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Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd.

**Y Sospan, Llys Owain, Dolgellau
Standing Building Report**

I.P. Brooks

EAS Client report 2019/06

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Standing Building Report**

**Survey Commissioned
by
Snowdonia National Park Authority**

**Surveyed
by
I.P. Brooks
Engineering Archaeological Services Ltd.**

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registered in England

No 2869678

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Introduction

NGR: Centred on SH 72805 17730

Status: Listed Grade II, Reference Number 4957

Within Conservation Area 465

Within the Vale of Dolgellau Historic Landscape HLW (Gw) 13

Location:

Y Sospan is located on the western side of Llys Owain (Queen's Square) with the church yard to St Mary's Church to the north and west (Figure 1, Plate 1). It would appear to be an early infill into a much larger market square incorporating both Queen's Square and Eldon Square.

Aims of the Survey

To record Y Sospan, Dolgellau in advance of a planning application to restore the roof and other works.

SUMMARY

Y Sospan was recorded in May 2019, including a desktop study and standing building record. Y Sospan started life as the Shire Hall, with House of Correction below, in 1606. It became redundant in 1825 and was converted to the reading room of the Dolgellau Cricket and Reading Club in 1844. After 1873 the building was used for a mix of domestic and commercial uses. There was a range of other buildings attached to the eastern, northern and western side of the building from at least 1749, little evidence of which survives. There are two plasterwork panels on the first floor, one is an armorial above the fireplace whilst the other is a somewhat macabre scene incorporating a devil, a hanging figure and a witch on a ducking stool.

Cofnodwyd Y Sospan ym mis Mehefin 2019, gydag astudiaeth ddesg ac astudiaeth o'r adeilad. Fe gafodd y Sospan ei adeiladu fel Neuadd Sir yn 1606, gyda chelloedd i ddal y rhai oedd wedi cyflawni mân-droseddau ar y llawr gwaelog. Daeth yn ddiangen yn 1825 ac fe'i trowyd yn ystafell ddarllen Clwb Criced a Darllen Dolgellau yn 1844. Ar ôl 1873 defnyddiwyd yr adeilad ar gyfer cymysgedd o defnyddiau domestig a masnachol. Roedd amrywiaeth o adeiladau eraill ynghlwm wrth yr ochrau dwyreiniol, gogleddol a gorllewinol yr adeilad o 1749 o leiaf. Ychydig bach o dystiolaeth am hyn sydd wedi goroesi. Mae dau banel gwaith plastr ar y llawr cyntaf. Mae un yn arfwisg uwchben y lle tân, tra bod y llall yn olygfa braidd yn simsan yn cynnwys diafol, ffigwr crog a gwrach ar stôl drochi.

Methodology

The Merionethshire County Archives, held by Gwynedd County Council at Dolgellau, were consulted together with those of the University of Bangor and The National Library of Wales. The online resources of the Gwynedd Historic Environment Record and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales were also consulted together with a general search of the internet for relevant records or images.

All available rooms were visited and photographs taken of the general impression of the room together with detailed photographs of any architectural feature considered to be of importance. Where possible all photographs included a metric photographic scale. The photographs were taken with a Nikon D5300 Digital SLR Camera at a resolution of 24.2 MP with the photographs being taken in RAW (NEF) format. These photographs were converted into JPEG format for use as illustration in this report and TIFF for archiving. A series of overlapping photographs were also taken with a Panasonic Lumix DMC-T270 which were processed using Agisoft Metashape v.1.5.1 to produce a three-dimensional model from which photogrammetric elevations could be extracted.

Plans of the internal features were recorded by direct measurement, whilst the trusses were surveyed using Leica TS06 Total Station with the data being processed with NRG Engineering Surveying System for Windows 2006.

Desk Top Study

Sources

Published Mapping

1901 Ordnance Survey Merioneth XXXVII.3 Map 1:2500

Merioneth Archives

ZDCE/9 Plan of valuable freehold properties comprising choice building sites, accommodation land & several shops and dwelling houses situate in and near the town of Dolgelley in the County of Merioneth 1901

Z/M/65/1 1800 January 2. Feoffment and purchase deed of three messuages or dwelling houses, shops and butcher's shambles in Dolgelley, adjoining the Town Hall, then or late in several holdings or occupations of Thomas Jones, John Williams, Ellin Jones. Consideration £16

Z/M/65/2 1827 July 19. Bargain and sale of old Shire Hall, County Hall and House of Correction and the site thereof, except a part at the north end of the house of correction, for the breadth of fifteen feet, three inches from said north end wall towards the southern end for the length of six feet ten inches from the west side of said house of correction to the east end thereof, appropriated for the use of the Lord of the Manor of Dolgelley to 'keep the stalls used by the farmer of the market at Dolgelley aforesaid (the 'Ol' Shire Hal etc. had become unnecessary because a 'new' Shire Hall, etc. had been built in lieu thereof). Consideration £335 Paid to Edward Pearson, gent, the Treasurer of the County

Z/M/65/3 Will of Sir Robert Williams Vaughan Bart.1855

Z/M/65/4 Abstract of title of Sir R.W. Vaughan Bart. to the old Shire Hall County Hall, ('now The News Room', and House of Correction and site thereof. 1856

Z/M/65/5 1859 February 3. Answers to requisitions on title to the Old Shire Hall. Sir R.W. Vaughan sale, lot 4 sold to Rev L.H. Wynn

- Z/M/65/6 1859 April 11. Conveyance of Old Shire Hall (now The Newsroom), lock-up and other occupations on the west side of Queens Square in Dolgelley. Consideration £230
- Z/M/65/7 1864 January 6. Settlement of Estate in No1 (now forming three Dwelling houses and shops in the holding or occupation of Hugh Owen, a shoemaker, Elizabeth Meredith, a widow, and Elizabeth Humphreys, a widow) on her grandson Isaac Humphreys Evans of Dolgelley gent.
- Z/M/65/8 Mortgage of shop called Shop Goch and messuages adjoining thereto (all of which premises adjoin the Old Town Hall now used as offices by David Oswald Davies) for securing £200 1909
- Z/M/65/9 Opinion of Mr. W. Lyon Blaease of H.G. Roberts and Moore, Mold 1948
- Z/M/65/10 Re. the Shire Hall Dolgelley etc. Dolgelley, Merionethshire. Instructions to Council. Mr. W. Lyon Blease 1948
- Z/M/65/11 Draft release. Mrs K.M. Williams to Mr A.M. Williams. Of the Shire Hall or House of Correction (recently used as offices) and Shop Goch and cottages forming part of the Old Shire Hall building. 1948
- Z/M/65/12 Schedule of deeds and documents relative to Shire Hall and shop called 'Shop Goch' and cottages adjoining, all forming part of the Old Shire Hall Dolgelley in County of Merioneth. 1948
- Z/M/65/14 Valuation of development value by Central Land Board for Mrs Annie Miles Williams 1950
- ZM/86 Maps of the Llwyn Estate in the Counties of Merioneth and Montgomery in the Property of Thomas Hartley Esq. 1820
- ZM/3667 A survey of several estates in the county of Merionethshire belonging to Sir Rob' Williameses Vaugh Bart (Nannau Estate Map) 1794
- Z/OCE/4 From 3000 to 4000 acres of freehold property to be sold. Particulars of Valuable freehold property in several parishes of Dolgelley, Talyllyn, Towyn, Llanuwechllyn, Trawsfynydd, Harlech and Llanfihangel-y-Treethau to be sold by Auction. 1858
- Z/QR/1/22 Record of valuation made by the Commissioner of Inland Revenue in accordance with provisions of Part I of the Finance (1909/10) Act. 1910
- ZQS/T1827/43 LETTER: William Williams of Dolgelley [Dolgellau] to David Anwyl re. the conveyance of the Old Town Hall to Sir Robert Vaughan, and his own bill in the case of the Crown v. Hugh Rowland.
- ZQS/E1800/32 RETURN (copy) to the questions put in the previous item by the House of Commons Committee upon the Public Records etc. of the kingdom, answered by Edward Anwyl, gent., Clerk of the Peace

National Library of Wales

National Library of Wales Peniarth Manuscripts Collection: Merioneth Miscellanea

National Library 15, 502F. Scrap book of Dolgelley Cricket and Reading Club

Sale Catalogues Mer. 113 Particulars of freehold properties to be sold by auction by Mr. Robert Lloyd, at the Golden Hotel, Dolgelley 22nd Sept. 1853. 1853

Map 10022. Plan of building sites at Maestalaran Field, Dolgelley 1890

MS Estate Maps, Map 7425: Map of Several Estates in the County of Merioneth Belonging to Griffith ap Howell Vaughan Esq. 1760

Digital Resources

<https://www.archwilio.org.uk/her/chi1/arch.html?county=Gwynedd&lang=eng>

1840 Tithe Map (<http://cynefin.archiveswales.org.uk/en/tithe-maps/>)

<https://coflein.gov.uk/en/site/28738/details/sospan-ysiop-goch-dolgellau>

www.genp.com.au/resources/timeline/Merionethshire-Wales-Timeline.html

<http://historypoints.org/index.php?page=old-courthouse-dolgellau>

<https://nannau.wales/people/vaughans/sir-robert-william-vaughan-2nd-bart/>

1871 Census <https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/wal/MER/Dolgellau/1871/ED2B>

1891 Census <https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/wal/MER/Dolgellau/1891/B>

1901 Census <https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/wal/MER/Dolgellau/1901/B>.

<https://www.peoplescollection.wales/items/25733>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/dolgellau/5856695359/in/photostream/lightbox/>

Newspapers

The Aberystwith Observer 3rd February 1877

The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard 22nd May 1869

The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard 30th August 1872

The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard 24th October 1873

The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard 19th December 1873

The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard 27th March 1874

The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard 11th June 1875

The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard 29th October 1875

The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard 2nd February 1877

The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard 9th February 1877

The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard 16th February 1877

The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard 2nd March 1877

The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard 23rd November 1877
The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard 13th February 1885
The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard 1st October 1886
The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard 23rd June 1893 (Supplement)
The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality 27th October 1846
The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality 9th March 1847
The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality 24th January 1863
The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality 10th February 1877
Towyn-on-Sea and Merioneth County Times 4th May 1899
Y Dydd 16th December 1910
Y Tyst a'r Dydd 17th November 1871

Secondary Sources

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- Anon 1807. *Report from the Select Committee appointed to enquire into the state of lunatics*
- Anon. 1810 *An Account of All the Goals, Houses of Correction, and Penetentiaries in the United Kingdom as far as relates to England and Wales*
- Anon. nd. *Hen luniau Dolgellau*. Swyddfa'r Cynor Gwlad, Caernarfon
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- Cadw 2009. *Dolgellau: Understanding Urban Character*
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- Neild, J. 1812 *The State of Prisons of England, Scotland and Wales*: Cambridge University Press
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Tomos, M.W. 2011. *Dolgellau*. Nereus, Y Bala

Tomos, M.W. 2013. *Dolgellau 2*. Nereus, Y Bala

Worrall's Directory 1871

Discussion

Whilst there is no direct evidence for prehistoric activity within Dolgellau, the recovery of stray finds within the area, particularly of polished axes and axe hammers suggest a level of activity in the area, particularly in the Late Neolithic and Bronze Ages.

(<https://www.archwilio.org.uk/her/chi1/arch.html?county=Gwynedd&lang=eng>). Roman Activity is also recorded by the find of roman coins recorded by Lewis in 1834 (Lewis 1834, 229).

During the medieval period, the town of Dolgellau emerges as one of nineteen townships within the commote of Talybont (Longley 2012, 2). The earliest direct reference to the township is within a survey of 1284 which suggests it was held by unfree tenants, probably indicating it was a modest administrative centre (Cadw 2009, 9). During the fourteenth century Dolgellau became the seat of the commote, or hundred court, and it seems likely that a market was developed taking advantage of Dolgellau's position by a river crossing on the boundary between the uplands and the good arable lands of the lowlands. This market had developed sufficiently by the mid fifteenth century to claim a monopoly over the trade in the area.

From the sixteenth century, the administrative role of the town developed with hundred courts, Quarter sessions and Great Sessions being held in the town. However, even if as late as the 1530's Dolgellau was still being described as a village.

The earliest record of the "Shire Hall" (later to become Y Sospan) is a copy of a contract for its construction in 1606 which had been copied into a series of documents within the Merioneth Miscellanea of the Peniarth Manuscripts Collection held by National Library of Wales. This site would have been at the northern end of a large market square and marks the beginning of the encroachment into the square. Even from this early period it is highly likely that the Quarter Sessions were being held within the "Shire Hall". The administration of Merionethshire was split with the mid-summer Assizes and the Quarter Sessions held at Easter and Michaelmas being held at Dolgellau (Lewis 1845, 205). Although the Court of Quarter Sessions was formed in 1535, its records for the court at Dolgellau only survive from 1776 (<https://archiveshub.jisc.ac.uk/search/archives/5ac5a6bb-cc42-3a5c-9216-0f156753d1b7>), however references to various writs and agreements made at the "Great Sessions" held at "Dolgelley" survive in the Nannau archive, held by the University of Bangor Archives, from the years 1612 (Nannau 263), 1615 (Nannau 274) and 1625 (Nannau 309). The earliest direct references to the quarter sessions held at the "Shire Hall, Dolgelley" is in 1673 (Peniarth MS 410i) when Hugh the Sadler and Lowry Eliza appeared before the Quarter Sessions.

There is some evidence that the building was dilapidated by 1758 and in need of conservation with a presentment being made, to the Quarter Session, that the Shire Hall at Dolgelley (sic) be rebuilt as it was in a dangerous and ruinous state (www.genp.com.au/resources/timeline/Merionethshire-Wales-Timeline.html). A report by Abbot in 1800 on the condition of the

buildings being used to hold official records suggest that things had not improved much by 1800 with “The condition of the building is rather damp and the same is small but perfectly secure The accommodation for keeping the Records is not as convenient as might be wished. The building is my property as tenant by the courtesy. Anwyl Clerk of the Peace” (Abbot 1800, 301).

The original building was built with a first floor Shire Hall with at least two cells below. These cells were often referred to as “The House of Correction” suggesting they were not only used for the short term holding of prisoners awaiting trial. This was not the main gaol of Dolgellau which had existed since at least 1689 (National Library of Wales, Brogyntyn Estate and Family Records) and by 1810 held up to 20 prisoners under the control of the High Sheriff (Anon 1810). A report in 1807 (Anon 1807) suggests the one of the cells below the Shire Hall was being used to hold a lunatic, in that year, and the “Account of All the Goals, Houses of Correction, and Penitentiaries in the United Kingdom as far as relates to England and Wales” suggest there were two cells under the jurisdiction of Justices of the Peace in the House of Correction. A report by James Nield in 1812 states that there were two rooms below the town hall and no court for the exercise of the prisoners, however there were no prisoners resident at the time of the report, nor on 23rd September 1803. Many of the prisoners are unknown, however, John Hughes was sentenced to death for sheep stealing at the Summer Assizes of 1811 (<https://www.exclassics.com/newgate/ng1065.htm>). The sentence was later commuted to transportation for life.

The cells got a late, unexpected, use when a local poacher, Roberts, hid in the cells to avoid being re-arrested in 1869 (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard 22nd May 1869). Originally arrested and fined, he failed to pay the fine and was sent to prison. His “friends” claimed to have raised the fine and Roberts was released, however the “friends” were reported to have drunk the money they raised and Roberts was rearrested. Whilst being escorted to prison, Roberts broke free, but was eventually found hiding in the, now disused, cells below the Old Shire Hall.

Public meetings were also held in the Shire Hall with a meeting to discuss a petition against plans to revoke the restriction of Roman Catholics in 1813 (North Wales Gazette 28th January 1813). Also a “meeting to take into consideration the propriety of addressing His Royal Highness the Prince Regent upon the late glorious events that have led to the Re-establishment of Peace” in 1814 (North Wales Gazette 16th June 1814). This was probably a response to the signing of the First Treaty of Paris and the exile of Napoleon to Elba on May 30th.

In 1818 Rev Evans describes Town Hall as scarcely distinguishable from the other town houses in his “A topographical and historical description of North Wales; containing an account of its towns, cathedrals, castles, churches, monuments, antiquities, public edifices, picturesque scenery, the residences of the nobility, gentry &c”. This might have been part of the reason it was suggested that there was a need to build a new Shire Hall.

A new gaol was built in Dolgellau in 1811 and a new Shire Hall in 1825, leaving the old Shire Hall redundant. It was sold to Sir R.W. Vaughan of Nannau in 1826/7 (Merioneth Archives Z/M/65/4 and Z/M/65/2). It is not certain how he used the building, however the Piggot’s National Commercial Directory for 1835 records the Jones and Williams Bank occupying at least part of the building. At the death of Sir R.W. Vaughan, in 1843, the

Nannau Estate, including the old Shire Hall passed to his son, Sir R.N. Vaughan of Rug Bart. (Merioneth Archive Z/M/65/4), who promptly sold it to Rev Simon Hail Wynn of West Barkwish Lincolnshire in 1859 (Merioneth Archive Z/M/65/6) once the probate on the estate had been settled. The Nannau Rent book for 1855 shows that the “News Room” (see below) was rented to William Owen for the sum of £10/year paid in half yearly intervals. Also, within this rental, The County Treasurer was charged £0 – 10 – 4 for use of the cells below the Shire Hall.

In the meantime, from 1844, the Shire Hall became the reading room for the Dolgellay Cricket and Reading Club. This was a fairly exclusive club with an annual membership fee of £1 made payable on the 1st May each year (National Library 15, 502F). Presumably part of the agreement for the use of the building was its restoration which was carried out in 1847 (The North Wales Chronicle and Advertiser for the Principality, March 9th 1847). By 1850 the Cricket Club took over the Bowling Green Club, who’s members were allowed to use the Reading Room for the annual fee of 8s 7d (Carnarvon and Denbigh Herald and North and South Wales Independent March 30th 1850). This was in return for the donation of the book collection of the Bowling Green Club together with possession of the Bowling Green (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard, March 27th 1874). The reading room had moved to the town’s Assembly Rooms by 1873, after which accountant Edmund Jones had his offices in the Old Shire Hall (<http://historypoints.org/index.php?page=old-courthouse-dolgellau>).

It is not certain when the Shire Hall gained a series of buildings attached to its southern and eastern side of the building. A sale document, however, date January 2nd 1800 for “of three messuages or dwelling houses, shops and butcher’s shambles adjoining the town hall”, from Owen Jones and William Lloyd to Griffith ap Howel Vaughan suggest the plot was highly developed at this point. This document also includes the summary of a series of earlier transactions from 1749 (Gwynedd Archives Z/M/65/1) suggesting a series of structures against the southern side of the Shire Hall from at least this point. These documents would suggest that this area of the town was not as high status as when the new Shire Hall was built in 1606 and it is somewhat surprising that a butcher’s shambles (out-door slaughter house and meat market) should be not only within the town but also so close to the church and civil buildings.

The 1855 Nannau Estate Rental (Nannau 810) lists William Owen as renting the Newsroom, whilst the County Treasurer rented the cells below and G.T. Williams has an office within the building. The location of this office is uncertain; however, it is likely to be one of the extensions on the southern side of the building at that time. A settlement from 1864 (Z/M/65/7) between Elizabeth Evans to her grandson Isaac Humphrey Evans transfers the control of three messuages, or dwelling houses, shops and butcher's shambles adjoining the Town Hall to the grandson. At this point they were occupied by Hugh Owen, a shoemaker, Elizabeth Meredith, a widow and Elizabeth Humphreys a widow. Previous occupiers are also listed they were Thomas Jones, John Williams, Felin Jones, David Morris and Owen Jones (a butcher).

The 1871 Census (<https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/wal/MER/Dolgellau/1871/ED2B>) divided the space below the “Old Hall and Newsroom” into three properties. One was occupied by Griffith Roberts, a stone engraver and his family of wife and three children. His wife,

Elizabeth is listed as a dress maker. The second property was occupied by Richard Evans, a labourer, his wife Ann (a dealer in sweet), their daughter and a 12-year-old visitor. The last property was occupied by Hugh Owen, a fishmonger, and his wife. By the 1891 Census (<https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/wal/MER/Dolgellau/1891/B>) the space under the “Old Hall” was occupied by the widow, Ann Evans, a washer woman, whilst Shop Goch, a property in the south eastern corner of the complex, was occupied by Elizabeth and Sarah Williams (mother and daughter), fish dealers. The 1901 Census shows that Elizabeth and Sarah were still in business at this point.

The 1881 Worrall's Directory lists the solicitors Jones and Davies as occupying the “Old Town Hall”, whilst Evan Richards, a bill poster was at Shop Goch. There are also a series of adverts for Evan Richards’ business between 1871 and 1875 (Y Tyst a'r Dydd 17th November 1871, The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard 30th August 1872, The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard 19th December 1873, The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard 11th June 1875, The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard 29th October 1875).

By 1886, Isaac Evans controlled Shop Goch and planned to modify its appearance and the local council discussed the proposal directing the Clerk of Works to approach Isaac Evans with the proposal that he remove a section of the building projecting over the street (The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard 1st October). This was probably unsuccessful as The Cambrian News and Merionethshire Standard (23rd June 1893) reports the council’s intension to remove the stone in front of Shop Goch and replace it with a smaller one to protect the corner of the building. At this point the owner of Shop Goch is reported to be Mr J. H. Evans.

In 1888 part of the building, probably not the Old Shire Hall itself, was passed by Charles Williams to W.R. Williams. This was presumably the husband of Elizabeth Williams who occupied Shop Goch in 1891 (<https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/wal/MER/Dolgellau/1891/B>). By 1899, a W.R. Davies took out a mortgage with the North and South Wales Bank Ltd for part of the property (Z/M/65/12). It would seem likely that this mortgage was defaulted on as the North and South Bank Ltd sold part of the property to Edward Griffiths in 1902 (Z/M/65/12). In 1903 David Oswald Davies, a local solicitor started a programme of acquiring all of the building by buying part of the complex from J.W Wilson and further parts of the building in 1908 from the executors of I.H. Evans. This programme of acquisition was not totally successful as David Oswald Davies sells “Shop Goch and messuages adjoining thereto” to Richard Jones in 1909 (Z/M/65/8). The 1910 land valuation, by the Commission of the Inland Revenue in accordance with the provisions of Part 1 of the 1909/10 Finance Act (Z/QR/1/22), would suggest, however, that ownership of parts of the property was quite fluid. The bulk of the building (Plot 274, Figure 11) was owned by David Oswald Davies and used by him as offices, whilst Plot 275, in the north eastern corner of the plot, was owned by J.A. Griffith and occupied by Alex Rob Cox and was used as offices. Plot 718/717, on the southern side of the complex and probably including Shop Goch, was owned by David Oswald Davies and was occupied by Hugh Williams as a house and shop.

A photograph taken in 1937 shows that Shop Goch was used by the W. Williams as a fruit shop (Wyn Tomos 2013, Plate 76, p. 43)

In 1934, part of the building is sold by Mrs J.A. Griffiths to Richard Barnett, whilst in 1945

another conveyance of part of the building was recorded from a Miss Catherine Evans to Richard Barnett (Z/M/65/12). Richard Barnett, however sold this part of the building to Harry Miles Williams. The whole building complex was finally consolidated under a single ownership when Harry Miles Williams and his mother (Annie Miles Williams) bought the rest of the building in 1946, however, by mistake the deeds were only registered to Harry Miles Williams (Merioneth Archives Z/M/65/10). Unfortunately, Harry Miles Williams dies in 1947 leaving a legal wrangle between his mother, and co-owner, and his wife which was not resolved for at least another year. The release from Mrs K.A Williams to Mrs A.M. Williams is the last documentary record of Shop Goch located, which was dated 18th October 1948 (Z/M/65/11). There is, however, an aerial photograph taken in 1950 of Dolgellau which shows that Shop Goch was standing in that year. (<https://www.peoplescollection.wales/items/25733>)

In 1950 the Central Land Board gave a valuation of the development value of the Old Shire Hall for Mrs Annie Miles Williams giving an unrestricted value of £625 for the building, £475 for the restricted value and a development value of £150.

A photograph taken in 1988/1989 (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/dolgellau/5856695359/in/photostream/lightbox/>) during the construction of the Barclay's Bank, on the corner Lion Street and Llys Owain, show a for sale sign on the building together with signs for Y Sospan and a craft shop on the ground floor.

An attempt at dendrochronological dating of some of the timbers of the building was unsuccessful (Worthington and Seiter 2010, 3), probably because the trees used to construct the building grew in an area that had its own very distinct microclimate which did not record the regional climate signal (ibid 9).

There are only limited plans which show the extent and development of the Old Shire Hall. The earliest map of Dolgellau is the 1760 Nannau Estate Map (MS Estate Maps, Map 7425), however, this is not of sufficient detail to show anything, except that the building existed at that point. The 1794 Estate Map (Z/M/3667) (Figure 2), although not in great detail, would tend to suggest that there was an extension on the eastern end of the building already at this point. The first plan with any detail is the 1820 Llwyn Estate Map (Z/M/86) (Figure 3) with protruding extensions on the east, south and west sides of the core building. Unfortunately, the 1841 Tithe Map (<http://cynefin.archiveswales.org.uk/en/tithe-maps/>) (Figure 4) is not in sufficient detail even to securely locate the Old Shire Hall, however given the reason these maps were drawn up this is not unexpected. From 1853 the available maps become more detailed with the 1853 sales map (Mer.113) (Figure 5) showing not only the extensions on the eastern and southern side of the complex, but also the two ownerships at this time. This is a pattern which is replicated in the 1858 Sales Plan (Z/OCE/4) (Figure 6) when the Old Shire Hall was sold by the Nannau Estate to Rev. L.M. Wynn.

A larger version of this sales plan is replicated on the Indenture of 1859 (Z/M/65/6) (Figure 7). This plan shows the extent of the various extensions to the Old Shire Hall, but also suggest that the access to the Shire Hall was in the south western corner of the building by means of a short flight, of external stone steps. Indeed, the extension wrapping around the south-east corner of the main range extends sufficiently far that the current front door to the building could not have existed at this point. Unfortunately, the 1890 plan of Dolgellau

(National Library Map 10022) (Figure 8), whilst suggesting the extensions is not of sufficient detail to define them.

Three maps are based on the Ordnance Survey Merionethshire XXXVII.3 1:2,500 scale map (Figures 9 – 11). These include the Ordnance Survey map, itself, a sales catalogue (Z/DCE/9) and the annotated map associated with the Commission of the Inland Revenue concerned with the provision of the Finance (1909/1910) Act (Z/QR/1/22). All of these maps shows the building divided into five units with two units on the eastern face and two on the southern face of the building. A comparison of the layout from the 1859 and 1901 mapping with the current layout can be seen on Figure 12. These maps would suggest that Shop Goch protruded from the front (eastern) elevation by approximately 2.5 m and then wrapped around the southern elevation at a distance of between 1.76 and 3.2 m. There was also an extension on the western end of the building extending the current building by approximately 1.9 m. They would also suggest that the current internal layout is relatively modern.

Building survey

The building survey took place between 11th and 12th June 2019.

External Appearance

Y Sospan occupies an island on the western side of Llys Owain (Queens Square) at the junction between Y Lawnt (Lombard Street) and Lion Street (Figure 1, Plate 1). Its position would suggest that it was an early example of market infill (Cadw 2009, 24) into the north western corner of a large medieval market place covering at least the extent of Queens Square and Eldon Square. Its position, near to the church, is probably significant suggesting the importance of the building in the Early Modern period. In general, the building is constructed of roughly coursed rubble masonry, below a roof of quarry slates generally with a tumerised coating (covered in a coat of a bitumen like coating) and with clay ridge tiles (Slate and Stone Consultants 2011). Although the ground plan forms a rectangle 17.5 m x 8.56 m in size the roof level plan shows two hipped wings on the southern side of the building linked with an outshot under a lower pitched roof (Plate 2). In general, the building is terraced into the hillside so that although the eastern end of the building is at street level, at the western end the first-floor level can be access by means of a short flight of stone steps, whilst the ground floor level is approximately 0.9 m below the current street level.

The front elevation faces east, and contains a modern, large shop window and a door under a stone lintel (Plate 3, Figure 13). On the first floor is a sixteen paned window with a central eight paned sashed opening (Plate 4). This window has a flat, stone lintel which is below the blocked, segmental arch of an earlier window. Above there is a shallow, raking, parapet supported on stone knees (Plate 5) which artificially increased to height of the gable end.

The southern elevation (Plate 2, Figure 14) has a single doorway at its eastern end (Plate 6) which has a stone lintel and extends to below the current pavement level suggesting the road level has increased since this door was inserted into the wall. To the east of the door, the wall is less well finished, possibly suggesting a wall joined the property at this point in the past. Above this scar is a patch of sooting (Plate 7) possibly suggesting a lost chimney, probably associated with Shop Goch. The post-box in this corner of the plot is also a Listed Building (Listed Building Reference 5062, <http://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?lang=en&id=5062>). The ground floor windows are of a common

design with multi-paned casement windows below stone lintels, the exception being the second window from the west (Plate 8) which appears to have been fitted into a larger opening. The first-floor windows fall into two groups. Those in the gable ends of wings are multi-paned, casement, windows with stone lintels and slate cills. The three windows within the outshot are placed just below the eaves and are of a common design with twinned, four-paned, casement, windows with stone lintels and slate cills.

The western gable, (Plate 10, Figure 13) contains a single window and the rear door to the property. The single window, lights the first-floor kitchen and consists of an eight-paned fixed window with a four-paned fan light above. It sits within an opening with a stone lintel and slate cill. The door is approached by a short flight of three stone steps, meaning that this doorway gives direct access to the first-floor level. The rear door is partly glazed in its upper leaf and panelled below. There is some suggestion of differential use of stonework, particularly in the southern wing, with larger blocks being used on the bottom 1.5 m of the wall and used as quoins on the southern side of this elevation. There is a stone, square shafted chimney (Plate 11) centrally placed on the gable wall. This has tabling on its eastern face and domed fauching and inclined slate capping. The northern corner of this elevation has been clipped (Plate 12) to a height of approximately 2.5 m to allow the easy access of traffic around this end of the building.

The northern elevation (Plate 13, Figure 15) has a centrally placed lateral chimney mounted on a gablet with slate roof (Plate 14). The stack is rectilinear in plan with a table and a single tall pot. There are three windows at ground-floor level and three at first floor level in this elevation together with two doorways, one of which has been partly blocked and re-used as a window. The ground floor windows are all multi-paned casement windows (Plates 15, 17 and 18) whilst those at first floor level are sixteen-paned sash windows. All of the windows have stone lintels and slate cills. The active door (Plate 16) has its base below the current street level with a step down to the door and further steps inside. The partially blocked doorway (Plate 17) has an eight-paned casement window over a wooden partition. In all this would form a relatively short (1.5 m high) doorway which presumably had a step on the inside. The area inside of this feature is now hidden behind a counter.

Internal

The public entrance to the building is through the eastern gable end of the building giving access to the ground-floor tearoom (Plates 19 and 20, Figure 16). This space is divided into four bays by large ceiling beams, each between 0.34 and 0.37 m wide. The three beams that cross the public area of the tearoom have all been thinned with approximately 50 mm having been removed from the underside of the beams (Plate 21). There is sufficient remaining at each end of the beams to show that they were originally, moderately chamfered (Plates 22 and 23) and the eastern beam retains run-out stops towards the southern end (Plate 24). The position of these stops would suggest the position of a now lost partition which would extend the line of the wall to the west of this beam. The joists are partly coggled into the top of the ceiling beams (Plate 25) with the joint between each length of joist being above the beams, probably with a lapped joint. One ceiling timber, in the south eastern corner of the tearoom (Plate 26) has a series of mortice holes in its lower surface suggesting it has been re-used from elsewhere.

There is a fireplace on the southern side of the tearoom (Plate 27) which is probably only a decorative feature. There is no chimney stack on this side of the building and the sides of the opening for the hearth appear to be rather rough and uneven. Also, the wall at the back of this opening would appear to be rather thin and there is no sign of a chimney structure on the first floor. It is, however, cut into a stone wall approximately 0.85 m thick suggesting it is a structural element. Behind this wall is the staircase (Plate 28) leading to the first-floor restaurant. The short corridor to these stairs has a door at its eastern end (Plate 29). This door is a heavy, studded, ledged door with a grill opening and iron plating along its base. Currently it has a latch, mortice lock and bolt, however it is evident that this door has been repositioned at least twice. There is the scar for a strap hinge in the upper right section suggesting an earlier hanging. There is also the scar for another lock, also on the right-hand side, suggesting the door was hung on its left-hand side at some point. The quality of this door is consistent with it having been one of the cell doors when part of the ground floor was used as the "House of Correction", however this remains to be proved. Also behind the fireplace area, is a series of small rooms used for storage and a toilet.

The western end of the tearoom is separated from a passageway by a stone wall with two openings, one at each end. This passageway (Plate 30) links the external door in the northern elevation to the stone steps to the first-floor kitchen. There is a ceiling beam on top of the dividing wall (Plate 31) and the scheme of joists seen in the tearoom continues across the passageway, possibly suggesting the dividing wall is a secondary feature. West of the passageway is the ground-floor kitchen, however the requirement for kitchen hygiene means that any original features are either lost or hidden.

On the first floor (Figure 17) the bulk of the space is taken up by the first-floor restaurant (Plates 32 and 33) which is sub-divided into an upper area at the eastern end and a lower area to the west. The reason for this split level is not clear as there are no physical reasons for this division. The two areas are separated by a partial partition which has three intricately carved posts (Plate 34) with a human figure in bas relief on each side of the post. Although the figures are of a medieval type design the partition is clearly modern. The railings which make up part of the partition are also capped with human faces (Plate 35).

Three trusses cross the space (Plates 36, 37 and 38) with a fourth (Plate 39) in the western gable wall of the room. They are all of a similar design (Figures 18 and 19) with straight principal rafters, a slightly cranked collar and slightly trenched purlins. Trusses 1, 2 and 3, however, have the addition of a later tie beam which has been bolted in position and a spacer between the peak of the trusses and the ceiling. These trusses have also been strengthened with the addition of metal braces linking their feet to the walls.

The most important feature of the room is the plasterwork above the fireplace and within the gable for the lateral chimney (Plate 40). Above the stone fireplace is an armorial set within a plaster panel (Plate 41) defined by a band with foliate design and a carved wooden frame to top and bottom. The position of the fireplace is somewhat curious as it is to one side the position of the lateral chimney and would require an angled flue in order to link to the chimney. The armorial (Plate 42) has a date of 1606 below, which is consistent with the construction date of the building. The shield is quartered with nine sections which feature the following designs

Lion rampant	Coronet with cross	Dragon rampant
Two fleurs-de-lis	Plume of ostrich feathers (Prince of Wales feathers)	Two fleurs-de-lis
Three lions rampant	Three lions passant	Two towers

The supporters are a crowned lion rampant, guardant, dexter and a mythical beast with the head of a leopard with dragon's body, rampant, sinister. The shield is crested with a closed helm with panache in profile and there is a floral design featuring two roses. It is somewhat curious that this armorial is offset within its frame, being positioned on the right-hand side of the frame.

The plasterwork within the gable of the lateral chimney is of a completely different character (Plate 43). Central to the composition is a tree (Plate 44) within which a demonic figure (Plate 45) perches. This figure has an animal head (possibly a fox), bat wings, claw hands, breasts and a second face in the genital area. There is also an owl in flight adjacent to the figure, a second animal, possibly a cat, in one of the branches and a Tudor rose incorporated into the tree. Below the tree to the right (Plate 46) are a group of misshapen figures. One of these has been hung from the tree, whilst a second is in the process of being ducked on a stool. In the right-hand corner is a procession of three figures, probably women, one of which carries a cross. These three figures are also below a tree which is in full leaf, whereas the main tree is only partially leafed.

In the bottom left corner is a scene of a different character (Plate 47). It contains a church and church yard (Figure 48) within which there is a kneeling figure within a circular area with probably two standing figures behind. To the right is another figure sitting on a chest tomb. This scene is not in such high relief as the rest of the panel and is of a slightly different colour and therefore may be a later modification.

On the opposite side of the room a painted panel (Plate 49) has been used as part of the screen defining the northern side of the passage to the toilets.

At the western end of the first floor is the upper kitchen (Plate 50), which has been fitted out such that any original features have been hidden or lost. In the southern side of the room is the stairs down to the ground floor and the external door in the western gable which is accessed by means of a short flight of steps.

Conclusions

The Shire Hall at Dolgellau was built in 1606, at the northern end of the market square, near to the church. It is not certain whether this was a stand-alone structure or had commercial buildings along its southern side. These had certainly developed by the mid eighteenth century when a series of properties and a butcher's shamble is recorded as being attached to the Shire Hall.

How much of the original building survives is debatable, most of the timberwork in the ceiling of the tearoom is consistent with a construction date in the early seventeenth century,

whilst the trusses could be of a slightly later date. It is unfortunate that the principal rafters and wall plate failed to date when subjected to dendrochronological analysis (Worthington and Seiter 2010, 3) and that no attempt was made to date the ceiling timbers of the tearoom. It is also clear that the building has undergone multiple phases of modification, particularly since it was sold in 1826/27. The documentary records suggest major phases of restoration/modification in 1758, 1847 and 1893, but these appear to be only part of the record of modification of the building. It is particularly difficult to relate the division within the building shown on the 1901 Ordnance Survey Map to those seen within the building today.

The timberwork of the ceiling in the tearoom would suggest the original building was approximately 7 m wide and it is assumed that the current length of the building of 17.5 m is a reflection of the original size. The lateral chimney, heating the first floor is also consistent with an early 17th century date suggesting this feature placed centrally on the north wall is part of the original scheme. The access to the first-floor hall is not evident within the standing remains, however the external staircase shown on the 1901 Ordnance Survey map may preserve the position of the original door. It is clear that the current front door is a relatively modern feature as it would have been blocked by Shop Goch which wrapped round the south east corner of the building.

Little or no evidence for the cells below the building survives, although it is assumed that they occupied the western end of the building, where the current lower kitchen is, probably using the current door into the northern elevation as access. This would leave the partially blocked door in this elevation to give access to the rest of the space below the hall. Whilst it is tempting to see the door at the base of the stairs as a survival from the cells this remains to be proved.

The most spectacular feature of the building is the plasterwork on the first floor. The style of the two panels would suggest at least different craftsmen and probably different dates for their construction. Although the armorial is dated 1606, its position and contents are cause to question this date. It would be expected that any fireplace heating the first-floor hall would be directly below the lateral chimney and that the armorial would be directly above the hearth. This is not so with the fireplace and armorial at Y Sospan which are to the north of the lateral chimney. The content of the armorial is also curious. The shield contains elements from the royal heraldry of England and France together with the Prince of Wales' feathers in its achievements and with a date of 1606 one would expect an association with the monarch of the day, James I. The supporters of the shield, however appear to be a variant on the supporters of the Tudor dynasty of a lion and dragon, rather than the Stuart lion and unicorn. Further the crest incorporated a closed helmet in profile which is an indication of an esquire or gentleman (Woodcock and Robinson 1990, 86). The use of supporters on an armorial was also restricted, from the 16th century to the highest rank of those entitled to arms, particularly the monarchy, Knights of the Garter, Knights of the Thistle, Knights of the Grand Cross and the Knight Grand Commanders of the various orders of Chivalry (ibid 93). It would therefore seem likely that the Y Sospan armorial is a confection, possibly constructed as late as the 19th century. The use of the building by the Dolgelly Cricket and Reading Club and their restoration of the building in 1847 may be relevant here.

The plasterwork in the gable of the lateral chimney, with its somewhat disturbing scenes, is of unknown date. Dean (<https://folklorethursday.com/regional-folklore/folklore-wales-skeleton-tree-derwen-ceubren-yr-ellyll/>) has associated the central tree with its demon as being a representation of the Ceubren yr Ellyll (the Hollow Tree of the Ghost), a tree on the Nannau Estate which blew down in 1813. The tree was associated with a legend in which Owain Glyndŵr killed Hywel Sele and hid the corpse in the trunk of an old oak tree where it remained for something like 40 years (Nanney Williams, 2016, 36), although the part of the legend where the body was hidden in the tree did not appear until an account by Robert Vaughan in 1660 (ibid 37). Dean's assertion would appear to be somewhat speculative as it takes no account of the other scenes within the composition. One possibility is that it is a morality tale with the effect of being tempted by the devil being seen in the lower left section, whilst the pious are shown in the lower right.

The figure operating the ducking stool, may give some indication as to the earliest possible date of the plasterwork by looking at the clothing. He wears a coat which reaches knee level and flairs to its base, he also has either long hair or a fairly loose wig. This style of dress does not seem to be contemporary with the 1606 date for the construction of the Shire Hall as it appears to feature a frock coat of a mid-eighteenth-century type. It is therefore possible that this scene was constructed as part of the 1758 restoration of the hall. The scene in the bottom left of the gable is less well defined than the rest of the panel and is of a slightly different colour possibly suggesting it is a later modification.

Acknowledgements

The survey was commissioned by John D. Ellis, for The Snowdonia National Park Authority. Plans and existing elevations were kindly provided by Rhys Llwyd Davies. Access to the building was arranged through the owner Robin Meredith and the patience of the staff at Y Sospan is gratefully acknowledged. Thanks, are also due to Richard Suggett of the Royal Commission of the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales for his discussions of the plasterwork.

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<https://folklorethursday.com/regional-folklore/folklore-wales-skeleton-tree-derwen-ceubren-yr-ellyll/>

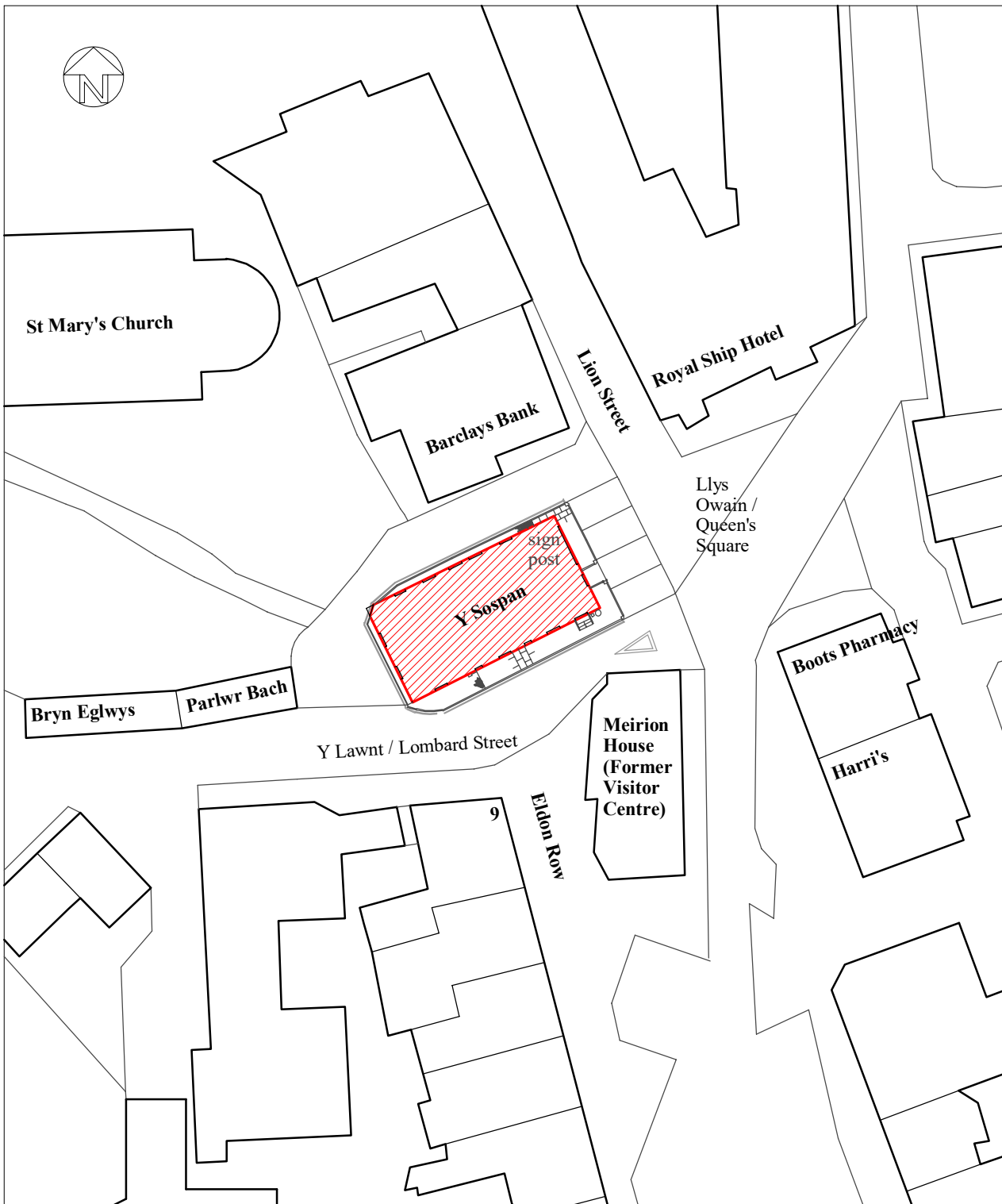


Figure 1: Location
Scale 1:500

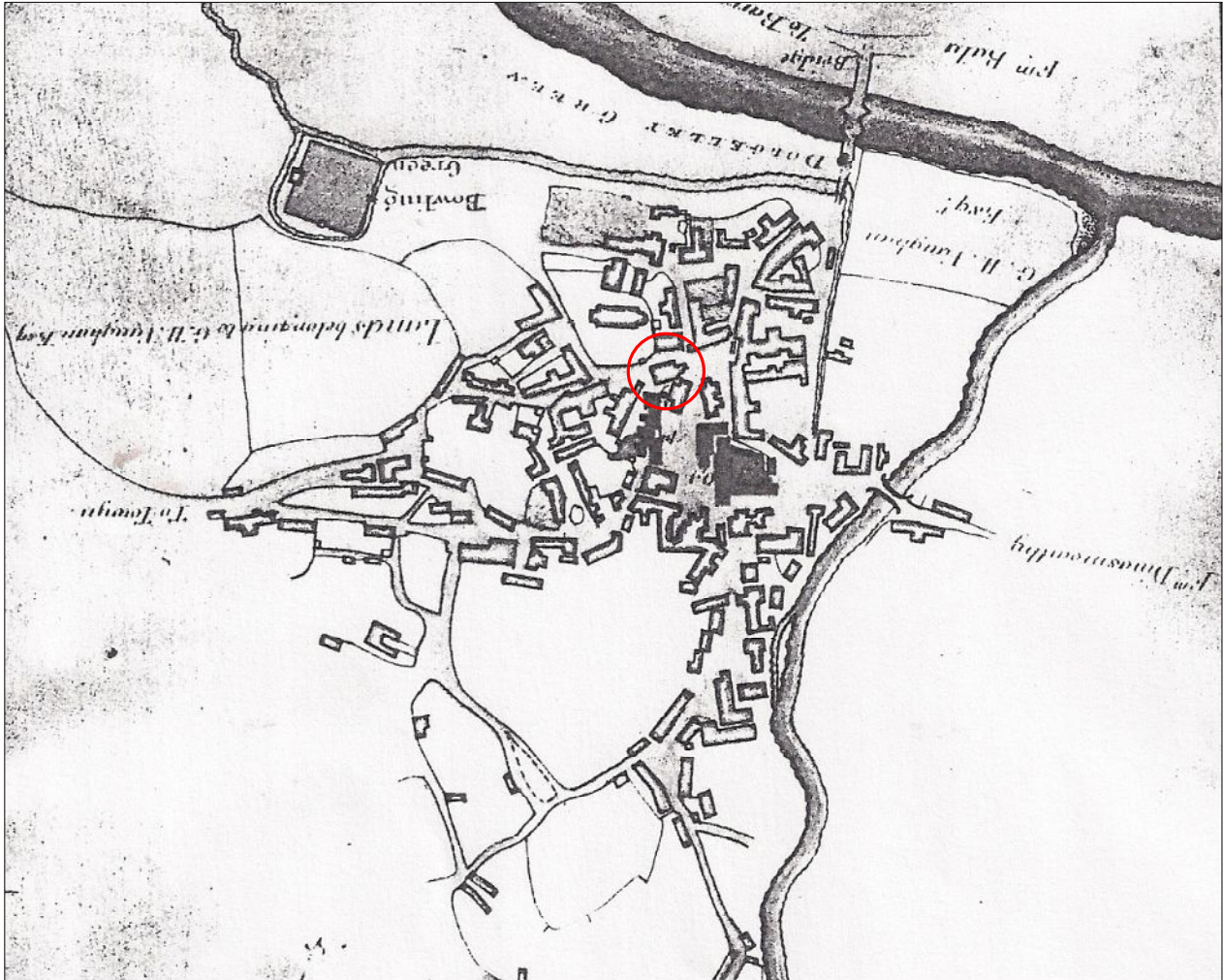


Figure 2: Extract from the 1794 Nannau Estate Map
(Merionethshire Archives Z/M/3667)
Not to Scale

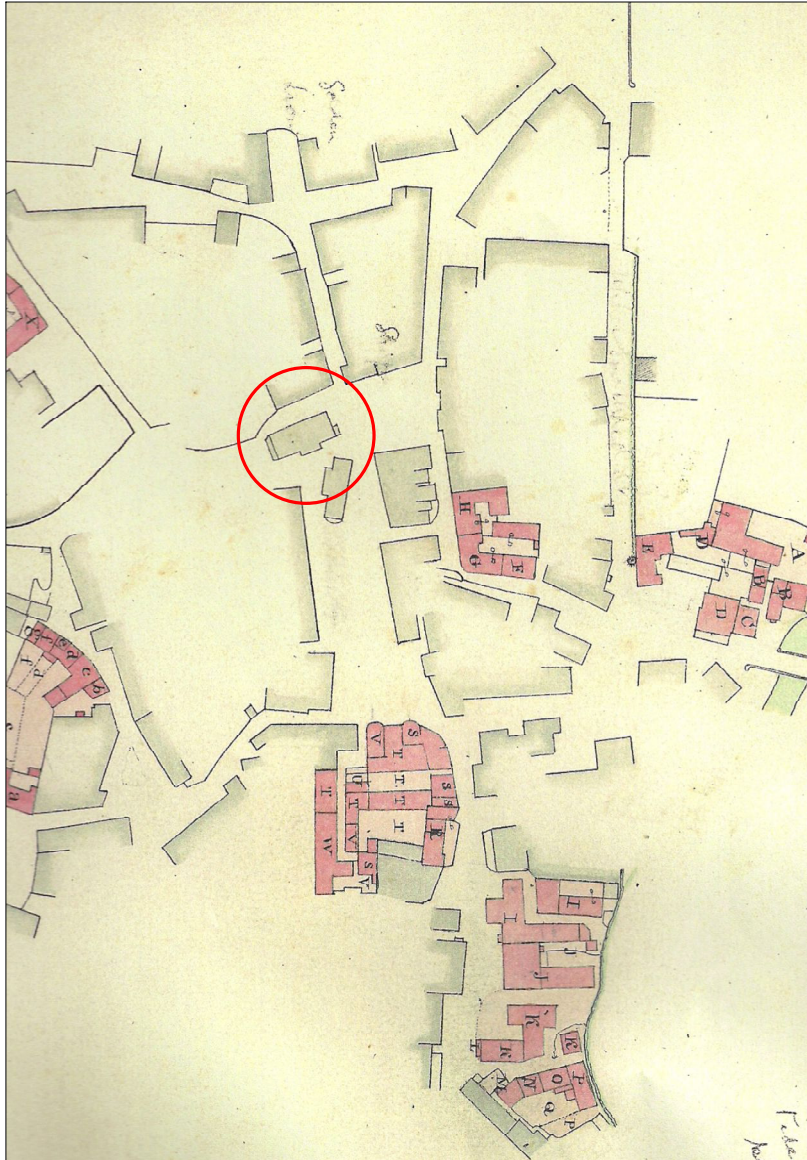


Figure 3: Extract from the 1820 Llwyn Estate Map
(Merionethshire Archives ZM/86)
Not to Scale



Figure 4: 1841 Tithe Map
Source <http://cynefin.archiveswales.org.uk/en/tithe-maps/>
Not to Scale



Figure 5: 1853 Sales Map
National Library SALE CATALOGUES Mer. 113
Not to scale

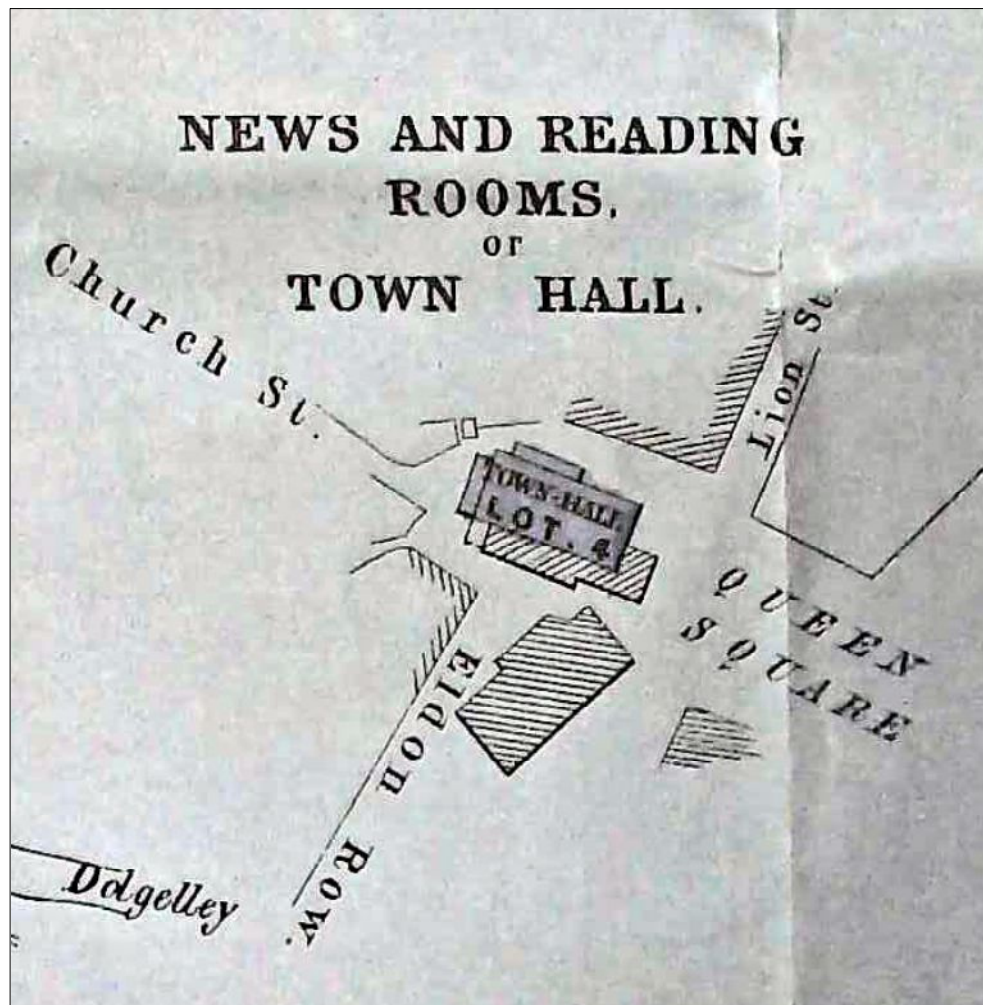


Figure 6: Extract from the 1858 Sales Document
Merioneth Archives Z/OCE/4
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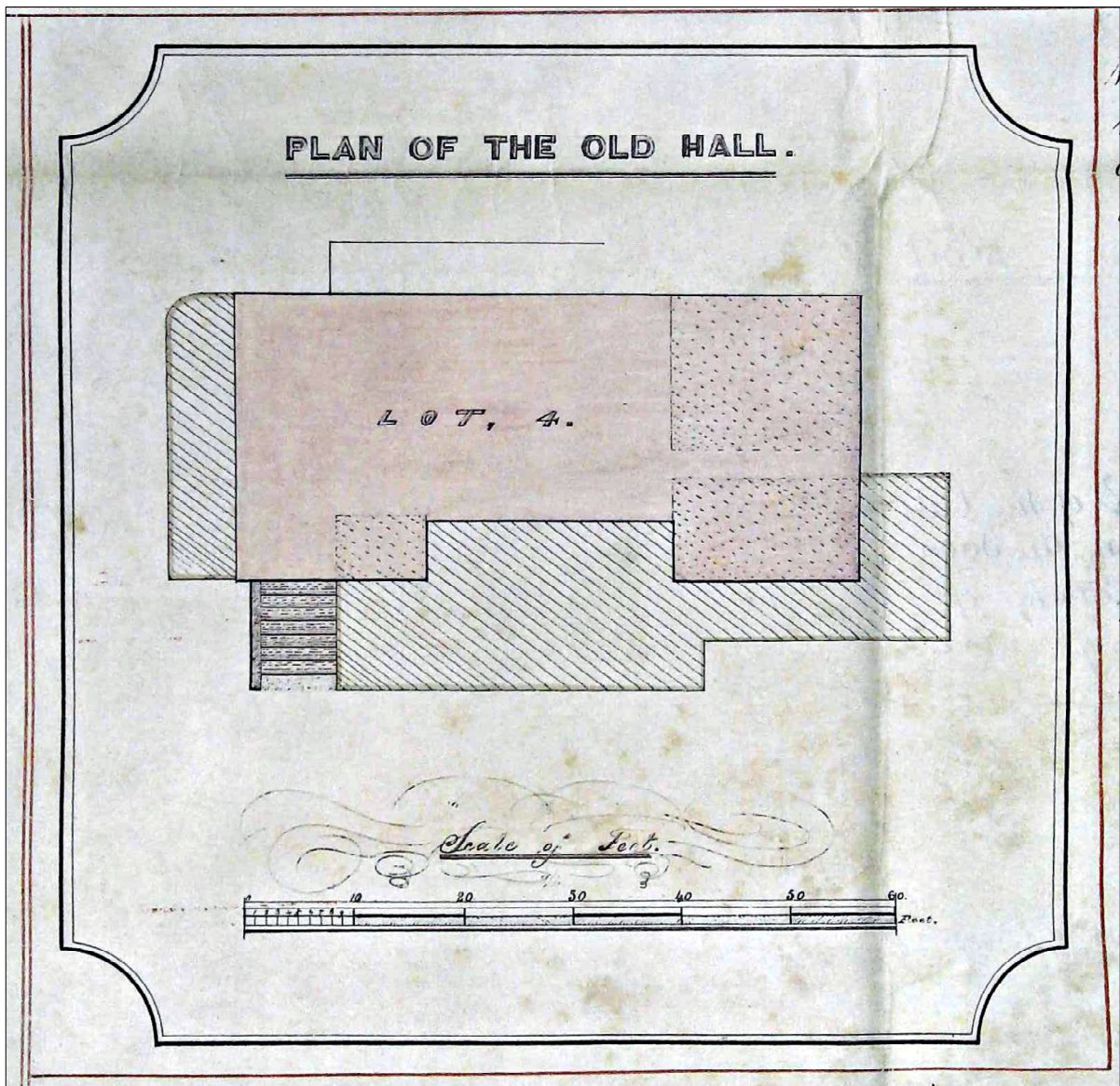


Figure 7: Plan of "The Old Shire Hall" on the 1859 Indenture
Merioneth Archives Z/M/65/6
Re-scaled to 1:200

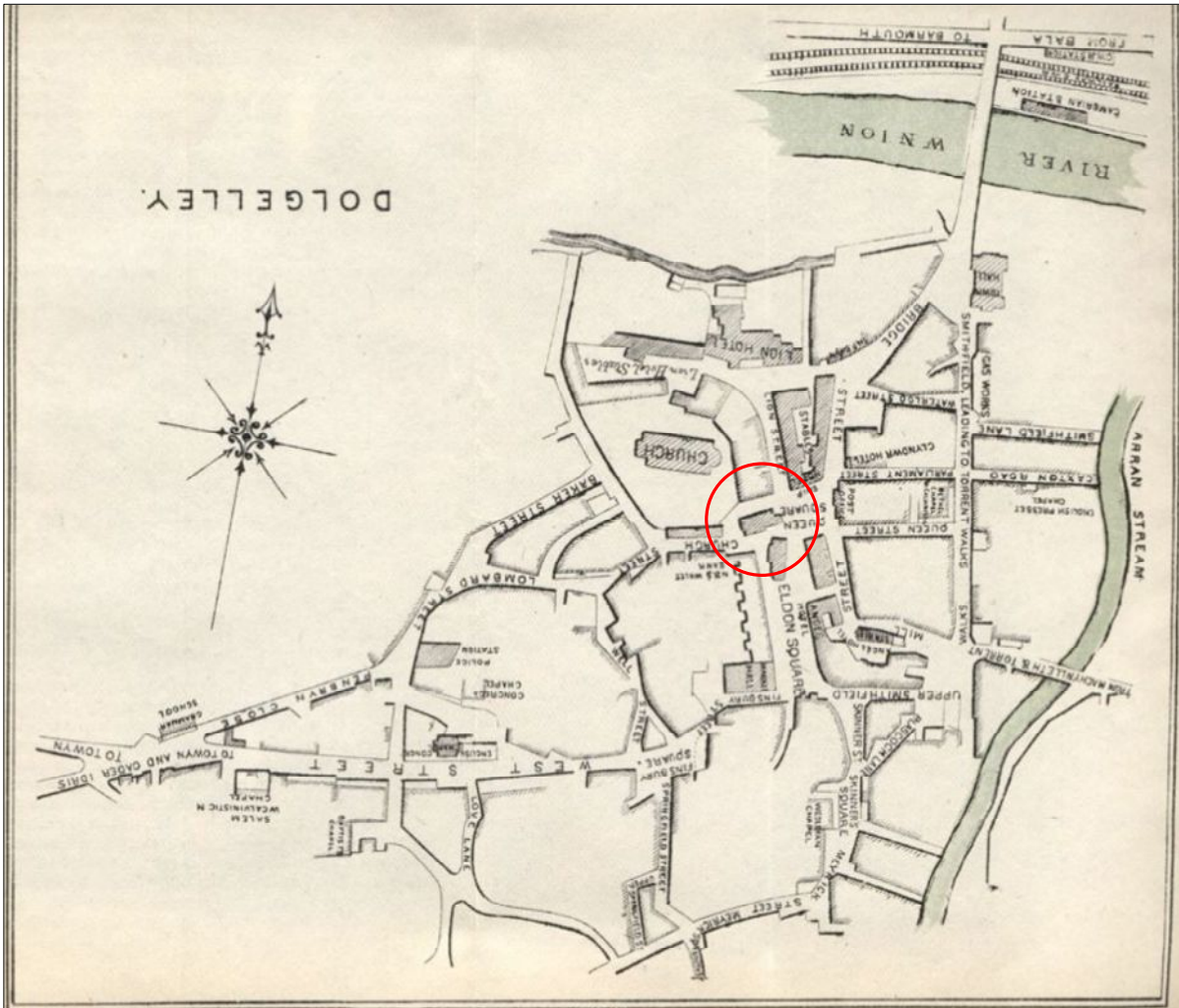


Figure 8: 1890 Plan
(National Library Map 10022)
Not to Scale



Figure 9: 1901 Sales Catalogue
(Merioneth Archives ZDCE/9)
Not to scale

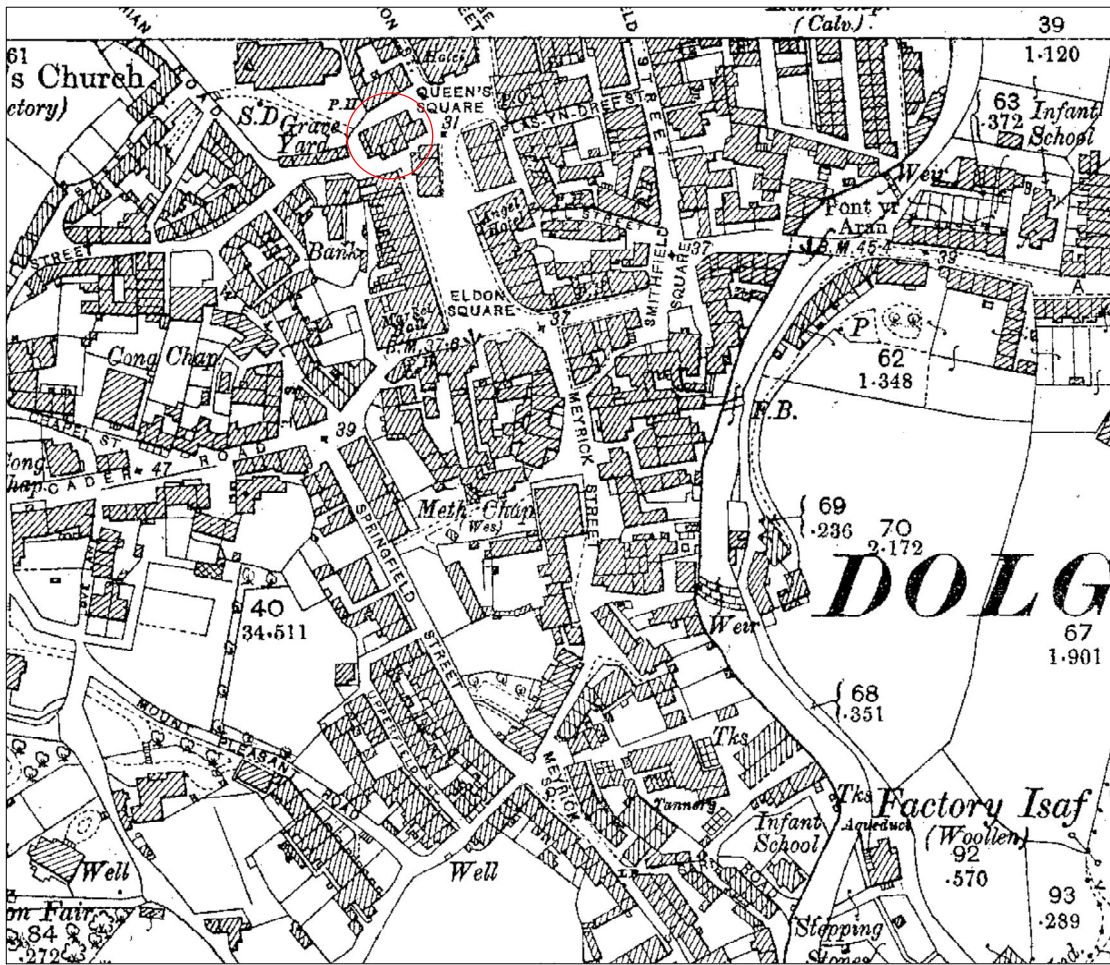


Figure 10: 1901 Ordnance Survey Map, Merionethshire XXXVII.3
Not to scale



Figure 11: 1901 Ordnance Survey Map, Merionethshire XXXVII.3
Annotated for the Commission of the Inland Revenue
in accordance with the Provisions of the Finance (1909/1910) Act 1910
Merioneth Archives Z/QR/1/22
Not to Scale

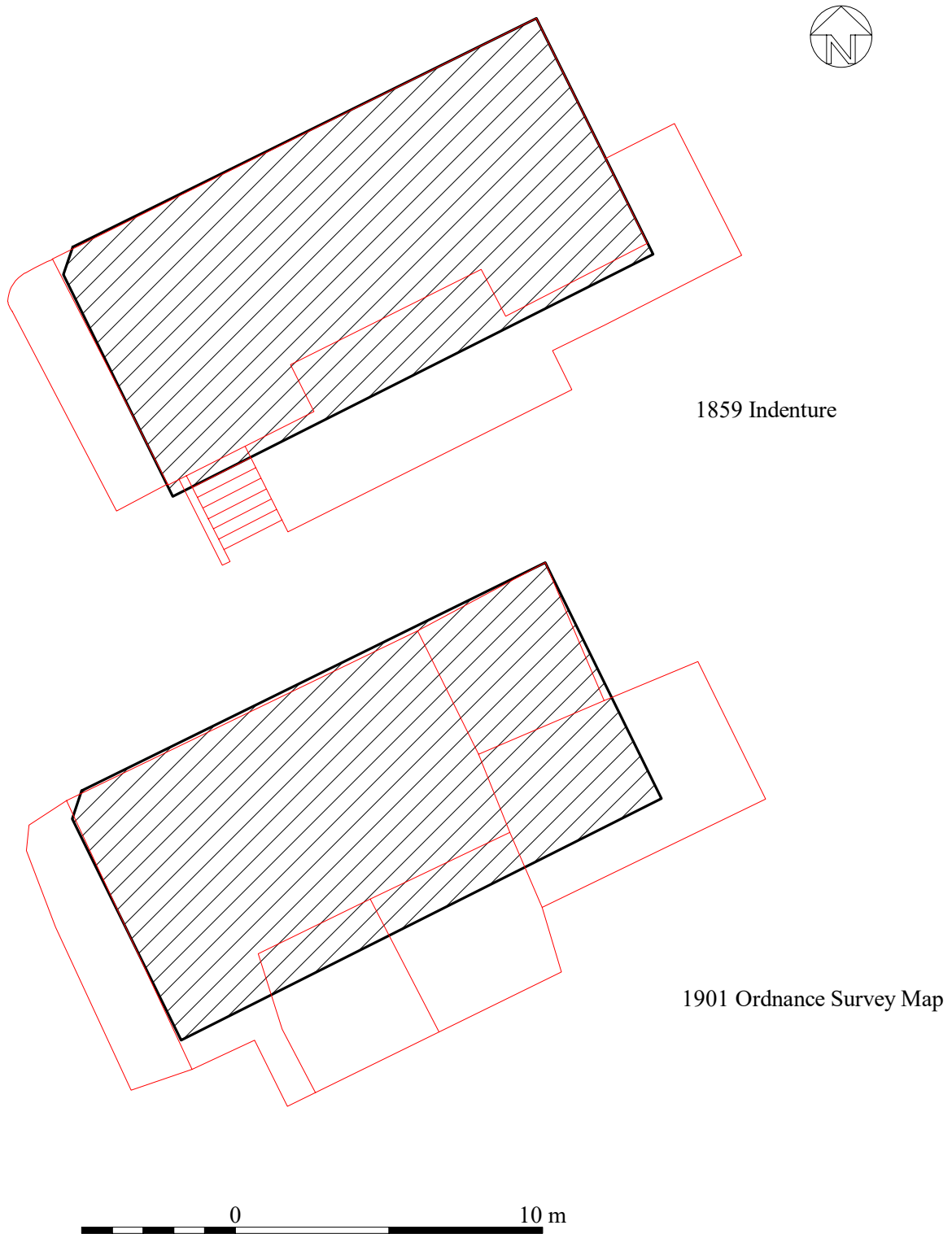


Figure 12: Comparison of the historic maps to the current layout
Scale 1:200



Figure 13: Photogrammetric Elevations
Scale 1:100



Figure 14: Photogrammetric Elevation
Scale 1:100



Figure 15: Photogrammetric Elevation
Scale 1:100

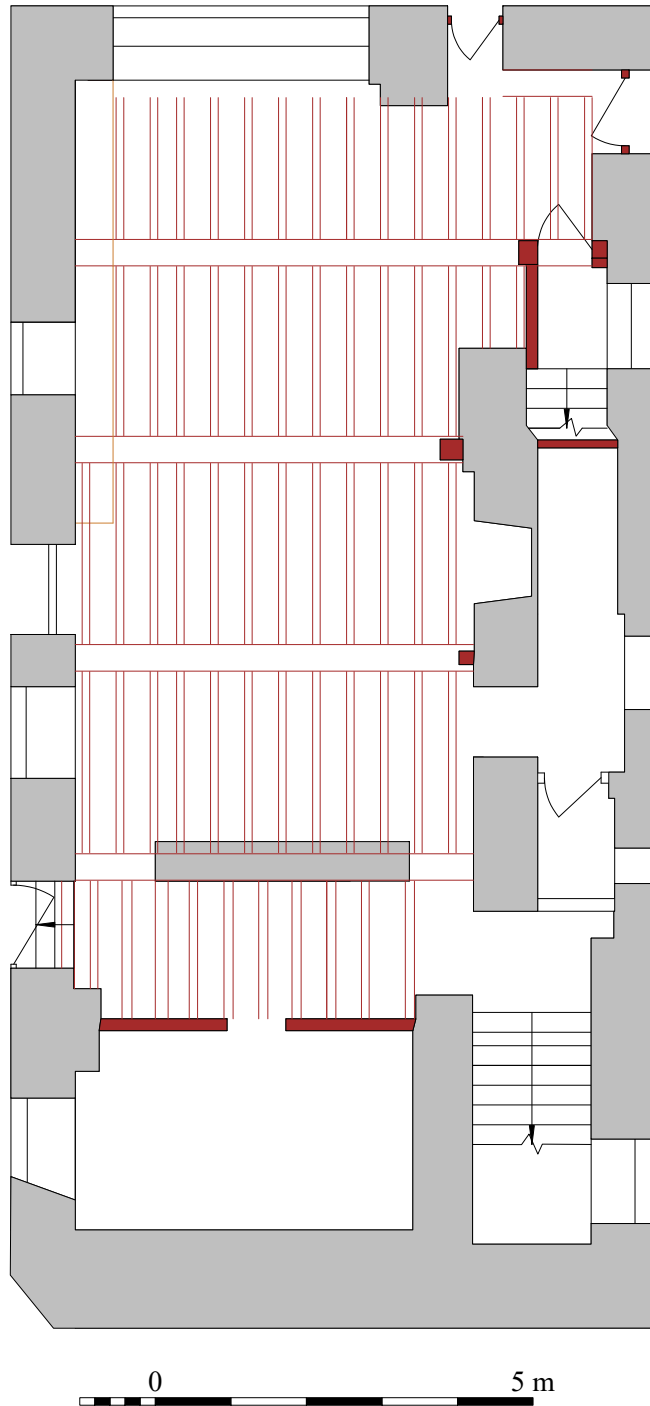


Figure 16: Ground Floor Plan
Scale 1:100

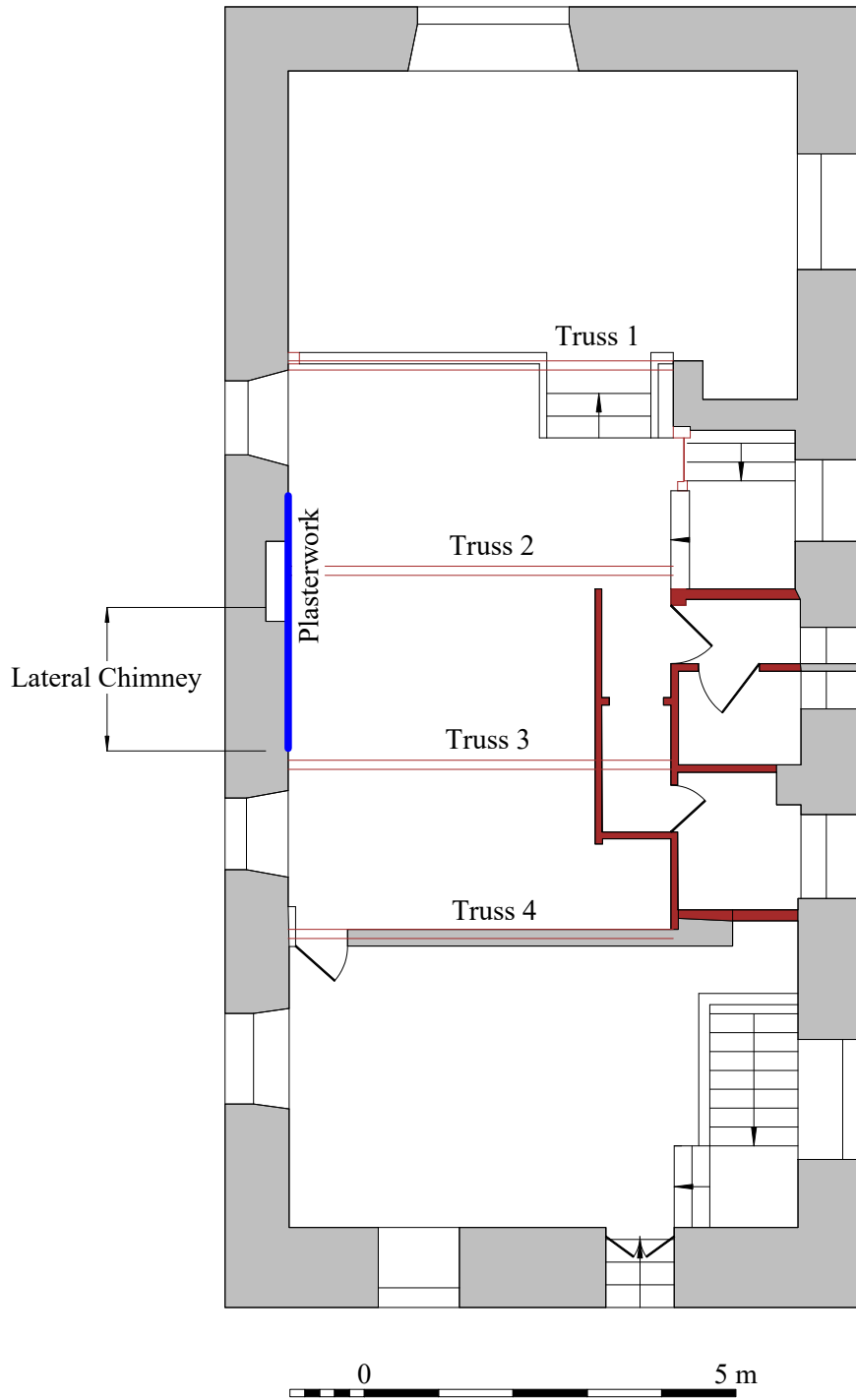


Figure 17: First Floor Plan
Scale 1:100

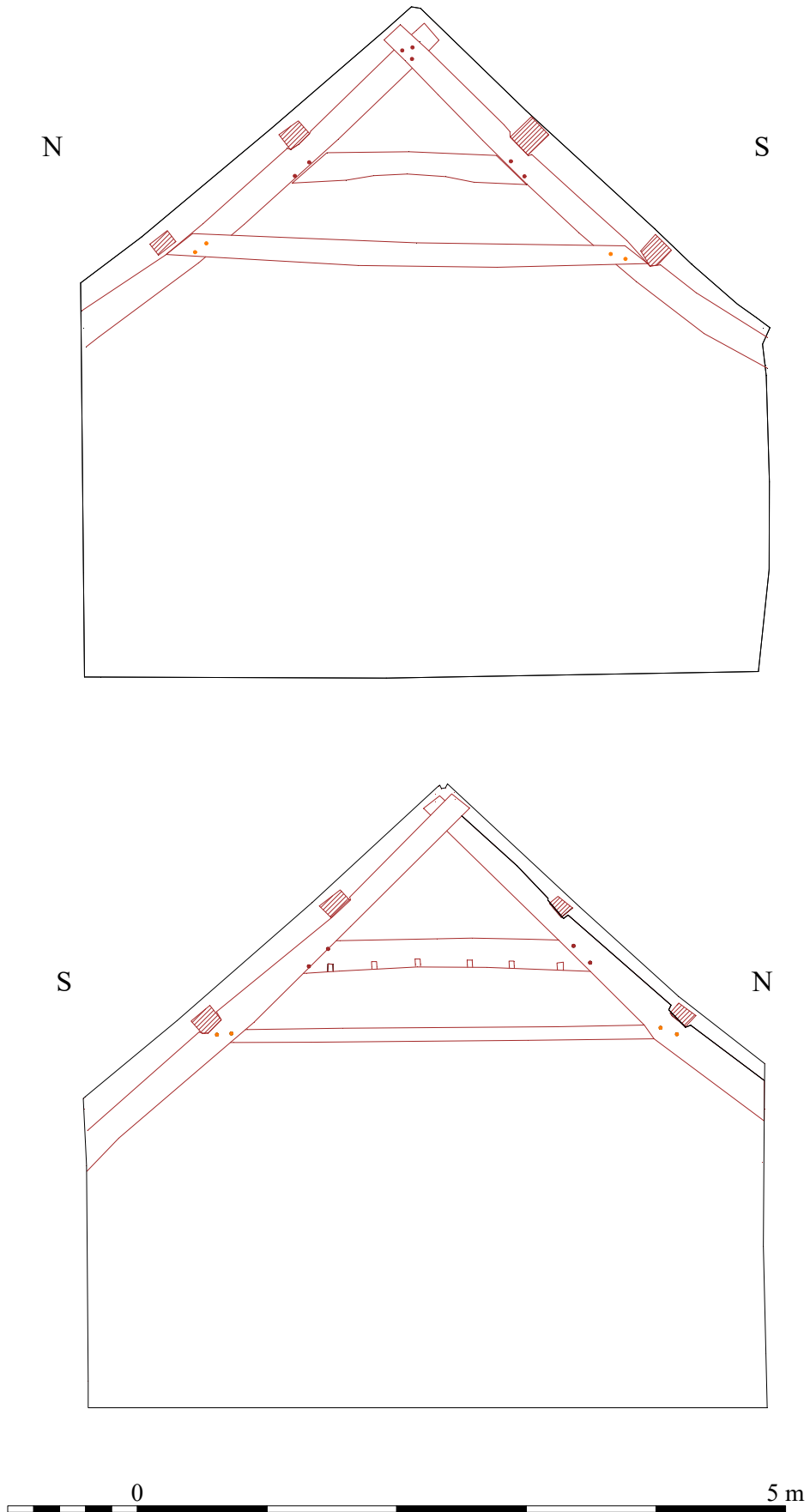


Figure 18: Trusses 1 and 2
Scale 1:50

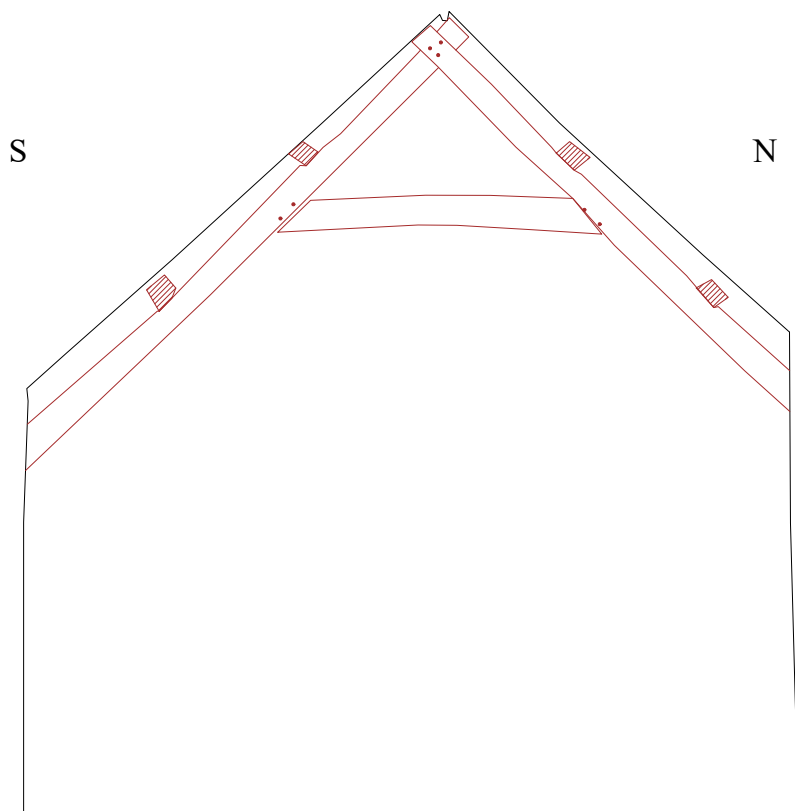
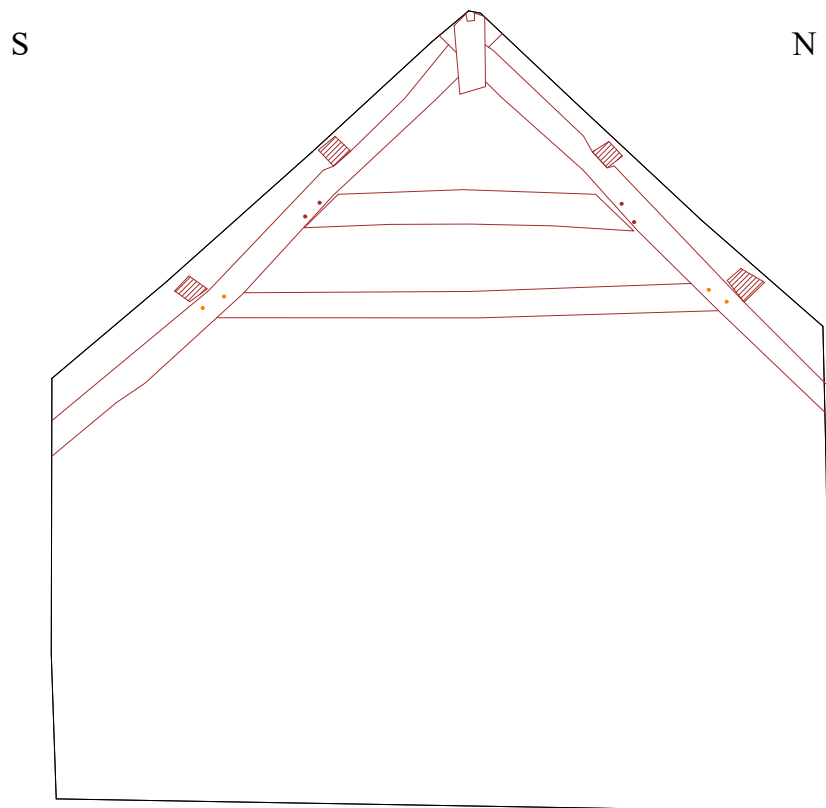


Figure 19: Trusses 3 and 4
Scale 1:50



Figure 20: Photogrammetric Image of the Plasterwork
Scale 1:20

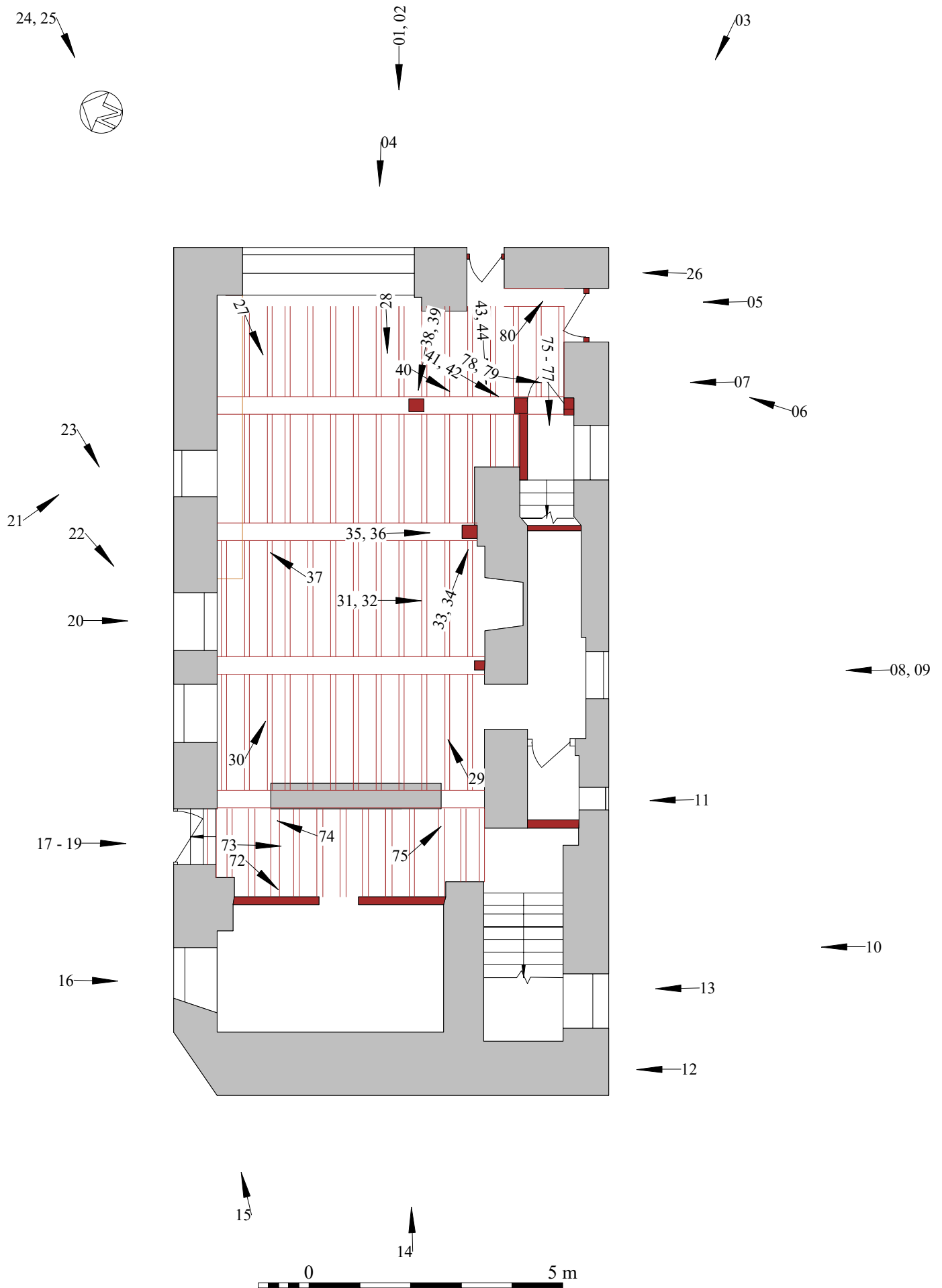


Figure 21: Location of the Photographs
in the Archive
Scale 1:100

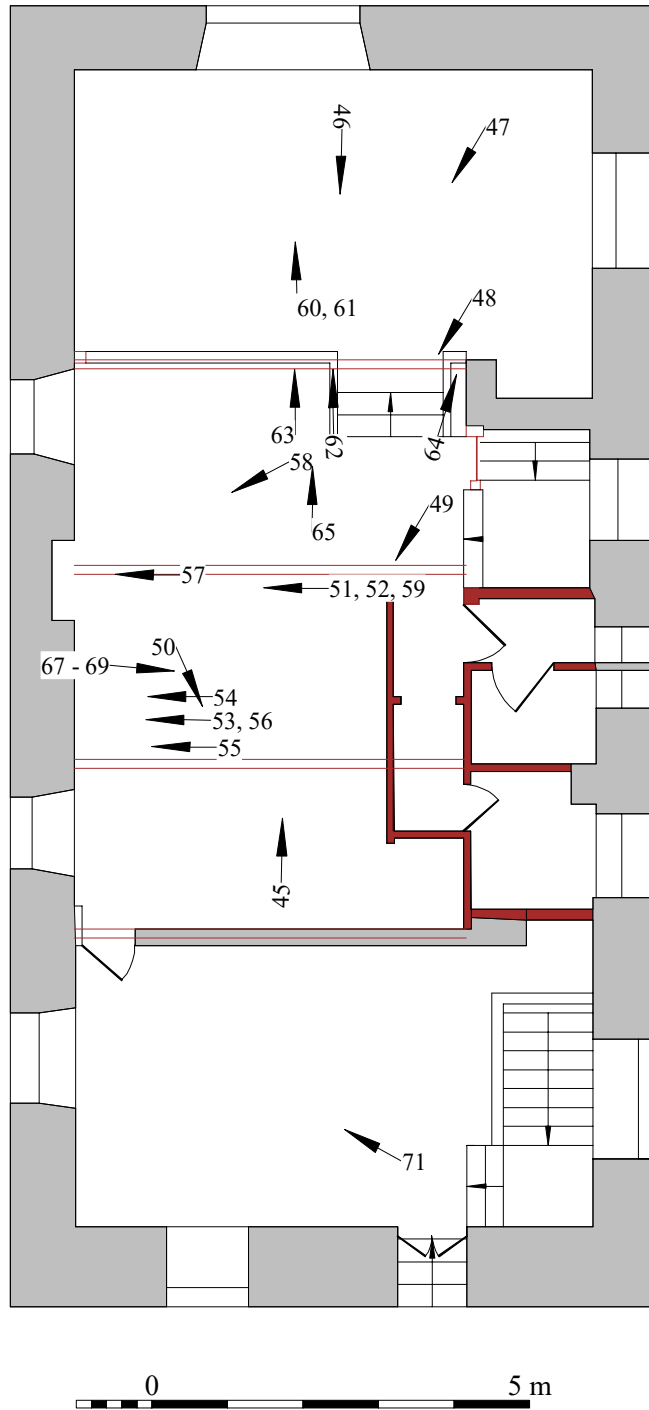


Figure 22: Location of the Photographs
in the Archive (First Floor)
Scale 1:100



Plate 1: General appearance



Plate 2: The southern elevation showing the hipped wings linked with an outshot.



Plate 3: Front elevation



Plate 4: Detail of the upper window in the front elevation.



Plate 5: Slight parapet on the front elevation.



Plate 6: Door in southern elevation



Plate 7: Sooting on the eastern end of the southern elevation



Plate 8: Ground floor window in the southern elevation



Plate 9: One of the windows in the wings on the southern elevation



Plate 10: Western elevation



Plate 11: Detail of the western chimney, looking SW



Plate 12: Clipped corner



Plate 13: The northern elevation, looking SW.



Plate 14: Lateral chimney



Plate 15: Windows at the western end of the northern elevation



Plate 16: Door and window above in the northern elevation



Plate 17: Partially blocked doorway and window above



Plate 18: Eastern window in the northern elevation



Plate 19: Ground-floor tearoom looking SW



Plate 20: Ground-floor tearoom, looking NE



Plate 21: Underside of one of the ceiling beams in the tearoom, showing the thinning



Plate 22: Chamfer on one of the ceiling beams



Plate 23: Chamfer on one of the ceiling beams



Plate 24: Chamfer and run-out stop on the eastern ceiling beam



Plate 25: Cogged joists



Plate 26: Re-used timber in south eastern corner of the tearoom



Plate 27: "Fireplace" in the tearoom



Plate 28: Staircase



Plate 29: Door at the base of the staircase



Plate 30: Passageway, looking south



Plate 31: Beam and joists on the eastern side of the passageway



Plate 32: First-floor restaurant, looking east



Plate 33: First-floor restaurant, looking west



Plate 34: Decorative post on partition between upper and lower restaurant areas



Plate 35: Heads on metal railings on the partition between the upper and lower restaurant areas.



Plate 36: Truss 1, looking west



Plate 37: Truss 2, looking west



Plate 38: Truss 3, looking west



Plate 39: Truss 4, looking south west



Plate 40: Location of the plasterwork



Plate 41: Fireplace and armorial



Plate 42: Detail of the armorial



Plate 43: General view of the plaster scene



Plate 44: Central tree



Plate 45: Detail of the figure within the tree



Plate 46: Right hand section of the plaster scene



Plate 47: Left hand section of the plaster scene



Plate 48: Detail of the church scene



Plate 49: Painted screen

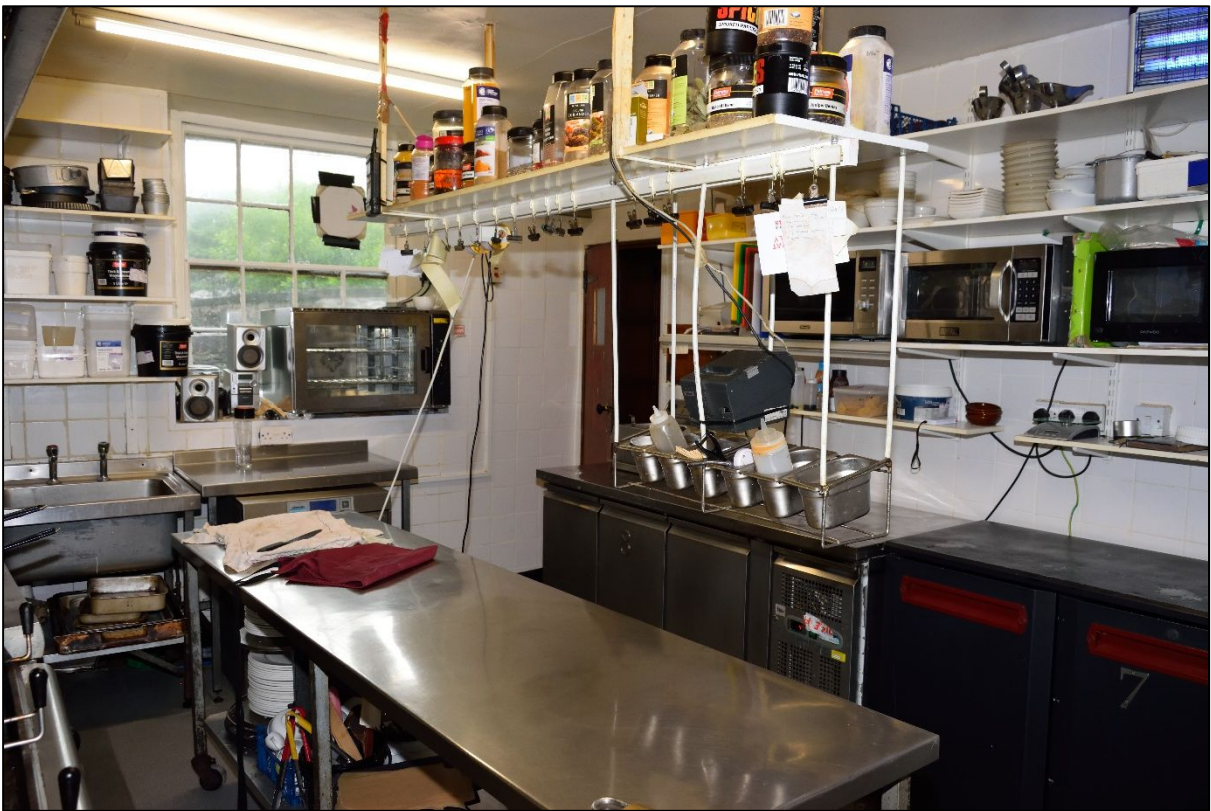


Plate 50: Upper kitchen, looking south-west

Appendix 1: Listed Building Description

Reference Number	5061
Grade	II
Status	Designated
Date of Designation	19/06/1990
Date of Amendment	19/06/1990
Name of Property	Old Courthouse (Y Sospan Fach)
Unitary Authority	Gwynedd
Community	Dolgellau
Easting	272783
Northing	317818

Location

On an island site with Queen's Square to front and the churchyard at rear.

Description

Broad Class Commercial

Period

History Largely C18 with early C17 origins.

Exterior

2 storey gabled main range with hipped wings flanking outshot to S side. Coursed rubble masonry. Steeply pitched quarry slate roofs, plain close eaves. Gable end to Queen's Square, raking parapet on kneelers, hip to left. Former venetian window to 1st floor. Blocked segment, inserted lintel. Deepened, narrower, tripartite horned sash window. Modern shopfront below. Broad doorway offset to right, stone lintel, modern door. Lateral stack to N side elevation. Slated gablet and offsets, water tabling. 16 pane sash windows set under eaves to 1st floor. 2 modern, small paned casements to ground floor, stone lintels. That to right later. Doorway between, deep reveals, modern door. Further 2 modern doorways to right. Gabled rear elevation, hip to right. Tall square stack, water tabling. Raking gable copings on kneelers to left over canted corner. Central window, stone lintel. Modern casement. Doorway to right, stone lintel. Deep reveals, C19 part-glazed door, steps down to street. S elevation with slightly taller 1 window hipped bays flanking 3 window outshot. Modern small paned fenestration. Enlarged 3 light windows to outer bays, shallow 2 light casements under eaves to outshot. Similar to ground floor at extreme left and centre flanked by single light windows. Deeper 2 light window to right with doorway to extreme right, modern door, steps down from street.

Interior

Ground floor stone flagged. Transverse stop chamfered ceiling beams, probably C17. Similar mantel beams. Some traces of timber framing to S side. Through purlin collared trusses to roof.

Reason for designation

Group value with other listed items on Queen's Square and churchyard.

(<http://cadwpublic-api.azurewebsites.net/reports/listedbuilding/FullReport?lang=en&id=5061>)

Appendix 2: List of photographs in the archive

File	Subject	Direction (looking)	Scale
Y_Sospan.01.TIF	Eastern elevation	W	2 m
Y_Sospan.02.TIF	Eastern elevation	W	2 m
Y_Sospan.03.TIF	General view of the building	NW	2 m
Y_Sospan.04.TIF	First floor window in the eastern elevation	W	none
Y_Sospan.05.TIF	External door in the eastern end of the southern elevation	N	2 m
Y_Sospan.06.TIF	External door in the eastern end of the southern elevation and wall scar	NE	2 m
Y_Sospan.07.TIF	Upper window in southern elevation	N	none
Y_Sospan.08.TIF	Eastern end of southern elevation	N	2 m
Y_Sospan.09.TIF	Southern elevation	N	2 m
Y_Sospan.10.TIF	Western end of the southern elevation	N	2 m
Y_Sospan.11.TIF	Partly blocked window in the southern elevation	N	2 m
Y_Sospan.12.TIF	Quoins at western end of southern elevation	N	2 m
Y_Sospan.13.TIF	Upper window in the southern elevation	N	none
Y_Sospan.14.TIF	Western elevation	E	2 m
Y_Sospan.15.TIF	Clipped corner in the NW corner of the building	E	2 m
Y_Sospan.16.TIF	Western windows in the northern elevation	S	2 m
Y_Sospan.17.TIF	Door in the northern elevation	S	2 m
Y_Sospan.18.TIF	Partly blocked doorway in the northern elevation	S	2 m
Y_Sospan.19.TIF	Partly blocked doorway in the northern elevation	S	2 m
Y_Sospan.20.TIF	Ground floor window in the northern elevation	S	2 m
Y_Sospan.21.TIF	Parapet on the eastern elevation	SW	none
Y_Sospan.22.TIF	Lateral chimney	SW	none
Y_Sospan.23.TIF	Gabel end chimney	SW	none
Y_Sospan.24.TIF	South elevation	SW	2 m
Y_Sospan.25.TIF	South elevation	SW	2 m
Y_Sospan.26.TIF	Sooting in the SE corner of the building	N	none
Y_Sospan.27.TIF	Tearoom	SW	2 m
Y_Sospan.28.TIF	Tearoom	W	2 m
Y_Sospan.29.TIF	Tearoom	NE	2 m
Y_Sospan.30.TIF	Tearoom	SE	2 m
Y_Sospan.31.TIF	Fireplace in tearoom	S	2 m
Y_Sospan.32.TIF	Fireplace in tearoom	S	2 m
Y_Sospan.33.TIF	Post supporting a ceiling beam near to the fireplace	E	2 m

File	Subject	Direction (looking)	Scale
Y_Sospan.34.TIF	Post supporting a ceiling beam near to the fireplace	E	0.5 m
Y_Sospan.35.TIF	Thinning of ceiling beam near the fireplace	S	0.5
Y_Sospan.36.TIF	Thinning of ceiling beam near the fireplace	S	0.5
Y_Sospan.37.TIF	Thinning of ceiling beam	N	none
Y_Sospan.38.TIF	Post supporting eastern ceiling beam	E	2 m
Y_Sospan.39.TIF	Detail of post supporting eastern ceiling beam	E	0.5 m
Y_Sospan.40.TIF	Chamfer and stop on the eastern ceiling beam	S	none
Y_Sospan.41.TIF	Chamfer and stop on the eastern ceiling beam	S	none
Y_Sospan.42.TIF	Detail of chamfer and stop on the eastern ceiling beam	S	none
Y_Sospan.43.TIF	Joists and thinning of eastern ceiling beam	W	none
Y_Sospan.44.TIF	Joists and thinning of eastern ceiling beam	W	none
Y_Sospan.45.TIF	First floor restaurant area	E	2 m
Y_Sospan.46.TIF	First floor restaurant area	W	2 m
Y_Sospan.47.TIF	Truss 1	NW	none
Y_Sospan.48.TIF	Truss 2	NW	none
Y_Sospan.49.TIF	Truss 3	NW	none
Y_Sospan.50.TIF	Truss 4	SW	none
Y_Sospan.51.TIF	First floor fireplace and armorial	N	2 m
Y_Sospan.52.TIF	First floor fireplace and armorial	N	2 m
Y_Sospan.53.TIF	Plasterwork in gable of lateral chimney	N	none
Y_Sospan.54.TIF	Detail of bottom right section of plasterwork in gable of lateral chimney	NW	none
Y_Sospan.55.TIF	Detail of bottom left section of plasterwork in gable of lateral chimney	N	none
Y_Sospan.55a.TIF	Detail of church scene	N	none
Y_Sospan.55demon.TIF	Detail of demon in the tree	N	none
Y_Sospan.56.TIF	Central area of the plasterwork within the gable of the lateral chimney	N	none
Y_Sospan.57.TIF	Armorial above the fireplace	N	1 m
Y_Sospan.57a.TIF	Detail of armorial	N	none
Y_Sospan.58.TIF	Fireplace, and plasterwork	NE	2 m
Y_Sospan.59.TIF	Fireplace, and plasterwork	N	2 m
Y_Sospan.60.TIF	Eastern gable of first floor restaurant	E	none
Y_Sospan.61.TIF	Eastern gable of first floor restaurant	E	none
Y_Sospan.62.TIF	Post for the partition between the upper and lower restaurant levels	E	1 m
Y_Sospan.63.TIF	Metal heads on the railing between the upper and lower restaurant levels	E	0.5 m

File	Subject	Direction (looking)	Scale
Y_Sospan.64.TIF	Post for the partition between the upper and lower restaurant levels	SE	none
Y_Sospan.65.TIF	Partition between upper and lower restaurant levels	E	2 m
Y_Sospan.66.TIF	Painted panel	S	2 m
Y_Sospan.67.TIF	Painted panel	S	2 m
Y_Sospan.68.TIF	Painted panel	S	2 m
Y_Sospan.69.TIF	Painted panel	S	2 m
Y_Sospan.71.TIF	Upper kitchen	NE	none
Y_Sospan.72.TIF	Ceiling beam in passageway	E	none
Y_Sospan.73.TIF	Passageway	S	none
Y_Sospan.74.TIF	Ceiling beam between the passageway and the tearoom	NE	none
Y_Sospan.75.TIF	Ceiling beam between the passageway and the tearoom	SE	none
Y_Sospan.76.TIF	Main staircase	W	1 m
Y_Sospan.77.TIF	Main staircase	W	1 m
Y_Sospan.78.TIF	Door at base of the stairs	S	2 m
Y_Sospan.79.TIF	Door at base of the stairs	S	2 m
Y_Sospan.80.TIF	Re-used in SE corner of the tearoom	SE	none