GENERAL HISTORY

Ayrshire Life, 4, November-December 1983, 8-9

First phase due to open summer 1984 - 70 metre slipway, &c.

LAIRD'S FORGE

SMM leaflet, nd

For nearly 140 years Laird's of Irvine occupied this site, first as timber merchants but later as a renowned maker of pulley blocks. In the late C19 they began working in wrought iron and by the First World War they had established a link with the admiralty which, by the Second World War, had made the RN their only customer. In peacetime, having lost their main market, Laird's went into production of agricultural and railway parts and other metal forgings, and was eventually taken over by Bonnyforge International to manufacture pipes and flanges until its closure in 1980. Now only the Test House and Office survives, and it is here that the SMM carries out research, restoration and reproduction work, and design, graphics and photography. Laird Forge is the administrative centre of the SMM and also houses temporary exhibitions.

ACC Planning, 3043

May 1945. Additions and alterations, Irvine, for Laird & Co Ltd.

LINTHOUSE BUILDING

List 44 (Cunninghame 20th Amendment, September 1991)

Re-erected 1990-91, originally designed by **James Spencer** for Alexander Stephen & Sons and erected at Linthouse, 1872. Architects for re-erection: **Lance Smith**, Ironbridge Gorge Museum Trust, and **Ian Downs**, IDC.

Single storey engineering works with twin tall central bays, each of 16.15m span, and lean-to side aisles each of 6.10m span. Original cast iron stanchions and timber roof trusses dividing interior into 12 bays, rivetted wrought iron crane rails at upper level, wooden crane rails at lower level. Replacement common-brick walls, segnment-headed windows, sarked and slated roof with strip-glazed roof lights on main roof and side aisles. E end gabled, without openings, W end of roofs piended. W elevation: central bays with depressed arch entrances, doorways flanked by giant-order pilasters with depressed-arch entrances, with similar pilasters at outer sides of main frontage. Larger entrance on L with 3 small windows above, flanking bays have long windows at two levels. Similar treatment of entrance on R, with pair of tall windows above smaller doorway, flanking bays identical to those on L, except for pilastered sandstone doorcase on R. Lean-to aisle on L has 2-bay frontage with pair of windows flanked by pilasters, W end of aisle on right set back but similarly treated. Full doorway between end of aisle and main frontage with multipane glazing above and to E side. Side elevations: end pilasters, tall multi-pane windows, 3 short louvred ventilators on each roof ridge. A

Notes; One of earliest and most refined cast-iron framed marine engine works in Scotland. Later extended at both ends, present elevations based on original drawings. Re-erected at Irvine when original site requried for redevelopment.

Refs: J L Carvel, Stephen of Linthouse, 1961 ed, pp 64-66; Hay & Stell, 121-124.

nr

Taken down and acquired, 1987-88. Only other similar building is the 1869 engine shop at Govan Shipbuilders. It is the quintessential heavy erecting shop of the mid Victorian British shipbuilding industry.

Apart from the essential significance of the building as an artefact, the Linthouse engine shop is also a remarkable building in its own right, a veritable cathedral of cast iron, timber and glass and the single surviving precursor in Scotland on the grand scale of the prefabricated load bearing iron framed erecting shop. Designed by **Angus Kennedy**.

nr — First recognised by SMM in Fenruary 1987 when they were offered - by John Brown's - the wooden moulds for the QE2 turbine casings, stored at linthouse. Taken down in 1987/88, reconstructed 1991.

See also
132 Harbour Street
122 Montgomery Street

OTHER EXHIBITS

GOUROCK ROPEWALK

nr — SMM holds all the machinery necessary to reconstruct in working order this 1858 apparatus.

BRUNETTE

SMM leaflet — 1896 gaff-rigged cruising yacht, launched from Fife's, Fairlie, in 1896. Originally known as Louise. Gifted to SMM 1985.

CARRICK/CITY OF ADELAIDE

Jim Tildesley, D&G, 28.1.2022 — 1864, William Pile, Sunderland. 1864-1887, yearly circumnavigation voyages to Adelaide, with emigrants and cargo. Captain was David Bruce, Perth (3 years), then his sons John (6) and Alexander (1). Llewellyn Bowen (2 years), and finally Edward Alston (11 years).

Tildesley, op cit — 1887-1892, trading to the St Lawrence.

Tildesley, op cit — 1892-c.1914, quarantine ship, Southampton.

Tildesley, op cit — 1923-1947, acquired and rebuilt as RNVR training vessel, renamed Carrick, at Irvine. Used in WW2 for gunnery training for merchant seamen.

Tildesley, op cit — 1947-1990, Glasgow, as RNVR club.

Tildesley, op cit — Acquired 1990 by Clyde Ship Trust, moved to Prince's Dock, Jan 1991, and sank c July 1991.

Tildesley, op cit — 1992, Irvine. New owners sought from 1999, with 2001 conference chaired by Julian Oswald, two occupations by Sunderland people, &c. Agreement on removal to Adelaide, 2010.

NAC, 10/00583/LB — 2010, application for preparatory work for removal from Ayrshire Metal Products, prior to shipping to Adelaide SA for restoration.

Industrial Archaeology News, 156, Spring 2011, 14
Permission granted. Built in Sunderland, 1864, of composite construction. PHOTOCOPY herewith.

Tildesley, op cit — Cradle construction (in Australia), 2011-2013, then September 2013, on barge Lastdrager28, via Greenwich (where renamed City of Adelaide by Duke of Edinburgh) to Rotterdam.

IAN, 169, 2014 — Photo of City of Adelaide, on MV Palanpur. Went 24 Oct 2013 to Dordrecht, for quarantine work, and put on Palanpur, 22.11.2013. Norfolk VA, 9 Dec 2013, where loaded 6 locomotives for Western Australia. Left Norfolk, 13 December, fueled at Cape Town, January 2014, stopped in Port Hedland, Western Australia (to unload locomotives), and arrived Adelaide, 3 Feb 2014.

GARNOCK

SMM leaflet	1956 tug of Irvine Harbour Co. Built, Greenock, 1956. Presented to SMM 1984.

KYLES

SMM leaflet	1872, Paisley. SMM, 1984.

LADY GUILFORD

nr	1818 12-oared 3-masted galley.

LONGHOPE LIFEBOAT

nr	Launched 1962, involved in 1969 disaster, retired 1981.

SPARTAN

SMM leaflet	1942 puffer, built at Hay's, Kirkintilloch, for the RN (as VIC18). 1982 West of Scotland Boat Museum Association. 1984 SMM.

VAGRANT

SMM leaflet	1884 yacht, designed by William fife junior, Fairlie, and built by Culzean Ship & Boatbuilding Co. First owner: Thomas Trocke, Dublin. SMM, 1985.

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