



Case information

Case ID	300017849
File Reference	HGH/B/FC/182
Name of Site	11 Bruce's Wynd, Pittenweem

Local Authority	Fife Council		
National Grid Reference	NO 54782 02442		
Designation No. (if any)	LB40025		
Designation Type	Listed Building	Current Category of Listing	B
Case Type	Amendment		

Received/Start Date	27/04/2016
Decision Date	07/09/2016

1. Decision

In our current state of knowledge, 11 Bruce's Wynd, Pittenweem continues to meet the criteria for listing. The statutory listing address and the listed building record has been amended and the category of listing has changed from B to C.

Previous Statutory Address	11 Bruce's Wynd
Amended Statutory Address	11 Bruce's Wynd, Pittenweem

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

This building was listed at category B on 18/08/1972.

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

11 Bruce's Wynd was visited on 22/06/2016. The exterior and interior of the house were seen at this visit.

3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

The building was found to continue 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*

11 Bruce’s Wynd, Pittenweem

1. Description

11 Bruce’s Wynd is a late 18th century, 2-storey, 3-bay, rectangular-plan house at the end of row of buildings of a similar date and on a steeply sloping site. It is harled with painted margins and with first floor windows set close to the eaves. The windows have timber sash-and-case frames. The west gable has a small attic window, crowstepped skews and a coped chimney stack. The roof has red pantiles. The rear elevation is single storey and has a central door. The interior, seen in 2016, has been remodelled.

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

Pittenweem is a fishing village in the East Neuk coast of Fife, renowned for its string of picturesque harbours and villages. Pittenweem became a royal burgh in 1541 after which permission was granted to build a harbour. The harbour was greatly expanded by Sir John Anstruther after 1770 to aid the distribution of his coal and salt production. During the 19th century it was the main fishing port for the East Neuk of Fife and it remains the most active of the fishing ports in the area. Pittenweem means ‘*place of the cave*’, referring to St Fillan’s cave in nearby Cove Wynd which was used as a chapel by St Fillan in the 8th century.

11 Bruce’s Wynd is a small fisherman’s house located near the centre of the oldest part of village on a narrow pedestrian street, known as a ‘wynd’, between the harbour and the main street. The property is likely to have been built between 1770 and 1800, when fisherman houses were constructed because of the expansion of the harbour. It is located within the footprint of the old village as shown on John Ainslie’s 1775 map of the County of Fife.

Houses in the harbour conservation area of the village are generally late 18th and 19th century 2-storey fisher cottages. 11 Bruce’s Wynd is shown on the 1st Edition, 6 inch to the mile Ordnance Survey map (surveyed 1854) at the west end of a row of

buildings. The footprint of the building today remains the same as that shown on this map.

Buildings erected before 1840 which are of notable quality and survive predominantly in their original form and with a substantial lack of later alteration are increasingly rare and have a strong case for listing. There are many surviving examples of 'fisher houses' in the fishing villages along the East Neuk of Fife, however those that survive without additional openings, alterations to the roofline or extensions are increasingly rare. The majority of late 18 and 19th century houses around the Pittenweem Harbour area are listed. The earliest surviving properties tend to have irregular window openings, external fore-stairs and no dormer windows.

11 Bruce's Wynd is of special interest in listing terms because of the survival of traditional details and fabric and the lack of substantial alterations to the exterior for a building of this date (see Architectural or Historic Interest section below).

2.2 Architectural or Historic Interest

Interior

The interior has been refurbished and remodelled and no distinguishing features from the late 18th or 19th century are known to remain.

Plan form

The rear elevation of the property has a single door that provides access to the upper floor of the building. The upper floor of two-storey fisher houses was often used to store fishing nets during the 18th and 19th centuries. There is a small, raised platform to the rear garden which was likely used to dry the nets. These surviving elements are part of the early plan form interest.

The ground floor of this property has been altered from the traditional two room layout associated with this type of building, to form one large single space.

Technological excellence or innovation, material or design quality

Late 18th and early 19th century fisher houses are typically single storey or two-storey, symmetrically arranged houses, set in irregularly planned narrow streets. The construction and design of 11 Bruce's Wynd is therefore typical for a house of this date. The exterior of the property has not been significantly altered.

Crowstepped gables are a feature of many of the earlier buildings in Pittenweem and harling is typical for buildings close to the coast as it would provide protection to the stone from the salt water, and was easily maintained. The roofline remains unaltered with no later dormer windows or rooflight additions and the building lacks later openings to all elevations. The survival of the small attic window to the gable is of interest as an indication of the property's original function.

Setting

11 Bruce's Wynd forms part of a run of irregularly arranged fisher houses and cottages in the Pittenweem conservation area and are a key part of its historic character. The property is surrounded by a mix of 18th and 19th century cottages of vernacular architectural interest. 11 Bruce's Wynd is distinctive within this immediate

setting because of its small and largely unaltered exterior form and its raised rear garden area.

Regional variations

The use of crowstep gables and terracotta pantiles are a characteristic feature of 18th century buildings in the fishing villages of the East Neuk coast of Fife.

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 11 Bruce's Wynd has particular interest under b and d.

- b. The use of crowstep gables and a small attic window to the gable are characteristic features of the 18th century buildings in Pittenweem. 11 Bruce's Wynd is surrounded by similar fisher houses and is distinctive within this immediate setting because of its small and largely unaltered exterior form.
- d. The exterior of the building is largely unaltered and retains traditional details and fabric.

4. Summary of Assessment Against the Listing Criteria**

11 Bruce's Wynd is a typical late 18th century fisherman's cottage located on a narrow wynd near the harbour of Pittenween, a picturesque East Neuk of Fife coastal harbour village. The exterior has not been substantially altered and it retains its 18th century architectural details such as crowstepped gables, windows set close to the eaves and a small attic window in the west gable. The building also has special interest as an example of a fisherman's house which contributes to a group of buildings of similar date and type within the village.

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

5. Category of Listing

Category definitions are found at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/listed-buildings/what-is-listing/>

Category C is 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. 11 Bruce's Wynd is a good example of a simple 'fisher-folk' cottage of the 18th century that largely retains its exterior form, however, the interior has been remodelled. It is considered that listing at category C, for local special interest, rather than the current category B, may be the more appropriate category of listing.

6. Other Information

N/A

7. References

Canmore: <http://canmore.org.uk/> CANMORE ID: 225381

Maps

Ainslie J. (1775) County of Fife, 1 Map on 6 Sheets. London.

Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1853, published 1855) Fife, Sheet 26 (includes: Carnbee; Elie; Kilconquhar; St Monance) 25 inches to the mile. 1st Edition. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

Printed Sources

Gifford, J. (1988) *The Buildings of Scotland: Fife*. London: Penguin Books Ltd. Pp.49, 349, 352.

Statistical Account of Scotland (1791-99) Pittenweem, County of Fife. Volume 4, p.369.

New Statistical Account of Scotland (1834-45) Pittenweem, County of Fife. Volume 9, p.983.

* 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/>