between three and four hundred partook of tea.

The final disbursements were enumerated on February 7th 1867 amounting to £438 4/- and one penny. The breakdown was as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| • The ground | £34 |
| • Masons contract | £167 10/- |
| • Joiners contract | £97 5/- |
| • Plasterers contract | £67 |
| • Plumbers contract | £13 10/- |
| • Painters contract | £6 10/- |
| • Conveyance fees | £3 10/- |

• School fittings	£10 10/6
• Masons extras	£3 13/-
• Plasterers extras	£2 13/9
• Plumbers extras	£3 4/10
• Joiners extras	£3 4/8
• Painters extras	14/- 6d
• Enrolment in chancery	£1 10/5
• Railings	£5 8/6
• Gassing etc	£5 12/6
• Meter tap	£3 12/6
• Sunday bills	£8 7/1
• Balance in hand	1/-

The main contributors towards the cost of the Chapel were as follows:

• Public subscription	£171 7/7 ½
• Mr Ireland and family	£60
• Mr Falkner and family	£60
• Mr Jackson and family	£30
• Sunday School Grant	£25
• Six friend @ £5 each	£30

The foundation of the Chapel was commemorated at the end of June each year with tea parties. Up to 140 guests were accommodated in the school room, likely to have been the room beneath the worship area.

On February 22nd 1889 the Chapel suffered storm damage, the outer west wall next to Johnston's Yard bulging out. It was decided to prevent further damage to "bind the lower ends of the principals inside of the Chapel with a perpendicular or cross bar of iron with central supports from above". It was also decided to "put a man-hole through the ceiling above the door where the ceiling had fallen down and that Mr Graves attend to the repairs".

From 24th June 1889 the insurance premium was increased to £300.

On 1st August 1899 it was reported that damp at the end of the Chapel had removed the "tabling" (probably plaster) replaced in Portland cement.

On October 28th 1908 a meeting was held to discuss renovation of the Chapel; heating and some structural changes that were assessed to cost between £60 and £70. An attempt was made to relocate the Chapel to a new site but the proposed land parcel owned by the Earl of Lonsdale was not offered for sale and the move never took place.

No meetings took place after 8th December 1915 until 1st September 1920.

On 21st February 1925 the Chapel seats were removed and redecoration by J.Marsden at a cost of £21 13/- was approved on March 30th 1925. The colour scheme was primrose at the top of the wall pale rose at the bottom.

On 8th April 1933 painting the outside of the Chapel was approved.

On 10th February 1937 the original Trust was terminated replaced on 1st April 1937 by a new amalgamated trust.

On 11th April 1940 a poor financial situation was reported which continued throughout the War. A proposed toilet at a cost of £600 was considered too much as late as 4th February 1953, resulting in the sale of Outrigg House on 28th April 1954 to supplement funds.

The impression provided, is of a flourishing congregation with the Chapel, a significant component in the spiritual life of a rural Cumbrian community in the 19th century and up to the First World War.

Earlier influence is difficult to assess until the Church of England was disestablished in the mid 19th century when widespread religious tolerance was accepted and religious communion was formalised in dedicated chapels.

With subsequent rural depopulation as agriculture became less labour intensive and local heavy industries declined, congregations dwindled, leading to closure of the Chapel in 2019.



Figure 5. Layout as depicted on the First Edition Ordnance Survey map published in 1867

4.2 Cartography

The study building appears to be illustrated on the first edition Ordnance Survey map as a rectangular building adjacent to Fairladies Farm (figure 5), a late 18th century Grade II listed house formed from an earlier cottage and house. Interestingly, Dawson Place is not illustrated to the rear, although it bears the hallmarks of a double pile house that would have been extant around 1800.

The chapel does not bear the nomenclature Chapel, although by the second edition map issued in 1901 it is titled "Meth Chap" (figure 6). This map shows a building immediately adjacent to the north giving the impression of a contiguous range although in reality the Chapel is detached.

The third edition Ordnance Survey illustrates no change to the spatial arrangement of buildings (figure 7) an arrangement that continued to the present.

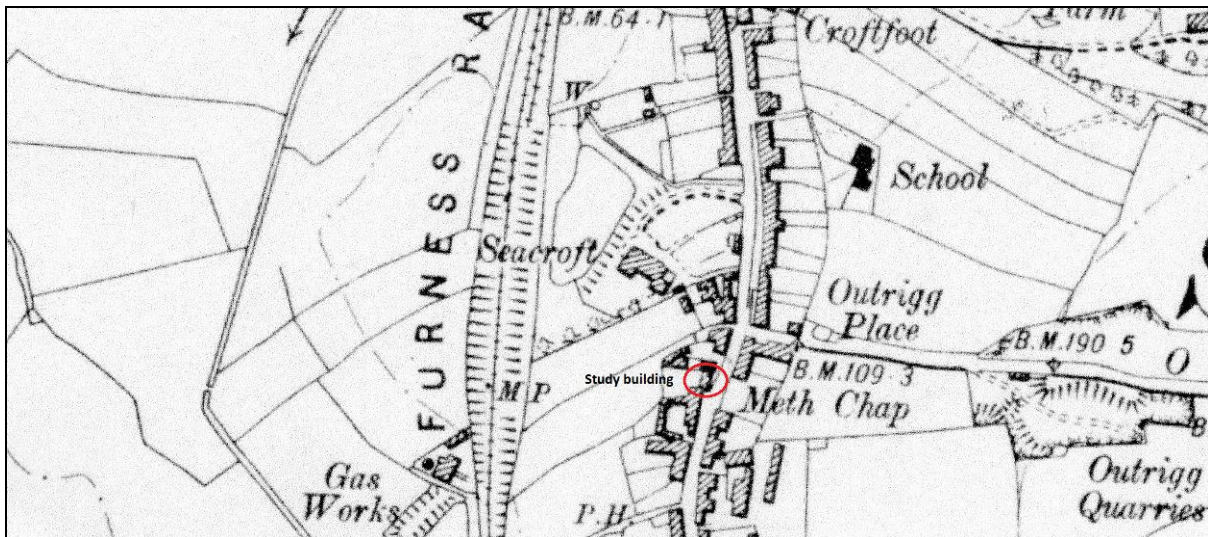


Figure 6. Layout as depicted on the Second Edition Ordnance Survey map published in 1901

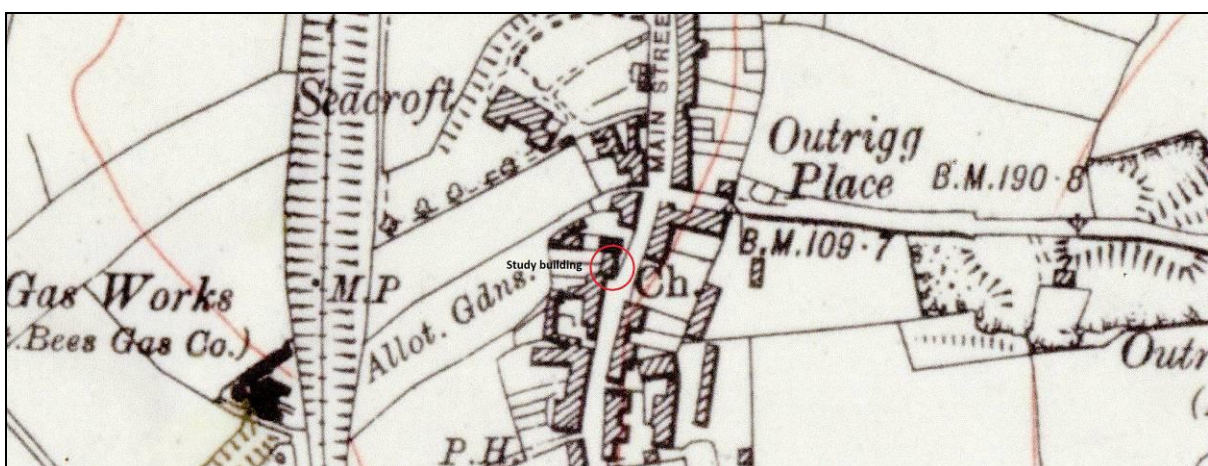


Figure 7. Layout as depicted on the Third Edition Ordnance Survey map published in 1926

5 SURVEY RESULTS

5.1 Methodology

The buildings in the study area were surveyed on November 5th and 6th 2021 by Gerry Martin with the use of tapes, a Laser Distance Measurement device and hand-held GPS equipment.

WK Design had previously produced scaled drawings for this building which were made available to the archaeological contractor.

The buildings were fully accessible, although natural light was restricted within the study building, requiring occasional flash photography.

The survey comprised of scaled photographic recording of the interiors and elevations of all the buildings, with detailed photography of any worthy architectural elements.

Notations were undertaken regarding the characteristics of the study buildings, including metrical data, thresholds, materials and building techniques employed.

The corpus of the report is formed from these notes and photographs.

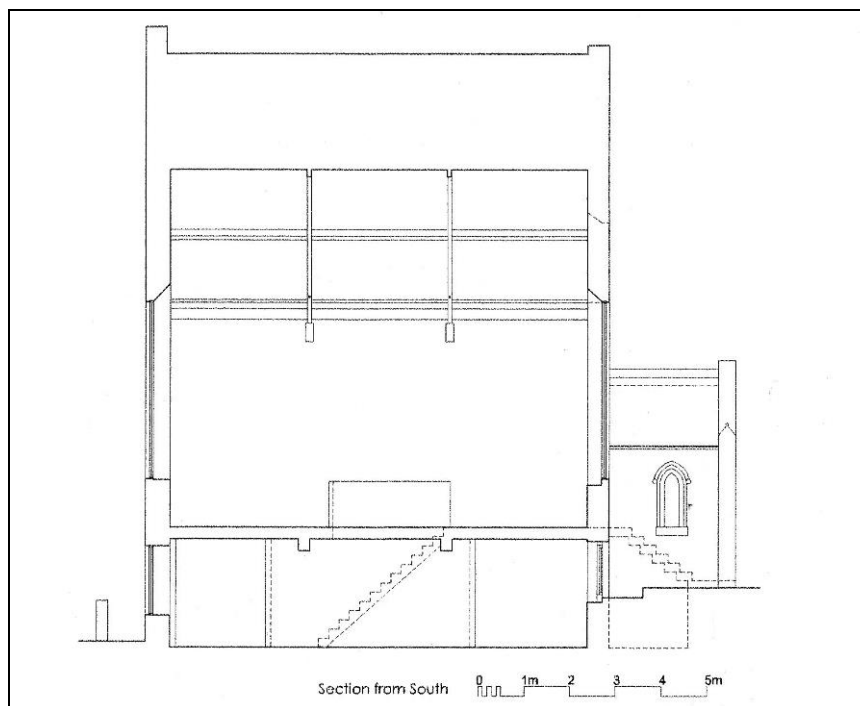


Figure 8. Cross-section showing lower ground floor and ground floor

5.2 Lay-out of the building

The study area consisted of a single structure with a wall thickness of 0.50m set on two floors; a lower ground floor accessed by stairs from a ground floor (figure 8).

A single structural phase existed with internal modifications associated with modernisation, primarily on the lower ground floor. A stair lift had been added within the stairwell relatively recently.

5.3 Elevations of the Chapel

1. East elevation

The east elevation (figures 9 and 10) was composed of concordant red sandstone blocks of varying sizes pointed by a cream mortar. The elevation comprised of the gable end of the Chapel where worship was conducted (1), a porch (2) and in the lower ground floor a toilet (4) and kitchen (5), a breadth measuring 7.64m and height of 11.76m.



Figure 9. Front and rear elevations to the Chapel

The roof was Cumbrian slate. A cartouche on the gable end was illegible (figure 10), the sandstone having been weathered beyond comprehension. It probably represented the foundation stone, albeit moved from its original provenance in on August 7th 1865.

An alley or ginnel was evident on the southern side of the elevation accessing Dawson Place to the rear. Framed with red sandstone jamb and lintel with a rebate measuring 0.18m in thickness, the threshold measured 1.08m in width and 1.82m in height (figure 11).

The facade was dominated by two perpendicular-style windows measuring 3.90m in height and 1.18m in width formed from 24 panes of glass measuring 0.28m x 0.47m set in wooden muntins (figure 10). Stylistically, these windows were typical of 19th century Gothic Revival.



Figure 10. Front elevation to the Chapel



Figure 11. Ginnel to Dawson Place

A central porch measuring 4.02m in height, 2.20m in width and 2.44m in length accessed the Chapel through a probable original wooden door measuring 1.34m in width and 2.79m in height through a perpendicular-style door jamb. The door jamb was 0.18m in thickness seriously damaged by erosion. The right side masonry had been replaced relatively recently but the left side was in poor repair, missing a stone corbel.

The following four architectural elements were observed within the elevation:

- An opaque plain glazed, rectangular sash window serving toilet (4) measuring 1.24m in height and 0.78m in width.
- A plain glazed, rectangular window serving kitchen (5) measuring 1.08m in height and 0.78m in width. The sill was formed from red brick.
- A doorway that entered the kitchen (5) measuring 1.86m in height and 0.85m in width replete with a stone surround 0.18m in thickness.
- A central perpendicular-style window directly above the porch. This could not be accessed but measured 1.91m in height and 0.74m in width.

2. West elevation

The west elevation (figures 9 and 12) was finished in pebble-dash roughcast applied to coursed red sandstone blocks of varying sizes. The elevation comprised of the rear gable end of the Chapel where worship was conducted (1) and within the lower ground floor a function room, probably the old school room (3), a breadth measuring 7.64m and height of 12.79m.

The facade was dominated by two perpendicular-style windows measuring 4.05m in height and 1.20m in width formed from 32 panes of glass measuring 0.27m x 0.36m set in wooden muntins (figure 12). Stylistically, these windows were typical of 19th century Gothic Revival.



Figure 12. Upper west elevation



Figure 13. Lower west elevation

The following two architectural elements were observed within the elevation (figure 13):

- A plain glazed, rectangular UPVC window serving the lower ground floor (5) measuring 1.52m in height and 0.89m in width. The sill and window jamb was formed from red sandstone with cement render.
- A UPVC doorway that entered the lower ground floor (5) measuring 2.20m in height and 0.90m in width replete with a stone surround 0.18m in thickness. The sill and door jamb was formed from red sandstone with cement render.

5.4 Internal organisation of the Chapel

The internal organisation of the Chapel was divided into seven spatial units spread over a lower ground and ground floor (figure 14). The principal spaces were a worship area (1) and a meeting room (3).

1. Worship area

The worship area measured 9.10m in length and 5.76m in width with a height of 7.81m to the roof, 4.93m to the top of the Chapel wall (figure 14).

Entry was from the porch (2), through a modern door within a Gothic arch measuring 2.48m in height and 0.92m in width flanked by two Gothic windows described above (figure 15).

The floor was formed from timber floorboards formerly overlain by carpet with panelling to a height of 0.89m above the floor on the north, east and southern sides, the remaining walls painted off-white. The western end was dominated by two large windows described above (figure 16). The room was plain with the only embellishment a marble tablet measuring 0.92m in width and 0.62m in height dedicated to Robert Lamb (figure 17).

Two roof trusses with two iron cross-bars supported the roof probably established as remedial action taken in 1889. The roof also bore a manhole and three decorated air vents (figure 18).

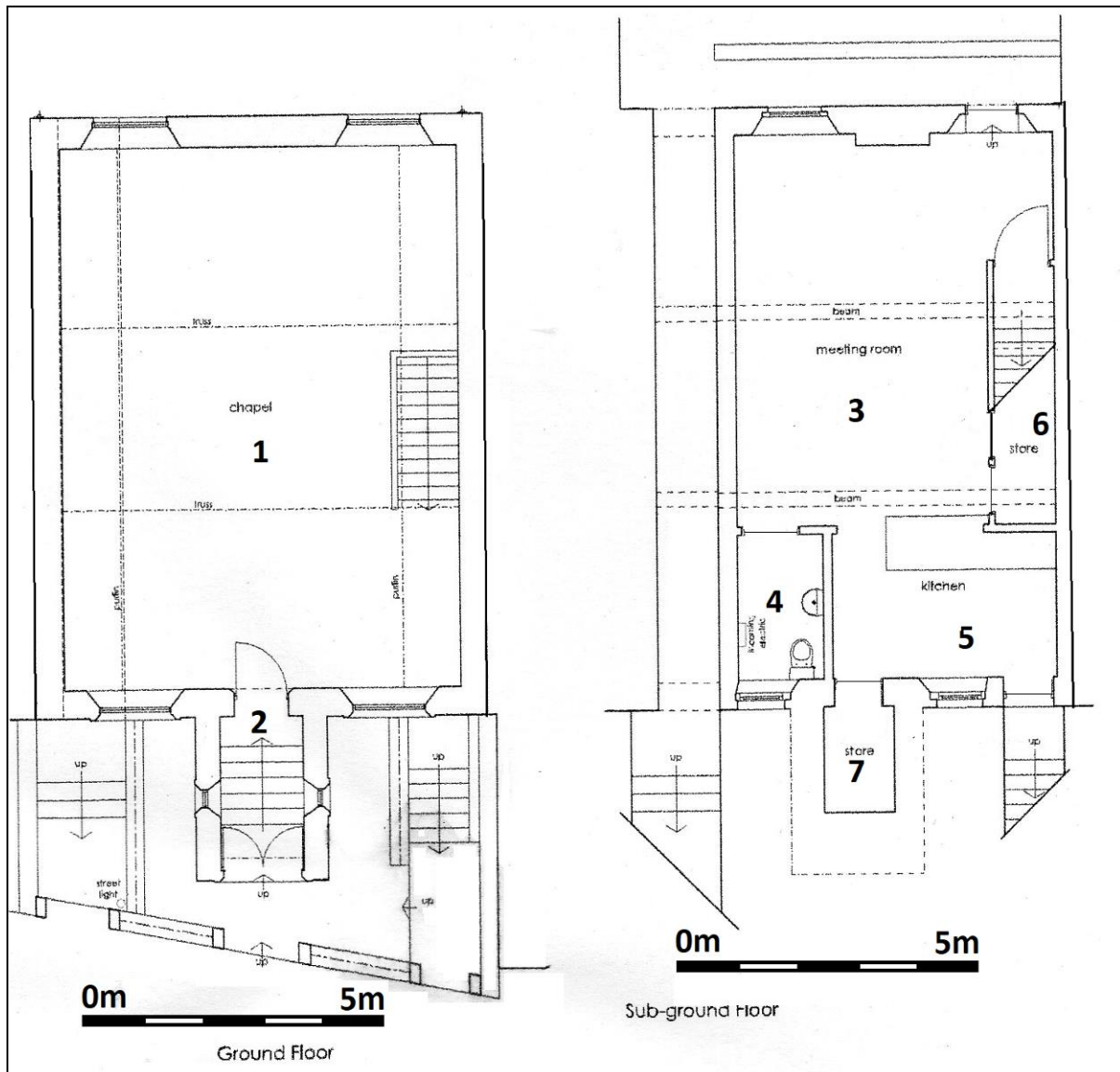


Figure 14. Floor plan of the Chapel



Figure 15. Worship area (1), eastern end



Figure 16. Worship area (1), western end

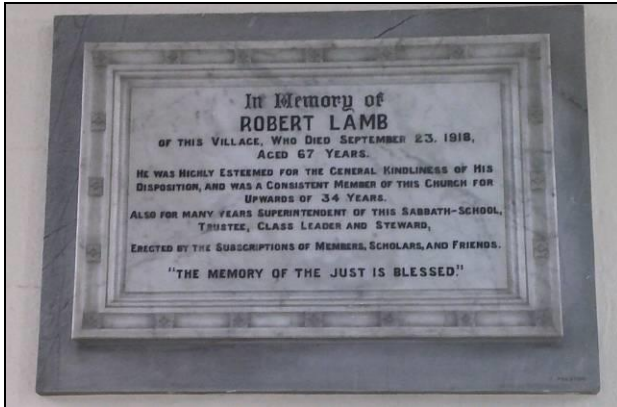


Figure 17. Dedication to Robert Lamb



Figure 18. Roof truss, cross-bar and air vents

2. Porch

The porch measured internally 2.44m in length, 1.42m in width and stood to a height of 4.02m and possessed a Cumbrian slate roof. The Chapel was accessed by six stone steps from the outside and into the Chapel (1) where the porch height was 3.06m. The porch was painted white with two respecting perpendicular-style windows illuminated the room. The windows possessed red sandstone hoods with heavily weathered corbels. The windows measured 0.64m in width and 1.35m in height with lights measuring 0.26m in width and 1.09m in height (figure 19). A tongue and groove door was probably original with three mid-rails (figure 20)



Figure 19. Gothic style window to porch



Figure 20. Main door to porch

3. Meeting room

The meeting room measured 5.34m in width, 9.14m in length and 2.38m in height covered in blue carpet. The west end revealed a UPVC window measuring 0.82m in width and 1.35m in height and a

modern UPVC door measuring 1.10m in width and 2.05m in height that served as a fire exit (figure 21). The ceiling comprised plaster on laths.

A boxed-in fireplace was evident measuring 1.22m in width and 1.30m in height. The grate measured 0.95m in height and 1.05m in height (figure 21).

The room was accessed by a stair well from the Chapel (1) replete with stair lift. Twelve stairs 1.06m in width within stud walls formed the passageway (figure 22).



Figure 21. Meeting room looking west



Figure 22. Stairs linking the floors

4. Toilet

The toilet measured 2.42m in length, 1.43m in width and stood to a height of 2.41m, formed from stud walls (figure 23). The toilet was accessed by a modern door measuring 0.92m in width and 1.98m in height and was illuminated by an opaque sash window measuring 0.75m in width and 1.18m in height. The switchgear was held in this room.

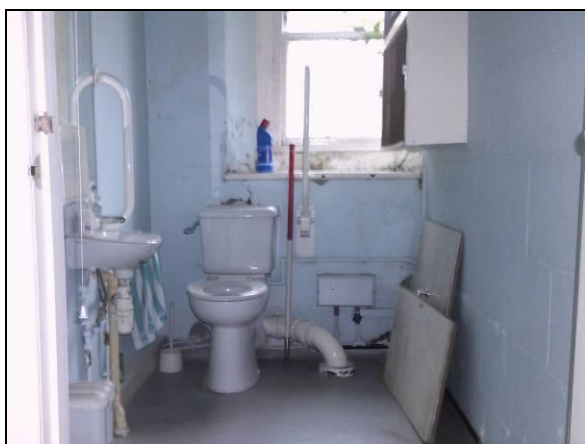


Figure 23. Toilet (4)



Figure 24. Kitchen (5)

5. Kitchen

The kitchen measured 3.77m in length and 2.51m in width with a ceiling height of 2.41m. The kitchen comprised modern appliances and surfaces illuminated by an opaque sash window measuring 0.75m in width and 0.96m in height. A tongue and groove door measuring 0.85m in width and 1.86m in height accessed the street (figure 24).

6. Cupboard

A cupboard formed from stud walls under the stairs measured 0.62m in width, 2.86m in length and was 2.38m in height (figure 25).



Figure 25. Store (6)



Figure 26 Pantry (7)

7. Pantry

Under the porch, a pantry measured 2.23m in length, 1.21m in width and stood to a maximum height of 2.47m (figure 26).

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Academic merit

A challenge to social historians, archaeologists and other researchers such as sociologists is to compile a record of those rural buildings and customs that reflected past cultural practice and social conditions before their economic, social and historical context is lost.

In an increasingly secular world, it is often underplayed the role of the church within the community up to the mid-20th century as a provider of entertainment, recreation, education and social engagement as well as satisfying spiritual needs. Following the Second World War with the advent of common car ownership and television, the provision of these amenities declined.

6.2 Discussion

The study buildings possessed very few architectural embellishments that suggested the structure served a largely utilitarian function and was in keeping with the lack of ostentation associated with Methodist worship. The perpendicular-style windows hint at a late Gothic Revival influence, in part ironically a reaction against growing religious non-conformity in the mid 19th century, but lack the intricate tracery of Anglican, Anglo-Catholic “High Church”.

The Chapel had been stripped of the accoutrements of worship and at the time of the survey was a shell awaiting refurbishment. The meeting room had been modernised with the addition of a kitchen and toilet. This area would seem to be the likeliest location for the school room, that was incorporated into the Chapel, as expenses for its fitting were explicitly listed as construction costs.

The sandstone fabric had in places deteriorated through weathering with architectural lost detail to corbels, the foundation stone illegible and the hood and jambs often crumbling.

The building appears to have suffered episodes of adverse weather conditions during its use with renovations to the roof and upper walls dating from 1889 visible.

The transfer of this non-designated heritage asset from collective to private ownership will not impact on the preservation of the fabric of this study building.

7 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I am grateful to Mr Dave Nelson for his assistance in allowing me access to the property and for commissioning the project. Cal Williamson kindly allowed me use of previous architectural site drawings and provided necessary documentation.

I would also like to thank the staff of Carlisle Library with my research into the local history of the area and the anonymous staff of Cumbria Record Office, Whitehaven with the map regression and the minute book research.

8 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Brown, D.H. | Archaeological Archives a Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation, London, 2007 |
| Brunskill, R.W. | Illustrated Handbook of Vernacular Architecture, London, 1969 |
| Brunskill, R.W. | Traditional Buildings of Cumbria, London, 2002 |
| Cumbria CC | A Guide to using the Cumbria Historic Landscape Characterisation Database, Kendal, 2009 |
| English Heritage | Understanding Historic Buildings, a Guide to Good Practice, London, 2016 |
| English Heritage | English Heritage Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidelines for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment, London, 2008 |
| Historic England | Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment, London, 2015 |
| IFA | Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standards & Guidance documents (Desk-Based Assessments, Watching Briefs, Evaluations, Investigation and Recording of Standing Buildings, Finds), London 2001 and 2014 |
| NPPF | National Planning Policy Framework: Archaeology and Planning, Department for Communities and Local Government, London, 2019 |
| RCHME | Recording Historic Buildings: A Descriptive Specification (3 rd edition), London 1996. |
| St Bees Chapel | Minute Book of St Bees Chapel 1865 to 1957 |