

= Inchdrewer Castle =

Inchdrewer Castle is a 16th @-@ century tower house in the parish of Banff , Aberdeenshire , in the northeast of Scotland . Situated on a slight rise 3 @.@ 5 miles (5 @.@ 6 km) southwest of Banff , it looks across to Banff Bay . Originally owned by the Currou family , it was purchased by the Ogilvies of Dunlugas in 1557 and became their main family seat . The Ogilvies were staunch Royalists , which resulted in the castle coming under attack from the Covenanters in 1640 . George Ogilvy , 3rd Lord Banff was murdered in 1713 and his body hidden inside the castle , which was then set on fire . The castle came under siege again in 1746 , during the Jacobite rebellion . At the start of the 19th century , following the death of the 8th Lord Banff , the property was inherited by the Abercromby of Birkenbog family , who leased it to a tenant . It became uninhabited after 1836 and the structure deteriorated .

Over the following century the neglect continued until some basic external renovation work was undertaken between 1965 and 1971 , making the structure wind and water tight , although it remained unoccupied . The castle was again abandoned and left unmaintained . The condition of the building further declined , becoming derelict . It was in a ruinous state when marketed for sale in April 2013 after the death of Count Robin Mirrlees , who had owned it for about fifty years . At the end of that year it was purchased by the former model Olga Roh , who said she intended to restore it . Modern day reports suggest that the spirit of the 3rd Lord Banff and that of a white dog haunt the castle , which is classified as a category A listed building .

= = Early history = =

The castle 's exact construction date is unknown , but it was some time in the early to mid 16th century , during the reign of either James IV or James V. Various spellings are used : Inch Druar (or Inchdruar as one word) ; Inchdruer ; Inchdrewir ; or Inchdrewr . Originally owned by the Currou (Currou) family , in 1557 it was purchased by Walter Ogilvy of Dunlugas (1509 ? 58) , and became the main family seat . James Currou was a notary in Banff and is linked with several of Dunlugas ' contracts and witnessing leases .

During the late 16th century the Dunlugas Ogilvies undertook re @-@ furbishment and extension work , including the addition of courtyard buildings and a distinctive circular tower that incorporated the hall into its first storey . An act recording the lands in favour of George Ogilvy was ratified by King Charles I in late June 1633 . George was the son of Walter Ogilvy , and an ardent Royalist and supporter of the king against the Covenanters . Inchdrewer Castle was left in ruins after being attacked by Covenanter forces led by General Robert Monro in 1640 ; another of the family properties , a town house , was also devastated . George Ogilvy was appointed a peer in 1642 , becoming the first Lord Banff .

George Ogilvy , 3rd Lord Banff , inherited the property when his father , the 2nd Lord Banff , died on 10 September 1668 . He was murdered in 1713 and the castle destroyed by fire ; his body had been concealed inside . Restoration work was once more undertaken .

The castle came under attack by troops led by the Duke of Cumberland in 1746 in the course of the Jacobite rebellion . Yet more restoration work was carried out during the later part of the century .

When William Ogilvy , 8th Lord Banff , died on 4 June 1803 , the estate was inherited by his sister Jean (sometimes named Jane) , who had married George Abercromby (Abercrombie) of Birkenbog . Her son , Sir Robert Abercromby succeeded her . Sir Robert was appointed member of Parliament for the Banff constituency in 1812 but four years later claimed financial difficulties prevented him seeking re @-@ election . In 1820 he asked George IV to allow the Banff peerage , which had become dormant or extinct when the 8th Lord Banff died , to continue by declaring his mother Baroness Banff , or granting him the title of Lord Banff , but the request was denied .

The main residence of the Abercromby 's was at Forglen House , Turriff . The castle was in a sufficient state of repair to be leased to tenants until 1836 . MacGibbon and Ross refer to the castle as being in the ownership of Sir R. J. Abercromby of Birkenbog when writing about it in their architectural book published in 1887 . The ground @-@ floor plan given in the book shows two parts

of the building as being " ruinous " .

The castle was abandoned at the beginning of the 20th century , and it soon became dilapidated .

= = Later history = =

The castle was purchased by Count Robin Mirrlees in 1962 or 1963 . Renovation work was possibly undertaken in 1965 by architect Oliver Hill , although his undated drawings may not have been fully implemented . After visiting the property in 1966 , Nigel Tranter , author and historian , reported that work had begun on the structure but described it as a " ruinous shell of a house " . Some structural restoration work was undertaken and the castle was slightly repaired , sufficient to have made it " wind and watertight " by 1971 . But it was then abandoned again , and further deterioration occurred ; it had been uninhabitable since 1836 , and Mirlees never lived in it . Internally , only basic work was undertaken . Local residents believed the only time the interior was used during this period was when a ceremony was held to site a plaque commemorating the completion of external work in 1971 .

Historic Scotland designated Inchdrewer Castle a category A listed building in February 1972 . The poor condition of the property was highlighted in a report expressing concern by the Scottish Civic Trust in 1999 . Inspections by Aberdeenshire Council officials described it as " showing signs of a lack of maintenance " in February 2008 , with all its windows broken . Further decline was noted in October 2010 , and the castle was said to be " on the cusp of ruination " . Further deterioration was noted when the castle was visited in December 2012 .

Mirrlees died on 23 June 2012 and disinherited his son by leaving the property to his teenage grandson . Together with the title of " Baron of Inchdrewer " the castle ruins were put up for sale in April 2013 , and purchased in November 2013 for about £ 400 @, @ 000 by Olga Roh , former Valentino and Versace model and owner of Rohmir . Roh had never been to Scotland and had not seen the castle before she bought it , but said she planned to restore it so it could be used for fashion shoots , as a film location , or as a residence . Other suggestions were use as a holiday destination for friends or a boutique hotel .

= = Architecture = =

Starting as a basic L @-@ shaped tower built from tooled ashlar dressed rubble , the castle was extended in a southerly direction by the addition of a circular tower during the first alterations in the late 16th century . A staircase was inside the new tower and further structures were added to the south and north sides of the courtyard at this stage of the development . Replacement entrances were installed and the original first @-@ floor doorway was closed off . Access on the west side was gained through a narrow round @-@ headed entrance and a wider main doorway was incorporated in the south elevation .

Some of the architectural features incorporated throughout the castle included : corbelled battlemented wallheads on the towers ; turrets set above first or second storey level ; a large elongated aperture provided light in the first floor hall ; and shot holes in the southwest tower . The fenestrations on the wing added in the late 18th century differed from those used in earlier parts of the structure , being larger and more regular in appearance .

The restorations completed in 1971 made the structure wind and water tight , added extra windows and installed fresh glazing , but as it was then abandoned again , weather elements exacerbated by vandalism led to further structural deterioration . The castle was in a ruinous condition in 2013 and unfit for habitation .

= = Superstition and haunting = =

Twenty @-@ first century newspaper stories report that the ghost of the murdered George Ogilvy , 3rd Lord Banff , haunts the castle . Nigel Tranter visited Inchdrewer again in the 1970s and a large white dog , which he speculated may have been a Samoyed , bounded out of the castle as he

approached it with a local builder . Unable to explain how the dog could have been confined in the castle for seven days , he was later sent a copy of the magazine Vogue , in which it was stated that the castle was " haunted by a lady in the shape of a white dog " .