

# M159 Additions and alterations to 233 St Vincent Street

## Introduction

John Honeyman & Keppie designed a three-storey addition at the rear of an 1820s house, providing a showroom, offices and stores for decorators H. L. Anderson & Co. A new front door to St Vincent Street was installed and new woodwork was fitted in the hall.

**Authorship:** The style of the structural and decorative woodwork suggest that Mackintosh contributed to the interior.

**Cost from job book:** £1474 8s 2½d

**Status:** Demolished; structural and decorative woodwork refitted within same address

**Current use:** Offices (2014)

**Listing category:** B: Listed as '217–245a (odd nos) St Vincent Street and 79 Blythswood Street, 128 St Vincent Lane'

**Historic Scotland/HB Number:** 33149

**Grid reference:** NS 58421 65532

## Chronology

### 1898

August: John Honeyman & Keppie's drawings submitted to the Glasgow Dean of Guild Court. <sup>1</sup>

22 September: Plans approved by the Dean of Guild Court. <sup>2</sup>

1 October: Work on site under way. <sup>3</sup>

21 December: Earliest payment to contractor. <sup>4</sup>

### 1899

16 June: Work on site complete. <sup>5</sup>

### 1900

March and April: Latest payments to majority of contractors. <sup>6</sup>

### 1988

Roof trusses are temporarily displayed in the Environment Pavilion at the Glasgow Garden Festival. <sup>7</sup>

### 1988–9

233 St Vincent Street redeveloped. John Honeyman & Keppie's annexe demolished; the interior roof trusses, fittings and decoration refitted in the new building. <sup>8</sup>

## Description

233 St Vincent Street was built c. 1825 as a terraced house. It formed part of the development of the Blythswood estate as a spacious 'new town', W. of Glasgow's crowded city centre. In the later 19th century, as residents moved from Blythswood to the developing West End and southern suburbs, the house was converted for commercial use. <sup>1</sup>

### Rear addition

In 1896 John Honeyman & Keppie were commissioned to design a three-storey addition at the rear for H. L. Anderson & Co., house-painters, gilders and paper-hangers. The addition was demolished in 1988–9, but the drawings submitted to the Glasgow Dean of Guild Court record its appearance. Due to the slope of the site, its two lower floors were at the same level as the sub-basement and basement of the existing house. They accommodated a paper store and

what was probably a workshop. The top floor of the addition, at the same level as the ground floor of the house, contained two offices and a large, top-lit room with open roof timbers. Described on the drawings as a 'saloon', this was probably the company showroom.

The partly-glazed roof of the 'saloon' had two impressive trusses with arch-bracing and tapering king-posts incorporating unusual disc ornaments. Though distinctive, these were less unconventional than contemporary trusses designed by Mackintosh for the Glasgow School of Art museum.<sup>2</sup> Two simpler triangular trusses, again with disc ornaments, supported the glazed corridor roof between the second floor of the addition and the ground floor of the house.



## Changes to the house

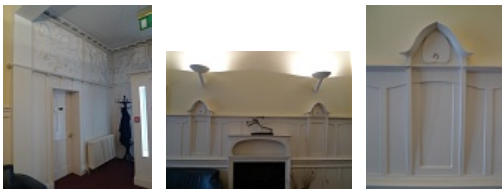
As well as designing the addition, John Honeyman & Keppie installed a new door at the main entrance on St Vincent Street, and fitted the hall with new doors, decorative woodwork, and a plaster-cast frieze of part of the Elgin Marbles. Many of these features appear to have survived although not in their original locations. They also decorated the ceiling, presumably to showcase the kind of work undertaken by H. L. Anderson & Co. The front door and internal doors are similar in design and date to those at Ferndean, Barrhead. The forms of the doors and the 'S' curves of the deep wall panelling suggest the work of Mackintosh. The main stair newel post was carved with delicate low-relief designs recalling work of the mid-1890s by The Four.



## Later history

In 1988–9, 231 and 233 St Vincent Street were redeveloped for James Williamson & Partners and Life Association of Scotland Ltd. John Honeyman & Keppie's building was demolished.<sup>3</sup> Measured drawings of 233 made prior to the demolition show the two pairs of roof trusses, wall panelling, plaster-cast frieze and painted ceiling, presumably in their original locations.<sup>4</sup>

During the redevelopment the roof trusses were removed from the building and displayed at the 1988 Glasgow Garden Festival before being reinstalled in the new building.<sup>5</sup> The stair newel post was removed and is now displayed in the hall at Queen's Cross Church. Honeyman & Keppie's front door has remained *in situ* while the hall woodwork, frieze and ceiling decoration have been fitted in an apparently new configuration in the now stairless reception hall. An internal vestibule with details in keeping with John Honeyman & Keppie's panelling has been installed at the front door.



## People

### Clients:

- H. L. Anderson & Co.

### Contractors:

- W. B. Campbell & Co.
- J. & W. Guthrie & Andrew Wells
- Henry Herbertson & Co.
- Hutcheson & Grant
- James Hutcheson
- George Rome & Co.
- Colin Turner

## 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 M159 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 M159 has been extracted from the job books:



Job book: 53061  
Page: 163

**Measurer:** Henry Herbertson & Co.

**Tenders:**

Contractor	Type	Address	Date	Value	Accepted
Alexander Muir & Son	mason & brick	no data in job book	no data in job book	£746 0s 0d	no
P. & W. Anderson	mason & brick	no data in job book	no data in job book	£766 0s 0d	no
Daniel McCallum	mason & brick	no data in job book	no data in job book	£695 0s 0d	no
Robert Corbet & Son	mason & brick	no data in job book	no data in job book	£692 0s 0d	no
Hutcheson & Grant	mason & brick	no data in job book	no data in job book	£687 0s 0d	yes (no data in job book)
John Smellie junior	mason & brick	no data in job book	no data in job book	£845 0s 0d	no
John Kirkwood	mason & brick	no data in job book	no data in job book	£715 0s 0d	no
Hutcheson & Grant	joiner	no data in job book	no data in job book	£404 0s 0d <sup>1</sup>	yes (no data in job book)
James Herbertson & Son	joiner	no data in job book	no data in job book	£402 15s 0d	no
Matthew Henderson	joiner	no data in job book	no data in job book	£466 0s 0d	no
James Maben & Co.	joiner	no data in job book	no data in job book	£466 0s 0d	no
John Smellie junior	joiner	no data in job book	no data in job book	£460 0s 0d	no
William McCall & Sons	joiner	no data in job book	no data in job book	£402 3s 0d	no
R. A. McGilvray	plasterer	no data in job book	no data in job book	£63 14s 3d	no
McKenzie	plasterer	no data in job book	no data in job book	£57 16s 10d	no
George Rome & Co.	plasterer	no data in job book	no data in job book	£58 10s 0d	yes (no data in job book)
Colin Turner	plumber	no data in job book	no data in job book	£122 19s 0d	yes (no data in job book)
Fyfe & Allan	plumber	no data in job book	no data in job book	£127 0s 0d	no
Hendry	plumber	Bothwell Road	no data in job book	£127 0s 0d	no
A. & D. MacKay	slater	no data in job book	no data in job book	£37 0s 0d	no
W. B. Campbell & Co.	slater	no data in job book	no data in job book	£33 5s 0d <sup>2</sup>	yes (no data in job book)
McOwat & Son	slater	no data in job book	no data in job book	£29 0s 0d	no

**Payments (trades):**

Name	Type	Payment out sum
Hutcheson & Grant	mason & brick	<b>First installment:</b> 21 December 1898 <b>Final installment:</b> 27 March 1900 £631 10s 2d <sup>3</sup>

Hutcheson & Grant	joiner	<b>Payment date:</b> 27 March 1900 £674 10s 8d
George Rome & Co.	plasterer	<b>Payment date:</b> 26 April 1900 £38 9s 4d
Colin Turner	plumber	<b>Payment date:</b> no data in job book £82 10s 1½d <sup>4</sup>
W. B. Campbell & Co.	slater	<b>Payment date:</b> 27 March 1900 £28 6s 5d

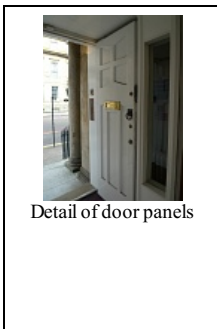
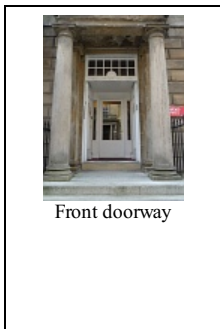
#### Payments (suppliers):

Name	Service	Payment date	Payment sum
J. & W. Guthrie & Andrew Wells	vestibule door	7 December 1899	£7 3s 0d
J. & W. Guthrie & Andrew Wells	'glass in screen etc'	16 June 1899	£4 10s 0d
James Hutcheson	brass panels and electric lights	20 March 1900	£7 8s 6d

**Total cost:** £1474 8s 2½d

## Documents

## Images



## Bibliography

### Published

- Roger Billcliffe, *Charles Rennie Mackintosh: The Complete Furniture, Furniture Drawings and Interior Designs*, Moffat, Dumfriesshire: Cameron & Hollis, 4th edn, 2009, p. 69
- Elizabeth Williamson, Anne Riches and Malcolm Higgs, *Buildings of Scotland: Glasgow*, London: Penguin, 1990, p. 237
- Ian Ballantyne, 'Charles Rennie Mackintosh Timber Trusses', *Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society Newsletter*, 55, Spring 1991, p. 3
- Roger Billcliffe, 'Recent Mackintosh Discoveries', *Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society Newsletter*, 19, Summer 1978, pp. 5–8

### Unpublished

- Melvin J. Gillespie, '233 St Vincent Street. An interior by Charles Rennie Mackintosh', unpublished student project, 1987
- Glasgow City Archives Collection: Dean of Guild Court, Register of Inspections, D-OPW 25/8, pp. 10–11

Notes:

- 1: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow Dean of Guild COurt plans, TD1309/A/119.
- 2: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Dean of Guild Court, Register of Inspections, D-OPW 25/8, p. 10.
- 3: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Dean of Guild Court, Register of Inspections, D-OPW 25/8, p. 11.
- 4: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie / Honeyman , Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53061, p. 163.
- 5: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Dean of Guild Court, Register of Inspections, D-OPW 25/8, p. 11.
- 6: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie / Honeyman , Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53061, p. 163.
- 7: *Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society Newsletter*, 55, Spring 1991, p. 3. *Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society Newsletter*, 48, Spring 1988, p. 2.
- 8: Elizabeth Williamson, Anne Riches and Malcolm Higgs, *Buildings of Scotland: Glasgow*, London: Penguin, 1990, p. 237; Historic Scotland, listed building report HB 33149 for Nos. 217–245A (odd numbers) St Vincent Street and No. 79 Blythswood Street, and No. 128 St Vincent Lane; RCAHMS, Edinburgh: DC 18071–80; *Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society Newsletter*, 19, Summer 1978, p. 5; *Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society Newsletter*, 55, Spring 1991, p. 3; Melvin J. Gillespie, '233 St Vincent Street. An interior by Charles Rennie Mackintosh', unpublished measured survey, 1987, Coll. Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society.
- 9: Elizabeth Williamson, Anne Riches and Malcolm Higgs, *Buildings of Scotland: Glasgow*, London: Penguin, 1990, pp. 236–7.
- 10: *Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society Newsletter*, 19, Summer 1978, p. 5; Roger Billcliffe, *Charles Rennie Mackintosh: The Complete Furniture, Furniture Drawings and Interior Designs*, Moffat, Dumfriesshire: Cameron & Hollis, 4th edn, 2009, p. 69.
- 11: Elizabeth Williamson, Anne Riches and Malcolm Higgs, *Buildings of Scotland: Glasgow*, London: Penguin, 1990, p. 237; Historic Scotland, listed building report HB 33149; RCAHMS, Edinburgh: DC 18071–80.
- 12: Melvin J. Gillespie, '233 St Vincent Street. An interior by Charles Rennie Mackintosh', unpublished student project, 1987. This document was drawn to our attention by Stuart Robertson of the Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society.
- 13: *Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society Newsletter*, 55, Spring 1991, p. 3.
- 14: Value of original tender £425 17s 9d.
- 15: Value of original tender £35 10s 8d.
- 16: 'Ad material 7.1.11'.
- 17: Includes jobbing account payment of £11 10s 0d.

## Mackintosh Architecture: Context, Making and Meaning

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