

HERMITS & TERMITES

64 ST. LEONARDS STREET, EDINBURGH



A villa in Edinburgh's Southside and a home of artists. A lucky survivor of industrialisation and urban motorway proposals.



Lined render removed, replaced with lime harling based on historical evidence.



Limewashing with friends.



1981, before the garden.



'Hermits St Ternis, house wherein W.B.Scott born.'

c.1820



c.1900



1980

www.BenjaminTindallArchitects.co.uk
www.JillWatsonStudio.co.uk

05.10.18

HERMITS & TERMITES

A short history of its origins, many changes and restoration.

NAME

The name comes from the two pieces of land, *Le Hermitus Croftis et Le Termitus Croftis*, farmed by the 'Bedesmen' (almsmen) of the St Leonards Hospital, founded in reign of David I (1124-53). The name has been in use almost ever since.

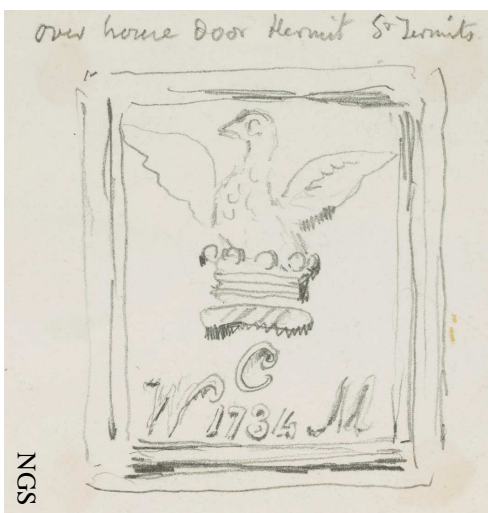
WILLIAM & MARY CLIFTON

William & Mary Clifton were from Nottingham and he was Solicitor to Excise in Scotland. Their house was finished in 1734 and he died in 1736. Their son was a vicar in Northumberland and he rented the house out till it was sold in 1757.

THE SCOTT FAMILY

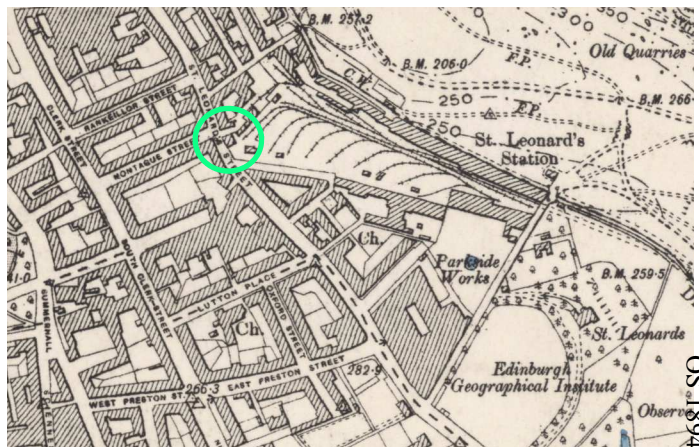
In 1807 the house and garden was leased to Robert Scott, a successful engraver, and his wife Alice. They had two

famous artist sons, David Scott and William Bell Scott, who are both exhibited in the National Galleries of Scotland. Bell Scott made drawings of the house and its pet jackdaw and dog. He wrote a detailed account of the house which he said was "*.. as much a part of the family as any of its living occupants*".



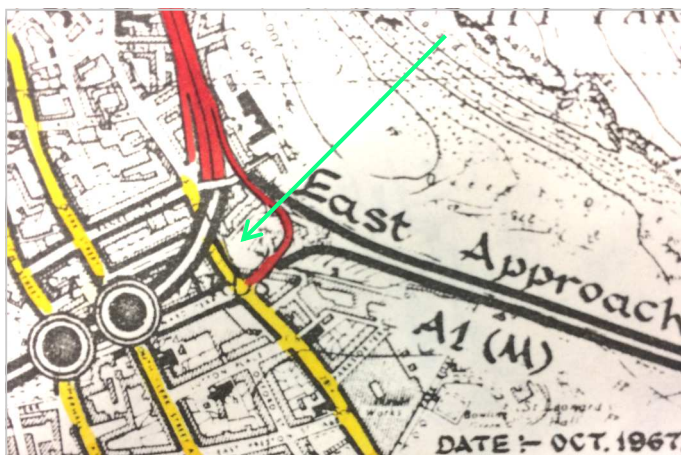
RAILWAYS

In 1826 the land & house was bought by the Edinburgh & Dalkeith Railway Co. Initially it was a horse-drawn railway and due to no accidents it was known as the 'Innocent Railway'. The house became known as Coalyard House and was lived in by the stationmaster till 1968.



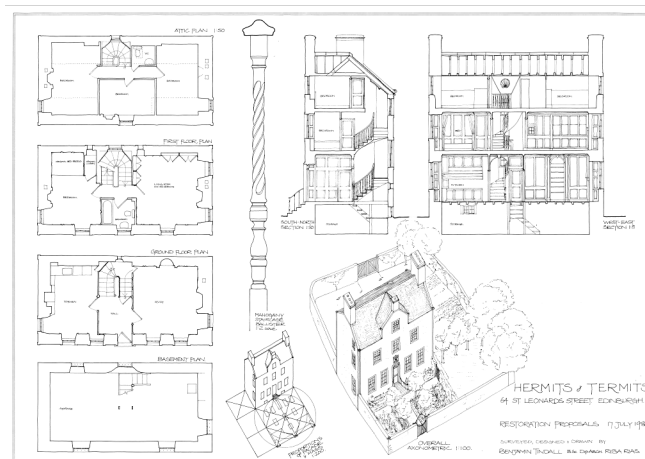
CITY OF EDINBURGH - HIGHWAYS DEPT

In 1970 the land was bought by the City for an interchange of a proposed motorway through the Queen's Park, a flyover across the Meadows and the route through to the Old Town and Leith Walk. Vigorous objections from Moultrie Kelsall, David Black, Prof. Denis Mollison and the Cockburn Association prevented its demolition.



BEN TINDALL

In 1980, the Regional Council's Physical Planning Department declared the Highway's Plans redundant and held a competition for restoring the house. Ben Tindall's proposals and offer were chosen. After many years of work, the house and its garden has been returned into a domestic residence. Ben Tindall is an Architect and his wife, Jill Watson, is a Sculptor.



PEDESTRIAN SQUARE

The wrought-iron gate was designed by Ben Tindall to reflect a gate in about the same position in a garden drawn by William Bell Scott. The well, which has been moved and so no longer works, was commissioned by Robert Scott in 1815 to commemorate the Battle of Waterloo.

