

BANKTON HOUSE

The Lothian Building Preservation Trust is embarking on the restoration of Colonel Gardiner's House at Bankton, Prestonpans.

SIGNIFICANCE

Bankton House is one of a remarkable group of houses at Prestonpans that show the evolution of Scottish architecture up to the age of classicism. Preston Tower, a C15 fortified tower with a Renaissance house on top; Northfield House, a C16 Tower House with bartizans; Hamilton House, a C17 double L-plan house; and Bankton, circa 1720. This house is designed geometrically. The back and front are symmetrical and similar, and the two gables are similar. The decoration of worked stone bands and the fantastic tall curly gables, a wall head gable to light the attic, arise from functional elements. These were features well known to Col. Gardiner from his campaigns under the Duke of Marlborough in Holland and the Low Countries.

As well as the House being symmetrical, so was the layout, with the long straight flanking walls terminating at the west in the doocot with a vaulted undercroft, and at the east in the belvedere which the Trust are rebuilding. The doocot also completes the story of the three types of doocot: the beehive at Northfield, the lectern at Preston Tower, and the tower type used as a decorative element at Bankton. All will be open to the public.

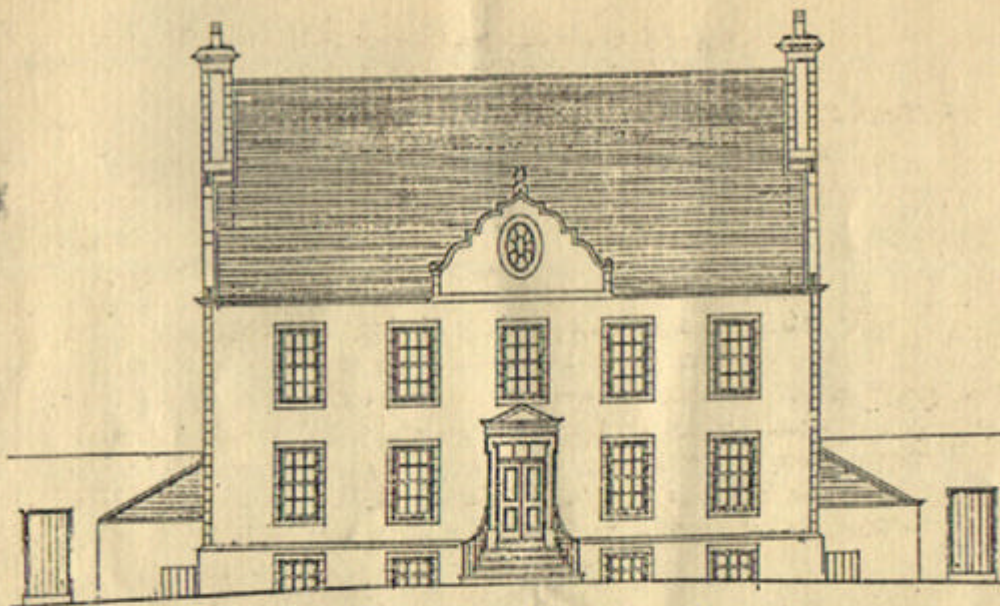
THE PROPOSALS

Bankton House is being divided into four houses: 2 two-floored 3 bedroomed dwellings, and 2 three-floored 3 bedroomed dwellings on the upper floors. The proportions, elements and fittings will all reflect the quality of the House. Not a Velux skylight, a stovepipe or an aerial will be seen.

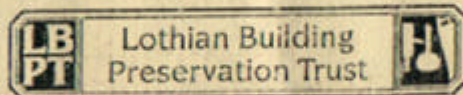
The steading will be used for garages and stores, with a large 4 bedroomed house in the granary to the south. The houses will be for sale in 1993.

THE FINANCE

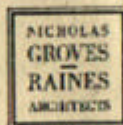
The Trust are co-operating with British Coal who transferred the property to them, and are very grateful for grants from Historic Scotland, East Lothian District Council, The Countryside Commission for Scotland and the Edinburgh Greenbelt Trust, and for loans from the Architectural Heritage Fund and the Bank of Scotland to enable them to restore this "comely house" and its interesting landscape.



the Front Elevation as restored



Director: Frank Tindall
tel 0875 320341



Nicholas Groves-Raines Architects
Peffermill House, Peffermill Road, Edinburgh EH16 5UX

Wren & Bell, Consulting Engineers
11 Chester Street, Edinburgh EH3 7RF

Thomas & Adamson, Quantity Surveyors
10 Wemyss Place, Edinburgh EH3 6DL

Peter Daniel, Landscape Architect
Church House, Foulden, Berwick upon Tweed TD15 1UX

Selling Agent
Bell-Ingram, 7 Walker Street, Edinburgh EH3 7JY
031-225 3271

THE LANDSCAPE

THE SITUATION

The recreation of the historic landscape round the restored Bankton House will complete the renewal of this spur of the Edinburgh Green-Belt which separates Prestonpans and Tranent. To the north there are the remnants of the fine parkland and the monument erected in 1853 to the gallant Col. Gardiner who built the house and died in the Battle of Prestonpans on 2nd October 1745. To the east across a field of winter wheat lie the large playing fields and the handsome green pyramid reclaimed from the wastes of bing and collieries by the Lothian Regional Council in 1975/6. To the south the House is very prominently seen from the A1 trunk road (opened in 1986) running in the low lying ground. In its present ruinous state Bankton is a reproach to all of us.

PROPOSALS

The grounds, some 14 acres of park, paddock and orchard will be managed in common by the new owners. The park will be reinforced with new trees on the lines of the former avenues, planted within strong horse guards.

It is also proposed to create a public right of access along the railway to the monument and from this up the sunken road to the doocot which will hold a small exhibition about Col. Gardiner and the Jacobite campaign.

THE ORCHARD

The Trust owns 100m south of the House and it is proposed to re-establish an orchard there, enclosed by a shelter fence, a beech hedge and a row of poplars interspersed with lime trees as the final trees. Once grown up it should become a fine landscape feature with its blossom in the spring, its fruit in the autumn and the tracery of branches in winter. As is normal, the trees are being planted as "maidens" and it will be five years before they bear fruit. The majority will be apple trees, many bred in Scotland such as the varieties: Hawthornden, Howgate Wonder, Stirling Castle, Tower of Giamis, Scotch Bridget, Bloody Ploughman, Early Julyan, and of course James Grieve. There will be plums, damsons and pears, and, not often seen in Scotland, Medlars and Quinces which provide unusual fruit and autumn foliage into the winter.

RSVP

FRANK TINDALL
LOTHIAN BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST
FORD HOUSE, FORD EH37 5RF

Snacks kindly provided by FORDS, THE BAKERS, PRESTONPANS
Invitation produced by Nicholas Groves-Raines Architects