The history of Orleans House is a story of change. Over the years it has altered dramatically to meet the needs of politicians, royalty and collectors (to name but a few). Use this map to reveal their stories and discover how they transformed the site.

**Eighteenth Century**

In 1710, Scottish architect John James (1672–1746) designed and built a large brick house for the retired politician James Johnston (1643–1737) and his wife, Catherine Vere.

- **Johnston** (1643–1737) and his wife, Catherine Vere.
- **John James** (1672–1746)
- **Scottish architect**
- **large brick house**
- **retired politician** James Johnston (1643–1737)
- **his wife, Catherine Vere.**

**Eighteenth Century**

In 1710, Scottish architect John James (1672–1746) designed and built a large brick house for the retired politician James Johnston (1643–1737) and his wife, Catherine Vere.

- **Johnston** (1643–1737) and his wife, Catherine Vere.
- **John James** (1672–1746)
- **Scottish architect**
- **large brick house**
- **retired politician** James Johnston (1643–1737)
- **his wife, Catherine Vere.**

**Eighteenth Century**

Johnston was a frequent entertainer and loved to host parties. He had the famous architect, James Gibbs (1682–1754), build the Octagon Room in the West Wing, where he housed exotic plants such as orange trees and pineapple plants.

- **Johnston** was a frequent entertainer and loved to host parties.
- **famous architect, James Gibbs** (1682–1754)
- **Octagon Room in the West Wing**
- **exotic plants such as orange trees and pineapple plants.**

**Eighteenth Century**

Johnston was a renowned gardener and had an orangery in the West Wing, where he housed exotic plants such as orange trees and pineapple plants. In the eighteenth century, these fruits were expensive and owning an orangery was a symbol of wealth and status.

- **Johnston** was a renowned gardener.
- **orangery in the West Wing**
- **exotic plants such as orange trees and pineapple plants.**
- **eighteenth century, these fruits were expensive and owning an orangery was a symbol of wealth and status.**

**Eighteenth Century**

The North Wing was made up of service rooms designed to help with the running of the Octagon Room. These included a kitchen, wash house and a Housekeepers office. The Housekeeper managed the household and it was here that orders were made and important keys locked away.

- **North Wing**
- **service rooms**
- **kitchen, wash house and a Housekeepers office.**
- **Housekeeper managed the household and it was here that orders were made and important keys locked away.**

**Nineteenth Century**

The Duc d’Aumale, who lived here from 1848–1871, built an impressive library on this spot which, sadly, was destroyed in 1926. However, in 2006 builders found the original stone blocks from the library staiscase.

- **Duc d’Aumale**
- **built an impressive library on this spot which, sadly, was destroyed in 1926.**
- **2006 builders found the original stone blocks from the library staiscase.**

**Nineteenth Century**

The nineteenth century Coach House and Stables, now our Education Centre and contemporary art gallery, used to look very different. The Duc d’Aumale would have kept his coaches and horses in the space. It would have been two storeys high with a slanted roof known as a mansard roof.

- **nineteenth century Coach House and Stables**
- **Education Centre and contemporary art gallery**
- **Duc d’Aumale would have kept his coaches and horses in the space.**
- **two storeys high with a slanted roof known as a mansard roof.**

**Nineteenth Century**

In 1926, the main house was purchased by a gravel merchant and sadly demolished. Our neighbour, Nellie Ionides thankfully saved the Octagon Room, West Wing, North Wing and Stables Block. You can find interpretation markers in the grounds showing where the house and library once stood.

- **nineteenth century Coach House and Stables**
- **purchased by a gravel merchant and sadly demolished.**
- **neighbour, Nellie Ionides**
- **Octagon Room, West Wing, North Wing and Stables Block.**
- **interpretation markers in the grounds showing where the house and library once stood.**

**Twenty First Century**

Between 2016–2018, the North Wing was restored in a style more sympathetic to the original eighteenth-century design. This was thanks to the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and other generous funders.

- **twenty first century**
- **North Wing was restored in a style more sympathetic to the original eighteenth-century design.**

**Twentieth Century**

This is a statue of Diana, goddess of the hunt. Her hand is upturned as she is reaching for her now missing bow and arrows. This is a copy of the Diane de Gabies from the Louvre in Paris. The original is an ancient Roman copy of a Greek sculpture. Replicas of statues, such as this one, were very popular in the 19th century. We believe Nellie Ionides purchased the statue between 1930–1950. Over the years our Diana has lost her hand and then it had to be replaced again!

- **Twentieth Century**
- **Diana, goddess of the hunt.**
- **upturned as she is reaching for her now missing bow and arrows.**
- **copy of the Diane de Gabies from the Louvre in Paris.**
- **ancient Roman copy of a Greek sculpture.**
- **replicas of statues, such as this one, were very popular in the 19th century.**
- **believe Nellie Ionides purchased the statue between 1930–1950.**
- **Diana has lost her hand and then it had to be replaced again!**

**Twenty First Century**

In 2006, builders found the original stone blocks from the library staircase.

- **twenty first century builders found the original stone blocks from the library staircase.**

**Twentieth Century**

This is a statue of Diane, goddess of the hunt. Her hand is upturned as she is reaching for her now missing bow and arrows. This is a copy of the Diane de Gabies from the Louvre in Paris. The original is an ancient Roman copy of a Greek sculpture. Replicas of statues, such as this one, were very popular in the 19th century. We believe Nellie Ionides purchased the statue between 1930–1950. Over the years our Diana has lost her hand and then it had to be replaced again!

- **Twentieth Century**
- **Diane de Gabies from the Louvre in Paris.**
- **ancient Roman copy of a Greek sculpture.**
- **replicas of statues, such as this one, were very popular in the 19th century.**
- **believe Nellie Ionides purchased the statue between 1930–1950.**
- **Diana has lost her hand and then it had to be replaced again!**

**Nineteenth Century**

Carved into the centre of the original Coach House roof was the symbol of the French royal family, the fleur-de-lys (a three petaled flower). The carved block was found years later during some restoration work and can now be seen on the pathway into the courtyard next to the car park.

- **Nineteenth Century**
- **Coach House roof**
- **symbol of the French royal family, the fleur-de-lys (a three petaled flower).**
- **carved block was found years later during some restoration work and can now be seen on the pathway into the courtyard next to the car park.**

**Key**

- **Toilets**
- **Car park**
- **Interpretation markers - discover secrets of the former buildings**
- **Pedestrian entrance**
- **Building colour guide**
- **Eighteenth Century**
- **Nineteenth Century**
- **Twentieth Century**
- **Twenty first Century**