The Napier Estate

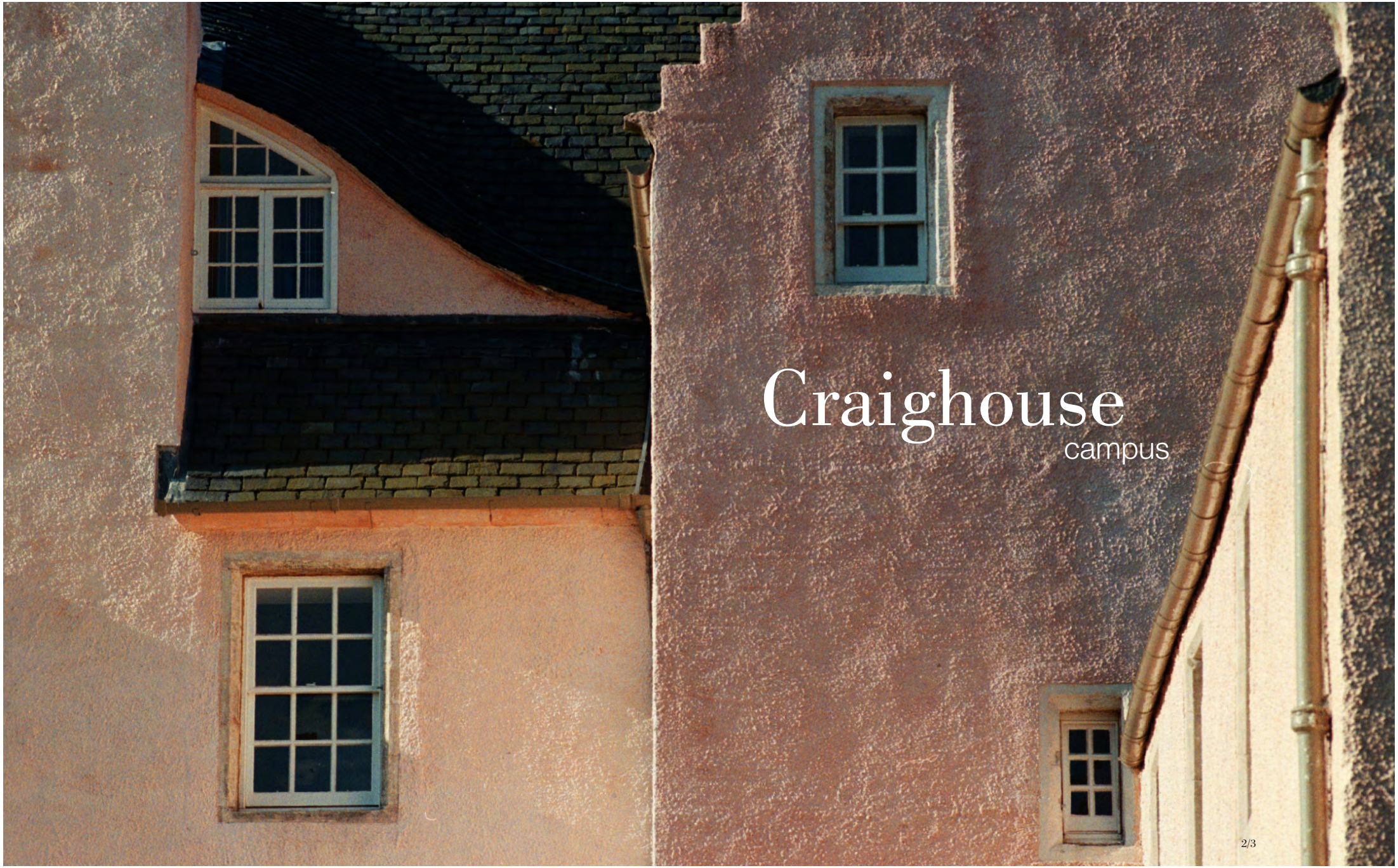
past and present

NAPIER UNIVERSITY
EDINBURGH

In just four decades Napier University has evolved from a technical college to a major modern Scottish university. Today, Napier is one of the largest higher education institutions in Scotland with nearly 13,500 students studying professional and relevant courses at all levels of award in three faculties; Health, Life & Social Sciences; Engineering, Computing & Creative Industries; and Napier University Business School.

Napier is a dynamic, thriving and professional organisation, committed to providing the best possible learning and working environment for its students and staff, now and in the future.

Our campuses embody this spirit. In the past the sites were used for a wide-range of purposes, from hospitals and churches to private estates and castles. Our three main campuses have extensive histories reaching back over 700 years. The University is named after John Napier, sixteenth century mathematician and philosopher who was born and lived in Merchiston Tower – now part of our Merchiston Campus. Our other smaller campuses have shorter but nonetheless interesting stories. This book illustrates all the buildings' diverse stories through time.


Craighouse
campus

A History of Craighouse

Craighouse entrance with its avenue of lime trees.

Scottish records mention the lands of Craighouse as far back as the reign of David II in the twelfth century. The story of Craighouse begins with Old Craig, the sixteenth century harled mansion, and follows the rise and fall of the world's most progressive mental asylum and its link with the history of psychiatry, before charting the restoration of part of the nation's heritage to create a major Scottish university campus.

Old Craig

For many years the entrance to Craighouse was via gates at the Lodge. However, in the sixteenth century, the original entrance was where the University entrance now lies and led to Old Craig via a magnificent avenue of lime trees.

The oldest part of the original house, the vaulted ground floor room, dates from 1528 when the Abbot of Newbotle (Newbattle) granted a charter for good services rendered to Hugh Douglas, Burgess of Edinburgh and his spouse Mariona Brown. This room is all that remained when the house was set ablaze by the Earl of Hertford in 1544, before the English army crossed the Jordan Burn and set fire to most of Edinburgh.

The lintel stone above the entrance at Old Craig.

From the middle of the sixteenth century, Old Craig was home to a succession of well-to-do Scottish figures. The inscription 'LSCP 1565' on the lintel stone of the square tower shows the initials of Laurentius Symsone and his wife Catherine Pringle, and the date probably marks Old Craig's reoccupation after the house was rebuilt. The tower contains a wheel staircase and original crowsteps from this period.

Old Craig as it appears today.

Other owners have included: Captain Stephen Bruntisfield, who held Craighouse for Mary Queen of Scots and whose murder inspired one of the many ghost stories associated with the house; the royal portrait painter, George Porteous; and Dr John Hill Burton, Queen's Historiographer Royal for Scotland. Dr Burton's son, William Kinninmond Burton was a celebrated engineer who, among other pioneering projects, designed Japan's first skyscraper, 'Ryounkaku', literally 'Cloud-Surpassing Pavilion'. Today there is a commemorative memorial at Old Craig celebrating this innovative inventor.

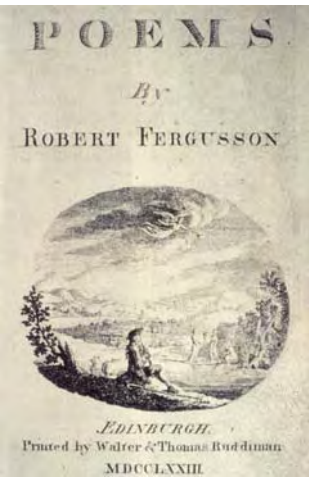
The Norie Panel

The restored painted wooden panel – known as the Norie Panel.

It was probably Sir John Elphonstone, who commissioned a series of four painted wooden panels by James Norie. The Norie family ran a successful Edinburgh interior decoration business specialising in painting decorative panels and frames – often of landscapes. Some of their works were commissioned as topographical records of specific locations but most of their paintings are imaginative, idealised views. Many were designed as elements in interior decorative schemes, sometimes painted in monochrome rather than full colour. The one remaining panel in the Kincaid Room on the first floor of the north wing was restored by the University and returned to its original position there.

The Rise of the Mental Asylum

The cover of a Robert Fergusson poetry book dated 1773, a year before his death.



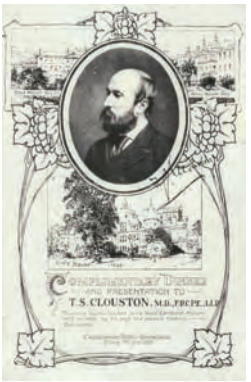
While eighteenth century Edinburgh may have pulsed with intellectual vigour and cultural achievement it was much less civilised in its treatment of those who suffered mental illness. These wretched souls were incarcerated in mad houses, where 'keeping patients in bed or in chains so that they could not injure other patients', was considered the sole duty of the keepers.

When Old Craig was owned by Alexander Lockhart, Lord Advocate, the gifted poet Robert Fergusson – a contemporary of Robert Burns and rising star in Edinburgh's intellectual circles – fell victim to dementia and depression. He died in 1774, at the age of 24, in appalling surroundings in Edinburgh's City Bedlam. This shocked his friend, the philanthropist Dr Andrew Duncan, then a young doctor at Edinburgh University, into campaigning for the establishment in Edinburgh of an asylum for the more humane and enlightened treatment of the insane. His campaign lasted for decades – it took nearly 40 years to raise sufficient funds to build a new asylum. In 1806 Parliament granted £2,000 from estates forfeited during the Jacobite rebellion in 1745. A large house with four acres of land was purchased, and the architect Robert Reid was commissioned to design East House.

Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum

Known as East House in Morningside, the new asylum was a grim grey building which, by today's standards, must have been only marginally better than the City Bedlam. By the time it opened a number of people were pioneering more humane approaches to the treatment of those suffering from mental illness. Dr Duncan and his fellow directors of the Edinburgh Asylum drew inspiration from Philippe Pinel in Paris, whose work involved replacing his patients' chains and cold cells with comfortable wards, good food and warm clothing.

East House took its first five fee-paying patients on 19 July 1813. There were three categories of paying patient: lowest rate was 7/- per week; the middle rate was one guinea and for the top rate of three guineas patients had their own personal servant. From the beginning, the policy of admission only to those who could afford it caused public controversy.



The cover of a booklet from a 'Complimentary dinner & presentation' to Dr Clouston. The top corners show details of the East and West houses which no longer exist.

In 1837, the asylum's management board decided to extend its facilities to allow the admittance of pauper patients and, two years later, while West House was being built, the board appointed Dr William Mackinnon of Aberdeen as its first physician superintendent. West House, designed by William Burn, opened in 1842 for pauper patients, and by 1844 had taken over the care of all the City Bedlam's inmates.

The Royal Edinburgh Asylum

Shortly after West House opened, Queen Victoria agreed to become Patron of the Asylum, which then became known as the Royal Edinburgh Asylum.

Mackinnon encouraged patients to pursue recreational interests such as music, literary lectures and gardening. Sporting activities were held, and a printing press was installed in September 1845 to produce *The Morningside Mirror* – the asylum's magazine for over 100 years. There were regular religious services, a library, a museum (said to contain plaster casts of the heads of Mackinnon's patients!) and all patients capable of doing so were encouraged to pursue the occupation they had followed before their admission.

Dr Mackinnon inaugurated a series of lectures concerning the different aspects of insanity, and his collection of books and theses remained the most extensive in existence for years after his death. Many of his ideas were ahead of his time. He believed that the more people outside the hospital knew about mental illness, the easier it would be to dispel prejudices against sufferers. His concept of a mental hospital as a therapeutic community is firmly established in modern policy.

His belief that the panacea for most ills was constructive work was continued by his successors as physician superintendent: Dr David Skae, who did much work on the clinical classification of patients, and Dr Thomas Clouston.

One of the smaller villas surrounding the main building.

An aerial view of the asylum complex and its gardens.

The Thomas Clouston Clinic

A brilliant clinician, writer and teacher, Dr Thomas Clouston published what became the standard textbook on mental illnesses. As well as taking up the post of physician superintendent at the asylum, Dr Clouston held the first Lectureship in Psychiatry at Edinburgh University, the first time psychiatry had been recognised as a field of knowledge in its own right.

He realised that the facilities in East House were inadequate and, to cope with the increasing demand for accommodation for private patients, he persuaded the asylum managers to buy Old Craig and its 60-acre estate in 1878.

His aim was to provide a home, rather than an asylum, for the treatment of patients' physical and mental needs. No expense was to be spared as 'nothing we can do can atone for our treatment of the insane in the past'.

Dr Clouston travelled widely to study the most advanced approaches in the treatment of mental illness, before enlisting the help of a patient, trained as a draughtsman, to draw up sketch plans for the new asylum. The architect, Sydney Mitchell, interpreted the sketches in French château style to meet Dr Clouston's multifarious – but precise – requirements.

New Craig, the huge central building, and the surrounding villas were built as the largest, most progressive asylum of its kind to provide a range of therapies and environments to stimulate the recovery of

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BROMLEY, KENT.

those with mental disorders who could afford individual treatment. The new asylum complex, which cost £150,000, was opened in 1894 by the Duke of Buccleuch.

The asylum subsequently moved the rest of its fee-paying patients to Craighouse before demolishing East House, while West House continued to be used for pauper patients.

Craighouse was designed to provide patients with as much individual treatment as possible, in a variety of 'uplifting' environments from dormitories (for the least wealthy patients) to suites of rooms in detached villas (for the wealthiest). All accommodation provided 'attractive and harmonious décor; light, airy and colourful suites; carefully planned and served menus; social functions including musical evenings and outdoor pastimes'. The Thomas Clouston Clinic, as it was known, resembled a fine country house hotel more than a hospital. The most expensive suites were in the villas, where patients typically paid £1,500 per annum for a suite of rooms that provided a home-from-home close to the hospital.

The 'uplifting environments' offered at Craighouse included accommodation with luxuries such as billiard rooms.

Clouston's approach to the treatment of the mentally ill continued the pioneering approach of his predecessors. Like Dr Mackinnon, Clouston considered constructive work therapeutic and his patients were encouraged to take up a craft – embroidery, gardening, woodwork – or even to continue with their own work and pass on their skills to other patients.

New Craig building – at the time offered 500 rooms of first-class accommodation to mental health patients.

New Craig

The main building, New Craig, was built to an 'E' plan, in the style of the early period of the French Renaissance in the nineteenth century. At this time, many châteaux were built with gothic and classical features, and corner towers or turrets. All of these can be seen at New Craig, as well as the central tower, which rises to 100 feet above lower ground floor level and was designed as a loggia but with windows in the openings.

The plans for New Craig contain some 500 rooms and all the bedroom doors opened out to the corridor instead of into the rooms, so that attendants had a view of the complete room when the door was opened, and any dangerous patients were prevented from hiding behind the door and attacking from the rear.

Opposite:
The staff in one of the more opulent corridors of the new asylum at Craighouse in 1895.

This rear view of New Craig illustrates the mix of gothic and classical features of the building, as well as its E-plan design.

In 1907, Dr (later Sir) Thomas Clouston was succeeded as physician superintendent and lecturer in psychiatry at Edinburgh University by Dr George Robertson, a distinguished psychiatrist.

Hospitalisation & Nursing Homes

Dr Robertson introduced two novel concepts: the 'hospitalisation' of the asylum; and the concept of nursing homes. Robertson believed that mental illnesses should be treated in hospitals rather than asylums and persuaded the asylum's management board to replace the word asylum with 'hospital' in its letterheads. However, it was not until 1922 that an Act of Parliament allowed the asylum to change its name to the Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Nervous and Mental Disorders (best known as the Royal Edinburgh).

He also believed in the provision of nursing homes where patients could be sent without formality or stigma. The first nursing home opened in 1917, following an arrangement with the military authorities for the reception of officers affected by war service. After the First World War broke out, the Thomas Clouston Clinic opened its doors to those suffering from shell-shock.

Originally only for paying patients, these nursing homes' facilities became more widely accessible in 1929 when Robertson set up the Jordanburn Hospital, also in Morningside, and pioneered outpatient treatment for those with mental health problems.

By now, the Royal Edinburgh Hospital consisted of three hospital sites at Jordanburn, West House and Craighouse. While Jordanburn provided outpatient services, the other hospitals continued to admit patients on a fee-paying but not profit-making basis, although a few were sponsored by their local authorities.

Around this time, the Royal Edinburgh's management board endowed a Chair of Psychiatry at Edinburgh University and, in 1932, this and the post of physician superintendent passed to Dr David Kennedy Henderson, a former member of Dr Clouston's staff who went on to become the UK's leading authority in his field.

The National Health Service

It was Dr Henderson who steered the Thomas Clouston Clinic, along with the Royal Edinburgh's other hospitals, through the days of its transition to the National Health Service in 1948. After his retiral in 1955, the Chair of Psychiatry and the post of physician superintendent were separated.

The sheer cost of maintaining the buildings and grounds of Craighouse, and the expense involved in updating its facilities led to the gradual decline of the Thomas Clouston Clinic and its eventual closure in 1993 – almost a century after it had opened.

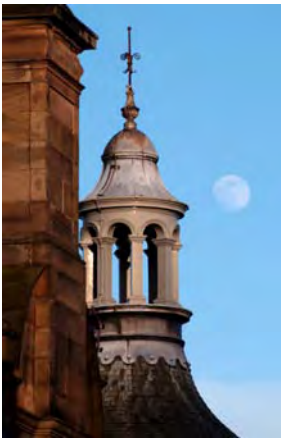
Napier University

The campus was acquired by Napier in April 1994. It was carefully restored and sensitively developed and opened in September 1996 to provide a 'total university experience' for some 1,200 students and staff.

The aims of our development plan for this campus were to convert, and add to, the existing buildings, landscape and infrastructure. To maintain and enhance the quality, character and setting of the existing buildings and the site, and to provide accommodation in a way which was consistent with the University's estate strategy, and with its aspirations for utility and amenity.

The development of Craighouse is a good example of a change of use of historic buildings – often necessary to secure their long-term survival. An Historic Buildings Grant was secured on the basis of the importance of Craighouse to Scotland's heritage. Alterations to the interior layout and details of the buildings were kept to the practical minimum and the overall cost of work at Craighouse by the end of 1996 was £14m.

The woodlands of Craighouse are being conserved, at the south of the campus Easter Craiglockhart Hill was declared a Local Nature Reserve in April 1995. The management of the reserve aim to promote the use of the area by walkers and enhance the wildlife value. There are way-marked trails offering panoramic views and several points of interest along the routes – as well as offering footpath access between Craighouse and Craiglockhart campuses.



Sensitively developed – the buildings at Craighouse maintain most of their original features while offering accommodation for a modern university.

Craiglockhart
campus

Craiglockhart Campus

The land and buildings now used by Napier University as its Craiglockhart Campus have a recorded history going back for more than 700 years. The nineteenth century building, which forms part of the present campus, was built as a hydropathic hotel to make use of the natural spring waters of St Margaret's Well.

1250-1799

The lands of Craiglockhart can be traced as far back as the thirteenth century – around 1250 Lockhart of Lee is recorded as living there. The hills were originally called the Craggis of Gorgin (Scottish records 1226) and perhaps the origin of the name was Creag Loch Ord (Gaelic: Creag = rock/hill), due to the area of water at the base of east Craiglockhart Hill, although it is also clear that people of the name Lockhart have owned the land.

A charter of 1324 records a donation from Helen Lockhart to John of Cowie... of the lands of Craiglockhart.

The lands of Craiglockhart would have spanned the east and west Craiglockhart Hills. Wester Craiglockhart Hill, the Craig, stands over 500 feet above sea level. On the west shoulder of the hill are the ruins of Craiglockhart Castle, a thirteenth century medieval keep associated with the Lockhart of Lee family.

The thirteenth century tower at Craiglockhart.

The tower still exists. It is nearly square in plan, measuring approximately 28 feet by 24 feet with walls between 5-6 feet deep. The most comprehensive description of the tower is in the tenth report of the Royal Commission on the Ancient Monuments of Scotland, 1929. The report notes that in 1505 the King granted to Thomas Kincaid on resignation by Patrick Kincaid of Craiglockhart, the lands of the same with tower and fortalice. By the mid-fifteenth century and throughout most of the sixteenth century the Kincaid family owned Craiglockhart. They forfeited the land at the beginning of the seventeenth century and the estate passed to the Crown.

During the seventeenth century the lands of Craiglockhart were bought by George Foulis in 1609 and sold to a John Gilmour of Craigmillar in 1661. Some time later the estate was re-acquired by the Lockhart family until 1689 when its owner Sir George Lockhart of Carnwath was murdered. It was then held by the Porteous family

and George Porteous built a small mansion house on the site of the modern building and let the farm land to tenants. A small watercolour entitled Craiglockhart 1851 (now in the University's possession) shows a two-storey building which stood a little to the north east of the present building over looking the pavilion lawn.

In 1726 the lands were sold to John Parkhill and remained in his family until 1773 when they were sold to Alexander Munro, Professor of Anatomy in the University of Edinburgh.

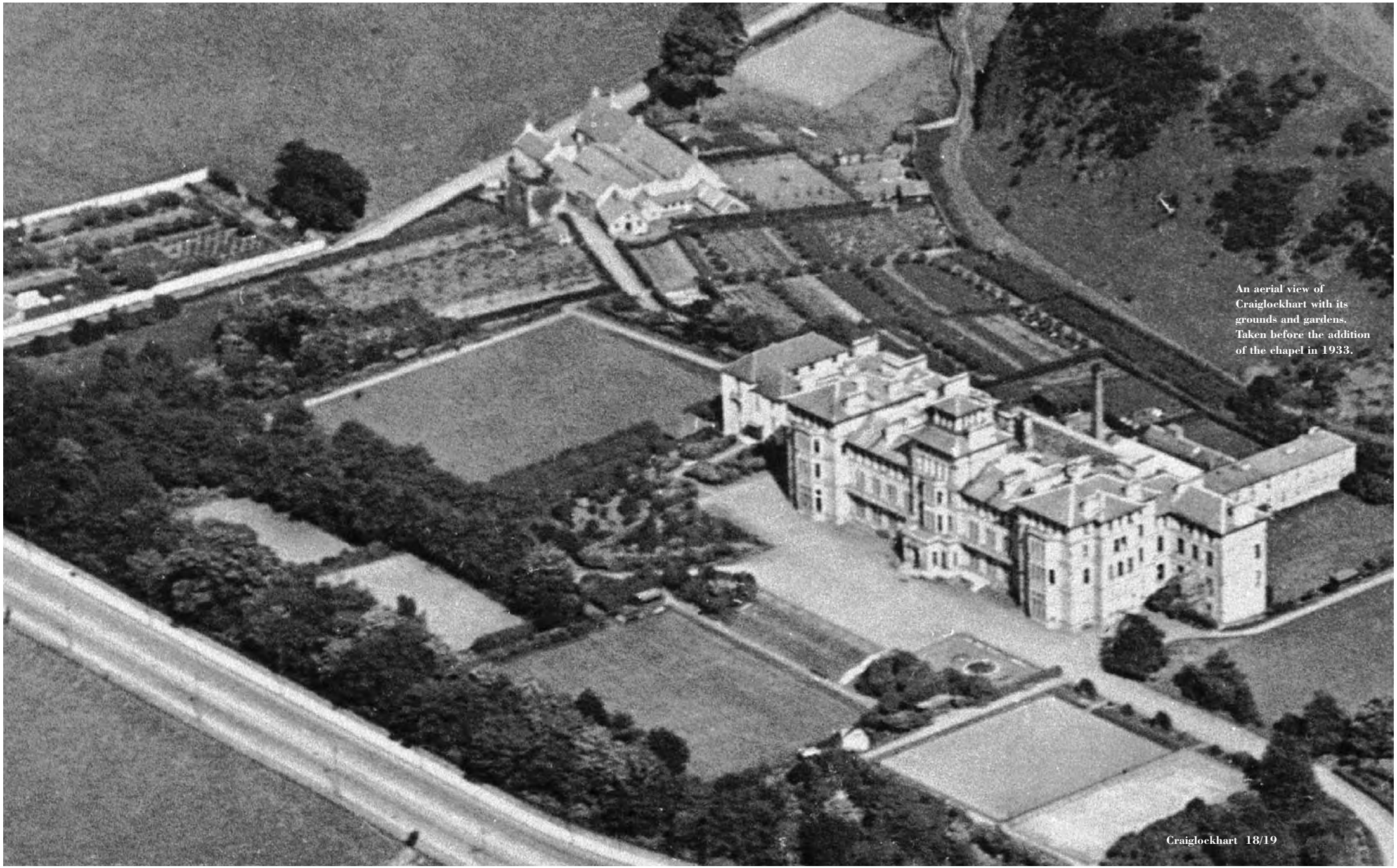
1800-1919

Craiglockhart Estate remained in the Munro family for over 100 years, the last time the estate was to be owned as a whole, until, some time after the death of the second Dr Munro in 1859, plans were made for feuing out parts of the land for building purposes.

These came to fruition in 1863 when Craiglockhart Estate was sold to the City of Edinburgh Parochial Board who established the New City Poorhouse in 1867.

In 1873 the parochial board sold much of the west part of the estate to the Craiglockhart Estate Company for residential development. In 1877, 13 acres between Colinton Road and Wester Craiglockhart Hill was feud to the Craiglockhart Hydropathic Company. The feu charter required the hydropathic company to erect buildings within three years to a value of not less than £10,000 and stipulated that no factories or public houses were permitted.The existing house, which had been being used as a farmhouse, was demolished and a 'giant Italian villa' was erected by architects Kinnear & Peddie in a commanding position on the north side of Wester Craiglockhart Hill. The main façade and belvedere tower looked north-west over a great sweep of moors to the Firth of Forth and distant hills.

An early illustration of the Italian villa style façade of the Craiglockhart Hydropathic.



An aerial view of Craiglockhart with its grounds and gardens. Taken before the addition of the chapel in 1933.

Some highlights of the facilities offered at Craiglockhart in the early 1900s.

From the top – Spacious public rooms, commodious billiard room, lofty swimming pool and bowling greens.

In 1880 Craiglockhart Hydropathic was opened for business. During the late nineteenth century hydropathics were becoming very popular and Craiglockhart, with its proximity to the city, was ideally placed to become an attractive resort. An illustrated brochure about the Hydro dated 1903 is in the National Library of Scotland, from the brochure:

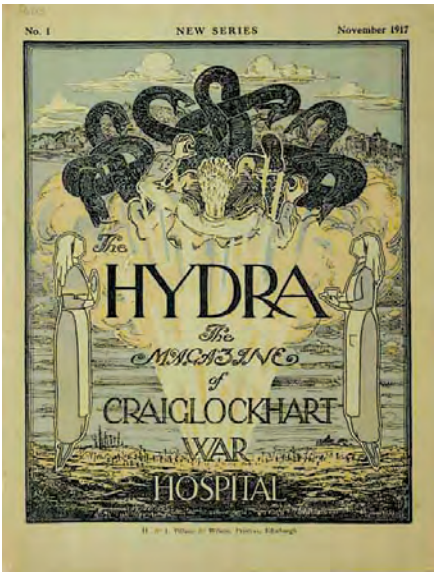
> "The Establishment affords to its residents all the amenities and retirement of quiet country life... a spacious suite of Public Rooms consisting of large Dining-Hall, Drawing-room, Reception-Room, Doctor's consulting room and a magnificent Recreation Hall... there are several luxuriously furnished parlours and detached suites of private apartments, commanding extensive and charming views.
>
> "A commodious Billiard-Room... is also provided. Bedrooms are spacious and light and are most comfortably and elegantly furnished and the entire accommodation is suited to modern requirements and the most fastidious tastes.
>
> "The Baths which form a special feature in this Establishment comprise a large and luxuriously fitted up Turkish Bath: a spacious and lofty swimming pool, with a water surface measuring 50ft by 22ft... special Bath rooms with all the varieties of hot and cold plunge, vapour, spray, needle, douche and electrical baths...
>
> "The gardens extending to about twelve acres have been tastefully laid out with lawn, shrubberies and ornamental plantation, interspersed with agreeable walks leading to various points which command the finest views of the City... there are also courts for Tennis and Croquet, with Archery-grounds and Bowling greens."

Despite these attractions the Hydropathic was not greatly profitable, and only one year after opening the directors had to raise a loan of £25,000 against the security of the property. Following further financial problems and difficulty in finding a prospective buyer, the Hydropathic was eventually sold to James Bell of Dunblane Hydropathic Company in 1891. Under Mr Bell's management Craiglockhart operated successfully up to the First World War.

Between 1916-19 the building was used as a military hospital for the treatment of shell-shocked officers. Craiglockhart War Hospital was a temporary home to some 150 British officers sent there to be treated for neurasthenia. During these years the building provided a temporary refuge for these officers tormented by what they had seen and heard of the horrors of war.

It was here in August of 1917 that the poets Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon first met. Despite the traumas of the war the few months they spent at Craiglockhart were a productive period for both of them and their relationship was influential, particularly on the poetry of Owen who was only just beginning to find his poetic voice. Both men wrote some of their most famous works at Craiglockhart, which graphically recall the horrors of war. The work of the doctors at Craiglockhart especially that of Dr WHR Rivers and Dr AJ Brock, was also notable, indeed some of it ground-breaking for the time. The friendship between Sassoon and Dr Rivers was to become life-long.

In 1919, Craiglockhart closed its doors as a War Hospital and returned to its owners and the Hydro reopened, catering for the needs of wealthy patrons.



A cover of the hospital's journal, *The Hydra*, illustrating the horrors of shell-shock.

The War Poets

Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon were invalided and sent to Craiglockhart War Hospital in 1917 – Owen after a particularly traumatic period on the Hindenberg Line (on the Western front) and Sassoon because he had written a protest letter to his Colonel in July 1917. This letter became known as the *Soldier s Declaration* and expressed his alarm at the political and military errors that were causing unnecessary deaths.

Where Sassoon was a brash critic of the war, Owen had only written poetry about conventional subjects and was not certain of his own ability. It took two weeks for him to find enough courage to approach Sassoon and accept his advice to transform his experience of the war into poetry.

As part of his therapy, Owen taught at the local school, edited the hospital journal *The Hydra* and produced his best-known poems *Anthem for Doomed Youth* and *Dulce et Decorum Est.*

Owen returned to active service in November 1917 and was killed just one week before the Armistice. Sassoon survived the war and wrote extensively about his experience. He died on 1 September 1967.

Some of the nursing staff at the Craiglockhart War Hospital.

Extensions and additions during the 1900s included teaching accommodation, the chapel and a gymnasium.

1920 – Present Day

Many things had been changed by the war and there was little future for such an establishment at this time, so the Craiglockhart Hydropathic went into voluntary liquidation in 1920.

It was sold to the trustees of the Society of the Sacred Heart, an enclosed religious order, to be used as a convent and training college for Catholic teachers. Also at this time Craiglockhart became part of Edinburgh as the Colinton Parish was subsumed into the city. The main building was added to over the years with a chapel opened in 1933 and extended in 1963, and a new wing on the other side of the building built in 1957. In 1965 a six-story hall of residence was added along with a new lecture block, hall and gymnasium and the whole was renamed Craiglockhart College of Education, which it remained for the next 20 years.

The last chapter in the history of the building and its environs began in 1986 when the college was bought by Napier College of Commerce & Technology, now Napier University. The campus was officially opened in 1987 by then Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher.

In 2004 Napier extended the campus buildings to the north-east, integrating a modern £30m development with the site's existing historic nineteenth century buildings to become not only a feature of the University, but part of Edinburgh's rich architectural mix.

Alongside the egg-shaped lecture theatre is a 400-seat wedge-shaped lecture theatre – both designed to ensure excellent acoustics – and a teaching block. The titanium-covered 'egg' can seat up to 200 students and its oval shape is aimed at improving interaction, because it allows students to be closer to the lecturer at the front of the hall. The lecture theatre's shape and glimmering titanium skin help express its special purpose and provide a signature for the Business School.

The 'egg' faces directly to Edinburgh Castle. During lectures and conferences there is the option to use the specially designed blinds to enclose the space.

The new buildings were designed by leading architects Building Design Partnership, who revamped London's Royal Opera House and designed Glasgow Science Centre.

Featuring an egg-shaped lecture theatre the entrance to Napier's extension which opened in 2004.

War Poets Collection

In 1988, as tribute and commemoration to Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon and the other poets of the First World War, Napier established The War Poets Collection on the seventieth anniversary of the signing of the Armistice: 11 November 1918. After the redevelopment of the campus, a dedicated space for the collection was opened by the BBC's World Affairs Correspondent, Allan Little, on Armistice Day 2005. This permanent exhibition is located in the hall of the original building – close to where Owen and Sasson may have resided while at Craiglockhart.

The War Poets Collection aims to collect the work of Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon and their contemporary poets and to set this work in its literary, historical and social context. The collection therefore aims to provide the modern visitor with a comprehensive understanding of the First World War and its impact.

Opposite:
A portrait of
Siegfried Sassoon.

The collection consists of:

- Information regarding the lands and building of Craiglockhart, encompassing various periods in its history
- Volumes of poetry by Sassoon, Owen and their contemporary poets
- Biographies and published letters
- Information regarding individuals who had connections with Craiglockhart
- Critical works
- Anthologies of poetry and prose

The collection also contains photocopies of *The Hydra*, the magazine of the War Hospital which for a time was edited by Owen and published both his and Sassoon's work.

The public are welcome to visit the permanent War Poets exhibition, and campus grounds, but should check availability in advance to avoid disappointment, see page 48 for details.

Merchiston
campus

Merchiston Tower

An early illustration of Merchiston Tower.

The Tower of Merchiston was built in the middle of the fifteenth century, either by Andrew Napier, Merchant and Provost of Edinburgh, or – more likely – by his son, Sir Alexander Napier, Vice-Admiral of Scotland, Controller of the Royal Household of James II, and twice Provost of Edinburgh, who inherited the estate in 1454. In 1550 John Napier, the mathematician and philosopher, was born here and it remained the home of the Napiers of Merchiston continuously until 1647, and returned to their ownership for twenty years after 1752, and again for ninety-six years after 1818.

Other owners have included Merchiston Castle School (1914) and the Merchant Company (1930). Edinburgh Corporation acquired the tower in 1935 and it lay little used until the idea of incorporating it into a technical college was first raised in 1956 and finally approved in 1958. Since 1964 it has been an integral part and a working unit of Merchiston Campus.

Edinburgh Corporation began the restoration work in 1958 with the aid of a grant from the Ministry of Public Building & Works. Most of the work was carried out by a small group of men under Angus MacDonald, mason foreman, during 1959-64. The restoration of the tower placed considerable demands on the skill and initiative of the men as there had been many alterations which almost obscured the original internal arrangement of the tower. Although the original masonry was well built, later work was not, and almost all of it had to be taken down and either discarded or rebuilt.

The culverin ball found lodged in the east wall.

For almost two centuries, including the period of John Napier's life, the tower had remained substantially in its original form, although repairs must have been carried out after the bombardment of the tower in 1572 during the Civil War following the abdication of Mary Queen of Scots. A culverin ball was found embedded in the core of the east wall, where it had lodged after bringing down part of the battlements.

In the late seventeenth century, alterations were made to turn the fortalice into a more fashionable mansion, by removing the vaults, inserting new windows and adding the crow-stepped upper works. In the early years of the nineteenth century, Dr Robert Blair renovated

the interior and built a large extension and, in the succeeding 100 years, Merchiston Castle School made numerous further alterations and additions.

During the restoration work it was discovered that the tower was an interesting and elaborate example of the mediaeval tower house; being built on the familiar 'L' plan with a wing projecting to the north. It was originally vaulted at the second floor and the roof. Among several remarkable discoveries is the unusual elaboration of the main entrance, which is at second floor level on the south front. The tall shallow recess in which the doorway is set undoubtedly housed a drawbridge which must have rested upon an outwork some 14 feet above ground level and 10 feet from the tower. Unfortunately there are no remains of this wall due, most likely, to ground disturbance caused by later foundation work during the building of extensions and consequent relevelling.

The policy of restoration rested on the decision that the tower was to be fully incorporated into the new college, not as a museum piece but as a working unit. With this in mind, the remains of each phase of the tower's historical development were considered in relation to its new use and, where possible, preference was given to the recovery of fifteenth century features extant at the time of John Napier. Where extensive new works were necessary, as for example the internal forestair and internal finishings, they were designed in an essentially modern manner, endeavouring to match the old work in scale and boldness rather than in traditional detail.

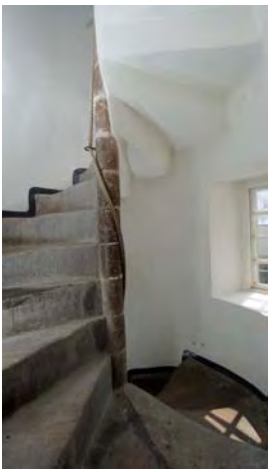
The tower is five storeys high, the fifth floor 'penthouse' being added approximately fifty years after John Napier's death. It is the fifth floor room, now the Napier Room, to which traditional folklore ascribes Napier's magical activities, but this is proved to be inaccurate.

The ground and first floors were originally storage areas. Now the ground floor houses services and there is office accommodation on the first floor of the tower (this floor is at ground level when entering the University from its main entrance to the south).

The second floor, and originally the main entrance to the tower, is reached by deep, uneven stairs. The entrance hall closely resembles that of the original fifteenth century except the ceiling

The south face of the tower shows the recess which once housed a drawbridge at the second floor entrance.

A restored original internal staircase.



is a little higher. The original serving hatch, which is now blocked up, can be seen on the north wall. The most striking feature of the entrance hall is its wooden ceiling which displays the arms of the tower's principal owners during the five centuries of its history, surrounding the central shield bearing the arms of Napier University.

Clockwise from top right:

Opposite:
The painted wooden ceiling in the entrance hall featuring the University's arms and motto:

'Nisi Sapientia Frustra'

'No Wisdom Frustrates'

Napier:
red field, three blue crescents on a silver band

Napier of Merchiston:
silver field, four red roses between a red engrailed saltire

Lowis of Merchiston:
gold field, three laurel leaves

Merchiston Castle School:
silver field, a book and three red roses between a red engrailed saltire

City of Edinburgh:
silver field, a black castle upon a rock

The Study

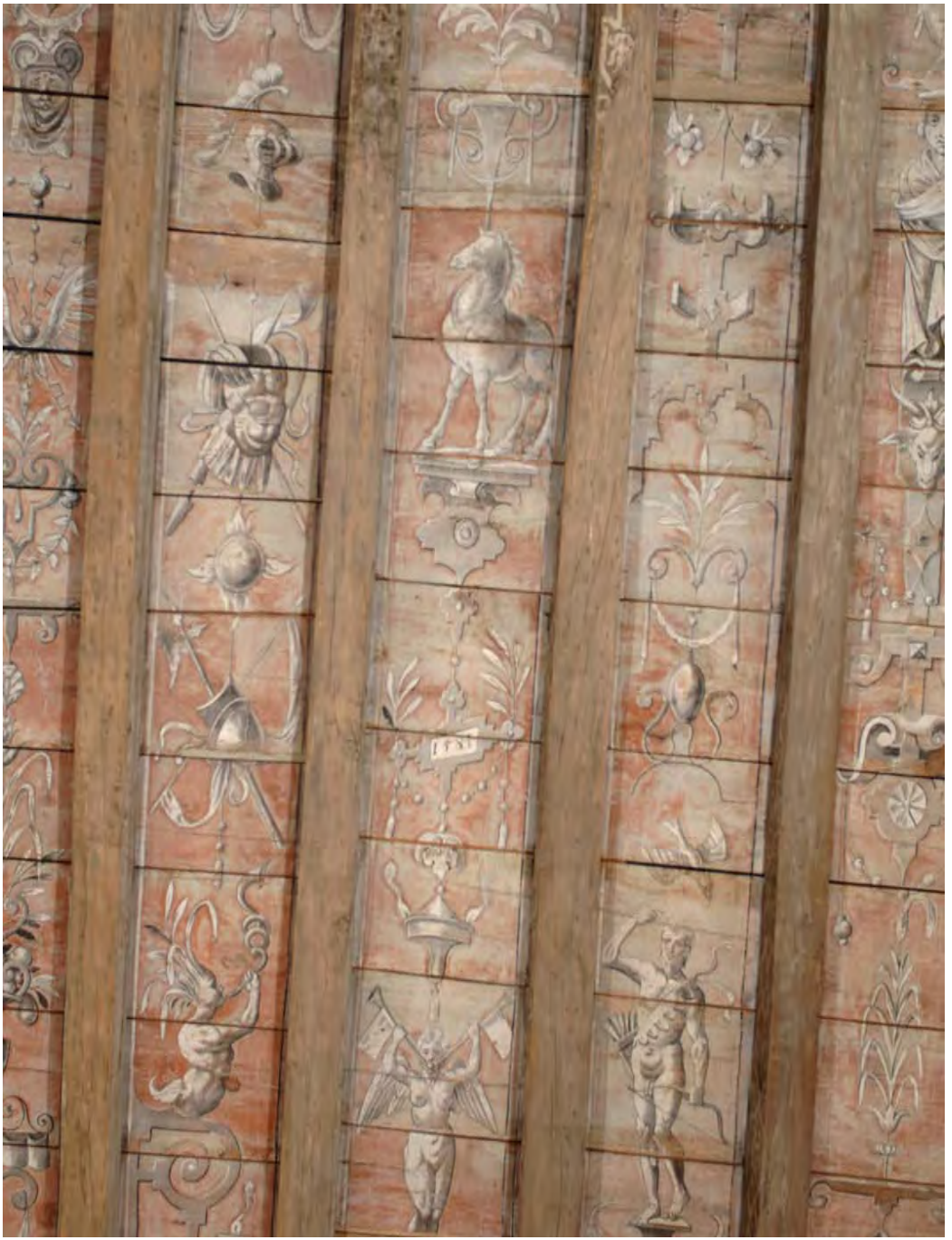
The original hall, to the left of the staircase was, at one time, the Principal's room and is now known as the Study. During the restoration a staircase was found within the thickness of the walls which leads to the Boardroom on the third floor. Like the staircase, the north and south windows are original but the east window is of the late seventeenth century. The mediaeval fireplace has been constructed from the original shafts, cornice and corbels, and the hearth, shaft bases and lintel were devised to fit them. The fireplaces in the tower differ from any known examples of fifteenth century Scottish fireplaces in having a high level cornice above some sort of hood.

Two details from the elaborate plaster ceiling in the study.

The elaborate plaster ceiling in this room dates from the reign of Charles II. It was transferred on to steel supports and restored without moving it from its original position. The woodwork is in yellow pine panelled in a modern version of a seventeenth century style and the floor is in oak.


NISI SAPIENTIA FRUSTRA

Facing west in the boardroom, this photograph shows the seventeenth century fireplace and the original window on the west wall, the replaced window and corbels on the north wall, and the gallery which is all that remains of the fourth floor.



The Kitchen

The other main room on this floor, now an office, is undoubtedly the most beautiful of all the rooms. Housed in the wing of the tower, in what used to be the kitchen, it is dominated by the wide fireplace arch within which there is an aumbry (wall cupboard) and a very good example of a stone slop sink complete with channel running out through the six-foot thick wall. The east windows have been widened and the west window, which now backs into the modern University building, has been made into a cupboard. The ceiling is in boarded yellow pine and the other finishings are in English oak.

Halfway up the turnpike stair leading to the third floor there is a small doorway to what was once a musicians' gallery. With the ceiling below raised and the floor above lowered, the space is much lower than it was in mediaeval times and it is now used as a storage cupboard.

The Boardroom

The Boardroom occupies the main part of the third floor and rises up through the fourth floor level. Originally the third floor housed the solar room and sleeping quarters. All that remains of the fourth floor, which was originally a loft area and would have been used as servants' quarters, is a gallery and there are some corbels which supported the fourth floor, which can be seen on the north wall. The windows are original except that in the north wall where an original window may have been destroyed. In the west wall a late seventeenth century fireplace occupies the site of a mediaeval fireplace. A small chamber in the north wall was a garderobe, connected to the drain shaft at the re-entrant angle of the tower.

Prestongrange Ceiling

The superb painted timber ceiling in the Boardroom, which dates from 1581, was discovered in Prestongrange House, Musselburgh, in 1963 and was moved to Merchiston Tower for preservation in 1964 by arrangement with the Coal Industries Social Organisation and with the help of a special grant by the Ministry of Public Building & Works. The transfer was carried out by the Ministry and the National Trust for Scotland and included five months of preservation treatment in a workshop in Leith.

Opposite:
A detail from the Prestongrange Ceiling.

A room off the gallery houses the humidification plant for the ceiling. The tempera painted on the boards of the ceiling is elegant and masterly. It is unique in Scotland and is thought to be the work of a foreign painter. Painted in grey, white and black upon a red lead ground, the multitude of motifs include the figure of a Native American, and three grotesques which are believed to represent comic actors in German folkplays. The painting on the beams dates from a later period and is of an inferior quality. The latter was badly mutilated in the eighteenth century when the beams were adzed level to receive a new plaster ceiling.

The parapet walk on the roof of the tower offers panoramic views of the city.

Roof

The seventeenth century timber roof, which replaced the mediaeval stone slab roof and vault, was in very poor condition and had to be completely renewed. The framing and pegs found in the sarking boards showed that it had been covered in heavy stone slates. The new roof is covered in Ballachulish slates, and valleys are swept in the traditional manner. There are beautiful views from the roof and the parapet walk is intact.

Although it is a mixture of many periods, old and new, Merchiston Tower is a truly remarkable building – all the more so because it is an integral part of the University and this link is an important testimony to both the history of the tower and to its connection with John Napier, mathematician, philosopher and mechanical inventor.

John Napier – Mathematician & Philosopher

John Napier, eighth Laird of Merchiston was born in the medieval tower house of Merchiston Castle in 1550 and was known as the 'Marvellous Merchiston', a title which was well-deserved, for his genius and imaginative vision. The University is named after this brilliant man, who lived in the building which is now part of Merchiston Campus.

Children grew-up quickly in the sixteenth century and at the age of 13 Napier went to St Salvator's College in St Andrews but left without graduating. He departed to travel Europe in 1564, perhaps studying in Paris or Geneva, though there is no corroborative proof of this study or when he returned from his travels. It is interesting to note that these were difficult years for Scotland with the

dethronement of Mary, Queen of Scots, on the murder of her husband Darnley (a distant cousin of Napier's) and the subsequent coronation of her infant son, James. In 1573 Napier married his first wife Elizabeth Stirling of Keir, this match gave him the title 'John Napier, Fear of Merchiston'. They had a son and a daughter together, but Elizabeth died in 1579 at the age of 27. A few years later he married Agnes Chisholm by whom he had five sons and five daughters. He died at Merchiston Tower in 1617 and is buried in his parish church, where he was an Elder, St Cuthbert's in Edinburgh. The original church building has since been replaced and there is a wall plaque commemorating him in the present building.

Napier is relatively little known outside mathematical circles where he made what is undoubtedly one of the single greatest advances in the history of mathematics. He can be placed within a short lineage of mathematical thinkers, beginning with Archimedes in ancient times and followed by Newton and Einstein in modern times. Without Napier's work on logarithms it is difficult to imagine how Kepler and Newton could have made their progressions in later times. His work, *Mirific Logarithmorum Canonis Descriptio*, contained thirty-seven pages of explanatory matter and ninety pages of tables which facilitated developments in astronomy, dynamics and physics.

Napier's powers of invention were not exclusively confined to logarithms – he also introduced the decimal point, which was less cumbersome than decimal fractions, and a simple way to perform multiplication using small rods in a box. The *Rabdologia* became known as Napier's 'Rods' or 'Bones' and was published in 1617 just after his death. In an appendix he explained another method of multiplication and division using metal plates, which is the earliest known attempt at a mechanical means of calculation – and which makes him the grandfather of our modern day calculator.

He made other 'Secret Inventions' which he sent in 1596 to the government in England to defend the country from Philip of Spain. These included a round chariot whereby its occupants could move speedily while firing through holes in its sides – a precursor of the tank; a ship which could travel under water; a burning mirror which would consume enemy ships; and an artillery piece which could destroy a whole field of soldiers.

The bust of John Napier with his numbered 'rods' or 'bones', at Craighouse Campus. Donated to the University by the sculptor Valentin Znoba and Mrs Janice Simpson of Elvingston.

Napier was born during one of the most exciting periods of Scottish and European history. At this time science, philosophy and religion were still not separated as we know them today. He was a reformist and thought deeply about religion, in 1593 he published what he saw as an equally, if not more, important piece of work as his Logarithmic tables. This work, *A Plaine Discovery of the Whole Revelation of Saint John*, is an explanatory work on the *Book of Revelation*, a book of apocalyptic writings which has fascinated men throughout the history of Christendom.

Apocalyptic thought was very much in vogue when Napier wrote this work, with the roman church being challenged by the Reformation in many European countries. However, it was particularly relevant to the Scottish experience of the time because there were attempts to re-establish Catholicism in Scotland. Napier went so far as to travel to London with a delegation of political and religious thinkers to strongly petition the monarch, King James VI.

Opposite:
A portrait of John Napier, eighth Laird of Merchiston, mathematician and philosopher.

Folklore describes him as a magician – there are stories of supernatural activities in the top room of Merchiston Castle. But this room did not exist during his lifetime, and the tales of sorcery also belong to later years. There is evidence to suggest he was interested in divination for a contract exists between Napier and Robert Logan of Restalrig, regarding treasure which was supposed to have been hidden in a fortress called Fast Castle in Berwickshire. The contract was written in Napier's own handwriting in 1594, but there is no record of the outcome. The treasure was never found – not even during extensive excavations between 1971-86.

The University is proud of its connections to such an important mathematician and philosopher – and remains true to his inventive and entrepreneurial spirit.

Merchiston 40/41


Small
campuses

We have a number of smaller campuses and learning centres in the south and west of the city.

Canaan Lane

The University's Canaan Lane Campus is on the grounds of the Astley Ainslie Hospital. Built in 1921, the hospital owes its establishment to David Ainslie of Costerton, a village near Crichton Castle in Midlothian. A successful sheep breeder, Ainslie was a bachelor who willed his considerable estate to his nephew, who unfortunately predeceased his uncle. After the death of his nephew, David went on to establish a trust charged with 'holding, applying and disposing of his estate for the purpose of erecting and maintaining a hospital or institution to be know as the Astley Ainslie Institution for the relief and behoof of convalescents in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh'.

Previous page:
At Morningside Campus the chancel window, dated 1871, is a triptych illustrating the life of Christ, the central theme being the Last Supper.

Opposite:
The peaceful, leafy grounds of Canaan Lane Campus are reminiscent of its earlier use as a convalescence hospital.

The original site was modern for its day and included a nine-hole ladies' golf course. Until 1948 and the establishment of the National Health Service, the hospital was run by the Ainslie Trust and since 1978 it has been governed by the Lothian Health Board. From its original function as a convalescent hospital, the Astley Ainslie became increasingly concerned with, and highly skilled in, the positive process of rehabilitation.

The Lothian College of Health moved to Astley Ainslie in 1993 and into a former nursing home on the grounds. With the subsequent merger with Napier in 1996 it became one of the locations for the Faculty of Health, Life & Social Sciences.

Comely Bank Campus, purpose built during the 1980s.

Comely Bank

Comely Bank Campus is situated in the west of the city in the leafy grounds of the Western General Hospital. The campus is a main base for Faculty of Health, Life & Social Sciences and was purpose built in the 1980's.

Marchmont

Marchmont Campus was once home to the James Gillespie's Junior School. James Gillespie, was a snuff manufacturer from Spylaw House in Colinton who died in 1797. He left the greatest part of his estate for the 'erection and endowment of a Hospital for aged men and women and a Free School for poor boys' to be managed by the Edinburgh Merchant Company as trustees. In accordance with Gillespie's last wishes they built the 'Gillespie Hospital' in 1802 on Gillespie Crescent and a school for boys in 1803 on a site nearby. Due to faltering finances the administration of the school was passed over to the Edinburgh School Board in 1908.

The school admitted boys and girls until 1929 after which it was used for boys only – and has many famous alumni including Ronnie Corbett – until it was closed in 1973. Today the building is one of the bases used by the School of Creative Industries at Napier.

Details of Marchmont, such as the entrance signs and bell housing, hail back to a previous use as a school.

Morningside

The front entrance to Morningside Campus.

Napier's Morningside Campus is the former Morningside Parish Church and it was one of the earliest churches in the area. Designed by the Edinburgh architect John Henderson it was built in 1838 and could hold a total of 634 worshipers. Funds were raised to build the church through the generous donations by local dignitaries including Rt Hon Lady Napier, the trustees of the late Lord Napier of Merchiston, Benjamin Bell (the famous Edinburgh surgeon) and Dr John Abercrombie (a celebrated Edinburgh doctor).

Morningside Parish Church closed for worship in 1990 when the congregation amalgamated with Braid Church. The University purchased it in 1994, and it is used as a lecture theatre for the academic departments based at Merchiston, Canaan Lane and Craighouse campuses.

An aerial view of Sighthill taken in 2006 showing the campus and our 'sports dome'.

Sighthill

Sighthill Campus originally opened in 1968 as purpose built accommodation for classes of Edinburgh College of Commerce. The Edinburgh Corporation established the college in 1966 to provide professional and vocational education in subjects such as management and business studies to the local area.

Napier College of Commerce & Technology was created on 1 October 1974 on the amalgamation of Napier College of Science & Technology with Edinburgh College of Commerce. Initially the college operated from Merchiston Campus and the newly built Sighthill Campus.

The current University Sports Centre is a dome-shaped facility located on this campus which houses a large number of our sporting activities.

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Front cover:
Sun shines through a stained glass window featuring the University's coat of arms in the Turmeau Hall, Craighouse Campus.

The window was presented to the University on 26 October 1994 by Prof William A and Mrs M Turmeau. Prof Turmeau served the University 1964-94, latterly as Principal and was the first Vice-Chancellor of the University.

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE