



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

This thesis has been submitted in fulfilment of the requirements for a postgraduate degree (e.g. PhD, MPhil, DClinPsychol) at the University of Edinburgh. Please note the following terms and conditions of use:

- This work is protected by copyright and other intellectual property rights, which are retained by the thesis author, unless otherwise stated.
- A copy can be downloaded for personal non-commercial research or study, without prior permission or charge.
- This thesis cannot be reproduced or quoted extensively from without first obtaining permission in writing from the author.
- The content must not be changed in any way or sold commercially in any format or medium without the formal permission of the author.
- When referring to this work, full bibliographic details including the author, title, awarding institution and date of the thesis must be given.

**SCOTTISH BATHS 1868-1914
AND THEIR CONSERVATION**

DOUGLAS M. CAMPBELL B.Sc.

submitted for the degree of
M.Sc. in Architectural Conservation

Conservation Unit, Department of Architecture,
Heriot-Watt University
Edinburgh

September 1993

"This copy of the thesis has been supplied on condition that anyone who consults it is understood to recognise that the copyright rests with its author and that no quotation from the thesis or information derived from it may be published without the prior written consent of the author or the University (as may be appropriate)."

CONTENTS

Page Number

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF MAPS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ABSTRACT

DEFINITIONS

INTRODUCTION

1

CHAPTER 1- THE DEVELOPMENT OF SWIMMING

INTEREST IN WATER CURES

4

Spas

4

Seaside Retreats

5

Bath Houses

6

Swimming

8

**The Railway System and the Hydropathic
Revolution**

9

Private Bath Companies

12

**SWIMMING DEVELOPMENT THROUGH
SOCIAL REFORM**

14

Industrial and Urban Life 1750-1850

14

**Public Health- Baths and Wash House
Legislation**

16

Municipal Baths and Wash Houses

19

Endowed Baths

23

Swimming- More Widely Accessable

24

CHAPTER 2- THE 'ESSENCE OF BATH BUILDINGS'

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| EXTERNAL QUALITIES | 25 |
| Streetscape Quality | 26 |
| INTERNAL SPATIAL QUALITIES | 26 |
| Pond Hall | 28 |
| Adaptability of Space | 28 |
| SOCIO- HISTORIC IMPORTANCE | 30 |
| Community | 30 |
| Historical Documents | 31 |

CHAPTER 3- BATHS BUILDING ANALYSIS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION | 33 |
| INTERNAL STYLE | 34 |
| ORGANISATION OF FACILITIES | 37 |
| Segregation | 37 |
| Public Front | 37 |
| DESCRIPTION OF FACILITIES | 39 |
| Vestibule | 39 |
| Shoe Room | 39 |
| Pond Hall | 40 |
| Turkish/Russian Baths | 54 |
| Gymnasium | 55 |
| Slipper Baths | 56 |
| Spray/Lasser Baths | 57 |
| Shower/Douche | 57 |
| Social and Educational | |

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Accommodation | 57 |
| Wash House | 58 |
| Services | 59 |
| Street Furniture | 62 |

CHAPTER 4- IMPROVEMENT, RENOVATION AND ALTERATION

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| ESSENTIAL REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE | 70 |
| Pond Shell | 70 |
| Roof | 70 |
| Boiler House | 71 |
| Fittings | 71 |
| ALTERATIONS CARRIED OUT TO MAINTAIN VIABILITY | 73 |
| Changing Needs of Society | 73 |
| Recent Modernisation | 74 |
| Change of Use | 77 |
| Dereliction/Demolition | 77 |

CHAPTER 5- CONCLUSION

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| LEGISLATIVE PROTECTION | 78 |
| MAINTENANCE | 79 |
| REFURBISHMENT | 79 |
| RE-USE | 83 |
| CURRENT AND FUTURE USE | 83 |

PRIVATE BATHS

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Paisley | 87 |
| Arlington, Glasgow | 92 |
| Nairn | 96 |
| Western, Glasgow | 100 |
| Victoria, Glasgow | 104 |
| Drumsheugh, Edinburgh | 106 |
| Dennistoun, Glasgow | 110 |
| Pollockshields, Glasgow | 113 |
| Warrender, Edinburgh | 117 |
| Constitution Street, Aberdeen | 122 |
| Perth | 126 |

ENDOWED AND MUNICIPAL BATHS

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Central Baths, Dundee | 131 |
| Alva | 137 |
| Dunfermline | 139 |
| Greenhead, Glasgow | 142 |
| North Woodside, Glasgow | 145 |
| Cranstonhill, Glasgow | 149 |
| Townhead, Glasgow | 153 |
| Gorbals, Glasgow | 157 |
| Infirmery Street, Edinburgh | 161 |
| Port Glasgow | 166 |
| Lochee, Dundee | 171 |
| Dalry, Edinburgh | 175 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Springburn, Glasgow | 179 |
| Alloa | 182 |
| Maryhill, Glasgow | 188 |
| Sea Bathing Station, Aberdeen | 192 |
| Leith Victoria, Edinburgh | 196 |
| Peterhead | 201 |
| Glenogle, Edinburgh | 204 |
| Portobello, Edinburgh | 209 |
| Govan, Glasgow | 215 |
| Whitevale, Glasgow | 219 |
| Kinning Park, Glasgow | 223 |
| Clydebank | 227 |
| Carnegie, Dunfermline | 231 |
| Hamilton | 236 |
| Forfar | 241 |
| Hawick | 247 |
| Brock, Dumbarton | 251 |

APPENDIX 2- BOILERS AND FILTRATION SYSTEMS 255

BIBLIOGRAPHY

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Page Number

1. Bathing machines on Leith Sands, from Begbie, Thomas
A mid-Victorian Portrait, Edinburgh 1992. 7
2. Seafield Baths (etching), published in the Edinburgh
Almanack 1812. 7
3. Whitevale Baths- Glasgow 1992. 27
4. North Woodside Baths- Glasgow 1992. 27
5. The Male Pond Hall- Perth, from Reflections of Old Perth,
Perth Museum and Art Gallery & Melvin Press 1977, p.21. 29
6. Pond Hall- Alloa, photo by Bedford Lemere RCAHMS CL/707 29
7. North Woodside Baths and Wash House- Glasgow, from
Whitevale Baths and Wash Houses Official Handbook,
Glasgow Corporation 1902. 35
8. Cranstonhill Baths and Wash House- Glasgow, from
Whitevale Baths and Wash House Official Handbook,
Glasgow Corporation 1902. 35
9. Clydebank Baths 1985, RCAHMS A43166. 36

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 10. Kinning Park Baths, published by J. Kennedy, 123, West Scotland Street 1905. | 36 |
| 11. Warrant Plans of Whitevale Baths- Glasgow from the Strathclyde Regional Archive. | 38 |
| 12. Warrant Ground Floor Plan, Infirmary Street- Edinburgh, from Edinburgh City Archives. | 45 |
| 13. Entrance Hall and Lounge- Dundee Central Baths from Dundee Harbour Board handbook. | 45 |
| 14. Marble column- Alloa Baths 1992. | 46 |
| 15. Terrazzo flooring and concrete steps at Glenogle Baths- Edinburgh 1993. | 46 |
| 16. Ceramic and wrought iron-work- Alloa Baths 1992. | 47 |
| 17. Etched and leaded glass- Alloa Baths 1992. | 47 |
| 18. Original tiling, brass rail and concrete cope at Glenogle Baths- Edinburgh 1993. | 48 |
| 19. Marble spittoons, cope, patterned borders and travelling rings. 1st. Class pond 1876- Dundee Central Baths from photo album in Dundee Library. | 48 |

20. Warrant Plan of Baths floor showing the position of dressing boxes at Infirmary Street- Edinburgh from Edinburgh City Archives. 49
21. Ladies Pond showing timber dressing boxes at Whitevale from Whitevale Baths and Wash Houses Official Handbook, Glasgow Corporation 1902. 50
22. Clydebank Baths showing ceramic dressing box divisions 1985 RCAHMS. A43168 50
23. Warrant drawing (section) showing gallery and roof support at Townhead Baths,- Glasgow from Strathclyde Regional Archive. 51
24. Former gallery at end of pond, Warrender- Edinburgh 1993. 51
25. Warrant drawing showing seating and staging layout for Whitevale Baths- Glasgow from Strathclyde Regional Archive. 52
26. Opening of the Whitevale Baths- Glasgow from Whitevale Baths and Wash House Official Handbook, Glasgow Corporation 1902. 52
27. Roof truss sketches. 53

28. The New Turkish Baths- Dundee from the City Echo,
June 1910, p.37. 63
29. The Gymnasium, Portobello- Edinburgh from
Edinburgh Sea-Water Baths, Portobello, Edinburgh Town
Council 1901. 64
30. The Gymnasium, Whitevale- Glasgow from
Whitevale Baths and Wash House Official Handbook,
Glasgow Corporation 1902. 64
31. The Slipper Baths, Whitevale- Glasgow from
Whitevale Baths and Wash House Official Handbook,
Glasgow Corporation 1902. 65
32. Ladies Retiring Room, Portobello- Edinburgh
from Edinburgh Sea-Water Baths, Portobello, Edinburgh
Town Council 1901. 66
33. The Reading Room, Whitevale Baths- Glasgow
from Whitevale Baths and Wash House Official Handbook,
Glasgow Corporation 1902. 66
34. The Wash House showing stalls and central
drying horses, Whitevale Baths- Glasgow from
Whitevale Baths and Wash House Official Handbook,
Glasgow Corporation 1902. 67

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| 35. Details of the washing stalls used at Maryhill and Springburn Wash Houses,- Glasgow from Strathclyde Regional Archives. | 67 |
| 36. Chimney stack at Glenogle Baths, Edinburgh 1993. | 68 |
| 37. Fencing at Forfar Baths 1993. | 69 |
| 38. Fencing at Forfar Baths 1993. | 69 |
| 39. Alloa Baths showing ventilator c.1900- photograph by Bedford Lemere RCAHMS. CL/706. | 72 |
| 40. Alloa Baths 1993 without ventilator. | 72 |
| 41. The Male Pond, Portobello- Edinburgh from <u>Edinburgh Sea-Water Baths, Portobello, Edinburgh Town Council</u> 1901. | 75 |
| 42. The Male Pond, Portobello- Edinburgh (present condition) | 75 |
| 43. Alloa Baths in use as a gymnasium 1993. | 76 |
| 44. Discoloured tiling- Alloa Baths 1993. | 80 |
| 45. Pond Hall, Dalry Baths- Edinburgh following refurbishment of 1993. | 82 |

46. The pond-side Dalry Baths- Edinburgh following
refurbishment of 1993.

LIST OF TABLES

Page Number

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|----|
| 1. Public, endowed and private Baths building. | 20 |
| 2. Glasgow Baths demolished in the past 30 years. | 77 |

MAPS

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Distribution of Baths constructed in Scotland | 2 |
|--------------------------------------------------|---|

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express thanks to Dorothy Bell (Conservation Course Director) for her guiding hand and the many librarians and archivists throughout Scotland who assisted me with this unusual subject matter.

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this thesis is to stimulate interest in those buildings housing swimming ponds, constructed during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in Scotland, so that the erosion of their quality can be halted and further demolition prevented.

Factors influencing the development of swimming are considered from the eighteenth century until the activities popularisation in the late nineteenth century. This allows an appreciation of Bath buildings set against a social and historical framework.

Having established the general qualities, both tangible and intangible, there follows a more detailed analysis of typical styles, structure, finishes and commonly executed alterations.

The current value of Baths and measures which should be implemented to retain their distinctive character are discussed in the conclusion which urges the adoption of more comprehensive listing criteria and a more sensitive approach to future refurbishment work. Such action is impossible without a thematic ground-line, hence a gazetteer has been compiled offering historical background, descriptions and an indication of the past and present condition of these structures.

DEFINITIONS

bath: in an establishment of this period "baths" were porcelain or enamelled iron containers in which to wash.

Baths: For the purpose of this study "Baths" is taken to be a generic term relating to any establishment which primarily contains a swimming pond but which may also include a combination of private baths, wash house and other accommodation.

Baths and Wash House: Often, though not exclusively, refers to an establishment which includes a swimming pond. Some contained only slipper baths and a wash house.

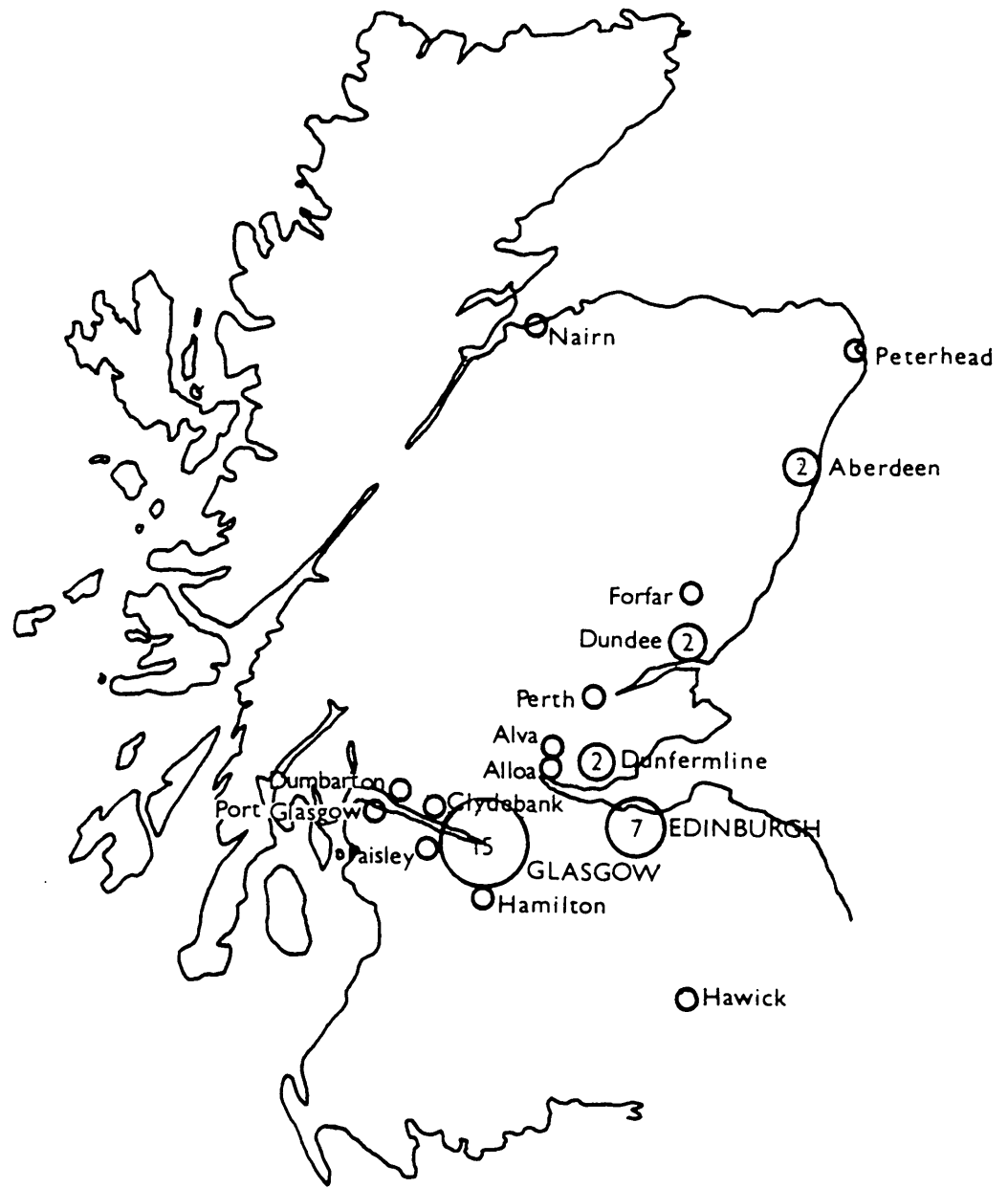
INTRODUCTION

Buildings containing public and private swimming baths played a significant part in nineteenth century sanitary improvements and in the provision of sporting facilities for all sections of society. Until recently this role has been greatly undervalued in the assessment of their worth by local authorities and Historic Scotland - an assessment which has relied solely on their comparative aesthetic merit while ignoring their social and technical value. As a consequence, 14 out of the 40 establishments constructed by private limited companies, benevolent trusts and town councils between 1868 and 1914, (Map.1,p.2) have been levelled in the last thirty years. Others currently lie derelict and under-used, deteriorating to a point where, in the absence of listed protection or public protest, further demolition is likely.

The objectives of this study are thus :

- 1) To understand the context within which these buildings were constructed.
- 2) To evaluate their architectural value and social significance and to define their tangible and intangible essence.
- 3) To discuss measures which should be implemented in order to conserve Baths.
- 4) To provide a gazetteer of Baths built from 1868 to 1914.

Private Baths companies employed respected architects to design lavish symbols



Map.1- Distribution of Baths in Scotland 1868-1914

of entrepreneurial pride which provided for the expectations of the middle and upper classes. They included reading, smoking and billiards rooms in conjunction with swimming ponds, Turkish baths and washing facilities.

Municipal establishments were designed by city or burgh architects and engineers, to provide primarily for the sanitary needs of the poorly housed inhabitants of the nineteenth century. Large complexes provided wash houses, private baths, swimming ponds, gymnastic halls, reading rooms and sometimes offered the luxury of Turkish baths.¹ Occasionally local benefactors offered money towards the construction of Baths. Depending on the funding, the quality of finish and provision of facilities within these varied from simple 'municipal-type' structures to grandiose expressions of entrepreneurial generosity. Following their construction they were normally administered by town councils.

The architecture of private, municipal and endowed Baths varied from functional to exotic extremes with styles ranging from Greek Revival to Edwardian Renaissance. Internally a similar variety of stylistic treatments and finishes were employed.

The particular qualities possessed by Baths have often succumbed to alterations required under the auspices of current technical, safety and health legislation or out of a desire for modern facilities. These have often been less than sympathetic to the original fabric of the buildings. Finishes and fittings have been removed or altered with a consequent loss of original character.

This paper seeks to stimulate an interest and understanding of Baths buildings at a socio-historical level and to address their conservation both theoretically and practically so that their essential character can be preserved for future generations.

¹ Smaller buildings containing private baths and wash houses are not directly related to swimming but are acknowledged as playing their part in sanitary provision.

CHAPTER 1- THE DEVELOPMENT OF SWIMMING

Development of upper class health and leisure pursuits and the provision of sanitary facilities for the lower classes stimulated interest in swimming in the late nineteenth century. The following chapter gives an overview of the development of swimming, concentrating on the main factors attributable to the genesis of private and public indoor swimming ponds from their roots in the seventeenth century spa and social reforms of the nineteenth century.²

INTEREST IN WATER CURES

Spas

During the middle ages water was strongly linked with the supernatural. Springs were associated with magical and religious healing and were patronised by local residents and travellers of all but the lowest ranks of society. Their efficacious nature was extolled by enthusiastic local physicians who prescribed them for all manner of external and internal ailments. It is likely that many ailments were cured by regular washing with clean water (not a common practice) rather than by any mystical properties which the water might have possessed.

The eighteenth century saw the adoption of a more 'scientific' appreciation of the mineral content and curative properties of water. Criticism was levelled at practitioners who continued to prescribe in the old way but this did little to dampen their or their clients' enthusiasm for cures which had become increasingly popular amongst the wealthy.

Initially simple well-houses, containing baths, were erected over spas. Where the water attained popular acclaim houses, churches, masonic halls and concert halls

² for further information re. early swimming see Orme, Nicholas Early British Swimming 55BC-AD1719, Exeter University 1983.

were built to accommodate and entertain travelling guests. The spa itself soon became an excuse rather than a reason to visit these increasingly fashionable retreats. A traveller of around 1800, Henri Mission, noticed that:

".. the pretence of these waters brings together vast numbers of people of both sexes that are in very good health."³

The upper classes had time, money and transport affording them access to all the trappings of high society and fashionable living. Walvin notes that:

"..it was in the eighteenth century that the English spa reached its peak of social importance. Inspired by royalty and goaded by their medical advisors, aristocrats - and those who aped them - found in the spas all those refinements of upper-class recreation which they expected: the soirées, concerts, balls, rounds of entertainment and assignations, to say nothing of the alleged medical virtues of taking the waters."⁴

Such spa retreats encouraged the use of buildings devoted to bathing and brought healthy activity within the scope of leisure.

Seaside Retreats

The eighteenth century saw several physicians publish papers on the benefits of bathing in hot and cold water. The most influential of these was written by Dr. Richard Russell who conferred some of the health giving properties, previously reserved for the mineral spring, on sea water in his publication entitled, "A Dissertation concerning the use of Sea Water in diseases of the Glands", of 1750. He advocated drinking of, and bathing in sea water for the treatment of numerous complaints. Consequently sea-water cures attained a comparable popularity to

³From Alderson,F. The Inland Resorts and Spas of Britain, Newton Abbot 1973, p.25

⁴ Walvin, James Leisure and Society 1830-1950 Longman Group Ltd., London 1978, p.12

those of the spas.

Evolution of Weymouth, Brighton and Scarborough, as retreats of royal patronage, influenced similar activity north of the border where Scotland's low temperature and bracing, fresh winds were thought to be ideal for good health. Bathing machines were made available at Leith Sands in 1761 and shortly afterwards at Portobello in 1795.(ill.1, p.7) They consisted of, "...a proper house on wheels with a horse and a servant..."⁵ thus retaining both the privacy and service found in the spa well house. Having entered the 'machine', the bather donned swimming attire and was pulled a suitable distance into the water allowing entry away from the gaze of those on the beach. This degree of propriety was contrasted by those who continued bathing naked until this practice was curbed by prohibitive and segregative local bye-laws.

Coastal spa retreats, such as Peterhead, were ideally located to adapt to the new sea-water fad, already possessing accommodation and housing for visitors. Elsewhere seasonal refuges were constructed where retired officers, doctors, bankers and lawyers could enjoy the solitude and fresh air. The size of communities like Ardrossan and Portobello expanded to such an extent that churches and function halls became necessary adjuncts.

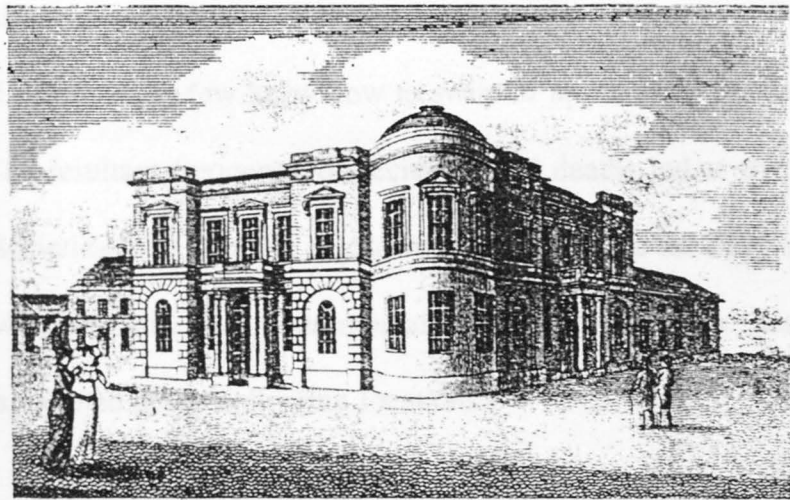
Bath Houses

The particular benefits of indoor bathing facilities, such as privacy and warmth, led to a number of exclusive establishments being planned on the coast during the early nineteenth century. Simple, single storey constructions contained hot and

⁵ Edinburgh Evening News Saturday, December 1, 1956.



1. Bathing Machines on Leith Sands, mid nineteenth century.



View of SEAFIELD BATHS east of Leith Links

2. Etching of Seafield Baths, Leith 1812.

cold private baths, supplied with both sea and fresh water, while more substantial establishments at Leith, Portobello and Ardrossan included plunge baths large enough to allow a few swimming strokes. Designed by notable architects such as William Sibbald (Portobello Baths 1804) and John Paterson (Seafield Baths, Leith 1810-13) they borrowed from the sculptural interior forms discovered in the Baths of the Diocletian in Rome.(ill.2, p.7)

Swimming

Not all, however, could afford the luxury of a visit to the bath house. In his description of the 1806 Portobello Baths John Millar commented that:

" The expense of frequent bathing, it is obvious,...., must be considerable; and this has been urged as an objection to the more general utility of the establishment. There is, it must be acknowledged, some weight in the objection; since the circumstances of many persons, to whom the use of the baths would be highly beneficial, in some measure preclude them from the enjoyment of this benefit."⁶

Swimming, on the other hand was a simple, enjoyable and healthy alternative which could be practised free of charge by anyone with access to the sea, lochs or rivers. Unfortunately few knew how to swim or appreciated the dangers of the activity. The resultant frequency of accidents and deaths led to the founding of Humane Societies from the late eighteenth century onwards. They attempted to educate swimmers and were instrumental in having 'safe spots' designated and 'rescues' appointed at the following locations:⁷

EDINBURGH- Granton Harbour and Trinity Pier (Newhaven)

⁶ Millar, John Treatise on the Beneficial Effects of Cold and Warm Bathing, John Brown, Edinburgh 1807, p.60

⁷ From Bilborough,P. One Hundred Years of Scottish Swimming, S.A.S.A. 1988, p.1

DUNDEE- Near the castle at Broughty Ferry

GLASGOW- Flesher's Haugh section of Glasgow Green, Dominie's Hole and at the Gorbals near the cotton mill out-flow pipe

ABERDEEN- Pottie o' the Dee

'Rescues' acted primarily as life-guards and were paid a weekly wage with gratuities earned for good service or life saving duties. No direct references have been found to suggest that they actually taught, but as strong swimmers they would have undoubtedly encouraged others to learn.⁸ Swimming continued to exist at a local level attracting interest from those of the middle classes, gradually becoming more widely available to the less wealthy as the century progressed.

The Railway System and the Hydropathic Revolution

The expansion of railways in Scotland towards 1850 provided inexpensive travel to a wider portion of society. Those with enough money and time escaped from the squalor of the cities to the sea and countryside. There they could relax in the acclaimed fresh air and scenic beauty while aspiring to associate with those of the establishment. Retreats gradually lost their exclusivity becoming instead popular seaside and inland resorts visited by large numbers on day excursions or by those taking yearly holidays.

Swimming Gains Popularity

Improved communication with the sea-side led to acceptance of swimming as a healthy, recreational pastime. Enthusiasm culminated in the formation of

⁸ Archie McFarlane, 'Rescue' at Aberdeen from 1846 was a founder member of the Bon Accord Swimming Club.

swimming clubs by bankers, clerks and managers in the second half of the nineteenth century. The first founded was the Forth(1850), followed by the Bon-Accord(1862),the Dee(1865) and the West of Scotland(1866).⁹ The clubs demonstrated various swimming strokes and performed mock rescues before crowds of up to 3000 people. Such displays encouraged active interest in the 'art' and endeared it to spectators.

Rail transport also allowed competition between swimming clubs. Unofficial 'Scottish championships' were held from 1858 over various distances and under the host club's rules. The need for a national regulatory body soon became obvious. Following a meeting of clubs in Perth in 1875 the Association of Swimming Clubs in Scotland (A.S.C.S.) was created. Despite having little real power the benefits of such a body were realised and thirteen years later, in 1888, the Scottish Amateur Swimming Association was founded. The association sought to organise and encourage the development of swimming, formulating national rules for swimming events and giving advice to those considering the construction of swimming establishments.¹⁰

Inland Resorts and Hydropathic Establishments

Inland retreats underwent similar development to those on the coast. Competitive railway companies were quick to capitalise on mineral springs discovered or 'imagined' in proximity to rail routes. Towns, such as Strathpeffer and Peebles, were developed to include all the facilities necessary to attract visitors and flourished during the second half of the nineteenth century.

⁹ Bilborough, P. One Hundred Years of Scottish Swimming, S.A.S.A. 1988, p.2

¹⁰ Ibid. p.3

Entrepreneurs established hydropathic establishments on or near spas. Inspired by those at Malvern (1842),¹¹ they offered Turkish baths and a range of specialised water cures (such as brine, surge and Nanham baths, Aix-les-Bains, Scotch, Needle and Vichy douches) in relaxed, healthy and scenic locations.

Turkish Baths

Despite their appearance in London in 1679,¹² no early references to Turkish baths in Scotland could be found prior to the second half of the nineteenth century when there appears to have been revived British interest. David Urquart strongly advocated their acceptance in his treatise of 1856 on "The Turkish Bath" stating that:

"A nation without the bath is deprived of a large portion of the health and inoffensive enjoyment within man's reach ; a habit which increases the value of the people to itself, augments its power over other people."¹³

Hydropathic establishments were first to adopt them in the 1860s and 70s followed by private bath companies in the 1870s and 80s. The reputation of municipal Baths was considerably enhanced by the occasional inclusion of Turkish baths. Their eastern origin inspired opulent, colourful interiors and forms which in some cases influenced the overall style of the buildings in which they were accommodated.

¹¹ Thom, Heather The Story of the Peebles Hydro 1987

¹² Taking the Plunge, The Architecture of Bathing, multiple authors, published by "Save Britain's Heritage" 1990, p.1

¹³ Urquart, David The Turkish Bath, London:David Bryce 1856, p.6.

Private Baths Companies

Throughout the nineteenth century substantial areas of river bank and shoreline were lost to industrial development or despoiled by effluent dumping. Concurrently swimming had attained status as a worth-while, organised sporting activity of ever increasing following. After 1840 private bodies sought to provide swimming facilities in conjunction with bath houses. Their reliance on donations and the poor financial returns to be had from sanitary ventures of this kind led ultimately to swimming pond proposals being shelved.¹⁴ Scotland had to wait until 1868 before the first indoor swimming pond was built in Paisley by private subscription.

Limited liability companies constructed baths out of a desire by an increasing number of middle class gentlemen for private baths and well equipped sporting and social facilities.¹⁵ Over a period of twenty years eleven privately financed establishments including ponds were constructed in Scotland:

| | |
|-------|----------------------------|
| 1868 | Paisley |
| 1870 | Arlington, Glasgow |
| 1873 | Nairn |
| 1875 | Western, Glasgow |
| 1878 | Victoria, Glasgow |
| 1883 | Pollockshields, Glasgow |
| 1883 | Drumsheugh, Edinburgh |
| 1884 | Dennistoun, Glasgow |
| 1887 | Warrender, Edinburgh |
| 1880s | Constitution St., Aberdeen |
| 1889 | Perth |

Designed by well known architects of the day, the majority were plushly decorated and detailed buildings executed in a variety of styles from Greek to Gothic Revival. Facilities included swimming ponds and private baths with, in

¹⁴ This was true of the baths at the west protection wall of the harbour, Dundee (1844), and the St. Andrews Street baths, Aberdeen (1851).

¹⁵ Bilborough, P. One Hundred Years of Scottish Swimming, S.A.S.A. 1988, p.3

addition, a combination of Turkish and Russian baths, smoking, reading and billiards rooms. The availability of these facilities led to use of Baths as venues for social gatherings, entertainment and education :

"Among the Gentlemen who contributed to the entertainment were Messrs. Barker (harp), Anderson (conjuring), Baynhem and Brown (elocutionists)..."¹⁶

More practically they offered baths for those whose homes were not provided with sanitary ware, who were unwilling to light fires to heat water during the summer months or who preferred the congenial atmosphere.

Despite an initial popularity private Bath companies faced stiff competition from municipal establishments which had inexpensive entry charges, were more numerous and wide spread, catered for different classes of bather and latterly included activity rooms and Turkish baths. Combined with the poor profitability of Baths companies and expenses incurred as a result of structural settling or fire damage the majority have succumbed to changes of management, municipal take over, sale or demolition. Only Arlington, Western and Drumsheugh Baths have survived to the present day as private swimming establishments.

¹⁶ Mann, W. The Baths- The story of the Western Baths, Hillhead, The Western Baths Company, Glasgow c.1991, p.26

SWIMMING DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SOCIAL REFORM

In addition to middle and upper class interest in swimming, an interest in the activity grew among the ranks of the working classes. Swimming baths were provided, in conjunction with slipper baths and wash houses, during the latter part of the nineteenth century in an attempt to address urban problems which had been illuminated by mid-century sanitary reports.

Industrial and Urban Life 1750-1850

Until the mid eighteenth century a large proportion of the population lived in the countryside where cottage industries, such as spinning and weaving, predominated. The invention of the flying shuttle, the water frame, the power loom, the spinning jenny and the spinning mule combined with their reliance on larger power sources and need for more spacious accommodation made it economical to gather them together and drive from a single source. Employers built factories and mills in centres where raw materials could be imported and manufactured goods exported with limited transportation costs. Their massive output led to rapid decline in many of the cottage and workshop based industries leading to population migration towards towns and cities where work was available. These centres with, at best, inadequate infrastructure could not cope with the density of housing constructed by factory and mill owners for their employees. 'Jerry building', inadequate water supply, open sewers and overcrowding led to insanitary, disease ridden conditions such that:

"They were surrounded by filth, accumulated in cesspools and privies and stagnant surface drains; they breathed the exhalations of undrained marsh land, graveyards, and slaughterhouses; they had no choice but to live in

narrow alleys and close courts."¹⁷

In these circumstances personal hygiene was an unnecessary burden on time, energy and finances :

"...the multiple attractions of town life coupled with hard work offer a strong temptation to scamp personal duties."¹⁸

Washing of clothes and bathing revolved around the tub; usually a sawn-off barrel. Having been washed clothes were either hung to dry inside the flat where they creating a damp, unhealthy atmosphere, or outside, where they were 'greyed' by air-born grime. The whole family bathed in the same water previously used for washing clothes, hardly an ideal arrangement for the factory or mill worker.

Not only were living conditions abhorrent, work and working conditions were degradery. Employers dictated long, strictly regulated and supervised hours with little remuneration. The only rest was on Sunday when fanatical sabbatarianism discouraged leisure pursuits:

"The working people...Have generally no means of excitement or amusement at command during the week....even on Sunday, stern and rigid as it is here , brings no recreation or enjoyment."¹⁹

A minority of the working class saved all year in order to take a break of one or two days at the seaside or in the countryside. The majority made their own entertainment in the towns and cities preferring to drown their sorrows in public houses.

¹⁷ Lewis,R.A. Edwin Chadwick and the Public Health Movement 1832-1854, Longmans, London 1952, p.36.

¹⁸ Campbell, Agnes Report on Public Baths and Wash-houses in the U.K. Edinburgh University Press 1918, p.1.

¹⁹ Walvin, James Leisure and Society 1830-1950 Longman Group Ltd., London 1978, p.2.

Public Health- Baths and Wash House Legislation

Prior to the 1840s social surveys were carried out at a purely subjective level. Commissioners were uncritical of the conditions largely created by persons of their own social stratum but rather found fault in the people themselves. Hence the underlying theme of the Poor Law Act of 1834 was that poverty was 'voluntary' and the result of 'idleness', 'intemperance' and 'improvidence'. Such conclusions were swept away by succeeding sanitary reports which incorporated statistical analysis. Despite many of the surveys being conducted at a national level, early legislation was restricted to England where conditions were considered to be more severe, with similar Scottish legislation following later.

Shortly after cholera outbreaks in the early eighteen thirties, first recorded in Sunderland 1831, Mr. Silk Buckingham drafted a Bill for increased cleansing facilities. This first attempt at legislating for the improvement of living standards was rejected by parliament in 1835.²⁰ Despite this set back concern over public health prompted Southwood Smith to report on London living quarters in 1839. He contradicted the findings of the Poor Law Act concluding that:

"....there were some evils which could not be avoided by any exercise of prudence on the part of the poor and which were independent of their individual habits."²¹

The Bishop of London took it upon himself to address the Lords on the report's text "...and moved that an enquiry be made into the sanitary conditions of the labouring classes."²² Parliament took heed and an enquiry commissioned by the

²⁰ Campbell, Agnes Report on Public Baths and Wash-houses in the U.K., Edinburgh University Press 1918, p.3.

²¹ Lewis,R.A. Edwin Chadwick and the Public Health Movement 1832-1854, Longmans, London 1952, p.36.

²² Ibid. p.38

government was published in 1842 following extensive travel and study of urban areas in Britain. The report, influenced by the work of the 'active' secretary of the Poor Law board, Edwin Chadwick, sought to identify the contributing factors leading to insanitary living conditions. Part of the blame was directed towards town councils which were disorganised, rife with nepotism and often more interested in self acclamation than in dealing with the pressing needs of the town or city to which they had been chosen to serve.

Two further reports were prepared by the Royal Commission of Enquiry (1844 and 1845) into "...the State of Large Towns and Populous Districts" which made recommendations concerning the improvement of public health, with particular reference to local government responsibility for providing washing facilities for the labouring classes. The Rev. Sir Henry Dukenfield, Bart., appointed chairman of a committee for "...promoting the Establishment of Baths and Wash Houses for the Labouring Classes" in 1844, was instrumental in the preparation of a Bill, subsequently introduced to the Commons by Sir George Grey, which finally received Royal assent on August 26th.,1846.²³

Subsequent Acts came into force during 1847 and 1878 with three-fold advantages for English town councils :²⁴

(1) A borrowing facility allowed construction of public utilities which would otherwise be outwith the immediate financial means of a local council.

(2) Supply of water and gas could be arranged with relevant managers at a reduced rate or no charge at all.

²³ The Badminton Library of Sports and Pastimes, Swimming, 1893, p.380.

²⁴ Campbell, Agnes Report on Public Baths and Wash-houses in the U.K., Edinburgh University Press 1918, p.3.

(3) Local authorities were given powers to introduce byelaws and set charges on the condition that at least two thirds of baths should be of the cheapest class.²⁵

These Acts were not obligatory but were widely adopted by English local authorities intent on salvaging civic self respect.

Scottish conditions, with the exception of Glasgow of which Chadwick was a severe critic, were believed to be of an 'acceptable' level such that national legislation was deemed unnecessary during the 1840s. That is not to say that conditions were good. Littlejohns, "Report on the sanitary condition of the City of Edinburgh" of 1865 indicates that even in better areas water supply and sewerage systems were inadequate.²⁶ The need for public sanitary facilities was also obvious to those living and working in industrial towns and cities in Scotland. For example in Dundee at least 1800 men signed a petition in the mid nineteenth century that the Provost and officials of the Council might consider the building of public baths for the working classes.

Mention of special arrangements concerning water provision for bathing in the Public Health(Scotland) Act of 1867 offered little encouragement to local authorities and it was only with the the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act of 1892 and the Local Government (Scotland) Act of 1894 that similar borrowing powers became available to the majority of Scottish towns and rural districts.

As in England, two thirds of all slipper baths within an establishment were designated for the use of the working class. While English legislation dictated maximum charges there was no such restriction enforced in Scotland with the

²⁵ Taking the Plunge, the Architecture of Bathing, multiple authors, published by "Save Our Heritage" 1990, p.14

²⁶ Littlejohn, Henry Report on the sanitary condition of the City of Edinburgh, Colston and Son, Edinburgh 1865

result that admittance charges were sometimes double that of similarly sized establishments south of the border.

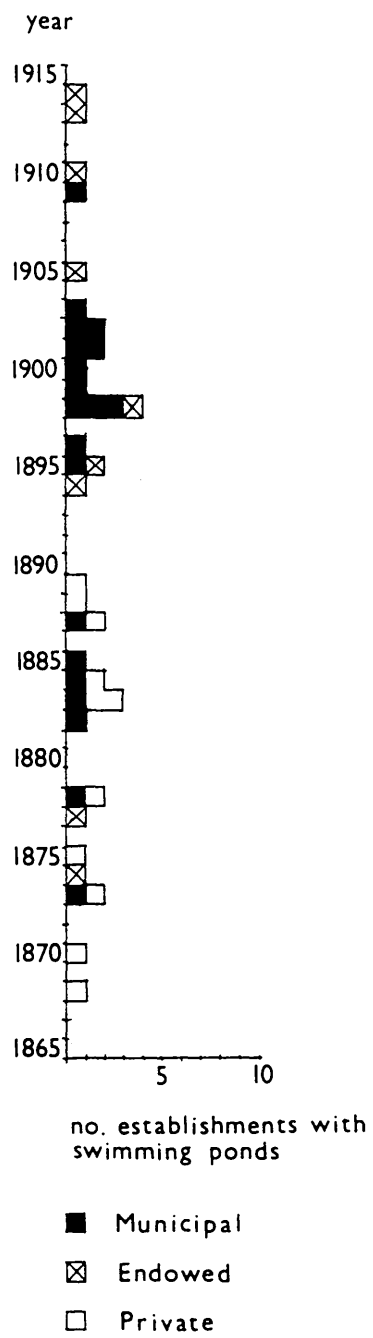
The first decade of the twentieth century saw further measures taken to deal with public health issues. Under the auspices of the Children Act of 1908 verminous children could be cleansed at public expense and parents summoned for neglect. This process was found difficult to organise and enforce, Aberdeen being the only authority in Scotland to develop a near comprehensive scheme.²⁷

Municipal Baths and Wash Houses

Despite town councils occasionally offering money towards the construction of baths by private bodies and charities, no municipally inspired baths were built in Scotland until either local Police Acts were obtained (as in Glasgow, 1866 and Dundee, 1871) or legislative borrowing powers came into operation following 1892. (Tab.1, p.21) Although essential health issues were not immediately addressed in Scotland, delay in the provision of legislation had two advantages for the development of swimming. Firstly, councils in a position to construct baths had ample opportunity to visit and assess the relative merits of, and problems associated with, those constructed in England. The Town Council of Leith, for example, commissioned an extensive report on Baths in 1897 with officials visiting Glasgow, Liverpool, Chester, Blackpool, London and Brighton concluding as to the best mode of design and construction for Leith Victoria Baths (opened 1899).²⁸ Secondly, the Scottish Amateur Swimming Association, founded in

²⁷ Health surveys around 1918 showed that despite this legislation, 33% of school children suffered from body vermin.

²⁸ Minutes of the Town Council of Leith, Tuesday 20th July 1897, Vol.1896-97, pp.501-507.



Tab.1 Showing Construction of Baths against Year

1888, could make recommendations to town councils regarding the provision and layout of proposed pools.

This allowed standardisation of dimensions permitting competition in a wide range of venues and offering equal opportunity to those in training.

The provision of Baths and Wash Houses was a means by which local authorities could not only tackle the very real needs of the community but gave them a chance to restore their credibility as civic bodies. Not surprisingly, their official openings were marked by great celebration. Local dignitaries attended and gave speeches before large crowds of onlookers. In some cases the opening was considered reason enough for a public holiday which allowed members of local societies the opportunity to take part in the festivities.

In all, twenty municipal Baths and wash houses containing swimming ponds were built in Scotland between 1868 and 1914:

| | |
|------|---------------------------|
| 1873 | Dundee |
| 1878 | Greenhead, Glasgow |
| 1882 | Woodside, Glasgow |
| 1883 | Cranstonhill, Glasgow |
| 1884 | Townhead, Glasgow |
| 1885 | Gorbals, Glasgow |
| 1887 | Infirmery St., Edinburgh |
| 1895 | Dalry, Edinburgh |
| 1896 | Aberdeen |
| 1898 | Springburn, Glasgow |
| 1898 | Maryhill, Glasgow |
| 1898 | Leith Victoria, Edinburgh |
| 1899 | Peterhead |
| 1900 | Glenogle, Edinburgh |
| 1901 | Portobello, Edinburgh |
| 1901 | Govan, Glasgow |
| 1902 | Whitevale, Glasgow |
| 1902 | Kinning Park, Glasgow |
| 1903 | Clydebank |
| 1909 | Hamilton |

The speed at which establishments were introduced is possibly a measure of how

serious urban conditions were in different cities. Police commissioners in Dundee took over the private baths at the west protection wall in January 1871, adding a swimming pond to the existing construction by 1873. In Glasgow the Town Council approved a motion during 1869 to provide public baths and wash houses for the city which resulted in the opening of Greenhead Baths in 1878 and a further four establishments in less than seven years. Edinburgh waited until 1887 before opening Infirmary Street Baths and it was a further ten years before Dalry came into operation.

Municipal Baths, normally designed by City Engineers or Burgh surveyors but occasionally by Architects, were executed with varying degrees of competence in styles ranging from Greek revival to Edwardian Renaissance.

Facilities normally included private baths, wash house accomodation and swimming ponds while gymnasias, rest or reading rooms and Turkish baths became more common in larger complexes towards the end of the nineteenth century. Despite Agnes Campbell's suggestion that:

"It is possible, however, that the desire for a swimming bath has been the principal factor in the genesis of these establishments..."²⁹

this does not seem plausible. Swimming, though important, was rather one of a number of factors inspiring municipal Baths; not the least of which was the urgent need for baths and wash houses in deprived areas of towns and cities.

Swimming was initially considered an unnecessary luxury and it was noted by Councillors that some Glasgow ponds were frequented more by the middle classes than by those for whom they were intended. This gradually changed as more

²⁹ Campbell, Agnes Report on Public Baths and Wash-houses in the U.K., Edinburgh University Press 1918, p.26.

swimming clubs were founded, as schools started to make use of the facilities and as the general standard of living rose, such that even the poorer could afford a swim.

Endowed Baths

Some town and burgh councils were fortunate to profit from benefactors who offered generous financial sums towards the provision of Baths and other public buildings. They were usually wealthy local businessmen who were happy to be seen investing some of their profits back into the community. Perhaps the best known was Andrew Carnegie who provided two swimming baths for Dunfermline and one for Forfar.

Nine Baths were financed in such a manner between 1870 and 1914:

| | |
|------|--------------|
| 1874 | Alva |
| 1877 | Dunfermline |
| 1894 | Port Glasgow |
| 1895 | Lochee |
| 1898 | Alloa |
| 1905 | Dunfermline |
| 1910 | Forfar |
| 1913 | Hawick |
| 1914 | Dumbarton |

Most of these buildings were of a similar quality to municipal Baths with notable exceptions being those funded by Carnegie in Dunfermline(1905) and the Alloa Baths (1898); two of the most lavishly finished and well equipped baths to be constructed in Scotland. On completion responsibility for their running generally fell into the hands of the town council, albeit some benefactors offered additional funding to account for any losses which might be made during the first stage of the building's life.

Swimming- More Widely Accessable

We can see, therefore, that the swimming pond was influenced by two main factors- both the leisure aspirations of the middle and upper classes and necessary sanitary provision for the lower classes. Their common factor was the swimming pond which was of similar quality in all establishments; private and public. By around 1900 facilities originally conceived within the private establishment, such as Turkish baths and gymnasia, had also been duplicated in the larger municipal Baths. Likewise the quality of structures such as Portobello Baths, Edinburgh and Whitevale Baths, Glasgow matched any which had been built by the companies in the 1870s and 1880s perhaps reflecting the fact that swimming had become a universally available indoor sport for all but the poorest.

CHAPTER 2- THE 'ESSENCE OF BATHS BUILDINGS'

The combination of the rich architectural styles thought appropriate for large Victorian and Edwardian public buildings, the amount of engineering works necessary to hold and process large quantities of water and their close links with local communities make Bath buildings unique.

EXTERNAL QUALITIES

In his book on the design of Public Baths and Wash houses of 1906, A.W.S. Scott was critical of the fact that Baths tended to be designed by burgh surveyors and engineers rather than architects. He maintained the quality of their architecture suffered as a result.³⁰

Many Scottish public Baths were indeed designed by burgh architects, engineers and surveyors, but they used the experiences of their English counterparts to good use, and thereby avoided many teething problems. In cases where a local authority was not large enough to justify a burgh architect or engineer, architects in private practice were commissioned. That buildings were architect-designed is barely noticable (ill.9, p.36); financial constraints reduced their treatment to a bare minimum. On the other hand, when adequate funding was available architects commissioned by the private Baths clubs provided more adventurous Venetian, Jacobean and Byzantine revival solutions while their public counterparts preferred a more formal classical or Renaissance treatment.(A broad overview of stylistic trends is described in Chapter 3., p.33)

³⁰ Cross,A.W.S. Public Baths and Washhouses, Batsford 1906, p.5.

Streetscape Quality

Impact on the streetscape varies substantially from one example to the next because of the wide range of architectural styles, degrees of surface articulation and the differing contexts in which Bath buildings are found. However, municipal Baths in cities generally have a substantial public front which stands out from the surrounding housing in which they are normally to be found. Private Baths were built in varying sizes. Some examples are of similar scale to public Baths while others are of a more domestic scale blending into adjacent housing. Small municipal Baths are the least imposing of all. They are distinguishable as public buildings but have little noteworthy surface treatment.

The architectural contribution to the streetscape of surviving establishments remains unaltered except where adjacent development or demolition has adversely affected the scale or nature of the surrounding build (for example Whitevale Baths in Glasgow which are now dwarfed by modern flats; ill.3, p.27) or where there have been substantial alterations to a building's exterior (such as at North Woodside, Glasgow; ill.4, p.27)

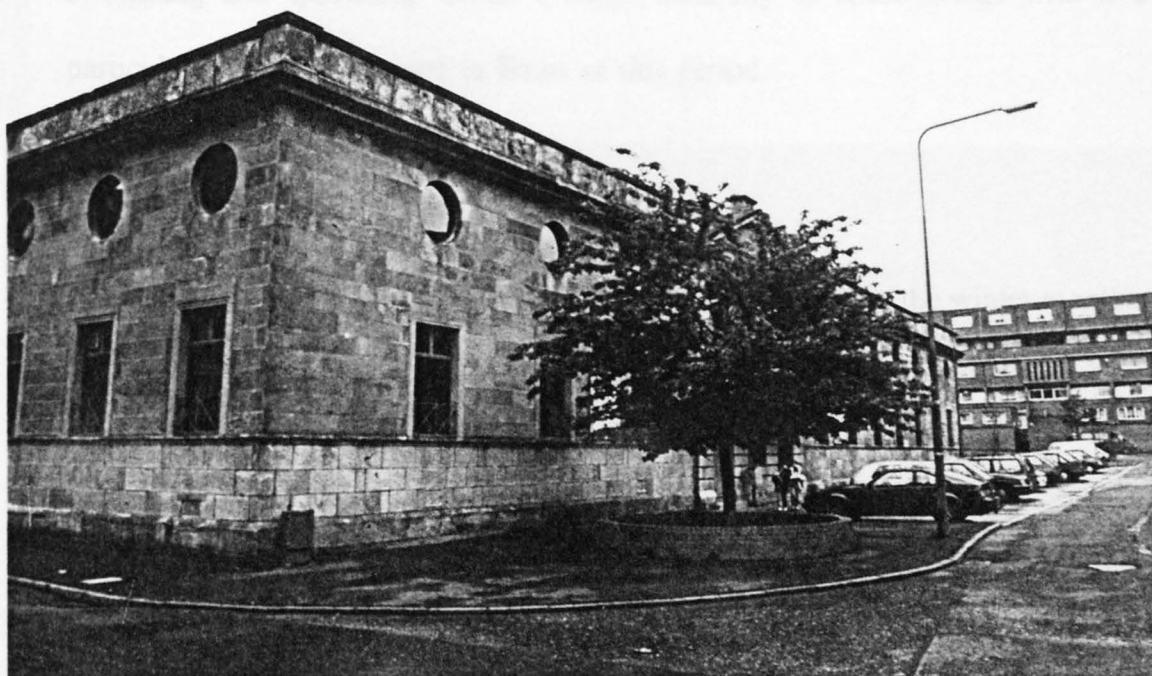
INTERNAL SPATIAL QUALITIES

The spatial quality of Baths is derived from the particular organisation of facilities outlined in more detail in chapter 3.(p.33) Entering through a usually substantial and solid public front, with male and female entrances originally separated from each other within the entrance foyer, one progresses into the pond hall which is of an entirely contrasting 'light' feel as expressed by Alison Blood in her description of the Western Baths:

"...and there you were in a lovely under-the-sea atmosphere, with sunshine filtering through the green glass roof on to green sparkling water, a place of



3. Whitevale Baths, Glasgow



4. North Woodside Baths, Glasgow

spaciousness and light."³¹

Pond Hall

When first designed the 'pond' hall clearly reflected the previously outdoor nature of swimming.

The use of 'natural' finishes in earlier pond halls included hard wood or dark-stained timbers for changing boxes and galleries (N.B. These were superceded in some later establishments by tiling which was easier to clean). Halls were naturally lit from above by full length ridge lanterns or roof lights, supported by open timber or steel roof trusses. Plants in hanging baskets (ill.5&6, p.29) and foliated ceramic work added to the natural setting.

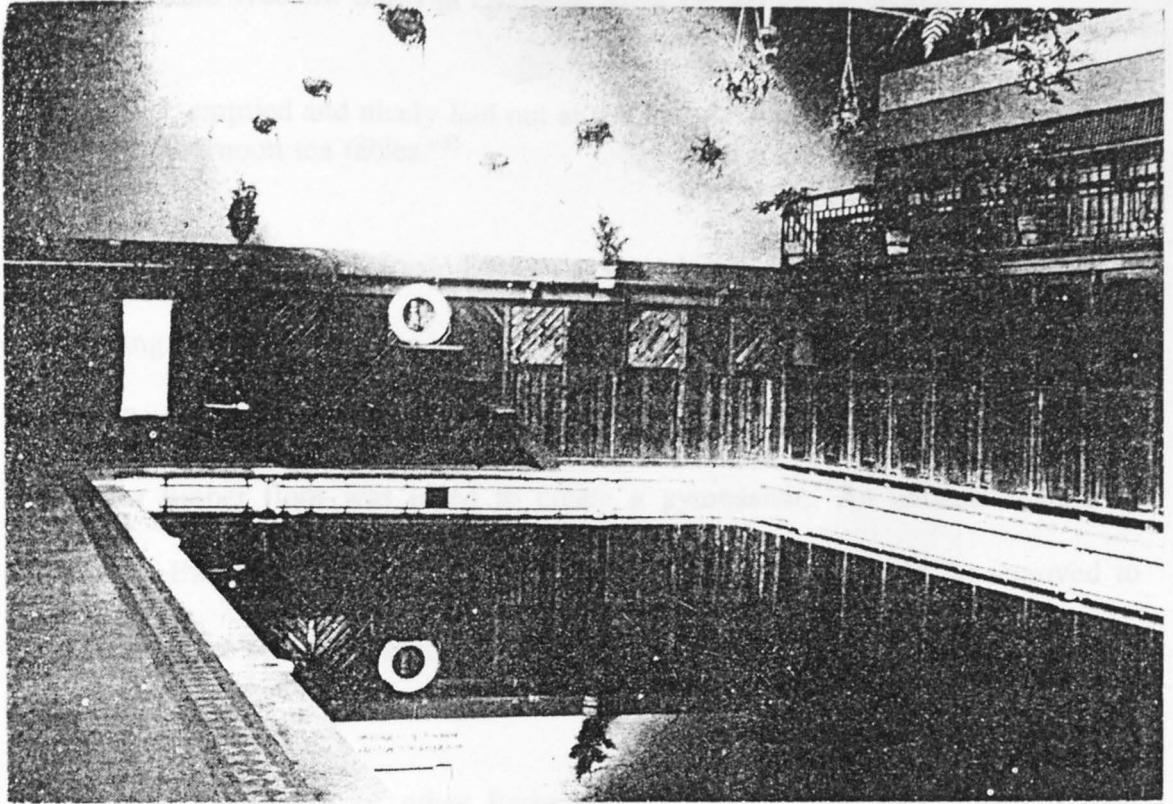
In addition to natural finishes the simple inter-communication of functions were similar to those found in out-door bathing. The changing boxes at pond-side offered privacy and direct access to the water as bathing machines did on the beach. The direct visual and functional communication between changing, swimming and spectating within a single naturally lit space brings with it a particular immediacy unique to Baths of this period.

Adaptability of Space

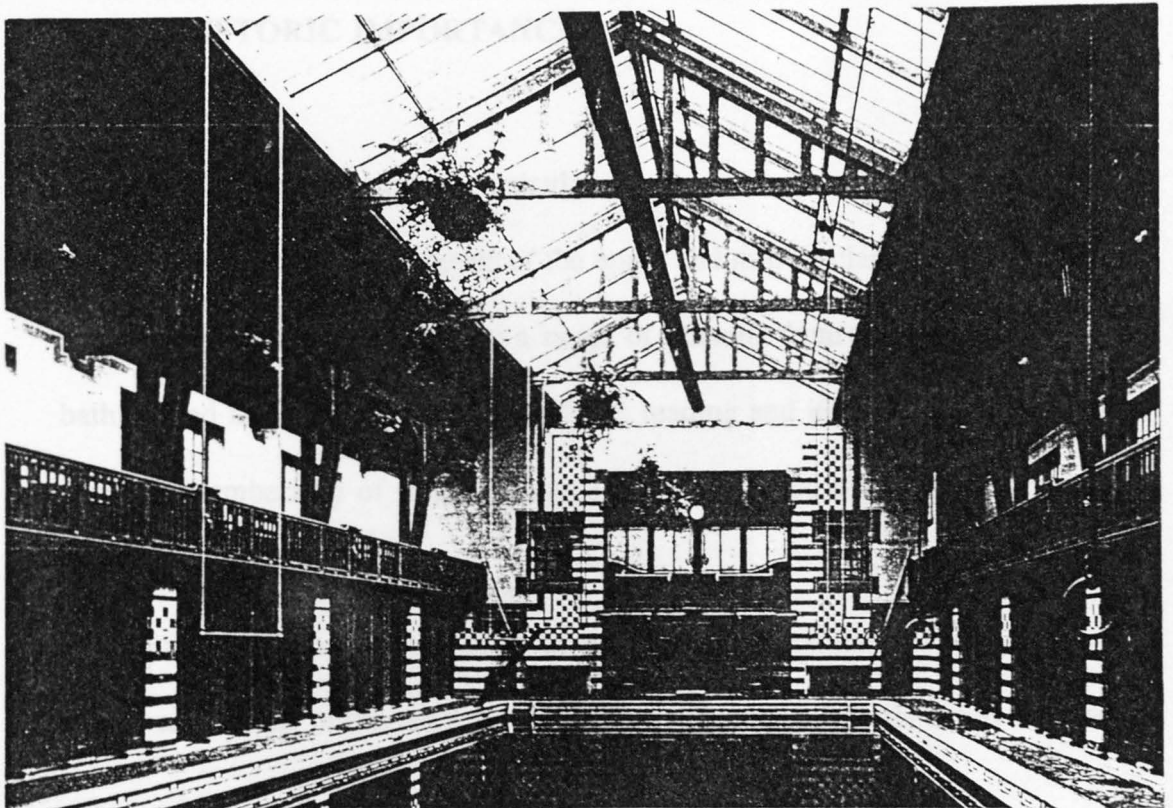
In England most ponds closed either partially or fully during the winter months. They were converted to accommodate a number of alternative activities including archery, bowling, shooting, skating, badminton or for general use as halls.

In Scotland it was normal practice to keep ponds open throughout the whole year. Pond halls were nevertheless considered as flexible spaces. Establishments

³¹ Blood, Alison F. Kelvinside Days, John Smith & Sons, Glasgow 1929



5. The Male Pond Hall, Perth c.1900



6. The Pond Hall Alloa c.1900, RCAHMS.

such as the Western Baths in Glasgow were, on several occasions:

"..emptied and nicely laid out at the bottom with rugs, chairs, couches and afternoon tea tables."³²

The main pond at Whitevale Baths was staged and formally seated, for the public opening, making use of the inclined pond floor as a seating rake.(ill.25&16, p.52)

The 2nd class pond at the Central Baths, Dundee was also converted but in this case a timber floor was layed to create a gymnasium. An unusual feature of Paisley Baths were changing boxes set on wheels which could be removed to provide more pond-side seating during galas. This system was unique in Scotland.

During the design of other Baths similar consideration was given to their possible adaptation to accommodate other such activities.

SOCIO-HISTORIC IMPORTANCE

Community

Baths were built to provide particular town and city communities with leisure and washing facilities. The needs of the upper and middle classes were met by the private Bath clubs which offered a range of pursuits from swimming to Turkish bathing and in addition provided smoking, reading and billiard rooms. Pride was taken in membership of these exclusive clubs such that strong allegiances were established.

Municipal and trust Baths dealt directly with the sanitary requirements and leisure aspirations of the residents of local communities. Special needs were even

³² Mann, W.M. The Baths, The Story of the Western Baths, The Western Baths Company 1990, p.26

taken into account in Glasgow where a high Jewish population resident on the south side of the Clyde were supplied with a Kosher bath at the Gorbals Baths, which was used by females in ceremonial washing according to the Jewish religion.

Local schools, without swimming accommodation,³³ made use of the Baths. Swimming became a more common part of the curriculum towards the end of the nineteenth and beginning of the twentieth century partly to ensure that pupils were regularly washed. This became mandatory following the implementation of the Children Act of 1908.

A strong sense of attachment to Public Baths and Wash houses was born out of the reliance of a large part of the community on the bathing and washing facilities. A whole culture emerged around "the steamie" where the latest scandal and gossip could be exchanged while clothes were being washed and dried. Baths also took on the role of a community centre where friends and neighbours could meet while they used facilities such as the swimming pond, gymnasium, reading and billiards rooms.

Through use of such facilities a unique relationship has been formed between utility and user which continues to the present day. Normally unnoticeable it is activated when Baths are threatened with closure.

Historical Documents

Until the late nineteenth century sport and leisure were reserved for the upper classes. Improvements in the standard of living led to a dissemination of leisure through the middle to lower classes during subsequent years. Public Baths were

³³ Some large schools in Scotland were provided with swimming accommodation.

the first, widely available indoor sports and leisure facilities for these classes. Additionally, Baths remain indicative of the provision of a specific need -i.e. washing and bathing facilities- for specific communities. Where class of tenancy in the surrounding area has changed they serve as sobering and inspiring reminders of the former resident population who benefitted from these manifestations of nineteenth century social reform and, as such, are valuable historical documents indicative of urban development.

A combination of the above factors, including both tangible and intangible qualities may be considered as the 'essence' of Bath buildings. Within such a general appraisal it is not possible to account for the differing weightings of these factors for individual establishments. It is therefore necessary to assess each building for its architectural, social and historical merits before concluding as to its essence so that aspects under particular threat can be identified and addressed.

CHAPTER 3 - BATH BUILDINGS ANALYSIS

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Bath buildings were designed in a number of differing styles. The majority can be grouped into four broad categories:

a) Grecian/Classical Revival

Bathing's association with Rome combined with the pervading neo-classicism of the day inevitably influenced the design of subscription baths of the early nineteenth century.

Applied to 8 public Baths and wash houses built in the last quarter of the century, the formality of this idiom was appropriate for a public building and the absence of complex carved work allowed an economical solution. The City Engineer and Architect of the Glasgow Corporation, A.B.McDonald and John Carrick, were responsible for the design of a number of such establishments in the first wave of Baths construction.(ill.7&8, p.35)

b) Italianate

Inspired by the Roman villa, 4 buildings were erected prior to 1900. Substantial entrances, hipped roofs, square towers (which acted as landmarks and were useful for housing water storage tanks at height) and unusual fenestration were applied to liven their composition.

c) Domestic Scale

Under this category come 2 of the private Baths in Glasgow, namely Pollockshields and Dennistoun, which were notable for their unimposing

residential scale.

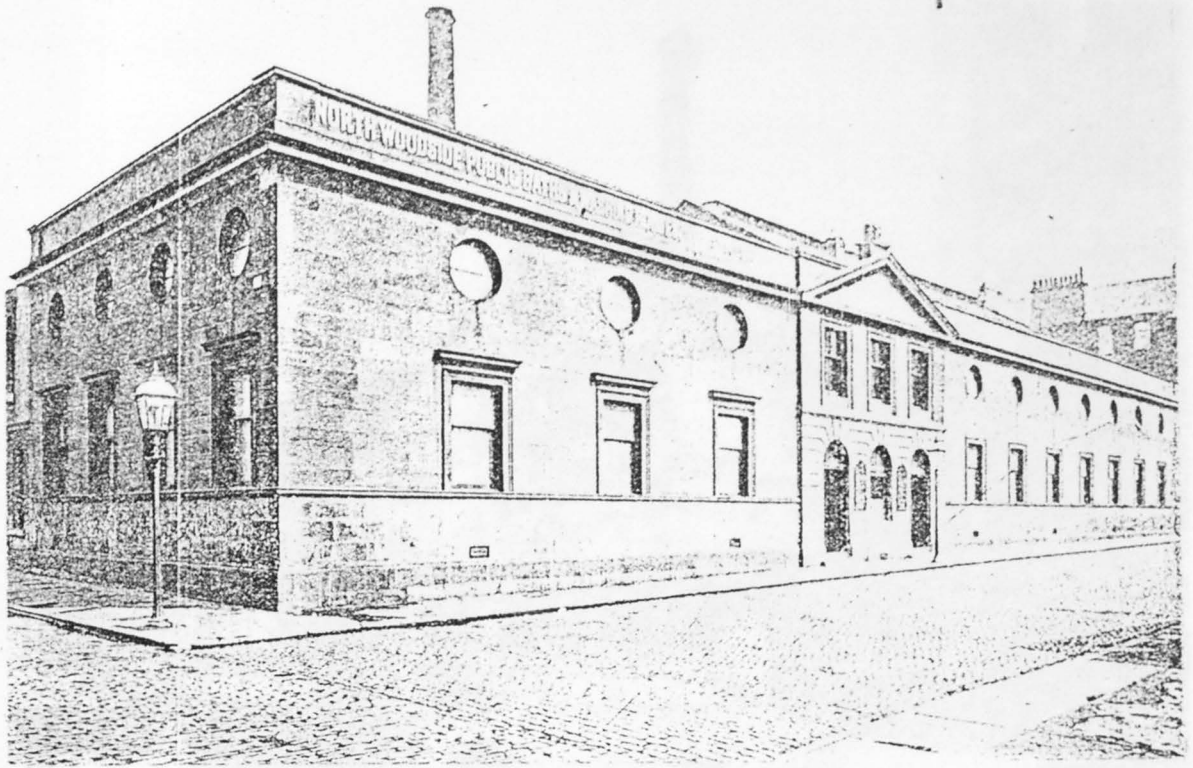
d) Renaissance

17 Baths were designed under this broad heading from 1890 to 1914 and beyond. Smaller buildings had gables embellished by windows and carved detailing while larger establishments had facades of more complex treatment. Parapet walls, parapet pediments, pedimented gables and more plentiful sculpture are common for this type.(ill.9&10, p.36) In a small number of examples Scottish baronial and Art Nouveau influences are evident.

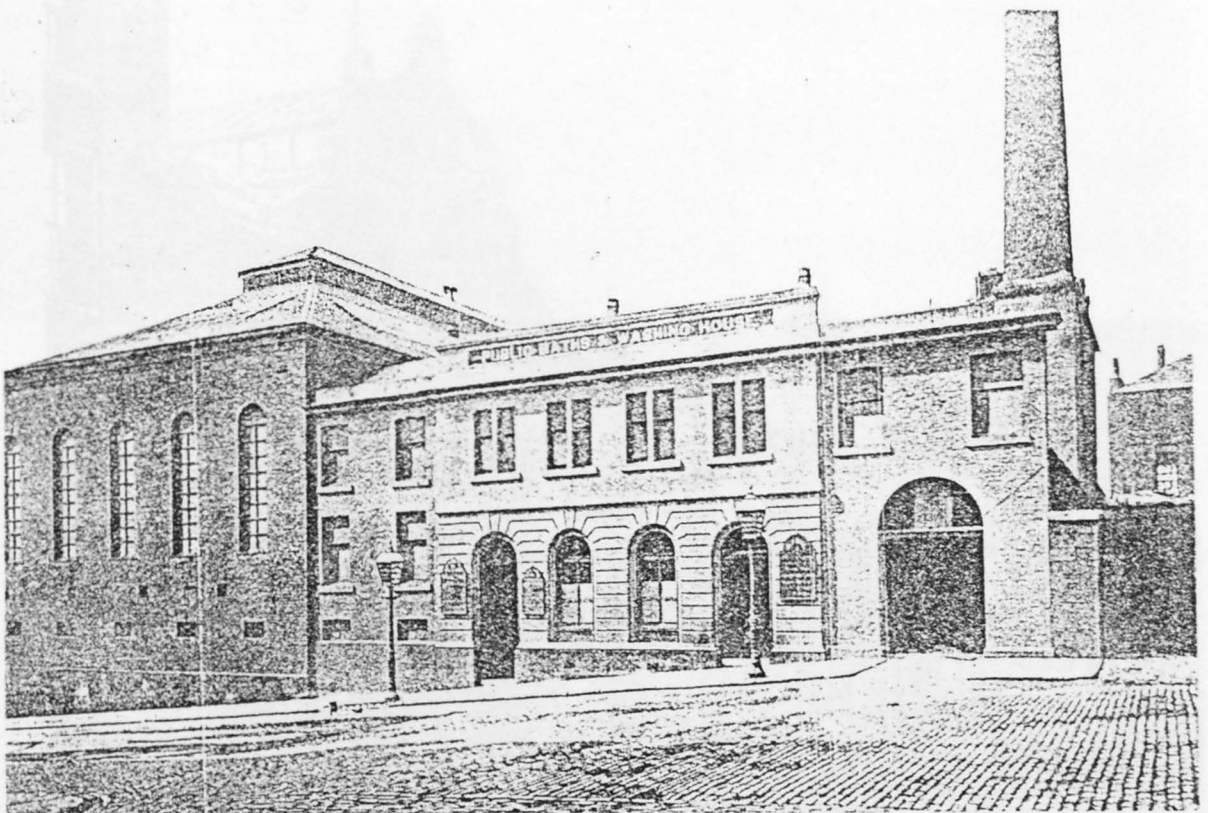
Other individual examples were designed in baronial, castelated, "Queen Anne" and Byzantine styles.

INTERNAL STYLE

The majority of buildings had classically inspired interiors with dados, cornice work and classical orders of varying complexity. Turkish baths decoration was less predictable but usually took on something of an Eastern flavour. There was not necessarily any relationship between internal treatment and exterior style.



7. Northwoodside Baths and Wash House, Glasgow 1882.



8. Cranstonhill Baths and Wash House, Glasgow 1883.



9. Clydebank Baths 1902.



10. Kinning Park Baths of 1905.

ORGANISATION OF FACILITIES

Segregation

Segregation of the sexes and classes remained an important design issue in buildings of every type throughout the nineteenth and into the twentieth century. This was particularly true of Baths, a building type where privacy and propriety were paramount.

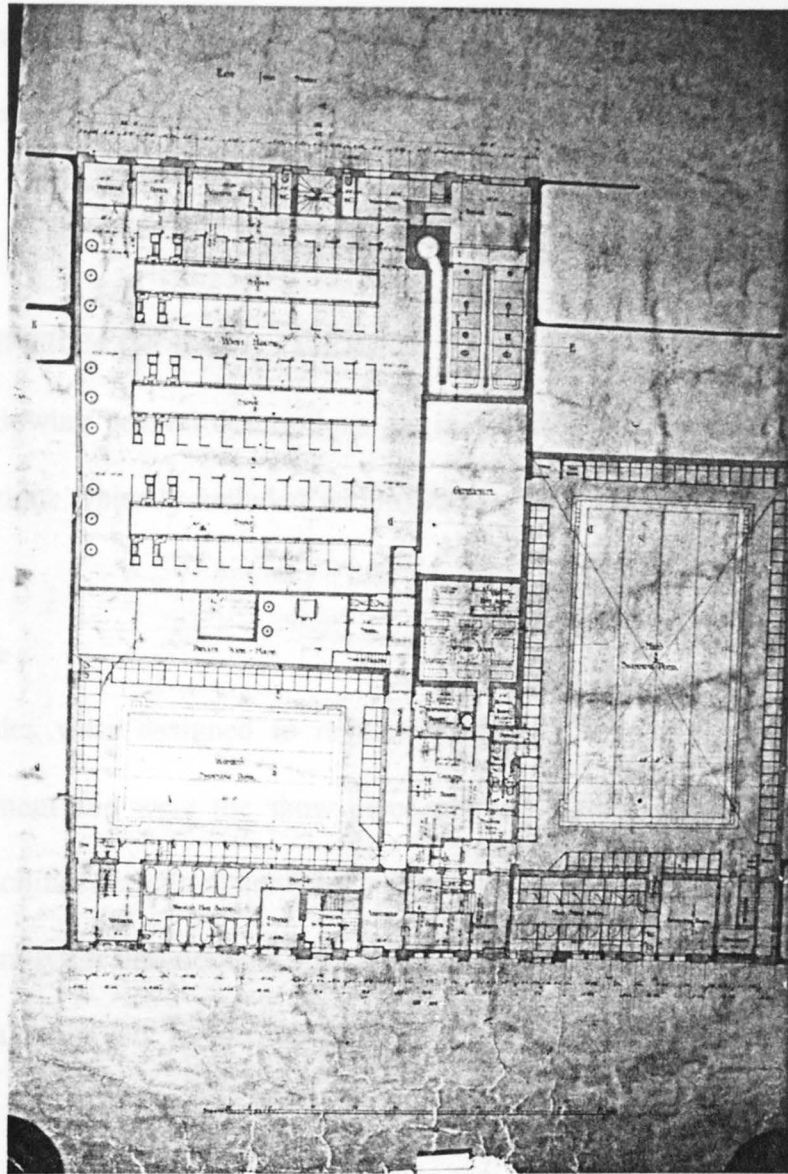
In small Baths, segregation was achieved through timetabling of facilities. Other establishments were designed for simultaneous use of male and female ponds and slipper baths. Each segregated area was reached by different routes separated at the street entrance or vestibule. (ill.12, p.45)

The positioning of amenities within towns reflected the class of particular areas. Municipal establishments were generally located in the poorer areas while private companies constructed in the middle and upper class areas. More specifically, the organisation of facilities within the plan of the buildings were affected. For example, in municipal Bath complexes, wash house entrances were commonly banished from the public front to side or back streets.(ill.11, p.38) Though arguably from a necessary proximity to the boiler house, their association with the poorest classes may have encouraged such discreet positioning. Other parts of the building, such as slipper baths and ponds, were organised by class and distinguishable by their size and the luxuriousness of finishes and fittings.

Creation of a Public Front

Two design approaches were taken in order to provide respectable public fronts.

Small renaissance styled buildings consisted of a decorated gable attached to a pond hall of 'basilican' simplicity. Alternatively a build up of compartmentalised



11. Plan- Whitevale Baths and Wash House, Glasgow.

functions such as slipper/spray baths, offices, living quarters, rest, refreshment, reading, smoking and billiards rooms allowed the construction of substantial street blocks behind which ponds and wash house could be hidden.(ill.9&10,p.36)

DESCRIPTION OF FACILITIES

The following general descriptions are intended to offer an idea of the spaces and functions typically included within Baths.

Vestibule

Vestibules were designed to regulate entry to different departments of the establishment and were the show piece of the building. Where both male and female facilities were in operation simultaneously the sexes were often segregated by a centrally located ticket office,(ill.12, p.45) with cast-iron turnstiles on either side, or alternatively from a central lobby by means of corridors to respective areas.

Quality of decoration varied. The larger municipal and trust Baths offered a space worthy of any public building.(ill.13, p.45) Private Baths contained less grandiose yet equally tasteful work while smaller municipal buildings contained utilitarian finishes.

Materials included marble, terrazzo, ceramic tiles, plasterwork, stained and etched glass, wrought and cast iron and timber.(ill.14&15, p.46: 16&17, p.47)

Shoe Room

Keeping pond water clean was of primary importance. The shoe room, located immediately beyond the foyer, allowed footwear to be deposited before entering

the pond hall thus reducing the transference of dirt from pond side to water. An alternative method relied on the positioning of changing boxes in relation to the pond.(ill.20, p.49)

Pond Hall

Pond halls were the largest space within the building. The majority of Baths had only one although a small number had two and Dundee had an exceptional three.

Where more than one pond existed they were allocated by sex or class. Generally of differing dimensions, the larger was referred to as the 'First Class' or 'Male' pond and the smaller the 'Second Class' or 'Ladies' pond with Dundee also having a 'Third Class' or 'Boys' pond. Quality of finish and availability of exercising equipment was similarly graded.

75' was the "regulation" length recommended by the Scottish Amateur Swimming Association and came to be regarded as standard. At least one pond of larger complexes would normally comply. Width appears to have been more flexible, usually measuring between 35' and 40'. Depth was around 6' to 7' feet gently sloping up to a shallow end of 3' to 4'.

Pond Construction

The retaining walls of the pools were constructed of either bricks layed in cement, or Portland concrete lined with asphalte around an inch thick. The bottom of the pond was formed from mass concrete 2' to 3' thick and covered in asphalte in readiness for the application of a finish.

" The ponds in the existing baths of the city (Glasgow) are constructed of

ordinary concrete of various thicknesses, the average being about 2'6".³⁴

Mass concrete construction proved unsuccessful in preventing leakage. Gulleys were added beneath the pool to carry off any water or condensate which escaped.

Pond Finishes and Fitments

Pond surfaces were lined with white enamelled bricks or tiles set in cement around 4½" thick. A small proportion of the tiling was blue or black layed in dots, patterns or as line guides on the floor.(ill.18, p.48) Corners were avoided where possible as they were thought to harbour germs.³⁵

Spittoons of enamelled steel, porcelain and, in at least one case, marble (Dundee Central) were incorporated around the pool at regular intervals between which brass hand rails were secured to the pond wall by brackets. In later Baths these features were combined to form a continuous ceramic scum trough.

Steps were built into the pond walls in straight flights or shaped flights in corner niches. Alternatively, detachable timber or metal steps could be used allowing for easier flooring of the pond hall should this have been required.

The coping and perimeter of ponds were constructed of terazzo, marble, concrete or ridged tiles and were occasionally surrounded by stylised guilloche and other patterned borders.(ill.18&19, p.48)

Decorative cast-iron, multi-level diving stages were affixed over the deep end. Trapezes and travelling rings, secured to frames supported by the roof trusses, hung over the water.

³⁴ Quote by A.B. McDonald, City Engineer, from Municipal Journal, "Reinforced Concrete for Baths" 14th March 1913, p.27.

³⁵ Campbell, Agnes Report on Public Baths and Wash-houses in the U.K., Edinburgh University Press 1918, p.97.

Dressing Boxes

Dressing boxes, of about 3½' to 4' square, were located next to the pond side below the balcony . They were occasionally raised by a step from the pond surround to catch water which drained away from the pond cope into a gully.

In order to prevent dirt being walked into the pool the boxes were sometimes closer to the pond allowing an access corridor to run round the periphery of the hall. The bather entered from the outside and exited into the water on the inside.(ill.20, p.49)

In earlier establishments boxes were constructed of hard woods and staff had difficult keeping them clean and dry. Terazzo slabs, glazed brick and draw curtains of water resistant material replaced timber in some later buildings.(ill.21&22, p.50) A 2" to 3" gap was normally left between the bottom of the division panels and the ground to allow for periodical flushing out of cubicles.

In Paisley changing boxes were mounted on wheels to allow additional spectator seating when required. Practices such as this were more common in England where the pond was often converted into a hall during the winter.

Gallery

Galleries were designed to accommodated spectators at swimming galas and displays. Some claimed considerable capacities and raked seating was introduced to assist viewing of the pond. Three kinds can be identified:

- 1) In larger buildings balconies were held by cast-iron columns which also supported the roof structure.(ill.23, p.51) These were used primarily for seating but

also accommodated changing boxes or plunge baths around their perimeter in some cases. Stairs from the foyer offered access.

2) Galleries supported over changing boxes, were only used for seating and were entered by stairs either from the foyer or pond side. Their length and positioning was limited by the provision of boxes which formed or disguised the supporting structure.(ill.21, p.50)

3) Larger areas of seating were located at an end of the pond over the foyer from which they were entered.(ill.24, p.51)

Balcony construction was largely of timber decking with plain or decorative cast or wrought iron balustrading and timber seats or benches.

In addition to the galleries, ponds were considered as potential seating areas. Their slope formed a natural rake and the deep end could easily be fitted with a stage.(ill.25&26, p.52)

Pond Hall Walls

Finishing of the hall walls was commonly in white ceramic brick. Some examples (such as Carnegie Baths, Dunfermline and Hamilton Baths) had coloured and patterned walls in ceramic brick or tile.

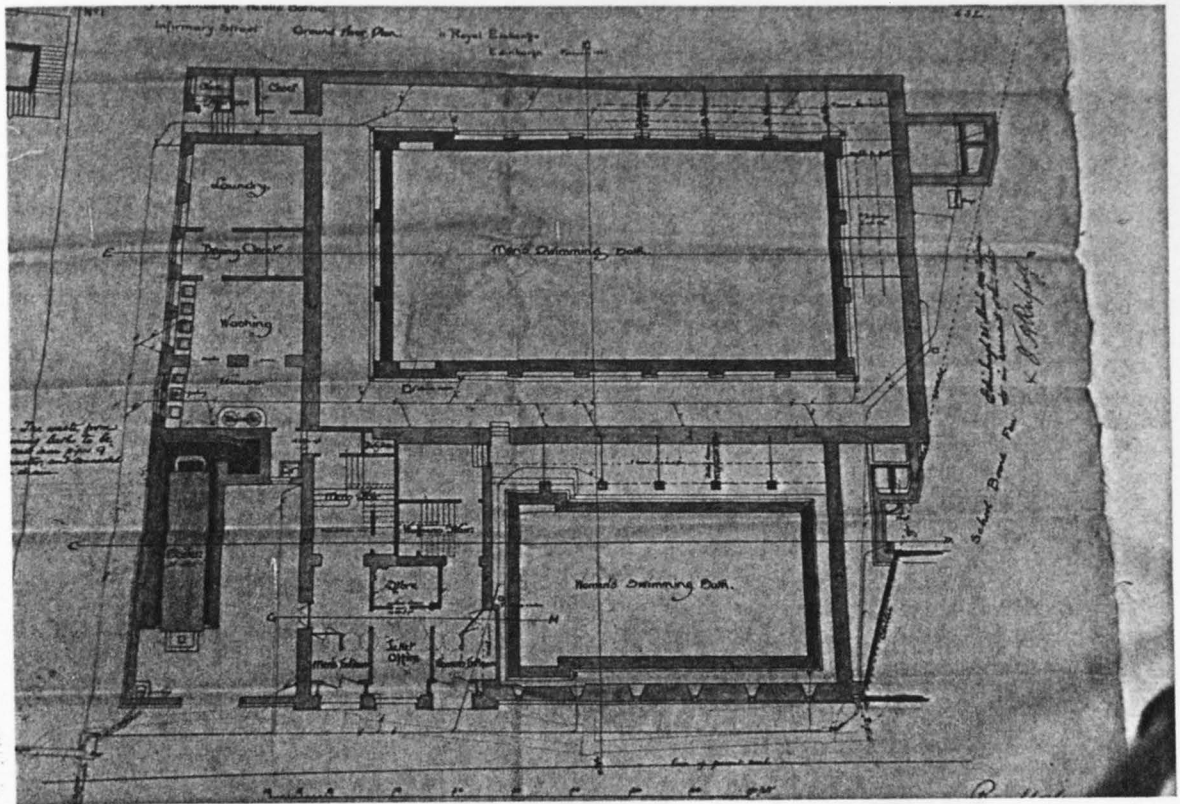
Roof

Roofs were usually slated. The majority had some form of natural roof lighting either in the form of a lantern (criticised by A.W.S.Cross for their industrial appearance) or glazed strips along their length.

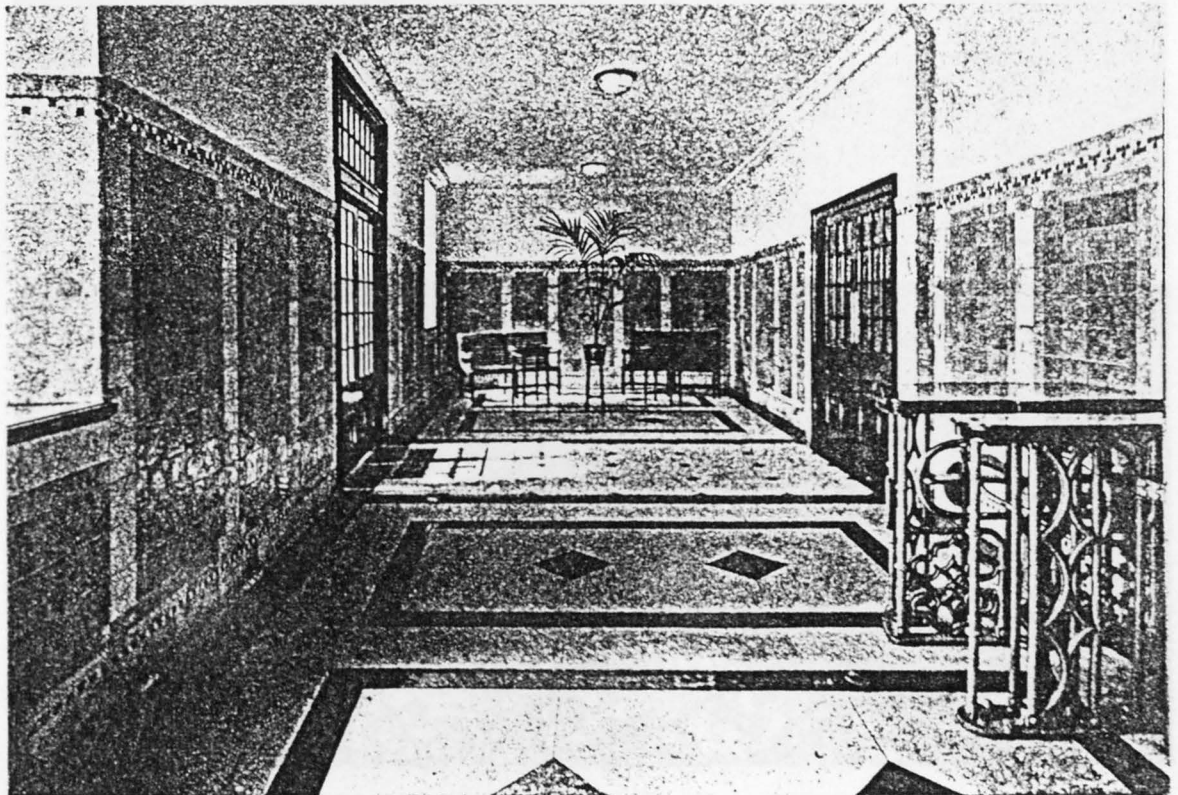
"Indeed, I regard it as a fundamental principle that none of the swimming baths should be deprived of the inestimable advantages obtained by the employment of the long continuous lantern light occupying, practically, the whole length of the bath."³⁶

Open trusses of timber, cast-iron or steel were supported by cast-iron columns, brick piers or brick pilasters. Decorative ventilators occasionally crowned the structure.(ill.27, p.53)

³⁶ Cross,A.W.S. Public Baths and Washhouses, Batsford 1906, p.32.



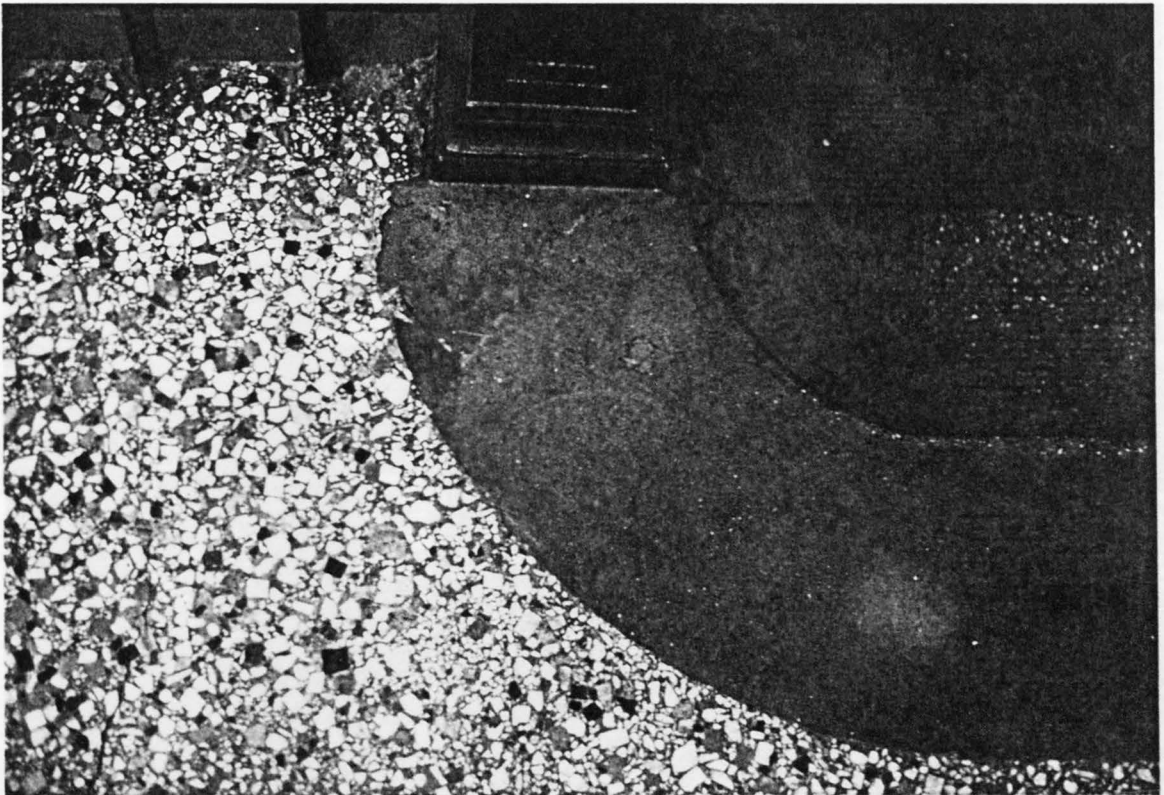
12. Ground Floor Plan showing Central Ticket Office- Infirmary Street, Edinburgh.



13. Entrance Foyer- Central Baths, Dundee.



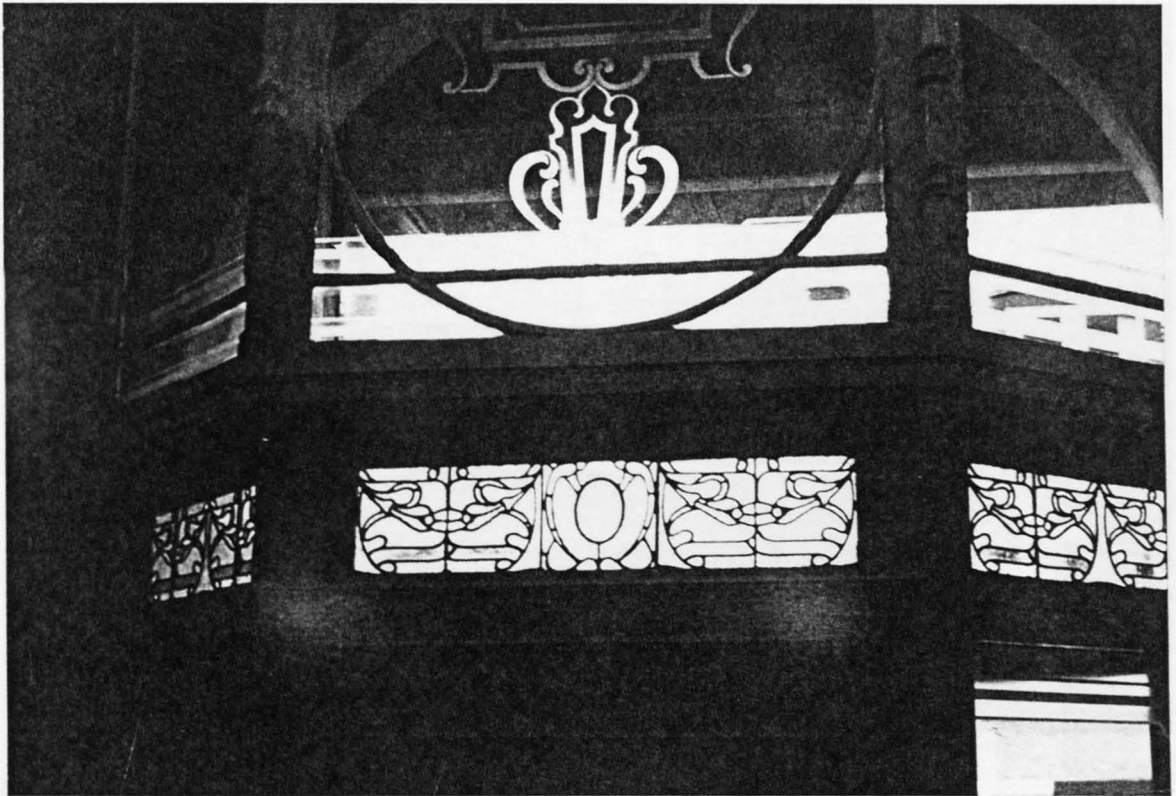
14. Marble column- Alloa Baths Foyer.



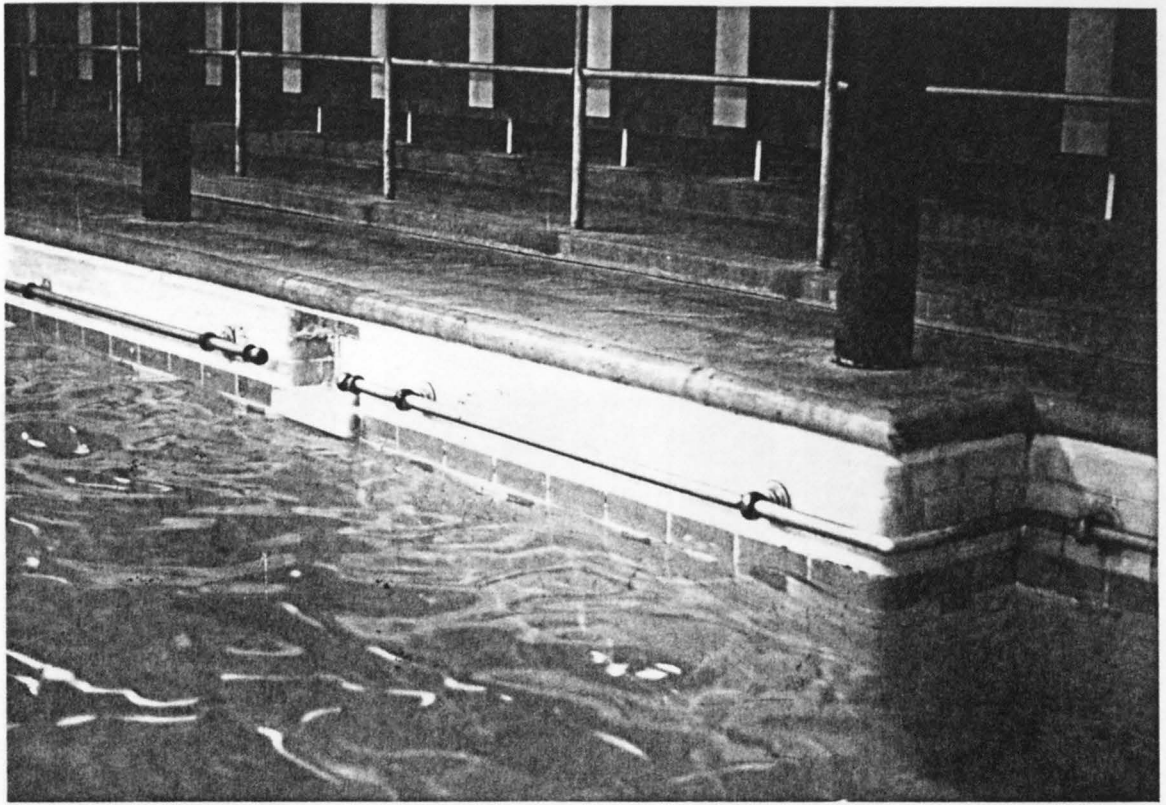
15. Terrazzo flooring, coloured concrete steps- Glenogle Baths, Edinburgh.



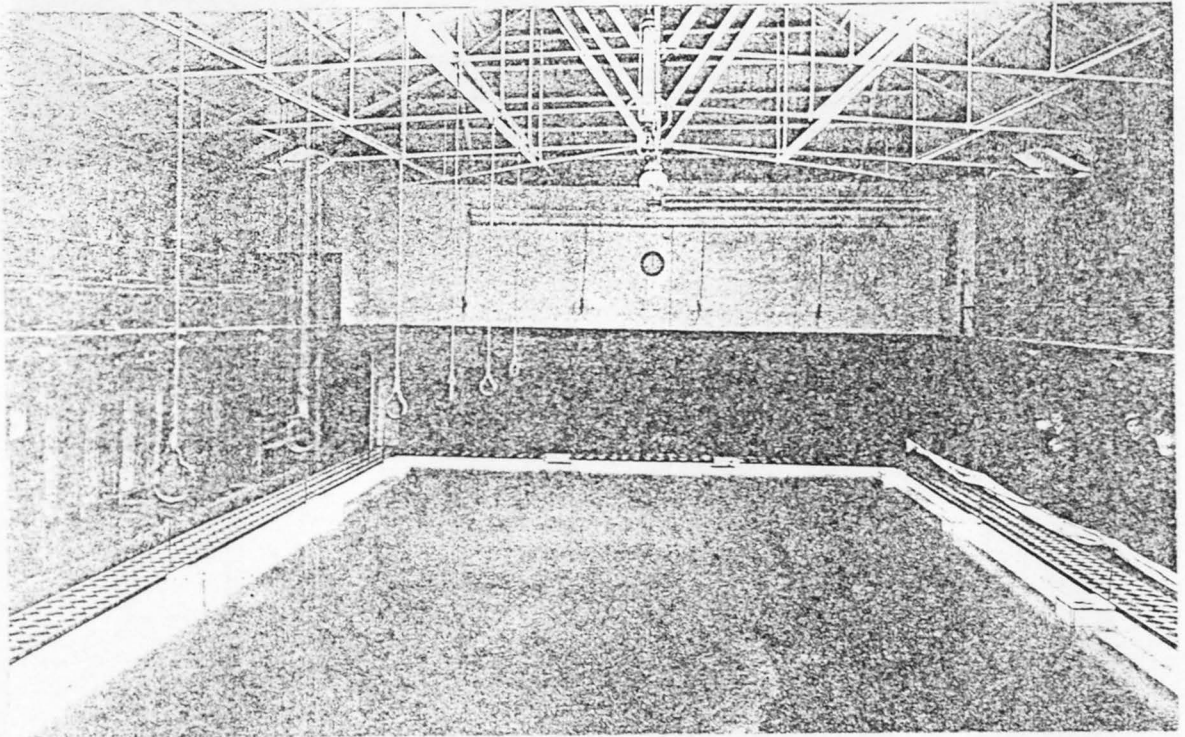
16. Ceramic and wrought-iron work- Alloa Baths.



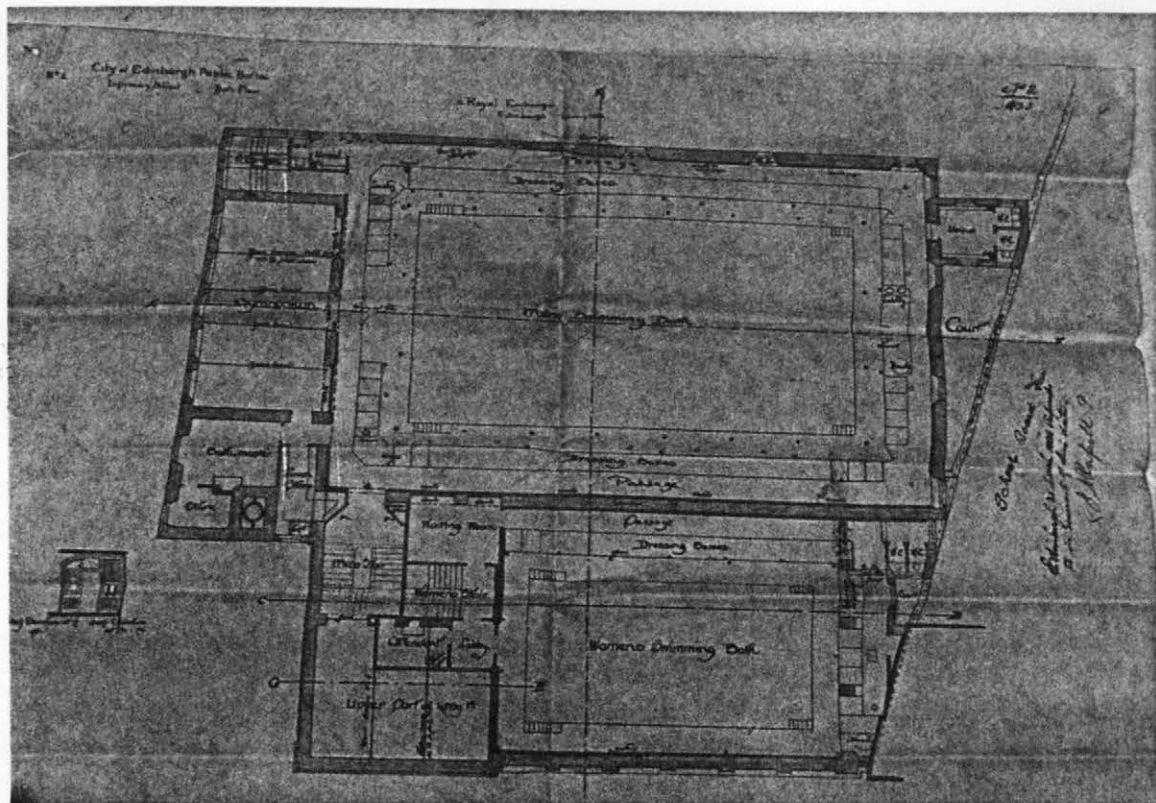
17. Etched and leaded glass- Alloa Baths.



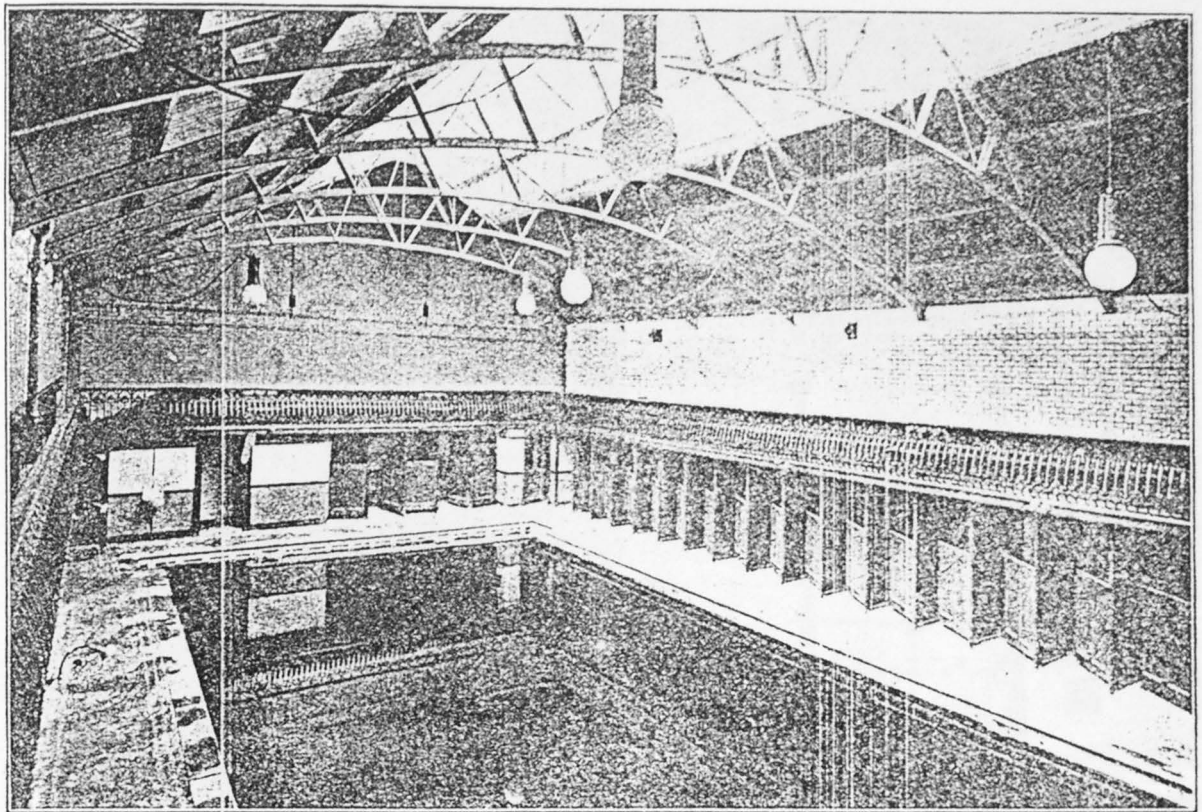
18. Original tiling, brass rail and concrete cope- Glenogle Baths, Edinburgh.



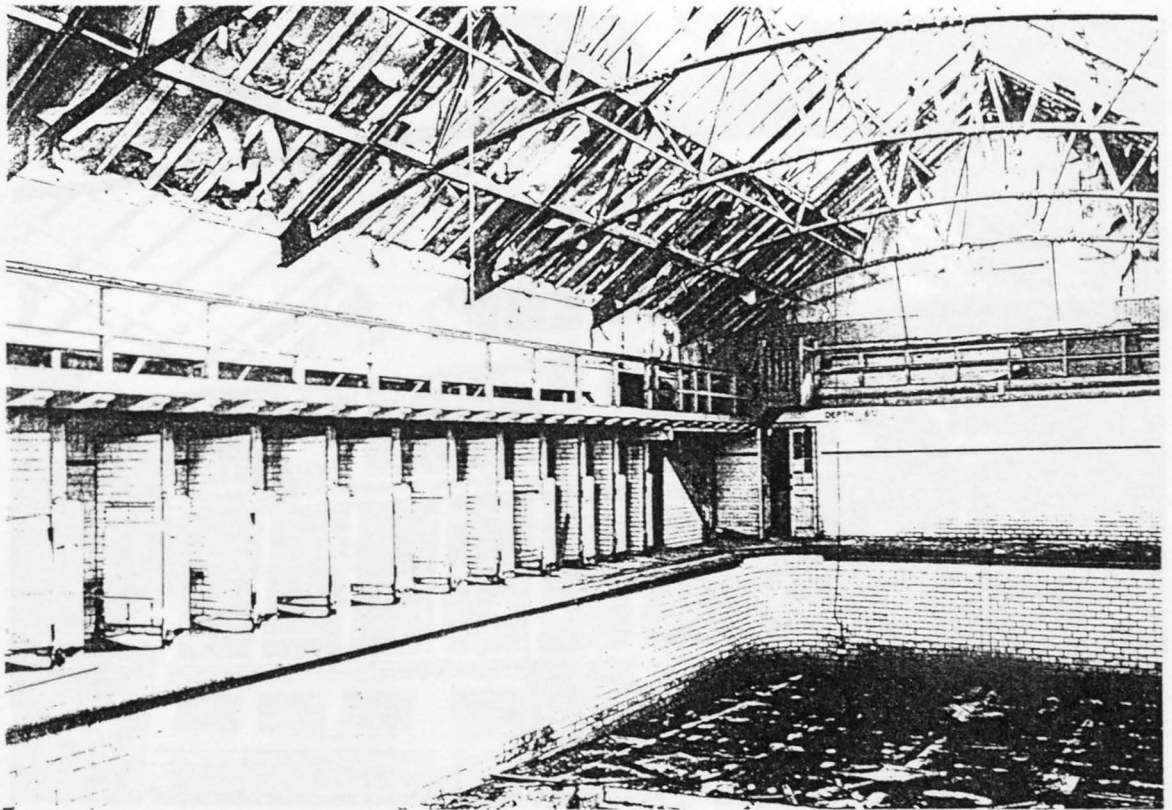
19. Marble spittoons and cope, patterned border and travelling rings of 1st Class Pond- Central Baths, Dundee 1876.



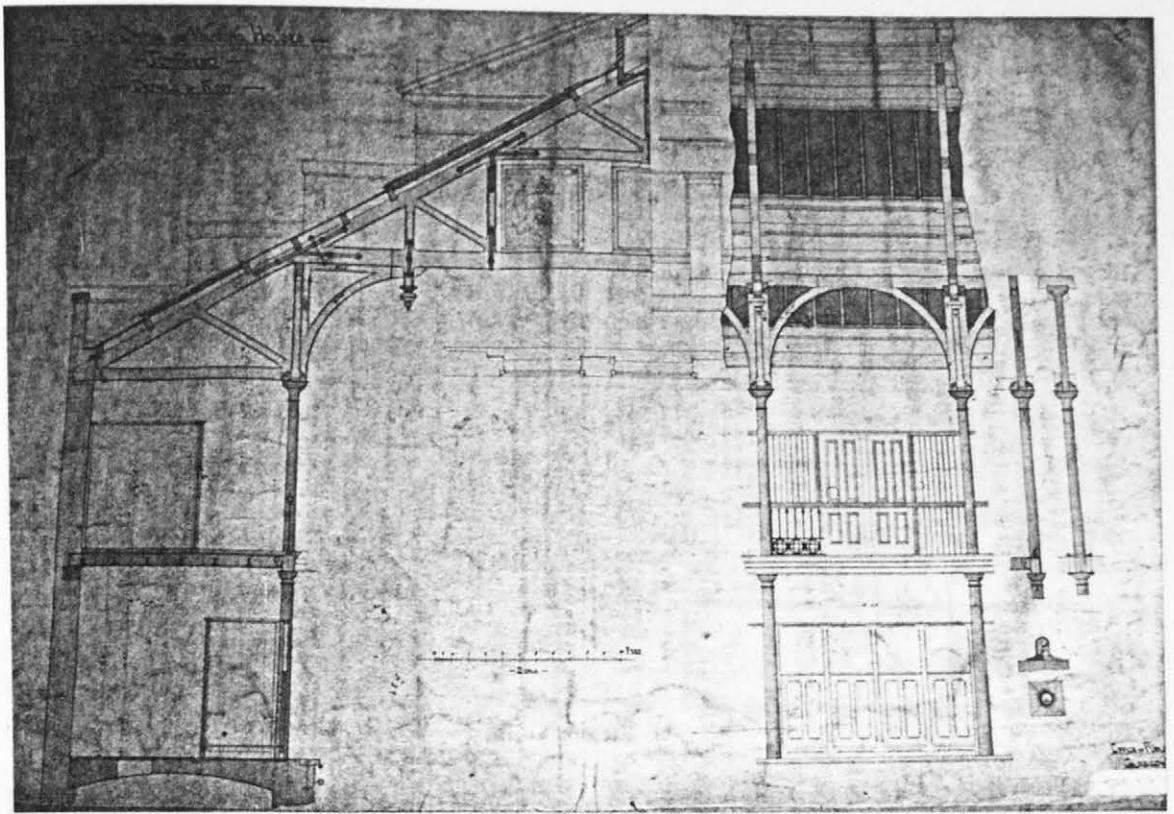
20. Plan of Baths Floor showing the positioning of dressing boxes- Infirmary Street, Edinburgh.



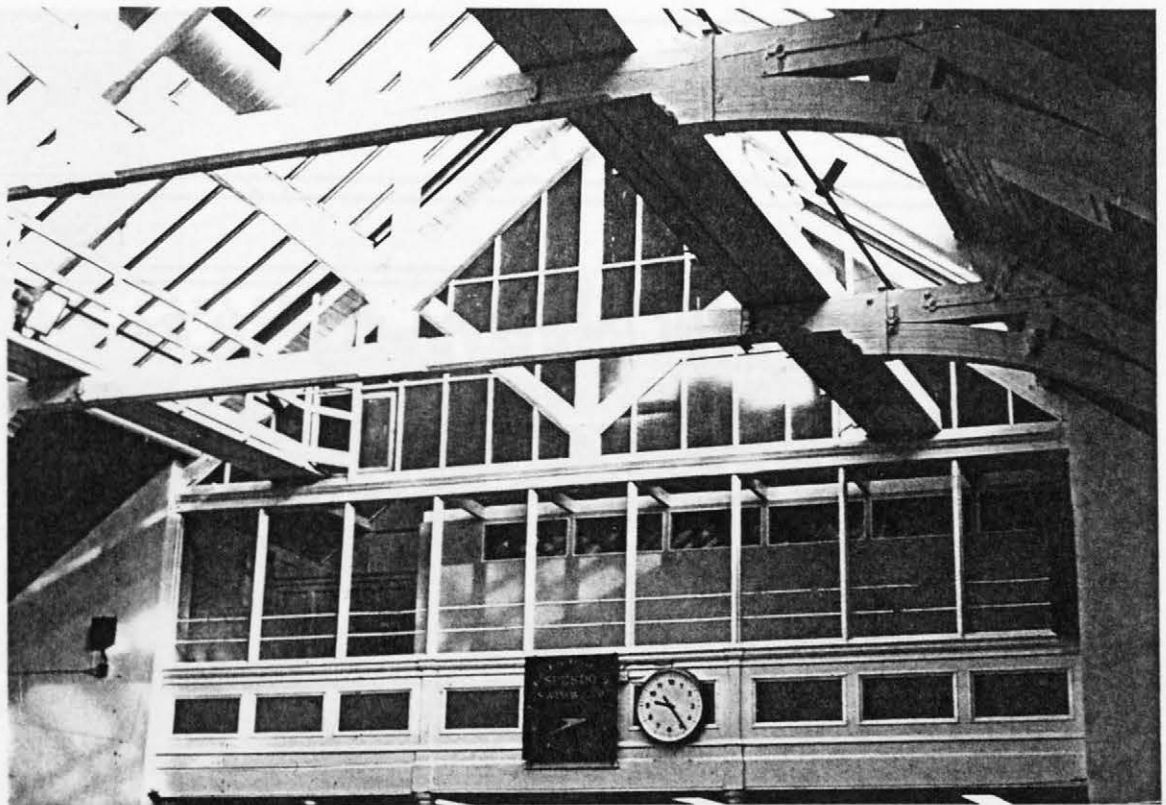
21. Timber dressing boxes- the Ladies Pond, Whitevale, Glasgow 1902.



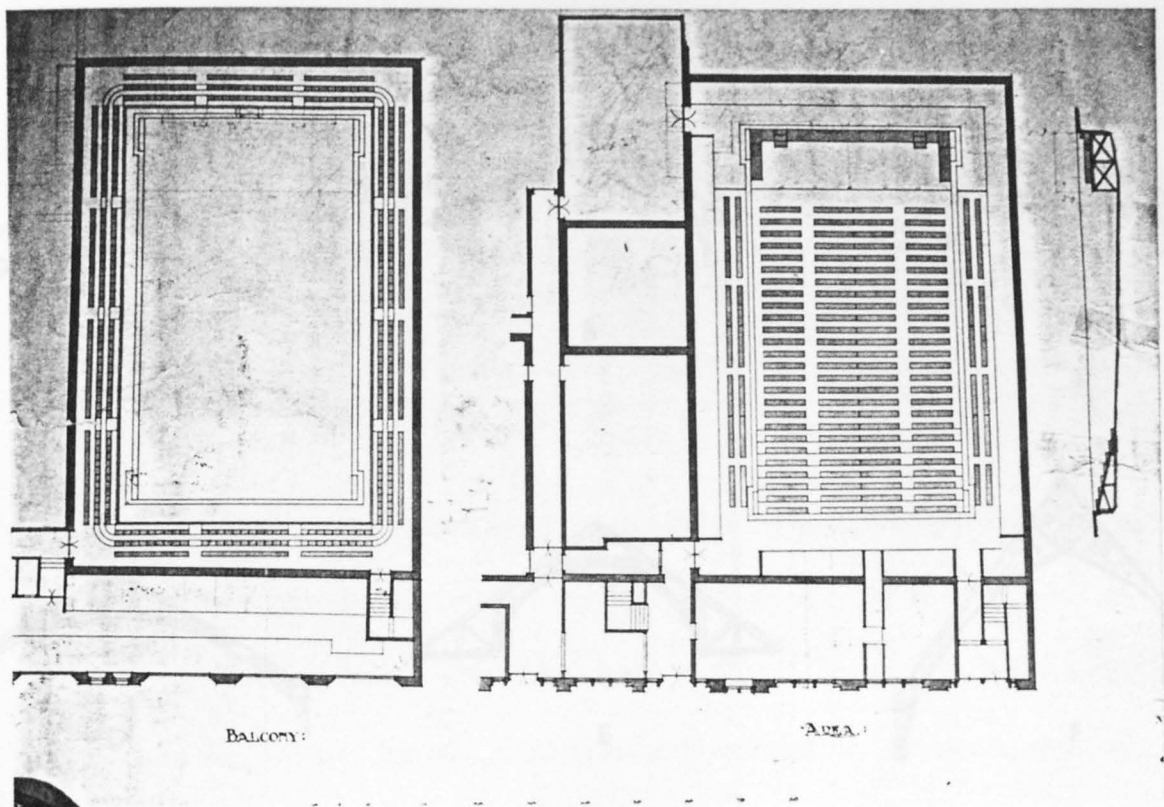
22. Ceramic brick dressing boxes- Clydebank 1902.



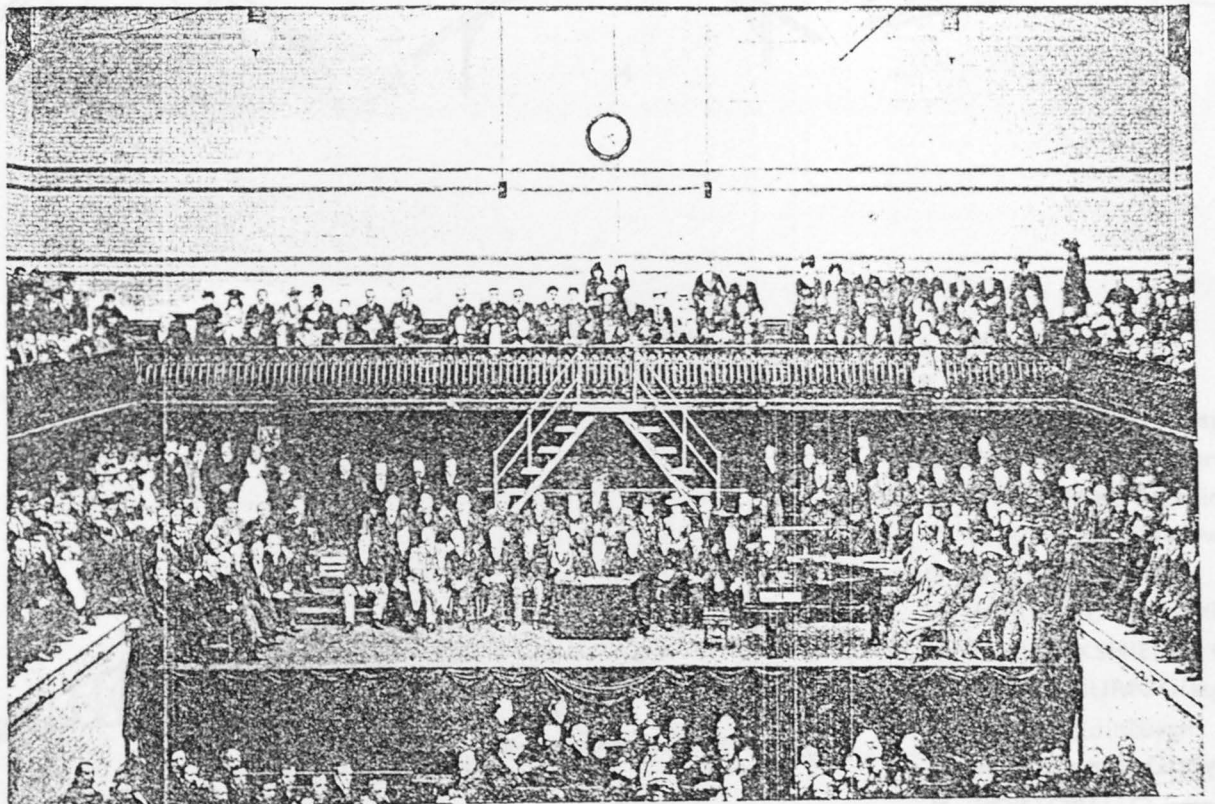
23. Section showing gallery and roof support- Townhead, Glasgow.



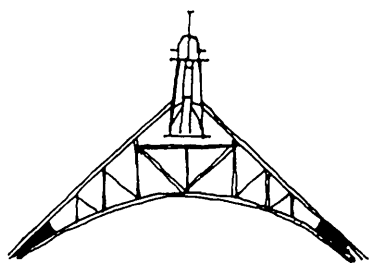
24. Former gallery area over the end of the pond- Warrender, Edinburgh.



25. Staging and seating layout- Whitevale, Glasgow.



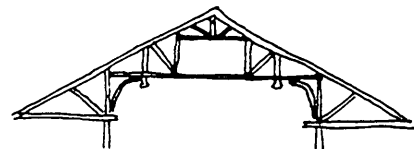
26. Official opening of the Baths, 17th May 1902- Whitevale, Glasgow.



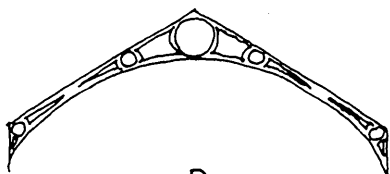
A



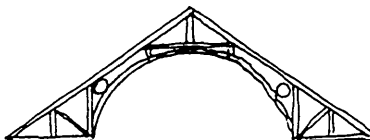
B



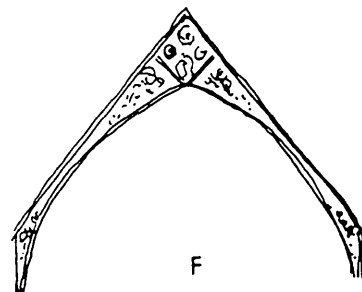
C



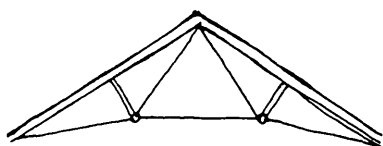
D



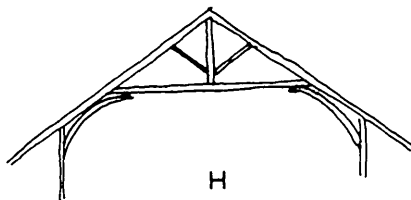
E



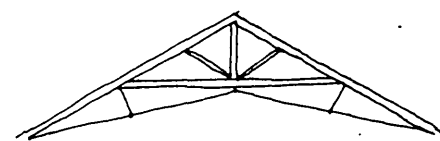
F



G



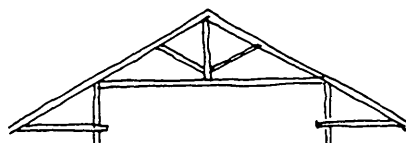
H



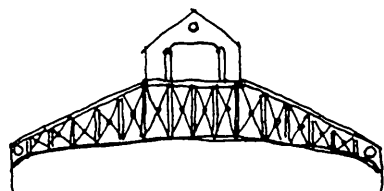
I



J



K



L



M

- A FORFAR
- B ALLOA
- C TOWNHEAD Glasgow
- D CARNEGIE Dunfermline
- E INFIRMARY St. Edinburgh
- F WESTERN Glasgow
- G LOCHEE Dundee
- H WARRENDER Edinburgh
- I POLLOCKSHIELDS Glasgow
- J SPRINGBURN Glasgow
- K DALRY Edinburgh
- L WHITEVALE Glasgow
- M PORTOBELLO Edinburgh

27. A selection of roof truss designs.

Turkish/Russian Baths

Turkish baths were common to private Baths clubs but were a luxury introduced into only a few municipal complexes. Administrators believed that making them available outside the private clubs would attract more custom:

" There seems to be no doubt that swimming facilities for the young, and Turkish baths for others, would also attract."³⁷

They constituted the ultimate escapist experience to be had within the walls of a bathing establishment. During the late nineteenth century the three areas of the traditional Turkish bath were given Latin names. The coolest became the Frigidarium, where patrons undressed and relaxed on loungers and the Tepidarium, Calidarium and Laconicum (or Sudorific chambers) were representative of the inner halls with temperatures of 140°F, 180°F and 280°F respectively. Having endured the hottest of these chambers bathers, in an intense state of perspiration, progressed to the shampooing room where the body was lathered, kneaded and rubbed vigorously with a coarse glove or strigil removing epidermal impurities. The body was then rinsed with a succession of warm to cold graduated baths or by plunging into a small bath pond large enough to allow a few swimming strokes.³⁸ Finally, relaxation in the Frigidarium allowed the body to be cooled sufficiently before leaving the establishment, reducing the risk of chill. An additional intensely hot and humid Russian bath mid-process was optional. Though the naming of rooms altered from bath to bath, the basic sequence of processes remained the same.

³⁷ Quote by Councillor recorded in Glasgow Corporation Baths and Washhouses Report 1891-1914, "1892 Annual Report" Robert Anderson, Glasgow 1914.

³⁸ Cross, A.W.S. Public Baths and Washhouses, Batsford 1906, p.219.

Cavity wall construction around the bath aided the retention of heat. Internal linings were generally chosen for their resistivity to the effects of moisture and corrosion. Rooms were finished in an extravagant variety of ceramic tiles, stone and timber. Horse shoe arches, carved timber screens and carpeting added to the atmosphere of the East which pervaded this area of the building.(ill.28, p.63)

A particular feature of Turkish baths was the top lit Tepiderium. In more exotic examples a domed ceiling was punctured by small, coloured, shaped openings of leaded glass.

The Gymnasium

Although not considered a necessity the gymnasium was a welcome addition to an establishment. It allowed warming of muscles prior to bathing as well as encouraging use of the building throughout the lean winter months.(ill.29&30, p.64)

Some buildings were designed specifically to include large purpose built gymnasiums. These were of a similar scale to the pond hall, had open trussed roofs and were finished in timber panneling and plasterwork. Elsewhere the gym was situated at one end of the pond with entry through an opening either in the form of a grand, proscenium type arch (e.g.Portobello) or treated with a combination of pilasters, entablatures and pediments (e.g.Brock Memorial Baths, Dumbarton).

Where two or three ponds existed within a complex a gymnasium could be formed by flooring over one. This was achieved by constructing rows of framed timber bearers parallel to the pond's sides which then received planed tongue and

grooved flooring sections.³⁹ A Scottish example of this was found at Dundee where the 'Second Class' pond was converted during the winter of 1883.

Gymnasia were kitted out with all the latest equipment including rings and trapezes, the horse, parallel bars, the high bar, medicine balls and Indian clubs.

Slipper Baths

"Slipper" or "plunge" baths in municipal Baths were divided by class. Two-thirds were reserved for the lowest social class according to the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act of 1892.(see chapter 1) Facilities were appropriately graded. In private clubs no differentiation between quality of baths existed.

They were generally found in ranges near the entrance or located around the pond gallery. Emphasis was on the provision of a fast and profitable service. The most efficient way to run the baths was to instal two dressing boxes per bath, which allowed one occupant to undress while the other was dressing. Meantime the bath could be cleaned by an attendant. This system was employed at the Portobello Baths, Edinburgh. Where possible, division walls between suites were reduced to a minimum. Glazed brick and timber were later replaced in some cases by reinforced terrazzo or 'mamorite'(opaque glazed) panels.(ill.31, p.65)

Typical fixtures included an electric bell (to indicate when the bath was vacant), a moveable trellis floor or mat, towel rail, a chair or fixed seat, hat/cloak pegs, a soap dish, a small mirror, a shelf for trinkets a brush and comb drawer and the bath itself. Glazed porcelain baths were preferred over enamelled iron as the latter were prone to staining and were difficult to clean.

³⁹ Cross,A.W.S. Public Baths and Washhouses, Batsford 1906, p.59.

Spray/Lasser Baths

Agnes Campbell in her 1918 study of public baths and wash houses identified the advantages of spray baths over slipper baths. She noted that they were more hygienic less labour intensive, used less water, were less expensive and less time was required by the user to wash.⁴⁰ A small number were incorporated within later establishments (such as Whitevale Baths, Glasgow) or added to existing ones. (e.g. Infirmary Street and Dalry Baths, Edinburgh)

Shower/Douche

Water was fed through a perforated rose to create a shower of water which could be used to rinse the body. Water fed through a similar system without a rose created a powerful 2" jet of water known as a douche.

Needle Baths

These consisted of a pipe finely perforated along its length which produced a stream of jets. It was more commonly used in hydropathic establishments.

Social and Educational Accommodation

A combination of smoking, billiard, refreshment and reading rooms were adopted by some local authorities following their inclusion in private clubs of the 1870s and 1880s.

They encouraged use of facilities within the building during the lean winter season and allowed locals to meet and enjoy time together in congenial

⁴⁰ Campbell, Agnes Report on Public Baths and Wash-houses in the U.K., Edinburgh University Press 1918, p.41.

surroundings.

At the Lochee Baths, Dundee, a public library was combined with the pond. In other buildings reading rooms were provided for the benefit of the clientelle or the community at large. These demonstrate the importance still placed on the combination of education and good health at this time.

Decoration of rooms was simple but not insubstantial. Plain walls were relieved by a timber panelled dado and cornice work.(ill.32&33, p.66)

The Wash House

Public wash houses were often combined with Baths. Despite being part of the same complex they usually had a separate entrance. This was often in an adjacent side-street or towards the rear of the building.

The entrance area consisted of a lobby, ticket office, waiting area, cloakroom, lavatories and space for general storage.

In most cases the wash house was a large, open, sky or lantern lit, simply decorated space with steel trussed roof, ventilators and walls of white ceramic brick.(ill.34, p.67)

Washing stalls consisted of small half cubicles placed back to back at approximately 11' centres and at right angles to the front of the drying horses. They were around 5' to 6' in height and fabricated in plain or decorated cast-iron. Sheltered within were troughs for washing, boiling and rinsing clothes. Receptacles were provided for holding soap and soda.(ill.35, p.67)

Following washing, clothes were loaded into one of a number of power-driven hydro-extractors or centrifugal wringers. Prior to electrical supply, these were driven by overhead or underfloor shafts from a steam engine in the boiler house. Having been spun the clothes were then placed in the pull-out drying horses.

These either lined the walls or occupied the centre of the hall and were heated by one of three methods :⁴¹

- 1)By high pressure steam coils fed through the units.
- 2)By a furnace below the chamber with the air extracted by exhaust fan.
- 3)By warm air forced through the units by fan.

Services

Boiler houses were situated on the ground floor or basement to the side or rear of the building and accommodated boilers, calorifiers, filtration equipment, steam engines, pumps and an area for coal storage.

From sources studied little specific information relates systems to particular Baths, however a limited appendix has been compiled (Appendix 2). "Public Baths and Washhouses" by A.W.S. Cross, published in 1906, and the "Report on Public Baths and Wash-houses in the U.K." by Agnes Campbell, published in 1918, give an idea of typical equipment used.

Water Supply, Filtration and Sterilisation

Supply of water to establishments was dictated by geographical location.

Water was supplied by the mains or, when Baths were located near the coast (such as those at Aberdeen and Peterhead), sea water was gathered by gravitation or pumping and held in large tanks at height.

Quality of water varied from source to source. Even water considered as being

⁴¹ Cross, A.W.S. Public Baths and Washhouses, Batsford 1906, p.106.

of high purity, such as that supplied to Glasgow from Loch Katrine, contained large quantities of sediment in suspension. This clay settled forming an unattractive brown scum on the pond floor.⁴²

When in use, pond water was dirtied by mud (transferred by foot), hairs, fluff and dye from bathing costumes and physical excretions. A certain amount of this debris was sprayed off the surface of the water; the rest could not be removed until the pond was emptied (normally 4 or 5 times per week).

Filtration became more common towards the end of the nineteenth century. The process involved continual circulation of water through beds of sand, gravel, charcoal or quartz crystals thereby reducing the number of times a pond had to be emptied. A typical 'Royles' system drew water from the pond which was then pumped to the aeriator at the top of the building. Having been forced through perforated zinc trays to form a large number of fine streams it fell into a galvanised iron tank. From here it was led into a water filter constructed of cast-iron plates bolted together, and provided with all the necessary inlet and outlet pipes and valves. The filtering material consisted of about 2 feet 6 inches of sand (or alternative) graduated in size to suit the work. After passing through the filter, the water was passed through a heater and returned to the pond.⁴³

Three main companies were responsible for the supply of patented filtration and aeration systems. These were Messrs. Royles, Messrs. Bell and The Turnover Company.

Filtering water was not sufficient to remove harmful micro organisms which spread disease. Sterility was achieved using Calcium Hypochloride, Chlorine gas,

⁴² Glasgow Corporation Baths and Washhouses Report 1891-1914, Robert Anderson, Glasgow 1914, p.9.

⁴³ Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette, "Full Description of Novel Features", 31st July 1915.

Lectroicide, Copper Sulphate, or Magnesium Hypochloride. Treatments were not part of an integrated system but relied on manual dosage.⁴⁴

Boiler

Coal fired boilers produced enough steam to supply engines (powering wash house hydro extractors), calorifiers (transferring heat to establishment radiators and Turkish baths) and the pond itself.

Pond water was heated by one of two methods. High pressure systems produced steam which was injected through nozzles at the deep end producing an overall temperature of 72°. The sloping section allowed warming of the shallow end by convection. The alternative was a low pressure revolution system which circulated water until it reached the desired temperature and released it into the pond. The former was more common in Scotland.

Boiler fabricators identified include Babcock & Wilcox, Glasgow, and Marshall & Co., Motherwell.

Chimney stack

Boiler house, chimney stacks were built of plain brick, polychromatic brick or brick with stone dressings and were up to 100 feet in height.(ill.36, p.68)

Lighting

Oil or gas lamps were used to light Baths until the introduction of electricity towards the end of the nineteenth century.

⁴⁴ Campbell, Agnes Report on Public Baths and Wash-houses in the U.K., Edinburgh University Press 1918, p.100.

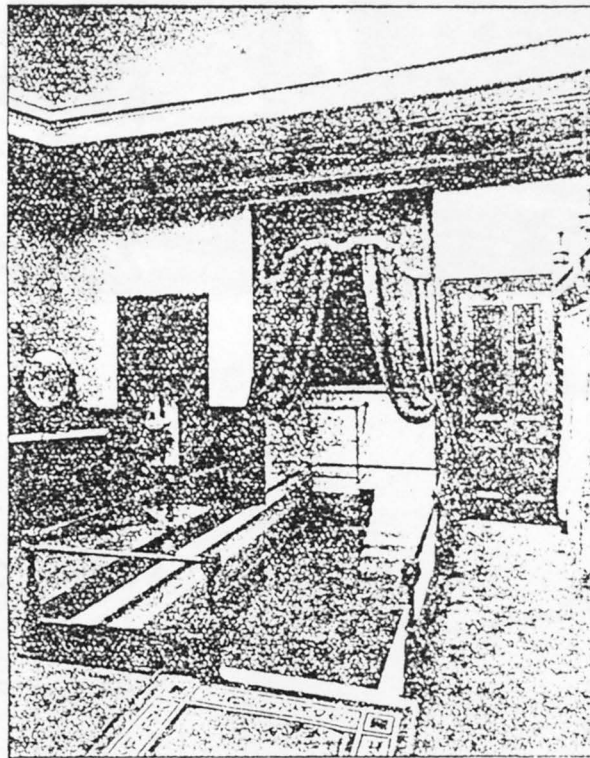
Street Furniture and Fencing

Glasgow Corporation Baths were provided with lettered street lamps ("Corporation Public Washing Houses" and "Corporation Public Baths"). Cast and wrought-iron fencing were sometimes produced with logos relating to the establishment. (ill.37&38, p.69)

CITY OF DUNDEE PUBLIC BATHS,
WEST PROTECTION WALL

The **New Turkish Bath**

Superbly Appointed and
Brought Hard Up-to-Date.



THE PLUNGE - MAIN SALOON.

Sprays and
Douches
of the most
Approved Description

Invigorating
Salt Water
Plunge

HEATING AND
VENTILATION
On most Modern
Principles.

Expert
Massage and
Shampooing

Health-Aid
and
Invigorator

INDISPENSABLE
TO THE
BUSY MAN.

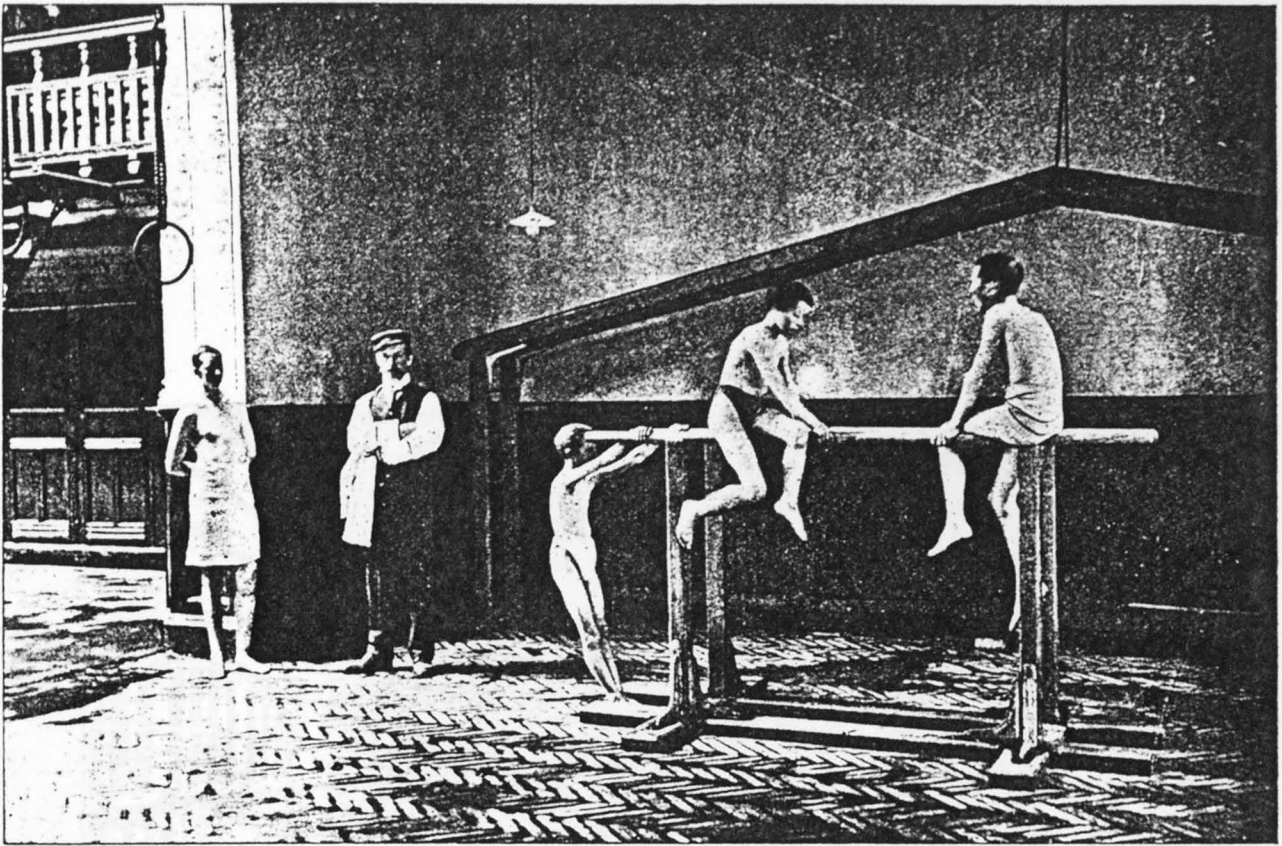
Popular Hours and Popular Prices.

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, 10 a.m. till 10 p.m.
Reserved for Ladies on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. till 2 p.m.
and from 7 till 10 p.m.

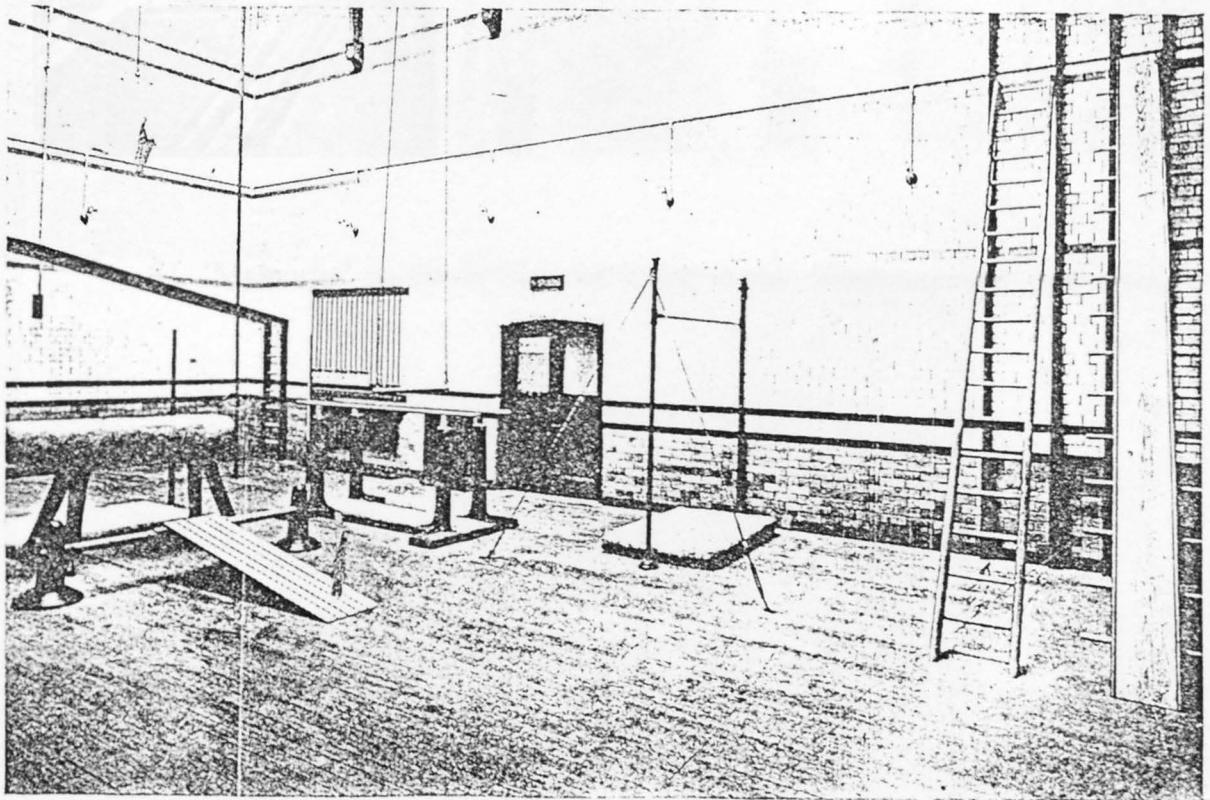
YEARLY TICKETS for the Turkish Bath (available from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.)
are now issued at £1 10 -

SINGLE ADMISSION, before 5 p.m., 2 -; after 5 p.m., 1 6.
Sets of 12 Tickets at One Third under Ordinary Rates.

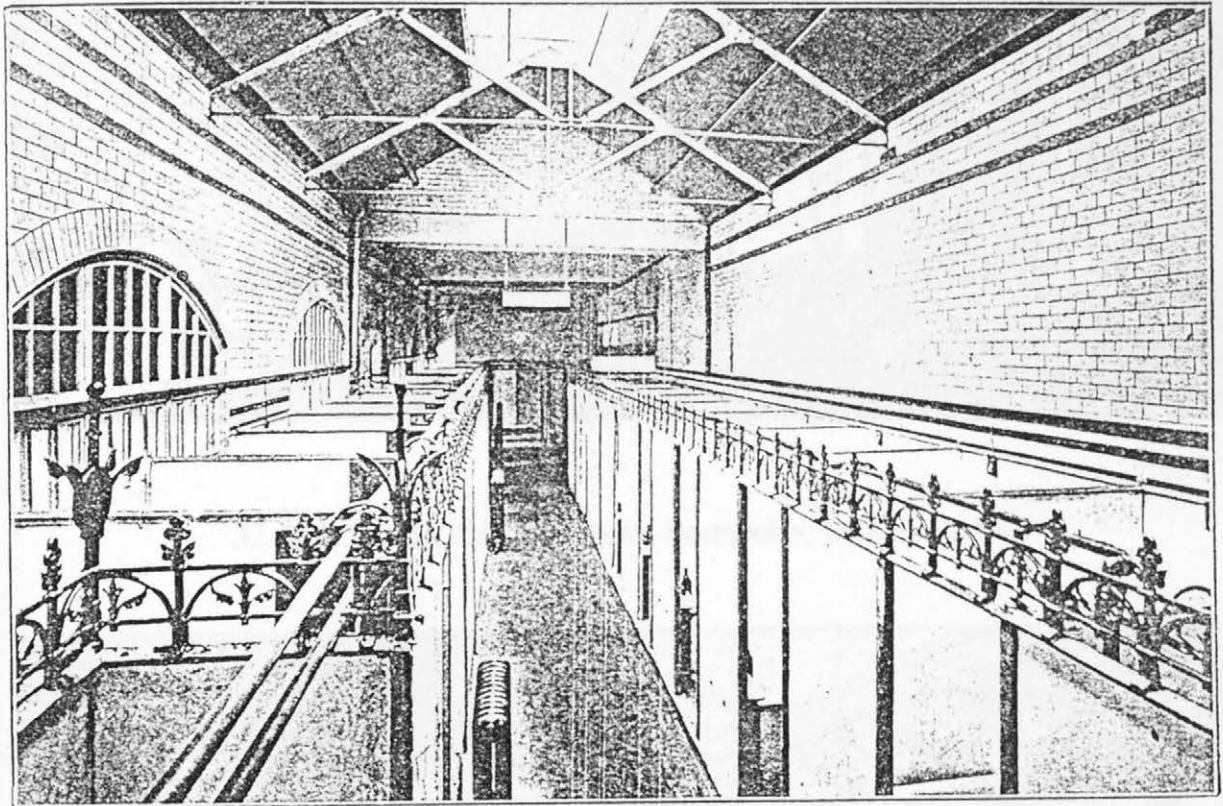
SPECIAL REDUCTION OF PRICES after 7 p.m. Single Admission, 1 -
Set of 12 Baths, 8 -



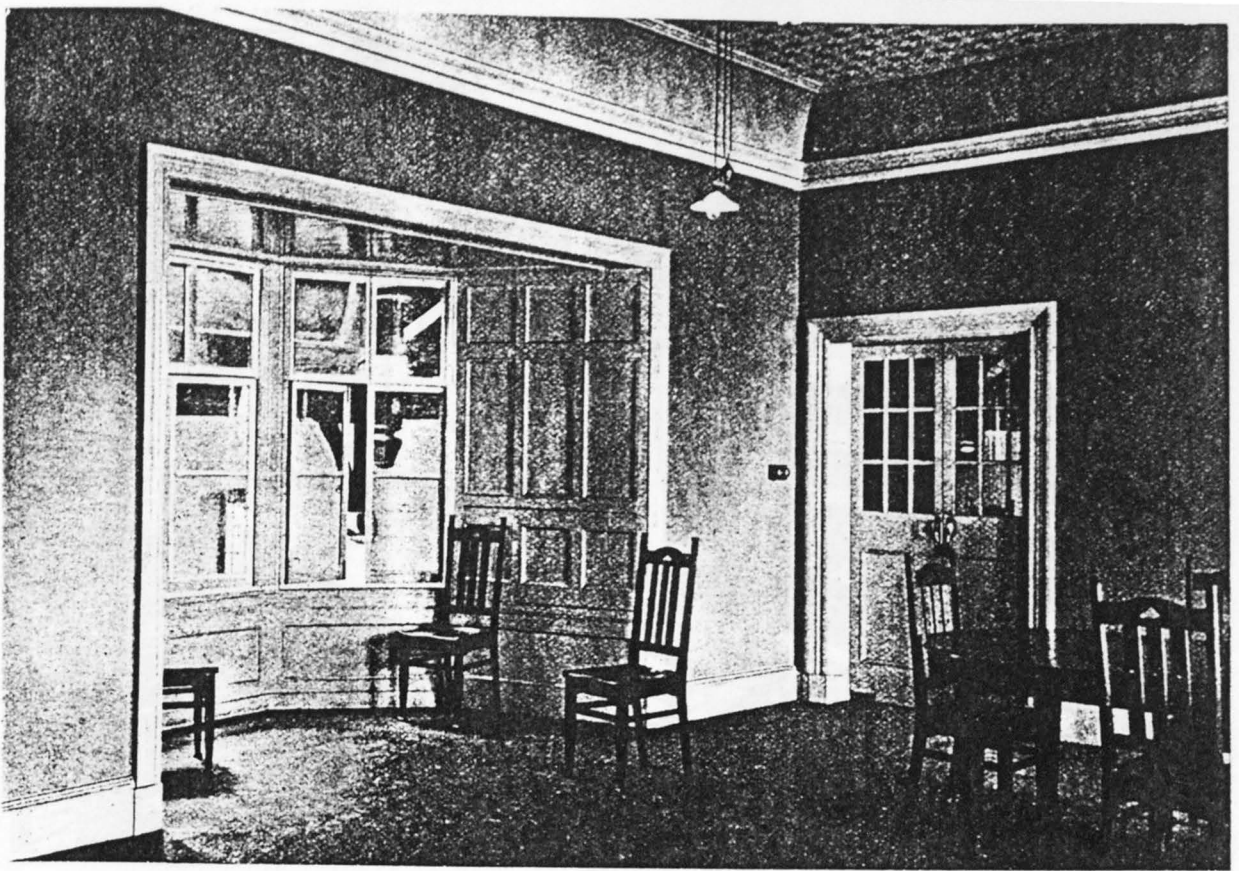
29. The Gymnasium- Portobello, Edinburgh 1901.



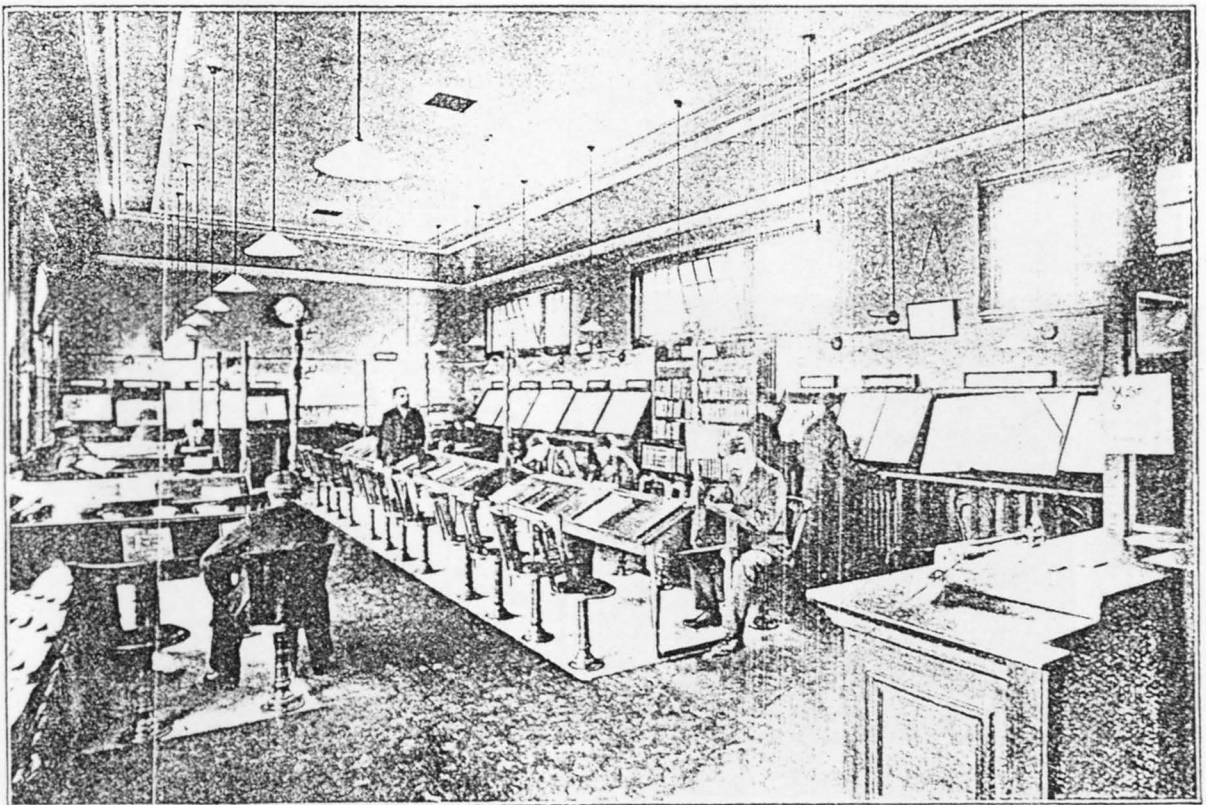
30. The Gymnasium- Whitevale, Glasgow 1902.



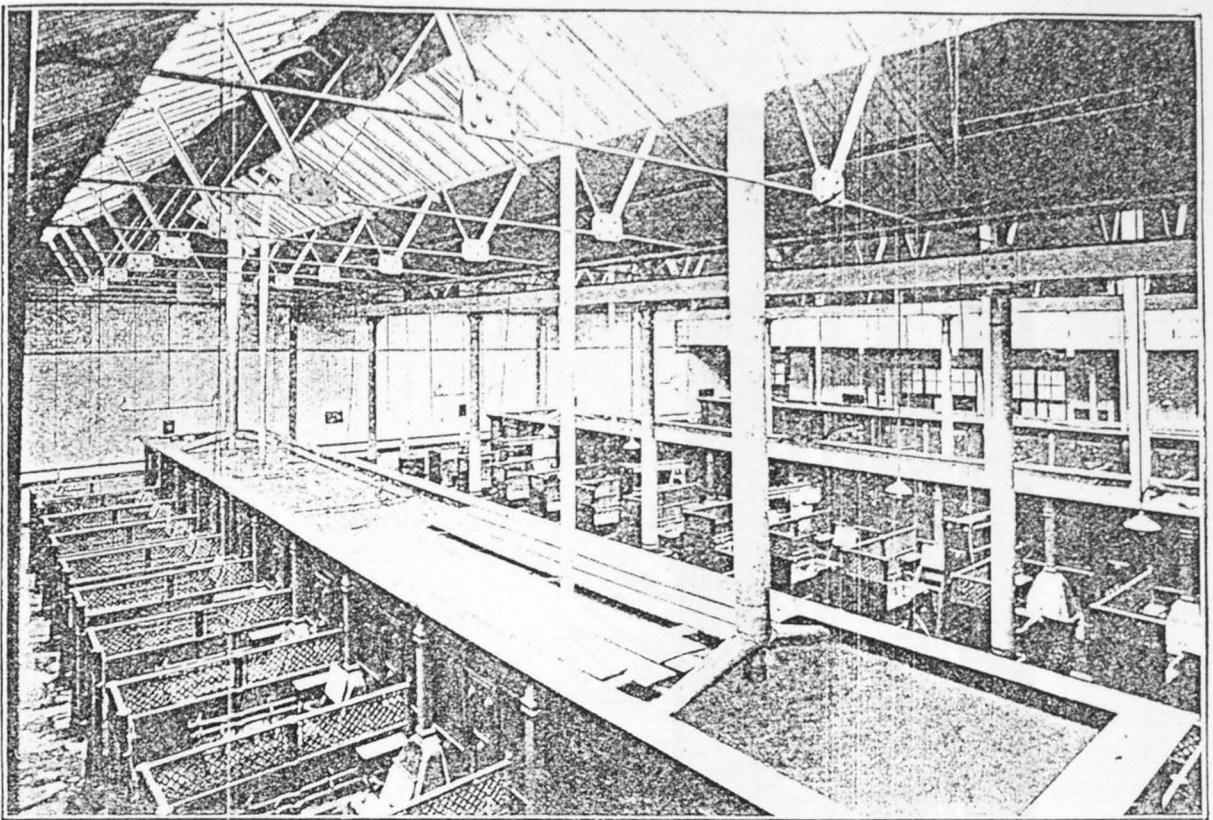
31. 'Mamorite' partitions between slipper baths- Whitevale, Glasgow 1902.



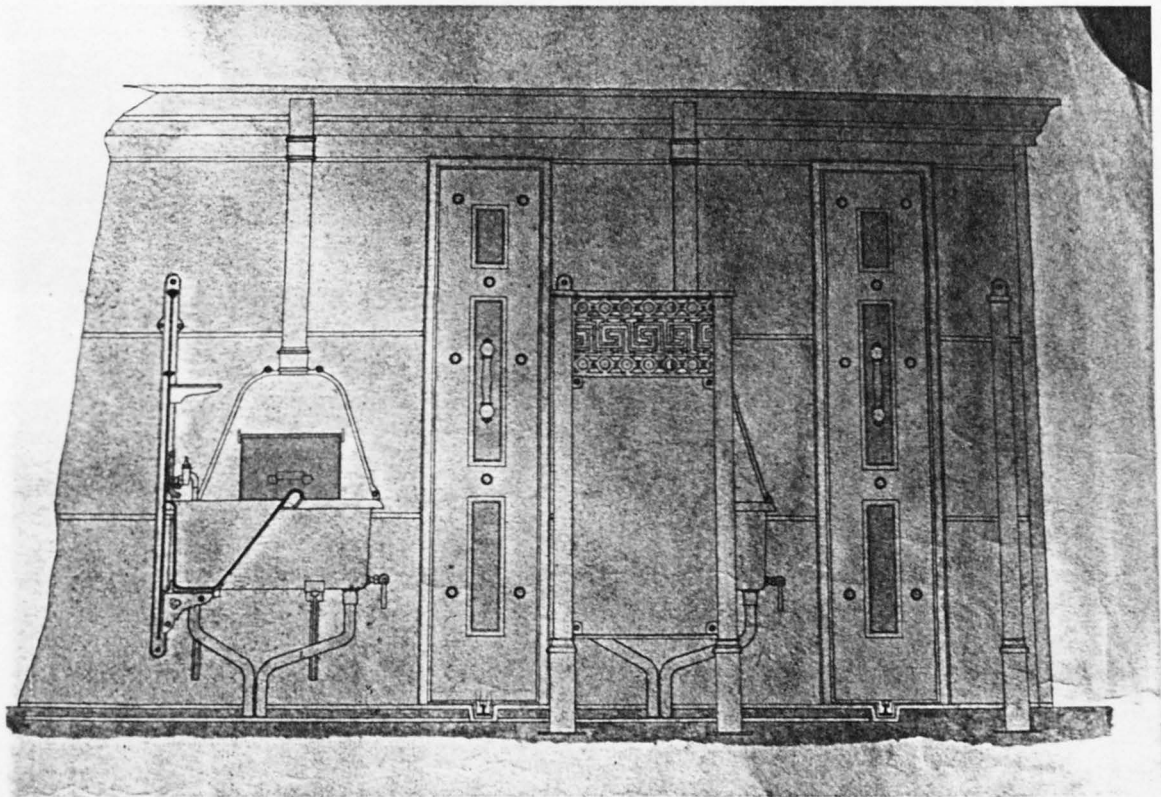
32. The Ladies Retiring Room- Portobello, Edinburgh 1901.



33. The Reading Room- Whitevale, Glasgow 1902.



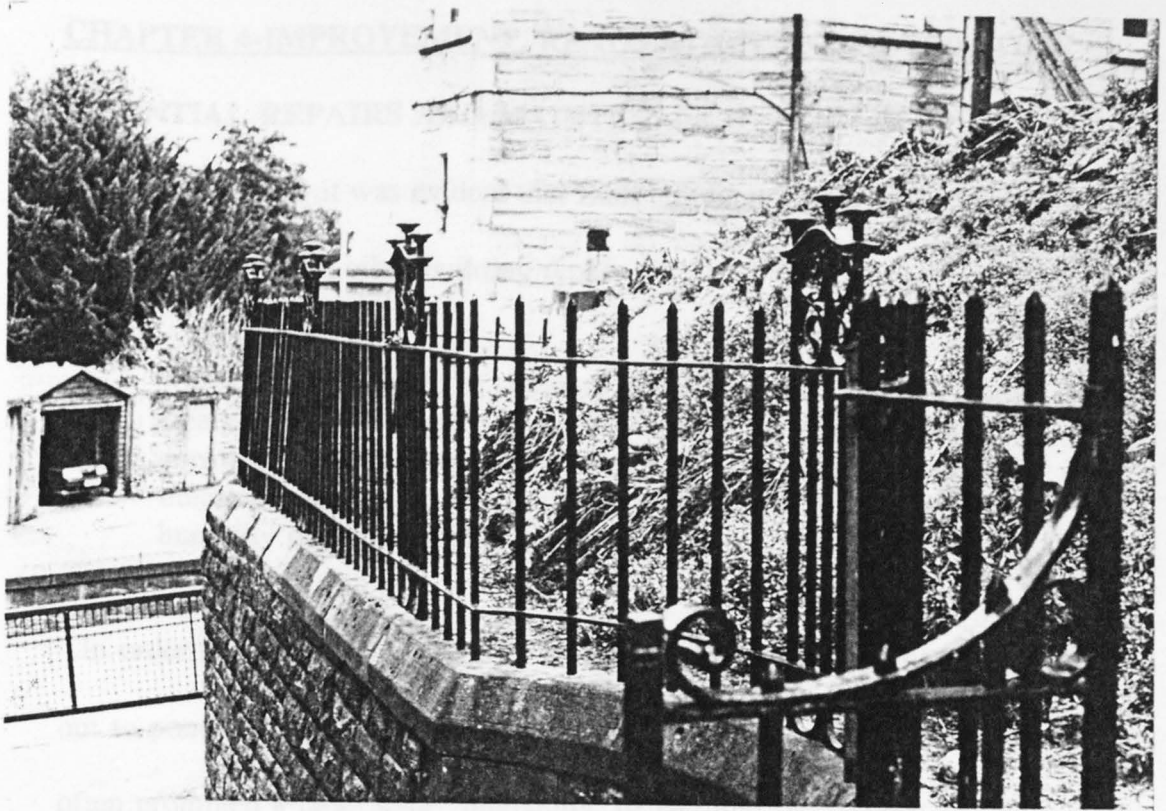
34. Centrally positioned drying horses- Whitevale, Glasgow 1902.



35. Detail of washing stalls- Maryhill and Springburn, Glasgow.



36. Chimney stack- Glenogle, Edinburgh.



Fence



37&38. Fencing- Forfar Baths.

CHAPTER 4-IMPROVEMENT, RENOVATION AND ALTERATION

ESSENTIAL REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

As early as 1913 it was evident that Bath buildings would require higher levels of maintenance than other building types:

"Structures composed of ordinary materials - such as timber, iron, steel, lead, and slate - inevitably perish by natural decay or corrosion. In the case of public baths and wash houses, this inherent element of deterioration is hastened by the inevitable humidity of such establishments."⁴⁵

In order to ensure the survival of Baths essential alterations have been carried out to ponds, roofs and obsolete boiler and filtration equipment. Such work has often prompted a large scale 'upgrading' of facilities or 'face-lift'.

Pond Shell

Leakage, involving the loss of large quantities of water, is symptomatic of cracks in the mass concrete pond walls (induced by settlement and subsidence). Repairs involve removal and replacement of tile finishes. This process has been carried out in the Western Baths (Glasgow), Infirmary Street (Edinburgh) and at Alloa.

Roof

Roofs are particularly vulnerable to the effects of moisture rising from the pond which corrode metal-work and rot timber. In some instances roofs have partially or completely collapsed. In others replacement became essential to prevent danger to bathers. Sky-lights and ventilators have been removed or replaced during this type of work(ill.39&40, p.72)

⁴⁵ A.B.McDonald from Municipal Journal "Reinforced Concrete for Baths", 14th March 1913, p.27.

Boiler House

Alterations to the boiler house have been extensive. Technical improvements during the twentieth century have resulted in the introduction of improved filtration, aeration and sterilisation plants and replacement of coal fired by oil and gas fired boilers. Redundant chimney stacks have since become vulnerable to demolition.

Fittings

Measures taken to improve pool safety have included removal of diving stages, trapezes and exercise rings because the depth of water is now regarded as insufficient for safe diving. Copings and surfaces around the pond have usually been replaced by modern, non-slip alternatives.



39. Alloa Baths with roof vent c.1900, 40. Alloa Baths without roof vent 1993.

ALTERATIONS CARRIED OUT TO MAINTAIN VIABILITY

Baths have rarely produced a financial profit as shown by figures published in Glasgow Corporation year books and deficits recorded in other local authority records. High maintenance and running costs commonly out-weigh total admission charges. Early measures to attract custom included the provision of Turkish baths, modernised slipper baths, sun-ray baths, spray baths, gymnasia, reading rooms and billiards tables. The latter encouraged use of facilities throughout the winter months.

Changing needs of Society

Post-war communities became less reliant on establishments for washing clothes or having baths as these facilities were gradually incorporated into new and refurbished housing. Baths therefore became more devoted to swimming and leisure. In order to cope with large numbers of swimmers, in the evenings and during the summer, wire baskets for deposit of clothes were introduced during and after the nineteen fifties in some Edinburgh Baths such as Infirmary Street and Portobello. Consequently pool-side changing boxes and galleries were removed and accommodation, such as slipper baths, near the pond were converted into changing areas.

The loss of direct access from changing box to pond had the advantage that precleansing showers and foot baths could be established. Such arrangements were advocated in "Modern Baths and Wash houses" by A.W.S. and K.M.B. Cross published around 1930 which stated that it:

"...is the desirability of local authorities so planning their swimming baths that each bather is compelled to make use of a cleansing room before

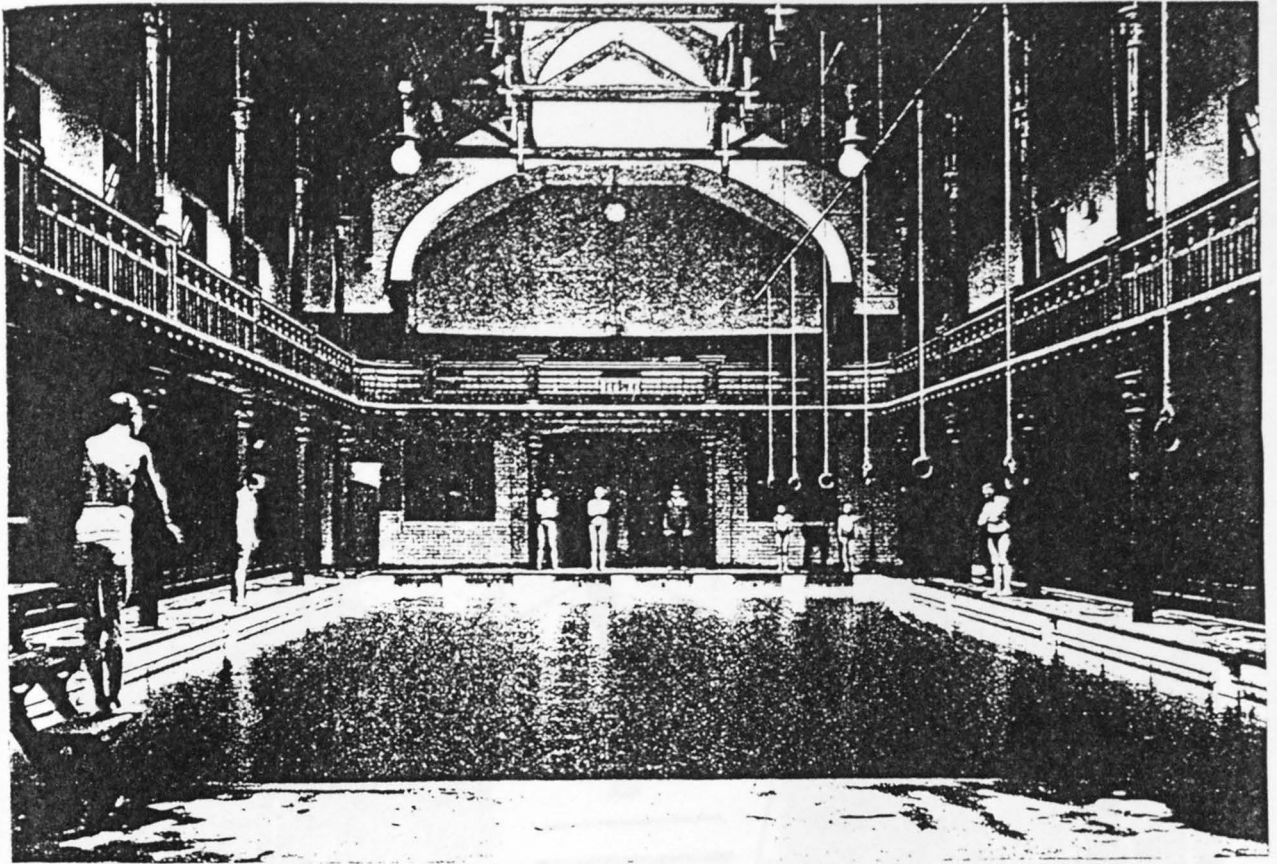
entering the bath proper."⁴⁶

Recent Modernisation

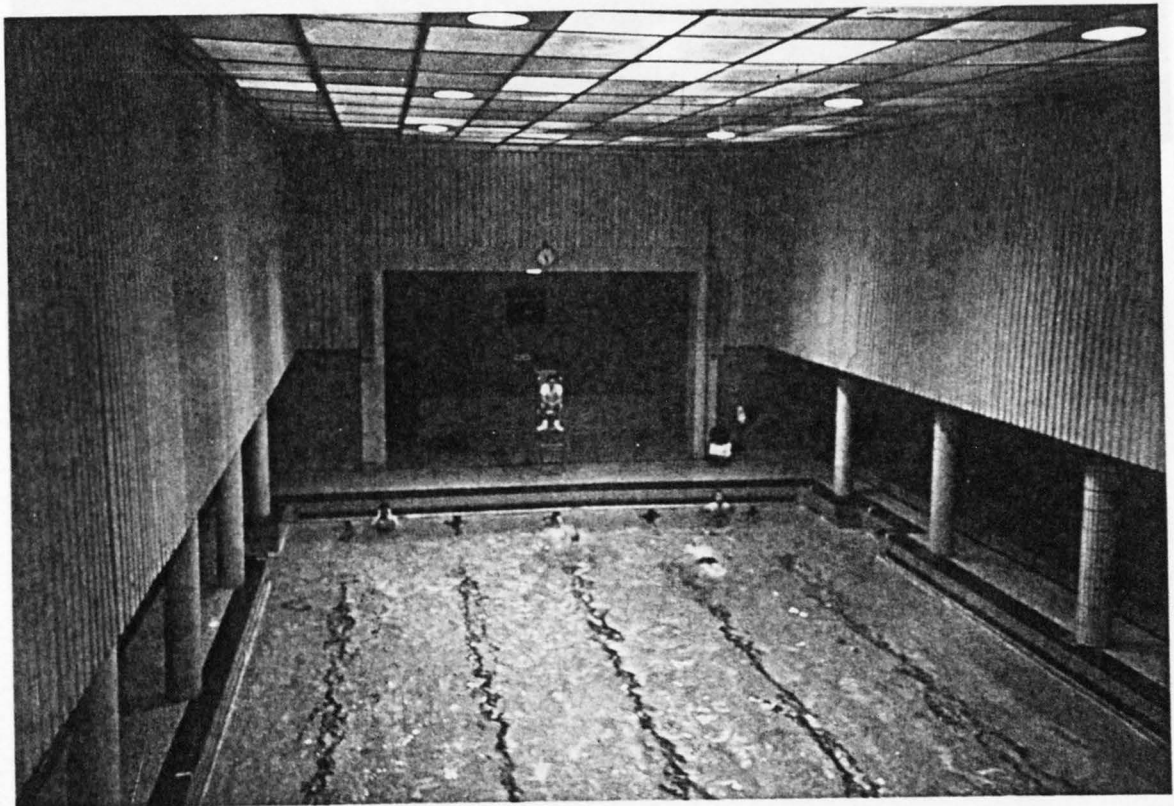
In the last thirty years efforts to attract custom have included repainting and tiling, the insertion of additional facilities such as saunas, lounges, bars, weights rooms, flumes and new swimming ponds.

Alterations have been influenced by modern pond design practices which in some cases has had a devastating effect on the character of the building.(ill.41&41, p.75)

⁴⁶ Cross,A.W.S.&K.M.B. Modern Public Baths and Wash-houses, Chance&Bland, Gloucester 1929, Foreword.



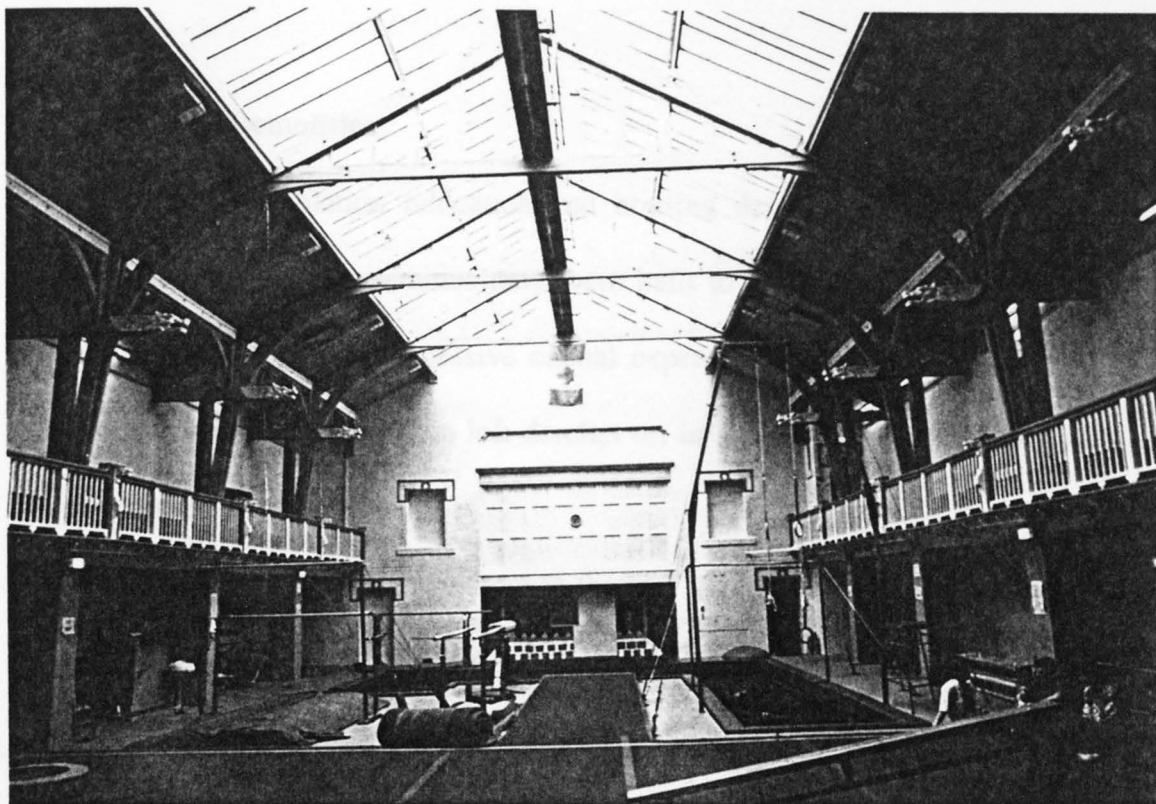
41. The Male Pond- Portobello, Edinburgh 1901.



42. The Male Pond- Portobello, Edinburgh 1992.

Change of Use

In establishments where swimming was no longer a viable option for financial or structural reasons, alterations have been made to convert them into gymsnasiums, leisure services and administrations, halls for use by residents associations, private clubs and depots or storage facilities. (11.43, p.76)



| Baths | Year of Discontinuation |
|-------|-------------------------|
|-------|-------------------------|

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 43. Swimming pond hall in use as a gymnasium- Alloa 1992. | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|--|

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Glenkiln | |
| Cranstonhill | 1972 |
| Townhead | 1973 |
| Gorbals | 1974 |
| Springburn | 1981 |
| Gorgie | 1982 |
| Kinning Park | 1973 |

Table 2. Discontinuation of Glasgow Baths

Change of Use

In establishments where swimming was no longer a viable option for financial or structural reasons, alterations have been made to convert them into gymnasia, leisure services and administration, halls for use by residents associations, private clubs and depots or storage facilities.(ill.43, p.76)

Dereliction/Demolition

Significant population relocation and housing demolition left establishments isolated from the communities they were built to serve. Where alternative uses could not be found, or excessive capital expenditure was required to repair or upgrade, buildings have been left derelict or, in the absence of listed protection, demolished.

The majority has been carried out in the past thirty years with Baths in the west of Scotland having suffered particularly badly. The table below shows those Baths in Glasgow which have been demolished within this period.

| <u>Baths</u> | <u>Year of Demolition</u> |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| Greenhead | 1961 |
| Cranstonhill | 1972 |
| Townhead | 1975 |
| Gorbals | 1974 |
| Springburn | 1981 |
| Govan | 1982 |
| Kinning Park | 1973 |

Table 2. Demolition of Glasgow Baths.

CHAPTER 5- CONCLUSION

Swimming Baths have a wealth of history and importance for local communities throughout Scotland. To demolish them without a true appreciation of their historic, social and architectural worth is regrettable if not irresponsible.

In a political atmosphere in which local authorities are increasingly forced to account for spending decisions within their limited budgets, community services tend to be the first to suffer cut backs. The provision of swimming facilities which may make a financial loss (but which undoubtedly have long-term health benefits) is therefore threatened. Financial and technical concerns pertaining to the upkeep of the older buildings, combined with ever increasing competition from more recently built leisure pools will continue to threaten the future of Baths in their present form. With this in mind, it is imperative that basic steps are taken to conserve the qualities which give Baths their value and make them worth keeping:

LEGISLATIVE PROTECTION

In the past Baths have suffered at the hands of a superficial listing system which, in many cases, failed to respect social and technical value. Consequently, examples of national importance have been demolished or substantially altered in the last thirty years. The "Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas", refers to listing buildings on the basis of their, "...illustrating social and economic history;..."¹ To what extent these factors are or can in actual fact be taken into account is debatable in light of the lack of readily available information

¹ Historic Buildings and Monuments Directorate, Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas, Scottish Development Department, 1987, p.2 (1.7b)

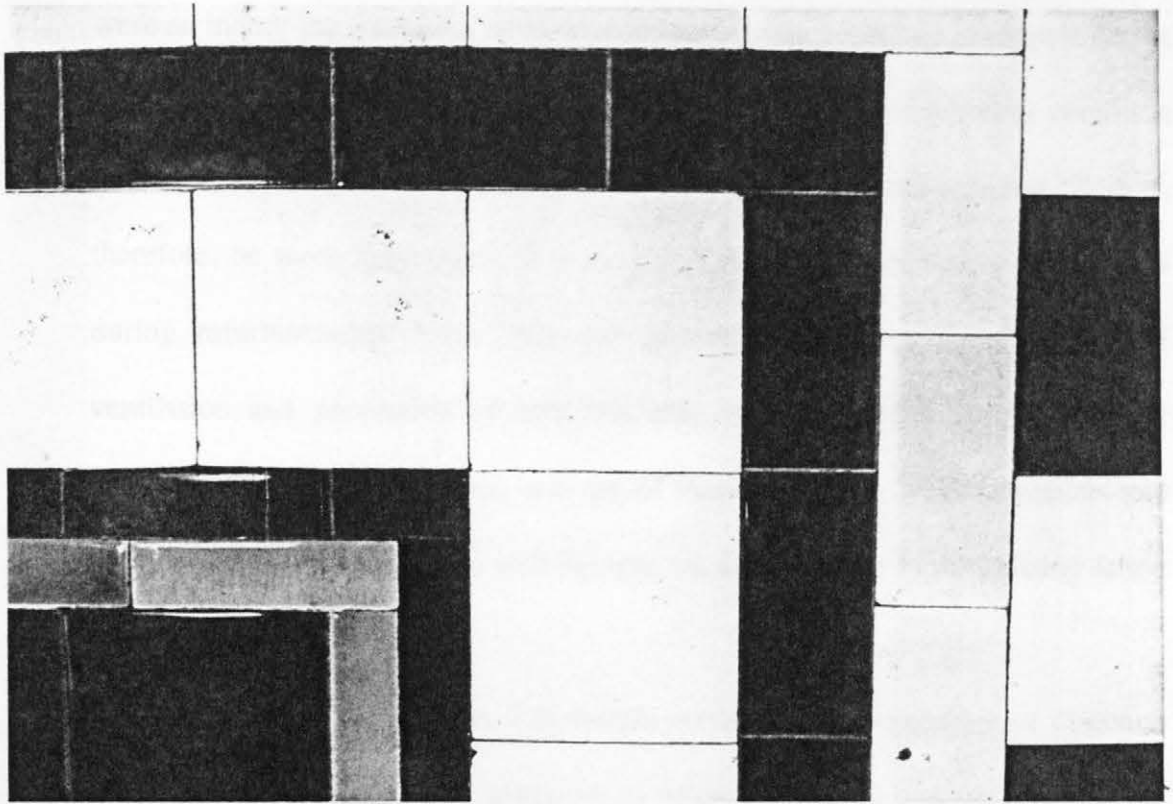
on building types such as Baths. Listing, therefore, continues to be impaired because few detailed comparative studies have been prepared. These are an essential means of identifying examples which are of 'national importance' and serve to illuminate particular trends within building types. The Government must carry out such a study on Baths without delay so that existing examples receive their deserved legislative protection.

MAINTENANCE

Since Baths of this period naturally require a higher degree of maintenance than more modern establishments it is the local authorities duty to ensure that regular repainting and repairs are carried out rather than leaving the building to deteriorate over a number of years to a point where such costly repairs are involved that the future of the facility is jeopardised.

REFURBISHMENT

Refurbishment work on Baths has been characterised by a compulsion for a modern 'up-to-date' finish. This is driven by local authority will to provide a comparable quality of environment as exists in modern pools. There is undoubtedly a need for the renewal of some materials and finishes as required by current technical and safety legislation in order that swimming may continue in a safe environment. This does not, however, justify the wholesale or thoughtless removal of fixtures and fittings and interior reorganisation which has the effect of eroding the original aesthetic. Instead care should be taken to retain characteristic items such as sky-lighting, pool-side changing cubicles, galleries, tiling and fittings where they survive. If appropriate specialist in, for example, ceramics should be



44. Ceramics discoloured by cleaning agent- Alcoa Baths.

consulted in order to ascertain whether tiles can be saved, and if so which cleaning methods should be employed. Application of the wrong cleaning agents may lead to discolouration and a loss of glaze.(ill.44,p.80)

Where new materials are required it should be recognised that Bath buildings were an indoor interpretation of an outdoor activity (as described in chapter 2). An understanding of this 'natural' analogy and knowledge of the previous condition of Baths will help in determining new materials and colour schemes. It may, therefore, be more appropriate in some cases for greens and browns to be used during refurbishments rather than the prevalent clinical white. Provision of ventilation and prevention of heat-loss may be achieved by the insertion of mechanical ventilation systems and use of thermal glazing. Such intrusions and other similar works should be well thought out and sensitive to the existing fabric and aesthetic.

Recent work in Dalry Baths, Edinburgh, marks a laudable change of direction towards a more sympathetic approach to refurbishment.(ill.45&46, p.82) In the future this attitude should be encouraged and enforced at planning consent stage (on both listed and unlisted buildings) by well informed planning officers and inspectors with technical information and design guidelines readily available to encourage sympathetic refurbishment. Following the completion of thematic studies Historic Scotland should provide such information.



45. The Pond Hall following refurbishment- Dalry, Edinburgh 1993.



46. Stair shape retained, modern handrail reflects original fixture- Dalry, Edinburgh.

RE-USE

Where conversion of use is the only means of preventing Baths falling into disrepair or being demolished then planning officers should ensure that their inherent spatial quality and features of interest are retained. The flexibility originally designed into pond halls and their strong connections with the community would suggest reuse of Baths as public halls, gymnasia, sports centres or community halls.

Following a regrettable number of 'west coast' demolitions in the last thirty years Glasgow City Council has a particular responsibility to find a way of reusing the B-listed Whitevale and B(group)-listed Maryhill Baths before they too fall victim to demolition. There would seem to be grounds for considering the use of at least one of these vacant Baths as a museum of popular or social culture, swimming and leisure. This would arouse public awareness and rekindle interest in Baths, would be of educational value to schools and could carry overflow exhibits from the straining People's Palace.

CURRENT AND FUTURE USE

Swimming was considered as an art during the nineteenth century with importance placed on gracefulness and technique. Enjoyment was had through the mastering of the strokes and the playing of water games like water polo (which was first played with rules at Paisley Baths). The new breed of multi-level leisure pools which have been constructed in the past twenty years appeal to a more limited clientele; normally children, parents of children and young people. Interest in swimming as a healthy exercise in itself is being replaced by a reliance on

flumes and other attractions which offer instant, effortless pleasure. This change of emphasis is reflected in the fact that very few leisure pools include a regular shaped area for competitive swimming. In this respect the rectangular pond of the local Baths still has a future for those interested in competitive club swimming and swimming for fitness and pleasure.

In parallel with the development of the leisure pool has been the provision of health suites which normally include weights, saunas, Turkish baths and sunbeds. Such facilities were an integral part of many establishments of the late nineteenth century which have often been run down or are currently disused. There is surely reason for reopening and maintaining Turkish baths where they still exist such as at Portobello and Warrender Baths in Edinburgh and the Carnegie Baths in Dunfermline. This would serve to continue both their past and increasingly their present role as local centres of fitness and health.

It is only by nurturing local and national understanding, recognising the specific qualities of Bath buildings and ensuring adequate legislative protection that this unique building type- which reminds us of the social improvements of the nineteenth and early twentieth century and which has a viable future- will be conserved in such a way that something of the original conception and aesthetic is retained. With this in mind the following gazetteer describes and outlines the history of 40 swimming pools which were constructed in Scotland between 1868 and 1914 and should be considered as the first step towards the gathering of information and the publicising of this neglected but significant building type.

APPENDIX 1 : SURVEY-HISTORY OF BATHS

OBJECTIVES

The survey seeks to provide a consistent level of information pertaining to the history, facilities and present state of the 40 Baths built between 1868 and 1914. In order to do this a substantial quantity of travelling was required between libraries and archives throughout Scotland. It was only possible to spend limited periods of time in some of these, therefore it was essential to quickly identify those sources which were reliable. Among these were Town Council minutes and newspaper articles for the period prior to and immediately after an establishment's opening. Minutes provided factual material with dates and costs while the press usually offered detailed descriptions of establishments in their original state. Their more recent condition was ascertained through a combination of site visits, inspection of planning applications and recent news articles. Despite the inconsistent coverage of library indexing systems information was cross-checked from different sources where possible.

Obtaining information on private companies posed particular problems. Little material was available from council minutes and company minutes have rarely been lodged with archives. This accounts for the shortage of information in these particular examples.

Although the survey cannot claim to be comprehensive it achieves (in most cases) adequate description in order to allow a comparative assessment of establishments.

ORGANISATION

For the purpose of this survey Baths have been divided into two categories; private and public. Private Baths met different needs and were undoubtedly the inspiration to their public counterparts. These are separately grouped to the front of the appendix.

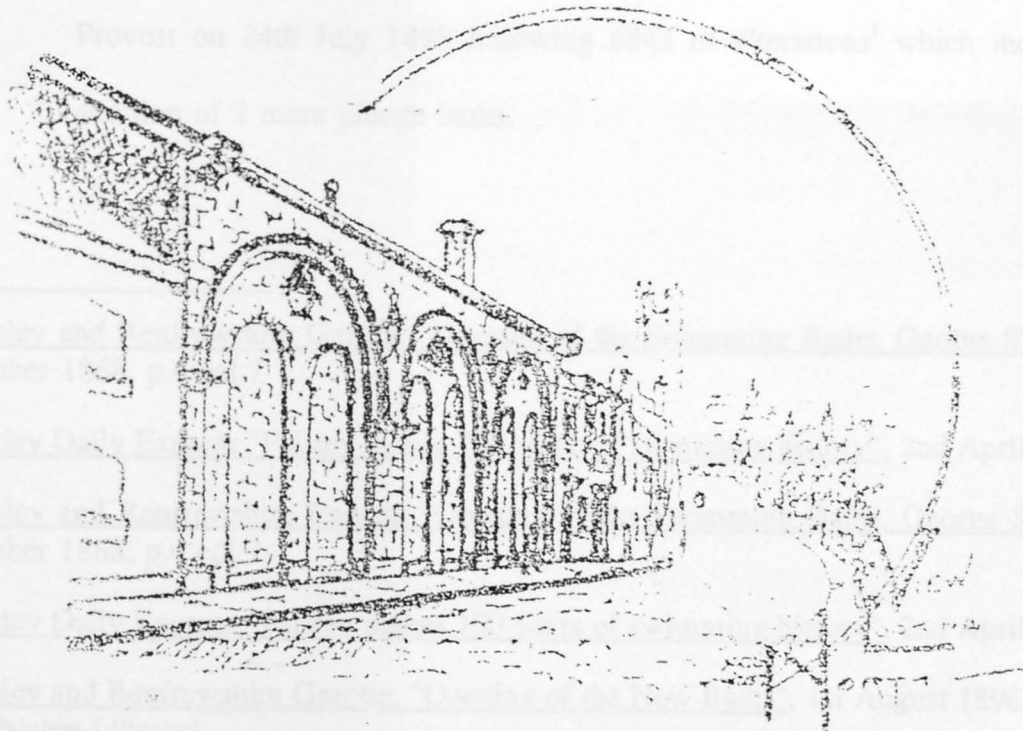
Endowed or gifted Baths dealt essentially with sanitary provision and were constructed in a wide range of forms. Following completion local councils were largely responsible for their running thus these Baths have been grouped with municipal buildings. Special note should be made of the Carnegie Baths, Dunfermline, and the Alloa Baths and Gymnasium - both benefacted - which are more akin to private establishments in the quality of their finishes and provision of facilities yet have the imposing scale of public buildings.

Certain benefits can undoubtedly be had by studying baths within their local context (such as those constructed in Glasgow by the Office of Public Works) however it was felt that a chronological ordering was better suited to illustrate the over-all development of style and facilities in Scotland.

Private Bathing Establishments

Paisley

Address : Street 5, Paisley
Architect : J. M. G. G.
Date : Opened 1844
Listing : Designated



Address : Storie Street, Paisley
Architect : Not found
Date : Opened 16th October 1868
Listing : Demolished

The first Paisley Baths were officially opened on Friday 16th October 1868 with public access the next day.¹ They were financed by private subscription and cost £1,964.²

Facilities and Description

The pond, measuring 80'x32', was covered in encaustic tiles and was naturally lit from above via skylights. 26 dressing boxes were situated on either side of the pond and further apartments housed 6 plunge and shower baths.³ Water was heated by the adjacent Coats Dyeworks. These were removed resulting in the closure of the Baths.⁴

Messrs. Coats offered the establishment for the benefit of the town and it was gratefully accepted by the Town Council. The building was reopened by the Provost on 24th July 1893 following £843 of alterations⁵ which included the addition of 2 more plunge baths.

¹ Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette "Opening of the Swimming Baths, George Street.", 17th October 1868, p.4 col.7

² Paisley Daily Express "Paisley makes 100 years of swimming history", 2nd April 1968.

³ Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette "Opening of the Swimming Baths, George Street", 17th October 1868, p.4 col.7

⁴ Paisley Daily Express "Paisley makes 100 years of swimming history", 2nd April 1968.

⁵ Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette, "Opening of the New Baths", 1st August 1896, loose cutting [Paisley Library]

Around two years later further alteration and extension was undertaken. In December 1894 Mr. Moncur submitted plans of proposed Baths to the Council⁶ but their implementation was postponed. Eventually the work was put out to tender with returns by 8th March 1895.⁷ Following a Council vote in April 1895 it was agreed to postpone work for a further 6 months, however, construction was begun in June of the same year and the establishment was formally opened by Provost Mackenzie at the end of July 1896. The total cost of works was around £7,000 some of which was borrowed from the Commercial Bank of Scotland under the terms of the 1892 Burgh Police (Scotland) Act.⁸

Extra facilities, thought to be necessary for a town the size of Paisley, were provided using the then existing baths as a core. The extension included a swimming pond, 75'x40', sprays, foot-baths, wash hand basins and lavatories. Despite initial reservations, a Turkish Bath suite was also incorporated along with a keeper's house and offices. Wash house accommodation was located at the rear of the site.

The 135' elevation was constructed of compressed brick with Giffnock stone facings. The skyline was dominated by a 100' brick chimney stack.

Internally the new pond was tiled on the sides and bottom. Dressing boxes on wheels were mounted below a gallery designed to seat 800 spectators. The roof, 8 large opening windows and 4 revolving ventilators were supported by steel trusses. The Turkish baths were octagonal in shape measuring 24½'x24½', had a

⁶ Paisley Town Council Minutes, 6th December 1894, Vol.1884-85, p.19

⁷ Paisley Town Council Minutes, 5th March 1895, Vol.1884-85, p.58

⁸ Paisley Town Council Minutes, 8th July 1895, Vol.1884-85, p.114

domed roof and tiled floor.⁹ The popularity of the facility led to further dressing boxes being built adjacent to the old baths in 1897.

Approved by the Dean of Guild in 1913, further work was completed by 1915 which provided another 75'x40' swimming pond which was tiled and had a continuous scum trough. Dressing boxes with doors and reinforced terrazzo slab divisions 1½" thick, ranged the sides below a surrounding raked gallery. The hall was lit from above by a patent glazed rooflight and windows in the gable to Storie Street. A Row's(Royles?) patent aerating filter was used to purify the water and fine sprays helped to regulate the temperature during swimming galas.¹⁰

Mixed bathing was introduced in April of 1927 and the pond continued to be well used and was reportedly "...well patronised..."¹¹ towards 1960.

Outline planning permission was given to the first leisure pool in Scotland which opened in 1987. Despite local objection throughout the 1980s the Baths were finally closed and demolished in October 1989.¹²

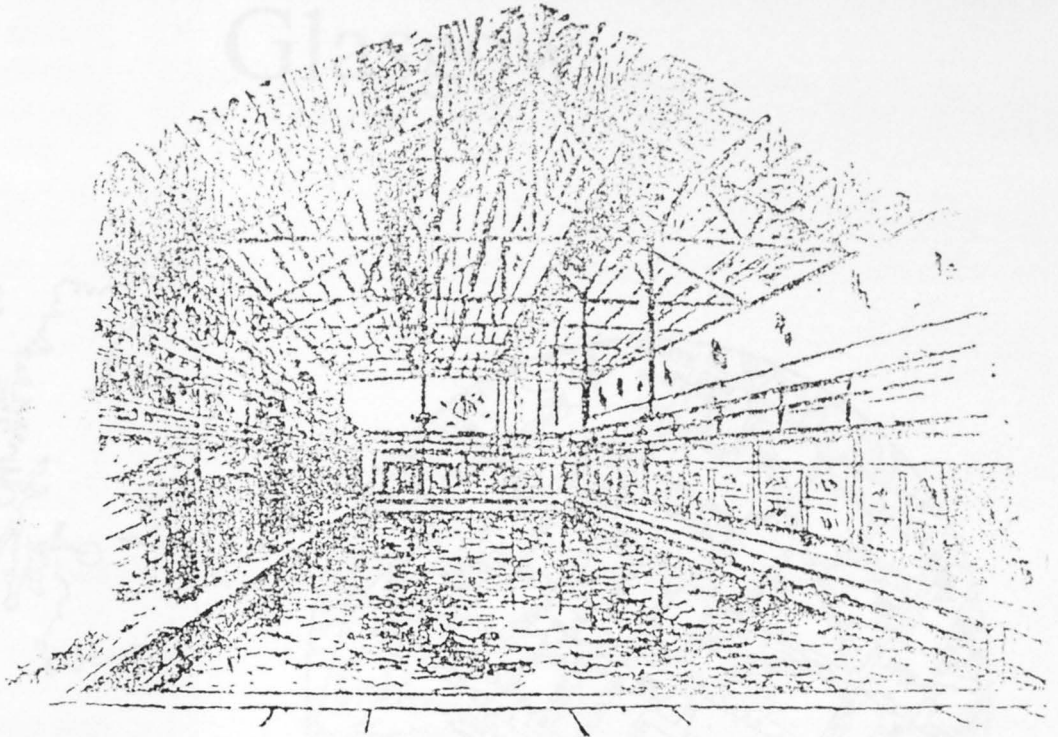
This closure was particularly sad because this was the first such establishment in Scotland to accommodate indoor swimming and had been the venue for the first game of water polo.

⁹ Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette, 25th July 1896, p.5 col.4

¹⁰ Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette "Full Description of Novel Features", 31st July 1915 (loose cutting)

¹¹ Moisle, Thain, Somerville, Stevenson The Third Statistical Account of Scotland "Renfrewshire and Bute", Vol XI, Collins, Glasgow 1962, p.323

¹² Paisley Daily Express "350 parking places for Christmas", 18th October 1989, (loose cutting)



The Corporation Baths Paisley 1896



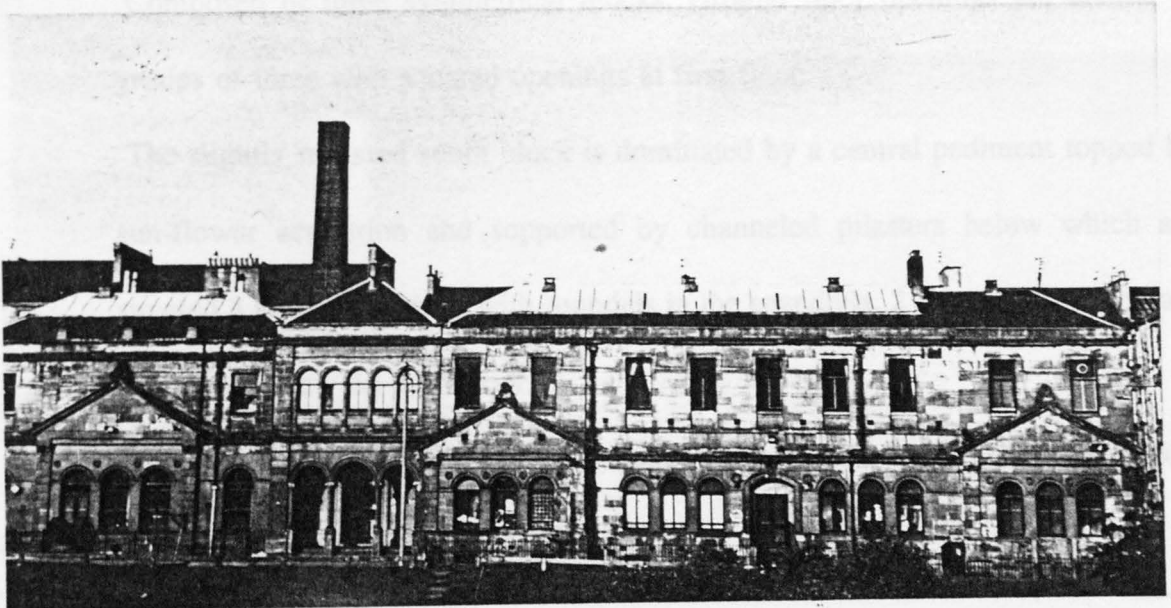
Demolition, October 1989



Plaque Commemorating the 1914 Extension

Arlington, Glasgow

ARLINGTON
Address
Architect
Date
Listing



Address : 61, Arlington Street, Glasgow
Architect : John Burnet, Andrew Myles, Benjamin Conner
Date : Opened 1st August 1871
Listing : B

The earliest private swimming club in Scotland to include other leisure facilities.¹³

Original Facilities

The Turkish bath to north-west and Reading Room were added in 1875. Originally single storey the building was raised in two stages. South and central blocks were designed by Andrew Myles (1893) and included a billiards room. The North block was added by Benjamin Conner (1902).¹⁴ The pond hall, with open timber trussed roof, had a stepped diving stage, rings and trapezes.

The establishment remains in use as a swimming facility.

Present Description

Composed of three symmetrical blocks. Ground floor openings are arched in groups of three with squared openings at first floor.

The slightly recessed south block is dominated by a central pediment topped by sun-flower acroterion and supported by channeled pilasters below which are situated 3 arched openings with roundels in the spandrels. 2 flanking bays contain a single window on each floor.

The central block, with outer clasping pilasters, flanks a 3 arched arcade,

¹³ Williamson, Riches, Higgs Buildings of Scotland "Glasgow", Penguin, London 1990, pp.63,280,288

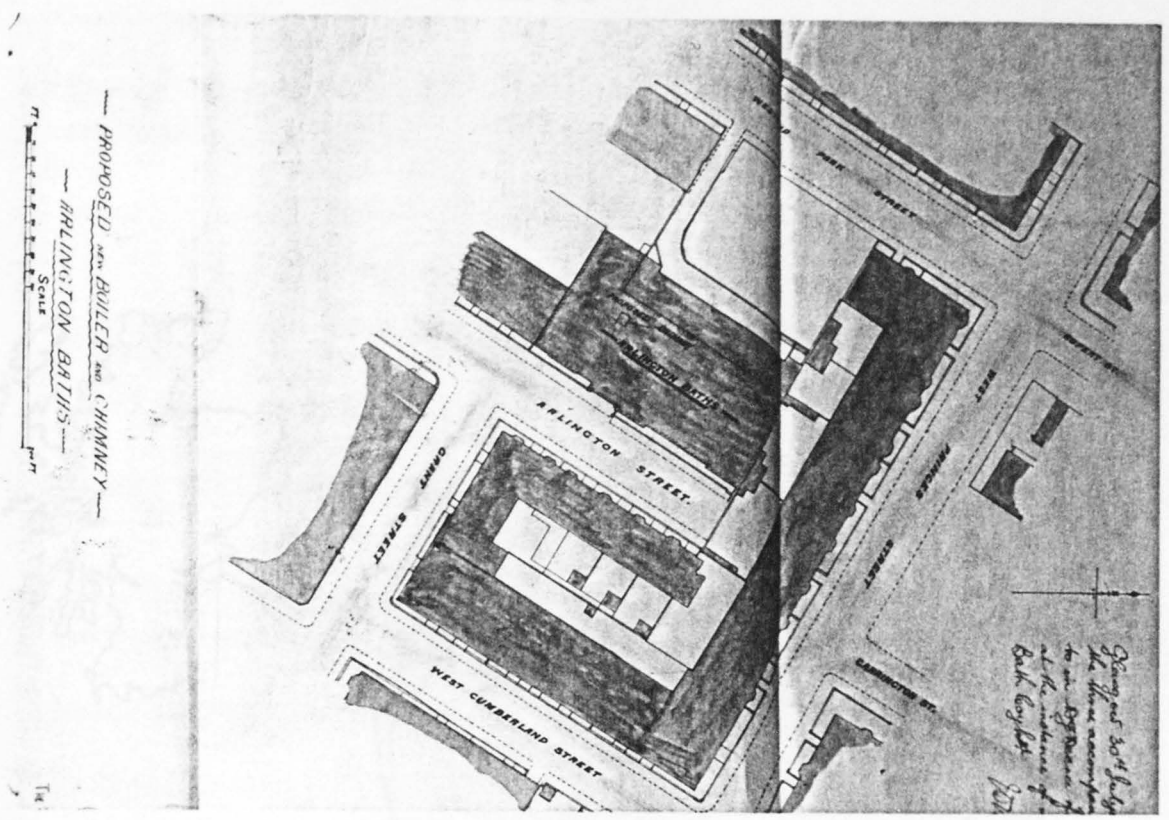
¹⁴ Scottish Country Life, February 1914, p.57

supported by paired columns, on raised pedestals with foliate capitals. 5 arched openings light the first floor above.

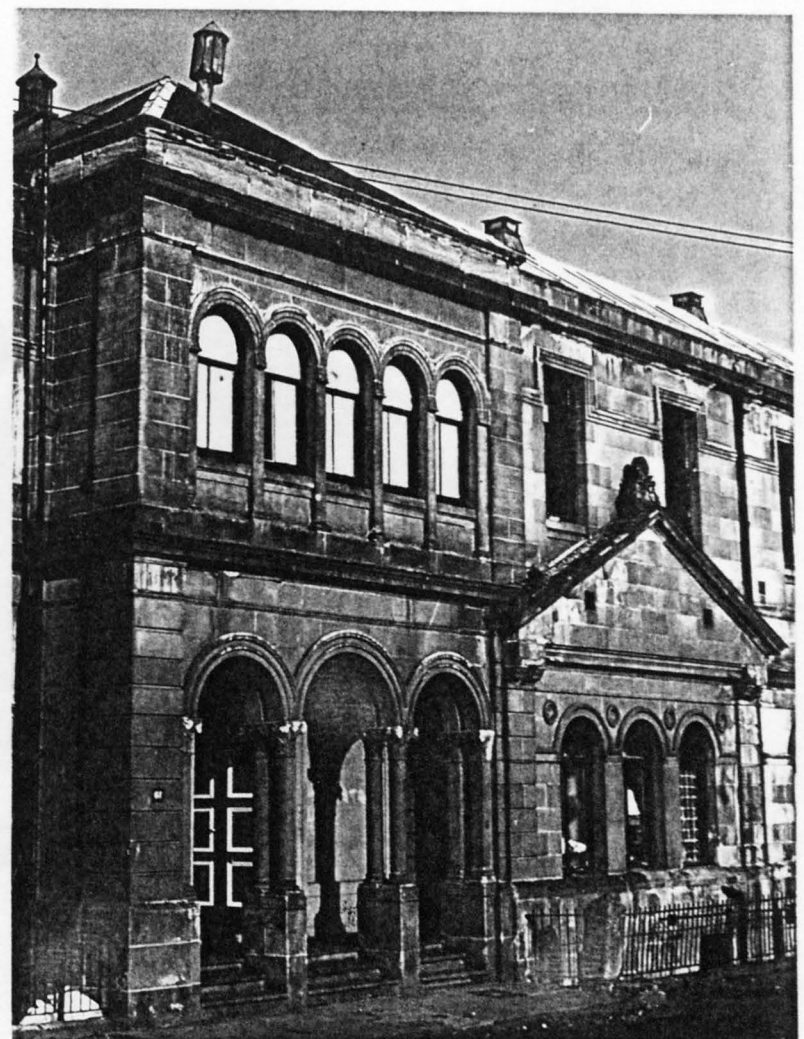
The north block has similar pediments (as described above) on terminal bays. A central arched door-piece is flanked by 3 grouped windows.

Internally some original c.1900 fittings and equipment survive such as a large decorative pendant ventilator which hangs over the pond. The Turkish Bath to the rear has an ogival roof housing coloured glass quatrefoil sky-lights, original tiling and lamp brackets.¹⁵

¹⁵ List of Buildings of Architectural and Historical Interest, The Scottish Office.



Warrant Plan for Installation of Cornish Boiler 1896

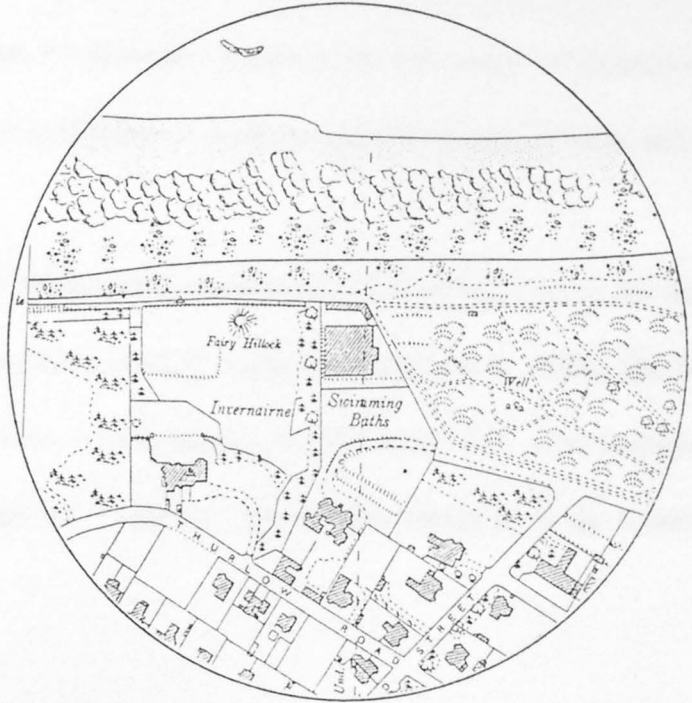


Entrance Bay

Nairn

NAIRN BATHS

Address: 1 Main Street
Architect: J. G. ...
Date: 1880
Listing: ...



Address : Marine Road, Nairn, IV12 4EA
Architect : Not known
Date : 28th June 1873
Listing : Demolished?

A single storeyed, red sandstone bath house was built in 1821 at the west end of links for the treatment of ailments. Supplied by salt water, 6 bathrooms, 2 dressing rooms and hot or cold showers were provided between 7.00 a.m. and 8.00 p.m..¹⁶

An increased interest in the sea-side (encouraged by developments in the South) inspired an influx of seasonal visitors to Nairn (first reported in 1856). The Nairn Salt Water Swimming Baths, which opened on 28th June 1873, were inspired by Dr. Grigor in an attempt to, "...attract visitors and establish it as a popular watering place."¹⁷

Original Facilities and Description

The complex consisted of a long single storey range with an advanced entrance behind which a triple-lit gable concealed the pond hall.

Hot, cold or tepid private baths were available with, in addition, pine and seaweed treatments for those suffering from rheumatism.

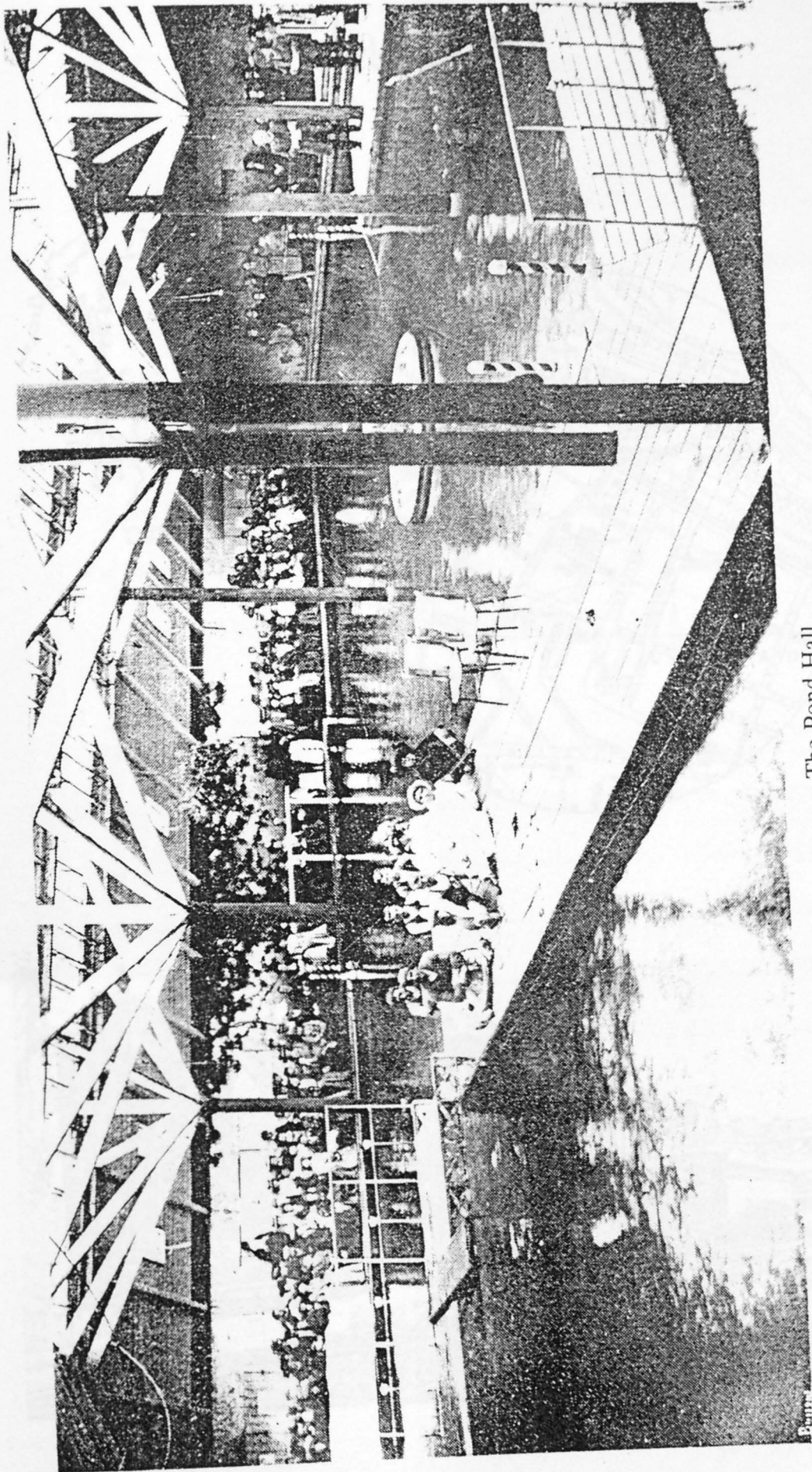
The pond was hewn out of solid rock and measured 80'x40' allowing a swimming course of 100 yards. At one side, a bay was formed in an area of shallow water and a central fountain sprayed pumped seawater.¹⁸ The uniquely

¹⁶ Ellen, David M. Nairn in old Picture Postcards, European Library 1987, p.17

¹⁷ Ellen, David M. Nairn in old Picture Postcards, European Library 1987, p.26

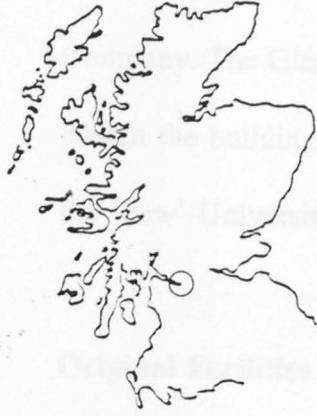
¹⁸ Guide to Nairn, published by E.J. Burrow & Company [no date], p.34

structured timber sky-lit roof was supported by timber branch supports which rested on cast-iron columns some of which rose from the water.



The Pond Hall

Western, Glasgow



Address : Cranworth Street, Hillhead, Glasgow
Architect : Clarke and Bell
Date : Opened 29th April 1878
Listing : B

The Baths were formed by a break away group from the Arlington Baths Company. The Glasgow firm of architects Clarke and Bell were commissioned to design the building on a plot of land in the wealthy West End of Glasgow, near the 'new' University buildings and was constructed at a cost of £9,000.

Original Facilities

Facilities included a swimming pond of dimensions 90' x 35', Turkish baths, a private laundry, reading and recreation rooms and caretaker's flat.

The building has been refurbished twice since its opening on 29th April 1878. In 1884 settlement broke the pond shell and the company went bankrupt. After 6 years a loan of £15,000 made by "sporting Glaswegians" allowed repairs to be carried out.

The company survived financial problems in 1940, the fuel crisis in 1970 and a roof collapse in 1977. The latter incident prompted a £60,000 refurbishment which included the addition of a bar, gym and hairdressing facilities.¹⁹

Present Description

This building is a symmetrical Venetian Gothic composition of largely snecked rubble with ashlar dressings all in yellow sandstone. Club facilities face Cranworth

¹⁹ Scottish Field August 1990, p.21

Street in 13 bays. A 2 storey, 3 bay advanced central block is linked to advanced terminal pavilion bays by 4 bay single storey links. The swimming pond is situated to the rear.

The central 3 storey bays have an arcaded portico flanked by tri-partite trefoil headed lights with columnar mullions. At first floor 3 single round arched windows are flanked by similarly treated bi-partites with corbelled sills. The roof is hipped, slated, has terra cotta ridge pieces and is bracketed at eaves.

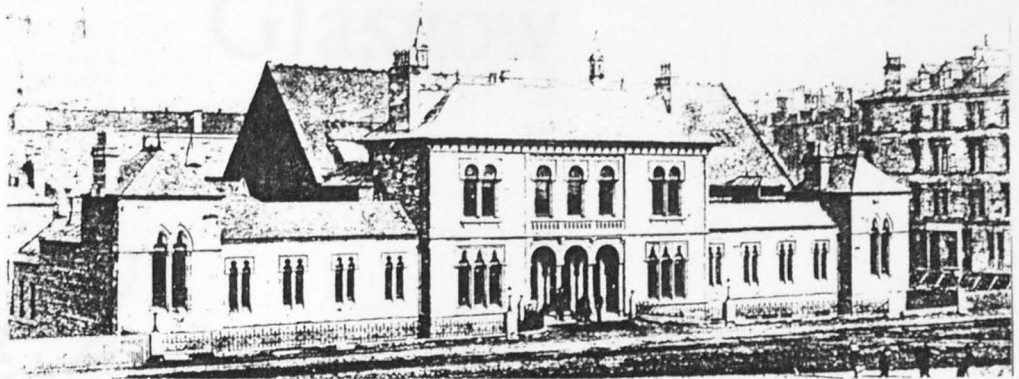
To the north a single storey bays consist of 4 x bi-partite cusp-headed windows. Those to the south are similar but have blind upper lights.

The end pavillions have a bi-partite lancet headed opening with colonette mullions and architrave. The windows are divided into 4 lights by a broad, horizontal band. The roofs are hipped and finished in slate with terra cotta ridge pieces.

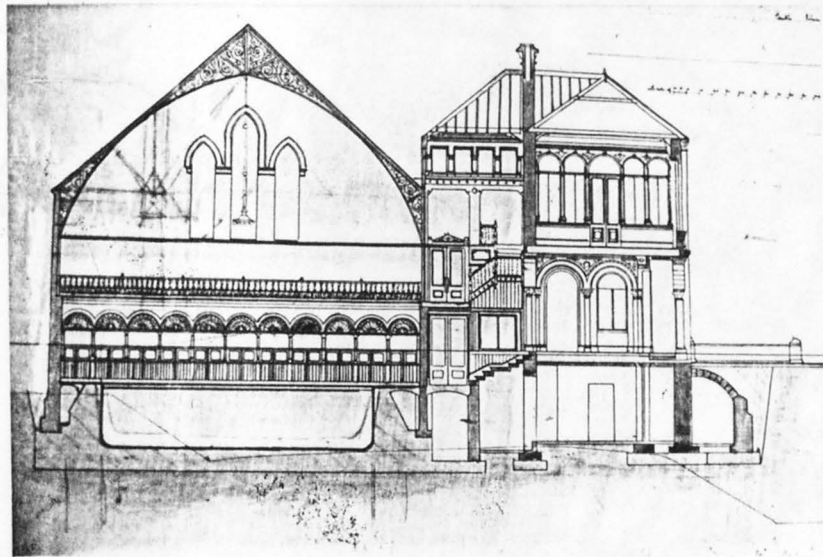
The entrance hall has an arcaded screen. Glazed screens with geometric glazing bars are found at the pond side (some removed). The pond hall is lit by lancet windows in the gables and rear wall. Decorated cast-iron roof trusses support the roof.

The Turkish baths measure 38'x 20', have a floor of marble and ceiling formed of 3 domes filled with coloured glass.²⁰

²⁰ Wordsall, F. Victorian City, Glasgow 1982, p.67



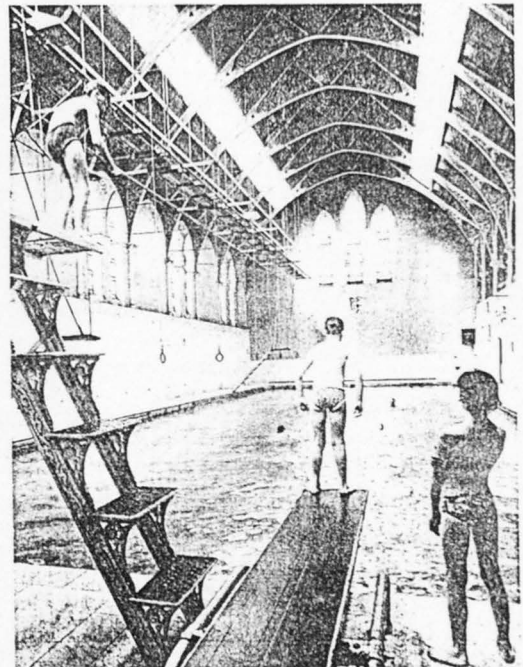
The Western Baths 1895



Warrant Drawings, Section Through Pond Hall



Quiz of 1886



Interior of Pond Hall 1980's

Victoria, Glasgow

Address : Bath
 Architect : Mr
 Date : 1875
 Listing : Demolished

Original Description



The Builder, Vol. 24, 1875, p. 249

Mem. W. M. P. Bath, The City of Glasgow, The Victoria Baths Company, 1911, p. 15

Address : Butterbiggins Road, Glasgow
Architect : Mr. T.L. Watson
Date : 1878
Listing : Demolished

Original Description

This Moorish building consisted of a 2 storey facade with central projecting gable and had octagonal oriels at each of the extreme angles. It was constructed at a cost of £8,000.²¹

The establishment was closed at the beginning of the war, c.1939.²²

²¹ The Builder, Vol.34, 1876, p.269

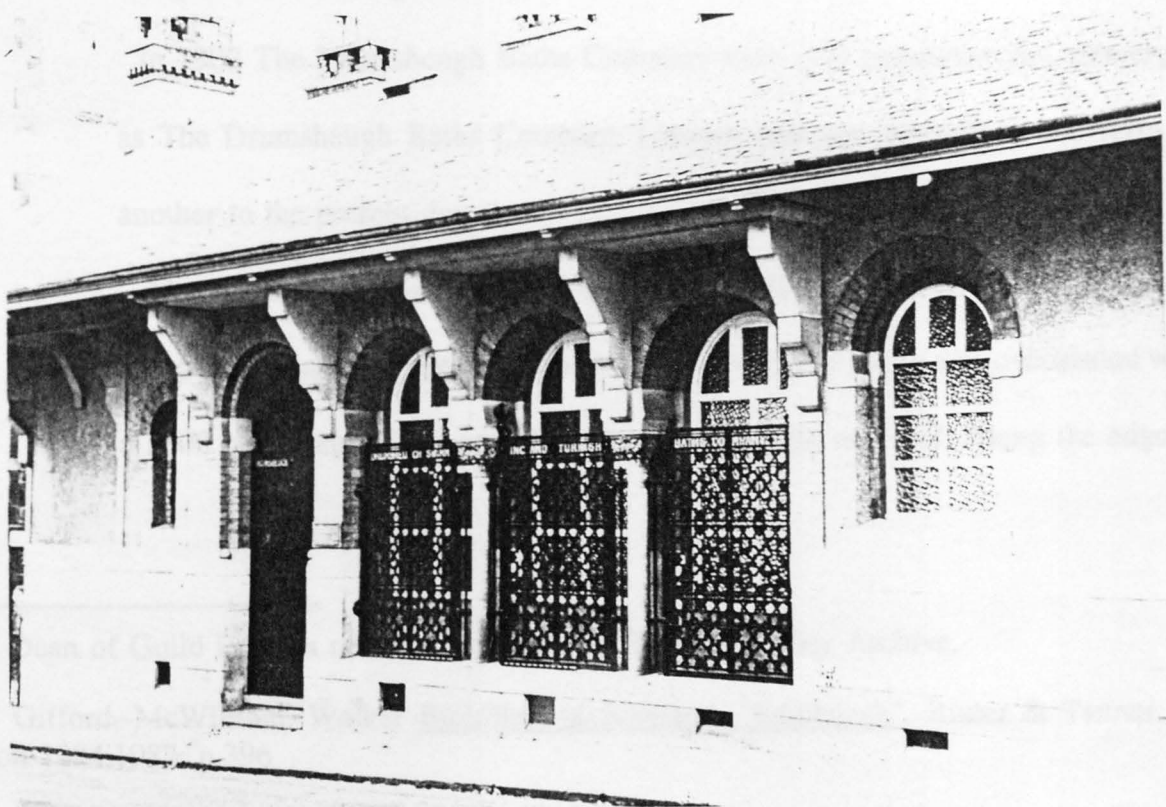
²² Mann, W.M. The Baths, The Story of the Western Baths, The Western Baths Company 1991, p.15

DRUMSHEUGH

Drumsheugh, Edinburgh

Address
Architect
Date
Listing

Built on James's Land, designed by James Gillespie Graham



Address : 5, Belford Road, Edinburgh
Architect : John J. Burnet, 167, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow
Date : 1883
Listing : B

Built on Hutton's Land, Smithy Land and vacant ground (formerly occupied by a paper mill) between the former and the Dean Free Church, the Baths were designed by John J. Burnet of Glasgow in 1883.²³ They provided for the wants of the wealthier population of Edinburgh's West End.

Original Facilities

A 75'x35' swimming pond had a rank of changing boxes along one of its sides below mezzanine Turkish Baths and private plunge baths. A reading room was situated over the Belford Road entrance.

Following a fire the building was repaired in 1892-93 with the entrance block being lowered to single storey.²⁴

In 1902 The Drumsheugh Baths Company went into liquidation but reemerged as The Drumsheugh Baths Company Limited and has survived in one form or another to the present day.

Alterations in 1961-62 included retiling of some areas of the pond with others being acid cleaned to restore them to white. The boiler house was overhauled with a £300 chlorinator fitted and 10½ tons of filter sand replaced. Along the edge of

²³ Dean of Guild Petition of 30th August 1883, Edinburgh City Archive.

²⁴ Gifford, McWilliam, Walker Buildings of Scotland, "Edinburgh", Butler & Tanner, London 1984,1987, p.396

the swimming bath a small gymnasium was created.²⁵ Further work in 1967 saw the conversion of the Turkish Baths into a learner's pool.²⁶

It was reported in 1980 that extensive renovations would be required if the pool was to remain viable.²⁷

The establishment continues to be used at present.

Present Description

The Baths are set on a steeply sloping site with entry from Belford Road. The main, formerly 2 storey, block is of Moorish style and retains the former balcony brackets under eaves. The facade consists of four windows set in red brick horse-shoe arches with the 5th as a door. Red sandstone shafts, capped with intricately carved white sand stone capitals, separate the 3 central windows. A cast-iron grill reads "Drumsheugh Swimming and Turkish Bath Company Limited." The elevation is in grey roughcast.

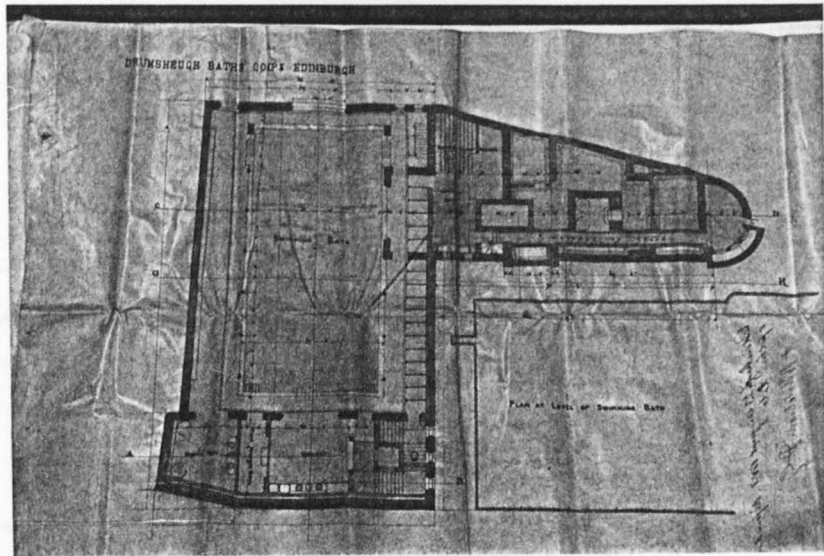
The remainder of the building is of rubble with brick ornamentation around the glazed cupola of the former Turkish Baths. The roof is of slate with occasional pantiles.

At the entrance a janitors box has stained glass windows. Stairs lead down to other areas of the building. The pond hall has a timber trussed roof with Moorish arches supported by cast-iron columns.

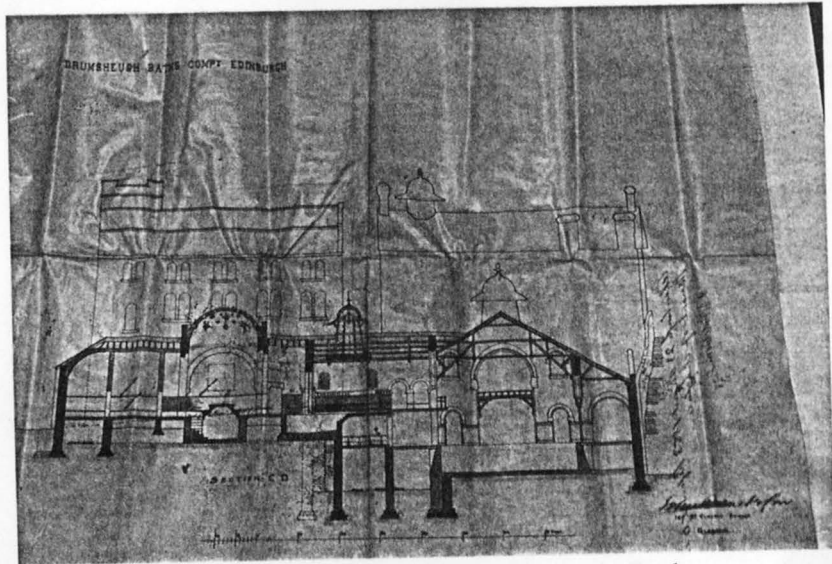
²⁵ Evening Dispatch, 18th September 1962, from Baths newspaper cuttings [Edinburgh Room, Central Library], Vol.1, p.55

²⁶ Evening News, 18th October 1967 from Baths newspaper cuttings [Edinburgh Room, Central Library], Vol.1, p.58

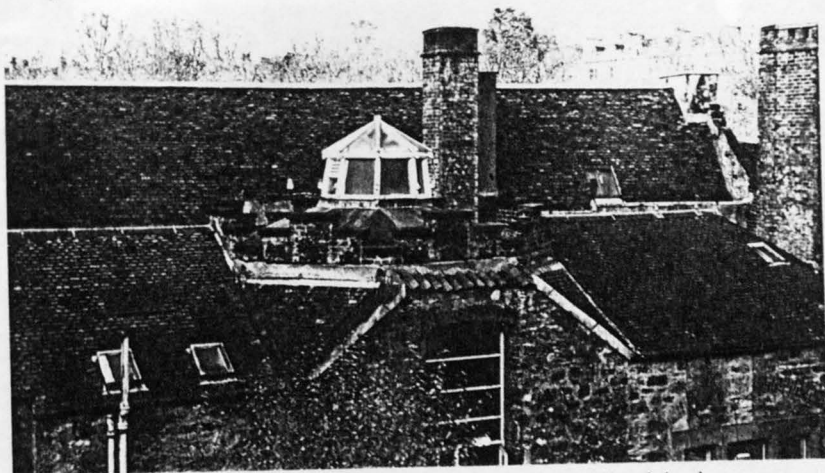
²⁷ The Scotsman, 22nd September 1980 from Baths newspaper cuttings [Edinburgh Room, Central Library], Vol.1, p.59



Warrant Plan



Section through Pond and Turkish Baths



Cupola of Former Turkish Bath Tepiderium

Dennistoun, Glasgow



Address : Craigpark Street, Dennistoun, Glasgow
Architect : Not found
Date : 1883
Listing : Not

Little history was readily available. Presumably opened around 1883 (physical evidence) it was closed in 1983.²⁸ The swimming pond hall to the rear was replaced by a purpose built snooker hall during conversion to its current use as a private snooker club.

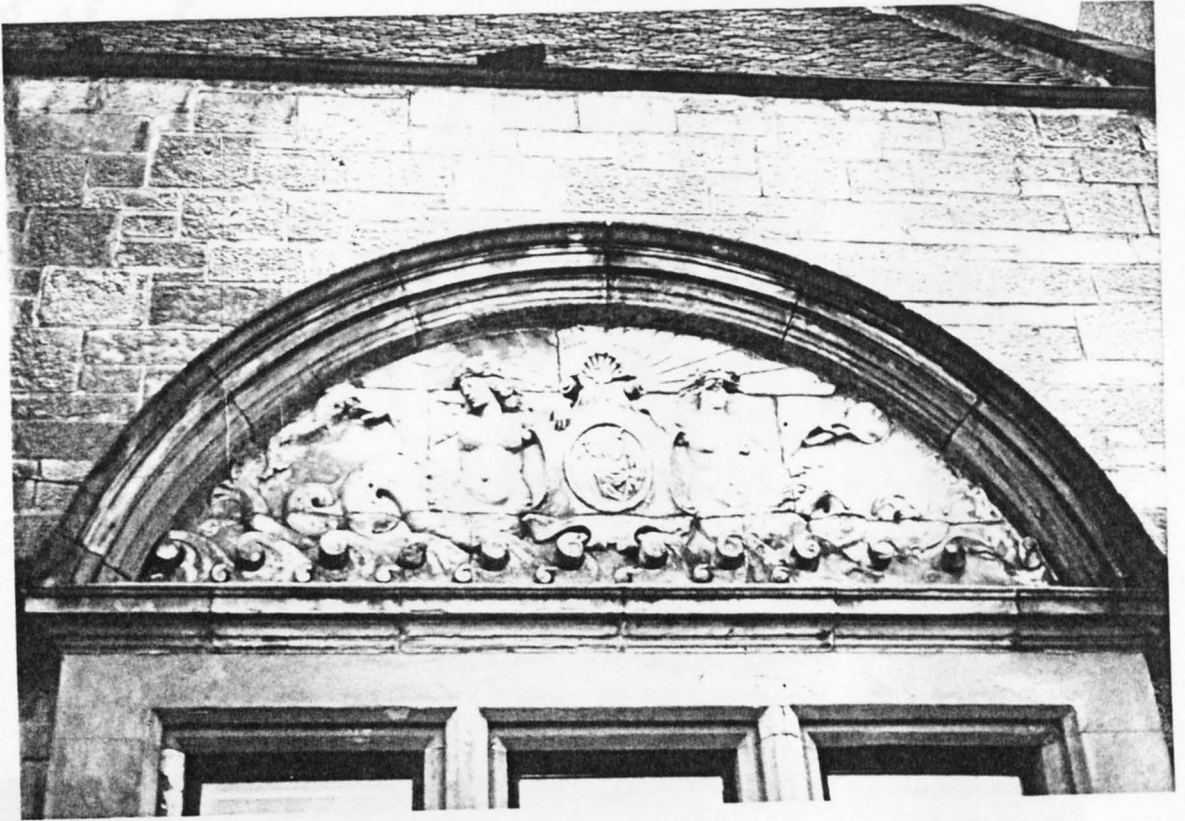
Present Description

The former Baths are built of yellow coursed rubble with ashlar dressings. They are of domestic scale having 2 storeys and an attic with a pitched, slated roof in 2 sections.

The north is composed of a 2 storey and dormer canted bay with narrow lights adjacent; the south has a central triangular pedimented dormer with "1883" in a disc. To the right a carved rounded pediment has a carved central neptune flanked by mermaids on a 'Vitruvian' sea. To the left 6 lights sit over a segmentally arched entrance with steps and a small, finialed dormer adorns the roof above.

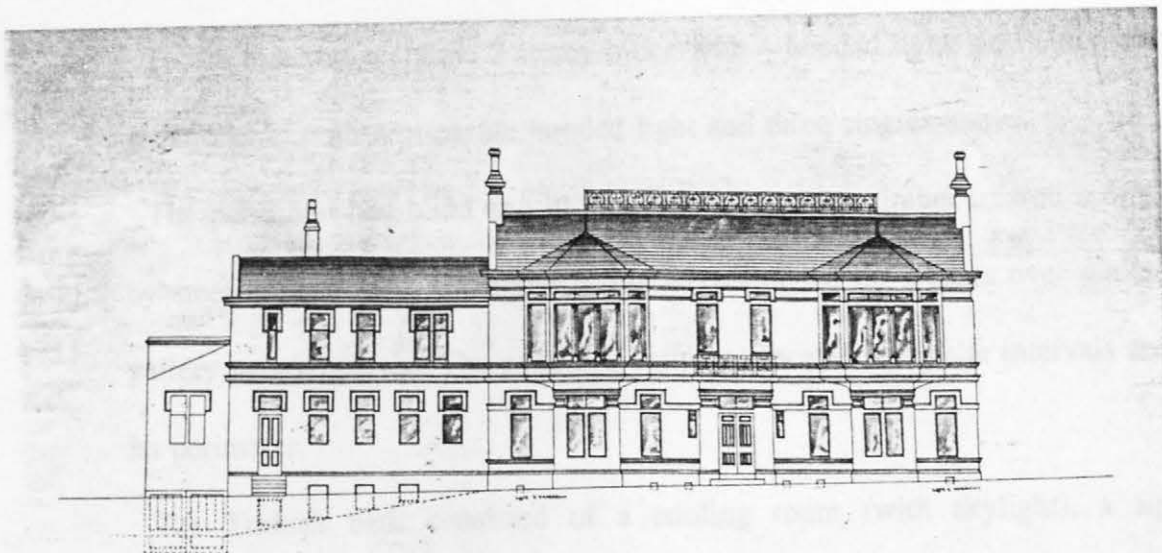
²⁸ Williamson, Riches, Higgs Buildings of Scotland "Glasgow", Penguin, London 1990, p.448

Pollockshiel
Glasgow



Carved Pediment

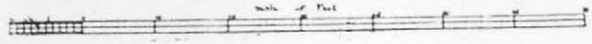
Pollockshields, Glasgow



Front Elevation

*Glasgow 30th Nov 1885
Examined & approved of
John Geddes Esq. Architect*

JAMES HAMILTON
102 West Regent
Glasgow



Address : Leslie Street, Pollockshields , Glasgow
Architect : James Hamilton, 132, West Regent Street, Glasgow
Date : 1883
Listing : Demolished

This private establishment was designed by Architect, James Hamilton and was opened in 1883 for the benefit of the wealthy residents of Pollockshields.

Original Facilities and Description

They comprised a swimming pond 75'x35', private baths, a gymnasium, games room, boot room, Turkish baths and caretakers flat and were built in the style of a Grecian villa in 2 ranges.

The symmetrical, 2 storey west range consisted of a central, broad pilastered, double leafed door below an entablature embellished by a cresting with twin lights above. To either side were squared bays with double lights, flanked by similar single lights. A ground floor square bay was corbelled to form a canted bay at first floor. The roof was finished in slate with cresting work at the ridge.

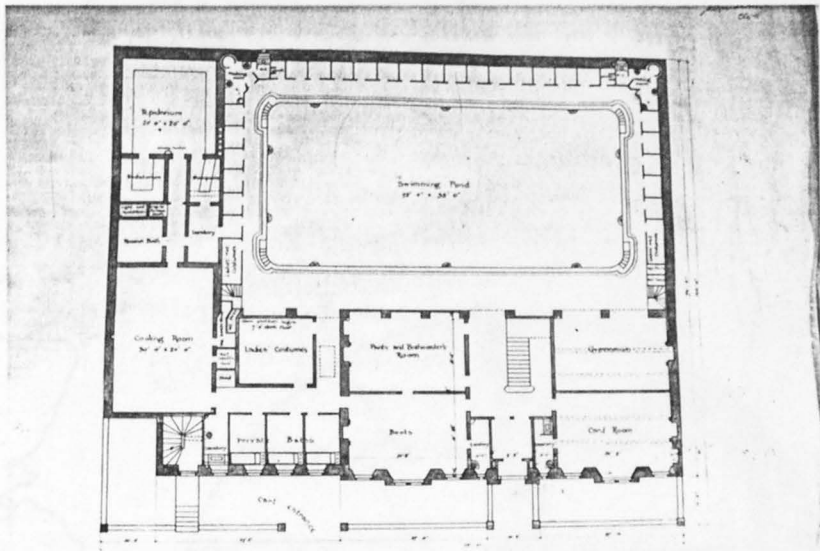
To the east was a simple 2 storey block with 4 hooded lights and a doorway at ground level with a bi-partite hooded light and three singles above.

The pond hall had blind and lit arcaded walls with a timber trussed roof aided by steel tension rods. Changing boxes were situated on 3 sides over which the gallery was supported. The pond had spittoons located at regular intervals around its perimeter.

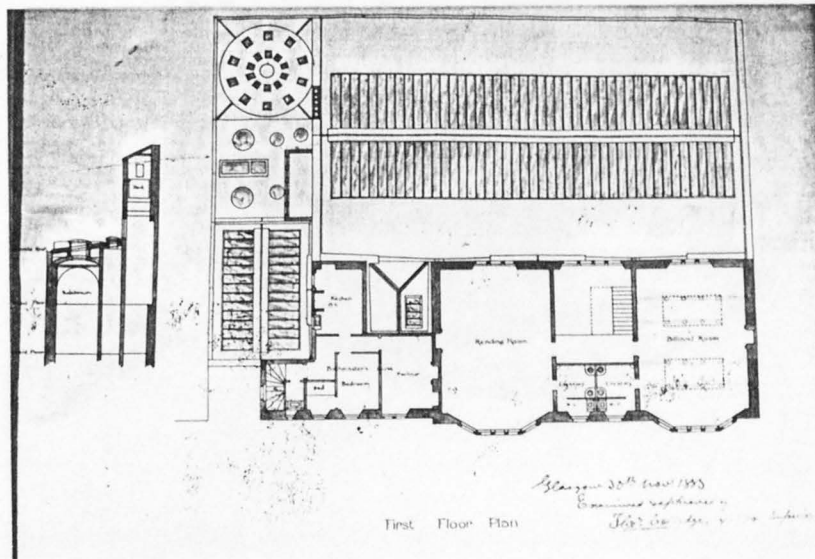
The Turkish bath consisted of a cooling room (with skylight), a square Tepiderium (with domed ceiling and multi lights), a shampooing room, Russian baths and a Sudatorium.

The building was closed in 1937 and sold at auction for £1,250.²⁹ They were demolished and replaced by a roughcasted tenement of c.1960.

²⁹ Index of the Strathclyde Regional Archive.

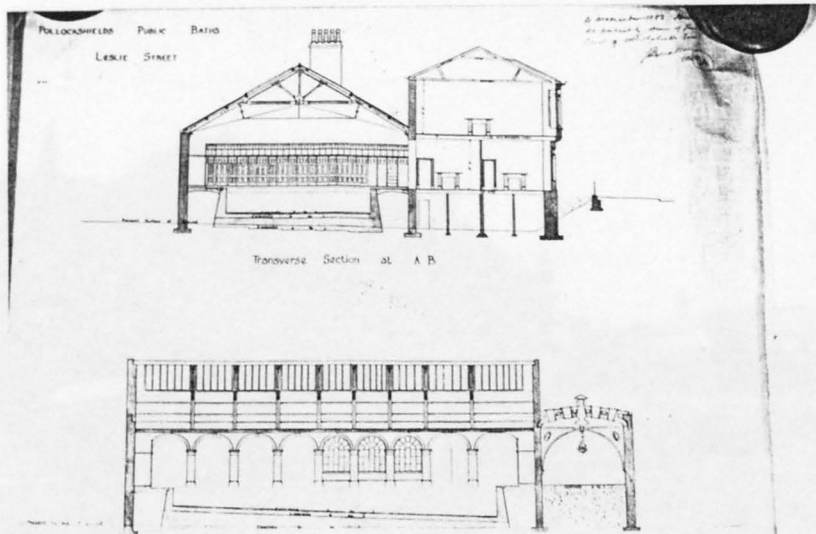


Warrant Drawings, Plan of Ground Floor



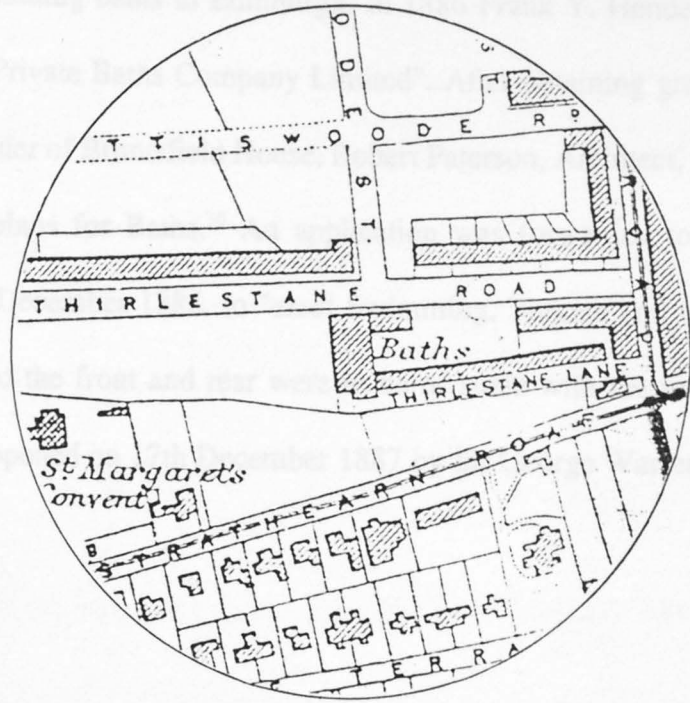
First Floor Plan

First Floor



Sections

Warrender, Edinburgh



Address : Thirlestane Road, Edinburgh
Architect : R. Paterson & Son, 10, Hanover Street, Edinburgh
Date : 17th December 1887
Listing : Not

Members of the Bellahouston Private Baths Club in Glasgow considered constructing private swimming baths in Edinburgh. In 1886 Frank Y. Henderson formed the "Warrender Private Baths Company Limited". After obtaining ground from Sir. George Warrender of Bruntsfield House, Robert Paterson, Architect, who lived locally, prepared plans for Baths.³⁰ An application was forwarded to the Dean of Guild court, in December 1886, to "erect Swimming, Turkish and other baths."³¹ Exterior walls to the front and rear were to be of stone with the rest in brick. The building was opened on 17th December 1887 by Sir George Warrender at a cost of £11,000.

Original Facilities

A swimming pond of dimensions 75'x35' was provided with dressing boxes lining 2 sides of the hall. Travelling rings and trapezes hung, from the timber roof, over the water. A spectator gallery was situated over the entrance vestibule. Other facilities included Turkish baths, a gymnasium, reading and billiard rooms and a suite of private plunge baths.

The Baths saw sufficient use until the beginning of the twentieth century when interest and attendance dwindled to such an extent that they were closed in early

³⁰ Gilmour, J. (ed.) One Hundred Years of Warrender Baths Club 1888-1988, Loanhead, McDonald, Lindsay, Pindar Plc. 1990, p.9

³¹ From petition to Dean of Guild 9th December 1886, [Edinburgh City Archive]

1906.³²

Edinburgh Corporation purchased the Baths for £3,000 in 1907-08 making adjustments to the arrangement of the Turkish baths such that they became separated from the pond (which had previously been used as the final plunge stage of the rinsing process).

Minor alterations to lavatory accommodation in 1931-32³³ and the replacement of timber with concrete flooring in the Turkish bath during 1937³⁴ were followed in July 1975 by a £25,000 refurbishment, including replacement of the roof and re-tiling of the pond.³⁵

The pool remains open at present. The Turkish baths are currently used for storage but retain some early tiling.

Present Description

These single storey Baths are built from yellow sand stone in a Jacobean Revival style.

An advanced, double bay entrance consists of a round arched, glazed, timber door set below a finialled, equilateral pediment adjacent to a tall, round arched, window (divided by spoked tracery) with a crow-stepped gablet over.

To the west a decorative parapet wall sits over 6 multi-pane lights.

³² Gifford, McWilliam, Walker Buildings of Scotland, "Edinburgh", Butler & Tanner Ltd., London 1984,1987, p.498

³³ Petition to Dean of Guild 11th December 1931, [Edinburgh City Archive]

³⁴ Edinburgh Evening News "Public Baths, Are They Becoming Unpopular?", Friday 10th December 1937, from Baths newspaper cuttings [Edinburgh Room, Central Library], Vol.1, p.1

³⁵ Evening News, 21st September 1975, from Baths newspaper cuttings [Edinburgh Room, Central Library], Vol.1, p.152

The central bay of the east 5 bays contains a pedimented, spoke traceried window, the remainder of the openings are squared being emphasised by moulded architraves and flattened scroll pediments. Original cast-iron down pipes, hoppers and brackets have survived.

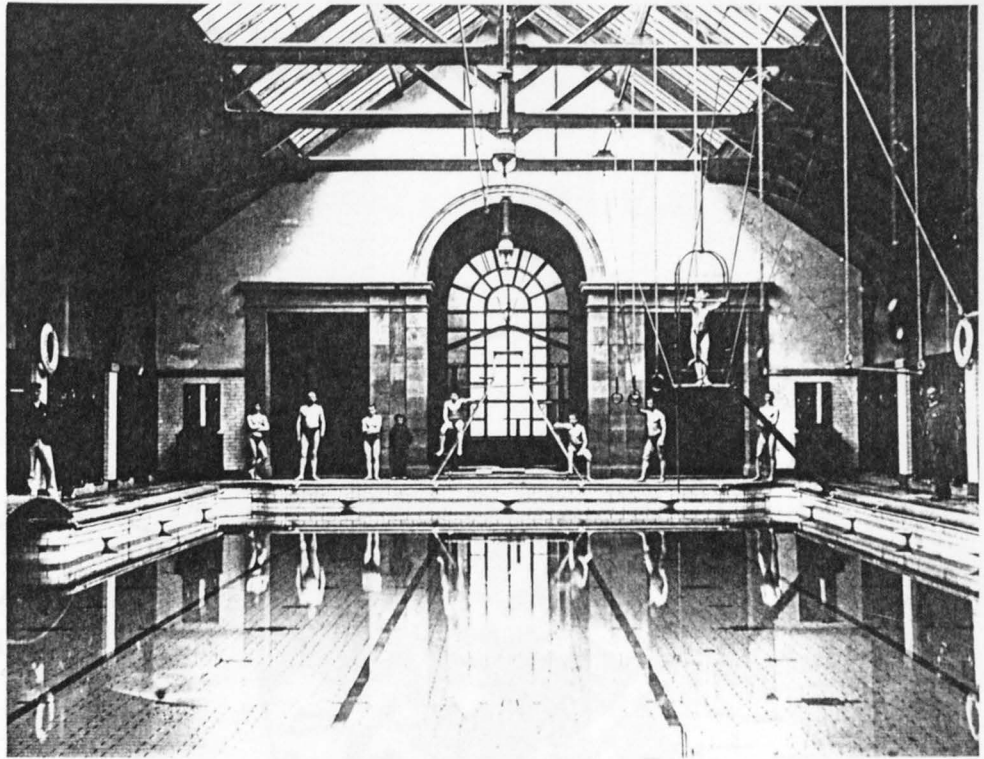
The foyer area has a timber panelled and moulded dado, picture rail and dentilled cornice with a barrel vaulted ceiling and mosaic floor. Above the foyer the former timber panelled gallery is now used as storage and offices.

The pond hall roof has a continuous glazed ridge and is supported by solid and laminated timber trusses (now painted white) resting on sandstone capped ceramic brick piers. Between the piers, changing cubicles constructed of a modern material replace the former timber changing boxes.

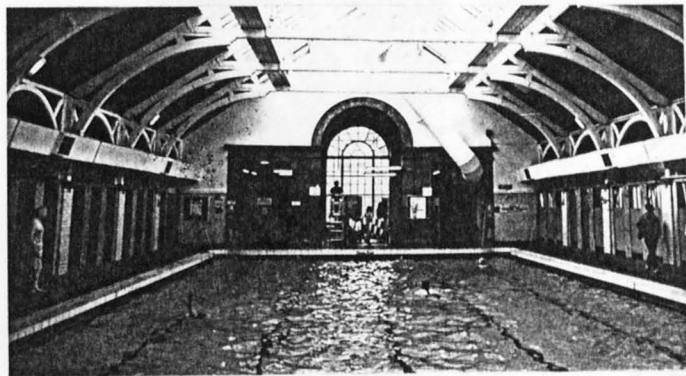
The pond was retiled during the mid 1970's but retains its uniquely shaped corner steps.

A massive red ashlar Venetian opening leads to female changing lockers (formerly gymnasium). An obtrusive ventilation duct enters the right hand of the three openings.

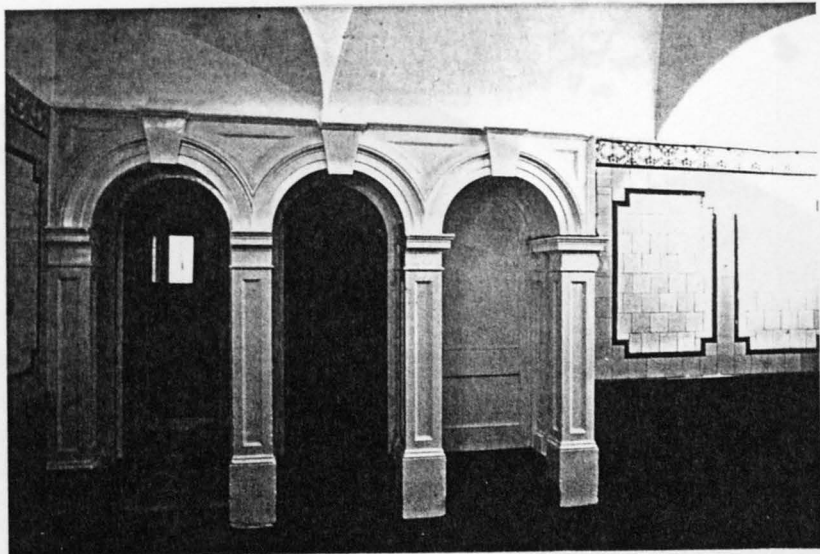
The partially empty Turkish bath area retains some original fittings and finishes such as timber partitions in the Frigidarium and the sky-light in the Tepidarium. 3 archivolted entrances remain between the former Tepidarium, Sudatorium and shampooing room.



Pond Hall pre.1907

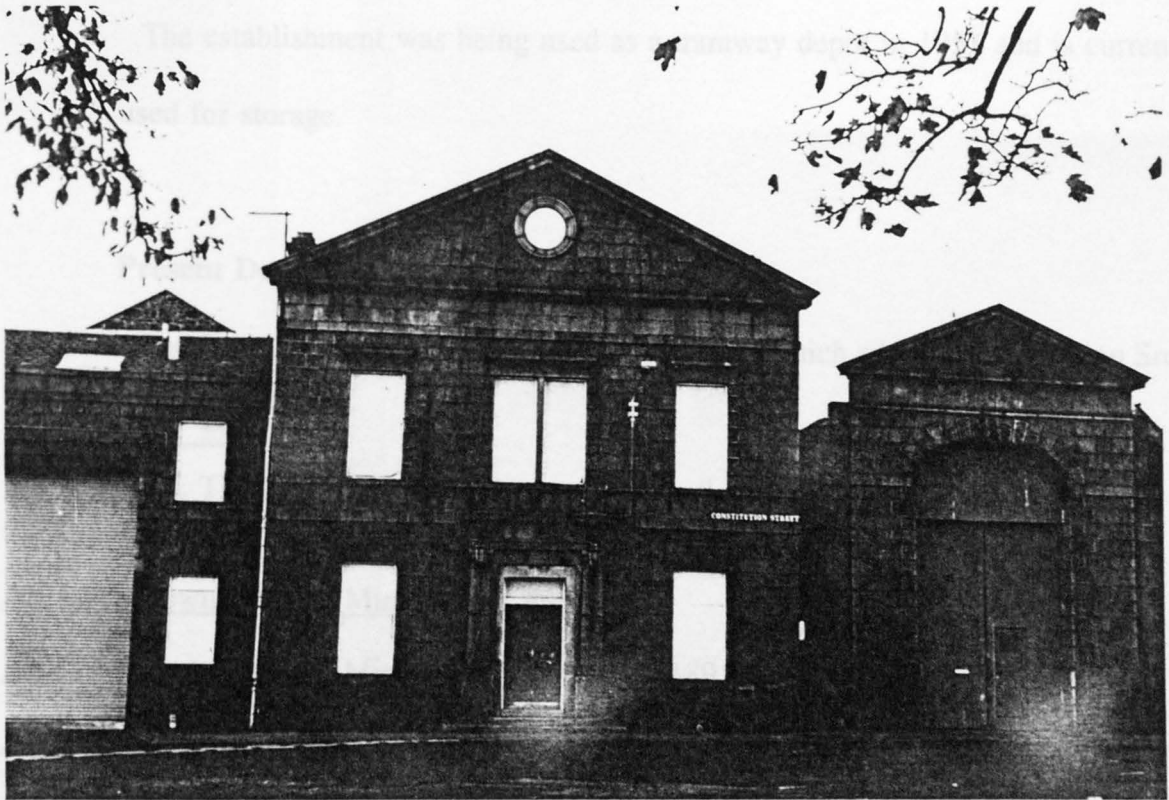


Pond Hall 1993



Former Turkish Bath Tepiderium

Constitution St., Aberdeen



Address : Constitution Street, Aberdeen
Architect : Not found
Date : Late 1880s
Listing : Not

The first sea water baths in Aberdeen were opened by the Aberdeen Swimming Company Limited at the foot of Constitution Street in the 1880s.³⁶

Plans for the building came before the Town Council on 1st July 1886:

"The committee had before them the plans and elevations of the buildings proposed to be erected by the Aberdeen Swimming Company Limited on the ground at the east end of Constitution Street, recently feued by them from the council."³⁷

Further minutes relate to the cost of fitting up a public clock on the swimming baths at the east end of Constitution Street (7th December 1891)³⁸ and the proposed sale of the Baths in September of 1892.³⁹

The establishment was being used as a tramway depot in 1953 and is currently used for storage.

Present Description

The former Baths are in a classical revival style which address Constitution Street

³⁶ Mackenzie, H. The Third Statistical Account of Scotland "Aberdeen", Oliver & Boyd 1953, p.565

³⁷ Aberdeen Town Council Minutes, 1st July 1886

³⁸ Aberdeen Town Council Minutes, 7th December 1891, p.18

³⁹ Aberdeen Town Council Minutes, 5th September 1892, p.317

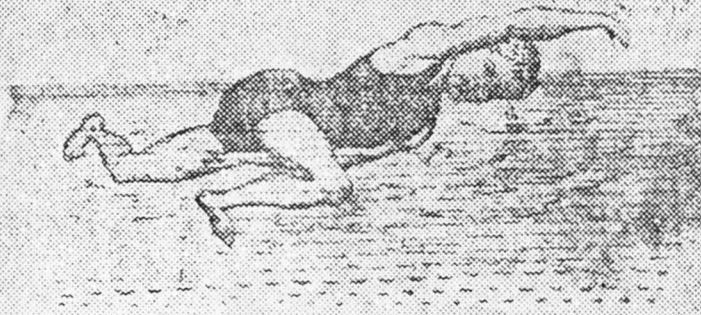
Sreet in 3 ranges of coursed granite.

The symmetrical 3-bay central range has a pilastered door, flanked by single lights, with a similar arrangement at first floor except for a central bi-partite light. An oculus (possibly former clock) is centrally located within a plain pediment. All openings are boarded.

The north range consists of a large segmental arched opening with rock-faced margins set below a plain pediment while the south has a relatively recently created shuttered opening with more blocked lights.

The former pond hall in random rubble is situated to the rear.

ABERDEEN
SWIMMING BATHS
CONSTITUTION STREET.



SWIMMING POND.

GENTLEMEN.

Monday to Friday, 6 till 5, 4d. 5 till 9, 2d.

Evening, 6 till 9, 2d. Boys, 1d. Pasts, 1d.

Saturday, 6 till 1, 2d. 1 till 9, 2d. Boys, 1d. Sunday, 6 till 9'30 a.m., 2d.
Boys, 1d. Towels, 1d. Pasts, 1d.

LADIES.

Tuesday, 9 till 1 and Thursday, 11 till 1, 6d. Outfits, 2d. Costumes, 2d.

SLIPPER BATHS.

Salt and Fresh, Hot and Cold, First Class, 1, Second Class, 6d.

Gentlemen at all hours except during Ladies' Hours.

LADIES' HOURS:

Monday till Friday inclusive, from 11 till 2 p.m.

SEASON TICKETS.

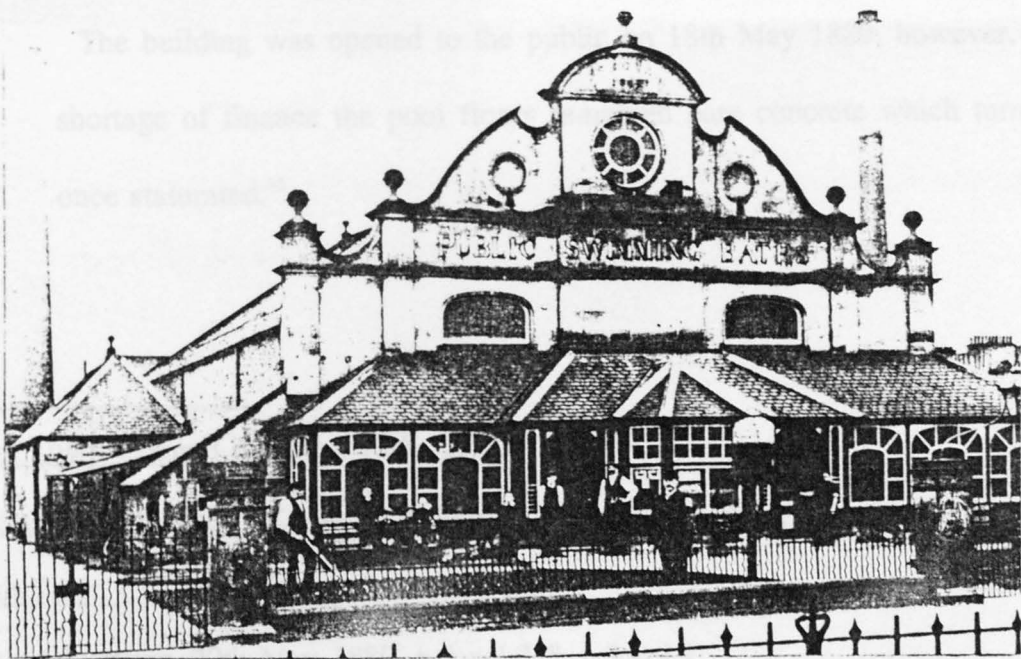
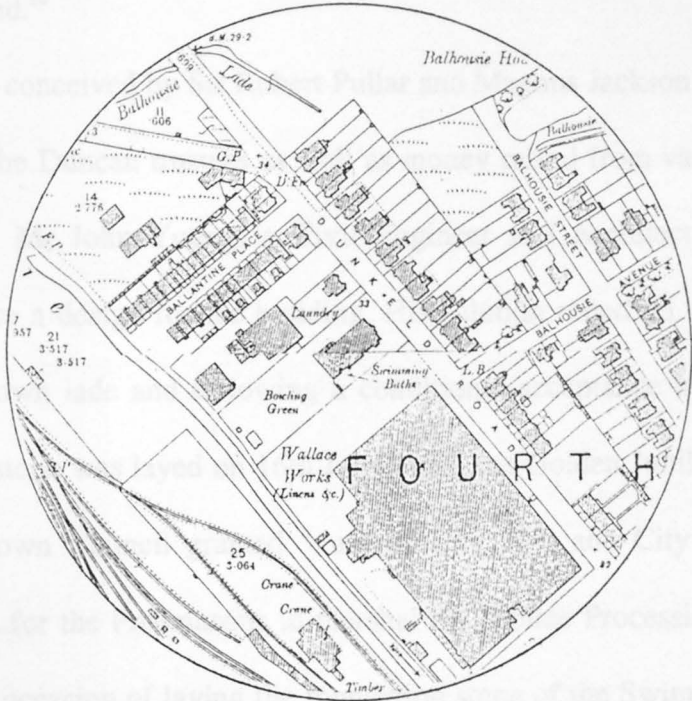
Year, £1 1s.; Half-Year, 10s. 6d.; Quarter, 7s. 6d.

Advertisement Poster for Constitution Street Baths

Perth

Address : Dundald Road, Perth
 Architect : Mr. John Young, Civil Engineer and Architect
 Date : 14th May 1887
 Listing : Demolished

Baths and public houses situated in Mill Street in 1877 however these did not



Address : Dunkeld Road, Perth
Architect : Mr. John Young, Civil Engineer and Architect
Date : 18th May 1889
Listing : Demolished

Baths and wash houses existed in Mill Street in 1877 however these did not include a swimming pond.⁴⁰

Swimming Baths were conceived by Sir Robert Pullar and Magnus Jackson with financial backing from the Duncan trustees as well as money raised from various fund-raising activities.⁴¹ Mr John Young, a Civil Engineer and Architect was commissioned to produce a design for the building. His solution relied on water being supplied by the town lade and following a conditional acceptance by the Council the foundation stone was layed on 16th June 1887; the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria. The Town Council granted "...use of City Hall and City Hall Square, free of charge,...for the Freemasons to marshal the Jubilee Procession to be held that day, on the occasion of laying the foundation stone of the Swimming Baths."⁴²

The building was opened to the public on 18th May 1889, however, due to a shortage of finance the pool floors remained bare concrete which turned black once saturated.⁴³

⁴⁰ Perth Town Council Minutes, 15th August 1877

⁴¹ Perthshire Advertiser, "Know Your Perth", 31st January 1984.

⁴² Perth Town Council Minutes, 31st May 1887

⁴³ Perth Advertiser, 20th May 1889, p.2 col.7 & p.3 col.1

Original Facilities and Description

They consisted of two ponds of dimension 66'x28'6" and 45'x24' lined with timber changing boxes with a timber and wrought iron balustraded balcony.

The 2 storey Renaissance front concealed the roof pitch of the first class pond and consisted of a slightly advanced, symmetrical, round pedimented central block with radial oculus, flanked by a stylised scroll (with roundel detail) set over a continuous cornice terminated by ball finials. Below a sign in the 'frieze' read "Public Swimming Baths".

A single storey, 8 bayed ground floor with hipped roof sat in front of the gable wall. Of the 8 bays, the central 3 bays were further advanced and contained male and female arched entrances either side of a central canted bay window.

The remaining bays, 2 to the left and 3 to the right, were filled with glazed timber panels.

The pond halls had timber changing cubicles positioned below a balcony of timber and wrought-iron in the first class pond. Wrought-iron balustrading was additionally supported by bowed wrought-iron brackets. Steel trusses supported the roofs which consisted of glazed lights and tongue and grooved infill panels.

The pond itself had a perimeter hand rail interrupted at regular intervals by spittoons. The pool edge was of stone, broken by regularly placed spittoons and was surrounded by a diamond patterned running border. A cast-iron stepped diving stage was provided at one end of the pond.

In January of 1894 the Town Council considered taking over the Baths under section 309 of the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act, 1892, on terms agreed by the then

Directors. Formal hand over of keys took place on 21st April 1894.⁴⁴ Work immediately started to tile the floors of both baths at a cost of £122. Gymnastic equipment was purchased in July and a new filter in August at a cost of £200.

Alterations and extensions were undertaken at an estimated £22,000 during the late 1930's to provide a new swimming pond, 18 slipper baths, 2 foam baths with cooling rooms and a new entrance hall.⁴⁵ The new pond was 75'x35' and had the capacity for 800 spectators in a raked balcony. The original entrance lobby was removed to make way for car parking with the replacement being centrally located to allow access to all departments. Work was finally completed in 1939 at an eventual cost of £33,000.⁴⁶

By 1970 the structure was in need of repair due to "condensation damage". Remedial work costing £30,000 included installation of an improved heating and ventilation system and the lowering of the existing roof.⁴⁷

Despite thoughts of incorporating the main pool in a new complex in 1981 the fate of the Baths was sealed when an architect was commissioned to prepare plans for a new leisure complex in June 1984.

The Baths remained in use receiving a new purification system in 1984 but were demolished around 1986⁴⁸ to make way for commercial offices.

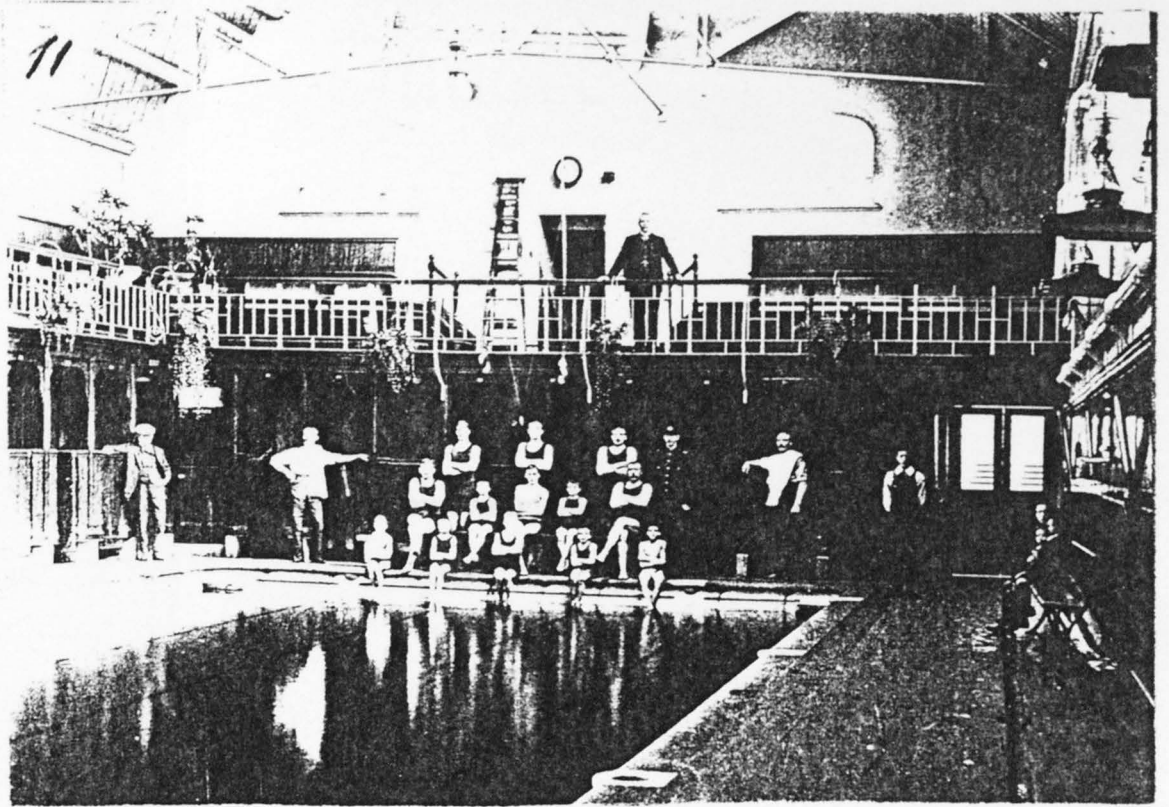
⁴⁴ Perth Police Commission Minutes, Vol. 1892-95, 21st April 1894

⁴⁵ Perth Advertiser, 29th December 1934, p.15

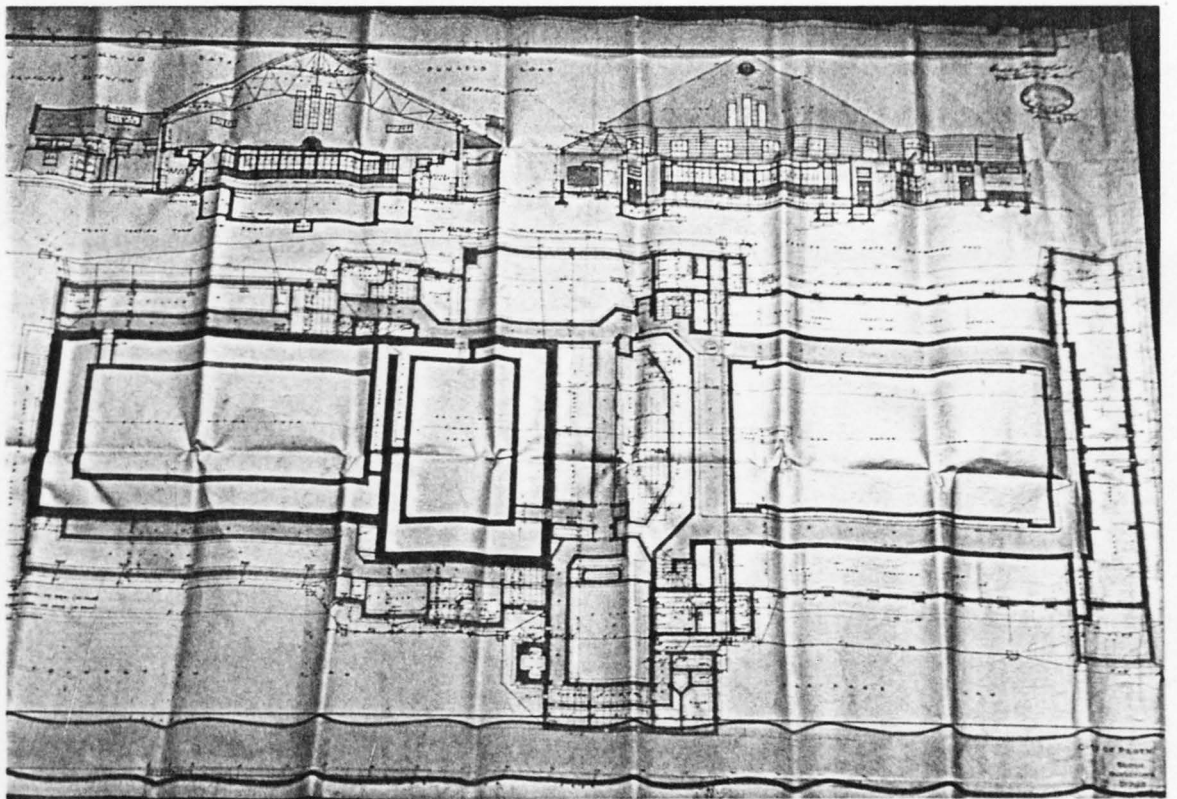
⁴⁶ Perth Advertiser, 4th January 1939, p.4 col.13

⁴⁷ Perth Advertiser, 17th February 1971, p.10

⁴⁸ From Department of Planning, Perth



Male Pond Hall c.1900

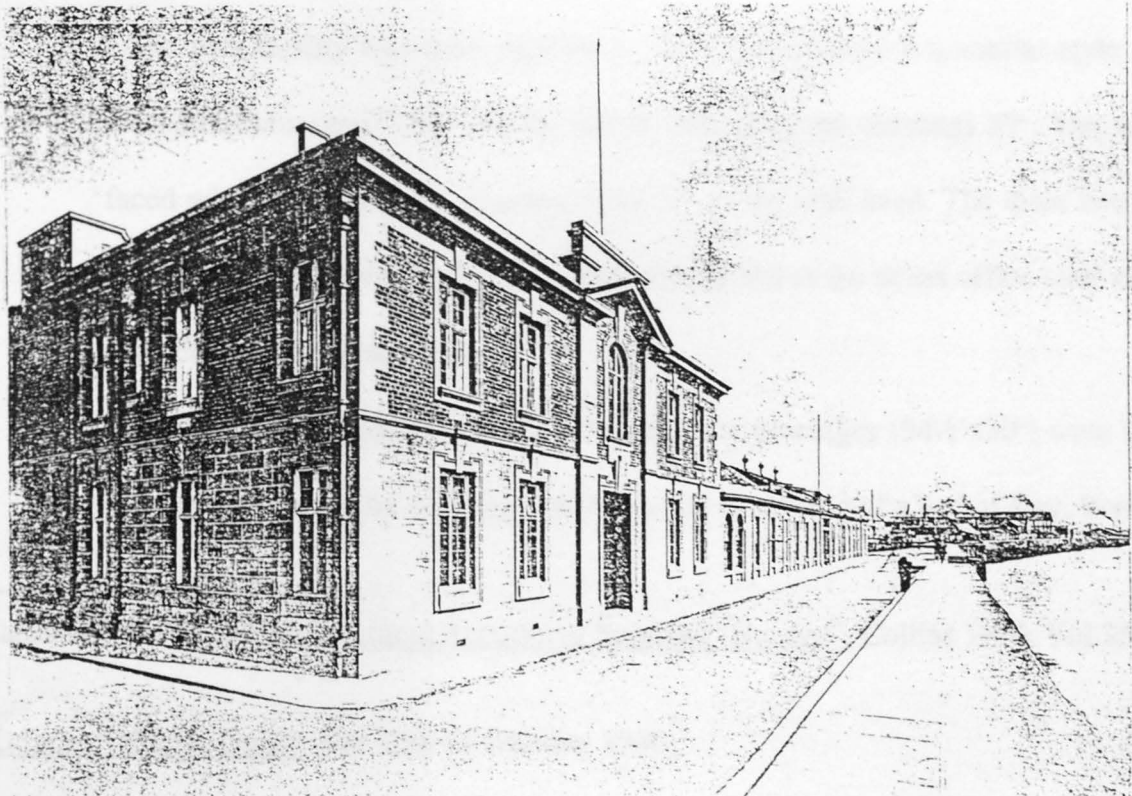
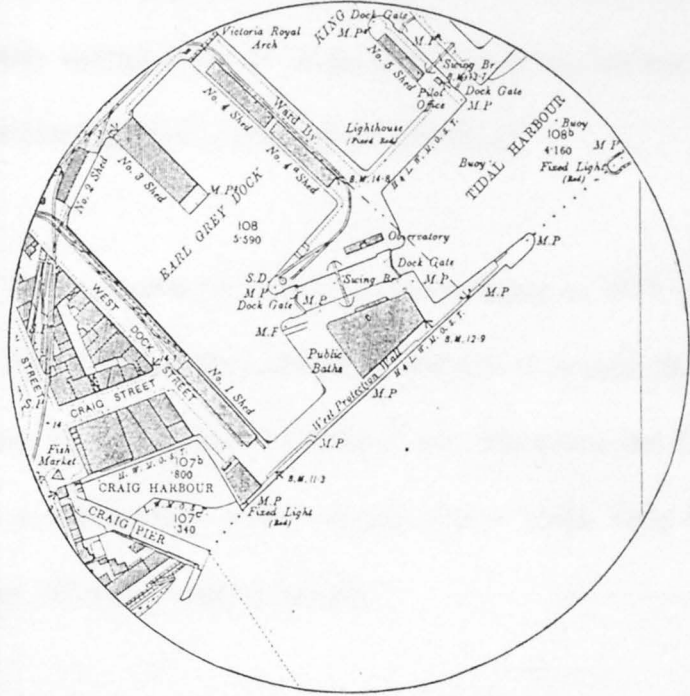


Plan showing extension of 1939

Endowed and Municipal Establishments

Central, Dundee

Address
Architect
Date
Listing



Address : Harbour West Protection Wall, Dundee
Architect : Mr. Mackison, Town Surveyor
Date : 14th November 1873; 24th May 1876; 15th July 1910
Listing : Demolished?

The Central Baths originated in 1844 and opened on 5th July 1848 as a small private establishment built on land granted free of charge by the Dundee Harbour Board. They were privately operated for 27 years and despite the intention of providing facilities for swimming, these could not be afforded.⁴⁹

The Commissioners of Police decided to take over the building in 1871 under the terms of the Dundee Police Act of the same year, and saw it as their duty to provide swimming facilities for the people of Dundee.⁵⁰ Mr. Mackison, the Town Surveyor produced plans to add 2 ponds to the existing plunge baths. They were opened on 14th November 1873 at a cost of £4,000.

Facilities and Description

The new facility was built adjacent to the existing baths in a similar style. The west front measured 138' and the South (adjoining the existing) 57'. The walls, faced with square dressed coursers, rose 14' to the wall head. The main entrance was in the west elevation the door immediately led to the ticket office over which a spectator gallery was located.

2 ponds, one for adults (62'x30') the other for juveniles (54½'x30') were built.

Water was retained by 4 strong concrete walls consisting of a bed of clay, Portland

⁴⁹ Jackson, J.M. The Third Statistical Account of Scotland "Dundee", Collins 1979, Vol.25, p.354

⁵⁰ Dundee Official Guide, The City of Dundee 1966

Cement, asphalt and grooved tiles which were finished in white enamelled tiling with a guilloche border. Each pool had a 'bead' moulded copestone and 5 stairs (2 sloping at deepest ends and 3 trap stairs at the sides).

A niche in the south wall of the adult hall housed a shower bath and at the opposite end a spring board was provided. 38 dressing boxes lined the sides and were fitted with hangers and crimson screens attached to brass rods. The boys pool had 19 similar boxes. Internal finishes were mostly of timber (stained and varnished) with roof tie rods painted a different colour. The pond was lit by roof lanterns and ventilated via Archimedean screw revolving ventilators.

Water was collected from the Tay by gravitation and steam heated during the winter.⁵¹

Popularity of the new amenity led to the consideration of further building work in order that demand might be accommodated. Proposals from 1874 suggested complete rebuilding or extending. Floating baths were quickly ruled out as an option. Plans for a reworking of the existing were approved on 24th August 1874 and the building was reopened on 23rd May 1876.⁵²

Facilities and Description

The long west front of the building had terminal blind arcaded bays. "Swimming Baths" extended almost the full length in a relief panel. A polychromatic brick chimney stack was situated to the North-East.

⁵¹ Dundee Advertiser, "Description of the Public Swimming Ponds", 12th July 1870, loose cutting in Baths file [Local History, Dundee Central Library]

⁵² Dundee Advertiser, "Opening of the New Swimming Baths", 24th May 1876, loose cutting in Baths file [Local History, Dundee Central Library]

All parts of the building were reached from a main lobby containing 4 Norton's patent turnstiles by Le Grand & Sutcliffe, London. Corridors had cement floors and were top lit.

Facilities included 10 second and third class plunge baths (with 1 spray and 1 vapour bath each), 8 first class baths with dressing rooms and spray baths (2 having additional plunge bathrooms and vapour baths) and a Turkish bath of 4 principal compartments (similar to that at Crieff Hydro.) with a 10' plunge tank and other cooling sprays.

The new first class pond was 68'x30' and had its sides and bottom finished in white tiles. 2 Sicilian marble steps ran the whole length interrupted at regular intervals by 14 spittoons of white marble with gilt basins. Surrounding cope border was of black marble.

A high diving stage was located at the west with a fountain of water to the east. 38 changing boxes ranged each side of the pond surmounted by a spacious gallery. A steel trussed roof above was lit by skylight strips and supported travelling rings.

Water tanks were located on the roof with water being circulated by 2 Wymme & Co. patent centrifugal pumps allowing rapid refilling of ponds.⁵³

It was deemed necessary to give the Baths a more imposing appearance during a Council meeting of November 1908. The £10,000 contract, overseen by the City Engineer was completed and opened on 15th July 1910.⁵⁴

⁵³ Dundee Advertiser, "Reconstruction of the Dundee Public Baths", 11th April 1876, loose cutting in Baths file [Local History, Dundee Central Library]

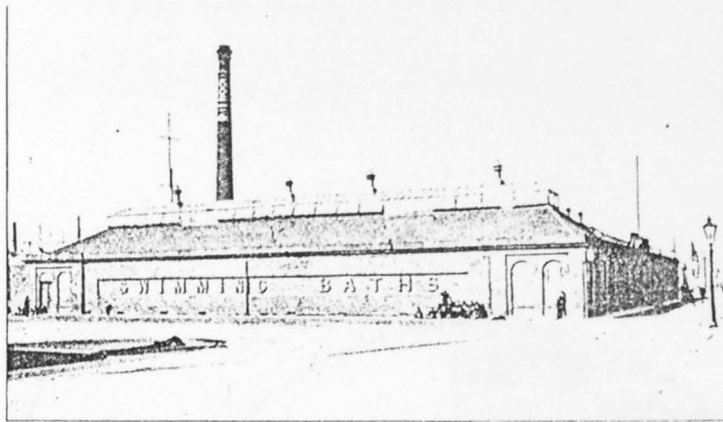
⁵⁴ Dundee Town Council Minutes, Vol. 1909-1910, pp.117,299

Facilities and Description

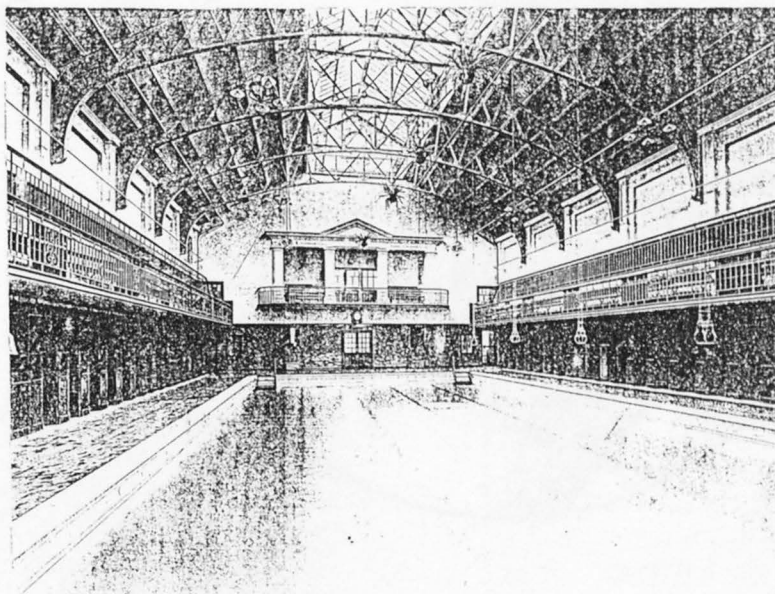
The new 2 storey, 5 bay south front was constructed in ashlar with brick (ashlar margins) at first floor.

Ground floor had central doorway recessed in a moulded architrave with keystone, and was flanked by ashlar pilasters extended through the first floor brickwork to support an open pediment set against a raised parapet wall. Below the pediment was a multi-paned, round arched window with ashlar apron and keystone. Outer bays had windows with moulded architraves and keystones. Treatment on the west front was similar.

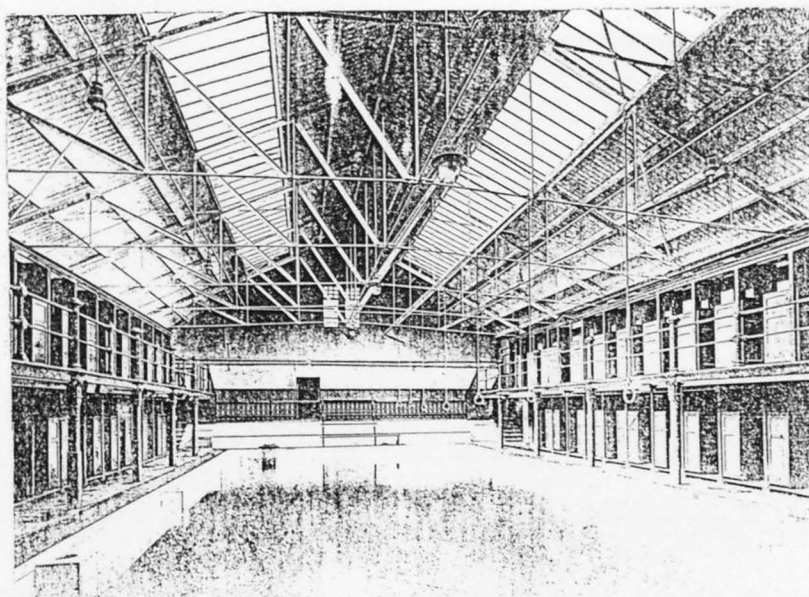
The first class pond of 1876, became the ladies or second class bath. The new pond was tiled in white and had a continuous scum trough which also acted as a spittoon. Timber dressing boxes nestled under a slightly cantilevered balcony (with wrought iron balustrading). At first floor level square and collared Doric columns in antis supported a long dentilled entablature with a pediment over the columns forming the entrance to an isolated projecting gallery in the gable wall. Overhead an arched, steel trussed, lanterned roof sprang from brick pilasters. Travelling rings hung over the water.



Baths of 1876

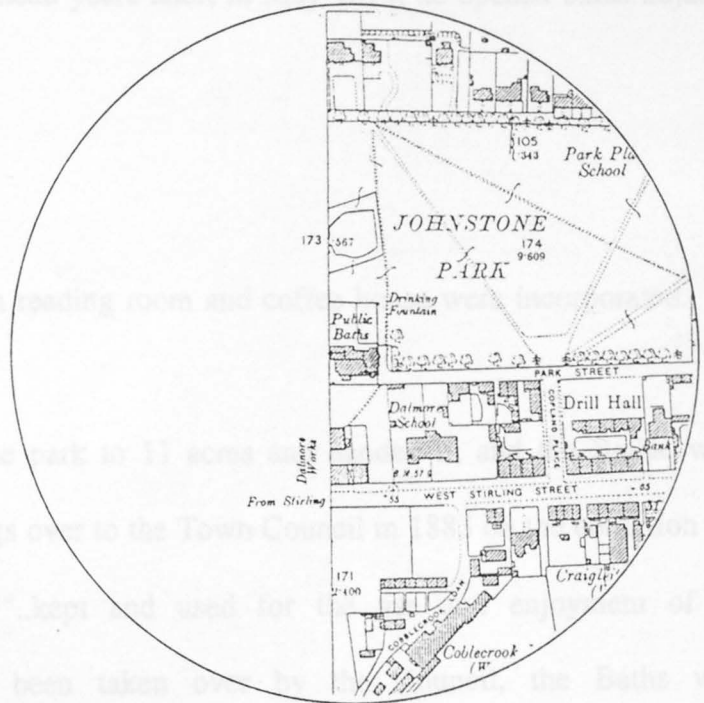


1st Class Pond Hall of 1910 Scheme



Ladies Pond 1910, Formerly 1st Class Pond of 1876 Scheme

Address : Park Street, Alva
 Architect : Not known
 Date : Opened 23rd May 1874
 Listing : Demolished



Around 1848, Mr. J. Johnston (Lord of the Manor) promised to provide baths for Alva. Eighteen years later, in May 1866, he opened baths adjacent

to a pond, leading town and country alike to the baths.

Johnston extended the park at 11 acres to the baths and other buildings on the Town Council's land that

the baths should be "kept and used for the benefit of the community." Having been taken over by the town, the baths were

renovated and extended to include 3 private plunge baths and an additional dressing room. It was re-opened on 23rd May 1912 by Mr. Johnston.

Unidentified improvements introduced as part of "improvements" of 1961-62 with the building retaining a "tax lift" in 1971. Most recently it has been demolished.

¹ Alva Journal, "Demolition of Alva Baths", 23rd May 1874, p. 3

² Alva Advertiser, 19th May 1912, p. 3

Address : Park Street, Alva
Architect : Not known
Date : Opened 23rd May 1874
Listing : Demolished

Around 1856, Mr. J. Johnston (Lord of the Manor) promised to provide baths for the people of Alva. Eighteen years later, in May 1874, he opened baths adjacent to the park.⁵⁵

Original Facilities

In addition to a pond a reading room and coffee house were incorporated.

Johnstone extended the park to 11 acres and handed it, and the Baths, wash house and other buildings over to the Town Council in 1883 on the condition that the Baths should be, "...kept and used for the use and enjoyment of the community."⁵⁶ Having been taken over by the Council, the Baths were refurbished and extended to include 3 private plunge baths and an additional dressing room. It was re-opened on 23rd May 1912 by Mr. Johnstone.

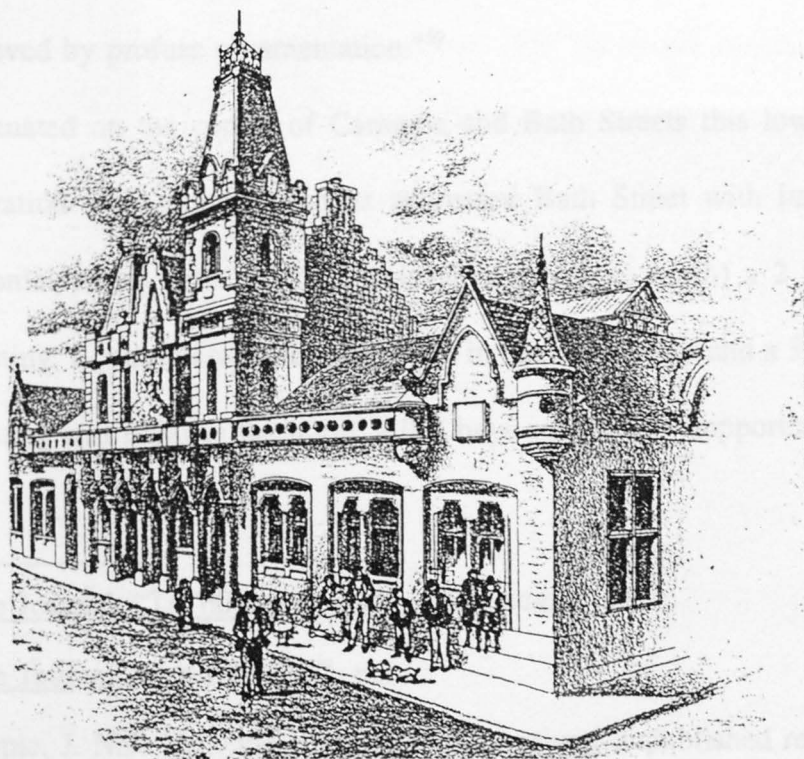
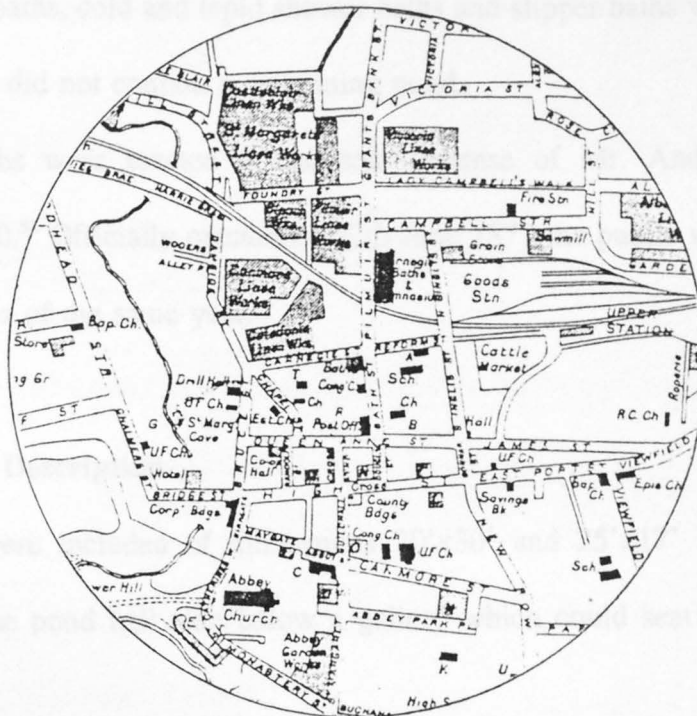
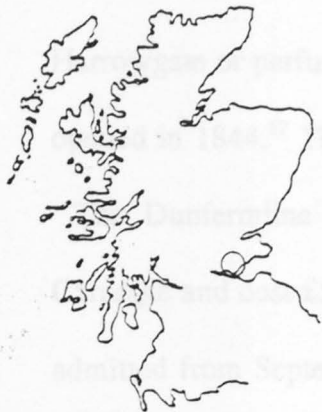
Underfeed stokers were introduced as part of 'improvements' of 1961-62 with the building receiving a 'face lift' in 1971. More recently it has been demolished.

⁵⁵ Alloa Journal, "Opening of Alva Baths", 23rd May 1874, p.2

⁵⁶ Alloa Advertiser, 25th May 1912, p.3

Dunfermline

Address: 1 Park Street, Dunfermline
Architect: James Watson & Co., Edinburgh
Date: 1872
Listing: Detailed



Address : Bath Street, Dunfermline
Architect : Andrew Scobie, ;later refurbishment W.Ramage
Date : 12th June 1877 ;reopened 21st April 1906
Listing : Demolished

Private baths, including a ladies bath and parlour room, vapour baths, Harrowgate or perfume baths, cold and tepid shower baths and slipper baths were opened in 1844.⁵⁷ These did not contain a swimming pond.

The Dunfermline Baths were erected at the sole expense of Mr. Andrew Carnegie and cost £5,000.⁵⁸ Officially opened on 12th June 1877 the public were admitted from September of the same year.

Original Facilities and Description

2 swimming ponds were included of dimensions 70'x30' and 25'x17' with dressing boxes lining the pond hall side below a gallery which could seat 800 spectators.

The building was considered to be of dwarfed proportions though "...considerably relieved by profuse ornamentation."⁵⁹

Situated on the corner of Carnegie and Bath Streets this low single storeyed elevation with terminal gablets addressed Bath Street with its 3 bay, Franco-baronial centre piece which consisted of (south to north) a 2 stage tower with cresting, a central crow-stepped gablet in the middle bay and a 3 stage tower with cresting and finial to the north. All 3 bays were partly supported by corbel work

⁵⁷ Dunfermline Journal, "Tis 60 years since", 13th August 1904.

⁵⁸ Dunfermline Journal, 14th July 1877, p.2

⁵⁹ From Gillespie, J. Neil Carnegie Baths and Gymnasium, unpublished report, p.2

rising from capitalled shafts of a gothic arcaded entrance.

3 bays either side of central block had mainly bi-partite, shouldered lights with a corbelled baronial turret emphasising the north-east corner.

From the description of alterations to the Baths in 1906 the pond hall would appear to have been galleried, supported by cast-iron columns and had a timber roof structure supporting a continuous glazed lantern at ridge level which was later replaced by patent glazing.

The slipper bath area of the building was modernised with timber floors being cast in concrete prior to the 1906 opening.

Following a refurbishment including removal of dressing boxes and areas of staging at the south end of the building (replaced by 4 new dressing rooms and screens), the introduction of travelling rings, reflooring work, roofing work (with patent glazing replacing the ridge lantern), and general redecoration the 'Old' Baths were re-opened in 21st April 1906.⁶⁰

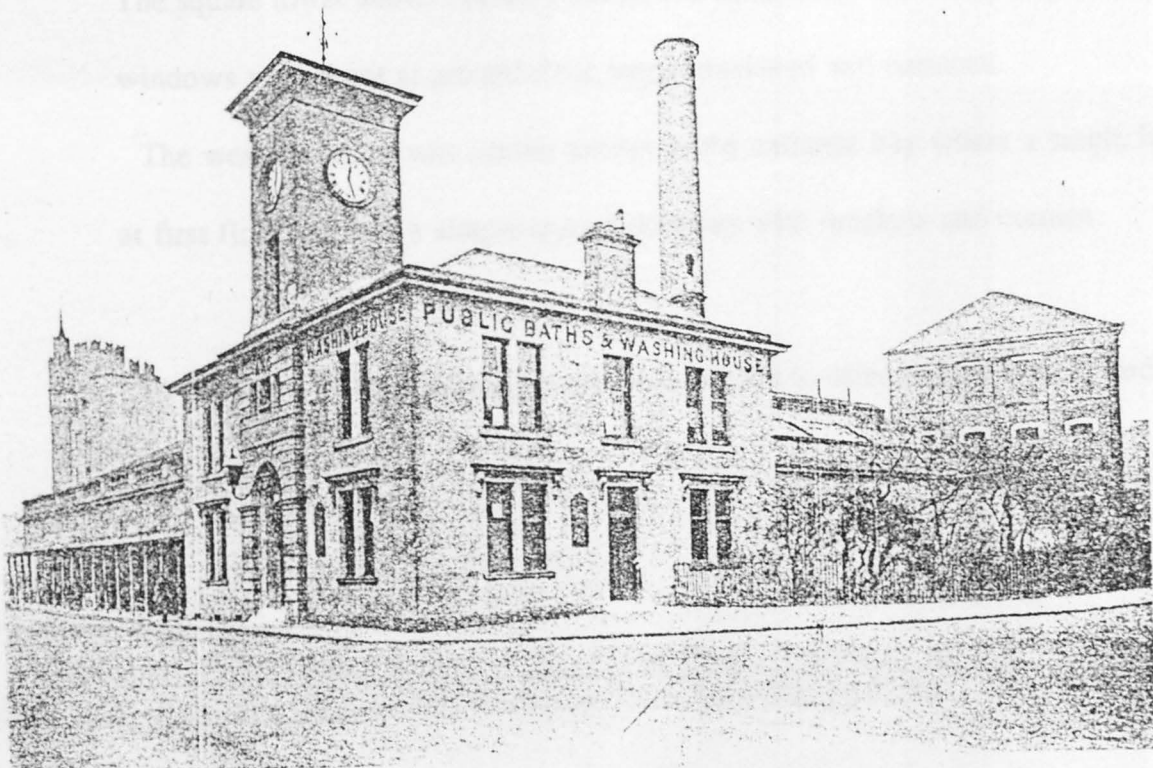
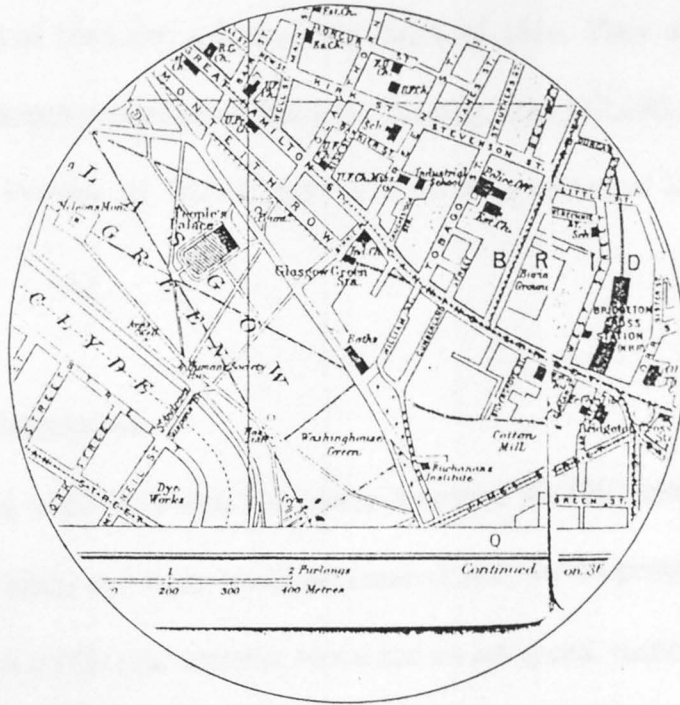
By 1925 the pool was again struggling to survive (perhaps not surprising in light of its larger, more modern neighbour) and proposals for its re-use included conversion to an indoor bowling "...winter green..."⁶¹

Prior to their demolition the Baths were converted for use as Local Government buildings.

⁶⁰ Dunfermline Press, "Renovation Scheme Completed", 14th April 1906, p.5

⁶¹ Dunfermline Press, 19th May 1928, p.7

Greenhead, Glasgow



Address : Glasgow Green, Glasgow
Architect : City Architect or Engineer
Date : Opened 19th August 1878
Listing : Demolished

Following the leasing, purchase and demolition of the old wash house on Glasgow Green, the Greenhead Baths and Wash House were opened in the wake of the Glasgow Police Act of 1866 and a Council resolution of 1869. They were the first of four early municipally inspired ventures in Glasgow, cost £17,190 and were opened by the Lord Provost on 19th August 1878 before a crowd of local dignitaries.⁶²

Original Facilities and Description

The Baths were provided with two ponds (the ladies measured 40'x20' and the gents 75'x40'), 34 private baths and wash house accommodation for 40 persons.

A 2 storey, 3 bay, Italianate villa type entrance block had an advanced, rusticated central bay housing a round arched entrance with a tri-partite window at first floor. The square tower above housed a clock. The central bay was flanked by bi-partite windows with those at ground floor being bracketed and corniced.

The west elevation was similar except at the entrance bay where a single light at first floor sat over a simple square doorway with brackets and cornice.

In January 1879 the establishment was extended to offer more hot baths and the

⁶² Municipal Enterprises, Souvenir Handbook-22nd Congress of the Sanitary Institute....25th-30th July 1904, Robert Anderson, Glasgow 1904, pp.92,93

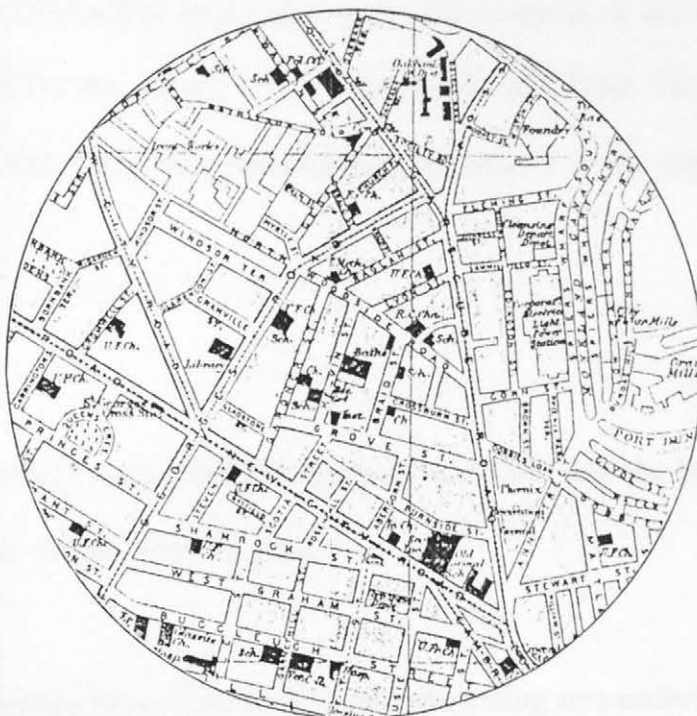
provision of a gallery in the pond hall was considered in December 1880.⁶³

The Third Statistical account of Scotland states that the Baths were, "...still going strong.." ⁶⁴ in the late 1950's but in 1961 they were closed and demolished to make way for a modern leisure centre.

⁶³ Glasgow Corporation Baths Department Reports 1891 & 1892, Annual Reports 1900-1907, Robert Anderson, Glasgow 1914, p.11

⁶⁴ Cunnison & Gilfillan (ed.s) The Third Statistical Account of Scotland, "Glasgow", Collins, Glasgow 1958, p.560

North Woodside, Glasgow



Address : Braid Square, Glasgow
Architect : John Carrick, City Architect
Date : Opened on 13th September 1882
Listing : Not

Designed by John Carrick of the City and opened on Wednesday 13th September 1882 on land costing £5,169/11/2½d (purchased under the auspices of the City Improvement Trust in 1878) the overall cost of the Baths and Wash Houses amounted to around £14,498. They were the second to be erected in the city by the Corporation.⁶⁵

Original Facilities

It contained two swimming ponds (the gents measuring 75'x40' and the ladies 40'x24'), 34 private baths and 67 washing stalls.

During the motorway development of the 1970's the surrounding area underwent massive alteration removing the majority of the surrounding housing which was replaced by a modern equivalent.

1991 saw a major refurbishment of the building including total retiling of the pond, provision of a fitness area (in the former ladies pond hall) and a café. The slipper baths have been converted into a sun-bed suite and lounge with the remainder of the gallery used for changing and locker facilities.⁶⁶

⁶⁵ Glasgow Corporation Baths Department Reports 1891 & 1892, Annual Reports 1900-1907, Robert Anderson, Glasgow 1914, p.13

⁶⁶ Project Scotland, "How it's changed", 16th May 1991, p.10

Present Description

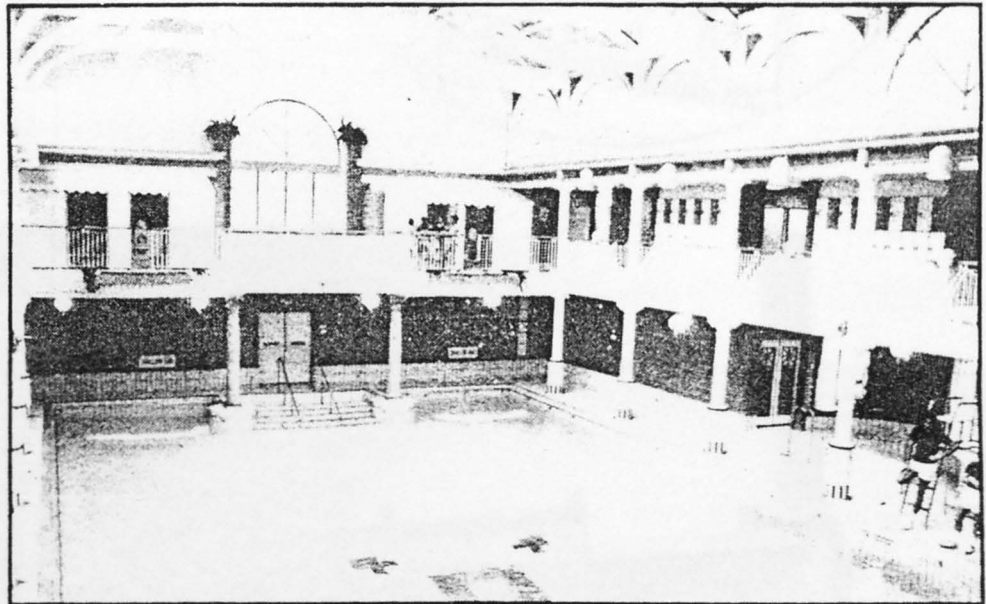
The pond is accommodated within a long 13 bay, 2 storey classically influenced building of yellow ashlar. The base course forms the sills of architraved windows at ground floor with glazed oculi above. Regrettable windows with blue, UPVC coated frames have been installed in all openings.

2 round arched entrances flank a central light in a 3 bay rusticated entrance. 3 architraved windows above sit below a plain pediment rising from the continuous blocking course. An inappropriate high-tech canopy has been fixed over the entrance with surrounding landscaping works including stepped and wheelchair access, car parking and tree planting.

The pond hall has cast-iron columns (now with encased decorative bases) supporting a gallery and timber trussed roof. Semi-circular lateral supports are glazed in UPVC framed windows. The pond has been substantially adapted as per illustration to provide stepped access at one end.



Elevation of Baths Following Refurbishment



Interior View of Refurbishment

CRANSTONHILL

Cranstonhill, Glasgow

Address : 68, B...
Architect : J. C...
Date : 1870...
Listing : 1 Demolished



Address : 68, Elliot Street, Glasgow
Architect : J. Carrick, City Architect
Date : Opened 15th May 1883
Listing : Demolished

Located to meet the needs of the Cranstonhill and Finnieston areas of the city these Baths were the third to be built by the Glasgow Corporation. The site was purchased at £2,10 shillings per square yard and tenders were accepted by the Council in June 1881. The Baths were opened on 15th May 1883 at a cost of £17,415.⁶⁷

Original Facilities and Description

Facilities included 2 swimming ponds, the larger 78'6"x42'6" and the smaller 52'x28', 37 male slipper baths, 6 female slipper baths and a wash house capable of accommodating 73 people.

This classically inspired building addressed Elliot Street in 2 main ranges of brick and stone.

The 8 bay north range had The 4 advanced, central bays of the 8 bay north range were of ashlar. The ground floor had horizontal rustication over a smooth plynth which formed the sill of 2 central round arched lights flanked by similarly detailed male and female entrances. Above were 4 bi-partite squared windows below a cornice and parapet reading, "PUBLIC BATHS AND WASH HOUSE" in a relief panel.

Outer 2 bays at north had single lights over an arched boiler house entrance (replaced by 1962). The south 2 bays were similarly arranged except for single

⁶⁷ Glasgow Corporation Baths Department Reports 1891 & 1892. Annual reports 1900-1907, Robert Anderson, Glasgow 1914, p.14

lights at ground floor.

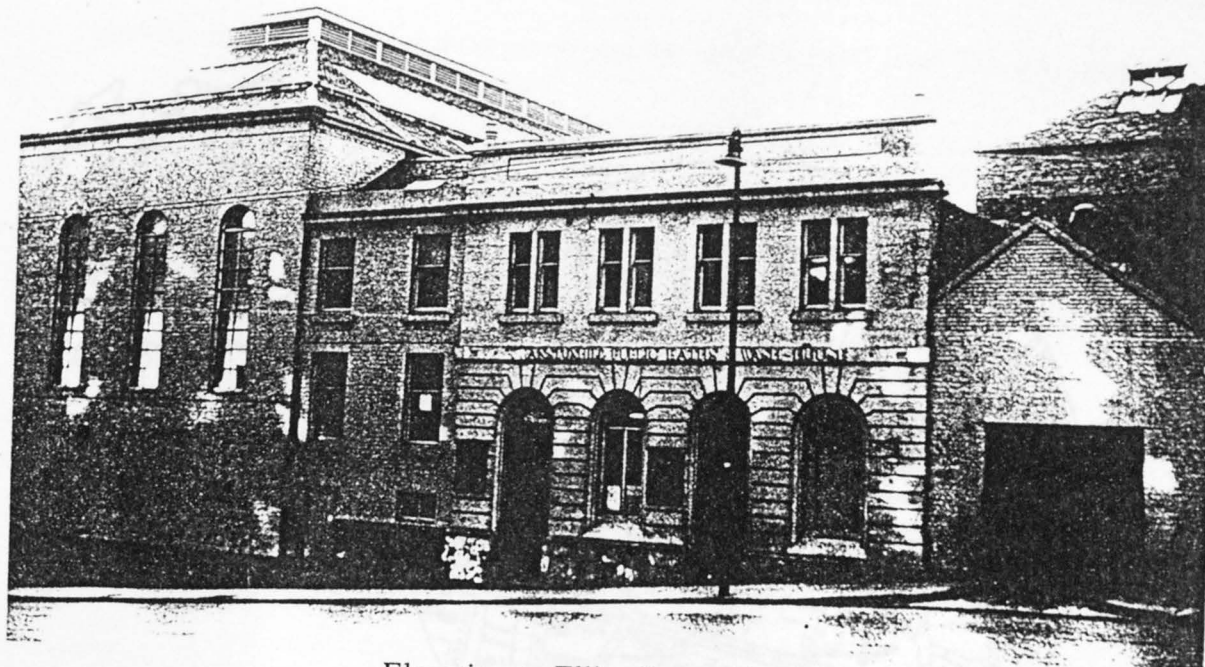
The south range containing swimming ponds had a hipped, slated and glazed roof capped by a continuous ridge ventilator. Long vertical round headed arched lights to Elliot Street lit the interior. A round chimney stack was built of brick.

The swimming pond was closed in 1965 due to cracking resulting from subsidence.⁶⁸ The private baths and 'steamie' remained in operation until the closure of the establishment in 1972.⁶⁹ It was subsequently demolished.

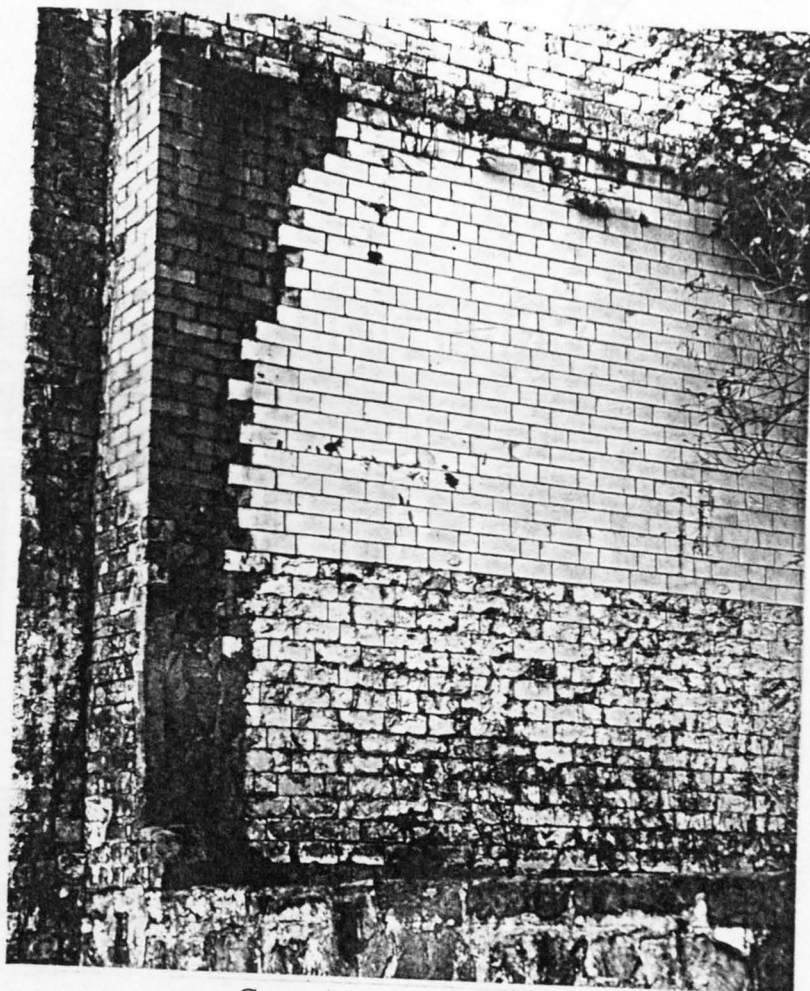
⁶⁸ Cooper, John N. Simply Anderston, 1984, p.110

⁶⁹ From Department of Leisure Services, Glasgow City Council.

Townhead, Glasgow



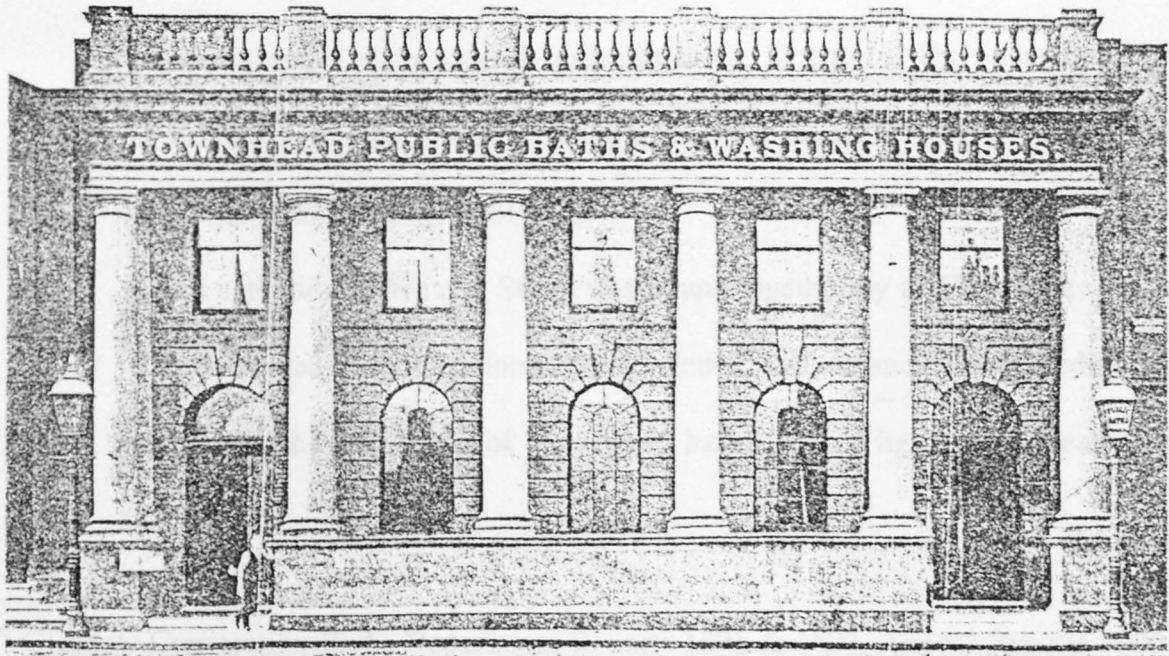
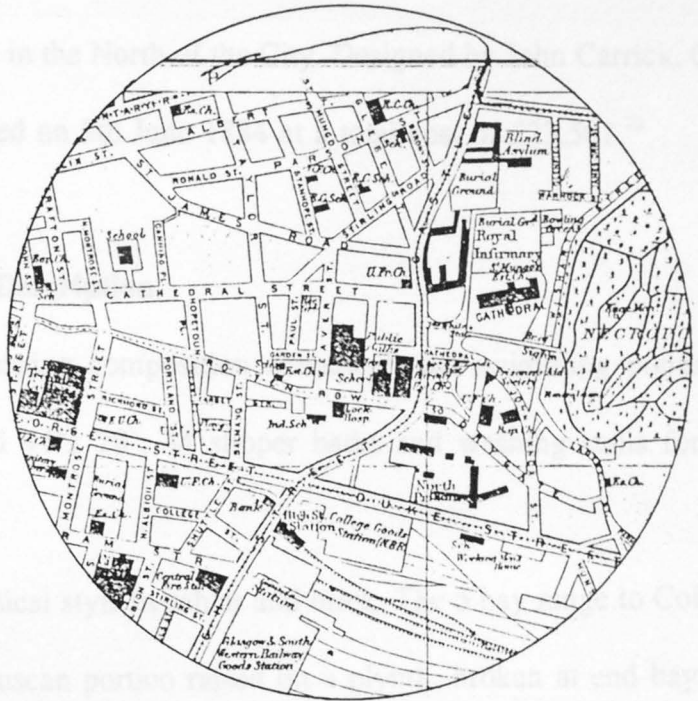
Elevation to Elliot Street 1962



Ceramic Brick Remains

Townhead, Glasgow

TOWNHEAD
Address
Architect
Date
Living



Address : Collins/Weaver Street, Glasgow
Architect : John Carrick, City Architect
Date : Opened 8th June 1884, Washhouse 14th October 1884
Listing : Demolished

Ground in Collins Street was purchased by the Corporation at 35/- per square yard in April of 1881. Tenders were accepted five months later and construction began on this fourth Bath in the North of the City. Designed by John Carrick, City Architect, its doors opened on 8th June 1884 at a total cost of £23,501.⁷⁰

Original Facilities and Description

This architecturally pleasing composition contained two swimming ponds of dimensions 75'x 35' and 44'x 28', 34 slipper baths and washing stalls for 70 persons.

It was built in a neoclassical style in ashlar and brick. The 5 bay range to Collins Street had a hexastyle Tuscan portico raised on a plynth, broken at end bays to allow access to round arched double leafed doors with blocked fanlights which were set against a rusticated ground floor. The 3 central bays had round arched windows and 5 plain squared openings lit the first floor. The entablature, below a balustraded parapet and a dentilled cornice, read, "TOWNHEAD PUBLIC BATHS & WASHING HOUSES."

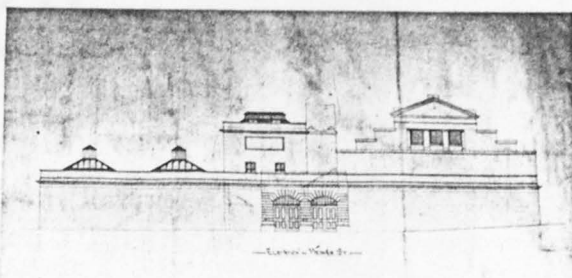
The elevation to Weaver Street was bound together by a 'Thomsonesque' wall. The rusticated central portion housed 2 double leaf, segmentally arched doors. To the south, the rear gable of main pond had 3 square lights set beneath a plain pediment.

⁷⁰ Glasgow Corporation Baths Department Reports 1891 & 1892, Annual Reports 1900-1907, Robert Anderson, Glasgow 1914, p.16

The main pond had Tuscan cast-iron columns supporting a gallery, with intricate cast-iron balustrading, and an open timber roof structure with a ridge ventilator. Slipper baths and changing boxes lined the pond side and gallery.

The establishment was closed in 1975 and demolished.⁷¹ Murray Hall of the University of Strathclyde now stands on the site. Surrounding workers flats which the Baths formerly served have been recently demolished (February 1993).

⁷¹ From the Department of Leisure Services, Glasgow City Council.



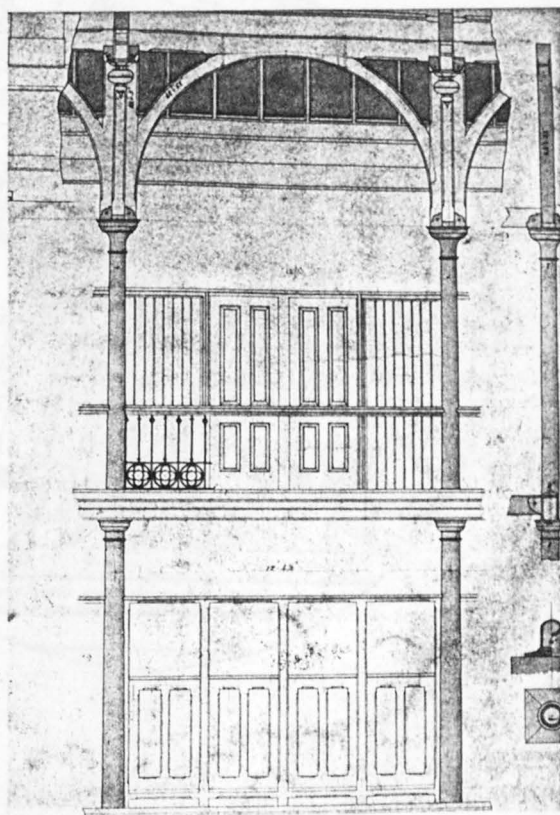
Warrant Drawings, Elevation to Weaver Street

CORPORATION OF GLASGOW
TOWNHEAD PUBLIC WASH-HOUSE
 OPEN ON AND AFTER

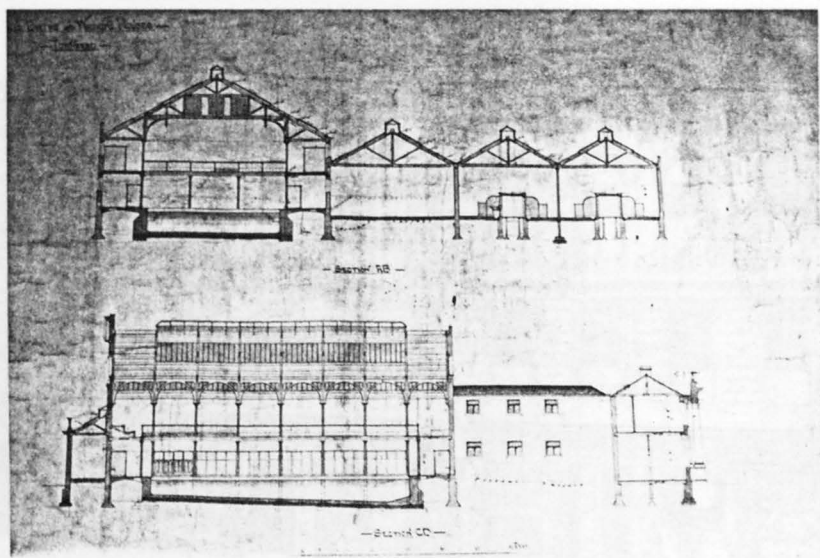
EACH WASHER 2^d PER HOUR.
 FOR THE USE OF A STALL, BOILING, WRINGING AND DRYING FACILITIES, AS WELL AS AN ABUNDANT SUPPLY OF HOT AND COLD WATER.

OPEN AT 7 A.M.
 CLOSES AT 6 P.M., AND ON SATURDAY AT 2 P.M.

W^m THOMSON, GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT,
 69 COCHRAN STREET.

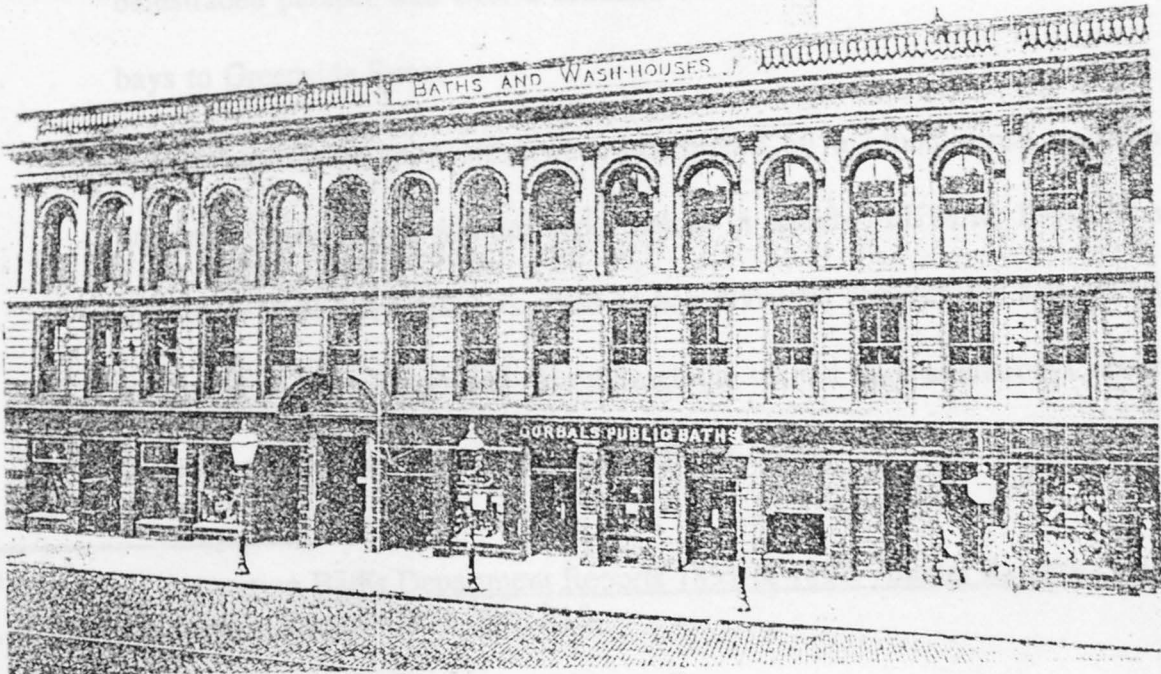


Detail of Balcony / Roof Structure



Sections

Gorbals, Glasgow



Address : 144, Main Street, Gorbals, Glasgow
Architect : John Carrick, City Architect
Date : Opened 17th April 1885
Listing : Demolished

In terms of the continuing provision of Baths in the City, this site was purchased at £3/10/- per square yard. Tenders were accepted in March of 1883 and the Baths were opened on 17th April 1885 at a total cost of around £34,000.⁷²

Original Facilities and Description

The complex included 2 ponds; one measuring 75'x39' and the other 38'x21'. The smaller was reserved for ladies on certain days. Also provided was a 54 stall wash house, 32 slipper baths and a Kosher bath. This consisted of 4 ordinary slipper baths fitted with cloth screens and in addition a wooden vessel 6'x4'x3'. After washing the Jewess completed the ceremony by entering the vessel and stooping until her head was covered.

The Baths had a 3 storey, 17 bay elevation to Main Street with a continuous balustraded parapet wall over a dentilled eaves cornice. The building returned 5 bays to Greenside Street.

At ground floor shop units were interrupted by a round scroll pedimented entrance, broken by a smaller order below in which, "PUBLIC BATHS" was inscribed. Rusticated pilasters acted as bay divisions between the squared lights at ground and first floors and rose through the second floor as smooth Corinthian pilasters with a double order at the building's corner.

⁷² Glasgow Corporation Baths Department Reports 1891 & 1892, Annual Reports 1900-1907, Robert Anderson, Glasgow 1914, pp.17,18

A further 5 bay range to the west facing Greenside Street was built in a symmetrical temple form and had a rusticated base course punched with square openings. The advanced, 3 bay central area had vertical, round arched openings below a plain pediment with apex acroterion.

Internally the foyer and stairs had quality finishes in timber, cast-iron and marble with a dentilled plaster cornice.

The swimming pond had Tuscan cast-iron columns supporting a surrounding gallery (with finely detailed cast-iron balusters) and a timber trussed roof with continuous skylights and ridge ventilators. Lateral bracing members were arched. The sides of the pond hall were lined with changing boxes.

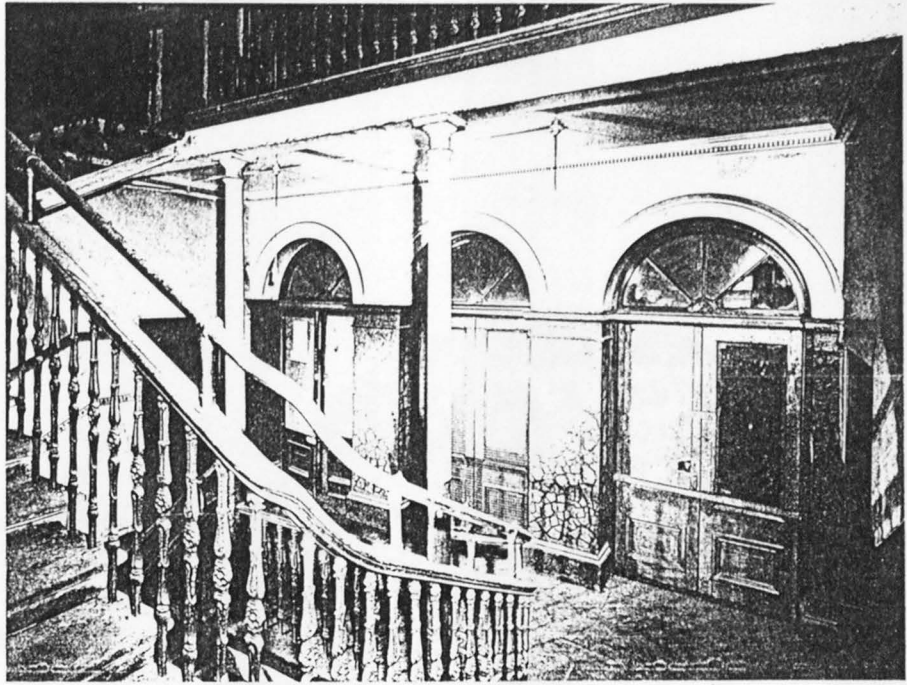
A factor was employed from March 1884 to deal with maintenance of ground floor shop units and the two flats which were used for temporary exhibitions by the Art Gallery and Museum.⁷³

Improvements were made to the heating system in 1913 when a new filtration and aeration plant was installed.

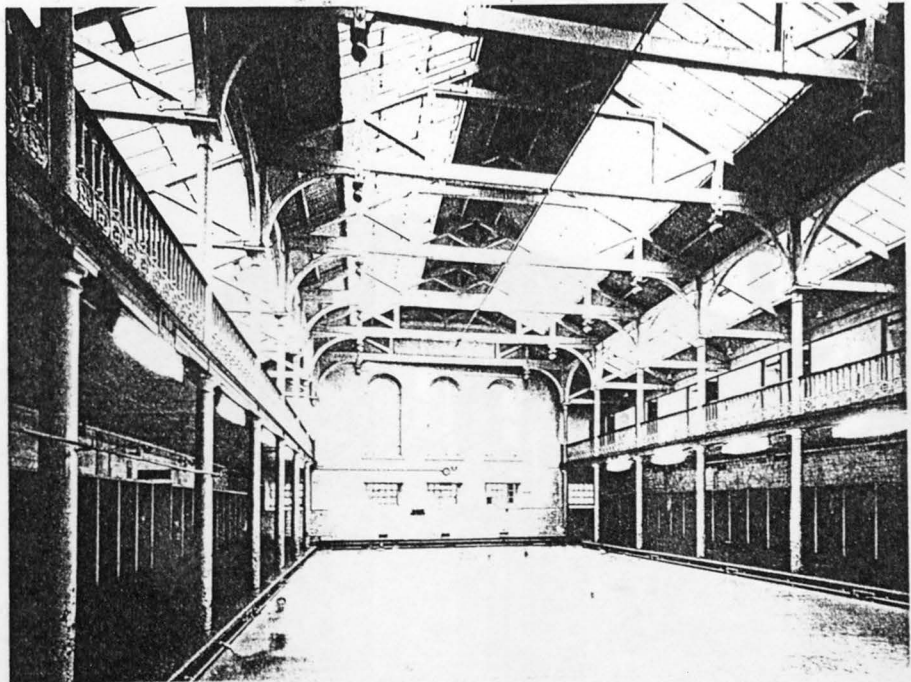
These Baths were the most popular in Glasgow. Twenty swimming clubs, schools and private companies attended weekly.

Depletion in the local population of the Gorbals and Hutchieson Town was in part responsible for the establishments closure in 1974. The building was subsequently demolished.⁷⁴

⁷³ Glasgow Corporation Baths Department Reports 1891 & 1892, Annual Reports 1900-1907, Robert Anderson, Glasgow 1914, pp.19-22

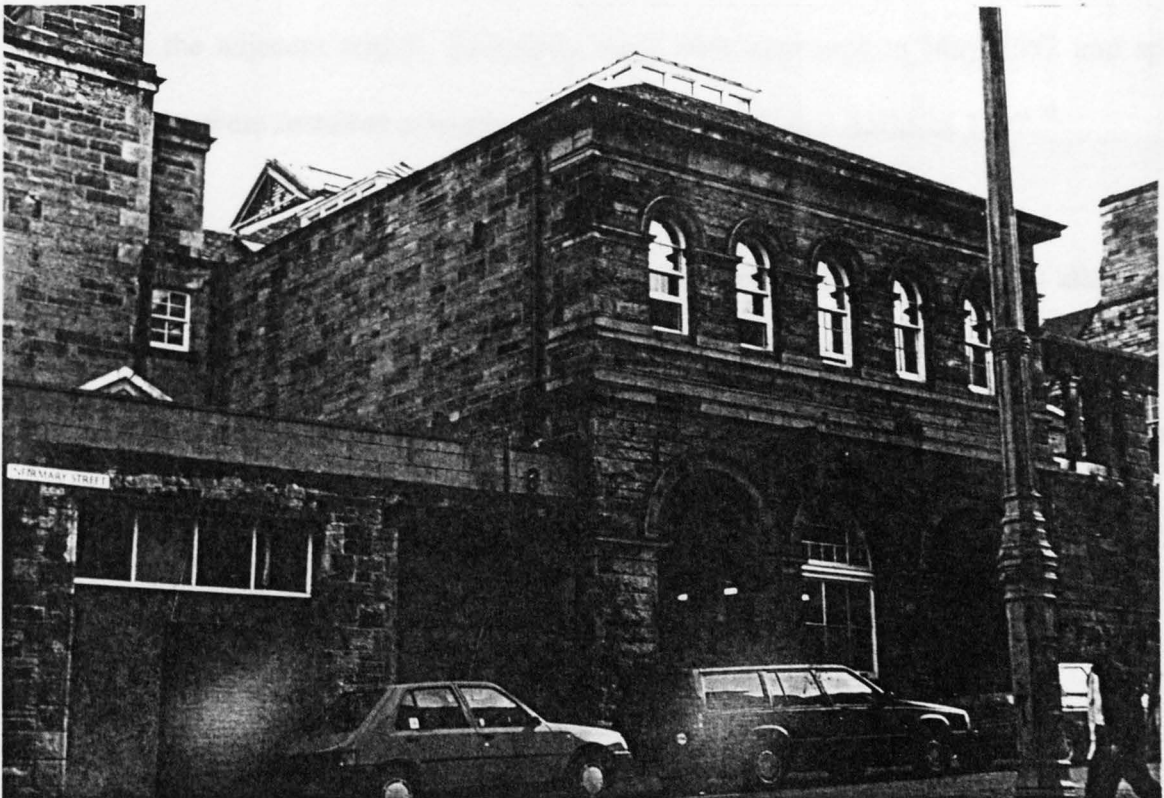


Entrance Foyer 1973



Pond Hall 1973

Infirmary St., Edinburgh



Address : 10, Infirmary Street, Edinburgh
Architect : Robert Morham, the City
Date : 25th July 1887
Listing : B

A proposal was forwarded by Robert Morham, on behalf of the sub-committee, for the provision of "...a swimming bath and 12 plunge baths for each sex.." ⁷⁵ with a ground plan of the northern portion of the vacant site between the City Hospital and the School Board feu measuring 117'x 140'. A tender was accepted by the Council in 1886 for work of an estimated £11,080. ⁷⁶ Further contracts for internal works continued after the official opening of 25th July 1887 until 1900.

Original Facilities

2 swimming ponds were provided, the male 75'x35' and the female 35'x20', which were strictly segregated by means of separate entrances. A number of plunge baths were located around the galleries of both ponds. In addition to supplying the building and pond water with heat, the boilers also fed the radiators of the adjacent school. Travelling rings were approved in May 1892 and spray baths were installed concurrently with those at Dalry Baths in 1897. ⁷⁷

1952 saw the introduction of a changing system utilising baskets to allow more bathers access during peak periods. Eight years later, on the morning of 26th November 1960, a fire started by vandals destroyed the Women's swimming baths

⁷⁵ Edinburgh Town Council Minutes, 22nd September 1885, Vol.1884-85, p.382

⁷⁶ Edinburgh Town Council Minutes, 9th March 1886, Vol.1885-86, p.161

⁷⁷ Edinburgh Town Council Minutes, 9th February 1897, Vol.1896-97, p.170

(which were never reinstated) and caused £25,000 damage to the rest of the building. Despite Council proposals about the closure of the Baths, a combination of public outrage and practical necessity, in an area where:

"Most of the homes in this area do not have baths, and the people depend greatly on the public baths."⁷⁸

ensured their reopening on 9th March 1961. Problems again struck in 1977 when it was reported that the pond was leaking 8,500 of its 90,000 gallons per day.⁷⁹ £17,000 was spent sealing the structure which opened its doors again on 6th March 1978. Further repairs to the roof and boiler were carried out at a cost of £15,000 in 1986⁸⁰ and despite a further attempt to close the establishment it continues to be well used.

Present Description

The building consists of a 2 storey, yellow rock-faced sandstone elevation in 3 ranges to Infirmary Street.

The west range was destroyed by fire in 1960 and now exists as a shell. Giant pilasters divide the elevation into 6 bays with paired openings separated by square shafted Doric columns.

The entrance (central) range has banded arcading and 5 smaller, similarly

⁷⁸ Evening Dispatch, 26th November 1960, from Baths newspaper cuttings [Edinburgh Room, Central Library], Vol.1, p.64

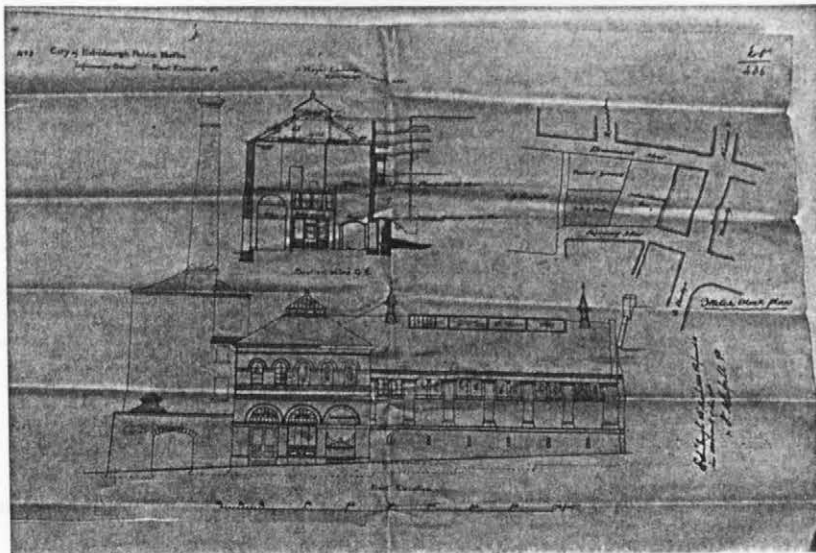
⁷⁹ Evening News, 25th February 1977, from Baths newspaper cuttings [Edinburgh Room, Central Library], Vol.1, p.72

⁸⁰ Evening News, "Early Baths under Repair", 31st December 1986 from Baths newspaper cuttings [Edinburgh Room, Central Library], Vol.2, p.63

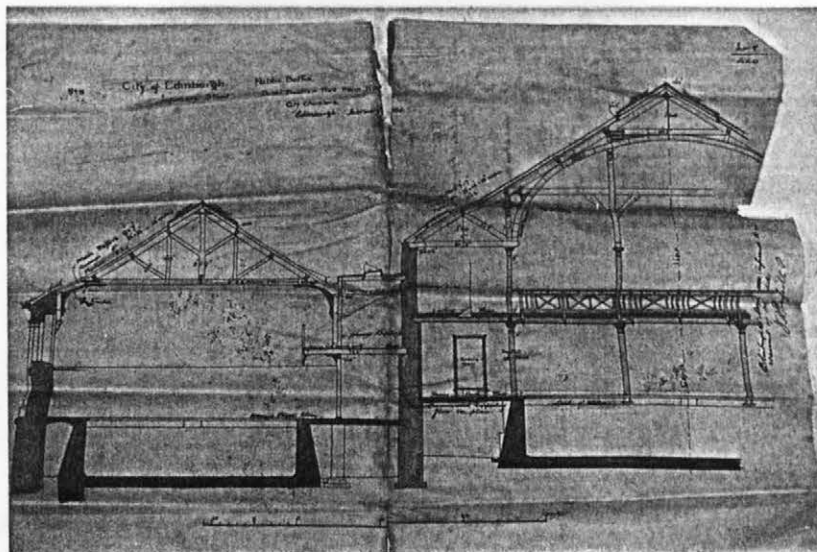
detailed lights above. A lantern capped piend roof slightly overhangs an eaves cornice.

The former boiler house entrance and a similar more recently formed entrance in the east range have been blocked and roughcasted. To the rear a circular, yellow brick chimney stack has decorative bands in red brick below its collar and above the square sand stone base from which it emerges.

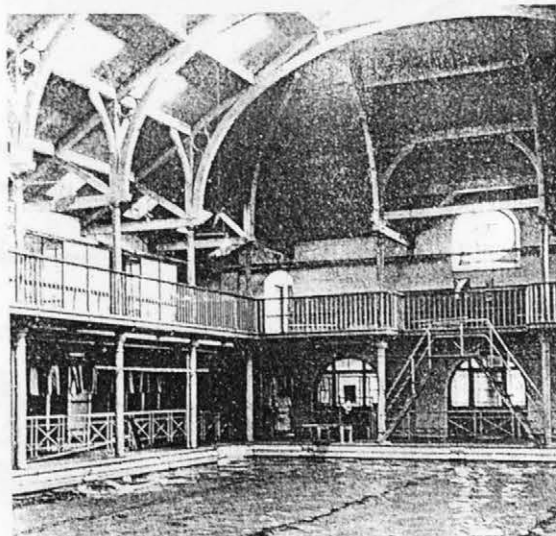
The pond hall contains a timber trussed, ridge lit and tongue and groove panelled roof supported by collared Doric, cast-iron columns which also support the surrounding gallery with plunge baths.



Elevation from Warrant Drawings



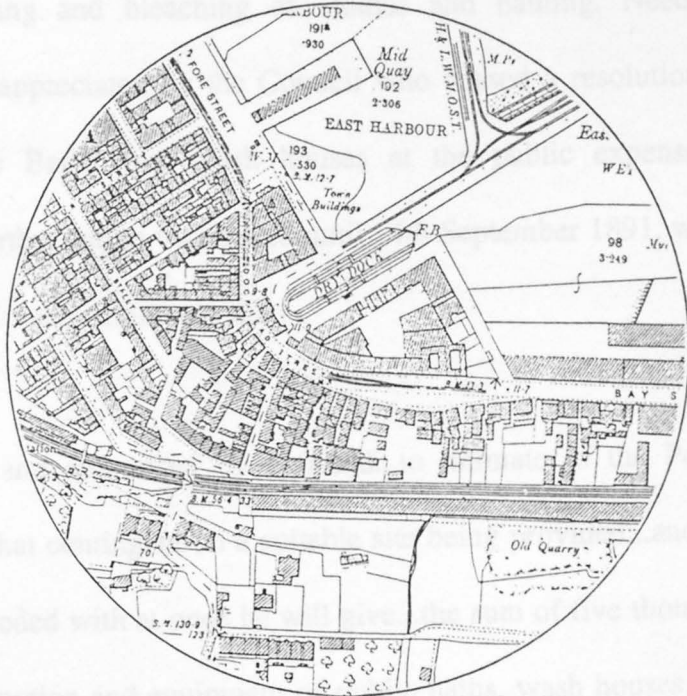
Section Through Pond Halls



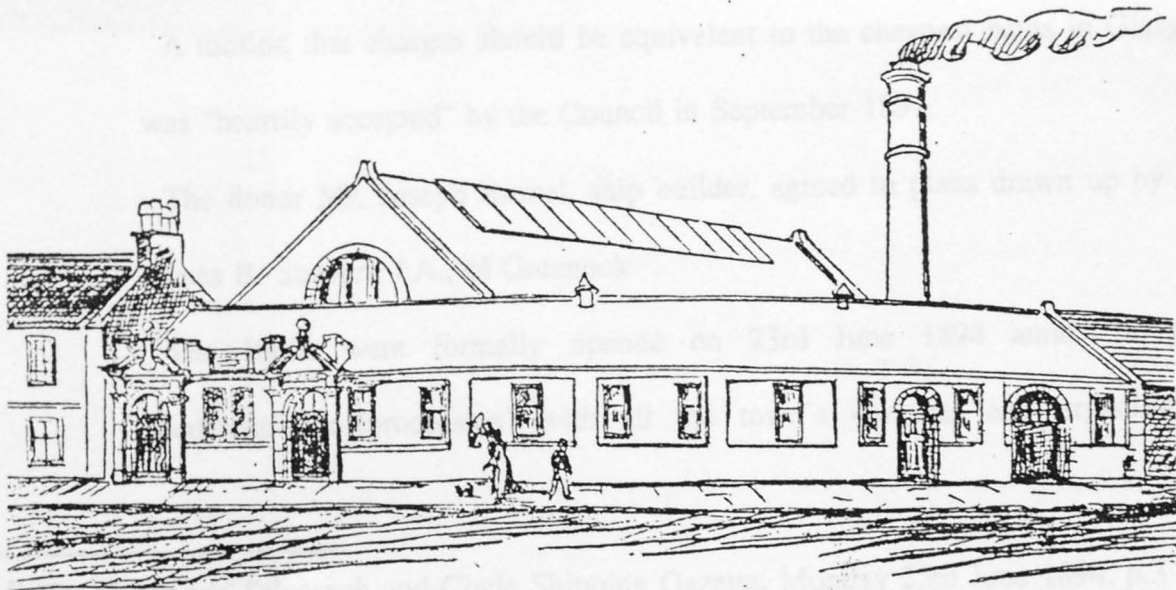
Male Pond Hall 1961

Port Glasgow

Address : Bay Street, Port Glasgow
Architect : Mr. James B. Stewart, L.A., Glasgow
Date : Opened 23rd June 1894
Listing : No.



PORT-GLASGOW PUBLIC BATHS AND WASHHOUSES.



Address : Bay Street, Port Glasgow
Architect : Mr. James B. Stewart, I.A., Greenock
Date : Opened 23rd June 1894
Listing : Not

Industrial development on the shore line of Port Glasgow was located on areas formerly used for washing and bleaching of clothes and bathing. Need of alternative facilities was appreciated by the Council who passed a resolution in 1876, "...to erect Public Baths and Wash houses at the public expense."⁸¹ Following a "No" vote further action was halted until 14th September 1891, when Mr. Hood of the Town Council intimated that:

"..he was asked and authorised by a friend...to intimate to the Police Commissioners, that contingent on a suitable site being provided...and the work being proceeded with at once he will give...the sum of five thousand pounds for the erection and equipment of public baths, wash houses, and swimming baths..."⁸²

A motion that charges should be equivalent to the cheapest baths in Glasgow was "heartily accepted" by the Council in September 1891.

The donor Mr. Joseph Russel, ship builder, agreed to plans drawn up by Mr. James B. Stewart, I.A., of Greenock.

The Baths were formally opened on 23rd June 1894 amidst a great 'demonstration'(procession) with all the town's societies and organisations

⁸¹ The Greenock Telegraph and Clyde Shipping Gazette, Monday 25th June 1894, p.3

⁸² Port Glasgow Town Council Minutes, 14th September 1891, vol.1885-91. pp.488,489

included in the festivities.

Original Facilities

Facilities provided were slipper and spray baths, a swimming pond of dimensions 65'x30' and a wash house with twelve stalls.

The incorporation of a continuous charcoal filtration system and "patent apparatus for removing silt from the bottom of the bath without emptying the water.." were noted as special features.

The wash house remained popular until 1961 when it was closed and converted to changing accommodation.⁸³ The establishment is still used at present for swimming and aqua-aerobics.

Present Description

Set on a triangular site, a long, curved, single storey range in coursed red sand stone rubble, with ashlar dressings, partially conceals the pond hall behind.

Advanced, round-arched entrances (wash house entrance now window) are embellished by scrolled pediments and flank a parapet wall with a central memorial stone reading, "The Gift of Joseph Russel Shipbuilder 1893", below which a simple bi-partite window admits light to the former ticket office.

To the east, 6 pilastered bays contain alternately twin and single lights, except for the current squared (formerly round-headed), 'mosaic', post-1961, entrance to the establishment which is flanked by single lights. A cornice and ogee gutter runs

⁸³ Monteith, Joy & McPherson, Robert Port Glasgow and Kilmacolm from Old Photographs, Inverclyde District Libraries 1981, p.10

the length of the building at the eaves.

The former clerestorey tri-partite, semi-circular window in the gable wall, of an otherwise unadorned pond hall range, has been infilled.

The building is much altered internally. The gallery and changing boxes below have been removed. The gallery access stairs from the former entrance foyer have been blocked, an open timber roof in the pond hall has been replaced by a painted steel truss with ridge skylights and the red pressed brick interior is now covered in white plaster.

Lochee,
Dundee



Elevation to Bay Street



Memorial Plaque to Joseph Russel

Lochee, Dundee

Address: 1 High
Architect: J. H. ...
Date: 1897
Living: 1

The baths were built by Mr. Thomas ... Dundee.

The baths were built by Mr. Thomas ... Dundee.



Dundee with ...

building was ...

Original Position

The scheme comprised of a ...

has plans ... a ...



Address : High Street, Lochee, Dundee
Architect : J. Murray Robertson, Dundee
Date : 4th December 1895
Listing : ?

The Baths were gifted by Mr. Thomas Hunter Cox, of Maulsden and Duncarse, a member of the firm Messrs. Cox Brothers. On his death (1st January 1892) he left a trust bequest which, inclusive of money and property, totalled £11,000 which was to be used for the construction of proper facilities to benefit the people of Lochee.⁸⁴

Plans were produced after April 1894 by J. Murray Robertson, Architect, from Dundee with tenders for the work being accepted on 16th August 1894. The building was officially opened on 4th December 1895.⁸⁵

Original Facilities

The scheme comprised of a 60'x25' pond, 2 first class and 4 second and third class plunge baths and a public library at a total cost of £7,000.

An adjoining public wash house was provided by the City Architect in 1901 and the library was extended in 1912.

By 1957 the pool had had a mechanical filtration and chlorine sterilisation plant installed, giving a water cycle of three hours.⁸⁶

The building was refurbished by the Architects Department of the City Council

⁸⁴ Elliot, Alex Lochee as it was and as it is, J.P.Mather, Dundee 1911, p.52

⁸⁵ Minutes of Dundee Town Council and of Dundee Water and Gas Commissioners, Vol.1883-94, pp.62,108,110

⁸⁶ A Few Facts Concerning the Corporation and other Services, City of Dundee 1957.

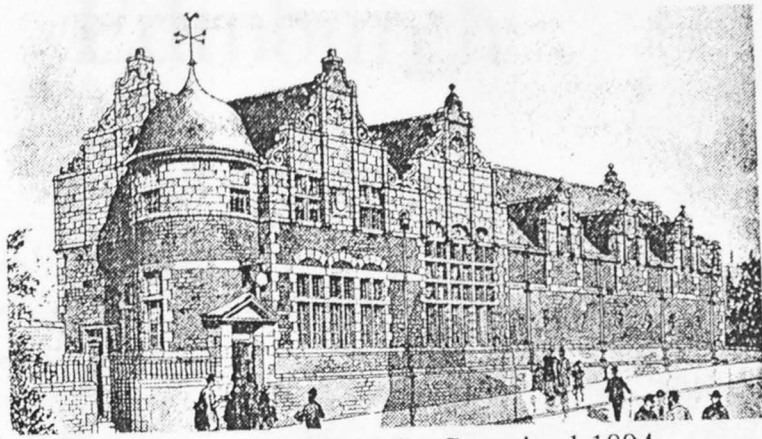
in the early 1980's and is undergoing further work presently (April 1993).

Description at 1975

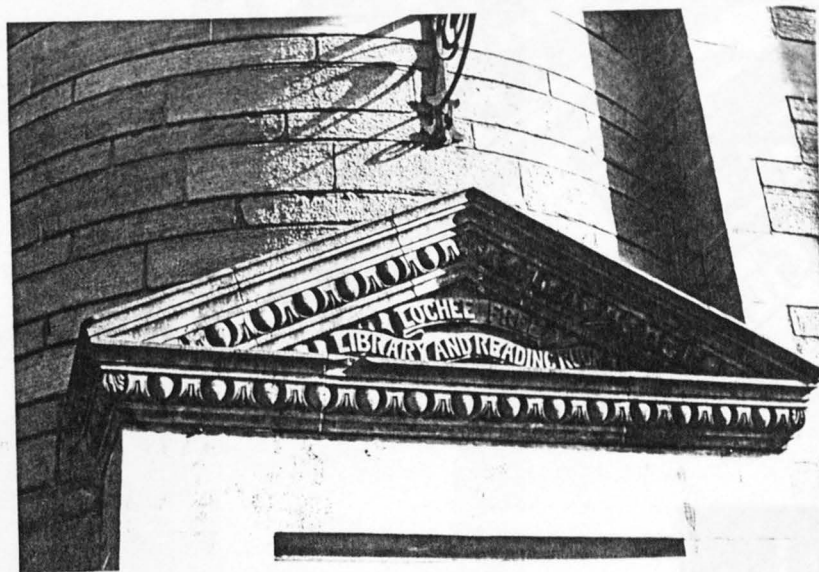
This red sandstone, Jacobean revival styled building presents itself to the High Street in 5 bays with a terminal round, ogee roofed tower with pedimented (former entrance). The 2 adjacent bays have round-headed triple windows with stone transomes and astragals, set over a continuous base course. Above, the bays are articulated by ornamental gable pediments, with band courses and scrolls.

The remaining 3 bays have similarly treated dormers between cast-iron down pipes with the date of erection stretching along the wall in individual wrought iron numerals. The 2 end gables take on a similar treatment to those described above.

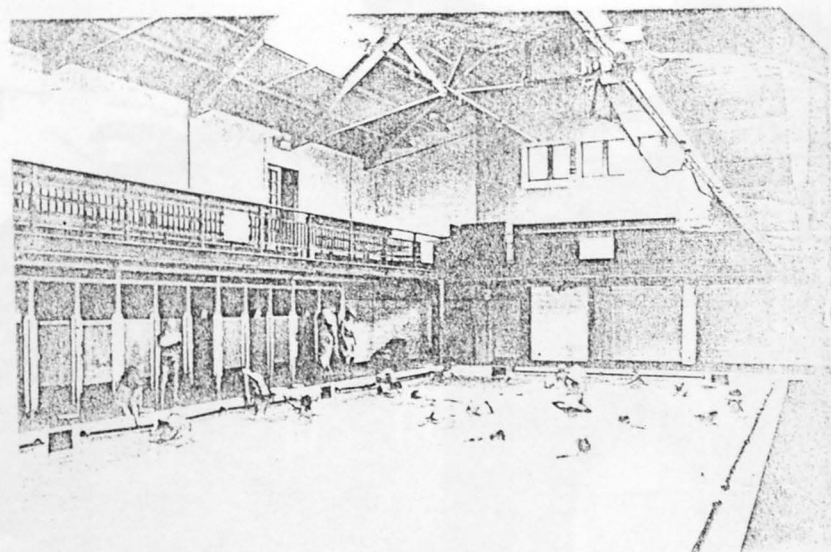
The pond hall has a steel trussed roof with skylights, over a timber gallery which rests on cantilever brackets over the pond-side changing boxes. The pool retained original tiling, spittoons and brass hand rails at this date.



The Baths as Originally Conceived 1894



Pediment over Entrance



Interior of Pond Hall 1975

DALRY BATES

1897

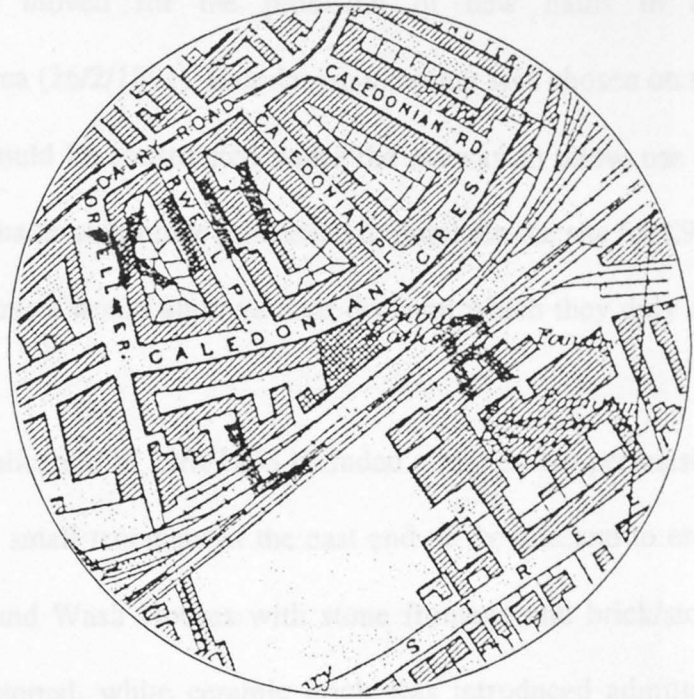
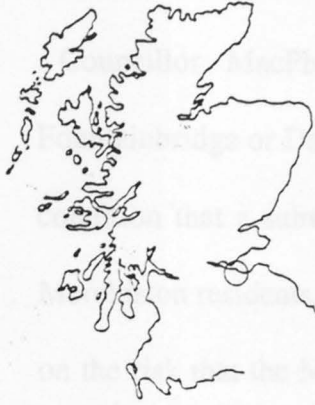
Address

Architect

Date

Listing

Dalry, Edinburgh



Address : 11, Caledonian Crescent, Edinburgh, EH11 2AN
Architect : Robert Morham, the City
Date : Opened 1897
Listing : B

Councillor MacPherson moved for the provision of new baths in the Fountainbridge or Dalry area (26/2/1891). Caledonian Crescent was chosen on the condition that a subway could be constructed under the railway to allow use by Merchiston residents. The baths committee proceeded to purchase the site for £925 on the risk that the Magistrates would approve their decision which they duly did in March 1891.⁸⁷

The building warrant application of 29/8/1893 included a request for permission to demolish and remove a small tenement at the east end of the site and to erect on the site Public Baths and Wash Houses with stone frontage and brick/stone sides and rear.⁸⁸ Some external, white ceramic brick was introduced admitting light to adjacent properties.

Original Facilities

A swimming pond of dimensions 75'x35' was surrounded by changing cubicles, slipper baths and lavatory accommodation on both ground and gallery floors.

The recent refurbishment of 1992-93 included enlargement of the foyer, retiling of the pond hall, strengthening of the roof and the introduction of double glazing.

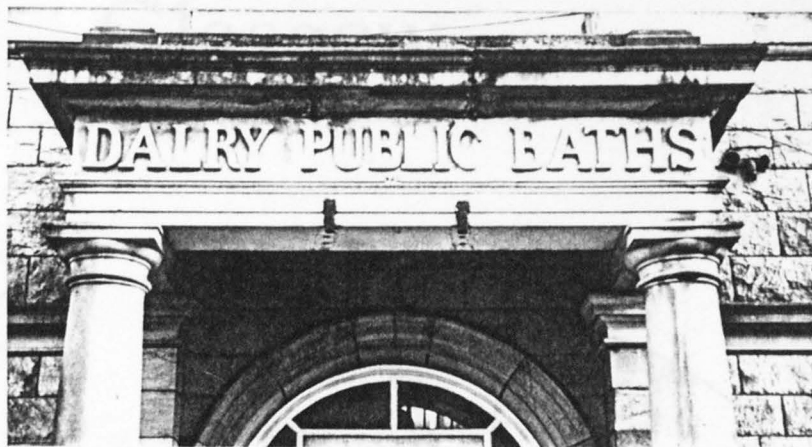
⁸⁷ Edinburgh Town Council Minutes, 24th March 1891, Vol.1890-91, p.258

⁸⁸ Petition to Dean of Guild 6th July 1893 [Edinburgh City Archive]

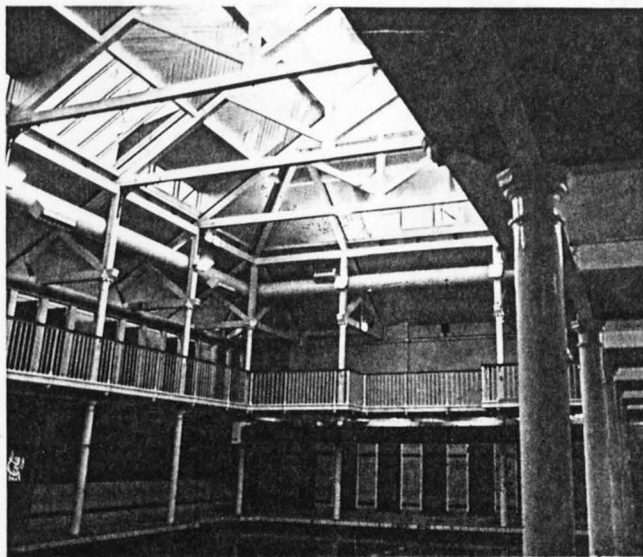
Present Description

The Baths are built as a 7 bay, symmetrical Italianate Villa. An 8th bay arched machinery entrance with bipartite window above is located to the west. All ground floor openings are arched except the Doric porticoed entrance ("Dalry Public Baths" carved in frieze) which is set against a 2 storeyed, 3 bay central block with 3 round headed bipartite windows, with moulded arches and transomes, at first floor. A band course at springing level returns to oculi on side elevations and a dentilled cornice meets the hipped roof at the eaves.

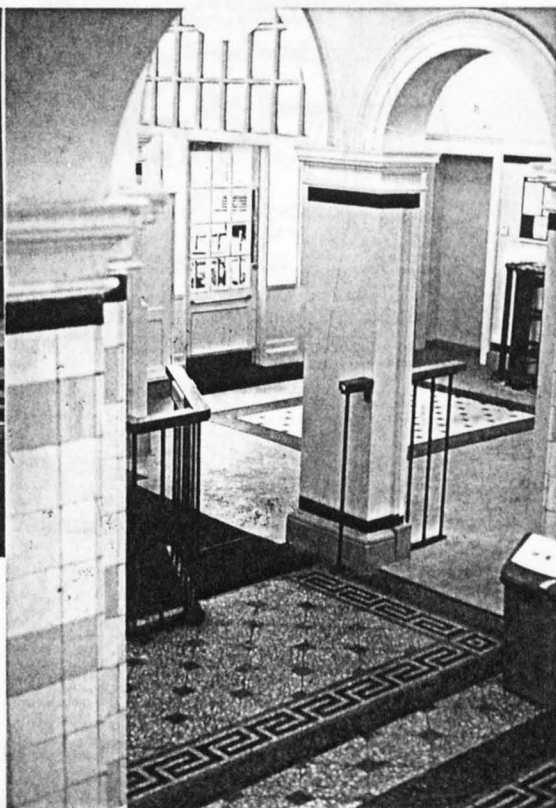
Internally an arcaded entrance foyer retains some original white, yellow and turquoise tiling and a patterned floor. The pond hall has been retiled (in white and yellow) during recent refurbishment(1992-93). The sky-lit roof is supported by an open timber trussed structure, with decorative cast iron brackets, which rests on collared, Tuscan columns of cast-iron. The underside of the roof is constructed of tongue and grooved infill panels. A gallery with timber changing cubicles and toilets surrounds the hall.



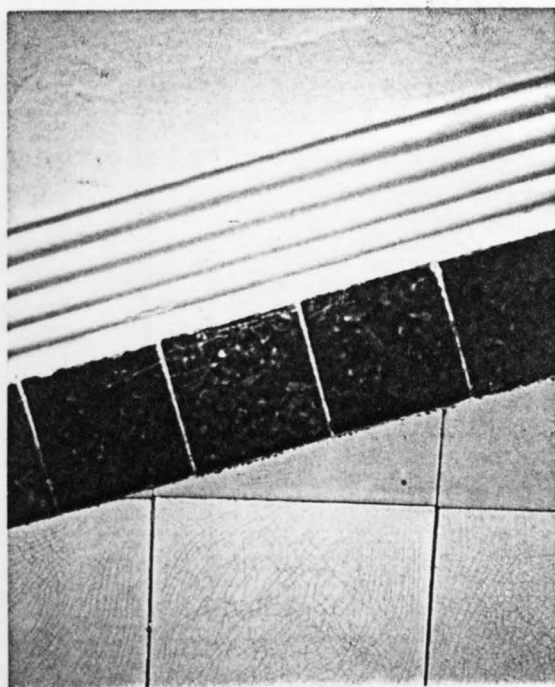
The Entrance Portico



Refurbished Pond Hall 1993



Extension to Foyer 1993



Original Ceramics of Stair Well Preserved

Springburn, Glasgow



Address : Kay Street, Springburn, Glasgow
Architect : City Architects Department - A.B.McDonald
Date : Opened 5th April 1898
Listing : Demolished

Built in conjunction with Maryhill Baths by the City Architects Department the building was opened on 5th April 1898 at a cost of £19,594.⁸⁹

Original Facilities and Description

Facilities included a pond of dimensions 75' x 35', 33 slipper baths and washing stalls for 34 persons.

The Baths were designed in an Edwardian Renaissance style in 3 single storey ranges which formed a cul-de-sac at the end of Kay Street.

The 3 bay entrance range had a central keyed, segmentally arched window below a parapet pediment with a carved coat of arms of Glasgow. Outer bays had twin leafed doors below multi-paned openings set under segmental arches.

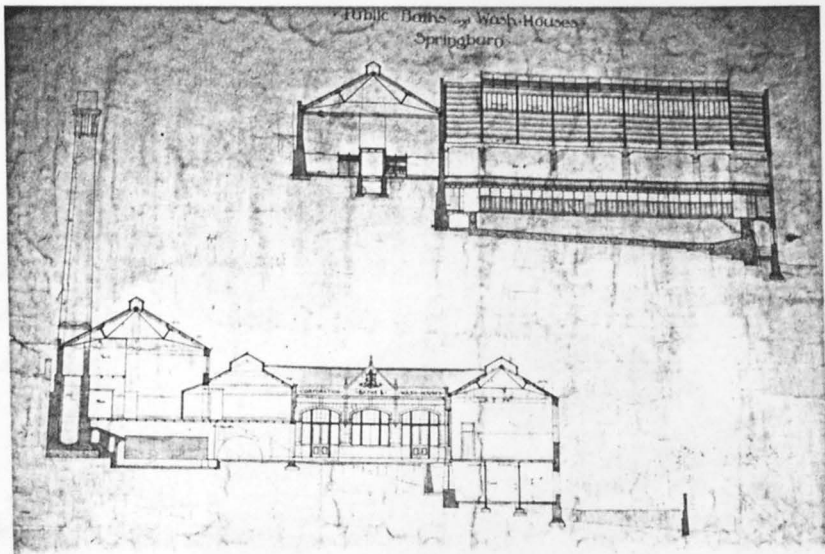
The pond hall had an arched, steel trussed roof which supported a continuous roof ventilator and skylight strips. Timber changing boxes surrounded the pond and supported a gallery over.

Detailed sections and elevations show the intricate cast-iron work of wash stalls used at Springburn and Maryhill Baths which included Greek key motifs.

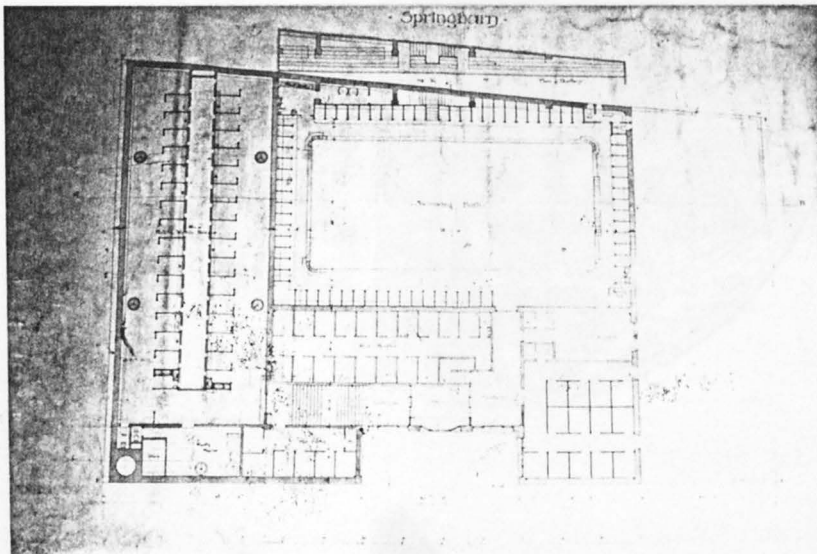
The building was closed 1979-1980 and demolished in 1981.⁹⁰

⁸⁹ Municipal Glasgow, Its Evolution and Enterprises, Glasgow Corporation 1904, p.99(tab.)

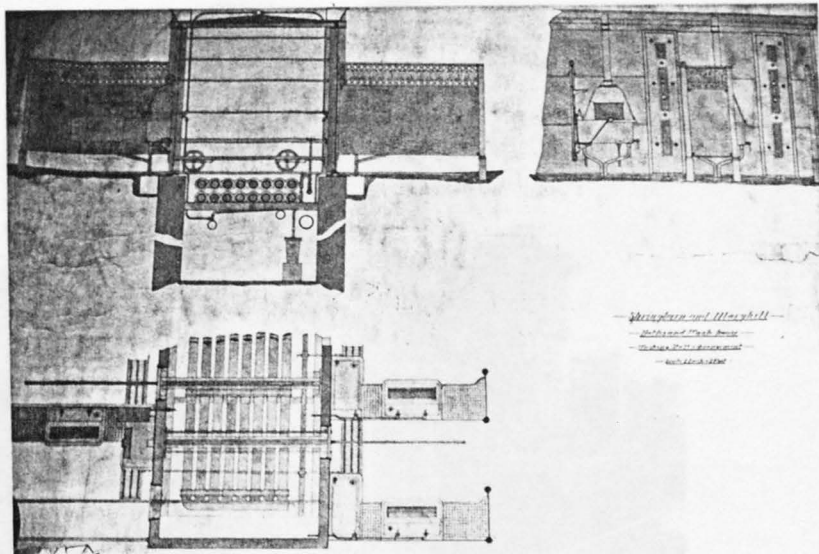
⁹⁰ From the Department of Leisure Services, Glasgow City Council



Warrant Section and Elevations



Ground Floor Plan



Detail of Wash House Stalls and Drying Horses

Alloa



Address : Primrose Street, Alloa, FK10 1JJ
Architect : Burnet, Son & Campbell
Date : Friday 29th April 1898
Listing : B

Despite Alloa's proximity to the Forth, swimming or bathing became impossible and was inadvisable due to the "...dirty and filthy state of the water."⁹¹ With this in mind a local wealthy benefactor, John Thomson Paton of Kilncraigsmill (who also sponsored the town hall) presented the town with public baths and offered a further endowment of £3,000 to cover running costs in the first period of its life.

A site was acquired at Primrose Street which was occupied by a number of single storey workshops. Having had these removed, construction, to the design of the architects Burnet, Son & Campbell began in 1895. The baths were formally opened on 29th April 1898 amidst the largest 'demonstration' ever witnessed in the town :

"The decoration and display of bunting were on an extensive scale, the principal streets being liberally adorned with flags, banners, streamers, etc."⁹²

Original Facilities

Facilities included a billiards and amusement room, swimming pond and accessories, 1st and 2nd class plunge baths, Turkish and Russian baths and a gymnasium.

⁹¹ Alloa Journal, "Proposed Public Baths...", 5th March 1881, p.2

⁹² Alloa Advertiser, "Formal Opening of the Baths and Gymnasium", 30th April 1898, pp.2,3

In December 1906 work was completed to provide further plunge baths and a new water tank, which allowed water to be heated to a higher temperature.⁹³

Mixed bathing was first permitted at the Baths in June 1927 (previously sessions had been timetabled to separate the sexes).⁹⁴

The Baths 'survived' a proposed development of 1965, which entailed major alteration to the interior. Fortunately the scheme was too expensive. Following cracking of the pond shell due to subsidence the facility has recently been converted into a leisure services facility with administrative offices. The pond is no longer used for swimming but has been converted into a gymnasium.

Present Description

The Baths and Gymnasium are built of red sandstone in a free Scots Renaissance style.

The 2 storey elevation to Primrose Street has an advanced 2 storey entrance and 3 bay ground floor. A red granite base course rises to form a tall entrance architrave with broad key stone. Cast and wrought iron gates guard the internal door consisting of glazed panels (some with art nouveau etching) and timber work. Above the entrance keystone an intricately carved, horizontal panel, with a central shield reads "Public Baths and Gymnasium" and is bounded by attached Tuscan columns, supported on consoled brackets, which rise to obelisks at eaves. A bipartite, scroll-pedimented, statuette flanked, centrally positioned, first floor opening has sash and case windows and sits below a round pedimented detail which embellishes the roof apex.

⁹³ Alloa Journal, 8th December 1906, p.3

⁹⁴ Alloa Journal, 18th June 1927, p.3

The north 3 bays are created by multi-stage shafts from sill to eaves. The central bay contains a tri-partite window beneath a projecting carved 'water baby'. The outer bays are bi-partite with foliated entablature panels. At the recessed first floor a single 'keyed' doorway in the central bay gives access from the gym to the stone detailed balcony. Single windows with keystones are found in the outer bays.

The pitched, slated and glazed roof above used to support a large ventilator, which has sadly been removed during reroofing.

A long 5 stage multi-level elevation to Primrose Lane is terminated at the corner of Primrose Street by splayed, double turreted galleries over long, keyed squinches sheltering 2 windows in the angles. A central carved panel is set between Roman Doric shafts.

The 1½ storey second stage has a balcony over 2 square, multi-paned lights situated over an arched recess with further windows.

A 2 storey third stage has corner turrets with pedimented openings and punched lights below.

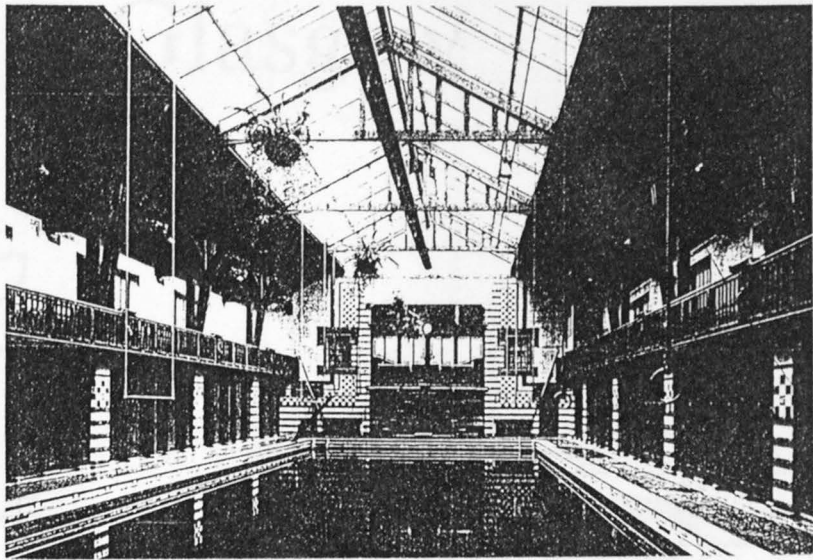
The long, plain fourth stage concealing the pond hall is terminated by a crenellated Turkish Bath fifth stage.

Internally striped brown and yellow encaustic tile work is extensively used. The foyer has Moorish arches, elaborate wrought iron work railings and stair details. An oval plaque commemorates John Thomson Paton's benefaction.

The pond hall retains its glazed timber roof with projecting hammer beams carved as dragons. Brick piers support the timber gallery. Changing cubicles formerly inserted between the piers have been removed. Much striped tile work has been removed or painted over and the hall now accommodates a gymnasium.

The original galleried gymnasium has a similar roof structure to the pond hall with more dragon hammer beams. Original timber flooring and fittings remain.

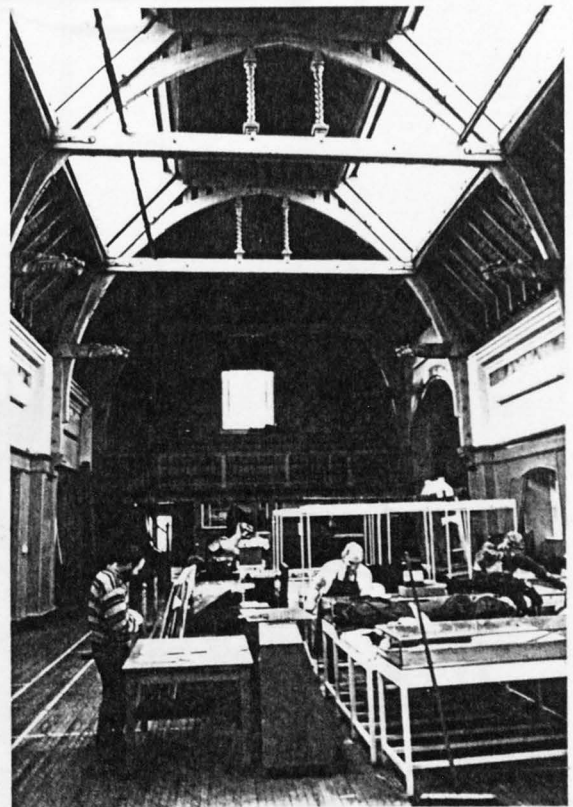
The former Turkish baths are currently used for storage.



Pond Hall in Original Condition



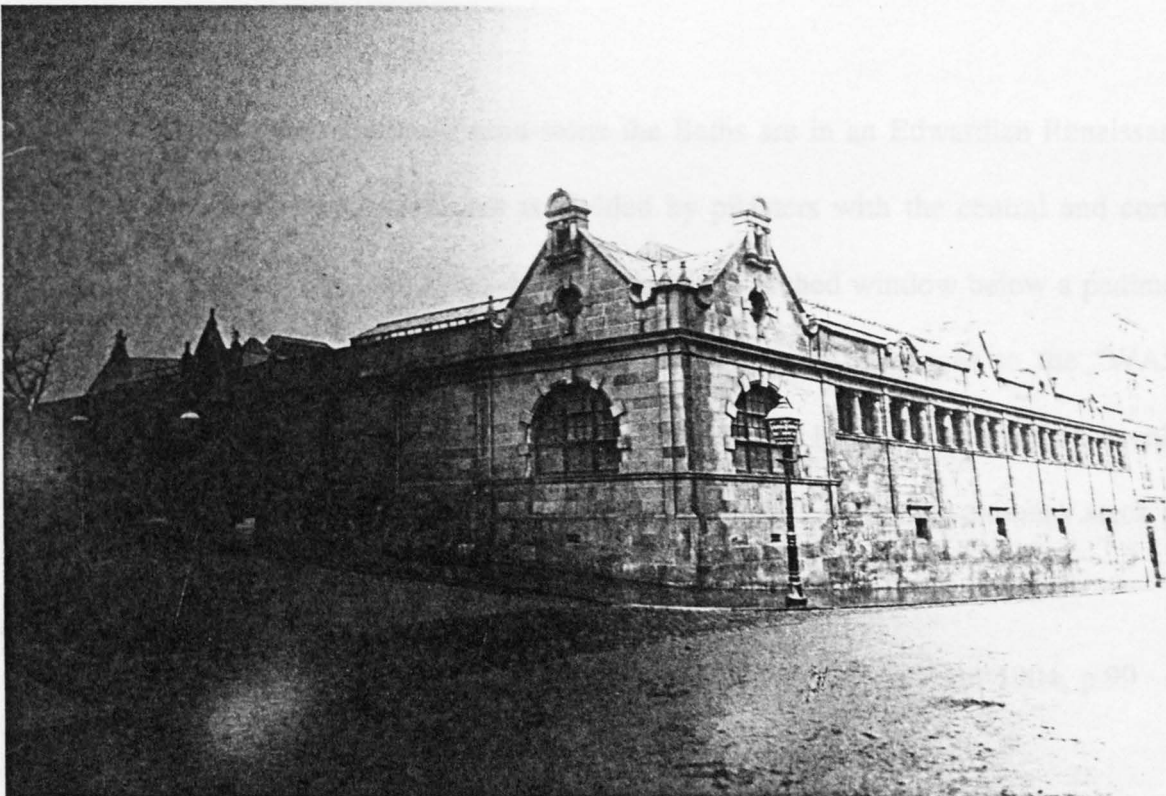
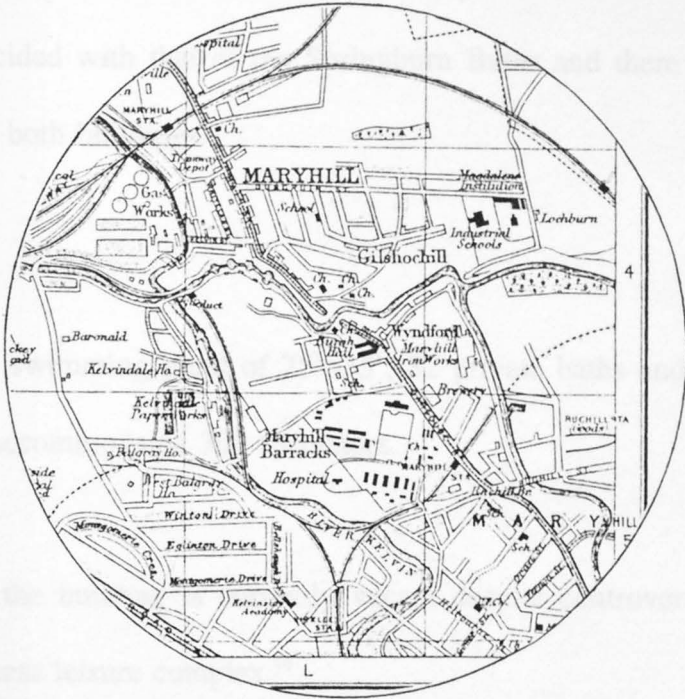
Foyer with Striped Ceramics



Former Gymnasium

Maryhill, Glasgow

MARYHILL BARRACKS
Address : Barrack Street, Glasgow
Architect : O.E. Richardson
Date : 1877-80
Listing : Group B with Town Hall



Address : Burnhouse Street, Maryhill, Glasgow
Architect : Office of Public Works- A.B.McDonald
Date : Opened 30th May 1898
Listing : Group B with Town Hall

Designed by the City, the Baths and Wash House were erected in conjunction with the Maryhill Town Hall, at a cost of £17,018 and opened on 30th May 1898.⁹⁵ Their design coincided with that of the Springburn Baths and there are many features common to both buildings.

Original Facilities

The complex included a swimming pond of 75'x35', 32 private baths and 36 washing stalls. A gallery accommodated 300 spectators.

Used until March 1985 the building is currently vacant despite controversial plans to convert to a business leisure complex.⁹⁶

Present Description

Built of white Giffnock sand-stone the Baths are in an Edwardian Renaissance style. The 10 bay west front is divided by pilasters with the central and corner bays gabled. The central bay has a segmentally arched window below a pediment containing a coat of arms and is flanked by keyed entrances to the "WASH HOUSE" and "PUBLIC BATHS". The corner bays have a round arched opening set below an oculus in an aedicule capped pediment. A rounded chimney stack has

⁹⁵ Municipal Glasgow, Its Evolution and Enterprises, Glasgow Corporation 1904, p.99

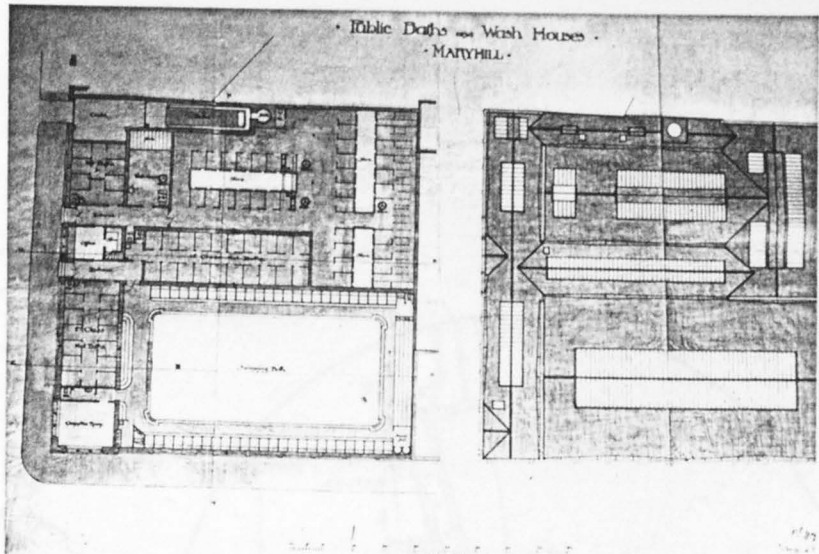
⁹⁶ The Glasgow Guardian, 19th September 1986, p.1

been removed from the north of the site.

The 10 bay south front has square openings in alternate bays below a glazed Ionic colonnade which supports a parapet wall with pediments on alternate bays.

Some original white enamelled brick with blue bands remain in the pond hall. The lanterned roof is supported by steel trusses which are painted blue.

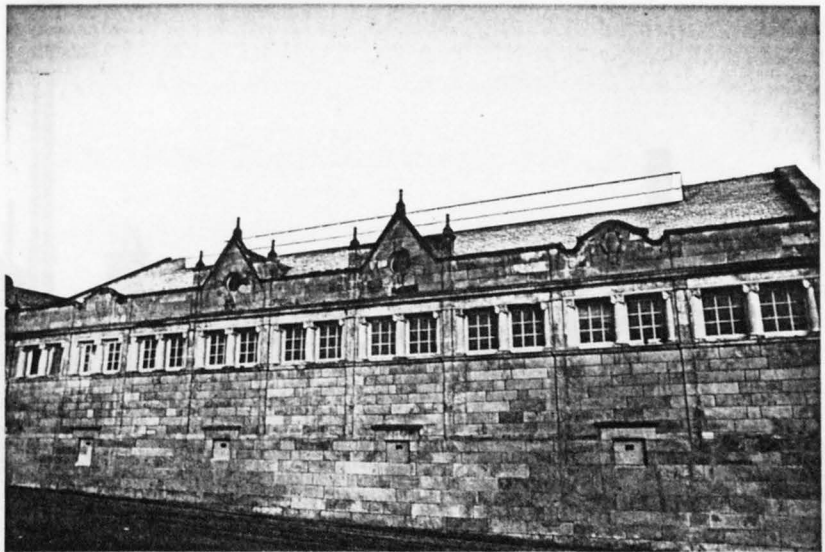
Sea Bathing Station.



Warrant Plan



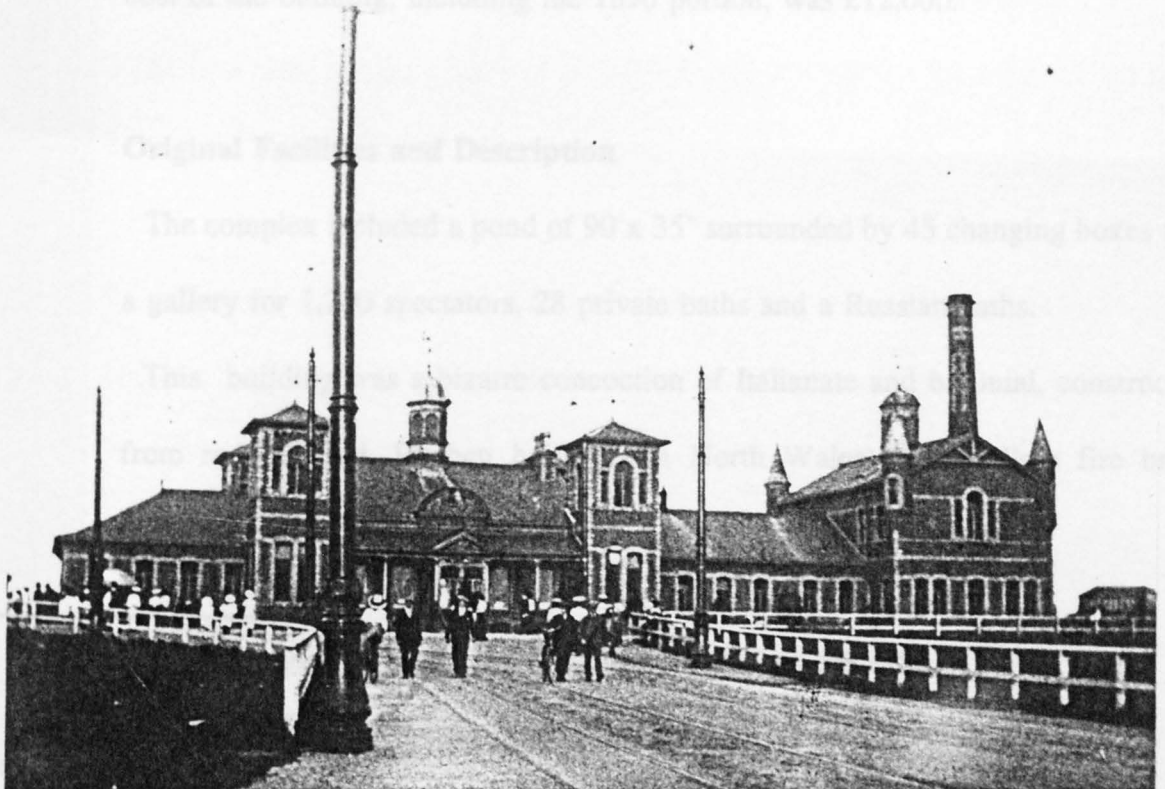
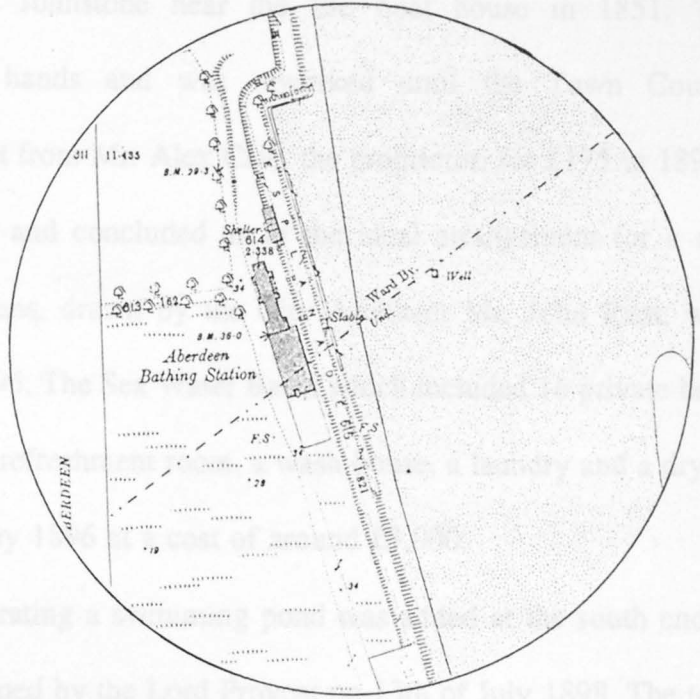
Baths and Wash House Entrance 1993



Side view of Pond Hall

Sea Bathing Station, Aberdeen

Address : The
Architect : Mr
Date : 1851
Listing : Designated



Address : The Esplanade, Aberdeen
Architect : Mr. John Rust, City Architect
Date : Opened 13th July 1898
Listing : Demolished

The swimming facility on the Aberdeen sea-shore evolved from private baths erected by Mr. Joseph Johnstone near the life boat house in 1851. This establishment changed hands and was reworked until the Town Council compulsarily purchased it from Mr. Alex Caie, the proprietor, for £175 in 1893.⁹⁷

The Council discussed and concluded as to the ideal arrangement for a new building in 1894 and plans, drawn by the City Architect Mr. John Rust, were approved in March of 1895. The Sea Water Baths which included 16 private baths (8 male and 8 female), a refreshment room, a wash house, a laundry and a drying room were opened in May 1896 at a cost of around £3,000.

A further wing incorporating a swimming pond was added at the south end of the building and was opened by the Lord Provost on 13th of July 1898. The total cost of the building, including the 1896 portion, was £12,000.⁹⁸

Original Facilities and Description

The complex included a pond of 90'x 35' surrounded by 45 changing boxes and a gallery for 1,200 spectators, 28 private baths and a Russian baths.

This building was a bizarre concoction of Italianate and baronial, constructed from red, pressed, Ruaben brick (from North Wales) with yellow fire brick dressings.

⁹⁷ Aberdeen Town Council Minutes, 4th September 1893, pp.296,298

⁹⁸ Aberdeen Journal, "Opening of New Swimming Pond", 14th July 1898, from Baths file [Aberdeen Library]

Built in two sections, the earlier northern one was symmetrical. A central block consisted of a central pedimented entrance flanked by 2 'verandah' bays. 2 stage Italianate towers, with bi-partite windows at ground level and Venetian lights above, finished the 4 corners and concealed water tanks. A decorative ventilator was centrally mounted on a hipped roof with terra cotta ridges. To the north was a 4 bay, hip-roofed wing block, while to the south the roof was altered to allow addition of a later 2 storey cross wing with turretted corners and a 70' polychromatic chimney stack. The pitched roof was capped by a central ventilator. Bi-partite and single lights broke the wall at ground floor with Venetian lights above.

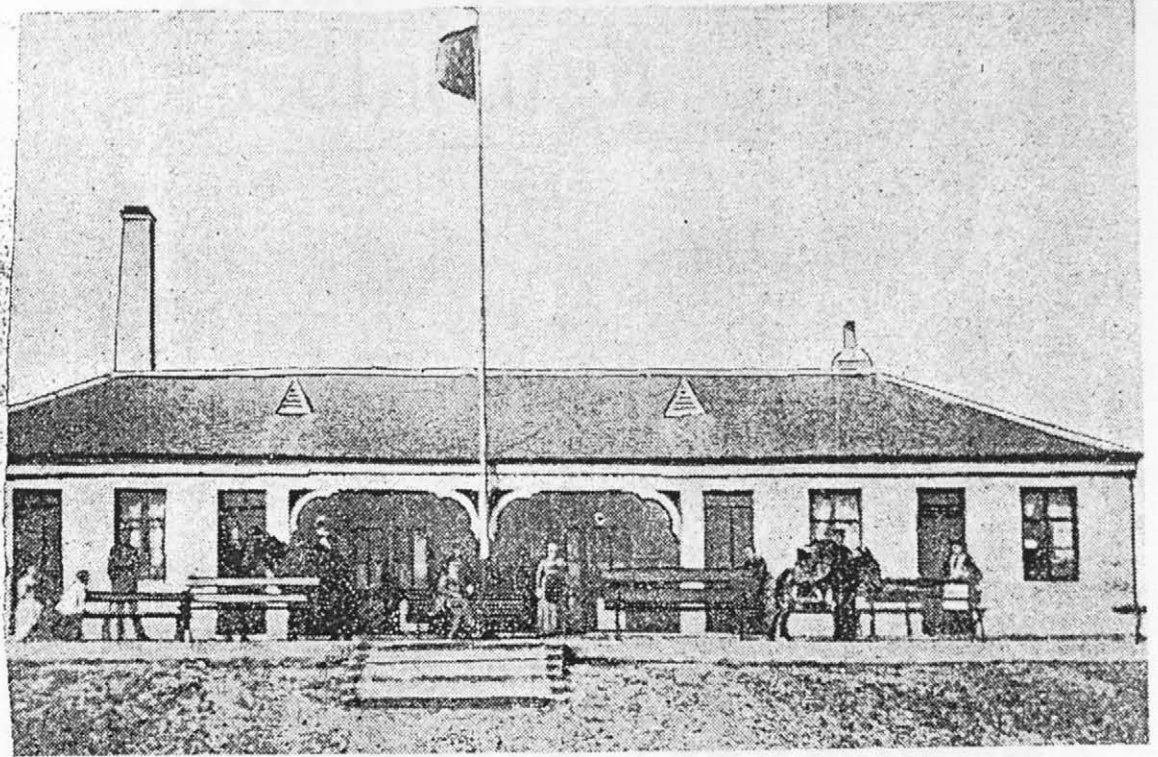
Both long elevations were similar except that the verandah area, around the entrance was glazed on the seaward side.

The pond hall was finished in red brick with steel brackets supporting a roof with cupolas and prismatic lights. The surrounding gallery had a pitch pine floor, an ornamental railing and cement dado to 4'. Pillars were painted blue with capitals picked out in green and gold.

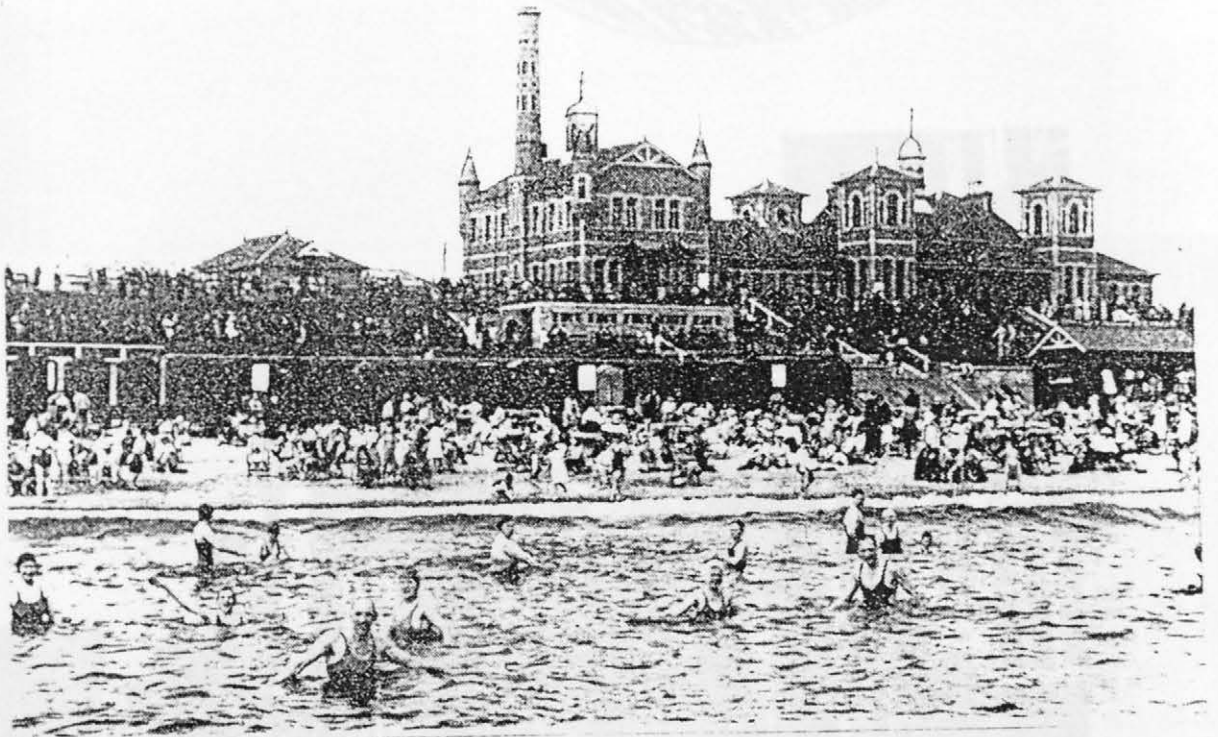
The first class private baths had tiled floors and walls while the second class had coloured concrete floors.

The Baths reopened on 21st June 1933 following a 'face-lift'. High maintenance costs and the council's unwillingness to spend money on the building led to their closure, on 16th July 1972; and demolition. The area was landscaped in readiness for the summer season of 1973.⁹⁹

⁹⁹ Aberdeen Evening Express, "Draining Away", 16th July 1972, from Baths file [Aberdeen Library]



Aberdeen Sea Bathing Station 1895



Seaward view of the Bathing Station c.1930

Leith Victoria, Edinburgh

LEITH VIC
Address
Architect
Date
Listing



Address : Junction Place, Leith, Edinburgh
Architect : George Simpson
Date : Friday 30th June 1899
Listing : B

At a Town Council meeting on 10th November 1896 a resolution to provide baths, under section 306 of the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act of 1892, was confirmed.¹⁰⁰ Following a meeting of the Council in March 1897 a deputation was sent to view existing baths in Glasgow, Liverpool, Chester, Blackpool, London and Brighton. Their report returned in July of the same year made twelve observations concerning the construction and fitting out of the proposed baths. They recommended tiling from floor to ceiling, that dressing boxes be raised by a step from the pool surround (a gutter being formed) and that any metal work should be galvanised.¹⁰¹ Tenders were accepted in October 1897 and the baths were opened on 30th June 1899 at a cost of approximately £12,000, some of which was borrowed from the Dundee Savings Bank and the National Bank of Scotland Limited.¹⁰²

Original Facilities

A pool of dimensions 75'x35' was constructed in compliance with the Parliament Act for public halls allowing it to seat 1000 to 1500 people if converted. Under normal conditions it could hold 600 spectators. Trapezes and rings hung over the water and a diving stage was placed at one end. 60 dressing boxes lined

¹⁰⁰ Leith Town Council Minutes, 10th November 1896, vol.1896-97, pp.12,13

¹⁰¹ *Ibid.*, 20th July 1897, Vol.1896-97, pp.501-507

¹⁰² *Ibid.*, 1st March 1898, Vol.1897-98, pp.161,162

the 4 walls of the pond hall. Other areas housed plunge baths, a wash house and a billiards room.

Plans of 25th November 1913 for additional plunge and Russian baths were delayed for further consideration and had not been advanced by 1916. 1955 saw the introduction of additional dressing accommodation while more recently in April 1993 a one million pound refurbishment plan was approved by Edinburgh District Council following a period of uncertainty and concern over the building's future.¹⁰³

Present Description

Constructed in red sandstone the Baths are built in 2 'Renaissance'.

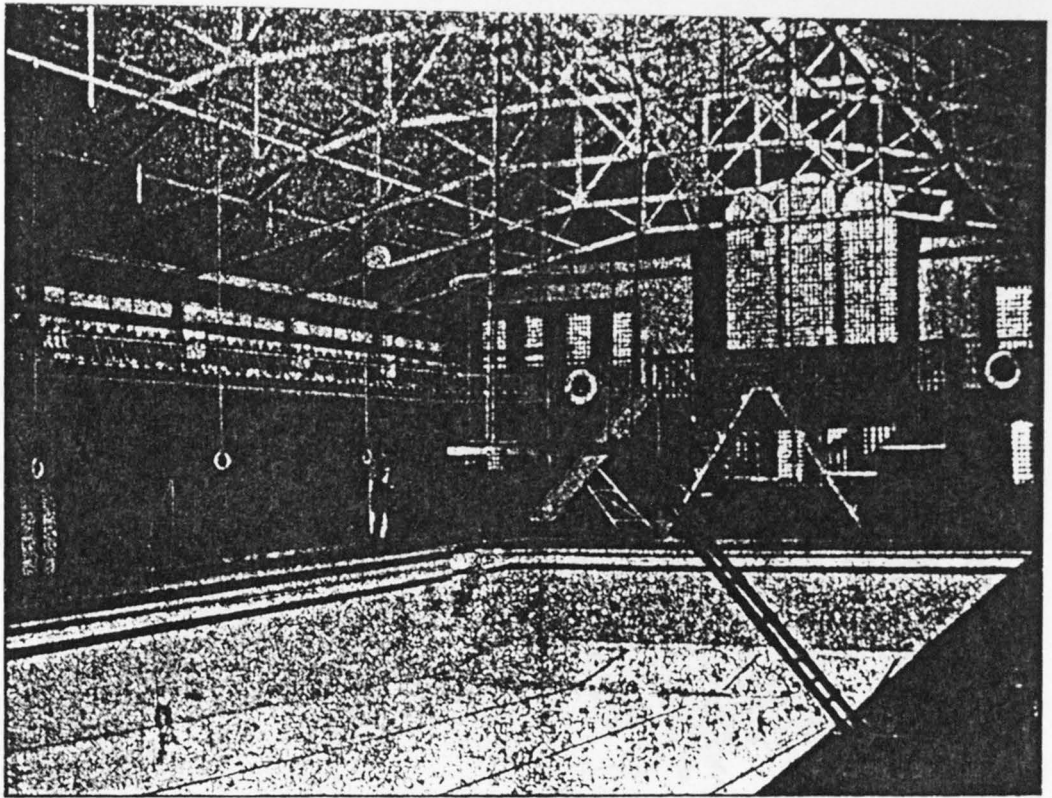
The south range is symmetrical with a tall pediment at the centre of a 2 storey, 3 bay block. Outer bays at first floor and all at ground have quadrupartite windows bound by a continuous sill course and moulded architrave. A 2 storey, round arched, central window, flanked by fluted pilasters sits below the plain pediment and entablature.

The 4 bay north range is of single storey with an advanced double round arched entrance bay below a semi-circular swan-necked pediment which rises above the wall head. A sculpted Leith coat of arms shield with a ship motife and the inscription "Sicillum Oppidi de Leith, Persevere," breaks through the pediment. Outer bays have plain bi-partite window openings.

Internally the vestibule is lit by an oval lantern with a commemorative panel naming the architect "George Simpson". Some original cornice work has survived.

¹⁰³ Herald and Post, "Baths to Get £1M Facelift", 18th March 1993, p.3

Many pool fittings remain although the building has been substantially retiled. Steel trusses on cast-iron columns support a lanterned roof. The balcony is cantilevered from the columns over original changing boxes on 3 (formerly 4) sides of the pond hall.



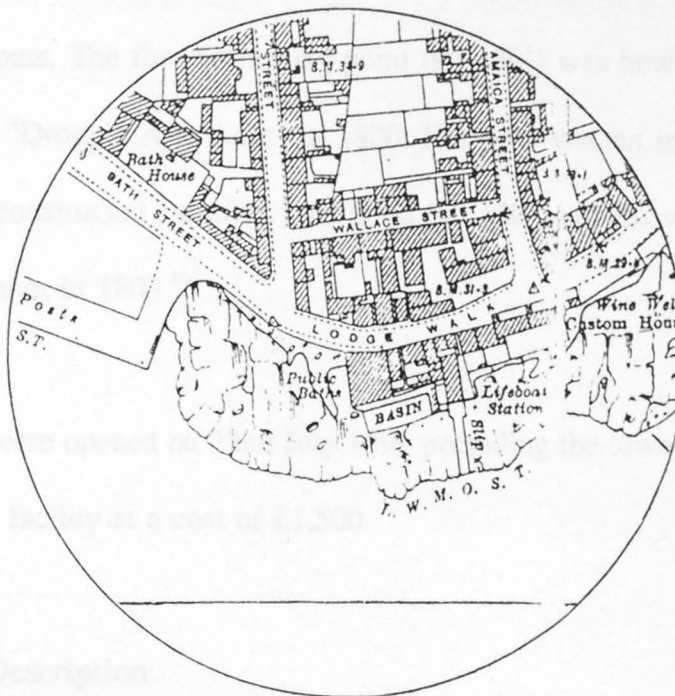
Interior of Pond Hall 1899



Pediment with Leith Coat of Arms

Peterhead

Address : Lodge Walk, Peterhead
 Architect : Mr. Anderson, London
 Date : Saturday 22nd July 1899
 Listing : Demolished



Original Facilities and Description

The building was located on a steeply sloping site adjacent to the large outdoor pond. The majority of the accommodation was reached by a descending flight of steps from the entrance, hence there was no surprising show of frost erosion.

The establishment had 5 shower baths offering hot or cold sea or fresh water to bathers.

The pond had had tiled walls and concrete floors with the 40 x 24 pond itself lined in enamel tiles with guide bands. For grading from surrounding works

¹ Finlay, James Thomas *A History of Peterhead*, Aberdeen 1913, p. 26

² *The Aberdeen Journal*, 'Demolished Customary Baths', 26th June 1899, p. 4 and 5

Address : Lodge Walk, Peterhead
Architect : Mr. Anderson, London
Date : Saturday 22nd July 1899
Listing : Demolished

The pursuit of health and the taking of the waters is an intrinsic part of Peterhead. Its street pattern testifies to its eighteenth century origins as a spa retreat of considerable repute. The first swimming pond (90'x30') was hewn out of coastal rock by James "Droggie Arbuthnot" in 1800. His pool was an instant success. The Freemasons constructed a similar, rival pond (40'x20') in 1802 which was taken over by Arbuthnot in 1803.¹⁰⁴

The Corporation Baths were opened on 22nd July 1899 providing the town with its first indoor swimming facility at a cost of £1,500.

Original Facilities and Description

The building was located on a steeply sloping site adjacent to the large out-door pond. The majority of the accommodation was reached by a descending flight of stairs from the entrance, hence there was "...no imposing show of front elevation..."¹⁰⁵

The establishment had 5 slipper baths offering hot or cold sea or fresh water to bathers.

The pond hall had tiled walls and concrete floors with the 48'x24' pond itself lined in enamel tiles with guide bands, "...for guiding those swimming under

¹⁰⁴ Findlay, James Thomas A History of Peterhead, Aberdeen 1933, p.206

¹⁰⁵ The Aberdeen Journal, "Peterhead Corporation Baths", 20th June 1899, p.4 col.8

water." 13 dressing boxes lined one side of the hall. The space was lit by roof lights.

A Turkish bath was included and consisted of inner and outer chambers. The shampooing and cooling rooms had concrete floors. Openings were finished in Keen's cement and skirtings in Portland cement.

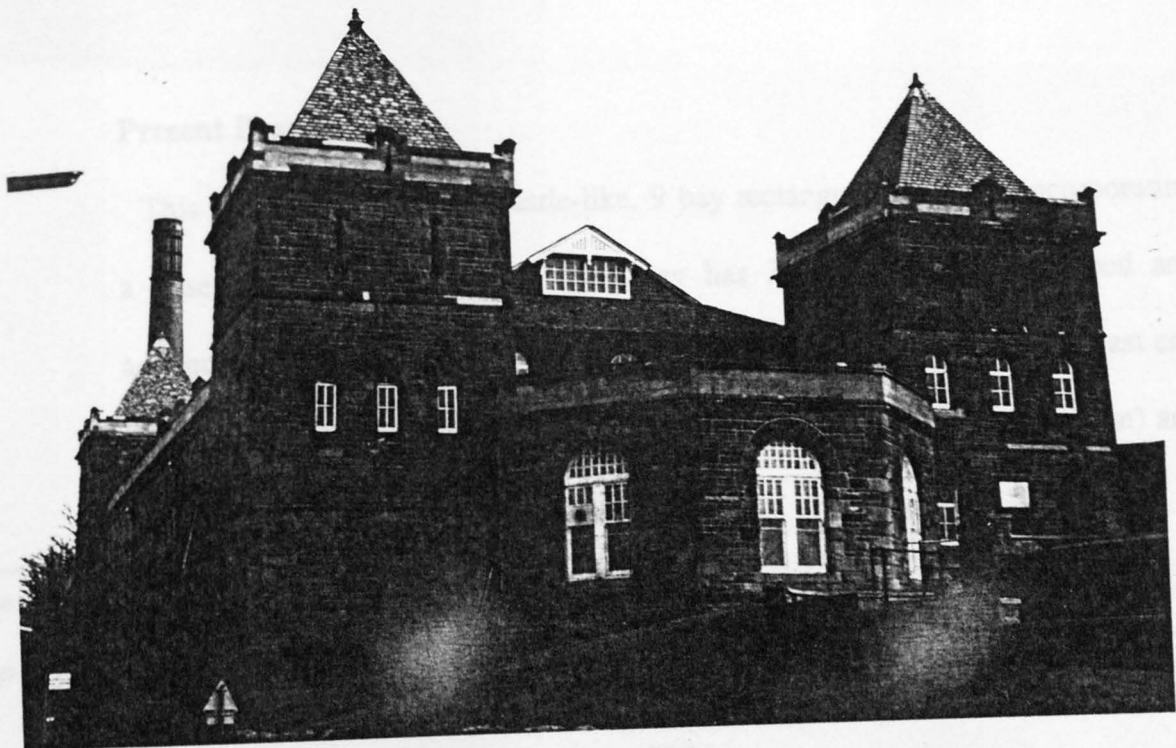
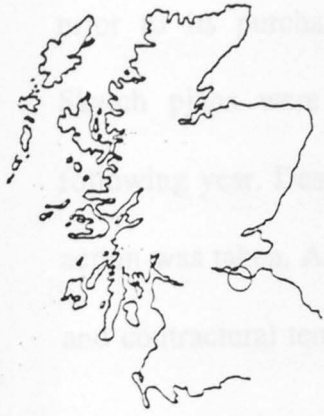
The out-door pond was renovated. Dressing boxes added to the east and a high rock (a favourite with divers) was removed.

Due to its siting an Evans hydraulic pump was employed to raise the sea water to the 8 h.p. boiler which supplied the radiators in the Turkish baths, the slipper baths and the swimming pond. Water from the new pond could be drained into the old, open air one when the tide was low.

The Baths were demolished in the early 1980's.

Glenogle, Edinburgh

Address
Architect
Date
Listing



Address : 22, Glenogle Road, Edinburgh, EH3 5JB
Architect : Robert Morham, the City
Date : 1900
Listing : Subject to listing

The site, between Saxe Coburg Place and Glenogle Road, was used for grazing prior to its purchase; negotiated by Councillor J.A.Robertson for £1,550.¹⁰⁶ Sketch plans were commissioned in September of 1896 and approved the following year. Despite objection forwarded by local proprietors during 1897 no action was taken. Application to the Dean of Guild was made in September 1898 and contractual tenders were accepted by July of 1890.¹⁰⁷

Original Facilities

The complex included a 75'x35' swimming pond with surrounding changing boxes, slipper baths surrounding the gallery, and a gymnasium.

The building remains in use and has remained largely unaltered except for the addition of modern changing cubicles of 1970.

Present Description

This large, red sandstone, castle-like, 9 bay rectangular structure incorporating a basement, 2 storeys and a clerestorey has 3 bay pyramidally capped and advanced corner towers. The west 2 towers flank a canted bay while the east end of the building is terminated by a boiler room, weights room (formerly gym) and

¹⁰⁶ Edinburgh Town Council Minutes, 31st March 1896, Vol.1895-96, p.265.

¹⁰⁷ Edinburgh Town Council Minutes, 14th June 1898, Vol.1897-98, pp.436,437

a massive brick stack.

The basement is blind to Glenogle Road except for a moulded, chamfered, round-arched entrance to the north-east tower with cast-iron gates and timber/glazed double leafed doors and returns.

The first floor has a continuous string course at springer level rising over 9 arched openings on the main block and 1 on each corner tower.

The second floor has 15 round arched openings (with sill string course) on the main block with 3 similar on each corner tower below a machicolated parapet. The parapet cope is shouldered over arrow slits and continues across the towers as a string course. Towers have an additional blind floor and parapet antefixae.

At the west end of the building 3 round arched lights are found in a canted bay, below a slated, gambrel roof with eaves barge boarding over a 24 pane horizontal light.

A small quantity of yellow sandstone rubble and ashlar work, including a pedimented opening with rusticated Ionic pilasters and architrave brackets, does little to disguise the building from Saxe Coburg Place.

Multi-level access leads to the ground floor foyer which is lit by an oval opening through the first floor to a skylight above. The ticket office retains its original turnstile by Le Grande and Sutcliffe, London.

Stair access to the spectator gallery is from the foyer. A top-lit, seated alcove surrounding an oval balustraded opening sits off the landing.

All finishes remain intact: tiled dado, coloured concrete steps, terrazzo flooring and timber work.

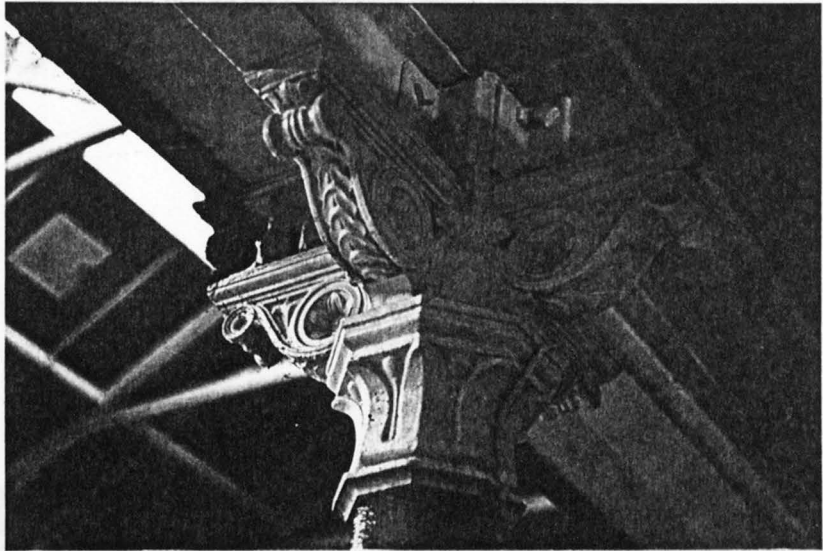
The pond hall has many original fittings and finishes. Console bracketed, composite capitalled cast-iron columns support the balcony (over modern changing boxes inserted 1970) and the timber roof structure, with a clerestorey raised by

iron brackets. The space is naturally lit by continuous ridge lights and clerestory glazing. The roof is finished internally with tongue and groove boarded panels.

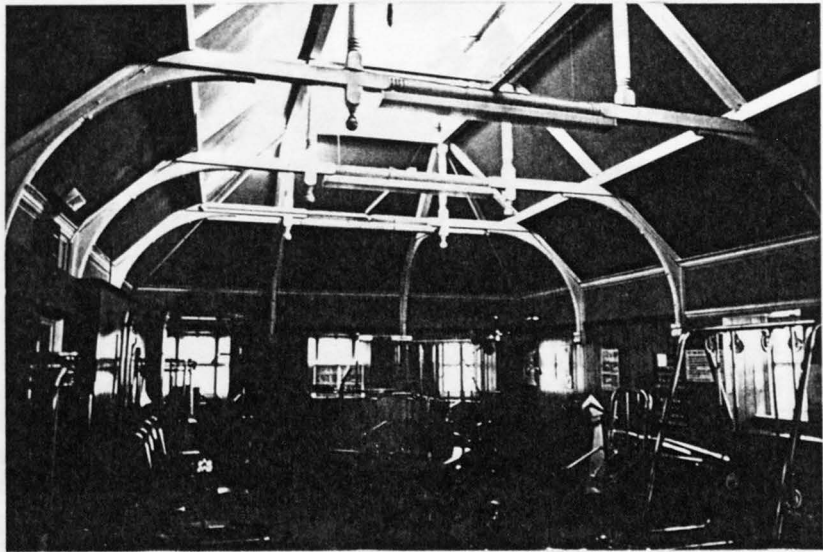
Pond walls are of ceramic brick recessed at drains with a blue band at water level and brass hand-rails. The pool floor has been retiled.



The Pond Hall

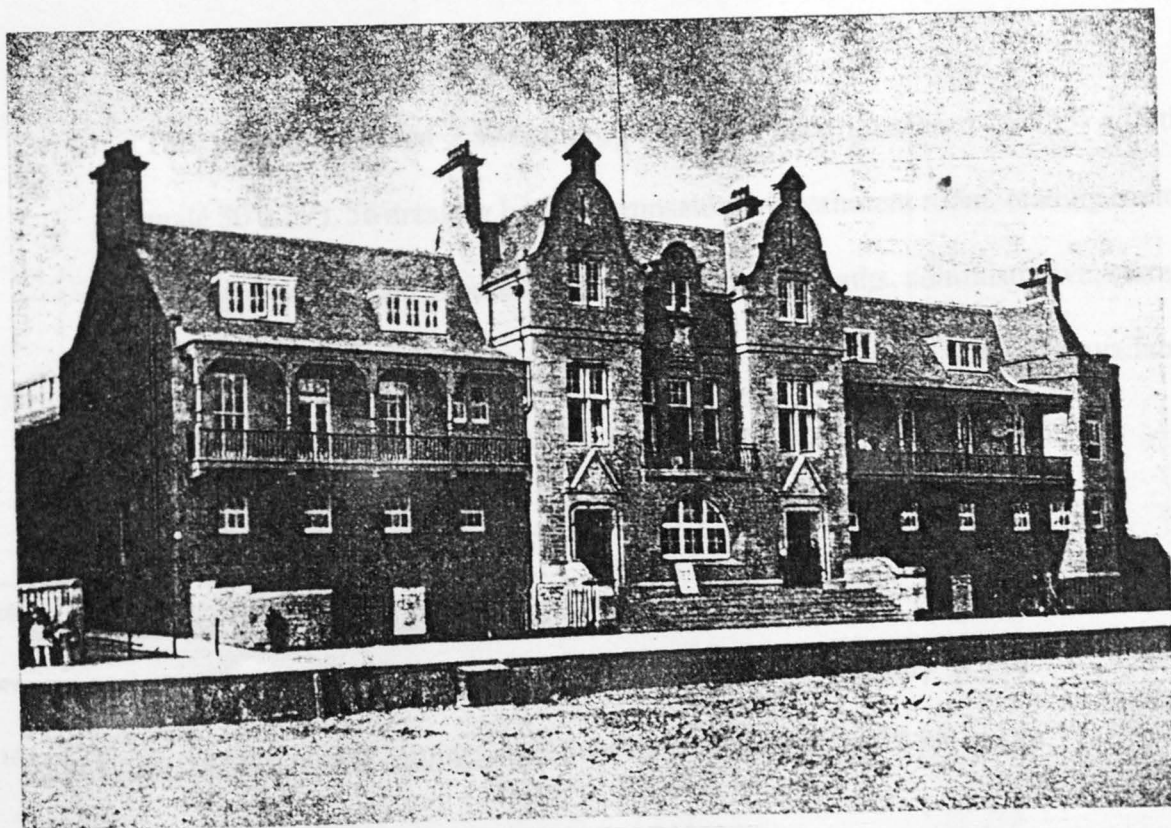
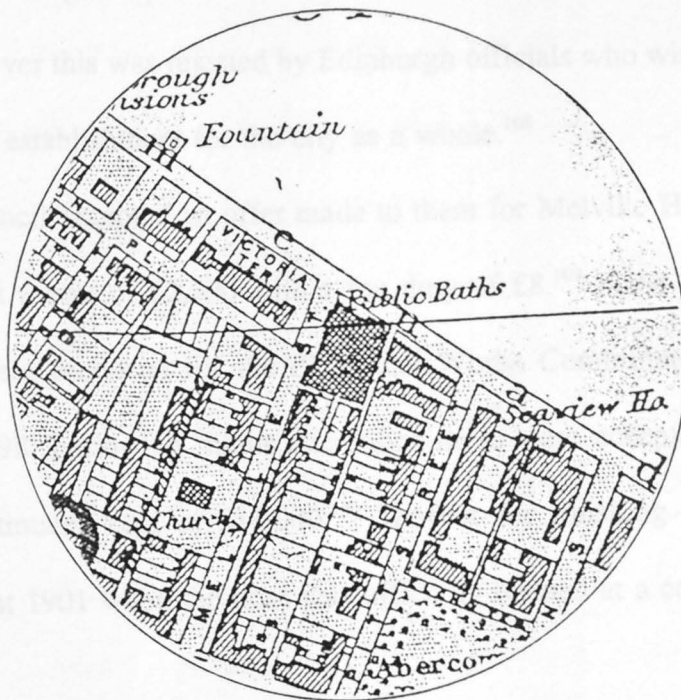


Detail of Cast Capital



The Weights Room (Former Gymnasium)

Portobello, Edinburgh



Address : The Promenade, Portobello, Edinburgh
Architect : Robert Morham, the City assisted by Mr. Williamson
Date : 1901
Listing : Not

Portobello representatives stipulated the provision of public baths as a condition of amalgamation with Edinburgh. A provisional sum of £8,000 was suggested for such a construction, however this was rejected by Edinburgh officials who wished to provide a high quality establishment for the city as a whole.¹⁰⁸

In March 1897 the Council accepted an offer made to them for Melville House and the adjoining land at a cost of £2,500 with a feu duty of £8.¹⁰⁹ Plans for a bathing establishment were produced for the Plans and Works Committee and submitted in January 1898. Following minor alterations these were accepted in February 1898 at an estimated cost of £18,000.¹¹⁰ Tenders for finishing work were accepted throughout 1901 when the pool was officially opened at a cost of over £25,000.

Original Facilities

This scheme provided 2 swimming ponds (the male measured 75'x35' and the female 50'x25'), 56 dressing boxes, gymnasium, refreshment room, reading rooms, smoking room, private slipper baths, spray baths, sitz baths, administrative, storage and a boiler house. The luxury of Turkish and Russian baths were also available. This facility was richly finished in tiling, jasper, figured Irish green

¹⁰⁸ Edinburgh Sea Water Baths, Potobello, Edinburgh 1901, pp.9,10

¹⁰⁹ Edinburgh Town Council Minutes, 23rd March 1897, Vol. 1896-97, p.259

¹¹⁰ Edinburgh Town Council Minutes, 8th February 1898, Vol. 1897-98, p.183

marble, red Ruabon brick, carved timber and the Sudatorium had circular and star shaped leaded lights in a central cupola.

Water was pumped from 400 yards out at sea through the latest filter system providing the ponds with heated sea water and allowing the choice of hot or cold salt or fresh water showers.

By 1913 the pump was worn out and was replaced by one supplied by the "Worthington Pump Company Limited" costing £79/15/0.¹¹¹

As part of city wide improvement of baths "...a large part of the flooring and the whole of the pipe-work..."¹¹² at Portobello was renewed. In the mid 1960's the pool was 'upgraded'. An improvement scheme was completed at the end of March 1967 including new lighting, glass ceiling and major alteration to the preswim area. The total cost of work amounted to £48,000.¹¹³

During the 1980s two further contracts were undertaken. The first, in 1984, involved installation of an energy conservation system and retiling of the small pond (at a cost of £155,000).¹¹⁴ The second, in 1986, provided a new health and fitness centre and cafeteria (at a cost of £365,000).¹¹⁵

Supply of sea water to the ponds was stopped in 1986 due to silting of the line

¹¹¹ Edinburgh Town Council Minutes, 15th July 1913, Vol.1912-13, p.618

¹¹² Edinburgh Evening News, "Public Baths, Are they becoming unpopular?", Friday 10th December 1937, from Baths newspaper cuttings [Edinburgh Room, Central Library], Vol.1, p.1

¹¹³ The Scotsman, "Modernisation of Portobello Indoor Baths", Thursday 31st August 1967, from Baths newspaper cuttings [Edinburgh Room, Central Library], Vol.1, p.83

¹¹⁴ Evening News, "£155,000 Splash at Porty", 1st March 1984 from Baths newspaper cuttings [Edinburgh Room, Central Library], Vol.2, p.85

¹¹⁵ Evening News, "Porty Baths Magic", 2nd September 1986 from Baths newspaper cuttings [Edinburgh Room, Central Library], Vol.2, p.87

and associated problems.¹¹⁶

The centre remains in use.

Present Description

Built in red Dumfriesshire sand stone, this long, 2 storey and attic building has a 3 storey, central, symmetrical, projecting entrance block of 3 bays. A flight of stone steps leads to either male or female entrances which have moulded surrounds and intricately carved (but eroded) equilateral pediments which flank a central, round arched light to the ticket office. Above the central bay is a recessed area with a cast-iron balcony accessed from the former refreshment room door (which has windows to its sides). A carved panel over the door is again badly eroded. A pedimented bi-partite dormer is located at the eaves.

Dutch gablets, over bi-partite openings at first and quadrupartite at second floors, conclude the outer bays of the entrance block.

4 bay timber balconies extend to east and west with the west terminated by an octagonal tower which compromises the overall symmetry of the facade.

The entrance vestibule is divided into two by large timber Doric columns leading to respective male/female changing areas (formerly slipper baths). Original turnstiles and marble terrazzo floor covering survive.

The ladies pool is now used for teaching. It retains some original pool tiling and hand rails, a timber trussed roof and a continuous ridge light.

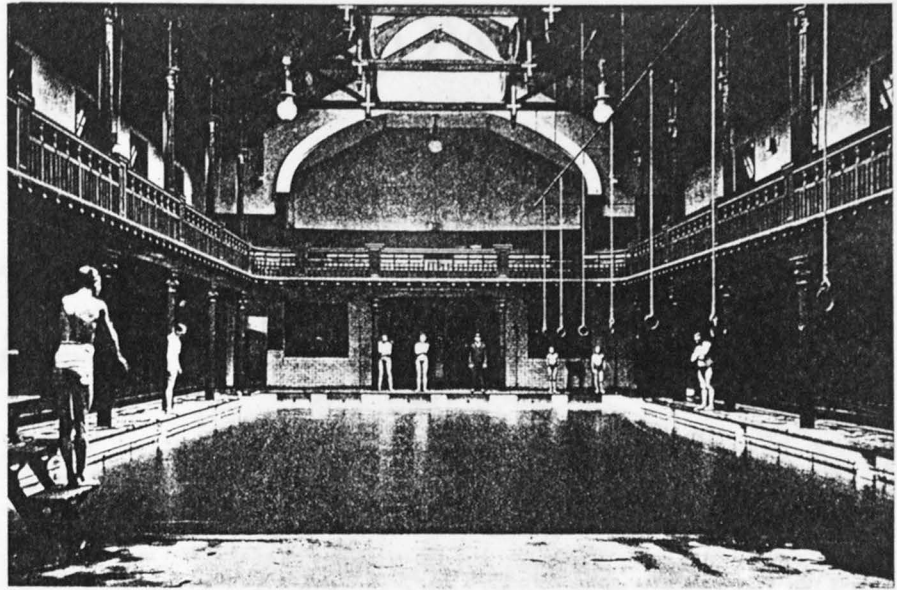
The gents pool was transformed in 1966-67 being completely refinished internally. A suspended ceiling has been introduced, cast-iron columns have been

¹¹⁶ Evening News, 15th October 1986 from Baths newspaper cuttings [Edinburgh Room, Central Library], Vol.2, p.90

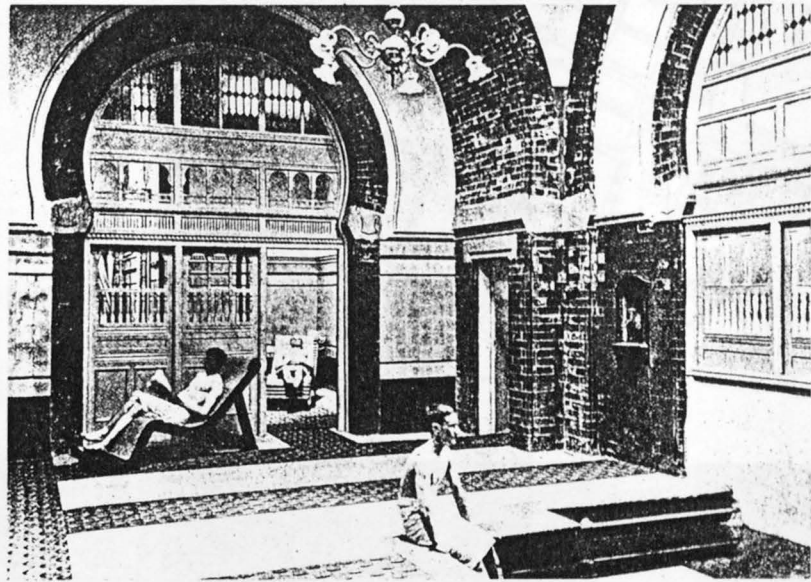
encased in tiles and a viewing gallery formed from the original gallery (now hidden) at one end. The original trusses and fixtures may still exist above this "International Style" skin.

Turkish baths have remained partially in use but are currently closed for refurbishment. Some finishes have been altered or removed.

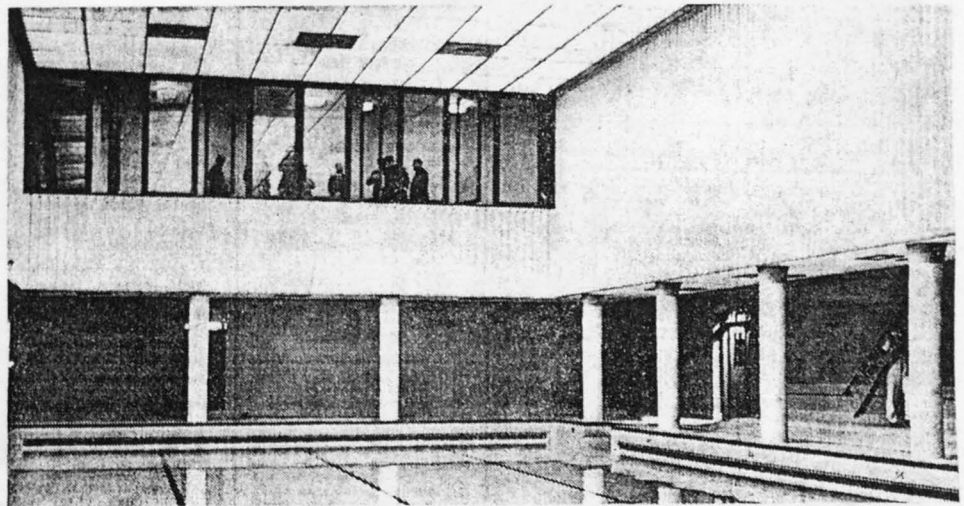
Former Rest rooms still retain a timber panelled dado and window reveals.



Male Pond 1900



Turkish Bath 1900



Male Pond Hall 1967

Govan, Glasgow

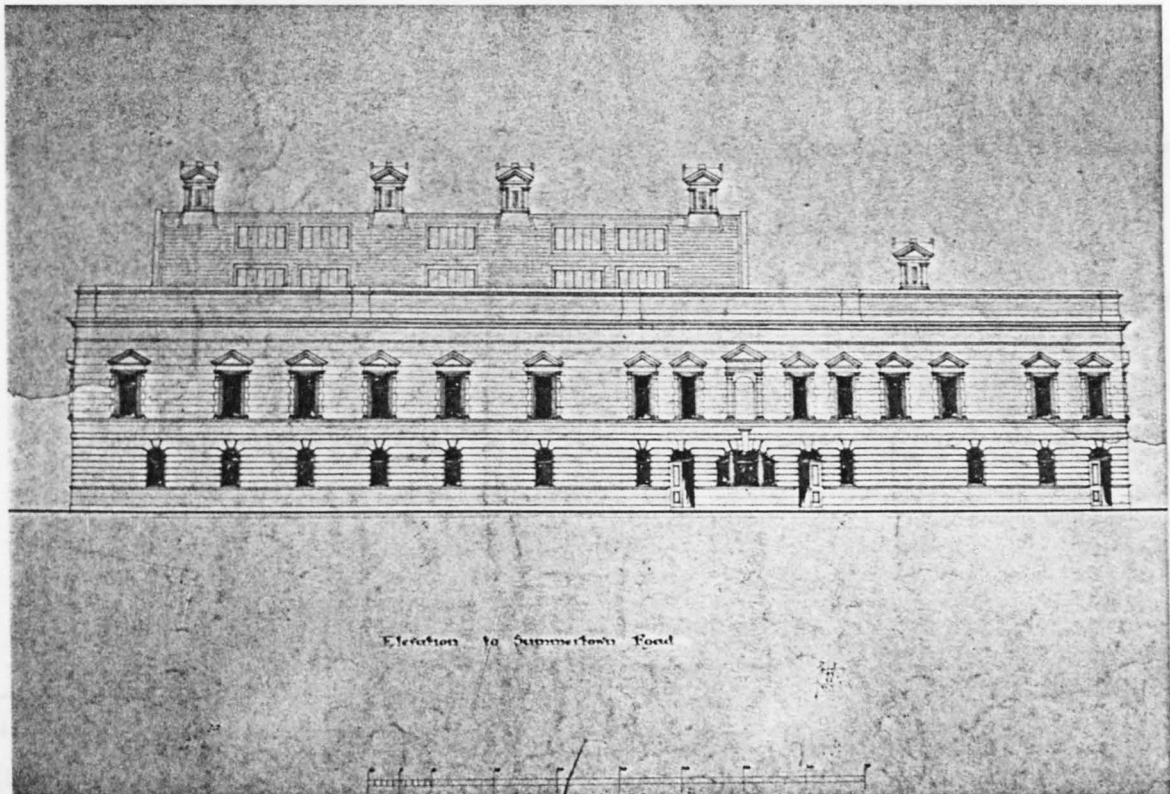
COYAN WATER

Address

Architect

Date

Listing



Address : Summerton Road, Govan, Glasgow
Architect : Presumably the City Architect or Engineer
Date : Opened 7th September 1901
Listing : Demolished.

Opened on 7th September 1901 these Baths provided for the south-west of Glasgow and were built at a cost of £25,056.¹¹⁷

Original Facilities and Description

They included two regulation size pools (i.e. 75'x35'), a gymnasium and 23 private slipper baths.

The building consisted of a long 2 storey, 15 bay elevation to Summerton Road with horizontal rustication at ground level and all plain rounded openings except entrance doors which flanked a tripartite arched opening with keystone below a blind pedimented opening at first floor. The remainder of the first floor had pilastered and pedimented square openings below a continuous blocking course above. The elevation was returned by a single bay to Albion Street.

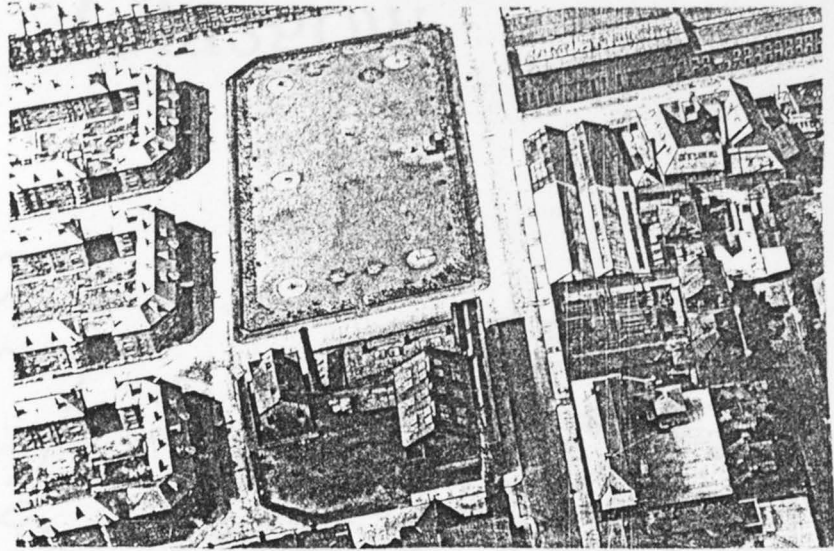
The main block to Albion Street comprised of the length of the pond with 3 ordered roof ventilators and 5 circular windows, terminated to the south by a boiler house block with a round chimney stack and arched double leaf gates.

Internally, timber trussed, sky-lit roofs and a raked gallery were supported by Tuscan cast-iron columns in the Male pond. The Female pond was similar except that there was no gallery. Timber changing cubicles lined 3 sides of each pond hall.

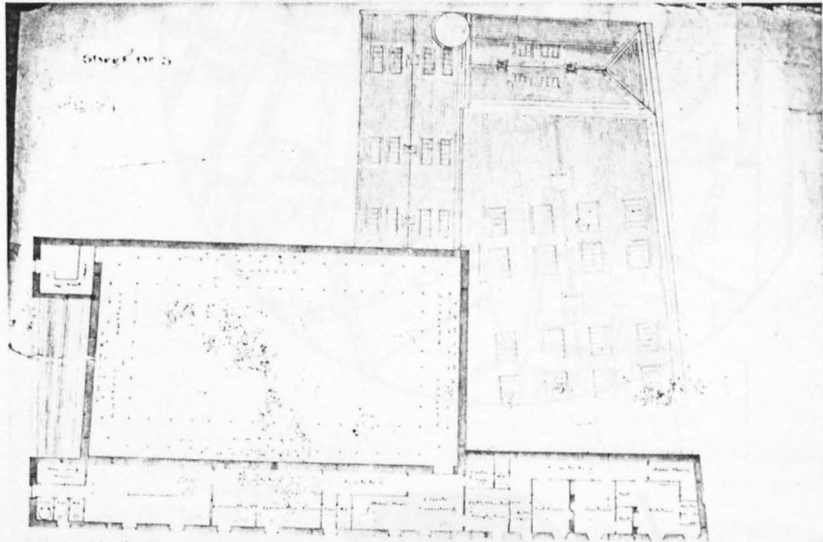
¹¹⁷ Municipal Glasgow, Its Evolution and Enterprises, Glasgow Corporation 1904, p.99(tab.)

The establishment was closed in 1982 and demolished because of the poor condition of the boiler and the proximity of the revitalised Harhill Baths nearer Govan's centre.¹¹⁸

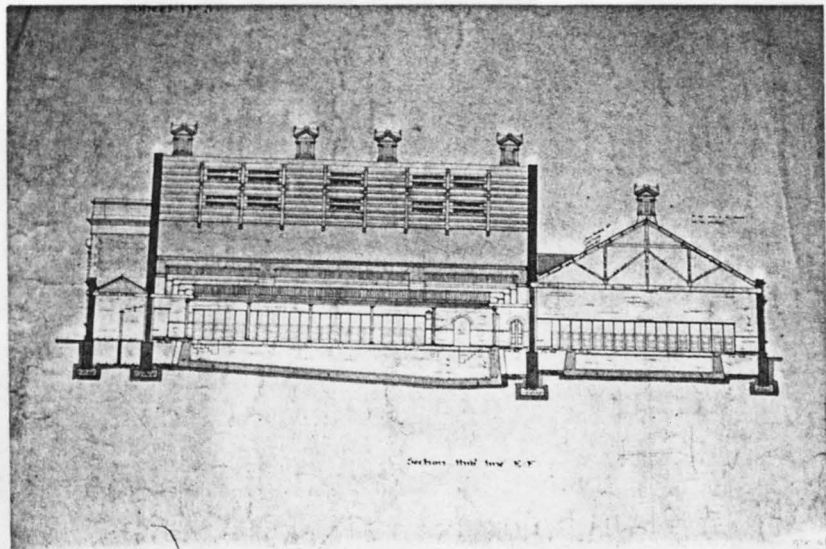
¹¹⁸ From the Department of Leisure Services, Glasgow City Council.



Govan Baths from the Air



Warrant Plan Showing Male Pond



Section Through Pond Halls

Whitevale St., Glasgow



Address : 75-89, Whitevale Street, Glasgow
Architect : Office of Public Works - A.B.McDonald and W.Sharp
Date : Opened 17th May 1902
Listing : B

This most all encompassing complex, built by the Glasgow Corporation, was formally opened on 17th May 1902 to the design of A.B.McDonald and W.Sharp.

Original Facilities

Facilities included 2 ponds of dimensions 75'x 40' and 50'x 25' surrounded by timber changing boxes, slipper and spray baths, a gymnasium with a timber floor and all modern equipment, tiled Turkish baths, a reading room and washing stalls for 66 people. The galleries in the pond hall were designed to accommodate up to 520 sitting and 250 standing and had wrought-iron balusters and fold-up seats. The platform round the hall held 550 spectators. The pond itself could be drained to allow seating.¹¹⁹

Closed in 1988 parts of the building are now used as a buildings materials store and a meeting hall for the Gallowgate Tennants Association. The majority of its area is unused.

Present Description

This building is in a Renaissance style with Art Nouveau overtones and is constructed largely of red brick with red and white sandstone dressings and a polished granite plynth. The 2 and 3 storey, 11 bay front is almost symmetrical.

Bays are marcated by pilasters which are terminated at the parapet wall by a round

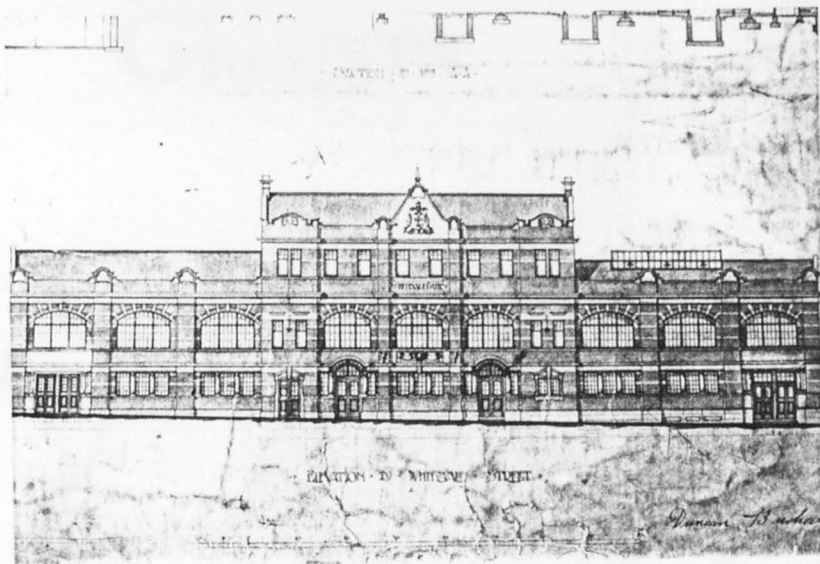
¹¹⁹ Municipal Glasgow, Its Evolution and Enterprises, Glasgow Corporation 1904, p.99(tab.)

pediment detail. Floor levels are emphasised by continuous string courses.

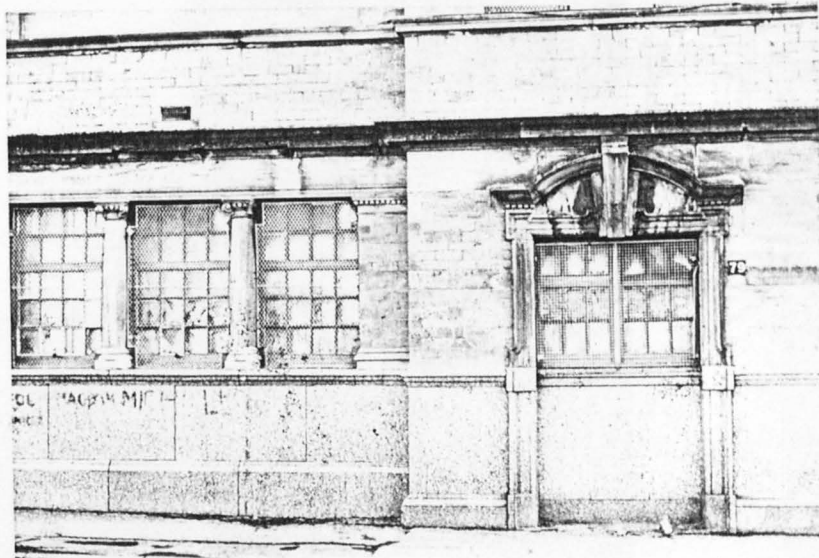
The central, slightly advanced 5 bays of 3 storeys have a parapet pediment with an obelisk over the central bay and carved coat of arms. Twin openings below are set over a further carved panel reading "WHITEVALE BATHS". The outer 2 bays have mainly bi-partite and twin rectangular openings with rounded pediments reading "A.D." and "1896" respectively. Arched, hooded doorways, formerly with double leaf doors (now bricked) and multi lights over and to the sides, flank the tripartite central bay which sits below a carved panel.

The majority of first floor openings have segmental arches with chamfered jambs over tri-partite windows separated by mini Ionic columns (except for terminal bays which have double doors at ground floor).

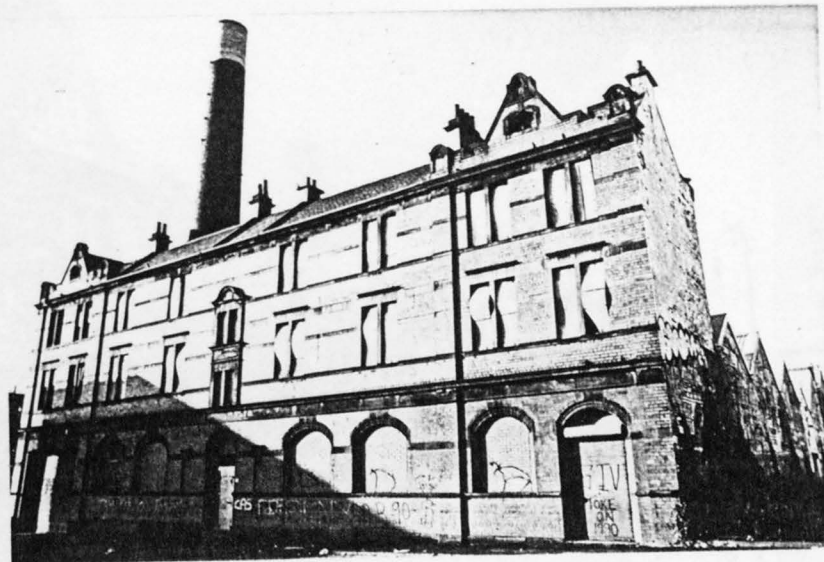
Internally, pond halls have arched steel trusses supporting a roof containing skylight strips.



Water Colour Elevation as Proposed



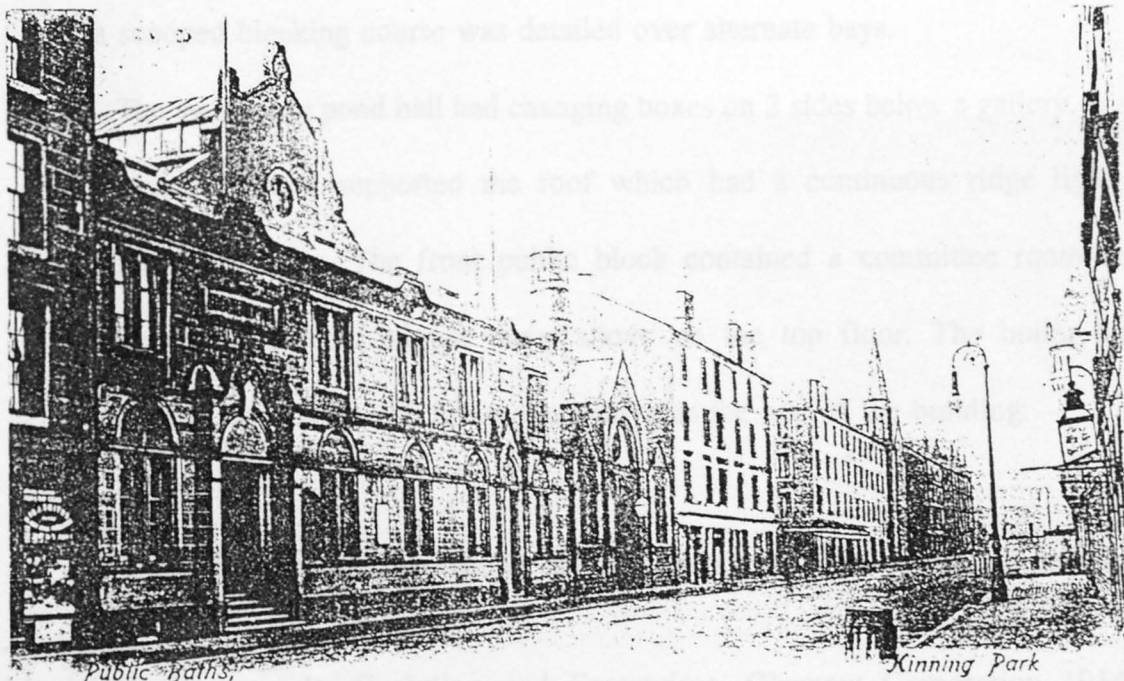
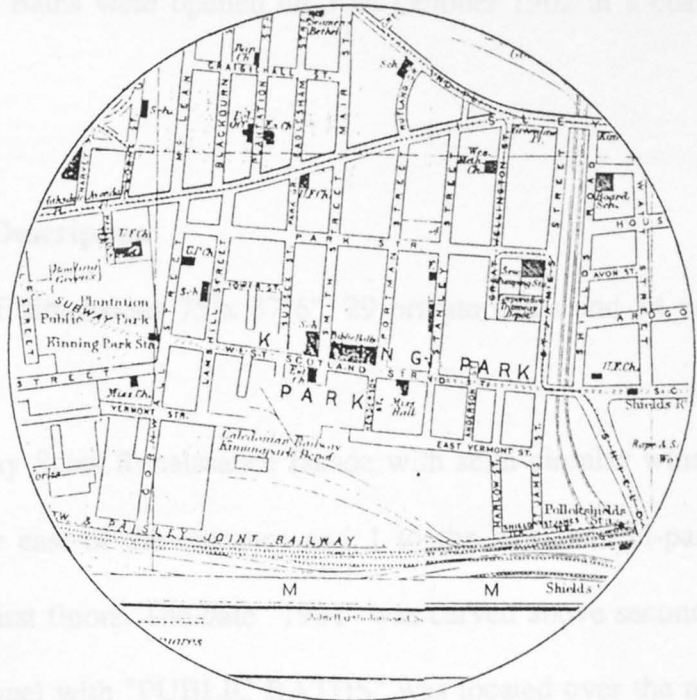
Granite Dado, Red Brick and Sandstone Dressings



Accommodation Block to Rear of Complex

Kinning Park, Glasgow

Address
Architect
Date
Listing



Published by J. Keohedy, 125 W. Scotland St

Address : 107, West Scotland Street, Glasgow
Architect : Donald Bruce and E.A.B.Hay
Date : Opened 30th October 1902
Listing : Demolished

Evidence of further Corporation provision of Bath and Wash House buildings in the south of the city, the Baths were opened on 30th October 1902 at a cost of £15,980.¹²⁰

Original Facilities and Description

Included was a pond of dimensions 75'x 37'6", 29 private baths and 34 wash house stalls.

These Baths had a 6 bay Scots Renaissance facade with semi-circular window pediments. 4 bays to the east of the entrance and 1 to the west had bi-partite windows at ground and first floors. The date "1901" was carved above secondary entrance, and a carved panel with "PUBLIC BATHS" was located over the main entrance. Band courses ran accross the building at first floor and at eaves where a scooped blocking course was detailed over alternate bays.

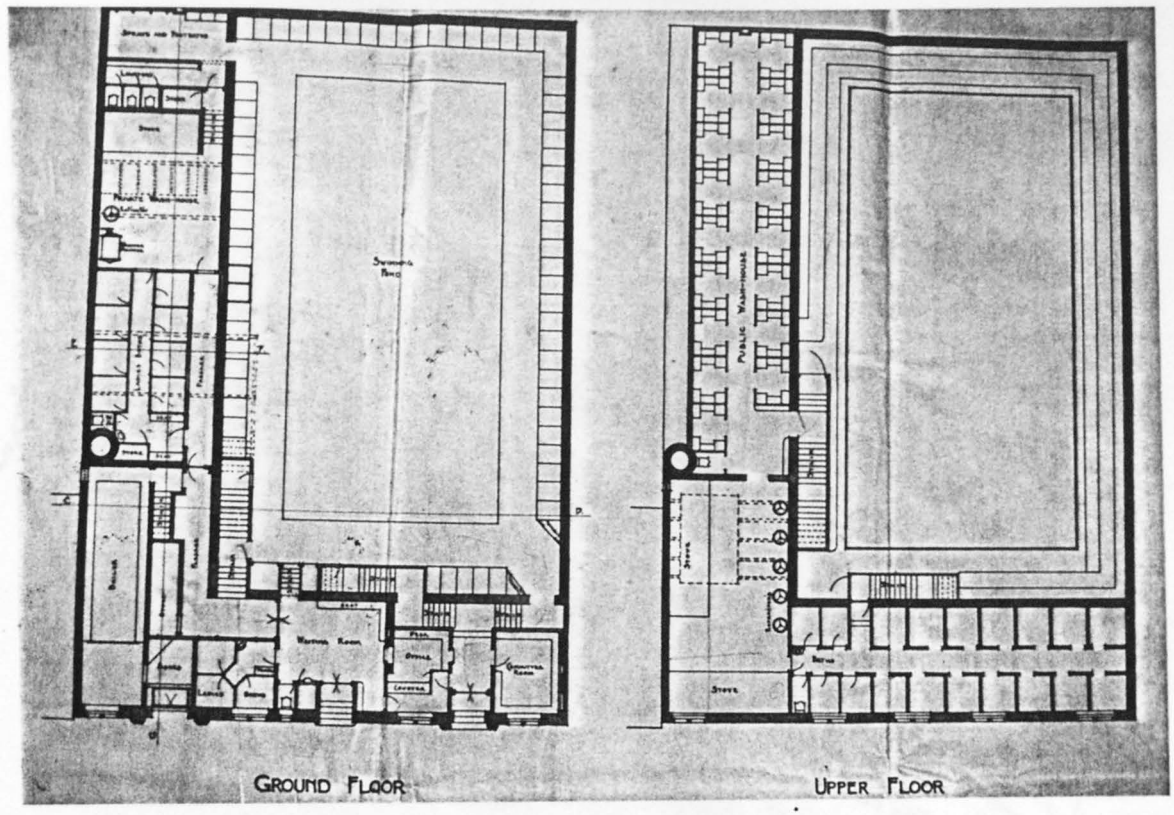
The swimming pond hall had changing boxes on 3 sides below a gallery. A steel trussed structure supported the roof which had a continuous ridge light and ventilator lantern. The front public block contained a committee room and a caretakers flat with slipper baths above on the top floor. The boiler house, chimney stack and wash house were towards the rear of the building.

The establishment continued in use until March of 1973 when it was demolished

¹²⁰ Municipal Glasgow, Its Evolution and Enterprises, Glasgow Corporation 1914, p.99(tab.)

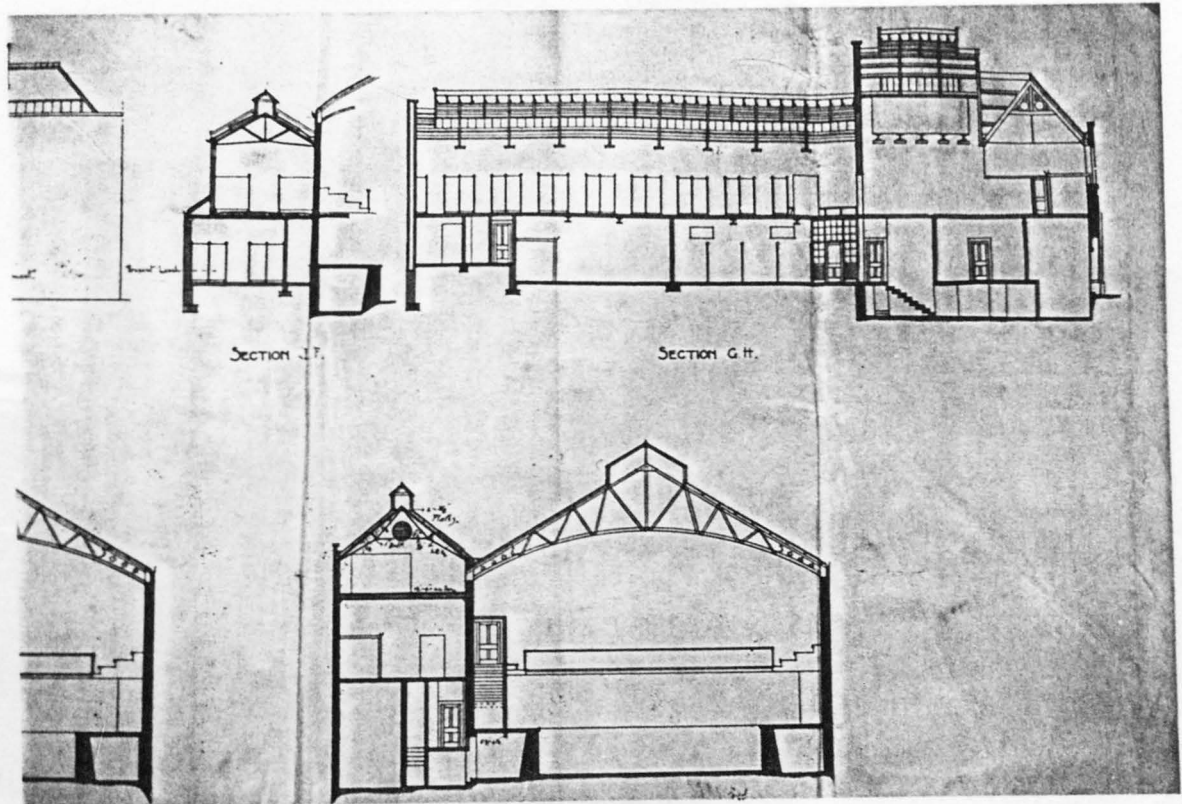
to make way for the Renfrew motorway development.¹²¹

¹²¹ The Govan Press, "K.P. Bath's Future", Friday 9th February 1973, p.7



GROUND FLOOR

UPPER FLOOR



SECTION J-J.

SECTION G-G.

Plans and Sections as Proposed

CLYDEBANK

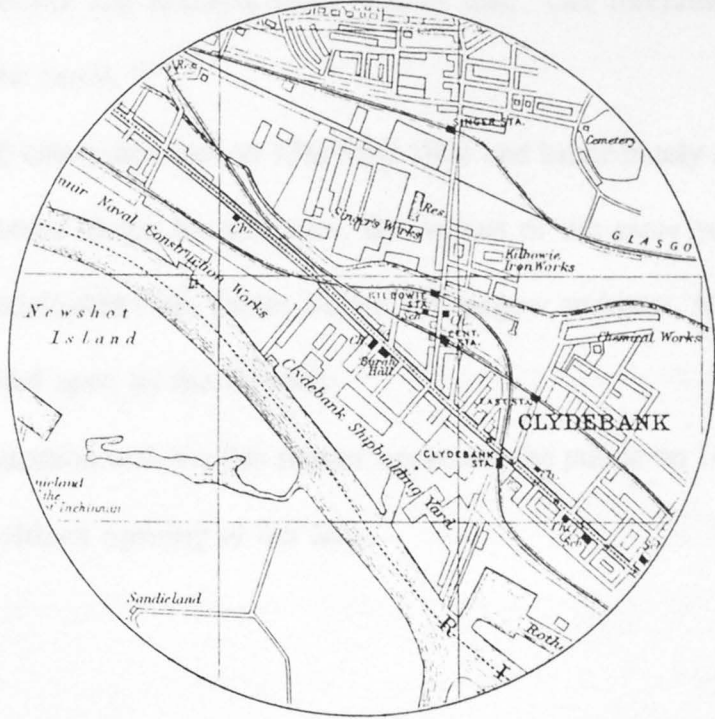
Clydebank

Address

Architect

Date

Listing



Address : Hall Street, Clydebank
Architect : James Miller, 15 Blythswood Square, Glasgow
Date : Opened 6th May 1902
Listing : Demolished

Shore sites were rapidly accumulated by industrial expansion around the docks in Clydebank. The Clydebank and Renfrew Press records that, "Our forefathers had to take their dip in the canal."¹²²

The first Baths and Hall committee met on 13th May 1901 and immediately set about obtaining much needed Baths for the town. By August of the same year drawings had been commissioned from James Miller, a Glasgow architect, with fine detailing being decided upon by the Council.

The Baths, built in conjunction with the fire station, opened to the public on 14th May 1902 following an official opening of 6th May.

Original Facilities and Description

Included was a swimming pond 50'x25'(supplied by the Duntocher and Dalmuir Water Committee at a modified rate) and slipper baths. Turnstiles were installed at the entrance to check admission.

This simply styled Renaissance building was built in yellow ashlar. The main range consisted of a symmetrical gable with a central, sexpartite, segmentally arched opening with stone mullions and a corniced transome at springer level. Male and female entrances had moulded architraves which were separated by 5 lights all below a cornice and flanked by round arched windows.

¹²² Clydebank and Renfrew Press, 9th May 1902

To the south was a low hipped roof with 2 double lights, and adjacent a segmentally arched boiler house entrance with steps. A square brick chimney rose at the rear of the building.

Internally the pond hall had arched steel trusses supporting a timber roof with skylighting at eaves. The pond was finished in white ceramic tiles with curves replacing corners. Tile changing cubicles were built on two sides of the pond and supported a slightly cantilevered balcony with timber balusters and hand rail.

The foyer had a painted dado.

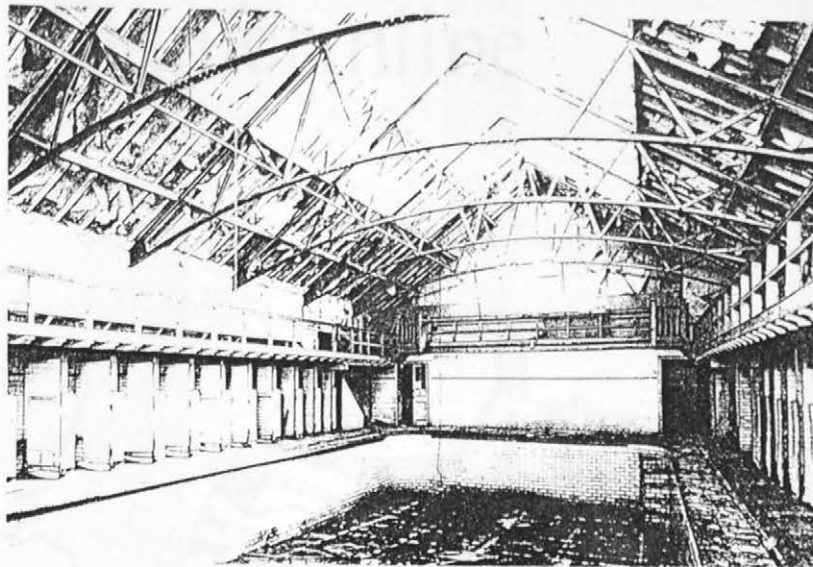
Clydebank Swimming Club held its inaugural gala in October 1903. The need for further washing facilities saw the introduction of 12 hot baths necessitating the installation of another calorifier in 1904. In 1910 a "Royals" filtration plant was also incorporated.

By the end of 1921 mixed bathing had begun, leading to overcrowding during peak periods. From 1906 to 1928 Councilors had suggested extending the premises however it was eventually decided, at a council meeting of June 1929, to build a new establishment in Bruce Street which was opened on 26th October 1932.¹²³

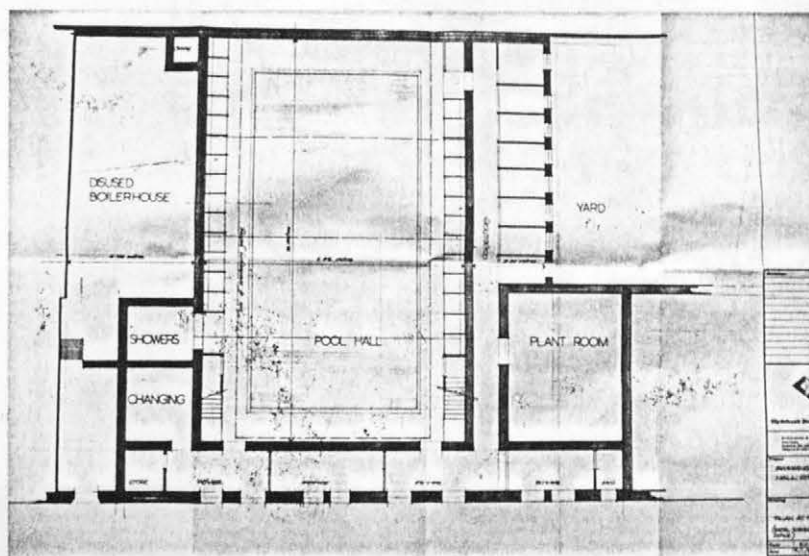
The Hall Street baths were demolished between December 1985 and May 1986.¹²⁴

¹²³ Souvenir Jubilee Brochure 1886-1936, Burgh of Clydebank 1936.

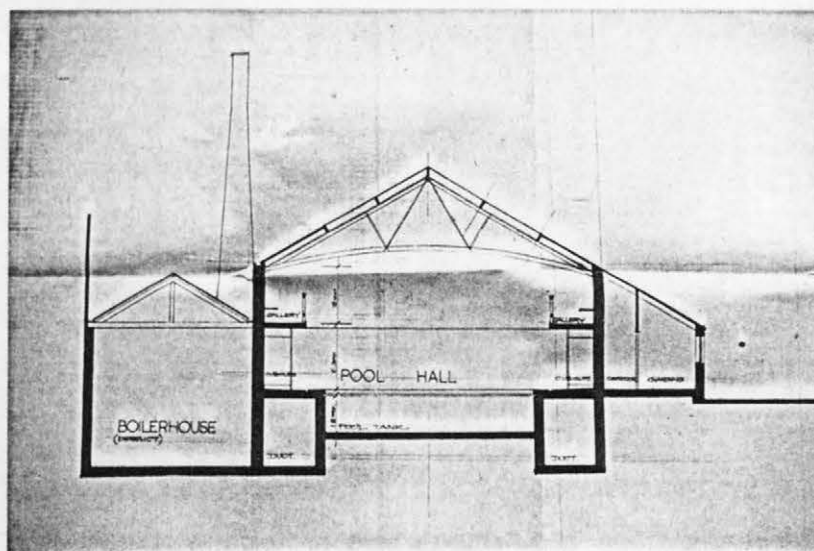
¹²⁴ From Clydebank Library



Pond Hall Prior to Demolition



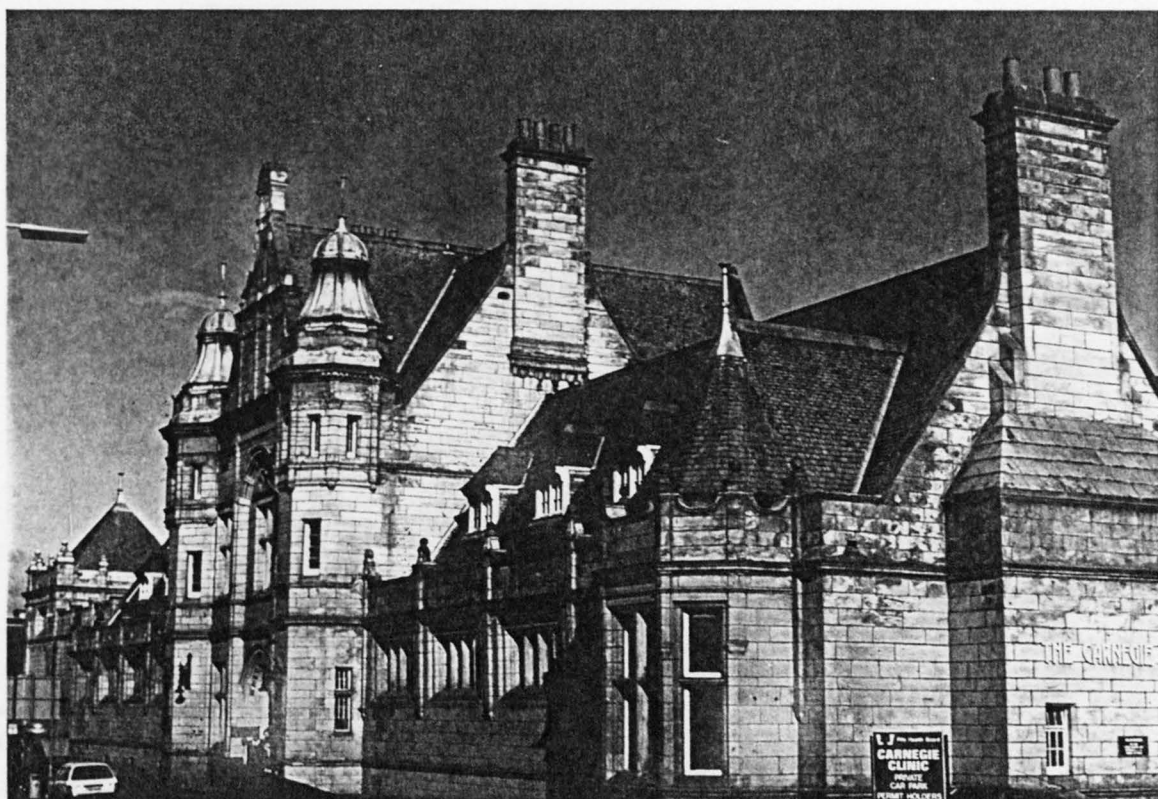
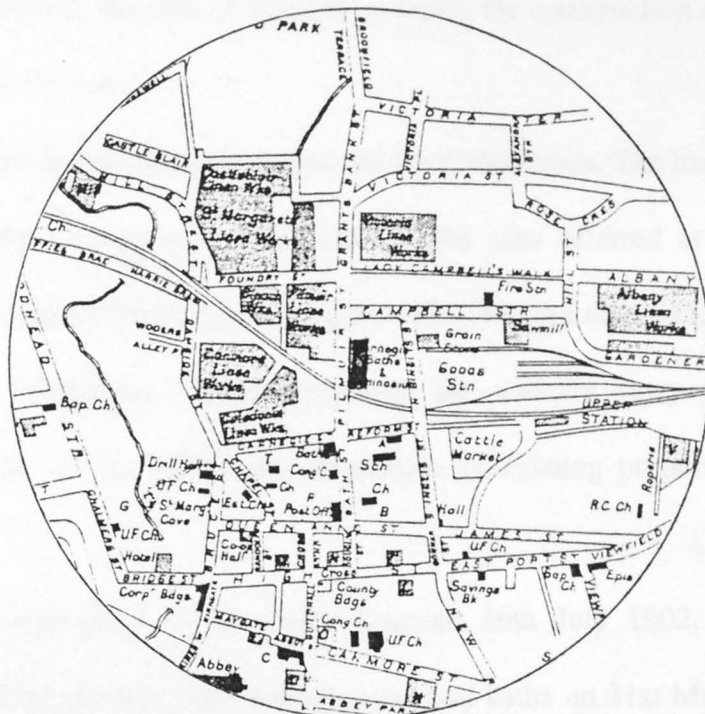
Plan of Baths by Clydebank Architects Department



Section by Clydebank Architects Department

Carnegie, Dunfermline

Address:
Architect:
Date:
Listing:



Address : Pilmuir Street, Dunfermline, KY12 7AJ
Architect : Hippolyte J. Blanc, Edinburgh
Date : 31st March 1905
Listing : B

On 12th December 1899, Mr. John Ross received a letter from Andrew Carnegie stating his intention to present the sum of £20,000 towards the construction of a bathing establishment for the town.

A committee was formed and the design was put out for competition. The lowest estimates for the building's construction far exceeded the sum offered at the outset, however Carnegie agreed to increase the gift to £35,000 and then £45,000 to meet the total cost. Hippolyte J. Blanc produced the winning entry and, following the purchase of site for £4000 and demolition of existing properties, work began.

The foundation stone was laid by Dr. John Ross on 16th July 1902, the Gymnasium opened on 21st October 1904 and the pond and baths on 31st March 1905.¹²⁵

Original Facilities

The original design included an entrance hall, reading and committee rooms, offices, a billiards room, slipper baths, a complete suite of Turkish baths; pond hall and machinery, laundry and gymnasium, dressing rooms, an instructor's rooms and superintendents residence.

The Baths were taken over by Dunfermline Town Council in September of 1945

¹²⁵ Dunfermline Journal, 25th March 1905, p.5

with subsequent 'improvements' carried out in the following year.

More work was required in the late 1970's and the complex was re-opened on 18th April 1984 complete with a new swimming pool designed by James Parr & Partners housed in a brick block.¹²⁶

Present Description

The Baths are constructed of polished, white ashlar and have a frontage consisting of a 3 storey, 3 bay advanced central entrance block with 5 bay, single storey and attic flanks.

The central block has steps leading to a splayed, moulded, round arched doorway with rosettes in the splay. Entrance gates are in wrought-iron and red, yellow and blue tiling lead to the inner door. Quadra-partite windows, with stone mullions and transomes, flank the entrance at ground and first floors while a similar light is located above the entrance recessed within an arch. The outer semi-octagonal bays are capped with finialled metal domes. A dentilled cornice at eaves and pediment above serve to emphasise the axis of entry. 2 bronze sculpted panels by Richard Goulden (1906) adorn the flanking turrets at ground level ('In Infantia Pudor'; 'In Viro Virtus').

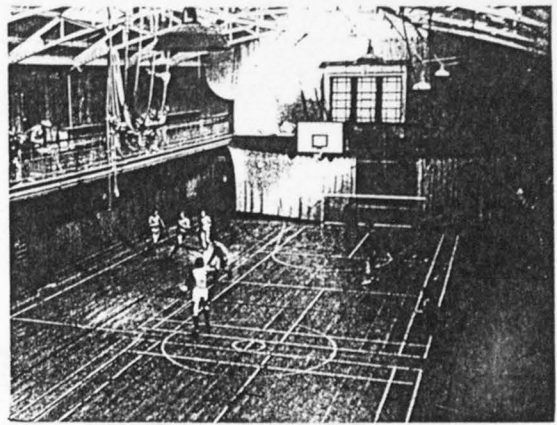
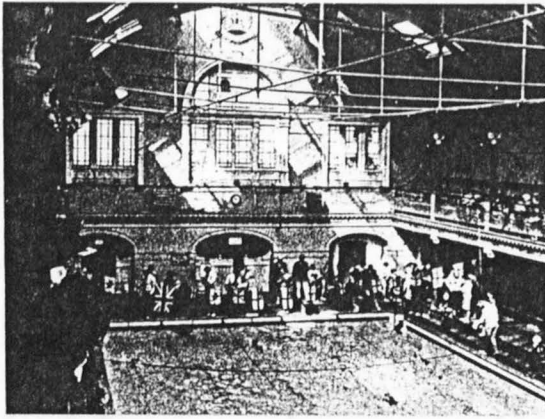
The wings have recessed quadra-partite windows below a scooped parapet wall with ball finials set on shafts emanating from window sill level. The roof has hipped dormers.

To the north is located a pyramidally roofed block, containing the Turkish baths, attached to the main block by a blank wall. At the south extreme of the building a finialled turret terminates the elevation.

¹²⁶ Gifford, John Buildings of Scotland, "Fife", Penguin 1988, p.188

On entry a fully panelled and ordered Renaissance hall sits below an oval balcony at first floor.

Turkish suite has open ironwork in Moorish style applied to screens in the changing area, richly embossed tiled passages and a square Tepiderium corbelled to an octagonal roof, with coloured inset panels.



Pond and Gymnasium Prior to Refurbishment of 1984

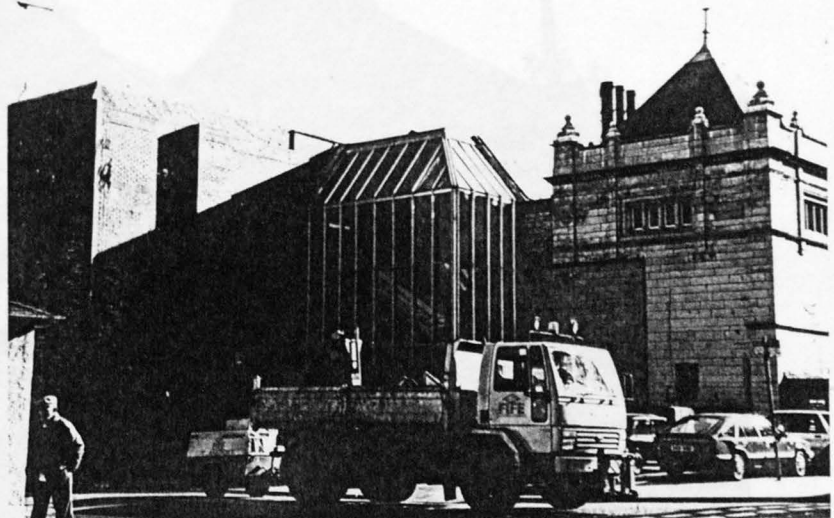


Ceramics in Vestibule



Bronze Panel by Richard Goulden

1984 Swimming pool extension



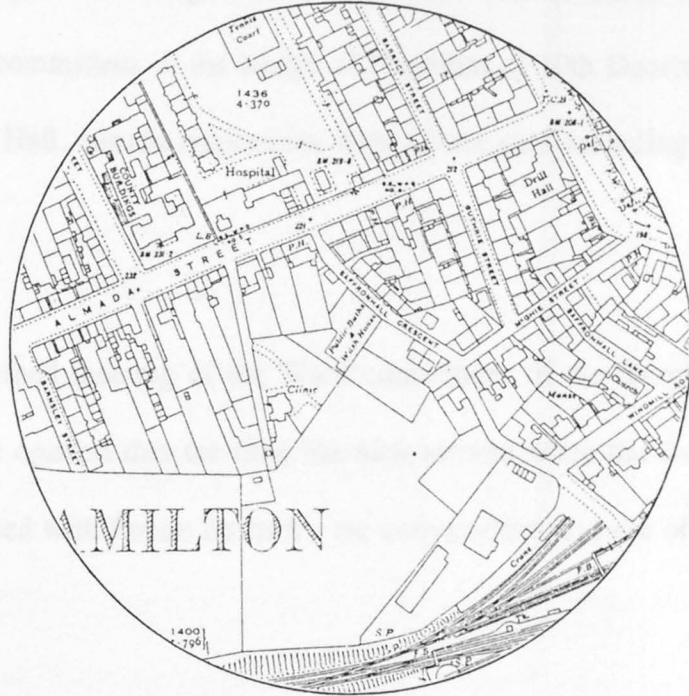
HAMILTON WATER Hamilton

Address

Area

Date

Listing



Address : Saffronhall Crescent, Hamilton, ML3 6LE
Architect : W.H.Purdie, Burgh Surveyor and Water Engineer
Date : Opened 17th February 1909
Listing : Not

The Town Council considered the provision of public baths as early as 1891, in expectation of the passing of the Burgh Police (Scotland) Act of 1892. At a meeting of several ward committees of the Burgh of Hamilton of 10th December 1891 in the lesser Town Hall, certain resolutions were formulated including the following:

- 1) That this combined meeting of the Ward committees of the Burgh of Hamilton is of the opinion that the time has now arrived when the Burgh ought to be provided with Public Baths for the convenience and use of the community.
- 2) That this meeting urges upon the Town Council the propriety of considering the best means of securing Public Baths for the Burgh of Hamilton.¹²⁷

A letter of May 1892 from the Town Clerk registers a call by Mr. Kilpatrick for the consideration of Public Baths and having entered the Council in 1894, Bailie Smellie, "...gave notice of motion on the subject..¹²⁸ Little action was taken and it was not until two decades later, in February of 1909, that Baths designed by

¹²⁷ Loose document from Hamilton Public Library L797.2(4193)HAM

¹²⁸ Ibid.

W.H.Purdie, Burgh Surveyor, were officially opened.

Original Facilities

They included a swimming pond 75'x35' (with changing boxes ranging two sides below a gallery), spray baths, foot baths, twelve slipper baths, a wash house of twelve stalls and a club room.

A Royles patent aerating and heating plant was reported in the local press as, "...the first complete insallation of the kind in Scotland."¹²⁹

The Baths were very popular during the first two or three years of their opening:

" The attendance at Hamilton during the first year of its existence constituted a record for public baths in Scotland, and during the past year the record has been more than maintained."

In the early 1930's, artificial sunlight apparatus for violet ray treatment was installed and the pond was regularly visited by local school children.

The pool is still used at present. It retains much of its original fabric, finishes and fitments.

Present Description

Built in an Edwardian Renaissance style with Art Nouveau overtones the Baths are largely of red pressed brick with stone copings, string courses and carved panels in two main blocks.

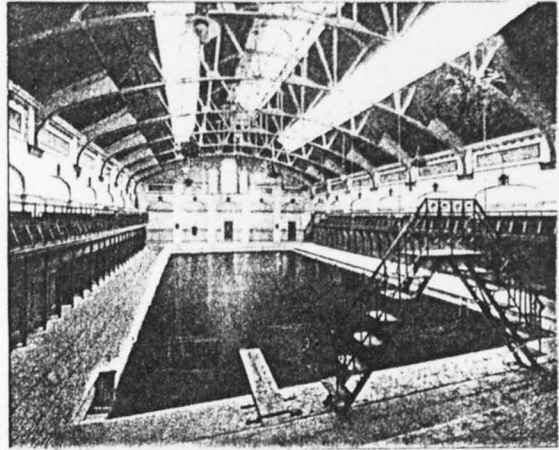
¹²⁹ Strother's Glasgow, Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire X-mas and New Year Annual 1911-12, p.409

5, advanced single storey pilaster demarcated bays enclose segmentally arched, sexpartite keyed lights, being terminated by a 4 bay gable north block with a central coat of arms, "Sola Nobilitat Virtus", over an a-symmetrically positioned segmentally arched sexpartite window with key stone. The window is flanked to the south by a pedimented entrance with moulded architrave and to the north by a plain door and beyond a bricked former window opening.

Sitting behind the entrance ranges is the main pond hall gable with a Venetian clerestorey window below a scrolled decorative stage which includes a carved central floral festoon. A square shaped ball finialled shaft formerly broke through the rounded pediment (finial now removed.) At eaves heavy squared pilasters are capped by segmental arched finials.

The chimney stack has been demolished.

Internally, the pond hall retains many original finishes. Steel trusses support a sky-lit (formerly lanterned) roof. Walls are finished with coloured bricks (red, green and white) from 'Burmontofta' Works of the Leeds Fireclay Company. Ceramic brick pilasters rise to form a continuous blind arcade with coloured key stones. Galleries are situated on two sides of the pond (with all original fittings and iron work) and sit over changing boxes with (now painted) pitch pine doors and divisions of reinforced terrazzo. The ornamental diving stage has been removed and the pond, itself, retiled.



The Pond Hall

BURGH OF HAMILTON.

Public Baths Opening Gala

Under the Rules of S.A.S.A. and W.C.A.

COUNCILLOR MOFFAT PRESIDING.

Programme for Thursday Evening, 18th Feb., 1909, at 7.30.

Arranged by J. K. SHEDDEN, Western Amateurs, and J. FOSTER, Jun., Western Baths.

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Event 1—50 Yards Handicap. H. C. Colvill, W. B. W. H. Birrell, W. B. J. E. Dumbreck, A. A. C. Pollock, W. B. C. G. Sellars, W. B. J. I. Sweet, A.</p> <p>Event 2—Exhibition of Graceful Swimming By Junior Members of Arlinton Baths, R. D. Flint and J. W. Bruce. 1st—Brest Stroke. 3rd—Overhand Stroke. 2nd—Side Stroke. 4th—Back Stroke.</p> <p>Event 3—Exhibition of Fast Swimming By R. S. CHALMERS, Sprint Champion, Western Baths. Distance 50 yards.</p> <p>Event 4—Exhibition of Life-Saving By WESTERN AMATEURS SWIMMING CLUB HUMANITARIAN SOCIETY, comprising Rescue Drill on Land. Resuscitation Drill on Land Release Drill on Land. Rescue and Release in Water. TEAM—L. Miller, J. D. Reid, J. Girdwood, W. M. Hamilton.</p> <p>Event 5—Hurdle and Barrel Race.</p> <p>Event 6—Exhibition of Ornamental and Trick Swimming by Mr. James Miller, Woodside A.S.C.</p> | <p>Event 7—Exhibition of Graceful and Fancy Diving. J. Leadbetter, M.V. H. Thomson, M.V. D. Russell, M.V. J. Gibson, A. B. Russell, Jun., M.V. C. Colvill, W. B.</p> <p>Event 8—Exhibition of Plate Swimming. (Four Styles), by Mr. JAMES MURRAY, Western Baths.</p> <p>Event 9—Exhibition on Rings. J. Dennison and J. Thomson.</p> <p>Event 10—Water Polo Match.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> <p>A. TEAM— L. Miller, W.A. T. T. Meighan, A. H. C. Colvill, W. B. R. S. Chalmers, W. B. (capt.) C. Colvill, W. B. J. Dumbreck, A. J. I. Sweet, A.</p> </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none;"> <p>B. TEAM— W. M. Hamilton, W.A. J. Murray, W. B. J. Girdwood, W. A. J. Gibson, A. (capt.) A. C. Pollock, W. B. C. G. Sellars, W. B. W. H. Birrell, W. B.</p> </td> </tr> </table> <p>ABBREVIATIONS.—A., Arlinton Baths; M.V., Marshall Victoria; W.A., Western Amateurs; W.B., Western Baths.</p> | <p>A. TEAM— L. Miller, W.A. T. T. Meighan, A. H. C. Colvill, W. B. R. S. Chalmers, W. B. (capt.) C. Colvill, W. B. J. Dumbreck, A. J. I. Sweet, A.</p> | <p>B. TEAM— W. M. Hamilton, W.A. J. Murray, W. B. J. Girdwood, W. A. J. Gibson, A. (capt.) A. C. Pollock, W. B. C. G. Sellars, W. B. W. H. Birrell, W. B.</p> |
| <p>A. TEAM— L. Miller, W.A. T. T. Meighan, A. H. C. Colvill, W. B. R. S. Chalmers, W. B. (capt.) C. Colvill, W. B. J. Dumbreck, A. J. I. Sweet, A.</p> | <p>B. TEAM— W. M. Hamilton, W.A. J. Murray, W. B. J. Girdwood, W. A. J. Gibson, A. (capt.) A. C. Pollock, W. B. C. G. Sellars, W. B. W. H. Birrell, W. B.</p> | | |

Judges—Mr. J. K. SHEDDEN, Western Amateurs; Mr. J. FOSTER, Jun., Western Baths.
Starter—Mr. JAMES LAIRD, Eastern.

Mr. McNAUGHTON'S STRING BAND will render Selections during the evening.
ALFX PETIGREW, Jn., Gardaberrie, Gala Conductor. B. T. BOSS, Gardaberrie, Secretary.

IMPORTANT NOTICE!
GRAND GALA.
SATURDAY FIRST, AT 7.15.

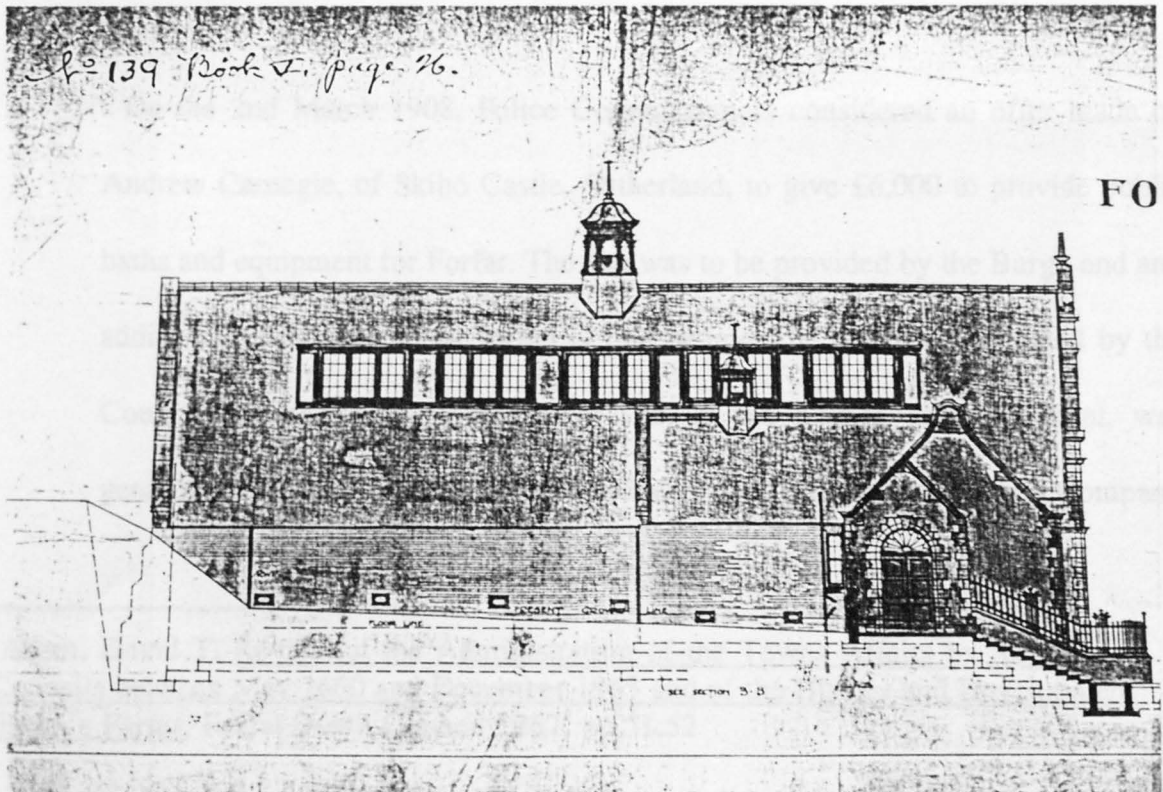
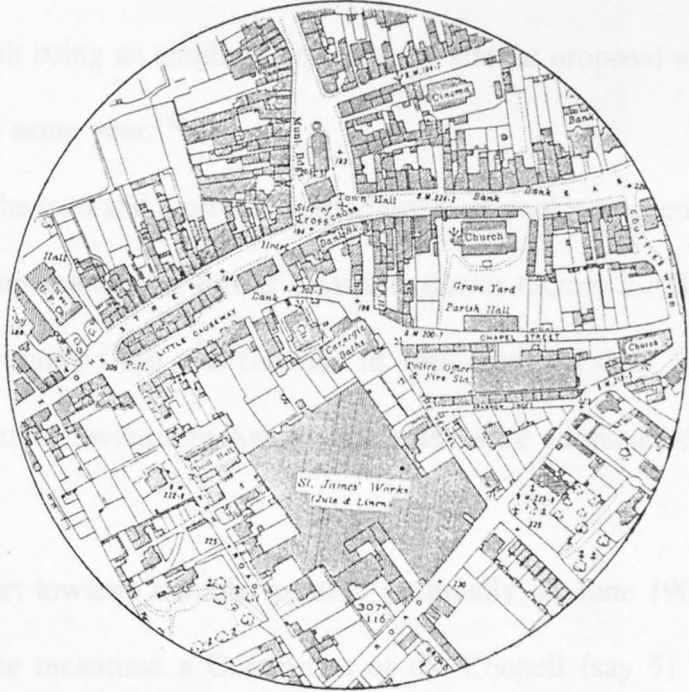
All the Scottish Champions will appear at Polo, Races, etc
Tickets at Baths and at J. T. Mein's, Cadzow St. 1/-
2/- (Reserved), and 1/-; Admission 6d. (Get Tickets
early.)
LADIES SPECIALLY INVITED.



Carved Details

Forfar

Address: The Victoria Hotel
Architect: Hippolyte J. Blanc, Edinburgh
Date: 22nd October 1919
Library: No.



Address : The Vennel, Forfar, DD8 2AN
Architect : Hippolyte J. Blanc, Edinburgh
Date : 22nd October 1910
Listing : Not

A plebiscite of electors was held on 21st January 1891 on the question of Public Baths for the town, the result being an emphatic rejection. A similar proposal was turned down in June of the same year.¹³⁰

Swimming continued on the loch and a private, heated open-air pool was opened in Chapel Street in 1899, on the site of Forfar's earliest power factory cooling pond. Forfar Amateur Swimming Club was founded in 1901 and had their first Gala in June (Scottish Amateur Swimming Association rules were adopted from August 1904).

Despite the lack of support towards a public venture eventually, in June 1907, it was decided, "That in the meantime a Committee of the Council (say 5) be formed to consider a scheme for gymnasium and baths for consideration of the Council."

On the 2nd March 1908, Police Commissioners considered an offer made by Andrew Carnegie, of Skibo Castle, Sutherland, to give £6,000 to provide public baths and equipment for Forfar. The site was to be provided by the Burgh and any additional costs were to be levied at one penny. The offer was accepted by the Council on 10th April 1908 and a site, at the bottom of the Vennel, was generously offered free of charge by Messrs. Don Brothers, Buist and Company

¹³⁰ Adam, David T. Review of the Administration of the Towns Affairs by Successive Town Councils between May 1660 and December 1965 and of the History and Development of the Town's Farms, Forfar Town Council 1967, pp.51,52

on Whit Sunday 1908 :

" It took a special committee only three days to report that the estimated annual expenditure might be £300-£370 if water was supplied free, and to recommend acceptance of the offer of the site, which the Council did on 14th May 1908."¹³¹

In June, Hippolyte J. Blanc, Architect, Edinburgh was appointed. Later in the same month the Council accepted tenders for the works at an estimated cost of £4,898-1-11d. Contractors were local with the exception of the steel truss fabricator.

A sealed bottle containing minutes, and newspapers was deposited in a stone chamber at the beginning of construction. Work progressed with the Baths being formally opened by Andrew Carnegie on 22nd October 1910.

Original Facilities

The Baths were supplied with a swimming pond of dimensions 75'x35' with surrounding changing boxes, a gallery, slipper baths, wash house and boiler house.

Alterations have been carried out to this building throughout its life including the installation of electricity and the replacement of the coal fired boiler by oil in 1965.

Further work between 1966 and 1975 reorganised the changing accommodation of both sexes, converted 4 slipper baths into a Sauna and saw a children's pool

¹³¹ Adam, David T. Review of the Administration of the Towns Affairs by Successive Town Councils between May 1660 and December 1965 and the History and Development of the Town's Farms, Forfar Town Council 1967, pp.51,52

added.¹³²

Works in 1987 included retiling of walls, application of an epoxy-glass laminate to the pool surfaces and further alteration to changing facilities.¹³³

The pool continues to be used for swimming.

Present Description

This Edwardian Renaissance styled building is constructed of red sandstone coursed rubble (with polished ashlar dressings) with the sides and rear in red brick.

It addresses the Vennel in 4 ranges. The south has quadrupartite sash and case windows. The 3 bay advanced central gabled range, containing the swimming pond has a central multi-paned round arched light with a keystone, flanked by bi-partite lights, and is located below a rounded pediment, broken by a projecting obelisk. The small bay adjacent (to north) has a bi-partite window to the Vennel and the same on the return gable.

The 2 storey bay, originally containing the wash house, is set back from the street front and consists of an arched timber entrance at ground with a side wall of brick.

The entrance is accessed from the Vennel by way of a path which leads to a moulded, round arched opening (with keystone) filled by a looped fanlight over double leaf timber doors. To the west a single storey former slipper bath range retains a roof ventilator. A similar ventilator to the pond hall and large chimney stack have been removed.

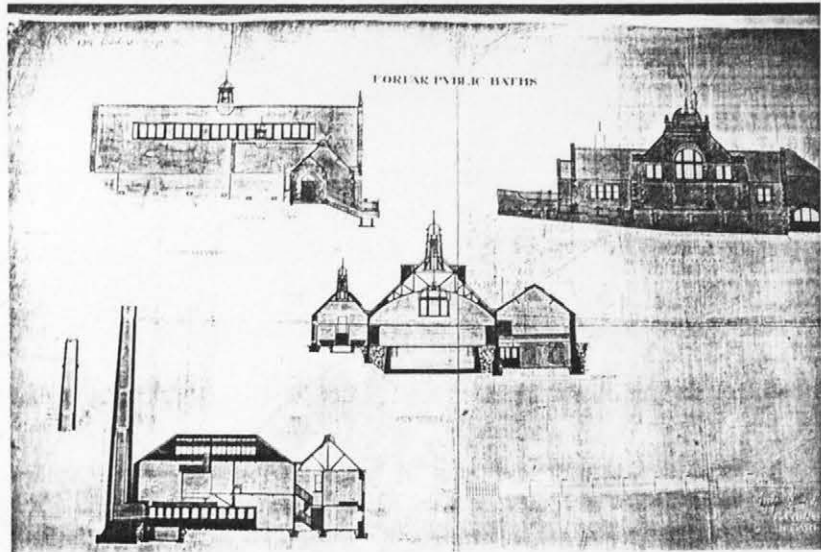
Internally the building has been substantially altered. The majority of tiling and

¹³² Review of the Administration of the Towns Affairs by the Town Councils between 1st January 1966 and 15th May 1975, Forfar Town Council 1975, p.9

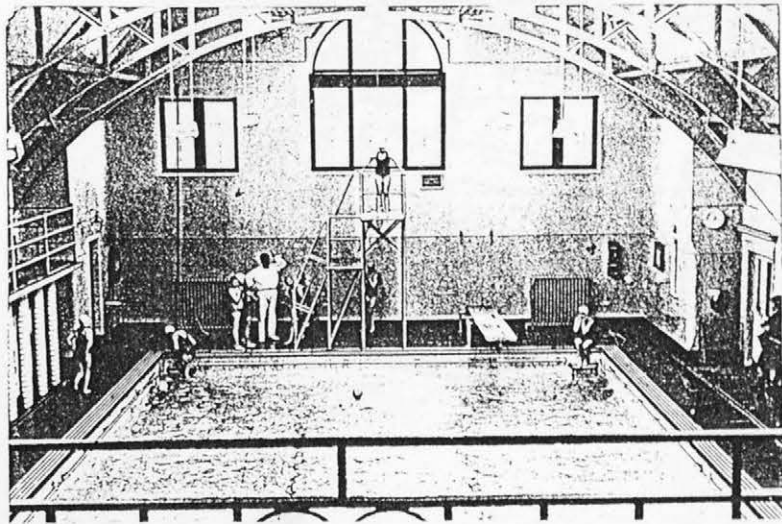
¹³³ From plans Angus District Council, Forfar County Buildings.

other finishes have been removed or replaced. The pond hall has an arched steel trussed roof. Galleries and changing boxes have been removed. A timber architrave surrounds the doorway from the pond hall to the lobby.

The former wash house is now a club room and offices.



Sections and Elevations



The Pond Hall (Date Unknown)



Refurbished Roof-scape

Hawick

Address : 1 Dalrymple Street
 Architect : Mr. Inglis, Hawick, with advice of Mr. Hill, James
 Date : Opened May 1911
 Heating : Gas



Address : Bath Street, Hawick
Architect : Mr. Inglis, Hawick with advice of Mr. Hall, Sussex
Date : Opened May 1913
Listing : Not

Baths and wash houses existed from 1858 (possibly earlier). Erected by John Goodfellow a local grocer and candle maker they were located where Orrock Place Church now stands.¹³⁴ The local swimming club met and competed in the river at Wilton Lodge until the opening of the new Baths in 1913.

The Baths, on a site between Commercial Road and Under Damside, were gifted by the directors (James Glenny, Charles John Wilson and George Murray Wilson) of the nearby Dangerfield Mill (Wilson and Glenny Ltd.).¹³⁵

Original Facilities

Described as being of "tasteful design" they included a swimming pond, dressing rooms, a caretaker's room, lavatory and other accommodation. Total cost of the scheme was £2,000.¹³⁶

The building was substantially reworked in the mid 1980's by Aitken and Turnbull, Architects to include a shooting range, boxing gym, clubroom and hall.

Present Description

The building consists of a symmetrical main block with a single storeyed

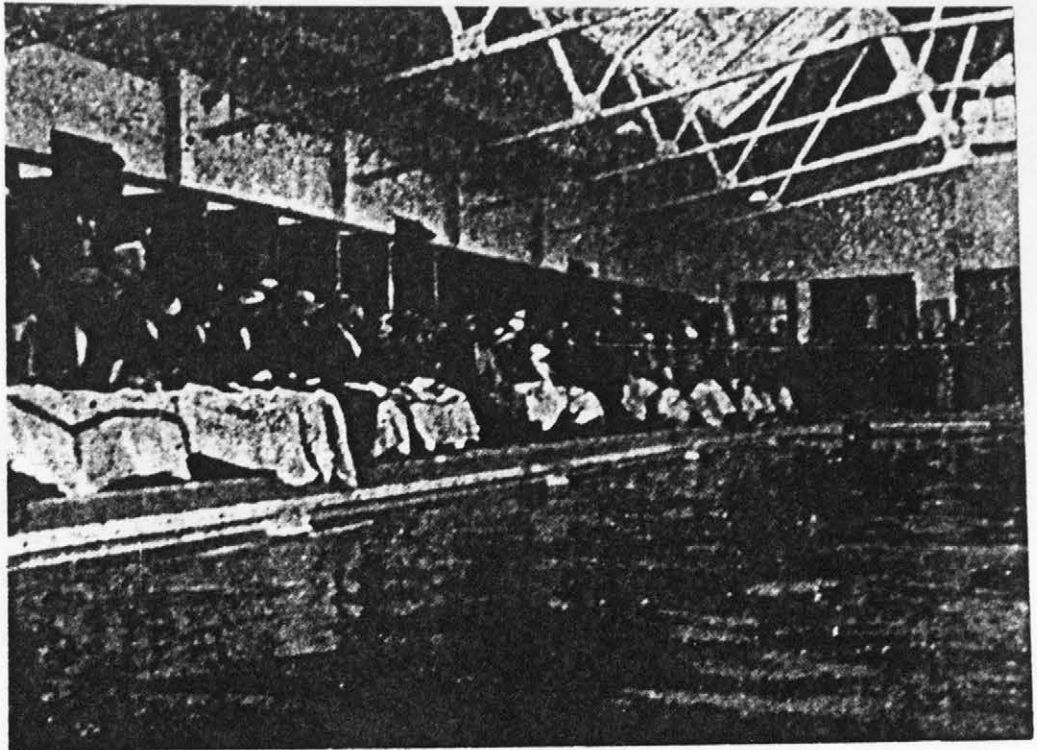
¹³⁴ Hawick Advertiser and Roxburghshire Gazette, Saturday 3rd July 1858, p.1

¹³⁵ Robson, W.S. Hawick Place Names, Hawick 1947, p.31

¹³⁶ Hawick Express, "Opening of Public Swimming Baths", 23rd May 1913

entrance hall advanced of the pond (now main) hall. 4-light windows flank a central entrance door. The pond hall has a steel trussed roof, resting on brick pilasters, lit via continuous glazed roof lights and a semi-circular light in both gables. The pond, formerly tiled in white with spittoons regularly placed between brass hand rails is now floored as Main Hall with timber changing cubicles at pool side removed.

Former access to the boiler house to north of main block has been bricked and rendered and the chimney removed.

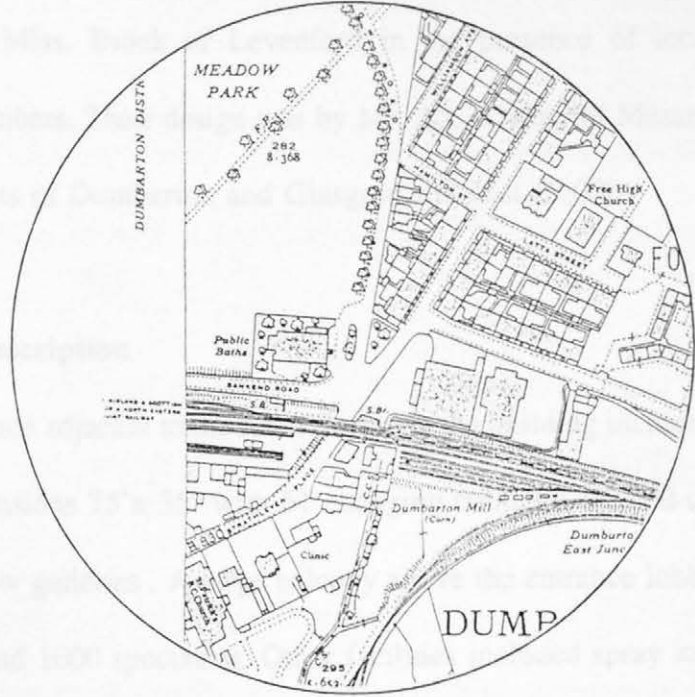


Pond Hall at Official Opening



Entrance Door Surround

Dumbarton



Address : Strathleven Place, Dumbarton
Architect : Mr. A.C. Denny, Denny & Blain Architects, Dumbarton
Date : June 1914
Listing : Demolished

Built and endowed by Mr. Walter Brock, an eminent Dumbarton ship builder and engineer at the beginning of the twentieth century, the Public Baths were formally opened in June 1914 by Miss. Brock of Levenford in the presence of local dignitaries and council members. Their design was by Mr. A.C. Denny of Messrs. Denny and Blain, Architects of Dumbarton and Glasgow and cost £9,000.

Original Facilities and Description

Located in Strathleven Place adjacent to the town Common the building included a swimming pond of dimensions 75'x 35' with 51 changing cubicles located on either side of the pool below galleries . A large balcony above the entrance lobby was designed to hold around 1000 spectators. Other facilities included spray and foot baths located to the front and side of the pond hall with a gymnasium taking up a position at the opposite end of the pool from the entrance.

The boiler room was located to the left side of the building and contained a Babcock and Wilcox boiler, a hot water storage tank and steam water heater.

Total cost of the scheme was £9,000, less than the £10,000 gifted to the Town Council.¹³⁷

Formerly located in Strathleven Place adjacent to the town Common, the pond hall was considered the central feature generating the main axis with ancilliary facilities attached to the front and side. This was reflected in the external

¹³⁷ Lennox Herald, 20th June 1914, p.2

treatment with the 'central section' being built of white sandstone from the Auchenheth Quarry while the rest was in red brick with sand stone quoins and margins. The simple stone facade with centrally positioned, tri-partite, hood-moulded, semi-circular window at gallery level and memorial tablet above were used to disguise the pitched roof of the pond hall which gave way at the ridge to a continuous lantern light formed in steel and glazed latterly in profiled plastic sheeting.

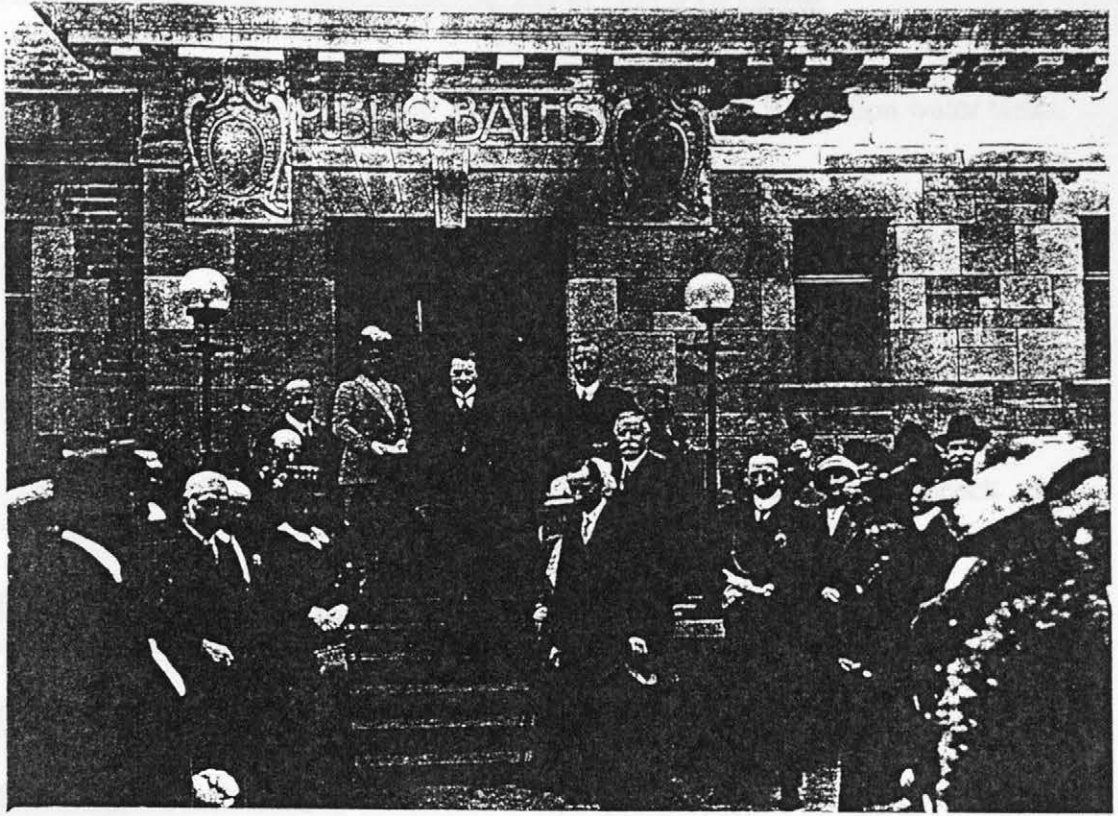
The single storeyed, entrance area (which included slipper baths) was advanced with a doorway to one side beneath a dentilled cornice. Decorative brackets flanked a carved panel reading "Public Baths" above.

Internally the pool hall was roofed by a series of steel trusses springing from brick pilasters which, like the rest of the internal surface, had a white ceramic coating. The bottom member of the truss was in the form of a segmental arch. Changing cubicles ranging the sides of the pool had timber doors. The gymnasium took on an apsidal position on the main axis of the building and was entered between two square ionic columns from the pond hall.

The original entrance was bricked up and access was gained from the side of the building. This alteration allowed a larger vestibule to be created.

Closed by the leisure centre sub-committee of the local council on Sunday 19th July 1987, the building was demolished, on the 4th August 1987, to make way for a new leisure complex.¹³⁸

¹³⁸ Dumbarton District Council Minutes, 19th June 1987, Vol.1987.



The Official Opening Ceremony



Pond Hall c.1970's

APPENDIX 2 : BOILERS AND FILTRATION SYSTEMS

Aberdeen Sea Bathing Station: 20'x18' Cornish boiler, 4x 500 gallon water tanks.

Alloa Baths: Boiler by Marshall & Co., Motherwell.

Clydebank: 'Royals' (probably Royles) patent filtration system.

Dumbarton, Brock Baths: Boiler by Babcock and Wilcox.

DUNDEE, Central: Royles patent filtration system.

DUNFERMLINE, Carnegie Baths and Gymnasium: Boiler by Babcock and Wilcox, Royles patent filtration system.

EDINBURGH, Infirmary Street: Single boiler supplying heat to Baths and adjacent school property. Mention of a filter system.

EDINBURGH Leith Victoria: Steam heat supplied by adjacent electricity station.

EDINBURGH, Portobello: 130 h.p. boiler by George Sinclair & Co., Reeves patent filter system.

Forfar Baths: Reeves 'Pulsometer' patent filtration and aeration.

GLASGOW, Gorbals: Royles patent filtration system.

GLASGOW, Maryhill: A single boiler.

GLASGOW, North Woodside: Steam boiler and engine.

GLASGOW, Pollockshields: A single boiler.

GLASGOW, Springburn: Twin boilers.

GLASGOW, Townhead: Steam boiler and engine.

GLASGOW, Western: A coal-fired boiler.

GLASGOW, Whitevale: Twin boilers.

Hamilton Baths: Royles patent filtration system.

Paisley Baths: Heater by James Pyles Cluther, Filtration and Aeration by Row's (possibly Royles)

Peterhead Baths: Water pumped to tanks by Evans hydraulic pump.

Port Glasgow Baths: Continuous Filtration System.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Citations within the text of the thesis are foot-noted for convenience. The bibliography includes all other useful material consulted during research.

PRIMARY SOURCES

Minutes:

Aberdeen Town Council Minutes, vols.1890-1901

Aberdeen County Council Minutes, 1851-1888

Minutes of the Burgh Council, Clydebank, 1900-1904

Dumbarton Town Council Minutes, 1913-1915

Dumbarton District Council Minutes, 1987

Town Council Minutes of Dundee, 1909-1910

Edinburgh Town Council Records(minutes), 1880-1900,1910-1912

Minute Book of the Glasgow Swimming Bath Co. Ltd., 1871-1924

Burgh of Hamilton Baths Committee Minute Book No.1, 1906-

Leith Town Council Minutes, 1896-99

Paisley Town Council Minutes, 1894-1896

Perth Town Council Minutes, vol.1885-1889

Perth Police Commission Minutes, vol.1892-1895

Port Glasgow Town Council Minutes, vol.1885-1891

Newspapers:

Aberdeen Evening Express-
19/3/1968, 6/4/1968, 11/7/1972

Aberdeen Journal-
3/7/1867, 25/3/1884, 16/3/1895, 11/2/1896, 14/7/1898, 20/6/1899

Aberdeen Press and Journal-
7/1/1964, 13/6/1972, 16/1/1973

Alloa Advertiser-
10/9/1892, 30/4/1898, 11/11/1899, 25/5/1912

Alloa Journal-
23/5/1874, 30/8/1879, 5/3/1881, 11/5/1889, 24/11/1894, 19/9/1896, 21/8/1897,

29/1/1898, 29/4/1899, 19/7/1902, 8/12/1906, 2/5/1908, 18/6/1927, 28/3/1931,
8/9/1961, 4/6/1965, 24/12/1971, 31/12/1971, 4/6/1982, 24/8/1988

Clydebank and Renfrew Press-
9/5/1902

DUMBARTON Lennox Herald-
20/6/1914

Dundee Advertiser-
2/2/1869, 12/7/1870, 12/10/1870, 6/2/1871, 24/8/1871, 8/6/1871, 20/5/1873,
11/4/1876, 23/5/1876, ?/9/1876, 28/9/1876, ?/7/1879, 4/8/1879, 22/12/1883

Dunfermline Journal-
13/8/1904, 22/10/1904

Dunfermline Press-
27/1/1900, 5/1/1901, 20/1/1901, 14/4/1906, 9/4/1927, 19/5/1928, 9/7/1949

EDINBURGH [see also news paper cuttings, Central Library YGV 837, YHT 166]

EDINBURGH Evening Dispatch-
26/11/1960, 18/9/1962

EDINBURGH Evening News-
27/7/1943, 7/8/1954, 1/12/1956, 9/3/1961, 27/12/1966, 18/10/1967, 22/7/1975,
21/9/1975, 25/2/1977, 24/1/1978, 6/3/1978, 22/1/1979, 25/7/1987

EDINBURGH Herald and Post-

EDINBURGH The Leith Observer-
1/7/1899

EDINBURGH Scotsman-
26/11/1960, 1/8/1967, 26/1/1977, 22/9/1980

Forfar Dispatch-
13/10/1960

Forfar Herald-
21/10/1910, 28/10/1910

GLASGOW [see also scrap books Nos.17 and 19, Mitchell Library]

GLASGOW Bulletin-
April 1983, February 1987

GLASGOW Evening Times-
21/8/1934

GLASGOW Govan Post-
22/7/1983, 18/4/1986

GLASGOW Govan Press-
9/2/1973

GLASGOW Glaswegian-
6/5/1989

GLASGOW Guardian-
20/6/1986, 19/9/1986

GLASGOW West End News-
14/9/1979

GLASGOW West End Times-
11/2/1983

The Greenock Telegraph and Clyde Shipping Gazette-
24/5/1894, 22/6/1894, 23/6/1894, 25/6/1894

Hamilton Advertiser-
6/2/1909, 20/2/1909

Hawick Advertiser and Roxburgh Gazette-
3/6/1858

Hawick Express-
3/5/1912, 9/8/1912, 23/5/1913

Paisley and Renfrewshire Gazette-
17/10/1868, 25/7/1896, 1/8/1896, 31/7/1915

Paisley Daily Express-
22/7/1981, 20/2/1982, 24/3/1982, 1/3/1986, 1/8/1986, 12/3/1987, 14/12/1989

Perthshire Advertiser-
21/6/1887, 20/5/1889, 29/12/1934, 4/1/1939, 26/2/1972, 21/10/1980, 8/6/1982,
31/1/1984, 10/2/1984, 19/6/1986

Perth Courier-
21/5/1889, 20/3/1981, 2/6/1984

Miscellaneous:

Alloa Baths Report, District Architects Department, October 1978

Baths for the Working Classes: Public Meeting in the Music Hall 30/12/1843

Baths for the Working Classes: Meeting in the Hopetoun Rooms 20/10/1844

The Builder-February 16th, 1867 "The Sanitary Condition of the New Town of Edinburgh"

The Builder- 1876 Vol.34, pp.9,269

Building News-
28/7/1871

Great Britain Commissioner for Local Administration in Scotland Report of the Investigation of a Complaint against the City of Glasgow District Council, Edinburgh 1983

Hamilton Public Library- Letters and Minutes from File L797.2(4193)HAM

Leisure Manager, July 1992 "Pool Refurbishment, The Scientific Approach"

Municipal Journal-
14/2/1913, 14/3/1913

Old Glasgow Club Transactions, Vol.7, part 3

Old Govan Club Transactions, Vol.4, part 4

Project Scotland-
16/5/1991

Scottish Country Life-
February 1914

Scottish Field-
August 1990, December 1976

Strathclyde Regional Archives- loose file of "Reports and Pamphlets"

SECONDARY SOURCES

Adam, David Reviews of the Administration of the Town's (Forfar) Affairs by Successive Town Councils between May 1960 and December 1965 and the History of the Development of the Town's Farms, Forfar Town Council 1967

Alderson, Frederick The Inland Retreats and Spas of Britain, Newton Abbot 1973

Alloa Burgh Burgh of Alloa Centenary 1854-1954, Robert Cunningham & Sons, Alva c.1954

Alloa Town Council The Borough Pocket Guide to Alloa, Alva, Dollar and Tillicoultry, Cheltenham 1908

Alva Burgh The Burgh of Alva Official Guide, 1974

Ardrossan Town Council Ardrossan, Ayrshire the Official Guide, Cheltenham 1969

The Badminton Library of Sport and Pastimes, Swimming, 1893

Bilsborough, Peter One Hundred Years of Scottish Swimming, S.A.S.A., Edinburgh 1988

The BBC Ideas and Beliefs of the Victorians, Sylva Press Ltd. 1949

Blood, Alison F. Kelvinside Days, John Smith and Sons, Glasgow 1929

Campbell, Agnes The Carnegie U.K. Trust report on Public Baths and Wash-houses in the U.K., Edinburgh University Press 1918

Christie, Guy Crieff Hydro 1868-1986, McCorquodale 1986

Clackmannan District Libraries The History of Alva and District from the Early Christian Period to 1900, 1981

Cleland, James Description of that part of Ardrossan in the County of Ayr on which Baths are to be built by Tontine, Glasgow 1806

Clydebank Burgh Council Burgh of Clydebank: Souvenir Jubilee Brochure 1886-1936, c.1936

Clydebank Burgh Council Clydebank, 1949

Colvin, Howard Biographical Dictionary of British Architects 1600-1840, John Murray, London 1978

Cooper, John Simply Anderston, Glasgow 1984

Cormack, A.A. 2 Aberdeenshire Spas, Peterhead and Pannanich, Aberdeen 1962

Cross, A.W.S. Public Baths and Wash houses, Batsford 1906

Cross, A.W.S. & K.M.B. Modern Public Baths and Wash-houses, Chance and Bland, Gloucester 1929

Dawes, J. The Swimming Pool and the Garden, Bartholemew 1975

Denbigh, K. A Hundred British Spas, London 1981

The City of Dundee A Few Facts Concerning the Corporation and other Services, 1957

The City of Dundee The City and County of Dundee Official handbook, 1956

The City of Dundee Dundee Official Guide, 1966

Edinburgh Town Council Edinburgh Sea-Water Baths, Portobello, 1901

Ellen, David M. Nairn in Old Picture Postcards, European Library 1987

Findlay, James Thomas A History of Peterhead, Aberdeen 1933

Forfar Town Council Review of the Administration of the Town's Affairs by the Town Council between 1st January 1966 and 15th May 1975, 1975

Forrest, W. and Macarthur, M.B. History of Port Glasgow, Glasgow 1932

Gifford, J. Buildings of Scotland, Fife, Penguin, London 1988

Gifford, McWilliam, Walker Buildings of Scotland, Edinburgh, Penguin, London 1984, 1987

Gilmour, J.(ed.) One Hundred Years of the Warrender Baths Club 1888-1988, Edinburgh 1990

Glasgow Corporation Baths and Washhouses Report 1891-1914, Robert Anderson, Glasgow

Glasgow Corporation Municipal Enterprises, Souvenir Handbook of the 22nd Congress of the Sanitary Institute held in Glasgow from 25th to 30th July 1904, Robert Anderson, Glasgow 1904

Glasgow Corporation Municipal Glasgow, Its Evolution and Enterprises, Robert Anderson, Glasgow 1914

Glasgow Corporation Baths Department Reports 1891&1892, Annual Reports 1900-1907, Robert Anderson, Glasgow

Glasgow Corporation Strother's Glasgow, Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire X-mas and New Year Annual, 1911-1912

Glasgow Corporation Whitevale Baths and Wash houses Official Handbook, 1902

Graham, James A Short Treatise on the All-cleansing, All-healing, and All-invigorating Qualities of the Simple Earth, Newcastle Upon Tyne 1790

Graham, J. Gibson A Hillhead Album, Henry Brougham Morton 1973

Hamilton Burgh Burgh of Hamilton Opening of Public Baths and Washhouses Official opening Book, Hamilton Advertiser 1909

Hamilton Town Council Hamilton Official Guide, 1967

Hamilton District Civic Society Hamilton Past and Present 1456-1932, Hamilton Press 1932

Henderson, E. Annals of Dunfermline and Vicinity 1069-1878, John Tweed, Glasgow 1879

Jackson, J.M. The Third Statistical Account of Scotland, The City of Dundee, Vol.25, Collins 1979

Lasdun, Susan The Victorians at Home, London 1981

Lewis, R.A. Edwin Chadwick and the Public Health Movement 1832-1854,

Longmans, London 1952

Lindsay, Sir John Municipal Undertakings and Enterprises of Glasgow, Robert Anderson, Glasgow 1924

Littlejohn, Henry Report on the Sanitary Condition of the City of Edinburgh, Colston & Son, Edinburgh 1865

Mackenzie, H. The Third Statistical Account of Scotland, Aberdeen, Oliver and Boyd 1953

Mackie, John B. The Journal Guide to Dunfermline 1912

Mann, W.M. The Baths, The Story of the Western Baths, The Western Baths Company Ltd.c.1991

McKean & Walker Dundee, An Illustrated Introduction, R.I.A.S., Edinburgh 1984

Millar, John Treatise on the Beneficial Effects of Cold and Warm Bathing, John Brown, Edinburgh 1807

Moisley, Thain, Sommerville, Stevenson The Third Statistical Account of Scotland, Renfrew and Bute, Vol.11, Collins 1962

Monteith, J. and McPherson, R. Port Glasgow and Kilmacolm from Old Photographs, Inverclyde District Libraries 1981

Nairn Burgh Guide to Nairn, E.J. Burrow and Company N.D.

Orme, Nicholas Early British Swimming 55BC-AD1719, Exeter University 1983

Purdie Hamilton, Historical and Municipal, Hamilton Town Council 1929

Reid, Thomas Directions for Warm and Cold Sea-Bathing with observations on their application and effects in different diseases, William Gilbert, Dublin 1795

R.M.J.M. Scotland Ltd. Six Edinburgh Baths. A Feasibility Study

Robson, W.S. Hawick Place Names, Hawick 1947

Save Britain's Heritage(multiple authors) Taking the Plunge: The Architecture of Bathing, Save 1990

Scott, R.E. Companion to Hawick, Hawick 1970

The Scottish Sports Council Leith Baths: A Study of Sports Centres and Swimming Pools, 1979

The Sports Council Sport for all in Converted Buildings, London 1975

The Sports Council Sport for all in Converted Buildings: Making the most of what exists, Vol.2, London 1978

Swan, Adam Clackmannan and the Ochils, an illustrated architectural guide, Lindsay and Co., Edinburgh 1987

Sylvia's Home Help Series Our Leisure Hours: A Book of Recreation, Ward, Lock and Company 1882

Thomas, George The Third Statistical Account of Scotland, The County of Lanark, Vol.13, Collins 1960

Thomas, Heather The Story of Peebles Hydro, 1987

Thomas, R. Swimming, Sampson and Low 1904

Urquart, David The Turkish Baths, with a view to its introduction into the British Dominion, D.Bryce, London 1856

Walvin, James Leisure and Society 1830-1950, Longman, London 1978

Wardlock's Sixpenny Handbooks Swimming, Skating..., London 1882

Williamson, Riches, Higgs Buildings of Scotland, Glasgow, Penguin, London 1990

Wordsall, F. Victorian City, Glasgow 1982

Wyves, Fenton Aberdeen, Century of Change, Impulse Publications 1971