

Community Centre Building Survey 1986

Probable church house now used as community centre, the ground floor in process of conversion from store. Circa 16th century. Stone rubble. Slate roof with gable ends. Projecting stone rubble end stacks to left (north east) and right (south west), the shafts removed. 2 storey 2 or 3 room plan, the front facing north west and the churchyard directly to the rear (south east) where the ground is at a higher level. The Church of St Tetha (qv) lies directly to the south east. The ground drops down gradually to the right. Overall rectangular plan with 2 entrances to ground floor on front and possibly blocked door to rear left, the churchyard ground level to rear probably having been risen. External stone rubble and slate stair to first floor on left hand gable end. The internal partitions have been removed, the left hand fireplace blocked and several possibly 19th century fireplaces have been inserted on the front and rear walls.

The original plan is uncertain; possibly with large room to left and smaller service room to right, both heated by end stacks. The original position of the entrance is uncertain, but may have been to right of centre, directly into the right hand room with a plank and muntin partition screen on the higher left hand side. Possible blocked entrance to rear left which would have given direct access from churchyard into larger left hand room. The first floor joists remain in situ with 6 heavy cross beams and 2 slighter half beams at the ends, the left hand half beam is chamfered with stepped run-out stops. The first cross beam to the left is chamfered on the higher, left hand side directly opposite the fireplace with a complex moulding on the right hand side. The second, third and fourth beams all have complex mouldings and the fifth beam has a complex moulding on the higher left hand side and a deep chamfer on the right hand side. Mortice holes for plank and muntin screen in fifth cross beam. The sixth beam has a heavy chamfer on both sides. All the cross beams have fine quality mouldings and pyramid stops; the floor joists between the complex moulded cross beams have bead moulding, and the floor joists between the chamfered cross beams are un-moulded. The left hand fireplace is assymmetrically placed in the gable end with what appears to be a blocked opening to the left, possibly for a stair turret (now removed). On the first floor 2 trusses were replaced in circa 19th century with 5 raised cruck trusses, only the curved feet visible. The trusses are painted and the collars and splices not accesible so itis unclear whether the trusses are clean or whether there were internal partitions. The masonry below the eaves line on the interior suggests the roof has been raised. There is a straight join near the centre on the rear elevation suggesting partial rebuilding of the rear wall and the front elevation has several blocked openings suggesting later remodelling. The first floor of the church house was used as a dame's school in the 19th and early 20th century and the ground floor was reputedly used by unmarried mothers, possibly explaining the insertion of the additional fireplaces.

2 storey north west front elevation with openings altered. Window and door opening to left and door and window opening to right. 3 windows above. Rear elevation of one and a half storeys, the ground level raised with remains of earlier granite mullion windows, a 2 light mullion window to right. Floor level lowered in late 20th century. Heavy cross beams with deep chamfer at lower left hand side and higher right hand side and with fine quality complex moulding comprising hollow chamfer, fillet and cyma reversa, all with pyramid stops. Fireplace to left blocked with the deep slightly hollow chamfered jambs and lintels partly visible. Roughly chamfered lintel to right hand fireplace anf 19th century lintels to fireplaces on front and rear walls. 8 bay roof with 2 trusses on left replaced in 19th century. 5 raised cruck trusses of 16th century with pronounced curved feet and mortices probably for lower tier of butt purlins. A ceiling has been inserted below cellar level and the collars and apices were inaccessible.

Particularly interesting house, possibly a rare survival of a church house with interesting plan and high quality complex moulded floor joists.