

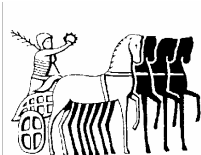
**Historic building recording  
at the Sergeants' Mess,  
formerly the Officers' Quarters,  
Le Cateau Barracks,  
Colchester, Essex  
November 2013**



**report prepared by  
Chris Lister**

**on behalf of  
Taylor Wimpey**

CAT project ref: 13/11a  
NGR: TL 9935 2455 (c)  
Colchester and Ipswich Museum  
accession code: COLEM 2013.58



**Colchester Archaeological Trust**  
Roman Circus House,  
Circular Road North,  
Colchester,  
Essex, CO2 7GZ

*tel.:* 07436 273304  
*email:* [archaeologists@catuk.org](mailto:archaeologists@catuk.org)

**CAT Report 739**  
March 2014

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## 1 Summary

*A programme of building recording was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust on building LEC 3 at the decommissioned Le Cateau Barracks on Colchester Garrison. Building LEC 3, which became known as the Sergeants' Mess towards the end of the 20th century, was originally constructed as Officers' Quarters for the 19th-century Artillery Barracks. LEC 3 is a Grade II listed brick building dating from 1874-5, with extensions and alterations dating to 1904 and 1922-62. The building is highly significant to Colchester for several reasons. It is one of the few surviving buildings of the early permanent barracks in the town, which evolved from the changes in military thinking that arose in the aftermath of the Crimean War; it has a direct association with the First World War, with men of the Royal Field Artillery stationed in Colchester taking part in the Battle of Le Cateau in 1914; and it has a high architectural merit, with elaborate decoration and fine fixtures and fittings, many of which have survived intact.*

## 2 Introduction (Fig 1)

This is the archive report on historic building recording of LEC 3, the Grade II listed former Officers' Quarters at Le Cateau Barracks, Colchester, Essex. The work was carried out on behalf of Taylor Wimpey Ltd by Colchester Archaeological Trust (CAT) in November 2013. LEC 3 is located on the west side of the barracks, looking out over Abbey Field, and is centred at NGR TL 9935 2455. Although the building became known as the Sergeants' Mess towards the end of the 20th century, it was constructed as the Officers' Quarters for the Royal Artillery in 1874-5, with the barracks known as Artillery Barracks. The barracks' name was changed to Le Cateau after the World War One battle of 1914. In order to maintain clarity the building is referred to by its original designation of the Officers' Quarters throughout this report.

The structure is to be converted to residential dwellings as part of the programme of works associated with the redevelopment of Colchester Garrison. As a result of planning applications submitted to Colchester Borough Council and the impact of the proposed works on the historic integrity and the historical interest of building, a full archaeological condition was attached to the planning consent. This condition was based on the advice given in the National Planning Policy Framework.

Although no brief detailing the required work (historic building recording) was issued, a request was made by Alistair Day (Colchester Borough Council Principal Planning Officer) for an English Heritage Level 3 building survey to be carried out.

All work was carried out according to standards and practices contained in the Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2008) and *Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures* (2008a), *Management of research projects in the historic environment* (MoRPHE), and *Standards for field archaeology in the East of England* (EAA 14).

## 3 Aims

The aim of the building recording was to provide a detailed record and assessment of the structure. The building recording was carried out to Level 3 (English Heritage, 2006).

In particular the record considered:

- Plan form of the site.
- Materials and method of construction.
- Date(s) of the structure.
- Function and internal layout of each component.
- Fixtures and fittings (contemporary and later additions/adaptations).
- Phasing.
- The context of the structure within its immediate contemporary landscape and its importance on a national and regional level.

## **4 Building recording methodology**

The following are included in this report:

- A brief documentary and cartographic survey of the evidence pertaining to the history and evolution of the site.
- A large-scale block plan of the site based on Ordnance Survey mapping. The position of the structure is highlighted and has been given a number noting date and function.
- Fully phased floor plans using the English Heritage (2006) Level 3 conventions at scale 1:200 of the building scheduled for conversion/demolition. Doors, windows, partitions and any surviving fixtures/fittings are shown, together with evidence of phasing. The plans show all major structural additions to the building and any internal divisions, particularly where the alterations are associated with a change of function.
- A detailed description of the structure. The description addresses features such as materials, dimensions, method of construction, joinery, spatial configuration, phasing and any evidence of original fixtures and fittings.
- A discussion of the history and development of the building, including its design, date, form and function and any significant modifications/reuse.
- A brief overview of Colchester Garrison and how changes during the 19th and 20th century influenced the plan form.
- A full photographic record, comprising digital photographs of both general shots and details of external and internal features. Selected examples of the photographic record are tied into the drawn record and reproduced as fully annotated photographic plates supporting the text (Appendix 1). The photographic record is accompanied by a photographic register detailing location and direction of shot (Appendix 2).

## **5 Historical background** (Maps 1-6, Illustrations 1-3)

A documentary and cartographic search was undertaken to assess the evidence pertaining to the history and the evolution of the former Officers' Quarters. The structure has been identified by its original designation of the Officers' Quarters in the following text, rather than its modern appellation of the Sergeants' Mess, which corresponds to the block plan, accompanying figures and photographic entries. The term Royal Artillery Barracks is used instead of the later Le Cateau Barracks where possible in the following text in order to minimise confusion.

The British Army has a long association with Colchester, the town currently being home to the 16th Air Assault Brigade. However, prior to the Crimean War (1853-6), this association was always temporary, with soldiers billeted locally or housed in tents, particularly on Lexden Heath. During the Napoleonic Wars a temporary hutted camp was erected on Barrack Field, but this was disposed of after the Battle of Waterloo (1815). In 1855-6 a hutted encampment was built on Ordnance Field, between Military and Mersea Roads, intended as a temporary infantry barracks for 5000 men, known as Colchester Camp. At the end of the war it was decided to put the barracks at Colchester on a permanent footing, with the construction of the brick-built Cavalry Barracks in 1862-4. This was soon followed by the Royal Artillery Barracks in 1874-5, with Sobraon Barracks added in 1900 and Goojerat Barracks in 1902. In the years between 1896 and 1904 the temporary wooden huts of Colchester Camp on Ordnance Field were replaced by the brick buildings of Hyderabad and Meeanee Barracks.

Much of the impetus for this programme of building arose from the Army Sanitary Commission of 1864, itself an off-shoot from the Royal Commission for Improving Barracks and Hospitals, established in the aftermath of the Crimean War to address the problems of sickness and mortality in barracks. The results of the 1864 commission were improved ventilation, heating provisions and sanitation in new barracks, with the practice of quartering troops above stables discontinued. However, the commission's findings regarding the accommodation of troops above stables were not implemented in the construction of the Cavalry and Royal Artillery Barracks and these can be seen as late examples of an earlier style. The Royal Artillery Barracks is also notable as being the last barracks in Britain to be designed and built around the camp plan, with buildings surrounding a central parade ground.

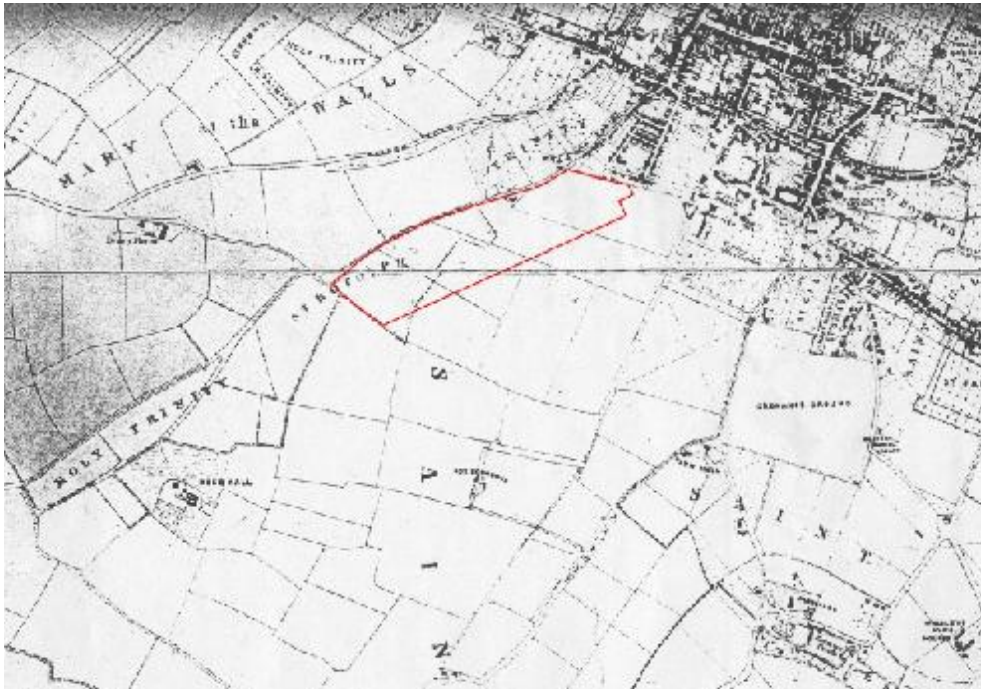
The Royal Artillery Barracks is located on the north-west edge of Abbey Field, to the south of the historic town of Colchester (Fig 1). George Gilbert's 1846 plan of Colchester (Map 1) shows that the Cavalry and Royal Artillery Barracks were constructed on open fields, alongside what would later become Butt Road, in the parishes of St Botolph and Holy Trinity. The title award for 1838 lists part of this area as Harp Field, owned by the Right Honourable Lord Ashburton and rented to Samuel Green Croke.

Monson's map of Colchester from 1848 (Map 2) gives greater detail of the area that was to become the Royal Artillery Barracks. This shows that the barracks was constructed against the edge of some of the earliest urban development outside of the town walls, that of South Street, West Street and Essex Street. Opposite the barracks, on the north-west side of Butt Road, the land is shown as orchards with some isolated cottages. This landscape remained virtually unaltered, even during the construction of Cavalry Barracks in the 1860s and the Royal Artillery Barracks in the 1870s, as shown on the 1st edition 6" Ordnance Survey map of 1876 (Map 3). The buildings of the Royal Artillery Barracks are shown fully constructed, identical to those depicted on an undated design drawing in the English Heritage Archive (EHA 95/1431 [Fig 2]). This drawing includes a 'Table of Accommodation' for the barracks, citing quarters for two field officers and ten other officers, housed in the Officers' Quarters at one end of the parade ground; stabling for 186 horses in six stable blocks with quarters for 288 non-commissioned officers and men above, three on either side of the parade ground (eighteen officers' mounts were afforded separate stabling – three horses to a stable on the corner of each block); quarters for thirty-two married soldiers and their families in two blocks, one either side of the parade ground. This gives a total strength of 332 officers and men and 204 horses. The troop's guns were stored in two large sheds at the end of the parade ground, opposite the Officers' Quarters. Additional buildings included a canteen, a guard house, an office block, latrines (separate blocks for men and women), infirmary stables, a laundry, an octagonal water tower with officer's baths on the ground floor, a granary and a fodder store. The three stable blocks on the west side of the parade ground (blocks A-C) were mirror images of those on the east side (blocks D-F). Every block had a projecting structure at each corner, those on the north side of the building divided into two rooms, one for harnesses, and the other for a specific function. Blocks A and D had stabling for the officers' mounts and a forge on the south side of the block, whilst the structures on the north side (in addition to the harness rooms) comprised a wheelwright's shop and a shoemaker's shop. Blocks B and E had stabling for the officers' mounts and a cook house on the south side of the block, whilst on the north side there was a meat and bread store and a tailor's shop. Blocks C and F had stabling for the officers' mounts and a school on the south side of the block (adults to block C and infants to block F) whilst on the north side there was an orderly room and a collar-maker's shop. The identical layout of the stable blocks on either side of the parade ground suggests the troop was split into two batteries, each commanded by one of the two field officers. The barracks were contained by a high brick wall to the north and west and a fence of iron railings where the barracks fronted onto Abbey Field. Immediately in front of the Officers' Quarters was a D-shaped lawn surrounded by a road. Where the ends of the road meet the fence two gates are marked, the east gate and the south-east gate. To the north-east of stable block D there were two rectangular *maneges* for exercising the horses and two lunging circles for riders to practise sabre and lance drills.

The 1st edition 6" Ordnance Survey map of 1876 (Map 3) shows the original configuration of the Officers' Quarters. This is shown on an un-dated photographic postcard (Illustration 1) which depicts the south-east elevation of the Officers' Quarters and part of the lawn in front. There is no change shown on the 2nd edition 25" Ordnance Survey map of 1897 (Map 4) but the 1922 edition of the 25" map (which records the barracks as the Royal Field Artillery Barracks, reflecting the 1899 division of the Royal Artillery into the Royal Field Artillery, the Royal Horse Artillery and the Royal Garrison Artillery) shows significant alterations (Map 5). Additional accommodation was added to both ends of the building and an extension, comprising a toilet block and bar facilities, was built onto the parade ground side (Fig 3). The extent of these alterations can be seen on a postcard dated 1923 (Illustration 2). The exact date when these extensions were constructed is not known for certain but they were in place at least as early as 1911. A third photographic postcard, with a 1911 date, shows artillery troops returning to barracks via the south-east gate: behind the trees of the garden the gable end of the Officers' Quarters can be seen with the location of the chimney stack indicating that the building in

the photograph has been extended. This provides a date range for the first phase of alterations of 1897-1911. However, a pencilled note on the original plans and elevations for the Officers' Quarters (EHA 95/1435) records that these drawings were superseded by plans dated to 1904. This strongly suggests that these alterations were carried out in 1904.

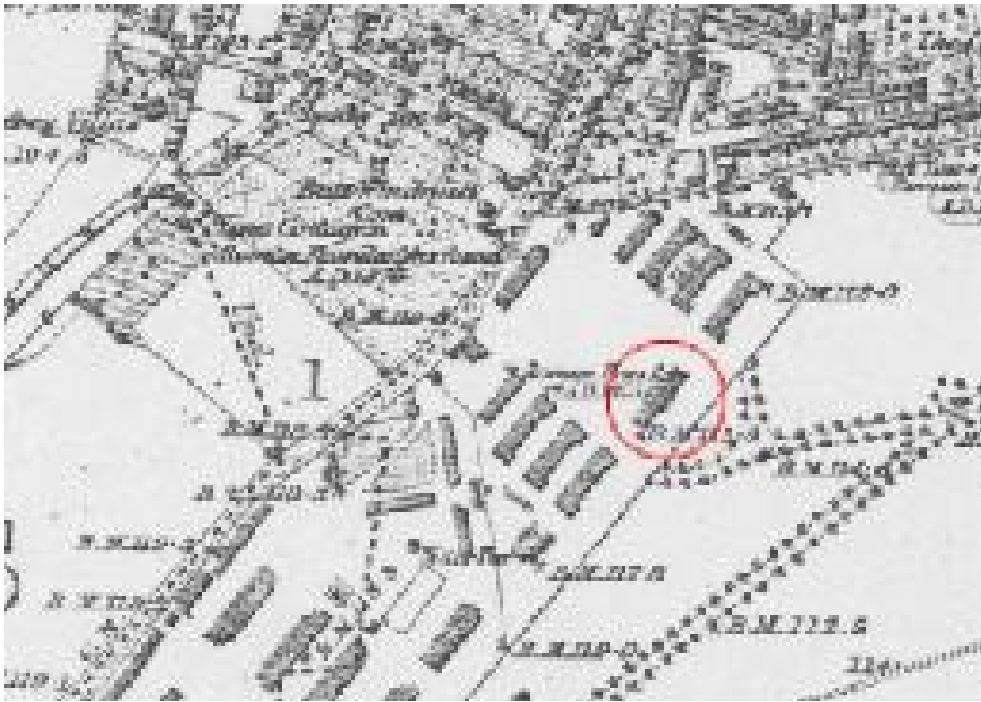
After 1922 the mess room was extended and a kitchen block added on to the parade ground side of the Officers' Quarters. A Royal Engineers' map of Colchester Garrison from 1949 shows these alterations (Map 6). This map had amendments made to it in 1953, 1955, 1956 and 1962, so a date range for the mess and kitchen extensions of 1922-62 has been assumed. A small toilet block was added in the 1980s.



Map 1 George Gilbert's map of Colchester, 1846 with the location of Cavalry and Artillery Barracks outlined in red.



Map 2 Monson's map of Colchester, 1848 with the location of the Officers' Quarters marked as a red dot.



Map 3 1st edition 6" Ordnance Survey map, 1876 (sheet XXV) with the Officers' Quarters circled in red.

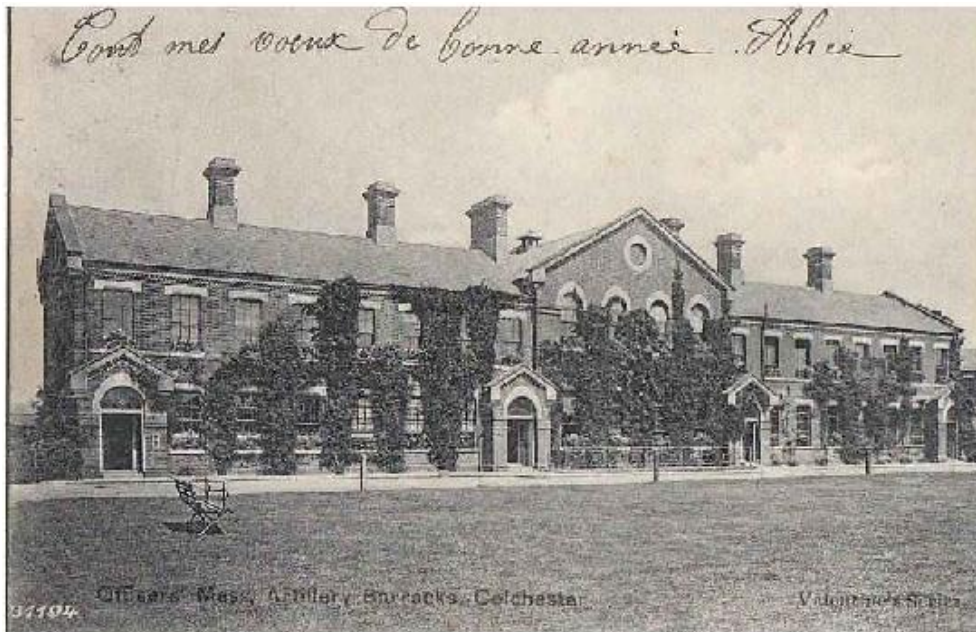
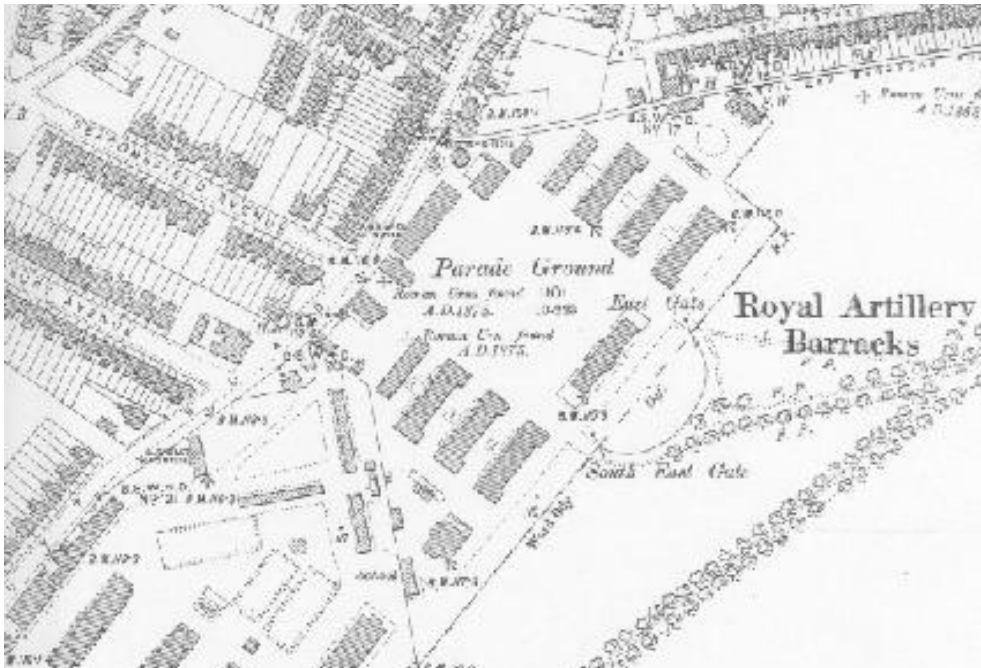
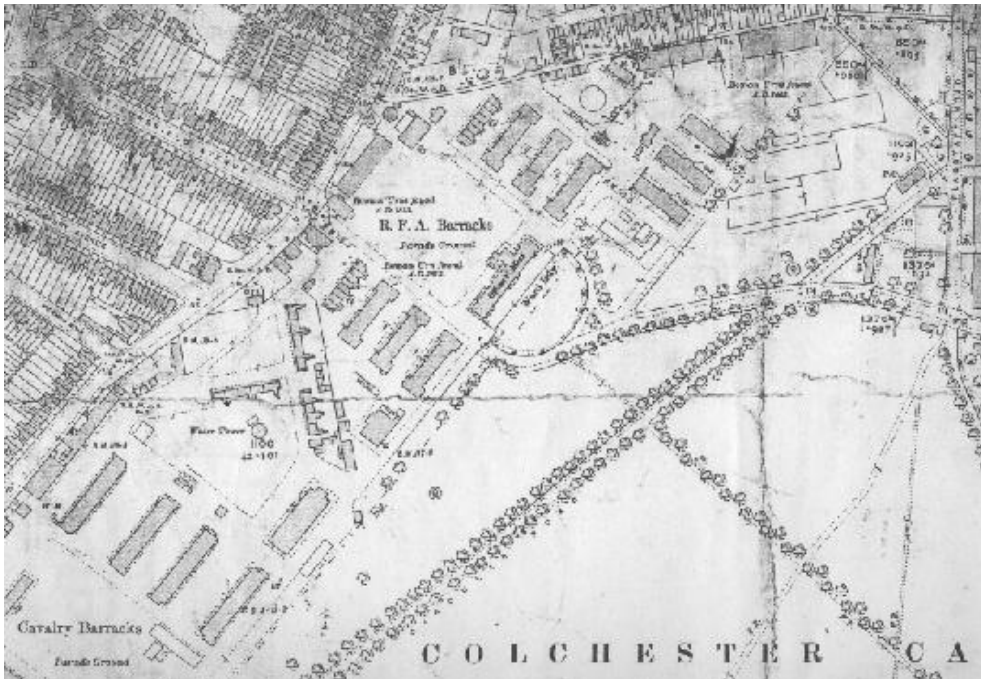


Illustration 1 Un-dated postcard of the Officers' Quarters (labelled Officers' Mess) showing the original building configuration and the lawn in front ([www.delcampe.net](http://www.delcampe.net)).



Map 4 2nd edition 25" Ordnance Survey map, 1897 (sheet XXVII.12).



Map 5 1922 edition 25" Ordnance Survey map, showing the Officers' Quarters with extra accommodation on the ends, the bar extension and the toilet block to the rear.

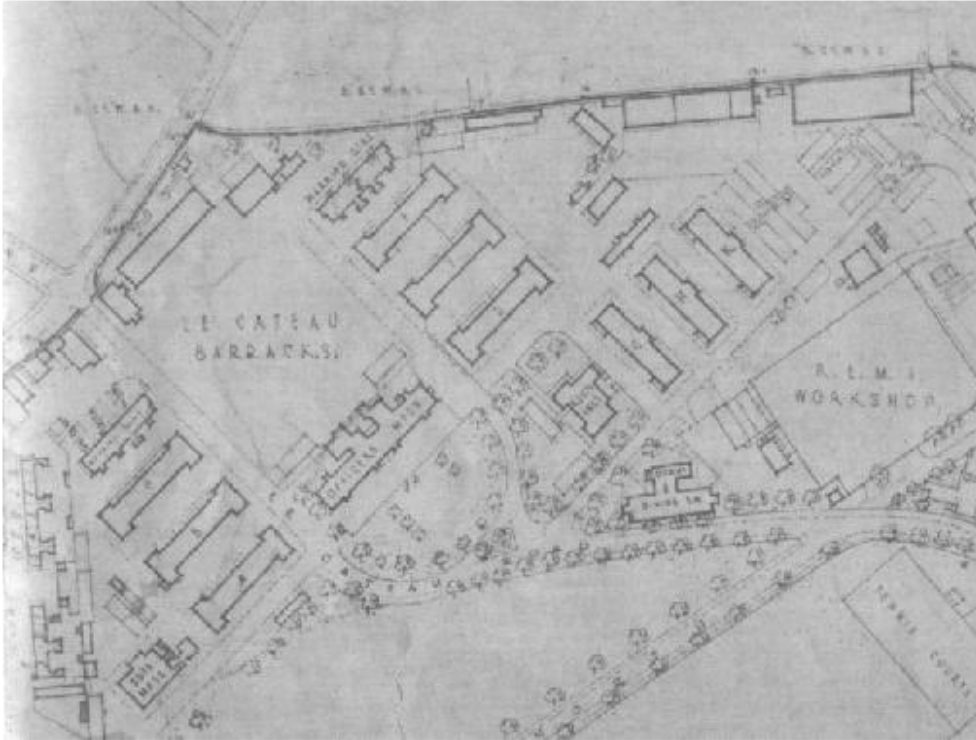




**Illustration 2** 1923 postcard showing the south-east elevation of the Officers' Quarters, with the extensions at either end.



**Illustration 3** 1911 postcard showing Royal Field Artillery troops returning to barracks via the south-east gate with the extension to the Officers' Quarters visible in the background.



**Map 6 1949 Royal Engineers map of Colchester Garrison with amendments dating to 1962, showing Le Cateau Barracks, with the kitchen and mess extensions to the rear of the Officers' Quarters (labelled Officers' Mess on the map).**

## **6 Descriptive record (Figs 1-18)**

The structure described in the following text is one of the few surviving buildings from the former Royal Artillery/Le Cateau Barracks. It was constructed in 1874-5, with extensions added in 1904, 1922-62 and the 1980s. The structure was surveyed after the building had been left unoccupied for a period of several years and vandalised on several occasions. At the time of survey, the building was closely surrounded by a 2.4m high hoarding, the majority of the windows were boarded over and power was turned off, necessitating photography under artificial lighting conditions. Development of the former barracks surrounding the Officers' Quarters was under way and the area around the building was in use as a storage area for construction materials, further compromising the standard of the photography.

In addition to rooms with an obvious function (kitchen, mess room etc) the rooms of the Officers' Quarters have been numbered on the accompanying floor plans in order to facilitate the following description.

### **External description**

The former Officers' Quarters comprises a two-storey, north-east to south-west aligned principal range, 63.3m long x 9.85m wide, constructed from red brick with dimensions of 226 x 105 x 65mm laid in Flemish bond and a complex of single storey structures on the north-west side (Fig 3).

The south-east, or front, elevation (Fig 9) is relatively detailed and includes a five-course plinth of Staffordshire blue bricks, the topmost course of which is chamfered; a two-course string line between the window sills of yellow stock bricks with dimensions of 232 x 110 x 65mm; a four-course string of yellow stocks between the floors, the bottommost course of which is made from moulded brick; and a cornice of yellow stocks, including a single course of moulded brick (Plate 1). The windows of both floors are six-over-six sashes with cast concrete sills and lintels. There are iron ventilation grills between the windows and iron airbricks set into the plinth. A central projecting gabled section has the same decorative brick detail as the rest of the range. The ground floor windows are identical to the others of the range but the first floor windows have arched heads of pointed yellow

voussoirs and there is an oculus of yellow brick in the apex of the gable (Plate 2). The coping and kneeler stones of the gable are of York stone. In front of the projecting gable there is a light-well to the basement. The original iron railings to the light-well sit on a York stone plinth and there are York stone blocks where the railings enter the walls (Plate 3). There are four projecting entrance porches on the ground floor (labelled entrance ways *i-iv* on Fig 3). These also have gabled coping stones and kneelers of York stone. Below the coping stones are three courses of white-painted brick (probably yellow stocks), then three courses of yellow stocks, two of which are moulded (Plate 4). The doorways are surmounted by a pointed arch of rubbed yellow brick, which sits on a single string of yellow stocks, with a second single string of yellow stocks lower down. The original wooden entry doors, (including the original door furniture – Plate 5) are present on three of the porches: entrance way *iii* has been replaced with a revolving door. On the corner of each porch there is a single iron bracket with a chain, which originally supported a gas lamp (Plate 6). Entrance way *i* has a sandstone block embedded in the brickwork to the right of the doors (Plate 7). This originally held two bell pulls, one for the ground floor Field Officer's Quarters, the other for the first floor Field Officer's Quarters. Entrance way *iii* has a sandstone block for a single bell pull, whilst entrance ways *ii* and *iv* have no bell pull. The original design elevation (Fig 13) shows this was always the case. Both entrance ways *i* and *iv* have a wooden housing for an electric bell inserted into the side wall (Plate 8). These date to 1904 and served the extensions built onto either end of the range (see Figs 3 and 9). The extensions have been constructed with such skill that there is almost no sign of the join in either the brick work or the cornice. The only indication is a slight difference in the colour of the brickwork. The decorative elements of the façade are continued (Plate 9) and the extensions are virtually indistinguishable from the original fabric.

The short elevations of the 1904 rebuilding phase are as skilfully built as the south-east elevation, with the decorative brick string courses continued from the south-east elevation. The gables have the same York stone coping stones and kneelers as the porches and the projecting gable of the south-east elevation and it may be that these are the original dressings, relocated and reused in 1904, as the original design elevation (Fig 15) shows exactly the same cornice design as on the long elevations. The north-east elevation is plain brickwork, apart from the aforementioned string lines, and has an oculus of yellow voussoirs beneath the apex of the gable (Fig 12, Plate 10). The south-west elevation has a small rectangular louvre instead of an oculus (Fig 11), but repairs to the surrounding brickwork suggest one was once present. This is reinforced by the 1911 postcard (Illustration 3) which clearly shows an oculus below the gable apex. The original design drawings for the short elevations (Fig 15) shows there were centrally located windows on both floors. These were six-over-six sashes with margin lights of two-over-two sashes illuminating stairwells *i* and *iv*. As the 1904 extensions comprised two rooms, centrally-located windows were not feasible and were omitted from the new end walls.

The north-west, or back, elevation was originally very similar to the front, with the same decorative embellishments and window design (Fig 14). A central projecting gabled section was identical to that of the south-east elevation, the only slight difference being that the oculus contained a clock instead of a window. This clock would have been visible to the troops when on the parade ground and may have governed some of the barrack activities. It was removed in the 20th century. On either side of the gabled section there were originally single-storey projecting gabled lavatories located at the rear of entrance ways *ii* and *iii* (Figs 6, 14 and 15). These had the York stone dressings and yellow stock cornice and string courses of the front porches. Each lavatory had an exit to the parade ground and a four-over-four sash window in the north-west wall. Between the two lavatories there was a light-well with a staircase providing access to the basement. This had identical railings to those on the front of the building. When the end extensions were added to the main range in 1904 these original lavatories were replaced with two-storey projecting gabled ablution blocks, designed and built to match the architectural features of the earlier structure (Figs 3, 10-12). Two more of these were added at the rear of entrance ways *i* and *iv* (Plate 11). These have six-over-six sash windows on the rear elevation and one-over-one sashes to the side walls. Each was provided with an exit to the parade ground. The ablution block at the end of entrance way *iii* is different to the other blocks. It is narrower and rises out of a much larger, contemporary single-storey extension. This structure comprises a bar and a toilet block and is constructed from red brick with dimensions of 226

x 105 x 65mm laid in Flemish bond. A doorway in the rear wall of the toilet block has been infilled.

The remaining structures to the rear of the Officers' Quarters comprise a single-storey extension to the mess room, a single-storey kitchen and storage yards (Plate 12). These additions all appear to have been constructed at the same time, from red brick with dimensions of 226 x 110 x 65mm laid in English bond, and the map evidence suggests a date range of 1922-62.

The original slates of the roof have been replaced with asbestos tiles in the 20th century but all of the original chimney stacks (including the 1904 additions) have survived intact. The chimney stacks are of red brick and have a plinth and a single string of yellow stocks. Towards the head of the chimney there are projecting courses of yellow stocks, including moulded bricks, which mimic the cornice. Although the original design drawings (Figs 13-16 and 18) show a bell tower above the clock in the projecting gable of the north-west elevation, this has not survived.

The perimeter fence of the Royal Artillery Barracks has long since been removed, with only the section surrounding the garden in front of the Officers' Quarters surviving. Probably at the same time as the 1904 alterations were carried out (or shortly after) the Officers' Quarters was enclosed in its own iron fence, joined to the earlier palisade and provided with gates formed by iron barley-twist posts incorporating gas lamps (Plate 13). Although the gates themselves have since been replaced, all four of the gate posts and short sections of the fence have survived.

#### **Internal description: ground floor**

Access to the Officers' Quarters is via the four entrance ways in the south-east elevation (Fig 3). With the exception of entrance way *iii* (replaced by a revolving door) these entrances each retain the original outer and inner doors (Plate 14). The wooden outer doors are half-glazed above a single panel, with a semi-circular fan light above. These open onto a small hall with a step up into the main hallway through two wooden-framed doors of three lights over a single panel. These doors are framed by narrow margin lights and have the original bolts, finger plates and hooks to hold them open. The inner doors open onto a hallway with a staircase to the first floor. Entrance ways *i* and *iv* have open string staircases of fifteen risers leading to a landing, with turned balusters and a mahogany banister terminating in a spiral end (Plates 15 and 16). In entrance way *i* the staircase is mounted against the dividing wall with rooms 3 and 4, whereas in entrance way *iv* the staircase is mounted against what was originally the exterior wall. Each of these entrance ways has original coat hooks on the opposite wall to the staircase and a cupboard beneath the stairs. The original layout of these two entrance ways included a small lavatory at the rear of the hallway (Fig 6). During the 1904 alterations these lavatories were removed and a doorway inserted through the existing window to a new, two-storey, projecting ablution block (Fig 3). On the ground floor these have an un-horned sash window of one-over-one lights in the left-hand wall, an external doorway in the right-hand wall, a dividing wall to the WC and a small un-horned sash window of six-over-six lights in the rear wall. In the ablution block to the rear of entrance way *iv* this window was converted to a doorway providing access to an additional toilet block constructed in the 1980s.

Entrance ways *ii* and *iii* were constructed in a slightly different manner. The staircases were steeper, with only twelve risers and were set further back into the hallway with a line of coat hooks on the opposite wall to the stairs, although in all other respects they were identical to staircases *i* and *iv*. They flanked the walls of the central section and had cupboards beneath the stairs but, unlike entrance ways *i* and *iv*, there was not a lavatory at the end of the hallway. Instead each hallway terminated in a doorway through the rear wall of the range which provided access to a single-storey projecting lavatory block (Fig 6). In the 1904 alterations these lavatory blocks were demolished. The one at the rear of entrance way *ii* was replaced with a two-storey projecting ablution block, with the existing doorway filled in and a new doorway cut through the rear wall of the building (Fig 3). Entrance way *iii* was subjected to a greater degree of renovation: the staircase was removed completely and the lavatory at the end of the entrance way was demolished, with the original doorway converted to a window, and a new doorway cut through the rear wall next to it (Plate 17). This opens on to a corridor leading to a single-storey toilet block,

which appears to have doubled as a cloakroom for the new bar, as there are coat hooks extending along the length of the corridor and the toilet block wall.

During the 1904 alterations the left-hand wall of entrance way *i* was breached in two places to provide access to the extension and original windows bricked in. The extension comprises two rooms, each with three un-horned sash windows of six-over-six lights and a louvred vent in between. Room 1, on the north-west side of the building, has a centrally-located chimney breast on the dividing wall with room 2. Attached to this is an Art Deco-style brick fire surround clad in small glazed tiles, which appears to date to the 1930s. The original hearth to this fireplace has been blocked and a gas fire installed in its place (Plate 18). This type of hearth and fire surround is typical of all the surviving fireplaces in the accommodation rooms of the Officers' Quarters. Room 2 is similar to room 1 but has several additional features. The room is divided into two chambers by a panelled wooden partition, creating a small sleeping area and a larger sitting room (Plate 19). The chimney breast is off-centre to the room as a whole but central to the sitting room, suggesting that the wooden partition is an original, planned feature of the room. There is a dresser with two shelves above it to the left of the chimney breast (Plate 20), which appear to be original to the room but are identical to the dressers and shelving found in the 1874-5 accommodation, including the same ornate brackets that support the shelves (Plate 21). This suggests that these features have either been relocated from the main range or are faithful reproductions produced in 1904.

The design drawing (Fig 6) shows there was originally a single doorway leading off the ground floor of entrance way *i*. This provided access to the suite of rooms set aside for the second Field Officer, comprising a bedroom (room 3) and a sitting room (room 4) separated by a narrow corridor. Both of these rooms have the original range of three un-horned sash windows of six-over-six lights with recessed wooden shutters and a louvred vent in between (Plate 22). The doorways to these rooms have the original four-panel doors. Room 4 (the sitting room) has a dresser with two shelves above it located on either side of a centrally-located chimney breast (Plate 23), whilst room 3 (the bedroom) has a single dresser with two shelves above it to the left of the centrally-located chimney breast. The original plan shows this dresser to the right of the chimney breast, although this is probably an original deviation from the plan rather than a subsequent relocation. A doorway has been inserted to the left-hand wall of room 3 providing access from entrance way *i*. Although this alteration may have been carried out during the 1904 extensions it seems far more likely that the suite of rooms was divided when the Officers' Quarters became the Sergeants' Mess in the late 20th century.

The corridor between rooms 3 and 4 is a short, narrow service passage for the second Field Officer's servant and leads to rooms 5 and 6. Room 5 was the servant's quarters, a very small room with one window, subsequently converted to a doorway. There is a set of original coat hooks on the right-hand wall. Room 6 was originally the second Field Officer's kitchen, a small square room with an Art Deco hearth replacing the original fireplace and two un-horned sash windows of six-over-six lights with recessed wooden shutters and a louvre between them. Apart from these features the room is devoid of fittings, but the original design drawings (Figs 6 and 17) show a sink in the corner of the room by the window, with a plate rack above it and a dresser on the dividing wall with entrance way *ii*. A doorway in the corner of the room opens on to entrance way *ii*. Just inside the double doors of entrance way *ii*, on the left wall, is a doorway providing access to room 7, originally the quarters for Officer No.1. In a similar arrangement to that of room 2, this room is divided into two chambers, a small sleeping area with one six-over-six un-horned sash window and a larger sitting room with two six-over-six un-horned sash windows, all of which have the original folding wooden shutters recessed into the sides of the frames. However, instead of a wooden partition these chambers are separated by a brick arch (Plate 24). The sitting room has a centrally-located chimney breast flanked by original dressers and shelving, as shown by the design drawing (Fig 6).

The projecting ablution block at the rear of entrance way *ii* has an external doorway in the left-hand wall and a dividing wall creating a chamber for a single WC. There is an un-horned sash window of four-over-four lights in the left wall of this chamber and there was originally a window in the rear wall, subsequently blocked by the construction of the kitchen. A one-over-one sash window was originally located in the right-hand wall, but the construction of the mess room extension has blocked this.

Opposite the doorway to room 7 is the entrance to the mess room, originally a rectangular room the entire width of the building (Plate 25). This has two un-horned windows of six-over-six lights, with the original folding wooden shutters recessed into the sides of the frames. The original mess had identical windows at the other end of the room but an extension to the mess, carried out between 1922 and 1962, has removed the rear wall and windows, significantly increasing the size of the room. The windows of the extension are six-over-six un-horned sashes but do not have the folding shutters present on the windows of the original mess room. The mess originally had a large fireplace on the dividing wall with entrance way *ii*, but this has been blocked. The enlarged mess has a doorway providing access to the 1904 ablution block at the rear of entrance way *ii*, with the extension having a connecting door to the kitchen, constructed at the same time as the mess extension. The modern mess retains the original entrances to the ante room and the servants' stairwell (labelled *v* on the plans). The ante room is little more than a wide corridor leading to entrance way *iii* and has two windows of six-over-six sashes with recessed shutters in the frame and a louvred vent in between. Originally the ante room was much larger with a fireplace and a dresser (Figs 6 and 18) but a wall has been inserted, reducing the ante room in size and enlarging the pantry behind. The original doorway between the ante room and entrance way *iii* has been replaced by an archway.

The pantry behind the ante room has been significantly altered, possibly in 1904 but more likely at the same time as the mess extension was constructed. The original pantry was accessed from stairwell *v* and had a fireplace on the dividing wall with the ante room, flanked by dressers, with additional dressers along the side walls, one of which appears to have held the mess silver. The pantry was certainly a secure room as the window is shown on the design drawing (Fig 6) with guard bars. The window and guard bars are the only original features to have survived the alterations, all of the dressers have been removed and the wall with the fireplace removed. The modern pantry has a chimney breast inserted into the dividing wall with entrance way *iii*, with a simple wooden mantelpiece, below which the fireplace has been blocked and a gas fire inserted. An arched alcove to the right of this chimney breast has been converted from an original soot chute and contains a fitted cupboard with a glazed front. Part of the extra space taken from the ante room has been converted to a cupboard, which is fitted with slate shelves supported on brick piers, probably used as a wine cellar.

Stairwell *v* (the servants' stairs) originally provided access to the basement kitchen but has been altered to include access to the first floor. An additional staircase has been inserted across the window which is an un-horned sash of six-over-six lights with recessed shutters (Plate 26). This has externally fixed guard bars, which are not on the original plan. In the corner there is a large, free-standing wooden cupboard, the shelves of which are lined with felt. This lockable cupboard is not in its original position and appears to have been relocated from the pantry, possibly originally functioning as the silver cupboard. Next to this cupboard the skirting boards are interrupted and there is a visible change to the quality of the plaster, suggesting something has been removed. The original design drawings (Figs 6, 16 and 18) indicate there was a lift in this location, allowing food to be brought up from the basement kitchen to the mess.

Opening directly off the revolving doors of entrance way *iii* is the entrance to the bar, converted in 1904 from the quarters of Officers Nos.2 and 3 (Fig 3) but retaining the original four-panel door. The original design drawings (Figs 6 and 18) indicate that these rooms were identical to room 7 but, apart from the three original windows in the south-east wall, no trace of the original layout survives. The 1904 alterations removed the dividing wall, chimneys, brick arches and rear windows, creating two large rooms separated by an archway, with the weight of the upper floor carried on two bridging beams (Plate 27). The doorway to the quarters of Officer No. 3 was bricked in and new chimneys constructed in both rooms. The extension was provided with its own doorway leading to the new toilet block and has large bridging beams extending across the room, with ornamental supports of moulded plaster executed in floral motif. A sprung dance floor in the centre of the room is probably a later feature. The dividing wall between the quarters for Officers Nos.2 and 3 and Officers Nos.4 and 5 has been breached by the insertion of two archways, which provide access to the modern bar area, converted from the quarters for Officers Nos.4 and 5. Once again, the design drawings show that the layout and features of these rooms were originally identical to room 7. The dividing wall between the quarters for Officers Nos.4 and 5 has been breached either side of the chimney stack, which has been left *in situ*. The

window of the sleeping area to the quarters for Officer No.5 has survived intact, as have all three original windows to the quarters for Officer No.4, however the sitting room windows to the quarters for Officer No.5 have been obscured by the bar shelving. The exterior shows these windows to have survived, although iron guard bars have been added for security. The doorways to these two rooms are in their original locations and the quarters for Officer No.5 retain the original four-panel door.

As with entrance way *i*, the external wall of entrance way *iv* was breached to provide access to rooms 9 and 10 in the 1904 extension. The original windows in this wall have been bricked in as a consequence of the extension. Rooms 9 and 10 mirror the layout of rooms 1 and 2, although there is no indication in room 10 of a wooden partition separating the sleeping area from the sitting room. The position of the chimney breast suggests such a partition was originally present but has subsequently been removed. Room 9 was last used as the beer store for the bar and the windows have external guard bars fitted.

### First floor

Rooms 11 and 12 form the first floor rooms of the 1904 extension to the south-west end of the main range and are virtually identical to room 2 (Fig 4). Both are divided into two chambers by a panelled wooden partition, separating a small sleeping area from a larger sitting room. Each of the sitting rooms has a dresser with shelving above it to one side of the chimney breast and coat hooks to the other side. Room 11 has a second dresser located in the sleeping area. The sleeping areas of both rooms are connected by a four-panel door which is probably a later insertion (Plate 28).

The mid floor landing of stairwell *i* originally contained a lavatory comprising a single WC and basin, with a window in the rear wall. This was replaced by a projecting extension in 1904, accessed through an original window converted to a doorway. The extension contains two WCs, has an un-horned sash window of six-over-six lights in the rear wall and un-horned sash windows of two-over-two lights in the side walls. The right-hand wall of the mid landing has had a doorway inserted into it, providing a second access to the first Field Officer's bedroom (room 13).

In addition to the doorways to rooms 11 and 12, inserted through the original window opening, the first floor landing of stairwell *i* has a room at the front of the range. This room is original to the building, although its function is unclear, and has since been converted to a bathroom. Apart from showing a hatch to the attic, the original design drawing (Fig 7) does not indicate the purpose of this room; it may have been a servant's room or used for storage. The first floor landing also has the entrance to the suite of rooms set aside for the first Field Officer. These rooms are identical in layout to the rooms directly below them, occupied by the second Field Officer. The only difference is that the un-horned sash windows of six-over-six lights are without the recessed wooden shutters common to the windows of the ground floor. As on the ground floor an original four-panel door in the corner of the sitting room (room 14) opens onto a narrow corridor, across from which is the original entrance (complete with four-panel door) to the first Field Officer's bedroom (room 13).

To the right of the room 13 is a small room for the first Field Officer's servant (room 15). The left wall has vertical plank cladding with a shelf above it, probably later features rather than original. The right-hand wall has a coat rack with three hooks. The room is illuminated by a single un-horned sash window of six-over-six lights and has the original four-panel door. A laundry drying rack is suspended from the ceiling, but this is a later feature. Across the corridor from the servant's room is a doorway with a four-panel door, a second entrance to room 17. This does not appear on the original drawings and must be a later insertion.

At the end of the corridor is an original four-panel door opening onto the first Field Officer's kitchen. As with the second Field Officers' kitchen the original sink, plate rack and dresser have been removed. A doorway by the chimney breast opens onto the first floor landing of stairwell *ii*. A second doorway on this landing opens onto the sitting room of room 17, the former quarters for Officer No.6 (Plate 29). The layout of these quarters is structurally identical to that of room 7, directly below on the ground floor. A small difference is in the location of the dressers. Whereas room 7 has dressers on either side of the chimney breast, room 17 has a dresser to the left of the chimney breast and one in the sleeping area, both of which are shown on the original design drawing (Fig 7). However, the dresser in the sleeping area has been moved into the corner to accommodate the

doorway inserted into the corridor wall. The six-over-six sash windows, like those in the first Field Officer's rooms, are without the recessed shutters.

The mid landing of stairwell *ii* has two steps leading up to a doorway converted from the original window in the rear wall, providing access to the 1904 projecting ablution block, which contains two WCs.

The first floor landing of stairwell *ii*, in addition to the doorways in the left-hand wall, has three steps rising to doorways in the right-hand wall and a doorway opening onto a small room at the front of the range, utilised as a bathroom, with a single un-horned sash window of six-over-six lights. The doorways up the three steps originally granted access to the quarters for the servants of Officers Nos.1, 6 and 7 (room 18, located at the rear) and to the quarters for Officer No.7 (room 19, located at the front). The entrance to the servants' quarters has been bricked in and this room can now only be accessed via stairwell *v*. Room 19 has a panelled wooden screen dividing the room into a sleeping area and a sitting room. The sitting room has an Art Deco hearth with a later gas fire, a dresser with two shelves above it to the left of the chimney breast, and a single un-horned Italianate sash window of seven-over-six lights (Plate 30). The sleeping area has an identical window. The original design drawing (Fig 7) shows the dresser located on the dividing wall with the servants' room, not to the left of the chimney breast, which is shown as a doorway providing access to the small room at the end of the first floor landing. The design drawing shows that the quarters for Officer No.7 originally comprised two rooms, the larger being the sitting room (indicating that the wooden partition is a later feature) and the smaller being the sleeping area. The doorway to the modern bathroom on the landing is, therefore, a later insertion.

In stairwell *v* the staircase above the basement stairs has been inserted through the quarters for the servants of Officers Nos.2 and 3 and terminates in a small landing with doorways to the left and right. The staircase is illuminated by an un-horned Italianate sash window of seven-over-six lights. The doorway to the left has been inserted through the dividing wall with room 18, providing a new entrance to a room originally accessed from stairwell *ii*. This room has two un-horned Italianate sash windows of seven-over-six lights, an Art Deco hearth with a later gas fire and a double-width dresser on the dividing wall with room 19 (Plate 31). This dresser is in its original location. The blocked doorway to stairwell 2 can be seen to the left of the chimney breast. In one corner of the room, next to the inserted doorway, is the counterweight for the lift (Plate 32).

Through the right-hand door off the first floor landing of stairwell *v* there is a narrow corridor with three doors leading off it. The first of these, on the left-hand side of the corridor, is an iron door opening onto the remaining part of the quarters for the servants of Officers Nos.2 and 3 (Plate 33). This has an un-horned Italianate sash window of seven-over-six lights with external guard bars, a blocked chimney breast and a dresser with two shelves above it, relocated from another room. The top of the dresser and the shelves are unpainted indicating that a wood finish was the original state of this furniture (Plate 34). The iron door and the guard bars on the window suggest this room was intended for secure storage.

The door in the right-hand wall of the corridor is an insertion providing access to room 21, formerly quarters for the servants of Officers Nos.8 and 9. The original entrance to this room was in the dividing wall to stairwell *iii* but this has been bricked in (Fig 4). Room 21 has two un-horned Italianate sash windows of seven-over-six lights, an Art Deco hearth with later gas fire and a dresser with shelves above on the right-hand side of the chimney breast. The original design drawings (Figs 7 and 18) indicate a double-width dresser for this room, located on the dividing wall with the quarters for the servants of Officers Nos.2 and 3, suggesting that the dresser by the chimney breast (which does not completely fill the gap) has been relocated from another room.

The four-panel door at the end of the short corridor is the original doorway to the converted quarters for the servants of Officers Nos.2 and 3 and opens onto what was originally the first floor landing of stairwell *iii*. When the staircase was removed and the landing extended, a small shower room was constructed at the north-west end (Plate 35). To illuminate this room an un-horned sash window of four-over-four lights was inserted through the rear wall. To the right of this, a window in the rear wall has been converted to a doorway providing access to the 1904 projecting ablution block. This contains a single WC and has an un-horned sash window of six-over-six lights in the rear wall and an un-horned sash window of two-over-two lights in each side wall. Although the original steps to the



doorways of the servants' quarters have been replaced, the remainder of the first floor landing has survived relatively intact. There is an un-horned sash window of six-over-six lights at the end of the landing, coat hooks on the right-hand wall and a soot door above the skirting board on the left wall, towards the front of the building (Plate 36). This is marked 'Edward Deane, 1 Arthur Street, London Bridge'. (A soot door is fitted into a chimney breast where there is no access for sweeping or cleaning the chimney. Edward Deane is recorded in the London Gazette as an engineer who secured at least four patents in the 1860's). Doorways in the north-east wall of the landing grant access to rooms 22 and 23, formerly the quarters for Officers Nos.8 and 9. Both rooms have three un-horned sash windows of six-over-six lights and a double-width dresser with shelves above on the far dividing wall. Art Deco hearths with later gas fires are located in the corner created by the stairwell wall and the central dividing wall (Plate 37). This layout is significantly different from that depicted on the original design drawing (Fig 7). This indicates that the rooms were originally identical to room 17 on the first floor and room 7 on the ground floor: a sitting room with a fireplace and dressers on either side of the chimney breast, and a sleeping area, separated by a brick archway. These structural changes were carried out when the rooms below were converted to the lounge area for the bar. The removal of the dividing wall and associated chimney from the ground floor necessitated the relocation of the first floor fireplaces into the corner of the rooms, which in turn caused the relocation of the doorway to room 22.

The original design drawings (Figs 6 and 7) show that the remainder of the Officers' Quarters were not directly connected to the rest of the range, forcing the officers who resided in those rooms to exit the building each time they went to the mess. The creation of the bar in 1904 rectified this situation, linking stairwell *iv* and the rooms it served to the rest of the building. As with stairwell *i*, the mid-landing to staircase *iv* originally had a lavatory housing a single WC, with a window in the rear wall. This has been removed and an extension added to the rear of the main range. This is accessed via the original window which has been converted to a doorway. Unlike the extensions of stairwells *i* and *ii*, this has a single WC, with an un-horned sash window of six-over-six lights in the rear wall and an un-horned sash window of two-over-two lights in each side wall. At the end of the first floor landing to staircase *iv* there is a small room that has been converted to a bathroom. It has a centrally-located four-panel doorway and a single un-horned sash window of six-over-six lights. The ceiling contains an access hatch for the attic. This room is identical to the one at the end of the first floor landing of stairwell *i* and the original function remains unknown.

The first floor landing has doorways opening off it into rooms 24 and 25. Room 25, at the front of the building, was originally the quarters for Officer No.10, whilst room 24, at the rear of the building, was originally the quarters of the servants for Officers Nos.4, 5 and 10. Room 25 conforms to the established pattern of sitting room and sleeping area separated by a brick archway with un-horned sash windows of six-over-six lights and an Art Deco hearth with later gas fire. Dressers with shelves above are located on the left of the chimney breast and against the dividing wall in the sleeping area. There are original coat hooks on the sitting room side of the arch. Room 24 is divided into a sitting room and a sleeping area by a panelled wooden partition and has three un-horned sash windows of six-over-six lights and an Art Deco hearth with later gas fire. A dresser with two shelves above is located on the wall to the stairwell. The design drawing (Fig 7) shows that this dresser has been relocated: originally there was a double-width dresser to the right of the fireplace, but this has been removed, indicating that the wooden partition is a later feature.

The right-hand wall of stairwell *iv* has been breached to provide access to the 1904 extension. Room 26 at the rear is accessed via two steps from the mid-landing through this breach, whilst the doorway to room 27 at the front of the building has been inserted through the original window opening. Both rooms are divided into a sitting room and sleeping area by a panelled wooden partition and have three sash windows of six-over-six lights, an Art Deco hearth with later gas fire and a dresser with two shelves above between the chimney and the partition. There is a louvred vent between the windows of the sitting room.

### **Basement**

The basement is accessed from stairwell *v*, between the pantry and the mess room. The open string staircase has the same turned balusters and mahogany banister with a spiral

end as those in the entrance ways (Plate 38). A corridor at the base of the steps has three doorways opening off it and terminates at a doorway in the rear of the main range (Fig 5). This doorway opens onto an external passage separating the basement from underground storage rooms independent of the Officers' Quarters. This passage has steps (stairwell vi) leading up to a yard at the rear of the pantry and acts as a light well for the basement rooms (Plate 39).

The underground storage rooms comprise a series of vaulted chambers parallel to the main range, with a projecting chamber at either end of the passage. At the north-east end of the passage the projecting chamber (room 34) was originally used as a coal store (Fig 8, Plate 40) and had an external coal chute (Fig 6). The chamber at the south-west end of the passage is divided in two, originally functioning as a WC and a urinal for the servants. The plumbing for these facilities has since been removed. Both chambers have a vaulted brick ceiling and were built into the foundations of the original ground floor lavatory blocks.

The remainder of the underground storage area comprises four chambers, rooms 28-31. Room 28 has been converted to a general storeroom but was originally sub-divided into a WC and a dust store (Fig 8). The two-over-two sash window to this WC survives intact in the external wall of the chamber but the internal walls have been removed, as have the bins of the dust store. The door to this chamber is a wooden four-panel example but the design drawing indicates the chamber originally had no door, suggesting the present door may have been repositioned when the WC was dismantled. Room 29 has been converted to an additional coal store, with a coal chute inserted through the external wall, but was originally the beer cellar (Plate 41). This has the original double doors fronting the passage and a connecting doorway to the wine cellar in the next chamber. This connecting doorway has been bricked in, probably at the same time that the beer cellar was converted to a coal store. The design drawing of the basement indicates shelving was originally located along the rear wall. The conversion of the beer cellar necessitated the creation of a new doorway to the wine cellar, room 30. With the exception of this new doorway the wine cellar appears to have retained its original layout and features (Plate 42). These include an L-shaped set of sandstone shelves supported on simple brick piers (probably identical to the shelving originally in the beer cellar) and a drainage channel cut into the concrete floor. The fourth chamber, room 31, was accessed through a doorway below the stairs to the yard. This retains its original wooden four-panel door, the upper two panels of which are un-glazed but covered with a fine mesh and reinforced by iron bars. There is a louvred ventilation grill in the wall next to this doorway. The design drawing (Fig 8) notes this room as the larder and indicates the chamber is lined with glazed tiles and has slate shelves. These features have survived intact (Plate 43).

The doorway in the right-hand wall of the corridor in the basement opens onto room 36, utilised as the electrical switch room for the building, originally the scullery (Fig 8). The scullery has an un-horned sash window of three-over-three lights, with guard bars on the exterior, admitting light from stairwell vi. The scullery was originally equipped with a sink, plate rack and shelves, none of which survive. There is a dividing wall with vertical tongue and groove plank cladding on both sides, and a centrally located four-panel door providing access to a store room behind the scullery, room 37, with shelving on the interior walls. This dividing wall has been rebuilt, as the original plan shows the doorway to be off to one side, with an internal window to the right. A window has been inserted into the dividing wall between the storeroom and room 39, the original kitchen.

The basement corridor has a plain tiled floor, presumably original. In the corner there is a patch of replacement tiles where the base of the food lift has been removed. The tiled floor continues from the foot of the stairs to a doorway opposite, which opens onto the kitchen, room 39, also tiled. The kitchen originally occupied the right-hand side of the basement but, at some point, the dividing wall separating the kitchen from room 38, the former mess manager's room, was removed, creating a single, large room encompassing the entire width of the basement (Plate 44). The kitchen has two un-horned sash windows of three-over-three lights, with external guard bars, looking out onto the light well at the front of the Officers' Quarters. Although the window openings are angled there are no recesses for shutters. Between the windows are two louvred vents. There is a wide chimney breast on the right-hand wall, although the fireplace has been blocked. To the left of the chimney is a cupboard, noted as the boiler on the original plans.

Despite having been incorporated into the enlarged kitchen, the mess manager's room retains its original doorway. This originally opened off the basement hallway, but

subsequent alterations to the hallway layout have made this entrance into a connecting doorway with room 35, the former mess waiter's room. The mess manager's room originally had windows identical to those in the kitchen. One of these has been converted to a set of double doors providing access to the light-well. A louvre is present between the remaining window and the inserted doorway. A fireplace is located in the corner of the room, although this has been blocked, and the floor is of boards rather than tiles.

The doorway to the left of the foot of the stairs is a later insertion and has replaced the original doorway to the mess waiter's room. This room is almost a mirror image of the mess manager's room and has two sash windows of three-over-three lights, with external guard bars, looking out onto the passage separating the main basement from the underground storage area. There is a louvred vent in between these. The floor is of boards and there is a blocked fireplace in the corner of the room.

## 7 Discussion

The former Officers' Quarters of the Royal Artillery Barracks is arguably one of the most important buildings ever constructed on Colchester Garrison, a fact acknowledged by its status as a Grade II listed building. As part of the early permanent barracks in Colchester, the Officers' Quarters are a symbol of the town's military history, a history stretching back to the Roman legionary fortress established nearly 2000 years ago. Historically, Britain was wary of maintaining a standing army, with the crown preferring to raise troops in response to military crises. The brick-built Victorian barracks represent a move away from this practice, instigated by the wars of the 19th century and the expansion of Empire, which showed that a small professional army was needed to protect/further the interests of the country. With the vast majority of the original barrack buildings demolished in the 20th century, the Officers' Quarters are one of the few surviving examples of this process. The building is also significant for its association with historical events. The two name changes of the barracks reflect important events in both military and British history. In 1899 the Royal Artillery Barracks became the Royal Field Artillery Barracks, resulting from a major reorganisation of the Army's artillery, probably in response to operational requirements of the Second Boer War (1899-1902). At the outbreak of the First World War the XIV Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery, comprising the 39th, 68th and 88th batteries, was stationed at the barracks, before embarking for France as part of the British Expeditionary Force (BEF). They took part in the second major engagement of the war, the Battle of Le Cateau, on the 26 August 1914, during the BEF's retreat from Mons. As a result of their participation in this battle the Royal Field Artillery Barracks was renamed Le Cateau Barracks.

The Officers' Quarters also have architectural merit. Although designed for a quite mundane purpose and straightforward in layout, the building nevertheless has some elaborate embellishment. The moulded brick string lines and the inclusion of York stone dressings, where brick may have sufficed, give the building an aesthetically pleasing finish. Obviously, in a pre-electric age, the tall sash windows were a functional requirement to admit the maximum amount of light, but they also confer a feeling of airiness and light to what would otherwise be a dull brick façade. The projecting gables and the overall symmetry of the main range invite association with the temples and civic structures of the Classical world. Constructed at the height of the British Empire this was surely an intention of the architect, reflecting the glory and military successes of Imperial Rome. Indeed, the design of the iron railings around the light-well and basement stairwell is directly influenced by Roman art. The quality of the architecture reflects both the national pride in the British Army in the latter quarter of the 19th century and the Victorian view of the British people's standing in the world at this time. These views were important enough for great care to be employed when the extensions to the main range were carried out in 1904. The replication of the architectural embellishments and the attention to detail combined to create new elements of the building that blended almost seamlessly with the original fabric, indicating a strong respect for the building.

The exact reasons for the 1904 extensions can only be speculated upon, but they were probably implemented as a result of either the reorganisation of the Royal Artillery in 1899 or the Second Boer War. Either of these events may have increased the number of officers assigned to the brigade, requiring more accommodation. There were also practical considerations for these extensions. Prior to 1904, the two Field Officers (unless they utilised the servants' passage and kitchen) and those officers quartered off stairwell *iv*,

would have had to exit the building in order to reach the mess for their meals. The reorganisation of the ground floor solved this issue, although it should be noted that the creation of the bar removed four rooms. The extensions provided eight extra rooms so, overall, there were only an additional four rooms created in 1904.

The creation of the bar within the Officers' Quarters is illustrative of the differences between officer and enlisted man. Officers were provided with private rooms, servants and facilities in what was, in effect, a completely self-contained unit. The basement kitchen and storage areas, combined with mess and bar, meant that the officers enjoyed a lifestyle separate from that of the men. The garden and tennis lawn on the south-east side of the building provided even more opportunity for the officers to relax and spend their leisure time segregated from the men. In a small way this segregation extended to the officers themselves. In the original layout, each field officer had a private WC at the rear of the relevant floor of entrance way *i*. The remaining ten officers shared the four other WCs in the main range, whilst the servants were undoubtedly relegated to the facilities in the basement. Bathing facilities for all the officers were located on the ground floor of the barracks water tower on the far side of the parade ground. In contrast, the 288 enlisted men ate in their open dormitories, shared two small latrine blocks and had limited scope for entertainment in the barracks canteen. This divide was still present in the 20th century, with the extension to the mess room and the construction of the much larger kitchen suggesting an increase in the dining capacity of the Officer's Quarters after 1922. The privilege enjoyed by the occupants of the Officers' Quarters was eventually eroded over the course of the 20th century, with the accommodation converted into single rooms when the building became the sergeants' mess.

Many of the original features, both from the main range and from the 1904 extensions, have survived. These include virtually all of the sash windows, the shutters on the ground floor, many of the original doors and much of the original joinery. Many of the original dressers and shelving have survived, although often relocated and even where rooms have gone out of use, such as the underground storage areas, these have survived relatively intact. It is to be hoped that many of these surviving features will be incorporated into the next phase of the building's history when it is converted to private apartments.

## 8 Acknowledgements

Colchester Archaeological Trust would like to thank Taylor Wimpey Ltd for funding the building recording.

Plans are based on surveys carried out by KLH Architects, supplied by Taylor Wimpey. The building recording was carried out by Chris Lister.

## 9 References

Note: all CAT reports, except for DBAs, are available online in .pdf format at <http://cat.essex.ac.uk>

DoE	2010	<i>Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment</i>
EAA 14	2003	<i>Standards for field archaeology in the East of England</i> , East Anglian Archaeology, Occasional Papers 14, ed by D Gurney
IfA	2008	<i>Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials</i>
IfA	2008a	<i>Standard and guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings and structures</i>
Ingram Consultancy	2000	<i>Colchester Garrison Historic Building Assessment</i>
MoRPHE	2006	<i>Management of research projects in the historic environment</i> (English Heritage)

## 10 Abbreviations and glossary

CAT	Colchester Archaeological Trust
context	specific location on an archaeological site, especially one where finds are made

IfA Institute for Archaeologists  
modern period from the 19th century onwards to the present  
NGR National Grid Reference

## 11 Archive deposition

The paper and digital archive is currently held by the Colchester Archaeological Trust at Roman Circus House, Circular Road North, Colchester, Essex CO2 7GZ, but it will be permanently deposited with Colchester and Ipswich Museum under accession code COLEM 2013.58.

## 12 Contents of archive

One A4 document wallet containing:

### 1 Introduction

- 1.1 Risk assessment
- 1.2 Copies of existing plans and elevations

### 2 Site archive

- 2.1 Digital photographic record.
- 2.2 Digital photographic contact sheet.
- 2.3 Attendance register
- 2.4 Site photographic record on CD

### 3 Research archive

- 3.1 Client report

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### Colchester Archaeological Trust

Roman Circus House  
Circular Road North,  
Colchester,  
Essex CO2 7GZ

tel.: 07436 273304  
email: [archaeologists@catuk.org](mailto:archaeologists@catuk.org)

checked by: Philip Crummy  
date: 03/03/14

## Appendix 1 Selected photographs



**Plate 1** Section of the south-east elevation, showing the windows with their cast lintels and sills and the decorative cornice and string lines of yellow stock brick - view north-west



**Plate 2** Central projecting gabled section of south-east elevation, showing the pointed arches of the first floor windows and the oculus above – view north-west



**Plate 3** Original railings to the light-well on the south-east elevation - view north-west



**Plate 4** Entrance way *iii*, showing the projecting gabled porch with the yellow stock brick embellishments, sandstone bell pull and iron bracket for gas lamp – view north-west



**Plate 5** Detail of the original door knob on the entrance way doors



**Plate 6** Detail of the iron bracket and chain for the original gas lamp on the corner of entrance way *i*





**Plate 7** Detail of the sandstone block housing the bell pulls to the Field Officers' Quarters on entrance way *i*



**Plate 8** Detail of the wooden housing for electric door bell to the 1904 extension, inserted into the side wall of entrance way *i*



**Plate 9** South-east elevation of the 1904 extension to the Officers' Quarters, showing the continuation of the architectural embellishments; the change in the brickwork is visible in the top right of the photograph - view north-west



**Plate 10** North-east elevation of the 1904 extension, with the 1980s toilet block to the right - view south-west



**Plate 11** The north-west elevation showing the 1904 extensions, with the additional officers' accommodation to the left, the projecting ablution block and the 1980s toilet block – view south



**Plate 12** The north-west elevation with the 1922-62 single-storey extensions in the foreground - view south



**Plate 13** The 1904 railings and barley twist gate posts with integrated gas lamps  
– view east



**Plate 14** Entrance way ii, showing the original inner and outer doors of the porch and original coat hooks on the left wall - view south-east



**Plate 15** Stairwell *iv*, showing the original staircase, coat hooks and the entrance to the 1904 lavatory – view north-west



**Plate 16** Stairwell *iv*, detail of the mahogany banister with spiral end and the turned balusters of the open string staircase



**Plate 17** Entrance way *iii* with the removed staircase and the 1904 toilet block to the rear - view north-west



**Plate 18** Example of the replacement 1930s Art Deco fireplace with the later gas fire, found in each of the accommodation rooms



**Plate 19** Original wooden partition in room 2 separating the sleeping area from the sitting room – view south-west



**Plate 20** Dresser and shelving in room 2, either relocated from the 1876 rooms or faithfully reproduced – view north-west



**Plate 21** Detail of the ornate shelf brackets common to both the 1876 rooms and the 1904 extensions



**Plate 22** Example of the sash windows with recessed wooden shutters in the ground floor rooms of the 1874-5 building - view south-east





**Plate 23** Room 4, formerly the sitting room of the second Field Officer, with the original four-panel door leading to the bedroom of said officer – view west



**Plate 24** Room 7, formerly the quarters for Officer No.1, showing the brick arch separating the sleeping area from the sitting room, with the original dresser and shelving to the left of the chimney breast – view south



**Plate 25** The mess room with the 1922-62 extension to the rear and the original doorway to the servant's stairs in the right-hand wall – view north



**Plate 26** Servants' stairwell v, with the original access to the basement and the inserted staircase to the first floor - view west



**Plate 27** The 1904 bar converted from the quarters for Officers Nos.2 and 3, with the extension through the archway and the inserted fireplaces on the left-hand walls – view west



**Plate 28** Room 11, showing the additional dresser and shelving in the sleeping area and the connecting doorway with the sleeping area of Room 12 – the panelled wooden partition separating the sleeping area from the sitting room can be seen on the left – view south-east



**Plate 29** Room 17, the former quarters for Field Officer No.6, showing the repositioned dresser in the sleeping area and the windows without the recessed wooden shutters – view south



**Plate 30** Example of the Italianate sash windows found in rooms 18-21



**Plate 31** Room 18, formerly quarters for the servants of Officers Nos.1, 6 and 7, showing the bricked-in original doorway to the left of the chimney breast and the double-width dresser on the dividing wall – view south



**Plate 32** One of the original counter-balances for the food lift, located in the corner of room 18 – view north-east



**Plate 33** Iron door to strongroom 20, converted from the former servants' quarters for Officers Nos.2 and 3 - view west



**Plate 34** Detail of relocated dresser in room 20, showing the unpainted finish – view north-east



**Plate 35** The converted landing of the former stairwell *iii*, with the inserted shower room, the 1904 ablution block to the rear and the original doorways to the servants' quarters in the left-hand wall – view north-west



**Plate 36** Detail of the original soot door in the first floor wall of stairwell *iii*



**Plate 37** Room 22, formerly the quarters for Officer No.9, showing the relocated doorway and fireplace – view south-west



**Plate 38** Stairwell v, the basement stairs with the same mahogany banister with spiral end and turned balusters as the staircases of the entrance ways – view north-west





**Plate 39** Stairwell vi, leading from the basement kitchen and underground storage area to the yards at the rear of the building: the original coal store is visible at the end of the passage – view north-east



**Plate 40** Room 34, the brick vaulted coal store with the original coal chute – view north-east



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**Plate 44** Rooms 39 and 38, the former kitchen and mess manager's room, with the dividing wall removed and a doorway inserted through one of the windows of the mess manager's room – view south

## Appendix 2

### Full list of digital photographic record (images on accompanying CD)

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003.jpg South-east elevation of the Officers' Quarters - view north-west.  
004.jpg South-east elevation of the Officers' Quarters - view north-west.  
005.jpg South-east elevation of the Officers' Quarters, with entrance way *ii* - view north-west.  
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007.jpg South-east elevation of the Officers' Quarters, with pointed arches above the windows of the first floor - view north-west.  
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017.jpg Sandstone block for bell pull in front elevation of entrance way *iii* - view north-west.  
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- 183.jpg Room19, formerly the quarters of Officer No.7, with inserted wooden partition separating the sleeping area and sitting room - view east.
- 184.jpg Room19, 1930s style fire surround with later gas fire - view south-east.
- 185.jpg Room19, relocated dresser and shelving positioned over the blocked doorway leading to the original sleeping area of Officer No.7's quarters - view south-west.
- 186.jpg Room 19, Italianate sash window - view south-east.
- 187.jpg Servants' stairwell *v*, inserted through former servants' quarters of Officers Nos.2 and 3 - view north-west.
- 188.jpg Servants' stairwell *v*, inserted through former servants' quarters of Officers Nos.2 and 3 - view north-west.
- 189.jpg Italianate window to stairwell *v* - view north-west.
- 190.jpg Iron strongroom door to room 20, formerly the servants' quarters of Officers Nos.2 and 3 - view west.
- 191.jpg Room 20, formerly part of the servants' quarters for Officers Nos.2 and 3 - view north-west.
- 192.jpg Room 20, relocated dresser and shelving - view north-east.
- 193.jpg Room 21, formerly the quarters of the servants for Officers' Nos.8 and 9 - view south.
- 194.jpg Room 21, formerly the quarters of the servants for Officers' Nos.8 and 9, with 1930s style fire surround and later gas fireplace and relocated dresser and shelving - view north-east.
- 195.jpg Stairwell *iii*, with staircase removed and altered steps to rooms. A shower room has been inserted above the original staircase and to the rear is the 1904 ablution block, accessed via a doorway converted from an original window. There are original coat hooks in the foreground – view north-west.
- 196.jpg Original doorway opening off stairwell *iii* - view south.
- 197.jpg Original doorway opening off stairwell *iii* to servants' quarters, subsequently blocked - view south.
- 198.jpg Detail of soot door in stairwell *iii*, with the legend 'Edward Deane, 1 Arthur St, London Bridge' - view south-west.
- 199.jpg Detail of coat hooks in stairwell *iii*.
- 200.jpg Room 22, formerly the quarters of Officer No.9 - view north-east.
- 201.jpg Room 22, formerly the quarters of Officer No.9, with the relocated fireplace and doorway, 1930s fire surround and later gas fire - view south-west.
- 202.jpg Room 22, formerly the quarters of Officer No.9, with the relocated dresser and shelving - view north-east.
- 203.jpg Room 23, formerly the quarters of Officer No.8, with the relocated dresser and shelving - view north-east.
- 204.jpg Room 23, formerly the quarters of Officer No.8, with the relocated fireplace, 1930s fire surround and later gas fire - view south-west.
- 205.jpg Room 24, formerly the servants' quarters of Officers Nos.4, 5 and 10, with a relocated wooden partition separating the modern sleeping area from the sitting room and original coat hooks - view south.
- 206.jpg Room 24, formerly the servants' quarters of Officers Nos. 4, 5 and 10, with a relocated wooden partition separating the modern sleeping area from the sitting room - view south.
- 207.jpg Room 24, formerly the servants' quarters of Officers Nos. 4, 5 and 10, with a relocated dresser and shelving - view north-east.
- 208.jpg Room 24, formerly the servants' quarters of Officers Nos.4, 5 and 10, with 1930s style fire surround and later gas fire - view east.
- 209.jpg Room 25, formerly the quarters of Officer No.10, with the original brick arch separating the sleeping area from the sitting room - view south.
- 210.jpg Room 25, relocated dresser in sleeping area, subsequently removed - view south-west.
- 211.jpg Room 25, formerly the quarters of Officer No.10, with original dresser and shelving and 1930s style fire surround and later gas fire - view north-west.
- 212.jpg Stairwell *iv* from the first floor landing - view south-east.
- 213.jpg Stairwell *iv*, first floor landing with small room opening off landing - view south-east.



- 214.jpg The upper landing of stairwell *iv*, with the doorway inserted through an original window leading to the 1904 ablution block and the doorway on the right, inserted through the original outer wall, granting access to the 1904 Officers' Quarters – view north.
- 215.jpg Room 26, 1904 Officer's Quarters, with relocated dresser and shelving and 1930s fire surround and later gas fire - view east.
- 216.jpg Room 26, 1904 Officer's Quarters, with original wooden partition separating the sleeping area from the sitting room - view north-east.
- 217.jpg Room 26, 1904 Officer's Quarters, with relocated dresser and shelving and 1930's fire surround and later gas fire - view south-east.
- 218.jpg Room 26, 1904 Officer's Quarters, with stairwell *iv* in the background - view south-west.
- 219.jpg Room 27, 1904 Officer's Quarters, with original wooden partition separating the sleeping area from the sitting room - view north-east.
- 220.jpg Room 27, 1904 Officer's Quarters, with relocated dresser and shelving and 1930s fire surround and later gas fire - view north.
- 221.jpg Room 27, 1904 Officer's Quarters, with original wooden partition separating the sleeping area from the sitting room - view north-east.
- 222.jpg Room 27, 1904 Officer's Quarters, with relocated dresser and shelving - view north-west.
- 223.jpg Room 28, the former dust store and WC in the basement - view west.
- 224.jpg Original window to WC in room 28 - view south-east.
- 225.jpg Room 28, York stone flags and scar for WC walls - view north-west.
- 226.jpg Room 29, formerly part of the beer and wine cellar, converted to a coal store - view north-west.
- 227.jpg Room 29, additional coal chute.
- 228.jpg Original double door to room 29/30, the original beer and wine cellar - view south-west.
- 229.jpg Room 29, detail of original latch and later lock to beer and wine cellar.
- 230.jpg Inserted doorway to room 30 - view north-west.
- 231.jpg Room 30, the original wine cellar with sandstone shelves - view north-west.
- 232.jpg Room 30, the original sandstone shelves in the wine cellar - view north-west.
- 233.jpg Room 30, the original sandstone shelves in the wine cellar - view north-east.
- 234.jpg Room 30, drainage gully in the floor of the wine cellar.
- 235.jpg Original latch to the door of room 30.
- 236.jpg Original door to room 31, formerly the larder - view north-west.
- 237.jpg Room 31, the larder with the original glazed tiles and intact slate shelves - view north-west.
- 238.jpg Ventilation louvre in wall of larder - view west.
- 239.jpg Room 34, the original coal store - view north-east.
- 240.jpg Stairwell to the yard with the basement to the right - view north-east.
- 241.jpg Back passage between basement and beer/wine cellar - view south-west.
- 242.jpg Back passage with the basement on the left, the beer/wine cellar to the right and the servants' toilets at the far end - view south-west.
- 243.jpg Original door to the servants' WC, with the urinal to the left - view south-west.
- 244.jpg The base of servants' stairwell *v* - view south-east.
- 245.jpg Base of the servants' staircase *v* - view north-west.
- 246.jpg Detail of the turned newel post and balusters at the base of the servants' staircase *v*.
- 247.jpg Location of the former food lift at the base of the servants' stairwell - view north-east.
- 248.jpg Location of the former food lift at the base of the servants' stairwell - view north-east.
- 249.jpg Location of the former food lift at the base of the servants' stairwell, evidenced by the lighter-coloured tiles and the staining on the walls - view north-east.
- 250.jpg Room 35, formerly the mess waiter's room - view west.
- 251.jpg Room 36, formerly the scullery - view north-west.
- 252.jpg Room 37, formerly a store room off the scullery with original bench and inserted window - view east.
- 253.jpg Shelving in Room 37, interrupted by the rebuilt dividing wall to the scullery - view north.
- 254.jpg Rooms 38 and 39, formerly the mess manager's room and the kitchen, later converted to one room. A window has been converted to a doorway opening onto the basement light-well - view south.
- 255.jpg Room 38, formerly the mess manager's room - view west.
- 256.jpg Room 38, blocked fireplace in the corner of the mess manager's room - view north-west.
- 257.jpg Doorways to rooms 28 and 39, both replacements, and the inserted steel beam supporting the ceiling - view west.
- 258.jpg Room 39, formerly the kitchen with the original fireplace blocked and a window inserted to the scullery store room. The cupboard to the left of the chimney breast has replaced an original boiler - view north.
- 259.jpg Louvred ventilation in the outer wall of room 39, the former kitchen - view south-east.



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Fig 1 Site location and block plan with the original Officers' Quarters shown black and subsequent alterations shaded grey.

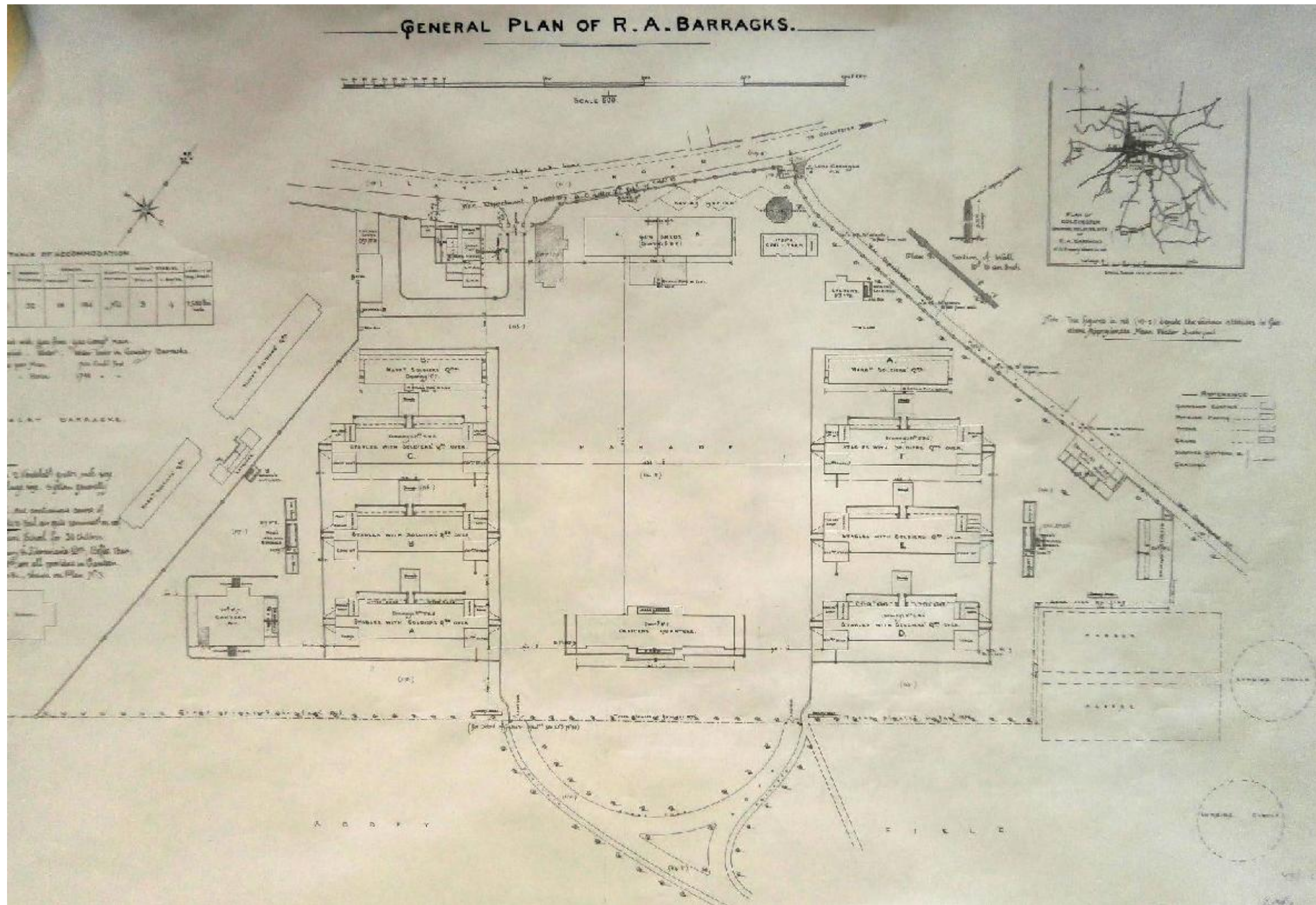
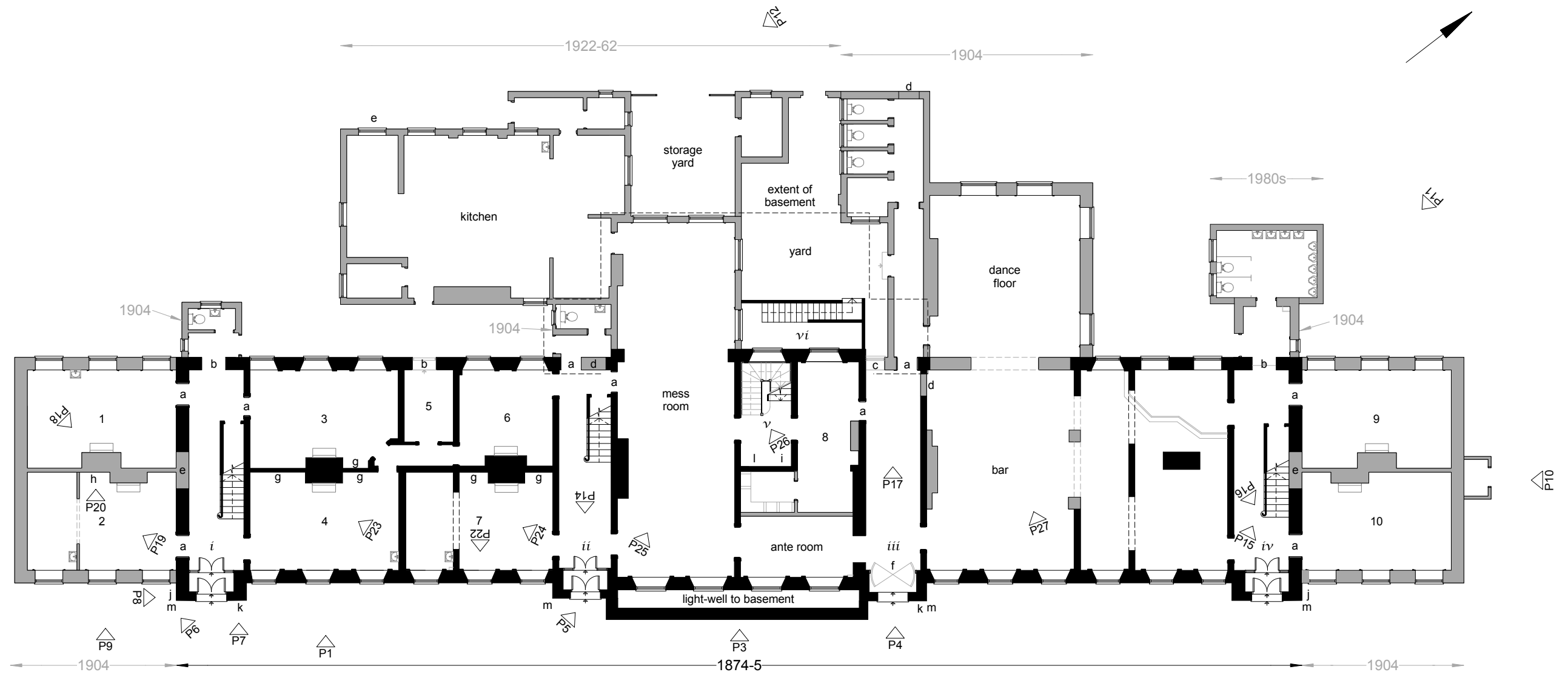


Fig 2 General plan of Royal Artillery Barracks, undated design drawing (EHA 95/1431).







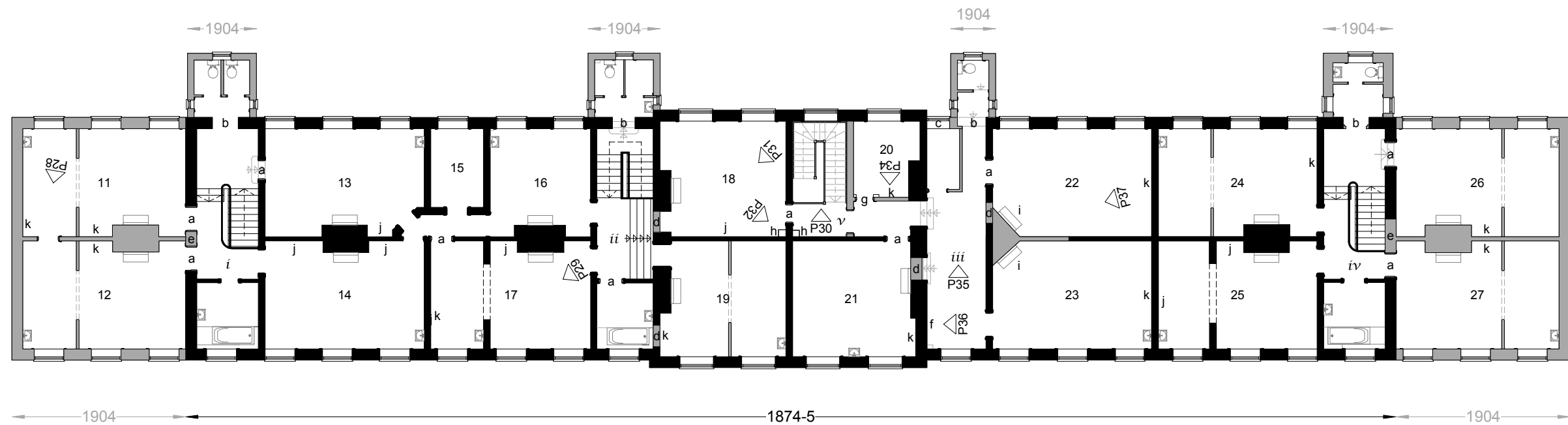
- |  |                                      |   |   |                                 |                                    |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
|  original fabric  | <i>i-iv</i> = entrance way/stairwell | 1 = additional Officer's Quarters                     | 6 = former kitchen for Field Officer No.2 | a = inserted doorway            | f = inserted revolving door        | j = wooden housing for electric doorbell |
|  alterations      | <i>ν</i> = servants' stairwell       | 2 = additional Officer's Quarters                     | 7 = former quarters of Officer No.1       | b = window converted to doorway | g = original dresser and shelving  | k = sandstone housing for bell pulls     |
|  original archway | <i>νi</i> = stairwell to yard        | 3 = former bedroom of Field Officer No.2              | 8 = former pantry with later wine cellar  | c = doorway converted to window | h = relocated dresser and shelving | l = crockery/glass cupboard              |
|  wooden partition |                                      | 4 = former sitting room of Field Officer No.2         | 9 = additional Officer's Quarters         | d = blocked doorway             | i = former location of food lift   | m = original bracket for gas lamp        |
|  |                                      | 5 = former quarters for servant of Field Officer No.2 | 10 = additional Officer's Quarters        | e = blocked window              |                                    |  |

Fig 3 Ground floor plan of the former Officers' Quarters, with original fabric shown black and alterations shaded grey. The location and orientation of photographs included in this report are indicated by the numbered arrows.





- original fabric
- alterations
- original archway
- wooden partition

- i-iv* = entrance way/stairwell
- v* = servants' stairwell
- 11 = additional Officer's Quarters
- 12 = additional Officer's Quarters
- 13 = former bedroom of Field Officer No.1
- 14 = former sitting room of Field Officer No.1

- 15 = former quarters for servant of Field Officer No.1
- 16 = former kitchen for Field Officer No.1
- 17 = former quarters of Officer No.6
- 18 = former servants' quarters for Officers Nos.1, 6 and 7
- 19 = former quarters of Officer No.7
- 20 = remnant of servants' quarters for Officers Nos.2 and 3, converted to a strongroom

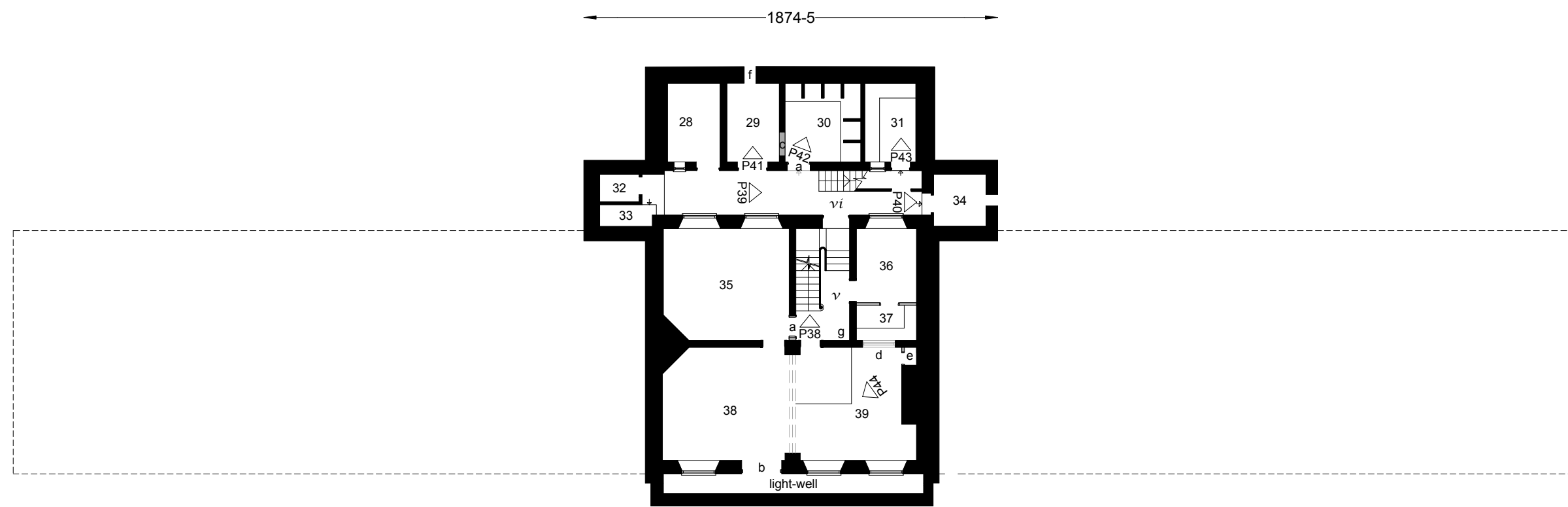
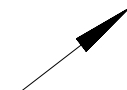
- 21 = former servants' quarters for Officers Nos.8 and 9
- 22 = former quarters of Officer No.9
- 23 = former quarters of Officer No.8
- 24 = former servants' quarters for Officers Nos.4, 5 and 10
- 25 = former quarters of Officer No.10
- 26 = additional Officer's Quarters
- 27 = additional Officer's Quarters

- a* = inserted doorway
- b* = window converted to doorway
- c* = inserted window
- d* = blocked doorway
- e* = blocked window
- f* = soot door

- g* = iron door to strongroom
- h* = counter-balance for food lift
- i* = relocated fireplace
- j* = original dresser and shelving
- k* = relocated dresser and shelving

Fig 4 First floor plan of the former Officers' Quarters, with original fabric shown black and alterations shaded grey. The location and orientation of photographs included in this report are indicated by the numbered arrows.





- original fabric
- alterations
- steel beam

- ν = servants' stairwell
- νi = stairwell to yard
- 28 = dust store and former WC
- 29 = coal store, formerly the beer cellar
- 30 = wine cellar

- 31 = larder with original slate shelves
- 32 = former servants' WC
- 33 = former servants' urinal
- 34 = original coal store
- 35 = former mess waiter's room

- 36 = former scullery
- 37 = store room
- 38 = former mess manager's room
- 39 = former kitchen

- a = inserted doorway
- b = window converted to doorway
- c = blocked doorway
- d = inserted window

- e = cupboard converted from original boiler
- f = inserted coal chute
- g = former location of food lift

Fig 5 Basement plan of the former Officers' Quarters, with original fabric shown black and alterations shaded grey. The location and orientation of photographs included in this report are indicated by the numbered arrows.



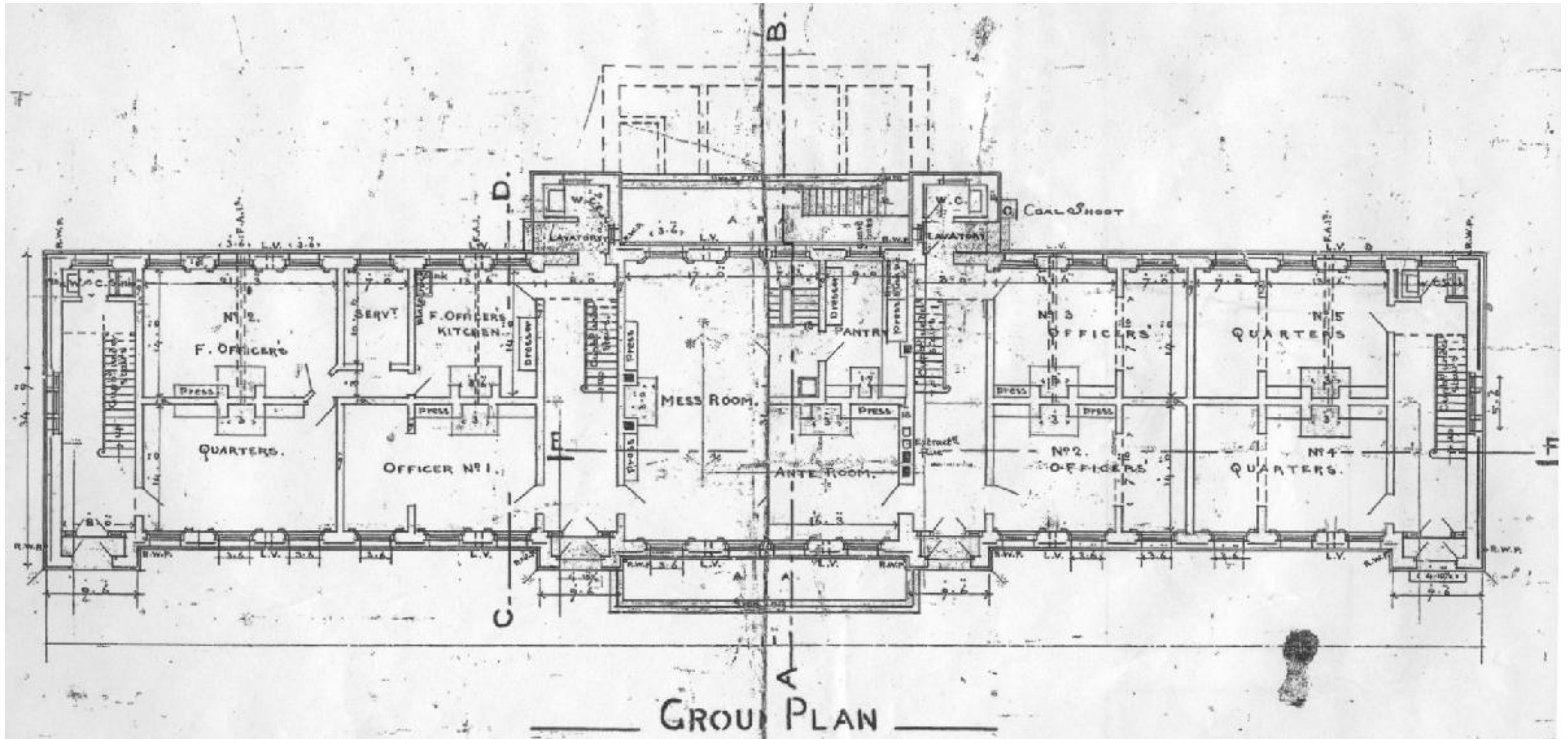


Fig 6 Original ground floor plan of the Officers' Quarters (EHA 95/1435).

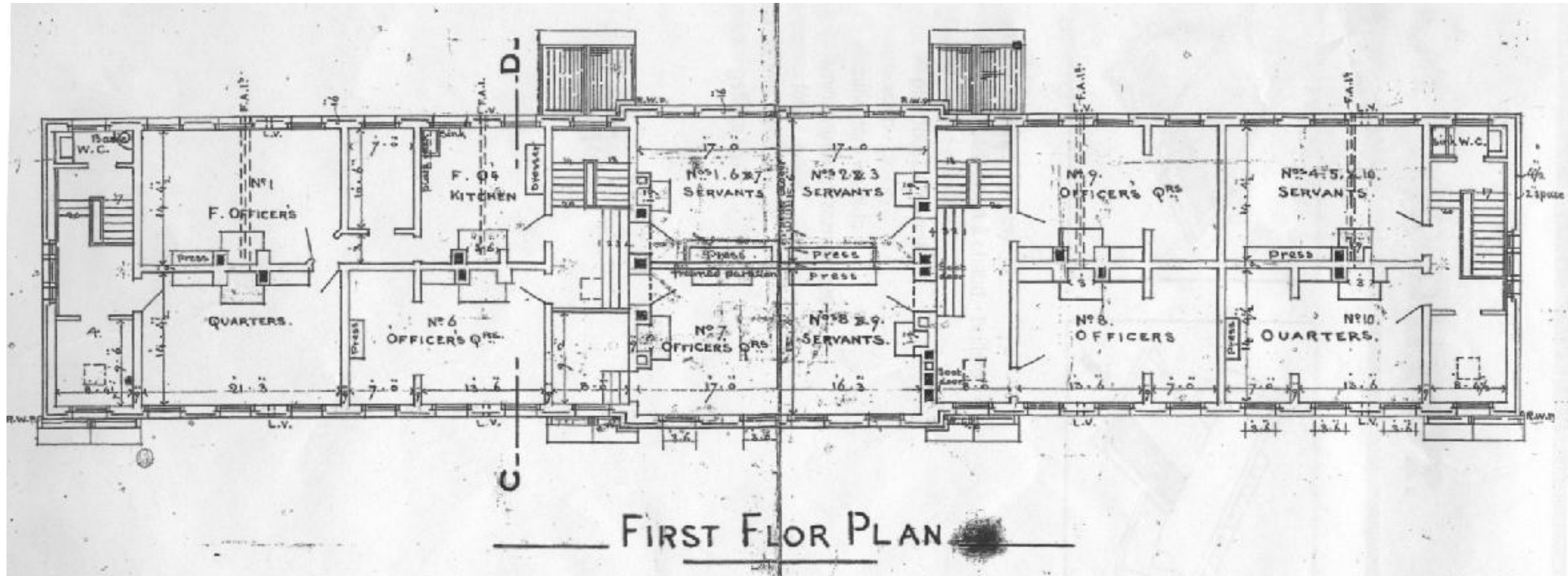


Fig 7 Original first floor plan of the Officers' Quarters (EHA 95/1435).



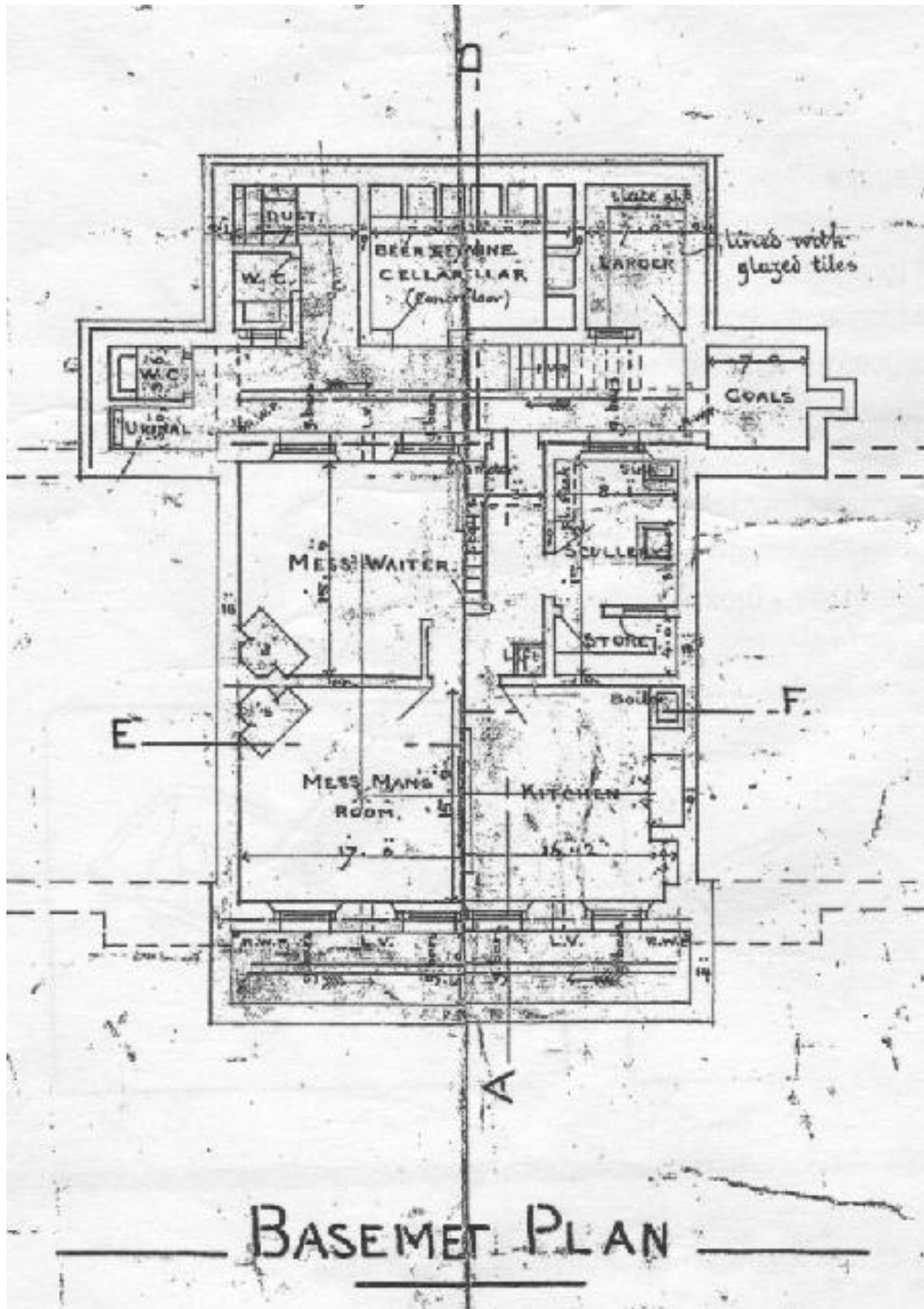


Fig 8 Original basement plan of the Officers' Quarters (EHA 95/1435).

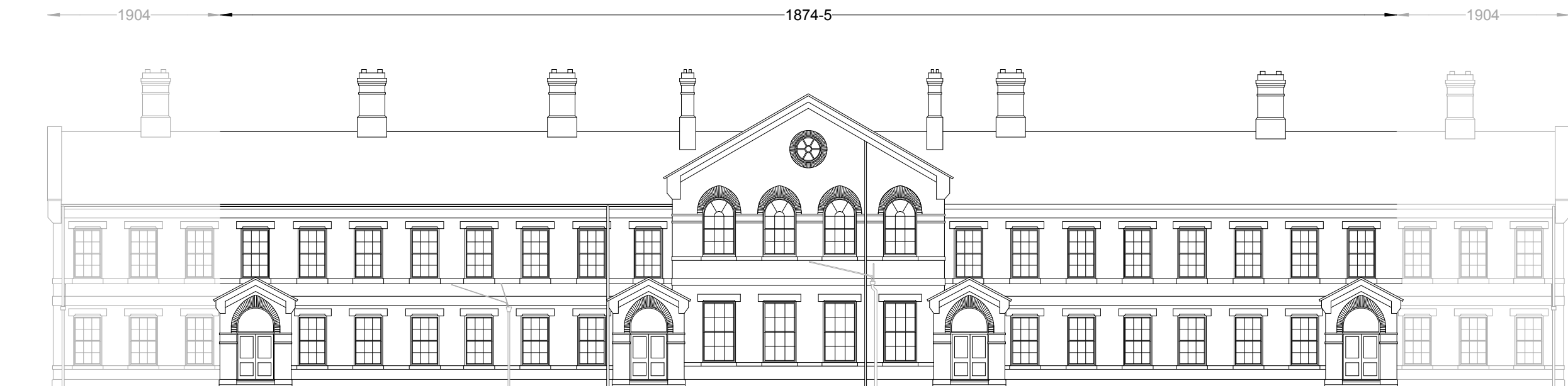


Fig 9 South-east elevation of the former Officers' Quarters, with alterations shown grey.



Fig 10 North-west elevation of the former Officers' Quarters, with alterations shown grey.



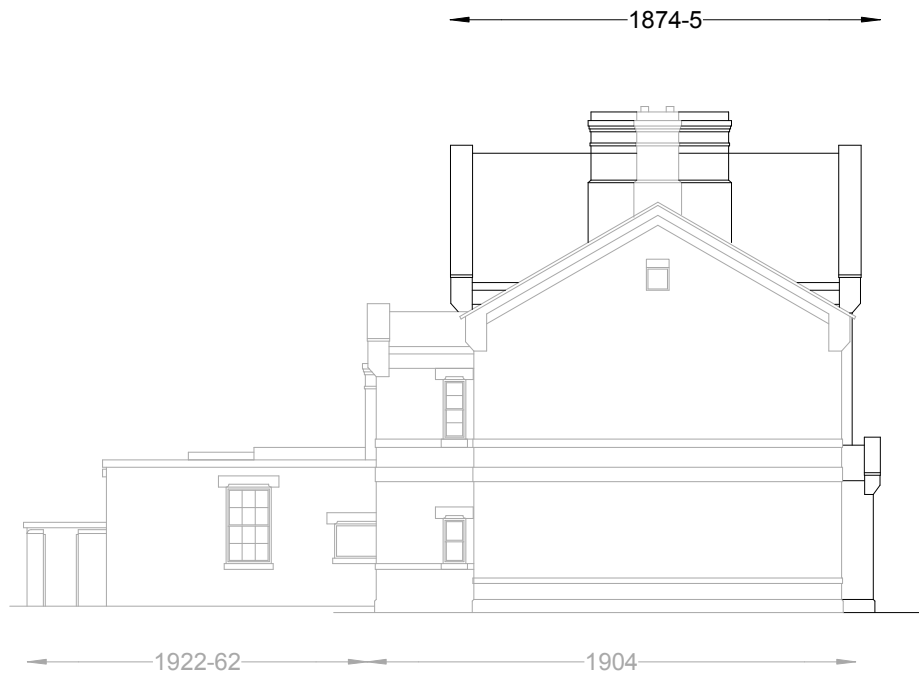


Fig 11 South-west elevation of the former Officers' Quarters, with alterations shown grey.

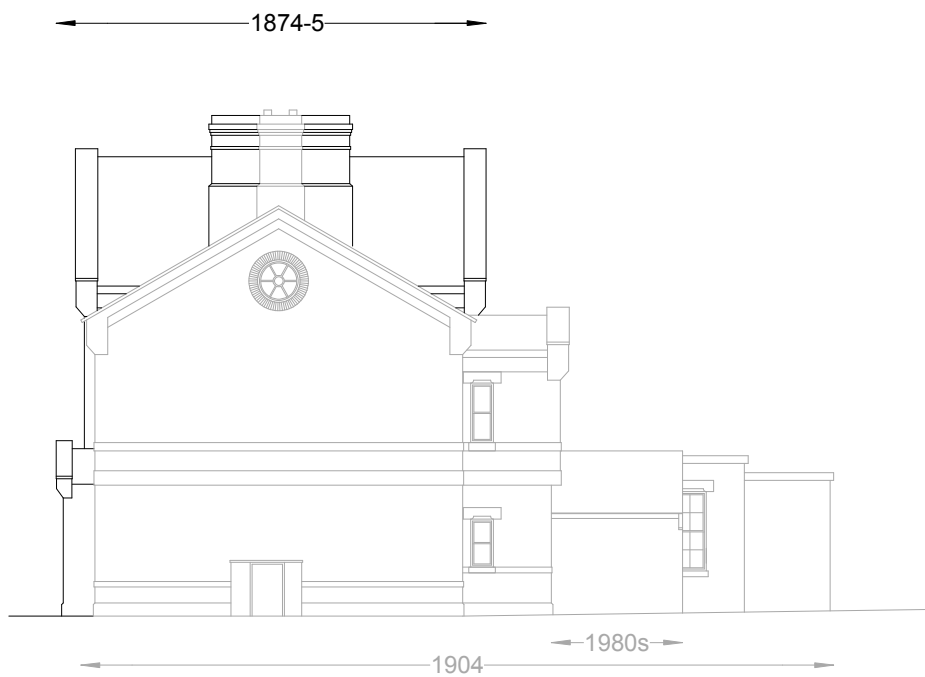


Fig 12 North-east elevation of the former Officers' Quarters, with alterations shown grey.



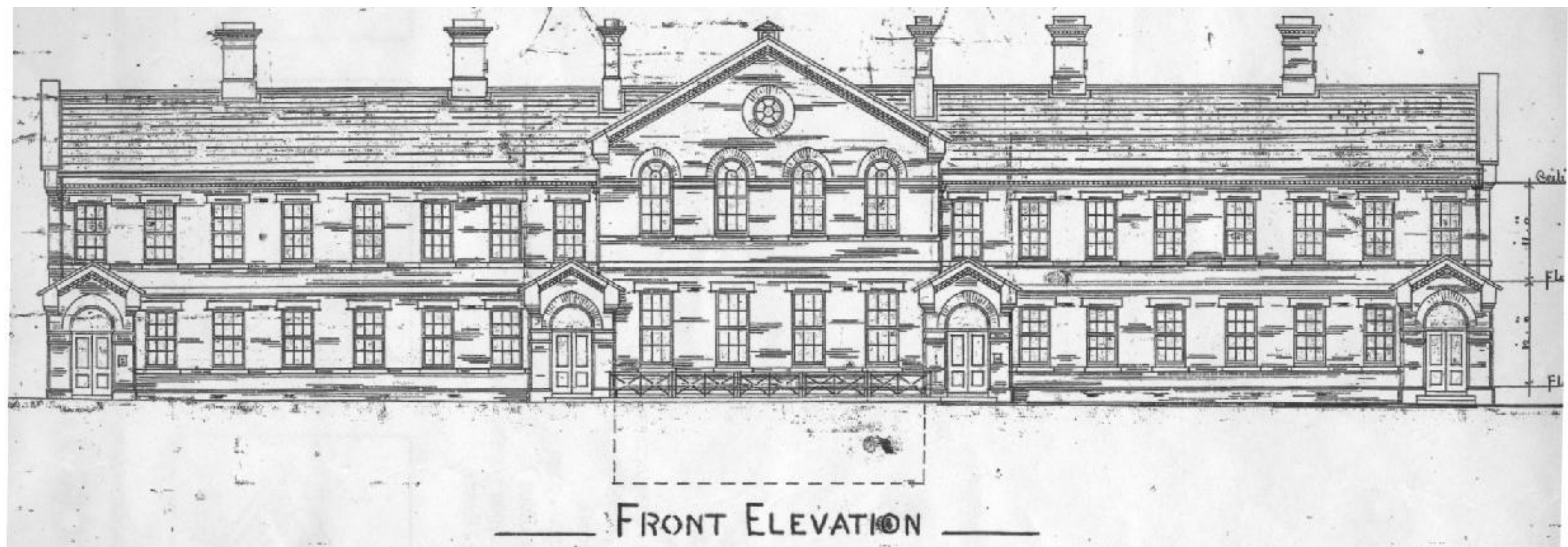


Fig 13 Original drawing of the front elevation of the Officers' Quarters (EHA 95/1435).

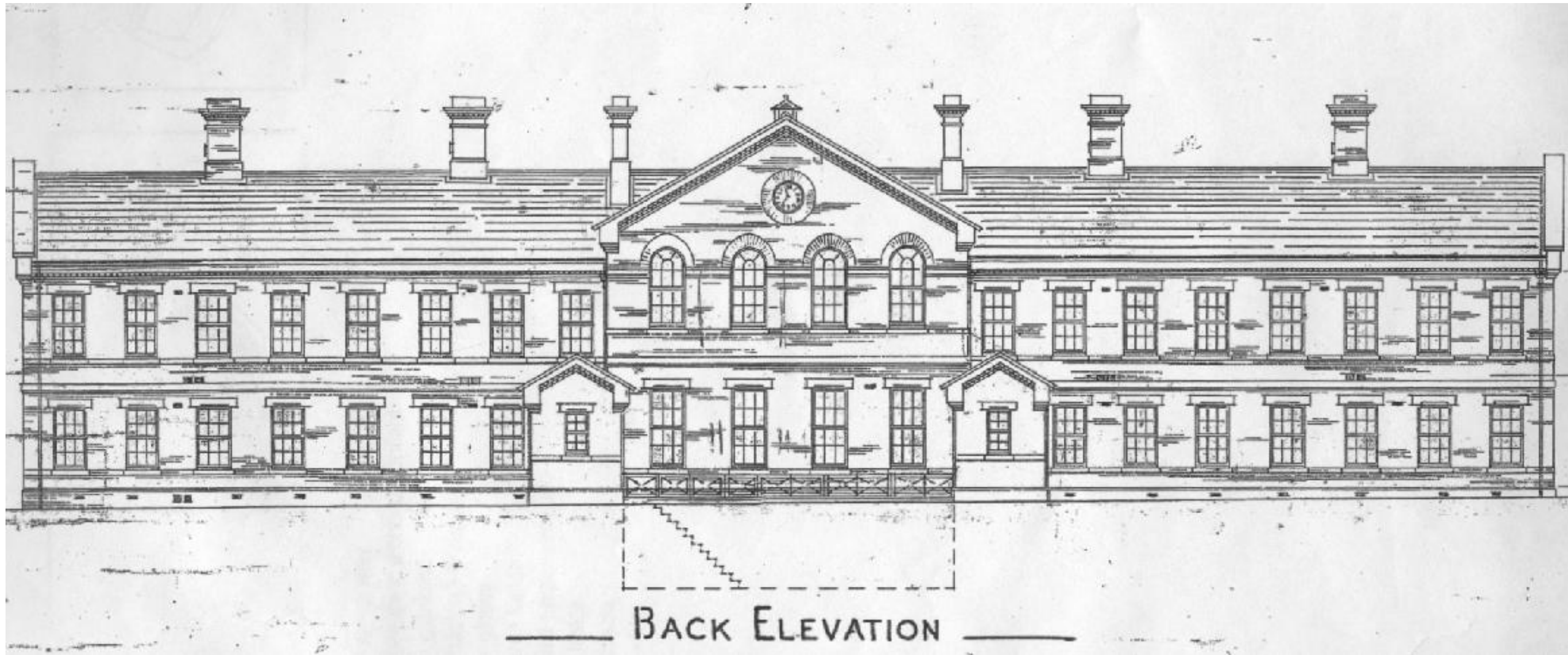


Fig 14 Original drawing of the back elevation of the Officers' Quarters (EHA 95/1435).

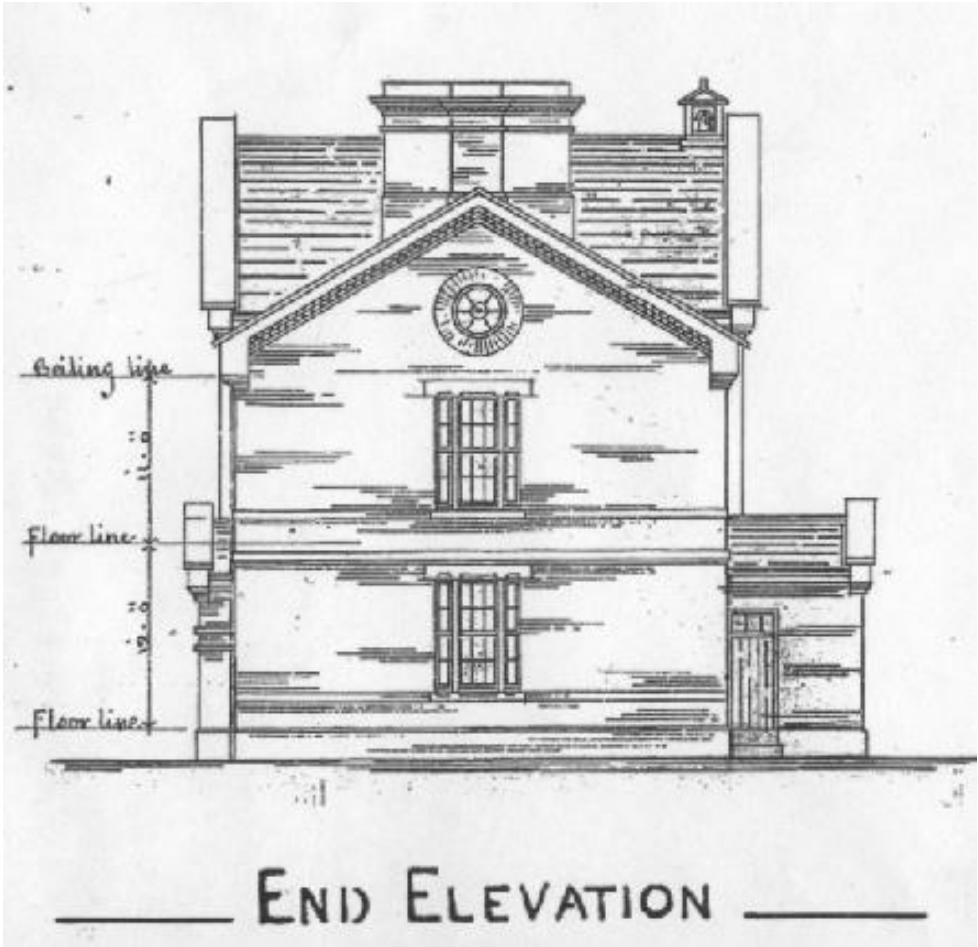


Fig 15 Original drawing of the end elevation of the Officers' Quarters (EHA 95/1435).



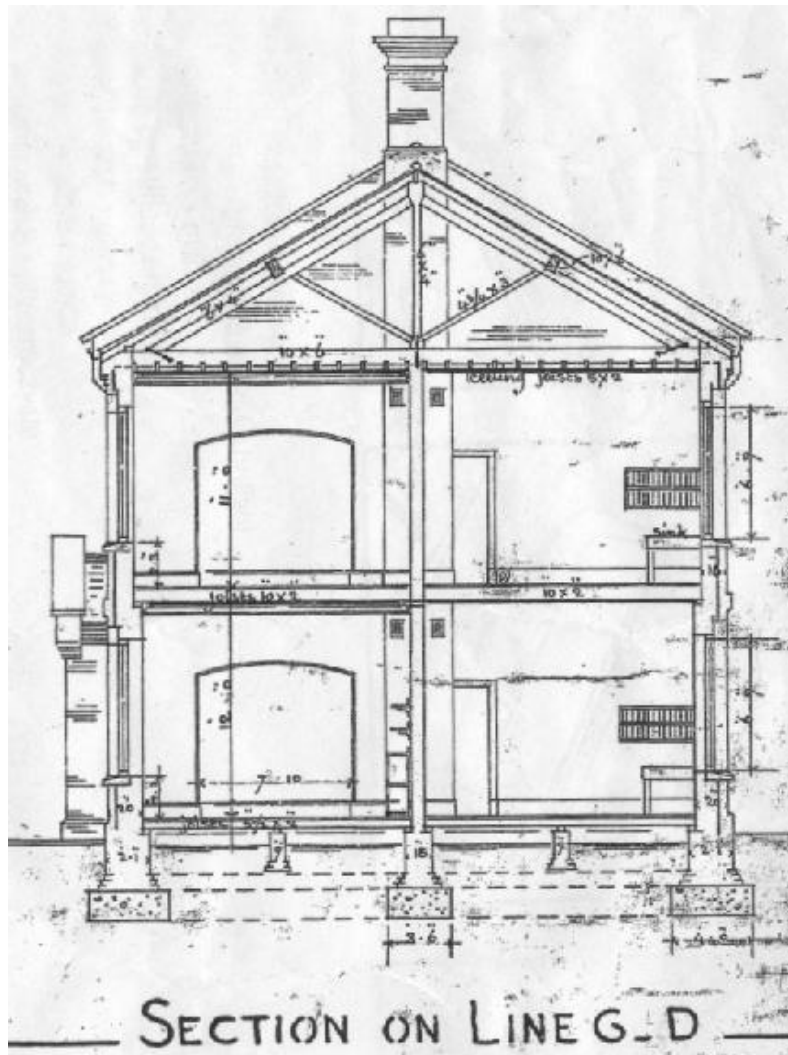


Fig 17 Original cross-section of the Officers' Quarters (EHA 95/1435).



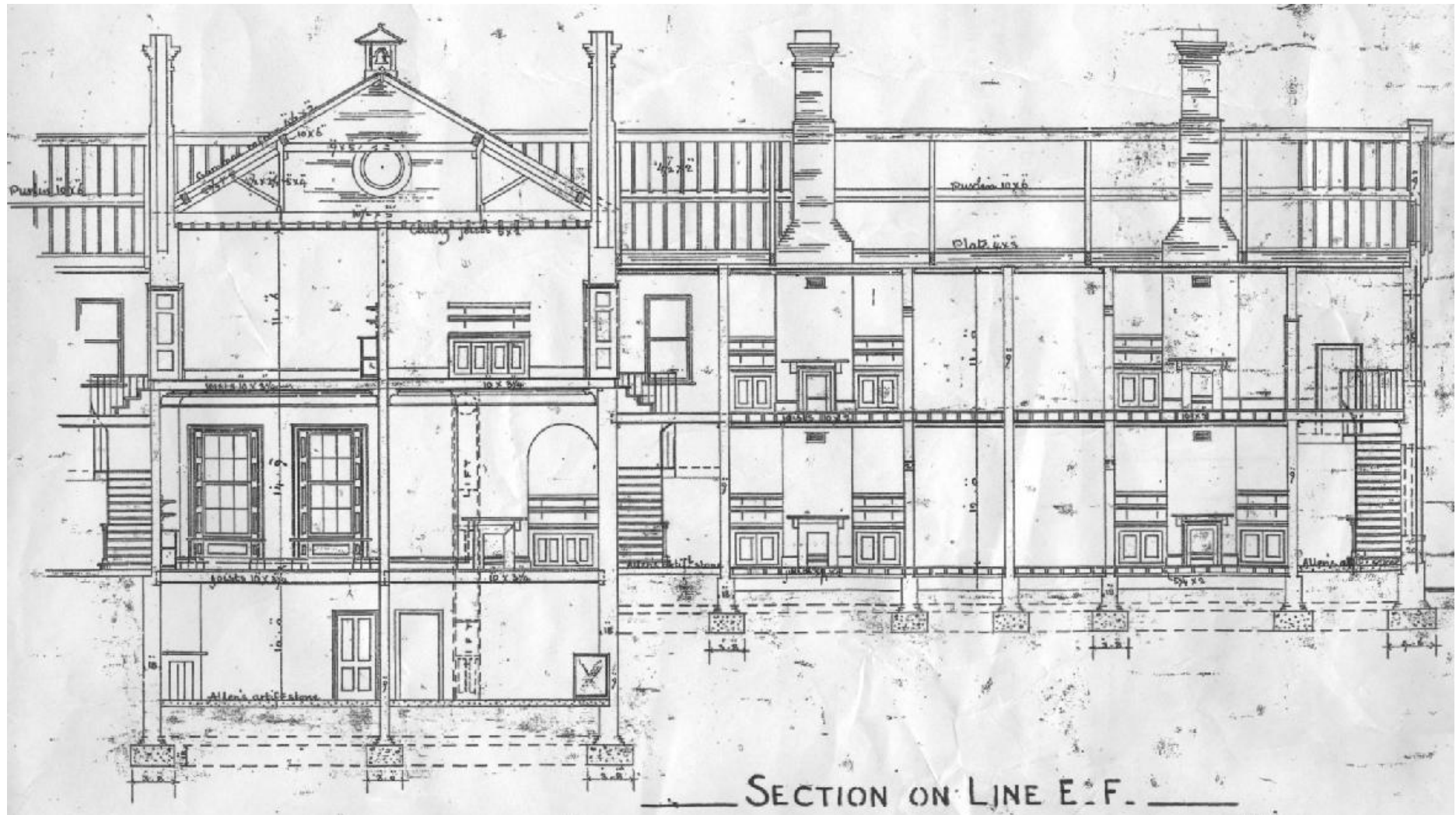


Fig 18 Original cross-section of the Officers' Quarters (EHA 95/1435).

## Essex Historic Environment Record/ Essex Archaeology and History

### Summary sheet

<b>Address:</b> Le Cateau Barracks, Colchester, Essex	
<b>Parish:</b> Colchester	<b>District:</b> Colchester
<b>NGR:</b> TL 9935 2455 (c)	<b>Site codes:</b> CAT project – 13/11a Museum accession – 2013.58
<b>Type of work:</b> Building recording	<b>Site director/group:</b> Colchester Archaeological Trust
<b>Date of work:</b> November 2013	<b>Size of area investigated:</b> n/a
<b>Location of curating museum:</b> Colchester and Ipswich Museum	<b>Funding source:</b> Client
<b>Monitored by:</b> Alistair Day of Colchester Borough Council	
<b>Further seasons anticipated?</b> No	<b>Related EHER numbers:</b> -
<b>Final report:</b>	CAT Report 739
<b>Periods represented:</b>	19th-20th century
<p><b>Summary:</b>  <i>A programme of building recording was carried out by the Colchester Archaeological Trust on building LEC 3 at the decommissioned Le Cateau Barracks on Colchester Garrison. Building LEC 3, which became known as the Sergeants' Mess towards the end of the 20th century, was originally constructed as Officers' Quarters for the 19th-century Artillery Barracks. LEC 3 is a Grade II listed brick building dating from 1874-5, with extensions and alterations dating to 1904 and 1922-62. The building is highly significant to Colchester for several reasons. It is one of the few surviving buildings of the early permanent barracks in the town, which evolved from the changes in military thinking that arose in the aftermath of the Crimean War; it has a direct association with the First World War, with men of the Royal Field Artillery stationed in Colchester taking part in the Battle of Le Cateau in 1914; and it has a high architectural merit, with elaborate decoration and fine fixtures and fittings, many of which have survived intact.</i></p>	
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b> none	
<b>Keywords:</b> barracks	<b>Significance:</b> *
<b>Author of summary:</b> Chris Lister	<b>Date of summary:</b> March 2013