

Additional Information in support of my Request for a Listing of the Former Grove Park
Girls Grammar School in Wrexham

Letter Proving that Air Raid Protection for Students and Staff had already been built into the Former Grove Park Girls Grammar School in the late 1930s.

This was at the time and possibly still is the only school in the United Kingdom with its own Air Raid Shelter.... sure this is of important historic value in itself.

DESIGN FOR A BOMB-PROOF SHELTER
suitable for construction in a school playground

COPY

17th March 1941

Oswald Thomas, Esq.,
Secretary to the Education Committee,
Education Offices,
RUTHIN.

Dear Sir,

WREXHAM GIRLS' COUNTY SCHOOL.
Air Raid Precautions.

I have to refer to yours of the 14th instant giving copy of letter from the Headmistress of the above.

On the 11th July last I forwarded a letter and plan to Mr. Emyr Williams, Clerk to the Governors. The Plan illustrated the areas of the premises (etched in red) ear-marked as shelter accommodation in the event of an air raid. The sections selected are the four Cloakrooms (Ground-Floor) together with connecting corridor; the roofs or ceilings of which are reinforced concrete. The Cloakrooms which form part of a two storey building have had the concrete ceilings further strengthened by timber propping; the windows to the Cloakrooms have been protected and so also have the entrance door openings.

The areas for shelter accommodation marked on the plan sent to Mr. Emyr Williams include approximately 3,740 sq. ft. and on the Board's calculation of 4 sq. ft. per scholar the areas marked on plan would provide accommodation for 935 scholars. I understand however there are 420 scholars attending the school. Another point is that the seating capacity in the Cloakroom gives accommodation for 480 scholars. The shelter protection provided at the above school is, in my opinion, adequate and is equal and in all respects to a surface air raid shelter.

With regard to the Headmistress' comment in respect of ladders between corridor roofs etc. this is being dealt with by the Clerk to the Governors under the heading of "Fire Watching". All the flat roofs at the above are covered in three layers of bitumastic felt.

I have forwarded a copy of this letter together with a copy of your letter of the 14th instant to Mr. Emyr Williams for his information.

Yours faithfully,
(SGD) G.D. Wiles
County Architect.