

VERNACULAR BUILDING in AYRSHIRE

John R. Hume



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Vernacular Building in Ayrshire

revised and expanded edition

John R. Hume

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John R. Hume

The author was for twenty years a lecturer in economic history in the University of Strathclyde, and then moved to the Scottish Office, where he was successively a Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments, a Principal Inspector of Historic Buildings, and lastly Chief Inspector of Historic Buildings, from which post he retired in 1999. He has written, individually and jointly, many books and articles on industrial history and archaeology, and on architectural history. His father's family lived for three generations in Ayrshire, and he has always had a deep affection for the county, to which this publication is a tribute.



Gazetteer of places named in the illustrations

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Vernacular Buildings

The definition of 'vernacular buildings' used in this paper is based on that devised by R.W. Brunskill, the pioneer of the study of such buildings in England. Like many definitions it is somewhat imprecise, though the core of its meaning is clear. In his book *Traditional Buildings of Britain: An Introduction to Vernacular Architecture*, (1981), he writes that 'The term "vernacular architecture" has been used by architects, historians, archaeologists and critics since as long ago as 1838 to describe the minor buildings of town and countryside'. I have extended this to cover a few buildings which are not strictly minor, such as the main Catrine Cotton Mill, but which have some characteristics in common with Brunskill's minor buildings.

Introduction

When this booklet was first written, in 1988, no serious systematic study of vernacular building in Ayrshire had then been attempted. It remains the only such study, though Rob Close's *Ayrshire & Arran: An Illustrated Architectural Guide* (1992) illustrates and mentions many of the buildings included in my introductory study. This is a substantial addition to the literature existing prior to 1988. Fenton and Walker in their *Rural Architecture of Scotland* (1981) confine their references to Ayrshire to documentary accounts, and Robert Naismith in *Buildings of the Scottish Countryside* (1985) makes only a few general comments about buildings in Ayrshire. There are no illustrations of Ayrshire buildings in Fenton and Walker, and only six in Naismith. Some excellent local historical publications produced both before and since 1988 illustrate vernacular buildings in a number of Ayrshire towns and villages, but do not comment on their character. This revision takes account of Close and other recent publication, as well as additional fieldwork and re-examination of material used in the first edition. I still hold to my view that this is a subject of great interest, both from an Ayrshire perspective, and also from the point of view of what constitutes the distinctive Scottish architecture of the period between the Union of the Parliaments in 1707 and the development of Victorian design. Without delving into the fragmentary evidence provided by urban archaeology it is impossible to say what Ayrshire vernacular buildings were like before the 17th century, except in the cases of churches, tower houses and the much restored Loudoun Hall and Lady Cathcart's House, both in Ayr, if such buildings can be said to be vernacular buildings (Brunskill, the doyen of vernacular buildings experts, would consider them to fall into that category). We are fortunate in having the ceiling paintings in the Skeltnorlie Aisle in Largs as a hint of the character of building in the locality in the first half of the 17th century. The

majority of the houses depicted are single-storey cottages, with hipped* thatched roofs, in irregular clusters. There are also individual two, three and four-storey buildings, including what appears to have been a thatched corn mill, with an arched cart entrance and a forestair at one end, and in the distance a post windmill. The Kirk of Largs is shown as a T-plan building with a slate roof (incorporating the Skelmorlie Aisle itself, and there is another church with a tower and spire. Other buildings, with slated roofs, appear to be fanciful, but the depiction of the more modest structures appears to be authentic (Fig 1).

These early 17th century buildings are clearly of another age, only the kirk, the mill and one narrow block like a tenement having recognisable surviving descendants. The character of vernacular building during the period 1650/1750 is also fairly obscure, but Slezer's view of the town of Ayr, probably drawn in the 1660s or 70s, provides some evidence. The town's frontage to the river Ayr, downstream from the Auld Brig, resembles that of modern Stromness and St Margaret's Hope in Orkney, and of Lerwick in Shetland, with warehouses and houses crowded on to private quays (Fig 3). Nearer the mouth of the river there is a long row of single-storey thatched houses (Fig 4), a building type that persisted for another 150 years. An example of a surviving late 17th century house is The Place, Kilmaurs (Fig 2), a T-plan dwelling, built on to the remains of an earlier tower. Comparable in plan was a house in Dalmellington (Fig 5), now demolished. The near-symmetrical two-storey, three-bay house appears to have reached Scotland in about 1700, early examples being Key House, Falkland, Fife (Fig 6), and Old Auchentroig, near Buchlyvie, Stirlingshire. This style of house was built in large numbers over the next century and a half, but the type was often hybridised with Dutch-inspired 'Palladianism' to produce a style of building found all over lowland Scotland. Often near-symmetry was sacrificed to a disposition of windows and doors that reflected convenience in internal arrangements, noted in Naismith as a characteristic feature of Ayrshire country building. A good Ayrshire example of the hybrid style was The Place in Mauchline (Fig 7), built in 1756. Its substantial two-storey stone construction, irregularly-placed sash windows (including a Palladian three-light one) and slated roof are features which remained characteristic of Ayrshire vernacular building for the next century (Figs 8, 9). Slating was not universal until into the early 19th century, when thatching was specifically banned by the Town Council in Irvine, because of the risk of fire, though it is unlikely that any new thatched buildings were constructed after the 1840s, when the railways made transport of building materials easier. A few thatched buildings have been preserved (see Figs 10, 12, 91). Harling was not particularly common, though lime-washing and smooth rendering were both fairly usual.

• This and other terms are defined in the glossary (page 75).

The quickening of economic change which accompanied agricultural improvement and road construction in the mid and late 18th century encouraged the expansion of existing communities, and the rebuilding of old town and village centres. The cottage in Alloway built by the father of Robert Burns in 1757, with its clay and clay-bonded walls and oversailing thatched roof (Fig 10) was characteristic of much building at that time. Burns' own house in Mauchline (Fig 11), though originally thatched, was two storeys high and built of dressed sandstone, probably with lime mortar, and appears to have been typical of Ayrshire building in the later 18th century. Smaller single-storey thatched cottages, however, continued to be built, as in Kirkoswald, where Souter Johnnie's cottage (in fact two semidetached cottages) dates from 1780 (Fig 12). A late 19th century photograph of Maybole, taken by George Washington Wilson, shows a row of similar cottages (Fig 13), and a two-storey thatched range of, apparently, only slightly later date.

Spinners' and weavers' houses

The introduction of machine-spinning of cotton to the west of Scotland in about 1780 provided a further impetus to more, and more substantial, building. The only large late 18th century cotton complex in Ayrshire was at Catrine, founded in 1787 by David Dale, himself a native of Stewarton, and Claud Alexander of Ballochmyle. Two drawings of the complex, made by John Black between 1814 and 1820, show the regular plan of the village, and the character of the houses, which were built by individual workers or groups of workers, on land feued by Alexander, rather than by the company, as at New Lanark and Stanley, Perthshire. Many were single-storey thatched cottages, some with wallhead chimneys, but there were also ranges of relatively uniform two-storey cottages, possibly tenements, which appear to have been slated. Surviving photographs of St Cuthbert Street, beside the Catrine Voes (reservoirs), and possibly laid out when the water-power system of the mills was revised in the mid 1820s, show small single-storey cottages, some perhaps one-roomed, as at Souter Johnnie's cottage, Kirkoswald.

More important in house-building terms than cotton spinning was the handloom weaving of cotton cloth. Machine-spun yam was 'put out' to be woven in Ayrshire villages by Glasgow manufacturers, and consequently weavers built new houses. The early ones were usually thatched, and examples, now slated, can be seen in Fenwick (Fig 14), Darvel (Fig 15) and Kilwinning (Fig 16), probably of late 18th century date. There was a boom in putting-out in the 1820s, and many new houses were built, often two-storey. A whole new village, Crosshill: near Maybole, was created for immigrant weavers, mainly Ulster Protestants and men from Highland Perthshire. Most of the Crosshill cottages are single-storey, but appear to have had two large rooms. There are similar cottages in Girvan. In some

instances the weaving room has two windows, hinting at two looms, and in one case, in Crosshill, three, suggesting three looms (Fig 17). Other cottages tentatively identified as weavers' houses are two-storey buildings, probably with looms on the ground floor and living rooms above (Figs 8, 100). What appear from the street to have been single two, three or four-bay houses were often in fact tenements, with common passages and stairs, though modern conversions have frequently obscured these arrangements.

Burgh houses

The two-storey burgh house was the characteristic west of Scotland type between about 1770 and 1840, sometimes with an attic. Building seems to have been particularly active in the 1820s, during the weaving boom. Some houses bear datestones. Others can be dated stylistically, but reference to the Registers of Sasines may be necessary to establish accurate dates. These 'burgh houses', which housed both tradesmen and professional men and their families, and sometimes incorporated shops, constitute the bulk of surviving 'urban vernacular' buildings in Ayrshire. Many are very plain, and do not attract individual attention, but there are usually at least a few in any town or village with distinctive features. The older ones, dating from the late 18th century, often have ornamental details, such as rolled skewputs (Fig 18, 20), pilastered doorways (Figs 20), rusticated quoins (Fig 20), and nepus gables (Figs 19-25, 37, 99) to light their attics. Later examples often have or had timpany (blind nepus) gables or wallhead chimneys. The detailed design varies widely, with nepus gables in Beith (Figs 19-22), Mauchline (Fig 23), Irvine (Fig 24) and Ayr (four storey, Fig 25), timpany gables in Galston (Figs 26, 27), Stewarton (Figs) and Darvel (Fig 28), and wallhead chimneys of a wide range of designs in many towns and villages (Figs 29- 34). In a few instances nepus and timpany gables are in a slightly advanced central bay, as in Fenwick (two-storey building) (Figs 35, 36) and in Kilwinning and Dundonald (Fig 37) (single-storey buildings). Many now plain buildings certainly or probably had wallhead or timpany gables (Fig 100). The reasons for adopting some kind of wallhead chimney of chimneys seem to be twofold: by keeping the flues in the outer walls the inner partitions can be timber-framed, which is cheaper than brick or stone, and regularly-used flues in the outside walls keep these walls dry and warm.

The typical 'Georgian' street frontage house in, for example, Edinburgh or Dublin, has a round or semi-elliptical doorhead, with an ornamented fanlight which lights a hall, close or lobby. Such houses, generally speaking, fall into the category of 'polite' rather than vernacular buildings, but, as with fashionable architectural features in earlier periods, round-headed doorways with glazed fanlights became part of the design vocabulary of vernacular buildings in Ayrshire. Several good examples are to be found in Irvine (Figs 38, 39). By the 1830s and 40s the round-

headed doorway had become unfashionable and had been supplanted by a simplified classical architrave (Figs 40-44), which sometimes had an ornamented glazed fanlight (Fig 45). Apart from buildings with distinctive architectural features, such as wallhead chimneys, round-headed doorways and classical doorpieces, there are many burgh buildings which are entirely plain, but which collectively add significantly to the character of their towns. Two of these are illustrated by way of example (Figs 46, 47, see also Fig 8).

VU/age houses

The buildings discussed in the last section are characteristic of the burghs proper, but also of the larger villages. The villages, and smaller burghs, also contain many single-storey cottages. Some of these were built as weavers' cottages, and some were provided by employers, as discussed below, but a high proportion of them were just small dwellings, for less well-off inhabitants, or for people, like elderly single men and women, who did not need much space. These buildings are so numerous that it is not practical to deal with them systematically, but two illustrations are included (Figs 48, 49).

Employers' houses

To one side of the vernacular houses so far described, which may be classed as the mainstream, are the houses provided by proprietors for workers in coal mines, ironworks, quarries, engineering works and latterly at Catrine for some of the cotton mill workers. In the first Ayrshire iron-smelting works of any size, Muirkirk, the company provided thatched cottages for colliers, and slated houses for ironworkers, most of whom were skilled men from England. The expansion of Ayrshire ironworking from the end of the 1830s brought housing on a larger scale both for ironworkers and for coal and ironstone miners. The characteristic house type was the single-storey one or two-roomed cottage, usually linked in rows, and normally built of brick. A notable exception is Lugar, where the first works, built by the Wilsons of Dundyvan, had all its rows built of stone (Fig 50). They were, as usual, graded by the status of the workers housed in them. Most have been demolished, but the L-plan Foremen's Row survives, built to a neat Italianate design, very typical of the 1840s. The more normal brick rows varied considerably in design and layout. The Eglinton Iron Company, the largest employer, favoured long straight rows (the longest was of 96 houses at Common, near Lugar) with privies, wash-houses and coal stores in detached blocks. Many of the Dalmellington Iron Company's houses, also in long rows, had WCs and coal stores incorporated. The Ardeer Iron Works of Merry and Cunninghame had houses arranged in squares. Almost all of these houses have gone, as the reasons for their construction have disappeared, and as they have failed to meet rising living.

standards. One late row at Waterside survives to show the general form of this type of housing (Fig 51). The last survivor of the more basic type of row was at Skares, near Cumnock, demolished in about 1967 (Fig 52). Foundation remains survive in a number of places, notably on the moors above Waterside. When new miners' houses were built by the Dalmellington Iron Co. early in the 20th century they built improved rows, at Dalmellington (Fig 53), Burnton and Waterside, in an updated vernacular style. The Eglinton Iron Co also built improved rows in Lugar, in an entirely different style.

An isolated example of what seems to have been a quarrymen's row survives in Dundonald, but it is not clear if these houses were provided by the employers; they may have been built by a 'building society' (Figs 54, 55). In Troon harbour there is a row of single-storey cottages which presumably, judging by their location, were built to house men and their families who worked at the harbour.

The Glasgow and South-Western Railway also provided houses for its workers. There were large communities at Hurlford and at Kilmarnock, both consisting of blocks of two-storey flatted terrace houses with external stairs giving access to the first-floor flats (Fig 56). Each unit had four flats, two on each level, and there were detached blocks housing coal stores and wash-houses. All were demolished in the 1960s. Houses similar in form were still to be seen in Ardrossan and in Kilmarnock (one block with a white glazed brick facade) in the late 1980s, and they are not uncommon in Lanarkshire.

Industrial buildings

Industrial buildings were, until the later 19th century, generally of vernacular character. The mill building depicted on the ceiling of the Skelmorlie Aisle has already been mentioned, and water-powered corn mills continued to be built in vernacular style until the early 1800s. Small corn mills like Aikenhead Mill, near Kirkmichael (Fig 57) and Giffen Mill (Fig 58) were not dissimilar in scale to the larger urban houses, but even larger mills, such as Ochiltree Mill (Fig 59); New (Fig 60) and Glencairn mills in Kilmarnock; Kilmaurs Mill (Fig 61), and Alloway Mill were built with similar detailing. Ayrshire's two surviving 17th century windmills, at Monkton and Ballantrae (Fig 62) are also vernacular, but of an earlier style of building. The textile mills built from the 1780s were comparable in build to the larger grain mills. Though the great twist mill at Catrine had a Palladian show front, the body of the building was recognisably vernacular in character. A terrace built by the owners, James Finlay and Co, probably when the water-power system was modernised in the late 1820s, had similar features (Fig 63). Woollen mills in Stewarton (Fig 64) and in Waterside, near Fenwick (Fig 65) were simpler, but again built like the houses of the period, as were the late (1831).

cotton mill in Kilbirnie which became part of the Stoneyholm linen thread mill, and the nearby Dennyholm mill, part of which was built in the later 19th century.

Other industrial buildings of like character included salt-works buildings, of which examples survive in Prestwick (Fig 66), colliery pumping-engine houses like the surviving ruined ones at Auchenharvie, near Saltcoats, and south of Kilmarnock (Fig 67), breweries, like the Old Brewery, Ayr (Fig 68) and Catrine Brewery, and tanneries, like Harry Beebee's tannery, Ayr (Fig 69), and Muir's Tannery in the centre of Kilmarnock. Some ironworks, foundries and engineering works were also built in vernacular character, for example the workshops of the Dalmellington Iron Co at Dunaskin (Fig 70), the older parts of the Caledonia Works and the nearby Titchfield Foundry ((now demolished) , Kilmarnock, and McCartney's engineering works in Cumnock. On a more modest scale, smiddies were clearly vernacular, like survivors in Newmilns (Fig 71) and Dunlop (Fig 72). Two of the count's harbour lights, at Dunure (Fig 73) and Ayr (Fig 74) are in the same tradition, as is the unique civic powder magazine at Irvine (Fig 75).

With a strong industrial vernacular tradition still lively in the mid 19th century it is perhaps surprising that it was not adopted for railway building on any scale. Instead most stations of the period had Italianate oversailing roofs, as at Waterside (Fig 76) and Auchinleck. At Kilkerran a consciously antique style was adopted, with crow-stepped gables and roll-moulded openings. The first Ayr station, on the north side of Ayr Harbour was at the time said to be in 'Elizabethan' style.

Tollhouses, too, were sometimes built in the Italianate style, as at Muirkirk (Fig 77) and between Auchinleck and Curnnock. Others, at Girdle Toll and near Gateside are more vernacular in style, and one at Kirkoswald is just like a small cottage (Fig 78).

Public buildings: churches

One other significant group of buildings which display vernacular characteristics remains to be considered: public buildings. Of these churches are the most numerous. There are between twenty and thirty churches in Ayrshire of a more or less vernacular character. The oldest is probably St Quivox, which appears to have taken its present form in 1595, though an aisle was added in 1767. The church is almost domestic in character (Fig 79). The remains of the old church of Beith (Fig 80), Kilbirnie Auld Kirk and Fenwick (Fig 81) all have crow-stepped gables, and Fenwick may well have been thatched. The Kilbirnie church and the Skelmorlie Aisle in Largs, though largely vernacular in style, also embody features of the polite architecture of the period, as do Ayr Old Parish (1645), the late medieval aisle at Straiton, and Alloway Old Kirk. Most of the others are of 18th century, a notable example being the former Ardrossan parish church in Saltcoats (Fig 82). Churches like the Old High, Kilmarnock (Fig 83), Dailly (Fig 84) and

Old Irvine though they have vernacular features, are predominately polite in character.

Public buildings: to/booths, town houses and others

Town houses and tolbooths of vernacular character are uncommon in Ayrshire, but the survivors are particularly interesting. Those at Newmilns (1739) (Fig 85) with its belfry, and at Kilrnaurs (Fig 86) (also known as The Joughs because of the penal instrument attached to the building) are of 18th century construction, and the surviving tower of the tolbooth in Girvan, locally known as Auld Stumpy (Fig 87) dates from 1828. Less strongly vernacular are the town hall of Beith (1817) (Fig 88) and the Freeman's Hall at Prestwick (1844).

Other public buildings with something of the same character are the Custom House (Fig 89) and the Bath Villa (a lodging house attached to sea baths) (Fig 90) in Ardrossan, which, however, have grouped central flues, a feature of early 'Palladian' buildings in Scotland.

Public buildings: inns and public houses

A feature of vernacular survival in the west of Scotland is the number of old inns and public houses to be found. Looking back to the late 19th century one finds that thatched pubs were popular. Burns' cottage in Alloway (Fig 10), the Bachelors' Club in Tarbolton (Fig 91) and the former Bums Museum in High Street, Ayr, all still thatched, all owe their survival to their use as public houses, and the last-named has reverted to that function. Poosie Nansie's in Mauchline was certainly, and the Weston Tavern in Kilmaurs (Fig 92) probably, originally thatched. On a larger scale are 18th century inns, staging posts on long-distance routes, of which the finest is the Loudoun Arms in Newmilns (Fig 93). Many of the late 18th and early 19th century hostelries differ little, if at all, from contemporary private houses. The nepus-gabled Saracen's Head at Beith (Fig 99), the Turf Hotel in Darvel (Fig 94), the former Covenanters' Inn in Newmilns and the chimney-gabled Marina in Irvine (Fig 95) are clear examples. A simpler one is the Victoria Hotel (later the Harbour Lights) in Irvine (Fig 96).

Conclusion

This brief survey is necessarily incomplete, even in the themes it includes. Agricultural buildings are, for example, excluded. Some of the generalisations may not be supported by subsequent work, though I have not had occasion to alter significantly the views I expressed in the first edition of this publication. Ayrshire's vernacular buildings still seem to me an interesting and distinctive part of the county's architectural heritage. They do not stand absolutely alone, as there

are parallels in Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire, but it seems to me that there are significant differences in character.

I concluded the first edition of this publication by writing that I hoped that the county's unspectacular but rich assortment of genuinely vernacular building would begin to attract the attention it merited before home improvement, conversion, redevelopment and natural decay took much further toll. I alluded in particular to the shearing off of chimney heads (Figs 97-99), the replacement of sash-and-case windows by uPVC windows (Figs 8, 16, 21, 22, 30, 37, 40, 90 and 95), and the fitting of modern doors as eroding the character of the survivors. These processes have, not surprisingly and in some ways understandably, continued. There are, however signs that attitudes are changing. In Newmilns a Heritage Lottery Fund Townscape Heritage Initiative has led to the replacement of a pedimented wall-head chimney of considerable distinction (Fig 100) , and the St Vincent Crescent Housing Association has in the same town refurbished, in a sensitive way, the former Covenanters' Inn, with grant assistance from Historic Scotland. In Beith, the same housing association is restoring a very important group of buildings at the Cross, including the splendid nepus-gabled house shown in Fig 20 above. In Irvine and Kilwinning another form of recognition of vernacular building has emerged: vernacular revival (Figs 101, 102) . It is to be hoped that this process of increasing recognition of Ayrshire's vernacular buildings will continue, and that the loss of the character of the survivors will be halted, and even reversed. This is, in my view, a precious inheritance, and one to be cherished, not just for its own sake, but for the sense of place and pride in place which make for sound and happy communities (Fig 103).

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Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working Group

The first edition of this monograph arose from the 1988 annual conference of the Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working Group (SVBWG), which was based in Ayr. The SVBWG welcomes as members anyone with an interest in the preservation, conservation and recording of traditional and vernacular architecture.

The SVBWG runs conferences and field courses, and produces an annual journal, *Vernacular Building*, as well as occasional newsletters and monographs on themed subjects, such as doo'cots.

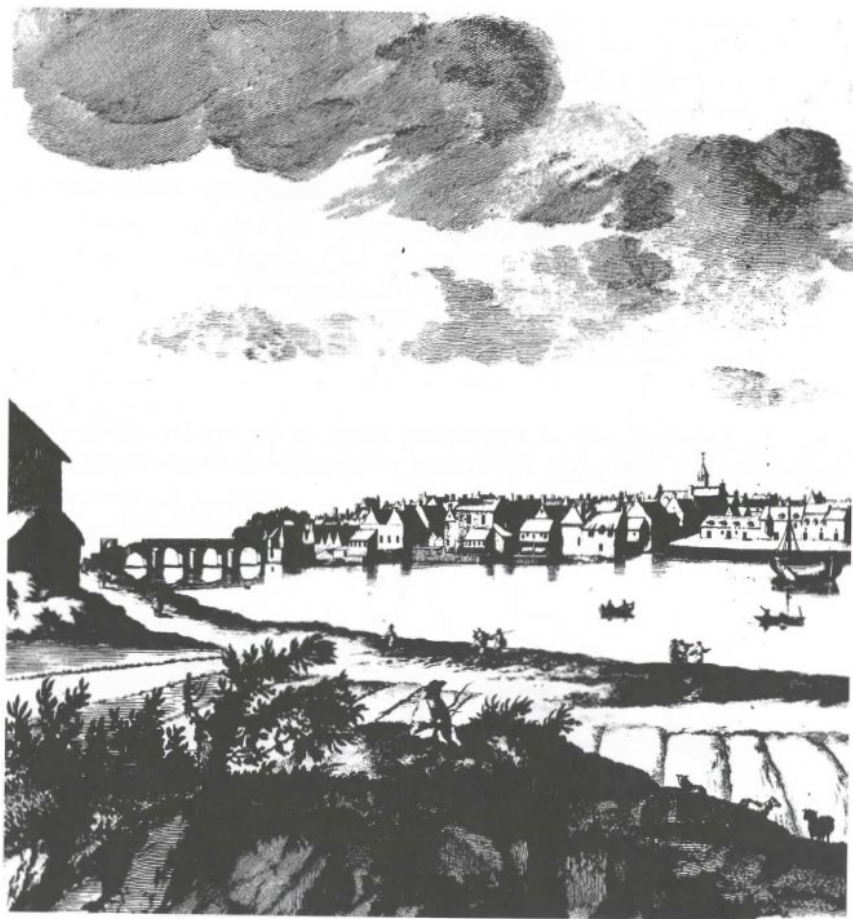
They can be contacted either via the Membership Secretary, Hugh Fearn, Tigh an Aigh, High Street, Rosemarkie, Ross and Cromarty IV10 8UF, or via their website, www.svbwg.org.uk.

Illustrations

1. 'Autumnus', one of four painted panels on the wooden ceiling of the Skelmorlie Aisle, Largs, with the thatched mill on the left, and thatched one and three-storey houses on the right.



2. The Place, Kilmaurs, a T-plan house built in about 1620, with the turnpike stair to the upper levels in the projecting jamb. The vaulted ground floor of the tower that preceded this house is on the left and is still in use.



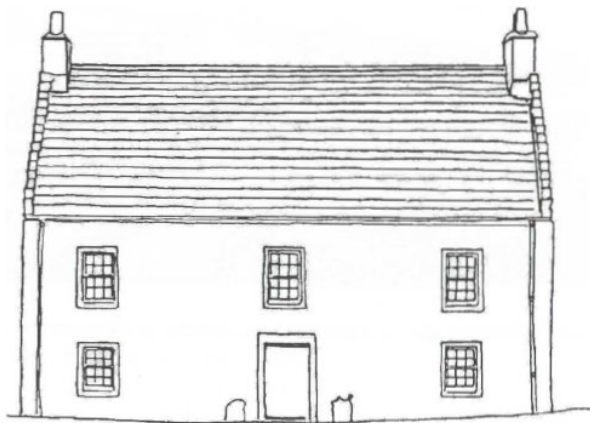
3. The left-hand half of Captain John Slezer 's view of Ayr, showing private quays on the south side of the mouth of the River Ayr.



4. The right-hand side of Slezer's view, showing a uniform row of thatched cottages.



5. T-plan house, formerly the Cross Keys Inn, 15 High Street, Dalmellington. Though in the form seen here it looks like an early 19th century building, its plan form, with the jamb projecting into the street, suggests a 17th century origin. It has been demolished.



6. Key House, Falkland, Fife, dated 1713, probably the oldest near-symmetrical three-bay house surviving in Scotland in an urban setting.



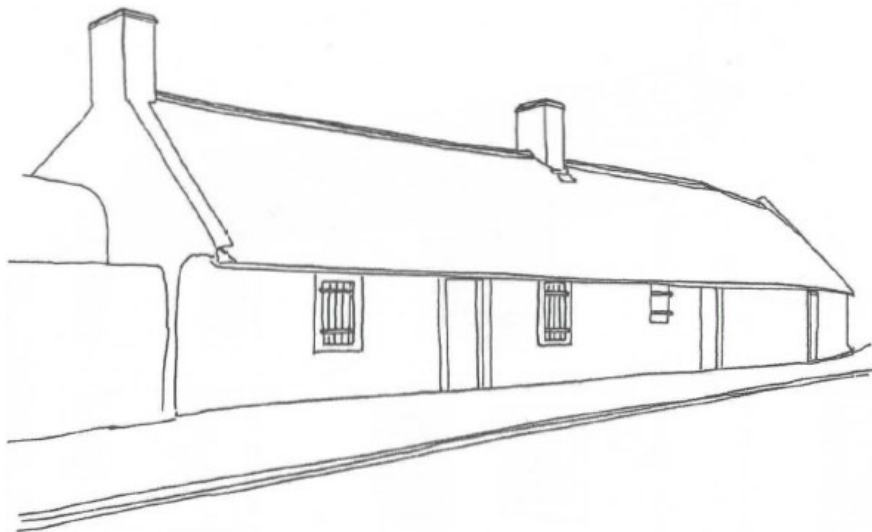
7. The Place, Mauchline, built in 1756. This house combines fashionable features with an irregularity of placing of windows and doors which is clearly vernacular. It was demolished in about 1930.



8. House in Main Road, Fenwick, slated, and with irregularly-placed windows. This was probably built in the early 19th century to house weavers.



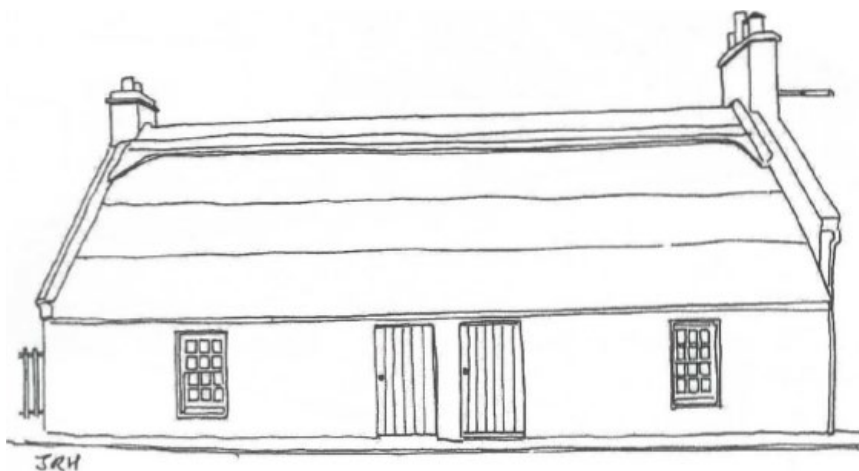
9. A house in Hill Street, Irvine, built in about 1840, also deliberately asymmetrical, and with a slated roof.



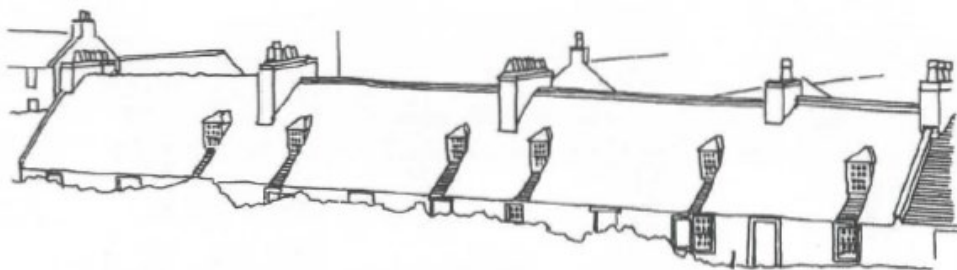
10. Burns' Cottage, Alloway, built in 1757 by William Burness, who had migrated to Ayrshire from Kincardineshire. It is built of field-clearance stones, clay-mortared and lime-washed.



11. Bums' House (Jean Armour's House), 2,4 Castle Street, Mauchline, built in the late 18th century of locally-quarried red sandstone. These two houses were originally thatched.



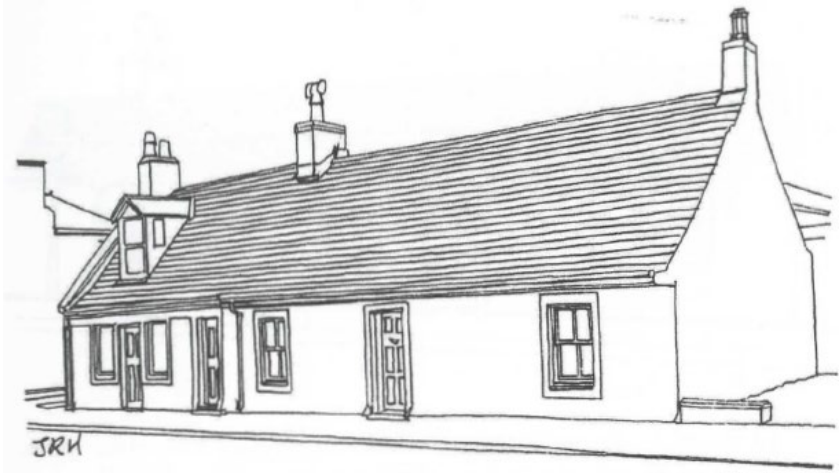
12. Souter Johnnie's cottage, Kirkoswald, built in 1786. This is in fact two cottages. A similar pair survives next door but is now slated.



13. Thatched cottages, Maybole, from a photograph taken by George Washington Wilson in the late 19th century, probably in the 1880s. There are strips of slating below the dormer windows. These buildings have been demolished.



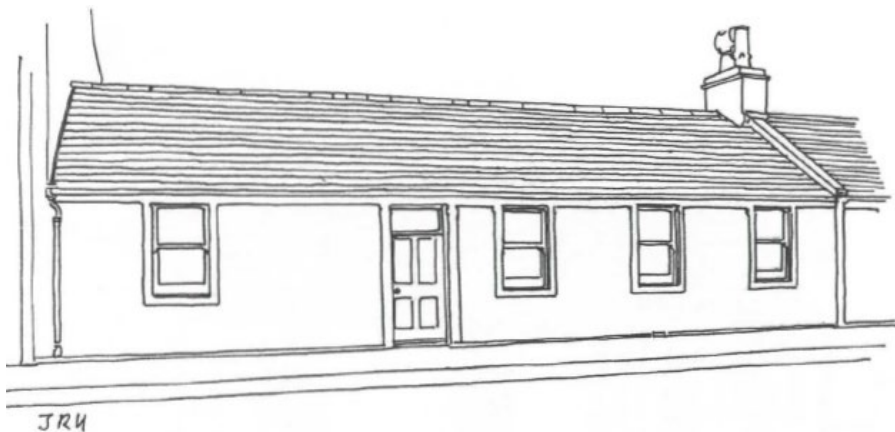
14. Weaver's cottage, main Road, Fenwick, on the end of a row of later houses. The steep pitch of the roof strongly suggests that the building was originally thatched.



15. Weaver's cottage, East Main Street, Darvel. This block was latterly used as offices and was derelict in January 2004. Like the Fenwick cottage in Fig 14, this building was probably originally thatched.



16. Weavers' cottages, Howgate, Kilwinning, comparable to those illustrated in Figs 14 and 15, and like them probably originally thatched. The cottages at the far end of this range have been demolished, and this one is now a funeral office.



17. Weaver's cottage, King Street, Crosshill, probably built in the 1820s.

It

is the only one in the village with three windows to the weaving room.



18. An example of a rolled skewput, on a building in East Main Street, Darvel. This one is carved with scrolls on the side and a ropework detail on the face. Others of this type are devoid of ornament (see Figs 20, 22).



19. Nepus-gabled building, Wee Close, Beith, probably built in the early 19th century.



20. Nepus gabled building, The Cross, Beith. Note the rolled skewputs on the skews of the nepus gable, the doorpiece with engaged columns, and the rusticated quoins.



21. The nepus gable of the building shown in Fig 19.



22. The nepus gable of The Smugglers Tavern, High Street, Beith, a late 18th building. Note the rolled skewputs.



23. Detail of nepus gabled building, Mauchline. This gable has lost its chimney. The pediment, defined by mouldings, is unusual in this type of gable and suggests an early 19th, rather than an 18th century date.



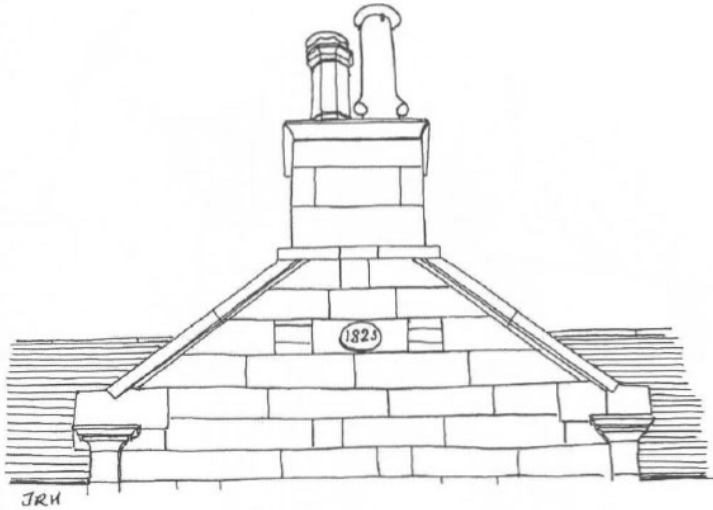
24/. Nepus gabled building, 57, 59 High Street, Irvine. This is the only nepus-gabled building in Ayrshire with ogee-curved shoulders and was probably built in the late 18th century.



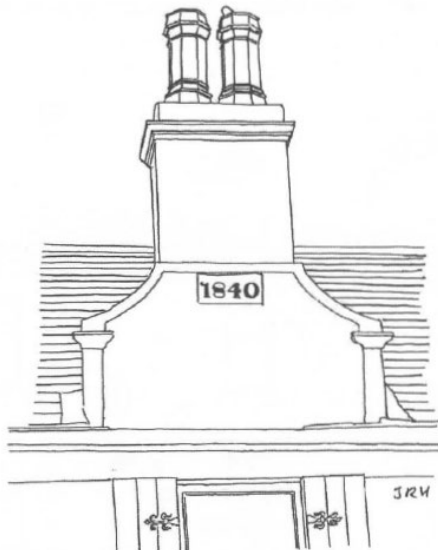
25. Nepus gabled building, 41 High Street, Ayr, the tallest building of its kind in Ayrshire. The original building had to be taken down in 1990, when it became unstable during modernisation, but has been exactly replicated , to maintain the character of this part of Ayr's High Street.



26. Timpany-gabled building, 33 and 35 Bridge Street, Galston. This was probably the oldest building of its kind in the burgh, and probably dated from the late 18th century. It has now lost its timpany gable.



27. Detail of one of a group of timpany-gabled buildings in Polwarth Street and Henrietta Street, Galston which were built in about 1820, probably to house hand-loom weavers. This one is in Henrietta Street.



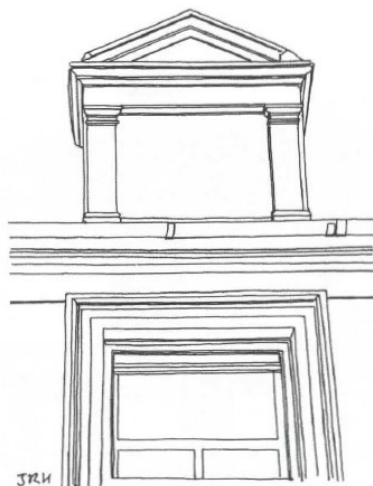
28. Detail of timpany-gabled building, Hastings Square, Darvel, built in 1840 (see also Fig 42). This building was latterly the Black Bull public house.



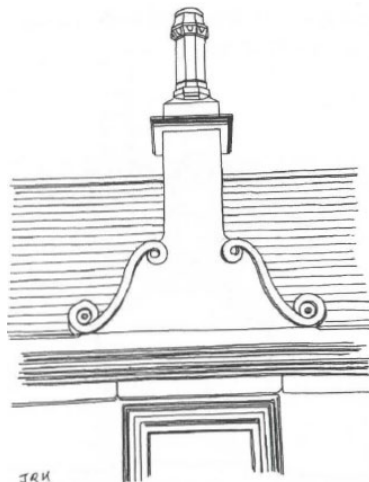
29. Building with wallhead chimney, 99 Main Road, Fenwick, built in 1824. probably to house weavers. The base of the chimney is in the form of a truncated pediment.



30. Building in Eglinton Street, Beith, with pedimented wallhead chimney.



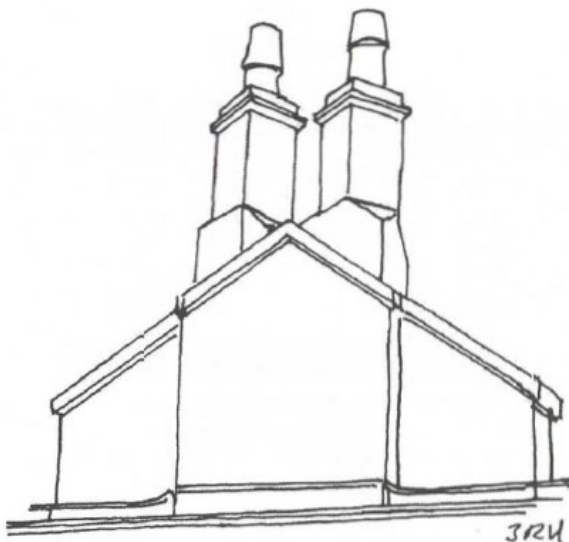
31. Base of wallhead chimney, Main Street, Kilwinning, probably of the 1820s.



32. Scrolled wallhead chimney on 72 Eglinton Street, Beith (c 1825), a unique feature (see also Fig 40).



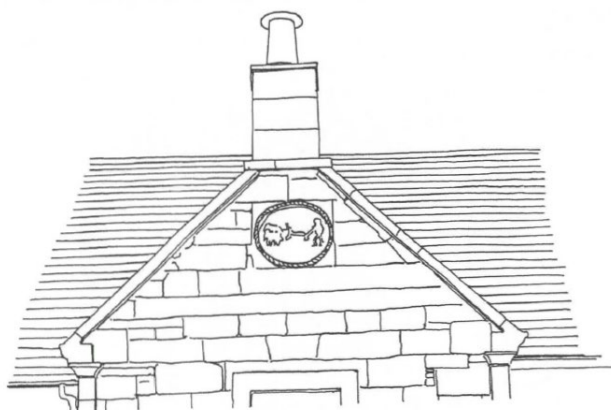
33. House, Newton Street, Kilbirnie, with pedimented wallhead chimneys and two pilastered doorways with depressed-arched heads. This is one of the most elaborate buildings of its type in Ayrshire.



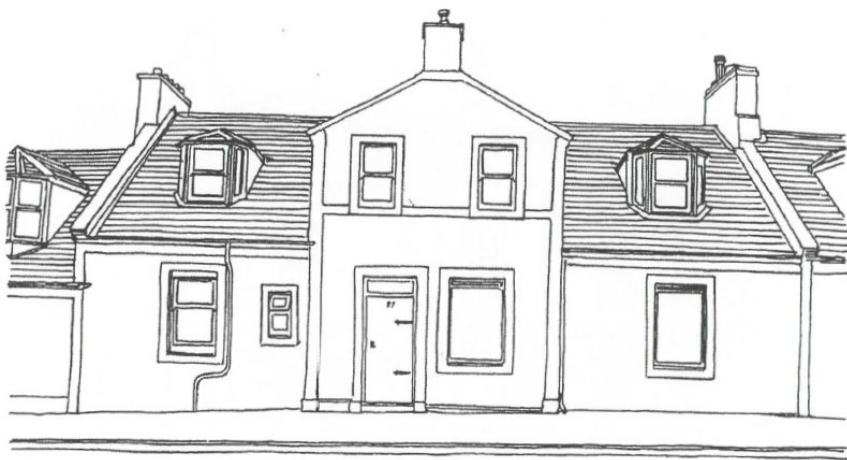
34. Wallhead chimneys on building at 77-83 High Street, Irvine, probably dating from about 1840.



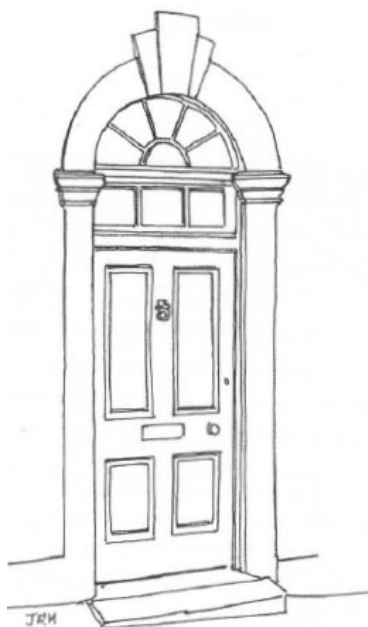
35. Plough Cottage, 81 Main Road, Fenwick, with the central bay advanced.



36. Detail of Plough Cottage.



37. Nepus gabled building, Main Street, Dundonald, the least-altered of three similar and adjacent blocks of semi-detached houses, all with advanced central bays.



38. Round-headed doorway, 19 Hill Street, Irvine. The character of the detail suggests a late 18th century date.



39. Round-headed doorway, 4 Glasgow Vennel, Irvine, probably of the 1770s. Robert Burns lodged in this house while he worked as a flax dresser nearby.



40. Building at 72 Eglinton Street, Beith, with pilastered doorway, built in about 1825 (see also Fig 32).



41. Houses in High Street, Mauchline. The one in the centre (no. 3) has a pilastered and pedimented doorpiece and dates from the mid-late 18th century.



42. The doorpiece of the former Black Bull inn, Hastings Square, Darvel. This building is dated 1840 on its wallhead chimney (see Fig 28).



43. The Doon Tavern, Dalmellington, with a consoled and corniced doorpiece. That and the open eaves suggests a mid 19th century date for these details, though the body of the building may be earlier.



44. Building in Main Street, Newmilns, with a pilastered doorpiece surmounted by a panel sculpted as a low-relief fan. a unique feature.



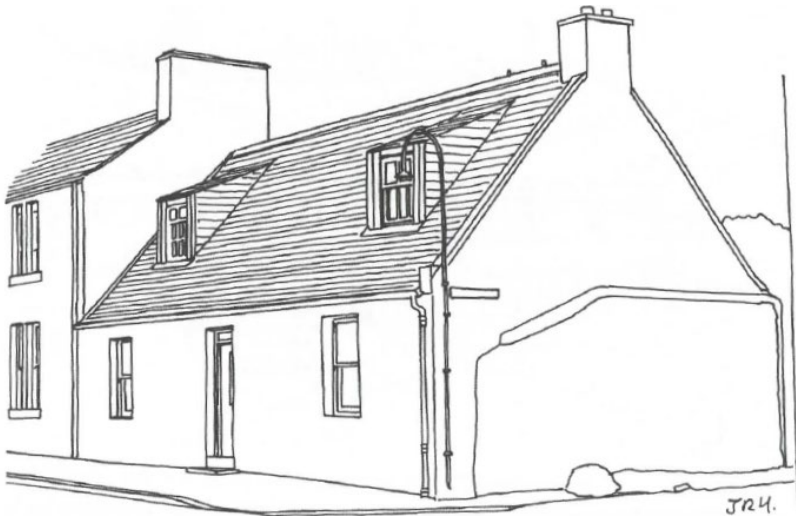
45. Pilastered doorpiece of 47 Hill Street, Irvine, with an elaborate fanlight, and plain panelled door, all probably of about 1840.



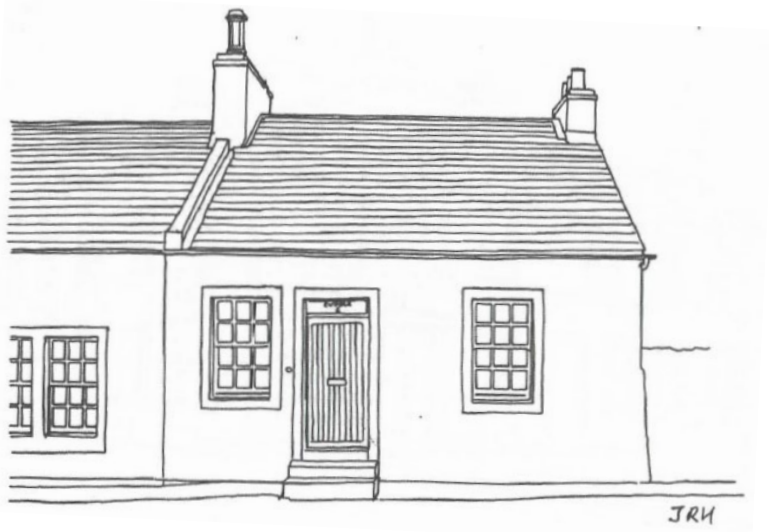
46. A building in North Street, Dairy. the shop fronts on the ground floor are later insertions, but the small windows and crow-stepped gables suggest an early 18th century date for the body of this building.



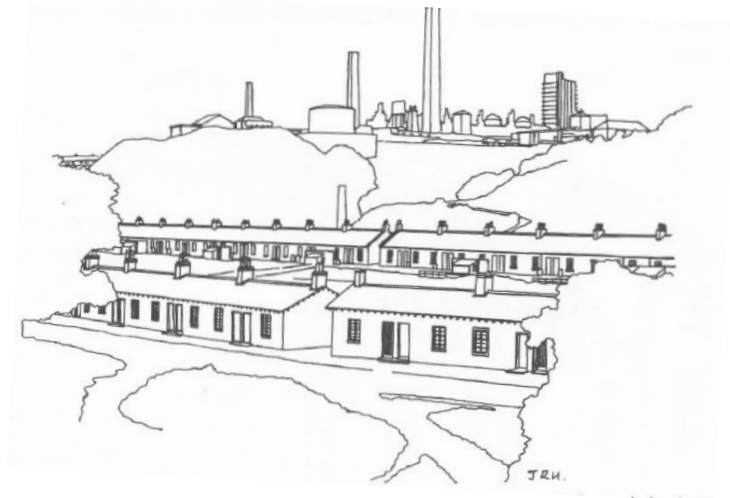
47. An L-plan terrace at the corner of Harbour Street and Harbour Place, Ardrossan, built in the early 19th century. Apart from the very simple pilastered doorway for the public house, and the shouldered wallhead chimney, this range is very plain.



48. Single storey building, Mauchline, probably of early 19th century date, and possibly a weaver's house. The form of the dormer windows is typical of Ayrshire buildings of the period. This house has been demolished



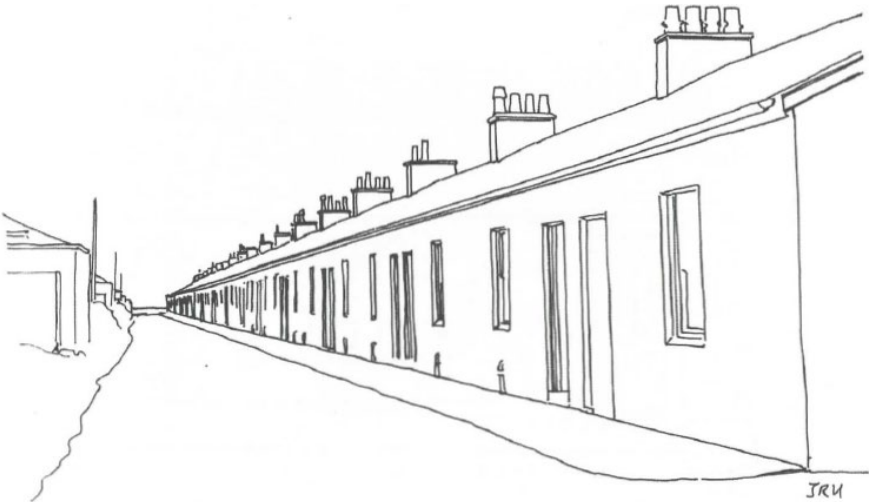
49. Single storey building, Brewlands Road, Symington, probably of late 18th century. This tiny house was probably built for a widow.



50. A view of Lugar from the south east, with some of the original stone-built rows (Bellowholm Row) constructed for the first Lugar works, which was situated on the same level as these rows. The ones to the rear (Brick Row) are of the Eglinton Iron Company's standard brick type. Note the lying-pane glazing of the earlier rows, typical of Lanarkshire buildings of the mid 19th century.



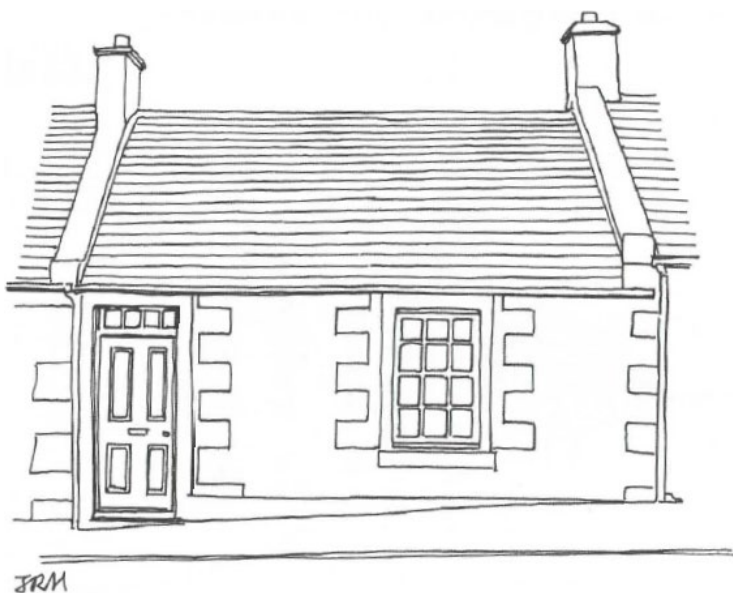
51. New Row, Waterside, probably built in the early 20th century. The individual houses are larger than most, and the provision of gardens is untypical. These houses were probably built for supervisory workers.



51. The last of the Eglinton Iron Company's 'traditional' rows, at Skares, near Curnnock, probably built in about 1893, when the local Whitehill Colliery was opened. This drawing is based on a photograph taken in 1966, just before demolition.



53. Improved row, Dalmellington, built in the 1920s by the Dalmellington Iron Co Ltd, and offering more and better accommodation than most older rows.



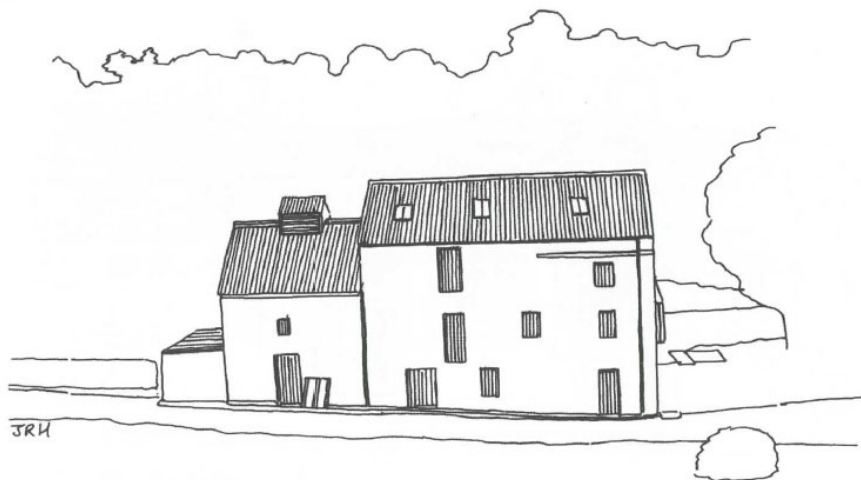
54. Cottage, Main Street, Dundonald, one of a range of nearly uniform cottages probably built for quarrymen working in a nearby whinstone quarry.



55. Cottage, Main Street, Dundonald, another example of the cottages mentioned in the caption to Fig 54.



56. One pair of the two-storey tenements provided by the Glasgow and South-Western Railway Company to house the workers in their Kilmarnock Works, probably in about 1855, when the works was built. This drawing is based on a photograph taken in 1967, during the demolition of these houses.



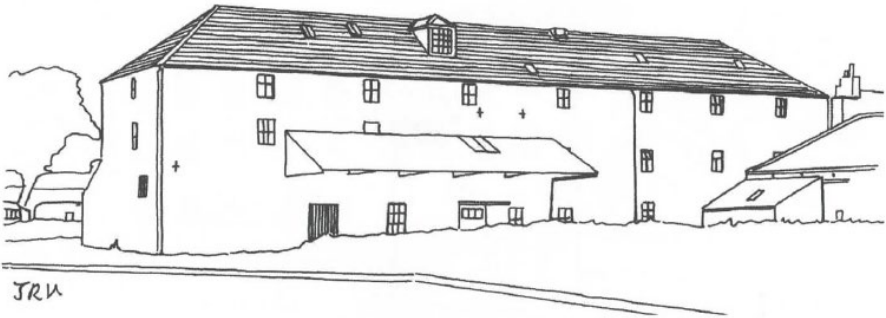
57. Aikenhead Mill, near Kirkmichael. This mill was probably built in the early 19th century but was rebuilt and re-roofed in the early 20th century. This drawing shows it as a store. It is now a dwellinghouse.



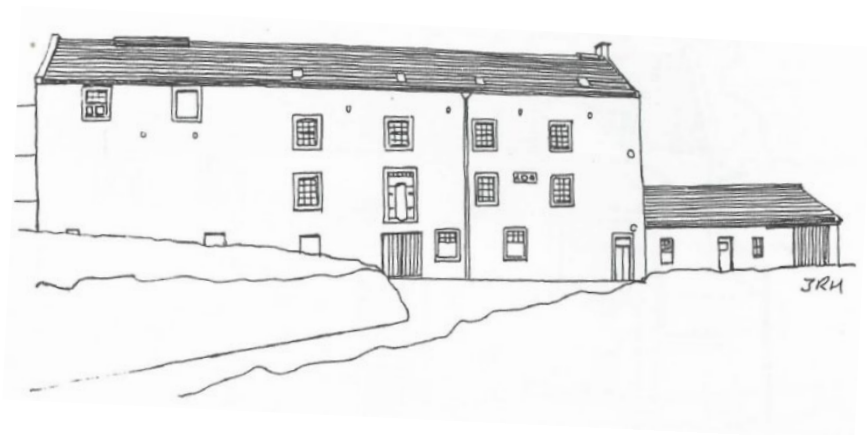
57. Giffen Mill, near Barrnill, probably built in the late 18th century. It is now roofless and ruinous.



59. Ochiltree Mill, Ochiltree. It was probably built in the early 19th century. Note the kiln, with its roof-ridge ventilator, on the right. The building was disused by 1966 and is presently in a semi-derelict condition.



60. New Mill, Kilmarnock, probably the largest water-powered mill in Ayrshire. It was disused by 1966 and has been demolished.



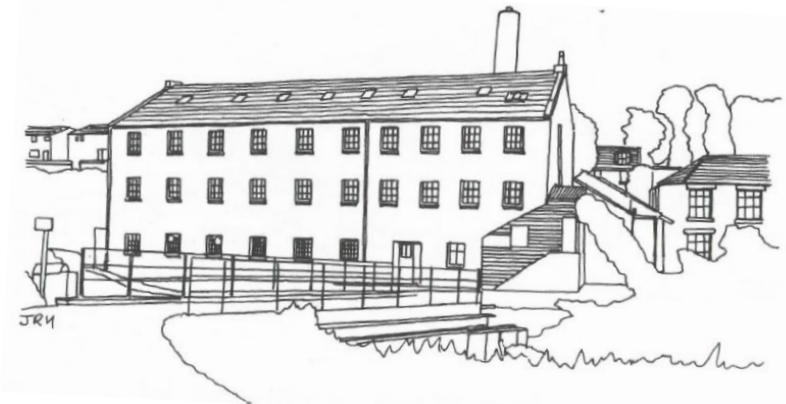
61. Kilmaurs Mill, Fenwick Road, Kilmaurs, a good example of a large mill of the early 19th century. It was still in use in 1966, but became unstable, and had to be demolished in the 1970s.



62. Windmill, Ballantrae, one of a group of 'vaulted tower' mills built all over Scotland in the late 17th century. The vault was on the left but has been broken in and filled with rubble.



63. Part of terrace, 2, 4 Mill Street, Catrine, probably built in the 1820s, when the original water-power installation was supplanted by the two giant waterwheels which powered the mills until 1947. These wheels were behind the terrace, and the drive to the mills passed under it. This terrace has been demolished.



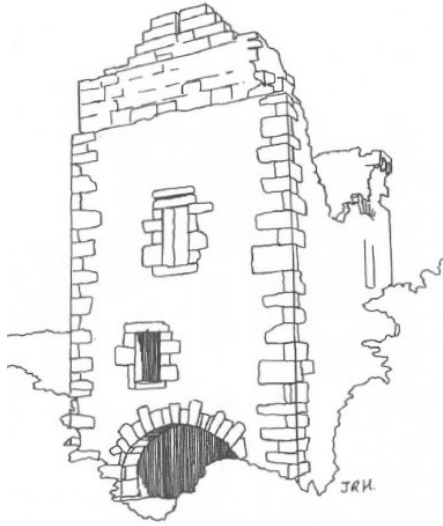
63. Nether Robertland Woollen Mill, Dean Street, Stewarton. This was probably built in the mid 19th century to spin yam for knitting bonnets, a speciality of the town. This building has been demolished.



65. Woollen mill, Main Road, Waterside (Fenwick). This had its origin in a carding mill of 1784 but was later extended to form an integrated spinning and weaving mill. It served for many years as part of a creamery but is now flats.



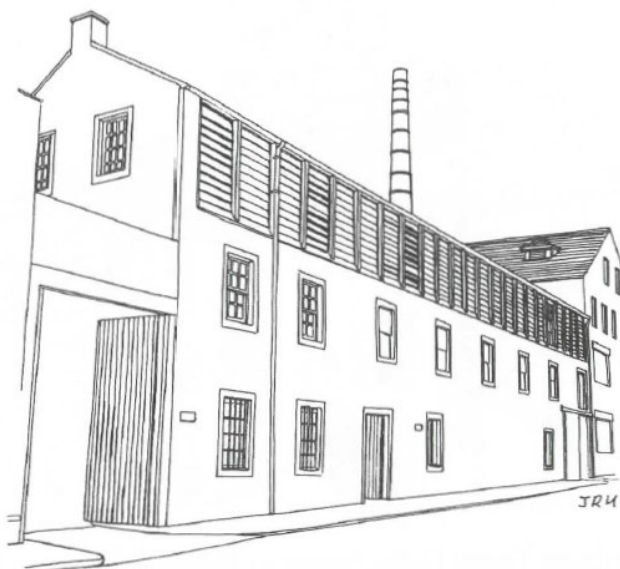
66. Salt works buildings, Prestwick. These two blocks were presumably storehouses and have vaulted ground floors. They were built in about 1760 as part of the Maryburgh Salt Works.



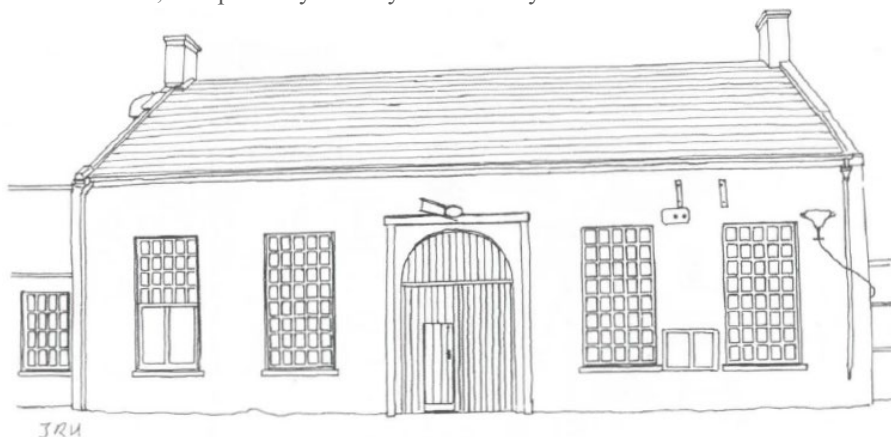
67. Blackszyke Engine House, Riccarton, Kilmarnock, built in 1781 to house a Newcomen engine made by Carron Company to drain the Caprington Colliery. The upper part of the building was later added to convert it into a romantic ruin.



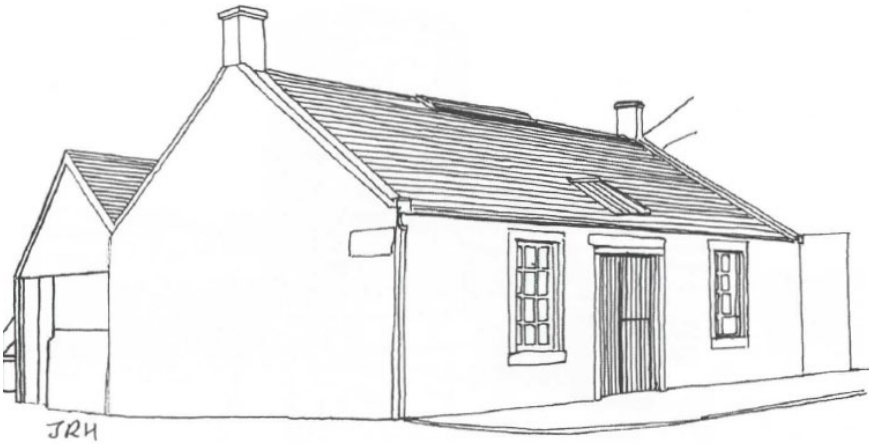
68. Wee Brewery, Mill Street, Ayr, probably built in the early 19th century. The three-storey range was probably the matting, with the rest of complex through the pend on the left. The office in the foreground is later. The complex has been demolished.



69. Tannery, Mill Street, Ayr. This range, with its louvred loft for drying tanned hides, was probably of early 19th century date. It has been demolished.



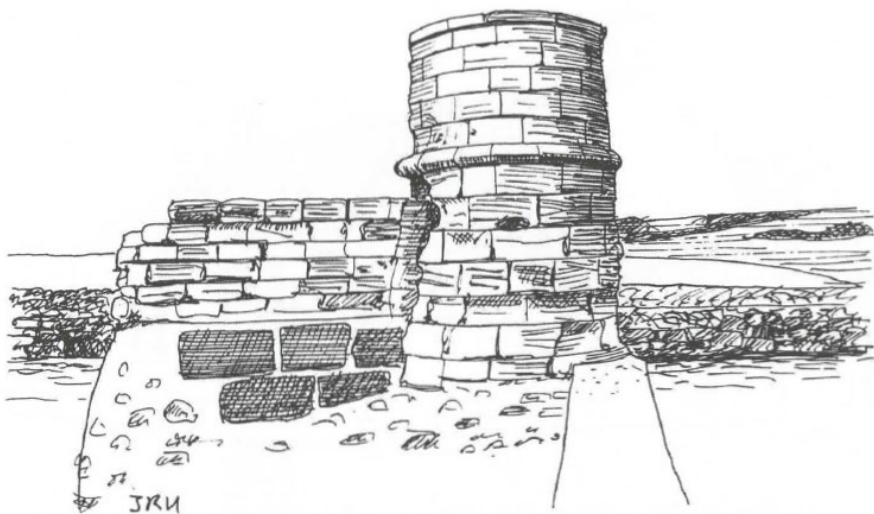
70. Workshops, Dunaskin, built in about 1847 to serve the Dalmellington Iron Co.'s iron-smelting works and the associated coal and ironstone pits. This now forms part of the Dunaskin Heritage Centre.



71. Smiddy, Isles Street, Newmilns, probably dating from the early 19th century. Note the roof-ridge ventilator and the half-door, both intended to provide ventilation.



72. Detail of smiddy, Main Street, Dunlop, probably a late 18th century building. The sculptured lintel is a very unusual feature.



73. Harbour light, Dunure, at the end of the west breakwater pier, and built, like the rest of the harbour, in 1811.



74. Harbour light, Ayr, built in 1842-3. The dwelling-house, to the left, was added in 1863.

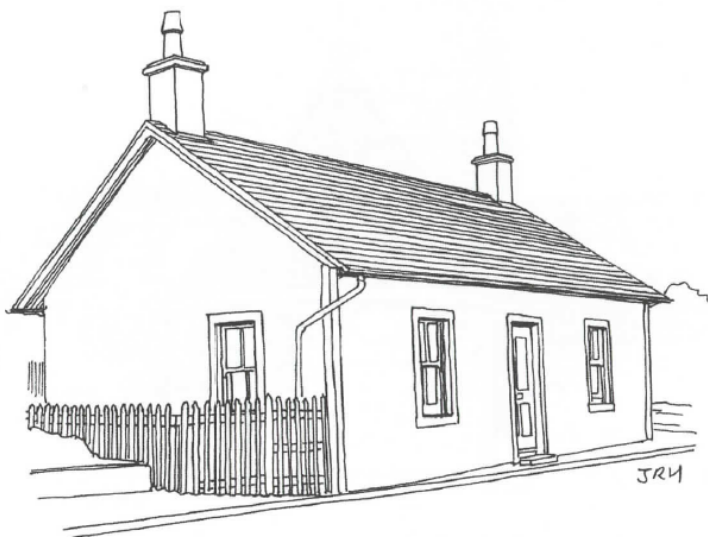


75. Powder House, on the Golffields, Irvine, built in about 1642 to store locally-made gunpowder. It was restored in the 1980s by Irvine Development Corporation.

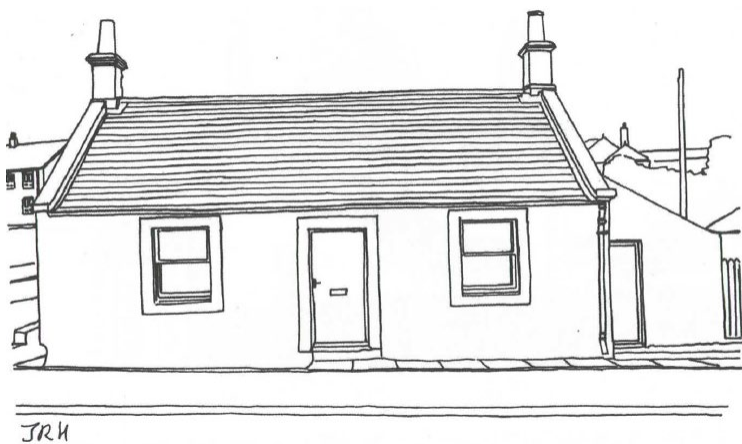
76.



77. Waterside Station, opened in 1856 by the Ayr and Dalmellington Railway Company, with the agent's house on the first floor.



77. Tollhouse, now Toll Cottage, Smallburn Road, Muirkirk, built in about 1830.



78. Tollhouse, Kirkoswald.



79. St Quivox Parish Church, built in 1595, and enlarged to T-plan in 1767. The rectangular windows are typical of early post-Reformation churches.



80. Old parish church, The Cross, Beith, built in the 16th century. This fragment survives as a mausoleum.



81. Fenwick Parish Church, Kirkton Road, Fenwick, built in 1643. The belfry was added in 1660 and renewed in the 19th century. The body of the church was restored after a fire in 1929.



81. Ardrossan Old Parish Church, off Manse Street, Saltcoats, built 1774, and now the North Ayrshire Museum.



83. Old High Parish Church, Church Street, Kilmarnock, built in 1732; the cupola was added in 1740.



84. Dailly Parish Church, Dailly, built in 1766, and a blend of the vernacular and polite architecture of the period.



85. Newmilns Tolbooth, Main Street, Newmilns, built in 1739, and restored in 1986. It has a vaulted ground floor, probably used as a prison.



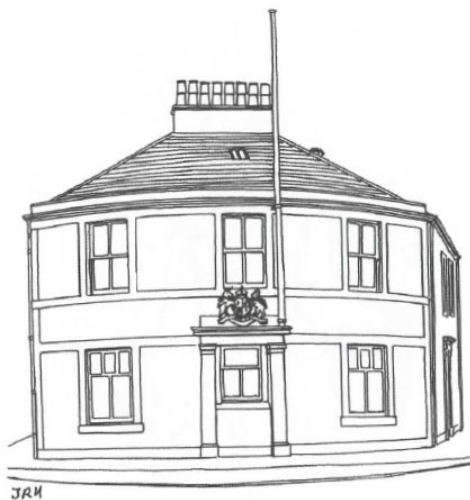
86. Kilmaurs Tolbooth, Townend, Kilmaurs. The body of this building dates from the early 18th century, perhaps to 1709, and the steeple was added in 1799-1800.



87. 'Auld Stumpy', Knockcushan Street, Girvan, built in 1828 as a prison attached to a town hall of 1822. It survived the demolition of that building, and of a later hall, the latter following a fire in 1939, which also destroyed the spire, which was replaced as seen in this view.



88. Beith Town House, The Strand and Eglinton Street, Beith, built in 1817.



89. Custom House, Dock Road, Ardrossan, an early 19th century building. The entrance has been converted into a window. Note the grouping of the flues into a central chimney stack.



90. Bath Villa, 90 Princes Street, Ardrossan, designed as a lodging house for people using the salt water baths which were on an adjacent site. It was built as an integral part of the development of the town by the Earl of Eglinton.



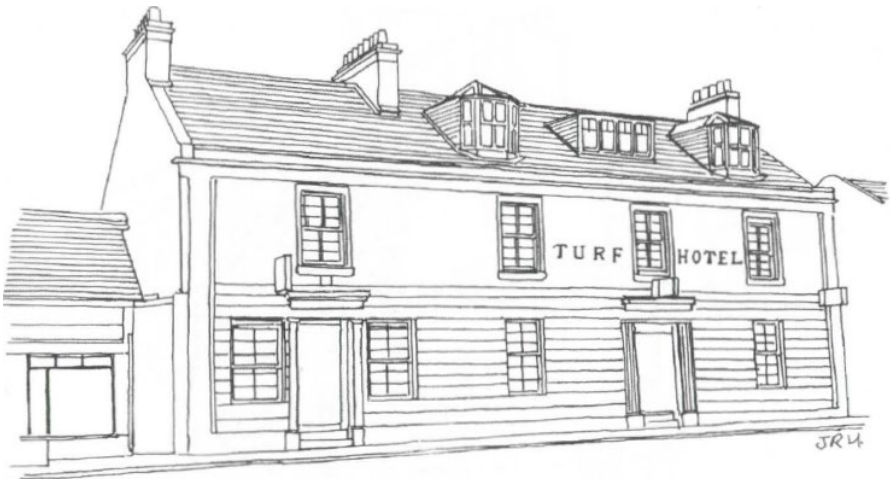
91. Bachelors' Club, Sandgate, Tarbolton, acquired in 1938 by the National Trust for Scotland. This was originally a single-storey building, possibly of early 18th century date.



92. Weston Tavern, Townend, Kilmaurs. The steeply-pitched roof and crow-stepped buildings suggest an early 18th century date.



93. Loudoun Arms, 69 Main Street, Newrnilns, probably built in the early or mid 18th century by the Earl of Loudoun to accommodate travellers on the road from Ayr and Kilmarnock to Edinburgh.



94. Turf Hotel, West Main Street, Darvel, built in about 1840. Note the lying-pane glazing, commoner in Lanarkshire than in Ayrshire.



95. Marina Inn, Harbour Street, Irvine. The wallhead chimneys were dated 18 30. They have been removed since 1988.



96. Victoria Hotel, Harbour Street, Irvine. This is now the Harbour Lights public house, with a large box dormer window in place of the two canted dormers seen here.



97. Timpany gabled building, 35 Main Street, Stewarton, probably built in the early 19th century.



98. 35 Main Street, Stewarton, after the removal, in the 1980s, of the chimney stack and the skew stones from the timpany gable, substantially altering the character of the building.



99. Saracen's Head Inn, 10, 12 and 14, 16 Eglinton Street, Beith, both built in the late 18th century. Numbers 14 and 16 have had the chimney and skew stones shorn from the nepus gable.



100. Numbers 73, 75, and 77 Main Street, Newmilns, dated 1793. The building was restored, and the chimney gable reinstated, in about 2000, as part of a Heritage Lottery Fund Townscape Heritage Initiative.



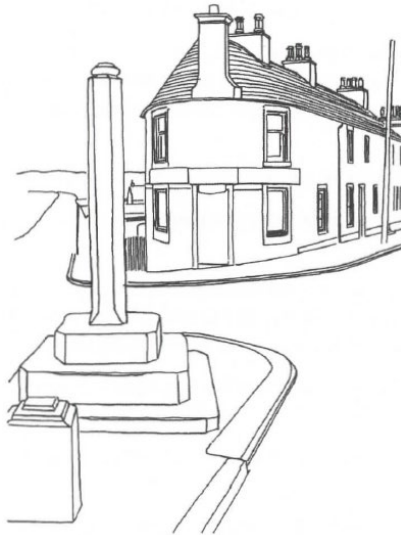
101. New housing, Linthouse Vennel, Irvine, designed by Irvine Development Corporation architects and built in 1995.



102. Infill building, Main Street, Kilwinning, designed by Irvine Development Corporation architects, and built in 1985.



103. Houses, 76, 74, 72 and 70 Eglinton Street, Beith (L to R), one of the best groups of 'burgh houses' in Ayrshire. Numbers 74, 72 and 70 were built in about 1825, and no 76 in about 1840.



104. The mercat cross, Ochiltree, with early 19th century buildings to the right. The cross was the symbol of the right to hold a market.

Glossary of terms used in this paper

Advanced A section of the front of a building which projects slightly from the body of the building.

Agent The agent of a railway station was the man responsible for running the station, also known as the station master.

Aisle In Scottish ecclesiastical architecture, a wing projecting from the body of a church, often containing a vault for the burial of a local landed family.

Architrave Projecting ornamental frame surrounding a door, window, or arch.

Box dormer A **dormer** which is rectangular in plan, used to increase the usable space in an attic, but often seriously destructive of the original design of a building.

Breakwater pier A pier designed to protect a harbour from the effect of waves. It usually has a substantial wall along its seaward edge to protect people working on the inner quay.

Carding mill Carding was mechanised before spinning machinery was developed. It is the process of making the fibres of cotton, wool and flax parallel to each other before they are drawn *out* and twisted to form yam.

Classical Used of architecture which is based on the system of design developed by the Greeks and Romans, and revived in western Europe during the Renaissance, in which the columns, beams and round-headed arches form the principles of construction.

Clay bonding The use of clay, rather than mortar, in building a stone wall.

Console(d) A console is a bracket supporting a **cornice**. It often takes the form of a **scroll**.

Cornice(d) A cornice is a horizontal projection from the face of a building, usually moulded. A cornice may run the full length of a frontage, in which case it will be at the top of the frontage, or it may be over a window or door.

Crow steps Steps forming the edge of a gable (skew) to allow access to the upper levels of a roof, and often to a chimney stack.

Doorpiece A term used to describe the architectural treatment of the setting of the opening for a door.

Dormer A window, or system of windows, projecting from the slope of a roof, to light an attic space.

Fanlight A window above a door to light the space on the inner side of the door. In the 18th century and early 19th centuries such windows often had radial glazing in a pattern resembling that of a fan.

Field clearance Before agricultural improvement took place the ground was often covered with boulders of various sizes, deposited there by retreating glaciers at the end of the Ice Age. These were removed to allow cultivation of the soil, and were often used for building and for constructing field dykes.

Forestair An open stair on the front of a building, giving access to the first floor room(s).

Half-door A door split horizontally about half-way up, with the parts being individually hinged, so that the upper part could be open while the lower part was closed. Often found in farm cottages, and in sniddies.

Harling Finishing the outer surface of a wall by applying a paste of lime mixed with water and some fine gravel or coarse sand. An effective way of waterproofing a wall.

Hipped Used to describe a roof sloped on all four sides, and with a ridge. The Scots term is 'piended'.

Italianate. Used to describe a style, based on Italian rural buildings, in which the pitch of the roof is flatter than normal, and where the roof projects over the tops of the walls, and over the gables, usually with the ends of the rafters exposed.

Jougs An iron collar, fastened by a chain to a building or post, fastened round the neck of a malefactor, who was thus exposed to public ridicule or worse. Used as part of the administration of justice by kirk sessions and burgh councils.

Lime mortar A stiff paste made from lime, water and coarse sand, used between the stones or bricks in building a wall.

Limewashing The treatment of the surface of a wall with a liquid mixture of lime and water, to provide a protective, water-resistant surface. The mixture also acts as a disinfectant. Sometimes, buttermilk (the liquid left after making butter from cream) was used instead of water, giving a more waterproof finish.

Lying pane A pattern of glazing windows in which the long axis of each pane is horizontal, rather than the usual vertical.

Mercat cross A vertical stone shaft, usually mounted on a stepped base, and surmounted by a cross, unicorn or other device, the physical evidence for burgh status, specifically the right to hold a market (mercat).

Moulding The treatment of the edge of a stone or stones with a series of grooves of concave and convex section, so as to give a pleasing appearance. Moulding is often used round doors and windows, and **cornices** are generally moulded.

Nepus gable A term used to describe a section of wall on the front or rear of a building, projecting above the top of the wall, which contains a chimney flue or flues at the centre of a small gable, and which also has a window or windows which light the attic space.

Oversailing Describing a roof which overhangs the top of a wall.

Palladian(ism) Strictly an architectural style deriving from the work of Andrea Palladio, an Italian Renaissance architect. The term Palladian is used to describe a window with three openings, the middle one of which is wider than the outer ones, and which is round-headed. Such windows are also known as Venetian.

Pediment(ed) A pediment is generally a triangular feature, usually placed above the centre of a frontage, or above a door or window, and a feature of classical architecture. Pediments may also have curved tops, and may have the top cut away, or the bottom with a missing centre section.

Pilaster(ed) A pilaster is a feature of classical architecture, consisting of a low- relief version of a column or pillar, flattened, and supporting an entablature, an ornamented beam apparently supported by the pilaster, sometimes with a **pediment** above.

Pitch The slope of a roof. The slope of a steeply-pitched roof is more nearly vertical than a shallow-pitched one.

Polite In architecture, used of styles fashionable among wealthy patrons from the middle and upper classes at any time, and contrasting with vernacular architecture.

Post windmill A type of windmill in which the grindstones are contained in a wooden house, from which the sails project. This house is mounted on a wooden post fixed into the ground, round which it can be turned so that the sails face into the wind.

Quoins The stones at the comers of a rectilinear building. These may be raised above the plane of the wall, or **rusticated**.

Rendering The treatment of a wall with a lime or cement-based paste, which is designed to improve the regularity of appearance of the wall, and to waterproof it.

Harling is a form of rendering. In smooth rendering the render is made as nearly flat as possible. Sometimes lines may be drawn on it to imitate dressed stone.

Rolled Used to describe a **moulding** or a **skewput** in which there is a prominent three-quarter-cylindrical section of the stone or stones.

Rusticated Used here to describe masonry in which grooves are used to emphasise the edges of squared stones, especially **quoins**. There are many other forms of rustication.

Scrolled In the form of a scroll, that is in this case a larger spiral linked to a smaller, coiled in the opposite way.

Shouldered Here used of a **wallhead chimney** in which the base is broadened to give a greater degree of support for the upper part of the stack.

Skewput The bottom stone of the slope (skew) of a gable wall. Sometimes this is **rolled** and sometimes **scrolled**, but it is usually not emphasised.

Staging post In the days of stage-coaches, an inn where the horses pulling the coaches were changed, and where passengers could refresh themselves.

Timpany gable Like a **nepus gable** but without the windows.

Tolbooth Originally the building in which merchants paid the tolls for the use of the market place in a burgh, but later applied to a civic building in or near the market place of a burgh.

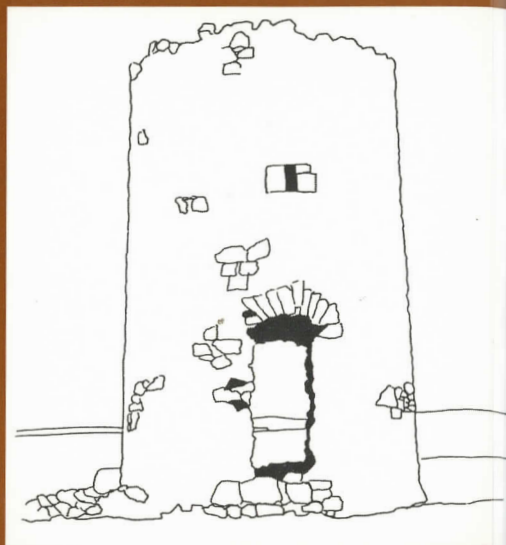
Tollhouse A building housing the tollkeeper who collected payment for the use of a stretch of turnpike road, or of a bridge.

Town house A term used for civic buildings of a more recent date than **tolbooths**.

uPVC Unplasticised polyvinyl chloride, a synthetic plastic material used from the late 20th century for window frames, which have been extensively marked as replacements for traditional windows. They are often detrimental to the look and character of vernacular buildings.

Vaulted tower A type of late 17th century windmill in which a vaulted basement passage leads into the base of a slender masonry tower housing the millstones and gearing and supporting the cap which carried the sails.

Wallhead chimney Here used to describe a chimney stack projecting from the top of the front or back wall of a building. A common feature of Scottish vernacular building. **Nepus and timpany** gables are specialised forms of wallhead chimneys, but the last-named term as used in this paper excludes these features.



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