



Case information

Case ID	300008898		
File Reference	HGH/B/FA/78		
Name of Site	37-39 Bruce Street, Dunfermline		
Local Authority	Fife Council		
National Grid Reference	NT 08957 87577		
Designation No. (if any)	N/A		
Designation Type	Listed Building	Current Category of Listing	N/A
Case Type	Designation		
Received/Start Date	2015 [Drill Halls Listing Review]		
Decision Date	25/05/2016		

1. Decision

In our current state of knowledge, Bruce Street Hall, 37-39 Bruce Street, Dunfermline still meets the criteria for listing at category C.

Previous Statutory Address	N/A
Amended Statutory address	Bruce Street Hall, 37-39 Bruce Street (former drill hall administration block) excluding hall to rear, Dunfermline

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

Dunfermline Burgh, where this building is located, was resurveyed on 10/03/2000. The building is located in the Dunfermline Conservation Area.

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

This former Drill Hall is being considered for designation as part of the Drill Halls Listing Review 2015-16 and was visited on 04/06/2015. The exterior and publically accessible reception area and stair hall were seen during the visit. The principal rooms on the ground and first floor were not 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*

Bruce Street Hall, 37-39 Bruce Street (former drill hall administration block) excluding hall to rear, Dunfermline

1. Description

This administration block for the former drill hall at 37-39 Bruce Street, Dunfermline was designed by Fife architect Andrew Scobie in 1887-88. In accordance with Section 1 (4A) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 the following is excluded from the listing: the late 20th century hall to rear.

The administration block at Bruce Street Hall is a 2-storey, 3-bay, rectangular-plan building in an ‘Institutional Gothic’ style. The building is constructed of squared and snecked sandstone ashlar with polished ashlar dressings and raised stone cills. There are shallow, pointed-arch hood-moulds above the segmental-arched window openings. The central bay of the principal (east) elevation is gabled, with a tri-partite and roundel window set within a pointed arch above the entrance porch recess. There are shouldered, wallhead chimney stacks with octagonal clay cans in the north and south elevations and a round-arched window in the south elevation. The building has 2 and 4-pane glazing in timber sash and case windows and the roof is of graded, grey slate.

The interior was partly seen in 2015. The entrance hall has been reworked for use as a public gymnasium reception area. The internal stair has decorative cast iron banisters and a hardwood handrail with a scrolled newel post.

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 [\[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/9/contents\]](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

Bruce Street Hall was built in 1887-88 for the 1st Fife Volunteers, whose numbers had reached more than 200 by that date. A report in the Fife Herald (Wednesday 22 June 1887) recounts the foundation stone ceremony with the usual formalities in the presence of Lord Elgin and the town Provost and ‘a large crowd’. The newspaper report states that ‘the completed drill hall will measure 110 feet by 66 feet and be 38 feet in height. On the ground floor are to be the armoury and orderly rooms with a passage between them forming the entrance to the hall, and a number of retiring rooms. The second floor will have reading and recreation rooms. The hall

is to be lighted from the roof with a gallery at one end, and a dwelling house for the drill instructor adjoining the hall. The cost of the building is estimated at £2000, to designs by Mr Andrew Scobie, architect, Dunfermline'. Newspaper notices from 1888 indicate that the hall space was utilised for a variety of purposes including dog shows, flower shows and household auctions.

The hall was built on the site of a ruin, as depicted on the large scale Ordnance Survey Town Plan of Dunfermline (surveyed, 1854), possibly associated with the 14th century 'Mill Port' burgh gates, one of six sets of gates built to surround the Royal burgh in 1396. The 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map, revised in 1894, shows steps to the rear of the drill hall, leading to the entrance to a natural cave, traditionally associated with Queen Margaret (11th century). The drill hall to the rear of the building was demolished and rebuilt in 1978 and is not considered to be of special interest in listing terms, and is proposed to be excluded from the listing.

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 Regularisation of the Force 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 understood 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.

Funds for the construction of drill halls usually came from the patronage of local land or business owners or from the subscriptions of the volunteers and local fundraising efforts. This was most likely the situation with the Bruce Street Volunteer Drill Hall because of its good architectural detailing. Of the surviving purpose-built drill halls in Fife during the immediate pre-war period, many are of a plainly domestic character. Two examples by Gillespie and Scott are bespoke designs that avoid standardisation according to the requirements of the site at 53 Elgin Street, Dunfermline and Hunter Street, Kirkcaldy.

37-39 Bruce Street is a good example of a purpose-built former drill hall administration block. While the hall to the rear was rebuilt during the late 20th-century, what distinguishes the administrative section of the building from others of its date is its good quality stonework and architectural details.

2.2 Architectural or Historic Interest

Interior

The majority of drill hall interiors were designed to be practical and largely unembellished. The Bruce Street example features a wide entrance which was a typical feature to allow large groups of volunteers to enter and exit the building.

The publically accessible area of the interior has been altered following the building's change of use to a sports centre in the late 20th century. The main staircase with carved timber handrail and cast iron bannisters has been retained and these features are not exceptional for its late 19th century date. The rest of the interior has not been seen and has not been taken into account in this assessment.

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 form and arrangement of internal spaces at the Bruce Street Hall is typical, with storage on the ground floor and the officers' accommodation above.

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 styles used might 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.

Bruce Street Hall is in an 'Institutional Gothic' style and the building has a number of good carved stonework details, such as hood-mouldings featuring floral stops and infills with distinctive winged roundel motifs. Other drill halls in a Gothic style include Geilston Hall (1889), Cardross in Argyllshire and Bank Street, Brechin in Angus (1897).

The Bruce Street Hall was designed by Andrew Scobie, a Dunfermline-based architect who carried out many commissions in Fife between 1870 and 1920. He was Provost of Dunfermline from 1897 to 1903, and the majority of his work was in the town, including numerous schools, tenements, commercial buildings and halls. His connection with the volunteer forces is not known and at present this is his only known drill hall.

Setting

The Bruce Street Hall has a prominent presence in the street, located within an area largely characterised by commercial and ecclesiastical buildings of a similar scale and architectural quality. This section of Bruce Street lies within the Dunfermline Conservation Area.

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. 51-52

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 Bruce Street Hall has particular interest under a.

- a. this former drill hall administration block is significant within the building type because of the good quality materials and detailing on the exterior.

4. Summary of Assessment Against the Listing Criteria**

Bruce Street hall, built 1887-88, is an architecturally interesting example of a purpose-built volunteer drill hall administrative block in the Fife region. Built in the wake of the Volunteer Act of 1863 and the Regulation of the Forces Act in 1871 it

was designed by local architect and Town Provost Andrew Scobie in an 'Institutional Gothic' style. Its distinctive detailing includes pointed-arch and segmental openings and hoodmoulds to the principal elevation, which has not been significantly altered since the late 19th century. It has prominent presence in the street on the west edge of the centre of Dunfermline.

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

The hall to the rear was rebuilt in 1978 and it is not considered of special interest in listing terms at the time of this review. It is proposed to be excluded from this 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. This former administration block for a drill hall is a good example of its building type in Fife, designed in the 'Institutional Gothic' style, which is uncommon in drill hall architecture. We consider that category C is the most appropriate category.

6. Other Information

N/A

7. References

Canmore: <http://canmore.org.uk/> CANMORE ID: 92822

Maps

Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1854) Large Scale Scottish Town Plans, Dunfermline 1854 - Sheet 4. London: Ordnance Survey.

Ordnance Survey (revised 1893, published 1896) Fife 038.08 (includes: Dunfermline). 25 Inches to the Mile. 2nd Edition. London: Ordnance Survey.

Printed Sources

Gifford J. (1998) *The Buildings of Scotland – Fife*. London: Penguin Books. p.188.

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

Dundee Courier (27 June 1952) "H.A.A Regiment 'at home' at Bruce Street Drill Hall, Dunfermline".

Dunfermline Saturday Press (22 December 1888) 'Dog Show at Bruce Street Drill Hall.

Online Sources

Dictionary of Scottish Architects. Andrew Scobie at http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=201767 [accessed 18/11/2015]

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