



Case information

Case ID	300008826
File Reference	HGH/B/GE/84
Name of Site	Joint Cadet Centre, 11 High Street, Forres

Local Authority	Moray Council		
National Grid Reference	NJ 03932 59159		
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	21/07/2016

1. Decision

In our current state of knowledge Forres Army Reserves Centre is considered to meet the criteria for listing at category C. The building has been designated (listed).

Previous Statutory Address	N/A
New Statutory address	Joint Cadet Centre, 11 High Street, Forres

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

There is no known previous assessment of the Army Reserves Centre at 11 High Street, Forres for listing. The building is within the Forres Conservation Area.

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

The Army Reserves Centre, Forres was considered for designation as part of the Drill Halls Listing Review 2015-16. The building was visited on 28/05/2015 and the exterior and interior were both seen during the visit.

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*

Army Reserves Centre, 11 High Street, Forres

1. Description

Designed by Charles C Doig in 1909-10, this drill hall comprises a 2-storey with gables breaking wallhead, 3-bay front block with a double height hall behind and a later single storey, rectangular plan rifle range adjoining the rear. It is constructed in rock faced sandstone with ashlar margins. The central bay of the principal elevation is slightly advanced and the gablehead has a carving of a stag's head and scroll with the inscription 'GUIDICH 'N RICH' over another, larger scroll with the inscription '6TH BATTN SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS'. The bay to the right of the centre has bipartite windows with a stone mullion and there is a blank shield in the gablehead. There is a base course and string course between the ground and first floor, and the gables are shouldered with cavetto moulded skewputts. The rifle range (built after 1938) is constructed in rubble stone, with a rendered gable facing North Road and has a corrugated roof and ventilators. There are two brick lean-to extensions to the rear of the drill hall and the east elevation of the rifle range.

The windows are predominantly a 4-pane upper sash over plate glass in timber frames. The roof is pitched and slated and there are coped wallhead stacks, straight skews and moulded skewputts. The rainwater goods are predominantly cast iron with decorative brackets.

The interior, seen in 2015, comprises offices in the front block, with a staircase with turned timber balusters and newel posts, and a hall to the rear with a timber boarded ceiling supported on metal trusses. The hall and circulation spaces have timber boarding to the dado rail. The roof of the rifle range to the rear is supported on timber trusses.

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

Forres Army Reserves Centre was constructed shortly after the 1908 reorganisation of the Territorial forces, brought about by the Territorial Forces Act 1907. A newspaper article from 1907 reports that a bazaar was held to raise funds for a drill hall for A and H Companies of the 3rd Volunteer Battalion Seaforth Highlanders

(Aberdeen Journal, 1907). This article describes the proposed accommodation as an armoury, gymnasium, recreation rooms and miniature shooting range. It was hoped that a new facility would attract more men from Forres and the surrounding areas to volunteer.

The building was designed by Elgin based architect, Charles C Doig, in 1909 and a newspaper account from 1910 records that the building was officially opened on the 3 March 1910 by Brigadier-General Forbes Macbean and cost around £1300 (Aberdeen Journal, 1910). The 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map (surveyed 1904) shows an earlier rectangular plan building, marked as a drill hall, to the north corner of the site. This building is likely to have remained in use when the 1909 drill hall was constructed as it is still shown on the 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey Map (surveyed 1938). After 1938 this earlier hall was demolished and a rifle range was constructed to the rear of the drill hall. In 1914 the building was the drill station for "E" Squadron of the 2nd Scottish Horse and also used by "A" Company of the 6th Battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders.

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.

Forres Drill Hall is a well-detailed and largely unaltered example of a domestic style of drill hall constructed shortly after the 1908 reorganisation of the Territorial forces (see *Architectural or Historic Interest* section below).

2.2 Architectural or Historic Interest

Interior

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 interiors were designed to be practical and largely unembellished and Forres drill hall is typical of a drill hall of this date, with no exceptional detailing in the interior.

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.

Forres conforms to the above pattern, with offices and stores in the 2-storey building fronting the site with the hall behind. Whilst later in date, the rifle range to the rear of the hall at Forres is also of interest, as it is rare to find a rifle range still in use for that purpose. Some battalions (particularly in the Highlands) would have outdoor ranges, whilst other drill halls would incorporate the rifle range into the hall, as can be seen at the former drill hall at High Street in Paisley (listed at category B). When drill halls are no longer in use for their original purpose the rifle ranges have usually been demolished, like the hall at Forrest Road, Edinburgh.

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.

A style of drill hall with recognisably domestic elevations began to be constructed in Scotland towards the turn of the twentieth century and was particularly prevalent for drill halls constructed following the Territorial Forces Act 1907. This domestic or informal appearance is characterised by the scale of predominantly two storey, three bay structures with stylistic detailing focussed upon chimneys and dormer or bay windows. The style of the building was often influenced by the architecture of the area as well as the availability of materials.

There were a number of reasons that the domestic style was favoured, including a deliberate attempt for these military buildings to appear less conspicuous, particularly those in rural or village settings, as well as restricted finances and urgency of construction. Osborne, in his book *Always Ready*, notes that the domestic design also lent itself to conversion, possibly to housing should the requirement for the drill hall be short lived (p.24).

Forres Army Reserves Centre is a good example of a domestic style drill hall because of its stonework particularly to its principal elevation, which is largely unaltered. The carvings to the central gablehead are the motifs and mottos associated with the battalion for which it was built and therefore a clear indication of the building's function. The motto beneath the stags head translates as 'Help the King'.

Charles Chree Doig (1855-1918) started work in Elgin in 1882 as an assistant to H M S Mackay, land surveyor. Doig quickly became a partner in the business, and extended it to civil engineering and architecture. He specialised in distillery work and Doig's most noted achievement was the invention of a ventilator in 1889 which improved the efficiency of the chimneys at Daluaine Distillery Maltings; it was later known as the Doig Ventilator and used frequently elsewhere. The Dictionary of Scottish Architects records Doig's involvement in five drill halls (three of these were conversions or repairs). It was not uncommon for a local architect to design the drill halls in their area, and as well as this drill hall, Doig also designed a drill hall in Burghead in 1891 (now demolished).

Setting

Forres drill hall is significantly set back from the street and most domestic style drill halls are typically on the streetline or slightly set back. The location of the building on the site was undoubtedly influenced by the earlier drill hall (now demolished) to the rear of the plot, as this earlier drill hall was originally part of the accommodation.

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

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 a grouping of buildings*
- d. authenticity*

When working with the principles of listing Forres Army Reserves Centre has particular interest under a and d.

a. It is a well-detailed example of an early 20th century domestic style drill hall.

d. With the exception of some brick additions to the rear and the rifle range, Forres drill hall is largely altered to its principal elevation, interior and plan form.

4. Summary of Assessment Against the Listing Criteria**

Dating to 1909-10 Forres Army Reserves Centre was constructed in the period immediately after the Territorial Forces Act 1907, which triggered the first signs of standardisation of drill hall architecture, particularly the 'domestic style'. Designed by the Elgin based architect, Charles C. Doig, Forres drill hall is a notable example of a drill hall from this period because of its good stonework, particularly to its principal elevation. The carvings to the central gablehead are the motifs and mottos associated with the battalion for which it was built for and therefore a clear indication of the building's function. With the exception of the addition of the rifle range and some brick structures to the rear, Forres drill hall is largely unaltered in its principal elevation, interior and plan form and remains in military use.

In our current state of knowledge it meets 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: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/listed-buildings/what-is-listing/>

Category C listing is used for 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. When compared with drill halls of a similar date and size, the architectural and historic interest of Forres Army Reserves Centre is considered to be of local importance and therefore category C is the most appropriate listing category.

6. Other Information

N/A

7. References

Canmore: <http://canmore.org.uk/> CANMORE ID 331418.

Maps

Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1904, published 1905) Elginshire 010.08 (includes: Dyke and Moy; Forres). 2nd Edition. 25 inches to the mile. London: Ordnance Survey.

Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1904, published 1906) Elginshire Sheet X.NE (includes: Dyke and Moy; Forres). 2nd Edition. Six inches to the mile. London: Ordnance Survey.

Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1938, published 1949) Elginshire Sheet X.NE (includes: Dyke and Moy; Forres). 3rd Edition. Six inches to the mile. London: Ordnance Survey.

Printed Sources

Aberdeen Journal (28 August 1907) New Drill Hall for Forres. p.7.

Aberdeen Journal (04 March 1910) New Drill Hall at Forres. p.6.

Historic Environment Scotland (2013) *Scotland's Drill Halls Preliminary Report*. Unpublished.

Osbourne, M. (2006) *Always Ready: Drill Halls of Britain's Volunteer Force*. Partizan Press. p.277.

Walker, D. W. and Woodworth, M. (2015) *Buildings of Scotland: Aberdeenshire North and Moray*. Yale University Press. p.634.

Online Sources

The Dictionary of Scottish Architects. *Drill Hall, Forres* at http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/building_full.php?id=411653 (accessed 29/12/2015).

* 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 www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/historicandlistedbuildings/whatwelist