

M039 Alterations to Abercorn Parish Church

Introduction

John Honeyman & Keppie carried out substantial restoration work in 1893–4 following consultation between the heritors and John Honeyman during the previous two years. The work included repairs to the roof, floor, windows and doors, chancel arch and belfry, as well as an extension to the building to accommodate larger numbers in improved pews. The work was paid for by the Abercorn Parish Heritors who included the minister, J. H. Crawford and representatives of local landowners the Earl of Hopetoun, the Dalrymple of The Binns and of the North British Railway. ¹

Published sources state that Glasgow architect Peter Macgregor Chalmers restored the church in 1893. ² However, there is no mention of Chalmers in the Heritors' minutes. ³

Authorship: This is one of over 270 jobs carried out in the office of John Honeyman & Keppie (Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh from 1901) during Mackintosh's time there. Mackintosh undoubtedly worked on many of these, but there is no specific evidence for his involvement in this case.

Alternative names: Abercorn Kirk.

Cost from job book: £1590 15s 8d

Status: Standing building

Current name: Abercorn Church

Current use: Church (2014)

Listing category: A: Listed as 'Abercorn Kirk'

Historic Scotland/HB Number: 612

RCAHMS Site Number: NT07NE 1

Grid reference: NT 08141 79097

Chronology

1891

16 April: 'Went to Abercorn & got instructions as to proposed alterations'. 'Outlays' of 13s 6d incurred. ¹

1892

23 April: 'Sent plans showing alterations'. ²

1893

20 February: Contractor tenders submitted. ³

30 March: Report by John Honeyman on the condition of the church and outlining his proposals for restoration work is read at Heritors' meeting. Plans for the restoration submitted. ⁴

7 April: Honeyman's plans approved subject to modest amendments. Contractors tenders accepted by this date. ⁵

1894

4 May: Earliest payment to contractor. ⁶

November: Latest payments to contractors. ⁷

1895

6 February: Measurer paid. ⁸

Description

People

Clients:

- Abercorn Parish heritors

Contractors:

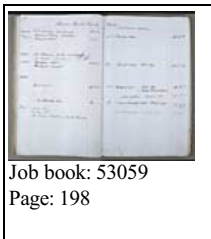
- W. H. Dinsmore
- David Grant
- J. & W. Guthrie
- James Johnston & Son
- E. C. Morgan & Son

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 M039 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 M039 has been extracted from the job books:



Job book: 53059
Page: 198

Client: no data in job book

Measurer: W. H. Dinsmore

Tenders:

Contractor	Type	Address	Date	Value	Accepted
P. & W. Duncan	mason	Winchburgh	20 February 1893	£1675 10s 0d	no
Richard Philip	mason	Linlithgow	20 February 1893	no data in job book	no
E. C. Morgan & Son	mason	no data in job book	20 February 1893	£1645 0s 0d	yes (no data in job book)
John Simpson	joiner	Newton, Winchburgh	20 February 1893	£499 0s 0d	no
Mr Brock	joiner	Linlithgow	20 February 1893	£510 0s 0d	no
E. C. Morgan & Son	joiner	no data in job book	20 February 1893	£494 9s 0d	yes (no data in job book)
Hutcheson & Grant	joiner	no data in job book	20 February 1893	£534 10s 0d	no
Thomas Brown	joiner	Rottenrow	20 February 1893	£586 15s 0d	no
A. & W. MacKay	slater	Oswald St	20 February 1893	£145 10s 0d	no
John Anderson	slater	no data in job book	20 February 1893	£151 4s 0d	no

David Grant	slater	Newton, Winchburgh	20 February 1893	£107 2d 2s	yes (no data in job book)
James & Co.	plumber	no data in job book	20 February 1893	£64 0d 0s	no
Fyfe & Allan	plumber	no data in job book	20 February 1893	£62 10s 0d	no
James Johnston & Son	plumber	no data in job book	20 February 1893	£62 0s 0d	yes (no data in job book)
Morgan & Son	plasterer	no data in job book	no data in job book	no data in job book	no data in job book
George Rome & Co.	plasterer	no data in job book	no data in job book	no data in job book	no data in job book
Thomas Pearson	plasterer	Distillery, Dalry Road, Edinburgh	no data in job book	no data in job book	no data in job book

Payments (trades):

Name	Type	Payment out sum
E. C. Morgan & Son	mason	Payment date: no data in job book £881 16s 3d ¹
E. C. Morgan & Son	joiner	Payment date: November 1894 £535 5s 10d ²
David Grant	slater	Payment date: November 1894 ³ £94 18s 5d
James Johnston & Son	plumber	Payment date: 30 October 1894 £34 10s 1d

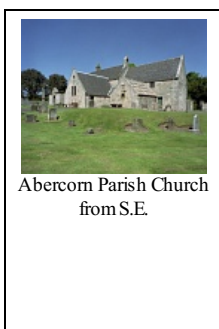
Payments (suppliers):

Name	Service	Payment date	Payment sum
J. & W. Guthrie	no data in job book	4 May 1894	£44 5s 1d ⁴

Measurer fee payment: £71 19s 0d (6 February 1895)

Documents

Images



Bibliography

Published

- Colin McWilliam and Christopher Wilson, *Buildings of Scotland: Lothian except Edinburgh*, London: Penguin, 1978, pp. 69–70

Unpublished

- Edinburgh, National Records of Scotland: Records of heritors of Abercorn Parish, minute book with accounts 1832–1930

Notes:

- 1: Edinburgh, National Records of Scotland: Records of heritors of Abercorn Parish, minute book with accounts 1832–1930, 30 March and 7 April 1893; 23 November 1894.
- 2: Colin McWilliam and Christopher Wilson, *Buildings of Scotland: Lothian except Edinburgh*, London: Penguin, 1978, pp. 69–70.
- 3: Edinburgh, National Records of Scotland: Records of heritors of Abercorn Parish, minute book with accounts 1832–1930, 30 March and 7 April 1893; 23 November 1894.
- 4: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie visit book, GLAHA 53060, p. 11.
- 5: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie visit book, GLAHA 53060, p. 11.
- 6: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie job book, GLAHA 53059, p. 198.
- 7: Edinburgh, National Records of Scotland: Records of heritors of Abercorn Parish, minute book with accounts 1832–1930, 30 March 1893.
- 8: Edinburgh, National Records of Scotland: Records of heritors of Abercorn Parish, minute book with accounts 1832–1930, 7 April 1893.
- 9: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie job book, GLAHA 53059, p. 199.
- 10: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie job book, GLAHA 53059, p. 199.
- 11: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie job book, GLAHA 53059, p. 199.
- 12: Measurer's fee £14 10s 0d.
- 13: Measurer's fee £9.
- 14: 'less for old mat. £11.'; measurer's fee £1 13s 0d.
- 15: Measurer's fee 10s 6d.

Mackintosh Architecture: Context, Making and Meaning

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