



Gilbert R. Blount, *St. Ambrose Church*, 1858, Kidderminster

THE ARCHITECTURAL ARCHIVES
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
GILBERT R. BLOUNT COLLECTION

Gilbert R. Blount, 1819-1876

A Finding Aid for
Architectural Drawings, 1844-1874
in

The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania

Archival Description

Descriptive Summary

- Title: Architectural Drawings, 1844-1874.
- Coll. ID: 061.
- Origin: Gilbert R. Blount, 1816-1876, Architect.
- Extent: Architectural drawings: 48 sheets.
- Repository: The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania
102 Meyerson Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104-6311
(215) 898-8323
- Abstract: The collection comprises architectural drawings documenting architectural designs of Gilbert R. Blount spanning the years 1844-1874.
- Cataloging: Collection-level records for materials in the Architectural Archives may be found in RLIN Eureka, the union catalogue of members of the Research Libraries Group. The record number for this collection is PAUP00-A18.
- Publications: McPhee, Constance C. "Gilbert R. Blount (1819-1876): Catholic Gothic Revival Architect." Unpublished M.A. thesis. University of Pennsylvania, 1987.

Biographical/Historical Sketch

Gilbert Robert Blount (1816-1876) was an English Catholic architect active from about 1845 until 1870. He received his earliest training as a civil engineer under Brunel, for whom he acted as a superintendent of the Thames Tunnel works (1825-1828). Employment in the offices of Sydney Smirke (1830s) and Anthony Salvin (1842-1849) preceded his appointment as architect to Cardinal Wiseman, the Catholic Archbishop of Westminster and England's first Roman cardinal since the Reformation.

Blount's years of maturity coincided with the resurgence of Catholic church building in England, a phenomenon initiated by the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829, which freed Catholics to take an active role in politics and to practice their faith openly. The ranks of English Catholics were also swelled by immigrants: refugees from revolutionary France at the beginning of the century, and Irish laborers fleeing from famine later. The increase in numbers created a pressing need for new churches, and Blount's activity as an architect was almost exclusively in service of this need. His designs and executed buildings are churches, monastic complexes, and related educational institutions for the monastic community.

Excerpt from Constance McPhee, "Gilbert R. Blount (1819-1876): Catholic Gothic Revival Architect."

Scope and Content Note

The collection contains a range of Blount's designs for both executed and projected buildings. They include proposals for St. Edward's, Clifford, Yorkshire (ca. 1844-1845), a church and buildings at Crewe (1851-1852), Holy Trinity, Kidderminster (1856), St. Peter's, Bromsgrove (1858), and St. Helen's, Brentwood (1860-1861). The collection is also rich in Blount's drawings of liturgical furniture.

The following projects are not represented in this collection: St. Anne's, Spitalfields (1850) and the Dominican Priory, Carisbrooke, Hampshire (1865-1866).

In processing this collection and preparing the finding aid, the staff of the Architectural Archives have relied heavily on the M.A. thesis by Constance McPhee cited above. A full index to projects represented in this collection is found in Appendix A.

Access Points for Indexing (Controlled Vocabulary)

Blount, Gilbert R., 1819-1876.

Architects--Archives.

Architectural design--History--19th century--Sources.

Architectural drawing--England.

Architecture, Modern--19th century--England--Designs and plans.

Church architecture--England--Designs and plans.

Catholic church buildings--England--Designs and plans.

Catholic institutions--Buildings--England--Designs and plans.

Church furniture--England--Drawings.

Architectural drawings--English.

Administrative Information

Restrictions on access: This collection is available for research by appointment only.

Preferred citation: Gilbert R. Blount Collection, The Architectural Archives, University of Pennsylvania.

Acquisition: Gift of G. Holmes Perkins, 1976.

Processing: The collection was processed and the finding aid prepared by William Whitaker, Emily Cooperman, Laura Stroffolino and Nancy Thorne. Work was substantially completed in 2000, with additions and corrections in 2003.

Container list

Series I. Architectural Drawings.

Extent: 48 sheets.

Arrangement: Arranged by project in chronological order.

Call #	Descriptive Title
061.1	St. Edward Church, 7 drawings. Church, School and Presbytery (Crewe), 6 drawings. Our Lady of the Rosary Church and School, 1 drawing. St. Ambrose Church; 1 drawing. St. Peter Church; 2 drawings. Sacred Heart and St. Helen Church; 3 drawings.
061.2	St. Mary Magdalene Church; 2 drawings. St. Peter Church, School and Presbytery, 4 drawings. Dominican Convent, Northern Residential Wing; 1 drawing. Ss. Anthony and George Church; 2 drawings. Our Lady and St. Catherine of Siena Church; 2 drawings. St. Mary Church; 2 drawings. The Holy Child Jesus and St. Joseph Church; 3 drawings.
061.3	Unidentified Chapel; 1 drawing. Unidentified (cemetery?) Chapel; 1 drawing. Unidentified Cathedral Church; 3 drawings. Unidentified Church; 1 drawing. Unidentified Church; 1 drawing. Altar for Ss. Erconwald and Aedilberga Church; 1 drawing. Altar for St. Nicholas Church; 1 drawing. Design for a Lady Altar; 1 drawing. Design for an Altar; 1 drawing. Design for a Statue of the Virgin Mary, 1 drawing.

Appendix A

Project Index

Note: Project numbering was assigned by the Archives based on research by Constance McPhee. Name, location, date and building status information is also based on McPhee's research.

10 St. Edward Church

Clifford, Yorkshire, UK

notes: ca. 1844-1945; unbuilt (competition?). 10.1 ground plan of church; 10.2 east elevation; 10.3 south elevation; 10.4 section; 10.5 longitudinal section; 10.6 north elevation (variant scheme); 10.7 longitudinal section (variant scheme).

holdings:

[061.1] 7 drawings

15 Church, School and Presbytery

Russel Street (now Heath Street), Crewe, Cheshire, UK

notes: 1851-52; built. 15.1 north elevation of church (signed); 15.2 west elevation of church and school; 15.3 section of priest's house, north elevation of school and master's house; 15.4 front elevation of priest's house and sacristy, east elevation of church; 15.5 north elevation of church (signed); 15.6 presbytery, sacristies and east elevation of church.

holdings:

[061.1] 6 drawings

20 Our Lady of the Rosary Church and School

Marylebone Road, London, N. W. 1, UK

notes: 1855, 1870; built. 20.1 altar - elevation, section and details of moldings.

holdings:

[061.1] 1 drawing

25 St. Ambrose Church

Kidderminster, Worcestershire, UK

notes: 1858; built. 25.1 perspective.

holdings:

[061.1] 1 drawing

- 30 St. Peter Church**
Gloucester, UK
notes: 1859-60, 1867-68; built. 30.1 elevation and plan of pulpit; 30.2 elevation, plan and details of pulpit.
holdings:
[061.1] 2 drawings
- 35 Sacred Heart and St. Helen Church (now Brentwood Cathedral)**
Brentwood, Essex, UK
notes: 1860-61; built. 35.1 south elevation; 35.2 south elevation; 35.3 west and east elevations.
holdings:
[061.1] 3 drawings; 3 modern photographs
- 40 St. Mary Magdalene Church**
Brighton, Sussex, UK
notes: 1861-64; built. 40.1 altar - elevation and details; 40.2 stained glass window for chancel.
holdings:
[061.2] 2 drawings; 6 modern photographs
- 45 St. Peter Church, School and Presbytery**
Bromsgrove, Worcestershire, UK
notes: 1860-62; built. 45.1 front and side elevations; 45.2 chancel and belfry end elevations; 45.3 side elevation of church; 45.4 back elevation of church.
holdings:
[061.2] 4 drawings; 4 modern photographs
- 50 Dominican Convent, Northern Residential Wing**
Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, UK
notes: 1864; built. 50.1 perspective.
holdings:
[061.2] 1 drawing; 3 modern photographs
- 55 Ss. Anthony and George Church**
Duncton (or Burton Park, near Petworth), Sussex, UK
notes: 1868-69; built. 55.1 altar- elevation, section and details; 55.2 Lady altar - elevation, section and details of Tabernacle door.
holdings:
[061.2] 2 drawings

60 Our Lady and St. Catherine of Siena Church

London, E. 3 (Bow), UK

notes: 1869-70; built. 60.1 high altar - elevation, section and details; 60.2 tabernacle safe - elevation and plan.

holdings:

[061.2] 2 drawings

65 St. Mary Church

Sibbertoft Road, Husband's Bosworth, Leicestershire, UK

notes: 1873-74; built. 65.1 high altar - elevation, section and plan; 65.2 tabernacle safe - plan and details.

holdings:

[061.2] 2 drawings

70 The Holy Child Jesus and St. Joseph Church

Midland Road, Bedford, UK

notes: 1872. Drawings are labeled Church of the Holy Family, Bedford. 70.1 perspective of church, presbytery and school; 70.2 high altar - elevation; 70.3 high altar - elevation.

holdings:

[061.2] 3 drawings

Unidentified Drawings: Churches**75 Unidentified Chapel**

notes: ca. 1850 (?) 75.1 perspective.

holdings:

[061.3] 1 drawing

80 Unidentified (cemetery?) Chapel

notes: ca. 1860 (?). 80.1 perspective

holdings:

[061.3] 1 drawing

85 Unidentified Cathedral Church

notes: ca. 1860 (?) 85.1 perspective; 85.2 section and elevation; 85.3 ground plan.

holdings:

[061.3] 3 drawings

90 Unidentified Church

notes: undated. 90.1 section and detail.

holdings:

[061.3] 1 drawing

95 Unidentified Church

notes: undated. 95.1 section and elevation.

holdings:

[061.3] 1 drawing

Church Furnishings for non-Blount and Unidentified Churches**100 Altar for Ss. Erconwald and Aedilberga Church**

Ingatestone, Essex UK

notes: undated. 100.1 elevation.holdings:

[061.3] 1 drawing

105 Altar for St. Nicholas Church

Ilford (London), Manor House, UK

notes: undated. 105.1 elevation.holdings:

[061.3] 1 drawing

110 Design for a Lady Altarnotes: undated. 110.1 elevation and plan.holdings:

[061.3] 1 drawing

115 Design for an Altarnotes: undated. 115.1 elevation.holdings:

[061.3] 1 drawing

120 Design for a Statue of the Virgin Marynotes: undated. 120.1 elevation.holdings:

[061.3] 1 drawing