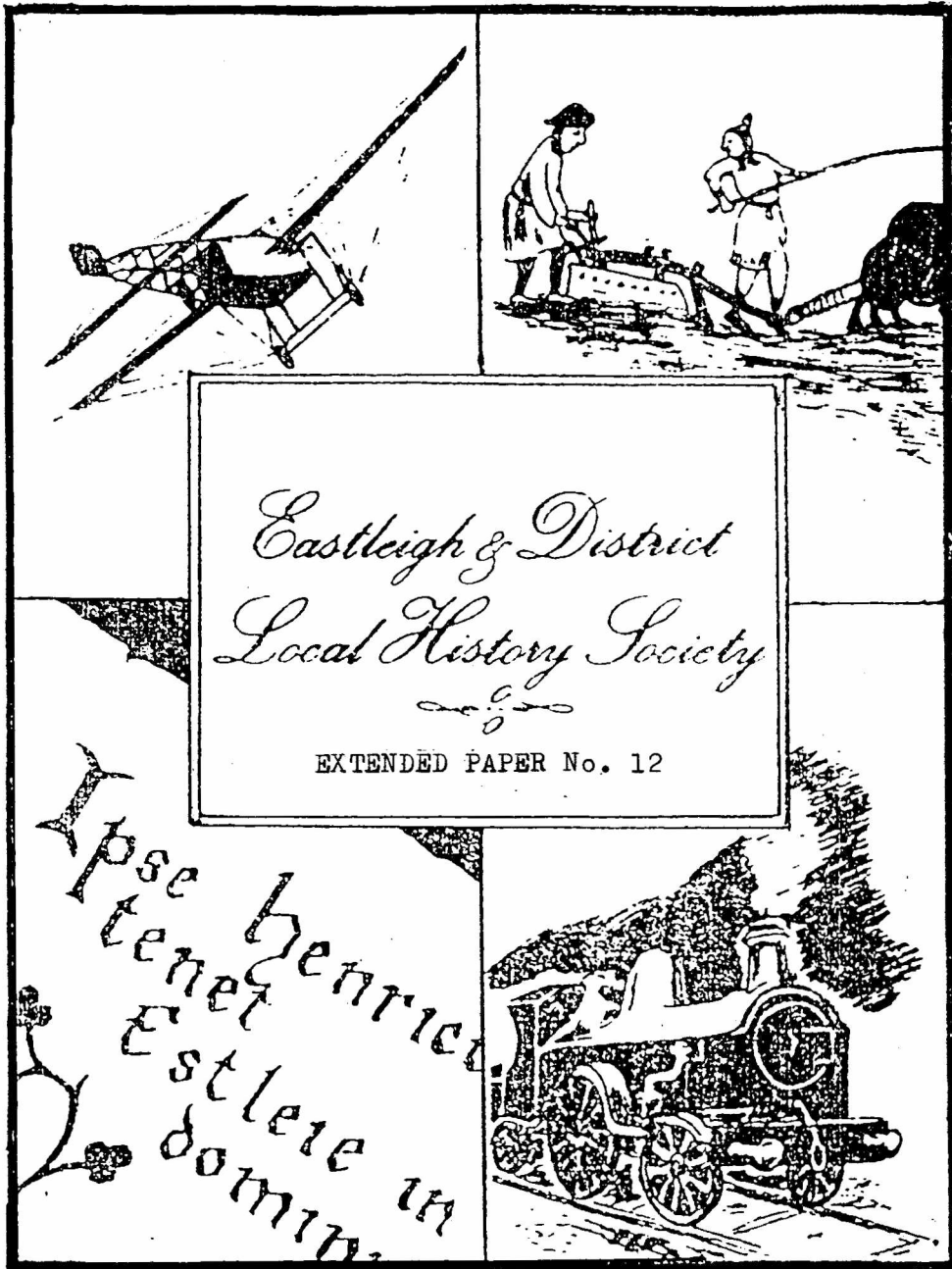
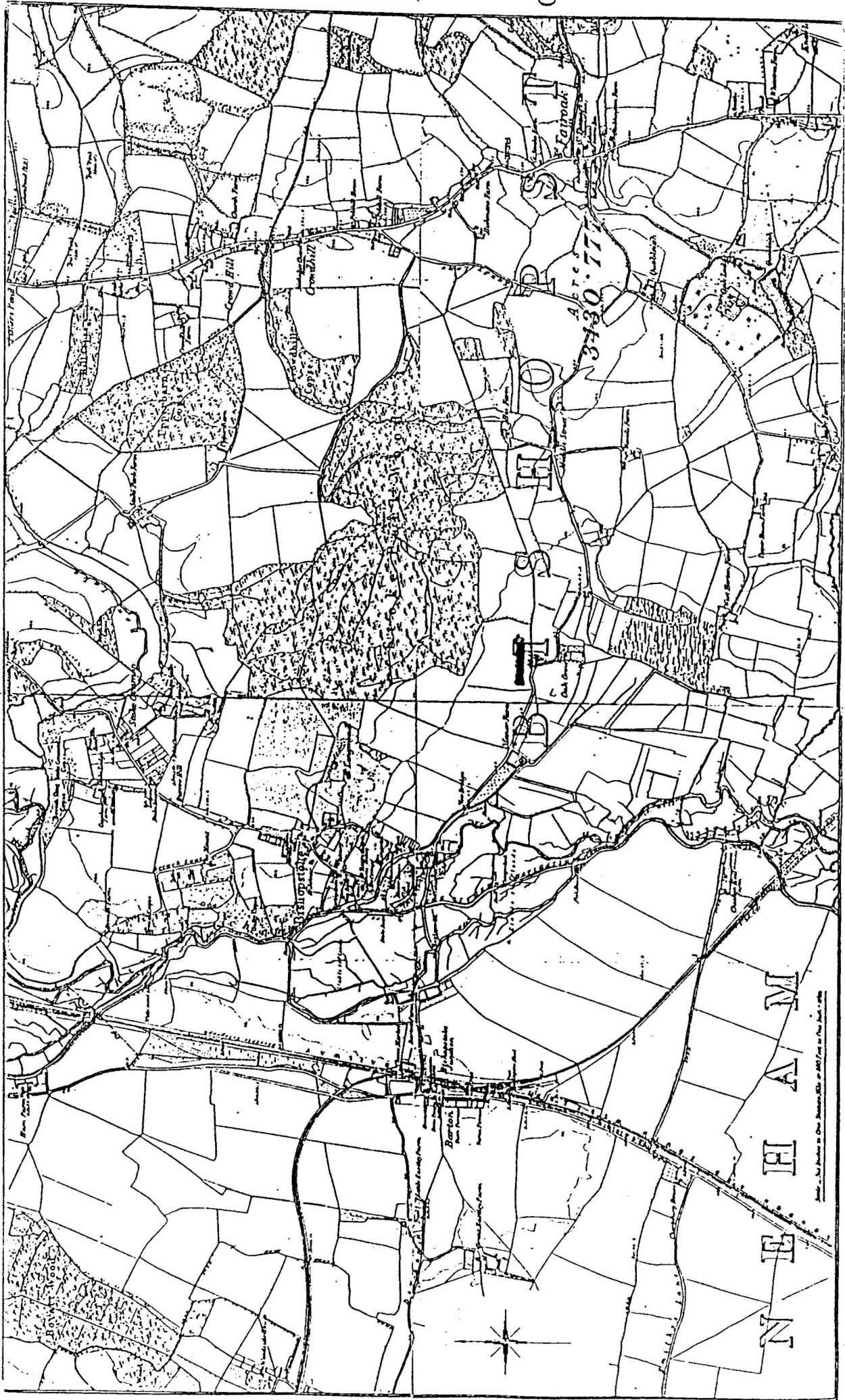


Bishopstoke National School - part 1



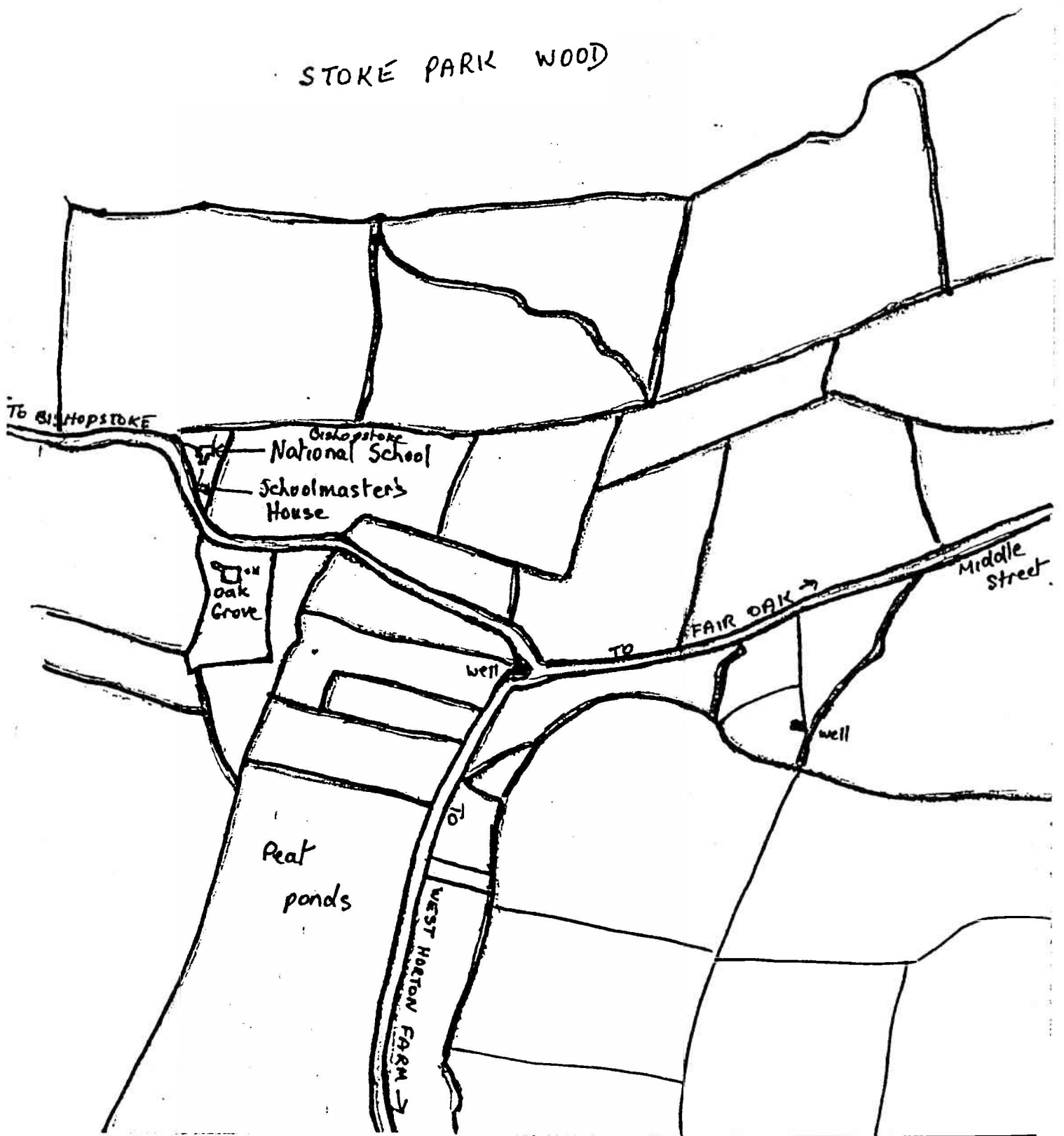
1872 Map.



OKE

The Parish of Bishopstoke, and area from which the children of the Bishopstoke National School would have come.

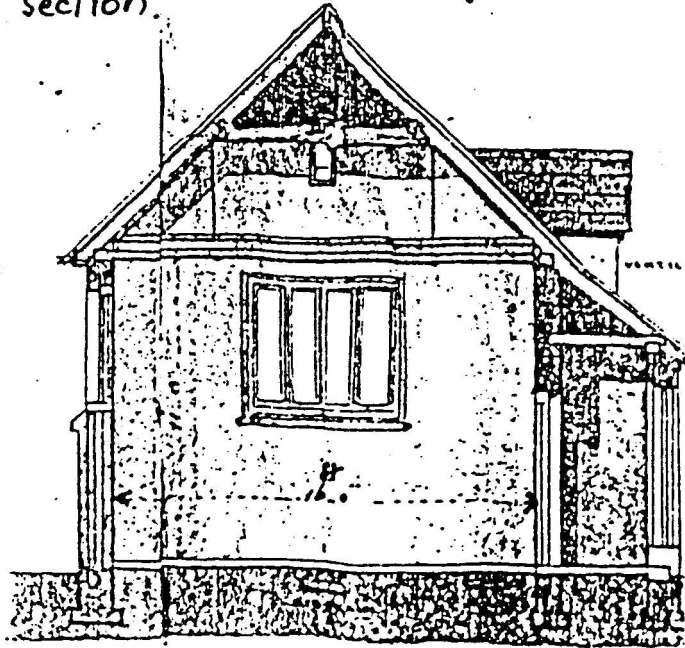
SITE OF THE NATIONAL SCHOOL



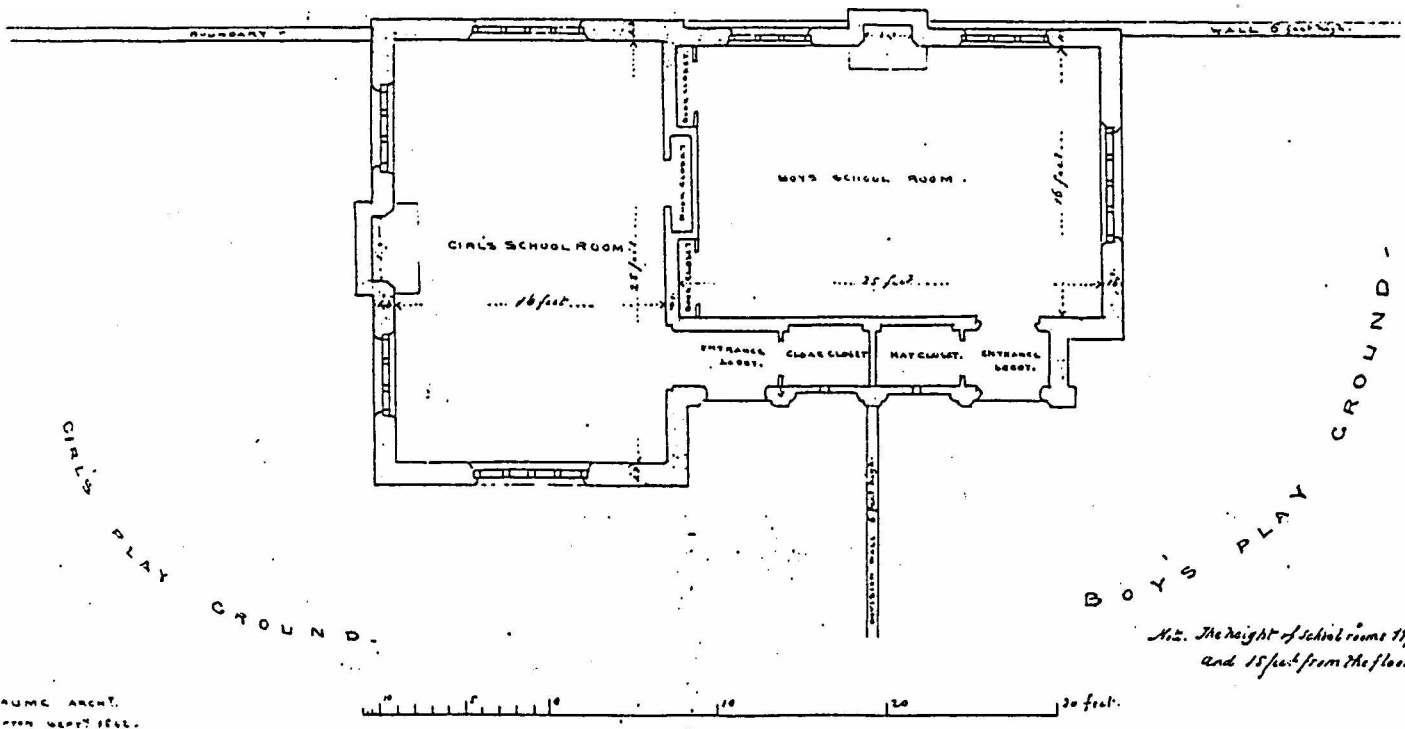
From a map of 1868

# Bishopstoke National School

section.

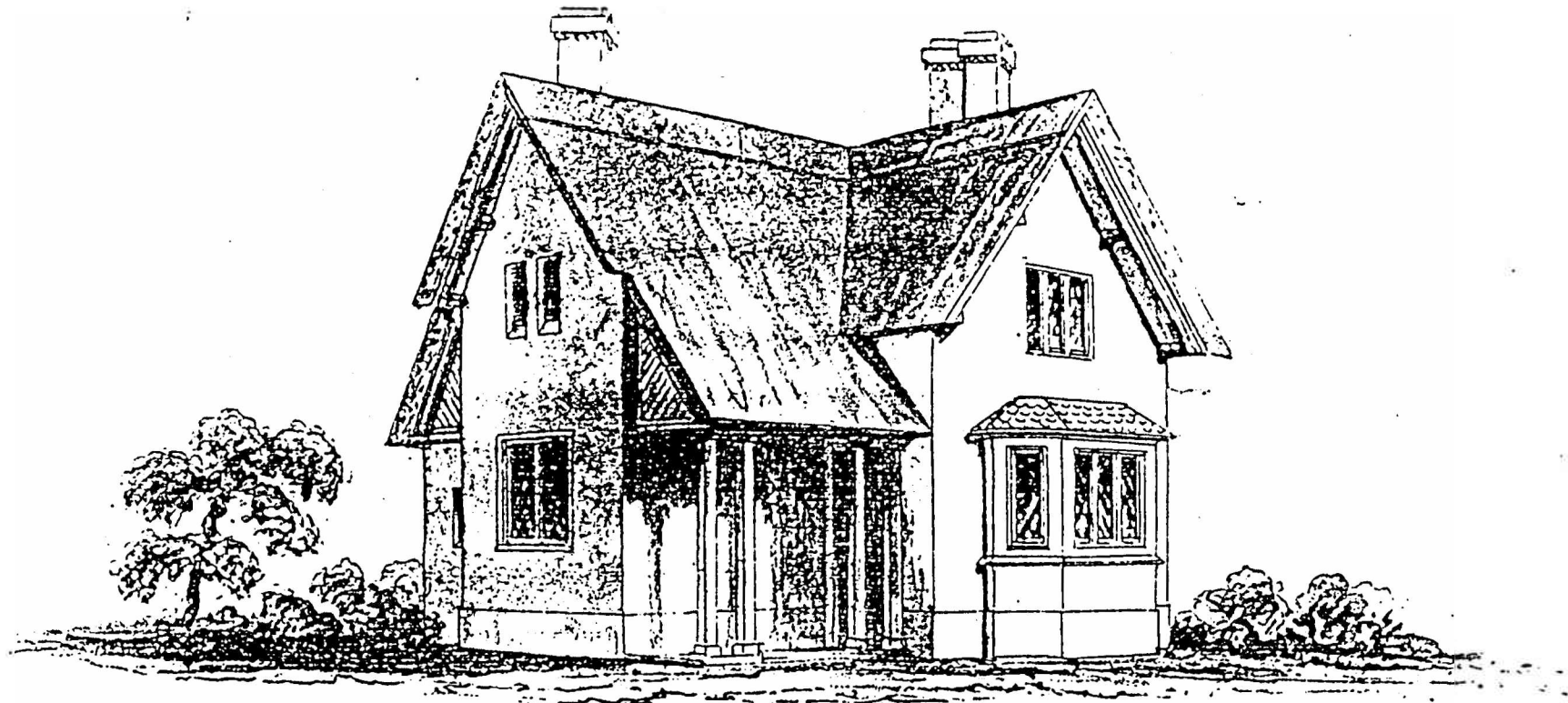


PLAN OF BISHOPS STOKE SCHOOL  
BUILT A.D. 1872.



*Note: The height of school rooms 11 feet from floor to <sup>lean</sup> ceiling and 15 feet from the floor to ceiling.*

The National Society, in a report of 1835, mentions "Dwelling Houses for Schoolmasters and Schoolmistresses". They say they are "Very desirable", and although they cannot make grants for them, they "Need not cost more than a local cottage".



VIEW FROM THE ROAD.

GUILLAUME ARCHT.  
17th AUG 1842.

Schoolmaster's House

43

This comes from a set of plans published by The Government's Committee of The Privy Council on Education.

Note the similarity of the style of building with that of the Bishopstoke National School. The "Tudor Gothic Style" predominated in school buildings in the 1830's, 1840's and 1850's.

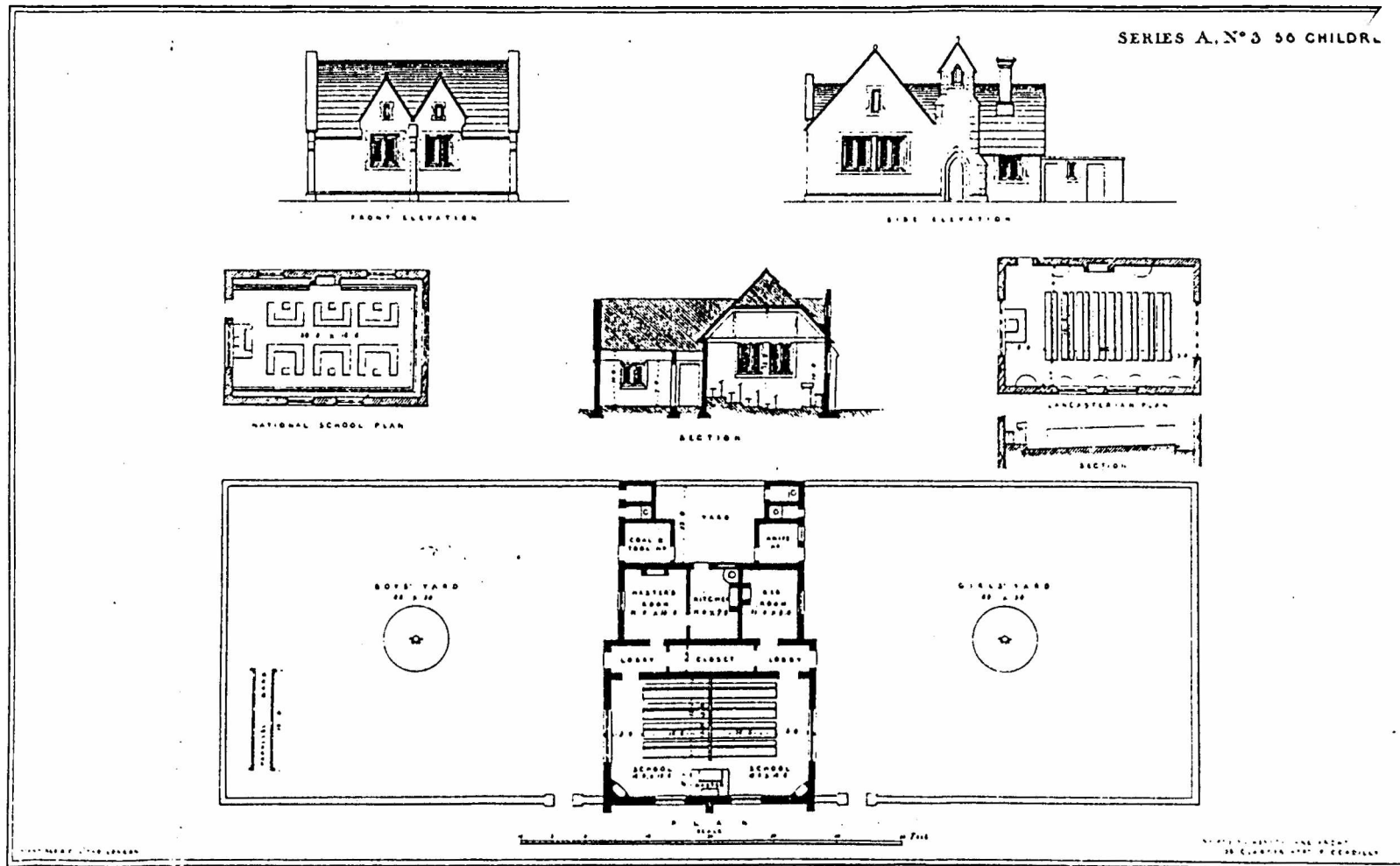


Plate 160 Committee of Council on Education, plan of school for 56 children, 1840

This comes from a set of plans published by The Government's Committee of The Privy Council on Education.

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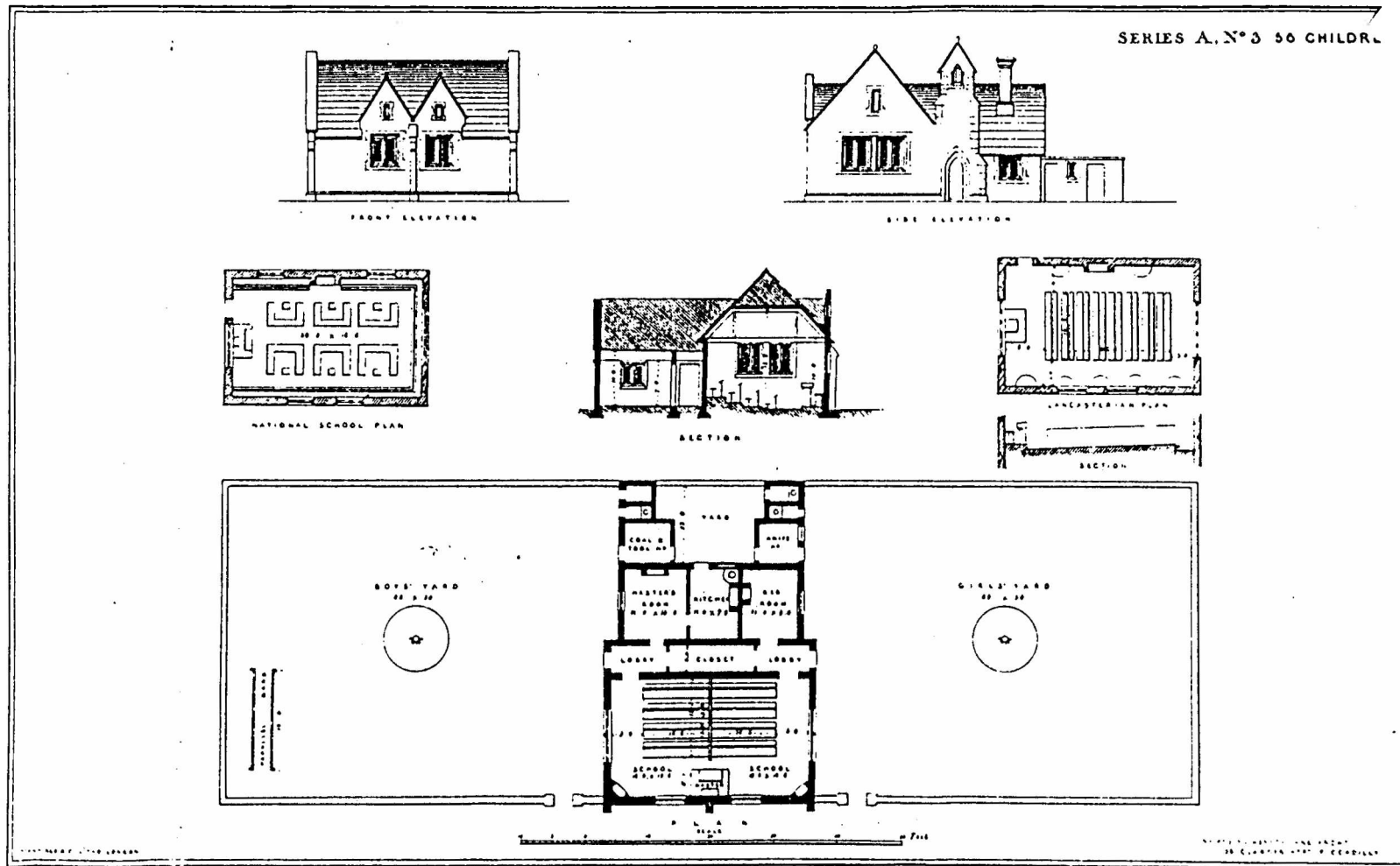


Plate 160 Committee of Council on Education, plan of school for 56 children, 1840

## BISHOPSTOKE NATIONAL SCHOOL IN THE 1860's.

### EARLY SCHOOLS.

Before the Education Act of 1870 made schooling compulsory, there were few opportunities for the children of poor families to receive an education. Wealthy families acquired an education for their children by employing a tutor or governess, or by sending them to fee paying schools. Indeed it was often considered wrong to educate the working classes, which might give them "ideas above their station". Children were needed to help in the home, or do work which would earn a few extra pence for the family.

In Bishopstoke there are records of a fee paying school at the Manor House in the 1820's. An advertisement in "The Southampton Herald" Of the 12th July, 1824 reads:-

"Mr. A. Colson returns his sincere thanks to his friends for the encouragement he has received since he opened his school and begs to inform the public that the business of the same will recommence on Monday, July 26th."

There may also by this time have been a "Dame School". These were run by local women with a little knowledge of reading and writing usually in one room of the house, where, for a few pence a week, children would be given a very rudimentary grounding in the three R's.

### CHURCH SCHOOLS.

In 1811 a society was founded called the "National Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church". As its title proclaimed, it was closely linked with the Anglican Church and followed methods laid down by Andrew Bell, who had been Superintendent of a school in Madras in India.

The "National Society" as it was called for short, gave both advice and grants to their schools. By the 1830's there were over 12,000 National Schools in existence, closely controlled by the Diocesan Authorities and the local clergy.

From 1833 grants were given also by the Government and minimum standards were laid down for these schools.

### THE NATIONAL SCHOOL BUILDING IN BISHOPSTOKE.

In 1841 the School Sites Act encouraged local gentry to give sites free for schools. The Reverend Garnier, Rector in Bishopstoke from 1807 to 1869, and certainly to be considered one of the Gentry gave a piece of Glebe land on which to build a school.

The Conveyance reads:-

"I, Thomas Garnier...do freely and voluntarily grant and convey... all that portion of land not exceeding  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre... part of the Glebe attached to the Rectory of Bishopstoke, to be applied as a site for a school for the poor persons of the Parish of Bishopstoke and for the residence of the Schoolmaster and Schoolmistress of the school...and for no other purpose whatsoever." The plans for these buildings are dated 1842, although it appears that a school had been in existence since 1834. Documents relating to National Schools in their early years are very few.



The drawings show a building which looks quite attractive on the outside, containing two classrooms, one for girls one for boys, both 25 foot by 16 foot, with an open fire in each for heating, storage space for books and cloakrooms for hats and cloaks. There is no mention of lavatories or washing facilities, not surprising when you remember that all water had to be drawn from wells. Presumably there were "Privies" somewhere in the playgrounds. The two playgrounds, one for boys and one for girls, were separated by a wall and there were hedges around the boundaries.

Although the drawing shows a slated roof, a note states "Thatched with reed instead of slated", possibly an economy measure.

The schoolmaster's house nearby contained a large living room 14 ft. by 11ft., with a room alongside 8ft. by 9 ft.3ins., labelled "Wash house". This room also contained the large oven and there was a small pantry at the back of the house.

Upstairs were two bedrooms, the same size as the downstairs rooms.

The school and schoolmaster's house were built on a triangle of land known then as Middle Street on the road from Bishopstoke to Fair oak. This area is now at the junction of Alan Drayton Way and Fair oak Road, opposite Manor Road.

The boy's classroom was later extended to provide an Infants' room.

#### LOG BOOKS.

In 1861 a Commission appointed to inquire into the question of Popular Education proposed "Payment by Results", and the keeping of Log Books was made compulsory in Grant Aided Schools.

So, for the first time, there were regular records kept and the log book of the Bishopstoke National Boys School begins at the end of 1862, with a daily entry for every school day made by the schoolmaster, Mr. Shotter.

#### THE STATE OF THE SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

From the comments in this book, we gather that 20 years after it was built, the schoolroom was not always a comfortable place in the extremes of weather.

"3rd December, 1863. Wind extremely rough and the schoolroom owing to draughts in doors and windows, very uncomfortable."

The fire, lit in winter to warm the room, was not always very efficient.

"10th March, 1864. The wind being in the north, a great deal of smoke in the rooms till after 10 o'clock."

By November of that year they had a new grate.

"1st November, 1864. Had a fire, wind being cold, for a short time in the schoolroom to try the new grate."

An open fire, however, cannot have warmed all the room adequately and it would only have been those closest to it who would have benefitted.

"13th February, 1865. Very cold weather, several of the little boys formed a class for the first 2 hours near the fire".

The inefficiency of the heating is brought home by another comment:-  
 "15th January, 1867. Both rooms very cold. Thermometer at 9 o'clock stood at 8° below freezing point."

Nor were things much better in the summer, for on 27th June, 1866 Mr. Shotter noted:-

"Very hot, barometer on the north side of the room at 3 o'clock stood 6 degrees above summer heat."

To modern eyes these conditions appear totally unacceptable, but we should remember that the homes from which most of the children came would have fallen far below our standards of comfort.

#### THE TEACHERS.

The schoolmaster in 1862 was Mr. James Shotter. In the 1851 census he is listed as 26 years old, born in the Isle of Wight, and living in the same house as his older sister, Ann. Presumably, the Bishopstoke School was his first post as a certificated teacher. When later he married, his wife was occasionally called on to take charge of the school when Mr. Shotter was absent, either through illness, or at a meeting.

"22nd September, 1863. Left for a few hours to attend Bishop's court. School in charge of wife and Pupil Teacher."

"22nd December, 1864. Ill with pains in the head. Mrs. Shotter and Eb. Sims (monitor) conducted the school."

The word "monitor" perhaps requires a little explanation.

The system of teaching in the National Schools was based on the methods of Andrew Bell in his school in Madras, India, in the late 18th century.

To eke out inadequate funds and teaching staff he evolved the "Monitor" system, where older boys were employed to teach others. At Bishopstoke there are references to monitors such as Eb Sims, second class monitor and W. Batchelor in the third class. This monitor system later developed into the "Pupil Teacher" system, with a five year apprenticeship, leading to the possibility of obtaining a scholarship to go to a Teachers' Training College (such as King Alfred's in Winchester) and become a certificated teacher like Mr. Shotter himself.

One such pupil teacher, George Vincent, did, in fact, obtain a scholarship in 1865 and left to start at college. The monitor, Eb. Sims, also worked his way through this system and on 28th March, 1878, he returned to Bishopstoke School as a certificated teacher, after 2 years at Carmarthen College, to become the schoolmaster there. Mr. Shotter, visiting the school in 1878 after his retirement, must have felt some gratification, seeing his former monitor and pupil teacher now in charge. For the schoolmaster was responsible for the "in-service training" of pupil teachers. He gave them daily instruction for one hour (8.0 to 9.0 a.m.) before school and one hour (4.0 to 5.0 p.m.) after it.

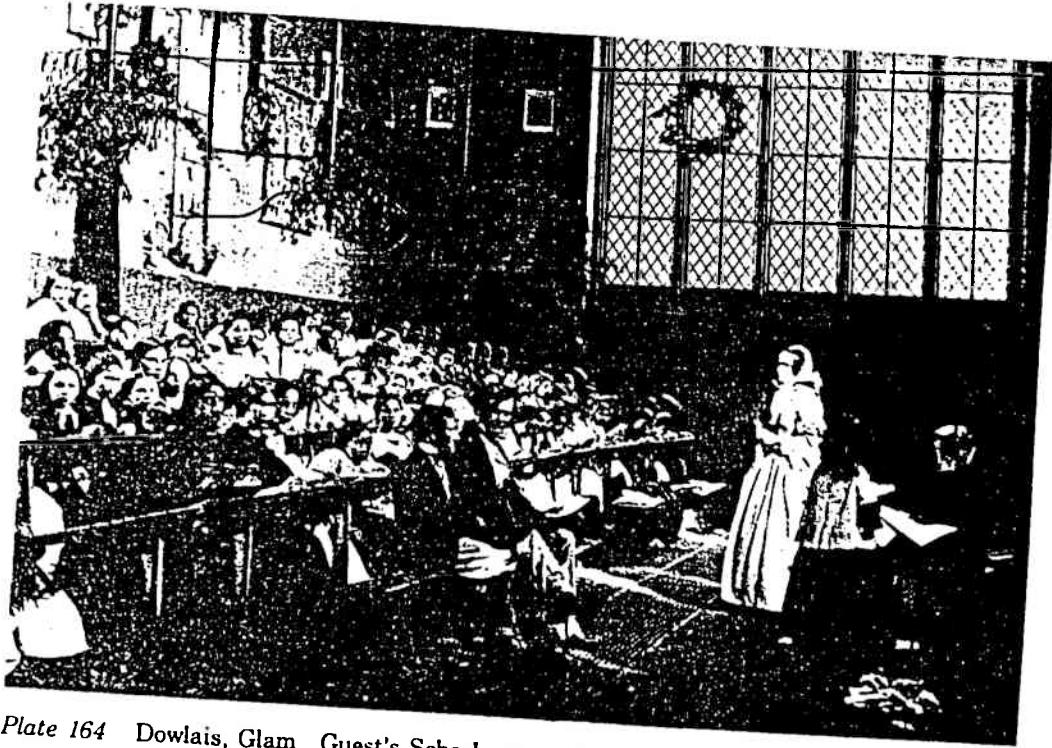


Plate 164 Dowlais, Glam., Guest's School, pre-1870 layout

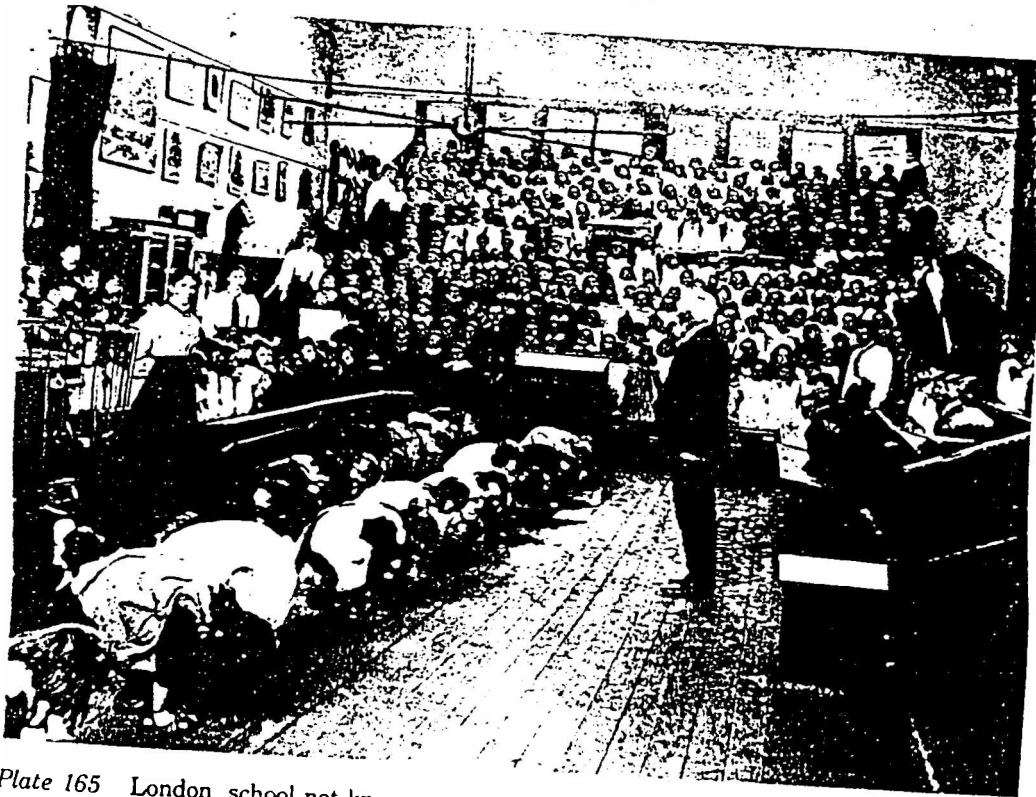


Plate 165 London, school not known, pre-1870 layout

These two photos show typical schools of the 1860's, although both would have been larger than the Bishopstoke School.

## TYPE OF EDUCATION.

Being a Church School, the main emphasis was upon giving the children a good grounding in the Christian religion.

There were prayers at the beginning and end of each day, with the boys expected to attend Church regularly. The headmaster was organist at the church, so he was able to keep an eye on their behaviour and there are several references to boys misbehaving in church.

"15th May, 1865. Cautioned 3 little boys respecting their inattention in church yesterday."

In September of the same year mention is made of "A boy kept behind for inattention during evening prayers."

The Reverend Mr. Pilkington, the curate at Bishopstoke, was a frequent visitor to the school to keep his eye on standards and occasionally to take classes or examine the boys on religious matters. He even inquired into "the private prayers used by the boys at their homes."

There was great emphasis on learning by rote - the Catechism, the Collects and passages from the Bible.

"18th December, 1862. Took the third class and found half could repeat fairly the Catechism to the end of Duty to my Neighbour."

"6th March, 1863. Five first class boys in about 20 minutes learned and repeated the last chapter of St. Matthew's Gospel."

"27th March, 1863. The Collect well prepared at home by every boy."

It is obvious from frequent references to hymns and chants being learned and practised during school hours that many of the boys sang in church. They are called "singing boys" and were obviously the mainstay of the choir.

"5th February, 1863. Practised the weeks' chants etc. in groups of 3 boys each, without 2 or 3 leading voices "

"25th March, 1863. Mr. Pilkington went through the tunes for Sunday next."

"9th October, 1863. Singers left for practice at 3¼ (quarter past three).

"15th October, 1863. Learned a new tune to be sung on Sunday next, when a Special Service of Thanksgiving for the late Bountiful Harvest is to be held."

In March, 1866 a special mid-week service was held "On account of the Cattle Plague" and the boys were taught a new hymn tune for this service. This reference is just another reminder to us that at this time Bishopstoke was primarily a farming community.

## THE THREE "R"S.

Apart from matters religious, the children were grounded in the three "R"s, learning tables being considered almost as important as Scripture.

"13th January, 1863. Second class given extra time for tables, other half reading Scripture with first class. This to be continued on 3 days a week for some time."

Mr. Shotter taught them various rules of Arithmetic, including more practical things, such as "measuring with a ruler", and "calculating areas", even on one occasion getting them to calculate the "cost of building a cottage".

They wrote on slates for a good deal of the time, this being more economical than paper, although there is a reference to ink, as one boy was punished for "Spitting into one of the ink bottles."

They were given dictation to improve their spelling but much of their writing seems to have been the copying of lists.

"29th November, 1864. Wrote out and learned a list of the English Colonies.:

" 17th May, 1866. 1st class spent more than usual time on the History of England, in learning and writing out a list of the Sovereigns."

This same class also "Practised sketching a map of England and Wales."

Mr. Shotter liked to feel he was keeping the boys in touch with the wider world, so, on 11th January, 1865 his entry reads:-

"Asked the 1st class a Question in Mental Arithmetic alluded to by Lord Palmerston in his speech on Education in Romsey, viz:-

"What would a man earn in 4 years at 8 pence a day."

Three boys gave answer the same but omitted to add the extra 8 pence for Leap Year."

#### NEWSPAPERS AND CURRENT AFFAIRS.

Mr. Shotter also combined reading practice with current affairs and there are several references to the boys reading from newspapers.

"7th January, 1863. Tried 1st class in reading from a newspaper. 6 read fairly. Shall once a week or so try this."

Items of national and international importance were brought to the notice of his classes in this way, and probably passed on by them to their parents. Many of the poorer families would have been unable to read, and, even if they could, the cost of a newspaper would have been an unnecessary luxury. So, in February 1864, Mr. Shotter used items of interest in newspapers on two successive days for reading practice.

"3rd February. Practised 12 boys in 1st class in reading from a newspaper on the Great Fire in Santiago."

"4th February. Gave a lesson to 1st class on the war in Denmark and some of the boys read an article in the newspaper on the first battle."

Two disasters nearer home merited the attention of the boys in 1866. In November they were reading about "Inundations at Manchester and Derby" and in December an account of an explosion in a coal mine near Barnsley.

These are the only references to national and international events, although perhaps others were mentioned or discussed by Mr. Shotter, but did not merit an entry in the log book as they did not form part of his reading or writing practice.

#### KEEPING THE BOYS IN ORDER.

Discipline must have been fairly strict, as Mr. Shotter feels it necessary to mention when the standard of attention does not reach the level he wishes. One comment he makes paints a picture for us of orderly rows of boys expected to sit in absolute silence in their desks.

"5th March, 1863. Second class very full and order maintained not quite so well, a few whispering at times during the day." Only "a few" you will note, and only "at times" !

The type of punishment meted out to transgressors does not, according to the entries, appear to have been unduly harsh for those days. Only once is caning mentioned, although "punishment" in one or two other instances could have been a caning

A boy who breaks the rules by going outside the school yard during dinner time is "spoken to". Two boys play truant but "on their promising not to do the like again were forgiven". Other misdeeds named were "making use of improper words during playtime" and "having Lucifer matches against the rules", both of which were punished, though we are not told how. Persistent lateness was punished, after a warning, by detention after school.

#### PAYMENT BY RESULTS.

The importance of regular attendance can be understood by the fact that the amount of money received by the school in grants depended upon the number of pupils taught and for how many hours. Apart from this "Capitation" there were regulations regarding the standards which had to be reached.

The school was inspected twice a year and the Curate, the Reverend Pilkington, features largely in connection both with the preparations for examinations and the inspections themselves. In 1863 many entries for the month of June concern "practising the boys in their standards for the next examination", with Mr. Pilkington being active in school on the 2nd and 29th June.

Mr. Shotter's entry in the log book for the 22nd reads:-

"Spent more than usual time in special work for inspection with 1st class, as well as practised the boys to answer any commands". He does the same on the following two days with the 2nd and then 3rd classes. Inspection is on the 1st July with Mr. Warburton as the Inspector, in the presence of the Very Reverend the Dean, the Reverend Pilkington, and I.W. Woodcock, Esq.. The results were evidently satisfactory and the boys were given a half holiday. The report of the inspection on 17th July, 1866 gives us details of the amounts of capitation and how this was calculated. It depended upon the standards reached and the average attendance of the boys.

61 boys for examination. Average attendance 57.

Number presented for examination 60.

Reading 56. Writing 54. Arithmetic 36. Total 146.

Payment on examination £19:9s;4d. On average attendance £11:8s.

Total £30:17s:4d.

The following year the Inspector writes:-

"Half the children presented in the 4th, 5th and 6th standard have failed to pass in Arithmetic. The school has done very fairly in other respects."

This is following a winter of very low temperatures and heavy snow, when "Most of the little boys away", when as many as 8 boys were away "to obtain soup". A snow storm is mentioned as late as March that year.

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

There were indeed many factors at work resulting in poor attendances at various times of year. Bad weather kept away boys who had to travel long distances in snow or on roads which were muddy after rain. Besides not having enough to eat, so being allowed to attend a soup kitchen for some hot food, clothes and boots were a big item for poor families and could mean long absences from school.

"19th April, 1866. Charles Tett returned, having been away several weeks for want of boots".

When money was short, families would call on their older boys for help in the home, or in some employment which would bring in a few extra pence. There are many references to these reasons for absence from school.

"6th January, 1863. William Allen returns after being absent since last May, minding the younger ones".

"Also John Drew, after being in constant work during three month's absence."

The following month a boy returns after being away at work for 10 months. No indication is given of the age of these boys, although they must have been young enough for the parents to feel they could still benefit from schooling if they returned. Other absences were shorter, seasonal ones when help was needed on the land.

"20th April, 1863. William Cowding leaves, for a time, as last year, cow minding".

"18th June, 1863. Two boys have leave for hay-making, this being the first fine day this week".

The month of August was designated "Harvest Holidays", when the school closed completely to allow boys to help in this important task!

But in September there were other calls on them:-

"3rd September. 3 boys have leave, being a fine morning, for gleaning.

16th September. Several boys away, digging potatoes". Later in the year it was time to collect the acorns to feed the pigs, which were a useful free source of food for these animals which were often kept in a small sty, in even the smallest of gardens.

"22nd October. 3 boys had to leave at 3 o'clock to pick up acorns".

The services of schoolboys were often used by the local gentry when they needed a little casual labour at certain times.

"20th December, 1864. 18 1st class boys (i.e. boys in the 1st class) had leave to go with Mr. Chamberlayne bush beating for rabbits".

"30th May, 1865. Herbert Knight left at 11 o'clock to attend a gentleman fishing, and returned at 2 o'clock".

A very large house called Longmead was built in the village in 1866 by a gentleman called Mr. Barton. The first mention of him in this book is in March, 1867, when it was recorded:-

"A few boys will be away a short time stone picking for Mr. Barton".

## VISITORS.

In June of this same year Mr. Barton's wife called at the school, following the custom of the time that the wealthy and influential should take an interest in those in less easy circumstances.

"30th April, 1867. Mrs. Barton called for a short time and looked at class dictation."

Nor was she the only lady to take an interest in the boys.

"29th September, 1863. The Governess in Captain Cumming's family called and took the 1st class in singing."

Miss Flora Garnier, the Rector's granddaughter, was also a visitor to the school.

Sometimes the visitors brought more practical help for the boys. A Mr. Gilman regularly gave prizes in the New Year, usually of books to pupils who did well at school.

"23rd January, 1863. Mr. Pilkington today selected boys who are to compete for Mr. Gilman's prizes in Reading, Writing and Arithmetic."

Nor did they have long to wait for their prizes.

"27th January. The ladies from the Mount (another large house) attended today with the Reverend Pilkington, when Mr. Gilman's prizes were distributed, consisting of articles of clothes to 12 boys for the best Day School Attendance, and to two others for the best Sunday Attendance. Prizes of books were also given after the examination to four for Reading, three for Writing and three for Arithmetic. A bun was given to each boy and all dismissed at 2 o'clock."

This pattern of rewarding boys with clothes, books and buns was followed in the succeeding years. In 1865 the list of subjects for which prizes were given was widened, the donor this time being Mr. Stewart.

"20th January, 1865. The Reverend Mr. Pilkington and Mrs. Cummings today distributed Mr. Stewart's prizes of books and pictures to about 30 boys for answers in Religious Knowledge, History, Geography, Mental Arithmetic and Personal Cleanliness."

The last item may raise a few eyebrows now, but in the 1860's when people had to share a well between several houses and all water was heated on a fire, it must have been a real chore to persuade small boys that "Cleanliness is next to Godliness" ! A small reward must have helped for at least one day in the year.

There was also another occasion for a yearly prize. There was a week's holiday for Whitsun and on the return to school Mr. Pilkington would give a prize for the best wild flower collection. One year the prize-winner had collected 110 specimens and knew the names of 80 of them - a testament not only to the boy's knowledge, but also to the profusion of wild flowers within the village at that time.

#### HIGH DAYS AND HOLIDAYS.

Besides the four weeks holiday in August and a week for Whitsun, the boys had a break of a week at Christmas, but they do not appear to have had an Easter holiday. On Good Friday they attended "as on Sunday" and were in school again on Easter Monday. Ash Wednesday was a half holiday, after attending school till 10:30 then church.

There were also occasions other than work when some boys were given leave of absence. It would appear that some of the ladies in the village, probably as a charitable act, invited boys to tea. The brief mentions do not always reveal where these were held, or why, or which boys were invited.





Boys from a typical "Ragged School" of the 19th Century. Note the torn clothes and bare feet.

"14th July, 1863. A few boys have leave to attend a neighbouring tea party".

More detail is given for the following:-

"14th September, 1863. Half holiday given to attend a tea party given by Mrs. Eccles of Oak Lodge.

"28th June, 1865. Coronation day - attendance not good. Several boys having leave to attend a tea meeting at Stoke Common."

Mrs. Barton of Longmead obviously took care in selecting those to be invited to her house in 1867:-

"17th December. Dismissed at  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 4 to see Mrs. Barton about a Christmas treat to be given by her to the children.

"19th December. Mrs. Barton called with tickets for admission to her tea party on Monday next."

Sometimes the events were a more general affair.

"27th July, 1863. Members of Winchester Mechanics Institute held their Fete in the Rectory Grounds. Half holiday given."

On one occasion it is not stated whether leave was granted to the boys.

"29th July, 1867. Most of the station and village boys away. Forresters' Anniversary being held at the station."

Presumably boys whose fathers belonged to the society went with them for the celebration at Bishopstoke Junction. It should be remembered that Eastleigh was not in existence at this time, although the railway line between Southampton and London was opened in 1840. So for any boys who lived in houses near the station Bishopstoke School was their nearest one.

In 1864 there is mention of the "Annual School Treat" in July when a half holiday was given and also "some of the older day school boys played a game of cricket with Miss Woodcock's Sunday School Boys."

The 1st of May was known as "Garland Day" probably in association with dancing round the Maypole. This was not officially a school holiday, but on several occasions Mr. Shotter remarks on the number of boys absent on this day.

#### ROYAL WEDDING.

On the 10th March, 1863 the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIIth) was married and this was declared a holiday. Apparently the school was a meeting place for all the neighbouring children on this day, for Mr. Shotter writes:-

"240 children assembled in the schoolrooms and after being beautifully treated to tea and cake by R.J.Gilman, Esq., marched to the Railway Station to see the Royal Pair pass on their way to Osborne House."

#### LOCAL WEDDING.

When the Rector's granddaughter, Miss Flora Garnier, was to be married in 1866 both the teachers and the boys were involved.

"12th July. Mrs. Cummings called to speak about arrangements for Thursday next. (The wedding day)

"16th July. Reverend Pilkington took the singing boys in the music they intend singing on Thursday.

"18th July. Teacher engaged during the day in making garlands to be used tomorrow.

"19th July. A holiday. Tea Party. Miss Flora Garnier's wedding."

## THE SCHOOL DAY AND RECREATION TIME.

School began at 9:0 a.m., with prayers and ended at 4:0 p.m. There was an hour's break for lunch, when those boys who lived too far away stayed to eat at school. Although there is no indication of the food they brought, there is one mention that one boy at least had a bottle of wine and water to drink. This is obviously regarded as nothing unusual and the only reason it is mentioned is that the bottle gets accidentally broken.

During the lunch hour boys had to stay within the school yard. This appears to have been a patch of bare earth, surrounded by a hedge. There are comments about the mud in the yard on wet days one boy being reprimanded for pushing another into the mud. This would have been a real problem, with no washing facilities on site. On dry days the dust blew into the school. However, in October, 1865, Mr. Shotter brings up the subject of the state of the yard and says that gravel is needed for it. Four days later the yard is measured, part of it is to be newly gravelled. On the 29th November the gravel is delivered.

"A very welcome article arrived in the shape of a quantity of nice gravel to coat the school yard."

Some boys are pressed into service in pairs to roll this out

"8th December. Some of the elder boys, 2 together, went to roll the gravel in the school yard."

This is repeated a week later and as no further mention is made of it, we presume it was completed to Mr. Shotter's satisfaction.

The games played during the dinner hour were probably much the same as nowadays, although on two occasions "trundling hoops" is mentioned. These are banned when a window is broken. Some boys had also previously been warned not to cut sticks from the hedge to use with their hoops.

However the Reverend Pilkington introduced another passtime to the boys.

"9th February, 1863. Mr. Pilkington gave the boys a lesson in drill."

"12th February. An amusing dinner hour spent by the boys marching round the school yard to the music of a concertina played by a boy.

This is not mentioned again until 4 years later, when Mr. Shotter records, in almost the same words:-

"19th June, 1867. An amusing dinner hour spent by the boys marching around the school yard, preceded by three boys with 2 fifes and a pipe."

## ENTERTAINMENTS.

The school day was occasionally curtailed when the school room was wanted for an entertainment and had to be tidied up before school could begin.

"23rd September, 1864. Did not assemble this morning till 9¼ (9:15) being engaged in arranging the room after an entertainment consisting of a lecture on the Solar System, etc. Ventriloquism given by Mr. Eggleston".

A strange mixture of subjects it seems to us now. Mr. Eggleston gave another performance the following year.

"15th September, 1865. Did not open school punctually at 9:0  
The bigger boys put the room in order, an entertainment having  
been given last evening by Mr. Eggleston, on dissolving views,  
ventriloquism."

We presume the former item refers to a magic lantern performance,  
so perhaps the lecture the previous year also involved slides.  
The performer the following year was Mr. Anderson and his subject  
rather more literary.

"7th November, 1866. Dismissed boys a little early. Room wanted  
by a Mr. Anderson to give some readings from Shakespear."

This was before there was any sort of Public Hall at Bishopstoke,  
so the school room would have been the only large room in the village,  
(apart from in the large private houses,) available for any sort  
of entertainment.

It was later also used as a Polling Station for the election  
of the School Board after the Education Act of 1870.

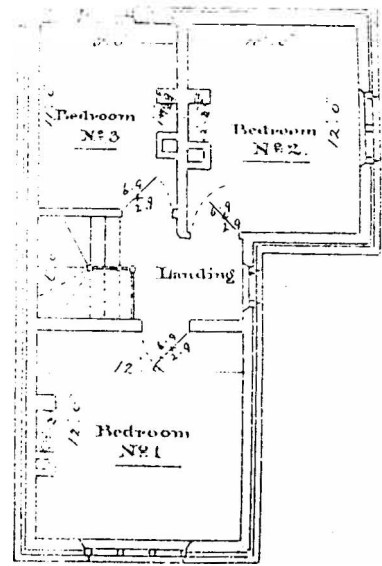
The school continued in existence until the building of the  
Board School in 1880. This was in Church Road to cater for the  
increase in pupils after compulsory education came into force.

No signs of the old National School now remain.

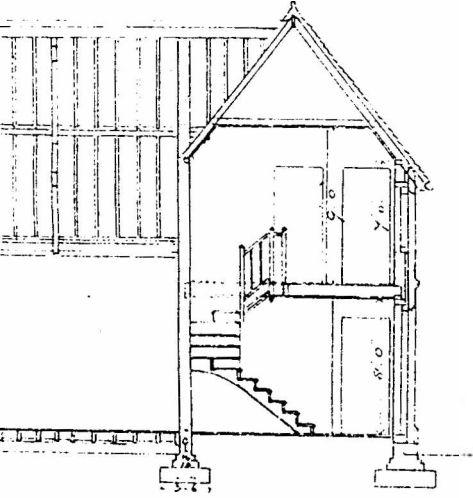
#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1. The Winchester Record Office for plans of the school,  
schoolmaster's house and Log Book.
2. "The English School, 1370 to 1870 " by Malcolm Seaborne.

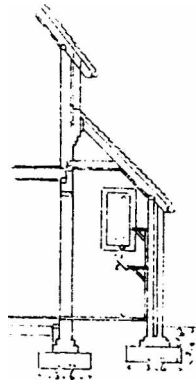
PROPOSED BOYS SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS RESIDENCE



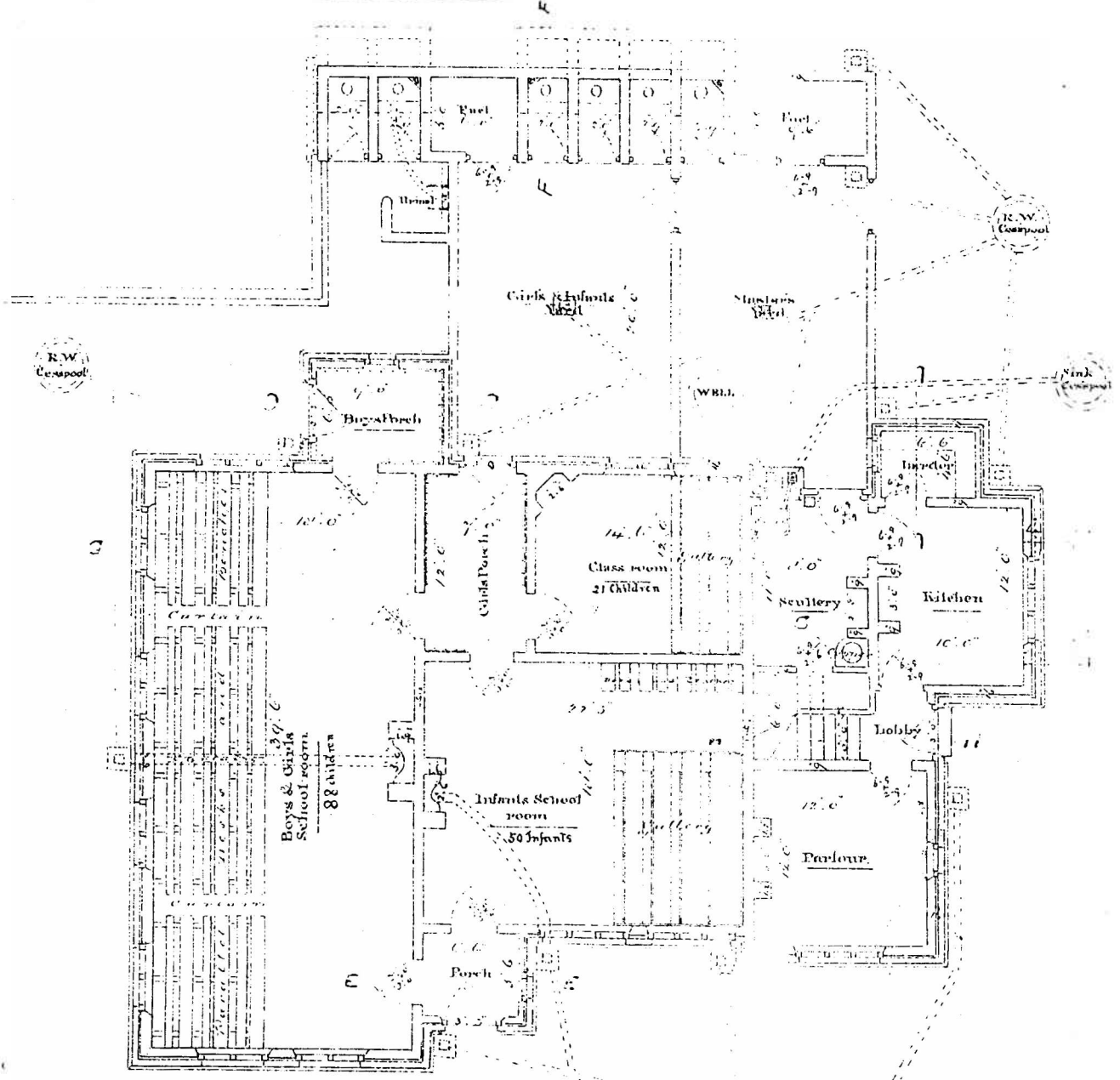
Upstairs Plan



Section A-A



Section B-B



Ground Plan