



# M139 Alteration to Nairn Parish Church

## Introduction

Built to an ambitious Gothic Revival design by John Starforth of Edinburgh (d. 1898), Nairn Parish Church was opened on 23 July 1897. <sup>1</sup> Curiously, John Honeyman & Keppie's cash book records that on 26 February that year the firm was paid £28 for unspecified work in connection with the church. <sup>2</sup> Why John Honeyman & Keppie should have been employed to alter an unfinished building designed by a living architect is not clear, unless Starforth's failing health (he died on 18 May 1898 from a heart condition) <sup>3</sup> prevented him from overseeing the later stages of construction.

**Authorship:** Ronald Harrison, an early student of Mackintosh's architecture, included 'Door Alteration', Nairn Parish Church, on a list he compiled in the 1930s of drawings produced in the office during Mackintosh's time. Harrison may have believed that Mackintosh made the drawings on the list, or that he contributed to the design of these buildings in some way, but no evidence has come to light to support this attribution.

**Status:** Standing building

**Current name:** Nairn Old Parish Church

**Current use:** Church (2014)

**Listing category:** A

**Historic Scotland/HB Number:** 38400

**RCAHMS Site Number:** NH85NE 70

**Grid reference:** NH 87916 56405

## Chronology

### 1894

29 August: Laying of foundation stone: walls already 12–15 feet (3.66–4.57 m) above ground level. <sup>1</sup>

### 1897

26 February: John Honeyman & Keppie receive fee of £28 in connection with work at Nairn Parish Church. <sup>2</sup>

23 July: Church opened. <sup>3</sup>

## People

### Clients:

- 

### Contractors:

- 

### Other:

- 

## 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 M139 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 M139 has been extracted from the job books:

|                        |
|------------------------|
| Job book:<br>Page: NaN |
|------------------------|

**Client:**

**Tenders:**

| Contractor | Type | Address | Date | Value | Accepted |
|------------|------|---------|------|-------|----------|
|            |      |         |      |       |          |
|            |      |         |      |       |          |

**Payments (trades):**

| Name | Type | Payment out sum  | Measurer fee payments |
|------|------|--|-----------------------|
|      |      | <b>First installment:</b><br><b>Final installment:</b> |                       |

**Payments (suppliers):**

| Name | Service | Payment date | Payment sum |
|------|---------|--------------|-------------|
|      |         |              |             |

**Measurer fee payment: First installment:**

**Final installment:**

**Total cost:**

## Documents

## Images

## Bibliography

### Published

Notes:

1: *Dundee Courier & Argus*, 24 July 1897, p. 5.

2: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie / Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh / Keppie Henderson cash book, 1889–1917, GLAHA 53079, p. 41.

3: *Scotsman*, 19 May 1898, p. 6.

4: *Aberdeen Journal*, 30 August 1894, p. 7.

5: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie / Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh / Keppie Henderson cash book, 1889–1917, GLAHA 53079, p. 41.

6: *Dundee Courier & Argus*, 24 July 1897, p. 5.

## Mackintosh Architecture: Context, Making and Meaning

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