AIKET CASTLE, 389487 (east)

Listed 2005 — 1976-79 rebuilt from ruin by **Robert Clow**.

C&DA, IV, 365 — Possession of the Cuninghames as early as 1479. Sold at time of Union. May have been built by Alexander, involved in muder (near Aiket) in 1586 of Earl of Eglinton. C16 with later additions.

Much altered but has some original features. Elongated obling of C17 type. Ground floor: entrance doorway with pediment and moulding. Passage from door through house. Vaulted kitchen with fireplace stone sink and drain. Narrow window at rear of fireplace. Scale and platt stair in N wall to first floor is late insertion. Original stair continued in corbelled turret in S wall, part of corbelling remains. 1st floor: arched windows of good masonry. In the 'spence' lower part of front wall is thinned to gain floor room - full thickness maintained above by arch across end. Parlour - projecting fireplace, moulded jambs and lintel. Good woodwork - doors.

Destroyed by alterations made over 100 years ago. Staircase inserted. Upper storey removed and present roof put on.

KS, Sa 1.3.1924, 8bcd — Historic Keeps &c. 39. Aiket.

Tranter — At first glance Aiket seems a fairly typical tall laird's house of the late C17, just outwith the defensive period, now ruinous. But the western half represents a freestanding tower of probably the C16, altered and added to. The bonding between the two works is plain on the south front. Old records describe the original building as a strong square tower. It stands in a defensive position above the Water of Glazert, 2 miles SW of Dunlop. Formerly of 4 storeys, now somewhat reduced, with gables shorn of crowstepping, it has been provided with a stair turret at the SE angle above first floor level, of which only the corbelling remains. The walls reach a thickness of seven feet at base. Many small windows have been built up. The basement is vaulted and has been the kitchen, with the usual wide-arched fireplace in the west gable. There has been a straight stair to the first floor, and the turret stair thereafter. All other floors have fallen in. The later portion is also vaulted, with less thick walling. The first recorded laird was Alexander Cunninghame, who married Lady Jean Kennedy, daughter of the 1st Earl of Cassillis about 1479. No work so old as this is evident today. Another Alexander, 5th of his line, was an accomplice in the murder of Hugh, Earl of Eglinton, in 1586, and was later shot by avenging Montgomeries near his own house. Last of the line was James, 9th laird, who distinguished himself in the Darien Scheme and in opposition to the Union of 1707.

Reg Mag Sig, II, no.3056 — Charter of Robert Cunynghame of lands of Over Akhede. dated [1506-07]. [No metion of tower].

Reg Mag Sig, IV, no.1820 — Charter signed at the fortalice of Aikat. Dated 11 July 1568.

AA, Th 30.3.1809, 2a — Lands of Loanhead, Mosside and Aiket, for sale. "… the Castle of Aiket stands ipon these lands." James Dunlop, proprietor.

2SA, [1836 rev 1837], 294 — Originally a square vaulted tower of 4 or 5 storeys. Later low buildings were added. Tower has been lowered to height of added buildings.

VR 1899/1900 - 1920/21 — John Gilmour of Aiket. Latterly living in Kilmarnock, and † Troon 18.1.1922. Tenanted farm.

VR 1923/24 - [1941/42] — William McNair, shipbroker, Glasgow. Farm tenanted, and appears to be a poultry farm. WMcN is presumably a relative of JG, as JG's next-of-kin was Andrew McNair, solicitor, Glasgow. WMcN † 2.6.1953.

ACC, PHC 3.7.1947, 879 — Discussion of condition, suitablility for closure order, &c. Chief Sanitary Inspector to report.

VR 1973/74 — William and Allan Andrew, Borland. T/t: Allan Andrew, senior.

VR 1979/80 — Hugh Hamilton.

NMRS, AYD/112/1 — RCAHMS record sheet, dated 9.7.1974. [Presumably immediately prior to start of work by R G M Clow] [Was delisted 4.8.1978]
Describes it as mid or early C16 tower house; remodelled and extended westwards in late C17; regularised into classical design during early or mid C18. Lintel in outhouse dated 1734.

SRC, P&D, 21.3.1979, 423 — Grant of £3,500 offered to Robert Clow.

DUNLOP HOUSE [1]

Reg Mag Sig, III, no.2067 — Charter of confirmation granted by James V of sale of lands of Aulhall (inc. Dunlop) by Leonard Clark of Auldhall to Alexander. Dated 10.1.1540. No mention of fortalice.

Reg Mag Sig, IV, no.409 — Charter of confirmation granted by Queen Mary to James Dunlop of lands of Dunlop with tower and fortalice. Dated 20.2.1550.

2SA, 1845, 294, quoting Pont — "Dunlop, ane ancint strong house, fortified vith a deipe foussie of watter, and planted with goodly orchards".

Miller, Castles & Mansions, 1885 — Bore the dates 1599 and 1601. This stone is now placed above the inner door of the entrance-hall of the new mansion.

AGAA, 1894, VII, 13 — Yett from Dunlop Tower presented to National Museum of Antiquities in 1892 by Mrs Dalrymple-Hay. It is 5'11" high by 3'10" wide. Formerly lay in wood near tower.

DUNLOP HOUSE [2]

List 31 — A "baronial Tudor style" mansion by **David Hamilton**, 1834, built for Sir John Dunlop, 1st Bt [NB Barontetcy 1838]. Inserted date stone, 1599 and 1601, armorial shield, above inner door. Stands in extensive wooded park. Refs: Millar, NMRS. B.

Relisted 2005 — David Hamilton, 1831-1834.

NMRS, K&L sheaf catalogue — 1833, David Hamilton

Millar — 1834. It is one of the finest examples in the county of the Old English style, and bears the unmistakeable of the genius of Thomas Hamilton.

Colvin — David Hamilton, 1831-34, for Sir James Dunlop. [APSD: Thomas Gildard, An Old Glasgow Architect on some Older Ones, Transactions of the Philosophical Society of Glasgow, xxvi, 1894-95, p.104.] Hamilton's scheme for the Houses of Parliament was in the style he had adopted at Dunlop.

Macaulay — In 1833 David Hamilton produced his Scots-Jacobean prodigy, Dunlop House in Ayrshire, which was laced round with strapwork.

KS 7.6.1924, transcribed by Pat Adams in KDHG 120, Dec 1998

Dunlop House, the residence of General and Mrs Houison-Craufurd, is a very familiar name to all lovers of Burns, for Mrs Dunlop lived there, one of the many correspondents of the poet, and one of the most valued. The name still exists but the house is not the same. The old castle was destroyed that the new one might be built on its site. The former house was very ancient - a peel or tower with comparatively modern additions, the oldest part built in the usual strong fashion of such fortress-like residences. It is said that it was so massive and the stones so firmly cemented together that it was found impossible to demolish it in the usual way and in the end it had to be blown up by gunpowder. It seems a pity that such a drastic measure was taken, for it might have been incorporated in the present building or even allowed to become a picturesque ruin. The site is undoubtedly a very pleasant one, the house standing on comparatively level ground near the bank of a small stream, the Clerkland, which here forms the boundary between the parishes of Dunlop and Stewarton. There may have been equally advantageous sites in the neighbourhood, but the builder of the present

house evidently thought there was none to equal the position of the old castle.

It is not known when the original square tower was built. It may have been in the fourteenth century, or perhaps earlier. The family of Dunlop of that ilk can be traced back to 1260, in which year Dom William de Dunlop is mentioned in a litigation respecting some disputed lands. The deed is in the charter-chest of Irvine. In the Ragman Roll, Neil Fitz-Robert de Dunlop is also mentioned as one of the barons who swore fealty to Edward I of England in 1296. At the end of the fourteenth and beginning of the fifteenth centuries the estate was forfeited on account of the part that the Dunlops of the day took in the contest between Bruce and Balliol. Ultimately the estate was restored to its former owners.

An addition to the old castle bore the date 1599. When the new house was in process of building a part of the original tower was allowed to remain until the new dwelling was nearly completed. Perhaps the owner thought of retaining it. he may have had a lingering affection for the walls which had sheltered so many generations of his forebears. Such a house as that of Dunlop had not only the ordinary family traditions of every home, large or small, but was a memento of a historical past.

The parish of Dunlop is dotted over with many small hills or banks, with a very gradual ascent on one side and a steep somewhat precipitous descent on the other. Beside the village there is such a hill, higher than most in the vicinity, and a tradition exists in the neighbourhood to the effect that Dunlop Castle stood there. There is no remains of such a building, and as far as can be ascertained there is no foundation for such a belief. If, however, there was ever a castle on the hill-top, the likelihood is that it was there before the Dunlops of that ilk built there high tower by the Clerkland burn. In the old days, when the land was covered by mighty forests, the peel by the little stream and sheltered on one side by the banks of which we have spoken, must have been almost impregnable. A castle on the hill-top has its advantages, but also its disadvantages, for it could not be hidden. It would seem in the fighting days like a menace - a flaunting of a red flag before a bull.

Dunlop House is reached by a long avenue from the high road. The avenue is sheltered by trees and near the house where it takes a sudden bend, the trees are magnificent, grand specimens of beeches, elms and oaks, centuries old and simply perfect in the symmetry of their great height and wide-spreading branches. Under the trees in the spring-time cluster daffodils and primroses, beauties of another kind, and contrasting quaintly with the giants towering above them.

The house is very tall and stately and facing a wide park. It is built of free-stone, rather dark in colour, in old English style, florid Elizabethan or debased Jacobean, but neither name gives to the uninitiated a true idea of its imposing and disgnified appearance. It was built in the year 1834, or at least begun in that year. It was planned by Hamilton of Glasgow, a celebrated architect, who designed many mansions and public buildings in the West of Scotland.

The interior of the house is very fine. There are two halls, the lower or entrance hall and an upper hall with tall Corinthian pillars, from which the principle rooms diverge. The centre of the house is lit from the roof. A gallery from the upper hall extends on three sides over the lower hall. The walls are hung with tapestries, with trophies of the chase, and with flags. One of the flags was taken at Waterloo, another in the Peninsular War, another - an Orange Free State flag - was taken

by Mr J W Dalrymple Hay, a brother of Mrs Houison-Craufurd, in March 1900 from a house near Bloemfontein after its occupation by Lord Roberts' force. The dining room is very handsome, with walls and ceiling panelled in oak and with beautifully carved oaken doors. On the walls are many family portraits, principally of the family of Hay, ancestors of Mrs Houison-Craufurd, among them being that of Thomas Hay, Knight of St John of Malta and Commendator or Lay Abbout of Luce 1530-1605. He was secretary to Mary Queen of Scots. He was sent by Francis I and Queen Mary from Amboise as envoy to Pope Pius V. He remained in Rome until 1563, when he returned to Scotland and built the Castle of Park, Wigtownshire, in 1572. He married a daughter of Utrecht McDonall of French. A portrait by Sir Peter Lely is of Marion Hamilton, second daughter of James, 1st Duke of Hamilton, who married Sir Thomas Hay, 1st baronet of Park. Another is that of Grizel Agnew of Lochnaw, married in 1687 to Sir Charles Hay, second baronet. Admiral Sir John Hay is also represented; the portrait was painted when Sir John was a man of forty. At his death he was the oldest admiral in the British Navy. He was grandfather of Mrs Houison-Craufurd and at her wedding although then ninety years of age he made one of the most effective and telling speeches of the occasion. Portraits of General Houison-Craufurd and Mrs Craufurd are among the number and also a fine picture of their two sons as young boys. The furniture of the dining room is of oak. The drawing-room is very large, decorated in Italian style, with many windows, and mirrors panelled in the walls, highly polished floor and ceiling covered with the most beautiful decorative mouldings. Men were brought from Italy for the adornment of this room. It is exquisitely furnished and is altogether exceptionally beautiful.

Like the other apartments the library is large and has a wide bay window from which there is a charming woodland view. The ceiling is of carved oak with touches of gilding, and all the woodwork of the room, bookcases, chimney-piece, &c., is of dark oak with Venetian carving. The design is of pillars with leaves running from the base to the capital. The room is furnished in the most comfortable manner. Besides the plethora of books, and indeed supplementary to it, there are writing tables and the most delightfully cosy chairs and couches. Several pictures are well worthy of remark, one of them, 'The Finding of Pharoah's Cup', by Sir William Allan PSA, being a brilliant piece of colouring and composition. There is here also a very fine collection of Eastern china.

Napoleon is said to have slept in one of the bedrooms. Possibly it was the son of the great Napoleon, he who was present at the Tournament at Eglinton. Whether or not, the room of which the tradition exists is well worthy of the most distinguished guest. The furniture is entirely of dark wood, exquisitely carved, the four-poster bed with its white canopy being especially fine. Another bedroom is furnished in light wood, entirely in French style, the walls lavender, with a frieze of roses, as if from the ceiling in reckless profusion. Each room is individually characteristic in style and all are very fine.

There are many curios or family heirlooms in the house, a very few of which we mention. These are principally belonging to the family of Mrs Houison-Craufurd, as the Craufurd heirlooms naturally are at Craufurdland Castle, the residence of the chief of the family.

On the staircase hangs one of the oiriginal documents of the National Covenant, one of the four original copies of this important document by which in 1638 the Presbyterian form of church government was

established in Scotland. Of the other three one is in the British Museum, one in the Advocates' Library, Edinburgh, and the third is at Tyninghame, Haddington, in possession of the Earl of Haddington. The signatures Montrose, Wemyss, Dalkeith, Fraser, Forres, Loudoun and others can still be deciphered, although the ink is much faded. The story of this document is rather romantic. It was kept in the manse at Glenluce, with many other old papers, possibly some of them in connection with the Abbey of Luce. A new mistress had come to the manse and, like the proverbial new broom, evidently meant to make a clean sweep of all unnecessary papers. A grand-aunt of Mrs Houison-Craufurd happened to call atthe manse when this holocaust was going on, and asked to see some of the papers. This important national document was produced and, needless to say, it was rescued there and then.

A very interesting heirloom is a silver christening cup with velvet cloth preseted by Chalres II to Sir Thomas and Lady Hay on the birth of their eldest son, Charles, namesake and godchild of Charles II. Ever since that occasion (1663) the children, Hay of Park and Dunragit, have been christened from the cup and their initials are inscribed upon it. Mrs Craufurd is now the representative of the family. There is another gift from Charles II, a miniature of himself by Petitot.

There is a crayon drawing of the older Dunlop House by one of the ladies of the Dunlop family. There was a stone over the door of that part of the house built in 1599 bearing the date and under the date the motto, 'Oh, Lord, yet ever thy blessingie remain within yis house'. Under that there was a shield with the armorial bearings of Dunlop of that ilk and the date 1601. These were preserved and now placed over the inner door of the entrance hall. There is an old armchair in which Burns sat as the guest of Mrs Dunlop.

The Dunlops of Dunlop are a family of ancient origin as we have seen. the district belonged at one time to the Rosses, who had their stronghold at Boarland. There is a tradition that the Dunlops were vassals of the Rosses, posibly they had some service to give the Rosses in time of hunting. The home of the Dunlops was originally called Hunt Hall and as Pont tells us that the whole district was at one time 'a mighty forest' it is easy to imagine that there was much hunting. Even the name of the home of the Rosses is suggestive of hunting - Boarland. James Dunlop was in possession of Dunlop as appears from a valuation of the county of Ayr in the fourteenth century. Constantine Dunlop of Hunthall or Dunlop is a witness to the infeftment of the Queen of James IV in the lordship of Kilmarnock in 1504. James Dunlop of that ilk married in 1614 Dame Margaret Hamilton, widow of the Bishop of Lismore or Argyle, and daughter of Gavin Hamilton, Bishop of Galloway. Curiously enough, although he had by his marriage countenanced Episcopacy, yet he resisted the attempt by Charles I to introduce it into Scotland. James Dunlop his son was also a warm supporter of the Presbyterian cause and he suffered both by imprisonment and fine. He was among the number of Ayrshire lairds who according to Wodrow were imprisoned in 1665 and bound over to keep the peace. The son of James Alexander Dunlop suffered severely in the public cause. He was imprisoned in 1638 on suspicion of being concerned in the battle of Bothwell Brig and was compelled to give up part of his estate. he emigrated to America, where he married Antonia Brown, widow of Sir John Brown of Fordel. In 1707 Francis Dunlop of Dunlop was one of the gentlemen called upon at the union of 1707 to witness the deposition of the Scottish regalia in the castle of Edinburgh.

In 1715 he took an active part against the Chevalier and was Lieutenant-Colonel under the Earl of Kilmarnock of a regiment of fencible cavalry then raised. John Dunlop of Dunlop was deputed by the gentlemen of Ayrshire in 1745 together with Sir Thomas Wallace of Craigie to offer the assistance of the county to the Duke of Cumberland. He married Francis Ann, daughter of Sir Thomas Wallace of Craigie Bt. This Mrs Dunlop was the friend of the poet Burns. She had a large family of seven sons and six daughters. James Dunlop, the fifth son, succeeded, his only remaining elder brother having succeeded to Craigie. He served in the American wars. In 1810, having attained the rank of Major-General, he was appointed to the command of a brigade in the fifth division of Lord Wellington's army. General Dunlop was member for the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright in three parliaments. His son John succeeded, an officer in the Grenadier Guards. He married first Charlotte Constance, daughter of General Sir Richard Downs Jackson KCB, and his second wife was Harriet Primrose, daughter of the Earl of Rosebery. Sir John represented the county in Parliament. He died in 1839. His son James succeeded to the estate and title. In 1843 the property was sold to Thomas Dunlop Douglas. It was Sir John who demolished the old house and built the present stately mansion, but he did not live long to enjoy it. His son, as we have seen, sold it. Thomas Dunlop Douglas, who became the owner, was succeeded by his nephew Thomas Douglas Cunninghame Grahame, who died at Dunlop House in 1882. Mrs Dalrymple Hay, grandniece of Thomas Dunlop Douglas and wife of Major Dalrymple Hay, Esq., of Park and Dunragit, Wigtownshire, succeeded. The two sons of Major Dalrymple Hay predeceased him and he was succeeded by his daughter, the wife of General Houison-Craufurd.

Dunlop House was among the first Ayrshire houses offered to the Red Cross during the war and for four and a half years it was filled with patients and convalescents. It may be thought that the house and its apartments would have suffered with such strenuous usage but beyond the inevitable wear and tear little or no damage was done. The soldiers took a pride in keeping everything spick and span, and one of their number was elected in every room as a kind of caretaker or guardian of the apartment and with power to call to book anyone who might take undue liberty with fittings or furniture. The Tommies were happy in having such beautiful surroundings and as their wont their host and hostess gave willingly and gladly.

AO, Tu 13.8.1833, 4c	'Tradesmen have been for some time engaged in pulling down a part of Dunlop House ... and in preparing to build a large house, and offices, which will give employment to a great many tradesmen for several years'.
AO, Tu 24.9.1833, 4c	Foundation stone laid, with masonic honours, 10.9.1833.
AA 26.9.1833	Foundation stone laid 10.9.1833.
2SA, [1836, rev 1837], 294	Architect: Mr Hamilton of Glasgow. The house was 'building last summer'.
KH 27.6.1845	Understood that the estate has been sold for £72000 to Thomas D Douglas, Esquire, Glasgow.
VR 1900	Prop and occ: Ellen Stewart or Dalrymple Hay, spouse of James Francis Dalrymple Hay.
VR 1910	Prop: Eleanor Louisa Dalrymple Hay or Houison Craufurd, wife of John Archibald Houison Craufurd of Borland, Kilmarnock. Occ: Francis Henderson, ship owner.

NMRS, K&L Sheaf Catalogue	Converted 1931. Acquired by ACC in 1931 for use as a home for mentally handicapped.
AP 1.12.1933	Formally opened last Wednesday as home for mentally defective children.
SRC, E(Sch), 22.10.1981, 1500	Proposed closure of Dunlop House School to go to consulation.
NMRS	1991, sale brochure.
KS, 22.2.2002, 30	Bought from RFI (electronics testing company) in 2001 by McTaggart Construction, Dalry. They are allowing it to deteriorate.

BRIDGE

KS, 22.2.2002, 30	Demolished, illegally, in April 2001 by owners, McTaggart Construction, Dalry.

EAST GATES, 432498 at Titwood

KENNELS, 425489

LODGE

CO3/12/4/22	4.11.1920	Additions to Gate Lodge: John S Snodgrass.

WEST LODGE

Listed 2005	David Hamilton, c 1834, with additions of c.1905 and late 20th century.

HAZELBANK

nr	Built c1835-1840 by R C Wyllie for his parents: see Famous Ayrshiremen file.
EG 7824, F 14.2.1868, 179b	Robert Crichton Wyllie is late by Feb 1868. Heir is grand-nephew, Robert John Wyllie, in Marissa, Illinois.
EG 7856, F 5.6.1868, 663a	Judicial sale, Edinburgh, W 8.7.1868, of (1) Hazelbank Farm, Dunlop, let at £92, upset £3000; (2) Hazelbank House, let at £12, upset £280; (3) Wyllie's 5/8th p.i. of a property in Stewarton. The other 3/8th are also been offered for sale by the other proprietors, to encourage a sale, and they'll be offered as 1 lot.
EG 7898, F 30.10.1868, 1322a	Judicial sale, Edinburgh, W 2.12.1868. Upset, £3000.
ACC Planning, A604	Approved, TPC March 1949. **Noad & Wallace**, Glasgow.
ACC Planning, A4115	October 1951. Additions and alterations; **Alex Dunlop**, for W Barrie.
n.r.	Winifred Elsie Mansfield Lander (25.9.1895 - 8.4.1972, Ailsa Hospital) lived at Hazelbank at time of death. Daughter of T E Lander of Auchtyfardle, and may have been there until death of mother in 1955.

COTTAGE

ACC Planning, A584	January 1949. Cottage (for agricultural worker), H, for William Barrie. [In *VR 53/54, occupied by farm grieve][**Noad & Wallace**, Glasgow]
ACC, HealthC 3.2.1949, 68	Building Licence application made by **Noad & Wallace**, Glasgow.

HAZELBANK COTTAGE, 433520, north west of H.

KIRKLAND

See MANSE [1] in Dunlop Village file.

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