NEWMILNS TOWER

List 3 — Belonged to the Campbells of Loudoun; towards the head of C17 occupied by Captain Inglis and used as a prison for the Covenanters; now forms an adjunct to the inn and contains stabling with hay lofts above. Entrance on ground floor and wheel-stair beside it; externally marked by somewhat unusual features of two string courses and a base; doorway has been enlarged but panel over it is original; the tower seems to have had an open parapet with bartisans at the angles all supported on a series of continuous corbelling; gargoyles for water remain on the south-east bartisan. Refs: C&DA, iii, 377-378; NSA, v, 838-9. B.

Pont — Neumilles a fair and veill bult duelling decored vith plesant gardens and orchardes, it belongs to ye Lord Loudoun, having a parishe churche so named, vith a stone bridge ouer ye Riuer Irwin.

Pont ed — This old tower is still standing, and very entire, but it is said to be "without any history". It seems to have been looked at in rather a different light by Robertson in 1819 who curtly describes it as "one of those dismal square towers so frequent in this part of the country". [Cunn, p.370] Its only prominent history on record relates to the 'troublous times' of the Covenant, when occupied by captain Inglis, one of Claverhouse's favourites. It had however been used as a residence by members of the Loudoun family, as the terstament of umqle George Campbell Maister of Loudoun and Deame Jeane Flemyng his spous - the Inventar of which contains "Item of goldmsyth work, cheingzes, garneissingis, braislettis, ringis, hingeris, tabletis, and vtheris all estimat togidder to the sowme of j^{m} lib" - is dated 'at the Newmylnes the sevent day of Merche 1612'. And the testament of Deame Elizabeth Ruthvane Lady Loudoun spous to ane nobell Lord Hew, Lord of Loudoun is dated "at the Newmylnes in Loudoun - Januar 1617".

KS, Sa 3.5.1924, 8bcd — Historic Keeps of Ayrshire XLI, Newmilns Tower.

Tranter — This is a small free-standing C16 tower situated within the little town of the same name, not now in the best of condition and used as a stire. It is rubble built, oblong on plan and contains three storeys beneath the parapet and an attic storey above. The roof has been somewhat altered and lowered so that it now oversails, blocking the parapet wall elsewhere than at the gables. The entrance is at ground level through a round headed doorway surmounted by an empty panel space. The basement is vaulted, and there is one chamber on each floor. the turnpike stair rises in the SE angle giving access to all floors. There is no caphouse, as is usual, at parapet level, access to the walk apparently having been gained through a door in the east gable from the attic. The parapet which was borne on a triple membered continuous corbelling has disappeared save at the east side. There have been open rounds at all angles. An unusual feature is the two string courses at 1st and 2nd floor levels on the south front. The walls are provided with the usual mural cupboards and garderobes. Newmilns, like so many other fortalices in this area, was originally a possession of the powerful family of Campbell of Loudoun, Loudoun Castle itself being a bare two miles away.

SC6/72/26 — Re-roofed in 1857: contract awarded to Alexander Wallace, Newmilns. Ref gives detailed specification of work. Work cost £33 17s. See Ref in my SRO files.

KS 5.9.1863 — The most ancient building in Newmilns however is that old tower near the middle of the main street, in modern times delignated the Dooket,

around which hangs an air of mystery, both as to the date of its erection and the many strange events which have transpired within and around its massive walls. Its history is connected with that of the house of Loudoun, whose families have in bygone ages resided within its precincts. The walls are of surprising thickness and have evidently been erected with the view of affording protection and safety, in other ages when every nobleman's house was also a warrior'sfortress. We know not how often it has stood the shock of battle or through what hands it may have passed. There are now few records of its history and tradition almost fails to give us any adequate idea of its earlier associations. It has received the name of the dooket from the fact that dovecotes were kept on its walls in later times by some of the villagers. This circumstance affords a striking example of the change that in those days had come over the spirit of the times. The old turret, with its frowning battlements and warlike aspect, suggests to us days of feud and bloodshed, which bear strong contrast to those when the peaceful timid dove sat unscared on its grey stones, and reared its tender brood. It gets also the name of the Jail, having at one time been appropriated as a place of confinement for criminals, and is still used in the capacity of a temporary lock-up; while in the upper storey the Newmilns Brass Band meets for private practice.

JOHN LAW MEMORIAL

SCMA, 60, Feb 1996, p.5 — Has been removed from original site "precarious position in a ruinous wall".

SCMA, 61, June 1996, p.9 — New stone has been supplied by Scottish Co-operative Funeral Service, delivered to Susan Moffat, Newmilns Initiative, April and to be located on Castle Street boundary wall of the keep.

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