



Case information

Case ID	300016487		
File Reference	HGH/13/HH/24		
Name of Site	Castle Street, Dornoch, Old Jail and Former Drill Hall		
Local Authority	Highland Council		
National Grid Reference	NH 79788 89599		
Designation No. (if any)	LB24638		
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 Old Jail and Former Drill Hall continue to meet the criteria for listing. The statutory listing address and the listed building record have been amended.

Previous Statutory Address	Castle Street Old Jail and Former Drill Hall
Amended Statutory Address	Old Jail and Former Drill Hall including Rifle Range, Castle Street, Dornoch

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

This building was listed at category B on 18/03/1971. Dornoch Burgh, where this building is located was resurveyed in 1984. The building is situated within the Dornoch Conservation Area.

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

The Old Jail and former Drill Hall, Dornoch were considered for amendment as part of the Drill Halls Listing Review and was visited on 05/02/2016. The exterior and the ground floor interiors of the former jail and drill hall were seen at this visit.

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*

Old Jail and Former Drill Hall including Rifle Range, Castle Street, Dornoch

1. Description

The building comprises a 1842-44 former jail, a 1896-7 drill hall (both now in use as commercial premises). The Old Jail is a 3-storey, 4-bay structure, rectangular in plan and designed in a symmetrical Scottish Baronial style, designed by Thomas Brown in 1842-44 before being converted to use as premises for the Sutherland Rifle Volunteers about 1880. Offices were added to the west 2-storey, 2-bay L-plan Scots Baronial style drill hall attached to the rear of the west end of the Jail in 1896-7, with a rifle range that runs south from the drill hall, added during the early 20th century. To the east of the Old Jail is a small entrance courtyard enclosed by high walls adjoining the Old Jail. In the centre of east wall is an arched opening and in the north wall is opening with a studded door.

The elevation to Castle Street is of ashlar sandstone while the side elevations are squared coursed rubble, and the drill hall at the rear is also of squared coursed rubble. It is set in a prominent position on one of the main streets in Dornoch, adjacent to the former County Buildings and Castle, and opposite Dornoch Cathedral. The outer bays of the former jail are advanced with crowstepped gables with stone cross finials and dummy corner bartizan towers. There are also crowstepped gables over the windows of the central bays of the jail. The front elevation of the drill hall premises also has a crowstepped gable and matching bartizan tower at the west end. There is a base course continuing to hoodmoulds over the ground floor windows and doors and an inscribed and dated panel above the entrance door to the drill hall area. There are round-headed window openings in the outer bays of the jail and an elliptical headed recessed entrance door to the drill hall, while the windows in the hall at the rear are also round-headed.

There is mainly 12-pane glazing in timber sash and case windows in the jail section and 6-light mullioned and transomed ground and first floor windows in the drill hall section. There are grey slates on all parts of the roof and corniced chimney stacks with yellow clay cans on the ridge and gable ends of the Old Jail and there are ventilator finials on the ridge of the drill hall.

Some parts of the interior were seen in 2016. The jail has a number of mid-19th century fittings in place including some mid-19th century metal studded timber cell doors, stone-flagged floors and various ventilator grills in the walls and ceilings, some still with their opening and closing mechanisms. The drill hall section retains some of the late 19th century interior scheme including a timber boarded dado in the hallway, timber panelled doors, a timber staircase and what was probably a mess on the first floor with simple coved ceiling with moulded plasterwork. The drill hall itself retains some coloured glass and has a later mezzanine floor supported on columns so it is set back from the walls.

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

Dornoch Prison was built in 1842-4, although it was not occupied until 1850. At that point prisoners were moved in, having been temporarily accommodated in Dornoch Castle, courtesy of the Duke of Sutherland after the closure of the former prison. The 8th Report from Commissioners of Prisons, dated 3 June 1843, stated that the new building had been commenced and 'is expected to be roofed in next month'. It is unclear why there was a delay of several years between completion of the new building and its occupation. The footprint of this building can be seen on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map (surveyed in 1874 and published in 1879).

On 17 August 1839 an *Act to Improve Prisons and Prison Discipline* had been passed in Scotland to enshrine classification and separation as principles of prison discipline. An earlier 1835 Act had set up Inspectors of Prisons in Great Britain and the 1839 Act transferred the control of prisons to County Boards which were established and took over local supervision and management of all prisons. Prison Acts of 1877 brought prisons under the authority of the Home Secretary which lasted until the Criminal Justice Act in 1948.

The effect of the 1835 and 1839 Acts was a new wave of prison building, with Thomas Brown II (1806-1872) appointed architect to the Prison Board of Scotland in 1837. Brown's prisons took on board the suggestions of the prison reformers and were built to reflect contemporary ideas of observation and control, with solitary rather than mass confinement in a hygienic environment and with an emphasis on rehabilitation. Brown was responsible for building around 12 purpose-built prisons and he added to, or reconstructed, around 9 other prisons during his tenure as architect to the Prison Board of Scotland. As a result of this he is the leading prison architect of the 19th century in Scotland and very few of Brown's purpose-built prisons survive.

The prison in Dornoch was underused and it was closed on 29 March 1880, with the prisoners removed to Dingwall. The building was then sold to the Sutherland Rifle Volunteers for £220. Between then and 1896 the building was used by the Volunteers as a drill hall and offices. The Dornoch Company (like the Golspie Company) of the Sutherland Rifle Volunteers had been formed in 1859. Their first premises was a timber building at the corner of Wallace Street and Argyll Street (which like a number of smaller drill halls) was constructed of wood or iron, as indicated on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map). It is not clear if any alterations were made to the prison building when it was first acquired. However a large L-

shaped extension was made to the building in 1896-7 and this is shown on the 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey map. It is not clear in which part of the building they actually held drill exercises at first. Apart from the later addition of the rifle range at the rear of the hall, this part of the building retains the late 19th century footprint.

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 Volunteers Corps in defended coastal towns) 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 Old Jail and Former Drill Hall in Dornoch is noteworthy and relatively rare because of its early date and its initial purpose as one of the jails constructed on the improved lines stipulated by the Commissioners of Prisons. It falls within the group of buildings which were converted for use as drill halls. Many of those conversions occurred when halls were requisitioned with the approach of the First World War, so the Old Jail is unusual in being converted as early as 1880. This building is therefore noteworthy within both building types, prisons and drills halls, because of the early date of its initial construction, 1842-44, and for its early adaptation in 1880 with 1896-7 additions.

2.2 Architectural or Historic Interest

Interior

The interior of the jail building retains some details from its original use and this is of interest in listing terms. The walls of the Old Jail are exceptionally thick, and the main ground floor corridor, which has a barrel vaulted ceiling, gives access to a number of cells, some with mid-19th century metal studded timber doors. There is a vaulted area at the east end of the corridor, and along the length of the corridor are various ventilation grilles in the walls and ceilings, some still with their opening and closing mechanisms. These reflect the fact that good ventilation was of great importance to the Commissioners of Prisons in their reports.

The interior of the late 19th century sections also have some surviving details which are typical of a drill hall of this period. 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.

There are vestiges of a timber boarded dado in what was the original hallway of the western section. The first floor room may have been the officers' room, and is accessed by a timber staircase which was part of the 1896-7 alterations. The first floor room has a coved ceiling with a simple plaster cornice and timber panelled doors, while the hall at the rear of the building has some coloured glass and timber boarding to dado height.

Plan form

The jail section was a simple rectangular plan building and would seem originally to have had a courtyard at the west, with a high enclosing wall similar to the surviving example to the east, and an airing yard at the rear. The plan form of the jail section, as far as can be established, was fairly typical of a jail of this period with ground floor cells accessed off long corridors and offices above. The exercising gallery of the old prison was on the first floor and may have been adapted for drilling after the Volunteers took on the building in 1880. However, in prisons of similar date, such as Elgin which had eleven cells like Dornoch, the exercising gallery measured only 25 feet long and 4 feet wide. Assuming the Dornoch building was similar in dimensions, this would have been too narrow for drill practice. It is therefore possible that at Dornoch the gallery was enlarged about 1880, before the 1896-7 extensions were made.

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. The drill hall additions of 1896-7 largely follow the standard pattern established by the late 19th century, with administrative offices at the front of the building and the hall itself at the rear.

Technological excellence or innovation, material or design quality

The architect responsible for the design of the Old Jail was Thomas Brown. As noted above, in 1837 Brown was appointed architect to the Prison Board of Scotland and by 1838 had an office of his own in Edinburgh. His first prison design was Elgin in 1839. He used a variety of styles such as a Tudor style at Tain and a castellated style at Stirling. The use of the Scottish Baronial style at Dornoch is relatively unusual and the style was almost certainly chosen because of the context of the building, in close proximity to the 16th century Dornoch Castle. Brown did further work in Dornoch in the late 1840s, designing the County Buildings on a site adjacent to the prison. Like the prison it has crowstepped gables and round arched openings at ground floor level but on the other hand it has some elements which are quite distinct from the prison building (the tall windows at first floor level for example) underlining its quite different function.

The cost of the jail, with 11 cells, two rooms for civil prisoners, a sick room, an exercising gallery and an airing yard, along with accommodation for the keeper, was estimated at £2000 (although it eventually cost almost £3000) and is comparable to other jails built about the same time. For example in 1843 Dunfermline with 20 cells was to cost about £2200 while the County Jail at Cupar was to cost about £5000.

The style of the extensions of 1896-7 closely follow that of the prison itself. 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.

No architect has yet been identified in documentary sources for the drill hall additions. An inscription over the entrance records the date and those involved 'Hector Munro McKay, captain, and James Maclachlan 2nd Lieutenant' but gives no clue as to the designer.

Newspapers report that the Rifle Volunteers were reviewed by the Duke of Sutherland, Lord Lieutenant of the County, in September 1896 'after a lapse of two years'. It is not certain what the cause of this lapse might have been but it may be associated with the death of the Honorary Lieutenant Colonel of the Sutherland Volunteers, David Sutherland, in early 1895. The new commanding officer, Colonel Menzies, or perhaps the Duke himself may have instigated the alterations at the drill hall. A few years before the Duke of Sutherland's architect, Laurie Bisset, designed the drill hall at Golspie, and it is possible that he also designed the additions to the Dornoch building. Although few jobs by Bisset have as yet been identified, he was a competent designer and we know he undertook other work in Dornoch in the 1890s. However, newspapers report that the plaque above the main entrance into the hall was cut by 'Baillie Taggart'. Baillie Taggart was in fact Sir James Taggart of Aberdeen who had started as a stone cutter aged sixteen but by 1883 owned his own works in the city, later becoming Lord Provost, and he was also a keen

volunteer. If the plaque was cut by this Aberdeen craftsman, it is possible that the architect of the additions also came from the city. However as yet there is no documentary evidence to support this. The Baronial style of the additions closely matches that of the original prison building – with crowstepped gables and round arched windows, the latter prevalent in the drill hall at the rear. So whoever the architect was he was sensitive to the need to make the new part of the building relate to the style of the old part.

The long rifle range was added at the rear during the 20th century. The complex of buildings continued in use by the Territorial Army until its conversion to commercial premises circa 2000.

Setting

The Old Jail and former Drill Hall are located on one of the main streets in Dornoch, a short distance east of the former Dornoch Castle and adjacent to the County Buildings, and opposite Dornoch Cathedral. Dornoch Castle was probably built about 1500, although it was damaged and repaired at various times, including alterations in 1859-60. The Baronial style of Dornoch Castle, with corner bartizans and crowstepped gables, obviously influenced the choice of style of the prison and in turn the drill hall. The Old Jail and former Drill Hall are located within the Dornoch 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 the Old Jail and Former Drill Hall has particular interest under a and d

a. The Old Jail and Former Drill Hall complex is a very good surviving example of a mid-19th century jail which was converted to use as a drill hall in 1880 with late 19th century additions. Relatively few jails survive from the 1840s, and the conversion of the jail to a drill hall at the early date of 1880 is also rare.

d. The exteriors of both parts of the building have had little alteration. A significant number of mid-19th century interior details survive in the jail section of the building while some of late 19th century interior scheme in other parts of the building is also in place.

4. Summary of Assessment Against the Listing Criteria**

The Old Jail and former Drill Hall complex is a very good and unusual example of a building which began as a prison in the mid-19th century but was adapted for use as a drill hall in the 1880s, with further alterations and additions in the 1890s and later. The core of the building was designed by the eminent architect Thomas Brown who, as architect to the Prison Board from 1838, designed a significant number of prison and court buildings throughout Scotland. The exterior of both phases of the building retain their 19th century appearance while many interior details are still in place. The complex is situated in one of the main streets in Dornoch and forms part of an impressive group of buildings along with Dornoch Castle and the County Buildings.

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 B denotes building of regional or more than local importance; or major examples of some particular period, style or building type, which may have been altered. This building is a very good and rare example of a mid-19th century prison with good quality late 19th century additions for conversion to the drill hall. Therefore category B is considered to be the most appropriate category of listing.

6. Other Information

N/A

7. References

Canmore: <http://canmore.org.uk/> CANMORE ID 93410

Maps

Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1874, published 1879). Sutherland Sheet CXIII.6 (Combined). 1st Edition map. 25 inches to the mile. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1905, published 1906). Sutherland 113.06 (includes: Dornoch). 2nd Edition map. 25 inches to the mile. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

Printed Sources

Aberdeen Journal (26 December 1896) p.6.

Aberdeen Journal (14 April 1897) p.4.

Caledonian Mercury (18 November 1859) p.2.

Dundee Evening Telegraph (3 January 1895) p.3.

Gifford, J. (1992) *Buildings of Scotland: Highland and Islands*. London: Penguin Books p.567.

Glasgow Herald (4 September 1896) p.6.

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

Parliamentary Papers, House of Commons and Command (1843), Reports from Commissioners. *8th Report of the Commissioners. Report relative to the System of Prison Discipline & Co by the Inspector of Prisons*. Volumes 25-26. London: HMSO, pp.67, 70.

Online Sources

Dictionary of Scottish Architects. *Thomas Brown II* at http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=200146 [accessed 11/03/2016]

* 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/>