

Chapel of St Luke, Royal Hospital Haslar, Gosport

RCHME Level 3 Building Report

PJ Buxton

Student number 049017903

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Introduction

The Chapel of St Luke is a Grade II* listed building which forms part of the Royal Hospital Haslar, Gosport (previously known as the Royal Naval Hospital Haslar). The hospital, built in 1753, is the oldest military hospital in the UK and the majority of the buildings are listed as Grade II*; it remains a functioning hospital for both military and civilian patients. The hospital grounds represent one of the most complete examples of a mid 18th century hospital complex and are listed on the English Heritage Parks and Gardens Register.

The Chapel is listed on the Hampshire Sites and Monuments Record (Site number 6394) and is situated at grid reference SZ617987 (Figure 1 and 2). Entries on the SMR (Appendix 1) show that the Chapel was externally examined for listing purposes in 1983 and has been the subject of 2 'Buildings at Risk' surveys (1991 and 2001).



Figure 1: Map of Gosport

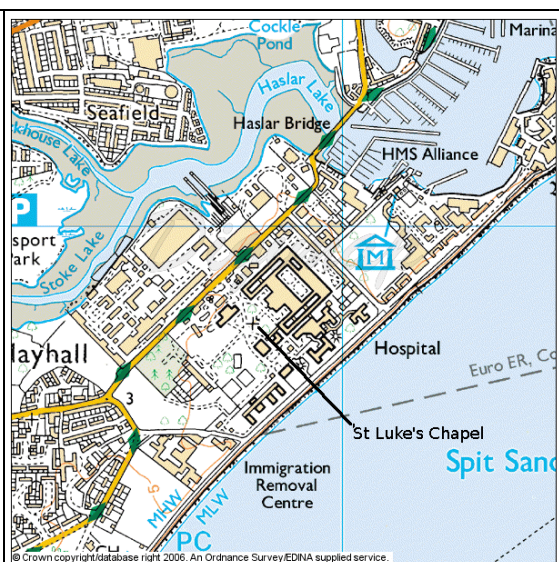


Figure 2: Map of RH Haslar

This report covers the external and main internal spaces of the Chapel but excludes the roof space and crypt which could not be accessed. Fieldwork was undertaken from 9th - 18th September 2006 comprising four evening and one weekend visit to the site.

The following documents were consulted in the preparation of this report:

- Current and historical OS maps (accessed on-line through Digimap)
- Locally produced guidebooks
- Historic photographs held by the Haslar Heritage Group and by St Lukes
- Hampshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)
- Journal of the Royal Naval Medical Service

Additional information was obtained from discussion with members of the Haslar Heritage Group and the congregation of St Luke's.

As part of the plans for the military withdrawal from Haslar the Chapel will cease to be used for worship after March 2007; currently there are no plans for the future use of this building following its deconsecration.

Research Aims

St Luke's Chapel is a typical example of the type of Chapel built in a military setting during the mid to late 18th century; other local examples include St Anne's Chapel in Portsmouth Dockyard. Although not unique St Luke's forms an important part of the hospital buildings complex and grounds. The imminent change in use, brought about by the military withdrawal, means this will be the last chance to record how the building functions as a hospital chapel.

The purpose of the research is therefore to (a) record the layout of the building and major internal fittings prior to deconsecration and (b) determine if there is any evidence, either within the building's fabric or associated documents, for alterations during the building's history.

Methodology

The building is made largely of brick making a stone by stone recording both impractical and unnecessary. As the main part of the building is symmetrical about the long axis detailed measurements were only taken from one side, intermittent measurements on the other side and diagonals were made to ensure the building was truly symmetrical. As the imminent change in use will involve deconsecration and removal of some or all of the internal religious artefacts the position of the major items such as the pews, font, pulpit etc was recorded.

No phasing in the construction of the building could be identified on a preliminary survey and therefore the use of stratigraphic units was considered unnecessary. Superficially the building appears unchanged from its original design and, apart from the installation of an access ramp, no additions or alterations are readily apparent.

The survey has been undertaken as a solitary effort with occasional help in order to hold tape measures. The equipment used was a 30m tape and 6m rule, a plumb bob, and a line and line level (for the datum). All internal measurements, including height, were measured to the nearest 1cm. Heights of all external elevations above 3m were estimated by counting brick courses. The underside of the windowsills were used as the external datum line; a level was used to check they were aligned horizontally.

Photographs were taken with a 2 mega pixel digital camera (Canon Powershot A60);

GIMP (Graphical Image Manipulation Program) was used for post processing and labelling.

Scale drawings were produced by hand at an original scale of 1:100. These were then scanned and reduced to fit as required.

Description

General

The building is situated on level ground slightly elevated compared to the remainder of the hospital. It takes its alignment from the major axis of the rest of the hospital as shown in an aerial photograph (Figure 3) taken around 1970. This means the ecclesiastical east end of the building actually faces to the south-west (Figure 4).



Figure 3: Aerial view of Hospital looking west

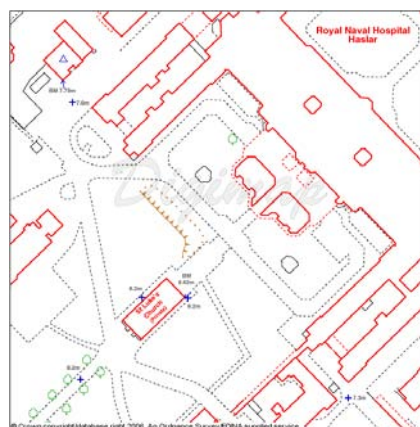


Figure 4: Modern map showing alignment

The building is rectangular with a single storey extension to the south-west. The whole building is on a stepped stone plinth with the remainder of the walls made from brick.

The bricks are laid in a Flemish bond throughout on a lime mortar and are made from local clay. They are of uniform size in all parts of the building and are the same size as those in the remainder of the hospital (22.2x10.5x6cm). The main part of the building has a pitched roof of slate, the single storey section to the south-west has a flat roof of lead.

The white stone for the pediments and plinth is similar to that used in the remainder of the hospital. It is similar in appearance to local stone found on the Isle of Wight.

North-East Elevation

The main entrance is on the north-east elevation - the ecclesiastical west end (Figure 5 and 10). This comprises an entrance porch within the thickness of the wall flanked by windows with a simple wooden 'Y' tracery frame and small, rectangular panes of clear glass in lead surrounds. The windowsill is of white stone and the round head of the window is surrounded by rubbed brick headers.

The pediment of the porch is supported on half Tuscan pillars which are applied to the adjacent brickwork. Above the pediment a stone panel has the date MDCCLXII (1762) and carries the text, in Latin, of Matthew 25, verse 40.

The clock inserted in the oculus above the horizontal stone pediment carries the inscription 'Colley London'. There is an octagonal bellcote and weathervane at the north-east end of the main roof ridge.

In front of the door is a small stone platform approached by 3 steps; a concrete access ramp has been added to the north-west side of the steps.

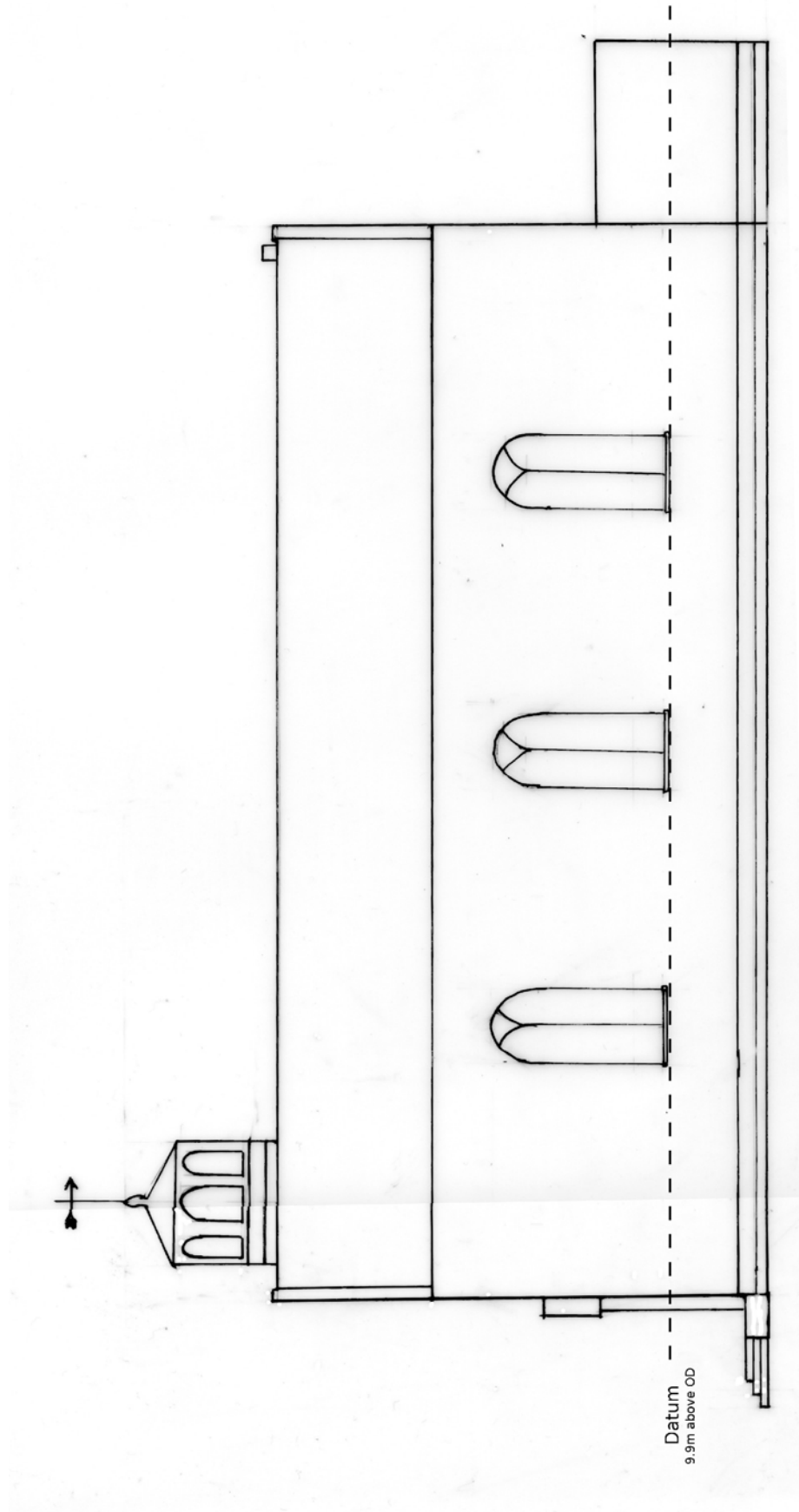


Figure 5: North-East elevation - photograph

North-West and South-East Elevations

The North-West and South East elevations are identical and form the long axis of the building (Figure 6 and 7). The base of both the main body of the building and the single storey extension is formed by the stepped stone plinth. There are three identical round headed windows on each elevation identical to those on the north-east elevation. The windows on each side at the south-west end are stained glass images from the New Testament and are dated 1912 (south-east elevation) and 1916 (north-west elevation) and commemorate those Royal Naval and Royal Marines who died in the hospital. The remaining two windows on each side are clear.

The single storey extension at the south-west end is stepped in slightly from the main building. The brick courses between these two elements align precisely, the actual join is obscured by rainwater downpipes and it is impossible to determine if the brick sections are 'keyed' together or if the extension is 'applied' to the main body.



Datum
9.9m above OD

**Chapel of St Lukes, Royal Hospital Haslar
North West Elevation**



Surveyed: 9-18 Sep 2006
 Drawn scale: 1:100
 Drawing No: 1 of 5
 Grid Ref: SZ617987
 SMR No: 6394
 Surveyed by: PJ & HJ Buxton
 Drawn by: PJ Buxton

Figure 7: North West elevation - scale drawing

South-West Elevation

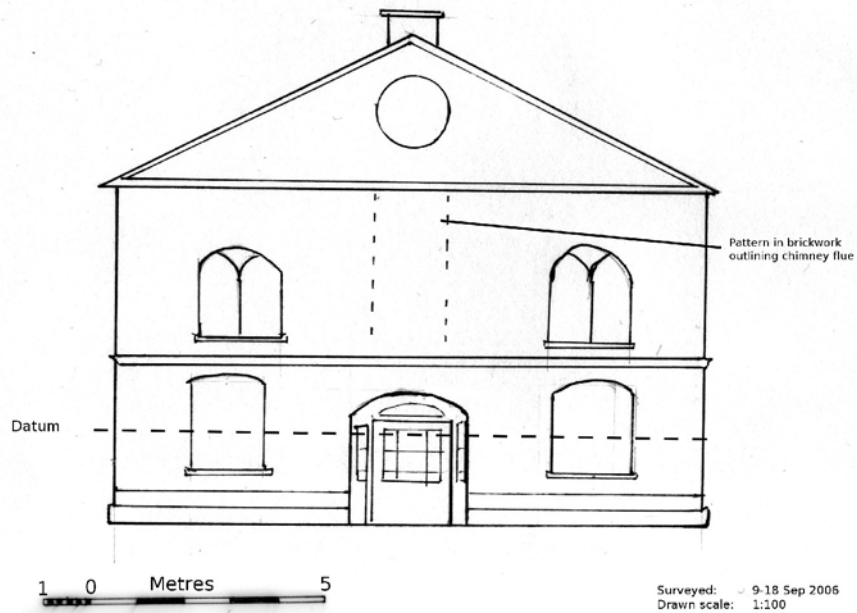
The south-west elevation comprises the Chaplain's and Verger's offices that make up the single storey extension (Figure 8 and 9). The two windows in the main body of the building are the same width and height as the windows previously described but their base is truncated because of the office extension.

A pattern in the brick, extending from a small chimney at the roof apex, appears to outline a flue that lies within the thickness of the wall. There are no internal fireplaces or boilers associated with this flue (see Documentary Evidence).

To the south-east steps lead down to the crypt. This extends under the whole of the office extension and approximately 2m of the main body of the chapel (Smith, personal communication 2006).



Figure 8: South-West elevation - photograph



Chapel of St Lukes, Royal Hospital Haslar
South West Elevation

Surveyed: 9-18 Sep 2006
 Drawn scale: 1:100
 Drawing No: 4 of 5
 Grid Ref: SZ617987
 SMR No: 6394
 Surveyed by: PJ & HJ Buxton
 Drawn by: PJ Buxton

Figure 9: South West elevation - scale drawing



Chapel of St Lukes, Royal Hospital Haslar
North East Elevation

Surveyed: 9-18 Sep 2006
 Drawn scale: 1:100
 Drawing No: 5 of 5
 Grid Ref: SZ617987
 SMR No: 6394
 Surveyed by: PJ & HJ Buxton
 Drawn by: PJ Buxton

Figure 10: North East elevation - scale drawing

Internal

The body of the Chapel is a single space with the pews facing the alter and pulpit at the south-west end (Figure 14). The alter is on a stepped platform under a baldachino (canopy) supported on decorated Ionic columns (Figure 11). The platform is formed from undressed regular stone slabs of similar dimensions to those that surround the outside of the Chapel. The remainder of the floor is modern woodblock laid in a herringbone pattern.

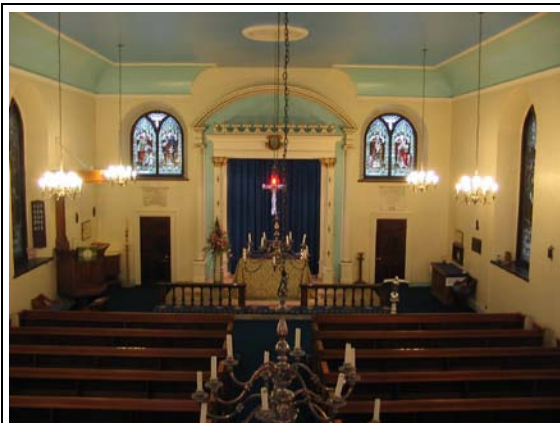


Figure 11: Interior view of south-west elevation and alter



Figure 12: Interior view of north-east elevation

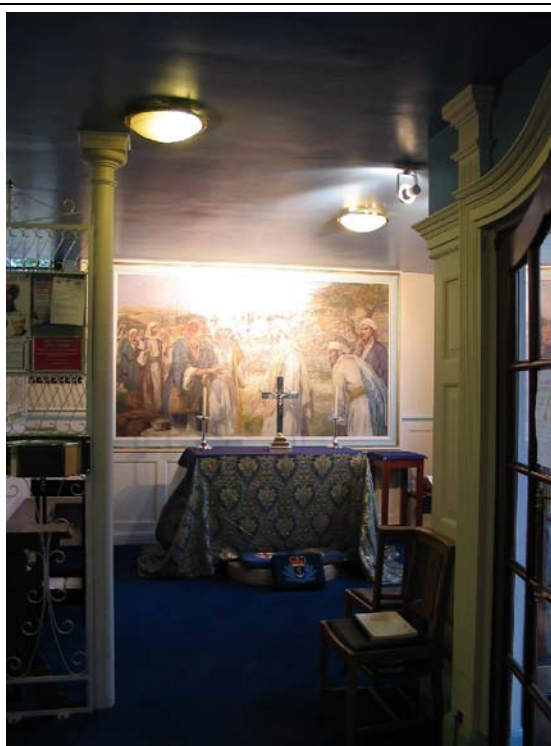


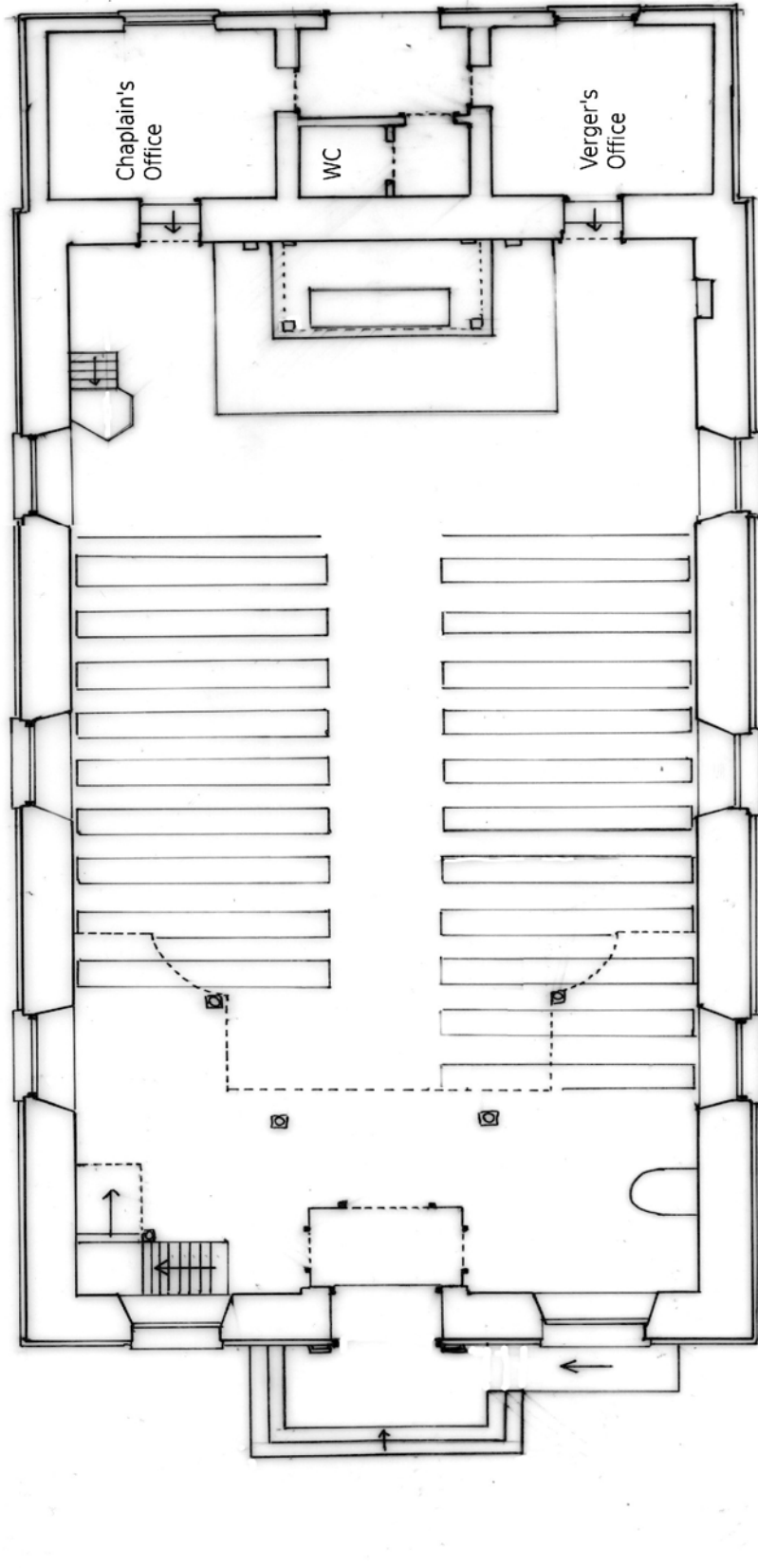
Figure 13: Baptistry in north-west corner

The altar rail is said to be from the old A Block staircase in the main part of the hospital (Birbeck, personal communication 2006). It is of an identical size and pattern to the original Georgian balustrades in the other parts of the hospital which remain in situ which would confirm this assertion.

The Pulpit and pews are made of oak to a modern design.

The North-West corner of the Chapel is partly partitioned from the main body and forms a small Baptistry with a small platform for the font. The font has been moved to the south-west corner and this area is now used as a private chapel (Figure 13).

The gallery at the north-east end houses the organ and is approached by a single set of stairs (Figure 15). The gallery is fronted by painted wooden panels surrounded by a geometric carved border. The gallery is supported on slender painted metal columns(Figure 12).



Surveyed: 9.18 Sep 2006
 Drawn scale: 1:100
 Drawing No: 2 of 5
 Grid Ref: SZ617987
 SMR No: 6394
 Surveyed by: PJ & HJ Buxton
 Drawn by: PJ Buxton

Chapel of St Lukes, Royal Hospital Haslar
 Ground Floor Plan

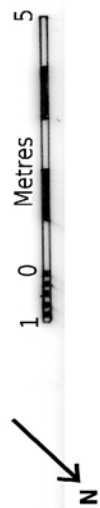


Figure 14: Ground Floor Plan - scale drawing

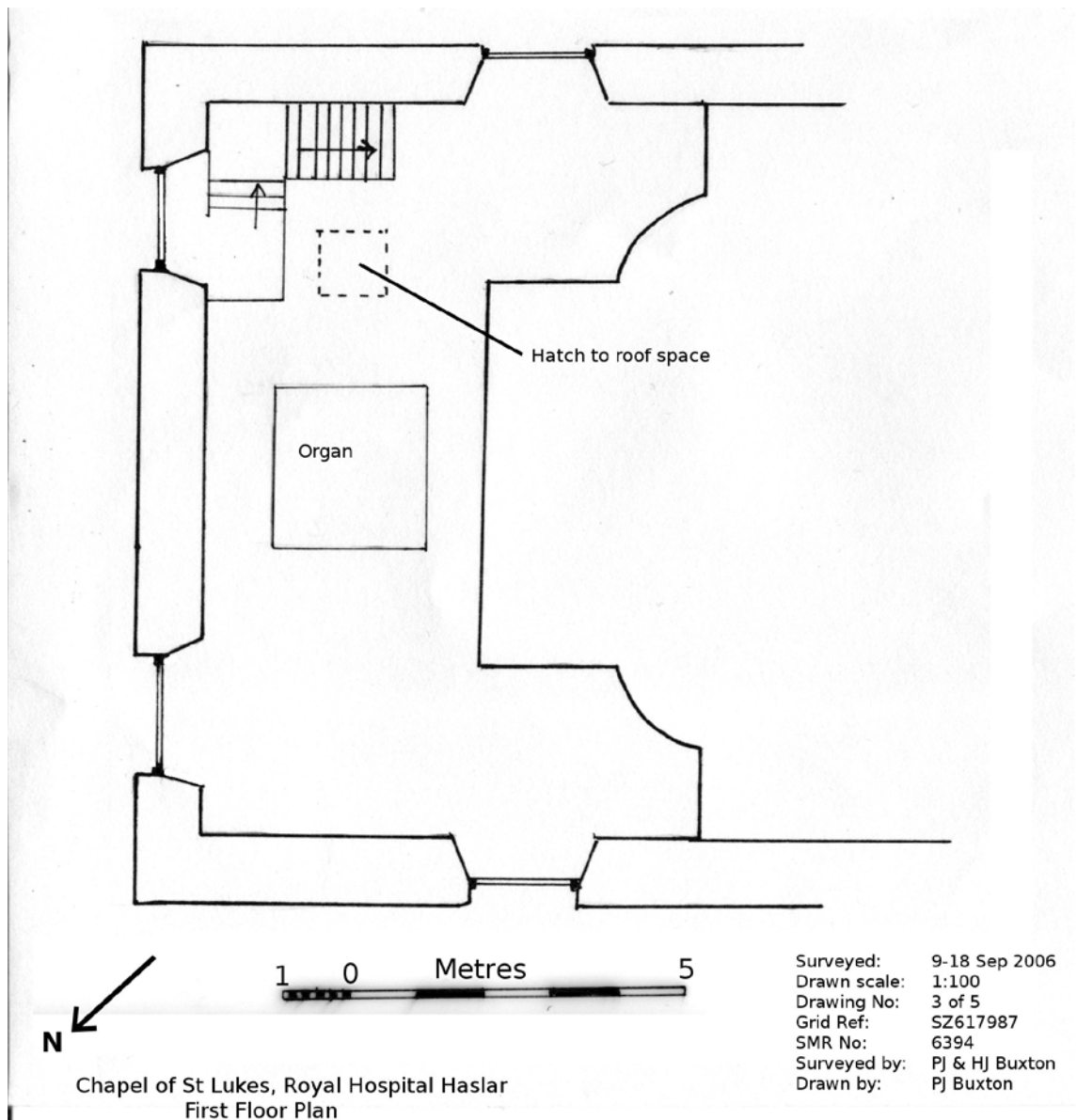


Figure 15: Plan of Gallery

Documentary Evidence

Documentary evidence relating to the original construction is very scant (Birbeck, personal communication 2006). Most authorities date the construction to 1762, but Pevsner (cited in Friars 2006: 1) maintains it was completed in 1756 and that the date of 1762 on the wall plaque (see above) relates only to the clock. The first hospital Chaplain, Mr Ritchie, is listed as being in post from 1758 but his employment could easily pre-date the construction of the Chapel. No consecration or dedication records exist.

In 1838 the buildings are described as being “covered in Roman cement” (Slight 1838 cited in Friars 2006: 2) to resemble ashlar facing.

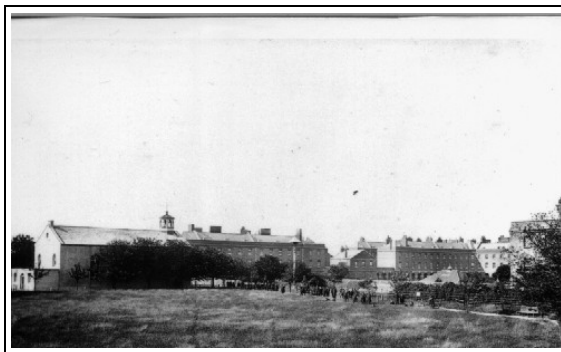


Figure 16: South-East Elevation before 1858



Figure 17: North-East Elevation before 1908

Figure 16, because of the absence of the water tower in the background, must be earlier than 1858 and Figure 17, because of the railings, must have been taken before 1908 when the railings were removed. From the height of the adjacent trees the images were probably taken at the same time. Both photographs show the 'Roman cement' rendering described by Sleight. There are no records of when the cement render was removed but an photographs of the Chapel before the restoration in 1963 show no evidence of cement render.

The current altar and baldachino were erected in 1920 to replace the original altar surround. A painting by Heywood Hardy RA ,The Healing of Blind Bartemeus, replaced the original reredos at the same time (Newman 1962).

Extensive damage to the roof timbers, caused by Deathwatch beetle, necessitated complete replacement. It is clear that extensive alterations were made in addition to the necessary roof repairs (Newman 1962). These included lowering the gallery and removing one set of the paired access stairs; reshaping and truncating the gallery; constructing a Baptistry on the ground floor in the north-west corner and unspecified "tidying up of the east end of the church". The Heywood Hardy painting was moved to the newly created Baptistry during these alterations.

Photographs taken immediately before these repairs and alterations, which took place in 1963-64, show the original gallery extended across the middle window and next brick buttress. The photographs also confirm that the gallery was higher than at present and that the original pair of access stairs was substantially steeper than at present. Photographs also show that what is now the "Casket Room" in the crypt was originally a boiler room and was presumably connected to the chimney flue described above.

The listing in the Hampshire SMR states that "[the] Rear has an early C20 single-storey vestry extension overlapping the bottom of the windows"; this will be discussed below. With respect to the north east elevation it states that there is "...a plaque dated MDCCLXII and with text from Matthew 25, verse 10". This is incorrect as the text is

from Mathew 40.

Discussion and Analysis

The initial observation that there was no significant evidence of different phases of construction and the subsequent decision not to use stratigraphic units for recording was vindicated as the only alterations or additions that can be identified from the fabric of the building are the insertion of two stained glass windows as a World War I memorial and the construction of an access ramp for the steps to the main entrance.

Early photographs (Figure 16 and 17) clearly show that at some point before 1858 the whole of the outside was covered in cement render; none of this render is now visible. There is no documentary evidence as to when this was applied but it is unlikely to have been part of the original construction phase in 1762. This is because the, now visible brickwork, is Flemish bond which uses more bricks than equally strong but less decorative alternative bond patterns. If the original intent was to conceal the bricks with render it would make no sense to use more bricks than necessary. This is particularly important as there was a shortage of funds at this time which meant that the fourth side of the main hospital complex was never completed. There are several directives from the Admiralty to the architect, not to spend any money on unnecessary decoration.

There is also no documentary evidence as to when this rendering was removed but its removal pre-dated the major alterations in 1963 (see below).

The Hampshire SMR states that the single storey extension on the south-west elevation is an early 20th century addition that partly obscures the windows in the ecclesiastical east end of the chapel. This is clearly incorrect as Figure 16, which was taken before 1858, clearly shows the current extension. Furthermore the stone pediment extends uninterrupted around the whole structure, the bricks are of an identical size and colour throughout and all the courses line up exactly. There are no 'scars' on the brickwork under the windows in the 'east' end to indicate they have been truncated. It is, therefore, most probable that the current external appearance of the building is as it was originally built and that there are no later additions.

In contrast to the external appearance photographic and documentary evidence shows that extensive internal alterations were undertaken when the roof and roof timbers were completely replaced due to extensive damage from Death Watch beetle. The report by the Chaplain prior to these repairs (Newman 1962) states that the intention was not just to repair the damaged roof but to return the Chapel to its original Georgian form by removing the Victorian additions. The resulting starkness was not uniformly welcome and later Chaplains sought to replace some of the memorial tablets (Ames,

personal communication 2005). In addition the truncation of the side arms of the gallery is difficult to reconcile with the stated aim of returning the Chapel to its original Georgian form; the true reason for this alteration is not known.

The lack of any phasing evidence in the building can be explained from the photographs taken during 1963. It is clear that the renovation involved removing all of the internal plaster and fittings, the internal doors and most of the windows. The visible portions of the inside of the Chapel, with the exception of the baldachino and ceiling roses, therefore all date from 1963.

Conclusion

Although there are no apparent major changes in building fabric, documents and photographs show that there have been substantial changes to this building. The external appearance is now probably as it was originally intended when first built but the internal fabric dates almost exclusively to 1963.

Acknowledgements

The assistance of the Verger, Sue Smith and Eric Birbeck of the Haslar Heritage Group in providing old photographs of St Luke's and detailed background information is gratefully acknowledged.

Bibliography

Friars, J., 2006. *The Church of St Luke - A Brief History*. edition. Gosport: Royal Hospital Haslar.

Newman, J., 1962. The bi-centenary of the Church of St. Luke, Royal Hospital, Haslar.. *Journal of the Royal Naval Medical Service*, 48, 95-97.

SMR, Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record.
<http://historicenvironment.hants.gov.uk> (18 Sep 06).

Appendix - Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record

Site Number: **6394**

Site Name: **Chapel of St Luke, Royal Naval Hospital, Haslar**

Parish: Gosport (unparished)

Grid Reference: 61 87

Site Record Type: HISTORIC BUILDING

Additional Information held?: Yes

Site Summary: The naval hospital chapel built in 1762.

Status Reference	Status	Grade
1137 0 004 00058	Listed Building	Grade II*
	Group Value	
	Conservation Area	

Event Type	Site Type	From	To	Description	Sources
Listing	MODERN EVENT	1983	1983	Chapel at naval hospital. Completed and dated 1762, to plan of Theodore Jacobson; altered internally early, C20, restored 1963. Red brick with rubbed brick headers, stone dressings and slate roof. Mid Georgian style. Rectangular plan. EXTERIOR: Single storey; 2 x 3-window range. A simple preaching box-type chapel has stepped stone plinth and brick eaves, with stone moulded surround to pediment end gables with oculi. NW front has a Tuscan doorcase beneath a plaque dated MDCCLXII and with text from Matthew 25, verse 10; flanking round-arched windows with Y-tracery and stained glass, a clock in the oculus, and an octagonal bellcote and weathervane. Sides with matching windows. Rear has an early C20 single-storey vestry extension overlapping the bottom of the windows. INTERIOR not inspected but recorded as having been altered early C20, with the gallery, formerly to 3 sides, now truncated; coved ceiling. Early C20 fittings including 1918-20 baldachino and lectern. HISTORY: the chapel was intended to be within the S range of the hospital building, though this was never built. It is typical of the style of religious building erected in the royal dockyards from the mid C18. Haslar was the first large hospital built by the navy. Though altered, the chapel stands on the major axis of the hospital, and is an important element in the mid C18 layout and operation of this outstanding and remarkably complete complex.	Sources

Built	MILITARY CHAPEL	1760	1765	See list description	Sources
BAR Survey	MODERN EVENT	1991	1991	Buildings at Risk Survey 1991	Sources
BAR Survey	MODERN EVENT	2001	2001	Buildings at Risk Survey conducted by GBC.	Sources