

Lowther Mausoleum

A chunky Tudorbethan mausoleum guarded by four stone griffins which gaze out over the countryside from their high perches on the four turrets at the corners. The ashlar building is of two storeys with a low pitched roof hidden behind a crenellated parapet. The seated marble figure of the 2nd Earl, carved by the sculptor E B Stephens in 1863, can be seen in the chapel on the upper floor. Below this steps lead down to the entrance of the burial vault in the basement.

Architect(s)

B. Band of London

Listing

Grade II (England and Wales)

Year Created

1857

History

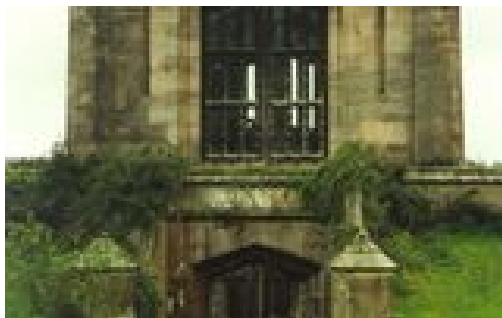
Members of the Lowther family are said to have lived in Lowther for 1000 years and there are many memorials to them in the church. But the first Lowther Castle was not finished until the end of the 17th century, at which time the church was also substantially rebuilt. In 1720 however the newly completed house was largely burnt down and not replaced until 1811 when the present castle, designed by Smirke and sadly now also a ruin, was brought to completion. The mausoleum which stands on a mount in the churchyard is later still; it was built during the life of William Lowther, 2nd Earl of Lonsdale (1787-1872) for the reception of his own remains.

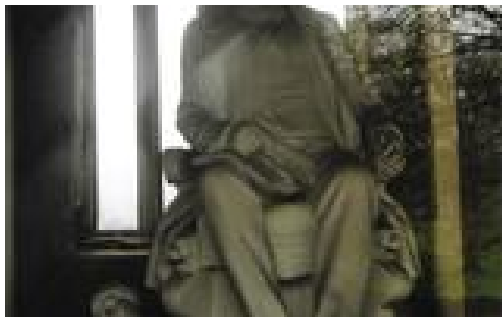
Condition

The stonework is good, but there are weeds and lichen growing over the lower parts of the building (1997).

Sources

BoE: Cumberland and Westmorland (1967), 273-4.





Location
Churchyard of St Michael,
Lowther,
Cumbria.
CA10 2PF