

# HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



# FIELD MONUMENTS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE									
H	NH	4	5	NE	009				
2 NGR									
NH	4	8	6	0	5	9	3	3	CE

4 DISTRICT <b>ROSS &amp; CROMARTY</b>		5 PARISH <b>FODDERTY</b>		6 SITE NAME <b>C A S T L E L E O D</b>	
7 AREA STATUS	8 SITE STATUS <b>'A' LISTED</b>	9 REGIONAL STATUS	10 GENERIC TYPE <b>CASTLE (TOWERHOUSE)</b>		
11 CONCORDANCE os NH 45 NE 9 NMR	12 FORM <b>STANDING STRUCTURE</b>	13 DIMENSIONS	14 PERIOD/DATE <b>LM/c. 1600 A.D.</b>		15 DATING METHOD <b>DOC.</b>
16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS		17 CONDITION <b>OCCUPIED</b>		18 SHAPE <b>L-SHAPED</b>	
19 THREAT AND DATE					

20 LAND USE <b>LAND BUILT UPON = OPEN WOODLAND</b>		21 GEOLOGY			
22 SOILS		23 VEGETATION			
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE		25 RELIEF <b>LEVEL GROUND</b>		26 ASPECT <b>NE</b>	27 ALTITUDE <b>40 = 50m O.D.</b>

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)					

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

1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1971: 6" MAP
2. MACGIBBON & ROSS: 1889: CASTLE & DOMESTICATED ARCHIT. OF SCOTLAND: 3: pp625-8 (PLANS)
3. TRANTER, M.: 1970: THE FORTIFIED HOUSE IN SCOTLAND: pp160-2
4. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1971: 1/10,000 MAP
5. CRUDEN, S.: 1981: THE SCOTTISH CASTLE: SPURBOOKS: pp135 & 170
6. HBM(SDD): 1985: BSAHI, ROSS & CROMARTY
7. CLOSE-BROOKS, J.: 1986: EXPLORING SCOTLAND'S HERITAGE, THE HIGHLANDS: HMSO: p90

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 <b>ASS. DOCS.</b>					

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 <b>ALM: 8.8.1986</b>		51 CHECK: DATE <b>F.S: 10.2.1987</b>
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52 TEXT

"NH 4860 5933 Castle Leod (NR)" (1)

"An early 17th C tower-house impressively situated on a green mound and built to a modified L-plan whose re-entrant angle has been infilled by a slightly later addition, which contains a secondary doorway, defended by shot-holes and surmounted by a heraldic panel bearing the MacKenzie arms." (2) (3)

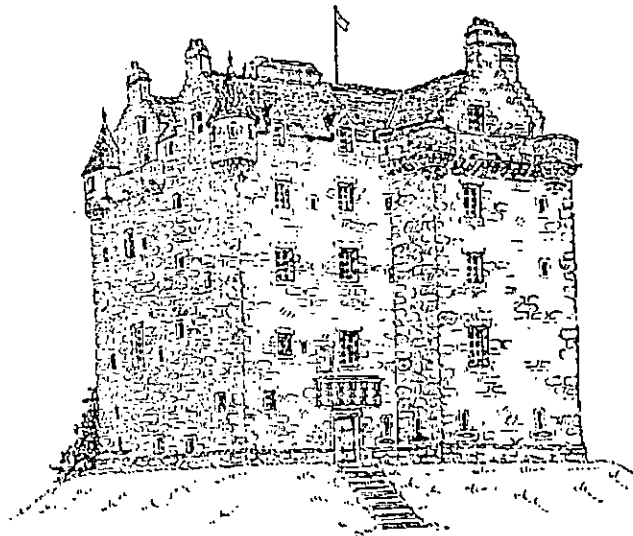
"The original building had an open parapet at the wall-head with bartizans at the angles. The addition however covers up this parapet on the original front wall and is carried a storey higher being finished with ornamental dormers and pyramidal - roofed turrets. Some of the other angle-turrets and dormers were probably added at the same time."

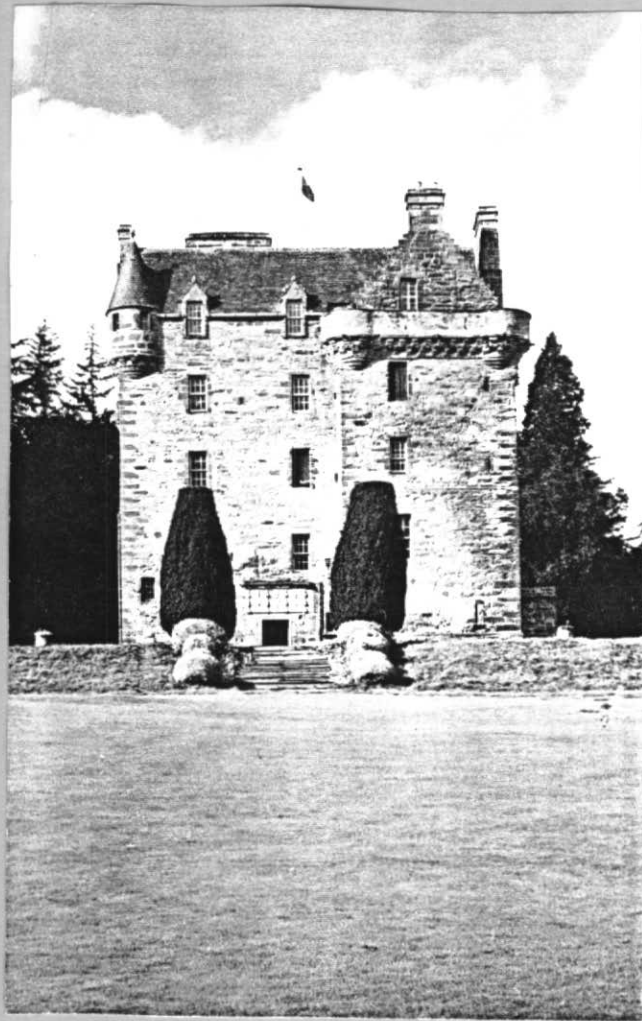
52. "One dormer, on the north, bears the date 1616, but whether this is the date of the original (2) or the modification (3) is not clear."  
"Tranter says the original was built in 1600 by the Tutor of Kintail, Sir Robert MacKenzie and is still the seat of his descendant, the Earl of Cromartie."  
"Castle Leod. This castle is still occupied and in good condition. According to the owners wife, Lady Cromartie, the original date is not known but believed to be 15th C and the top storey additions date from 1616." (OSFI:JB:23.4.1975)  
"Additions of the Victorian and Edwardian eras are built onto the N wall of the castle."  
"NH 4860 5933 - Castle Leod" (4)  
"See continuation card for text (3)"

This most handsome and commodious house, situated impressively on a green mound in its large and nobly-wooded estate, less than a mile north of Strathpeffer, is somewhat misleading in its looks, seeming at first glance to be both homogeneous and rather more ancient than it is. It was however built about 1600 [160] by the famous Tutor of Kintail, Sir Roderick Mackenzie of Coigeach, on a modified form of the L-planned fortalice; but only shortly later, in 1616 if we are to go by dates appearing on the dormer windows, he filled in the re-entrant angle by building a large and high extension, to provide a wide squared staircase and additional bedroom accommodation. This portion, although apt to appear of the same period, is slightly higher, and is enhanced by conical-roofed angle-turrets and dormer windows, while the original L-shaped tower's wallhead was surmounted by a parapet and open rounds, projected on individual corbelling set chequerwise. The sketch reveals something of this dual construction. The walls, seven to eight feet in thickness, with numerous recesses, rise from a substantial plinth or basement course, and are of an attractive warm red sandstone, good coursed rubble with dressed quoins. The entire building is well supplied with splayed gunloops and arrow-slit windows. Many of the larger windows retain their iron grilles.

The entrance is in the south-front, opening on to a terrace, in the filled-in portion of the L, the doorway being guarded by shot-holes and surmounted by a large and elaborately decorative panel with Mackenzie heraldic bearings. The basement contains the old kitchen in the wing, and vaulted cellars in the main block. On the first floor, the main block houses a fine Hall, 32 by 21 feet, with a large fireplace. A private room off, in the wing, is now the [161] drawing-room. There is more ample bedroom accommodation than usual, on account of the addition.

The builder, the Tutor of Kintail, uncle and guardian of the young first Lord Mackenzie of Kintail, chief of the clan, was famous in Highland history and a remarkable man, achieving great things for himself, his clan, and the country generally. He married the heiress of Macleod of Coigeach, so gaining that property. His grandson was also an able man, Clerk Register of Scotland, and created Viscount Tarbat and Earl of Cromartie in 1703; and he consistently added to his estates until they included practically the whole of the former county of Cromarty. The 3rd Earl was forfeited for his share in the Rising of 1745, but the estates were eventually restored and a re-grant made of the earldom. Castle Leod is still the seat of his descendant, the present Earl of [162] Cromartie.





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