

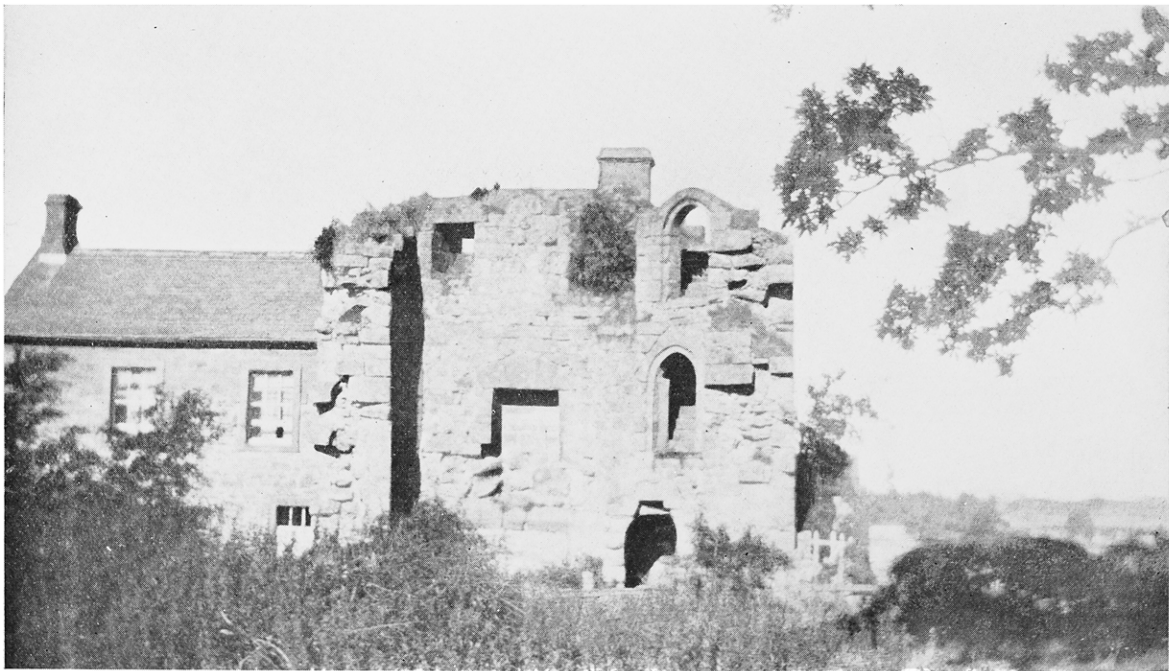
ART. XI.—*A Description of Hardrigg Hall.* By F. HUDLESTON.

*Read at the site, September 10th, 1931.*

THE Forest of Inglewood contains many small Manors, and several of these have pele towers, or remains of such, while some have only the tradition of their former existence, for farm buildings of modern type now cover their sites.

Hardrigg Hall, a stronghold of the Southaik family, has but half of its pele tower left standing, and this was probably spared because the farm-house has been built against its Eastern face, while the Western wall and more than half of its Northern and Southern walls have been demolished, probably for the purpose of building the existing farm-house and buildings. But the portion that is left is most interesting, for it gives us an excellent vertical section of a well built Border tower which has most of the traditional features of a fourteenth century pele, but not all of these, for as its walls are barely 5 feet thick there would not have been much room for mural chambers, and indeed there is no sign of them in the portion now standing before you, for this wall contains entrance door and spiral stairs, windows and fireplace which pretty well fill up the available space.

The Tower is only  $27\frac{1}{2}$  feet long and its breadth would probably have been something like 20 feet, and its height to the dripcourse (which is still in place) is only 23 or 24 feet. It is in fact one of the smaller class, but the stonework is of unusually fine workmanship, and the remaining stones are of unusually large dimensions. I do not know of any other Border Tower in Cumberland which



*Photo. by S.D.H.*

HARDRIGG HALL (in Skelton parish) 31st August, 1931.

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comes up to the standard of Hardrigg Hall in these respects. The spiral stair, 5 feet. 6 inches wide (which in the customary way opens off from the main entrance doorway) has encroached a good deal on the interior of the tower, the walls of which are *only* 5 feet thick; the arch of the basement has disappeared but the springing stones are left as proof of the original vault. Each of the two upper floors has a fireplace and a window in the east wall, and you can trace the side stonework of windows in the portion of the Northern and Southern wall which still remains standing. There is no plinth visible now, but it may be that it exists below the present ground level, for the entrance doorway shows that the original ground level must have been 2 or 3 feet lower. The details of the doorways from the spiral stair to the rooms are good and the whole architectural appearance is unusually effective for a Border Tower.

The original outer face of the entrance doorway is completely hidden by the wall of the farm-house.

I am inclined to rank it as a tower of the late 14th, or early 15th century. The details are quite as good as those of Bishop Strickland's Tower in Penrith Castle, which we know was not built until the year 1398.