Calton Heritage Trail
Route

The 3.7 kilometre Calton route crosses Glasgow Green and there are a few opportunities to stop for something to eat and drink and for toilet breaks. These facilities have been highlighted on the map below.

Calton Heritage Trail (Blue Route)

1. The Mercat Cross
2. The Tolbooth Steeple
3. The Mercat Building
4. Chrystal Bell & Co Building
5. J & G Melior Building
6. The Saracen’s Head
7. Site of the Former Saracen Foundry and Saracen Tool Works
8. The Lodging House Mission
9. Barrowland
10. William White & Son’s Clay Pipe Factory
11. Calton New Parish Church (now St Luke’s & St Andrew’s)
12. 2 Claythorn Street – Hielan’ Jessie
13. 4-7 Chalmers Gate
14. 480a & 480b Gallowgate – Former Commercial Bank
15. a+b – Meat and Cattle Markets and Associated Buildings
16. 447-451 (Odd Nos) Gallowgate and 4 Graham Square
17. St Mary’s R.C. Church
18. Abercromby Street Burial Ground, 309-341 Abercromby Street
19. Templeton Memorial Garden, London Road, Tobago Street
20. Glasgow Green Railway Station
21. Templeton’s Carpet Factory
Doulton Fountain
The People’s Palace
Monteith Row
St. Alphonsus R.C. Church
52 Charlotte Street
No. 74 Charlotte Street, former Our Lady and St. Francis Secondary School
Homes for the Future
Former Hide, Skin and Tallow Market
St. Andrew’s by the Green
Former Tent Hall
Tannery and Warehouse Building, St. Andrew’s Square
Former Central Police Station & Court
St. Andrew’s in-the-Square
Former Home for Destitute Children, 13-21 James Morrison Street and 2 St. Andrew’s Square
The suggested route will require walking along characteristically uneven ground and pathways. Suitable footwear should be worn, and it is advised that the more remote areas of the trail are visited during drier weather conditions.

Introduction

Glasgow is rightly recognised as one of the finest Victorian cities in the world with its industrial wealth, trading power and international position as the Second City of a huge empire reflected in a magnificent architectural heritage. Arguably the East End has perhaps not been recognised as much as other areas of the City for its contribution to Glasgow’s industrial and architectural heritage.

Unlike the West End of the city, which resulted from gradual urban expansion, the East End evolved from a series of small villages, Calton, Bridgeton, Shettleston, etc each with their roots as little weaving communities. As the local cottage industry was replaced by large scale powered mills, the East End became the city’s industrial powerhouse with the production of textiles at its core.

Although the buildings of those original weaving communities have long since been swept away, the radical tradition of the Weavers and pride in their heritage lives on. There is much of interest left in Calton and the visitor will be pleasantly surprised at the remarkable buildings on display here. Many fine buildings and monuments feature on the heritage trail and, despite alterations, and the accumulated pollution and grime of the passing years, the quality of their original design still shines through.

Listed Buildings

The majority of buildings on the trail are protected by inclusion in the Scottish Ministers List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. There are three categories of listed structures in Scotland. Broadly speaking Category A buildings are those of national or international importance; Category B buildings are those of regional importance or major examples which have been altered and Category C(S) are buildings of local importance or lesser examples of any period, style or building type and simple traditional buildings.

Bridgeton, Calton and Weaving (History)

Most of Bridgeton and Calton stand on land that was once the property of the Barrowfield Estate. The first record of the estate appears in 1513, and its mansion house stood in Bridgeton, near the top of what later became Hozier Street. The derelict mansion was used as a stone quarry in 1844. John Walkinshaw, a city merchant, bought Barrowfield Estate around 1670 and it was held by
his family until his grandson was obliged to sell it to the magistrates of Glasgow in 1723, following his involvement in the Jacobite uprising of 1715. From 1730 to 1788 it was the property of John Orr, and in 1795 it belonged to a merchant Hozier, both of whom are remembered in Bridgeton street names.

Calton stands on the site of the Gallowmuir, once an area of common land used, as its name suggests, for executions. It was sold by the city to John Walkinshaw in the early eighteenth century and united with Barrowfield holdings. The development of a village at Calton began in 1705, and by 1722 both weaving and pottery making had been introduced.

In the villages of Calton and Bridgeton the weaving of linen on handlooms was a cottage industry, and in 1819 accounted for 40% of the workforce of both places. Most ground floor property in Bridgeton was occupied by handlooms, and bleaching fields surrounded the village including those on Glasgow Green. The handloom weavers were originally independent artisans, but by the late eighteenth century most were employed by large manufacturers who paid them set rates. It was effectively piece-work, with the weavers still working from their own homes.

Calton is ever identified with weaving, and the history of its weavers is turbulent, the strike of 1787 being the most notable event. Manufacturers cut weavers’ wages and threatened that more cuts would follow. On 30 June 1787, thousands of weavers from the West of Scotland met on Glasgow Green and agreed not to accept starvation wages. Employers retaliated by locking them out. The strike dragged on for two months, by which time some weavers were in such dire straits that they gave in.

Calton became a burgh in 1815 with a provost, three bailies, a treasurer and eleven councillors. Two years later it had its own police force and had annexed the village of Mile-End. Independence ended in 1846 when it became part of Glasgow.

Tureen Street in Calton, (from the French terrine, an earthen vessel) had several potteries, one belonging to Frenchman Robert Bagnall. In 1779, at the time of the anti-popery demonstrations orchestrated from London by Lord George Gordon, a mob destroyed his home and factory for no lesser a crime than allowing his employees to work on a Kirk fast day. Bagnall had also a shop in King Street (City) which met the same fate. Later the Council compensated him for his losses.
THE CALTON HERITAGE TRAIL

This trail will take you approximately 2 hours to follow the trail starting from Glasgow Cross through Calton and back again.

The trail begins at the Mercat Cross at historic Glasgow Cross, the core of the medieval city of Glasgow. Visitors who wish a greater understanding of Glasgow’s medieval history and development should consult the Medieval City Map produced by Glasgow City Council – http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/en/AboutGlasgow/History/medievalcitymaptrail.htm.

Item 1 – The Mercat Cross

The Mercat Cross in a medieval burgh was originally a place where merchants would gather and markets were held, and later became the focal point of many public town events such as announcements, proclamations and executions. Glasgow over the centuries probably had a number of mercat crosses, the precise locations of which are unknown but were probably located near to Glasgow Cross or possibly near the junction of Castle Street and Rottenrow. The new cross situated here is a modern interpretation of a traditional 17th Century Scottish burgh cross. It was commissioned in 1927 by antiquarian Dr William Black and his wife and was inaugurated on 24 April 1930 amid much ceremony.

The traditional appearance of the cross hides the fact that its core was constructed in modern concrete and is simply faced in stone. The structure takes the form of an octagonal tower with the cross, surmounted by the unicorn of Scotland holding a shield rising from it. A bronze plaque on the western side states that this is The Mercat Cross of Glasgow, built in the year of grace 1929. Above that is the coat of arms of the city with its motto Let Glasgow Flourish. On the eastern side is the motto of the Order of the Thistle and Kings of Scotland NEMO ME IMPUNE LACESSIT ( No one provokes me with impunity ). Above the motto is a saltire and a decorative panel with thistles. On the balcony is a Scottish shield with another Latin inscription NON CRUX SED LUX ( Not the cross, but the light )

The construction of the Mercat Cross is considered as a significant triumph for Scottish women involved in the arts, as the building was designed by Scotland’s first practising female architect, Edith Mary Burnet Hughes (1888–1971). A woman sculptor also modelled the detail, namely Margaret Cross Primrose Findlay and a vellum booklet listing all those involved in the project was created by...
Helen A. Lamb. This booklet was placed in a lead casket and inserted in a cavity in the wall. The Cross is listed at Category B.

North of the Mercat Cross, on a little traffic island in the middle of a busy junction stands

Item 2 – The Tolbooth Steeple

The Tolbooth Steeple is the focal point of Glasgow Cross, one of the major junctions of the city where the principal medieval streets - High Street, Saltmarket, Trongate and Gallowgate all meet. The steeple is the only surviving part of the 17th Century tolbooth building, built between 1626 and 1634, which was the centre of civil administration within the Burgh of Glasgow and contained the Town clerk’s office, the council hall and the burgh’s prison.

The massive square tower has seven different stages and is topped by a parapet supporting an impressive stone crown with a gilded weathervane. A prominent feature of the design is a crown or cross ribs, as in ground arching. This lantern-formed feature belongs almost exclusively to Scotland and rarely occurs further south than Newcastle. In Scotland it is found at St Giles, Edinburgh, King’s College, Aberdeen, and a homage can be identified in the architecture of the Stewart Memorial Fountain in Kelvingrove Park.

The last stage of the tower below the parapet contains 4 huge square clock faces. David Hamilton’s five-storey tolbooth building which adjoined the tower to the west was demolished in 1921. The tower contains a carillon of one large bell and sixteen smaller bells, cast by Messrs John Wilson and Co.’s Gorbals Foundry and set in place in 1881. The bells used to be rung daily but are now only rung on Hogmanay to celebrate the arrival of a new year. The Tollbooth Steeple is a Category A listed building.

Behind the Mercat Cross, at the gusset (fork) between Gallowgate and London Road is...

Item 3 - The Mercat Building

This massive, six-storey commercial building was built between 1928 and 1933. It was designed by the New Zealand–born architect Andrew Graham Henderson (1882-1963) who succeeded Charles Rennie Mackintosh as partner to John Keppie. The building displays some rich architectural sculpture by some of the leading Scottish exponents of the art - Archibald Dawson, Benno Schotz and Alexander Proudfoot.

The allegorical female figures on the Gallowgate elevation, executed by Dawson, represent Industry (holding a hammer and cog wheel) and Shipbuilding (holding a model ship). Schotz’s sculpture on the Glasgow Cross elevation represents Painting, portrayed as a nude female figure holding a palette, and Sculpture, a nude male figure holding a mallet and chisel with a partly worked block of stone. On the London Road elevation Proudfoot’s two naked females represent Literature and Science. The
Mercat Building is listed at Category A

At the Mercat Building take the left hand fork and proceed along Gallowgate. Immediately across the street is

**Item 4 - Chrystal Bell & Co Building**

Notable for its corner tower with a leaded dome, the Italianate 3-storey and attic tenement on the corner of Gallowgate and Watson Street was probably built around 1880 by the architect James Hamilton (c1826-1894). The ground floor accommodates the Chrystal Bell & Co public house.

When first opened, this popular dining establishment was known as Rutherfords and employed twenty one waiters and two well dressed ushers who would guide businessmen and their families into the premises. In 1904, it was taken over and became a joint venture for two enterprising Glasgow families the Bells and the Chrystals who had formed a joint company in 1892. The Bell family were well known Glasgow butchers and flesher and the Chrystal family were established wine and spirit merchants. At this time the establishment changed its name to Chrystal Bell & Co. After a few years trading as The Royal Albert, the pub’s Edwardian name was restored in 1993. The building is listed at category B.

Passing under the railway bridge the colourfully named **Shipka Pass** is on your right hand side.

The real Shipka Pass is an important route through
the Balkan Mountains in Bulgaria. It was the scene, in 335 BC, of an important victory by Alexander the Great who drove back a force of the Triballi, a warlike Thracian people. Glasgow’s Shipka Pass is probably named after the significant battles which took place there, in 1877-78, during the Russo-Turkish War when, on four occasions, joint Russian and Bulgarian forces successfully repulsed the invading Ottoman army.

On the opposite side of the road, on the site of the present-day car park, stood one of the city’s most impressive tenement buildings. This huge 4-storey pile occupied the whole street block and was a riot of exuberant detailing with French pavilion roofs with cast-iron crests, continuous first floor balcony ironwork, overhanging dormer windows and an ornate tapering corner tower to the west. This block became run-down and was demolished in the early 1980s.

Continue eastward along Gallowgate

**Item 5 - J & G Melior Building**

At the corner of Gallowgate and Little Dovehill stands a 5-storey Victorian tenement with some fine classical detailing, particularly above and around the windows. The stone above its curved corner bay is inscribed ‘J & G Melior Building’ and reveals that it was constructed around 1879. The architect of this Category C(S) Listed Building was James Milne Monro (1840-1921).

*Continuing along Gallowgate, after another street block, we come across, on your left hand side*

**Item 6 – The Saracen’s Head**

The Saracen’s Head (known popularly as the ‘Sarry Heid’) Public House has occupied this site since 1754 although this is not the original building. Legend has it that the original Saracen’s Head Inn was built from stones extracted from the ruins of the Bishop’s Castle, by permission of the magistrates of that day. The Inn was for many years the principal
hotel of the city, and was much patronised by the local nobility and also by distinguished visitors to the city, including Robert Burns and William Wordsworth.

In 1773, Dr. Samuel Johnson entertained a number of college professors to breakfast on his return from his tour to the Hebrides. The inn was also the original terminus of the mail coach from London. The Saracen’s Head building is not listed.

*Continue along Gallowgate and turn immediately left into East Campbell Street.*

**Item 7 – Site of the Former Saracen Foundry and Saracen Tool Works**

On the lands of Dovehill, behind the Saracen’s Head Inn, the legendary Saracen Foundry was started on this site in 1851 by Walter Macfarlane. The firm flourished and moved to larger works erected in Washington Street in 1862, then moved again in 1872 to extensive custom built works at Possilpark, which covered nearly twelve acres of ground. The Foundry was internationally renowned for the beauty of its ornamental iron castings. Saracen Foundry bandstands, fountains and other decorative ironwork pieces are still to be found in the far-flung corners of the former British Empire. Three of the key partners of the Saracen Foundry are interred in the Glasgow Necropolis along with a number of other important figures representing Scotland’s iron manufacturing legacy.
The last surviving part of the massive Saracen Tool Works site is the substantial red brick block on your left hand side. Alex Mathieson & Son’s Saracen Tool Works began in 1792 and once occupied almost the entire street block. The firm produced high quality edged tools for the building trade and other industries. In 1898 they commissioned the architects Honeyman & Keppie to add to their existing complex of buildings. The drawings for the project were produced by the firm’s young assistant, Charles Rennie Mackintosh (1868–1928). Sadly the Mackintosh building has been demolished and replaced by modern housing.

*Beyond the Saracen Works building, on the left hand side of East Campbell Street is*

**Item 8 – The Lodging House Mission**

This is a former United Presbyterian Church, built 1863–4 by the architects John Haig (c1830–1900) & David Paton Low (1827–1910). To the right of the church stands its smaller and earlier vestry, with its halls and a schoolroom.

Today the Lodging House Mission operates as a Christian Day Centre, Drop-In Cafe and Church for Glasgow’s homeless, hostel dwelling and resettling communities. The Mission, whose Italian palazzo style façade is faced with giant Doric pilasters, is listed at Category B.

*Retrace your steps down East Campbell Street.*

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*Retrace your steps down East Campbell Street.*
Returning to Gallowgate the jazzy neon sign of the Barrowland Ballroom and the famous Barras Market are visible directly across the street.

This is now the present site of Glasgow Barrowland (now affectionately known as “the barras”) whose proud boast is that you can buy almost anything there.

“Oh The Barras, oh The Barras
They’re no in Rome or Paris
You will huv tae go tae Glesca’s Gallowgate
They sell tickets tae the moon
An’ a return fur hauf a croon
An’ five bob guarantees a first class seat”

The Barrowland Ballroom opened on December 24th 1934 and since then, as well as providing many Glaswegians with a happy night’s dancing has since become one of the most popular venues for emerging and established musical acts on the UK rock and blues circuit.

Continue along Gallowgate and take the second turning right into Bain Street.

Item 10 – William White & Son’s Clay Pipe Factory

The exuberant red and white brick buildings, which also turn around the corners into Moncur Street and Gibson Street are the remains of what was formerly White’s clay pipe factory established on this site in the 1820s. These three blocks, now free standing, were once linked by a 2-storey block of similar appearance which contained the main entrance to the factory. It is thought that the building was to be built in stone but, for reasons of economy, brick was eventually decided upon. Built in 1876-79, the factory was one of the few Glasgow works of the Airdrie-born architect Matthew Forsyth (1850-1880). Forsyth was an architect of great promise who died tragically young, after being in practice for around seven years. This complex of buildings is now in use as commercial premises and private residences and is listed at Category B.

Item 11 - Calton New Parish Church (now St Luke’s & St Andrew’s)

On the opposite side of Bain Street from the pipe factory is the well-proportioned classical façade of Calton New Parish Church, the parish church of West Calton, designed by James Wyllson (1811-
1870). It is one of the oldest surviving churches of the area and was built in 1836-7 as St. Luke’s Established Church. The architect David Thomson altered and extended the church in 1874 and then in 1886 added the church halls (since demolished). The church was ravaged by fire in 1924 and its interior reconstructed by James Milne Monro & Son. The congregation merged with that of St. Andrew’s Parish Church when that church was vacated in the 1990s (see Item 33). St Luke’s & St Andrew’s is a Category B Listed Building.

Return to Gallowgate and turn right. Further along Gallowgate at the corner of Claythorn street is

**Item 12 – 2 Claythorn Street – Hielan’ Jessie**

One of two rare surviving 18th Century Scottish vernacular buildings in this part of the city. Both are three storeys high with additional accommodation in the attic. On the corner of Claythorn Street and Gallowgate sits the Hielan’ Jessie public house, popular with traditional music enthusiasts. This was built, according to the datestone, in 1771.

The building is constructed of harled brickwork and has a prominent central chimney stack emerging from the gable on the front elevation. The building was refurbished as flatted accommodation in 1983 when the side entrance to Claythorn Street was formed.

Horatio McCulloch (1805-1867), one of the outstanding landscape artists of his day, was born above the public house. McCulloch trained in the
studio of the Glasgow landscape painter John Knox (1778–1845) for about a year before earning his living painting scenery in a theatre, decorating snuffboxes and then working as an engraver. After a brief spell in Edinburgh he returned to Glasgow in 1827 and developed his own style of landscape painting. He was elected to the Royal Scottish Academy in 1838. That same year he returned to Edinburgh where he lived for the rest of his life. His principal subjects were largely rugged and romantic West Highland landscapes. Examples of McCulloch’s work can be found in Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum and in the National Gallery of Scotland.

Hielan’ Jessie’s is listed at Category B.

On the opposite side of Claythorn Street is

Item 13 – 4-7 Chalmers Gate

Nos 4-7 Chalmers Gate is a building of similar appearance to the above and is also dated 1771.

This building has a symmetrical window pattern to the Gallowgate elevation and a prominent nepus gable with two windows at attic level. Like the building above it was renovated as flats in 1983 and forms part of a housing development created at that time. Both this building and the Hielan’ Jessie have traditional turnpike stairs to the rear. This building is listed at Category B.

Continue eastward along Gallowgate to its junction with Elcho Street

Item 14 – 480a & 480b Gallowgate – Former Commercial Bank

On your right, on a corner site at 480 Gallowgate, stands the small Art Deco style former Gallowgate branch of the Commercial Bank whose bucranium
(bull’s head) decoration on the tower betrays its origins on this site. The bank was designed to serve the customers and traders at Glasgow’s Cattle Market which once occupied a huge area on the opposite side of Gallowgate. As befits a bank it is faced in respectable polished grey and black granite. The bank was designed by James McCallum, the Commercial Bank’s Master of Works, in 1936 and was recently subdivided to form two separate houses. The building is listed at Category B.

Carefully make your way across Gallowgate where you will find

**Item 15a+b – Meat and Cattle Markets and Associated Buildings**

Little remains of the buildings of Glasgow’s enormous cattle and meat market complex. At Moore Street and Graham Square the principal gateways into the former meat market have been retained and now form part of modern housing developments. At Moore Street stands a giant arched entrance-way, formerly the entrance to the meat market, flanked by twin Doric columns and surmounted by a deep classical pediment. Similar entrances are retained on Graham Square.

The principal entrance to the cattle market complex on Graham Square is equally impressive, consisting of a giant central gateway flanked by two lower pedestrian openings. The central gateway is surmounted by a clock and the keystone bears the head of a mythological figure. The animal head keystones in the other classical facades betray their original use. These massive entrances are probably the work of the City Architect John Carrick (1819-1890) and were built around 1875.
To the right of the main gateway stood an 18th century inn, once the haunt of cattle dealers and drovers, but now part of the housing development which won a Saltire Award in 2001.

In front of the principal entrance to the Market is the bronze statue, Calf by local sculptor Kenny Hunter, installed here in 2000. The surviving elements of the Cattle and Meat Market are listed at Category B.

**At the corner of Gallowgate and Graham Square is...**

**Item 16 – 447-451 (Odd Nos) Gallowgate and 4 Graham Square**

This interesting four-storey, Category C(S)-listed, red sandstone tenement was designed by Frank Burnet & Boston and dates from 1912. The building’s flat roof provides a clothes drying area for residents and originally housed a washhouse in the corner turret. A modern cap house was added in 1993 by the architects McGurn, Logan & Opfer for the Reidvale Housing Association. The Drovers Public House at ground floor level has slaked the thirst of many generations of farmers and market employees. This building occupies the site of a Victorian cotton mill.

*Continue east along Gallowgate and take the first right into Abercromby Street.*

**Item 17 – St Mary’s R.C. Church**

On the left hand side of Abercromby Street, at the junction with Forbes Street, and standing out splendidly amid the modern housing, is the superb classical St Mary’s R.C. Church. Designed by the London-based architectural practice of Goldie and Child in 1841 it was said to be the largest Roman Catholic Church in Scotland after St Andrew’s Cathedral when built. The large pediment contains...
the sculptured figures of two angels supporting a cross and is surmounted by a slim bell tower. This impressive structure with its elaborate although much altered interior is listed at Category A. It is the only church in the Archdiocese with a crypt containing the remains of two bishops and twelve priests, five of whom died during an epidemic of typhus in 1847. Celtic Football Club was started here in 1888 by Brother Walfrid and a group of parishioners who founded a charity in 1887 to care for the poor and provide a social outlet for men in the area.

Continue south down Abercromby Street

Item 18  Abercromby Street Burial Ground, 309-341 Abercromby Street

Further south on Abercromby Street stands the historical burial ground established by the Calton Incorporation of Weavers in 1787. This cemetery is also known as the Calton Burial Ground and also as the Calton Weaver’s Cemetery. It contains a fine series of 18th and 19th century stone monuments within its rubble-built enclosure walls. This significant cemetery contains a remarkable “Martyrs” monument, to those Weavers killed by the military during a dreadful strike in 1787. The original burial ground was expanded in 1822, approximately doubling in size.

Weaving was a mainstay of the economy of the village of Calton in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. For a period in the first half of the nineteenth century, the village was actually a Barony or Burgh. Its Coat of Arms displayed three cats with shuttles in their mouths. The shuttle was used as a weaver’s tool.


Just a month or so after the opening of the graveyard, a crisis overtook the weaving trade in Glasgow. The East India Company was importing cheap Indian muslins. This, in November 1786, had caused a price drop in Scottish cloth and a six to seven shilling cut in weavers’ wages.

The manufacturers announced that further wage cuts would be made in June 1787. On the last day of that month, thousands of weavers held a meeting on Glasgow Green and resolved not to work for starvation wages.
The strike dragged on for three months. The plight of the weavers’ families became more and more desperate. Some broke ranks and took on work at the low rate, and were attacked by men still holding out.

The Lord Provost of Glasgow and his magistrates received word on the 3rd of September that a crowd was ripping cloth from looms of the strike-breakers. They arrived at Calton, intending to intervene, only to be pelted with bricks. The magistrates then sent for the military and intimidating reinforcements in the shape of the 39th Regiment of Foot, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Kellet, arrived on the scene.

There was a short pitched battle before the soldiers fired into the crowd. Three weavers were shot dead and three were mortally wounded. Others suffered superficial wounds. But the sporadic fighting soon died out and the strike was eventually ‘broken’.

Three of the dead weavers JOHN PAGE, ALEXANDER MILLER and JAMES AINSLEY, were buried in lair 83 of the original (i.e. north) section in 1787 - over 6,000 people attended the funeral. Two tablets on the wall tell the story of that dreadful day of strife. There was no memorial stone until the 1830s – this was renovated/rededicated in 1931 and the second stone added. These memorials were removed in 1957 and erected in the south section of the graveyard to make the Weavers’ Memorial as it is today. Of the other three weavers, it is said that one was buried in the Ramshorn and two in the Gorbals.

From the weavers’ stone, move over to the south boundary wall and there look for the polished stone of one JOHN MONTGOMERIE and his wife, ELIZA HAMILTON, just a few metres along from the corner.

John Montgomerie was an engineer with the Caledonian Railway at Perth. He died aged 79, in July 1908. Eliza died 7 years before him in March 1901, aged 81. They had been married for 58 years. It states simply on their stone *Psalm 23. The Lord was their Shepherd. They did not want. Surely goodness and mercy followed them all the days of their lives*.

Just a few steps out from the south wall, and nearer the weavers’ grave, an obelisk-type gravestone marks the graves of young divinity students of the nineteenth century. ROBERT MITCHELL was only 20 years old when he died in October 1846.

Pass through the opening in the partition wall into the north section and, up near to the north-east corner, look for the modest memorial to another divinity student, JAMES MUSHET, who died on Midsummer’s day, June 1819. The inscription on young Mushet’s gravestone gives pause for thought: ‘That life is long which answers life’s great end.’

Walk back along the diagonal line from north-east corner of the north section to the south-west corner. Cross the path and look out for another obelisk memorial. Here lie the mortal remains of Abraham Lincoln’s minister Reverend JAMES SMITH DD who was born the son of Glasgow couple, Peter and Margaret Smith, on 11th May 1798.
James Smith was one divinity student who survived to undertake a ministry of 40 years abroad in America. He was pastor to President Abraham Lincoln.

He returned to Scotland before the end of the American Civil War, but so high a regard did Lincoln have for him that he appointed James Smith US Consul in Scotland. His office was in Dundee. James Smith died in Dundee on the 3rd of July 1871 and was brought home to lie in the Calton Burying Ground.

The much photographed tombstone of Rev. James Smith states simply:

- Rev. James Smith D.D.
- Son of Peter and Margaret Smith
- Was born at Glasgow May 11 A.D. 1798
- Minister of the Gospel for forty years
- In the
- United States of America
- In his declining years he was appointed
- U.S. Consul at Dundee
- By Abraham Lincoln
- Whose Pastor he had been
- And where he departed this life
- July 3rd a.d. 1871
- A sinner saved by grace

A stark warning is depicted on the tombstone of Robert Shaw, Calton 1806. It bluntly states: Remember death.

Probably the oldest person to be buried in this cemetery was Agnes Murdock who died at 106 years of age in 1928.

The Category B listed Abercromby Street cemetery was restored by Clyde Gateway in 2010.

Follow Abercromby Street as it sweeps round to the right and meets London Road. Turn right onto London Road and at its junction with Tobago Street is...

**Item 19 – Templeton Memorial Garden, London Road, Tobago Street**

The memorial garden commemorates those who lost their lives in the “Fall of Templeton’s New Mill”, today part of the Templeton’s Business Centre, located across the street from the garden. In 1889 gale force winds brought down the wall of the large four-storey building in course of erection as an addition to the carpet factory of Messrs James Templeton, sending it crashing through the roof of the adjoining weaving shed where about 140 female workers were at the time employed.
women were killed in the tragedy. (See also Item 21).

A commemorative plaque mounted on the inside wall of the memorial garden reads:

Green buds, for the hope of tomorrow
Fair flowers, for the joy of today
Sweet memory, the fragrance they leave us
As time gently flows on its way
Sep 1954

leave the garden and continue west along London Road. Take the second left into Binnie Place towards the entrance to Glasgow Green.

Item 20 – Glasgow Green Railway Station

On your left are the surviving surface walls of the Glasgow Green Railway Station. The station was on the Glasgow Central Line and was built around 1890 by the Caledonian Railway Co. It ultimately closed to rail traffic in 1953.

Continue into Glasgow Green.

Item 21 – Templeton’s Carpet Factory

As you emerge onto Glasgow Green the spectacular Venetian gothic façade of Templeton’s Carpet Factory is visible to your left.

The factory was built in stages but its most memorable component is architect William Leiper’s spectacular Venetian gothic façade, modelled on the Doge’s Palace, Venice, which makes up the west elevation and was designed to advertise the grandeur of Templeton’s products.

A carpet factory was founded on this site in 1857, the earliest range being in an old cotton mill built in 1823. It was added to at various times over the next twenty five years before Leiper’s dramatic additions in 1889.

The principal façade is a riot of red terra cotta, multicoloured bricks and faience tiles while the other elevations were mainly of simple red brick. The exquisite brickwork on the main façade is the work
of the noted Glasgow builder James Goldie (1844-1913). Goldie’s intention at Templeton’s factory was to mimic the brilliant colours of the carpets woven there and reflect these hues in the exterior of the building, particularly the section derived from the Doge’s Palace in Venice. The colours chosen were crimson, red, deep blue, sand, white, green and yellow and the textiles equally varied: brick, terracotta, enamel, sandstone and glazed bricks. This was Goldie’s masterpiece and for many years bricklayers’ apprentices were brought to study the techniques he had used.

William Leiper (1839-1916) had to overcome initial opposition from the City Council who were reluctant to have a factory sited on the Green, hence the need for an outstanding piece of architecture. At the time of its construction it caused no little controversy and elicited comments from contemporary critics like “rather startling” and “the colours are harmonious, if rather louder than one is used to”.

This exuberant addition to Glasgow’s streetscape came at a heavy price. As the spectacular façade was under construction it was hit by a severe gust of wind and, not being properly tied to the wall of the weaving shed behind, collapsed down on it. The Glasgow Herald of 2nd November 1889 reported on the event:-

“The catastrophe in Glasgow did not take place during the height of the gale which must have been reached about three or four o’ clock in the afternoon but shortly after five, when its severity had somewhat moderated. Templeton’s new mill, a handsome structure which has been in course of erection for the last eighteen months in the neighbourhood of the Green, suddenly collapsed without the slightest warning, the floors falling inward, while huge pieces of masonry forming the western wall were hurled on the top of the weaving sheds connected with the old mill which this modern building was intended to replace. The masons and other workmen had left the new premises but a large number of girls—as many, it is estimated, as one hundred and forty —were busily engaged in the sheds” It was first estimated that around 50 weavers had lost their lives, in fact the final death toll was 29, most of them young girls. (See also Item 19).

The factory was substantially expanded in the 1920s and 1930s by the architect George Boswell who, in 1936, also added the southern range facing Glasgow Green. Boswell’s extension is a homage to Leiper’s frontage, again using coloured brickwork and tiles, but in a contemporary Art Deco style. The disused factory was converted between 1980 and 1985 to a business centre with its inner ranges demolished at that time to form a courtyard. More recently part of the former factory has undergone a further conversion to residential accommodation and the **WEST brewery** has opened a brewery, bar and restaurant within the complex. This is one of Glasgow’s great iconic buildings and is listed at Category A.

*Continue down the path and turn right*
Item 22 – Doulton Fountain

Before you stands the beautifully restored Doulton Fountain. This elaborate terra-cotta fountain was designed by A E Pearce of Doulton’s for the 1888 Glasgow Exhibition in Kelvingrove Park. After the exhibition it was re-sited in Glasgow Green in 1890 and this majestic gem of a fountain became a major attraction in the park till the early 1970’s when it became derelict. After years of neglect and wanton vandalism it was repaired in 2004 and re-positioned in its present location in front of the People’s Palace. The fountain is now fully functioning and floodlit at night. Once again water flows from the mouths of the lions covering the sheltering peoples of the Empire – Australia, South Africa, India and Canada. Standing guard above are Scottish, Welsh and English soldiers and the figure of a sailor. Above them all is the majestic figure of Queen Victoria. A smaller, but very similar fountain, also by A.E. Pearce stands proudly in the Falls Road, West Belfast. The Glasgow Green fountain is reputed to be the largest terra-cotta fountain in the world and is listed at Category A.

Item 23 – The People’s Palace

The People’s Palace is one of the first people’s museums in Scotland and is dedicated to telling the story of the City of Glasgow and her citizens. The building was designed by the City Engineer A.B. McDonald (1847-1915) and built between 1894 and 1898-8 as a museum in French Renaissance style with a huge winter garden to the rear.

Originally the building had a reading room and recreation rooms on the ground floor with a museum at first floor level and picture galleries under the dome on the top floor.

In the foyer of the museum there is a fine statue of Matt McGinn, the beloved singer and poet from Calton. Of particular interest to visitors is the Glasgow history painting series by artist Ken Currie. The series portrays the massacre of the Calton Weavers, an event which brought about the birth of the trade union movement and vividly displays the political and social history of Glasgow’s working classes from 1750 to modern times.

The Winter Gardens was constructed by James Boyd and Son of Paisley in 1898. The unusual design is based on the inverted hull of Lord Nelson’s flagship ‘HMS Victory’ and was specifically chosen due to the building’s proximity to the Lord Nelson Monument. This magnificent feat of structural engineering was completely restored in 2000 thanks...
to funding from Heritage Lottery, Historic Scotland and Glasgow City Council. The naval victories of Viscount Horatio Nelson are commemorated by the impressive grade A listed column erected by public subscription in 1806. This was the first monument in Britain to be erected in his honour. There are several notable monuments around the Green including: The impressive McLennan Arch designed by Robert James Adams and The Collins Fountain erected in 1881 by the temperance supporters of Sir William Collins.

To the rear of the museum stands the Winter Gardens and café. Free guided tours of the museum are available and souvenirs of your visit can be purchased from the gallery shop. Male, female and disabled toilets, wheelchair access, free parking are available.

The People’s Palace and Winter Gardens are listed Category A.

Continue past the People’s Palace towards the city centre and exit the park by the first path to the right, through the gate commemorating the founder of The Barras, Maggie McIver.

Item 24 – Monteith Row

Just outside the park on Monteith Row, stands the sole survivor of a superior row of tenements built between 1818 and 1845. Plans for these were drawn up in 1812, probably by the Father of Glasgow Architecture, David Hamilton (1768-1843), at the request of the city magistrates, but were somewhat revised during construction. The surviving building houses the Monteith Hotel, a simple Lodging House.

Keep the hotel on your left and proceed along Monteith Place and then take the first left into London Road.

Item 25 – St. Alphonsus R.C. Church

On the right hand side of the road stands the imposing St. Alphonsus R.C. Church. The church was designed by Peter Paul Pugin of the famous
Roman Catholic church architects Pugin & Pugin and built in 1905, according to its datestone. The church is built in rock-faced red sandstone in a variation of the gothic style used by the practice throughout west central Scotland. If the visitor has time, the church’s impressive interior, and in particular its stunning altar detail, is worthy of closer examination.

The presbytery of the church, also constructed in a simple gothic style, is located to the rear on Stevenson Street. St Alphonsus and its presbytery are listed at Category B.

The villa was subdivided into flats in 1988. This impressive surviving villa is listed at Category A.

Continue down Charlotte Street towards Glasgow Green.

Item 27 – No. 74 Charlotte Street, former Our Lady and St. Francis Secondary School

On the corner with Greendyke Street, and on the…
site of the house of David Dale (1739-1806) the merchant and businessman famous for establishing the influential weaving community of New Lanark, now stands the exposed reinforced concrete frame and blue-black engineering brick walls of the former Our Lady and St. Francis Secondary School. There has been a school on this site since before World War I and this was the last addition to that complex of buildings, being added in 1963-64. The building is listed at Category A and is a fine example of the work of the prominent Glasgow architectural practice of Gillespie, Kidd & Coia who were at the forefront of modern design in Scotland. The building is now the offices of the Wise Group.

The car park on vacant land on the opposite side of the street was once home to one of Glasgow’s iconic brand names, Camp Coffee. The origin of Camp Coffee is believed to have come from a request from the Gordon Highlanders to the Paterson Company for a coffee drink that could be used easily by the army on field campaigns in India. The regular process of grinding and brewing coffee beans was too complicated and time consuming for a military field kitchen. The creation of a liquid Camp Coffee provided a simpler method. The label of the product is said to bear the portrait of Sir Hector MacDonald, a hero of many wars in India. The Charlotte Street factory was founded in 1891 and the product proved so successful that three large additions were made between 1893 and 1908, in Charlotte Street and Greendyke Street. The Glasgow works closed in the 1970s and Camp coffee is now produced in Paisley.

Turn right into Greendyke Street.

**Item 28 – Homes for the Future**

Immediately on your right and on adjoining Lanark Street is the site of the Homes for the Future Project. The project was conceived by Glasgow 1999 who were responsible for running the festival during Glasgow’s reign as UK City of Architecture and Design in 1999. The first phase of the project was one of the principal elements of that festival.

It consists of an experimental collection of houses designed by mostly local architects under the guidance of an overall masterplan. The plan was for the houses to have individual character and use the latest technology and innovative product design. The project was developed over a number of years and was designed to offer a wide range of
The Homes for the Future project occupies the site of the old Corporation Clothes Market on Greendyke Street. This impressive building was designed by the then City Architect John Carrick and built around 1875.

Continue westward along Greendyke Street.

**Item 29 – Former Hide, Skin and Tallow Market**

Halfway along Greendyke Street, the four-storey, red sandstone building opposite the childrens’ playground is the City’s former Hide, Skin and Tallow Auction Market. The building was designed by John Keppie (1862-1945) of Honeyman and Keppie, architects in 1890 and was converted to flats in 2000. The panels on either side of the central vehicular entrance record the presence in this street of an earlier market building further to the west. The building is listed at Category B.

**Turn first right into Turnbull Street**

**Item 30 – St. Andrew’s by the Green**

On your right, within its graveyard, stands the small classically-detailed former St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church. This was the first Episcopal Church built in Glasgow and is now the oldest surviving Episcopal Church in Scotland. It was constructed around 1750 by the joint master masons Andrew Hunter and William Paull and the wright Thomas Thomson. St. Andrew’s was known to the locals as the ‘Piskie Kirk’ or the ‘Whistlin’ Kirk’ because of its organ. The church was restored in 1988 and now is home of Glasgow Association for Mental Health,
an independent organisation established as one of the principal providers of mental health services in Greater Glasgow. The former church is a Category A listed building.

Continue north up Turnbull Street

**Item 31 – Former Tent Hall**

On the left side of the street, at the corner of Steel Street, stands the large crowstepped gabled bulk of the Tent Hall. This Gothic/Scottish Renaissance composition was built around 1876 as a large meeting hall and associated rooms for the United Evangelical Association and takes its name from their original meeting place which was a mission tent on Glasgow Green. The architect is unknown. The building was extended in 1900 and again in 1931 and recently underwent a transformation into a number of flats. It is listed at Category B.

Continue along Turnbull Street and on your right hand side is St. Andrew’s Square.

**Item 32 – Tannery and Warehouse Building, St. Andrew’s Square**

All of the original Georgian buildings which formerly enclosed the church on three sides have been demolished and replaced by modern flats of a similar scale. One of the two survivors of the old St. Andrew’s Square buildings is a later Victorian intruder, the former Tannery and Warehouse Building, standing on the corner with Turnbull Street. Built in an Italianate style in 1876-77 for John Inglis and Co. by an unknown architect, it too has been converted to residential use. It still bears the inscription “Tannery Buildings” above the door and
the bull’s head keystone above the pend provides an additional clue to its original usage. It is listed at Category B.

On the opposite side of Turnbull Street is...

**Item 33 – Former Central Police Station & Court**

The large 2 and 3-storey red brick and red sandstone building adjoining the Tent Hall is the former Central Police Station & Court designed by the City Engineer A.B. McDonald (1847-1915) in 1903. The building is comprised primarily of offices, court hall, cells, recreation and reception areas, all built around a courtyard and designed to conform to an awkward site. The court hall is contained within the central gabled block below the city’s carved motto.

The use of the “Let Glasgow Flourish” arms and Scottish Renaissance details were regular features of A.B. McDonald’s designs. The carved ornament and statues, thought to be by the sculptor Richard Ferris, deserve particular attention. On pedestals on either side of the central gable are the seated bearded figure of Law and the female figure of Justice bearing a set of scales. This Category B listed building is currently vacant.

In the centre of St. Andrew’s Square is...

**Item 34 – St. Andrew’s in-the-Square**

The focal point of St. Andrew’s Square is the former St. Andrew’s Parish Church, now St. Andrew’s-in-the-Square, the first post Reformation church built in Scotland and the second oldest in the city. The church took seventeen years to build between 1739 and 1756 and its partially-built walls provided shelter for Bonnie Prince Charlie’s army who camped there on their retreat from Derby in December 1745, temporarily delaying the construction process.

St. Andrews was built to the designs of wealthy merchant Allan Dreghorn (1706-1764), a coach builder, house builder and a prominent member of Glasgow’s ruling elite. Dreghorn held several municipal posts (Treasurer and Bailiff) but had obvious skills as an architect as is amply attested by St Andrew’s Parish Church, his main surviving work. It is presumed that Dreghorn’s own company, Allan Dreghorn & Co. (1742-56) provided the carved timberwork for the church. The design of the church is based largely upon James Gibb’s London masterpiece of St. Martin-in-the-Fields (1722) and it soon became the centrepiece to a symmetrical square of 3-storey terraced houses laid out in 1760’s by the architect William Hamilton.

The building of St. Andrew’s involved some of
the most charismatic and gifted craftsmen of the period. The master mason was Mungo Naismith (1730-70) whose construction of the portico of St Andrew’s Parish Church earned him the Freedom of the City. Here at the church he performed one of his most celebrated acts, when he slept beneath the building’s portico to prove to his doubters that his innovative method of construction was completely safe. The huge portrayal of the city’s coat of arms displayed in the pediment of the church is the work of sculptor David Cation (pronounced Caution) who flourished around 1737-56. He was also responsible for carving the exquisite Corinthian capitals and urns.

Agnes Craig, the celebrated Clarinda with whom Robert Burns (as Sylvander) carried out a passionate affair by correspondence, married the lawyer James McLehose within St. Andrew’s in 1776. Although it is unlikely that their relationship was ever consummated, Agnes was the inspiration for one of Burns’ most tender and poignant love songs, ‘Ae Fond Kiss’.

The finest original features of the interior are largely unaltered. The decoration is particularly lavish and features sumptuous plasterwork by Thomas Clayton. The City Architect John Carrick carried out a number of alterations in 1874 and provided space for a Willis Organ. During these alterations the original clear glazed sash and case windows were replaced by stained glass, mainly by Stephen Adam and some were signed by him. Further redecoration, mainly stencilling and gilding, took place in the early 1920s under the guidance of the scholarly ecclesiastical architect Peter MacGregor Chalmers, utilising a much earlier design.

The last service in the church was held in June 1993 and there were fears that it soon could be at risk. The congregation offered it to Glasgow Building Preservation Trust who lovingly restored it to its original glory, carefully removing and taking into protective storage the later stained glass windows, and replacing them with the original sash and case windows with clear glazing. Although still owned...
by GBPT, it is now managed by St Andrew’s in the Square Trust and operates as Glasgow’s Centre for Scottish Culture and as a modern conference venue.

During the restoration the existing floor of the church was excavated and a new undercroft created with space for Café Source - a café/bar along with rehearsal rooms, dressing rooms and toilets. Tours of the church are available by prior arrangement with St. Andrews in the Square. The café is open daily. As one of the most important and impressive 18th-century churches in Scotland, St. Andrew’s is listed at Category A.

On the north side of St. Andrew’s Square, at the corner of James Morrison Street is

Item 35 – Former Home for Destitute Children, 13-21 James Morrison Street and 2 St. Andrew’s Square

The 4-storey former Home for Destitute Children is the work of the Glasgow architect Robert A Bryden (1841-1906) and was built in 1875. The original specifications for the school included the provision of a swimming pool, gymnasium and accommodation for 160 children and 40 “virtuous women of reduced means”. The former home was converted to flats around 2001 and is listed at Category B.
Item 36 – 3-11 James Morrison Street and 74-76 London Road

On the corner of James Morrison Street and London Road sits a 4-storey commercial building with residential accommodation on the upper floors. Built around 1860, by an unknown architect, it features giant pilasters which run through the 1st and 2nd floors, a decorative floral swagged frieze on London Road and a curved corner bay. Unusually the building retains its original cast-iron Victorian shop fronts, a very unique feature. It is listed at Category B.

Turning left onto London Road will lead you back to your start point at the Mercat Cross. That concludes the circular section of the Calton tour. There are four buildings within the circular route which may interest the visitor.

Further Reading

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John R Hume, Industrial Archaeology of Glasgow

Hugh Macintosh, Origin & History of Glasgow Streets

Frank Worsdall, Victorian City

Detail of Templeton’s Building
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Clyde Gateway
Historic Scotland

Dictionary of Scottish Architects Website www.scottisharchitects.org.uk

The Glasgow Story Website www.theglasgowstory.com

East Glasgow History Website www.glasgowhistory.co.uk

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