

Introduction

This document is a Photographic Survey of Townhead House, a Grade II listed building, off Yorkshire Street, Rochdale. Rochdale Borough Council have issued a number of conditions pertaining to the proposed development of the property and this record fulfils Condition No. 13 for Listed Building Consent. In 2015 a gazetteer was produced for the property and included in a heritage statement. That gazetteer has been amended to document recent changes and includes cross-referencing to the plates forming this record. Photographic registers showing the location and direction of each photograph are included as Figures 1-5 below.

There are three elements to the property. A late Georgian townhouse, later adapted for use by the Guardians of the Rochdale Poor Law Union. A 19th century purpose-built extension for the same body and a link building connecting the two.

The southern block of the property is formed by a mannered, polite, classically-designed brick townhouse, with a porticoed entrance and bay windows, possibly dating to the early 1820s (Plates 1 and 2). It was built for the Entwistle family of Foxholes, who owned considerable property in the Townhead district of Rochdale. Built to lease, it is considered possible it was first occupied by John Elliot, a prominent local Attorney-at-Law. Later it became the home of Thomas Ainsworth Crook, a wealthy Liverpool wine merchant and Deputy Lieutenant of the County. His widow continued to occupy the property after his early death in 1856. After Mrs Crook died the house was left empty until Mr Entwistle suggested the Rochdale Board of Guardians take over the premises to replace their inadequate Boardroom and offices at Wardleworth Workhouse in 1878.

By March 1895 ever-increasing demands on the Rochdale Union led to the need for a new Boardroom for the Guardians and extended offices for the relieving officers. Discussions took place which resolved to build an extension on the site of an old coachhouse and stables to the rear of the property, rather than extend the existing house. The new extension (Plates 4 and 5), however, was to be connected to the house by a two-storey linking building (Plate 3) with a corresponding corridor in the basement. The brick-built extension was designed in freestyle Classical by the prominent local architects, Butterworth and Duncan, and opened in late March 1896.

One of the most important features of the new extension was a first floor Boardroom with oak fittings, lit by large windows in each gable and one in a Dutch gable to the north-east elevation (Plate 11). To the rear was office space for the Assessment Committee. On the ground floor was a large waiting hall and offices for the relieving officers.

Setting

Originally built with a frontage on Yorkshire Street. This was lost to development in the mid-19th century and a south facing garden formed, with ancillary facilities to the east. The area has been significantly altered with car parking replacing gardens to the north and south. To the east the curtilage, which expanded as a kitchen garden to John Street has been lost to road widening.

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Plate 21	A second principal reception room, possibly Morning Room (G11) to the original house with retained original window surrounds and panel. Now forms Room 5 of Apartment 7

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- Plate 24 A service room (G3) to the possible Salon, now Room 5 of Apartment 5 with retained original window surround, with bulkhead, and panel
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- Plate 34 Formerly a suite of rooms (G25 to 31) formed from the subdivision of the probable waiting hall, now reconfigured to form apartments 2 and 3. Room 4 of Apartment 2 shown above with retained window surrounds with bulkheads
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- Plate 36 The opening to the link building first floor corridor CF03, possibly formed from the original stairlight at the rear of the house
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- Plate 41 Formerly F3, subdivided to form stair to attic, now Room 4 Apartment 8 accessed through reopened historic opening. Original window surrounds and panel with new frames
- Plate 42 Former bedroom (F7) now Room 2 Apartment 10 with partition to form corridor. Original window surrounds and panel with new frames and bulkheads
- Plate 43 Former bedroom (F8) now subdivided to form Apartment 10, Room 5 above retains a fireplace. Modern windows in original surrounds have bulkheads
- Plate 44 The original doorway to Apartment 10 has been retained, however, the six panel door is replaced with a modern fire door
- Plate 45 Attic stair (F5) now Room 1 of Apartment 11
- Plate 46 The Link passage and stair (F12), now CF03, was the original access to the Board Room and retains original features, although the corbelled arch has a modern inserted partition and door. Modern windows in original surrounds
- Plate 47 The corbelled arch leads to the access corridor to the Board Room (F13), now CF04. High quality finishes including skirting and door surrounds have been retained with original Board Room door
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- Plate 51 The high status Board Room is lit by Venetian windows on three sides. Former subdivisions to form F20 and 21 have been altered and the northern end of the space is now Apartment 13. Much of the decoration of the Board Room has been retained including window surrounds but some windows have been replaced
- Plate 52 As with Apartment 13 original features have been retained in Apartment 12 but some windows have been replaced
- Plate 53 The attic stair, centre, leads into what is now Apartment 11, formed in the attic space
- Plate 54 Room 4 of Apartment 11 is lit by the window in the front gable of the house
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- Plate 57 At the southern end of the Board Room (F22) a similar approach to Apartment 13 has been used to form Apartment 12



Figure 1: Photographic Register of the setting and exterior of Townhead House, Plates 1-14

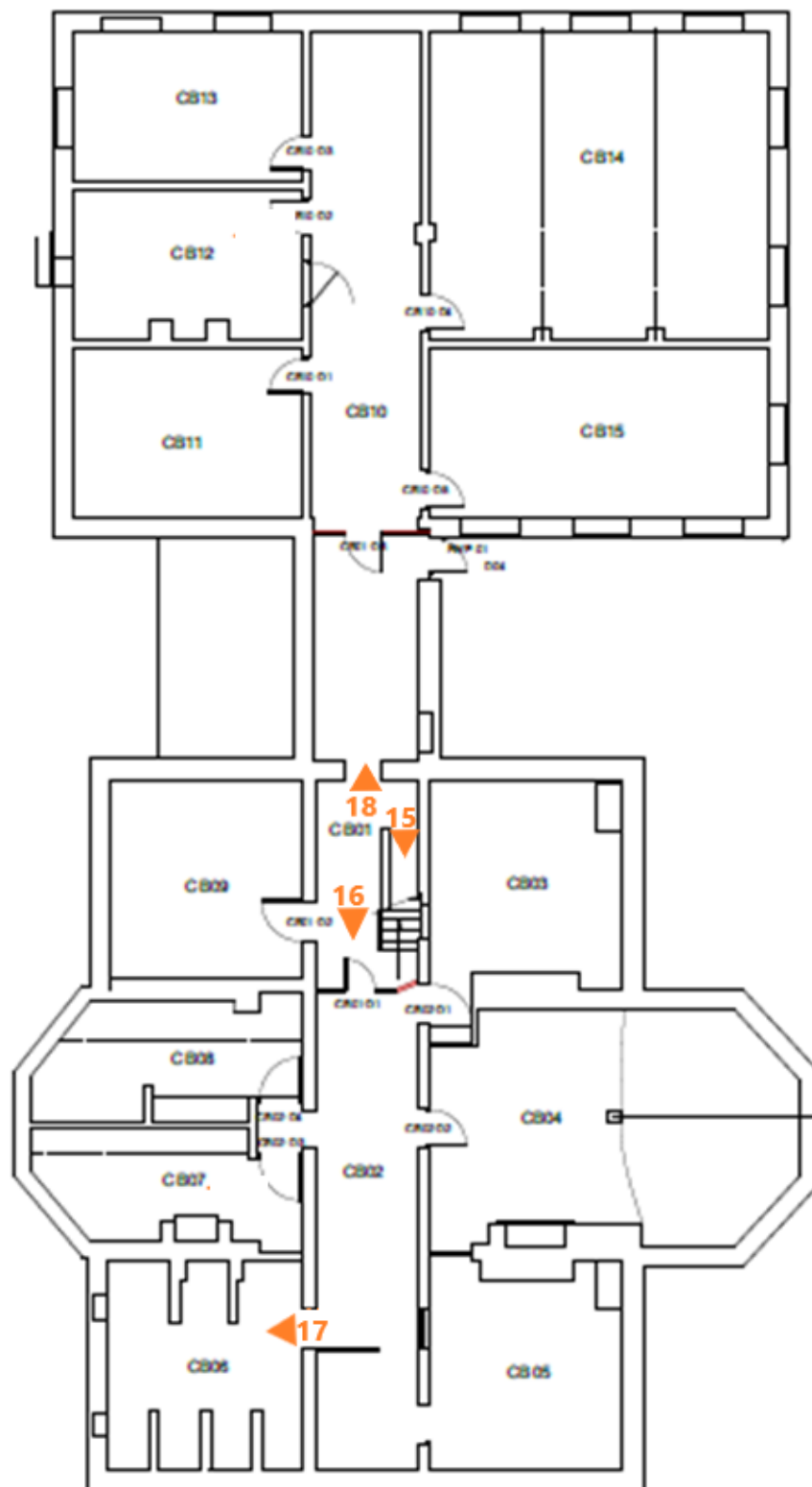


Figure 2: Photographic Register of the Basement of Townhead House, Plates 15-18

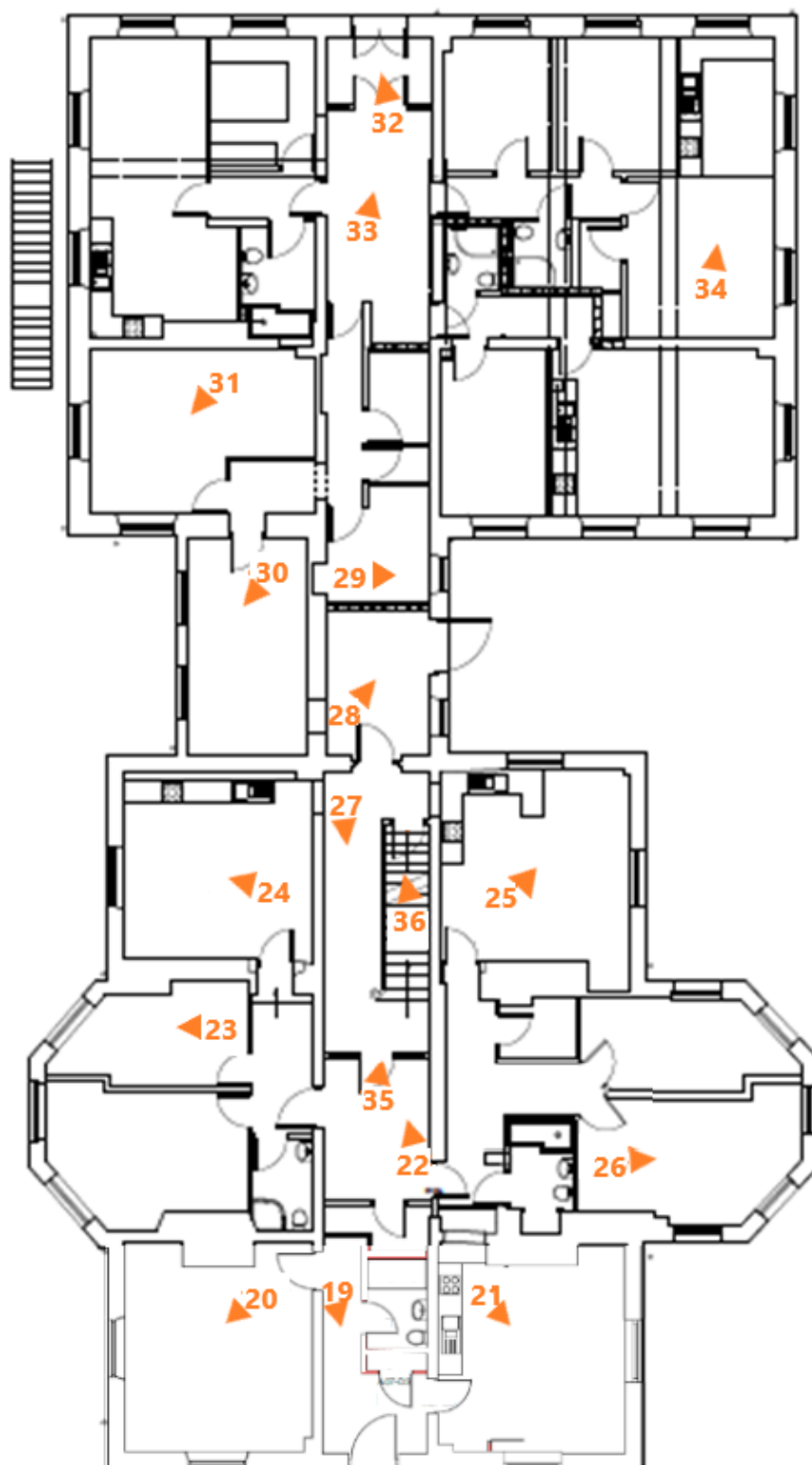


Figure 3: Photographic Register of the Ground Floor of Townhead House, Plates 19-36

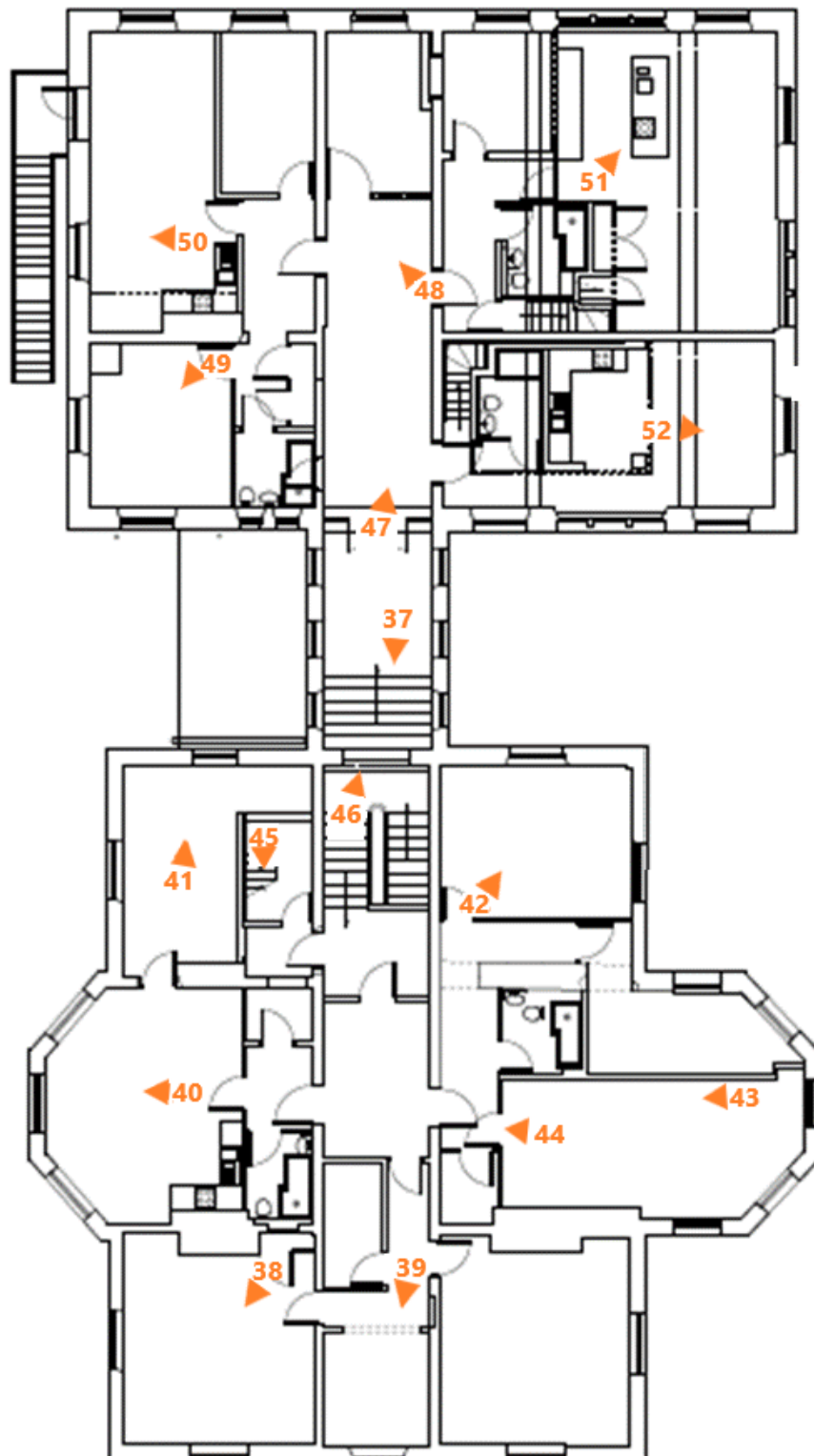


Figure 4: Photographic Register of the First Floor of Townhead House, Plates 37-52

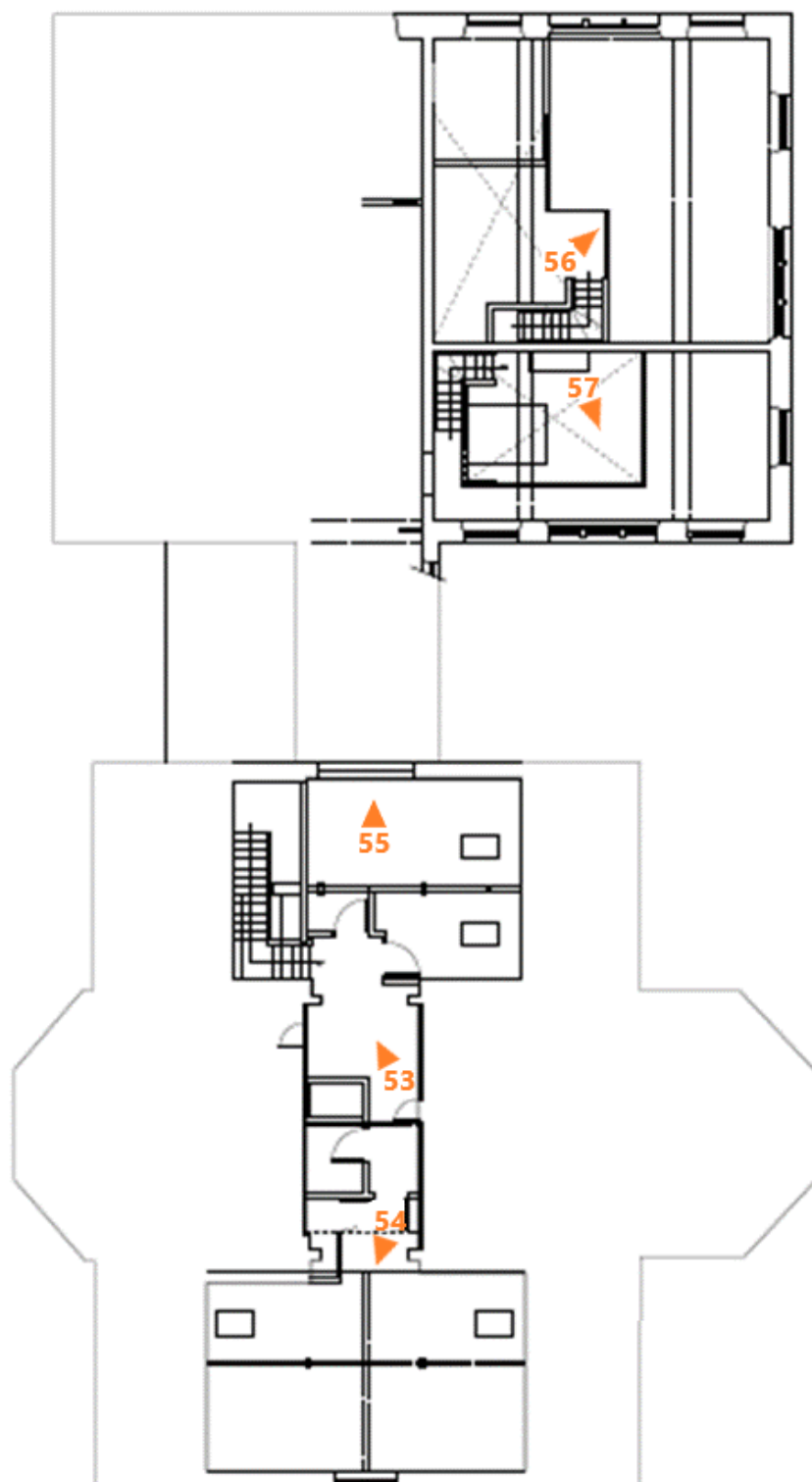


Figure 5: Photographic Register of the Second Floor of Townhead House, Plates 53-57



Plate 1: The house from the south-west



Plate 2: The house looking west



Plate 3 : North-east elevation



Plate 4: Extension from north-east



Plate 5: Extension from north-west



Plate 6: The rear elevation of the extension looking south-east



Plate 7: The rear of house with link building to left looking south-east



Plate 8: Main elevation of house from south. A typical gabled front to a Late-Georgian townhouse



Plate 9: The house from north-east with link building to right



Plate 10: The extension from south-east with house and link building to left



Plate 11: The extension building looking west



Plate 12: The extension building from the north



Plate 13: The link building from west with extension to left and house to right



Plate 14: The main entrance to the house with attached Doric columns, fanlight and open pediment. Above is a large window with stone architrave, consoles cornice and marginal glazing bars that would have lit the first floor central corridor.



Plate 15: To the rear of the original house the stairs from CG02 to CB02. They are brick with stone flag treads and an original board partition to the side.



Plate 16: At the bottom of the stairs an inserted wall now forms CB01 and CB02 from the original B10.



Plate 17: In general, the basement rooms, storage and service rooms are unaltered. Although the former storage room B5 now contains electrical equipment it appears to have retained its earlier bins.



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Plate 20: G1, now Room 2 of Apartment 7. Originally a principal reception room, possibly Drawing Room, which has retained original window surrounds and panel.



Plate 21: A second principal reception room, possibly Morning Room (G11) to the original house with retained original window surrounds and panel. Now forms Room 5 of Apartment 7



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Plate 27: Formerly Room G4, the stairwell looking back along what would have been the central corridor to the house. Inserted plaster ceiling conceals original detailing, but scagliola floor retained. Now CG02



Plate 28: Originally part of the continuation of the central corridor through the link (part of G14), now blocked to form CG01



Plate 29: Sash window in original surround in Room 4, Apartment 4 formed by inserting wall to right to block G14



Plate 30: A later single-storey office (G15) added to the rear of the link building now forming Room 5 of Apartment 4



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Plate 34: Formerly a suite of rooms (G25 to 31) formed from the subdivision of the probable waiting hall, now reconfigured to form apartments 2 and 3. Room 4 of Apartment 2 shown above with retained window surrounds with bulkheads



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Plate 36: The opening to the link building first floor corridor CF03, possibly formed from the original stairlight at the rear of the house



Plate 37: Looking to the upper stairway and the landing (F6), now forming CF01



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Plate 45: Attic stair (F5) now Room 1 of Apartment 11



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Plate 52: As with Apartment 13 original features have been retained in Apartment 12 but some windows have been replaced



Plate 53: The attic stair, centre, leads into what is now Apartment 11, formed in the attic space



Plate 54: Room 4 of Apartment 11 is lit by the window in the front gable of the house



Plate 55: Room 2 of Apartment 11 is lit by the partially altered Venetian window to the rear of the house, now with modern windows



Plate 56: The full height of the Board Room has been used in Apartment 13 with the introduction of a mezzanine floor



Plate 57: At the southern end of the Board Room (F22) a similar approach to Apartment 13 has been used to form Apartment 12