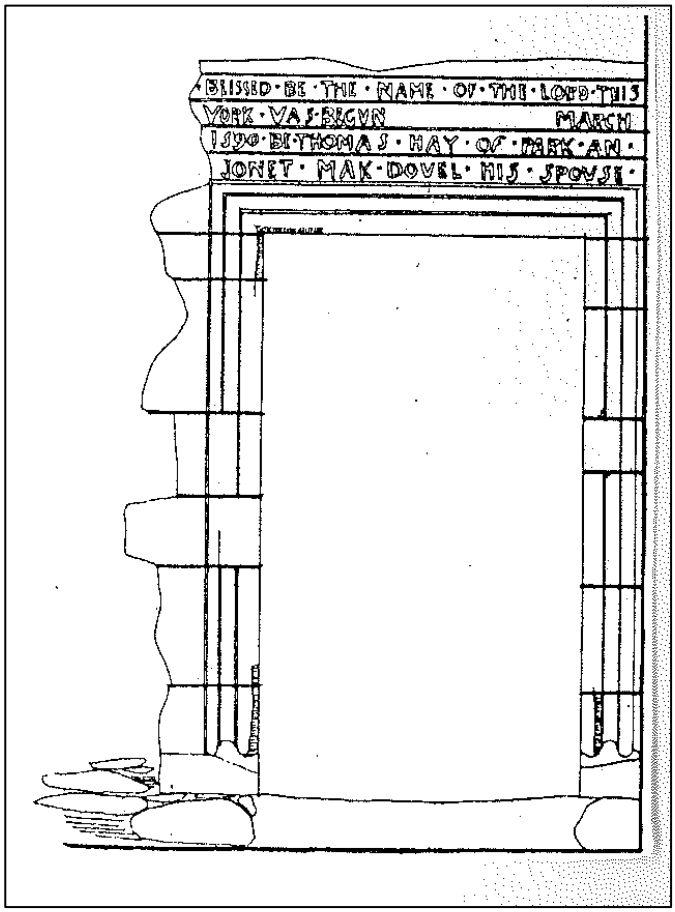
The Landmark Trust

CASTLE OF PARK

History Album



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BASIC DETAILS

Built	**1590**
Listed	**Category A**
Let for first holiday	**1993**
Repaired	**1992-3**
Architect	**Stewart Tod & Partners of Edinburgh**
Builders	**D. Robison and Davidson**

Contents Page no.

Summary

An inscription over the door supplies the information that work began on the Castle of Park on the first day of March, 1590 (in time for a good long season's work before the next winter), and that Thomas Hay of Park and his wife Janet Macdowell were responsible for it. Thomas had been given the Park of Glenluce – land formerly belonging to Glenluce Abbey – by his father in 1572, and it is said that he took stone from the Abbey buildings for his own new house.

The Hays of Park descended from the Earls of Errol. Their first connection with Glenluce was through Sir Thomas Hay, father of the castle's builder, who was secretary to Mary, Queen of Scots and, from 1560, Abbot of Glenluce. Sir Thomas was also a protégé of the Earls of Cassilis: his wife was a daughter of David Kennedy of Culzean, younger son of the 2nd Earl. It was perhaps due to the Kennedys' influence that the Hays obtained Glenluce and Park.

Castle of Park was built in the tall, 'tower house' fashion of other laird's houses of the period. Although very plain, it is on a grand scale, with large rooms and fine stonework. Near the castle there were gardens, all long vanished.

Like many tower houses, the Castle of Park was greatly improved in the 18th century, when the windows were made larger and fitted with sashes, and the main rooms were panelled. Two small wings were added on the south and north-east corners at the same time, enclosing a courtyard and providing extra accommodation.

In around 1830, the castle was abandoned by its owners. The contents and much of the panelling were taken at this time to Dunragit, the home of Sir James Dalrymple-Hay, who had inherited the Park estate through his mother. From that time, the upper floors of the tower house were left empty or used for storage, but some panelling remained in the 1890s. The wings, meanwhile, were lived in by a farmer, who probably used the old kitchen too. The wings were still in good condition in 1912, but were derelict by 1950.

In 1949, the Castle of Park was transferred to the Ministry of Works. A year or two later, the roof was renewed but the floors were stripped out and the wings demolished. In 1976-8, Historic Scotland carried out a full repair of the outside walls, and renewed the floors and windows. Inside, the Castle was left unfinished, with bare stone walls. The upper floors were undivided, and had no ceilings. For several years the Castle continued to stand empty while a viable new use was sought for it. The Landmark Trust's first visitors arrived on 24th April 1993.

Introduction

The Castle of Park is a fine example of a Scottish tower house at its most formidable and austere. It must give much the same impression now as it did when it was first built in 1590, though then it would have towered over a collection of barns and stables; its two eighteenth century wings have gone, and there is no garden. It is a bleak, impressive building on a grand scale, standing on its ridge by the Water of Luce.

Above the front door is a weathered inscription giving the names of the owners of the castle and, conveniently, the date it was begun. It reads:

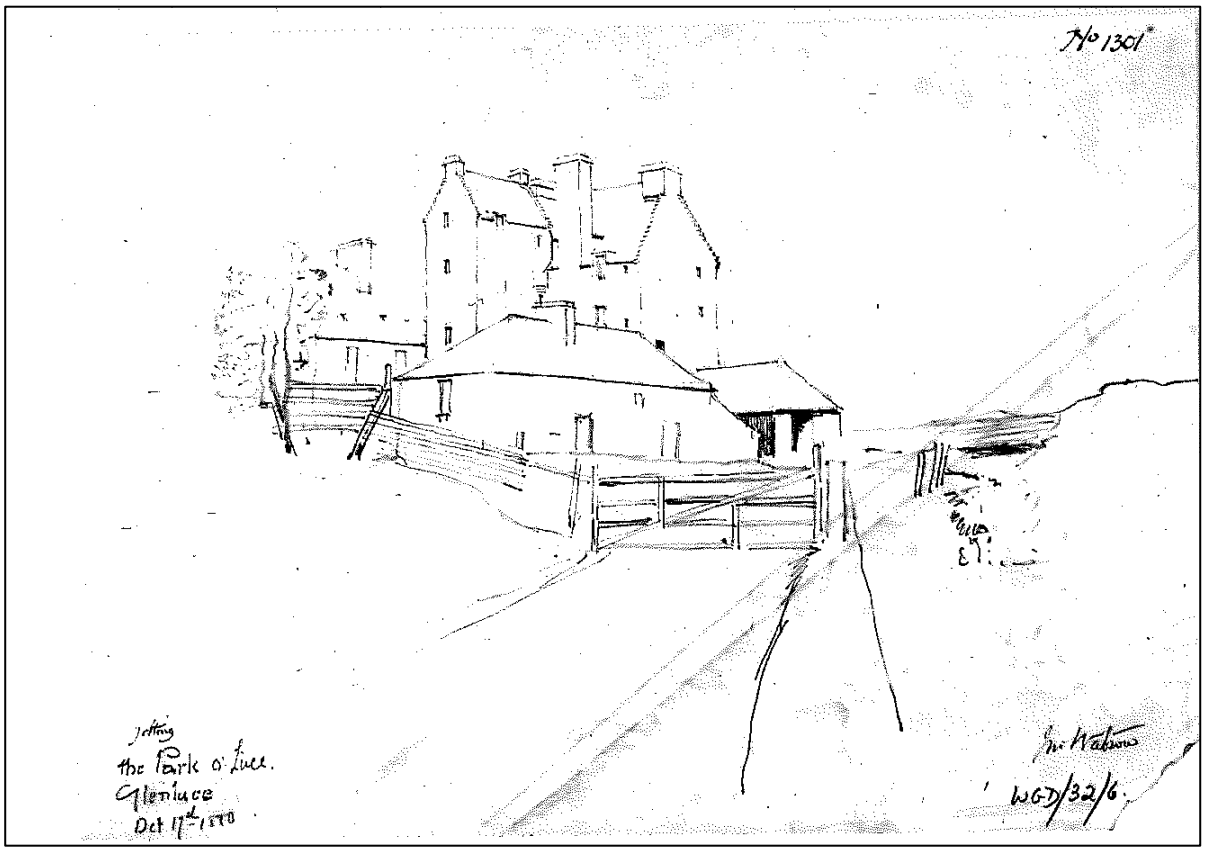
> *Blessit be the name of the lord this*
> *verk was begun on the first day of march*
> *1590 be Thomas Hay of park and*
> *Ionet Makdovel his spous*

How Thomas Hay came to own Park is a curious story which is told in the following pages, along with the history of his descendants and of his house over the next four centuries.

The Hays of Park were not native to Galloway. They were distant kinsmen of the Earls of Erroll and came from Tayside, near Perth. It has been suggested that they came from a branch of the family which had a property called Park, and so gave their new estate the old name, but it is more likely that there was already an estate called Park at Glenluce. The word *park* originally meant a preserve for beasts of the chase – like a forest, but enclosed. In Scotland the word often just meant a field: the 'parking lairds' were landlords who enclosed common land in the 18th century.

On a map of Galloway of 1654 the tower is shown as Park; there are trees around it, running along the Water of Luce. On 18th and 19th century maps, and another of 1920, it is referred to as Castle Hay. However, P.H. MacKerlie in his *History of the Lands and their Owners in Galloway*, written in 1870 when a

tenant was living there, refers to it as Park House. And in a series of drawings and a detailed description done in 1898 for the National Art Survey, it was called Park o'Luce. Finally, in the *Report and Inventory for Galloway of the Royal Commission on Ancient & Historic Monuments* (1912), it is called Castle of Park, as it remains.



A sketch of the Castle of Park in 1870.

The history of the castle

The Abbey Lands

In May 1560 Thomas Hay's father, Thomas, was appointed Abbot of the Cistercian abbey of Glenluce by Pope Pius IV. He had been secretary to Mary, the young Queen of Scots, and she and her husband Francis, King of France, recommended his appointment to the Pope in a letter written from Amboise.

There is some doubt over whether the elder Thomas Hay was a priest or a layman. For several decades the kings of Scotland had been appointing lay abbots or 'commendators' to abbeys with wealthy estates, which was a useful way of rewarding loyal servants. Very often these abbots would then grant the abbey lands to their families or friends in perpetuity. This may have occurred at Glenluce: the Papal Bull authorising Thomas Hay's appointment also conveyed the abbey lands to him, provided he accepted no new monks there. When the existing monks were dead, the lands were to pass to him and his heirs outright. In documents written in the 1560s, Hay refers to himself as commendator, a lay title, rather than Abbot.

However, 1560 was the year of the Scottish Reformation, the establishment of a Protestant church and the break with Rome. In light of these changes, it is unlikely that the Pope would have agreed to the appointment of anyone other than a genuine churchman as abbot, which perhaps Hay was: Burke's pedigree describes him as Parson of Spynie, near Elgin, and Canon of Moray, before he moved to Glenluce. He was a Knight of St. John, too, another ecclesiastical calling. However, he was also married and had a son, Thomas, who was old enough to be married in 1572.

Marriage does not preclude Hay's priesthood: in the corrupt church of the 16th century, many priests were illegally married, and the practice of legitimising the offspring of these 'irregular' unions was common enough. If he *was* a priest, either he was illegally married or else he took on board the new Protestants' more relaxed attitude to nuptials from 1560, and only married then. If this was the case his son would still have been a boy when he married in 1572, but this was not unusual for the time.

Thomas Hay's marriage – *whenever* it happened – helped to establish him at Glenluce. His wife was Katherine Kennedy, the granddaughter of the second Earl of Cassilis. Her cousin, the fourth Earl, lived at Castle Kennedy, eight miles from Glenluce. The most powerful man in Galloway, and renowned for his cruelty, he is described as a 'very greidy manne and cairitt nocht how he gott land, so he could cum be the samin'.

The Earls of Cassilis had had their eye on the Glenluce lands for some time, and had control of them as baillie[1] from 1543. However, the Gordons of Lochinvar also had ambitions in that direction, and in 1558 obtained a grant from the previous abbot. When Thomas Hay sent his notary to take possession of the abbey, he found John Gordon's servants there, who refused him entry. They had already expelled the monks and stopped divine worship there.

The dispute was taken for arbitration to Lord James Stewart (soon to be Regent). Meanwhile, the abbot and the remaining monks were given shelter by the Earl of Cassilis at his college for priests at Maybole, near Ayr. In return, the abbot issued a charter granting much of the abbey's estate to the Earl for a period of years, a charter that was renewed after Thomas Hay eventually gained possession of Glenluce in 1561. The monks were then returned to the abbey.

[1] *baillie* is a historic Scottish post, similar to that of an alderman or magistrate. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baillie

The money paid by the Earl of Cassilis for the land paid for the care of the monks and also the repair of the abbey's buildings. In another charter of 1565, the Earl was granted the whole of the abbey's benefice for five years, in return for meat and drink for the monks, and glass and slates for the building.
If this version of events seems dull, there is a more exciting, fictional alternative that describes how the Earl of Cassilis acquired the Glenluce lands by forging the abbot's signature on a deed that conveyed the lands to him. The forgery – by a monk – was required because the abbot had inconveniently died during the course of negotiations over the lease. The Earl, fearing he would be betrayed, then employed a man to murder the forgerer monk. Worrying about a further betrayal, he persuaded a kinsman, Hew Kennedy of Bargany, to accuse the murderer of theft and have him hanged. 'And sa the landis of Glenluce was conqueist'.

The Hays of Park

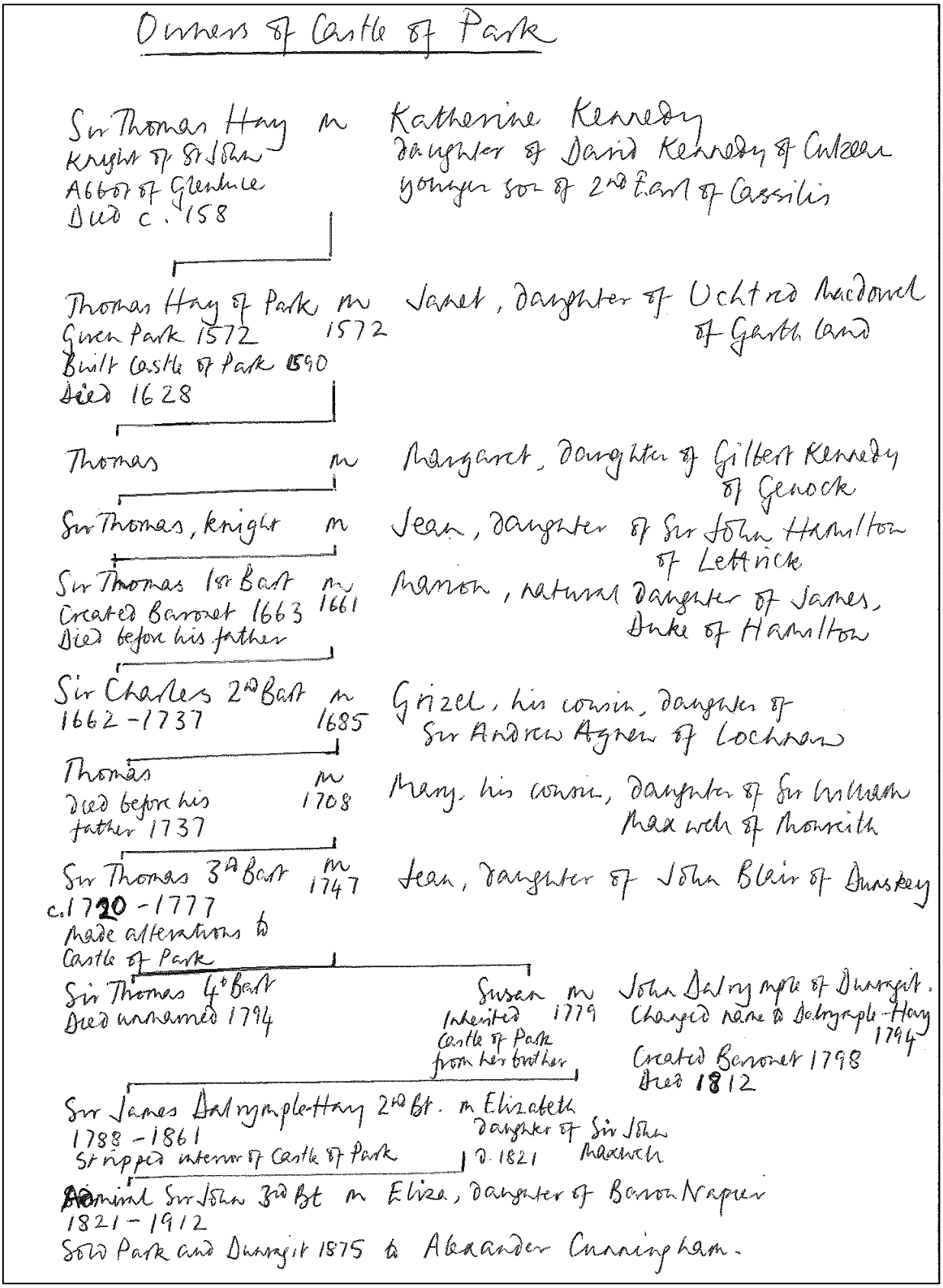
Thomas Hay did not let all the abbey lands go to the Earl. In a lost charter, drawn up in 'my monastery' in 1572, he granted the lands of Park of Glenluce to his son Thomas, who that year married Janet, the daughter of Uchtred Macdowell of Garthland. The bride and groom may have been minors at the time.

This marriage, like that of the elder Thomas, helped to strengthen the Hays' position in the area, where – as newcomers – they had few connections. The Macdowells were an ancient and well-established Galloway family. Janet's sister Katherine married Hew Kennedy, younger brother of the fifth Earl of Cassilis. The fifth earl died unmarried, so Katherine and Hew's son became the sixth Earl of Cassilis, reinforcing links between the Hays and the Kennedys.

In spite of this, when Thomas the elder died (around 1580), the abbey buildings did not pass to his own son, but to a son of his former rivals: a Gordon of Lochinvar was the next commendator. From 1619, Glenluce Abbey belonged to the Diocese of Galloway, and in 1641 a manse and glebe were established there.

The local tradition that stone from the abbey was used to build the Castle of Park is most likely unfounded: when Thomas the younger laid the first stone of his new house in March 1590, in time to fit in a good season's work, the abbey buildings were not his to plunder. Moreover, according to the Stranraer presbytery records, the abbey buildings were still in good repair in 1646, long after the Castle was built.

The Hays lived at Park for the next two hundred years, adding little-by-little to their estates and marrying into the local gentry, including the Hamiltons, Agnews and Maxwells. Life was not without event: Kenneth McLennan Hay in



Family tree detailing the owners of Castle of Park.

The Story of the Hays (1977) describes the actions of a hot-tempered younger son who was a guest at a local wedding:

> *'During the evening a valuable piece of plate was discovered to be missing. A blacksmith present expressed himself most vehemently about what he would do to the thief if he was discovered. Later, as the festivities proceeded, he became even noisier which culminated in his showing extreme bad manners by calling on the young Hay to pay him a sum owing for shoeing his horse. This irritated the young man and when the blacksmith continued with his insults provocation proved too much. Hay drew his sword and killed the blacksmith. When the body was lifted the missing piece of plate fell from out the clothing, and the company turned from being annoyed with the young Hay to indignation about the blacksmith. Murders at weddings were not unusual after drink had been consumed in these days. One has only to ponder over Church records to discover this fact.'*

In 1661 Thomas Hay, the eldest son of the third Thomas Hay of Park, married Mary Hamilton, the daughter of James, first Duke of Hamilton. The Duke, a supporter of Charles I, had been beheaded soon after the king, in 1649. The elder Thomas Hay married again around the same time, leading to a flurry of legal documents over ownership of the family estate at Park. These documents arranged for most of the estate to be made over to the eldest son, with provision for his younger brother. They also aimed to ensure that the older Thomas's children by his new wife would not be left penniless. In 1663 the newest Master Hay was made a baronet of Nova Scotia, to apply during the lifetime of his father.

The extent to which the Hays were now established among the leading gentry is born out by the fact that from 1677 to 1773 a Court was held at the Castle of Park. As the most important tower house in the district, home of the principal family, it had a formal and recognised part to play in the legal structure of the region. The object of these courts, known as Baron's Courts, was to settle minor legal problems, particularly those arising between a landlord and his tenants. Some of the cases are recorded in the Hay Papers in the Edinburgh Record Office. They refer mostly to arguments about boundaries or rents, and are of

little general interest, but occasionally they reflect a major problem of the time. In the list of cases that came up before the Court in 1726, 50 were cases of trespass by horses, cows and sheep on the lands of Park. These seem not to have been cases of casual trespass, but rather a protest against the enclosure of common land. Some tenants (who were grazing as many as 50 sheep on the Park land) 'confessed', others 'refused to depone' and were fined a '½ merk Scots' each.

The name of Hay of Park occurs frequently during the 17th century in lists of the Galloway gentry who supported the Covenanters, who sought to establish a Presbyterian Church of Scotland. In 1684, when Graham of Claverhouse (known as 'Bloody Clavers') was sheriff of Wigtown, a Hay of Park was sent to prison for a year and only released on a bond of £1,000 sterling. In 1715, Charles Hay, son of Sir Thomas Hay and Mary Hamilton, was actively involved with the government against the Jacobite rising.

In 1684, Andrew Symson's *Description of Galloway* described the Castle of Park as 'a very pleasant dwelling, standing on a level height, in the midst of a little wood on the west side of the water of Luce'. The Hay Papers throw some light on the kind of life the Hays were living soon after that time. In 1708 Sir Charles Hay's eldest son, another Thomas, married Mary Maxwell, daughter of Sir William Maxwell of Monreith (owner of Old Place of Monreith, also, as it happens, a Landmark property).

In the same year, a haberdasher presented his account to Sir Charles. The purchases were probably connected to his son's wedding, but – even allowing for that, and the fact that Sir Charles lived in a fortified tower house in a remote part of Scotland – they demonstrate a certain willingness to spend money on luxuries.

Sir Charles Hay's Habberdasher's account for 1708:

3 doz. silver twist buttons, large	*13.10.0*
3/4 yd scarlet cloth	*10.16.0*
1 pr Stockings	*9.0.0*
9½ yds fine gold & white silk damas	*45.12.0*
A fine Carolina Hatt mounted w. silver lace	*7.04.0*
A lesser one	*3.12.0*
3 yds scarlett & gold ribband	*8.02.0*
3 yds blew white & gold ditto	*8.02.0*
3 doz fine black buttons	*1.10.0*
1½ yds black floured ribband	*1.16.0*
3 prs men's gloves fine	*4.10.0*
4 prs women's gloves fine	*6.0.0*

In 1720 there is a physician's account:

ane visit	*1.16.0*
dose & visit	*2.8.0*
strengthening decoction	*1.10.0*

In 1731, a further physician's bill:

myrrh & alloes	*0.0.8*
chamomile	*0.0.9*
mixture for the gravell	*0.0.9*
purging mixture	*0.4.0*

In the same year, 1731, Sir Charles was paying for his grandson's schooling. There is a letter from Thomas Hay to his father telling him: 'Mrs Mudie charges £4.10s a quarter, everything being included', and enclosing an account 'for Thomas & Charles':

3 guineas to professor of Law	
writing master	*0.10.0*
1 pr shoes	*0.03.0*
dancing master	*0.06.0*

The following year, Purdie, master of Glasgow Grammar School, sent in his account:

1 quarter board & Education	*3.0.0*
doctor	*0.1.0*
arithmetic	*0.1.0*
clothes mending	*0.0.6*
teaching French	*0.2.6*

Sir Charles' s grandson Thomas succeeded him as 3rd Baronet in 1737. He fought on the Hanoverian side in the 1745 Jacobite rebellion, and was wounded in the battle of Preston Pans while defending Colonel Gardner, the second in command, who died of his wounds.

The 4th Baronet, another Thomas, died unmarried. The baronetcy passed to a cousin but the property went to Thomas's sister, Susan, who married a local laird called John Dalrymple and lived at Dunragit, three miles west of the Castle of Park. Dalrymple was a soldier and fought in the American War of Independence. In 1794, when the 4th Baronet died, John Dalrymple changed his name to Dalrymple-Hay; in 1798 he was made a baronet.

Sir John's son, Sir James Dalrymple-Hay, was the last Hay to live at Castle of Park. Dunragit, a newer house, had probably remained his main home (as it had his parents'), and in around 1830 he decided to give up Castle of Park altogether and removed 'everything portable' from it. This may have included some panelling with which the hall and upper rooms had been fitted in the 18th century: the *Royal Commission Inventory* of 1912 says of Dunragit that panelling from Park was 'set up there'.

Between 1820 and 1862 Sir James also sold off parcels of land in Glenluce. Sir James's son, Sir John, was a distinguished sailor. At the age of fourteen he fought in the first Kaffir war; at eighteen he was gazetted for gallantry, and in his twenties he commanded the ships that destroyed the Chinese piratical fleet off the coast of China. He became an MP and was Lord of the Admiralty from 1866-8.

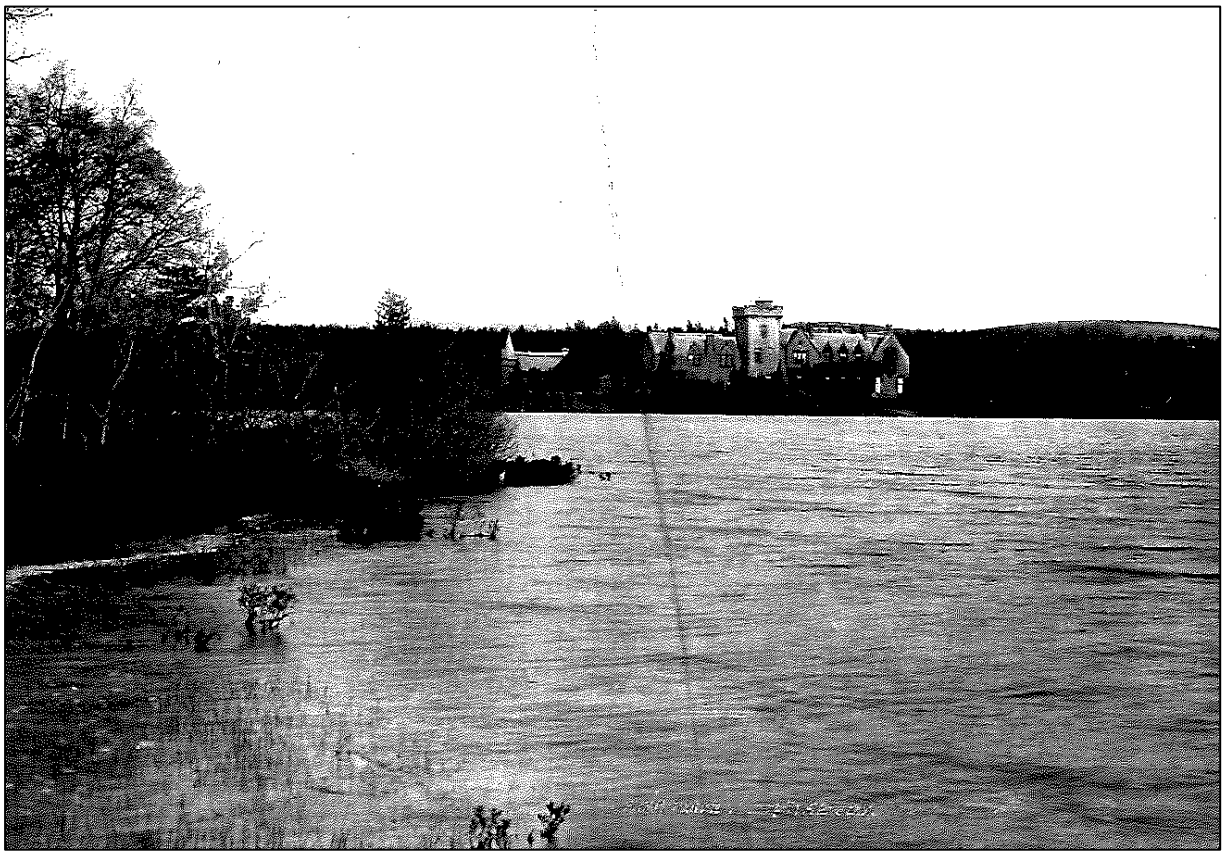
Sir John's nephew, Harley Dalrymple-Hay, was a distinguished engineer, and designed much of the London underground system. Sir John's granddaughter, Eleanor Dalrymple-Hay, the only child of his eldest son, who would have

inherited had she been a boy, married John Crauford, and became headmistress first of Westonbirt and then of Downham schools.

In 1870 an estate tenant was living at Park (by now called Park House), in the 18th century south wing. This may always have been a self-contained servants' dwelling and is still referred to locally as the 'wee house'. The ground floor of the castle itself seems to have been used for working and storage space, while a smaller north wing was at least in part a barn and a stable or byre.

In 1875 Sir John Dalrymple-Hay sold the Park and Dunragit estates for £241,000 and went to live at Craigenveoch, 4 miles east of Glenluce. The estate was bought by Alexander Cunningham, a successful ironmaster with works in Renfrew. He lived not at Park but at Dunragit. J.C. Cunningham, presumably his son, was living at Dunragit in 1894.

Dunragit House, home of the Dalrymple –Hays



Craigenveoch House, to which Sir John Dalrymple-Hay moved in 1875.

Recent History

By 1912 the windows on the upper floors of the tower were blocked up. It was described in the *Royal Commission Inventory* as a 'mere lumber room', with the remaining panelling rotting away. The southern wing was still in good repair, however, and lived in by farm or estate workers.

In 1936 Sir Arthur Hay, the 10th Baronet[2], and an architect, considered buying back the Castle of Park, and had estimates drawn up for the work, but he decided that too much needed to be done and gave up the idea.
In the mid-1940s the agricultural department of the Scottish Office bought the Park estate in order to divide it up into small holdings. The castle itself was an unwelcome liability for the Scottish Office. In 1949, therefore, it was transferred to the then Ministry of Works. By that time the roof was falling in and the wings were derelict.

Between 1950 and 1955 the castle was reroofed and the wings were demolished. In 1969 the cap house was struck by lightning. The resulting fireball consumed the stairs, stormed along the full length of the great hall and exited through the garderobe in the north-east corner, causing considerable damage.

From 1976-8, Historic Scotland made extensive repairs and then left the castle, safe but unfinished, with its future undecided. The possibility of opening to the public was discussed, but it was considered very unlikely that the numbers of visitors would cover the costs involved.

In 1988 an alternative solution was proposed. The castle was offered to the Landmark Trust, with the idea that it should be made habitable once again and let for holidays. Occasional 'open days' would cater for those who wanted to see the castle but not stay in it. In 1990, a 99-year lease was agreed, and from 1992

[22] Sir Arthur is the father of the present, 11th Baronet, Sir John Erroll Audley Hay of Park.

to 1993 the Landmark Trust restored the castle's interior, completing the work begun in 1976.

The gardens

The tradition in Scotland was to have a walled garden some distance from the house; this was true at the Castle of Park. When the Commissioners of Ancient and Historic Monuments visited in 1912 there were still traces of a walled garden to the south of the house, and gateposts led to another garden to the east.

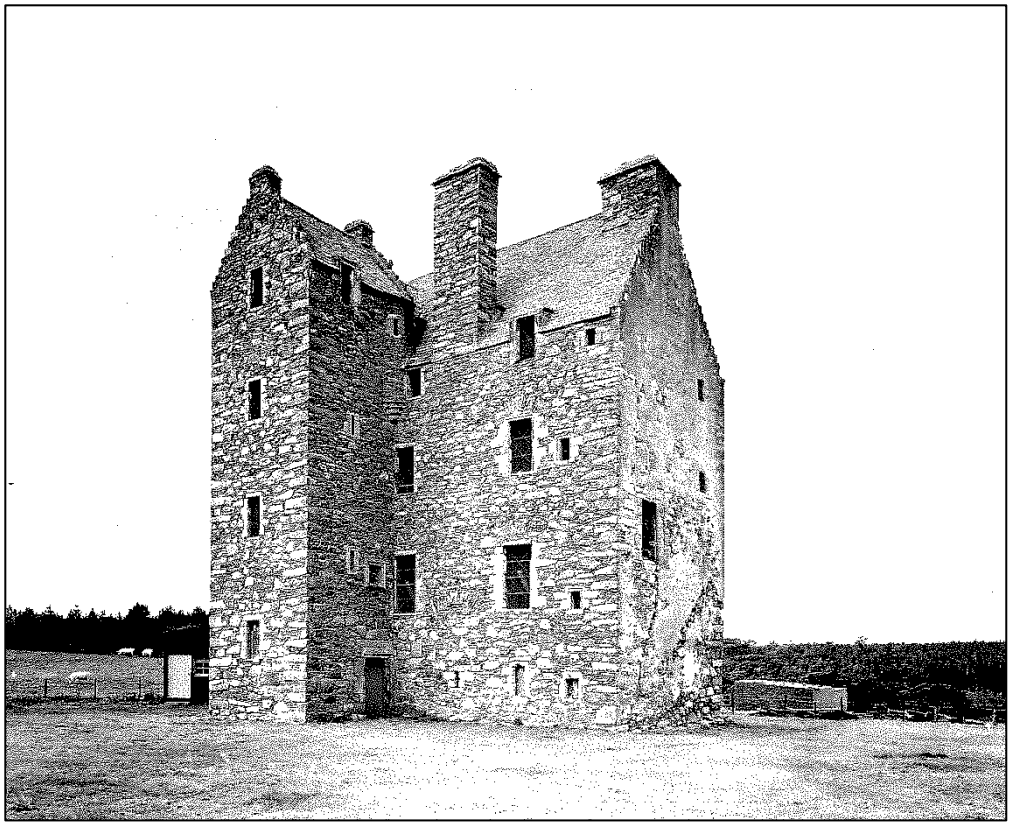
The Castle in 1912, photographed for the RCHM Inventory. Only the south wing was lived in. The tower itself was described as a 'mere lumber-room.'

A slightly earlier photograph (the monkey puzzle has not risen above the fence) from *Views of Glenluce & District*, published by Alex Dougan.

August 1950, from the north-east. The wings are derelict too.

August 1950, from the south-east.

The east side in 1950. It shows the roof in serious disrepair.



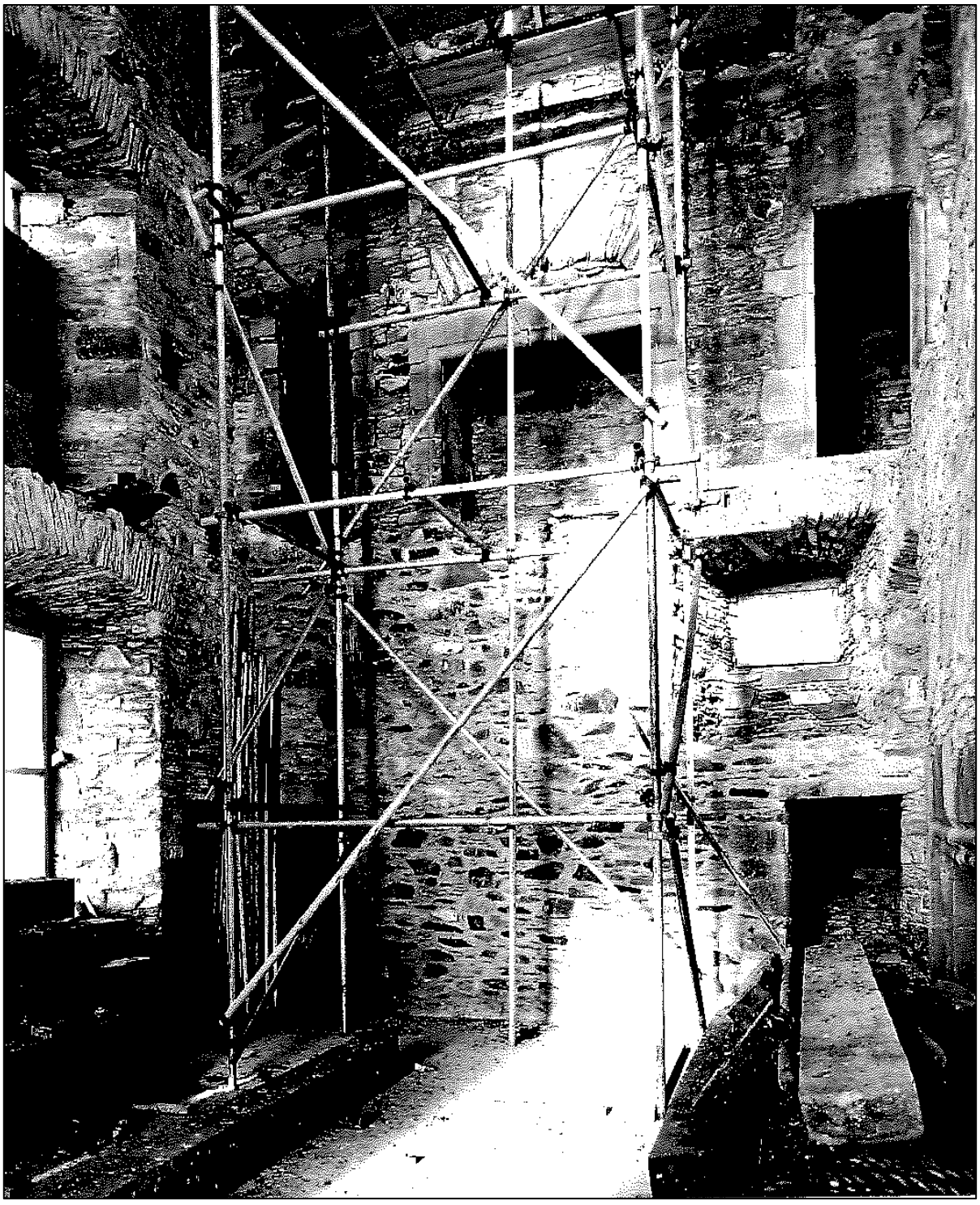
September 1966. The wings had been removed and the castle re-roofed with old slates in 1950-55. In 1966 the harling was stripped off the east side and the walls repointed.

September 1966. The west side. The door from the kitchen led into a shed whose gable marks are still visible. One window in the hall was blocked, probably in the 18th century when the panelling was fitted.

September 1966. From the north. The roofline of the shed, still there in 1950, can be seen on the right. Large cracks have appeared on the gable.

June 1969. Lightening struck the cap house chimney in May and made a hole by the spiral stair.

A close up of the damage.



November 1973, inside the castle. All the floors had gone.

Roy's Map of Scotland of 1745.
Castle of Park is bottom right; Castle Kennedy is top left.

A description of the building

The exterior

The Castle of Park is a typical tower house, built during a period when around a hundred and fifty were constructed in Galloway alone (although the majority were smaller than Park). They were not primarily military buildings, although Galloway was an unruly place and a tower would have given its owner a feeling of security. A tower house was principally the seat of the local laird, who was expected to keep the peace in his own area. Some lairds were empowered with the legal means with which to do this through the Baron's Courts, one of which was held at Park from 1677.

The plan of the castle at Park is L-shaped – a common plan for tower houses – with the front door in the angle of the L. Now, as originally, this door is the only entrance to the house. The inscription above it is also typical: many such houses have a panel for a coat of arms or an inscription here.

Outside, the castle is plain to the point of austerity. Built of local sandstone, it has high quality stonework. The building also has an interesting roof-line: the chimneys are massive, hinting at the scale of the rooms inside; the square wing ends in a cap house with crow-step gables to the east and west, giving a turret-like effect. Only one small, round turret, which contains the stair between the third and fourth floors, breaks the otherwise sheer, vertical lines.

On the north wall there is a gun port at first floor level, adding to the impression of a fortified outpost. This impression would have been even greater when the castle was first built, because all the windows were then small casements. In the ground floor passage there is a loop hole for a gun, which covered the front door. Although by 1590, when the castle was built, it was unlikely that the tower would have been attacked – and, unlike earlier tower houses, it was no longer

necessary to equip the top floor to repel an enemy – the laird clearly felt safer with his front door protected against intruders.

The interior

The Castle of Park, despite its austere appearance, is a sophisticated building. It is comparable to a manor house of the same period in England, with the same hierarchical divisions between the owner and his servants, and between the owner's public and private life. In the tower, however, the divisions were erected horizontally rather than vertically: it is, as it were, a manor house standing on its end. On the ground floor is the kitchen, pantry and cellar, corresponding to the low end of a hall house. The great hall is above, on the first floor, with a servery at one end, and its own servants' stair. Here the household would have met to dine once a day. Later, it was where the Baron's Courts were held. The laird's private rooms, corresponding to the high end of a manor, are above the hall, with the laird's private stair leading up to them. Each room has its own garderobe closet.

At the end of the sixteenth century, the usual floor plan was for one room to lead directly into another. The Castle of Park was advanced in having a passage on the ground floor running between the front door and the kitchen, with the pantry and cellar leading off it. The vaulted ceiling throughout the ground floor is more usual.

The kitchen has a recess – almost a small room – where the great kitchen fire used to be, later replaced by a kitchen range. There was a sway (a moveable iron bracket for holding cooking-pots) on the left of the fire, but that has disappeared. The closet in the corner has its own window and fireplace, and would have been the cook's room, though later it was probably used for storing the great pile of wood for the kitchen fire: it is labelled 'wood' in a plan of 1898.

The main staircase is a wide, circular stair leading from the front door to the three principal floors. The first floor is one big room with the serving – now cooking – area, screened off it. The floor of the serving area is shown in the 1898 plan as stone, the banqueting area as wood. The hall is dominated by a large fireplace on the east wall. The set-in window on the north wall is, or pretends to be, a gun-port. It never has been, and hardly could be, used for a canon, but in 1590 a gun-port was a fashionable accessory.

The second and third floors are thought to have been divided into two large rooms originally, each with its own garderobe and fireplace. On the second floor, in the bedroom opposite the stairs, the left side of the fire surround has been cut away, possibly to accommodate a Victorian fireplace. The fourth floor was the servants' dormitory, and is now a roost for bats. The cap house has a south-facing gun loop.

Alterations

In the mid-18th century Sir Thomas Hay, the 3rd Baronet, made extensive alterations to the Castle of Park. Some lairds, like Hay's cousins the Maxwells at Monreith, were building new country houses in the classical style, but this was either too expensive or too radical a proposition for Sir Thomas.

Instead, Sir Thomas made the building more pleasant to live in by enlarging the windows, installing oak sash windows. These still had iron bars for security (now removed, but the sockets are still visible). He fitted panelling in the great hall (in the process blocking a window in the west wall), and in the rooms on the floor above. All of the panelling had disappeared by the middle of the 20th century – some removed, some rotted away – but fortunately drawings of the panelling and the carved door architraves had been made in 1898.

In 1898, or near to that date, two wings were added to the building. These seem never to have had direct access to the castle, and were possibly to house a

coachman and gardener. They were only two storeys high, but had massive chimneys to match those of the tower. In the photographs they look slightly incongruous, but perhaps in scale they were not unlike the original barmkin, or enclosed service court[3]. They formed a courtyard on the side of the front door.

The plan of 1898 shows three doors on the ground floor: two back doors as well as the present front door. One was in the west wall of the kitchen, where there is now a window; it led into a shed with access to an outhouse and ash pit. The other was at the south end of the passage to the kitchen. It would have given easy access to the back door of the south-west wing.

In 2021, we were able to hang two generously donated portraits in the hall. The first is of Elizabeth Stirling of Keir, a mid-Victorian copy by Gregor Urquhart of a 16th-century original by Adam de Colone in the collection of Lord Napier & Ettrick. In 1572 Elizabeth married John Napier of Merchiston Tower, the famous Scottish mathematician who published his discovery of logarithms in 1614. She died young in 1579.

The second portrait is of Charles Stirling of Keir, 1771-1830, a Glasgow merchant whose wealth came in part from Stirling, Gordon & Co in which he was a partner, and which traded with plantations West Indies worked by enslaved Africans. It was painted by Glasgow-born artist, John Partridge (1789-1872).

[3] Barmkin, also spelled barmekin or barnekin, is a Scots word which refers to a form of medieval and later defensive enclosure, typically found around smaller castles, tower houses, pele towers, and bastle houses in Scotland and the north of England. An original barmkin would have contained ancillary buildings, and could be used to protect cattle during raids.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Barmkin

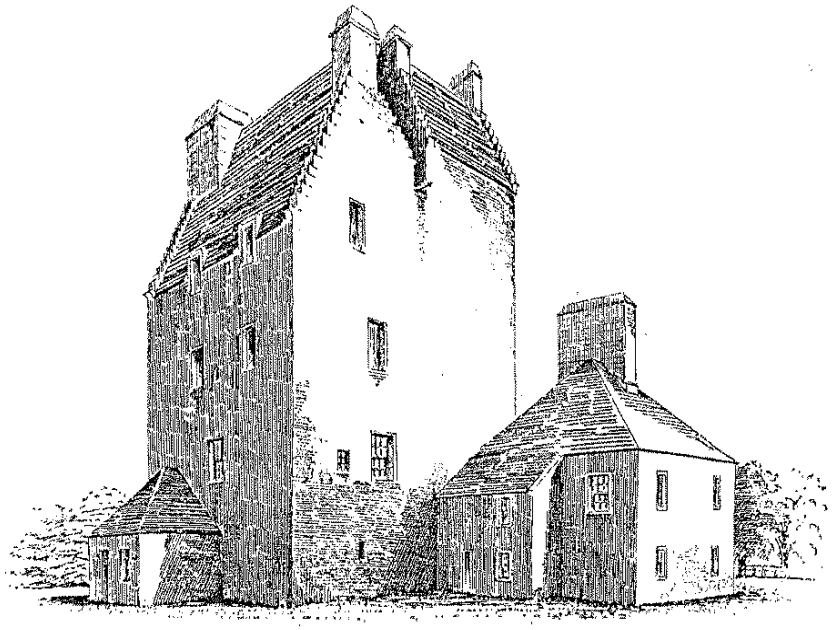


Fig. 448.—Park House. View from South-West.

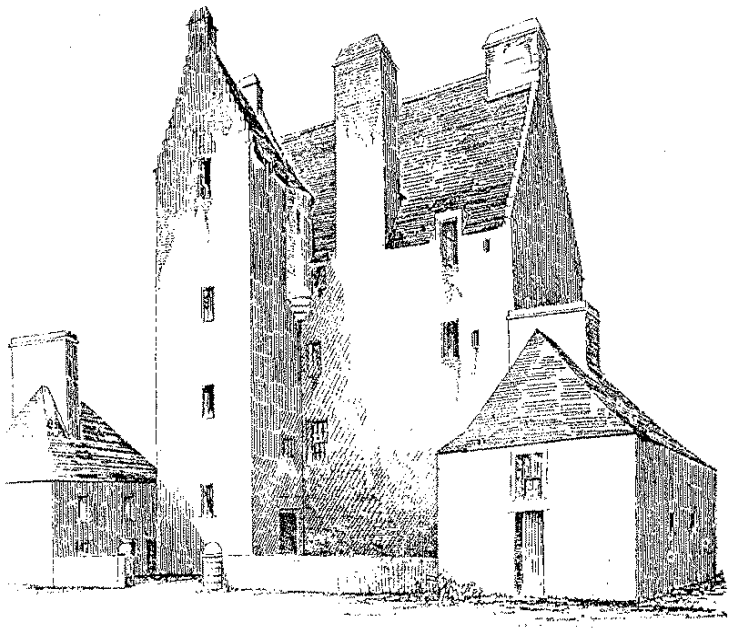


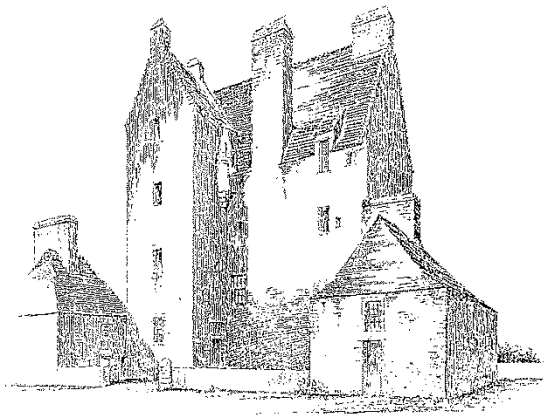
Fig. 446.—Park House. View from North-East.

From *Castellated and Domestic Architecture of* Scotland, by MacGibbon & Ross.

PARK O' LUCE, WIGTONSHIRE.

(PLATES 19 TO 21.)

This sixteenth-century house, sometimes referred to as Castle of Park, is situated about fifteen miles south-west of Newton-Stewart, and near the village and abbey of Glenluce. It stands on an extensive plateau, which appears to have been laid out with parks and gardens overlooking the valley of the Luce Water.



The house is of the L plan, and is four storeys high. The principal block is about forty-three and a half feet long by twenty-five feet wide. A small wing at the south-east corner projects about thirteen feet, and contains the stair up to the third floor, from which a turret stair leads to the roof.

The entrance door is, as is usual in this type of house, at the re-entering angle of the smaller limb, and over it is the interesting inscription illustrated on Plate 21, with the date 1590. There is a built-up doorway at the south end, and from this doorway a passage leads past two apartments to the kitchen at the north end, where there is a great fireplace, having a window on one side and a well-lighted small closet on the other. All this ground floor is vaulted, and the stone pavement still exists in parts.

The passage or lobby, as a feature of house planning, makes its appearance on the ground floor in sixteenth-century houses, and is seldom found even during that period on the upper floors, where the rooms usually enter through each other. And we may note that the kitchen fireplace is often, as in this case, roomy enough to permit of people sitting round it for the sake of light and heat during the long winter nights, as also that the window would be a useful adjunct in the daytime.

On the first floor is the banqueting-hall, twenty-two and a half feet long by seventeen feet wide, entering through a reception or service room still having the remains of a pavement floor. This hall is well lighted with three windows, and, as seen on the plans, the large flue of the kitchen fireplace passes through this and the upper floors, leaving a space on either side for commodious closets. The flue itself emerges in the substantial chimney seen over the north gable.

It will be observed that the east and west gables of the small wing are carried up the full height of the roof, instead of omitting the north gable and running the lesser roof into the larger. This feature preserves the traditional tower-like effect characteristic of this period of Scottish architecture. The same kind of treatment will be found on other Scottish houses of the time, and at several churches where a porch or similar feature projects from a side aisle, as at Aberdeen Cathedral, and the churches of Linlithgow, Seton, and Ladykirk.

The detached buildings, one at each end, as shown on the block plan, Plate 21, are later additions, probably eighteenth century, and were obviously needed to increase the bedroom and outdoor accommodation. These later additions evidently suggested the scheme of a small courtyard in front.

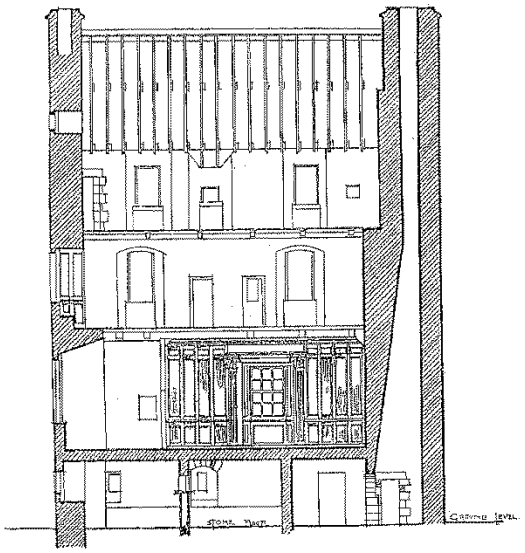
Thomas Hay and Jonet MakDovel, whose names appear over the entrance doorway, as shown on Plate 21, were married in 1572, and the house was built eighteen years later. According to local tradition, the ruins of the abbey provided the material, but we are unaware of the authority for this tradition. It has been stated that "the House of Park is built in the turret style,"* but with greater accuracy the description might be that of a house showing the decline of the use of the turret, as it has only one turret, and that of a very subordinate character. The lands of Park were a part of the lands of Glenluce Abbey, and Thomas Hay, of the Hays of Errol, was the son of the last abbot, whose appointment by Papal Bull to rule over the Monastery in the *Valley of Light* (Vallis Lucis) is dated 1560.

* "*Lands and their Owners in Galloway.*"

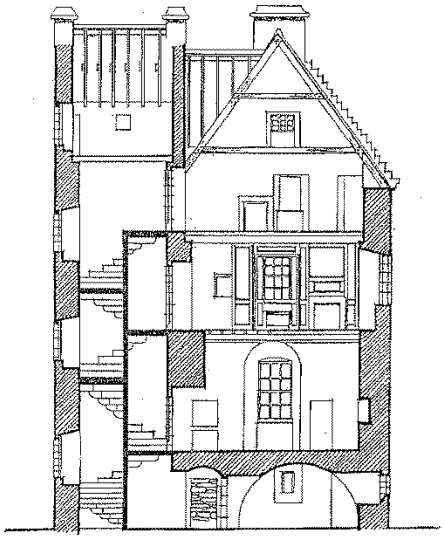
The description and drawings of 1898, from the archive of the National Monuments Record of Scotland.

PLATE 19

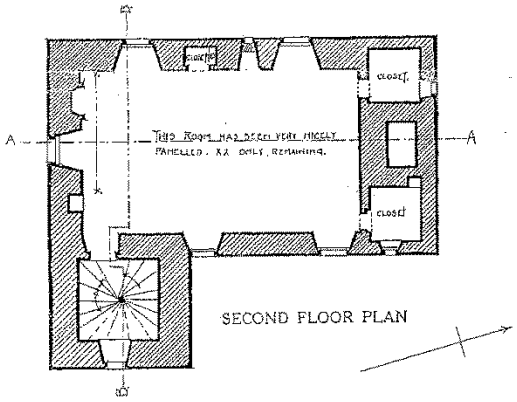
PARK O' LUCE, WIGTONSHIRE.



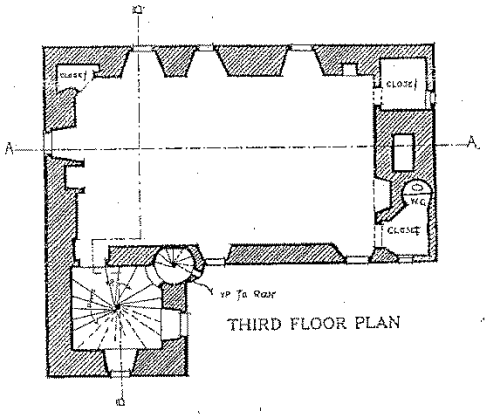
SECTION THROUGH A A



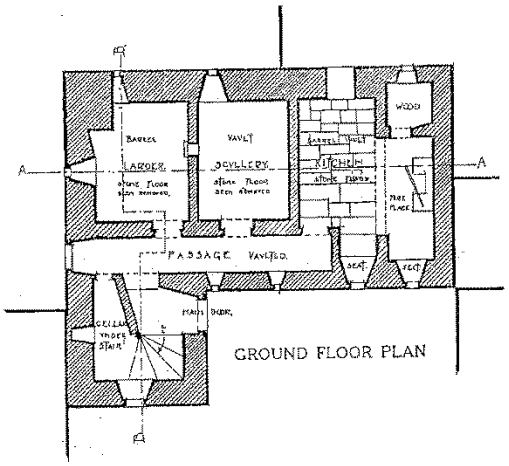
SECTION THROUGH B B



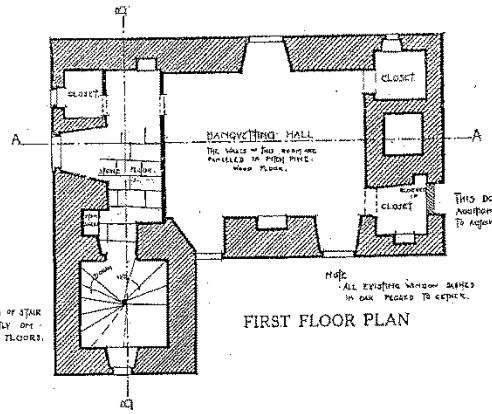
SECOND FLOOR PLAN



THIRD FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

"THE RISERS OF STAIR VARY GREATLY ON DIFFERENT FLOORS.

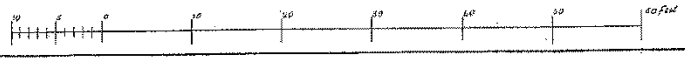
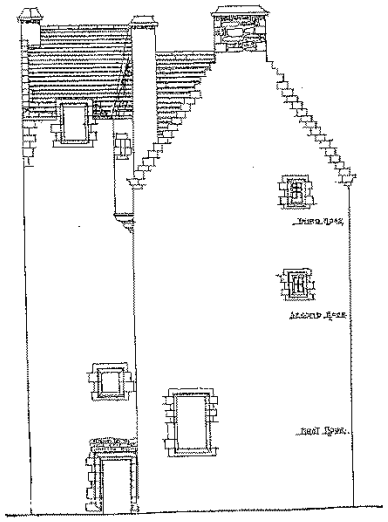
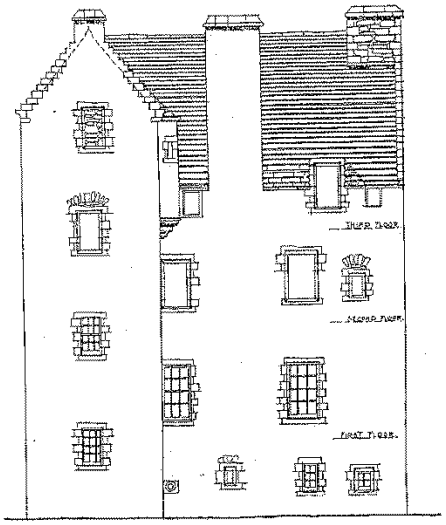


PLATE 20

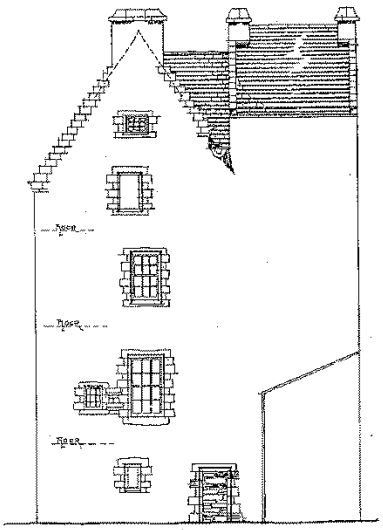
PARK O' LUCE, WIGTONSHIRE.



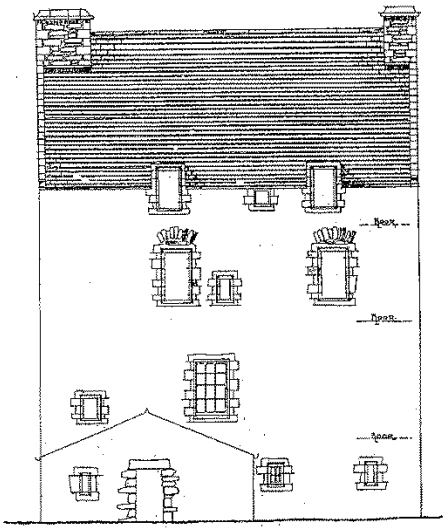
NORTH ELEVATION



EAST ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION

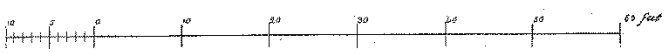
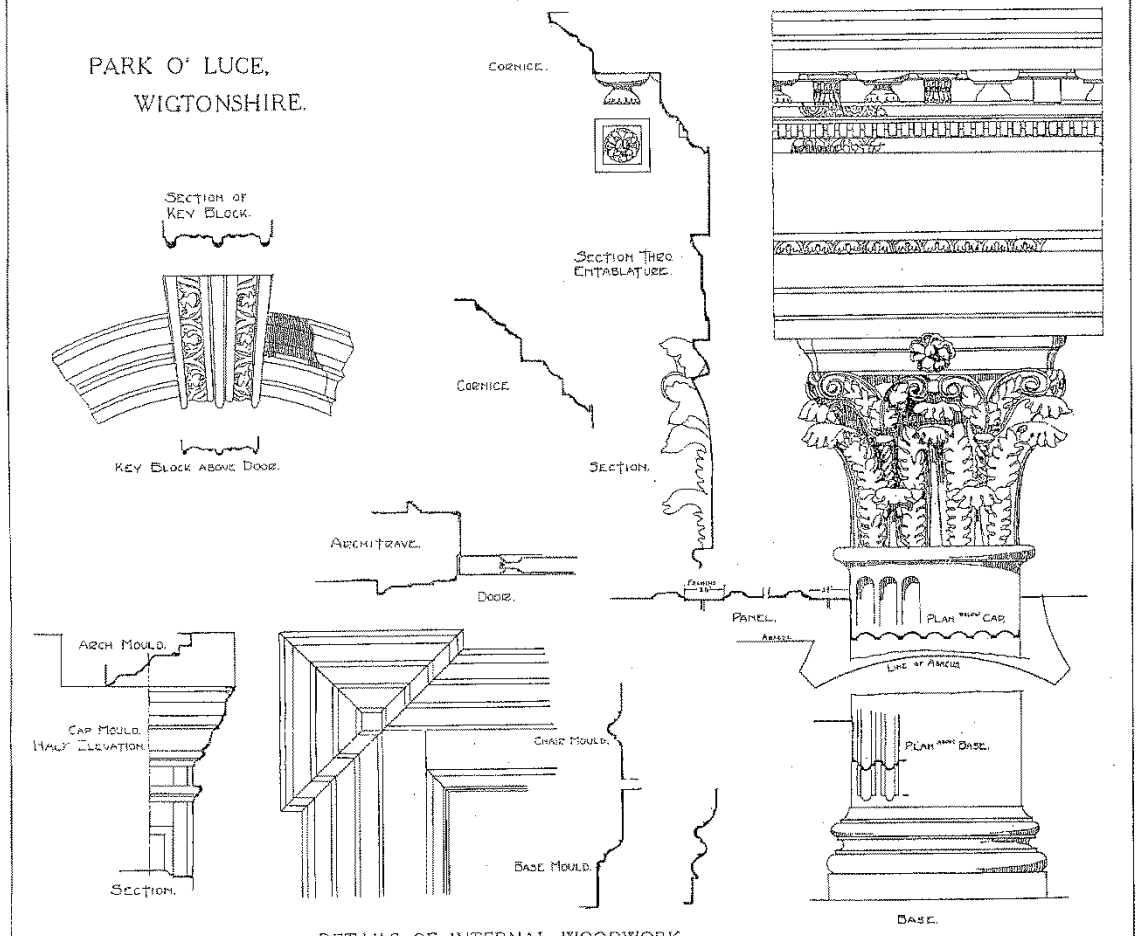


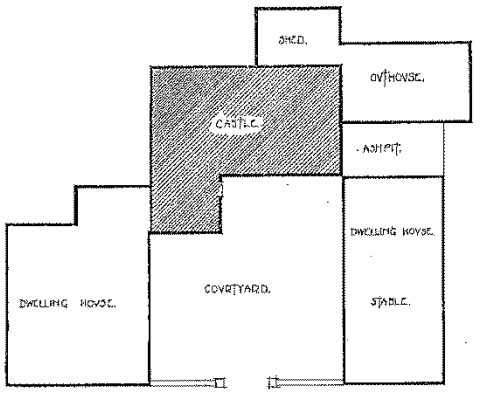
PLATE 21

PARK O' LUCE,
WIGTONSHIRE.



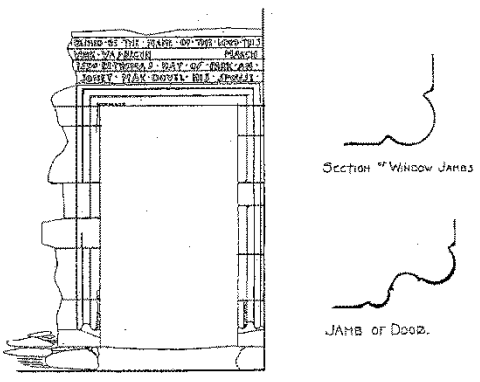
DETAILS OF INTERNAL WOODWORK

Scale for Details.



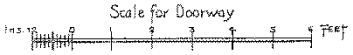
BLOCK PLAN

Scale for Block Plan



PRINCIPAL ENTRANCE DOORWAY

Scale for Doorway



Repairs

Historic Scotland

When the Works Department of the Scottish Office took over the Castle of Park in 1949, it was in a bad state. Most urgent was the requirement to make it watertight; between 1950 and 1955 it was re-roofed with Scottish slates, re-using as many as possible of the old ones. The 18th century wings and outhouses were thought to be too dilapidated to save and were demolished. Later, the harling, or rough-cast render, was removed from the main east face, and that elevation was repointed.

When the cap house was struck by lightning in 1969, the chimney was shattered, a hole appeared in the wall by the turret stair and an existing crack in the north end, where the lightning emerged, widened ominously. The building was subsequently made safe, and the upper floors removed. In 1973 the front door was replaced.

By 1976 it was clear that a major programme of repairs was required. These were carried out between 1976-78, directed by Mr Neil Hynd. On the ground floor, the two back doors were replaced by windows (this was a restoration, as windows had originally occupied the openings). The stair in the west corner, from the pantry to the servery in the hall, was rediscovered and opened up, as was the hatch between the kitchen and passage. Stone flags survived in the kitchen; the remainder of the ground floor rooms had had cement floors since before 1898, and these were repaired. A soot-covered smoking board, on which to hang hams for smoking, was found in the kitchen chimney.

On the first floor, major work took place. The north-east corner had suffered from the lightning and was strengthened with concrete ties set into the wall. The door to the closet in that corner was re-hung. The hall floor was paved with

stone flags from Stainton in Yorkshire. The 1898 plan showed the banqueting area as having wooden boards, but unfortunately that drawing had not come to light in 1976.

The hall ceiling had been removed but four beams that remained were reused. They were strengthened with steel plates and their ends were housed in lead to prevent them rotting. The floors of the second and third storeys were replaced in wood.

The cap house chimney and the stonework in the spiral stair up to the cap house – both badly damaged by lightning in 1969 – were repaired. All the sash windows had gone, and were renewed in pine. The walls of the Castle were rendered in the traditional way, with a mixture of lime and coarse sand. Inside, the building was left unfinished.

The Landmark Trust

In 1992-93 Landmark completed the restoration of the Castle, and made it habitable. The architects were Stewart Tod & Partners of Edinburgh, who had undertaken fifteen previous jobs for Landmark. The builders were D. Robison and Davidson.

On the ground floor a bathroom was inserted into one of the vaulted service rooms. The service stair leading from the pantry to the great hall, discovered by Historic Scotland, stopped two feet above the floor. The missing bottom steps were replaced in wood, making the stairs usable once again.

On the first floor, the south end of the great hall was the obvious place for the Landmark's kitchen, having originally been the servery. The screen follows the line of the 18th century partition shown on the 1898 plan as closely as possible, but ends short of the east wall. In some other tower houses the screen dividing the servery from the hall returns to the end wall, the better to hide serving

activity from those entering from the main stair. The 1990s screen, however, is more convenient for modern usage, and probably reflects the original arrangement more closely.

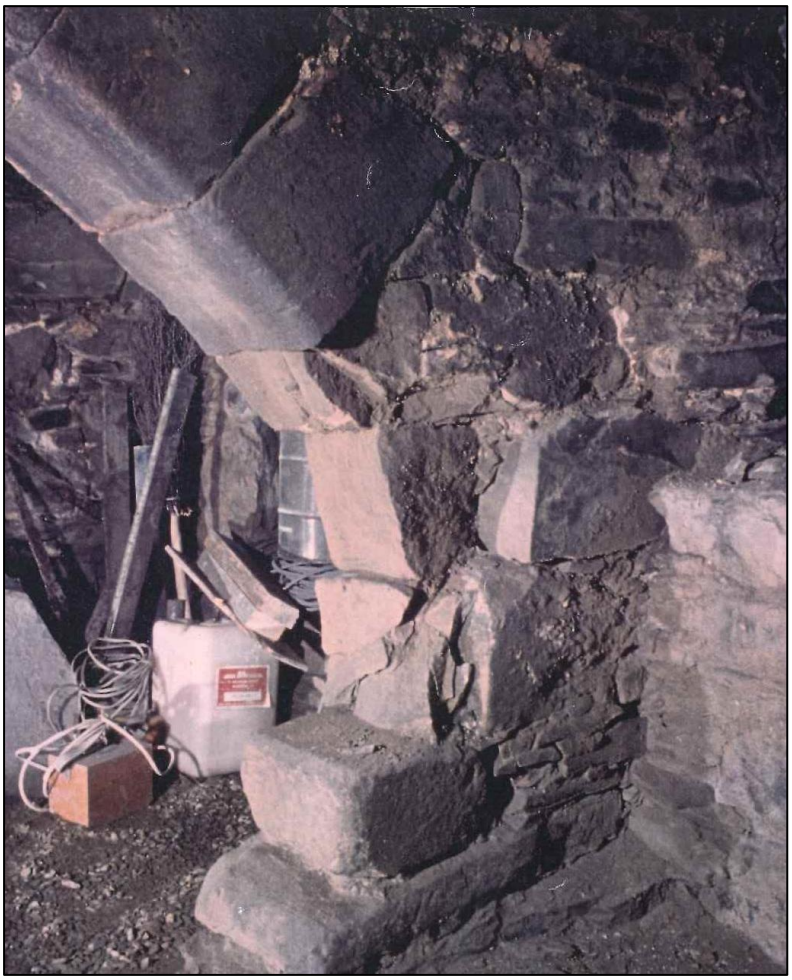
Landmark considered the possibility of replacing the panelling – using the detailed 1898 drawings as a basis – but rejected it as over-embellishment. The overall effect of the great hall is now nearer to what it was when the Castle was first built, before panelling was introduced, although the original windows were smaller and the walls would probably have been hung with cloth or tapestries.

By 1898 the original stone spiral stair in the north-west corner had gone (the stair well is called a closet on the plan), perhaps removed by the Dalrymple-Hays for use elsewhere. Historic Scotland did not attempt to restore it. Landmark made the decision to replace the stair in wood: a wooden newel post was installed and the wooden treads follow the positions of the original stone ones as nearly as possible. The walls of the stairwell were badly damaged when the stair was removed, and have been left rough.

The second and third floors, which had no partitions after Historic Scotland's repairs, were each divided up into two rooms and a bathroom. The garderobes were given wooden floors, and the third floor was given a ceiling (having been left open to the attic by Historic Scotland). The balustrade at the top of the spiral stairs from the third floor to the cap house had gone, and was replaced as part of Landmark's repairs.

The final transformation from monument to house was achieved by plastering the walls of all the rooms with lime-hair plaster, followed by coats of lime-wash. However, the second-floor sitting room deserved something more elaborate. Here, the ceiling and the shutters were painted with a design based on one in a Jacobean merchant's house near Edinburgh. The painting was done by Jennifer

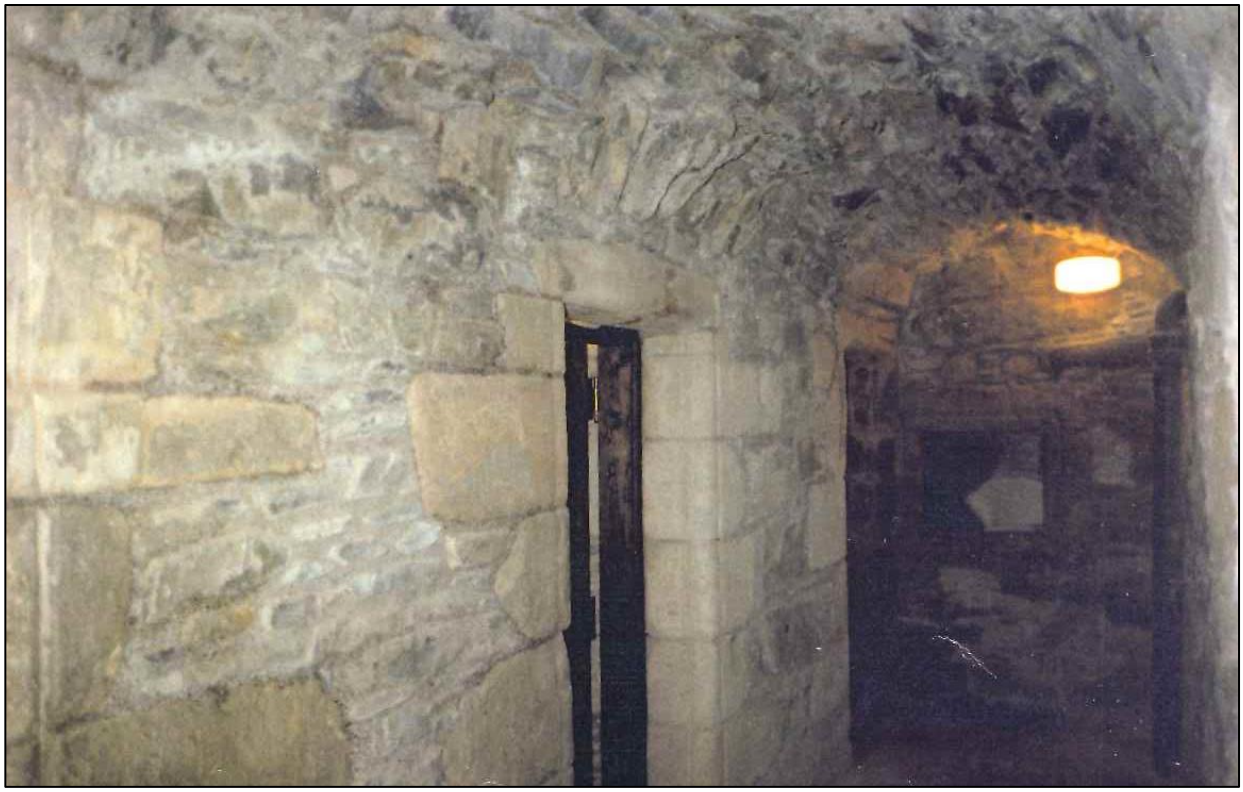
Packer, who designed Landmark's screen-printed curtains for several decades from the 1960s.



A badly-damaged arch in the kitchen, 1976.

The base of the arch repaired by Historic Scotland in 1976-8.

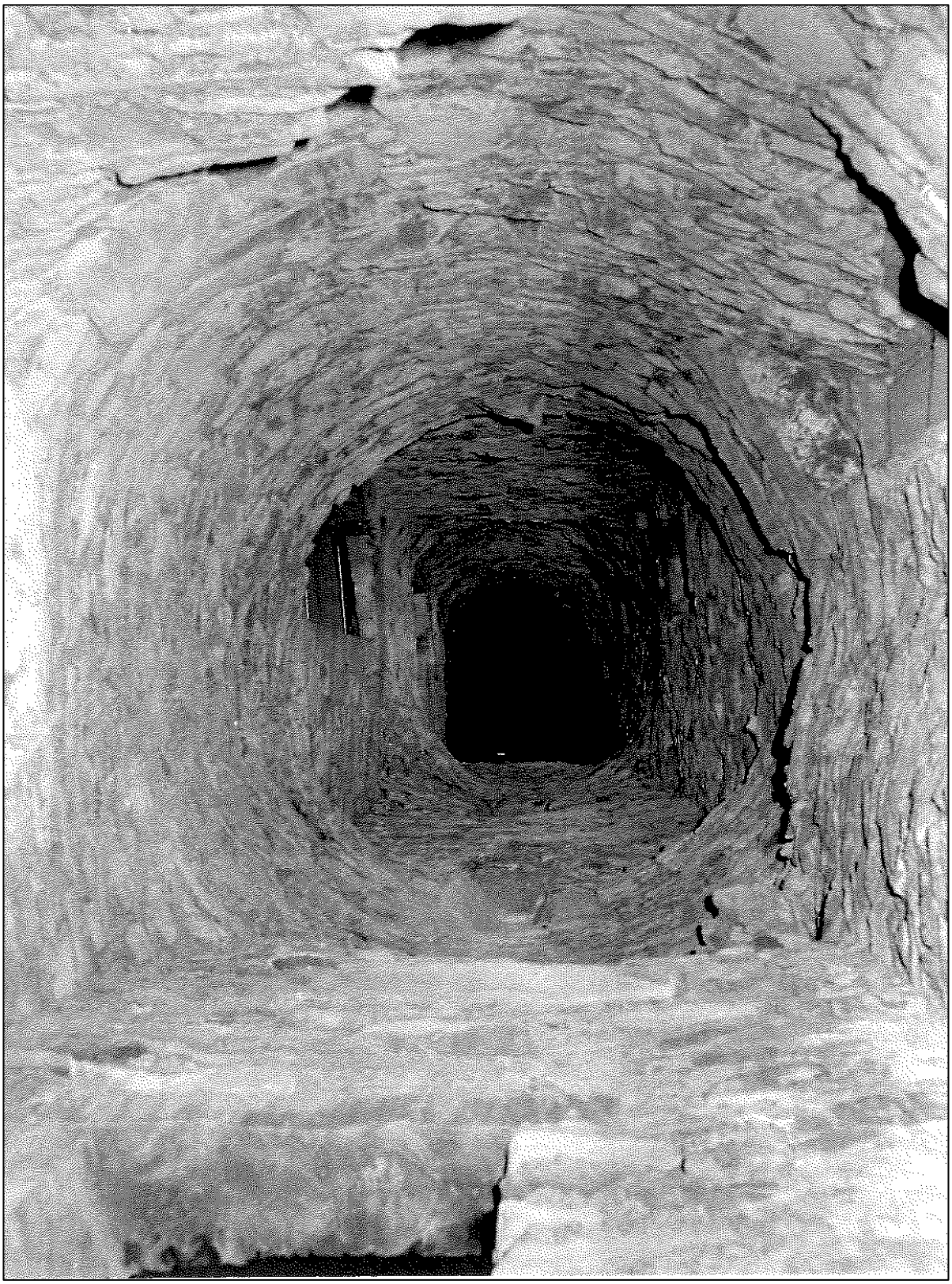
The stair discovered by Historic Scotland leading from the pantry to the servery in the great hall. It stopped two feet above floor level (photo from



Looking along the corridor at the hatch into the kitchen (1989).

The great hall in 1989, looking towards the main door.

The door from the main stair in 1989.



The north-west stairwell, left empty by Historic Scotland.

**The sitting room in 1989, looking north.
The floor has been covered with hardboard.**

The second floor in 1989. The bathroom wall was inserted between these two garderobes, where it had been originally.

The third floor in 1987, looking west. Historic Scotland had left it without a ceiling and therefore open to the roof.

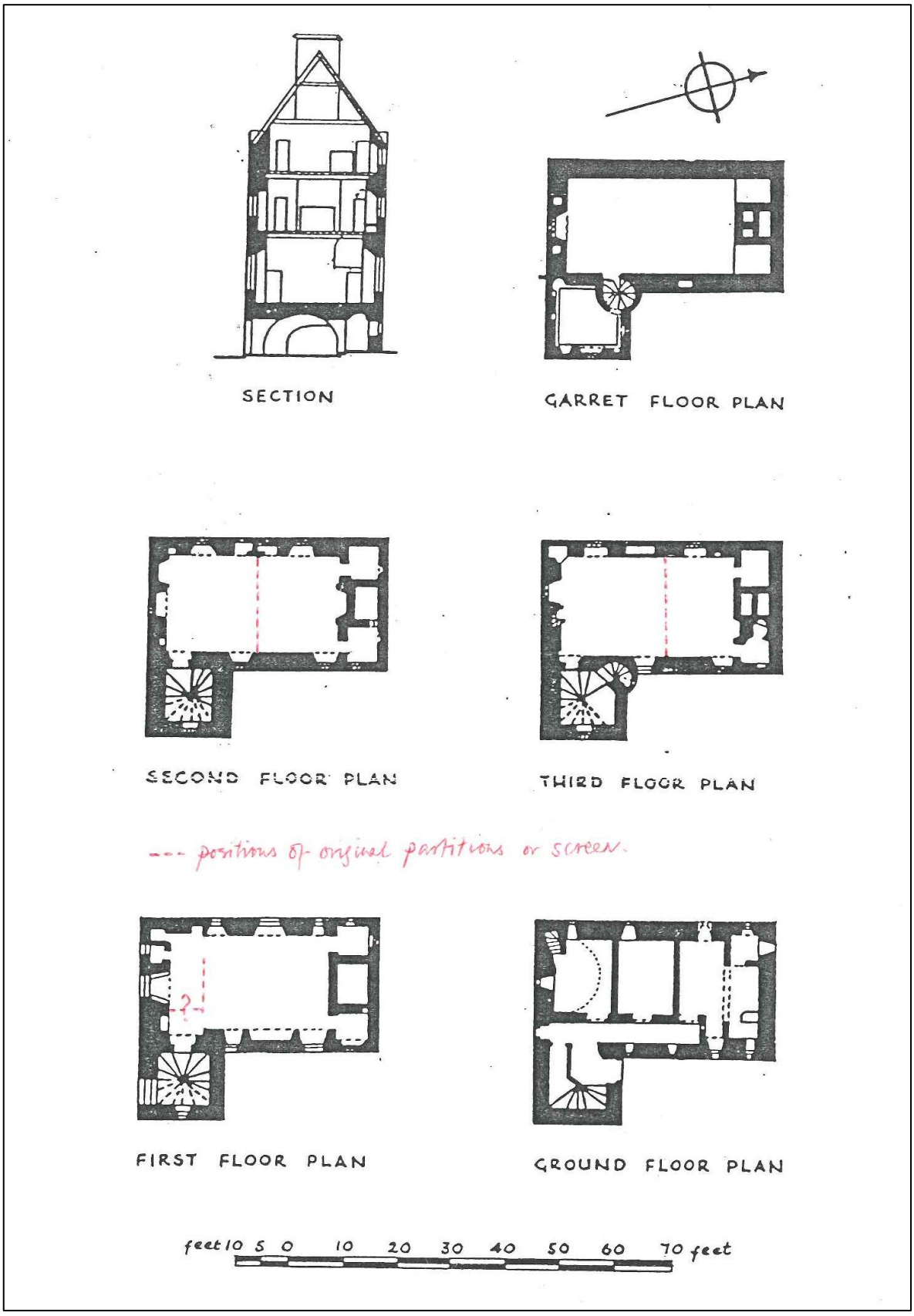
Door to the spiral stair from the cap house in 1987.

The balustrade installed in 1989.

The top steps of the cap house stair were damaged by lightening in 1969 and replaced by Historic Scotland.

Harling in progress, 1987.

Jennifer Packer painting the sitting room shutters.



Castle of Park as it was in 1990.

Archaeology

In 1992, when the car park was being levelled and the drains dug, Wigtownshire Archaeology Associates were called in and given a watching brief. Landmark hoped there would be finds that would at least confirm the date of the demolished wings, but nothing pre-dating 1800 was found. We know that someone from the Castle went to the Paris Exhibition of 1889 and brought back a souvenir bottle, and someone else smoked clay pipes, but little else. The full archaeological report is in a separate album.

Bats

Before work started on the Castle a representative from Scottish Natural Heritage, Ms Galley, came to the Castle of Park to look at the bats, both Pipistrelle and Brown long-eared, that were then using the whole building as a roosting place. The bats left the Castle during the building work, and Scottish Natural Heritage advised Landmark on how to encourage them to return only to the now-unused attic floor.

Sources

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Index to Hay of Park Papers, kindly given by Sir John Hay

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Morton, A.S. *Galloway and the Covenanters*, 1914

Most importantly, all information kindly given by Neil Hynd, architect for Historic Scotland, and Vivienne Tod.

Sir John Hay has kindly lent the Landmark Trust the following items for the Castle of Park:

1 family tree of the Hays of Park by Innes of Learney
1 wheel-shaped family tree by Sir Arthur Hay
1 portrait of Sir John Hay, 7th Baronet by Sir Arthur Hay
1 portrait of Sir Lewis Hay, 9th Baronet by Sir Arthur Hay
1 oil painting of The Castle of Park by Sir Arthur Hay
1 watercolour of The Castle of Park by Ralph Wilson
1 Grant of Imperial Service Order to Sir Arthur Hay, 1974
1 framed photograph of Sir Lewis Hay

Books:

The Family of Hay by Sir Charles Colcock
The story of the Hays by Kenneth McLennan Hay
The Tartans of the Clans and Families of Scotland by Innes of Learney
Clan map of Scotland.