

Case information

Case ID	300016840		
File Reference	HGH/B/BC/30		
Name of Site	Terraced Garden, Old Parr House, Minto		
Local Authority	Scottish Borders Council		
National Grid Reference	NT 57165 20494		
Designation No. (if any)	LB 19221		
Designation Type	Listed Building	Current Category of Listing	A
Case Type	Amendment		
Received/Start Date	08/05/2015		
Decision Date	05/02/2016		

1. Decision

In our current state of knowledge the Garden Terraces at Old Parr House, Minto continues to meet the criteria for listing. The statutory listing address and the listed building record has been amended. The category of listing has changed from A to C.

Previous Statutory Address	Minto House and Garden Terraces
Amended Statutory address	Garden Terraces, Old Parr House, Minto

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

The terraced garden was listed on 27 August 1992 as part of the listing of Minto House. Minto House was demolished in 1992/93 and Old Parr House was built within the footprint of Minto House in 2007.

This listing was proposed for review in 2007 but not progressed at that time because the new house was yet to be completed. There is no known review of this listing since 2007.

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals associated with the terraced garden at Old Parr House.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

The terraced garden was visited on 5 June 2015.

No additional architectural elements formerly associated with Minto House have been reviewed as part of this assessment.

3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

The terraced garden was found to continue to meet the criteria for listing.

An assessment against the Listing criteria was carried out, see **Annex A**.

The designation criteria are found in the Scottish Historic Environment Policy (SHEP), pp. 71-85. <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/shep-dec2011.pdf>

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ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Listing Criteria*

Garden Terraces, Old Parr House, Minto

1. Description

1906, Sir Robert Lorimer. Rectangular-plan, walled garden terraces (formerly associated with Minto House which was demolished 1992/93).

The walled garden is 90 metres in length, comprising three partitions set over three terraced levels. The walls are of squared-and-snecked rubble with cuboid balustrades, carved scroll abutments and flat-coping stones with a bevelled edge. There are two bowed sections to the north wall and buttressing to the south retaining wall. There is a twin stair at the south entrance to the central partition. Stone steps link the various levels. There is a rectangular-plan, stone-edged flowerbed to the centre of the westernmost partition.

2. Assessment Against the Listing Criteria (SHEP, 2011) pp74-75

Criteria for determining whether a building is of ‘special architectural or historic interest’ for listing under the terms of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 [www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1997/9/contents]

To be listed, a building need not meet all the listing criteria. The criteria provide a framework within which judgement is exercised in reaching individual decisions.

2.1 Age and Rarity

Gardens that are broadly associated with the ‘Arts and Crafts Movement’ around the turn of the 20th century were partly-influenced by the historic gardens of Italy, classicism and the Beaux-Arts style precedents of the 17th and 18th centuries. The design of these Arts and Crafts gardens often incorporated partitions, steps and balustrading to provide a strong structural framework for the garden planting. Architects like Sir Robert Lorimer (1864-1929) and C.F.A. Voysey (1857-1941) created garden settings for clients predominantly in this fashion. Planting within this formal structure was notably informal, with flowing herbaceous borders as popularised by the garden designers William Robinson (1838-1945) and Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932).

The footprint of the terraced garden at Old Parr House is first shown on the 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey map (surveyed in 1912), to the west of the former Minto House. The terraced garden was designed by the eminent Scottish architect Sir Robert Lorimer in 1906.

Early 20th century garden terraces are found across Scotland and are not a particularly rare building type. Lorimer carried out a number of terraced gardens at country houses in Scotland in the first decade of the 20th century including

Ardkinglas House in Argyll and Bute in 1906 (Listing ref LB13786; Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes ref GDL00022), Hill of Tarvit House (Wemyss Hall) near Cupar, Fife in 1906 (Listing ref LB2628; Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes ref GDL00211) and the walled garden at Balmanno, Perth and Kinross which is circa 1916-20 (Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes ref GDL00044). The style and detailing at Hill of Tarvit is similar to that at Old Parr House (Minto) with tapering retaining walls and stone cuboid balusters. Surviving examples of Lorimer's garden work are relatively rare in the context of high quality terraced garden within the above mentioned context and period of garden design in Scotland. The design of the terraced garden at Old Parr House is recognisable as an notable and largely intact survival of his garden and landscaping design.

2.2 Architectural or Historic Interest

Interior

N/A

Plan form

The rectangular plan of these stepped terrace partitions is typical of terraced garden designs of the early 20th century period in Scotland, and it appears largely unaltered to the footprint depicted on the 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in 1912.

Technological excellence or innovation, material or design quality

The design of the terraced garden at Minto follows the broadly Italianate manner associated with the Arts and Crafts Movement, as championed in England by Gertrude Jekyll (1843-1932) and Edwin Lutyens (1869-1914). The cuboid balusters, tapering rubble walls and scrolled abutments are signature motifs repeated at other gardens by Lorimer, including Hill of Tarvit of 1906. A small number of missing or damaged balustrades have been replaced with reconstituted stone units around 2007.

Sir Robert Stodart Lorimer (1864-1929) was one of the foremost Scottish architects and designers of his generation, noted for his restorations of historic houses and castles and for promoting the Arts and Crafts movement in Scotland.

Setting

The terraced garden is set within an estate designed landscape (formerly associated with now demolished Minto House) on gently sloping ground enclosed by belts of mixed woodland. The setting of this garden has been altered following the loss of Minto House.

Regional variations

There are no known regional variations.

2.3 Close Historical Associations

None known at present.

3. Working with the Principles of Listing (SHEP 2011, p76)

In choosing buildings within the above broad headings particular attention is paid to:

- a. special value within building types*
- b. contribution to an architecturally or historically interesting group*
- c. the impact of vernacular buildings*
- d. authenticity*

When working with the principles of listing, the terraced garden at Old Parr House has interest under a and d.

a. Sir Robert Lorimer was among Scotland's most important architects at work during the early 20th century. The design of the terraced garden at Old Parr House is recognisable as an intact survival of his garden and landscaping design.

d. The plan-form and structure of the terraced garden appears largely unaltered when compared against the footprint depicted on the 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey map, surveyed in 1912.

4. Summary of Assessment Against the Listing Criteria**

The terraced garden at Minto is a notable and largely unaltered example of the garden design work of Sir Robert Lorimer, one of Scotland's finest architects associated with the Arts and Crafts Movement in Scotland. The terraced garden includes a number of stonework details that are characteristic of the work of Lorimer in Scotland at this time, including the buttressed, tapering retaining walls, scrolled abutments and cuboid balustrades.

In our current state of knowledge it continues to meet the criteria for listing.

5. Category of Listing

Categories of listing are non-statutory and buildings are assigned a category (A, B or C) according to their relative importance following the assessment against the criteria for listing.

Category definitions are found at: www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/heritage/historicandlistedbuildings/listing

The interest of the terrace garden at Minto is as a notable example of an early 20th century by an eminent architect. Taking surviving terraces and garden designs by Sir Robert Lorimer (as noted above) into consideration, the intrinsic physical fabric, and the reduced contextual association following the demolition of Minto House, this terraced garden is not considered to be outstanding in terms of national significance. Category C denotes buildings of local importance, lesser examples of any period, style or building type, as originally constructed or moderately altered; and simple traditional buildings which group well with others. Therefore category C is considered the most appropriate category of listing for this terraced garden.

6. Other Information

N/A

7. References

Canmore: <http://canmore.org.uk/> CANMORE ID: 55453

The Statistical Account of Scotland (1836-42) *Statistical Account of the Parish of Hawick*. Volume 3. p.372.

Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1899, published 1897) Roxburghshire Sheet XX.NW. 6 inches to the mile. 2nd Edition. London: Ordnance Survey.

Ordnance Survey (surveyed 1917, published 1923) Roxburghshire Sheet nXVIII (Cavers; Hawick; Minto). 6 inches to the mile. 3rd Edition. London: Ordnance Survey.

Savage P. (1980) *Lorimer and the Edinburgh Craft Designers*. London: Steve Savage Publishers Ltd; 2nd Edition. p.171.

Dean M. and Miers M. (1990) *Scotland's Endangered Houses*. Save Britain's Heritage. p. 19.

Rodwell D. (1992) *The Minto House Debacle*, re-printed in Context 36 - Institute of Historic Building Conservation at http://ihbc.org.uk/context_archive/36/minto_dir/minto_s.htm [accessed 09/08/2015]

* This assessment is based on our current state of knowledge and has been prepared for the purpose of consultation or to provide a view on the special interest of a building. This assessment is a consultation document and will form the basis of any new or updated listed building record should the structure be listed. The content of this assessment may change to take into account further information received as a result of the consultation process.

** A building may be found to meet the listing criteria but in some circumstances may not be added to the list. See 'When might Historic Scotland list a building' at www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/historicandlistedbuildings/whatwelist