ACADEMY

AA, Th 23.9.1858; ASH, Sa 25.9.1858	Foundation stone laid last Friday, 17.9.1858. Architect: **Campbell Douglas**, Glasgow.

BANDSTAND

LMN 11.8.1877	Formally opened last Saturday. **W & T Duff**, joiners.

BARRHOLM CHILDREN'S HOME, Moorburn Road

ACC Planning, A2592	July 1950. 2 lavatories, and porch, Barrholm, for Paisley Burgh Council.
SRC, 9.3.1982	Traditionally used by children from Renfrewshire. Proposed closure deferred for site visit.

BATH HOUSE (former - now LIBRARY), 30 Bath Street

List 9	Built 1816. Single storey former bath house. Painted ashlar and dressings. Elevation to Bath Street has tall round-headed doorway in advanced central bay; door has side lights and arched fanlight. Flanked by 4 windows, those to R sashes, blind windows to L. Cill course, eaves course and cornice, with blocking course above entrance. Curved S gable has 3 9-pane windows with raised cills. Elevation to Fort Street is similar, but with segmental headed doorway; windows to R have raised cills; 2 outer left bays blocked by modern rectangular café. Refs: Groome, iv, 470; Swan, Beauties of the Clyde, nd, p.225. NRAS 0620. B.
Imp Gaz, II, 299	"An elegant suite of baths was built in 1816 by public subscription."
Sasine Abridgement 4682 of 1828	1827 Feu Disposition by Brisbane to Trustees for Subscribers for erecting Baths at Largs. 11½P. 199.203.
EG 7730, F 22.3.1867, 344b	Ref to a meeting in Bath Hall, Largs.

BRISBANE GLEN CEMETERY

Letter of sarah Goldie 16.11.2010	Opend 6th August 2003.

BRISBANE PRIMARY SCHOOL, Holehouse Road

SRC, Education (Services), 10.2.1977, 214	Contract, new Primary School, Largs.. Firholm Builders Ltd., Hamilton, £355,224.
VR 1979-1980	Not found
SRC, E(Sv), 15.3.1979, 385	Name for new school approved.
VR 1980-1981	Listed. Effective date given as 1.5.1979.

BRISBANE SCHOOL

AA, Th 28.4.1853, 5e	Alexander Robinson, schoolmaster and session clerk, died here, no date.

CAMPBELL FOUNTAIN, Makerston Place

List 41	c.1873. Tiered public fountain in polished white and red granite. Quatrefoil basin, on raised plinth with squat angle columns. 2nd basin supported by soild central column and 4 banded columns with gabled bases and foliated capitals. Upper small basin sits on banded clustered column. Inscribed THE PEOPLE OF LARGS TO JOHN CAMPBELL FOR 61 YEARS THEIR BELOVED PHYSICIAN. BORN 1791, DIED 1873. Refs: Groome, iv, 470 - J & R Simpson, Largs & District Guide, 1899, p.17.

Originally situated in front of Largs Old Church (2), and presumably re-sited when new church built from 1891.

British Architect, vii, 6.4.1877, 217 Design, **James Wright**, Aberdeen. To be built. Estimated cost, £550.

ASH, Sa 31.3.1877. 3e The design of **James Wright**, Aberdeen, approved and chosen. Estimated cost: £550.

LMN, 12.1.1878 Now in place. Design by Wright, Aberdeen, in gray and and red granite.

CEMETERY, Kilbirnie Road. Listing includes LODGE and WALLS

List 29 Probably 1886 layout. Cruciform plan single storey lodge. Stugged ashlar with polished dressings. SW elevation: 3 bays, pointed headed door approached by steps in right bay. Boldly advanced centre bay with 3 cusped lights. Altered left bay is harled with door behind wooden porch and single window. SE elevation has single cusped window to right; advanced gable has central semi-circular projecting window with 3 pointed headed lights and semi-conical slate roof; tiny trefoil opening to left. Bracketed eaves prominent central stack and slate roof.

Cemetery walls are stugged ashlar, with polished ashlar square gatepiers. heavy decorative cast-iron gates and railings with cusped and foiled pattern. Cemetery incorporates some interesting monuments including Dr Stevenson of Hailie mausoleum by **J J Stevenson**, architect, the arcaded Burrell family enclosure and the art nouveau MacNair tombstone. Ref for Stevenson as architect of mausoleum is LMN 9.5.1908 obituary of JJS. B.

Largs MI suggests that churchyard was closed 1867.

Gb 1/5/1, Largs Cemetery Committee Minute Book, 1873-1898, 1886

Petition to Sheriff, states that it was authorised with effect from 1st July 1866.

Gb 1/5/1, Largs Cemetery Committee Minute Book, 1873-1898, 17 February 1879.

Mr **Haddin** asked the price of a duplicate plan.

AA, DHP 1904, proposed extension, **Allan Stevenson**.

ACC Planning, A4311 January 1952. Extension, Largs Cemetery, for Largs Cemetery Joint Committee.

[note] There is a brief note on Garden Cemeteries in Scotland, on pp7-9 of Garden History Society News 64, Summer 2002. Largs is not mentioned, but is clearly part of this development.

PROUDFOOT MEMORIAL

Gb 1/5/1, Largs Cemetery Committee Minute Book, 1873-1898, loosely within

Letter from **Scott & Rae** enclosing sketch and seeking permission for it. Photocopy of letter in Architects file.

CLARK HOSPITAL (late CHILDREN'S HOME), 41 Moorburn Road

AA, Th 5.10.1882 The hospital recently erected in and presented to Largs by Mr John Clark of Curling Hall was thrown open for public inspection last week.

AA, CO 3/19/1/21 Clark House was built 1891 as a hospital. [must be wrong: taken over by CoCo, 1891]

AA, CO 3/8/1/1, Report of Law Committee to County Council, 15.12.1891

Built about 10 years ago by the Parochial Board, but funded by a gift from John Clark of Curling Hall, who also bore management costs, &c., in first year. Passed to a Joint Hospital Committee, September 1883, which in 1887 was agreed as 7, representing Burgh and landward.

CHILDREN'S HOME

ACC Minutes 1950 II, 75, Children's Committee, 6.7.1950

	Transfer from Health Cttee to Children's Cttee has been approved by Scottish Home Department.
ACC, Children's Cttee 1.2.1951	Contractors. D Ramsay, Skelmorlie for building work (£559 18s 3d) and joinery (£223 10s 0d). £1459 2s 5d.
SRC, 20.3.1979	Was upgraded c. March 1978 to March 1979, during which time children were houses at Birkenward, Skelmorlie.
SRC, 21.10.1980	Remedial work, final measurements, £25,371.
CLINIC	
ACC Planning, 4817	October 1947. Clinic, Moorburn Road, for Ayr County Council.
ACC Minutes 1950 II, 75, Children's Committee, 6.7.1950	
	Remains property of Health Committee, despite transfer of Clark Hospital to Children's Committee.
n.r.	In *VR 1951/52, ACC Health.
DOUGLAS PARK	
LMWN, W 12.4.2017, 28	Donated, 1920.
HOUSE	
ACC Planning, A8470	April 1955. Convert dwelling house to bowling clubhouse, for Largs Town Council.
VIEW INDICATOR	
Mair, View Indicators, 106	1912, Paper, framed and glazed.
DRILL HALL	
AA, Th 9.10.1875	Memorial Stone laid last Saturday.
McSherry, Largs, 21	Artillery Hall in Seamore Street was demolished in 1991.
FIRE STATION	
SRC, P&F, 24.4.1979, 581	Contract let to Firholm Builders Ltd., Hamilton, for £191,343.
INVERCLYDE NATIONAL RECREATIONAL CENTRE [BURNSIDE HOUSE]	
Davis	In 1827 Burnside was the residence of William Laing [sic], Esq. The present large mansion was not built until the later 19th Century; its architects are not known and its style is difficult to categorize. It belonged at one point, it is said, to the Scott shipbuilding family, but later became the White Hills Hotel. It is presently the Inverclyde Recreation centre. Additions have been made to the house at various times.
AO, Tu 10.12.1833, 1e	William Lang of Burnside † 3.12.1833.
Sas Abr 3412/1873 84.13	1873 Disp by William Lang of Groatholm to **David Cousin**, Edinburgh, architect.
Sas Abr 6627/1875 132.56	1875 Disp by Cousin to William Campbell, Deputy Inspector of Hospitals, Bombay.
McSherry, Largs, 48	Built 1876 for R. Scott.
Sas Abr 1969/1893 727.80	1892 Disp to T.l. William Campbell.
Sas Abr 3026/1896 871.182	1896 Disp to John Hunter Campbell
Sas Abr 1161/1902 1163.121	1902 Disp to Robert Sinclair Scott
Sas Abr 2249/1906 1419.122	1906 Disp to his son, Harold Henry Sinclair Scott.
AP, F 23.8.1971	Inverclyde House, a home of the Scotts of Greenock, became a hotel and military base, before becoming Scotland's NRC in 1958. Run by Scottish Council for Physical Recreation. Extension, 1968.
McSherry, Largs, 48	Acquired in 1955 by King George VI Memorial Trust and formally opened by Elizabeth II in 1958.
ACC Planning, A9235	October 1955. Change of use, Hills Hotel to Recreation Centre, &c. Scottish Council of Physical Recreation. See also B93, B909, B957, B1710.

ACC Planning, B93 — June 1956. Playing fields, Hills Hotel and Halkshill Estate; D McAulay, Milngavie, for Scottish Council of Physical Recreation.

ACC Planning, B909 — February 1957. Indoor Training Area; R J Walker & Smith, Glasgow, for Scottish Council for Physical Recreation.

ACC Planning, B958 — February 1957. Tennis Pavilion; R J Walker & Smith, Glasgow, for Scottish Council for Physical Recreation.

ACC Planning, B1710 — September 1957. Alterations to cottages at garage block; R J Walker & Smith, Glasgow, for Scottish Council for Physical Recreation.

LMWN, F 2.9.1966, 2 — [Article by John Moore, which originally appeared in Scottish Educational Journal]
Principal, Altham Turner, appointed in 1962. The estate was acquired, c.1958 by the Scottish Council of Physical Recreation, and converted as their National Recreation Centre with gift from King George VI Foundation.

DSA — [Sports Hall, Largs, 1968]. James N Rennie, of Frank Burnett Boston & Partners.

AP, F 23.8.1971 — Extension, 1968.

KELBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL, Flatt Road

SRC, E(Sv), 15.3.1979, 385 — Former Largs Primary School to be renamed Kelburn Primary School

SRC, 14.7.1981 — Block A Upgrade, Final Measurements, £44,629.

Confusing — Could it be 1.4.1985.

LARGS ACADEMY — formerly LARGS HIGH SCHOOL

AA, CO 3/10/5/26, GPC 14.10.1966 — Initial contracts let. Site works, James Anderson (Builders) Ltd., Irvine, at £11,953; Structural steelwork, Redpath Brown & Co Ltd., Glasgow, at £27,198.

AA, CO 3/10/5/28, AR 6.12.1967 — November 1966 (site), August 1967 (building), due for completion August 1969. At present time steel frame is being encased in concrete.

AA, CO 3/10/5/29, AR 5.12.1968 — Site work began November 1966, building work August 1967, completion due August 1969.

AA, CO 3/10/5/30 — GPSC 16.1.1970 Major part now occupied, except the Games Hall. Work began in August 1967.

SRC, Education (Services) Cttee, 10.3.1977, 314 — Extension: several works. John Laing (Construction) Ltd., £764, 216.

SRC, 2.12.1980 — extension of technical accommodation, final measurements, £57,324.

HEAD

1953 (Largs JS) - — Hugh McGhee (92 Boydfield Avenue, Prestwick)

SIR JAMES DYER SIMPSON PRIZES

ACC, B&SC 18.2.1947, 267 — Gifted: see ref.

ELIZABETH CAIRNIE MEMORIAL PRIZE

ACC, BAHSC 22.5.1951 — Gifted, for science. Gift of Ex.l. Charles Cairnie, £100.

PARK

AA, Th 28.6.1906 — Public Park, gift of C J C Douglas of Haylie, formally opened last Monday. 26 acres.

PENCIL, THE [LARGS BATTLE MONUMENT]

List 30 — **J Sandford Kay**, Glasgow, erected 1912. Tall pencil tower with slight batter. Snecked rough whinstone, with ashlar doorway, window dressings and conical slate roof. Decorative round-headed door above ground level, splayed jambs with figure on each and crucifix above. Arch flanked by plain ashlar blocks. Beaked grotesque beasts flank base of door. Square ashlar plaque over door inscribed MEMORIAL - BATTLE OF LARGS 1263. Cobbled walkway round base. Refs:

Bryden, Ayrshire Monuments, 1915. [RB's drawing is dated 1913] - Weekly Scotsman 7.5.1927 - various references in LMN. Based on the round towers of Brechin and Abernethy. The doorway is an exact copy of that at Brechin. B.

BI 22/263 February 1912 ... design of J S Kay, Glasgow ... takes the presentment of a round tower, on Scottish architectural lines. The site proposed is a suitable one contiguous to the shore line.

AA, Th 18.4.1912 Successful design: J Sandyford [sic] Kay, Glasgow.

POLICE STATION

AA, 29.6.1871 Contractors - Police Station, Largs - Mr **Murdoch**, Ayr, architect.

COURT HOUSE

ACC Law Committee [LC] 24.5.1892

Plans for a new Courthouse, adjoining Police Station by Mr Murdoch approved. [i.e. **John Murdoch**, Ayr]

ACC, LC 26.7.1892 Main contractors: mason, George Barclay, Largs, £253.0.0; Joiner, James McCreath, Ayr, £158.11.7½. Total, £495.10.1.

BI 3/29 August 1892 Same story.

CO 3/8/1/2, 10, Co Co 30.5.1893 (and in AA, Th 1.6.1893, 5ae)

Used by licensing Court on 18th April 1893.

POLICE STATION (2)

AP 30.1.1931 Contractors - Police Station, Largs - **Alexander Mair** for ACC.

POST OFFICE, Aitken Street

McSherry, Largs, 37 Built 1936, and used until 1994.

PRISON

C1851 602-11 DISTRICT PRISON. John Kirkwood, m50, head gaoler, formerly hand loom weaver, born in Largs. Wife, and five sons. No prisoners.

AA, Th 6.7.1871, 4e The Old Prison has been sold to a Glasgow gentleman for £275. "We are certain of a proper erection now with proper convenience."

PROMENADE

LMWN, W 12.4.2017, 28 1902, Queen Victoria Promenade along North Shore. 1907, Queen Alexandra as far as the Gogo Burn.

PUBLIC LAVATORIES/SHELTER, Bowen Craig

ACC Planning, A5314 November 1952. Public lavatories and shelter, Bowen Craig, for Largs Burgh Council.

PUBLIC LAVATORIES, Broomfields

ACC Planning, A650 February 1949. Public lavatories, B, for Largs Burgh Council. Amended plans, August 1951.

PUBLIC LAVATORIES, Greenock Road (foot of Noddsdale)

ACC Planning, A8485 April 1955, for Largs Town Council.

PUBLIC LAVATORIES, Bathing Station near foot of Nelson Street

ACC Planning, A1965 February 1950. Largs T.C.

PUTTING GREEN, Broomfields

VR 1929-1930 Foreshore (Grazings)

VR 1930-1931 Putting Green.

ST MARY'S R C P S

ACC, GPSC 21.2.1960		Sketch plans and estimates approved by SED.
ACC, Finance C 11.2.1960		Work to begin July 1960.
ACC, Architects Rep, 14.11.1962		Occupied on 12th November 1962.

SCHOOL

CO3/10/2/147	28.8.1873	School Board instruct **William Barclay**, builder, Largs, to prepare sketch plan of additions to school.
	24.9.1874	School to re-open 14.9.1874 after additions and alterations, and with a new teacher.

SCHOOL, Nelson Street/Moorburn Road

AA, Th 10.7.1890		Largs School Board have resolved to acquire 2 acres of ground, at corner of Flatt Farm Road, as the site for a new school.
AA, 7.8.1890		The new school is to be of two storeys in height, and near the head of Nelson Street.
BI 2/17	August 1891	Architect: **T Graham Abercrombie**.
TH, F 29.12.1893, 8d		Problems with poor ventilation to be referred to **T Graham Abercrombie**, Paisley, the architect.
BI 15/178	January 1905	Gable collapsed, 30.12.1904, killing a mason working on it.
A 21.12.1924		**William Reid**, ACC architect, for scheme of reconstruction and extension at Largs HG School.
ACC Planning, 2974		March 1945. Dining Hall, Largs H.G. School, for Ayr County Council.
ACC Planning, 3367		February 1946. Two huts, Largs H.G. School, for Ayr County Council.
ACC Planning,4605		July 1947. Temporary buildings, for Ayr County Council.

SCOTT PARK, New Road

ACC Planning, 5284	May 1948. Lavatories, Scott Park, for Largs TC.

STEVENSON INSTITUTE, Lade Street

ACC Planning, A2233	April 1950. Internal alterations.
AA, Th 9.1.1969, 15bc	Loan of items from the D H Campbell Trust, Largs, to Burns Cottage, Alloway (q.v.). Had previously been displayed in the Stevenston Institute, but this had been requisitioned in WW2, and is now scheduled for demolition.

TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, 59a Nelson Street

BI 77/906	September 1965	Contracts let.
SVR 1968-1969		26th January 1969.

THREE SISTERS, Waterside Street

List 50	Meridian Pillars. Erected 1808 for Sir Thomas Brisbane, astronomer. 3 rubble-built square-plan meridian pillars, with droved, squared rubble quoins, orientated roughly EW and situated on a motte. Central pillar capped by pediment shaped stone, flanking pillars each capped with 3 upright slabs in gunsight arrangement. Pillars face towards Brisbane Glen where Sir Thomas built an observatory, with which the pillars relate, after his return home in 1808. The sale of Halkshill in 1815 included the condition that no building was to obscure these pillars. Brass plate in a later pillar at foot of motte is dated 1808. Refs: SRO RHP 5584 - Sir Thomas Brisbane, 'Reminiscences' - [CGA] T-ARD 13/7/21. B.
Kerr	On the top of [Green Hill] are three stone pillars, the Three Sisters, which were built by Sir Thomas Brisbane of Brisbane House. He was a keen astronomer and the pillars were to assist him in his observations.

There is also a smaller pillar with a triangular top, pierced by a hole, near the remains of Brisbane House, of similar purpose.

VICTORIA PUBLIC HALL, off Nelson Street

LMWN, F 2.9.1966, 9h — About to be demolished, as part of Henderson's TV business. Used for dances, the temperance society, &c., "it was also thought to have been the first picture house in Largs since the door carries the inscription 'Victoria Electric Theatre.'

VIKINGAR!, Greenock Road. Formerly BARRFIELDS

LMN 19.4.1930 — Formally opened 11.4.1930. **William Barclay**, architect.

ACC Planning, 2518 — May 1943. Entertainment Pavilion, Moorburn, for Barrfields Entertainments Ltd. {what does this mean?]

AA, CO 3/10/5/29, GPC 14.3.1969 — Noted that private architects have been engaged by Largs T C for their proposed swimming pool.

nr — Swimming Pool has datestone 28 March 1970.

LMWN, F 3.4.1970, 1 — Swimming Pool foundation stone laid last week. **James Houston & Son**, architects.

AA, CO 3/10/5/31, TSSC 13.1.1971 — Pool is nearing completion.

SVR 1971-1972 — Swimming Pool, 16.5.1971

Letter of Sarah Goldie, 16.11.2010 — Vikingar! was opened by Brian Wilson, 15th December 1995.

PUTTING GREEN ATTENDANT'S BOX

ACC Planning, 2189 — February 1941. Largs TC.

WAR MEMORIAL, Bath Street/Promenade

List 10 — Erected c.1919. Tall, battered polished ashlar plinth with 3 figures above. 2 continuous decorative bronze memorial bands on plinth, each inscribed. Lower band added after 1945. CS.

LMWN, W 12.4.2017, 28 — Sunday, 17 Sept 1921.

GT Bell, ex inf — 18.9.1921. Cullaloe stone. **Kellock Brown**, sculptor.

EARLIER

McSherry, Largs, 29 — shows a previous simple memorial cross in Gallowgate Square.

© Rob Close 2026