

= Craigiehall =

Craigiehall is a late 17th century country house , which until 2015 served as the Headquarters of the British Army in Scotland . It is located close to Cramond , around 9 km ( 5 @. @ 6 mi ) west of central Edinburgh , Scotland .

Craigiehall was designed by Sir William Bruce , with input from James Smith , and completed in 1699 for the Earl of Annandale , who had recently acquired the Craigie estate through marriage . It is a good surviving example of one of Bruce 's smaller houses , and set a pattern for such villas in the Edinburgh area for the 18th century .

It was later the home of Charles Hope @-@ Weir , who made several improvements to the estate policies . Craigiehall was extended several times , before being sold to the Earl of Rosebery , who leased out the property . It was briefly a hotel and country club , before being requisitioned by the Army at the outbreak of the Second World War . Craigiehall continues to be used as the Army 's Scottish Headquarters . The house has been protected as a category A listed building since 1971 , as a substantial 17th @-@ century classical house , worked on by several notable architects .

= = Early history = =

The estate of Craigie is recorded as belonging to one John de Craigie in the reign of David I ( 1124 ? 1153 ) . In 1387 the estate passed by marriage to John Stewart , son of Sir Robert Stewart of Durisdeer . The Stewarts sold the estate , which by this time had a tower house , in 1643 to John Fairholm , treasurer to the City of Edinburgh . In 1682 John Fairholm 's granddaughter Sophia , aged only 14 , married William Johnstone , 2nd Earl of Annandale , and Craigiehall changed ownership again . Only two built features on the estate date from before this time ; the 17th century east sundial , and the ruined doocot , or pigeon house , dated 1672 . The east sundial is one of only 25 obelisk @-@ type sundials in Scotland , and was re @-@ erected to the east of the house in 1965 , after being found in a field to the south of the house .

= = The Bruce house = =

The couple set about planning a new house to replace the aging tower house , and in 1694 the Earl contacted Sir William Bruce , who promised to design " a convenient little house , gardings and courts " . The property was surveyed by John Adair , and the old tower house was taken down . The survey took the place of a site visit by Bruce , who was at this time under virtual house arrest , due to his political leanings , and suspected Jacobite sympathies . Design submissions were also obtained from James Smith and Robert Mylne . Smith 's scheme was judged too small and irregular by Bruce , who urged the Earl to agree to his own " modish and regular designe " . However , the house as built by Bruce is partially based on Smith 's early design . Before work on the house commenced , a courtyard , 500 by 400 feet ( 150 by 120 m ) across , was laid out , establishing the formal arrangement in which the house would sit . On 16 February 1698 , a contract was signed between Lord Annandale and the mason Thomas Bauchop , for a house 64 by 46 feet ( 20 by 14 m ) , and 28 feet ( 8 @. @ 5 m ) high , all " according to the modell of wood and draught signed by Sir William Bruce of Kinross " .

Bruce 's new house was complete by 1699 , and was worked on by many of the same craftsmen who were engaged by Bruce at nearby Hopetoun House , which was under construction at the same time . Craftsmen included the plasterers John McKay and Thomas Albur , cabinet maker William Scott , plumber Joseph Foster , smith Alexander Gardener , and the wright Andrew Barclay . The staircase , with its wrought @-@ iron balustrade decorated with roses , thistles , tulips and oak leaves , bears many similarities to the one at Caroline Park , Granton , and was the work of the smiths James Storrie and James Horne .

The building comprises a compact , three @-@ storey house , in the Dutch @-@ classical style which was introduced into England by Sir Roger Pratt , and is typical of Bruce 's work . The six @-@ bay entrance front has a two @-@ bay projecting central section , surmounted by a pediment

topped by three pineapples , of which one remains . The tympanum is carved with the coat of arms of the Earl and his wife , with their initials ( WEA and SCA for William , Earl of Annandale , and Sophia Countess of Annandale ) and the date 1699 . The roof behind was bell @-@ cast , with a cupola and four tall chimneys symmetrically placed , although this was replaced in the 1950s . The centrally placed entrance is reached by steps , and surmounted by carved decorations . The garden front is similar , and is also topped by a decorated pediment . Once the house was complete , two wings connected by curved passages were added . These incorporated additional accommodation and a library , but the passages and south wing were later demolished .

Inside , Bruce planned two apartments : a state apartment , comprising dining room , drawing room , bedroom and dressing room , with a second smaller apartment to the south . Bruce 's panelling survives in part of the south apartment , which was later turned into a single room . The chimneypiece and wood carving in the " Blue Room " is also 17th century . The centrally placed stairwell , lighted from above , would be developed more fully by Bruce in his design for Hopetoun House .

The walled garden to the north @-@ east was built in 1708 by Alexander McGill , to designs by the Earl of Mar , who also designed the gate piers and garden buildings , and supplied statuary . The garden may have been balanced by a similar walled garden to the south @-@ east of the house . No trace is now visible , but a second garden is shown on 18th century maps of the area , and would have been consistent with Bruce 's symmetrical layout .

= = Charles Hope @-@ Weir 's improvements = =

In 1741 , the 2nd Marquis of Annandale left Craigiehall to his nephew , Charles Hope @-@ Weir ( 1710 ? 1791 ) , second son of Charles Hope , 1st Earl of Hopetoun . Hope @-@ Weir travelled to Europe on the grand tour in 1754 @-@ 55 , taking with him the young architect Robert Adam , and was inspired to improve the Craigiehall policies on his return . A walled forecourt and the formal gardens in front of the house were removed . He also planted numerous trees across the estate , laid out avenues , and had several garden buildings constructed . A lake was excavated , and a new bridge over the River Almond was constructed to link the neighbouring estate of Lennie , which Hope @-@ Weir had bought in 1750 .

= = = Bridge , grotto and bath house = = =

The rustic arched Grotto Bridge is dated 1757 . It bears Hope @-@ Weir 's initials , with the inscription UTILI DULCI , taken from Horace , and translatable as " the useful with the sweet " . It was built to a design by " J. Adam " , either John or James , Robert 's brothers . The bridge spans a particularly picturesque section of the Almond , with rapids flowing under the single span .

Upstream from the bridge is a grotto and bath house , built in a similar rustic style and presumably by the same architect . The bath house is a square vaulted chamber , with a plunge pool fed by river water . The upper chamber comprises a circular saloon with windows , although this is now roofless and in poor condition . The original roof was a conical thatched structure , and a niche on the exterior wall may have housed a statue .

= = = Craigiehall Temple = = =

An avenue of oak trees runs up Lennie Hill from the Grotto Bridge . At the summit , Hope @-@ Weir had an ornamental temple built in 1759 , commanding wide views of the expanded estate and beyond . Craigiehall Temple was a circular two @-@ storey structure , with a stair tower at the rear and a pedimented portico on the front . The segmental pediment bears the arms of the 1st Marquess of Annandale , and so predates the temple . In The Buildings of Scotland : Edinburgh , it is suggested that this portico may have formed part of a gate to the forecourt of the house . If so , it may have been made by Alexander McGill , to a design by John Erskine , Earl of Mar. It was incorporated into the temple , which was again to the design of one of the Adam brothers . A Latin

inscription on the temple , again from Horace , can be translated as " live happy while you can among joyful things " . The structure was burned by vandals in the early 1970s , and in 1977 the upper storey was removed as a hazard to aviation , following the development of a new longer runway at nearby Edinburgh Airport . The remaining storey was renovated , and now forms part of a private house .

= = Extensions and additions = =

In 1818 Hope @-@ Weir 's grandson James Hope @-@ Vere ( 1785 ? 1843 ) asked Thomas Brown to provide designs for an attic extension , although this was never carried out . Ten years later , William Burn was commissioned to design a new north wing , incorporating a dining room , with new kitchens below and bedrooms above . The front of this extension was topped by a pediment matching Bruce 's original , complete with pineapples , although this too was removed in the 1950s . The rear is bowed , with a curved stair led down to the garden at the rear . Plans for a matching wing to the south were never carried out . Burn also remodelled the interior , creating a large drawing room from the rooms of the south apartment .

James ' son William ( 1824 ? 1916 ) commissioned David Bryce to design a further northern extension in 1853 , forming a servant 's range , and to remodel some of the interiors . William also rebuilt the 18th century stable court and clock tower between 1843 and 1872 . It was William 's son Colonel James Hope @-@ Vere ( 1858 ? 1933 ) who sold the estate , upon his father 's death in 1916 , to the Earl of Rosebery for £ 85 @,@ 0000 .

= = Early 20th century = =

Lord Rosebery had purchased Craigiehall as a home for his second son Neil Primrose MP , who was killed in Gaza during the First World War . In 1926 Rosebery therefore decided to lease the house and policies , although the agricultural lands continue to be farmed as part of Lord Rosebery 's neighbouring Dalmeny estate . The lease was taken by Mr James Morton , an Edinburgh textile manufacturer , who commissioned Robert Lorimer to make various alterations , the property having stood empty for ten years . Lorimer added the oriel window on the south front , and modernised many of Bruce 's remaining interiors . A water turbine was constructed in the bath house to provide electricity .

In 1933 Craigiehall was re @-@ let to Ernest Thompson , who turned Craigiehall into the Riverside Hotel and Country Club . Thompson operated the 25 @-@ room hotel and golf course successfully until 1939 , when Craigiehall , like many other country houses , was requisitioned for the use of the armed forces .

= = Army Headquarters Scotland = =

Various regiments were stationed at Craigiehall Camp during the Second World War , including Royal Artillery , Royal Signals , and anti @-@ aircraft units . On 12 May 1945 , the surrender of German forces in Norway was negotiated and signed at Craigiehall . A rumour , related in Major Innes ' book , states that Rudolf Hess was brought to Craigiehall after he flew to Scotland in 1941 to contact the Duke of Hamilton . This rumour is based on a photograph of Hess supposedly once on display at Craigiehall , although the story is not corroborated .

After the war , Ernest Thompson exercised an option of his lease allowing him to buy Craigiehall from Lord Rosebery . However , the army had still not moved out , and in 1948 offered to purchase the property from Thompson , finally completing the sale in 1951 . Through the early 1950s the Army made alterations to Craigiehall . The original roof was replaced in 1953 due to woodworm , and extra rooms added in the attic . This resulted in the loss of Bruce 's chimneys , and Burn 's dining room pediment . Internally the house was redecorated , it being considered that there was too little of the original scheme remaining to allow restoration . Another extension was added , this time to the north @-@ west , to house the staff of the General Officer Commanding @-@ in @-@ Chief (

GOC ) in Scotland .

Elsewhere on the Camp , the Army began replacing the wartime Nissen huts with more permanent structures . New barracks opened in 1955 , and the Headquarters of the Army in Scotland arrived the same year from Edinburgh Castle . Further land was purchased from Lord Rosebery and married quarters were built close to the river . In 1966 , a purpose @-@ built office block , by architects Bowhill Gibson and Laing , was constructed within the walled garden , and named Annandale Block in honour of the builder of Craigiehall . Craigiehall Camp was also the site of a Cold War Anti @-@ Aircraft Operations Room , built in the 1950s .

Following restructuring , the army in Scotland became part of the 2nd Division , whose headquarters moved to Craigiehall Camp from York . Craigiehall itself was formerly the HQ of the Black Watch regiment , and now serves as the Officers ' Mess for the camp . As of 2007 , around 250 people , including civilian and military personnel , are employed at Craigiehall . In March 2007 , the Ministry of Defence announced plans for a new headquarters building at Craigiehall . Under the plans , the existing Annandale Block would be demolished , and the walled garden in which it stands would be restored . The new building was to be constructed elsewhere on the grounds , and was granted planning permission in September 2007 . On 14 December 2007 , defence ministers from eight NATO countries met at Craigiehall to discuss the role of NATO troops involved in Afghanistan . Among the ministers attending were Des Browne from the UK , Robert Gates from the US , and Joel Fitzgibbon from Australia . A protest march was organised , attracting around 30 demonstrators .

In July 2011 , following a Defence Basing Review carried out by the Ministry of Defence , it was announced that Craigiehall , along with Dreghorn Barracks and Redford Barracks also in Edinburgh , would be closing in 2014 ? 2015 . The review proposed a single UK Support Command , based at Aldershot , to replace three existing divisional headquarters including HQ 2nd Division , based at Craigiehall , which would be disbanded in 2012 . Other units at Craigiehall would form part of a new multi @-@ role brigade to be based at Kirknewton . Craigiehall Camp would be earmarked for disposal . Although plans to develop Kirknewton as an Army barracks were scrapped in March 2013 , in early 2016 , the UK Government announced that the site was one of 12 that will be sold as part of the strategy for the MOD estate . No date for the sale was given . In 2014 Army Headquarters Scotland was merged with 51st Infantry Brigade at Forthside , Stirling .