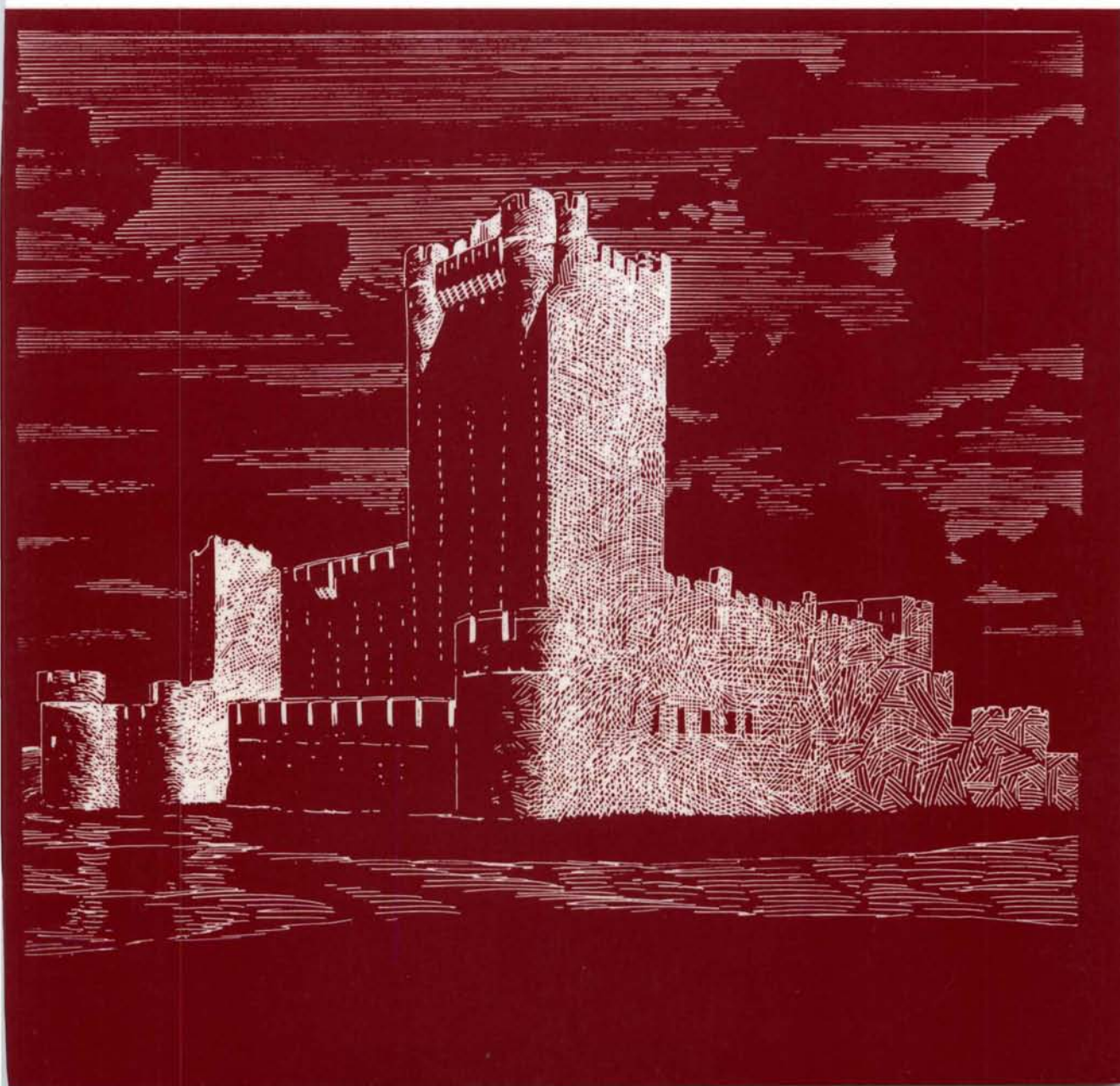


THE PALLADIUM BOOK OF

EUROPEAN CASTLES

compiled by Matthew Balent



EUROPEAN CASTLES

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This work is dedicated to Lisa; she deserves it!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Glossary	4
Wall Rating	6
Bibliography	6
<u>Czechoslovakia</u>	
Karlstein	7
<u>England</u>	
Berkeley Castle	8
Bolton Castle	9
Bothwell Castle	10
Framlingham Castle	11
Dover Castle Overview	12
Dover Castle Keep	13
Goodrich Castle	14
Ludlow Castle	15
Orford Castle Keep	16
Queenborough Castle	17
Rhuddlan Castle	18
Rochester Castle with cut-away plan of Keep	19
The Tower of London	20
Warkworth Castle	21
<u>France</u>	
Carcassonne	22
Chateau De Chillon	23
Largoet En Elven	24
Tarascon	25
<u>Germany</u>	
Ortenberg Castle	26
<u>Italy</u>	
Del Monte	27
Di Sarzanello	28
Ferrara: Castello D'Este	29
<u>Russia</u>	
The Kremlin	30
<u>Scotland</u>	
Borthwick Castle	31
Caerlaverock Castle	32
Campbell Castle	33
Carreg Cennen Castle	34
Craigmillar Castle	35
Doune Castle	36
Hermitage Castle	37
Nunney Castle	38
Rothsay Castle	39
<u>Spain</u>	
Belmonte	40
Coca	41
La Mota	42
Penafiel	43
<u>Syria</u>	
Margat	44
<u>Wales</u>	
Caernarvon Castle	45
Caerphilly Castle	46
Chepstow Castle	47
Coch Castle	48
Conway Castle	49

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EUROPEAN CASTLES

Introduction

This book was designed to be used by fantasy gamers who wish to include detailed descriptions of castles in their campaigns. All of the buildings depicted in this book are, or were, actual castles of European origin. They can easily be used in any fantasy game as is or can be modified as the players see fit.

As outlined in my earlier book, Weapons and Castles, the development of the castle in Europe went through distinct phases. Please consult that work for more information. Nearly all castles were situated on sites of some earlier fortification. This was especially true if the castle was located at some strategic spot such as at the bend of a river, atop a lone hill, or at some other important place. Many castles made use of walls which were constructed at an earlier period, sometimes centuries earlier.

Included here is a glossary of terms commonly used when discussing castles and similar fortifications.

Arch: Can be round-headed, pointed, two-centered or drop, that is arch struck from centre on the springing-line; ogee: pointed arch with double curved sides, upper arcs convex, lower concave; lancet: pointed arch formed on an acute-angle triangle; and depressed: flattened or elliptical.

Ashlar: Worked stone with flat surface, usually of regular shape and square edges.

Aumbry: Recess to hold sacred vessels, often found in castle chapels.

Bailey: Castle courtyard and surrounding buildings.

Barbican: Outwork defending the gateway or entrance to castle.

Barrel Roof: Like a covered wagon, or inverted ship; barrel vault is a plain vault of uniform cross-section.

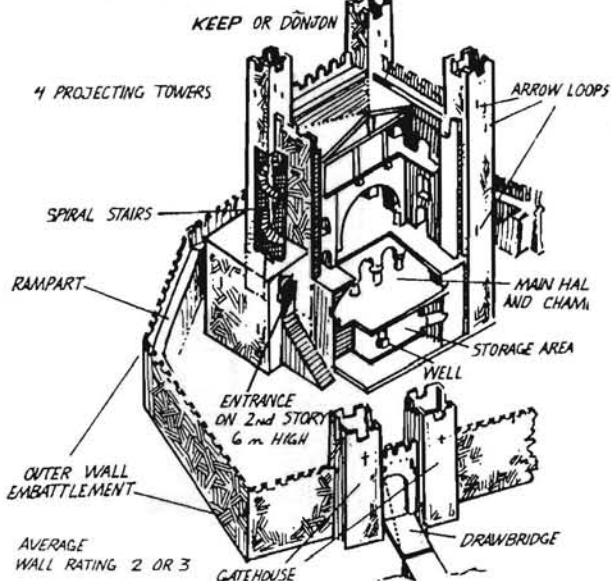
Bartizan: Overhanging battlemented corner turret, corbelled out; common in Scotland and France.

Bastion: Solid masonry projection.

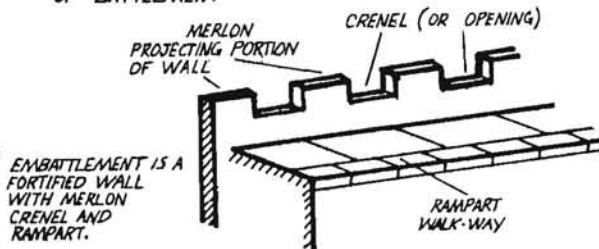
Batter: Inclined face of wall; hence battered.

Battlements: Parapet with indentations or embrasures, with raised portions (merlons) between; also called crenellations.

CUT-AWAY OF TRADITIONAL SQUARE KEEP
THESE DESIGN ELEMENTS ARE BASIC TO ALL
CASTLES OF THIS TYPE.



CUT-AWAY EXAMPLE
OF BATTLEMENT



Bays: Internal divisions of building, marked by roof principals or vaulting piers.

Berm: Level area separating ditch from bank.

Bivalate: A hillfort defended by two concentric ditches.

Bond: Arrangement of bricks in courses.

Brattice: Timber tower, or projecting wooden gallery.

Buttress: Projection from wall for additional support.

Castellan: Officer in charge of a castle.

Chamfer: Surface made by smoothing off the angle between two stone faces.

Chevron: Zig-zag moulding (twelfth century).

Clunch: Hard chalk material.

Cob: Unburnt clay mixed with straw.

Constable: Official in charge of castle in owner's absence.

Cornice: Decorative projection along top of wall.

Counterfort: Defence work of besieging force.

Counterscarp: Outer slope of ditch.

Course: Level layer of stones or bricks.

Crenel: Gap in battlemented parapet; crenelate: to fortify.

Crosswall: Interior dividing wall of castle.

Curtain: Connecting wall 'hung' between

GLOSSARY

Abacus: Flat portion on top of a capital.

Aisle: Space between arcade and outer wall.

Ambulatory: Aisle round an apse.

Apse: Rounded end (usually of chancel or chapel).

Arcade: Row of arches, free-standing and supported on piers or columns; a blind arcade is a dummy.

towers of a castle.

Diaper Work: Decoration of squares or lozenges.

Dogtooth: Diagonal indented pyramid.

Donjon: Principal tower of castle; keep.

Dormer: Window placed vertically in sloping roof.

Drawbridge: Movable bridge; originally moved horizontally like a gangway.

Dressing: Carved stonework around openings.

Drum-tower: Large, circular tower, usually low and squat.

Drystone: Unmortared masonry.

Embattled: Battlemented.

Embrasure: Small opening in fortified parapet, usually splayed on inside.

Fillet: Narrow flat band.

Fluting: Concave mouldings in parallel.

Foliated: Carved with leaves.

Footings: Bottom part of wall.

Forebuilding: Block in front of keep, to form lobby or landing.

Fosse: Ditch.

Freestone: High-quality sandstone or limestone.

Fresco: Painting on wet plaster wall.

Gable: Wall covering end of roof-ridge.

Gallery: Long passage or room.

Garderobe: Latrine; privy.

Great Chamber: Lord's solar, or bed-sitting room.

Groined: Roof with sharp edges at intersection of cross-vaults.

Half-Shaft: Roll-moulding on either side of opening.

Hall: Principal room or building in complex.

Herringbone: Brick or stone laid diagonally.

Hillfort: Bronze or Iron Age earthwork of ditches and banks.

Hood: Arched covering; when used to throw off rainwater, called hood-mould.

Impost: Wall bracket to support arch.

Jamb: Side of arch, door or window.

Joist: Timber stretched from wall-to-wall to support floorboards.

Keep: Main tower.

Lancet: Long, narrow window with pointed head.

Light: Component part of window, divided by mullions and transoms.

Lintel: Horizontal stone or beam bridging opening.

Loop: Narrow opening.

Louvre: Opening in roof (often with lantern over) to allow smoke to escape from central hearth.

Machicolation: Projecting gallery on brackets, on outside of castle towers or walls, with holes in floor for dropping missiles, etc.

Mangonel: Siege-engine whose projectile arms turn against fixed stop.

Merlon: Solid part of embattled parapet.

Meutrieres: Murder holes.

Mine Gallery: Siegework to cause wall-collapse.

Motte: Artificial earth-mound for keeps of eleventh and twelfth century castles.

Motte-and-Bailey: Earth-mound with wood or stone keep, surrounded by ditched and palisade enclosure (or courtyard).

Moulding: Masonry decoration.

Mullion: Vertical division of window.

Multivallate: Hillfort with three or more concentric lines of defence.

Mural: Wall (adjectival).

Nailhead: Pyramid moulding.

Newel: Centre-post of circular staircase.

Nookshaft: Shaft set in angle of jamb or pier.

Oolite: Granular limestone.

Open Joint: Wide space between faces of stones.

Oratory: Private chapel in house.

Oriel: Projecting window in wall; originally a form of porch; often of wood.

Palisade: Timber defensive screen or fence.

Parados: Low wall on inner side of main wall.

Parapet: Low wall on outer side of main wall.

Pediment: Low-pitched gable over porticos, doors, windows, etc.

Perpendicular: English architectural style, c. 1330-1540.

Pier: Support for arch, usually square as opposed to pillar (round).

Pilaster: Shallow pier used to buttress wall.

Pinnacle: Ornament crowning spire, tower, etc.

Piscina: Handbasin, usually set in or against wall, with drain.

Pipe-Roll: Exchequer accounts, rolled on narrow wooden cylinders.

Pitch: Roof slope.

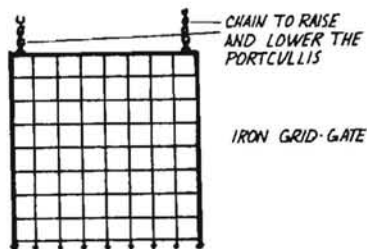
Pitching: Rough cobbling.

Plinth: Projecting base of wall.

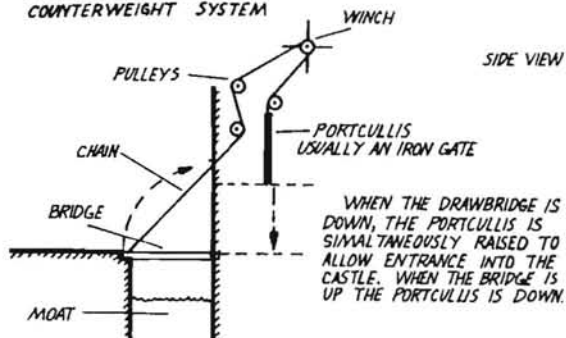
Portcullis: Grating dropped vertically from grooves to block passage or gate in castle; of wood, metal or a combination of the two.

PORTCULLIS

BASICALLY AN IRON GRID TO BLOCK AN ENTRANCE.

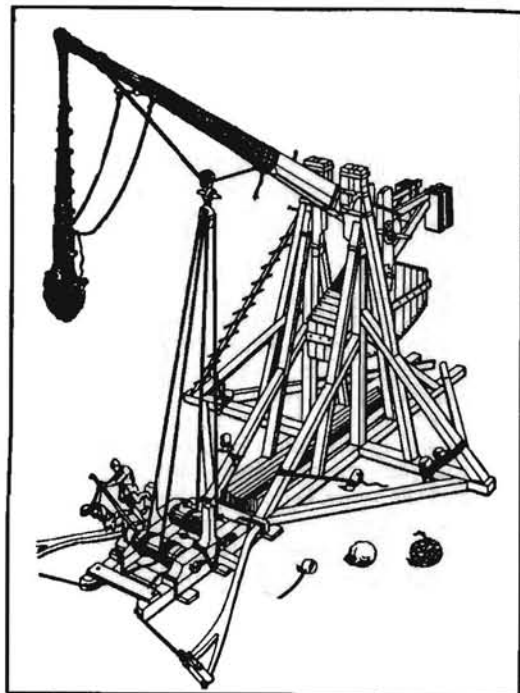


DRAWBRIDGE - PORTCULLIS COUNTERWEIGHT SYSTEM



Postern: Back door of castle.
Quadrangle: Inner courtyard.
Quoin: Dressed stone at angle of building.
Rampart: Defensive stone or earth wall surrounding castle or town.
Rath: Low, circular ringwork.
Ravelin: Outwork with two faces forming a salient angle.
Re-entrant: recessed.
Refectory: Communal dining-hall.
Revetment: Retaining wall.
Rib: Raised moulding dividing vault.
Ring-Work: Circular earthwork of bank and ditch.
Romanesque: Prevailing architectural style, eighth to twelfth century, with rounded arches.
Roofridge: Summit line of roof.
Rubble: Unquared stone not laid in courses.
Rustication: Worked ashlar stone, with faces left deliberately rough.
Saltire: Diagonal, equal-limbed cross.
Scarp: Slope on inner side of ditch.
Shaft: Narrow column.
Shell-Keep: Circular or oval wall surrounding inner portion of castle.
Soffit: Underside of arch or opening.
Solar: Upper living room of medieval house or castle; often over the hall.
Splay: Chamfer, or sloping face.
Squint: Observation hole in wall or room.
Stringcourse: Continuous horizontal mouldings on wallface.
Tracery: Intersecting ribwork in upper part of window.
Transom: Horizontal division of window.
Trebuchet: Siege-engine with unequal counterpoise arm.
Trefoil: Three-lobed.
Turret: Small tower, round or polygonal.
Vault: Stone roofing.
Vitrified: Material reduced to glass by combustion.
Voussoir: Wedge-shaped stone in arch.
Wall-Stair: Staircase built into thickness of wall.

Wall-Walk: Passage along castle wall.
Weathering: Sloping surface to throw off rainwater.
Wing-Wall: Wall down slope of motte to protect stairway.
Yett: Iron gate.



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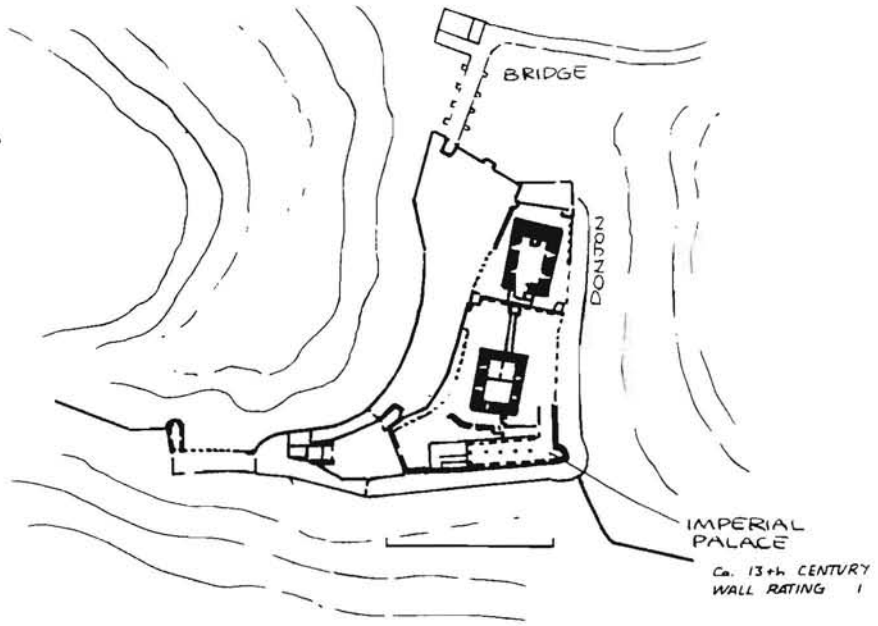
WALL RATING

It is very difficult to evaluate fortifications in terms of damage resistance for use in fantasy type games. The table below gives a general idea of the strength of the wall but it must be remembered that this rating can be affected by materials and workmanship.

Wall Rating	Thickness	Small Catapult (Number of Hits 5kg stone)	Heavy Catapult (Number of Hits 20kg stone)	Trebuchet (Number of Hits 250kg stone)
1	2m	21-40	11-20	1-4
2	5m	42-60	21-40	2-12
3	7m	62-80	41-60	3-18
4	10m	82-100	61-80	4-24
5	13m	102-140	81-100	5-30

The hit numbers indicate how many hits would be needed to wreck a given wall. The hits would have to be in the same area of the wall to have any effect. Hits on the tops of embattlements would soon knock the merlons over.

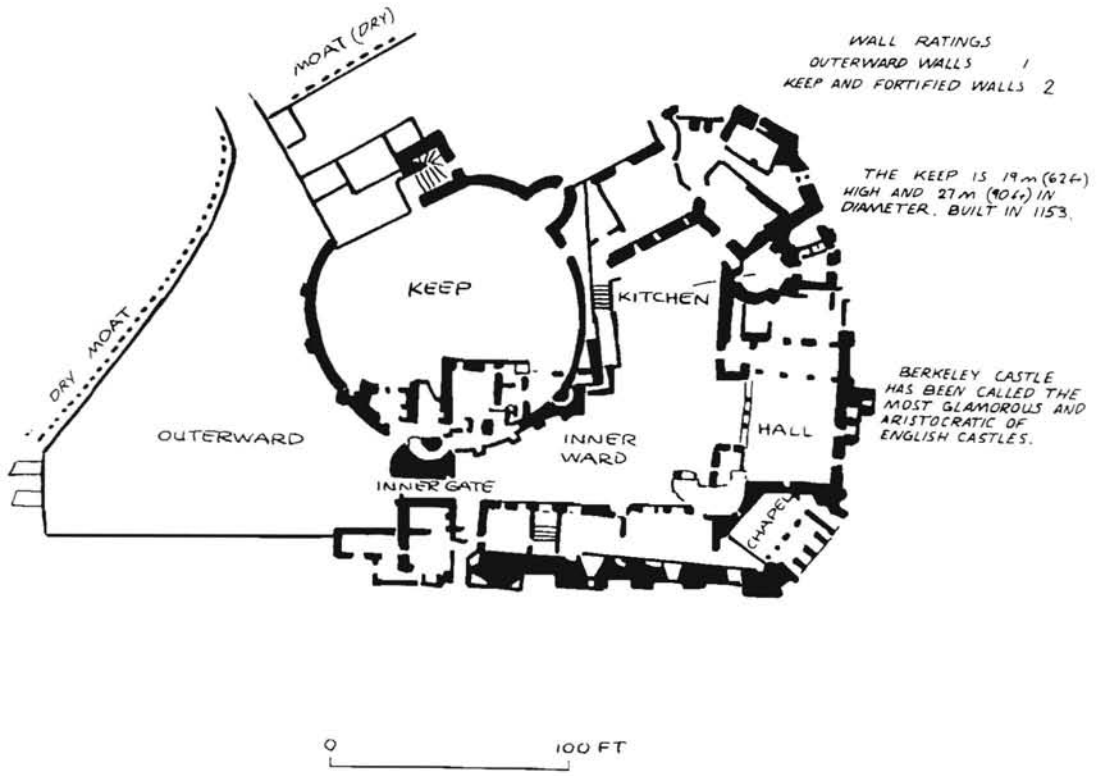
KARLSTEIN
CZECHOSLOVAKIA



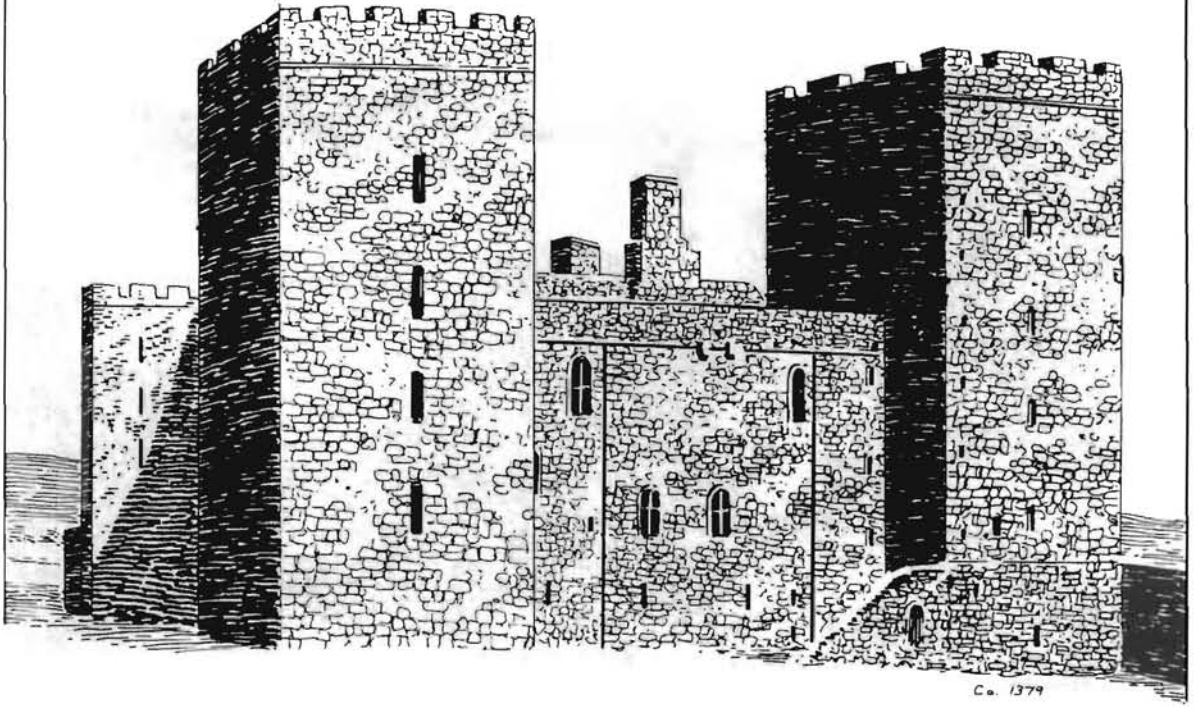
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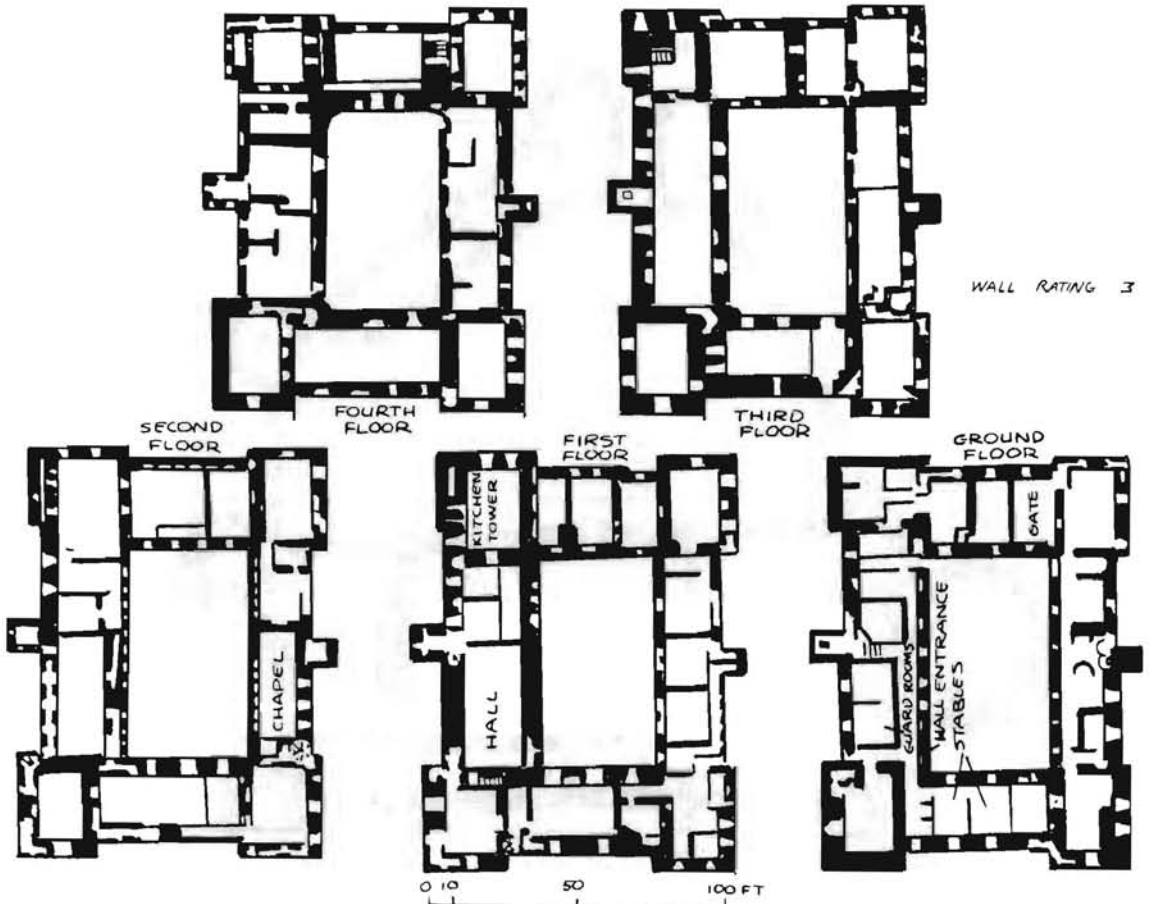
BERKELEY CASTLE - ENGLAND



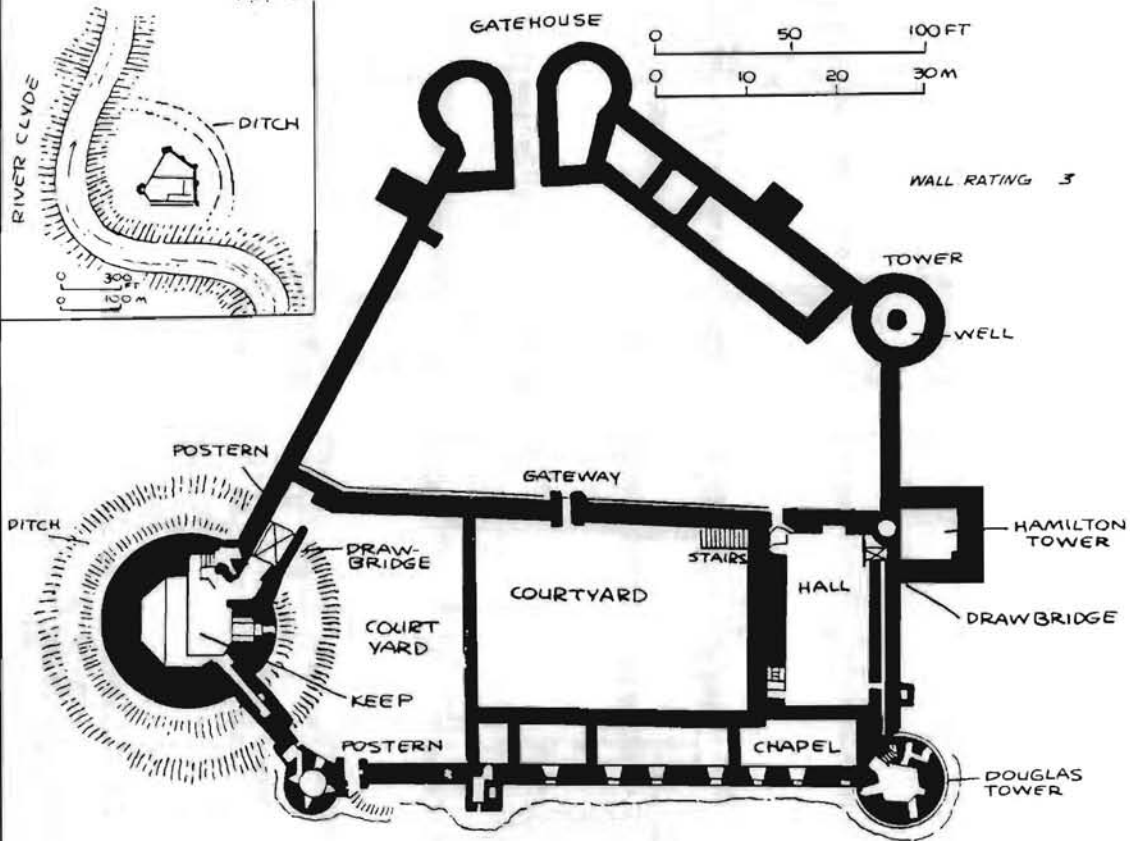
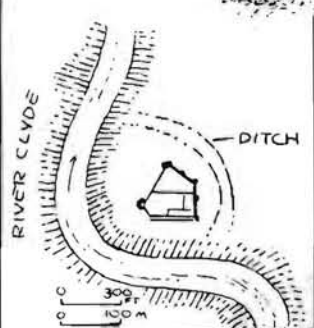
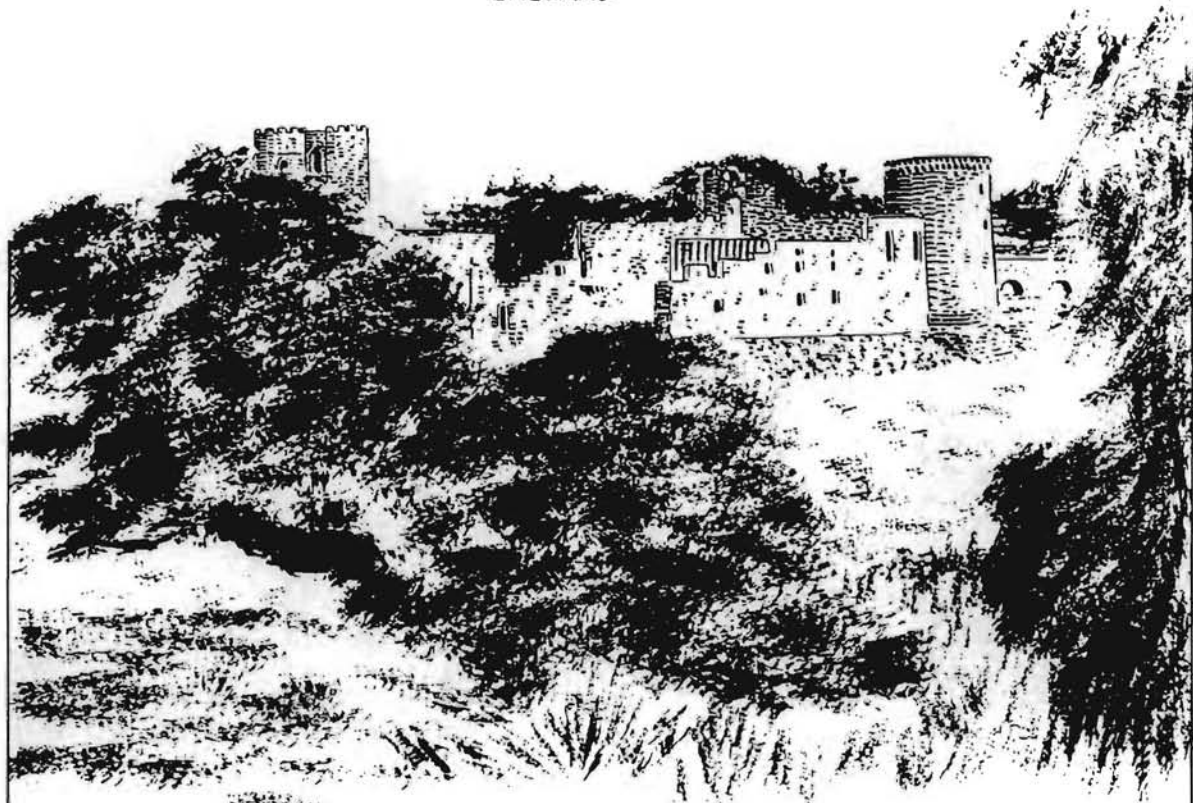
BOLTON-IN-WENSLEYDALE-ENGLAND



Ca. 1379

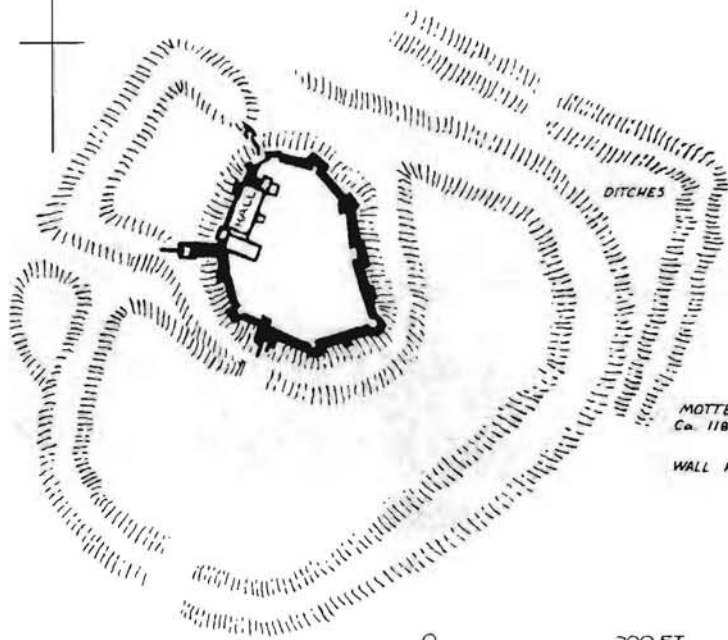


BOTHWELL CASTLE -
ENGLAND



BUILT IN THE 13th CENTURY.

FRAMLINGHAM
-ENGLAND-

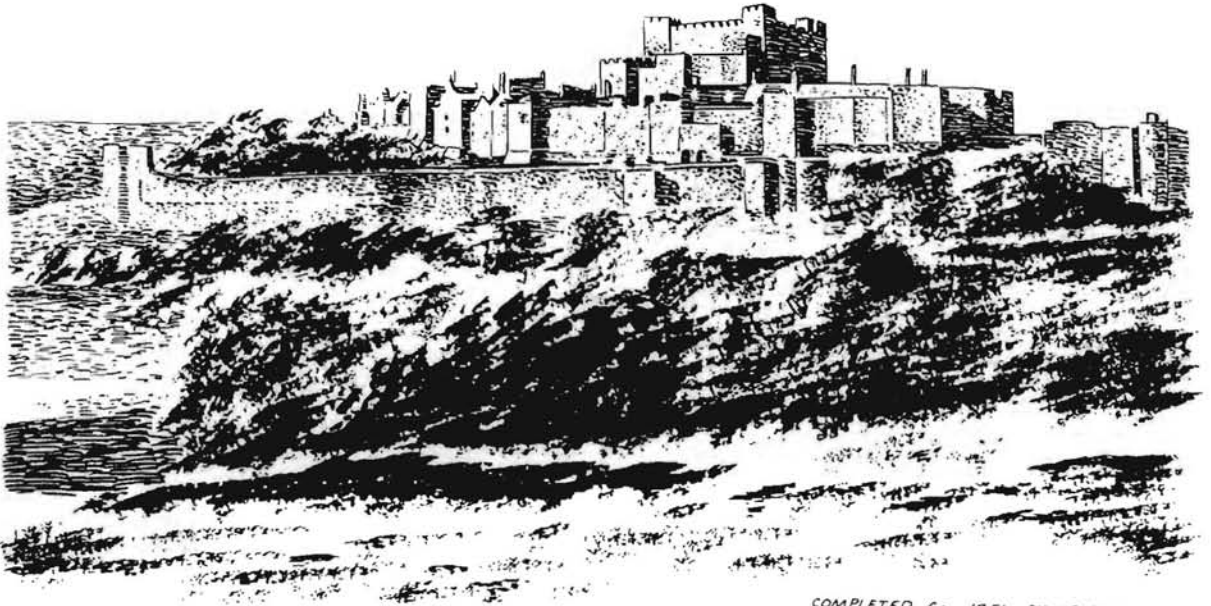


MOTTE AND BAILEY STYLE
Ca. 1180

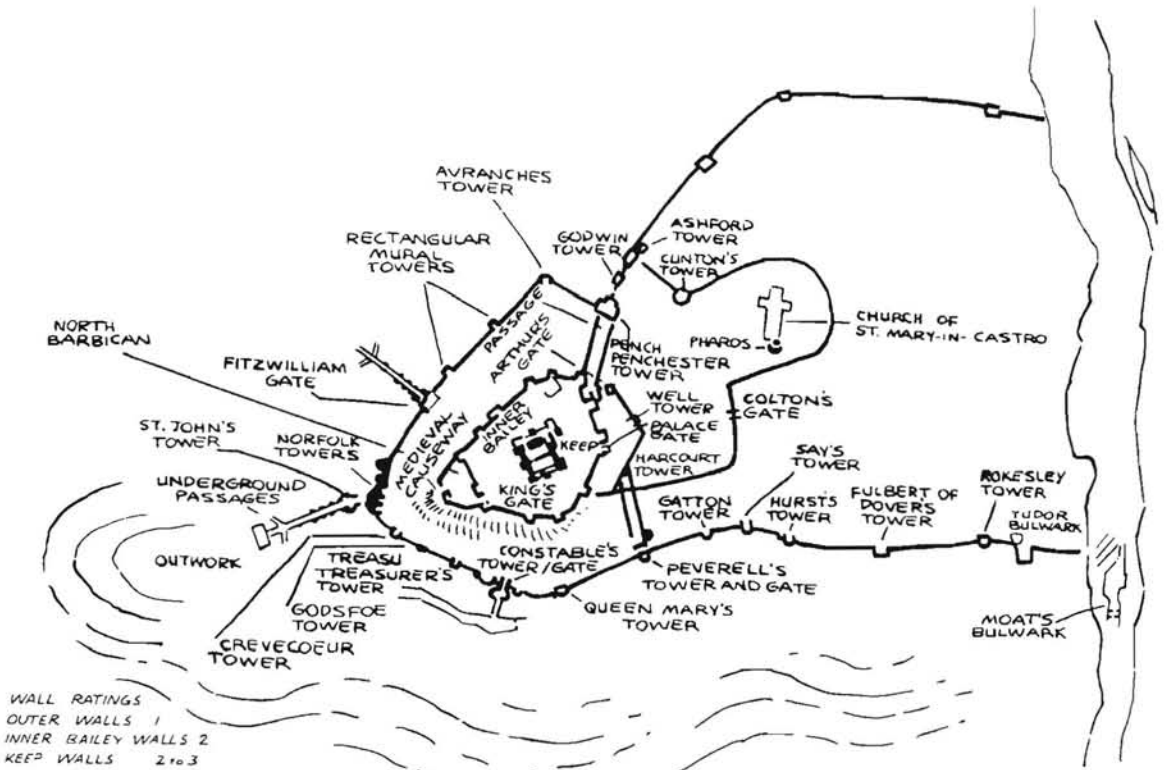
WALL RATING 2



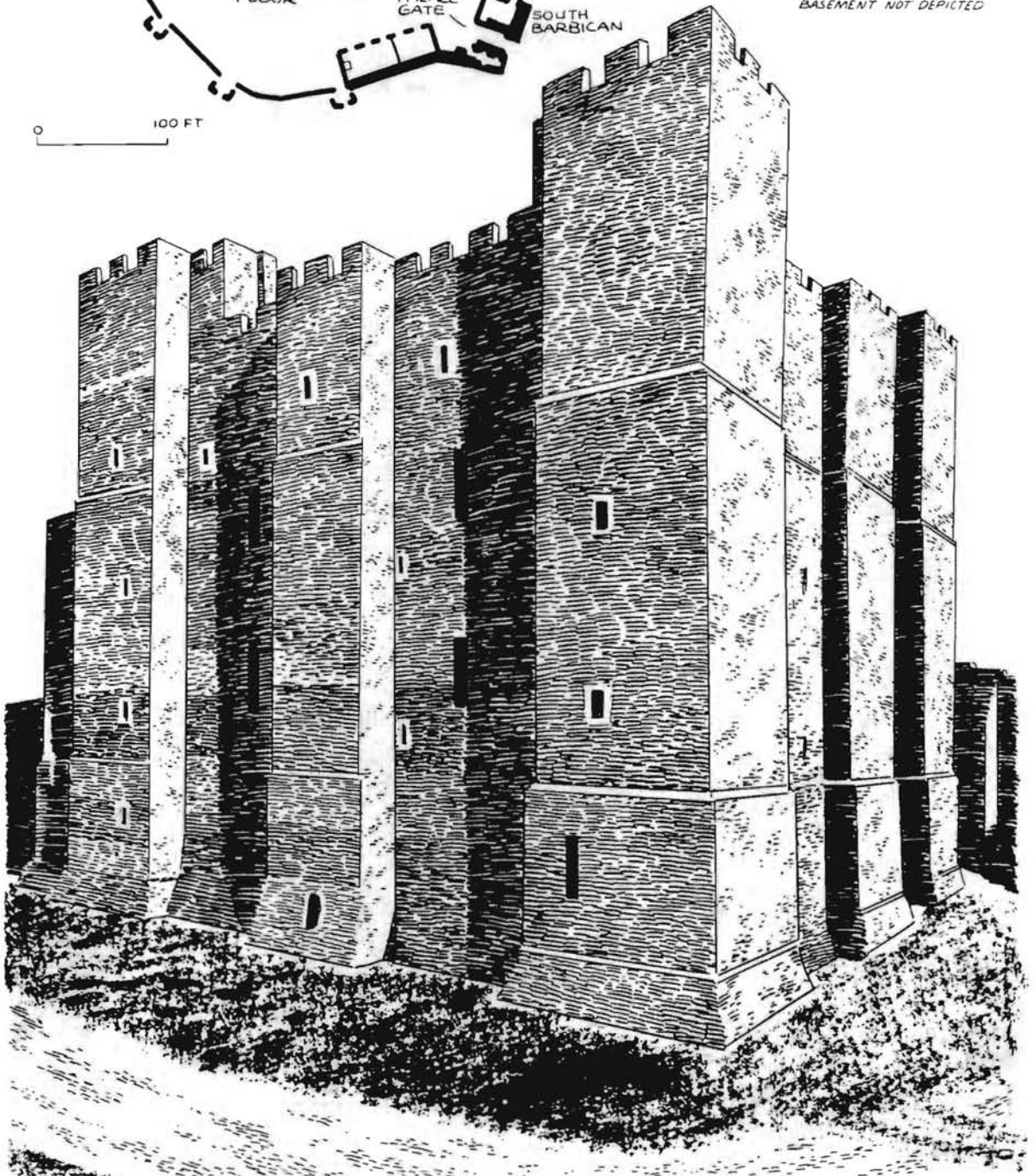
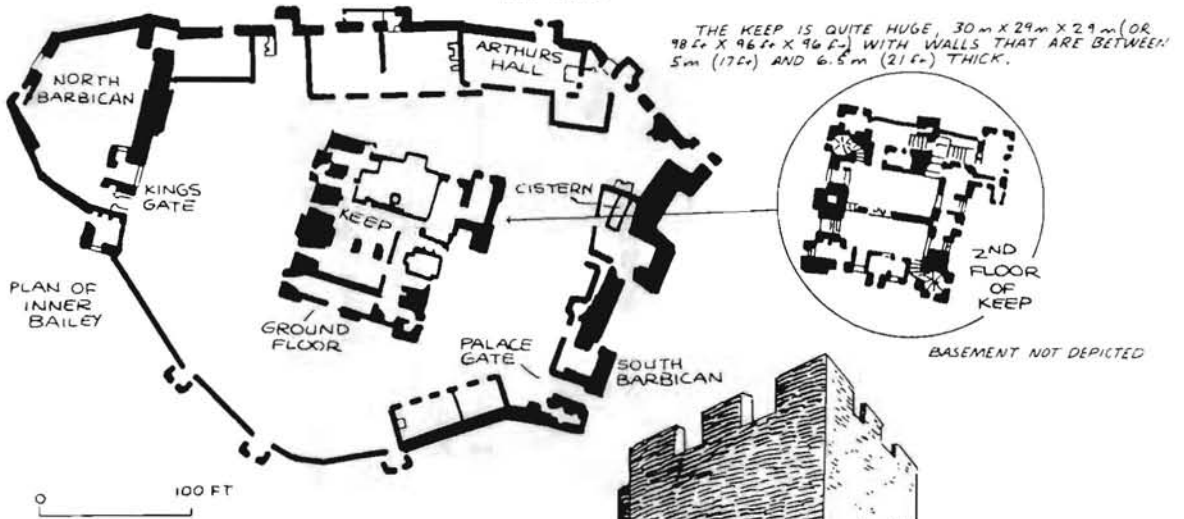
DOVER CASTLE-ENGLAND



COMPLETED Co. 1256 BY HENRY II



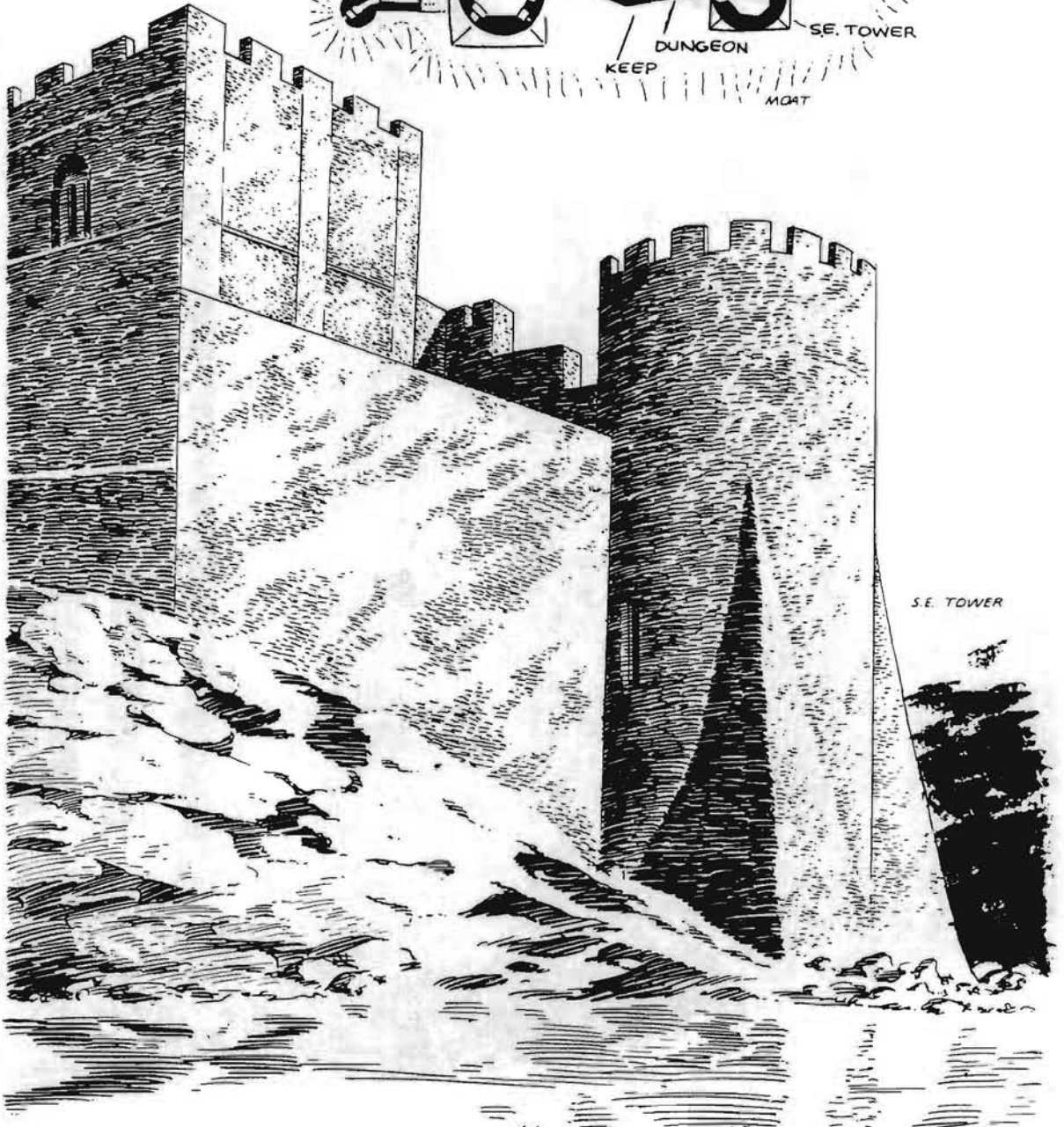
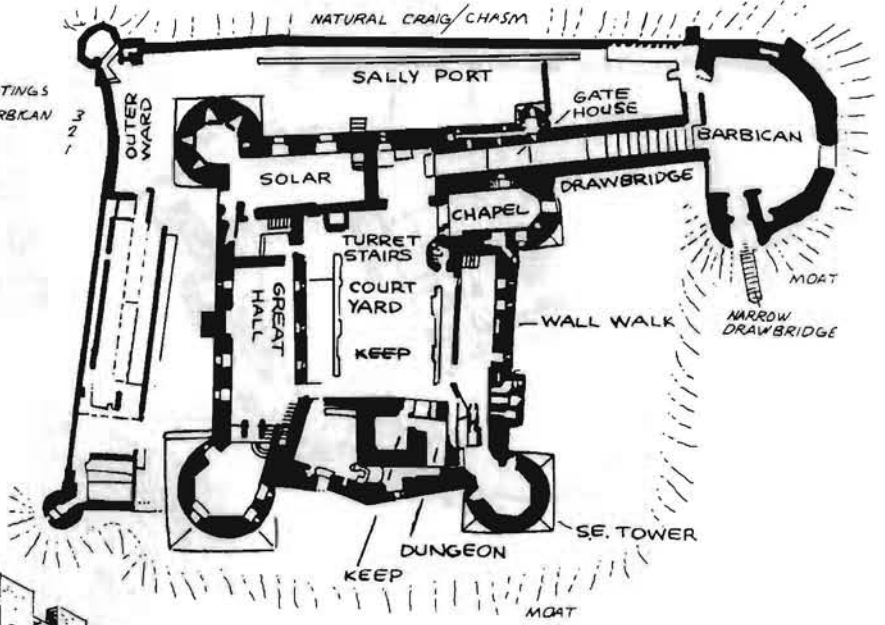
DOVER CASTLE
THE KEEP

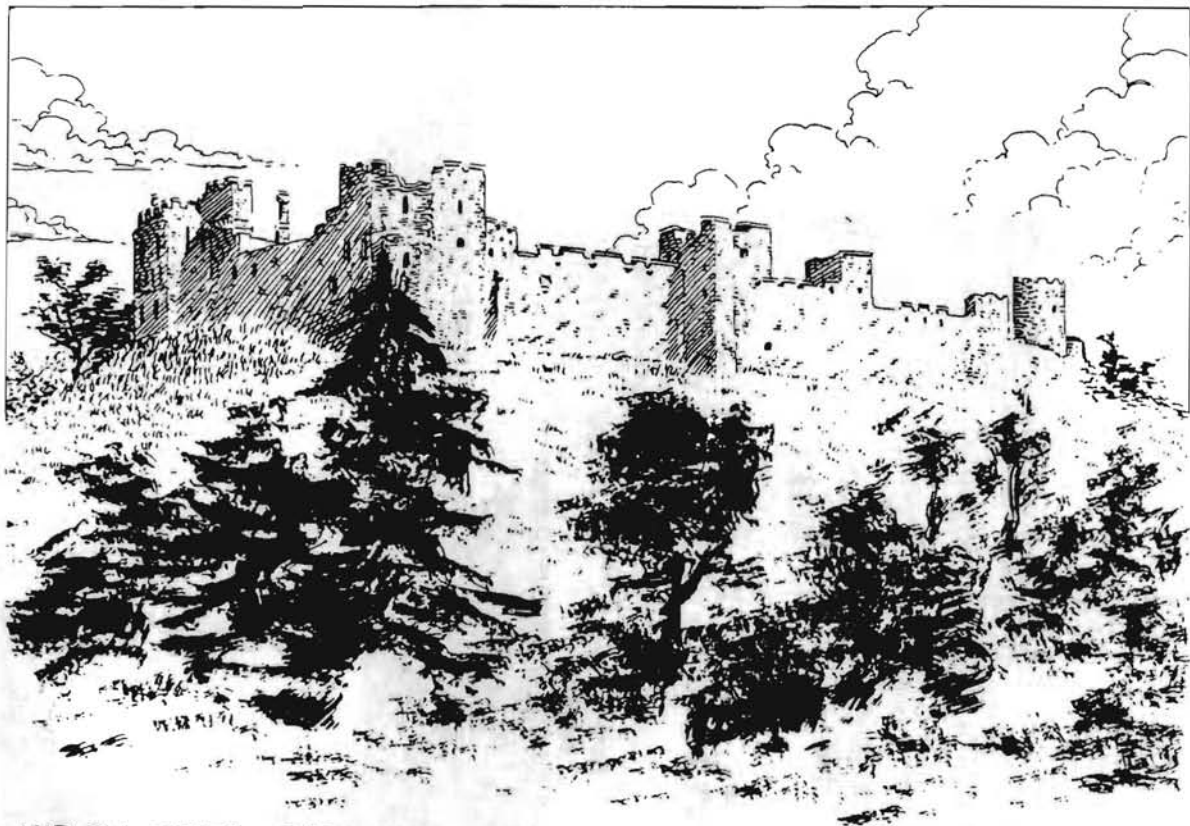


GOODRICH - ENGLAND

WALL RATINGS
 TOWERS AND BARBICAN 3
 KEEP 2
 OUTER WALLS 1
 13th CENTURY

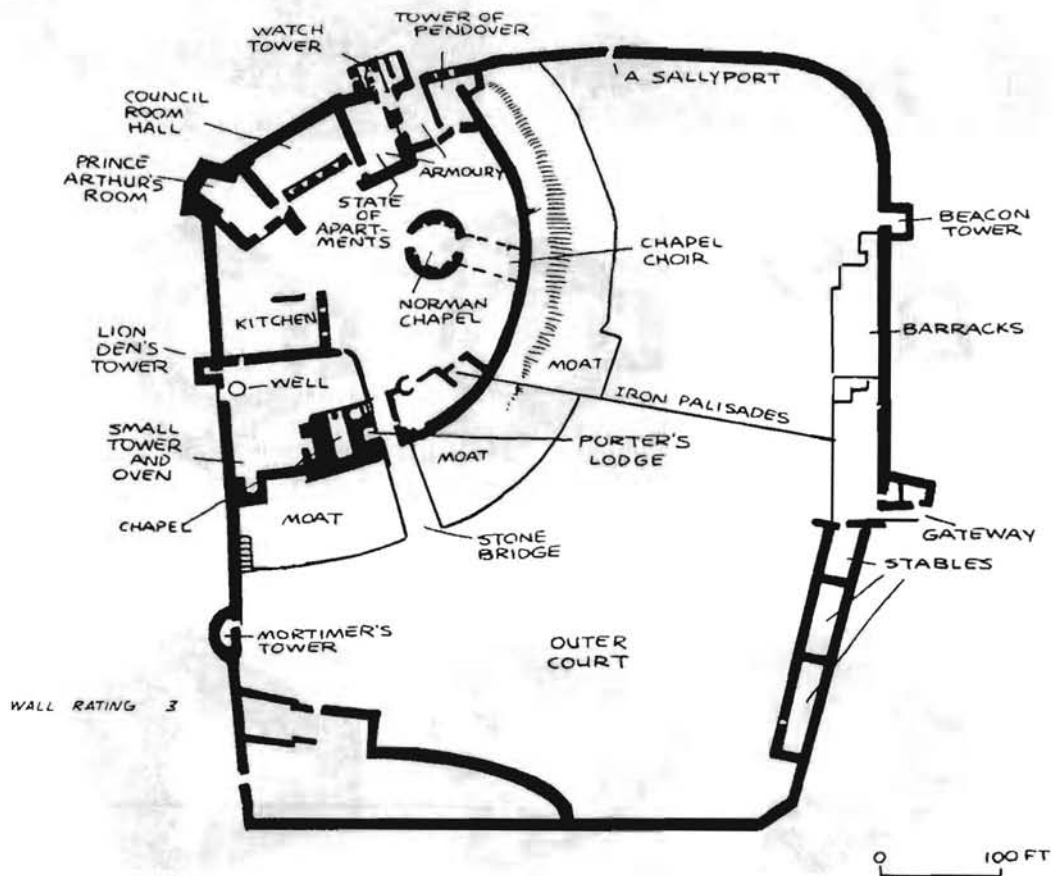
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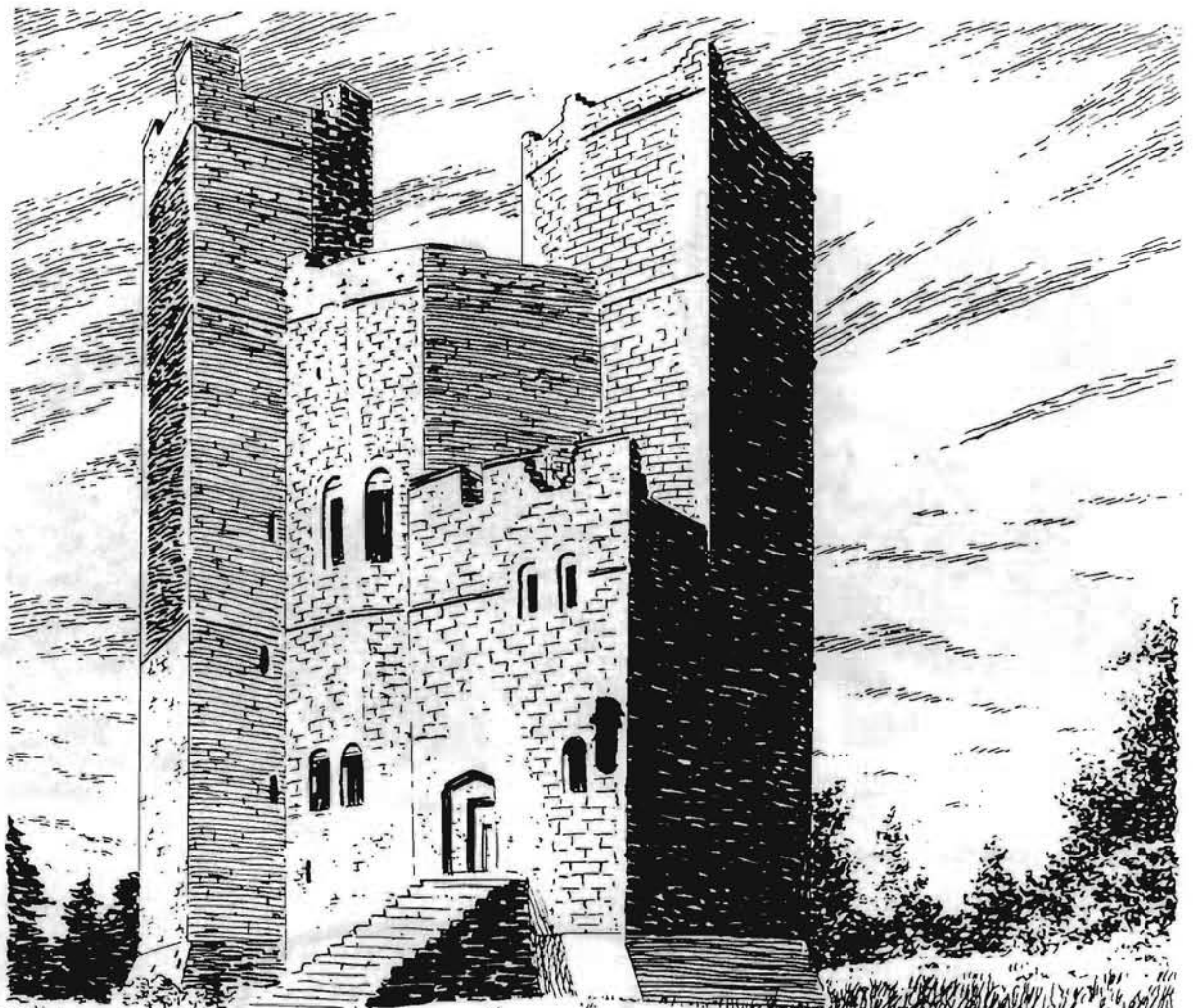




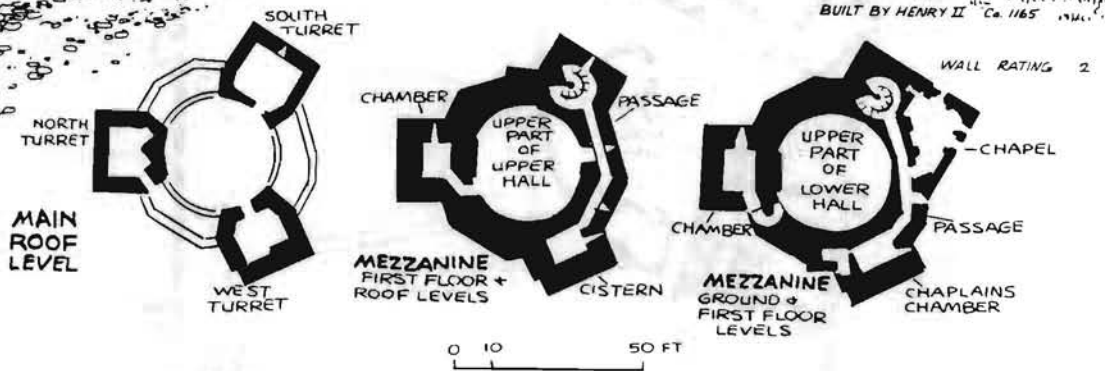
LUDLOW CASTLE - ENGLAND

Co. 1186

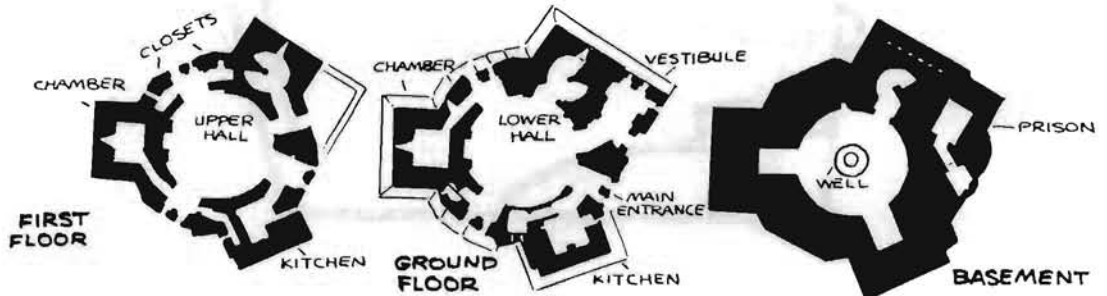


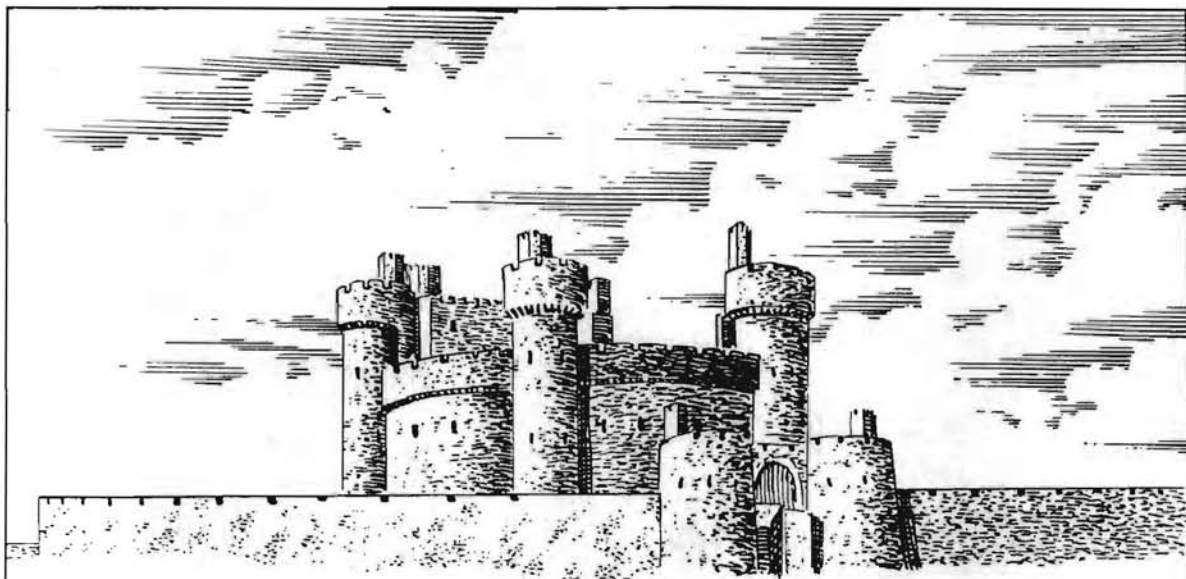


BUILT BY HENRY II "Ca. 1165"

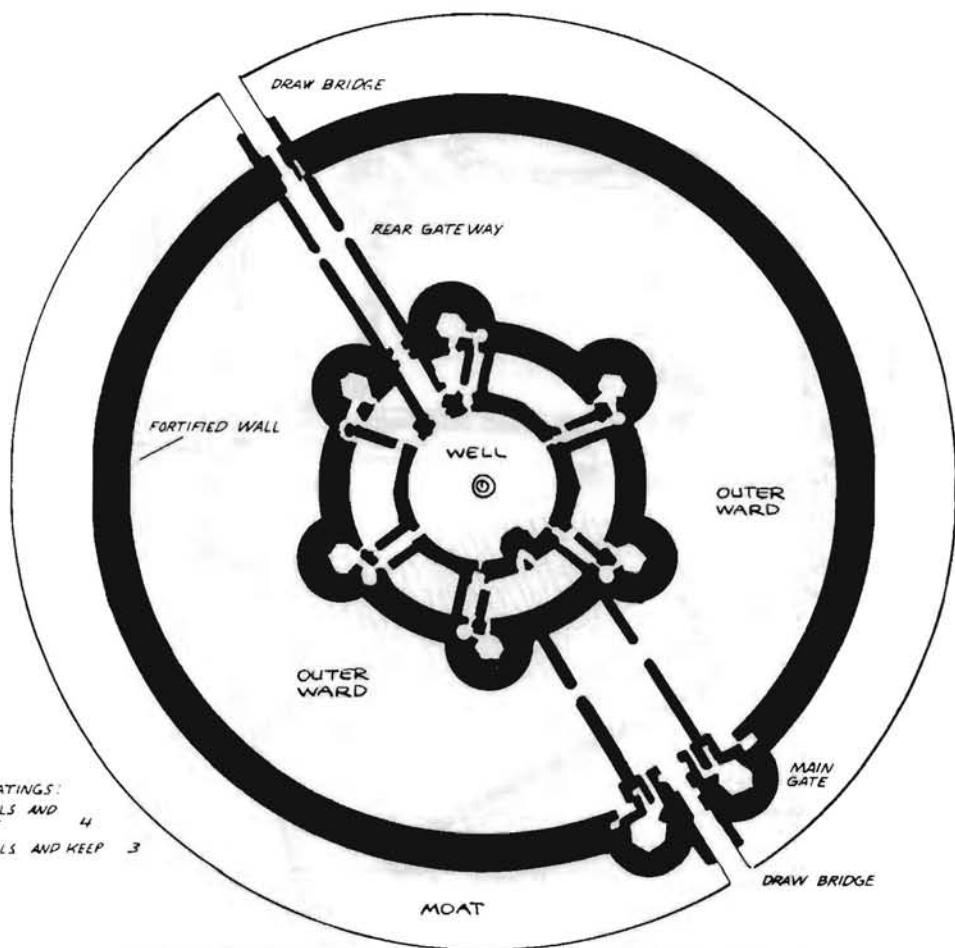


ORFORD KEEP - ENGLAND

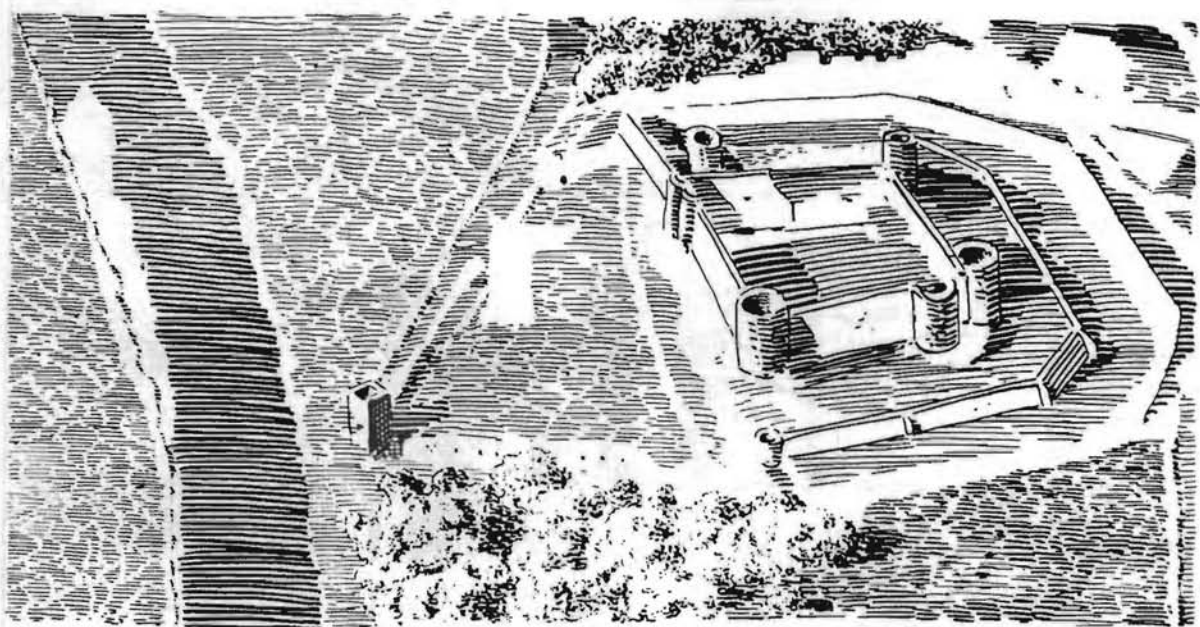




QUEENBOROUGH
-ENGLAND-

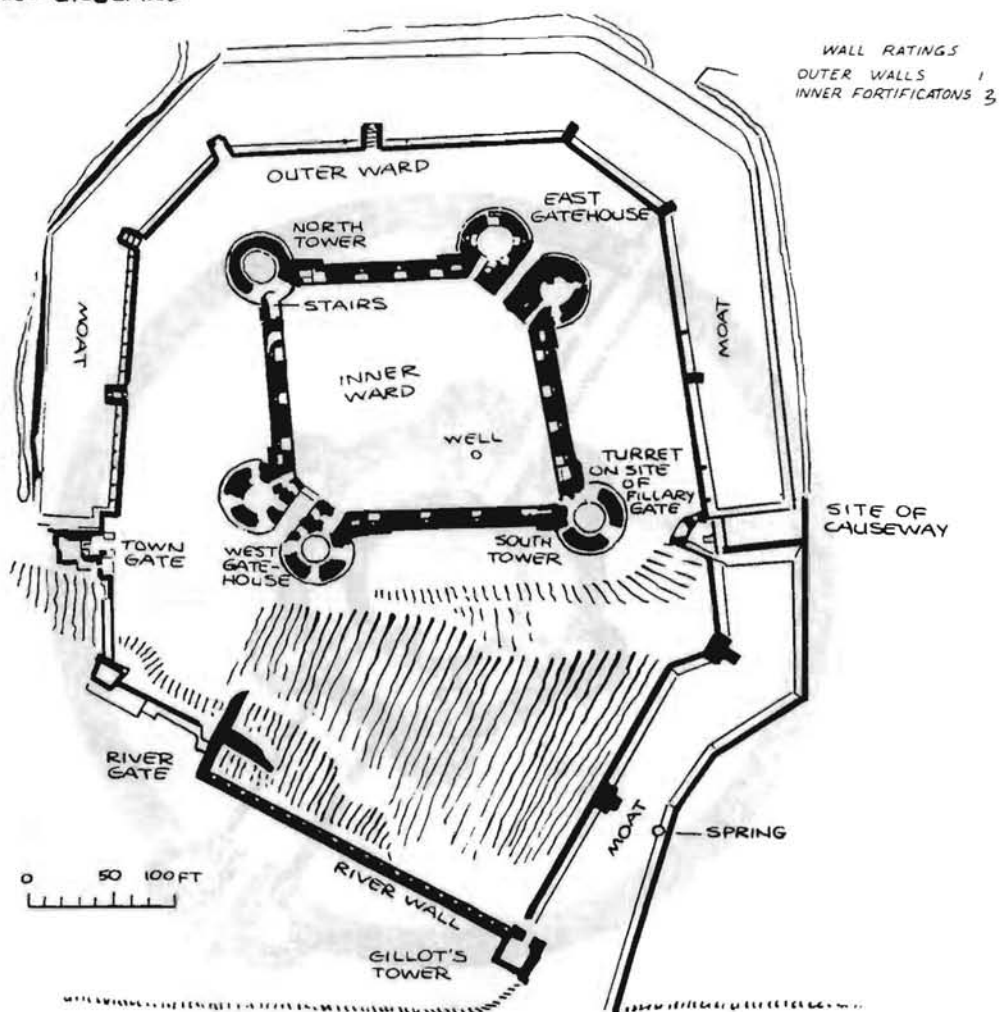


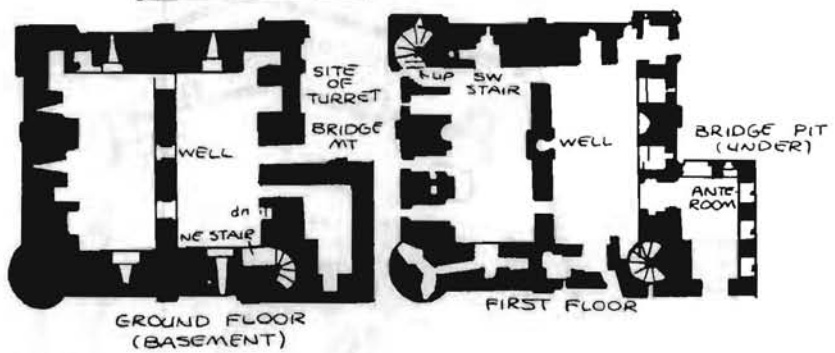
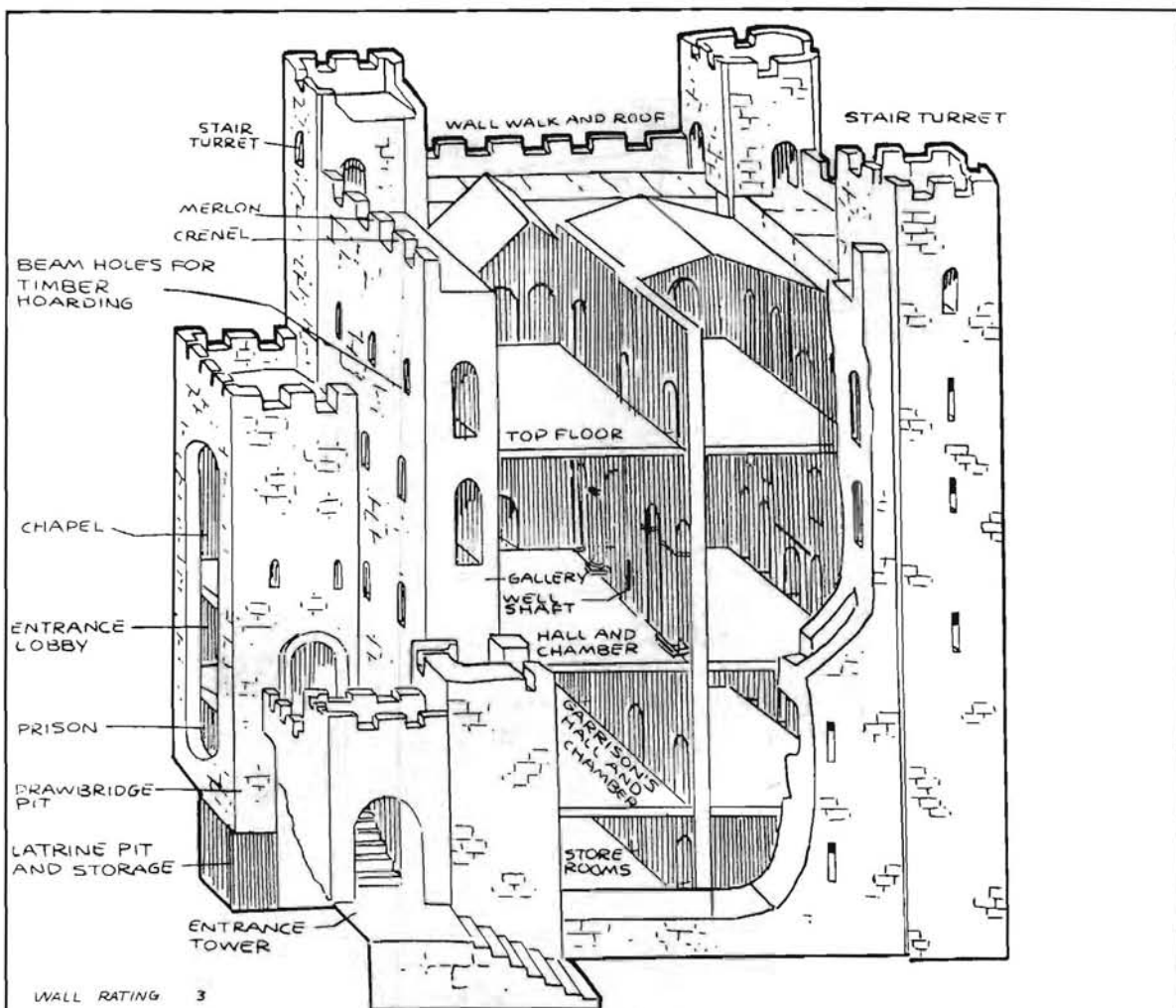
WALL RATINGS:
OUTER WALLS AND
MAIN GATE 4
INNER WALLS AND KEEP 3



Ca. 1282

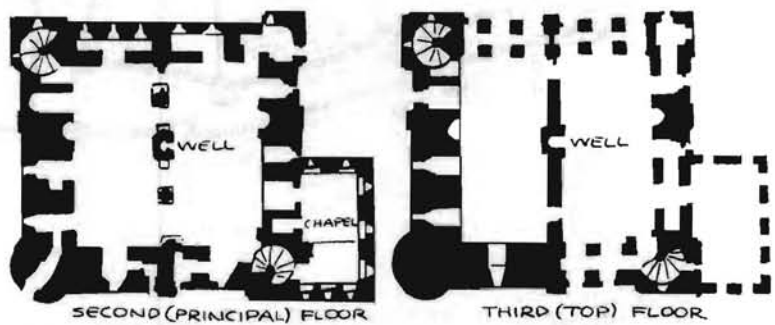
RHUDDLAN - ENGLAND





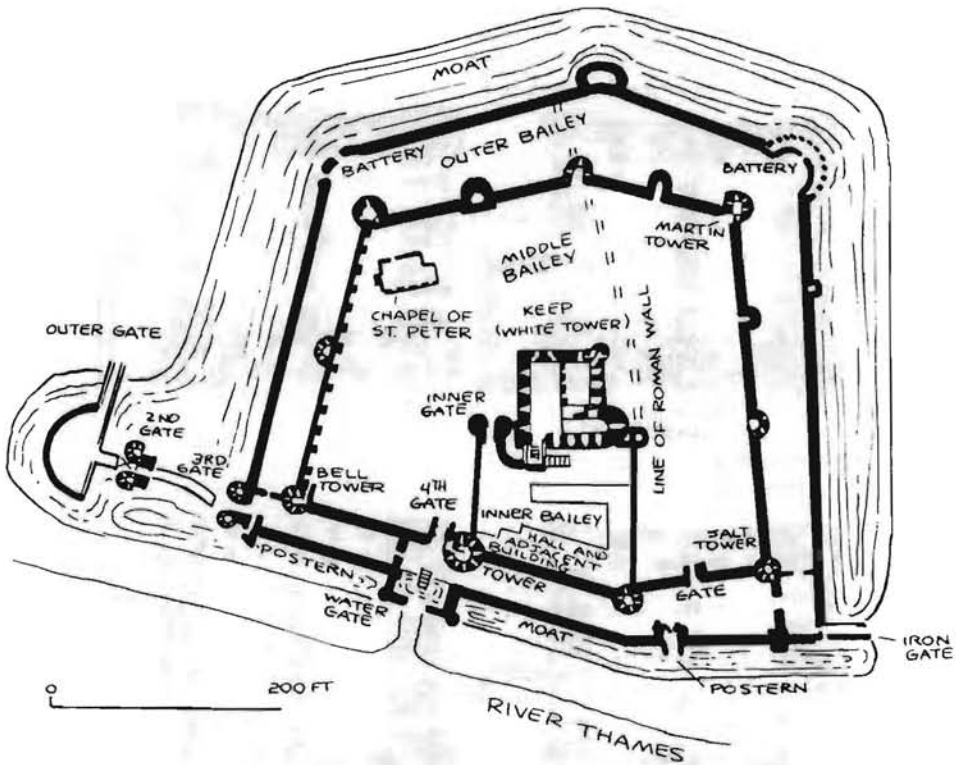
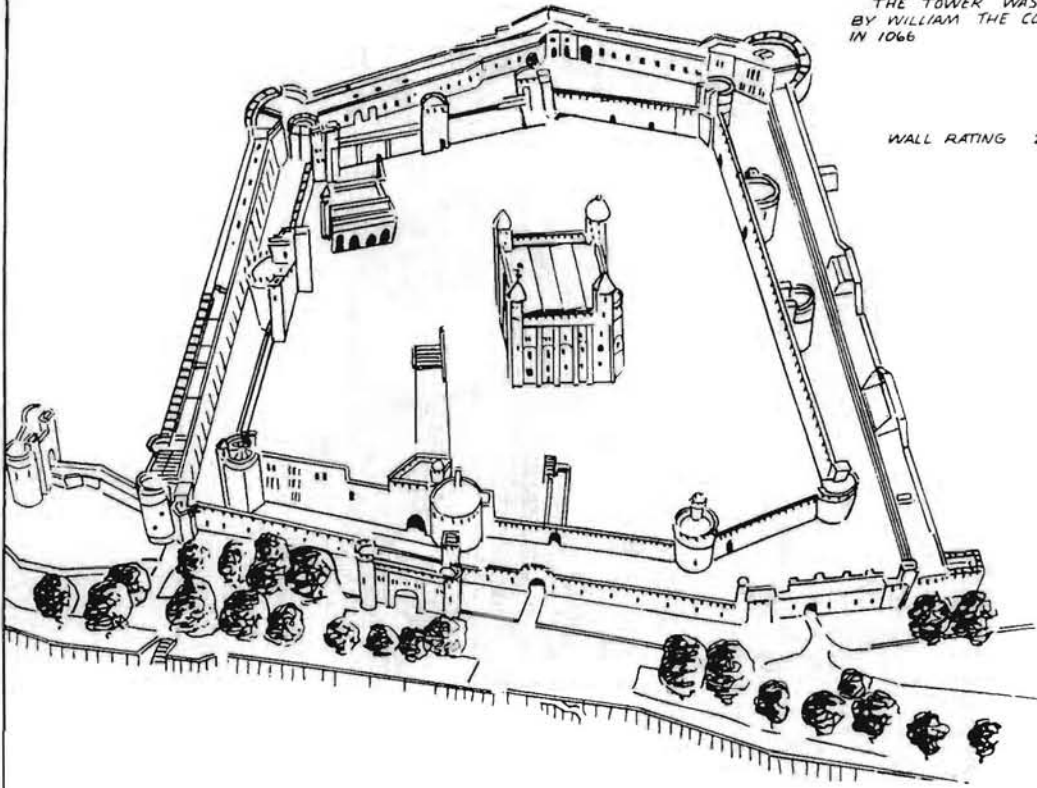
ROCHESTER CASTLE Ca 1190

· PLAN OF KEEP · ENGLAND ·

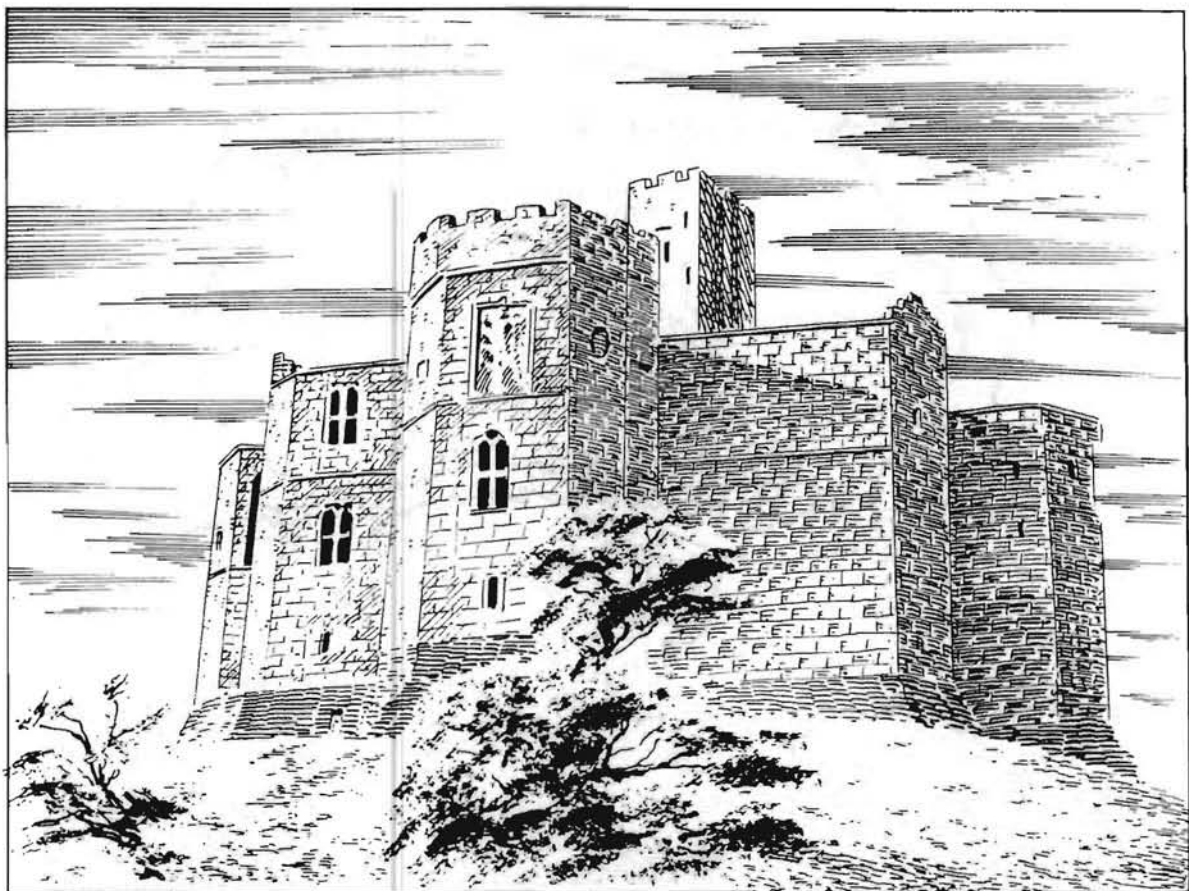


THE TOWER WAS FOUNDED
BY WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR
IN 1066

WALL RATING 2

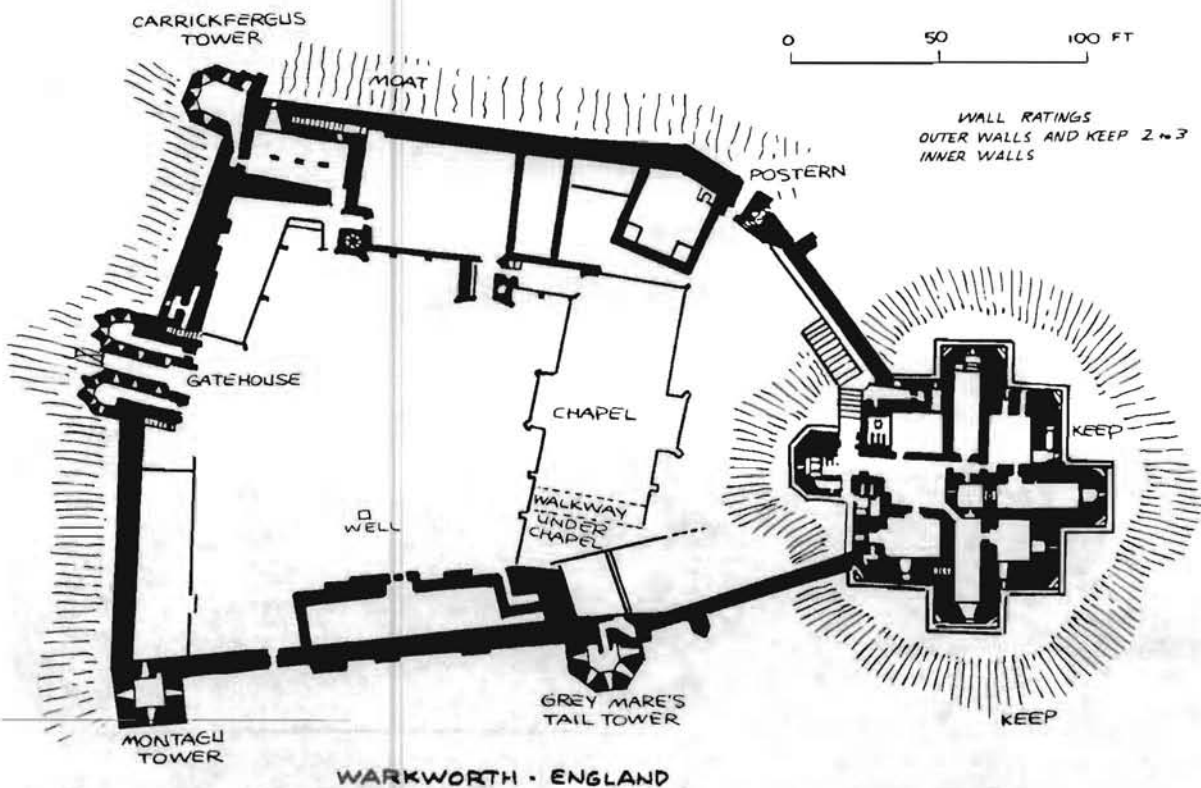


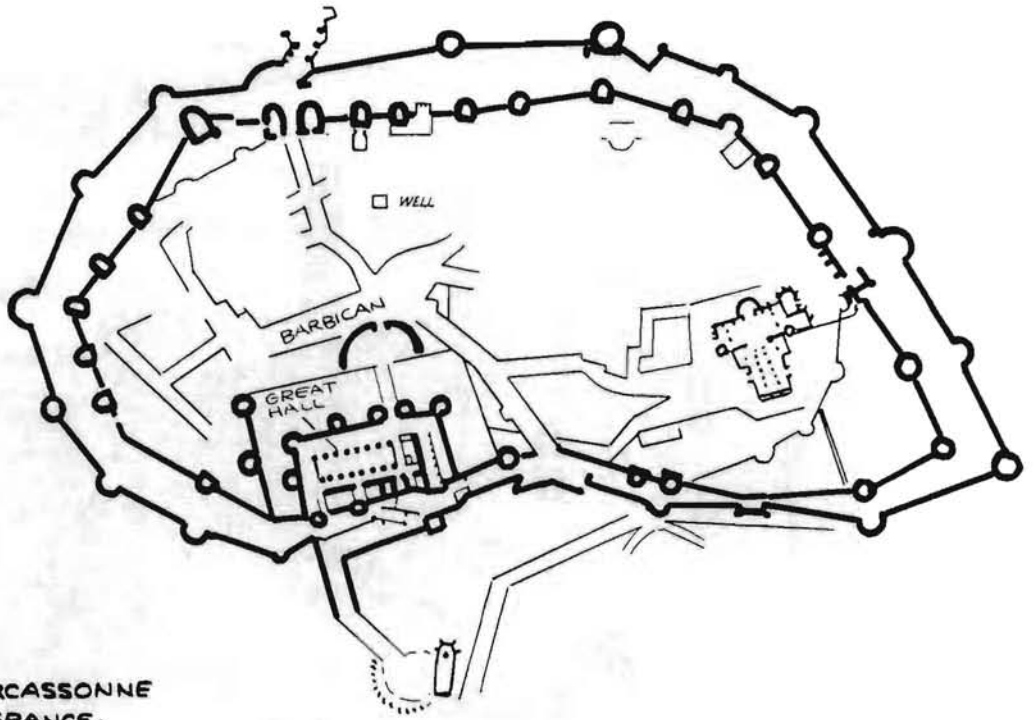
TOWER OF LONDON - ENGLAND



THE CASTLE KEEP OF WARKWORTH

BUILT BY LORD PERCY C. 1390

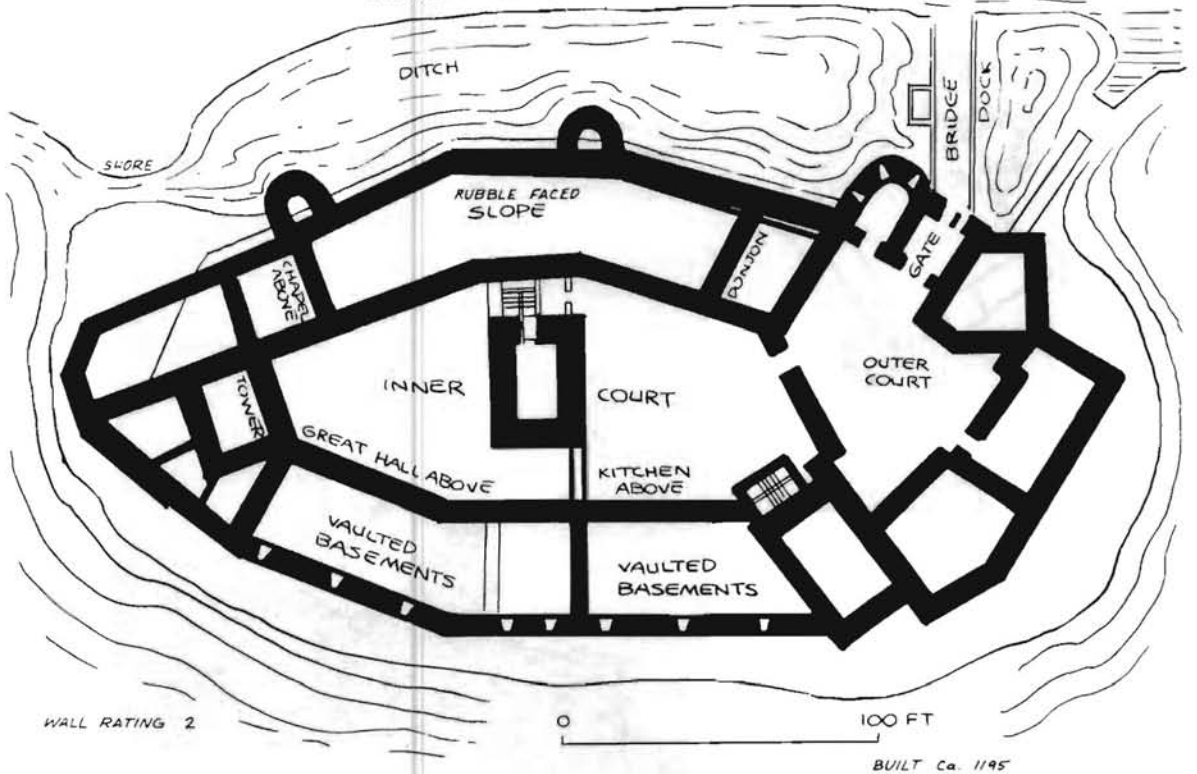




CARCASSONNE
• FRANCE •



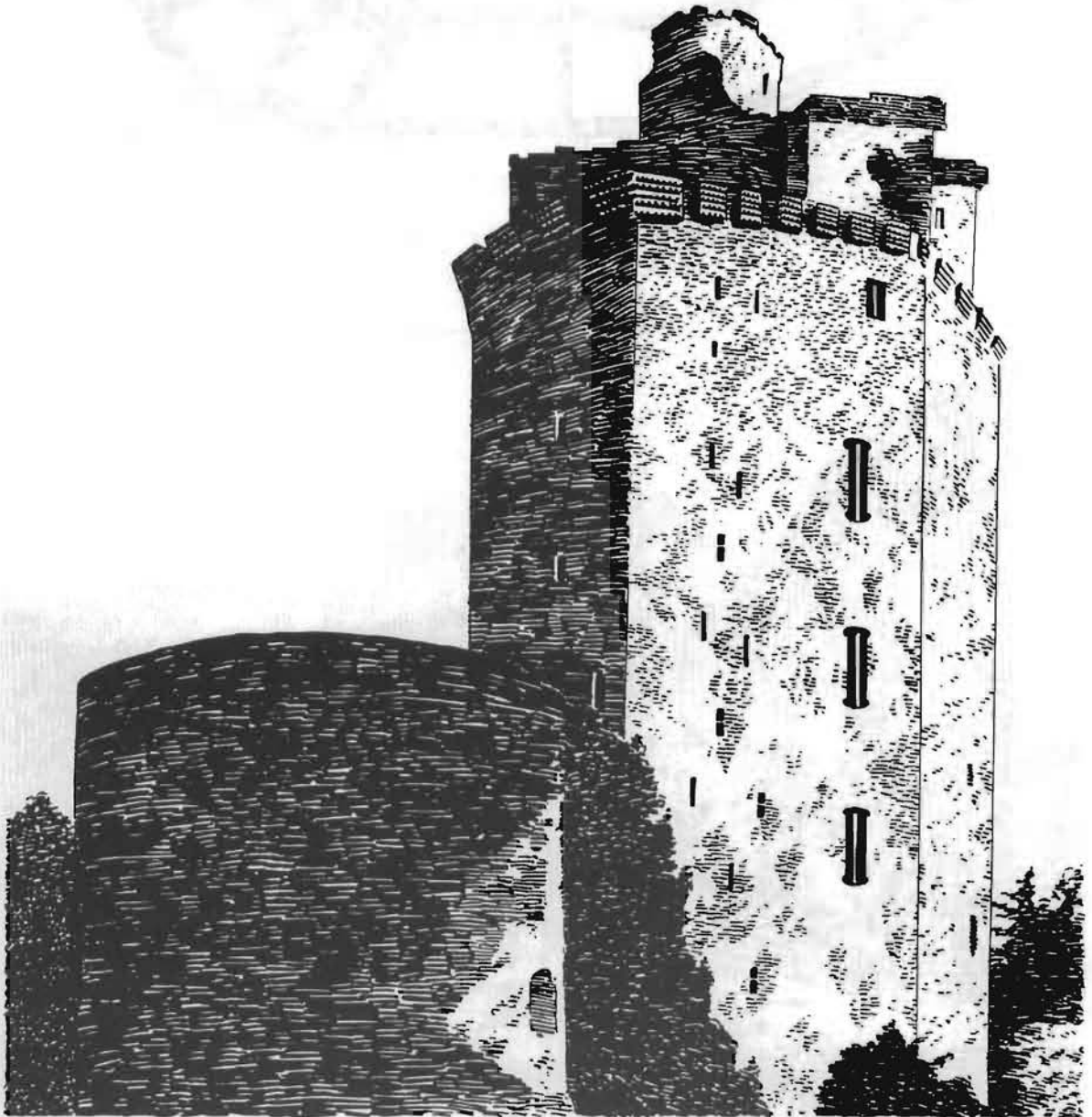
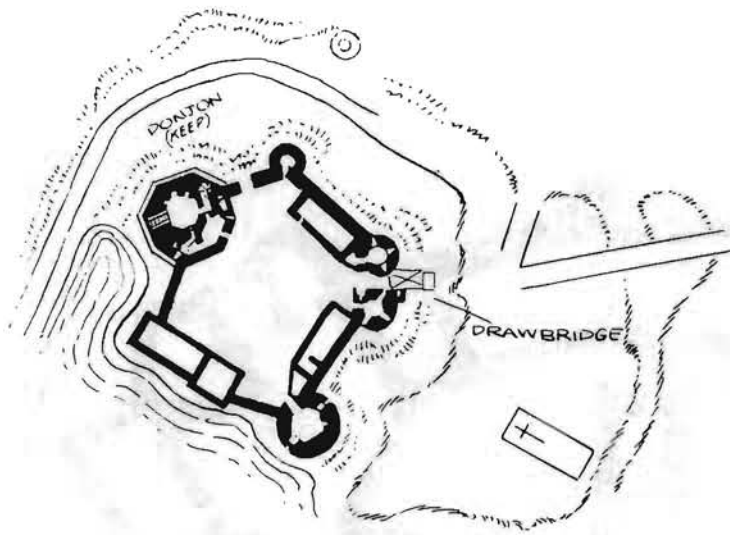
CHATEAU DE CHILLON - FRANCE



LARGOËT-EN-ELVEN
-FRANCE-

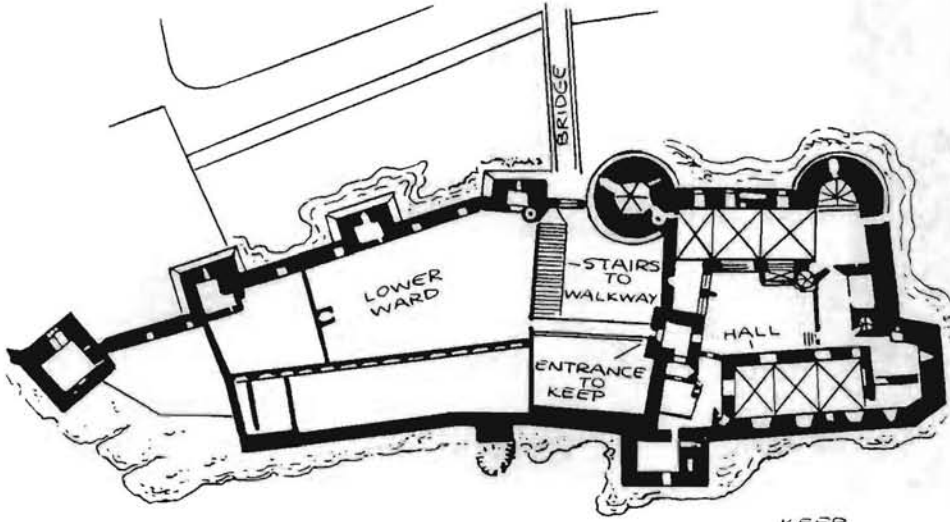
WALL RATING 2

13th CENTURY



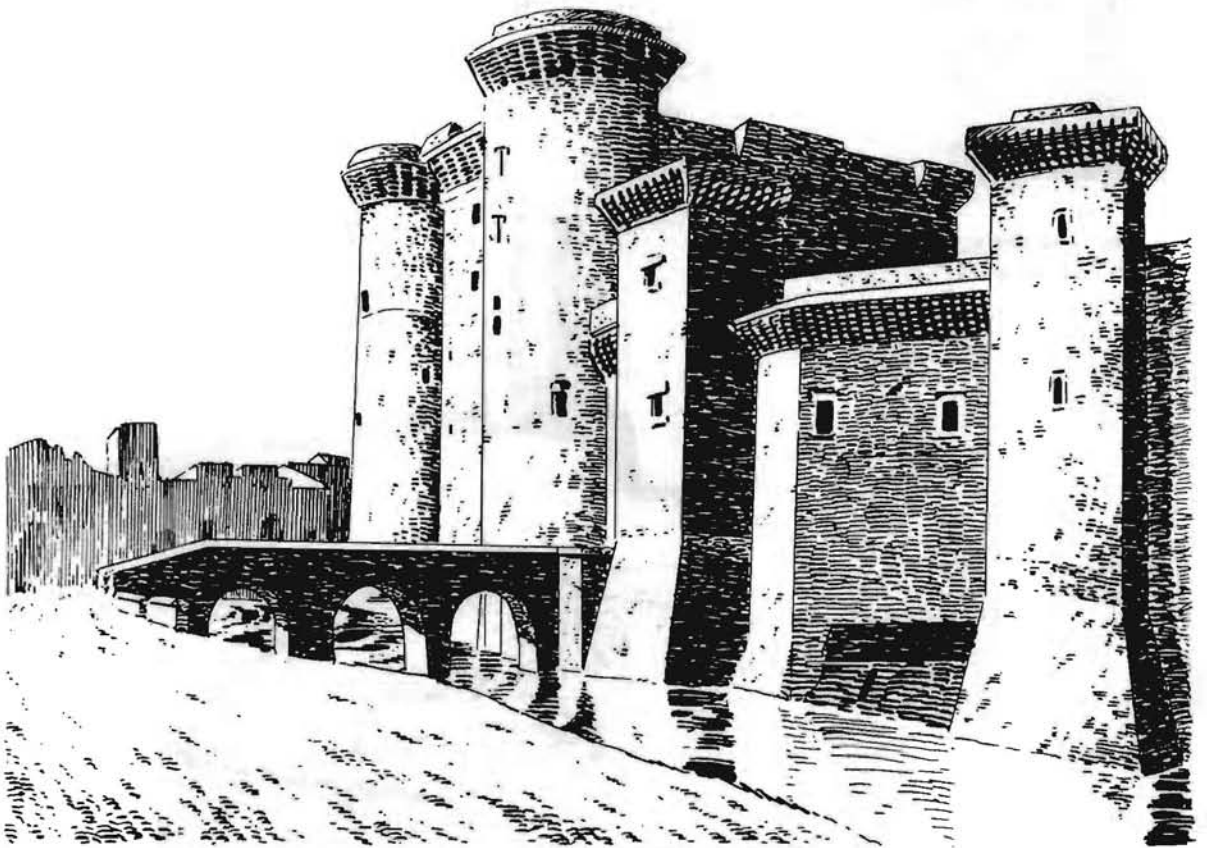
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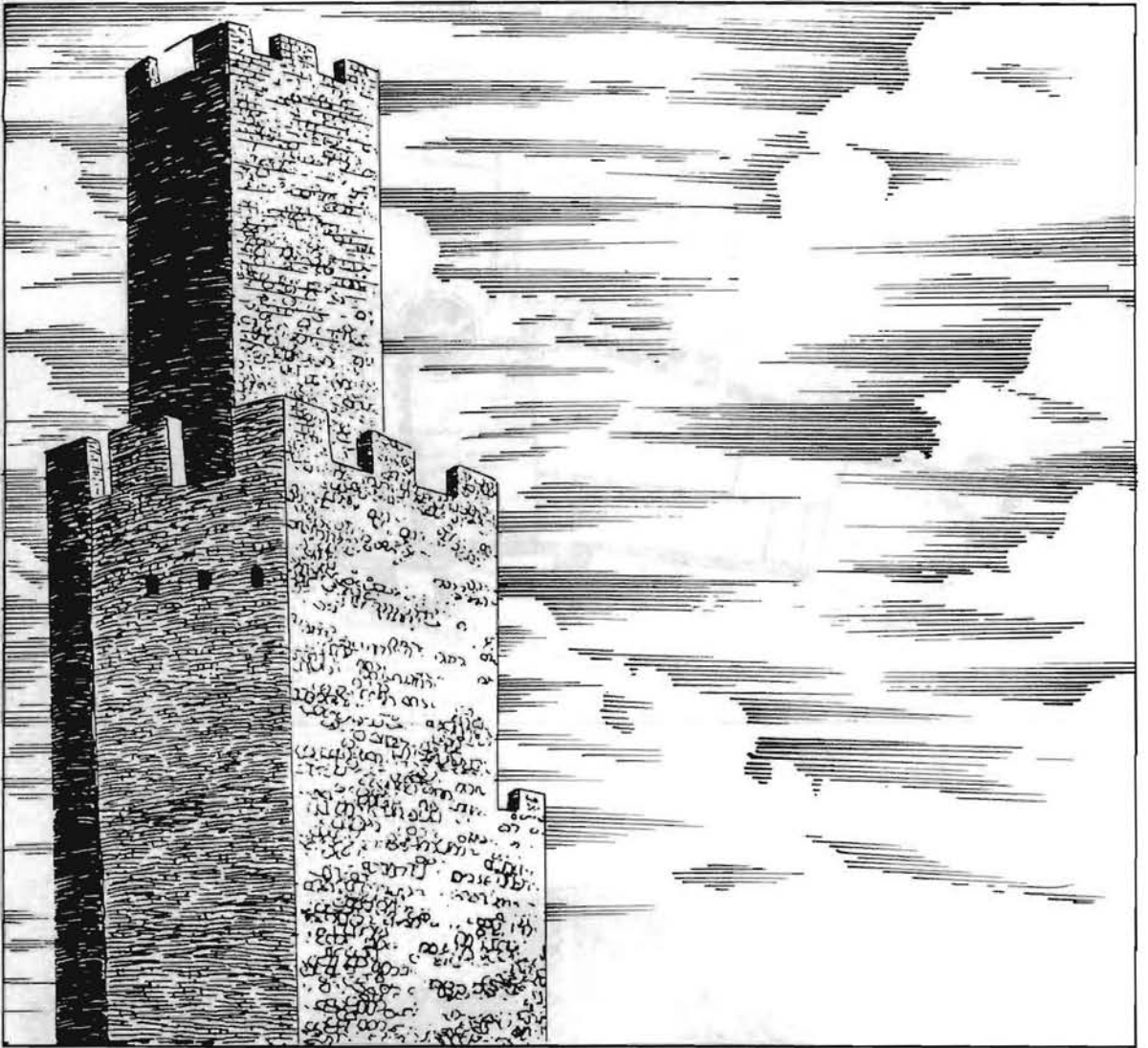
TARASCON - FRANCE



KEEP

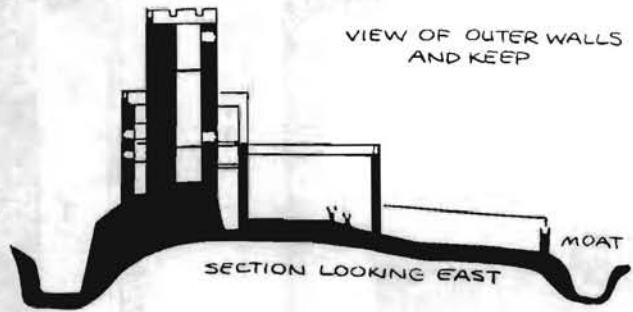
WALL RATING
13th CENTURY





ORTENBERG CASTLE
- GERMANY.

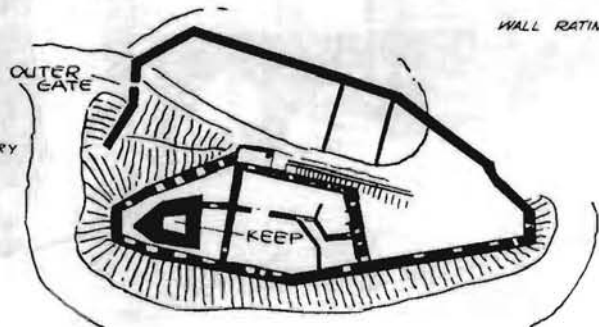
VIEW OF OUTER WALLS
AND KEEP



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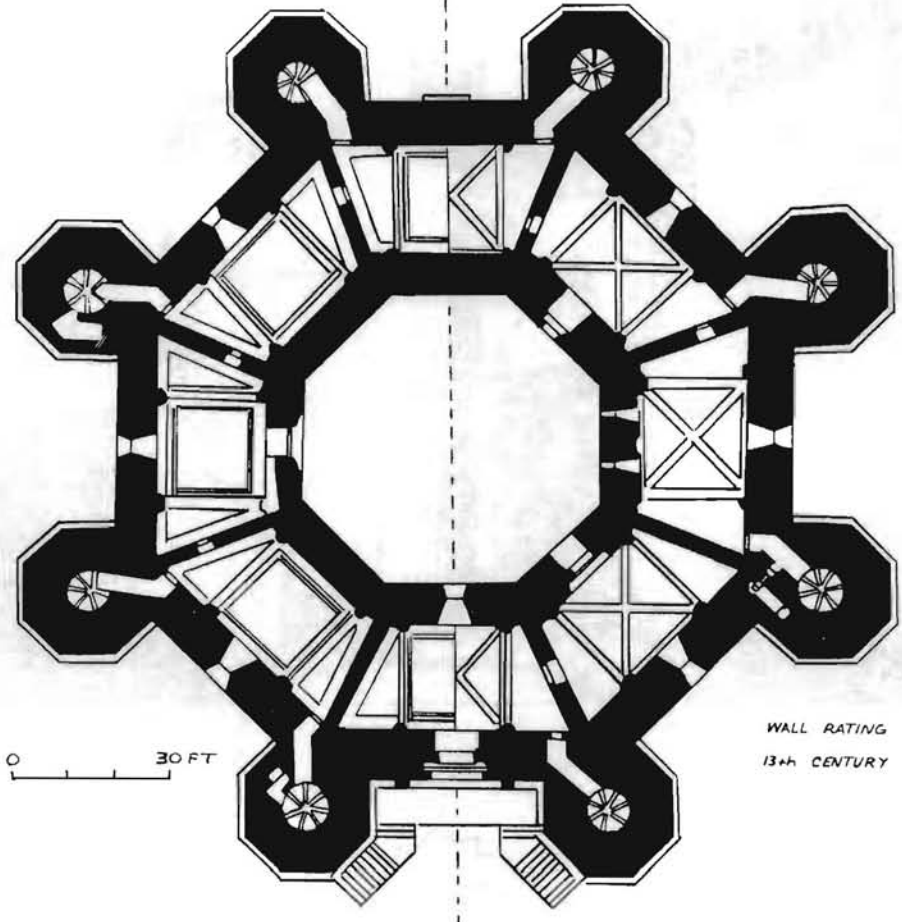
BUILT IN THE 13th CENTURY

WALL RATING 3



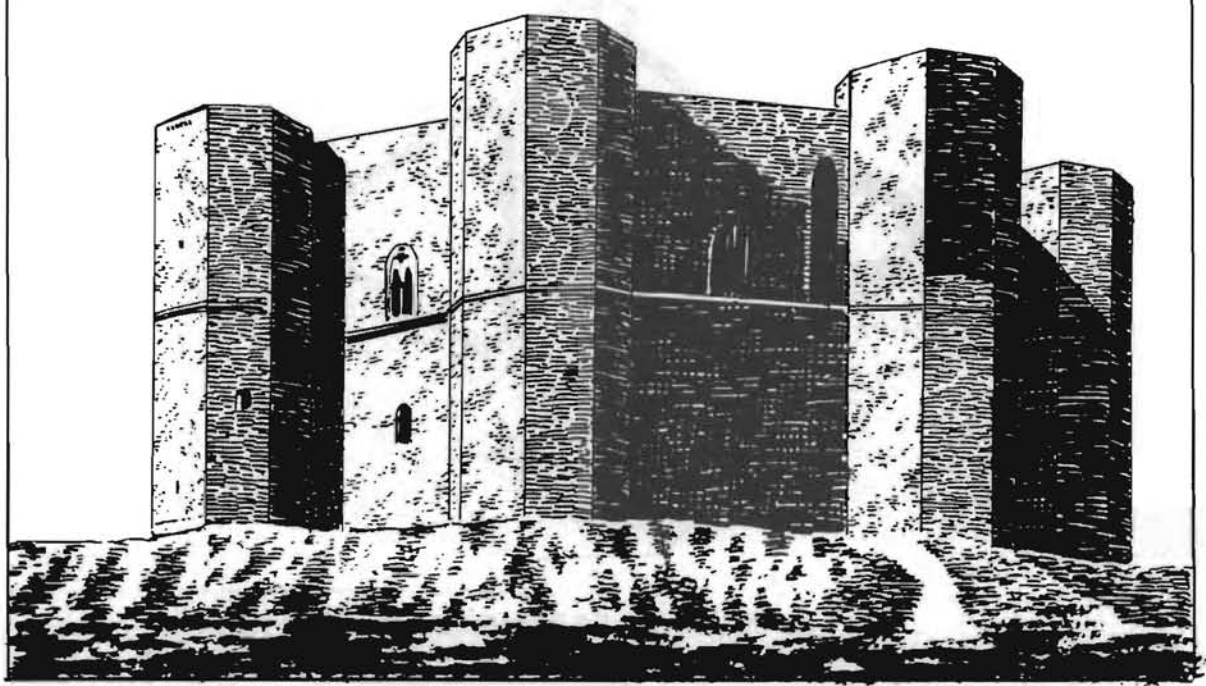
CASTLE DEL MONTE
-ITALY-

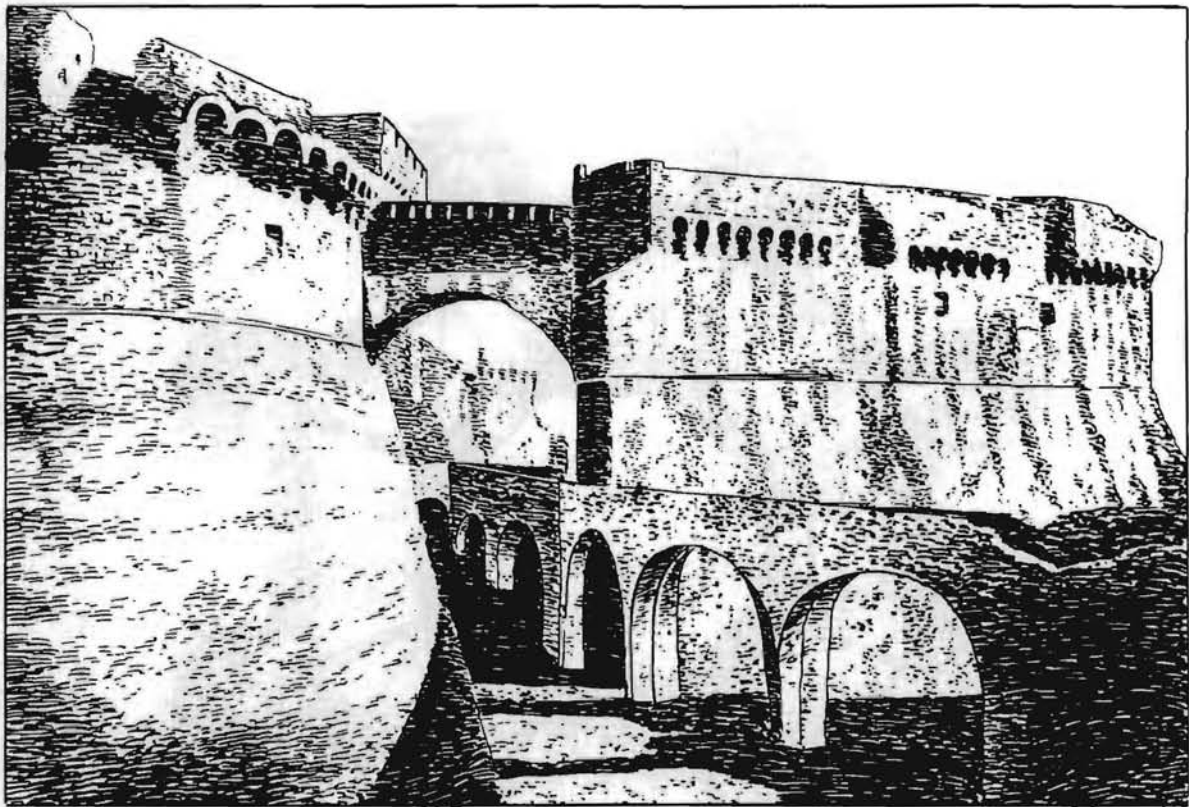
GROUND FLOOR VAULTING



0 30 FT

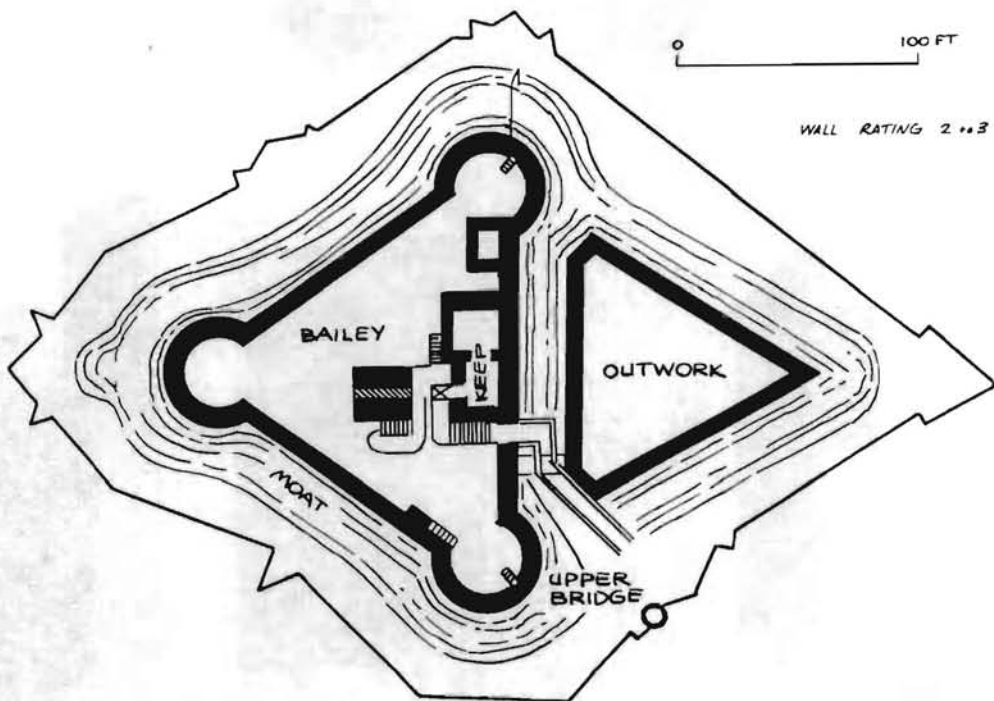
WALL RATING 4
13th CENTURY





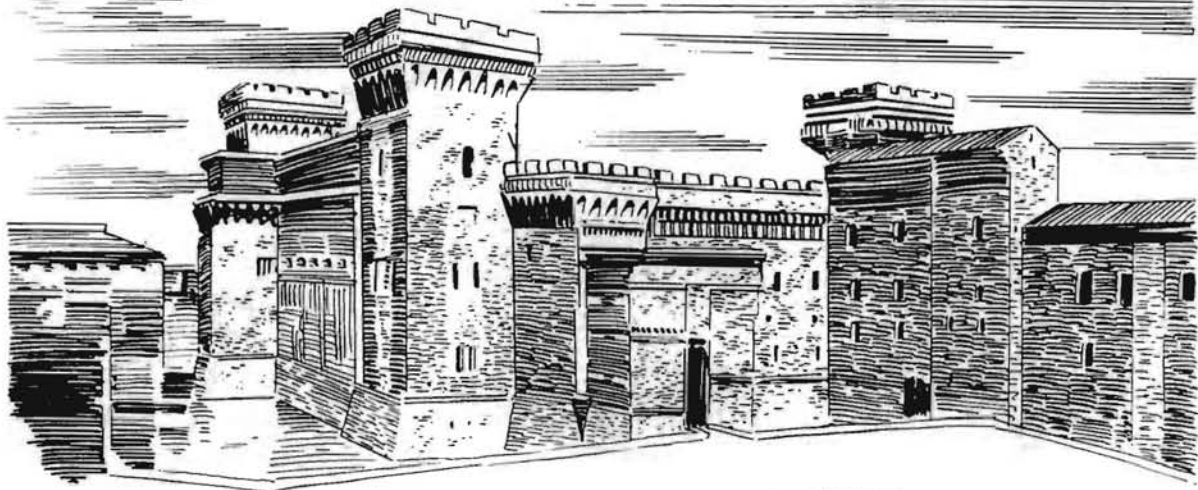
Ca. 1190

VIEW OF ENTRANCE



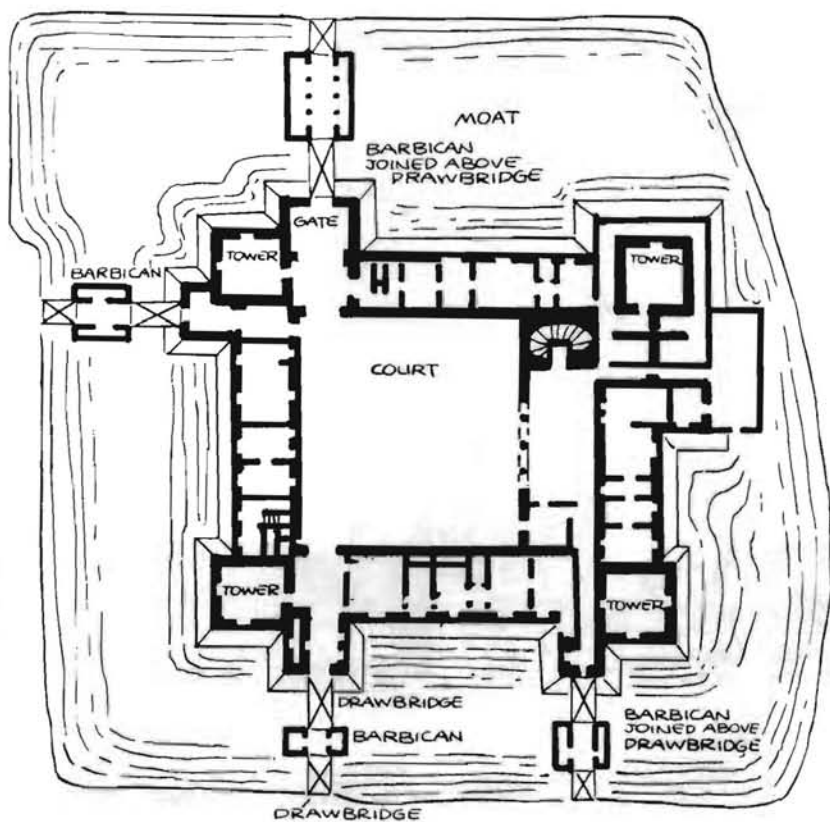
CASTLE DI SARZANELLO.

ITALY



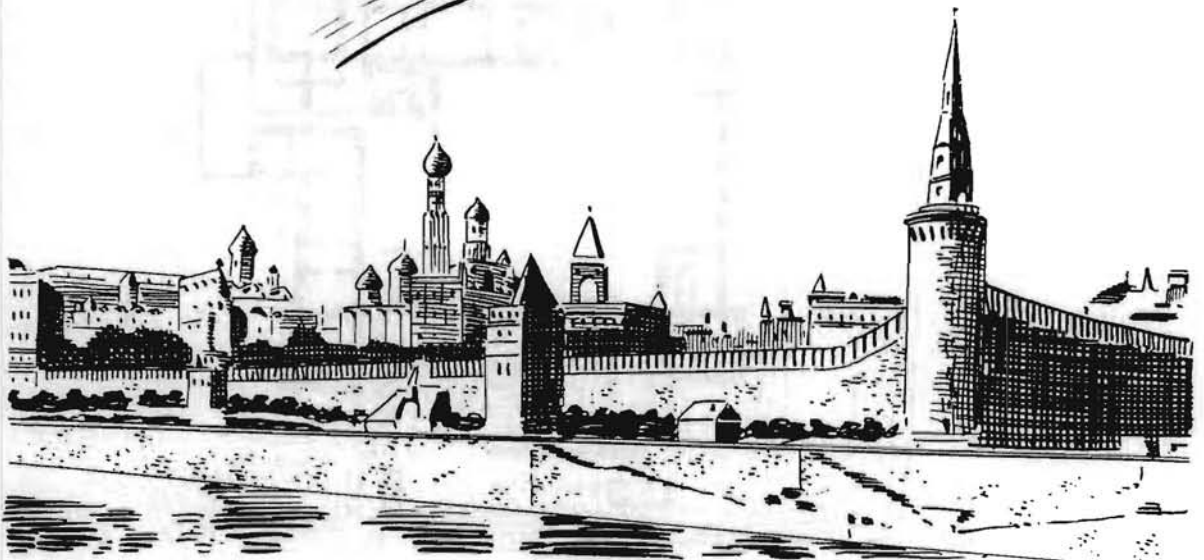
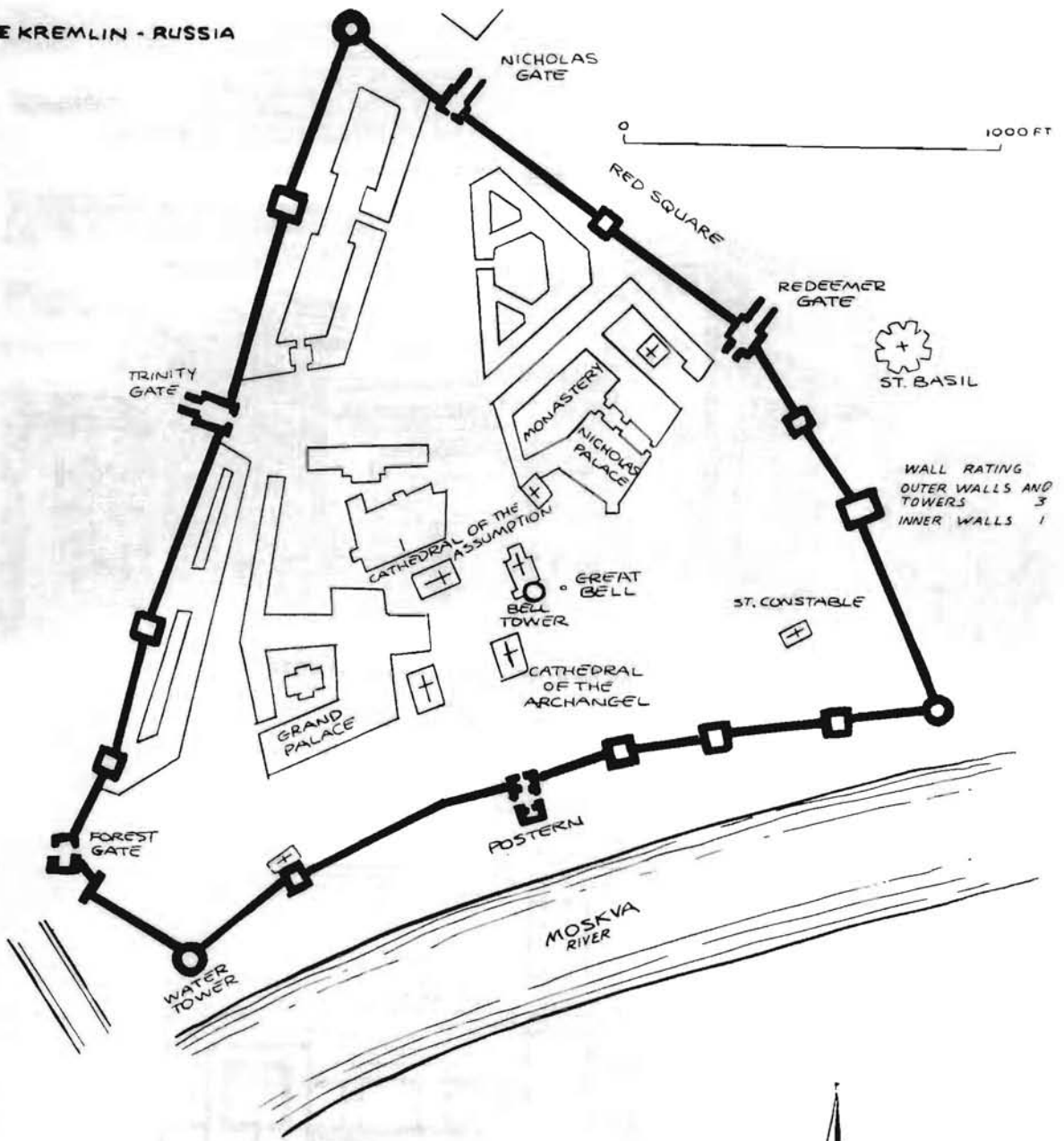
FERRARA: CASTELLO D'ESTE
-ITALY-

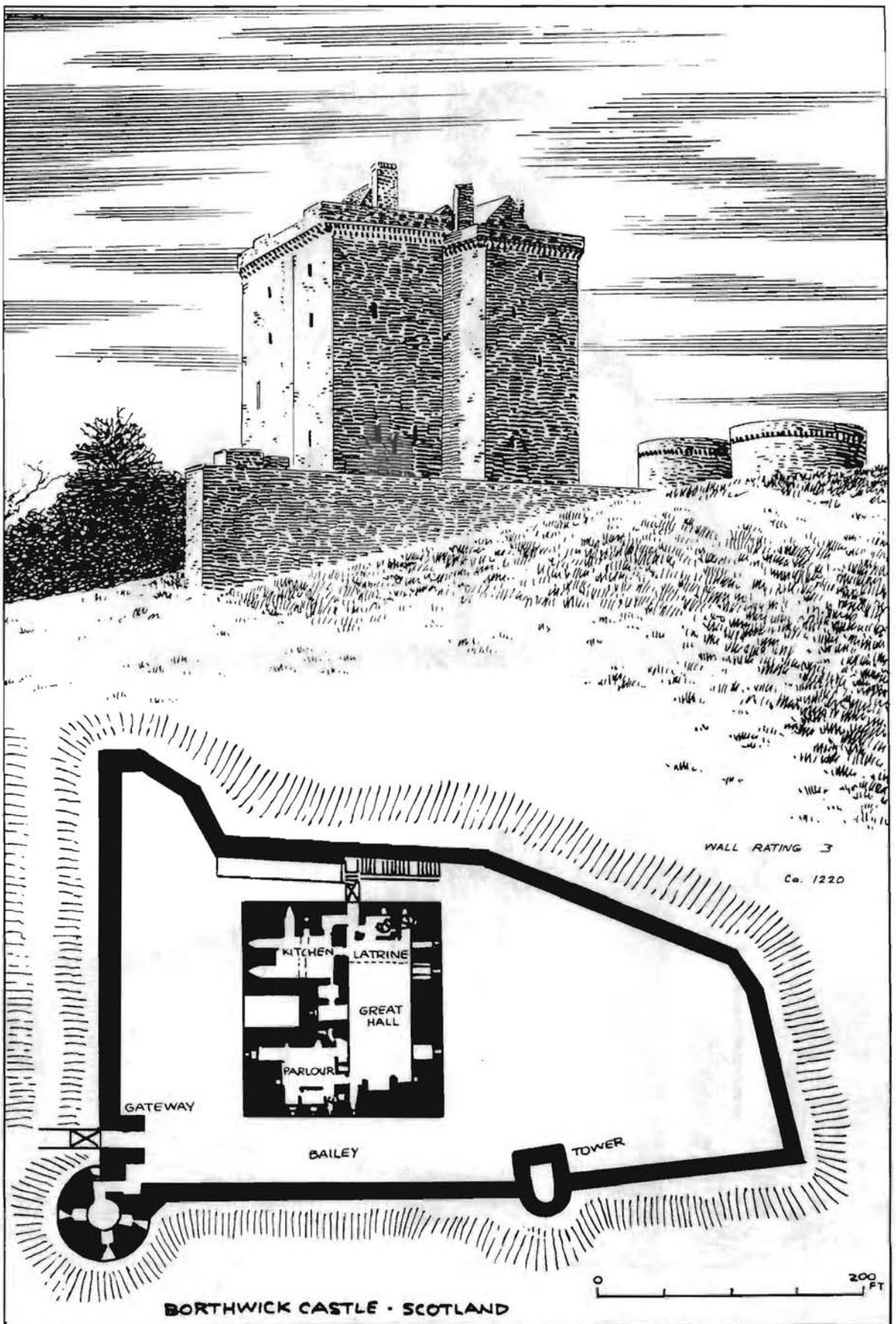
0 160 FT



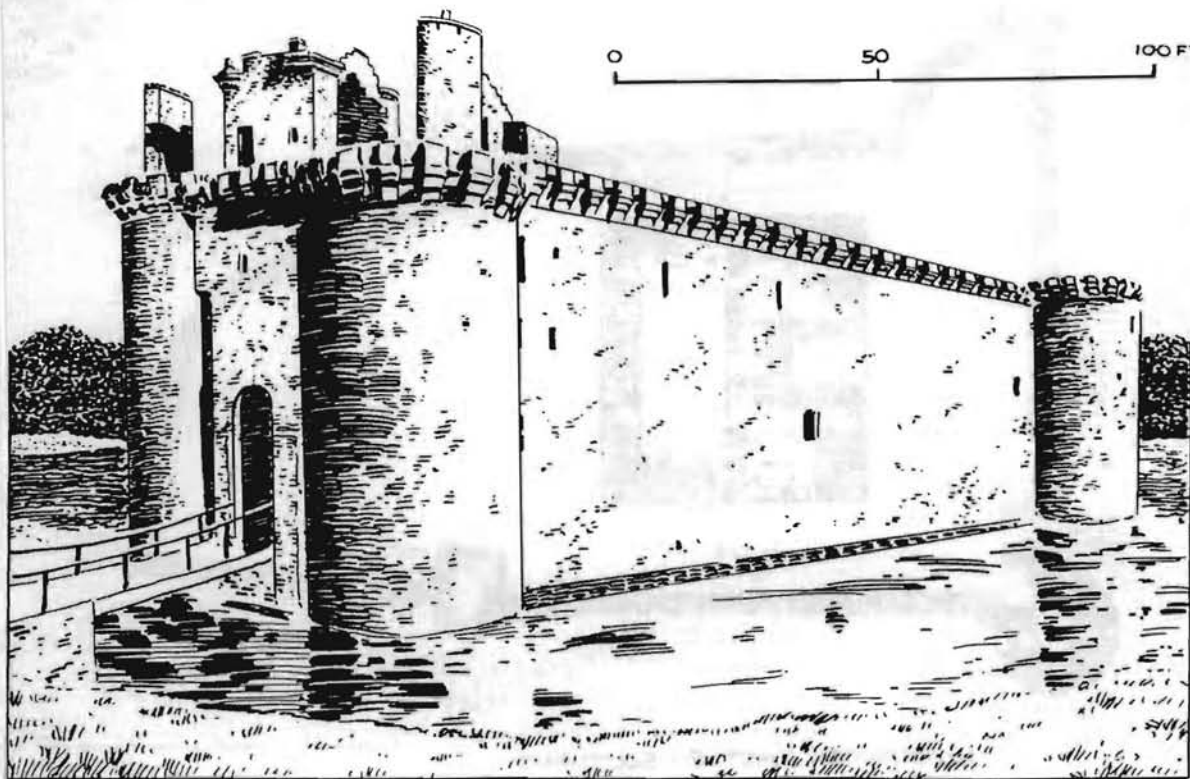
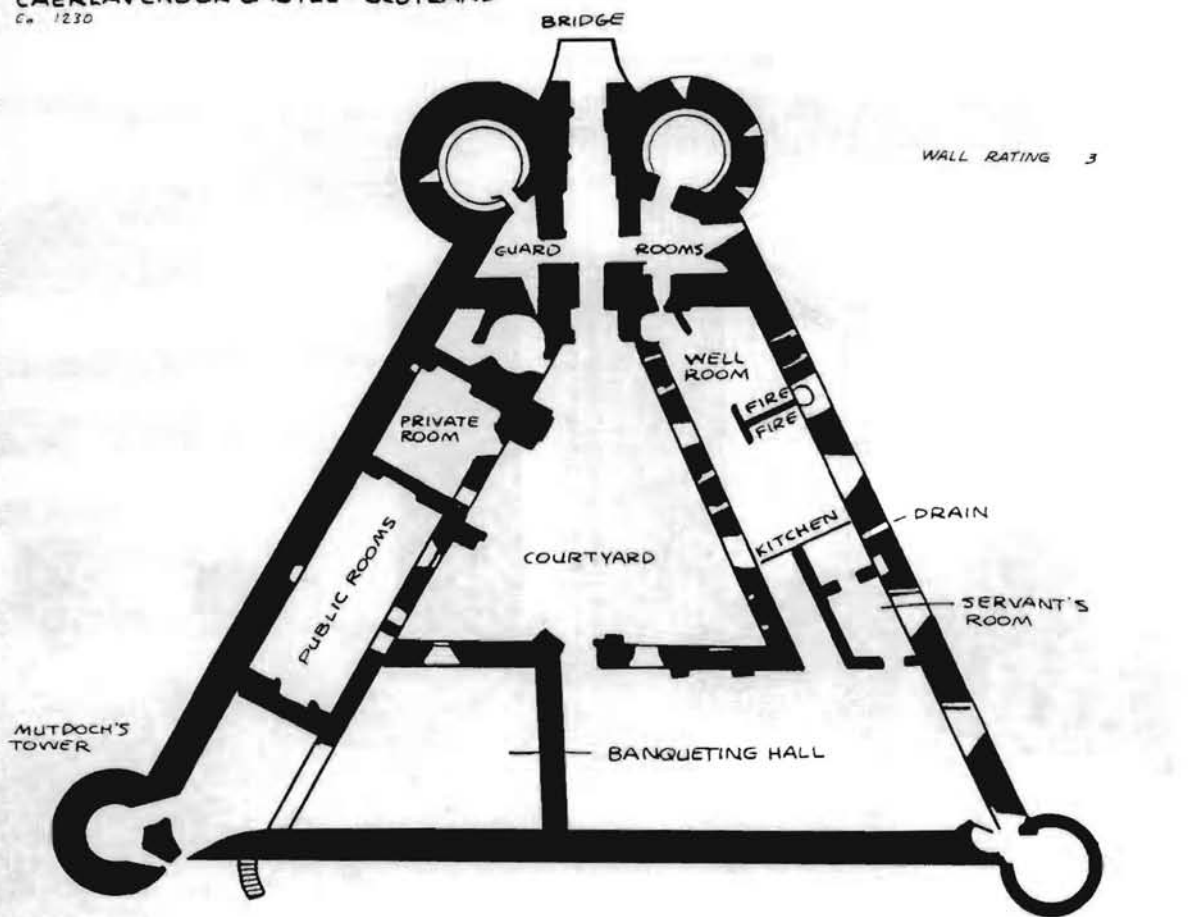
WALL RATING
13+4. CENTURY

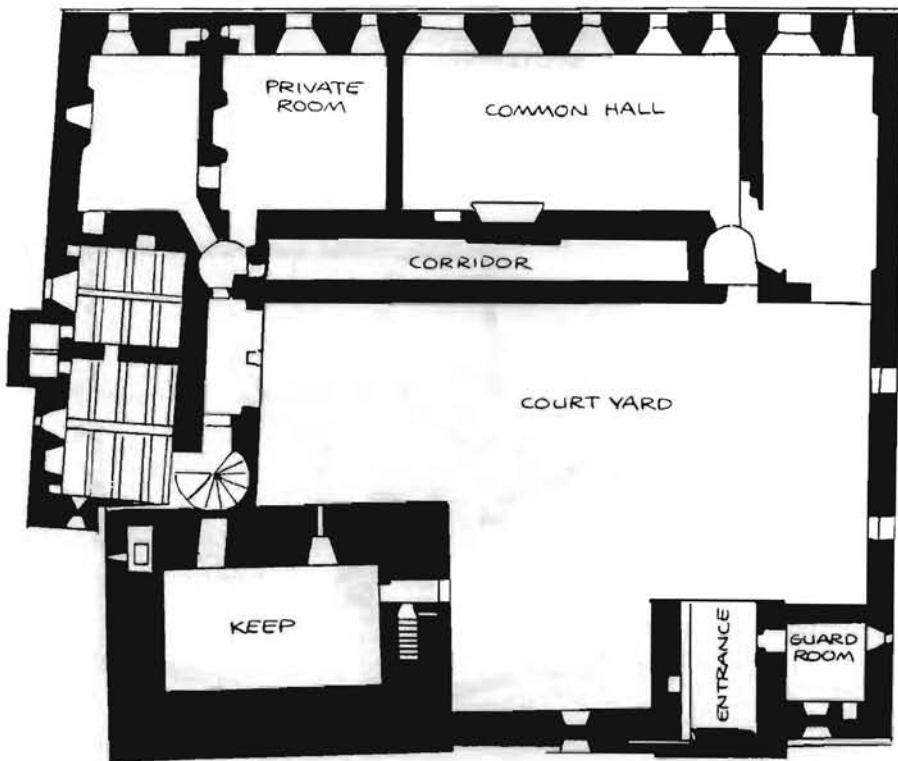
THE KREMLIN - RUSSIA





CAERLAYEROCK CASTLE · SCOTLAND
C. 1230



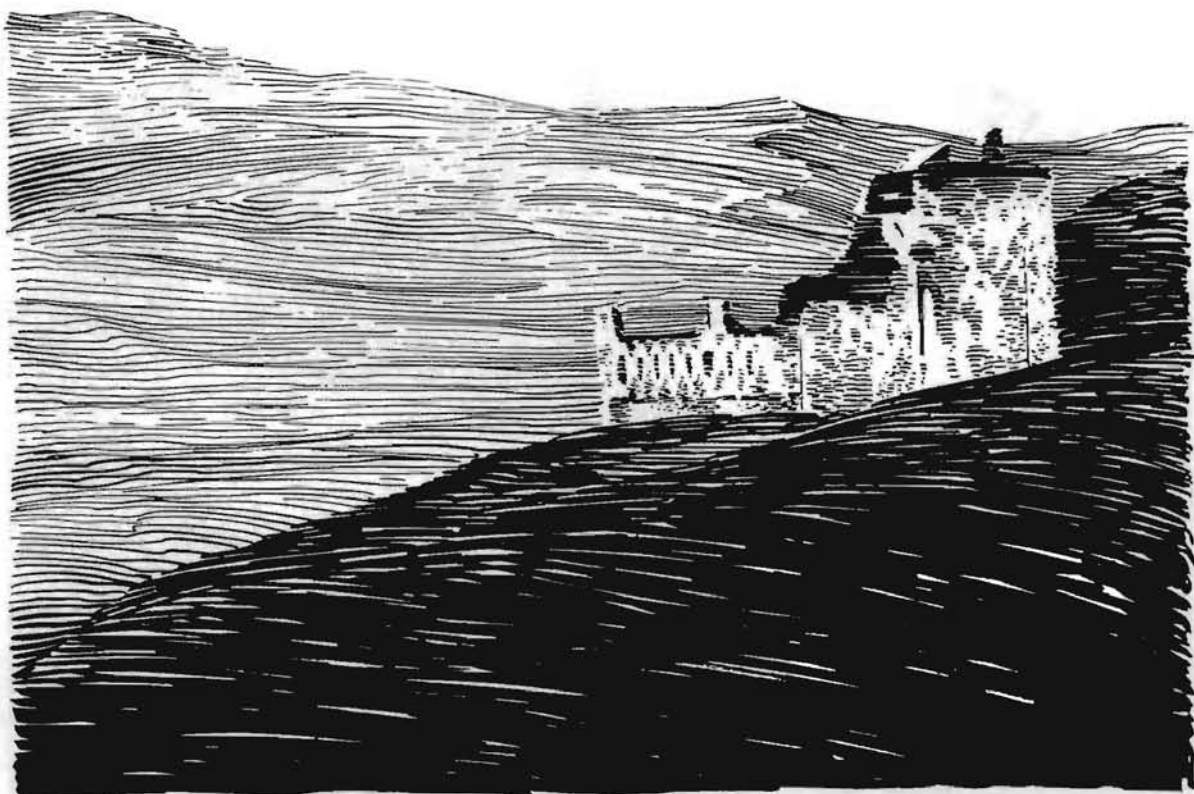


BUILT IN THE 12th CENTURY

WALL RATINGS
 OUTER WALLS 2
 KEEP WALLS 3

CASTLE CAMPBELL - SCOTLAND

0 60 FT

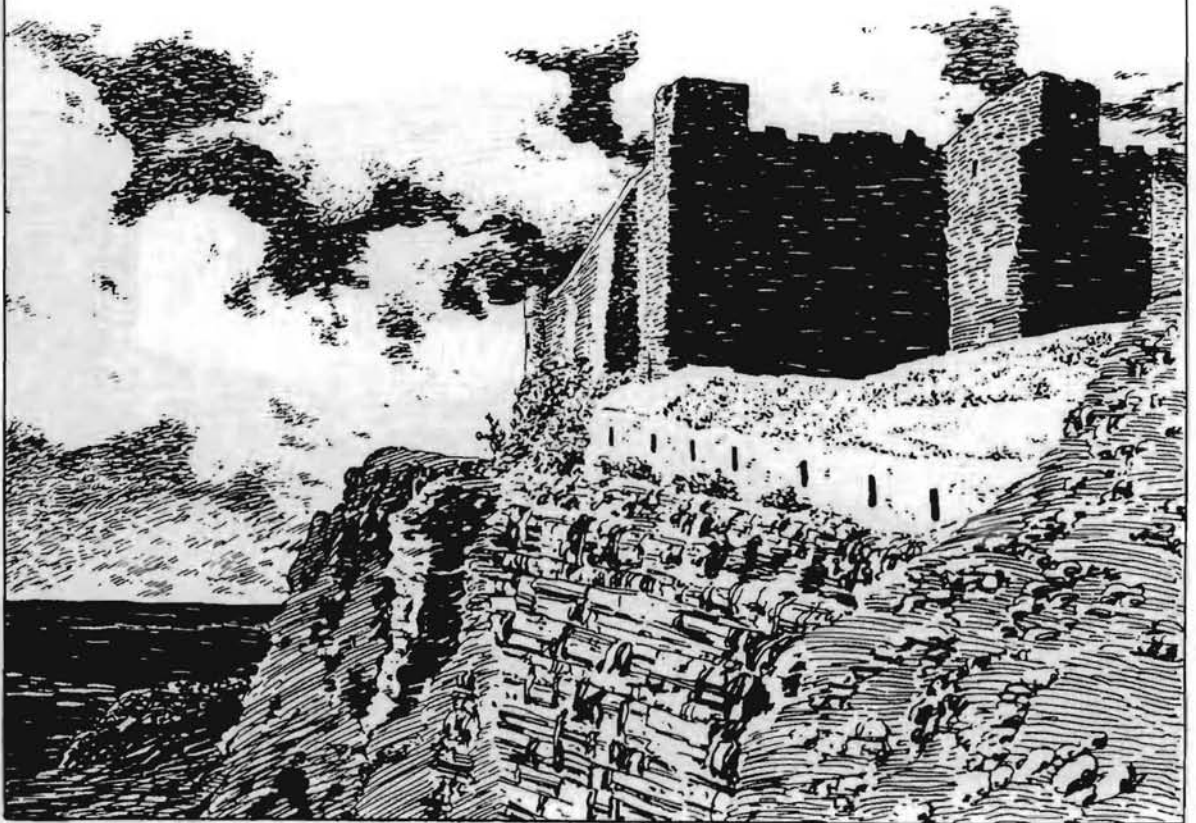
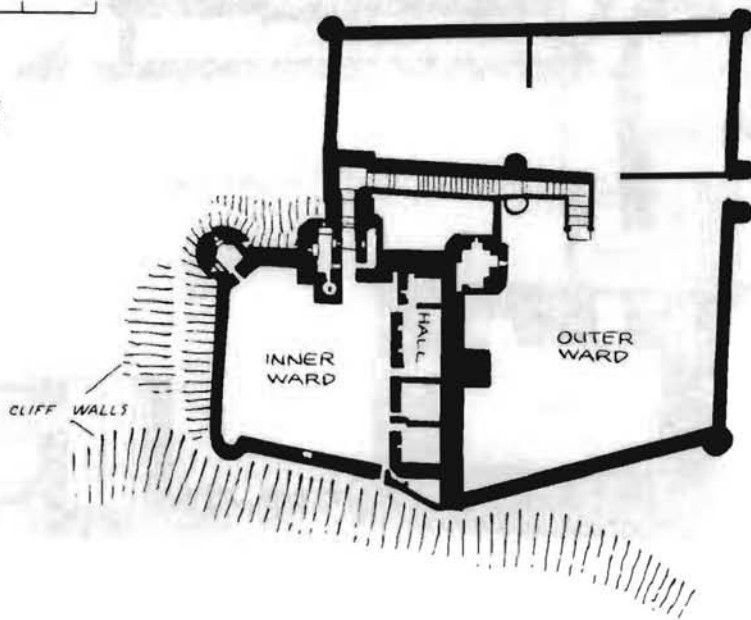


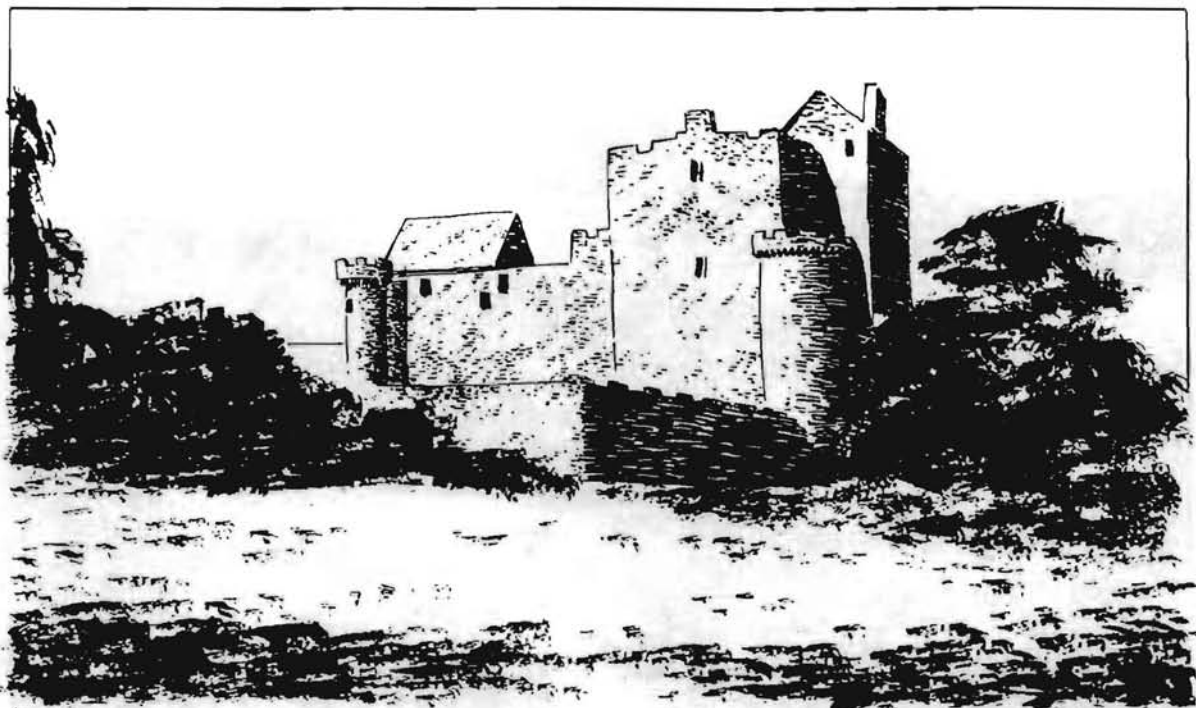
CARREG CENNEN
-SCOTLAND-

0 30 M

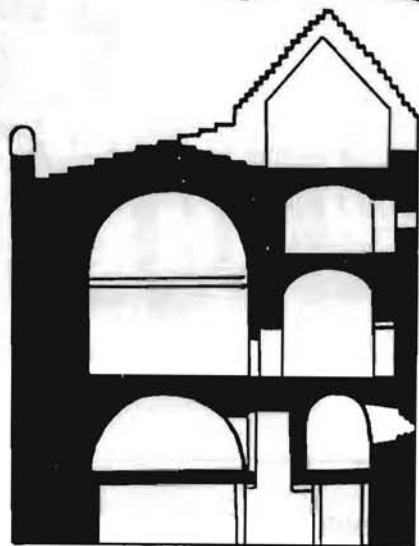
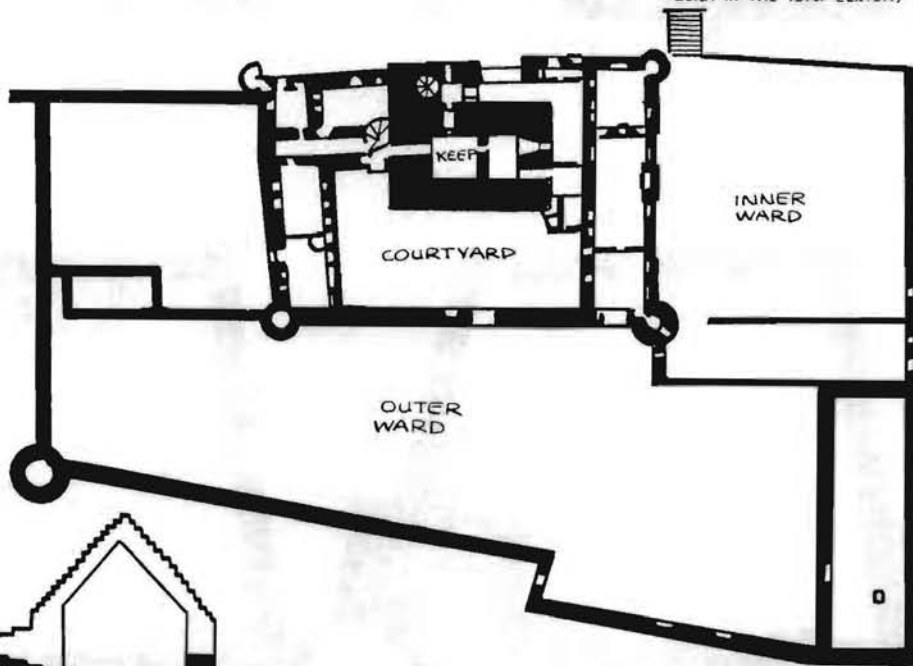
WALL RATING
OUTER WALLS 3
INNER WALLS 2

Ca. 1190





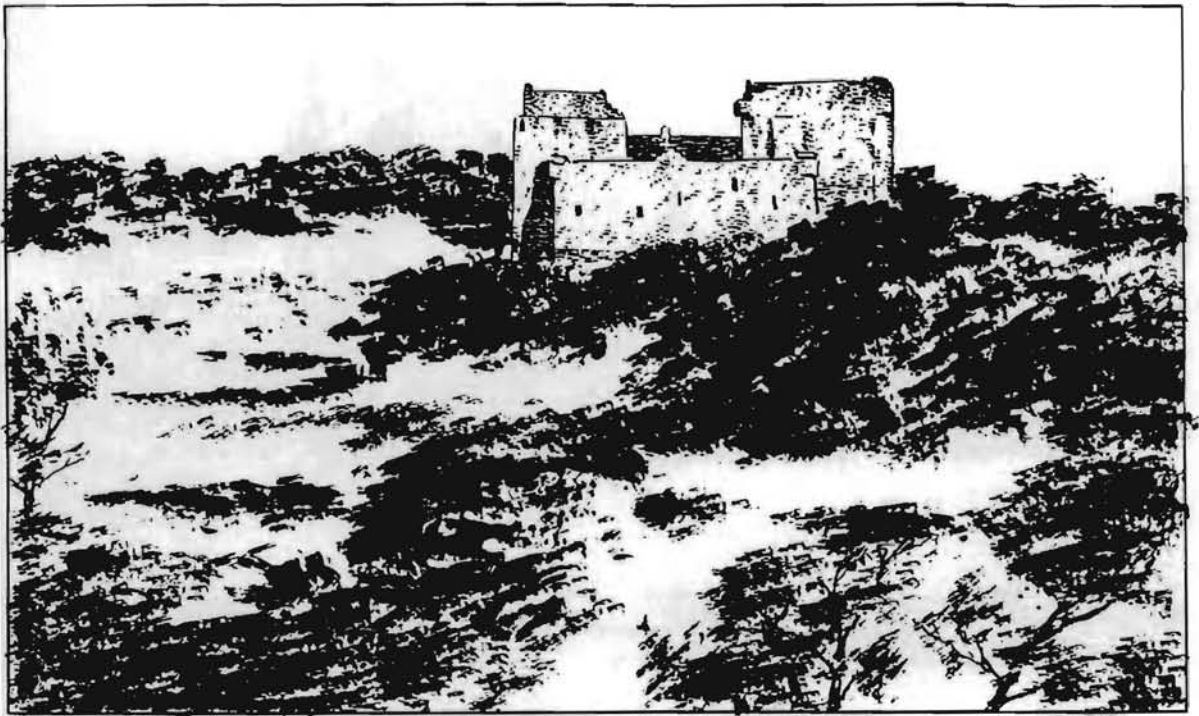
BUILT IN THE 13th CENTURY



WALL RATINGS
 OUTER WALLS 1
 KEEP WALLS 2

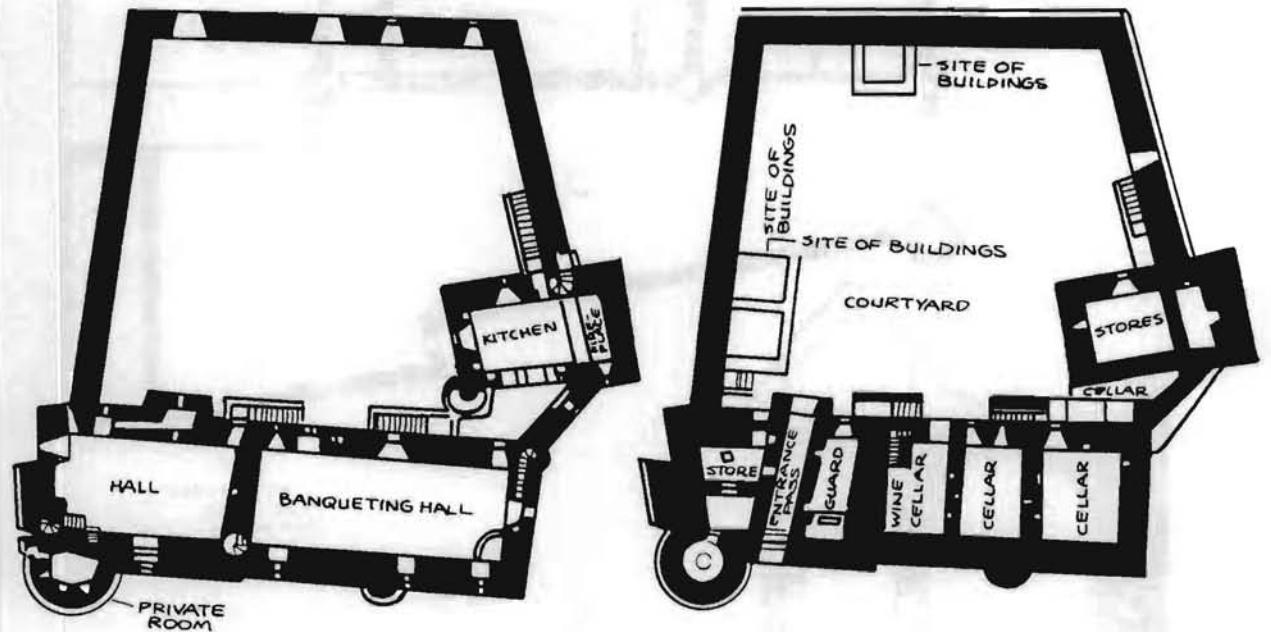
0 125 FT

CRAIGMILLAR CASTLE
 - SCOTLAND -

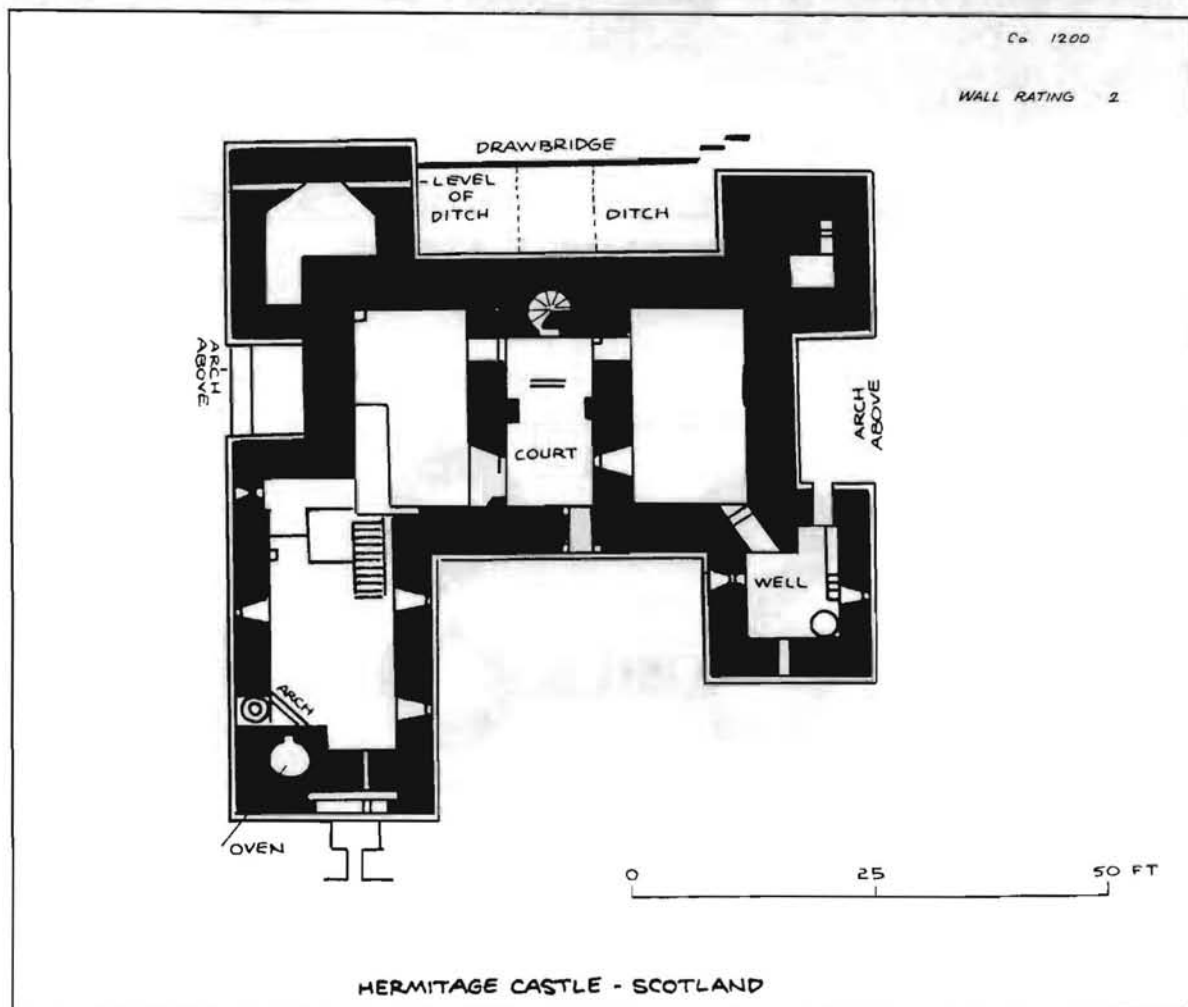
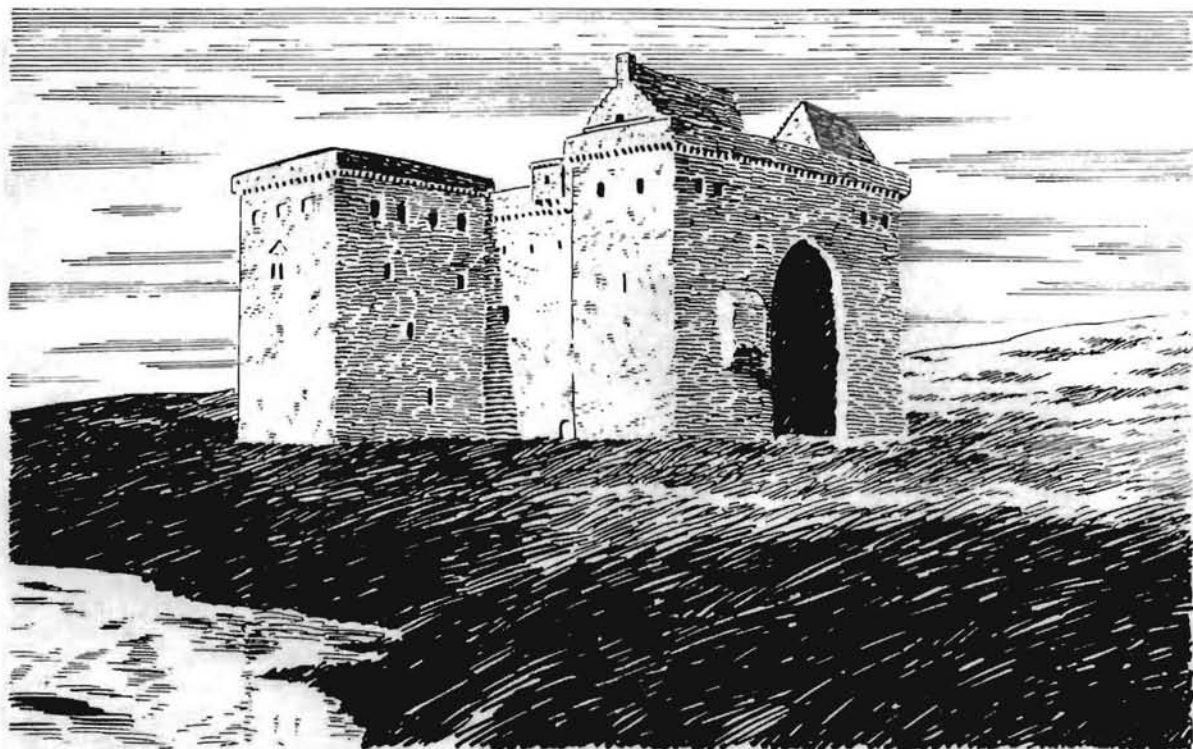


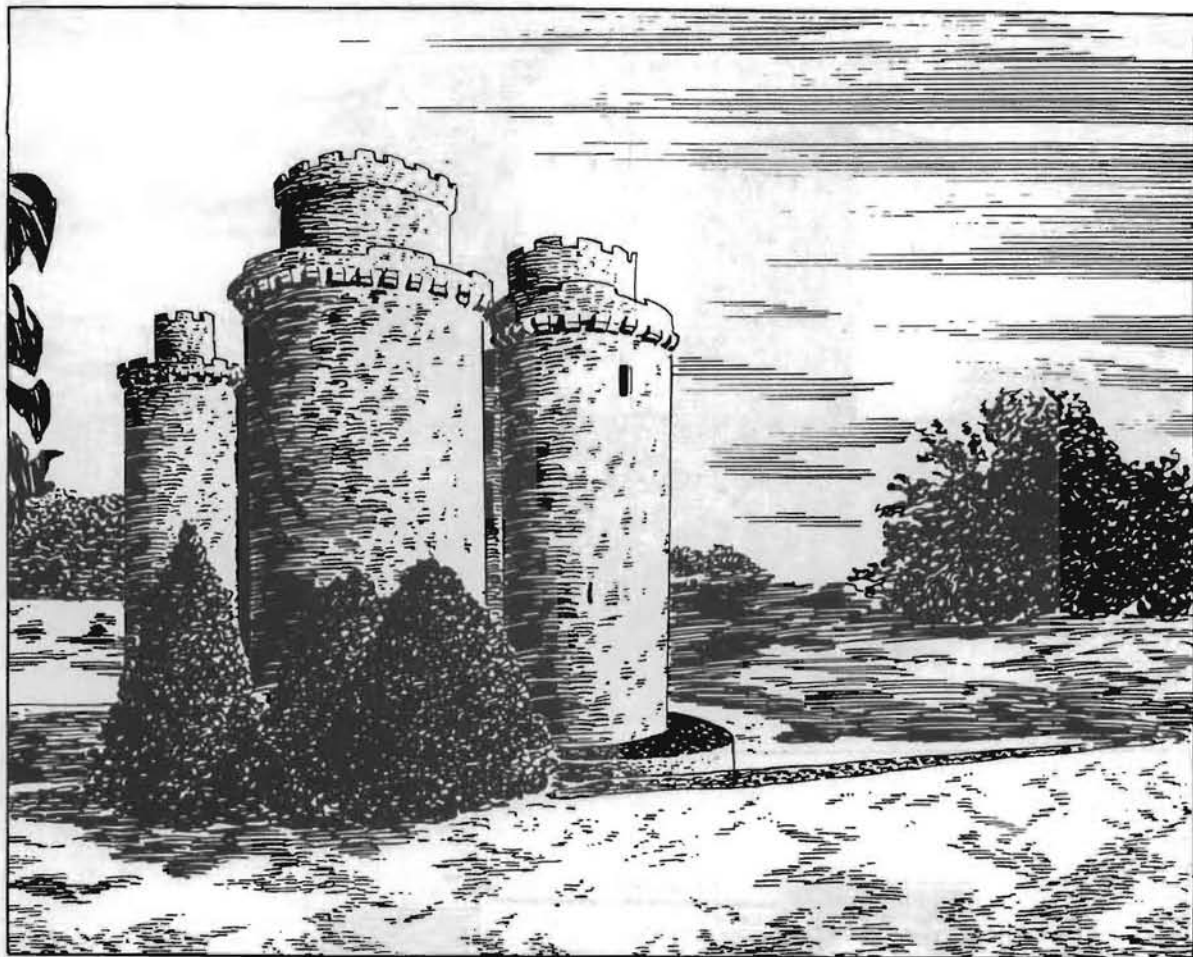
13th CENTURY

WALL RATING 3



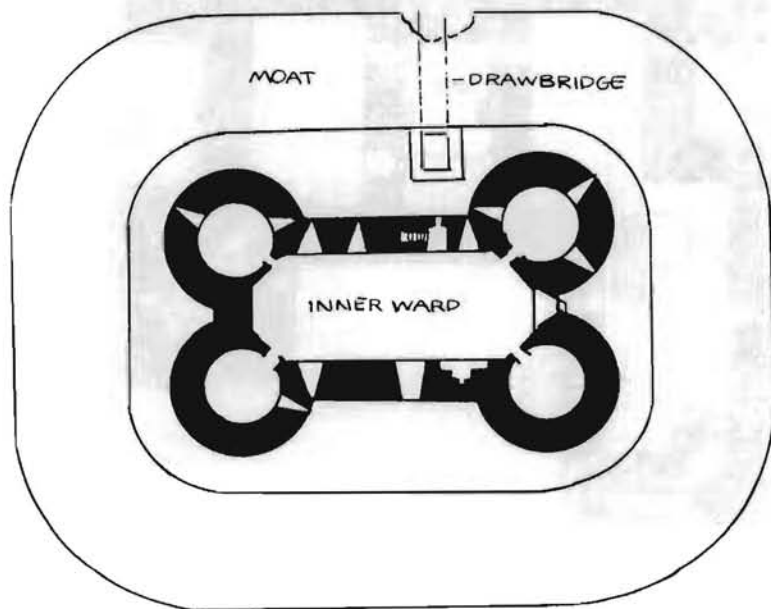
DOUNE CASTLE-SCOTLAND





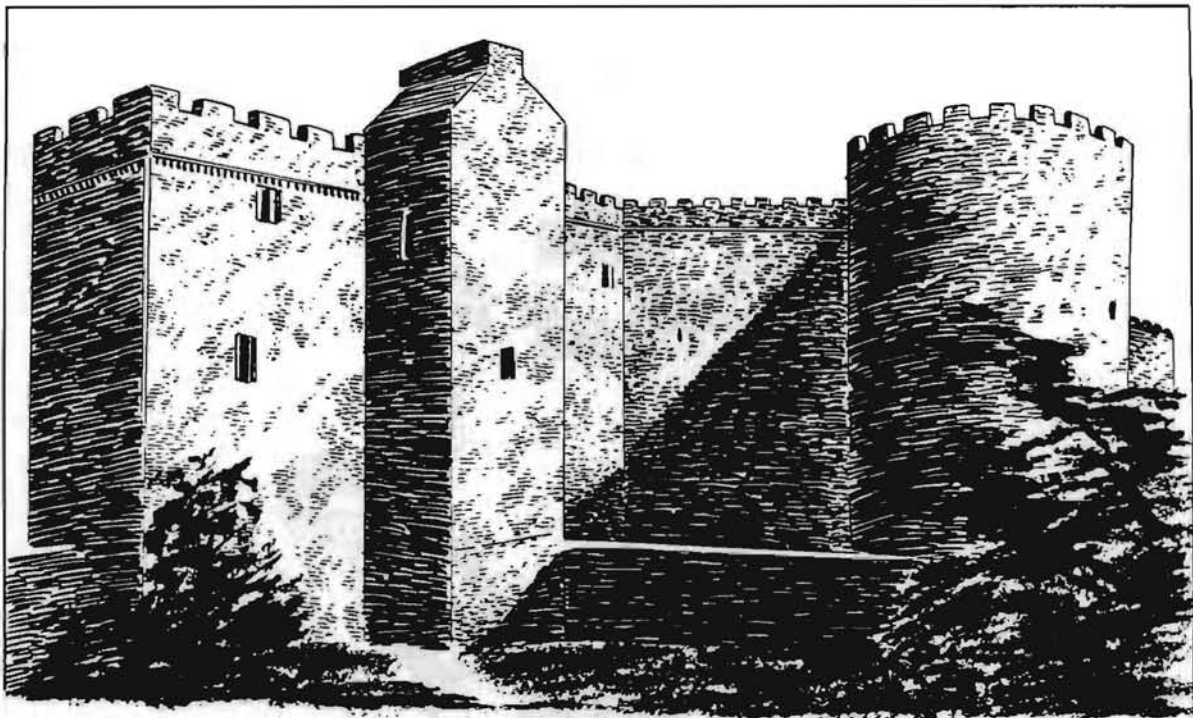
NUNNEY CASTLE - SCOTLAND

Ca. 1190



0 50 FT

WALL RATING 2

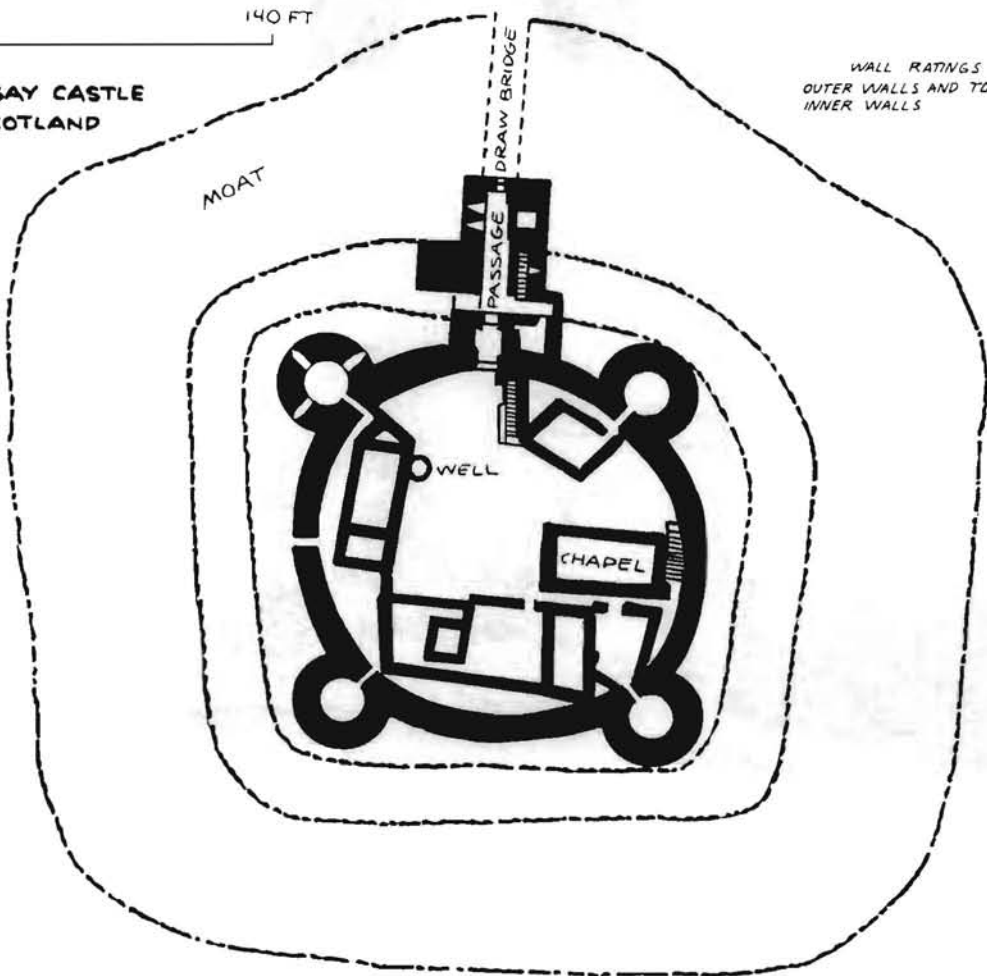


Co. 1360

0 140 FT

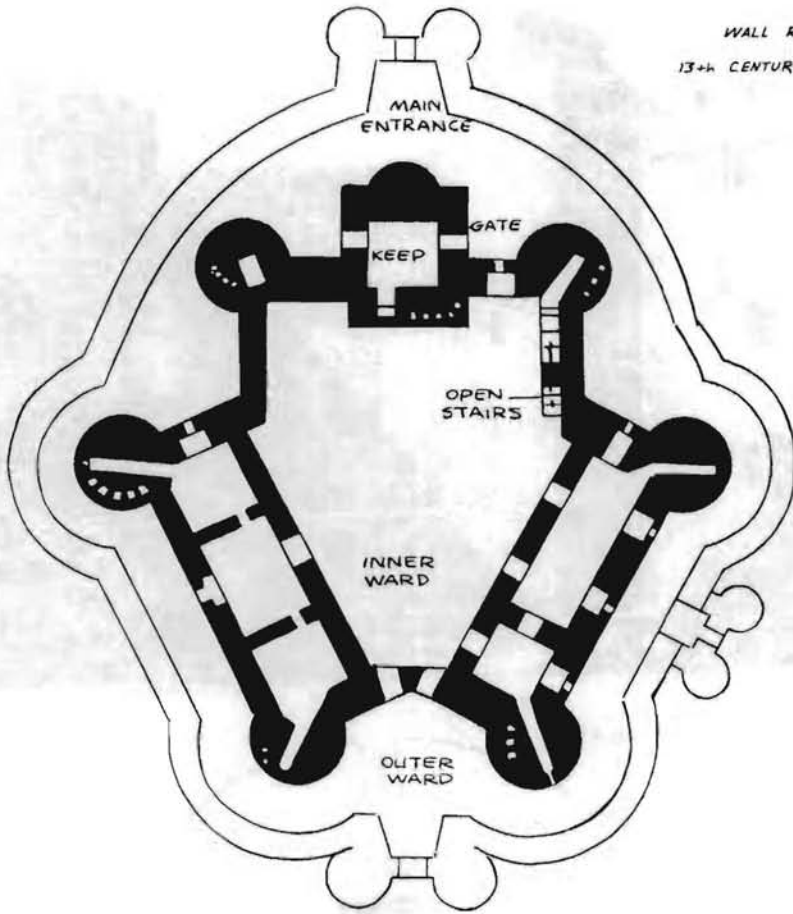
ROTHESAY CASTLE
- SCOTLAND

WALL RATINGS
OUTER WALLS AND TOWER 3
INNER WALLS 1



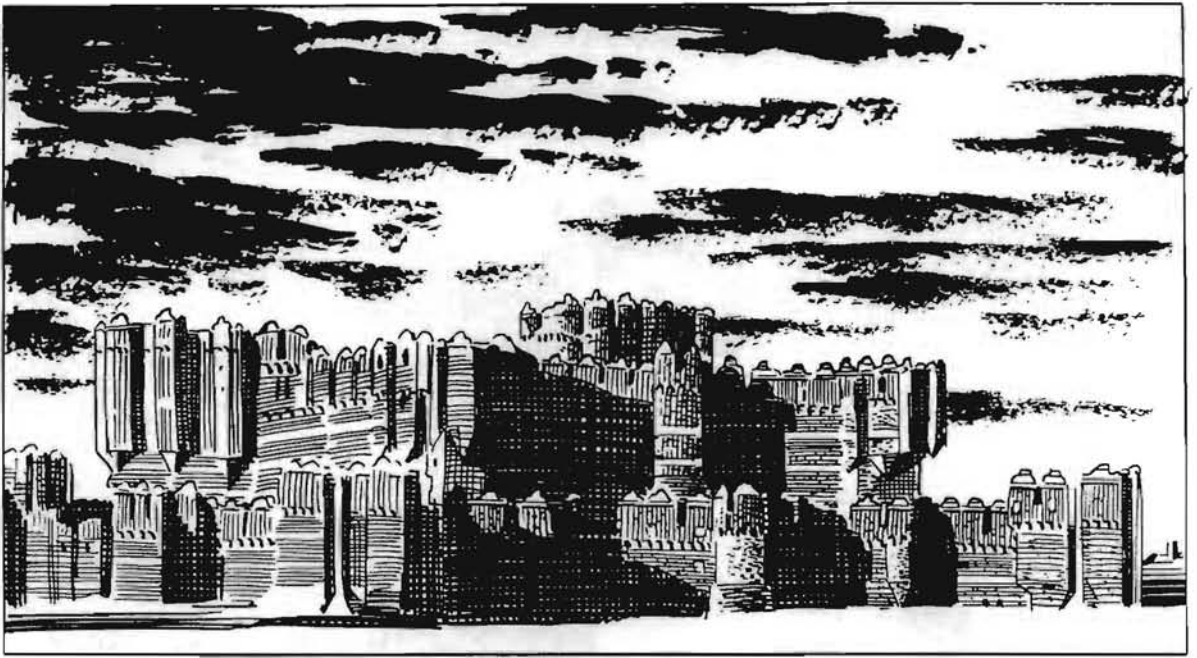
BELMONTE · SPAIN

WALL RATING 3
13th CENTURY

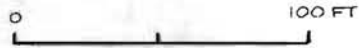


0 100 FT



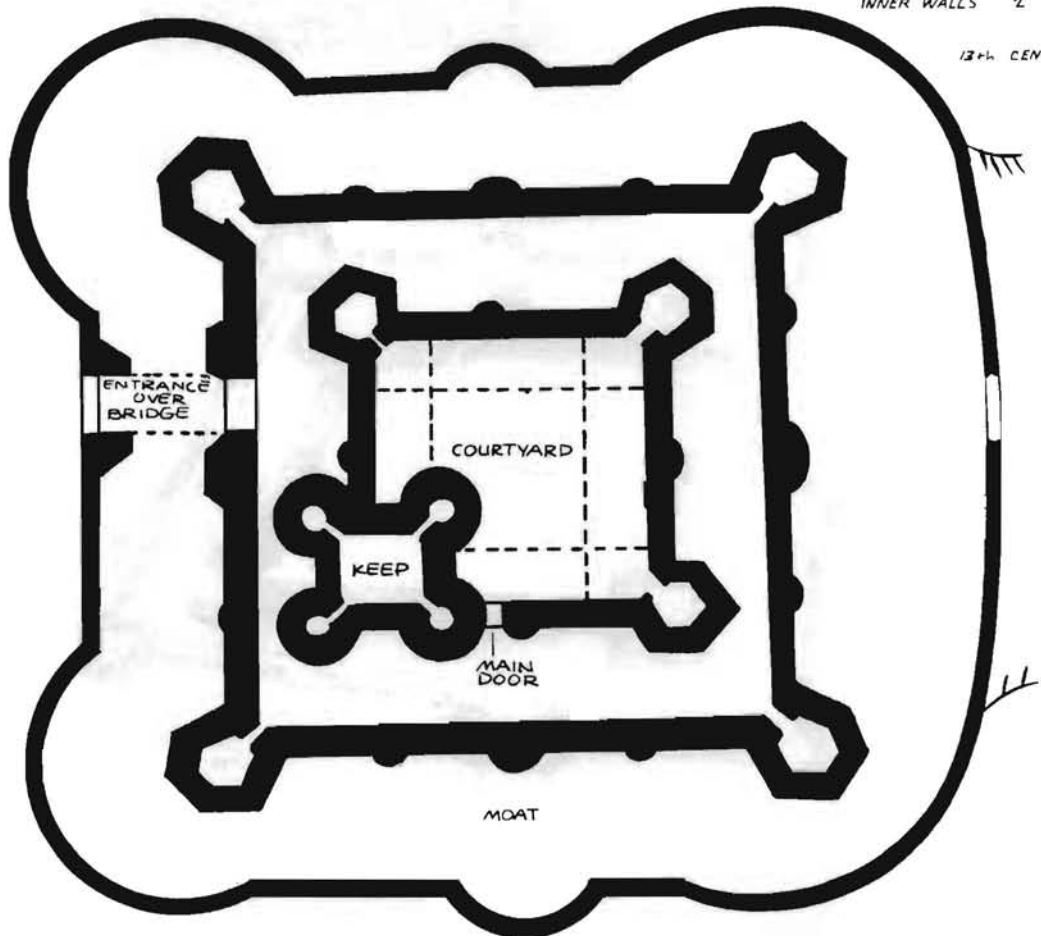


COCA · SPAIN

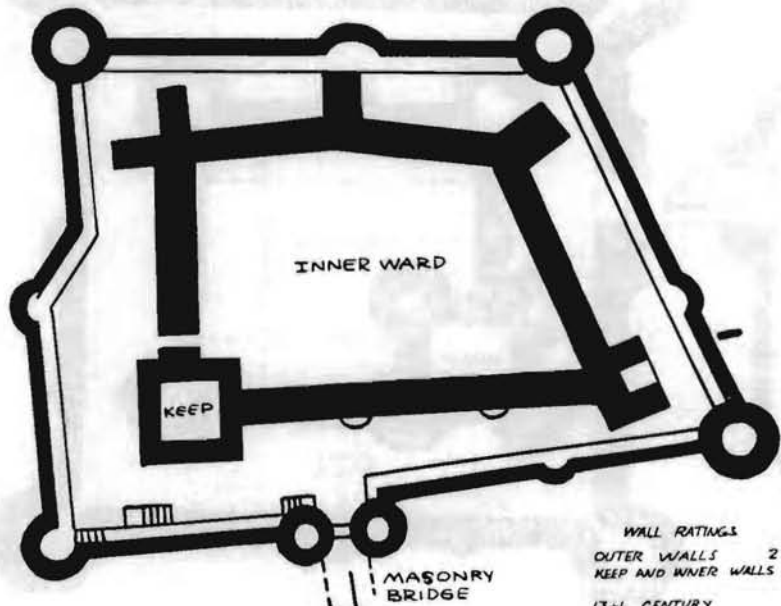
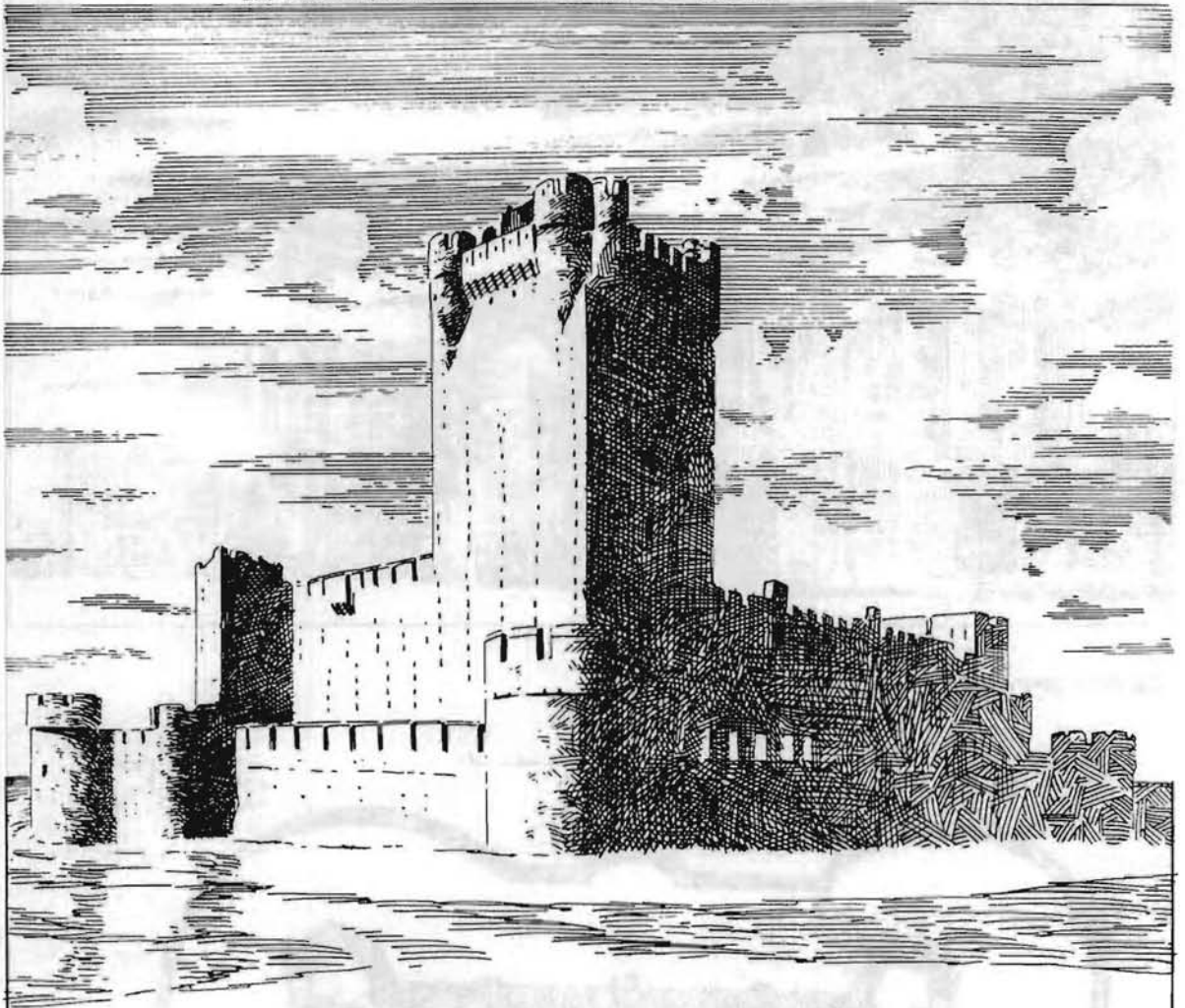


WALL RATINGS
 OUTER WALLS 1
 INNER WALLS 2

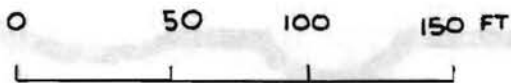
13th CENTURY

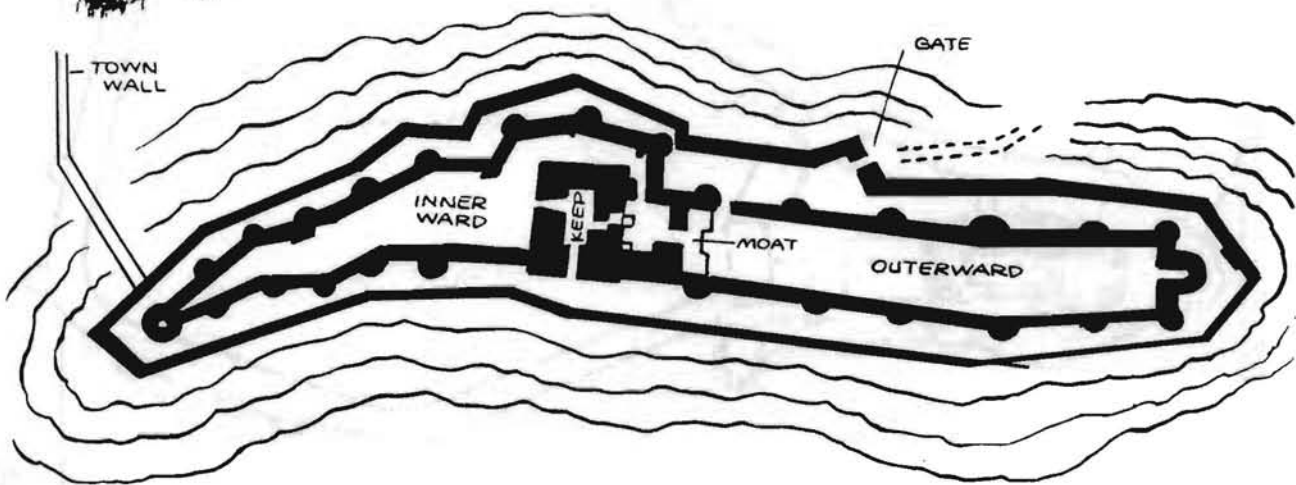
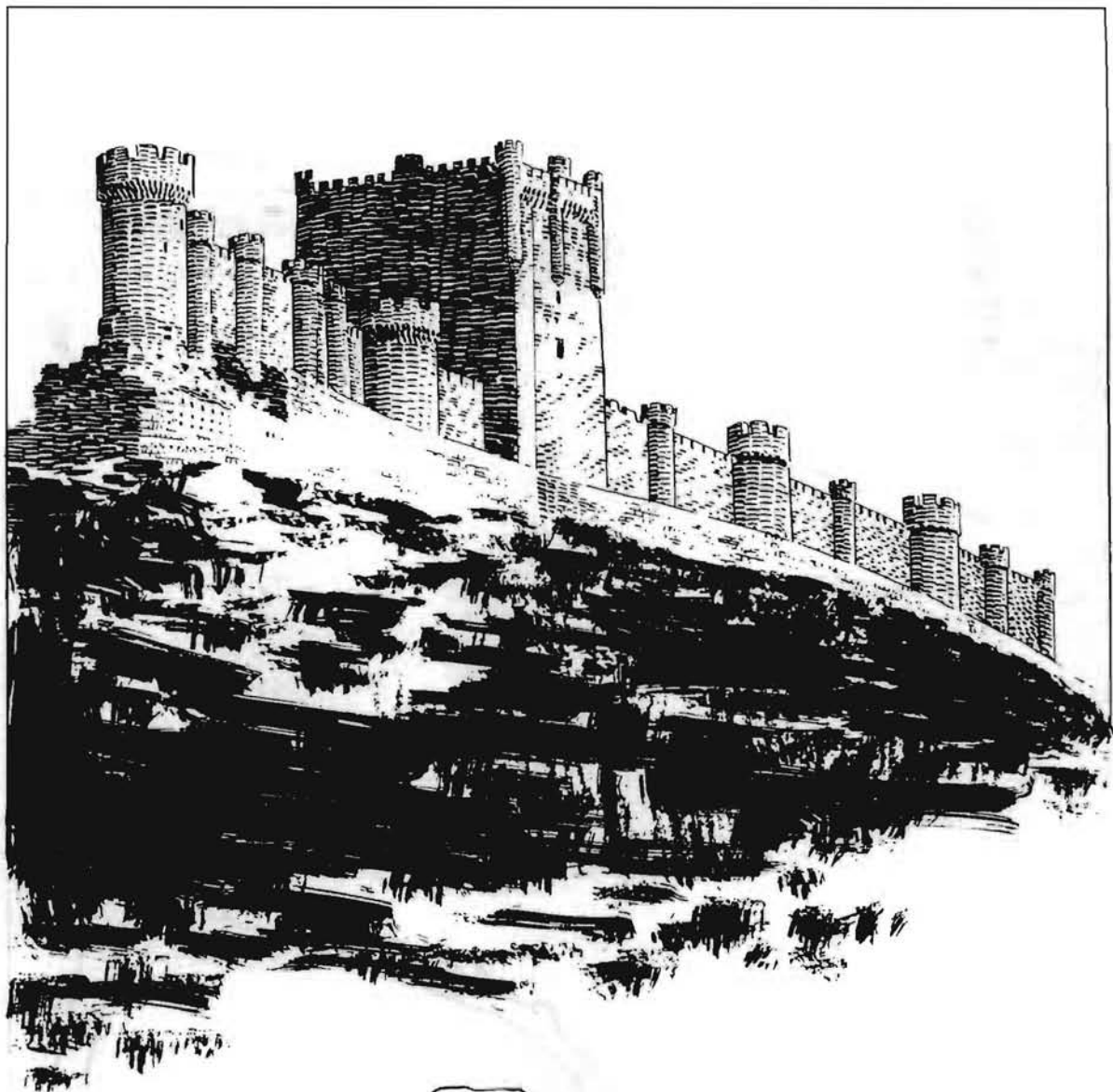


LA MOTA, MEDINA DEL CAMPO - SPAIN



WALL RATINGS
OUTER WALLS 2
KEEP AND INNER WALLS 3
13+4 CENTURY

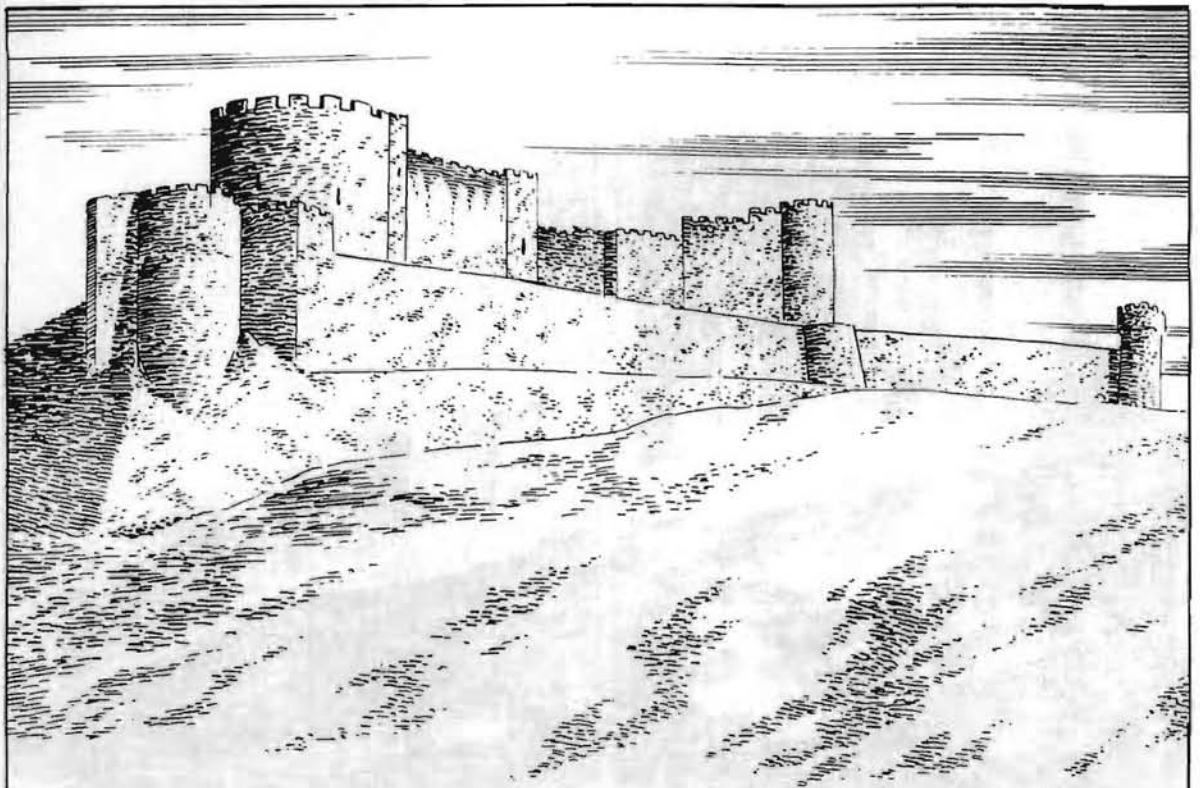




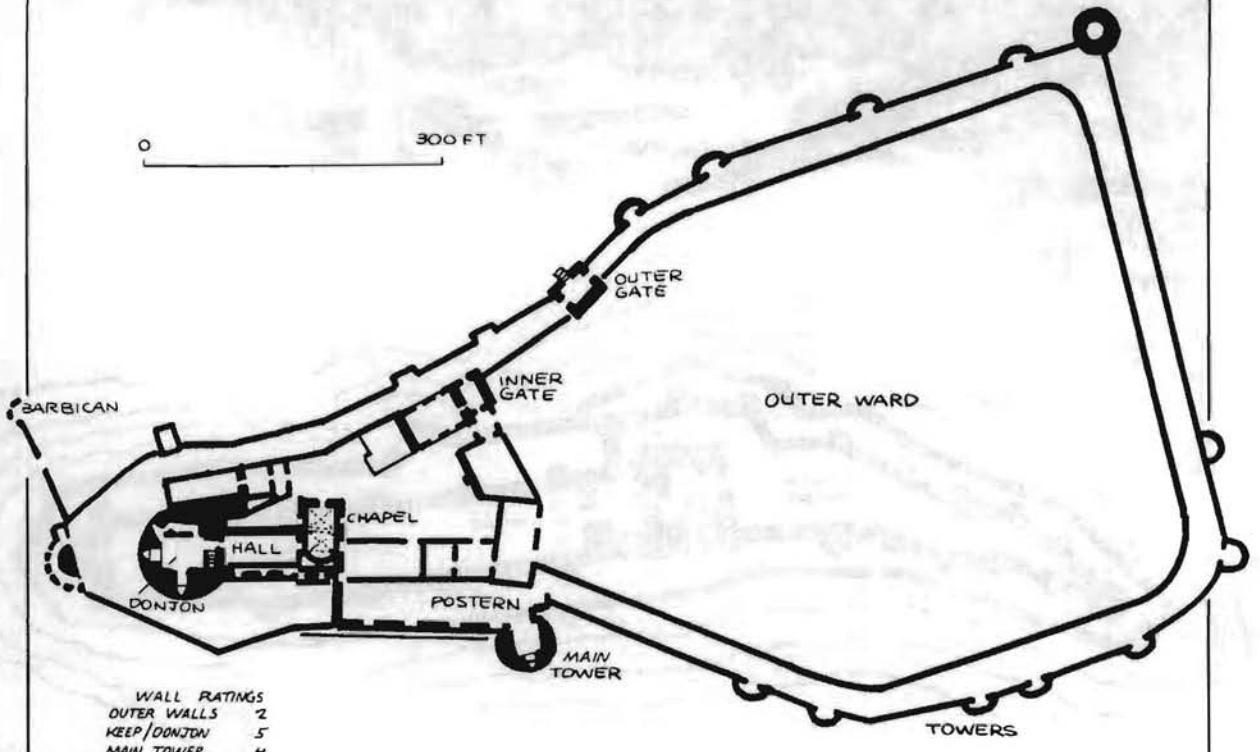
WALL RATINGS
 OUTER WALLS 1
 INNER WALLS 2
 KEEP AND TOWERS 3
 CA. 1198

0 10 20 M

PENAFIEL
 SPAIN



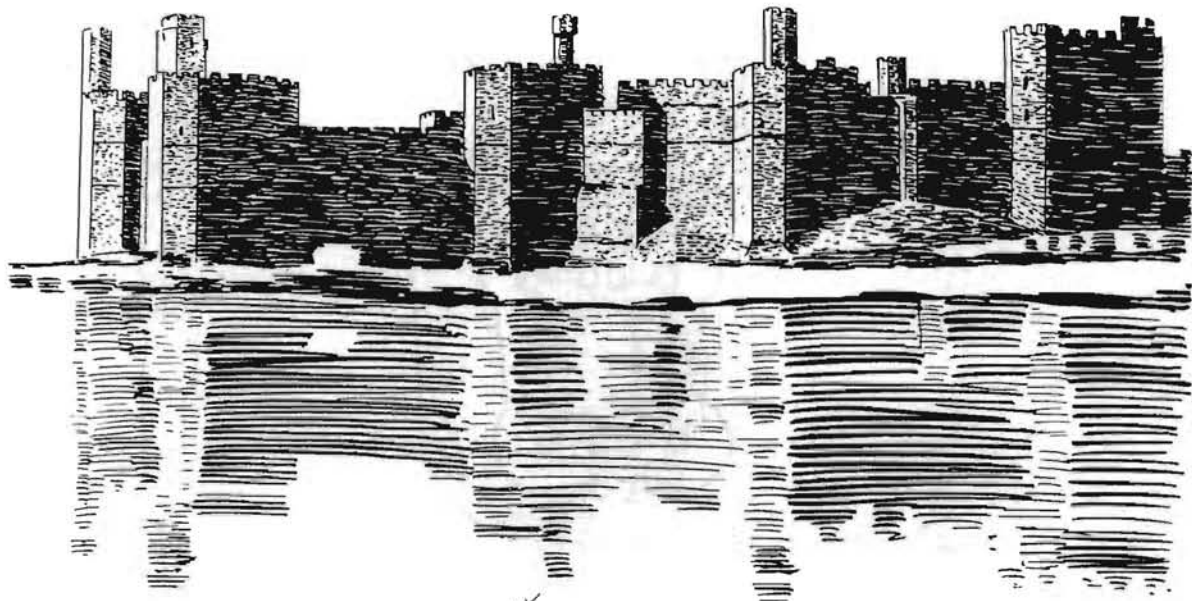
Co. 1180



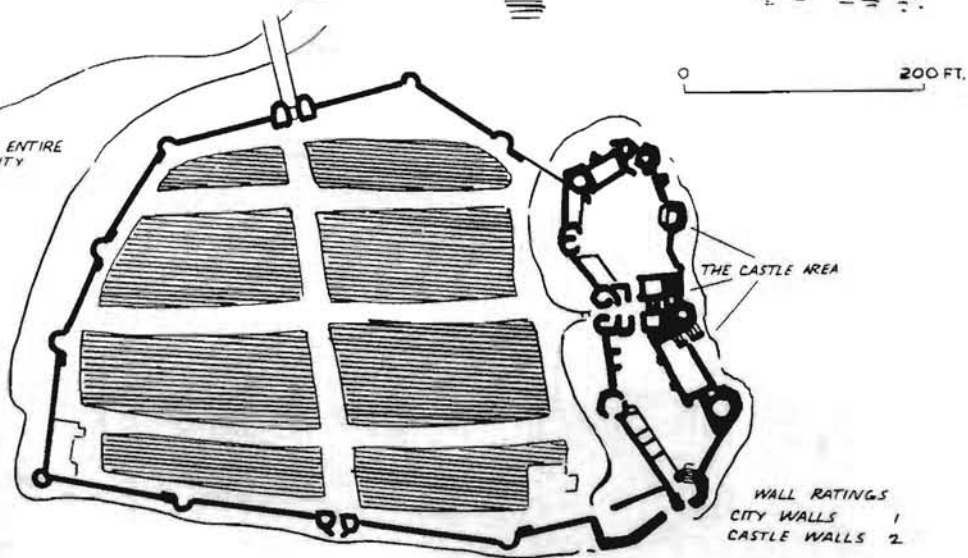
WALL RATINGS
 OUTER WALLS 2
 KEEP/DORTON 5
 MAIN TOWER 4

MARGAT - LEVANT (ON THE SYRIAN COAST)

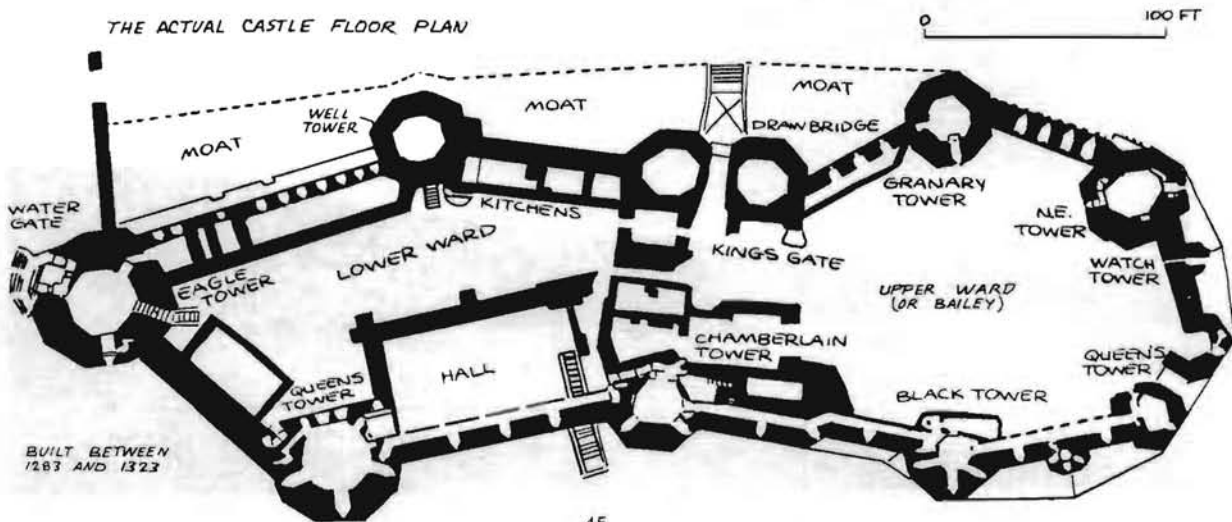
CAERNARVON CASTLE
- WALES -



VIEW OF THE ENTIRE
WALLED CITY



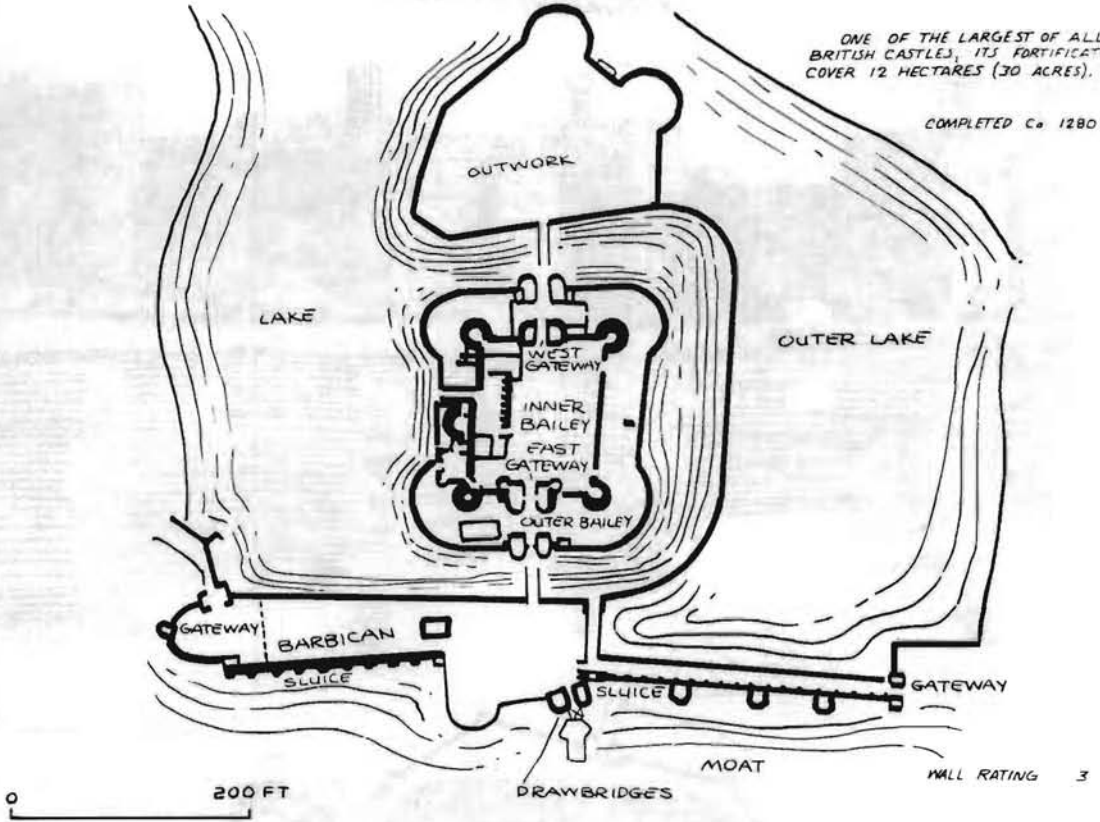
THE ACTUAL CASTLE FLOOR PLAN

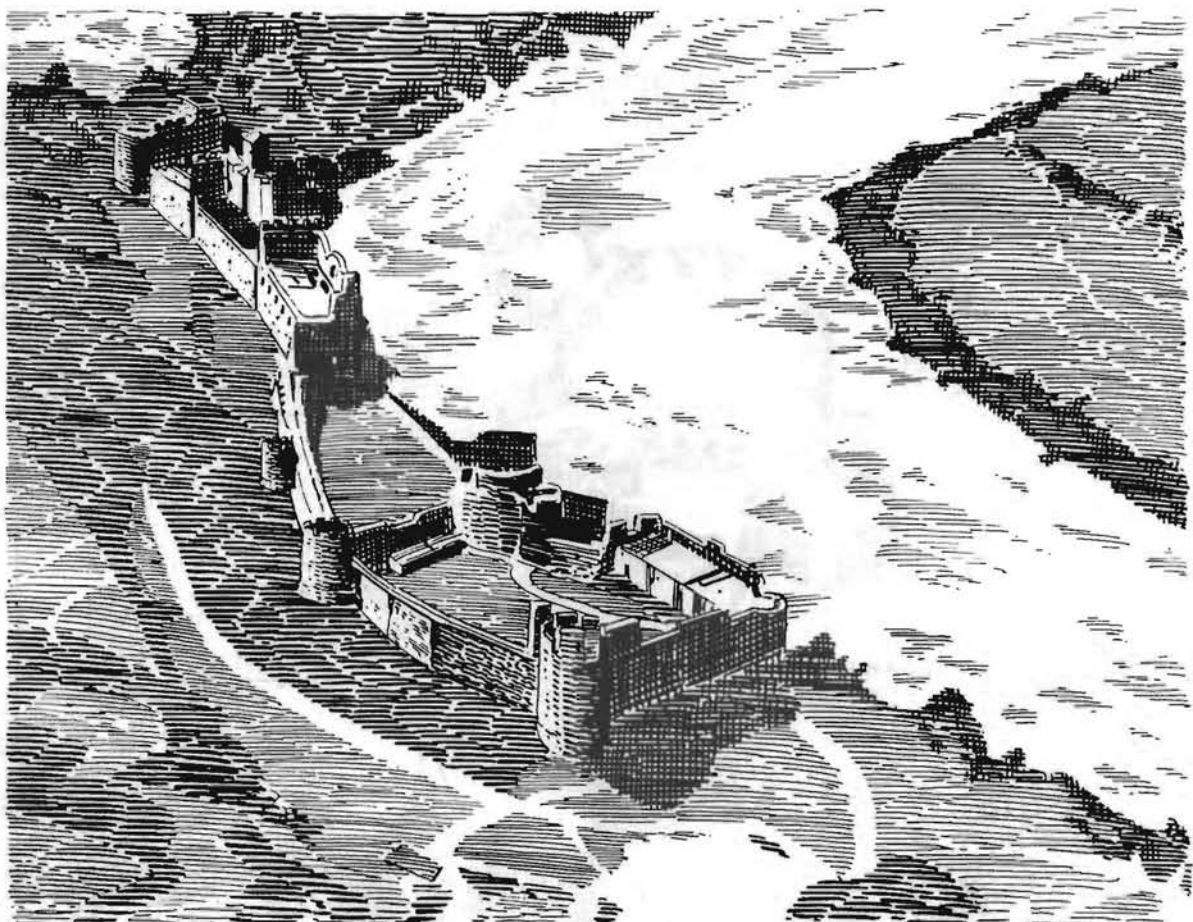


CAERPHELLY CASTLE - WALES

ONE OF THE LARGEST OF ALL BRITISH CASTLES, ITS FORTIFICATIONS COVER 12 HECTARES (30 ACRES).

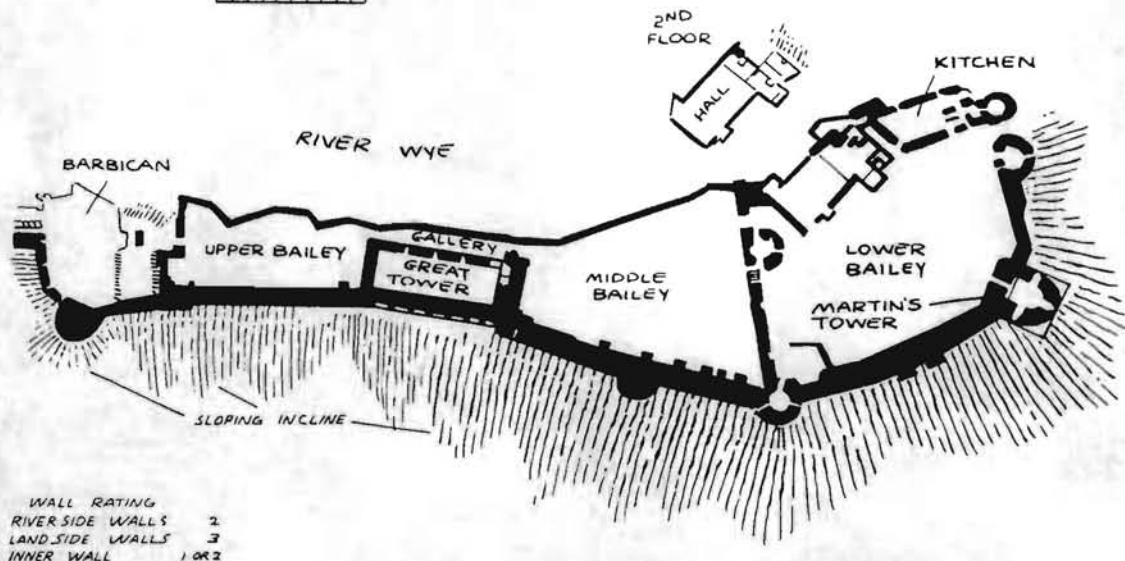
COMPLETED c. 1280

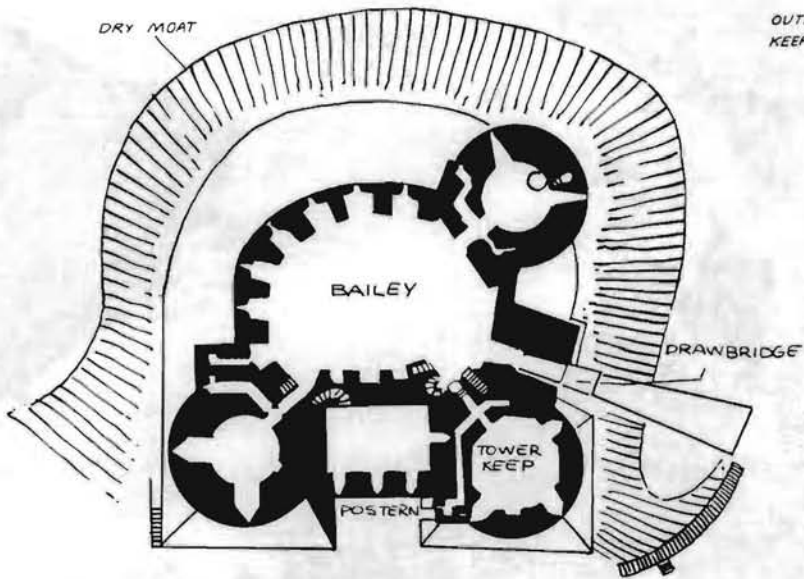




CHEPSTOW - WALES

0 100 FT



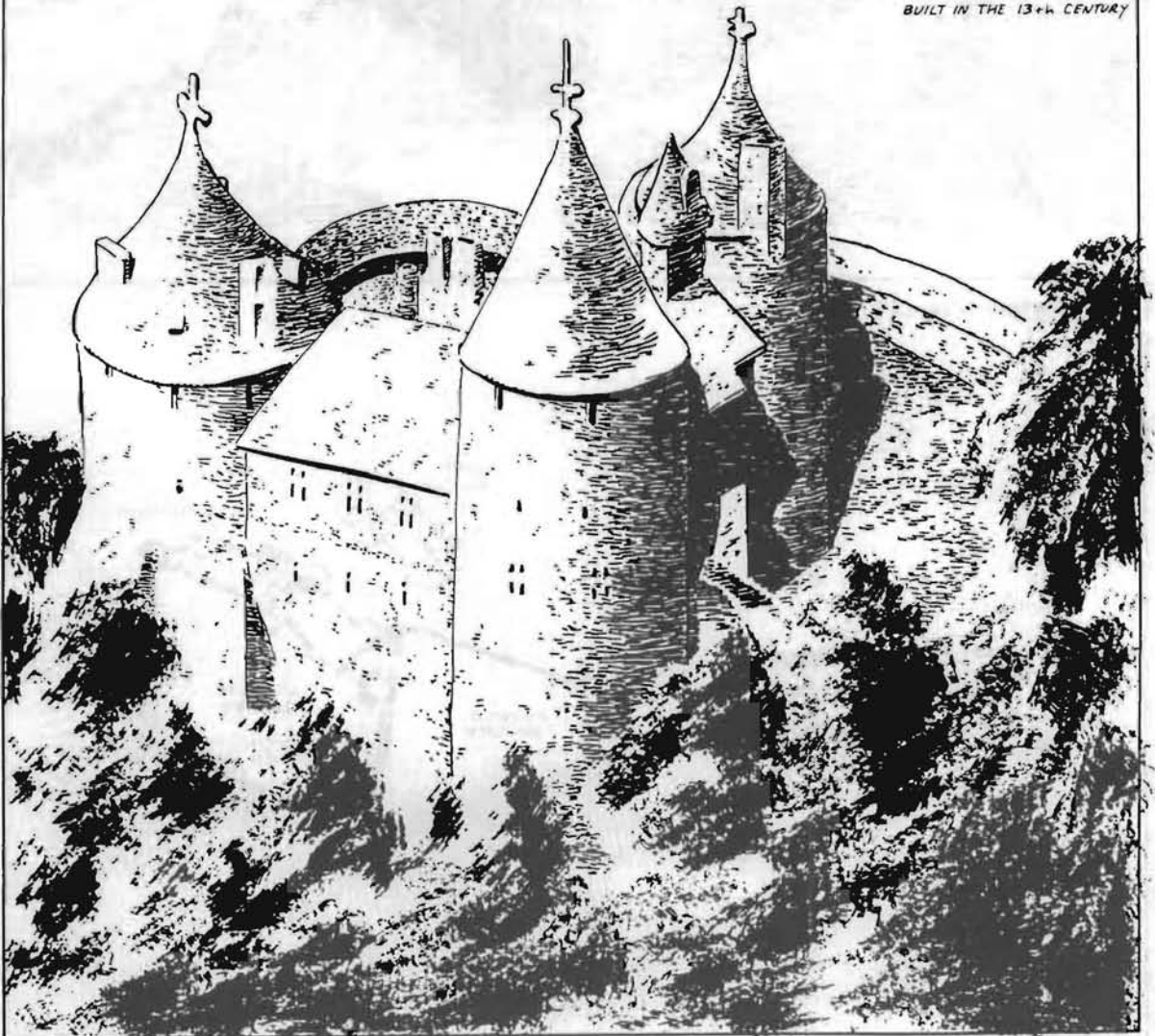


WALL RATING
 OUTER WALL 1
 KEEP AND TOWERS 3

CASTLE COCH - GLAMORGAN

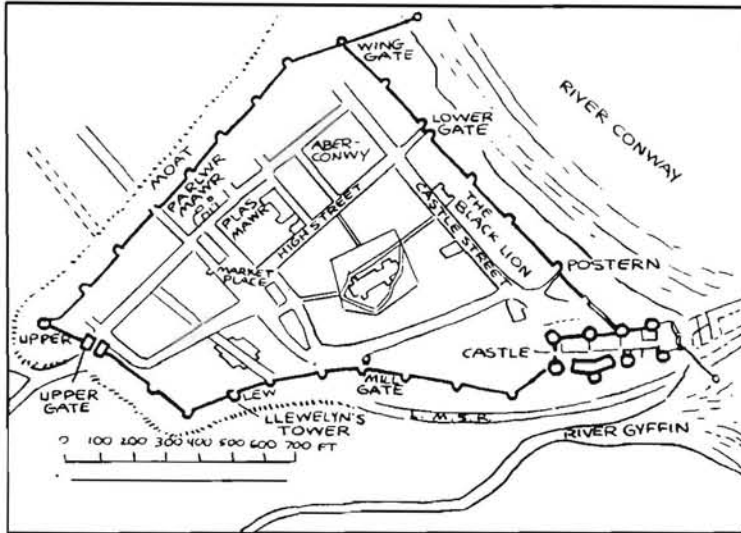
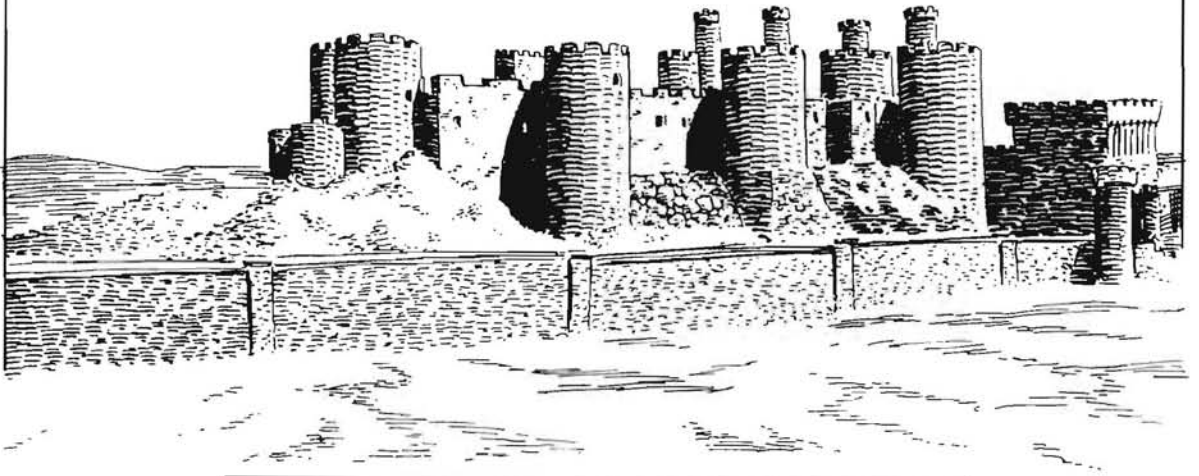
0 25 50 FT

BUILT IN THE 13th CENTURY



CONWAY - WALES

Ca. 1285



WALL RATINGS
 OUTER CITY WALLS 1
 CASTLE WALLS 3

