



Scottish
Historic
Buildings
Trust

Riddle's Court, Edinburgh Old Town

A major project to bring new life and learning to one of the most historically important and architecturally significant buildings in Edinburgh



PAST: *Historic photograph of the courtyard*



PRESENT: *Exterior view of courtyard facade*



PRESENT: *Interior view of room with painted ceiling*

“one of the best examples of mercantile high life from the 16th to the 18th century.”

SOFIA G LEONARD, 2011

Riddle's Court is an A-listed building, one of the finest surviving burghal residences on the Royal Mile dating from the late 16th Century and is located close to Edinburgh Castle.

The building contains highly significant interiors representing fashions from different periods of development including a painted tempera ceiling from the 1590s, decorative plaster ceilings from the 17th Century, 18th Century panelling and a painted ceiling by Thomas Bonnar from 1895. Riddle's Court also has many significant historic and social associations; as a venue for King James VI and his Queen in 1598, and in the late 19th Century as one of the first of Patrick Geddes' University Halls in the Old Town. Since this time the building has predominantly been used for educational and social purposes but has been in serious decline for several years and is now a Building at Risk. The cost of undertaking essential repair works alone is £1.5 million.

Riddle's Court represents a significant architectural and social record for this part of

Edinburgh's Old Town reflecting its fluctuating prominence over a period of 400 years. This is well reflected in the phases of change and development of the physical fabric, at the core of which is still a late 16th Century merchant's house.

Scottish Historic Buildings Trust has taken a lease on the building in order to secure its future. This will involve a major project to repair, conserve and enhance Riddle's Court to create a centre for learning and conservation in the Old Town. The capital project cost, to create the Patrick Geddes Centre for Learning and Conservation, is over £5 million. SHBT have embarked on a two year fundraising campaign to meet these costs.

You can help by making a donation or by renting one of the atmospheric rooms in this historic building for a meeting, conference or event. For more information about events and office spaces, please contact info@shbt.org.uk or call 0131 220 1232

BUILDING DEVELOPER AND OWNER:
Scottish Historic Buildings Trust

CAPITAL PROJECT COST:
£5.8million

TARGET CONSTRUCTION DATE:
Autumn 2013

To contribute towards the public appeal target of £100,000 for the Patrick Geddes Centre you can donate online at www.shbt.org.uk or by post to: Scottish Historic Buildings Trust, Riddle's Court, 322 Lawnmarket, Edinburgh, EH1 2PG

www.shbt.org.uk

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