

M013 Geilston Hall

Introduction

This Tudor-style village hall was built as a replacement for the drill hall of the Cardross Volunteers, which had been destroyed by fire.

Authorship: Geilston Hall dates from the first year of Mackintosh's employment with John Honeyman & Keppie. There are no obvious signs that he contributed to its design.

Alternative names: Cardross Drill Hall.

Cost from job book: Phase 1: £1475 18s 6d; Phase 2: £179 0s 0d

Status: Standing building

Current use: Village hall (2014)

Listing category: C (S)

Historic Scotland/HB Number: 42911

RCAHMS Site Number: NS37NW 32

Grid reference: NS 34068 78006

Chronology

1863–4

Wooden drill hall built for Cardross Volunteers by Major Geils of Geilston. ¹

1889

7 March: Wooden hall destroyed by fire. ²

30 July: Replacement hall under construction. Commemorative stone laid. ³

1890

Replacement Hall in use. ⁴

1911

August–December: Folding partition installed. ⁵

1912

13 September: Payment for repainting. ⁶

1914

25 March: Payments in connection with heating installation, and other minor works. ⁷

Description

Origins

A wooden drill hall for the Cardross Volunteers was built on this site in 1863–4 by Major Joseph Tucker Geils (1808–1871) of nearby Geilston House. ¹ On 7 March 1889 the hall burned down, and John Honeyman & Keppie were promptly employed to replace it with a stone building, paid for by Major Geils's widow, Mrs Tucker Geils. ² John Honeyman was involved in the Volunteer movement as a founder member of the 1st Dunbartonshire (Helensburgh) Artillery, and the commission may have come via this connection. ³

It has been suggested that a rough plan of a military building in one of Mackintosh's sketchbooks, probably drawn around this time, may be an initial idea for Geilston Hall. ⁴ However, the subject of the sketch has recently been identified as the Coplaw Street Drill Hall in Glasgow, designed in 1884 by John Bennie Wilson (1848–1923), an architect who had been articled to Honeyman. ⁵

Progress of the commission

Full dates are not given in the job-book entry, but the first mention in John Honeyman & Keppie's cash book is on 3 July 1889, when fares for visiting Cardross twice are recorded. ⁶ Work must have been well under way by this time, because by the end of the month the building was 'sufficiently advanced to show that the design by Messrs. Honeyman & Keppie is a very beautiful one', and a temporary platform had been erected on the lower part of the tower, 'on a level with the lintel of the principal door', for the laying of a commemorative stone by Miss Catherine Geils on 30 July. ⁷ Most of the contractors were paid on '11 August' – presumably the following year. ⁸

Exterior and interior

Parallel to the main road, but set well back, the Tudor-style hall is long and low with a square, two-storey battlemented tower at its W. end. Walls are of snecked yellowish sandstone rubble, stugged, with smooth ashlar dressings; the back is random rubble. Windows in the tower and E. gable are mullioned and transomed, but the hall is mostly lit from large areas of glazing in the slated roof. Openings in the form of arrow slits provide ventilation. Inside, the open timber roof has arch-braced trusses supported on corbels.



Doors in the base of the tower and in a buttressed porch at the E. end have plaques above, with the name and date of the hall and the inscription 'In memoriam J. T. G.': the lettering with its exaggeratedly elongated serifs is the only feature of the building that suggests Mackintosh's possible involvement.



Alterations

Between 1911 and 1914 Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh made minor alterations to the hall, the largest payments being in connection with heating and painting. A folding partition by Peace & Norquoy of Manchester was also installed at this time.

A second, smaller hall is attached at the N.E. corner. It must be later in date, possibly mid-20th century.

People

Clients:

- Mrs Tucker Geils

Contractors:

- William Bain
- James Boyd & Sons
- John Graham
- James Johnston & Son
- Livingstone & Landels
- Thomas Main
- T. & J. Menzies
- Peace & Norquoy
- James Ritchie
- A. & J. Scott
- William Thompson
- W. Thom

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 M013 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 M013 has been extracted from the job books:



Job book: 53059
Page: 99

Client: Mrs Tucker Geils

Measurer: Livingstone & Landels

Tenders:

Contractor	Type	Address	Date	Value	Accepted
William Barlas Jr	mason	Dalreoch, Dumbarton	no data in job book	£877 0s 0d	no
James Spy	mason	Row	no data in job book	£1154 0s 0d	no
Robert Murdoch	mason	10 King Street, S[outh] S[ide]	no data in job book	£897 0s 0d	no
John Jack	mason	Helensburgh	no data in job book	£948 15s 0d	no
William Bain	mason	Bainfield, Cardross	no data in job book	£823 0s 0d	yes
John MacIntyre	joiner	Cardross	no data in job book	£554 0s 0d	no
John Graham	joiner	Cardross	no data in job book	£498 0s 0d	yes
William Barlas Jr	joiner	Dalreoch, Dumbarton	no data in job book	£602 16s 4d	no
Thomas Brown	joiner	193 Rottenrow	no data in job book	£550 3s 6d	no
William Jack	joiner	Helensburgh	no data in job book	£530 0s 0d	no
William Bishop	joiner	no data in job book	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
Dick	joiner	no data in job book	no data in job book	£549 16s 0d	no
James Ingleton & Co.	plumber	George Street	no data in job book	£90 16s 0d	no
James Johnston & Son	plumber	Renfield Street	no data in job book	£82 15s 0d	yes
John Horne	plumber	Helensburgh	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
Grant	plumber	Helensburgh	no data in job book	£93 18s 7d	no
Alexander Thomson	plumber	Cardross	no data in job book	£88 0s 0d	no
William Thompson	plaster	Helensburgh	no data in job book	£32 0s 0d	yes
Gartshore	plaster	Helensburgh	no data in job book	£33 14s 8d	no
James Dairon & Son	plaster	no data in job book	£36 0s 0d	£36 0s 0d	no
John Forbes	plaster	10 Regent Street	no data in job book	£40 14s 5d	no
A. & D. MacKay	slater	Oswald Street	no data in job book	£84 11s 8d	no
W. Thom	slater	Helensburgh	no data in job book	£85 15s 2d	yes
Dempster	slater	Helensburgh	no data in job book	£107 3s 6d	no
John Morrison & Son	slater	Glasgow	no data in job book	£84 6s 0d	no
Logan & Son	slater	Cardross	no data in job book	£82 19s 8d	no

Payments (trades):

Name	Type	Payment out sum

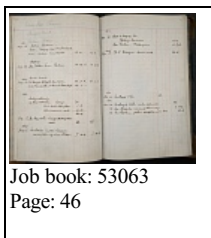
James Johnston & Son	plumber	Payment date: 1 July £82 2s 6d
William Thompson	plaster	Payment date: 11 August £52 15s 11d
W. Thom	slater	Payment date: 11 August £70 12s 11d
William Bain	mason	Payment date: 11 August £777 18s 7½d
John Graham	joiner	Payment date: 11 August £407 18s 5d

Payments (suppliers):

Name	Service	Payment date	Payment sum
Thomas Main	'Grates etc. heating'	13 July	£29 15s 0d
A. & J. Scott	no data in job book	25 September	£22 16s 1½d

Measurer fee payment: £31 19s 0d (no data in job book)

Phase 2: Alterations, 1911–14



Tenders:

Contractor	Type	Address	Date	Value	Accepted
Peace & Norquoy	folding partition	New Islington Works, Unwin Street, Ancoats, Manchester	30 August 1911	£13 10s 0d	yes
John Graham	Artificer	Cardross	30 August 1911	£15 17s 6d ¹	yes
T. & J. Menzies	painter	69 Hugh Street, Dumbarton	30 January 1912	£60 9s 6d	yes
J. W. McCulloch & Son	painter	6 West Princes Street, Helensburgh	no data in job book	£65 0s 0d	no
H. L. Anderson & Co.	painter	212 St Vincent Street	no data in job book	£64 12s 11d	no
James Cormack & Son	heating	no data in job book	1913	£85 15s 0d	no
James Boyd & Sons	heating	no data in job book	17 July 1913	£63 0s 0d	yes
James Ritchie	builder	no data in job book	9 January 1914	£7 12s 6d ²	yes

Payments (trades):

Name	Type	Payment out sum
Peace & Norquoy	folding partition	Payment date: 16 December 1911 £13 11s 0d
John Graham	artificer	Payment date: 16 December 1911 £15 17s 6d ³
T. & J. Menzies	painter	Payment date: 13 September 1912 £62 13s 0d

James Boyd & Sons	heating	Payment date: 25 March 1914 £63 0s 0d
James Ritchie	builder	Payment date: 25 March 1914 £7 12s 6d
John Graham	artificer	Payment date: 25 March 1914 £16 6s 0d ⁴

Documents

Images



Bibliography

Published

- Arthur F. Jones, *Cardross: The Village in Days Gone By*, Dumbarton: Dumbarton District Libraries, 1985, p. 80.
- James Macaulay, *Charles Rennie Mackintosh*, New York: W. W. Norton, 2010, pp. 82–3.
- David Stark, *Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Co.*, Catrine, Ayrshire: Stenlake Publishing, 2004, p. 30.
- *Helensburgh & Gareloch Times*, 7 August 1889.

Notes:

- 1: Arthur F. Jones, *Cardross: The Village in Days Gone By*, Dumbarton: Dumbarton District Libraries, 1985, p. 80.
- 2: Arthur F. Jones, *Cardross: The Village in Days Gone By*, Dumbarton: Dumbarton District Libraries, 1985, p. 80.
- 3: Arthur F. Jones, *Cardross: The Village in Days Gone By*, Dumbarton: Dumbarton District Libraries, 1985, p. 80.
- 4: Arthur F. Jones, *Cardross: The Village in Days Gone By*, Dumbarton: Dumbarton District Libraries, 1985, p. 80.
- 5: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53063, p. 46.
- 6: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53063, p. 46.
- 7: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53063, p. 46.
- 8: Arthur F. Jones, *Cardross: The Village in Days Gone By*, Dumbarton: Dumbarton District Libraries, 1985, p. 80; Donald Macleod, *Historic Families, Notable People, and Memorabilia, of the Lennox*, Dumbarton: A. Lawrance, 1891, p. 60.
- 9: Arthur F. Jones, *Cardross: The Village in Days Gone By*, Dumbarton: Dumbarton District Libraries, 1985, p. 80.
- 10: David Stark, *Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Co.*, Catrine, Ayrshire: Stenlake Publishing, 2004, p. 30.
- 11: James Macaulay, *Charles Rennie Mackintosh*, New York: W. W. Norton, 2010, pp. 82–3. The drawing is in the National Library of Ireland, 2009 TX, p. 19.
- 12: Information from George Rawson.
- 13: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie / Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh / Keppie Henderson cash book, 1889–1917, GLAHA 53079, p. 3.

14: *Helensburgh & Gareloch Times*, 7 August 1889.

15: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie job book, GLAHA 53059, p. 100.

16: For slapping.

17: For 'raising chimney & [illeg.]'

18: For 'slapping etc.'

19: For 'gables scaffolding at hall'.

Mackintosh Architecture: Context, Making and Meaning

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