



Case information

Case ID	300017053		
File Reference	HGH/B/DD/46		
Name of Site	HMP Dumfries, Terregles Street, Dumfries		
Local Authority	Dumfries and Galloway Council		
National Grid Reference	NX 96281 76044		
Designation No. (if any)	LB26346		
Designation Type	Listed Building	Current Category of Listing	B
Case Type	Amendment		
Received/Start Date	2014 [Scottish Prison Service Listing Review]		
Decision Date	11/08/2016		

1. Decision

In our current state of knowledge, HMP Dumfries continues to meet the criteria for listing. The statutory address and the listed building record has been amended. The category of listing will remain at category B.

Previous Statutory Address	Terregles Street, Young Offenders' Institution, Formerly Dumfries Prison
Amended Statutory address	HMP Dumfries including central tower, A and B halls, former entrance wing, gatehouse and boundary walls and excluding C hall, administrative complex to the west of the gatehouse and the single storey detached buildings to the north, Terregles Street, Dumfries

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

HMP Dumfries was listed at category B on 21/08/1987.

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

HMP Dumfries was reviewed as part of our partnership project with the Scottish Prison Service where we are carrying out a review of existing listed prisons in their ownership. HMP Dumfries was visited on 10/12/2015.

The exterior of the 1883 block, gatehouse and boundary walls was seen. The interior of the 1883 block was seen.

3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

HMP Dumfries was found to continue to meet the criteria for listing at category B.

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	Rosanne Watts, Senior Designations Officer rosanne.watts@hes.scot, 0131 668 8091
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ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Listing Criteria*

HMP Dumfries including central tower, A and B halls, former entrance wing, gatehouse and boundary walls and excluding C hall, administrative complex to the west of the gatehouse and the single storey detached buildings to the north, Terregles Street, Dumfries

1. Description

Designed by Major General T B Collinson, architect to the Scottish Prison Commission, HMP Dumfries was built in a castellated style and opened in 1883. It comprises a rectangular plan site with a prison at the centre, a high boundary wall of squared and coursed tooled red sandstone (some sections have been replaced in brown brick) and a gatehouse entrance to the southeast. The gatehouse has a pair of tall drum towers flanking a round arched and keystone opening. The corbelled drum towers have arrowslit windows with Latin cross loopholes above. The keystone has a large carved key and above this is the cipher VR surmounted by a crown to represent the reigning monarch at the time of construction, Queen Victoria.

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 circa 1989 gate and administrative complex to the left of the entrance tower, the circa 1967 C hall attached to the west of the central tower and the single storey detached buildings to the north of the site.

The prison itself is constructed from squared and coursed Locharbriggs red sandstone with some cream Cumberland stone dressings. It was originally a T-plan building with the entrance comprising a projecting two storey attic and basement two bay wing with a projecting rectangular porch with round arched openings and a tripartite hoodmoulded round-arched window above and an oculus to the attic. Behind the entrance is an observation-type taller square tower with angle splayed towers at the corners. This tower divides the former women's and men's wings. To the left of the tower is the four bay former women's wing (A Hall) and to the right of the tower is the ten bay former men's wing (B Hall). Both are three storey and basement with regularly-spaced shallow-arched small rectangular window openings and large round-arched windows to their gable ends.

The interior of the halls, partially seen in 2015, comprises a corridor plan with floors of regularly spaced shallow barrel vaulted cells opening off either side of the corridor. The design is simple and functional and there are few architectural features. The floors are supported on curved iron brackets and the top floor has a chevron cornice. The basement walls are tooled and the door surrounds have long and short quoins. The interior of the tower has been refurbished.

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

Prisons as purpose-built structures did not come into being in the United Kingdom until the 1770s. Until this time, imprisonment as a punishment was not the norm. Prisoners were usually incarcerated for short periods of time before corporal or capital punishment was carried out or they were transported to America or Australia or, in the case of debtors, they paid their debts. In Scotland the local tolbooth often served as the place of temporary detainment and such prisons were run by the burgh. Conditions were usually woeful. All types of inmates would be held together, with no segregation, and usually in a single large room which was frequently overcrowded. Unruly prisoners could be sent to 'the pit', a dark hole in the ground. Where there were prisons, individual cells were rare.

John Howard (1726-90), one of the most well-known of the prison reformers, visited Scotland and Ireland as part of his tours of prisons throughout the United Kingdom in the 1770s and 1780s. Howard was key in instigating nationwide reform efforts with the publication of his book 'The State of the Prisons in England and Wales' (1777).

Generally, prisons of the 18th century followed a congregate system where prisoners were kept together unsegregated throughout the day and night. Howard and other reformers vehemently condemned this practice as producing moral contamination and corruption. Howard advised that alongside implementing healthier practices of ventilation and the employment of paid gaolers that prisoners should be divided by classes and housed in separate yards. It was increasingly believed that different kinds of prisoners corrupted each other and hence that prisoners of different age, sex and type of crime should be kept apart. Howard and early investigators played a significant role in instigating reform by bringing to public attention the state of prisons throughout the country. Their recommendations regarding health, classification and inspection formed the basis for the reforms and legislation of the 19th century and encouraged architectural design towards providing cellularly divided spaces to fight against the spread of physical and moral contamination within the prison environment.

Prison Acts in 1877 brought prisons under the authority of the Home Secretary, rather than County Boards, and this arrangement lasted until the Criminal Justice Act of 1948. HMP Dumfries was built following the Prison Acts in 1877.

HMP Dumfries follows the pattern begun by the Howard Reforms with male and female prisoners kept in separate wings with individual cells for the inmates. *The Dumfries and Galloway Standard* of 15 August 1883 gives a detailed account of the

accommodation, 'The new prison contains 83 separate cells, which occupy three floors, and there is also a basement storey which can be converted into cells should an extension become necessary. In accordance with the scheme for systemising penal labour, it is intended to make this the tailoring establishment for the prisons of Scotland. All the uniforms will be made here; and tailors who may be committed for long terms will be sent here from all parts of Scotland....' It goes on to describe how a workroom had been constructed which had a bench for 14 men which was overseen by a window through to the warder's room. It noted that ordinary prison labour would continue to be performed in the cells, but that the workroom or 'association room' will mitigate the rigours of confinement for long sentences.

The cells are described as measuring 13ft 1 and a 1/3 inches by 7ft 1 and 1/3 inches and 9ft in height. They have arched ceilings and are floored with concrete, and the walls are 2ft 3 and 1/2 inch thick. In the inner wall of each cell was a square recess for a gas jet, which was lighted and extinguished from the outside and protected on the inside with a thick plate of glass. Each cell was furnished with a cord that was attached to a bell in the corridor so that a warder was within call.

The history of punishment and prisons has a fascination for the public and prison buildings are important representations of our evolving attitude to law and society. Few purpose-built 19th century prisons survive and only three remain in use as such, HMP Perth, HMP Barlinnie and HMP Dumfries. HMP Dumfries is an important surviving example of late 19th century regional prison architecture.

There are a number of later additions which were not considered to be of special interest at the time of the review of the listing in 2016 and are proposed to be excluded from the listing. These include the circa 1989 gate and administrative complex to the left of the entrance tower, the circa 1967 hall attached to the west of the tower and the single storey detached buildings to the north of the site.

2.2 Architectural or Historic Interest

Interior

Interiors of this building type would be expected to be altered over time as penal reform developed and intact prison interiors do not survive in any number in the United Kingdom. The interior of 'A' and 'B' Halls were designed with a full height central atrium, with the cells accessed by walkways supported on brackets (as shown in photographs on Canmore). These walkways were accessed by stairs at the end of the hall. At the end of the 20th century the central atrium was covered over to each floor, creating a corridor plan but the original gallery arrangement still survives on the upper two floors of 'A' hall.

Plan form

The boundary of the prison site is shown on historic maps, but not the outline of the buildings. The plan form appears to be typical for a late 19th century regional prison. However, the provision of a workroom as described in the *Dumfries and Galloway Standard* which allowed 'association' between the prisoners may be significant. As Cameron explains in *Prisons and Punishment in Scotland* (pp130-132) it was not

until the Prison Act of 1898 that separate confinement started to be reduced and more work was carried out in association. Unproductive labour (such as the crank and treadwheel) was also ceased. More research would be required to establish if the constructive labour of tailoring and the provision of the association room at Dumfries were amongst the first of their kind.

Technological excellence or innovation, material or design quality

Major General Thomas Bernard Collinson (1821-1902) began his career as a naval surveyor. Following his retirement from the navy in 1873 he accepted the post of architect to the Scottish Prison Commission around 1880. He designed HMP Barlinnie and HMP Dumfries as well as making additions to the now-demolished Calton Prison in Edinburgh. In terms of prison architecture, Collinson cannot be said to be as influential as his predecessor, Thomas Brown, who was responsible for building the first Scottish prisons designed around separation principles.

The castellated style was popularised by the Adam brothers in the late 18th century. In the early 19th century prison architecture tended to be either classical (as at Inveraray) or castellated (as at Jedburgh). The castellated style, used at Dumfries, brought with it connotations of authority and a fortress-like appearance was intended to give comfort to the residents of the town that it was a secure place.

Setting

The site occupies the same boundary as it did when constructed in 1883. While there have been alterations and additions to the site, the historic prison buildings remain clearly readable as institutional buildings. The town has expanded to the north and west since the prison was built and it is now surrounded by housing, changing somewhat its semi-rural situation in the 19th century.

Regional variations

Local red sandstone from Locharbriggs was used to build the prison.

2.3 Close Historical Associations

There are no known associations with a person or event of national importance at present (2016).

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 HMP Dumfries has particular interest under a and d.

a. Few purpose-built 19th century prisons survive and only three remain in use as such, HMP Perth, HMP Barlinnie and HMP Dumfries. HMP Dumfries is an important surviving example of late 19th century regional prison architecture.

d. While there have been alterations and additions to the site, the 1883 building with its cell blocks unmistakably evidences its function and purpose through its architectural treatment. In addition the gatehouse and boundary wall retain their character as imposing institutional structures.

4. Summary of Assessment Against the Listing Criteria**

The history of punishment and prisons has a fascination for the public and they are important barometers of our changing understanding of humanity. Few purpose-built 19th century prisons survive in Scotland and only three remain in use as such, HMP Perth, HMP Barlinnie and HMP Dumfries.

HMP Dumfries is an important example of late 19th century regional prison architecture. The 1883 building with its cell blocks unmistakably evidences its function and purpose through its architectural treatment. In addition the gatehouse and boundary wall retain their character as imposing institutional structures. In our current state of knowledge it continues to meet the criteria for listing.

There are a number of later additions which were not considered to be of special interest at the time of the review of the listing in 2016 and are proposed to be excluded from the listing. These include the circa 1989 gate and administrative complex to the left of the entrance tower, the circa 1967 hall attached to the west of the tower and the single storey detached buildings to the north of the site.

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/>

HMP Dumfries is of regional interest as an important example of a late 19th century town prison and therefore it is not proposed to change its current category B listing.

6. Other Information

N/A

7. References

Canmore: <http://canmore.org.uk/> CANMORE ID 185454

Maps

Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1929, published 1931) Dumfriesshire 055.02 (includes: Terregles; Troqueer). 25 inches to 1 mile. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

Printed Sources

Cameron, J. (1983) *Prisons and Punishment in Scotland*. Edinburgh: Canongate

Dumfries and Galloway Standard (15 August 1883) p.4.

Gifford, J. (1996) *Dumfries and Galloway: The Buildings of Scotland* Penguin Books p.270.

Online Sources

Dictionary of Scottish Architects. *T B Collinson* at http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=100317 [accessed 12/2/2016]

* 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/>