

APPENDIX 1 TIMELINE SUMMARISING THE PATRONS AND KEY CHANGES TO THE BUILDING

Table 2 Timeline summarising the patrons and key changes to the building

Date	Historic event	Building development
6/8/1584	John McMorran begins buying property to the south of the High Street.	
13/1/1587	Final sasine recorded to complete John McMorran's purchases of property to the south of the High Street.	
1595	John McMorran shot and killed.	
Unknown	Alexander Seton, Earl of Dunfermline, begins to rent the south (major) part of the Great Tenement, including the courtyard floor east and north-east, and the whole of the back tenement and parts of the fore tenement.	
1598	Banquets for King James VI and his wife, Anne of Denmark, the Duke of Holstein and his entourage held at Riddle's Court.	Painted beam ceiling commissioned in the King's Chamber and other fine ceilings painted within the North Block.
1/8/1612	The Convention of the Royal Burghs meets in Ninian (1) McMorran's house.	
10/2/1616		Ninian (2) McMorran sells the fore tenement of the Great Tenement (minus the great gate) and one other tenement to his brother George for 10,000 merks; as part of this deal George agrees to close up with stone and mortar the three entrances belonging to him in the courtyard and the great gate. [Great Tenement broken up into two properties.] [The two tenements sold to George are linked on the first floor via Ninian (1) McMorran's apartments.] <i>Note:</i> Theoretically there should be a blocked up doorway somewhere high on the wall to the right of the great gate.
Unknown	Earl of Lauderdale takes over as tenant from the Earl of Dunfermline, possibly after Seton died on 16 June 1622?	

Table 2 *cont*

Date	Historic event	Building development
7/2/1630	Back tenement sold by Ninian (2) McMorran to Sir John Smith for 12,000 merks and Earl of Lauderdale evicted.	Referred to as Johne Makmorans close.
1662	City Council rents the Chancellor's House from Sir John Smith at £50 per month.	
1665	Sir John Clerk of Penicuik begins to buy up the Smith family bonds that were secured against the property.	
June 1676	Sir John Clerk of Penicuik forecloses on Sir John Smith and receives title to all of Smith's lands to the south of the High Street, including the back tenement of the Great Tenement.	
20/5/1684	Sir John Clerk sells on these lands to Roderick Mackenzie of Prestonhall.	Referred to as John McMorans close.
Unknown	Roderick Mackenzie sells part of the back tenement to (1) Sir Thomas Stewart of Balcashie who subsequently disposes the same to (2) Sir Archibald Mure, late Provost of Edinburgh. [Back tenement broken into two properties.]	
1684–1702	Roderick Mackenzie of Prestonhall sells the upper lodging of the back tenement to his brother George Mackenzie, the future first Earl of Cromartie.	
28/3/1702	George Mackenzie disposes the upper lodging of the back tenement to his wife, the Countess of Wemyss. This half still includes the great gate and the court.	Building referred to as McMorrans close.
1709	Gabriel Rankin of Orchardhead inherits two lodgings and their cellars as part of the fore tenement from his father, Walter; at that time the tenants are named as Catherine Hutchison (the lower lodging) and Patrick Graham (the upper lodging).	

Table 2 *cont*

Date	Historic event	Building development
1714	Duchess Anne of Buccleuch purchases the upper lodging of the back tenement from the Earl of Cromartie and installs James Mackenzie of Royston (son of the first Earl of Cromartie) as a tenant.	The duchess begins renovating the property quite extensively. A large collection of trade receipts for painting and repair show that her involvement in refurbishment was extensive. Alterations including the installation of panelling to first-floor rooms in South Block (Rooms F08–F10): the installation of marble fireplaces; the roof changes from a mix of thatch and slate to 100% slate.
1730	James Mackenzie of Royston, together with William Carmichael, own part of the Court, possibly the main part of the fore tenement.	Now called Royston's Court.
Early to mid-18th century		Installation of panelling and painted landscape panels by James Norie in North Block (Room S03).
1749	Francis, Duke of Buccleuch, sells the upper lodging and the great gate to William Alexander, a merchant in Edinburgh. This seems to be the end of the aristocratic occupancy of any of the McMorran's Court buildings.	
1749	Alexander Home sells two dwelling houses and their cellars in Royston's Court to John Mein, a slater, who then subsequently sells the same to James Carmichael, a writer to the signet. Otherwise unlocated but this could be the property owned by Gabriel Rankin of Orchardhead in 1709.	
1751–63	David Hume (philosopher of the Scottish Enlightenment) resides in Riddel's Land (probably in foreland properties on the Lawnmarket).	The names Riddle's Court/Close begin to appear in documents.
1752		The close is known as Royston's Close, and is occupied by well-to-do merchants among others.
1829–34		The south part of the South Block and wings and the gardens are removed by the construction of Victoria Street.

Table 2 *cont*

Date	Historic event	Building development
1841	By the 1841 census most of the dwellings at Riddle's Court are populated by shopkeepers, artisans and labourers. Accounts document the use of some rooms in Riddle's Court, including a bookbinder's workshop and former public theatre. Riddle's Court properties are under multiple occupancy and fall into decline and disrepair with only ad hoc repairs undertaken.	Large interior fitted cupboards and shelving possibly date from this period of use.
1854–93	The Mechanics' Subscription Library is relocated from James Court, occupying the whole of the building, using the ground floor as the library and renting tenements above.	
1865–6	Valuation Rolls name the following owners of Riddle's Court: James Pillans, George Moir, the Mechanics' Library, Thomas Baillie, William Kenmore, Rev William McLean, Miss Thomson, John Campbell, Adam Rutherford and Dr James Ramsay.	
1867		Improvement Act saw the introduction of sanitary provision to Riddle's Close, although by this time most respectable tenants had left.
1871		The Norie panels are painted over by a fish cadger who occupied the royal apartment. Other panels are removed.
1885–6	Valuation Rolls name the following owners of Riddle's Court: Hay Norrie, Mrs Stuart Leake, the Mechanics' Library, Andrew Smith, William Clark, William McLean's Trustees, James Gray, James Cameron, James Beveridge, Mrs Georgina Duncan and William Black.	
1881	Census records 247 inhabitants in Riddle's Court in a combination of families.	

Table 2 *cont*

Date	Historic event	Building development
1889–97	Patrick Geddes secured property at Riddle's Court and lodged the application for improvements to the South Block, which was opened as accommodation for students in 1890.	<p>Alterations included seated bays to the first-floor room for use as a common room (F10) and the subdivision of the large ground floor vacated by the Mechanics' Subscription Library into five narrow rooms with a corridor at the rear.</p> <p>Geddes also acquired the North Block and, following the demolition of the adjacent tenement on the east side of the close, the architect Capper devised a pentice stair to access the second floor of the property. The original pitched roof of the North Block was replaced by a flat roof during this time.</p>
<i>c</i> 1895		<p><i>Vivendo discimus</i> ('By living we learn') is inscribed on the voussoirs of the rebuilt pend arch, with an armorial panel of the University Hall insignia above.</p> <p>In 1892 the accommodation is reported as consisting of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Large Common Room (F10) Dining Room (F09) 14 Private Rooms Kitchen Servants' Rooms <p>The kitchen and the servants' rooms were noted as being part of the rest of the building. There were two entrances: one from Victoria Terrace and the other from Riddle's Court.</p>
1895–6	Valuation Rolls name the following owners of Riddle's Court: Patrick Geddes and Robert Gordon.	<p>Through the compulsory purchase powers under the 1893 Act, Geddes was able to commission the removal of tenements on the east and west sides of Riddle's Court corresponding to the foreland properties by Aitken, and creating a larger outer court to Riddle's Court buildings.</p>

Table 2 *cont*

Date	Historic event	Building development
1897		Dining room ceiling is painted by master artist Thomas Bonnar.
1901	Census reveals a breakdown in student occupancy of the University Halls at Riddle's Court. Eleven students, a cook, a table maid and a housekeeper are listed among 25 other residents, mainly artisans and skilled workers.	
1905–6	Valuation Rolls name the following owners of Riddle's Court: The Town & Gown Association, Donald Stewart.	
1925–6	Valuation Rolls name the following owners of Riddle's Court: The Town & Gown Association, Donald Stewart.	
1946	The City of Edinburgh Council acquires Riddle's Court and the properties fronting the Lawnmarket from the proprietors of Riddle's Court for £1,700. At this time the properties comprised 15 houses, including shops fronting the Lawnmarket. The houses were initially used to provide overspill accommodation for the city.	
1952	Riddle's Court is used as Fringe venue by the Oxford Theatre Group using the ground-floor room as performance space, much of the South Block as a dormitory and the courtyard as an alfresco dining area.	
1975		Riddle's Court is repaired and developed by the City of Edinburgh Council to the designs of John W Paterson to provide accommodation for WEA offices on the second floor of the North Block. Refurbishment of the second floor of the South Block provides caretaker's flat and the remainder for community and education outreach.
1996		Painted dining room ceiling is repaired on behalf of the City of Edinburgh Council by M M Pryor, funded by the sale of the Norrie panels to the National Museums of Scotland.

Table 2 *cont*

Date	Historic event	Building development
2005	The City of Edinburgh Council vacates Riddle's Court.	
2011	Scottish Historic Building Trust occupies South Block second floor.	
2012	Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland (AHSS) moves to Riddle's Court.	
2015–17	The creation of Riddle's Court into the new Patrick Geddes Centre for Learning.	Extensive internal and external refurbishment carried out by SHBT. Officially opened by the HRH the Duke of Rothesay on 8 September 2017.