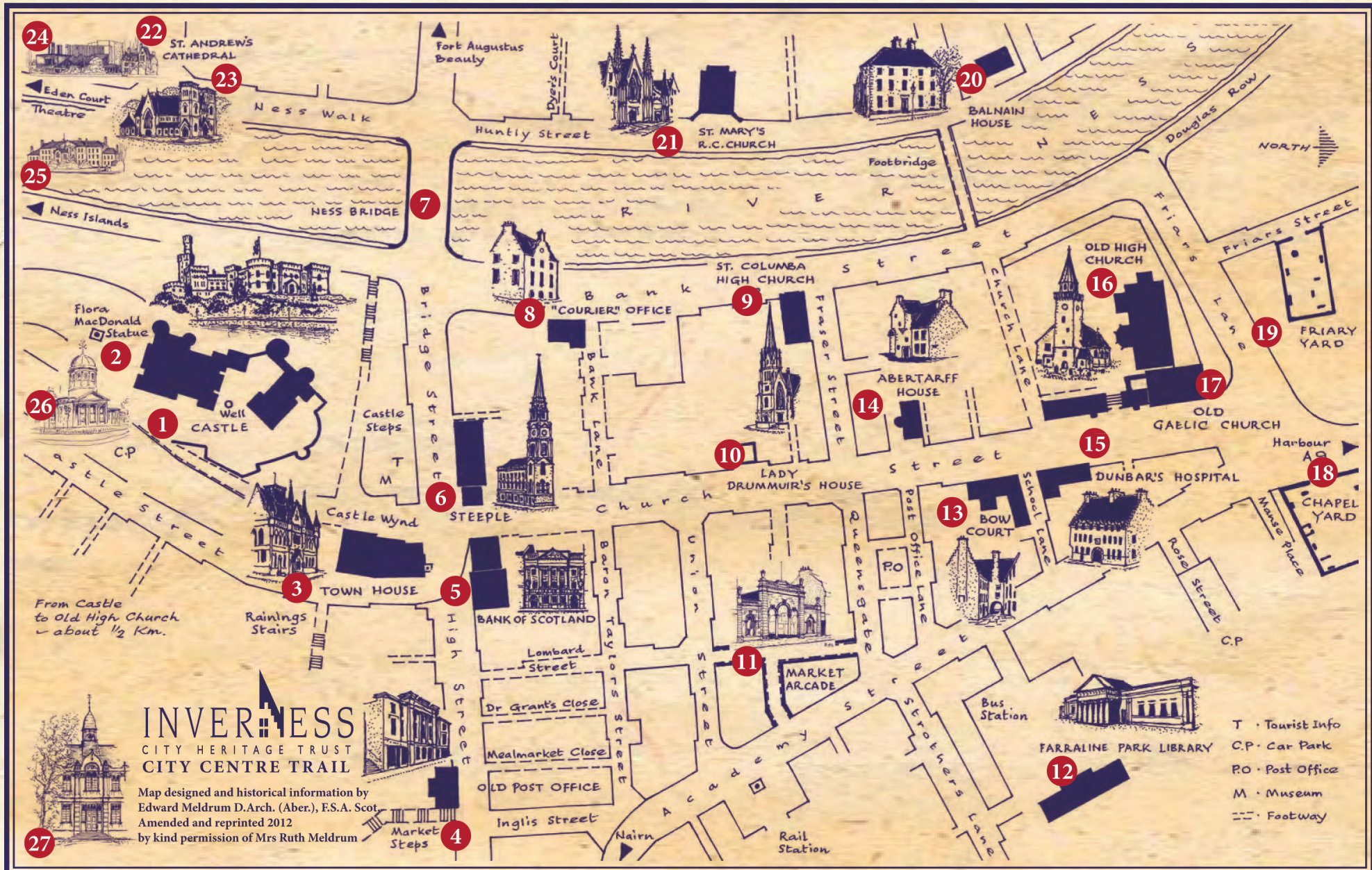


The built heritage is crucial to the well being of our community, our tourism industry and in attracting economic investment to the centre of Inverness. We want the Inverness City Heritage Trust to stimulate a dynamic urban environment where traditional and contemporary co-exist: a confident and creative Inverness, where cultural heritage is appreciated and enjoyed by locals and visitors alike.

Inverness City Heritage Trust is an independent charitable company limited by guarantee. The Trust's main aim is to take a strategic view of the repair and maintenance needs of the buildings forming the historic core of the city and to coordinate a programme of conservation work funded by grant assistance. It also gives advice to building owners, produces publications and helps to organise events and exhibitions for people interested in the history of buildings and architecture in Inverness.

## CITY CENTRE TRAIL





## 1 THE CASTLE OF INVERNESS

It is believed that there has been a fortified building on this site from the reign of Malcolm 3rd (1057) though no stone fortification appears to antedate 1412 after the Lord of the Isles had sacked both castle and town when Alexander Stewart, Earl of Mar, became Governor. In 1508 Alexander Gordon, Earl of Huntly, was made hereditary Sheriff of Inverness and built a great stone tower house which was besieged and captured by Mary Queen of Scots' army in 1562, when the Constable, Alistair Gordon, was hanged for treason.

After the first Jacobite Rising of 1715, the mediaeval castle was repaired and a new barracks and outer wall added by General Wade to become the first Fort George. In the 1745 Rising, Prince Charles' Jacobite army destroyed the old castle and Hanovarian fort. The ruins remained until 1834, when the present Castle was built as the Sheriff Court House by architect William Burn of Edinburgh. The north block (District Court) originally the Jail by architect Thomas Brown Jun., was added in 1846-8.

## 2 FLORA MACDONALD STATUE

The statue of the Jacobite heroine, Flora Macdonald, by Andrew Davidson, the Inverness sculptor, was erected in 1899, with inscriptions in the Gaelic and English. It was provided at the expense of Captain J. Henderson MacDonald of Caskieben, Aberdeenshire, and of the 78th Highlanders.

## 3 THE TOWN HOUSE

An ornate Victorian edifice dating from 1876-82 by architects Matthews and Lawrie. South extension of 1904 is by architect James R Rhind. The Council Chamber was the scene of an historic Cabinet Meeting, under Prime Minister Lloyd George – September 1921. The Market Cross was restored in 1900 by J Hinton Gall to replace an older Cross. Now incorporated, and almost hidden in the base of the Cross, is the Clachnacuddin Stone, the Highland Capital's stone of destiny which stood in the centre of High Street until road improvements in 1796.

## 4 THE OLD POST OFFICE (CUSTOMS HOUSE)

Originally built as a post office flanked by shops now a bank and shops, a severe Grecian design, with Ionic columns, has been attributed to the Aberdonian architect, Archibald Simpson. Dating from 1841-4, its classical frontage is now somewhat marred by modern shop fronts..

## 5 THE FORMER BANK OF SCOTLAND

A dignified and classical building with Corinthian columns and pediment with sculptured figures built as the head office of the Caledonian Bank in 1847 by architects Mackenzie and Matthews. At the Church Street corner, stands the Athenaeum, known as Geddes' Building when built in 1812. Its three-storey Georgian street front has unusual "decoration" on each side of the centre first floor window with biblical texts from the New Testament inscribed in the stonework, this floor having been a meeting hall at one time. Upper floors converted into flats. The property is on ground said to have been owned by the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem

## 6 THE TOLBOOTH STEEPLE

A striking and dominant landmark in the Invernessian townscape, the tower and elegant spire dating from 1789-92. The design was by architect and builder Alexander Laing and built by Alexander Stevens. The Steeple, 150 feet (47.3m) high, was damaged by the severe earthquake of 1816, and repaired.

Adjacent to the Steeple is a well-proportioned Georgian-style building (originally the Old Court House and Jail, built in 1789 – Alexander Laing) with its frontage rebuilt in 1853 forming shops, its Upper floors more recently converted into flats.

## 7 NESS BRIDGE

The present structure by engineer Sir Murdoch Macdonald and Partners was built in 1959-61 replacing the Suspension Bridge which in turn in 1855 replaced the famous stone bridge of Inverness, built 1681-5 with its seven arches and ports (gatehouses) at each end, swept away by the 1849 spate..

## 8 THE COURIER OFFICE

Built in 1804 for the Bank of Scotland by John Fraser, Bank of Scotland Agent, this building was from 1838 till 2002, the office and printing house of the "Inverness Courier" – the principal local newspaper since 1817.

## 9 ST. COLUMBA HIGH CHURCH

First known as the Free High Church built in 1852 by architects Mackenzie and Matthews. Its fine Gothic spire is an attractive riverside feature.

## 10 LADY DRUMMUIR'S HOUSE

It stood at No 45 Church Street, but only basement cellars and remnants of Prince Charles' stables at the back exist of the original house demolished in 1843. In 1746, the Prince lodged here before Culloden and Cumberland after the battle. Lady Drummur, widow of Lachlan, 20th

Mackintosh of Mackintosh, later commented: "I've had two kings' bairns living with me in my time and to tell you the truth, I wish I may never have another".

## 11 MARKET ARCADE VICTORIAN MARKET

This covered-in shopping parade linking four main streets was built in 1870 and restored in 1890 after fire damage. The triple arched entrance on Academy Street is a William Lawrie design.

## 12 FARRALINE PARK LIBRARY

Built 1839-41 as Dr. Bell's Institute by architect William Robertson of Elgin, this is an excellent example of Greek revival architecture with Doric columns and pediment. Considered the best classical building in Inverness, it ceased as a school in 1937 and is now the Public Library.

## 13 BOW COURT

A very fine example of Scottish burgh street architecture, its reconstruction of 1972 is by William Glashan. Originally dating from late 17th century, this house was the residence of the Rector of the Grammar School in 18th century. The Trades Hall wing which was gifted by Katherine Duff, Lady Drummur to the Six Incorporated Trades: Wrights, Weavers, Fleshers, Shoemakers, Tailors and Hammermen, and to the Masons of Inverness contains a coat of arms panel dated 1729 and the motto "Kind Heart Be True And You Shall Never Rue".

## 14 ABERTARFF HOUSE

Restored by the National Trust for Scotland in 1966, this sturdy old town lodging, with its corbie-steps and circular stair tower, is late 16th century – dated 1593 on tower skewputt, with initials "AS – HP", which may refer to the Schives family as the builders. At the time, the house belonged to the Warrands of Warrandfield and later to Colonel Archibald Fraser of Lovat, son of Old Lovat of the '45. After the Colonel's death in 1816, the house passed with the estate of Abertarff, to a favourite grandson.

## 15 DUNBAR'S HOSPITAL

Dated 1668 on front and back dormer windows. The founder, Provost Alexander Dunbar of Barmuckety and Westfield, bequeathed the building in 1692 as a hospital for the poor. Later it became the Burgh Grammar School until 1792, when the first Inverness Royal Academy was built in Academy Street, thereafter becoming a public library. Interior now much altered to contain flats at upper levels and a shop and meeting space on the ground floor. Inscriptions on the front dormer pediments are: 1. "This poor man cried" (with

figure of a bedesman in cloak); 2. "And the Lord heard him and saved him outofhistryel"; 3. "Alittlethatarighteousmanhath is beter nor the"; 4. "Richis of manye wiked men"; 5. "Hie that giveth to the poor leneth to the"; 6. "Lord and Hie will paye them seaven tymys mor".

## 16 THE OLD HIGH CHURCH

The west bell tower with its stone vaults and wee spiral stair is part of the mediaeval St. Mary's Church of Inverness, and is 16th century whereas the spire and balustrade parapet are 17th century. The curfew bell, dated 1658, has been rung here every weekday evening at 8pm since 1720. The main church building, rebuilt 1769-75, was enlarged and altered in the late 19th century. The old parish church of St. Mary became a prison for Jacobites after Culloden when executions were carried out in the churchyard. The Inshes Mausoleum, an ornate example of a Renaissance tomb, is dated 1661: erected by Janet Sinclair of Ratter, wife of John Robertson of Inshes.

## 17 OLD GAELIC CHURCH

At the east end of the Old High Church is the first church for Gaelic worship built 1694, rebuilt 1702 and from 1792 became Greyfriars Free Church, now a second-hand bookshop and cafe.

## 18 CHAPEL YARD

Site of the pre-Reformation Chapel of St. Mary of the Green. Earliest tombstone dated 1604 and there are many fine sculptured burial monuments of local families – Mackintoshes of Holm, Frasers of Fairfield, and Inglis of Kingsmills.

## 19 FRIARY YARD

Site of a monastery founded for Dominican (Black) friars by Alexander 2nd in 1233. One octagonal pillar with springers remains of the church; site now a graveyard. Built into the south wall is a defaced grave slab reputed to be that of Alexander Stewart, Earl of Mar, the victor of Harlaw, who became Sheriff of Inverness, and died here in 1435.

## 20 BALNAIN HOUSE

An early Georgian mansion of about 1726, locally called "The Blue House" after 1825, when owned by Frasers of Balnain. The building once stood in its own grounds of 2 acres until 1880. It is now regional offices for the National Trust for Scotland.

## 21 ST. MARY'S R.C. CHURCH

Built in 1836-7 by architect William Robertson of Elgin. The buttressed and pinnacled façade is in Gothic Revival style. Inside is an interesting display of stained glass windows.

## 22 NORTHERN MEETING PARK

## PAVILION

The pavilion, built 1864-5 for The Northern Meeting, a society established in 1788 to encourage reconciliation in the aftermath of the battle of Culloden in 1746, is a fine example of a little-altered mid-19th century covered grandstand. Believed to be the World's oldest and first Highland Games Stadium.

## 23 ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL

This great church is the masterpiece of architect Alexander Ross who completed the work in 1869. The style is Victorian Gothic, the plan that of a mediaeval cathedral. The towers were to have spires; the choir was to have been longer.

## 24 EDEN COURT THEATRE

Nearby, incorporating the Bishop's Palace, built in 1875-8 by Ross as a mark of esteem by parishioners of Bishop John Eden for his work in building the Cathedral – is EDEN COURT THEATRE built 1973-9 by Law and Dunbar-Nasmith and extended in 2007 by PagePark. The complex includes a horse- shoe-shaped auditorium called The Empire after a former theatre, two cinemas La Scala and Playhouse named after former cinemas, a dance studio, theatre, Cafe, Bar and Restaurant. It is a hub of cultural activity in the city.

## 25 ROYAL NORTHERN INFIRMARY

A fine classical building originally built as a hospital to the designs of Banff architect, James Smith in 1799-1804 by private donations and public subscriptions. It now serves as the administrative headquarters of the University of the Highlands and Islands. The two-storey port-cochere (its upper floor once accommodating an operating theatre) and the Tweedmouth Memorial Chapel were added by architects Ross & Macbeth in 1896-8.

## 26 ARDKEEN TOWER

Previously known as the Observatory Building or the United Charities Building, it was built in 1834-6 to house the Inverness Juvenile Female School, the Ladies' Female Work Society and the Inverness Infant School, all of which were united as "The United Charities" which were formerly in Dunbar's Hospital. The dome was used as an observatory by a separate body. Ardkeen Tower was enlarged and converted into a dwellinghouse in 1902-6 by Alexander F. Mackenzie.

## 27 MIDMILLS BUILDING

Formerly Inverness Royal Academy by architects Ross & Macbeth built 1893-5 with additions in 1911-13 by architect Robert J. Macbeth and in 1968 by Inverness County Council.