# Falcon Square, Inverness: Building Recording

Client: Hillier Parker

John Renshaw and Matthew Ritchie 24 September 1997



### **SUMMARY**

Archaeological building recording work at Falcon Square, Academy Street, Inverness, was undertaken by AOC (Scotland) Ltd on behalf of Hillier Parker. The work consisted of a desk-based assessment and the provision of a site/roof plan and measured external elevations at 1:100. A photographic record was also undertaken to accompany the elevations, recording both the building elevations and detail of architecturally significant features. The chronological sequence and the construction methods and materials of the buildings were described.

The buildings consist of two stone warehouses and a smaller brick building. One warehouse and the brick building face onto Falcon Square and the station, and are situated next to the listed warehouse at Nos. 7-10 Falcon Square. The second warehouse lies to the south and faces onto what was an enclosed courtyard.

### INTRODUCTION

### Circumstances of works

Archaeological building recording work at Falcon Square, Academy Street, Inverness, was undertaken by AOC (Scotland) Ltd and was commissioned by Hillier Parker.

The main purpose of the work was to record three standing buildings at Falcon Square and any features of archaeological importance before their demolition in the course of the re-development of this area. The brief for the archaeological building recording of the warehouses was prepared by the Highland Archaeology Service and specified measured analytical survey of all floor plans elevations and internal and external elevations and photographic record.

However a pre-demolition survey of the buildings commissioned by Hillier Parker condemned them as being structurally unsound, with probable rat infestation, and the brief was revised to exclude any internal survey work. The weather conditions were good, generally overcast in the morning and bright in the afternoon. The buildings were surrounded by hoardings, with the exception of the front onto Falcon Square. Only limited building works were underway at the time of the survey, the relocation of an electricity cable in the forecourt.

The work consisted of a desk-based assessment and the provision of both measured external elevations at 1:100 and a photographic record, and the survey was undertaken by AOC (Scotland) Ltd on the 24th and 25th August 1997.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The extent of the historic town of Inverness is defined by the line of the town ditch, built around AD 1179. Falcon Square lies just outside this medieval town ditch, with Academy Street and Ardcondel Street running along the line of the ditch (Close-Brooks, 1995:44). With the exception of thatched huts 'of the worst class', the town expanded to the east only in the 19th century, when the land outside the old burgh boundary was developed, largely for solidly built villas and the railway, which began with the Inverness to Nairn line in 1855, but lost no time expanding to the east (Gifford, 1992:182).

During the mid to late nineteenth century wholesale traders began to move from the quays to Falcon Square, adjacent to the station, where they continued to provide wholesale supplies of dry goods, groceries, and other imported stores, to Inverness and the surrounding

towns and villages (Ordnance Survey, 1867 and 1904). The suppliers of building and other heavy materials remained near the quays. The general pattern remained until after the Second World War (Inverness Field Club, 1975, 252).

### **METHODOLOGY**

### **Desk-based assessment**

Only a limited desk-based assessment was undertaken as this was not an element of the original brief. The desk-based assessment reviewed the information held within readily accessible public archives allowing the compilation of the known history of the recorded buildings. The public archives consulted included:

- The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (the National Monument Record of Scotland and the Listed Buildings Inventory)
- The National Map Library (1st edition Ordinance Survey maps; town plans, and early cartographic records of the area)

### **Building recording**

The methodology for the archaeological building recording was based on the specified requirement for a minimum standard of work and was influenced by the restrictions on internal access to the buildings imposed for Health and Safety reasons; within these constraints it conforms with the guidelines set out by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 1995).

The recording therefore comprised only a limited check survey of the existing site plan supplied by Hillier Parker, a measured analytical survey of the external elevations, and the compilation of a photographic record of the external elevations and details. The survey drawings outline major features and changes in materials and are plotted at a scale of 1:100. The report describes the nature of the materials and construction and indicates the relative phasing of the buildings.

The photographs were taken using 35 mm colour print film. All photographs taken of the elevations and significant details include a 4 m scale, with 0.5 m divisions, except where access was not possible.

### **DISCUSSION**

The three buildings recorded include a detached warehouse (Building 1), a group of warehouses or commercial buildings facing the Station at Nos. 12-14 Falcon Square (Building 2) and an associated building at 11 Falcon Square (Building 3). These formed part of a group of nineteenth century warehouses immediately to the south east of Inverness Railway Station (Ordnance Survey, 1930). The south-east and part of the north-east ranges of this group together with a centrally placed depot have been demolished since 1982. The remaining standing buildings and the adjoining warehouse Nos. 7-10 Falcon Square and ruinous section of No. 6 Falcon Square are all dilapidated and structurally unsound; a timber hoarding extended around the south-west, south and south-east elevations of all the buildings.

### Building 1: a warehouse behind Nos. 12-14 Falcon Square

This warehouse comprises a 1½ storey building constructed of random rubble stonework with a pitched slated roof and gables with central ridge stacks at each end. It has a rhomboidal plan which is orientated north-west to south-east and its main elevation faces north-east. The external walls are generally constructed with roughly coursed, yellow and red random sandstone rubble, which was possibly originally harled; the lintols, rybats and cills are generally of the red sandstone and are roughly finished. The detailing is simple, with plain freestone skews and a simple flush chimney copes with necking course; the only carved feature is a simple corbelled neuk stone to the east corner. The slated roof contains two rooflights on each side, which are now boarded over. The ridge was formed with a lead capping but the central section has been removed and is now covered, together with other areas where slates are missing with a temporarily covering of roofing felt secured with timber battens.

The building probably dates from the first half of the nineteenth century and is the earliest of the three buildings which were recorded, it is also possibly the earliest in this group of warehouses. The external fabric appears to be of a single continuous phase of construction, with the exception of the collapsed lean-to structure which stood between the north-west gable and the west end of the south-east elevation of No. 14 Falcon Square, probably dating from mid-twentieth century and the various late twentieth century temporary repairs, structural shoring and the boarding or building up of all windows and doors.

The main elevation which faces onto the courtyard comprises six bays or two bays of three comprising a central door with flanking windows. A single attic door within flush gablet dormer is located above the left hand ground floor door, with framed and lined timber door and timber hoist/beam projecting from gablet above. The fragments of a pair of timber sliding door remain at the right hand ground floor door. A plywood 'gutter' has been constructed at eaves level since its abandonment to prevent slates falling to the ground.

The south-east gable is now supported by temporary steel shoring on a concrete raft foundation and contains a door at first floor level with central gable stack and two chimney pots. Evidence of the original stone forestair is visible where the wall have been repaired with red engineering brick.

The south-west elevation is without structural opening or feature and is constructed from random mix of both the yellow and red sandstone. A plywood 'gutter' has been constructed at eaves level and there is no evidence of the original rainwater goods.

The north-west gable with central gable chimney stack and two plain chimney pots contains no structural openings. A horizontal raggle and partially collapsed timber frame provides evidence of the twentieth century single storey infill which was linked to No. 14 Falcon Square and extended for the full length of the gable with large double doors opening out into the courtyard. The ground floor was encumbered with fragments of the collapsed corrugated asbestos roof and timber structure, the framed and lined timber double doors each with three glazed lights at high level and sundry other detritus and vegetation. The three enclosing walls had been lime washed below the level of the flat roof. A second and lower horizontal raggle indicated the existence of an earlier structure which probably also abutted the north-west gable but had a pitched roof at right angles to the main roof of Building 1.

The facing brick wall which formed the rear wall of this lean-to structure connects the south-west elevations of both Buildings 1 & 2. This wall originally formed the gable of an early building. Its sandstone skewputs remain on west face although the associated skew stones have been removed and the wall built up to the existing horizontal cope using a similar facing brick with stone cope.

### Building 2: a warehouse Nos. 12-14 Falcon Square

This building, which is divided into three separate addresses (Nos. 12, 13 & 14), comprises from the north (No. 12) a 2  $^{1}/_{2}$  storey building with pitched slated roofs and gables to the north-east, south-west and south-east and (Nos. 13-14) an adjoining two storey section with flat felted roof. The building is of trapezoidal plan and tapers towards the south-west, it faces north west onto Falcon Square and south east onto the courtyard.

With the exception of the north-west elevation the external walls are generally constructed with roughly coursed, red sandstone rubble with dressed yellow sandstone lintols, tooled rybats with margin draft and projecting cills. The complete north-west elevation is finished with a smooth render, marked of in ashlar stone courses and painted; the paint is peeling revealing previous layers and some of the painted business signs are still visible.

The slated roof comprises a 'T' plan with valleys at the intersection of the two roofs. The north-east and south-west gables are surmounted by central rubble stone stacks both with six flues, five chimney pots remaining. The ridge and valley flashings are missing, together with areas of slating, particularly around the valleys and a part of the south-east slope which has collapsed. The south-west gable and chimney stack is constructed in sandstone rubble with heavy overpointing and has an open slate verge. The outline of a cement skew is visible against the chimney stack and below an earlier door/fireplace opening now built up with brickwork indicates the earlier continuation of the pitched roof. The adjoining flat felted roof is now moss covered and perforated exposing sections of the timber sarking. The row of rooflights/ access hatches are open to the elements.

The building dates from the last quarter of the nineteenth century and has probably been built in phases or altered; without extensive access to the interior of the building it is not possible to develop a comprehensive analytical survey report, detailing all phases of construction and alteration. The later lean-to extensions described above and below would appear to post date the completion of the existing structure of Building 2. The stonework has subsequently been repointed and a number of minor alterations and repairs undertaken. The boarding and building up of all windows and doors and abandonment of the warehouses during the late twentieth century forms the last phase of activity prior to its abandonment, dereliction and decay.

All window and door openings at ground level were boarded or built up except on the courtyard elevation where the hoarding had been removed from a window to allow access for the pre-demolition survey and pest control inspection.

The north-west elevation to Falcon Square, including the front elevation of the adjoining building (No 11), comprises a two storey warehouse range with five irregularly fenestrated bays. These comprise -1st bay (No. 11 Falcon Square) a central door with flanking windows at ground floor with parapet above (see description of No. 11 below for further details), - 2nd bay (No. 12) also a central door with flanking windows at ground floor, two roughly symmetrical windows with segmental heads at first floor and a pitched slated roof above with central rooflight, - the 3rd and 4th bays (No. 13) both contain a central door with flanking windows at ground floor, one paired window with adjoining single window with segmental heads at first floor and flat roof above, - the 5th bay (No. 14) comprises a door and paired door and window at ground floor with two single windows centred above with segmental heads, a smaller later window to left. The complete elevation has been smooth rendered, lined off and painted a number of times. The windows are formed with plain projecting margins and projecting cills; the rendering of this elevation is possibly a later phase of work undertaken to unify the detail and appearance of the street frontage. The external wall has settled and deflected considerably over its full height, particularly at its mid-span. Most of

the window and door openings are boarded or built up with various combinations of blockwork, plywood, Stirling board and timber lining and there was no access to the building.

The north-east elevation contains a ground floor window with doors above at first floor level and attic level above within flush gabled dormer with slate cheeks. Two hoist/beams project from gablet. The flush eaves of the pitched slated roof meets the gable above a small and a large window located at first floor level. The gable skew is finished with a simple chamfered projecting stone skew and skewputs with projecting moulding. The central chimney stack is capped with a simple moulded cope. The random rubble has been repointed above ground floor level where evidence of an abutment extends east beyond the line of the standing ruins of Building 3.

The south-east elevation facing the courtyard comprises from the left (No. 14) a door with flanking window to left and later windows to either side with two single windows above. This door would have provided access to the lean-to structure described above under Building 1. Continuing to the left (No. 13) comprised six bays at ground floor with group of a door with flanking windows to either side and to their right a door with window to left and door, now blocked up to right. Paired windows at first floor are located above each of the flanking openings. Next (No. 12) has a roughly central door at ground floor with flanking door now blocked up to left and door to right on chamfered with corbel corner above. Two single windows are located at first floor with attic window/door within gable above. The rubble stonework has been repointed with sand cement mortar. Lengths of the timber fascia to the flat roof remain with sections of original cast iron rainwater goods.

The south-west gable is constructed from roughly coursed random rubble with dressed quoins and concrete cope. A part of a now demolished wall adjoins the northern end of the gable which was overgrown with vegetation.

The main structure to the flat roofed section (Nos. 13 & 14) which spans from front to back is broken by a steel frame comprising 160 mm diameter cast iron columns and steel beams. The ground and first floors are of suspended timber construction and the internal floor to ceiling height measured 3.320 m. The first floor construction typically comprised tong and groove timber floor boards, floor joists, ceiling joists with branders and plasterboard finish to the ground floor ceiling. Internal partitions included both masonry party walls, generally lined with tong and groove timber lining with later plasterboard finish fixed immediately over and some brickwork. The interior appeared to be divided into four sections with access between each section.

### **Building 3: 11 Falcon Square**

The single storey infill between the adjoining Warehouse at Nos. 7-10 Falcon Square and the Warehouse at Nos. 12-14 Falcon Square comprised a main rectangular room with small draft lobby to street entrance and two small spaces to the rear, one accessed from No. 11 and the other from No. 10. The complete roof structure over the main room and sections of the wall linings had collapsed onto the ground floor and the two brick built spaces to the rear were also completely ruinous and overgrown. Recording and analytical survey in this area was made difficult by the extent of this vegetation, the collapsed structure and other detritus and the health and safety risk of access within the spaces.

The building probably dates from the early twentieth century and has been altered internally a number of times during the mid-twentieth century before it was abandoned and becoming ruinous.

The elevation to the street comprises three bays with central door and flanking windows with cornice, balustrade with decorative ironwork and pilasters and stone cope above. The cornice also extends along the gable of the Warehouse at Nos. 7-10 Falcon Square and suggests that the twentieth century infill was initially linked to No. 10. The windows and door openings to the street were boarded or built up.

The rear elevation comprises a partially collapsed 225 mm thick common brick wall. Internally the main room was lined with tong and groove timber lining which was subsequently sheeted over with plasterboard and a lower suspended ceiling constructed from plasterboard and timber framing. The room which is linked to No. 12 by way of a door opening towards the rear of the room, was linked at one time with both adjoining buildings; probably initially to No. 10 and perhaps later to No. 12 at which time it seems that access to No 10 was blocked off. A brick built chimney stack is located in the south-east corner of the main room against the external wall of Nos. 7-10 Falcon Square. The ground floor was encumbered with fragments of the collapsed roof structure which comprised timber joists spanning from front to back with declevity pieces, timber sarking and a bituminous felt finish, fragments of the later suspended ceiling and sundry other detritus and vegetation.

### **MITIGATION**

These three structures were constructed after the middle of the nineteenth century. None of the structures have architectural elements of great note or significance, although they do typify the industrial usage of this area of Inverness. This response, requested by the Highland Archaeological Service, would appear to be the appropriate level of recording for these structures.

### **REFERENCES AND SOURCES**

Close-Brooks J, 1995 The Highlands. Edinburgh: HMSO.

Gifford, 1992 The Buildings of Scotland: Highlands and Islands. London.

Gourlay, R & Turner, A 1977 Historic Inverness the archaeological implications of development. Glasgow: Scottish Burgh Survey.

Hutton, B 1986 Recording Standing Buildings. Sheffield: The British Archaeological Trust.

Inverness Field Club 1975 The Hub of the Highlands: the book of Inverness and District. Edinburgh.

Ordnance Survey 1867 sheet XII 2.1, 1:500

Ordnance Survey 1904 sheet XII.2, 1:2500

Ordnance Survey 1930 sheet XII.2, 1:2500

Pride, GL 1995 Dictionary of Scottish Building

Wood, J 1821 Wood's Town Atlas

# APPENDIX 1: HIGHLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE BRIEF

# HIGHLAND COUNCIL Cultural and Leisure Services ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE

# Specification for archaeological work prepared for Hillier Parker

## FALCON SQUARE, INVERNESS

### Archaeological Recording

### Background

This specification has been produced to facilitate the recording of standing buildings on the Falcon Square site. These buildings are to be removed in order that a temporary car park can be put in place.

### Terms of Reference

This specification is for archaeological recording work at Falcon Square, Academy Street, Inverness, occasioned by recent planning applications. It is based on these documents. If these details are changed a new specification will be needed. It is valid until December 1997 after which if no work has been carried out a revised specification will be needed.

The specification has been produced for Hillier Parker who will be responsible for the work, including all tendering and contractual arrangements. Estimates should be obtained from archaeological contractors on the basis of this specification. It is for a minimum standard of work; a higher standard may be offered and accepted.

Any reference to 'archaeologist' in this specification is to be taken to mean a qualified and experienced practitioner acceptable to the Highland Archaeologist. This is to ensure that work is carried out to professional standards. The project should be carried out by, or under the immediate direction of, a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists or an archaeologist of equivalent standing.

### **Objectives**

1. To record, to professional standards, any features and objects of archaeological importance that will be damaged or destroyed by this development.

### Method (huilding recording)

The buildings will be recorded using measured analytical survey and photography. All interior and exterior walls should be included in the measured elevations and a full ground plan must be produced. Photographs should include scales, and should be clearly referenced to their location on the elevations and plans. Details of construction methods and materials should be described, and any later additions, demolitions or modifications noted.

### Monitoring

- 1. The Highland Archaeologist will normally monitor projects to ensure that specifications are met.
- 2. Monitoring will normally be by unannounced site visit. Alternative or additional monitoring arrangements may be made in individual cases.
- 3. Prior notice of fieldwork starting dates, with contact names and local addresses, telephone numbers and directions and other arrangements for access must be given to the Highland Archaeologist.
- 4. Any unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries, or any other unexpected occurrences or conditions which might affect the agreed project work or its timetable or cost must be notified immediately to the client and the Highland Archaeologist so that revised arrangements can be made. Reasons given later for non-completion to specification or timetable will not normally be accepted if immediate notification has not taken place.

### Reporting

### 1. Project report

At least FOUR copies of the project report must be produced.

- One copy for the Hillier Parker
- \* Two copies for the Highland Sites and Monuments Record Old School, High Street, Clachnaharry, Inverness IV3 6RB, where it will be available for immediate consultation by the public.
  - One copy to be deposited in the National Monuments Record for Scotland, John Sinclair House,
     16 Bernard Terrace, Edinburgh EH8 9NX.

The report must be submitted to the Highland Archaeologist within 3 weeks of the completion of the work.

The report must include, as a minimum,

- 1. Location plan showing the project area and archaeological sites and features affected
- Circumstances and objectives of this work, including a copy of this specification
- Weather and other conditions affecting fieldwork
- Plans, drawings and photographs of archaeological features noted
- A full index to any records or other material generated by the project including its location
- Details of any measures proposed to mitigate the impact of the application on the archaeological resource
- 7. A brief analysis of the project results drawing in comparative data as appropriate.

 General comments and proposals for future archaeological projects arising from the carrying out of this project

The completed report will be available for immediate public consultation for research purposes at the Highland Sites and Monuments Record.

### 2. Treasure Trove

Any report to the Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer must be copied to the Highland Archaeologist.

# 3. Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

A brief summary of the results must be sent to the Council For Scottish Archaeology for inclusion in Discovery and Excavation in Scotland.

### General

- I. The archaeologist appointed must be of a professional standing acceptable to the Highland Archaeologist and must carry out the work according to the Code of Conduct, standards and guidelines of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.
- 2. The archaeologist is responsible for taking all necessary measures to conform with the Health and Safety at Work Acts and be covered by all necessary insurances.
- 3. The archaeologist must agree a timetable for the work with the client and the Highland Archaeologist
- 4. The archaeologist appointed will not comment to the press or other media without prior approval from the Highland Archaeologist
- 5. Proper provision must be made for prevailing weather conditions in northern Scotland

Dorothy Low Archaeologist

recspc.doc

# APPENDIX 2: PHOTOGRAPHIC LOG

Photo No.	From	Description
1	E	Building 1, east-facing wall
2	$\overline{\mathbf{W}}$	Building 1, west-facing wall
3	SE	Building 1, south-facing gable end and east facing wall
4	S	Building 1, oblique of east-facing wall showing dormer
5	S	Building 2, south-facing wall
6	W	Building 1, west-facing wall
7	W	Building 1, west-facing wall and the brick wall joining buildings 1 and 2
8	W	Detail of the brick wall joining buildings 1 and 2
9	S	Remnants of the wall adjacent to the west end of building 2
10	$\mathbf{W}$	Brick wall and north gable end of building 1
11	NE	Oblique of north-facing warehouse fronts
12	E	7-9 Falcon Square (listed)
13	N	Building 3, north-facing wall
14	N	Building 2, detail of north-facing wall
15	N	Building 2, detail of north-facing wall
16	N	Building 2, detail of north-facing wall
17	${f N}$	Building 2, detail of north-facing wall
18	N	Building 2, detail of north-facing wall
19	N	Building 2, detail of north-facing wall
20	N	Building 2, detail of north-facing wall
21	N	Building 2, detail of north-facing wall
22	N	Building 2, detail of north-facing wall
23	N	Detail of north-facing wall adjacent to building 2
24	$\mathbf{W}$	Brick wall between buildings 1 and 2
25	$\mathbf{W}$	Building 2, west-facing wall
26	$\mathbf{W}$	Building 2, west-facing wall
27	SE	Pend between buildings 1 and 2, obscured by hoarding
28	S	Building 2, south-facing wall
29	S	Building 1, upper detail of south-facing gable
30	S	Building 1, south-facing gable
31	SE	Building 1, detail of coins on SE corner
32	SE	Building 1, detail of skews, skewputt, and coins on SE cornrer
33	E	Building 1, east-facing wall, south end
34	E	Building 1, east-facing wall, north end, and pend
35	E	Building 1, east-facing wall
36	SE	Forecourt of buildings 1 and 2
37	SE	Forecourt of buildings 1 and 2
38	S	Building 2, south-facing east end
39 40	S	Building 2, detail of roof at the east end.
40	S	Building 2, detail of south-facing wall
41	S	Building 2, detail of south-facing wall
42	S	Building 2, detail of south-facing wall
43	SE	Building 2, detail of south-facing wall

44	E	Building 2, detail of east-facing wall (ground and first-floor doors)
45	E	Building 2, detail of east-facing wall
46	E	Building 2, detail of east-facing wall
47	E	Building 2, detail of east-facing wall
48	SE	Building 2, detail of south-facing wall
49	SE	Building 2, detail of south-facing wall
50	SE	Building 2, detail of south-facing wall
51	SE	Building 2, detail of south-facing wall
51	SE	Building 2, detail of SE corner
52	SE	Building 2, detail of SE corner
53	N	Detail of the timber frame for the roof in the pend between
		buildings 1 and two
54	SE	Building 2, detail of south-facing wall, west end
55	NW	Building 3, brick door and collapsed roof
56	NW	Building 3, collapsed roof
57	S	Building 3, internal face of north-facing foregait wall
58	SW	Building 3, internal features (west-facing wall of 7-9 Falcon Square)
59	W	Building 3, oblique shot of internal face of south-facing wall
60	S	Building 3, south-facing wall (partially obscured by tree)
61	E	Building 2, detail of east-facing wall
62	E	Foliage and collapsed door within the pend
63	NE	Building 1, oblique view of north-facing gable end
64	SE	Building 2, detail of south-facing wall and the collapsed door of the pend
65	NE	Building 2, flat roof, west end
66	N	Building 2, flat roof, west end
67	NW	Building 2, flat roof and gable, east end
68	NW	Building 2, flat roof and gable, east end
69	N	Building 2, flat roof
70	W	General shot of the operation to move cable
71	SW	General shot of the trench

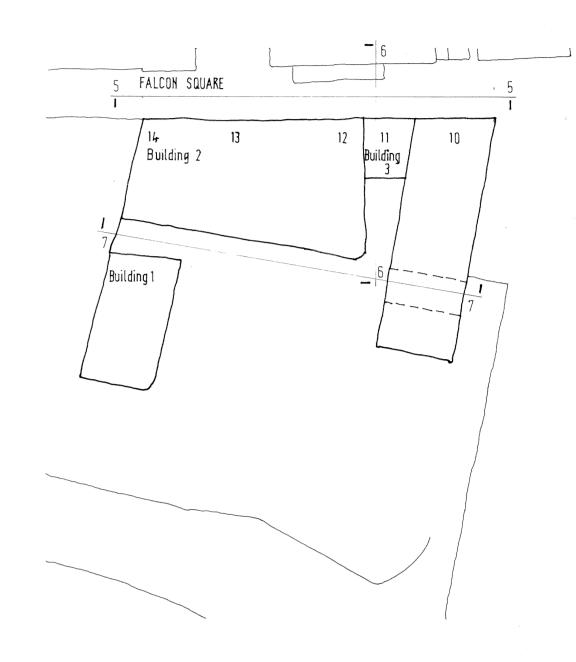


North west elevation 5/5

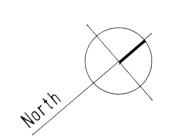


North east elevation 6/6





Key Plan

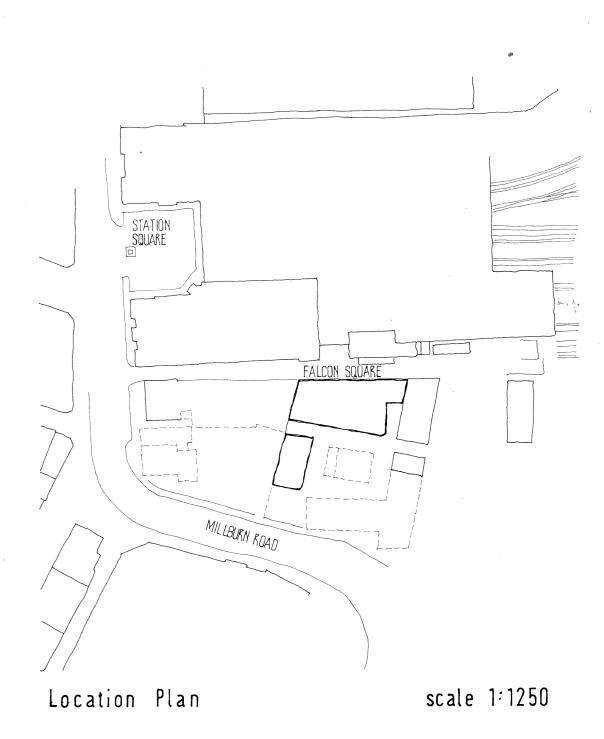


1 0 5 metres

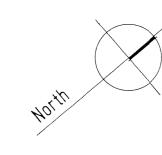
FALCON SQUARE, INVERNESS
Building record

10 - 14 Falcon Square (Warehouse 2 & 3)
Elevations
September 1997 JRA / AOC (Scotland) Limited.





B17/F4/119.1N

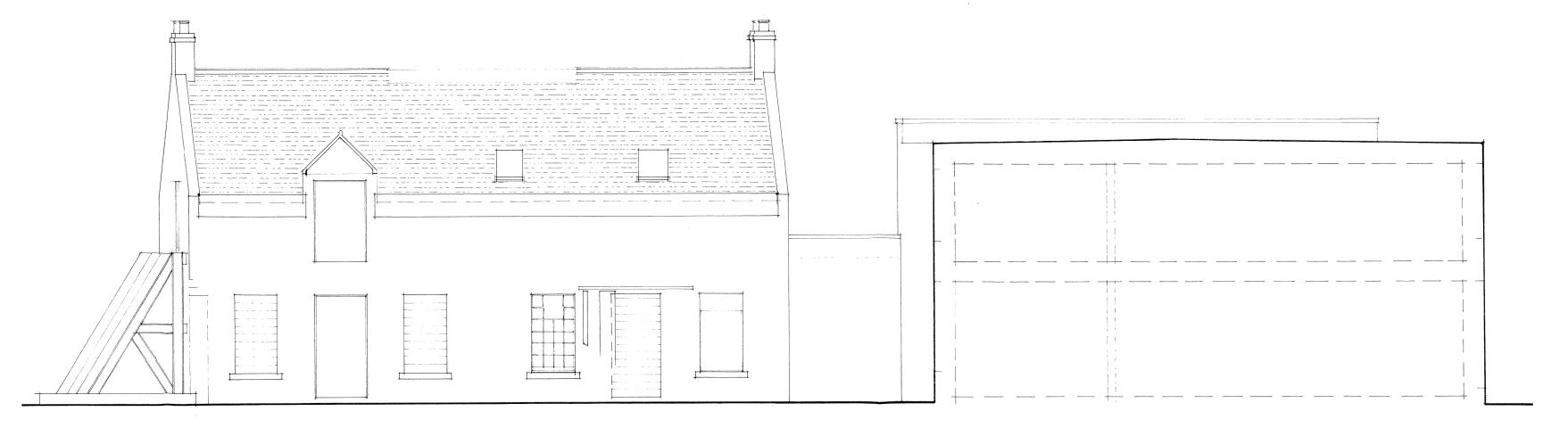


FALCON SQUARE, INVERNESS Building record

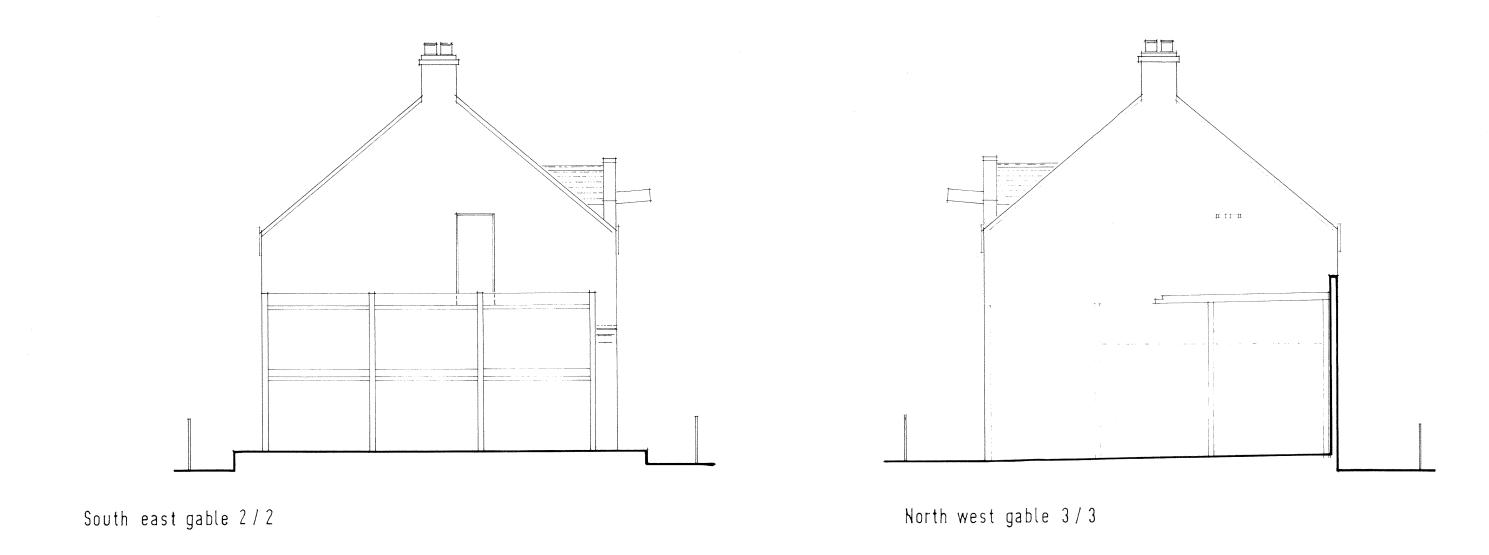
Roof & Site Plan September 1997 JRA / AOC (Scotland)Limited.

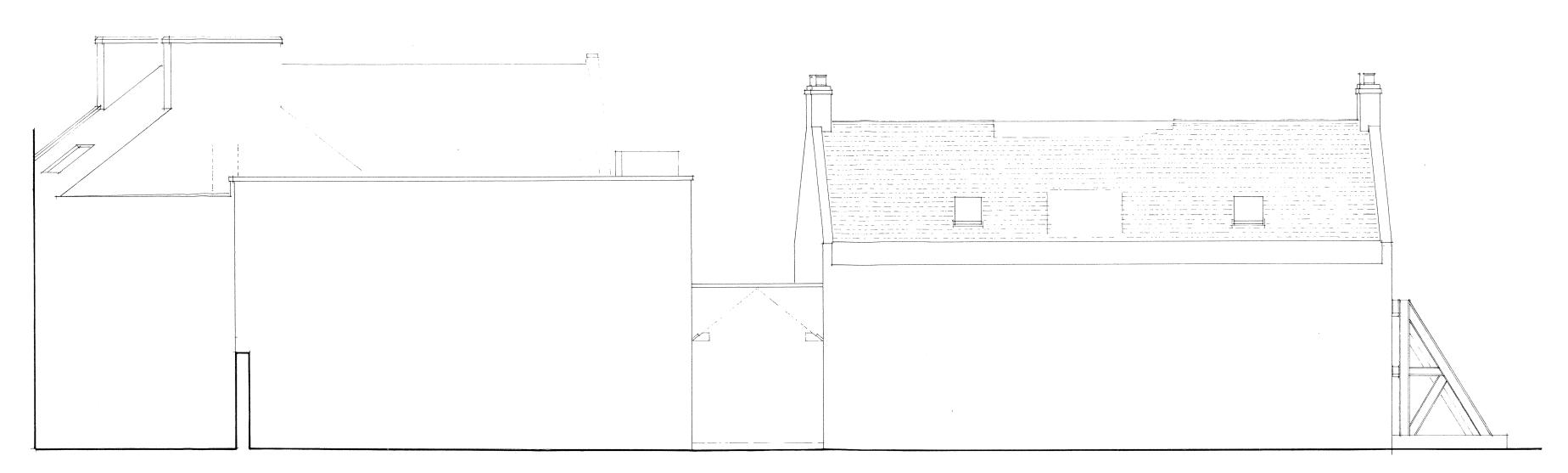
Site Plan

scale 1:100

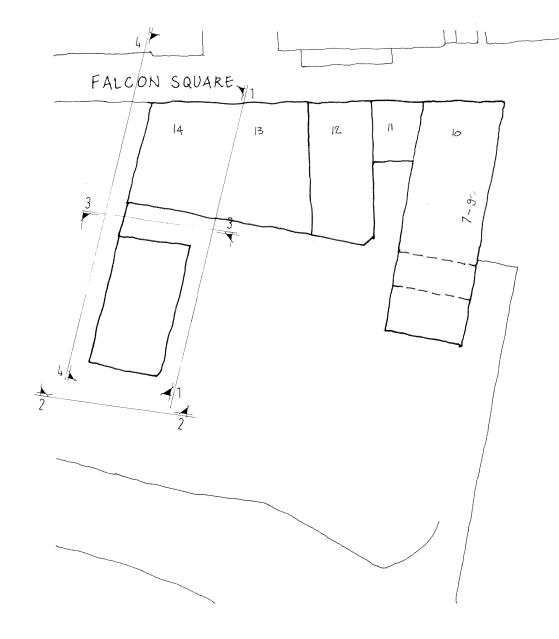


North east elevation 1/1

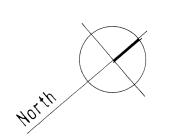




South west elevations to Buildings 1 & 2 4/4



Key Plan



1 0 5 metr

FALCON SQUARE, INVERNESS
Building record
(Warehouse 1)
Elevations
September 1997
JRA /AOC (Scotland) Limited