ARDEER HOUSE — ARDEER RECREATION CLUB

Old List 16 — Early C19 stuccoed mansion enlarged and adapted as recreational centre. Principal facade, 2 storeys, 3.1.3, sash windows, slight centre pedimented projection, columned Doric porch with balustrade above - at side, recessed columned verandah. Hall at the back has large pedimented elevation and columned porch; [stables]. B.
[Crossed out, and "Demolished 1968" written in]

Millar — The mansion of Ardeer does not occupy the position of the original manor house, but seems to have been built near the old house of Ducat Hall, the property so named having been purchased by the Rev Patrick Warner in 1708, when he became proprietor of Ardeer. An avenue and carriage drive lead to the door of a regularly built dwelling, over the entrance to which a balconied porch has been erected, supported on four Ionic pillars and pilasters. The style of the triangular facade and heavily corniced windows places the date of the structure towards the close of last century (i.e. c.1790-1800).

ASH, Sa 13.3.1869, 3d — Ardeer/Dovecoathall acquired by Warner in 1708. "The old house of Dovecoathall stood on the top of the height above the present house of Ardeer, and the old name of Dovecoathall seems to have been retained till about 1724; the name being changed to Ardeer when the new house was built.

AA, Th 30.4.1840, 4a — Sale of household furniture, Sa 2.5.1840.

C1861 615 -1-2 — Caroline S Neil, w73, fundholder, born England. D, Caroline, u,50, Ayr; d, Harriet, u, 38, b Barnweill. G.son, James Niell, 9, East indies. 32 rooms.

VR 1899/1900 - VR 1912/13 — Prop: Patrick Warner of Ardeer, living in Torquay. House is tenanted in 1899/1900 by David Laidlaw, ironfounder, and in 1909/10 and 1912/13 by John Wylie, 45 Buchanan Street, Glasgow. Patrick Warner died at Brighton 13.3.1915.

VR 1917/18 - VR 1927/28 — Prop: T.l. Patrick Warner. Tenant in 1917/18 is still John Wylie; in 1919/20 it is James Caldwell, retired, and in 1924/25 - 1926/27 it is Captain James McWilliam and his wife, Jessie. The house is 'empty' in VR 1927/28

VR 1928/29 — Prop: Landward Committee of Stevenston Parish Council. Tenant; 'empty'.

VR 1929/30 — Prop: Nobel's Explosives Co Ltd., London. Tenant: 'empty'.

Ayrshire Scout Handbook 1982/83, advert
Ardeer Recreation Club has now been active for five decades. Probably the most comprehensive of its kind in Scotland, the club occupies 30 acres in Stevenston. In December 1929 Lord McGowan said the club should become common ground for all in Ardeer.

VR 1930/31 - [1939/40] — Prop: Nobel's Explosives Co Ltd., London. Tenant: Ardeer Recreation Club.

Ayrshire Scout Handbook 1982/83, advert
Cricket ground, 2 bowling greens with pavilion, 5 tennis courts, hockey, &c.

SOUTH LODGE

VR — In VR 1899/1900 and in VR 1939/40.

STABLES

Old List 16 — ... old stables have centre pedimented arched opening and courtyard range ... [B]

VR — House at Stables in VR 1899/1900 (house, coachman) and in VR 1939/40.

LODGE

VR — In VR 1899/1900, and in VR 1929/30, but doesn't seem to be listed thereafter.

AUCHENHARVIE/SEABANK

2SA, 1845, 440 — House built by earl of Eglinton, †1715, in 1708.

C1861 615 - 1 -64 — Seabank. Harriet Robertson-Cuninghame, m30, b Ireland. Children; Maud, 7, b Australia - Glencairn, 4, b Carluke - Arthur, 1, b Stevenston. 10 rooms.

ASH, Sa 6.9.1862, 2e — Seabank is in process of a substantial scheme of additions and alterations, on site for over a year now, creating a handsome building in a castellated style, virtually enclosing old house.

ASH, Sa 15.8.1863, 4d — Architect for transformation is **William Railton**, Kilmarnock.
... which has undergone a complete transformation - several thousand pounds having been expended on it, and very little of the old building is now visible. The baronial style of the old house has been well kept up. The principal entrance is by a very elegant doorway ornamented by the family coat-of-arms cut in stone, which opens into a highly finished hall. The ceiling, woodwork, floor and handsomely carved balustrades of staircase are all of varnished oak. The walls are of imitation Jasper marble, and the whole lighted with plate glass windows in front, and rich stained glass on ceiling, with armorial bearings and emblems. Right and left of the entrance hall are the dining and drawing rooms, of large dimensions and lofty ceilings. The chasteness of the entire furnishings of these rooms, and also the ladies' boudoir, are surpassed by few in the county. The bedrooms, servants' accommodation, &c., is ample, and exceedingly well arranged. Gas and water pipes and fittings are also judiciously placed throughout the whole building. The proprietor, A W R Cuninghame, Esquire, has changed the name from Seabank to Auchinharvie House .... the whole of the above improvements are being made from plans supplied by Mr Railton, architect, Kilmarnock.

ASH F 10.2.1888, 4g — Obit of Arthur W R Cunninghame, died 9.2.1888. He inherited in 1858, and changed name from Seabank to Auchenharvie. Leased coal &c to Kenneth & Whitefield.

EG, Tu 22.11.1892, 1340b — Petition by C G R Cuninghame of Auchenharvie, heir of entail, for authority to grant feus.

ACC, TSSC 24.9.1947, 1103 — Domestic Science classes began on 1st September 1947. House to be regarded as an extension of Stevenston HG School.

ACC, Auchenharvie JtCtee, 10.10.1951, 19
experimental use for day courses in Domestic Science should be made permanent.

ACC Planning, A6427 — September 1953. Heating chamber, Auchenharvie House, for Ayr County Council.

ACC, Auchenharvie Joint Committee, 8.7.1964
The old cannons in front of the house, and the bell (presently in storage) are to be offered to the local museum.

AA, CO 3/10/5/29, Auchenharvie Joint Cttee 9.4.1969
Contractors for Auchenharvie Academy are Gilbert-Ash Ltd. Auchenharvie House will not be demolished until the new school is nearing completion, and will be used as the site office. The stable block is due to be demolished in early October, so, as the new pavilion is not due until November, there will be a period when there are no proper 'stripping' facilities.

NELSON'S TOWER

2SA, 1845, 441 — "woody braes, and Martello Tower, and mounted battery.

GRANGE — see KERELAW

HAYOCKS HOUSE — [ARDCHOILLE HOUSE HOTEL]

List 14 — Circa 1840. Limewashed stucco; 2 storeys on raised basement; facade divided into 2 by 3 flat panelled pilasters carried up full height; 4 sash windows; Ionic columned porch up flight of steps; later 1 storey addition to extreme right has canted bay window with parapet above and terminal urn finial. Piended slate roof. Ref: NSA, v, 458. CS.

ASH, Sa 15.8.1863, 4d — Architect for current alterations is **William Railton**, Kilmarnock.
At Hayocks House, near Stevenston, Gavin Fullarton, Esquire, of Kerelaw is making extensive alterations, previous to its being occupied by Col. Edmonstone. The building and joiner work is only in progress, but judging from the plans the old square elevation of the house will be much improved. The extra accommodation will be considerable, and the whole is well arranged .... the whole of the above improvements are being made from plans supplied by Mr Railton, architect, Kilmarnock.

VR 1899/1900 - VR 1911/12 — Prop: T.l. Gavin Fullarton of Kerelaw for behoof of Helen D Fullarton or James, relict of late Francis Edward James, merchant, Dublin, l/trix, living in Torquay. Tenant: Elizabeth Taylor or Grant, widow, and her son George Andrew Grant. [C&I, GAG † 23.3.1911. He is 'cotton spinner, Mile End, Glasgow. His brother is Charles Edward Grant, cotton spinner, Glasgow, living at Monkcastle.]

VR 1912/13 - VR 1918/19 — Prop: T.l. Gavin Fullarton of Kerelaw. Unlet.

VR — The Kerelaw estate was broken up c.1918.

CO3/12/4/22 6.3.1919 — Additions and alterations, **Fryers and Penman**, Largs.

VR 1919/20 - VR 1927/28 — Prop/Occ: Alexander McGregor, South Crescent, Ardrossan. He gives house name Ardchoille. House is 'empty' in VR 1919/20. [C&I: Alexander McGregor, JP & ironfounder, † 17.3.1928]

VR 1928/29 - [VR 1941/42] — Prop/Occ: T.l. Alexander McGregor. By 1942/43 they are represented by William Lindsay McGregor, one of AMcG's sons.

ACC, HC 2.11.1948, 1460 — Ardchoille House granted licence, 26th October 1948, despite objections of Ayr County Council.

VR 1973/74 — Prop: British Linen Bank ENL, per S&N. Tenant: Joseph Barraclough.

VR 1979/80 — Prop: Scottish & Newcastle Ltd. Tenant: Walter Catto.

LODGE

In VRS from 1899/1900 — initially as 'house'. Is it the o/o'd 'Ardchoille Cottage', James Kirk, in VR 1973/74 and 1979/80.

STABLES

Old List 18 — 1 storey, ashlar, centre pedimented arched opening. C.

KERELAW CASTLE

List 11 — Belonged to the Earls of Glencairn and was sacked towards the end of C15 by Montgomeries of Eglinton; now a massive ivy-mantled ruin, "renovated to retard its decay and increase its picturesqueness", and made into a romantic folly ... [Old List 14 ... which forms part of the screen wall of the large kitchen garden]. Refs: Groome, ii, 353 - NSA, V, 453-455. B.

1SA, 1791, VI, 578 — Now a ruin. Hall has concave roof decorated with coats-of-arms of most of the Scottish nobility. Estate purchased 1685 by Montgomeries of Eglinton.

2SA, [December 1841], 457 — "ivy mantled turrets of ancient Kerelaw".

ASH, Sa 2.9.1876, 4c — Estate acquired in 1841 by Gavin Fullarton (see Kerelaw House), and "he carefully preserved the ivy-mantled ruins of the old castle".

KS, Sa 5.4.1924, 8bcd — Historic Keeps, &c., 40. Kerelaw.

BRIDGE

List 12 — Single span across Kerelaw Glen. Arch dressed with machicolated masonry; beneath is a hidden compartment, possibly an ice house. Now ruinous. B.

KERELAW HOUSE, formerly GRANGE

Old List 11 — Late C18. Rectangular Georgian mansion of medium size. 3 storeys; grey cement rendered facades, raised rusticated stone dressings; 2.1.2 sash windows, slight projecting pedimented feature in centre, Palladian window on 1st floor; porch has 4 Doric columns, triglyph frieze, topped by ornamental railings; low parapet, modillioned cornice, hipped roof, Interior contains a good staircase and several marble mantelpieces. Originally called Grange, this was the home of General Alexander Hamilton who wrote George Washington's Farewell Address; also reputed framer of American Constitution. Ref: NSA, V, 456. B, subsequently C.

AANHS, 5 — c.1790.

AA, Th 18.1.1838, 1a — For sale, property of late Alexander Hamilton. The house is 'modern, large and commodious', and has 4 public and 7 bed rooms. There is a walled garden.
Farms on the estate are Middlepart, Corsankell & Croakswell, Diddup, Glen, Lochcraigs, Greenhead, Breakplough, Castlehill, Hawkhill, Little Dubbs, Bog, and the Home Farm.

AA, Th 13.6.1839, 1b — For sale: property of late Alexander Hamilton.

AA, Th 12.9.1839, 1a — For sale, by roup in Edinburgh, W 23.10.1839. The house is 'modern, large and commodious'.

AA, Th 23.4.1840, 1c — For sale.

2SA, [Dec 1841], 450 — Built about 50 years ago - property of Hamiltons of Grange, who had previously occupied Kerelaw Castle. Stands near old castle.

ASH, Sa 2.9.1876, 4c [1841] — Obituary of Gavin Fullarton of Kerelaw, who died 28.8.1876. He acquired estate in 1841 and reverted to the name of Kerelaw.

C1861 615-1-41 — Gavin Fullarton, u, 72, landed proprietor, b. Dalry. 19 rooms.

ASH, Sa 10.3.1877, 1b — To let: has 4 public rooms and 9 bed rooms.

C&I 1919 — Alexander Cameron AITKEN, timber merchant, late of Kerelaw, died in Glasgow 18 April 1919

SAC, ACC, Planning Committee 10.4.1962 — Enquiry from Glasgow Corporation relative to their proposal to use Kerelaw as an approved school.

AP 12.4.1963 — Photograph. Planning permission has been given for Glasgow Corporation Approved School. [For it, see Public Buildings]

SRC, Social Work C 28.6.1983 — The new 10-place Secure Unit at kerelaw List D School should opne in October 1983.

GATEPIERS

Old List 12 — Square fluted pilastered piers, Doric entablature; screen railings. C. [Crossed out].

LODGE

Co3/12/4/22 6.5.1920 — Gatelodge, Kerelaw - Hugh Thomson.

MAYVILLE

List 5 — Home of Miss Lesley Baillie, immortalised by Robert Burns. Rubble with rendered dressings. 2 storeys; 2 later tripartites in ground, 3 widely spaced small sash windows on upper floor; centre attic pediment has circular panel, 3 ornamental pediment urns; moulded eaves; ridge roof, plain gables. End stacks, 1 recently rebuilt. 1 storey centre projecting later pedimented porch topped by urn finial. 1 storey office wing extends to rear to form L-shape plan. Originally the Dower House of Auchenharvie. B.

AA, Th 2.7.1807, 1d		For sale. Property of late Robert Baillie.
AA, Th 27.4.1809, 1a		Furniture sale advertised.
C1861 615-1-58		Robert Shaw, m48, major (retd), E.I.Co service, b Irvine. Spo, John Anne, 33, Dalkeith. d18,d16,s14,d13,d11 b East Indies, s3 b Ardrosan,s10mo b Stevenston. 9 rooms.
nr		Proposed conservatory extension, 1987, Rennie Watson & Starling.
	GATEPIERS	
List 8		Sqaurer, rusticated painted stone piers; fluted urn finials. B.
	OUTBUILDINGS and BYRE	
List 7		Limewashed range around courtyard. CS.
	SUNDIAL	
List 6		In front garden of Mayville. Horizontal dial dated 1773; on square stone pedestal of later date.

© Rob Close 2026