

**CAPEL SUL, KIDWELLY,
CARMARTHENSHIRE**

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

(NGR SN 4069 0681)



Prepared by DAT Archaeological Services
For: Reflect Education Ltd



DYFED ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

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April 2021

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(NGR SN 4069 0681)
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING**

By

Hubert Wilson



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Ymddiriedolaeth Archaeolegol Dyfed Cyf
Corner House, 6 Stryd Caerfyrddin
Llandeilo, Sir Gaerfyrddin,
SA19 6AE
Ffon: Ymholiadau Cyffredinol 01558 823121
Ffacs: 01558 823133
Ebost: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Gwefan: www.archaeolegdyfed.org.uk

Dyfed Archaeological Trust Limited
Corner House, 6 Carmarthen Street
Llandeilo, Carmarthenshire
SA19 6AE
Tel: General Enquiries 01558 823121
Fax: 01558 823133
Email: info@dyfedarchaeology.org.uk
Website: www.dyfedarchaeology.org.uk

*CADAIR CHAIR: Judith Wainwright MA MSc FIC FRSA - CYFARWYDDWR DIRECTOR: K MURPHY BA MIFA
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HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING**

Client

Reflect Education Ltd

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Report Prepared By

Hubert Wilson

Fieldwork Undertaken By

Hubert Wilson

Illustrated By

Report Approved By

Fran Murphy

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**CAPEL SUL KIDWELLY, CARMARTHENSHIRE:
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING**

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CAPEL SUL, KIDWELLY, CARMARTHENSHIRE: HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

DAT Archaeological Services were commissioned to undertake an archaeological scheme of historic building recording at Capel Sul, Kidwelly, Carmarthenshire, centred on NGR SN 4069 0681.

The building was originally constructed in 1862 as a town house in the Italianate style. In 1924 it was bought by the Independent Congregation and converted into a chapel and schoolhall.

It has recently been sold and will become an education centre.

CRYNODEB GWEITHREDOL

Comisiynwyd Gwasanaethau Archeolegol YAD i ymgymryd â chynllun archeolegol o recordio adeiladau hanesyddol yn Capel Sul, Cydweli, Sir Gaerfyrddin, wedi'i ganoli ar NGR SN 4069 0681.

Codwyd yr adeilad yn wreiddiol ym 1862 fel tŷ tref yn yr arddull Eidalaidd. Ym 1924 prynwyd y adeilad gan y Gynulleidfa Annibynnol a'i drawsnewid fel gapel a neuadd ysgol.

Fe'i gwerthwyd yn ddiweddar a bydd yn dod yn ganolfan addysg.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 DAT Archaeological Services, in response to a request from Reflect Education Ltd, were commissioned to undertake an archaeological scheme of historic building recording works at Capel Sul, Kidwelly, Carmarthenshire (SN 4069 0681). The requirement for a scheme to record the building prior to its alteration has been placed upon the development by Carmarthenshire County Council (Local Planning Authority) following advice from their archaeological advisors, Dyfed Archaeological Trust-Development Management (DAT-DM).
- 1.1.2 Planning permission has been granted for the proposed alterations to the building by Carmarthenshire County Council (Planning reference PL/00096). In response to the application, stated in a letter to Carmarthenshire County Council dated 02/10/20, DAT-DM recommended that should permission be granted, then: *Development shall not begin until an appropriate building recording survey of the existing buildings has been carried out in accordance with guidelines provided by the Local Planning Authority's archaeological advisors – Dyfed Archaeological Trust Development Management. The resulting photographs should be approved by the planning authority prior to the commencement of development and deposited with the regional Historic Environment Record, held and maintained by the Dyfed Archaeological Trust.*
- 1.1.3 The building is a Grade II listed (LB 20186) and is also recorded on the regional Historic Environment Record (PRN 16384).
- 1.1.4 The historic building recording scheme has been undertaken to a Level 2 standard as defined in the Historic England 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice' (2016), which is described thus:
- Level 2 is a descriptive record, made in circumstances similar to those of Level 1 (basic photographic survey) but when more information is needed. The record will present conclusions regarding the building's development and use but will not discuss in detail the evidence on which these conclusions are based. A plan and sometimes other drawings may be made*
- 1.1.5 A written scheme of investigation was prepared by DAT Archaeological Services which outlined the methodology by which the historic building works would be undertaken, which was approved by DAT-DM.
- 1.1.6 The historic building recording has been undertaken in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological investigation and recording of Standing Buildings and Structures* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 1996, revised 2001 & 2008).
- 1.1.7 A site visit was made on the 21st April 2021.

1.2 Site Location

- 1.2.1 Capel Sul stands at the north end of Bridge Street, Kidwelly; approximately 20m south of Kidwelly Bridge (PRN 8422, LB 20184) that spans the Gwendraeth Fach. It is bounded by a rectangular stone wall enclosing an area measuring approximately 57m by 40m, the northern perimeter of which flanks the Gwendraeth Fach. The chapel is in the SE corner of the grounds. To the west is a lawned area with mature trees whilst to the front (north) is an area of hard standing.

- 1.2.2 The building lies at approximately 6mOD in a relatively level area.
- 1.2.3 The underlying solid geology of the area is Bishopston Mudstone formation represented by sedimentary mudstone, siltstone and sandstone formed during the Carboniferous era.

1.3 Scope of the Project

- 1.3.1 The building recording was designed to record the existing fabric of the structures (at the time of the survey) through a combination of a photographic survey, along with site notes, drawings and historic research.

1.4 Report Outline

- 1.4.1 This report describes the location of the site, its known archaeological and historical background and photographs of the site. Sources are referenced within the text or as footnotes.

1.5 Abbreviations

Regional Historic Environment Record – HER; Primary Record Number – PRN; National Grid Reference – NGR; Written Scheme of Investigation – WSI.

1.6 Illustrations

Record photographs are included to the rear of the text. Printed map extracts are not necessarily reproduced to their original scale and are illustrative only.

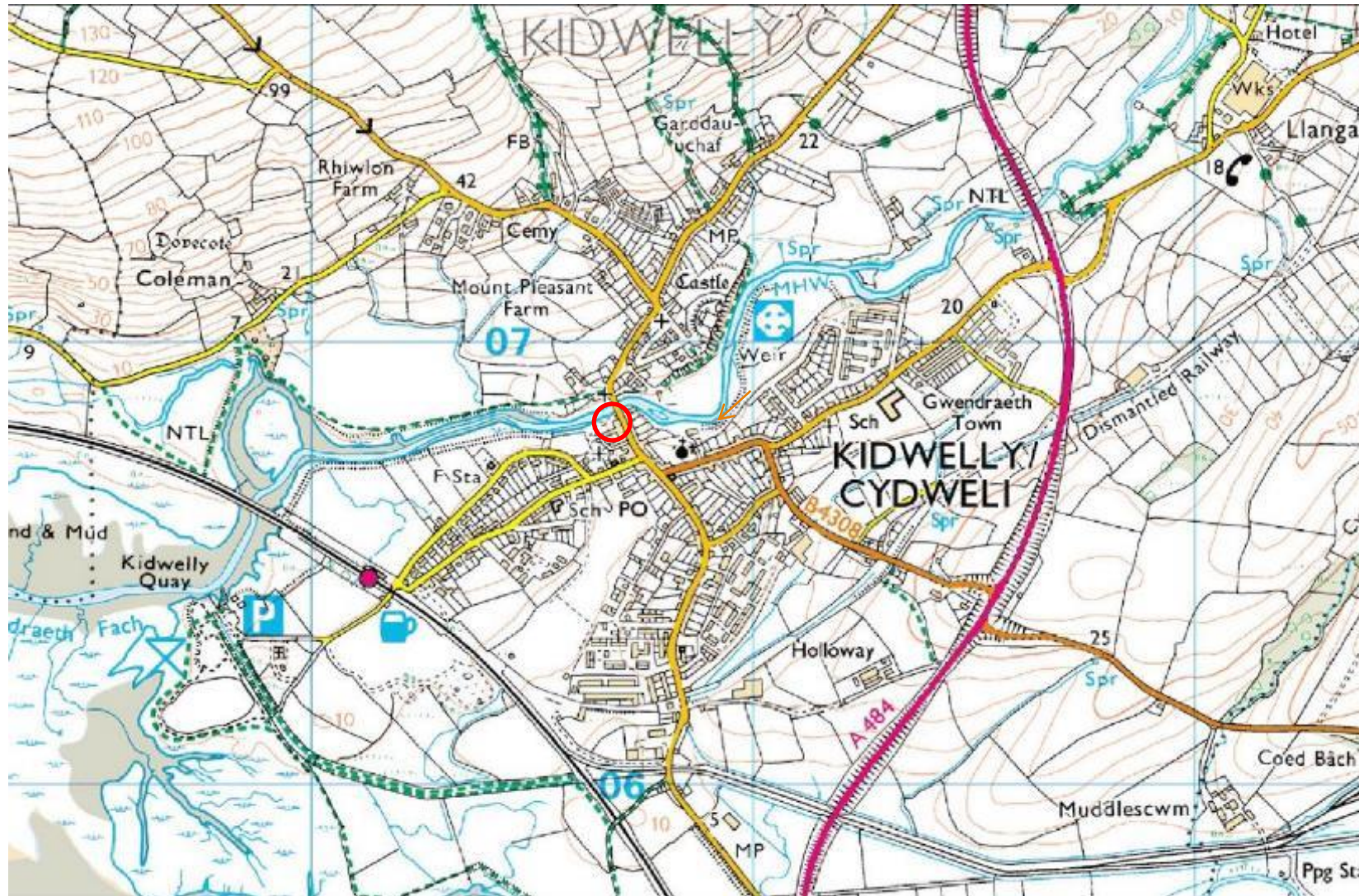


Figure 1: Location of site (red circle)

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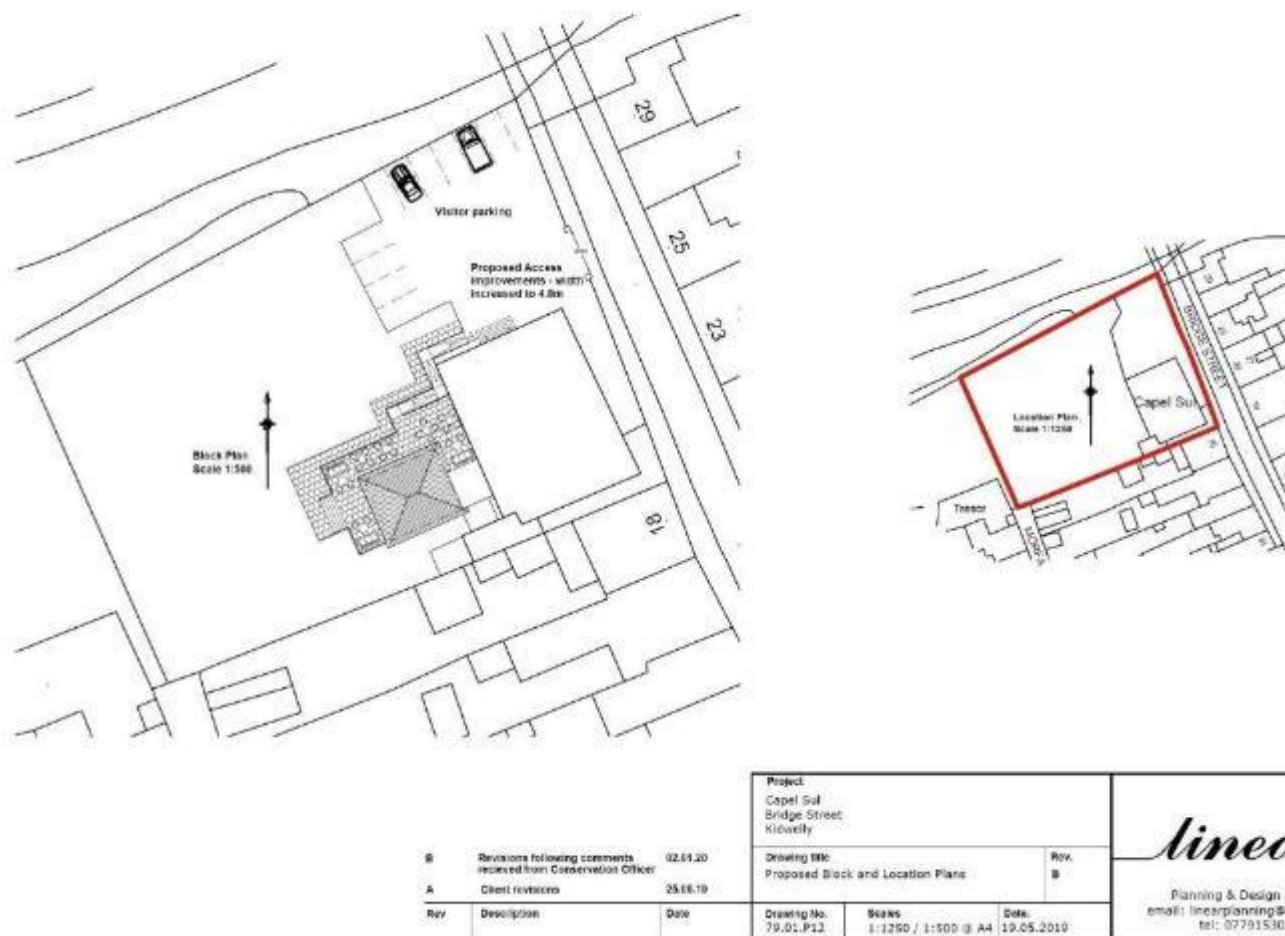


Figure 2: Detailed site location plan of development area (red bock). Supplied by client.

2 METHODOLOGY

- 2.1 The historic building recording scheme has been undertaken to a Level 2 standard as defined in the Historic England 'Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice' (2016). This level of recording is described thus:

Level 2 is a descriptive record, made in similar circumstances to Level 1 [basic photographic survey] but when more information is needed.....Both the exterior and interior of the building will be seen, described and photographed. The examination of the building will produce an analysis of its development and use and the record will include the conclusions reached, but will not discuss in detail the evidence on which this analysis is based. A plan and sometimes other drawings may be made but the drawn record will not normally be comprehensive...

- 2.2 To supplement the on-site survey a review of information held at the DAT HER and local studies library was undertaken. The on-site survey will then complete the relevant tasks outlined below, where possible, to ensure that the record is completed to the Level 2 guidelines, building on the known information. Only photos taken during this survey will be included within the site archive and report.
- 2.3 Based on the Level 2 record as defined in the Historic England guidelines (2016) the following has been undertaken:

Written Record

- The building's precise location, as a National Grid reference and in address form.
- A note of any statutory designation (listing, scheduling or conservation area) and non-statutory designations (historic parks and gardens registers, local lists etc).
- The date of the record, the name(s) of the recorder(s) and, if an archive has been created, its location.
- A summary of the building's type or purpose, historically and at present, its materials and possible date(s). The names of architects, builders, patrons and owners will be given if known.
- An introduction briefly setting out the circumstances in which the record was made, its objectives, methods, scope and limitations, and any constraints.
- Any evidence for the former existence of demolished structures or removed features associated with the building.
- Copies of historic maps, drawings, views or photographs illustrating the development of the building or its site (if readily available and permissible).

Drawn Record

- Measured plans (to scale) as existing
- A site plan, typically at 1:500 or 1:1250 relating the building to other structures and to related topographical feature and landscape features.
- A plan or plans identifying the location and direction of accompanying photographs
- Copies of earlier drawings throwing light on the building's history, if available

Photographic Record

- A general view or views of the building (in its wider setting or landscape).
- The building's external appearance. Typically, a series of oblique views will show all external elevations of the building, and give an overall impression of its size and shape.
- The overall appearance of the principal rooms and circulation areas.

3 HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

- 3.1 The chapel 'Capel Sul' was once a large town house (Rumsey House) containing twelve bedrooms and was built in 1862 by T W A Evans (1841-97), architect and later, Mayor of Kidwelly. The 1840 Tithe map of the parish does not show the built-up area of Kidwelly but an article in the publication *Cymmrodor* (1915) states that on part of the site occupied by Rumsey House there was once an inn called the Old Griffin. This information came from the Rent Rolls belonging to the borough of Kidwelly dated 1753.
- 3.2 The earliest map to show Rumsey House and its formal gardens is the 1880 1st edition OS (Figure 3). By this period the north end of Bridge Street, consisting of late Georgian and early Victorian buildings is well established.

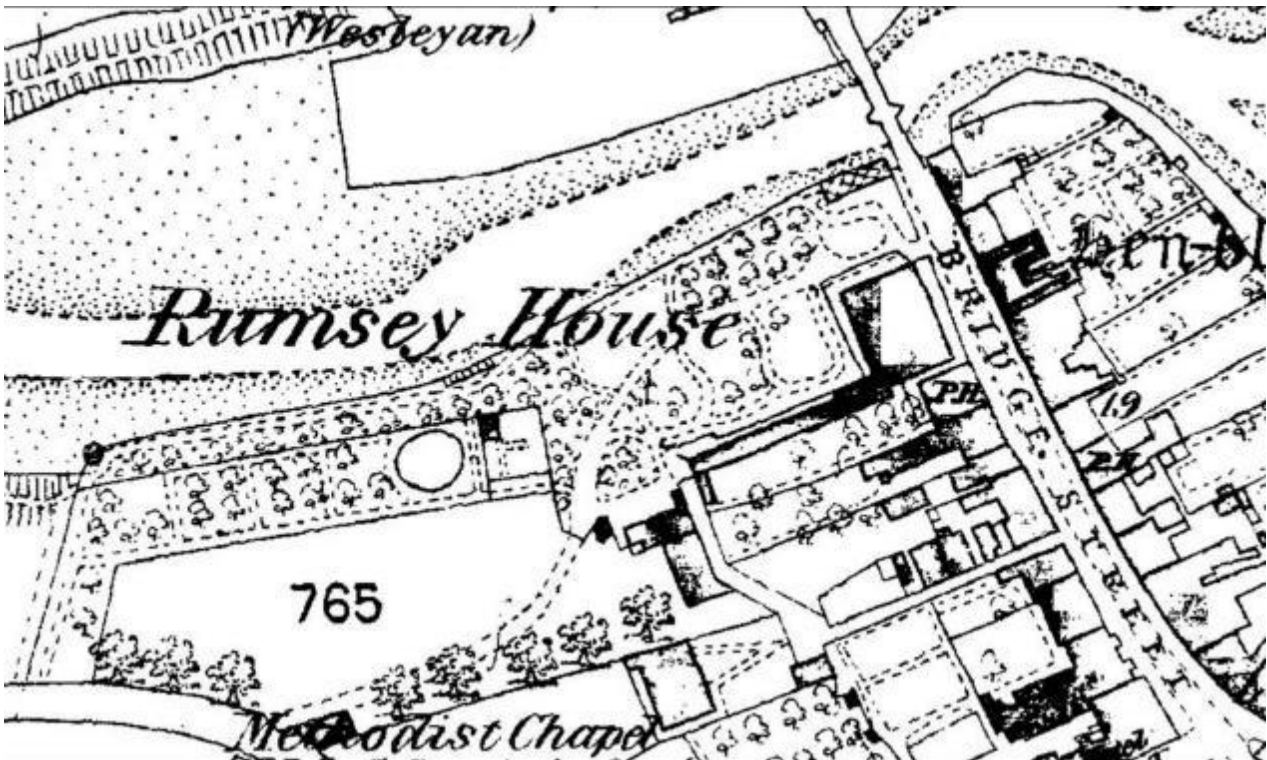


Figure 3: Extract from the 1880 Ordnance Survey map showing Rumsey House and grounds.

- 3.3 The publication of the 1906 2nd edition OS shows nothing has been built or demolished at the site. The gardens at the front and side of the house have vanished but it is probable that garden details were not included in this edition.

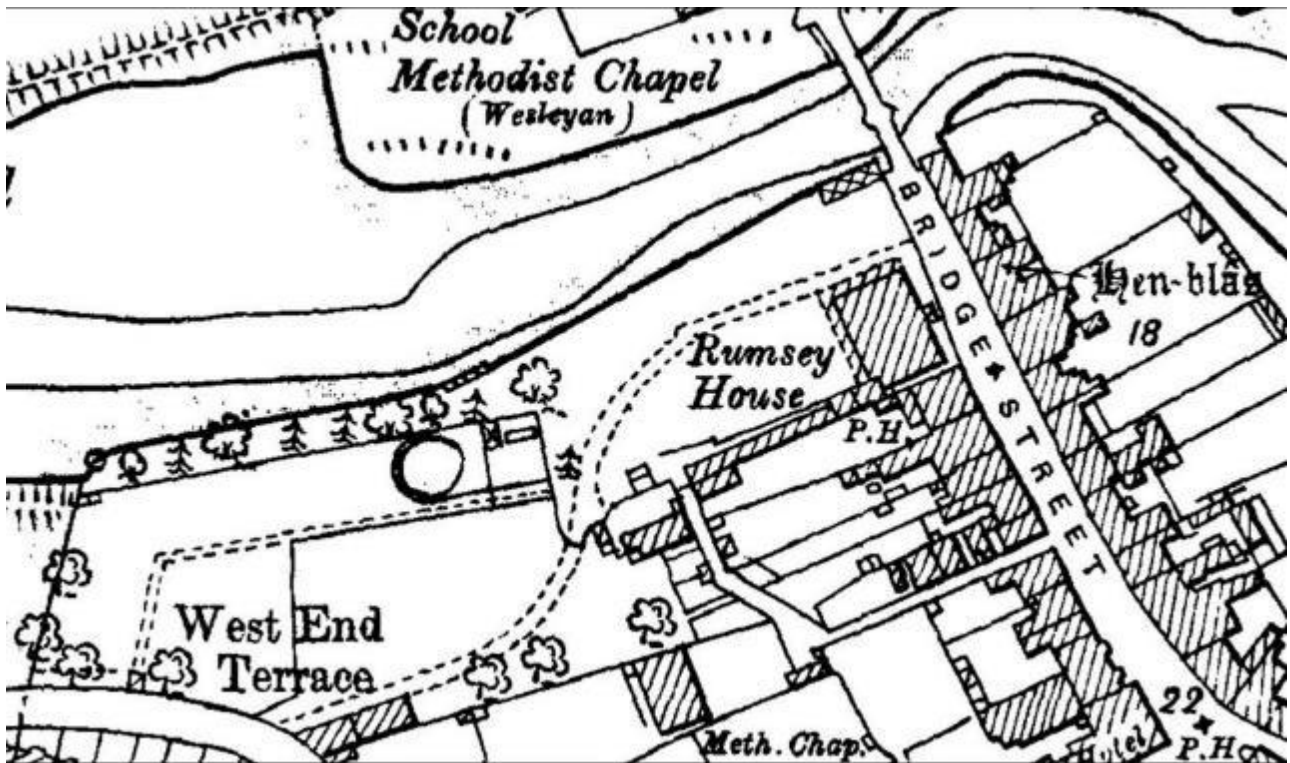


Figure 4: Extract from the 1906 Ordnance survey map showing Rumsey House and grounds.



Figure 5: North and west façades of Rumsey House pre-1924 (note verandah).



Figure 6: North and east facades of Rumsey House pre-1924 (note porch entrance on east side of house).

- 3.4 The original site of the chapel was at Ferry Road, Kidwelly. It was built in 1785 and enlarged in 1832 but by 1920 it was deemed to be too small for its increasing membership. The appointed architect, Mr J. H. Morgan thought that enlarging the old chapel would be problematic therefore the Independents (Nonconformists) sought to purchase Rumsey House which had recently been put up for sale due to its owner the infamous Mr Harold Greenwood having moved away. He had been accused and acquitted of murdering his wife by arsenic poisoning.

- 3.5 The architect Mr J. Howard Morgan, Carmarthen was commissioned to convert Rumsey House into a chapel and two letters he wrote to the then minister of old Capel Sul describe Rumsey House and convey his thoughts on the conversion. The first letter dated 17th April 1923 reads:

*Rev. Currig Davies
21 Ferry Road
Kidwelly*

Dear Sir,

Rumsey House Kidwelly

I have examined the above premises and beg to report as follows:

The house is a stone-built structure of 3 stories and basement, covered by a single span roof of slates hipped at each end.

The main floor is raised about 20 inches above the ground level, and has beneath the hall and front rooms, a well-lighted and ventilated range of cellars most of which are vaulted.

There is but one internal wall of any thickness and this carries the floors, the rooms being divided by half-brick partitions and the chimney breasts, the fireplaces being built in three groups independently of the main walls.

The structure is substantially built and is in admirable condition throughout, and the main walls and strongly framed roof can safely be relied upon to withstand a complete remodelling of the interior, and allow of the removal entirely of the floor and partitions etc.

This will leave a clear space of 59' 6" x 42' 0" and a height of 30' 10" from the ground floor to ceiling, making a well-proportioned wall.

With these dimensions there should be seating accommodation on the ground floor for about 400 people, and for 2 or 300 on galleries if desired.

There should also be space for an organ and vestries, and in the basement for heating apparatus and mechanical blowing of the organ.

The well in the basement can be concreted over and sealed, so that no flooding or other mishap need be anticipated.

A large amount of building material in the form of doors, windows, mantels, joists, boarding, bricks etc would be available from the main structure for re-use, or for adapting the outbuildings for school or other purposes, and a portion of the extensive and beautiful grounds might possibly be disposed of for building sites at a profit.

The retaining wall protecting the ground from the river appears to be a thoroughly sound construction which has stood the test for a considerable period, and there is no reason to apprehend any further trouble on this account.

The acquisition of the property is to be strongly recommended for the purpose in view, especially for its position in the town and the adaptability of the buildings at a comparatively low expenditure.

I have also been shewn the present chapel, the renovation and enlargement of which is under consideration.

The surrounding graveyard and proximity to the road renders any addition a most difficult problem and any re-modelling of the existing structure will certainly prove as costly an undertaking without the many and superior advantages afforded by the Rumsey House scheme.

Yours faithfully,

J. Howard Morgan

The second letter dated 6th February 1924 reads:

*Rev. E. Currig Davies
Holloway
Kidwelly*

Dear Sir,

Capel Sul Kidwelly

I enclose sketch plans shewing Rumsey House remodelled for School and Chapel purposes to which I think it lends itself admirably.

On the ground floor little alteration will be required beyond removing partitions and some fireplaces leaving the dining and drawing rooms and kitchen to serve as classrooms. The present porch to be removed and a new entrance Hall will serve for both School and Chapel by the staircases each side. Some alteration will also be necessary to the cellar stairs to the rear.

The Chapel on the upper floor will be easy to access by the double staircases shewn on plan which I think should be of stone or concrete as being less noisy than wood and fireproof. A third staircase would be at the back entrance leading to the Ministers vestry, etc.

The seating is shewn in the simplest way of avoiding curves and other expensive arrangements. The people will also be drawn more together into the centre of the chapel and away from the walls and under gallery. The side seats along wall to be used only for big services when the chapel is crowded.

The organ is shewn facing the pulpit and is supported firmly on the staircase walls, an important point, the choir to be each side, where it would be well under the control of the conductor – leading from a central position and near the organ.

The sketch shews the treatment proposed to the roof: only I fancy I have made a mistake in measurement and even more height will be available in the centre. A steel stanchion(s) will be necessary for the roof to take the place of the centre wall which now supports it. These stanchions can be made a most attractive feature of the interior, carrying also the galleries.

For the woodwork I would like to depart from the stereotyped pitch-pine and varnish and suggest having the pulpit of oak and perhaps the gallery and organ front.

The seating to be of deal merely stained oak colour. I fancy this will work out considerably cheaper and far better in appearance. Also the seating might be lighter and more of an open bench variety than the usual closed-in pew.

The heating of the entire building to be by hot water apparatus placed in the basement for which a new chimney stack will be required.

I have tried other arrangements for the Chapel but cannot obtain the same seating capacity.

I am confident that the arrangement shewn will be suitable for both School and Chapel and prove to be useful and convenient from every point of view.

The cost works out at about £3000, inclusive of heating, a very low price when the completeness of the building is considered.

Yours faithfully,

J. Howard Morgan

- 3.6 After comparing plans and photos, the following is a summary of the alterations made to Rumsey House during construction of the chapel:

External

- The gates at the east boundary wall, opposite the original entrance, were removed and the wall blocked and rendered.
- The front door, steps, and porch on the east side of the house were removed and a window, similar to existing ones on that side of the house, inserted where the door stood.
- Also on the east side of the house, northernmost window on the first floor was dropped vertically and inserted beside the eastern most stair landing and northernmost window on the ground floor was removed and a door, leading to the cellar inserted.
- The verandah running along the north and west walls was removed.
- The door at the north end of the house was enlarged with corresponding steps to match.
- Both 1st floor windows at the north end of the house were shortened.
- The central 1st floor window and the attic window at the north end of the house were removed.
- Steps and a door leading to, what is now, Reception Room 1, were added at the west side of the house and the northernmost window on the ground floor reduced in size.
- A window was added to the north wall of, what is now, the toilets.
- **Internal**
- On the ground floor the cloakroom, breakfast room, entrance hall, study, pantry, storeroom, front and back stairs were removed together with a section of the drawing room, in order to build the school hall and the stairs to the first floor.
- In order to complete the chapel and gallery on the first and second floor, all twelve bedrooms, the W.C and the bathroom were removed.

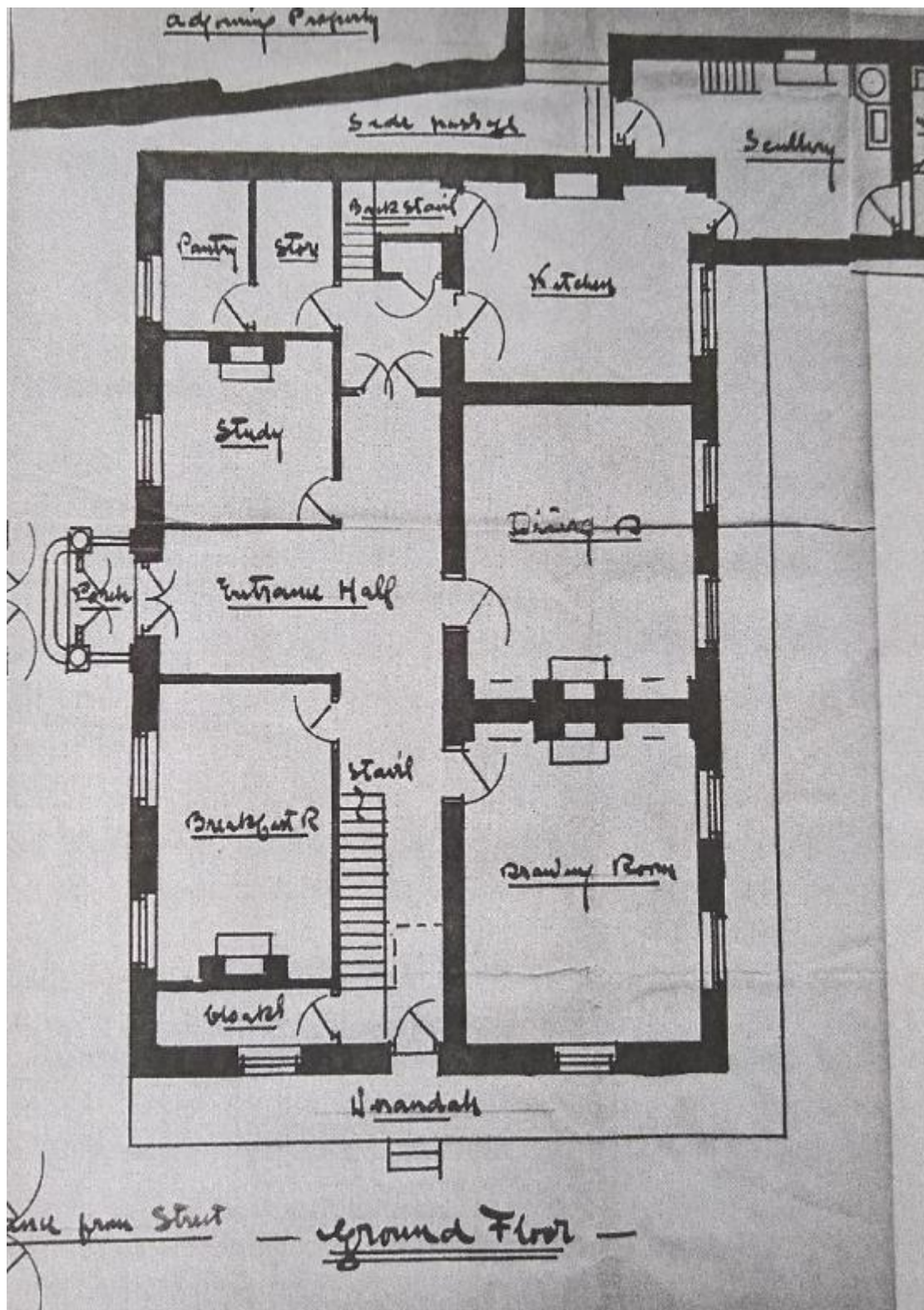


Figure 7: Ground floor plan of Rumsey House (supplied by E. Harries)

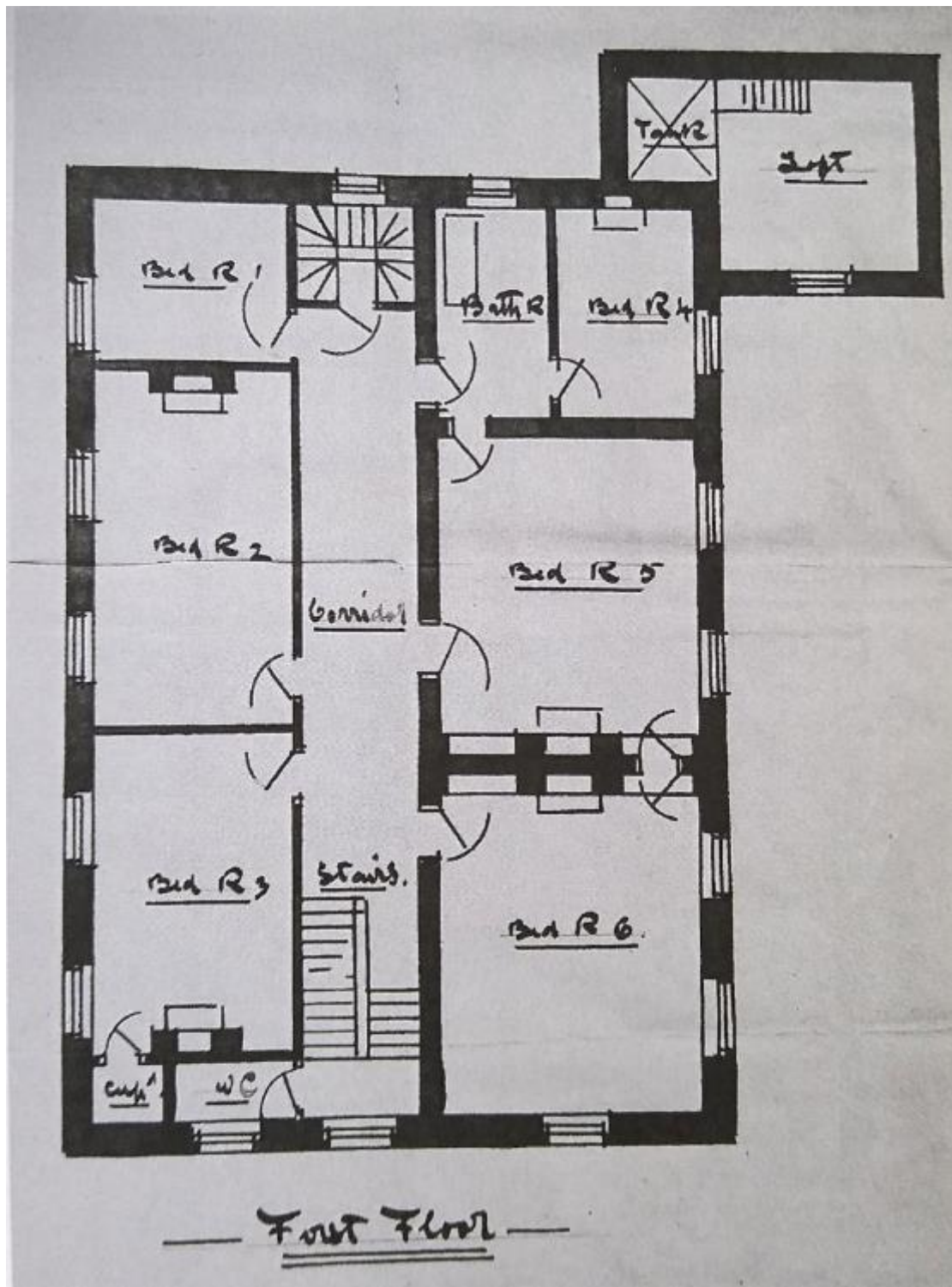


Figure 8: First floor plan of Rumsey House (supplied by E. Harries)

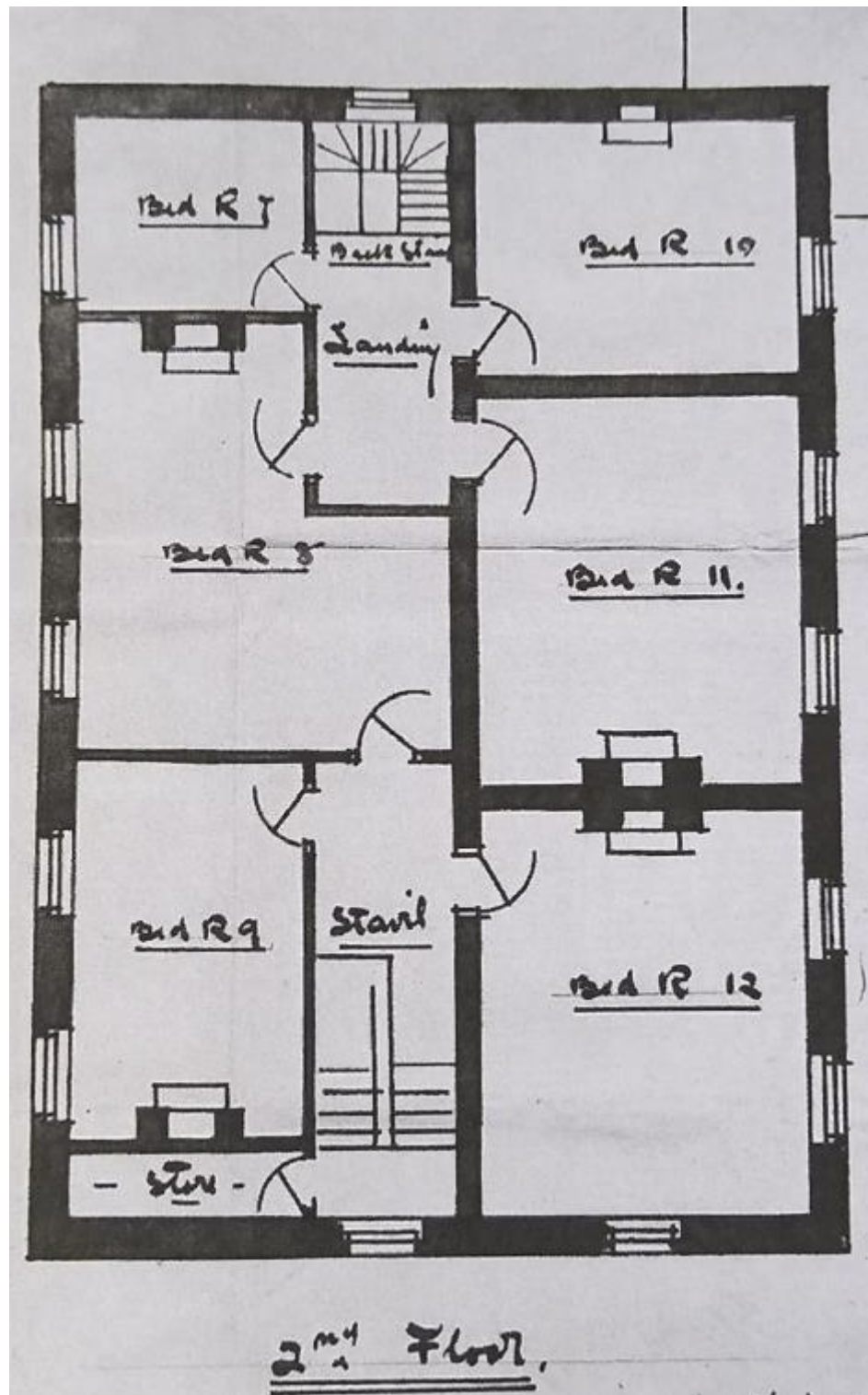
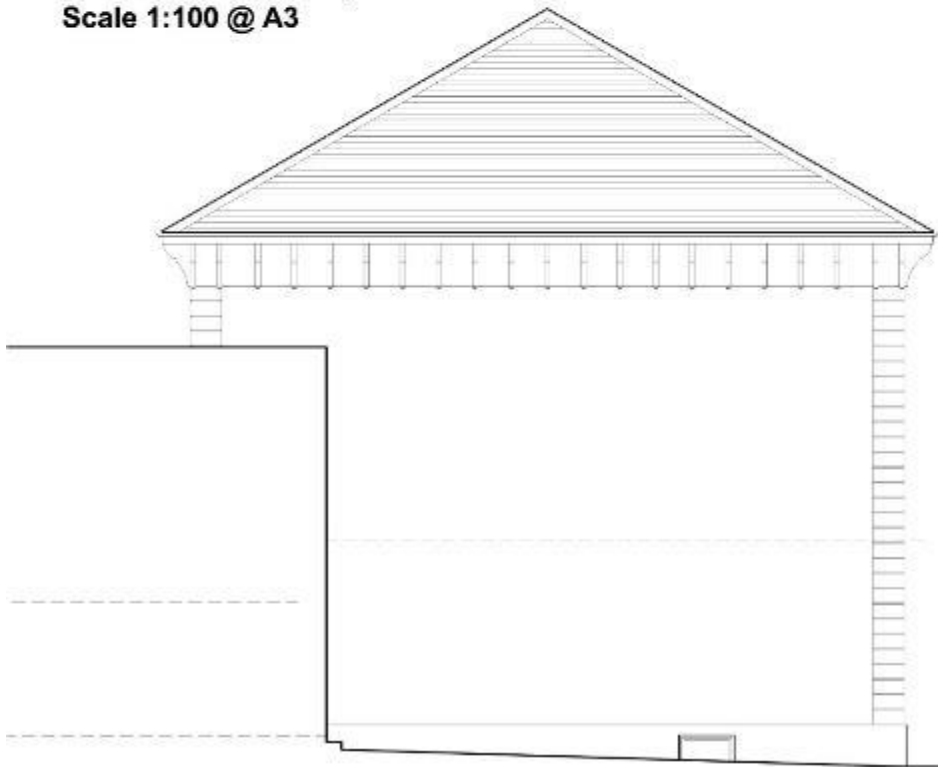


Figure 9: Second floor plan of Rumsey House (supplied by E. Harries)



Existing Front (north) Elevation
Scale 1:100 @ A3



Existing Rear (south) Elevation
Scale 1:100 @ A3

Figure 10: Front and rear elevations of Capel Sul (supplied by client)



Existing Side (east) Elevation Facing Bridge Street
Scale 1:100 @ A3



Existing Side (west) Elevation
Scale 1:100 @ A3

Figure 11: East and West elevations of Capel Sul (supplied by client)

4 BUILDING DESCRIPTION

4.1 The following (in italics) is CADW's listing of Capel Sul, Kidwelly (LB 20186)

History

Built as Rumsey House in 1862 by T.W.A. Evans (1841-97), architect and later Mayor of Kidwelly. Named after Rumsey House, Calne, Wilts, his mother's family home. In 1920 notorious for the trial and acquittal of the then owner, Harold Greenwood, for the murder of his wife. Bought in 1923 by the Independent congregation then in Ferry Road and converted to a chapel 1924-6 by J. Harold Morgan of Carmarthen. The ground floor became the schoolroom and the two upper floors were combined as the chapel.

Exterior

Roughcast and stucco with concrete-tile hipped roof. Italianate style. Large three-storey, five-window fronts to W and E, 3-window N entrance front. Eaves on deep console brackets, attic windows breaking into eaves on W and E, no attic windows on N. Channelled angle piers. E windows have stucco architraves to ground floor, fuller architraves with cornices on consoles to first floor, plain surrounds to attic. 4-pane sashes to ground floor, 1924 leaded cross-windows to upper floors. Right bay has been altered in 1924 to light stair, first-floor window dropped with architrave carried down. West garden front is similar, but with plain raised window surrounds. One tripartite sash to ground floor right. 2-storey, one-window wing at SW angle. North front keeps consoled cornices of two first floor windows but as heads of long window features, with casements over square blank panel over cross-window. Between these is 1924 entrance, two giant pilasters with cornice, and top semi-circular hood-moulded panel. Between pilasters, three upper windows in miniature pilastrade and door below in a deep coved channelled surround. Top border frames 'CAPEL SUL' in raised letters. Panelled double doors and 3-light overlight.

Interior

Brick vaulted cellars, with wine-bins. Ground floor schoolroom. Chapel interior through two levels notable for complex use of space, effectively aisled with a steeply hipped roof over the central part of the auditorium and panelled flat ceiling over the side galleries. The aisles are created by carrying the gallery piers right up to carry the longitudinal beams of the hipped roof at their intersections with the tie-beams of the 4 roof trusses. Beams are large section, moulded, probably steel clad in timber. Tie-beams have tall triple arcade above, up to collar level, above which the roof is ceiled. Gallery on three sides has front in long panels with open balustrading under top-rail. Curved angles. Square timber piers carried through gallery and up to ornate paired console brackets under longitudinal beams. Raked gallery pews. Organ over entrance lobby. Lower level pews with centre aisle. Pulpit with twisted-baluster steps each side, panelled front with canted sides and ornate pulpit-back in mannered C17 classical style, with semi-circular top panel, carved in radiating shell pattern. In ground floor lobby, plaque from 1831 chapel in Ferry Road.

Reason for designation

Listed as an early C20 chapel interior of quality in a building of great townscape value overlooking the town bridge.

4.2 Cellar

- 4.2.1 The brick-vaulted cellar, measuring c. 16.1m x 6.4m, is accessed via a door on the east side of the chapel. There was also, before it was converted into a chapel, access via a flight of steps from the scullery above but this was blocked.
- 4.2.2 It contains a long passageway on the right of which are several bays, these held the coal shoot and the boiler for the chapel. At the end of the passage there is a small room c. 3.75m x 2.85m with windows on the south and east walls.
- 4.2.3 On the left of the passageway is a long, narrow room, c. 6.65m x 2.15m containing slate wine bins. The ones on the far end of the room have incurred some damage.
- 4.2.4 At the southern end of the cellar a flight of steps lead up to the scullery. The entrance is now blocked. Below the steps a hole in the ground containing water marks the position of the well.

4.3 Ground Floor

- 4.3.1 The entrance foyer, measuring c. 3.6m x 2.7m is accessed via a set of concrete steps and double doors on the north side of the chapel. It contains two flights of concrete stairs leading up to the first floor. At the front of the foyer a set of double doors leads into the school hall.
- 4.3.2 The hall measures c. 16.1m x 6.4m. It has a planked wooden floor; a section of which is at variance with the rest of the floor and is associated with the original entrance into Rumsey House - the entrance itself having been converted into a window. There are three doors on the west wall leading to various rooms which date from Rumsey House.
- 4.3.3 The far end (south) of the hall contains a small stage approximately 2.4m deep and 0.6m high, whilst at north end, to enable people to see the stage, the last 4.4m of floor slopes up to a maximum height of 0.4m.
- 4.3.4 Reception Room 1 (originally the Drawing Room in Rumsey House) has been truncated at its north end to accommodate the construction of the entrance foyer. The fireplace in the south wall was removed during the conversion but the two arched recesses on either side of it remain in-situ. A door in the west wall leads to the outside and another in the east wall to the school hall. The room measures c. 5.6m x 3.15m.
- 4.3.5 Apart from the removal of a fireplace, Reception Room 2 is relatively unchanged since its function as a Dining Room in Rumsey House and still retains arched recesses in the north wall on either side where the fireplace would have been. A door in the east wall leads to the school hall and another in the south wall leads to the kitchen. The room measures c. 6m x 5.6m.
- 4.3.6 Apart from the blocking of the fireplace, the kitchen is essentially the same as it was during Rumsey House. There two doors on the east wall, one opens onto the school hall, the other leads to the cellar (now blocked). A door in the north wall opens to the Reception Room 2 and another in the west wall opens to the toilet block (originally the

scullery). There is also a window in the west wall overlooking the lawned area. The room measures c. 5.6m x 3.85m

- 4.3.7 The toilet block (originally the scullery) measures c. 4.3m x 3.65m. A window was inserted into the north wall during the conversion into a chapel. Doors in the east and west walls lead to the outside and a small stairway leading to the vestry above is accessed through the east door.

4.4 First Floor (Chapel)

- 4.4.1 The first floor houses the chapel. Access to it is via concrete steps in the entrance foyer which in turn lead to a small landing where four doors containing leaded stained-glass lead to the chapel. At the back of the lobby, on each side, a flight of steps leads to the gallery above.
- 4.4.2 The chapel measures c. 18m x 12.8m. It contains one central aisle and two narrower ones running along the side walls. The central aisle is carpeted.
- 4.4.3 Facing the doors, at the far end (south wall) is the pulpit (described above in the Cadw Listed buildings). The steps leading up to it are carpeted.
- 4.4.4 Steel piers encased in wood rise from the chapel floor and support the galleries above. The piers continue up through the galleries and support the roof structure, culminating in a pair of ornate console brackets at the juncture with the longitudinal beams.
- 4.4.5 The pews for the most part are arranged to face the pulpit (south wall) but the ones between the piers closest to the pulpit are arranged at right angles to the majority. There are also some arranged against the side walls.

4.5 Second Floor (Gallery)

- 4.5.1 Access to the gallery is via a pair of steps from the landing below which lead to the NE and NW corners of the gallery.
- 4.5.2 The galleries are tied to the back walls supported at the front by steel piers clad in wood which rise from the chapel floor and continue upwards to also support the roof.
- 4.5.3 The galleries along the side walls contain three rows of pews each mounted on a stepped floor. At the front of the galleries is a curved top-rail with a balustrade and wood panelling beneath which is a balustrade and wood panelling.
- 4.5.4 The organ is positioned centrally against the north wall, supported by the staircase walls below, with choir stalls on each side.

4.6 Roof Timbers

- 4.6.1 The hipped roof is supported by steel piers clad in timber which rise from the chapel floor. Each row of piers on either side of the aisle supports a longitudinal beam upon which the tie-beams of the trusses rest. The piers end in an ornate console bracket. Each tie-beam supports a triple timber arcade which rise to the ceiling.

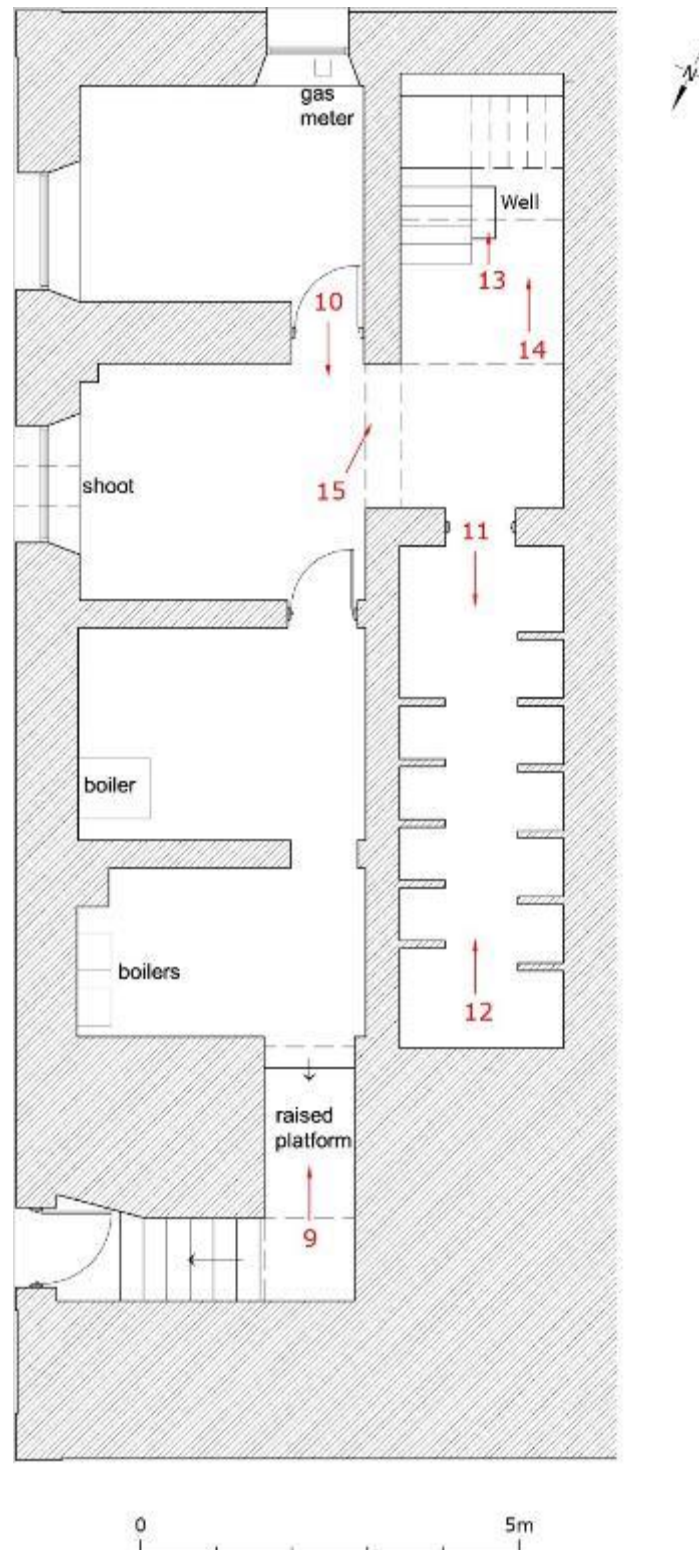


Figure 12: Plan showing location and direction of photographs taken within the cellar (plan supplied by client)

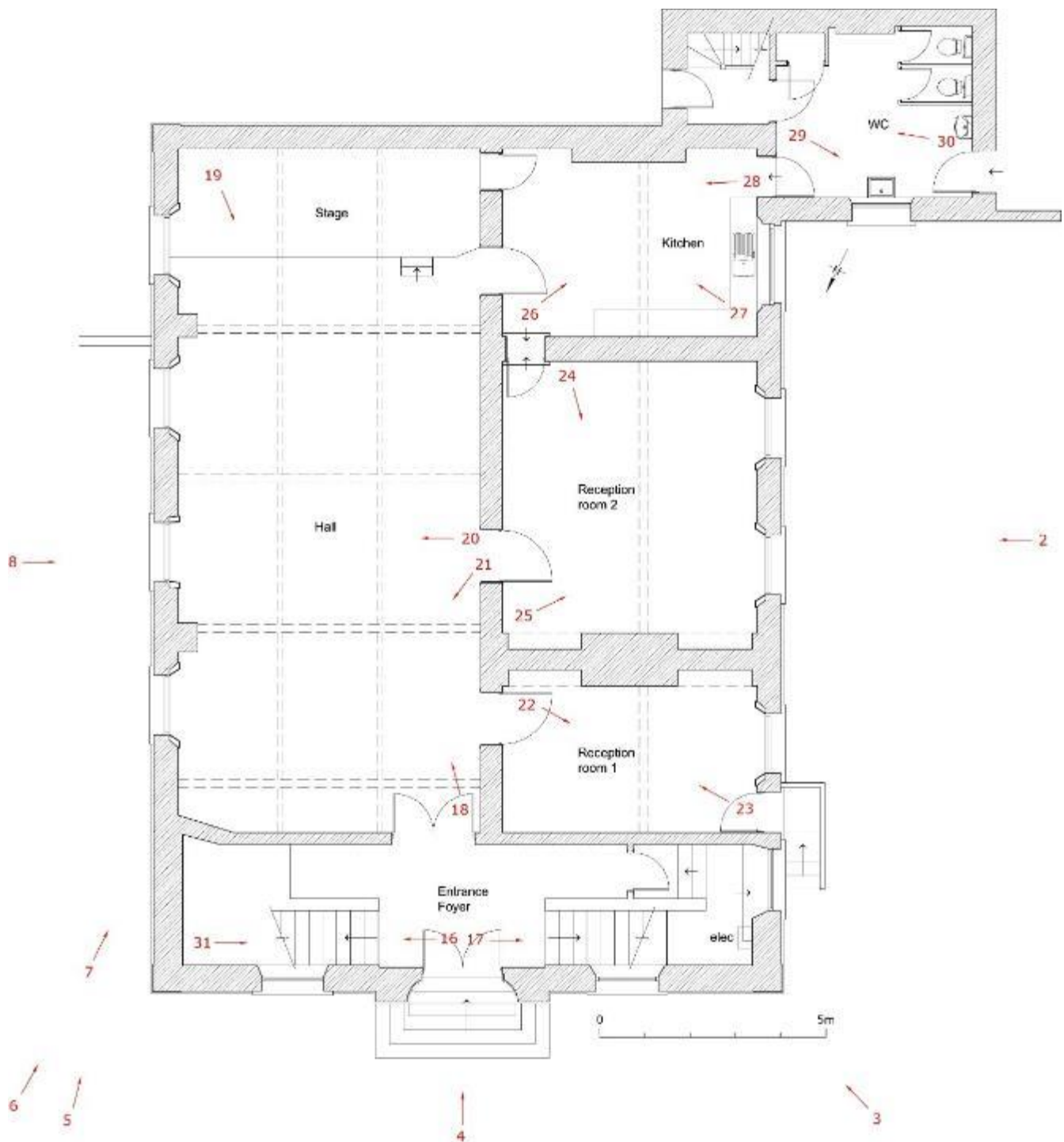


Figure 13: Plan showing location and direction of photographs taken on the ground floor (plan supplied by client)

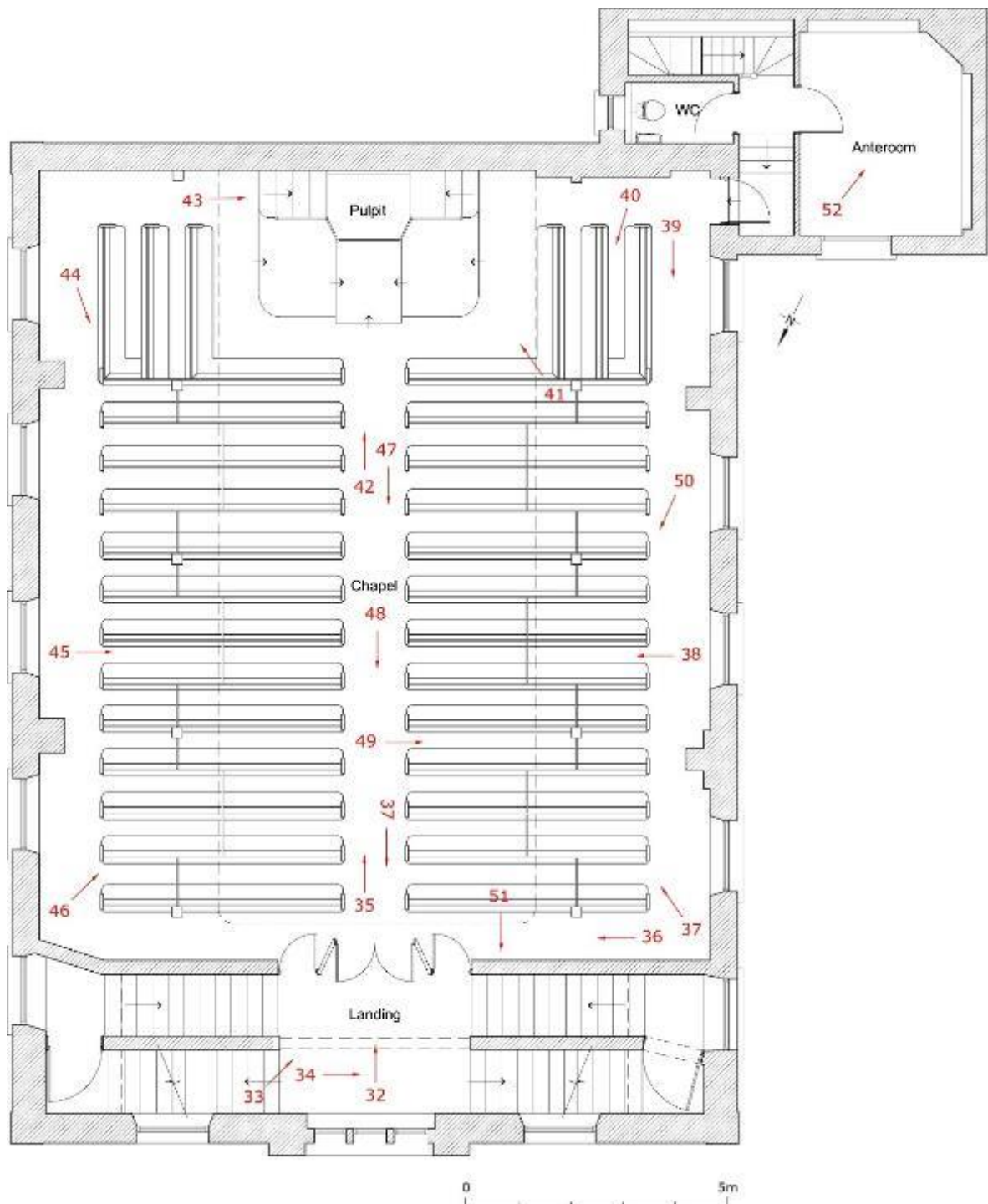


Figure 14: Plan showing location and direction of photographs taken on the first floor (plan supplied by client)

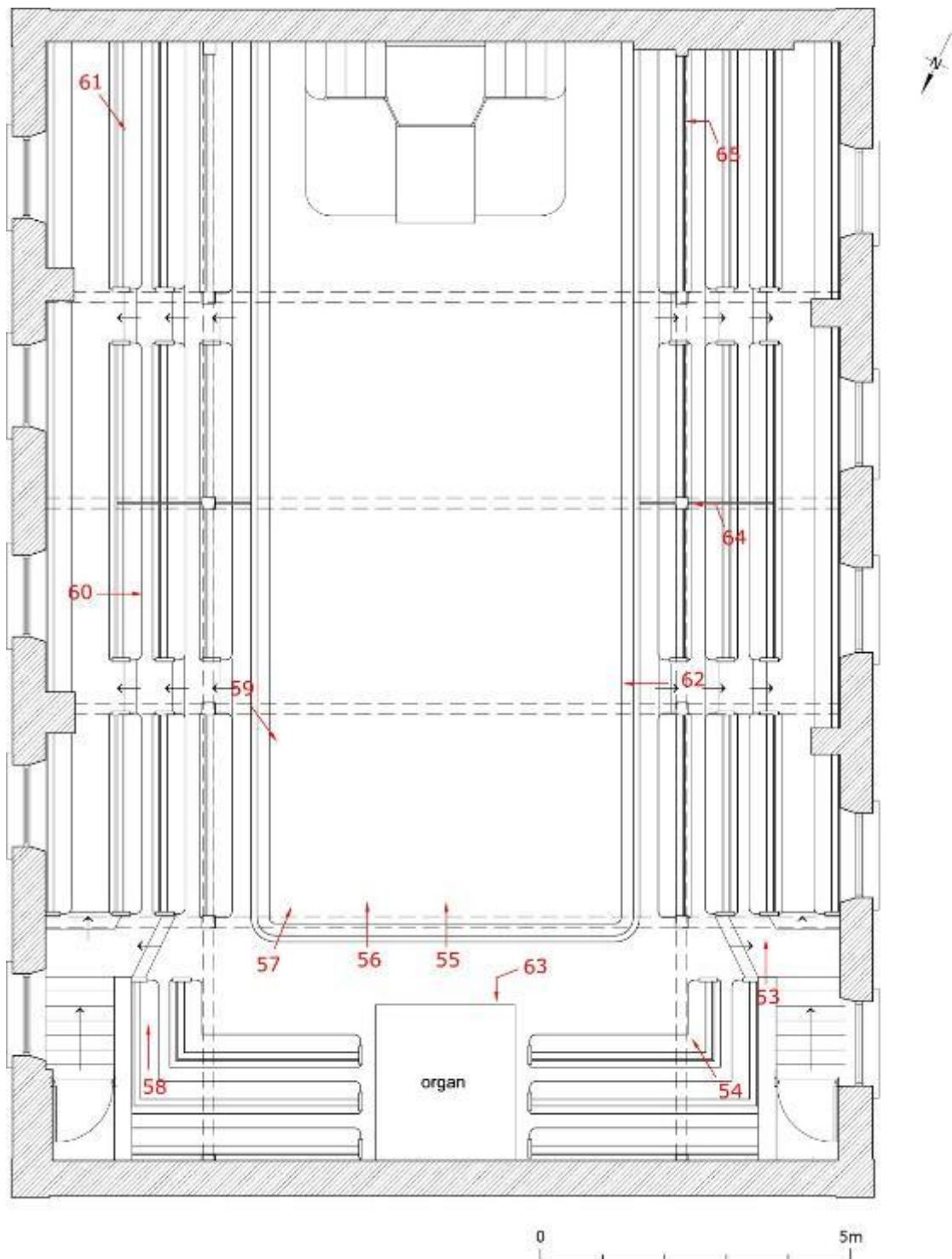


Figure 15: Plan showing location and direction of photographs taken on the second floor (plan supplied by client):

Exterior views



Photo 1: View south from bridge (PRN 8422) crossing the Gwendraeth Fach. Capel Sul in background; Bridge Street on left.



Photo 2: View east; west facing elevation of Capel Sul



Photo 3: Northwest corner of Capel Sul



Photo 4: View south: front elevation of Capel Sul



Photo 5: Northeast corner; foreshortened view of west elevation



Photo 6: Northeast corner of Capel Sul and west wall – taken from Bridge Street.



Photo 7: East elevation - door leading to cellar in foreground; location of middle window occupies former entrance into Rumsey House.



Photo 8: View west; east elevation Capel Sul taken from Bridge Street.

Cellar



Photo 9: View south along passageway into cellar (1m scale)



Photo 10: View north along passageway into cellar.



Photo 11: View north showing wine bins on left and brick vault.



Photo 12: View south along wine cellar showing wine bins and brick vault.



Photo 13: View south showing well in cellar (left of 0.5m scale0



Photo 14: View south; steps leading from cellar to scullery (doorway now blocked)



Photo 15: View south showing vaulted ceiling and steps leading to scullery.

**Ground Floor
Entrance Foyer**



Photo 16: View east; concrete steps leading from entrance foyer to first floor (chapel).



Photo 17: View west; concrete steps leading from entrance foyer to first floor (chapel).

School Hall



Photo 18: View south; school hall with stage in background



Photo 19: View north; school hall with sloped wooden floor at the back



Photo 20: View east; window on left was once the main entrance into Rumsey House.



Photo 21 View north; sloped wooden floor at north end of school hall (0.5m scale)

Reception Room 1 (part of former drawing room in Rumsey house)



Photo 22: View west; door leads to lawned area on west side of Capel Sul.



Photo 23: View east; door leads to hall (arched alcove is associated with Rumsey House – blocked fireplace to the right of it)

Reception Room 2 (former dining room in Rumsey House)



Photo 24: View north; both arched alcoves are associated with Rumsey House (a fireplace once stood between them)



Photo 25: West wall; both windows are associated with Rumsey house.

Kitchen (also former kitchen of Rumsey House)



Photo 26: West wall of kitchen and door leading to toilet block



Photo 27: Blocked fireplace in south wall of kitchen.



Photo 28: View east; door on left leads to hall, door on right opens to stairs into cellar (now blocked).

Toilet Block (former scullery of Rumsey House)



Photo 29: Large Victorian? sink in north wall of scullery (possibly original feature of Rumsey House).



Photo 30: View east in scullery; door on left leads to staircase leading to anteroom.

First Floor (lobby and chapel)



Photo 31: View west from top of stairway towards entrance foyer.



Photo 32: View south; recessed stained glass doors in first floor lobby leading to main aisle in chapel.



Photo 33: Oblique view of stained glass doors in first floor lobby; recessed central doors lead to main aisle, right hand door to side aisle.



Photo 34: View west; staircase in first floor lobby leading to chapel gallery.



Photo 35: View south down main aisle toward pulpit



Photo 36: View east along north wall of chapel towards stained glass door at entrance



Photo 37: View of SE corner of chapel



Photo 38: View east showing upper gallery



Photo 39: View north showing west aisle and angled ceiling beneath west gallery.



Photo 40: View of NE corner of chapel.



Photo 41: Oblique view of pulpit with twisted-baluster steps each side, panelled front with canted sides and ornate pulpit-back in mannered C17 classical style, with semi-circular top panel, carved in radiating shell pattern.



Photo 42: Front view of pulpit in south wall

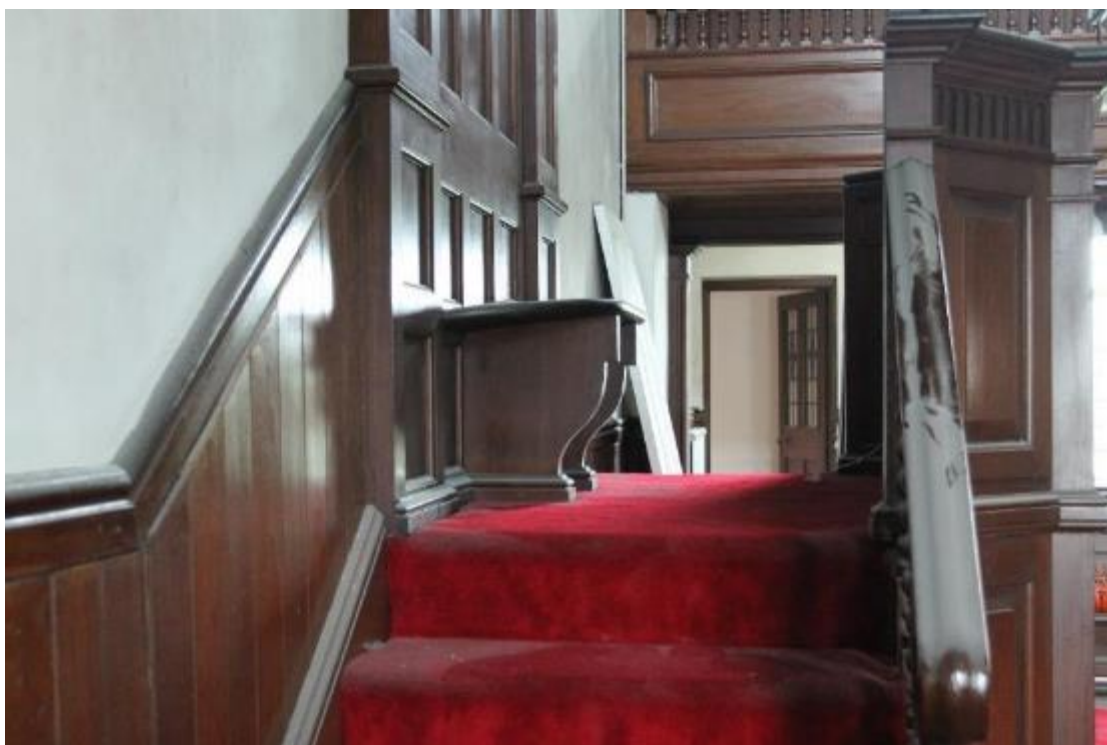


Photo 43: View west; pulpit seat



Photo 44: View of NW corner of chapel



Photo 45: View west showing upper gallery



Photo 46: View of SW corner of chapel



Photo 47: View north along central aisle showing organ on gallery floor.



Photo 48: Close-up of organ in north wall of gallery



Photo 49: View west at one of eight piers supporting the hipped roof.



Photo 50: Close-up of deal pews in first floor of chapel



Photo 51: Set of bakelite swithes in north wall of chapel



Photo 52: Small fireplace in SW corner of vestry.

Second Floor (gallery)



Photo 53: View south along west gallery



Photo 54: View of SE corner of gallery



Photo 55: View south of pulpit from gallery



Photo 56: View south of seating on first floor of chapel



Photo 57: View of SW corner of gallery

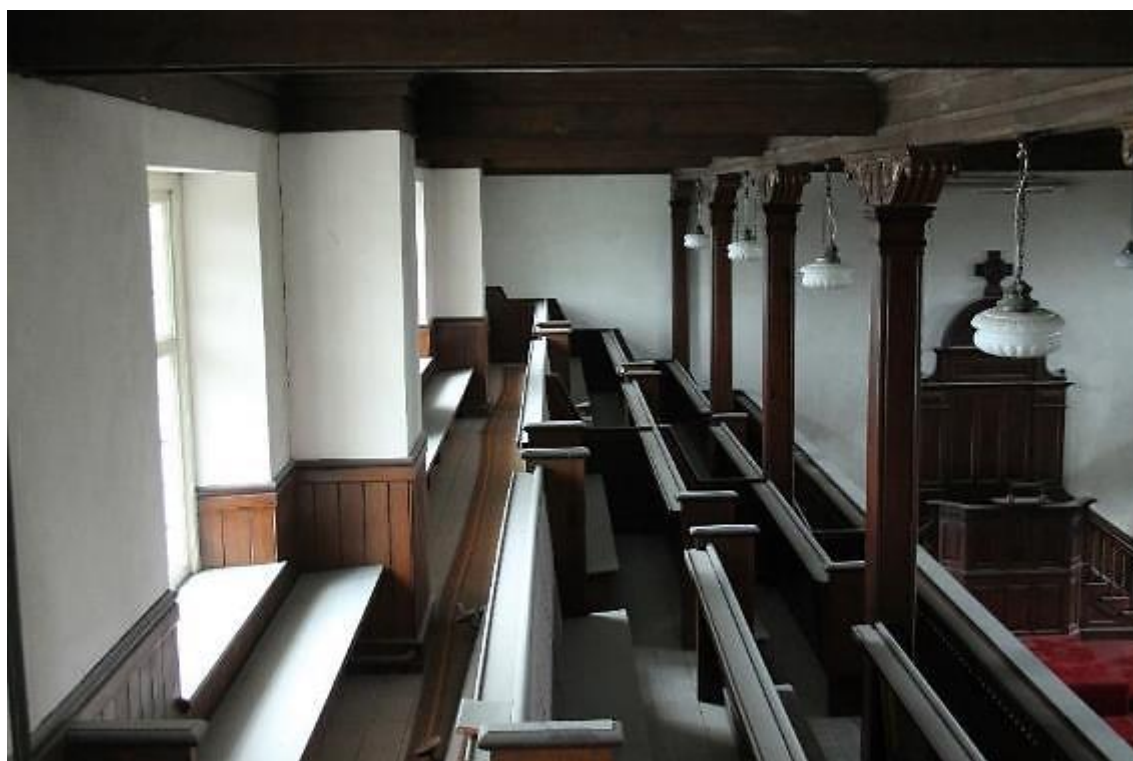


Photo 58: View south along east gallery



Photo 59: View of organ from centre of east gallery with choir stalls on each side.



Photo 60: Raked seating in west gallery



Photo 61: View of NW corner of gallery.



Photo 62: Detail of front of gallery; long panels with open balustrading under top-rail.



Photo 63: Label between organ switches reads 'Tuned and maintained by J.W.Walker and Sons Ltd, Braintree Rd, Ruislip, Middx. Tel Viking 6501-5'



Photo 64: Detail of ornate console bracket under longitudinal beam



Photo 65: Typical electric lamp above gallery



Photo 66: View north; steeply hipped roof and roof trusses



Photo 67: View south; tall, triple arcade above tie-beams.



Photo 68: Entrance into roof space between central tie-beams



Photo 69: Plaque in east wall of chapel



Photo 70: Plaque in entrance foyer from former chapel in Ferry Road



Photo 71: Plaque near NW corner of chapel stating name of architect and date of Rumsey House. 'T.W.E.A October 1862'

5 DISCUSSION

- 5.1 Capel Sul was originally Rumsey House, a three-storey, stone-built town house, built in 1862 in the Italianate style by the architect T. W. A. Evans who also resided at the place.
- 5.2 Rent Rolls for the borough of Kidwelly dated 1753 states that on part of the site occupied by Rumsey House an inn called The Old Griffin stood. It is possible that the cellars might be associated with the inn and were adapted later to conform with the house.
- 5.3 The house was sold to the Independents (Nonconformists) in 1924 and converted into a chapel. The main entrance originally was on the east side of the house, facing the street, this was blocked and converted into a window and the entrance into the chapel moved to the north side of the building. On the ground floor the rooms on the west side of the house survived the conversion relatively intact, whilst the rooms in the rest of the floor were removed to enable the school hall to be constructed. To enable the chapel and gallery to be built all the rooms in the first and second floors were removed.

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