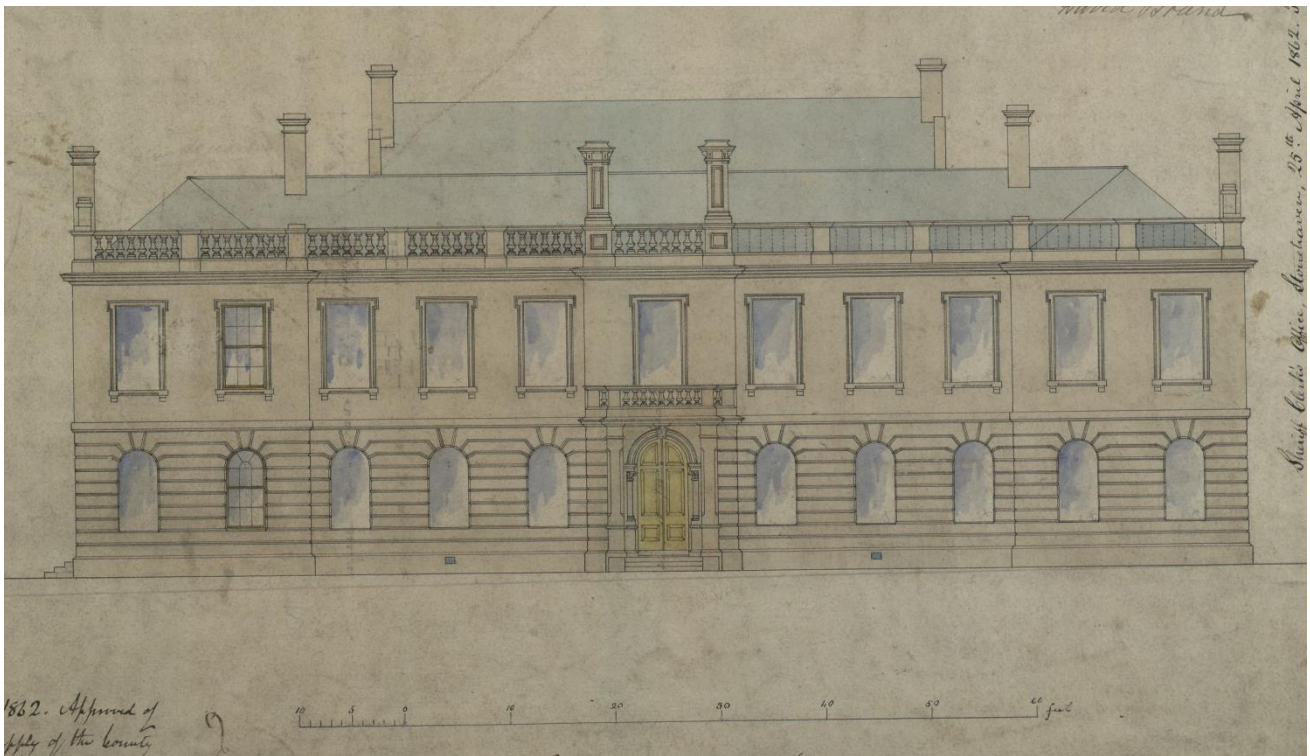


Stonehaven Court Building



Conservation Statement

January 2016



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Stonehaven Court Building Conservation Statement

Introduction

1.0 This is one of a series of documents informing decisions that need to be made to achieve a viable re-occupation of Stonehaven's Court House. Scotland's historic environment strategy, *Our Place in Time* (Scottish Government, 2014) advises that '*Effective management of the historic environment begins with proper understanding of the significance and values, that is, from having a full understanding of the asset to ensure that future decisions are appropriately informed.*' The conservation statement serves this purpose.

1.1 The statement's goal is to set out the historic character of the building and the conservation status of the areas currently available for re-use, to document them for future reference so that Stonehaven Town Partnership (STP) can identify those features and properties which need to be preserved and respected in any future development. The immediate next stage will be the generation of a conversation management plan, setting out how it is intended to meet the various requirements, statutory and otherwise, toward the conservation and forward management of this listed building.

1.2 This document draws from the Heritage Lottery Fund Conservation Plan Guidance (October 2012) and that of the Prince's Regeneration Trust. It has been prepared by The Heritage Place and Jonathan Gotelee Architect, with STP. The authors are grateful to Ruaraidh Wishart of Aberdeenshire Archives, Professor David Walker and the Princes Regeneration Trust for their help in the development of this plan.

Scope

2.0 This conservation statement reviews the development of the Court Building, considers its historical context, setting and significance. It provides advice on relevant planning policy. The report touches on the building's condition, identifies conservation issues and risks. It is not about the future management and maintenance of the Court Building. The recommendations outline potential steps to be taken to advance the findings at this stage. The statement provides a platform from which to deliver a full Management and Maintenance Plan once the particulars of future occupation are determined.



Part One: Building and Setting

Current Status

3.1 Stonehaven Court Building was vacated by the Scottish Court Service in 2014 and has been secured subsequently with a view to marketing the property. One challenge posed for future owners arises from the sub-division of the historic fabric and the areas available for subsequent occupation. The Court Services possess the majority portion of the former Sherriff Court but the nature and extent of the division varies according to the layout of the floors.

3.2 Police Scotland occupies the eastern portion and ground floor areas below that at first floor to the south and centre of the block in the Court Service's possession.

3.3 The historic building is on two storeys (with differing levels), in a U-plan form that has evolved from a simple rectangular core, over two centuries (see below). The principal classical section by which the building is best-known, fronting Dunnottar Avenue, dates to 1863-65, and was designed by the leading Victorian architect, James Campbell Walker.

Historical Development

1779-1816

4.0 From the Middle Ages the most common form of prison in medieval Scotland was that of cells in the burgh tollbooth: Stonehaven was no exception.¹ The Tolbooth on the town's Old Pier (originally a granary) by the harbour served this purpose from about 1600 when Stonehaven became the County Town of Kincardineshire. The courthouse was on the first floor with the ground floor housing the prison.² However, in 1779 the Commissioners of Supply for the County of Kincardine agreed to build a new 'Court House and Prison'. The Minutes for 13 April 1779 record the consideration of Sheriff Scott's, recommendation noting that '*they highly approved of the Plan and unanimously resolved to engage not only to afford their aid to the scheme by paying secondary to the organisation of the said Letters.... And they appoint the Resolution and Recommendation to be published in the Mercury and the Aberdeen Journal.*'³

4.1 The plot chosen was some 150 yards west of the boundary of the then town of Stonehaven (now referred to as the 'Old Town'). It was to accommodate the functions previously provided by the old Tolbooth jail and sheriff court room on the Old Pier (now serving as the Tolbooth Museum).

4.2 Later plans show that the 1779 building was a simple rectangle, entered from the shorter east and west side elevations with 4 openings to the north and south elevations, with a further door to right of centre on the south.

4.3 The building had sufficient authority for the Rev James Walker to record of Stonehaven in The Statistical Account for Scotland 1791-99, for the Parish of Dunnottar, that '*The principal support for the town has been derived from the sheriff court which has its seat here.*'⁴

4.4 The building was at least adequately maintained: the Minutes of the Commissioners of Supply record, for example, a payment in April 1811 ‘To George Main Blacksmith, Stonehaven nineteen pounds, three shillings and five pence sterling in full of an account of Repairs to the County Hall.’⁵

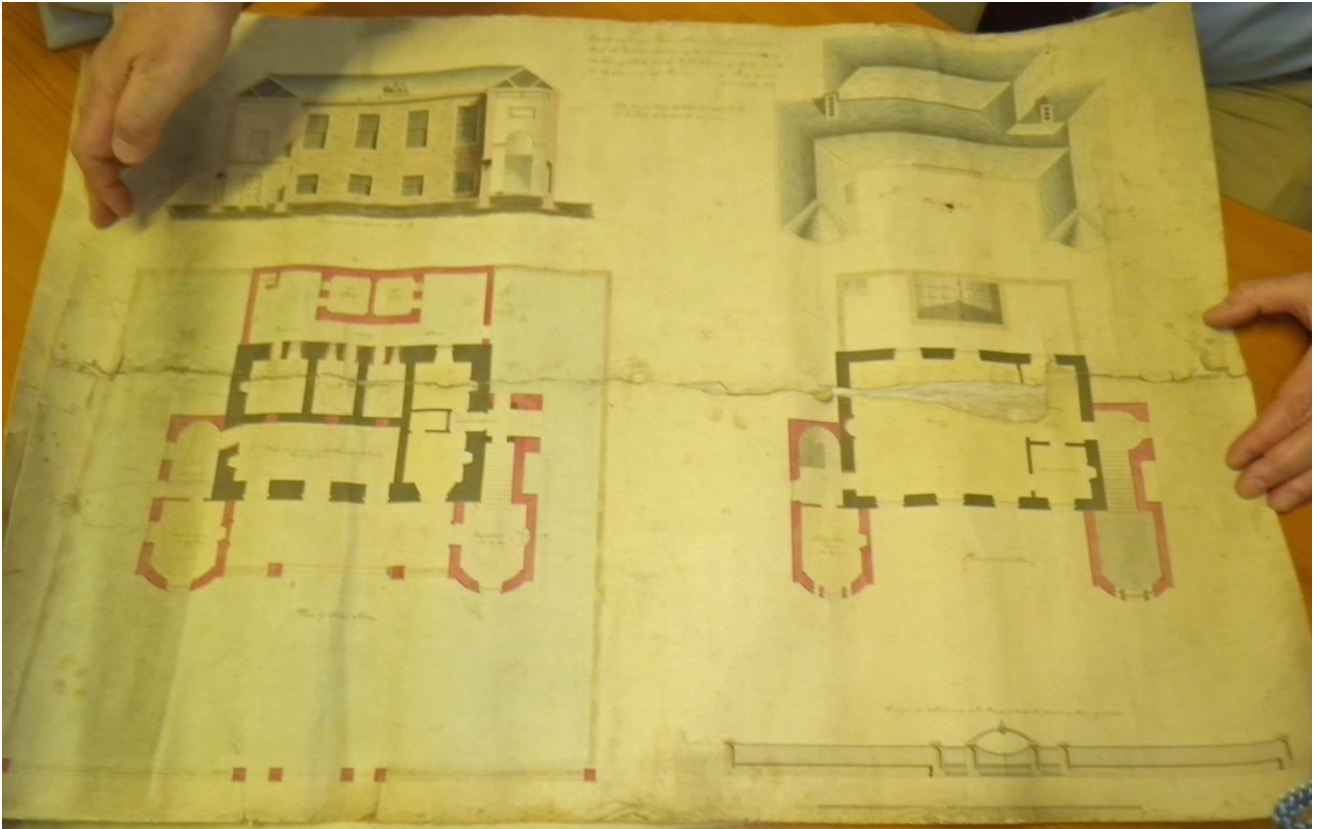


Figure 1. Unexecuted Plan – possibly by John Paton or John Paterson in 1817 or John Smith in 1821. SCS.

1817-1822

4.5 During the early 1800s, Stonehaven expanded as a ‘New Town’ was built to the north of the Court Building (shown on John Wood’s Plan of the Town dated 1823). Simultaneously, its role as the county town of the prosperous Kincardineshire grew.

4.6 Accordingly, the compact building failed to accommodate the growing requirements of the burgeoning town and by April 1817, ahead of the Act of 1819 which authorised (but did not compel) commissioners of supply to contribute towards the improving, enlarging or rebuilding of prisons, the Stonehaven Commissioners of Supply responsibly supported the motion ‘to assess the County for building an addition to the County Hall.’⁶ Meeting in Stonehaven in May they agreed to obtain specifications for the building and in advertising these to offer a premium for the best plan and estimate to be considered at the Michaelmas meeting.⁷ By September, plans for ‘the Additional Apartments necessary for the accommodation necessary for the Sheriff Clerk and the Records of the County and for the jailor and Prisoners’ had been received. These were one by John Paton of Edinburgh and five by George Smith of Aberdeen.⁸ Paton is described in

Colvin's *Biographical Dictionary of British Architects* (in the entry for his son, David) as a successful speculative developer in Edinburgh. George Smith (1793-1877) began his career in Aberdeen but soon moved to Edinburgh.⁹ A committee was established to raise the necessary funds for the work and:

'without the necessity of applying to Parliament and thereby occasioning an additional expense of several hundred pounds to the County.to fix on any of the Plans now produced or any other containing similar accommodation that may appear fit and proper [and] carry these resolutions into effect'.

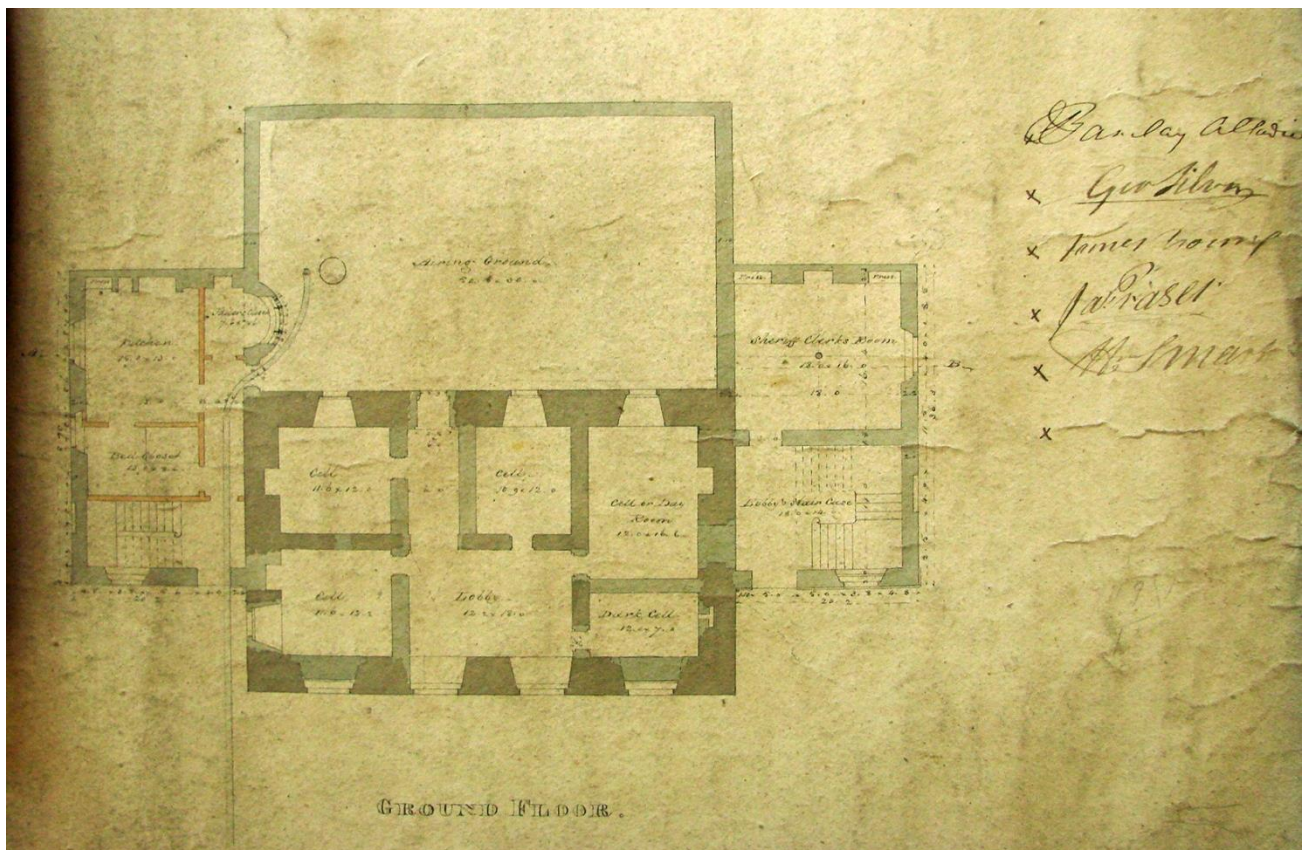


Figure 2. *Ground floor plan of unidentified prison, 1821, identifiable as that of Stonehaven County Building and showing additions proposed.* Reproduced by permission of Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Archives (Cat No DD1425/13).

4.7 While an unexecuted plan exists for the work (Figure 1) it has been attributed both to John Smith (1781-1852), and to John Paterson (List Description), while neither are named in the Minutes or the newspaper reports in connection with the additions. This plan shows additional wings projecting to the north and a block addition to the south, neither of which conform with what was realised. Colvin cites reference to John Smith's authorship in an edition of the *Aberdeen Journal* that does not exist (1 January 1822) and the matter is not recovered from a rigorous search in the months around for any equivalent. *Tolbooths and Town-houses* cites a plan of circa 1821 in the NMRS: however upon enquiry no such plan can be traced in their archive.¹⁰ It seems probable that these sources have referred erroneously to the unexecuted plan by Paterson / Paton/ Smith of 1817.

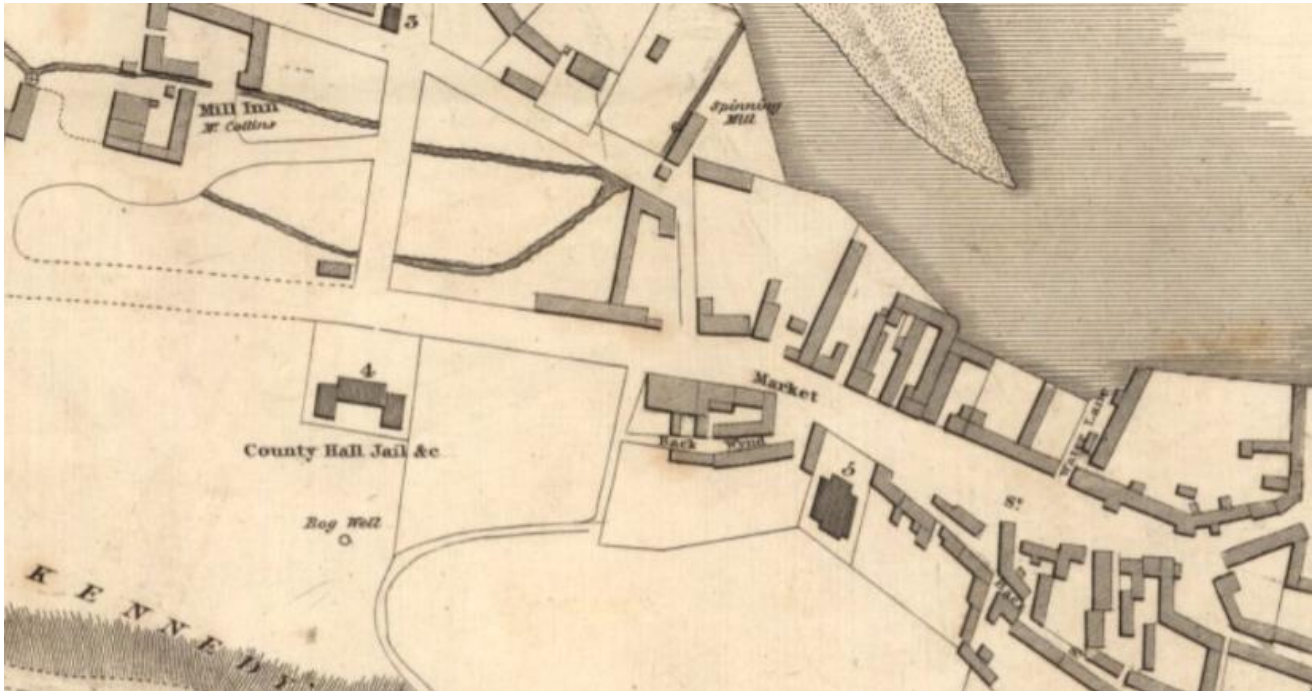


Figure 3. John Wood, Plan of the Town of Stonehaven, 1823. Reproduced by permission of the National Library of Scotland.

4.8 The *Aberdeen Journal* in January 1822 advises that the committee appointed to realise the 1817 resolutions for the new county building had stalled.¹¹ To break the stalemate, Mr Barclay of Ury, at the meeting of the Commissioners on 18 December 1821, had recommended a simpler, less extravagant plan be advanced than those submitted in 1817. The plan of the work executed is currently lodged as 'Ground floor plan of unidentified prison' in the Aberdeenshire Archives (Figure 2).¹² It matches the description given by Barclay of what was required and his signature, and that of his seconder at the meeting, Mr Silver, both of whom were nominated to join the revived committee, are on the plan. The plan shows the original block of 1779 with recessed additions to east and west. It proposed the blinding of the outer windows to the north elevation and the narrowing of the door on the south and changes to internal walls to create five cells at ground opening off a central lobby to the north. The east wing addition contained a house (kitchen, bed closet and stair) and the west wing, a Sherriff Clerk's Room and principal stair lobby, and a large rectangular airing ground was enclosed to the south.

4.9 This plan conforms to the footprint shown in John Wood's later map of the town of 1823 (Plan of the Town of Stonehaven, see Figure 3) and is close to the illustration of the 'County House' in A Gibbs' *Views in Stonehaven* of 1840, Figure 4. We can accordingly presume that this, with minor alterations, is what was realised, if it is unsigned and no architect is named. Wood's Plan labels the building as the 'County Hall Jail &c'. The Gibb drawing shows a building with small windows at ground and tall multi-pane sash windows at first floor above. The main building has a steeply pitched piended roof with tall slender wallhead stacks on the east and west gable ends. The lower, recessed flanking pavilions added to each gable have a cornice and blocking course at wallhead. The whole shows the

authority and dignity brought by its classical symmetry and underlined by the fine iron railings and three pairs of pyramidally-capped ashlar gatepiers lining the street.

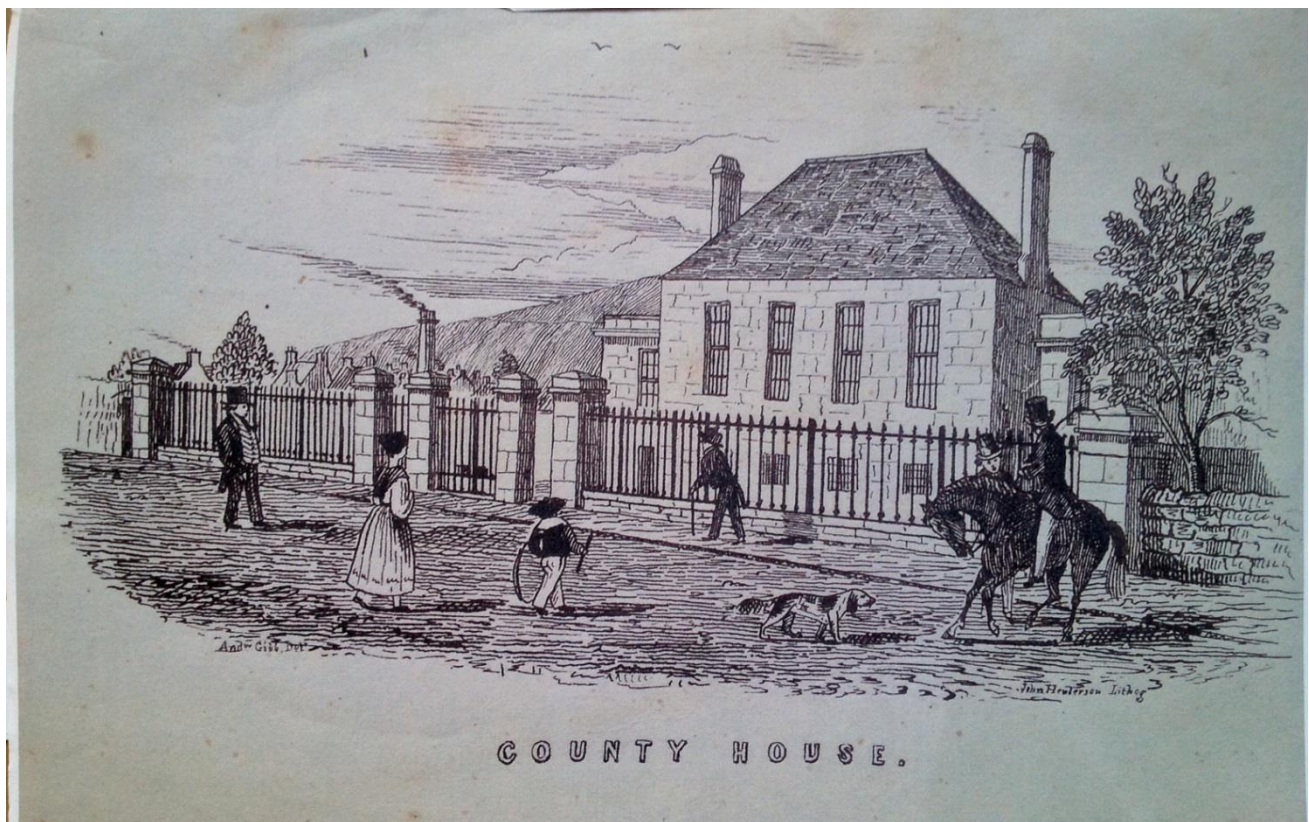


Figure 4. Illustration from A Gibb, *Views in Stonehaven*, 1840, showing the north elevation of the County Building.

1823-1859

4.10 Despite discussion in the meetings of the Commissioners of Supply from 1828 on a proposed Bill amending the laws for Gaols in Scotland to require greater provision of prison accommodation and despite the First Report of the Board of Directors of Prisons in Scotland recording in 1839 that there were only 178 buildings functioning as prisons, all unfit for the purpose, nothing further was done to address this in Stonehaven before 1841.¹³

4.11 No substantial changes had been made to the building by 1837 when the Prison Inspectors Second Report detailed five cells opening into a central lobby on the ground floor of the court house. This meets the description of rooms shown in the 'unidentified plan', suggesting that no further changes had yet been made.

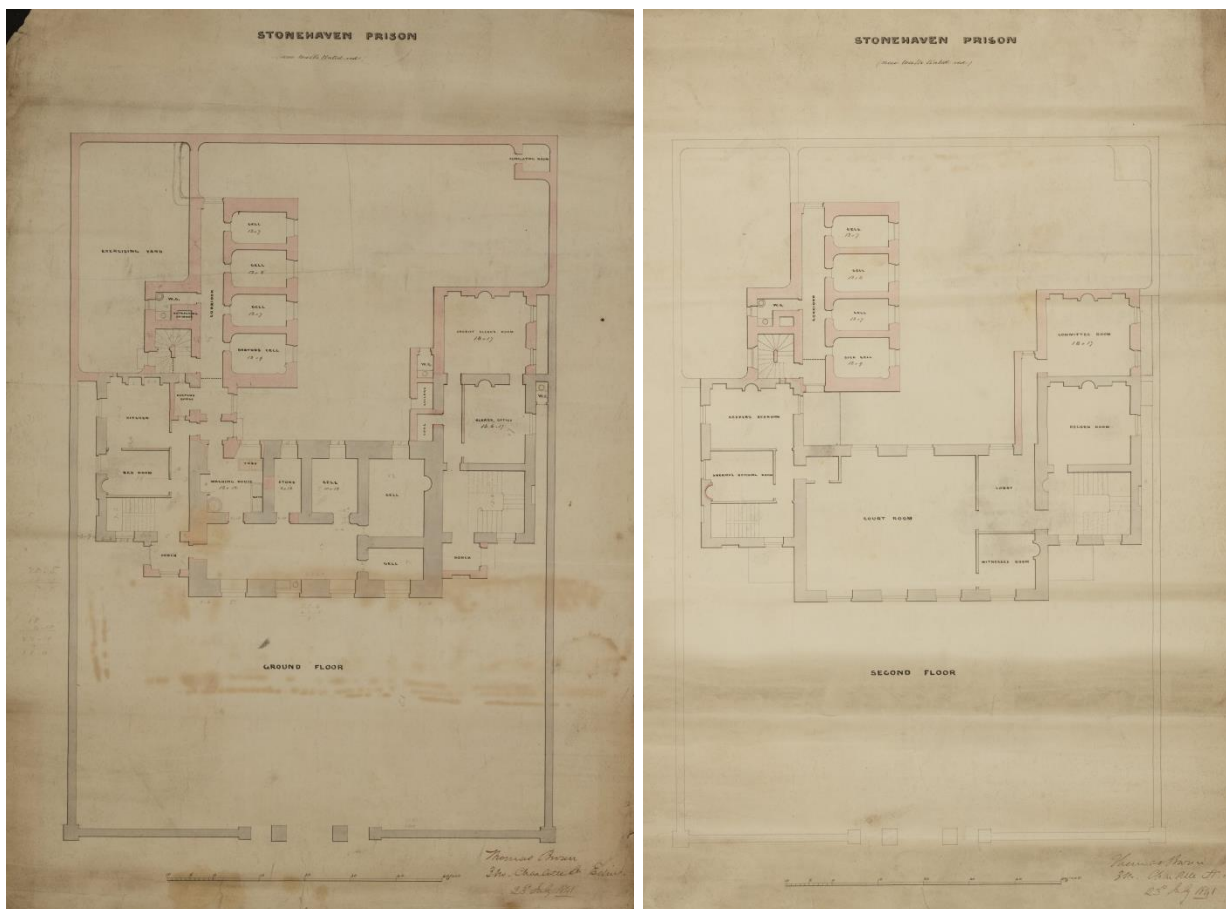
4.12 Nothing had changed visibly on the ground five years later in January 1842 when the Rev Alexander Irvine, Minister of Dunnottar, reported on the Court Building in the *New Statistical Account*.¹⁴ He explained that:

'In the town of Stonehaven are the county buildings, containing a spacious hall, appropriately fitted up as a court room, with committee rooms, and offices for the sheriff-clerk, and on the basement are cells for prisoners with a gaoler's house. Some late additions have greatly improved the appearance of these

buildings; but the huge precipitous roof of the main building is a deformity which still remains to be remedied.'

4.13 This description accords with the work of the 1820s, which continued housing the prisoners in the ground floor rooms and provided residential accommodation for the gaoler, the building smartened by the classical form of the pavilion additions but still with a substantial hipped roof.

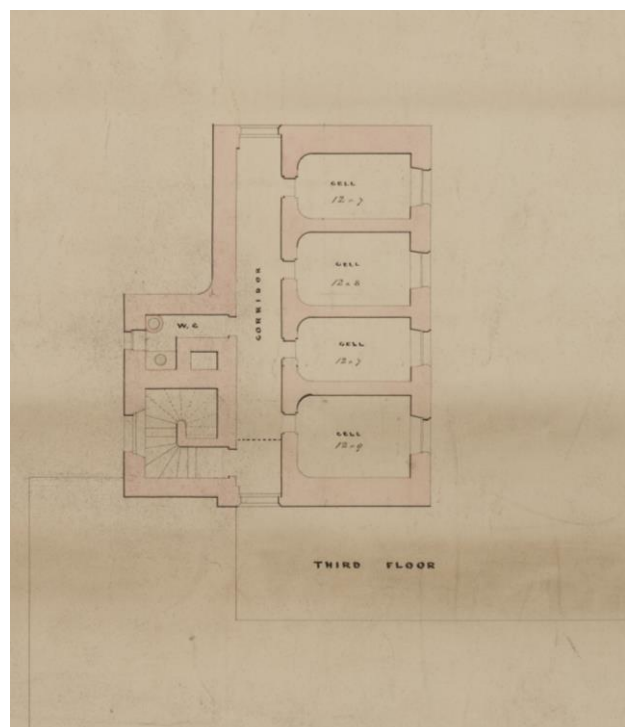
4.14 However, the Rev Irvine was unaware that plans were in gestation to add a substantial three-storey cell block to the rear of the Court Building, the plans for which were prepared by Thomas Brown II (1806-72) in 1841.¹⁵ The need for the expansion was fuelled by fresh legislation and requirements. In 1835, the House of Lords had ordered a Committee to examine the State of Gaols and this led to the Prisons Act of 1835.¹⁶ While the Act did not apply in Scotland, the Committee's findings led to a system of annual Prison inspections and report to the Government UK-wide. It appears that Brown's appointment was to address deficiencies in the state of Scottish prisons, to ensure that the cities and county towns of Scotland all possessed adequate prison accommodation and the annual reports should show a good standard.



Figures 5 and 6. Thomas Brown's Ground and 'Second' Floor Plans for the addition of a cell block to County Building to create Stonehaven Prison, signed and dated 23 July 1841. National Records of Scotland, RHP 21747 and RHP21749.

4.15 Thomas Brown was apprenticed to his father, an architect-builder in West Lothian and, in 1837, was appointed architect to the Prison Board of Scotland, gaining an office in North Charlotte Street, Edinburgh in 1838.¹⁷ Over the next decade, Brown added to or altered many existing prisons and court houses to improve provision, for example: Elgin, 1839; Stonehaven, 1841; Dingwall, 1842; Dornoch, 1842; Dunfermline, 1843; Tain, 1843; Campbeltown, 1845; Wigtown, 1846; Inveraray, 1844; and Stirling, 1848.

4.16 The 3-storey cell block which Brown designed for Stonehaven was added early in 1842 to the south-east of the building. The plans show in pink wash the additions made. The grey wash on the plans detailing the building being altered proves that the 'Unidentified Plan' (Figure 2) was indeed of the Stonehaven building as it accords closely. The cell block has four cells on each floor, with debtors and sick room contained in the northern cells of ground and second (in fact first) floor, with 'extracting chimney to the east by the single water closet provided on each of the three floors. The two-storey addition to the south west range contained a Sheriff Clerk's Room at ground and a Committee Room at first floor above. The narrow addition to the re-entrant angle at its east contained coal, cellars and water closet (running north to south) at ground, and a linking access passage for the Committee Room to the Court Room above. The substantial boundary wall with 'Exercising Yard' to the south-east and 'Fumicating Room' in the south-west corner, shows a very narrow passage running between it and the east elevation, admitting light but with no room for vehicular access.



Figures 7 and 8. Detail of Thomas Brown's plan showing West Elevation and Third Floor Plan for the addition of a cell block to County Building to create Stonehaven Prison, signed and dated 23 July 1841. National Records of Scotland, RHP 217451.

4.17 Pressure on the building was not, however, satisfied by this work. A constable's quarters and further cells with narrow passage and stair up to the court room, with access

created at first floor in the re-entrant angle of the rear courtyard, were added to the south-west in 1847. The advert in the local press on 20 January 1847 invited tenders for this as '*Building on the Prison Ground at Stonehaven a Police Office of stone, apartment and lock up House containing 2 cells.*'¹⁸ We may presume that Brown, in his role as architect to the Board, was also responsible for the designs. The complexity of arrangements emerging from this accrual of elements equates with contemporary civil courts elsewhere, each characterised by quite intricate circulation patterns to accommodate the increasingly diverse functions and satisfy operational propriety. The work appears also to have moved the perimeter walls to east and west several feet further out and altered that to the north, creating rounded corners to the projecting area between cell block and west range.

4.18 The 1840s additions are evidenced as built in the OS map of 1864 and subsequent plans of 1862, Figures 10, 12 and 32). They show the 1840s extension of the court building's wings southward to contain the police function, with the addition of the substantial cell block to the east wing beyond the sheriff clerk's house and lock-up and constable's apartment to the west. An account of the 1842 cell block in circa 1983, together with a photographic record made at this time (see Figure 5), advises that the cell block contained a run of cells on each floor with washrooms on the opposite side of the corridor and a stair at the northern end.¹⁹ The cells were barrel-vaulted in brick, entered through heavy timber doors with large iron locks and latch-type peepholes. Besides each door was a small glazed spy-light. The floors were flagstoned and natural light was provided through small high-level windows guarded by iron bars. A policemen's living room and various stores were added to the west wing together with a narrow passage and stair running along the courtyard elevation and accessing the court room in the re-entrant angle.



Figure 9. The 3-storey, 4-bay prison cell block added 1842 and lock-up and apartment of 1847. Photograph taken 1983, showing further contextual changes and an additional bay to the south east, prior to their demolition in 1983. © Courtesy of Historic Environment Scotland.



Figure 10. Ground plan from OS Town Plan, 1864. Reproduced by permission of the National Library of Scotland.

4.19 The masonry used for the court building, from its origins in 1779 through its evolution to 1847, was the local red sandstone, squared.²⁰

1860-1889

4.20 In 1860, taking into account the new requirements of the Sheriff Court House Act of that year, the Commissioners determined, on the advice of Robert Matheson, architect to her Majesty's Board of Works, that Stonehaven's three-times extended county building was inadequate.²¹ Following a report by *'Mr Walker, Architect'*, the Commissioners determined at first that adaptation of the existing building was not an option and invited architects to submit designs for 'an entirely new' county building costing no more than £6450.²² Half of the total cost of the construction or alteration of the court buildings was, according to the Act, to be paid for by the Commissioners of His Majesty's Treasury with the other half paid for by assessment. Several architects entered the competition but J Campbell Walker's design was found to be the most suitable. He was, of course, the 'Mr Walker' who had been consulted previously. Working to the budget available he chose not to design a new building but to fulfil the brief through a substantial extension re-fronting the existing fabric and improving its provision.²³

4.21 Campbell Walker's plans and estimates were sanctioned by the Secretary of State and the Treasury in 1862 under the terms of the Act of Parliament and approved in 1863.²⁴ The plans show the addition of a symmetrical, two-storey, classical block, wrapped around the north elevation of the existing court building and cell block. It was constructed in fine yellow sandstone, in ashlar, channelled at ground, with an advanced single storey porch at centre and full-height outer bays all crowned at eaves with a decorative balustrade.

This change from the local red sandstone alone would ensure the building made a statement. The new block was just one room-and-corridor deep. It presents to Dunnottar

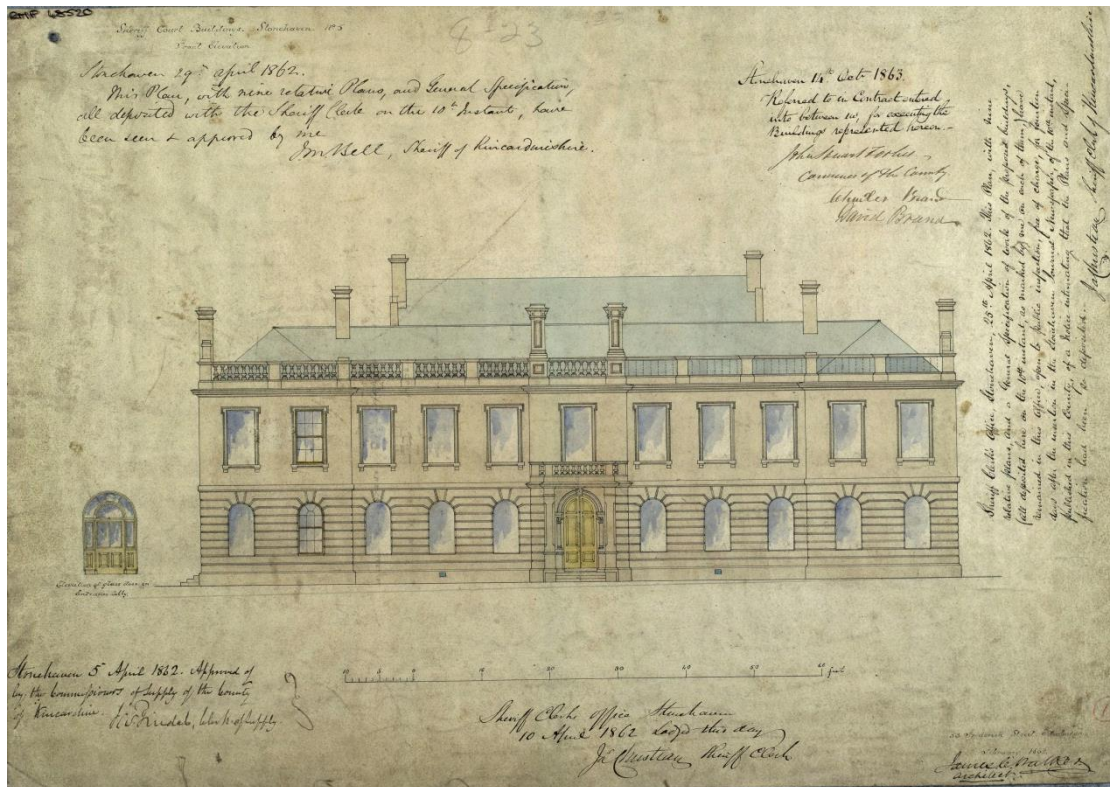


Figure 11. J Campbell Walker, Principal Elevation, February 1862, National Records of Scotland, RHP48520.

Avenue an impressive front and the appearance of a single build. The 1822 wings were minimally altered from their recent additions but further additions were made, notably an additional cell to each floor of the cell block (sympathetically in the red sandstone used in 1842 to allow for a unified finish). The long elevations of the original building were altered to accommodate, on the south elevation, new windows at ground and to the court room above, and to the north (then an internal wall) new access arrangements from Walker's addition to the cells and court room to the south.

4.22 The *Stonehaven Journal* indicates that the new building was nearing completion by February 1865 when works to finish off the ground which it occupied were underway.²⁵ The Ordnance Survey map of 1865 shows the execution of Walker's plans with the new frontage and names it as the 'County Buildings'.

4.23 The decoration of the interior of the Court Buildings now in situ, predominantly dates to the re-decoration of 1863-5. Walker's plans include the design for the Court Room ceiling (with the roof plan). The current furnishings and arrangement of the court room survive from this period, including the heating chamber below, accessed through a trap door by the dock.

4.24 The grandness of the design suited the Commissioners understandable ambition for a new building while limiting the costs to the county. Although sometimes referred to as the County Buildings, in fact the only functions recorded as using the building at the time were the Sheriff's and Justices of the Peace courts, and their ancillary functions.

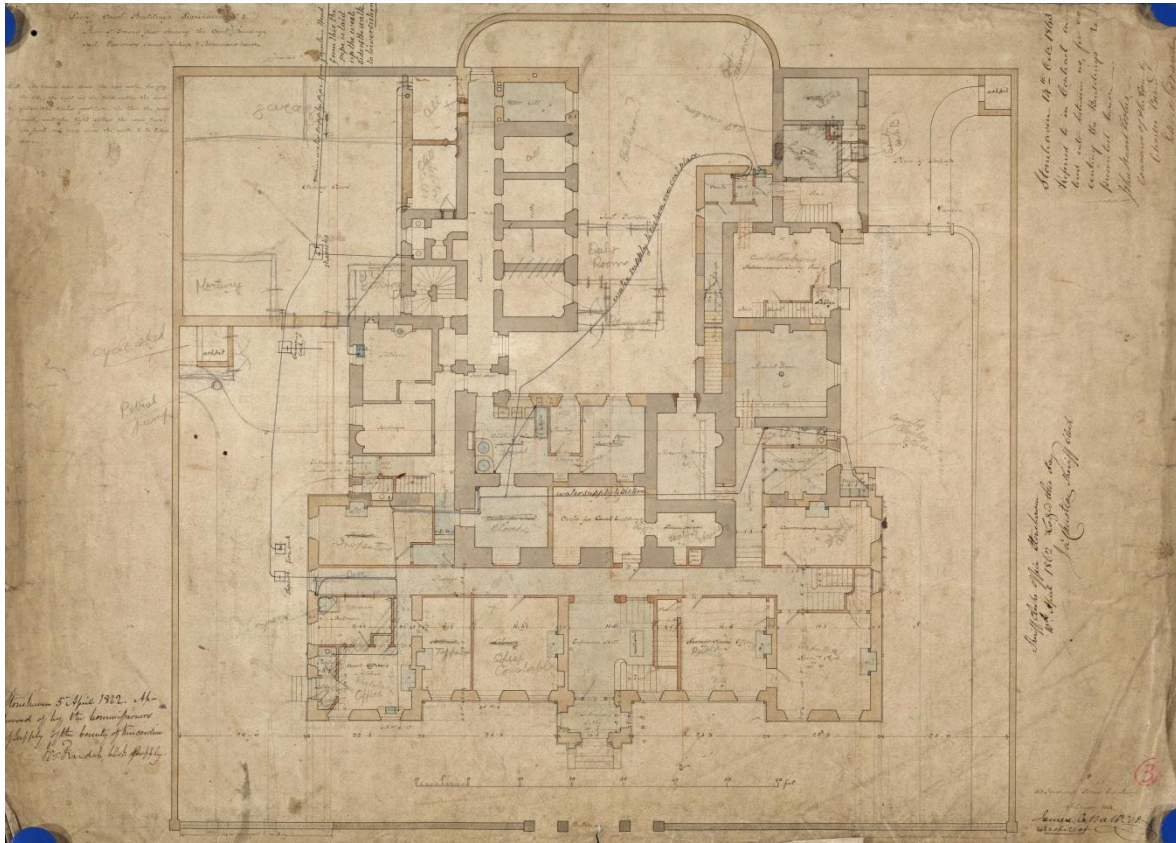


Figure 12. J Campbell Walker, Ground Floor Plan, February 1862, National Records of Scotland, RHP48516.

1890-1949

4.25 The next phase of the building's life began in 1890 with changes brought by the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act of that year.²⁶ This Act rationalised the anomaly whereby some burghs had an elected body of police commissioners and a town council. It led to the establishment of a Police Burgh in Stonehaven with a Police Court and Chief Constable. The County Council agreed that the Police could share the County Building for this purpose and the inaugural meeting was held there in August 1890.²⁷ The County Building served also as the County Police Headquarters until 1949.²⁸

4.26 It appears that the existing accommodation suited this dual occupation comfortably and only two minor physical changes were made to the exterior in extending the functions of the building at this stage. These are shown on plans of circa 1948 of the ground and first floor of the building made by Walker and Duncan, Engineers, Surveyors, Architects of Aberdeen. The additions comprised only a weights and measures room, squaring the stepped southern end of the east wing, and a porch in the recessed area of the courtyard providing yard access from cell block and sergeant's house. The functions of the various rooms otherwise vary little from those indicated in the 1863-5 additions.²⁹ The east wing, first added c1820, continued to provide residential accommodation if by 1948 this was rather for the sergeant than the sheriff clerk. The old 18th century cells continued to be used as stores.

improved access was needed at this point for police vehicles. New parking facilities determined new free-standing provision and boundary wall to the south of the courtyard.

4.30 Plans for further alterations drawn up in 1992 and 1993 by Bernard Thorpe, surveyors of Glasgow with DTZ, property consultants, comprised a general overhaul of the building which removed historic chimneypieces, blocked the fireplace and renewed the electrics and heating systems. However, not all works proposed were executed, for example, the rooflights to the courtyard pitch over the court room roof were not replaced with salvaged and Burlington Eltenwater slates. Lime mortar was specified for the repointing works to the south elevation but cement was used by the contractors.

4.31 A fire in 1994 caused some damage to the fiscal's office and stair well, but no courts were cancelled. Minor alterations to the Court Room ensued, including moving the dock back, moving the witness box and removing some benches.

4.32 In 1997, the major part of the centre of Stonehaven including the Court Building was designated as a Conservation Area (see Appendix 3).

4.33 Works necessary to improve the Court Building's compliance with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act, were identified in 2003 and approved in 2004 and 2005. These included the installation of a platform lift in the entrance lobby, securing of carpets and the addition of hand rails. The table of works stated that the necessary inclusion of a Disabled Toilet would be attended under a separate contract. Soon after 2009 toilets at the east end of the upper corridor were converted accordingly.

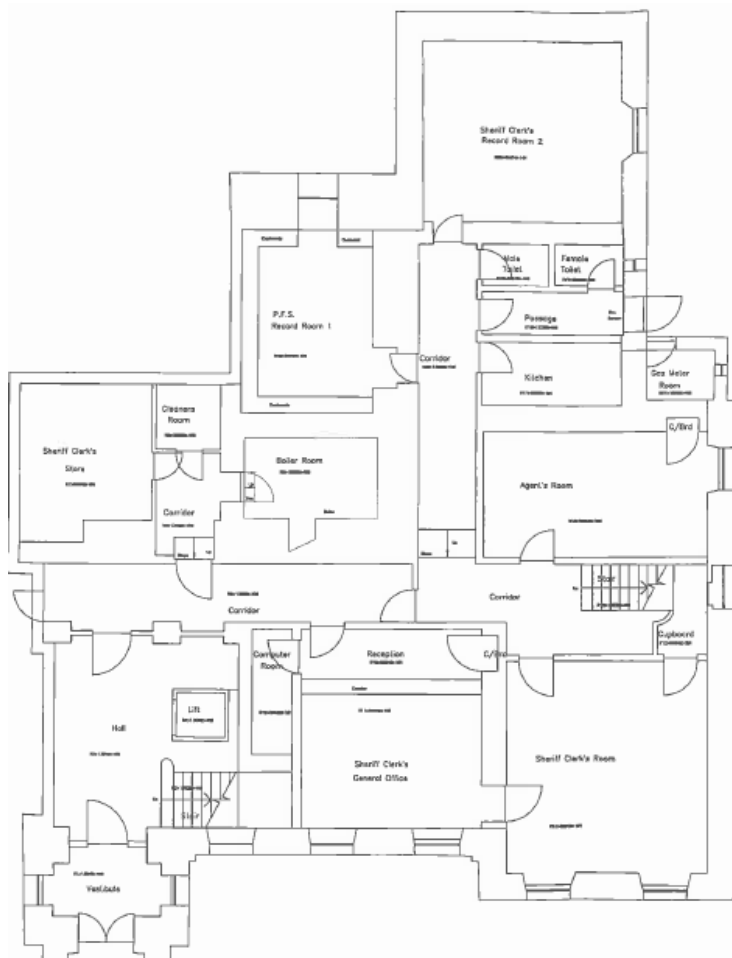


Figure 14. Ground Floor Plan, 2015. STP.

Setting

5.0 Stonehaven lies fifteen miles south of Aberdeen. It was formerly the county town of Kincardine. Two major rivers shape the town's topography, the Carron and Cowie Waters which flow into the North Sea at Stonehaven. The harbour has two basins which were improved by Robert Stevenson in the 1820s and served the town's status in the nineteenth century as a leading centre of the herring trade. In the twentieth century, Stonehaven has become predominantly a commuter town and holiday resort. The town is bypassed by the A92.

5.1 Originally, in 1780, the county building was just beyond the boundary of the Stonehaven Old Town, at the junction where the roads north and south diverge. From 1797 a grid plan development was laid out to the north of the building, following the aspirations of Robert Barclay of Ury in 1759 to build a 'planned town' separated geographically from the Old Town and harbour by the Carron Water, and bordered to the north by the Water of Cowie..

5.2 By 1823, John Wood shows the building still in relative isolation to the west of the harbour and market of the town and south of the New Town. The road to Montrose rises on the higher ground to the south and the road 'from Dunnottar Castle' (later Dunnottar Avenue) is to the north.

5.3 A good economy supported a growing town and by 1865 the setting shown on the Ordnance Survey map of that year has become suburban. Indeed, the improvements accompanying the extension of 1863-5 included the 'removal of a dilapidated building opposite the new County Building' which had long been 'an eye-sore'.³²

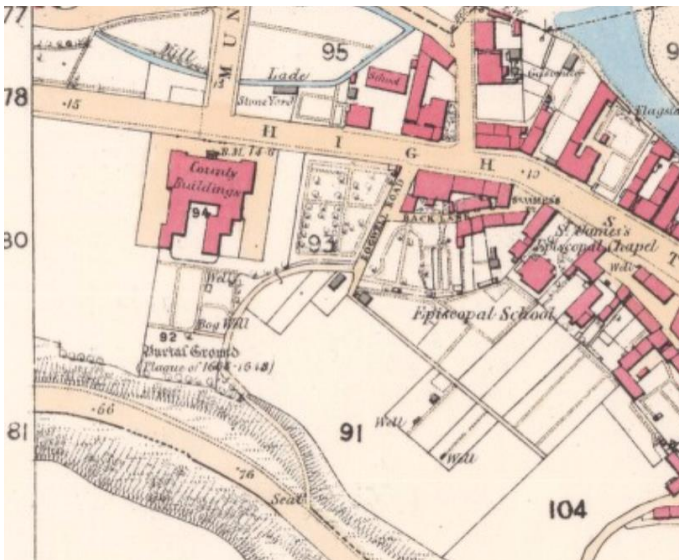


Figure 15. Ordnance Survey 1st edition map, 1865. Reproduced by permission of the National Library of Scotland.

5.4 The second edition Ordnance Survey map of 1902 shows new development all around. To the east, the Dunnottar Primary School had been built in 1889. To the west, houses were being constructed along Dunnottar Avenue (High Street).

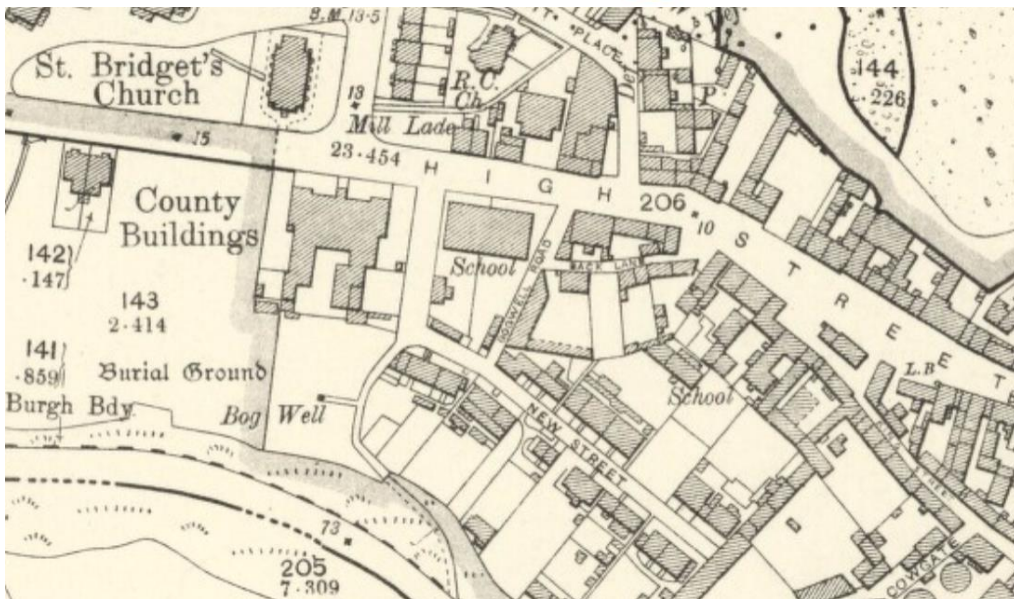


Figure 16.
Ordnance Survey 2nd edition map, 1902. Reproduced by permission of the National Library of Scotland.

5.5 By the 1923 edition of the Ordnance Survey the road formations that exist today were in place with Victoria Street running to the south of the County Building and separating it decisively from the Bog Well and former Burial Ground. By this date, the building's situation on the perimeter of a busy town is clear.



Figure 17.
Ordnance Survey map, 1923. Reproduced by permission of the National Library of Scotland.

5.6 Over many years, not only has the building expanded, but the surrounding area has been developed further such that there is now little space for parking or other external facilities.

5.7 While the historical development of the building has been set out above, the extent of the Court Building is now only a part of this wider whole. The advent of the Transport Police from 1983 has meant that the rear of the building serves as a secure yard and garages for police use only. The lane at the west of the building is now the police access route. The other three sides of the building are bounded by thoroughfares, and the north one of which is the very busy main road (A957) out of Stonehaven leading to the A90 trunk road southbound. Accordingly the traffic outside the main entrance is busy. This may diminish when the Fastlink to the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route provides an alternative, from 2018.

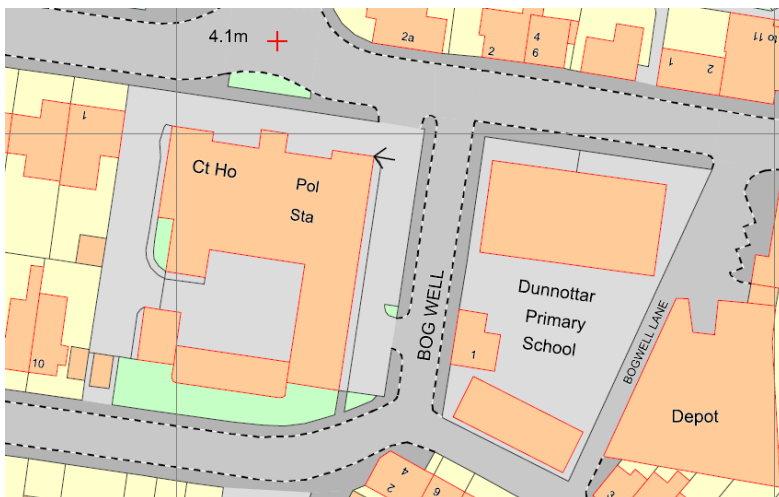


Figure 18. The site of the Court Building in 2015. Courtesy STP.

Sheriff Courts

6.0 Stonehaven Court Building is one of the 49 sheriff courts built in Scotland across 6 sheriffdoms.³³ Sheriff Courts deal with criminal, civil, administrative and commissary matters. The earliest surviving sheriff court records date from the 16th century. Stonehaven assumed the municipal function from 1600, when it became the County Town for Kincardine.

6.1 Throughout the later 18th and 19th centuries both the civil and criminal jurisdiction of the court expanded. Legislation tightened up the legal qualifications, residence requirements, payment and tenure of the main officers, the sheriff depute, sheriff substitute and sheriff clerk. This conferred greater status and authority on the new sheriff courts which had wide civil and criminal jurisdiction. Further duties were accorded to the sheriff court as others, such as the Admiralty Court, were abolished and increasingly the powers of the Justice of the Peace courts and burgh courts were eroded in their favour.

6.2 Under the Sheriffs Act, 1870 the county of Kincardine, was united with the county of Aberdeen was combined with that of Aberdeen into one sheriffdom, to be called the 'sheriffdom of Aberdeen and Kincardine'.

Part Two: Significance, Policy, Conservation and Potential

Architectural Significance

7.0 The distinguished court building at Stonehaven has evolved from a simple rectangular core over two centuries. It is a dignified and well-proportioned edifice with much delicacy of design, strategically positioned and adds greatly to the character of the town.

7.1 The court building retains demonstrable evidence of its history, with fabric from circa 1780, 1822, circa 1847, 1863-65 and 1983. In 1983 the looming cell block to the rear was demolished and a new east wing was developed to serve as the Police Station, returning the form to a more regular U-plan. The smart front to Dunnottar Avenue provides the character most will associate with the building but it has a richer interest, hinted at in the brattishing of the rooftop behind and visible from the rear.



7.2 James Campbell Walker (1821-88) stands alongside the leading architects of the Victorian period. Born in Fife, he trained with William Burn and later worked with David Bryce in their Edinburgh office. However, his family's trade and legal connections would be as important in fuelling the patronage of his career combined with a successful approach to competitions. He was appointed as architect to the Agricultural Labourer's Improvement Association and with work in Aberdeenshire this may have gained him the attention of the Stonehaven Commissioners of Supply. Working on poor houses and labourers' dwellings may have been behind his early trailblazing experiments with concrete construction. Among his best-known works are Blair Drummond (1868) Dunfermline Town Hall (1875), Hawick Town Hall (1883) both with exceptionally fine and imaginative sculpture, and Kirtle Lodge, Edinburgh (1863) (which featured in Blackie's influential publication, *Villa*

and *Cottage Architecture*, (1868, Figure 16). His time spent with Bryce would continue to bring in work and he provided, for example, various additions and alterations at Blair Castle.

Figure 19. James Campbell Walker, from the 1907 Catalogue of the Edinburgh Architectural Association, courtesy DOSA.

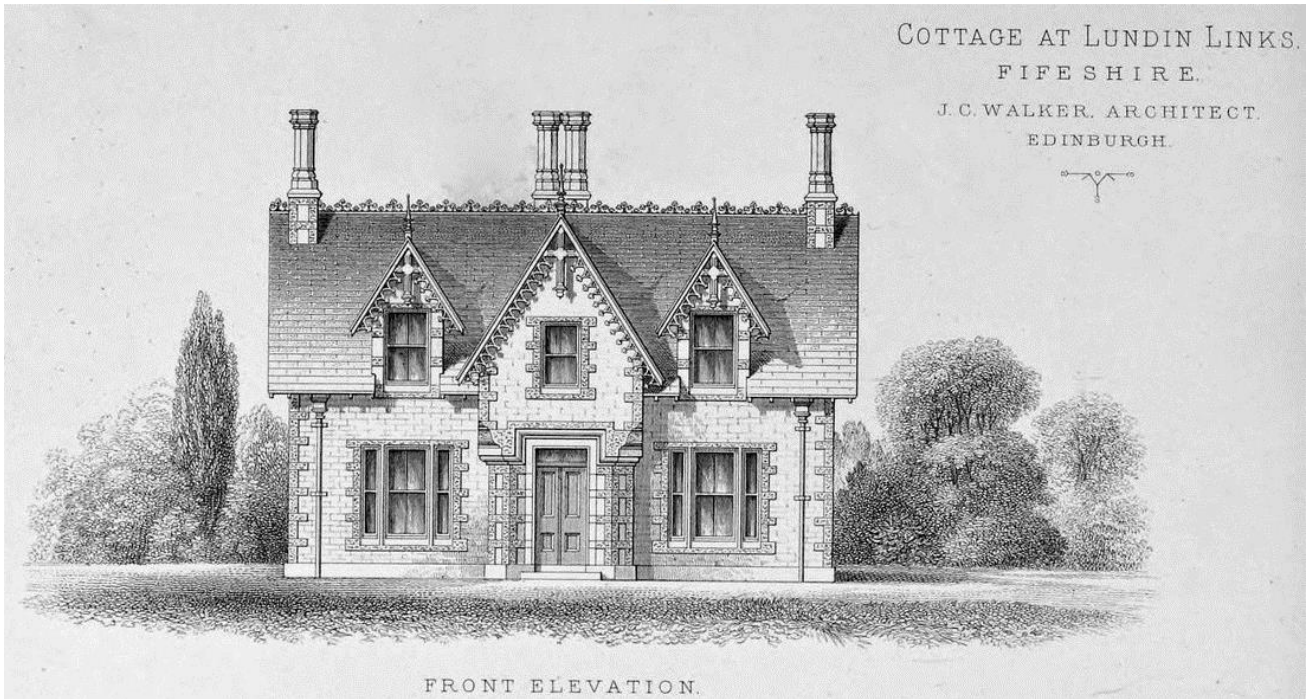


Figure 20. Cottage designed by J Campbell Walker, illustrated in Blackie's 1868 *Villa and Cottage Architecture*.



Figure 21. Detail from J Campbell Walker's Dunfermline Town Hall, 1875.

7.3 The design of Sheriff Court buildings was part of the civic competition and municipal pride that gives Scotland's burghs their distinctive individuality. To suit their function they were required to be buildings of stature bringing an authority which inspired respect. There are 41 listed sheriff courts in Scotland, 8 at Category A, 26 at Category B and 7 at Category C. Stonehaven sits among this significant group, but its richer history and unique design set it apart.

7.4 As the majority of the courts date to the nineteenth century, their design met with the battle of the styles and as a result they serve to catalogue the range available. For example, Venetian in Glasgow, Franco-Scots Baronial in Alloa, Italianate in Wick, Flemish Baronial in Forfar, and Tudor Gothic in Dingwall. Walker chose for Stonehaven a dignified classical style, giving a sense of authority, decorated in palazzo style (first introduced for the purpose of chambers and institutions by Sir Charles Barry at the Travellers' Club in London, 1832. Neighbouring Arbroath (David Logan, 1803) and Aberdeen (James Burn, 1801) had chosen the classical style for their sheriff courts and this may have influenced the Stonehaven Commissioners.



7.5 Many of the adornments to the exterior of the building are integral with the classical style and are critical to the building's character. The balustrade, traditional timber sash and case windows, slate roof, panelled stone stacks, cast-iron rainwater goods (some square section) and guttering, all contribute to the external quality of the building. The fine brattishing on the historic core with prominent gablehead stacks gives the building the profile intended for its purpose and location. The stone gatepiers and boundary walls to the north elevation, while deprived of their railings, usefully define the perimeter of the court and secure its footprint.

7.6 On the interior, the surviving cells and vaulted storage rooms stand out for their historic role in the history of the building. Worn stone flags, cast-iron columns, surviving hinges flanking former cell doors with the one strong hinged door still in use, are critical to the character and history of the building. The metal strong room door to the record room is an important vestige.

Figure 22. East elevation (1862), channelled masonry, square section downpipes.



Figure 23. Stonehaven Court Building from the north-east showing contrast of 1983 extension to the south east (left).

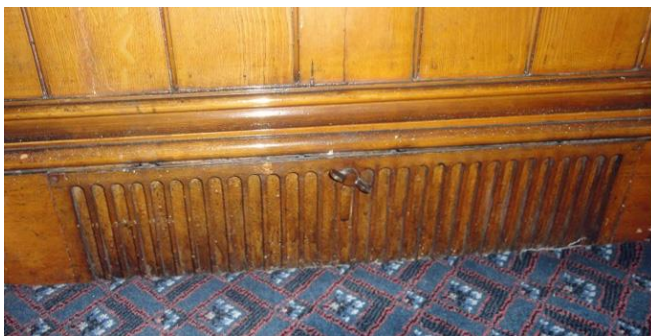


Figures 24, 25 and 26. Interiors of vaulted cells, 1779,

7.7 In particular, the period decoration and historically preserved furnishings and ceiling of the principal court room (1865) are exceptional in their composition and survival. Planning for court purposes became increasingly complex during the nineteenth century. The formalisation of legal processes led to the fixing of courtroom furniture to create a permanent space for trials and Stonehaven provides a fine example of this. Campbell Walker's use of classical motifs assures the appropriate gravitas and refinement with both doorpieces and judicial bench pedimented and bench and witness box panelled. The central oak table and railed dock are original. The Witness Box sits in the well of the Court, raised on a plinth with bracketed sedilia. Raked timber seating fixes the character of the room. The room's coved ceiling is supported on heavy beams with a geometric pattern and ornate ventilators designed by Campbell Walker. His design was shown on the Roof Plan of 1862 (see Figures 31 and 32 below).

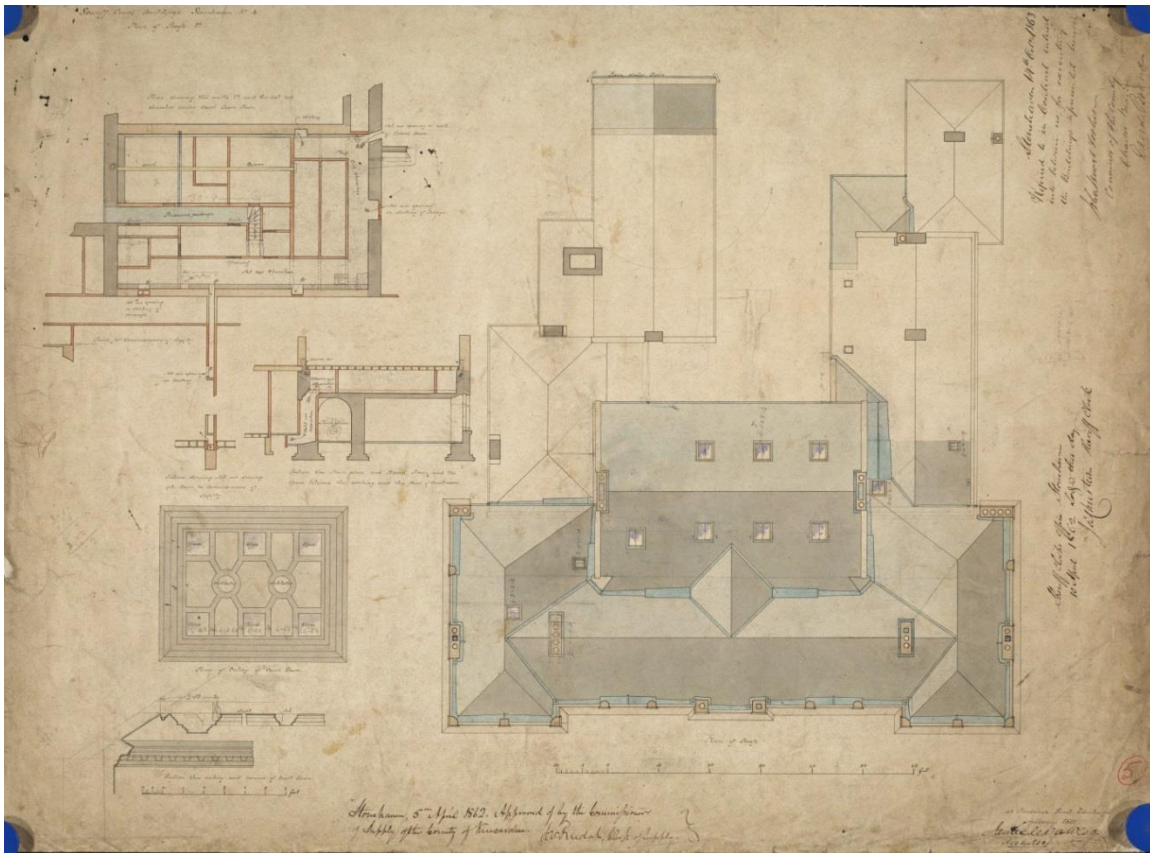


Figures 27, 28, 29 and 30 (below). Interior details dating to 1862 addition.



7.8 Fine plasterwork cornices, panelled doors, finely moulded skirting and door architraves distinguish the rooms in the Walker addition to the building: many retain panelled shutters and embrasures. Sliding grilles in the skirting serve the ventilation / heating system in the area of the main court room (fed by the hot air chamber under the court room floor) and together with the door

entry / release mechanism here are significant examples of the provision at the time. The decorative balustrade to the main stair and the glazed round-arched vestibule screen to the porch give appropriate distinction.



Figures 31. J Campbell Walker's Plan of the Roof, 1862. National Records of Scotland, RHP48519.



Figure 32. Decorative plaster ceiling of Court Room, as per Campbell Walker's plan.

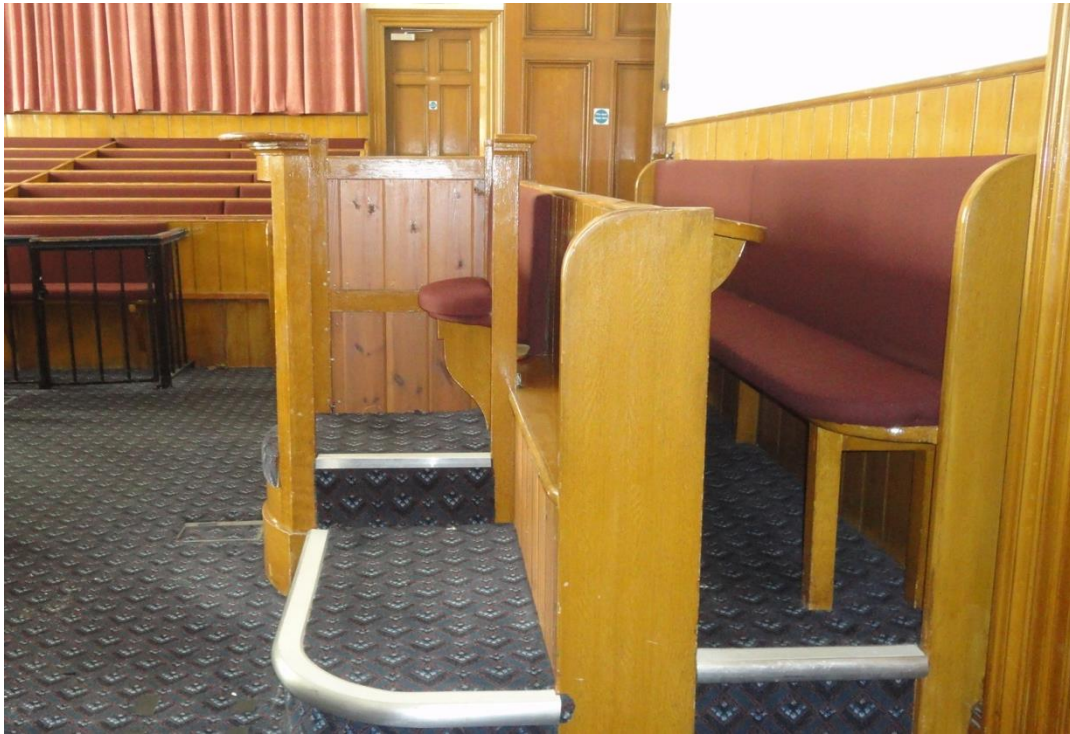


Figure 33. Railed dock (to left) and witness stand (centre), 1862.

7.9 Stonehaven Court Building (including the Police Station) has been afforded statutory protection in recognition of its special architectural and historic interest (HB Reference 41617, see appendix 2). It was first listed on 18 August 1972 at Category B with the entry revised or reviewed in 2006 and 2014. The particular criteria applied in its selection were 'Age and Rarity' and 'Architectural and Historic Interest'. 'Category B' recognises that the building is of regional and more than local importance, and is a significant example of later 19th century court provision in a classical style incorporating earlier fabric, all of which has been altered to suit evolving requirements while retaining the essential character.

7.10 The Court Building sits in the Stonehaven Conservation Area (designated in 1997). This is an area of special architectural and historical significance the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. The Court Building and its setting are key contributors to the character of the area. The *Aberdeenshire South and Aberdeen, Buildings of Scotland, 2015*, reports that '*Stonehaven's role as a regional centre is reflected in the dignified County Buildings and a handful of banks.*' The Building of Scotland series is lauded for the academic quality of its evaluations. As described, the complex history of the building provides a narrative which reflects the development of the town.

7.11 Typical of the classical tradition, Walker's principal elevation serves as an effective terminal landmark when viewed from Bridgefield, adding to the streetscape of the conservation area. Its position, centred on this corridor to Stonehaven's New Town to the north and forming a critical junction with the Old Town to the east, makes it a linchpin in the town's identity.

7.12 The Historic Environment Record indicates that, to date, no significant archaeology has been found in the immediate vicinity of the court building.



Planning and Policy Context

8.0 The statement considers the local and national policies and planning context for the assessment in seeking to inform a viable future for the Court Building.

National Policy

8.1 The building is a designated property (see appendix 2) and lies within the Stonehaven Conservation Area (see appendix 3). The principal legislation pertaining to the designations is the Property (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997, with amendments in 2011 and 2014.

8.2 The Government's *Scottish Historic Environment Policy* (SHEP, December 2011) stresses pursuit of the social and economic benefits that arise from appropriate re-use of historic buildings. At paragraph 1.7:

We believe that the historic environment should be valued as an asset, rather than thought of as a barrier to development. It reinforces the identity of communities, and can add value, provided that value is recognised at the outset and it becomes an integral part of any development or regeneration project.'

8.3 Paragraph 1.12a urges those managing the heritage to:

'make the best use of the historic environment to achieve their wider aims of economic and social regeneration;'

8.4 Paragraph 2.18 states that:

'listing recognises their historic importance: this in turn helps ensure that their potential for the study of history and for wider issues such as sustainability, community identity, local distinctiveness, and social and economic regeneration are all fully explored.'

8.5 The proposed community and office uses of the building could be accommodated with minimal change and enable the historic Court Building to contribute to a sustainable economy while continuing to make its positive mark on the fabric of the town. It can be an exemplar of the approach outlined in SHEP.

8.6 The SHEP points local authorities to the Planning Advice Note 71: *Conservation Area Management* for their curation of such designated sites. The advice given in PAN71 is that:

'When effectively managed, conservation areas can anchor thriving communities, sustain cultural heritage, generate wealth and prosperity and add to quality of life. To realise this potential many of them need to continue to adapt and develop in response to the modern-day needs and aspirations of living and working communities. This means accommodating physical, social and economic change for the better.'

Physical change in conservation areas does not necessarily need to replicate its surroundings. The challenge is to ensure that all new development respects, enhances and has a positive impact on the area.'



Physical and land use change in conservation areas should always be founded on a detailed understanding of the historic and urban design context.'

8.7 Stonehaven Court Building is a pivotal landmark in the town and a key component of the conservation area. The fabric reflects the town's development in the stages and character of its evolution and the striking Renaissance front signifies the status the burgh achieved and the pride taken with its municipal responsibility.

Local Policy

8.8 The local policies to be observed in exploring opportunities for the building include those of Aberdeenshire Council³⁴, notably Aberdeenshire Council's Key Planning Objectives for Stonehaven, detailed in the Aberdeenshire Local Development Plan Settlement Statement. The council's goals include, for example, to:

- Enhance the settlements role as a sub-regional service centre.
- Provide employment opportunity.

8.9 Aberdeenshire Council sets out the planning constraints relevant in managing change for a listed building:

An application for Listed Building Consent will be required for any alterations to a listed building. In general, such works as replacing doors and windows, re-roofing, new chimney pots, new rainwater goods, wholesale re-pointing, rendering or re-rendering, painting of render, stone, brickwork and external joinery, internal structural works including removal of walls and partitions, formation of new doorways, blocking (or un-blocking) of doors/windows, any works to staircases, fireplaces, chimney breasts or other structural/decorative elements of the interior will require listed building consent. This short list is not definitive in any way and listed building owners should always make inquiries with the Local Planning Authority as to what works may require Consent.

8.10 Aberdeenshire Council's *Supplementary Guidance Historic Environment 2: Conservation Areas* advises that:

We will refuse planning permission and/or conservation area consent for any development, including change of use or demolition, which would have a detrimental effect on the special character or setting of a conservation area. We will only approve new development wholly or partly within a conservation area, subject to other policies, if:

- 1) all details are provided under cover of an application for full planning permission; AND*
- 2) the design is of the highest quality, and respects and enhances the architectural, historic and visual qualities that give rise to the designation; AND*
- 3) any trees in the vicinity considered by the Council to have amenity value are retained.*

8.11 There are no Article IV Directions in place for Stonehaven nor are they proposed in the coming review.



8.12 The Council accordingly assumes responsibility to protect the special interest of the Court Building and, working with the STP and community, should ensure the rich character of the property, inside and out, continues effectively for the benefit of Stonehaven and its hinterland.

Condition

9.0 The following account of the building's condition in Conservation terms is informed by an inspection of the fabric in August 2015. Many of the issues should perhaps be considered as "dilapidations" and addressed prior to the Court Service's departure. The account is also informed by a 'walk over condition survey' for STP by Inspired Design and Development Ltd. August 2015.

- a. While the building has been maintained over the years by the Courts Service and Police, the respective responsibilities within the whole building will need to be clarified going forward.
- b. Much of the external front string courses and balustrades and the two stacks either side of the flag pole above the entrance show signs that they will soon need work, (5 years, 10 maximum) joints between stones are open, there is a balustrade missing, evidence of vegetation between stones and the stone itself is blackened enough to suggest it is quite damp as a result. This will mean cleaning, repointing, preferably discreet lead capping and may need some of the balustrade taking down and re-erecting. The chimney heads are also covered in vegetation, suggesting they need work too. This work is not mentioned in the Inspired Design report.
- c. Much of the rear elevation of the Court Room has been repointed in cement based mortar, it is eroding the stone, stone which is the only part of the original building's facade remaining exposed. The cement pointing should, within 10 years, 15 at the most, be carefully removed and re-pointed to prevent further damage to the stone. This work is not called out in the Inspired Design report.
- d. There is a delicate cast-iron balustrade to the ridge of the Court Room, it is showing signs of corrosion and may need work as a result. It should be checked within 2 years and repainted within 5.
- e. The roof of the Court Room has ventilating slates to the base and head, as apparently do all the roofs. This might suggest either:
 - that the roof has been entirely re-roofed within the last 20-25 years on an impervious roof felt which meant ventilation needed to be added, or
 - that the ventilators have been added because insulation has been added to the loft spaces. This should be checked and assessed and can be done quite easily if access is available to a safe valley gutter on the roofs.

The ventilators are not referred to in the Inspired Design report, their inclusion may remove the need to re-slate on a breather membrane, unless there is another problem present like severe leaks or corroded nails.

- f. Lead valley gutters etc. should be examined at the same time.



- g. The downpipes have some small local inadvisable repairs and have obviously leaked at times, causing staining. They should be checked and may need localised dismantling, replacement of some elements, redecoration and reinstallation. Provision should always be made at this time for a safe overflow at the head and a rodding eye at the base. This should be assessed and carried out within 2 years, possibly 5 as an absolute maximum.
- h. It is inadvisable to have impervious ground surfaces so close to the outside of traditionally built stone walls, it leads to damp problems like those described in the Inspired Design report for the Entrance Vestibule. There would be a benefit in removing asphalt surfaces immediately adjacent to the walls (within say 75cm) as a minimum, better still would be to introduce a 'French Drain' to lower the apparent external ground level or if possible, move to a more permeable method of draining away water all around the building.
- i. The windows have all been extensively overhauled, they are double glazed and draught sealed and appear to be entirely new sashes with new ironmongery. This will significantly improve the room's warmth. This has not been noted in the Inspired Design report.

Conservation Issues, Risks and Opportunities

10.0 Issues:

- i. The building's main space and service spaces as existing are potentially the greatest hurdle for its re-use, these are the Main Court Room and the cells below it. This is because they are so particularly constructed for their purpose and alterations would almost certainly have to result in significant change.
- ii. The building is in divided ownership, part-owned by Police Scotland. This presents a risk to arranging conservation works to the building as a whole.
- iii. The condition of the building appears largely good but there are significant potential repairs needed within 5 years and without good maintenance and these repairs, the impact on the building's conservation could be seriously affected.
- iv. The lift installation is inelegant and clashes with the form and volume of the stair case, the first point of entry to the building.
- v. The ramp to the front door, while necessary and of value, is also inelegant and unsatisfactory in terms of its construction against the original fabric.
- vi. Off-street parking is limited as access to the rear is maintained for the Police.

10.1 Risks:

- i. The building is partially owned by Police Scotland. The contractual arrangements for maintenance need to be determined in light of this. There are critical areas of shared



responsibility for which joint and consistent attention is required to ensure effective management of the building as a whole from this point onwards.

- ii. The area which the STP is examining for its potential is empty: empty buildings are neither inspected daily for changes like leaks nor guarded from unwanted attentions. The quicker the spaces can be re-used the lower the risk.
- iii. Any future use needs to take into account that the services have a limited future life and that their full replacement will have to be carried out in the longer term, probably with the building in use.

10.2 Opportunities

- i. The building is prominent, well placed in the town and well liked in the community.
- ii. The building is, fundamentally, mostly offices and set up as such with ancillary accommodation to go with it, this is a significant opportunity requiring little outlay to make the building useful in the short term at the very least.
- iii. The spaces are large and the ceilings high, there are opportunities to make the occupancy of the building more than simply the capacity of the floor area, provided that the floor loading capacity, means of escape and ancillary accommodation is adequate.
- iv. It may well be possible to make the re-use of the office spaces so efficient as to make the re-use of the Court Room and cells unnecessary, or, failing that, an additional benefit to the building over and above the base income provided by the other spaces.

Recommendations

12.0 An exhaustive inspection of the fabric should be carried out by an expert able to identify alterations and failures in the fabric to enable the building to be put in order prior to any new party assuming responsibility for the fabric.

12.1 Any expense resulting from this should either be paid for in advance of transfer by the current owners or some recompense be given to the new owners for removing the liability.

12.2 A qualified Quantity Surveyor should be commissioned to provide costings for the works identified.



Appendices

Appendix 1: Bibliography

Primary sources

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National Library of Scotland map library

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Canmore www.canmore.org.uk



Pastmap www.pastmap.org.uk

Managing Change in the Historic Environment Guidance Leaflets <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/managingchange>

Scottish Cultural Archive Network (SCAN) www.scan.org.uk/

Key Contacts

Kincardine and Mearns Planning Authority: Viewmount, Arduathie Road, Stonehaven, AB39 2DQ Phone: 01569-768300 Email: km.planapps@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

Stonehaven Town Partnership: **The Secretary**, Stonehaven Town Partnership, c/o Connors, 50 Allardice Street, Stonehaven AB39 2RA.



Appendix 2: Statutory Listing

STONEHAVEN SHERIFF COURT HOUSE AND POLICE STATION, INCLUDING BOUNDARY WALLS, DUNNOTAR AVENUE, BOGWELL LANE, STONEHAVEN (Ref:41617)

This building is in the **Aberdeenshire** Council and the **Stonehaven** Burgh. It is a category **B** building and was listed on **18/08/1972**.
Group Items: N/A, Group Cat: N/A, Map Ref: NO 87413 85583.

Description

James Campbell Walker 1863-65, incorporating circa 1767 fabric and alterations and additions by John Smith in 1822. 2-storey and basement, 11-bay, symmetrical neo-classical court house with slightly advanced end bays. Channelled ashlar at ground and polished ashlar above. Rubble to rear with tooled ashlar dressings. Base and band courses, mutuled eaves cornice and balustraded parapet. Fine decorative ironwork brattishing. Round-arched openings at ground floor and lugged architraved openings at 1st floor. Central porch with moulded round-arched opening with carved lion head keystone, springing from decoratively-capitalled granite columnettes, all flanked by pilasters. Irregular fenestration to rear including 3 round-arched windows at first floor with multi-pane glazing. 2-storey wing, dating from 1822, extended from left of rear elevation. 1983 Police Station extension to southeast (See Notes).

Predominantly plate glass glazing in timber sash and case windows. Grey slates. Cavetto-coped ashlar stacks, some shouldered or panelled; some cans. Square-section cast-iron downpipes with decorative rainwater hoppers.

The interior was seen in 2014 and is arranged around a central, south facing courtroom (Court 1) at 1st floor. This court room has an open pedimented doorpiece with double-face clock in tympanum. Judge's bench at east with classically-detailed, panelled timber sounding board incorporating large centre pediment with scrolled detail, all flanked by pedimented doorways. Steps leading to judge's bench with square-finialled, stop-chamfered newels. Moulded, decoratively-astragalged oculus window to west wall. Compartmented coombed ceiling with chandeliers, fine decorative cornices, boarded timber dadoes and cast-iron radiators. Some bench seats retained, including jury seats. Raked floor to public benches. Underneath floor is a narrow corridor with fragment of steps leading to the dock. Court Room 2 was refurbished before 1994 and has coombed ceiling with mutuled cornice, panelled reveals and cast-iron radiators. Double height entrance hall with cantilevered dog-leg staircase with decorative iron balusters. Lift at centre, installed in 2004. Part-glazed panelled timber screen door with flanking lights and semicircular fanlight. Vaulted cells at basement (1 now boiler room) incorporating stone flag floors. Original cell door to boiler room with viewing hole and large hinges. Vaulted record rooms at ground floor, with flagstone floor. Rooms and circulation spaces characterised by classical detailing including decorative and plain plasterwork cornices; timber shutters; 6-panelled architraved doors.

Boundary Walls: ashlar-coped rubble dwarf boundary walls with low square-plan terminating piers.

Notes

Stonehaven Court House is a good example of mid-19th century court building which incorporates earlier fabric from two significant periods of improvements to this building type: the mid-18th century and the early 19th century. The building has good neo-classical detailing internally and externally, such as moulded architraves, balustraded parapet, decorative brattishing and carved detailing to its entrance porch. The neo-classical style became widespread across western Europe from the mid-18th century. In Scotland architects used this style for country houses and public buildings, including court houses, as an appropriate indication of the status of these buildings. The survival of the 18th century basement cells are particularly rare. Sited at the junction of the old and new town of Stonehaven the building has significance presence in the town with its imposing neo-classical façade terminating the axial view down Allardice Street. Stonehaven was the seat of Justice for Kincardineshire from 1600, with the Tolbooth (see separate listing) at Stonehaven harbour accommodating a court and prison. From 1748 most hereditary offices and heritable jurisdictions were abolished and salaried sheriff deputies, who were qualified advocates, were placed in charge of sheriff courts. Increasing co-operation with county authorities from the late 18th century onwards led to the erection in several burghs of shared 'Town and County Buildings', many of which contained court and prison accommodation. (RCAHMS, p.1) In 1767 judicial functions were transferred from Stonehaven's Tolbooth to the new County Building on Dunnotar Avenue. The form of the 1767 building is unknown, however, three prison cells from this building survive to the basement of the current courthouse. These cells are connected to the 1st floor court room by a narrow corridor and stone steps leading to the dock. The Minutes of the Commissioners of Supply for Kincardshire indicate that work to the County Buildings was carried out incrementally during the late 18th century. In the early 19th century and prior to the (prison) Reform Acts of 1819 and 1839, a number of Scottish towns and cities had already begun to construct or adapt buildings to separate judicial functions from other civic and administration activities. Drawings dated 1817 and signed by the architect J Paterson of Edinburgh propose additions

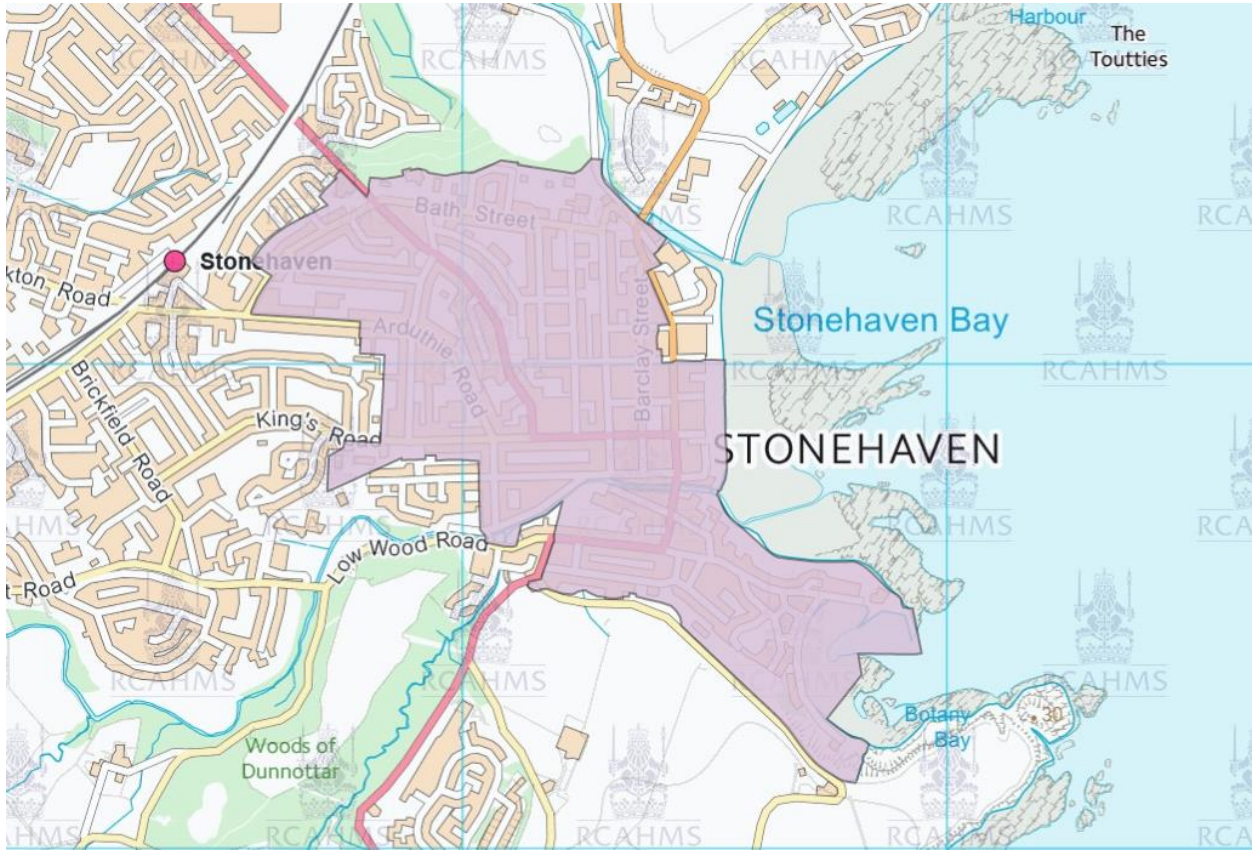


to Stonehaven's County Building. Whilst it is not known if any of this proposed work was carried out, the drawings indicate that the rectangular plan form of the 1st floor court room existed before 1817. In 1822 John Smith reworked and extended the Stonehaven County Buildings (Colvin, p955) and the Aberdeen Journal article of 9 January 1822 records that this work was required to provide an office for the sheriff-clerk, a record room and a moderate sized house for the jailor as well as converting the previous office and record room into cells. The County Building is shown on Wood's map of 1823 as a U-plan building, with the flanking wings set back from a central rectangular block. The Sheriff Courthouses (Scotland) Act of 1860 gave a major, country wide impetus to the increase and improvement of courts, and this was the most active period of Sheriff Court House construction in the history of the Scottish legal system. The Stonehaven County Buildings were reworked by James Campbell Walker in 1863-5. This work comprised an addition of a Renaissance frontage and the reworking and extension of the rear wings to a 3-storey cell block and a 2-storey police block. The fixtures of the principal court room are shown on Walker's architectural plans and therefore are likely to date to this scheme. After 1983 the 3-storey cell block was demolished and a 3-storey police station constructed to form an east wing to the building. The 1863 2-storey police wing, to southwest, was also altered after 1983. A fire in 1994 caused some damage to the fiscal's office and stair well. James Campbell Walker (1821-1888) was an Edinburgh based architect, particularly known for Dunfermline Town Hall (1875) and Hawick Town Hall (1883), which are both listed at category A. In 1842 Walker was articled to William Burn and by the 1850s he was principal clerk for David Bryce, the style of the latter was especially influential to his work. Stonehaven Court House is his only court building recorded in the Dictionary of Scottish Architects. John Smith (1781-1852) was one of two leading architects in Aberdeen during the early nineteenth century, with nearly every important commission won by him or Archibald Simpson. He was appointed City Architect in 1824 and for thirty years directed the public works of the rapidly expanding city. He is best known for his neo-classical designs, but became known as "Tudor Johnny" as his later work incorporated a Tudor-Gothic form. Smith designed the courthouse and east prison at Lodge Walk in Aberdeen, which is now demolished. Statutory address and listed building record updated in 2014. The 1983 police station addition was not considered of special interest at the time of the listing review. Previously listed as "Dunnotar Avenue, Sheriff Court House with Police Station Including Boundary Walls".

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Appendix 3: Stonehaven Conservation Area



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Map of Stonehaven Conservation Area.



Appendix 4: References

- ¹ SCAN, Knowledge Base, Prisons and Prisoners and Burgh Tolbooths and Early Prisons.
- ² RCAHMS Tolbooths and Town-Houses (1996), pp189-90.
- ³ Kincardine County Commissioners of Supply Minutes, 13 April 1779, p121.
- ⁴ *The Statistical Account for Scotland 1791-99*, Parish of Dunnottar, County of Kincardine, volume 11, p218.
- ⁵ Kincardine County Commissioners of Supply Minutes, 13 April 1811, p184.
- ⁶ SCAN, Knowledge Base, Burgh Tolbooths and Early Prisons. General Meeting of the Commissioners of Supply of County of Kincardine, on 30th day of April 1817, p316. 'The meeting on the motion of Mr Duff of Fetteresso seconded by Mr Douglas of Arbeadie Sheriff Depute resolved to meet at Stonehaven on Thursday 22nd May next to assess the County for building an addition to the County Hall.'
- ⁷ Kincardine County Commissioners of Supply Minutes, 22 May 1817, p318-19.
- ⁸ Kincardine County Commissioners of Supply Minutes, 30 September 1817, p321.
- ⁹ Howard Colvin, *Biographical Dictionary of British Architects 1600-1840*, 1995.
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- ¹¹ *Aberdeen Journal*, 9 January 1822, p3. Reports on the meeting of Commissioners of Supply of 18 December 1821, in which Mr Barclay recommends that a less costly plan, at one-third of that previously sought, would suit their needs. There is no mention of an architect.
- ¹² Aberdeenshire Archives, DD1425/13, Ground floor plan of unidentified prison.
- ¹³ SCAN, Knowledge Base, Burgh Tolbooths and Early Prisons. Kincardine County Commissioners of Supply Minutes, 20 October 1828, p306. The Gaol Act of 1823, which set out necessary reforms to the process of confinement, was soon found to be ineffectual because none of its requirements were policed or enforced. Accordingly a further Act was debated to address this and entered statute in 1835, the Prisons Act 1835. This instated five paid prison inspectors. In response to consultation on the new 'Gaol Bill' in 1828, the Commissioners' meeting approved several resolutions, number 5 of which acknowledged that greater accommodation may be required in big cities but stated that it was not needed in Kincardine where at the time of writing there were only two people in confinement across the whole county.
- ¹⁴ *The New Statistical Account for Scotland 1834-45*, Parish of Dunnottar, County of Kincardine volume 11, p212 (January 1842).
- ¹⁵ These plans are held in the National Records of Scotland, RHP21747, 21748, 21749, 21750, 21751, 21752 (east elevation damaged) and 21753.
- ¹⁶ In 1835, a series of reports was made by a House of Lords' Committee on the State of Gaols containing appendices setting out much detailed information including gaols controlled by municipal corporations. These reports informed the drafting of the Prisons Act 1835 'for effecting greater uniformity of practice in the government of the several prisons in England and Wales'. The Act empowered Lord John Russell, the Home Secretary to establish a prison Inspectorate of five with only limited powers to inspect local



prisons. These were required to make an annual report for each of the establishments visited for the Home Secretary to present to parliament. The reports were initially divided between four districts (Home, Northern and Eastern, Southern and Western and Scotland with Northumberland and Durham), but this was reduced in 1853 to three (Northern, Midland and Southern), and to the Northern and Southern in 1863. Cited from <http://richardjohnbr.blogspot.co.uk/2011/03/prison-reform-1835-1850.html> viewed in December 2015.

¹⁷ Information courtesy of the Dictionary of Scottish Architects www.scottisharchitects.org.uk

¹⁸ *Aberdeen Journal*, 27 January 1847, p1. Signed by J & G Tindal, Stonehaven, 20 January 1847.

¹⁹ Entry on Stonehaven Court House, *Historic Buildings at Work*, SCT and PSA, 1983, pp60-61. Photographic record made by RCAHMS prior to demolition in 1984.

²⁰ The red sandstone, as noted in the *Planning Advice: 8/2012 Aberdeenshire Settlement Characterisation Reports*, p29, as a traditional building material in the area, the older the darker the colour.

²¹ *Aberdeen Journal*, 27 February 1861, p1. Kincardine County Commissioners of Supply Minutes , 7 March 1861, p228-9. Mr Robert Matheson investigated the current provisions and advised the Secretary of State accordingly.

²² Kincardine County Commissioners of Supply Minutes, 30 April 1861, p237-40.

²³ Kincardine County Commissioners of Supply Minutes; October 1861, p256-7; 5 April 1862, p270; 30 April 1862, p279.

²⁴ Plans of the additions by J Campbell Walker (basement, ground floor, first floor, roof plan with cross section , and principal elevation), dated February 1862 and signed by him, are held by the Scottish Records Office, RHP48516-20, now digitised.

²⁵ *Stonehaven Journal*, 2 February 1865, p3.

²⁶ SCAN on Parliamentary and Police Burghs, <http://www.scan.org.uk/knowledgebase/topics/burgh.htm> , accessed October 2015. See also note on the report of the Police Commission in *Dundee Courier*, 13 March 1890, p7 and 11 June 1890, p3. .

²⁷ *Dundee Courier*, 18 August 1890, p3.

²⁸ D Smith, *Third Statistical Account of Scotland (TSA)*, Kincardineshire, 1988.

²⁹ Walker and Duncan, Engineers, Surveyors, Architects. Aberdeen is embossed onto both sheets of floor plans. Plans held at the RCAHMS, KCD/58/1 and 2.

³⁰ TSA (ibid). 16 May 1975, SNECC was merged with Aberdeen City Police to form Grampian Police. Grampian Police then merged, along with the other Scottish territorial police forces, into Police Scotland in 2013.

³¹ PSA letter to James Taylor Partnership, 31 August 1984, in file containing plans and brief condition surveys, 1983-86, MS 6363/62, RCAHMS.

³² *Stonehaven Journal*, 2 February 1865, p3.

³³ The National Archives Scotland online includes a useful history of Sheriff Courts in Scotland of which this is a distillation.

³⁴ www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/plans_policies/SGKINCARDINEANDMEARNNS.pdf.

Appendix 5: List of Illustrations

- Figure 1. Unexecuted Plan – possibly by John Paton or John Paterson in 1817 or John Smith in 182.
- Figure 2. Plan of 1821 showing proposed additions to Stonehaven County Building.
- Figure 3. John Wood, Plan of the Town of Stonehaven, 1823.
- Figure 4. Illustration from A Gibb, *Views in Stonehaven*, 1840, showing the north elevation of the County Building.
- Figures 5, 6. Thomas Brown’s Ground and ‘Second’ Floor Plans for the addition of a cell block to County Building to create Stonehaven Prison, signed and dated 23 July 1841
- Figures 7 and 8. Detail of Thomas Brown’s plan showing West Elevation and Third Floor Plan for the addition of a cell block to County Building to create Stonehaven Prison, signed and dated 23 July 1841.
- Figure 9. The 3-storey, 4-bay prison cell block added 1842 and lock-up and apartment of 1847.
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- Figure 11. J Campbell Walker, Principal Elevation, February 1862.
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- Figure 18. The site of the Court Building in 2015.
- Figure 19. James Campbell Walker.
- Figure 20. Cottage designed by J Campbell Walker, illustrated in Blackie’s 1868 *Villa and Cottage Architecture*.
- Figure 21. Detail from J Campbell Walker’s Dunfermline Town Hall, 1875.
- Figure 22. East elevation (1862), channelled masonry, square section downpipes.
- Figure 23. Stonehaven Court Building from the north-east showing contrast of 1983 extension to the south east (left).



Figures 24, 25, 26. Interiors of vaulted cells, 1779.

Figures 27, 28, 29, 30. Interior details dating to 1862 addition.

Figures 31. J Campell Walker's Plan of the Roof, 1862.

Figure 32. Decorative plaster ceiling of Court Room, as per Campbell Walker's plan.

Figure 33. Railed dock and witness stand, 1862.

Appendix 3: Map of Stonehaven Conservation Area.





Stonehaven Court Building Conservation Statement



January 2016

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