

Statement of Significance

On behalf of

The Duchy of Cornwall

Concerning

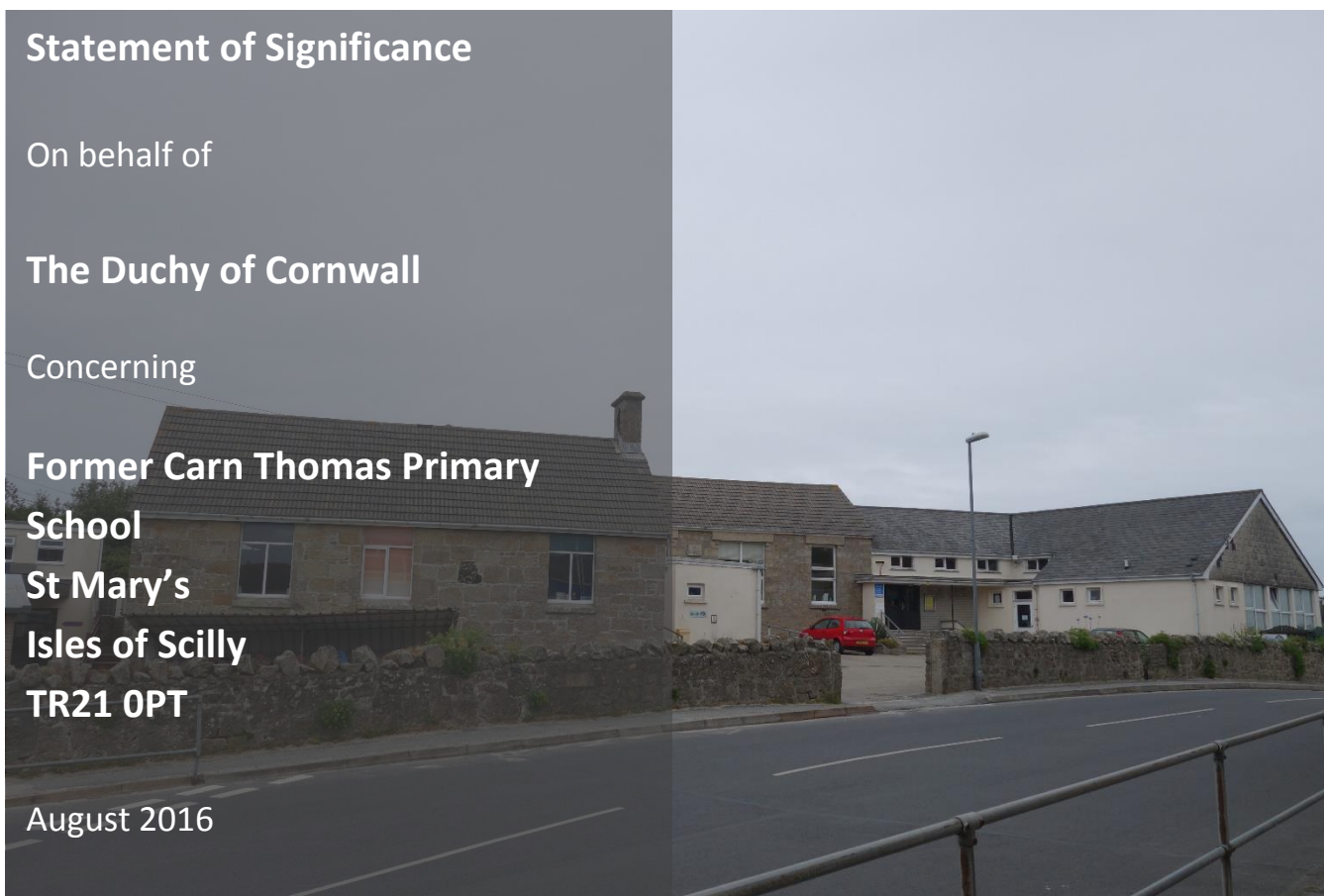
**Former Carn Thomas Primary
School**

St Mary's

Isles of Scilly

TR21 0PT

August 2016



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Cover: View looking NE showing former Carn Thomas Primary School

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1 Executive Summary

This Statement of Significance regarding a group of former school buildings at Carn Thomas St Mary's Isles of Scilly has drawn the following conclusions regarding the importance of the extant buildings, in architectural and historical terms.

- The school buildings are not listed, although they are recorded as a heritage asset in the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record. The earliest surviving fabric, represented by the three-bay gabled block in the southwest corner of the site, was built in the early-to-mid-19th century, although there is some uncertainty as to its exact date.
- The earliest documented reference to a schoolhouse at Carn Thomas dates back to 1822 but it appears more likely that the existing three-bay gabled building dates from about 1829, when the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge made a grant for the building of a new schoolhouse in Hugh Town.
- The building appears to have been refurbished by Augustus Smith, the Lord Proprietor of the Islands, who made extensive reforms to the education system in Scilly, including the construction of a new infants' school in Church Street (in 1854) and a new girls' school in the Strand (in 1860).
- Additions to the school buildings were made in about 1870 (represented by the addition of a gabled seven-bay wing to the north of the three-bay block which housed a classroom/library) and in 1906, when the large four-bay gabled hall block was constructed, contemporary with the relocation of the infants' and girls' schools back to the Carn Thomas site.
- Considerable alterations were made to the interior and exterior of the school buildings during the late 20th century. A substantial modern extension, housing a new Infants' Block, was constructed at the east end of the school buildings in the early 1960s. From 1966 to 1977, the buildings housed the Primary School following the opening of the nearby Secondary School. The school was finally closed in 1977 and since then the existing buildings have been adapted to various uses, most recently as a community centre and council offices.
- The windows of the 19th/early 20th -century buildings have all been substantially renewed with unsympathetic modern uPVC casement windows while the roofs (originally scantle-slatted) have been replaced with concrete tiles. Internally, the original layout of the school buildings has been significantly altered following its conversion to a community centre and council offices and few original fixtures or fittings are visible, having either been removed or concealed by modern partition walls and ceilings.
- While modern alterations and additions have evidently detracted from the coherence, integrity and aesthetic appeal of the extant complex of former school buildings, it may nevertheless be regarded as being of intrinsic architectural and historic interest in several respects.

- In terms of historic associations, it has considerable significance as representing the earliest extant purpose-built school on St Mary's Island, probably succeeding an earlier schoolhouse recorded on the same site in 1822. The extant buildings also have considerable group value as representing a complex of purpose-built educational buildings which have gradually evolved from the early-to-mid-19th century through to the 1960s. The design of the buildings reflects changing approaches to educational provision during the 19th and 20th centuries.
- While extensive late 20th -century alterations and additions have diminished the aesthetic appeal of the school buildings as a whole, key elements of the historic school buildings, such as the exteriors of three-bay gabled block (of early 19th -century date) and the hall block of 1906, are still clearly discernible and are built in a traditional Scillionian vernacular style, using roughly dressed granite masonry. The 1870 wing to the north of the three-bay gabled block, also constructed in dressed granite masonry, has also survived but has been heavily obscured by late 20th -century extensions.
- The 1960s Infants' Block and other late 20th -century additions are built of rendered concrete blocks and may be regarded as being out of keeping with the traditional Scillionian building style exhibited by the earlier school buildings, both in terms of external appearance and unsympathetic use of building materials.

Summary Conclusion: The existing complex of former school buildings may be regarded as being of considerable historical importance as representing the earliest surviving purpose-built schoolhouse on St Mary's Island, dating back to the early-to-mid-19th century.

Although the existing complex has been subject to extensive modern alterations, both externally and (especially) internally, substantial portions of the 19th/early 20th -century school buildings have survived intact, built in a characteristic Scillionian vernacular style using local building materials and may be regarded as being worthy of retention.

The late 20th -century additions and alterations may be considered to be of low importance in both architectural and historical terms, on the basis of their incongruous design and use of unsympathetic building materials.

2 Introduction

Border Archaeology Ltd (BAL) was instructed by Luke Humphries Esq, Deputy Land Steward, Isles of Scilly (Duchy of Cornwall) to produce a Statement of Significance with regard to the Council Offices and Children's Centre (formerly the Primary School) at Carn Thomas, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly, TR21 0PT (NGR SV 90691 10702).

The Isles of Scilly are designated as a Conservation Area, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and a Heritage Coast.



Fig. 1: General site location plan (with site boundary indicated in red)

2.1 Soils and Geology

The predominant soil type in the vicinity of the site consists of typical brown podzolic soils of the MORETONHAMPSTEAD (611b) series, comprising well-drained gritty loamy soils with a humose surface horizon in places, overlying granite and other acid igneous rock (SSEW 1983).

3 Historical and Archaeological Background

The early history of education in St Mary's Island is somewhat poorly documented and it is unclear when the earliest buildings occupying the Carn Thomas site were actually built. The earliest school on the island was established in Hugh Town by the Earl of Godolphin in 1747 for instructing 12 boys in reading, writing and arithmetic. This school appears to have been housed in the Court House in Hugh Town.

In 1752, the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge (SPCK) received a bequest from the Rev Richard Hartshorne of Brosely (Shropshire) to establish a mission in Scilly; however, this could not be established for another 20 years (Forrester-Matthews 1960, 79). By 1775, sufficient funds were available to allow the establishment of schools on all the inhabited islands in Scilly. Two new schools were founded by the SPCK on St Mary's Island, one at Hugh Town and the other at Maypole on the E side of the island (Troutbeck 1796, 22).

By no later than 1822, it appears that a school had been erected in the vicinity of Carn Thomas, either on or very close to the site of the present buildings. The Rev George Woodley, in his *View of the Present State of the Scilly Islands* (1822) mentions in his description of Carn Thomas that 'the top and sides of this point are clothed with grass and a school-house is erected towards that end nearest the road' (Woodley 1822, 171). It is not known exactly when the school mentioned by Woodley was built but it is likely to have been later than c.1800. It was not mentioned by the Rev John Troutbeck in his account of the Scilly Isles compiled in 1796; however, he does refer to a 'strangers' burial ground at Carn Thomas (for unidentified victims of shipwrecks), which is said to be located on the S side of the promontory on the N side of the road from Hugh Town (HER 7573; Tangye 1987, 98). This burial ground is not mentioned in later accounts and had presumably ceased to be used by the early 1820s.



Plate A: View showing the former infants' school in Church Street built by Augustus Smith in 1854

It appears that this schoolhouse at Carn Thomas was regarded as being inadequate to meet the needs of the inhabitants, as, in 1828, Woodley petitioned the SPCK to provide funds for the building of a new schoolhouse in Hugh Town. Woodley estimated that the schoolhouse would require an outlay of £50 and in January 1829 the SPCK granted that sum for the construction of the new building (St Mary's WI 1977, 7-8). It is possible that this payment relates to the construction of the earliest surviving part of the present buildings on the Carn Thomas site, represented by the three-bay gabled building in the SW part of the site, currently used as a 'Youth Hub'.

Significant changes to the provision of education on St Mary's Island (and elsewhere on Scilly) occurred with the arrival of Augustus Smith as Lord Proprietor of the Isles in 1834. Smith took over the work begun by the SPCK (whose Mission on the island ceased in 1841) and implemented extensive reforms to the education system on Scilly, establishing efficient schools on all the Islands, introducing compulsory education and providing salaries to teachers (Forrester-Matthews 1960, 168-71).

The Parliamentary education returns for 1833 refer to six 'daily schools' on St Mary's Island; however, from a report by HM Inspector of Schools dated 1847 it appears that there were only two schools on the island, consisting of a mixed school for older children and an infants' school. The buildings, fittings and arrangements of the mixed school are described as being in good order; however, the condition of the infants' school building is described as being 'not good' (Smith 1848). Unfortunately, the inspector's report does not indicate where these two schools were located but it appears probable that they were situated on the same site, most likely at Carn Thomas.



*Plate B: Photograph of c.1895-1900 looking N towards Carn Thomas with the school buildings visible to right of picture
(Reproduced by courtesy of the Isles of Scilly Museum)*

By the early 1850s, the existing school buildings were becoming increasingly unable to accommodate both the older children and infants' classes and consequently Smith took steps to remedy this problem, establishing a new Infants' School in Church Street in 1854 (*Plate A*) and building a separate girls' school in the Lower Strand in 1860 (Forrester-Matthews 1960, 170). The school buildings at Carn Thomas continued to be used solely as a boys' school until 1906, when all three schools were reunited again on the same site.

A report by HM Inspector of Schools on the mixed and infants' schools at St Mary's in 1853 noted that construction of the new infants' school was 'nearly finished'. The mixed school is described as being housed in 'a poor building with class-room adjoining used for sewing' suggesting that there had been some decline in the condition of the school building since the 1847 inspection. The infants' school is said to be 'fitted up with a good gallery and an excellent supply of apparatus' (Parliamentary Papers, 1853-54).

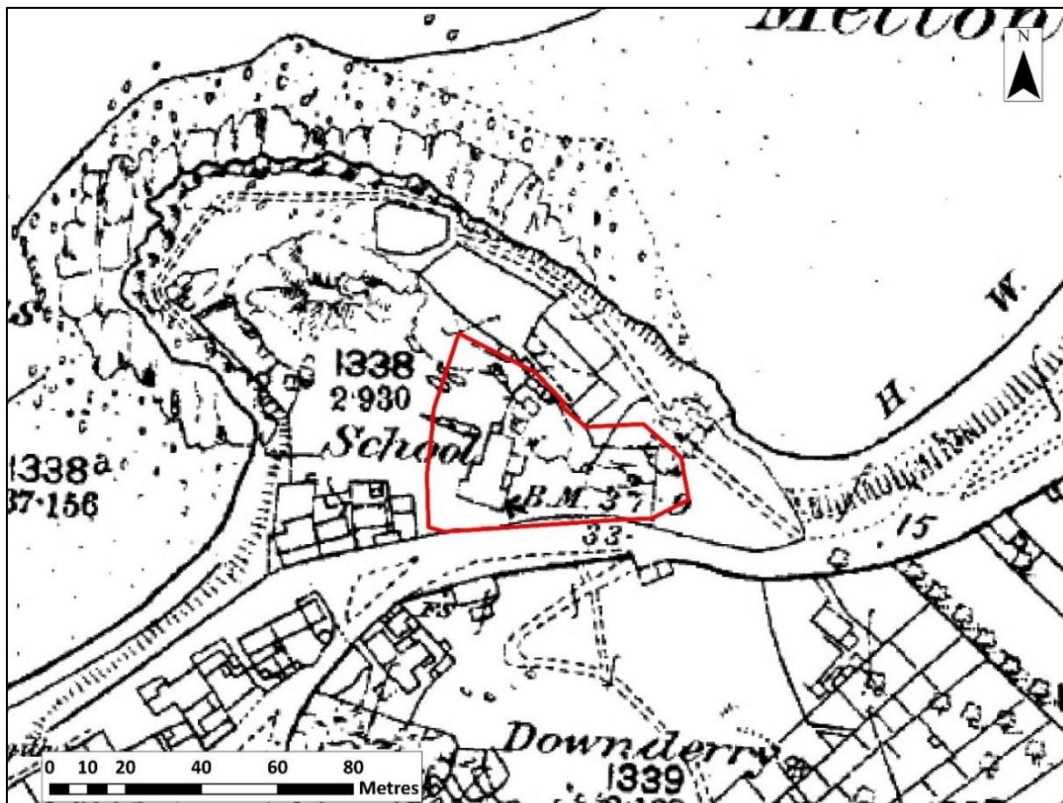
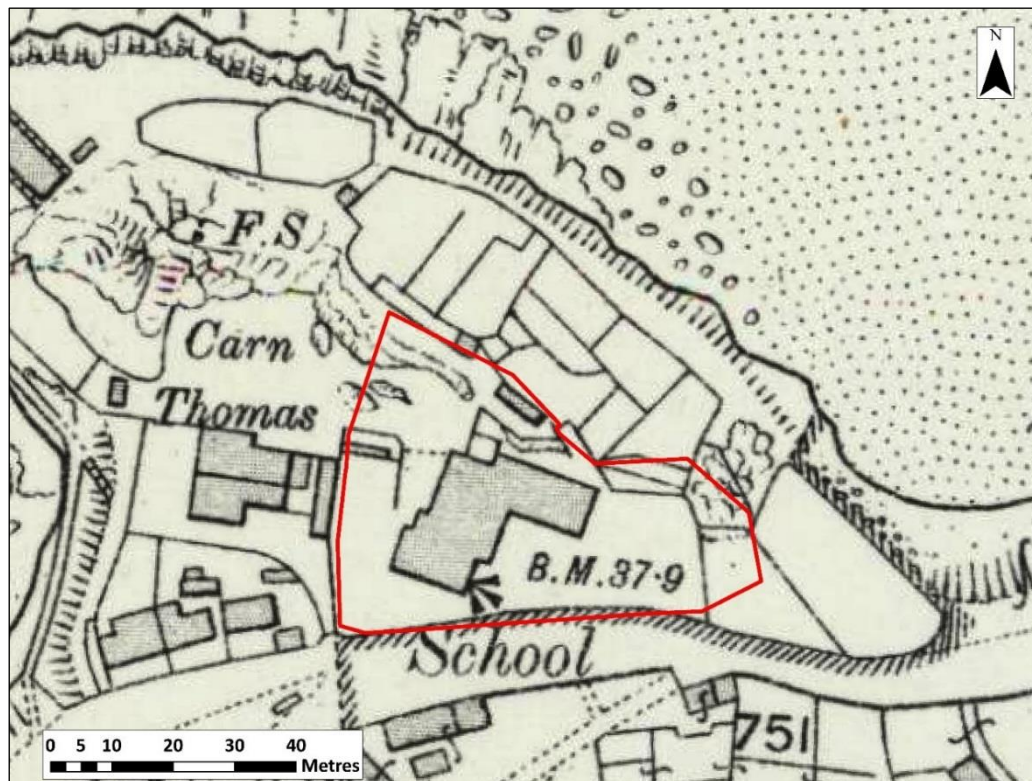


Fig. 2: Extract from the OS 1st edition map of 1890
(Reproduced courtesy of the National Archives)

It has been claimed that Smith built the earliest surviving part of the former school buildings at Carn Thomas in 1854, contemporary with the re-location of the Infants' School (Madden 1996, 39; Kirkham 2003, 23). However, while Smith certainly made extensive alterations to the buildings at Carn Thomas, no conclusive evidence has been found to show that he rebuilt them wholesale. It is significant that no mention is made in the 1853 inspection report of any proposals to rebuild the mixed school, although the infants' school in Church Street is referred to as being nearly completed. It is therefore possible that the gabled three-bay building represents the schoolroom built by the SPCK c.1829, although it has clearly been subject to considerable alteration and repair.

Extensive repairs to the school buildings at Carn Thomas were made following damage by a severe gale in 1866 (which carried off the roof). The ventilation of the building was improved and the classroom heightened to make it more spacious. In 1870-1, the school was further enlarged with the construction of a new classroom block, presumably represented by the existing seven-bay range to the N of the earlier three-bay gabled building.

The layout of the school buildings at Carn Thomas in the late 19th century can be determined from the Ordnance Survey (OS) 1st edition 25-inch map of 1890 (*fig. 2*) and an early photograph of the site taken in about 1895-1900 (*Plate B*). The photograph shows the three-bay gabled block oriented E-W (its roof surmounted by a square chimneystack with a barge-boarded gable at the E end) and the 1870 range attached to its N end with two dormer windows (with sashes) inserted in the roof and a projecting entrance porch with catslide roof to the E. The roofs of both buildings were covered with scantle-slate.



*Fig. 3: Extract from the OS 2nd edition map of 1906
(Reproduced by courtesy of the National Archives)*

Substantial additions were made to the school buildings in 1906 when the boys', girls' and infants' schools were all reunited on the same site. These additions, which are shown on the OS 2nd edition map of 1906 (*fig. 3*) and a photograph taken c.1910 (*Plate C*), consisted of the construction of a large new schoolhouse, roofed with slate, at right-angles to the older school buildings and a single-storey extension roofed with felt and chippings attached to the E-facing elevation of the 1870 wing, housing a cloakroom and toilets. The new schoolhouse, which provided room for four additional classrooms, separated by partition screens, was erected on the initiative of Sir Thomas

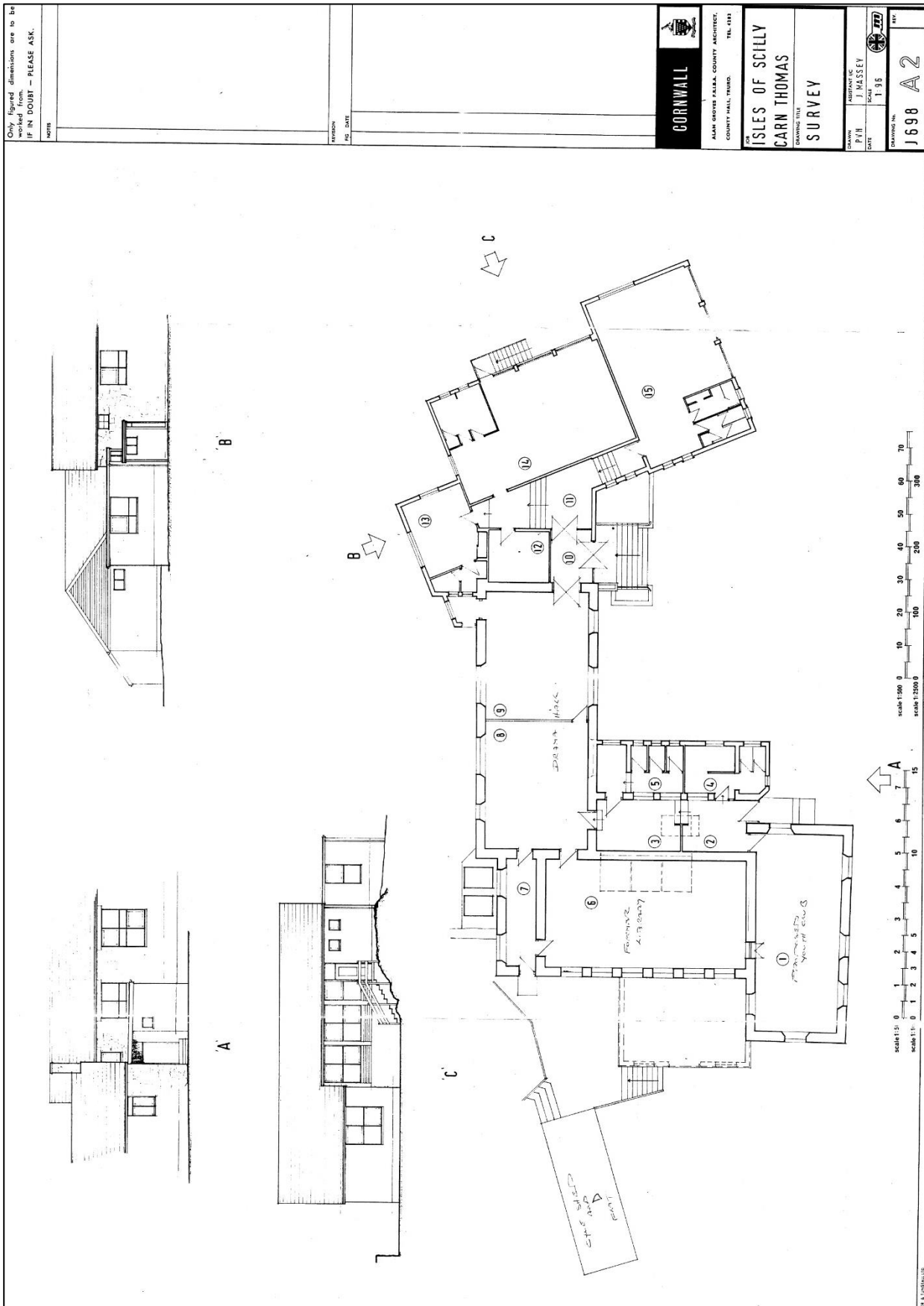
Algernon Dorrien-Smith as commemorated by a monogrammed plaque bearing the date 1906. Following the construction of the new buildings, the school accommodated up to 245 children.



*Plate C: Photograph of c.1910 showing the new schoolhouse and cloakroom/toilet block, built in 1906
(Reproduced by courtesy of the Isles of Scilly Museum)*

A further addition to the school buildings at Carn Thomas was made in 1924 when a laboratory was built in the NW corner of the playground. More substantial additions and alterations to the entire complex of buildings were made in 1961-2 (St Mary's WI, 1977, 3). A new infants' school block was built at the E end of the site comprising two classrooms and toilets, constructed of concrete blocks partially refaced with natural stone and rendered, with asbestos slate roofing. A new single-storey block was also added in front of the cloakroom and toilet block built in 1906 and a rectangular concrete structure added to the W of the 1870 wing to house a boiler room (for central heating). A two storey caretaker's house was also erected in the NW corner of the site. These alterations are documented on a survey plan of the school buildings produced c.1970 (*fig. 4*).

Significant alterations were also made to the fenestration of the old school buildings which were mostly enlarged and replaced with modern casement windows. The dormer windows in the roof of the 1870 wing were removed and replaced by a single large dormer window with a uPVC casement. After the opening of the new secondary school in 1966, the old school buildings continued to be used for primary school classes until its eventual closure in 1977. Following its closure as a school, the buildings have been used for a variety of purposes, including as overspill classrooms for the secondary school, a public library, leisure centre and currently as a community centre and children's social care offices. Considerable internal alterations have been made to the former school buildings and a single storey annexe was also recently added next to the caretaker's house.



4 Building Description

4.1 Methodology

A photographic record of the School Buildings was undertaken in accordance with Historic England/RCHME Level 1 criteria as defined in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A guide to good recording practice* (Historic England 2016), comprising high-resolution digital photography (using a Sony RX100 Mark 2 digital camera of 20MPX resolution) of all external elevations and all internal room spaces and roof structures (where accessible).

A schedule of the photographs taken is provided as an appendix to this report, together with a plan showing the location of the photographs taken (*Appendix 1; Fig. 5*).



Plate 1: General view from the S side of the Strand looking NE towards the complex of former school buildings at Carn Thomas

4.2 General Site Description

The complex of former school buildings is located on the E outskirts of Hugh Town, at the S end of the promontory of Carn Thomas, a small headland dividing Town Beach from Porthmellon Beach (*Plate 1*).

It comprises the following structures which may be described, in chronological order as follows:

Building A: Located within the SW corner of the site is a single-storey gabled building, oriented E-W and constructed of roughly-coursed granite masonry blocks, three bays long and a single bay wide, with a pitched concrete tile roof. The E gable end of the building is surmounted by a bell-turret.

Building B: Attached to the N elevation of Building A is a single-storey range oriented N-S, seven bays long and two bays wide, constructed of roughly-coursed rubble masonry blocks with a pitched concrete tile roof. A large three-light glazed window has been inserted in the roof of the building.

Building C: Attached to the NE corner of Building B is a large single-storey gabled structure of coursed granite masonry construction, oriented E-W and four bays long and two bays wide, with a pitched concrete tile roof. A stone plaque attached to the S-facing elevation of the building bears the date 1906.

Building D: Projecting from the E-facing elevation of Building B is a single-storey extension five bays long and two bays wide with a flat roof, externally rendered.

Building E: Attached to the E end of Building C is a large single-storey gabled building, roughly L-shaped in plan, of concrete block construction (externally rendered) with a broad pitched asbestos slate roof and a slate-hung SE-facing gable.

Building F: Situated in the extreme NW corner of the site is a free-standing, two-storey modern building, built as a caretaker's flat (and currently used as storage) with a single storey annexe attached to the S elevation, recently constructed on the site of former cycle sheds.

The southern boundary of the site adjoining the roadway (known as The Strand) is defined by a low, roughly coursed granite wall which may be late 19th century in date although it has evidently been subject to considerable repair.

4.3 Description of Buildings

For reasons of clarity, the complex of buildings occupying the site at Carn Thomas have been described in chronological order.

4.3.1 Exterior

The earliest building on the site is the gabled single-storey block in the SW corner (designated in this report as Building A), which is three bays long (oriented E-W) and constructed of roughly-dressed granite blocks of varying sizes (*Plate 2*). At the apex of the E-facing gable (which is barge-boarded) is a stone bell-turret, which appears to have been added shortly before 1910, containing a bell retrieved from the German merchant vessel *Erik Rickmers*, which was wrecked on Scilly Rock in October 1899. The roof, which originally was scantle-slatted, has been replaced with modern concrete tiles.



Plate 2: View looking NW showing exterior of gabled three-bay block (Building A), probably representing the earliest building on the site (built c.1829) with barge-boarded E gable end surmounted by later bell-turret

The E-facing gable end (*Plate 3*) is lit by a single four-paned flat arched window with a granite lintel and sill, which appears to be an original feature. The fenestration of the S facing elevation (*Plate 4*) consists of three rectangular windows with granite sills and uPVC casements extending up to eaves level. These windows all appear to have been enlarged in the early 1960s, as they are clearly much smaller on photographs taken in about 1895-1900 and 1910. The original size of the windows is evidenced by a surviving two-paned window with granite sill in the N-

facing elevation, which extends just below eaves level (*Plate 8*). The W-facing gable elevation is lit by a rectangular window with a granite lintel and sill, below which is a plain rectangular doorway with a stone surround, accessed by a flight of wooden stairs (*Plate 5*). Both the doorway and stairs appear to be recent additions.



Plate 3: View looking W showing E-facing elevation of Building A with barge-boarded gable and bell-turret



Plate 4: View looking N showing S-facing elevation of Building A with windows altered in the early 1960s (the original windows extended just below eaves level)



Plate 5: View looking E showing W gable end of Building A with modern doorway and stairs and modern boiler room to left

Building B, the range to the N of Building B, added in 1870, is a single storey gabled structure, seven bays long and is similarly built of roughly dressed granite. The E-facing elevation of this building has been concealed by the single-storey cloakroom and toilets added in 1906 and a more recent extension, constructed of rendered concrete blocks, which appears to have been added in the early 1960s and was altered more recently with the insertion of a new entrance and concrete access ramp (*Plate 6*). The roof (which was formerly slated) has been completely reconstructed with concrete tiles and the two dormer windows which are visible on early 20th -century photographs of the school have been removed and replaced by a large three-light glazed casement window.



Plate 6: View looking W showing Building B, the extension added in 1870, largely concealed by modern additions. The roof has been completely reconstructed and the two dormer windows in the roof replaced by a large three-light window

The rear (W-facing) elevation of Building B has also been subject to considerable alteration and the roughly-coursed granite masonry has been extensively repointed (*Plates 7 & 8*). The fenestration consists of four windows extending up to eaves level with granite sills; the window openings are shown on a photograph of the school looking SE from Carn Thomas taken c.1950 and were then glazed with three-pane casement windows. The existing plain glazed uPVC casements are modern insertions, while the doorway at the far N end of the elevation appears to be a later addition.



Plate 7: View looking SE showing W-facing elevation of Building B with glazed casement windows



Plate 8: View looking S showing N-facing elevation of Building A (with surviving original window) and rear (W-facing) elevation of Building B (to left of picture) obscured by modern chimneystack

Building C, the school room built in 1906, consists of a tall gabled structure, oriented E-W and four bays in length, constructed of regularly dressed granite masonry (which has been heavily repointed in cement) with a concrete tile roof. The fenestration of the principal S-facing elevation consists of two centrally-placed windows extending up to eaves level, with granite sills and lintels (one of which has been partially truncated by the construction of a single-storey extension of 1960s date), at either end of which are two unequal-sized windows with granite sills and lintels (*Plate 9*). Comparison with a photograph taken c.1910 shows that the two larger windows were originally glazed with 16-pane sash windows and that the two flanking windows were of the same size and glazed with four-pane casements.

Affixed to the wall between the two larger windows is a weathered stone plaque bearing the initials 'AS' or 'ASD' and the date 1906 (*Plate 10*). This plaque commemorates the building of the new school room by Sir Thomas Algernon Dorrien-Smith, Lord Proprietor of the Islands (1872-1918) and nephew of Augustus Smith. This plaque appears to have been moved from another location as it is not visible in its current position on the photograph taken in about 1910. The fenestration of the rear (N-facing) elevation of Building C consists of two centrally-placed four-paned glazed casement windows extending up to eaves level, with two smaller flanking windows at either end. The windows appear to be in their original positions, although the glazed casements are all later insertions (*Plate 11*).



Plate 9: View looking NNW showing the S-facing elevation of Building C, the school room added in 1906, with the early 1960s Infants' Block to right of picture

Situated at right-angles to Building C is a single-storey cloakroom and toilet block with a flat roof (Building D), also built in 1906, which has largely been concealed by a modern extension of rendered concrete construction, although the entrance door with its large granite lintel still survives at the far S end of the building (*Plate 10*).



Plate 10: View looking N showing S-facing elevation of Building C with monogrammed plaque bearing the date 1906 with cloakroom and toilet block projecting to S and concealed by an early 1960s extension in rendered concrete



Plate 11: View looking ESE showing rear elevation of 1906 school room (Building C) with modern casement windows

Attached to the E gable end of Building C is the Infants' Block added in 1961-62 (Building E). The building is roughly L-plan in form, of concrete block construction with a pitched asbestos slate roof. The exterior is largely coated in white render, with the exception of the main entrance porch, which is faced in reformed granite masonry (known as 'Reformite'), and the N -and W- facing elevations, which are partially pebble-dashed (*Plate 12*).

The principal S-facing elevation is dominated by the broad entrance porch with a flat concrete hood extending across the whole elevation and carried on metal struts. A flight of concrete steps leads up to the entrance, to the right of which is a section of exposed walling faced in 'Reformite'.



Plate 12: View NE showing principal S-facing elevation of infants' block constructed in 1961-62

The fenestration of the projecting SE gable elevation comprises three large four-paned casement windows and two smaller single-light windows. The upper part of the SE-facing gable is hung with asbestos slates (*Plate 13*). The exterior of the E-facing elevation is partially rendered and pebble-dashed, with a projecting glazed porch, which gives access to an enclosed playground to the E of the building (*Plate 14*). The porch appears to be a later addition to the Infants' Block.



Plate 13: View looking N showing the main entrance porch to left of picture and the projecting SE-facing gable elevation (the upper part hung with asbestos slates) to right



Plate 14: View looking SW showing W-facing elevation of early 1960s infants' block

Building F, located in the extreme NW corner of the site, to the rear of Building B, is a detached two-storey building with a flat roof, constructed of concrete and rendered externally, which was built in the 1960s as the school caretaker's accommodation and is marked on a plan of the school dated c.1970. Attached to the S elevation of this building is a single storey structure recently constructed as offices on the site of former cycle sheds.



Plate 15: View looking N showing modern caretaker's house with recently erected single-storey offices (Building F)

4.3.2 Interior

Extensive alterations were carried out following the closure of the school and its conversion to a community centre and offices; new partition walls and plasterboard ceilings have been inserted, which have partially obscured the original layout and appearance of the school buildings.

Building A, currently used as a 'Youth Hub', has been subject to significant alteration but retains some features of probable 19th -century date. It probably represents the earliest surviving building on the site.

The three large windows in the S wall, in their present form, probably date from the 1960s, contemporary with the construction of the new Infants' Block (*Plate 16*). Late 19th/early 20th -century photographs show that the windows in the S wall were formerly much smaller, extending just beneath eaves level. A single two-paned glazed window, set in a deep splayed opening in the N wall (*Plate 17*), probably represents an earlier feature that may date from the original construction of the school or from Smith's extensive alterations made in the late 1860s, when the roof is known to have blown off during a severe gale.



Plate 16: View looking W showing interior of Building A with modern glazed windows in S wall (left of picture)

Other surviving features of probable 19th -century date include the single four-paned window with mullion and transom set in a deep splayed opening in the E wall of the building, which closely resembles its appearance on photographs taken c.1895-1900 and c.1910 (*Plate 18*). A square, splayed window centrally placed in the W wall also appears to be of 19th -century date (*Plate 19*) although the doorway beneath it probably represents a modern insertion, as it is not shown on a photograph of the school from the NW taken in the 1950s.

A plan of the school surveyed c.1970 shows a doorway leading from Building A to the wing to the N (added in 1870). This doorway has been walled-up, although a slight indentation in the N wall may indicate its former location (*Plate 20*). The dado panelling and moulded skirting board are of late 20th -century date, presumably inserted following closure of the school in the late 1970s.

A hatchway in the coved plasterboard ceiling leads to the roof-space, which was not inspected during the site visit; based on photographs taken during a recent condition survey, it appears to be of open-truss construction, with trenched purlins, and has evidently been subject to considerable alteration and repair.



Plate 17: Internal view showing splayed window opening in N wall of Building A



Plate 18: Internal view looking E showing splayed window opening in E wall of Building A



Plate 19: Internal view looking WNW showing splayed window in W wall of Building A, with modern doorway below



Plate 20: Internal view showing the N wall of Building A, with evidence for a possible blocked doorway

The interior of Building B (the N wing added c.1870) has been extensively altered following its conversion to offices, with the insertion of modern glazed casement windows, plasterboard partitions and ceilings (*Plate 21*). Little evidence of original internal fixtures and fittings has survived.

Attached to the N wall are four brass plaques (presumably not in their original locations) which commemorate former headmasters and teachers at the school dating back to the late 19th/early 20th century, namely, Miss Josephine Smith, Mrs W.D. Guy, Mrs Elizabeth Pearce and William Coplin Bastian, Master of Carn Thomas School from 1874 to 1905 (*Plate 22*). Inserted in the E wall of a vestibule/storage room at the northernmost end of Building B is a blocked flat-arched doorway formerly providing access to Building C, the classroom added in 1906 (*Plate 22*).

Building C is currently used as a children's crèche and hall for community events. No evidence of fixtures or fittings associated with its former usage as a schoolroom was noted. The roof structure, of open-truss construction, with purlins connecting the principal rafters, is concealed by a modern plasterboard ceiling (*Plate 23*). Building D, the former cloakroom and toilet annexe to the E of Building B (also added in 1906), similarly exhibits evidence of considerable modern alteration. A single exposed roof-truss of modern date is visible at the far N end of the building (*Plate 24*).

No fixtures or fittings of architectural interest were noted within the early 1960s Infants' Block (Building E), which has been sub-divided into several separate offices and meeting rooms.

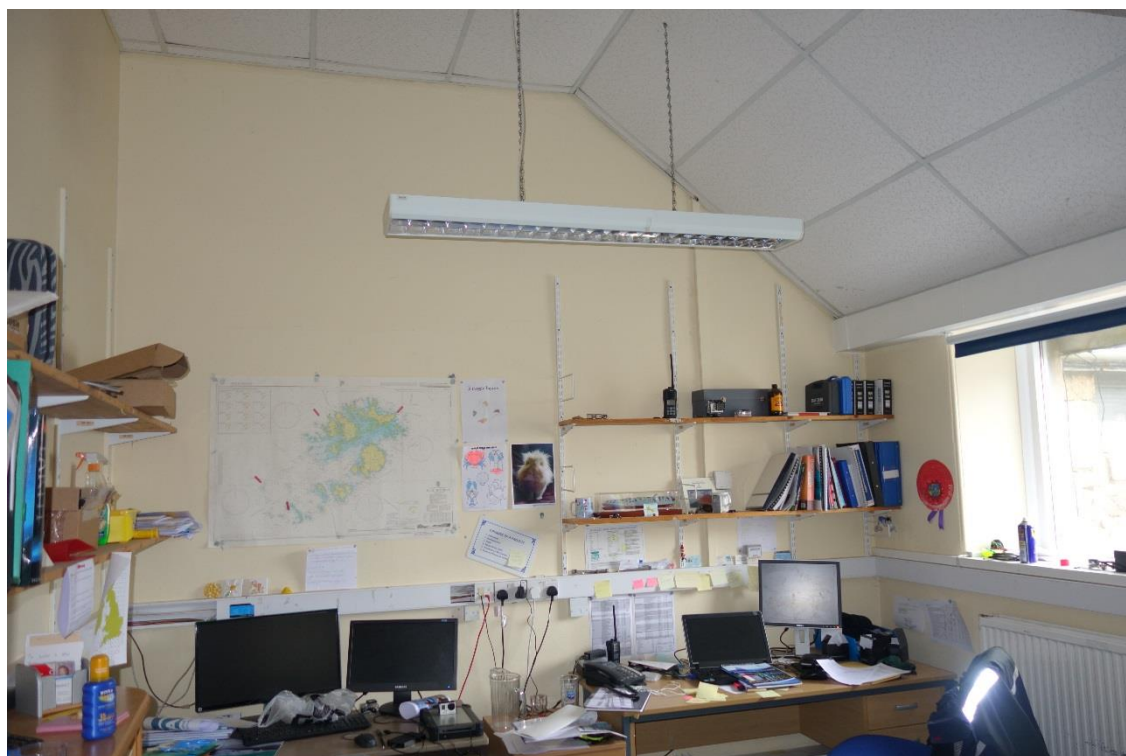


Plate 21: View looking N showing heavily altered interior of Building B, converted into modern offices



Plate 22: Internal view looking N showing four brass plaques of late 19th-early 20th -century date commemorating former masters and teachers at Carn Thomas School



Plate 23: View looking E showing interior of vestibule/storage room at N end of Building B, with blocked doorway hidden by equipment and shelving



Plate 24: View looking E showing interior of Building C, the classroom originally added in 1906



Plate 25: Internal view looking N showing exposed roof truss and modern glazed dormer window in former cloakroom annexe (Building D)

4.4 Results

Based on the results of the photographic record and consultation of readily available documentary and cartographic sources, five distinct phases of construction have been identified, ranging in date from the early-to-mid-19th century through to the present day.

Phase 1: The earliest surviving structure is represented by the three-bay gabled building in the SW corner of the site (Building A), which can be dated to the early-to-mid-19th century. It may represent the schoolhouse which was built with funds provided by the SPCK in about 1829, although it was refurbished by Augustus Smith in the late 1860s and has been subject to further alterations and repairs.

Phase 2: This phase of construction is represented by Building B, the single-storey gabled wing attached to the N elevation of Building A, which was probably constructed as an additional classroom in about 1870.

Phase 3: This phase of building activity can be dated to 1906 (when the boys', girls' and infants' schools were reunited on the Carn Thomas site) and is represented by the large gabled schoolroom of four bays and the cloakroom and toilet block with flat roof attached to the E elevation of Building B.

Phase 4: This phase of modern building activity is represented by the addition of the Infants' Block of 1961-2, the extension to the cloakroom and toilet block and extensive alterations to the fenestration of all the school buildings. The caretaker's house situated in the far NW corner of the site also appears to belong to this phase of construction.

Phase 5: This phase of recent building activity is represented by extensive alterations made to the internal layout of the school buildings following its closure in 1977 and conversion into a community centre and offices, as well as the construction of an annexe to the caretaker's house to provide additional office space.

5 Assessment of Significance

5.1 Aims and Objectives

This section of the report is intended to provide an assessment of the intrinsic significance of the former School buildings, based on the description given in Section 5 above.

5.2 Assessment of the intrinsic significance of the former School buildings

Although the former primary school buildings at Carn Thomas are not actually designated as a listed building, they are recorded as a heritage asset on the Cornwall and Scilly Historic Environment Record (HER 7771).

The criteria used to assess the significance of the former School buildings has been derived from current Historic England guidelines, specifically Section 2.6 of *Understanding Place: Historic Area Assessments Principles and Practice* (Historic England, rev. 2015).

Rarity: The school buildings at Carn Thomas represent one of three intact 19th-century schoolhouses on St Mary's Island, the others being the Infants' School in Church Street (1854) and the girls' school in the Lower Strand (1860), both built by Augustus Smith as part of his extensive reforms to the educational system in Scilly during the mid-19th century. The three-bay gabled block in the SW corner of the site (Building A), which probably represents the earliest surviving fabric, appears likely to date from the early-to-mid-19th century and thus predates Smith's reforms of the mid-1850s, which increases its rarity value as the earliest surviving purpose-built educational building on St Mary's Island. The design of the school buildings cannot intrinsically be regarded as being particularly distinctive or unusual and the use of Scillonian granite is typical of traditional post-medieval buildings on the island (Berry, 2011, 7-8).

Representativeness: The 19th/early 20th-century school buildings at Carn Thomas are built in a plain style typical of traditional post-medieval vernacular buildings on St Mary's Island, characterised by exposed, roughly-dressed Scillonian granite masonry and heavy granite lintels and sills (Berry, 2011). Parallels may be drawn with the nearby terraced cottages in Higher Strand, of early-to-mid-19th-century date, which are Grade II Listed (Madden, 1996, 39). In terms of architectural style, the 19th/early 20th-century buildings at Carn Thomas share more similarities with these humble terraced cottages than with the two schools built by Augustus Smith in 1854 and 1860, respectively, both of which display more architectural pretensions compared to the somewhat plain, utilitarian buildings at Carn Thomas.

Aesthetic appeal/Condition: The school buildings have undergone extensive late 20th-century alterations and additions which have diminished their aesthetic appeal. Much of the original fenestration has been replaced by late 20th-century glazed casement windows and the original scantle slate roofs replaced with concrete tiles, while the internal layout and appearance of the school buildings have been significantly altered and obscured following their conversion to a community centre and offices, including the insertion of new partition walls and ceilings and the removal of almost all original fixtures and fittings. In spite of these considerable alterations, some components

of the former school buildings have survived and have retained some aesthetic interest externally, in particular, the gabled three-bay block of early-to-mid-19th century date (Building A) and the large school room built in 1906 (Building C), both of which are constructed of dressed granite masonry in traditional Scillionian vernacular style.

Later additions, including the Infants' Block of 1961-2, the extension to the cloakroom and toilet block and the modern caretaker's house and office annexe, represent unsympathetic additions, contrasting markedly with the 19th/early 20th -century school buildings in terms of materials used (concrete rather than granite masonry) and external detailing (uPVC windows and the use of render and pebbledash for external facings), which are out of keeping with the traditional Scillionian vernacular style exhibited by the 19th/early 20th century school buildings.

Integrity: Modern alterations and additions to the school buildings have obscured their original layout and appearance. In particular, the conversion of the school into a community centre and offices following its closure in 1977 has resulted in the removal of almost all original fixtures and fittings of interest and its internal arrangements have been significantly obscured by the insertion of modern partition walls and the blocking-up of doorways. In spite of these extensive alterations, key elements of the historic school buildings, such as the exteriors of three-bay gabled block (of early to mid-19th -century date) and the hall block of 1906, are still clearly discernible. The 1870 wing to the N of the three-bay gabled block has also survived but has been heavily obscured by late 20th -century extensions. Overall, the former school buildings may be said to form a visually coherent grouping, occupying a prominent position at the eastern approach to Hugh Town along the Strand.

Associations: The school buildings at Carn Thomas have considerable local significance as representing the earliest extant purpose-built school on St Mary's Island, probably succeeding an earlier schoolhouse recorded on the same site in 1822. The extant buildings also have significant group value as representing a complex of purpose-built educational buildings that have gradually evolved from the early 19th century through to the 1960s. The design of the buildings reflects changing approaches to educational provision during the 19th and 20th centuries.

Summary Conclusion: The former school buildings may be regarded as being of significant historical interest as the earliest surviving purpose-built schoolhouse on St Mary's Island, dating back to the early-to-mid-19th century.

Although the existing complex has been subject to extensive modern alterations, both externally and (especially) internally, substantial portions of the 19th/early 20th -century school buildings have survived intact, built in a characteristic Scillionian vernacular style using local building materials, and may be regarded as being worthy of retention.

The late 20th -century additions and alterations may be considered to be of low importance in both architectural and historical terms on the basis of their incongruous design and use of extremely unsympathetic building materials (e.g. asbestos slate and concrete faced with render and pebbledash).

Proposed redevelopment of the site offers potential to remove the unsightly modern additions to the earlier school buildings and restore those elements that may be regarded as being of greater value in both architectural and historical terms.

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(Local newspaper records dating back to c.1800 were examined using the British Newspaper Archive)

8 Cartography and Aerial Photography

(All maps were obtained from the National Archives)

1847: Tithe map of St Mary's Island, Scilly

1890: OS 1st edition 25-inch map

1906: OS 2nd edition 25-inch map

1963: OS 1:10560 map

c.1970 (undated) – Plan of School Buildings at Carn Thomas by J. Massey (Cornwall County Council)

1980: OS 1:2500 map

8.1 Photographs

(All photographs were obtained by courtesy of the Isles of Scilly Museum)

c.1895-1900: Photograph of school buildings at Carn Thomas

c.1910: Photograph of school buildings at Carn Thomas

1933: RAF oblique photograph of Hugh Town (6 April 1933)

c.1977: Photograph of school buildings at Carn Thomas

9 Appendix 1: Schedule of Photographic Record of Former Primary School Buildings at Carn Thomas

Plate No.	Description
1	General view from the S side of the Strand looking NE towards the complex of former school buildings at Carn Thomas
2	View looking NW showing exterior of gabled three bay block (Building A), probably representing the earliest building on the site (built c.1829) with barge-boarded E gable end surmounted by later bell-turret
3	View looking W showing E-facing elevation of Building A with barge-boarded gable and bell-turret
4	View looking N showing S-facing elevation of Building A with windows altered in the early 1960s (the original windows extended just below eaves level)
5	View looking E showing W gable end of Building A, with modern doorway and stairs and modern boiler room to left
6	View looking W showing Building B, the extension added in 1870, largely concealed by modern additions. The roof has been completely reconstructed and the two dormer windows in the roof replaced by a large three-light window
7	View looking SE showing W-facing elevation of Building B with glazed casement windows
8	View looking S showing N-facing elevation of Building A (with surviving original window) and rear (W-facing) elevation of Building B (to left of picture) obscured by modern chimneystack
9	View looking NNW showing the S-facing elevation of Building C, the school room added in 1906, with the early 1960s Infants' Block to right of picture
10	View looking N showing S-facing elevation of Building C with monogrammed plaque bearing the date 1906 with cloakroom and toilet block projecting to S and concealed by an early 1960s extension in rendered concrete
11	View looking ESE showing rear elevation of 1906 school room (Building C) with modern casement windows
12	View NE showing principal S-facing elevation of infants' Block constructed in 1961-2
13	View looking N showing the main entrance porch to left of picture and the projecting SE-facing gable elevation (the upper part hung with asbestos slates) to right
14	View looking SW showing W-facing elevation of early 1960s Infants' Block
15	View looking N showing recently erected caretaker's house with single-storey offices (Building F)
16	View looking W showing interior of Building A with modern glazed windows in S wall (left of picture)
17	Internal view showing splayed window opening in N wall of Building A
18	Internal view looking E showing splayed window opening in E wall of Building A
19	Internal view looking WNW showing splayed window in W wall of Building A with modern doorway below
20	Internal view showing the N wall of Building A with evidence for a possible blocked doorway
21	View looking N showing heavily altered interior of Building B, converted into modern offices
22	Internal view looking N showing four brass plaques of late 19 th -early 20 th -century date commemorating former masters and teachers at Carn Thomas School
23	View looking E showing interior of vestibule/storage room at N end of Building B with blocked doorway hidden by equipment and shelving
24	View looking E showing interior of Building C, the classroom originally added in 1906
25	Internal view looking N showing exposed roof truss and modern glazed dormer window in former cloakroom annexe (Building D)

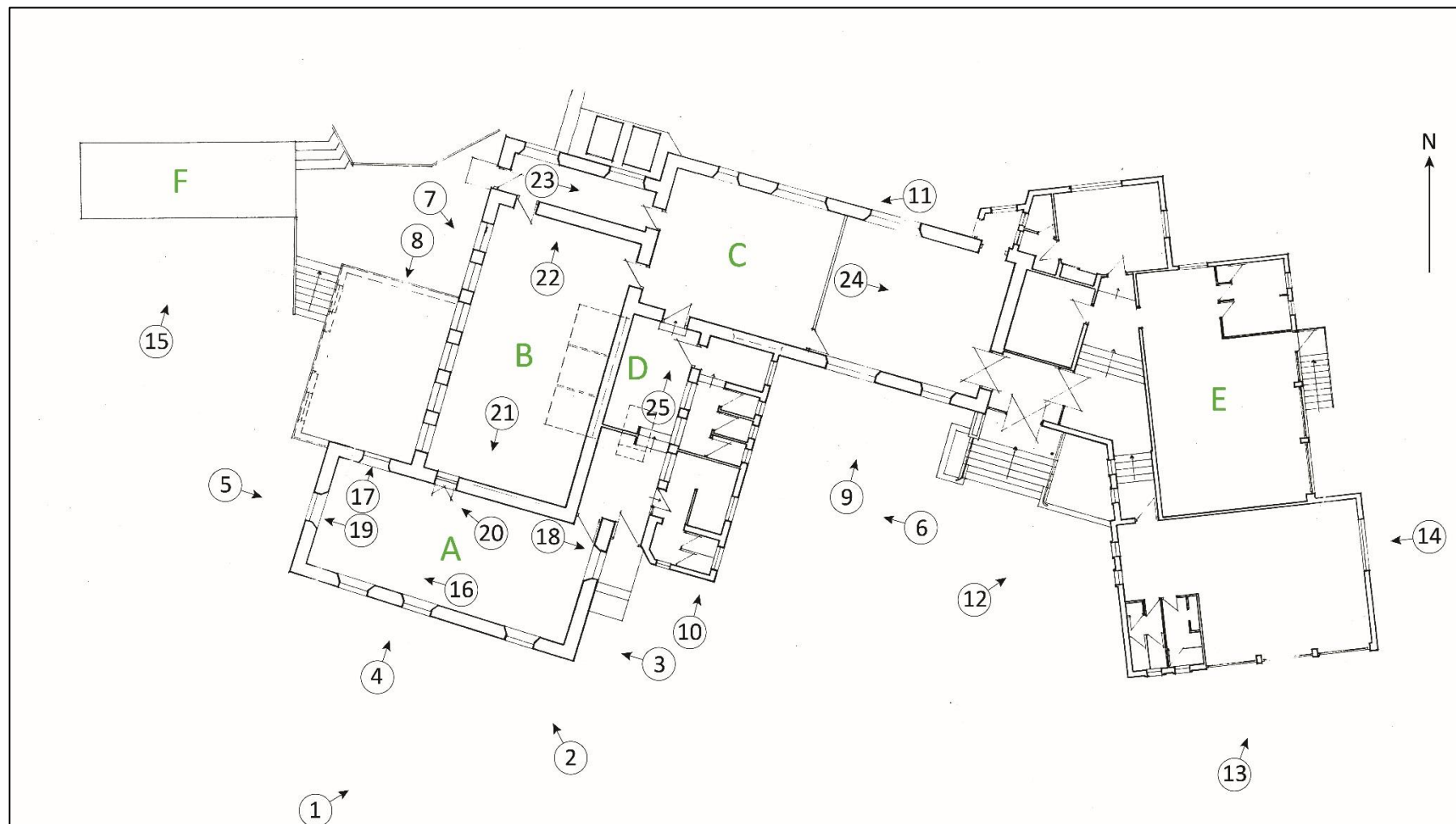


Fig. 5: Sketch plan of former school buildings at Carn Thomas (not to scale) showing location of external and internal photos taken

Report Title		Report Ref	
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