

Interior

- 3.108 The new Maynard Wing was designed to accommodate a dining room and a new lecture hall to be located in the middle of the range to the north. Student bedrooms and sitting rooms were to occupy the other smaller rooms leading off a central corridor. At the first floor level, a sick room and nurse's room were included away from the Kidderpore Hall end of the range, and the servants' rooms occupied the second floor levels.
- 3.109 The original dining room designed by Falconer Macdonald as part of the Maynard Wing can be seen in Figure 75, in a photograph taken c. 1905. This arrangement has since been lost to the alterations carried out as part of the construction of Bay House in 1921 and 1935 respectively.
- 3.110 This institutional design and the strict requirements of the architectural brief that reflected the concerns of the Committee in designing suitable accommodation for young women students can be read in the plan form of the building today. No original plans of the building have been found, but plans produced for 1970s alterations and refurbishment have been sourced from the basement of Kidderpore Hall.
- 3.111 The layout of Maynard Wing at each floor level is based around a central corridor with rooms in a cellular arrangement leading off both sides. These rooms are plain and reflect their purpose as institutional accommodation suites.
- 3.112 The style of rooms is plain, with minimal internal architectural detail. Skirting boards and architraves remain in the rooms and the corridors, albeit these are plain in profile. Original doors have been replaced with fire safety doors of single timber panes. The internal staircase is a concrete modern replacement with a metal handrail. A photograph is included at Figure 85.
- 3.113 Some rooms and corridors retain evidence of later alteration. In some places, original openings between suite rooms have been closed in, following works carried out in 1970s to create a greater number rooms. These proposed alterations can be seen in the plans at Figure 79 and evidence for the infilled door archway can be seen in Figure 84.

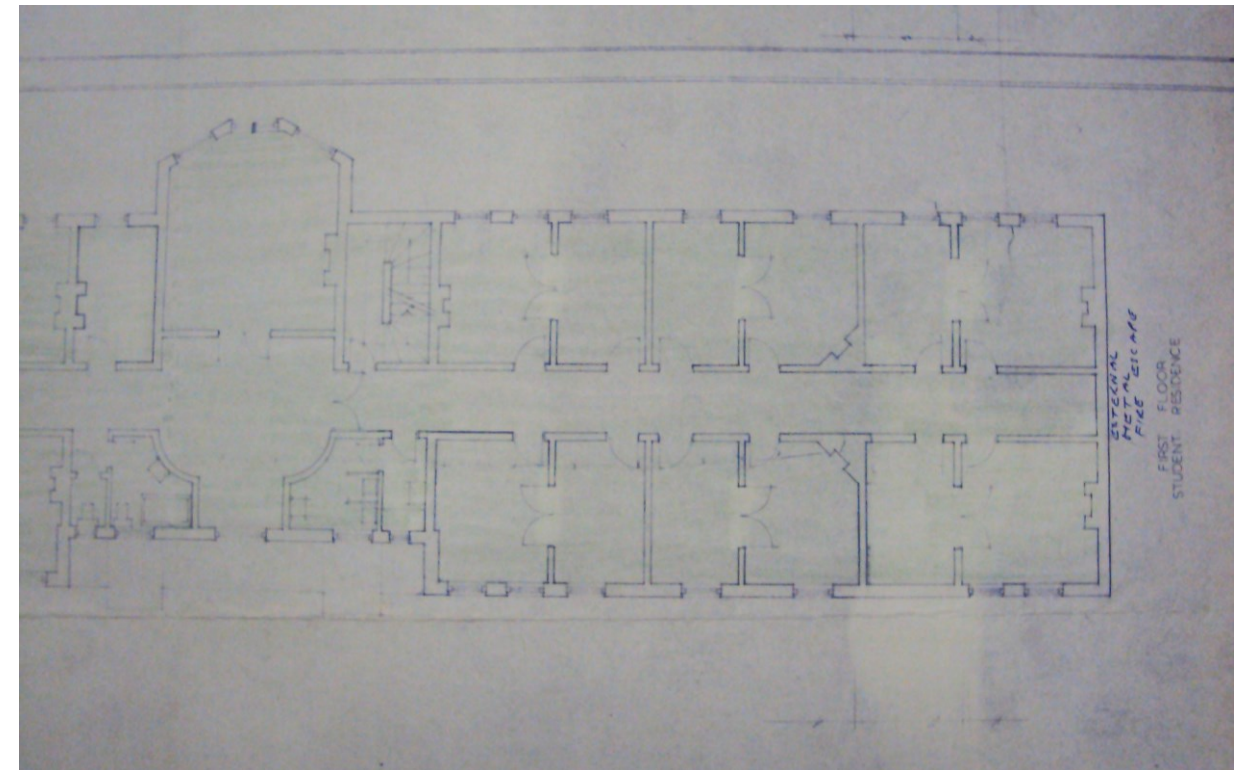


Figure 80 Part of a first floor plan dating from 1970 showing the layout of the accommodation.

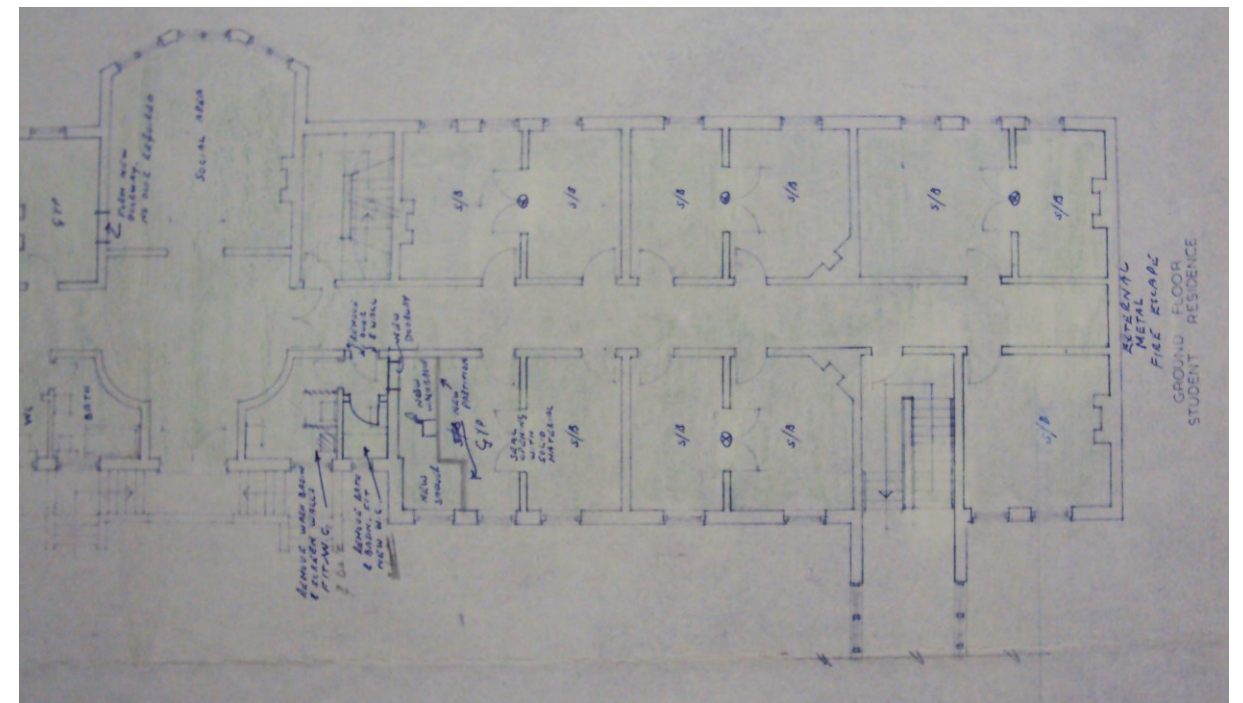


Figure 81 Part of a ground floor plan dating from 1970 showing the layout of the accommodation.



Figure 82 The student kitchen area at the ground floor level which occupies the main bay room of the west elevation.



Figure 84 A typical student room. The infilled archway is an example of an original opening that has been infilled. The plans at **Figure 78** provide evidence for this infill work carried out in 1973.



Figure 83. A photograph of a typical corridor within the Maynard Wing.



Figure 85. The internal staircase.

Skeel Library (1903- Grade II listed)

- 3.114 In 1903, a new purpose built Library and two lecture rooms were completed adjacent to the Maynard Wing. This building was designed by the same architect who had built the Maynard Wing, Falconer MacDonald, but the style of this building was to be more expressive than that of the more sedate and simple residential institutional architecture exhibited in his previous designs.
- 3.115 The decision had been taken to build the new library and lecture rooms as a pre-requisite for the elevation of the College to membership of the University of London, which it was granted from 1902.
- 3.116 The list entry summary describes the listed building as follows:

'Library and attached archway. 1903-4. By Robert Falconer MacDonal. Red brick with stone and brick 1st floor and dressings. Tiled hipped roof with tall brick chimney-stacks, segmental pedimented dormer and console-buttressed cupola. Edwardian Baroque style. 2 storeys and attic. 7 windows. Large central 2 storey canted bay with brick buttresses at ground floor level forming pediments to 1st floor stone attached Ionic columns. Ground floor 18-pane sashes have segmental gauged brick heads. 1st floor transom and mullion windows with small panes in enriched surrounds. Stone modillion and dentil eaves cornice. INTERIOR: lined with fumed oak fittings and has a gallery added in 1911. Archway, leading through to Maynard Wing (qv) with panels of herringbone brickwork and bands of stone. HISTORICAL NOTE: the library was built to allow Westfield College to be admitted as a teaching school of the University of London.'

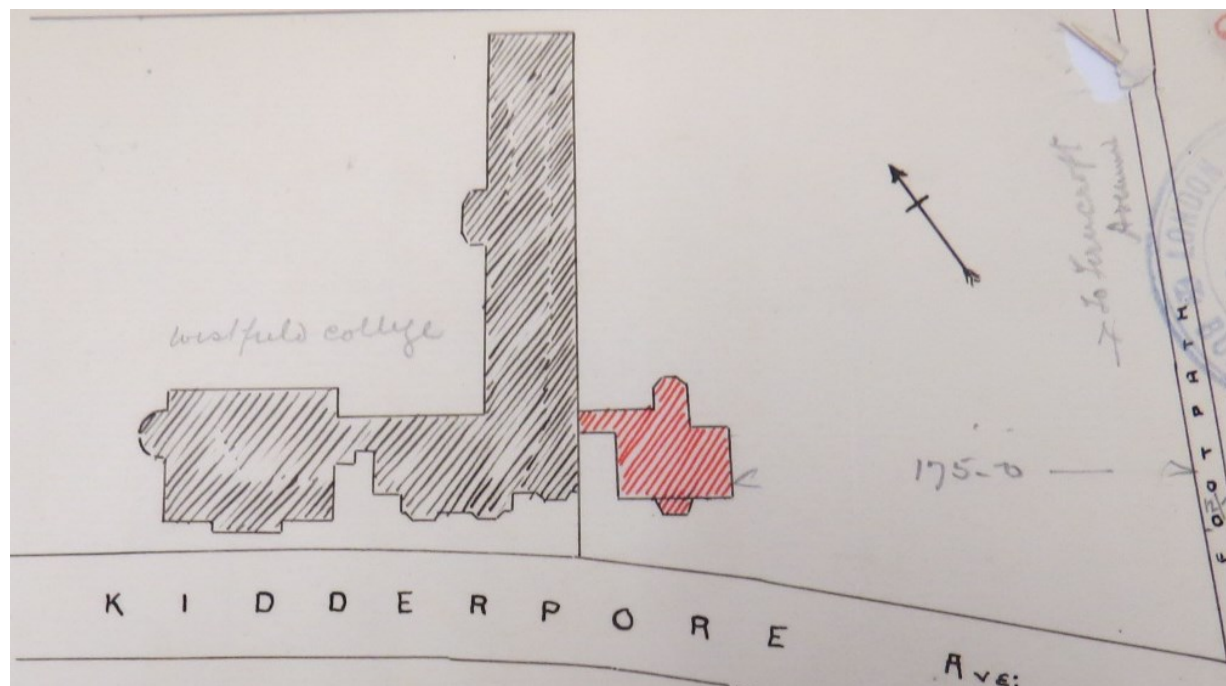


Figure 86 A sketch from 1903 showing the proposed new library, later to be called 'Skeel' after the lecturer Caroline Skeel. Aside from the Maynard Wing, there are no other buildings associated with Westfield College shown on this plan.

- 3.117 The building was named the 'Skeel Library' after Caroline Skeel, who was a lecturer at Westfield College from 1895-1929. Caroline Skeel (1872–1951) was a founder of the History Department and the Library at Westfield College. After graduating from Girton College, Cambridge, Caroline joined Westfield College in 1896 as a Visiting Lecturer in Classics, and was responsible for the establishment of the History Department. She was also responsible for the College library from 1902, hence the attribution, which attracted gifts from learned societies and other benefactors to improve the collection.
- 3.118 The 'old' Skeel Library was replaced by the new Skeel Library, situated behind 19-25 Kidderpore Avenue, in 1971. Since that date, the old Skeel Library has not functioned as a library.

Exterior

- 3.119 The sketch plan showing the proposals to build Skeel Library in 1903 is included at Figure 13. This plan shows the frontage of the completed Maynard Wing as set back from that of Kidderpore Hall, with a narrow bridge connection between them which would have allowed an observer to read the new Skeel building and Maynard as separate buildings in the streetscene.
- 3.120 The photograph of the elevation of the Westfield site as seen from Kidderpore Avenue, taken c. 1929, shows that this was the case. The original extent and design of the archway over the cobbled walkway, referred to as the 'Bridge of Sighs' by J Sondheimer, and mentioned in the list entry summary, can be seen in the photographs at Figure 88 and Figure 89.



Figure 87. A postcard entitled 'Westfield College – The College seen from the road.'



Figure 88 An image c.1905 showing the rear elevation of Skeel Library and the original bridge link between Skeel and Maynard.



Figure 90. The balcony at the second floor level to the rear of the former Skeel Library.



Figure 89. A photograph of the bridge structure which provided the original link between Skeel Library and Maynard Wing.



Figure 91. The single storey extension to the rear of the former Skeel Library.

- 3.121 The original extent of the bridged link between Skeel and Maynard is now obscured by the later extension to the dining wing of Maynard, which was completed at a date after 1934, as shown by comparing the historic maps of 1934-5 and 1953-4 and the proposed site plan for the construction of Lord Cameron Hall, which was drawn up in 1934. This is also labelled on the plan of the College as dating from 1935, shown in Figure 38. This extension served to infill the elevation of the original Maynard Wing (1891) and Skeel Library so that a continuous elevation to Kidderpore Avenue is now read.
- 3.122 The original principal elevation of Skeel Library dates to 1903-4. The rear elevation has also been the subject of later infill works which obscure a reading of the original elevation. The central bay staircase is original to the 1903-4 construction, whereas the addition to the east is the staircase which serves Dudin Brown. The block to the rear is a later two storey extension added to provide additional WC facilities. Historic maps indicate that this was constructed between 1915 and 1934.
- 3.123 Similarly the single storey extension to the rear of Skeel Library is a latter addition and is understood to have been built post 1915 according to photographs of the tennis court and the historic plan of the site. This single storey building has a squat appearance owing to the size of the openings for the fenestration, which create a lateral emphasis on the east elevation.
- 3.124 The fenestration of the former library Skeel provides evidence for these piecemeal alterations and extensions. Original windows to Kidderpore Avenue consist of white painted timber sash windows of 6-12 arrangement at the ground floor level, with smaller paned mullioned windows set into grey stone at the first floor level where the main space at the first floor used to function as a library.
- 3.125 The piano nobile is marked by the different use of materials and the semi engaged Ionic columns which surround the main windows. A dormer window, an original feature but with replacement windows of a later date, provides light into the third storey which is contained in the hipped roof, itself adorned with a cupola.
- 3.126 To the rear, the fenestration is irregular in rhythm and style, with white painted timber sash windows of varying size and arrangement.



Figure 92. A photograph of the rear elevation of Dudin Brown with the canted bay structure containing the original staircase to the former Skeel Library.



Figure 93. A photograph of the roof of the single storey extension to the rear of Skeel Library and the protruding rooflight.

Interior

- 3.127 Access to Skeel Library is via a door under the archway, or 'Bridge of sighs', which leads from Kidderpore Avenue to the eastern courtyard, and the building does not have a separate access from the street. As shown in the historic plan dating from 1952, the upper floors of Skeel provide access to the rooms of Dudin Brown, Bay House and the Maynard Wing.
- 3.128 Skeel comprises 'Lower Skeel' which is on the ground floor of the building and which is a large single room. This room remains as a large, open space and retains evidence of a partition which once divided the room for the use of two lecture rooms, as documented in Janet Sondheimer's book, 'Castle Adamant.' This ground floor is utilitarian in character and detail and, aside from the windows and surrounds, does not retain architectural features of note. The single storey extension to the rear is similarly lacking in internal architectural detail which contribute to its significance.
- 3.129 The first floor comprises the main library space, which some sources refer to as Upper Skeel. This first floor room retains evidence of its former use as a library. This is a double height space with a galleried walkway at the second floor level, which was added in 1911, according to the list description.
- 3.130 Above the library space is a further floor known as the 'Crow's Nest' which was most recently used as four student bedrooms. Use of this space was discontinued for safety reasons due to the lack of secondary access/egress. The partitions which divide these rooms in this top floor have been damaged and timbers are exposed. The quality of the interiors at this floor level are poor and in their current condition, detract from the special interest of the listed building.
- 3.131 Circulation in Skeel is provided by way of the main central staircase to the rear which is contained within the bay window, and the secondary staircase from the second to the third floor rooms. A balcony space exists above the bay staircase, which is not readily accessed.



Figure 94. A photograph of the internal partitions at the second floor level.



Figure 95. An image of the gallery space at the mezzanine floor level within the former Skeel Library.

Discussion of The Bay, or Bay House (c.1921, 1935) (non-listed)

- 3.132 The history of 'Bay House,' has been pieced together from available archival and documentary sources. It is now known that the building floorspace occupied by Bay House is a combination of rooms, some of which once belonged to the original extent of the Maynard Wing, and new extensions that were added in 1921 and 1934-5, and even prior to this formed part of the conservatory connected to Kidderpore Hall.
- 3.133 Bay House is not a statutorily listed building. It is located between Kidderpore Hall and the old Skeel Library. Continual access through Bay House from Kidderpore Hall through to Skeel Library is possible, and access to the Maynard Wing exists also at the first floor level. It is this interconnectivity and part of the existing elevation to Kidderpore Avenue which used to originally be part of the Maynard wing, which leads us to submit a listed building consent application for the proposed works. Notwithstanding this, this statement will indicate that the excising interiors of Bay House do not contribute to the significance of the listed elevation to Kidderpore Avenue.

Exterior

- 3.134 The changes in the composition of the street elevation to Kidderpore Avenue since the early twentieth century have had the effect of obscuring the extent of the original elevation of Maynard and creating a continuous building frontage to the street.
- 3.135 The original extent of the bridged link between Skeel and Maynard, shown in the photograph at Figure 98 is now obscured by the later extension to the dining wing of Maynard, which was completed at a date after 1934.
- 3.136 The proposed site plan for the construction of Lord Cameron Hall, which was drawn up in 1934, shows the extent of this new bridge link, and the label on the plan of the College included at Figure 96, labels the 'Dining Hall' as dating from 1935. This extension served to infill the elevation of the original Maynard Wing (1891) and Skeel Library so that a continuous elevation to Kidderpore Avenue is now read.

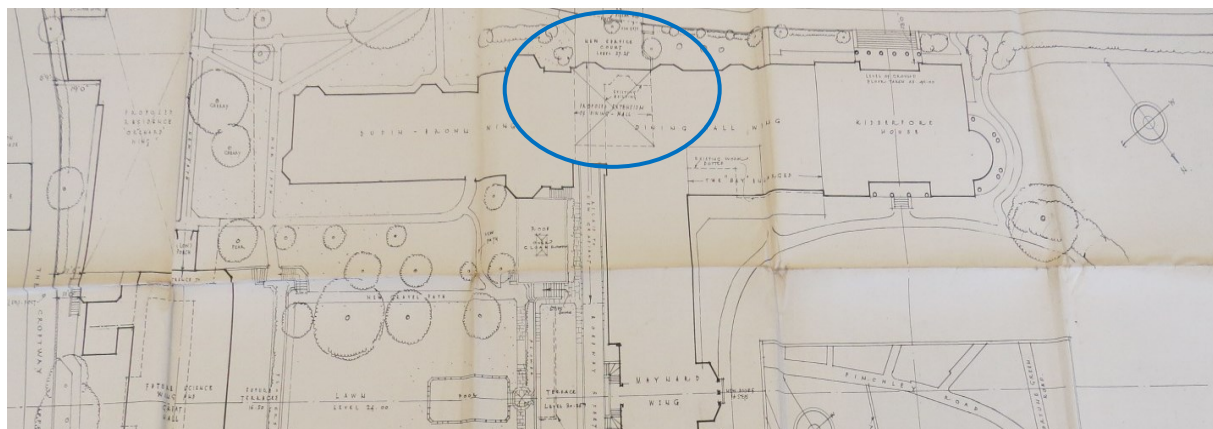


Figure 96 The 1934 site plan drawn for the 'Proposed extensions – Westfield College' in 1930s for Lord Cameron Hall. The proposed infill can be seen in the blue circle.



Figure 97. A photograph of Kidderpore Hall, the Maynard Wing and Skeel Library in the background, looking south along Kidderpore Avenue. This photograph dates from post 1903 and prior to 1921 when the Bay was constructed.



Figure 98. Left: an image of the original bridge link between Skeel Library and Maynard Wing. This photograph is taken prior to the construction of Lady Chapman Hall, and the dwellings on Ferncroft Avenue can be seen in the distance, beyond the boundary of the accommodation premises. Right: the original bridge link behind the 1934 Bay extension.

- 3.137 Externally, 'Bay House' does not present a consistent architectural form or style, as a result of its being built out in a piecemeal fashion in different phases. It is known that the conservatory to Kidderpore Hall was replaced in the early twentieth century and then again later in 1921. The existing elevation of Bay House is shown in Figure 100 as a white rendered building of two storeys with regular fenestration in the form of white painted sash windows. This extension has a flat roof and was evidently designed to reflect the style and materials of Kidderpore Hall. This area is known as the Bay Lounge.
- 3.138 To Kidderpore Avenue however, the Bay Lounge extension is fronted in red brick and the fenestration consists of white painted timber framed sash windows in a 6 over 6 arrangement. Three dormer windows in the pitched roof continue the rhythm of the fenestration below. This elevation contributes to the composition of the red brick frontage which extends from Kidderpore Hall to the south.
- 3.139 The later on bay infill extension of Bay House, completed with the construction of Lord Cameron Hall in 1934-5, was to replicate the style and form of the original Maynard Wing almost exactly, with the use of red brick on the frontage to Kidderpore Avenue, and a bay window extension with the same bottle balustrade detail on the top of the bay. The more recent addition of this part of the frontage is evidenced in the parapet at the roof level and the dormer windows which have fenestration of later replacement.

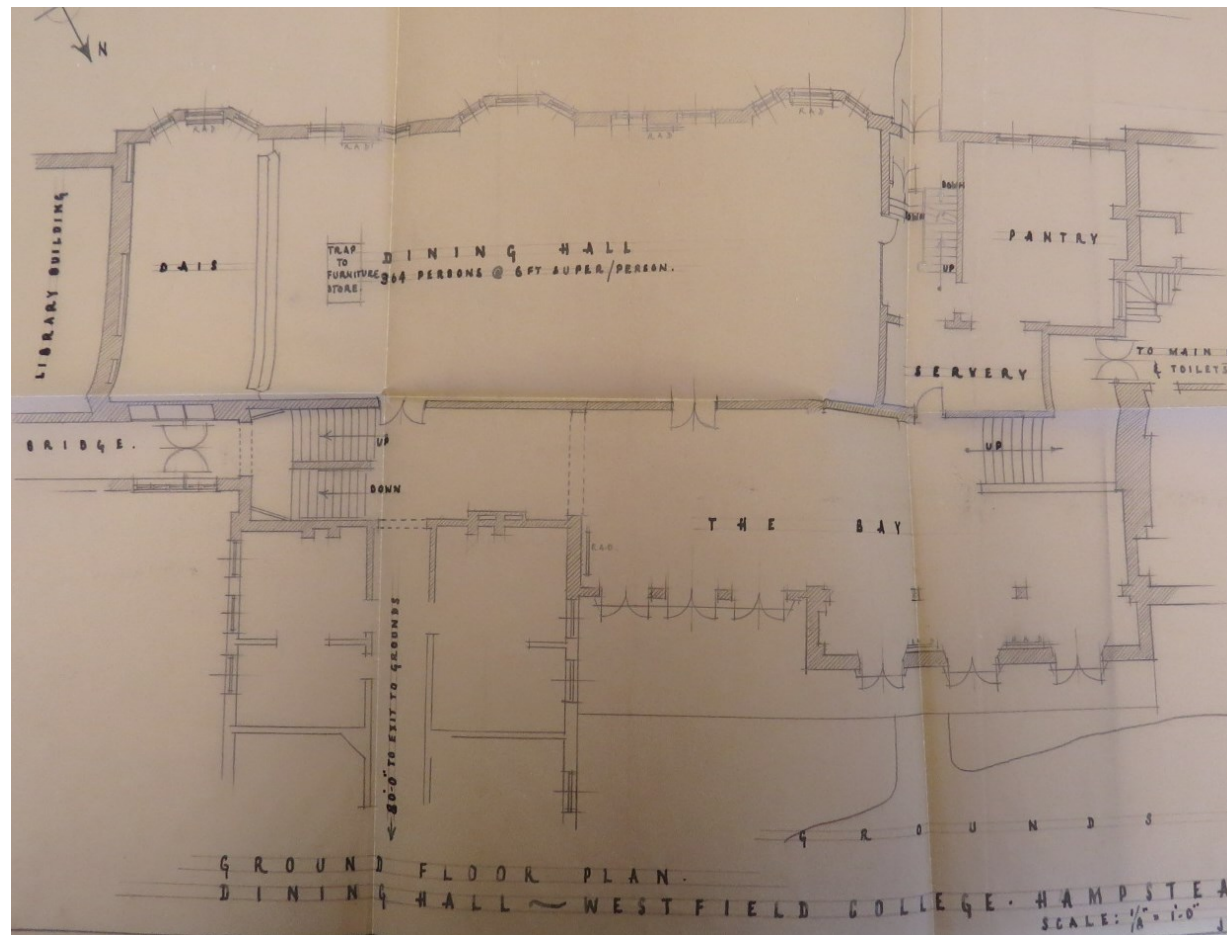


Figure 99. A plan of the buildings to the front of Kidderpore Avenue, comprising of the Nay, Maynard Wing, part of Skeel Library and Kidderpore Hall.



Figure 100 An image of the rear Bay House extension in its context with Kidderpore Hall and the Maynard Wing. The dotted red lines indicate the extent of the Bay House Lounge as seen from the rear from the garden.



Figure 101. A photograph of the 1921 Bay House extension as seen from Kidderpore Avenue. The red dotted lines are indicative of the extent of the Bay House infill.

Interior

- 3.140 The new extension completed in 1934 was referred to as the 'Dais' and the new room was to be open plan with a raised platform at one end. The appearance of this interior can be seen in Figure 103, a photograph dating from 1971, which shows Bay House hall was used as a reading room at this time. Prior to this, the space was referred to as a Dining Room, as consistent with the former use of this part of the Maynard Wing.
- 3.141 The plan included at Figure 99 shows the layout and use of the spaces within the area known as Bay House by 1952. The connectivity between the buildings shown in this plan reflects that of the existing building.
- 3.142 Bay House does not have a separate entrance from Kidderpore Avenue itself, but is accessed from Kidderpore Avenue via the reception area which was the main reception for the Hampstead Residence.
- 3.143 Access to Bay Hall is afforded to the right of this entrance hall, and almost straight ahead is an access to the part known as the Bay Lounge, which is known to have been completed in 1921. The interiors of the Bay Lounge are non-decorative, functional spaces. Photographs of the interiors are shown in Figure 106.
- 3.144 A separate set of stairs to the left of the entrance hallway provides entrance to the basement of Kidderpore Hall.
- 3.145 The upper floor levels of Bay House are now used as the student accommodation offices and study rooms for students. A photograph of the former librarian's office at the upper floor of Bay House is included at Figure 104. Photographs of the rooms at the upper floors of the building are included at Figure 107.
- 3.146 When King's College London took over the Westfield College site in 1992, Bay Hall was known as the Senior Common Room and Bay Lounge, the earlier extension adjoining to the east of Kidderpore Hall, was an associated licenced area.
- 3.147 The interiors of Bay House do not retain architectural or historic significance. The space at the upper ground floor level, now one large room, was converted from parts of the Maynard Wing in 1934, and were photographed in 1971 as accommodating a large reading room.
- 3.148 The exterior elevation of Bay House to Kidderpore Avenue incorporates part of the original elevation to the Maynard Wing, later infilled by the west and east Bay House extensions in 1921 and 1934 respectively.



Figure 102. The former Dining Hall within Maynard Wing, photographed 1905.



Figure 103. A photograph taken in 1971 of the 'New Reading Room' from the dais- this was formerly known as the Dining Hall.