

Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland

Forth & Borders Group

Thomas Hamilton's

Royal High

Urgent Action Meeting

in association with the Cockburn Association

24 September 2015

St Andrew's & St George's West

Thomas Hamilton's Royal High School was built in 1825-29, on the south side of Calton Hill. It is a category A listed building and was listed in 1966.

'The former Royal High School is of great architectural, cultural and historical significance. One of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in Scotland, and designed by a leading architect of the early 19th century, its unique and powerful combination of setting, massing and masterful use of classical architectural language cemented Edinburgh's reputation as the Athens of the North, and also alluded to the academic aspiration and achievement of both the school and Scotland as a nation.' (Historic Scotland's list description).

It is a masterpiece of Greek Revival architecture and has been described by the architectural historian Sir John Summerson as *'the noblest monument of the Scottish Greek Revival'*. Alexander Thomson thought it was one of *'unquestionably the two finest buildings in the kingdom'* (the other was St George's Hall in Liverpool). Summerson also considered it *'a composition more picturesque and imaginative than anything of its kind south of the Border.'*

Planning Applications 15/03989/FUL & 15/03990/LBC

Address: New Parliament House, 5-7 Regent Road, Edinburgh

View the applications online at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/PlanningandDevelopmentOnline

The Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland and the Cockburn Association believe that the hotel scheme proposed for the Thomas Hamilton's Royal High School (1829) will irretrievably damage one of the most important neo-classical buildings in the UK and, by extension, the set piece of Calton Hill, which lies at the core of Edinburgh's World Heritage Site.

Attached is a blank objection letter to the City of Edinburgh Council. To be valid, letters must contain the words 'object' or 'objection', and must be based on grounds to be found in Scottish government or city council policy. Overleaf is a list of valid objections; choose one or more of these examples to fill in the letter in your own words.

Please add your name and address, the date, the basis for your objection and your signature. You can also email your objection by clicking on the 'comments' tab on the planning website reached by entering the application number at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/PlanningandDevelopmentOnline

The deadline for objections is 2 October.

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