



M294 Alterations to Kelvinside United Free Church

Introduction

Designed in 1862 by J. J. Stevenson of Campbell Douglas & Stevenson, this Gothic Revival church was altered by Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh in 1909. They reconstructed the organ, pulpit and choir platform, and made other internal changes, including the installation of a memorial to a former minister, the Rev. Walter Ross Taylor.

Authorship: A history of the church published at the time of the 1909 alterations says that John Keppie was responsible for the work.

Alternative names: Óran Mór; Kelvinside Free Church; Kelvinside (Botanic Gardens) Church; Kelvinside Parish Church; Bible Training Institute.

Alternative addresses: Byres Road

Cost from job book: Phase 1 (memorial): £149 2s 0d; Phase 2: £2628 7s 0d ¹

Cost from other sources: £2500 0s 0d ²

Status: Standing building

Current use: Auditorium, restaurant, nightclub and bar (2014)

Listing category: B: listed as 'Bible Training Institute'

Historic Scotland/HB Number: 32872

RCAHMS Site Number: NS56NE 227

Grid reference: NS 56849 67304

Chronology

1862

4 September: Foundation stone of church laid. ¹

1886

4 October: Inauguration of new organ, built by Henry Willis & Son. ²

1908

November: Wide-ranging scheme of alterations and repairs approved by Deacons' Court, including reconstruction of organ, pulpit and platform, and installation of electric lighting. ³

1909

26 March: Earliest tender for memorial to Rev. Walter Ross Taylor. ⁴

5 April: Earliest tender for alterations to church. ⁵

June: Work on alterations commenced. ⁶

1910

12 January: Final payment for alterations. ⁷

Description

Kelvinside Free Church, a powerful Gothic Revival building with a landmark tower and spire at the corner of Great Western Road and Byres Road, was designed in 1862 by J. J. Stevenson of Campbell Douglas & Stevenson; it was altered in 1886 when an organ recess was added at the E. end. ¹ It became

Kelvinside United Free Church in 1900. H. L. Honeyman (1885–1956), the son of John Honeyman, described the building in 1913 from the perspective of a younger generation as 'a rather prim piece of Ruskinism'.²

A history published in 1909 to mark the 50th anniversary of the congregation describes the extensive programme of improvements carried out that year, including 'the reconstruction of the organ, pulpit and choir platform; the painting and cleaning of the entire church fabric, within and without; the installation of electric light; a new system of heating and ventilation; and the reconstruction of the back gallery'.³ The work was overseen by 'the architect, Mr. John Keppie, F.R.I.B.A. (of Messrs. Honeyman, Keppie & Macintosh [sic])'. It seems that no petition was submitted to the Glasgow Dean of Guild Court, which suggests that any structural alterations involved were too minor to require the Court's approval. Nevertheless, the 1909 history thanks Keppie for his 'professional skill in overcoming difficulties in dealing with structural alterations', as well as for 'the artistic taste displayed throughout'. In the job-book entry, the first payment to the painters John Orr & Sons is recorded in Mackintosh's hand, but there is nothing else to suggest his involvement.

At the same time as the alterations, the firm designed a marble tablet for the church to commemorate the Rev. Walter Ross Taylor, who served as minister from 1868 until his death in 1907.⁴ It includes a relief portrait by Archibald MacFarlane Shannan.

Halls and a session house were added to the E. end in 1928–9,⁵ and there have been more radical internal changes in connection with the building's present use. Apart from the Ross Taylor memorial, it is uncertain what, if anything, survives of Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh's work.

People

Clients:

- Kelvinside United Free Church

Contractors:

- Robert Aitken
- John Anderson
- James Grant
- Haddow, Forbes & Co.
- Holmes & Jackson
- Archibald MacFarlane Shannan
- Daniel McCallum
- James McPhie
- John Orr & Sons
- Osborne & Hunter
- George Rome & Co.
- Robert Russell¹
- Henry Willis & Son

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 M294 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 M294 has been extracted from the job books:



Job book: 53063
Page: 19

Client: Kelvinside United Free Church

Tenders:

Contractor	Type	Address	Date	Value	Accepted
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McGilvray & Ferris	mason & carved work	no data in job book	26 March 1909	£90 10s 0d ¹	no
Holmes & Jackson	mason & carved work	no data in job book	6 April 1909	£72 10s 0d ²	yes
Archibald MacFarlane Shannan	modelling & carving medallion	no data in job book	6 April 1909	'In marble' £60 0s 0d; 'in bronze' £50 0s 0d.	yes

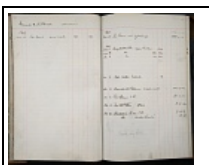
Payments (trades):

Name	Type	Payment out sum
Holmes & Jackson	mason & carved work	Payment date: no data in job book £85 4s 0d ³
Archibald MacFarlane Shannan	modelling and carving medallion	Payment date: no data in job book £63 18s 6d ⁴

Phase 2: Alterations, 1909–10



Job book: 53063
Page: 20



Job book: 53063
Page: 21

Client: Kelvinside U. F. Church

Measurer: no data in job book

Tenders:

Contractor	Type	Address	Date	Value	Accepted
Daniel McCallum	mason & joiner	no data in job book	no data in job book	£37 0s 0d ⁵	yes (5 April 1909)
A. & D. Mackay	silicating	no data in job book	no data in job book	£190 0s 0d ⁶	no
John Anderson	silicating	no data in job book	no data in job book	£160 0s 0d ⁷	yes (10 May 1909)
Jones	silicating	no data in job book	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
Bowie Fisher & Co.	painting	no data in job book	no data in job book	£359 0s 0d	no
R. & J. Bennett	painting	no data in job book	no data in job book	£386 19s 4d	no
John Orr & Sons	painting	no data in job book	no data in job book	£364 0s 0d	yes
Charles Carlton & Sons	painting	no data in job book	no data in job book	£364 0s 0d	no
H. L. Anderson & Co.	painting	no data in job book	no data in job book	£382 19s 7d	no
George Sellars	painting	no data in job book	no data in job book	£346 0s 0d	no
Guthrie & Wells	painting	no data in job book	no data in job book	£369 0s 0d	no
A. & J. Scott	painting	no data in job book	no data in job book	£374 19s 3d	no
Telfer Grier & Mackay Ltd	electrical engineers	220 Broomielaw	no data in job book	£340 4s 6d	no

Osborne & Hunter	electrical engineers	10[0]a West Regent Street	no data in job book	£297 6s 9d	yes
J. B. Meiklejohn	electrical engineers	115 Bath Street	no data in job book	£326 14s 11d	no
Robert Russell	heating	no data in job book	14 April 1909	£150 0s 0d ⁸	yes
James Grant	joiner	no data in job book	10 June 1909	£195 0s 0d	yes

Payments (trades):

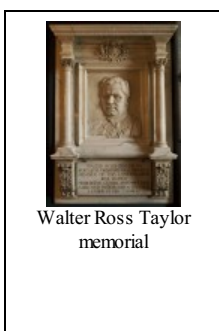
Name	Type	Payment out sum	Measurer fee payments
John Anderson	silicating	First installment: 26 October 1909 Final installment: 12 January 1910 £169 0s 0d	
John Orr & Sons	painter	First installment: 18 August 1909 Final installment: 2 December 1909 £392 6s 7d	£10 0s 0d ⁹
Osborne & Hunter	electrical engineers	First installment: 8 June 1909 Final installment: 8 December 1909 £349 0s 0d ¹⁰	
Robert Russell	heating	First installment: 8 September 1909 Final installment: 2 December 1909 £224 8s 3d ¹¹	
James Grant	joiner	Payment date: 2 December 1909 £229 0s 0d ¹²	
Daniel McCallum	mason	Payment date: 2 December 1909 £104 17s 10d	

Payments (suppliers):

Name	Service	Payment date	Payment sum
Henry Willis & Son	Organ	First payment 9 July 1909, final dated payment 2 October 1909	£950 0s 0d
Robert Aitken	Inspector	2 December 1909	£12 0s 0d
George Rome & Co.	no data in job book	2 December 1909	£51 0s 0d
James McPhie	Glass	2 December 1909	£3 11s 4d
Haddow, Forbes & Co.	no data in job book	2 December 1909	£8 3s 0d ¹³
Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh	Architects	no data in job book	£125 0s 0d ¹⁴

Documents

Images



Bibliography

Published

- Elizabeth Williamson, Anne Riches and Malcolm Higgs, *Buildings of Scotland: Glasgow*, London: Penguin, 1990, p. 303
- *Kelvinside United Free Church, Glasgow: A Record of Fifty Years, 1859–1909*, Glasgow: Robert MacLehose, 1909

Notes:

- 1: Includes £125 for architects' fees.
- 2: *Kelvinside United Free Church, Glasgow: A Record of Fifty Years, 1859–1909*, Glasgow: Robert MacLehose, 1909, p. 139.
- 3: *Glasgow Herald*, 5 September 1862, p. 5.
- 4: *Glasgow Herald*, 5 October 1886, p. 7.
- 5: *Kelvinside United Free Church, Glasgow: A Record of Fifty Years, 1859–1909*, Glasgow: Robert MacLehose, 1909, p. 138.
- 6: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53063, p. 19.
- 7: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53063, p. 20.
- 8: *Kelvinside United Free Church, Glasgow: A Record of Fifty Years, 1859–1909*, Glasgow: Robert MacLehose, 1909, p. 139.
- 9: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53063, p. 20.
- 10: Elizabeth Williamson, Anne Riches and Malcolm Higgs, *Buildings of Scotland: Glasgow*, London: Penguin, 1990, p. 303.
- 11: *Glasgow Herald*, 31 May 1913, p. 4.
- 12: *Kelvinside United Free Church, Glasgow: A Record of Fifty Years, 1859–1909*, Glasgow: Robert MacLehose, 1909, pp. 136–41.
- 13: George Eyre-Todd, 'The Late Very Rev. Walter Ross Taylor', *Who's Who in Glasgow in 1909*, Glasgow: Gowans & Grey Limited, 1909, p. 203.
- 14: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow Dean of Guild plans, 1928/240; *Glasgow Herald*, 22 October 1929, p. 6.
- 15: Possibly the same Robert Russell who served as convener of the alterations committee: *Kelvinside United Free Church, Glasgow: A Record of Fifty Years, 1859–1909*, Glasgow: Robert MacLehose, 1909, p. 140.
- 16: Tender for 'Marble for Medallion' £8 5s 0d.
- 17: Tender for 'Marble for Bust. Medallion' £7 15s 0d.
- 18: £72 10s 0d for 'Memorial tablet per drawing'; £2 10s 0d for 'altering model'; £7 15s 0d for '[illegible] marble for medallion'; £0 14s 0d for 'Surround at [illegible] at medallion'; £1 15s 0d for 'gilding letters'.
- 19: £60 for 'modelling & cutting relief'; £3 18s 6d for 'opening in model after frame was built to receive marble'.
- 20: For 'entresol above heating and coals'. £29 10s 0d for mason work, £7 10s 0d for joiner work.
- 21: £120 excluding belfry and spire; £70 for belfry and spire.
- 22: £120 excluding belfry and spire; £40 for belfry and spire.
- 23: Additional estimate of £5 from Daniel McCallum, dated 21 April 1909, for 'jobbing at heating chamber'.
- 24: Half measurer's fee.
- 25: 'Including fittings'.
- 26: Includes £74 8s 3d for 'general work'.
- 27: Includes a sum for jobbing.
- 28: Includes 17s 3d for 'kitchen hearth'.
- 29: Note in pencil: 'Archts. say £125.'

Mackintosh Architecture: Context, Making and Meaning

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