

AN INTRODUCTION
TO THE ARCHITECTURAL
HERITAGE *of*

COUNTY
DONEGAL

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DONEGAL



***An Roinn
Ealaíon, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta***
***Department of
Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht***



COUNTY DONEGAL
Mount Errigal viewed
from Dunlewey.

Foreword

County Donegal has a rich architectural heritage that covers a wide range of structures from country houses, churches and public buildings to vernacular houses and farm buildings. While impressive buildings are readily appreciated for their architectural and historical value, more modest structures are often overlooked and potentially lost without record. In the course of making the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) survey of County Donegal, a large variety of building types has been identified and recorded. In rural areas these include structures as diverse as bridges, mills, thatched houses, barns and outbuildings, gate piers and water pumps; while in towns there are houses, shopfronts and street furniture.

A maritime county, Donegal also has a rich built heritage relating to the coast: piers, coastguard stations and lighthouses; while the Napoleonic-era signal towers that dot the coastline and the forts and batteries along the shores of Loughs Swilly and Foyle are evidence of the county's strategic importance. The contrasting landscapes of Donegal – the rugged western and northern parts and the more fertile areas of the south-west and east – have led to different outcomes for its architecture, with the larger country houses and estates concentrated in the more productive parts of the county. Notwithstanding its vulnerability, Donegal has probably the greatest concentration and variety of surviving vernacular architecture anywhere in Ireland.

As for public buildings, the most important examples are to be found in the towns of Ballyshannon and Letterkenny. Smaller settlements, such as Lifford and Raphoe, are examples of towns laid out in the course of the

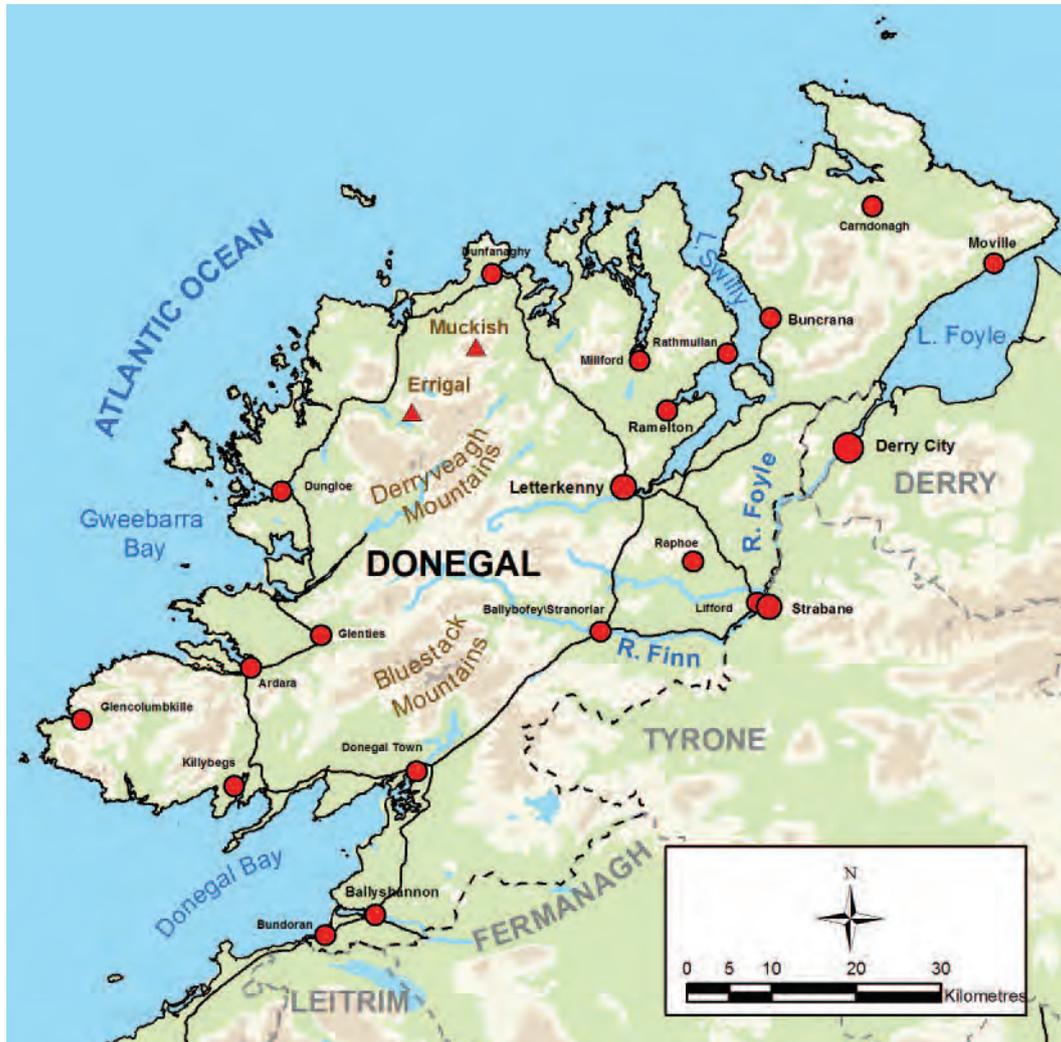
seventeenth-century Plantation of Ulster that became a model of town planning throughout the north of Ireland. Donegal's legacy of religious buildings is also of particular significance, which ranges from numerous early ecclesiastical sites, such as the important place of pilgrimage at Lough Derg, to the striking modern churches designed by Liam McCormick.

The NIAH survey was carried out in phases between 2008 and 2011 and includes more than 3,000 individual structures. The purpose of the survey is to identify a representative selection of the architectural heritage of Donegal, of which this Introduction highlights only a small portion. The Inventory should not be regarded as exhaustive and, over time, other buildings and structures of merit may come to light. The survey is part of a broader systematic programme of county surveys that is being carried out by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The aim is to encourage interest in and contribute to the protection of the post-1700 AD built heritage of Ireland by recording that heritage on a nationwide basis.

The NIAH survey of the architectural heritage of County Donegal can be accessed on the Internet at: www.buildingsofireland.ie

 NATIONAL INVENTORY
of ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

Introduction



COUNTY DONEGAL
Main towns and
landscape features.



COUNTY DONEGAL

View of one of the many fine sandy beaches dotted along the coastline

Donegal is the most northerly county in Ireland, one of three within the Republic of Ireland that are part of the province of Ulster. With a short border with County Leitrim, it is separated from the rest of the country by the counties of Fermanagh, Tyrone and Derry, with which it has a shared architectural heritage. Donegal, at 4,841km², is the largest county in Ulster and the fourth largest in Ireland. The county is divided by two major mountain ranges, the Derryveagh and Glendown range in the west, and the Bluestack Mountains in the south. These combine to separate the rugged, traditionally Irish-speaking areas in the north-west from fertile farmland in the south-east. Glacial erosion around these central highlands during the last Ice Age affected the landscape in different ways. Rolling gravelly drumlin formations and limestone seams can be found in the south of the county adjacent to Donegal Bay; a barren exposed landscape dotted with erratic boulders and rocky islands is

typical of the west, while in the north deep sea loughs and peninsulas are carved out of quartzite and softer schists. The northern central highlands are dominated by the distinctively shaped quartzite scree-topped Muckish and Errigal mountains. The latter, at 751m, is the highest point in the county.

The landscape has provided a wide variety of building stones, including limestone from around Donegal Bay at St John's Point and Bundoran and golden-brown sandstone from Mountcharles. A mix of green mica schist, clay slate and conglomerate rock runs from Lough Foyle in the east to Slieve League in the west, and provides general building stone and roofing slate. Granite and quartzite rocks in the northern part of the county, from Dungloe to Fanad Head, provide general building stone and decorative blocks. The most unusual stones are the marbles from the north of the county, with white, blue-grey, pink, and yellow varieties found near Marble Hill. The best



COUNTY DONEGAL
The rugged coastline
of Tory Island.

*Courtesy of the
Photographic Unit
DAHG*

Donegal white marble is found around Errigal and was used to great effect in both churches at nearby Dunlewey.

The county has a number of significant rivers. In the south the Erne, draining Lough Erne into Donegal Bay, forms a natural barrier separating Ulster from Connacht. Further to the north is the Gweebarra; to the east, the Derg and the Finn flow into Lough Foyle, the greatest body of water in the region. There are hundreds of small loughs dotted throughout the county as well as the more important lakes such as Lough Derg, the largest body of fresh water in Donegal, and the glacial lakes at Glenveagh, Gartan, Lough Finn and Dunlewey.

The twin towns of Stranorlar and Ballybofey are sited at the crossing point of the Finn along the ancient east-west route from Derry to

Donegal town. Letterkenny, the largest town in the county, is located at the head of the lough at the crossing point of the River Swilly. Ballyshannon, the major settlement in the south-west, is sited at the mouth of the Erne, while Donegal town and Ramelton are sited at the mouths of the Eske and Leannan rivers respectively. Other notable towns are Buncrana on the western and Moville on the eastern sides of the Inishowen Peninsula. Raphoe, to the south-east, was an important early ecclesiastical centre.

Donegal has more than 1,100km of Atlantic coastline, the longest in Ireland, and this relationship with the sea is reflected in its architectural heritage. Despite its peripheral position, the region was known throughout Europe, particularly during the medieval

period, for its trade connections with Scotland, England, Scandinavia and the European Atlantic states. The relationship between Donegal and Scotland is particularly strong, partly due to the close proximity of the Western Isles to the north of the county. Further links to Europe were forged through the reputation of Lough Derg as a place at the edge of the world and linked somehow to the passage into the after-life. This important pilgrimage site since the sixth century, known as St Patrick's Purgatory, is often among the only features shown on medieval European maps of Ireland.



IRELAND

Martin Waldseemüller's map of Ireland (1513). Donegal is shown separated from the rest of the country by two rivers crossing from coast to coast. Lough Derg is indicated in Latin that translates as 'St Patrick's Purgatory'. This site is often among the only features depicted on early maps of Ireland.

COUNTY DONEGAL
View of landscape at
Glenveagh National
Park.

Courtesy of the
Photographic Unit
DAHG

Courtesy of the National Library of
Ireland

Pre 1700



(fig. 1)
**KILCLOONEY PORTAL
TOMB**
Kilclooney More
(c. 3000 BC)

This spectacular portal tomb, dating to the Neolithic period, is one of a group found close to the Atlantic coastline near Ardara. They are generally single-chambered structures characterised by two tall portal stones at the entrance and a massive capstone forming the roof. They were originally covered with an earthen and/or stone cairn, now generally absent or denuded, and usually contained cremation-type burials.

*Courtesy of the
Photographic Unit
DAHG*

There is evidence of human activity in Donegal dating back to the Mesolithic period (7,000-3,000 BC). A small number of Mesolithic hunter-gatherer sites have been identified in the north-east of the county and on the Inishowen Peninsula concentrated along the shores of Loughs Foyle and Swilly. The Neolithic period (from 4,000 BC) is characterised by a number of significant cultural changes, particularly the transition to

a much more settled agricultural lifestyle. Monuments from this period are more numerous, particularly megalithic tombs. Almost ten per cent of all known megalithic tombs in Ireland are found in Donegal, indicating the importance of the area at this time. Neolithic sites are widespread throughout the coastal and more fertile parts of the county with dramatic examples of portal tombs at Kilclooney (fig. 1) and Malinmore, court tombs



(fig. 2)

BELTANY STONE CIRCLE

Tops, near Raphoe
(c. 1500–800 BC)

An impressive stone circle located on the summit of Beltany Hill with panoramic views. It consists of a circle of sixty-four large stones arranged around an artificially raised platform. It is thought that stone circles were built for ritual or ceremonial purposes. Recent radiocarbon dates suggest a middle-to-late Bronze Age date for these monuments

*Courtesy of the
Photographic Unit
DAHG*

at Farranmacbride and Croaghbeg, and a passage grave cemetery at Killmonaster near Raphoe. These monuments are amongst the largest and most complex of their type known in Ireland. Their concentration suggests a relatively wealthy and sophisticated agricultural society.

There is also evidence of Bronze Age habitation, including more than twenty-five wedge tombs, located primarily in the north and extreme south-west of the county. Cist graves (stone-lined burial pits/boxes) are also common: these are concentrated in the north, especially in southern Inishowen. Standing stones follow a similar pattern, and Donegal is on the western boundary of one of the two main concentrations of Irish stone circles. Excellent examples can be found at Bocan in

Inishowen and at Beltany (*fig. 2*) near Raphoe, one of the largest of its type in Ireland. Iron Age sites include hilltop enclosures such as Cashelnavenan at the north-east end of the Barnesmore Gap and many examples of coastal promontory forts of which Dún Balair, Tory Island, is one of the best examples in the country.

During the early medieval period, 'Inner' Donegal (south-east of the county/Laggan area) was the territory of the northern Uí Néill who claimed descent from Niall of the Nine Hostages, High King of Ireland at the beginning of the fifth century. Dynasties that descended from the Uí Néill were the O'Donnell and the O'Neill clans. The O'Donnell territories were centred on the Finn Valley but extended over the entire region of

(fig. 3)
**GRIANÁN OF
AILEACH**
Carrowreagh (ED
Burt), Speenoge and
Toulett
(c. 600-1100; c. 2500
BC for hillfort)

An early medieval cashel with high battered dry stone walls and three terraces to the interior accessed by inset staircases. It is thought to have been the royal seat of the northern Uí Néill during the early medieval period and commands extensive views in all directions. The annals record its destruction in 1101. It was substantially restored by Dr Walter Bernard in 1874-8. It is surrounded by a series of three concentric banks that are thought to be the remains of a hillfort dating to the Late Bronze Age or Iron Age.

Courtesy of the
Photographic Unit
DAHG



Tír Chonaill that included much of modern Donegal. The reconstructed early medieval stone cashel at the Grianán of Aileach (fig. 3) is perhaps the most important monument in Donegal from this period, not only impressive in its scale but also for its position, with panoramic views across the entire region. Another spectacular contemporary structure is

(fig. 4)
DOON FORT
 Drumboghill, near
 Portnoo
 (c. 700)

A well-preserved but partially reconstructed cashel taking up almost the entire area of a small island on Doon Lough. It consists of an oval area enclosed by a massive stone wall averaging 4m wide at the base and 4.8m in height externally. According to local tradition, the O'Boyles occupied the fort from the tenth to the sixteenth centuries. The last O'Boyle chieftain, Conor O'Boyle, was reputedly slain here in 1530 by a rival O'Boyle clan.

*Courtesy of the
 Photographic Unit
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the O'Boyle fortress (*fig. 4*) located in Doon Lough, near Portnoo.

Early medieval cross-inscribed stones, which are thought to predate high crosses, survive at St Mura's churchyard in Fahan (*fig. 5*) and Killaghtee churchyard near Dunkineely. The largest group can be found at Glencolumbkille, where there is a 'turas' (pilgrimage route) punctuated with stone monuments.

(fig. 5)
ST MURA'S CROSS-SLAB
Glebe (ED Fahan)
(c. 675)

An important example of early Irish art. The west face features a Greek cross woven in broad interlacing with a figure to either side. The influential monastic site at Fahan was established by St Colmcille during the late-sixth century with his disciple St Mura as the first abbot. It is thought that this cross is a precursor to the high crosses although some recent work suggests it may date to as late as the tenth century.

*Courtesy of the
Photographic Unit
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(fig. 6)
ST PATRICK'S CROSS
 Donagh Monastic
 Site, Churchland
 Quarters, near
 Carndonagh
 (c. 650)

A spectacular cross that is one of the most important examples of its type in Ireland. Its east face features a Greek cross with Celtic interlacing, triquetra and birds in the spaces between the arms of the cross, and a panel on the shaft depicting Christ in Glory with three figures in side profile beneath. The cross is flanked by smaller stelae with spiral motifs and depictions of a warrior, King David with a harp, and a bishop with a bell.

*Courtesy of the
 Photographic Unit
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St Colmcille, a native of Donegal and founder of the important religious community on the Scottish island of Iona, is credited with the establishment in the sixth century of a monastic settlement at Derry, the major urban centre of this part of Ireland. Other modest urban centres were settled and connected by religious communities throughout the

medieval period, including Raphoe, the religious centre of the county. Further important sites in the county are associated with St Patrick - the best known being St Patrick's Purgatory at Lough Derg, and at Donagh (fig. 6), near Carndonagh, where there is a fine collection of crosses.



CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST EUNAN
Raphoe
(c. 1250, c. 1610-30, 1737-8,
rebuilt 1888-92)

A fascinating accumulation of different periods of building from the early medieval period to the late-nineteenth century. It was described as 'ruined and decayed' when Bishop Andrew Knox arrived here c. 1610. Much of the body of the church probably dates to the seventeenth century and incorporates some earlier fabric. The robust tower was added by Bishop Nicholas Forster in 1737-8 using funds bequeathed by Bishop John Pooley (d. 1712).



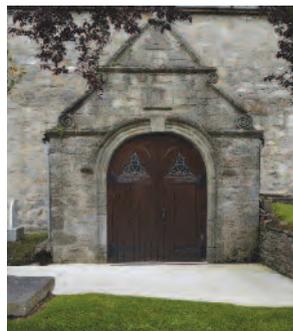
CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST EUNAN
Raphoe
(c. 1250)

Finely-carved triple-arched sedilia (seats for clergy) built into the south wall of the chancel. It was discovered hidden behind a later partition wall during the 1888-92 restorations of the cathedral by Sir Thomas Drew (1838-1910) and was a design inspiration for his 're-medievalisation' of the cathedral.



CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST EUNAN
Raphoe
(c.1000)

Part of a carved stone lintel now preserved in the vestibule of the cathedral. It depicts a representation of the Arrest of Christ in the Garden. The other half of the lintel is built into the exterior of the nave. It was presumably part of the doorway of an earlier church to site.



CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST EUNAN
Raphoe
(c. 1680)

Striking Baroque porch with scrolled volutes to the gable and depressed round-headed doorcase. It probably dates to the late-seventeenth century and is certainly earlier than the 1732 date incised to the interior. It is a rare example of its type in Ireland and is unique in Donegal



The Anglo-Norman invasion of 1169 was a major turning point in Irish history. Although Norman influence in far-flung Donegal was limited, there are a few surviving Norman structures. This includes a number of mottes and a major masonry castle, Northburg Castle (*fig. 7*), constructed at Greencastle by Richard de Burgo in 1305. Norman military influence was short-lived as war, famine and the Black Death brought economic decline to Ireland during the fourteenth century. After this, a Gaelic resurgence followed that was to last until the seventeenth century.

In the twelfth century, many new religious orders were established throughout Europe. In Ireland, the Cistercians were first to arrive in

(*fig. 7*)

NORTHBURG CASTLE

Eleven Ballyboes, Greencastle
(1305, c. 1450 and c. 1611)

The fragmentary remains of this large masonry castle built by the 'Red' Earl of Ulster, Richard de Burgo, is the only major example of Norman military architecture in the north-west. Its polychromatic stonework and polygonal towers are reminiscent of the great castles of Edward I in North Wales. A later tower house, built by the O'Donnells and originally occupied by their dependants the O'Dohertys, abuts to the north. The tower house was considerably damaged in 1555 during a war between rival O'Donnell factions. The castle was later granted to Lord Chichester at the time of the Plantation. He carried out works to accommodate a small garrison that remained here throughout the seventeenth century.

Courtesy of the Photographic Unit DAHG

(fig. 8)

DONEGAL
FRANCISCAN FRIARY
Glebe (ED Donegal),
Donegal Town
(c. 1474-88)

Founded by the first 'Red' Hugh O'Donnell and his wife in 1474. It was later pillaged by English forces in 1488. It followed a typical Franciscan plan with church to the south and domestic structures arranged around a central cloister to the north. The friary was granted to Sir Basil Brooke in 1607 and the church was subsequently used for Protestant worship.

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Photographic Unit
DAHG*



1142, establishing a foundation at Mellifont, County Louth. The Augustinians followed, and later the Dominicans, Franciscans and other orders. The Cistercians introduced new architectural ideas, in particular a standardised monastery plan comprising a central cloister with accommodation on three sides and the church to the north. A Cistercian abbey was established in 1178 at Assaroe, Ballyshannon, by the monastic community of Boyle, in County Roscommon. In use until the seventeenth century, the abbey today consists of only fragmentary upstanding remains. An Augustinian foundation was established at Lough Derg, sometime after 1132, under the patronage of the Bishop of Armagh. Later, in 1403, the Carmelites established a friary at

Rathmullan, which in 1617 was converted to a dwelling by the Protestant Bishop of Raphoe.

The late-fifteenth and early-sixteenth centuries saw the establishment of number of new houses by the Franciscan Third Order Regulars including foundations at Killybegs and Ballysaggert, both by MacSwiny Bannagh (c. 1540), and by the O'Donnells at Killydonnell in 1471, Magherabeg, and at Kilmacrenan (c. 1540), while 'Red' Hugh O'Donnell established an Observantine foundation (a more strict order of the Franciscans), at Donegal town (fig. 8) from 1474.

A series of tower houses were also constructed between Ballyshannon and Lifford by the powerful O'Donnell clan during the



(Fig. 9)
DOE CASTLE
 Castledoe, near
 Creeslough
 (c. 1530 and c. 1810)

An imposing tower house spectacularly sited on a narrow promontory with the sea to three sides and a rock-cut ditch to the landward side. It consists of a four-storey tower with adjoining outbuildings enclosed by a bawn with bartizans at the angles and a battered round tower to one corner. Although originally built by the Quin family, it was first mentioned in 1544 when it was the main seat of the MacSweeney Doe. It changed hands several times during the wars of the seventeenth century. Abandoned c. 1700, it fell into ruin before being restored as a residence by George Vaughan Hart c. 1810.

*Courtesy of the
 Photographic Unit
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fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, the most important at Donegal town and Lough Eske. Allied figures included the MacSweeney clan, associated with Doe Castle near Creeslough (*fig. 9*), and the O'Dohertys with strongholds that encircled the territory of Inishowen, including Derry. Significant O'Doherty structures in Donegal are located at Inch, Burt, Bunrana and Carrickabraghy.

Following defeat in the Nine Years' War (1594-1603), the O'Donnell and O'Neill chieftains left Donegal from Rathmullan in 1607 in the Flight of the Earls. This changed the political and social structure in the county and the rest of the country forever. The land vacated by the earls and their followers was declared forfeit. In Ulster, Arthur Chichester,

(fig. 10)
DONEGAL CASTLE
Donegal Town
(c. 1474, c. 1563 and
c. 1611)

This magnificent building is of at least two distinct dates: the massive rectangular four-storey tower built by the powerful O'Donnell clan in 1474 and later heavily altered c. 1563. It was later granted to Sir Basil Brooke during the Plantation. He was responsible for the construction of the lower gabled wing as well as alterations to the original tower including the corner bartizans, wide window openings with mullions and transoms, canted bay, and the alterations to the top storey creating gabled bays that mirror those of the later wing. The site is surrounded by a bawn.



*Courtesy of the
Photographic Unit
DAHG*

Lord Deputy of Ireland, established a scheme for 'Plantation' designed to secure this part of the island. The influence of earlier Gaelic society survived, partly due to a shared heritage with Scots settlers that included aspects of language and farming practice. In Donegal, land was leased to five major landholders: the Church of Ireland, Trinity College Dublin, English and Scottish undertakers (wealthy men from England and Scotland who undertook to import English-speaking and Protestant tenants

from their own estates) and Chichester himself in Inishowen. These vast estates could not be managed individually and were sub-leased to servitors who occupied and developed the land in return for providing military peace-keeping forces.

Existing towns, such as Raphoe, were redeveloped during the Plantation. 'New' urban centres were also created, including Lifford, the county town, established by Sir Richard Hansard. New building techniques and



DONEGAL CASTLE
Donegal Town
(c. 1611)

This sophisticated and well-detailed fireplace dominates the great hall. It is richly carved in a Mannerist idiom with a prominent overmantel bearing the coat of arms of Sir Basil Brooke (d. 1633) to the right and that of his wife, Anne Leycester of Chester, to the left.

*Courtesy of the
Photographic Unit
DAHG*

architectural styles were also imported, such as timber-framed houses of the type common in England, none of which survive. New farming methods were also introduced including crop rotation and enclosure, and new crops were cultivated, such as potatoes and flax.

Many existing fortified houses were taken and reused in the course of the Plantation. Examples include Mongavlin Castle on the banks of the River Foyle, renovated by Sir John Stewart in 1619, and Donegal Castle (*fig. 10*), where Sir Basil Brooke built a new wing.

(fig. 11)
RATHMULLAN FRIARY
Rathmullan
(1516 and 1618)

Established by Owen Roe MacSweeney as a Carmelite foundation dedicated to the Blessed Virgin in 1516. Typical of its type, it had a church with central tower, transept to the south and domestic ranges to the north arranged around a cloister. It was later assigned to Sir Ralph Bingley in 1601 for use as a barracks. In 1617 the Protestant Bishop of Raphoe, Andrew Knox, converted the buildings into a fortified house with the chancel retained as a private chapel. This was later used as the parish church (from 1706) until the construction of the present church at Rathmullan in 1814. The brick chimneystack and corbelled bartizans visible to the gable are seventeenth-century additions.

*Courtesy of the
Photographic Unit
DAHG*



An unconventional appearance often resulted from reuse and alteration of buildings for a new purpose. Bishop Knox's fortified residence at Rathmullan (*fig. 11*), built within the former Carmelite friary, is such an example. Elsewhere, completely new houses with bawns were constructed. These were strongly built but usually modest in scale, such as at Faugher (*fig. 12*), Greenfield, Fort Stewart, and at Drumboe Castle near Stranorlar. Impressive fortified houses were also built by important clergymen, such as the 'castle' built by Bishop John Leslie at Raphoe in 1636 (*fig. 13*).



(fig. 12)
FAUGHER HOUSE
 Faugher, near
 Dunfanaghy
 (c. 1611 and c. 1670)

This house was erected by Tirlagh Oge O'Boyle, c. 1611, and rebuilt or heavily altered by the Wray family c. 1670. It was surrounded by a rectangular bawn with four corner towers. Built to control lands allocated in the Plantation, the scale of this building is unlike any other from the same period in this part of the county. It was abandoned by the mid-eighteenth century and is depicted as 'castle ruins' on the Taylor and Skinner map (1777-83).

The first towns were established by royal charter at Donegal town, Killybegs, Ballyshannon, Lifford and St Johnstown. Sizeable urban settlements were also developed at Raphoe and Rathmullan although these were never granted borough status. The charter towns established a pattern of development designed to accommodate trade and provide a place defensible by a military garrison. Most towns were planned with important buildings such as the town hall, courthouse and jail arranged around an open square or diamond which also served as a marketplace. The Plantation towns were relatively compact with two-storey houses built in rows on regular plots and additional land allocated outside the

town for grazing and growing food. Unfortunately, there are few surviving urban buildings from this period.

Most Plantation towns were severely damaged during the 1641 rebellion. In its aftermath, many of the remaining native Irish landholders were purged from the landscape by Cromwell's parliamentary forces. Further damage was caused after the 1689 Siege of Derry, particularly in the east of the county where towns and houses were burnt to the ground. Conversely, despite the period of turmoil, many of the same towns prospered as regional marketplaces for trade in agricultural produce.

**TERMON MCGRATH
CASTLE**

Aghnahoo Glebe, near
Pettigo
(c. 1611)

A late tower house and bawn built by the McGraths around 1611. It was constructed by James McGrath, the son of the former Catholic Bishop of Down who converted to become the Protestant Bishop of Clogher in 1567. It is a relatively rare example of a 'native' Irish family that was re-granted its estates and prospered at the time of the Plantation. It is constructed in a distinctly traditional 'Irish' architectural character, ignoring the pattern established by the new Jacobean planters. It was destroyed by Cromwellian bombardment in 1649-50.



BROWNHALL

Brownhall Demesne,
near Ballintra
(c. 1697)

An early house that now forms a wing to a later country house (see *fig. 23*). The widely spaced segmental-headed openings, large squat chimneystacks, moulded brick eaves cornice, and heavy slate roof are all characteristic features of early country houses. It was originally built by the Hamilton family who moved here c. 1697, and may have been originally built by John Hamilton (d. 1706).

*Courtesy of the Irish
Architectural Archive*

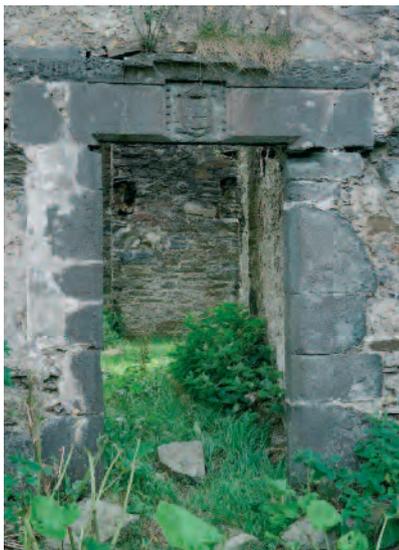


(fig. 13)

BISHOP'S PALACE

Raphoe Demesne, Raphoe
(c. 1636-37, c. 1695, c. 1745 and
c. 1822)

A ruinous but imposing structure originally built in 1636-7 by John Leslie, Bishop of Raphoe, at a cost of over £3,500. The towers at the four corners create a castle-like composition that belies its original function as a clerical dwelling. It was repaired c. 1695 by Bishop Cairnross after being damaged during the Confederate Wars. It was later altered c. 1745, probably by Bishop Nicholas Foster, around the time the tower was added to the cathedral and the Royal School were constructed at Raphoe. The crenellated parapets were added c.1822 by Dr William Bisset. It was destroyed by fire in 1838.



BISHOP'S PALACE
Raphoe Demesne,
Raphoe
(c. 1636-7)

This doorcase with chamfered jambs is located at basement level. The lintel is carved with an escutcheon bearing the Leslie coat of arms and is surmounted by a mitre. It is possibly the original main doorcase relocated here.



BISHOP'S PALACE
Raphoe Demesne,
Raphoe
(c. 1745)

This fine pedimented Gibbsian doorcase dates to the c. 1745 alterations to the building. It is stylistically very similar to the doorcase at Lifford Courthouse (see fig. 34). This suggests that Michael Priestley, the architect responsible for the courthouse, may have been responsible for these alterations.



(fig. 14)
**ST LUGADIUS' CHURCH OF
 IRELAND CHURCH**
 Lifford
 (c. 1622, c. 1800, c. 1863)

This Church of Ireland church was built at the bequest of Sir Richard Hansard (d. 1619). He was granted around five hundred acres in the Lifford area at the time of the Plantation on the condition that he develop the town within five years. The tall thin tower was added c. 1800 by the rector, Mr Daniel. The north aisle was added c. 1863 to designs by Welland & Gillespie, architects to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

Post-Plantation landowning society was English-speaking, with the Anglican Church of Ireland as the established church. With the exception of towns like Raphoe, which occupied the site of an earlier ecclesiastical settlement, in many places new Protestant churches were built. Throughout Ulster these often followed a pattern which came to be known as 'Planter's Gothic', the most significant of which is St Columba's Cathedral in Derry. In Donegal, churches of the Plantation period were more modest in scale. Conwal parish church in Letterkenny or St Lugadius' Church, Lifford (fig. 14), are good examples. The Church of Ireland was also responsible for providing education. The Royal School, now the Royal and Prior School, was founded in Raphoe in 1608 to serve the county of Donegal.



HANSARD MEMORIAL
 St Lugadius' Church, Lifford
 c. 1622

This memorial commemorates Sir Richard Hansard and his wife Dame Anne (d. 1619). It is considered one of the finest Plantation era church monuments in Ulster. It features two kneeling figures (Sir Richard and his wife) in Jacobean costume facing each other across a draped reading table. Sir Richard is depicted in Cavalier armour and his wife in a long veil. A tablet behind chronicles his life.

(fig. 15)

RAMELTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY
Meetinghouse Lane, Ramelton
(c. 1680, c. 1811)

A former Presbyterian meetinghouse reputedly dating to the last decades of the seventeenth century, making it one of the earliest surviving buildings of its type extant in Ireland. It was extended at the start of the nineteenth century with the addition of a block parallel to the original building. Inside, the columns supporting the arcade between the blocks were made from the masts of the HMS Saldanha, which sank off Rathmullan in 1811 with the loss of over 250 lives. It is also associated with Francis Makemie (1657-1708), regarded as the father of American Presbyterianism, who worshipped here before emigrating



TAUGHBOYNE CHURCH OF IRELAND CHURCH

Haw (Killea ED), Taughboyne, near St Johnstown
(c. 1450, 1627, c. 1887)

A stone tablet over the doorway records that this church was rebuilt in 1627 under the direction of the Revd. Thomas Bruce. It was repaired c. 1835 by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners while the window openings with fine Victorian Decorated Gothic tracery were added c. 1887. It is thought that this was also the site of the early ecclesiastical foundation of Tech Baithin.



(fig. 16)

CLADY BRIDGE

Cloghfin (Castlefin), near Clady
(c. 1680)

An important multiple-arch road bridge that is one of the most impressive examples of its type in Ulster. The massive full-height cutwaters to the piers, which rise to pedestrian refuges at parapet level and the narrow deck suggest that it is of considerable antiquity, probably dating to the seventeenth century. It was the scene of battles in 1688 and in 1689 during the Jacobite Wars. The three central arches were apparently modified in 1832 to allow for the passage of boats along the River Finn.



CLADY BRIDGE

Cloghfin (Castlefin), near Clady
(c. 1680)

View along the deck showing the narrow plan and the large pedestrian refuges.

Catholicism was suppressed but nevertheless continued to be practised at secluded outdoor sites and in private buildings. The Presbyterianism of a significant portion of Scottish planters was more tolerated and a number of meetinghouses from this period still survive. A meetinghouse was built at Monreagh in 1644, although it was largely rebuilt in the nineteenth century, while the Presbyterian church at Ramelton (*fig. 15*), built

around 1680, survives although it is now used as a public library.

A further legacy of the Plantation was the establishment of a public infrastructure of roads and bridges. The Bridge Act of 1634 gave power to the Grand Juries to raise the finances needed for their construction under the presentment system, by which landlords could promote projects and present priced proposals to the justices of the assizes. If approved, the Grand Jury would reimburse the money from revenue it was empowered to raise. This method of raising revenue survived until the formation of the county councils at the end of the nineteenth century. The best known bridge of this period can be seen at Clady (*fig. 16*) crossing the River Finn above Lifford, the scene of significant battles between Jacobite and Williamite forces in 1688 and 1689 prior to the Siege of Derry.

The Eighteenth Century



LINSFORT CASTLE

Linsfort, near
Buncrana
(1720)

A plain but well-proportioned house built or rebuilt in 1720. The advanced bays to either end of both the front and the rear elevations are a feature of many early country houses.

The conflicts that characterised much of the seventeenth century were followed by a period of relative peace and stability during the eighteenth century. During its first decades, however, defence was still a necessary feature of the houses of the Protestant ascendancy, and substantial military forces continued to be garrisoned in some of the larger towns.

Following the failure of the Jacobite rising in Scotland in 1715, an increasing sense of security heralded a more progressive, scientific and culturally enlightened era. The new landowning ascendancy could now consolidate their estates and move from cramped castle conditions to more comfortable and spacious buildings. Trade and agriculture improved, and foreign travel became more common,

introducing the country to new ideas. New architectural styles were imported from Britain and from Europe, and houses began to incorporate features such as large windows allowing views out into the landscape. Vistas and the landscape setting of buildings became a particular matter of concern.

Donegal was isolated, however, and much of the county poor in comparison to other parts of Ireland; thus the formally designed Georgian country house was not as prevalent here as elsewhere. Houses constructed during the first half of the eighteenth century tended to be minor in scale. Donegal estates were often sublet, or secondary to lands owned elsewhere, and sometimes used for activities such as hunting or fishing. Despite this, a number of



(fig. 17)
BUNCRANA CASTLE
 Tullyravan, Buncrana
 (1718)

This is the most important and impressive of the early country houses on Inishowen. It was originally built or rebuilt by George Vaughan in 1718 replacing an earlier Vaughan house on the site, which in turn superseded an O'Doherty tower house that survives close by. It is built on a rigidly symmetrical plan with central breakfront, long narrow window openings, high raised basement, central doorway, and with projecting single-bay pavilions to either end.

significant country houses were constructed, mainly in the more fertile areas near Derry to the east and around Donegal Bay to the southwest. By national standards, these houses were modest in their architectural ambition. Several incorporated an older fortified structure within the new design, such as the Bishop's Palace at Raphoe, where alterations were carried out around 1745, possibly to designs by Michael Priestley. Houses constructed early in the century were still built with some defensive features such as projecting corner flankers with gun loops for protection. Linsfort and Buncrana castle (fig. 17) castles, both on the western side of Inishowen, are good examples.



BUNCRANA CASTLE

The boldly-detailed scrolled pedimented cut stone doorcase and the sweeping flight of cut stone steps create an attractive central focus. An inscription to the doorcase indicates that it dates to 1718.



CASTLE BRIDGE
Buncrana Castle,
Buncrana
(1718)

An elegant six-arch bridge over the River Crana with cut waters and pedestrian refuges. It was probably built or rebuilt at the same time as Buncrana Castle. The bridge deck is aligned on an axis with the doorway to the house, adding to the rigid symmetry of the building and creating a suitably fine approach.



MOUNT TILLY
Main Street, Buncrana
(c. 1720)

A late nineteenth-century photograph showing a distinctive terrace of four gable-fronted buildings with curvilinear 'Dutch' gables. It was originally built as a barracks but was later in use as dwellings. It probably dates to the c. 1717 rebuilding of Buncrana by Sir John Vaughan of Buncrana Castle, although it could be earlier. Buildings of this form were common features of the early eighteenth-century streetscapes of Dublin but were surprising in a small rural town. The terrace was demolished c. 1930 and replaced by a bank.

Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive



(fig. 18)

WARDTOWN CASTLE
Ballymacaward, near
Ballyshannon
(1739-40)

A sophisticated country house notable for the unusual full-height bowed projections to the centre and to either end. Cut stone detailing is limited to the pronounced eaves cornice. It was originally built for General or Colonel Folliott in 1739-40, replacing an earlier house on the site. The identity of the architect is unknown. Maurice Craig, however, has suggested that it may have been built to designs by Sir Edward Lovett Pearce (d. 1733). Wardtown is too late for Lovett Pearce although the quality of the design suggests an architect of note.

The original castle at Buncrana, a small tower house, survives nearby. Wardtown Castle (fig. 18) was built around 1740 for General Folliott replacing the earlier Plantation house, part of which appears to have survived as an outbuilding. This remarkable new house, now in ruins, was built to a rigid symmetrical plan with late Baroque characteristics, incorporating projecting semi-circular bows across its frontage.

The majority of eighteenth-century houses were less extravagant and followed a simple Palladian design where both residence and associated farm buildings were integrated into an overall composition. Grounds were planted and landscapes manipulated in a manner that was informed by more fashionable estates

elsewhere. The Donegal houses have a slightly rustic quality and are built from local materials, usually rubble stone with a roughcast finish, slate roofs, provincial quality joinery and a minimum of cut stone detail. The building that best encapsulates this provincial Palladian model is Port Hall (fig. 19) near Lifford, built in 1746 to designs by Michael Priestley as a relatively modest second house for John Vaughan, also of Buncrana Castle. As its name suggests, the building serves as both a port and a hall. The front is a fashionable Palladian residence facing along a long tree-lined avenue. The rear of the building steps down to warehouses that originally served a small port on the River Foyle. Nearby at Carrigans, Dunmore House



(fig. 19)

PORT HALL

Porthall, near Lifford
(1746)

This small-scale Palladian country house is arguably the finest building of its type and date in Donegal. It is built to a symmetrical plan in a robust classical style with central pedimented breakfront having Diocletian window opening, Gibbsian surrounds to the openings and centring on a bold classical doorcase. It was built for John Vaughan as a convenient base for when the Grand Jury was in session at nearby Lifford.



PORT HALL

Port Hall is thought to have been built to designs by the Micheal Priestley, the architect responsible for Lifford Courthouse. Both buildings display the carved coat of arms of George II over the main doorways.



(fig. 20)
DUNMORE HOUSE
 Dunmore (ED Killea),
 Carrigans
 (1742 and c. 1820)

This handsome, if plain, country house is enlivened by the sandstone eaves cornice, quoins to the corners, and the Venetian window opening at first floor level. It was probably originally built by a John McClintock in 1742 and replaced an earlier house(s) to site dating to 1620. The fine Doric porch and the lower block to the right are nineteenth-century additions.



DUNMORE HOUSE

This Venetian window provides an attractive central focus at first floor level. Such motifs are a familiar feature of Irish Palladian architecture. Another typical Palladian feature, a tripartite doorcase, is hidden behind the nineteenth-century porch.

(fig. 20) dates from the same period and is another example of a replacement of an earlier Plantation house of 1620. The Hall (fig. 21) at Mountcharles is an example of a second house, built for the Marquis of Conyngham of



(fig. 21)

THE HALL

Hall Demesne, near
Mountcharles
(c. 1750)

This rather stark and austere mid-Georgian country house was originally built by the Conyngham family of Slane Castle, County Meath. It may date to around 1753, the year that William Conyngham became Baron Conyngham of Mountcharles. The form of this building is reminiscent of a contemporary Dublin townhouse with raised parapet obscuring the roof, window openings that diminish in scale towards the eaves in the classical fashion, and a central pedimented doorcase with lugged architraved surround, perhaps a later addition c. 1770. The Conynghams were one of the largest landowners in Donegal. By 1876 the family controlled four estates in the county amounting to over 122,300 acres.



(fig. 22)
FORT STEWART
 Killydonnell, near
 Ramelton
 (c. 1760 and c. 1823)

This substantial country house was built by a branch of the Stewart family. It replaced an earlier Plantation era fortified house and bawn erected by Sir William Stewart in 1619, the ruins of which survive to the north of the site. Sir William Stewart was one of the principal beneficiaries of the Plantation in this part of Donegal, and was responsible for the establishment of the nearby town of Ramelton.



FORT STEWART
 Killydonnell, near Ramelton
 (c. 1823)

Sir James Stewart commissioned the celebrated architect John Hargrave (c. 1788-1823) to design a Picturesque Italianate villa to replace Fort Stewart around 1823. This was never built but the Ionic porch to the front of Fort Stewart and the entrance hall with attractive vaulted ceiling are of early nineteenth-century appearance and may have been designed by Hargrave.

Slane Castle in County Meath as a base from which to administer his extensive Donegal estates. Larger and less accomplished examples of this robust regional style include buildings such as Fort Stewart (fig. 22) and the new block added at Brownhall (fig. 23) around 1770. Brownhall was home to a branch of the Hamilton family, once Scottish Plantation landlords of large parts of east Donegal and Tyrone. Several other houses from this period have not survived, like Castleforward, once a seat of the earls of Wicklow, or Ards House near Dunfanaghy, demolished in the 1960s. Impressive demesne lands and structures associated with the Ards estate still remain.

(fig. 23)

BROWNHALL

Brownhall Demesne,
near Ballintra
(c. 1770)

The rather austere and imposing block-like front elevation is enhanced by the ashlar eaves course and the bold ashlar quoins. It was originally built by John Hamilton (1735-1811) replacing an earlier house that now forms a wing to the later building. The building date is not known but it was probably built after 1755 when Hamilton inherited the estate. The porch was probably added in 1794 as part of alterations by the architect Robert Woodgate (d. 1805).



ARDS HOUSE

Ards Demesne, near
Creeslough
(c. 1750, c. 1830)

This was the seat of the Wray family until 1781 when the estate was purchased by Alexander Stewart. Stewart rebuilt the house c. 1830 to designs by John Hargrave. Hargrave appeared to have been the architect of choice for a number of branches of the important Stewart family in Donegal. The estate was sold to the Franciscans c. 1925 and the house demolished c. 1965.

*Courtesy of the
National Library of
Ireland*

ROCKHILL

Rockhill (Ballymacool),
near Letterkenny
(c. 1760, c. 1823, c.
1853)

This substantial house dates to at least three distinct periods. The rear of the building is an eighteenth-century house associated with the Chambers family who owned the estate since c. 1660. The property was later purchased by John Vandeleur Stewart who added a new block c. 1823, while a new entrance front with an attractive ashlar sandstone prostyle tetrastyle Doric porch was added c. 1853, to designs by John Robinson.



*Courtesy of the
National Library of
Ireland*



ROCKHILL

Rockhill (Ballymacool),
near Letterkenny
(c. 1853)

The interior is notable for the full-height top-lit hall with an arcade and balcony running around at first floor level.

*Courtesy of the Dept. of
Defence*

CULDAFF HOUSE

Culdaff
(1779 and c. 1926
and c. 1950)

Originally built for George Young in 1779. Robert Young first came to this area in 1640 as rector of Culdaff. The family remained in ownership of the estate until well into the twentieth century. It was extensively rebuilt after being burnt during the Civil War in 1922, and was later remodelled c. 1950 when the main block was removed and a former service wing converted for use as the main house.



*Courtesy of the
National Library of
Ireland*



WHITE CASTLE

Whitecastle, Quigley's
Point
(c. 1780)

An unusual late eighteenth-century house associated with the Cary family. The tripartite windows, canted entrance bay with lunette opening at attic level, and the bowed gables combine to make a particularly elegant design. The house was noted by the celebrated novelist Walter Scott in 1814 and it was later described along with nearby Castle Cary (now demolished) in Joyce Cary's 1938 novel *Castle Corner*.

(fig. 24)

KILDERRY HOUSE
Ardmore, Muff
(c. 1770 and c. 1830)

This quirky house was described as a 'straggling, amusing, intriguing, lady-like mansion' by a member of the Hart family in 1907, the owners of the estate since the eighteenth century. It was originally built for General George Vaughan Hart, a celebrated military figure who served with the British Army during the American War of Independence and subsequently in the West Indies and India.



(fig. 25)

SALTHILL HOUSE
Salthill Demesne, near
Mountcharles
(c. 1770)

This impressive structure was originally built as a land agent's house by the Conynghams of nearby The Hall. The gabled breakfront with an architraved doorcase provides an attractive central focus. It was probably originally built to designs by Thomas Ivory (1732-86), who designed a house called 'Seapoint or Salthill' for Henry Conyngham around 1770.

Other houses have survived in adapted form, such as Culdaff House, erected by George Young in 1779 but extensively rebuilt after being burnt in 1922, and Kilderry House (fig. 24), at Muff, built by George Vaughan Hart around 1770 and altered on at least one occasion during the first half of the nineteenth century.

Land agents were usually employed to manage and implement improvements to the larger estates. Examples of agents' residences are Salthill House (fig. 25), built around 1770 for the Marquis of Conyngham, and a more modest building at Termon, near Dungloe.



(fig. 26)
OAKFIELD HOUSE
Oakfield Demesne, Raphoe
(1739)

OLD ROYAL SCHOOL
Raphoe
(1737, altered c. 1800)

Originally established in 1608 as one of five schools founded in Ulster under a Royal Charter of King James I. The present building was rebuilt in 1737 by the Church of Ireland Bishop of Raphoe, Nicholas Forster. The wing to the east served as the diocesan library during the mid-eighteenth century. The top floor is a later addition c. 1800. Isaac Butt (1813-79), founder of the Home Rule movement, was educated here.



It was originally built as the deanery for the Church of Ireland Diocese of Raphoe at a cost of £1,680. Its style was slightly old fashioned for its construction date having the appearance of a house dating to the second half of the seventeenth century. The decorative detail is kept to a minimum with plain sandstone eaves course and an impressive pedimented Tuscan doorcase providing an effective central focus. The ranges of outbuildings are hidden behind quadrant screen walls to one side in a Palladian manner.



(fig. 27)

BOGAY HOUSE

Bogay Glebe, near Newtowncunningham
(c. 1730)

Bogay House is almost identical to Oakfield. Both are seventeenth century in character, square in plan with three hipped dormers over the centre bays (to the rear elevation at Bogay), and with overhanging eaves on a stone cornice. The canted porch is a later addition but reusing the original pedimented Tuscan doorcase.

Some Church of Ireland rectories from this period are comparable to dwellings built by the wealthiest secular landowners. Many glebes formed substantial estates, making the Church a viable profession for younger boys of landed families. The most important eighteenth-century rectories are Oakfield (*fig. 26*) and possibly Bogay (*fig. 27*); the former built in 1739 as the deanery of Raphoe

**TERMON AGENT'S
HOUSE**

An Tearmann, An
Clochan Liath
[Termon, near
Dungloe]
(c. 1775)

A modest almost
vernacular house
thought to have been
originally built for a
land agent of
Viscount Conyngham.
In the grounds are
high boundary walls
built from rolled sea-
washed stones as a
relief project during
the Great Famine in
1847.



**MAGHERACALLAGHAN
HOUSE**
Magheracallaghan, near
Castlefinn
(c. 1782)

The central pedimented
doorway with sidelights,
and with Venetian
window opening above,
is typical of many late
Palladian houses in
Ireland. This Palladian
arrangement is
slightly old fashioned
for a house of its date,
being more typical of
houses constructed c.
1750 to c. 1770.



(fig. 28)
 FANAD CHURCH OF
 IRELAND RECTORY
 Carrowkeel Glebe
 (1795)

This rectory is an example of the language of classical architecture stripped to its fundamental elements, which creates a fine dwelling in a subtle style. The three-bay two-storey form is typical of Board of First Fruits rectories dating from the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries. It is given architectural gravitas by the cut stone stringcourse over the first floor openings. Lewis (1837) records that it was built 'by aid of a loan of £100 from the late Board of First Fruits, in 1795'.

Cathedral. Rectories elsewhere are on a smaller scale; the examples at Fanad Glebe (*fig. 28*), Rosnakil Glebe and Killaghtee, while simple in character, are nevertheless buildings of some architectural quality.

Church building throughout the eighteenth century was mainly confined to the Church of Ireland. Under the Penal Laws, an annual tithe of ten per cent was levied on all agricultural produce to support its clergy and provide for the upkeep of its buildings. In addition, the Church also received grants and loans from the Board of First Fruits (1711-1833) for the construction and remodelling of church buildings. Church building usually required additional finance, often supplied by the more

prosperous landowners in a particular area. The names Hart, Knox, Vaughan, Young, Stewart and others appear among both gentry and clergy. Shared family connections may explain the comparatively large number of churches constructed in the county during the eighteenth century, as the landlords' investment in church buildings also consolidated their wider social position. After 1787, the government gave the Board an annual grant of £5,000, which led to a sharp increase in church building projects throughout the country.

Eighteenth-century Church of Ireland parish churches are usually modest in scale and architectural expression. Most are plain two or

(fig. 29)

**ST FINIAN'S CHURCH
OF IRELAND CHURCH**
Drumaweer,
Greencastle
(1781-2 and c. 1865)

A typical Board of First Fruits hall and tower type church originally built for Augustus Hervey, Earl Bishop of Derry. The plain exterior elevations are enlivened by the simple ashlar surrounds to the openings while the plain stringcourse and cut stone coping adds interest to the tower. It was extended, c. 1865, by Alexander Hardy, diocesan architect with the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, with the addition of the short chancel and vestry.



**DONAGH CHURCH
OF IRELAND CHURCH**
Donagh, Carndonagh
(1769 and 1812)

This simple hall-type church incorporates a doorway from an earlier medieval church. The vestry was added in 1812. It was the site of an important early ecclesiastical foundation associated with St Patrick dating to the sixth century.



three-bay halls with bellcote or attached tower, as seen at Muff, Carrigans or at Greencastle (fig. 29). A notable exception is St John's Church (fig. 30), Ballymore, a Palladian-inspired building with Gibbsian surrounds to the window openings, which is one of the finest ecclesiastical buildings in Donegal. Classical churches such as this were unusual; the majority followed the earlier Plantation era Gothic models. Other churches dating from the period now lie abandoned and unroofed. Some examples, like Clonmany or Linsfort, create appealingly romantic features in the landscape.



(fig. 30)
ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF IRELAND CHURCH
 Ballymore Lower, near Dunfanaghy
 (1752 and 1853)

This fine church was described by Alistair Rowan (1979) as the finest early Georgian church in north-west Ulster. Although basically a hall type church, it is elevated above its contemporaries by the side elevations and by the large Venetian window with heavy rusticated surround to the chancel gable. Further interest is added by the ashlar quoins and the classical bellcote. It was probably built to designs by Michael Priestley. Its elaborate form suggests the financial input of a local landowner, perhaps the Wray family of nearby Ards demesne.

DRUMHOME CHURCH OF IRELAND CHURCH
 Ballintra
 (1795, altered 1854-5)

This church is distinguished by the stocky tower with stepped parapets that is a feature of many buildings of its type and date in Ulster. The groups of three graded lancet window openings to the side elevations are the result of remodelling works by Joseph Welland in 1854-5, architect to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.



DRUMHOME CHURCH OF IRELAND CHURCH

The unusual interior is notable for the four oversized full-height Doric columns and by the galleries to three sides with Gothic detailing to the parapets. These were added as part of Welland's modifications.

CATSBY CAVE

Abbey Island, near
Ballyshannon
(c. 1700)

This secluded site is located adjacent to the ruins of Assaroe Abbey. It was reputedly in use as an outdoor mass rock site for worship during Penal times (c. 1695 to c 1750) when Catholics were forced to hold secret services in hidden locations as they were not permitted to worship (it was an offence punishable by death for a priest to celebrate mass).



While most of the churches were built for the Church of Ireland, buildings for other denominations were constructed as the Penal Laws were relaxed towards the end of the century. The Catholic Church was initially forced to celebrate mass at secluded sites such as seen at Cockhill, near Bunrana. Mass sites often made use of natural features of the landscape. Catsby, near Ballyshannon, is hidden in a hollow in a narrow glen. Pre-Christian sites were also used as mass rocks, such as a megalithic inscribed stone at Doagh Island.

A small number of Catholic chapels date from the last decades of the eighteenth century, such as Lagg, Massmount (*fig. 31*) and Glencross (*fig. 32*). These are plain, almost vernacular buildings that reflect the Penal restrictions and lack of resources available to

the Church. These chapels are located in relatively remote areas often associated with earlier outdoor worship during Penal times. Other late eighteenth-century Catholic chapels were superseded by larger, more sophisticated buildings during the second half of the nineteenth century.

The Presbyterian Church was also subject to Penal restrictions although it built a number of meetinghouses late in the eighteenth century, such as those at Malin and Alt. These buildings were originally similar to contemporary Catholic chapels, being plain roughcast rendered halls with pitched slate roofs, although both incorporate later embellishments: a classical pedimented front and Doric doorcase at Alt (*fig. 33*) and a horseshoe-shaped internal gallery at Malin.

(fig. 31)

**MASSMOUNT
CATHOLIC CHAPEL**
Rosnakill, Fanad
(c. 1780-5 or c.
1810)

This charming chapel, located on an isolated rock outcrop overlooking Mulroy Bay, is one of the earliest surviving pre-Emancipation churches in Donegal. Its name makes a direct connection with its setting, which was almost certainly used as a place of worship prior to the construction of the building. Its date is not known but this may be the church built at Rosnakill in 1785 by the Rev. Joseph Friel. It has a restrained and ordered design to the exterior with only the bellcote breakfront enlivening the main elevation.

*Courtesy of Dedalus
Architects*



(fig. 32)

**ST MARY'S
CATHOLIC CHAPEL**
Tír Leadáin
[Tirlaydan, Glencross]
(1792)

This T-plan chapel was originally built in 1792 by the Rev. D.J. McElwee. Its plain form sits well in this remote scenic moorland setting.

**LAGG CATHOLIC
CHAPEL**

Lag, near Malin Town
(1784 and c. 1860)

This evocatively sited building was apparently the first Catholic chapel to be erected in Inishowen after Penal times. Originally a simple hall type building, it was later extended to create its present T-plan form.



(fig. 33)

**ALT PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

Alt, Castlefinn
(c. 1780, 1834,
c. 1860)

Although largely rebuilt in 1834, this church apparently dates to the late-eighteenth century. The elaborate pedimented classical entrance front with Doric porch, Tuscan pilasters, and quirky bellcote in the form of an aedicule screens a plain hall to the rear.



**ALT PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**
(c. 1834)

Detail of the pattern book Doric porch with triglyph frieze and high pediment.





(fig. 34)

**LIFFORD
COURTHOUSE**

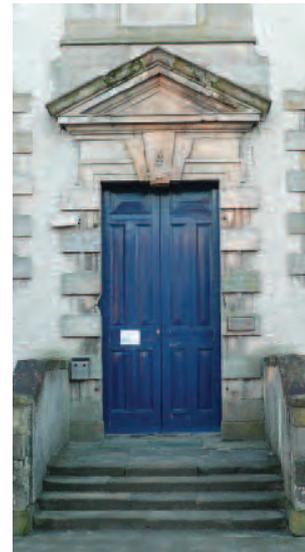
The Diamond, Lifford
(1746)

This is the most impressive public building in Donegal, and one of the finest buildings of its type and date in Ireland. It was built to designs by Michael Priestley, and the Gibbsian surrounds to the windows are a feature of his commissions in Donegal. Several individual Grand Jury members, for whom this building was constructed, were also patrons of the architect in a personal capacity.

LIFFORD COURTHOUSE

A plaque over the pedimented doorcase reads: 'This building was raised by the County of Donegal under the directions of Andrew Knox, Oliver McCausland, George Vaughan, Nathaniel Nesbitt, Francis Mansfield, trustees. Designed and executed by Michael Priestley A.D. 1746 Gilmore Fecit',

Public buildings were the responsibility of the Grand Jury during the eighteenth century. Few survive as many were replaced by later structures and subsequently demolished. An exception is the courthouse in Lifford (fig. 34).



(fig. 35)

**BALLYSHANNON
BARRACKS**

Main Street,
Ballyshannon
(1700, altered c.
1753-6 and c. 1765)

Although now altered, this former barracks retains an air of authority. Its steeply pitched roof, channelled doorcase with date plaque of 1700, plain stringcourse, and eaves cornice enhances its strong presence in the streetscape.



Considered one of the finest buildings of its type and date in Ulster, it was designed for the Grand Jury by Michael Priestley in 1746 to accommodate the assizes and administrative functions of the county. Another notable building is the former infantry barracks (fig. 35) in Ballyshannon, which dates to 1700 and is among the earliest surviving barracks in Ireland. It was presumably built to designs by Sir William Robinson or his successor as Surveyor General in Ireland, Thomas Burgh, both of whom served in the position in 1700. The barracks was apparently built at the sole expense of William ‘Speaker’ Conolly (1662-1729), a native of Ballyshannon who became the richest man in Ireland in the early-eighteenth century and built Castletown House, County Kildare.

Derry was still very much the regional capital and was the main port and trading centre throughout the century. However, towns

such as Ballyshannon, Pettigo, Donegal town, Ramelton and Raphoe also prospered and expanded, particularly during the last decades of the century. Many eighteenth-century town houses survive, especially in Ballyshannon and Ramelton. Large town houses were occupied by local merchants and professionals who represented a developing middle class with time for leisure. Malls were built at Ramelton and Ballyshannon, connecting the centre of the towns with the river and commercial quayside, and providing a place for the middle classes to promenade.

The road network in rural Ireland remained poorly developed until a massive expansion in the later decades of the century. Moll’s map of 1714 shows only two major routes across the county - one running west to east between Ballyshannon and Derry and a second running north-west to south-east from Dunfanaghy to Lifford, with the routes crossing at Raphoe.

**BALLYSHANNON
BARRACKS**

It was originally built to guard the strategically important crossing over the River Erne, which controlled the main route from Connacht into Donegal. This location witnessed military action on multiple occasions throughout the medieval and post medieval periods, including during the Nine Years War (1594-1603).

*Courtesy of the
National Library of
Ireland*



**BALLYSHANNON
(c. 1770)**

Painting by Thomas Roberts (1748-77). To the right-hand side of the bridge can be seen the substantial dwellings of the wealthy merchant and professional classes, the infantry barracks, and with St Anne's Church crowning the hill. Many of the buildings still remain although their scale appears to have been exaggerated for artistic effect.

*Courtesy of the
National Gallery of
Ireland*

CASTLE STREET
Ballyshannon
(c. 1790)

This altered example of a substantial late eighteenth-century townhouse is one of a number of such buildings in the town that date to this period. These houses were originally built by prosperous local merchants and professionals. The shopfront is a later addition, c. 1890.



VOLT HOUSE
Diamond, Raphoe
(c. 1732)

Originally built (or purchased for use) as a residence for the widows of deceased clergy by Bishop Nicholas Forster, Church of Ireland Bishop of Raphoe from 1716-43. Of particular note are the tooled ashlar limestone façade and the blocked architraved doorcase.

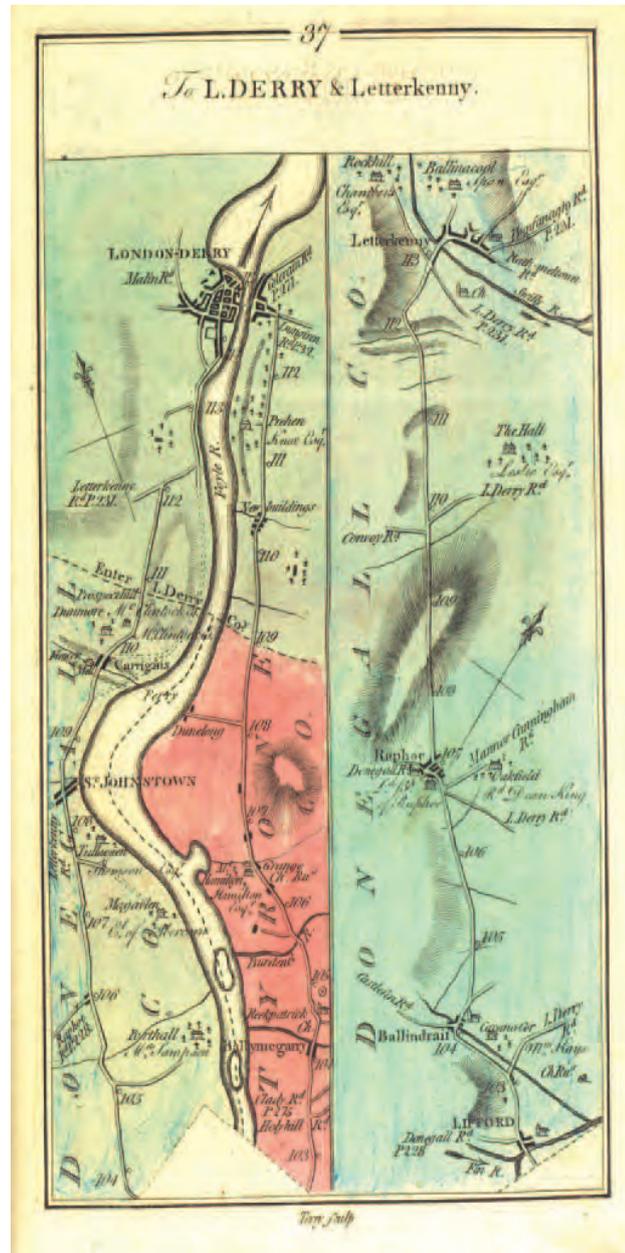
DONEGAL

Plate from Taylor and Skinner's *Maps of the Roads of Ireland (1777-83)* depicting the road along the River Foyle from Lifford to Derry and from Lifford to Letterkenny. This comprehensive set of maps, covering the entire country, record all of the significant roads and the landed estates that existed at the time.

Courtesy of www.askaboutireland.ie

The Grand Jury Act (1765) was a major impetus for construction as it offered financial assistance for the building of roads and bridges. Outside the towns, roads were usually built by landlords under the presentment system that was developed in the seventeenth century. Generally straight, except where skirting the edges of the landowner's estates, their primary purpose was to assist commercial interests through trade, industry and agricultural improvement.

The increased independence of the Irish Parliament, known as Grattan's Parliament (1780-1800), brought new optimism and economic prosperity. It sought to spend treasury surpluses rather than returning them to London, encouraging the development of towns and the transport network throughout the country. Most roads and bridges were built after 1775. Numerous impressive bridges survive in Donegal from this period. Notable are the multiple-arch bridges over the River Finn at Killygordon, Castlefinn and Liscooloy (fig.36), and the elegant bridges with single wide arches at Cloghan and at Lackagh (fig. 37). Many more modest bridges from this period are also still in daily use.





(fig. 36)
LISCOOLY BRIDGE
Liscooly
(1801)

The *Ordnance Survey Memoirs* of 1836 records that this bridge was 'built in the year 1801 at the expense of about £1,100 pounds, raised by Grand Jury assessment. It has five water arches and two land ones to increase the waterway in time of floods'. The wide segmental-headed arches, and thin piers with V-shaped cutwaters, demonstrate sophisticated engineering.



(fig. 37)
LACKAGH BRIDGE
Cashel/Drumlackagh
(c. 1755-6)

This bridge was built by William Wray of nearby Ards House and Thomas Smith who were granted £207 towards its construction by the Grand Jury. It is notable for the graceful single arch spanning the Lackagh River.



(fig. 38)

THE GREEN

Green Lane, Ramelton
(c. 1780)

Located adjacent to the former bleaching green, this terrace was originally in use as weavers' houses and sheds associated with the linen industry. It was later associated with Watt's salmon fishery. Although currently roofed with timber shingles, it was formerly thatched.

An Act passed by the English Parliament in 1699 preventing the export of woollen goods from Ireland had the unexpected effect of increasing the acreage of flax, which then resulted in a flourishing linen industry, particularly during the first half of the century. Arthur Young, in his *Tour of Ireland* published in 1780, recorded that linen manufacture was increasing in rural Donegal with the spinning of 'locally produced flax'. Although the rural linen industry went into decline towards the end of the century with production becoming more concentrated in urban centres, the *Ordnance Survey Memoirs* of the early 1830s

record nineteen flax mills in the parish of Taughboyne and eighteen in the parish of All Saints. Little survives of these industrial landscapes today apart from a small number of ruined mills. An important exception is at Ramelton where a bleach green and numerous associated structures, including watchmen's huts, former iodine works, weavers' cottages (fig. 38), mill races and weirs, survive. In the nineteenth century, the site at Ramelton was added to by a flour mill, salmon fishery, spinning mill and tannery. This interesting accumulation of features highlights its rich industrial heritage.

THE GREEN
Drummonaghan,
Ramelton
(c. 1830)

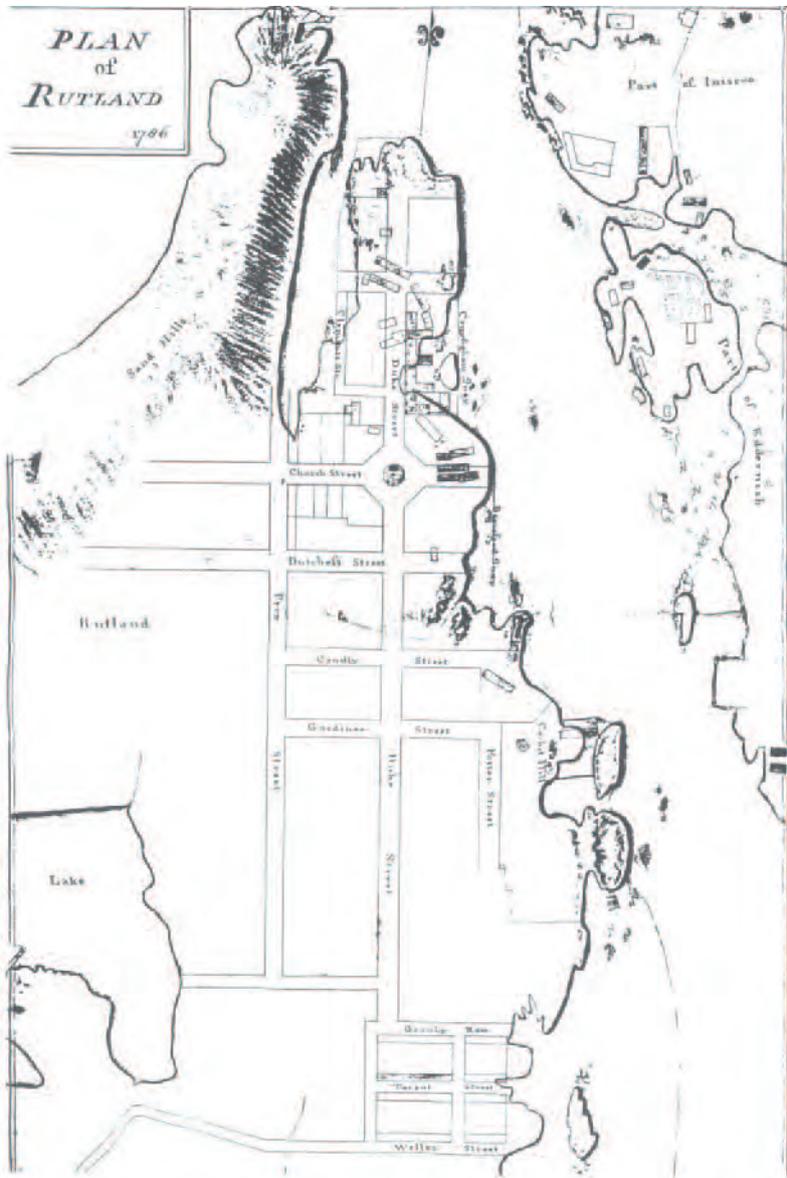
This well-proportioned house was originally built by the leading linen bleacher in Donegal, James Watt. It was built on the site of a former bleach mill and iodine works.



Another significant site is the industrial complex and new town developed at Inish Mhic an Doirn, renamed Rutland Island by the then landlord William Burton Conyngham, in the Rosses area in the west of the county. This was an industrial-scale project designed to harvest the herring stocks for which Donegal had been famous throughout Europe since medieval times. It is an extremely rare example in Ireland of eighteenth-century planned settlement specifically developed to take advantage of a natural resource. By 1786, the settlement, built initially with input from the Cork architect Michael Shanahan, comprised a 'regular and beautiful town ... with convenient quays, stores salt works etc. and near twenty houses'. By 1798, there was also a custom

house, revenue barracks, rope works, forge, cooperage, inn, post office, several stores and a curing house recorded on the island. Sadly, the fish stocks disappeared through over-fishing and other factors (failing entirely in 1793) and buildings that once rose to three storeys in height were eventually abandoned and covered by sand dunes.

The end of the eighteenth century was characterised by increased agrarian and political unrest, particularly when agricultural prices became depressed. The 1798 Rebellion, inspired by the ideals of the American and French Revolutions, saw French forces attempt to invade Ireland through Donegal, with an expedition led by Wolfe Tone attempting to land at Knockalla on Lough Swilly.

**RUTLAND ISLAND**

Inish Mhic an Doirn, Ailt an Chorráin
[Rutland Island, off
Burtonport]
(1784-8)

This map, dated 1786, shows the Conyngham family's ambitious plans to develop a large-scale fishery and a new town on Rutland Island. It depicts a regular street system with industrial buildings to the north and residential streets to the south. The presence of a 'Church Street' suggests the intention to construct a church. After an initial period of success, the enterprise declined in the 1790s with the disappearance of the fish stocks, and was eventually largely abandoned. Many of the buildings still survive, albeit in a ruinous state.

'Plan of Rutland 1786' from the Montgomery family papers (after Trench 1985).

Reproduced by permission of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland

The Nineteenth Century

(fig. 39)
**MALIN BEG SIGNAL
TOWER**
Málainn Bhig
[Malin Beg]
(c. 1805)

This Napoleonic-era signal tower occupies a dramatic coastal location. Eighty-one such towers were constructed along the coastline between 1804 and 1806 to warn of a potential French invasion. Signals were transmitted from tower to tower using ball and flag methods. This example cost £696 to build and its construction was overseen by Major-General Sir Charles Ross.



The nineteenth century was a period of rapid social and political change. The autonomy of the Dublin parliament was undone by the Act of Union, which came into effect in 1801. Britain, anxious to avoid a repeat of the 1798 Rebellion, and seeking to strengthen its political hold on the island, unintentionally introduced what would become a century of unrest, with agrarian tensions and an increased police and military presence. Social changes, most notably Catholic Emancipation in 1829, brought about a new era of church and school building, while the catastrophic effects of the Great Famine (1845-51) changed the social and demographic profile of Ireland forever.

The prosperity established during the second half of the eighteenth century continued into the early-nineteenth century. The rural economy benefited during the Napoleonic Wars (1803-15) as Ireland exported considerable agricultural produce to support Britain's war effort. A number of major new country houses were constructed, while others were rebuilt and extended. Trade in agricultural produce increased, the market towns of Letterkenny and Ballybofey expanded and small commercial ports, particularly at Ballyshannon and Ramelton, were extended. By the middle of the century, Moville had become the largest emigration port in the north-west, with ships travelling to Britain, North America and further afield.



(fig. 40)
GREENCASLE FORT
 Greencastle
 (1812-3)

Greencastle has long been identified as a strategic location as it controlled the entrance to Lough Foyle and the approach to the City of Derry. It is similar in plan to those on Inch Island and Knockalla with an ovoid tower guarding one angle, radiating curtain walls defended by musket loops, and with traversing gun platforms located adjacent to the coast. There was originally a barrack yard to the upper level with accommodation for three officers and fifty-four men.

*Courtesy of the
 National Library of
 Ireland*

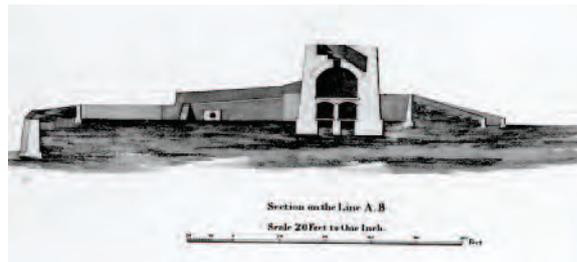
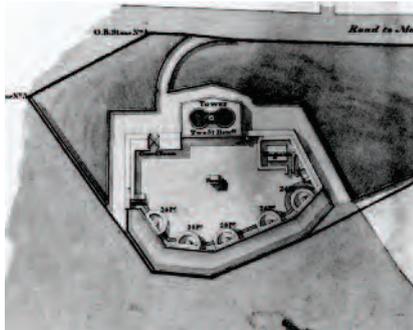
Following the establishment of the railways during the mid-to-late nineteenth century, the towns of Bunrana and Bundoran became thriving seaside resorts. Improvements to the transport network also encouraged the growth of towns where merchants opened new premises. Greater economic activity required commercial and civic institutions such as banks, market houses, commercial hotels, and warehouses around the quaysides of the ports. Consolidation of the political system also required courthouses, RIC barracks, workhouses, hospitals and schools. The growing middle class built new shops and houses, frequently living over the business. Detached houses and villas were built on the outskirts of towns such as at Bunrana and

Moville, while new terraces of elegant dwellings were also built at Bunrana and Bundoran. Classically-inspired Georgian buildings gave way to more asymmetrical structures with gabled bays and roofs, and an increasing emphasis on exterior detailing.

In response to the threat of French invasion, during the Napoleonic Wars, a network of artillery forts and signal towers was established to defend and keep watch over the coastline. In Donegal, twelve signal stations were built between 1804 and 1806 as part of a nationwide programme. These were eventually abandoned after the threat of invasion diminished following the defeat of the French at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, although good examples still survive at Malin Head, Slieve League and

RATHMULLAN BATTERY
Rathmullan
(1812-3)

This is one of six coastal batteries and Martello towers that were established along Lough Swilly. They were designed to work in pairs; this site was paired with the fortification at Inch Island to the east with the forts defending the channel between. In 1809 the Ordnance Office approved estimates of £4,918 for the construction of the fortification at Rathmullan and work started in 1812.



RATHMULLAN BATTERY

This plan and cross section of the fortification dates to 1851. The fortification consisted of a battery with five 24-pounders set on a D-shaped traversing platform adjacent to the coast protected by an austere two-storey barrack building located inland with two 5.5-inch howitzers on the roof. To either side of the barrack is a guardroom and a sunken magazine while at the centre is a 'forge' where shot was made.

Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive



MACAMISH FORT

Salt pans, near Rathmullan
(1812-3)

This coastal fortification occupies a long, narrow, finger-like peninsula jutting out into Lough Swilly. It consisted of a three-storey Martello tower with two 24-pounders on the roof and a battery with three 24-pounder guns located at the tip of the peninsula. Construction started in 1812 under the supervision of Captain Cardew with Edward Edgar as the contractor.

Malin Beg (*fig. 39*). To guard possible landing points, more elaborate defences were necessary. Natural deep water harbours at Lough Swilly and Lough Foyle were especially vulnerable as they provided good anchorages and controlled access to the regional capital at Derry. The mouth of Lough Swilly was protected by Martello forts at Dunree and Knockalla and the deep water haven by two further pairs of artillery batteries. At the entrance to Lough Foyle, the massive Greencastle fort (*fig. 40*)

was paired with a Martello tower at Magilligan on the east shore.

Industrial development was almost exclusively connected to agriculture, processing food or textiles. At the start of the century there were several hundred milling sites in Donegal, the majority for the threshing of grain or 'scotching' of flax. Mills with surviving machinery can be found at Pettigo, where the mill was associated with the Leslie family, Correggan near Dunfanaghy, which

(fig. 41)

NEWMILLS CORNMILL

Milltown, near Letterkenny
(c. 1800)

This corn mill was recently restored and is now open to the public. It originally dates to the late-eighteenth century or to the very early nineteenth-century, a boom period for the Irish corn milling industry. Originally founded by a Joseph Hunter, it occupies the site of an earlier mill that was in existence by 1683. There is also a restored flax mill to site; the combination of a corn and flax mill on the same site is a phenomena found mainly in Ulster.

*Courtesy of the Photographic Unit
DAHG*



(fig. 42)

NEWMILLS CORNMILL

Milltown, near Letterkenny
(1907)

A twenty-five foot breastshot waterwheel manufactured at J. Stevenson's Foundry at Strabane, County Tyrone, in 1867, and installed at Newmills around 1907. It is one of the few working waterwheels still extant in Ireland. It is powered by an elevated headrace.

*Courtesy of the Photographic Unit
DAHG*





was associated with the Stewarts, and at New Mills (*figs. 41-3*) near Letterkenny. There were other major milling sites at Donegal town, Ramelton and Ballintra, all of which survive but in a dilapidated condition.

(*fig. 43*)
NEWMILLS CORNMILL
Milltown, near
Letterkenny
(1907)

Much of the machinery survives to the interior. This was upgraded around 1907 and includes mill stones, sieves, bucket elevator, fans and a sack hoist.

CORRCREGGAN MILL
Corcreggan,
Dunfanaghy
(1789)

A former corn mill originally established by the Stewart family of Ards House in 1789. The family controlled vast estates in the area at the time of construction and throughout the nineteenth century. According to local sources, the mill continued in use until 1965.



COXTOWN MILLS
Urbalshinny, near
Ballintra
(c. 1810)

The derelict remains of a large-scale flour mill established by the Hamilton family of Coxtown. It was one of the very few flour mills built in Donegal. Flour mills are usually on a larger scale than other mills due to the need for huge storage areas for meal, corn and flour. Redundant by the early years of the twentieth century and was indicated as 'roofless' on the 1907 Ordnance Survey map.



(fig. 44)
**SNODGRASS'
 WINDMILL**
 Croghan Hill,
 Ballindrait
 (1874)

Impressive six-stage former windmill built by a Charles Robinson. It is apparently built to a southern French design and is thought to be unique to Ireland. It is one of the largest examples of a windmill in the country. Surprisingly, there were very few windmills in Donegal, and an 1840 inventory of windmills in Ireland only records three in the county at the time.

(fig. 45)
**SNODGRASS'
 WINDMILL**

An early photograph of the windmill indicates that it originally had a rotating timber sail mechanism with six timber and canvas sails and a smaller rotating stabilising mechanism. The sail mechanism was rotated using ropes that reached down to a timber gantry. The mill apparently went out of use in 1932 and, according to local information, the timber sail mechanism was destroyed in a storm in the 1950s.

Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive

Located on a hill overlooking the village of Ballindrait is the remains of a late nineteenth-century windmill (*figs. 44-5*). Distillation was also a major enterprise. The former distillery at Bohullion, near Burt, is the best surviving example, with its tall rubble stone chimneystack a distinguishing feature of some appeal.





(fig. 46)
THE QUAY
Ramelton
(c. 1860)

This fine group of mid nineteenth-century warehouses dominates the north-east end of the quayside at Ramelton. One of the buildings has a date stone marked '1864'. Their size provides an insight into the scale of trade at the port at the time of construction.

Also of note is the survival of a number of substantial mid nineteenth-century warehouses that line the quayside at Ramelton (fig. 46).

Following the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815, an inevitable depression resulted from the sharp decline in the demand for Irish produce. This depression was compounded by a collapse in the rural linen industry in the 1820s following large-scale mechanisation and the migration of the industry to rapidly expanding urban centres close to Belfast and in Britain.

In 1867, after the repeal of the Wool Act (under which wool was taxed), sheep farming was reintroduced by improving landlords. Woollen mills were established in the west of the county at Bunbeg, Glenties and Donegal town. The largest, at Convoy (fig. 47), was





(fig. 47)
CONVOY WOOLLEN MILLS
 Milltown, Convooy
 (1883, extended 1905, and 1911-2)

Slater's Directory of 1894 records that this mill gave employment to over a hundred persons, produced mainly tweeds, friezes, blankets, 'ladies costume materials', and shawls, and operated twenty looms and a thousand spindles. Of particular note is the soaring red brick Italianate tower, the form of which is similar to those found in numerous contemporary mills in the north of England. The Irish military one of the major customers, and were supplied with over forty-five thousand yards of serge for uniforms in 1927-8 alone.

established in 1883 and specialised in the production of tweeds, friezes and blankets. The manufacture of lace, embroidery and knitting, were traditionally undertaken as cottage industries. While the encouragement of artisan workers was part of a wider social agenda, their produce became increasingly fashionable with the Arts and Crafts movement in the late-nineteenth century. Products made in Donegal soon could be found for sale in shops such as Liberty in London. Donegal Carpets, founded in Killybegs in 1898, produced work that became world famous, with examples found in significant buildings such as Buckingham

Palace, the Vatican and the White House, as well as in many important Irish buildings.

Increasing discontent, aggravated by the depression of the 1820s, led to the passing of the Royal Irish Constabulary Act in 1822 and the founding of a full-time police force. A nationwide building programme followed, establishing barracks in most towns. Typical barracks are found at Lifford, Falcarragh and Glenties. New courthouses were also erected. Notable examples are the neoclassical courthouse in Letterkenny (1829), designed by John Hargrave, and buildings at Bunrana and Donegal town. In common with most official

DONEGAL CARPETS

Killybegs
(1898)

This factory was founded by the Scottish textile manufacturer Alexander Morton (1844-1923). The crow-stepped parapet is vaguely Scottish Baronial in style, perhaps a reference to Morton's Scottish roots. The factory produced hand-woven carpets in a 'Turkish' style, and the work was world famous during the first decades of the twentieth century. A hand-knotting loom survives that is apparently the largest and longest (forty-two feet wide) in the world.



DONEGAL TOWN COURTHOUSE

Tyrconnell Street,
Donegal Town
(1833 and 1891)

This courthouse was built at a cost of £800 and originally had a bridewell at basement level. It is distinguished by the cut stone detailing, particularly to the porch (added in 1891). The subdued classical detailing, and its prominent location in the streetscape, lend an air of authority that befits such an important civic building.



(fig. 48)
GLENTIES COURTHOUSE
 Glenties
 (1841-3)

buildings after the mid-nineteenth century, courthouses often followed a standard layout. Glenties courthouse (*fig. 48*), attributed to William Caldbeck, is a particularly fine example.

The Coastguard Service was established in Ireland in 1822. Its primary purpose, other than assisting ships in distress, was to prevent the evasion of customs levies. The Coastguard Service later passed into the control of the

Admiralty in 1859, which initiated a large-scale programme for the building of coastguard stations. These were generally built to standard designs. Enoch Trevor Owen, an English architect working for the Board of Works from about 1860, designed upwards of thirty coastguard stations in Ireland, including nine in Donegal. Good examples can be seen at Killybegs (*fig. 49*), Rathmullan, Greencastle and Moville.

This fine courthouse is attributed to William Caldbeck (c. 1824-72), a Dublin architect who designed a number of similar courthouses throughout Ulster. The advanced breakfronts with entrances to either end, the round-headed window openings in round-headed recesses, the symmetry and the ashlar stonework create a stylish classical composition.

(fig. 49)
**KILLYBEGS
COASTGUARD
STATION**
Killybegs
(1876)

This impressive former coastguard station was built as part of a nationwide building programme that used standardised plans adapted for a particular site. The two-storey block to the right was built as boatman's houses while the three-storey tower was the chief coastguard master's house with a viewing room to the top floor. It is distinguished by the high quality stone surrounds to the openings and the distinctive brackets to the eaves.



**MOVILLE
COASTGUARD
STATION**
Moville
(1868-9 and 1874-5)

These two terraces were formerly in use as a coastguard station; both were designed by Enoch Trevor Owen (c. 1833-81). The block to the right was built in 1868-9 while the block in the foreground is a later addition, built 1874-5.





The classical model for substantial houses remained popular in Donegal during the first half of the nineteenth century, a decade or two later than elsewhere. Good examples can be seen at Portnason, Ballyshannon, Edenmore (*fig. 50*), and at Rockfield near Stranorlar. Modest rectories, manses and farmhouses, often of a pattern-book variety, continued to follow this conservative model. As a response to an increasingly urban society, many gentlemen built rural retreats for pleasure rather than for productive purposes, selecting dramatic natural settings. The coastline at Moville on the western shore of Lough Foyle, made more easily accessible by the regular steam ferries from Derry, was developed as a commercial venture by Samuel Montgomery.

Like the designed landscapes of large estates, relatively modest villas were sited to take advantage of the vast seascape of Lough Foyle. Among the best examples are Gortgowan, Carnagarve House, Ravenscliff (*fig. 51*), Glenburnie, and St Columb's (*fig. 52*). Similar houses were built around Lough Swilly and Donegal Bay, where bathing villas benefited from views of the Dartry Mountains and the cliffs at Slieve League respectively. St Ernan's (*fig. 53*), built on an island in Donegal Bay, is the most striking. Occasionally dwellings were built in isolated situations, away from transport connections. Dunlewey House was designed to take full advantage of the spectacular setting below Errigal Mountain, next to Dunlewey Lough.

(*fig. 50*)
EDENMORE HOUSE
 Edenmore (Gleneely),
 Stranorlar
 (c. 1800)

The canted projection to the centre and the flanking canted pavilions to either side create an elegant symmetrical composition. A full-height canted projection is a feature of a number of contemporary middle-sized houses in this part of Donegal. Other examples can be seen at nearby Killygordon and Summer Hill.



PORTNASON HOUSE

Portnason,
Ballyshannon
(c.1820; altered c.
1870)

A well-proportioned late Georgian gentleman's seat with central entrance, window openings reducing in scale in the classical manner, and shallow hipped roof with paired central chimneystacks. It was later altered with the addition of the elaborate porch and the stucco detailing. It is one of a number of such houses in the Ballyshannon area dating to the period when the town was a prosperous regional market centre with a thriving port.

(fig. 51)

RAVENSCLIFF

Ballynally, Moville
(c. 1834, altered c.
1865)

This eclectic house is one of a number of villas and houses that were constructed along the Lough Foyle coastline near Moville. The central breakfront and porch with Tudoresque detailing creates a composition of some picturesque appeal while the render detailing and bargeboards add decorative interest. Bishop Henry Montgomery in his *History of Moville and its Neighbourhood* suggests that Ravenscliff was built c. 1834 and 'before 1835 a Mr Colhoun resided there'.



(fig. 52)
ST COLUMB'S
 Moville
 (1865)

This charming building dates to the period when Moville became a fashionable seaside resort with daily steam boats arriving from Derry and Portrush during the summer months. The *Dublin Builder* of 1865 records that it is 'a commodious English villa on a picturesque site overlooking Lough Foyle, [built] for Misses Montgomery'. It was built to designs by the Derry architect John Guy Ferguson (d. 1901).



GLENBURNIE HOUSE
 Ballybrack
 (c. 1855 and c. 1880)

An eclectic Victorian seaside villa with canted bay windows and central Italianate tower. It was rebuilt for Bartholomew McCorkell, a mercantile businessman. He apparently reconstructed the house to watch shipping passing along the adjacent Lough Foyle.

(fig. 53)

ST ERNAN'S

St Ernan's Island,
Donegal Town
(1824-6, altered c.
1900)

Spectacularly sited house set on a picturesque wooded island in Donegal Bay. It is distinguished by the veranda to the front supported on cast-iron columns. It was built by John Hamilton (1800-84) of Brownhall as a summer retreat, later becoming his preferred residence. It was later in the ownership of Henry Stubbs who carried out alterations around the turn of the twentieth century.



Several large estates were also redeveloped and embellished during the nineteenth century such as Convoy House and Lough Eske Castle (fig. 54), both dating from the seventeenth century. Lough Eske Castle was rebuilt in a romantic Elizabethan style by Fitzgibbon Louch, with other estate improvements, including the construction of a number of estate cottages and a church, in complementary romantic styles.



ST ERNAN'S
St Ernan's Island,
Donegal Town
(c. 1860)

The island is connected to the mainland by a later causeway. A stone plaque records that it was built 'without recompense' by Hamilton's tenants, 'both Catholic and Protestant', in gratitude for his philanthropy during the Great Famine.

(fig. 54)

LOUGH ESKE CASTLE
Lougheask Demesne,
Donegal Town
(1859-61, extended
1914)

This rambling Elizabethan style country house, with its dramatic roofline of Tudoresque chimneystacks, turrets, and crenellated parapets, was built to designs by Fitzgibbon Louch (1826-1911) for Thomas Brooke. It replaced and possibly incorporates an earlier house.



THE LAKE LODGE
Lough Eske Castle,
Lougheask Demesne,
Donegal Town
(c. 1860)

This picturesque High Victorian gate lodge doubles as a boat house. Decorative interest is added by the ridge tiles, timber bargeboards with pendulous finials, and the pointed-arched windows with intersecting glazing bars.



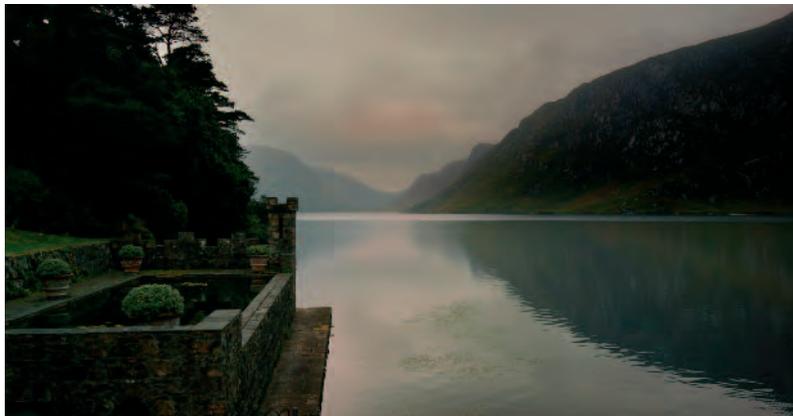
Glenveagh Castle (*fig. 55*), built for the Irish-American property tycoon John George Adair, is attributed to his cousin, John Townsend Trench. Glenveagh is unusual in Donegal; instead of being established as a Plantation house in the seventeenth century, the estate was assembled in the period 1857-9. Adair purchased separate parcels of land with the intention of establishing a hunting estate along the lines of Balmoral Castle, recently completed for Queen Victoria in the Scottish Highlands. Adair is infamous for the Glenveagh evictions whereby his tenants were forcibly removed to take back the land for hunting and sheep farming. Another notorious landlord of the time was the third earl of Leitrim who, in



(fig. 55)
GLENVEAGH CASTLE
Glenveagh National
Park
(1867-73)

Its principal feature is a four-storey tower house-like 'keep' with stepped Irish battlements with adjoining two-storey blocks and a circular tower. It was built for the Irish-American property tycoon John George Adair to designs by his cousin John Townsend Trench (1834-1909). Adair was never to fulfil his dream of creating a hunting estate in the highlands of Donegal, dying suddenly in 1885 on return from a business trip to America.

*Courtesy of the
Photographic Unit
DAHG*



GLENVEAGH CASTLE

View along Lough
Beagh from the
outdoor swimming
pool at the shoreline.

(fig. 56)

MULROY HOUSE

Rawros, near Carrickart
(1865-6, extended c.
1885)

This rambling Elizabethan style house was originally built as a relatively modest house for the third earl of Leitrim, William Sydney Clements (1806-78), as a base to administer his estates in Donegal. It was greatly extended for the fourth earl around 1885, possibly to designs by Sir Thomas Drew who had connections with the family. The different blocks and the varied roofline create a composition that gives the impression that it was built in numerous stages over a long period of time.



MULROY HOUSE

An Charraig, Carraig Airt
[Carrick (Cranford), near
Carrickart]
(c. 1885)

A gate lodge built to serve the southern entrance to Mulroy House by the fourth earl of Leitrim. The steeply-pitched gables, irregular form and detailing create a picturesque composition that complements the architecture of Mulroy House itself.



1865-6, constructed Mulroy House (*fig. 56*), near Carrickart, to designs by George Wilkinson, an architect best known for the design of workhouses. Later the fourth earl greatly extended Mulroy House in about 1885, and added numerous well-designed estate buildings and a gate lodge along a new approach avenue to the house. The nearby town of Carrickart was also redeveloped by the Leitrim during the last decades of the century. This project included the construction of a new English medieval style church (*fig. 57*) on the site of an earlier church built in 1695.

(fig. 57)
**HOLY TRINITY
CHURCH OF IRELAND
CHURCH**
Carraig Airt
Carrickart
(1895-1902)

This fine church was built in a robust Early English Gothic style to designs by Sir Thomas Drew (1838-1910). Funds towards its construction were provided by the fifth earl of Leitrim as a memorial for the fourth earl (d. 1892). It is distinguished by the soaring belltower, added in 1902 using funds donated by James Hay, an Irish-American businessman with family roots in the area.



The vast majority of people in Donegal lived in significantly more modest vernacular dwellings. The term ‘vernacular’ refers to buildings that are not formally designed but follow a traditional pattern using building skills and materials locally available. Over time, traditions evolved responding to the availability of material. These structures were typically single-storey, with no more than two or three rooms. They are generally built into the landscape to avail of natural shelter and aligned away from the wind. In Donegal, vernacular houses are built to the direct-entry plan with central doorway, chimneystacks to the gable ends, sometimes with a bed outshot to the rear, and with pitched thatched roofs.

Rope or scallop thatching are the two main types of roofing. The first is most associated with exposed coastal areas in the north and west of the county, the latter with the more affluent and sheltered areas to the east. Rope thatched buildings are easily identified by the stone, timber or iron pegs at eaves level that were used to secure the straw súgán ropes. Over time, newer materials were used, including nets or wire, to tie the thatch down. Scallop thatching involved securing the thatch with timber rods fixed by bent willow pins. Common thatching materials in Donegal included reed, flax, straw, marram grass or rushes laid over a structure of bog timber and a peat or grass turf (scraw) underlay.

CLARAGH

Claragh, near Ramelton
(c. 1880)

Unusual late Victorian house with extensive red brick detailing, prominent Tudoresque chimneystacks, and a distinctive wide window over the doorway. It replaced an earlier Plantation era house that survives to site.



TOPS
Raphoe
(1852)

Typical mid nineteenth-century house that is enlivened by the stucco detailing and the intricate cast-iron porch. It was built by a branch of the Wilson family who were responsible for a number of buildings at nearby Raphoe and the surrounding area.

BALLYMAGARAGHY
Near Carrowmenagh
(c. 1800)

This elongated thatched house is one of a number still surviving at the clachan at Ballymagaraghy to the north-east end of the Inishowen Peninsula. The position of the chimneystacks indicates that it was extended along its length at some stage, a feature of many vernacular houses in Donegal.



MEENAGORY
Near Buncrana
(c. 1820)

This archetypal vernacular thatched house is notable for its sloping site. The location of the chimneystacks indicates that it is of the direct-entry plan that is typical of the vernacular architecture of the region.

CALHAME

Near Dunkineely
(c. 1860)

A vernacular house being re-thatched near Dunkineely. The rounded roof is a typical feature of thatched houses located in exposed areas in the north-west of Ireland. The pegs to the eaves are used to tie ropes over the roof to secure it against the prevailing winds.



DRUMGORMAN

Near Mountcharles
(c. 1800)

This particular vernacular building is notable for the attached outbuilding that is contained under the same roof as the dwelling. The house may be of considerable antiquity as a development of the 'long-house' or 'byre-dwelling' common during the eighteenth century.



**TEACH MHCÍ MAC
GABHANN**

Doire Chonaire
[Derryconor]
(c. 1860)

This recently renovated mid-to-late nineteenth-century house near Magheraroraty is notable for the varied roofline and attached extension and outbuilding. The roof to the extension to the left side is covered with Roshine slate.

*Courtesy of Joseph
Gallagher and Greg
Stevenson*



TEACH MHCÍ MAC GABHANN

Bed outshots are found on many vernacular dwellings in Donegal. They were constructed to accommodate a bed next to the hearth without interfering with the day-to-day life in the kitchen.

Courtesy of Joseph Gallagher and Greg Stevenson



**TEACH MHCÍ MAC
GABHANN**

Interior view of bed
outshot.

MAGHERAMENAGH
Near Dunfanaghy
(c. 1860)

Vernacular house with a graded Roshine slate roof, a type of locally quarried schist stone commonly used as a roofing material on vernacular structures in the Dunfanaghy area. Its uneven thick hand-cut forms create particularly attractive roofs.



MAGHERAMENAGH

The house is nestled into the hilly landscape and is surrounded by shelter planting.

*Courtesy of Joseph
Gallagher and Greg
Stevenson*





CONWAYS BAR
Market Square,
Ramelton
(c. 1820)

Thatched roofs were common in towns and villages in Donegal until recently but are now rare survivals. Other thatched public houses can be seen at Ballyshannon and Convooy. They make for particularly attractive additions to the streetscape.

Split schist stone (Roshine slate) was also used to make roofing slates. Heavy stone slate roofs are a common feature in the north-west of the county, particularly around Dunfanaghy. Newer types of roofing introduced in the mid-nineteenth century included distinctive barrel-shaped roofs finished with felt made from canvas coated in tar. These were common in the coastal areas of Inishowen where boat building materials were readily available. Many buildings from the later nineteenth century onwards used sawn timber and imported slates. Roofs of vernacular buildings on the islands off

west Donegal were often finished this way because of their particularly exposed positions, and possibly due to the additional financial resources available from the fishing industry.

Groups of vernacular buildings usually followed a pattern that reflected the common farming practice of the locality. By the time of the Famine, farming in many areas was still carried out in a manner not much changed since the medieval period. The open field system of farming, also known as rundale, had largely disappeared in Europe through agricultural improvement but was still

common in Donegal. Here people lived in closely grouped settlements of houses, with enclosed gardens around the buildings, commonly referred to as clachans. The highest concentration of these was in areas of excellent agricultural land around the Swilly and the Foyle planted by Scottish settlers in the seventeenth century. These were also the areas where fields were enclosed and modern intensive farming methods were adopted earliest. Many settlements were absorbed into single larger farms in the course of the nineteenth century. Today, clachans are more associated with peripheral parts of the county where the rundale system continued to be practised into the twentieth century. Examples can be seen at Ballymagaraghy and at Lenan in north Inishowen, and at Beltany or at Glentornan, near Errigal in the west of the county.

In areas of poor farming land, upland hillsides were used for grazing in the summer months and the distance from the home place necessitated that part of the family would live on the hillside for some of the year. This practice, also common in mountainous regions of Europe, is known as transhumance. Temporary shelters, referred to today as booley huts, were built from boulders, bog timber, willow, turf, bracken and heather. Today, there are the vestigial remains of booley settlements with multiple buildings at Malin Beg near Glencolumbkille, and at Tor near Glenveagh.

By the mid-nineteenth century, expanding population has resulted in increasing rural poverty and migration. In response, the Poor Law Union system was established in 1838 instigating a nationwide programme of public works, including the construction of union



workhouses, built to standardised plans in a Tudor Gothic Revival style to designs by George Wilkinson. Seven were built in Donegal, of which Ballyshannon is the best surviving complex, albeit in a dilapidated condition. Examples of workhouse administration blocks can be found at Letterkenny (*fig. 58*), Donegal town and Dunfanaghy. The construction of workhouses was substantial but their neat minimalist Tudoresque stonework exteriors concealed poor living conditions inside. This became an acute problem during the catastrophic Great Famine (1845-51) when workhouses were filled well beyond capacity. Wilkinson also designed the District Lunatic Asylum in Letterkenny, built in 1866 to house 300 patients. Another large-scale institution constructed in this period was the privately-funded Sheil Hospital in Ballyshannon, built in 1894, to designs by W.H. Byrne.

(*fig. 58*)
LETTERKENNY UNION
WORKHOUSE
Donegal County
Museum
High Road, Letterkenny
(1842-4)

This former workhouse administration block was built in the usual minimalist Tudoresque style designs by George Wilkinson (1814-90), architect to the Poor Law Commissioners in Ireland (1839-55). The Letterkenny workhouse was originally designed to accommodate 500 inmates, at a cost of £6,450 for the building and £1,475 for the fittings.



**ST CONAL'S
PSYCHIATRIC
HOSPITAL**

New Road, Letterkenny
(1902-4)

This impressive and well-proportioned building was built as new male and female wings for the existing Letterkenny District Lunatic Asylum. It was built to designs by the Derry architect James Patrick McGrath (1875-1948) at an estimated cost of £20,690. Its scale and detailing is typical of the grand hospital architecture found across Ireland and Britain during the late Victorian and Edwardian periods. It was later in use as a college.

SHEIL HOSPITAL

College Road,
Ballyshannon
(1891-4)

A well-detailed hospital built at the bequest of Dr Simon Sheil (d. 1889). It cost £6,000 to construct (although *Slater's Directory* of 1894 suggests a sum of £50,000) and was built to designs by the prolific architect W.H. Byrne. The Sheil family accumulated great wealth as agents for the Conolly estate and as lessee of the Erne Fisheries.





DONEGAL TOWN
(c. 1895)

Donegal town was laid out around the Diamond in the seventeenth century and prospered as a regional market centre during the first decades of the nineteenth century.

Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.

Urban development continued with the greatest growth occurring where there was sufficient trade. In addition to shops and offices, agricultural markets were also located at town centres with the best surviving examples found at Dunfanaghy, Ballybofey and Pettigo. Town centres were places to live as well as work, and defined urban landscapes were created by groups of commercial buildings and houses. Commercial directories of the period indicate the trades that were being undertaken. For instance, *Pigot's Directory* of 1824 showed that in Donegal town there were more than twenty merchants and tradesmen, including publicans, grocers, a baker, a brewer, a tanner and chandler, a

millstone importer, an ironmonger, a salt maker and a variety of drapers. At Ballybofey, there were more than forty commercial enterprises, while in Letterkenny more than sixty, to which can be added merchants, lawyers and surgeons. Letterkenny prospered during the second half of the nineteenth century, becoming the largest town in the county.

Increased market activity brought banking to rural towns. Banks were usually designed in an Italianate classical style, communicating a sense of permanence and security to customers. Good examples in the county are the multi-coloured Hibernian Bank (*fig. 59*) in Letterkenny, designed by Timothy Hevey, the

(fig. 59)

BANK OF IRELAND

Main Street,
Letterkenny
(c. 1876)

Originally a branch of the Hibernian Bank, it was designed by Timothy Hevey (1846-78). The attractive polychromatic façade with green/grey basalt construction and red sandstone and pale limestone detailing create an appealing composition. It has a commanding presence in the streetscape, reflecting the period when banks were designed to express the solidity and wealth of the institution through their architecture.



ERNEST SPEER

Lower Main Street,
Letterkenny
(c. 1877)

This handsome building retains one of the better traditional shopfronts in Donegal. It is based on a simplification of the classical formula of timber pilasters supporting an entablature over with the frieze acting as the fascia for the shop name, a characteristic feature of many traditional Irish shopfronts.

(fig. 60)
**GALLOGLEY'S
 JEWELLERS**
 Main Street,
 Ballyshannon
 (1878)

An imposing former bank building that is a dramatic, almost theatrical element in the streetscape. The crow-stepped gables gives it a quasi-Scottish Baronial appearance, while the tall tower with clock faces and bellcotes lends it the character of a contemporary town hall. It was originally a branch of the Belfast Bank.





DONEGAL

Map of the extensive railway network in Donegal showing the years when the various sections opened. All lines were closed by the 1960s.

Provincial Bank in Bundoran, the former Belfast Bank in Donegal town, and the Provincial Bank in Ballyshannon, designed by T.N. Deane. The most memorable is the Scottish Baronial former Belfast Bank (*fig. 60*) and later Royal Bank of Ireland in Ballyshannon, with its prominent clock tower with bellcote providing a strong focal point in the streetscape.

The arrival of the railways opened up vast tracts of Donegal to increased trade. The first short section of railway was opened between Strabane and Derry in 1847 as part of the Great Northern Railway line to Dundalk. The network expanded greatly during the second half of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century with several different companies building branches



to Ballyshannon and Bundoran (1866), Buncrana (1863) and later extended to Carndonagh (1901), Letterkenny (1883), Burtonport (1903), Stranorlar (1863), Donegal town (1889), Killybegs (1893) and Glenties (1895). This extensive network of narrow-gauge railway lines, sometimes through difficult terrain, has been recognised as one of the great railway engineering achievements in Ireland.

The railway connected rural areas where, apart from churches or official establishments, station buildings were often the only examples of consciously designed architecture. Railway buildings were usually built to a set of

common designs, often using imported materials such as brick and iron. Stations and bridges were always designed to a high standard, thereby reassuring passengers that railways were safe and reliable. Although the lines are now gone, many well-built bridges survive throughout the county. Surviving railway stations are to be found in Buncrana (*fig. 61*), where Fitzgibbon Louch designed a complex Gothic building, at Donegal town (*fig. 62*), now in use as a railway museum, and along the former Buncrana to Carndonagh line where several attractive small rural stations may still be seen.

(*fig. 61*)
DRIFT INN
 Railway Road, Buncrana
 (1864)

Described in the *Dublin Builder* as 'Faced with broken ashlar, white and red brick and Scotch stone dressings'. The dormers and the gable-fronted bays help to create a complex composition. Originally built as the terminus of the Derry to Buncrana section of the Londonderry to Lough Swilly Railway line. Its opening played a major role in the development of the town as a tourist destination.



(fig. 62)
THE OLD STATION HOUSE
Tyrconnell Street
Donegal Town
(1889)

The Land Act of 1891 established the Congested Districts Board whose intention was social improvement, especially in impoverished outlying rural areas. In earlier centuries, infrastructure had been developed to serve the private commercial interests of the landed gentry. The Board's remit included encouragement of rural commercial activity including the railways, the building of roads

and bridges to access the railway, and the improvement of piers for commercial fishing. Piers at Moville, Downings and Killybegs are marine works still in use. The connection of the outer regions of Donegal to the rest of the country can be seen as part of a wider movement to create a fairer and inclusive society.

It was originally built to serve the Derry (Victoria Road) to Killybegs narrow gauge (three foot) railway line, which was built by the West Donegal Railway Company. The snecked stone masonry is a feature of Victorian railway architecture and engineering in Ireland.



BALLYLIFFIN RAILWAY STATION
Ballyliffin, Clonmany
(1901)

This railway station is situated along the Tooban to Carndonagh line of the former Londonderry & Lough Swilly Railway. The stations along this former line follow a similar architectural language of dark stone masonry with polychromatic brick dressings. The railway, although relatively short lived, was of major importance in opening up isolated rural areas

In the early-nineteenth century, there was an nationwide increase in church building by the Church of Ireland, funded by the Board of First Fruits. A comparatively small number of these churches were built in Donegal. This was possibly due to the large number that had

already been built during the eighteenth century. Most of the new buildings conformed to the traditional simple hall type popular in the previous century, with two or three bays, pointed openings and a three-stage tower to the west end. The churches at Malin, Convoy,

**OWENCARROW
VIADUCT**

Near Creeslough
(c. 1903)

This view shows a narrow gauge steam train crossing the spectacular Owencarrow Viaduct. Although the rail deck is now long removed (line closed 1953), the solid masonry and steel piers remain and are striking features in the scenic rural landscape near Creeslough. This was the scene of a rail disaster in 1925 when a train was blown off the viaduct during a storm, killing four.

*Courtesy of the
National Library of
Ireland*



BUNATRAHAN PIER

Kildoney Glebe, near
Ballyshannon
(c. 1883)

The late-nineteenth century witnessed huge investment in the construction of piers/jetties in Donegal, mainly by the Board of Works and later the Congested Districts Board. The Reports of the Inspectors of Irish Fisheries on the Sea and Inland Fisheries of Ireland record that this robust stone-built pier was built at an estimated cost of £2,000.



Fahan (*fig. 63*) and Dunlewey (*fig. 64*) are good examples. In the Gaelic-speaking west of the county, Church of Ireland buildings were often smaller. St Andrew's Chapel of Ease, Carrickfin (*fig. 65*), is particularly attractive. In the larger towns, in a bid to assert their presence in the streetscape, churches sometimes had spires, as can be seen at Donegal town. In contrast to other parts of Ireland where the building programme had slowed down, more churches were built in Donegal after 1840. The majority of these

SALTHILL PIER

Salthill Demesne, near
Mountcharles
(1847-8)

This attractive pier, jutting into Donegal Bay, retains its cut stone bollards, flights of stone steps and metal winch. A modern plaque records that it was built by the Board of Works with Patrick Cavanagh as the superintendent. It was completed by June 1848.



(fig. 63)

**ST. MURA'S
CHURCH OF
IRELAND CHURCH**
Carrowmullin, Fahan
(1820, extended
1858 and 1897)

Lewis (1837) records that this handsome hall and tower type church was built in 1820 'using a loan of £1,000 from the Board of First Fruits'. It was built to designs by John Bowden (d. 1822) for the Revd. William Knox. It was extended in 1858 with the addition of a new 'robing room' to designs by Alexander Hardy, and again in 1897 with the construction of the chancel with an attractive triple-light window by the Belfast architect Samuel Patrick Close (1842-1925).



(fig. 64)

**DUNLEWEY CHURCH OF IRELAND
CHURCH**

Dún Lúiche Uachtarach

[Dunlewey Near]

(c. 1853)

A romantically sited church set in desolate moorland adjacent to the Poisoned Glen and Mount Errigal. It was built as a chapel of ease within the parish of Tullaghobegley by Jane Smith Russell as a memorial to her husband James (d. 1848), landlord of the Dunlewey Estate. It is notable for its construction in white marble and blue quartzite, which was locally sourced.



(fig. 65)
**ST ANDREWS
CHAPEL OF EASE**
An Carraig/Baile
Fearainn
[Carrickfin]
(c. 1870)

This diminutive hall church overlooks Inishfree Bay. Local information suggests that it was dedicated in 1870 and that it may have been originally thatched.



**CLONCA CHURCH OF
IRELAND CHURCH**
The Diamond, Malin Town
(1827)

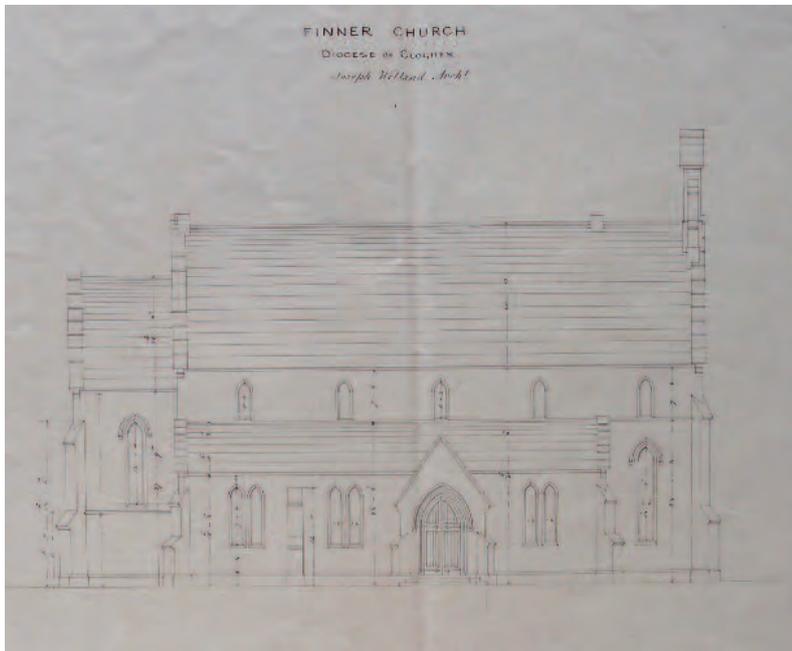
A typical example of the two- and three-bay hall and tower churches that were built in large numbers, particularly between 1808-1830, using loans and grants from the Board of First Fruits. It was built with the 'aid of a loan of £200 from the late Board of First Fruits, and a gift of £100 each from Bishop Knox and Mr Harvey of Malin Hall' (Lewis 1837).



(fig. 66)

CHRIST CHURCH
Bundoran
(1839-40)

An attractive Early English Gothic style church built by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for £2,150. Typical of Church of Ireland churches of its date, it has a bellcote rather than a tower, a shallow chancel and an entrance porch attached to one side of the nave.



(fig. 67)

CHRIST CHURCH
Bundoran
(1839-40)

Drawing of the north elevation of the church. This church was apparently built to designs by the Derry architect William Hagerty. The drawing is signed by Joseph Welland (1798-1860), architect for the Ecclesiastical Commissioners (established 1833), where he had responsibility for all Church of Ireland building projects from c. 1843 until his death.

Courtesy of the Representative Church Body

churches were more modest in scale than the earlier buildings. An exception is the church at Bundoran (*figs. 66-7*), its size probably explained by the influx of visitors to the town

(fig. 68)
**ST COLUMB'S
 CHURCH OF IRELAND
 CHURCH**
 Ballynally, Moville
 (1858)

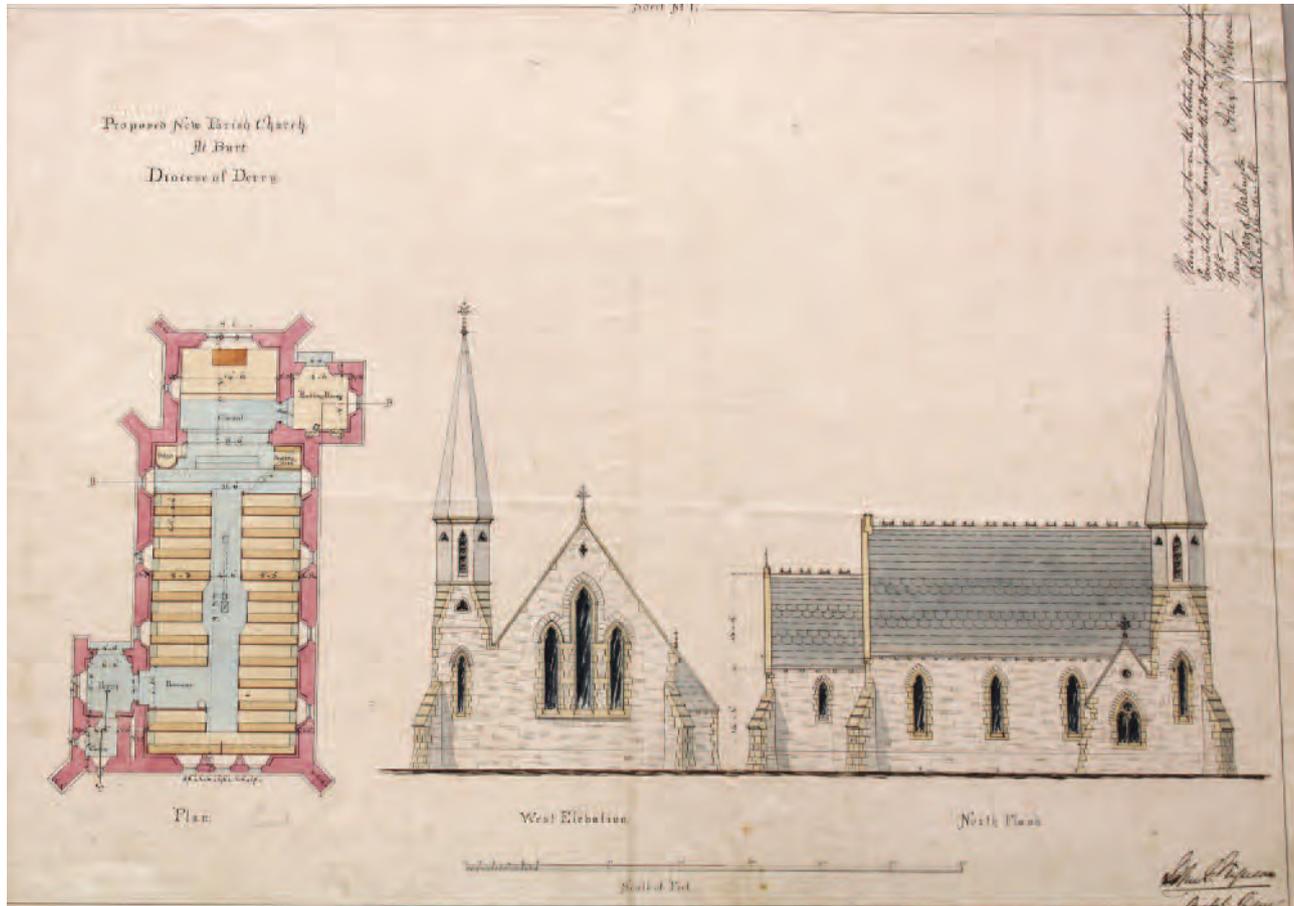
This attractive church has a fine ashlar sandstone spire that punctuates the skyline of Moville. According to local sources, it was built entirely with private funds amounting to £1440. It was built to designs by Joseph Welland or Welland & Gillespie, architects to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners from 1860. As the first Church of Ireland church in Moville, its construction is indicative of the growth of the town as a popular seaside resort from the mid-nineteenth century.



during the tourist season. Later nineteenth-century churches followed a style first developed by Joseph Welland, who had responsibility for all Church of Ireland projects from 1843 to 1860. He was succeeded by his son William who, in partnership with William Gillespie, continued to work for the Church until its disestablishment in 1870. These two Wellands were responsible for many churches

in Donegal, including Kilmacrennan and Creeslough, Moville (*fig. 68*), Mountcharles and Gleneely. All these followed a similar pattern, with bellcotes, splayed clasp buttresses at the corners, lancet windows and open decorative trussed roofs.

Nineteenth-century Church of Ireland rectories generally took the form of a classically proportioned three-bay two-storey



building, sometimes over a raised basement, with a central round-headed doorway. These elegant dwellings reflect the social importance of their occupants, and is a building type that falls between the farmhouse and the country house. Good examples are to be found at

CHRIST CHURCH
Speenogue, Burt
(1868)

Original drawings of the attractive former Church of Ireland church at Burt. It was designed by the architect John G. Ferguson (d. 1901).

*Courtesy of the
Representative Church
Body Library*



(fig. 69)
**FAHAN CHURCH OF
 IRELAND RECTORY**
 Glebe (ED Fahan),
 Fahan
 (1822)

Originally built as a rectory using a gift of £100 from the Board of First Fruits. It is an example of the language of classical architecture stripped back to its barest elements. A plaque records that it was the home of Mrs Cecil Francis Alexander (1818-95) who wrote the well-known hymn 'All Things Bright and Beautiful'.

Fahan (fig. 69), Gartan and Killybegs. Later examples were sometimes built to more eclectic designs, as is seen at Donaghmore (fig. 70), Rathmullan and Muff.

Many new Presbyterian churches were built during this period. Whilst there was a church in most localities, the largest in number and size were located in areas settled by Scots during the Plantation period, in towns such as Raphoe, Ramelton and Convoy. Ramelton had a total of eight churches earning the nickname the 'Holy City'. Notable Presbyterian churches are to be found in Moville, Newtowncunningham and Raphoe (fig. 71).



THE OLD RECTORY
 Rathmullan
 (1879)

This late nineteenth-century former rectory is typical of houses of this date with irregular-plan, gable-fronted projections, and canted and box bay windows. Decorative interest is added by the cut stone surrounds to the openings and the timber bargeboards.



GLEBE HOUSE
Glebe (ED Gartan)
(1828)

This typical Church of Ireland rectory was originally built in 1828 at a cost of £780. Its well-proportioned three-bay two-storey form is typical of its type and date. It was later the home of the English artist Derek Hill (1916-2000) from 1954 until he donated the house, contents and an important art collection to the Irish State in 1981.

*Courtesy of the
Photographic Unit
DAHG*

(fig. 70)
DONAGHMORE HOUSE
Donaghmore Glebe,
near Castlefinn
(c. 1870)

This Victorian house was apparently built as a rectory replacing an earlier rectory to site dating to the first half of the eighteenth century. The tripartite arrangement of the canted bays and window openings over give it a certain architectural gravitas. It has been suggested that the Belfast architect Thomas Jackson (1807-90) may have been involved in its design and that it was built using funding received from the Finn Valley Railway Company who built a line through the estate c. 1863.



The Reformed Presbyterian Church was officially formed in Ireland in 1811, and there are still four remaining congregations in the county at Convoy, Stranorlar, Letterkenny and Millford. The simple but attractive building at Convoy is typical. The small Methodist population was served by a handful of churches, mostly built in the second half of the century. Perhaps the most attractive of these is to be found in Donegal town (*fig. 72*), built to a gable-fronted design repeated in almost every county in north Ulster.

Emancipation in 1829 ushered in a major period of Catholic church building. Initially churches tended to be simple vernacular barn, T-plan or cruciform structures, usually located outside towns or in the countryside, reflecting the relative lack of resources and availability of sites. Characteristic examples can be seen at Belcruit and at the old church of St Mary's, Derrybeg.

Despite poverty, famine and migration, major new buildings were constructed during the second half of the century and many earlier churches were modified and extended. These later examples became more elaborate and a growing number of architectural professionals were employed in their design. There are a number of large churches of note dating to the mid-nineteenth century. Ballintra (*fig. 73*), Ballyshannon and Cockhill are early pre-famine examples of large-scale churches. St Catherine's, Killybegs, is perhaps the most interesting of the early post-Emancipation churches. It was built to designs by the English architect J. B. Papworth, a friend of the absentee landlord of Killybegs, Alexander Murray, who also donated the site and contributed towards its construction.



(*fig. 71*)
**SECOND RAPHOE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
The Diamond, Raphoe
(1860)

This is one of two large Presbyterian churches of similar appearance in Raphoe, each having an elaborate pedimented classical entrance front shielding prosaic side and rear elevations. The presence of two large Presbyterian churches in Raphoe reflects the influx of Scottish settlers to this area during the Plantation. A plaque to the pediment reads 'Scottish Church' and 'erected 1860'.



(*fig. 72*)
**DONEGAL TOWN
METHODIST CHURCH**
Waterloo Place,
Donegal Town
(1857-9)

Beautifully sited on the banks of the River Eske, this church makes use of the sloping site to conceal the church hall at basement level. Its three-bay gable-fronted entrance front with central entrance and an emphatic central bellcote was much favoured by Ulster Methodists during the mid-nineteenth century. The round-headed openings give it a Romanesque architectural character.



**MOVILLE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**
Moville
(1862-3)

Built to designs by the Derry architect John G. Ferguson at an estimated cost of £1,100. The tower with the elaborate spire contrasts attractively with the simplicity of the main body of the building. Decorative interest is added by the two tone slate roof while the retention of cast-iron quarry glazed windows enlivens the main elevations.



(fig. 73)
**ST BRIGID'S CATHOLIC
CHURCH**
Ballyruddy, Ballintra
(1845)

This ambitious if rather austere church was completed just before the onset of the Great Famine. It is typical of early Victorian Catholic churches in Ireland in that it is plainly detailed in a minimalist Gothic Revival style with a symmetrical entrance front and prominent tower screening a large hall. A plaque to the impressive entrance front reads 'Rev. Daniel Kelly, Pastor, James McKenna, Stranorlar Builder'.

(fig. 74)

**ST AGATHA'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Clar, near Donegal Town
(1869-71)

Large cruciform church with semi-circular apse and flanking side chapels built to designs by O'Neill & Byrne architects, a Dublin based architectural practice that carried out numerous commissions for the Catholic Church throughout Ireland in the 1870s. It is constructed using warmly coloured local sandstone masonry that has pleasing mottled tonal variation with crisp but restrained cut stone detailing throughout.



**ST BAITHIN'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
St Johnstown
(1857-60)

Distinctive church built to designs by Edward William Godwin (1833-86), an English architect based in nearby Derry in the late 1850s. Godwin was interested in Irish antiquities, publishing an article entitled *On the Architecture and Antiquities of the Western part of the Province of Ulster* in 1872. This knowledge of medieval church architecture may have partially inspired the designs for this building.

More prominently sited and elaborate churches, influenced by the work of the celebrated English architect A.W.N. Pugin, are associated with the period after 1860. Pugin looked to medieval church architecture for inspiration, advocating irregular plans that expressed the function of each element of the building, truth to materials, and the use of decorative details such as carved stone, mosaics and stained glass. Although early examples of this 'truthful' architecture are not to be found

in Donegal, there are a number of fine late nineteenth-century churches that accord with Pugin's ecclesiological principles, popularised in Ireland by J. J. McCarthy. Notable among these are the small-scale churches at St Johnstown, Newtowncunningham and Tory by E.W. Godwin, and at Drung and at Clar (*fig. 74*), near Donegal town, both attributed to the architectural firm of O'Neill & Byrne. Much larger churches are found at St Columba's (*fig. 75*), Doneyloop, built to

(fig. 75)
**ST COLUMBA'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Doneyloop
(1867-8 and 1890-1)

Ambitious cruciform church with Early English Gothic detailing built to designs by John O'Neill (1828-83) for the Rev. Edward McBride at a cost of £2,000. The incorporation of chapels to either side of the apsidal chancel was much admired by architects at the time, and provided a model for such features at many Catholic churches throughout Ireland. The handsome bell tower with fine broached ashlar spire was added in 1890-1.



(fig. 76)
**ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC
CHURCH**
Crossroads, Killygordon
(1872-5 and 1893-6)

This complex church dominates the rural landscape to the south of Killygordon, its tall slender Puginesque tower with broached spire visible for miles around. It displays the highest standards of design and artistic endeavour, particularly in the crisp sandstone detailing. It was built to designs by O'Neill & Byrne architects for the Rev. Edward Boyle. The belfry and spire were part of the original design but were not added until 1893-6.

designs by John O'Neill, and nearby St Patrick's, Crossroads (fig. 76), with its soaring spire that dominates the surrounding landscape.



(fig. 77)

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

Muine Beag, Dún Lúiche (Money Beg, Dunlewey) (1877)

This archival view of the church shows Mount Errigal in the background. It was built in an Hiberno-Romanesque style to designs by Timothy Hevey (1846-78). The offset round tower is a landmark feature in the scenic rural landscape overlooking Dunlewey Lough. It is very similar in form and style to a church that Hevey designed at Raphoe, built in 1874.

Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland

Catholic churches drawing inspiration from the Hiberno-Romanesque architecture of early medieval Ireland were built at Raphoe and Dunlewey (fig. 77), both the work of Timothy Hevey. The prolific Derry architect Edward Toye designed a number of churches throughout the county, generally also in a Hiberno-Romanesque style, including those at Burtonport, Ardara, Mountcharles, Glenties and Bruckless. The ambitious and grand church at Kilcar, built to designs by Doolin, Butler & Donnelly, with its elaborate rock-faced exterior and impressive almost Byzantine style open

interior, is an architectural highlight. The culmination of this phase of church building can be seen at the magnificent St Eunan's Cathedral, Letterkenny (figs. 78-9), constructed in a rich late French Gothic style to designs by William Hague and completed after his death in 1899 by his partner T.F. McNamara.

The late nineteenth-century building programme carried out by the Catholic Church also included the construction of convents and seminaries, often on a massive scale. The Mercy Convent, Ballyshannon, designed by O'Neill & Byrne, is typical of the many convents built

(fig. 78)

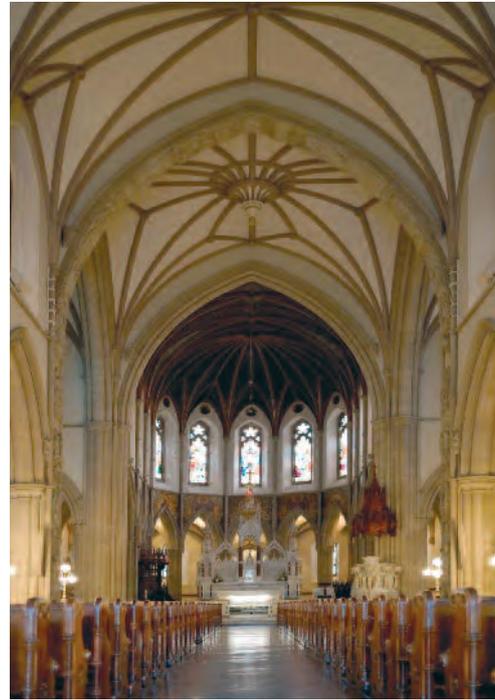
ST EUNAN'S CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL
Cathedral Square,
Letterkenny
(1891-1901)

This spectacular essay in the thirteenth-century French Gothic Revival style is one of the finest cathedrals in Ireland, and was the last to be built in a Gothic Revival style in the country. Of particular interest is the fine entrance front with four towers with spires and flying buttresses, and the soaring crocketed spire to the south-west corner. High quality masonry with extensive cut stone and sculptural detailing of the highest quality was used throughout.



ST EUNAN'S CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

Detail of carved sculptural stonework depicting a stag. Warm sandstone from Mountcharles was used throughout the cathedral.



(fig. 79)

ST EUNAN'S CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL

Much of the stonework in the spacious and richly-detailed interior is by Daniel Gilliland and Purdy of the firm Purdy & Millard of Belfast. Included in this work is the chancel arch with carved detailing outlining the lives of SS Eunan and Colmcille. The interior is further enlivened by the finest quality stained glass windows (some by Harry Clarke), frescoes, mosaics, gilding/stencilling, lierne, and star vaulted ceilings, and marble altar goods by Pearse & Co. of Dublin.

throughout Ireland at this time with its advanced gable-fronted projections to the centre and to either end of the front elevation. The castle-like St Eunan's College, Letterkenny (*fig. 80*), was originally built as a seminary to designs by T. F. McNamara, and is one of the finest buildings of its type and date in Ireland. Many parochial houses were also constructed, ranging from typical small-scale parochial houses as found at Ballyshannon to more elaborate examples at Stranorlar and the Bishop's Palace at Letterkenny.

Following the enactment of the Education Act of 1831, a nationwide programme was initiated for the construction of multi-denominational national schools. Many were built to standard small-scale plans with two classrooms, although few early buildings now survive. Surviving examples can be seen at Meencarrigach and Drumavish near Killygordon. The designs for national school buildings were generally standardised by the Board of Works in the 1860s and there are surviving examples throughout the county.

A further school type, particular to Donegal, are the Robertson schools. Approximately one hundred multi-denominational schools were supported in the mid-nineteenth century partially using funds bequeathed in the will of Colonel Robertson (d. 1790), the son of a Donegal town rector. Few of these schools now remain extant or unaltered. Where there was input from a local landowner, schools of individual designs were sometimes built. Perhaps the most attractive are the Murray School (*fig. 81*), Killybegs, and the former Prior Endowed School (*fig. 82*) at Lifford.



(*fig. 80*)
ST EUNAN'S COLLEGE
College Road,
Letterkenny
(1904-6)

Located on one of the highest points in the town, this imposing school with turrets to the corners is one of the most impressive buildings in Letterkenny. Built to designs by T. F. McNamara (1867-1947), this building reflects its function of a boys' secondary school based on a rigorous education.



ST EUNAN'S COLLEGE

The ground floor is enlivened by the Hiberno-Romanesque style quasi-arcading with interlacing and zig-zag motifs to the window openings



**STRANORLAR
PAROCHIAL HOUSE**
Main Street, Stranorlar
(c. 1890)

This well-detailed former parochial house dates to the last decades of the nineteenth century. It is unusually ornate for a building of its type with ashlar surrounds to the openings, ashlar chimneystacks, decorative ridge cresting and finials, and a statue niche over the main doorway.



ARDEUNAN
Cathedral Road,
Letterkenny
(c. 1900)

This substantial bishop's palace is constructed using high quality masonry throughout, particularly to the main entrance porch and the surrounds to the openings. The gable-fronted blocks help to create a complex composition with an imposing architectural character.



(fig. 81)
MURRAY LODGE
Killybegs
(1851 and 1860)

This fine former schoolhouse was originally built at the expense of the proprietor of Killybegs, Horatio Granville Murray Steward, at a cost of £1,500. It consists of separate conjoined buildings for girls and boys, the boys school opening in 1851

with the girls school added in 1860. The cut stone bellcote provides an attractive central focus. The advanced wings to either end may have been originally in use as schoolmaster and schoolmistress' accommodation.



(fig. 82)
**PRIOR ENDOWED
SCHOOLS**
Lifford
(1879-80)

Slater's Directory of 1894 records that the 'Prior endowed schools opened in September 1880, built out of the bequest of the late Miss Prior at a cost of £2,000'. The will apparently stipulated that classes had to be taught to university standard. It was originally built to cater for local Protestant children. It was later in use as an army barracks from 1974.

Courtesy of the Dept. of Defence

(fig. 83)
ST JOHN'S POINT LIGHTHOUSE
 St John's Point
 (1829-31)

Built to designs by George Halpin Senior (1779-1854), Inspector of Works and Lighthouses for the Ballast Board from 1810 until his death in 1854. Halpin Senior designed and/or supervised the construction of many lighthouses throughout Ireland, including seven in Donegal. It cost £10,507. to construct, and the light was first exhibited on the 4th of November 1831.

During the nineteenth century many architects and engineers began to specialise in the design of particular building types. The most demanding, from a functional perspective, were the lighthouses. These were the responsibility of a small number of designers appointed to the Ballast Board, established 1786, forerunner to the Irish Lights Commission. These are among the most spectacularly sited and evocative of all building types in Donegal, acting as monuments to the skill and dedication of those involved in their construction. George Halpin Senior and his son, also George, were responsible for the design of more than ten lighthouses in the county. While entirely functional in their purpose, lighthouses often employed a simple but robust classical language that raised them above the utilitarian. The lighthouses at Tory, St John's Point (fig. 83) and at nearby Rotten Island, off Killybegs, all by Halpin Senior, are typical, having a tapering tower with an external metal platform around the base of the lantern. A later example by his son can be found on Aranmore, built in 1857. Perhaps the most striking of all is William Douglass'



(fig. 84)

**FANAD HEAD
LIGHTHOUSE**

Earra Thíre na Binne,
Cionn Fhánada
[Arryheernabin, Fanad
Head]
(1886-7)

This lighthouse forms a spectacular and elegant feature in the dramatic coastal landscape at the entrance to Lough Swilly. It was built to designs by William Douglass (1831-1923) who his best remembered for his work on the Fasnet Lighthouse, off County Cork, in the 1890s. The present lighthouse at Fanad Head replaced an earlier lighthouse close to the site that was built in 1815-7 following the sinking of the Royal Naval frigate *Saldanha* here in 1812 with the loss of all on board.



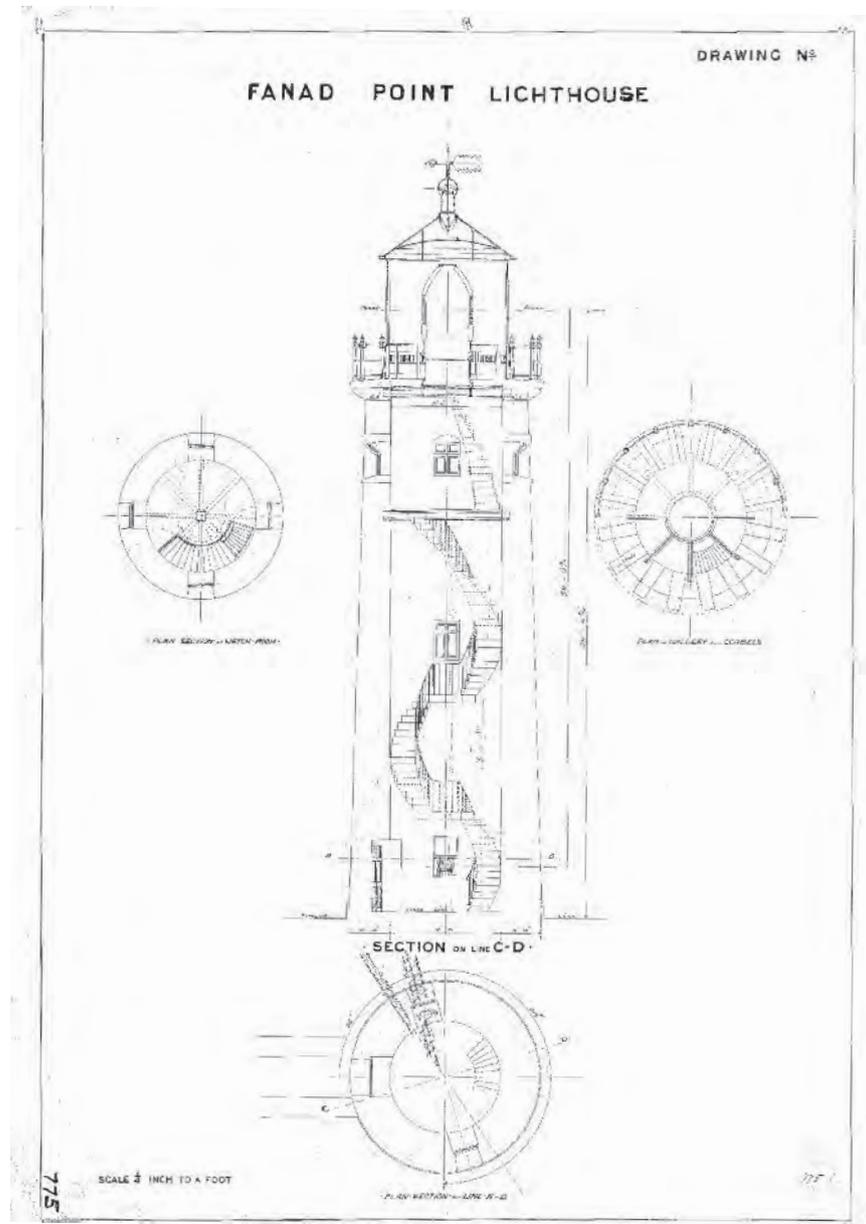
lighthouse at Fanad Head (*figs. 84-5*), spectacularly sited on a headland surrounded on three sides by sea cliffs. More unusual is the lighthouse at Dunree (*fig. 86*), a single-storey lantern attached to the front of the keeper's

house. The two lighthouses built at Inishowen Head (*fig. 87*) were designed to guide ships into the relatively sheltered waters of Lough Foyle. Within the lough, there are a number of unusual navigation lights and markers such as

(fig. 85)
**FANAD HEAD
 LIGHTHOUSE**

Original drawings of the new lighthouse as prepared by Douglass. The cross section illustrates the staircase that spirals through the tower. The new lighthouse was built following numerous requests to the Ballast Board in the 1870s and 1880s for better lights at Fanad Head, particularly for the improved illumination of the Swilly Rocks and Limeburner Rock.

*Courtesy of the
 Commissioners of Irish
 Lights*



(fig. 86)

DUNREE LIGHTHOUSE
Dunree Head, Inishowen
(c. 1876)

This lighthouse was described by John Soane in 1880 in his work *A History of the Lighthouses of Ireland* as 'a unique and beautiful structure'. It was built around 1876 at a cost of £2,354. The main contractor was a McClelland of Derry and the work was supervised by an R. Shakespeare. It may have been built to designs by John Swan Sloan (c. 1823-86), an architect, surveyor and engineer who worked as Superintendent of Foremen and Works at the Ballast Board from 1862.



(fig. 87)

**INISHOWEN
LIGHTHOUSE**

Stroove
(1837-8 and 1870-1)

Two lighthouses were built in close proximity at Stroove to designs by George Halpin Senior in 1837 at a cost of almost £19,000. The lighthouse to the west was raised in height in 1870-1 by the construction of a cast-iron tower (by Phoenix Iron Works, Dublin) on the existing stone platform of the original lighthouse.

(fig. 88)

THE DWELLINGS

An Gaineamh agus an Curraoin, Gleann Cholm Cille

[Glencolumbkille]

(c. 1906)

A uniform terrace of four buildings originally built to house the lighthouse keepers (and families) who worked at the lighthouse on Rathlin O'Birne Island. Their flat-roofed forms and formal architectural character create an unusual and slightly incongruous feature in the rural landscape.

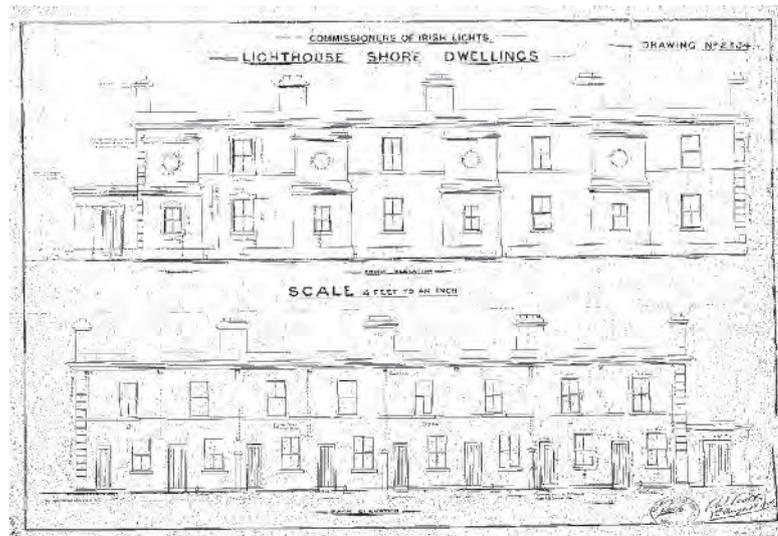


THE DWELLINGS

These drawings were prepared by Charles William Scott, engineer to the Commissioners of Irish Lights from 1900-30.

Courtesy of the Commissioners of Irish Lights

the 'Metal Man' and a Mitchell screw-pile lighthouse at Movice. Screw-pile lighthouses are constructed with piles screwed directly into the sandy or muddy sea and river bottoms. They were first developed by the Irish engineer Alexander Mitchell in the 1830s. The example at Movice is one of only three in Ireland, the others are found at Dundalk and Cobh. Keepers' accommodation was usually provided at lighthouses themselves. An exception is found at The Dwellings (*fig. 88*), Glencolumbkille, where a terrace of houses was constructed for the families of keepers stationed on Rathlin O'Birne Island. In providing comfortable accommodation for their workers, they anticipated the social housing agenda of the twentieth century.

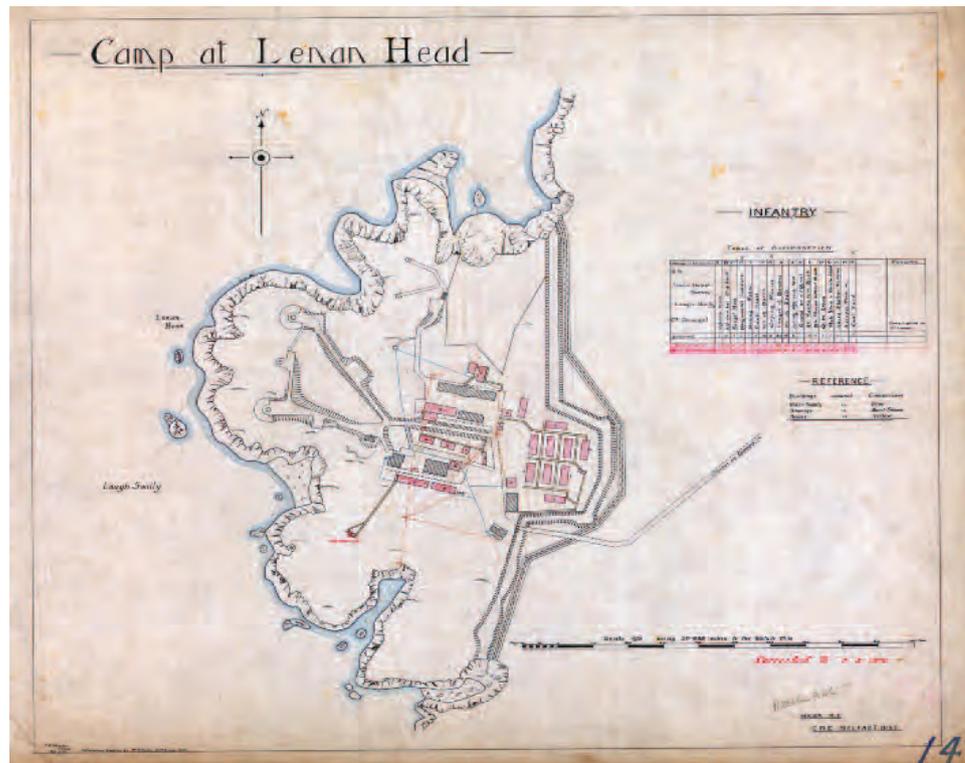


The Twentieth Century

(fig. 89)
**LENAN COASTAL
 BATTERY**
 Lenan Head,
 Inishowen
 (1905)

This plan of the battery dates to 1918. It originally consisted of three sunken reinforced artillery emplacements with 9.2 inch breech-loading guns (with range of 17,400 yards) although only two artillery pieces are listed in an 1912 report. It was defended on the landward side by a forty-foot deep rock-cut ditch and six machine gun emplacements. Entrance to the site was by drawbridge over the ditch.

*Courtesy of the Irish
 Military Archives*



The opening decades of the century were a time of enormous political upheaval. The Great War (1914-18), the Easter Rising (1916), the War of Independence (1919-21) and the Civil War (1922-3) all profoundly affected the political landscape. From the foundation of the Free State until the end of the century, Ireland was characterised by prolonged periods of economic stagnation and emigration, which was not conducive to architectural innovation. An exception in Donegal was the construction of a number of important churches, notably in

the 1960s and 70s to designs by Liam McCormick. The main focus of public building was confined to improving social infrastructure with the construction of housing, schools, hospitals, Garda stations and power stations.

At the start of the century the strategic importance of Lough Swilly as a natural harbour was once again highlighted. The British navy used Lough Swilly as an anchorage for the Atlantic fleet during the First World War, protected by new forts at Lenan (fig. 89) and Dunree, while the existing fortifications at

DUNREE FORT
Dunree Hill
(1895-7)

A new fort was also built at Dunree Hill above the existing Napoleonic-era fortification, which had become obsolete. The new fortification consisted of a reinforced concrete perimeter wall with ditch and with two 6-inch breech-loading guns and two 4.7-inch quick firing guns. This restored gun now forms part of the military museum at the site.



MALIN HEAD RADIO STATION
Malin Head
(1901)

View of the wireless radio station established by Guglielmo Marconi (1874-1930). In 1902 the first commercial radio message to a ship was sent from here to the SS Lake Ontario. Apparently the radio station was involved in the sea trials of the radio system on the ill-fated RMS Titanic in April 1912. The tower in the background is a Napoleonic-era signal tower that was adopted for use by the insurance company Lloyds of London, c. 1890, where information on shipping arriving across the Atlantic was passed on to London.

Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland

Inch and Ned's Point were remodelled. Following Independence, Swilly was designated as a 'Treaty Port', and was retained by Britain until 1938 when it was returned to the Irish State. Irish neutrality during the Second World

War resulted in the construction of a handful of small utilitarian military structures in Donegal. These were mostly observation posts on the coast, many of which survive, as can be seen at St John's Point (*fig. 90*).

RATHMULLAN
(1914)

Lawrence photograph showing part of Admiral Jellicoe's 'Grand Fleet' anchored off Rathmullan. Jellicoe moved the fleet to Lough Swilly (for two weeks in October and November) after the previous anchorage at Scapa Flow, Scotland, was compromised by a German U-boat. Anti-submarine obstructions were laid across the narrow mouth of Lough Swilly while additional protection was afforded by the batteries along the Lough.

*Courtesy of the
National Library of
Ireland*



(fig. 90)
ST JOHN'S POINT
(c. 1940)

Lookout posts were built to standardised designs devised by Howard Cooke (1881-1977) of the Office of Public Works. Each was assigned a unique designation. This example was assigned number '70' out of the 82. They were constructed at strategic locations around the Irish coastline, and were manned by the newly-formed Coast Watching Service to observe the movements of shipping and aircraft in Irish territorial space.



(fig. 91)
TULLY CUSTOMS AND EXCISE POST
 Ballynacarrick
 (c. 1930)

This simple utilitarian former customs and excise station is an interesting historical and social relic of the recent past. It was one of fifteen to seventeen (it varied over time) officially designated border crossings with associated customs stations that were established following partition.



(fig. 92)
TRANAROSSAN HOUSE
 Dundooan Lower
 (c. 1905)

This interesting house, located in the isolated landscape near Melmore Head, consists of two gable-fronted blocks built of local rubble granite linked by a single-storey block. It was built to designs by the distinguished English architect Sir Edwin Luytens (1869-1944) as a holiday home for the Hon. Mrs Phillimore.

The establishment of the border with Northern Ireland also saw the construction of a number of custom posts. While most have now disappeared following the elimination of the custom barrier in 1993, there are a number of surviving corrugated-iron structures, such as those found at Muff, Tully (*fig. 91*) and Pettigo, which are interesting tangible

additions to the social history of the county.

The start of the century also saw the construction of building types that had evolved during the previous century. These include Edwardian holiday lodges built for wealthy patrons such as the holiday house at Tranarossan (*fig. 92*), designed by Sir Edwin Luytens. Also of interest are the Tudor Revival

(fig. 93)

CLOGHAN LODGE

Cloghan More
(c. 1911)

Impressive Tudor Revival house that was built as a hunting/fishing lodge for the Style family in 1911 after an earlier house was destroyed by fire. The gable-fronted projections, the black and white Tudoresque timber detailing, and the recessed loggia create a picturesque composition that complements its idyllic setting on the banks of the River Finn.



GLENMORE LODGE

Cloghan More
(c. 1780 and 1910)

Originally dating to the mid-to-late eighteenth century, this house was extensively altered for Sir William Styles in the early part of the twentieth century, transforming it into a flamboyant Tudoresque/Arts and Crafts style residence with half-timbering, decorative quatrefoil motifs and a central projecting gable-fronted bay supported on Ionic columns. It is now demolished.

Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive

style hunting and fishing lodges built at Cloghan (*fig. 93*) and Glenmore (now demolished) in the upper Finn Valley for the Style family around 1910.

(fig. 94)
BAYVIEW TERRACE
 Bundoran
 (c. 1890)

An archival view of the fine terrace of substantial late Victorian houses that overlooks the seafront. The town developed as a popular 'genteel' seaside resort during the second half of the nineteenth century, particularly after the construction of the railway line in 1866.

Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland



AILEACH ROAD
 Buncrana
 (c. 1910)

One of a number of substantial houses built close to the coast at Buncrana during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The gable-fronted projections and the canted bay windows are familiar features of such houses in the town.

Improvements in transportation saw further growth of the seaside resort towns of Bundoran and Buncrana, and smaller resorts such as Moville. The seafronts in these towns incorporated a promenade backed by terraced houses, such as seen at Bayview Terrace in Bundoran (fig. 94) and Montgomery Terrace in

Moville. In addition to its terraces, Buncrana also has several fine late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century villas around St Mary's Road and Swilly Road. From the 1930s, several Art Deco style shops and houses were also built, adding a further note of sophistication to this seaside resort.



MONTGOMERY TERRACE
Merville
(c. 1884)

Merville also expanded as a seaside resort at the end of the nineteenth century with daily steam boats arriving from Derry and Portrush during the summer months. This fine terrace was originally constructed by the Montgomery family of nearby New Park who were responsible for much of the development of Merville.

The Freemasons built a small number of structures in the first quarter of the century, the lodge at Ballyshannon (*fig. 95*) being the most attractive. The Orange Order also constructed a number of halls, particularly in the south-west of the county around Rossnowlagh, including the former lodge at Carricknahorna (*fig. 96*). A number of impressive Catholic parish halls were also developed including the John Colgan Hall, Carndonagh, and St Mary's Hall, Bunrana - both later became cinemas run by the Church.



(*fig. 95*)
**BALLYSHANNON
MASONIC HALL**
Church Lane,
Ballyshannon
(c. 1905)

This tall imposing building with extensive classical stucco detailing is given a sense of authority that belies its backstreet location. The plaque over the main entrance is adorned with the masonic square and compass motif. It was built to designs by Thomas Johnson (b. 1861)



(*fig. 96*)
**CARRICKNAHORNA
ORANGE HALL**
Carricknahorna
(1906)

A small-scale former Orange hall with a distinctly ecclesiastical character built by an R. Lowry. The bellcote over the entrance was apparently added in 1919 by a D. Corscadden, a former master of the lodge and a close relative of the former British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

JOHN COLGAN HALL
 Carndonagh
 (1914)

This substantial hall is enlivened by the eclectic rendered detailing with a Hiberno-Romanesque character to the openings. It was built to designs by William J. Doherty (1887-1951), a Derry architect who worked extensively throughout Donegal. It was later in use as a technical school. It was recently restored and upgraded.



OSCAR'S
 Upper Main Street,
 Buncrana
 (c. 1935)

This distinctive and well-detailed Art Deco style shopfront has a strong horizontal emphasis. The rounded forms of the canopy, recessed windows with rounded corners and the rounded projections to either end gives it a maritime character that is befitting a seaside resort. Similar buildings are found in contemporary British seaside resorts but are uncommon in Ireland.

(fig. 97)

RITZ CINEMA

Main Street, Ballybofey
(1945-6)

This striking, if stark, mid twentieth-century International Modern style cinema has perhaps some subdued Art Deco references in the curved corners. This style of architecture was commonly applied to contemporary cinema buildings in Ireland, and was seen as reflecting the 'modern' and 'futuristic' image of cinema during its heyday from the 1930s to the 1960s. It was built to designs by the Belfast architect John McBride Neill (1905-74), a prolific and noted designer of individualistic cinemas who worked almost exclusively in Northern Ireland.



(fig. 98)

JOHN MORROW

Leat Beg
(c. 1930)

A charming former grocery and hardware store with an attached dwelling. It is notable for the use of corrugated-iron sheeting for the walls while subdued decorative interest is added by the wavy bargeboards. Donegal is noted for the high use and survival of corrugated-iron as a building material. This structure is among the most attractive in the county.

There were also small commercial cinemas developed in almost every sizeable town, although only a handful of mainly derelict buildings now remain, such as the impressive Ritz in Ballybofey (fig. 97).

New building techniques and materials were developed, such as corrugated-iron. This material was mainly used as an affordable roofing material, often replacing thatch. There are numerous instances of this in farm buildings and sheds, but it is also found used for small houses, shops and even churches. Particularly attractive are the small former shops at Drumnagahan, near Donegal town, at

Leat Beg (fig. 98), Crolly Catholic church (fig. 99), and several holiday houses dotted along the coastline. Concrete was also used in new construction, notably for bridge building, such as in the new Gweebarra bridge and the Congested Districts Board's elegant Cruit Island footbridge (fig. 100), constructed using the pioneering Hennebique reinforcement technique.

Electricity became available in the county for the first time, initially only in towns, with power provided by small-scale generation through turbines fitted to existing mill



(fig. 99)
SÉIPÉAL CROITHLÍ
 Croithlí
 [Crolly]
 (c. 1935)

One of a number of surviving churches with corrugated-iron sheeted walls in Donegal. A Presbyterian church of similar construction can be seen as Rossnowlagh.



(fig. 100)
DROICHEAD OILEÁN NA CRUITE
 Dobhar/An tArd Donn
 [Dore/Ardun]
 (1911)

This utilitarian but graceful pedestrian bridge connects Cruit Island with the mainland. It was designed by the engineering firm L.G. Mouchel & Partners of Westminster for the Congested Districts Board. The deck is carried on vertical members brought down to a solid arch and it is unusual in that the bridge tapers in plan and that the deck rises to the centre.

buildings at Pettigo, Buncrana and Moville. The rural landscape changed dramatically through electrification in the 1950s. The hydroelectric dam at Ballyshannon, built 1946-52, was the first significant act of co-operation between the North and the Republic since Independence. The design of the turbine and stair halls displays elements of the contemporary

International Modern Movement, and is executed in an elegant utilitarian manner reminiscent of the lighthouses of the previous century.

Large industrial buildings are unusual and, like power plants, the majority were publicly funded buildings in the new architecture style of the Modern Movement. Alcohol factories at

Carndonagh, Labbadish near Letterkenny, and Buncrana, designed by the Dutch architect J.D. Postma and built in the 1930s, were particularly bold. Unfortunately these sophisticated concrete structures no longer survive. Large modern buildings in the county are often located by the sea. Liam McCormick's Killybegs fish auction building, designed in a distinctive nautical style, is the most memorable. The National Fisheries College, Greencastle, with its roof laid out like the deck of a trawler, is another interesting maritime inspired structure.

There were virtually no new significant private houses built in the county after the First World War and any new house building was modest in scale and architectural ambition. With few exceptions, distinctive modern houses are also rare. Those that do inspire are as likely to be alterations to existing buildings, such as the work by McCormick at his own house in Greencastle or his extension to Muckamish Martello tower. Public housing tended to follow an adapted vernacular model. The best examples date from early in the century and include houses developed by the Congested Districts Board.

In contrast to the modesty of its housing, the quality of twentieth century churches in Donegal is unsurpassed in Ireland. The largest numbers of these are Catholic, continuing the programme that had accelerated during the second half of the nineteenth century. This legacy also included the building of new monasteries with a Capuchin Friary built at Ards House in 1930 and a Franciscan friary by Downes & Meehan at Rossnowlagh, built in 1952.

Initially, churches followed a romantic



**CATHELEN FALLS
HYDROELECTRIC
STATION**
Townparks,
Ballyshannon
(1946-52)

An aerial view taken shortly after completion in 1952. The Erne Scheme was the second largest hydroelectric generating complex in Ireland after Ardnacrusha Power Station in County Clare, and is a significant element of the twentieth-century engineering heritage of Ireland.



Entrance atrium. The use of glass block in the roof is characteristic of the International style of architecture. The curved structural forms have an almost nautical theme.



Full-height steel framed windows light the spacious main turbine hall. The external austerity of this structure belies the simple Modernist beauty of many of the internal spaces.

Courtesy of the ESB Archives

CAMLIN CASTLE

Camlin, near
Ballyshannon
(1838)

Attractive battlemented Tudoresque house, with corner towerlets and central oriel window rebuilt to designs by J. B. Keane (d. 1859) for John Tredennick. It incorporated an earlier house of c. 1718. It was demolished c. 1947 as part of the Cathleen Falls hydroelectric scheme, one of a number of fine houses in the area that were lost to accommodate the dam lake. A fine battlemented gateway survives.

Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive



(fig. 101)

**CHURCH OF THE
FOUR MASTERS**
Upper Main Street,
Donegal Town
(1930-5)

Interesting and sophisticated Hiberno-Romanesque church with double transepts and offset round tower. It is well-built using granite from nearby Barnesmore with crisp Mountcharles sandstone detailing throughout. It was built to designs by Ralph Henry Byrne (1877-1946), a prominent architect of his day noted for his academic, and rather eclectic, approach to architectural design.



Hiberno-Romanesque style that came into fashion at the end of the previous century. This movement culminated in the striking Church of the Four Masters (*figs. 101-2*) at Donegal town, built to designs by Ralph Byrne.

Byrne also designed the monumental, if plain, Church of the Sacred Heart (*fig. 103*) in Carndonagh with an Italianate campanile tower and copper dome that dominates the

**CHURCH OF THE
FOUR MASTERS**

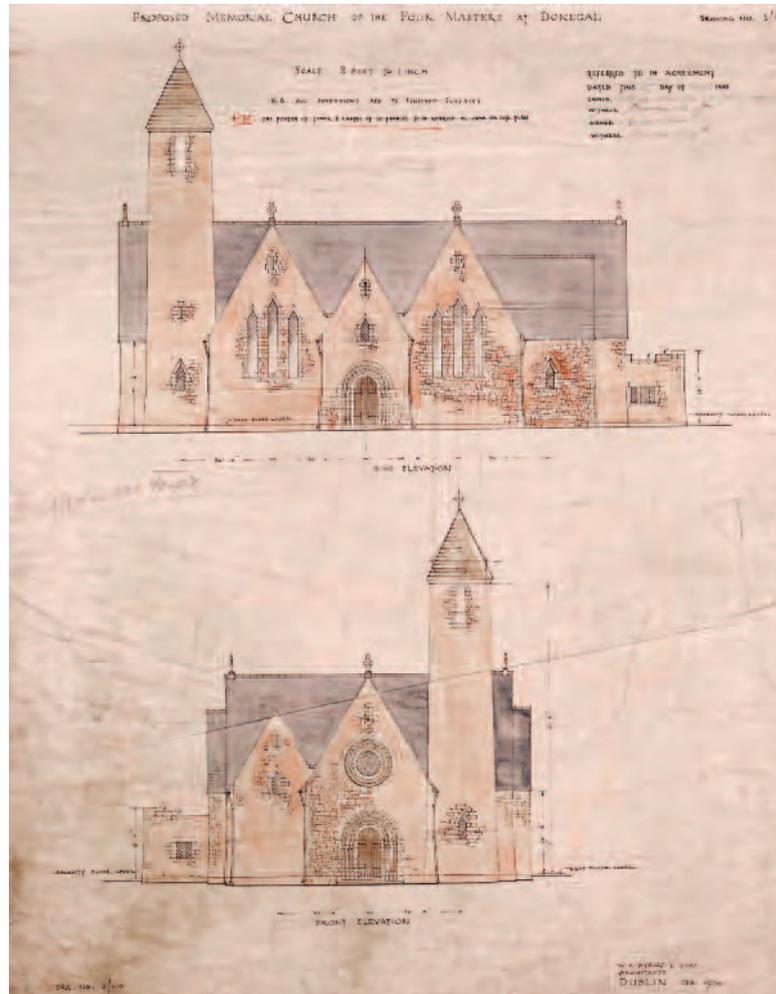
Original perspective drawing dated June 1931.

Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive

(fig. 102)
**CHURCH OF THE
FOUR MASTERS**

Original elevation drawing from the office of W.H. Byrne & Son dated February 1930. The round tower was built to the opposite side of the main doorway in the completed composition.

Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive



skyline of the town. The most imposing church of all, from the first half of the century, is the spectacular Byzantine Revival basilica at Lough Derg (*figs. 104-5*), designed by W.A. Scott and completed posthumously by T.J. Cullen & Co. The artwork is as important as the building, which includes twelve windows by Harry



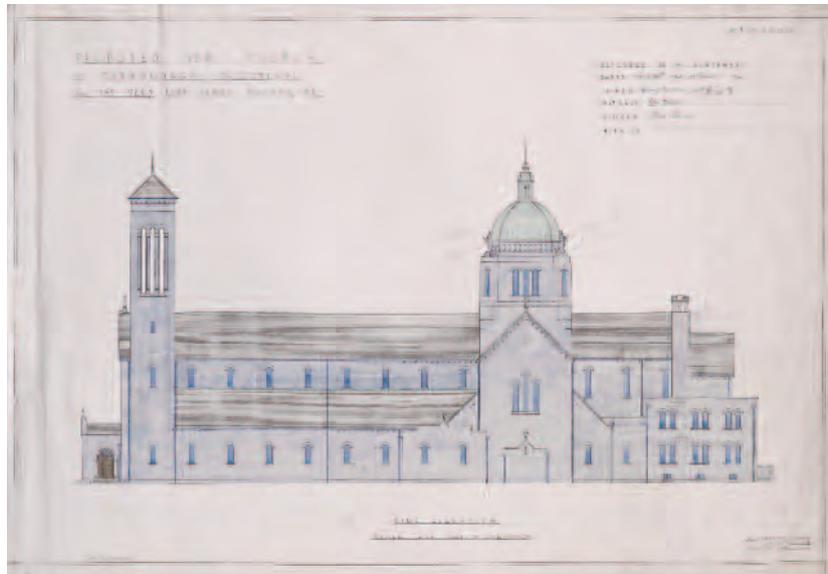
(fig. 103)
CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART
Chapel Sreet,
Carndonagh
(1941-5, dated 1942)

The scale of this church can be seen as a statement of the confidence and authority of the Catholic Church in Ireland at the time. It is built in an Italian Romanesque style with aisled nave, transepts, offset campanile tower and dome over the crossing. It cost an estimated £60,000 and was one of the few major commissions of the Catholic Church in Europe during the period of the Second World War.

CHURCH OF THE SACRED HEART

Original drawing from the office of W.H. Byrne & Son dated July 1941.

Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive

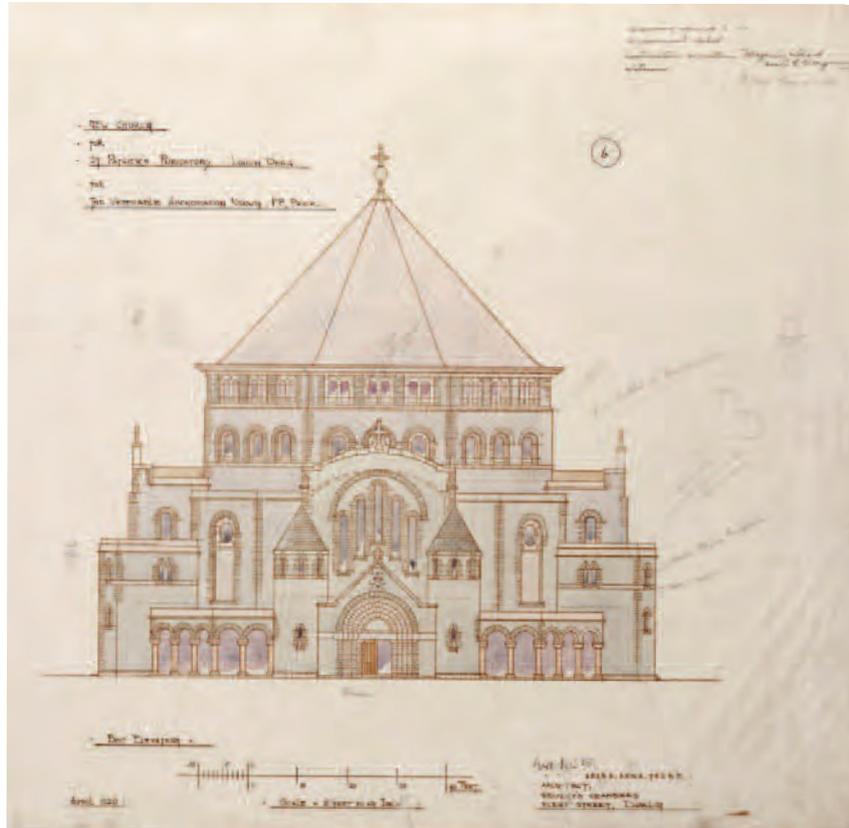


(fig. 104)

**CHURCH OF
ST PATRICK**
Station Island,
Lough Derg,
(1921-31)

Original drawing of
the front elevation
signed and annotated
by W.A. Scott. Dated
April 1920.

*Courtesy of the Irish
Architectural Archive*



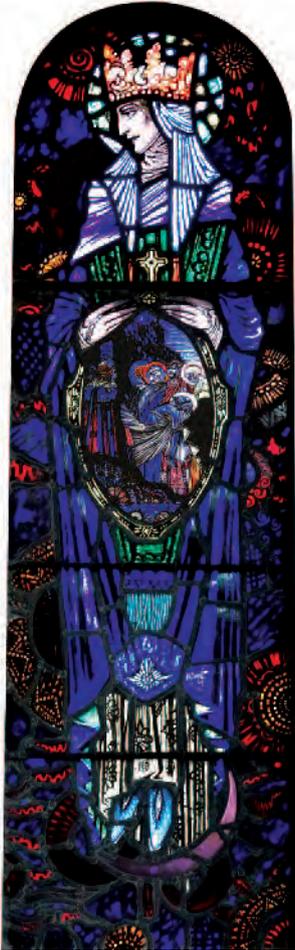
(fig. 105)

**CHURCH OF
ST PATRICK**

Monumental basilica
built to designs by W.
A. Scott (1871-1921)
with its construction
supervised by T.J.
Cullen (1879-1947). It
is built in a Byzantine
Romanesque style with
the main octagonal
block derived from
San Vitale in Ravenna,
a building Scott
visited in 1906. The
vast bulk is relieved
by the variety of
structural forms
including the
distinctive towers
flanking the main
entrance. Total costs
were in excess of
£80,000.

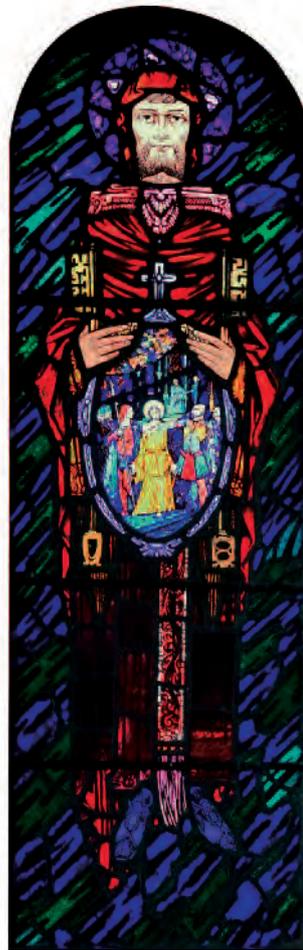
Clarke, Ireland's most distinguished stained glass artist. Donegal is fortunate in housing more of Clarke's work at St Eunan's Cathedral, where in addition to several windows, there is also a wall painting attributed to Clarke that has recently been restored.





CHURCH OF ST PATRICK
Station Island, Lough Derg
(1927-9)

Canon Keown commissioned Harry Clarke (1889-1931) to produce a series of fourteen stained glass windows depicting the Stations of the Cross. The windows were consecrated at Lough Derg in June 1929 and received great public acclaim.



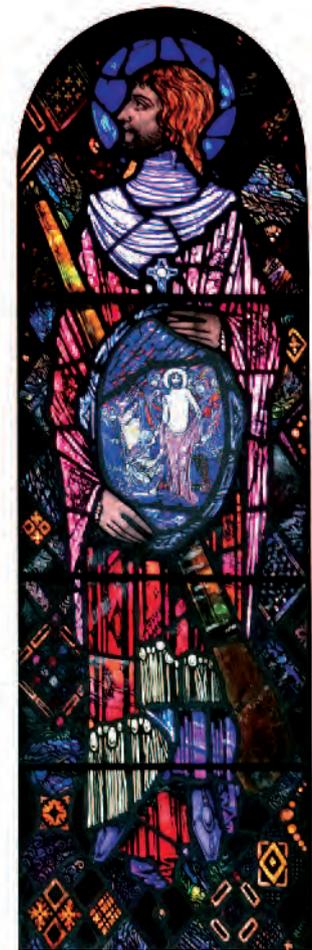
CHURCH OF ST PATRICK
Station Island, Lough Derg
(1927-9)

Each of the stations is exquisite in design with radiant colours. This window depicts St Peter in bright red robes holding the first Station of the Cross - Jesus is Condemned to Death.



CHURCH OF ST PATRICK
Station Island, Lough Derg
(1927-9)

Window depicting St Andrew in vivid bright green robes holding the third Station of the Cross - Jesus Falls the Third Time - with the prone figure of Jesus surrounded by Roman soldiers.



CHURCH OF ST PATRICK
Station Island, Lough Derg
(1927-9)

The tenth Station of the Cross - Jesus is Stripped of his Clothes. St James in robes of pink, orange and lilac holds the station. James is depicted with a fuller's pole, the symbol of his martyrdom.



(fig. 106)
**OUR LADY STAR OF
THE SEA**
Glebe, Desertegney
(1963-4)

This is the third in a series of seven Donegal churches designed by Liam McCormick (1916-96). These churches were very influential in the development of modern church design in Ireland. The largely bare white curving walls, curved roof and the porthole like window openings help create a nautical character that is appropriate to its setting overlooking Lough Swilly.

Church architecture did not evolve again until well after the Second World War, when a response was required to reflect liturgical changes promoted by the Second Vatican Council (1962-5) with its renewed emphasis on the collective experience of the faithful. Nowhere in Ireland was this achieved more successfully than in Donegal by Liam McCormick whose church designs broke completely with earlier conservative models. While his buildings make reference to the past in their use of familiar vernacular forms and textures, they also respond to place and the Donegal landscape. In several cases the sites were selected by the architect and the manipulation of both the building and its



(fig. 107)
**OUR LADY STAR OF
THE SEA**

Although traditional in plan with a relatively plain exterior, the surprise is in the Expressionist interior with its continuous curving surfaces and tapering columns. It is lit by colourful stained glass windows, the work of Helen Moloney, Margaret Becker and George Campbell.



(fig. 108)
**CHURCH OF ST
 AENGUS**
 Burt
 (1965-7)

One of the most influential modern churches built in Ireland. Its circular plan with battered rubble stone walls was inspired by the Grianán of Aileach fort located on a hill overlooking the site. Above this is a continuous clerestory of stained glass windows and an elegantly curved copper roof rising to form a distinctive off-centre spire with lantern. It was the first circular church built in Ireland.

setting is a precious part of their impact that is sometimes overlooked. McCormick was clearly influenced by European designers, including Le Corbusier, and these buildings reflect a new forward-looking international tradition. McCormick's designs have achieved international recognition and for many are amongst the most important of all the buildings of Donegal. There are seven McCormick designed churches in Donegal at

Milford, Murlough, Desertegney (figs. 106-7), Burt (fig. 108), Creeslough (fig. 109), Glenties, and the Presbyterian church at Donaghmore. In 1999, Church of St Aengus (or Burt Chapel) was voted the 'Building of the Century' in a Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland poll in 1999. There is no doubt that this building, and the body of McCormick's church work, is of international significance.



(fig. 109)
ST MICHAEL'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Creeslough
(1970)

This innovative and distinctive fan-shaped church derives its form from its surroundings, reflecting and celebrating the humped form of Muckish Mountain behind and thus integrating the building into the rugged natural landscape.

Vibrant recessed stained glass window by Helen Moloney depicting the biblical story of the 'loaves and fishes'.





**ST CONAL'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH**
Glenties
(1974)

McCormick moved away from the curvilinear forms of his earlier churches in this commission creating a dramatic composition with strong angular forms and steeply pitched roofs.



**ST CONAL'S
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Natural light floods in through the clerestory glazing at the junction of the roof apex creating a contemplative and tranquil space.

Conclusion

DOE CASTLE
Castledoe, near
Creeslough
(c. 1530 and c. 1810)

View following recent
conservation works
undertaken by the
Office of
Public Works.



The process of compiling the National Inventory has revealed a wealth of building that is not widely known, some of which is unique to County Donegal and much of which is often under-appreciated. As well as forming an irreplaceable part of the national heritage, these structures - and their landscape setting - present an important historical, cultural and economic resource. Many sites and structures included in the survey have survived due to the high-quality materials and craftsmanship that went into their construction. Routine maintenance using traditional building techniques can do much to ensure the survival of buildings that add so much to streetscapes and the countryside.

The preservation of our built heritage also relies on buildings having a purpose. Where new uses can be found for redundant buildings, these can serve as a model for others to follow in terms of appropriate design and the use of traditional building skills. New uses often include tourism functions. Works undertaken by the Office of Public Works at Doe Castle, Donegal Castle, Glebe House, Glenveagh and the milling complex at Newmills are exemplars of successful repair that have secured their futures. There have also been successful projects led by Donegal County Council, local community groups and special interest groups. These projects include the Letterkenny Workhouse, now used as the county museum,



GREENCASTLE
MARITIME MUSEUM
Greencastle
(c. 1830 and c. 1860)

Originally built as a custom station/revenue barracks and later also in use as a coastguard station (from c. 1860). It has recently been restored and the central pedimented section is now in use as a maritime museum.

the old Presbyterian meetinghouse at Ramelton, now used as a public library, and the conversion of a warehouse, also at Ramelton, as a genealogical centre. Dunree and Rathmullan battery forts, and the former Greencastle coastguard station have all been reused as museums. Outstanding local efforts have also seen the redevelopment of previously neglected community buildings such as the Ramelton Town Hall and the Colgan Hall in Carndonagh, and continue to secure a future for important buildings such as Lifford Courthouse.

The former railways are a major tourist resource and the Donegal Railway Museum and the Fintown Railway are testimony to this. The extensive track bed that still remains throughout the county, often in the most spectacular locations, provides opportunities for tourism greenways and future infrastructure that would lead to the conservation of the many bridges and other smaller structures along their routes.

Successful conservation projects have also been undertaken by private individuals, such as at Buncrana Castle, Oakfield House and by the Irish Landmark Trust at Termon House. However, the protection of our built heritage is not only about large restoration projects. The greatest care is necessary in all routine maintenance and restoration. Even small incremental alterations to the details and fabric of a building, such as the replacement of timber sash windows or the replacement of a natural slate or thatched roof, will gradually erode a building's heritage value.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage survey has also revealed a surprisingly large number of surviving vernacular buildings in the county. Many of these are currently at risk. These buildings define the regional identity and their collective preservation is of major importance. Initiatives promoting awareness about traditional building techniques provide opportunities for re-learning skills and reduce the risk of the less

prominent elements of the built heritage of the county being lost. Preventative maintenance such as the repair of slipped slates, upkeep of traditional windows, repair of thatched roofs and routine cleaning of rainwater goods can prolong the survival of a traditional building almost indefinitely. There are a growing number of notable projects involving repair of traditional farm buildings and houses that provide an example to other building owners. Repaired stone-roofed vernacular houses can be seen at Roshine near Dunfanaghy. Long-abandoned houses, carefully restored at Crolly, Carrickart, at the Isle of Doagh (*fig. 110*), and at Tully (*fig. 111*) demonstrate that vernacular buildings can have a viable future. With the assistance of a dedicated artisan builders, traditional farm buildings, like the stone-roofed barn at Falcarragh, or corrugated-iron roofed farm buildings at Magherasollus near Raphoe, have been repaired directly by their owners. In replicating the process of vernacular building, new skills have been acquired and used to assist others.

The protection of the built environment is not only about preserving the past. Today's buildings can also successfully restore or enhance a place. Donegal is fortunate to have a number of examples of good contemporary architecture. Most notable amongst these have been new public service centres for Donegal County Council by McCullough Mulvin Architects at Dungloe (*fig. 112*) and by MacGabhann Architects in Letterkenny. The latter were also responsible for the design of a new Regional Cultural Centre (*fig. 113*) in Letterkenny, as well as a number of award-winning private houses in the county, including a distinctive house at Portsalon



(*fig. 110*)
LAGACURRY
Isle of Doagh
(c. 1820)

A recently restored traditional vernacular house to the north end of Inishowen which illustrates that such buildings can be brought back into use after years of dereliction.



Courtesy of Dedalus Architects



(*fig. 111*)
TULLY
(c. 1820)

A good example of a sensitively restored vernacular house that has been adapted to meet modern requirements.



Courtesy of Dedalus Architects

(fig. 112)
**DUNGLOE DISTRICT
 OFFICES**
 An Clochán Liath
 [Dungloe]
 (2001)

An award-winning civic project by McCullough Mulvin Architects. It is composed of two blocks with the taller rendered block extending a shelf-like roof to shelter the lower timber block. A roof-lit atrium lies between the two blocks.

*Courtesy of
 McCullough Mulvin
 Architects
 Photo by Christian
 Richters*



(fig. 114). The county council has also developed landscape management projects that include a boardwalk and lifeguard station, designed by Dedalus Architecture, to assist the natural regeneration of an eroded dune complex at Rosstown. There are also other positive examples such as the Loreto Community School (fig. 115) in Milford, designed by the internationally acclaimed Grafton Architects.

The buildings highlighted in this Introduction are only a small proportion of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage survey of Donegal. The survey contains a broad range of structures that contribute to the unique character of the county, reflecting changes in building design over time and contributing layers of social, economic and historic information that inform our understanding of the place, its people and its history.



(fig. 113)
**LETTERKENNY
REGIONAL CULTURAL
CENTRE**
Port Road,
Letterkenny
(2007)

View of the multiple award-winning Regional Cultural Centre by MacGabhann Architects. The angular metal-sheeted forms create a complex composition. Wide dormer openings flood the interior with natural light.

*Courtesy of
MacGabhann Architects
Photo by Dennis
Gilbert*

The survival of these buildings is testimony to the durability of their construction, the quality of their design and, perhaps most importantly, the care and respect of their occupants over the centuries. It is hoped that this survey and publication will increase the awareness and appreciation of Donegal's rich and varied built heritage and encourage its care into the future.

(fig. 114)
TUATH NA MARA
Cionn Fhánada
[Fanad Head]
(2006-7)

This complex house on a small footprint sits comfortably in its stunning location overlooking Lough Swilly. The transparent glass screens and the use of dark natural colours help it to respect the rugged environment.

*Courtesy of
MacGabhann Architects
Photo by Dennis
Gilbert*



(fig. 115)
**LORETO
COMMUNITY
SCHOOL**
Milford
(2006)

The undulating zinc roofs reflect the local topography, and create its own landscape. The tall plainly rendered walls catch and reflect the light while significant areas are highlighted with vivid colour. It was designed by Grafton Architects, a firm of international repute.

*Courtesy of Grafton
Architects
Photo by Ros
Kavanagh*

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Registration Numbers

The structures mentioned in the text are listed below. Further information on each structure can be found on the website www.buildingsofireland.ie and searching by Registration Number. Structures are listed by page number. Please note that most of the buildings listed are in private ownership and are not open to the public. However, structures marked with an asterisk () which includes public buildings, museums, churches, and commercial properties are normally accessible.*

10	Kilclooney Portal Tomb* Kilclooney More, near Ardara Not included in survey	25	Brownhall Brownhall Demesne, Ballintra Reg. 40910401	36	The Hall Hall Demesne, near Mountcharles Reg. 40847025	44	Magherycallaghan House Magherycallaghan, near Castlefinn Reg. 40907921
11	Beltany Stone Circle* Tops, near Raphoe Not included in survey	26	Bishop's Palace Raphoe Demesne, Raphoe Reg. 40833005	37	Fort Stewart Killydonnell, near Ramelton Reg. 40904601	45	Fanad Rectory Carrowkeel Glebe Reg. 40901705
12	Grianán of Aileach* Carrowreagh (ED Burt) Not included in survey	27	St Lugadius' Church Lifford Reg. 40035001*	38	Brownhall Brownhall Demesne, near Ballintra Reg. 40910402	46	St. Finian's Church* Drumaweir, Greencastle Reg. 40810013
13	Doon Fort* Drumboghill, near Portnoo Not included in survey	28	Ramelton Community Library* Meetinghouse Lane, Ramelton Reg. 40800421	38	Ards House Ards Demesne, near Creeslough Not included in survey	46	Donagh Church* Donagh, Carndonagh Reg. 40805004
14.	St Mura's Cross Slab* Glebe (ED Fahan)	28	Taughboyne Church* Haw (ED Killea), Taughboyne Reg. 40905513	39	Rockhill Rockhill (Ballymacool), near Letterkenny Reg. 40906102	47	St. John's Church* Ballymore Lower, near Dunfanaghy Reg. 40902615
15	St. Patrick's Cross* Churchland Quarters, Donagh Not included in survey	29	Clady Bridge* Cloghfin (Castlefin), near Clady Reg. 40907914	40	Culdaff House Culdaff Reg. 40802011	47	Drumhome Church* Ballintra Reg. 40849004
16	Cathedral Church of St Eunan* The Diamond, Raphoe Reg. 40833001	30	Linsfort Castle Linsfort, Near Buncrana Reg. 40901807	40	White Castle Whitecastle, Quigley's Point Reg. 40903103	48	Catsby Cave Abbey Island, near Ballyshannon* Reg. 40852004
17	Northburg Castle Eleven Ballyboes, Greencastle Not included in survey	31	Buncrana Castle Tullyarvan, Buncrana Reg. 40815001	40	White Castle Whitecastle, Quigley's Point Reg. 40903103	49	Massmount Chapel* Rosnakill, Fanad Reg. 40901703
18	Donegal Franciscan Friary* Glebe (ED Donegal) Not included in survey	31	Buncrana Castle Tullyarvan, Buncrana Reg. 40815001	41	Kilderry House Ardmore, Muff Reg. 40821010	49	St Mary's Chapel* Tir Leadáin, Glencross Reg. 40902802
19	Doe Castle* Castledoe, near Creeslough Reg. 40902642	32	Castle Bridge Buncrana Castle, Buncrana Reg. 40815003	41	Salthill House Salthill Demesne, near Mountcharles Reg. 40909909	50	Lagg Chapel* Lag, near Malin Town Reg. 40900409
20-1	Donegal Castle* Donegal Town Not included in survey	32	Mount Tilly Main Street, Buncrana Not included in survey	42	Oakfield House Oakfield Demesne, Raphoe Reg. 40906201	50	Alt Presbyterian Church* All, near Castlefinn Reg. 40907916
22	Rathmullan Friary* Rathmullan Reg. 40819027	33	Wardtown Castle Ballymacaward, near Ballyshannon Reg. 40910707	42	Old Royal School Raphoe Reg. 40833004	51	Lifford Courthouse* The Diamond, Lifford Reg. 40835006
23	Faugher House Faugher, near Dunfanaghy Reg. Faugher House	34	Port Hall Porthall, near Lifford Reg. 40907113	43	Bogay House Bogay Glebe, near Newtowncunningham Reg. 40904709	52-3	Ballyshannon Barracks Main Street, Ballyshannon Reg. 40852063
24	Termon McGarh Castle Aghnahoo Glebe, near Pettigo	35	Dunmore House Dunmore (ED Killea), Carrigans Reg. 40828003	44.	Termon Agent's House* An Tearmann, An Clochan Liath Reg. 40904816	54	Castle Street Ballyshannon Reg. 40852060

56	Liscolly Bridge* Liscolly Reg. 40907919	71	Glenties Courthouse Glenties Reg. 40837006	81	Claragh House Claragh, Ramelton Reg. 40904522	95	Ballyliffin Railway Station Ballyliffin Reg. 40901017
56	Lackagh Bridge* Cashel/Drumlackagh Reg. 40902609	72	Killybegs Coastguard Station Killybegs Reg. 40845020	81	Tops Raphoe Reg. 40907056	96	Owencarrow Viaduct* Owencarrow, near Creelough Reg. 40903501
57	The Green Ramelton Reg. 40800208	72	Moville Coastguard Station Moville Regs. 40809003-4	82	Ballymagaraghy Carrowmenagh Reg. 40901252	96	Bunatrahan Pier* Kildoney Glebe, near Bundoran Reg. 40910622
58	The Green Drummonaghan, Ramelton Reg. 40847025	73	Edenmore House Edenmore, Stranorlar Reg. 40907813	82	Meenagory Buncrana Reg. 40901904	97	Salthill Pier* Salthill Demesne, near Mountcharles Reg. 40909908
59	Rutland Island Off Burtonport Not included in survey	74	Portnason House Portnason, Ballyshannon Reg. 40910764	83	Calhame Dunkineely Reg. 40909211	97	St. Mura's Church* Carrowmullin, Fahan Reg. 40820014
60	Malin Head Signal Tower* Málainn Bhig. Reg. 40908901	74	Ravenscliff Ballynally, Moville Reg. 40809054	84	Teach Mhíci Mac Gabhann Doire Chonaire Reg. 40902419	98	Dunlewey Church of Ireland Church* Dunlewey Near Reg. 40904201
61	Greencastle Fort Greencastle Reg. 40810007	75	St Columb's Ballynally, Moville Reg. 40809052	85	Magheramenagh Dunfanaghy Reg. 40902520	99	St Andrew's Chapel* Carrickfin Reg. 40903210
62	Rathmullan Battery* Rathmullan Reg. 40819002	75	Glenburnie Ballybrack, Greencastle Reg. 40902226	86	Conways Bar* Market Square, Ramelton Reg. 40823107	99	Clonca Church of Ireland Church* The Diamond, Malin Town Reg. 40801011
63	Macamish Fort Salt pans, Mahery Reg. 40902801	76	St Ernan's St Ernan's Island, Donegal Town Reg. 40909919	87	Letterkenny County Museum* High Road, Letterkenny Reg. 40502222	100	Christ Church* Bundoran Reg. 40851017
64-5	Newmills Cornmill* Milltown, Newmills Reg. 40829001	76	St Ernan's (causeway) St Ernan's Island, Donegal Town Reg. 40909949	88	St Conal's Psychiatric Hospital New Road, Letterkenny Reg. 40905318	101	St Columb's Church* Ballynally, Moville Reg. 40809052
66	Corcreggan Mill Corcreggan, Dunfanaghy Reg. 40901523	77	Lough Eske Castle* Lougheask Demesne Donegal Town Reg. 40909401	88	Sheil Hospital College Road, Ballyshannon Reg. 40852057	102	Christ Church* Spennogoe, Burt Reg. 40904704
66	Coxtown Mills Urbalshinny, Ballintra Reg. 40909916	77	The Lake Lodge Lougheask Demesne Donegal Town Reg. 40909417	90	Bank of Ireland* Main Street, Letterkenny Reg. 40504052	103	Fahan Rectory Glebe (ED Fahan) Reg. 40820017
67	Snodgrass' Windmill Croghan Hill, Ballindrait Reg. 40834005	78	Glenveagh Castle* Glenveagh National Park Reg. 40904301	90	Ernest Speer Lower Main Street, Letterkenny Reg. 40504036	103	The Old Rectory Rathmullan Reg. 40819018
68	Warehouses* The Quay, Ramelton Reg. 40800405-11	79	Mulroy House Rawros, Carrickart Reg. 40901712	91	Galloogley's Jewellers Main Street, Ballyshannon Reg. 40852062	104	Glebe House* Glebe (ED Gartan) Reg. 40904402
70	Donegal Carpets* Killybegs Reg. 40845002	79	Mulroy House (lodge) An Charraig, Carrig Airt Reg. 40901748	93	Drift Inn* Railway Road, Buncrana Reg. 40815015	104	Donaghmore House Donaghmore Glebe, Castlefinn Reg. 40840007
70	Donegal Town Courthouse Tyrconnell Street, Donegal Town Reg. 40843010	80	Holy Trinity Church Carraig Art Reg. 40808002	94	The Old Station House* Tyrconnell Street, Donegal Town Reg. 40843044		

105	Second Raphoe Presbyterian Church The Diamond, Raphoe Reg. 40833002	112	Murray Lodge Killybegs Reg. 40845018	123	Bayview Terrace Bundoran Regs. 40851018-25	132-3	Church of St Patrick* Station Island, Lough Derg Reg. 40910101
105	Donegal Town Methodist Church* Waterloo Place, Donegal Town Reg. 40843005	112	Prior Endowed Schools (former) Lifford Reg. 40835022	123	Aileach Road Buncrana Reg. 40815013	134	Our Lady Star of the Sea* Glebe, Desertegney Reg. 40901812
106	Moville Presbyterian Church* Moville Reg. 40809016	113	St John's Point Lighthouse St. John's Point 40909717	124	Montgomery Terrace Moville Regs. 40809023-30	135	Church of St Aengus* Burt Reg. 40904702
106	St Brigid's Catholic Church* Ballintra Reg. 40849002	114-5	Fanad Head Lighthouse Arryheernabin, Fanad Head Reg. 40900901	124	Ballyshannon Masonic Hall Church Lane, Ballyshannon Reg. 40852014	136	St Michael's Catholic Church* Creeslough Reg. 40913001
107	St Agatha's Catholic Church* Clar, near Donegal Town Reg. 40909404	116	Dunree Lighthouse Dunree, Inishowen Reg. 40901829	124	Carricknahorna Orange Hall Carricknahorna, near Ballyshannon Reg. 40910409	137	St Conal's Catholic Church Glenties Reg. 40837007
107	St Baithin's Catholic Church * St Johnstown Reg. 40830001	116	Inishowen Lighthouse Stroove, near Greencastle Reg. 40901301	125	John Colgan Hall* Carndonagh Reg. 40805016	138	Doe Castle* Castledoe, near Creeslough Reg. 40902642
108	St Columba's Catholic Church* Doneyloop Reg. 40907915	117	The Dwellings Glencolumbkille Regs. 40841010-3	125	Oscar's* Upper Main Street Buncrana Reg. 40815046	139	Greencastle Maritime Museum* Greencastle Reg. 40810012
108	St Patrick's Catholic Church* Crossroads, Killygordon Reg. 40839017	118	Lenan Coastal Battery Lenan Head, Inishowen Reg. 40900913	126	Ritz Cinema Main Street, Ballybofey Reg. 40838021	140	Lagacurry Isle of Doagh Reg. 40900411
109	Church of the Sacred Heart* Money Beg, Dunlewey Reg. 40904203	119	Dunree Fort* Dunree Hill, Dunree Reg. 40901826	126	John Morrow Grocery and Hardware Leat Beg, Fanad Reg. 40901723	140	Tully Not included in survey
110	St Eunan's Catholic Cathedral* Cathedral Sq., Letterkenny Reg. 40501168	119	Malin Head Radio Station* Malin Head Reg. 40900113	127	Séipéal Croithlí* Croithlí, Crolly Reg. 40904218	141	Dungloe District Offices* Dungloe Not included in survey
111	St Eunan's College College Road, Letterkenny Reg. 40501090	119	Malin Head Signal Tower* Malin Head Reg. 40900101	127	Droichead Oileán Na Cruite* Doire, An tArd Donn Reg. 40904133	142	Letterkenny Regional Cultural Centre* Port Road, Letterkenny Not included in survey
111	Stranorlar Parochial House (former) Main Street, Stranorlar Reg. 40838030	120	LOP 70 St John's Point Reg. 40909729	127	Cathleen Falls Hydroelectric Station Townparks, Ballyshannon Reg. 40852084	143	Tuath na Mara Fanad Head Not included in survey
112	Ardeunan Cathedral Road, Letterkenny Reg. 40501164	121	Tully Customs and Excise Post Ballynacarrick, near Pettigo Reg. 40910406	128	Camlin Castle Camlin, near Ballyshannon Not included in survey	143	Loreto Community School Milford Not included in survey
		121	Tranarossan House* Dundooan Lower Reg. 40900701	129	Church of The Four Masters* Upper Main Street, Donegal Town Reg. 40843029		
		122	Cloghan Lodge Cloghan More, Finn Valley Reg. 40906801	129-30			
		122	Glenmore Lodge Cloghan More, Finn Valley Not included in survey	131	Church of The Sacred Heart* Chapel Street, Carndonagh Reg. 40805018		



GLENVEAGH CASTLE
Glenveagh National
Park
(1867-73)

The silhouette of
Glenveagh Castle with
Derryveagh Mountains
and Glendowan
Mountains in the
background.

*Courtesy of the
Photographic Unit
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