

Balbithan House, Aberdeenshire

by H Gordon Slade

Balbithan House¹ lies two miles NE of Kintore, on the N side of the Don (fig 1). There is a tradition² that the original site of the house was nearer to Kintore. Originally Balbithan formed, together with Heatherwick, part of the estates of the Abbey of Lindores; the Abbey retained the superiority but appeared from an early date to have feued the estate, which by 1490 had come into the possession of a branch of the Chalmers family. The family, which was respectable rather than distinguished, held a number of estates on Deeside and Donside, and was of considerable influence in the Burgh of Aberdeen, providing a provost in the person of William Chalmers, who held that office for seven years from 1392. The branch of the family that held Balbithan was originally of Kintore, and later of Balnacraig. John Chalmers of Balbithan married Christian Leslie about 1490, and in 1529 either this John, or his son of the same name, had bought half the lands of Little Fola and Blackwater from Robert Blackhall.³ In 1565 David Chalmers of Balbithan was in dispute with William Wood of the Mill of Fintry anent the claim of Knaveship of Heatherwick and Balbithan.⁴ Fifteen years later David was dead. His will, apparently not proved until 6th March 1587, recorded his death in September 1580.⁵ He was survived by his five sons, John, William, James, Charles and Henry. John, the eldest son, who succeeded, gained a measure of fame in 1584 by the murder of Alexander Keith of Auquhorsk. His successor George Chalmers is named in a remission of James VI to the Marquis of Huntly for the part he took at Auldquhynachan. In 1667 William Chalmers, laird of Balbithan and minister of Skene was granted sasine of the New Place of Balbithan. By 1674 William was dead, as sasine was granted to his sons, Patrick, James and John. In 1679 either James or John erected a sundial bearing the initials IC and the date 1679, which is still to be seen on the house.

After this the Chalmers' connection with Balbithan came to an end. In 1696 it is recorded as belonging to James Balfour, merchant of Edinburgh, who had married Brigid Chalmers, possibly the sister of James Chalmers. Balbithan did not remain in Balfour's hands for long, as by 1699 William Hay of Balbithan paid cess. His widow, Barbara Menzies, was still in possession in 1707.

Early in the eighteenth century Balbithan changed owners again, coming into the hands of a branch of the Gordons. David Gordon of Achoynany, third son of Sir John Gordon 2nd of Park, married Janet Gordon, daughter of Gordon of Terpersie. Their son, James, by about 1730 had become James Gordon of Balbithan (Table). James Gordon, who was reputedly the author of the 'Balbithan MS'⁶ married Jean Innes, daughter of Innes of Balvenie. He was succeeded by his son, Benjamin, who was commissioned in the 1st Ft in 1742. After a long and gallant career in the army Benjamin Gordon was promoted to the rank of General in 1801, at the age of eighty-two. He died two years later on 20th November at Balbithan, being 'the oldest freeholder' in Aberdeen.⁷ The General entailed the estate, and it passed to his nephew William Forbes of Skellater, who assumed the additional surname of Gordon. He is credited

with making considerable additions and improvements to the house. On his death in 1815 he was succeeded by his son, General Benjamin Forbes. The general was born in 1768, and apparently commissioned in 1779 at the age of eleven in the 73rd Ft. His military career was distinguished but he was largely an absentee laird and in consequence Balbithan suffered. In 1816 he adopted the additional surname of Gordon⁸, and began a long struggle to break the entail. This he succeeded in doing temporarily, upon which he dropped the name of Gordon,

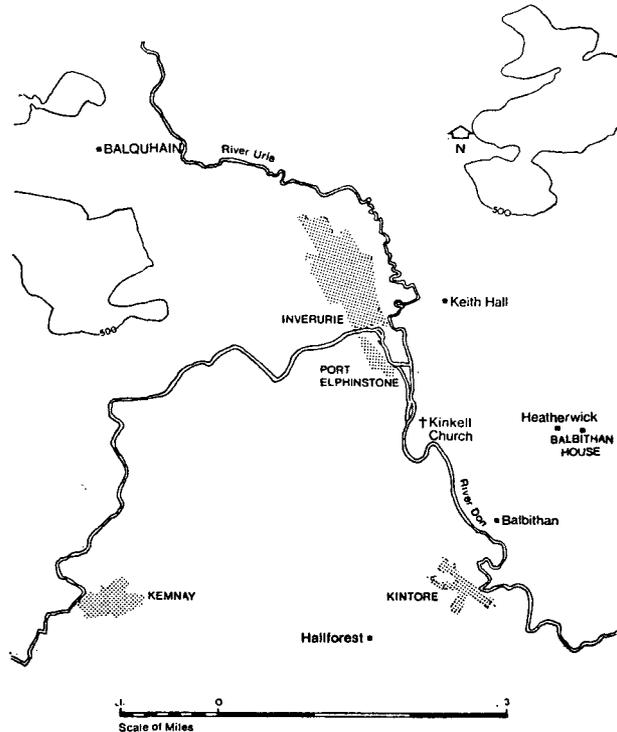
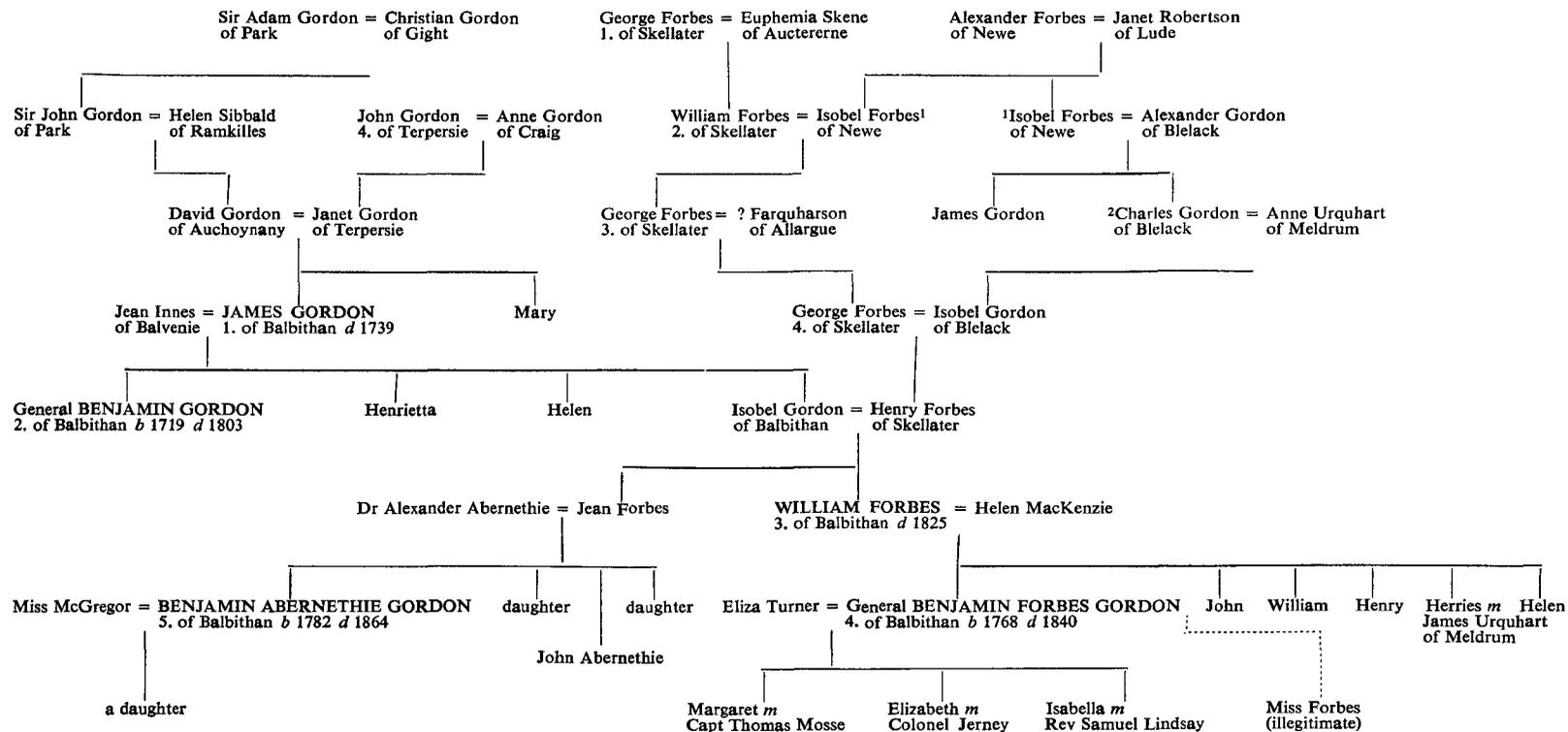


FIG 1 Balbithan House, location map

but on the entail being proved valid he resumed it.⁹ During his life Balbithan was neglected, and many of the fittings sold or destroyed. The only building General Forbes Gordon seems to have been interested in was the erection of a monument to his illegitimate daughter on the Law of Heatherwick, which was removed by his successor. By the end of the general's life the house was in such a sorry state that it was said that lambs were jumping in and out of the windows. He died in 1840 at his Château at Baignes de Bigorre, near Paris, and was succeeded by his cousin Benjamin Abernethie, who assumed the name of Gordon.

Benjamin Abernethie Gordon, who was Laird of Balbithan from 1840 until his death in 1864, was a great-nephew through his mother of General Benjamin Gordon. On his succession the house was seriously dilapidated, and copies of a number of letters survive which he wrote in 1841 to Robert Bruce of Heatherwick, concerning the measures necessary to make Balbithan habitable. He sold the estate in 1859 to Lord Kintore,¹⁰ after which the house was let to various tenants until 1914 when it was sold to the Duncans of Ardmurdo. It was whilst they were in occupation that Andrew Duncan cut down the famous Great Beech of Balbithan.¹¹ The Duncans left during the 1939-1945 war, and the house was then bought by the Stotts of Crichtie; they in

TABLE THE DESCENT OF THE GORDON LAIRDS OF BALBITHAN



¹ There is some confusion over these two names. In the 'Book of Forbes', an unnamed daughter of Alexander Forbes is recorded as marrying Gordon of Blelack, but in 'Jacobites of Aberdeenshire and Banffshire in the Forty Five' the wife of Charles Gordon of Blelack is named as Isobel Forbes.
² Sometimes, and confusingly referred to as 'deceased, of Balbithan'.

turn gave it up, and in 1960 Balbithan was bought by Mrs McMurtrie, the present owner, who has done so much to restore both the house and the garden.

DESCRIPTION

Balbithan is a large L-shaped house, with a rectangular stair tower in the re-entrant. The arms of the L run north-south and east-west, the stair tower being in the angle between the E and N wings. The S and W gables have round turrets at the level of the wall-head, and there is a round stair turret in the angle between the N wing and the stair tower, which gives access to the roof space and the upper floor of the tower. The walls, which are of rubble, are harled, the dressed stonework is granite and the steeply pitched roofs are slated. Originally the house was arranged on four floors with two chambers in the stair tower, but late eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century alterations to the roof did away with the whole of the fourth floor and the upper chamber in the tower.

At first sight the house gives the impression of a large and regular mansion of the second or third quarters of the seventeenth century, but on close examination there is enough evidence to suggest that the origins of Balbithan are earlier than this, and that there are at least three, if not four distinct building periods, before the eighteenth century.

The story that the Chalmers moved from Old Balbithan has been combined with the reference, in the Register of the Great Seal in 1600, to the 'Newbigging of Balbithan' and a charter given, in 1635, at the 'novo loco de Balbithan' to date the house to 1600. Obviously the Chalmers came to Balbithan House from some place at some time, although there is no evidence to suggest that 1600 was the year (they had been 'of Balbithan' since 1490), and the expressions 'Newbigging of Balbithan' and 'novo loco de Balbithan' may imply nothing more than an extensive rebuilding of an earlier house; certainly the evidence suggests this. The earliest house on the site seems to have been a rectangular tower with a round tower at its NW corner; parts of the rectangular tower remain in the walls of the E wing, and a small fragment of the round tower is incorporated in one of the internal walls on the ground floor. This would possibly date from the middle years of the sixteenth century. Around the year 1600 the round tower seems to have been demolished, and the rectangular tower was extended to the north, increasing its size by about a third, with a rectangular stair tower being built on the W side of this enlarged house. The stair tower was surmounted by two chambers which were reached by a round stair turret on the NE angle: it is this enlarged house that may have been the 'Newbigging of Balbithan'. Perhaps thirty years later the house was enlarged again, with the building of the N wing, and a complete re-planning of the interior, and the re-forming of the staircase, conveniently coinciding with the 'novo loco de Balbithan'.

Coincidence apart, it seems clear that within a space of about eighty years there were at least two periods of major alterations and enlargements to an existing house. After this little seems to have been done for over a hundred years; the sundial on the S front of the N wing bears the date 1679, which may be the date of an extension of the N wing to its present limits, although this seems unlikely.

An extension of this sort in the latter years of the seventeenth century would have coincided with the disappearance of the Hall as the most important room in the house. The disappearance of the Hall was a fairly common occurrence in Aberdeenshire houses in the years 1660-1715 and marked a desire for greater privacy and the need of more rooms, and in many houses this was not easy to achieve without subdividing existing rooms. At Balbithan it would have been unnecessary to extend the house as the two wings were already of equal size, giving ample floor

space. In its final form Balbithan is the stepped-L plan developed as far as it will go, but this is the fortuitous result of a number of additions rather than a deliberate initial plan.¹²

From the mid eighteenth century onwards there was a considerable amount of work done, when the interior of the house was again re-planned and improved by General Benjamin Gordon, and by William Forbes of Skellater, his heir: among the improvements was the lowering of the roofs, with the consequent destruction of the fourth floor. From 1815, until his death in 1840, General Benjamin Forbes Gordon neglected and dilapidated the house, which was repaired in the 1840s by James Abernethy Gordon. Little was then done in the way of repairs or alterations until 1960 when Mrs McMurtrie became the owner, and the house was again put in repair, although without any structural alterations.

Period 1: c 1560. The oldest part of the house is the S end of the E wing, although it is much altered. The ground floor is divided into two rooms and a small passage, but these are later divisions. The cross wall alone is of stone – possibly early seventeenth century. The east wall has been considerably thickened; it contains a stone newel stair which rises to the second floor but this in itself would not justify the enormous projection, nor would the two existing flues from the bedrooms above. In any case these rooms are later alterations. A flue of this size suggests that it was originally the kitchen lum, and that the two very deep windows in the smaller ground-floor room have been inserted into the original chimney wall, and that the jamb between them is a blocking inserted into the fireplace space. Originally the whole of the lower part of this wing would have formed the kitchen, with perhaps a store-room at the S end.

At the NW corner the end wall curves inward, and at first sight there is no reason to account for this. However, it is possible that it is the only remaining fragment of a round tower, with an overall diameter of some 27 ft, on the angle, which was completely demolished in the later alterations. If this floor was ever vaulted, as one would expect at this date, this too has disappeared. The entrance door in the west wall is chamfered and square-headed and is probably original.

On the two upper floors of this part of the wing there are no original features save the newel stair, two garderobes in the SE corner, one on each floor, and a small closet on each floor on the N side of the kitchen lum. The original fireplaces are in the S gable. This is a perfectly reasonable position, as the kitchen lum would have provided heat at the other end of the tower.

The position of the original entrance is not evident, but it may have been directly into the Hall at first-floor level, from an external staircase. The existing staircase, while adequate for internal circulation, especially as it was probably supplemented by other stairs in the upper part of the tower, would not have been suitable, or indeed useable, for general use from outside, without seriously complicating the functioning of the kitchen.

This plan would have given a first-floor Hall some 40 ft long by 18 ft broad, with a private chamber, 20 ft in diameter, in the round tower.

Period 2: c 1600. This was the first of the great alterations. The round tower and N gable were demolished and the house was extended northwards, increasing its length by about a third. A new stair tower was started, and it is likely that the entrance door was placed in the position occupied by the present doorway from the entrance lobby into the N wing. The surround to this doorway, which is square-headed, is weathered – as if at one time it had been on an external wall, and it has a checked and rolled chamfer. This is the most elaborate treatment of any door surround inside the house, and suggests that it is an external door-surround re-used, possibly reversed in its original position. It is certainly a far more elaborate doorway than is normally found serving as entry to a kitchen wing. At the same time the vaults – if they had ever existed – were removed, and the present cross wall inserted in the kitchen. A deep beam was then introduced running N–S above each ground-floor room to carry the joists of the first floor. Probably

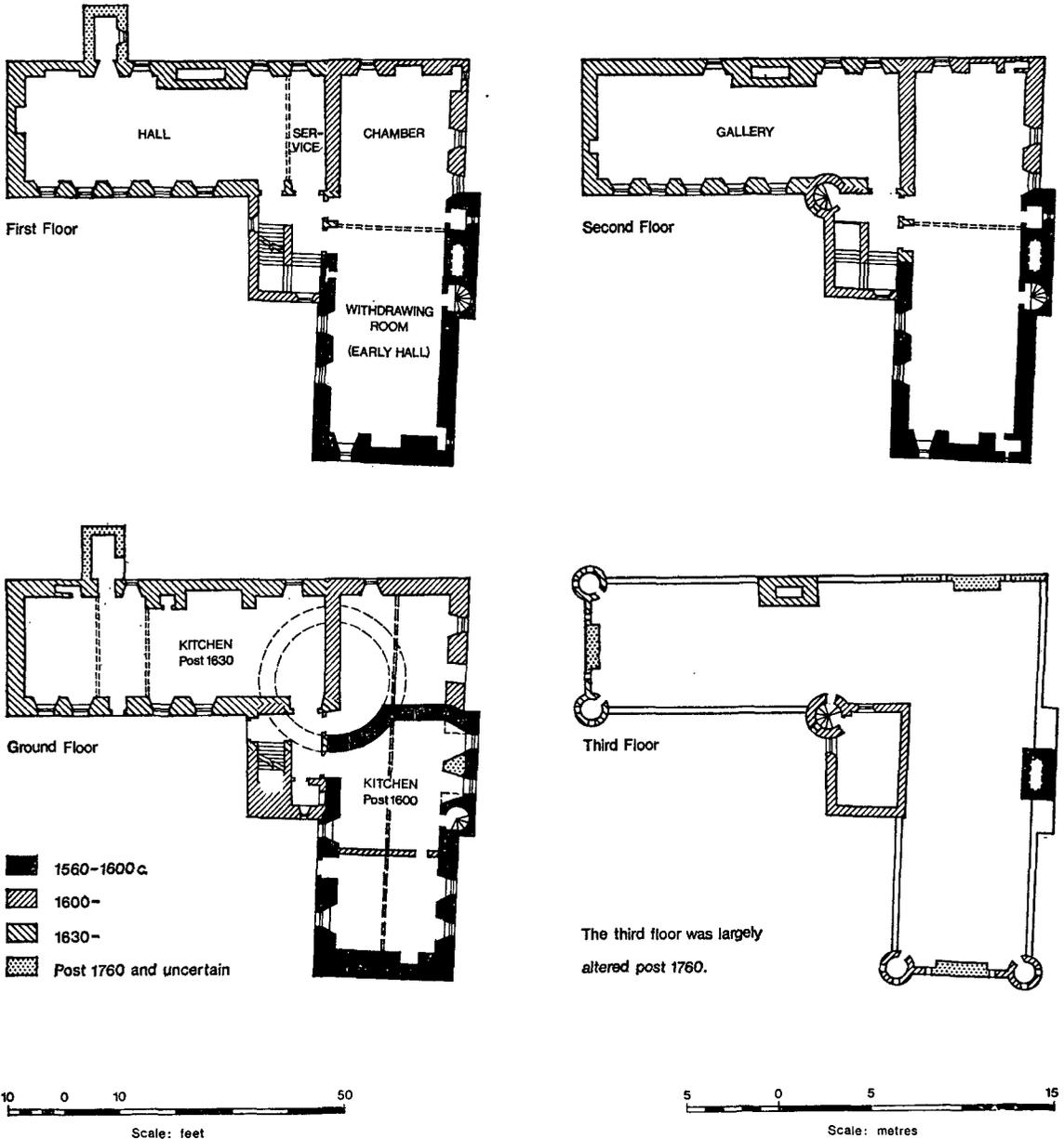


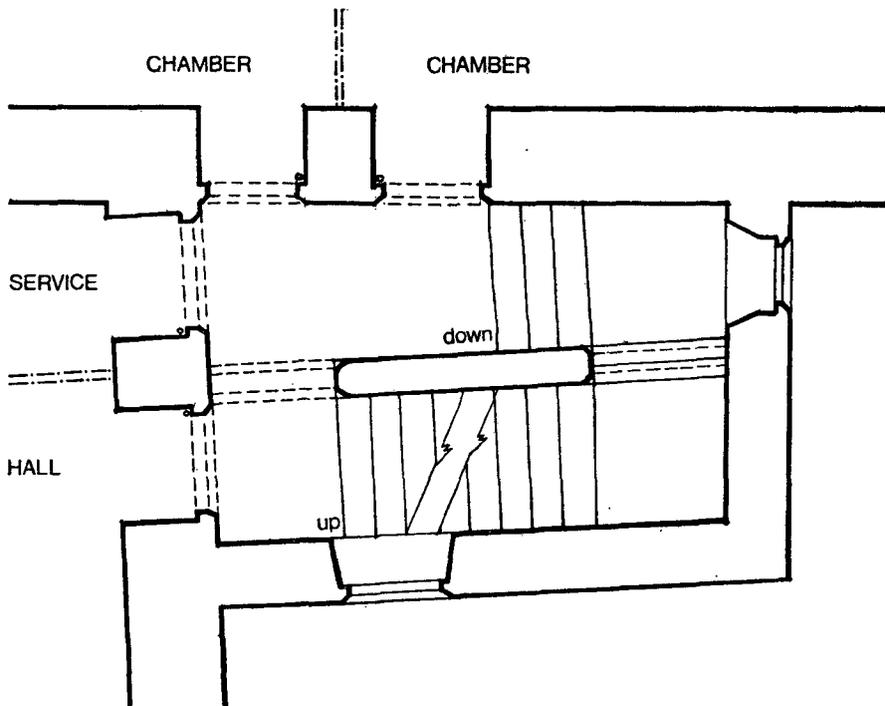
FIG 2 Balbithan House (later partitions have been omitted; plan shows arrangement of the house in 1630)

at this time the two round turrets were added to the S gable, and they were likely to have been matched by similar pair, now removed, on the N gable.

Period 3: c 1630. The period 2 alterations could have hardly been completed when it was decided to enlarge the house again, and to take the opportunity of making considerable alterations in the planning. These alterations consisted of drastically re-modelling the existing stair tower, and setting out a new N wing at right-angles to the existing house.

The stair tower is curious in two ways: the stair itself with its landings and doorways is designed most carefully for a three storied L-plan house, and the evidence of the house suggests that there was a further floor with a wall head higher than the present one. However, the staircase is surmounted by a chamber occupying the whole tower, and reached by a newel stair from the upper landing – there were originally two chambers, but the upper one has been destroyed, although its doorway from the staircase has been blocked, and is clearly visible. In the N wall of the lower chamber are the remains of a window now opening into the roof space, but originally being in an external wall. This suggests that the main walls of the stair tower, with the upper chambers and the corner stair turret, date from the second period, and that the stair itself was altered to its present form in the third period. Two other factors suggest this: in the first-floor landing are a number of re-used treads from a large circular staircase, and in the third floor of the W wing the stair turret juts awkwardly into the room as if its junction with the wall of the wing is an afterthought.

The staircase itself is the most impressive internal feature of Balbithan (fig 3). It consists of two straight flights to each floor on either side of a spine wall, with half landings. The two flights from the ground to the first floor are of stone, but the flights from the first to the second floor appear to have been of wood originally, or at least repaired in wood at an early date. The angles of the spine walls are chamfered, with double-stops, and the chamfers return round the semi-circular arches which span the half landings. On the first-floor landing are four



Scale of feet

FIG 3 Balbithan House, first-floor landing as built

square-headed doorways with chamfered heads and jambs. There are three similar doorways on the second-floor landing, the space of the fourth being partly occupied by the stair turret and its doorway. When the plaster was stripped from the staircase recently it was found that originally there had been painted decoration. The remains are very fragmentary and mostly on the doorways, but enough remains to show that there was an indigo skirting and chair-rail, with a white dado.¹³ The upper part was painted grey, with darker scrolling and arabesques. The planning of the first and second floors at this period seems to have been extravagantly wasteful of space. The E wing was divided into two rooms on each floor, entered from the staircase, with fireplaces and garderobes in the gables. Additionally the northern room on each floor had inherited the chimney closet from period 1. Both rooms were 18 ft wide, the southern being 38 ft, and the northern 26 ft in length. They were separated by a timber partition – there being no cross walls or vaults on the ground floor to serve as a base for stone walls. It is likely that the two upper rooms were subdivided by wainscot partitions in order to form two sets or flats.

In the north wing rather different arrangements are apparent, although the extent of this wing is not certain. In its present form it is 19 ft wide and some 54 ft long internally. If it was extended in 1672 its original internal length would have been about 34 ft but there is no evidence for this, other than the sundial. On the ground floor a new kitchen was formed with its lum in the N wall and an entrance from the courtyard on the south. The space beyond this entrance was probably used as storerooms with timber partitions. Again there is the absence of stone internal walls which is such a feature of Balbithan. From the first-floor landing two doors open into this wing; and the arrangement is interesting. The door facing the head of the stairs gives onto an area 19 ft deep, but only about 6 ft wide; the other door opens into the lower end of a room 19 ft wide by 48 ft long. It would seem that in the re-planning, the Hall, as well as the kitchen, was moved to the N wing. The new Hall was slightly wider and some 8 ft longer than its predecessor; the arrangement was still traditional with the fireplace at the upper end in the gable wall, and the lower end gathering heat from the kitchen lum. However, it had two distinct advantages over the old Hall: it had the benefit of a southern aspect on one of its long sides, and the service arrangements were infinitely better. The narrow room at the lower end must have been the service room, the partition between it and the Hall playing the part of the Screen, but with the Screens Passage omitted. This was possible as the Hall had its separate entrance from the landing.

On the second floor there is only one doorway opening into this wing and it may have been originally intended to be used as a long Gallery. It has been altered on a number of occasions; at some time in the late seventeenth or eighteenth centuries there had been two rooms here but these had been destroyed as there is a reference to 'the new Drawing Room' being 'two rooms made into one by the General'. This would have been before the death of General Benjamin Gordon. It was subsequently re-divided when Balbithan belonged to Lord Kintore. The fact that the heads of the two easternmost windows on the S side are square-headed internally, rather than segmental, probably indicates nothing more than a late repair linked with the alterations to the wall head.

The roof space has been completely re-built and none of the roof timbers is older than the late eighteenth century. Access is clumsily contrived from the turret stair by means of a forced doorway, and unless the stair in the E wing at one time rose to this level – and of this there is no evidence – or there was a doorway through from the tower chambers, this would seem to be the only way of gaining entrance to a very large floor. The alterations which raised the ceiling height of the second floor and lowered the wall heads generally have obscured the importance of this part of the building, but judging by the levels of the thresh-holds and traces

of doorheads in the angle turrets it must have been of full height floor, possibly lit by semi-dormers. The doorways to the turrets are checked to take doors opening into the roof space. Internally the turrets are similar, but externally the corbelling of those on the W gable is deeper and more elaborate than that of those on the S gable, which could point to a later building date.

Period 4: c 1672. This period, the existence of which is based on the dated sundial, would have been one of minor repairs only. It has been suggested that the W wing was extended at this time, but absence of any trace of an earlier W gable, combined with the building of the new kitchen in period 2 to serve a first-floor Hall make such a suggestion unlikely to be correct, especially as the arrangement and size of the Hall and Service would have been extremely old-fashioned in the 1670s when Halls were giving way to more convenient Dining Parlours.

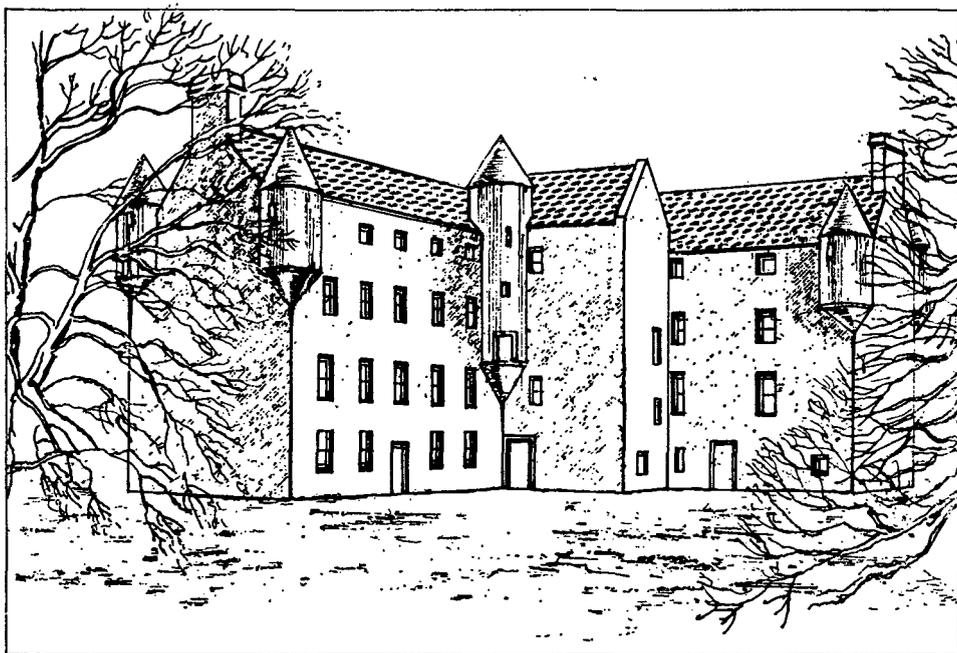


FIG 4 Balbithan House c 1700

Period 5: post 1760. In the hundred years between 1760 and 1860 the old interiors of Balbithan were destroyed in the interest of convenience and comfort, and now none of the old partitions remains except for the two stone walls on the ground floor of the E wing. This transformation was made easier by the fact that all the internal divisions seem to have been timber. On the first floor the E wing was divided up to provide a large sitting room at its S end, two bedrooms and a corridor; a bathroom was later formed out of one corner of the N bedroom. In the N wing the Hall and Service were destroyed, and a lobby, a bedroom, a dining room and a further living or breakfast room were provided. At the same time an ell was added on the N side of this wing to accommodate a service stair from the kitchen and service rooms below – the stair has since been destroyed. On the second floor the E wing was altered to provide three bedrooms and a store-room, whilst the N wing was subjected to a succession of divisions and re-divisions, until today it has been restored to its gallery form.

The detail generally is undistinguished, belonging to the early nineteenth century when

alterations were being carried out by William Forbes between 1801 and 1815. The most drastic alteration, the re-building of the roof, has already been noticed. This involved not only the loss of the third floor, the raising of the second-floor ceilings, and the lowering of the wall-heads and ridge line, but also the demolition of the uppermost chamber in the stair tower, and the re-building of the N, S and W gables. The evidence for the original wall head which was within a few inches of the moulded stone head course on the angle rounds is clear internally; it is also marked by the offsets on the two kitchen chimneys. All three gables have been rebuilt and lowered, the N one completely, and the other two between the turrets. The new work is marked by a generous use of 'cherry-pointing' or galletting. It is possible that before this re-building there were rounds on the N gable. This alteration altered the character of the elevations completely, giving them a horizontal emphasis which could not have existed before (fig 4). In an old illustration the roof of the N wing is shown terminating in a gable on a line with the stair turret.¹⁴ This makes no sort of structural sense, so it may suggest that extensive repairs to the roof were being carried out by Benjamin Abernethie Gordon in the 1840s.

A number of letters have survived written in the first half of 1841 by Benjamin Abernethie Gordon, after he inherited, to Robert Bruce of Heatherwick, who was acting as his factor.¹⁵ In the first, dated 1st January, Benjamin Gordon is concerned with the state of the roof which 'wants some slates to carry the rain away clear of the walls'. He was also anxious to know if, in the removal of the marble chimney-pieces and grates, the fireplaces had been much damaged, what had happened to the water closet and the lead pipes – these had been bought by the laird of Wartle – and whether the locks of the doors and the bell wires had been taken away. All this in addition to the size, number and condition of the rooms, their windows and wall papers, and the state and accommodation of the outhouses. For all this the opinion of a respectable carpenter was to be sought. At the same time Mr Gordon whilst not willing to hire a gardener did not 'wish to lose a day in Stocking the Garden with useful vegetables for a Gentleman's family'. Mr Gordon was showing himself somewhat exigent, a relic of his Spanish American days. On 8th January he was concerned about 'some foolish monument' erected by his predecessor on the green at Heatherwick, and on 20th he was even more irritated: 'I observe the inscription in honour of the General's *illegitimate* daughter, and she still alive – how very absurd – I shall have it removed', and the fact that the chimney pieces had not been removed hardly mollified him. By 3rd February he was concerned with preventing further damage from damp by having fires lit in the house. The lack of grates made him suggest the use of braziers and enquire the prices and patterns of the grates of the Carron Company.

The replacement of the water closet exercised his mind, and Mr Bruce was told to seek the opinion of Mr Lumsden – a grocer – who was a 'Civil and Obliging Person . . . altho' not exactly his own line of business'. He was also anxious to have the house surveyed so that internal work could be done at a lower price during the winter, and this anxiety led to this sublime sentence: 'I believe there are two surveyors in Aberdeen, Simpson and Smith, I have not heard which is the best' (Archibald Simpson and John Smith were Aberdeen's most notable architects).

In the letter of 17th February Mr Bruce was asked to obtain second-hand grates for the bedrooms, and to arrange for a supply of coals – 'I suppose after the frost is over they should be sent by the Canal'.¹⁶ Mr Gordon was relieved that the house was not in such disrepair as he had been led to believe, and that he would not be obliged to consult 'either of the architects at present'. By 3rd March the question of airing the rooms recurred: 'P.S. I wish you would ask McKinnon whether such a stove as is used for Laundries would not answer for airing rooms, they could easily be mov'd, and the pipe put into the chimney – it appears to me this wd be a better plan than Grates, as heat wd be better dispersed about the rooms.'

After a visit to Balbithan in May, Mr Gordon returned to London and on 9th June was writing on, amongst other subjects, the kitchen shelves and dresser, the size of a bed that Mr Bruce was letting him have, and the quantity of material necessary for curtains. On 26th June a parcel of stuffs for bed furniture was sent north by the steamer *Duchess of Sutherland* with 'a considerable shipment of things' to follow by one of the clippers. Mr Bruce was to arrange for their carriage either by carrier or canal boat to Inverurie or Kintore. In addition to all this the long-suffering Robert Bruce was expected to deal with the gardens and policies, the bees, flowers, seeds and vegetables, difficult tenants, road repairs, the provision of poultry and ducks, the stables and the engaging of servants.

By August 1841 Benjamin Gordon and his two sisters were living at Balbithan, and the history of building and alterations came to an end.

NOTES

- 1 Alexander, W M, *The Place-names of Aberdeenshire*, The Third Spalding Club, 1952, 14; an alternative suggestion is that Baile-bethane signifies the town beside the boggy stream.
- 2 Hay, Sir A Leith, *Castles of Aberdeenshire*, revised ed 1887: 'The turretted mansion of Balbithan is situated in the parish of Keith-hall, and removed a considerable distance from the site of the more ancient residence of the family, which stood at Old Balbithan opposite to the Royal Burgh of Kintore. It is related that one of the old lairds of Balbithan, in days when neither life nor property were safe in Scotland, was so disgusted at a shot being fired from Hallforest into the courtyard of his castle near Kintore, that he determined to abandon it, and, if possible, to select a locality distant from public roads, and the observation of hostile visitors. It was with this in view that he fixed on the site of the present mansion. . . .'
- 3 Reg Mag Sig Lib 23, no. 39, quoted and translated pp 117-18, Morrison, A, *The Blackhalls of that Ilk and Barra*, The New Spalding Club, 1905.
- 4 *Antiquities of the shires of Aberdeen and Banff*, vol III, The Spalding Club, 1857, 424-5.
- 5 *ibid*, 425.
- 6 This immensely important genealogical account, largely devoted to the branches of the family descended from Jock Gordon of Scurdague, may be a rearranged and edited copy of an older manuscript, dated 1644, of which only a fragment has been preserved, and its authorship is by no means certain. The MS was published in Bulloch, J M (ed), *The House of Gordon*, vol I, 1-68, The New Spalding Club, 1903.
- 7 *Scots Magazine*, vol 65, 884.
- 8 *London Gazette*, 1816, 2478.
- 9 *London Gazette*, 1836, 1653.
- 10 *Life and Work*, Inverurie Supplement, 1885, 'Recollections of Forty Years'.
- 11 Hay, Sir A Leith, *Castles of Aberdeenshire*, revised ed 1887.
- 12 Cruden, S, *The Scottish Castle*, 1960, Edinburgh, 154: 'Balbithan is an important work, because it is late (of the second half of the seventeenth century), remains unaltered, and represents the ultimate extension of the D-plan.¹ It would appear that this verdict is based on the dated sundial; Cruden also refers to the 'steep crow-stepped gables', which may have existed once, but disappeared at least 150 years ago.
- 13 A similar scheme existed at Druminnor Castle dating from 1660.
- 14 Hay, Sir A Leith, *The Castellated Architecture of Aberdeenshire*, 1849.
- 15 An earlier letter from William Forbes to Peter Bruce gave the latter permission to erect a woodyard (at Heatherwick ?) as he was then working on alterations to Balbithan.
- 16 The Aberdeenshire Canal Navigation; see Graham, A, 'Two canals in Aberdeenshire', *Proc Soc Antiq Scot*, 100 (1967-8), 170-8.



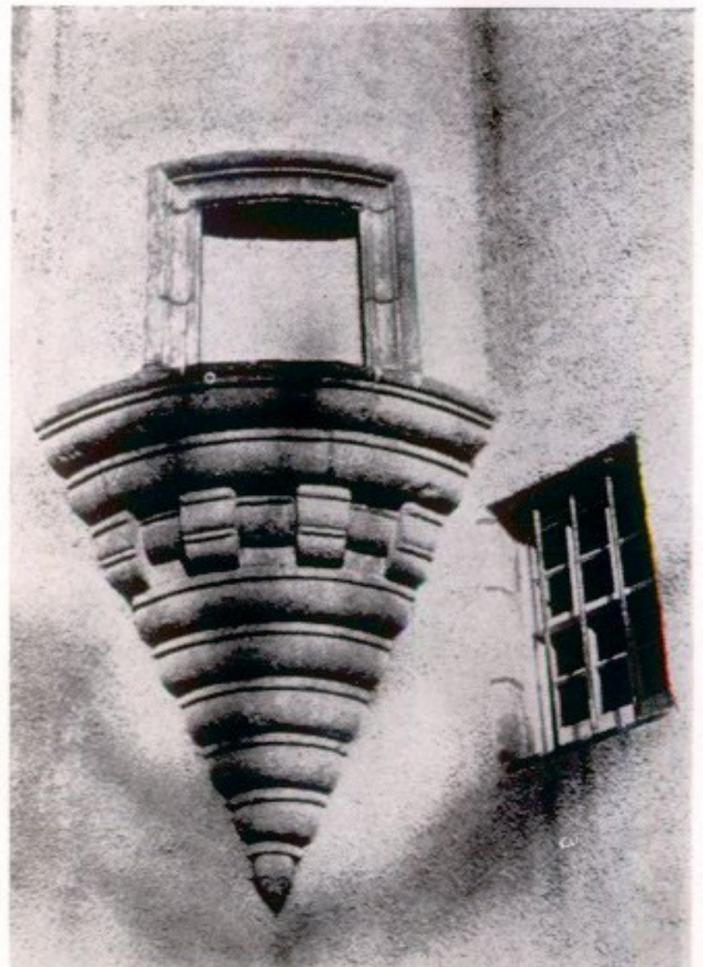
a Entrance front from W



c Detail of turret on S gable



b E wing showing chimney with original roof off-set



d Corbelling on stair turret