THE GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY IN SCOTLAND

EAST LOTHIAN SURVEY OF GARDENS & DESIGNED LANDSCAPES
RECORDING FORM

A. GENERAL SITE INFORMATION **(*Expand boxes as necessary)***
SITE NAME: Westerdunes Court
ALTERNATIVE NAMES OR SPELLINGS: Westerdunes, Westerdunes Hotel, Westerdunes Park
ADDRESS AND POSTCODE: Private ownership
GRID REFERENCE: NT 5309 8517
LOCAL AUTHORITY: East Lothian (Historical County Haddingtonshire)
PARISH: Dirleton
INCLUDED IN *AN INVENTORY OF GARDENS & DESIGNED LANDSCAPES IN SCOTLAND*: No
TYPE OF SITE: *(eg. Landscaped estate, private garden, public park/gardens, corporate/institutional landscape, cemetery, allotments, or other – please specify)* Villa estate
SITE OWNERSHIP & CONTACT: *(Where site is in divided ownership please list all owners and indicate areas owned on map if possible)* Westerdunes Court is in private ownership, owning the Japanese garden outright and having shared ownership of part of the grounds with the residents of Westerdunes Park.

SIZE IN HECTARES OR ACRES:

Original site 5.6 hectares (14 acres). Area of surviving site unknown.

PUBLIC ACCESS ARRANGEMENTS/OPENING TIMES *(If any):*

Not open to the public.
Main ground around house not open but the Japanese garden is available for the neighbours in Westerdunes Park to walk into.
Area around temple communally owned.

NATIONAL & LOCAL AUTHORITY DESIGNATIONS: *eg. Conservation Area, Green Belt, Tree Preservation Order(s), Nature Conservation Area, etc.*

None

LISTED STRUCTURES:

Westerdunes with Summer House, Garden Screen, Garden Sculpture, Terrace and boundary Walls, Gates and Gatepiers. Listed Category A 5 February 1971 Historic Scotland Ref: 1380
http://data.historic-scotland.gov.uk/pls/htmldb/f?p=2200:15:0::::BUILDING,HL:1380,westerdunes

Westerdunes Court South Front 1911
Bedford Lemere Archive
Reproduced by kind permission of English Heritage

B. HISTORICAL SURVEY INFORMATION: MAPPED, DOCUMENTARY & PUBLISHED SOURCES

MAPPED SOURCES: *(please list maps below in date order and attach copies where possible. Give the description or title, date, maker's name if known, and for Ordnance Survey maps give the date of survey, edition number and sheet number)*

Ordnance Survey 1963 Edition 1:2500 Sheet NT 5285/5385 1963

PRIMARY & DOCUMENTARY SOURCES: *(plans, manuscript documents and other estate records) Please list material consulted in date order and attach copies where possible. Give description of material, and location and reference number of archival holding.*

Dick Peddie and McKay Architectural Plans, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS):
Site Plan: 49480/CN in colour 12 July 1909 stamped Sanitary Inspector Dept Haddington County
Garden Plan: SC1229150 1908 as executed
Garden Plan: SC1229151 1908 not executed
Sketches of bridge, stairs and entrances to garden room, pergola, bridges and proposed temple: DPM 1900/37/7

East Lothian Council Archives:
Site Plan: June 1973 Scale 1:200 179/73
Land Plan: May 1974 559/74
Site Plan: 13 February 1980 Scale 1:2500 BW 96/80
Land Registry Title Plan 9 March 2006 Scale 1:2500 ELN10638

HISTORICAL ILLUSTRATIONS & PICTORIAL SOURCES: *(drawings, paintings, photographs, aerial photographs etc. Include type, subject, artist, source or reference location, and date if known)*

Paintings by John Lavery:
Japanese Garden, Westerdunes 1916 *Sir John Lavery: A Painter and His World* 2010 (Atelier, Edinburgh) p. 149, fig. 172
Japanese Garden 1921 (whereabouts unknown)
http://www.christies.com/LotFinder/LotDetailsPrintable.aspx?intObjectID=1785918
Portrait of Hazel Lavery 1916 (whereabouts not known and not seen)

Photographs:
Japanese Garden with James Fraser circa1920: copyright Mrs Jean Crawford**.** Copy in John Gray Centre, Haddington

Japanese garden and others of garden circa 1929-1940: copyright Mrs Joanna Wood and Mrs Miranda Jenkinson. Copies in John Gray Centre, Haddington

Bedford Lemere Archive Nine images BL21441/001- BL21441/008 including 3A 1911 English Heritage
Postcards of House 1910-20 RCAHMS: SAL 79/5, SAL79/6, SAL79/7

RCAHMS National Collection of Aerial Photography:
B_0108 sortie7302 frame7296-7302 SB000849 1946
C_0033 sortie6309 frame6304-6312 SB002843 1946
B_0338 sortie4010 frame4009-4019 SB001797 1950

Quarterly Illustrated of the Incorporation of Architects in Scotland No 4
Winter 1922 p7-9

Westerdunes Court South & Garden From the South-East 1911
Bedford Lemere Archive
Reproduced by kind permission of English Heritage

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF PUBLISHED SOURCES: *(Statistical Accounts, Gazetteers, Directories, Travel Accounts etc.) Please list publications consulted in alphabetical order. Include details of author, title, journal or periodical, and date, volume/edition and page numbers where relevant.*

None

PRINCIPAL PERIODS OF DEVELOPMENT:

1908 Believed to be house building and garden construction.
1967 Conversion of Power house to dwelling
1973 Beginning of division of house and land and house building in grounds by Marian Properties and Iain MacMurdo.
2005 Unearthing of Japanese garden
2012 Current owners buy and convert Flat 1 back to original house

PRINCIPAL ARCHITECTS/DESIGNERS ASSOCIATED WITH SITE*: (please reference source of information)*

John More Dick Peddie, Architect (1853-1921)
http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=200118

James Henderson, Gardener 1916-1917 Valuation Roles (East Lothian Council Archives)

ORAL RECORDS/REMINISCENSES *Please include a list of any people interviewed during the course of research/survey work. Include name and role of interviewee (eg. family member, former employee, local resident), date of conversation and major dates, features or events recalled. Attach a transcript of the conversation if possible.*

Mrs Jean Crawford daughter of James Fraser seen in photo of garden, she visited in late 1920s. Her father was friend of gardener Mr Henderson.
Mrs Katherine Mackenzie visitor in late 1920s who remembers Mount Fuji, the little bridge and generally the Japanese garden and a playhouse to the south east of garden
Mrs Joanna Wood (born 1929) spent her childhood holidays there from 1929 until her mother Mrs Menzies sold the house in 1946.

C. SITE SURVEY ***Use map provided to mark positions and boundaries. Take photographs where possible.***

No access allowed for on-site survey

D. SUMMARY HISTORY OF THE SITE

.
In 1908 plans were drawn up by Dick Peddie for a house, garage and temple at Westerdunes, largely executed by 1910 (Plans RCAHMS).

On 14 March 1912, 14 acres of land were sold to P J Ford by Mrs Nisbet Hamilton Ogilvy of Belhaven and Dirleton (East Lothian County Sasine Court Record 369/78) who retained ownership until 31 January 1936 when it was sold to John F Menzies. Following his death in December 1940, the house passed to his wife Cynthia Menzies (East Lothian County Sasine Court Record 369/78 and 392/200 17 June 1943). On 3 October 1947 the property was sold to Lydia de Domenico and Norma de Domenico, and a mortgage of £22,000 taken out by Commander Orazio de Domenico, a restaurateur and his wife, Maria Lucia (East Lothian Sasine Court Record 411/198 and 411/237).This is when it became a hotel.

In 1967 the Powerhouse was converted to Gardeners Cottage with the aid of an improvement grant from East Lothian County Council (East Lothian County Sasine Court records 604/108 6 September 1967), and later sold to Helen McGreevy (East Lothian County Sasine Court Record 662/219 20 May 1971).

Westerdunes Court Japanese Garden 1911
Bedford Lemere Archive
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Following the sale of Westerdunes Hotel and land to Marian Properties (East Lothian County Sasine Court records 1821(9) 6 November 1973) the estate was gradually broken up. The hotel was divided into five flats, and the grounds divided up into plots which were gradually built on over the next 15 years. Two bungalows were built to the south-east of the house with use of the main drive, shared with the five flats. A new opening in the north wall on Abbotsford Road was opened up to service Westerdunes Park to the west of the Eel Burn (Plan13 February 1980). A common garden area included the temple and area to the west of Westerdunes Court (Plan from Land Registry for Little Acre ELN10638).

The large pond (originally a swimming pool until 1947) was drained and a house built on the plot.
The squash court was converted into a house called Woodlands. Marian Properties to Iain Macmurdo (East Lothian Sasine Court Records 430(4) 8 March 1974)
Marian Properties to Ronald Mackenzie Thomson, Flat 1, Westerdunes Court 4 April 1974.
Marian Properties to James Hughes, Flat 2, Westerdunes Court 23 August 1974 1588(10).
Marian Properties to Renfrew, Two Storey Flat at Westerdunes Court 19 Dec 1974.

By 2012 the current owners of Westerdunes Court (the main house), who purchased the property in 2005, had managed to acquire all five flats reinstating the structure as one principal house. They also own the Japanese garden and tennis court. However there are currently 25 properties in addition to Westerdunes Court on the former estate.

The current owners of Westerdunes Court have also undertaken restoration of the garden which is significant because it retains all the earthworks originally in the 1908 plan. It is well documented in archive images and original plans. Though there has been building in its wider landscape the house still retains its immediate setting and outlook. It is well maintained. The walls of the kitchen garden are incorporated into the housing plots and in one is the original fountain in the grounds of Loanfern, Westerdunes Park. Though the designer is not known it can be presumed to be Dick Peddie as he signed the original plans and drew the significant oak trellis (in the RCAHMS archive) no longer in existence.

Name:

Kristina Taylor, East Lothian Landscape and Garden Recording Project under the auspices of The Garden History Society in Scotland http://www.gardenhistorysociety.org

Dates of ground survey work:

N/A

Date research completed:

January 2013