

Glasgow British Restaurants

Glasgow City Archives Documents Reviewed

Reference No.	Title	Description
TD 1445/5/2/1	Catalogue Item: Proposed requisition by Glasgow Corporation of Purdon Street Church hall, owned by Hillhead Baptist Church, for a "British Restaurant", Jul – Aug 1942.	Documents, majority letters, between Hillhead Baptist Church and Town Clerk of Glasgow Corporation, regarding an attempt to requisition Church Hall into a BR, which ultimately failed.
C1/3/103	Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow November 1940 - May 1941	
C1/3/104	Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow May 1941 - November 1941	
C1/3/105	Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow November 1941 - May 1942	
C1/3/106	Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow May 1942 - November 1942	
C1/3/107	Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow November 1942 - May 1943	
C1/3/108	Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow May 1943 - November 1943	
C1/3/109	Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow November 1943 - May 1944	
C1/3/110	Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow May 1944 - November 1944	
C1/3/111	Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow November 1944 - May 1945	
C1/3/112	Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow May 1944 - November 1945	
C1/3/113	Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow November 1945 - May 1946	

British Restaurants and Corporation of the City of Glasgow

Communal Feeding in Glasgow in WW2

Prior to September 1941, the corporation had already taken steps to initiate plans to accommodate community feeding across Glasgow, however only in an emergency. Circular letters from the Ministry of Food had been received by the Corporation, in which the corporation agreed to form a special sub-committee to consider communal feeding (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Meeting, November 1940 to May 1941: General Finance Committee Meeting, 22nd of November 1940, pg. 247. & General Finance Committee Meeting, 6th of December 1940, pg.382).

Three emergency mobile vehicles were also commissioned by the corporation, with an additional bus from the Education department being adapted for serving hot drinks in the event of the people becoming homeless following an enemy attack on the city. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: Public Assistance Meeting, 9th of December 1940, pg. 402). By 1941, agreement was reached to have facilities and supplies for feeding 10% of Glasgow's population in the case of an emergency. With the town clerk being instructed to submit arrangements for cooking centres to the Ministry of Food, for their approval. Additionally the corporation agreed to use the converted bus in an "experiment" for selling meals in the vicinity of corporation works. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Meeting, 4th of April 1941, pg.1149).

On the 1st of April, the General Finance committee had received a letter from Lord Woolton, delegating requisitioning powers to local authorities. The Ministry of Food delegated requisitioning powers to the Town Clerk, under regulation 51 of the Defence General Regulation of 1939. This power was limited to taking possession of either parts or whole buildings to be used for some purpose directly connected to communal and/or emergency feeding. While this granted a large amount of power to local authorities, from the records it indicates that requisitioning however did also require approval from the Ministry of Food. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Meeting, 10th of April 1941, pg.1158). By the next month, the Glasgow corporation, via the General Finance and Welfare committee, had decided to appoint the Director of Welfare to be in charge of communal feeding. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: Welfare Committee Meeting, 5th of May, 1941, pg. 1302).

Setting up "British Restaurants"

On the 30th of August 1941, a letter was received from the Chief Divisional Food Officer for Scotland directed to the Lord Provost of Glasgow. The letter was a direct request for the Corporation to consider the immediate establishment of "British Restaurants" within working areas of the city. The corporation, meeting on the 5th of September, made arrangements to inspect a British Restaurant in Edinburgh, to see the operations and premises, to assist them in their planning. The Director of Welfare was also tasked with enquiring about suitable premises in Glasgow. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Meeting, 5th of September 1941, pg. 2069).

By October the General Finance's special sub committee was underway with locating premises, with plans to visit sites of potential interest and considering other sites. Two cooking depot sites were also decided upon, one at Springburn Road and another at Croftfoot. With the MoF stating that the Glasgow Corporation would be responsible for these sites. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Committee, 21st of November 1941, pg. 307-8). An additional cooking depot was also granted by the MoF, following the Welfare Committee submitting an application for its establishment. The site was to be erected in the northwest corner of the grounds at Crockston Home. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: Welfare Committee, 21st of November 1941, pg. 316).

On Christmas Eve 1941, the Town Clerk was given instructions to start negotiations for renting premises on; Dumbarton Road, Whiteinch, Weir Street and St Vincent Street. The General Finance special subcommittee had approved layout plans for Dumbarton Road, Whiteinch and Weir Street. The Director of Welfare was assigned to start the adaptation process, once leases had been agreed, and to start the hiring process for the British Restaurants. Plans to consider establishing a restaurant in the eastern part of the city were also discussed, but the decision was pending members of the special sub-committee visiting potential premises. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Committee, 24th of December 1941, pg. 530).

Early in the new year, rents for Dumbarton Road, Weir Street, St Vincent Street and Springfield Road were agreed to and sent to the General Finance Committee for approval.

Premise	Rental	Capacity	Estimated cost of adapting the premise
1049 Dumbarton Road*	£30	125	£620
10/14 Weir Street	£50	122	£585
66 St Vincent Street	£375	253	£1,050
103 Springfield Road (Actual address: 9 Lily Street)	£50	280	£715

* From advertisements of the British Restaurants across Glasgow, I believe this location corresponds to "9 Smith Street, W4", based on the 1940 town plan for Glasgow with assigned zones (<https://maps.nls.uk/view/142842698>).

An amendment was raised by Councillor John Henderson, seconded by James McNeill, that moved to not go ahead with leasing out 66 St Vincent street. However, when put to the vote, only 2 members of the committee voted for this amendment, with the majority voting for continuation in proceeding with the lease. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Meeting, 9th of January 1942, pg. 534).

Additional locations were also discussed at a later date, with sites at Barloch/Allander Street, Kelvinhaugh Street, Govan Road, Thistle Street, Purdon Street and Maryhill to be investigated.



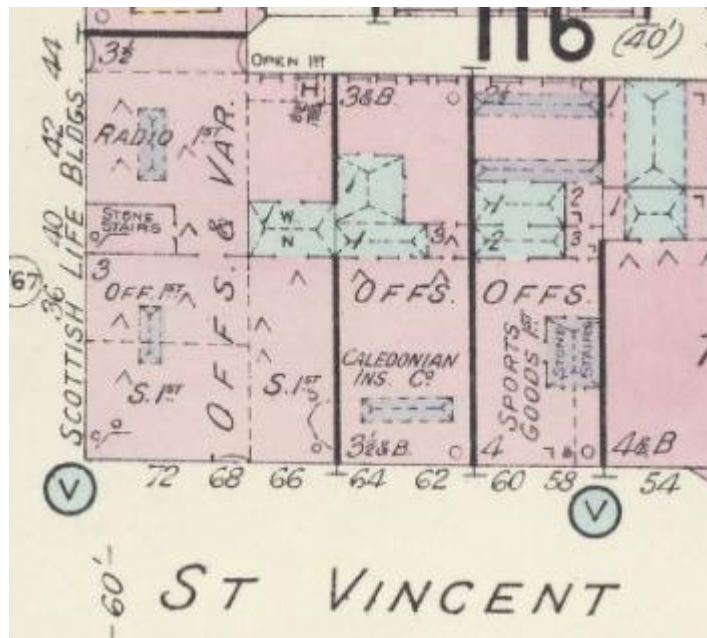
Advertisements for a supervisor of the British Restaurants and Cooking depots, was drafted 20th of February, welcoming applications from "person with experience in catering trade" with yearly salary to be between £400-£500, dependent on experience and qualifications. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Meeting, 20th of February 1942, pg. 840)

By the 13th of March, after 9 potential candidates were interviewed, the final selection was made. Mr William H Paterson, aged 53 was hired on a temporary basis as the "General Supervisor of the British Restaurants", salaried at £450 a year. Mr Paterson had previously been a Canteen Supervisor at Albion Motors Ltd. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Meeting, 13th of March 1942, pg.923).

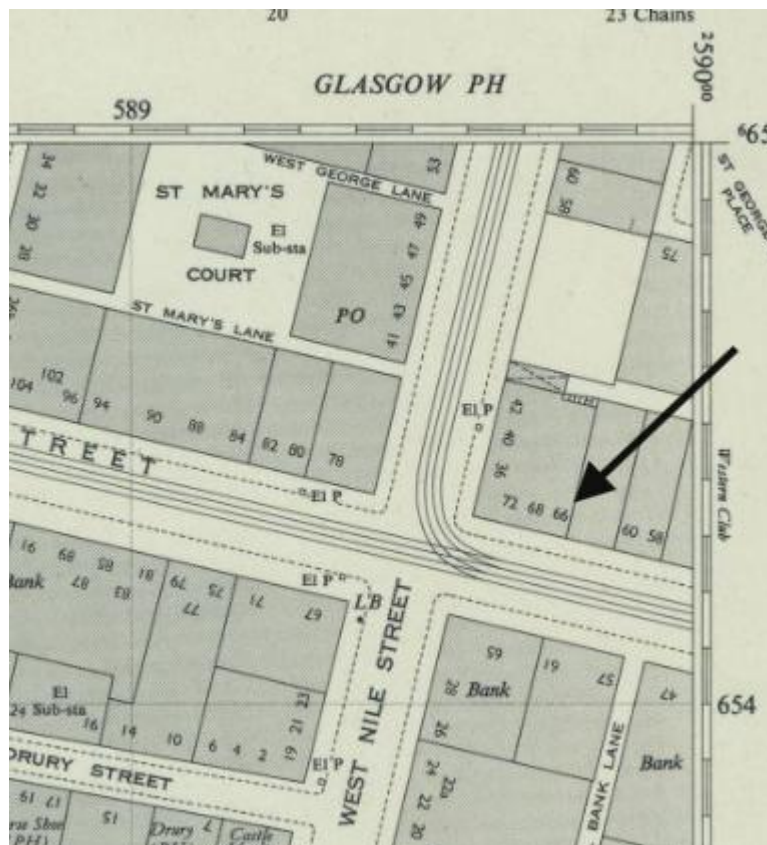
Locations

66 St. Vincent Street.

66 St Vincent Street was part of the Scottish Life Assurance Co. Ltd. Buildings, spanning the corner from 66-72 St Vincent Street to 36-44 West Nile Street.



Charles Goad Fire Insurance Plan of Glasgow - Vol. I, Sheet 17: Published 1937 Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.



National Grid Maps, 1944-73, NS5865SE - A, Surveyed: 1950, Published: 1951 Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.

After negotiating rent, a sum of £375 per year and adapting the premises, the first British Restaurant opened in Glasgow, only 6 months shy of the announcement from the Chief Divisional Officer of Scotland to the Corporation requesting they open British Restaurants in the city. One of the larger venues in the city, 66 St Vincent street had a capacity of around 250 (exactly 253). The initial menu consisted of soup, meat and potatoes, with either a tea or sweet all for under 1 shilling. The Director of Welfare adjusted the tariff for meals to ensure it did not exceed 1 shilling at the time. (Meeting of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Sub-Committee, 20th of February 1942, pg.840).

The Opening Ceremony was arranged with only 6 days notice of the event. The first British Restaurant in Glasgow, opened on Thursday the 26th of February 1942. The Lord Provost of the Glasgow Corporation spoke at the event, with members from the corporation invited to attend. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Meeting, 20th of February 1942, pg.840).

Originally opening to the public only from Mondays to Saturdays for Lunchtime meals from 11:30am to 2:30pm, come October 1942 this was changed. The General Finance subcommittee agreed to open 66 St Vincent Street in the evenings, to provide for snack teas, from the 19th of October onwards. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Subcommittee Meeting, 16th of October 1942.)

By 1944 the prices were increased, with the main meal rising from 6d to 8d, and tea increasing from 1d to 1½d (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Subcommittee Meeting, 11th of February 1944, pg. 508)

From the corporation meeting minutes, a mural was to be painted in the St. Vincent street British Restaurant, pending MoF approval. The estimated cost was £80, however no confirmation was found within the corporation meeting minutes to indicate if the work was completed. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Special Subcommittee Meeting, 19th of May 1944, pg. 999)

Throughout its span the St. Vincent Street British Restaurant hosted a number of different events. Lady Woolton visited the restaurant in September 1942 (The Sunday Post - Sunday 27th of September 1942) and the Brighton-Glasgow Race Awards and Speech were hosted in the St Vincent British Restaurant in 1945 (The Daily Record - 11th of August 1945). St. Vincent Street was also the only British Restaurant in the city to be kept open during the city's Victory Day celebrations (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Special Subcommittee Meeting, 13th of August 1945, pg. 1462).

Following the end of the war, several other British Restaurants were closed around the city, however St. Vincent Street remained open, with its ownership being transferred from the Ministry of Food to the Corporation of Glasgow in 1946. By May 1949, St. Vincent street and Rutherglen were the last two Civic restaurants operating in Glasgow city. (London Archives - 1949 Civic Restaurant List).

Following a close vote of 51 for to 50 against, the Corporation of Glasgow decided to close the British Restaurant at 66 St Vincent Street. Citing financial strain and loss with the

continuing of running the restaurants (The Scotsman - 25th of November 1949.) From the corporation acknowledging the successes private enterprises were having in running restaurants across the city, one could suggest the competition in Glasgow was a factor in their decision making.

After the British Restaurant closed in 1949, John Smith & Son Ltd, booksellers, took over the premises. View of the John Smith & Sons shop can be seen in the bottom right of the photograph from the 1970s <https://www.mitchelllibrary.org/virtualmitchell/view-item?i=2904>

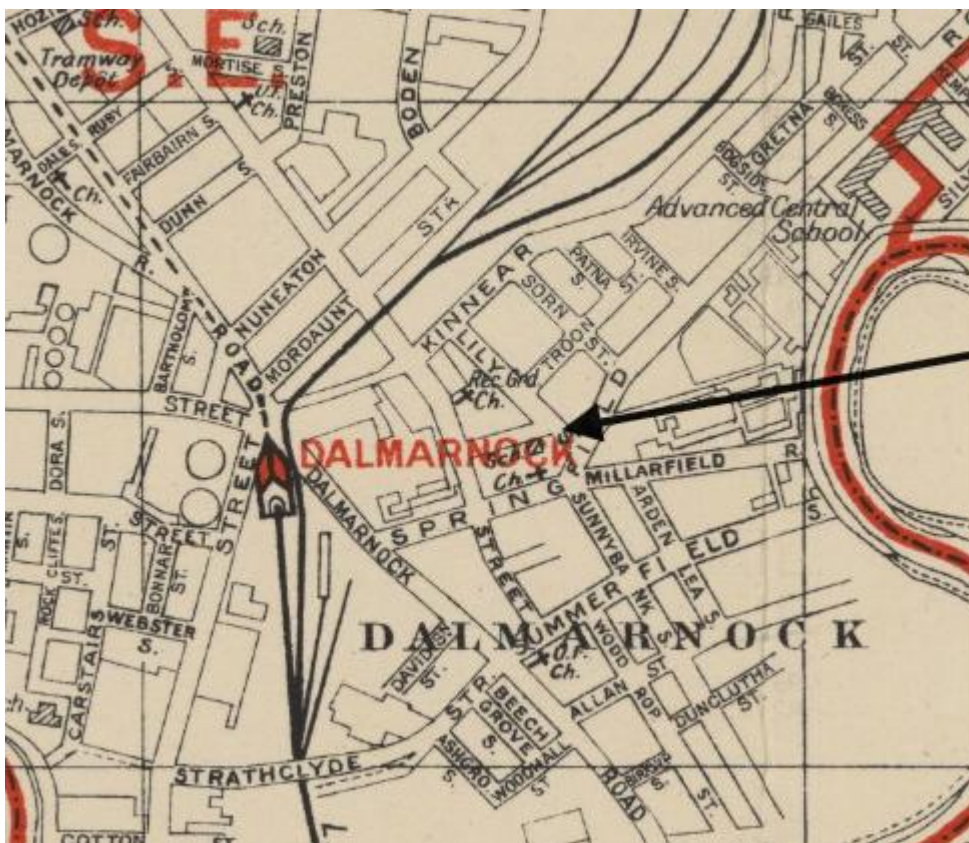
Today the Scottish Life Buildings, the original premises the British Restaurant was in are gone. You can still enjoy a meal in All Bar One, which now sits atop the site of where so many patrons once visited, enjoyed cheap meals, worked, sought comfort and companionship, listened to the wartime news, and had cheap tea and a blether.

9 Lily Street

Initially listed as "103 Springfield Road" within the minutes of Glasgow Corporation, advertisements of the addresses across Glasgow at the time listed the exact location to be 9 Lily Street, specifically the Dalmarnock Parish Church Hall (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Special Subcommittee Meeting, 29th of August 1945, pg. 1543).

A photograph of the Church can be found at:

<http://www.glesga.ukpals.com/churches/dalmarnockparish.htm>.



Plan of Glasgow, London : Geographia Ltd., 1945

Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.

From a notice within the Scotman, the Lily street restaurant, with additional “cash and carry” service, was set to open on the 18th of March 1942. (The Scotsman, 6th March 1942.) This was the 2nd British Restaurant to open within Glasgow, following on from the St Vincent Street BR.

From the minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow not much is mentioned about the operations of the Lily Street British Restaurant. The only items found within my search of the minutes were the initial let agreement cost, capacity, cost of adapting the hall to a British Restaurant and then the closing of the restaurant. The rent was agreed at £50 per annum, and the initial cost to refurbish the premises into a restaurant was £715. Lily Street could sit up to 280 people. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Meeting, 9th of January 1942, pg. 534).

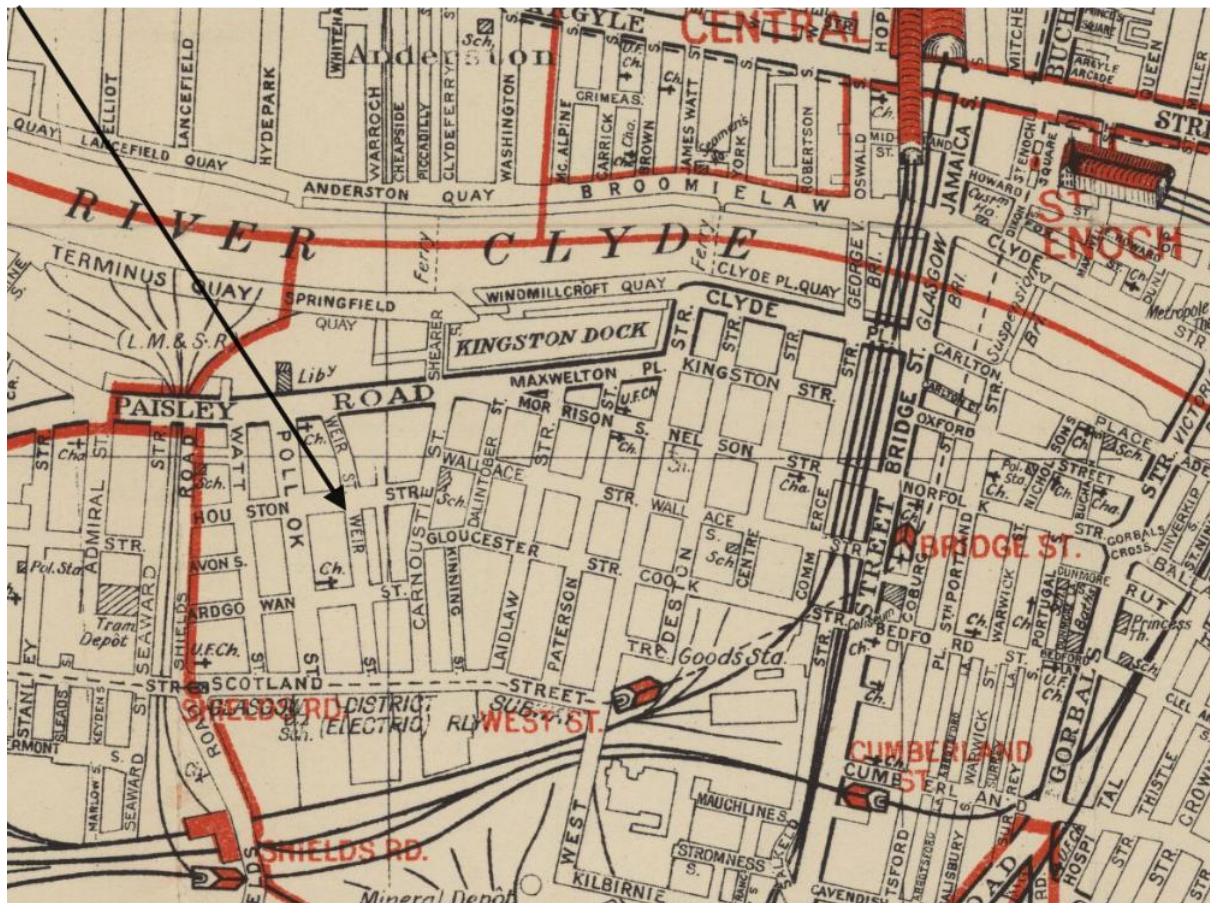
The Lily Street British Restaurant ran until early 1946. Initially steps were taken by the corporation to close this location in August 1945, with the corporation writing to the Divisional Food Officer to seek approval for Lily Street to close. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Special Sub-Committee Meeting, 29th of August 1945, pg. 1543). Reply came in October, with the Divisional Food Officer asking for reconsideration and to meet with the corporation (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Special Sub-Committee Meeting, 24th of October 1945, pg. 1782) However by January of 1946, the special sub committee agreed to close the Lily Street Restaurant.

Today the Church and Hall have since been demolished and the site is now a patch of grass and trees.

10 Weir Street

10 Weir Street was located in Kingston, close to Terminus Quay and Kingston Dock. Weir street was completely demolished as part of the M8 motorway construction. Prior to this Weir street was a mixture of tenement buildings and factories. From the papers of Professor John R Hume, who recorded the industrial history of this area in Glasgow, Weir street held a mixture of factories, industrial supply stores and engine and boiler works, as well as tenement housing. (<https://canmore.org.uk/site/173351/glasgow-25-37-weir-street-dock-engine-and-boiler-works?display=collection>)

The corporation scouted out 10 Weir Street as one of the first four locations across Glasgow for British Restaurant. The rent was agreed at £50 per annum, and the initial cost to refurbish the premises into a restaurant was £585. 10 Weir Street could seat up to 122 patrons at once (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Meeting, 9th of January 1942, pg. 534).



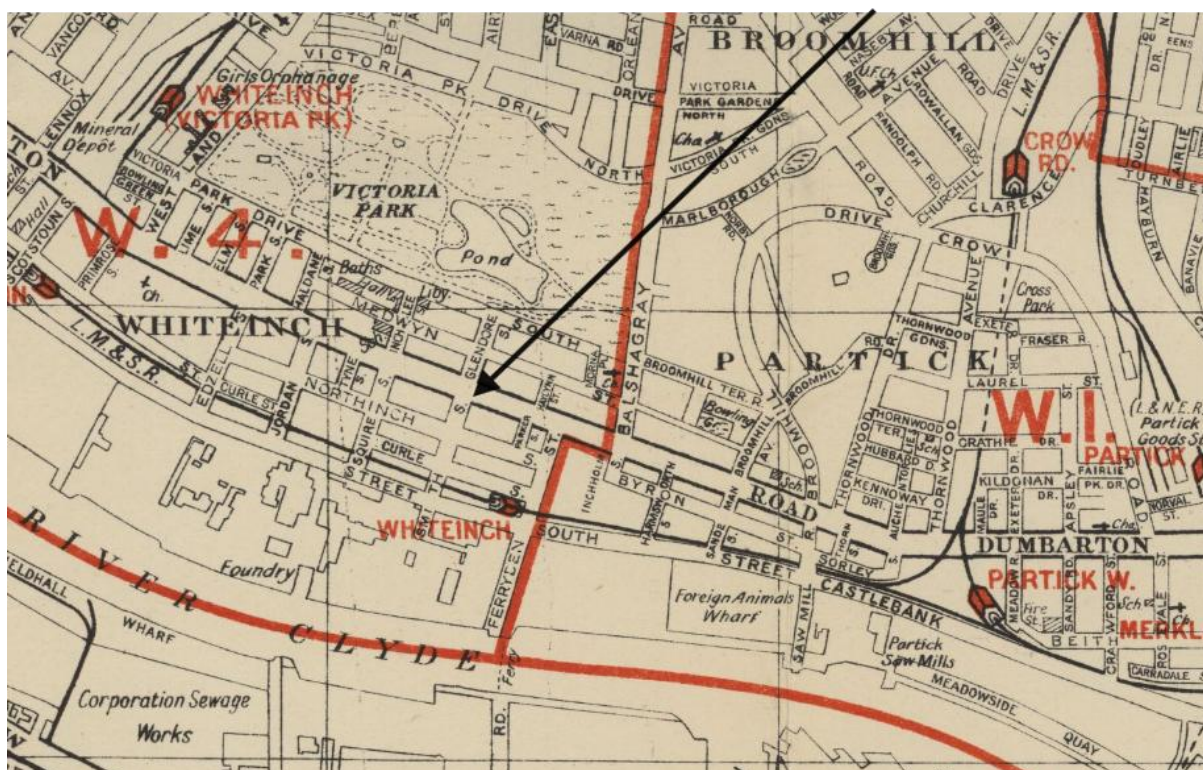
Plan of Glasgow, London : Geographia Ltd., 1945

Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.

From the minutes reviewed, no further mention of Weir Street was made by the council. From the 1949 list of Civic Restaurants, it was not mentioned, indicating its closure happened after the corporation took over British Restaurants from the MoF in 1946.

9 Smith Street

1049 Dumbarton Road/ 9 Smith Street, was on the corner of Dumbarton Road and Smith Street; today no building stands on this site. 9 Smith Street was one of the fourth first British Restaurants the corporation setup (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Committee, 24th of December 1941, pg. 530).



Plan of Glasgow, London : Geographia Ltd., 1945

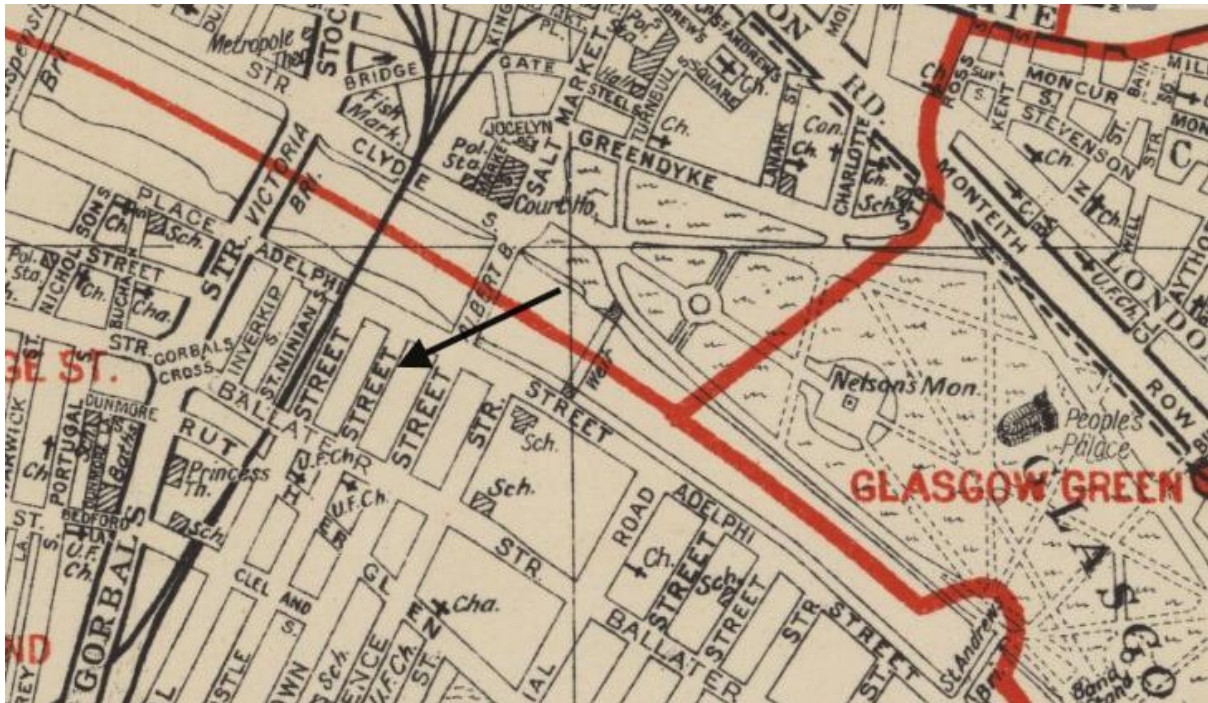
Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.

From minutes regarding the closure of the restaurant, it was recorded the owners of the premises were John H Smith & Sons, House factors. By May 1945 the factors sent a request to the corporation for a return of the keys to the premises, however the corporation agreed that no action was to be taken at this date. In October 1945 the corporation made a decision on the restaurant, requesting approval from the ministry of food to close the restaurant. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Special Subcommittee Meeting, 24th of October 1945, pg. 1782).

After much discussion on the restaurant, and the initial talks on transferring British Restaurants to the corporation's full control, approval was given by the divisional food officer to close Smith street after Easter Sunday of 1946. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Special Subcommittee Meeting, 4th of March 1946, pg. 758).

47 Thistle Street

By the 10th of April 1942, the corporation of Glasgow had agreed a rent of the Church hall at 47 Thistle Street, for £50 per annum. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Subcommittee Meeting, 10th of April 1942, pg. 1094). Potentially, the space was the Hall in the Cunningham Free Church (Canmore record: <https://canmore.org.uk/collection/260270>)



Plan of Glasgow, London : Geographia Ltd., 1945

Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.

While the corporation minutes did not reveal much in the everyday running of the Thistle Street Restaurant, a “review” of the restaurant was submitted to the Daily Record in 1947. A patron, Mrs A Paton, responding to an earlier opinion on the standard of meals at British Restaurants across Glasgow, wrote in to describe their satisfaction with the meal on offer at the Thistle Street location. Calling the whole experience a “1s and 2d well spent At. BR” Mrs Paton praised the soup, meat and fresh vegetables and potatoes, semolina and jam or custard and fruit salad. (Daily Record - 11th of April 1947).

The corporation initially planned to close the restaurant at the beginning of 1946. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Special Subcommittee Meeting, 7th of January 1946, pg. 412.) However they agreed to keep the restaurant running for several months after suggestion from the Divisional Food Officer, quoting that the financial situation with Thistle Street had recently improved. Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Special Subcommittee Meeting, 4th of May 1946, pg. 733). From Mrs Paton’s review in the Daily Record in 1947, we know that the restaurant must have closed sometime between 1947 and 1949, as it was not listed in the Civic restaurant list (London Research - Civic Restaurant List 1949).

The building itself has since been demolished, with the major redevelopment occurring in this area in the 70s. Today 47 Thistle Street is the new City of Glasgow College Riverside Building.

732 London Road

No details were found in the corporation meeting which mentioned the setup and running of the London Road restaurant. The only indication a British Restaurant was at this location

was from the Daily Mail list of Glasgow British Restaurants (Daily Mail - 16th of October 1942) and its closing decision in the corporation minutes. From the Glasgow Town Plan of 1940, it could be suggested it was at the church signposted in map below:

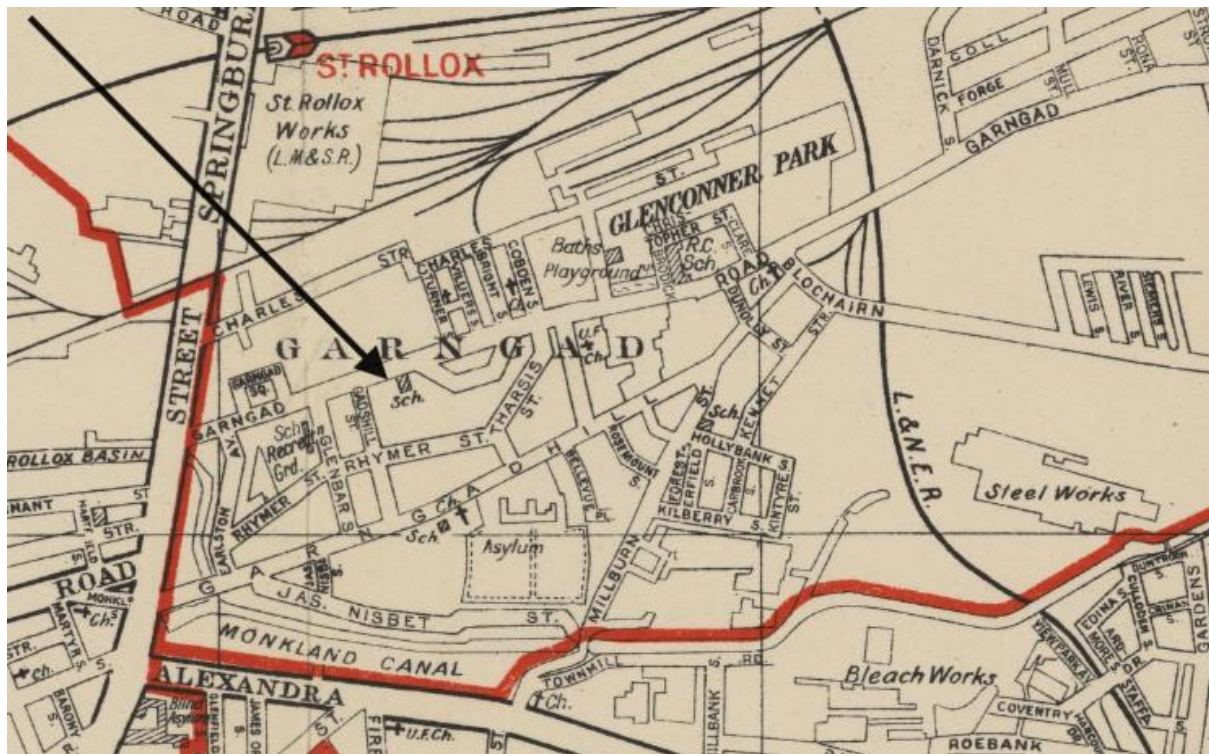


*Plan of Glasgow, London : Geographia Ltd., 1945
Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.*

By the start of 1946, the council had agreed to close the London Road British Restaurant however no actual date was recorded (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Special Subcommittee Meeting, 7th of January 1946, pg. 412).

108 Garngad Road

The first mention of a British Restaurant at this location in the meeting minutes was in August 1942. The General Finance committee met to discuss potentially opening a restaurant in the Springburn area. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Meeting, 7th of August 1942, pg. 1669). Notably Garngad and Garngad Road were renamed Royston and Royston Road by Glasgow Corporation in 1942 ("Greater Glasgow: An Illustrated Architectural Guide", by Sam Small, 2008) however no further mention of establishing a restaurant was found within the meeting minutes. 108 Garngad Road was listed in the Daily Mail's advertisement of Glasgow British Restaurants (Daily Mail - 16th of October 1942).



Plan of Glasgow, London : Geographia Ltd., 1945

Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.

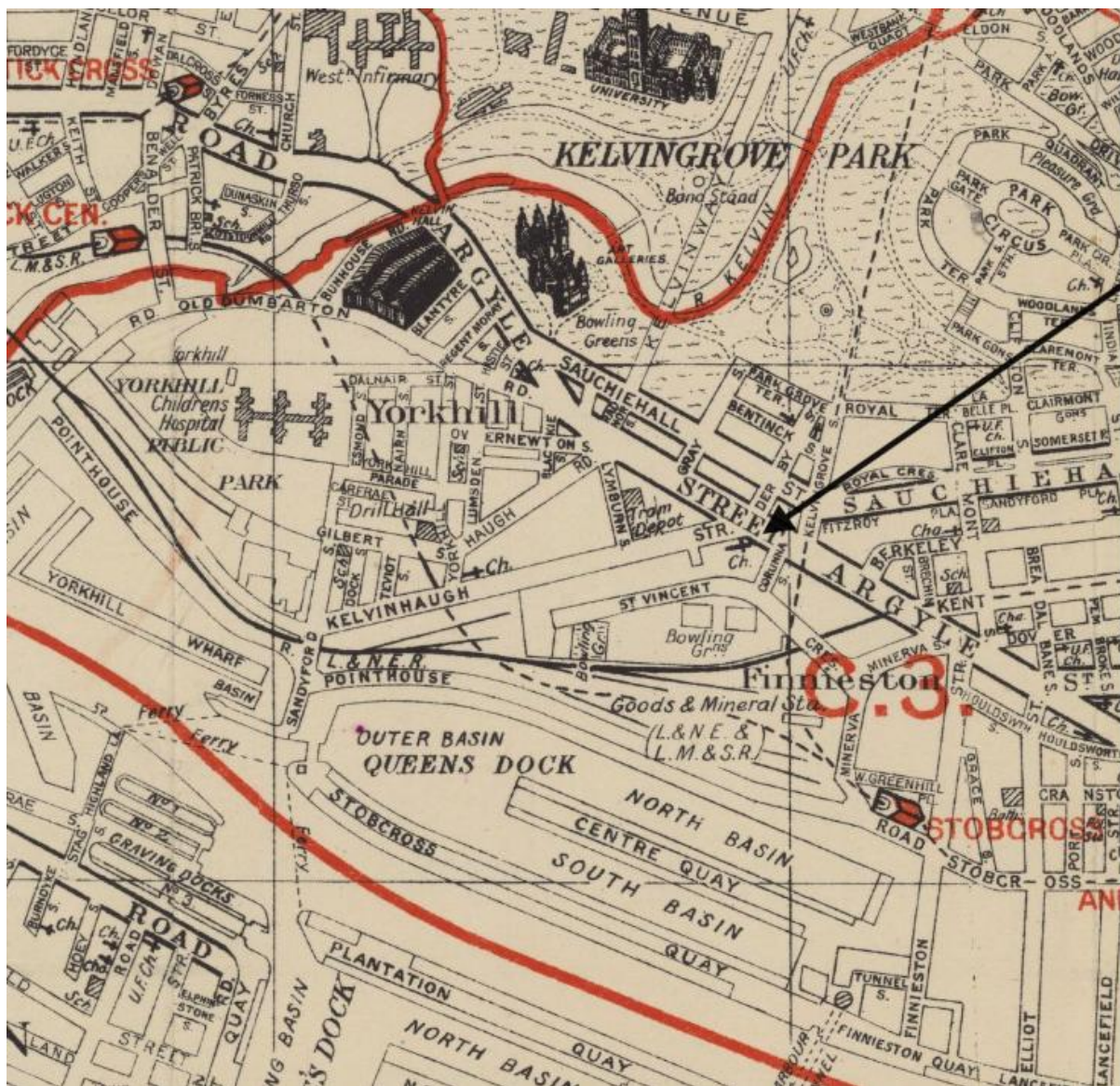
Note: This map was published in 1945, however the recording took place in 1940. It is also unclear if the restaurant was beside or within the school notes on the map.

The Garngad area had multiple industrial hubs, with the St. Rollox London Manchester and Scotland Rail works and the Steel works, mentioned above, and was close by the Bleach works along Alexandra Parade.

No further mention of the Garngad/Royston Restaurant was made within the meeting minutes of the corporation reviewed, nor was it listed within the 1949 civic restaurant list. This indicates it closed sometime between 1946 and 1949.

13 Kelvinhaugh Street

Belonging to the Sandyford Henderson Memorial Church, the Church's Hall at 13 Kelvinhaugh Street was rented out by the Corporation of Glasgow to serve as a British Restaurant. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Meeting, 13th of March 1942, pg. 1942).



Plan of Glasgow, London : Geographia Ltd., 1945

Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.

In 1942, 13 Kelvinhaugh Street was a stone's throw away from several quays, such as the Queen's Docks and Yorkhill Wharf and a Goods and Mineral station for the London, Midland and Scottish Railway. A photograph of the Queens Docks can be found here <https://canmore.org.uk/collection/1257739>

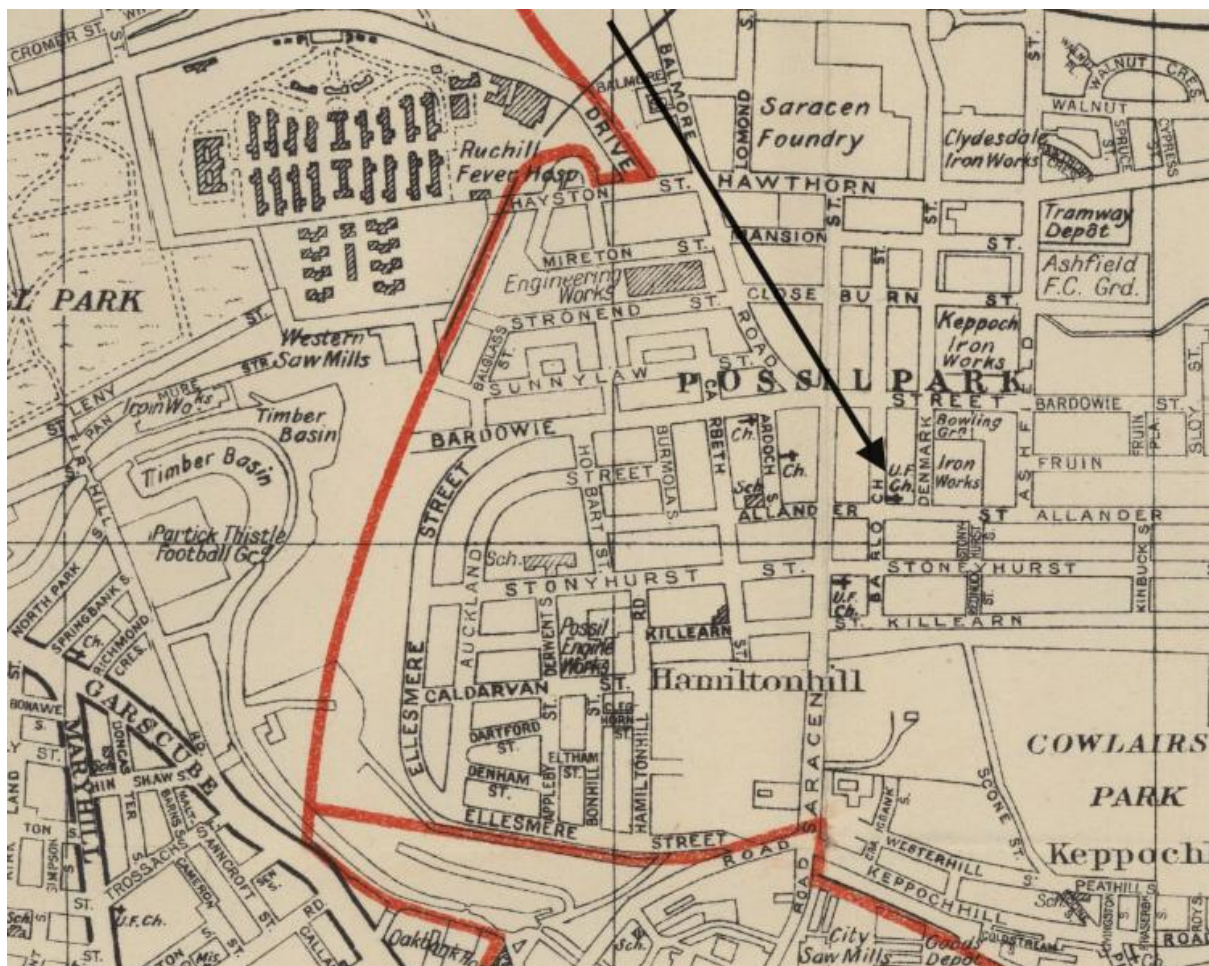
While the restaurant was in close proximity to the quays and goods station, none of the operations of the restaurant were reported on within the corporation meetings. As such it is unknown how financially viable it was to run.

A request was made by the Sandyford Memorial church to close the British restaurant in August 1945, as they needed to make provisions for future congregational activities. Following discussions between the Corporation and The Ministry of Food, agreement was made in January 1946 to close the Kelvinhaugh British Restaurant, however no exact date of the closure was recorded in the minutes. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Special Subcommittee Meeting, 7th of January 1946, pg. 412).

The Sandyford-Henderson Memorial Church still stands today at 13 Kelvinhaugh Street.

68 Barloch Street

Initially listed as “Allander Street” in the corporation meetings, 68 Barloch Street was selected to house a British Restaurant in 1942 (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Meeting, 13th of March 1942, pg. 1942). During the 1940s Possil park was home to several iron works such as Clydesdale Iron Works, Keppoch Iron Works and the Saracen Foundry. Keppoch Iron works was the closest to the restaurant, being located in the street directly behind the restaurant. There was also an Engineering works on Stronend Street, roughly 10 minutes walk to 68 Barloch Street, and slightly further a field was the timber basin and Western Saw Mills on Panmure Street, about a 15 minute walk from the restaurant.



Plan of Glasgow, London : Geographia Ltd., 1945

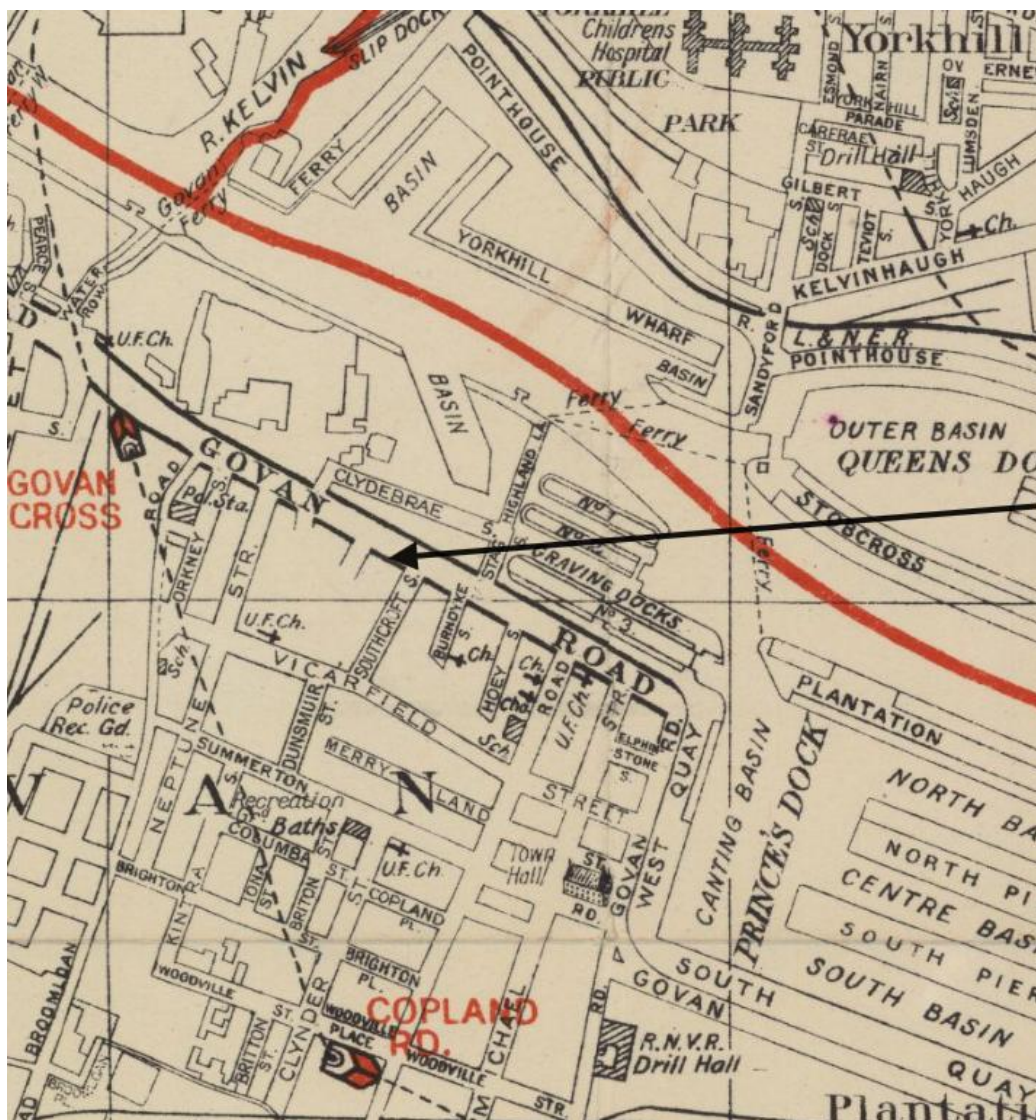
Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.

The building itself has not been identified through the corporation minutes or an extensive google search, but from the map above, the restaurant could have been housed in the hall of or the actual united free church signposted on the corner of Barloch Street and Allander Street.

No other mention was made of the restaurant in the minutes reviewed. From the London Research (Image IMG_20241019_143916) it is listed in MoF government records of still operational restaurants at the end of April 1946. Additionally it listed the site as providing a greater number of children's school meals than of public main meals. However, by 1949 it was no longer listed as being open, indicating it closed at some stage between 1946 and 1949.

615 Govan Road

By March 1942, the corporation had scouted out 615 Govan Road as a potential location for a British Restaurant and had started the process to acquire the building there (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow: General Finance Meeting, 13th of March 1942, pg. 1942).



Plan of Glasgow, London : Geographia Ltd., 1945

Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.

Govan at this time would still have been a hub for the shipbuilding industry, with companies such as the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company Ltd, operating out of the quays around Govan.

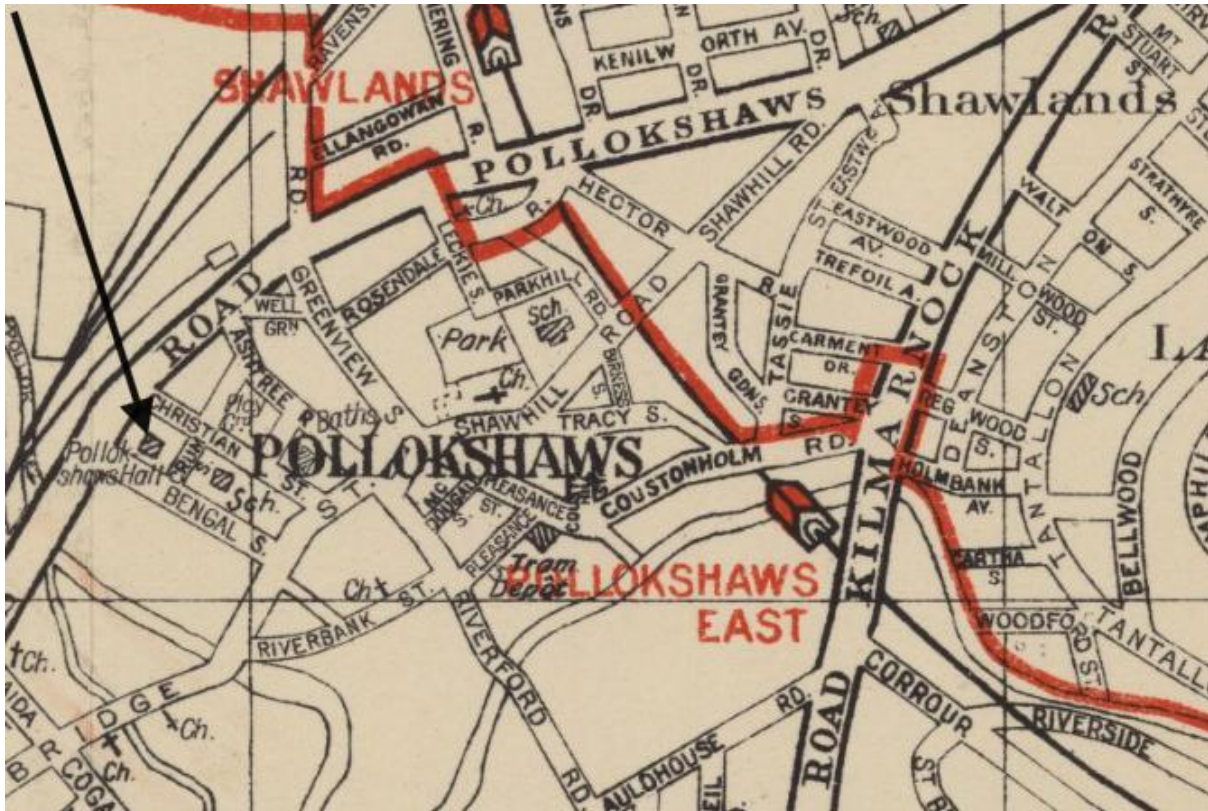
No further mention was made of the restaurant within the minutes searched.

Pollokshaws Hall

There is some indication that a British Restaurant was set up in Pollokshaws Hall, however the exact opening date was hard to ascertain from corporation minutes. By December 1942, Pollokshaw Hall had been identified by the corporation as a potential venue for a restaurant, with the General Finance committee meeting to discuss its potential. While the majority of the committee was in favour of using the venue as a restaurant, Councillor Henderson voiced his opposition to this motion. After a vote on the matter, 17 members approved of the selection, with only 5 members in opposition. The corporation then sent the choice to the Ministry of Food for approval. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow, General Finance Meeting 11th December 1942, pg.248).

By February 1943 the Ministry of Food had approved the motion to turn Pollokshaw Hall into a British Restaurant. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow, General Finance Sub-Committee Meeting 5th February 1943, pg.491).

Pollokshaws Hall seems to have been the shortest run British Restaurant in Glasgow, by May 1945 the corporation voted on its closure. Due to public need for a burgh hall and mention of a recent financial report that seemingly detailed a loss, members of the special subcommittee voted to close the restaurant, with a vote of 4 in favour and 3 opposing, and sent the notion to the MoF for final approval (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow, General Finance Meeting May to November 1945, pg.1203). No further mention was made of the Pollokshaws Hall British Restaurant in the corporation meeting minutes.



*Plan of Glasgow, London : Geographia Ltd., 1945
Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland.*

Locations considered for British Restaurants.

Corner of Argyle & Virginia Street, Marks and Spencers Building Glasgow City Centre

The Glasgow Corporation identified the corner of Argyle & Virginia street as a possible location for installing a British Restaurant. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow, General Finance Sub-Committee Meeting 5th June 1942, pg.1459). Town Clerk, Treasurer and the Director of Welfare, being tasked with arranging the let of the building.

Plans were discussed at the next subcommittee meeting, to have the corner of Argyle & Virginia street's British Restaurant to be in operation for midday meals only, with the meals coming from the cooking depots across Glasgow. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow, General Finance Sub-Committee Meeting 7th August 1942, pg.1669).

A notice for this upcoming restaurant was posted in the Scotsman on the 15th of June, 1942. Touted as the largest of its kind in Glasgow, with a capacity to host 500 patrons, the article mentioned it would be opened "shortly". (The Scotsman, 15th June 1942, pg.3).

By November of 1942, the owners of Argyle & Virginia Street (Marks and Spencers Ltd.) had sent their terms in which they would allow the Corporation to take over the premises for a British Restaurant. The operational terms stated that the British Restaurant would do breakfasts, dinners and tea, with preparation of the meals taking place on the premises. The financial terms were that instead of charging rent to the corporation, the corporation was to instead pay the occupiers' rates of £1,098.9s and the owners rates of £846.16s and the war damage and fire insurance contribution estimated to be £150. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow, General Finance Committee 13th of November 1942, pgs.97-8). Totalling to a hefty £2095.5s the equivalent of roughly £82,440.54 in today's money. (National Archives Currency converter: 1270–2017; Year of currency: 1940).

It is unsure if the corporation did consider fulfilling the terms of requisitioning the premises or if the Ministry of Food would assist in fulfilling the financial terms. No further mention of the takeover of Marks and Spencers were made in corporation minutes in 1942. By February 1943, the town clerk had received notice from Marks and Spencers Ltd, that the premises had instead been requisitioned by the war department.

A Photograph of Marks and Spencers, on the corner of Argyle and Virigina Street, taken in 1930 can be found in the Virital Mitchell Collection:

<https://www.mitchelllibrary.org/virtualmitchell/view-item?key=SHsiUCI6eyJzdWJqZWNOX2kljozNDYsImpvaW5fb3AiOjJ9fQ&pg=80&WINID=1732638097620#ezIHdXGLC8AAAGTaUdHjg/1044>

8 Purdon Street, Hall of Baptist Church.

The church and hall at 8 Purdon street Partick, belonged to the Baptist Church and acted as an extension to the Hillhead Baptist church. Today, the church and hall have been demolished, replaced with flats.

On the 24th of April 1942, the General Finance committee of the Corporation of Glasgow met to discuss potential locations for British Restaurant, with 8 Purdon Street being selected. The treasurer, town clerk and Director of Welfare for the city, were given orders to investigate the premises suitability and cost of renting the building. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow November 1941 to May 1942, General Finance Committee Meeting 24th April 1942, pg. 1183). At a following Finance subcommittee meeting on 5th of June 1942, a report was submitted to the subcommittee, disclosing that negotiations had been started for Purdon Street. (Minutes of the Corporation of Glasgow, May 1942 to November 1942, General Finance Subcommittee Meeting 5th of June 1942, pg. 1459).

Formal notice from the Corporation of Glasgow, was sent on the 7th of July 1942 to the church, for requisition for the church hall, with notice of claim for compensation under section 2 of the compensation defense act 1939. The initial plan was for the church hall to be transitioned into a British Restaurant, operating from 10am to 4pm, with some structural changes considered. (TD 1445/5/2/1: Proposed requisition by Glasgow Corporation of Purdon Street Church hall, owned by Hillhead Baptist Church, for a "British Restaurant", Jul – Aug 1942.)

However, while the church “understood the value of British Restaurants”, the church appealed this decision, citing an agreement the church held with Lord Woolton. Mr Aubrey, the church secretary, wrote to the corporation revealing that the church received a letter from Lord Woolton on the 22nd of October 1941. Lord Woolton’s letter stated that if local authorities requested the use of church premises, which the church was using for church work, orders were to be given to “de-requisition” these premises from the Ministry of Food. Lord Woolton stated that if alternative locations were available then there should be no question in taking over the church’s premises, in view of the government’s desire not to interrupt the work of the church. The Hillhead Baptist church, in correspondence with the Corporation of Glasgow, highlighted that in over 50 years there had been no break in worship and that the hall was used for working with the youth of Glasgow, particularly the Glasgow Boys Brigade. The Church believed that if the corporation were to take over their hall it would “jeopardise” their work (TD 1445/5/2/1: Proposed requisition by Glasgow Corporation of Purdon Street Church hall, owned by Hillhead Baptist Church, for a "British Restaurant", Jul – Aug 1942.).