



Address	1 Stable Lane
Name	none
Map Reference	SL1
Plot Number	20
Listed Building Reference Grade	no n/a n/a
Conservation Area Reference	yes historic city
Building at Risk Reference	no n/a
Date of Construction	n/a
Original Use	surface car park (see history for barracks & previous uses)
Present Use	surface car park

Description

Tarmac surfaced car park bounded by stark white concrete bollards. Setting of B1 Listed Building the Verbal Arts Centre to rear of photograph. City walls are also just visible on right-hand side. Location is between Stable Lane, Mall Wall (previously Cunningham Row addresses), Grand Parade and Bishop Street. (See also No.27 Bishop Street.)

History

The 1834 Valuation Map indicates the site was at that time occupied by no.27 Bishop's Street and nos.1-3 Cunningham Row. Part of a terrace of seven, three-storey houses built directly against the inside face of the city walls with the first floor having direct access onto the wall. (nos.4-7 Cunningham Row demolished 1890 and site re-developed with First Presbyterian Primary School, built in 1894.) Nos.1-3 Cunningham Row vacant 1975, subsequently demolished. No.27 Bishop's Street demolished. Site later partially occupied by Army barracks with lookout, surrounded by security walls; barracks demolished 2007. Stable Lane re-laid and remainder of site surfaced for car park use.

Owners/Tenants

1 Cunningham Row

1879	Mary M'Garvey
1884	William Temple
1895	Patrick Lafferty
1909	Mrs M'Grath
1927	R M Boyle
1941	Cassie Feeny
1975	vacant
2006	British Army Barracks
2012	surface car park

1876+1884-1941 Derry Almanac; 1879 Giveen's Almanac; and others.

2 Cunningham Row

1879	William O'Hagan
1884	William O'Hagan
1895	Mary J M'Cauley
1909	James M'Caul
1927	Annie M'Callion
1941	John Dunn
1975	vacant
2006	British Army Barracks
2012	surface car park

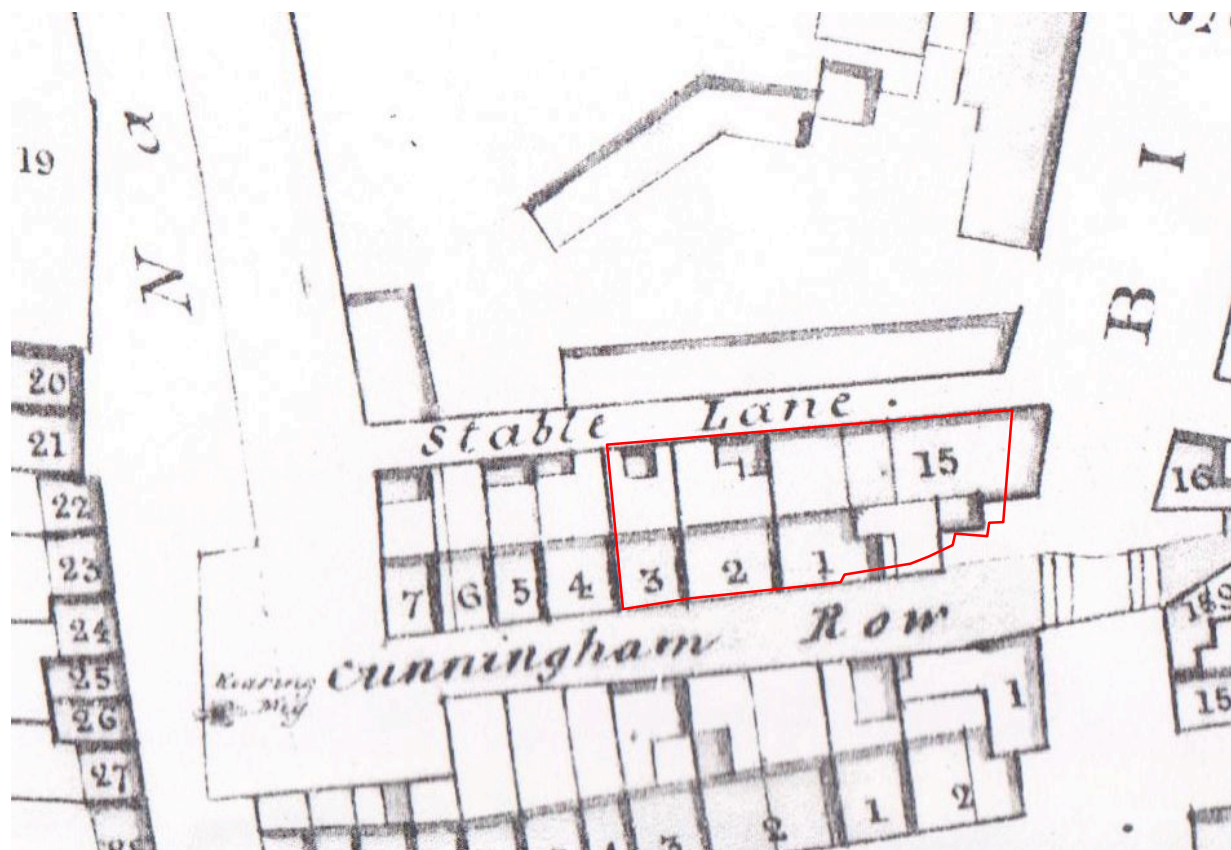
1884-1949 Derry Almanac; 1879 Giveen's Almanac; and others.

3 Cunningham Row

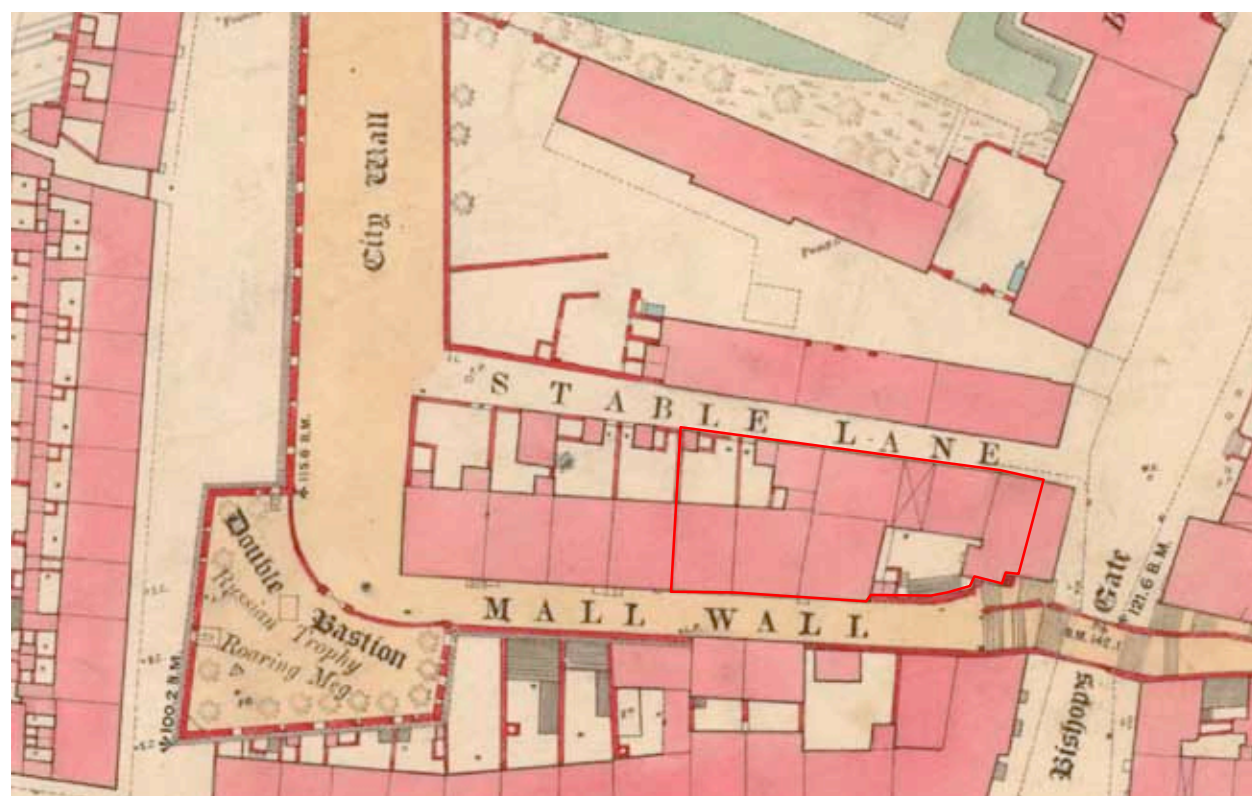
1879	Samuel Jack
1884	John Scott
1895	Mrs M'Cauley
1909	Mrs M'Cauley
1927	Miss M'Cauley
1941	Charles Hamilton
1975	vacant
2006	British Army Barracks
2012	surface car park

1876+1884-1953 Derry Almanac; 1879 Giveen's Almanac; and others.

Archive Map



Site of car park, formerly nos.1-3 Cunningham Row, Valuation Map, 1834



Site of car park, formerly nos.1-3 Cunningham Row, Mall Wall, Ordnance Survey, 1873

Archive Images



Nos. 1-3 Cunningham Row, Mall Wall, circa 1950s.



Address	Verbal Arts Centre Stable Lane
Name	Verbal Arts Centre
Map Reference	SL2
Plot Number	20
Listed Building Reference Grade	Yes HB01/19/079 B1
Conservation Area Reference	Yes historic city
Building at Risk Reference	No n/a
Date of Construction	1894
Original Use	School
Present Use	arts centre

Description

Red-brick in Queen Anne revival style. First Derry Presbyterian Primary School, built to the designs of W.E. Pinkerton in 1894. The Verbal Arts Centre acquired the building in 1995 and refurbished, converted and extended the building for use as the Verbal Arts Centre to the designs of Hall Black Douglas Architects, in 2000. The building was converted into a centre to promote writing, storytelling, performance and verbal creativity. The building, which is accessed by a double height reception area, includes a gallery on the ground floor; library/board room; a café on the first floor; a sound recording studio; a children's workshop area; a debating chamber; a residential studio and a multipurpose public performance space on top floor.

'throughout the project, architect and client have worked together to establish a narrative thread which progresses from dark to light, rising through the levels of the building to reveal the expressive range of the verbal arts'.

David Evans in Perspective (Vol. 8 No. 5)

The building has received a number of architectural awards, including a Civic Trust Award in 2001; RIAI Regional Award 2001; and EHS Conservation Award 2001.

History

The 1834 valuation map indicates the site to be occupied by nos.4-7 Cunningham Row, part of a terrace of seven terraced houses built directly against the inner face of the city walls and middle floors opening directly onto the wall. Houses demolished 1890. Formerly the First Derry National School designed by W E Pinkerton, built in 1894 to replace the Presbyterian National Schools of Upper Magazine Street.

'The earliest recorded school, founded in 1773, was known as the 'Bluecoat' school, the name being taken from the pupil's distinctive blue uniforms. The boys led the singing in church, in return for which they were clothed and educated. The school was held in the Primary Sunday School building, and by 1820 it had become too small to accommodate its pupils. The building was enlarged but in 1849 it was once again too small. A piece of ground was acquired, close to the church, and by 1854 a new building was complete. It housed the girls of First Derry School.

The present site [referring to site of Pinkerton's Queen Anne Revival building off Stable Lane] occupied by the National School building was acquired at the cost of £850, and the design for the building was put out to competition. The minister, James Cargin, sent out a plea to his congregation for funds for the new school, who eventually raised roughly a third of the total cost. Fourteen architects entered the competition, under various noms-de-plume ('Roaring Meg', 'Derry', etc), and the winning design was submitted by 'Mitchelburn', alias Mr W E Pinkerton. The contractor was Joseph Ballentine. The final cost of the work was around £3,600 and all debt was cleared by 1898. The first Derry National School building was formally opened on 1st November 1894.'

Elaine Gray, Foyle Civic Trust Newsletter, Issue 7, 1996

In 1929 its name was changed from the First Derry National School to the First Derry Public Elementary School. Following the Education Act 1947, which established the new Secondary intermediate schools, the school ceased to provide education for more senior children. The school then became the First Derry Primary School, providing education for children up to twelve years of age. The School closed in 1995 when schooling was transferred to the fountain area along with the Carlisle Road and Derry Cathedral Schools. The building was acquired later the same year by the Verbal Arts Centre. Converted and extended to the designs of Hall Black Douglas architects for use as the Verbal Arts Centre in 2000.

Owners/Tenants

4 Cunningham Row

1879	Thomas M'Clay
1884	Mary M'Garvey

1879 Giveen's Almanac; 1884 Derry Almanac.

5 Cunningham Row

1879	Thomas O'Hanlon, stores?
1884	Patrick Lafferty

1876+1884-1953 Derry Almanac; 1879 Giveen's Almanac; and others.

6 Cunningham Row

1879	Thomas O'Hanlon, stores?
1884	Alexander Kemps

1879 Giveen's Almanac; 1884 Derry Almanac.

7 Cunningham Row

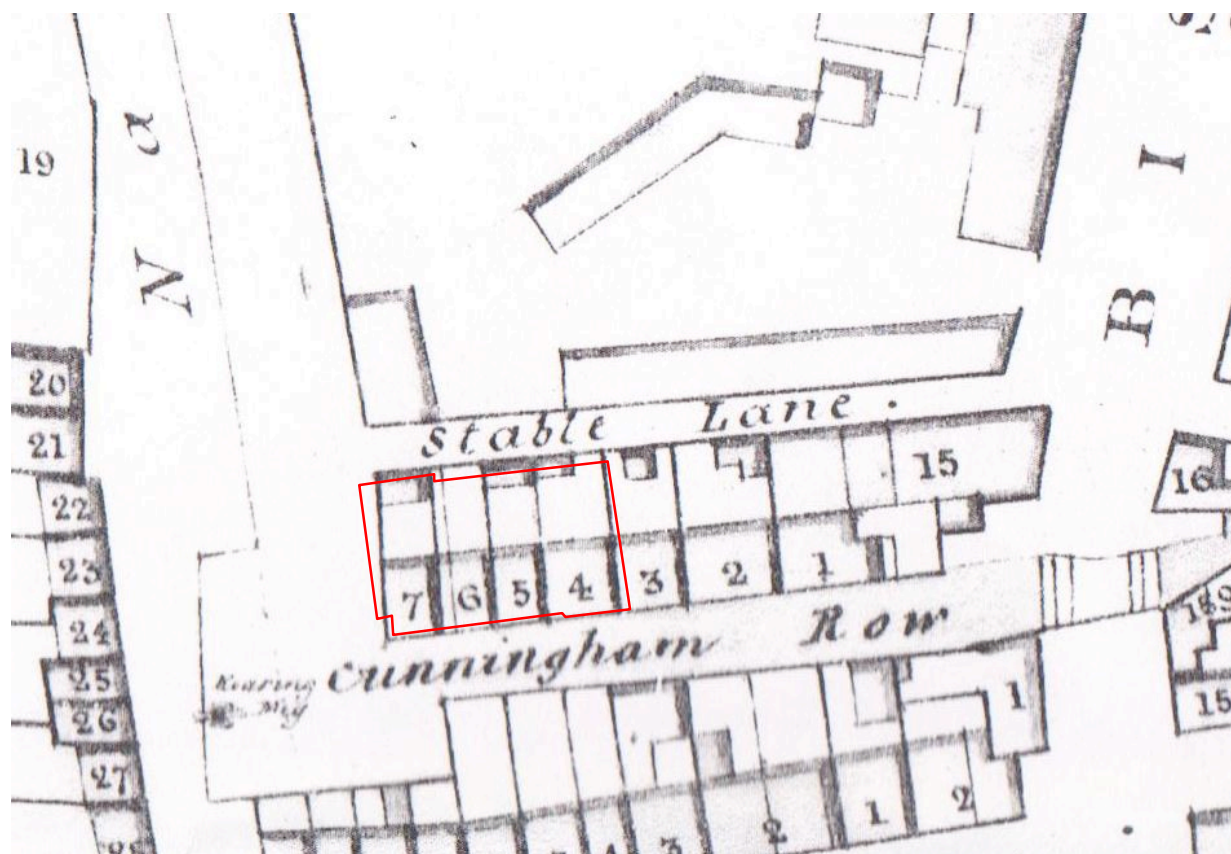
1879	John M'Clelland, TC
1884	John M'Clelland

Verbal Arts Centre

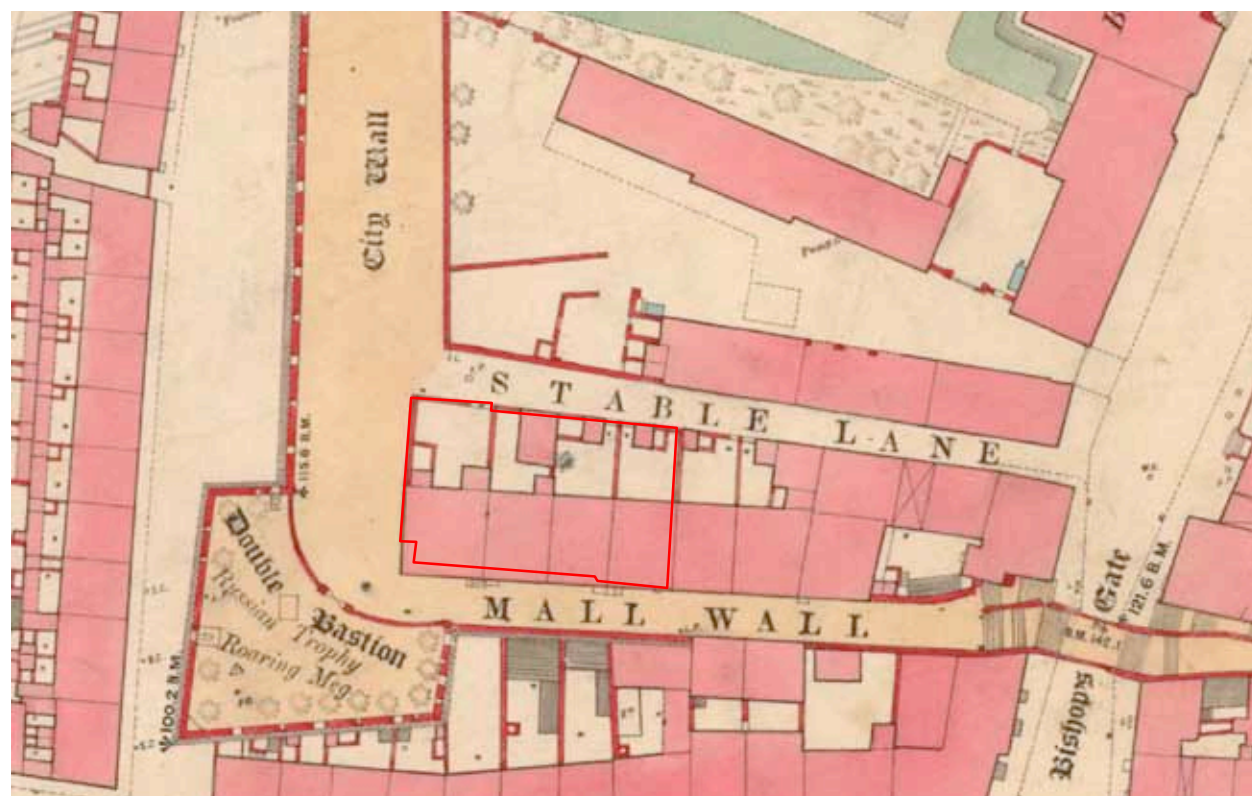
1895	First Presbyterian Church, new schools
1909	First Presbyterian Church Schools, caretaker, John Bell
1927	First Presbyterian Church Schools
1941	First Presbyterian Church Schools
1995	vacant
2000	Verbal Arts Centre
2012	Verbal Arts Centre

1895-1941 Derry Almanac; 1879 Giveen's Almanac; and others.

Archive Maps

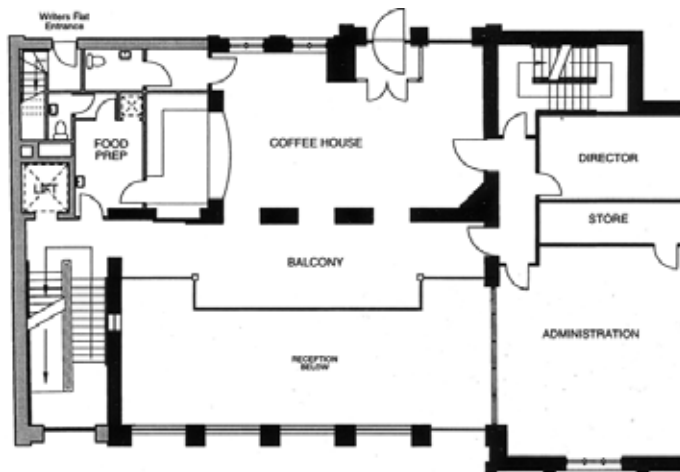


Site of Verbal Arts Centre formally First Derry Presbyterian Primary School bldg. Valuation Map 1834

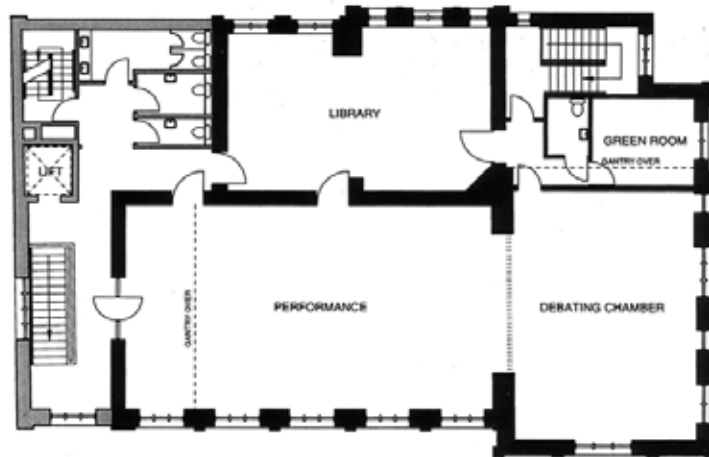


Site of Verbal Arts Centre, formally 1st Derry Presbyterian Primary School bldg. Ordnance Survey 1873

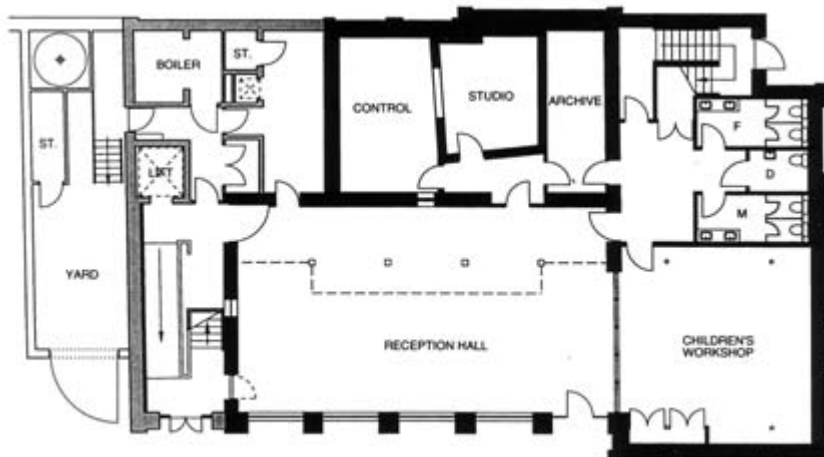
Design Drawings



Mezzanine Floor



First Floor



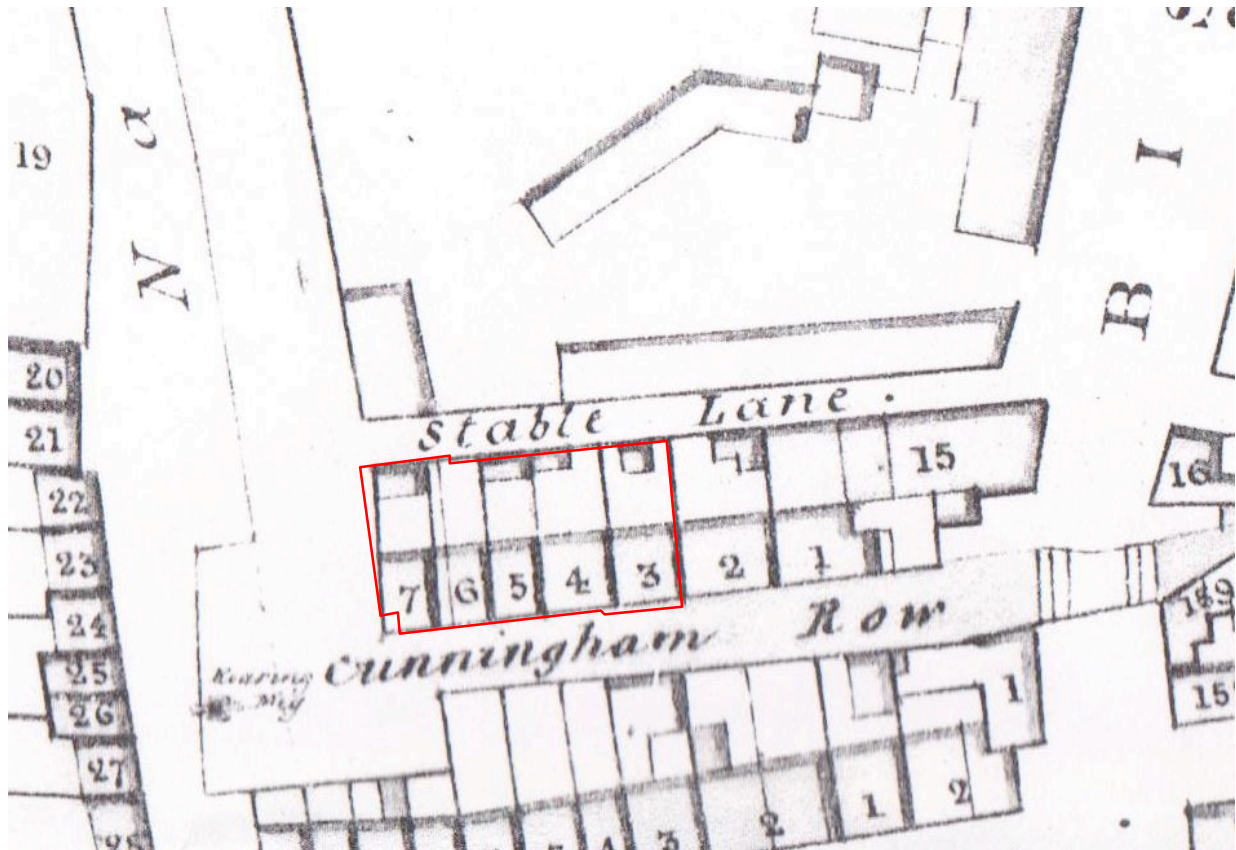
Ground Floor

Floor Plans, Hall Black Douglas Architects



North elevation, drawing Hall Black Douglas Architects

Archive Maps



Site of the Verbal Arts Centre, former First Derry Presbyterian Primary School, Valuation Map, 1834

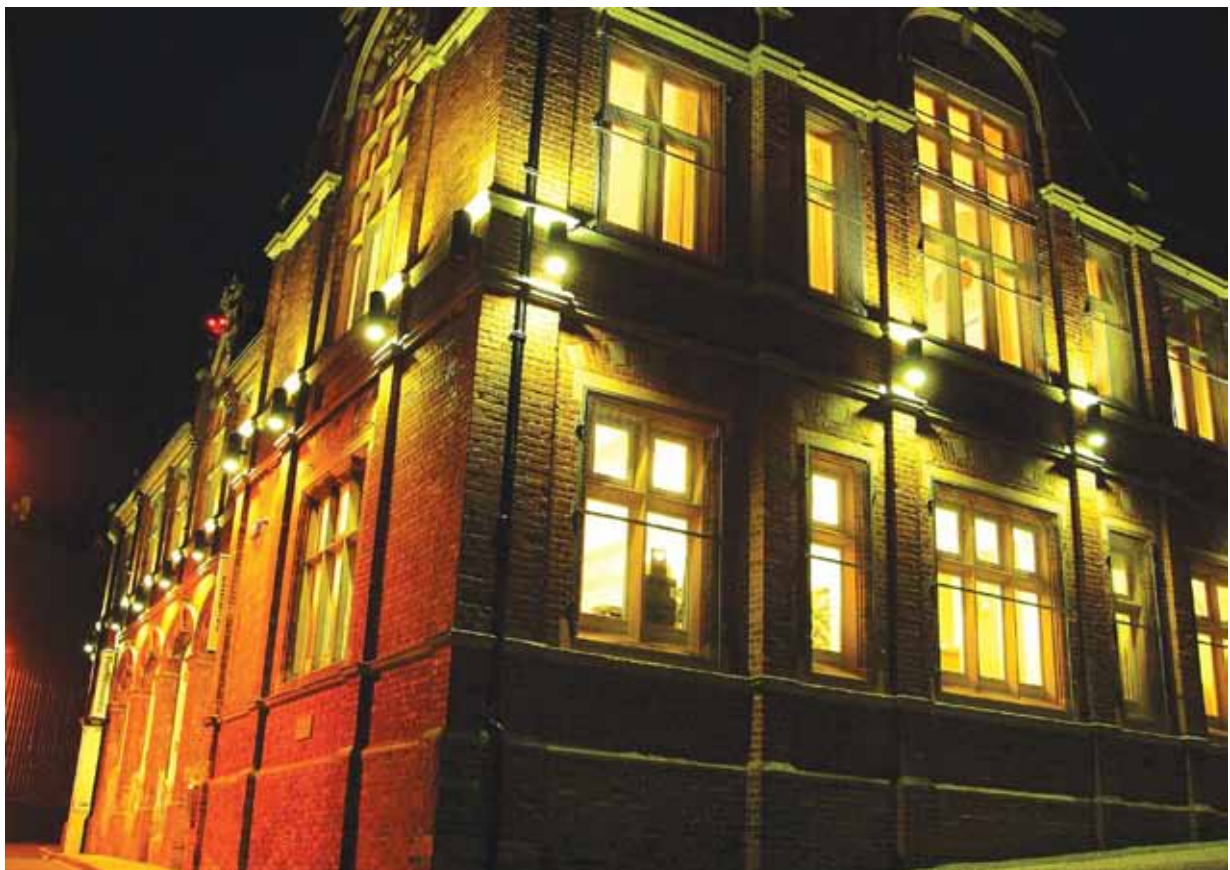
Archive Images



First Derry Presbyterian Primary School from City Walls, circa 1950



Verbal Arts Centre, 2000



Verbal Arts Centre, 2000

