

ENNISKILLEN CASTLE

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Monea Castle

Factsheet



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Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí



Monea Castle

Scottish Style Castle

3 Storey high. Tall attics

“Undoubtedly the most complete and best preserved of all the Plantation castles of Ulster.”



- The building of Monea Castle commenced in 1616 by the Rector of the parish, the Reverend Malcolm Hamilton.
- In 1619 it was described as “a strong castle of lime and stone being 54 feet long and 20 feet broad.”
- The bawn, comprising a wall 9 feet in height and 300 feet in circuit, was added in 1623.
- Like so many Plantation castles, the design of Monea reflects the Scottish origins of its builder.
- The castle was three stories high, with tall attics. It has a rectangular plan with a pair of massive semi-cylindrical towers at the west-end.
- The towers are corbelled out at the attic-floor level to carry diagonally placed square caphouses with crow-stepped gable roofs.



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The castle had only one entrance on the south side of the north tower and led to a spiral stair giving access to the principal rooms of the castle.

The principal rooms were on the first floor and were illuminated by large windows. The bedrooms were on the second floor.

The vaulted ground floor contained the kitchen and wine cellar. The roof was thatched and not slated.

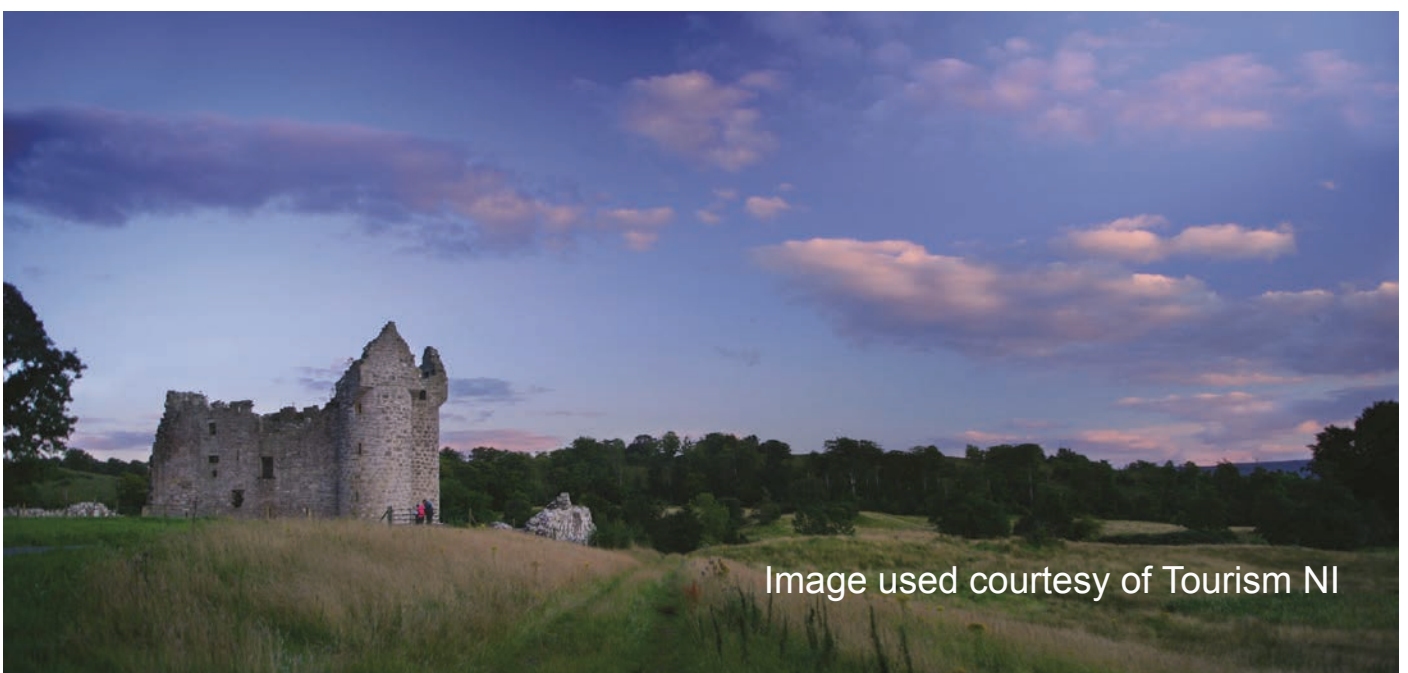


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During the 1641 rebellion, Monea Castle was attacked and briefly captured by Rory Maguire before it was retaken by the planters.

In 1688, Monea Castle was held by Gustavus Hamilton, the then Governor of Enniskillen and grandson of Malcolm Hamilton.

The Castle survived until the mid 18th century, when it was accidentally gutted by fire and abandoned.

In the 20th century, it is said that a local woman, Bell McCabe, lived in the vault beneath one of the towers until she was evicted by the owner.

Monea castle is located 6 miles out of Enniskillen. It can be approached along a beech-lined avenue through Castletown Demesne. The monument is in State Care.



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