

## ANTIQUITIES

*Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Souterrams, Pillar Stones, Cromlechs, Forts, Rathes, Moats, Tumuli or ancient monuments of any kind. Exact location of each with short description, noting condition, etc. Relate local legend or tradition associated with building or object. State if in charge of Office of Public Works. Right of way to public? Admission charge (if any). Name and address of caretaker, or where key is kept.*

### Keep at Rathroe.

This structure is shown in the ordnance map as a castle, and from appearances, I judged it to be an old Norman Keep. Very little is known as to its history but the year 1410 A.D. has been mentioned as the date of erection and two local warring factions, Barretts and Lynotts, are said to have occupied the fortress.

The keep stands about fifty feet high and measures approximately thirty feet square. The narrow arched doorway faces north east and has partly collapsed on one side. The stone, arched roof collapsed some few years ago and the stone stairway which once ascended to the battlements and is built into the seven feet thick walls, has been filled in and blocked about half way up.

At three corners, the stones at the base have been removed to a depth of several feet and the building which is used as a shelter for cattle, is in grave danger of collapsing entirely.

Rathroe Keep is on the lands of Mr Peter MacDonnell, Kincon, Kilfian, Ballina and is not under the care of the O.P.W. Mr MacDonnell will grant free admission to the keep.