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***Glamorgan-Gwent Archaeological Trust Ltd
Contracts Division***

***Building Survey at Hendy Farm
Lantrisant***

Tel: (01792) 655208

Fax: (01792) 474469

A report by Adam Yates BA for the Land Authority for Wales

***Project No. A381
GGAT Report 97/019***

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**Glamorgan Gwent
Archaeological Trust
Limited**

**Ferryside Warehouse,
Bath Lane, Swansea,
West Glamorgan.
SA1 1RD**

Registered Office: as above
Registered in Wales No. 1276976

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Registered Charity No. 505609

1.0 Summary

As part of joint venture between the Land Authority for Wales and the local authority the site of Hendy Farm is to be developed as housing. In advance of the demolition of the buildings comprising Hendy Farm a programme of architectural recording was undertaken. This report contains a summary of the results of this programme.

2.0 Methodology

The methodology comprised the production of elevation drawings and plans of the various buildings to be affected supplemented by photographs and written descriptions. The elevations were obtained by means of a total station survey.

3.0 Results

3.1 General

Hendy farm is centred on a number of farm buildings clustered around a yard (Figure One), with further agricultural buildings upslope to the north and the farmhouse to the south. The development of this complex can be traced using the map evidence. The 1824 Cardiff Castle Estate map shows that the original *loci* of activity was to the south, near Hoel-y-Miskin, with the present farm buildings shown as "barns, cowsheds etc". At this stage only two ranges of buildings had been constructed, an L-shaped range to the northwest of the yard, and another range along the eastern side of the yard, the northern part of which is no longer extant. The 1840 Tithe Map of Lantrisant shows little change, apart from the construction of a large building to the south of the yard, presumably the present farmhouse. Thus several of the buildings can be ascribed to the pre-1824 phase (B and E), the rest to post-1840 (A, C, D and F). The pre-1824 buildings probably date from the late 18th or early 19th centuries.

3.2 Building Descriptions

Building A

This building appears to have undergone several stages of alteration since its construction (Figure Two). Its original usage was as a cart shed. At this stage its form was a symmetrical two-storied building whose frontage was pierced by two large arches supported by well-constructed masonry columns giving access to the ground floor. Above these arches was a single window set in roughly coursed random rubble construction. It is likely that this upper storey was used for storage or perhaps as a granary, although it is unclear how it was accessed. Subsequently the building was extended to the north and the frontage remodelled. The arches were partially blocked, the centre arch was now pierced by a door and the southern by a window, reflecting that set in the face of the northern extension. Access to the first floor was now achieved by means of steps set against the external face of the

northern wall, perhaps reflecting the previous arrangements. The final phase saw the remodelling of the southern window, with partial blocking by breeze blocks. In its final phase this building was used as a stable.

Building B

This single-storied building belongs to the pre-1824 phase. For ease of description it is divided into two elements, the northern and western. The northern range has been severely affected by the construction of a modern cow-shed, however, some earlier features were still detectable. Along the northern wall were a series of blocked in windows, and the eastern wall was pierced by a door giving access to the track leading from the yard up to Cefn-yr-Hendy. The western range (Figure Three) was in better condition and more of its original form could be detected. This was a cattle shed with an open frontage divided into bays by tapering circular pillars. This is a common feature of cow sheds in South Wales and can be seen at farms such as The Duffryn, Newport¹ and Canterw, Monkash.² The southeast corner of the present building is partly formed by one of these pillars and it is probable that the original range extended further to the south. These bays were later blocked and access was now provided by a doorway in the southernmost surviving bay. A window pierced the blocking in the third bay. These features were in turn blocked up, and two new doorways and a window constructed. At the same time the roof level may have been raised. All the construction was similar in nature, consisting of crudely coursed random rubble blocks set in lime mortar. The exception being the surrounds of the final doors and window which were built in brick.

Building C

This building has been much disturbed by modern activity and little of its original form or usage could be determined. It belongs to the post-1840 construction phase, and is built of random rubble blocks set in a lime mortar. Its surviving form is of an open fronted building built against the west side of building D which was pierced by a first floor door, since blocked, implying that building C was also originally of two stories.

Building D

This is a long narrow building of two stories butted by building C on its western side. Access to the ground floor is gained by a wide archway in the southern face, and by a partially blocked doorway in the northern wall (Figure Four). The ground floor was partitioned in two and the southern portion was probably used as a cart shed. First floor access was gained by steps set against the eastern wall, which was also pierced by two windows. A blocked doorway on the ground floor in the western wall gave access to building C. A blocked doorway in the upper floor on the western side may have provided access to an upper floor of building C.

Building E

This barn is part of the pre-1824 construction phase. Only the grosser features could be detected because of the delapidation of the structure and the heavily overgrown state of the remains. It appears to have been a typical 18th/19th century barn with two large opposing doorways to allow access by carts. The western doorway was porched. On the northern wall of this structure the roof line for the rest of the original eastern range could be seen. An outhouse had been added to the south of the porch.

Building F

This building post-dates the 1840 Tithe Map and is constructed from random rubble set in lime mortar. It consists of two separate elements, two pigsties and an outhouse (Figure Five). The two elements are separated from one another by the wall enclosing the farmyard.

4.0 Conclusions

The programme of building recording has been undertaken as part of the strategy to mitigate the effect of the Cefn-yr-Hendy housing development upon the archaeology. Many of the structures were in an advance state of delapidation and/or heavily overgrown or had been much altered since their construction. However, the programme has enabled a determination of the chronology of the development of Hendy Farm and the establishment of the original forms and usages of the buildings.

5.0 Recommendations

As part of the reporting process it was requested that recommendations should be made as to the future of Building A. This structure, although well built, is in the vernacular style and has no statutory protection. The decision whether to preserve it *in-situ* must therefore lie with the developer. This building is a good example of its type and so preservation would be the preferred option from an archaeological perspective.

1 D.N. Williams 1997 *Archaeological Field Evaluation and Building Survey on Land Adjoining Imperial Park, Newport, South Wales*. GGAT report 97/006

2 Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales 1988 *An Inventory of the Ancient Monuments in Glamorgan Volume IV: Domestic Architecture from the Reformation to the Industrial Revolution, Part II: Farmhouses and Cottages*. HMSO, London.

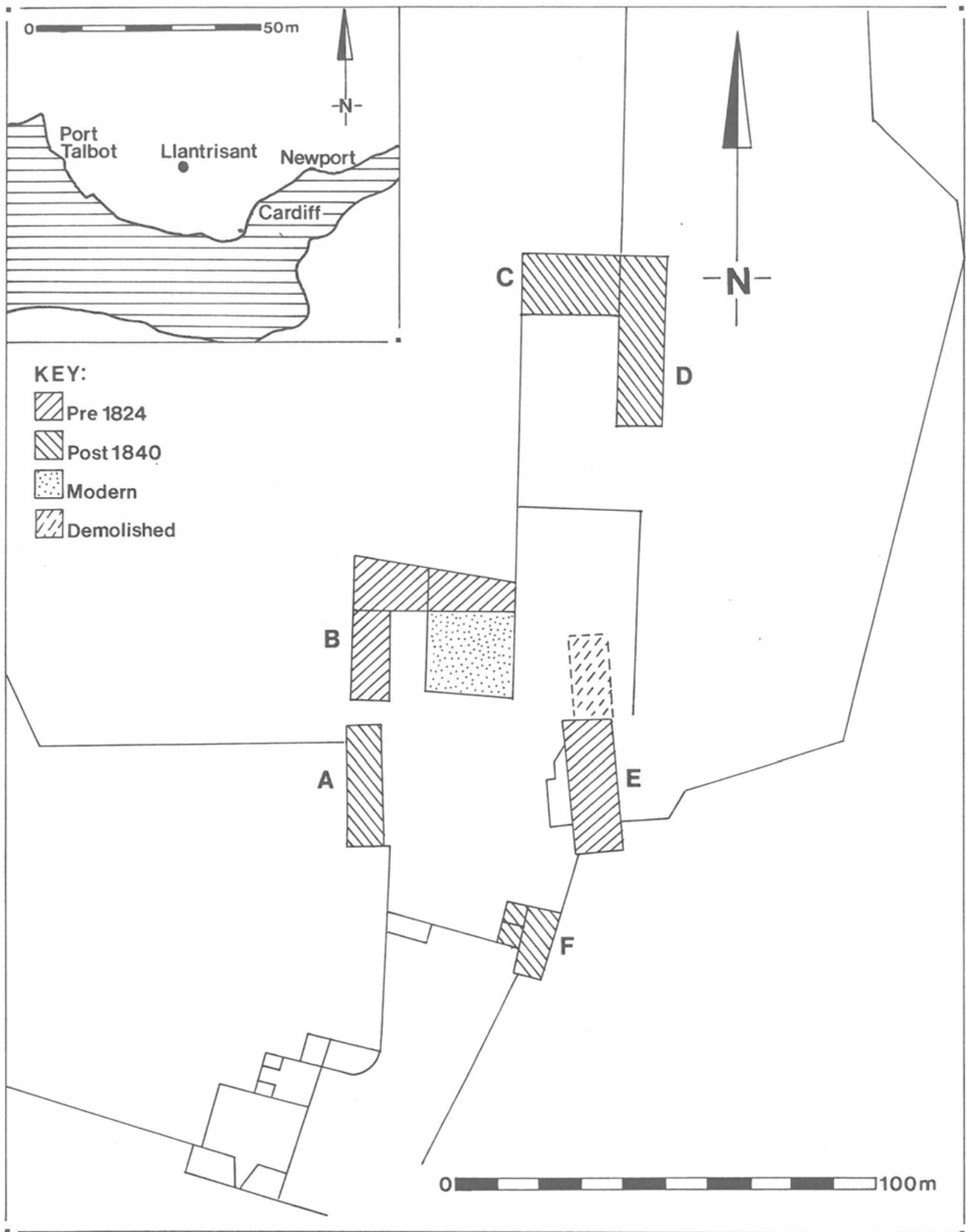


Figure One: Site location and plan of Hendy Farm

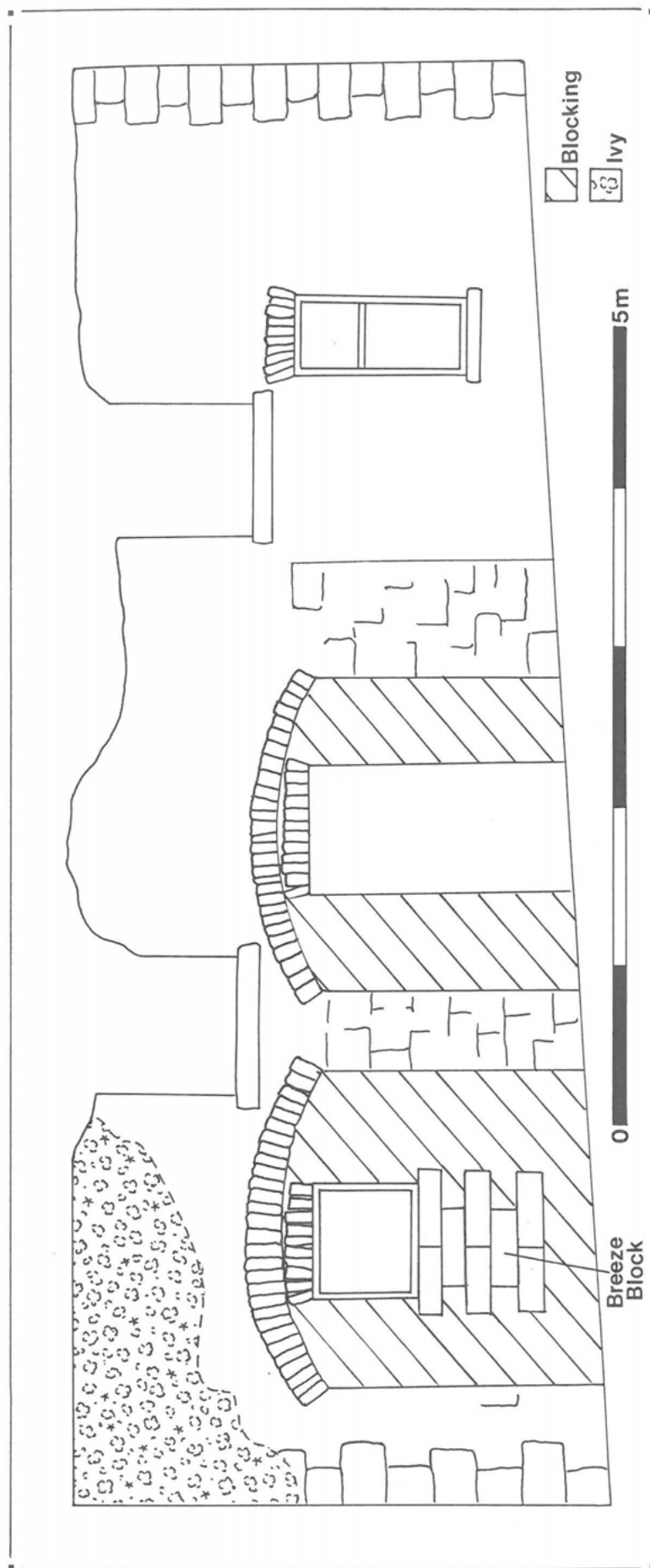


Figure Two: Building A East facing elevation

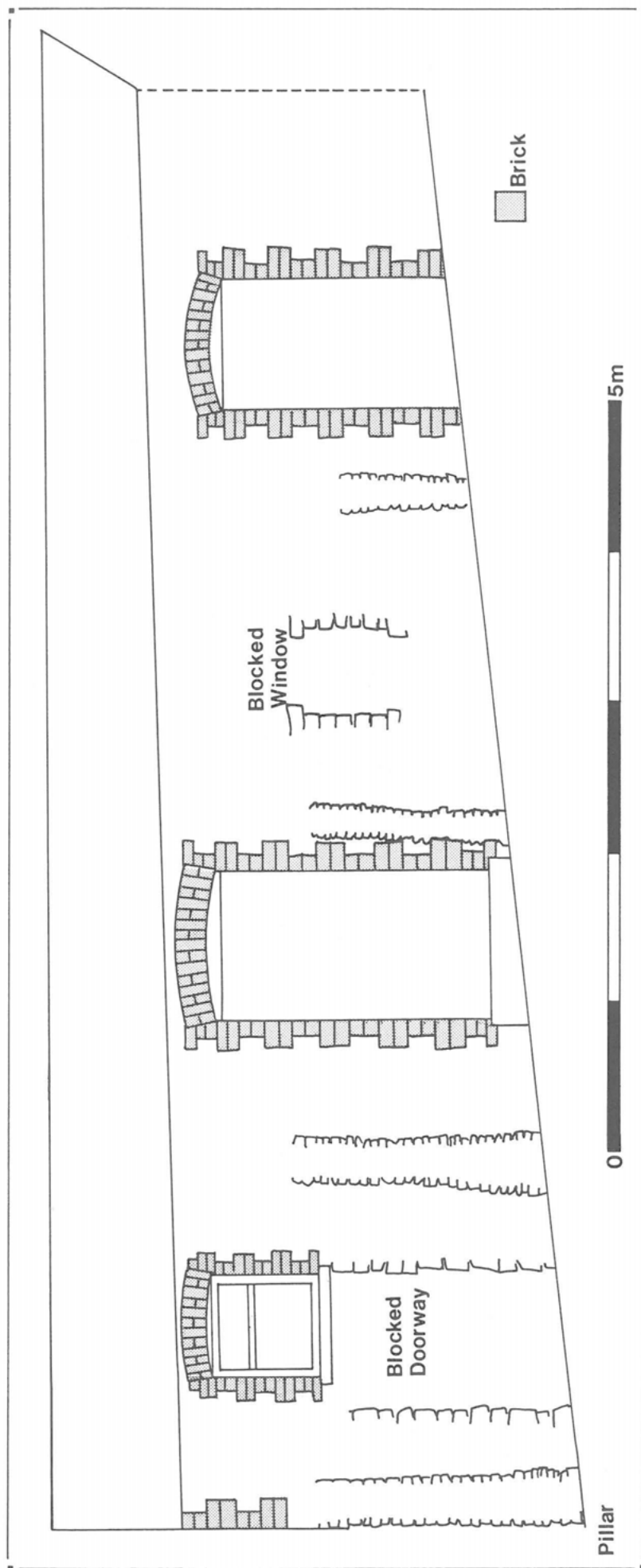


Figure Three: Building B East facing elevation

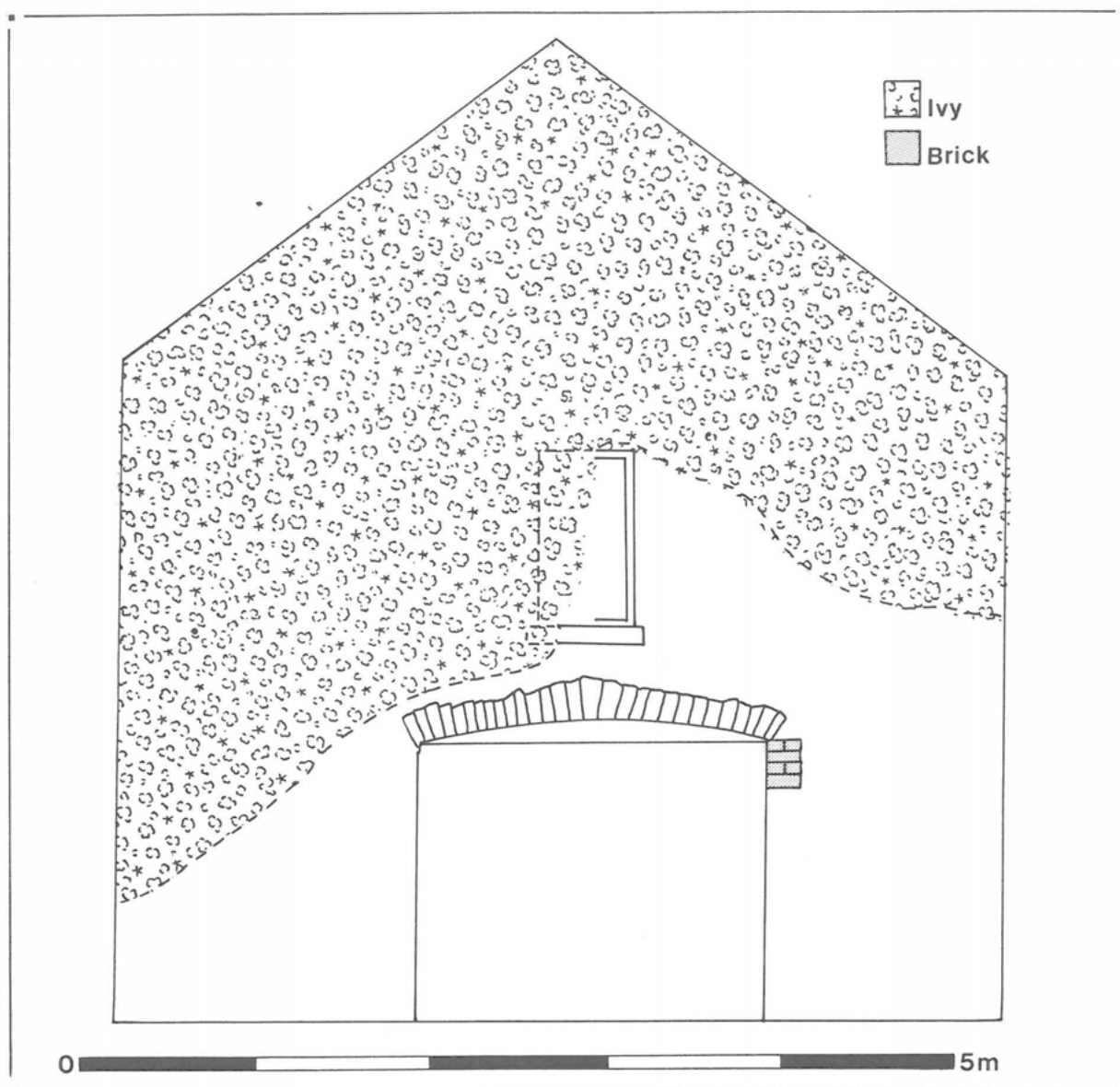


Figure Four: Building D South facing elevation

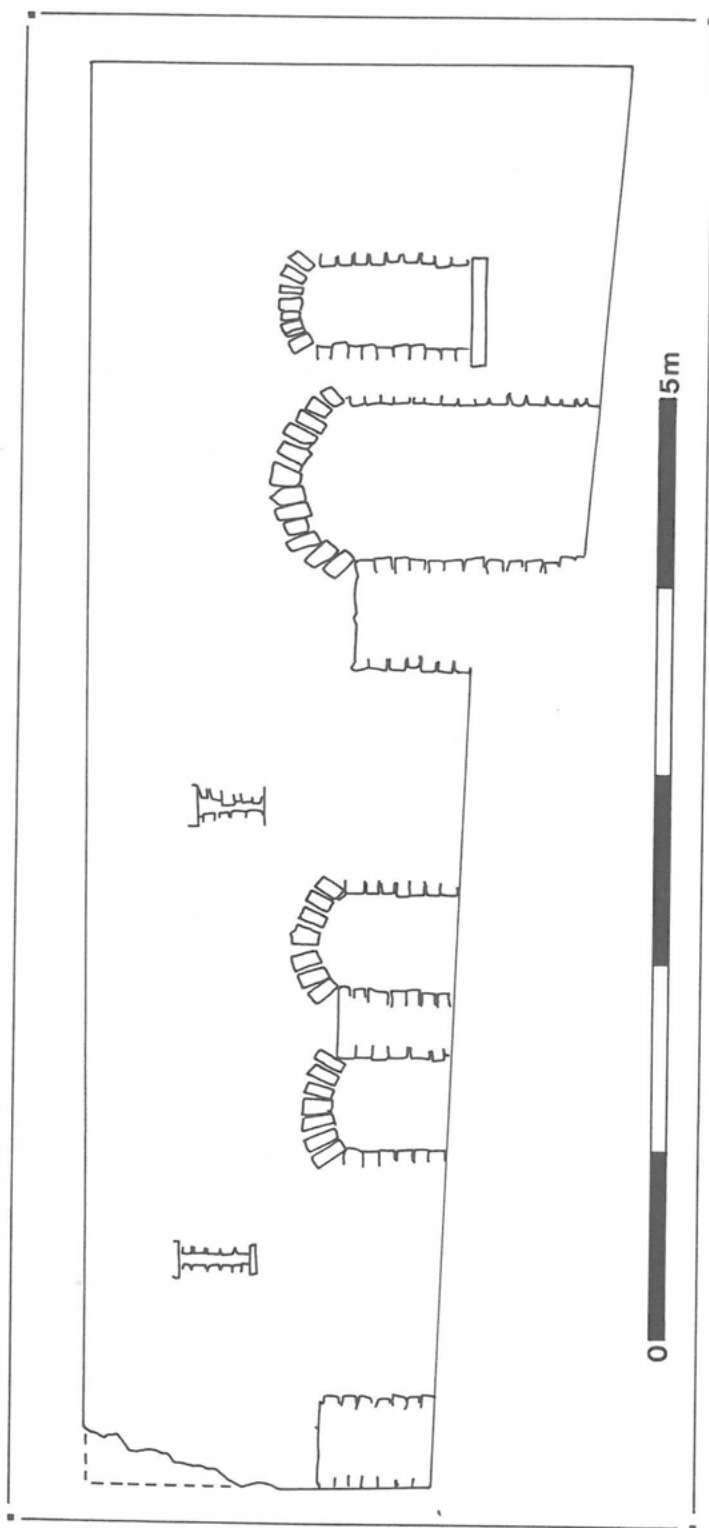


Figure Five: Building F West facing elevation