COAST GUARD STATION HARBOUR ROAD DÚN LAOGHAIRE

ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE SURVEY

22nd July 2025

Historic Building Consultants Old Bawn Old Connaught Bray

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Summary

This report has been produced as a historical and historic building survey of the former Coast Guard Station on Harbour Road, Dun Laoghaire. The present building complex includes the officer's house, the coast guard tower, a range of eight terraced houses that accommodated the coast guard men, and a range of eight yards that were used by the occupants of the houses. At the time of the initial survey in April 2024 the officer's house and the tower were vacant. Most of the houses were occupied and only house number 3 remained vacant as a result of which number 3 was included in the survey as a sample of a typical house. It is recognised that houses 1 and 2 are somewhat larger than house 3, but as they are occupied it was taken that they would have been in a similar style. The officer's house, the tower and house number 3 have been altered in various ways over time and the survey depicts them in the state they were in as of April 2024.

Some visits to the premises have been made between April 2024 and July 2025 but all examined the outside only, except for the ground-floor room of the tower, which was inspected on 21st July 2025.

The historical background that is included in this report finds that the coast guard service was reorganised in the 1850s, when it came under the control of the Admiralty. As part of the upgrading of the coast guard service at that time a number of new coast guard stations were built around the Irish coast and of these the station at Kingstown, as Dun Laoghaire was known then, was the first, built in 1858-59.

The original buildings on the site included the officer's house, the tower and six houses and another two houses were added five years later. The site also included a boat house and a small harbour sheltered by a short pier to protect the slipway down from the boat house. At a later date, probably in the 1870s, a rocket house was built near the boat house as a safe place to store signal rockets away from other buildings. The boat house and its harbour, the rocket house and the yard to the north of the officer's house are no longer included in the site of the coast guard buildings and the yard is occupied by a commercial boatyard.

The survey examines the officer's house first, this being a large two-storey over basement house at the northern end of the property. Adjoining that house to the east is a three-storey tower which was the coast guard station, while a basement level beneath the tower is the coal cellar for the officer's house. The tower is then examined, followed by the terrace of eight houses, including the interior of house number 3. The survey section finishes with a review of the features in the grounds of the Coast Guard Station.

A short final discussion section addresses a few minor comments that have arisen through the findings of the survey.

Background

This report has been prepared for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council as a record of the Coast Guard station and associated cottages at Harbour Road, Dún Laoghaire.

Buildings on the site were inspected internally and externally for the purposes of preparing this report on 15th April 2024. Additional photographs of the exteriors of the buildings were taken on subsequent occasions. Only one of the eight cottages was available for inspection, the others being occupied and hence cottage number 3 has been taken to be representative of the eight.

Historical research was carried out on the background history of the property and the results are set down below.

While this report contains comment on aspects of the condition of the buildings it is not a condition report or a structural report and must not be read as such.

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Historical background

As long as there are taxes levied on goods there will be those who attempt to find a way around paying them. Smuggling would have appeared with the first such tax, or a ban on certain goods, and it is still with us today. As the authorities devise ways of combating the smugglers the smugglers, in turn, become more sophisticated, or more brutal, in their methods. The bigger the tax, the greater the incentive to smuggle and the harder the authorities will work to prevent smuggling. This perennial struggle is among the certainties of civilisation, though the detail tends to vary, as does the nature of the goods being smuggled.

In Ireland in the eighteenth century the battle against the smuggler was waged largely by sea-borne forces, some under the aegis of the Royal Navy, others directly employed by the Revenue Commissioners, though the two bodies tended not to co-operate with each other towards their common aim. The revenue cutter was the sailing ship operated by the Revenue Commissioners and aimed to intercept ships inbound with illicit cargoes, and the Revenue had a number of base stations around the coast, mainly at the principal ports. The principal commodity being smuggled was tobacco, though some brandy was also smuggled.

By the early nineteenth century, a third force had come into play in the form of a rudimentary coast guard, but this was not the force that later had that name, and it was relatively under-resourced and ineffective. On the eastern coast of England a more labour-intensive system was introduced known as the Blockade, in which the crew of naval vessels would be put ashore in the evening and would patrol the coast overnight, returning to their ships in the morning.

Various other systems were suggested over time, one being a proposal in 1816 to bring the revenue cutters under the command of the Royal Navy to bring about a more efficient combined force to prevent smuggling. Entrenched positions ensured that this did not come about. In the meantime, the Royal Navy alone had about thirteen ships, with more than 1,300 men, on anti-smuggling duties around the Irish coast, quite apart from the number of revenue cutters and their crew.

In another attempt to find a new, more efficient method of prevention, the coasts of Britain and Ireland were surveyed to assess the problems and opportunities and following this a new service was established in Britain. This was to be known as the Preventive Water Guard and was to be based in small numbers around the coast, operating from small-scale, land-based premises, but staffed with boatmen, most of whom were former Royal Navy crew. This service came into operation in England and Wales in 1819 and was considered to be a success. Arising from this, the Preventive Water Guard for Ireland was established in October 1820. This was confined to the east coast initially, operating between Waterford and the Giant's Causeway, and it was gradually rolled out through the rest of the coast. The forty-two stations were manned by 488 men, providing a constant presence at intervals around the entire coast with less than 40% of the manpower that had been employed on the ships.

At each of these Preventive Water Guard stations the accommodation provided depended on the nature of the coast, with more men at those stations that required a greater degree of supervision against smuggling. Each station was provided with two boats, a supply of arms and ammunition and various other supplies. Where possible existing premises were used, and the ideal was to find buildings in state ownership that were under-used or even surplus to requirements. This occurred in places along the Dublin coast, where there were gun batteries and Martello Towers that were still in military occupation, but where the degree of urgency or strategic importance had declined since the end of the Napoleonic wars in 1815.

The Revenue Commissioners' base to serve the southern part of Dublin Bay was above the old harbour of Dunleary, at Crofton Road. With the establishment of the Preventive Water Guard new, smaller, stations were established at Dalkey, where one chief officer was in charge of ten boatmen, and further down the coast on the strand at Bray, where there was a chief officer and seven men. It is not known where this initial Preventive Water Guard station was at Dalkey, but it may have been on Dalkey Island, with the gun battery and Martello Tower. The first-edition Ordnance Survey, published in 1843, a detail of which is reproduced below, shows that the land now occupied by the boatyard and the Coast Guard station at Dún Laoghaire was only partly reclaimed from the sea at that time. Battery Bridge crossed the railway adjacent to the present railway bridge and another bridge is seen a little to the east, crossing over a branch of the Metals, which facilitated the movement of stone to the present site of the boat yard, where land was being reclaimed. This small bridge is on or near to the site of the present access to the Coast Guard station and may be the bridge that still exists beneath that access.

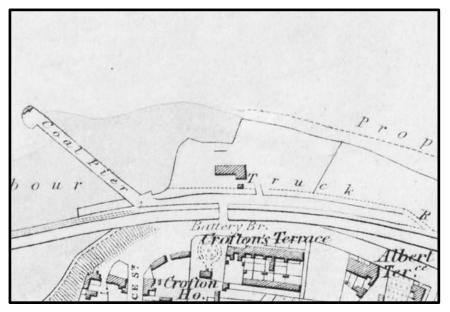


Figure 1: Future site of Coast Guard station, first edition Ordnance Survey, 1843

By the mid-1850s the Preventive Water Guard had proved to be an effective force against smuggling and was also useful in keeping a general eye on activity along the coast. The staff had on a number of occasions been able to assist in the case of shipwrecks and had saved lives and property by acting as an unofficial lifeboat service.

In 1856 an act of parliament was passed that transferred the service, now called the Coast Guard, to the responsibility of the Admiralty, as a result of which the coast guard service was upgraded and given greater powers. Along with this, the service would be equipped to a higher standard, and this was to include the provision of purpose-built accommodation.

While the sites of many of the new Coast Guard stations were to be close to the shore, and possibly close to a harbour, some of them were deliberately placed on a height from where there would be a better view over the coastline and over a greater distance. Such was the case with the new station at Dalkey, where it was situated virtually at the summit of Beacon Hill, in the area that was later to become known as Sorrento. In the other locations the coast guard stations were provided with a tower to provide a view over the coast in the vicinity and such was the case at Kingstown, as the town was known at the time that the Coast Guard station was built.

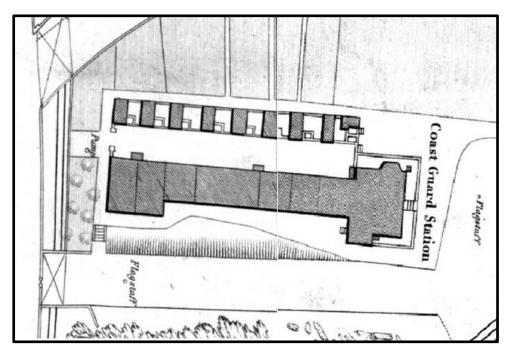


Figure 2: Detail of Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map of 1864

At the time of the new legislation and the transfer of the Coast Guard to the Admiralty there were well over a hundred Coast Guard stations of varying sizes around the coast. Under the new regime a new wave of construction commenced and by the end of the century more than 120 new Coast Guard stations were built, the majority of them in the 1860s and 1870s. These generally provided accommodation for either an officer or a chief boatman along with a number of men numbering between two and ten. In each case, the officer had the superior quarters, with smaller houses for the lower ranks and the accommodation included provision for the families of each of the men.

The Coast Guard station at Kingstown was the first of the new generation of stations to be built and work commenced in 1858, being completed early in 1859. Five years later, two new cottages were added, and further alterations and additions took place in the early 1870s and again in the mid-1870s.

In 1861 the Commissioners of Public Works commenced a project to provide landscaping on the grounds in the vicinity of the Harbourmaster's house and this also involved planting the grounds surrounding the Coast Guard station. The necessary shrubs and other vegetation were supplied by John Barnes of the Monkstown Nursery in Carrickbrennan Road.

The map reproduced above shows the Coast Guard station at Kingstown in 1864 and as the plan is more or less the same as it is today, this map was surveyed after the addition of the two new houses, though very soon after. The map depicts eight cottages in addition to the officer's house, the two at the western end being larger than the others and were presumably the later additions. To the north of the houses the individual yards for each of the houses can be seen, with their outbuildings. The western end of the approach to the fronts of the houses is gated and outside the gate to the west is a pump, which was probably the only source of water for the houses.

In its enlarged form from the early 1860s, the Coast Guard station at Kingstown was staffed by twelve men consisting of one chief officer second class, one chief boatman, one divisional carpenter, three commissioned boatmen and six boatmen. The ten boatmen were divided into a day watch and a night watch, with five men on each.

At the time of the 1911 census there were ten men based at the Coast Guard station, consisting of a chief officer, two petty officers, one leading boatman, two boatmen and three other ranks. Each of these men was married and between them they had twenty-six children living in the station.

During the War of Independence, the authorities became concerned about the safety of the occupants of the various Coast Guard stations and warned those on the east coast, including the Coast Guard at Kingstown, to be prepared to have their wives and families removed to safe quarters that had been prepared for this possibility. Consideration was also given to deploying the Royal Marines to reinforce the Coast Guards.

The Coast Guard service continued to occupy the premises until the foundation of the Irish Free State in 1922. When the United Kingdom armed forces left Ireland following independence the Coast Guards left the various stations around the coast, including that at Dun Laoghaire, which was now the name of the town, having been renamed in 1920. The buildings now reverted to the Office of Public Works as the responsible party for the administration of Dun Laoghaire Harbour, following which it was used as accommodation for staff connected with the harbour. This continued through the transfer to the Dun Laoghaire Harbour Company and into the ownership of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council. While the chief officer's house is vacant at the time of writing the other houses in residential use, though one is vacant.

The present Irish Coast Guard is not directly descended from the preindependence Coast Guard.

Historical background



Plate 1: Coast Guard Station in about 1924

The photograph above shows the Coast Guard Station as it was shortly after the formation of the Irish Free State and the Irish tricolour flag is prominently displayed on the flagstaff. The pathways were much as they are today, with the road leading down from the ramp and a path running alongside the houses. The structure in the foreground at right is the base of a flagstaff.

The Metals

The Metals was a truck railroad that was constructed to bring stone from the quarries in Dalkey and elsewhere to build Dun Laoghaire Harbour. Its initial phase, laid out in 1816-17, connected the quarries in Dalkey with the site for the East Pier and to the site compound at the bottom of Marine Road. The second phase extended the Metals to the old village of Dunleary to bring the stone to build the West Pier, which commenced in 1821. A third phase took place in 1836-37 when the Dublin and Kingstown Railway constructed its line to the present Dun Laoghaire station and this involved laying a new alignment of the Metals to the West Pier alongside the railway track.

It is the fourth phase of the Metals that is of relevance to the Coast Guard Station at Dun Laoghaire. This arose from the decision in the early 1850s to construct Traders' Wharf, along with the massive ramp that leads down to the wharf and to reclaim land to the west of the ramp to provide for a boat yard. As the nearby line of the Metals ran on the southern side of the ramp bringing Harbour Road up to the railway bridge and down to the Coal Pier, a new branch of the Metals was laid out on the northern side of that ramp, leading through the site of the boat yard to the site for Traders' Wharf. This railway was marked on the Ordnance Survey large-scale map that was published in 1864 and which is seen in the extract below.

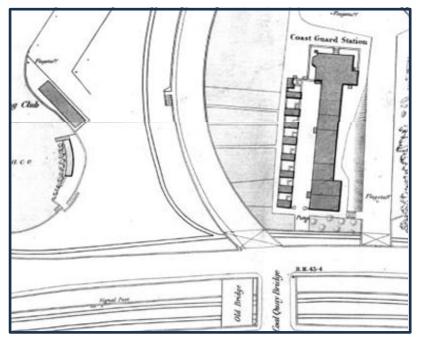


Figure 3: Ordnance Survey map of 1864 showing the branch of the Metals

The line of the Metals is depicted as running from east to west through the southern part of the grounds of the Coast Guard Station, beneath bridges carrying the ramp down to the Coast Guard Station and the ramp leading down to Traders' Wharf. Beyond that second bridge the line turns to run to Traders' Wharf, while another branch continue westward to the Coal Pier, which was doubled in width in the 1850s, requiring the delivery of stone.

Conservation context

Record of Protected Structures

The former Coast Guard station is included in the record of protected structures for Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown under nine separate entries. The Coast Guard station (former) is included under reference 388 and it is assumed that this refers to the chief officer's residence and tower. The eight Coast Guard cottages numbers 1 to 8 are included under references 417, 414, 409, 406, 403, 400, 396 and 393 respectively.

The rocket shed and boathouse that were formerly associated with the Coast Guard station are coloured orange on development plan map 3, indicating that they are protected structures. It is assumed that the entries in the record of protected structures are references 349 and 360, each of which is described as "boat house" and addressed at Coal Quay, Harbour Road. There are no boat houses at Coal Quay and the rocket house and boat house are close to, though not on, Trader's Wharf. These structures are not part of the structures that are the subject of the present report.

Conservation areas

The Coast Guard station lies within the area of the Dun Laoghaire Harbour Candidate Architectural Conservation Area.

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage has not yet published any surveys relating to the Dun Laoghaire Harbour area.

Building survey

Overview



Plate 2: View of Coast Guard station from the south-east

The former Coast Guard station at Dun Laoghaire consists of a main building orientated north-south, set in its own grounds on land to the north of Harbour Road and to the south of Dun Laoghaire Harbour. To the east of the building access is facilitated via a ramp leading down from Harbour Road. To the west of the building is a series of yards enclosed by stone walls, beyond which is an open area. To the south is a raised platform on which a line of the tram railroad known as the Metals ran, bringing stone to build part of Dun Laoghaire Harbour. The main building consists of a substantial officer's house at the northern end, to which is attached a tower on its eastern side, while to the south of the officer's house is a terrace of eight two-storey houses as accommodation for the Coast Guard staff.



Plate 3: View of Coast Guard station from the south-west

Officer's house

Exterior



Plate 4: Front elevation of officer's house

The officer's house is a three-bay, two-storey over basement house facing north into Dun Laoghaire harbour. The areas to the front and side of the house terminate at a palisade fence at a distance of approximately eight metres to the front, four metres to the west and ten metres to the east, beyond which the ground is in separate occupation, with a boat yard to the west and south and the Commissioners of Irish Lights to the east.



Plate 5: Officer's house, seen across boat yard

Building survey

Coast Guard Station, Dún Laoghaire

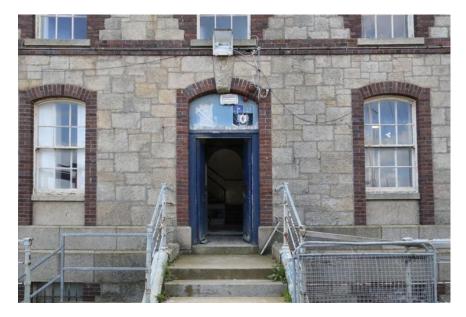


Plate 6: Front door to officer's house

The exposed façade on all sides of the house are faced with squared granite blocks, not brought to courses except to a limited extent at basement level. A string course formed by four courses of brick runs around the façade, the top and bottom courses being headers, the intermediate courses stretchers; the top two courses align with the first-floor sills, while the lower to run below the sills. A deep double string course runs around the building at ground-floor level, comprised of two courses of hammer-dressed granite ashlar, each course projecting slightly from the masonry above and chamfered at the top. The quoins at ground-floor and basement levels are of dressed granite, while on the first floor the quoins are formed with red brick.

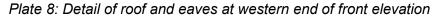


Plate 7: String course between ground floor and basement levels

Building survey



The roof is slated, with ceramic ridge and hip tiles. The front section of the roof, on the northern side, runs the width of the façade and is hipped, with a pyramidal roof projecting out over a canted bay on the western side, having lead hips. The western side of the roof to the rear is pyramidal, while the remainder of the rear section of the roof is flat, with a large ridged roof light.



The walls of the house are corbelled at the eaves, with a course of yellow brick laid diagonally in a dogtooth form, below a course of yellow brick stretchers. The corbelling supports ogee profile cast-iron guttering feeding into cast-iron hoppers discharging into downpipes, the surviving original downpipes being of cast iron.





Plate 9 (above): First floor window to front Plate 10 (left): Ground-floor window to front

The windows on the front elevation have red brick surrounds, those on the ground floor having parallel sides extending to the string course and with segmental heads. The surround to the front door is similar. The windows on the first floor have semicircular heads of three courses of brick, the brick jambs being interleaved with the adjacent stonework. The windows have granite sills, the ground floor windows having a single-piece granite apron below. The ground-floor windows are six-over-six timber sashes, the first floor windows have a six-pane lower sash, the upper sash having a semicircular head with radiating glazing bars.



Plate 11: View of officer's house from the south-west

The western façade of the officer's house has a full-height canted bay window at the northern side, with a pyramidal roof projecting from the western hip of the main roof, the angles in the roof weatherproofed with rolled lead sheeting. The façade is similar to that noted on the front elevation, with squared granite blocks and with the same brick eaves course and string course, together with the granite string course at ground-floor level, though the granite string course does not continue southward beyond the canted bay window.

Cast-iron hoppers carry the rain discharged from the ogee-profile gutters of the main wall and canted bay, feeding into a cast-iron downpipe to the north of the canted bay and a replacement uPVC downpipe to the south bay. A cast-iron soil vent pipe runs up the façade to the north of the southern window.



The southern side of the house is largely occluded by the tower and the adjacent twostorey cottages, with only a short section of the southern elevation visible on the western side of the cottages. The façade on this side is similar to that described above, including the brick eaves and string courses, while there is no basement area on this side and the granite string course is absent.

Plate 12: Southern side of house

Building survey

Coast Guard Station, Dún Laoghaire



Plate 13: Upper section of western elevation of house

The ground-floor windows on the western side of the house are six-over-six timber sliding sashes with segmental heads on the top sashes. On the upper floor the central window in the canted bay and the window to the south are similar to the first-floor windows on the front elevation. The two side windows on the bay are four-over-four sashes with semicircular heads on the upper sashes. The masonry surrounding the windows on the ground floor is similar to that on the front elevation, while the corners of the bay between the windows has a separate facing of red brick, not bonded into the window surrounds. On the upper floor the courses of the red-brick window surrounds of the bay continue into the brickwork of the corners.





Plate 14: Side windows at ground floor in bay

Plate 15: Side view of canted bay on first floor



Plate 16: View of officer's house from the east

The eastern elevation of the officer's house is single-bay. The windows at groundfloor and first-floor level are similar to those on the front elevation and the nature of the façade is also similar, with squared granite and with the brick and stone string courses. At the foot of the tower on the eastern side is the coal chute leading to the coal cellar below the tower



Plate 18: Upper floor on eastern side

Plate 19: Coal cellar chute adjacent to tower



Building survey

Coast Guard Station, Dún Laoghaire



Plate 20: View of chimneystack from the south-east

A single chimneystack rises from the valley between the main roof to the north and the pyramidal roof to the south. This stack is of brick, with a projecting brick course at mid-height, having a weatherproofing course of cut granite fillet. The topmost brick course also projects and the stack has a capping of cut granite. The stack supports eight chimney pots in two lines of four, each being a traditional Dublin buff-coloured ceramic pot.



Plate 21: Western elevation of former chimneystack in 2006

A second stack formerly rose from the western side of the roof of the tower. This was a brick stack with brick corbelling at the top and granite capping this stack had six flues in a single line. The stack was removed in about 2015 and the roof reslated.

Building survey

Coast Guard Station, Dún Laoghaire



Plate 22: Granite steps leading to front door

The front door of the officer's house is double-leaf and is approached via four granite steps on an arch spanning the basement area. The steps are flanked by cut granite plinth walls supporting a cast-iron railing that continues around the basement area. On the approach to the front steps is an apron of large granite flagstones.



Plate 23: Granite flags at front door



Plate 24: Oblique view of steps and railings at front door



Plate 25: Arch carrying steps to front door of officer's house

The officer's house has a basement area on three sides, the very narrow southern side not having any windows at basement level. The basement area is approximately 2.1 metres wide on the northern and western sides, though the bay window reduces the latter. At the eastern side the basement area is 1.4 metres wide. The approach to the front door spans the basement area via a parabolic brick arch, beneath which are two small recesses to provide storage on the side opposite the house.





Plate 26: Store beneath front steps

Plate 27: Store to west of front steps at basement level



Plate 28: Retaining wall on outer side of basement area

The basement area is enclosed by a retaining wall of granite rubble brought to courses. The wall is capped by dressed granite copings that also serve as a plinth wall as a base to the area railings. The railings are post and rail, with cast-iron posts supporting a cast-iron top rail having dogtooth pattern on the upper and lateral surfaces. There are three slender wrought iron rails at lower levels.



The basement area is accessed from the land to the front of the house via a flight of steel steps of late date.

Plate 29 (left): Steel steps to basement area



Plate 30 (above): Railings at basement area

Plate 31: Detail of railings

Building survey

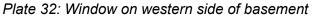


The window in the western part of the northern elevation of the basement is blind, with an infill of red brick, previously painted to resemble a sash window to match the other windows.

Plate 33 (right): Blind window



The southern window on the western side of the officer's house at basement level has brick margins and a flat brick arch. The window is a six-over-six timber sliding sash with square panes and with quadrant horns. The window opening is guarded by wrought-iron bars. The central window at basement level in the canted bay and the two windows lighting the easternmost room at basement level are similar, but without the brick heads, the broad granite string course serving as lintels over those window openings. All windows have hammer-dressed granite sills.





The windows on the sides of the canted bay window are similar to the others, though narrower, the panes being vertical rather than square.

Plate 34: Window at side of bay window

Building survey

Coast Guard Station, Dún Laoghaire



Plate 35: Canted bay at basement level



The basement area is surfaced with sand and cement. On the western side there is a ceramic surface-water drain with a rodding eye. On the eastern side of the officer's house the basement level terminates at the base of the tower. The wall of the tower that closes the basement area continues the two-course granite string course, while below it the masonry is of random granite rubble similar to that of the retaining wall on the outer side of the basement area.

Plate 36: Eastern side of basement area



Plate 37: Drain and rodding eye

Interior

Basement

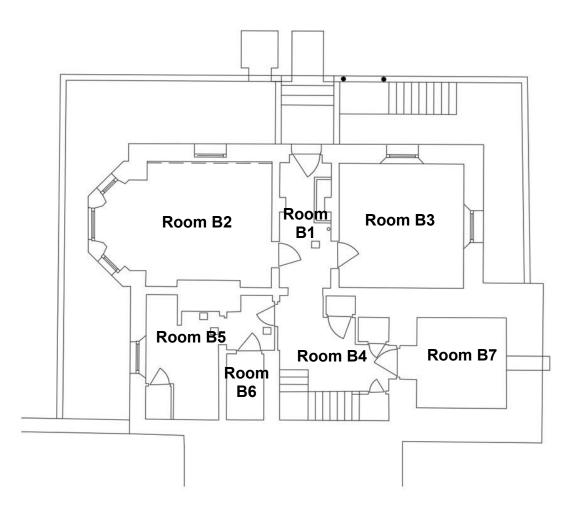


Figure 4: Plan of basement showing room numbers

Room B1: Entrance hall

At basement level there is a door leading to the basement area. The door is clad in steel sheeting and painted. Above the door is a three-light glazed panel. The entrance hall is divided by projecting piers on either side, reflecting the division between internal porch and entrance hall on the floor above. The piers support a slight downstand for a beam above.

The walls in this area are plastered and painted and have a dado rail slightly above the mid point. The floor is of concrete and has a drainage cover in the inner area of the hall.

Plate 38: View to external door in basement





The inner section of the entrance hall is divided from the stair hall by an opening enclosed by projecting walls and a downstand from the ceiling. There is no door or door frame.

The ceiling in the entrance hall if unadorned and has various services, some running along the upper part of the walls.

Plate 39: View towards stair hall

Room B2



Plate 40: View to west in room B2

Room B2 is in the north-western corner of the basement and is the largest room on this level, projecting into the canted bay window. The room is entered via a timber-sheeted and framed door set in a simple timber architrave. The door opens outwards into the entrance hall, though there was previously an inward-opening door. The floor is of concrete. The ceiling is of lath and plaster, with some holes where services have been run through. The electrical services are surface mounted on walls and ceiling. The walls are plastered and painted, with severe peeling of paint seemingly due to use of non-breathable paint over damp walls. The skirting is of simple boarding without mouldings.



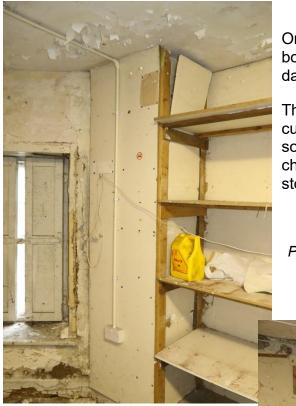
Plate 41: View to east in room B2

Building survey

Coast Guard Station, Dún Laoghaire



Plate 42: Services and holes in ceiling in room B2



On either side of the canted bay there is boxing to conceal services; this is of late date.

The room is fitted with shelving and cupboards, also of late date. On the southern wall is a projecting chimneybreast, though the hearth is stopped up and there is no chimneypiece.

Plate 43: Box-in services in north-west corner

Plate 44: Chimneybreast





Plate 45: Shuttered windows in canted bay

As noted in the survey of the exterior, the windows at basement level in the canted bay are six-over-six timber sliding sashes with quadrant horns. The sashes in the central window have square panes, while the flanking windows are narrower and have vertical panes.

The windows have timber heads internally. The panelled shutters have no shutter boxes and there are no architraves. The shutters are secured with flat wroughtiron bars fastened with hooks and eyes.



Plate 46: Wrought-iron fastenings at rear of shutters

Room B3: Kitchen



Plate 47: View to north in kitchen

The kitchen is in the north-eastern corner of the basement of the officer's house. It is lit by six-over-six timber sliding sash windows in the northern and eastern walls, each having quadrant horns. The eastern window has one panelled shutter, the other shutter being missing. The northern window has panelled shutters. Both sets of shutters had fastenings similar to those noted above in room B2, though the flat wrought-iron bars are missing except that on the right-hand northern shutter. The windows have no shutter boxes or architraves.



Plate 48: View to east in kitchen

Building survey

Coast Guard Station, Dún Laoghaire



Plate 49: View to west in room B3

Room B3 is entered from the entrance hall via a timber sheeted and framed door set in a simple timber architrave. The walls in room B3 are plastered and painted and are tiled in the lower parts around the greater part of the room. The room has an unadorned flat ceiling of lath and plaster. The floor is of concrete.



Plate 50: Ceiling in room B3

Room B4: Stair hall



Plate 51: Stairway at basement level

The stairway at basement level is of granite and commences with a flight of four steps running south to a granite landing, where it turns to the east, with eight steps running to a second granite landing where the stairs turn north to the ground floor. The upper steps are so-called cantilevered. The simple balustrade has a single round-section wrought-iron baluster on each step, supporting a flat wrought-iron handrail with a curved upper surface and terminating at the bottom with a scroll.



Plate 52: Stairway at basement level

The walls in this area are painted, though the paint is peeling, probably due to use of a non-breathable paint on damp walls. A painted faux-dado divides two colours on the walls.



Plate 53: View into entrance hall from stairway

Doors lead from the stair hall to the north into the entrance hall and to the west into the toilets. To the east is a doorway into the vaulted store beneath the coast guard tower.



Plate 55: Eastern store

On the northern side of the stair hall, to the east of the doorway to the entrance hall, there are two stores. The eastern of the two stores is deeper than that to the west and it is accessed via a door adjacent to the vaulted store beneath the tower. The door is of braced plywood and is painted. The interior of the store is plastered with a plain plaster ceiling.

Plate 54: Doorway to store



Building survey





The western of the two stores is shallower than the eastern store. It is accessed via a door of painted plywood over which is a framed timber panel. The walls inside the store are painted and there is a simple skirting.

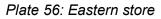




Plate 57: Door to eastern store

Plate 58: Eastern store

Room B5: Bathroom



Plate 59: View to east to doorway to bathroom

The bathroom in room B5 is at the south-western corner of the basement of the officer's house. It is entered from the stair hall via a lobby with a modern hollow door with a simple timber frame. Within the lobby there is a dado rail; the walls are painted, the paint peeling in places. Entry beyond the lobby into the bathroom is via a doorway with a chamfered timber architrave and no door. The lower part of the walls within the bathroom are tiled, though the tiles have detached in places, probably due to damp in thee walls. The walls are painted. The ceiling is painted and the paint is peeling. The floor is of concrete.



Plate 60: View to south in bathroom

Building survey



Plate 61: View to west in bathroom

The bathroom is lit by a six-over-six timber sliding sash with quadrant horns and with panelled shutters and no shutter boxes or architrave. On the northern side of the bathroom is a shower cubicle separated by a tiled wall on the eastern side and having a shower tray raised above floor level. To the east of this is a wash basin. On the eastern wall is another wash basin and two urinals. In the south-western corner is a WC cubicle with simple partitioning below ceiling height and with a plain door. The services are surface mounted.



Plate 62: View to north in bathroom

Room B6: Store

Leading off the lobby that accesses the bathroom is a store that is divided from the bathroom by masonry walls. The ceiling is of lath and plaster and has failed in part. The store is accessed via a timber-sheeted door with high level ventilation holes. Within the store is a shelf at high level that runs around three sides of the store, below which are boards to which blocks of timber are fixed. Above the shelf on the eastern side is a ventilation grille that opens onto the stairway. In the south-eastern corner a cast-iron soil pipe descends from the room above.

Plate 63: View into store



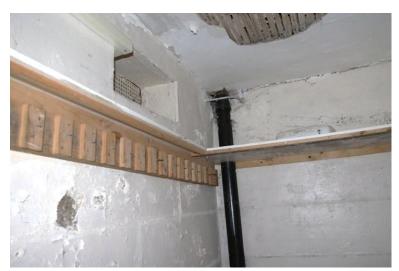


Plate 64: Corner of store

Plate 65: Ventilation grille



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Room B7: Cellar

At the base of the tower is a vaulted store that is accessed from the officer's house and not from the tower. The store is accessed via a timbersheeted door from the eastern side of the stair hall. The walls of the store are of squared granite and the barrel vault is of brick, all of which is limewashed. The margins of the door are of brick and the doorway is spanned by a relieving arch over a timber lintel. The floor is of concrete.

Plate 66: Doorway to vaulted store





Plate 67: View west in store

The store would have served as a coal cellar and a rectangular opening in the eastern wall is the lower end of a coal chute from the ground floor above to deliver coal to the cellar.

Plate 68: View east in store



Ground floor

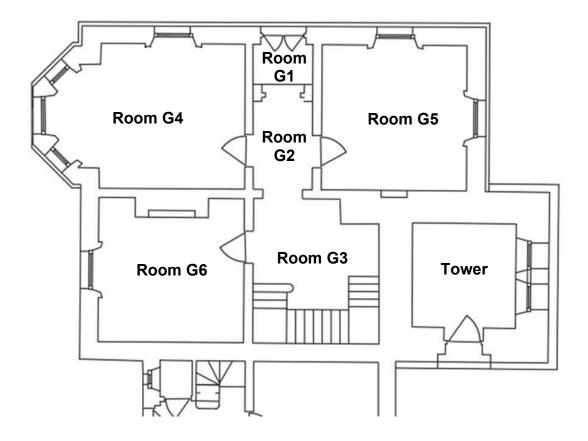


Figure 5: Plan of ground floor showing room numbers

The ground-floor level is accessed via the front door on the northern side and also has access to the basement and to the first floor. The only other external door is at basement level and while there is a stairway from the area to the front of the house down into the basement area there appears to have been no external access to that area originally. Hence the front door at ground-floor level was the only access to the house, the basement door giving access only to the basement area, which did not connect to the ground above.

There is no access into the tower from the ground floor and the room on that level in the tower is described below as part of the overall examination of the tower.

Room G1: Porch

The principal entry to the officer's house is via the front door on the northern side. As noted above, the doorway is approached via a flight of steps; these reach the doorway which has a pair of panelled doors. Above the doors is a ten-pane fanlight with a segmental head.

Entry to the house is into an internal porch that is separated from the rest of the interior by a doorway to the entrance hall. That doorway has four-panelled door and a plain glazed light above to provide borrowed light to the entrance hall.

Plate 69: Internal face of front doorway





Plate 70: View from porch into entrance hall



Plate 71: Fanlight above front door

Building survey



Plate 73: Electricity board in porch

The floor in the porch has a covering of encaustic tiles.

Plate 74 (below): Tiles in porch



The ceiling above the porch is flat, with a plain cornice. Some services have broken through the cornice. The ceiling is painted and the paint is peeling.

On the eastern side of the porch are the electricity meters, switchgear and trip switches.

The walls in the porch are plastered and painted.

Plate 72: Ceiling in porch



Room G2: Entrance hall



Plate 75 (above): View from hall to stair

Plate 76: View from stair into hall

Plate 77 (below): Cornice in entrance hall



As noted above, the entrance hall is entered from the internal porch via a four-panelled door. This is set in a moulded-timber architrave and has a plain glass overlight. Doorways lead to either side of the entrance hall to rooms G4 and G5. At the southern end of the hall an archway gives access to the stair hall; there is no door in this archway. The walls and ceiling in the entrance hall are plastered and painted and there is a painted dado. The skirtings are of moulded timber.



Room G3: Stair hall



Plate 78: View southward to staircase

Within the stair hall the staircase rises from the basement below, as described above. The stairway to the floor above is of timber and is open string with two turned balusters per tread supporting a broad hardwood handrail that terminates at the lower end with a volute. A bottom flight of four steps runs southward to a landing, where the stairway turns to the east through eight steps before turning through another landing to run to the first floor. The treads have vinyl nosings.



As seen in the adjacent photograph, the uppermost flight is the longest.

Plate 79: View of staircase from north-west



Plate 80: Iron balustrade on steps to basement

The granite steps up from the basement have been described above. The wrought-iron balustrade terminates before the last short flight of steps so that it is not visible from the main stair hall. The basement stair well is guarded by a timber balustrade similar to that on the stairway to the first floor. Turned timber balusters run along the southern and eastern margins of the basement stairway, terminating at the northern end of the eastern balustrade at a turned newel, while the western end of the balustrade ramps down below the soffit of the main staircase.



Plate 81: Timber balustrade at stairwell of basement stairs



Plate 82: View to north-east in main stair hall

The walls in the main stair hall are plastered and painted, with a painted dado. The soffit of the staircase and the ceiling below the landing are of lath and plaster and are painted. The timber skirtings are of moulded timber. The archway leading to the entrance hall has been noted above. One other doorway leads from the stair hall on the western side and has a moulded-timber architrave and a modern hollow door. The floor has a covering of vinyl or similar product. The electrical services are surface mounted.



Plate 83: View to north-west in main stair hall

Room G4



Plate 84: View to west in room G4

Room G4 is in the north-western corner of the ground floor of the officer's house. The room is lit by the canted bay window on the western elevation, with a central six-over-six timber sash flanked by narrower six-over-six sashes, all of which have quadrant horns and segmental heads. A window on the northern wall is also sixover-six with quadrant horns and segmental heads. The windows all have panelled shutters set in moulded-timber architraves and with panelled boards beneath. The ceiling is flat and has a run cornice. The walls are plastered and painted with peeling paint. The moulded-timber skirting has been replaced in part with plaster.



Plate 85: View to east in room G4

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Plate 86: View to east in room G4

Room G4 is entered via traditional door faced with plywood and set in a mouldedtimber architrave. A chimneybreast on the southern wall has a chimneypiece of veined white marble having a cast-iron insert. The floor has a covering of vinyl or similar product.





Plate 87: View to south-east in room G4

Plate 88: Chimneypiece in room G4

Room G5



Plate 89: View to west in room G5

Room G5 in the north-eastern corner of the ground floor of the officer's house is entered from the entrance hall via a traditional door with a facing of plywood and set in a moulded-timber architrave. The lath and plaster ceiling is flat and painted. The walls are plastered and painted except for an extensive area of modern gypsum plaster on the southern wall and tiling to dado level on the western and part of the northern wall. The floor has a covering of vinyl or similar product over boards. The skirtings are of moulded timber.



Plate 90: View to north in room G5



Plate 91: View to east in room G5

The room is lit by six-over-six timber sash windows in the northern and eastern walls, each with segmental heads, quadrant horns and panelled shutters set in moulded-timber architraves. A hearth on the southern wall has a cast-iron insert with tiled cheeks but no chimneypiece.



Plate 92: View to south in room G5

Room G6:



Plate 93: View to the east in room G6

Room G6 in the south-western corner of the ground floor level of the officer's house is entered via a traditional door with a facing of plywood that is set in a moulded-timber architrave. The lath and plaster ceiling is flat and has a run cornice. The walls are plastered and painted and there is a moulded-timber skirting. The floor is boarded, the margins of the floor being stained black.



Plate 94: View to the south-east in room G6

Building survey

Coast Guard Station, Dún Laoghaire



Plate 95: View to the west in room G6

The room is lit by a west-facing six-over-six timber sliding sash window with a segmental head. The window has panelled shutters set in a moulded-timber architrave. A projecting chimneybreast on the northern wall has a plain chimneypiece with an arched cast-iron insert.



Plate 96: View to the north in room G6

First floor

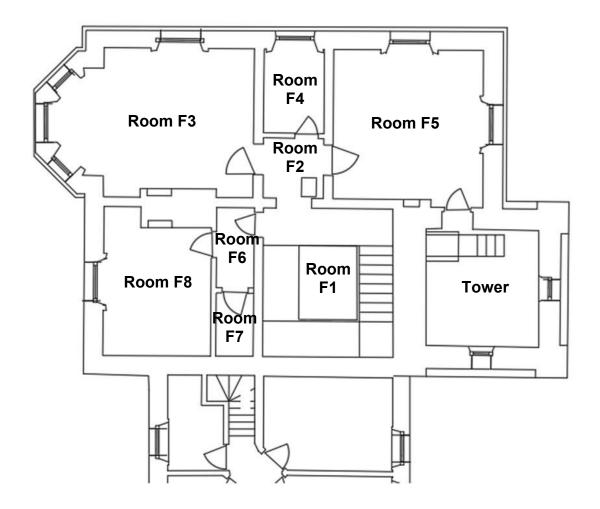


Figure 6: Plan of first floor showing room numbers

The first floor has an access to the tower from room F5. The opening to the tower is noted in the description of that room, while the room within the tower at first-floor level is described in the section below dealing with the tower.

Room F1: Stair hall



Plate 97: View to first-floor landing

The upper level of the stair hall consists of a narrow landing that gives access through a doorway in the western wall to a lobby at Room F6 from which rooms F7 and F8 are accessed and an arched opening leading to a lobby at room F2 from which rooms F3, F4 and F5 are accessed. The balustrade that runs up the staircase continues along the margin of the landing, terminating at the western wall. The walls in this area are plastered and painted, though the paint is peeling in places. The floor has a covering of vinyl or similar product.



Plate 98: Balustrade on first-floor landing



The doorway in the western wall has no architrave and is relatively narrow. The skirting is of moulded timber and there is a painted dado on the northern wall.

The ceiling in the stair well is pyramidal with a rectangular opening in the centre, above which is a rectangular glazed skylight. There is a plain run cornice around the margin of the ceiling.

Plate 99: First-floor landing



Plate 100: Ceiling over stair hall

Building survey

Room F2: Lobby

The lobby at room F2 is a small area, approximately 1.7 metres square and leads off the first-floor landing via the arched opening noted above. Three doorways lead off this lobby into rooms F3, F4 and F5 to the west, north and east respectively.

The walls in the lobby are plastered and painted, with a painted dado. The ceiling is flat, without a cornice. The floor has a covering of vinyl or similar product.

Plate 101: View to north in lobby F2



Plate 103: Trapdoor access to roof space



Each of the doorways leading off the lobby has a moulded-timber architrave. The arched opening has roll mouldings at the margins.

A trapdoor in the ceiling of the lobby gives access to the roof space and has a plain architrave. Through this opening the underside of the slates is seen to have parge, without sarking felt.

Plate 102: View to east in lobby F2



Room F3



Plate 104: View to west in room F3

Room F3 is in the north-western corner of the first floor of the officer's house. The room is lit by the canted bay window to the west and another window in the northern wall. The northern window and the central window in the bay have six-pane lower sashes an semicircular heads with spoked upper section and three-pane lower section. The flanking windows in the canted bay have four-over-four sliding sashes with semicircular heads. The windows in the bay have curled horns while those in the northern window have quadrant horns and all windows have panelled shutters set in moulded-timber architraves.



Plate 105: View to north in room F3

Building survey

Coast Guard Station, Dún Laoghaire



Plate 106: View to east in room F3

The walls and ceiling in room F3 are plastered with pink gypsum plaster, unpainted. There are significant areas of damp and mould in the south-western and north-eastern corners. The room is entered via a four-panelled door set in a moulded-timber architrave. The door has the longer panels in the lower section and shorter panels above. There is a moulded-timber skirting. The floor has a covering of vinyl or similar material. A shallow chimneybreast in the southern wall has a small cast-iron chimneypiece.



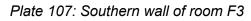


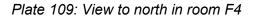
Plate 108: Chimneypiece in room F3

Building survey

Room F4

Room F4 is in the centre of the northern side of the first floor and is entered via a four-panelled door set in a mouldedtimber architrave.

The room has two wash basins on the eastern wall and one on the western wall. Also adjacent to the western wall is a shower cubicle. A soil pipe runs down the south-eastern wall adjacent to the doorway.







The room is crossed from east to west by two steel I-beams just above door height.

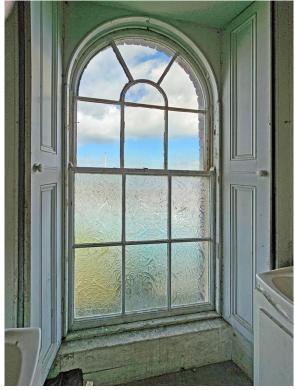
Plate 110: View to south in room F4

Building survey

The room is lit by a timber sash window in the northern wall with a six-pane lower sash and a round-headed upper sash with spoked panes in the upper section, both sashes having curled horns. The lower sash has obscured glass in all six panes. The window has panelled shutters and a moulded-timber architrave.

Plate 111: Window in room F4





The walls and ceiling in room F4 have a covering of pink gypsum plaster that is boasting in places. There is no cornice.

Plate 112: Ceiling in room F4

Room F5



Plate 113: View to north in room F5

Room F5 occupies the north-eastern section of the officer's house at first-floor level. The room is lit by a sash window in the northern wall and another in the eastern wall, each having a six-pane lower sash and an upper sash with a semicircular head with a spoked upper section. The northern sash has curled horns while the eastern sash has quadrant horns. The windows have panelled shutters set in moulded-timber architraves. On the southern wall is a hearth with a small cast-iron chimneypiece.



Plate 114: View to east in room F5 Plate 115: Chimneypiece in room F5



Plate 116: View to south in room F5

Room F5 is accessed via a four-panelled door set in a moulded-timber architrave. The floor has a covering of vinyl or similar material. The walls and ceiling have a skim of pink gypsum plaster and no cornice. There are areas of damp near the southern end of the ceiling. Near the eastern end of the southern wall is a recessed area of the wall in which is a doorway leading to the first floor of the tower, the floor level in the tower being a step up from room F5. The door to the tower is a modern hollow door and the opening is of late date, as described below in the description of the tower.



Building survey

Room F6: Lobby

Room F6 is a small lobby that facilitates access from the first-floor landing to the WC at room F7 and the bedroom at room F8. The lobby is entered from the landing via a four-panelled door in a simple frame without an architrave.

The walls are plastered and painted and have a painted dado. The ceiling is flat and there is no cornice. The doorways to rooms F7 and F8 have moulded-timber architraves.



Plate 119: View into room F6 from landing

Plate 121: View south in lobby F6



Plate 120: View to north in lobby F6



Building survey

Room F7: WC

Room F7 lies to the south of the lobby leading into the south-western part of the officer's house at first-floor level. The room is a small WC and is entered via a four-panelled door set in a moulded-timber architrave.

A soil pipe runs up the south-eastern corner of the room. The sanitary ware is of later twentieth-century date.

Plate 122: View south in room F7





The walls and ceiling are plastered and painted with the paint peeling in places.

The room is top-lit by a skylight in the rear slope of the pyramidal roof in the south-west section of the house.

Plate 123: Ceiling in room

Room F8



Plate 124: Eastern wall in room F8

Room F8 is in the south-western corner of the first floor of the officer's house. The room is entered via a four-panelled door from the lobby F6, the doorway having a moulded-timber architrave. A projecting chimneybreast in the northern wall has a small cast-iron chimneypiece similar to that in room F5.



Plate 126: Chimneypiece in room F8

Plate 125: Northern wall in room F8



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Plate 127: Western wall of room F8

Room F8 is lit by a window in the western wall that is round-headed and similar to those in other rooms on the first floor. The window has curled horns and panelled shutters set in a moulded-timber architrave.

The walls and ceiling are skimmed with pink gypsum plaster and there is no cornice. There is significant damp in the north-western corner and the southern wall.



Plate 128: Detail of window in room F8



Plate 129: Southern wall

The tower

Exterior



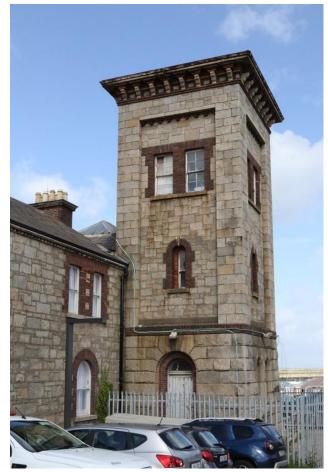
The tower is a three-storey over basement structure measuring approximately 4.5 metres externally and 3.2 metres internally in plan and 14.2 metres above ground level to the eaves.

The style of the tower is Venetian influenced. It has a rusticated ground floor with a distinct batter, while the first and second floors are of dressed squared granite, the central part of the elevation recessed behind the quoins.

Plate 130: View of tower from the east

The tower is located to the east of the officer's house, abutting the southern part of the eastern side of the house, with the house abutting part of the northern side of the tower. Immediately to the south is the terrace of eight coast guard cottages, the northern end of which abuts the tower.

Plate 131: View of tower from the south



Building survey

The roof of the tower is a shallow pyramid with a covering of slate and with ceramic hip tiles. The roof has wide eaves supported on yellow brick brackets resting on two courses of brick, flanked by brick and with three courses of brick corbelling above, which in turn support a granite eaves course.



Plate 132: Roof and eaves on tower

Below the eaves the walling of the tower is of squared granite. Above ground-floor level the projecting quoins are of hammer-dressed granite ashlar, while the recessed area between the quoins is of smaller blocks in random sizes and not brought to courses. The area below the eaves is of small blocks brought to courses laid on granite flags supported on corbelled brick brackets.



On each side of the top floor is a pair of window openings with red brick margins, flat brick arches and granite sills. The eastern and southern windows are fourover-four timber sliding sashes with quadrant horns on the upper sashes. On the northern side is one such window and one casement, as described below. The openings on the western side are blind with brick fill.

Plate 133: Second-floor windows on eastern side of tower

On the eastern and southern sides of the tower are narrow windows at first-floor level. These have dark red margins and semi-circular heads with yellow brick keystones. The openings are narrowed by an inner margin of paler red brick. The southern window is a oneover-one sash with quadrant horns The eastern window is similar, though the upper sash is missing. The sills are of granite.



Plate 134: First-floor window on eastern side of tower

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Plate 135: Second-floor windows on northern side of tower

As noted above, one window on the second floor of the tower, on the northern side, is a timber casement, while the other window is a four-over-four sash similar to the others on that floor. The casement gave access to a small iron balconette that is now in poor condition. This consisted of an iron plate laid horizontally as the floor of the balconette and supported on two cantilevered iron brackets, of which only one now survives. Two wrought iron bars rising vertically from the outer corners of the iron plate support a horizontal wrought iron bar as a protective railing, now badly bent.



Plate 136: Balconette at northern window on second floor

Building survey



Plate 137: Ground-floor level of tower on eastern side

The ground-floor level of the tower differs from the upper floors, being constructed in a rugged style to convey the solidity of the base. The bottom two courses are of hammer-dressed granite ashlar, each projecting slightly from the course above and with a chamfered upper surface. These courses are continuations of the courses running around the perimeter of the officer's house. Above this the walls are of rock-faced granite ashlar with a distinct batter. Above this, separating the ground and first floors, are four courses of dark red brick. On the eastern side of the tower are two windows with round heads, the granite ashlar formed into voussoirs and splayed into the window openings with tooled margins at the outer edge of the splay. The windows are six-over-four timber sliding sashes with quadrant horns and have red-brick margins and heads.



Plate 138: Ground-floor level of tower on southern side

Building survey



Access to the tower is via a doorway on the southern side of the ground floor. The door is timber sheeted with a plain glass semicircular fanlight above. The doorway is flanked by brick red brick margins and with red brick arch, all recessed into an arched opening in the rock-faced granite ashlar, the ashlar forming the voussoirs. The doorway is reached via four granite steps and a fifth at the door.

Plate 139: Doorway to tower

Plate 140: Oblique view of doorway





Plate 141: Steps to doorway



Plate 142: Upper section of tower on northern side

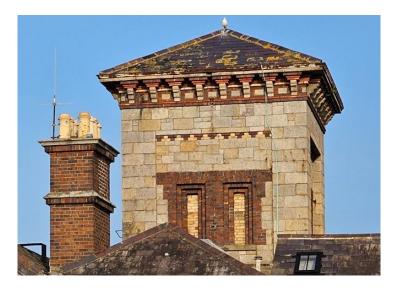


Plate 143: Upper section of tower on western side

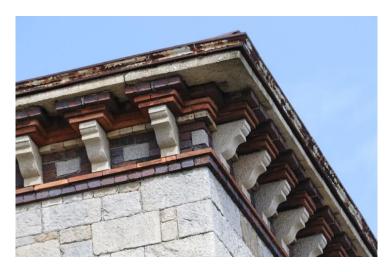


Plate 144: Detail of eaves of tower

Interior

The basement level of the tower is accessed only from the basement of the officer's house and is described in that section. It has no connection with the upper floors of the tower and is not addressed again under this heading.

Ground floor

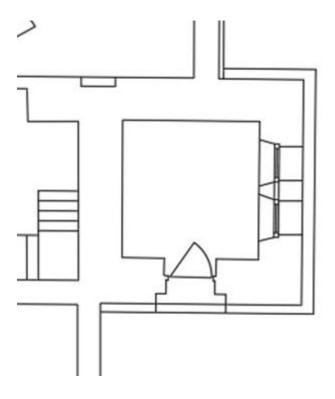


Figure 7: Plan of ground-floor level of tower

The ground-floor level of the tower consists of a single room and is accessed from the exterior via a doorway on the southern wall. This room has no interconnection with the officer's house, the basement level of the tower or the upper floors of the tower, though there would originally have been a companion ladder to provide access to the upper floors.



Plate 145: Southern wall of ground-floor room of tower, with doorway

The ground-floor level of the tower is accessed via a timber-sheeted and framed door in the southern wall, over which is a single-pane segmental fanlight.



Plate 146: Western wall of ground floor room

The western wall of the ground-floor room is plain, except for a timber rail fixed to the northern, western and part of the eastern walls on which are fixed aluminium alloy hooks of relatively late date. The walls are painted, the lower part in a different colour, and the paint is peeling in a number of places.



Plate 147: Northern wall of ground floor

The northern wall of the room is also plain apart from the timber rail mentioned above.



Plate 148: Eastern wall of ground floor, with windows

There are two windows in the eastern wall, each of which is a six-over-four timber sliding sash with quadrant horns. The windows have timber frames and no shutters or architrave. The window boards are of timber.

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Plate 149: Skirtings in ground-floor room

The skirtings are of timber, some having a roll moulding on upper face, others having a moulding typical of skirtings of more recent date.

The floor is tiled with a chequerboard pattern of red and black tiles of small size. In the centre of the western wall is a rectangular panel of brick, indicating the former existence of a hearth at this location.



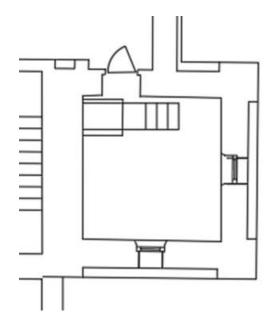
Plate 150: Floor and former hearth

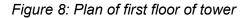


The ceiling above the ground floor room is of lath and plaster. In the north-western corner is a trapdoor in the ceiling that is also visible on the first-floor level.

Plate 151: Trapdoor access in ceiling

First floor





The first-floor level of the tower is accessed through the first-floor level of the officer's house and has no direct entry from the exterior since the removal of the ladder access from the ground floor room. Ladder access runs from this floor to connect with the second-floor level of the tower.

Building survey

The first floor of the tower is accessed via a doorway from the first floor of the officer's house through the northern wall of the tower. This doorway is a later insertion and has concrete block margins set into the original stonework. The wall in the tower is limewashed, while the concrete is not.

The walls of the tower are constructed of granite rubble brought to courses, except on the western side where there are significant areas of brickwork.

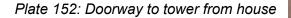




Plate 154: Northern wall on first floor



Plate 153: Doorway to house from tower



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The windows on the eastern and southern sides of the tower on the first floor have semicircular heads and have brick margins and arches, the margins having a slight splay. The window on the southern side is a one-over-one timber sliding sash with quadrant horns. The eastern window would have been similar but is now missing its upper sash, the opening having a sheet of Perspex in its place.

Plate 155: Eastern wall on first floor of tower

The eastern and southern walls are of granite rubble brought to courses. The southern wall is limewashed, except that the window arch is painted, while the entirety of the eastern wall is painted.

The floor has a covering of linoleum.

Plate 156: Southern wall on first floor



Building survey



The former presence of a chimneystack on the western slope of the roof of the tower has been noted above. The western wall within the tower at first-floor level is partly of rubble granite, though with substantial areas of brick where the chimney flues run up the thickness of the wall.

Plate 157: Western wall on first floor



Plate 158: Underside of upper floor at first-floor level

There is no ceiling above the first floor of the tower, the floor joists and boards of the second floor being exposed and limewashed. The location of the hearth on the floor above is evident in the framing of the floor joists.



Access to the second floor of the tower is from the first floor via a fixed companionway ladder. This is located close to the northern wall and runs from the eastern side of the first-floor room to a hatch at the western side of the floor above. The ladder has timber runners and steps and a timber post and rail balustrade on the southern side.

Plate 159: Ladder to second floor

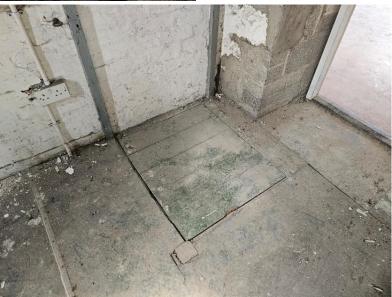


Plate 160: Trapdoor in floor at first-floor level

A trapdoor in the floor at the north-western corner of the first floor of the tower indicates the original access to this floor from the ground floor level below prior to the opening up of the entrance from the house. The trapdoor is of timber boards.

Second floor

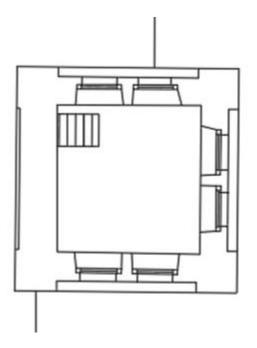


Figure 9: Plan of second floor of tower



Plate 161: Northern side of second-floor room in tower

There is a single room on the second floor, accessed via the companionway ladder from the floor below. A timber built-in desk runs around the northern, eastern and southern sides of this floor, with built-in cupboards below. This desk is not an original fitting. The walls on the northern, eastern and southern sides are of rubble stone with brick piers separating the paired window openings, which have timber heads.



Plate 162: Eastern side of second-floor room in tower

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Plate 163: Southern side of second-floor room in tower

The walls on the second floor are all limewashed. The floor has a covering of linoleum.



Plate 164: Western side of second-floor room in tower

The western wall of the room on the second floor of the tower is largely of brick, though with some granite at the southern end.



Plate 165: Hearth on second floor of tower

To left of centre of the western wall is a small hearth with a segmental brick arch and no chimneypiece. The lower part of the hearth opening is narrowed by brick and the fireback is of brick. A large pile of mortar and brick fragments emanating from the hearth opening is likely to result from the removal of the brick stack from the roof above.



Plate 166: Trapdoor access from below

The ladder access from below is guarded by a timber railing on the eastern side and is closed by a timber boarded trapdoor.

Building survey

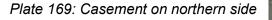
The majority of the windows are fourover-four timber sliding sashes without shutters or architrave. The upper sashes all have quadrant horns, as do the lower sashes on the northern and southern sides, while the lower sashes on the eastern side have curled horns.

As noted above, the eastern window on the northern side is a six-light timber casement that gave access to an iron balconette outside.

Plate 167: Sash window on northern side



Plate 168: Eastern sash with curled horns





Houses



Plate 170: View of houses from the west

The accommodation for the coast guard men, other than the officer, was in a terrace of six houses, with two additional houses added a few years after the construction of the coast guard station. The terrace is aligned north-south with access from the western side where a common approach lane runs past the fronts of the houses. On the opposite side of this lane is a range of enclosed yards, one per house, and these are described below in the section on the grounds of the coast guard station.



Plate 171: Southern end of terrace



Plate 172: Eastern side of terrace

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Plate 173: Western side of houses 1 and 2 at southern end of terrace

The western side of the terrace is faced with granite rubble brought to courses. For the most part the granite is squared, though there is a small number of unshaped stones. The houses are two-bay and two-storey, having a door and a window on the ground floor and two windows above. Houses 3 to 8 have small high-level windows adjacent to the front door. The window and door openings have brick surrounds, with granite sills and a granite step at the doorway.



Plate 174: Western side of house 2

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Plate 175: Western side of houses 3 and 4

At the eaves a course of dogtooth yellow brick is corbelled out and supports a corbelled course of red brick, above which is an ogee-profile cast-iron gutter that runs the length of the terrace, with hoppers and downpipes between houses 1 and 2, 3 and 4, 5 and 6 and at the northern end adjacent to house 8.



Plate 176: Western side of houses 4 and 5



Plate 177: Western side of house 5

A number of soil vent pipes run down the western fronts of the houses. These include narrow pipes on the fronts of houses 3, 4, 5 and 6 and more substantial soil stacks each serving two premises at houses 2 and 3, 4 and 5 and 6 and 7. House 8 has a separate soil stack.



Plate 178: Western side of house 6

The area to the front of house 4 has been enclosed with a metal fence.

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Plate 179: Western side of house number 7

The doors are timber sheeted with three-light glazed panels above. The principal windows are two-over-two timber sliding sashes with elongated quadrant horns. The small windows adjacent to the doorways at houses 3 to 8 are centre-hung casements.



Plate 180: Western side of house number 8



Plate 181: Southern side of house number 1

The eastern and southern façades of house numbers 1 and 2 are faced with squared hammer-dressed granite of random size, brought to courses and with hammer-dressed granite quoins all above a plinth course of granite ashlar. The southern elevation of house 1 has a narrow soil stack, a more substantial soil stack and a downpipe leading from ogee guttering, all of which is of cast iron.



Plate 182: Eastern side of houses 1 and 2



Plate 183: Eastern side of houses 4 and 5

The other six houses, houses 3 to 8, have less regular masonry, with smaller granite blocks, roughly squared and brought to courses. In all cases these elevations rise from a projecting plinth course of granite ashlar with chamfered upper margins.



Plate 184: Eastern side of houses 7 and 8

Building survey



The eastern windows at ground-floor level in houses 2 to 8 have similar openings and sills, though the windows are two-over-two sashes with semicircular heads.

The upper floor windows in all eight houses are paired two-over-two sliding sashes with elongated quadrant horns. The openings have flat brick heads and brick margins, with yellow brick inserted in three panels between the windows, above which are projecting tile courses.

Plate 186: Typical ground-floor eastern window



The ground-floor windows on the southern and eastern sides of the terrace have semicircular heads, red brick margins and red brick heads. The sills are of granite.

The southern window in house number 1 has a six-pane lower sash, the upper sash having three panes beneath a central semicircular light from which spokes radiate. The eastern window in house 1 is similar, except that there are three panes in the lower sash and six below the semicircle in the upper sash.

Plate 185: Southern window in house 1



Plate 187: Typical first-floor eastern windows



Plate 188: Detail of brick arch at window heads

The bricks in the arches over the windows are tapered to fit the radius of the curve.

The rainwater on the eastern and southern sides is handled by ogee-profile cast-iron gutters that feed into downpipes in the corners adjacent to houses 3 and 8 and in the centre of the terrace between houses 5 and 6. The northern downpipe is fed via a swans neck, while the other two feed directly from the gutter.



Plate 189: Swans neck and downpipe at house 8



The hammer-dressed granite plinth at the base of the eastern side of the terrace has been noted above.

Plate 190: Granite plinth

Building survey

The roof is slated and is continuous on the western side from a gable at the northern end to a hip on the southern. On the eastern side the southernmost two houses project beyond the other six and the roof above those houses is hipped. There are vents of recent origin in some locations along the roof suggesting that the houses below have had their lofts insulated.



Plate 191: View southward along eastern slope of roof

Three chimneystacks rise from the ridge of the terrace on the party walls between houses 3 and 4, 5 and 6 and 7 and 8. Each has two rows of traditional pots, representing four flues per house. Houses 1 and 2 are served by a stack rising from the western eaves and having a straight line of four pots, while another rises through the eastern slope of the roof above those two houses, also having a straight line of four pots. All five stacks are of brick with corbelled upper courses, while the three on the ridge also have corbelled courses above ridge height.



Plate 192: Chimneystack on ridge of terrace

Plate 193 (below): Stack on eastern slope



Houses 3 to 8 each have a Velux-type conservation roof light on the eastern slope to light the staircase.

Historic Building Consultants

Interior – house 3

House number 3 has been selected as an example of a typical house in the terrace of houses that formerly accommodated the staff of the coast guard station. The plan form is similar to those of houses 4 to 8, though it differs from the somewhat larger houses 1 and 2. Houses 1 and 2 have a floor area of approximately 77.2 square metres, while the area of houses 3 to 8 is approximately 64.5 square metres.

Ground floor

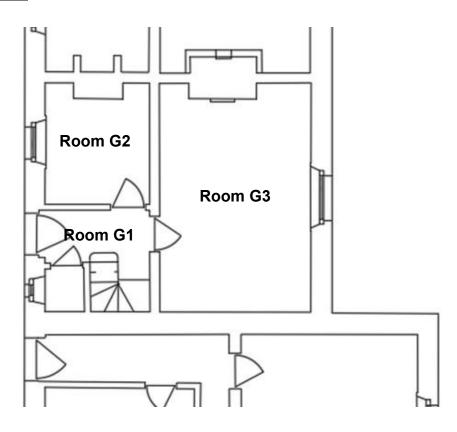


Figure 10: Plan of ground floor of house number 3

Room G1: Entrance hall



Plate 195: Tiled floor in house 3



House number 3 is entered from the west via a doorway with a timber sheeted and framed door over which is a rectangular three-light panel. The floor in the hall is tiled with a chequerboard pattern of relatively small red and black ceramic tiles. This skirtings are plain boards. The electricity trip switches are at high level on the northern wall.

Doorways lead to the kitchen to the north and the living room to the east, each having a simple timber architrave.

Plate 194: Doorway to house 3



Plate 196: Doorway to living room

Building survey



Plate 197: Ceiling in the entrance hall of house 3

The ceiling in the entrance hall is of lath and plaster, part of which has collapsed.



Plate 198: Doorway to kitchen

The staircase leads to the south from the entrance hall and has a cupboard below it. The staircase is of timber and winds around to the floor above.

Plate 199: Foot of staircase



Historic Building Consultants

Building survey



Plate 201: Interior of store

In the north-western corner of the entrance hall is a small store room. This is entered via a plain door in a simple architrave. The walls in the store are plastered and painted and the skirting is of cement. The floor has red and black ceramic tiles. The ceiling is flat, without cornice. There is fitted shelving in the store.

Plate 200: Store in corner of hall





The store is lit by a small window in the western wall, having a centre-hung casement set in a splayed opening.

Plate 202: Window in store

Room G2: Kitchen



Plate 203: View to north in kitchen of house 3

The kitchen in house number 3 is at the font, or western side of the house. A chimneybreast in the northern wall is flanked by an arched niche on the right-hand side and a niche without the arch to the left. The room is lit by a two-over-two timber sliding sash window with elongated quadrant horns, set in a plain timber architrave and with timber linings.



Plate 204: View to west in kitchen of house 3



Plate 205: Window in kitchen



Plate 206: View to south in kitchen of house 3

The kitchen is entered via a hollow door leading from the entrance hall. The southern wall is painted, while the other three walls are wallpapered. A band of wall tiles runs above the counter level. The ceiling is papered with woodchip wallpaper. The floor has a covering of black and red ceramic tiles and the skirting is of plain timber boards.



Room G3: Living room



Plate 209: View to west in living room

The living room at the rear, or eastern, side of the house is entered via a hollow door set in a plain timber architrave. The walls are plastered and painted and the ceiling is flat, without a cornice. At the northern end of the room a chimneybreast projects, the niche to the left being arched, while that to the right is not and has a built-in cupboard. The hearth has no chimneypiece and the plaster has been cut back, revealing the brick structure, with cement repairs evident.



Plate 210: View to north in living room

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Plate 211: View to south in living room

The floor in the living room continues the red and black tiles from the entrance hall. The skirtings are plain boards. Near the southern end of the room is a frame of stout timber with a covering of polyurethane varnish.





Plate 212: View to east in living room

The room is lit by a two-over-two timber sliding sash with elongated quadrant horns and with a semicircular head. The window has a plain architrave and a timber lining.

Plate 213: Window in living room

First floor

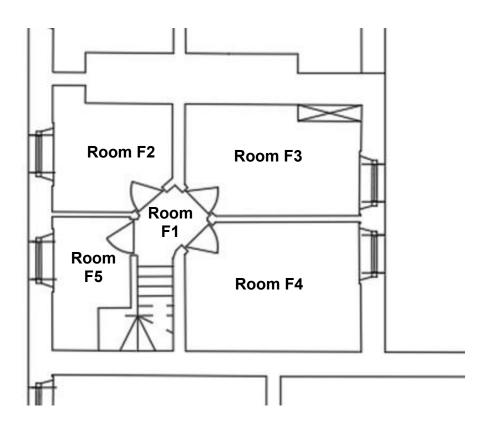


Figure 11: Plan of first floor of house 3

Room F1: Landing

The stairway to the upper floor of house number 3 turns twice as it rises, the top flight being the longest. A short stretch of simple balustrade with stick balusters infills the area between the stair string and the soffit of the first floor. A simple handrail rises up the topmost flight. A plain timber dado runs up the outer wall of the stairway, the wall being painted below the dado and wallpapered above. The stair treads and risers are of timber and the stairway is closed string.

Plate 214: View down stairway





Plate 215: Ceiling of stairway

Plate 216: Roof light

The stairwell and landing have a plain ceiling of lath and plaster without a cornice. A Velux-type roof light provides light to the stairway, the light shaft being lined with timber boarding.



Building survey



The first-floor landing in house number 3 is an irregular pentagon, with access from the staircase and doorways into four rooms. Each doorway has a simple timber architrave and a saddle board at each doorway. The floor of the landing is boarded, the boarding being continuous through the whole of the first floor with the room partitions placed onto the boards.

Plate 217: Doorways to rooms F2 and F5

Plate 218: Floor on landing





Plate 219: Doorways to rooms F2 and F3

Room F2: Bedroom



The northern wall of bedroom F2 has a projecting chimneybreast to the side of which is a narrow full-height niche. A rectangular area of concrete in the floor to the front of the chimneybreast indicates the former location of the hearth.

Plate 221: Northern wall of room F2

Bedroom F2 is at the front, or western side of the house, adjacent to the northern party wall. Part of the ceiling slopes towards the external wall. The walls and ceiling are painted, the paint peeling from the latter. The skirtings are plain painted timber boards.

The room is lit by a two-over-two timber sliding sash window with elongated quadrant horns set in a plain timber architrave and with timber linings.

Plate 220: Window in western wall of room F2



Building survey

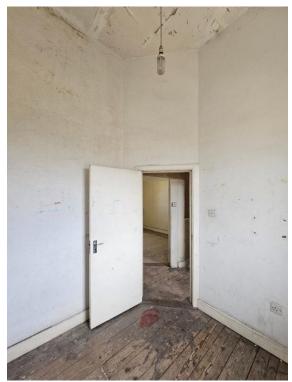


Plate 223: Floor in room F2

Bedroom F2 is entered via a hollow door set in a plain timber architrave. The wall in which the door is located is at an angle to the other walls to maximise the space allocated to the landing. The floor is boarded, the boards running north-south, indicating that the joists run east-west.

Plate 222: Doorway to room F2





A trapdoor in the ceiling gives access to the roof space, the trapdoor having a simple timber frame and no architrave.

Plate 224: Access trapdoor in ceiling

Building survey

Room F3: Bedroom

Bedroom F3 is on the eastern side of the house, against the northern party wall and is entered via a hollow door set in a simple timber architrave set at an angle to the walls. The floor is boarded, as noted above. The eastern part of the ceiling slopes towards the outer wall.

A built-in cupboard in the northern wall infills a niche to the side of a chimneybreast. The former location of a hearth is indicated by a rectangular area of concrete adjacent to the cupboard.

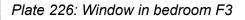


Plate 225: Door to room F3

Plate 227: Floor and site of hearth



The room is lit by a two-over-two timber sliding sash window with quadrant horns, set in a plain timber architrave and with timber linings.





Room F4: Bedroom

Bedroom F4 in house 3 is entered via a hollow door set in a plain timber architrave. The doorway is set at an angle to the adjacent walls to accord with the shape of the landing. The walls in this room are wallpapered, now painted except for the uppermost section. The skirtings are plain timber boards.

Plate 228: Doorway in room F4





The ceiling in room F4 has a flat section in the north-western part, while the remainder of the ceiling slopes towards the east and the south. The ceiling is painted and the paint is peeling.

Plate 229: Ceiling in room F4

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Plate 230: Floor in room F4

The floor in room F4 is boarded and has a covering of linoleum.



Plate 231: Eastern wall of room F4

Plate 232: Window in room F4

The room is lit by a two-over-two timber sash window with elongated quadrant horns, set in a mouldedtimber architrave and with timber linings.

The eastern wall is wallpapered, the paper being painted over, while the wall below the window head has been painted in a different colour to that in the upper section.



Building survey

Room F5: Bathroom

The bathroom in room F5 is in the south-western corner of house number 3 at first-floor level. The room is entered via a hollow door set in a plain timber architrave and with a saddle board.

The walls in the bathroom are wallpapered and the skirtings are plain timber boards. The floor is boarded.

Plate 233: View to north in room F5





The room narrows significantly towards the southern end due to the intrusion of the double-height space over the staircase. The ceiling slopes towards the outer wall to the west, while the southernmost section of the roof slopes to the south.

Plate 234: View to south in room F5

Building survey



The bathroom at room F5 is lit by a two-over-two timber sliding sash window with elongated quadrant horns, set in a plain timber architrave and timber linings.

Plate 235: Window in bathroom F5



Plate 236: Sanitary ware in bathroom

The sanitary ware in the bathroom includes a wash basin, a WC and a bath and dates from the latter half of the twentieth century.

Grounds

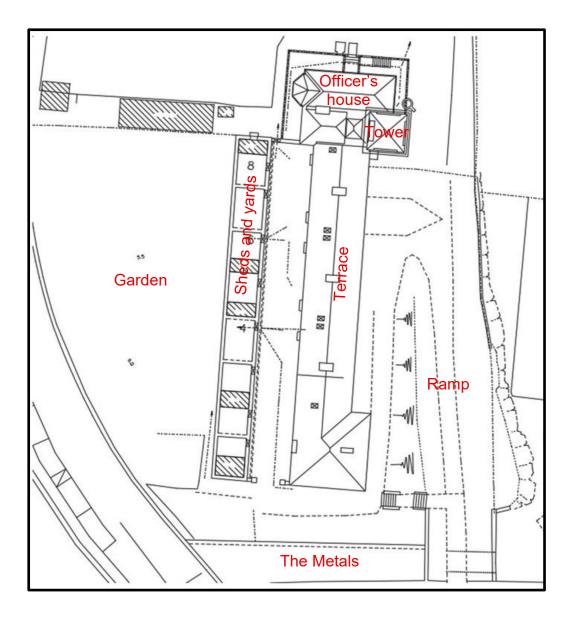


Figure 12: Site layout indicating locations of features

The present extent of the lands associated with the coast guard station excludes land to the north that was formerly a yard with a rocket house, a boat house and a small boat harbour. Within the present site there is an access ramp linking the site to Harbour Road, a line of sheds and yards that served the terrace of houses, to the rear of which is a large garden. Along the southern boundary is a raised platform that was formerly the line of a branch of the Metals truck railway that brought stone to build Traders' Wharf and its access ramp and the boat yard to the west of that ramp.

Boundary



Plate 237: Southern boundary wall on Harbour Road

The grounds of the coast guard station are bounded to the south and west by high retaining walls. In both cases the ground adjacent to the coast guard station was artificially raised to form a ramp leading up to the bridge over the railway. The ramp to the south of the coast guard station was constructed in the mid-1830s to provide access to the original bridge known as Battery Bridge, which crossed the railway with a single span. The topmost section of the southern boundary wall is of random granite rubble brought to courses and capped with semi-cylindrical or saddle-backed granite copings. Below that part of the wall the retaining wall is largely constructed with large granite blocks, roughly squared, though some areas are of smaller granite rubble.



Plate 238: Northern face of southern boundary wall

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Plate 239: Western boundary wall on ramp to Traders' Wharf

The western boundary wall was built in the 1850s as part of the construction of the substantial ramp leading down to Traders' Wharf. On the road margin the wall is constructed with squared granite random rubble and capped with semi-cylindrical or saddle-backed granite copings. On the eastern face of the wall, adjacent to the gardens in the coast guard grounds the wall is comprised of substantial granite blocks of irregular size and shape.

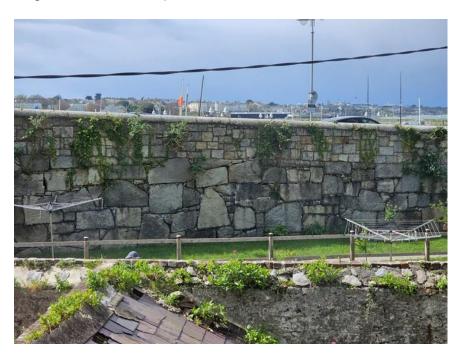


Plate 240: Eastern face of western boundary wall

Entrance



Plate 241: Entrance to coast guard station from Harbour Road

Entrance to the grounds of the coast guard station is from Harbour Road at the south-eastern corner of the coast guard site. The gateway is flanked by piers integrated with the adjacent boundary wall and constructed with granite rubble and with square rock-faced granite cap stones. The piers are low, only the cap stones rising above the level of the adjacent walls.

The eastern gate pier has been rebuilt, while the western pier appears to be original. The gate is modern and is a steel truss with a box-section rectangular frame and slender webs.





Plate 242 (above): Eastern gate pier

Plate 243: Western gate pier

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Ramp



Plate 244: View southward over access ramp

Within the gateway access to the coast guard station is via a substantial earthen ramp that runs northward over a distance of approximately 45 metres. The ramp carries a paved roadway and footway along with parking spaces for five cars.



Plate 245: Ramp seen from the north

Plate 246: View northward down ramp





Plate 247: Steps down from ramp

About ten metres from the gateway a flight of steps leads westwards down from the ramp. The steps are comprised of two flights, the upper of which has six concrete steps running down to a landing that is paved with concrete. The lower flight consists of seven granite steps flanked by low walls of brick and stone on two levels, each wall being capped with granite copings having curved upper surfaces. A steel railing runs down the southern side of the steps.



Plate 248: Steps down from ramp

Sheds and yards



Plate 249: View southward along laneway between houses and yards

As has been noted above, the terrace of houses opens onto a laneway that runs north-south to the west of the terrace. On the western side of this laneway is a range of yards fronted by a high stone wall and each surrounded by walls similarly high. In each case the yard is entered via a doorway facing the houses and within the yard is an open area. In the original layout each yard also had a stone building with a slate roof that would have incorporated a shed and a privy, though the sheds are not all extant or roofed.



Plate 250: View of yards from the south-east



Plate 251: View of southernmost yards from above

The photographs above and below show the yards as seen from the adjacent buildings. The photograph below shows the dividing walls between the shed and the privy in the two yards to left of centre where the roof is missing, while the roof in the centre is largely intact and is slated. The tops of the walls have a course of brick near the outer edge, while the rest of the wall tops are capped with small stones set on a slope and mortared.



Plate 252: View of northernmost yards from above



Plate 253: Front wall of southernmost yard

The perimeter walls of the yards are of granite rubble and capped with brick on the outer edges. The nature of the granite varies, much of it brought to courses, while laid randomly in other places. The size of stones incorporated varies and in the two examples shown in the photograph above the top course has smaller stones than seen elsewhere. Each yard is accessed via a doorway with a timber-sheeted door. The doorways are flanked by brickwork and have flat brick arches at their heads. At plinth level the base of the wall is blackened.



Plate 254: Front wall of yards further to the north

The capping of the walls has three courses of brick, the base course being yellow brick in dogtooth pattern, with a course of stretchers above, while the uppermost course are headers.

Plate 255: Detail of brick capping



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Plate 256: Northern end of laneway to west of houses

The northernmost doorway into the yards is stopped up with granite masonry and another doorway leads into that yard from the north. The area between the corner of the officer's house and the yards is closed by a wall constructed with squared granite blocks and capped with brickwork similar to that on the yards. A timber sheeted and braced door connects through to the northern side, the head of the doorway being a flat brick arch.

At the southern end of the laneway to the front of the houses the laneway is flanked by two piers, each constructed with three courses of granite ashlar and capped with a square granite coping with a shallow pyramidal top.





Plate 257: Western pier at laneway

Plate 258: Eastern pier at laneway

Garden



Plate 259: Southern end of garden

Along the western part of the grounds of the coast guard station, to the west of the yards, is an open area, bounded on the west by the high retaining wall of the ramp down to Trader's Wharf. This area was probably available to the staff of the coast guard station for growing food in the earlier decades. The southern part of this open area is now in use as a number of private gardens. These have small garden sheds associated with the gardens. The northern part of the open area is not in use and is at present overgrown.



Plate 260: View over northern end of garden

The Metals



Plate 261: View eastward along the Metals

Alongside the southern boundary of the coast guard site is a raised platform enclosed by a granite retaining wall capped with granite in alternating short and high with long and low blocks. This platform formerly carried a branch of the truck railroad known as the Metals, as described in the historical background section above. The raised platform was needed in order to maintain a viable gradient for hauling trucks along the rails.



Plate 262: View westward along the Metals



Plate 263: Arch of bridge beneath access ramp

At the eastern end of this raised platform is an arch in the wall to the side of the ramp that gives access to the Coast Guard Station. This arch is semicircular and the arch ring consists of cut granite voussoirs. The arch is open at the eastern side of the ramp, but the archway is largely backfilled.



Plate 264: Arch of bridge beneath road to Traders' Wharf

At the western end of the platform is a broader arch with a segmental arch ring comprised of cut-granite voussoirs. The ramp to Traders' Wharf crosses the line of the Metals at an angle, necessitating a skew bridge, resulting in the need for a broad segmental arch. This bridge is constructed with a series of ribs rather than with the more common rifle vaulting. The archway is closed off on the eastern side and is closed by doors on the western side, where it forms the club premises for the St Michael's Rowing Club.

Discussion

The descriptions above should be straight forward and self explanatory. However, there are a number of points that arise from the descriptions that warrant brief discussion.

Window horns

Throughout the descriptions above the nature of the horns on sliding sash windows has been noted. It would be expected that all of the horns would be identical when the building was erected and this suggests that a number of the windows have been replaced.

At the time that the Coast Guard Station was built in the late 1850s it was usual for the horns on sliding sash windows to be in the form of a simple quadrant. It seems probable, therefore, that those windows with quadrant horns are original.

Towards the end of the nineteenth century, and particularly into the twentieth century, it became more common for horns to be curled. These are longer than the older quadrant horns and have a similar curve to the top, while below the top the sides of the horns curve inward and back out again in a semicircle.

A number of the windows have quadrant horns that stand higher above the sash than the originals and are described above as elongated quadrant horns. It is probable that these date from the late twentieth or early twenty-first century, suggesting that windows were replaced in that period.

Examination of the photograph in Plate 1 shows that the upper floor windows on the western side of the terrace were six-over-six sliding sashes at that time, while those on the lower floor had spoked upper sections of the top sash. Neither of those styles are the styles that are found on site today, indicating that these windows have been replaced since the 1920s.

Balconette on tower

The presence of an iron balconette outside a window on the northern side of the top floor of the tower has been noted above. This balconette would have been accessed through a casement window from inside the tower and it is noted that this is the only casement window in the tower, all others being sliding sashes.

It seems probable that the purpose of this balconette was for a member of the coast guard staff to stand out prominently for the purpose of hailing ships in the harbour and/or for firing a rocket as a means of signalling.

Chimney stacks on officer's house and tower

It was noted on the survey that the chimney stack rising from the roof of the officer's house has eight pots. However, beneath this stack there are two rooms on each of three floors and there is no surviving evidence for the existence of eight hearths. It would be common to add a dummy chimney pot for sake of symmetry if there was an odd number of flues and two rows of pots. However, there would be little point in adding two dummy pots.

While the chimney stack that formerly rose from the roof of the tower had no pots in its later years, it appears that it had six flues arranged in a single line. There are three floors in the tower, each with a hearth, so the other three flues must have served hearths in the officer's house. These would have been the hearths in the rooms on three floors immediately to the north of the tower.

If any major works are to be carried out on the house it should be borne in mind that the lack of explanation for two pots on the surviving chimneystack opens the possibility that there were hearths that are no longer present and the flues serving those hearths may have travelled through the masonry to reach the stack, not necessarily in a straight vertical line.

Addition of two houses

Records indicate that the Coast Guard Station was built in 1858-59 and that two houses were added five years later. While there is no evidence in the stonework to indicate where the addition took place, it would seem to be logical that the houses now numbered 1 and 2, at the southern end of the terrace, were the late additions. This possibility may be supported by the nature of the ceilings on the top floor of house number 3. If houses 1 and 2 were of later construction, house number 3 would have been at the southern end of the terrace prior to their construction. It is noted that the ceiling in the southern two rooms on the first floor of that house slope towards the south. This is not logical, as the roof above continues into the side of house 2 and to have sloped the ceiling without good reason would have entailed a higher cost. The possibility is that house number 3 was originally the end of the terrace and that the terrace at that time was hipped, hence the need to slope the ceilings.