

EAST END WALK

CITY OF
»»—○—> GLASGOW <—○—««



GHOST SIGNS
of Glasgow

WHO WE ARE

Ghost Signs of Glasgow is a volunteer-based project which tracks down, researches and archives fast-disappearing signs around the city. The project naturally found its home in Glasgow City Heritage Trust, as Ghost Signs are vital to the fabric of Glasgow's urban landscape.

A **GHOST SIGN** is a fading sign that represents a business or establishment that no longer exists. We have been building an archive that will help us better understand Glasgow's economic and cultural history. One fundamental goal of the project is to be able to learn about the architectural, social, economic and cultural atmosphere of 'the Glasgow' to which these signs belong and share it with you!

We have developed tours to showcase the fascinating stories we have unearthed and currently have tours spanning the city, with walks covering the West End, the East End and the City Centre. These walks have been a learning experience for both the Ghost Signs team and the walkers.

The project works in collaboration with Glasgow's local communities who often contribute memories of their much-loved locales. We have a wide social media presence using our Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to further connect with the Glaswegian community. All the material on this map, including research text, drawings, photographs and graphic design, has been a collaborative effort by our wonderful team of volunteers.



Glasgow City Heritage Trust




THE EAST END



Often described as the city's 'historic heart' the East End is a mixture of iconic buildings, independent shops and of course, plenty of Ghost Signs. From the Barras, which makes organised chaos into a great day out, to the historic quarter boasting the Necropolis and Glasgow Cathedral. The East End is home to Glasgow's brewing scene with the Wellpark Brewery which brews Tennent's larger next to the Drygate Brewery and the WEST Brewery

with its beautiful red bricks. In fact, residents are often reminded of the breweries as the scent of yeast and malt is carried on the wind. The East End is also famous for its music venues, whether you go to the Barrowlands which sports perhaps the flashiest sign in the city or you go for the understated holy atmosphere of St. Luke's, you are sure to have a memorable time.



@ghostsignsgla

**TAG US IN YOUR PICTURE
BE A GOOD GHOST SIGN BUSTER!**

#ghostsignsgla
@ghostsignsgla

**FOLLOW OUR ONLINE ARCHIVE
ON FLICKR** 

Ghost Signs of Glasgow

WANT TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER?

Drop us an e-mail at
ghostsigns@glasgowheritage.org.uk

**KEEP AN EYE ON OUR SOCIAL MEDIA
FOR TOURS AND TALKS!**

LOST & FOUND



The mysterious, transient nature of Ghost Signs means they often disappear and reappear. A Ghost Sign might be lost forever if the sign has been painted over or physically removed, but on occasion they disappear to magically reappear years later, for example when a building is under renovation.

The North British Station Hotel sign spotted at Queen Street railway station during the renovation in 2019 is an example of this, as it appeared just for a few months before quickly being hidden again from view.

CAN'T FIND A GHOST SIGN?

Use the black sticker to mark on your map where a Ghost Sign is no longer visible.

FOUND A GHOST SIGN?

Use the golden sticker to mark a new Ghost Sign not yet marked on your map.



1



ST. LUKE'S 17 BAIN STREET

This Ghost Sign is the kind that sees the current business adopt the old name of the building. In this case the building was once the Church of St. Luke's and St. Andrew's, founded in 1836. The building now houses a popular bar and music venue on the edge of the legendary Barras market. The church was designed by Glasgow archi-

tect James Wylson, initially as a 'chapel of ease' for residents of the nearby Barony Parish. Due to the combination of a dramatically decreased population in the area and declining attendance from the onset of the 1960s, the church gradually fell into disuse and lay in a state of disrepair until its conversion to a music venue in 2013.

2



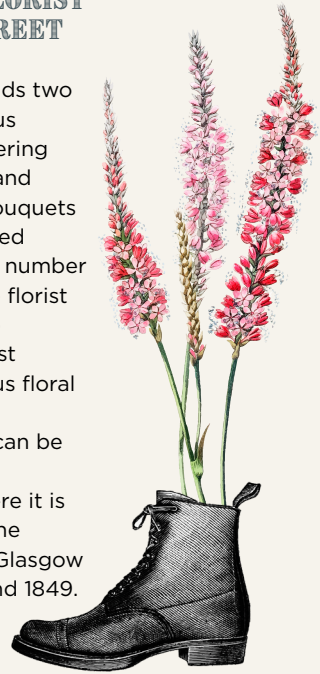
SMALL SHOES ROSS STREET

This enigmatic sign has the appearance of a fairly contemporary sign, perhaps only dating as far back as the 1970s or 1980s. The company which the sign is advertising seems to have evaded archive records, with searches for the Small Shoe Co. having little success. If you remember anything about this shop give us a shout!



SHOEMAKER/FORIST CHARLOTTE STREET

Charlotte Street holds two remnants of previous businesses: the lettering Friels Shoemakers and Wreaths, Sprays, Bouquets sit above the boarded window. The phone number that appears on the florist sign is registered to Agnes Boyle, a florist registered on various floral arranging websites. Friels Shoemakers can be traced back to the Victorian years where it is first mentioned in the Post Office annual Glasgow Directory in 1848 and 1849.



MC IVER THE BARRAS

The Barras were funded by Maggie McIver, 1879–1958. At the age of twelve she looked after a family friend's fruit barrow, and later invested in her own barrows to let to other traders. She gathered 300 barrows on her land in Marshall Lane, then hired out market pitches. In 1923, Maggie acquired a plot of land as a marketplace between London Road and the Gallowgate, but with a concern for the welfare of traders in bad weather, erected a covered market in 1926 on Moncur Street.

Although few barrows exist today, the Barras still retains its name. After her husband's death, Maggie was left to raise nine children. Taking advantage of the dancing craze of the 1930s she opened the Barrowland Ballroom. Maggie was able to provide for her family, and in 1958 died a multi-millionaire.

DID YOU KNOW that the market remains in her family and is still dominated by female stallholders?

5



JAS D. GALLOWAY TYRE DISTRIBUTORS HUNTER STREET

This sign, Jas D. Galloway Tyre Distributors, is one of the biggest Ghost Signs in Glasgow and was painted between 1968 and 1970 for businessman James D. Galloway. It provides the backdrop for the 1999 film *Ratcatcher* by the Scottish filmmaker Lynne Ramsey.

The red stone tenement next to this sign was designed in 1901 by John Gordon, an architect specialised in industrial buildings, whose taste

became more decorative when he started to design churches, villas and commercial buildings. This building represents this shift, it was built as a store for the potato and grain merchants J&A Arthur. The carvings, done in Locharbriggs stone, include a lion, a coat of arms including many flora and fauna and... potatoes. Can you spot them?

6



OVERDALE PUB 114 DUKE STREET

This Ghost Sign is unusual as the business it depicts is defunct but the business it depicts is flourishing. The old advert is now mostly obscured but it was for Tennants Wellpark Brewery and is on what used to be The Overdale pub which closed in the mid-1990s. The building was used as a car showroom in the mid-1920s by the Scottish Commercial Cars Co. Ltd.



In 1927 publican James McAleese expanded his business when he acquired a license for these premises at 114 Duke Street. He opened it as a pub with a singing lounge upstairs. The Overdale contributed to an area with a rich history of brewing.

DID YOU KNOW that there is evidence of continuous brewing on the banks of the Molendinar Burn, Wellpark site going back as far as 1556?

ALEXANDER PUBLIC SCHOOL 96 DUKE STREET

This Italianate building by renowned Scottish architect John Burnet Senior was commissioned as an endowed school in 1858 by local businessman James Alexander, who owned the adjoining cotton mill.

The building features a front façade with sculptures of the heads of writers and artists such as Shakespeare, Homer, Milton, Aristotle and Michelangelo, all carved by Scottish sculptor John Crawford, who attended the original Glasgow School of Art. At the time, the site was adjacent to where the original University of Glasgow stood in the nineteenth century, and opposite Duke Street Women's Prison. Known as Ladywell School for almost a century, (named after nearby artesian spring 'Our Lady's Well') it then became a special needs school before renovation upgraded it to Category A listed status in 1998 and it became the Ladywell Business Centre.



F.W. HOLROYD 9 GEORGE STREET

Frederick William Holroyd started his family business in 1912, based in the old tobacco and spice exchange (in what is now known as Virginia Court), selling things like linoleum, carpets and gas mantles. In 1972, his grandson John took over the business and opened the small gallery at George Street.

For this latest business venture they would buy art at auctions, reframe and sell it on, with any work that didn't sell returned to auction. The business was expanded to include customer framing services.

