

# HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



# FIELD MONUMENTS

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE										
	H	N	H	7	8	S	E	0	0	4
2 NGR		3 QUAL								
N	H	7	8	0	2	8	2	1	8	CE

4 DISTRICT ROSS & CROMARTY			5 PARISH TAIN			6 SITE NAME S T DUTHUS CHURCH *					
7 AREA STATUS		8 SITE STATUS SCHEDULED + LISTED A		9 REGIONAL STATUS		10 GENERIC TYPE CHURCH			14 PERIOD/DATE 14th C		15 DATING METHOD DOC
11 CONCORDANCE OS NH 78 SE 3		12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURE		13 DIMENSIONS 21.44m LONG x 6.97m WIDE INT.			16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS			17 CONDITION RESTORED	
20 LAND USE LAND BUILT UPON			21 GEOLOGY			22 SOILS			23 VEGETATION		
24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE			25 RELIEF GENTLE HILLSLOPE			26 ASPECT ENE			27 ALTITUDE 15 = 20m OD		

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)

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

1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1907: 6" MAP
2. MACGIBBON & ROSS: 1896: ECCLESIASTICAL ARCHITECTURE OF SCOTLAND: EDINBURGH: 2: pp538-542
3. NEALE, J.M.: 1848: ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES: LONDON: : .
4. TAYLOR, Rev.W.: 1882: RESEARCHES INTO THE HISTORY OF TAIN: A. ROSS, TAIN: : .
5. HBM(SDD): 1985: LIST OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS.
6. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1906: 25" MAP
7. BSAHI LIST: 7.3.1984: ROSS & CROMARTY

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 AM: 30.5.1985	51 CHECK: DATE DY 6.6.1985

52 TEXT

"See plan HNH 78 SE 005." (6)  
 "NH 780822, St. Duthus Collegiate Church" (5)  
 "St Duthus Collegiate Church" (7) →  
 "see continuation card for text and photos" (8)

St Duthac's Church, Tain, Ross  
and Cromarty

(1)

Late 14th-early 15th century AD.

NH 780821. In the High Street, Tain, near the  
Tolbooth.

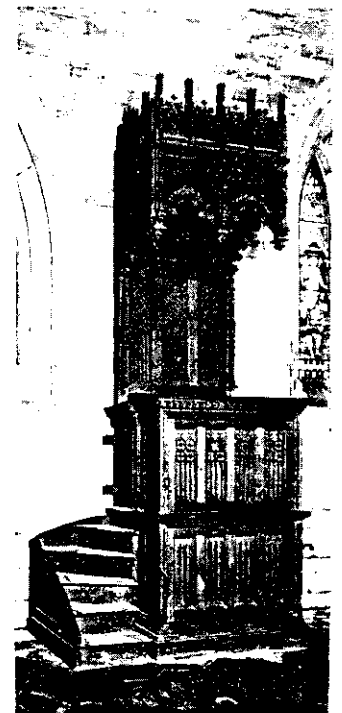
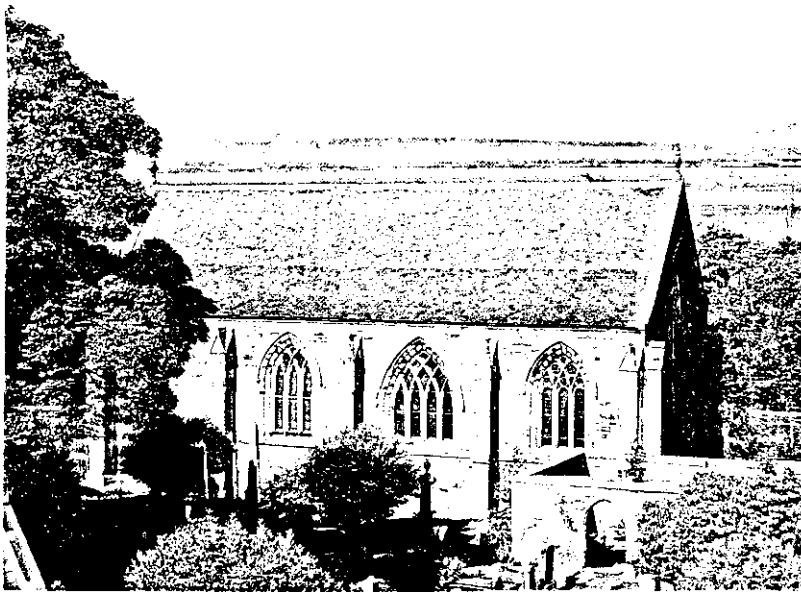
A well-preserved medieval church built at the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries as the parish church of Tain. There are three medieval churches in Tain and some confusion as to their purpose. All are dedicated to St Duthac (or Duthus), a saint said to have been born in Tain around AD 1000. His relics were kept in the ruined 13th century church which stands close to the sea. A second ruin of the later 13th-early 14th century, close to the existing church, may have belonged to a community of priests who served St Duthac's sanctuary. In 1487 this community acquired collegiate status and by then had a provost, five canons, a sacrist, an assistant clerk and three boy choristers. From then on the college seems to have used the choir of the parish church for their services, while the townsfolk used the nave.

The church has large windows with restored tracery in three walls and lancet windows in the fourth. In the west wall is a niche with a statue of a bishop, perhaps

HNH 73 SE 004  
St Duthac. The interior has been stripped of most of its furnishings, medieval or later, and the roof is a restoration. In medieval times the church was divided into choir and nave by a wooden screen with a central door and an altar either side. The position of the screen is shown by the piscina in the south wall. The eastern end was the choir, later used as the collegiate church, with the high altar under the window and wooden stalls for the canons along the walls. A fine triple sedilia (built-in stone seat) for the clergy celebrating mass survives in the south wall. There was probably no fixed seating for the lay folk in the nave.

The church survived the Reformation intact, but the interior was altered to make it suitable for Protestant services by removing the screen and altars. The fine 16th century pulpit is said to have been presented by the 'good regent Murray' (James Stewart, Earl of Moray, Regent for James VI 1567-70). Lofts were built to serve a larger congregation, but all are now gone, and only the painted front of the Trades Loft with craft emblems and inscriptions dated 1776 now survives, set up on one wall. In 1815 a new church was built and this one fell into disrepair. Later on the roof and windows were repaired, and the pulpit restored from a few surviving fragments.

(8)



Tain, St Duthac's Church, restored  
16th century pulpit (no. 52)



6. " \* Full Name is 'St. Duthus Collegiate Church'."  
29. (8) CLOSE-BROOKS, J:1986:EXPLORING SCOTLAND'S HERITAGE, THE HIGHLANDS:HPSO:p114

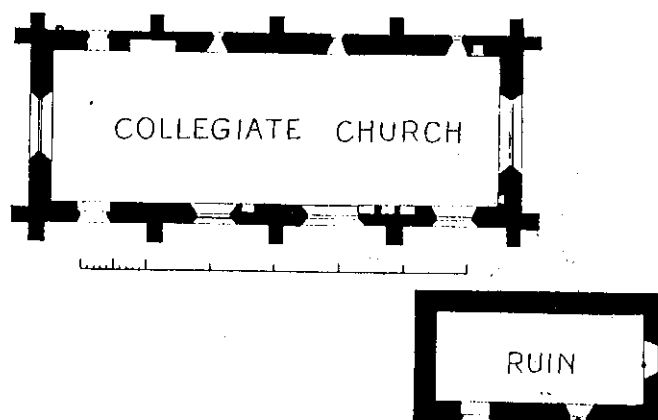


FIG. 933.—St. Duthus' Church. Plan.

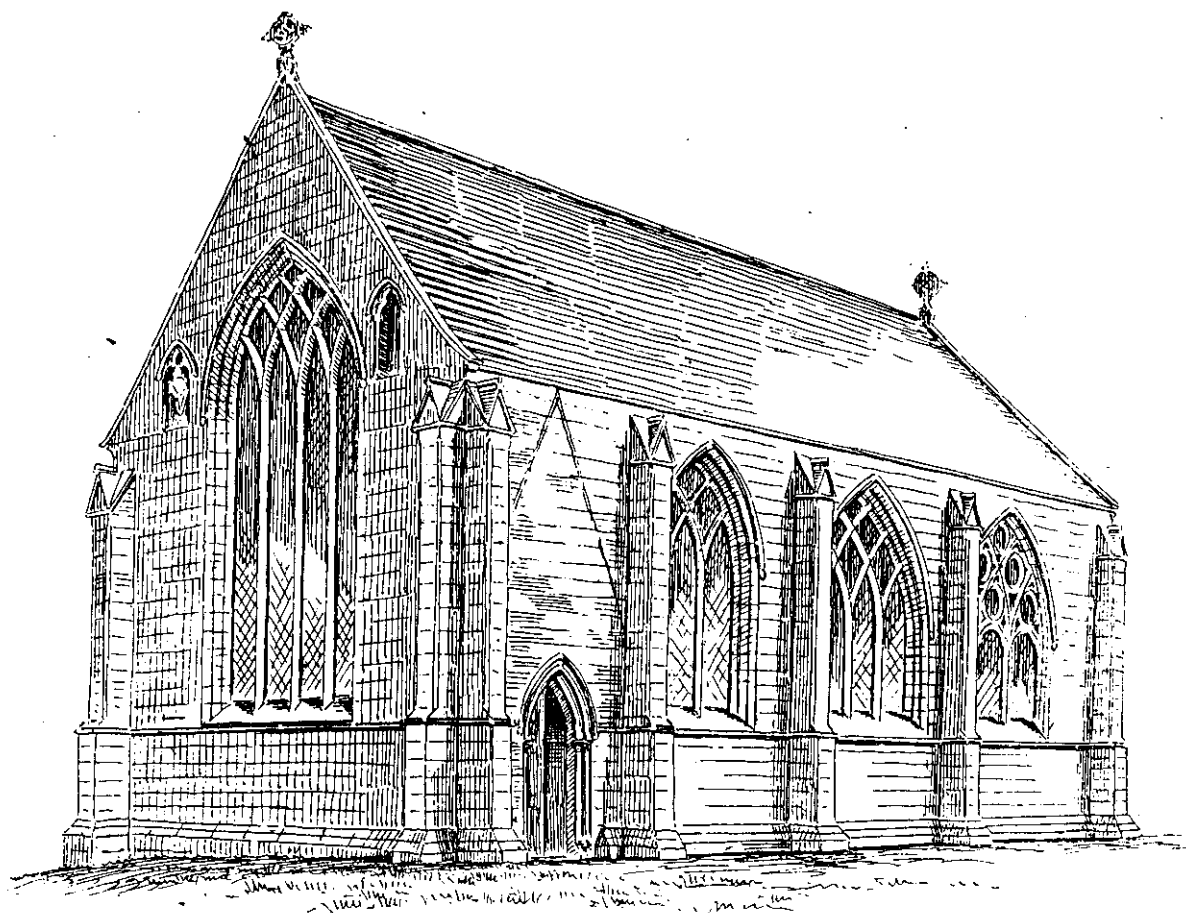


FIG. 934.—St. Duthus' Church. View from South-West.



