

M018 Fairfield Shipbuilding & Engineering Co. Ltd offices

Introduction

John Honeyman & Keppie designed a long, red sandstone office building in Italian-Renaissance style with a central entrance pavilion including figurative sculpture, and glazed roofs lighting drawing offices on the first floor.

Authorship: John Honeyman appears to have been awarded the Fairfield contract prior to any public announcement of his new partnership with John Keppie.

¹ The drawings of August 1889 appear to be in Keppie's hand.

'Fairfield offices (early work)' was included on a list of drawings produced in the office during Mackintosh's time, compiled in the 1930s by Ronald Harrison. Harrison was an early student of Mackintosh's architecture, who had access to the office records. He evidently believed that Mackintosh contributed in some way to the design of the building, but no evidence has come to light to support this attribution.

Alternative names: Upper Clyde Shipbuilding; Govan Shipbuilders Ltd; Kvaerner Govan; BAE Systems.

Cost from job book: £16457 2s 9d

Cost from other sources: Estimated cost: £10,500–£11,000 ²

Status: Standing building

Current name: Fairfield

Current use: Offices and heritage centre (2014)

Listing category: A: Listed as '1030, 1048 Govan Road, Govan Shipbuilders Ltd, general offices (excluding 1956 extension to W)'

Historic Scotland/HB Number: 33356

RCAHMS Site Number: NS56NW 36.00

Grid reference: NS 54688 66024

Chronology

1835

Charles Randolph and Richard S. Cunliffe establish a small engineering shop in Glasgow. ¹

1852

John Elder joins the company. ²

1864

After taking the decision to move into shipbuilding in 1860, a shipbuilding and engineering company is established on the grounds of Fairfield farm near Govan village. ³

1868

First ship is launched at the Fairfield shipyard. ⁴

1869

Death of John Elder. ⁵

1870

Elder's widow, Isabella Elder, and company partners, her brother John Francis Ure, and engineering partner, J. L. K. Jamieson seek a third partner to manage the shipbuilding side of the business. William Pearce (later MP for Govan, made a baronet in 1887) is appointed. John Elder & Co. is founded. ⁶

1878

Ure and Jamieson retire leaving Pearce in sole charge. ⁷

1886

John Elder & Co. is re-established as Fairfield Shipbuilding & Engineering Co. Ltd, with limited liability. William Pearce serves as chairman. ⁸

1888

Death of Sir William Pearce. His son, Sir William George Pearce, takes over as chairman. ⁹

1889

22 July: Contractor tenders submitted. ¹⁰

26 July: Fairfield's board of directors unanimously agrees to proceed with construction of new offices at their existing shipyard and 'to accept the offers of Messrs Guthrie & Co. for the mason work, Mr James Herbertson for the wright work, Mr James Nicol for the plaster work, Messrs Brown & Young for the plumber work and Messrs A. M. Ross & Son for the slater work'. ¹¹

August: Earliest date of Honeyman & Keppie drawings. ¹²

14 September: Plans submitted to Govan Dean of Guild Court. ¹³

25 September: Plans approved by Govan Dean of Guild Court. ¹⁴

1891

7 February: senior staff and invited guests attend a dinner at the 'scarcely completed' new offices. ¹⁵

1892

1 and 3 March: Latest payments to contractors. ¹⁶

1956

Large two-storey extension at W. end. ¹⁷

1968

'Fairfield becomes the Govan division of Upper Clyde Shipbuilders Ltd.' ¹⁸

2001

Office building closed. ¹⁹

2008

Conservation report commissioned by Govan Workspace. ²⁰

2009

Building acquired by Govan Workspace. ²¹

2010

Programme of regeneration set in motion. First phase of work, emergency repairs, costing c. £1.4 m completed by July. ²²

Description

People

Clients:

- Fairfield Shipbuilding & Engineering Co. Ltd

Contractors:

- James Boyd & Sons
- Thomas Brown
- Brown & Young
- John Bryden & Sons
- Buchans & MacIntyre
- James Cormack & Sons Ltd
- W. H. Dinsmore
- J. & G. Findlay
- Galbraith & Winton
- James Pittendrigh Macgillivray
- R. A. McGilvray & Ferris
- Peter McKissock & Sons
- George Nicol [to fix]

- A. McKenzie Ross
- William Shirreffs
- Smith & Wellstood

Other:

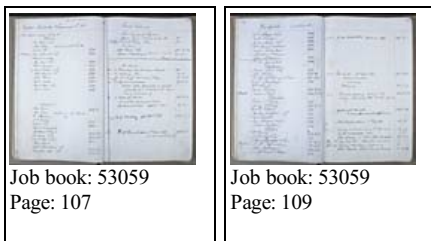
- Sir William George Pearce

Job Book

The job books of Honeyman & Keppie (later Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh) are now held by The Hunterian, University of Glasgow and include four volumes related to the Mackintosh period. The books were used by the firm to keep a project-by-project, day-by-day record of contractors, suppliers and expenditure. The name of a project and/or client is usually at the top of the left-hand page, followed by information about tradesmen who tendered. The name of the measurer (quantity surveyor) is usually at the top of the right-hand page, followed by information about payments to contractors and suppliers. All of the data for M018 is entered in the tables below.

Page numbering is not consistent in the job books. Sometimes a single number refers to a double-page spread and sometimes each page is individually numbered. Here, each image of a double-page spread is identified by the number given at the top of the left-hand page. (Images of all of the pages from the four job books can be found at [Browse Job Books](#), [Visit Book and Cash Book](#).)

The following information about M018 has been extracted from the job books:



Client: Fairfield Shipbuilding & Engineering Co. Ltd

Measurer: W. H. Dinsmore

Measurer address: no data in job book

Tenders:

Contractor	Type	Address	Date	Value	Accepted
George Barlas & Co.	mason	no data in job book	22 July 1889	no data in job book	no
Alexander Eadie	mason	no data in job book	22 July 1889	no data in job book ¹	no
Guthrie & Co.	mason	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£5700 0s 0d	no
Peter McKissock & Sons	mason	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£5918 0s 0d	yes (no data in job book)
Morrison & Mason	mason	no data in job book	22 July 1889	no data in job book	no
Alexander Muir & Son	mason	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£6354 0s 0d	no
Robert Murdoch	mason	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£6600 0s 0d	no
James Watson & Son	mason	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£6370 0s 0d	no
Bell Hornsby & Co.	mason	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£5795 0s 0d	no
John Porter	mason	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£6240 0s 0d	no
Watt & Wilson	mason	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£6500 0s 0d	no

James Goldie & Son	mason	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£6200 0s 0d	no
James Devlin	mason	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£6649 0s 0d	no
Thomas Brown	wright	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£3435 15s 0d	no
Alexander Eadie	wright	no data in job book	22 July 1889	no data in job book ²	
M. Henderson	wright	no data in job book	22 July 1889	no data in job book ³	no
J. & G. Findlay	wright	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£3400 6s 7d	yes (no data in job book)
Guthrie & Co.	wright	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£3300 0s 0d	no
Hunter & Marshall	wright	no data in job book	22 July 1889	no data in job book	no
Hutcheson & Grant	wright	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£3521 18s 3d	no
George Laird & Son	wright	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£3936 19s 5d	no
William McCall & Sons	wright	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£3630 0s 0d	no
Thomas Lamb	wright	no data in job book	22 July 1889	no data in job book	no
Archibald MacFarlane & Son	wright	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£3602 12s 7d	no
Hamilton Marr & Co.	wright	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£3347 16s 8d	
William Shaw & Son	wright	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£3450 0s 0d	no
Watt & Wilson	wright	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£4019 0s 0d	no
James Maben & Co.	wright	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£3394 0s 0d	no
William Cowan & Watson	wright	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£3320 0s 0d	no
James Herbertson	wright	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£3270 0s 0d	
Morrison & Mason	wright	no data in job book	22 July 1889	no data in job book	no
John McAulay	wright	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£3530 0s 0d	no
P. & W. Campbell	wright	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£3843 0s 0d	no
James Caird & Co.	plasterer	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£670 0s 0d	no
John Forbes	plasterer	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£632 14s 0d	no
R. A. McGilvray & Ferris	plasterer	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£681 14s 5d	no
D. & J. McKenzie	plasterer	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£643 0s 0d	no
William Sheriff	plasterer	no data in job book	22 July 1889	no data in job book	no
Henry Bradley	plasterer	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£634 18s 3d	

George Nicol	plasterer	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£624 9s ½d	yes (no data in job book)
Brown & Young	plumber	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£489 0s 0d	yes (no data in job book)
Cairns & Laing	plumber	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£496 9s 2d	no
D. & R. Fulton	plumber	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£480 0s 0d	no
James Ingleton & Co.	plumber	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£490 0s 0d	no
Lewis Russell	plumber	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£460 0s 0d	no
James Johnstone & Son	plumber	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£486 0s 0d	no
William Darrie	slater	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£202 16s 11d	no
A. & D. MacKay	slater	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£227 0s 0d	no
John Morrison & Son	slater	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£191 15s 0d	no
A. McKenzie Ross	slater	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£186 4s 7d	yes (no data in job book)
John Anderson	slater	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£203 12s 0d	no
J. McOwat & Son	slater	no data in job book	22 July 1889	£222 0s 0d	no
James Young	stone carving of capitals	197 Dumbarton Road	no data in job book	£28 0s 0d	no
R. A. McGilvray & Ferris	stone carving of capitals	no data in job book	no data in job book	£20 0s 0d	yes (4 February 1890)
John Bryden & Son	gasfitting	no data in job book	no data in job book	£291 12 9½d	no
Buchans & MacIntyre	gasfitting	no data in job book	no data in job book	£260 13s 1d	yes (12 August 1890)

Payments (trades):

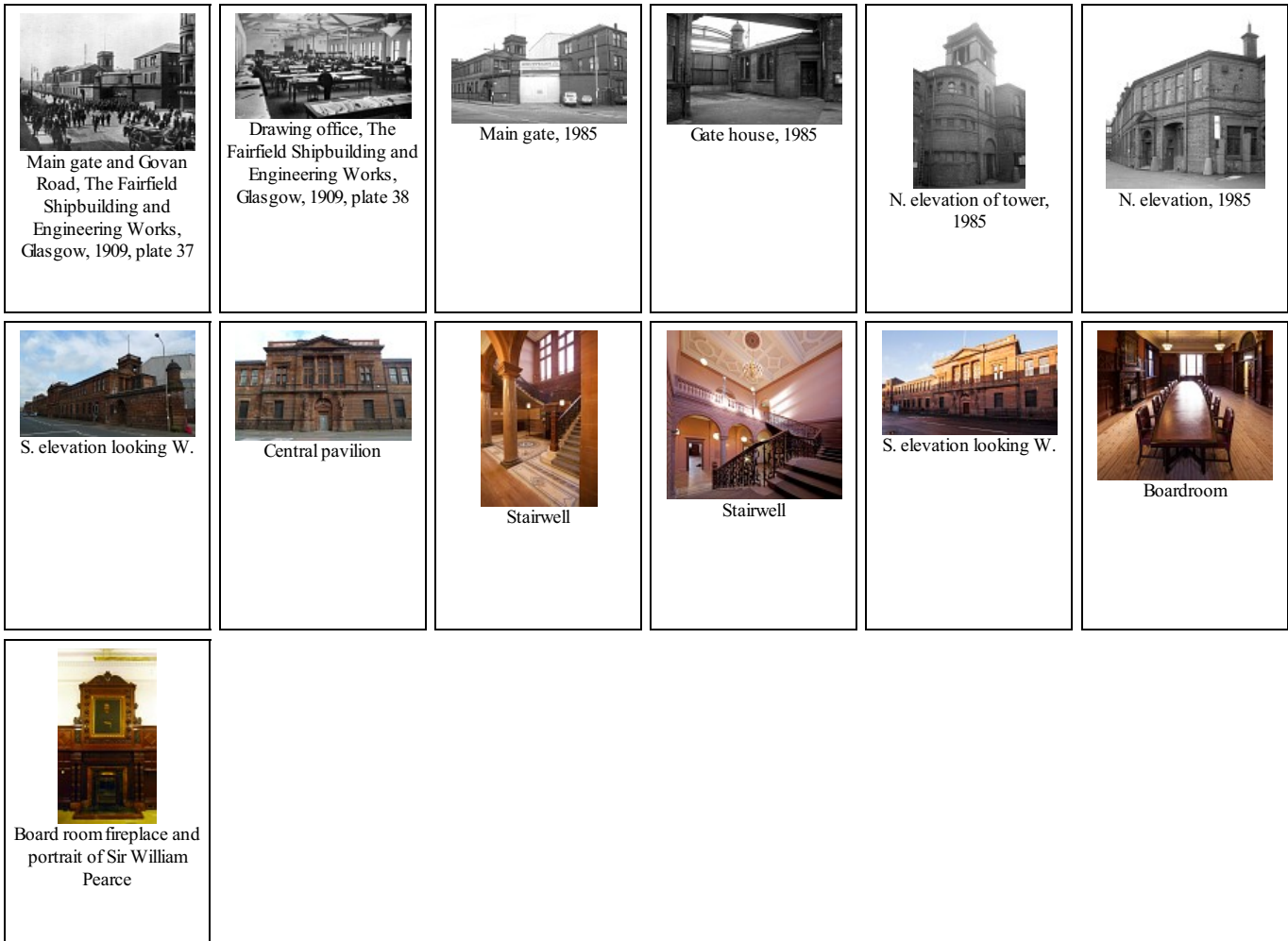
Name	Type	Payment out sum	Measurer fee payments
R. A. McGilvray & Ferris	stone carving of capitals	Payment date: 12 May 1890 £90 15s 0d	
J. & G. Findlay	wright	Payment date: 22 December 1891 £4595 19s 9d	£5 10s 0d
Peter McKissock & Sons	mason	Payment date: 1 March 1892 £7240 4s 6d ⁴	£9 2s 0d
A. McKenzie Ross	slater	Payment date: 3 March 1892 £141 12s 1d	£2 10s 0d
George Nicol	plasterer	Payment date: 28 August 1891 £986 9s 4d ⁵	£11 10s 0d
Brown & Young	plumber	Payment date: 3 November 1891 £625 18s 9½d ⁶	£8 8s 0d
Buchans & MacIntyre	gasfitting	First installment: 5 June 1891 Final installment: 26 August 1891 £133 1s 2d	£2 7s 6d

Payments (suppliers):

Name	Service	Payment date	Payment sum
James Pittendrigh Macgillivray	sculpture	9 April 1891	£251 0s 0d
William Shirreffs	'wood carving & bronze'	23 May 1890	£68 13s 4d
James Cormack & Sons Ltd	no data in job book ⁷	First installment: 17 August 1891 Final installment: 13 April 1893	£644 6s 2d
Galbraith & Winton	'Mosaic floors marble jambs & fender'. ⁸	12 October 1891	£238 13s 10d
John Bryden & Sons	no data in job book	11 July 1891	£64 12s 6d
Smith & Wellstood	stove	no data in job book	£1 3s 0d
Thomas Brown	ventilation	First installment: 2 December 1890 Final installment: 26 August 1891	£93 13s 10d ⁹
James Boyd & Sons	'frames as per estimate'.	18 June 1891	£81 0s 0d

Documents

Images



Bibliography

Published

- K. J. W. Alexander and C. L. Jenkins, *Fairfields: A Study of Industrial Change*, London: Penguin, 1970
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- Ray McKenzie, *Public Sculpture of Glasgow*, Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2000, pp. 187–8
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- *Fairfield 1860–1960*, Glasgow: Barber MacLaren, c. 1960

- *British Architect*, 30, 14 December 1888, p. 418

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- Glasgow City Archives Collection: Fairfield Shipbuilding & Engineering Co. Ltd, minute book, UCS 2/1/1
- University of Glasgow Archive Services: Anderson's College Medical School minutes, GB0248 DC244/1/4, 9 October 1888; 26 October 1888; 12 November 1888
- Robertson McIntosh Consultants, 'Fairfield, Govan: Conservation and Management Plan', Glasgow: Govan Workspace Ltd, 2010

Notes:

- 1: *British Architect*, 30, 14 December 1888, p. 418.
- 2: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Fairfield Shipbuilding & Engineering Co. Ltd, minute book, UCS 2/1/1, 26 July 1889.
- 3: K. J. W. Alexander and C. L. Jenkins, *Fairfields: A Study of Industrial Change*, London: Penguin, 1970, p. 11.
- 4: K. J. W. Alexander and C. L. Jenkins, *Fairfields: A Study of Industrial Change*, London: Penguin, 1970, p. 11.
- 5: K. J. W. Alexander and C. L. Jenkins, *Fairfields: A Study of Industrial Change*, London: Penguin, 1970, p. 11.
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- 8: K. J. W. Alexander and C. L. Jenkins, *Fairfields: A Study of Industrial Change* London: Penguin, 1970, p. 11; 'Sir William Pearce', www.oxforddnb.com [accessed 15 April 2011].
- 9: 'Sir William Pearce', www.oxforddnb.com [accessed 15 April 2011]; K. J. W. Alexander and C. L. Jenkins, *Fairfields: A Study of Industrial Change*, London: Penguin, 1970, p. 11.
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- 12: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie job book, GLAHA 53059, pp. 107, 109.
- 13: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Fairfield Shipbuilding & Engineering Co. Ltd, minute book, UCS 2/1/1, 26 July 1889; John R. Hume, *Industrial Archaeology of Glasgow*, Glasgow and London: Blackie, 1974, p. 261.
- 14: See inscription on ground and first-floor plan, Glasgow City Archives Collection: Govan Dean of Guild Court plans, TD1309/G/30.
- 15: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Govan Dean of Guild Court proceedings, H-GOV 36/2, 14 September 1889.
- 16: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Govan Dean of Guild Court proceedings, H-GOV 36/2, 14 September 1889.
- 17: *Govan Press*, 7 February 1891, p. 2.
- 18: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie job book, GLAHA 53059, p. 110.
- 19: Historic Scotland listing description 33356.
- 20: K. J. W. Alexander and C. L. Jenkins, *Fairfields: A Study of Industrial Change*, London: Penguin, 1970, p. 12.
- 21: Robertson McIntosh Consultants, *Fairfield, Govan. Conservation and Management Report*, 2010, p. 40.
- 22: Robertson McIntosh Consultants, *Fairfield, Govan. Conservation and Management Report*, 2010, p. 1.
- 23: Robertson McIntosh Consultants, *Fairfield, Govan. Conservation and Management Report*, 2010, p. 1.
- 24: BBC News, www.bbc.co.uk/news [accessed 28 July 2010].
- 25: 'returned with thanks'.
- 26: 'returned with thanks'.
- 27: 'returned with thanks'.

28: 'less old material £59 19s 0d'.

29: 'Includes granolithic & new wing.' Includes jobbing account £88 9s 7d.

30: 'Includes west wing £45. Hotwater, Ladies lavy etc'.

31: 'includes Extras altering pipes in drawing offices £12 10s 2d. Do. waiting R. £3. Time of man at Socil meeting 11/-.'

32: 'includes floor & walls tiles £35 13s 3d'.

33: Includes 'ventilation' and 'ventilator in finial tracery'.

Mackintosh Architecture: Context, Making and Meaning

Led by The Hunterian, University of Glasgow, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council; with additional support from The Monument Trust, The Pilgrim Trust, and the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art; and collaborative input from Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland.



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