

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

LISTED BUILDING	Royal Institution of South Wales (Swansea Museum)
Grade:-	II*
Date of Notification:-	23.04.52 amended 30.03.87
National Grid Reference:-	6592092765
O.S. 1:10,000 Sheet No.:-	69 SE
CADW Reference No.:-	11653
C & C of S Reference No.:-	LB:020

Notes:-

Occupying an exposed island site facing north across the A483 dual carriageway.

Erected 1839-41. Designed by Mr F Long of Liverpool, William Rayner, builder. Later additions include art gallery of 1901. Greek Revival.

Two storey and basement Bath stone temple with fluted Ionic tetrastyle portico with pediment and steps up. Dentilled cornice and blocking course continues to three-bay flanks with Doric pilasters, blind upper storey, band course and ramped, lugged architraves to ground floor. Sash windows with marginal glazing bars. Ramped architrave to central doorcase with fanlight and double doors with anthemion panels. One-bay return elevation to right end, low-top-lit gable rear extension with arched keyblocked doorway (blocked). Three bay return to left end with low toplit gabled rear extension, modern extensions in angles.

Good original ironwork railings with scrolled supports sweeping forward to left and right of portico, tapered panelled piers (cemented) with entablatures. Railings return on right to meet low rubble boundary wall (continues as crinkle-crankle to rear), into Adelaide Street on left to meet rubble boundary wall.

Interior retains entrance hall with ramped architraves and double doors to library on right and lecture hall on left. Library has mahogany bookcases on two levels with open balustered stairs and fluted columns with acanthus capitals to ground floor. Otherwise plain detailing. Fine Imperial stone staircase with original cast-iron square balusters leads up from rear of entrance hall. Interior of rear right hand hall (former Reference Library and Reading Rooms) has timber trussed roof with ironwork foliage spandrels, paired pilasters with swagged capitals to display cases, wide pilastered end doorcase and segmental arched recess. Small rear left hand hall (former Art Gallery and Museum) has timber trussed roof with metal tie-rods circled spandrels.

Group Value.

Reference:-

Contract drawings dated 27th May, 1893 (mostly signed by Fred Long and William Rayner), nos 111-137 in Royal Institution collection.

W.A. Beanland : "History of the Royal Institution of South Wales, 1835-1935".

H. Colvin : "Biographical Dictionary" (1978), page 524.
Plans and Prospects, National Museum of Wales (1975) Page 46.