



Case information

Case ID	300018091
File Reference	HGH/B/SL/290
Name of Site	Former Greenfield Primary School and Swimming Baths, 29 Nimmo Drive, Govan

Local Authority	City of Glasgow Council		
National Grid Reference	NS 54674 65240		
Designation No. (if any)	N/A		
Designation Type	Proposed Listed Building	Current Category of Listing	N/A
Case Type	Designation		

Received/Start Date	27/06/2016
Decision Date	11/01/2017

1. Proposed Decision

In our current state of knowledge, Greenfield Primary School may meet the criteria for listing at category B. It is proposed that the building will be designated (listed).

Proposed Statutory Address	Former Greenfield Primary School, including janitor's accommodation, laundry and swimming pool block, boundary walls and gatepiers, 29 Nimmo Drive, Govan, Glasgow
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2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

The building was proposed for listing in 2016.

2.2 Development Proposals

There is one known development proposal for the building, reference 12/01433/DC, to reuse the former primary school as a managed business and studio spaces, with

the formation of two entrances and stair towers and some external alterations. The proposal was granted on 9 November 2012, and is subject to conditions.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

The Former Greenfield Primary School, including janitor's accommodation, laundry and swimming pool block, boundary walls and gatepiers, 29 Nimmo Drive, Govan was visited on 03/08/2016.

The exterior and parts of the interior was seen, although some areas were not accessible.

3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

The building was found to meet the criteria for listing. The proposed alterations to the building have been taken into account as part of this assessment.

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/>

3.3 Other information

The building is on the Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland. See <http://www.buildingsatrisk.org.uk/details/978669>.

Elizabeth McCrone

Head of Designations
Heritage Directorate
Historic Environment Scotland

Contact	Devon DeCelles, Designations Officer Devon.decelles@hes.scot, 0131 668 0320
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ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Listing Criteria*

Former Greenfield Primary School, including janitor's accommodation, laundry and swimming pool block, boundary walls and gatepiers, 29 Nimmo Drive, Govan, Glasgow

1. Description

Dated 1901, Greenfield Primary School was designed by Steele and Balfour in 1899-1900 and constructed in 1901-1902 for the Govan Parish School Board. The date panel and inscriptions GREENFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOL, 'GOVAN PARISH' and 'SCHOOL BOARD' are found on the principal elevation.

The red sandstone building is 3 storeys and basement, with a symmetrical 7-bays to the principal elevation facing Nimmo Drive. The central, 3-bay section is flanked by slightly advanced 2-bay piended pavilions. The basement has arched openings and is semi-sunken and rusticated. The principal elevation has ashlar band courses, pilasters and quoins, with rusticated details. There are base and cill courses, and dentilled eaves. There is clay ridge tiling and finials to the roof. The side and rear elevations are of squared and snecked stone with ashlar window surrounds and quoins to angles. The windows are predominantly 2 over 2 pane with a horizontally set pane to the lower section.

There are pedimented, flat roofed entrance blocks for boys (to east) and infants and girls (to west).

There is a 3-bay, 2 storey, piended roof, janitor's accommodation adjoining to the southeast. There are segmental pedimented windows breaking the eaves.

There is a tall and square two stage boiler chimney stack to the south which is octagonal and corniced at the second stage.

Connected at the ground floor to the south of the school is an L-plan section including the former laundry (later used as a gymnasium), and a long, single storey rectangular-plan swimming pool block, with a bulls-eye window to the gable ends, constructed of squared and coursed sandstone with ashlar quoins.

The interior was partially seen in 2016. There is a large double height central hall with a hammerbeam roof with timber trusses resting on stone corbels and with a large skylight opening above, galleried at the first and second floors, with an atrium above. The walls are tiled, with a green border, up to dado height in the public circulation and corridor areas, and predominantly timber lined in the classrooms. Decorative scrolled stone consoles support each floor level of the central hall.

The pool block interior has a rectangular pool with white tiles and white painted brick walls. There are changing cubicles to the north wall under a blind arcade and shower

facilities to the east. There are simple detailed iron roof supports on stone corbels and a timber lined ceiling.

There are low coped stone boundary walls with plain cast iron railings, and with square ashlar square gatepiers at regular intervals surmounted with large ball finials forming the boundary to the east, north and west.

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

The Govan Parish School Board selected the Nimmo Drive site in 1899. Steele and Balfour were chosen as architects for the scheme and the design was executed between November 1899 and January 1900. The building was completed in 1902 and had capacity for 750 scholars. As was the convention with Govan Parish School Board buildings of this time, a swimming pool and bathmaster's house was provided to the rear of the main block, including a linked laundry block. A janitor's house was incorporated into the southeast of the main school building. The school was in continual use until it closed in 2009.

The 1872 Education (Scotland) Act made education free and compulsory for children between the ages of 5 and 13 and also required that newly formed local school boards were responsible for this provision. By 1878, a large number of the new board schools providing primary education had been built, and this unprecedented publicly funded building programme continued until the early part of the 20th century.

As the second largest city in Great Britain at this time, Glasgow and its surrounding parishes had a pressing need for new school accommodation. The city's school boards led an ambitious programme of school building in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, employing some of the most prominent architects in private practice to design their new buildings. In the central Glasgow School Board jurisdiction, a total of 73 schools were constructed from 1873 to 1919. The neighbouring School Board of Govan built 34 schools in the same time period. The Glasgow School Board had the smallest geographical area which was densely populated. Whereas Govan Parish School Board was the largest in area with a rapidly expanding population – so much so that a new school was constructed almost every year up to 1919 (Hamilton, p17). Due principally to the swift industrialisation of Govan in the last quarter of the 19th century, its inhabitants almost trebled from 1874 to 1904 (see BoS, p585) and would become one of the most populated areas in Scotland at the time.

With the Victorian awareness to the benefits of health and recreation and the knowledge that swimming and exercise was advantageous to children's wellbeing, some local authorities (following the lead of Liverpool in the 1880s) constructed swimming pools within school grounds. The Govan Parish School Board, a body with 'strong socialist leanings' (O'Brien, p211), pioneered the introduction of school swimming pools and constructed 8 schools with pools and gymnasiums between 1885 and 1904. Only in Liverpool was this figure surpassed. Few school swimming pools now survive especially if they were located near the main school building rather than built integrally.

Other Govan Parish School Board schools which have pools include St Bride's Primary School on Craigie Street in Govanhill constructed in 1894 (LB32428); Lorne Street School in Kinning Park, constructed in 1894 (LB26845); Church Street Primary School, in Byres Road, constructed in 1903 (LB48969); Bellahouston Academy, on Clifford Street, constructed in 1885 (LB33577); and Balshagray Public School, Broomhill Avenue, Partick, constructed 1904 (LB51044). None of these school pools are still in use. St Bride's was the last Victoria era school pool to be operational in Glasgow, and closed August 2016.

The period 1872 to 1919 is a critical date within which to assess board schools. While a large number of schools from this period survive across Scotland's larger towns and cities, those which demonstrate notable architectural detailing, innovative planning and massing, and completeness may be of interest for listing. Ancillary buildings or unusual features may also add to their interest as well as the contribution they make to their setting. The local context in which they were conceived and built may also be taken into account.

Greenfield Primary School is a good surviving example of a large city board school, and although not early for its building type, it was built to serve the rapidly expanding population of Govan parish. The interior of the building conforms to the standard 'central hall' model of school building at the time and is typical for its date. Its plan remains substantially intact and the surviving swimming pool with its adjoining janitor's accommodation is a notable addition. The swimming pool block is a good example of contemporary public pool design with hygienic white glazed surfaces and natural light provided by the glazed roof. The school and its ancillary buildings remain largely as built, and this adds to its interest in listing terms. While school board schools constructed with pools were not uncommon to Govan and Glasgow, their survival is now considered rare.

2.2 Architectural or Historic Interest

Interior

The interior was partially seen in 2016. The interior is largely unaltered and retains a significant amount of early 20th century architectural decoration, and fixtures and fittings. Although simple in design, features such as the atrium gallery and tiled walls up to dado, remain intact and this is notable.

Plan form

Greenfield Primary School is roughly H-plan in form, including its pool block, which is typical for a building of this type and size. The 'central hall' model of school building, widespread in Britain between 1873 and 1920, provided light, airy and safe internal spaces where the school could assemble for lessons, gymnastics and the encouragement of 'school spirit'. The large central hall at Greenfield Primary School provided assembly space with classrooms leading off the central space. Unusually for a building in continual use the original plan form has not been significantly extended or altered. While there are some partition walls to the classrooms, the original intended plan form is clearly visible. The central hall model provided for assembly to the centre of the plan with surrounding classrooms, some with sliding partitions to be used as flexible learning spaces. Segregated entrances and ease of circulation were also key features of this plan type.

Technological excellence or innovation, material or design quality

Greenfield Primary School restrained Italianate design is typical of large school buildings of this date. The symmetrical design and the architectural detailing are of good quality and the building remains largely unaltered. Two early innovations introduced at Greenfield Primary School were the lighting of the building by electricity, sourced from the burgh of Govan's own generating station, and the provision of individual cubicles in the latrines instead of a trough system.

The practice of Steele and Balfour was founded by Henry Bell Wesley Steele (born around 1852). In 1886 he took into partnership Andrew Balfour (born 1863), who was a pupil of James Boucher who had gained experience as an assistant in the office of John Burnet & Son. The partnership made its name by winning the competition for Largs Parish Church in 1889, and sometime thereafter Balfour travelled in Italy southern France sketching. Together they designed schools, amongst other building types, with a significant number in the Glasgow area. They include Partick School, Dowanhill School (LB50273), Newlands Public School, Dunnard Street School, and Thornwood School. Greenfield Primary School was the last school the practice worked on together and may be considered one of their more outstanding school designs. Very little is known of Steele; Balfour was regarded as the designer in the firm and the influence of the important Glasgow architect John James Burnet on the work of the practice appears to bear that out. The restrained Italianate design of Greenfield Primary School may have been a result of Balfour's travels in Italy and the influence of Burnet.

Setting

Greenfield Primary School has a prominent street presence within its immediate location which is largely residential consisting of contemporary early 20th century tenements as well as later 20th century infill housing developments.

Regional variations

There are no known regional variations.

2.3 Close Historical Associations

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

Locally, it is said that almost every child in Govan learned to swim at Greenfield Primary School including the well-known football manager, Sir Alex Ferguson who is from the area.

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 Greenfield Primary School and Swimming Baths has particular interest under a and d;

a. Greenfield Primary School is a good surviving example of a large board school building. It is of high specification for its type in Scotland, and the inclusion of a swimming pool adds interest to the building.

d. The building has not been significantly altered externally or internally, it retains much of its early 20th century plan form. Internally, the plan and decoration is relatively unchanged.

4. Summary of Assessment Against the Listing Criteria**

Greenfield Primary School is a good surviving example of a large city board school. The interior of the building retains a significant amount of architectural detailing. Its plan conforms to the typical 'central hall' model of school building at the time and remains substantially intact; the surviving swimming pool with its adjoining janitor's accommodation is a notable and now rare surviving addition. The swimming pool block is a good example of contemporary public pool design with hygienic white glazed surfaces and natural light provided by the glazed roof. The school and its ancillary buildings remain largely as built, and this adds to its interest in listing terms. While school board schools constructed with pools were not uncommon to Govan and Glasgow, their survival is now considered rare. The building has prominent street presence within its immediate location.

In our current state of knowledge Greenfield Primary School 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/>

Taking into account the range of other known schools of a similar date and scale, and in comparison with other similar buildings, the importance of Greenfield Primary School and Swimming Baths is recognised at category B as a building of regional significance.

6. Other Information

N/A

7. References

Canmore: <http://canmore.org.uk/> CANMORE ID 340775

Maps

Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1909, published 1913) Lanarkshire 006.09 (includes: Glasgow; Govan) 25 inches to the mile. 2nd Edition. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1933, published 1935) Lanarkshire 006.09 (includes: Glasgow; Govan) 25 inches to the mile. 2nd Edition. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

Printed Sources

Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland: A Survey of Scottish Topography, Statistical, Biographical and Historical, (1888) edited by Francis H Groom. pp 203-209. 'Parish of Govan'

Higgs, M., Riches, A., Williamson, E. (1990) *The Buildings of Scotland: Glasgow*. London: Penguin Books. pp583-601.

Hamilton, Sarah L. (2010) *Glasgow's School Board Heritage: the Challenges of Conservation*. MSc Dissertation in Architectural Conservation. University of Edinburgh.

O'Brien, Ged (2010) *Played in Glasgow: Charting the Heritage of a City at Play*. Malavan Media London

Online Sources

https://publicaccess.glasgow.gov.uk/online-applications/files/F5A6F4EDFB82B4621B37ABB9D2BDD68B/pdf/12_01433_DC-DOCUMENT_-_DESIGN_AND_ACCESS_STATEMENT-412088.pdf

8. Images

Images proposed for inclusion in online Listed Building Record if building becomes listed or if an existing listed building record is amended or removed.



Type: Standard

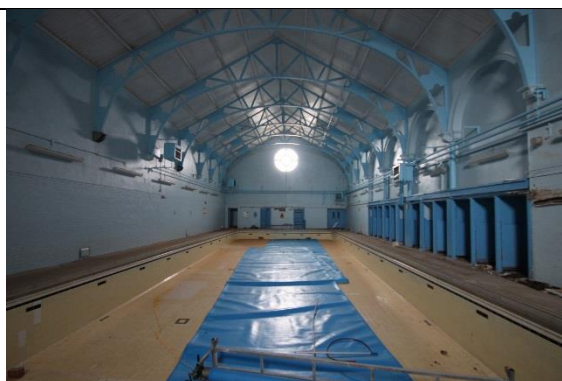
Title: Greenfield Primary School and Swimming Baths, principal elevation, looking south.

Alternative Text: Greenfield Primary School and Swimming Baths, principal elevation, looking south, during day time, on a cloudy day

Date taken: 03/08/2016

Photographer: HES

Copyright: © Historic Environment Scotland



Type: Standard

Title: Greenfield Primary School Swimming Baths, interior view, looking west.

Alternative Text: Greenfield Primary School Swimming Baths, interior view, looking west.

Date taken: 03/08/2016

Photographer: HES

Copyright: © Historic Environment Scotland

Images not for inclusion in online Listed Building Record.



Greenfield Primary School and Swimming Baths, east elevation, looking northwest.
(03/08/2016) © Historic Environment Scotland



Greenfield Primary School and Swimming Baths, east elevation, looking west.
(03/08/2016) © Historic Environment Scotland



Greenfield Primary School and Swimming Baths, west elevation, looking northeast.
(03/08/2016) © Historic Environment Scotland



Greenfield Primary School and Swimming Baths, internal view of galleried central hall
(03/08/2016) © Historic Environment Scotland

9. Indicative Map

A map of the proposed listed building is attached separately.

* 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/>