

Saving New Lanark Chronology of Restoration

KEY DATES - General

- 1963 New Lanark Association formed as a housing association with charitable status. Restoration of houses at Caithness Row and Nursery Buildings
- 1968 Closure of New Lanark cotton-mills
- 1970 Sale of industrial area of village to scrap metal company
- 1973 New Lanark designated as an "Outstanding Conservation Area"
- 1974 All village buildings Listed Category A
New Lanark Conservation Trust formed as an independent charity dedicated to the restoration and revitalisation of the village

HOUSING

- 1963 - 1987 43 housing association tenancies, restored and occupied.
Housing is modernised internally, but historic character of the buildings is preserved.
- 1974 New Lanark Village Group formed as residents' association and social group
- 1980s 20 house units sold to owner-occupiers for private restoration
- 1994 2 more tenancies refurbished by Housing association, bringing total to 45

INDUSTRIAL & COMMUNITY BUILDINGS

- 1977/83 Restoration work on Robert Owen's School to repair collapsed roof and damage to floors.
- 1980s Employment of up to 250 workers per annum on building restoration, funded by Manpower Services Commission Community Programme
- 1984/85 Environmental work to remove scrap metal debris and aluminium slag
- 1986/90 Restoration of the Institute for the Formation of Character
- 1994/95 Major restoration work to rebuild Mill One to its original height
- 1999/2000 Restoration and Development as Interpretive and Educational Centre of Robert Owen's School

DEVELOPMENT OF VISITOR FACILITIES

- 1984 Scottish Wildlife Trust Falls of Clyde Visitor Centre at the Dyeworks
- 1985 Clearburn Picnic and Play Area for visitors
Temporary Visitor Centre in one floor of Mill Three
- 1986 Creation of Car Park on hillside above village for 300 cars and 12 coaches. Dyeworks Craft Units opened
- 1988 Motorway direction signs to New Lanark on M8 and M74
- 1990 New Lanark Visitor Centre opens with cafeteria and exhibition areas in Institute, Engine House and Mill Three.
- 1993 New Lanark Village Store re-opened as part of Visitor Centre
Restored water-wheel installed at Mill Four wheel-pit. Petrie steam engine being restored in Engine House
- 1994 Millworkers' House in New Buildings opens as part of Visitor Centre.
Wee Row refurbished as 62 bed SYHA Youth Hostel
- 1995 Work begins to extend car-park to accommodate 550 cars and up to 20 coaches
- 1998 Opening of New Lanark Mill Hotel and Waterhouses self-catering cottages

Commercial Developments

- 1985/1990 Commercial tenancies developed in Mill Three (level 6) the Dyeworks, David Dale's House. Restoration work on the Mechanics' Workshop to develop further commercial space for rent
- 1995 Completion of restoration work on the mill lade and Turbine House, to reinstate hydro-electric power generation, using 1930s turbine and modern generator

Major Awards

- 1987 Europa Nostra Medal of Honour for Conservation
- 1988 1991 British Tourist Authority's "*Come to Britain*" trophy, and Scottish Tourism Oscar
- 1989 Royal Town Planning Institute Award for Planning Achievement
- 1995 Eurosolar UK Award for application of renewable energy
- 1996 Historic Scotland Award for the Restoration of Mill Number One
- 1997 British Urban Regeneration Association Best Practice Award
- 1999 Civic Trust award for New Lanark Mill Hotel
- Heritage Education Trust: Sandford Award for Educational Services
- 2000 Royal Town Planning Institute Special Award for New Lanark Mill Hotel
- 2000 UNESCO World Heritage Site - re-nomination
- 2000 Association of British Archaeology Award for Mill No. One
- 2001 Designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO

Restored building categories: -

Mills & Ancillary Buildings:

Mill One
Mill Two
Mill Three
Mill Four (foundations)
Mechanics' Workshop, Dyeworks, Waterhouses
Engine House

Housing:

Braxfield Row
Mantilla Row
Long Row
Double Row
Wee Row
New Buildings
Caithness Row and The Counting House
Nursery Buildings
Robert Owen's House
David Dale's House

Community Buildings: -

Institute for the Formation of Character
School for Children
The Village Store
New Lanark Church (now a community hall)

Stages

Background

The village of New Lanark in South Lanarkshire, Scotland, was founded as a new industrial settlement in 1785. Its location, deep in a valley below the old market town of Lanark, was chosen by the founding partners David Dale (1739-1806) and Richard Arkwright (1732-1792) because water from the nearby Falls of Clyde could be harnessed to provide a power supply for cotton-manufacturing machinery. Locally quarried sandstone roofed with Scotch slate was used to construct both the industrial buildings and the tenement-style housing which accommodated the mill workers and their families. It was expanded and developed both as a business and as a model community under the ownership and management of pioneering social reformer Robert Owen (1771-1858) during the first quarter of the 19th century. At this time the population was around 2,500, and it was one of the largest cotton-manufacturing enterprises in the world. It was widely regarded as a model industrial community.

1963-1974 - Closure and Crisis

The cotton-mills were in continuous production until 1968, after which they closed and the mill area of the industrial site was sold to Metal Extractions Ltd., a scrap metal company. In 1963 ownership of the workers' housing had been transferred to a registered housing association with charitable status, New Lanark Association Ltd. The first programme of building restoration, a pilot project to create 16 refurbished flats for rent in Caithness Row, was undertaken between 1965 and 1967. NLA had embarked on a second phase at Nursery Buildings when, in 1968, the closure of the mills caused a major crisis in confidence, and the project faltered. The housing association was in serious financial difficulties - a fund-raising campaign had failed, and it had a £100,000 debt to the Lanark Town Council. Further intervention by the public agencies and conservation bodies was required to halt, and to attempt to reverse the already well-established process of decline and decay. All the buildings were listed, Category A, and the village designated as an Outstanding Conservation Area. In 1974, following the publication of the Report of a Working Party set up to examine options for the future of the village, the New Lanark Conservation Trust was formed. This is an independent charity, charged with the challenging task of restoring and revitalising the historic village. One of the objects laid down in the Trust deed was to assist the housing association.

1974-2000 - Restoration and Recognition

Since 1974, the village has been the subject of one of the largest programmes of conservation in Europe. The first task of the New Lanark Conservation Trust was to recommence the housing refurbishment programme and it successfully applied for grants and funding, mainly through the Manpower Services Commission Community Programme, with additional support from the Historic Buildings Council and a variety of other sources. A restorer-purchaser scheme was also established for 20 of the housing units, in Braxfield Row and in part of Long Row. The School, Mechanics' Workshop, Dyeworks, Robert Owen's and David Dale's Houses were acquired from Metal Extractions by negotiation. A campaign began to recover the Mills and Institute, beginning in 1979 with a Repairs Notice, and culminating in 1983 with a Compulsory Purchase Order confirmed by the Secretary of State for Scotland. It was the first time this legal process had been used in Scotland to save historic buildings. The costs were underwritten by the National Heritage Memorial Fund. Ownership of the Mills and Institute was initially taken over by the Clydesdale District Council, but transferred to

New Lanark Conservation Trust in 1983. This had required a change in the NLCT constitution to allow it to own the property. At this stage, NLCT was able to continue the progress towards its ultimate objective of restoring New Lanark as a living, working community.

In 1986, the UK Government nominated New Lanark for inscription on UNESCO's World Heritage List. A decision was deferred for a series of technical reasons, and New Lanark was re-nominated in June 2000. The World Heritage Submission, a beautifully illustrated book published by Historic Scotland, is available in the Visitor Centre Gift Shop. In December 2001 it was announced that New Lanark's nomination had been successful and that New Lanark was to be the first industrial site in Scotland to be added to UNESCO's list.

The Future

Work will continue to implement the New Lanark Conservation Plan and the World Heritage Site Management Plan to ensure that the historic village and the surrounding landscape are safeguarded for the benefit of future generations. This requires the commitment and partnership of many different organisations and agencies.

You can show *your* support for this project by becoming a member of the Friends of New Lanark.