



HISTORIC
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BATHGATE ACADEMY (*FORMER*)

SCOTLAND'S HISTORIC TOWN SCHOOLS



Diane M Watters

2021



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COVER IMAGE

2000 view of central block with clock tower and linking colonnades of former Bathgate Academy.

HES [SC1300658](#)

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BATHGATE ACADEMY (*Former*)

ACADEMY PLACE, BATHGATE



Introduction

The former academy, built in 1832–3 to a design by R and R Dickson, is a distinctive elongated Greek Revival building, which stands proudly on rising ground at the south-eastern extremity of the town. It comprises a towered central block, on which most of the classical detail is concentrated, linked by colonnaded sections with balustraded parapets to pedimented and pilastered flanking wings. A broad flight of steps extends the full width of the central block and its flanking colonnades, and lower screen walls extend further to form a sub-structure the entire length of the facade. The building lost its educational use in 2000, and was converted into twelve flats in 2004 by ZM Architects for Miller Homes. Rear additions dating from the early twentieth century were demolished, and although the external and main internal walls and fenestration were retained, the interior was thoroughly refurbished for domestic use, and modern windows and doors were inserted behind the colonnade.

The academy was endowed by John Newland, a wealthy planter and slave owner in St Andrew, Jamaica, who on his death in 1799 bequeathed most of his estate to erect a free school in his native parish.¹ Legal wrangling prevented the transfer of funds until 1815, and the founder's intentions were delayed further until the income became sufficient for the ambitious scheme. W H Playfair's 1824 austere Greek Revival design was rejected, and in 1831 R and R Dickson won the architectural competition for a school of reduced cost. The academy was Bathgate's key historic public building and, although formulaic in overall form, its idiosyncratic Greek and

quasi-Baroque aesthetic makes it one of Scotland's most notable mid-nineteenth century town schools.

Key to the success of the project were trustee Alexander Marjoribanks of Balbardie, who became Bathgate's first provost in 1824, and the parish minister Samuel Martin. Educational provision in Bathgate was transformed by the bequest. The academy opened in November 1833 with four masters (including the rector) under the control of the trustees. Pupils ranged from infant to advanced grades: free education was limited, but fees charged were moderate.

The academy continued to function under trustees' control and attracted high attendance. It underwent extensions at the rear of the main block from 1877 onwards, and its senior school was designated by the Scottish Education Department (SED) as a Secondary Department in 1899. The north wing suffered a damaging fire in 1906 and brought about the permanent removal of the academy's infant classes. In 1918, ownership and control of the academy was taken over by the West Lothian County Education Authority. As other schools were established in the town in the early 1930s, the academy achieved senior secondary status, and became recognised as 'one of the leading Secondary Schools in Scotland, outside the great cities'.² As part of the county-wide educational restructuring of secondary

education — begun in the early to mid 1960s — a new comprehensive Bathgate Academy was built on Edinburgh Road in 1967. The old academy building was saved from demolition and became an annexe to the adjacent new Bathgate Technical College (later West Lothian College) campus, designed by Allison & Hutchison architects and opened in October 1963. The resilient old academy buildings survived the demolition of the adjacent modern college buildings in 2001, when the college relocated to a new campus in Livingston. RCAHMS carried out a detailed measured and photographic survey of the building in 2000. Despite strong local objections to the old building losing its community use, permission was eventually granted for its conversion to residential use in 2004.



top:

FIGURE 1

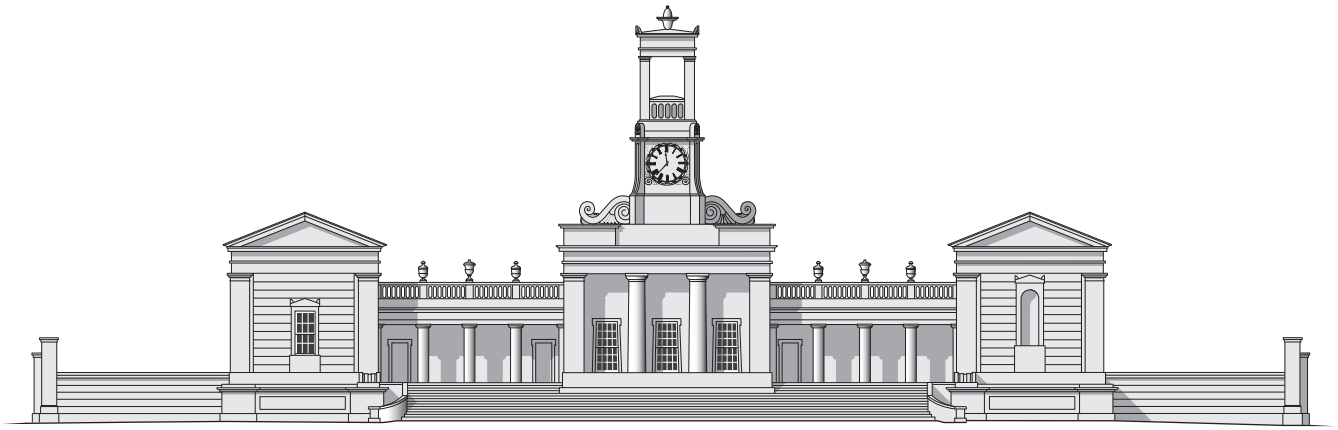
2000 view from west of former Bathgate Academy prior to conversion into flats in 2004.

HES [SC681837](#)

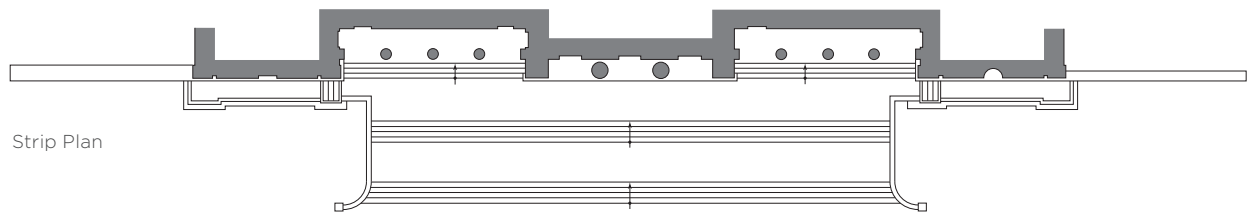
FIGURE 2

2000 detail view of central clock tower of former Bathgate Academy.

HES [SC1300667](#)



Elevation

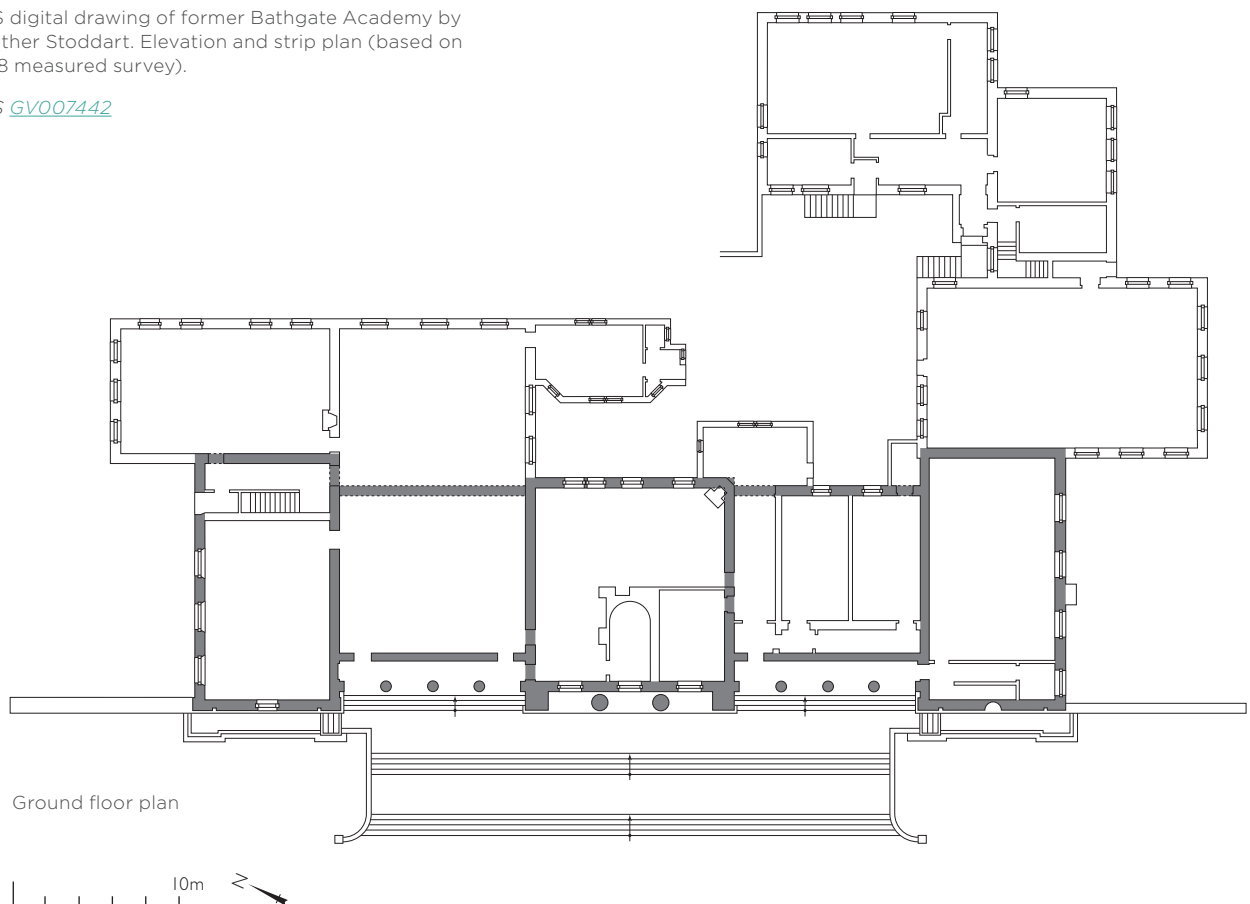


Strip Plan

FIGURE 3

HES digital drawing of former Bathgate Academy by Heather Stoddart. Elevation and strip plan (based on 1998 measured survey).

HES [GV007442](#)



Ground floor plan

FIGURE 4

HES digital drawing of former Bathgate Academy. Ground floor hatched plan showing original layout, and post-1874 extensions (based on 1998 measured survey).

HES [GV007443](#)

Foundation and Design

Born in Bathgate in 1737, Newland, bequeathed his estate at his death in 1799.³ Like other educational endowments of the time, the Newland bequest suffered legal complications, leading to a 30-year delay.⁴ The will was initially contested by relatives, and the survival of the trust owed much to Alexander Marjoribanks of Balbardie. Marjoribanks was superior of the burgh and, following Bathgate's elevation to Burgh of Barony in 1824, he became its first provost.⁵ He personally guaranteed the costs of litigation for the trust, and on 17 August 1815 the privy council awarded the trustees about £14,500 (rather than the expected £60,000). From 1815 the Newland Trust supported education in the burgh (including the existing parish school and three others in temporary premises) until its income was sufficient to implement the founder's intentions. This arrangement ended when the new Bathgate Academy was opened in 1833.⁶ Activity on the new school project developed in two chronological stages. From about 1822 till 1829 a scheme proposed by W H Playfair was considered but abandoned, then in early 1831 the trustees moved quickly to invite designs for a less-costly scheme, choosing R & R Dickson's entry against seventeen others in May of that year.⁷ Perhaps funds had accumulated sufficiently or the increased population demanded urgent action by the early 1830s, but the death of Marjoribanks in September 1830 may have impacted on the trustees' course of action.⁸

Playfair attended a meeting of the trustees as early as May 1822, and in February 1824 he guided them on a tour of Dollar Academy.⁹ A site adjoining the parish school was first considered, but in 1824 the field 'Rules Acre' was feued from Marjoribanks and leased out for some years.¹⁰ The site stood in open fields on the north-east side of a track which was later to become Marjoribanks Street.¹¹ Playfair's drawings for Bathgate Academy were prepared in June 1824, and it was confidently stated in 1825 that 'the academy is about being erected'.¹² The surviving Playfair drawings show a compact single-storey T-plan, with basement and concealed attic floor. Its austere Greek Revival principal front (41m in width) has a central portico with

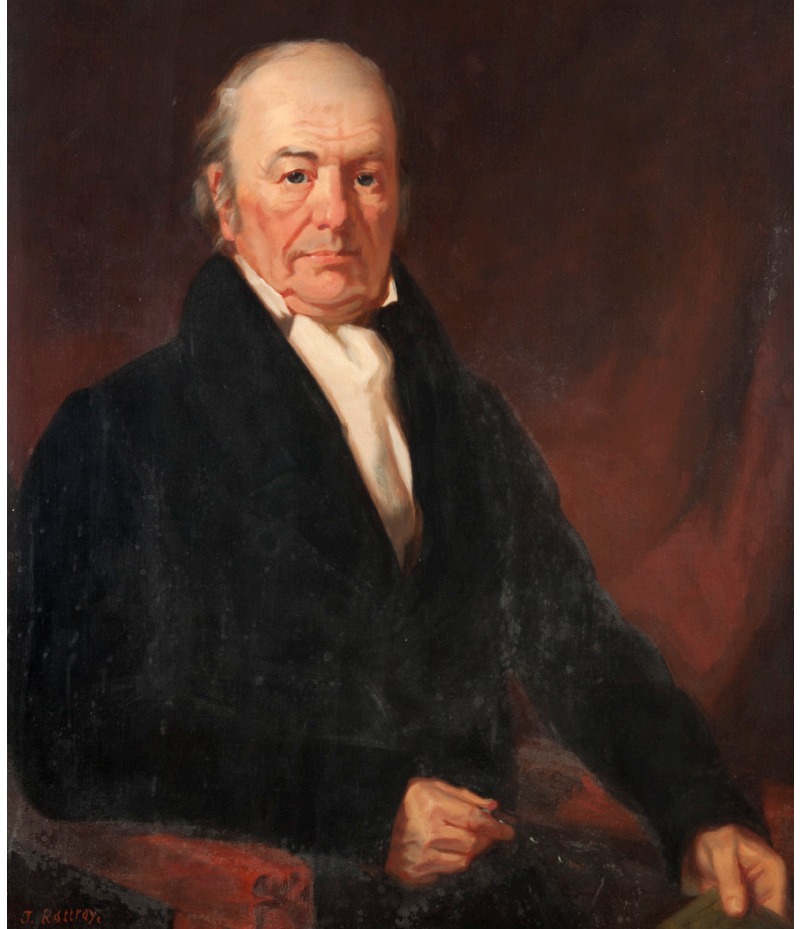


FIGURE 5

Portrait of Alexander Marjoribanks (Newland Trust trustee, died 1830) by J Rattray.

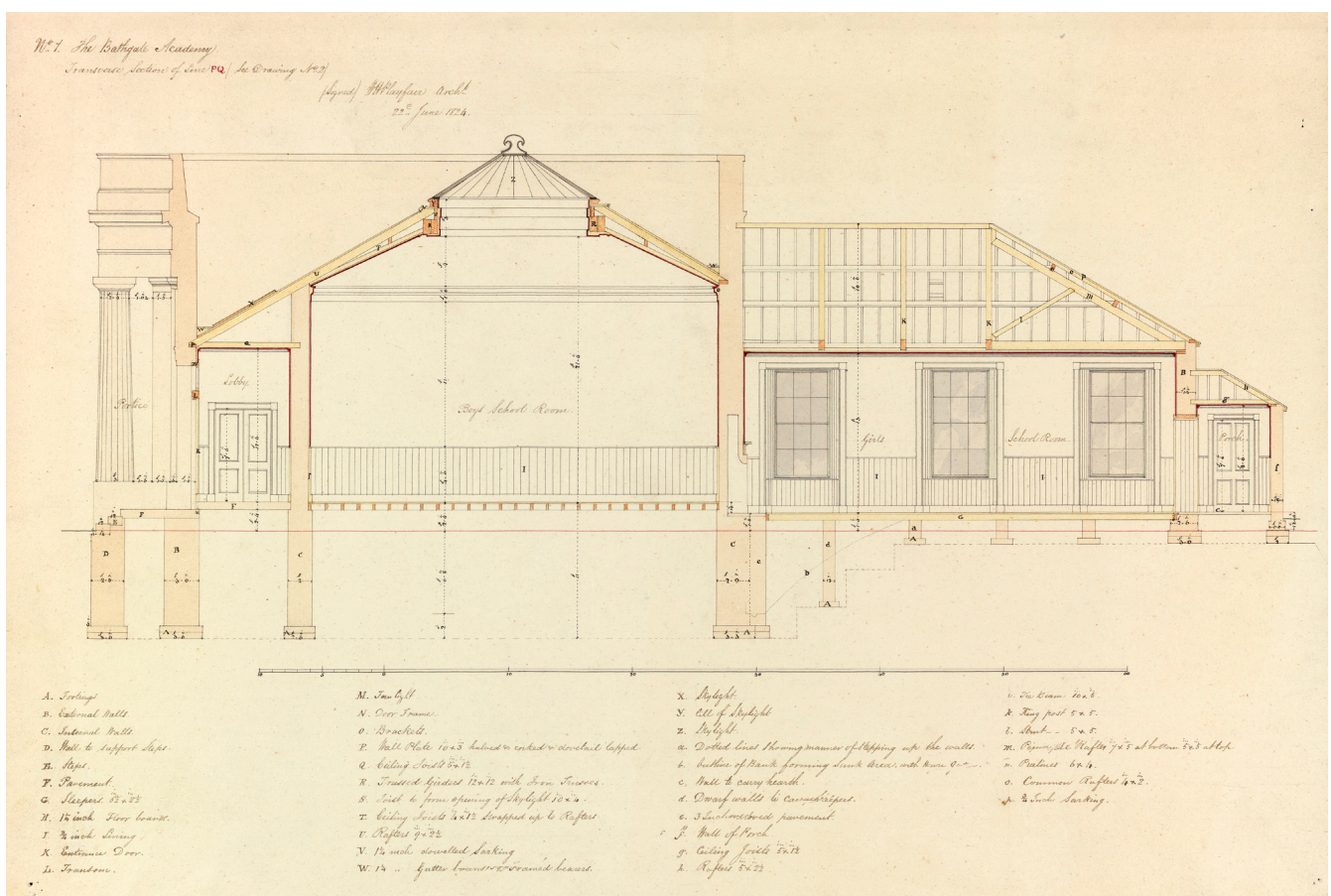
Reproduced with permission of West Lothian Council

paired Greek Doric columns topped by a solid high unadorned entablature. It has high blank walling in its linking sections, and very slightly advanced wings. In plan, only four classrooms were provided on the main floor: a high central square room, lit by a cupola, was flanked by two side rooms housed in the linking blocks, and a single-storeyed girls' schoolroom projected eastwards behind the central block. The generous-sized wings contained identical masters' houses, which to the sides and rear were two-storeyed above basements. In each, the ground storey comprised a parlour and a dining-room flanking a geometrical stair, with a kitchen, wash-house and bedrooms in the basement. Further bedrooms on the first floors extended into the attics above the linking blocks.¹³ The substantial provision for residential accommodation indicates that some boarding pupils and domestic staff were possibly considered at this early stage. In 1829, however, Playfair received the substantial sum of £135 15s for 'plans, [which] for several reasons, were not ultimately approved of'.¹⁴

**FIGURE 6**

1824 front elevation for Bathgate Academy by
W H Playfair (unbuilt).

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**FIGURE 7**

1824 section for
Bathgate Academy by
W H Playfair (unbuilt).

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So in early 1831 new plans were invited, now limited to a cost of £2,500, and from seventeen entries those by R & R Dickson were approved.¹⁵ R & R Dickson were accomplished small-scale Edinburgh architects, who had taken over the practice of their uncle, Richard Crichton, following his death in 1817. The firm had successfully completed the Greek Revival Leith Town Hall, 1827–8, prior to winning the academy competition.¹⁶ A premium was awarded to them, ‘they being the successful competitors’, on 6 December 1831, and included £10 10s for the working plans.¹⁷ R & R Dickson’s drawings do not survive, but early accounts of the building and detailed 1907 alteration drawings by J M D Peddie & Washington Browne enable a basic understanding of the original layout.¹⁸ It appears to have been executed as designed, excepting some changes to the main front, and

landscaping. The foundation stone was laid on 23 December by trustee Provost W D Gillon MP, although the contract with John Hardie, an Edinburgh builder, was not signed until April 1832.¹⁹ The completion date of April 1833 was revised to avoid fitting-up during winter conditions. Work was then delayed by the decision to construct the ‘railing’ above the linking colonnades and, as late as May 1833, a revised terrace and steps scheme to alleviate the problems of the steeply sloping site.²⁰ The completion of landscaping was to continue into 1835, but the building was ready for opening in November 1833. Hardie’s contract price of £2,693 was supplemented by extra work amounting to £1,609, and other costs in fact brought the total for the building to £4,971, including £237 15s to the architects.²¹

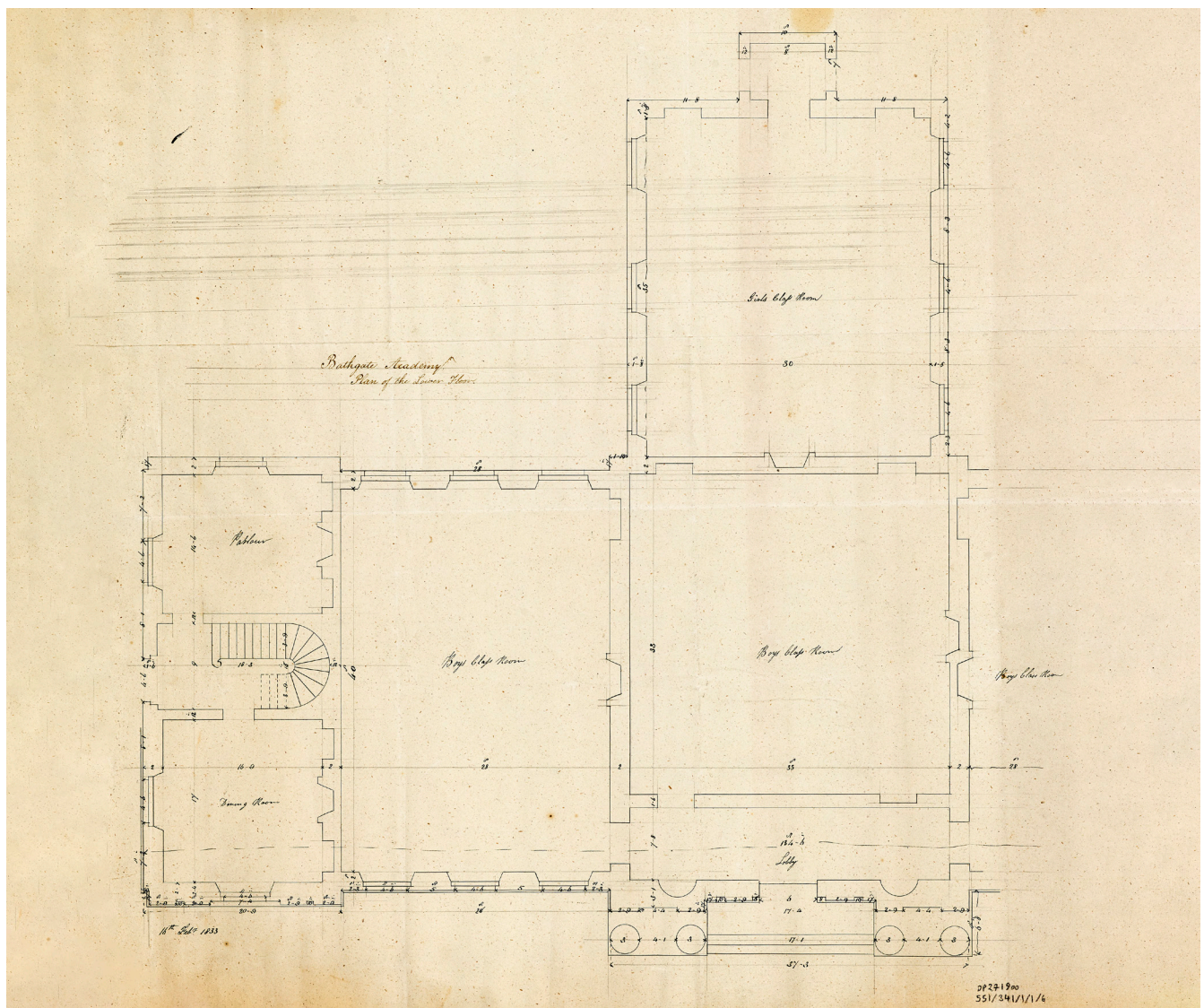


FIGURE 8

February 1833 unsigned plan of ‘lower floor’ (ground floor, part) of Bathgate Academy, most probably for W H Playfair’s T-plan scheme (unbuilt). This has been attributed to William Notman (assisting W H Playfair).

HES [DP271900](#)

As built in 1832–3, the building adopted a formulaic school design with a centre block, linking colonnaded sections and flanking pedimented wings, but the lowered single-storey colonnades and slender tower created an element of neo-Baroque movement. The elevated site enhanced the visual drama of the building's idiosyncratic skyline. The site sloped down considerably from the north-east, and the large front playground received extensive landscaping. The original intention was for the terrace at the principal front to be bounded by a 'perpendicular bank', with steps at each end. For safety reasons this was replaced by steps that extended the full width of the central block and its flanking colonnades, and the upper part of the playground was raised to reduce the height of the steps. These steps had an intermediate landing, and the parapet-walls enclosing the lower section were curved. The upper walls

returned into the massive plinths of the end-wings, which had long recessed panels between broad pilasters aligned with those above. The ends of the terrace were separated from the ledges above the plinths by massive recumbent consoles aligned with the inner walls of the wings.²² The consoles were comparable to those at W H Playfair's St Stephen's Church (1827–8) and Surgeon's Hall, Edinburgh (1829–32). Ashlar screen-walls, which concealed lean-to outbuildings and terminated in tall gate-piers, extended the frontage to fill the 84m width of the site. This extensive sub-structure has survived relatively intact. The lower street-front was bounded by stone gate-piers and ornamental cast-iron railings, repaired in 1836 after storm damage but replaced in the twentieth century by lighter railings.²³ The rear courtyard was originally the rector's garden.

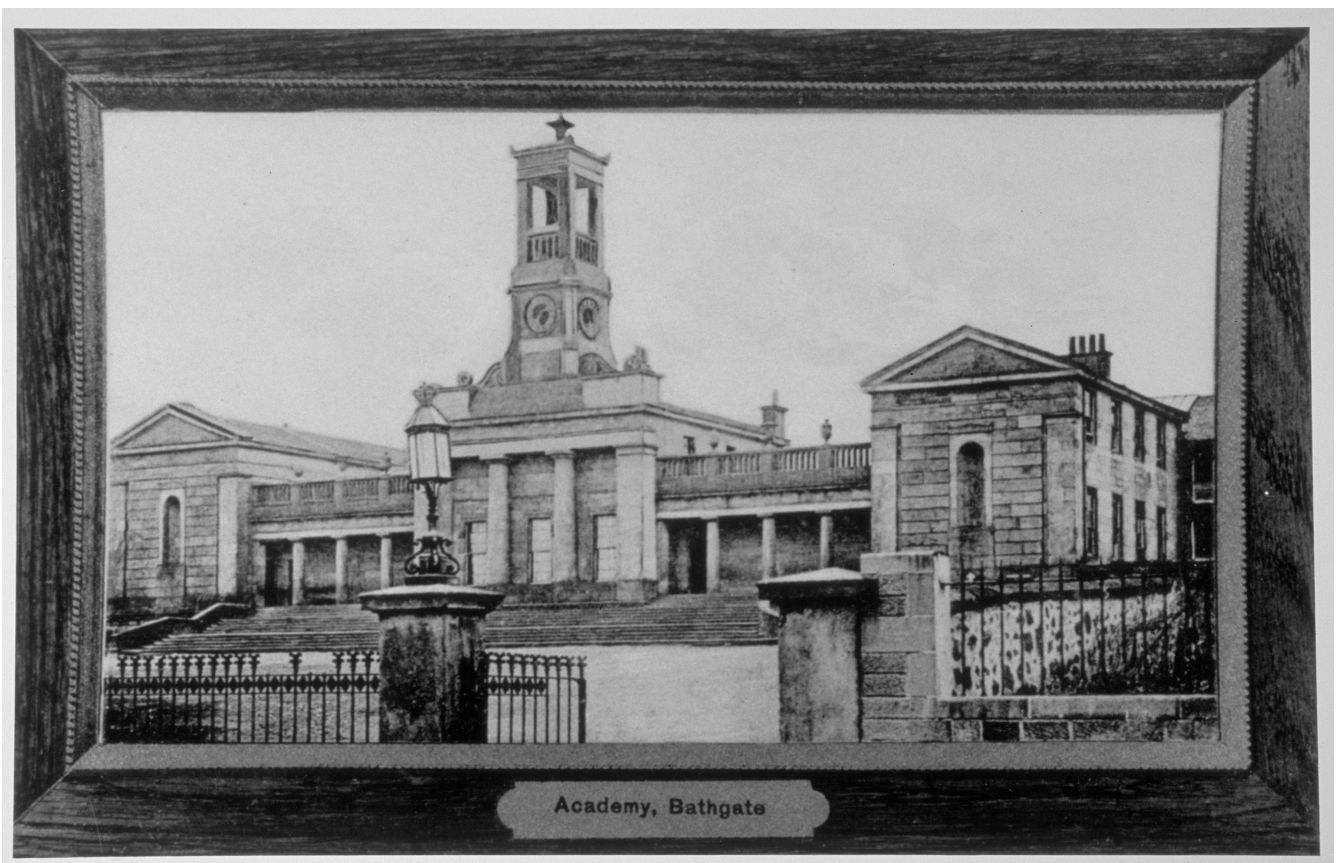


FIGURE 9

c1900 photographic view of Bathgate Academy.

Courtesy of HES (copied from T. Davidson, Bathgate Academy 1833–1933, 1933)

The main building comprised a towered central block, on which most of the classical detail is concentrated, linked by colonnaded sections with balustraded parapets to pedimented and pilastered flanking wings. It measured 52.3m in overall width (the two-storey central block measured 12.2m at the front by 14m, while the wings measured 8.4m by 15m, projecting a little further at the rear). The front and side elevations were of local sandstone ashlar, with rubble at the rear and in parts of the inner side-walls. A broad flight of steps extended the full width of the central block and its flanking colonnades, and lower screen-walls extended further to form a sub-structure the entire length of the facade.

The three-bay front of the central block had two unfluted Doric columns in antis between respond-piers with simple capitals, all carried on a plain podium. Within the portico there were three large sash windows with tapered and lugged surrounds, and a blank area above. Over the massive but simple entablature, steps rose to the base of the

square tower between large end-blocks, carrying recumbent foliated consoles. Its lower stage had oblique angle-buttresses framing clock-faces with foliated surrounds, and above a moulding there were palmette angle-finials below the open belfry.²⁴ This had round-arched balustrades within the angle-pillars, and above the entablature there were acroteria and a central finial, at a height of 22m. The front part of the block was entered through a door in the north-westside-wall within the colonnade. Each of the side-walls had two first-floor windows in the front part, and the rear wall was of three plain bays, with chimneystacks on the angles.

Each of the flanking colonnades was reached from the terrace by a low flight of steps, had shallow responds and three Doric columns in front of a wall, which was blank except for doors at its ends. The four-bay colonnades were originally intended to be modest in height, but complaints about the unsightly roofs behind them led the architects to propose a 'railing'.²⁵



FIGURE 10

2000 view from west of former Bathgate Academy prior to conversion into flats in 2004.

HES [SC1051951](#)

As executed, this took the form of high balustrades with urn-finials, which were probably intended for the original colonnades. The flanking end-wings had angle-pilasters, defined by bold channelling rather than projection, which supported plain entablatures and moulded pediments. Originally the pilasters framed round-headed niches set in tall rectangular projections (probably intended for statues of founders), but the one in the north-east wing was replaced by a window following fire damage in 1906 (see below). The two-storeyed outer side-elevations were of four bays of plain sash-and-case windows.

The original layout was relatively simple with five main classrooms, with a 'very good house for the rector' incorporated, but it was continually adapted from 1877 onwards.²⁶ Internally, the central block originally contained the rector's house, with about twelve rooms, which in 1877 and 1889 were converted to classrooms. The room behind the south-east colonnade, adjoining a corridor to the rear courtyard, was probably the original library, but became part of the rectors' second apartments in 1889.²⁷ Behind the north-west colonnade was the writing-room ('36 ft by 29').²⁸ The end-wings ('36 ft by 24') contained single classrooms at ground and first-floor level, with staircases at the front. These rooms were subdivided, and the stair in the north-west wing was moved to the rear after the fire of 1906.²⁹

How did the Dicksons' design compare with that of Playfair's scheme? Externally, the design applied more Baroque-influenced architectural detail. Internally, there was a significant reduction in staff accommodation and an overall increase in classrooms, but a rectors' house was still incorporated in the main building, despite this practice being relatively old fashioned at that time. Given the seven-year delay, and the increased cost of the tower, the Dicksons' design perhaps ultimately matched Playfair's in cost. Cost aside, the new building was well-received: recorded as 'a handsome structure' in 1843, notable for its '... massive stone basement or platform forming a promenade for the teachers and commanding views of the whole playground'.³⁰ The idiosyncratic mixture



FIGURE 11

2000 view of central block with clock tower and linking colonnades of former Bathgate Academy.

HES [SC1300658](#)

FIGURE 12

2000 view of console at base of pilaster on south wing of former Bathgate Academy.

HES [SC681841](#)

of Greek detailing and Baroque skyline was not to everyone's liking, and during construction the architects had suggested alterations to the tower, following local criticism (common in urban school projects), but the trustees rejected this additional expense and delay.³¹ A later more aggressively neo-Baroque central tower design was incorporated in John Stephen's Blythswood Testimonial School, Renfrew, 1839–43 (demolished).

Use and Development

From its opening in November 1833 until reorganisation in 1869–71, Bathgate Academy functioned along established lines. The most active trustee, apart from Marjoribanks (until his death in 1830), was the parish minister Samuel Martin, who in 1833 engaged staff and framed regulations.³² Rev Martin corresponded with and visited a number of schools prior to opening, most notably Dollar Academy, and recommended that moderate fees should be charged, despite the founder's intention of free education.³³ Free education was, however, provided for some children: the 1833 regulations allowed the trustees to 'dispense with the fee in the case of the poorest'.³⁴ The parish schoolmaster, James Taylor, had managed the temporary schools efficiently and was appointed rector, but died a few months after the opening. He was responsible for classics and French, and two masters shared branches of English, while a fourth taught writing, arithmetic and mathematics. In 1842 a

part-time sewing mistress was employed, and during the same period Italian and music were taught. The pupils (boys and girls) ranged from infant to advanced grades, and enrolment in the first session was over 400, rising to 600 by 1842.³⁵ The Disruption of 1843 ended the Rev Martin's period as a trustee, although he continued as an examiner.³⁶ His successor as parish minister instituted a procession and sermon on John Newland's birthday, on or around 17 April, which became the principal public holiday in the burgh; it is now celebrated in early June.³⁷ Although the academy continued to attract a high attendance, by the 1860s trustees complained of limited resources, and the numbers studying advanced subjects declined.³⁸ The income from fees in the 1870s was below the average of other endowed schools.³⁹ Typical of endowed schools in smaller burghs, relationships between the trustees of the academy and the townsfolk also became problematic from the earliest stage.⁴⁰

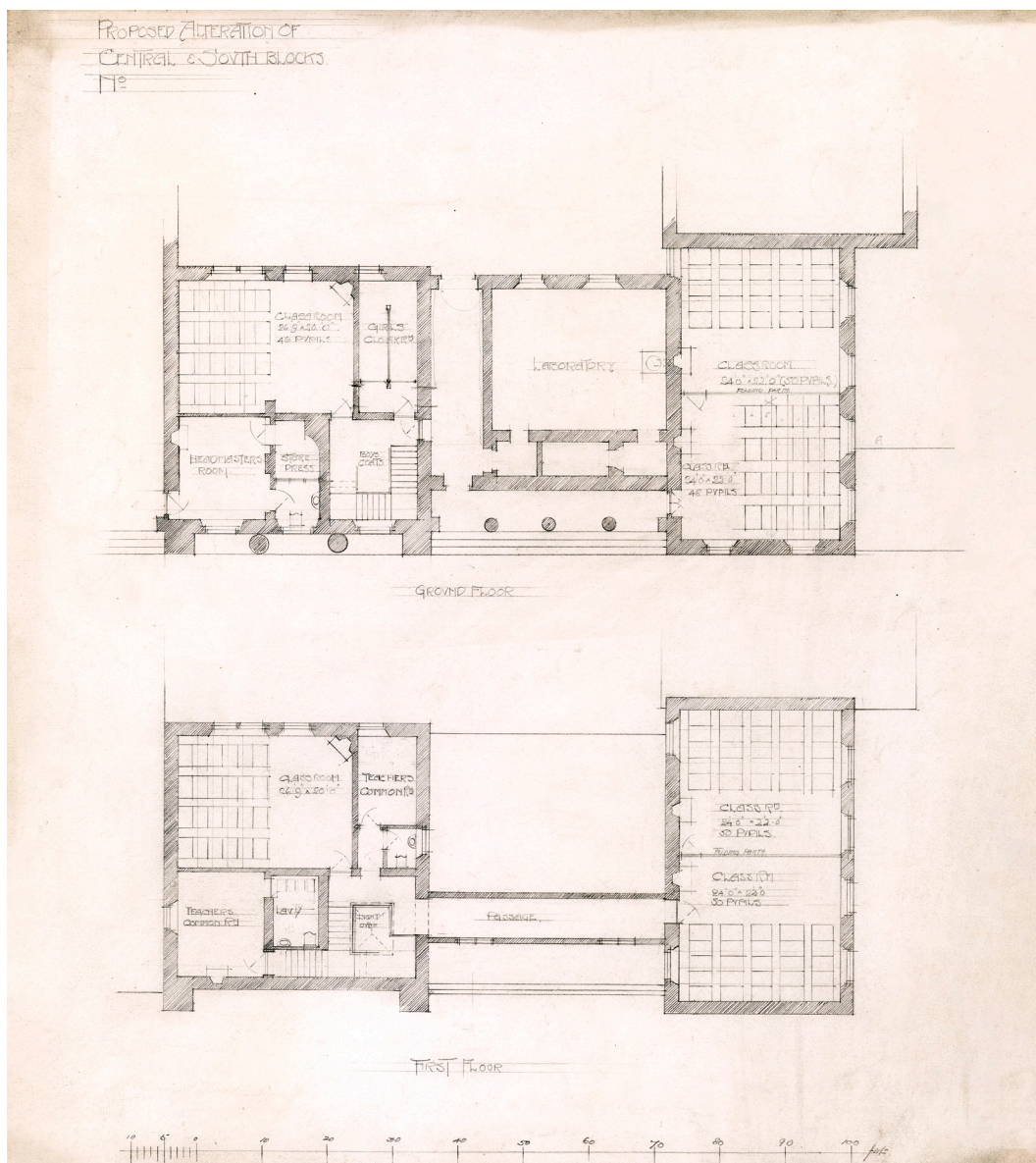
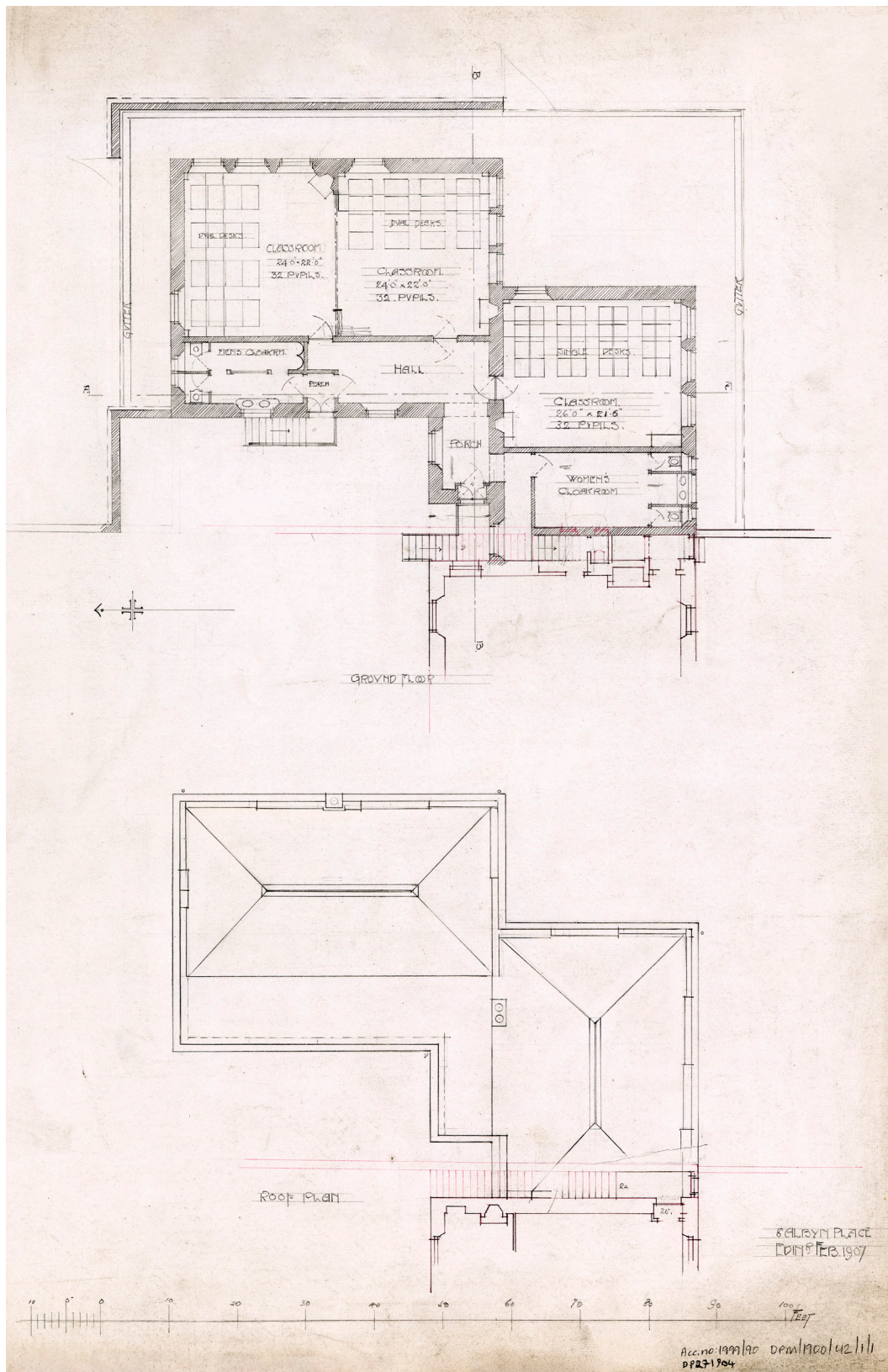


FIGURE 13

1907 sketch plan of alterations and heating scheme of central and south wings (ground and first floor) of Bathgate Academy by J M D Peddie & Washington Browne.

HES [DP271905](#)

**FIGURE 14**

1907 sketch plan of the addition and heating scheme of the new single-storey classroom wing added to the rear and adjoining the south-east angle of the 1889 rector's house. The classroom wing was designed by J M D Peddie & Washington Browne.

HES [DP271904](#)

Under pressure from Bathgate's worthies, the academy organisation was revised in 1869 and 1871.⁴¹ A report by educationalist Simon S Lawrie, Secretary of the Education Committee of the Church of Scotland, introduced a two-tier system in 1869 of an upper and lower school (of 50 and 350 pupils respectively).⁴² Then, in 1871, the trustees were reorganised from a small group of three (the grandsons of original trustees Marjoribanks and Gillon, plus the parish minister), to a larger group including representatives from the burgh, Edinburgh's Merchant Company, and the principal of Edinburgh University. At this point an overall headmaster was appointed.⁴³

Bathgate Academy continued under this governance until 1918, and with the introduction of government grants from 1874 it underwent significant architectural expansion.⁴⁴ The conversion of the upper floor of the central block rector's house into classrooms in 1877, and extension to the rear of the north-west colonnade, was the first of several additions made necessary for increased classroom space.⁴⁵ Two large transverse wings in matching deep-pedimented neo-classical

style, were then added to the rear of the old school. In 1889, a new two-storey rector's house was added at the rear of the south-east wing, and in 1895 a new block was added behind the north wing incorporating a single-storeyed assembly hall (formerly 1877 flat-roofed extension) which absorbed the classroom behind the north-west colonnade.⁴⁶ The rector's old accommodation was converted to more classrooms, and by 1901 the school could accommodate over 1,000 pupils, with its senior school having been designated by SED as a Secondary Department in 1899.⁴⁷

On 28 November 1906, a fire gutted a large part of north-west wing, which housed the infant classroom, and led to its repair on an altered internal plan.⁴⁸ The fire led to the permanent removal of the academy's infant classes. Finally, in 1907-8, a new single-storey classroom wing was added to the south-east linked to the 1889 extension. It was designed by Peddie & Washington Browne, and gifted by Lady Baillie at a cost of £1,500. Along with a 1925 small staffroom block, it was demolished during the conversion of the school to residential use in 2004.⁴⁹



FIGURE 15

2000 rear view (from north-east) of the rector's house of 1889 built behind the original south wing.

HES [SC1300685](#)

Bathgate Academy came under direct local authority control in 1918. Its property was sold by the trustees to the County Education Authority, and the assets of the Newland Trust were transferred in 1932 to the West Lothian Educational Endowment Scheme.⁵⁰ Bathgate underwent a sea-change in educational provision during the interwar years when the new St Mary's Senior Secondary and Lindsay High School were established in adjacent sites in 1931.⁵¹ By the early 1960s, Bathgate Academy (a senior secondary school) was caught up in a further complex county-wide reorganisation of secondary education.⁵² The academy retained its name in 1967

when it merged with other secondary schools in the area to become a new school on a new site east of the town.⁵³ The old academy buildings were saved from demolition and became an annexe to the adjacent new modern Bathgate Technical College (later West Lothian College) campus, designed by Allison & Hutchison architects and opened in October 1963.⁵⁴ The college relocated to a new campus in Livingston.⁵⁵ Despite strong local objections to the old building losing its community use, permission was eventually granted, after a two-year planning process, for its conversion into twelve flats in 2004 by ZM Architects for Miller Homes.⁵⁶ [compiled 2016]



FIGURE 16

2000 rear view of central block and later extensions from south-east. The rector's original accommodation was housed on the ground floor of the central block, and converted to classrooms in the late nineteenth century. To the right, the 1877 the high-windowed assembly hall extension.

HES [SC1300679](#)



FIGURE 17

2000 rear view of 1877 extension (originally assembly hall), and beyond, the 1895 classroom block, set behind the north wing.

HES [SC1300683](#)



FIGURE 18

2001 view of courtyard of new Bathgate Academy designed by Allison & Hutchison architects, built on a new site to the south-east, and opened in 1963.

HES [SC1879312](#)



FIGURE 19

2001 view of entrance hall of new Bathgate Academy of 1963.

HES [SC1387737](#)

Endnotes

¹ For a detailed account of the history of the school and its founder see: T Davidson, *Bathgate Academy, 1833–1933*, 1933; D Graham, *John Newland: An Account of the Founder of Bathgate Academy*, 1901.

² James Wright, Chairman of the West Lothian Educational Trust, Bathgate Procession Day, 3 June 1933, cited in Davidson, *Bathgate Academy*, p 8.

³ Endowment dated 8 July 1799, 'Statement of Affairs', 15 May 1838 (GD1/1038/9), John Newland Trust, National Archives of Scotland. See also W F Hendrie and A Mackie (eds), *The Bathgate Book*, 2001, p 19.

⁴ See 'The Disputed Will' in Graham, *John Newland*, pp 50–71.

⁵ Bathgate was governed by a bailie from 1747 to 1824, and its constitution was again changed in 1865; see Graham, *John Newland*, p 130.

⁶ See 'Statement of Affairs'; *New Statistical Account*, Vol 2, 1845, p 165; Davidson, *Bathgate Academy*, pp 18–20, 22–4 and 28. In 1832 it was reported 'Of late Bathgate has been distinguished for the excellence of an educational institution, endowed by the late Mr Newland's of Jamaica', R Chambers and W Chambers, *The Gazetteer of Scotland*, 1832, p 84.

⁷ John Newland Trust Minutes, 1829–48 (GD1/1038/2), p 145, John Newland Trust GD1/1038, 1–9, National Archives of Scotland.

⁸ By the mid 1820s Bathgate had 'greatly increased principally owing to a branch of the Glasgow cotton manufactures being established here', *Pigot's Directory of Scotland*, 1825–6, p 552. By the early 1830s it had 'acquired a large population, principally supported by the adjacent lime and coal-works, and by the weaving of cotton goods for the Glasgow manufactures', *Chambers Gazetteer*, 1832, p 84.

⁹ Davidson reports that [Thomas] Brown also prepared designs in 1822, and a cost limit of £4,000 was set (Davidson, *Bathgate Academy*, p 20); the online Dictionary of Scottish Architects dates Brown's design as 1824.

¹⁰ W Scott Moncrieff wrote to trustees in March 1822 stating his preference for the 'Rules Acre' site (a fue belonging to Marjoribanks himself): 'On looking into a sketch I have made of the village of Bathgate, I observe that the ground next to the Schoolhouse lies in a public street in which the market is to be held, and which street is to be carried forward to the High Road ... I cannot think such a situation would be eligible.' The 'Rules Acre' ground was acquired in 1824 (cited in Davidson, *Bathgate Academy*, p 20).

¹¹ By 1854, the only building nearby was the parish manse to the south-east, although Academy Street had been built to provide an alternative approach from the south-west.

¹² 'Statement of Affairs', pp 61–2, 66; *Pigot's Directory*, 1825–6, p 551.

¹³ A set of detailed drawings, dated 22 June 1824, are housed in Edinburgh University Library Special Collections (Playfair drawings, Nos 1312–18). The high blank walls above the windows in the linking sections concealed top-lit attics above two of the boys' schoolrooms, each level being also lit by three windows in the rear wall. Within the main doorway a high lobby-corridor gave access to the side-schoolrooms and to a central classroom. Behind it, in the single-storeyed rear wing, was the generously lit girls' schoolroom, entered by a porch at the rear.

¹⁴ In 1835 legal action was taken 'for recovering plans from Mr Playfair' ('Statement of Affairs', p 58).

¹⁵ John Newland Trust Minutes, 1829–48 (GD1/1038/2), p 145. Seventeen competition designs were considered on 16 May 1831. The runners-up were Mr [Alexander] Taylor, 'design with pediment' and Mr [George] Angus.

¹⁶ The firm designed Dr Bell's School, Leith, 1839, and the Duchess of Atholl's Industrial School, Dunkeld, 1853. See H Colvin, *A Biographical Dictionary of British Architecture 1600–1840*, 1995, pp 260–1.

¹⁷ John Newland Trust Minutes, 1829–48 (GD1/1038/2), p 46.

¹⁸ RCAHMS drawings DPM/1900/42/1.

¹⁹ John Newland Trust Minutes, 1829–48 (GD1/1038/2), pp 167ff (contract). A 'bottle, box, coins and newspapers' were deposited in the foundation stone (Davidson, *Bathgate Academy*, p 46).

²⁰ In May 1833, trustee Sir William Baillie recommended the sum of £2 be paid to the workmen engaged. This was adopted, despite strenuous opposition from the Rev Samuel Martin, who objected on the grounds that such payments were not customary and should be deprecated as they would merely encourage drinking.

²¹ Detailed in Davidson, *Bathgate Academy*, pp 20–2, 25–6, 28–9, 31–2. Payments to the Dicksons comprised 20 guineas competition premium, 10 guineas for working drawings, £9 for measuring quantities, £5 18s for measuring extra work, and £191 7s for inspections ('Statement of Affairs', pp 45–9).

²² Among the school offences punishable in 1833 by fines or expulsion were 'getting upon the walls', 'pushing one another down the steps' and 'getting over the scroll stone to the projecting building below the wings': John Newland Trust Minutes, 1829–48 (GD1/1038/2), pp 396ff; Davidson, *Bathgate Academy*, p 25.

²³ 'Statement of Affairs', 1838, pp 17 and 47; in 1834 a gate and 99 yards (90m) of railings were bought from an Edinburgh ironmonger (£76 10s 8d), and in 1836 new railings cost £16 17s 4d ('Statement of Affairs', p 51). Parts of the north-west and north-east boundary walls of 1849 survive, although the site was extended to the north-east in the late nineteenth century. Shelters for the children were built against the side-walls of the playground in 1881, but only the boys' one to the north-west has survived. See Davidson, *Bathgate Academy*, p 31 and W F Hendrie, *Bathgate in Old Picture Postcards*, 1985, pl. 38.

²⁴ A bell and a second-hand clock were installed in 1844, and the latter was replaced in 1883 by another made by James Ritchie, Edinburgh (Davidson, *Bathgate Academy*, pp 46 and 72).

²⁵ Davidson, *Bathgate Academy*, p 21. The trustees noted that, contrary to the original design, the roof of part of building of the academy was showing above the colonnade of the north wing, and was a 'great deformity'.

²⁶ *New Statistical Account*, Vol 2, 1845, p 165.

²⁷ At first a subscription library was transferred from the parish school, but in 1837–8 the academy began its own collection, which was opened to the public in 1844 (Davidson, *Bathgate Academy*, p 34). 'A round oak table for the Library room' was bought for £8 5s in 1835 ('Statement of Affairs', p 42).

²⁸ Measurements taken from *New Statistical Account*, Vol 2, 1845, p 165.

²⁹ When surveyed by RCAHMS in 2000 prior to residential conversion, the west angle of the central block contained a lobby whose south-east wall had two tall round-headed arched recesses, with a decorated cornice above. A door in the south-west arch led to a geometric stone stair lit by the central window of the portico. The remainder of this floor contained cloakrooms, while the floor above was divided into offices, with a door to the tower stair. In the south-east link, there was a large but simply moulded chimneypiece of grey marble, and several windows there and elsewhere in this block retained tall panelled shutters and moulded architraves. In the south-east wing a top-lit stone stair with plain metal balusters and hand-rail rose against the front wall from the colonnade entrance. The regulations of 1833 prohibited 'sliding down the iron railing leading to the upper classrooms' (Davidson, *Bathgate Academy*, p 25). The ground-floor room had a ceiling divided into nine panels by deep beams.

³⁰ *New Statistical Account*, Vol 2, 1845, p 165; Ordnance Survey Name Book, Linlithgowshire, No. 10, 1856, p 33.

³¹ Davidson, *Bathgate Academy*, p 21. More recently, Colin McWilliam was dismissive of its stylistic mixture: 'all movement is paralysed by the static detailing, mainly Grecian ... deep balustrades weigh down on the thinly supported links'. He concluded that the 'horror did not, or at least does not, extend inside'. McWilliam compares the tower with H E Goodridge's Beckford Tower of 1825, outside Bath: C McWilliam, *Buildings of Scotland, Lothian*, 1978, pp 96–7.

³² John Newland Trust Minutes, 1829–48, pp 396ff (regulations). Alexander Marjoribanks was continued by his son and namesake as trustee.

³³ Expenses for trustees visiting schools and candidates, including visit to Dollar by Rev S Martin in 1833, 'Statement of Affairs', pp 38–9. The school historian noted 'at one of the earliest meetings of the trustees Col. Gillon suggested having regard to the industrial and commercial character of the nation', and from beginning 'doubt [was] cast upon the value of gratuitous instruction.' Graham, *John Newland*, pp 92–3.

³⁴ Davidson, *Bathgate Academy*, p 24. It was recorded in 1856, however, that the academy was 'free to all parishioners', Ordnance Survey Name Book, Linlithgowshire, No. 10, p 33.

³⁵ The *New Statistical Account*, compiled in 1843, recorded 600 scholars, and the Name Book of 1856 gave an average pupil attendance of 500 male and females: *New Statistical Account*, Vol 2, 1845, p 165; Ordnance Survey Name Book, Linlithgowshire, No.10, p 33.

³⁶ Martin's Free Church congregation met in one of the academy classrooms for a few months until their church was available.

³⁷ Davidson, *Bathgate Academy*, pp 22–46, 50, 54–7; see Hendrie and Mackie, *The Bathgate Book*, pp 191–4. A tablet commemorating the Bathgate Academy procession has been placed in the wall of the house in Hill Street where Newlands was born: A Bisset, *History of Bathgate and District*, 1906, p 67.

³⁸ Rector Adam Smith complained on 29 October 1866: 'The sum received from the fees for the higher branches is very trifling.' A new 'Ladies' School' was blamed in 1866 for reducing the attendance of senior girls at the academy, and it remained open until 1885: Davidson, *Bathgate Academy*, pp 57–8.

³⁹ In 1863, legal opinion was sought on the advisability of restricting gratuitous education, or confining entry to those families who had acquired a legal settlement in the parish. The trustees referred to the immense increase in the population of the district as a result of the working of the valuable mineral deposits, and in 1863–4 it was decided to make changes to the scale of fees, and to restrict gratuitous education (Davidson, *Bathgate Academy*, p 57). Despite these protests, the annual income of £516 13s placed Bathgate Academy ninth in Grant's list of secondary school endowments, c1870 (J Grant, *The History of the Burgh Parish Schools of Scotland*, 1876, p 510). The income from fees was much below the average (Grant, *Burgh Parish Schools*, p 507; Davidson, *Bathgate Academy*, p 34). In 1872 the largest advanced class was in modern languages, where the 25 pupils compared well with other endowed schools (Grant, *Burgh Parish Schools*, p 442).

⁴⁰ From the mid 1840s, there was a growing gulf between the Academy and a section of the townsfolk over fees, trustees control and performance of masters (Davidson, *Bathgate Academy*, p 47).

⁴¹ In December 1867 a petition was signed by 150 chief inhabitants of town criticising the school organisation (Davidson, *Bathgate Academy*, p 58).

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Graham, *John Newland*, p 97.

⁴⁴ Prior to 1877 minor works had been carried out. In 1840 the unsatisfactory stove heating and ventilation system was replaced by a hot water system, after seeking advice from Dr Reid of Edinburgh. In 1838, the rector wrote 'in very high winds, no heat whatsoever enters the classrooms, but the dwelling house is densely filled with smoke ... I fear it is too true that the children in the English classes receive not a little injury from the cold state of the rooms.' In 1840 as pupils were 'inhaling impure atmosphere', Dr Reid replaced the stoves with a hot water system (Davidson, *Bathgate Academy*, p 36). In 1856 extensive fabric repairs were made (Davidson, *Bathgate Academy*, p 51).

⁴⁵ The newly formed Bathgate School Board had asked the academy to provide accommodation for 200 infant pupils. This was accepted and relieved the board of the responsibility of building a new school, but a further request of 1879 was turned down. In 1877 an extension to the rear of the north linking colonnade provided further accommodation for the rector (Davidson, *Bathgate Academy*, pp 61, 63).

⁴⁶ Davidson, *Bathgate Academy*, pp 63–4, 73. The rectors' second house was itself converted into classrooms in 1905. The third house, now demolished, was built in 1902–3, south-east of the academy and adjoining the manse.

⁴⁷ With the aid of government grants 'The school now possesses special rooms fitted up in the best style for Physics, Chemistry, Cookery, and Woodwork'; the laboratories were probably built on the southern end of the ground floor (former rectors' house) of the central block in 1891 (Graham, *John Newland*).

⁴⁸ A view of the wing after the fire is illustrated in Hendrie, *Bathgate in Old Picture Postcards*, pl 42. The Infant rooms were converted into a hall (Davidson, *Bathgate Academy*, p 65).

⁴⁹ It was ready for use in April 1908. See RCAHMS drawings DPM/1900/42/1–3, February to March 1907. Drawings DPM/1900/42/4–7 show a heating scheme by James Boyd & Sons heating engineers, Paisley, dated 8 June 1907.

⁵⁰ Under the 1918 Education (Scotland) Act the school was sold for £12,750. The trustees were left with £20,750 in funds, and the John Newlands Endowment Order Confirmation Act of 1921 operated until 1932 (Davidson, *Bathgate Academy*, pp 67–8).

⁵¹ J Dorothy Slater, 'Parish of Bathgate', in P Cadell (ed), *The County of West Lothian*, 1992, p 39.

⁵² Scottish Education Department, *Education in Scotland in 1962: A Report of the Secretary of State for Scotland*, April 1963, Vol 15, p 63, National Library of Scotland.

⁵³ In the session 1963–4 Bathgate Academy (senior) had 538 pupils. The new comprehensive was one of three being built in the county. It merged the overcrowded academy senior school with the academy junior secondary and Lindsay High School (junior and secondary). Lindsay High School became part of St Mary's RC Academy, c1964 (Slater, 'Parish of Bathgate', p 39).

⁵⁴ The building may have been temporarily used as a primary school in 1964 prior to completion of the new Bathgate Technical College; see Slater, 'Parish of Bathgate', p 39. The council had decided as early as 1954 to erect a technical college, and had reportedly chosen the old academy and surrounding area as a site. The decision to demolish the old academy was overturned. Allison and Hutchison & partners designed the new buildings (W & J R Wilson main contractors) to cater for 2,000 students. The new college contained a five-storey block to contain administration offices and the commercial and retail distribution departments. Built at a cost of £500,000 it was officially opened on 7 October 1963; see Hendrie and Mackie, *The Bathgate Book*, p 93.

⁵⁵ A new Kirkton Campus at Livingston was announced in June 1996 and opened in November 1997. In August 2001 the new college in Livingston became operational; see Hendrie and Mackie, *The Bathgate Book*, p 93.

⁵⁶ During the conversion the 1907 rear block, south boiler room, half of the assembly hall, and small twentieth century additions were demolished. A detailed account of the planning and listed building consent process, and local objections to this case, can be found at <http://planning.westlothian.gov.uk>. Proposals were originally lodged in April 2002 for the residential conversion of the academy to 7 flats, 5 maisonettes and 50 new houses to designs by McGurn Architects, Glasgow (later renamed ZM Architects), but conversion and restoration to 12 flats was finally granted in January 2004. An objection letter from Bathgate Community Council to West Lothian Council of 12 November 2003, appendix 7, details four petitions, signed by over 5,500 people between 2001 and 2003, urging the council to keep the building in community use.

