



Case information

Case ID	300016455
File Reference	HGH/B/LA/477
Name of Site	The Out of the Blue Drill Hall, 32, 34 and 36 Dalmeny Street, Edinburgh

Local Authority	City of Edinburgh Council		
National Grid Reference	NT 26791 75238		
Designation No. (if any)	LB26729		
Designation Type	Listed Building	Current Category of Listing	B
Case Type	Amendment		

Received/Start Date	2015 [Drill Halls Listing Review]
Decision Date	25/05/2016

1. Decision

In our current state of knowledge, The Out of the Blue Drill Hall continues to meet the criteria for listing. The statutory listing address and the listed building record have been amended and the category of listing changed from B to A.

Previous Statutory Address	30-38 (Even Nos) Dalmeny Street, Territorial Army Drill Hall
Amended Statutory Address	The Out of the Blue Drill Hall, 32, 34 and 36 Dalmeny Street, Edinburgh

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

This building was listed on 13/03/1995 at category B. The building is situated in the Leith Conservation Area.

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

The Out of the Blue Drill Hall was considered for amendment as part of the Drill Halls Listing Review 2015-16 and was visited on 29/05/2015 and 04/08/2015. The exterior and public parts of the interior were seen on 29/05/2015 and the non-public areas on 04/08/2015.

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/>

Elizabeth McCrone

Head of Designations
Heritage Management
Historic Environment Scotland

Contact	Yvonne Hillyard, Designations Officer yvonne.hillyard@hes.scot, 0131 668 8088
----------------	--

ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Listing Criteria*

The Out of the Blue Drill Hall, 32, 34 and 36 Dalmeny Street, Edinburgh

1. Description

The building was designed by Anderson Simon & Crawford in 1900-1901 and restored and reconstructed by Malcolm Fraser, (phase 1), 2004 and Moray Royles, (phases 2 & 3), 2004. It is a 2-storey (3 at rear), 7-bay, approximately rectangular plan neo-Baroque former drill hall which has been converted to an arts and education centre and offices. The principal elevation is of polished sandstone ashlar, the side elevations are of squared and snecked rubble with polished ashlar dressings and the rear elevation of the office section is of red brick. The hall itself is built of red and cream brick. There is a base course, cill course and a muted cornice at the eaves. The segmental pedimented central bay is slightly advanced with a wide segmental-arched pend opening with Gibbs surround and flanked by banded pilasters that are topped by obelisks. An inscription over this opening reads '7th Bn The Royal Scots' and there is a carved coat of arms and the date 1901 in the tympanum. There are carved Roman military motifs at first floor in bays 2 and 6. The front elevation has bipartite windows with stone mullions windows

There is 15-pane glazing pattern in timber sash and case windows to the front elevation and multi-pane glazing in metal and timber frames in fixed pane and casement windows to west side elevation. The piended roof is of green-grey slates and has a cupola and there are tall corniced chimney stacks with red cans.

The interior, which was seen in 2015, retains many early 20th century fittings, including timber chimneypieces, some with gesso decoration, dadoes and timber panelled doors in a number of offices on the ground and first floors. The original officers' room on the first floor is particularly noteworthy with symmetrically arranged doors, timber panelling to door height and good decorative plasterwork on the coved ceiling. The adjacent room, the original company meeting room, is simpler but also has a high coved ceiling and plain plasterwork. The stairwell to the west side has fine detailing in the panelled dado, good timber bannisters and rail with carved newel finials, and elaborate square compartmented plasterwork. The former armoury retains the early 20th century iron grill. The early 20th century fittings have been retained in one ground floor toilet. The drill hall roof is supported by shallow trussed arches borne on internal brick buttresses and there are large roof lights. The alterations of 2004 included the insertion of artists' pods around the edge of drill hall.

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

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

The plans for Dalmeny Street Drill Hall and offices were drawn up in November 1899 and the building was opened on 7 December 1901. During the course of construction in 1900-1901 part of the gable of the drill hall was blown down and the arrangement of windows in the gable was slightly amended as a result. An additional bay at the south end of the hall with underground storage for targets was proposed later but it is unclear if this was executed. A study of the original plans, Ordnance Survey maps and the current building shows that the footprint of the building and its external appearance is largely unaltered. Minor differences exist between the plans and the building as constructed - for example the position of the lantern on the roof was moved slightly south.

The overall cost of the building, which was recorded at the time of opening in 1901, was about £13,000. This was considerably more than most other drill halls in the city – for example East Claremont Street hall, Edinburgh only cost about half of this sum, and even that was several times more than that allowed by the Ministry of Defence through its Associations. The required sum of £13,000, which was not easily raised, a point referred to in the opening speeches, and an appeal to the Town Council in early 1901 had failed.

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 (and Artillery Corps in defended coastal areas) were 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 20th 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 Dalmeny Street hall was constructed during the main era of drill hall building activity, between 1880-1910. The hall was built to replace one which was built about 1880 in Stead's Place, Leith Walk, but no longer exists. Of the sixteen or so drill halls recorded in the Edinburgh area which predate the First World War, only a handful are earlier than the Dalmeny Street hall. It is an outstanding example of a drill hall both for the quality of the architecture, scale and the interior and for the survival of so many elements from the early 20th century.

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.

The Dalmeny Street hall itself follows a fairly standard design with the wide span of the roof supported by shallow trussed arches while a typical viewing balcony at first floor level overlooks the main space. However, the interior of the offices at the Dalmeny Street hall are of high quality and this is likely to be the reason, along with the exterior details, for the high cost.

The west stairway and two rooms on the upper floor are particularly noteworthy with high quality timber and plasterwork. The west stair, which served the officers has fine detailing in the panelled dado, good timber bannisters and rail with carved newel finials, and elaborate square compartmented plasterwork and this differs from the east stair for the rest of the men which is simple and utilitarian. On the ground floor some interior spaces have been rearranged but chimneypieces are still in place. The armoury to the west of the central pend retains the original doors and metal grill.

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 Dalmeny Street building is similar to many contemporary drill halls. Like many others, the offices on which most of the architectural detailing can be found is placed on the street and presents the public face of the hall. The hall itself is plainer and located at the rear. Unlike other halls there is no flat for the caretaker or drill instructor incorporated in the design. One very unusual feature of the building is the central pend entrance for a column of marching men – the upper offices spanning this above.

The hall at 160 feet by 84 feet is possibly the largest surviving drill hall in Scotland and vies with many substantial ones in England for its scale and the quality of its design.

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.

Because the sum of money spent on this building was considerably higher than other drill halls built around this time, it is larger and more elaborate. The exterior detailing, the tall banded pilasters flanking the doorway and obelisks above, all executed in polished ashlar, as well as the carved Roman military motifs and coat of arms are clearly designed to give the building a prominent presence in the street, reflecting its status as the headquarters of what was originally the 5th Battalion of the Royal Scots. At some point prior to the First World War, the original carved inscription was changed from '5th Bn' to '7th Bn' with applied letters substituted.

Late 19th century drill halls were often plain with few distinctive architectural features. By the early 20th century the neo-Baroque or 'Wrenaissance' style had influenced the design of some drill halls in England and Scotland soon followed suit. The style used here may have been the choice of the architects, Anderson, Simon and Crawford, as both Frank Worthington Simon and Alexander Hunter Crawford had strong connections with England. The practice was formed when Simon and Crawford merged theirs with the well-established and long running practice of Robert Rowand Anderson. The architectural journal 'The Builder' specifically mentions Frank Worthington Simon as being responsible for the design of Dalmeny Street drill hall. In 1898-9 Simon had also designed the substantial Edinburgh Industrial Brigade Home at Fountainbridge. This was given good coverage in the press with an illustration and articles published at the time of its opening on 4 April 1899, and may have persuaded the client to select the firm. Many architects were also chosen to design drill halls because they were themselves involved in the Volunteer Movement. Crawford did serve as an officer with the Army Motor Reserve between 1906 and 1910, and may have had earlier military connections, but it is not currently known if

any of the three members of the practice were involved as volunteers prior to the Dalmeny Street hall being built.

Setting

The hall and offices are currently located in an area of dense housing. Although the surrounding streets were laid out at the time the drill hall was constructed, much of Dalmeny Street was largely undeveloped with open ground to northwest and south sides. To the west the former United Presbyterian Church had been built in the 1880s and the blocks of tenements adjacent to Leith Walk were in place. The hall continues to have an important street presence and is located in the Leith Conservation Area.

Regional variations

There are no known regional variations.

2.3 Close Historical Associations

This building is significant historically in its connection to the worst disaster to befall the community of Leith. On Friday 22 May 1915 a southbound troop train crashed into a stationary local train outside the signalbox at Quintinhill, near Gretna, and was then hit by a northbound express. 227 passengers were killed and 246 injured. 485 officers of the 7th battalion of the Royal Scots, on their way to Gallipoli, were on the train, 214 of whom were killed. Relatives of the soldiers congregated outside the drill hall seeking news, and eventually a list of the dead was read out from a window, before being posted up outside. By Sunday the bodies had been transported from Gretna to Leith Central Station, and were taken to the drill hall then functioning as a temporary mortuary.

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

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 Out of the Blue Drill Hall has particular interest under a and d

a. The former Dalmeny Street drill hall is one of the largest and best examples of a drill hall in Scotland, designed by one of Scotland's foremost architectural practices at the turn of the 20th century.

d. The exterior of the building has undergone almost no change; the interior retains a significant proportion of the early 20th century layout and high quality fittings alongside some early 21st century alterations.

4. Summary of Assessment Against the Listing Criteria**

The former Dalmeny Street drill hall and headquarters of the 5th Volunteer Battalion of the Royal Scots are of outstanding significance because of the high quality of the design and interior features. It is one of the largest and best detailed examples of a drill hall in Scotland, largely retaining its original external appearance and internal elements. The building was designed in 1900-1901 by the prominent architectural practice Anderson Simon & Crawford, using the Neo-Baroque or 'Wrenaissance' style and is an early example of the use of this style in Scotland, which became more prevalent at the end of the first decade of the 20th century. In 2004 it was converted to an arts and education centre, to a design by Malcolm Fraser with Moray Royles. It makes a significant contribution to the largely domestic streetscape in this part of Edinburgh.

In our current state of knowledge it 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 A denotes buildings of national or international importance, either architectural or historic; or fine, little-altered examples of some particular period, style or building type. It is proposed that the category of this building should be changed from B to A as it is among the best examples of this building type in Scotland and therefore of national significance.

6. Other Information

N/A

7. References

Canmore: <http://canmore.org.uk/> CANMORE ID 236511

Maps

Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1905, published 1908) Edinburghshire 003.04 (includes: Edinburgh). 25 inches to the mile. 3rd edition. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

Archive

Edinburgh City Archives. Dean of Guild plans 19/03/1900

Printed Sources

The Builder (13 April 1901) p.364.

Edinburgh Evening News (3 July 1901) p.2.

Gifford, J. et al. (1988) *The Buildings of Scotland: Edinburgh*. London: Penguin Books. p.463.

Glasgow Herald (4 October 1880) p.7.

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

Scotsman (7 December 1901) p.1.

Scotsman (9 December 1901) p.10.

Online Sources

Dictionary of Scottish Architects. *Alexander Hunter Crawford* at http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=200056 [accessed 14/01/2016]

Dictionary of Scottish Architects. *Frank Worthington Simon* at http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=200057 [accessed 14/01/2016]

* 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/>