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QUARTERMILE

**ENTRANCE HALL, OLD CRAIG  
CRAIG HOUSE  
EDINBURGH**

**Wallpaper Survey report**

*your earth our world*






**DATE ISSUED:** February 2018  
**JOB NUMBER:** ED11878  
**OASIS REFERENCE:** wardella2- 309957

**QUARTERMILE**

**Entrance Hall, Old Craig, Craig House, Edinburgh**

**Wallpaper Survey**

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 MINERAL ESTATES AND QUARRYING  
 WASTE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

## SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) was commissioned by Quartermile to undertake a programme of archaeological wallpaper recording of the entrance hall of Old Craig, Craig House, Edinburgh. The work was required as a condition of planning consent. The wallpaper recording covered the well preserved remains of the original 1890's wallpaper within the first floor entrance hall of Old Craig. It was installed following the redevelopment of the residential building as part of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum.

The wallpaper is in the imitation style of embossed leather wall coverings, most popular in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The use of pressed paper with metal foil and varnish made the wallpaper more affordable.

The wallpaper covers the upper level of all elevations within the room, above a timber panelled dado. The embossed floral and fauna elements have been coloured in with a variation of green, blue, red and white. Although there are some smaller areas of damage, the wallpaper is overall in a fair condition. As it is attached to canvas, the wallpaper should be relatively easy to remove without any further damage.

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## **1 INTRODUCTION AND POLICIES**

### **1.1 Project circumstances and planning background**

1.1.1 Wardell Armstrong LLP was commissioned by Quartermile, to undertake a programme of archaeological wallpaper recording of the entrance hall of Old Craig, Craig House, Edinburgh (NT 23457 70663), in advance of the redevelopment of the property for residential purposes.

### **1.2 Planning Context**

1.2.1 Scottish Planning Policy (The Scottish Government 2014) states that “the historic environment is a key cultural and economic asset and a source of inspiration that should be seen as integral to creating successful places”. Consequently, the planning system should:

*“promote the care and protection of the designated and non-designated historic environment (including individual assets, related settings and the wider cultural landscape) and its contribution to sense of place, cultural identity, social well-being, economic growth, civic participation and lifelong learning”; and “enable positive change in the historic environment which is informed by a clear understanding of the importance of the heritage assets affected and ensure their future use. Change should be sensitively managed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the fabric and setting of the asset, and ensure that its special characteristics are protected, conserved or enhanced”.*

1.2.2 The mechanisms for the conservation of the historic environment are set out in the *Historic Environment Scotland Policy Statement (HESPS)*, which was published by Historic Environment Scotland (HES) in June 2016.

1.2.3 Listed buildings are protected under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997. This establishes that any work which affects the character of a listed building will require listed building consent. In assessing an application for listed building consent, the planning authority is required to have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building, or its setting, or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.

1.2.4 Section 2.24 of the *HESPS* states that “any building or man-made structure may be considered for listing. In order to be listed under Section 1 of the 1997 Act any such building or structure must be of special architectural or historic interest”.

- 1.2.5 Section 2.36 of the *HESPS* explains that *“many buildings are of interest, architecturally or historically, but for the purposes of listing this interest must be special”*.
- 1.2.6 Section 3.38 of the *HESPS* explains that *“once lost listed buildings cannot be replaced. They can be robbed of their special interest either by inappropriate alteration or by demolition. There is, therefore, a presumption against demolition or other works that adversely affect the special interest of a listed building or its setting”*.

## **2 METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Standards and Guidance**

2.1.1 The survey was undertaken following the appropriate standards and guidance issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014).

### **2.2 Wallpaper Survey**

2.2.1 The wallpaper survey comprised internal observation of the wallpapers to produce a photographic and written record. Photographs were taken, with a graduated scale, in digital format, and in black and white 35mm print, of all elevations, including details of décor elements, and more general views of the room. In summary, the photographic survey included:

- General view or views of the wallpapers;
- Photographs of all relevant design details, damages and alterations.

2.2.2 The written record comprised:

- The precise location of all structures subjected to the building and topographic survey, as a National Grid reference and in address form;
- The location of the project archive;
- A historical background to set the structure into its historical context, with information derived as a result of the desk-based research;
- Photographs of the relevant sections of wallpaper to illustrate the report.

2.2.3 The purpose of the archaeological wallpaper recording was to produce a photographic and written record of the wallpaper in situ. Its aim is to create a detailed record of the current state of the wallpaper and record any damage or alterations.

### **2.3 Reporting and Project Archive**

2.3.1 Three paper copies of the report will be submitted to the client's agent for submission to Edinburgh City Council within two months of the commencement of on-site works.

2.3.2 A digital copy of the report will be deposited with Historic Scotland at Edinburgh.

2.3.3 An archive will be prepared in accordance with the recommendations in *'Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation'* (Brown 2011). The project archive will be deposited with the relevant Archive Centre.

2.3.4 Wardell Armstrong LLP supports the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project (<http://www.oasis.ac.uk>). The aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of developer-funded fieldwork. Details of this project have been included on the OASIS database under the identifier **wardella2- 309957**.



### **3 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

3.1.1 A previous historical background research has been undertaken (WAA 2015), derived from various resources available from archives, libraries and online. This following section only presents a short summary in the development of the Old Craig building.

#### **3.2 Historic Background**

3.2.1 Old Craig had been built as a comparatively small tower house, close to Edinburgh city. The earliest, still extant fabric is part of the three storey tower house, with the datestone of 1565 giving an approximate date of its construction. The initials LS CP point to the owners at this time, Laurence Symson and Catherine Pringle. The house may have been built on an L or T plan, with small first and second floor windows and a crow-stepped gable. The whole ground floor contained a vaulted ceiling. The Dicks family owned the house from at least 1685. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was the residence of John Hill Burton, a Scottish historian (Historic Scotland, accessed 12/08/15).

3.2.2 During the late 18<sup>th</sup> to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century the building remained empty and began to fall into a derelict state. Its renovation in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century might have brought further enlargements of the windows, as well as the removal of the crow-steps of the east-gable of the earlier building. Cartographic documents by John Adair from ca. 1682 display a tower house named Craighouse, and on the 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map of 1857 Craighouse is depicted as a T shaped building with a variety of outbuildings to its north and west sides.

3.2.3 The estate of Craig House was purchased by the Board of Managers of the Edinburgh Lunatic Asylum, under the influence of the then Physician Superintendent, Dr Thomas Clouston in 1878. While being put to immediate use, Old Craig underwent a few changes over the course of the next decades. A wooden veranda and porch had been added to the east elevation by 1896, as well as a porch with flanking stairs on the south elevation. A shallow bay was added to the north. Six new dormer windows were added to the attic floor on the south elevation of the original building. On either side of the chimneys on the north side a pair of dormer windows was added. The old casement windows were replaced by single panel windows. Additionally, the harling of the building was lined, simulating a more high status ashlar stone finish, a common internal and external finish of that time (Simpson Brown 2012).

3.2.4 Some parts of the interior of Old Craig were changed to suit the new purpose of the

building. Walls between smaller rooms of the old building were removed, creating one large room per floor. Several new interior finishes were added in a characteristic Sydney Mitchell Free Renaissance style.

- 3.2.5 In *The British Medical Journal* from Nov. 3 1894 (pp. 994), it is mentioned that by this time, Old Craig already accommodated twelve patients.
- 3.2.6 By 1908, the western half of the west wing had been removed. The walls of the eastern walled garden had also disappeared. A further significant alteration was the removal of the formal entrance from Craighouse Road. The decorative gate posts to the south of the Lodge mirror the original ones from the 18<sup>th</sup> century situated at the former entrance to Old Craig, as seen on a photograph from 1900. The entrance ceased to be used as such after 1900 with the construction of the Lodge (Simpson Brown 2012, 21). By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the majority of the old out buildings had been removed.
- 3.2.7 Old Craig House itself was adapted for hospital use. The site was renamed the Thomas Clouston Clinic in 1972 (Lothian Health Services Archive/ Historic Scotland Ref website).
- 3.2.8 After Napier University obtained the Craighouse Complex from the Lothian Health Services in 1994, the before mentioned main entrance to Old Craig was reopened and enlarged to allow access for public buses. Old Craig was repainted in a pink colour.

## **4 WALLPAPER SURVEY**

- 4.1.1 The recording of the wallpaper in situ was undertaken between 13<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February 2018. The old entrance hall of Old Craig, is located at the southern, first floor access to the building.
- 4.1.2 The wallpaper covers the upper half of the elevations, above a simple timber panelled dado (Plate 1). It is the original 1890's wallpaper installed in the redevelopment of the residential property into the first building of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum.
- 4.1.3 The embossed paper is machine made and covered in a bronze or gold metal foil, painted over with shades of white, blue, red and green and then varnished (Plates 2 to 5). There are variations in the strength of the colour of some motives, therefore the painting probably was undertaken by hand. It displays a repetitive motive of two parrots, two butterflies and various flowers (Plates 6 to 11). The wallpaper is stuck on canvas, which is then fastened onto the wall. It is a durable wallpaper, which is relatively resistant to damage and water damage.
- 4.1.4 There are some areas of movement and small sections of damage mainly from modern sign instalments to the wallpaper, but overall it is in a very good condition. Some discolouration of the vanish darkened the wallpaper.



Plate 1: General view to south-east



Plate 2: General view of east elevation



Plate 3: Detail, east elevation



Plate 4: Detail, east elevation above doorway



Plate 5: General view east elevation



Plate 6: Detail of a flower and butterfly



Plate 7: Detail of flowers



Plate 8: Detail of flower



Plate 9: Detail of flower and butterfly



Plate 10:Detail of parrot





Plate 11: Detail of second parrot

## 5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1.1 The wallpaper is an imitation of the expensive embossed leather wall coverings, which were quite popular at this time period. Leather-papers and other cheap variations, such as Cordelova (pressed paper), Lincrusta (a linoleum-like material) and Anaglypta (pressed cotton fibre pulp) were used instead, as affordable and durable variation in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. They were thought to be most suitable for halls, stairwells, dining rooms, studies and libraries (Saunders 2002, 124).
- 5.1.2 This example of golden leather paper within the old entrance hall of Old Craig is coloured in and varnished. Overall, the wallpaper is in very good condition. The colours are well preserved in their intensity and the detailing is clearly discernible. There are some minor damages, mainly caused by modern sign instalments.
- 5.1.3 In the course of an initial inspection of the wallpaper by the conservation specialist James Caverhill, he assessed that the paper is in very good condition. There are a few splash marks from water, but in general the paper has survived very well. It has been stuck down onto canvas which has been nailed to the wall, which is most likely wooden panelling. It would be very easy to peel the paper from the wall in individual drops, to preserve for a future project or display. Each piece would be labelled so the decoration could be re-assembled elsewhere (Caverhill 2018).

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