

Proposed Renovation to the Stevenson Library Building  
The Scots College  
29-53 Victoria Rd, Bellevue Hill, NSW 2023

16 November 2017

## HERITAGE OVERVIEW of the PROPOSED RENOVATION of the STEVENSON LIBRARY

The aim of this introductory statement is to provide a general overview of the campus precinct, its heritage listed buildings & their relationship to the proposed development.

### Introduction

This Heritage Overview is in response of The Scots College at Bellevue Hill needing to renovate a 1970's built library building that is no longer adequate for the College's present requirements. It is central to the main College Campus, most of which is regarded as having High Heritage Significance and an important educational asset to Sydney with links to College educational support activities in other areas, particularly in the Illawarra and Central Tablelands Regions.

### The Existing Heritage Precinct

1895 The Scots College occupied the present site having left its initial premises at Brighton-le-Sands which became unsuitable and the new site had been a residence named St.Killian's which is regarded as an excellent example of the Victorian Italianate Style built in 1883 and designed by architects George and Ralph Mansfield for Judge Josephson. The College had an interim establishment of small classroom buildings with the extensive lower house grounds formed into the present main oval and in 1913 the house was renamed Aspinall House. Soon after the first main Middle School classroom building was built in 1914, the architects being Power and Adam and in 1938 extensive additions and renovations were carried out by architects Adam, Wright and Apperly to its present form in the Georgian Revival Style. The College, mindful of the importance of the precinct had in the early 20th century engaged noted architects to design boarding houses and a chapel in various established architectural historical styles.

### The Reason for the Selected Library Renovation Style

The College, mindful of its Presbyterian Church of Australia association and its core ethos of traditional Scots History and Values from Scotland felt that it was appropriate to have the new external building envelope of the Library renovations have some form to represent its Scots association in a reasonable way. It has carried out research on the development of building styles that were used in Sydney from the 1890's when the College was established to assess if there was an accepted architectural style that may be suitable, bearing in mind that an historic revival rebuilding would be considered to be an unconventional approach in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



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### The Selected Architectural Style

After much research and contact with a Scots architectural historian it was found that in the 1890's and early 20<sup>th</sup> century in Sydney and Australia generally the style, known as the Scots Baronial Revival Style was in fashion and selected for the following reasons :

1. The style being used in the period 1890 – 1910 was used between the 1880's Aspinall House Italianate Style and the Middle School of Georgian Revival Style of the 1930's and is placed correctly, historically between the main buildings on the College Campus.
2. As an item of built environment in a heritage precinct the renovated Library in Scots Baronial Revival Style forms a correct historical architectural link between the two existing buildings, with a sensitive link that gives the precinct a historically neat fit, placed between the two main buildings in the centre of the campus.
3. The new design is evolved from an excellent example of the style that was Craigends House at Renfrewshire, Scotland refer Figure 1, designed by the acclaimed architect David Bryce in 1834 and demolished in 1966-67. This provides for a building which will have a scale suitable to the adjoining buildings, along with façade and fenestration variations to all elevations and a roofscape that creates an architectural essay of great interest

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**Figure 1** Craigends House, Renfrewshire, Scotland: b1834, d1966-1967

Photo courtesy: ourlocalhistory.co.uk



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