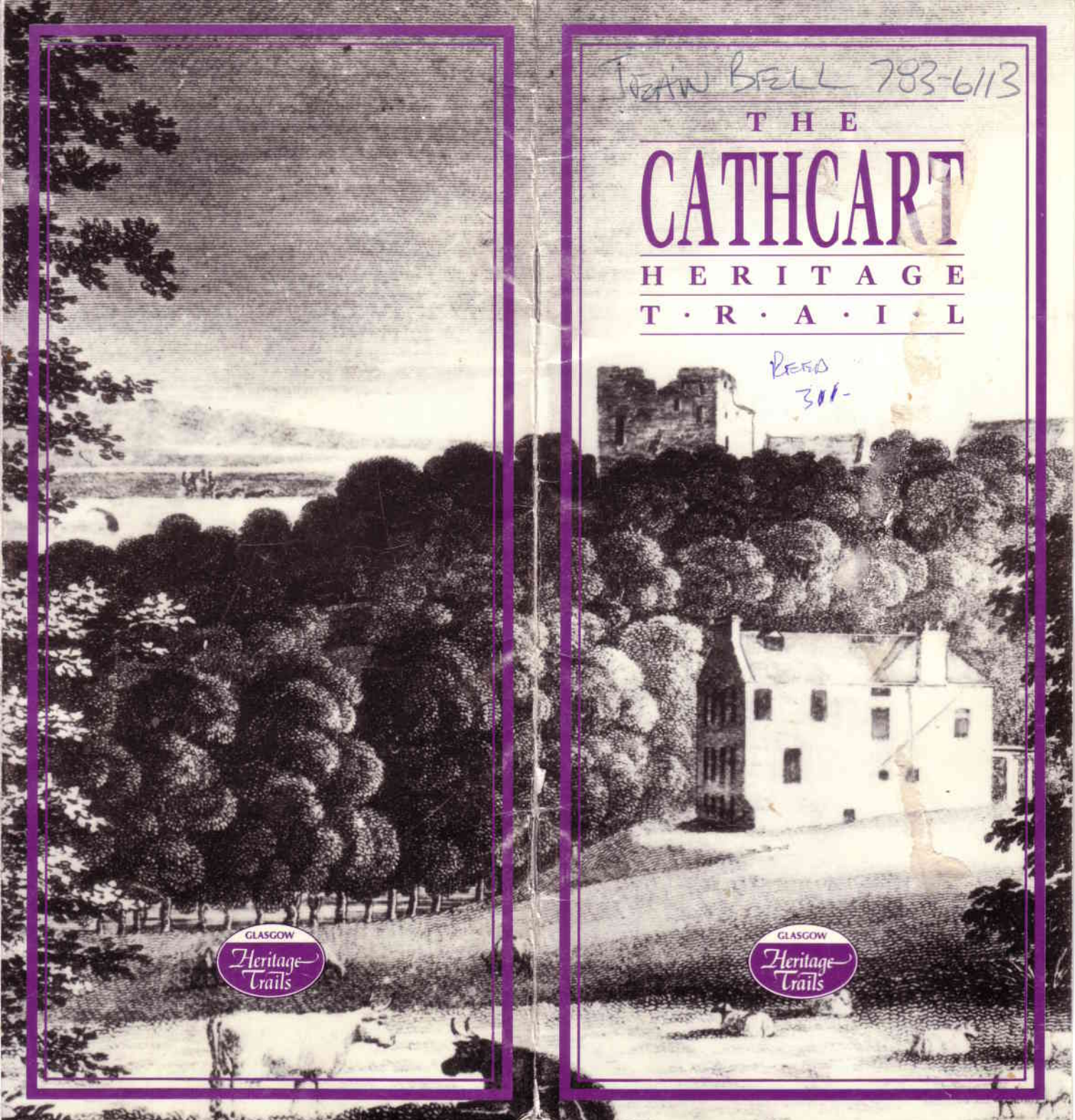


JEAN BELL 783-6113

THE  
**CATHCART**  
HERITAGE  
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## TOURIST INFORMATION

Cathcart is situated on the southern edge of Glasgow. Visitors can travel to the area by car or bus or by rail. The trail starts at the Couper Institute Library, at the north end of Clarkston Road.

**By Car:** Clarkston Road is the B767. From the City Centre follow signs for Mount Florida, Cathcart, Clarkston or Giffnock/Muirend.

**By Bus:** Buses to Clarkston, Cathcart and Muirend will often have routes using Clarkston Road.

**By Rail:** Trains on the Cathcart Circle leave Glasgow's Central station frequently. The Couper Institute and Library is a five minute walk from the station (unsuitable to wheelchair users — staircase at station platform).

Travel information is available at:-

Tourist Information Centre, Greater Glasgow Tourist Board, 35/39 St. Vincent Place, GLASGOW G1 2ER (Telephone: 041-204 4400)

PATERSON GROCERY STORE

SUCHHALL ST.



Patron Saint of Cathcart 604-642 AD

GORDON STEWART 63

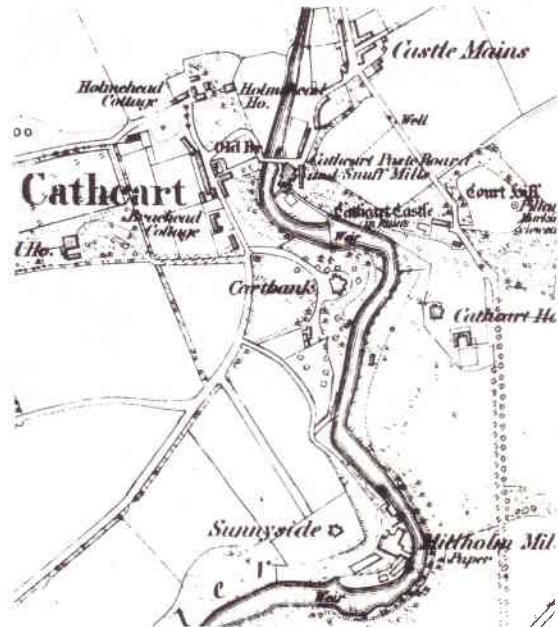


OLD CASTLE RD

BUTCHER

## CATHCART: A VILLAGE IN THE CITY

The name Cathcart is thought to be derived from the Celtic 'caer' meaning 'fort' and 'cart' meaning a fertilising stream. Cathcart used to be a small village on the banks of the White Cart. Its history goes back to the times of King David I of Scotland (1124-1153). The king gave Cathcart to Walter Fitzalan, a loyal knight who was appointed Great Steward of Scotland. In his turn, Fitzalan, divided his lands amongst other knights and Renaldus was given Cathcart. The Cathcart lineage continued with Sir William de Kerkert who, in 1296, signed the Ragman Roll thus swearing allegiance to Edward I, King of England. You will discover more about this noble military family later.



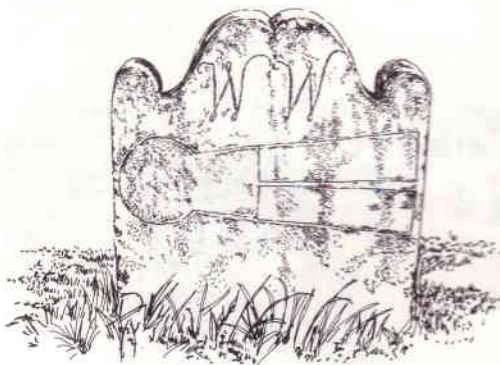
Circa 1858

Cathcart, and its neighbouring village, New Cathcart, developed as business people were attracted to the area to use the river for its power and its clean water. Grain mills, paper mills, dye and carpet works and an iron foundry were built on the riverbanks. The Victorians brought railways and, later, trams were introduced and new tenemental streets were laid out. Wealthy city folk, attracted by the rural village charm, built fine new villas between the two villages.

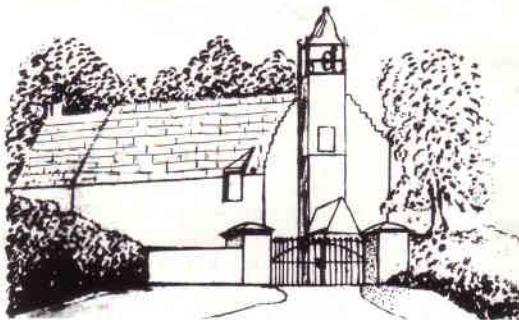
Today Cathcart is a bustling suburb in a large modern city. Despite losing some of its old industries and buildings, Cathcart still retains much of its identity as a village in a City.

## THE TRAIL

The trail starts in New Cathcart at the Couper Institute, Clarkston Road. It guides you first through the 'Victorian' parts of Cathcart showing where local industries developed, where the new tenemental city streets were laid out and where the 'garden suburbs' arose. Later you arrive in the older 'ancient' Cathcart. You are taken back to the time of Robert the Bruce, of castles, and hereditary armourers, old corn mills, ancient graveyards and the coming of Christianity. You finish the trail by walking through the 'garden' suburb of Victorian villas.



The Trail introduces you also to the famous families and well loved characters such as the Cathcarts, Halls and Coupers, Mary Queen of Scots, the missionary St Oswald and the popular 'dominie' Andrew Camduff and Granny Robertson.



Old Cathcart Parish Church c. 18th c

The trail will take about two hours and includes a one hour section through Linn Park. If you do not have the time you may visit this section of the trail on another occasion. Not all points of interest are accessible to disabled persons but nevertheless they can be viewed from nearby vantage points. The 'story' in the trail is not lost if you cannot reach all the sites and buildings.



Couper Institute and Library

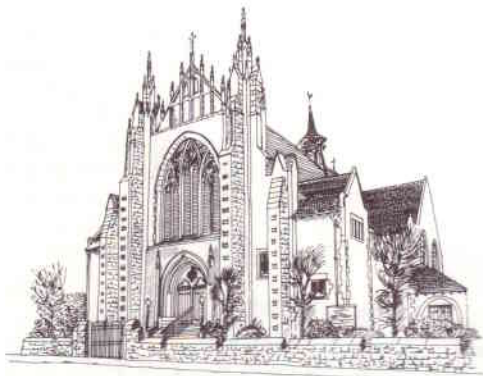
## THE NEW CATHCART SECTION

### 1. The Couper Institute and Cathcart South Church

The Couper Institute was erected in 1887 to provide a public hall, a reading room and a library. £8,000 was provided from a bequest by Robert Couper (see 17 & 18) to buy books and pay the wages of a librarian cum caretaker. In 1912, after Cathcart became part of the City, Glasgow Corporation altered the Institute and took responsibility for it. Miss Marion Couper, the last member of the family, carried on the tradition of local benefaction when she launched a fund raising campaign



to build what is now the Victoria Infirmary at Battlefield. Health services were virtually non-existent at that time on the south side of the City. The Couper family is buried in the old parish graveyard (see 13). Adjacent to the Institute is Cathcart South Church. The foundation stone was laid in 1893. The church was designed by W. G. Rowan. Walk past the Institute and on your left you will notice some modern flats.



Cathcart South Church

## 2. Thornbank House

The modern flats were built in the grounds of Thornbank House. This was a modest mansion and a home of one of the Geddes Brothers who owned the Carpet and Dye Works not far away on the banks of the Cart (see 5). Cross Monreith Road East, walk under the railway bridge and turn left into Newlands Road.



New Cathcart Church

## 3. New Cathcart Church

Soon on your left you will pass New Cathcart Church. This was designed by J. B. Wilson, and built in 1907. It is a late Gothic church with a 'pencil' tower.

## 4. The Holm Foundry

Across the road now you will notice the large building with an 'Art Deco' clock tower. This is the headquarters of Weir Pumps, now part of the Weir Group. The western part of the office block was built in 1912 and is an early example of a reinforced concrete building.



Weir's of Cathcart Offices

The Weir brothers, George and John, established the Holm Foundry here in 1886. The company they started is now world famous for manufacturing pumps of all shapes and sizes. Originally occupying only half an acre, the company bought out smaller local companies in order to expand. J. Weir (1843-1920) served his apprenticeship by working as a ship's engineer and later with marine engineering firms. His brother George was working in Liverpool. It was not until 1871 that the brothers went into partnership and eventually moved to Glasgow in 1873. They had no premises of their own and had their machine parts and pumps made by foundries at Hydepark in Springburn which were already making steam locomotives for the railways. The Weir brothers



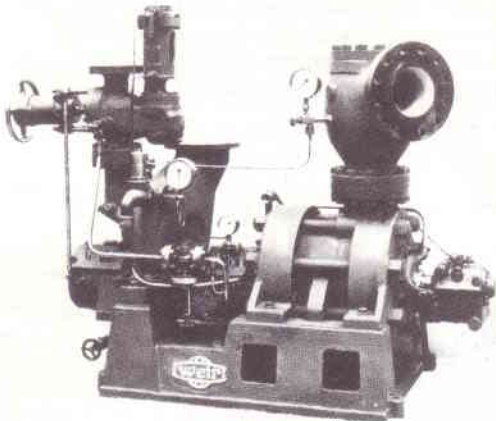
The Holm Foundry, 1904.

established their reputation as engineers when British shipbuilders were moving from sail to steam. The problem at the time was how to make steam with less coal and use its power more efficiently. The Weir partnership invented the 'Hydrokineter', a device for raising steam more cheaply, and pioneered 'regenerative feed heating' as a technique whereby cold water coming into a boiler was preheated by hot expanded steam com-



Turbine Machine Shop

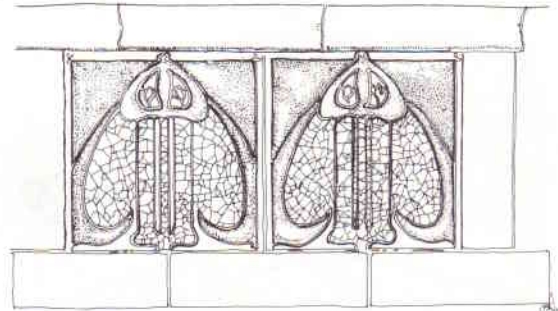
ing out of the boiler. The biggest development in steam power at the time was the compound engine which used the power of the expanding steam twice. Boilers were able to be operated at higher and higher pressures and the problems of corrosion of the boilers by hot sea water was reduced. The Holm Foundry also made pumps for many other installations including steam locomotives. The pumps were always noticeable for their 'wheeze and thump'.



Turbo-feed pump installed in RMS Queen Mary

## 5. The Geddes Carpet & Dye Works

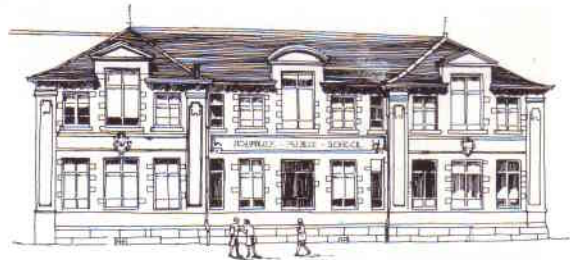
Retrace your steps and cross Newlands Road into Holmhead Place. You are now passing traditional Victorian tenements. The blocks of four-storey properties were erected on the site of the Geddes Brothers Carpet and Dye Works. Nearby there were cottages for their workers. Continue your walk alongside the River Cart in Holmhead Crescent and you will soon rejoin



Typical close tiles

Clarkston Road. Keep a look out for the different 'Wally Close' tiles in the tenements both here and elsewhere on the trail. A 'Wally Close' has ceramic tiles on the walls.

(NB. A close is a passage way giving access to upper storeys via a common, shared stairway).



Details of Holmlea School

## 6. Holmlea Public School

Turn left into Clarkston Road. Walk over the bridge and, on your left, you will see Holmlea Primary School. It was originally called Holmlea Public School (see the inscription on the wall facing you). It was opened by the Cathcart Parish School Board on 4th September 1908 for 500 children, to replace the overcrowded parish