CATRINE MILL

List (Sorn) 16	Old Twist mill, 5 storeys, with centre pediment topped by belfry. Started in 1787 by Sir Claud Alexander of Ballochmyle in partnership with David Dale as a combined business and philanthropic scheme. Refs: 3SA, 690-691; Groome, I, 255. A. DELETED.
1SA, VI, 562	Founded 1787. Powered by damhead water 46' above village. Waulk and fulling mills also planned. 5 square storeys with garrets, 5240 spindles, 301 employees.
Paterson	Extensive cotton mills commenced in 1786 by Claud Alexander and David Dale. At that time only two families lived in Catrine, those of the miller and blacksmith. The population now (1863) amounts to upwards of 3000.
AANHS, 5	Established 1787.
ASH, Sa 26.12.1868, 3d	The originator of the factories was the late David Dale of Glasgow in company with the grandfather of the present [1868] Colonel Alexander of Ballochmyle. David Dale was also the founder of the New Lanark, Blantyre, Stanley and Newtown Stewart mills.
Hume	' ... though the splendid cotton mills, architecturally the finest in Scotland, have been demolished ...' Survivals include 'the weir, approach spans to the wheel house, and the tail race installed in 1827 for the great 50' wheels built by William Fairbairn. The tail race exit is at 523261'. [DSE, I, p.22, gives William Fairbairn as b. Kelso 19.2.1789]
NSA, 1845, 140 [1801]	Acquired in 1801 by Messrs Finlay & Co., Glasgow.
ASH, Sa 26.12.1868, 3d	The Catrine Works continued in their hands for ten or eleven years, but were so unprofitable that they were sold to the firm of James Finlay & Co., who appointed the late Mr **Archd Buchanan** as the first managing partner, under whose good management the profits paid the purchase money in less than three years. ... Mr Buchanan was a pupil of Sir Richard Arkwright of Derby.
ASH, Sa 26.12.1868, 3d	The success of the business was such that they resolved on building the other mill, called Jenny House, [as it was filled with Hargreaves' Spinning Jennies]
Chadwick	Big Wheel. Built March 1827, worked for almost 120 years. It was in fact a pair of wheels, 50' in diameter and 11'6" wide, producing nearly 200 hp. They were designed by Archibald Buchanan and were built by the Manchester firm of Fairburn & Lillie. Dismantled 1945, when the mills were rebuilt. Mills closed in 1968. [Article photocopied herewith].
AA, Th 31.1.1828, 2d	"The great cotton works at Catrine, Airshire, will soon receive the powerful aid of four of the largest water-wheels in this country. The first of them is now nearly erected, and is entirely of cast iron. Its diameter is nearly sixty feet, by eleven broad; and, to a person standing upon the massy axle, the magnificent sweep of this vast circle, rising above him like the span of some mighty arch, and descending to a giddy depth, strikes an awful wonderment. The engineers are an extensive company in Manchester, and we understand the superintendent, Mr Charles Reddoch, is shortly expected down to see the giant structure set fairly in motion." *Stirling Advertiser*.
AP, F 18.4.1947, 6cd	Wheels were set going 31st March 1828.
ASH, Sa 26.12.1868, 3d	Extra motive power being required for the additional mill the present water wheels were then erected by Mr **Fairbairn** of Manchester assisted by Mr **Buchanan**, and in the words of a local poet were well-named 'Fairbairn's Bairns'. They give off equal to 400 hp.
KS, Sa 20.5.1916 [1827]	Obituary of John Murray, involved with Glenfield. He was born, January 1827, at Catrine, where his father, Andrew Murray, was a

	stonemason whose forebears had come from Aberdeenshire to build the Big Wheel at Catrine Mill.
ASH, Sa 26.12.1868, 3d	As progression went on, weaving was also added - the late Mr **John Barclay** being brought from Pollokshaws (where amongst the first weaving factories were erected in Scotland) to manage the weaving department.
AA, Th 22.5.1851, 3a	Recent improvements at Catrine include large fireproof addition to the Works.
Sas Min 1131 of 1857	Right of James Finlay & Co to dam the Ayr from west corner of Daldorch Holm to head of Cuthbert Holm. [Dam already erected].
AA, 28.6.1860	A new line of shafting has been built: plans of Robert Barclay, works manager. Completion: Craig, Fullarton & Co., Paisley.
ASH, 29.11.1862, 2h	Works have been stopped since 17.9.1862.
ASH, 6.6.1863, 3c	Re-opened this week.
AP, F 18.4.1947, 6cd [1863]	The speed of the big wheels was doubled in 1863 to 3 rpm, generating a nominal 500 hp.
ASH, 28.11.1863, 5a	Presently idle.
AA, Th 14.8.1884, 5f	Died, Mill Street, Catrine, 7.8.1884, aged 54, James Nimmo, wheel-keeper, Catrine Works.
AP, 3.5.1935	Large extensions have now commenced.
AP 23.3.1945, 4	Plans of proposed extension. [ibid, p6, architect is **James Hay & Steel**, Kilmarnock]
ACC, Subcommittee on roads, &c., in Catrine, 18.4.1946 9p.689)	
	Meeting with James Taylor, general manager for James Finlay & Co., and their architect, G. Steel. Agreed that Twist Mill will be made over to ACC for road improvements, when the new mill is operational.. Bridge between Townhead and Bleachworks sought in exchange.
AP, F18.4.1947, 6cd	The Big Wheels were set going 31.3.1828. They are now silent due to installation of electrical power to the mills. PHOTO.
Nr	The Big Wheel was stopped, in 1947, by James Gibb, the maintenance foreman, and subsequently scrapped.
GH, 27.5.1947, 6e	Water wheels dismantled.
3SA, 1951, 691	Dates wheels to 1828, with power as 500 hp. 1947 electricity introduced. Currently employing 685 workers. To be demolished when new building is completed.
AA, Th 17.12.1959, 23b	Old Mill is expected to be demolished early next year - functioned till 1948, when machinery transferred to modern Mill.
ACC Roads Cttee 3.9.1962	'Catrine Old Mill. In 1959 this Committee and the Planning Committee approved, in principle, a scheme involving the demolition of the old spinning mill at The Square, Catrine, with a view to the ultimate improvement of route B705 and the redevelopment of the area in question. These proposals were submitted to the Central Department with the request that grants be made available to carry out the necessary work. In 1960, however, the Department of Health had intimated that it was intended to schedule the building as of special architectural or historic interest. Further representations were made to the Dept of Health, but in view of the uncertainty of the position the scheme for the improvement of B705 at the site of the Old Mill was not included in the Committee's provisional 5-year programme of major road improvement works.
	Submitted letter from the DoH stating that it had been hoped to save the building in view of its architectural and historic value, but the difficulty in finding any use for the Old Mill since it was vacated, and the views of the County Council on the question of preservation made it clear that this question could not be further usefully pursued. The Department accordingly stated that the way is now open for the proposed

demolition of the building to be considered, and they had therefore authorised the deletion of the building from the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest for the parish of Sorn.
It was agreed to remit to the County Clerk to discuss with the owners of the Old Mill the question of the demolition of the building and the clearing of the site, and to report'.

ACC, Roads Committee 4.2.1963 — To be bought from James Findlay & Co Ltd, with County Council paying feu duties and all fees. Entry set at 27th March 1963. Offer from R D Dale, London, a descendant of David Dale, to buy the BELL.

CC, F 1.3.1963, 16d — Demolition is to begin on 1st April 1963.

ACC, Roads Committee 6.5.1963 — Demolition is in progress. Bell and belfry to be returned to James Findlay & Co., for proposed re-erection within the village.

CC, F 10.1.1964, 14e — Events of 1963. Mill Fire, Catrine, 31.5.1963

JEANIE FACTORY

1SA, VI, 562 — Established 1790. 76 Jeanies, 200 employees. [See Site Plan in Chadwick for location]

ASH, Sa 26.12.1868, 3d — The success of the business was such that they resolved on building the other mill, called Jenny House, [as it was filled with Hargreaves' Spinning Jennies]
[This reference also suggests that the Jenny Mill was built after Finlay & Co took over, i.e. after c.1798-1800, and that it was the erection of this second mill which led to the increased demand for water, and hence to the building of the Fairbairn wheels in 1827-28]

NEW MILL

AP, 14.12.1945 — Foundation stone laid 8.12.1945. **Gabriel Steel**, architect.

ACC Planning, 3345 — January 1946. New factory, Mill Street, for James Finlay & Co. Approved, July 1947. ACC Minutes: **Hay & Steel**, architects, agents.

ACC Planning, 3429 — Extensions, Ballochmyle Street, for James Finlay & Co.

web, GH 26.9.1968 — To close. Employs 310 women and 40 men.

web — Demolished 1980

BLEACHWORKS

ACC, Subcommittee on roads, &c., in Catrine, 18.4.1946 9p.689)
Meeting with James Taylor, general manager for James Finlay & Co., and their architect, G. Steel. Agreed that Twist Mill will be made over to ACC for road improvements, when the new mill is operational.. Bridge between Townhead and Bleachworks sought in exchange.

ACC Planning, A862 — April 1949. Extension, Bleachworks, for James Finlay & Co. Ltd.

ACC Planning, A2220 — April 1950. Additions and alterations. **James Hay & Steel**, for James Finlay & Co Ltd.

web, GH 26.9.1968 — (New Mill closing). Bleaching and Finishing will continue - employs 300.

BRIDGE

ACC Planning, A465 — December 1948. Bridge and Generator House, Catrine Bleachworks, for James Finlay & Co. Ltd. [**James Hay & Steel**, Kilmarnock]

ACC, RC 28.7.1950 — ACC agree to take over as public road. Replaced an old wooden bridge.

GENERATOR HOUSE

ACC Planning, A465 — December 1948. Bridge and Generator House, Catrine Bleachworks, for James Finlay & Co. Ltd.

<u>MILL MANAGERS</u>

1801-xxxx	ARCHIBALD BUCHANAN
ASH, Sa 26.12.1868, 3d	First managing partner, appointed by James Finlay & Co., who took over the mills c.1800. A pupil of Richard Arkwright. In 1827-28 he assisted with the erection of the big wheels.
	JOHN BARCLAY
ASH, Sa 26.12.1868, 3d	Originally brought from Pollockshaws to Catrine to manage the then newly-instituted weaving department. Succeeded by his son
Xxxx - 1868	ROBERT BARCLAY
ASH, Sa 26.12.1868, 3e	Died during 1868
	MORTON
	ANDREW FAULDS
1895 – 1908	HUGH W POLLOCK
AA, Th 26.9.1895, 5f	Presently in Strabane, has been appointed to succeed late Andrew Faulds 'in the management of the Catrine Cotton Works.' A native of Catrine, he left the village about 24 years ago.
Strabane Advertiser, Tu 17.9.1895	[Quoted in AA, 26.9.1895, above] 'He is manager of Stewart and McDonald's shirt and underclothing manufactory.'
AA, Th 8.10.1908, 4f	Died, aged 66, 6.10.1908.
	SPINNING MANAGER
JAMES YOUNG (c1781-1861)	
AA, Th 18.7.1861, 8e	Died at Chapel Street, Catrine, 14 July 1861, in 81st year. Formerly spinning manager, Catrine Works. Employed at the works for 60 years.

OTHER INDUSTRY - CATRINE

DYE WORKS	
AA, Th 9.7.1840, 1c	Dye-works to let. The proprietor, Alexander McCarlie, is retiring.

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