

Project Code: MHGE08
Date: April 2008
Client: Mottram Patrick Partnership



Data Structure Report: Historic Building Recording, walls related to Moredun House, Gilmerton

George Geddes

PROJECT SUMMARY SHEET

Client	Mottram Patrick Partnership
National Grid Reference	NT 2881 6904
Address	470 Gilmerton Road, EH17 7SA
Parish	Edinburgh
Council	Edinburgh, City of
NMRS Number	NT26NE.35.3 (Stables court)
Historic Building Number	43262 (Murray Home Group, now demolished)
Statutory Listing	Listed B with Murray Home (now demolished)
Project Manager	Simon Stronach
Text	George Geddes
Illustrations	Caroline Normann
Fieldwork	George Geddes
Schedule	
Fieldwork	01 st April 2008
Report	25 th April 2008

SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology Ltd was commissioned to undertake Historic Building recording on a freestanding wall which forms part of a stable group lying immediately NE of the site of the Murray Home (now demolished) and previously Moredun House (demolished around 1929, also known as Goodtrees/Gutters). The wall was the SE back wall of a SE range.

It was not part of the earlier main house but formed part of the associated stables which probably date from the 18th century; the surviving complete block is 19th century in date. The wall is of random rubble and retains an early doorway with a heavily worn roll moulded lintel as the cill. Additions against the NW face are 19th century in date.

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INTRODUCTION

This report describes the results of historic building recording on the remains of a stable building formerly related to Moredun House and the Murray Home (both now demolished). The wall dates from the early 18th century or before, and incorporates a re-used lintel. The wall is to be retained in a redevelopment of the Moredun stables courtyard. As part of the planning process, the Council have requested Historic Building Recording in order to record the wall before alteration.

DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

A rapid desk based assessment was undertaken to provide a background for the historic building survey.

The immediate area to the SW of the wall was until recently the site of the Murray Home built 1929-30 and designed by Thomas W Turnball. This building, with sundial, lodge, gate piers and stable court was B-listed (HB number 43262) and the surviving components retain that status. The wall that forms the subject of this report can be considered part of the stables court described in the 1996 listed building description as a 'lower single storey rubble lean-to range, probably cartshed, openings altered, some with timber boarded doors, others bricked up'. The description also details how the former Moredun House was demolished to make way for the new Murray Home but the existing stable buildings were retained. Moredun House was formerly (pre-1769) known as Goodtrees or Gutters and owned by the Stewart family. The associated gardens were known for their greenhouses and produce.

There are five individual records in the National Monuments Record of Scotland relating to the site, including the listed buildings and an ice house, as well as the position of Moredun. The stables (NT26NE 35.03) have no description but the entry for Moredun House suggests it may have been late 17th century in date and that the owners before the Stewarts may have been the Herries.

Historic maps show the site from the later 17th century. Adair's maps show Gutters in 1682 and Goodtrees in 1735 (reflecting a change in ownership). Roy's more detailed map of 1750 shows Goodtrees as a rectangular house entered by a NE gate and a drive past flanking walls or buildings; the current wall is in the position to the SE of these and is therefore probably c.1750 or earlier.

Moredun House, shown in detail on the first Ordnance Survey of 1855, incorporated the early Goodtrees as the main SE block now flanked with curved pavilions. By this date, the original entrance had been superseded by a parallel drive just to the NW and the new gatehouse (still surviving) had been built. To the NE of the house, two ranges aligned SW-NE, include the wall and lean-tos and the existing stable block. The second edition survey of 1877 shows little change to the main house or the stable court.

The house, now owned by the Murray family, was demolished in c.1928 due to extensive dry rot. Helen Murray sold the house to the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh in 1923 in order to found a home for wounded soldiers and sailors. Murray House, built 1929-30 was demolished in 2007.

HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING

Methods

The building survey utilised the general standards set out by the RCHME (1996) and English Heritage (2006) and the techniques and practice promoted by the AAIS (Andrews *et al.* 1995), Historic Scotland (Dallas 2003), English Heritage (2003) and the RCAHMS (2004). Specialised terminology is referenced to Curl's *Dictionary of Architecture* (1999) and Pride's *Dictionary of Scottish Building* (1996).

Photographs were taken using a digital camera and a 35mm camera loaded with colour slide film.

The weather during the period of survey was overcast and windy with heavy rain showers.

Results

The free standing wall formed the rear (SE) of a stables range immediately NE of the Murray Home and formerly Moredun House. To the NW, there is a fully extant stables block currently under renovation as part of the same development.

The wall is approximately 0.6m wide and 29m long, aligned NE-SW. The rear face is harled (dating to the construction of a modern estate to the E). A modern boundary wall abuts at the S corner. The wall is 3.5m high at the SE, and between 4.1 and 4.4m high at the NW, reflecting a significant difference in ground level. Partly because of this, it has a significant lean to the NW.

The NW face is unfinished and is built of lime-mortared random rubble including a mixture of field rubble and split boulders. Some areas are patched with cement mortar and some are heavily blackened from an adjacent fire. There is a large pillar of dressed stone at the SW end of the wall (19th century in date) and there were a series of lean to sheds along the NW face; the majority of these were demolished before the survey. At the NE end of the wall, a perpendicular rubble wall juts out to the NW finishing in a drum pillar, matching others in the group and probably of c.1930. There are three openings, two doorways and a window within the surviving lean-to buildings. The E door opened to the S; it has a rebate for a door, rubble margins and a large well worn re-used lintel with roll moulding acting as a cill. This fragment of stone could date from an earlier building on the site and should certainly be retained within the development. The central doorway is a more recent insertion at a slightly higher level and has cement and brickwork around it. The window opening is blocked flush with the wall. It is at a low level in the wall suggesting that the ground surface to the S has been raised to a significant extent and was previously contiguous with that to the N.

DISCUSSION

A combination of desk-based research and a field survey indicates that the wall is certainly an early fragment of the S range of Moredun House stables. It is recorded on maps from the 18th century and physical evidence within the wall shows major changes in ground level and use. It also incorporates an interesting roll-moulded lintel which may come from an earlier building on the site.

SOURCES

Print references

Andrews, D, Blake, B, Clowes, M and Wilson, K 1995 *The Survey and Recording of Historic Buildings*, Association of Archaeological Illustrators and Surveyors, Technical Paper No. 12, Oxford.

Curl, JS 1999 *Dictionary of Architecture*, Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Dallas, R 2003 *Measured Survey and Building Recording*, Historic Scotland, Guide for Practitioners 4, Edinburgh

English Heritage 2003 *Measured and Drawn. Techniques and practice for the metric survey of historic buildings*, English Heritage, Swindon.

English Heritage 2006 *Understanding Historic Buildings. A guide to good recording practice*, English Heritage, Swindon.

Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001 *Standards and Guidance for the archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings and structures* (revised edition)

RCHME 1996 *Recording Historic Buildings – A Descriptive Specification* (3rd Edition), Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England, Swindon.

RCAHMS 1997 *Survey and Recording Policy*, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland, Edinburgh.

Maps

(1682) - John ADAIR - Adair 9: [Map of Midlothian]. (manuscript)

(1735) - John ADAIR - A map of Mid-Lothian, survey'd by Mr Adair.

1747-55 - William ROY - Military Survey of Scotland

1763 - John LAURIE - A plan of the county of Mid-Lothian

[1766] - John LAURIE - A plan of Edinburgh and places adjacent.

1786 - John LAURIE - A Plan of Edinburgh and the country adjacent.

1812 - James KNOX - Map of the shire of Edinburgh.

1817 - Robert KIRKWOOD - A map of the environs of Edinburgh.

1821 - John THOMSON - Edinburgh Shire.

1821 - John AINSLIE - Ainslie's Map of the Southern Part of Scotland.

1828 - T. SHARP, C. GREENWOOD & W. FOWLER - Map of the county of Edinburgh.

1834 - W. HUNTER & J. ANDERSON - Plan of the Environs of Edinburgh.

[1834] - William JOHNSON, J. GELLATLY - Gellatly's New Map of the country 12 miles round Edinburgh.

APPENDIX 1 – PHOTOGRAPH REGISTER

Shot Number	Direction facing	Description
1	-	ID Shot
2	W	General shot, SE face
3	N	General shot, SE face
4	E	SW corner
5	E	SW corner
6	SE	NW face, SW
7	E	General shot
8	S	General shot, NW face
9	E	General shot, NW face
10	E	General shot, NW face
11	S	General shot, NW face
12	S	General shot from NE
13	SW	General shot from NE
14	SW	General shot from NE
15	W	General shot, steading
16	S	NW face
17	SE	NW face, NE
18	SE	NW face, doorways
19	SE	NW face, doorway and lean-to
20	SE	NW face, lean to
21	NE	NW face, NE doorway
22	NE	NW face, NE doorway and NE end
23	E	NW face, middle doorway
24	SE	NW face, NE doorway
25	E	NW face, general shot
26	N	General shot, steading
27	SE	NW face, NE door, cill detail
28	SE	NW face, NE doorway
29	NE	NW face, NE corner
30	E	General shot from SW
31	NE	General shot from SW
32	SE	NW face, SW
33	SE	NW face, lean-to
34	SE	NW face, doorway and lean-to
35	SE	NW face, NE
36	S	NW face
37	E	General shot
38	SE	NW face, blocked window (dig only)
39	E	NW face, blocked window (dig only)
40	NE	NW face, lean-to interior
41	S	NW face, lean-to interior

APPENDIX 2 - DISCOVERY AND EXCAVATION IN SCOTLAND ENTRY

LOCAL AUTHORITY:	Edinburgh
PROJECT TITLE/SITE NAME:	Moredun House, Gilmerton, Edinburgh
PROJECT CODE:	MHGE08
PARISH:	Edinburgh
NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR(S):	George Geddes
NAME OF ORGANISATION:	Headland Archaeology Ltd
TYPE(S) OF PROJECT:	Historic Building Recording
NMRS NO(S):	NT26NE.35.3
SITE/MONUMENT TYPE(S):	Wall
SIGNIFICANT FINDS:	NA
NGR	NT 3262 5905
START DATE (this season)	April 2008
END DATE (this season)	April 2008
PREVIOUS WORK (incl. DES ref.)	NA
MAIN (NARRATIVE) DESCRIPTION: (May include information from other fields)	<p><i>Historic Building recording was undertaken on a freestanding wall which forms part of a stable group lying immediately NE of the site of the Murray Home (now demolished) and previously Moredun House (demolished around 1929, also known as Goodtrees/Gutters).</i></p> <p><i>The wall was the SE back wall of a SE range. It was not part of the earlier main house but formed part of the associated stables which probably date from the 18th century; the surviving complete block is 19th century in date. The wall is of random rubble and retains an early doorway with a heavily worn roll moulded lintel as the cill. Additions against the NW face are 19th century in date.</i></p>
PROPOSED FUTURE WORK:	NA
ARCHIVE LOCATION (intended/deposited)	Archive to be deposited in NMRS. Report lodged with Midlothian SMR and NMRS.
SPONSOR OR FUNDING BODY:	Mottram Patrick Partnership
CAPTION(S) FOR ILLUSTRS:	
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