GENERAL COMMENT

Couper, 84 — The RP congregation, church built 1785, was the only congregation in the village until the 1880s. The first "opposition" appeared in 1882 when a group opposed to the introduction of hymns and paraphrase broke away from the RPs and formed the OS congregation.

DARVEL CENTRAL CHURCH

List [P/BL/5/AR, nd] 1 — Old q.s. church in the centre of Hastings Square; Gothic, clock tower and steeple, mid C19. Contains a memorial window by **Douglas Strachan**, transferred from Gowanbank, the home of Alexander Morton who introduced the manufacture of Nottingham lace to the Irvine Valley in 1876. B

Woodburn — Completed 1888. Contractors were **Boyd & Forrest**, Stewarton and Kilmarnock.

see also my sketch plan herewith.

EG 10237, F 13.3.1891, 309a — Q.S. Petition. Petitioners headed by Alexander Morton, Gowanbank; George Alston, Loudounhill; David Alston, Winkinfield.

FES, III, 87 — Parish disjoined 1892

CH2/197/12 5.4.1887 — Plans for new chapel of ease approved.

AA 7.4.1887 — Plans were submitted to Irvine Presbytery of a proposed new church at Darvel.

ASH F 23.9.1887 2b [also in AA 22.9. and KS 24.9.]

Memorial stone laid last Saturday. **R S Ingram**, Kilmarnock, architect. EE style of architecture, and will consist -when completed - of nave, with clear-story, transepts, aisles and tower, having clock chamber and belfry, terminating with stone spire 130' in height. The tower and spire are placed in the centre of the front elevation towards Hastings Square, having main entrance doorway leading to the vestibule and staircase. This doorway projects in front of the tower, and has circular shafts with carved capitals, moulded pointed arch, gable with moulded skews and apex stone. All the windows of the aisles are double lancet, the windows of the transepts and nave are filled with stone tracery, and the windows of the clear-story are circular. The walls of the front elevation including all the elevations of the tower and spire are faced with stone from Giffnock quarry; the other walls are from Monkreddan quarry, and internally are of local quarry stone. Th church will have a gallery at the end of the nave. It will have open timber roofs; the main principal will be moulded and chamfered. Internally the finishings will be of pitch pine. Ckassroom, Minister's Room at rear.

AA 15.11.1888 — Opened last Sunday.

ASH F 16.11.1888, 3bc — Formally opened last Sunday.

CH2/197/12 2.4.1889 — Plans submitted to General Assembly for approval.

AA 7.4.1892 — Became a q.s. parish on 7.3.1892.

CH2/197/14 11.2.1908 — Permission granted for installation of organ.

dated — Communion Table is dated 1937

information received — Morton window is dated 1923, and was installed in this church in 1958.

Russell, DS — 1924 Morton window was originally erected at Gowanbank, and erected here in 1958. Artist: **Douglas Strachan**.

PARISH CHURCH MANSE

AA 7.4.1892 — A manse is to be built at a cost of £1700.

CH2/197/13 3.5.1892 — Plans for new manse approved by Presbytery.

E.U. CHUIRCH [1], Ranaldcoup Road

McNaughton 1844 - 1846

E.U. CHURCH [2]

McNaughton Founded 1884, joined EU 1885.

KS 19.1.1884 Opened last Sunday.

E.U. CHURCH [3], Main Street

AA 15.8.1889: KS 17.8.1889 New E.U. church: memorial stone laid last Saturday.

McNaughton December 1889

AA 26.12.1889 Opened last Sunday. Gothic. Front elevation looks south, and is formed with a recess at each corner with moulding portion projecting. In this recess to the left is the main entrance which is formed with deep splayed jambs with pointed arch, over which is a small couple, finished with termina. The centre portion is pierced by a 3-light transpet window filled with stained glass, over which rises the main couple, which is covered with model skew, finished with cross as a termina. The four corners are formed by buttresses, and altogether it is a very neat and pleasing design. The north end is pierced by a circular window filled with stained glass. The east side is pierced by five, and the west by four, windows, and finished with elevated arches filled with stained glass. The roof is formed of five principal couples, rising on model skew stone corbels, the underside couples being circular, between which it is plastered, forming ceiling, these being finished with model cornices with wallhead and top of ceiling. In the north gable there is recess with pointed arch against which is placed the minister's platform.

KS 28.12.1889 Formally opened 22.12.1889. Architect: **Robert Boyd** of **Boyd & Forrest**, Stewarton & Kilmarnock, builders.

McNaughton Closed, 1966

FREE CHURCH [1]

See RP Church [2]

FREE CHURCH [2: later EASTON MEMORIAL]

Ewing This was an RP (qv) congregation until 1876 union with UF

Couper, 34 Matthew G Easton was RP/Free minister here 1861 to 1894.

AA 2.10.1884: KS 4.10.1884 Memorial stone was laid on Saturday. On site of old Free Church.

AA 10.9.1885 Lats Monday the hall - which is attached to the new Free Church which is nearing completion - was formally opened.

AA 5.11.1885: KS 7.11.1885 On Sunday the new Free Church at Darvel, a very handsome edifice, built to the plans of Messrs **Baldie & Tennent**, Glasgow, architects, was opened for public worship.

AA 12.11.1885 Opened last Sabbath. It is a handsome Gothic building built of white freestone with octagon corner at one side and at the other a 100' spire, the top of which is polished ashlar. A large Gothic window in the front gable is a prominent feature in the building; it is subdivided by 5 stone mullions and filled in at the top with tracery. This and all the other windows are filled in with cathedral glass of variegated tint. A spacious vestibule with arched staircase leads up to the galleries. Iron pillars support the side galleries and roof and are connected by means of arches, with suitable mouldings. All the woodwork is of pitch pine. The pulpit is made of curly pitch, the small arched panels springing from carved bakusters being very artistic. £2700.

ORIGINAL SECESSION CHURCH

Ewing, II, 61 This congregation split from the Free Church congregation in 1882.

AA 1.3.1883 — Proposed erection of a church by the Old Seceders.
KS 3.11.1883 — Will be opened on 11.11.1883
AA 15.11.1883 — Original Secession church opened last Sunday.
KS 17.11.1883 — Masons: **Boyd & Forrest**, Stewarton & Kilmarnock.
KS 23.6.1900 — Being enlarged.
KS 1.12.1900 — Enlarged church formally opened last Sunday.
FES, IX, 188 — Acquired by Church of Scotland in 1945 and renovated as hall, at a cost of £2000. Opened October 1951.
ACC Planning, A1481 — September 1949. Convert O.S. Church into Church Hall. **Alex Dunlop** for Darvel Central Church Congregational Board.

R.P. CHURCH [1]
Ewing, II, 61 — Built in 1785. Closed in 1835.
Couper, 34 — Built in 1785. "The church was rebuilt in 1835. It was removed in 1885 to make way for the present church".

R.P. CHURCH [2] — [later UF, then EASTON MEMORIAL]
Ewing, II, 61 — Rebuilt 1835. Congregation joined Free Church in 1876. Rebuilt again in 1885. (see FREE CHURCH: see also initial remarks at head of this section)

R.P. MANSE
Ewing, II, 61 — 1810. Enlarged after 1850.
Couper, 34 — Erected in 1810. It was added to and improved between 1850 and 1860.

U.P. CHURCH [1900 IRVINEBANK UF, and IRVINEBANK & EASTON after 1956 union] (Ranaldcoup Road? - later scout hall)
Small, II, 321 — Opened 1885. Congregation had first met in Institute Hall. 450-seat church opened 3.5.1885. Cost £1400.
AA 25.9.1884: KS 27.9.1884 — Memorial stone was laid on Saturday.
AA 21.5.1885: KS 23.5.1885 — Opened last Sunday. Simple in design, built in Mauchline stone.

Ministers
1884 - c.1893 — John D Robertson, died 1924.

U.P. HALL
FUF, 136 — Extended and new vestry built, 1926. £500.

***

BOWLING GREEN
KS, Sa 21.6.1924, 3c — Additional lawn formally opened Thursday, last week

BROWN'S INSTITUTE
datestone — 1872.
ASH, Sa 7.9.1872, 3be — Formally opned F 30.8.1872. Architect: **Stark**, factor, Lanfine, who is also architect of Brown's Institute, Newmilns. Conts: **Anderson**, Galston, builder; **Mair & Anderson**, Galston, joiners. Cottage style.

BURYING GROUND
KWP, 12.6.1858 — Graveyard, "granted by Loudoun estate, and a wall around it erected by the inhabitants".
ASH 3.7.1858 — Walls completed.

CLINIC
AA, CO3/19/1/9 — 2.5.1968: clinic and nurse's house now in use.

DARVEL PRIMARY SCHOOL

KS 27.4.1901	Competitive plans - new school at Darvel - Loudoun School Board.
BI 12/133 April 1901	Proposed new school, Loudoun SB, for 650 pupils.
AA 7.1.1904	Formally opened last Tuesday. **Henry Higgins, junior**, Glasgow, architect.
ACC Planning, 3952	October 1946. Dining Room, Darvel H.G. School, for Ayr County Council.
ACC Planning, 3953	October 1946. Two classrooms, Darvel H.G. School, for Ayr County Council.
EAC Planning, 11/0413/PP	Extension, 2011, East Ayrshire Council.
Ayrshire News, Jan/Feb 2013	Recent official reopening of Darvel Primary & Nursery School. Nursery is in new-build. Link corridor from original building to new primary classrooms in the new wing, with nursery classes on the lower level. "The co-location of the nursery school with the primary is an important and very visible expression if the ideas behind the Curriculum for Excellence." (Cllr Douglas Reid).

FOUNTAIN

(1890 - proposed - see Waterworks ref)

HASTINGS SCHOOLHOUSE

AA, Th 16.3.1871, 8c	Son born here to John McCrindle, 10th March 1871.

LOUDOUN MEDICAL CENTRE

Mcleanarchitects.co.uk, accessed July 2012	**McLean Architects**, Glasgow. Completed in December 2007.

MAIR'S SCHOOL

AA 27.8.1863	Foundation stone laid last Friday. Italian. Doric porticos. **William Railton**, Kilmarnock, architect.
ASH, Sa 29.8.1863, 6d: KWP, 29.8.1863, 8a	In course of erection. Foundation stone laid 21.8. School "in the Italian style, showing an ornamental gable to the front, with a three-light window and clock above flanked by porticoes of the Roman Doric order, under one of which is the entrance to the school". Schoolmaster's cottage to south. Contract price c£1400. Architect: Railton. Mason: **J R & G Anderson**, Galston. Wright: **John Mair**, Darvel.
AA, CO3/10/1/161	Feuing plan of Mair's Trustees showing Mair's Free School, and 12 proposed houses in Temple Street (of which it would appear only 2 were built), is signed **Wm Railton** and dated 25.10.1864.
ACC Planning, A7826	November 1954. Lavatory blocks, Mair's School, for Ayr County Council.
ACC Planning, B258	July 1956. Staff room, Mair's J.S. School, for Ayr County Council.
ACC, Education GP SubCttee 18.12.1958	Completed since last report "Darvel J.S. (Mair's Building)"
AA, CO 3/10/5/33, GPC 16.2.1973	Contract for conversion to nursery school let to W Alexander, Galston, for £6,026.
n.r.	For sale, 2012

POLICE STATION, 4 East Donington Street

Moore 1972	Identical to that at Patna, which is by **James A Morris**, Ayr.
SRC, Buildings & Property Cttee, 3.5.1977, 526	Sale, to Thomas McColl, for £5860, approved

PUBLIC LAVATORIES, Burn Road

ACC Planning, A1819 — December 1949. Darvel T.C.

PUBLIC PARK

AA 5.5.1892 — We learn that the firm of Alexander Morton & Co have indicated their desire to present to the village as a public park that large field on the west side of Ranaldcoup Road.

TOILETS

ACC Planning, A4694 — May 1952. Public toilets, Recreation Park, for Ayr TC.

SCHOOL

AA, Th 23.7.1840, 1d — Houses near Cross for sale include a house at the back presently occupied as a school room.

SCHOOL

AA 20.8.1874 — Conts - new school - **Harry Blair**, Glasgow.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE

BI 80/939 June 1968 — Contracts let.

TOWN HALL, 10/12 West Main Street

List 19, added 5.10.1992 — Late C19/EC20. 2 storey 7 bay red sandstone, symmetrical at ground, rounde headed entrances in centre and in end bays, all with simple moulded heads. Single window in remaining bays have segment heads and keystones. Base course, cill course, cornice separating ground from first. Bays separated by paired pilasters on deep panelled bases. Balcony above central entrance with massive consoles. Balcony appears to have been balustraded, space for balusters now filled in and cement rendered.

Tall first floor with single transomed windows high up in end bays. Central 5 bays all have tripartite windows with mulluions and double transoms, bays spearated by paired pilasters. Cill course with panels below central windows and pilasters, except where interrupted by balcony. Plain frieze, slightly advanced over central bays, heavy cornice. Centre 5 bays have balustrade above with dies separating bays, of. Front part of roof piended, spanning central bays only, slated, with central iron ventilator. B.

BI 15/169 April 1904 — New Town Hall, Main Street. **T H Smith**, London, architect. Est cost: £4000.

KS 1.7.1905 — Formally opned yesterday. Free Italian Renaissance. **T H Smith**, 16/18 Basinghall Street, London, architect.

AA 6.7.1905 — Formally opened last Friday. £5000.

WAR MEMORIAL

WS 26.10.1923 — Unveiled last Sunday. Design: **James S Hay & Steel**, Kilmarnock.

KH, F 26.10.1923, per EAFHS J53, Aug 2023

Unveiled by Aylmer Hunter-Weston. An Aberdeen granite jointed obelisk, with bronze panels. Design, James Hay.

WATERWORKS

AA 2.1.1890 — Will be opened today. Pipes and tanks from Barr Hill. Mr **A A Haddin**, of Niven & Haddin, Glasgow, is the engineer.

WS 3.1.1890 — At opening ceremony it was stated by James Stark, factor, Lanfine, that Miss Brown of Lanfine would give an ornamental fountain.

WORKING MENS INSTITUTE

Groome, 1884, 345

Built in 1812 by Miss Brown of Lanfine. Amusement, reading and committee rooms, convertible to a hall seating 500.

© Rob Close 2026