



## Case information

<b>Case ID</b>	300008945		
<b>File Reference</b>	HGH/B/TA/171		
<b>Name of Site</b>	Arbroath Community Centre (former Drill Hall), Marketgate, Arbroath		
<b>Local Authority</b>	Angus Council		
<b>National Grid Reference</b>	NO 64241 40719		
<b>Designation No. (if any)</b>	N/A		
<b>Designation Type</b>	Listed Building	<b>Current Category of Listing</b>	N/A
<b>Case Type</b>	Designation		
<b>Received/Start Date</b>	2015 [Drill Hall Listing Review]		
<b>Decision Date</b>	25/05/2016		

## 1. Decision

In our current state of knowledge, Arbroath Community Centre (former Drill Hall) meets the criteria for listing at category C.

<b>Previous Statutory Address</b>	N/A
<b>Amended Statutory address</b>	Arbroath Community Centre (former Drill Hall), Marketgate, Arbroath

## 2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

### 2.1 Designation Background

Arbroath Parish, in which this building is situated, was resurveyed in 1971. The building is within the Arbroath Abbey to Harbour Conservation Area

## 2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals.

## 3. Assessment

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### 3.1 Assessment information

This former drill hall) was considered for designation as part of the Drill Hall Listing Review 2015-16. The building was visited on 25/11/2015 and the exterior and interior of the building were seen.

### 3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

The building was found to no longer meet the criteria for listing.

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

*The designation criteria are published in the Historic Environment Scotland policy statement June 2016, Annex 2, pp. 51-53.*

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/planning-and-guidance/legislation-and-guidance/historic-environment-scotland-policy-statement/>

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## ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Listing Criteria\*

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### 1. Description

The 3-storey, 3-bay, classical former townhouse on Marketgate dates from the late 1780s, while the 2-storey, 1-and 2-bay stepped flanking wings and the hall at the rear were designed and built by William Scott in 1883. The former house was also probably altered by him for use as offices and store rooms for the drill hall. The building was altered again when it was converted into a sports and community centre in 1969. The Marketgate (east) elevation is pink snecked sandstone with polished ashlar dressings and the side elevations are squared rubble with pinnings. There is a base course and an eaves course and the central entrance door has a pilastered and corniced doorpiece. There are raised long and short quoins at the corners of the Marketgate block, a segmental-arched opening to the lower right wing, now in-filled, and a full-width late 20<sup>th</sup> century glazed entrance to the left wing. There is mainly 4-pane glazing in timber sash and case windows and there are grey slates on a piended roof.

The large hall at the rear with a roof resembling an upturned boat is of squared rubble. The rear elevation is rendered, bowed and gabled and has a central door with a corniced doorpiece, a pair of tall round-arched windows and a round window in the gablehead.

The interior was seen in 2015. The former office section has some surviving 19<sup>th</sup> century interior details including timber panelled doors and good plaster cornices. The hall is a large barrel shaped space with cast iron ribs supporting timber trusses and timber boarding infill and the viewing balcony is still in place at the east end.

### 2. Assessment Against the Listing Criteria (HES Policy Statement, 2016) Annex 2, pp. 51-52

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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](http://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

The nucleus of this building dates from the late 1780s and was the town residence of a county family, the Stirling Grahams of Duntrune. Clementina Stirling Graham (1782-1877) spent 'some of her early years' in the house (Dundee Courier, 6 December 1881). The footprint of the building appears on John Wood's map of 1822 which also shows a large garden to the west, running down to the Brothock Water.

A public meeting called with a view to the formation of a volunteer corps in Arbroath took place on 30 May 1859 and was chaired by the Provost of the town. At the end of the meeting it was resolved to set up a Corps and a large number of individuals came forward to sign up. By 1864 the Arbroath Volunteers still had no permanent home, demonstrated by the fact they paraded at Woodville, the mansion belonging to their commanding officer, Major Dickson.

The Marketgate building was purchased by the Angus Rifle Volunteers in 1881 at which time it was described as 'old but substantial' (Dundee Courier, 6 December 1881). The plan was to build the drill hall in the garden at the rear of the house and to convert the mansion into the armoury, reading rooms and other offices. Work had begun by March 1882 and was completed by 1883. The date 1883 appears on a datestone on the lower two-storey wing to the left of the Marketgate elevation. The interior of the front part of the building was altered when the building was converted into a sports and community centre in 1969. There are also some late 20<sup>th</sup> century alterations.

In the late 1850s there was concern in the British Government about the Army's ability to defend both the home nation as well as the Empire. Britain's military defences were stretched and resources to defend Britain needed to be found. One solution was to create 'Volunteer Forces', a reserve of men who volunteered for part-time military training similar to that of the regular army and who could therefore help to defend Britain if the need arose.

In 1859 the Rifle Volunteer Corps was formed and the Volunteer Act of 1863 provided more regulation on how the volunteer forces were run and it set out the standards for drills and a requirement for annual inspections. Most purpose-built drill halls constructed at this time were paid for by a major local landowner, the subscriptions of volunteers, local fundraising efforts or a combination of all three. The Regulation of the Forces Act 1871 (known as the Cardwell Reforms after the Secretary of State for War, Edward Cardwell) gave forces the legal right to acquire land to build a drill hall and more purpose-built drill halls began to be constructed after this date. The largest period of drill hall construction, aided by government grants, took place between 1880 and 1910. The Territorial and Reserve Forces Act 1907 (known as the Haldane Reforms after the Secretary of State for War, Richard Haldane) came into force in 1908 and the various Volunteer Units were consolidated to form the Territorial Force. The construction of drill halls largely ceased during the First World War and in 1920 the Territorial Force became the Territorial Army.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> century changes in warfare and weaponry made many of the earlier drill halls redundant and subject to demolition or change to a new use. Around 344 drill halls are believed to have been built in Scotland of which 182 are thought to survive today, although few remain in their original use. Drill halls are an important part of our social and military history. They tell us much about the development of warfare and the history of defending our country. They also, unusually for a nationwide building programme, were not standardised and were often designed by local architects in a variety of styles and they also have a part to play in the history of our communities.

The hall in Arbroath was built in 1883 and is therefore a relatively early example of a drill hall dating from the period 1880 – 1910, when the majority of drill halls were built. What is particularly unusual about this drill hall is that it preserved and converted into offices a house dating from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. This combined with the possibly unique design of the hall make this an unusual and interesting example of the building type.

## **2.2 Architectural or Historic Interest**

### ***Interior***

The interiors of drill halls were designed to be practical and largely unembellished. The main requirement was the provision of a large open space unimpeded by columns. In some cases a viewing balcony would be included. A wide entrance was also a typical feature to allow large groups of drill marching volunteers to enter and exit the building.

Although the offices at Arbroath date from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, the interiors have been changed at various different times, for example the central stair has been removed and replaced. Whilst some 19<sup>th</sup> century detailing survives it is not exceptional.

However, the interior of the drill hall has survived with little change and is noteworthy in a number of ways. The cast iron beams extend the full height of the hall, with no additional structural support walls or beams. This creates a single, very unusual, semi-circular space with no interruptions, reminiscent of later prefabricated structures used by the military in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The beams are composed of riveted cast iron sections and the shape may have been inspired by the construction of ship hulls and fabricated in the Dundee shipyards. Although, it is possible that a local ironworks such as The Dens Works or the Westburn Foundry was responsible. At the east end of the hall there is a viewing balcony which is typical of a hall of this date.

### ***Plan form***

The requirements for drill halls were basic – a large covered open space to train and drill as well as a place for the secure storage of weapons. The vast majority of drill halls were modest utilitarian structures. Most drill halls conformed to the pattern of an administrative block containing offices and the armoury to store weapons along with a caretaker or drill instructors accommodation, usually facing the street. To the rear would be the drill hall itself. Occasionally more extensive accommodation was required, such as for battalion headquarters where interior rifle ranges, libraries, billiards rooms, lecture theatres and bars could all be included.

The plan of the drill hall at Arbroath is unusual, and is due to the tapering shape of the former garden site it occupies. Furthermore the slightly bowed shape of the eastern end of the hall follows the course of the Brothock Water. The Dundee Courier of 18 March 1882 described the hall as ‘of vast extent and the roof, notwithstanding the span, will rest entirely on the walls, no pillars being required’. It would seem that the hall was lit solely by windows in the west gable. Roof lights became the norm by the turn of the century.

### ***Technological excellence or innovation, material or design quality***

Drill halls were built in a variety of architectural styles and no individual type dominates. They were usually designed by local architects and constrained by tight budgets. They often had a strong link to their local communities and could be used for other community activities. Architectural style could reflect the streetscape of the local community and be small and modest, similar to surrounding domestic properties, or they could be more eye-catching and overtly military in appearance, particularly for larger forces or headquarter buildings.

The architect responsible for the design of the hall and the conversion of the mansion was a local architect, William Scott (ca 1831-1884). He designed a wide range of buildings mainly in Arbroath including churches, mills and factories. The likely reason Scott was appointed architect for the drill hall was because he was a volunteer himself. He was one of the original members of the Arbroath Volunteers Rifles Corps and reached the rank of Sergeant, and was said to be an excellent marksman.

Scott's experience in designing mills and factories would have stood him in good stead for designing the large open area required in a drill hall. He may also have undertaken work for one of the foundries in the town and thus be familiar with the possibilities of using a wide iron frame. The windows on the former townhouse at the front of the hall are mid-19<sup>th</sup> century in date and may pre-date Scott's work on the house. Other interventions may also have taken place at this date, although what little now survives makes it hard to determine.

The cost of this new hall and conversion of the old building was about £3000. This was a larger sum than that spent on many halls, even in the major urban areas. The architecture of a drill hall and offices was often designed to convey a sense of importance and the military role. The government awarded a 'capitation grant' to the local volunteers, so the more volunteers that could be recruited, the more money the Corps would collect, and this may also have influenced the design. At the time it was built it was noted that the drill hall was 'by far the largest place in the burgh' (Dundee Courier 24 March 1884) a factor which in itself would have attracted attention.

### ***Setting***

The offices and drill hall are set in one of the oldest areas of the town, close to the harbour and within the Arbroath Abbey to Harbour Conservation Area. Marketgate mainly consists of 2-storey rendered domestic buildings. The drill hall and offices is situated adjacent to the Public Baths which were built in 1913, and the buildings are approximately the same height and dimensions and built of local pink sandstone. Together the buildings make an important and arresting contribution to the character of the street.

### ***Regional variations***

There are no known regional variations.

## **2.3 Close Historical Associations**

None known at present.

### **3. Working with the Principles of Listing** (HES Policy Statement, 2016) Annex 2, pp. 53

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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 Arbroath Community Centre (former Drill Hall) has particular interest under a and d

- a. The plan and roof structure of the 1883 hall is an unusual example of the building type and the building reused a late 18<sup>th</sup> century town house for its offices, which is also uncommon.
- d. The exterior of the building remains largely unchanged since the hall was added in 1883 and the interior of the hall retains its unusual roof structure.

### **4. Summary of Assessment Against the Listing Criteria\*\***

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The former drill hall in Marketgate was the headquarters of the Arbroath Rifle Volunteers from 1883 and the possibly unique design of the hall make this an unusual and interesting example of the building type. The offices were converted from a late 18<sup>th</sup> century townhouse at this time by the well-respected local architect and contractor William Scott with the hall built on the rear garden ground. Externally the hall has a very unusual roof which is curved at wallhead level rising to a point at the ridge, resembling an upturned boat. Internally the riveted cast iron beams extend the full height of the hall, with no additional structural support walls or beams. This creates a single, very unusual, semi-circular space with no interruptions, reminiscent of later prefabricated structures used by the military in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The tapering plan form of the hall with curved rear wall bounded at the west by the Brothock Water is also unusual. The building makes a significant contribution to the streetscapes in Marketgate and in East Grimsby.

In our current state of knowledge it meets the criteria for listing.

### **5. Category of Listing**

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**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](http://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. Converted and extended in 1883 from a late 18<sup>th</sup> century mansion, this is a good example of a drill hall with an unusual plan and roof shape. In listing terms the interest of this former drill hall is considered to be of local importance. Therefore category C is the most appropriate category of listing.

## 6. Other Information

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N/A

## 7. References

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Canmore: <http://canmore.org.uk/> CANMORE ID 82292

### Maps

Wood, J (1822) Plan of the Town of Arbroath from actual survey. Edinburgh: T. Brown.

Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1859, published 1865) Forfar Sheet XLVI.15 (Arbroath). 25 inches to the mile. 1<sup>st</sup> Edition. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1901, published 1903) Forfarshire 046.15 (includes: Arbroath and St Vigean). 25 inches to the mile. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1921, published 1923) Forfarshire 046.15 (includes: Arbroath and St Vigean). 25 inches to the mile. 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

### Printed Sources

Dundee Courier (6 December 1881) p.5.

Dundee Courier (18 March 1882) p.3.

Dundee Courier (30 April 1883) p.4.

Dundee Courier (16 August 1883) p.4.

Historic Environment Scotland (2016) Scotland's Drill Halls Preliminary Report. Unpublished.

Montrose Arbroath and Brechin Review (3 June 1859) p.7.

### Online Sources

Dictionary of Scottish Architects. *William Scott* at [http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect\\_full.php?id=406304](http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=406304) [accessed 27/01/2016]

\* 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 <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/listed-buildings/what-is-listing/>