

## 2. CARVED STONE AT CROSS-STONE, ELLON.

In the course of work on the parish history of Ellon, Mr James Godsman has kindly pointed out to me a rock bearing an engraved cross. This rock or earth-fast stone is situated on the farm of Cross-stone at a point (473486) where the parish boundary is defined by a small watercourse running NW.-SE. The cross (Pl. LXIV, 1) lies horizontally and measures  $7 \times 7\frac{1}{4}$  ins. and is of plain latin shape. It is formed by grooves about 1 in. broad and  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. deep, and at its intersection there is a round hole 6 ins. deep descending vertically.

It seems certain that the cross is one of those referred to in a *Perambulation betwix Tybbertay and Fechil* made in 1499 and published in the *Antiquities of the*

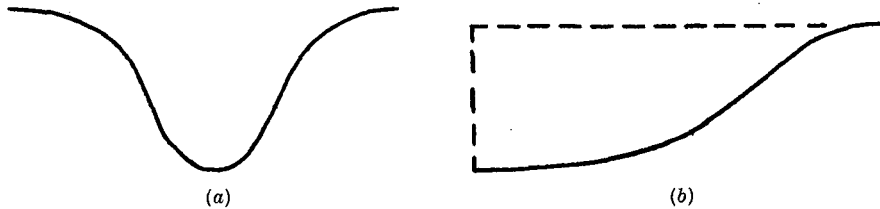
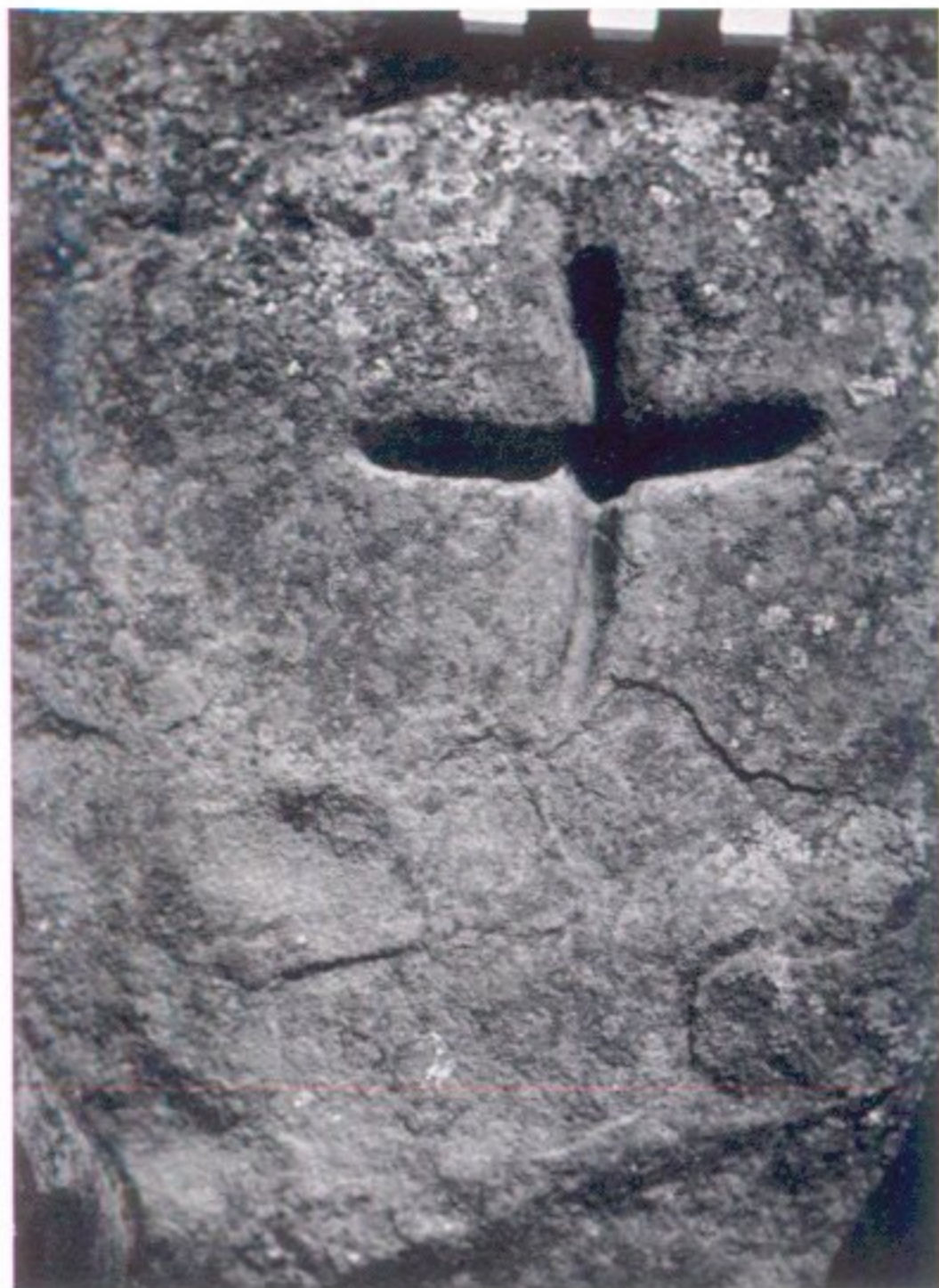


Fig. 4. Cross-stone: (a) transverse profile; (b) run-out (longitudinal).

*Shires of Aberdeen and Banff*, Spalding Club, 1847, II, 428-30. The main landmarks, called "carnes" and "lammyrhillocks," are no longer identifiable but the above-mentioned watercourse is still the march between Tipperty and that part of the Esslemont property which formerly belonged to Fechil. The hole in the centre of the cross must have been made to receive one of the "propis betwix thame, the whilk sall be corsit with mell and chesaile." The word *prop* is said by Jamieson<sup>1</sup> to be used for a landmark in the *Chartulary of Aberbrothick*: "as the proppis ar sett fra the Est to the West apou the Northe syde throu out the myre lineally."

The transverse profile of the grooves which form the Cross-stone cross (fig. 4) show that all chisel marks, and indeed all the angles, have been laboriously rubbed smooth. This is not the effect of weathering, the stone being a very hard one, but is a practice reaching back into prehistoric times. We know from the *Perambulation* that these grooves were made with a chisel but, where rubbing down of this sort is carried out, it destroys all visual evidence as to the tool used.

C. A. GORDON.



1. Cross-stone, Ellon.



2. Blackhills, N.



3. Blackhills, E.



4. Blackhills, S.