

HISTORIC SCOTLAND
WEST Lothian Council

ECCLESMACHAN PARISH
STATUTORY LIST

HB Number 6588 Item Number: 10 - **BANGOUR VILLAGE HOSPITAL EXCL VILLAS 9 23-29 31 & BOILER HOUSE**

Date of Listing 22-JAN-1993

Description:

"Colony", or "villa-plan" mental hospital, built on the Continental Colony system as exemplified by the 1870's hospital at Alt Scherbitz, near Leipzig. Original buildings at Bangour were built to a competition-winning design (assessor being W H Robertson of the Board of Works) of 1898 by Hippolyte Blanc, and begun building in that year; formally opened 1906, the earliest new-build hospital of this type to begin construction in the country (though Kingseat, near Aberdeen, was the earliest to be completed, in 1904). Comprises a series of free-standing mostly south-facing buildings, laid out in landscaped grounds, with now-mature trees.

Patients residences are a series of what were at the time explicitly termed villas - buildings designed with very much the internal and external characteristics of suburban domestic villas, with bay windows, south-facing public rooms, bedrooms upstairs in an attempt to move patients away from the stresses, anonymity and formality of institutional life. The Nurses Home on the other hand is institutional architecture. The Chapel is a 1920's addition to the complex, built to designs by H O Tarbolton.

Original buildings in variety of materials, built mainly of light-coloured and rock-faced ashlar with slated or red-tiled roofs, some blocks harled. Glazing mostly domestic-looking small-paned sash and case. Most blocks are in revived 17th century Scots style.

Listed blocks are as follows:

NURSES HOME, large symmetrical block with advanced pined ends, centrepiece formed by ogee-domed twin-towers linked at ground by porch; 3 storeys with dormer heads set above main eaves level, attic storey set above. Red ashlar, with contrasting yellow detailing, green slate roof, red ridging tiles. Inside spinal corridors, public/dining rooms to front, nurses rooms to rear and upstairs. Adjoining to east, and connected by low link, is extension of 1931, built to designs of E J Macrae, using materials similar to original block and reproducing its detailing (though main wall area at rear is harled).

ADMINISTRATION BLOCK (includes wards/villas 1 and 2) essentially a butterfly-plan, light-coloured ashlar with contrasting red ashlar detailing; external treatment comparatively plain - centre range based on the idea of a gabled 2-storey 3-bay house built on an eminence, with nepus gable and added wings each having advanced gabled front; beyond, low wings are diagonally-set on plan and link to outer ranges which are set cross-ways, their outer long fronts having advanced gables at centre and ends; windows cut through eaves and have individual pined roofs.

HOSPITAL BLOCK (includes wards/villas 3-6) also with large symmetrical front, mostly 2 storeys, day rooms etc in centre part, 3-storey centrepiece with bartizans and pyramidal roof; L-plan arrangement at ends with wards in paired wings, 2-storey wards project forwards from ends, single storey wards extend from either end at right angles.

RECREATION HALL, placed near centre on site, has Classical detailing, Edwardian baroque gabled south front, round-arched multi-paned windows to buttressed flanks, pitched roof over main hall area with semi-circular dormers, a wide single span of lattice steel construction without supporting columns inside; roof is pyramidal at north end over proscenium/stage area, and possibly intended to have a lantern of fleche. Built of light-coloured ashlar. Inside hall is well-detailed, curiously with side-aisles although these are defined only by ceiling structure. Modern parquet floor. Villas are located at east and at west end of Administration block. All are asymmetrical, and in Scots 17th century style. a) villa 10 (originally Acute Block) is nearest south west, and illustrates the general layout plan of the villas. On the ground floor, placed to the front, are two day rooms, one with entrance door, while on the SW corner, and lit on two sides, is the dining room (part of the philosophy of the colony system being to do away with large dining halls). Nurses room, kitchen, bathrooms, etc are to rear, bedrooms are upstairs. Built of light-coloured ashlar, contrasting red detailing, green slate roofs with red ridging tiles. b) Villa 8 is built of rubble, all painted, and with contrasting ashlar detailing, is similar to villa 10 (supra), and has slate roof; villa 7 is harled, and to a different pattern. Villa number 9 is not included in listing. At south west end of site, a series of 4 blocks (villas 18, 19 and 20, 21) all asymmetrical, in Scots 17th century style; 2/3 storeys; built of rock-faced ashlar with polished dressings slated/tiled roofs.

CHAPEL: one of the most prominent buildings at Bangour, it was designed by H O Tarbolton. A memorial to hospital staff killed in the Great War (though a chapel was included as part of the original concept at Bangour), with a War Memorial side chapel on the south. Dated 1924, work continued until circa 1930. Required for Church of Scotland/ Episcopal/ RC forms of worship, it has nave, chancel, sanctuary, rood cross, altar, side aisles etc. Built of roughly-squared whinstone (obtained from a quarry in the hospital grounds) with contrasting light-coloured ashlar detailing, the latter being stonework taken from the demolition of Hamilton Palace and re-used here (stonework has been re-cut, original surfaces lost). Slate roofs. Style is a very stripped Romanesque, with possibly a Nordic influence; square tower has splay-footed leaded spire of Scots late 17th/early 18th century type (cf Rutherglen Old Kirk Tower; Polwarth; or Sleszer's views of Thirlstane), though the source used here may be a medieval - again, possibly Nordic - one. On the tower flanks, the leadwork is carried beneath eaves, close to belfry level. Inside stonework is light-coloured ashlar (presumably more of the Hamilton stone), rough-textured and with raking (ie not vertical) edges, different surface treatment on different wall areas possibly intended to convey a sense of ancient character. War memorial Chapel has polygonal end, inscription bears names (men and women) of those killed. To north, vestry/office and small hall. Also, the occupational therapy block, beside the recreation hall. The former has a compact symmetrical front, while to rear, is a tall central square tower with blind arcading and lunettes. Excluded from listing are the five blocks (Villas 23-28) (Nos 25-26 are contained in the one block), situated on higher ground at north west end of site; boiler house complex and villas numbers 9, 29 and 31.

Notes:

Built as the Edinburgh District Asylum. It was the first new asylum for paupers to be planned on the colony system, though Kingseat was completed two years before Bangour, and a move towards this system was begun at the Crichton Royal, Dumfries from about 1895. The design competition specified the new continental form of plan. Bangour was a self-contained village, with its own gardens, water supply, drainage and fire-fighting equipment, and could be self sufficient through the industry of the more able patients. The complex was divided into two sections (the medical and the non-medical) on either side of the workshops, bakery, stores, kitchen and hall etc in the middle. The villas were designed to house 25-40 patients. Competition premiums were awarded to McCarthy & Watson of Edinburgh, William Eaglesham of Ayr, Thomson and Sandilands of Glasgow, and Macgibbon & Ross of Edinburgh.