

DOVECOTS OF EAST LoTHIAN

By D. C. Bailey and M. C. Tindall

THESE notes introduce a survey of the dovecots or *doocots* of East Lothian, a rich agricultural county where fine examples abound. Some were described in *A Book of Dovecots* by A. O. Cooke in 1920 and in the Royal Commission volume of 1924. The principal sources of information, however, are volumes III and V of the Transactions of the East Lothian Antiquarian and Naturalists' Society, published in 1938 and 1952, the latter study by Dr. Niven Robertson, the former based on field work by the naturalist Joseph Whitaker.

The present survey attempts to collate, check, bring up to date and add to these sources, in a few cases describing dovecots for the first time. Almost all the dovecots have been inspected. Incidentally this is a task which takes a great deal of time and has its own hazards of nettles, fleas and falling stones.

The dovecots of East Lothian as elsewhere provided fresh food in days before the development of feeding stuffs made it possible to keep all the livestock in winter. In early winter the older birds were eaten. The greatest delicacy, however, were the young unfledged birds, called *squabs* in England and *peesers* in Scotland, which were ready for eating very early, long before lambs and calves, providing the first excellent meal of the year.

The pigeons also gave good manure and, unlike poultry, largely looked after themselves, finding water and feeding off the fields. This added value to their owners and doubtless angered others. It is accordingly not surprising to find that dovecots played a part in social history, and that, in Scotland as elsewhere, the right to build was restricted by law or custom. An Act of 1503 required *lairds* to build dovecots. A further Act of 1617 limited building rights to owners of land of a certain value and lying within two miles of the dovecot.

The dovecots of East Lothian have long passed their period of intensive use. None are now farmed. Of those noted in the East Lothian Transactions twelve have gone. Of the remainder some

are ruined, some have lost nests or lanterns, some are blocked and some used for storage or other purposes.

Nevertheless at least sixty-two dovecots still stand, and many are in fair condition and retain large numbers of nests. Many have pigeons—types descended from the rock pigeon and described generally as dovecot pigeons or *doocot doos*—and some have quite large populations. This is in spite of the fact that pigeons are poisoned by the dressings now used on the fields.

The total of sixty-two is made up as follows:

<i>Beehives</i>	10
<i>Lecterns</i> : squares and double squares with one-way roofs	24
Other square, octagonal and cylindrical dovecots...	17
Dovecots in roofs and towers, at least	11

As will be noted the *lectern* type with one-way or leanto roof is the most common.

The *beehives* are believed to be the earliest type, belonging to the sixteenth century and before. The *lecterns* belong to the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Most of the other square, octagonal and cylindrical types appear, from their general form, to belong to the late seventeenth, eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

The *beehives*, so called because of their shape, include Congalton, Dirleton (fig. 3), Dolphingstone, Drylawhill (fig. 2), Luffness A, Meikle Pinkerton, Nunraw (fig. 5), Phantassie (fig. 4), Prestonpans Northfield (figs. 18, 20) and Waughton. A typical *beehive* has massive walls tapering upwards, a flattish domed roof covered with stone slabs or *Forfar slates*, and a circular opening in the centre of the roof through which the pigeons enter. Variations include a conical roof and dormer at Drylawhill and a one-way roof with entry holes at the eaves at Phantassie: in these and other cases the present roofs and upper storeys may have replaced original domed roofs.

The *lecterns* include twelve single and twelve double-chambered examples. The single chambered and approximately square dovecots are at Athelstanford (fig. 7), East Fortune, Fountainhall, Haddington Crocegate, Humbie, North Berwick Lodge, Pen-

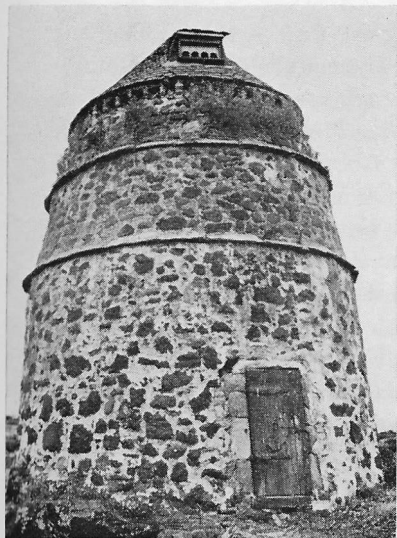


FIG. 2. Drylawhill.

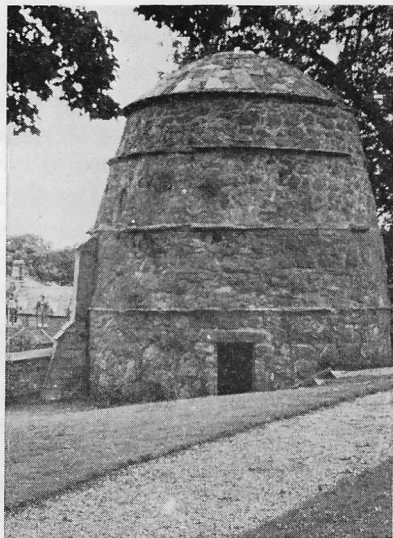


FIG. 3. Dirleton.



FIG. 4. Phantassie.

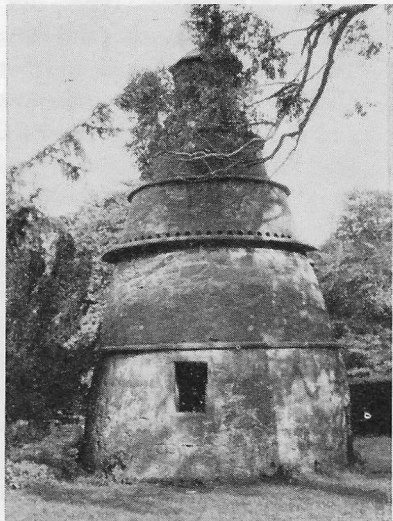


FIG. 5. Nunraw.

caitland, Pilmuir (fig. 6), Preston Tower (figs. 1, 17), St. Clement Wells (fig. 9), Saltcoats (fig. 8) and Tranent Church. The double-chambered and usually double-square dovecots are at Belton, Biel, Bourhouse, Herdmanston (fig. 11), Johnstounburn (fig. 10), Letham, Newbyth, North Berwick Abbey, Redhouse, Ruchlaw, Spott and Tantallon. The distinctive feature is the roof, which slopes only in one direction, almost always to the south. Gables, frequently crowstepped, follow the line of the roof, and entry holes for the pigeons are normally arranged in a row across the roof mid-way up.

The other square, octagonal and cylindrical dovecots include the square dovecots at Huntington (fig. 13), Luffness B, Saltoun and Thurston; the octagonal dovecot at Keith Marischal (fig. 12); and the cylindrical dovecots at Bolton, Colstoun (fig. 26), Elvingston, Haddington Lady Kitty's Garden (fig. 14), Heugh (fig. 15), Ormiston, Rockville, St. Germain's (figs. 21, 22) and Whitburgh. Heugh is the most unusual, combining a cylindrical form with a stepped parapet: unfortunately it is now roofed with a flat concrete slab.

Apart from these types, and from the many dovecots in roofs and towers of churches and farms, there are old square dovecots at Bankton, Castle Mains and Newton Hall which are difficult to classify. Bankton has a one-way roof but this slopes to the north and is enclosed by the walls; Castle Mains is roofless; Newton Hall formerly had a two-way roof.

Beehives are found also in parts of England, and probably in other countries, since this is a natural construction wherever stone is plentiful. Square, octagonal and cylindrical dovecots are certainly widespread. *Lecterns*, however, appear to be at least rare in England and the north of France. In the southern part of France, on the other hand, this is said to be the dominant type (figs. 23-25). The similarity of the *lecterns* in Scotland and France, already noted by A. O. Cooke, is striking, extending even to the entry holes mid-way up the roof.

In almost all the dovecots, of whatever type, walls are of random rubble with dressings. On some walls there are remains of roughcast or *harling*. Whitburgh is whitewashed. Phantassie has recently been colourwashed.

String courses, usually projecting, are a general feature. Traditionally these kept rats from climbing to windows and entry holes. They are of dressed stone, and probably act also as promenades for the pigeons and as bonding courses in the rubble construction.

Doors are small. It is usually necessary to stoop on entering, so blocking the opening and making it impossible for pigeons to fly out.

Floors are frequently below the level of thresholds. At Tantallon there are some stone slabs, but most floors are covered with debris, and it is difficult to determine the construction.

Windows, if there are any, are small and seldom glazed. Usually they are only slits or round holes, barred to prevent entry, and splayed inwards to increase light. They give more light than might be expected, and, of course, improve ventilation.

Entry for pigeons, in the case of *beehive*, cylindrical and octagonal dovecots, is usually through an opening in the centre of the roof, often with an open lantern or *glover* over. There are still trapdoors or shutters under the openings at Keith Marischal and Saltoun.

Entry for pigeons, in the case of *lecterns*, and as already noted, is usually through a row of holes mid-way up the roof. These holes are small openings with semi-circular tops cut into a wooden board which breaks the slope of the roof.

Other arrangements of entry holes are in rows or slits or grids in the walls, or in wooden panels or doors, always on the southerly side.

Nests are made of stone, or brick and tile, or wood. They are arranged in a simple grid of horizontals and verticals, a typical nest being 8 by 8 by 15 inches deep, and of uniform section (figs. 20-22). In England, on the other hand, nests usually have a narrow mouth and broaden inside, taking the form of an "L". In some dovecots there are considerable variations in the sizes of nests.

Access to nests, where these are too high to be reached from the floor, is by means of ladders of various design (figs. 19, 21, 22). Many remain, some in working order. The best known type, derived from France and used also in England, is the *potence ladder*.

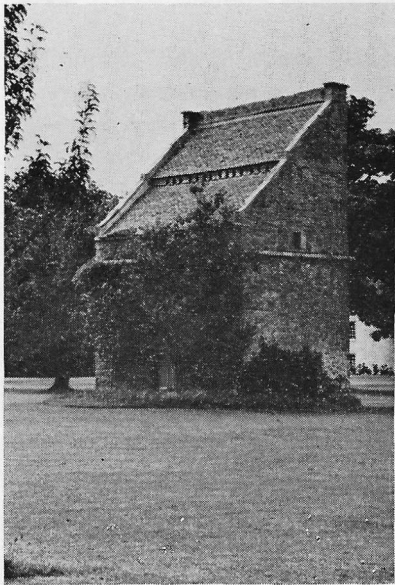


FIG. 6. Pilmuir.

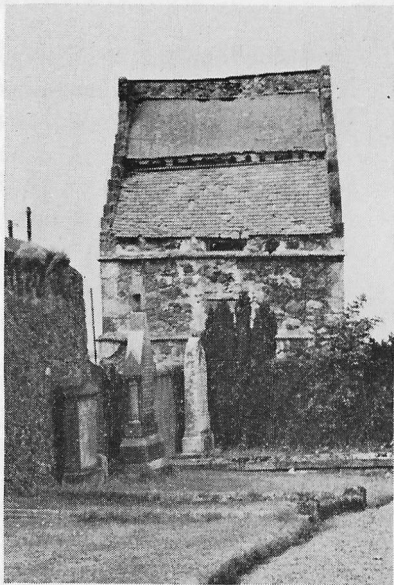


FIG. 7. Athelstaneford.



FIG. 8. Saltcoats.

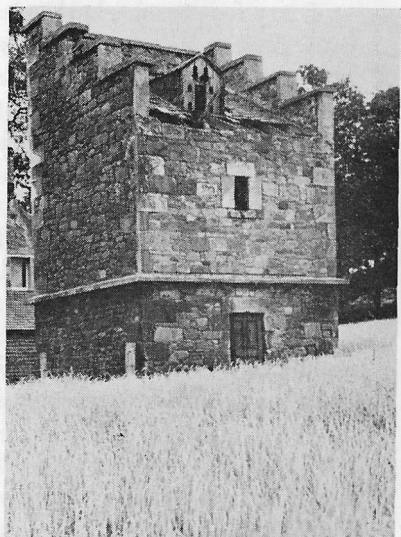


FIG. 9. St. Clement Wells.

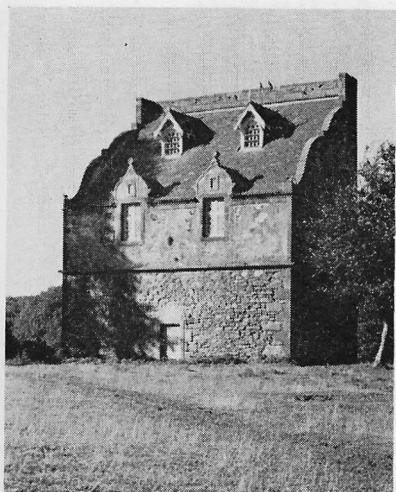


FIG. 10. Johnstounburn.



FIG. 11. Herdmanston.

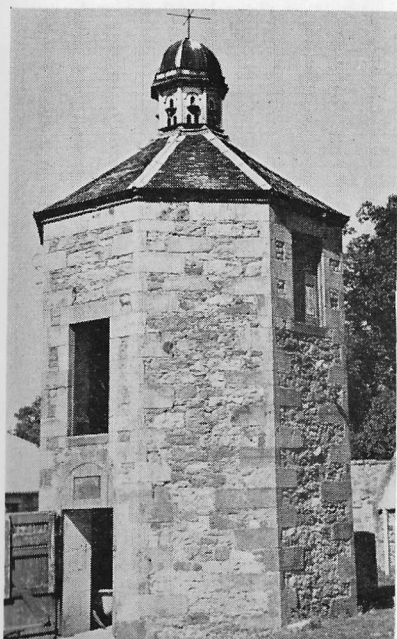


FIG. 12. Keith Marischal.



FIG. 13. Huntington.

This consists of one or two ladders fixed to arms, called *potences* from the French word for gallows, which project from an upright post or *arbre* in the middle of the dovecot. The post revolves on a metal pin. An alternative form of access consists of horizontal rails fixed to a central revolving post.

Revolving ladders remain in square as well as in round dovecots. In the former case this probably limited the length and breadth since, beyond a certain size, it was impossible to reach corner nests. Incidentally this explains the common double plans where two square chambers, each of a convenient size for a revolving ladder, were built in preference to a single very large chamber. At Spott *potence* ladders remain in both chambers.

The dovecots, with or without pigeons but best of all with them, play an important part in the landscape of East Lothian. Massive *beehives* and *lecterns*, elegant cylinders and octagons, all add to the scene. What is more, the interiors are often of the greatest beauty, a product of the volume enclosed, of the calm repetition of nests, and of glancing light from the roof or window slits.

This importance has been appreciated to some extent. Some dovecots, public and private, are well maintained. Dirleton, Hailes and Tantallon are looked after by the Ministry of Works, Phantassie has been given to the National Trust for Scotland, and Prestonpans Northfield has been bought by the County Council. There is hope now of wider agreements for repair and preservation.

It remains to thank those who have helped in the present survey, in particular the East Lothian Antiquarian and Field Naturalists' Society, the Scottish National Buildings Record, and the Planning Department of the East Lothian County Council for assistance, information and photographs; Mr. Tom Scott for photographs of interiors; Mr. W. Schomberg Scott for drawings on which the illustrations of Prestonpans Northfield and Preston Tower have been based; Mr. Colin Osman for advice on management of dovecots; Dr. James Richardson for advice generally, and many owners who have helped by giving access to dovecots and by sending information in response to the Society's appeal.

SURVEY

- ⊙ *Beehives*
- Square dovecots
- ◻ ◻ ◻ *Lecterns*: Squares and double squares with one-way roofs
- △ Octagonal dovecots
- Cylindrical dovecots
- T Dovecots in roofs and towers

T **Aberlady** Church 461798 national grid. In the third storey of the tower there is a dovecot, reached by a trapdoor, with four entry holes for pigeons in a vertical slit in the south wall; ledges to the top two holes; wooden nests formerly; pigeons.

◻ **Athelstaneford** 533774 (fig. 7). To the north of the churchyard there is a square *lectern* 15 feet 6 inches by 15 feet 9 inches with one-way slate roof and crowstepped gables; random rubble walls 3 feet 6 inches thick, partly harled, with dressings and two stringcourses; door 4 feet 4 inches by 2 feet 6 inches with a wooden lock; inscription over the doorway "C.H.1583"; window in the south wall 18 by 12 inches with holes for bars; 14 entry holes in a row midway up the roof, also remains of three in an opening in the south wall below the eaves; once perhaps 600 nests but only 52 remain, made of bricks and tiles, 9 inches high by 12 inches deep; ruined inside; no pigeons.

□ **Bankton** 394734. Attached to farm buildings near the mansion there is a dovecot in the upper part of a square building 19 feet 11 inches by 19 feet 1 inch with one-way pantiled roof sloping north; random rubble walls 22 inches thick with dressings and stringcourse; two doors, one on the outside 5 feet 5 inches by 2 feet 7 inches approached by a ramp, the other 5 feet 2 inches by 3 feet 3 inches opening from the adjoining roof space; no entry holes or windows but evidence of a former opening in the south wall; 423 stone nests, once 660, 9½ by 9½ by 11½ inches deep; fair repair; no longer used as a dovecot.

◻◻ **Belton** 645768. In a wood some way from the mansion there is a double *lectern* 34 feet 5 inches by 18 feet 3 inches with

crowstepped gables and one-way roof now covered with corrugated iron; random rubble walls 3 feet 8 inches thick, partly harled, with dressings and stringcourse; one door only, 5 feet by 2 feet 8 inches, opening into a lobby from which the chambers are entered; modern window; 13 entry holes, once 26, in a row mid-way up the roof; stone nests 8 inches high by 9 inches wide by 11 inches deep, once about 1,375, but those in the lefthand chamber have been filled in; fair repair; no pigeons.

□ □ **Biel** 639759. In a field at some distance from the mansion there is a double *lectern* 39 feet 3 inches by 20 feet with one-way slate roof and crowstepped gables and division between the chambers; random rubble walls with rough dressings, plinth, and two stringcourses, the second lining with the eaves; two doors 5 feet 6 inches by 3 feet with strap hinges and relieving arches; two small round windows about 12 inches in diameter splayed inwards; 24 entry holes in a row mid-way up the roofs; potence ladder in the left-hand chamber; large number of stone nests 8 inches high by 7 inches wide by 13 inches deep with 2-inch ledges; ruined; no pigeons.

○ **Bolton** 507701. Attached to farm buildings there is a cylindrical dovecot with a conical slate roof surmounted by a fine wooden glover; random rubble walls with dressings and stringcourse; door 5 feet 8 inches by 2 feet 6 inches now nailed shut; no windows; entry for pigeons by the glover; last record is of 710 nests 8 inches high by 7 inches wide by 15 inches deep; fair repair; pigeons.

□ □ **Bourhouse** 668767. In the middle of a field there is a double *lectern* with one-way slate roof, crowstepped gables and division between the chambers; remains of stone ball ornaments on the rear parapet; rubble walls, partly harled, with dressings and stringcourse; two large arched doorways, presumably made in order to use the lower part of the building as a stable; four barred windows, two above the doorways but below the stringcourse, two in the gables; remains of 34 entry holes in a row mid-way up



FIG. 15. Heugh.

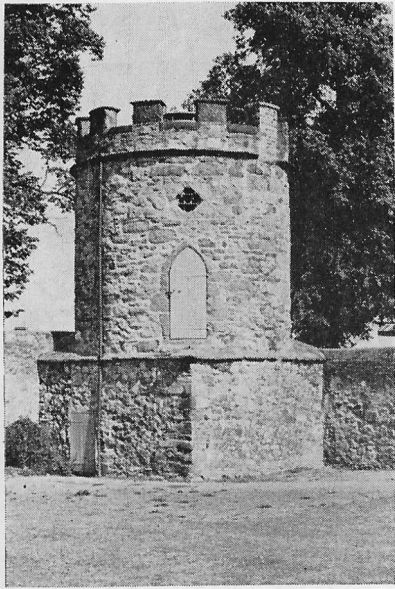


FIG. 14. Haddington, *Lady Kitty's Garden*.



FIG. 16. Tynninghame.

the roof; stone nests 9 by 9 by 15 inches, said to have been originally 1,402; fair repair; pigeons.

□ **Castle Mains** 557664. In a field at some distance from the farm there is a square dovecot 19 by 19 feet, now roofless, with walls of about equal height all round; random rubble 2 feet 11 inches thick with dressings and stringcourse; doorway 4 feet 6 inches by 2 feet 3 inches; no windows; no remaining entry holes; many stone nests, originally about 850, 7 inches high by 9 to 11 inches wide by 13 inches deep; ruined; no pigeons.

○ **Coulstoun** 513710 (fig. 26). Attached to buildings near the mansion there is a cylindrical dovecot with conical roof surmounted by a Glover; dressed stone wall 2 feet 4 inches thick partly harled; door 4 feet 11 inches by 2 feet 10 inches with wooden lock; no windows; 5 entry holes in an opening in the wall above the stringcourse, and 16 in the Glover; 468 nests $8\frac{1}{2}$ by $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches by 11 inches deep; well preserved potence ladder; good repair; pigeons.

⊙ **Congalton** 541801. In a market garden there is a *beehive* 55 feet outside circumference near the ground with flattish domed roof covered with small stone slabs and once surmounted by a brick and timber Glover; random rubble walls 3 feet thick, partly harled, with dressings and stringcourse; doorway about 5 feet by 2 feet 3 inches; gap in the wall below the eaves, possibly once a window; entry for pigeons through an opening in the centre of the roof, and by six holes at the eaves; more than 700 stone nests 7 by 7 by 13 inches deep; ruined; no pigeons; used as a pigsty until the recent collapse of part of the roof.

⊙ **Dirleton** 515840 (fig. 3). In the boundary wall of the Castle there is a large *beehive* with flattish domed roof covered with stone slabs; random rubble walls 3 feet 6 inches thick with dressings and three stringcourses; buttresses added; doorway 4 feet 6 inches by 2 feet 4 inches; sunk floor; no windows; entry for pigeons through an opening in the centre of the floor; 1,100 stone nests in 25 rows 7 by 7 by 15 inches deep with 3-inch ledges; good repair; pigeons.

⊙ **Dolphingstone** 382727. In a field to the south of the main road there is a *beehive* with flattish domed roof covered with stone slabs; random rubble wall, partly harled, with two stringcourses; entry for pigeons through an opening in the centre of the roof; two other openings in the wall about two feet square; no nests remain; fair repair; no pigeons.

⊙ **Drylawhill** 585780 (fig. 2). Near East Linton, standing in the open on an outcrop of rock, there is a *beehive* 56 feet outside circumference near the ground with conical slate roof and wooden dormer; random rubble walls 4 feet thick with dressings and two stringcourses; ironclad door 4 feet 11 inches by 2 feet 4 inches; no windows; four entry holes in the dormer and thirteen, with brick divisions, in a row under the eaves; about 570 stone nests, some rebuilt in brick, 8 inches high by 6 inches wide by 16 inches deep; good repair; pigeons.

⊥ **Dunbar Friars Croft** 677787. In a field in the town there is a dovecot formed in a tower, 27 by 12 feet, all that remains of the monastery; single chamber extending from the ground to the upper roof; random rubble walls with one stringcourse; door 4 feet 6 inches by 2 feet; window in the lower wall about 24 by 18 inches, window in the upper wall about 15 inches square; four entry holes below the eaves of the upper roof, once also six in a row mid-way up the lower roof; about 200 nests 10 by 10 by 14 to 16 inches deep cut at random in the walls; potence ladder in the upper part; good repair; pigeons.

⊠ **East Fortune** 547793. At the roadside, now freestanding but once part of a range of buildings, there is a dovecot in the upper part of a *lectern* 16 by 19 feet with one-way slate roof and plain sloping gables; stone ball ornaments, weathervane and socket on the rear parapet; random rubble walls about 2 feet thick with dressings; no stringcourse; door to the dovecot treated in Palladian manner; one window 25 by 19 inches checked for frame and splayed inwards; six entry holes in a row mid-way up the roof, once possibly more; 348 nests made of bricks and tiles; thirty-five large recesses in the lower storey 15 by 15 by 14 inches

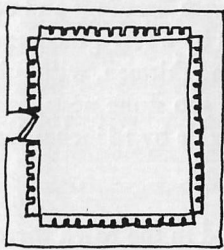
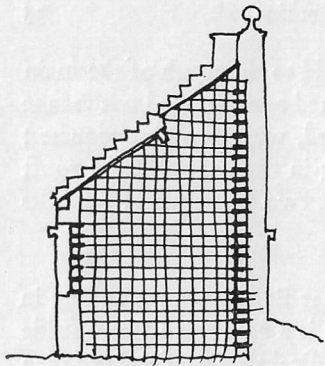


FIG. 17. Preston Tower:
Plan and section.

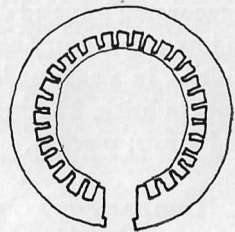
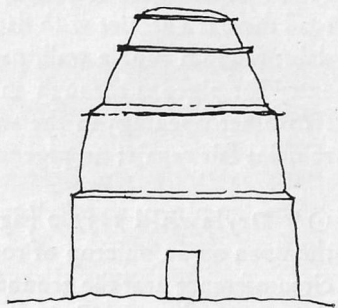


FIG. 18. Prestonpans
Northfield plan and section.

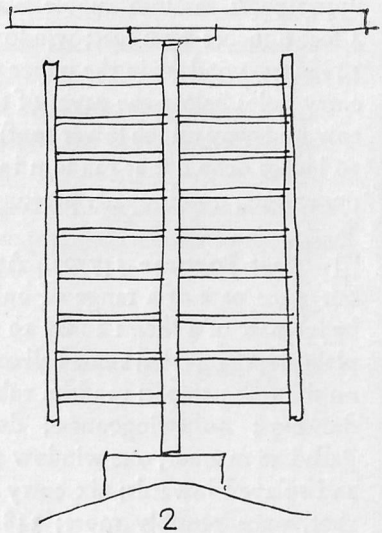
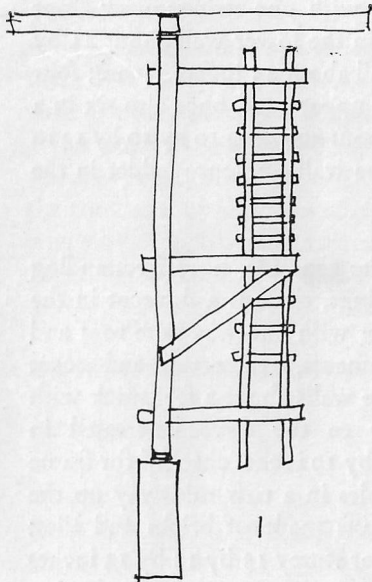


FIG. 19. Revolving Ladders.

deep, probably for hens; good repair outside, poor inside; many pigeons.

○ **Elvingston** 461745. Near the mansion there is a cylindrical dovecot with a dressed stone wall 2 feet 9 inches thick with one stringcourse and battlemented top; roof hidden but glover stands out; door 4 feet 6 inches by 2 feet 6 inches; two small round windows above first and second stringcourses; entry for pigeons through the glover; 764 nests in twenty-five rows 8 by 8 by 12 inches; revolving ladder; good repair; no pigeons seen.

□ **Fountainhall** 428677. Near the mansion, in a range of out-buildings, there is an almost square *lectern* 20 feet 3 inches by 18 feet, now roofless, once with one-way roof; crowstepped gables; coursed rubble walls with dressings and one stringcourse; low door and evidence of an opening over; no remaining entry holes; a few stone nests 7 inches high by 8 inches wide by 10 to 12 inches deep out of an original total of about 500; ruined; no pigeons.

□ **Haddington Crocegate** 513737. In a garden behind 45 High Street, facing the Butts, there is a square *lectern* about 12 feet each way with one-way slate roof and remains of stone ball ornaments and weathervane; random rubble walls 21 inches thick with one stringcourse; modern doorway and window; no remaining holes or nests; fair repair; not used as a dovecot.

○ **Haddington Lady Kitty's garden** 518737 (fig. 14). In a corner of the public garden near Nungate Bridge there is a cylindrical dovecot in the upper part of a pavilion with squared base joined to the walls of the garden; random rubble walls with battlemented top partly repaired in brick; conical slate roof surmounted by a wooden glover; remains of water spouts; arched doorway to the dovecot 7 feet by 2 feet 9 inches with quatrefoil opening over; two other similar but blind groups of arched recesses and quatrefoils around the walls; domed stone floor; entry for pigeons by the glover and by five holes in the quatrefoil over the door; 568 nests,

built of stone and of brick, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches high by $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide by 12 inches deep; good repair; pigeons.

T **Hailes** Castle 575758. In the east tower there are 305 stone nests 10 inches high by 8 to 9 inches wide by 10 inches deep, the nests starting 6 feet above the floor and being formed generally, not of separate horizontals and verticals, but by hollowing out stones; roofless; no pigeons.

T **Harelaw** 451767. Over the entry to a *steading* yard there is a dovecot in a roof entered from the adjoining building by a high level door 4 feet 7 inches by 2 feet 9 inches; blind window in front; coursed rubble walls with dressings; no stringcourse; pointed slate roof and weathervane; thirty-two entry holes in four groups of eight around the roof mid-way up; 824 nests, made of bricks and tiles, 10 inches high by $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide by 11 inches deep; good repair; pigeons.

◻◻ **Herdmanston** 471699 (fig. 11). Beside the River Tyne, on the opposite side to the mansion, there is a double *lectern* 35 feet by 18 feet 9 inches with one-way slate roof, two dormers and crow-stepped gables; remains of stone ball ornaments on the rear parapet; random rubble walls 3 feet thick with dressings and two stringcourses; coat of arms on the south wall with remains of date 1669; dividing wall not carried above roof; two doorways each 5 feet by 2 feet 9 inches; one window about 24 by 12 inches, possibly once a window in other chamber also; formerly twelve or seventeen entry holes in each dormer, now ruined, also an entry hole and ledge in the wall of the left-hand chamber; large numbers of stone nests, once about 2,000, 9 inches high by 8 inches wide by 14 inches deep; remains of revolving ladders in both chambers; ruined; pigeons.

○ **Heugh** 562842 (fig. 15). On the east side of North Berwick Law, now surrounded by poultry runs, there is a cylindrical dovecot 48 feet 6 inches outside circumference; random rubble wall 3 feet thick, partly harled and once whitewashed, carried above the roof and finished with a stepped parapet descending from north to

south; original roof replaced by flat concrete; door 4 feet 1 inch by 2 feet 5 inches; no windows; sixteen entry holes in a stone and brick grid on the south side; 587 nests, made of stone and brick, 10½ inches high by 7 inches wide by 13 inches deep; one string-course; fair repair; pigeons.

□ **Humbie** 461639. Near the churchyard and at some distance from the manse, there is a large *lectern* 25 by 25 feet, now roofless, once with a one-way roof; plain sloping gables; random rubble walls 2 feet 2 inches thick with dressings and one stringcourse; two doors, each 6 feet by 2 feet 10 inches, one to a store built inside the dovecot; evidence of a window, now filled in, to the right of the right-hand door; no remaining entry holes or nests; ruined; no pigeons.

□ **Huntington** 485749 (fig. 13). In the park, near the mansion, there is a dovecot in the upper part of a square pavilion with pedimented roof and stone ornaments; dressed stone and rendered brick walls 2 feet thick with stringcourse between lower and upper parts; floor covered with 4 feet of droppings, said to have accumulated in seven years since last cleared out; blind arched recesses, no windows; thirteen entry holes in one of the pediments; 151 nests now visible, out of a reported original total of 262, made of bricks and tiles, 10 inches high by 9 inches wide by 10 inches deep with 3 inch ledges; fair repair; pigeons.

□□ **Johnstounburn** 460617 (fig. 10). In the park near the mansion there is a double *lectern* 29 feet by 19 feet 3 inches with one-way slate roof, two dormers, and shaped gables with ornamental lead pigeons on the parapets; random rubble walls 2 feet 7 inches thick with dressings and one stringcourse; inscription JB 1730; only one door 4 feet 8 inches by 2 feet 6 inches, with relieving arch, opening into a space between the chambers; unusual plan, the chambers being separated by a central stone cylinder with nests all round; two glazed half dormers in the south wall with diamond-shaped panes; thirty entry holes, fifteen in each dormer; about 2,000 stone nests 9 inches high by 8 inches wide by 12 inches deep; good repair; pigeons.

△ **Keith Marischal** 450643 (fig. 12). In the middle of a steading yard there is a dovecot in the upper part of an octagonal pavilion with pointed slate roof surmounted by a domed glover and weathervane; random rubble walls with dressings; no string-course; full-size door; two large windows, now boarded up; small holes near the floor; twelve entry holes in the glover in four groups of three; trapdoor, controlled by a rope, to the opening in the ceiling under the glover; once wooden nests but these were removed a few years ago; potence ladder; good repair; no pigeons.

◻◻ **Letham** 495735. In the middle of a field at some distance from the mansion there is a double *lectern* 30 feet 6 inches by 15 feet with one-way slate roof, crowstepped gables and dividing wall between the chambers; remains of stone ball ornaments on the rear parapet; random rubble walls with dressings and one string-course; two doors 4 feet 6 inches high; evidence of openings over both doors; remains of entry holes in a row mid-way up the roof; said to have been 1,292 nests 9 inches high by 8 inches wide by 12 inches deep, many now gone; ruined; pigeons.

⊙ **Luffness A** 476805. Near the entrance to the grounds there is a *beehive* with flattish domed roof and stone glover; random rubble walls 3 feet thick with two stringcourses; door 4 feet 10 inches by 2 feet 4 inches; no windows; entry for pigeons through the glover; nests and centre shaft of potence ladder visible through the door; 500 nests when last inspected, 7½ inches high by 14 inches deep; fair repair; pigeons.

◻ **Luffness B** 475803. In a field to the south of the mansion there is a tall square water tower 7 feet 10 inches each way, now with a large population of pigeons, and said once to have had nests, but none remain.

⊙ **Meikle Pinkerton** 702757. On high ground to the south-east of Dunbar, in a garden beside a farm, there is a *beehive* 67 feet outside circumference with conical slate roof and weathervane; coursed rubble wall 5 feet thick, partly harled; sunk floor; door 4 feet 6 inches by 3 feet 3 inches; one window about 20 inches

square; twenty-one entry holes in a row below the eaves on the south side; about 750 stone nests, some filled in, $8\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 inches high by 8 inches wide; potence ladder; fair repair; pigeons.

◻◻ **Newbyth** 588799. In the park at some distance from the mansion there is a double *lectern* 24 feet 6 inches by 17 feet 1 inch with one-way slate roof and plain sloping gables; random rubble walls 3 feet thick with dressings and remains of pebbledash; two stringcourses; two doorways 4 feet 8 inches by 2 feet 6 inches; two small round windows 12 inch diameter in the south wall over the doors, and two of about 24 inch diameter in the gables with frames for mesh; sixteen entry holes in pairs in a row mid-way up the roof; about 950 nests 8 inches high by 9 inches wide by 12 inches deep, mostly of stone but some of brick; one wall of stone nests replaced by wood; fair repair; pigeons.

◻ **Newton Hall** 521652. In the 1938 Transactions there is a record of an almost square dovecot with a two-way roof covered with stone slabs, twenty-one entry holes, and 822 nests 9 by 9 by 15 inches. This dovecot has not been inspected. It is understood that it has been re-roofed and converted into a garage but that some nests remain.

◻◻ **North Berwick Abbey** 549849. In a public park, once the grounds of the Abbey, there is a double *lectern* 31 feet 9 inches by 16 feet 3 inches with one-way stone slabbed roofs and large stepped gables; random rubble walls 3 feet 10 inches, partly harled, with dressings and two stringcourses at each of which the walls set back; engraving of the abbey on a stone at the north-east corner; two doorways each 4 feet 10 inches by 2 feet 1 inch with relieving arches over; no windows; entry for pigeons through openings in both roofs and in the stone vaulted ceilings under, once perhaps covered by wooden dormers; 1,187 stone nests 9 inches high by 8 inches wide by 12 inches deep; fair repair; pigeons. The interest of this dovecot lies in the large stepped gables and the use of stone vaults under one-way roofs, features found only in a few other dovecots in East Lothian. Tantallon has both features and is altogether similar to the Abbey.

□ **North Berwick Lodge** 555852. In the grounds of the Lodge there is a dovecot in the upper part of a small square *lectern* 9 feet 6 inches each way with one-way slate roof and large stepped gables; random rubble walls, partly harled; no stringcourse; door high up in the east wall 2 feet 11 inches by 2 feet 1 inch; window in the west wall 3 feet 3 inches by 2 feet 1 inch; entry holes in a projecting feature in the south wall 34 by 14 inches, formed by four flat slabs, and once fitted with a double shutter; 134 nests 8 by 8 by 12 inches deep made of stone and brick; fair repair; no pigeons. The arrangement of entry holes noted above occurs also in France.

⊙ **Nunraw** 597707 (fig. 5). Near the mansion there is a *beehive* 57 feet 3 inches in outside circumference near the ground, setting back in stages like a pagoda, and surmounted by a stone glover; wall 5 feet thick at ground level, built in four stages, the first and second stages being of random rubble, and the third and fourth stages of dressed stone; four stringcourses; door 4 feet 4 inches high by 2 feet 5 inches with relieving arch; sunk floor; window 35 by 22 inches; entry for pigeons through the glover and by twenty-four entry holes, cut in a line in the wall, with a broad stone ledge; stone nests, apparently complete and said to number 450, 9 by 9 by 12 inches; fair repair; used as storehouse. Probably this was once a typical *beehive*, and the domed roof has collapsed and been replaced by the upper stages of masonry.

○ **Ormiston** 413675. In a field at some distance from the mansion there is a dovecot in the upper part of a cylindrical building, 42 feet 6 inches in outside circumference, with dressed stone wall 22 inches thick, plinth and parapet; no stringcourse; doorway 5 feet 11 inches by 2 feet 6 inches; two window slits with wooden frames, splayed inwards; thirteen entry holes, cut in a line in the wall, with stone ledges inside and out; remains of potence ladder and of wooden nests 10 inches high by 11 inches wide by 12 inches deep; fair repair outside, but no roof, and ruined inside; no pigeons.

□ **Pencaitland** 440690. In a field near the village of Wester Pencaitland, on the opposite side of the river to the Castle, there is

a *lectern* 22 feet 9 inches by 19 feet 6 inches with one-way slate roof and crowstepped gables; random rubble walls with dressings, two stringcourses, and a tablet under the eaves; ironclad door 4 feet 6 inches by 2 feet 6 inches; two small windows in the south wall, and evidence of further two in the gables; eight entry holes in a row mid-way up the roof with hoop iron bars and spikes over; 1,136 stone nests 8 by 8 by 13 inches deep with 2-inch ledge; fair repair; pigeons.

† **Pencaitland Church** 443690. In the tower there is a dovecot reached by a trapdoor in the west gallery; window slit in the west wall; eight windows in the octagonal base of the spire; three entry holes, with a stone ledge, in the south wall; 104 wooden nests 9 by 9 by 9 inches; pigeons.

⊙ **Phantassie** 598774 (fig. 4). Near East Linton there is a *beehive* 9 feet 11 inches internal diameter with one-way slate roof bounded by a horseshoe-shaped parapet; random rubble wall 4 feet 3 inches thick; recently harled and colourwashed; three stringcourses; door 5 feet 2 inches by 2 feet 6 inches; sunk floor; sixteen entry holes in a row on the south side below the eaves, also four in a dormer; 544 stone nests of widely varying sizes, starting about 4 feet from the floor, and without ledges; lower nests 6 by 6 inches; upper nests 7 inches high by 10 inches wide by 12 inches deep; fixed ladders; good repair; no pigeons.

□ **Pilmuir** 486693 (fig. 6). In a fine garden beside the manor house there is an almost square *lectern* 19 by 17 feet with one-way slate roof and plain sloping gables; random rubble walls 3 feet thick with one stringcourse; door 5 feet 10 inches by 2 feet 10 inches; small windows, one in the south wall and two with grilles in the gables; fourteen entry holes in a row mid-way up the roof; 906 stone nests 9 inches high by 8 inches wide by 12 inches deep; good repair; many pigeons.

⊙ **Prestonpans Northfield** (figs. 18, 20). At some distance from the mansion there is a *beehive* 60 feet in outside circumference near the ground with flattish domed roof covered with stone slabs;

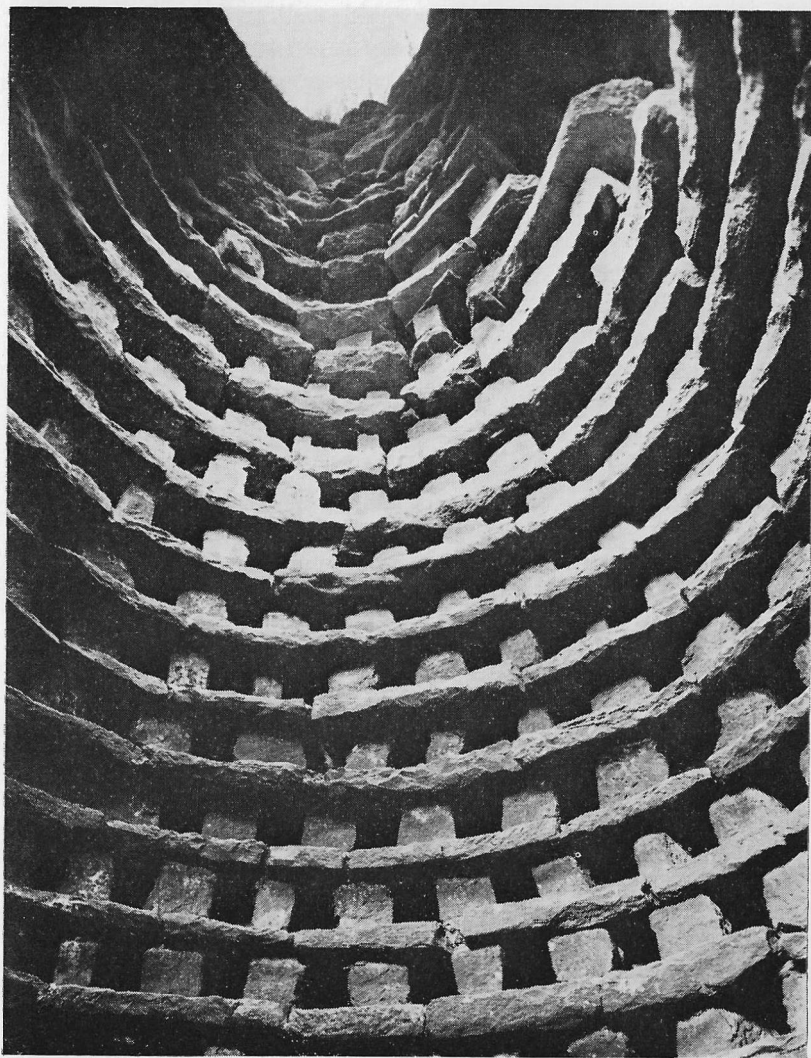


FIG. 20. Prestonpans *Northfield* interior.

random rubble wall about 3 feet 6 inches thick with dressings and three stringcourses, the first and second not projecting and forming only setback courses; remains of projecting slates under the second and third stringcourses; doorway 3 feet 6 inches by 2 feet 9 inches; gaps in the wall above first and second stringcourses, about 2 feet square, the former probably once a window; entry for pigeons through an opening in centre of the roof; about 600 stone nests 9 inches high by 6 to 7 inches wide by 12 to 15 inches deep; poor repair; pigeons.

□ **Preston Tower** 391741 (figs. 1, 17). At some distance from the Tower, in the corner of a walled garden, there is an almost square *lectern* 19 feet 4 inches by 17 feet 3 inches with one-way slate roof and crowstepped gables; ornamental stone balls on the rear parapet; random rubble walls 2 feet 6 inches thick, partly harled, with dressings and one stringcourse; door 4 feet 10 inches by 2 feet 6 inches; oval opening in the south wall between stringcourse and eaves; nine entry holes in a row mid-way up the roof; 985 nests 12 inches high by 9 inches wide by 15 inches deep; fair repair; pigeons.

□□ **Redhouse** 464771. In the upper part of a tower 21 feet 10 inches by 15 feet 3 inches, at the south-east corner of the courtyard of the Castle, there is a double *lectern* with one-way stone slabbed roofs and crowstepped gables and dividing wall between the chambers; random rubble walls 3 feet 6 inches thick, partly harled, with dressings and two stringcourses; two doorways, one now blocked up, 5 feet by 2 feet 7 inches; no windows; entry for pigeons presumably once through dormers in the roof, as at Tantallon, since A. O. Cooke notes that each chamber has a vaulted ceiling with an opening in the centre; 798 nests when last inspected; poor repair; no pigeons.

○ **Rockville** 551818. Attached to farm buildings there is a dovecot in the upper part of a cylindrical tower 12 feet 6 inches internal diameter with conical slate roof and weathervane, probably replacing an earlier roof and Glover behind a battlemented parapet; harled rubble wall two feet thick with one stringcourse; arched

door to the dovecot at high level 6 feet 1 inch by 2 feet 9 inches; similar opening opposite; entry for pigeons by three holes cut in the door, and once through an opening in the centre of the vaulted ceiling, filled in when a water tank was installed in the space above; about two thirds of the nests remain out of an original total of 574, made with wooden boards horizontally and brick divisions vertically, 9 inches high by $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide by 10 inches deep; revolving ladder in good order consisting of horizontal rails fixed to a central revolving post 13 feet high; fair repair; no pigeons.

□ □ **Ruchlaw** 617740. Adjoining a cottage at some distance from the mansion there is a double *lectern* 25 feet 9 inches by 15 feet 9 inches with one-way slate roof; harled rubble walls 3 feet 4 inches thick, buttressed on the west side, with one stringcourse; two doorways 4 feet 7 inches by 2 feet 3 inches; four windows of varying size, two above the doorways about 30 by 18 inches, and two smaller ones below the eaves; nineteen entry holes in a row mid-way up the roof; 1,340 stone nests 8 inches high by 7 inches wide by 18 inches deep starting about 3 feet 6 inches above the floor; poor repair; pigeons.

□ **St. Clement Wells** 372713 (fig. 9). In a field there is an almost square *lectern* 15 by 15 feet with one-way slate roof, wooden dormer and large stepped gables; coursed rubble and dressed stone walls 18 inches thick with one stringcourse; door 4 feet 8 inches by 2 feet 8 inches; window slit above the door, splayed inwards; six, once eight, entry holes in the dormer; 282 tile nests, originally more, 11 inches high by 12 by 12 inches; poor repair; many pigeons. A peculiarity of this dovecot is an internal stone ledge a few feet from the ground.

○ **St. Germain's** 426746 (figs. 21, 22). In a field at some distance from the mansion there is a cylindrical dovecot 50 feet 10 inches outside circumference with a battlemented parapet; flattish domed roof hidden by the parapet and until recently surmounted by a wooden Glover; random rubble wall 3 feet thick with one stringcourse; door 4 feet 7 inches by 2 feet 10 inches; sunk floor; three window slits, two projecting 6 inches from the



FIG. 21.



FIG. 22.

ST. GERMAINS

wall, splayed inwards and once barred; entry for pigeons through an opening in the centre of the roof; 501 stone nests $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches high by 10 inches wide by $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep, with ledges, starting at 2 feet 6 inches from the floor; potence ladder; good repair; pigeons.

□ **Saltcoats** 485819 (fig. 8). In the boundary wall of the ruined Castle there is an almost square *lectern* 15 by 17 feet, now roofless, once with one-way roof sloping in an easterly direction; crowstepped gables; random rubble walls, partly buttressed, with dressings and one setback course; doorway 4 feet 10 inches by 2 feet 6 inches; raised floor; no windows; six entry holes in a stone grid in the south gable; about 200 stone nests, once more, 8 by 8 by 12 inches deep; ruined; no pigeons.

□ **Saltoun** 458684. In a wood, on the opposite side of the river to the Hall, there is a dovecot designed as a square pavilion 13 by 13 feet with pilastered corners and battlemented parapet; octagonal superstructure, also with battlemented parapet, hiding the roof; walls 2 feet 5 inches thick presumably once stucco'd; large doorway 8 feet 7 inches by 3 feet 6 inches reached by a flight of steps; eight recesses in the octagon, four blind, four glazed; entry for pigeons formerly through the roof; opening in the ceiling remains, controlled by a shutter; circular interior with 220 stone nests in thirteen rows 10 by 10 by 12 inches deep; fair repair; now used as a store; no pigeons.

T **Saltoun Home Farm** 465689. In a domed octagonal tower over the arched entrance to a steading yard there is a dovecot with entry for pigeons by twelve holes cut in recessed wooden panels, and by an opening in the centre of the roof once covered by a Glover; most of the 310 nests remain $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches high by 9 inches wide by 10 inches deep, made with wooden boards horizontally and brick divisions vertically as at Rockville; fair repair; pigeons.

□□ **Spott** 675755. In a field near the drive to the mansion there is a double *lectern* 28 feet 8 inches by 18 feet 3 inches with one-way slate roofs, crowstepped gables and dividing wall between the chambers, and stone ball ornaments on the rear parapet; harled



FIG. 23.



FIG. 24.

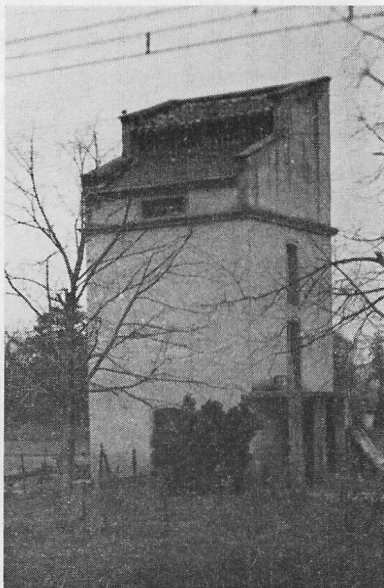


FIG. 25.

DOVECOTS OF SOUTHERN FRANCE

walls 2 feet 9 inches thick with one stringcourse; two arched doorways 3 feet 9 inches by 3 feet; two windows about 28 by 20 inches splayed inwards; remains of entry holes, once about twenty, in a row mid-way up the roofs, now boarded up; about 1,400 stone nests 9 by 9 by 14 inches deep; potence ladders in both chambers; bad repair; pigeons.

T **Stenton Church** 622743. In the old tower there is a dovecot entered by an arched door high up in the gable; eight entry holes cut in a recessed wooden panel in the wall; sixty wooden nests when last inspected; good repair; pigeons.

□□ **Tantallon** 595850. Near the Castle there is a double *lectern* 24 feet 9 inches by 17 feet 1 inch with one-way stone slabbed roof, wooden dormers, and large stepped gables; random rubble walls 4 feet 4 inches thick with dressings and two stringcourses; two doorways 4 feet 8 inches by 2 feet 6 inches; some stone slabs on the floors; entry for pigeons through the dormers, now blocked, below which there are openings in the stone vaulted ceilings of each chamber; many stone nests, once about 1,200, 8 by 8 by 15 inches deep; good repair; no pigeons. The similarity to North Berwick *Abbey* is striking.

□ **Thurston** 707743. Near the former mansion there is a dovecot in the upper part of a square building 14 by 14 feet with pointed slate roof; dressed stone walls two feet thick with one stringcourse; door at high level 4 feet 6 inches by 2 feet 11 inches; wooden floor; two windows 3 feet 10 inches by 1 foot 6 inches possibly once glazed; twelve entry holes in a row below the eaves; 156 nests 8 by 8 by 12 inches deep, made of bricks and tiles, all accessible from the floor; good repair; many pigeons. A second dovecot at Thurston has been demolished in recent years.

T **Trabroun** 466743. In a tower over the entry to a *steading* yard there is a dovecot with twenty-four entry holes at the springing of the spire; once 500 nests but none remain; potence ladder; fair repair.

□ **Tranent** 403734. Outside the churchyard wall there is a square *lectern* with one-way slate roof and crowstepped gables; random rubble walls, partly harled, with two stringcourses; doorway 3 feet high, now built up; no windows; ten entry holes in a row mid-way up the roof; said to be about 2,000 nests reached by an iron chain ladder; poor repair; no pigeons. There are two inscriptions on the south wall (*a*) above the door the date 1587 and the name David Sitoun (*b*) higher up and in successive lines, the letters De-ME, Issobel, Hamilto, V.N., I.A.

T **Tranent Tower** 405733. In an upper storey there is a dovecot with two-way pantiled roof and crowstepped gables; random rubble walls; no stringcourse; small windows in the north and south walls; three entry holes, built in brickwork with slate ledges, in the south wall below the eaves; poor repair; pigeons.

T **Tynninghame** 611792 (fig. 16). In the upper storey of out-buildings behind the *factor's* house there is a dovecot with two-way slate roof and plain gables; random rubble walls with one stringcourse; twelve entry holes in a row in the south wall above the stringcourse; nests not inspected; good repair; pigeons.

⊙ **Waughton** 567808. On an outcrop of rock to the south of the ruined Castle there is a *beehive* 63 feet outside circumference near the ground with flattish domed roof covered with stone slabs; random rubble wall 3 feet 8 inches thick with two stringcourses; doorway 4 feet 8 inches by 2 feet 5 inches; no windows; entry for pigeons through an opening in the centre of the roof; many stone nests, once about 775, in twenty-one tiers, 7 by 7 by 16 inches deep; bad repair; pigeons.

○ **Whitburgh** 423631. At some distance from the mansion there is a dovecot in the upper part of a cylindrical building 50 feet 4 inches outside circumference with conical slate roof and Glover; harled and whitewashed wall 22½ inches thick encircled with iron bands; no stringcourses; ironclad door at high level 6 feet by 2 feet 2 inches; no windows; entry for pigeons through the Glover; 456 wooden nests in twelve rows of thirty-eight; good repair; pigeons.

T **Whitekirk Church** 596815. There are nests in the tower, reached from outside by a door and *stone corkscrew*; thirty-nine nests are cut out of the stone walls of the tower, and ninety-seven are made of brick and slate in recesses as follows, four by two, four by two, four by three, five by three, five by three, six by three, seven by three, most of the nests remaining; pigeons nest also in holes which formerly housed ends of beams under the belfry; entry for pigeons by arched windows in the tower; many pigeons.



FIG. 26. Colstoun.