

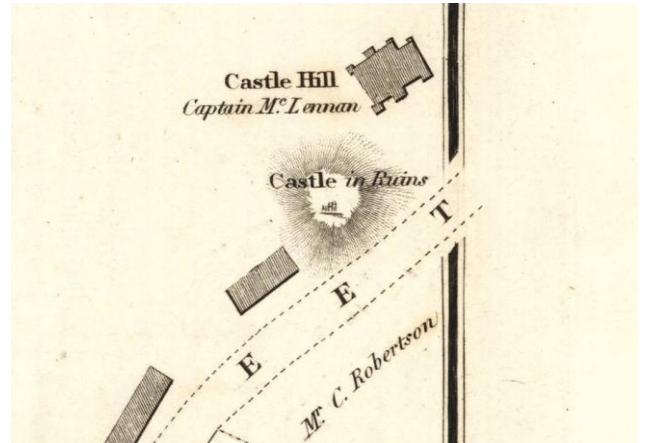
Dingwall Castle Remains

In time, more stone was taken from the castle ruins to build houses in Dingwall. By 1817 the site was virtually levelled, leaving the few remnants that can be seen today. In 1820 Captain Donald MacLennan built Castle House (*left*), using some remaining sandstone from the site. Masonry from the original castle still stands in-situ in the house's driveway - a small circular tower c. 2.6m high. Also, 10m south-west of the tower is an entrance to an underground chamber with a barrel-vaulted ceiling (5.0m x 1.8m and 1.7m high). Both are now covered in ivy.



At the entrance to 27 Castle Street, is a small, octagonal, castellated tower with gun loops. This is a doocot, probably built around the same time as Castle House. It is weathered, cracked and leaning. On the east side are a fireplace and doorway. It has been suggested that the doocot could have been one of the original corner towers of Dingwall Castle. However, if it is in its original position, it is more likely to be part of a surrounding wall. [John Wood's map of 1821](#) (*below*) shows the site of Captain MacLennan's house in relation to the ruined castle site at the end of Castle Street.

Finally, local legend has it that there was a secret tunnel connecting Dingwall and Tulloch Castles. While this is an exciting notion, it does seem unlikely, as it would have had to be about a mile long, and to have crossed the River Peffrey. In all the years of extensive building work in the area, no evidence has ever been found.



Further reading and credits: <https://canmore.org.uk/site/12774/dingwall-castle-street-dingwall-castle>.
Photos and some text courtesy of ['Stravaiging around Scotland'](#) / Andy Sweet.