



## M242 309–313 Sauchiehall Street

### Introduction

This six-storey block was built as a shop for James Simpson & Sons, cabinetmakers and upholsterers.

**Authorship:** The drawings approved by the Glasgow Dean of Guild Court are signed by John Keppie, and the style of the building suggests he was responsible for its design.

**Alternative names:** Muir Simpson's.

**Alternative addresses:** 201–203 Pitt Street Sauchiehall Lane

**Cost from job book:** £13,174 10s 1½d

**Status:** Standing building

**Current use:** Retail and offices (2014)

**Listing category:** C (S)

**Historic Scotland/HB Number:** 33177

**RCAHMS Site Number:** NS56NE 1446

**Grid reference:** NS 58354 65896

### Chronology

#### 1903

December: Drawings made by Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh for submission to Glasgow Dean of Guild Court. <sup>1</sup>

#### 1904

25 February: Plans passed by Glasgow Dean of Guild Court. <sup>2</sup>

30 May: Work commenced on site. <sup>3</sup>

#### 1905

25 January: Roof begun. <sup>4</sup>

May–September: Interior being finished. <sup>5</sup>

#### 1906

July: Final payments to painters and measurer. <sup>6</sup>

### Description

This large block on the corner of Sauchiehall Street and Pitt Street was designed as a furniture shop for James Simpson & Sons. The firm previously occupied premises at 102–108 London Street, in Glasgow's East End. John Honeyman & Keppie, who in 1894 had made alterations to James Simpson's house, The Knowe at Crosshill, made a survey of the London Street shop in 1901. <sup>1</sup> A few years later, it was decided to take the business up-market by moving it to the W. end of Sauchiehall Street. Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh's plans for the new shop were approved by the Glasgow Dean of Guild Court on 25 February 1904, and by the following summer the interior was being finished. The move westward coincided with the death in 1904 of James Simpson, son of the firm's founder, and the succession of Herbert and Kenneth Muir Simpson, James's sons. <sup>2</sup>

The exterior of red sandstone (from Corrie, on the Isle of Arran) <sup>3</sup> is relatively plain up to the level of the main cornice. Pairs of canted bay windows frame each façade, supported by exposed cast-iron beams and brackets, and the windows between the bays have classical columns as mullions. Only at attic level

does the building spring into life, with pedimented windows elaborately framed between pairs of blocked columns. The distinctive, sinuous architraves of these attic windows are also found in Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh's contemporary building at 518 Sauchiehall Street for the photographers T. & R. Annan & Sons. They hark back to a group of mid-1890s buildings for which Mackintosh was either wholly or partly responsible: the Glasgow Herald Building, the Queen Margaret College Anatomical Department and Martyrs Public School. It has been argued that the Sauchiehall Street buildings (along with a third building for the Trustees of Dr Walker at 137–143) were designed by John Keppie, who chose to revive here the Scots Renaissance-derived vocabulary that he and Mackintosh had developed a decade earlier. <sup>4</sup>

The drawings for 309–313 Sauchiehall Street approved by the Glasgow Dean of Guild Court are certainly signed by Keppie (on one sheet he even appears to have started signing with the old practice name 'John Honeyman & Keppie' before realising his mistake and signing with the current name instead). Ronald Harrison, an early student of Mackintosh's architecture, included the attic windows of Simpson's on a list of Mackintosh's works he compiled in the 1930s, while working in Keppie's office, but no corroborating evidence for this attribution has so far come to light. However, the sectional drawing submitted to the Glasgow Dean of Guild Court shows some interior details which suggest Mackintosh's influence, if not his direct involvement: chief among these is the lift enclosure, comparable to the unexecuted design for the same feature at 137–143 Sauchiehall Street.

Inside, the fireproof concrete floors are supported on steel beams. Simpson's occupied the entire building – six principal floors, plus basement and attic – most of the space being used for displaying furniture. A notable feature was 'The Model House', mentioned in Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh's job-book entry. This building-within-a-building had a roughcast exterior of 'quaint rustic beauty', with lattice windows and a veranda. Inside, each room was decorated and furnished in a different style, including Adam, Sheraton and 'the more arrestive effects of the early Victorian chintz period'. <sup>5</sup>

On 26 October 1905 Honeyman Keppie & Mackintosh paid Alexander McGibbon six guineas for a perspective of Simpson's building. <sup>6</sup> This may have been the drawing of 'Business Premises, Sauchiehall Street' which they exhibited at the Glasgow Institute of the Fine Arts in 1907 (802).

Simpson's was illustrated and briefly described in a wide-ranging review of recent Glasgow architecture in the *Builders' Journal and Architectural Engineer* in November 1906. <sup>7</sup> Like H. E. Clifford's warehouse for Fraser, Ross & Co. at 70 Ingram Street and P. Macgregor Chalmers' Neptune Chambers at the corner of Argyle Street and Pitt Street – both illustrated in the same article – it shows a move away from the exuberant corner towers and broken rooflines favoured in Glasgow around 1900, towards a simpler, squared-off shape.

## People

### Clients:

- James Simpson

### Contractors:

- George Adam & Son
- Stephen Adam
- C. T. Bowie, Fisher & Co.
- Campbell, Binnie & Co.
- James Cormack & Sons Ltd
- Matthew Henderson
- William Howatt
- James Ingleton & Co.
- Kean & Wardrop
- William Ross Key
- C. & J. Malloch
- R. A. McGilvray & Ferris
- John McOwat & Son
- John Porter & Sons
- Archibald Smith & Stevens
- Rudolph A. Stoffert

## 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 M242 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 M242 has been extracted from the job books:



Job book: 53062  
Page: 49



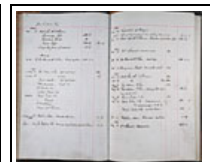
Job book: 53062  
Page: 50



Job book: 53062  
Page: 51



Job book: 53062  
Page: 52



Job book: 53062  
Page: 53

**Client:** James Simpson

**Measurer:** William Howatt

**Tenders:**

Contractor	Type	Address	Date	Value	Accepted
P. & W. Anderson	mason and brick work	64 Douglas Street	1904	£7166 8s 7d	no
George Barlas & Co.	mason and brick work	13 Ruthven Street, Hillhead	1904	£6661 11s 2d	no
James Goldie & Son	mason and brick work	52 St Enoch's Square	1904	£7763 13s 4d	no
John Paterson & Son Ltd	mason and brick work	610 Pollokshaws Road	1904	£6163 13s 4d	no
E. C. Morgan & Sons	mason and brick work	37 Elderslie Street	1904	£6995 16s 9d	no
Morrison & Mason	mason and brick work	Polmadie	1904	£6515 1s 6d	no
Robert Murdoch & Son	mason and brick work	91 Maxwell Road	1904	£7466 0s 0d	no
Thaw & Campbell	mason and brick work	Haghill Depot, Paton Street	1904	£6951 11s 9d	no
A. Stewart & Co.	mason and brick work	157 West George Street	1904	£7732 11s 9d	no
John Kirkwood	mason and brick work	23 Hope Street	1904	£7000 0s 0d	no
J. H. White & Son	mason and brick work	138 Albert Road	1904	'Returned'	no
John Porter & Sons	mason and brick work	no data in job book	1904	£5340 8s 8d	yes (2 May 1904)
George Eadie	mason and brick work	Mathieson Street	1904	no data in job book	no
P. & W. Anderson	wright and joiner work	no data in job book	1904	£2210 6s 0d	no
Ian Goldie & Sons	wright and joiner work	no data in job book	1904	£1900 0s 0d	no
James Morrison	wright and joiner work	Polmadie Road	1904	£2295 6s 6d	no
Matthew Henderson	wright and joiner work	Grant Street	1904	£1982 10s 0d	yes (2 May 1904)
Thomas Brown	wright and joiner work	Rottenrow	1904	£2200 0s 0d	no
John Cochrane	wright and joiner work	Dobbie's Loan	1904	£2152 15s 4d	no
James Grant	wright and joiner work	Pitt Street	1904	£2160 15s 4d	no
James Herbertson & Co.	wright and joiner work	85 Bedford Street	1904	£2070 0s 0d	no
J. & G. Findlay	wright and joiner work	Grant Street	1904	£1989 17s 9d	no

George Laird & Son	wright and joiner work	Ann Street, Bridgeton	1904	£2014 17s 9d	no
Hugh Mc Taggart	wright and joiner work	60 Mill Street, Bridgeton	1904	£1838 14s 0d	no
William Shaw & Son	wright and joiner work	94 Commerce Street	1904	£2420 3s 0d	no
Anderson & Henderson	wright and joiner work	115 Renwick Street	1904	£2229 14s 1d	no
John Porter & Sons	wright and joiner work	no data in job book	1904	£2443 0s 0d	no
George Eadie	wright and joiner work	Mathieson Street	1904	no data in job book	no
T Stewart & Co.	wright and joiner work	no data in job book	1904	£2087 0s 0d	no
P. & W. Anderson	slater work	no data in job book	1904	£22 0s 0d	no
James Goldie & Son	slater work	no data in job book	1904	£24 16s 2d	no
A. & D. Mackay	slater work	Oswald Street	1904	£40 0s 0d	no
A. Mackenzie Ross	slater work	Ann Street	1904	£27 0s 0d	no
John McOwat & Son	slater work	98 London Street	1904	£39 18s 5d	yes
John Anderson	slater work	Parliamentary Road	1904	£16 13s 0d	no
John Porter & Sons	slater work	no data in job book	1904	no data in job book	no
P. & W. Anderson	plaster work	no data in job book	1904	no data in job book	no
James Goldie & Son	plaster work	no data in job book	1904	no data in job book	no
R. A. McGilvray & Ferris	plaster work	West Regent Street	1904	£314 15s 0d	yes (20 April 1904)
George Rome & Co.	plaster work	Waterloo Street	1904	£337 9s 6d	no
William Forbes	plaster work	167 West Graham Street	1904	£354 8s 6d	no
Alex Calder & Son	plaster work	586 Eglinton Street	1904	£390 2s 10d	no
William Tonner & Son	plaster work	85 Douglas Street	1904	£325 3s 6d	no
Donald Mackenzie	plaster work	no data in job book	1904	£319 15s 0d	no
John Forbes	plaster work	Bath Street	1904	£339 8s 11d	no
John Porter & Sons	plaster work	no data in job book	1904	£383 0s 0d	no
Fyfe & Allan	plumber work	St George's Road	1904	£264 0s 0d	no
P. & W. Anderson	plumber work	no data in job book	1904	£309 0s 0d	no
James Goldie & Son	plumber work	no data in job book	1904	£315 0s 0d	no
James Ingleton & Co.	plumber work	George Street	1904	£299 5s 0d	yes (2 May 1904)
William Anderson	plumber work	133 Wellington Street	1904	£307 0s 0d	no
Brown & Young	plumber work	7 Bath Street	1904	£319 0s 0d	no
John Cairns	plumber work	18 Bath Street	1904	no data in job book	no
Moses Speirs & Son	plumber work	Bothwell Street	1904	£257 0s 0d	no
James Johnstone & Son	plumber work	Renfield Street	1904	£285 0s 0d	no
Robert S. Renfrew	plumber work	140 North Street	1904	£266 0s 0d	no
Stalker & Daye	plumber work	112 Great Western Road	1904	£273 7s 4d	no
Colin Turner	plumber work	133 West Regent Street	1904	£287 11s 0d	no
Wallace & Connell	plumber work	44 St Enoch's Square	1904	£299 8s 9d	no
John Porter & Sons	plumber work	no data in job book	1904	no data in job book	no
P. & W. Anderson	cast iron work	no data in job book	1904	£900 0s 0d	no

James Goldie & Son	cast iron work	no data in job book	1904	£785 0s 0d	no
Alison Brothers	cast iron work	Cogan Street, Pollokshields	1904	£783 7s 0d	no
Bladen & Co,	cast iron work	Parkhead Girder Works	1904	£794 10s 3d	no
I. & A. Law	cast iron work	Parkstone Iron Works	1904	Returned	no
Moses McCulloch & Co	cast iron work	168 Gallowgate	1904	£782 8s 3d	no
Rudolph A Stoffert	cast iron work	121 Bath Street	1904	£768 6s 9d	no
Campbell, Binnie & Co.	cast iron work	no data in job book	1904	£738 10s 6d	yes (20 April 1904)
P. & W. MacLellan	cast iron work	Trongate	1904	£736 10s 3d	no
P. & R. Fleming	cast iron work	Trongate	1904	£920 3s 10d	no
John Porter & Sons	cast iron work	no data in job book	1904	£844 0s 0d	no
J. & R. Houston	cast iron work	Greenock	1904	£854 4s 3d	no
Rudolph A. Stoffert	steel beams	Bath Street	1904	£1149 0s 0d	yes (20 April 1904)
P. & W. Anderson	steel beams	no data in job book	1904	£1299 11s 10d	no
James Goldie & Sons	steel beams	no data in job book	1904	£1332 7s 6d	no
Bladen & Co.	steel beams	no data in job book	1904	£1239 1s 5d	no
P. W. MacLellan	steel beams	no data in job book	1904	£1256 14s 4d	no
P. & R. Fleming	steel beams	no data in job book		£1253 8s 2d	no
Donald Clark & Co.	steel beams	no data in job book	1904	£1246 10s 4d	no
John Porter & Sons	steel beams	no data in job book	1904	£1388 0s 0d	no
C. & J. Malloch	glazier work	St Vincent Street	1904	£236 0s 0d	yes
J. Meikle & Son	glazier work	Wellington Street	1904	£238 0s 0d	no
P. & W. Anderson	glazier work	no data in job book	1904	£276 12s 0d	no
James Goldie & Son	glazier work	no data in job book	1904	£268 10s 0d	no
John Porter & Sons	glazier work	no data in job book	1904	£286 10s 3d	no
P. & W. Anderson	pavement lights	no data in job book	1904	£97 14s 5d	no
James Goldie & Sons	pavement lights	no data in job book	1904	£96 18s 8d	no
John Porter & Sons	pavement lights	no data in job book	1904	£99 0s 0d	no
Hayward Bros. & Eckstein	pavement lights	141 West Regent Street	1904	£92 14s 4d	no
William Ross Key	pavement lights	109 Hope Street	1904	£90 15s 0d	yes (2 May 1904)
Rudolph A. Stoffert	fireproof floors	Bath Street	1904	£962 16s 0d <sup>1</sup>	yes (20 April 1904)
James Goldie & Sons	fireproof floors	no data in job book	1904	£1156 6s 5d	no
P. & W. Anderson	fireproof floors	no data in job book	1904	no data in job book	no
John Porter & Sons	fireproof floors	no data in job book	1904	£1141 8s 6d	no
James Goldie & Sons	tile work	no data in job book	1904	£75 12s 1d	no
P. & W. Anderson	tile work	no data in job book	1904	no data in job book	no
John Porter & Sons	tile work	no data in job book	1904	£90 0s 0d	no
Galbraith & Winton	tile work	no data in job book	1904	£83 3s 10d	no
Kean & Wardrop	tile work	no data in job book	1904	£75 0s 1d	yes (20 April 1904)
John Youden	tile work	no data in job book	1904	£79 0s 0d	no
Archibald Smith & Stevens	lifts	no data in job book	1904	£626 15s 0d <sup>2</sup>	yes (3 October 1904)
James Cormack & Sons Ltd	heating	no data in job book	1904	£441 0s 0d <sup>3</sup>	yes (27 October 1904)

George Adam & Son	lift enclosure	no data in job book	1905	£160 0s 0d	yes (5 May 1905)
George Adam & Son	gates	no data in job book	1905	£16 0s 0d	yes (16 May 1905)
J. & R. Anderson	painter work	Bath Street	1905	'list of rates'	no
H. L. Anderson	painter work	no data in job book	1905	'list of rates'	no
Guthrie & Wells Ltd	painter work	no data in job book	1905	'list of rates'	no
C. T. Bowie, Fisher & Co.	painter work	no data in job book	1905	'list of rates'	yes
Bennett	painter work	no data in job book	1905	'list of rates'	no
G. W. Sellars	painter work	no data in job book	1905	'list of rates'	no
Hugh McCulloch	painter work	no data in job book	1905	'list of rates'	no
Stephen Adam	staircase window	no data in job book	1905	£11 10s 0d	yes (19 May 1905)
James Ingleton & Co.	lead work	no data in job book	1906	£8 15s 0d <sup>4</sup>	yes (10 January 1906)

#### Payments (trades):

Name	Type	Payment out sum
John Porter & Sons	mason and brickwork	<b>First installment:</b> 13 October 1904 <b>Final installment:</b> 1 May 1905 £4868 15s 5½ <sup>5</sup>
Matthew Henderson	wright and joiner work	<b>First installment:</b> 16 March 1905 <b>Final installment:</b> 26 March 1905 £2015 1s 6d <sup>6</sup>
Matthew Henderson	wright and joiner work	£353 14s 10d <sup>7</sup>
John McOwat & Son	slater work	<b>Payment date:</b> 13 March 1905 £33 14s 3d <sup>8</sup>
R. A. McGilvray & Ferris	plaster work	<b>First installment:</b> 1 May 1905 <b>Final installment:</b> 27 March 1906 £368 11s 4½d <sup>9</sup>
James Ingleton & Co.	plumber work	<b>First installment:</b> 6 April [1905] <b>Final installment:</b> 22 February 1906 £409 9s 12d <sup>10</sup>
Campbell, Binnie & Co.	cast iron work	<b>First installment:</b> 1 December [1905] <b>Final installment:</b> 23 February 1906 £582 3s 7d <sup>11</sup>
Rudolph A. Stoffert	steel beams	<b>First installment:</b> 4 November 1904 <b>Final installment:</b> 10 November [1905] £1197 12s 9d <sup>12</sup>
C. & J. Malloch	glazier work	<b>First installment:</b> 17 June 1905 <b>Final installment:</b> 27 November 1905 £202 12s 8½d <sup>13</sup>
William Ross Key	pavement lights	<b>Payment date:</b> 17 October 1905 £83 2s 5d <sup>14</sup>
Rudolph A. Stoffert	fireproof floors	<b>Payment date:</b> 10 November 1905 £933 5s 6d <sup>15</sup>
Kean & Wardrop	tile work	<b>Payment date:</b> no data in job book £10 18s 2d <sup>16</sup>
Archibald Smith & Stevens	lifts	<b>First installment:</b> 16 June 1905 <b>Final installment:</b> 26 February 1906 £626 15s 0d
James Cormack & Sons Ltd	heating	<b>Payment date:</b> 26 October [1904] £441 0s 0d
George Adam & Son	lift enclosures	<b>First installment:</b> 13 July 1905 <b>Final installment:</b> 23 February 1906 £194 6s 0d <sup>17</sup>

C. T. Bowie, Fisher & Co.	painter work	<b>First installment:</b> 18 November [1905] <b>Final installment:</b> 19 July 1906 £575 1s 0d <sup>18</sup>
Stephen Adam	staircase window	<b>Payment date:</b> 3 October 1906 £11 10s 0d

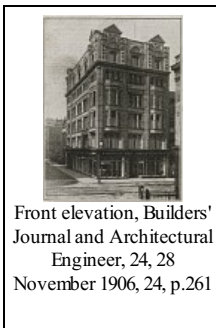
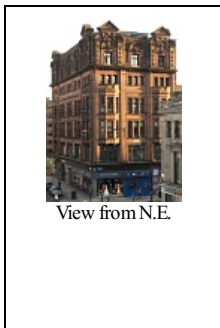
#### Payments (suppliers):

Name	Service	Payment date	Payment sum
Glasgow Corporation	'Lifting causeway & connecting drains etc.'	29 May 1905	£19 4s 7d
Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh	Architecture	13 October [1904]	£200

**Measurer fee payment:** £247 11s 0d (21 July 1906 <sup>19</sup>)

## Documents

## Images



## Bibliography

### Published

- David Walker, 'The Glasgow Years', in Wendy Kaplan, *Charles Rennie Mackintosh*, New York and London: Abbeville Press, 1996, p. 143
- Elizabeth Williamson, Anne Riches and Malcolm Higgs, *Buildings of Scotland: Glasgow*, London: Penguin, 1990, p. 244
- *Glasgow To-Day*, Glasgow: Henry Munro, 1909, p. 83
- *Builders' Journal and Architectural Engineer*, 24, 28 November 1906, pp. 261, 273–4

### Unpublished

- Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow Dean of Guild Court, Register of Inspections, D-OPW 25/9, p. 13

### Notes:

- 1: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow Dean of Guild plans, B4/12/2/91.
- 2: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow Dean of Guild Court, Register of Inspections, D-OPW 25/9, p. 13.
- 3: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow Dean of Guild Court, Register of Inspections, D-OPW 25/9, p. 13.
- 4: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow Dean of Guild Court, Register of Inspections, D-OPW 25/9, p. 13.
- 5: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow Dean of Guild Court, Register of Inspections, D-OPW 25/9, p. 13.
- 6: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow Dean of Guild Court, Register of Inspections, D-OPW 25/9, p. 13.
- 7: Glasgow City Archives Collection: Glasgow Dean of Guild plans, TD1309/A/115.
- 8: *Glasgow To-Day*, Glasgow: Henry Munro, 1909, p. 83.

- 9: *Builders' Journal and Architectural Engineer*, 24, 28 November 1906, pp. 261 and 273–4.
- 10: *Dictionary of Scottish Architects, 1840–1980*, [www.scottisharchitects.org.uk](http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk) [accessed 25 January 2012].
- 11: *Glasgow To-Day*, Glasgow: Henry Munro, 1909, p. 83.
- 12: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie / Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh / Keppie Henderson cash book, 1889–1917, GLAHA 53079, p. 95.
- 13: *Builders' Journal and Architectural Engineer*, 24, 28 November 1906, pp. 261, 273–4.
- 14: 'if with stairs [?] 1014. 10. 6.'
- 15: Comprises £368 3s 0d for passenger lift, £14 0s 0d for electric bells, £244 12s 0d for goods lift and £23 18s 0d for collapsible gates 'if ordered'.
- 16: For 'homet system' [?]
- 17: For 'covering uprights of roof with lead'.
- 18: '½ measurer's fee': £52 10s 0d'
- 19: '½ measurer's fee': £21.
- 20: For 'fittings throughout warehouse including model house'. '½ measurer's fee': £5 5s 0d.
- 21: '½ measurer's fee 10/6.'
- 22: 'jobbing a/c' £14 12 1d. '½ measurer's fee': £3 13s 6d.
- 23: Includes £67 7s 1d for 'extra lead on roof', £5 2s 2d for 'lead lining cistern & fittings', £9 4s 11d for 'rain water soil & drain pipes'; and £25 6s 10d for 'covering uprights with lead & jobbing back valves on drains'. '½ measurer's fee': £4 4s 0d. 4'.
- 24: '½ measurer's fee': £5 5s 0d.
- 25: '½ measurer's fee' £12 1s 6d.
- 26: '½ measurer's fee': £2 2s 0d.
- 27: '½ measurer's fee': 18s 9d.
- 28: '½ measurer's fee': £6 16s 6d.
- 29: '½ measurer's fee': 5s.
- 30: 'including stair rail iron grills etc.'
- 31: Includes £44 0s 1d for 'model house'. '½ measurer's fee': £8 18s 6d.
- 32: First installment of £100 paid on 13 October 1904.

## Mackintosh Architecture: Context, Making and Meaning

Led by The Hunterian, University of Glasgow, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council; with additional support from The Monument Trust, The Pilgrim Trust, and the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art; and collaborative input from Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland.



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