

“Following the building’s exacting restoration by Glasgow Building Preservation Trust, the Scottish Civic Trust has embraced its role as custodian of the house, recognising our responsibilities to the tenants who share office spaces, to the visiting public who enjoy its elegant interior on Doors Open Days, and to passers-by who unfailingly admire its restored exterior. More than that, the Scottish Civic Trust has a responsibility to the historic environment as a whole – for the Tobacco Merchant’s House is an extremely important surviving example of a Merchant City mansion and must be safeguarded for future generations.”

**Fiona Sinclair | Architect and Architectural Historian;
Trustee of the Scottish Civic Trust**

“The Trust’s move to its own building at 42 Miller Street allowed us to undertake new responsibilities including the national organisation of Doors Open Days and the management of the Scottish Buildings at Risk Register as well as providing space for other heritage-based charities to use. The stimulus of these new surroundings has given fresh energy to the Trust’s life and activities and it may not be fanciful to suppose that, without this move, the Trust could not so successfully maintain its reputation as a force for good, punching much above its weight in the cultural life of Scotland.”

John Gerrard | (former) Technical Director, Scottish Civic Trust



Leave a legacy to protect a legacy

If, like us, you believe in promoting the civic movement, and in civic identity as a national consideration for Scotland, we invite you to consider leaving a gift in your Will to support our Written in Stone campaign and secure the future of the Tobacco Merchant’s House.

Leaving a gift in your Will costs nothing in your own lifetime but will make a lasting contribution to our historic and built environment for generations to come. It’s an easy and straightforward process and any gift, no matter its size, will make a difference to the building’s future. Simply ask your solicitor to add a Codicil to your Will and ensure that this is witnessed.

If you do decide to leave a gift in this way – or indeed, if you have already made such an arrangement – do please let the Trust know so that we can acknowledge your gift and express our heartfelt thanks.



For further information or to discuss your gift, please contact:
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Cover image based on a drawing by Professor John R Hume



Written in Stone

Help us to protect
the Tobacco Merchant’s House
for future generations



Within these walls

The Scottish Civic Trust has a stated mission to celebrate Scotland's built environment, take action for its improvement and empower its communities.

Since 1995, our home has been in one of Scotland's most important small buildings, the Tobacco Merchant's House at 42 Miller Street, Glasgow. A Palladian jewel, nestling quietly in a busy urban streetscape, this little house is not only a rare example of an elegantly proportioned 18th century urban villa, but a powerful reminder of how far we have travelled in our civic and social journey.

With ownership of this building comes responsibility – we are custodians of both its architectural heritage and also a wider historic, social and economic heritage. To protect the Tobacco Merchant's House for decades to come, we need to establish a capital fund to cover the costs of future major repair works. By taking care of the fabric of the building, we will also take care of the legacy it holds within these walls.

Will you help us to protect this vital legacy by leaving a legacy of your own?



The Scottish Civic Trust

Established in 1967 to help people connect to their built heritage and take a leading role in guiding its development, the Trust successfully campaigned for the restoration of Edinburgh's New Town. We were instrumental in saving New Lanark and in bringing Doors Open Days to the UK, enabling thousands of people to explore buildings and places that otherwise would be closed to them. Maintaining the Tobacco Merchant's House exemplifies our serious approach to sustainable best practice in the built environment, reflected in our Management and Maintenance Plan, drawn up by conservation-accredited architects.

The Tobacco Merchant's House

Built by John Craig in 1775, the house is all that remains today of a row of 'self-contained gentleman's villas'. Its purchase, in 1782, by tobacco importer Robert Findlay, earned the house its name and a place in Scotland's history, a salutary reminder that slavery once fuelled Glasgow's fortunes and was not viewed with the abhorrence it is today. The house survived vast industrial and commercial changes that swept through the city as well as a fire that destroyed neighbouring warehouses; during the 19th and 20th centuries, it became home to a succession of businesses, from gas to glass and jewellery to cotton, before falling into disuse and dereliction. In 1989, facing demolition despite its A-listed status, the house was rescued and restored by the Glasgow Building Preservation Trust and purchased, in 1995, by the Scottish Civic Trust.



Thanks to a £500,000 refurbishment completed in 1995, the building is currently in excellent condition but will need a major programme of repair in the medium term to maintain this. With your help, we will establish a £250,000 capital fund to secure both the future of the Tobacco Merchant's House and the work of the Scottish Civic Trust.

- By sustaining the **architectural integrity** of one of our finest and most significant 18th century buildings, we will continue to fulfill our civic responsibility to promote and protect our built heritage and share it with as many people as possible.
- By interpreting our **social and economic history and heritage** through installations such as the entrance panel engraved with the words of freed slave and social reformer, Frederick Douglass, we will use sobering lessons from the past to inform a kinder, more democratic future. We will use further interpretations to explore the city's historic connections to slavery with honesty and integrity.
- By maintaining the building as the home of the Scottish Civic Trust and other heritage and built environment bodies, it will continue to flourish as a symbol of the achievements of the civic movement in Scotland, reflecting the Trust's influence and ambitions and **the importance of civic identity to Scotland**.

