

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE	H	N	H	5	4	S	E	0	0	7
2 NGR	N	H	5	5	2	0	4	3	6	0
3 QUAL	CE									
6 SITE NAME	M O N I A C K C A S T L E									

4 DISTRICT	INVERNESS		5 PARISH	KIRK HILL		10 GENERIC TYPE	CASTLE			
7 AREA STATUS			8 SITE STATUS			9 REGIONAL STATUS				
11 CONCORDANCE	osNH54SE7		12 FORM	STANDING STRUCTURE		13 DIMENSIONS				
NMR			16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS	ADDITIONS TO CASTLE HAVE BEEN MADE SINCE c.1830		17 CONDITION	OCCUPIED			
						14 PERIOD/DATE	LM/17th C.		15 DATING METHOD	TYP
						18 SHAPE				
						19 THREAT AND DATE				
20 LAND USE						21 GEOLOGY				
22 SOILS						23 VEGETATION				
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE						25 RELIEF		26 ASPECT		27 ALTITUDE

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)

29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)

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
3. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1978: 1/10,000 MAP

30 GROUND PLAN NO.	31 GROUND PHOTO NO.
32 SLIDES NO.	33 HR. AP. NO.
34 NMR. AP. NO.	35 OTHER AP. NO.: SOURCE
36 ARCHIVE AND LOCATION	
37 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY	38 SAMPLES
39 PALYNOLOGY	40 NUMERICAL DATES: RANGE: LAB NO.
41 SMALL FINDS	42 MUSEUM/LOCATION
43 OTHER	

44 NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER

45 ATTITUDE OF OWNER

46 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT

47 ATTITUDE OF TENANT

48 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS

49 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE

50 RECORDER: DATE
FJ: 1.10.198651 CHECK: DATE
HSR 9.10.1986

52 TEXT

"The 'tower of Wester Moniak' was the seat of the Frasers of Strichen. Moniak 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 Moniak Castle." (3) "See continuation card (1) for text and illustration (2)."

MONIACK CASTLE

[110]

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-

[111]

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, 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.

[112]

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.