

A short history of the Wauchopes of Niddrie ... from multiple internet sources.

Gilbert Wauchop had a charter from Robert III (1390-1406) for the lands of Niddrie in the vicinity of Craigmillar Castle. It has been suggested the family possessed the property as early as 1249. The Wauchopes were one of the two oldest families with seats in Midlothian, the other being the Lords Sumerville. The addition of Marischal was thought to arise from the heads of the family having been hereditary Baillies (i.e., judge/sheriff) to the Keith Lords Marischal, and Marischal-Deputies in Midlothian

Many of the Wauchope family later emigrated to North America and Australia by way of Ulster. The Ulster branch of the family was founded originally by James Wauchope of Niddrie-Marischal in about 1610. He was the second son of John Wauchope, Baillie of Niddrie. The Australian branch of the family began with the arrival of Captain and Mrs. John Wauchope of Niddrie-Marischal in Adelaide in 1839.

Niddrie House was rebuilt about 1630 by Sir. John Wauchope. Another member of this family, Gilbert Wauchope frequently filled the office of Deputy Marischal in Parliament from 1527 to 1535.

Niddrie House was occupied by Major General Andrew Gilbert Wauchope (1846-99), who was famous for his role in the Anglo-Boer Wars, and his family. When the last resident of Niddrie, Lady Jane died she had no heirs. Because the family had spread out abroad the estate was sold in 1944 to the City of Edinburgh. Niddrie-Marischal was held by the family until its sale in 1944, except for two short intervals.

The mansion was torched by a mob in the late 1940's and stood in its ruined state till it was demolished in 1959. A low income-public housing experiment was in progress of being erected on the former lands (since 1933) and many of the streets bore the name of Niddrie and Wauchope until recent demolitions.