HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL

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FIELD MONUMENTS

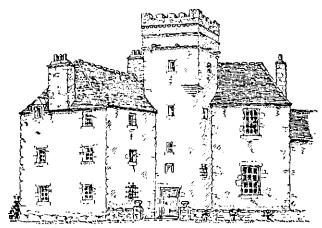
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	EOLOGICAL SITES AND MC	ONUMENTS REC	ORD	2 NCD	12 01141
4 DISTRICT		5 PARISH		N H 5 5 2 0	4 3 6 0 CE
INVERNESS 7 AREA STATUS 8 SITE STATUS		KIRKHILI. 9 REGIONAL STATUS		MONIACK CASTLE	
		9 REGION	NAL STATUS	10 GENERIC TYPE	
os NH54SE		13 DIMENS	SIONS	CASTLE	
NMR	STANDING STRUCT	'URE		14 PERIOD/DATE	15 DATING METHOD
16 DEL ATIONSE	HIP OF ELEMENTS	17 CONDITION		LM/17th C.	TYP
ADDITIONS TO CASTLE HAVE BEEN MADE SINCE c.1830		OCCUPIED		19 THREAT AND DATE	
20 LAND USE			21 GEOLOGY		
22 SOILS		23VEGETATION			
			ZOVESETATION		
24 HYDROLOGY	/DRAINAGE	25 RELIEF		26 ASPECT	27 ALTITUDE
	28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTE	ENT : QUALITY)	······		
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	29BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JO			271	
	1. SHAW, L:1882:HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE OF MORAY:VOL.2:p374 2. TRANTER, N:1970:THE FORTIFIED HOUSE IN SCOTLAND:W&R.CHAMBERS:VOL.5:pp110-12				
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			E IN SCOTLAND: W&R		pp110-12
	2. TRANTER, N: 1970: THE 3. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 197		E IN SCOTLAND: W&R		pp110-12
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	3. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 197		E IN SCOTLAND: W&R	.CHAMBERS:VOL.5:	pp110-12
	3. ORDNANCE SURVEY:197		E IN SCOTLAND: W&R	.CHAMBERS:VOL.5:	pp110-12
	3. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 197		E IN SCOTLAND: W&R	CHAMBERS: VOL. 5:	pp110-12
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	3. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 197 30GROUND PLAN NO. 32SLIDES NO. 34NMR. AP. NO. 36ARCHIVE AND LOCATION		31 GROUND PHOTO 33 HR. AP. NO. 35 OTHER AP. NO.	CHAMBERS: VOL. 5:	pp110-12
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"The 'tower of Wester Moniack' was the seat of the Frasers of Strichen. Moniack Castle - NH 5520 4360."(1) "The older part of the present house is probably early 17th c; L-shaped, harled, with a wide round staircase turret in corner which is corbelled out at the top into a square cap-house & modern battlements. At the back, a double bow fronted facade was added c.1830, and a modern 2-storey wing extends at the side. The kitchen wing is possibly part of the original 17th c. courtyard range."(OSFI:ES:23.11.1964) "NH 5520 4360 Moniack Castle."(3) "See continuation card (i) for text and illustration (2)."

MONIACK CASTLE

This is a most unusual house, probably of the early 17th century which has been very greatly altered at later periods, at the roof-line in especial. It is normal as to plan, an L-shaped building with a circular stair-tower in the re-entrant angle, this corbelled out to the square above second-floor level to form the usual watch-chamber. The tower however is much wider than usual, and its roof is not gabled but flat, and although the present parapet with crenellations is modern, it appears that the early finish must have been somewhat similar, although a little lower. There are two separate courses of continuous corbelling some distance below.

separate courses of continuous corbelling some distance below, and drainage-spouts for either a flat roof or a parapet-walk project at the level of the lower course. The renewed harling which covers the building hides any clues in the masonry as to previous features, gun-loops and shot-holes. The tower windows are uniformly small.



The main house provides its own architectural puzzles. The roof appears to have been lowered, and though on both wings it is now approximately the same level, the impression given is that the west wing is considerably older. It is of three storeys, with small windows, whereas that to the east contains only two storeys, and here the windows are large. Nevertheless the lower walls of this wing are very thick. Both wings have lost their gables and now have hipped roofs, which detracts from the house's appearance. The north front has been entirely altered, with a double bow-fronted facade.

The door is in the foot of the stair-tower, and above is an empty panel-space. Flanking it are two small windows barred by iron grilles, one in the tower and one in the west wing.

Internally the building is wholly adjusted to the later developments. There is no vaulting. The turnpike stair is wide and the newel notably thick.

Moniack Castle was, and still remains, a Fraser of Lovat house.

Archibald Fraser, son of the celebrated Simon, Lord Lovat, of the Forty-five, lived here. The earliest reference I have found to the barony of Moniack was 1576, when the laird was Thomas Fraser.