

**A Note about St George's Church, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh  
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St George's Church, Charlotte Square, is a landmark building, which occupies a focal point in the design of the Georgian New Town of Edinburgh. It is situated in the centre of one side of Charlotte Square, which was designed by Robert Adam in 1791 and remains one of the best-preserved parts of the New Town (on an adjacent side of the square is the official residence of the First Minister of Scotland). As such it faces along the length and axial vista of George Street, which forms the central spine of the New Town, parallel to, but more elevated than, the now more famous (but much less well preserved) Princes Street.

The church itself was built in 1814 to designs by Adam's pupil, Robert Reid. Its strong vertical emphasis makes a superb end-piece to George Street, although the mature planting in the gardens in the centre of Charlotte Square itself now makes it difficult to capture a balanced image of the façade. However, there are some good old prints of it and its copper dome still stands out as a feature of Edinburgh's distinctive skyline.

In the middle of the twentieth century this fashionable church had to close because deterioration of the fabric had rendered it unsafe. More recently the building has been renovated as West Register House, an annexe to the General Register House where Scotland's state records and historical documents are stored.

Websites showing images of the church:

[http://www.edinburgharchitecture.co.uk/charlotte\\_square\\_edinburgh.htm](http://www.edinburgharchitecture.co.uk/charlotte_square_edinburgh.htm)

<http://www.scotcities.com/edinburgh.htm>

[http://www.edinphoto.org.uk/0\\_my\\_p\\_edyr\\_12/0\\_my\\_photos\\_edyr\\_12\\_2003\\_photo\\_09.htm](http://www.edinphoto.org.uk/0_my_p_edyr_12/0_my_photos_edyr_12_2003_photo_09.htm)

<http://www.oldandnewedinburgh.co.uk/volume3/page184.html>

[http://www.edinphoto.org.uk/0\\_eng\\_ma\\_060/0\\_engraving\\_-\\_ma\\_074++b\\_st\\_georges\\_church\\_-\\_charlotte\\_square\\_col.htm#picture](http://www.edinphoto.org.uk/0_eng_ma_060/0_engraving_-_ma_074++b_st_georges_church_-_charlotte_square_col.htm#picture)