APPENDIX 10:

Dictionary of Scottish Architects – DSA Architect Biography Report
https://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=203723

Basic Biographical Details

Name: **Sydney Smirke**

Designation:

Born: 20 December 1797

Died: 8 December 1877

Bio Notes: Sydney Smirke was born in London on 20 December 1797, the fifth and youngest son of Robert Smirke RA, painter and illustrator, and his wife Elizabeth. He was baptised on 14 Jan 1798. He was educated at Eywood, Herefordshire, studying under a private tutor with Lord Oxford's eldest son. At the age of about eighteen he entered the office of his eldest brother Sir Robert Smirke and studied at the Royal Academy Schools, winning the Gold Medal in 1819. This enabled him to visit Italy and Sicily. In 1827 he obtained a clerkship of the Kings' Works, engaged on St James's Palace, at which point his career temporarily diverged from that of his brother. The post was abolished in 1832, but in the following year he obtained his first major commission, the reconstruction of the Pantheon in London's Oxford Street, and gradually built up a large practice, partly from clients passed on to him by his elder brother, enabling him to marry Isabella Dobson, daughter of the architect John Dobson of Newcastle.

Sydney Smirke succeeded to his brother's practice in 1846, retaining the Surveyorship of the Inner Temple, the Duchy of Lancaster, the British Museum and the General Post Office. He was admitted FRIBA surprisingly late on 29 April 1844, his proposers being Sir William Tite, Thomas Henry Wyatt, Edward Buckton Lamb and the Catholic architect Joseph John Scoles. He received the Royal Gold Medal in 1860 and was Professor of Architecture 1861-65 at the Royal Academy where he reconstructed their buildings between 1867 and 1872, his last major work. He died at Tunbridge Wells on 8 December 1877, leaving estate of £80,000.

Private and Business Addresses

The following private or business addresses are associated with this :

Address	Type	Date from	Date to	Notes
London, England	Business			

Employment and Training

Employers

The following individuals or organisations employed or trained this (click on an item to view details):

Name	Date from	Date to	Position	Notes
(Sir) Robert Smirke	c. 1815(?)	1819(?)	Apprentice(?)	
(Sir) Robert Smirke	1819(?)	1827	Assistant(?)	
H M Office of Works (later Ministry of Works, Department of the Environment and Property Services Agency)	1827	1832	Clerk	

Employees or Pupils

The following individuals were employed or trained by this (click on an item to view details):

Name	Date from	Date to	Position	Notes
Gilbert Robert Blount			Assistant	
James Wylson	Before 1843	c. 1845	Senior Clerk	
Sydney Smirke	1855	1862	Apprentice	

RIBA

RIBA Proposers

The following individuals proposed this for RIBA membership (click on an item to view details):

Name	Date proposed	Notes
Edward Buckton Lamb	29 April 1844	*for Fellowship*
Joseph John Scoles	29 April 1844	*for Fellowship*
(Sir) William Tite	29 April 1844	*for Fellowship*
Thomas Henry Wyatt	29 April 1844	*for Fellowship*

RIBA Proposals

This proposed the following individuals for RIBA membership (click on an item to view details):

Name	Date proposed	Notes
Francis Thomas Dollman	4 January 1846	*for Associateship*
George Fowler Jones	17 February 1888	*for Fellowship*

Buildings and Designs

This was involved with the following buildings or structures from the date specified (click on an item to view details):

Date started	Building name	Town, district or village	Island	City or county	Country	Notes
1843	Luton Hoo			Bedfordshire	England	*Reconstruction after fire.*

References

Bibliographic References

The following books contain references to this :

Author(s)	Date	Title	Part	Publisher	Notes
British Architectural Library, RIBA	2001	Directory of British Architects 1834-1914			
Crook, J Mordaunt		Sydney Smirke: The Architecture of Compromise		Fawcett, Jane (ed.): 'Seven Victorian Architects'	

Periodical References

The following periodicals contain references to this :

Periodical Name	Date	Edition	Publisher	Notes
Builder	5 December 1877			*Obituary*

Archive References

The following archives hold material relating to this :

Source	Archive Name	Source Catalogue No.	Notes
Courtesy of Dr Aileen Reid	Information per 'Contact Us' on website		*Sent June 2011*

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