

Thomas Hamilton's Royal High School, the Greek Revival and World Heritage

#SaveRHS





U. S. Sub-Treas



No. 52. National Art Views Co. N. Y. City





World Heritage Status

- Edinburgh and Scotland asked for it and is responsible for it
- Recognises the contribution of different aspects of Edinburgh's history to humanity, including:
 - Buildings and ensembles
 - Urban planning and landscape
 - Thinking
- Is protected by local systems:
 - Local plan policy ENV1
 - Listing buildings and conservation area legislation

The Statement of Outstanding Universal Value identifies four broad qualities

- The integration of the New Town / classical architecture with the landscape
- The finest Neo-Classical revival buildings in Europe
- Planned alignments leading to spectacular views and panoramas
- A remarkably consistent and coherent entity

The nomination document breaks this down into more detail against which impact can be assessed

- Edinburgh's 19th century self-image as Athens of the North
- The linear group from Waterloo Place running east
- The Romantic classical concept of architecture and landscape (marked in the geometry and planning of its elevations)

Outstanding Universal Value

- The integration of the New Town / classical architecture with the landscape
Negative impact
- The finest Neo-Classical revival buildings in Europe
Negative impact
- Planned alignments leading to spectacular views and panoramas
Negative impact
- A remarkably consistent and coherent entity
Negative impact

The nomination document

- Edinburgh's 19th century self-image as Athens of the North
Negative impact
- The linear group from Waterloo Place running east
Negative impact
- The Romantic classical concept of architecture and landscape (marked in the geometry and planning of its elevations)
Negative impact

Parting thought

Hamilton's Royal High School embodied the city's aspirations to ensure the best for its citizens and children. It can still do that, standing as a centre for culture, education and a better future – but not as a hotel.