

Obituary of J.G. Fairley, church architect

The late Mr J. Graham Fairley

The death has occurred at his residence, "Bield", Abercorn Terrace, Portobello, of Mr James Graham Fairley, F.R.I.B.A. Mr Fairley, who was the eldest son of Mr William Fairley, was born at West Calder, where his father was a mill wright and joiner. He gained practical knowledge in his father's business before he entered upon the career of architect, in which his early experience was obtained in several Edinburgh offices, including H.M. Office of Works, with Mr Matheson as chief and the well-known Charles Doyle as one of his colleagues. He was an assistant also in H.M. Office of Works, London.

In 1876, Mr Fairley commenced a practice in Edinburgh, which extended over 40 years. As early as 1877 he became an Associate member of the Royal Institute of British Architects, of which he afterwards became a Fellow. His native village of West Calder saw the first of his church designs, and this was the forerunner of about a dozen churches by Mr Fairley, including two in Edinburgh – Lorne Street and Fountainhall Road. Examples of his work are also to be found at Bathgate (St David's Church, with its campanile, and the E.U. Church), Broxburn, Juniper Green, Balerno, and Ratho. In Dundee, with Mr Alexander M'Culloch, C.E., he was responsible for the E.U. Church in Victoria Road and the Rattray Street Baptist Church. In association with the same architect, he also undertook the Dundee High School for Girls.

In West Calder and in Bathgate and in other parts of West Lothian, Mr Fairley carried out many school buildings, and his share of domestic work was also extensive. He travelled widely, and had a specially intimate acquaintance with the architecture of Northern France and Italy. He was a member of the Scottish Geographical Society and of the Old Edinburgh and Rymour Clubs.

***The Scotsman*, Monday 16 April 1934, page 7**