

M239 Alterations to Arddarroch, Finnart

Introduction

Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh made substantial alterations to this mid-19th-century house. The exact nature and extent of their work is unclear, but it seems to have involved a new porch, the raising of the E. wing from one storey to two, and the addition of a parallel range of outbuildings to the N.

Authorship: Mackintosh was evidently involved in this project. The job-book entry is written entirely in his hand; a drawing by him for a new porch survives; 'Whistlefield' is included in his 1906 submission to become Fellow of the RIBA; and Loch Goil, presumably referring to this project which lies close to the mouth of Loch Goil, is listed among the locations of his domestic work in his entry in *Who's Who in Glasgow 1909*. However, the porch as built is in the same traditional style as the original house, and so, to judge from old photographs, was the demolished E. wing. If Mackintosh designed these additions, their unadventurous appearance may reflect the client's wishes rather than the architect's.

Alternative names: Arddarroch; Finnart Ocean Terminal.

Alternative addresses: Garelochhead Whistlefield

Cost from job book: The job book records successful tenders for mason, joiner, plumber, plaster and slater work amounting to £1818 5d 0d. The payment of over £22 15s 0d in measurer's fees suggests that this quantity of work was actually carried out, but payments to tradesmen and suppliers recorded in the job book amount to little more than £100. The likely explanation for this discrepancy is that Brooman White paid the contractors directly.

Status: Partly demolished

Current use: Offices (2014)

Listing category: B

Historic Scotland/HB Number: 14438

RCAHMS Site Number: NS29NW 3.00

Grid reference: NS 23853 95035

Chronology

1838

Arddarroch built for John McVicar to a design by William Burn. ¹

1846–7

House enlarged by David Bryce. ²

1858

Acquired by John White, Glasgow chemical manufacturer. ³

1868

17 September: Marriage of John White and Amelia Susannah Brooman, widow. ⁴ Her only son by her previous marriage was Richard Charles Brooman, subsequently known as Richard Charles Brooman White.

1881

27 June: Death of John White ⁵

1903

6 February: Death of Richard Charles Brooman's mother. ⁶

1904

January: Drawing by Mackintosh for new porch at Arddarroch. ⁷

7 April: Plans for 'additions ... and alterations' to Arddarroch approved by Western District Public Health Executive Committee of the County Council of Dunbarton. ⁸

10 October: Earliest payments for building work recorded in Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh job book. ⁹

1905

26 July: Payment to measurer in Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh job book suggests work completed by this date. ¹⁰

1950s

Arddarroch estate transformed into an oil terminal; jetties and oil storage tanks constructed; house converted into flats. ¹¹

1982

E. wing and N. end of main block demolished by this date. ¹²

Description

Context

Built originally for John McVicar, a Glasgow merchant, Arddarroch was designed by William Burn in 1838 and enlarged in 1846–7 by David Bryce. ¹ A rambling, many-gabled house in a fine setting beside Loch Long, it was acquired in 1858 by John White of the Glasgow chemical manufacturers John & James White. ² In 1868 White married Amelia Susannah Brooman; her only son by her previous marriage, Richard Charles Brooman, assumed the name Richard Charles Brooman White and subsequently lived at Arddarroch. ³ His mother died in 1903, and the following year Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh were engaged to work on the house. Presumably Brooman White had inherited it, although curiously the architects' job book and cash book both appear to record the client's name as 'Mrs Brooman White'. ⁴

Extent of Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh's work

The nature and extent of Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh's work at Arddarroch is not clear from documentary sources, and partial demolition in the later 20th century has made it difficult to identify exactly what they did. The minutes of the County Council committee which approved their plans are not specific, mentioning only 'additions ... and alterations'. ⁵ In the job-book entry, successful tenders amounting to over £1800 are recorded for mason, joiner, plumber, plaster and slater work, and the payment of over £22 in measurer's fees suggests that this was the quantity of work actually carried out. However, recorded payments to tradesmen and suppliers amount to little more than £100. The probable explanation for this discrepancy is that Brooman White paid the contractors directly, and not through the architects.

£1800 is a substantial sum, and the job was clearly a significant one. Evidence from maps and old photographs suggests that it involved the reconstruction of the E. wing and the addition of a parallel range of outbuildings to the N., separated from the house by a service yard. The O.S. map of Dunbartonshire surveyed in 1860 shows the house to have been L-shaped, consisting of a long main block overlooking the loch with an E. wing at right angles on the landward side. ⁶ A photograph taken in 1885 shows, indistinctly, that the E. wing was single-storey, or at any rate lower than the rest of the house, while a later photograph – undated, but seemingly early 20th-century – shows it raised to two full storeys plus an attic, and pierced by a ground-floor archway. ⁷ The archway presumably led to the service yard and outbuildings, not shown on the 1898 O.S. map, but present on the one surveyed in 1914. ⁸



All this work has been demolished, along with the N. end of the main block, but the early 20th-century photograph shows the reconstructed E. wing to have been in exactly the same style as the 19th-century house: random rubble walls, square-headed sash windows, and deep eaves with rafter ends exposed.



Involvement of Mackintosh

Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh's job-book entry is entirely written in Mackintosh's hand, which strongly suggests that he was the partner in charge of work at Arddarroch. ⁹ It can probably be identified as the house at Loch Goil mentioned in a list of his domestic works published in 1909 (it lies close to the mouth of Loch Goil, on the opposite side of Loch Long). ¹⁰

The only known drawing connected with the project is certainly by Mackintosh and is annotated in his hand. ¹¹ Dated January 1904, it is a design for a new porch, and in general form it is close to his contemporary Infants' entrance at Scotland Street School: it has side walls with a band of leaded glazing along the top; a curved roof of lead-covered timber (semicircular in section, where the Scotland Street one is segmental); and a stone front with carved ornament. Although the Arddarroch design has classical details rather than the Viennese-influenced decoration of the Scotland Street porch, it would still have been a highly original addition to the house. There is no such porch at Arddarroch now, so either it was never built or it belonged to the demolished wing or one of the

outbuildings. The photographic evidence suggests that the existing (2014) front porch was added at the same time as the reconstruction of the E. wing, presumably by Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh. It follows exactly the same formula of deep eaves and rubble walling, matching the older work. Perhaps Brooman White rejected Mackintosh's more innovative design in favour of this.



The job-book entry indicates that 'hall grates' were supplied, implying that at least some work was carried out inside the main block. There are now no fireplaces in the entrance hall, but in the bay-windowed ground-floor room beside the former conservatory there is a mid-19th-century chimneypiece with a cream tile insert and plain steel surround to the grate, very similar to Mackintosh's work at Auchinibert of a couple of years later.

Later history

Along with the neighbouring Finnart estate to the E., Arddarroch was transformed into an oil terminal in the 1950s. ¹² Today, jetties in the loch provide facilities for loading and unloading tankers, and pipes and giant storage tanks surround a truncated fragment of the house.

People

Clients:

- Richard Charles Brooman White

Contractors:

- James Combe & Son
- Douglas, Hunter & Whitson
- Fyfe & Allan
- Alexander Gaul
- John Henderson
- William Jack
- A. & D. MacKay
- James Maitland
- J. Caird Parker
- George A. Sillars
- James Spy

Job Book

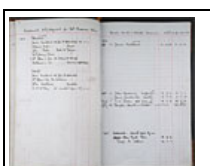
The job books of Honeyman & Keppie (later Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh) are now held by The Hunterian, University of Glasgow and include four volumes related to the Mackintosh period. The books were used by the firm to keep a project-by-project, day-by-day record of contractors, suppliers and expenditure. 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 M239 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 M239 has been extracted from the job books:



Job book: 53062
Page: 44



Job book: 53062
Page: 45

Client: Richard Charles Brooman White

Measurer: Douglas, Hunter & Whitson

Measurer address: St Vincent Street

Tenders:

Contractor	Type	Address	Date	Value	Accepted
Anthony Trail & Son	mason	Helensburgh	1904	no data in job book	no
John Jack	mason	24 Lomond Street, Helensburgh	1904	no data in job book	no
E. C. Morgan	mason	37 Elderslie Street, Glasgow	1904	no data in job book	no
William McCall & Son	mason	5 Balmano Street, Glasgow	1904	no data in job book	no
James Grant	mason	Pitt Street	1904	no data in job book	no
R. Aitkenhead & Sons	mason	37 Trafalgar Street, Greenock	1904	no data in job book	no
John Hepburn	mason	Garelochhead	1904	no data in job book	no
James Spy	mason	Row	1904	£986 4s 5d	yes
William Jack	joiner	Helensburgh	1904	£554 8s 0d	yes
Dougal & Gibson	joiner	Dumbarton	1904	no data in job book	no
William McCall	joiner	5 Balmano Street, Glasgow	1904	no data in job book	no
James Grant	joiner	Pitt Street, Glasgow	1904	no data in job book	no
E. C. Morgan	joiner	37 Elderslie Street, Glasgow	1904	no data in job book	no
John Dick	joiner	51 West Princes Street, Helensburgh	1904	no data in job book	no
John Horn	plumber	12 West Princes Street, Helensburgh	1904	no data in job book	no
Charles Condie	plumber	Helensburgh	1904	no data in job book	no
Fyfe & Allan	plumber	Woodlands Road, Glasgow	1904	£117 0s 0d	yes
James Johnstone & Son	plumber	Renfield Street, Glasgow	1904	no data in job book	no
William Anderson	plumber	Wellington Street, Glasgow	1904	no data in job book	no
William Kyle	plumber	17 Sinclair Street, Helensburgh	1904	no data in job book	no
James Mitchell & Son	plumber	3 West Stewart Street, Greenock	1904	no data in job book	no
James Maitland	plasterer	34 John Street, Helensburgh	1904	£93 12s 7d	yes
William Forbes	plasterer	Glasgow	1904	no data in job book	no
John Forbes	plasterer	Bath Street, Glasgow	1904	no data in job book	no
McGilvray & Ferris	plasterer	Glasgow	1904	no data in job book	no
William Thom & Son	plasterer	52 William Street, Helensburgh	1904	no data in job book	no
Mathieson & Son	plasterer	Helensburgh	1904	no data in job book	no
James Maitland & Son	slater	34 John Street, Helensburgh	1904	no data in job book	no
William Thom & Son	slater	52 William [Street], Helensburgh	1904	no data in job book	no
John Hutchison	slater	Dumbarton	1904	no data in job book	no
A. & D. MacKay	slater	35 Oswald Street, Glasgow	1904	£67 0s 0d	yes

Payments (trades):

Name	Type	Payment out sum
James Spy	mason	Payment date: 10 March 1905 £43 19s 6d
William Jack	joiner	Payment date: 10 October 1904 £41 11s 4½d
James Maitland	plasterer	Payment date: 10 October 1904 £6 12s 0½d

Payments (suppliers):

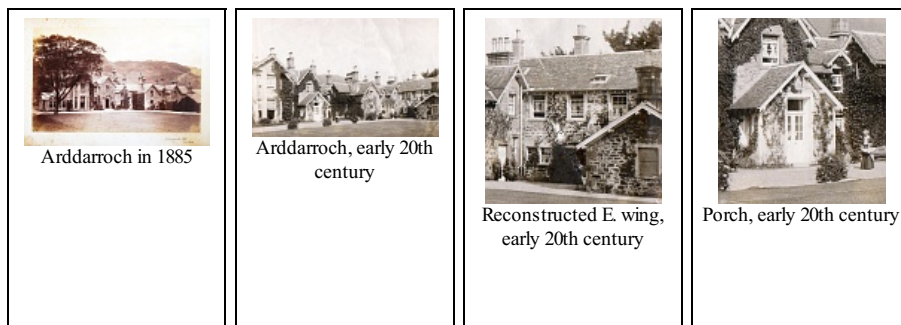
Name	Service	Payment date	Payment sum
John Henderson	'Inspector'	10 October 1904	£6 7s 0d
James Combe & Son	'Heating'	10 October 1904	£8 7s 5d
J. Caird Parker	'Hall grates &c.'	1 December 1904	£18 2s 3d
Alexander Gaul	no data in job book	1905	£16 4s 2d ¹

George A. Sillars	no data in job book	1905	£14 0s 11d ²
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Measurer fee payment: £22 15s 0d (26 July 1905)

Documents

Images



Bibliography

Published

- Alan Crawford, *Charles Rennie Mackintosh*, London: Thames & Hudson, 1995, p. 211
- George Eyre-Todd, *Who's Who in Glasgow in 1909*, Glasgow: Gowans & Gray, 1909, p. 124
- Frank Arneil Walker and Fiona Sinclair, *North Clyde Estuary. An Illustrated Architectural Guide*, Edinburgh: R.I.A.S., 1992, p. 117
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- West Dunbartonshire Archives, Dumbarton Library: Western District Committee of the County Council of Dunbarton, proceedings from 15th December, 1903, to 16th December, 1904, DCC/2/1/1/1/7

Notes:

- 1: Frank Arneil Walker and Fiona Sinclair, *Buildings of Scotland: Argyll and Bute*, London: Penguin, 2000, p. 248.
- 2: Frank Arneil Walker and Fiona Sinclair, *Buildings of Scotland: Argyll and Bute*, London: Penguin, 2000, p. 248.
- 3: James MacLehose, *Memoirs and Portraits of One Hundred Glasgow Men*, Glasgow: James MacLehose & Sons, 1886, pp. 336–8.
- 4: *Glasgow Herald*, 19 September 1868, p. 5.
- 5: *Morning Post*, 30 June 1881, p. 7.
- 6: *The Times*, 7 February 1903, p. 9.
- 7: Hiroaki Kimura, 'Charles Rennie Mackintosh: Architectural Drawings', unpublished PhD thesis, University of Glasgow, 1982, p. 50.
- 8: West Dunbartonshire Archives, Dumbarton Library: Western District Committee of the County Council of Dunbarton, proceedings from 15th December, 1903, to 16th December, 1904, DCC/2/1/1/1/7.
- 9: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53062, p. 44.
- 10: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53062, p. 45.
- 11: Margaret S. Dilke and A. A. Templeton, eds, *The Third Statistical Account of Scotland: The County of Dunbarton*, Glasgow: Collins, 1959, pp. 94–5; Helensburgh Library: unidentified newscutting dated March 1957.
- 12: Hiroaki Kimura, 'Charles Rennie Mackintosh: Architectural Drawings', unpublished PhD thesis, University of Glasgow, 1982, p. 50.
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- 15:** Edward Walford, *County Families of the United Kingdom*, London: Chatto & Windus, 1904, pp. 1059–60.
- 16:** *The Times*, 7 February 1903, p. 9; The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53062, p. 44; The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie / Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh / Keppie Henderson cash book, 1889–1917, GLAHA 53079, p. 98.
- 17:** West Dunbartonshire Archives, Dunbarton Library: DCC/2/1/1/1/7, Western District Public Health Executive Committee, 7 April 1904.
- 18:** O.S. six-inch plan of Dunbartonshire, sheet IX, published 1865.
- 19:** Photographs in the possession of Caroline Brooman-White (2014).
- 20:** O.S. six-inch plan of Dunbartonshire, sheet IX N.E., published 1899; O.S. six-inch plan of Dunbartonshire, sheet N. IX, revised 1914.
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- 23:** Hiroaki Kimura, 'Charles Rennie Mackintosh: Architectural Drawings', unpublished PhD thesis, University of Glasgow, 1982, p. 50 (M239-001).
- 24:** Margaret S. Dilke and A. A. Templeton, eds, *The Third Statistical Account of Scotland: The County of Dunbarton*, Glasgow: Collins, 1959, pp. 94–5.
- 25:** Listed among 'accounts paid by us'.
- 26:** Listed among 'accounts paid by us'.

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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