



HISTORIC
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HIGH SCHOOL OF DUNDEE

SCOTLAND'S HISTORIC TOWN SCHOOLS



Diane M Watters

2021



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COVER IMAGE

View of portico in 1989 from the north-west.

HES [SC1250858](#)

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HIGH SCHOOL OF DUNDEE

EUCLID CRESCENT, DUNDEE

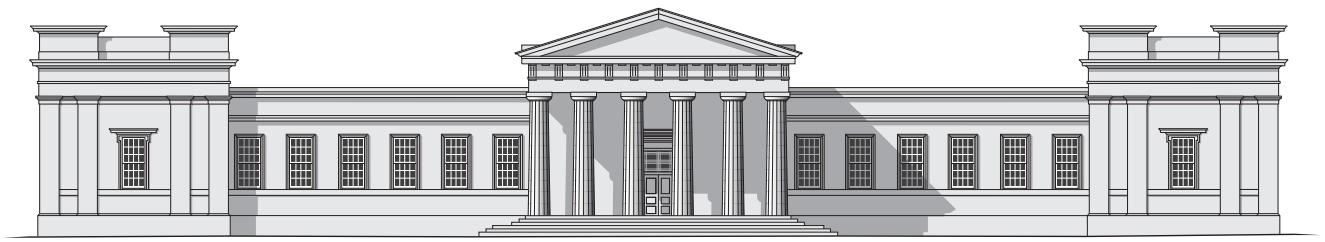


Introduction

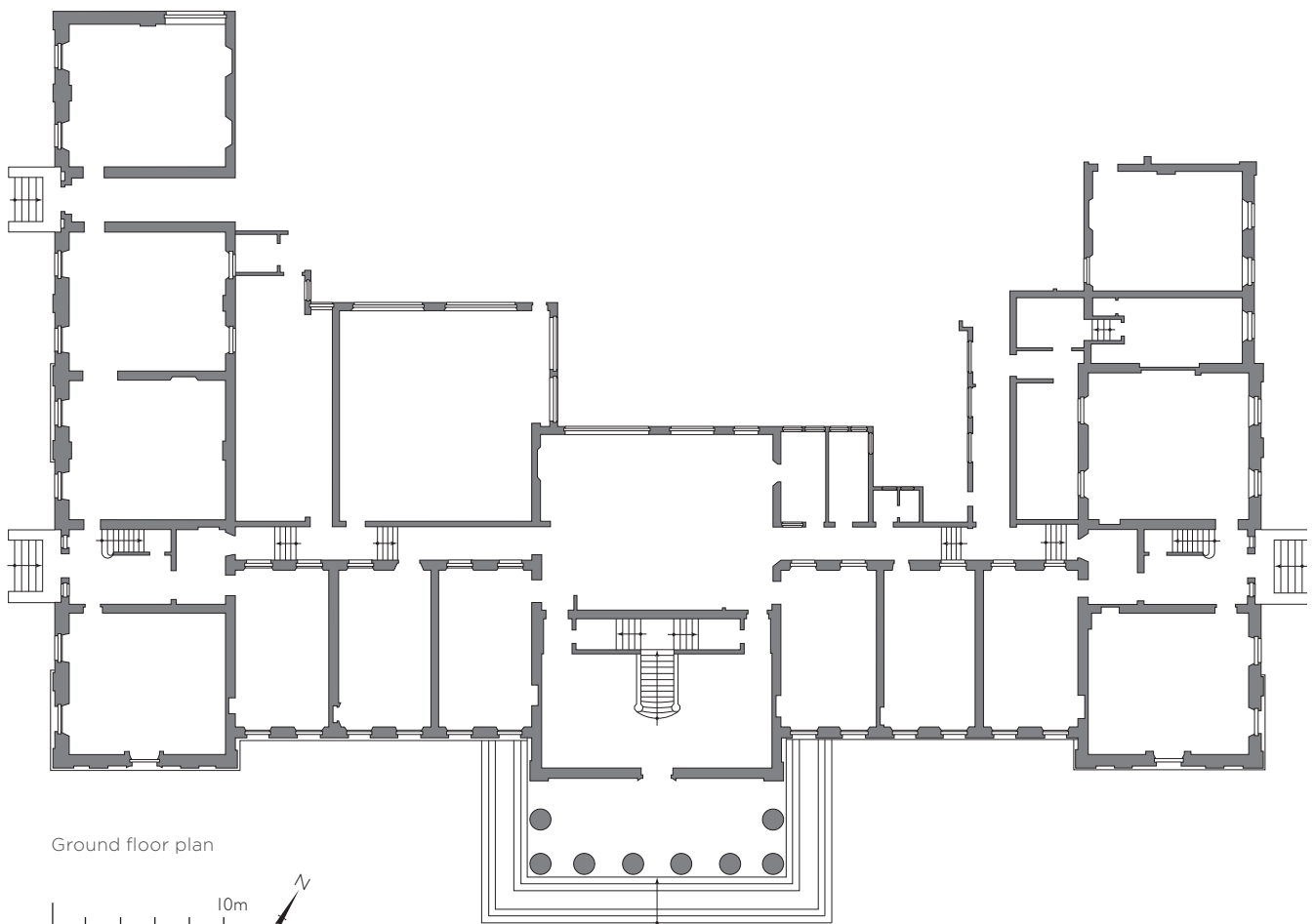
Dundee Public Seminaries (now the High School of Dundee), designed by George Angus and constructed 1832–4, is an impressive one- and two-storey neo-classical building, dominated by a higher central structure with an eight-column hexastyle Doric portico. It stands on a conspicuous site in the city centre which forms the closing vista looking north along Reform Street — a new classical street proposed by architect William Burn in 1824, but largely designed by Angus in 1832, and built 1834–67.¹ This urban improvement set-piece was Dundee’s only substantial built equivalent to the classical city centre developments found in other Scottish cities. It reflected the increasing civic ambitions of Dundee as it emerged as a manufacturing centre in the 1820s. The new school was a key element in that civic and educational transformation, and its winning competition design was essentially modelled on the two prestigious 1820s neo-classical school designs for Edinburgh: the Academy (1822–4, by Burn) and the Royal High School (1825–9, by Thomas Hamilton).

Proposed in 1827, and formally constituted in 1829, it amalgamated three existing town schools — the Grammar School, English School and Academy. It was part of a broader town and city movement to amalgamate burgh schools into newly built premises in the early nineteenth century. The town council reported in 1827 that the ‘wretched condition of the [existing] buildings’ and ‘scanty number

of pupils’ sat at odds with Dundee’s increasing population and ‘commercial and manufacturing energies’.² Recognising that ‘very limited’ revenue was forthcoming from the public purse, funds were obtained from the imposition of a local tax on ale and beer within the burgh of Dundee in 1826–7 (raising £400 per annum), but the bulk of the cost was raised by private subscription.



Elevation



Ground floor plan

FIGURE 1

2001 HES digital drawing of the High School of Dundee. Front elevation and reconstructed plan showing original U-plan building of 1834, and later rear extensions to the original pavilion: west (1853-4) and east (1867-9). Drawing based on 1990 measured survey.

HES [GV007455](#)

The two key separate 'schools' of the academy and grammar were each to have their own rector, and were in turn controlled by a mixed management of directors — consisting equally of subscribers and town council representatives. When the ale and beer levy expired in 1848, and town council funds reduced to minimum, the school obtained a Crown Charter in 1859 to 'properly safeguard' the interests of the private subscribers, and it became known as the High School of Dundee.³ It successfully retained its independent management from the newly formed school board of Dundee in the 1870s. With funds from the Baillie William Harris Endowment in 1882 (and further bequests from his sister Miss Harris), it was greatly expanded from 1883 onwards, and a

dedicated Dundee Girls' High School was founded on an adjoining site (1884–90).

The original shallow U-plan 1834 building has undergone ongoing piecemeal external and internal additions throughout the nineteenth century, both east and west wings being extended north, with a new block of the late 1880s finally enclosing the courtyard to the rear, creating a skewed quadrangular plan. Major reconstruction began in 1956 and a new floor was inserted in the central part of the main block. The showpiece façade remains relatively unaltered, and Dundee High School remains an independent fee-paying school.



FIGURE 2

View of Dundee High in 1989 from south-west.

HES [SCI260088](#)



FIGURE 3

View of portico in 1989 from the north-west.

HES [SCI250858](#)

Foundation and Design

Improved town school accommodation was first publicly mooted in January 1815 when the rector of Dundee Academy, Thomas Duncan (later Professor of Mathematics at the University of St Andrews), published a pamphlet and plea for action. The academy, first established in 1785, was then housed in a portion of the old hospital in Nethergait (on the present site of St Andrew's Cathedral). Duncan described it as 'a mere fragment of an old hospital for decayed citizens ... Is there even a parochial school in Scotland that would not feel itself disgraced by the

building in which you expect your sons to be taught the philosophy of Newton.⁴ Despite the academy receiving a generous bequest in 1789 from George Webster, no part of that bequest was allowed for accommodation. The grammar school was no better placed, having 'scanty' number of pupils, and was housed in a single-storey building in Kirk Wynd.⁵ Purpose built in 1783, it incorporated the English school in 1784 (as a junior branch of the grammar), and had two self-contained teaching rooms with a 'brick division'.⁶

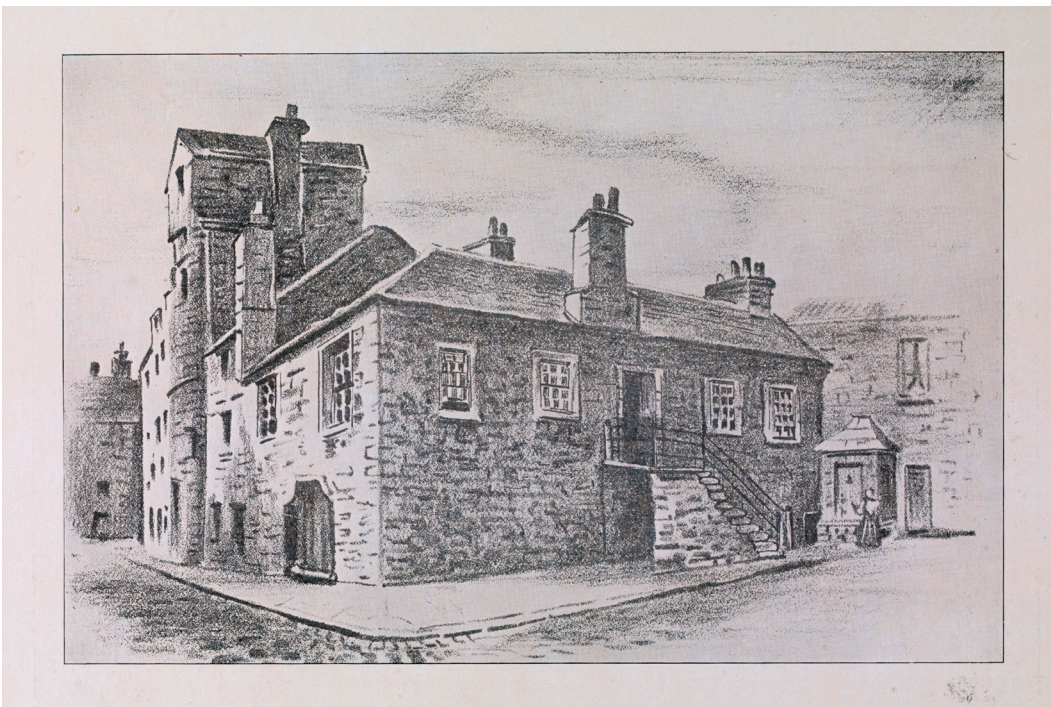


FIGURE 4

c1800 sketch of predecessor Dundee Grammar school building, St Clement's Lane (built 1588-9 and demolished 1872).

Courtesy of HES (copied from Dundee Past and Present, 1909), [DP278868](#)



FIGURE 5

c1830 sketch of new Dundee Grammar and English school building, School Wynd, built 1783 (demolished).

Courtesy of HES (copied from Dundee Past and Present, 1909), [DP278869](#)

The detailed wrangling surrounding the funding and management of the Public Seminaries highlighted its civic role. The debate is well recorded in Dundee City Archives and Dundee High School Archives, but the design process is not. George Angus's design drawings do not survive. The proposed structure and general plan of the school was outlined in 1827. Uniting the two main schools (grammar and academy) under one rector in a system similar to the 'New academy in Edinburgh' was deemed to have 'bias', and instead the two schools, under two rectors, were to remain 'separate and distinct in government and discipline'.⁷ It stipulated that classrooms were to be 'placed on same floor elevated perhaps a few steps from ground ... with eight spacious classrooms at least' and 'a common hall'. At that date, a cost of £5,000 was given to erect the new building.

The Public Seminaries project was under the sole control of the town council until May 1829, when, as planned, it was passed to the appointed directors — ten chosen by the council, and ten from the subscribers. The council was associated in the management of the school until 1859.⁸ By this date, 282 private subscribers, led by Major Alexander Guthrie (a 'zealous promoter'), had raised funds for an institution to the 'advantage of all classes' in burgh, suburb and 'surrounding country'.⁹ By July 1829 the committee overseeing the building considered six sites. The city-centre site known as the Meadows, originally objected to because it was surrounded by manufacturers, was chosen and gifted by the town council.¹⁰

In November 1829, the directors 'determined on the plan adopted for the building'.¹¹ An architectural competition, which apparently attracted 26 entries (including Archibald Simpson and John Smith), had been whittled down to three — George Angus, George Smith and James Brewster of Montrose. Both Smith and Angus were former assistants to Burn.¹² In winning 'almost unanimously', Angus was encouraged to adopt aspects of his competitors' plans in his final design. Angus's more 'extensive' design, was estimated to cost £8,000, and 'exceeded in cost by considerable sum any other presented'.¹³

Construction began in June 1832, and the foundation stone was laid on 9 August 1832 by Lord Kinnaird to celebrate the passing of Earl Grey's Reform Bill.¹⁴ Such civic ambition led to higher costs, and in An Address to the Inhabitants of Dundee printed in 1834, the directors of the Public Seminaries 'exhorted' the townspeople to provide more funds for the completion of the building. It battled against the public indifference to the project, countered claims that it would only serve the 'offspring of the

aristocracy', and defended the proposed level of fees: 'It is open to the young of all classes whose parents can afford the fees of admission.' The Address provides a fascinating insight into the educational ambitions of Dundee's elite and middle classes in the 1830s, but reserves its most powerful rhetoric to defend Angus's 'monument to literature and taste' over a building of more humble character: 'The very aspect of an edifice filling the eye with an impression of amplitude and grandeur exerts an ennobling influence upon the youth, from the highest to the humblest, who are educated under its roof, and they are irresistibly led to associate in idea the value of the pursuits within with the imposing splendour of the structure without; and are thereby kindled into a keener spirit of emulation, and into more ardent desire for honourable distinction and educational pre-eminence.'¹⁵

The shortfall of £2,500 for reference books, fitting out of the classrooms and a laboratory was met; the building was completed at a cost of £11,341 and opened to pupils on 1 October 1834.

Angus's competition design does not survive, but was reported as similar to that executed.¹⁶ The long façade (227ft in length) was dominated by a higher central structure fronted by a two-bay deep Doric temple portico. This was linked by recessed six-bay wings to pavilions enlivened with paired pilasters — these two-storey end-pavilions returned on to the flanks to provide five-bay symmetrical fronts. All the accommodation was contained within a single building. The earliest known detailed account of the building in 1836 describes a central two-storey and basement block with the two upper rooms being 42ft by 40ft: the ground floor for higher branches of mathematics, natural philosophy and chemistry, 'and capable of containing upwards of 300 auditors'; and the first floor intended for a museum.¹⁷ The basement housed a laboratory for chemical experiments, and 'a stove room for heating the different apartments with warm air'.¹⁸ The two main rooms to the west and east of the central block (both 37ft by 30ft) accommodated the junior classes of the academy, and writing and arithmetic respectively. The pavilion to the west housed the grammar school, with school administration on the first floor; the eastern pavilion accommodated English, French, drawing and a model room. Angus's plan appears to have met all the 1827 requirements — providing a minimum of 'eight spacious classrooms' for the two main schools — but it added upper floors, and it did not provide a common hall. The latter was probably not deemed essential for a grouping of separate institutions that did not have a unified educational purpose. The lack of a hall became a recurring problem after 1882.

Architecturally, Angus's design for the Public Seminaries is recognised as the last major Burn-inspired neo-Greek school building.¹⁹ Angus was one of William Burn's earliest assistants alongside David Bryce, and he was Burn's Clerk of Works at Edinburgh Academy (1822-4). The influences of both Burn's Edinburgh Academy and its rival school design, Edinburgh's Royal High School, are clear here. In plan, the gathering of all accommodation into a single building has parallels with Edinburgh

Academy (although the linking bays are extended to six), and the five-bay end-pavilions are almost direct copies of Burn's original 1822 two-storey scheme. But Dundee's plan deviates from the double-plan depth of Edinburgh Academy as built, and adopts the higher central structure of the Royal High, and its two-bay deep Doric temple portico. The key difference between Dundee and its prototypes is the lack of a central hall.



FIGURE 6

c1836 engraving by Joseph Swan of Dundee High from south-east (in C Mackie, *Historical Description of the Town of Dundee*, 1836).

HES [SC710976](#)

Development

The competing requirements of the grammar and academy schools (with their various departments) in the first five decades of the seminaries is reflected in the piecemeal physical development of the school. Equality between the two individual rectors and schools, as envisaged in 1827, became problematic in practice. From the outset, the grammar school was 'placed in second rank' to the academy in terms of space allocation and numbers of teaching staff.²⁰ An early rivalry developed between the academy and grammar rectors, and following the dismissal of the academy rector in 1833, both positions were abandoned until a single rector was appointed of the unified school in 1883. When the ale and beer levy expired in 1848, salaries were reduced to 'miserable condition'. Competition between departments increased, and a public appeal in 1851 raised £4,000 through subscription to allow permanent salaries to masters of classics and mathematics departments;

other appeals followed.²¹ Despite being hampered by departmental autonomy, the curriculum was reported in 1836 as being 'perhaps the most extensive course of education to be found in any similar institution in Scotland'.²²

The school grounds allowed for additions to be made to the north of the east and west flanking pavilions. The western one was the first to be extended in 1853-4 to provide a new classroom for the English department, designed by William Scott architect – former assistant to George Angus who had become the town's architect in 1843.²³ The re-fit of an unspecified classroom in the same year housed the new Dundee School of Art and Science.²⁴ The extension of the east pavilion followed in 1857-9, also by Scott.²⁵ By 1868, 14 classrooms accommodated over 1,800 pupils.²⁶

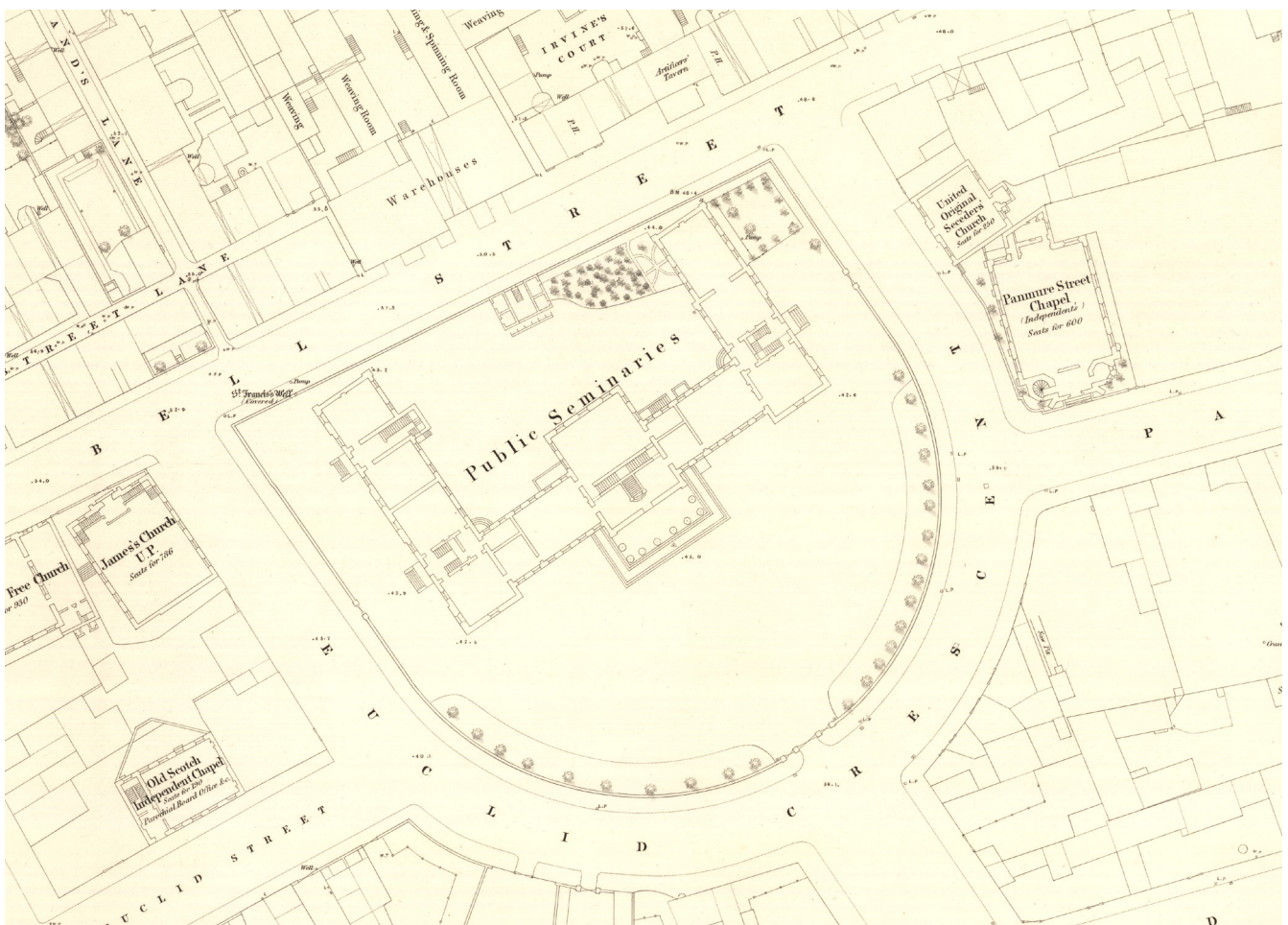


FIGURE 7

1861 Ordnance Survey town plan of Dundee showing the ground floor plan of Dundee High and later rear extensions to the original pavilions: west (1853-4) and east (1857-9).

Reproduced with permission of the National Library of Scotland



HIGH SCHOOLS : DUNDEE : 97. J.V.

top:

FIGURE 8

c1875 photographic view of Dundee High.

Courtesy of HES (copied from Dundee Valentine Album), [DP101569](#)

FIGURE 9

2001 view of 1857-9 extension to rear of east pavilion from south-east.

HES [SC1260110](#)



The High School's 'great expansion' followed the William Harris Endowment and Dundee Education Act of 1882, which aimed to resolve the city's wider educational dilemma. Following disputes about the provision of free places in 1880, the school board threatened legal action to obtain control of the school. At this point philanthropist Harris offered £30,000. He gifted the school board £10,000 to establish a 'lower grade' high school, and Harris Academy was opened in 1885. Dundee High was bequeathed £20,000 'on condition of its being managed by governors such as he trusted more than a popularly elected School Board to keep up and raise the standard of liberal education', and stipulated that a single rector be employed.²⁷ Harris's sister waived her right to a life rent that her brother had set aside for girls' education, and gifted a further £16,000 to establish a girls' department of the High School.²⁸ In September 1886, the school reported a 'complete organisation of the school on a new footing', with a new Rector, a 'handsome new Girls School', and a new technical and gymnasium block.²⁹

Eleven competition designs were received for the new Girls' High School to be built west of the main site

at Euclid Street and Euclid Crescent, with engineer Alexander McCulloch's scheme chosen in August 1884. The bold and eclectic French Renaissance design itself has been attributed to architect J G Fairley, who was briefly in partnership with McCulloch and provided 'architectural assistance'. It was built in two stages during 1886-90 at a reported cost of 'upwards of £25,000', including the cost of the site.³⁰ In his opening address in 1890, Henry Craik, Secretary of the Scottish Education Department, claimed this 'magnificent palace ... a model school.'³¹ The new two-storey gymnasium and workshop block of 1886, also by McCulloch, claimed 'no architectural pretensions', and finally enclosed the courtyard to the rear of the original building.³² The ground floor workshop of 90ft by 30ft was 'fitted up with the most perfect machinery that engineers can turn out', and the upper gymnasium was fitted under the 'superintendence of Mr Benson, gymnastic instructor in Glasgow University'. The cost of both was met by director and ex-provost William Robertson, one of school's 'staunchest supporters in its struggle for independence over school board'.³³

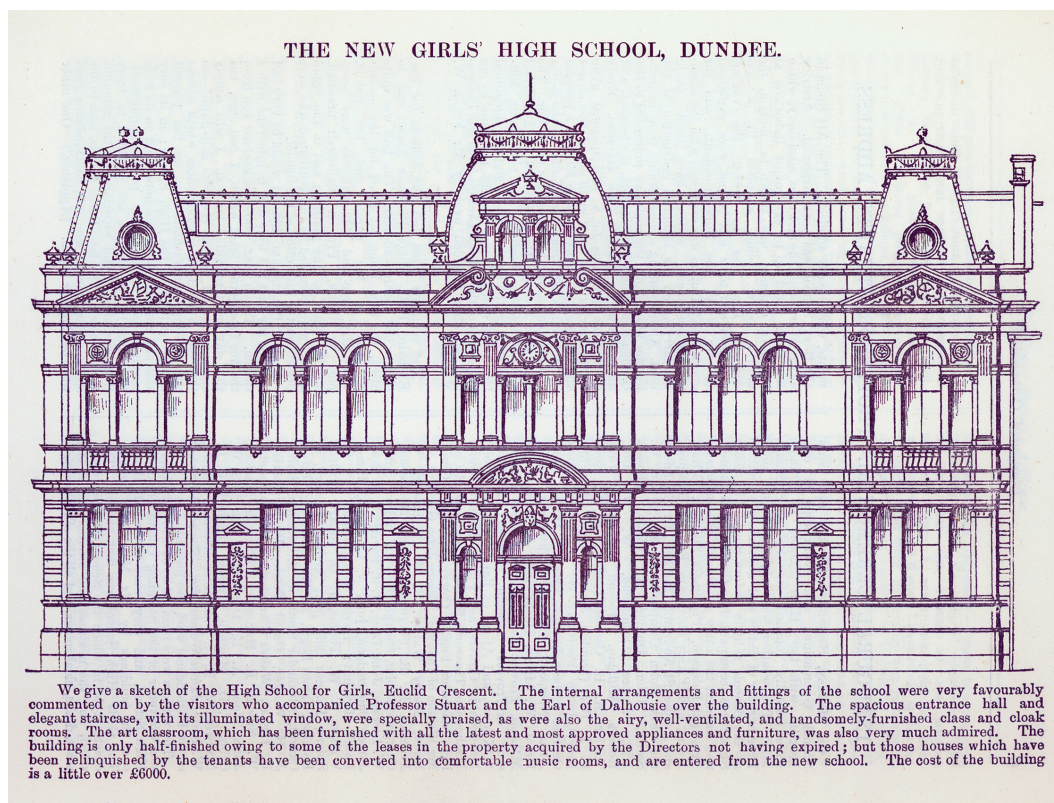


FIGURE 10

1886 elevation of Dundee Girls' High School, illustrated in Dundee High School Extensions, Inaugural Ceremonial, 1886.

Reproduced with permission of Dundee City Archives



FIGURE 11

c1900 view by Alexander Wilson of Dundee Girls' High School.

Reproduced with permission of Dundee City Archives



FIGURE 12

2001 view of former Dundee Girl's High School from south-east (incorporated into Dundee High).

HES [SC1260107](#)



FIGURE 13

c1909 view showing Dundee High and new Girls' High School to west.

Courtesy of HES (copied from Dundee Past and Present, 1909), [DP278867](#)



FIGURE 14

2001 view of 1886 gymnasium and workshop block to rear of main block, from south-east.

HES [SC1260105](#)



FIGURE 15

2001 view of ground floor workshop in 1886 gymnasium and workshop block.

HES [SCI260124](#)



FIGURE 16

2001 view of first floor gymnasium in 1886 gymnasium and workshop block.

HES [SCI260126](#)

While various minor additions and alterations were made in the first half of the twentieth century, the post-war period brought more significant changes to the school's fabric, and a reconstruction fund was started in 1949.³⁴ A new low-lying dining room block on the easternmost perimeter of the site was designed by architect William W Friskin in 1952. It was followed by a major two-phased reconstruction begun in 1956 under the architect Thomas Hill Thoms (originally as architect for Allen & Friskin, but from 1958 working as Thoms & Wilkie) at a cost of some £70,000. This created various new rooms including: three new laboratories; two science lecture rooms; a new war memorial library; a new administrative block;

and alterations to allow easier access around the main building at first-floor level. The Industrial Fund for the Advancement of Scientific Education in Schools funded £17,500 toward the project.³⁵ As part of this work, a new floor was inserted in the central part of the main block and the main stair was partly rebuilt. In 1964, school historian, A D Alexander marvelled at the 'brilliantly designed' modern renovation 'Only a dark line behind the windows and slight risings at roof level give discreet notice of the internal transformation ... behind the [new] vestibule was once the vast Science Lecture Room with tiers of desks rising in a semi-circle.'³⁶ [compiled 2015]



FIGURE 17

1914-18 war memorial plaque in entrance portico in 2001.

HES [SC126011](#)



FIGURE 18

1956 view of schoolboys at east pavilion.

HES [SC710734](#)

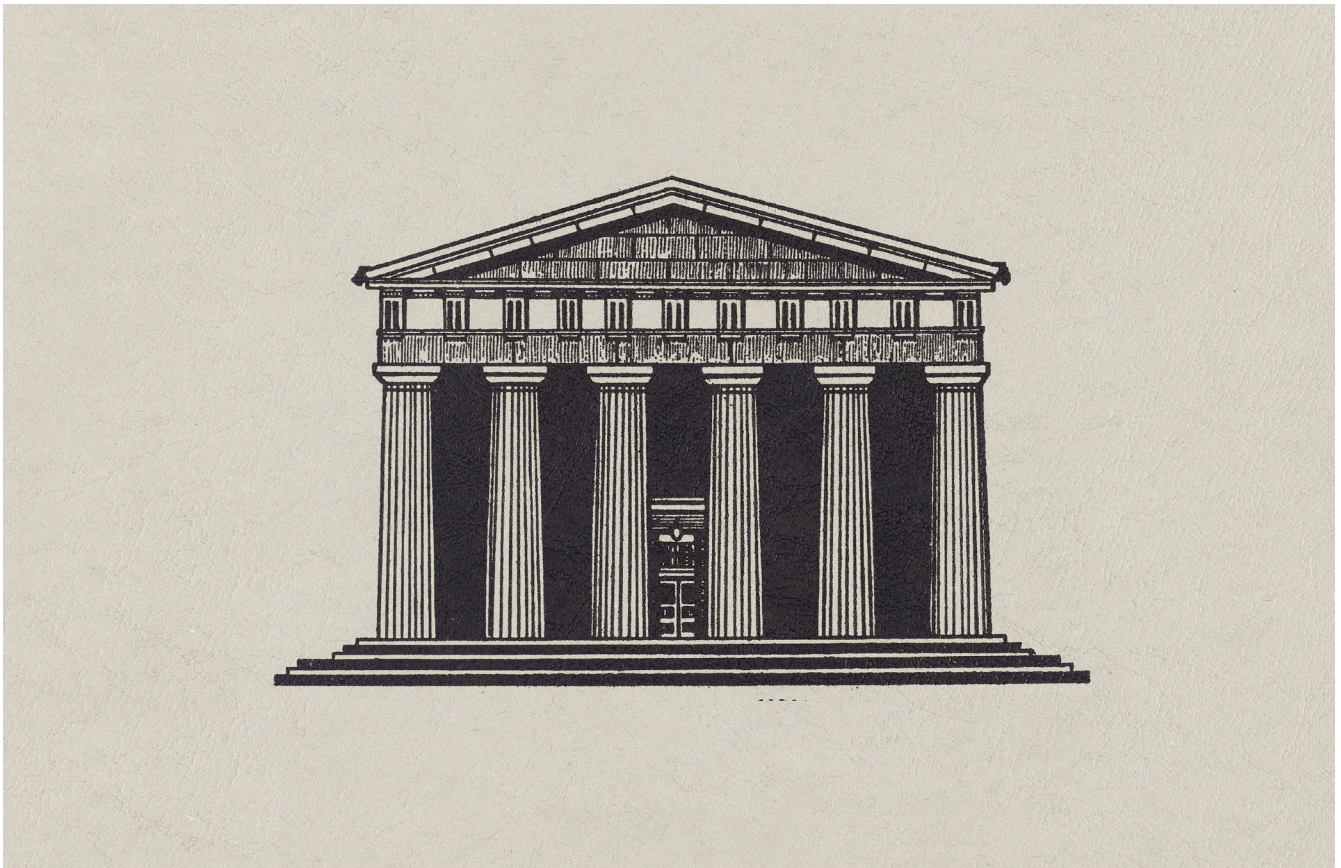


FIGURE 19

Front cover of 1959 Dundee High School commemorative brochure by W P Vannet.
 Courtesy of HES (copied from brochure)

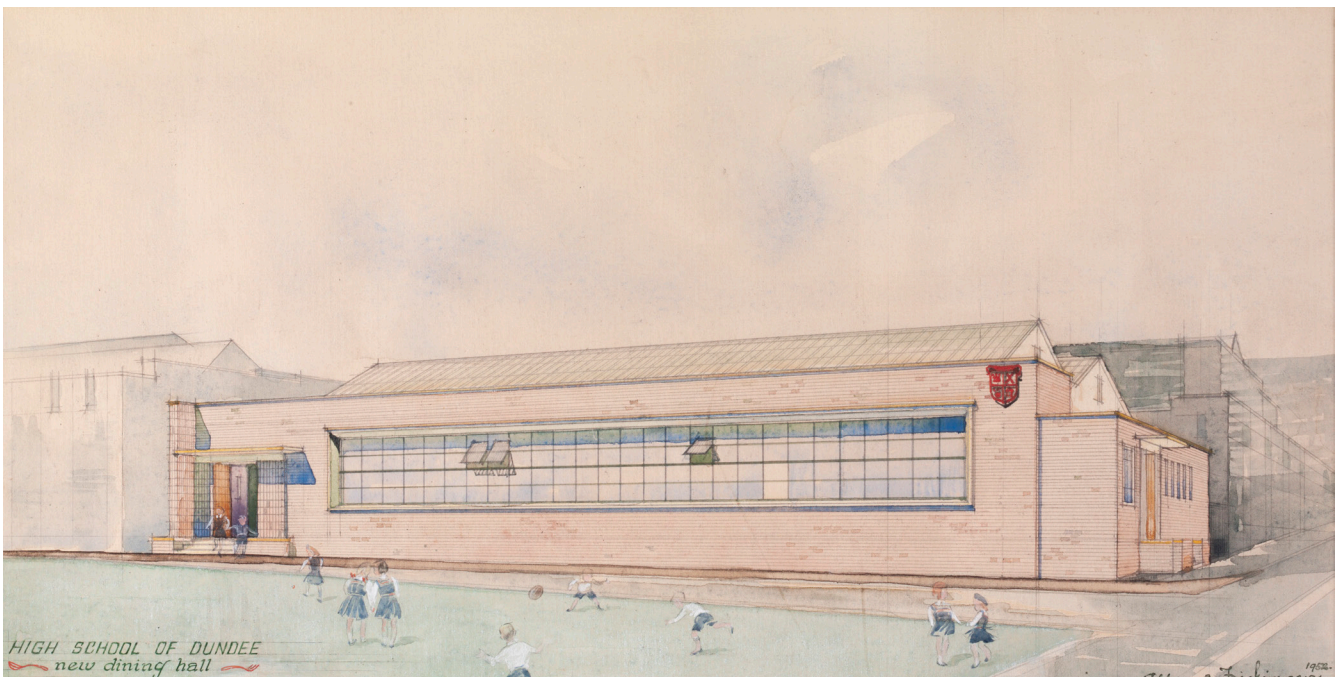
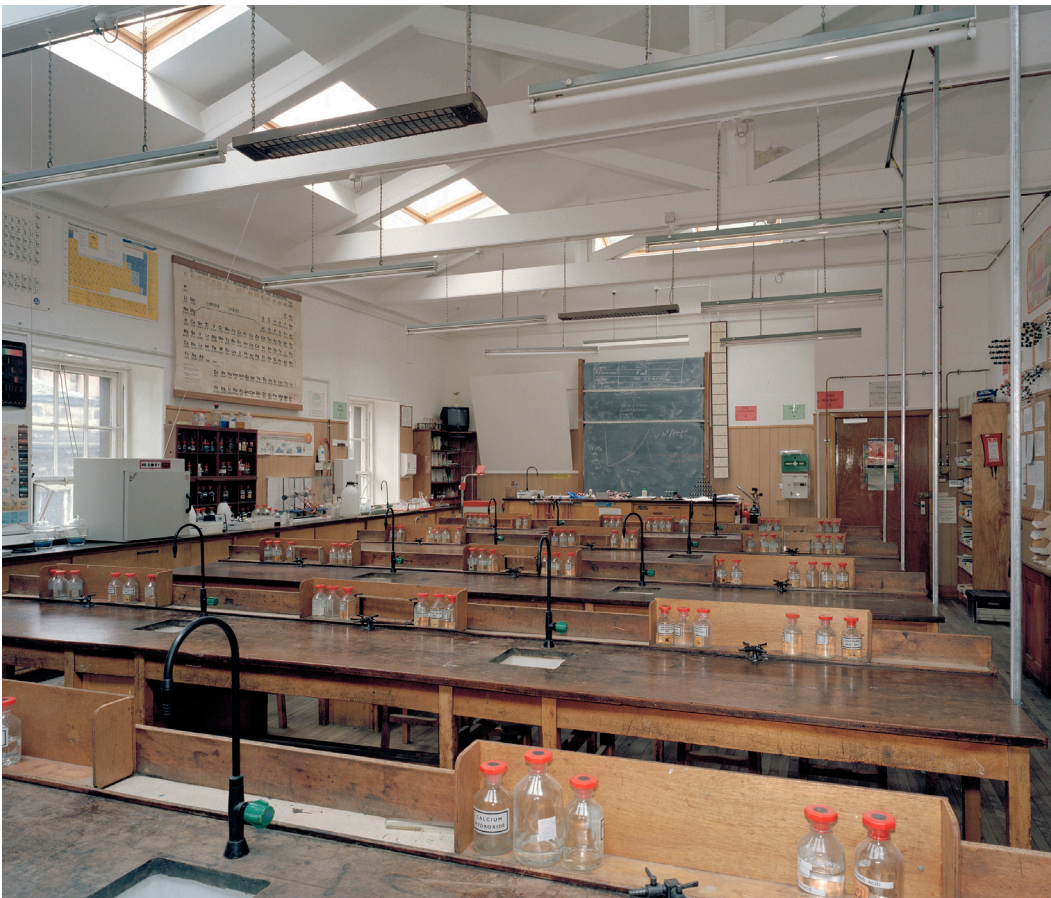


FIGURE 20

2001 view of former Dundee Girl's High School from south-east (incorporated into Dundee High).

HES [DP094003](#)



top left:
FIGURE 21
 2001 view of rebuilt main entrance hall stair from south-east (part of 1956-8 reconstruction).

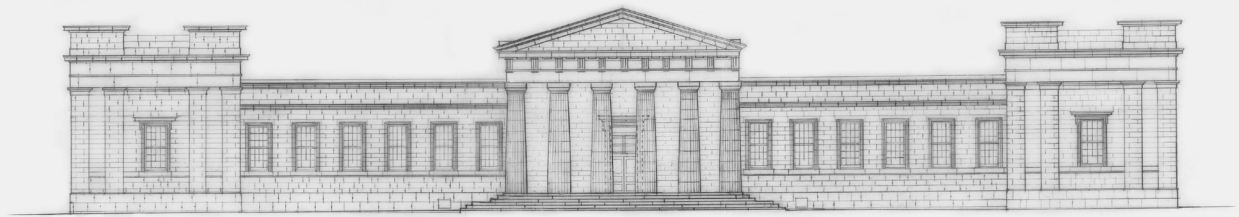
HES [SCI260115](#)

top right:
FIGURE 22
 2001 view of Second World War memorial by T S Halliday, in main entrance hall (part of 1956-8 reconstruction).

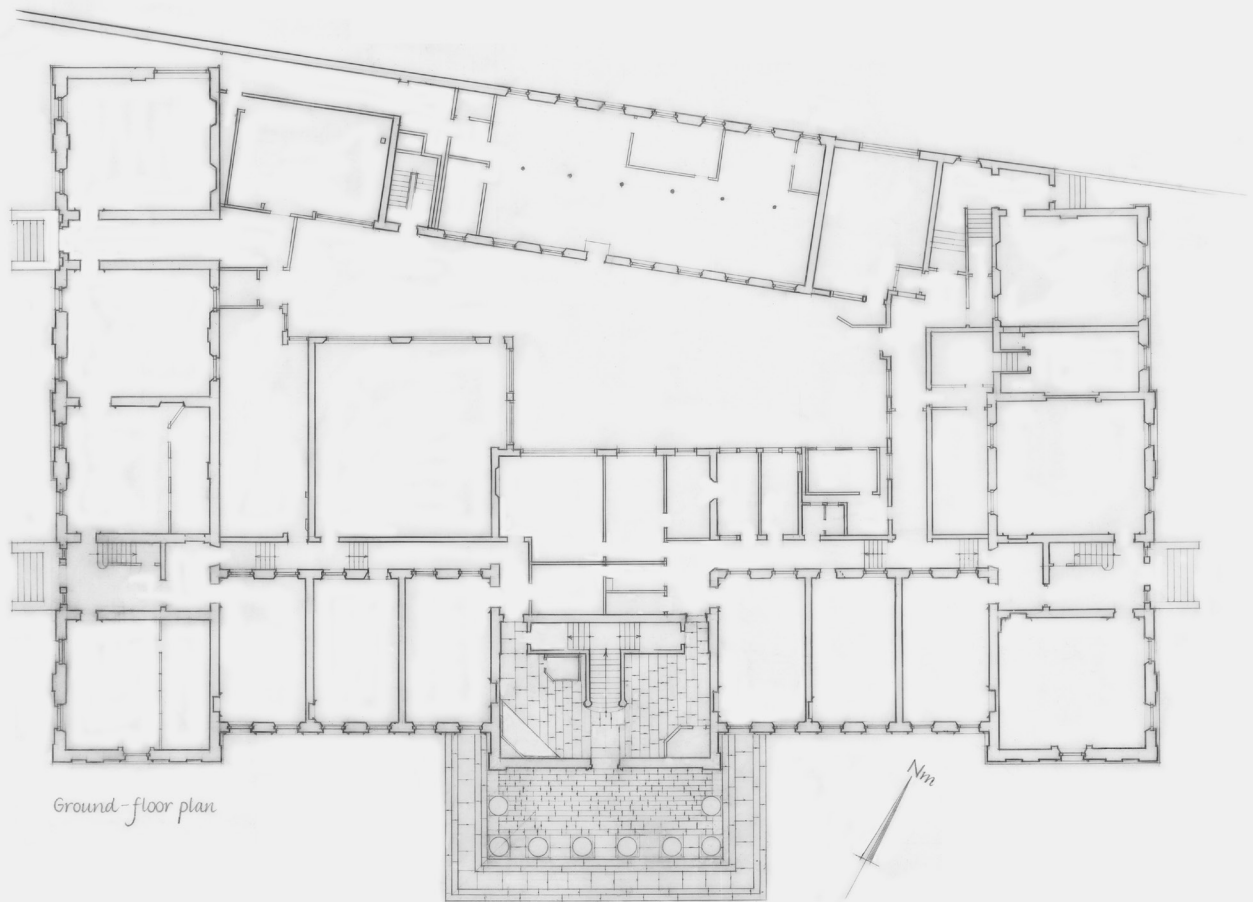
HES [SCI260120](#)

FIGURE 23
 2001 view of science laboratory on the new inserted first floor of the historic main block (part of 1956-8 reconstruction).

HES [SCI260123](#)



South elevation



Ground-floor plan



Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland
 The National Monuments Record of Scotland
 John Sinclair House, 16 Bernard Terrace, Edinburgh, EH8 9NX. Tel 031-662-1456

Region	T.A.	County	Angus	Survey	Method
N01410115	S101815	District	Du	Parish	Dundee
Site name				Dundee, Euclid Crescent, Dundee High school	
Drawing title				Plan, elevation	
Classification				Schools	
Drawn by				Date	
Checked by				Date	
Sheet				1 of 1	
Neg no.				DC 51449	
OS basic scale 1:					
Description					
Drawing no.				DC 51449	

FIGURE 24

HES survey drawing of main elevation and plan of Dundee High in 1990.

HES [SC1359228](#)

**FIGURE 25**

2001 view showing the extent of the late 1950s extensions to the rear of historic main block.

HES [SC1260113](#)

**FIGURE 26**

2001 view from north-west of nineteenth and twentieth century extensions which enclosed the courtyard to the rear of the historic main block. From west to east: 1843 extension to rear of west pavilion by William Scott; 1969 four-storey block by Thoms and Wilkie; 1886 gymnasium and workshop block; and 1964 two-storey block, also by Thoms and Wilkie.

HES [SC681816](#)



FIGURE 27

2010 aerial view of Dundee High from south-east.

HES [DPO95795](#)

Endnotes

¹ William Burn advised, and an Improvement Act followed in 1825, 'An Act for Opening Certain Streets in the Burgh of Dundee and otherwise improving the said Burgh', 6 George IV, 22 June 1825. Three new parallel streets were planned but Reform Street was the only one built (no plan by Burn exists). Reform Street was laid out by James Brewster but designed by George Angus, and was completed in 30 years. See: C McKean, "Not even the trivial grace of a straight line" – or why Dundee never built a New Town', in L Miskell, C A Whatley and B Harris (eds), *Victorian Dundee: Image and Realities*, 2000, p 31; Town Council Meeting, 19 July 1833, plan by J Brewster, Dundee City Archives (DCA), TC, MP3, cited in D M Walker, *Architects and Architecture in Dundee, 1770–1914*, 1964, p 9; RCAHMS, *Dundee on Record*, 1992, p 20.

² *Second Report of the Committee on Schools*, May 1827, pp 4–12 and 21–4, Dundee Central Library. In 1800, Dundee had more non-public schools than any other town in Scotland: R D Anderson, *Education and the Scottish People, 1750–1919*, 2002, p 227. It was reported in 1833 that there was 'no parochial school properly so called' in Dundee: *The New Statistical Account of Scotland (NSA)*, Vol 11, 1833, p 44.

³ A H Millar, *Book of the Bazaar*, Dundee High School Athletic Club, October 1896, p 26.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p 22.

⁵ *Second Report of the Committee on Schools*, pp 4–12. The Webster bequest was L.6000.

⁶ J W W Stephenson, 'Education in the Burgh of Dundee in the Eighteenth Century' (unpublished thesis), DCL local studies collection, D8629A, no date, c1969. The academy was closed in 1792, but revived by the 1789 Webster bequest it was re-established in the hospital, with Duncan becoming the first rector on 2 December 1801. The grammar existed in the thirteenth century and, by 1700, was in a two-storey school built in 1588 (£100 Scots), behind the newly erected tollbooth in St Clement's Wynd. In the early 1730s when the tollbooth was being demolished to make way for a new Adam townhouse, it was rehoused and then returned to the new Tollbooth in 1734. It was suggested that the new building of 1783 should also house the academy with a second floor being added, but no action was taken. For a more detailed account see Stephenson, 'Education in the Burgh of Dundee'.

⁷ *Second Report of the Committee on Schools*, pp 4–12.

⁸ The town council paid an annual amount to the Public Seminaries (as it had for the existing schools), including £11 from the hospital fund to the grammar school (this was still being paid in the 1880s). The town council also subscribed £500 from common good towards the building to aid the £2,500 stipulated from proceeds of ale and beer duty. 'In the progress of the building the directors were unable to pay the contractors the stipulated price for the erections. The contractors raised legal proceedings for adjudging the property in payment of the balance due to them of £1,811 and procured a Degree of Adjudication in favour of the whole subjects. The town council then applied to relieve the buildings, and agreed to pay contractors the balance of their claim on condition that the corner portions of ground facing Euclid Crescent be given off, so as to round the street': see 'The Burgh School, and their Incorporation with the Public Seminaries, 1829', in Scottish Burgh Record Society, *Burgh of Dundee Charteris and Whits*, 1880, p 204, National Library of Scotland.

⁹ At the general meeting of the subscribers to the Public Seminaries of Dundee, held in the guildhall on 23 May 1829, the subscribers thanked the council 'for the liberal, disinterested, and public spirited manner in which they have acceded to the wishes of the inhabitants': 'Constitution of the Public Seminaries of Dundee, Under the Joint Patronage of the Provost, Magistrates and Town Council, and of the Subscribers', 1829, DCL; see also *Burgh of Dundee Charteris and Whits*, p 195.

¹⁰ Millar, *Book of the Bazaar*, 1896.

¹¹ *An Address to the Inhabitants of Dundee on the Unfinished State of the New Buildings, and on the System of Education in the Public Seminaries, From the Directors*, 1834, DCL.

¹² Walker provides a clear account of the competition: see D M Walker, 'William Burn and the Influence of Sir Robert Smirke and William Wilkins on Scottish Greek Revival Design, 1810–40', in A Allan (ed), *Scottish Pioneers of the Greek Revival*, 1984, pp 29–30. The 1834 appeal for additional funds for the Public Seminaries states that Angus's plan was decided upon in 1829, yet building did not begin until 1832.

¹³ *Address to the Inhabitants of Dundee*.

¹⁴ R L Mackie, 'The Dundee Public Seminaries', *The Dundee High School Magazine, Centenary Number 1834–1934*, 1934, NLS; A D Alexander, *The High School of Dundee*, 1964.

¹⁵ *Address to the Inhabitants of Dundee*. It states that it is to be a 'public' rather than private seminary, but its supporters warned against 'the door of a liberal and complete education being thrown more widely open': 'There are indeed persons of respectability and intelligence who contend that the door should be set open altogether, and the fees reduced so low as to admit the children of the very poorest. But this is a scheme which, if adopted, would in all probability not accomplish the benevolent object of its advocates ... A comprehensive education for the child, like every other blessing of life, to be duly valued, must be regarded by the parent as a reward to be earned by his own industry, sobriety, frugality, and care ... There is nothing so extravagant in the rate of fees payable to the teachers in the Dundee Public Seminaries as to shut their door against the child of industrious and frugal parent in any class of life.' By 1868, the social mix was recorded as such: 'they [pupils] belong to all classes of the community; but the English classes, especially the junior ones ... are much more mixed than the others. A number of labourers and working-men's children were found in the English class, and few or none in grammar or academy.' At that time the schools were criticised for their lack of bursaries. See 'XII. Dundee High School' in T Harvey and G C Sellar, *Report on the State of Education at the Burgh and Middle-Class Schools of Scotland*, Vol 2, 1868, in Parliamentary Papers, 1867–8 XXXIX, Education Commission (Scotland), pp 44–61. Anderson claims that before 1872 private schools had a niche in Dundee because they provided either for the very poor or for those willing to pay for social exclusivity: R D Anderson, *Education and Opportunity in Victorian Scotland*, 1983, p 199.

¹⁶ Walker, 'William Burn', pp 29–30.

¹⁷ C Mackie, *Historical Description of the Town of Dundee*, 1836, pp 141–4. The earliest known plan of the ground-floor layout is the Ordnance Survey map of 1858/61.

¹⁸ Mackie, *Town of Dundee*, pp 141–4. The heating contractor was chosen as early as 1827 when Mr Sylvester of Derby was to replicate that 'in use in the Edinburgh Academy': *Second Report of the Committee on Schools*.

¹⁹ Walker details the development of Burn's Grecian designs, and his impact upon his former assistants Angus and George Smith in Walker, 'William Burn'.²⁰ Millar, *Book of the Bazaar*: the Webster bequest of 1789 put the academy on a stronger financial footing than that of the grammar; Mackie records that academy teaching staff was the larger of the two schools: Mackie, *Town of Dundee*, pp 141–4; according to Alexander, eight to nine headmasters acted independently but presided in rotation over a Censor's Court, and later one of directors

exercised general supervision as governor: Alexander, *High School of Dundee*.

²¹ In 1857 another subscription appeal was made on behalf of teachers of modern languages and raised £2,000: Harvey and Sellar, *Report on the State of Education*, p 44.

²² Mackie, *Town of Dundee*.

²³ Dundee Public Seminaries Minute Book, 31 March and 17 August 1853, Dundee High School Archives (DHSA). See J Gifford, *The Buildings of Scotland, Dundee and Angus*, 2012, pp 108–9.

²⁴ In 1866 Dundee High School was one of only a handful of schools which taught sciences at an advanced level: Anderson, *Education and Opportunity*, p 199.

²⁵ Dundee Public Seminaries Minute Book, 2 and 25 June 1857, DHSA.

²⁶ Harvey and Sellar, *Report on the State of Education*, p 46.

²⁷ Cited in Anderson, *Education and Opportunity*, p 199.

²⁸ Alexander, *High School of Dundee*.

²⁹ 'Dundee High School Extensions, Inaugural Ceremonial, Address by Professor Stuart', 1886, reprinted in *Dundee Advertiser*, 28 September 1886, DCL, 209(13).

³⁰ Dundee High School Minutes of Committees, 26 June 1884, DCA. Dean of Guild plans, book 19, pp 225–30, Dundee District Council. 'An Address delivered by Henry Craik, Secretary of the Scottish Education department, on the Occasion of the Opening of the Girls' High School, Dundee, 26 September, 1890', DCL. Information from www.Scottisharchitects.org.uk. There is no reference to Fairley in the Dean of Guild and school archives.

³¹ 'An Address delivered by Henry Craik'. In 1886 it accommodated 300 girls, and was deemed 'in every respect the School is exactly suited for girls who are intending to proceed from the lower and middle classes to the higher classes': 'Dundee High School Extensions'.

³² Dundee High School Minutes of Committees, 1 March 1886, DCA. Additions were made to the gymnasium block in the 1890s, and the unbuilt areas east and west of the block were filled by architect Thoms & Wilkie in 1964 and 1969 (four storey): Dundee City Council Building Control Plans, February 1969.

³³ 'Dundee High School Extensions'.

³⁴ *Dundee High School Magazine*, June 1949, DHSA.

³⁵ *The High School of Dundee Magazine, Reconstruction Number*, No. 124, June 1958. The completion of Phase 1 was formally marked by a ceremony attended by 2,000 people in the Caird Hall on 25 March 1958. Phase 2 planned a new assembly hall at a cost of £40,000.

³⁶ Alexander, *High School of Dundee*.

