



## M273 Treeshill, Bridge of Weir

### Introduction

This four-bedroom, detached, roughcast house was built in the prosperous Renfrewshire commuter village of Bridge of Weir for David Simpson Morton, of Williamson, Morton & Co., a Glasgow firm of oil merchants, paint and colour manufacturers.

**Authorship:** Treeshill was included on a list of Mackintosh's works compiled in the 1930s by Ronald Harrison, an early student of his architecture, who had access to the office records. Harrison evidently believed that Mackintosh contributed in some way to the design of the building, but no evidence has come to light to support this attribution. The drawings submitted for planning approval were signed by John Keppie.

**Alternative names:** Kincaig <sup>1</sup>.

**Cost from job book:** £2110 7s 11d

**Status:** Standing building

**Current name:** Treeshill

**Current use:** Residential (2014)

**Listing category:** C (S): Listed as 'Kincaig'

**Historic Scotland/HB Number:** 12765

**RCAHMS Site Number:** NS36NE 72

**Grid reference:** NS 37838 65592

### Chronology

#### 1906

July: Earliest drawings for the house. <sup>1</sup>

8 August: Contractor tenders submitted. <sup>2</sup>

21 August: Earliest contractor tender accepted. <sup>3</sup>

25 August: Application to build made to County of Renfrew Second or Lower District. Document signed by John Keppie on 21 August on behalf of D. S. Morton. <sup>4</sup>

14 October: Application approved by County of Renfrew Second or Lower District. <sup>5</sup>

#### 1907

11 November: Last payment to contractor, for painting and limewashing exterior roughcast. <sup>6</sup>

#### 1913

Addition of porch and garage, landscaping and interior alterations by John Campbell and Alexander D. Hislop for Robert Fullarton. <sup>7</sup>

#### 1919

Over an acre of land to the N. acquired by Robert Fullarton. <sup>8</sup>

#### 1998

December: House advertised for sale as 'Kincaig'. <sup>9</sup>

### Description

This large detached house is one of a cluster built in the early 1900s, alongside Ranfurly Castle Golf Course. Some have been attributed to John A. Campbell, and there are echoes of C. F. A. Voysey.<sup>1</sup>

## Exterior

Before the later addition of a porch and canted bay to the S. elevation, Treeshill had a simple rectangular plan. Its roughcast finish and prominent gables with deep eaves between are strongly reminiscent of Voysey's 'The Orchard' at Chorleywood, Hertfordshire, begun in 1899. Rather than timber sashes, there are multi-paned metal casements supplied by George Wragg[e] Ltd. The number and irregular distribution of small windows at the E. end indicates this was originally the service area.

## Original interior

The drawings show a large central hall entered via an internal vestibule with a deep alcove adjacent, an arrangement reminiscent of earlier houses by the practice such as Redlands at Bridge of Weir, Ferndean at Barrhead and Dunottar at Kilmacollm. In comparison with these, however, the family accommodation at Treeshill was more clearly demarcated from the service area, which had its own separate staircase. The principal staircase led to a sky-lit first-floor corridor, with four large bedrooms and a dressing room opening off it. As on the ground floor, the E. end was given over to service accommodation, including a bathroom, W.C., 'napery' and two servants' bedrooms.

## Alterations

By 1913 the house was owned by a Robert Fullarton. John A. Campbell of Campbell & Hislop made significant interior alterations for him, which included removing the internal division between family and servants. A porch at the front door and a detached garage to the E. of the house were also added, and the gardens were landscaped.<sup>2</sup> At a later date the room to the left (W.) of the porch was extended and a canted bay added.

## People

### Clients:

- David Simpson Morton

### Contractors:

- R. Aitkenhead & Son
- C. T. Bowie, Fisher & Co.
- John Crawford
- George Ferguson & Sons
- A. & D. MacKay
- John Montgomery
- George Rome & Co.
- George Wragg[e] Ltd

## 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 M273 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 M273 has been extracted from the job books:



Job book: 53062  
Page: 123



Job book: 53062  
Page: 124

**Client:** David Simpson Morton

**Measurer:** Barr & Fyfe

Measurer address: no data in job book no data in job book no data in job book

**Tenders:**

| Contractor                | Type                            | Address                    | Date                | Value                    | Accepted                |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| John Woodrow              | mason & brick                   | Bridge of Weir             | 8 August 1906       | £579 16s 5d              | no                      |
| R. Aitkenhead & Son       | mason & brick                   | Trafalgar Street, Greenock | 8 August 1906       | £528 17s 4d <sup>1</sup> | yes (23 August 1906)    |
| Robert Corbet & Son       | mason & brick                   | Glasgow                    | 8 August 1906       | £622 0s 0d               | no                      |
| Daniel McCallum           | mason & brick                   | Glasgow                    | 8 August 1906       | £654 0s 0d               | no                      |
| J. H. White & Son         | mason & brick                   | Glasgow                    | 8 August 1906       | £626 0s 0d               | no                      |
| Robert Gilchrist & Son    | mason & brick                   | Glasgow                    | 8 August 1906       | £614 0s 0d               | no                      |
| E. C. Morgan & Son        | mason & brick                   | Glasgow                    | 8 August 1906       | £607 2s 11d              | no                      |
| John Green                | mason & brick                   | no data in job book        | 8 August 1906       | £576 5s 4d               | no                      |
| John Woodrow              | joiner                          | Bridge of Weir             | 8 August 1906       | £588 17s 6d              | no                      |
| James Grant               | joiner                          | Glasgow                    | 8 August 1906       | £579 8s 3d               | no                      |
| George Ferguson & Sons    | joiner                          | Glasgow                    | 8 August 1906       | £565 14s 4d              | yes (23 August 1906)    |
| Matthew Henderson         | joiner                          | Glasgow                    | 8 August 1906       | £587 0s 0d               | no                      |
| Thomas Brown              | joiner                          | Glasgow                    | 8 August 1906       | £574 6s 8d               | no                      |
| E. C. Morgan & Son        | joiner                          | Glasgow                    | 8 August 1906       | £590 7s 11½d             | no                      |
| Archibald McFarlane       | joiner                          | no data in job book        | 8 August 1906       | £606 2s 5d               | no                      |
| John Woodrow              | slater                          | [Bridge of Weir]           | 8 August 1906       | £137 4s 6d               | no                      |
| Alec Ross & Son           | slater                          | no data in job book        | 8 August 1906       | £155 16s 6d              | no                      |
| John Anderson             | slater                          | no data in job book        | 8 August 1906       | £149 7s 0d               | no                      |
| A. & D. MacKay            | slater                          | no data in job book        | 8 August 1906       | £128 18s 3d              | yes (21 August 1906)    |
| R. A. McGilvray & Ferris  | plasterer                       | no data in job book        | 8 August 1906       | £115 13s 0d              | no                      |
| William Forbes            | plasterer                       | no data in job book        | 8 August 1906       | £121 7s 0d               | no                      |
| John Woodrow              | plasterer                       | Bridge of Weir             | 8 August 1906       | £104 9s 6d               | no                      |
| William Tonner            | plasterer                       | no data in job book        | 8 August 1906       | £106 1s 5d               | no                      |
| George Rome & Co.         | plasterer                       | no data in job book        | 8 August 1906       | £96 0s 0d                | yes (21 August 1906)    |
| James Ingleton            | plumber                         | no data in job book        | 8 August 1906       | £285 0s 0d               | no                      |
| John Crawford             | plumber                         | Bridge of Weir             | 8 August 1906       | £246 13s 6d              | yes (21 August 1906)    |
| Fyfe & Allan              | plumber                         | no data in job book        | 8 August 1906       | £255 0s 11d              | no                      |
| William Anderson          | plumber                         | no data in job book        | 8 August 1906       | £239 0s 0d               | no                      |
| George Wragg[e] Ltd       | ?                               | no data in job book        | no data in job book | £121 0s 0d               | yes (3 November 1906)   |
| George Ferguson & Sons    | railings/creosoting             | no data in job book        | no data in job book | £30 0s 0d                | yes (30 January [1907]) |
| C. T. Bowie, Fisher & Co. | painting, limewashing roughcast | no data in job book        | no data in job book | £77 0s 0d                | yes (28 March [1907])   |

**Payments (trades):**

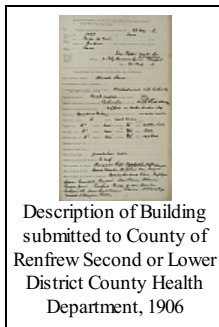
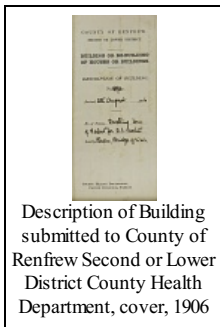
| Name                   | Type          | Payment out sum  |
|------------------------|---------------|--|
| R. Aitkenhead & Son    | mason & brick | <b>First installment:</b> 26 October 1906<br><b>Final installment:</b> 17 October 1907<br>£501 4s 10d <sup>2</sup> |
| George Ferguson & Sons | joiner        | <b>First installment:</b> 10 December 1906<br><b>Final installment:</b> 17 October 1907<br>£645 2s 1d <sup>3</sup> |
| A. & D. MacKay         | slater        | <b>Payment date:</b> 30 July [1907]<br>£134 12s 4d <sup>4</sup>  |
| George Rome & Co.      | plasterer     | <b>Payment date:</b> 17 October 1907<br>£75 0s 1d <sup>5</sup>   |
| John Crawford          | plumber       | <b>First installment:</b> 13 March 1907<br><b>Final installment:</b> 28 October 1907<br>£274 18s 1d <sup>6</sup>   |

#### Payments (suppliers):

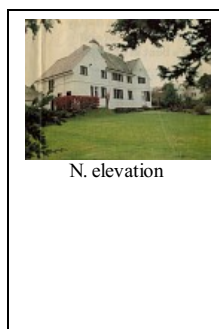
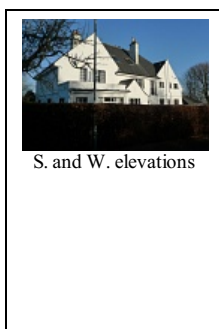
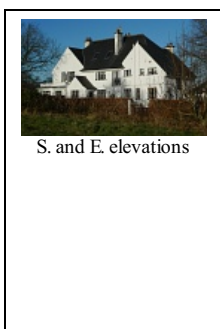
| Name                      | Service  | Payment date                  | Payment sum |
|---------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------|
| George Wragg[e] Ltd       | window casements                                   | 30 January 1907; 31 July 1907 | £221 0s 0d  |
| John Montgomery           | inspector; visits 3 September [1906]–25 May [1907] | 2 October [1907]              | £117 0s 0d  |
| C. T. Bowie, Fisher & Co. | painting, limewashing roughcast                    | 11 November [1907]            | £90 0s 0d   |

**Measurer fee payment:** £28 16s 3s <sup>7</sup> (no data in job book)

## Documents



## Images



## Bibliography

### Published

- Frank Arneil Walker, *The South Clyde Estuary. An Illustrated Guide to Inverclyde and Renfrew*, Edinburgh: Scottish Academic Press, 1986, p. 85
- Liz Adam, 'Links with Mackintosh', *Herald*, 5 December 1998, p. 24
- 'Living Legacy of a Forgotten Talent', *Sunday Times*, Home and Garden supplement, 27 December 1998, p. 8

## Notes:

- 1: This name for the house first appears in the Historic Scotland listing description HB 12765, 19 August 1977. The name Treeshill appears in the job-book entry.
- 2: University of Glasgow Library, Special Collections: copies of original Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh drawings, MS Hislop S.35.
- 3: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53062, p. 123.
- 4: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53062, p. 123.
- 5: Renfrewshire Archives, Paisley Central Library: County of Renfrew, Second or Lower District, Schedules for New Buildings, 1906, no. 472.
- 6: Paisley, Renfrewshire Council Planning Department: County of Renfrew, Second or Lower District, Register of New Buildings 1899–1929, no. 472.
- 7: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53062, p. 124.
- 8: University of Glasgow Library, Special Collections: MS Hislop S.35; S.123.
- 9: University of Glasgow Library, Special Collections: MS Hislop S.123.
- 10: 'Living Legacy of a Forgotten Talent', *Sunday Times*, Home and Garden supplement, 27 December 1998, p. 8.
- 11: Frank Arneil Walker, *The South Clyde Estuary. An Illustrated Guide to Inverclyde and Renfrew*, Edinburgh: Scottish Academic Press, 1986, p. 85; see Historic Scotland listing descriptions for 'Golf Course Road, Bridge of Weir'.
- 12: University of Glasgow Library, Special Collections: MS Hislop S.35; S.123.
- 13: Value of original tender £528 17s 9d.
- 14: '½ measurers fee. £9.15'.
- 15: 'The above sum includes gates and railings'; '½ measurers fee. 7.10.0.'
- 16: 'steel frames £14.7.0'; '½ measurers fee. £2.5.'
- 17: '½ measurers fee. £1.6.3.'
- 18: '½ measurers fee. 5.0.0.'
- 19: This appears to be ½ the measurer's fee. £51 12s 6d entered adjacent to measurer's name.

## Mackintosh Architecture: Context, Making and Meaning

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