

Strattenborough Castle, near Coleshill, Oxfordshire

A castle in name only but so named because of the façade. It was built originally as a folly.

Strattenborough castle is a farmhouse, the rear of which was disguised by turrets and battlements in 1792 to provide an eye catcher from Coleshill House, which was burnt down in the 1950s.

Grade II listed

Dated 1792 on the N front to the left of the main door above a ground floor window. Built to double as a working farm and a Gothick eye-catcher for Coleshill House.

Rubble stone and brick with dressed stone quoins and openings. The farmhouse faces its yard to the S, but its N front rises above the dwelling's roofline to form a wall with 2 castellated projecting sham towers, one square the other polygonal. The combination of materials suggests either a late C18 sensitivity to the organic growth of a building: brick additions to an earlier, stone structure or a complete rehabilitation at a much later date.

The whole N facade is punctuated by mullioned and cross mullioned windows, some blind, others with 9 pane sashes. Other features include single and cruciform arrowslits, elaborate string coursing and stone arched surrounds with brick infill. A wall from the main block links it on the E with a stepped gabled barn. This is symmetrically balanced to the W by another, larger, barn with a gabled stone tiled roof which is set further back and has a N end with an enormous sham window of 5 lights, partly ruinous, all bricked in. Below this 'window' is a genuine C11 Norman tympanum and above it, set in brick, the date 1794.

