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.
THE CASTLE OF INVERNESS
It is believed that there has been a fortified building on the site since the reign of Malcolm I (c.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 Murr, 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 in the Civil War in 1645. In 1652, 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 forces destroyed the old castle and Hanoverian 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.

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 state of Alexander Laing) with its frontage rebuilt in 1853 forming shops, its Upper floors more recently converted into flats.

INVERNESS MUSEUM
The present structure by engineer Sir Murdoch Macdonald and Partners was built in 1959-61 replacing the Suspension Bridge which in turn replaced the Glass or Yonie bridge of Inverness, built 1681-5 with its seven arches and port (gates/house) at each end, swept away by the 1849 spate.

THE COURIER OFFICE
Built in 1804 for the Bank of Scotland by John Fraser, Bank of Scotland Agent, this building was enlarged and converted into a dwellinghouse in 1834-6 to house the Inverness Juvenile Female Factory (operating theatre) and the Tweedmouth Memorial Chapel were added by architects Ross & Macbeth in 1869-70.

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 skewpurt, 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 Alexander Stewart, Earl of Mar, the victor of Harlaw, who became Sheriff of Inverness, and died here in 1845.

BALNAIS 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 where the present main building of the hospital stands. The octagonal tower was added in 1959 to the original building, the street end being taken down in 1921 and re-erected at the back of the site. It was then converted into a care home.

DUNBAR’S HOSPITAL
Dated 1668 on front and back dormer windows. The founder, Provost Alexander Dunbar of Barrmouth, built a large hospital 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 “to the poor man cryed” (with figure of a bedesman in cloak): “2. And the Lord heard him and saved him outofhisfayl”; “3. Al itelthy nghinneach that sayeth or the”; “4. Richis of manye wikkid men”; “5. Hie that giveth to the poor leneth to the”; “6. Lord and He vyll paye them seaven tymes more”.

EDEN COURT THEATRE
The Bell’s Church, now a second-hand bookshop and cafe. It is a hub of cultural activity in the city.

RoyaL Northern infirmary
A fine classical building originally built as a hospital to the designs of Banft 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.

BOW COURT
Previously known as the Observatory Building or Customs House.

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.

EDINBURGH HOUSE
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 of Edinburgh. The north block (District Court) was added in 1846-8.

THE FORMER BANK OF SCOTLAND
A dignified and classical building with Corinthian columns and pediment inscribed 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 Beaumont House, known as ‘Beaumont 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 Old Testament inscribed by the stone mason. 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.

HINTON GALL TO REPLACE AN OLDER CROSS
In 1681, Alistair Gordon, Earl of Huntly, was made a Knight of the Order of the Thistle. In 1683 he was created a Peer as Lord Hinton of Caskieben, Aberdeenshire, and of the 78th

FAIRYLAND HOUSE
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