



Area : Kincardine and Mearns

Parish : Fordoun

Kirkyard : Auchenclocha Parish Kirk.

N.G.R. : NO 726 784

S.A.M. : Scheduled Site.

Listing Category : Auchenclocha Kirk and

St.Palladius's Chapel Cat. **B**,

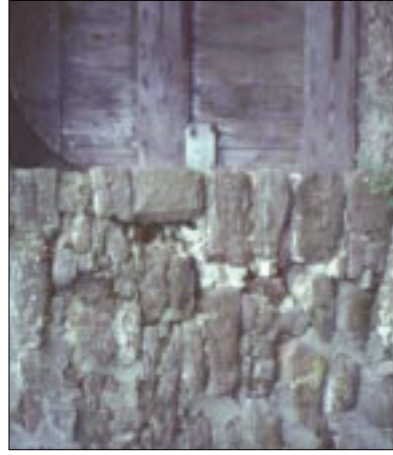
Kirkyard Cat. **C**.



Boundary wall and gate piers : The boundary walls, gates and piers are in good condition though the gates and railings would benefit from being painted.

The Old Kirk : To the E. of the 19th -century kirk is the old kirk, St. Palladius's Chapel, a roofless rectangular enclosure dating from the 16th - and 17th -centuries with later additions and measuring 13m. x 6m. It was apparently de-roofed as late as 1928.

The internal E. gable contains an arched recess thought to be a resting place for the bones of St. Palladius though is more likely to have been a recessed tomb. In the centre of the chapel, and covered by an iron grille, is the Glenfarquhar or Falconer vault. The N.W. corner of the chapel is the Monboddio burial place. " *In the 19th century workmen found a cross-slab which had been used as the inside lintel in the N. doorway. It is an upright of red sandstone sculptured particularly well with incised lines and partly low relief, inscription in Hiberno-Saxon minuscules "PIDARNOIN". It bears a cross with interlaced-work of Stafford knots; part of a fish monster on the top arm of the cross with a horseman on the bottom arm. It also bears two other horsemen in a hunting*



scene and a double disc and z-rod, the discs being ornamented with spiral work. This cross slab was said to have been raised to commemorate the death of Kenneth III in 994 AD. " - but in fact dates from the 8th - century AD.

The E. gable also contains a font in the wall. To the W. of St. Palladius's Chapel stands the large and rather handsome kirk designed by John Smith and built between of 1827-29. It is a rectangular plan of five bays with a three-staged tower designed by. The kirk is constructed of ashlar red sandstone and appears to be in good order throughout.

Tombstones : There are approximately 16 recumbent tombstones, of which several are significantly decorated. There are many hundreds of upright tombstones of which a high proportion are in the High- Victorian style.

Conservation Digest : Urgent details.

St. Palladius's Chapel requires remedial work throughout. The rotten timber lintel in the W. gable needs to be replaced, the saplings internally need to be removed, the recess in the E. gable is weathering badly and the overhanging tree branches should be cut back. All of the structure needs to be re-pointed throughout. The Taylor memorial in the kirkyard needs to be stabilised before it collapses.

Interpretative Potential : Medium.

The positioning of the two kirks allows for a comparison to be made of the religious settlement in the area during two very different periods in history. St. Palladius's Chapel contains a few items of architectural interest, though the stone found in the 19th - century is located within the present kirk. The kirkyard also contains a memorial stone to the Protestant martyr Wishart.

Access issues : The kirk is located on top of a hill at the S. edge of Auchencloach, with adequate provision for the parking of several cars to the front of the kirk.

Date of visit : 07/08/98.

