

M130 Additions to Saracen Tool Works

Introduction

The Saracen Tool Works was an industrial complex spread across several streets near Glasgow Cross where Alex. Mathieson & Sons manufactured woodworking and engineering tools. It grew piecemeal during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In 1896, John Honeyman & Keppie designed a four-storey addition at the corner of Great Dovehill and Bell Street (formerly known as Graeme Street). In 1902, Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh designed a wood-drying shed in Macfarlane Street and a founding shop in Saracen Lane.

Authorship: One of the drawings approved by the Glasgow Dean of Guild Court showing ironwork for the Saracen Lane founding shop was signed by Mackintosh on behalf of the practice, but there is no evidence that he was involved in its design.

Alternative names: Alexander Mathieson & Sons.

Alternative addresses: 272–274 Bell Street 13–27 East Campbell Street Gallowgate Great Dovehill Graeme Street Macfarlane Street Saracen Head Lane

Cost from job book: Bell Street / Great Dovehill building: £1921 14s 3d; Saracen Lane founding shop: £964 1s 6d

Status: Largely demolished

Current use: Warehouse/workshop (2014)

RCAHMS Site Number: NS66SW 633

Grid reference: NS 6003 6481

Chronology

1896

14 May: Drawings for building at corner of Great Dovehill and Graeme Street approved by Glasgow Dean of Guild Court. ¹

1898

1 February: Payment of measurer's fee. ²

1902

8 May: Dean of Guild Court approval granted for wood-drying shed in Macfarlane Street. ³

3 June: Work starts on site in Macfarlane Street. ⁴

26 August: Macfarlane Street shed finished. ⁵

1 October: Work on founding shop starts on site. ⁶

1903

27 August: Founding shop complete. ⁷

Description

Founded in 1792, the toolmakers Mathieson's were established in Saracen Lane before 1830. ¹ By the mid 20th century, their Saracen Tool Works occupied a sprawling complex of buildings on both sides of the lane between Bell Street and Gallowgate, most of which has since been demolished and replaced with housing. John Honeyman & Keppie's major contribution was a four-storey polychrome brick block on the corner of Great Dovehill and Bell Street (formerly Graeme Street), designed in 1896. It was still standing in 2004, when it was surveyed by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, but it has since been demolished.



Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh designed two further buildings in 1902, both utterly utilitarian: a wood-drying shed in Macfarlane Street, E. of the main complex, and a founding shop on the E. side of Saracen Lane. The shed, which was largely of timber construction, appears to have been demolished, but the founding shop survives. It is single-storey, with a gabled brick facade. Now isolated, it originally abutted earlier buildings on the N. and E., and its N. and E. walls are in fact the surviving walls of these demolished neighbours. The architects' drawings show the S. wall constructed of brick infill between cast-iron stanchions (only brick is visible from the street), with a roof of lightweight iron trusses.



People

Clients:

- Alex. Mathieson & Sons

Contractors:

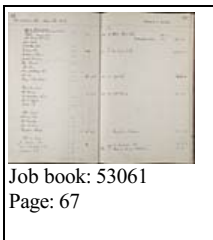
- Donald Clerk & Sons
- Robert Corbet & Son
- Douglas, Hunter & Whitson
- P. & R. Fleming
- James Ingleton & Co.
- George Laird & Son
-
- Thurgland & Brown

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 M130 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 M130 has been extracted from the job books:



Client: Alex. Mathieson & Sons

Measurer: Douglas, Hunter & Whitson

Tenders:

Contractor	Type	Address	Date	Value	Accepted

Ross Gilchrist & Son	mason & brickwork	50–52 Mere Street, Calton	no data in job book	£1090 0s 0d	no
Robert Corbet & Son	mason & brickwork	no data in job book	no data in job book	£991 0s 0d	yes
Steven	mason & brickwork	London Road	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
John Paterson & Sons Ltd	mason & brickwork	no data in job book	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
William McCall & Sons	joiner	no data in job book	no data in job book	£645 0s 0d	no
George Laird & Son	joiner	no data in job book	no data in job book	£583 0s 0d	yes
Hutcheson & Grant	joiner	no data in job book	no data in job book	£631 0s 0d	no
Matthew Henderson	joiner	no data in job book	no data in job book	no data in job book 1	no
Thomas Brown	joiner	no data in job book	no data in job book	£649 0s 0d	no
Moses McCulloch & Co.	cast iron	no data in job book	no data in job book	£241 6s 8d	no
	cast iron	no data in job book	no data in job book	£230 14s 3d	yes
Kesson & Campbell	cast iron	no data in job book	no data in job book	£268 15s 8d	no
P. & R. Fleming	rolled iron	no data in job book	no data in job book	£111 4s 6d	yes
P. & W. Mackellar Ltd	rolled iron	no data in job book	no data in job book	£125 3s 4d	no
Reid & Stafförd	rolled iron	no data in job book	no data in job book	£117 13s 6d	no
Bladen & Co.	rolled iron	no data in job book	no data in job book	£112 4s 3d	no
J. M. Cowat & Son	slater	no data in job book	no data in job book	£46 0s 0d	no
S. & D. McKay	slater	no data in job book	no data in job book	£55 0s 0d	no
John Anderson	slater	no data in job book	no data in job book	£45 0s 0d	no
Thurgland & Brown	slater	no data in job book	no data in job book	£43 12s 10d	yes
James Ingleton & Co.	plumber	no data in job book	no data in job book	£35 0s 0d	yes
Hugh Twaddle & Son	plumber	no data in job book	no data in job book	£39 9s 6d	no
A. Watson & Co.	plumber	no data in job book	no data in job book	£46 0s 0d	no

Payments (trades):

Name	Type	Payment out sum
Robert Corbet & Son	mason & brickwork	Payment date: 28 October 1897 £956 10s 0d ²
George Laird & Son	joiner	Payment date: 16 August 1898 £508 7s 10d
	cast iron	Payment date: 26 April [1898] £213 17s 10d
P. & R. Fleming	rolled iron	Payment date: 26 April [1898] £119 17s 5d

Thurgland & Brown	slater	Payment date: no data in job book £50 11s 5d
James Ingleton & Co.	plumber	Payment date: no data in job book £31 6s 9d

Measurer fee payment: £41 3s 0d (1 February 1898)

Phase 2: Founding shop, 1902–3



Job book: 53061
Page: 253

Client: Alex. Mathieson & Sons

Measurer: no data in job book

Tenders:

Contractor	Type	Address	Date	Value	Accepted
Robert Corbet & Son	artificer	no data in job book	9 September 1902	£531 18s 0d	yes
John Paterson & Sons	artificer	no data in job book	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
Robert Gilchrist & Sons	artificer	no data in job book	no data in job book	£467 0s 0d	no
Donald Clerk & Sons	iron	West Campbell Street	9 September 1902	£227 7s 3d	yes
Bladen & Co.	iron	212 St Vincent Street	no data in job book	£267 1s 6d	no
Moses McCulloch & Co.	iron	168 Gallowgate	no data in job book	no data in job book ³	no
P. & R. Fleming	iron	29 Argyle Street	no data in job book	£285 1s 2d	no
J. & A. Law	iron	Rice Street Foundry, Port Dundas	no data in job book	£277 5s 2d	no
Redpath Brown & Co.	iron	no data in job book	no data in job book	£225 17s 1d	no

Payments (trades):

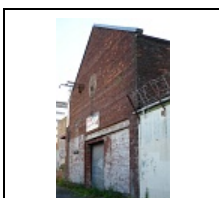
Name	Type	Payment out sum	Measurer fee payments
Robert Corbet & Son	artificer	First installment: 21 April 1903 Final installment: 28 [May] 1903 £641 1s 6d	£8 8s 0d ⁴
Donald Clerk & Sons	iron	First installment: 13 April 1903 Final installment: 27 October 1903 £323 0s 0d	£2 8s 0d ⁵

Documents

Images



Building at corner of Bell



W. front of Founding

Bibliography

Published

- John R. Hume, *Industrial Archaeology of Glasgow*, Glasgow and London: Blackie, 1974, p. 217
- *Glasgow Evening News*, 16 October 1936, p. 11

Unpublished

- Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow Dean of Guild Court, Register of Inspections, D-OPW 25/56, p. 94

Notes:

- 1: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow Dean of Guild plans, TD1309/A/146.
- 2: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie / Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53061, p. 68.
- 3: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow Dean of Guild Court, Register of Inspections, D-OPW 25/56.
- 4: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow Dean of Guild Court, Register of Inspections, D-OPW 25/56, p. 94.
- 5: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow Dean of Guild Court, Register of Inspections, D-OPW 25/56, p. 94.
- 6: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow Dean of Guild Court, Register of Inspections, D-OPW 25/56, p. 94.
- 7: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow Dean of Guild Court, Register of Inspections, D-OPW 25/56, p. 94.
- 8: *Glasgow Evening News*, 16 October 1936, p. 11; *Post Office Glasgow Directory*, 1830.
- 9: 'returned with thanks'.
- 10: The contractor retained old materials valued at £25 0s 0d.
- 11: 'Returned with thanks.'
- 12: '½ measurer's fee.'
- 13: '½ measurer's fees.'

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.



© copyright 2014

[Contact us](#)