

## Pre-1750 Buildings in



## Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

To provide some context for the survey it is first necessary to consider what is meant by 'Medieval'. Common understanding is that it refers to the middle ages. This was a period in history which lasted approximately from the 5th to the 16th century. This period was gradually superseded by the Renaissance, which was inspired by a rediscovery of the culture and learning of the classical world of ancient Greece and Rome. As a result, there was a transformation in the arts which is generally held to mark the end of the Medieval period. Cultural historians continually debate the meaning, importance and chronology of this crucial phase in European history.

Architecture is one of the most visible and culturally accessible areas for debate on the transition from Medieval to Renaissance forms. The architecture of the Medieval period was based on the Gothic system; most familiar in the pointed arches, ribbed vaults, and flying buttresses of many great cathedrals. By contrast, Renaissance architecture emphasised symmetry, proportion, geometry and the regularity of parts based on the architecture of classical antiquity, which was being studied and codified by contemporary architects.

In Scotland, King James I (1424-37) is viewed as establishing new patterns of

behaviour that over the next hundred years would evolve into a fully fledged Renaissance. It is now accepted that a revival of national architecture in Scotland in the late Medieval period, developed into an early Renaissance, centred on the royal court. However, the Renaissance was not a single event, but a linked series of cultural tendencies, and it was many years before there was a significant shift in mainstream architecture, in the broadest sense of building activity in Scotland.

There were many prestige buildings designed in Scotland with classical features and compositions, mostly for the royal court but also including country houses, and public buildings such as the Netherbow Port (1570s, 1606) and the Parliament House (Sir James Murray of Kilbaberton, 1632-9). George Heriot's School, which was started in 1628, was the first large building to be constructed outside the confines of the City Wall and has been described as a 'prodigy of the Scots Renaissance'. At the same time, however, the older traditions, particularly in domestic architecture prevailed and we also have many interesting 'survivals' from the 17th and earlier centuries which seem to look back to older patterns of architecture and building. Examples of early Renaissance buildings and surviving 'Medieval' buildings sit alongside one another in the Old Town.

# Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

## Introduction

Surviving 17th century buildings, such as Gladstone's Land, are a powerful reminder that 'vernacular' architectural forms remained the norm in Edinburgh through to the 18th century.

By 1700, classicism, form and architectural 'order' had more or less triumphed. Edinburgh's Golden Age of stately classicism followed, with the construction of the New Town from the 1760s onwards.

The success of the Renaissance movement in Continental Europe undoubtedly influenced the design of the New Town and its buildings. The symmetry of James Craig's Plan, combined with the classical

form of buildings such as Register House (Robert Adam, 1774-88) and the Old College in the Old Town (Robert Adam, 1789), signalled the final end of the Medieval period in architectural terms in Edinburgh.

The quality and character of the older buildings in the Old Town is emphasised by the survival of the little altered Medieval fishbone street pattern of narrow closes, leading off the spine formed by the Royal Mile and the adoption of the Scottish Baronial style for developments in the 19th century which conveyed a strongly romantic image of Scottish national identity.



## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

### Survey

The survey has taken a wide definition of the term 'medieval' and considered all buildings, and structures with substantial fabric, in the Old Town which pre-date 1750. There are 78 buildings which pre-date 1750 and these are detailed by relative period. The following describes the main features of the different periods:

#### **Pre 1544**

At the beginning of the 16th century the houses in Edinburgh were still almost completely built of wood and clay. None were more than two storeys high, sometimes with attics and many had thatched roofs. These houses burned easily in the 1544 invasion of Edinburgh by the Earl of Hertford, and only parts of the Castle, St Giles and Holyrood remain today of the early city.

The 12th century, St Margaret's Chapel within the Castle compound, is Edinburgh's earliest surviving building. The oldest fragments of the fabric of St Giles also date from the early 12th century, Holyrood Abbey was founded in 1128, although most of the surviving stonework is from a later period and sections of the Town Walls survive from pre-1540.

#### **16th Century Post 1544**

In the latter half of the 16th century, a large number of the nobility came to Edinburgh to be near the royal court, and they built

their houses of stone. Merchants were also able to build more substantial houses.

The following domestic buildings survive from the 16th century:

- ◇ John Knox's House, High Street
- ◇ Moubray House, High Street
- ◇ Huntly House, Canongate
- ◇ Earl of Morton's House, Blackfriars Street
- ◇ Riddle's Court
- ◇ Croft-an-Righ
- ◇ Gladstone's Land, Lawnmarket
- ◇ North Gray's Close
- ◇ Brodies' Close
- ◇ Abbey Strand

The Canongate Tolbooth, the Magdalene Chapel, and structures associated with Holyroodhouse also survive from this period.



Canongate Tolbooth



### 17th Century

The 17th century is represented by a number of substantial original townhouses, particularly in the Canongate (Moray House, Huntly House, Acheson House in Bakehouse Close, Queensberry House, Panmure House, Abbey Strand). By the middle of the century, buildings were built higher within the city walls and the tenement, almost universally built of stone with slate roofs, had become the standard form of housing. There are also examples of a new pattern of flatted courtyard dwelling, the earliest of which is Milne's Court (1690s), which involved the demolition of old multi-storey structures and building laterally across the narrow feus to make room for three massive tenements facing a forecourt - a luxurious space in the congested Old Town. Milne's Court

represents the need for open space in the Old Town. It could not be widely repeated within the complex urban form, but this building type ultimately found expression in the New Town.

Surviving 17th century ecclesiastical buildings are the Tron Church, Greyfriars Church, and the Canongate Church. Other non-domestic buildings include the Lodge Canongate Kilwinning, St John Street, Tailors Hall, Cowgate and the Old Surgeons' Hall, Drummond Street. George Heriots and the Parliament Hall also date from this period, both show the influence of the Renaissance style.

### Early 18th Century

Residential development in the first half of the 18th century was exclusively tenemental in form and the period is well represented by groups of buildings which followed the vernacular architectural tradition of earlier centuries.

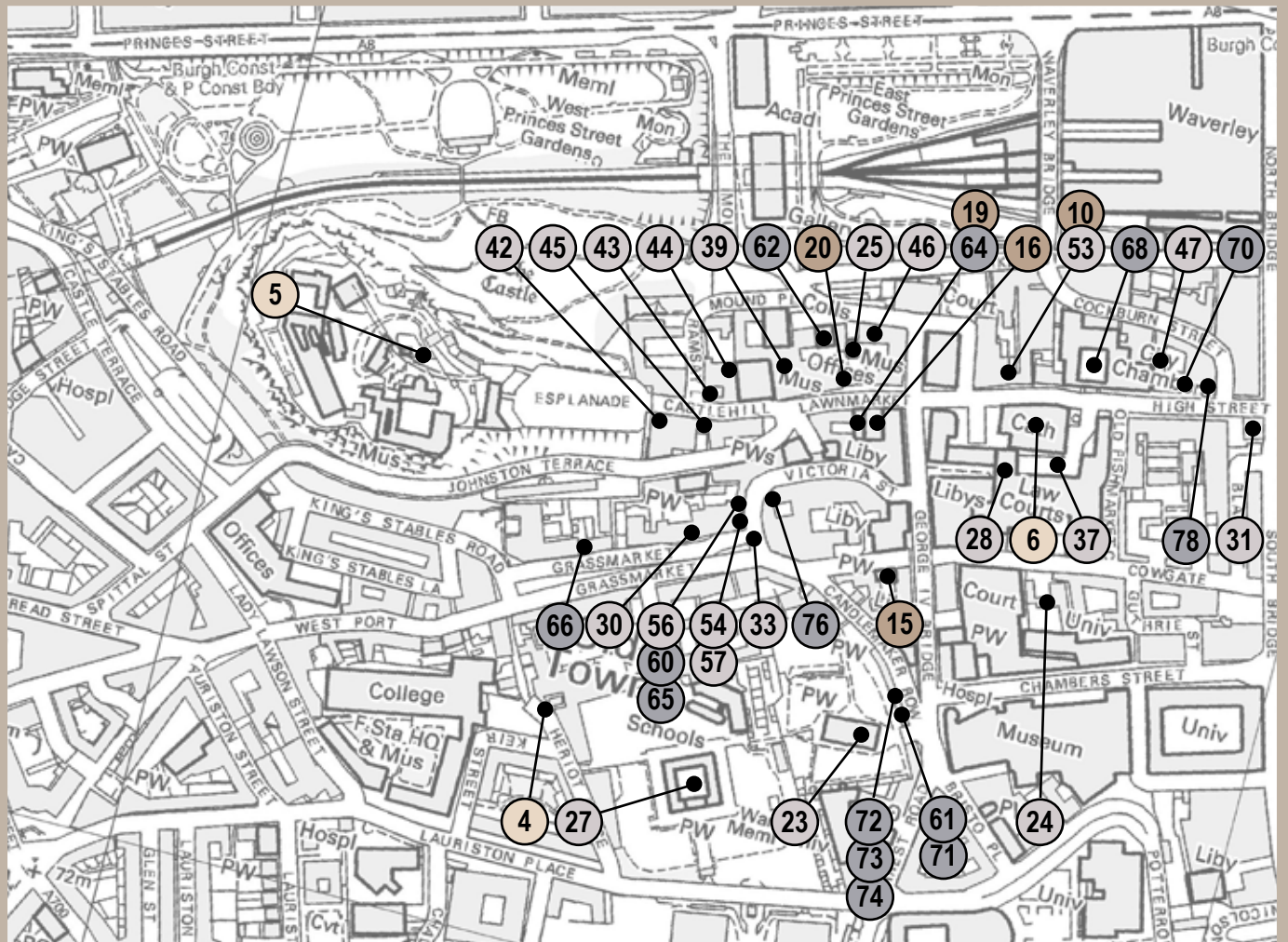
### Conclusion

This survey indicates that the Old Town contains a significant number of early buildings which adopt a traditional Medieval vernacular form. The number of domestic buildings is substantial and unprecedented in a Scottish context.



Bakehouse  
Close

# Pre 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area



## PRE 1544

- 1 Trinity College Church Apse, Chalmer's Close, (Between High Street & Jeffrey Street).
- 2 High Street, Tweeddale Court Walling on West Side of Court and to South of Tweeddale House
- 3 Flodden Wall, Drummond Street & Pleasance
- 4 Heriot Place and Vennel, Bastion of Flodden Wall & Telfer Wall
- 5 Edinburgh Castle
- 6 St Giles Cathedral
- 7 Holyrood Abbey
- 8 The Palace of Holyrood House

## 16th CENTURY

- 9 John Knox House, 45 High Street
- 10 343-363 High Street and 2-8 Advocate's Close
- 11 51-55 High Street, Moubray House
- 12 Huntly House, 146 Canongate
- 13 Canongate Tolbooth
- 14 Holyroodhouse, Croft an Righ 28, 30 Croft an Righ
- 15 The Magdalene Chapel, 41 Cowgate
- 16 302-310 Lawnmarket, including Buchanan's Close 7 Brodie's Close
- 17 Earl of Morton's House, 8 Blackfriars Street
- 18 Abbey Stran
- 19 322-328 Lawnmarket, including Riddles Court, Riddles Close and 5 & 6 Victoria Terrace.
- 20 Gladstones Land, 481 & 483 Lawnmarket
- 21 Holyroodhouse, Queen Mary's Bath Abbeyhill
- 22 125 High Street/2 North Gray's Close

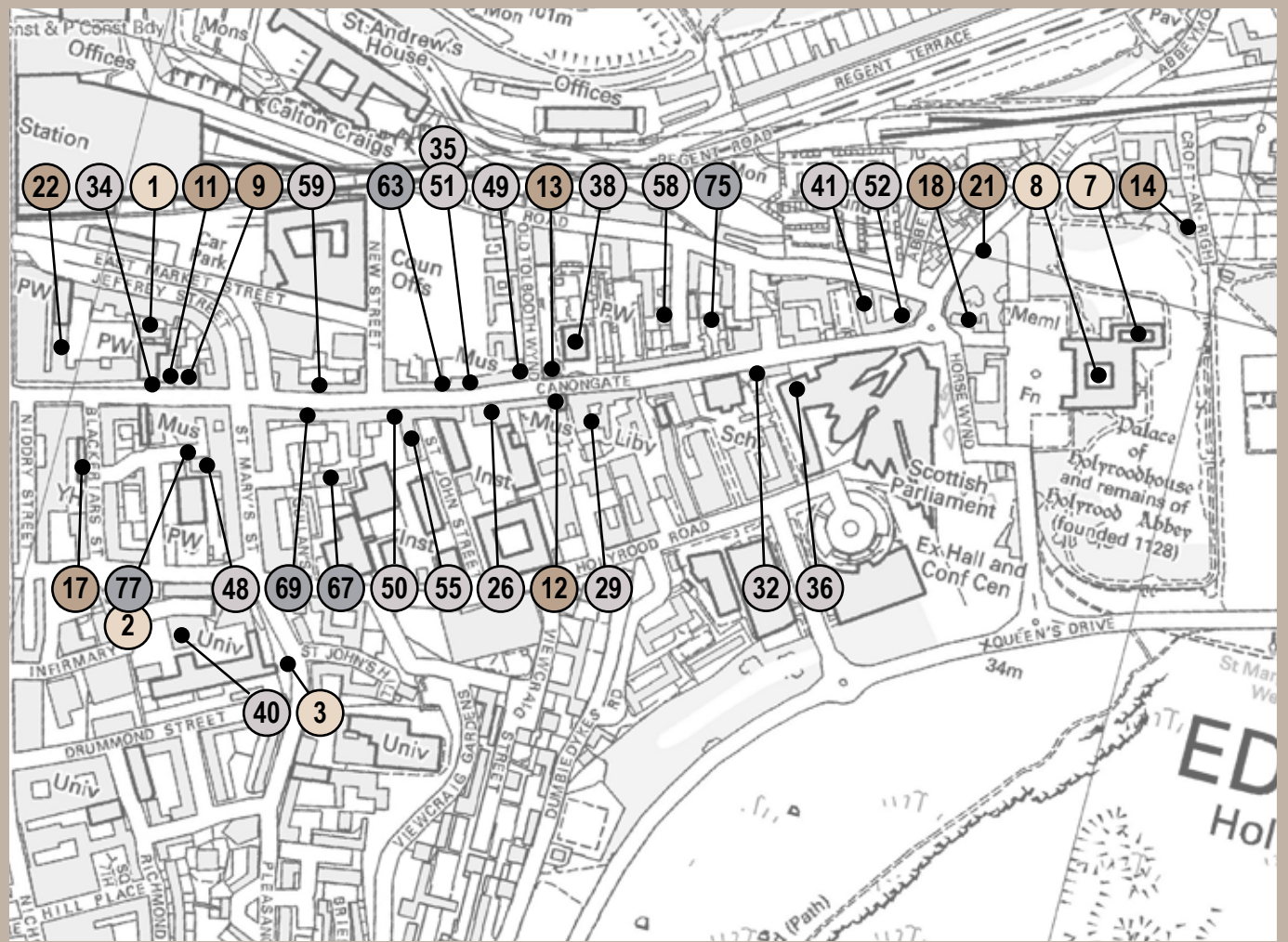
## 17th CENTURY

- 23 Greyfriars Church
- 24 Tailor's Hall, 137 Cowgate
- 25 Ladys Stairs House, 477 Lawnmarket
- 26 Moray House, 174 Canongate
- 27 Lauriston Place, George Heriot's School, Main Building
- 28 Parliament Square, Parliament Hall
- 29 Canongate 140, Acheson House, Bakehouse Close (146 Canongate)
- 30 74-84 Grassmarket
- 31 The Tron Church High Street
- 32 Canongate 82, 84 Nisbet of Dirleton's
- 33 West Bow, Bowfoot Well
- 34 High Street, Netherbow Wellhead
- 35 Canongate, 183-187 Bible Land
- 36 Canongate 64, Queensberry House
- 37 Charles II Statue, Parliament Square
- 38 Canongate Parish Church
- 39 Milnes Court, 513-521 Lawnmarket
- 40 Old Surgeons' Hall, Drummond Street
- 41 Canongate 23-33 (Bishop Paterson's House) & White Horse Close, 31 Canongate
- 42 356 Castlehill & 2 Castle Wynd North, Cannonball House
- 43 Outlook Tower, 549 Castle Hill

## Key to Buildings



# Pre 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area



<b>17th CENTURY</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>44 537 &amp; 539 Castlehill, Jollie's Close, Semple's Close &amp; Sempill House(part)</li> <li>45 Boswell's Court 352 Castle Hill</li> <li>46 2-6 North Bank Street &amp; Wardrop's Court, Blackie House.</li> <li>47 Anchor Close 243 High Street</li> <li>48 High Street, 14 Tweeddale Court</li> <li>49 167-169 Canongate</li> <li>50 Canongate 194-198 Old Playhouse Close</li> <li>51 Canongate 189-191 Flats 2, 4 &amp; 6</li> <li>52 Canongate 3, Russell House</li> <li>53 High Street, 3 Advocate's Close ('Adam Bothwell's House')</li> <li>54 98 Grassmarket and 105 West Bow</li> <li>55 Canongate and St John Street, Lodge Canongate Kilwinning</li> <li>56 89 West Bow</li> <li>57 101 &amp; 103 West Bow</li> <li>58 Canongate 115 Little Lochend Close, Panmure House</li> <li>59 265 &amp; 267 Canongate, Morocco Land</li> </ul>	<b>1700-1750</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>60 91 &amp; 93 West Bow, Including Crocket's Land</li> <li>61 36-42 Candlemaker Row, Including Candlemakers' Hall</li> <li>62 11, 12 &amp; 13 North Bank Street &amp; 8 James Court</li> <li>63 Shoemakers Land, 195-197 Canongate</li> <li>64 312-320 Lawnmarket, including Fisher's Close.</li> <li>65 95-99 West Bow</li> <li>66 30-40 Grassmarket, Including White Hart Inn</li> <li>67 Canongate 240, Chessel's Court</li> <li>68 The City Chambers 253 High Street, 2 Warristons Close &amp; 14 Cockburn Street</li> <li>69 Canongate 246-248 (Including Former 2, 4 Pirie's Close)</li> <li>70 209-213 High Street Including 1-6 Jackson's Close</li> <li>71 30-34 Candlemaker Row, Greyfriars' Bobby Bar</li> <li>72 44 Candlemaker Row</li> <li>73 46 &amp; 48 Candlemaker Row</li> <li>74 50-54 Candlemaker Row</li> <li>75 Canongate, 95 3, 5 &amp; 6 Reid's Court Canongate Manse</li> <li>76 94-96 West Bow</li> <li>77 High Street 14, Sedan Chair House</li> <li>78 197-207 High Street including 1-14 Fleshmarket Close</li> </ul>
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## Key to Buildings

Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

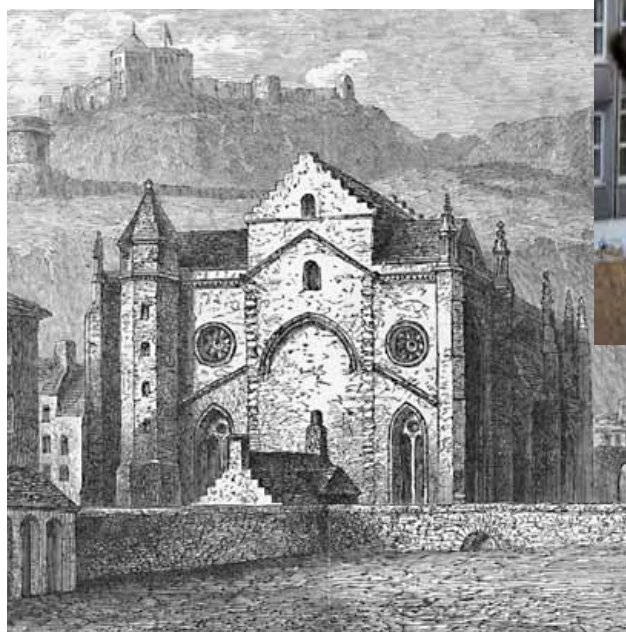
1

Building Name

Trinity College Church Apse,  
Chalmer's Close, (Between High  
Street & Jeffrey Street).

Listing Category

A



Date

15th century (part)

Description

Incorporating parts of Trinity College Church 1460-1531 (demolished 1848 and relocated to present site, 1872).



Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

2

Building Name

High Street, Tweeddale Court  
Walling on West Side of Court  
and to South of Tweeddale House

Listing Category

B



Date

Pre 1544

Description

Date and purpose uncertain, but comparatively early and perhaps a fragment of the circa 1430 town wall.

Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

3

Buiding Name

Flodden Wall, Drummond  
Street & Pleasance

Listing Category

A



Date

Pre 1544

Description

1514. Section of town wall.

## Survey of Medieval Buildings in Edinburgh's Old Town

Building No.

4

Building Name

Heriot Place and Vennel,  
Bastion of Flodden Wall  
& Telfer Wall

Listing Category

A



Date

pre-1544, 1514-60 and 1628-36

Description

1514-60 and 1628-36. SW bastion of Flodden Wall (at head of Vennel). After the defeat at Flodden in September 1513 the Town Council imposed a levy in order to strengthen the town walls. The new wall enclosed the suburbs of Grassmarket and Cowgate. The principal function of the wall was probably to deter smuggling rather than defence.' The Telfer Wall (named after its mason, John Tailefer) was constructed in 1628-36 to enclose land bought by the Town Council in 1618, most of which was then sold to the Heriot's Hospital Trust, but including also the area to the S of Greyfriars where the Charity Workhouse was later built. The walls are important both historically and for the effect which they have had on the pattern of development of the city.



## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

5

Building Name

Edinburgh Castle

Listing Category

A



Date

A. Pre-1544. From 12th century

Description

PALACE BLOCK - 15th century with many later alterations and additions. PORTCULLIS GATE AND ARGYLE TOWER - 1577-84, possibly incorporating earlier fabric. VAULTS- 15th century. ARGYLE BATTERY, MILLS MOUNT BATTERY AND LOW DEFENCES: 1730-7. DURY'S BATTERY AND BUTT'S BATTERY: 1708-13. FOREWALL BATTERY: 1544. HALF-MOON BATTERY: 1573-88. WESTERN DEFENCES: 1730-7. GREAT HALL - Circa 1503. GOVERNOR'S HOUSE - 1740-2. ST MARGARET'S CHAPEL - Earlier 12th century, with later alterations and additions. FOOG'S GATE - 1677-80. NATIONAL WAR MUSEUM OF SCOTLAND (FORMER HOSPITAL AND ORDNANCE STORE - 1748.

## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

6

Buiding Name

St Giles Cathedral

Listing Category

A



Date

Pre-1544. From 14th century

Description

The first St Giles church was built c. 1130 when the burgh of Edinburgh was founded. The present building incorporates early fabric.



## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

7

Buiding Name

Holyrood Abbey

Listing Category

A



Date

Pre-1544. 1128

Description

Founded 1128, rebuilt c.1190-1275 incorporating parts of earlier work in S aisle wall. Originally cruciform, choir and transepts demolished c.1570, nave and NW tower (survivor of pair) only remain; E window and alterations to W front Anthony Alexander and Sir James Murray Masters of Work. Vault fell 1768, S side of nave complete to triforium level, N side much ruined.



## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

8

Buiding Name

The Palace of  
Holyrood House

Listing Category

A



Date

Pre-1544. 1528-32

Description

The palace developed from a royal guesthouse which had been part of Holyrood Abbey. The new building was completed for King James IV (1473 - 1513) in 1504, with additions made between 1528 and 1536 by his son King James V (1512-42). The palace was damaged during English invasions, first by the Earl of Hertford (1544), and again by Oliver Cromwell (1650). Thus, much of the current building was the result of a reconstruction in 1671 by architect Sir William Bruce (1630 - 1710) and builder Robert Mylne (1633 - 1710).

## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

9

Buiding Name

John Knox House,  
45 High Street

Listing Category

A



Date

16th century

Description

16th century, extended later 16th and 17th centuries. Long, narrow 3-storey, basement and attic tenement comprising structure of earlier tenement to rear (backland) and later additional tenement (foreland) fronting the High Street at the narrowed site of the old Netherbow Gate.



## Survey of Medieval Buildings in Edinburgh's Old Town

Building No.

10

Building Name

343-363 High Street and  
2-8 Advocate's Close

Listing Category

A



Date

From 16th century

Description

Circa 1735, incorporating earlier fabric and with later alterations. Gordon of Rothiemay's 1647 plan of Edinburgh shows the form of these tenements, with twin wallhead gables and steep steps from the street to the entrances to flats. Advocate's Close was named after Sir James Stewart, Lord Advocate, 1692-1713. Nos 2 and 4 were built for Clement Cor (Burgess and Dean of Guild, 1588), possibly incorporating an earlier building ruined 1544.



## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

11

Building Name

51-55 High Street,  
Moubray House

Listing Category

A



Date

1603

Description

Situated next to John Knox's House. It is one of the most important survivals. Circa 1603, 4-storey and attic tenement with late 15th century core. Circa 1529, long narrow 3-storey range to rear stepped to slope and bounded by Trunk's Close and Hope's Court. Circa 1910 shopfront to ground floor; forestair to left with prominent moulded and corniced early 19th century architrave; timber jettied and gabled attic outshot to left. Front and rear ranges random rubble-built. Irregular fenestration; dressed margins, some raised; principal floors with relieving arches. Crowstepped E gable. Circa 1580 painted timber ceiling in principal chamber of rear range.

## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

12

Buiding Name

Huntly House,  
146 Canongate

Listing Category

A



Date

1570

Description

This ancient house has been identified as the lodging of George Sixth Earl and first Marquess of Huntly. 1570, 4-storey. Upper 2 floors cantilevered with 3 wooden harled gables. Long wing down west side of Bakehouse Close. Restored 1924, Sir Frank Mears, as City Museum

## Survey of Medieval Buildings in Edinburgh's Old Town

Building No.

13

Building Name

Canongate Tolbooth

Listing Category

A



Date

1591

Description

Stands on the north side of the street almost opposite Huntly House. It served the dual purpose of Council Room and courthouse. Front of the main block was extensively restored in 1879. Renovated R H Morham 1879. 2-storey and attic with stone dormers of 1879, 5-storey turreted steeple with slated broach spire. Railed forestair to Council chambers. 1884 clock projected from face of tower.



## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

14

Building Name

Holyrood House,  
Croft an Righ  
28, 30 Croft an Righ

Listing Category

A



Date

16th century

Description

This Gaelic name means “the kings field” is applied to this mansion standing immediately outside the N Garden of Holyrood House, dates back to 16th century was remodelled in the following century.

Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

15

Building Name

The Magdalene Chapel,  
41 Cowgate

Listing Category

A



Date

16th century

Description

John Tailefer, mason and Robert Wilson, wright , 1541-44, with later alterations and additions, including Richard Crichton, 1816 Rectangular-plan almshouse chapel (concealed behind frontage of 1816) with 5-stage square-plan tower and spire (1620-5).



Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

16

Buiding Name

302-310 Lawnmarket,  
including Buchanan's Close  
7 Brodie's Close

Listing Category

A



Date

16th century

Description

16th and 17th century with later alterations and additions, including James Jerdan 1896. Associated with the notorious William Brodie, cabinet maker, Deacon, Town Councillor and burglar, executed in 1788.



Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

17

Building Name

Earl of Morton's House,  
8 Blackfriars Street

Listing Category

B



Date

16th century

Description

Late 16th century. Altered 17th century and much later. 5-storey, stair tower projects into street with gothic doorway. Originally Regent Morton's House, formerly had wooden galleries.

## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

18

Building Name

Abbey Strand

Listing Category

A



Date

Early 16th century

Description

West building has been modernised from time to time. The doorways to the turret stairs had delicately moulded jambs of a 16th century character. Early 16th century, widened on N side late 16th or 17th century. 3-storey, attic floor added first half 19th century.

## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

19

Building Name

322-328 Lawnmarket, including  
Riddles Court, Riddles Close  
and 5 & 6 Victoria Terrace

Listing Category

A



Date

Early 16th century

Description

Riddles Court takes its name from 'Riddal's Land' dating from 1587 and was built by George Riddell, Wright and Burgess. The building is a three storey 'L' shaped house in a traditional Scottish style.



## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

20

Building Name

Gladstones Land,  
481 & 483 Lawnmarket

Listing Category

A



Date

From 16th century

Description

Frontage 1621, 16th century rear wing and 18th century addition to NW. Last building left in Edinburgh with an arcaded front. Bought in 1617 by Thomas Gladstone, who extended it S, building arcaded shop to ground and ashlar front replacing timber galleries.

Acquired by the National Trust for Scotland in 1934, when restoration was carried out by Sir Frank Mears. The 3-storey rubble-built wing to NE is part of a wing added circa 1740, reduced by 2 storeys and given a flat roof in 1934-6.

Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

21

Building Name

Holyroodhouse, Queen  
Mary's Bath, Abbeyhill

Listing Category

A



Date

From 16th century

Description

Queen Mary's Bath is a 2 - storeyed late 16th century garden pavilion sited at the N approach to the Palace Yard. An upper room was thought to contain a bath. Queen Mary is reputed to have bathed in wine here.

## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

**22**

Building Name

**125 High Street /  
2 North Gray's Close**

Listing Category

**B**



Date

**Late 16th century**

Description

Late 16th century, with later additions and alterations. Long row of ruinous buildings; stepped to steep slope. Rectangular plan; roofless and reduced in height; random rubble with ashlar margins; roll-moulded blocked double doorway dated 1581; also late 17th/early 18th century openings with ashlar margins and stone lintels.

The building plots conform to the medieval town plan and, although in a derelict state, are a rare survival. Gray's Close marked on William Edgar's City and Castle of Edinburgh map of 1742



## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

23

Building Name

Greyfriars Church

Listing Category

A



Date

1601

Description

New parish church created, 1602, almost certainly from the original Greyfriars building: lengthened by a further church to the west in 1722, by Alexander McGill. Created into a single church, 1938, by Henry Kerr.

## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

24

Buiding Name

Tailor's Hall,  
137 Cowgate

Listing Category

A



Date

1620

Description

Apart from St Giles Church & the Magdalen Chapel the Tailors Hall is one of the the most important building now surviving in Edinburgh that possesses a connection with the life of the medieval trade-corporations.

The site passed into Tailors hands in 2 parcels in 1620. Dated 1621. 4-storey (top floor added 1757)



Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

25

Building Name

Ladys Stairs House,  
477 Lawnmarket

Listing Category

A



Date

1622

Description

1622, restored and rebuilt, George Shaw Aitken, 1896-7. Asymmetrical 3-storey and attic house (now museum) with 17th century Scottish details.



## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

26

Building Name

Moray House,  
174 Canongate

Listing Category

A



Date

1628

Description

Built c. 1628 for Mary Dowager Countess of Home. 2-storey to street with gable and 1st floor balcony. Semi-octagonal stair tower on west side. Notable plasterwork. Entry between 2 gate piers, with tall pyramid finials. South wing 1753-4 wing 2-storey on laigh floor, 5-window.

Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

27

Building Name

Lauriston Place,  
George Heriot's School,  
Main Building

Listing Category

A



Date

1628-93

Description

William Wallace, William Ayton, John Mylne, Robert Mylne, 1628-93. 2 storey and attic Scots Renaissance/Northern Mannerist quadrangular private school.



## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

28

Building Name

Parliament Square,  
Parliament Hall

Listing Category

A



Date

1631-40

Description

Exterior Robert Reid 1807-10. Old Parliament House built 1631-40 under the direction of Sir James Murray. Parliament House was built in 1639 by James Murray, Master of Works for King Charles I, for the Scots Parliament, the Court of Session and the Privy Council. Parliament moved here from the Castle in 1639 and remained until the Treaty of Union in 1707. Parliament House comprised a hall for Parliament, a Laigh (low) Hall beneath, and an east wing. The Scottish Treasury and Exchequer were later added to the east wing.



Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

29

Building Name

Canongate 140, Acheson House, Bakehouse Close (146 Canongate)

Listing Category

A



Date

1633

Description

Built 1633-4 for Sir Archibald Acheson. This is one of the most interesting domestic survivals in the city.

Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

30

Building Name

74-84 Grassmarket

Listing Category

B



Date

1634

Description

17th century (dated 1634), rebuilt 1929-30, Ebenezer J MacRae.

Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

31

Buiding Name

The Tron Church,  
High Street

Listing Category

A



Date

1637-47

Description

John Mylne 1637-47.

Tower burnt 1824, rebuilt with octagonal upper stages and spire R & R Dickson 1828.



Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

32

Building Name

Canongate 82, 84  
Nisbet of Dirleton's

Listing Category

B



Date

1624

Description

1954 replica of original 1624 facade incorporating some original stones. 3-storey and attic rubble-built, crowstepped gable with square E angle turret, narrow crowstepped stair tower set back on W. Rear elevation completely modern, plain harled.

Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

33

Building Name

West Bow,  
Bowfoot Well

Listing Category

A



Date  
1674

Description

Built by Robert Mylne under supervision of Sir William Bruce, 1674, restored 1861. Inscription on cast-iron door reads 'The West Bow Well, erected by the Town Council 1674, repaired and altered by Richardson Brothers, Merchants, West Bow 1861.'

## Survey of Medieval Buildings in Edinburgh's Old Town

Building No.

34

Building Name

High Street,  
Netherbow Wellhead

Listing Category

A



Date

1675

Description

Built by Robert Mylne under supervision of Sir William Bruce, circa 1675; subsequently moved and rebuilt. Edinburgh's first piped water supply was introduced in 1676, the water coming from Comiston Springs, 3 miles south of Edinburgh Castle. The water was piped into large storage tanks, such as the Castlehill reservoir, and from there it was piped to the wellheads in the streets. On this example, also known as the Fountain Well, the masks are replicas but an original from this particular wellhead is on display at Huntly House Museum in the Canongate. This example is the oldest surviving cistern of its type. It originally stood opposite Fountain Close in the High Street and was moved to its present site opposite Trunk's Close in 1813.



Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

35

Buiding Name

Canongate,  
183-187 Bible Land

Listing Category

B



Date

1677

Description

Dated 1677, built for Incorporation of Cordiners. Rebuilding completed 1956, Robert Hurd.

Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

36

Building Name

Canongate 64,  
Queensberry House

Listing Category

A



Date

1681

Description

1681 and early 18th century. Remodelled as barracks 1808 and raised a storey in place of original mansard.



Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

37

Buiding Name

Charles II Statue,  
Parliament Square

Listing Category

A



Date

1685

Description

1685. Equestrian, lead statue. Plinth ashlar classic with sunk panels, 1835, with inserted panel from original base by Robert Mylne. Said to be of Dutch origin.



Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

38

Building Name

Canongate Parish Church

Listing Category

A



Date

1688-90

Description

The Canongate Kirk was built in 1688 by James Smith, at the instigation of James VII, from money left to the Crown by a rich merchant, Thomas Moodie.

Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

39

Building Name

Milnes Court,  
513-521 Lawnmarket

Listing Category

A



Date

1690

Description

Robert Mylne, 1690, incorporating earlier fabric, with later alterations and additions; partially restored, JA Williamson, 1914; reconstructed Ian G Lindsay and Partners, 1966-70.

## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

**40**

Building Name

**Old Surgeons' Hall,  
Drummond Street**

Listing Category

**B**



Date

**1697**

Description

In 1656 Edinburgh Town Council sold Curriehill House to the Royal College of Surgeons. Curriehill House was taken down. In 1697 Old Surgeon's Hall was built in Surgeons' Square, by James Smith, to enable the College to licence surgeons and apothecaries. It is to this building that in 1828 William Burke and William Hare brought the bodies of their murdered victims and sold them as specimens for Dr Knox's anatomy classes.



## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

41

Building Name

Canongate 23-33 (Bishop  
Paterson's House) & White Horse  
Close, 31 Canongate

Listing Category

B



Date

17th century

Description

Withstanding some essential alterations and considered as a whole is a unique survival from the 17th century. The long low ranges at the sides have been considerably modernised. The higher buildings at each end still have a lot of the original appearance. Originally 17th century.

## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

42

Building Name

356 Castlehill &  
2 Castle Wynd North,  
Cannonball House

Listing Category

A



Date

17th Century

Description

So named because of a cannonball stuck into its west gable, facing the castle, which can be seen to this day. It is a rubble-built steep-roofed merchant's house dating from the 17th century, and located at the east side of the Esplanade. On a pedimented dormer window is inscribed AM MN 1630, which refers to the original inhabitants Alexander Mure and his wife. On the front door handle can be seen a risp, or scratching device, forerunner of the doorbell. The building was extended eastwards in the 18th century, and again to form a part of the Castlehill school by John Carfrae in 1913.

## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

43

Building Name

Outlook Tower,  
549 Castle Hill

Listing Category

A



Date

17th Century

Description

This 17th century building is now the Outlook Tower, also known as Camera Obscura, one of Edinburgh's top tourist attractions. In 1853 a camera obscura was installed in the dome by an Edinburgh optician Maria Theresa Short. A new instrument was installed by Patrick Geddes in 1892. The tenement, the townhouse of Ramsay of Dalhousie, was originally a four storey building.



Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

44

Building Name

537 & 539 Castlehill,  
Jollie's Close, Semple's  
Close & Sempill House(part)

Listing Category

B



Date

17th Century

Description

Earlier 17th century with later alterations.

Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

45

Building Name

Boswell's Court  
352 Castle Hill

Listing Category

A



Date

17th Century

Description

Early 17th century with later alterations.

Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

46

Building Name

2-6 North Bank Street &  
Wardrop's Court,  
Blackie House

Listing Category

A



Date

17th century

Description

The late 17th century tenement was remodelled by Henbest Capper as a university hall of residence for Patrick Geddes, in memory of Professor JS Blackie.



Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

47

Buiding Name

Anchor Close  
243 High Street

Listing Category

A



Date

17th century

Description

At the east side of the close there are two 17th century buildings originally of four stories

Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

48

Building Name

High Street,  
14 Tweeddale Court

Listing Category

B



Date

17th century

Description

Dated 1576. Remodelled and extended 17th century onwards



## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

49

Building Name

167-169 Canongate

Listing Category

A



Date

17th century

Description

Before 1647. The building is L shaped. The 2 lower floors have been altered and provided with a modern wooden shop front. The floor above has 2 original windows.



Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

**50**

Building Name

**Canongate 194-198  
Old Playhouse Close**

Listing Category

**B**



Date

**17th century**

Description

17th century. 3-storey and garret 5-window with centre pend, dormer gablets with row of small dormers above. Turnpike tower in Old Playhouse Close, 3-storey wing to close.

Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

**51**

Building Name

**Canongate 189-191  
Flats 2, 4 & 6**

Listing Category

**B**



Date

17th century

Description

Originally 17th century, rebuilding by Robert Hurd completed 1958.

Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

52

Building Name

Canongate 3,  
Russell House

Listing Category

A



Date

1690

Description

Fine example of a restored 17th century tenement in Edinburgh vernacular style.



Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

53

Buiding Name

High Street,  
3 Advocate's Close  
'Adam Bothwell's House'

Listing Category

A



Date

Circa 1630

Description

Although commonly known as Adam Bothwell's House, Bishop Bothwell died in 1593, and the likelihood is that the house was built for Sir William Dick of Braid, wealthy merchant and Lord Provost.

Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

54

Building Name

98 Grassmarket and  
105 West Bow

Listing Category

A



Date

Early 17th century

Description

Early 17th century with later alterations and additions.



Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

55

Building Name

Canongate and St John  
Street, Lodge Canongate  
Kilwinning

Listing Category

B



Date

From 17th century

Description

NORTH SECTION (former 3-story section of Playhouse Close) 17th century.  
SOUTH SECTION Built 1735-36. Chapel is claimed to be the oldest Masonic Lodge room now remaining anywhere in the world. Historic association with many eminent Scots including Boswell and Burns.



## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

56

Buiding Name

89 West Bow

Listing Category

A



Date

Late 17th century

Description

The foot of Victoria Street is the lower and surviving end of West Bow which ran from the Grassmarket to the Castle Hill. A group of 5 houses escaped destruction. No 89 is the most interesting.

Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

57

Building Name

101 & 103 West Bow

Listing Category

A



Date

Late 17th century

Description

Late 17th to early 18th century. 3-storey and attic 5-bay tenement with shop to ground floor, stepped with slope of street. Harled with stone margins. Date 1561 on base stone of gable finial.

Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

58

Building Name

Canongate 115  
Little Lochend Close,  
Panmure House

Listing Category

A



Date

Late 17th century

Description

Late 17th century. 2/3-storey rubble-built L-plan.



## Survey of Medieval Buildings in Edinburgh's Old Town

Building No.

**59**

Building Name

**265 & 267 Canongate,  
Morocco Land**

Listing Category

**B**



Date

**Late 17th/early 18th century**

Description

Late 17th/early 18th century, rebuilt Robert Hurd, 1956-7. The effigy reputedly depicts the Emperor of Morocco, royal patron of one Andrew Gray. Gray was convicted in the mid 17th century of assaulting the unpopular Provost of Edinburgh but managed to flee the country before his execution, only to be sold as a slave in Morocco. He rose in rank and wealth after impressing the Emperor whom he served. He later returned to Scotland, cured the Provost's daughter of plague, married her and set up home in the Canongate tenement.

Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

60

Building Name

91 & 93 West Bow,  
Including Crocket's Land

Listing Category

A



Date

1705

Description

Circa 1705, with later alterations. 4-storey and attic tenement with shop to ground floor. Harled with stone margins and random rubble to rear.



## Survey of Medieval Buildings in Edinburgh's Old Town

Building No.

61

Building Name

36-42 Candlemaker Row,  
Including  
Candlemakers' Hall

Listing Category

A



Date

1722

Description

James Watson, 1722, remodelled Ebenezer J McRae, 1929. In the 17th century the candlemakers were forbidden to have their workshops in the burgh, due to risk of fire and the noxious process. They were granted the use of waste ground near the Society Port in the Flodden Wall, to the E of Greyfriars churchyard. The tenement containing their Convening Hall (36 Candlemaker Row) was begun in 1722.



Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

62

Building Name

11, 12 & 13 North Bank  
Street & 8 James Court

Listing Category

A



Date

1723

Description

1723-7, with later alterations and additions. L-plan tenement, 7-storeys and attic to N Bank Street, 5 storeys, attic and basement to James Court, 6 storeys and basement to SE wing.

Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

63

Building Name

Shoemakers Land,  
195-197 Canongate

Listing Category

B



Date

1725

Description

Rebuilt Robert Hurd 1956. 5-storey 5-window and narrow bays, rubble-built, ashlar parapet, ground floor as shop. Panel dated 1725.



Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

64

Building Name

312-320 Lawnmarket,  
including Fisher's Close

Listing Category

A



Date

1726

Description

Circa 1700, major alterations James Shearer, 1950-53.



## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

65

Building Name

95-99 West Bow

Listing Category

A



Date

1729

Description

Built by Janet McMath (widow of James Johnston, poultryman). Until after the 1827 Improvement Act, West Bow was a steep Z-shaped street which climbed from the Grassmarket to Upper Bow at the foot of Castlehill. Most of the old buildings in West Bow were swept away to make room for the northern side of Victoria Street, built to link the Grassmarket with the new George IV Bridge. Before their demolition, Thomas Hamilton, the architect for the scheme, made careful elevational drawings of the buildings. As Hamilton's drawing shows, the first five houses at the lower end of the street on the W remain.

## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

66

Building Name

30-40 Grassmarket,  
Including White Hart Inn

Listing Category

B



Date

1740

Description

James Lithgow (builder), circa 1740, restored Gray Marshall and Associates, 1994-5. Records of the White Hart Inn go back to 1516, and well-known guests included Cromwell, Robert Burns (in 1791) and Dorothy and Mary Wordsworth (in 1803). The White Hart is presumably that associated with David I and the foundation of Holyrood Abbey. The building was damaged in a Zeppelin raid in 1916.

## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

67

Buiding Name

Canongate 240,  
Chessel's Court

Listing Category

A



Date

1748

Description

Not only the best preserved but also the finest example of the mansion flats that were once common in the old town. The first floor has a suite of 7 rooms, all panelled. Archibald Chesil 1742-8 with later alterations. Restored 1963-64 by Robert Hurd and Partners



## Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

68

Building Name

The City Chambers  
253 High Street, 2 Warristons  
Close & 14 Cockburn Street

Listing Category

A



Date

1754-61 (with earlier fabric)

Description

John Adam and John Fergus, 1754-61, with later alterations and additions including Robert Morham, 1898-1904 and Ebenezer J MacRae, 1930-4. The site included 4 Closes - Mary King's, Stewart's, Pearson's and Allan's; Mary King's Close was partly overlaid in 1753-61, and further by the NW extension in 1901, but 17th and early 18th century sections of the Close survive under the building.

Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

69

Building Name

Canongate 246-248  
(Including Former 2, 4  
Pirie's Close)

Listing Category

B



Date

18th century

Description

Mid 18th century. 5-storey rubble-built, wallhead gable to street. Ground floor as shops. Restored, back completely rebuilt, Robert Hurd.

Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

70

Building Name

209-213 High Street  
including  
1-6 Jackson's Close

Listing Category

A



Date  
18th century

Description

Early 18th century, incorporating earlier fabric.



Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

71

Building Name

30-34 Candlemaker Row,  
Greyfriars Bobby Bar

Listing Category

B



Date

Early 18th century

Description

Early 18th century with later alterations and additions.

Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

72

Building Name

44 Candlemaker Row

Listing Category

C(S)  
C Listed Building



Date

Early 18th century

Description

Early 18th century, front reconstructed circa 1900.



Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

73

Building Name

46 & 48 Candlemaker Row

Listing Category

B



Date

Early 18th century

Description

Reconstructed Ebenezer J McRae 1930.



Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

74

Buiding Name

50-54 Candlemaker Row

Listing Category

B



Date

Early 18th century

Description

Early 18th century. Reconstructed Ebenezer J McRae 1930.

Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

75

Building Name

Canongate, 95  
3, 5 & 6 Reid's Court  
Canongate Manse

Listing Category

A



Date

Early 18th century

Description

Early 18th century main block, 2-storey 5-window with scroll skews. Restored Ian G Lindsay and Partners 1958.

Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

76

Buiding Name

94-96 West Bow

Listing Category

B



Date

Early 18th century

Description

Early 18th century; interior rebuilt Ebenezer J MacRae, 1930.



Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

77

Building Name

High Street 14,  
Sedan Chair House

Listing Category

B



Date

Early 18th century

Description

18th century. Stone single-storey lean to shed. Reputedly used for storing sedan chairs.

Pre - 1750 Buildings in Edinburgh Old Town Conservation Area

Building No.

78

Building Name

197-207 High Street  
including  
1-14 Fleshmarket Close

Listing Category

A



Date

Early 18th century

Description

Early 18th century, incorporating earlier fabric. Fine early tall tenement, with wings built in the old burgage plots.



