

Ancient Monuments & Historic Buildings Ministry of Works

HUNTINGTOWER CASTLE

Official Guide

Price One Shilling

LOCATION NOTE

HUNTINGTOWER is situated 2½ miles N.W. of Perth and within 200 yards of the Perth-Crief road. There is a convenient 'bus service from Perth Railway Station.

Times of Opening-

April to September: Weekdays 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sundays 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

October to March: Weekdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sundays 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.,

Charge for Adult 6d. Charge for Child 3d.



HUNTINGTOWER PERTHSHIRE

By J. S. RICHARDSON, LL.D., F.S.A. Scot. Formerly Inspector of Ancient Monuments for Scotland

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Historical Notes

UNTINGTOWER, or the "House" or "Place of Ruthven," as it was called prior to 1600, stands in the Parish of Tibbermore about three miles north-west of the town of Perth,

The Family of Rathren

The family of Ruthweh derived the name from the surrounding lands of which they were in possession for at least three centures. The first known ancestor was the control of the train of the Petrobhisic from Bat Lechsin flowards the end of the train century. His grandson, Sir Walter of Ruthwey, who lived in the first half of the 4 pit century, and the source of the first of the family to adopt the name which became so well known in Scottish thistory.

Sir William Ruthren was for a time held as hostage by the English for the ranson of King James I. Three generations later in 1489 William, First Lord Ruthren, was created a Lord of Parliament under this title. His soon, the Master of Strategy and the Master of the Strategy of the Strat

William, the second Lord Ruthyen, was Provost of Perth, an Eustraordinary Lord of Session, and Keeper of the Prhy Seal. He added greatly to his essue by marriage with Jonet, ediest daughter and co-heires of Patrick Lord Hallyburno of Dirieton in Batt Jothian. By this alliance Dirieton Cault and its Bands became Ruthyen proposition.

Patrick, the third Lord Ruthwen, was closured at St. Andrews, and was one of the leading nobles who supported the Reformers in the troubled times of Queen Mary's reign. He was one of Dabuy's subterns and was the principal participant in the munder of the Queen's favourite, Riccio, at Holyrood, in March 1566. In this silin: its own William who succeeded him was sho implicated. Both field to the property of the p

William, now fourth Lord Ruthven, was one of those who waited on Queen Mary at Loch Leven Castle when she signed her resignation of the Crown. He voted against the Queen's divorce and was present at the coronation of the infant James at Stirling in 1367. In 1376 was Treasurer of Scotland during the King's minority and in 1381 the King created him Earl of Gowrle by charter under the Great Seal which excreted the Earldom out of the Mossstery of Scone.

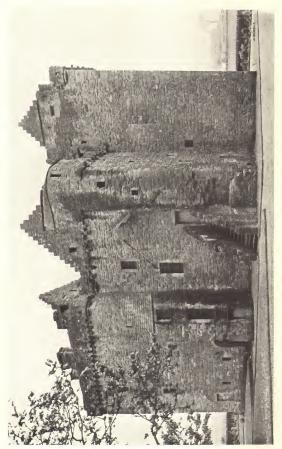
The Raid of Ruthven, 1582

The episode known as "The Raid of Ruthven," an important event in Scottish history, took place in the eastle in August, 1582. Gowrie, with other dissatisfied nobles, desired to take the King out of the power of the Duke of Lennox and the Earl of Arran; to accomplish this they seized upon an opportunity afforded by the young King's presence in Perth, while he was returning south from his favourite amusement of hunting in the district of Athole. On the 22nd of August he was visited by the Earls of Mar and Gowrie, the Lords Lindsay, Boyd, and others, who by constraint and persuasion induced him to accompany them to the House of Ruthven, where that night the Earl's vassals assembled in great numbers. Next morning the King was astonished at the throng of people in and about the place. The conspirators, having entered his appartment, presented him with a remonstrance in which they accused Lennox and Arran of being the authors of oppressions and wrongs which could no longer be endured and which tended to ruin the Commonwealth and cause the subversion of the Protestant religion. The young King received the remonstrance with the complaisance enforced by his situation, but anxious to take his departure, was told that he would not be permitted; he began to · expostulate and threaten, and finding all without effect burst into tears. The Master of Glamis is then reported to have said, "Better baims greet than bearded men," words which James is said never to have forgiven or forgotten.

Such was the famous Raid of Ruthven which for the next ten months was to place the chief power in the hands of Gowie and his confidentes. They issued two prochamations to vindiscue their conduct, in the one, the King was made to declare himself a perfectly free agent, while in the other were set forth all the enormities of the late Government.

On the evening of the day following the King's arrival at Ruthven, the Earl of Arran with his brother William Stewart and an armed force of forty horse appeared in the vicinity, Arran, trusting in a former friendship with Gowrie, presented himself at the Castle with

HUNTINGTOWER FROM THE SOUTH



HUNTINGTOWER FROM THE NORTH

two attendants, only to find himself a prisoner. Following this, the Earl of Mar with a superior force of horsemen set upon and defeated Aran's party in the fields hetween Perth and Ruthven, taking them prisoners; in this encounter William Stewart was wounded.

When Nong Issues at last found his freedom, he again cume under the power of Arms. At first the showed a forgiving spirit to those who had been connected with the Raid, for it July, 1873 bett issued a shown of the Raid of the Raid of the Raid of the Raid of the shown of the Raid of the Raid of the Raid of the Raid of the had not the Earl of Govern soon fround immed in district. In 1875 he was collected to leave the country and having resisted to Dundee, was been asset to be a support of the Raid of the Raid of the Raid of the Helphysolobiess. He tood his trial on an accusation of being implement in a plot to seite, Stating, Cantie, was found quilty, and behanded at Stelling on the 4th of May 1875, his property being the Raid of the Raid of

Although Goweit took as active part in the siliant of State, in it interesting to note that be found time for intellectual persuasts. When presided by Hame of Godderoft to join in the complete of the presidence of the control of the complete of the Godderoft to join in the complete of the Godderoft of the Godderoft when the Godderoft of the God

On the and of September 1584 the King was at Ruthven, where he tarried eight or ten days for hunting, but an outhreak of plague at Perth caused his speedy departure to Tullibardine, taking few attendants and leaving all his household servants at the House of Ruthven "with express command to them not to follow nor remove forth of the same, until they saw what became of them upon suspicion."

The Genrie Conspiracy, 1600

The estates and honours of William the first Earl were restored in 1586 to his son James, who, bowever, died in his fourteenth year. He was succeeded in 1588 by his brother John, the third and last Earl of Gowrie, who was educated at Edinburgh and a distinguished student as Pedau Univentity, where he was suspected like his faither and grand-faither of particular percomouses and wichcraft. On his return to Scotland in 1600 he was killed with his brother Alexander Roshress. And the second of the

The deal bodies were carried to Edinburgh, and an institute and high treation and all points contained in the summons; wireness being examined, the Lords and Battess of Parliament pronounced Sentence and Domon on the sight November 1000, declaring the Edin and his contract the property of the Contract of Resident of the Contract of Resident to the Contract of Resident to the Contract of Resident to the Contract of Resident of Resi

Huntingtower in the hands of the Crown, 1600-1643

An Act of Patliament of 1600 abolishing the surname of Ruthven, "ordained the baronic and place of Ruthven to be changett and callit in all tyme coming the place and baronic of Huntingtour."

Huntingtower remained in Crowo hands until 1643, when it and the specientry passed us to the hands of William Marray, who in that par was created Fast Dynam and Lord Huntingtower, by Chafer I, the part of the Charles of the Charles of the State Marray and American of the Bolchamber and a favourite of King Chafer. He is started to have filled the poor of page and whippings-boy to that Monarch when have filled the poor of page and whippings-boy to that Monarch when Provinced Fillows. Province to this to but held the Bernathe controlulary and keeping of the masor place of Huntingtower since 1632, which had been formerly held by 67 Margon Marray of Demmatine, which had been formerly held by 67 Margon Marray of Demmatine, to Robert Bruce of Geletts and then in 1649 to James, second Earl of Tullibardine, Lord Murray, Gask and Balquhidder, who eventually acquired the property by purchase in 1663.

"Huntingtour is mine, Jesnie, Huntingtour as mine, Huntingtour and bonnie Belford and a' Balquhithers mine."

nd a' Balquhithers mine." (Old Scattish Ballad).

The Earl of Tullibardine died without issue and the Castle and lands passed by marriage into the family of Atholl. The building was a Dower House, when in 1760 the Dowager Duchess of Atholl resided there. After her death it was occupied by a colony of calico printers. Castain Francis Grosse, a friend of Roberts Burns ("A chief's amano

you takin 'notes and faith he'll prent it'', visited the building in 1790 and has recorded in a drawing the portion of the building which no looger exists. Several years before this, Charles Pennant, another English traveller, visited Huntingtown and relates the following supposed incident in an account of a tor in Social Advanced to the control of the prent of the p

The Maiden's Leap

A diaghter of the first Barl of Gowrie was counted by a young gentleman of inficit rank, when per tensions were not constrained by the family. When a water on the Cartle, he was always ledged in a the door were ball the conveyed heardin fit into her lover's apartment, but some prying Domes acquainted the Countees with it, who certain but some prying Domes acquainted the Countees with it, who certain The young lady's sent were quiet—the least the footneys of the old Counters, not to the top of the leads, and took the desprease leap of fact and of the counter of the counter of the old Counters, not to the top of the leads, and took the desprease leap of fact and of the counter of the counter of the counter of the association mobile from the counter of the counter of the counter of association mobile from the counter of the counter application for the region association mobile from the counter of the counter of the counter of the counter of the association of the counter of the counte

This extraordinary exploit has given the name of "The Maiden's Leap" to the space between the two towers, which were originally

The building was transferred in 1912 to the guardianship of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Works and Public Buildings by the late Major Lindsay Mercer, and has been put into a thorough state of preservation.

Description

The site is approximately level and is naturally protected on the west by a narrow re-centrat; on the north by the steep hank sloping down to the river Almond, but there is no trace to the east and south, where the ground is open, of a dirtch or earthwork if such existed.

Hamingtower comits today of two tower-houses of mediaced the standing does require on a fine set and west, and joined by the standing does require on a fine set and west, and joined by a cental well which limited with the south wall of the earther mover, while on the north sed were convayed buildings of which no trace while on the north sed were convayed buildings of which no trace the set of the set of the sed of the set of the set of the sed of the set of the sed of

The Eastern Tower

The entern tower is the older and is of two date, having less menodelid in the late; thot entry if the course, the entire masony dating from early in the 15th. In the entern hay there was originally outside the control of the second of the control of the second of the control of the second of th

When the tower was remodelled the stone wailt of the ground floor and the fireplace were introduced and the floor level lowered approximately two feet. Originally the space west of the pend was occupied by a ground and a mezzanine floor, the lattre being entered from a passage in the west wall connected with the trumplike state. In the first arrangement all the ceilings of the tower were of wood, but the entrance passage was vauled as already indicates.



COAT OF ARMS OF JOHN, 3RD EARL OF GOWRIE, FROM SIR DAVID LINDSAY'S MSS.



THE PAINTED CEILING AND PLASTERED WALLS (16TH CENTURY)



CLOSE-UP OF PAINTED CEILING



FIREPLACE ON SECOND FLOOR, (LATE 15TH OR EARLY 16TH CENTURY), AND AUMRIE

In the space between the two Towers there is evidence of an early doorway protected on the outside by a loophole in the east wall of the western tower. The original hall was on the first floor of the eastern tower; it was remodelled when the underlying vault was introduced, and again in the 17th century. The removal of pine panelling and late plaster work in 1913 revealed wall plaster of early 16th century date, and the painted wooden eciling, circa 1540, and probably the earliest of the Scottish tempera-painted ceilings now in existence in any dwelling. The ceiling panels are ornamented with a knotwork pattern drawn in black on a white ground. One, however, shows a running stem and leaf pattern. The designs on the joists are in three simple patterns and are carried out in black and white on a yellow ground, black and white on a red ground, and white on a black ground. The beams are ornamental with conventional leaf-work and pear-like fruit, scrolls and zoomorphic patterns. On the west side of the central beam there are depicted within panels, a hound, a dragonesque bead with the neck emerging from a foliaceous cluster, a human-headed lion, a foliaceous and "strap-work" design terminating in dragonesque heads and another design of foliaceous character. The traces of the painted decoration on the plaster, however, suggest a slightly earlier period.

Over the small vindow in the west wall is a representation of a bare and on the junks, window bead, and arched rollift, can be traced a design of flowing conventional branches, stems and leaves in red and lakes, green, and claves in red and lakes, green, and claves in red and lakes, green, and claves in free days and lakes and the contract of the contract of the contract is no the north junh and on the south junh can be traced the conflict of a node figure with he hands held in an attritude of fract or supplication, the portraval suggests a representation of the Expanisor from Carellon of Edwar. On the wall does not be window it as last long justice to the west of the later large window in the roads wall and also fairly at the vindow read it and includor mat the north wall and also fairly at the vindow near the north-act corner.

Another feature of interest is an aumatic or wall-press which has a eavily below, once fitted with a slip lid; this construction is unsassing. The aumatic was formed in a window recess blocked for the purpose, as a substitute for a large one which occupied the position of the present window to the west of the fireplace.

The garderobes of the tower are in the south-west angle and on the Hall floor the passage giving access to the garderobe seems to have opened through a doorway on to the walk of the early curtain wall. The second floor room has a fine fiteplace with moulded jamel, bases and capital enzying a plain root intell surmounted by a narrow moulded cornier, it is of a type dating from the end of the 17th or beginning of the 46th century. These is a small aumie on the north side of the fireplace, and a large one, once fitted with double doors and a shelf, not at the west end of the room on the north wall. The window recesses are furnished with stone seats, a common mediaeval feature. Over this room was a garart.

The tumpike leading to the wall-walk terminates in a capebouse, on the one side of which are traces of a doorway. Alterations on this feature have made the reading of it difficult, but it is possible that a doorway at our time opened on to a bridge connecting the western tower. The wall-walk retains its saddle and gutter stones, and the surrawater drains through prossib reporting beyond the face of the parsper. The parapers were originally higher. A bell may have bung at the small window on the wear gable of the garret.

The Western Tower and Jamb

The western tower, also of three storeys and a garret, is somewhat larger than its neighbour and stands with its greater axis north and south, having at the south-west a recrangular wing or jamb rising one storey above the rest. The turnpike stair in the north-west corner is entered from the first floor, but does not appear to be the original, The ground floor, now occupied by the caretaker's house, was once fortified with loopholes, and entered from a doorway on the east side and may have contained at an earlier period a vaulted pit-prison. The garderobes are situated in the west wall and those of the samb close to the angle formed by the latter wall, and the north wall of the jamb. In the room on the first floor, near the entrance to the stair, there are traces of mural painting on the plaster, and in the west window recess of the west room there are the remains of a cost-of-arms within a vellow lozenge-shaped frame; dexter appears to represent Erskine and smister. Ruthven. In this connection it is interesting to note that John Easking of Dun, killed at Flodden in 1513, was the second husband of Margaret, daughter of William, first Lord Rutbyen. The painting is of the same date as that in the Hall of the east tower and by the

A dove-cot in the garret of the jamb provided those living in the house with fresh food. Above the steps leading to the wall walk of the jamb are also to be seen a few nesting boxes. The west tower has been subject to greater alteration than the custern one; windows have been enlarged and fireplaces inserted, all of which seem to have been done when the towers were linked up in the later period, the original windows opening on to the space between the towers built un, and the doorways cut in the walls on either side.

Viewed from any point, Huntingtower presents a picturesque appearance; the broken line of walling, the corbelled parapers with their subdued corner rounds and the corbie-suepped gables give the visitor an impression of a Scottish fortified-house of the 16th century, divested of its outer defensive works, garden and orchard.

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APPENDIX

Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings

Many of the most famous accient buildings of Great British are maintained by the State in the care of the Ministry of Works. Guide books or pamphlets to a number of them are available on the spot and may be obtained from the Sales Offices of H.M. Stationery Office at the addresses given on cover page four. Those mow available are listed below. Prices in betweets include postage.

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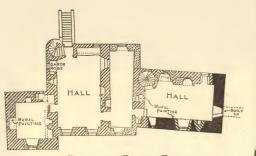
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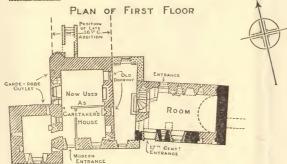
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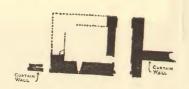
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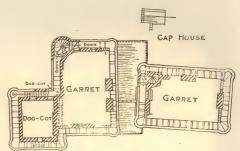




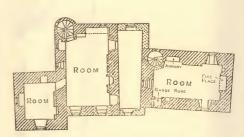
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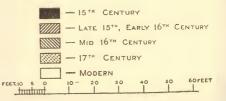
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