

Perceptions of a Castle: Hylton Castle

Aims and Objectives:

To determine how the castle has changed over time, considering the influence of ownership, taste and wealth.

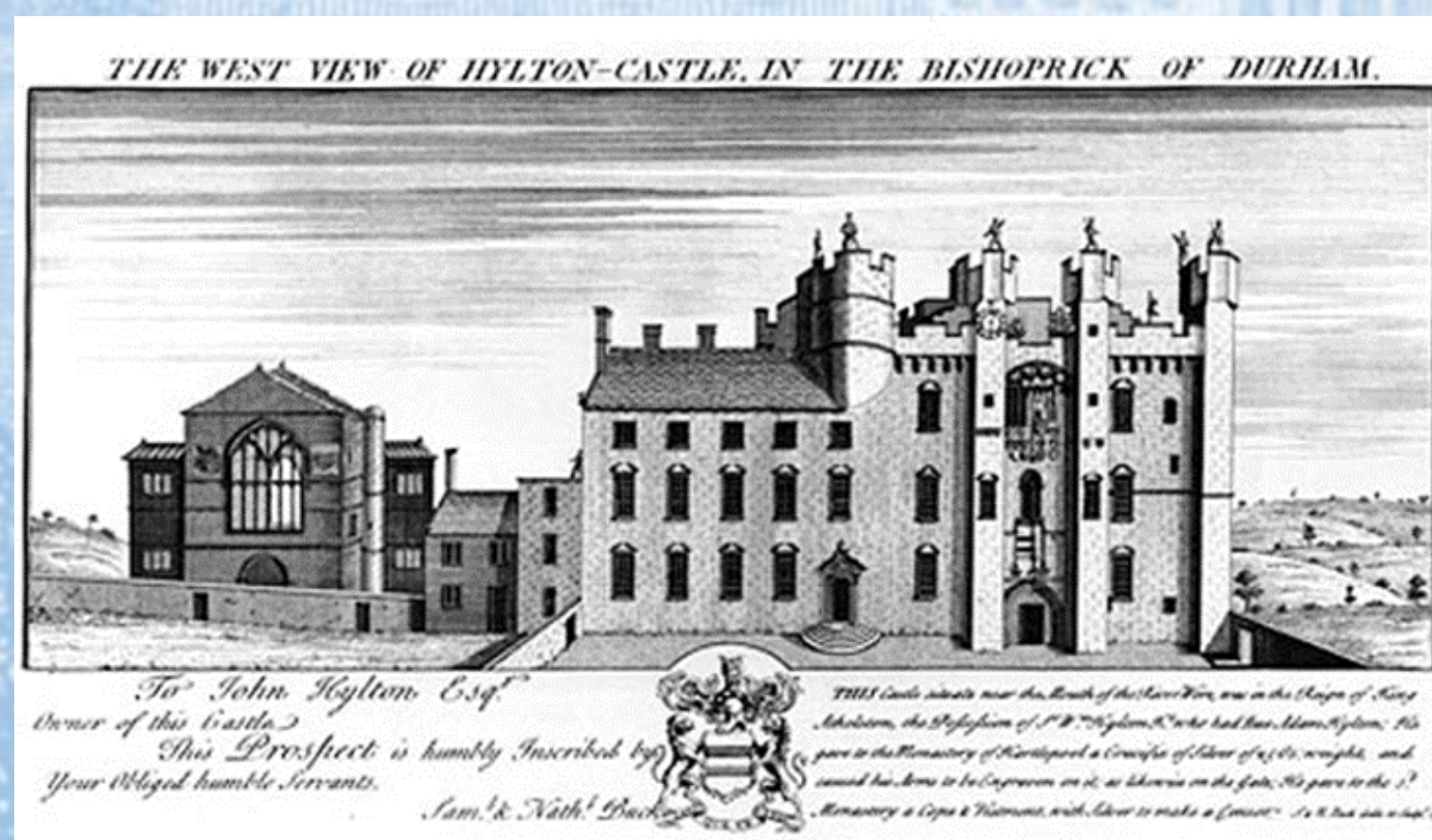
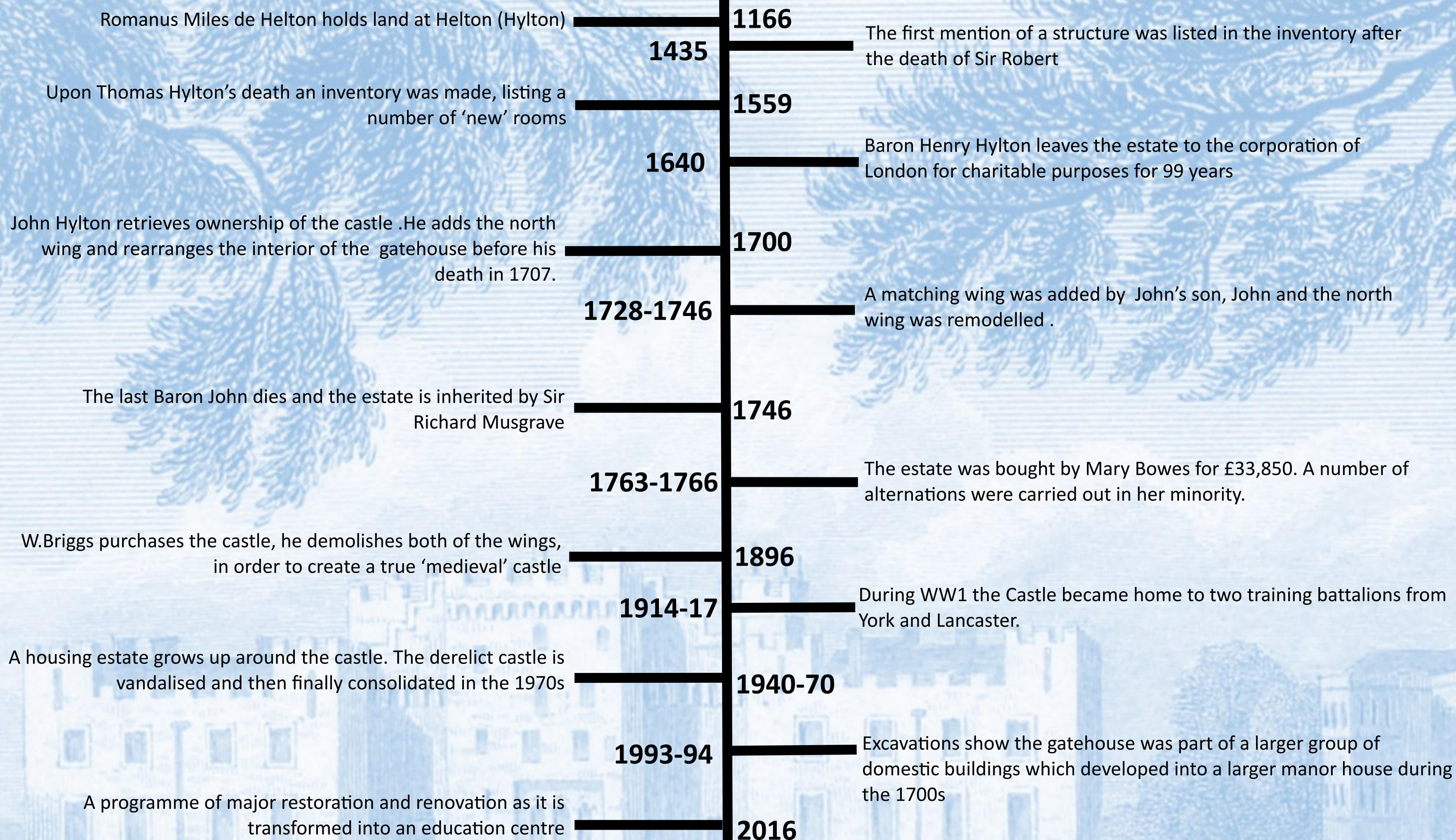


Reconstruction of the castle as it may have looked in the 1700s by Meikle & Newman

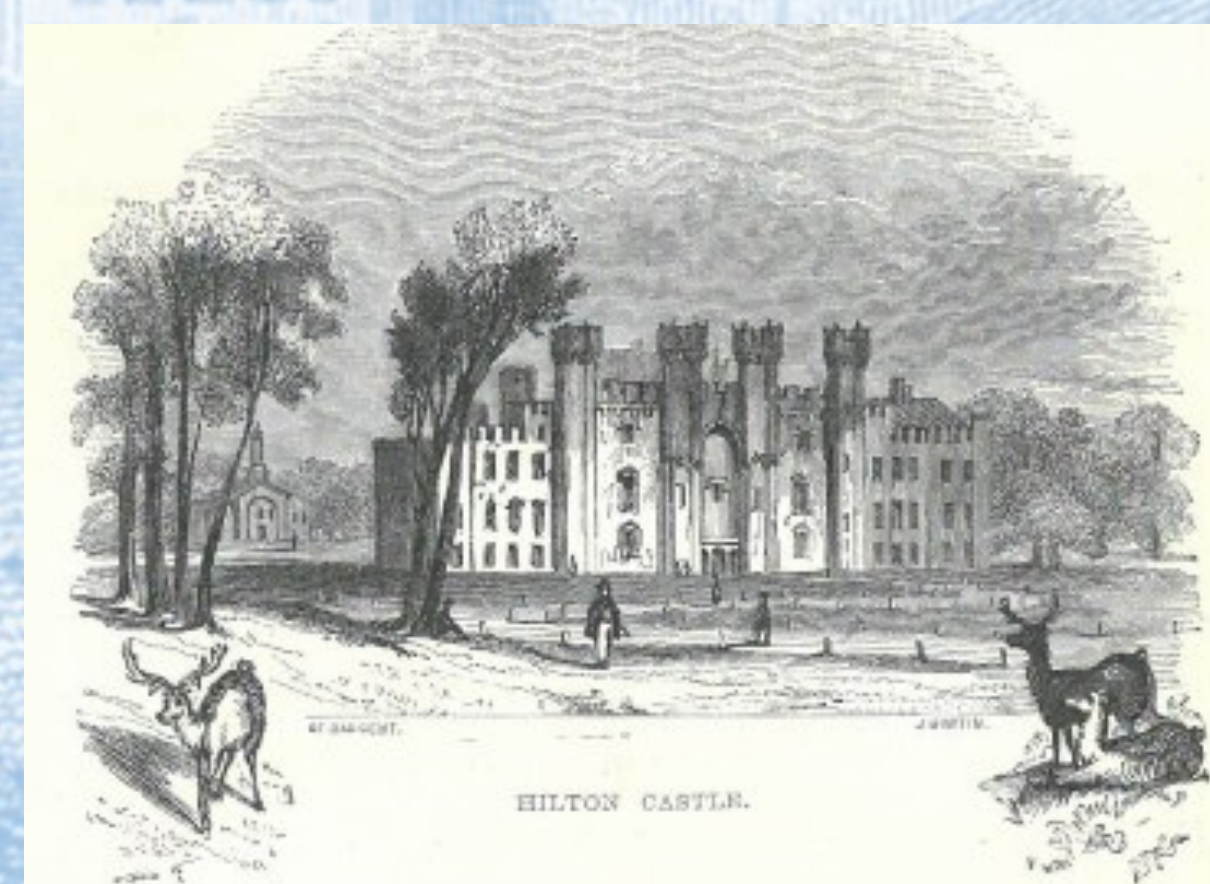
Methodology

The research comprised two parts:

- Documentary research, for which I visited the Robinson and GNM Library to gather background information on Hylton Castle. Most of the historical data was found in the local studies section of Sunderland Library and the Sunderland Antiquarian society. The Tyne and Wear Historic Environment Record had information on the early history of the castle. Online resources such as Durham records office and the Bowes Museum website, allowed me to fill in gaps in the timeline.
- A visit to the castle to record photographic evidence of change to the building.



The Buck Brothers illustrated prestigious homes. This demonstrates Hylton Castle was an important residence in the 18th century. Engraving by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck in 1728.



Howitt notes that despite the castle's unloved state, beautiful ceilings depicting classical figures could be seen. Engraving by Howitt in 1829.



Briggs belonged to the rising middle class and his attempt to recreate a medieval castle showed his new social standing. Photograph taken by Sunderland Antiquarian society.

Conclusion

The timeline shows that a great deal is known about Hylton Castle's later history, however its early history has rarely been explored. This can only be done by further archaeological investigation. Throughout the castle's history it has undergone several transformations, the most dramatic being the construction and demolition of the north and west wings; an extravagant display of wealth. Each building phase is a reflection of the owners' desired place in society and was used in an attempt to show off their social standing.

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