



## Case information

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<b>Case ID</b>	300008935
<b>File Reference</b>	HGH/B/LD/34
<b>Name of Site</b>	The Court Residence (Former Linlithgow Sheriff Court), 1 Court Square, High Street, Linlithgow

<b>Local Authority</b>	West Lothian Council		
<b>National Grid Reference</b>	NT 00165 77104		
<b>Designation No. (if any)</b>	LB37400		
<b>Designation Type</b>	Listed Building	<b>Current Category of Listing</b>	B
<b>Case Type</b>	Amendment		

<b>Received/Start Date</b>	2014 [Former Scottish Court Houses Listing Review 2014-16]
<b>Decision Date</b>	10/01/2017

## 1. Decision

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In our current state of knowledge, the former Linlithgow Court House continues to meet the criteria for listing. The statutory listing address and the listed building record has been amended. The category of listing remains at B.

<b>Previous Statutory Address</b>	High Street, Court House
<b>Amended Statutory Address</b>	The Court Residence (Former Linlithgow Sheriff Court), including boundary walls and gatepiers, 1 Court Square, High Street, Linlithgow

## 2. Designation Background and Development Proposals

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### 2.1 Designation Background

The Linlithgow Court House was listed at category B on 17/10/1989. The building is located within the Linlithgow Palace and High Street Conservation Area.

## 2.2 Development Proposals

A planning application (0621/FUL/10) for conversion of the court house to hotel accommodation has been approved and the work was being carried out when the building was visited in 2014.

## 3. Assessment

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### 3.1 Assessment information

The former Linlithgow Sheriff Court was considered for amendment as part of the Former Scottish Courts Listing Review Project 2014-16.

The building was visited on 28/08/2014 and the interior and exterior of the building was seen.

### 3.2 Assessment against designation criteria

The building 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 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\***

### **The Court Residence (Former Linlithgow Sheriff Court), including boundary walls and gatepiers, 1 Court Square, High Street, Linlithgow**

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#### **1. Description**

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Thomas Brown and James Maitland Wardrop, 1862-1863 with further additions by Wardrop and Charles Reid, 1875. There were internal alterations in the 1990s and further alterations for conversion into a hotel in 2014.

The building is a 2-storey, 6-bay, gabled L-plan Tudor Revival style former court house. The High Street elevation is asymmetrical with an advanced double gabled entrance bay to the right. The building is constructed in squared, stugged and snecked sandstone rubble with polished surrounds, and has a moulded base, string courses that continue to hoodmoulds over the ground floor openings and an eaves parapet. The windows are single, bipartite and tripartite with ashlar mullions and transoms and chamfered reveals. The doorpieces have stepped hoodmoulds and there are contrasting quoins and window margins. The building has corbelled and polygonal stone chimney stacks and decorative gable finials. There are five large pointed windows at the first floor on the rear elevation which are for the former courtroom. There is an 1875 2-storey addition to the east side with a further single storey cell block range to the rear.

The building has multi-pane timber sash and case windows. There is a grey slate roof with ashlar gablet-coped skews and beaked skewputts. The rainwater goods are dated 1863 and that at the centre of the north elevation has a carved thistle motif.

The interior was seen in 2014. A good late 19<sup>th</sup> century decorative scheme survive to the entrance stairway and the former first floor courtroom. The former courtroom has a timber boarded ceiling on decorative quatrefoil detail trusses which are supported by carved columnettes on stone corbels. The interior fittings of the courtroom have been removed as part of the 2014 renovations although the shouldered architraves to the doorways remain. The entrance hall is dominated by a large half turn stair with decorative cast iron ballusters. Some of the openings are pointed arched and some 6-panel doors, window shutters and decorative corning remain. At the southwest corner on the ground floor is a former record room with a triple vaulted ceiling.

There are ashlar coped retaining boundary walls at the front boundary and a rubble wall to the southwest of the building. There are decorative octagonal pyramidal gatepiers to the west side forming the entrance to rear courtyard.

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

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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](http://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 former Linlithgow Court Building was built as the county courthouse and police building in front of the earlier town jail (now demolished) which is evident on the 1856 Town Plan. It reverted to the court house only when a police station was erected on the site of the jail in 1935.

The building was designed and built in 1862-1863 by the successful firm of architects Thomas Brown and James Maitland Wardrop. Drawings held by the National Records of Scotland show that the original building comprised of a Sheriff Court House and police accommodation with two cells in a wing at the southeast corner of the building.

In 1875 a single storey cell block with four cells was added by Wardrop and Charles Reid to the west wall of the police wing. The building is shown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1894 as the County Court Buildings. This map also shows a linear range to the south corner of the building. Only the rear wall of this range survives, forming a boundary wall in this part of the site. This range was replaced by a second courtroom in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century and was also demolished in 2014.

The court house stands partly on the historic site of Archbishop Hamilton's former house from where, on 23rd January 1570, the Regent Moray was shot by James Hamilton of Bothwellhaugh: the memorial plaque to Regent Murray with a relief bust by Mrs D O Hill was inserted to the right of the main entrance door in 1875.

The development of the court house as a building type in Scotland follows the history of the Scottish legal system and wider government reforms. The majority of purpose-built court houses were constructed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as by this time there was an increase in the separation of civic, administrative and penal functions into separate civic and institutional buildings, and the resultant surge of public building was promoted by new institutional bodies. The introduction of the Sheriff Court Houses (Scotland) Act of 1860 gave a major impetus to the increase and improvement of court accommodation and this provision of central funding was followed by the most active period of sheriff court house construction in the history of the Scottish legal system and many new court houses were built or reworked after this date.

Courthouses constructed post 1860 generally had a solely legal purpose and did not incorporate a prison, other than temporary holding cells. The courts were designed in a variety of architectural styles many relying heavily on Scots Baronial features to reference the fortified Scottish building tradition. Newly constructed court buildings in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century dispensed with large public spaces such as county halls and instead provided bespoke office accommodation for the sheriff, judge and clerks, and accommodating the numerous types of court and holding cells.

The former Linlithgow Sheriff Court is a significant example of a 19<sup>th</sup> century civic building which has been built in high quality materials with a wealth of good quality design details. Dating from 1862 it was among the first wave of court houses built following the 1860 Sheriff Court Houses (Scotland) Act.

## **2.2 Architectural or Historic Interest**

### ***Interior***

Courts were often highly decorated buildings in keeping with being high status civic buildings and there are elements of the good late 19<sup>th</sup> decorative scheme surviving in this former court house. The entrance hall is a prominent feature of the interior which is dominated by an open squared stair. The main courtroom space has been altered (2014) removing the bench and seating, however, the fine corbelled timber roof remains.

### ***Plan form***

The plan form is standard for a court house of this period, with the courtroom located on the first floor. The plan form has been altered by the loss of the south range (shown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Ordnance Survey map) and the single storey cell block which was added to the rear in 1875 by the same architects.

### ***Technological excellence or innovation, material or design quality***

As prime civic buildings, courts usually had a significant amount of decorative work on the exterior and the former Linlithgow Sheriff Court is no exception, with many good quality stonework details to the exterior. Of particular note are the gablets with finials, the hoodmoulds and the decorative octagonal chimney stacks. Most court houses built after the 1860 Act were built in a Scots Baronial style, therefore Linlithgow is somewhat unusual as it is Tudor Revival in style.

James Maitland Wardrop (1823-1882) was articled to Thomas Brown, becoming a partner in the practice in 1849. As architect to the Prison Board of Scotland, Brown had extensive experience in designing county court houses and prisons, the design work of which Wardrop gradually took over, including Linlithgow and other courthouses such as Wigtown (1862), Alloa (1863), Forfar (1869) and Stirling (designed 1866, built 1874). The practice was also highly successful at remodelling and designing country houses and the country house work obviously influenced this public commission.

### ***Setting***

The former court house is set back from the historic street line which is unusual for a building on the High Street in Linlithgow. This position, as well as the building's and high quality stonework make it a prominent public building close to the heart of the burgh. It is also adjacent to the extensive 1936 county buildings (listed at category B), as well as a police station to the rear (listed at category C) and these three buildings all form a significant multi-period group of civic buildings.

### ***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).

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

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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 former Linlithgow Sheriff Court has particular interest under a and d.

a. It is a good example of a mid 19<sup>th</sup> century purpose built court house, with good quality detailing to the exterior and interior.

d. Apart from the loss of the linear range to the rear and subsequently the second courtroom the footprint and exterior of the building is largely unaltered from when the 1875 cell block was added, retaining high quality stonework.

### **4. Summary of Assessment Against the Listing Criteria\*\***

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The former Linlithgow Sheriff Court is a significant example of mid 19<sup>th</sup> century civic architecture in the centre of this historic burgh town. Designed by the prolific court architects Brown and Wardrop it has a wealth of good quality stonework details to exterior and some high quality detailing surviving to the interior.

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

### **5. Category of Listing**

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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/>

Category B is for buildings of regional or more than local importance; or major examples of some particular period, style or building type, which may have been altered. When compared with court houses of a similar date and size, the architectural and historic interest of the former Linlithgow Sheriff Court is considered to be of regional interest, therefore category B remains the most appropriate.

### **6. Other Information**

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N/A.

## 7. References

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Canmore: <http://canmore.org.uk/> CANMORE ID 191638

### Maps

Ordnance Survey. (surveyed 1895, published 1897) Linlithgowshire 005.03 (includes: Linlithgow). 25 inches to the mile. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Southampton: Ordnance Survey.

### Archives

National Records of Scotland. Architectural drawings of Linlithgow court house and police building. RHP 21536 – 21550 and 21563 - 21565

### Printed Sources

MacWilliam, C. (1978) *Buildings of Scotland: Lothian except Edinburgh*. London: Penguin Books Ltd. p.305.

Groome, A. F. (1884) *Ordnance Gazetteer of Scotland*. p.516.

### Other Information

Dictionary of Scottish Architects. *Brown and Wardrop* at [http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect\\_full.php?id=200149](http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=200149) [accessed 03/11/2016].

Historic Scotland (2014) *Scottish Courts Preliminary Report* at <http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/scottish-courts-preliminary-report.pdf>. [accessed 03/11/2016].

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\* 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/>