

Thomson, Alexander 'Greek' 1817 - 1875



Alexander Thomson [commonly known as Alexander 'Greek' Thomson] was born in Balfron, Scotland on 9 April 1817. In c.1834 he began training as an architect in the office of Robert Foote in Glasgow. When, in 1836, Foote was forced to withdraw from architectural practice through ill health, Thomas transferred his articles to John Baird I (1798-1859) in Glasgow with whom he remained first as assistant and later as chief draughtsman for ten years

Thomson commenced practice as an architect in Glasgow in 1848 and that year formed a partnership with his brother-in-law John Baird II (1816-1892) as Baird & Thomson. The partnership was dissolved in 1857 and he formed a new partnership with his younger brother, George Thomson (1819-1878), A. & G. Thomson. The partnership was effectively dissolved in 1871 when George Thomson emigrated to the Cameroons to become a missionary. Thomson then went into partnership with Robert Turnbull (1839-1905) as A.G. Thomson & Turnbull.

Thomson began designing in the Greek Revival style early in his career and is with the neo-Greek idiom that his name has subsequently become associated. although he did not work exclusively in this style and there are neo-Egyptian influences in some of his buildings. His output was prodigious. The Dictionary of Scottish Architects 1660-1980 has identified over 200 architectural projects designed by or attributed to him, mainly in Glasgow and its suburbs. It included numerous villas and tenements, office buildings, churches, cemeteries, schools, shops and warehouses.

Thomson was actively involved in the Glasgow Architectural Society and the Glasgow Institute of Architects, and was President of both.

Throughout his career, he lived in Glasgow. He died at his home, 1 Moray Place, Strathbungo, Glasgow on 22 March 1875

Worked in

UK

Works

3-11 Dunlop Steet, Glasgow (1849); The Knowe, Pollokshields (1853); Pollok Burgh School, Pollokshaws, Glasgow (1855); Caledonia Road Church, Glasgow (1856-58); Queen's Park Terrace, Eglinton Street, Glasgow (1856-60); St Vincent Street Church, Glasgow (1857-9); Chalmers Free Church, Glasgow (1859); Moray Place in Strathbungo, Glasgow (1859-61); the Cairney Building in Bath Street, Glasgow (1860-61); Bucks Head Building, Glasgow (1863); Queen's Park Church, Glasgow (1867-69); Great Western Terrace, Glasgow (1867-77); "Egyptian Halls" in Union Street, Glasgow (1870-72); and Blackie's Printing Works, Glasgow (1871). He also designed a number of monuments for the Glasgow Necropolis including the Beattie Monument (c.1867); and the Inglis Monument (c.1868)

See also:

[Dictionary of Scottish Architects 1660-1980](#)

[Historic Environment Scotland](#) - 297 entries on Alexander Thomson [Type Alexander Thomson in the search box]

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