GENERAL COMMENTS

"Scenes and Localities around Ayr" in AO from 21.8.1832 is good for contemporary descriptions, and is in Ayr Ring Files, A-Z, at 'Scenes and Localities'.

AA, Th 8.11.1838, 3de — Copying article in Inverness Courier. Full text in AA file - some extracts below.

AP, F 26.6.1953, 10abc, R D Woodall, "Ayr A Century Ago"

[c.1840] Brief article on the visits to Ayr of Frederick Hill, prison reformer. Mainly deals with Alloway and comments on David Auld (called Hall in the text), Burns Cottage, Monument and Brig of Doon. TRANSCRIPT HEREWITH.

H Makinson, 'The Homes of Robert Burns', in AA, Th 25.12.1913, 5abc,

is a odd article which pretends to remember a contemporary visit to Alloway when RB was a young boy. In AA file.

Scots Magazine, n.s., vol.99, no.2, May 1973, 184

The plans for Burns promotion recently unveiled by Scottish Tourist Board include 'interpretation centres.'

Scots Magazine, n.s., vol.99, no.5, August 1973, 410-420.

Article by Maurice Fleming, "The Heritage Trail", on 3-day press tour of the various Burns sites, led by ScTB, designed to explain their proposals. Reference, p.413, to Frank Perry, architect, commissioned by the ScTB to do the detailed Burns Heritage Trail study.

BURNS COTTAGE, Alloway

See Carluke & Lanark Gazette, F 2.10.1931, 2f3a, report of lecture in Carluke by A. Milton. It looks as if he had sight of the records of the Shoemakers. (Milton, below)

Ayr List 10A — 1730, single storey harled and whitewashed with thatched roof. Alterations 1869 under superintendence of Governor Cowan. Ref: B, XXVII. A.

Information panel in Tam o' Shanter Experience:

1757 (seems better than 1730), acquired by Shoemakers in 1791, by Burns Monument Trustees 1881, and Restoration, 1993.

Milton — Shoemakers; tenant, 1783-1799, Matthew Dick

Milton — Shoemakers; tenant, 1801-1803, John Maitland, butcher. 38Y lease from M1801.

Milton — 1803, sub-lease to Miller John Goudie, formerly of Dutch Mills

Milton — 1803-1805, addition. Work of David Wilson, mason

ASH, Sa 20.1.1877 [1824] — See Ref in ASH file, but appears to be a quote from Gentleman's Magazine of 1824:

"The three rooms which comprise the cottage are all on the ground floor, the middle room is the kitchen or dwelling apartment, in a corner, or sort of recess, therein stands a bed filled in, here was the immortal Burns born. The room on each side thereof are parlours, the one containing a large coarse painted portrait of Burns, the other a plaster bust of him, the gift of some nobleman. The parlour in the south end was only added a few years ago. The house is now occupied as an inn for the convenience of pilgrims that visit the sacred spot".

ASH, Sa 5.11.1881, 5a — 1826 visit of Cobden; letter in Morley's Biography. At the cottage, uncordial reception. Traveling with a manufacturer from Paisley. 'But my worthy friend from Paisley had not forgotten the whiskey; and so, tapping the chin of the old dame with his forefinger, he bade her bring a half-mutchkin of the best 'to set the wheels a-going', as he termed it; and having poured out a glass for the hostess, which she swallowed, I was pleased to find that it did get the wheels of her tongue going.'

Taken to see the birth-room, where it seems Goudie has been sleeping in the recess bed. He calls her 'Leezie'. More whisky, more performance. 'I was the last man that drank wi' him afore he left this country for Dumfries. Oh he was a bonnie bairn, but owre muckle given to braw company.' Cobden doubts either ever met Burns.

AO, Tu 28.8.1832, 4e

[Scenes and Localities]. '... the Cottage where Burns drew his first breath - a neat, cleanly-looking house with a thatched roof, which has long been used as an inn. Humble as it looks at present, it was still more so at the time of the poet's birth - as the materials at first were mud, and his father was the sole architect. A very comfortable room has since been built by way of addition to the west end. The present kitchen is said to have been the apartment where the birth took place, and even the place where the bed stood is pointed out, in a recess in the corner of the room. The only other article that is shown to strangers, connected with Burns, is a rough portrait of him - in the dress and character of a ploughman in his holiday clothes - which hung long as a sign-board at the door of the house to attract strangers into the interior. The landlord (Goudie), who knew the poet intimately, and was considerably his senior, has reached a fresh green old age, and is still as free as ever with his *crack*, as he is ready to welcome his customers'.

Inverness Courier, W 31.10.1828, 2de (per BNA, and quoted in AA, Th 8.11.1838, 3d)

The house in which Burns was born is now, as all the world knows, an alehouse; it is a low-roofed, one storey cottage, thatched and consist of a 'but and a ben'. ... An additional room has been added at one end, but without interfering with the original structure erected with his own hands by the poet's father. Opposite is another thatched cottage, formerly Murdoch's school house.

Occupied for nearly 40 years by John Goudie and his wife, 'a neat and tidy old woman' who keeps it 'as clean as a new pin'. Lease is out next year. Mrs Goudie doubts if they'll keep it – 'so well-frequented a change-house, with a hundred acres of land, at £33 per annum.'

'When the celebrated John Philpot Curran visited Burns's Cottage about twenty-eight years ago, he was grieved to find the landlord, old John Goudie, in a state of intoxication. We question whether John has ever been sober since. At least, no one recollects having seen him in that unwonted state, and his prolonged existence, under the perpetual influence of whisky, is a curious problem in natural philosophy, worthy the consideration of a section of the British Association of Science! We found John scarcely able to articulate, and soon got rid of him.'

Inverness Courier, W 7.11.1838, 3a

We are told that the lease is of only 5 acres, which Burns's father worked as a nursery. It is the property of the Incorporation of Shoemakers.

AA, 1838, copied in various papers, e.g. Perthshire Advertiser, Th 22.11.1838, 4d

Advertised for sale. The 19Y lease expires at M1839. Also concerns that bodies such as the Incorporation may be abolished under the new Corporation Bill.

Glasgow Chronicle, quoted in Caledonian Mercury, Sa 9.7.1842, 3b

John, 'the Miller' Goudie died Friday (1st July 1842: Milton confirms), having been 41½ years in the cottage. In 84th year, a 'canty old carle' who 'delighted to talk of Burns and byegone days.' Leaves a widow and family, and 15 years on the lease. He 'was well-known and loved for his facetious disposition by those who were personally acquainted with him, and also by the many visitors to the cottage both from far and near.'

Northern Star and Leeds General Advertiser, Sa 26.8.1843, 8ac

'A Northern Tour', by George Julian Harney. Written from Mauchline, 21.8.1843. 8b: Old Mrs Goudie is a fine 'cracky' body; and rhymes away her tales about Burns in a manner pleasing enough.'

Caledonian Mercury, Sa 23.9.1843, 3f

D 20.9.1843, Flora Hastings, 79, relict of late John Goudie.

Ayr Advertiser, quoted in Inverness Courier, W 27.9.1843, 3b

Mrs Goudie showed 'the same kindly and somewhat maternal hospitality' to all.

Milton — 1843, Mrs David Hastings, tenant.

AA, Th 22.8.1844, 4b — Entertainment to men of McNab & Dickie, who had erected the pavilion for the Burns Festival. In Mrs Hastings', Burns Cottage.

Dumfries & Galloway Standard, W 16.7.1845, 4e

Furniture has been acquired by Mr Johnston, Glasgow, 'who intends to furnish a "Burns Room" with it in the city. 'Rudely engraved with the names and hieroglyphics of many a visitor, and a sight of which formed not the least interesting object to strangers.'

Glasgow Citizen, Sa 13.9.1845, 2h — From AA. Six visitors' books being sold. The tenant, Mrs Hastings, daughter of Goudie, is leaving.

Glasgow Citizen, Sa 13.12.1845, 2h

A small table, much initialled, part of the furniture sold in July, has been bought for £10 by a Society of Scotchmen in Manchester.

Elgin Courant, F 23.1.1846, 2b — AO. Some repairs, necessitating removing part of kitchen ceiling joists, 'which we consider legitimate prey for relic-hunters. True, it is rotten and quite inapplicable for the usual arm-chair, snuff-box and card-case manufacturing purposes to which wooden relics are generally applied; but it is a *bone fide* article.'

Milton — Davidson Ritchie, from 2.2.1846.

AA 28.1.1847 — Foundation stone of hall behind Burns' cottage and contiguous with it laid last Monday. Contractor: Mr **Galt**.

Glasgow Herald, F 29.1.1847, 4d — Foundation stone laid 25th January 1847. Masonic procession from the Blue Bell. Dinner, served by Davidson Ritchie.

Henry & Grant's New Guide, c1869/1870, 25

Hall was founded on Burns' birthday in 1847

Caledonian Mercury, M 6.9.1847, 3b

Hall formally opened 27th August 1847. It has a niche at the west end with a bust of Burns by a native artist.

AA 2.9.1847 — Hall opened last Friday.

Glasgow Herald, M 24.1.1848, 4d — AA. Letter, written in South Africa, 14.9.1847, on conditions out there is sent by John Henry, son of Hugh Henry, Burns Cottage. (?).

C 1851 578 - 13 -48 — Davidson Ritchie, m, 30, innkeeper, b. Tarbolton, wife Abigail, 40, b. Ayr, son, James, 6, Ayr, and servants.

North British Daily Mail, W 16.2.1859, 4f

For 2-3 weeks up to the 25th, Mrs Ritchie busy fulfilling orders for haggis.

ASH, Sa 6.8.1859, 2g — 'Ye Springs of Helicon! Till this instant we never had known, suspected, dreamed or imagined that the birthplace had been signalled by conversion into a road-side public house!' … The landlord 'measures our favour as visitants, our capacity for an estimate of genius, by the amount of our indispensable order upon his tap; and we have fallen in his view because our libation seems likely to be moderate, nor composed of any ardent liquor.' Ritchie won round because he is a flower man, more accessible via talk of dahlias than the scenery, songs and history of Burns.

Southern Reporter, Th 27.9.1860, 4a

Thursday last. Suicide. Ritchie shot himself. Had been in low spirits since death of wife, 2-3 months ago, and 'for the last week or two he had been indulging rather freely in drink.'

GH, Sa 6.10.1860, 3d — 'Ritchie ' so favourably remembered by the many visitors that annually visit this far-famed spot.'

Northern Whig, F 19.10.1860, 2x, quoting Ayrshire Express

Ritchie, lessee for 15 years. 'Few men were better known in this district, or in his walk of life more generally respected than Mr Ritchie.'

GH, M 12.11.1860, 3b — To let. 5½A. 'To an enterprising tenant, this is an eligible opening.' Details, Robert Goudie, junior, writer, 1 Cathcart Street.

London Evening Standard, W 28.11.1860, 4f, quoting Ayrshire Express

Let to James Allan, butler to Sir Edward Hunter Blair at Blairquhan.

Scotsman, W 2.1.1861, 2c, quoting Ayr Observer

Allan entertained in the large hall, on entering into the lease.

Ballymena Observer, Sa 13.2.1864, 1g

A National Teacher, 'Vacation Glimpses of the land of Scott and Burns, III'. 'A signboard! Yes, Burns's birthplace is now a public house! Tidy it may be, and is; most obliging its keepers may be, and are – but it is a public house!'

GH, Th 7.6.1866, 4c — To let. Sequestrated stock of James Allan for sale, also the goodwill. Rent is £70 p.a. A small bowling green … recently laid down at considerable expense. Very eligible opening. Dets, R & J Goudie, solicitors.

Glasgow Evening Citizen, Sa 23.6.1866, 2c

Allan failed to appear for his bankruptcy hearing.

ASH, Sa 11.8.1866, 4f — Mrs Allan appointed matron, Ayr Fever Hospital.

Morning Post, Tu 21.8.1866, 4f, quoting Ayrshire Express

To be sold.

London Evening Standard, Sa 1.9.1866, 7f

Upset, £3,000. 'Long been desecrated to the uses of a wayside drinking house.'

Shrewsbury Free Press, Sa 1.9.1866, 3d, quoting Inverness Courier

Burns' father sold it for £120. Curran, the Irish orator, visited in 1810. "We found the keeper of it tipsy. He pointed to the corner on one side of the fire and, with a most *mal-a-propos* laugh, observed, 'there is the very spot where Robert Burns was born.' The genius and the fate of the man were already heavy on my heart, but the drunken laugh of the landlord gave me such a view of the rock upon which he foundered, I could not stand it, but burst into tears." Preservation for the nation suggested.

GH, F 14.9.1866, 3c — To let,

Ayrshire Express, Sa 22.9.1866 (quoted)

Suggests national subscription

n.r. — January 1867, alleged (and denied) that James Baird of Cambusdoon entertained the idea of purchasing and demolishing it.

ASH, Sa 13.4.1867, 5c — Licence renewed, despite petition (100+ names). [The objection was taken to the Quarter Sessions, but not sustained. The principals seem to have been James Baird, Hamilton of Rozelle and Elias Cathcart of Auchendrane.

Scotsman, F 7.5.1869, 2e — Recent alterations. Inn is 'a great convenience', 'but as all visitors do not care to avail themselves of such accommodation, it has been felt desirable that the cottage should not be wholly appropriated as a place of public entertainment.' One room is now for the exhibition and sale of Mauchline woodwork, &c., and the kitchen remains in its original state. Another beam has been replaced – more wooden artefacts

[including, later, a jewel box for Victoria] Work co-ordinated by Convener Cowan.

Henry & Grant's New Guide, c1869/1870, advert for Burns Cottage

Quoting from Scotsman 7.5.1869 to effect that alterations have been made to the cottage, so that it is not wholly given over to drinking. "With this view, one of the two apartments has been fitted up for the exhibition and sale of Mauchline wood-work" &c. "In the course of the alterations it was necessary to remove one of the old beams of the Cottage, and from the little sound wood there remained in this a few ornamental articles have been made for distribution as mementoes of the place".

Scotsman, W 22.9.1869, xx. South Ayrshire Registration Court, Tuesday. Right to vote objected to, but upheld, of Andrew Cowan, clothier and Mr Fullarton, spirit merchant, joint-tenants of the Cottage. They had acquired the effects, &c., of James Allan, and taken 5-year lease from M1867 (to M1872). Have a waged manager, Mrs Alexander, on £4 ½ yearly. 'We keep books, and I order the spirits and Mauchline fancy wood-work which we sell in the house.' (Cowan).

C1871 578-L1-62 Mary Alexander, w37, public house keeper, b. Kirkoswald. 2 cn, 1 svt.

Dundee Courier, Sa 25.10.1873, 2f National subscription for purchase again urged.

John o Groat Journal, Th 17.8.1876, 6f

Now, along with the monument and other mementoes of the bard, under the surveillance of a bard of trustees, composed of county gentlemen and the provost of Ayr, who have leased the cottage to a publican, where he carries on a roarin' trade, and exhibits the house to visitors.

ASH, Sa 10.2.1877, 4cd "What a desecration to the memory of Burns. There is a time and a place for everything, and it is [with] no narrow censorious spirit that we remember being filled with burning indignation. On entering the little room on the right hand and to our dismay found two rough tykes sitting at a plain deal table, with a half-mutchkin measure of whisky and two glasses before them. There was no poetry in their looks, and less in their speech, and a speedy retreat was a relief to our sense of respect for the poet's birthplace". Adjoining hall was built in 1847.

GH, Sa 17.11.1877, 8d Sale, here, of furniture, effects, &c., includes 1 holograph letter.

Greenock Telegraph, Tu 3.9.1878, 2e

Morley, the present tenant, is from Nottingham, and his wife from Derby. He was at Balaclava, a sergeant in the 17th Lancers, then a Captain and Cavalry Inspector in the American Civil War; sergeant-major, Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry. 'Scrupulous cleanliness prevails throughout the cottage.' [Sept 1878, T. Morley]

Dumfries and Galloway Standard, W 25.6.1879, 5a

'now a tavern and a shop for the sale of white wood articles.'

Dundee Evening Telegraph, Tu 28.9.1880, 3d

NBDM says sale almost complete. Monument committee (Stair, Campbell MP, Somervell and Provost Steele). Offer of £4000 accepted by Shoemakers.

Glasgow Evening Post, Tu 14.12.1880, 4c

Morley successful offerer for Cattle Market Inn. [He presumable went in at Whit 1881, but renounced the lease in December 1881]

North British Daily Mail, W 25.5.1881, 2d

Changes hands today. Cottage will be shown for 2d; Hall will serve coffee house refreshments at the lowest rates; a selection of Mauchline ware will be sold. Managers are J.S. and Mrs Drummond, who have trained in the Water of Leith British Workman Temperance Coffee House, Edinburgh.

CO 3/12/1/1, Ayr District Committee 1893-1899, 448, Finance &c Cttee 7.6.1898
Approve bye-laws for control of parking of vehicles for hire at Burns Cottage (east side, Clochranhill to Alloway Cottage road) and Burns Monument (east side, bridge to entrance to field tenanted by Messrs Scoular near entrance to new cemetery).

AA 11.5.1899 Restoration and new museum, &c., under direction of **Allan Stevenson**, Ayr, architect.

AA 9.7.1914 Attempt by suffragette to blow it up foiled yesterday.

Journal of Scottish Society for Art History, 21, 2016-17 (Matthew Jarron, 'Placed Under No Disqualification': Women Artists in She-Town, pp47-54), p.51
"It is believed that she [Ethel Moorhead,1869 - 1955] was Fanny Parker's accomplice in the attempted arson attack on Robert Burns' cottage in July 1914."

DoG 110/21 1955, addition to museum, **J & J A Carrick**.

AA, Th 18.4.1957, 22cde Extension, J A Carrick (of J & J A Carrick), architect, is now open. D & J Milligan (Ayr) Ltd., builders; cabinets by Afflecks.

AA, Th 6.10.1960, 1bc Visitors for year to 30.9.1960: 114644. A record, and an increase of 292 on 1959. A car park opened in June 1960.

AA, ATD 62/11, 79, 4.10.1962 Visitors for year to 30.9.1962: 114224, down 9020 on 1961. Busiest month: July, 32818.

AA, ATD 62/11, 96, AA 1.11.1962 Thomas McMynn, curator since c.1925, aged 91, died last Monday. Born Dalquharran: curator 37 years. [Ref notes also piece on McMynn in H V Morton's In Search of Scotland].

AA, ATD 62/11, 662, AA 26.8.1965
Has photograph of Muhammed Ali at Burns Cottage.

SF, 10.1968 Article on Jock Brough, Auchtermuchty, thatcher, states that he rethatched Burns Cottage in 1957.

AP 22.1.1971 Has good photograph of cottage, decorated externally.

SM, n.s., v.97, no.5, August 1972 refers to proposed alterations: re-opening door in south gable; new turnstile at car park end. To be done before re-opening in Spring 1973. [Done?]

AP, F 28.1.1977, 5a J Lethan Connell, formerly curator at Culzean, now curator, Burns Cottage.

nr (contemporary AJ) 1993-94 restoration: **James F Stephen**, Glamis, architect.

AP, F 27.11.2009, 21 Reopens 30.11.2009 after £1,000,000 facelift.

VISITOR BOOKS

AA, Th 17.11.1881, 6c Taken by the last publican. Lord Houghton has 1841-1845.

AA, Th 8.12.1881, 4f Those for January 1878 to Whit 1881, with some other stuff, acquired from Morley for £10

COLLECTIONS

AA, Th 21.1.1841, 1a The BIBLES given by Burns to HIGHLAND MARY are to be handed to the Committee of the Monument at the 1841 Burns Dinner.

AA, Th 21.1.1960, 1be Alexander Carse's "Mauchline Holy Fair" is to be presented to the Burns Monument Trustees (Burns Cottage) on Sunday. The painting was shown in London in 1817 as "Field Preacher in a Scottish Village". Acquired and presented by Charles Hepburn, joint founder in 1919 of Hepburn & Ross, Glasgow (Red Hackle). Hepburn lives in Glasgow.
[AA, Th 22.7.1971, 10c. Dr Charles A Hepburn died in Glasgow 16th July 1971.]

AP, F 27.7.1962, 15cd BMT have bought, at Sothebys, for £920, the poem 'Lament of Mary Queen of Scots on the Approach of Spring, and a draft letter, dated 24 Jan 1788, to William Creech.

AA, Th 9.1.1969, 15bc Temporary loan of items from D H Campbell Trust, Largs. These had previously been displayed at the Stevenston Institute, Largs, q.v. Manuscripts, also Burn's gauger's dipping rod, and ink bottle and quill.

AA, Th 31.7.1975, 11ef — Have bought, for £200, 8 lines of On Scaring Some Water Fowl …., which goes with another part of this poem, bought for £25 in 1961. Have also bought, for £160, a copy of Antique Smith (Alexander Howland Smith)'s collection of verse.

VISITORS

September 1877 — Ulysses S Grant

11th July 1968 — John Diefenbacker, ex p.m. of Canada. AA, Th 18.7.1968, 1de

REPLICAS, &c.

ATLANTA

Nr — There is a replica of Burns Cottage at Atlanta, Georgia. Architect was Thomas H Morgan, and he "based his plans on exact measurements supplied by a Scottish architect." Builder was Robert M McWhirter, mason. Foundation stone laid November 1910, and building ready for 25 January 1911.
"Although the plans and dimensions of the Atlanta cottage are the same as the Ayr cottage, there are notable differences. The Atlanta cottage has some additions at the rear and its primary construction is of Georgia granite. The roof is asbestos shingle now since the original thatched roof proved to be too tasty for fieldmice. The Ayr cottage is built of rubble stone with a clay and grass mortar and has a thatched roof. Perhaps Scottish fieldmice are more reverent than their American cousins."

June 1847 (BNA) — There is a pub, junction of Park Street and St Anne's Street, Birkenhead, called the Burns Cottage.

ARTEFACTS

BNA — 1823. A silver-mounted quaich made from wood from Wallace's Oak (Elderslie), Queen Mary's Yew and wood from Burns's Cottage given to Mr Lawless by Paisley Reformers.

BURNS MEMORIAL THEATRE

AA, Th 25.12.1947, 1ab — £10,000 given by Billy Butlin to fund for proposed Burns Memorial Theatre. Site proposed is a field north of Spring Garden Farm.

BURNS MONUMENT

See also Scenes and Localities, AO 1832.

Ayr List 11 — **Thomas Hamilton**, 1818. Greek revival, Choragic monument of Lysicrates type. Circular on hexagonal ashlar base rising rusticated trinagular substructure. Total height about 60' high. Peristyle 9 fluted Corinthian columns wreathed entablature, a gilt tripod finial supported by 3 dolphins. Refs: NSA, p.26; I Fisher, 1965 Oxford dissertation on Thomas Hamilton (copy in NMRS). A.
Notes: design approved 26.1.1818; foundation stone laid 25.1.1820; completed 4.7.1823.

Colvin — The winning in 1818 of the competition for the Burns Monument was an important success which must have done much to establish **Thomas Hamilton**'s (1784-1858) reputation as an architect. A free interpretation of the Choragic monument of Lysicrates, [it] is an elegant and effective essay in Grecian design by an architect whose only knowledge of ancient Greek architecture was derived from books. It was built 1820-1823. [Refs: J C Ewing, History of the Monument, in Burns Monument Catalogue, Ayr, 1966. Drawings in RIAS collection].

Groome — A cenotaph to Burns, erected in 1820, after a design by **Hamilton** of Edinburgh, at a cost of £3350, and comprising a triangular base, a Corinthian cyclostyle and an ornate cupola, with surmounting tripod ...

a small grotto contains **Thom**'s statues of Tam o Shanter and Souter Johnnie.

B Jones — **Thomas Hamilton** of Edinburgh pit this up on the north bank of the Doon near a lot of Burnserie. It is the choragic monument of Lysicrates on a triangular Egyptian bade, each side dedicated to one of the three divisions of Ayr. In the Greek bit, each of the nine columns stands for a muse.

Ewing, JC, History of Burns Monument, nd:

Subscription initiated 17.3.1814 by (Sir) Alexander Boswell of Auchinleck.

ASH, Sa 10.3.1866, 3d [1814] — Article "The Original Idea of a Monument to Burns at Alloway." The impetus appears to have come from the Glasgow Ayrshire Society, who were spurred into action by inter-county rivalry, the people of Dumfries being in the process of erecting the Burns Mausoleum there. Poems.

GD 142/52/1 [NMRS ref] — Copy agreement concerning gift of a site for the monument to Robert Burns. Signed by John Goudie. Addressed to members of Incorporation of Shoemakers in Ayr. 13.1.1816.

GD 142/52/2 — Letter, 19.1.1816, from Alexander Boswell to Hugh Hamilton of Pinmore: he wishes Hamilton to act as convener of committee in charge of scheme and suggests **Sir David Blair** "a most expert architect" as designer.

AA 30.10.1817 — Notice of architectural competition. 20 guineas premium. Closing date 5.1.1818.

NMRS Sheaf Catalogue — 26.1.1818. 10 sets of anonymous plans were examined and those of **Thomas Hamilton** selected. Hamilton declined the premium of 20 guineas in order not to deplete the limited funds further. Premium was sent but he returned it as a subscription to the fund. He seems never to have been paid and may have given services free of charge. Est cost: £1200.

AA 5.2.1818 — Winning Plan. It was resolved to adopt no.8 which, on opening the letter accompanying it, was found to be the production of Mr **Thomas Hamilton**, junior, architect in Edinburgh. Mr Hamilton in his letter states that were his designs deemed worthy of adoption he would decline accepting any mark of approbation tending to lessen the funds, as the honor of being the successful candidate would be a recompence more than adequate to his exertions; but the committee have directed it to be signified to Mr Hamilton that the proferred premium is at his disposal.

The substructure of the monument, according to this design, is triangular, which may be supposed to have an allusion to the 3 districts of Airshire, and it is constructed in such a manner as to admit of a circular apartment of 17' in diameter. The superstructure is a circular temple of 6 fluted Ionic columns, supporting an entablature and cupola, and is surmounted by a tripod, which, among the ancients, was one of the distinguishing emblems of Apollo. In the niche in one of the sides of the basement the artist proposes to place either a statue of Burns or an appropriate subject taken from some of his works, and tablets with suitable inscriptions are to occupy the other sides. The whole will be upwards of 60' high - has, as exhibited in the drawing, a very imposing and pleasing appearance - and does the greatest credit to the classical taste of the artist.

AA 9.9.1819 — Contractors wanted to build a memorial to Burns near Alloway Kirk.

NMRS, Sheaf Catalogue — Offers received on 15.11.1819. Contractor: **John Connell, junior**, mason. Built on Alloway Crofts, property of David Cathcart, Lord Alloway. Purchased for £35.

AA 25.11.1819 — Contractors fixed; Mr **Hamilton**, Edinburgh, architect.

AA 27.1.1820

Foundation stone laid Tuesday last. As some alterations have been made on the plan of the monument it may not be improper to repeat the description including these alterations. The substructure or base is to be of triangular form having allusion to the three districts of Airshire, is to be constructed in such a manner as to admit of a circular apartment of 17' in diameter, and is to rise to a height of 20'. The superstructure is to be a triangular temple of 9 Corinthian columns, 30' in height, supporting an entablature and cupola surmounted by a tripod, one of the distinguishing emblems of Apollo. In a niche in one of the three sides of the basement it is proposed to place either a statue of the poet or an appropriate subject from his works; and tablets with suitable inscriptions are to occupy the other sides. The whole edifice will be upwards of 60' high.

Sas Min 14804 of 1820

Disp by David Cathcart of Alloway of 1R to Committe of Subscribers. [Sas Min 1377 of 1833, 1831 Disp by Andrew Hunter of Bonnyton of 1A to the Committee]

AA 23.1.1823

New description. The building consists of a 3-sided rustic basement, supporting a circular peristyle of the Corinthian order, surmounted by a cupola, the decorations of which are of a peculiar character, and in strict accordance with the purest specimens of Grecian art. The substructure is very massive, and forms an appropriate basement, the monument being so placed that each side is repsectively opposite one of the three great divisions of Ayrshire. The interior of the basement affords a circular chamber upwards of 18' diameter and 16' high. Opposite the entrance is a large semi-circular recess, supported by columns of the Grecian Doric order, the entablature of which is continued round the whole apartment. Between these columns it is proposed to place a statue or at least a bust of the poet. A staircase, entered from the interior, leads to a gallery above, which commands an extensive prospect of varied landscape, including many of the scenes described or alluded to by Burns.

The superstructure is composed of 9 columns, corresponding to the number of the muses, and the frieze of their entablature is richly decorated with chaplets of laurel. The principal cornice and also the highly sculpted ornaments surrounding the dome are of a character similar to those of the beautiful Athenian monument of Lysicrates, which, we believe, the architect fixed on as a model. He has, however, made some important deviations, such as adopting the design of the columns from that of the Temple of Jupiter Stator in the Campo Vaccini at Rome, which is by far the finest example of the order now extant and which, as far as we know, has not hitherto been executed in this country. An unique tripod of considerable magnitude terminates the whole. This, though not yet in its place, we understand, is to be of copper richly gilt. When completed, the entire elevation of the monument will be upwards of 65'.

Independent of various improvements that have been suggested during the progress of the building, a very great expense has been incurred, in addition to the original estimate, in consequence of its having been resolved to procure the greater part of the stones from Collalla quarry in Fifeshire. They were considered to be so much superior, both in beauty and durability, to any materials which could have been got at a less distance, that, for such a purpose, the difference of expense appeared to be of small importance, when counterbalanced by their advantages. The stones obtained were equal, if not superior, to what had been produced from that quarry at any former period, the weight of

several being upwards of 4 tons, and each of the Corinthian columns, though nearly 20' high, have their shafts in one entire stone.

AA 10.7.1823 — Completed with masonic honours 4.7.1823, same day as formal opening of County Buildings.

Tripod was affixed with masonic formality. An ornament of considerable magnitude and upwards of 7' high, wholly composed of various kinds of fruit, flowers and foliage, and supported by 3 dolphins pointing to the 3 different angles of the base, supports the dome, and forms an appropriate pedestal to the tripod. On this, of course, is placed the tripod. It is wholly of copper, and very richly gilt. Gilding was preferred to bronze, we understand, because it is triply more durable, accords better with the character of the whole building, particularly with the richness of the top ornaments and, the surface of it being considerable, the blaze of its reflection in sunshine will attract observation at a great distance. The legs of the tripod are straight which, we are informed, is the most classical though perhaps not the most common form; and in whole it is 6' in height. The top of the tripod holds a copper bottle ontaining an account of the foundation of the building, a narratvie of the proceedings of the Committee and an [inscription on vellum].

NMRS, sheaf catalogue — Tripod was carried to site on flower-decked lorry drawn by 4 horses accompanied by a great procession of admirers from Ayr. Final cost: £2611 9s 8d.

-do- — The 9 fluted columns represent Calliope, Clio, Erato, Euterpe, Melpomene, Polyhymnia, Terpsichore, Thalia, Urania, Apollo the God of the Sun, Music and Poetry presiding over the Muses. frieze has 18 chaplets of laurel. Modelled on Choragic monument of Lysicrates, but with more columns and the design of the columns modelled on those in the Temple of Jupiter Stator, Rome.

-do- — Was surrounded by hexagonal iron railing about 17' from the walls. Railing removed in 1943 on behalf of war effort.

ASH, Sa 20.1.1877, 3c — Quoting apparently from the Gentleman's Magazine of September 1824. Monument is progressing slowly. Since the death of Alexander Boswell little has been done, and it is understood that the subscriptions (c.£1500) have been expended.

Ayr Correspondent, 17.12.1824 — A copy of Naismyth's Burns portrait has been made by John Steven, for the Burns Monument.

AA, Th 17.1.1828, 4c — The stained glass in the cupola is by **Millidge & Hunt**, stained glass manufacturers, Edinburgh.

AO, Tu 17.7.1832, 4d — "On Saturday last an interesting scene was exhibited on the banks of bonny Doon, which seemed to afford much gratification to some hundreds of individuals. Major Falls had taken out the reserve companies of the 93rd Foot for exercise towards Burns' Monument, and in passing that sacred fane, Mr D Auld, the attentive guardian of the spot, considerately permitted the whole corps, in parties of twenty, to perambulate the beautiful shrubbery, surrounding the Monument, and afterwards introduced them to an audience with the august Tam o' Shanter and his worthy compeer, who received their visitors with great complacency. The excellent band of the 93rd was stationed in the shrubbery, and enlivened the scene by performing a variety of airs connected with the surrounding landscape. After the corps had been gratified with a view of these celebrated figures and the various other interesting objects, civilities were exchanged between the gallant Major, on the part of his regiment, and Mr Auld, when the soldiers returned to town, highly pleased with their treatment. The statues had not been removed from the cases in which they were packed on their

return from London till Saturday last, when they held their first *levée* for the season, which in court phraseology was 'numerously attended'".

AA 4.9.1845 — Description of bust of Burns, in marble, due to be placed in the monument. Work of **Patric Park**, Glasgow, sculptor.

AA, Th 6.10.1960, 1bc — Visitors for year to 30.9.1960: 40313, a decrease of 3905 from 1959.

AA, ATD 62/11, 79, AA 4.10.1962 — Visitors for year to 30.9.1962: 33351, a decrease of 4480 from 1961.

OAK TABLE

AA, Th 17.1.1828, 4c — Large oak table is by **Morison & Son** late of Ayr, now of Edinburgh.

ENTRANCE BOOTH

DoG 98/75 — 1950, extension to entrance booth, **J & J A Carrick**.

HEXAGON

Ayr List 12 — 1830. Single storey rubble-built hexagon, bargeboarded gabled porch, ball finial at apex of main roof. Slated, broad eaves. Contains statues of Tam o Shanter and Soutar Johnny by **James Thom**. B.

AA, Th 26.5.1831, 2d — Reference to Thom's exhibition in London, which is 'about closing'.

AO, Tu 17.7.1832, 4d — See above, for reference to the statues.

AO, Tu 28.8.1832, 4d — [Scenes and Localities]. 'In a low secluded corner ... a small, neat, romantic-looking erection has been formed for the reception of the far-famed figures of *Tam o' Shanter* and *Souter Johnny*; where they are to be allowed to quaff their ale and crack their jokes, in quietness and retirement, after having travelled through the most populous towns of Great Britain, exciting the wonder and merriment of many thousands of eager spectators'.

AA, Th 8.11.1838, 3e — [Inverness Courier]. Within the pleasure grounds of the Monument, in a small building erected for the purpose, are placed the statues of Tam o' Shanter and Souter Johnny by the well-known native artist, Thom. There is much comic humour and a wonderful power over coarse stone evinced in these figures, but our impression at the moment was that they should be taken to the alehouse, rather than exhibited beside the Corinthian columns, cultivated elegance and natural beauty of this spot. The power of contrast, though great, is not always pleasing.

Burns Chronicle, No.XXVI, January 1917, pp 151-152 — Question as to who sat for Tam - the options being William Brown, Trabboch Mill, or a combination of David Auld and 'big Affleck, the carter'. Article by James McBain copied herewith.

LODGE [MONUMENT COTTAGE]

Ayr List 17 — **J McDerment**, 1868-1869. Classical single storey 2-window and centre fluted Corinthian columned and pedimented doorpiece. Rock-faced rusticated facade with margins and wreathed frieze. Plain rubble gables with rustic chimneyheads, plain slated roof. Fanciful iron railings. Ref: Burns Monument Trustee Minutes, 2.10.1868, per I Fisher, "Thomas Hamilton", Dissertation, Oxford, 1965 (copy in NMRS). B.

Henry & Grant's New Guide, c1869/1870, 29 — "it was deemed prudent recently to make a small charge for visiting the Monument and grounds, and the proceeds are applied in defraying necessary expenses. From this source the funds have in a short time accumulated sufficiently to build a very elegant cottage residence for the keeper".

1888-1889 Directory — James Arthur.

TRUSTEES

AA, Th 11.9.1975, 3ab — Photo. Presentation by Bryce M Knox, Chairman, to W H Dunlop, Hon Sec, BM Trustees. He is 3rd in his family to be Hon Sec, and took over when his father, Sir Charles Dunlop, died I 1960. Given silver model of Burns Cottage, made by ..lbert McKie, last surviving silversmith in Ayr.

CURATORS

| | |
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| - July 1963 | William Currie |
| July 1963 - August 1968 (†) | Adam 'Ned' Loudon (AA Th 22.8.1968 11e, died Sat, 67. Had been janitor, Ayr Academy, 1923-1963 (succeeding his father, janitor Academy from ?1905) |

MURDOCH'S HOUSE

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| AA, Th 8.11.1838, 3d | ... directly opposite [Burns' Cottage], on the other side of the road, is another thatched cottage, which John Murdoch, the poet's early and best preceptor, at one time used as a school house. |

TAM O SHANTER EXPERIENCE. [Formerly LAND O BURNS CENTRE]

See also GENERAL, above.

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| nr | Long delays in completion. Architect, **Frank Perry**, is of **Shaw Stewart & Perry**. |
| AP, F 2.7.1976, 1cde | Delayed again, now due for September 1976. £250,000 over budget. |
| K Andrew | Built in 1975-76. |
| Scots Magazine, new series, vol 105, no.3, June 1976, pp 301-304, John Rundle, "Trail on Trial". | Quotes Perry, a Mancunian, as saying that "buildings should be of their time". Work on the buildings should be completed this month. Built on site of former railway goods yard. [Full text is appended herewith] |
| AP, F 15.4.1977, 27a | Opened last Friday. |
| AP, F 3.6.1977, 3b | To be f.o. 21st June 1977 by Moira Anderson. |
| AP, F 24.6.1977. 44de | Low-key report of opening. |
| Nr | Demolished 2010 |

ROBERT BURNS BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM

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| Nr | 2007-10, Simpson & Brown. |
| BD, 17.12.2010, per YUP | £21 million. To be formally unveiled 22 January 2011. Has more than 5000 artefacts. The 1600 sq.m building features a sedum roof in its all-timber structure, which uses local wood and stone. |

TO A MOUSE

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| AP, F 5.11.2010, 36 | 2010, **Kenny Hunter**, Glasgow. £34,000, 7 ft high mouse, cast in bronze at Powderhall Bronze, Edinburgh. PHOTOCOPY herewith. |

LIBERTY REGAIN'D

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| SAC, Planning | Proposed, August 2011. Shell-cast iron sculpture of a fox on a tree trunk. **Kenny Hunter**. |

BURNS EPHEMERA

DC10

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| AP, F 18.3.1977, 48 | A British Caledonian DC10 was christened Robert Burns this week by Bryce Knox and Chuck Conrad, astronaut. At Prestwick. |

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