

91 West Bow

Edinburgh 1

19<sup>th</sup> August, 1981

Dear Mr. Gowlay,

I enclose a brief summary of what information I have on Lathem Church.

I do not know why the RCAHMS should have a slip attributing the church to Alexander Ross. Certainly so far as the structure is concerned it is an 18<sup>th</sup>-century church with an early 19<sup>th</sup>-century north aisle and not by Ross. It is possible that he did some minor work internally in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century but Lathem is a long way from Inverness and he did not do much work in Caithness. The heritors' records do not give an architect for the 1867 work which perhaps was by Ross but they do mention a little earlier the intention of getting an architect (otherwise unknown to me) called John Swire to inspect the fabric. In 1880

Yours sincerely,  
John Gifford

I am sorry my information is so thin but  
I have not seen any sermons with a list of  
Church yet, although obviously I shall try  
to find out more when I have finished the  
Edinburgh volume of the Building of Scotland  
series and get on to writing and recording  
the Highlands volume.

likely to be employed there now.  
certainly think a local architect would have  
never repair on the house. One would  
Sister Macdonald, of Thurso, to superintend  
begin additions to the house and in 1902  
they employed William Brown, of Wick, to

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Edinburgh EH1 2JP  
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Dear Mr. Gowlay,

Thank you for your letter. I am glad to have been able to be of some use in answering questions about Latona Church.

By all means have the summary typed up and passed on to the gravedigger/verger. I should however like my name to appear on a typed version as the source of the information — professional pride!

Yours sincerely,

John Gifford

