

M251 Alterations at 229–233 Sauchiehall Street

Introduction

This job entailed installing a new shopfront at the premises of Henry & Carruthers, 'ladies' tailors', and making a number of internal alterations. The work does not survive, and no photographs have come to light.

Authorship: The job-book entry is written entirely in Mackintosh's hand, and one of the drawings approved by the Glasgow Dean of Guild Court is signed by him. However, there is insufficient visual evidence to say if Mackintosh was responsible for the design.

Alternative addresses: 229–233 Sauchiehall Street and 134–140 Blythswood Street Mains Street

Cost from job book: £1160 0s 0d

Status: Building survives, but not Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh's shopfront. Interior presumed altered.

Current use: Retail and offices (2014)

Listing category: B

Historic Scotland/HB Number: 33174

RCAHMS Site Number: NS56NE 1196

Grid reference: NS 58570 65848

Chronology

1904

8 December: Glasgow Dean of Guild Court gives approval for new shopfront and internal alterations for Henry & Carruthers. ¹

9 December: Work begins on site. ²

1905

5 January: 'Beams and columns all in position.' ³

10 February: 'Nearly finished.' ⁴

18 May: Plans for further minor internal alterations approved by Glasgow Dean of Guild Court. ⁵

June: Work completed. ⁶

Description

233 Sauchiehall Street occupies the E. corner of the junction with Mains Street, now (2013) known as Blythswood Street. It stands at one end of a larger block, erected c. 1865 and known originally as Kensington Place, which extends E. as far as West Campbell Street. Its yellowish sandstone ashlar facade, now partly painted, has shallow square bay windows to the upper floors. The Willow Tea Rooms at 217 is in the same block, and the completion of Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh's work there in October 1903 may have led Henry & Carruthers to employ the same architects to alter their own shop the following year. The whole block was the property of the Henderson Trustees, who are named as clients in the job book (via their solicitors, Macdonald Smith & Co.). As with the Willow Tea Rooms, however, it was the lessees who paid for the work, and who therefore presumably selected the architects.

The alterations involved removing the ground floor of the two street facades and introducing cast-iron columns and beams to support the upper floors, allowing the installation of a shopfront with large display windows. Two first-floor windows were also opened up, but most of the changes were internal, including a staircase leading to new fitting rooms on the first floor. Shortly after these works, some minor internal alterations were made to the two neighbouring properties in Mains Street. These included a connecting doorway at first-floor level, fitted with fire-proof iron doors (a very small alteration to an unidentified shop in Mains Street, which Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh carried out in August 1904 and which is noted on the same job-book page, may have been for the

same address).¹

The job-book entry is written entirely in Mackintosh's hand, and one of the drawings approved by the Glasgow Dean of Guild Court is signed by him. However, apart from the Dean of Guild plans, no visual record of the project has come to light and there is insufficient visual evidence to say whether Mackintosh was responsible for the design. The shopfront does not survive, and the drawings show only its general outlines: thin, widely-spaced timber mullions separating large areas of plate glass, and a fascia crowned with a cornice. Today the building has a shopfront of polished grey granite, which appears to date from 20–30 years after the one designed for Henry & Carruthers.

The partnership of A. L. Henry and William Carruthers was short-lived: their shop was listed for the first time in the *Glasgow Post Office Directory* for 1905–6, and for the second and last time in the 1906–7 edition. The alterations were paid for 'per J. H. Carruthers, Esq.'² This was probably John H. Carruthers, mechanical engineer and founder of the successful steam pump manufacturing firm J. H. Carruthers & Co. Ltd, whose son William, aged 21, is listed as a 'draper's assistant' in the 1901 census.³

People

Clients:

- Henry & Carruthers, per J. H. Carruthers
- Henderson Trustees

Contractors:

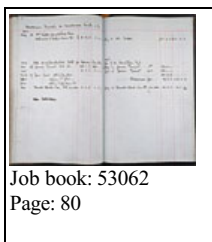
- Donald Clerk & Sons
- James Grant

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 M251 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 M251 has been extracted from the job books:



Client: Henderson Trustees, per Macdonald Smith & Co.

Tenders:

Contractor	Type	Address	Date	Value	Accepted
James Grant	joiner	Pitt Street	29 November 1904	£685 1s 7d	yes
James Grant	joiner	Pitt Street	27 March 1905	£51 3s 6d ¹	yes
Donald Clerk & Sons	iron doors	no data in job book	illegible	£11 5s 0d	yes

Payments (trades):

Name	Type	Payment out sum
James Grant	joiner	First installment: 9 February 1905 Final installment: 14 June 1905 £1146 0s 2d ²

Documents

Images



Bibliography

Published

- Hiroaki Kimura, 'Charles Rennie Mackintosh: Architectural Drawings', unpublished PhD thesis, University of Glasgow, 1982, p. 50

Notes:

- 1: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow Dean of Guild Court Register of Inspections, D-OPW 25/9, p. 31.
- 2: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow Dean of Guild Court Register of Inspections, D-OPW 25/9, p. 31.
- 3: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow Dean of Guild Court Register of Inspections, D-OPW 25/9, p. 31.
- 4: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow Dean of Guild Court Register of Inspections, D-OPW 25/9, p. 31.
- 5: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow Dean of Guild Court Register of Inspections, D-OPW 25/9, p. 40.
- 6: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow Dean of Guild Court Register of Inspections, D-OPW 25/9, p. 40.
- 7: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53062, p. 80.
- 8: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53062, p. 80.
- 9: John R. Hume, *Industrial Archaeology of Glasgow*, Glasgow and London: Blackie, 1974, pp. 252–3; 1901 Census, www.ancestry.co.uk [accessed 22 March 2013].
- 10: Includes 'altering top floor' (27 March 1905), 'altering 1st floor' (April) and 'altering 1st floor Mains St.' (June).
- 11: Paid 'per J. H. Carruthers Esq.'; includes £14 6s 6d for '½ measurer's fee'.

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.

[Contact us](#)