



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND

ÀRAINNEACHD
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ALBA

HARLAW ACADEMY

SCOTLAND'S HISTORIC TOWN SCHOOLS



Diane M Watters

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COVER IMAGE

Late 1890s view of AHSC pupils (including infant boys) playing in the rear grounds. It shows the 1892 extension block at the rear of original building, from south-east.

Courtesy of Harlaw Academy

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HARLAW ACADEMY

(FORMERLY MRS EMSLIE'S INSTITUTION), ALBYN PLACE, ABERDEEN



Introduction

The former Aberdeen Female Orphan Asylum (known also as Mrs Emslie's) was designed in 1836 by Archibald Simpson and built 1837–40. It is a restrained and compact granite neo-Greek style building of two storeys and basement, with central tetrastyle anta-order front, pronounced deep cornice and advanced pedimented bays. It now forms the core of a much-enlarged long and stark granite school complex, set on the broad leafy Albyn Place. Two large near-symmetrical 1930s granite extensions step forward from the original block, and are in turn linked to two advanced pre-existing Simpson-designed 1830s villas. Further late nineteenth and twentieth century extensions were kept out of sight to the rear.

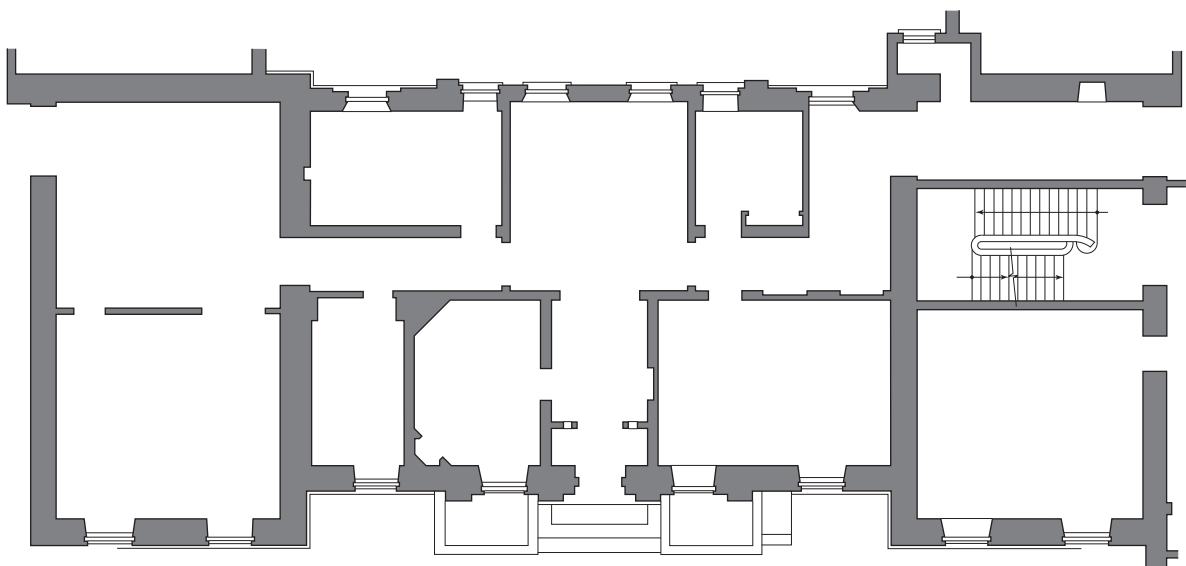
Endowed in 1836 by Mary Emslie, a rich Aberdonian widow, the institution opened in November 1840 under her charge with the intention of housing and training up to 100 orphaned girls for domestic service, and providing them with a 'sound, religious and practical education'.¹ It became known as Mrs Emslie's Institution soon after completion, and is, in its built form, a rare survivor of enlightened female educational benefaction of the practical kind historically favoured in Aberdeen. These types of institution were commonly known in the mid nineteenth century, as working-class 'female industrial schools'. Simpson, alongside John Smith, was Aberdeen's most significant neo-classical architect of the mid nineteenth century. Emslie's Institution is Simpson's only built and surviving school design in Aberdeen and, despite its similarities to his other public works, such as the stark Aberdeen New Infirmary (1832–9), it survives as a testament to the

architects' singularly unique monumental and austere granite neo-Greek style.

After the forced closure of the institution in July 1891, the building was sold to Aberdeen School Board, and following substantial additions southwards at the rear, it was reopened in 1893 as Aberdeen High School for Girls: one of only three local authority 'Higher Grade' schools in Aberdeen. Major refurbishment and extensions followed a destructive fire of 1935. The original block was encased in sharp granite extensions, but its interior, which had until that date remained relatively intact, was now refurbished. Very few discernable original features survive. In 1970, it was renamed Harlaw Academy, became a secondary comprehensive, and by 1973–4 had become co-educational. It underwent further refurbishment in the early 1990s, which included the insertion of plastic windows throughout, except on the original façade.



Elevation



Ground floor plan



FIGURE 1

2001 HES digital drawing of Harlaw Academy.
 Elevation and reconstructed ground floor plan (based
 on 1998 measured survey).

HES [GV008979](#)

Foundation, Design and Use

Following her husband's death in 1833, Mary Emslie (1780–1868), a woman of 'refinement, taste, and sound, kindly common-sense' was left in 'affluent circumstances'.² The daughter of James Calder (a wine merchant in Aberdeen), she resolved to establish an independent female orphans' institution in her native city. From her base in London, she and her brother Alexander Calder visited similar institutions there and in Edinburgh, and decided upon the recently rebuilt Lambeth Female Orphan Asylum (to

designs of LW Lloyd of 1824, demolished) as a model for her new institution's code of regulations.³ Local orphaned girls of parents 'regularly married, and of respectable character' were to be admitted between the ages of four to eight years, and maintained and educated until the age of sixteen.⁴ Emslie stipulated that no more than 100 girls at a time were to be admitted, but numbers never exceeded 50, and it was recorded in 1882 that 'no eligible cases have ever been refused'.⁵



FIGURE 2

Harlaw Academy in 2000 (from north), showing the original 1830s block flanked by late 1930s extensions.

HES [SC1261777](#)



FIGURE 3

Harlaw Academy in 2000 (from north-west), showing the original 1830s block flanked by late 1930s extensions.

HES [SC1261778](#)

Emslie endowed her institution with £40,000, and bought nearly two imperial acres in Albyn Place, Aberdeen.⁶ In the summer of 1836, she went to Aberdeen and 'from a few scattered materials laid before Mr Archibald Simpson, he drew a complete plan of the whole establishment, and its interior accommodation, which being in strict conformity with my own opinions, as well as of the trustees'.⁷ The founder appointed four trustees, and a five-person board of management which included the Lord Provost, purposefully providing a 'connecting link between the citizens of Aberdeen and this institution ... but [with] no charge to the public purse'.⁸ The two contractors were John Mitchell, house builder, and James Simpson, carpenter. The foundation stone was laid on 26 July 1837, the whole extent of building was completed in two years, and

fourteen girls were admitted by the official opening on 19 November 1840.

The design process for the original block appears uncomplicated. A full set of plans, which Archibald Simpson sent to Emslie in London to approve and sign on 27 September 1837, survive.⁹ As built, the building followed Simpson's design drawing closely, but in an early perspective by Simpson the central block had a pronounced blocking course originally intended to support a sculptural group embodying the aims of the asylum, which was never executed.¹⁰ The original building had a shallow U-plan with a central projecting rear block. Designed with two storeys and concealed basement to the north main front, it had three on storeys to the rear – on sloping north-south ground.



FIGURE 4

Early undated perspective of Mrs Emslie's Institution (also known as Orphan Girls' Asylum) by Archibald Simpson, showing the planned sculptural group above the blocking course which was not executed.

Courtesy of HES, Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Archives

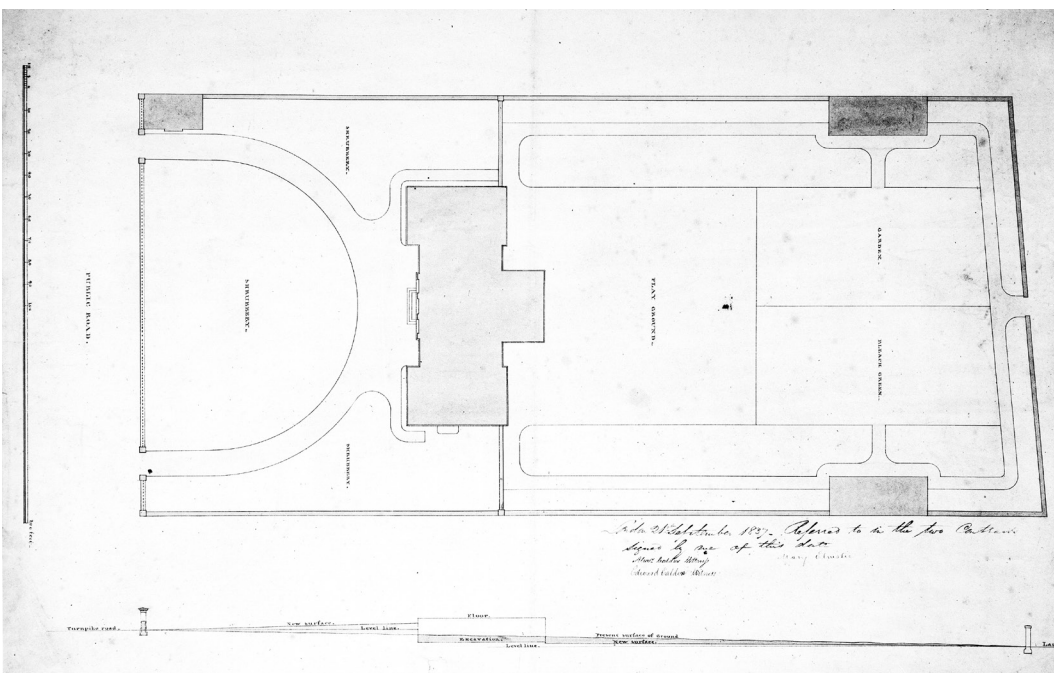


FIGURE 5

1837 block plan and section of grounds of Mrs Elmslie's Institution by Archibald Simpson.

Courtesy of HES, Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Archives, SC1784106

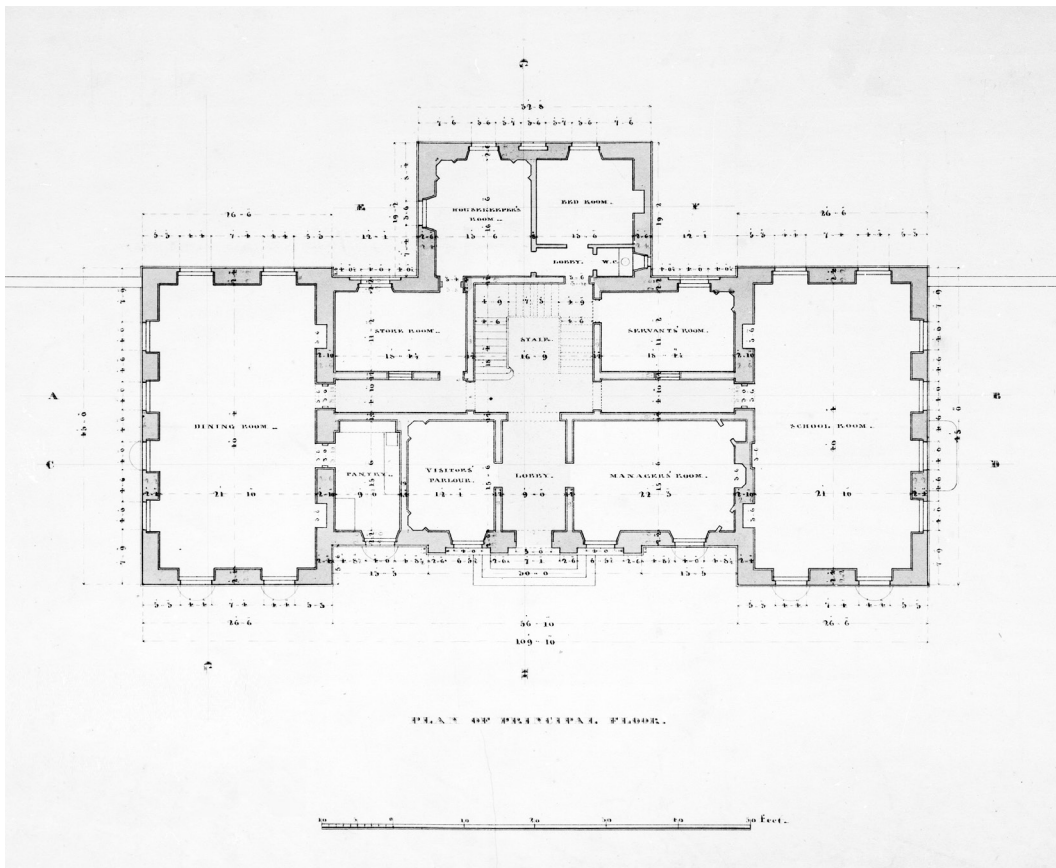


FIGURE 6

1837 principal floor plan of Mrs Elmslie's Institution by Archibald Simpson.

Courtesy of HES, Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Archives, [SC1784102](https://www.aaberdeenshire.gov.uk/record-sc1784102)

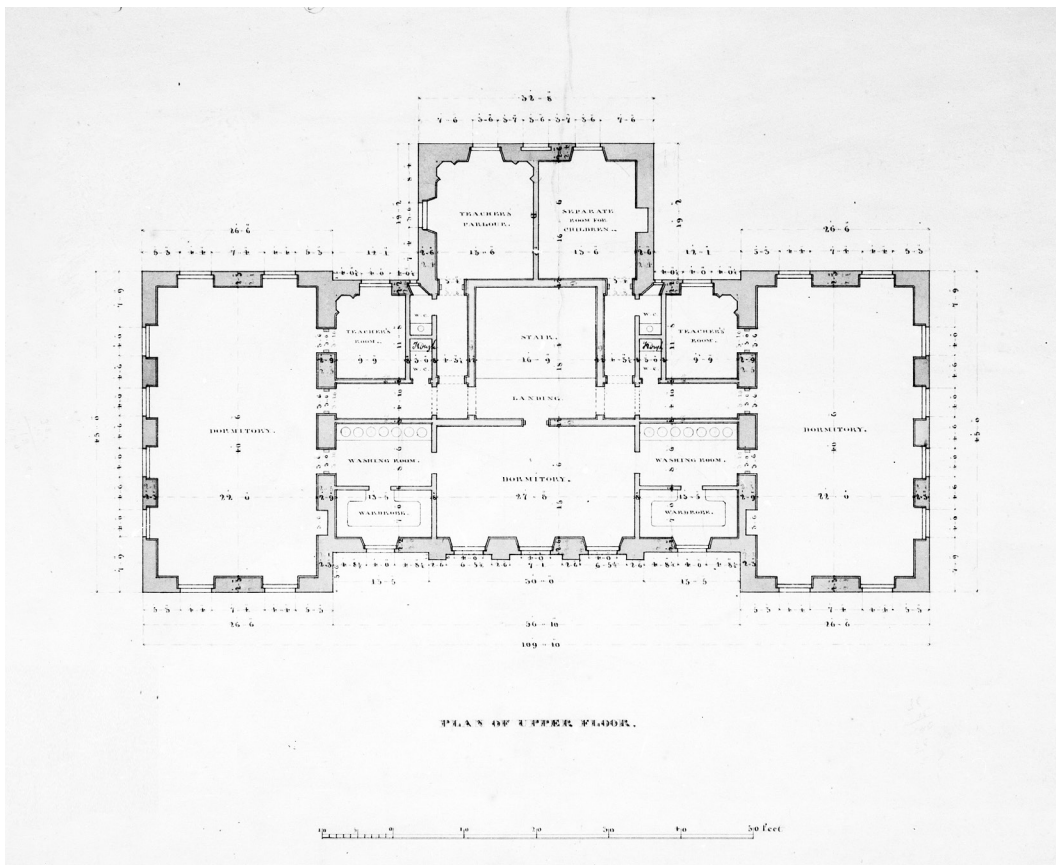


FIGURE 7

1837 upper floor plan of Mrs Elmslie's Institution by Archibald Simpson.

Courtesy of HES, Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Archives, [SC1784090](https://www.aaberdeenshire.gov.uk/record-sc1784090)

The main north front of 33.7 m survives intact. The central three-bay pilastered front has the only arched doorway. In design, the three-storey rear façade had small flanking single-storey shallow arcaded wings looking on to the garden front, to provide sheltered seating and service functions.¹¹ These covered arcades were not built, and were not shown in the town plan of 1867.¹² The gardens consisted of shrubberies to the front with a large playground to the rear. Beyond this was a kitchen garden, bleaching green, and the

1867 plan shows a free-standing cross-plan laundry (later demolished).

Simpson's design, hailed 'a beautiful building in Italian style of architecture', was later recognised as 'one of his most distinctive buildings'.¹³ Its compact blocky geometrical form and heavy unbroken skyline (best seen in Simpson's early perspective), gave it an almost astylar quality.

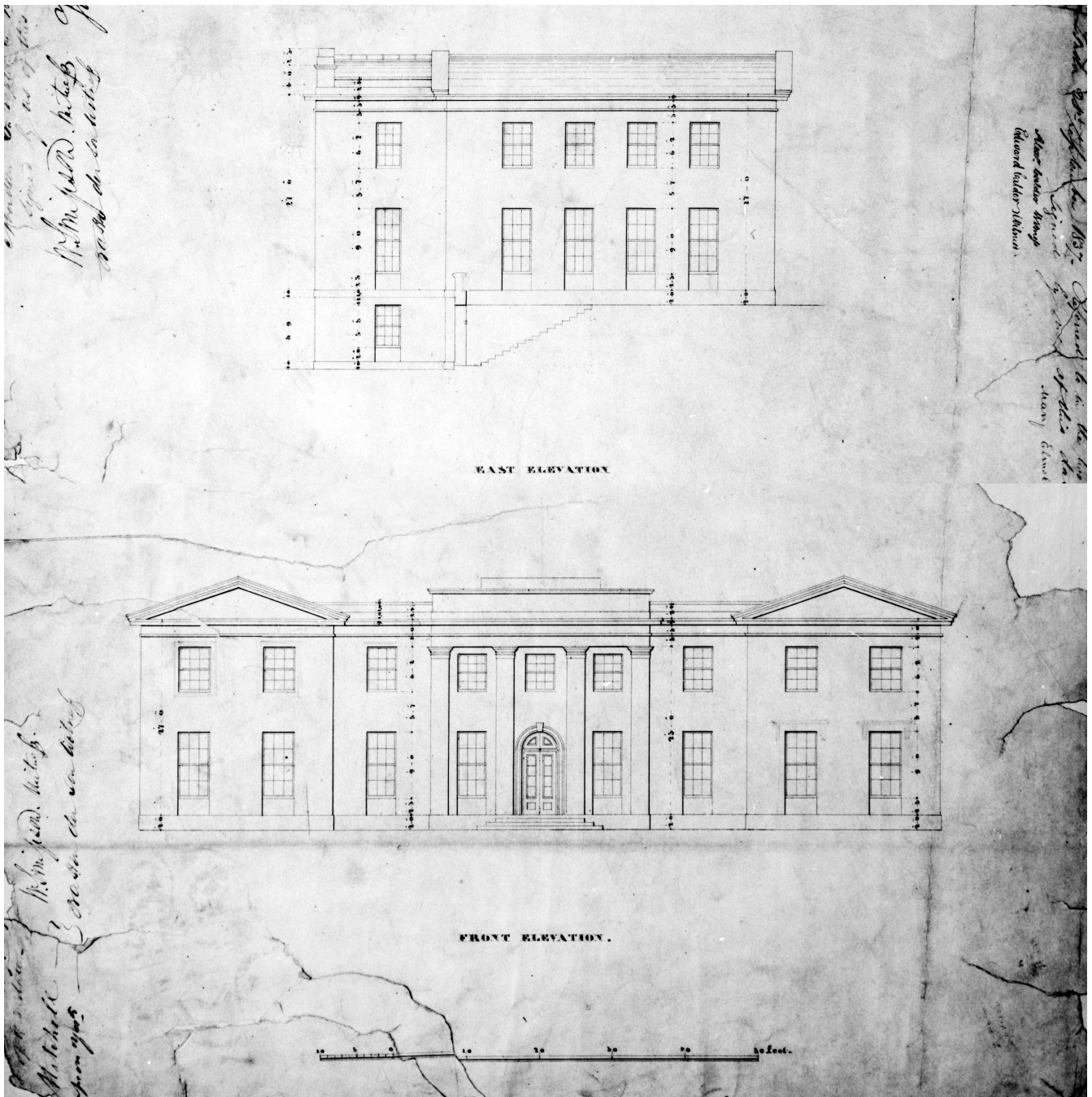


FIGURE 8
1837 east and north (front) elevations of Mrs Elmslie's Institution by Archibald Simpson.

Courtesy of HES, Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Archives, [SC1784107](#)

Although stylistic elements pre-existed in his designs for Murtle House (1823, adopting the anta order on the east front), and St Giles' Church, Elgin (1825-8, with anta order), and overall comparisons can be made to other institutional design formulas such as Aberdeen Lunatic Asylum (1819, demolished), Emslie's Institution is a unique neo-Greek Simpson educational design.¹⁴ Emslie had, of course, visited L W Lloyd's newly built Lambeth Asylum, and while there is no documentation to suggest Simpson was familiar with this much larger and deeper-plan neo-Greek design, stylistic parallels exist. Both designs share a restrained plain aesthetic common to neo-classical institutional

designs of the early nineteenth century and both have a predominately strong flat skyline. Yet Simpson may well have been influenced by the stylistic pattern of this early design. Whereas Lloyd adopts the low Greek pediment for his central block portico and plain frieze for the remaining, Simpson used these on his projecting end-bays, leaving his central block opening with a heavy frieze. Simpson used only one arched opening to distinguish his main entrance, whereas Lloyd employed arched windows throughout the ground floor, and he distinguished his entrance with a square surround.¹⁵



FIGURE 9
1837 south (rear) elevation of Mrs Elmslie's Institution by Archibald Simpson.

Courtesy of HES, Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Archives, [SC1784108](https://www.aaberdeenshire.gov.uk/record/SC1784108)

Mrs Emslie 'personally watched the growth of the classic building she was erecting, and herself looked to the internal equipment, and the arrangements of the dormitories'.¹⁶ Internally, the basement and ground floor accommodated the institutional, educational and service functions, and the first floor, the residential. On the ground floor the visitor's parlor and the manager's (or committee) room flanked the entrance lobby, and a top-lit staircase was placed axially beyond the central linking corridor. The housekeeper's room and bedroom were in the wing to the rear.

The entire east wing housed the dining room, and in the west wing was the large, and only, schoolroom. The basement included kitchen and larders, laundry and dressing room, coal cellars, and in the rear wing was a children's playroom. On the first floor the two wings accommodated the large dormitories. These were linked by washing rooms/wardrobes to a central smaller dormitory over the ground-floor entrance hall. The rear wing contained a teacher's parlor and a 'separate room for children'. Only the teachers' rooms were provided with fireplaces.

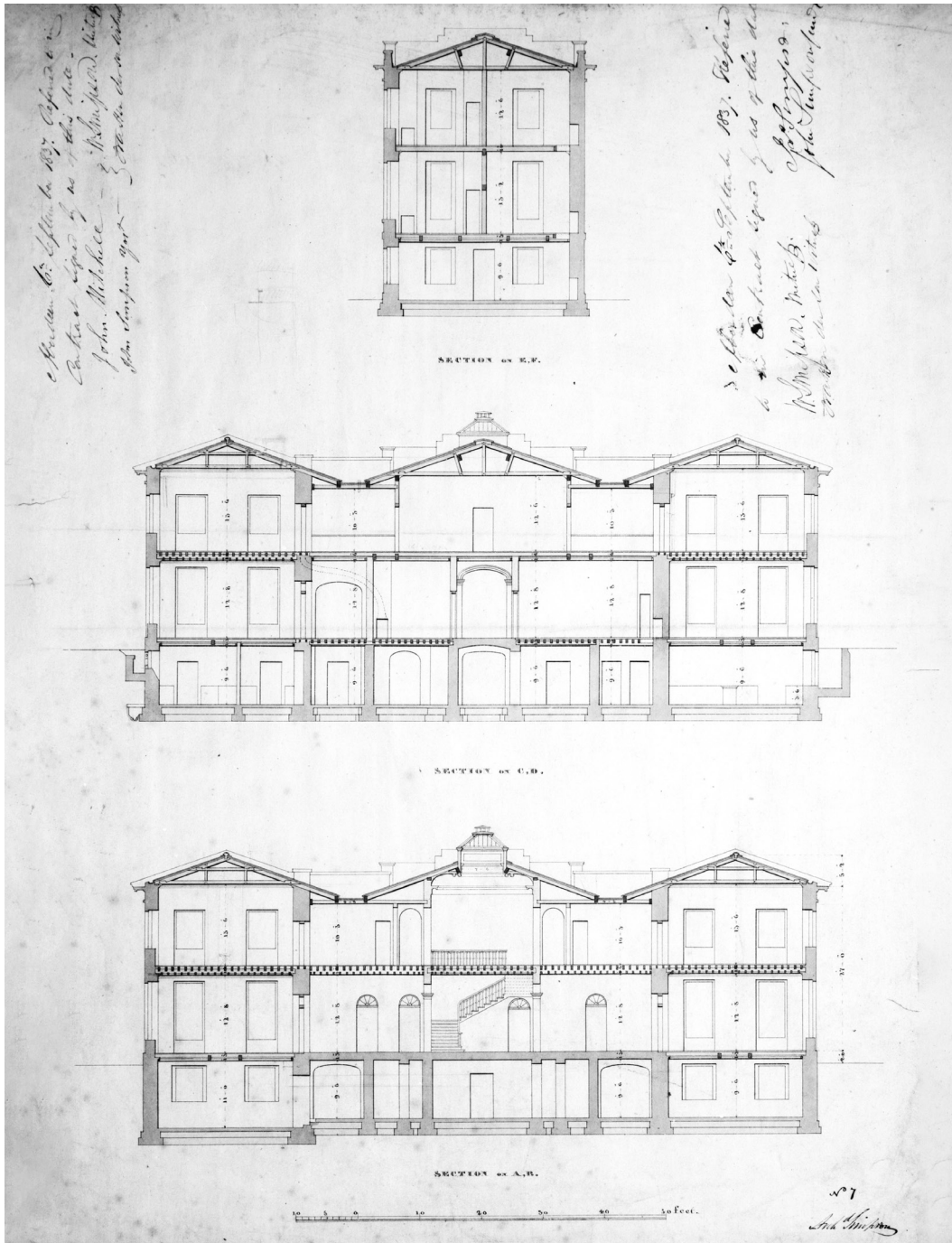


FIGURE 10
1837 longitudinal sections of Mrs Elmslie's Institution by Archibald Simpson.

Courtesy of HES, Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Archives, [SC1784103](https://www.aaberdeenshire.gov.uk/SC1784103)

The institution was under Emslie's direct charge until 1857, when she appointed Mrs Reid, who ran it until it was closed in 1891. Emslie, who died in 1868, had shaped the 'education, domestic training, and the religious education' of the girls.¹⁷ One teacher was appointed, and it was reported in 1875 as providing an 'eminently satisfactory' education for 40 girls in reading, writing, arithmetic and higher classes in geography and history.¹⁸ Emslie's was similar to other industrial-type schools in Aberdeen, but bore no relation to the forced semi-penal industrial schools established in Aberdeen by Sheriff Substitute Watson in the 1840s.¹⁹ Segregation of sexes was common in charitable institutions and a comparable girl's hospital or 'school of industry' was established in 1828 in

Aberdeen to train future domestic servants.²⁰ Emslie's was also similar to the private sewing schools which were common in Aberdeen from the mid eighteenth century, but its pastoral remit was clearly different from these day schools.²¹ In 1845, Emslie set down her ambitions: 'Placing implicit reliance on Almighty God, I implore a continuance of His blessing on the Asylum and the little ones fostered within its walls. May they, through grace, be trained for this life, and for a more enduring existence hereafter.'²² In the mid 1870s, it was reported 'discipline is maintained firmly and at the same time with kindness', and was generally accepted as being 'of great benefit to the class of person for whom it was intended'.²³



FIGURE 11

Mid nineteenth century lithograph print of Mrs Emslie's Institution.

Courtesy of Robert Gordon University (SCRAN)

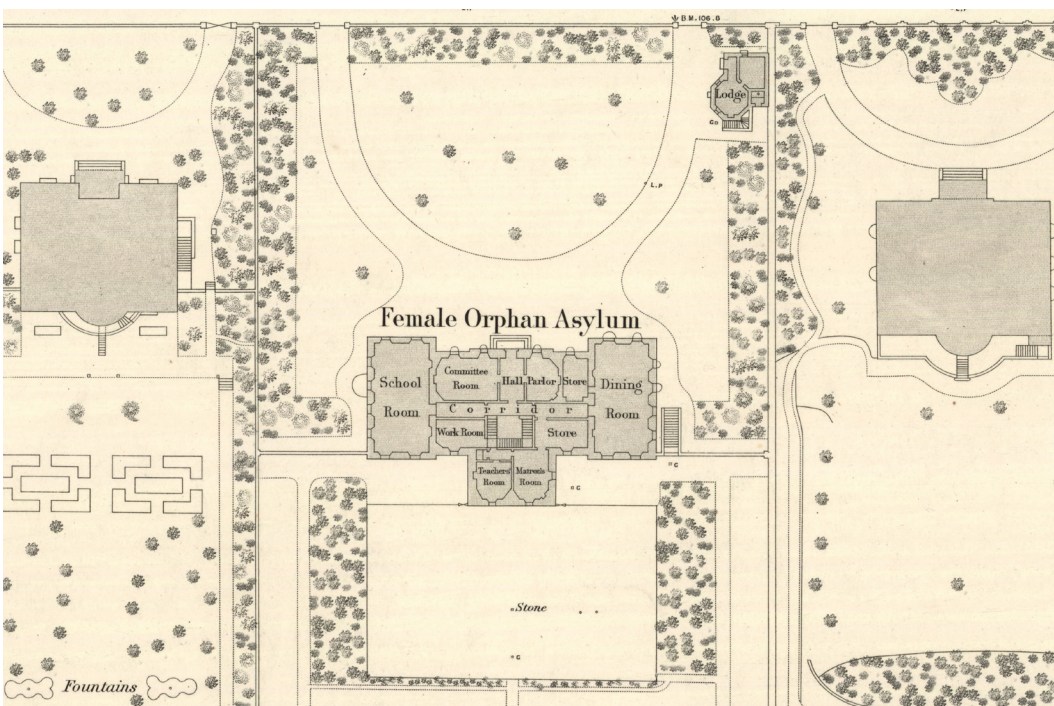


FIGURE 12

1867 ordnance survey town plan of Aberdeen showing main building set in its grounds with lodge and laundry blocks.

Reproduced with permission of the National Library of Scotland

Development

The setting up of Aberdeen School Board in 1872, and the reform and unlocking of charitable educational endowments in the 1870s and 1880s, ultimately led to the closure of Emslie's Institution in 1891. By December 1879, only 23 girls were recorded at Emslie's.²⁴ The trustees were instructed to transfer all endowments to the Education Trust of Domestic Economy in March 1889. Emslie's closed its doors on 27 July 1891, and on 8 August 1891 the estate was sold to Aberdeen School Board for £4,500.²⁵

Soon after closure, some supporters lamented its passing: a note added to Elmslie's memoir in 1898 questioned the educational motives and financial propriety behind the decisions made in 1889. The land, buildings and furnishings alone had cost Mrs Emslie about £15,000 in the late 1830s, and at that time, the author argued, 'Hospitals of the kind she created were esteemed likeliest of agencies for good. In 1868 when Mrs Emslie died they were being

denounced as "Monastic Institutions", hotbeds of evil: I hope, when fifty years have fled, that the Governors of the Education Trust will be able to show that the New, and not the Old, is better.'²⁶

In becoming Aberdeen High School for Girls (AHSG) in 1893 the building lost its residential use, was greatly enlarged, and was redesigned as a fee-paying public day school.²⁷ AHSG was originally founded by the Aberdeen School Board in 1874, to satisfy the wider growing demand for separate schools where 'girls should breathe the purer and gentler atmosphere of the female school ...'.²⁸ Aberdeen Grammar did not admit girls, and as a result two private adventure schools to meet the needs of 'better off young women' were also established in the city — Albyn School, established in 1867, and St Margaret's in 1887. In 1893, the newly located AHSG entered this educational arena.



FIGURE 13

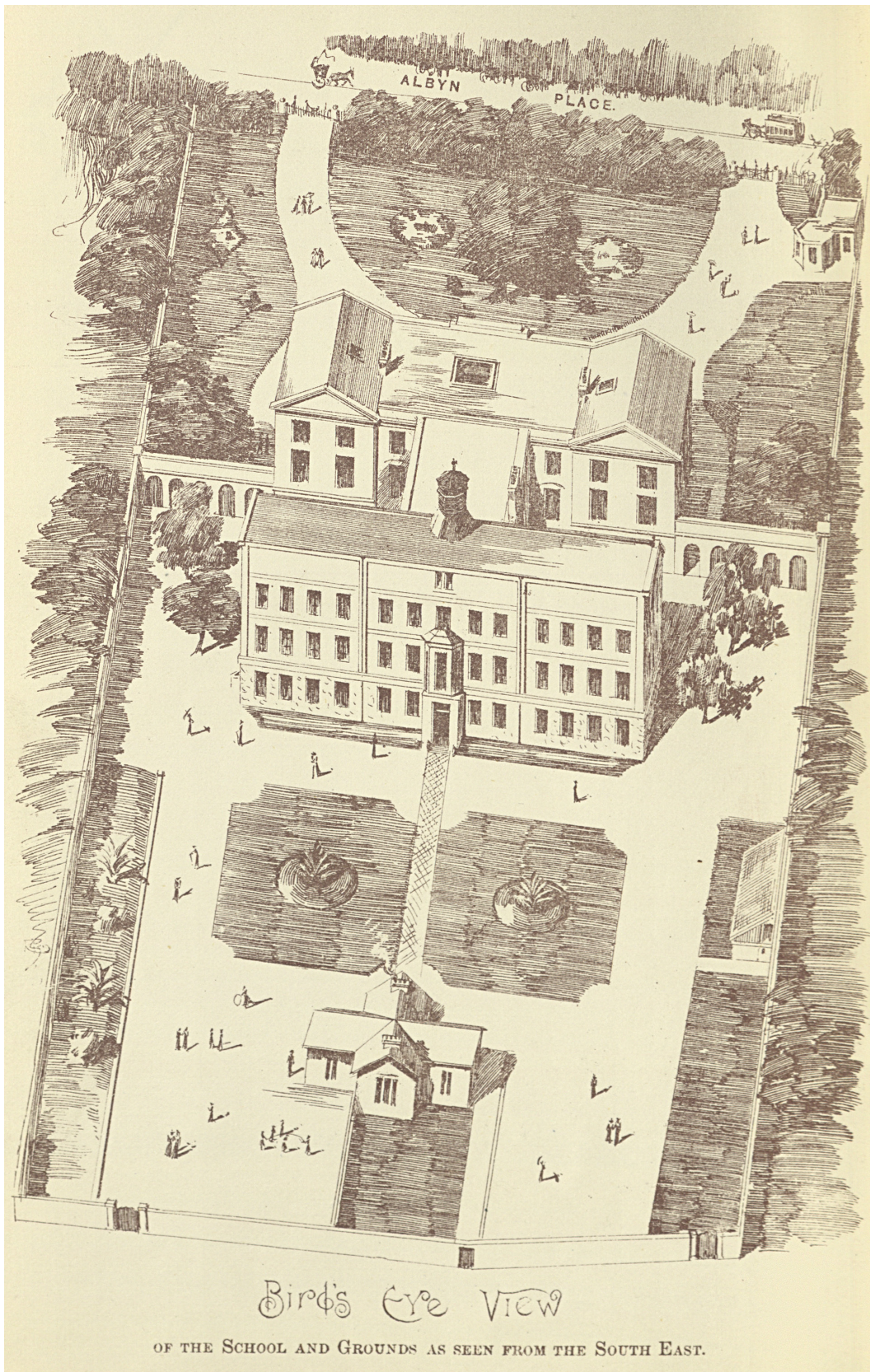
c1896 view of former Mrs Emslie's Institution, repurposed as AHSG. The original building to the left, and the four-story 1892 rear extension can be seen at the rear.

Courtesy of Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Archives

FIGURE 14

c1893 bird's eye view sketch of former Mrs Emslie's Institution, repurposed as Aberdeen High Schools for Girls, showing the four-storey 1892 rear extension and linking stair block, set within the grounds.

Courtesy of Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Archives



Two main phases of rebuilding were carried out under the school's occupancy: the first, to designs by W J Smith & Kelly from 1892, provided a new four-storey, 13-bay, shallow granite classroom block with science laboratory and drawing studio, running parallel east-west at the rear of the original building. Its strikingly stark outline was only relieved by a canted window on the first-floor south front. It soon accommodated up to 600 girls (including infants). The original block lost its residential purpose but kept its overall layout. The large schoolroom and dining room wings were simply divided into two, the stairwell was removed and a new larger linking stair was built

on the site of the original south-projecting block. The first-floor central dorm became the new library.²⁹ A rare detailed photographic survey of the girls' school in use in the late 1890s (bound in an album held at Harlaw Academy) provides a detailed visual account of staff and pupils in the newly extended 1892 buildings, and repurposed original building.³⁰ A new two-storey gymnasium and hall block was built south of the new block in 1902-3, perhaps to designs by J A Ogg Allan.³¹ Lucy Ward became the first female head from 1912 to 1929, and during the First World War the school was commandeered for a military hospital.³²

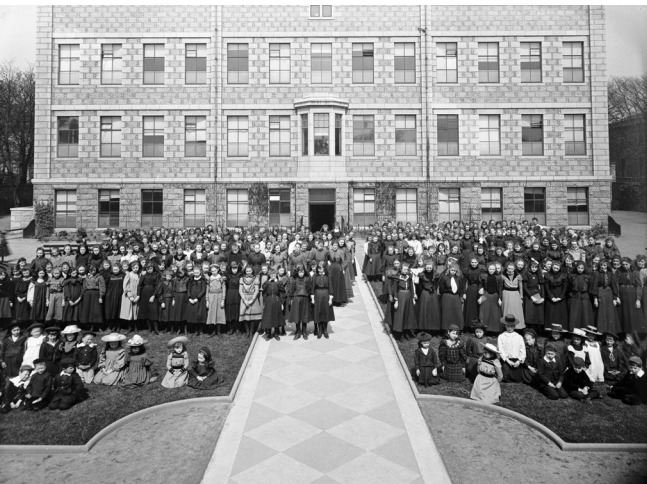


FIGURE 15

Late 1890s view of Aberdeen High School for Girls (AHSG) staff in front of the main north block (copied from bound photograph album held at Harlaw Academy).

FIGURE 17

Late 1890s view of AHSG pupils (including infant boys) playing in the rear grounds. It shows the 1892 extension block at the rear of original building, from south-east.

FIGURE 16

Late 1890s view of AHSG pupils (including infant boys) in front of 1892 extension block.

FIGURE 18

Late 1890s view of AHSG pupils in the first floor library, in the original north block.

Courtesy of Harlaw Academy

Courtesy of Harlaw Academy



FIGURE 19
Late 1890s view of AHSG pupils in the mathematics classroom, on the top floor of the original north block.



FIGURE 21
Late 1890s view of AHSG pupils dancing in the ground floor hall, at center of the 1890s block.



FIGURE 20
Late 1890s view of AHSG pupils in conservatory, which was, most probably, at the west end of the 1890s block.

Courtesy of Harlaw Academy



FIGURE 22
Late 1890s view of AHSG pupils dancing in the ground floor hall, at the center of the 1890s block.

Courtesy of Harlaw Academy



FIGURE 23
Late 1890s view of AHSG pupils dancing in the ground floor hall, at the center of the 1890s block.



FIGURE 25
Late 1890s view of AHSG pupils in art room on top floor of the 1890s block.



FIGURE 24
Late 1890s view of AHSG pupils standing on raised teaching gallery, in ground level hall at the center of the 1890s block.

Courtesy of Harlaw Academy



FIGURE 26
Late 1890s view of AHSG pupils in linking stairwell between original north block and the 1890s block.

Courtesy of Harlaw Academy

The second major refurbishment followed a fire of 1935, which destroyed the gymnasium and hall block, and included extensive additions east and west of Simpson's original block. Designed by J A O Allan and D J A Ross from 1935, and 'planned with a liberal conception of what education should be', it was completed after the war.³³ At the front, the near-symmetrical flanking two-storey blocks (with extensive basements) stepped forward from the original block, and were in turn linked to two advanced pre-existing Simpson-designed 1830 villas.³⁴ The new west block housed the school hall, and the east block contained a large lecture room

with a dining hall above. In 1936 the school looked forward to 'new buildings, whose architecture will be in harmony with the classic style of the old main frontage'.³⁵ But, at the rear, the school was again transformed. Linking blocks pushed backwards from the extended original block to join the 1892 south block, and created two open courtyards. The original south block was more than doubled in length, increased in height by one storey, and was serviced by three new generously glazed stair blocks. A new gym and domestic science block was linked by a single-storey glazed corridor southwards.

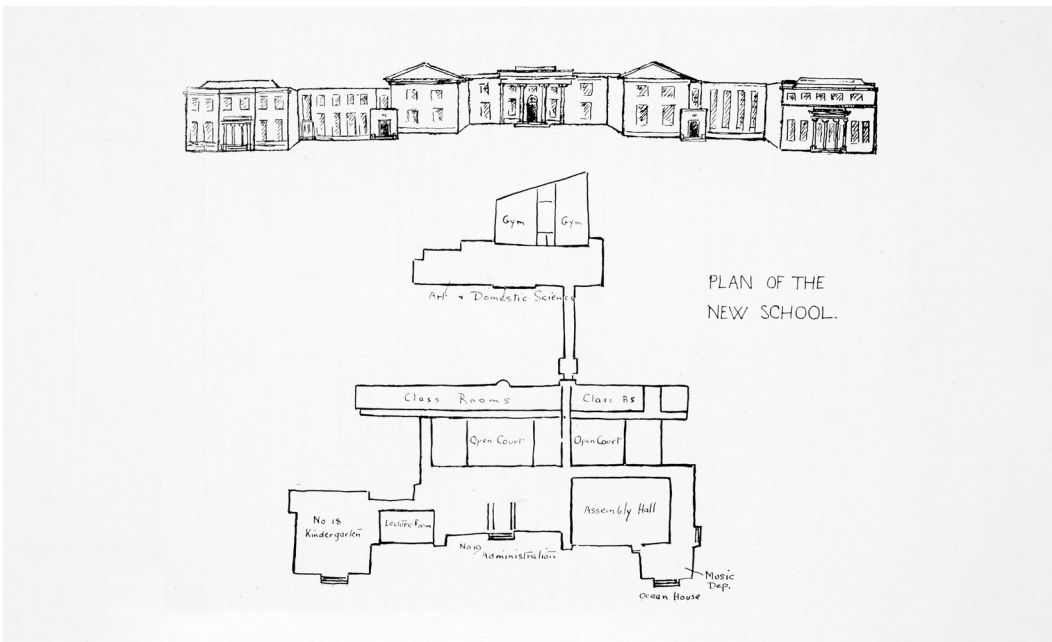


FIGURE 27

1937 sketch plans drawn by 'Miss Kemp' showing the school before major refurbishment, and a sketch plan of the proposed extensions, which began in 1937. Illustrated in Aberdeen High School Magazine, November 1937.

Courtesy of Harlaw Academy



FIGURE 28

2000 view showing the 1830 western villa (20 Albyn Place) designed by Archibald Simpson. It was altered and incorporated into the late 1930s western extension to AHSG.

HES [SCI261819](#)



FIGURE 29

2000 view of rear 1892 block which was doubled in length with large-scale late 1930s extensions, which including three glazed stair blocks.

HES [SCI261822](#)



FIGURE 30

2000 view of late-1930s rear two-storey domestic science block from north-east.

HES [SCI261823](#)

Internal refurbishment was rigidly functional: the two 1830 villas, for example, were gutted and transformed into model 1930s interiors. Contemporary accounts recall ‘much thought’ going into planning to provide a ‘workable and efficient, sunny, airy, and pleasant [school]’. Though the new building will be large, it will not be formidable. Indeed it promises to be a distinguished building, beautiful in the dignity of its architecture and its harmonious frontage, where unity is achieved in diversity, and where the severity of granite is softened by gardens and many lovely trees.³⁶ The new buildings were under construction in 1937 and, although completion was anticipated in September 1939, war interrupted progress.³⁷ Allan & Ross’s ambitious 1930s design cleverly enabled major

post-war educational expansion on this central site, with over 1,000 girls attending the school by 1954. In 1970, the school was renamed Harlaw Academy, incorporated Ruthrieston Secondary School in 1972, and became a secondary comprehensive. Within the academic year of 1973–4, it became co-educational, admitted 150 boys, and accommodated 1,750 pupils. It continues this role today. Despite further refurbishment in the early 1990s, which included the replacement of the 1930s windows, the school retains its interwar aesthetic throughout. Of the original 1837 block, the cornicing and console brackets in the entrance hall are the few discernable original internal features now surviving. [compiled 2011]



FIGURE 31

2000 view of assembly hall set within the late 1930s west block link extension.

HES [SCI261827](#)

Endnotes

- ¹ *Minute Book, The Female Orphan Asylum, 1840–1862*, record of opening of Asylum (19 November 1840), Aberdeen City Archives; J Smith, 'Brief Memoir of Mrs Mary Emslie Founder of the Aberdeen Female Orphan Asylum', 30 December, 1882, prepared as a preface to the rules of the Aberdeen Female Orphan Asylum as a remembrance of the benevolent founder (note added to Smith's memoir, 1898, by 'AW, 64 Hamilton Place') Aberdeen City Archives.
- ² 'Preliminary Observation drawn out by Mrs Emslie of Woodcote Place, Epsom, Surrey, 1 October 1845, Aberdeen', *Minute Book*. In 1811, Mary Calder married James Emslie, then a merchant in Gibraltar. Both her father and brother had been benefactors of Aberdeen: see Smith, 'Brief Memoir'. It was recorded in 1882 (by Smith) and 1918 that a portrait of Mary Emslie and her husband by Sir David Wilkie hung in the boardroom of the Aberdeen Educational Trust in King Street, Aberdeen: see G M Fraser, 'Archibald Simpson and His Times', *Aberdeen Weekly Journal*, 14 June 1918, 9 August 1918.
- ³ 'Preliminary Observation', *Minute Book*; W Roberts and W H Godfrey (eds), *Survey of London: Lambeth, Southbank and Vauxhall*, Vol 23, 1951, pp 69–74.
- ⁴ 'Preliminary Observation', *Minute Book*.
- ⁵ Smith, 'Brief Memoir'.
- ⁶ The endowment was £40,000 of 3% government annuities but £4,179 2s of this was sold to pay succession duty and charges, leaving £35,820 18s, which still remained in 1882: Smith, 'Brief Memoir'.
- ⁷ Preliminary Observation', *Minute Book*.
- ⁸ *Minute Book*, record of opening, 1840. A Ladies Committee was set up in November 1840. Smith's 1882 memoir recorded a change in the management structure, recording five trustees, plus twelve others (eight officials and four elective) who had 'permanent charge of the Institution': Smith, 'Brief Memoir'.
- ⁹ See HES photographic copies of Archibald Simpson's 1837 drawings, HES ABD/99/ 1-4 (original set of drawings in Aberdeen Public Library).
- ¹⁰ The sculptural group is shown in an early perspective by Simpson (seen by RCAHMS investigator Ian Fisher, in Aberdeen Public (now Central) Library in 1994), and illustrated (plate 9) in R W Smith, 'Archibald Simpson — His Classical Buildings in Aberdeen', unpublished thesis, Scott Sutherland School of Architecture, 1975.
- ¹¹ South elevation, September 1837, HES ABD/99/4/3 (original set of drawings in Aberdeen Public Library)
- ¹² Ordnance Survey town plan, Aberdeen, sheet LXXV.II.21, surveyed 1867.
- ¹³ Ordnance Survey Name Book, No. 1, 1861–2, p 415; G M Fraser, 'Archibald Simpson and His Times', *Aberdeen Weekly Journal*, 14 June and 9 August 1918.
- ¹⁴ For Simpson's work, see Fraser, 'Archibald Simpson'; 'Great Scottish Architects of the Past, No. 4, Archibald Simpson', *Quarterly Illustrated of the Incorporation of Architects in Scotland*, No. 15, Autumn 1925, pp 69–74; W D Simpson, 'The Archibald Simpson Centenary Celebrations', *RIAS Quarterly*, No. 69, August 1947, pp 11–23; R W Smith, 'Classical Buildings', 1975; M Higgs, 'Archibald Simpson, Granite in the Service of Greek Architecture', in A Allan (ed), *Scottish Pioneers of the Greek Revival*, 1984, pp 56–65; and D G Miller, *Archibald Simpson Architect: His Life and Times, 1790–1847*, 2006.
- ¹⁵ Lambeth Female Orphan Asylum was founded in 1758. A group of 'Noblemen and Gentlemen' decided to carry out the project proposed by Sir John Fielding (initially housed near Westminster Bridge). The orphans were taught to read and write and understand the four first rules of arithmetic. The premises were rebuilt in 1824 to designs of L W Lloyd, and James Elmes proclaimed it 'one of the prettiest productions' of his day with its 'porch, of the Ionic order, selected from a choice example of the purest Grecian elegance'. In 1866, the institution moved to Beddington, Surrey. Part of the asylum site was taken over in 1873 by J Oakley & Sons, and Wellington mills were built there: Roberts and Godfrey, *Survey of London*, 1951, pp 69–74.
- ¹⁶ Note added to Smith, 'Brief Memoir', by 'AW, 64 Hamilton Place'.
- ¹⁷ Ibid.
- ¹⁸ Copy of 'Report by Her Majesty's Inspector of Schools of 13 December 1875, Aberdeen Female Orphan Asylum School', in *Minute Book: The Female Orphan Asylum, 1862–1880* (17 December 1875), Aberdeen City Archives.
- ¹⁹ See I J Simpson, *Education in Aberdeenshire before 1872*, 1947, p 199.
- ²⁰ The reformatory school movement established two 'schools of industry': in 1828, a girls' hospital was set up, and in 1829 a boys' hospital. By 1871 the two institutions moved to King Street: S Wood, 'Education', in W Hamish Fraser and C H Lee (eds), *Aberdeen 1800–2000: A New History*, 2000, pp 323–45.
- ²¹ S Vance, 'Schooling the People', in E Dennison, D Ditchburn and M Lynch (eds), *Aberdeen Before 1800: A New History*, 2002, pp 309–26.
- ²² 'Preliminary Observation', *Minute Book*.
- ²³ 'Report of Aberdeen Female Orphan Asylum School', *Minute Book*.
- ²⁴ 'Report of Aberdeen Female Orphan Asylum School', *Minute Book*; Smith, 'Brief Memoir'.²⁵ Letter from the governors of the Education Trust of Domestic Economy, 16 March 1889 (recorded 8 April 1889), 'Report of Aberdeen Female Orphan Asylum School', *Minute Book*.
- ²⁶ Note added to Smith, 'Brief Memoir', by 'AW, 64 Hamilton Place'.
- ²⁷ Aberdeen High School for Girls, founded in 1874, was initially housed in the former English School in Little Belmont Street, Aberdeen. It became a higher-class school for girls in 1881, before moving to its new home in Albyn Place.
- ²⁸ S S Laurie, 'Report on Education in the Parochial Schools of the Counties of Aberdeen, Banff and Moray, Addressed to the Trustees of the Dick Bequest, Edinburgh', 1865, p 189, cited in R Anderson, *Education and the Scottish People*, 1995, pp 80–3.

²⁹ See HES copy photograph HES C/32675, from late 1890s photographic album held at Harlaw Academy (in 1994); a plaque outside the former library reads: '1897 in this year the teachers and pupils of the High School commemorated the sixty years reign of the Majesty Queen Victoria by the erection of this tablet and the gift of twelve guineas to the Sick Children's Hospital of this city'.

³⁰ See HES C/32672-95.

³¹ Copies of undated, but published, plans ('pp 128-131') of the ground, first, second and third floor of the school show a T-plan gymnasium and domestic science block linked at right angles to the 1890s extension (copies in HES Schools research files).

³² A photograph of the hall in use as a hospital is shown in *Aberdeen High School Magazine*, Vol 3, No.1, November 1936, p 79.

³³ *Aberdeen High School Magazine*, November 1936; two 1937 sketch plans drawn by 'Miss Kemp' show the existing school and proposed extensions and provide a useful record of the transformation of the school, *Aberdeen High School Magazine*, Vol 3, No. 3, November 1937.

³⁴ Both villas were designed by Simpson in 1830. The eastern two-storey villa, 18 Albyn Place, has a fluted Greek Doric porch and was purchased by AHSG in 1920. The western villa, 20 Albyn Place, is similar to number 18 but has a Roman Doric porch. It was purchased by the school as part of the 1930s extension programme, and housed the junior school.

³⁵ *Aberdeen High School Magazine*, November 1936.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ *Aberdeen High School Magazine*, November 1937 and *Aberdeen High School Magazine*, Vol 3, No. 5, November 1938.

