



## Case information

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<b>Case ID</b>	300017972
<b>File Reference</b>	HGH/B/SG/103
<b>Name of Site</b>	Museum Building, Kelburn Castle Estate, Fairlie

<b>Local Authority</b>	North Ayrshire Council		
<b>National Grid Reference</b>	NS 21701 56610		
<b>Designation No. (if any)</b>	LB52409		
<b>Designation Type</b>	Listed Building	<b>Current Category of Listing</b>	n/a
<b>Case Type</b>	Amendment		

<b>Received/Start Date</b>	April 2016 [Kelburn Castle Estate Listing Review]
<b>Decision Date</b>	18/11/2016

## 1. Decision

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In our current state of knowledge, the Museum Building, Kelburn Castle Estate is considered to meet the criteria for listing at category C. The building has been designated (listed).

<b>Previous Statutory Address</b>	n/a
<b>New Statutory Address</b>	Museum Building excluding shelter addition to rear, Kelburn Castle Estate, Fairlie

## 2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

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### 2.1 Designation Background

The museum building is located within Kelburn Castle Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL00233).

### 2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals.

### 3. Assessment

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#### 3.1 Assessment information

The Museum Building was considered for listing as part of Kelburn Castle Estate Listing Review 2016.

Kelburn Castle and associated ancillary buildings and structures were visited on 06/04/2016.

#### 3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

The building was found to meet the criteria for listing.

A full assessment against the listing criteria was carried out. See **Annex A**.

*The designation criteria are published in the Historic Environment Scotland policy statement June 2016, Annex 2, pp. 51-53.*

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/planning-and-guidance/legislation-and-guidance/historic-environment-scotland-policy-statement/>

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## **ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Listing Criteria\***

### **Museum Building excluding shelter addition to rear, Kelburn Castle Estate, Fairlie**

#### **1. Description**

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Circa 1892-1908. Single storey, 3-bay, rectangular-plan, timber and corrugated iron museum building, located beside the Kel Burn to the south of Kelburn Castle.

The building has a gabled porch to the central bay. Timber barge-board eaves. Brick base. Brick end stacks with clay cans. There is decorative cast iron brattishing to the roof ridge and the porch. Timber-framed, 4-pane glazing to windows.

The interior, seen in 2016, has timber boarded walls and an A-frame timber ceiling with timber panelling. To each gable end are elaborately carved timber fireplace surrounds.

In accordance with Section 1 (4A) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 the following is excluded from the listing: shelter addition to rear.

#### **2. Assessment Against the Listing Criteria (HES Policy Statement, 2016) Annex 2, pp. 51-52**

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Criteria for determining whether a building is of 'special architectural or historic interest' for listing under the terms of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 [[www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/9/contents](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/9/contents)]

*To be listed, a building need not meet all the listing criteria. The criteria provide a framework within which judgement is exercised in reaching individual decisions.*

##### **2.1 Age and Rarity**

This corrugated iron and timber building located on the south side of the Kel Burn to the South of Kelburn Castle, is not shown on the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in 1855. Its footprint is shown in the present location, with porch projection to the south elevation, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in 1908. The 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Glasgow, David Boyle, succeeded to the earldom in 1890 and was Governor General of New Zealand from 1892 to 1897. It is understood that he erected this building in the grounds of Kelburn Castle to house his collection of artefacts brought back from New Zealand during his tenure as Governor. The building is therefore most likely to have been built between 1892 and 1908.

Kelburn is among the oldest ancestral country seats in Scotland to have been continuously inhabited by successive generations of one family, having been in possession of the Boyle family (formerly 'de Boyville') since the 12th century. Kelburn

has a prominent coastal setting to the south of the town of Largs, with views from the castle across the Firth of Clyde to the Isles of Cumbrae and Bute and southwest to the Isle of Arran. The Kel Burn runs through the estate, passing through a wooded ravine and over a 15 metre high waterfall into a naturally carved pool to the southwest of the castle.

Kelburn Castle, like Stair House in Ayrshire (LB14372) and Blair Castle in Perthshire (LB6074) is a multi-period building which demonstrates the transition from the medieval tower house tradition towards the new fashion during the Renaissance period for domestic, non-fortified buildings. The designs for these new buildings were classically inspired and often included a formal suite of rooms or apartments.

The medieval tower house section of the building, with stair towers at opposing corners forming the classic 'Z-plan' was remodelled circa 1580 for the then Laird of Kelburn, John Boyle incorporating fabric from earlier structures on the site. The later 17<sup>th</sup> century/early 18<sup>th</sup> century additions for David Boyle, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Glasgow, reflect the significant changes at large estates where remodelling along classical architectural lines followed the contemporary taste for formality and rationality, and catered to the owners' desire to improve their status by accommodating important guests and providing them opportunity for the conspicuous display of wealth and knowledge.

In 1869, the 6th Earl of Glasgow inherited Kelburn along with a number of other estates in Scotland and this coincided with a major phase of development and building improvement across the estate around this time including the building of new gate lodges and gatepiers, a new gardener's cottage, ghillie's house and kennels. Another significant extension to the castle was also added around this period.

The castle is the focal point within the Kelburn estate policies. The principal phases of addition are distinctly identifiable and the successive additions dating from the early Scottish Renaissance to the present day represent changing political and cultural values as well demonstrating a significant transition in Scottish domestic architecture.

The Museum Building at Kelburn Estate is a largely intact example of a turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century corrugated iron or 'tin' building. British engineer Henry Robinson Palmer recognised the potential of galvanised and corrugated sheet iron as a roof covering supported by a wooden frame in 1829. Corrugation involves shaping the iron in parallel furrows or flutes to increase strength and rigidity. As the technology to mass-produce building components developed during the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, coinciding with the coming of the railways, hundreds of easily assembled buildings constructed from corrugated iron were put up across the country to cater for a wide variety of purposes including drill halls, lodges, schoolrooms and village halls. Iron buildings were perhaps most commonly and conspicuously employed for use as rural churches, also known as 'tin tabernacles', as church congregations increased as a result of religious divisions and revivals during the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Tin buildings were often erected as a temporary measure while more substantial stone buildings were either being built or funding for them sought. Numerous companies formed to specialise in the design and manufacture of these iron and timber buildings and by the 1880s, clients could choose various designs and elements from a manufacturer's pattern book to suit their purposes and budget. The peak of production appears to have been between 1890 and 1900. Floors were usually of suspended timber, with the entire building normally sitting on a masonry or brick plinth, built prior to the arrival of the building. The corrugated iron buildings that survive reflect an important shift in engineering and manufacturing in Scotland and also contribute to our wider understanding of religious, social and economic change.

The rarity within this building type results from the fact that many were superseded by stone or brick structures. Very few examples survive in direct relation to the numbers built. The fact that some survive in a good state of repair shows that they are not only robust and long-lasting when routinely maintained, but also indicates that funds for buildings to replace them were not always found. Variations which distinguish certain examples from the more standard types can also add to the interest. The architectural and historic significance of early corrugated iron-clad buildings is increasingly widely recognised in terms of construction innovation, and through close associations with people and places.

The earliest known surviving corrugated iron building in Scotland is the 1851 'Iron Ballroom' (LB51479) on the Balmoral Estate, Aberdeenshire. Other examples that have been recognised through listing include St Fillan's Episcopal Church (1876) at Killin, Stirlingshire (LB46364), and Lamlash Community Centre (1914), North Ayrshire (LB49536).

While the company that manufactured the Museum Building at Kelburn Estate is not currently known, its design is closely akin to those produced by the firm of Frederick Braby and Company (established London, 1854 and Glasgow, 1874) who were among largest and most prolific producers of iron buildings in Scotland, employing 1700 men by 1880 and exporting iron buildings across the world. Corrugated iron was widely exported to Australia and New Zealand from the 1850s and has contributed to a distinctive regional architecture in those countries. The 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Glasgow's 5 year tenure as Governor General of New Zealand may have influenced the decision to use an iron building to house his collection.

The Museum Building at Kelburn Estate is a good surviving example of a corrugated iron building constructed to serve a distinct and unusual purpose as a museum and currently remains in use for its intended purpose, adding significantly to its cultural and historic interest. It is distinguished from many surviving examples of this building type by the survival of its ornamental ironwork to the ridge of the roof and to the porch, its large, horizontal roof lights to both sides of the roof pitch to allow additional light into the building, and its intact timber panelled interior. The corrugated iron Museum building is a distinctive component of a group of ancillary buildings at Kelburn Estate including stable offices, lodges and worker's cottages, charting the story and continuing development of Kelburn.

## 2.2 Architectural or Historic Interest

### *Interior*

The interior survives largely as constructed and includes unusual features such as a pair of ornately carved timber fireplaces, which add to its architectural interest.

### *Plan form*

The rectangular plan with single interior space and a projecting entrance porch is a typical form within the corrugated iron building type. The fireplaces at each end is a less common feature within the building type.

### *Technological excellence or innovation, material or design quality*

The relatively grand timber fireplaces, ornamental ironwork brattishing to the ridge of the roof and the porch, and its largely intact timber panelled interior and timber framed windows add to the material quality of this corrugated iron building.

### *Setting*

This corrugated iron building occupies the same location as it did when constructed circa 1900. It is part of a wider group of associated contemporary estate buildings which reflect the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century development of the estate.

### *Regional variations*

There are no known regional variations.

## 2.3 Close Historical Associations

None known at present.

Kelburn is among the oldest country seats in Scotland to have been continuously inhabited by successive generations of one family, the Boyles. People of significant social standing commissioned houses and developed their estates and the association with these people is not a significant factor in this assessment for listing.

## 3. Working with the Principles of Listing (HES Policy Statement, 2016) Annex 2, pp. 53

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In choosing buildings within the above broad headings particular attention is paid to:

- a. *special value within building types*
- b. *contribution to an architecturally or historically interesting group*
- c. *the impact of a grouping of buildings*
- d. *authenticity*

When working with the principles of listing the monument has particular interest under a, b and d.

a. The museum building is a distinctive surviving example of a corrugated iron building with ornamental ironwork brattishing to the ridge of the roof and the porch, and with large, horizontal roof light openings to both sides of the roof. The building serves a distinctive purpose and remains in use for its intended purpose. The pair of ornately carved timber fireplaces add to the architectural interest of the interior.

- b. The museum building contributes to the group of ancillary buildings and structures associated with Kelburn Castle which add collectively to the architectural and historic interest of the estate.
- d. The museum building survives largely unaltered, adding to its interest.

## 4. Summary of Assessment Against the Listing Criteria\*\*

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The Museum Building at Kelburn Estate is a notable example of a corrugated iron building and is among a relatively small number of good surviving buildings of this type. It was built to serve an unusual purpose as a museum and is largely unaltered from the date of its construction, currently remaining in its original use. It is distinguished within its building type by the survival of its ornamental ironwork to the ridge of the roof and to the porch and its intact timber panelled interior including a pair of ornately carved timber fireplaces. The corrugated iron museum building is a distinctive component of a group of ancillary buildings at Kelburn Estate including stable offices, lodges and worker's cottages.

## 5. Category of Listing

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Categories of listing are non-statutory and buildings are assigned a category (A, B or C) according to their relative importance following the assessment against the criteria for listing.

Category definitions are found at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/listed-buildings/what-is-listing/>

It is a good survival of a once standard building type. It has good surviving architectural details and a largely intact interior. Its function as a museum relating to New Zealand is unusual. It is considered that category C is the appropriate category of listing.

## 6. Other Information

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N/A

## 7. References

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Canmore: <http://canmore.org.uk/> CANMORE ID: 299850

### Maps

Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1855; published 1857) Ayrshire, Sheet VI (includes: Cumbrae; West Kilbride) 6 inch to 1 mile, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition. Southampton: Ordnance Survey

## Printed Sources

Smith, I. (2004) *Tin Tabernacles: Corrugated Iron Mission Halls, Churches and Chapels of Britain*, Camrose Organisation, Pembroke.

Surfleet, C. (1996) *The Ups and Downs of Corrugated Iron*, Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland Magazine - No.4, p.12

Close R. (1992) *Ayrshire and Arran - An Illustrated Architectural Guide* RIAS

Close R. and Riches A. (2012) *Buildings of Scotland – Ayrshire and Arran*. London: Yale University Press. pp.392-399

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\* This assessment is based on our current state of knowledge and has been prepared for the purpose of consultation or to provide a view on the special interest of a building. This assessment is a consultation document and will form the basis of any new or updated listed building record should the structure be listed. The content of this assessment may change to take into account further information received as a result of the consultation process.

\*\* A building may be found to meet the listing criteria but in some circumstances may not be added to the list. See 'When might Historic Environment Scotland list a building' at <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/listed-buildings/what-is-listing/>