



John James Burnet



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# Campbeltown's Glasgow Face



Thomas Lennox Watson



Henry Edward Clifford

**A guide to the work of four Glasgow Architects  
who designed buildings of note in  
Campbeltown and district**



## Campbeltown's Glasgow Face

In the 19th century, Campbeltown established itself as the strongest economy of all the existing towns on the western seaboard of Scotland. Contributing to this, were its sheltered anchorage and its strong commercial base of fishing, farming and distilling. Links to Glasgow and beyond were mainly by sea, when journey times could still compare favourably with present day road transport. Campbeltown's booming economy gave impetus to the erection of many fine buildings, some of them designed by Glasgow architects of note. Four names dominate, to such an extent that their work has been termed "the Glasgow face of Campbeltown".

Apart from the work of these four architects - John Burnet senior, Sir John James Burnet, Henry Edward Clifford and Thomas Lennox Watson, there are many other fine buildings in the town and district, designed by architects working from practices in Glasgow and some from Argyll. Of these, mention might be made of [1] The Cinema, (1913), A V Gardner of Glasgow, a fine example of early 20th century modernism. [2] the Aqualibrium, (2006) Page/Park Architects, Glasgow, whose rolling contours echo the surrounding hills, [3] the Town Hall, (1758-60), with its fine spire, (1778) and decorative entrances and windows and [4] the former Castlehill Church, (1779-81), G Haswell of Inveraray, whose symmetrical Georgian façade dominates the head of Main Street.

A selection of architectural terms used in this leaflet:

- Architrave - a moulded frame surrounding a door or window
- Bartizan - a turret corbelled out from a wall
- Bull-faced stonework - stones given an irregular surface, not smooth
- Cat-slide roof - a roof without any apparent supporting member
- Column - a vertical cylindrical support
- Corbel - a support projecting from a wall
- Crenellation - an indented parapet or battlement
- Engaged column - a column built into a wall
- Mullion - a vertical member dividing a window
- Pediment - a decorative feature, usually triangular, above a door or a window
- Pillar - a vertical square support
- Pilaster - a pillar built into a wall
- Transom - a horizontal member dividing a window
- Vousoir - radiating wedge-shaped stones used to form an arch.

Sources:

Argyll and Bute Council Statutory List:

"The Bailie" newspaper

Dictionary of Scottish Architects - [www.scottisharchitects.org.uk](http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk)

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The Campbeltown Book pub. Kintyre Civic Society

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[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/CampbeltownTHI](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/CampbeltownTHI)



Thomas Lennox Watson 1850-1920

Thomas Lennox Watson was born in Glasgow. His father was a member of the great ship-owning firm of G & J Burns. The naval architect, George Lennox Watson, was his cousin. He was educated at Glasgow High School and he studied at the Glasgow School of Art. At the end of his apprenticeship in 1871 he found a place as an assistant in the London office of Alfred Waterhouse and returned to Glasgow to commence practice as an architect in 1874. He came to prominence very early, securing the commissions for three Glasgow churches - Adelaide Place Baptist Church (1875), Hillhead Baptist Church (1883) and Wellington United Presbyterian Church (1883).

His principal work in Campbeltown can be seen in [7] Barochan Place (1906, completed 1915), Argyll Street, one of the finest sets of tenement flats of any town on the west coast of Scotland. The near symmetrical façade shows fine attention to detail in the treatment of windows and doorways, while the domed towers at each end finish off a truly impressive building. Another example of Watson's work in the same vein can be seen in [8] Longrow South where in 1909 he designed the tenements which flanked the then "new street" which linked Longrow with Main Street. Though less decorative than Barochan Place, Watson made clever use of domed towers as corner features on the south side of the property together with turreted bay windows. In the same year he recast an earlier design at [9] Fleming's Land, Main Street, where the central pend, with its channelled voussoirs, draws one's eye towards the gardens to the rear of Barochan Place.

Other works of note by Watson are the heavily detailed Evening Citizen Building (1877) in St Vincent Place, Glasgow and, nearer to hand, the Royal Clyde Yacht Club and Hotel (1888) at Hunter's Quay. Watson also designed the interiors of several steam yachts during the 1890s.



[7] Barochan Place, Argyll Street



John Burnet 1814-1901

John Burnet was born in Kirk o' Shotts, North Lanarkshire. The son of Lieutenant George Burnet of the Kirkcudbright and Galloway Militia, he was educated at Dunipace Parish School and thereafter apprenticed as a carpenter, graduating to architecture through experience as a clerk of works with Mr John Smith, architect and builder, of Alloa and Glasgow. Burnet commenced practice on his own account in 1843 with the designs of Free Churches at Shandon, Alloa and Clackmannan. Burnet was essentially self-taught. He rose in prominence with the design of Elgin Place Congregational Church (1856), Glasgow, built in the style of a Greek Temple. Other important buildings of his in Glasgow included the Stock Exchange (1875) in Buchanan Street and built in the style of the Doge's Palace in Venice, the Clydesdale Bank (1870) in St Vincent Place and the Merchants' House (1875) in George Square. Henry Edward Clifford worked with him on the project at Longrow United Presbyterian Church. His son, John James Burnet also worked with him on various projects, adding two further storeys to the Merchants' House in George Square.

In Campbeltown and district, Burnet was responsible for [5] the Longrow United Presbyterian Church (1869) now Lorne and Lowland Parish Church, [6] Hazelbank House (1870), now the Ardshiel Hotel, and Killean House (1875), Tayinloan.



[6] Hazelbank House (Ardshiel Hotel)



## Henry Edward Clifford 1852-1932

Henry Edward Clifford was born in Trinidad. His father was a sugar planter there. His mother, Rebecca Anderson, was the daughter of John Anderson, a wool carder with a lint mill between Campbeltown and Machrihanish; this brought extensive family connections in Kintyre, which were to be useful later. On the death of his father in 1859, Clifford returned to Scotland with his mother. In 1867 he was articled to John Burnet, senior, for five years and remained a further five years as draughtsman. In his earliest years of independent practice (1878 to 1880) he studied at the Glasgow School of Art. In 1885 he formed a partnership with Burnet's nephew and former assistant, William Landless, under the style of Landless & Clifford. When Landless abandoned private practice in 1887, Clifford practised on his own account. In 1904 he married Alice Gibson, daughter of William Gibson, physician and surgeon at Campbeltown. Clifford was dogged by ill health in the latter part of his life, and, although keeping up his Campbeltown and Glasgow connections he moved to Reigate in England. His funeral was held in the Royal Hotel, Campbeltown and he is buried in Kilkerran Cemetery.

His appointment as architect to Campbeltown School Board secured lucrative commissions for various schools in the town, [10] Dalintober Infant School (1899), [11] The Grammar School [Community Centre] (1899) and [12] St Kieran's Primary School (1906).

In Campbeltown, he designed various stylish villas – [13] Craigard (1882), [14] Auchinlee, [15] Knockbay (1896), [16] Redholme (1896), [17] Redcliffe (1897), [18] Bellview (Ravenscraig) (1897), [19] Norwood (1898) and in Machrihanish – Dunlossit (c.1900) and Swallowholme (1901).

Other works in Campbeltown and district included [20] the Christian Institute (1885), [21] St Kieran's Episcopal Church Rectory and entrance gates (1885), [22] the original Victoria Hall (1886), [23] the Mission Hall, Lochend (1886), Kiloran Church, Carradale (1887), the Ladies' Golf Clubhouse, Machrihanish, Killean Home Farm Buildings (1890), [24] the Club, Main Street (1895), [25] Lochhead Distillery Warehouse (1899).

Buildings which he reconstructed or added to were [26] Campbeltown and Kintyre District Combination Hospital (1903), [27] the hall at Lorne Street Church [Heritage Centre], [28] The Hall, Dalintober (1896), [29] Eastcliff, Kilkerran Road (1898), the north wing (1900) and south wing (1910) of Torrisdale Castle, Carradale, [30] the Highland Parish Church Hall [the original Lowland Church], Kirk Street (1904), [31] the Masonic Lodge (1912) and [32] Campbeltown Cottage Hospital (1914).



John James Burnet 1857-1938

John James Burnet was born in Glasgow. He was the youngest son of the well established architect, John Burnet. In the 1870s he went to study at the École des Beaux-Arts in Paris. From this time abroad he acquired a love for and command of fine detailing. Charing Cross Mansions (1891) in Glasgow is a fine example of the French style which he absorbed while in Paris. Likewise the Clyde Navigation Trust Building (1882), dominating the riverside in central Glasgow, demonstrated his early mastery of style and design. In 1914 he received a knighthood for the work he did on the extension to the British Museum in London. Further afield, he was involved in the designs of three of the War Memorials (1922) at Gallipoli in Turkey. It is said that in retirement “he had no profession and no recreation - nothing of interest for him to turn to, no hobbies of any kind. He passed through life with one all-absorbing interest which burned him dry – architecture”.

In Campbeltown he was responsible for several fine designs – [33] Campbeltown Cottage Hospital (1894), [34] the organ case in Longrow United Presbyterian Church (1895), [35] Creagdhù Mansions (1897), [36] the former Public Library and Museum (1897), a masterly work incorporating much fine detail and [37] Rothmar (1897 and its extension (1937)).



[35] the organ case in Longrow United Presbyterian Church, now Lorne and Lowland Church of Scotland





**[35] Creagdh Mansions, New Quay Street, Kirk Street and Shore Street**  
1896 J J Burnet.  
Scots Baronial style tenement with the majestic feel of an old Scottish keep.  
Fine corbelled bartizan at the corner of Kirk Street and New Quay Street.  
Bull faced stonework with dressed red sandstone at windows and doorways.  
Asymmetrical design.  
Stone dormerheads incorporating thistle motif.  
(See Library railings in Shore Street)

**[36] Former Public Library and Museum, Hall Street, St John Street and Shore Street**  
1897-98 J J Burnet (Grade A listed building)  
Built in Free Scots Renaissance style with lantern cupola.  
Bull faced stonework with red sandstone dressings.  
Balustraded parapet.  
Engaged columns frame the entrance, above architraved panel and carved inscription.  
Art nouveau influenced iron work at entrance.  
Thistle motif incorporated in ironwork in Shore Street.  
Carved reliefs of local trades. Catslide roof in rear garden.

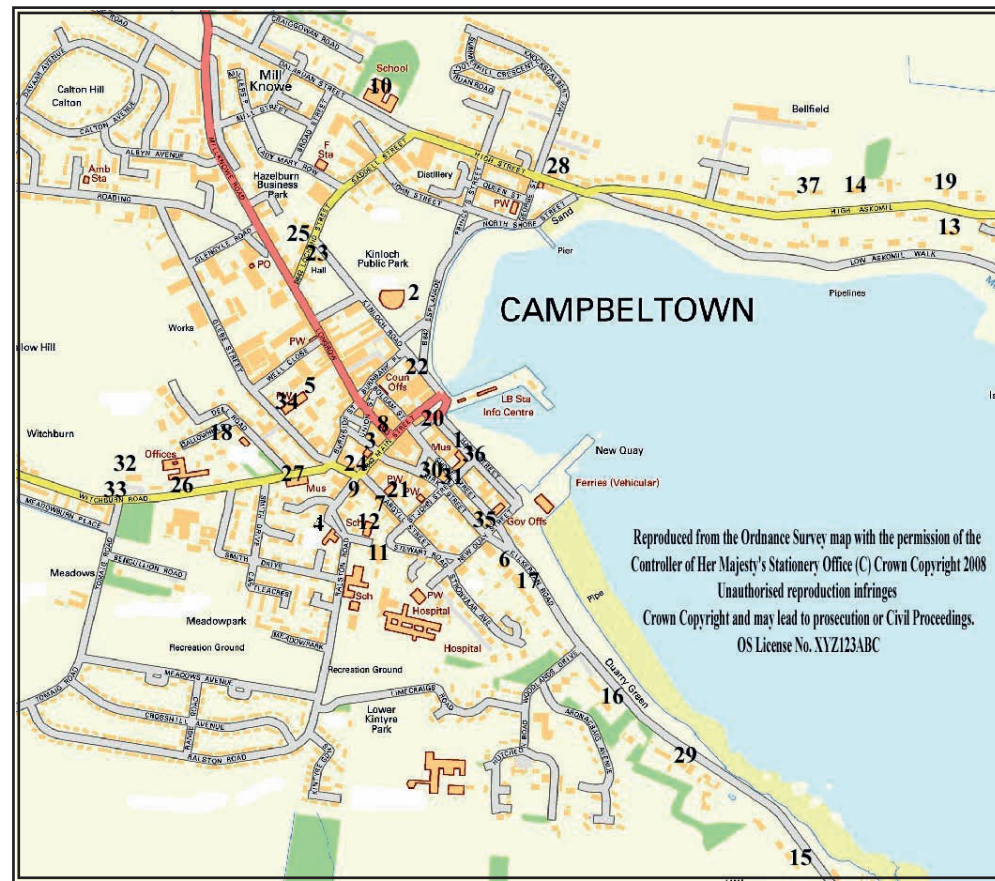
**[13] Craigard, Low Askomil**  
1882 H E Clifford  
Large Italianate villa with tower and east wing.  
Large bow window dominating the south façade.  
Arcaded windows on 1<sup>st</sup> floor with columnar mullions and channelled vousoirs.  
Built for William McKersie, junior, proprietor of Lochruan distillery.

**[17] Redcliffe, Kilkerran Road**  
1897 H E Clifford  
Asymmetrical façade  
Decorative coping stones mullioned bay windows.  
Shaped buttress at entrance.  
Art nouveau glass in entrance doorway.  
Overhanging eaves (used also in the Club 1898, Main Street).

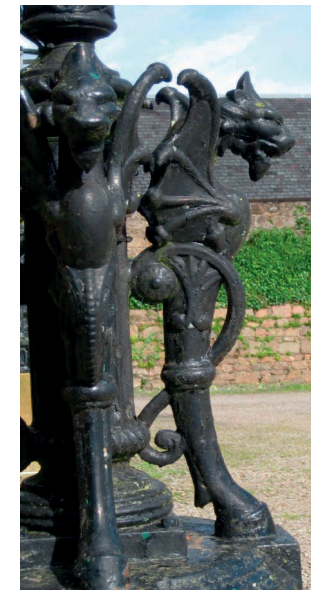
**[16] Redholme, Kilkerran Road**  
1896 H E Clifford (Grade A listed building)  
A fine example of a villa influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement.  
Asymmetrical design.  
Roughcast walls with sandstone dressings.  
2 storey Elizabethan hall window, mullioned and transomed.



**[37] Rothmar, High Askomil**  
(Grade A listed building) 1897 J J Burnet extended 1937  
2 storey, asymmetrical 4 bay American-style villa.  
Bull faced stonework with polished red sandstone dressings at windows.  
Attractive semicircular bow window with engaged Ionic columns.  
Built for William Broom, shipbuilder.



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**[5] Lorne and Lowland Church, Longrow**  
1869 J Burnet  
Italianate tower and crown spire financed by the distiller, John Ross  
Ornamental lamps gifted by the Dunlop family  
5 windows at the rear were the first stained glass ones in Campbeltown  
3 rounded entrance doors with pilasters and keystone feature  
Round arched windows throughout

**[21] The Old Rectory, Argyll Street**  
1885 H E Clifford  
3 bay asymmetrical Tudor gothic rectory  
Sloping gills to windows, hood moulding over entrance door  
Mullioned and transomed windows  
Decorative wrought iron gates with a hint of art nouveau  
Built for the Rector of the St Kieran's Scottish Episcopal Church.



**[30] Kirk Street Hall, Kirk Street**  
1706, restored 1904, H E Clifford  
Random rubble walls with dressed stone at windows  
Third window on left, entrance doorway and corbelled parapet at right, with crowstepped gable, all added in the 1904 restoration.  
Built for the Lowlanders who had settled in Campbeltown in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It is the oldest ecclesiastical building still in use in Campbeltown.



**[24] The Club, Main Street**  
1898 H E Clifford  
Built with red freestone from Lochabriggs quarry, Dumfriesshire.  
Dressed stone and also stugged honeycomb patterned stone.  
High quality construction and clever use of a corner site.  
Semi-octagonal plain base, corbelled out at ground floor level.  
Ogee-roofed corner tower with dentilled cornices at eaves.  
Transomed and mullioned windows.



**[8] Longrow South**  
1909 T L Watson  
Fine 3 storey tenement with bull faced stone work and red sandstone dressings.  
Circular and octagonal domed corner towers.  
Crenellated parapets and shallow bay windows.  
Keystone feature and flanking circlets in doorway lintels.  
Longrow South was created to sweep away the unsanitary conditions of the Wide Close which fronted Main Street.



**[7] Barochan Place, Argyll Street**  
1907 T L Watson  
Erected as a speculative housing venture by the architect.  
Watson's buildings were all designed "with conviction and impeccable taste"  
Bull faced stonework with sandstone dressings  
Corbelled bay windows  
Recessed columns  
Keystone feature projecting through open bottomed semi-circular pediments.

