



Case information

Case ID	300016461		
File Reference	HGH/B/SQ/98		
Name of Site	1-7 (odd nos) Burns Statue Square, Ayr		
Local Authority	South Ayrshire Council		
National Grid Reference	NS 33888 21461		
Designation No. (if any)	LB21517		
Designation Type	Listed Building	Current Category of Listing	B
Case Type	Amendment		
Start Date	2015 [Drill Hall Listing Review]		
Decision Date	12/07/2016		

1. Decision

In our current state of knowledge, 1-7 Burns Statue Square continues to meet the criteria for listing. The statutory listing address and the listed building record has been amended. The category of listing has changed from B to C.

Previous Statutory Address	1-7 (odd nos) Burns Statue Square
Amended Statutory address	1-7 (odd numbers only) Burns Statue Square, excluding brick hall to rear, Ayr

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

This building was listed at category B on 10/01/1980.

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

1-7 Burns Square was considered for amendment as part of the Drill Hall Listing Review 2015-16. It was visited on 13/05/2015. The street elevation was seen, although the rear of the building was not easily accessible and only parts of it could be seen. The interior of the shop at no 5 was the only part of the interior that was seen.

3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

The building was found to 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*

1-7 (odd numbers only) Burns Statue Square and excluding brick hall to rear, Ayr

1. Description

This 3-storey, 5-bay former administration and recreation offices for a drill hall was designed by James Archibald Morris and dates to 1901. In accordance with Section 1 (4A) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 the following are excluded from the listing: the brick hall to the rear. The building is red sandstone ashlar and there are shops on the ground floor. An oriel window at first floor level at the north end of the street elevation rises to form a 3-stage castellated tower. There is a cornice above the ground floor, a moulded eaves course and a dentilled cornice. The first floor windows are transomed and mullioned bi and tripartite windows. The first and second floor windows are predominantly small pane, with casement windows to the second floor and sash and case windows at first floor. The roof has grey slates and corniced chimney stacks with circular cans.

5 Burns Statue Square has a recessed entrance on the right with a glass and timber entrance door. There are small pane transom lights above the shop and plate glass windows. Other shops have boarded windows, with framing for small pane transom lights.

The interior of the shop at number 5 was seen in 2015 and is mostly fitted out with timber and glass fixtures and furniture, consistent with the early 20th century date. There is a timber counter with a glass fronted display area below and other glass fronted display cases lie to the rear. Timber wall shelving with cupboards and drawers below sit behind the counter.

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

1-7 Burns Statue Square was built as a drill hall in 1901 for the 2nd Volunteer Battalion Royal Scots Fusiliers, but it was only used by them for a few years. The Royal Scots Fusiliers was one of the oldest of the Scottish Regiments and was the county regiment of Ayrshire. The building consisted of office and recreational facilities at the street elevation and there was a large gabled drill hall to the rear.

Information from the Scottish Dictionary of Architects notes that the drill hall, when built, was to have an armoury for 300 rifles, a gymnasium, a reading room, a billiards room, an officers' mess, a sergeants' mess and artistes' rooms and a platform.

A notice in the Dundee Evening Telegraph from 1909 notes that the hall, which was by then the headquarters of the 5th Battallion Royal Scots Fusiliers, was sold for £10,500 at a public roup (auction). The building was sold to a Mr Shaw, a solicitor in Ayr. As a result of the Haldane Reforms in 1907, when Volunteer forces joined together to become Territorial Associations, the drill hall was not required and had been offered to the War Office for £10,000. They declined to purchase it, and therefore it was sold at public auction. By 1910, the large drill hall to the rear had become a picture house and it was later used as a dance hall and ballroom. This hall is currently disused and roofless (2015) and is not considered to be of special interest in listing terms and is proposed to be excluded from the listing.

No 5 Burns Statue Square is understood to have been a tobacconists shop since the early 20th century. It is one of the very few remaining tobacconist shops in Scotland. Tobacconists were once a common sight, but with changes in tobacco use, the majority have disappeared. Many tobacconist shops were small, as the goods did not need a large space to be displayed. 5 Burns Statue Square is unusual in its relatively large size. The other shops on the ground floor are currently unused (2015).

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 Regulations 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.

Built in 1901, the former drill hall administration and recreation building at Burns Statue Square was constructed in a period when many drill halls were being built. The interest of this drill hall lies in the distinctive architectural detailing of the street elevation and also in the survival of the tobacconist shop at no 5 (see below).

2.2 Architectural or Historic Interest

Interior

The interior of no 5 Burns Statue Square is a rare surviving tobacconists with a number of fixtures and fittings from the early part of the 20th century. It is understood that the shop has been a tobacconist since the early 20th century and many of the fittings are from this date. Surviving shop interiors from the early part of the 20th century are unusual, as typically shops undergo refitting when they change hands. The early fittings here include the glass fronted counter and the shelving to the rear of the counter, with drawers and cupboards beneath. As many items on sale are small items, such as pipes these can be accommodated into small drawers and shelves. Some tobacconists fitted their shops out in mahogany or other high quality wood, but it is not known if this is the case here.

The remainder of the building's 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 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 armoury to store weapons along with a caretaker or drill instructor's accommodation, usually facing the street. To the rear would be the drill hall itself. Occasionally more extensive accommodation was required and could include, as here, interior rifle ranges, libraries, billiards rooms, lecture theatres and bars.

The plan of 1-7 Burns Statue Square is typical in having a building with offices and recreation facilities to the street and with a large hall to the rear. The ground floor shops is not exceptional, as commercial premises can be found in other drill halls positioned in main commercial streets. The former drill hall at John Finnie Street in Kilmarnock (unlisted), for example, also has shops at ground floor level.

The internal plan form is not known.

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.

This drill hall was designed by James Archibald Morris (1857-1942), who practised in both Ayr and London. Alongside his architectural work, including Savoy Croft in Racecourse Road, Ayr (listed at category A), Morris wrote a number of books about Ayrshire and its history and was also a Volunteer. It is possible that he was commissioned to build 1-7 Burns Statue Square because of his Volunteer connections.

The use of red sandstone is standard for Ayrshire buildings. There are some good decorative details to the front elevation, including the dentilled cornice and the mullioned and transomed windows. The building is dominated by the castellated tower at the north end and this gives the building a militaristic feel in line with its original purpose.

Setting

The building is prominently positioned on a busy road in Ayr town centre and lies at the north end of a row of red sandstone tenements. It is distinguished from them by its distinctive crenelated tower.

Regional variations

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

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 1-7 Burns Statue Square has particular interest under a.

- a. the administration building for a former drill hall at Burns Statue Square has a number of good architectural details, with its imposing tower and distinctive dentilled cornice, to embellish a building with a military purpose.

4. Summary of Assessment Against the Listing Criteria**

This 1901 drill hall administration building was designed by the local architect James A Morris and is a distinctive building in the town centre of Ayr. The building has a number of good decorative stonework details to the front elevation, including a prominent castellated tower. This gives the building a strongly military appearance, which relates to its original function. 5 Burns Statue Square is a tobacconists shop with a rare surviving, largely intact and well-detailed early 20th century internal furnishings.

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

The brick hall to the rear has altered by the loss of the roof and for its building type 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: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/listed-buildings/what-is-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 drill hall dates to a period when the majority of drill halls were built. It has distinctive architectural detailing and the decorative elements are of local interest. The tobacconist shop has a rare interior, but this is a small proportion of the building and category C is considered to be the most appropriate category.

6. Other Information

N/A

7. References

Canmore: <http://canmore.org.uk/> CANMORE ID 201822

Maps

Ordnance Survey (Surveyed 1908, Published 1909) Ayrshire Sheet 033.06. 25 Inches to the mile Map. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

Printed Sources

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Close, R. (1992) *Ayrshire and Arran*. Edinburgh: Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland. p.19.

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Dundee Evening Telegraph (28 July 1909) Ayr Drill Hall Sold.

Glendinning, M. et al. (1996) *History Of Scottish Architecture*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. p.585.

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

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Strawhorn, J. and Andrew, K. (1988) *Discovering Ayrshire*. Edinburgh: John Donald. p.106.

Online Sources

Dictionary of Scottish Architects, James Morris at http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=200321 (accessed 02/11/2015).

* 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/>