

Case information

Case ID	300017063		
File Reference	HGH/B/FB/74		
Name of Site	Auchterderran Staff Development and Resources Centre, Woodend Road, Auchterderran		
Local Authority	Fife Council		
National Grid Reference(s)	NT 21408 96104		
Designation No. (if any)	LB43650		
Designation Type	Listed Building	Current Category of Listing	C
Case Type	Amendment		
Received/Start Date	16/06/2015		
Decision Date	18/03/2016		

1. Proposed Decision

In our current state of knowledge the Auchterderran Centre, Woodend Road continues to meet the criteria for listing. We do not propose to update the statutory listing address and the listed building record at this time (see 2.2 Development Proposals).

Current Statutory Address	Auchterderran, Woodend Road, Auchterderran Staff Development and Resources Centre with outbuildings and boundary walls
Proposed Statutory address	N/A

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

Auchterderran Staff Development and Resources Centre was listed at category C on 04/10/1996. Auchterderran Parish, where this group of linked former school buildings is located, was resurveyed in 1996.

2.2 Development Proposals

In certain circumstances we may not list a building which is found to meet the criteria for listing or review an existing listing (see <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/heritage/historicandlistedbuildings/whatwelist.htm>). These circumstances may include planning applications which affect the character of the building, an appeal period or appeal against refusal of planning permission, and/or other development proposals.

The Auchterderran Centre site is proposed for housing development on p21 of the Fifeplan (local development plan):
http://publications.1fife.org.uk/uploadfiles/publications/c64_InteractiveSettlementtableswithlinksfinalv3.pdf

In this case, we do not propose any change to the statutory address or the listed building for this site at this time.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

The building is currently known as the Auchterderran Centre (2015), and comprises a series of linked buildings of various dates. The site was visited on 26/06/2015. The exterior and interior of all structures which are linked and form an open courtyard plan were seen. Detached outbuildings and boundary walls were also seen.

3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

An assessment against the listing criteria was carried out, see **Annex A**.

The designation criteria are found in the Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP), pp. 71-85. <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/shep-dec2011.pdf>

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ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Listing Criteria*

Auchterderran, Woodend Road, Auchterderran Staff Development and Resources Centre with outbuildings and boundary walls

1. Description

The Auchterderran Centre is a linked complex of multi-period teaching blocks (formerly a primary school and extended into a secondary school) forming an open courtyard. It includes a late 19th century, former parish school and a long, single storey, rectangular-plan teaching block of 1904 by local architect, William Williamson. These components are flanked to the south and west by secondary school additions of 1961 by the Fife County Council Architect's Department, with John Ramsay Cowieson as project architect.

The long, symmetrical primary school teaching block of 1904 to the northeast is of squared sandstone rubble with stugged ashlar dressings. There are a pair of advanced gables with scroll finials to the principal (west) elevation. Both gable bays have round-headed windows with keystones and hoodmoulds. There are pedimented dormers with carved thistle and flower motifs. The smaller, late 19th century parish school block to the southeast has quatrefoil and hoodmould details to its gables and a segmental-arched porch. Both blocks have timber sash and case windows with a 12-pane glazing pattern to the principal elevations. The roofs have ashlar-coped skews, moulded skewputts, overhanging eaves with square-section rainwater goods and graded grey slates.

A single storey, concrete frame assembly and teaching block (1961) with red brick infill, metal-frame glazing and a flat roof links the 1904 and late 19th century blocks. There is a large rectangular entrance porch recess with steps to the principal (southwest) elevation.

A 3-storey, glazed curtain wall and concrete-frame block, also of 1961, is located to the west of the group. The length of the ground floor entrance elevation to the south has the square-plan concrete frame exposed with the principal entrance recessed behind slim columns, or piloti. The 2-leaf timber entrance doors are glazed with timber diagonals. The recessed ground floor level is of red brick. The glazed curtain walls are divided by horizontal bands of blue panel, marking the floor levels. There is a white concrete parapet band topped by a thin metal handrail. Adjoining to the north are former swimming pool and former gymnasium blocks, echoing the design of the red-brick, former assembly hall block.

The interiors were seen in 2015. The 1904 block has a long and wide central spine hall/corridor with timber truss open-beam ceiling and rooflights, flanked by classrooms branching to the east and west. The hall has a marble memorial to Adam Rankine, the parochial schoolmaster of Auchterderran, and there are large round-arch, internal windows. The entrance hall of the single storey concrete-framed block (1961) features high-level murals running the length of the corridor. The cafeteria/former assembly hall area, to the right of the entrance, has asymmetrical concrete ribbed roof supports. The glazed curtain wall 3-storey block has a full-

height cantilevered concrete stair and continuous, wrought iron ribbon balustrade. The former swimming pool, currently office and library storage (2015), retains its pool structure and circular glazed panels to the timber doors.

There is a coped rubble boundary wall to the south and east, and a low coped boundary wall with railings and gates fronting the road.

The outbuildings running the length of the east boundary wall are slated, dry-dash storage units.

2. Assessment Against the Listing Criteria (SHEP, 2011) pp74-75

Criteria for determining whether a building is of 'special architectural or historic interest' for listing under the terms of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/9/contents]

To be listed, a building need not meet all the listing criteria. The criteria provide a framework within which judgement is exercised in reaching individual decisions.

2.1 Age and Rarity

Following the 1872 Education (Scotland) Act, which placed responsibility for education in the hands of locally elected school boards, there was a surge in school building across Scotland. The former parish school, to the east of the site with former schoolhouse (see separate listing 'Auchterderran, 12 Woodend Road with boundary wall' LB 43649) to the southwest was extended in 1904 as the Junior Secondary School for Auchterderran and Ballingry. This took place following the Education (Scotland) Act, 1901 which raised the leaving age for school leavers to 14. The earlier school building is shown on the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in 1894. The 1904 teaching block and additions to the 19th century building are shown on the 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey map, which was revised in 1913.

After the Second World War, Fife became one of the main centres for post-war rehousing in Scotland. The increased infrastructural requirement saw Fife County form a dedicated Education Architect's Department, resulting in a programme of architecturally-led projects not seen on a similar scale in Scotland outside of Glasgow and Edinburgh. The Fife County Education Architect's Department were often called upon to extend existing school buildings to accommodate the growing population and the changing educational needs of the period. Such work was approached with awareness of the existing buildings and the constraints of the site. After 1989 and the school buildings at Auchterderran became an outlying educational support and advisory services centre for the Fife Council educational department.

The Auchterderran Centre is a good example of a smaller-scale high school extension by the Fife County architects. The composite plan of the former Junior Secondary School at Woodend Road has remained little unaltered externally since the additions in 1961. The multi-phase Auchterderran Centre evidences an evolving approach to teaching and school construction during the 20th century, with each architectural element of the complex of some interest in its own right. See Architectural or Historic interest below.

2.2 Architectural or Historic Interest

Interior

Late 19th century school building: There are large round-arch, internal windows to one corridor within the late 19th century school building.

1904 block: The interior of this part of the school is distinguished by its long and wide, centralised plan spine hall/corridor plan form with timber truss open-beam ceiling with roof lights.

1961 blocks: Bespoke timber and glazed doors and various fixtures and fittings survive. The entrance hall of the red brick, former assembly hall block features high-level murals running the length of the corridor, set above the doorways. The cafeteria/former assembly hall area to right of entrance has an asymmetrical concrete ribbed roof.

The glazed curtain wall block has a full-height cantilevered concrete stair and continuous, wrought iron ribbon balustrade. The former swimming pool, currently (2015) used as office space and library storage, retains its structure and its circular glazed panels to the timber doors. Swimming pools are a relatively uncommon feature of post-war high school development, and the structural survival of the pool framework here adds to the interior interest.

Plan form

The internal planning of buildings is instructive and can be ingenious although it may not be evident on the exterior. The 1904 teaching block is distinguished by its long and wide central spine hall/corridor with timber truss open-beam ceiling and roof-lights, flanked by classrooms branching to east and west. The central spine corridor/assembly hall of the 1904 teaching block is a typical example of school design philosophy during the Edwardian period, with a centralised plan approach to teaching adopted and expressed as part of the design.

The 1961 additions are arranged in proportion to the earlier buildings on the site, creating a linked network of buildings forming a U-plan with an open courtyard area. There has been relatively little external alteration to the complex since 1961.

Technological excellence or innovation, material or design quality

The design of the 1904 building, by talented local architect William Williamson, blends classical and neo-Baroque elements including shouldered, pointed-arch dormers with stylised thistle motifs, and key-stoned arch hood-mouldings and scrolled finials. Williamson also designed the Waid Academy Annexe (former Anstruther Easter School) in 1901 (LB 52344) and Denend Primary School, Cardenden in 1910 (LB 43655) – see separate listings. The Dictionary of Scottish Architects refers to Williamson as ‘one of the most accomplished Scottish architects of his generation’ noting the ‘calm French-influenced neo-Baroque’ of his commercial buildings. Peter Reid was William Williamson’s chief draughtsman at the time.

Schools buildings produced by Fife County Education Architect's Department during the post-war building era represent some of the best publicly funded architecture of the period. These new schools, built while building restrictions were still in place, were designed to specifically suit their location and purpose, while still retaining the rational, functional aesthetics of the Modern Movement designs of the 1930s.

Examples of listed buildings for education by the department include Balwearie High School, Kirkcaldy (1960-62), Madras College, Kilrymont Road, St Andrews (1964) and Inverkeithing High School (1968).

The 1961 buildings are well-detailed examples of the progressive architectural ideals adopted by the County Council architects in Fife in the post-war period. While compact, the cubic composition of the glass curtain-wall block to the west is carefully conceived with the building's steel frame clearly expressed. The high school extension blocks are also notable as part of a collection of school work of consistent high quality from the Fife County Council architects department during the post-war era.

John Ramsay Cowieson (1916-2000) studied at the School of Architecture in Aberdeen and was elected ARIBA in 1948. In about 1960 he lived in Glenrothes and may therefore possibly have had a post with the Development Corporation. By 1964 he had a post with Fife County Architect's Department and was living in Cupar. In later life he was an associate member of the Dundee chapter of the Royal Institute of Architects in Scotland. He was project architect at the 1966-71 Elmwood Technical and Agricultural College in Cupar, Fife which is listed at category B (LB 52207).

Setting

This multi-period group of educational buildings is prominently located facing the main thoroughfare on a slightly elevated position and is a prominent part of the Auchterderran/Cardenden townscape.

Regional variations

N/A

2.3 Close Historical Associations

There are no known close historical associations at present.

3. Working with the Principles of Listing (SHEP 2011, p76)

In choosing buildings within the above broad headings particular attention is paid to:

- a. special value within building types*
- b. contribution to an architecturally or historically interesting group*
- c. the impact of vernacular buildings*
- d. authenticity*

When working with the principles of listing, the Auchterderran Centre has particular interest under a and d.

a. The Auchterderran Centre reflects evolving approaches to teaching and education in a rural Fife parish. The different components of the site are good examples of their building type and period, together with the 19th century former schoolhouse (No 12 Woodend Road - listed separately) adding to the interest of the site as a whole.

d. The Auchterderran Centre is a largely intact example of a multi-phase complex of buildings for education in Fife, completed in 1961, with interior and exterior features adding to its integrity or 'completeness'.

4. Summary of Assessment Against the Listing Criteria**

The Auchterderran Centre is a linked complex of multi-period teaching blocks that shows the changes made to teaching and school building during the course of the 20th century, with each phase of construction remaining distinctive in its own right. The design of the 1904 building, by talented local architect William Williamson, combines a number of good architectural details and its interior is distinctive.

The 1961 architectural additions are also designed with good attention to detail, adding to the interest of this former Junior Secondary School. Since completion of the additions in 1961, the plan-form has remained little altered externally. The lay-out of the linked buildings takes advantage of the relatively large site. The cubic composition of the glazed curtain-wall block to the west is a compact and well-articulated expression of the International Modern Movement style.

In our current state of knowledge the Auchterderran Centre continues to meet the criteria for listing.

5. Category of Listing

Categories of listing are non-statutory and buildings are assigned a category (A, B or C) according to their relative importance following the assessment against the criteria for listing.

Category definitions are found at: www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/heritage/historicandlistedbuildings/listing

Category C denotes buildings of local importance; lesser examples of any period, style, or building type, as originally constructed or moderately altered; and simple, traditional buildings that group well with other listed buildings. The interest of the Auchterderran Centre is considered to be of local importance, therefore category C is considered to remain the most appropriate category.

6. Other Information

N/A

7. References

Canmore: <http://canmore.org.uk/> CANMORE ID 119976

Ordnance Survey, 2nd Edition (Revised 1894, Published 1895) Fife 027.14 (includes: Auchterderran; Kinglassie) 25 Inch to the Mile. London: Ordnance Survey

Ordnance Survey, 3rd Edition (Revised 1913, Published 1914) Fife 027.14 (includes: Auchterderran; Kinglassie) 25 Inch to the Mile. London: Ordnance Survey

Houston A M. (1924) *Auchterderran, Fife: A Parish History*. Paisley. pp 201-2, 209-13.

Gifford J. (1992) *The Buildings of Scotland - Fife*. London: Penguin Books Ltd. p.76.

Dictionary of Scottish Architects, Auchterderran School

http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/building_full.php?id=224536 [accessed 01/12/2015].

Dictionary of Scottish Architects. *Gavin McConnell* at <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/mcconnell.pdf> [accessed 01/12/2015].

* This assessment is based on our current state of knowledge and has been prepared for the purpose of consultation or to provide a view on the special interest of a building. This assessment is a consultation document and will form the basis of any new or updated listed building record should the structure be listed. The content of this assessment may change to take into account further information received as a result of the consultation process.

** A building may be found to meet the listing criteria but in some circumstances may not be added to the list. See 'When might Historic Environment Scotland list a building' at www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/historicandlistedbuildings/whatwelist