AUCHINBLAIN — See BLANEFIELD

BALTERSAN

List 7 — Ruins of mansion, built on a modification of the L-plan. Ref: C&DA, III, xxx. B.

Abercrummie 1696 — Beltersan is a stately fyne house with gardens, orchards, woods and parks about it.

Tranter — Baltersan has been a notably fine laird's house of the late C16, built on what were formerly church lands of Crossraguel Abbey nearby. It is said to have been erected by David Kennedy of Pennyglen, to whom the famous roasted Commendator of the abbey, Allan Stewart, disponed the lands, however unwillingly, in 1574. The building, which is tall, impressive and commodious, follows the popular L-plan but is unusual in more than one respect. The walls of weathered golden sandstone rise to three main storeys, an attic and a garret, with ashlar angle turrets at he NW and SE corners. The square stair wing is finished in picturesque fashion by being made to overhang on tree-membered continuous corbelling at the top storey. The watch chamber therein is provided with an unusual little squared window outthrust to the N on boldly machicolated individual corbels, with shotholes at either side - peculiar in that the machicolation is not above the doorway. Also interesting is the stair turret corbelled out in the re-entrant, which is angled instead of the normal circular construction. The angle turrets are provided with shotholes, and there is another in a peculiar position high on the E gable. A weather worn panel surmounts the doorway in the re-entrant, and there is a strange stoup or stone basin projecting at basement level in the W gable, probably for catching rain water. Cannon-like spouts drain the roof at the sides of the angle turrets - another unusual refinement. The basement is vaulted, containing the kitchen to the W and other cellarage. The Hall on the 1st floor measures 36' by 19' and has windows on three sides, two provided with stone seats. It is well furnished with wall closets for so late a house, and a private stair in the SW angle gives more convenient access to the upper floors. From this stairway a spyhole looks down into the Hall near its ceiling; David Kennedy perhaps had reason to be suspicious of his guests. The main stair, a wide turnpike, rises to second floor level, above which the access is continued by the turret stair. Unfortunately this fine building is now roofless and in a ruinous state, although its main features survive. It seems a great pity that such an intersting and attractive house should have been allowed to reach this condition. Although Baltersan is first mentioned in the early C16, it appears that the manor house was not in existence at that time. John Kennedy of Baltersan, probably son of the builder, had a dispute with the magistrates of Ayr in 1591. In his will, dated 1609, he declares "I ordane na vain in my buriall, nor I forbid to oppin me, bot to burie me without serimonie and honest friends". The property passed from his grandson in 1656 to the more powerful Kennedys of nearby Culzean. A little later Abercrummie describes Baltersan as "a stately fyne house, with garden, orchards, parks and woods aboutit" - now, alas, all gone.

Gillespie, Details of Scottish Domestic Architecture, 1922

Plate 87 — Baltersan Castle is a late C16 building, and these carved oak panels are most interesting examples of the woodwork. They were discovered a number of years ago by Mr J A Morris, architect, Ayr, in the byre of a neighbouring farm, but their original position in the Castle is not known. The panels are of different design, and contain Renaissance

motifs handled in a somewhat heavy manner. The lozenge in the single panel contains the Kennedy arms. The trusses are quaintly designed, and the blocks in the cornice are very effective. [Plate 87 copied herewith]

ATD 55 [1704] "Payed to James Robertson for sclatting and pointing ye house off Baltersan and for oyr furnised by the compter for ye same use in May 1704 as ye accompt will instruct ffourtine pund four shilling and eight pennies inde 014.04.08.

KS 14.2.1891 Built 1584. Panels read "Begun the first day of March 158- by John Kennedy of Pennyglen and Margaret Cathcart his spouse" and "The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it". Presently owned by Peter Sturrock, Kilmarnock, "who proposes shortly to make the old building habitable again".

AP 25.9.1925 Colonel John Guthrie Strurrock JP of Baltersan, and of Thorntoun House, Kilmarnock, formerly commanding the Ayr & Galloway Artillery Volunteers, lately chairman of Distington Hematite Iron Co Ltd, and for some years a director of the Bourtreehill Coal Co Ltd, who died on July 8th last, left, in addition to considerable real estate, personal estate valued for probate at £97839 5s 9d.

Urquhart, 38 Projected Reconstruction, by James Brown. SCAN.

GH 26.3.2008 Estate agency advert, PHOTOCOPY herewith.

See also

James Brown, A Wig for the Laird: Keeping Up Appearances in early Eighteenth Century Ayrshire, Scottish Local History, 97, Summer 2017, 14-19. herewith, and pdf.

BLAIR

AA 17.5.1883 Blair estate, Kirkoswald, for sale: A considerable sum has recently been spent on the mansion house.

AA 2.8.1928 Bought in 1885 by Eugene Wason, and house built thereafter.

Ref Pat Lorimer Billiard room supposed to have been built, in 12 weeks, for visit of Queen Victoria, which didn't happen.

ACC Planning, A9666 February 1956. Additions and alterations; **T J Beveridge & Dallachy**, Glasgow, for Helen Todd.

CO3/8/7/4 Bldg Wrt BA 1 July 1964. Buildings, Blairhouse Home Farm. Alex Dunlop, Kilmarnock, for D C Todd.

Nr Conservatory c.1997. Owners around that time, Thornton.

COTTAGE

ACC, PHSC 7.4.1931 Subsidy. 4A cottage, Blair, for George Clark.

BLANEFIELD

List 32 1915. James Miller, architect. Large mansion in modified English traditional style. 2 storeys. Lower storey and projecting bays. Coursed rubble. Upper storey, harled. Slated roof. L-plan 1½ storeyed wing, with piended dormers, at South end. Refs: Builder VIII 1915 pp 592-594. Drawing shown at 1915 RSA Exhibition. B.

nr Plasterwork by G P Bankart, London.

AA, Th 6.2.1840, 1b Judicial Sale of Auchinblain. Lengthy description, but no mention of a mansion house. 3 farms.

CO3/12/2/2 NBSC 17.10.1902 Additions, B, for William Macrorie.

CO3/12/2/5 FLC 16.5.1913 Garage, &c., B, for J R Richmond.

FLC 5.9.1913 Mansion House, B, for J R Richmond.

RIAS Collection Plans, 1913-1914, **James Miller**.

B 25.6.1915 James Miller. Blanefield has recently been erected for Mr J R Richmond. The walls are partly built of freestone of a creamy tone and

partly roughcast, while the roofs are slated. The vestibule and hall are panelled in Austrian oak. Masons: J & D Meikle, Ayr.

A 17.3.1916 — Carried illustration.

CO3/12/2/7 FLC 6.6.1919 — D Cottage, B, for J R Richmond: James Miller.

FLC 27.8.1920 — D Cottage, B, for J R Richmond: James Miller.

AP, F 12.4.1935, 16c — Garden open, 1.6.1935. Mr J R Richmond.

nr — Built for J R Richmond

Kirkoswald Cemetery — Sir John R Richmond, in 95th year, †25.2.1963. Grace Biggam Glen, Lady Richmond, † 14.1.1956.

CULZEAN CASTLE

See Separate File.

LADYBANK

ESTATE

AA, Th 18.8.1881, 1e — For sale, about 313A. With house (dd+6). Upset, £13,000.

HOUSE

Sv, 28.1.2011 — Has carved lintel:

THIS HOUSE INTENDED TO HAVE BEEN BUILT IN THE YEAR 1791 BY
THE REV MR JAMES CADDELL MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL IN NEU LUCE
BUT WAS PREVENTED BY DEATH APRIL 7 SAID YEAR IT WAS AFTERUARDS
BUILT BY MRS ISABELLA BUTTER HIS WIDOW IN THE YEAR 1792.

AA, Th 1.5.1851, 1f — To let, c.300A. Office houses are "large, new and commodious".

AA, Th 22.5.1851, 4b — Acquired previous to May 1851 (see ref) by Mr Boyd, of C Boyd & Sons , merchants, Glasgow.

CO3/12/2/4 FLC 3.6.1910 — Additions, L, for F G Willock.

CH, F 13.6.1924, 2d — Fatal car crash on drive killed Colin Clark of Currah.

Brochure 2010 — Photocopies herewith. 1791; restored from 2006 as upmarket self catering by Mark Stoddart, designer.

THOMASTON CASTLE

List 9 — L-form structure, with a staircase tower in the re-entering angle. Originally a castle of some size and importance, said to have been built by a nephew of King Robert the Bruce, but it is clearly of a much later date. Ref: C&DA, III, 289-291. B.

Tranter — A rather unusual commodious fortalice, now largely ruinous, situated in Kirkoswald parish 4 miles W of Maybole. Although tradition has it built by Thomas Bruce, nephew of Robert I, the present structure is clearly of the C16, and was probably erected after the Corry family of Kelwood had obtained the property in 1507. It is a somewhat squat-seeming L-planned building with a lengthy main block and short wing, having a square stair tower in the re-entrant. The walls of red rubble rise three main storeys to a parapet carried on continuous corbelling of three members. The garret storey above has disappeared. An interesting feature is the arched pend slapped through the wing basement, giving access to a former courtyard to the S. The entrance in the foot of the stair tower admits to the vaulted basement of four chambers, that to the W being the kitchen. The first floor contained the Hall and a private room in the 60' long main block, and a bedroom in the wing. There is a good mural chamber at the NW angle of the hall, and in the SW a private stairway down to the wine cellar. Ample bedroom accommodation was provided in the two floors above. John Corry of Thomaston was put to the horn in 1588 "for non-conferemeing of the testament of umquhile George Corrie of Kelwood his fader broder",

whom he had evidently succeeded. An heiress carried the property to the McIlvaines of Grimmet by 1632.

Abercrummie 1696 — Thomas-towne ... a very pretty house, with gardens, orchards and parks round it.

TURNBERRY CASTLE, 196072

List 13 — Scanty ruins adjoin the lighthouse, probably built on its courtyard. Robert Bruce is sometimes thought to have been born here, in 1274. Ref: C&DA, I, 64 & V, 524. C.

DNB — Bruce or Brus is a Norman name, probably from Brix or Bruis, a castle (remains) between Cherbourg and Vallonges.

C&DA, III — This castle, situated in the extreme western point of the coast between Ayr and Girvan is now reduced to a few fragments of foundations, but is of peculiar interest from its historical associations. It is of very ancient origin, having been the fortress of the old celtic Lords of Galloway. By the romantic marriage of Margaret, grand-daughter of their descendant Duncan, it passed in 1271 to Robert de Brus, and thus became the heritage of his son, King Robert. In 1307 its surprise and capture became the turning point in Bruce's fortune, when he landed with a few followers from his retreat in Arran - an incident so picturesquely developed in the "lord of the isles". The castle has evidently been one of the 1st Period, with a great enclosing wall. In Grose's time a good deal of this wall still remained together with a portion of what seems to have been a central keep, and traces of a drawbridge, but now only the ruins of some vaults and portions of wall are traceable. It has been a castle of considerable extent and strength, situated on a rocky promontory protected on three sides by the sea. The rock forming the site is extremely hard and rugged, and throws out sharp spurs towards the sea. Between these the waves wash in with violence, and have formed 'coves' or narrow channels between the precipitous sides of the rocks. Two of these coves appear to have been arched over, so that the wall of enceinte might be continued across their mouths at a high level. The sea thus ran up within the castle walls at two points. At the heads of the coves there seems to have been a wall with a door and staircase, giving access to the fortress. The coves might thus be used as a means of approach from the sea, and as places of shelter for friendly boats; while those of a hostile character could be easily swamped from the upper rocks enclosed within the enceinte. The keep appears to have occupied the summit of the rock, and to have been partly circular in form, but is now reduced to mere foundations. The base of the entrance gateway, with its portcullis groove, can still be traced on the landward side.

TURNBERRY HOTEL

List 33 — 1904-05. James Miller, architect. Later extended at N end. Large hotel with long E elevation facing Firth of Clyde and Ailsa Craig. 2 storeys and garget. Harled walls. Red tiled roof with dormers. Pedimented projecting bays. Dentilled cornices. Entrance, in N extension, has a loggia above and is flanked by single storey windows. At S end are 2 storey bay windows. Interior is decorated in Georgian manner, the Dining Room being most notable apartment. Built for GSWR as Turnberry Station Hotel. A light railway from Alloway Junction to Turnberry was opened in 1905. Ref: Academy Architecture 25, 1904, p 77. (As well as being shorter than the existing building, the illustrated building shows differences in detail.)

E, 27.4.1906, 423a — Hotel and railway will open on 17th proximo (May). GSWR.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| AA, Th 17.5.1906, 4f | | The new hotel which has been erected in connection with the golf links at Turnberry is approached, as has been stated above, by a covered way that leads through a large conservatory to the entrance lounge. It is situated on an undulating slope of ground at a height of about 100 feet above sea level, an elevation which commands an extensive view not only of the golf links but of the Irish Channel. On a clear day the coast of Ireland is distinctly visible from the terrace in front of the hotel. The building has a frontage of 300 feet, and the whole of the principal rooms are situated so that their windows overlook the sea. The interior of the hotel from the magnificent 64 ft + 30 ft lounge, to the top of the building has been fitted out with a regard for all modern requirements, and in a luxurious style. Suite rooms, sitting rooms, dining rooms, and bedrooms have all been furnished with excellent taste and with due regard to comfort. Altogether there are 100 visitors' bedrooms. A special feature of the hotel is a suite of bathrooms fitted up for golfers. These include plunge baths with sprays, shower and wave, and are supplied with hot and cold, salt and fresh water. There are also other salt water baths, fitted up through the house, the salt water being pumped direct from the sea by means of an electric pump. The conservatory and grounds have been arranged with exquisite taste, and on the grounds adjoining the hotel have been erected stable offices, and motor garage, accommodation being provided for about 40 or 50 motors. The hotel is lighted throughout with electric light, is fitted with a complete system of electric clocks, and is heated and ventilated by the most modern methods. |
| VTR, 1904, p.13 | | Builders: Morrison & Mason Ltd., Glasgow. Contract price: £37,751. |
| CO3/12/2/3 | NBSC 10.6.1904 | Hotel, Turnberry, for GSWR. |
| BI 16/187 | October 1905 | Architect: James Miller, 15 Blythswood Square, Glasgow. To be opened in 1906. |
| CO3/12/2/3 | NBSC 21.12.1905 | Addition of 22 apartments and dininghall, T Hotel, for GSWR. |
| CO3/12/2/9 | FLC 15.9.1927 | Additions, Turnberry Hotel, for LMSR. |
| AA 27.10.1927 | | 2 new bedroom wings to be added. |
| ACC, PHC 4.12.1947, 1443 | | Has been unoccupied for some time. Rquisition for housing being considered, as also for professional's shop and golf club house. |
| ACC, HhC 8.1.1948, 66 | | Railway Executive, successors to LMSR,, intend taking earliest possible steps to bring hotel back into use. |
| ACC Planning, A1641 | | November 1949. Enlargement of N.E. wing to form additional accommodation. Norman A. Barber, London, for British Transport Commission, Hotels Executive. |
| ACC Planning, A2109 | | March 1950. Brick wall building for bathing. S.P. Smith, Chief Works Officer, for B.T.C., Hotels Executive. |
| AP, F 9.6.1950 | | Was a Military Hospital during the war. Now back in hotel use, with first room occupied Thursday morning, though dinner-dance last week of Scottish Association of Girls Clubs with 300 guests was the first big occasion. Has 147 rooms.<br>"Many of the suites follow the newsy in decoration by having one wall papered and a contrast of paint on the other walls – an arrangement which if not at first appreciated certainly grows on the imagination, as also does the Chinese Suite looking out to Ailsa Craig and Ireland." |
| ACC Planning, A4232 | | November 1951. Minor internal alterations, for Hotels Executive. |
| ACC Planning, A7460 | | June 1954. Convert former Laundry to Staff Bungalow; N.A. Barber, for British Transport Hotels and Catering. |
| ACC Planning, A7461 | | June 1954. Convert former Staff Quarters to 5 Staff Bungalows; N.A. Barber, for British Transport Hotels and Catering. |

ACC Planning, A9699 March 1956. Filter House, for existing swimming pool, for British Transport Hotels and Catering.

AA, Th 11.12.1975, 1eh Proposed development of 20 villas by BTH rejected by KCDC Planning Committee.

AP, F 20.5.1977, 37cd Planning Notice. Demolish single storey service wing, remove single storey rear store; build new rear servicer wing over service court, and new 2-3 storey rear service accommodation and store. Also new 3 storey 36 apartment condominium block to north of hotel. Bovis Homes Scotland Ltd., for British Transport Hotels Ltd.

nr Refurbishment, 1983- : Cunningham Glass Partnership.

AP, F 16.3.2012, 8 [1987] 25 Years Ago. Sold for £34m by Orient Express and Sea Containers. It is understood the new owners are Japanese.

1987 - 1997 Nitto World.

n.r. Acquired by Trump Hotels in 2014.

AP, F 21.11.2014, 10 Proposed fountain (below), upgrades to clubhouse and to hotel's conference area.

STAFF

AA, Th 19.11.1964, 22abc Article on closure of Townhead School refers to Moulin, formerly manager here, and Gerald Moulin, his son, ex pupil of Townhead, and now in high position at Caledonian Hotel, Edinburgh.

GUESTS

AA, Th 23.7.1970, 7c Charles and Oona Chaplin arrived last Friday for a short stay.

COTTAGES

CO3/12/2/3 NBSC 22.11.1905 House and 2 semidetached cottages, T, for GSWR

CO3/12/2/4 FLC 27.8.1909 Block of 3 cottages, T, for GSWR

ACC Planning, A7948 November 1954. Additions and alterations to No.8 Cottage; N A Barber, for British Transport Hotel.

DORMY HOUSE

AP, F 6.5.1977, 54g Dormy House Club House formally opened last Wednesday by Sir Alexander Glen, chair, British Tourist Authority. £175,000.

HEALTH SPA

Boyd, Bonnie Links ? 1990-1991.

AP, F 23.6.2017, 24 [1993] Formally opened by Prince Edward, 1991

LODGE

CO3/12/2/3 NBSC 29.9.1905 Gate Lodge, T, for GSWR.

STABLES

CO3/12/2/3 NBSC 12.5.1905 Stables, 6 Cottages, &c., T, for GSWR.

GOLF COURSES

AP, F 17.1.1941, 6c Obituary of James McBain (1849-1941), journalist and author, says that he was the first to point out the suitability of the links at Turnberry for golf, in an article in the Glasgow Herald.

AA, Th 1.9.1892, 6e On Saturday a meeting was held and it has been agreed to lay out an 18-hole golf course here. Mr Eaglesham, CE, Ayr, to prepare a plan of the ground.

AA 21.3.1901 Laying out under way last week under Willie Fernie. 18 hole course running N from hotel. Under auspices of Lord Ailsa.

AA, Th 17.5.1906, 4f Turnberry golf course, laid out in 1901, has already acquired fame much wider than Ayrshire, but owing to lack of facilities for getting to it, its attractions have not been sampled by a very large number. With the advent of the new railway that will soon be remedied, and it may safely be forecasted that within a short period it will become one of the

most fashionable and popular golf courses in the kingdom, as it is possessed of natural advantages that few courses are favoured with and has been brought into condition that will make it rank with the very best. Over the 18 holes the distance is about four miles. Two of the holes reach to 600 yards each, and the course is liberally sprinkled with natural and artificial hazards. The secretary is Mr R M Nisbet, Barns Terrace, Maybole, and the professional, A N Weir, who was appointed from Cruden Bay a year or so ago. During last winter a ladies' nine-hole course was laid out, which is highly spoken of.

CH, F 21.1.1938, 3e — The Ailsa Course has been closed since October to allow extensive reconstruction of the course. Due to re-open at Easter.

Lewis — Ailsa Course laid out in 1951; Mackenzie Ross, architect. [See also brochure about the course in my Ayrshire book collection]

Lawrence Donegan, Four-iron in the Soul, London, Viking, 1997 (Penguin ppb 1998)
Extracts: PHOTOCOPY herewith.

CLUB HOUSE (1)

CO3/12/2/3 NBSC 10.6.1904 Golf Clubhouse, T, for GSWR.

CO3/12/2/5 FLC 21.9.1911 Alterations, Golf Pavilion, T, for GSWR.

CLUB HOUSE (2)

Boyd, Bonnie Links, 98 — c.1991-1993 [? Cunningham Glass Partnership ?]

AP, F 23.6.2017, 24 [1993] — Clubhouse formally opened by Prince Andrew, 15.6.1993

AP, F 21.11.2014, 10 — Proposed fountain, upgrades to clubhouse and to hotel's conference area. Club house upgrade proposes remodelled entrance below a new gabled roof.

FOUNTAIN

AP, F 21.11.2014, 10 — Proposed fountain, upgrades to clubhouse and to hotel's conference area. Bernardi Fountains, Florida. Concrete, 13ft high and 20 ft in diameter, with lions and a centurion.

GOLF COMPETITIONS, &c.

CH, F 6.6.1924, 2d — Joyce Wethered and Mrs Hambro here for Ladies Foursomes: staying at Bargany. [CH F 13.6.1924, 3e, won by Miss Mary Robertson and Miss Irvine, Prestwick St Nicholas)]

CH, F 13.6.1924, 3c — Scottish Ladies Championship. Semi-finalists named, inc Mrs Kelway Bamber (ex Miss Freda McAndrew).

MOTOR RACING

Two articles in — Autosport 9 May 1952 and 29 August 1952.

TURNBERRY LODGE

List 10 — Centre pedimented feature with triple gothic window on 1st floor; pointed doorway below, flanking lancets; battlemented pentice wings on either side, round headed windows with dripmoulds. An unusual estate farmhouse originally belonging to Culzean. B.

McClelland Diary, 4.4.1792 — Quintin McAdam residing here.

AA, Th 31.7.1806, 4c — Reference to John Dunlop at Turnberry Lodge.

AA, Th 7.4.1808, 1b — Six rooms to let.

AA, Th 5.10.1809, 1a — To let, "particularly adapted for sea-bathing, as there are no immediate neighbours."

AO, Tu 28.1.1834, 1d — John Guthrie, late Captain in Middlesex Regiment of Militia, died 26 January 1834 at Turnberry Lodge.

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