



Case information

Case ID	300017911		
File Reference	HGH/B/LA/513		
Name of Site	Sundials, Craigiehall, South Queensferry		
Local Authority	City of Edinburgh Council		
National Grid Reference	NT16785 75439 and NT16611 75418		
Designation No. (if any)	LB5559		
Designation Type	Listed Building	Current Category of Listing	A
Case Type	Amendment		
Start Date	2016 [Craigiehall Barracks Listing Review, 2016]		
Decision Date	12/12/2016		

1. Decision

In our current state of knowledge, the Sundials, Craigiehall continue to meet the criteria for listing. The listing category remains at A. The statutory listing address and the listed building record have been amended.

Previous Statutory Address	Craigiehall, Sundials
Amended Statutory Address	Sundials, Craigiehall, South Queensferry

2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

2.1 Designation Background

These two sundials were listed on 20/01/1981.

The building is located within Craigiehall Inventory Garden and Designed Landscape (GDL00113).

2.2 Development Proposals

There are no known development proposals.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment information

The two sundials at Craigiehall were considered for amendment as part of the Craigiehall Barracks, Listing Review Project, 2016.

These sundials were visited on 28/01/2016 and 30/03/2016. Photographs were taken.

3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

The structures were found to meet the criteria for listing.

An assessment against the listing criteria was carried out. See **Annex A**.

The designation criteria are published in the Historic Environment Scotland policy statement June 2016, Annex 2, pp. 51-53.

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/planning-and-guidance/legislation-and-guidance/historic-environment-scotland-policy-statement/>

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ANNEX A – Assessment Against the Listing Criteria*

Sundials, Craigiehall, South Queensferry

1. Description

A 17th century red sandstone obelisk sundial is situated to the east of the entrance elevation of Craigiehall House (NT16785 75439). This sundial sits on a wide, round stone base and consists of a square plinth, a moulded base, a globe, a 4-sided shaft capped by a polyhedron dial and a later sandstone tapered capital. The shaft is divided into 16 square panels, some of which have incised shapes. The dial above has 4 faces with hollowed out shapes.

An early 18th century cream sandstone, horizontal sundial is situated to the west of Craigiehall House (NT16611 75418). It dates to between 1703 and 1714 and consists of a carved, octagonal pedestal with a horizontal brass sundial plate with decorative gnomon on top. The sundial is engraved with the arms of the Marquis of Annandale, and with the inscription, 'made by England, Instrument Maker to Her Majesty at Charing X, London'.

2. Assessment Against the Listing Criteria (HES Policy Statement, 2016) Annex 2, pp. 51-52

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

The first edition Ordnance Survey map, published in 1856 shows the position of two sundials to the south of Craigiehall house. It is reported by Innes (1996) that the 17th century obelisk sundial was found in 1965 in a field to the south of the house, broken into several stones and enclosed by railings. It was then restored and placed at the entrance front of Craigiehall house to the east as a focal point.

Dating from the 17th century, the sundial is one of only two structures on the estate that predates the current house, which was built in 1699 by Sir William Bruce and is listed at category A (LB 45432). The other early structure is the Doocot (listed at category B, LB5560). MacGibbon and Ross (1871) note that the obelisk was probably altered in the 18th century when it was set into its current base. The shaft of this type of sundial usually had five rows of faces, but this one at Craigiehall only has four and it is suggested that because of its 18th century alteration, the shaft was pushed deep into the globe, losing one of the rows.

The other horizontal sundial on a carved stone base, which now lies to the west of Craigiehall House, can be dated by the inscription to between 1703 and 1714. John England, mentioned as the maker of the sundial, was a mathematical instrument maker working at Charing Cross between those dates, in the reign of Queen Anne. This sundial has also been moved into its present position, but the date of this is not known. Hopetoun House (listed at category A, LB613), built at the same time as Craigiehall and which shared many of the same craftsmen, including the architect Sir William Bruce, has a very similar sundial.

Sundials became fashionable in country house gardens in Scotland during the 17th and 18th centuries, both as decorative structures and as time keeping devices, as the science of gnomics (or art of dialling as it was commonly known) became increasingly popular. Horizontal dials were the most common, with a single gnomon, and an engraved dial with hours, and perhaps the sun's movement in the zodiac. The dial at Craigiehall has both hours and months marked. Structures with multiple dials are found throughout Britain, but the tall obelisk sundials are unique to Scotland and are very complicated mathematically. Daniel (2008) suggests that it was the particular interest in mathematics at that time in Scotland that made these complex sundials popular. There are only 25 known to still be in existence. The earliest one is thought to be at Drummond Castle in Perthshire, dated 1630 (listed at category A, LB19883).

The current Craigiehall Estate dates mainly to the construction of Craigiehall house, completed in 1699, by Sir William Bruce for Sophia, Countess of Annandale and her husband, William, Earl of Annandale. There had been an earlier tower house on the estate which was replaced with the current house.

The Earl of Annandale's son James took over the estate in 1715. In 1741, the estate was bought by the Hope-Weir family, who were connected to the estate through the marriage of the Earl of Annandale's daughter, Lady Henrietta Johnstone to Charles Hope, 1st Earl of Hopetoun. The Hon Charles Hope (later Hope-Weir) had completed a Grand Tour of France and Italy with Robert Adam and on his return in 1754-5, had ideas for some improvement at Craigiehall, particularly in the grounds, gathered from his tour. He planted trees along the River Almond and constructed Craigiehall Temple (1759, LB26928), Craigiehall Bridge (1757, LB5563), the Grotto and Bathhouse (circa 1755-60, LB5562) and an ornamental lake, around 1760.

Craigiehall was sold in 1933 to the 5th Earl of Roseberry, who owned the neighbouring Dalmeny estate and who bought it for his son. His son was killed in action 1917 and the estate was eventually let in 1926 to James Morton, who was a textile merchant in Edinburgh. The house became a hotel and country club in 1933. Following requisitioning by the Army in 1939 it was bought by them in 1951.

The listing criteria state that the older a building is and the fewer of its type survive the more likely it is to present special interest. All buildings erected before 1840

which are of notable quality and survive predominantly in their original form have a strong case for listing.

The two sundials at Craigiehall dating to the 17th and 18th centuries are early examples of their type, retaining a number of design features characteristic of their early date. They continue to form an important component of the former Craigiehall estate.

2.2 Architectural or Historic Interest

Interior

N/A

Plan form

N/A

Technological excellence or innovation, material or design quality

The stone pedestal and brass sundial plate of the horizontal dial are standard materials for a garden sundial of the 17th and 18th centuries. The decorative carving to the pedestal shows its original function as both a time keeping device and also a garden ornament.

The obelisk type sundial traditionally has three parts; the square shaft with an octagonal-shaped capital and then a tapering finial above. The shaft is commonly divided into five horizontal sections, with a face on each side, and many of the compartments are hollowed out with different geometric shapes and some have gnomons inserted into them. Often, the shapes have lines etched out in them which mark out the hours, as the edge of the shape casts a shadow over the lines. It is not unusual for some of the faces to be left blank, or to have coats-of-arms carved into them.

The capital also has a number of square and triangular faces, some again with hollowed out shapes and the tapering finial sometimes had shapes carved into it, or lines across it.

The sundial at Craigiehall has some hollowed out faces to the shaft and capital, but no gnomons survive. Other similar sundials have more decorative markings and surviving gnomons, including the sundial at Kelburn Castle (listed at category A, LB7298). The sundial at Craigiehall has been repaired, as noted above and some of its detail has been lost. However, its survival as a 17th century obelisk sundial is rare and these structures are an important part of our understanding of the 17th and 18th century Scottish interest in mathematics and timekeeping.

Setting

Although not in their original positions, the sundials at Craigiehall are situated within the former estate policies, and are part of a group of associated estate structures which, although affected by later development primarily to the north, still informs innovative late 17th and early 18th century ideals in landscape design. The built components of the group currently include Craigiehall house (LB45432), the walled

garden (LB45433), the former stable court (5561), the doocot (LB5560) and the grotto (LB5562).

The majority of the estate to the north has been taken up by the various additional buildings constructed for the military headquarters since the 1950s.

Regional variations

There are no known regional variations.

2.3 Close Historical Associations

There are no known associations with a person or event of national importance at present (2016).

The 2nd Earl of Annandale, and later the Hope-Weir family are closely associated with Craigiehall.

3. Working with the Principles of Listing (HES Policy Statement, 2016) Annex 2, pp. 53

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 a grouping of buildings*
- d. authenticity*

When working with the principles of listing the sundials at Craigiehall have particular interest under a, b and d.

- a. The obelisk sundial is one of only 25 remaining sundials of this type. The horizontal dial is a good surviving 18th century dial and pedestal.
- b. These sundials form part of a wider estate group of buildings around Craigiehall House and make an important contribution to this architecturally significant group.
- c. Other contemporary and near-contemporary estate buildings which are also listed and are located within the former policies add to the special interest of the sundials. These include Craigiehall (LB45432), Grotto (LB5562), Grotto Bridge (LB5562), Stable Court (LB5561), Doocot (LB5560) and Walled Garden (LB45433).
- d. The obelisk sundial has been altered, but retains the majority of the characteristics of 17th century faceted dials.

4. Summary of Assessment Against the Listing Criteria**

These two sundials dating to the 17th and early 18th century are important surviving elements of the Craigiehall estate which retain some of their characteristic features. The obelisk sundial whose form is unique to Scotland is one of only 25 such known remaining sundials, all of which are listed. Situated to the front of Craigiehall house it is a striking feature in the wider landscape of the estate. The two different types of

dial help our understanding of the importance of visual decorative structures and also of the study of mathematics and timekeeping to the 17th and 18th century landowners.

In our current state of knowledge they continue 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: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/listed-buildings/what-is-listing/>

Surviving 17th century obelisk sundials are rare. Both this one and the early 18th century sundial are important early ancillaries to the wider estate. Category A is the most appropriate category of listing.

6. Other Information

N/A

7. References

Canmore: <http://canmore.org.uk/> CANMORE ID 254435 & 50410

Maps

Ordnance Survey, (Surveyed 1854-5, Published 1856) Linlithgowshire Sheet 7. 6 Inches to the Mile map. 1st Edition. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

Printed Sources

Cowan, D. (2008) In the Footsteps of Thomas Ross. Part 2: The Sundials at Craigiehall. *British Sundial Society Bulletin* Volume 20(iv) pp 8-10.

Daniel, C. St J. H. (2004) *Sundials*. Princes Risborough: Shire Publications Ltd.

Gifford, J. et. al. (1988) *The Buildings of Scotland: Edinburgh*. London: Penguin Books. p.592.

Innes, C.B. (1996) *Craigiehall; The Story of a fine Scots Country House*. Limited Edition.

MacGibbon, and Ross (1902) *The Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland*, Vol V. Edinburgh: David Douglas. p.412 & 498.

Somerville, A.R. (1987) The Ancient Sundials of Scotland. *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*. Volume 117 pp233-264.

* 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 Environment Scotland list a building' at <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/listed-buildings/what-is-listing/>