

= Bruce Castle =

Bruce Castle (formerly the Lordship House) is a Grade I listed 16th @-@ century manor house in Lordship Lane , Tottenham , London . It is named after the House of Bruce who formerly owned the land on which it is built . Believed to stand on the site of an earlier building , about which little is known , the current house is one of the oldest surviving English brick houses . It was remodelled in the 17th , 18th and 19th centuries .

The house has been home to Sir William Compton , the Barons Coleraine and Sir Rowland Hill , among others . After serving as a school during the 19th century , when a large extension was built to the west , it was converted into a museum exploring the history of the areas now constituting London Borough of Haringey and , on the strength of its connection with Sir Rowland Hill , the history of the Royal Mail . The building also houses the archives of the London Borough of Haringey . Since 1892 the grounds have been a public park , Tottenham 's oldest .

= = Origins of the name = =

The name Bruce Castle is derived from the House of Bruce , who had historically owned a third of the manor of Tottenham . However , there was no castle in the area , and it is unlikely that the family lived nearby . Upon his accession to the Scottish throne in 1306 , Robert I of Scotland forfeited his lands in England , including the Bruce holdings in Tottenham , ending the connection between the Bruce family and the area . The former Bruce land in Tottenham was granted to Richard Spigurnell and Thomas Hethe .

The three parts of the manor of Tottenham were united in the early 15th century under the Gedeney family and have remained united since . In all early records , the building is referred to as the Lordship House . The name Bruce Castle first appears to have been adopted by Henry Hare , 2nd Baron Coleraine (1635 ? 1708) , although Daniel Lysons speculates in *The Environs of London* (1795) the name 's use dates to the late 13th century .

= = Architecture = =

A detached , cylindrical Tudor tower stands immediately to the southeast of the house , and is generally considered to be the earliest part of the building ; however , Lysons believes it to have been a later addition . The tower is built of local red brick , and is 21 feet (6 @.@ 4 m) tall , with walls 3 feet (0 @.@ 91 m) thick . In 2006 , excavations revealed that it continues for some distance below the current ground level . It was described in 1829 as being over a deep well , and being used as a dairy .

Sources disagree on the house 's initial construction date , and no records survive of its construction . There is some archaeological evidence dating parts of the building to the 15th century ; William Robinson 's *History and Antiquities of the Parish of Tottenham* (1840) suggests a date of about 1514 , although the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments attributes it to the late 16th century . Nikolaus Pevsner speculates the front may have formed part of a courtyard house of which the remainder has disappeared .

The Grade I mansion 's principal facade has been substantially remodelled . The house is made of red brick with ashlar quoining and the principal facade , terminated by symmetrical matching bays , has tall paned windows . The house and detached tower are among the earliest uses of brick as the principal building material for an English house .

Henry Hare , 2nd Baron Coleraine (1635 ? 1708) oversaw a substantial remodelling of the house in 1684 , and much of the existing south facade dates from that time . The end bays were heightened , and the central porch was rebuilt with stone quoins and pilasters , a balustraded top and a small tower and cupola . A plan from 1684 shows the hall in the house 's centre , with service rooms to the west and the main parlour to the east . On the first floor , the dining room was over the hall , the main bedchamber over the kitchen , and a lady 's chamber over the porch .

In the early 18th century Henry Hare , 3rd Baron Coleraine (1694 ? 1749) oversaw a remodelling

of the north of the house , that added a range of rooms to the north and the Coleraine coat of arms to the pediment of the north facade . In the late 18th century , under the ownership of James Townsend , the narrow east facade of the house was remodelled into an entrance front , and given the appearance of a typical Georgian house . At the same time , the south front 's gabled attics were removed , giving the house 's southern elevation its current appearance . An inventory of the house made in 1789 in preparation for its sale listed a hall , saloon , drawing room , dining room and breakfast parlour on the ground floor , with a library and billiard room on the first floor .

In the early 19th century , the house 's west wing was demolished , leaving it with the asymmetrical appearance it retains today . The house was converted into a school , and in 1870 a three @-@ story extension was built in the Gothic Revival style to the northwest of the house .

The 2006 excavations by the Museum of London uncovered the chalk foundations of an earlier building on the site , of which nothing is known . Court rolls of 1742 refer to the repair of a drawbridge , implying that the building then had a moat . A 1911 archaeological journal made passing reference to " the recent levelling of the moat " .

= = Early residents = =

It is generally believed the house 's first owner was Sir William Compton , Groom of the Stool to Henry VIII and one of the period 's prominent courtiers , who acquired the manor of Tottenham in 1514 . However , there is no evidence of Compton 's living in the house , and there is some evidence the building dates to a later period .

The earliest known reference to the building dates from 1516 , when Henry VIII met his sister Margaret , Queen of Scots , at " Maister Compton 's House beside Tottenham " . The Comptons owned the building throughout the 16th century , but few records of the family or the building survive .

In the early 17th century , Richard Sackville , 3rd Earl of Dorset and Lady Anne Clifford owned the house . Sackville ran up high debts through gambling and extravagant spending ; the house (then still called " The Lordship House ") was leased to Thomas Peniston . Peniston 's wife , Martha , daughter of Sir Thomas Temple was said to be the Earl of Dorset 's mistress . The house was later sold to wealthy Norfolk landowner Hugh Hare .

= = 17th century : the Hare family = =

= = = Hugh Hare , 1st Baron Coleraine = = =

Hugh Hare (1606 ? 1667) had inherited a large amount of money from his great @-@ uncle Sir Nicholas Hare , Master of the Rolls . On the death of his father , his mother had remarried Henry Montagu , 1st Earl of Manchester , allowing the young Hugh Hare to rise rapidly in Court and social circles . He married Montagu 's daughter by his first marriage and purchased the manor of Tottenham , including the Lordship House , in 1625 , and was ennobled as Baron Coleraine shortly thereafter .

As he was closely associated with the court of Charles I , Hare 's fortunes went into decline during the English Civil War . His castle at Longford and his house in Totteridge were seized by Parliamentary forces , and returned upon the Restoration in a severe state of disrepair . Records of Tottenham from the period are now lost , and the ownership and condition of the Lordship House during the Commonwealth of England are unknown . Hugh Hare died at his home in Totteridge in 1667 , having choked to death on a bone eating turkey while laughing and drinking , and was succeeded by his son Henry Hare , 2nd Baron Coleraine .

= = = Henry Hare , 2nd Baron Coleraine = = =

Henry Hare (1635 ? 1708) settled at the Lordship House , renaming it Bruce Castle in honour of

the area 's historic connection with the House of Bruce . Hare was a noted historian and author of the first history of Tottenham . He grew up at the Hare family house at Totteridge , and it is not known when he moved to Tottenham . At the time of the birth of his first child , Hugh , in 1668 , the family were still living in Totteridge , while by the time of the death of his first wife Constantia , in 1680 , the family were living in Bruce Castle . According to Hare , Constantia was buried in All Hallows Church in Tottenham . However , the parish register for the period is complete and makes no mention of her death or burial .

Following the death of Constantia , Hare married Sarah Alston . They had been engaged in 1661 , but she had instead married John Seymour , 4th Duke of Somerset . There is evidence that during Sarah 's marriage to Seymour and Hare 's marriage to Constantia , a close relationship was sustained between them .

The house was substantially remodelled in 1684 , following Henry Hare 's marriage to the dowager Duchess of Somerset , and much of the existing south facade dates from this time . The facade 's dominating feature is a central tower with a belvedere , a motif of the English Renaissance of the late 16th / early 17th centuries (the Compton family 's Warwickshire home Castle Ashby was also given Renaissance features during the 17th century) . Hatfield House , also close to London , had a similar central tower constructed in 1611 , as does Blickling Hall in Norfolk , built circa 1616 . However , in resemblance the house appears to favour the style of Burton Agnes Hall constructed between 1601 and 1610 .

= = = = The Ghostly Lady of Bruce Castle = = = =

Although sources such as Pegram speculate that Constantia committed suicide in the face of a continued relationship between Hare and the Duchess of Somerset , little is known about her life and the circumstances of her early death , and her ghost reputedly haunts the castle .

The earliest recorded reference to the ghost appeared in 1858 ? almost two hundred years after her death ? in the Tottenham & Edmonton Advertiser .

A lady of our acquaintance was introduced at a party to an Indian Officer who , hearing that she came from Tottenham , eagerly asked if she had seen the Ghostly Lady of Bruce Castle . Some years before he had been told the following story by a brother officer when encamped on a march in India . One of the Lords Coleraine had married a beautiful lady and while she was yet in her youth had been seized with a violent hatred against her ? whether from jealousy or not is not known . He first confined her to the upper part of the house and subsequently still more closely to the little rooms of the clock turret . These rooms looked on the balconies : the lady one night succeeded in forcing her way out and flung herself with child in arms from the parapet . The wild despairing shriek aroused the household only to find her and her infant in death 's clutches below . Every year as the fearful night comes round (it is in November) the wild form can be seen as she stood on the fatal parapet , and her despairing cry is heard floating away on the autumnal blast .

The legend has now been largely forgotten , and there have been no reported sightings of the ghost in recent times .

= = Residents in the 18th century = =

Sarah Hare died in 1692 and was buried in Westminster Abbey , and Hare in 1708 , to be succeeded by his grandson Henry Hare , 3rd Baron Coleraine . Henry Hare was a leading antiquary , residing only briefly at Bruce Castle between lengthy tours of Europe .

The house was remodelled again under the 3rd Baron Coleraine 's ownership . An extra range of rooms was added to the north , and the pediment of the north front ornamented with a large coat of the Coleraine arms .

Hare 's marriage was not consummated , and following an affair with a French woman , Rosa du Plessis , du Plessis bore him his only child , a daughter named Henrietta Rosa Peregrina , born in France in 1745 . Hare died in 1749 leaving his estates to the four @-@ year @-@ old Henrietta , but her claim was rejected owing to her French nationality . After many years of legal challenges , the

estates , including Bruce Castle , were granted to her husband James Townsend , whom she had married at age 18 .

James Townsend was a leading citizen of the day . He served as a magistrate , was Member of Parliament for West Looe , and in 1772 became Lord Mayor of London , while Henrietta was a prominent artist , many of whose engravings of 18th @-@ century Tottenham survive in the Bruce Castle Museum .

After 1764 , under the ownership of James Townsend , the house was remodelled again . The narrow east front was remodelled into an entrance front , and given the appearance of a typical Georgian house , while the gabled attics on the south front were removed , giving the south facade the appearance it has today .

James and Henrietta Townsend 's son , Henry Hare Townsend , showed little interest in the area or in the traditional role of the Lord of the Manor . After leasing the house to a succession of tenants , the house and grounds were sold in 1792 to Thomas Smith of Gray 's Inn as a country residence .

= = John Eardley Wilmot = =

John Eardley Wilmot (c . 1749 ? 23 June 1815) was Member of Parliament for Tiverton (1776 ? 1784) and Coventry (1784 ? 1796) , and in 1783 led the Parliamentary Commission investigating the events that led to the American Revolution . He also led the processing of compensation claims , and the supply of basic housing and provisions , for the 60 @,@ 000 Loyalist refugees who arrived in England after the independence of the United States .

Following the beginning of the French Revolution in 1789 , a second wave of refugees arrived in England . Although the British government did not offer them organised relief , Wilmot , in association with William Wilberforce , Edmund Burke and George Nugent @-@ Temple @-@ Grenville , 1st Marquess of Buckingham , founded " Wilmot 's Committee " , which raised funds to provide accommodation and food , and found employment for refugees from France , large numbers of whom settled in the Tottenham area .

In 1804 , Wilmot retired from public life and moved to Bruce Castle to write his memoirs of the American Revolution and his role in the investigations of its causes and consequences . They were published shortly before his death in 1815 .

After Wilmot 's death , London merchant John Ede purchased the house and its grounds , and demolished the building 's west wing . It was never rebuilt , resulting in the current skewed shape of the building . In 1827 , Ede sold the house and grounds to Worcestershire educationalist Rowland Hill , for use as a school .

= = The Hill School = =

Hill and his brothers had taken over the management of their father 's school in Birmingham in 1819 , which opened a branch at Bruce Castle in 1827 , with Rowland Hill as Headmaster . The school was run along radical lines inspired by Hill 's friends Thomas Paine , Richard Price and Joseph Priestley ; all teaching was on the principle that the teacher 's role is to instill the desire to learn , not to impart facts , corporal punishment was abolished and alleged transgressions were tried by a court of pupils , while the school taught a radical (for the time) curriculum including foreign languages , science and engineering . Among other pupils , the school taught the sons of many London @-@ based diplomats , particularly from the newly independent nations of South America , and the sons of computing pioneer Charles Babbage .

In 1839 Rowland Hill , who had written an influential proposal on postal reform , was appointed as head of the General Post Office (where he introduced the world 's first postage stamps) , leaving the school in the hands of his younger brother Arthur Hill . Arthur retired in 1868 , leaving the school in the hands of his son Birkbeck Hill .

During the period of the School 's operation , the character of the area had changed beyond recognition . Historically , Tottenham had consisted of four villages on Ermine Street (later the A10 road) , surrounded by marshland and farmland . The construction of the Northern and Eastern

Railway in 1840 , with stations at Tottenham Hale and Marsh Lane (later Northumberland Park) , made commuting from Tottenham to central London feasible for the first time (albeit by a circuitous eight @-@ mile route via Stratford , more than double the distance of the direct road route) , as well as providing direct connections to the Port of London . In 1872 the Great Eastern Railway opened a direct line from Enfield to Liverpool Street station , including a station at Bruce Grove , close to Bruce Castle ; the railway provided subsidised workmen 's fares to allow poor commuters to live in Tottenham and commute to work in central London . As a major rail hub , Tottenham grew into a significant residential and industrial area ; by the end of the 19th century , the only remaining undeveloped areas were the grounds of Bruce Castle itself , and the waterlogged floodplains of the River Lea at Tottenham Marshes and of the River Moselle at Broadwater Farm .

In 1877 Birkbeck Hill retired from the post of headmaster , ending his family 's association with the school . The school closed in 1891 , and Tottenham Council purchased the house and grounds . The grounds of the house were opened to the public as Bruce Castle Park in June 1892 , the first public park in Tottenham . The house opened to the public as Bruce Castle Museum in 1906 .

= = = Heraud 's Tottenham = = =

Bruce Castle was among the buildings mentioned in John Abraham Heraud 's 1820 Spenserian epic , Tottenham , a romantic depiction of the life of Robert the Bruce :

Lovely is moonlight to the poet 's eye ,
That in a tide of beauty bathes the skies ,
Filling the balmy air with purity ,
Silent and lone , and on the greensward dies ?
But when on ye her heavenly slumber lies ,
TOWERS OF BRUS ! ' tis more than lovely then . ?
For such sublime associations rise ,
That to young fancy 's visionary ken ,
'Tis like a maniac 's dream ? fitful and still again .

= = Present day = =

Bruce Castle is now a museum , holding the archives of the London Borough of Haringey , and housing a permanent exhibition on the past , present and future of Haringey and its predecessor boroughs , and temporary displays on the history of the area . Other exhibits include an exhibition on Rowland Hill and postal history , a significant collection of early photography , a collection of historic manorial documents and court rolls related to the area , and one of the few copies available for public reading of the Spurs Opus , the complete history of Tottenham Hotspur . In 1949 , the building was Grade I listed ; the round tower was separately Grade I listed at the same time , and the 17th @-@ century southern and western boundary walls of the park were Grade II listed in 1974 . In 1969 the castle became home to the regimental museum of the Middlesex Regiment whose collection was subsequently transferred to the National Army Museum .

In July 2006 a major community archaeological dig was organised in the grounds by the Museum of London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre , as part of the centenary celebrations of the opening of Bruce Castle Museum , in which large numbers of local youths took part . As well as large quantities of discarded everyday objects , the chalk foundations of what appears to be an earlier house on the site were discovered .

In 2012 the public grounds at Bruce Castle were used for PARK ART in Haringey , part of the borough 's cultural Olympiad offer for 2012 . Up Projects , in partnership with Haringey Council and funded by Arts Council England , commissioned Ben Long to create " Lion Scaffolding Sculpture " , a nine @-@ metre tall classical lion on a plinth that was constructed from builder 's scaffolding . The monumental sculpture , created for the front lawn of Bruce Castle Museum , referenced the traditional archetype of the regal lion commonly found in the grounds of stately homes , but also the heraldic emblem of Robert the Bruce , therefore reflecting on the heritage of the building . Build in

situ over four weeks , the fabrication became a durational performance , highlighting the role that work and labour play in the development of any artistic or creative pursuit .