

Strathnaver Museum & Mackay Clan Centre



Sketch Ideas 27.11.14

CH Architecture
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Location

Bettyhill, Sutherland



Strathnaver Museum

Initial Ideas 27.11.14

Aerial View of Site

Highlighting possible expansion area



Key

- 1. Carpark
- 2. Path
- 3. Museum
- 4. Possible location for exhibition shed
- 5. Cafe

The Museum

The former Parish Church of St Columba, Farr, has been home to Strathnaver Museum for the past 40 years. It is a fitting home for a collection largely based around the Highland Clearances and still retains the original pulpit from which the clearance notices were read.

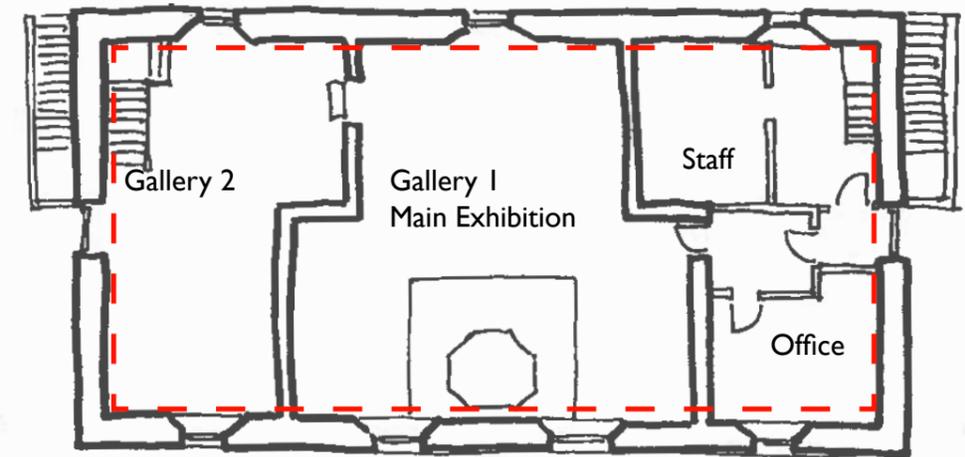
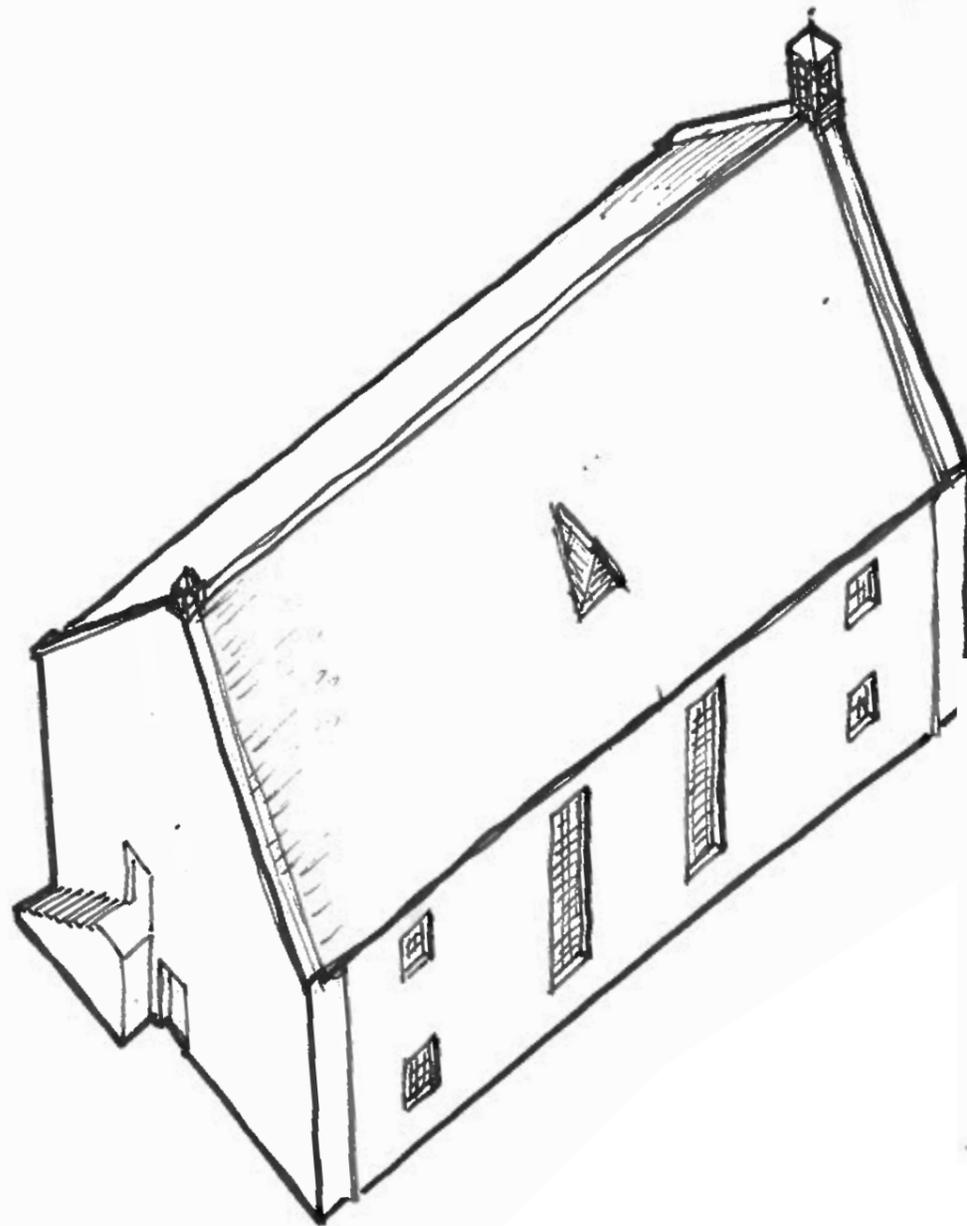
The building is not insulated, has single glazing, is draughty and has minimal heating which is limited to the staff office only.

It is recommended that a proposal is put together to improve the thermal envelope of the building, whilst retaining the character of the building and without affecting the Listed Building Status.

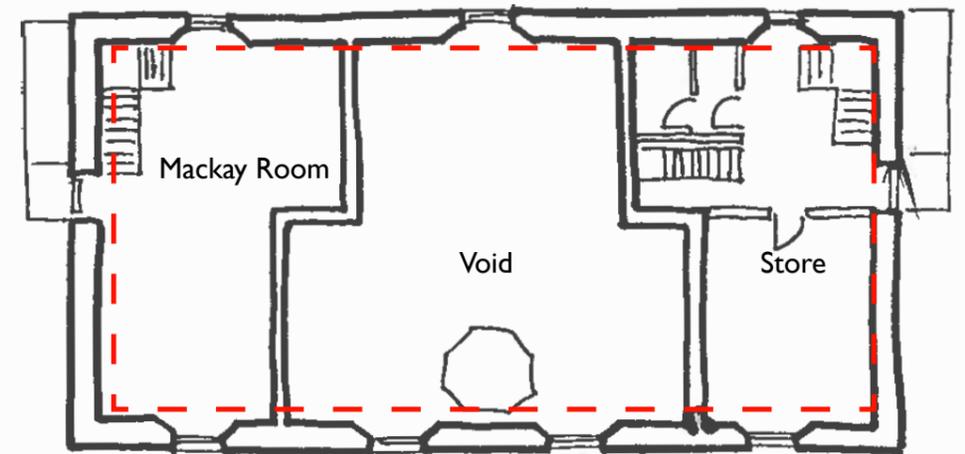
By improving the thermal performance of the building, energy consumption will be reduced and the longevity of the collection will be improved. A refurbishment project would also provide an opportunity to upgrade the staff and visitor facilities, including the toilet and kitchenette provision, and rationalise the way in which the exhibition sits in the building.

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Existing Ground Plan



Existing First Floor Plan

- Internally insulate the interior of the museum in order to reduce heat loss and create more stable environment for exhibits

The Exhibition

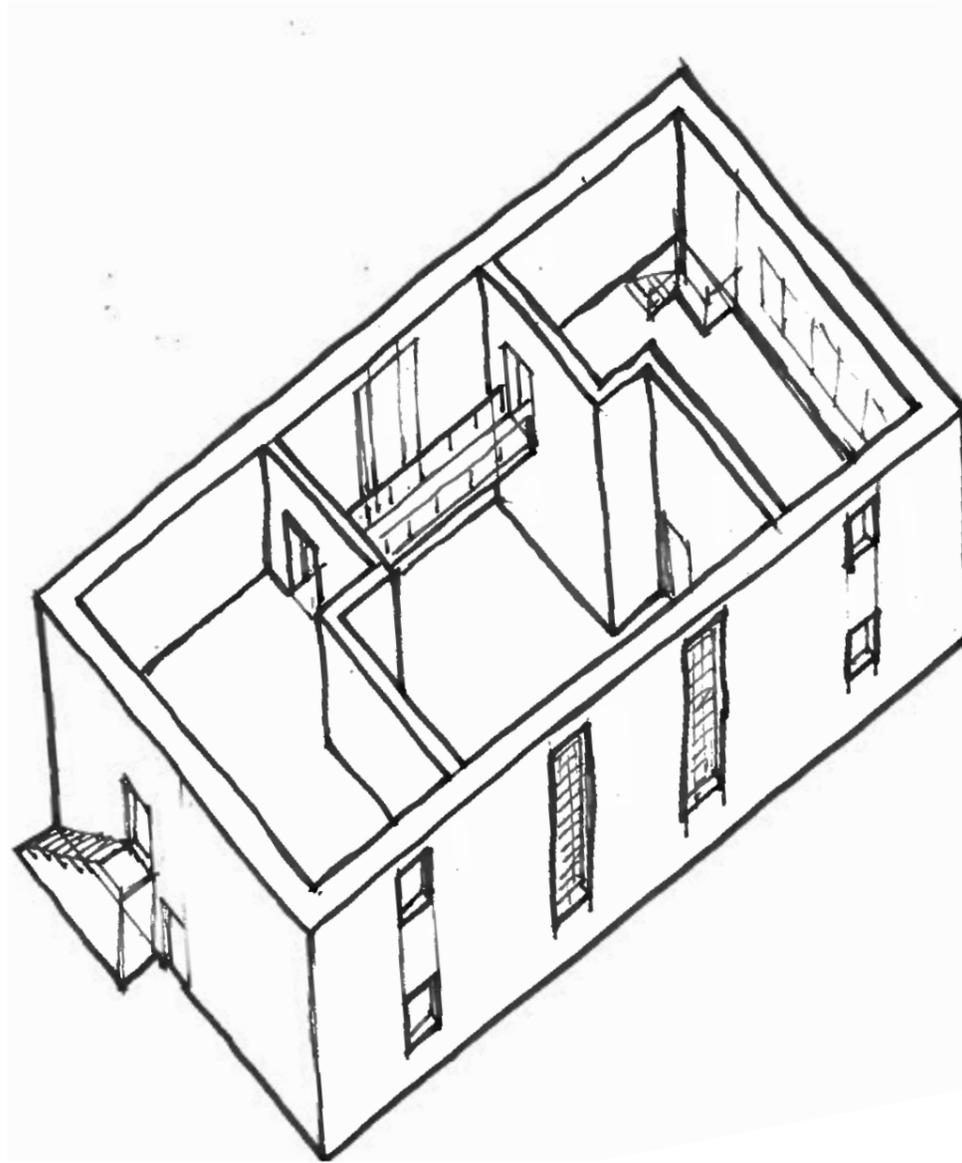
A refurbishment proposal could provide a catalyst for change and could offer an ideal opportunity for the museum to rationalise their collection.

The adjacent sketches illustrate a few simple alterations which could be made to improve co-ordination between the building and the organisation of the collection.

The first move would be to alter the entrance lobby to reduce drafts and create an orientation space. New toilet and kitchenette accommodation should be relocated on the ground floor and the existing office should be refurbished.

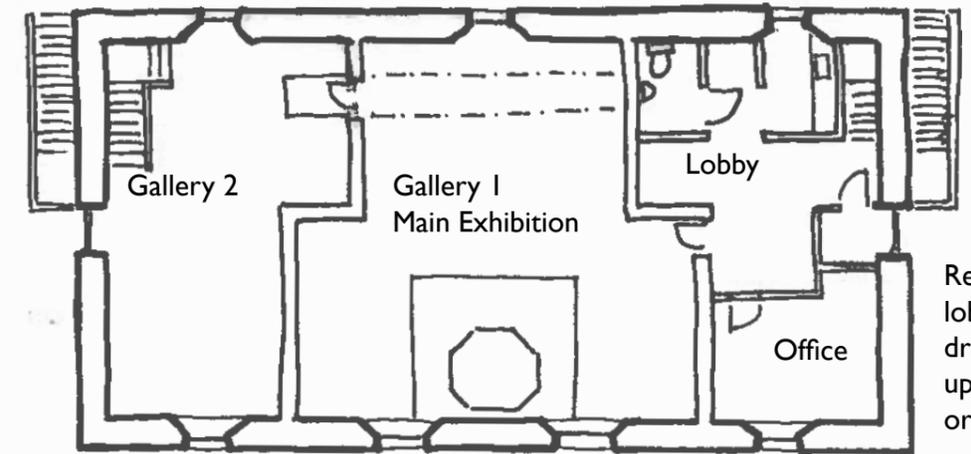
Once refurbished, the story of the clearances could be told in the main hall allowing the adjacent room to be used for pre-1800 exhibits. Upstairs the Mackay room could be linked to the rest of the collection by opening up a doorway and creating a lightweight bridge across the void. This would enable raised views over the pulpit and provide another perspective of the main collection.

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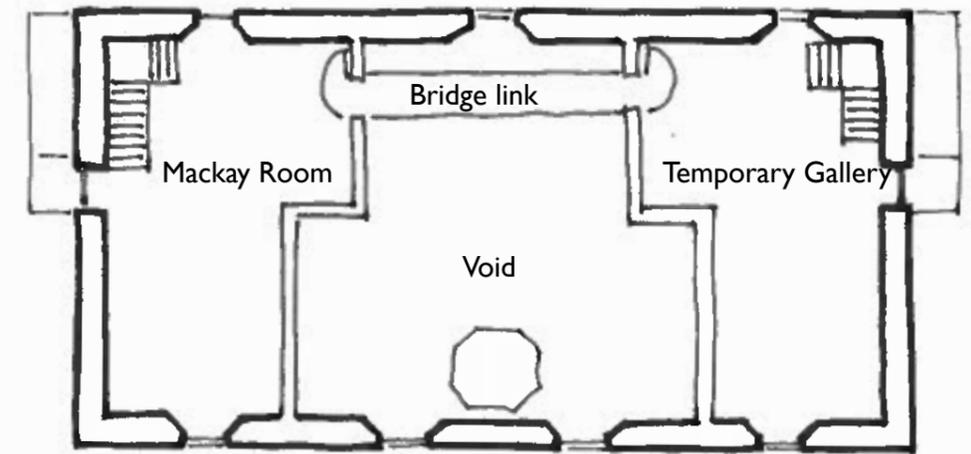
The bridge could connect into a new temporary gallery housed on the upper floor of the east wing.

Creating a new temporary gallery would allow the Museum to offer a location for contemporary interpretation and could open up new revenue opportunities as an event space.



Reconfigure lobby to reduce drafts and open up a retail & orientation area

Proposed Ground Plan



Proposed First Floor Plan

The archive and object store could be relocated in the attic space which could be created above the main hall.

Exhibition Shed

As part of the refurbishment strategy it would be worth considering increasing the storage and exhibition space as the existing building has reached capacity.

One possible solution is to construct a simple single storey building adjacent to the graveyard which could house the large marine and agricultural exhibits. Two boats and a cart are currently squeezed in the church and perhaps dilute the impact of the clearances story as they dominate the available space.

The shed could become part of the visitor experience and could function as an annex. The new structure could also provide temporary accommodation whilst the existing museum is being refurbished.

