AUCHINLECK HOUSE and predecessors

CASTLE, 499232

Reg Mag Sig, II, no.288n — Charter of Confirmation of Barony of Auchinleck with castle and fortalice granted by John Auchinleck, William Cunnynghame of Craig and Mariota Auchinleck, daughter of John A, on condition that their male offspring take the name Auchinleck. Dated 23.5.1499: earliest mention of castle and lands in Reg Mag Sig.

MacGibbon & Ross, C&D, III, 1886, 496:

Traces of 4 different buildings: keep, C17 structure, C17 mansion and C18 mansion. Keep, adjoining the C17 mansion. C17 mansion: L-plan, tower in re-entrant angle, containing entrance doorway and stairs. Top floor was a room, ? a watch tower. Projecting defence over door, small corbelled bow window at 1 corner, cf house in Elgin. Roof - saddle backed, gabled crowsteps. High enclosing wall: contained entrance gateway, 1 pillar with ball finial in situ. [No plan in M&R]

HOUSE

See Also Sheila Forman, *The Place of Auchinleck*, SMT Magazine, November 1982, 42-44. Has interior photographs. Copy at Baird Institute, Auchinleck box.

Built 1759-1760

Paterson, Kyle I, 1863, 190 — Built for Alexander Boswell, later Lord Auchinleck, succd 1748, d.1782, jurist.

NMRS D5/AU/9(p), Boswell Collection, Harvard University

Receipt for wright work dated 2.11.1760. Conts: John Johnston, Adam Scott, William Johnston, Robert Murdoch, Alexander Peden, George Hallyburton, John Thomson, John Guild and Alexander Reid, wrights: Alexander Murray and John Reid, sawyers.

Dr Johnson's Description, 1773, quoted in Scotland's Magazine, 11/1952:

"Lord Auchinleck .. has built a house of hewn stone, very stately and durable" but "the sullen dignity of the old castle" seemed to appeal to him more than the "elegance of the modern mansion." [This reference also has photos of sitting room, dining room, entrance hall and main front.] Library was sold in 1825.

VR 1900/01 - 1904/05 — Prop: T.l. Lady Jessie Jane Cunningham or Boswell of Auchinleck. Tenant: George Mounsey, landowner (Carlisle)

VR 1905/06 — Prop: T.l. Lady Jessie Jane Cunningham or Boswell of Auchinleck. Tenant: selves.

VR 1906/07 - 1917/18 — Prop: T.l. Lady Jessie Jane Cunningham or Boswell of Auchinleck. Tenant: Rt Hon Lord Talbot de Malahide and Hon James Boswell Talbot.

AA, Th 13.9.1917 4e — 'Lord Talbot de Malahide and the Hon James B Talbot are at present visiting Auchinleck estate.'

VR 1918/19 - 1920/21 — Prop; T.l. Lady Jessie Jane Cunningham or Boswell of Auchinleck. Tenant: Robert McCrone, manufacturer.

VR 1921/22, 1922/23 — Missing from Carnegie set.

AP, F 9.1.1925, 7a — Reports Sheriff Court action by J D Boswell against Robert McCrone (now of Dinwoodie), for damage and neglect, while McCrone was tenant, 1918-Whit 1923. Boswell acquired house in 1922. See Ref.

VR 1923/24 - [1941/42] — Col John Douglas Boswell of Garallan.

ACC Planning, 5387 — June 1948. Alterations and extension, Auchinleck House, for John P.D. Boswell.

[VR 1973/74] — James Boswell, c/o Enterkine. under reconstruction.

List 3: — The estate acquired some celebrity from being the home of James Boswell, biographer of Johnson. They visited Lord Auchinleck there on their return from the journey in the Hebrides, 1773 - present mansion attributed to Robert Adam, probably built c.1760; ashlar; centre rectangular block has elaborately decorated pediment supported by 4 flat Ionic pilasters; 2 storeys; raised basement, flight of entrance steps; balustraded parapet and parapet urns - supporting pedimented pavilions topped by curious ornamental towers, detached from the house itself but connected by curved screen walls. A. NMRS. Hannan. Millar. SMT Magazine, November 1952.

FURNISHINGS

AA, Th 29.6.1893, 6e — Sale of the Library, by Sotheby Wilkinson & Hodge, London.

STABLES

List 4. Stables. U-shaped classical range. B.

NMRS, D5/AY(P): Sir James Boswell, d.1822, built stables and laid out a "measured mile" in the grounds for exercising his racehorses.

List 5. Dovecot to rear of Stables. Square red-brick pigeon loft raised on open round-arched lower stage. C.

BYRE & DAIRY HOUSES

ACC Planning, 1744 June 1939. Byre and Dairy Houses, Auchinleck House, for Colonel J.B. Boswell.

PLACE OF AUCHINLECK

List 6. Place of Auchinleck. Ruins of C17 mansion, evidently a building of the L-plan, with a tower in the re-entering angle which appears to have contained the entrance doorway and staircase. The tower was finished with a saddleback roof and had gabled crowsteps. C&D iii/496-7, illus fig 427. B.

List 7. [Deleted]. Auchinleck Castle. Ruin of the more ancient castle of Auchinleck which occupied a strong position on the banks of the Lugar. B

AP, F 6.3.2105, 67 Delisted. Still a scheduled monument under Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

AUCHINLECK HOME FARM, 506228

AUCHINLECK MAINS, 503226

BARNSDALE, 511229

BLACKFAULDHEAD, 511226

EAST LANGLANDS, 50992264

HIGH BRIDGE, 503232

List 9. The High Bridge, in policies. Single arch in rustic stonework, parapet removed. Spanning Dippol Burn. C. Ref as Iron Bridge.

IRON BRIDGE, 509231

List 8. The Iron Bridge, in policies. Single classical stone arch spanning Dippol Burn; balustrade has ornamental iron fretwork. Ayrshire Soc & Ind History, 53-54. B.

LANGHOLM, 506217

LANGLANDS, 51122250

SLATEHOLE LODGE 492233

SOUTH LODGE, 513221

TEN SHILLING SIDE BRIDGE, 507234

List 10. The Ten Shilling Side Bridge, in policies. Tall pointed Gothic arch in picturesque setting, spanning waterfall. Corbelled string course, parapet missing. B. Ref as Iron Bridge.

WALLACE'S CAVE 49862331

Hoyle, 1972, NMRS D5/AY[P] made before 1300. "in the cave the structure of the cross from the floor to the ceiling suggests early date. In sandstone cliff overlooking Lugar. Chisel marks over interior. measures 14' from door to back, and 14'1" from side to side. Columns are 23"; cross is 10' high. Door and window with view over the Lugar. Approach is dangerous.

NMRS, D5/AY (P), pamphlet Cave is said to have been made by workmen employed by Sir Alexander Boswell, died 1822 [NO] after the Napoleonic wars.

ICE CAVE

Hoyle, 1972, NMRS D5/AY(P) Used for winter storage of animal carcases. Passageways and entrances sealed with earth. Interior is egg-shaped, 12' deep, 6'6" high and 4'6" wide and entrance. There is a stone lid. 700 to 800 years old, and may have served the 1st C11/C12 keep. Illus. Discovered in 1920s.

SUMMER HOUSE OR GROTTO

Hoyle, 1972, NMRS D5/AY(P) Before 1765. Rock-hewn, door with window on either side. Coved ceiling.

Millar: The present mansion house of Auchinleck is a handsome Grecian edifice, elaborately decorated, which was erected in 1780 by Alexander Boswell, Lord Auchinleck of Session.

C&DA: In this locality there are traces of three different buildings which have at various times formed the residence of the proprietors, the ancient family of Boswell of Auchinleck. There is first the fragment of an old keep figured by Grose, then the C17 structure, which was superced by the 'handsome modern seat of James Boswell Esq.', visited by Dr Johnson in 1773. The mansion of the C17 has evidently been a building of the L-plan with a tower in the re-entering angle, which appears to have contained the entrance doorway and staircase. The top floor of the tower was, as usual, a room which might be used as a watch tower. It had over the doorway a projecting defence, and at one of the corners there appears to have been a small corbelled bow window, similar to one shown in the view of a house in Elgin [in C&DA]. The tower was finished with a saddleback roof and had gabled crowsteps. The building was surrounded with a high wall. Adjoining the Place are, or were, the ruins of the more ancient castle of Auchinleck, which occupied a strong position on the banks of the Lugar.

Cornforth, CL 18.7.1991. Photocopy herewith.

The carved motto is "Quod petis hic est Ulubris animus si te non deficit æquus." : What thou seekest, here it is, it is in Ulubrae if contentment do not fail thee.

CO3/12/1/3 BBC 2.6.1903, dwho, Auchinleck Policies, for T.l. Lady Boswell; Thomas Hope, 34 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh.

AUCHINLECK HOUSE, post WW2

AA, Th 12.11.1959, 15d Ministry of Works have made a grant towards costs of structural repairs at Auchinleck House.

Cumnock Chronicle 6.10.1983 Restoration begun c.1963 by the present owner's father, James Boswell. Grant of £15,000 from HBC for rot treatment. Most of panelling from the ground, 1st and attic floors was removed. Restoration ceased after 1962: vandalized - lead stripped from roof, windows broken, interior stripped. Urns toppled. Restoration began again in 1983: Boswell's architect Quinlan Terry.

AP 22.12.1989 Proposals to build golf club, hotel and leisure centre. Proposal of Seddon Group, Manchester, includ 78 luxury detached houses. Opposed by SHBT.

DUMFRIES HOUSE [part policies - for house see Old Cumnock Landward]

List 11. The Temple. Originally terminated avenue on mainaxis to north of mansion - pair of battlemented square lodges set diagonally and flanking screen wall with centre gateway; pointed Gothic panels, quatrefoil niches and other ornament. Now ruined and obscured from view. A.

See also WATERSIDE, below.

KYLE CASTLE

List 22. Fragment of old keep near the junction of the Gelt and Glenmore Waters. NSA,V, 325. C. Smith: "A remnant of Kyle Castle with no tale to tell."

Paterson, Kyle I, 1863, 199 Portion of 1 wall remains. Has been quarried to erect farm buildings. Not on Pont's map.

WATERSIDE

ASH, Sa 27.1.1866, 3d [Auchinleck Churchyard 4]. [The house of the Cochrans of Waterside] stood on the lands of Waterside, near to where the Dumfries House Garden now is. There is no part of the house standing, but several very large oak trees that had formed the avenue or approach to the house.

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