

M209 Headington, Bridge of Weir

Introduction

This large, L-shaped, roughcast detached house with curved gabled dormers derived from 17th-century Scottish vernacular architecture, is located in the affluent Renfrewshire commuter village of Bridge of Weir. It was built for Alfred Allison Todd, partner in Dunn & Todd, a Glasgow firm of chartered accountants.

Authorship: Drawings showing a slightly different treatment of the house were in Mackintosh's possession at the time of his death, and suggest that he contributed to an early stage of the design process. The plan, materials and historical references have parallels with Windyhill and The Hill House, but the house was built according to drawings signed by John Keppie, and it seems likely that Keppie had overall control of the design.

Alternative names: Easter Hill; Easterhill.

Cost from job book: £2899 4s 8d

Status: Standing building

Current name: Easterhill

Current use: Residential (2014)

Listing category: B: Listed as 'Easterhill'

Historic Scotland/HB Number: 12775

RCAHMS Site Number: NS36SE 74

Grid reference: NS 39620 64997

Chronology

1902

April: Earliest date on drawings submitted to County of Renfrew Second or Lower District Master of Works department. ¹

8 May: Contractor tenders accepted. ²

14 May: Application to build submitted to County of Renfrew Second or Lower District. ³

13 June: Plans approved by County of Renfrew Second or Lower District. ⁴

1905

20 April: Final payments to main contractors. ⁵

Description

Origin and names

Alfred Todd commissioned John Honeyman & Keppie to design a cottage at Bridge of Weir in 1898. However, that project appears to have been abandoned following the tendering process. In 1902, he returned to the practice to commission a substantial house in the same village. Early references to Todd's house give the name Headington. ¹

Drawings

The drawings submitted for local authority approval are now lost and known only through photographs. ² Dated April and May 1902, they showed the house as built and were signed by John Keppie. They do not appear to have been drawn by Mackintosh, but two pencil drawings in the Hunterian Art Gallery, which

were in Mackintosh's possession at the time of his death and may therefore be by him, show what seems to be an alternative treatment for the house. ³ These drawings, in which the distribution of the windows is different, may indicate Mackintosh's involvement in an earlier stage of the design process.

Exterior

The L-plan house of roughcast brick is severely plain. The only ornament is the stone surround to the front door in the angle of the two wings and the carved panel above it. The eaves line is enlivened by dormers with curved gables and by a wall-head gable on the N. elevation of the slightly higher N. wing. Doors and sash windows are arranged asymmetrically. Plan and materials, as well as the form of the dormers, show the influence of 17th-century Scottish vernacular architecture and recall Mackintosh's contemporary work at Windyhill and The Hill House. ⁴

Interior

According to the 1902 drawings, a narrow vestibule leads to the hall and stairs in the centre of the N. wing. Parlour and dining room open off the E. side of the hall, drawing room off the W. The kitchen is S. of the dining room, with scullery, larder, wash house and coal store in a single-storey wing beyond. On the first floor are four bedrooms, a dressing room and bathroom, and there are three further rooms in the roof space, lit by gabled dormers. The drawings show a large and elaborate fireplace in the dining room and smaller ones in the dressing room and third bedroom.

Alterations

Alterations were made to the house in 1915 by William Gardner Rowan. ⁵

People

Clients:

- Alfred Allison Todd

Contractors:

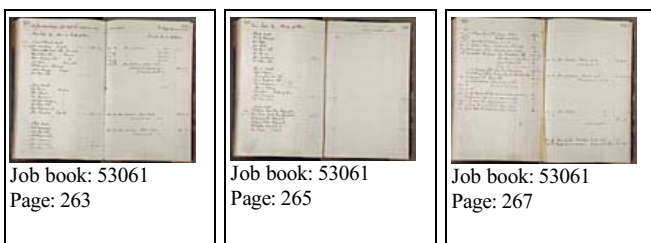
- Robert Aitken
- John Woodrow

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 M209 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 M209 has been extracted from the job books:



Client: Alfred Allison Todd

Measurer: Douglas, Hunter & Whitson

Tenders:

Contractor	Type	Address	Date	Value	Accepted
John Woodrow	mason & brick	Bridge of Weir	no data in job book	£541 2s 7d ¹	yes (8 May 1902)

Robert Aitkenhead & Son	mason & brick	Greenock	no data in job book	£631 15s 6d	no
Robert Corbert & Son	mason & brick	Glasgow	no data in job book	£698 0s 0d	no
Robert Gilchrist & Son	mason & brick	Glasgow	no data in job book	£609 0s 0d	no
William Steel	mason & brick	Greenock	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
T. P. Jamieson	mason & brick	Baillieston	no data in job book	£633 11s 8d	no
Dick & Benzie	mason & brick	Glasgow	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
William Shaw & Son	mason & brick	Glasgow	no data in job book	£659 15s 9d	no
James Grant	joiner	Glasgow	no data in job book	£490 8s 1d	no
Thomas Brown	joiner	Glasgow	no data in job book	£439 0s 0d	no
George Ferguson	joiner	Glasgow	no data in job book	£443 5s 9d	no
Matthew Henderson	joiner	Glasgow	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
William Shaw & Son	joiner	Glasgow	no data in job book	£309 15s 0d	no
John Cochrane Jr	joiner	Glasgow	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
John Woodrow	joiner	Bridge of Weir	no data in job book	£433 4s 3d ²	yes ()
A. & D. MacKay	slater	no data in job book	no data in job book	£99 0s 0d	no
A. M. Ross & Son	slater	no data in job book	no data in job book	£88 0s 0d	no
McOwat & Son	slater	no data in job book	no data in job book	£100 18s 2d	no
John Anderson	slater	no data in job book	no data in job book	£94 0s 0d	no
John Woodrow	slater	[Bridge of Weir]	no data in job book	£74 19s 7d ³	yes ()
William Shaw & Son	slater	[Glasgow]	no data in job book	£89 18s 9d	no
R. A. McGilvray	plasterer	no data in job book	no data in job book	£92 0s 0d	no
William Forbes	plasterer	no data in job book	no data in job book	£89 7s 2d	no
John Forbes	plasterer	no data in job book	no data in job book	£91 9s 2d	no
George Rome & Co.	plasterer	no data in job book	no data in job book	£82 8s 5d	no
William Tonner	plasterer	no data in job book	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
John Woodrow	plasterer	[Bridge of Weir]	no data in job book	£68 2s 8d ⁴	yes ()
William Shaw & Son	plasterer	[Glasgow]	no data in job book	£82 8s 5d	no
Fyfe & Allan	plumber	no data in job book	no data in job book	£140 0s 0d	no

James Johnstone & Son	plumber	no data in job book	no data in job book	£130 0s 0d	no
James Ingleton & Co.	plumber	no data in job book	no data in job book	£139 0s 0d	no
William Anderson	plumber	no data in job book	no data in job book	£143 10s 3d	no
Brown & Young	plumber	no data in job book	no data in job book	£138 4s 11d	no
Crawford	plumber	Bridge of Weir	no data in job book	£142 9s 6d	no
John Woodrow	plumber	[Bridge of Weir]	no data in job book	£140 5s 2d ⁵	yes ()
William Shaw & Som	plumber	[Glasgow]	no data in job book	£139 7s 11d	no
T. G Spence	painter	Neva Place, Bridge of Weir	no data in job book	£98 15s 6d	no
John Ritchie	painter	Market Place, Kilmacollm	no data in job book	£62 16s 0d	yes (30 March 1903)
H. L. Anderson & Co.	painter	St Vincent Street	no data in job book	£95 19s 2d	no
T. C. Bowie & Fisher	painter	Bothwell Street	no data in job book	£93 4s 4d	no
J. & W. Guthrie & Wells	painter	West George Street	no data in job book	£90 5s 9d	no
George Sellars	painter	West George Street	no data in job book	£97 4s 3d	no

Payments (trades):

Name	Type	Payment out sum
John Woodrow	mason & brick	First installment: 19 September 1902 Final installment: 20 April 1905 £2035 4s 11d ⁶
John Woodrow	joiner	Payment date: 20 April 1905 £470 9s 9d ⁷
John Woodrow	slater	Payment date: 20 April 1905 £70 0s 11d ⁸
John Woodrow	plasterer	Payment date: 20 April 1905 £62 16s 4d ⁹
John Woodrow	plumber	Payment date: 20 April 1905 £151 3s 10d ¹⁰
John Woodrow	painter	Payment date: 13 May [1905] £59 0s 5d ¹¹

Payments (suppliers):

Name	Service	Payment date	Payment sum
Robert Aitken	inspector; 32 visits	23 December [1905]	£12 0s 0d

Measurer fee payment: £40 8s 6d ¹² (20 April 1905)

Documents



Description of Building submitted to County of Renfrew Second or Lower District Master of Works Department, details, 1902

Images



View from W., 1975-6



View from E., 1975-6

Bibliography

Published

- Frank Arneil Walker, *The South Clyde Estuary. An Illustrated Guide to Inverclyde and Renfrew*, Edinburgh: Scottish Academic Press, 1986, p. 84
- Frank Arneil Walker, 'Two Houses at Bridge of Weir', *Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society Newsletter*, 44, Autumn 1986, pp. 10-11

Unpublished

- Hiroaki Kimura, 'Charles Rennie Mackintosh: Architectural Drawings', unpublished PhD thesis, University of Glasgow, 1982, pp. 312-14

Notes:

- 1: Hiroaki Kimura, 'Charles Rennie Mackintosh: Architectural Drawings', unpublished PhD thesis, University of Glasgow, 1982, pp. 313-14.
- 2: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie / Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53061, p. 263.
- 3: Renfrewshire Archives, Paisley Central Library: County of Renfrew, Second or Lower District, Schedules for New Buildings, 178-245, 1902, no. 210.
- 4: Paisley, Renfrewshire Council Planning Department: County of Renfrew, Second or Lower District, Register of New Buildings 1899-1929, no. 210.
- 5: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie / Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53061, p. 264.
- 6: *Glasgow Post Office Directory*, 1905-6, p. 609; Mrs E. Todd was still living at 'Headington', Bankend Road, Bridge of Weir in 1926. *Paisley and District Post Office Directory*, 1926, p. 556.
- 7: Hiroaki Kimura, 'Charles Rennie Mackintosh: Architectural Drawings', unpublished PhD thesis, University of Glasgow, 1982, pp. 313-14. The drawings were seen by Kimura in or before 1982 in the former Strathclyde Regional Council, Renfrew District archives in Cotton Street, Paisley, but could not be located in 2010 among surviving drawings for other projects at Renfrewshire archives, Heritage Services, Paisley Central Library.
- 8: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: GLAHA 41854 (M209-005); GLAHA 41855 (M209-006); Frank Arneil Walker, 'Two Houses at Bridge of Weir', *Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society Newsletter*, 44, Autumn 1986, p. 11.
- 9: *Charles Rennie Mackintosh Society Newsletter*, 44, Autumn 1986, p. 11. Frank Arneil Walker, *The South Clyde Estuary. An Illustrated Guide to Inverclyde and Renfrew*, Edinburgh: Scottish Academic Press, 1986, p. 84.
- 10: 'Easterhill', *Dictionary of Scottish Architects, 1840-1980*, www.scottisharchitects.org.uk [accessed 8 December 2010]; Historic Scotland listing description, HB 12775, www.historic-scotland.gov.uk [accessed 8 December 2010].
- 11: Value of original tender £592 18s 9d.

- 12: Value of original tender £445 11s 4d.
- 13: Value of original tender £103 12s 0d.
- 14: Value of original tender £66 12s 8d.
- 15: Value of original tender £142 19s 9d.
- 16: Work 'including boundary wall etc'; '½ measurers fee £8.8'.
- 17: '½ measurers fee £6.6'.
- 18: '½ measurers fee £1.1'.
- 19: '½ measurers fee £1.1'.
- 20: '½ measurers fee £2.7.3'.
- 21: '½ measurers fee £1.1'.
- 22: '½ retained from Con[tractor]'.

Mackintosh Architecture: Context, Making and Meaning

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