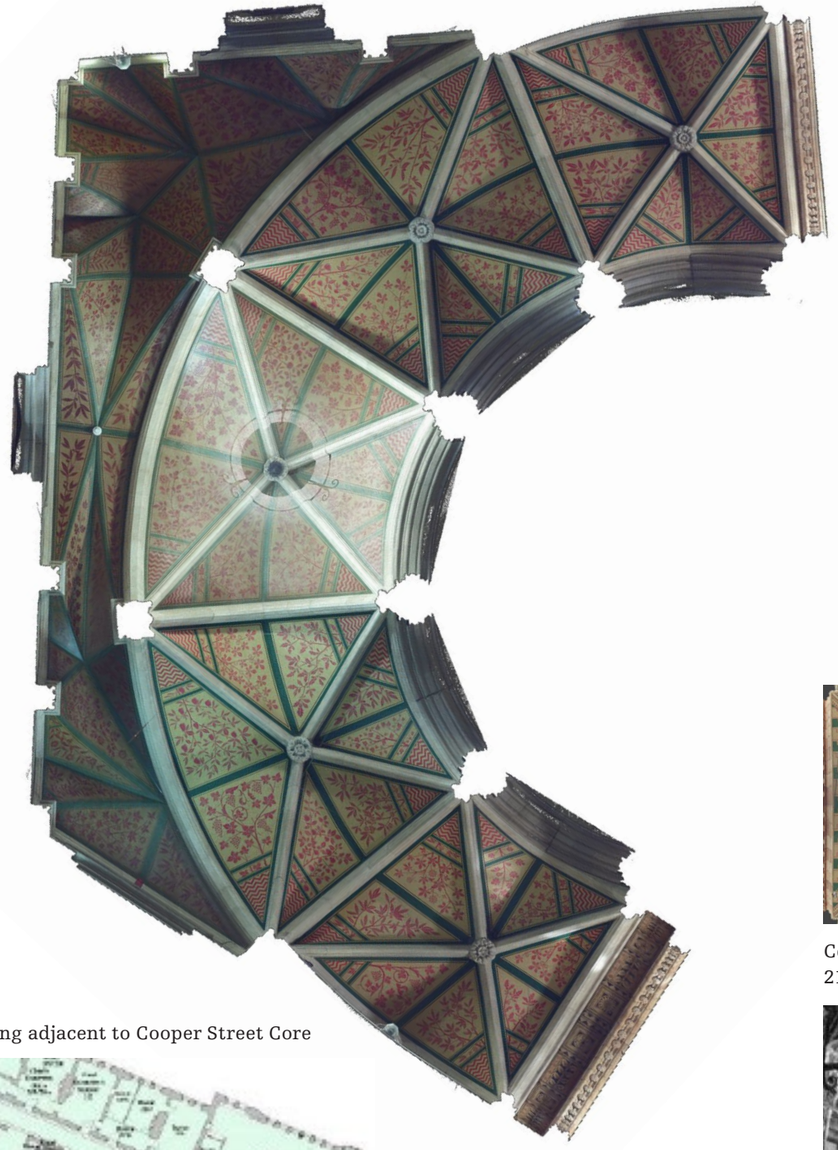
LEVEL 01 CORRIDOR - ADJACENT TO COOPER STREET SPIRAL STAIRCASE

AREA		HISTORIC SCHEMES
CEILING PATTERN		blue/grey in the region of NCS 4005 B80G similar to the carved detailing of the walls yellowed over time and through being covered up →
WALLS		blue/grey carved detailing to the walls - in the region of NCS 4005 B80G



Ceiling adjacent to Cooper Street Core





Ceiling outside room 216



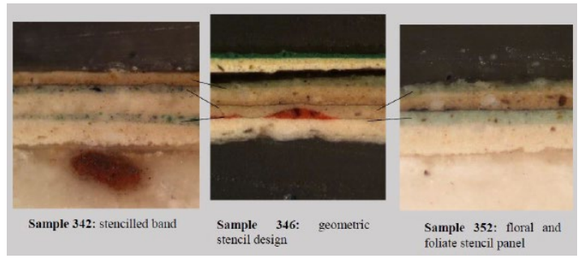
The walls of the corridor are finished in stone with double rows of coloured tiles and the ceilings are vaulted along the length of the corridors to all elevations. Within the vaulting, a stencilled scheme of decoration has been applied in both geometric and floral motifs.

An extract from the McCleod record of the building:

"Transverse arches of orange-coloured terracotta divide the ceilings into bays, the groining on the Lloyd street side being of a uniform pattern with a border of a mosaic character up the angles, relieved with colour, greys, and buffs preponderating. The corridor from the Cooper street end, is more varied in design richer in colour, and has a greater elaboration of detail than those on the opposite side of the hall."

The majority of the stencilled decoration to the vaulting within the corridors of Level 2 appear to be a modern re-paint. The quality of the stencil work is relatively good although the colours are very synthetic and not sympathetic with the rest of the building as well as large areas of paint failure and loss which appear to be as a result of moisture ingress. Outside room 221 the central section of the vaulting directly above the door has a large area of delaminating and lost paint. The failure appears to be at the plaster substrate. In other areas, hairline fractures are evident, and those of which that could be touched appeared to be stable although sounded hollow when gently tapped, suggesting possible delamination.

Outside rooms 216-219, in the section containing the floral and foliate decorated panels, there are what appear to be a series of earlier painted panels. These have the same decorative design and roughly the same colour palette, although the green is significantly different. The panels appear to be in good condition other than discolouration and dirt, and they look to have had a varnish coating applied to them. Some areas of overpaint were noted to these panels, particularly the green bands. This could possibly have been done to touch up areas of loss and fading when the more extensive re-painting works were undertaken, thought to be in the 1990s.



Sample 342: stencilled band

Sample 346: geometric stencil design

Sample 352: floral and foliate stencil panel

The panels adjacent to rooms 216-218 are not the earliest scheme as one earlier scheme was found in this area, however towards the bottom of the panel up to four schemes were found. All are seemingly of the same or similar design and colour palette, although the design is slightly off set and the earliest green is much lighter and more blue in colour. (see image below)



Although the blue/greens in the earlier schemes appear to be more green in appearance (NCS reference of 4010 G30Y), it is likely they have yellowed over time and through being covered over, and would originally have been bluer in hue, possibly closer in colour to the blue/grey carved detailing to the walls, which is in the region of NCS 4005 B80G.

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