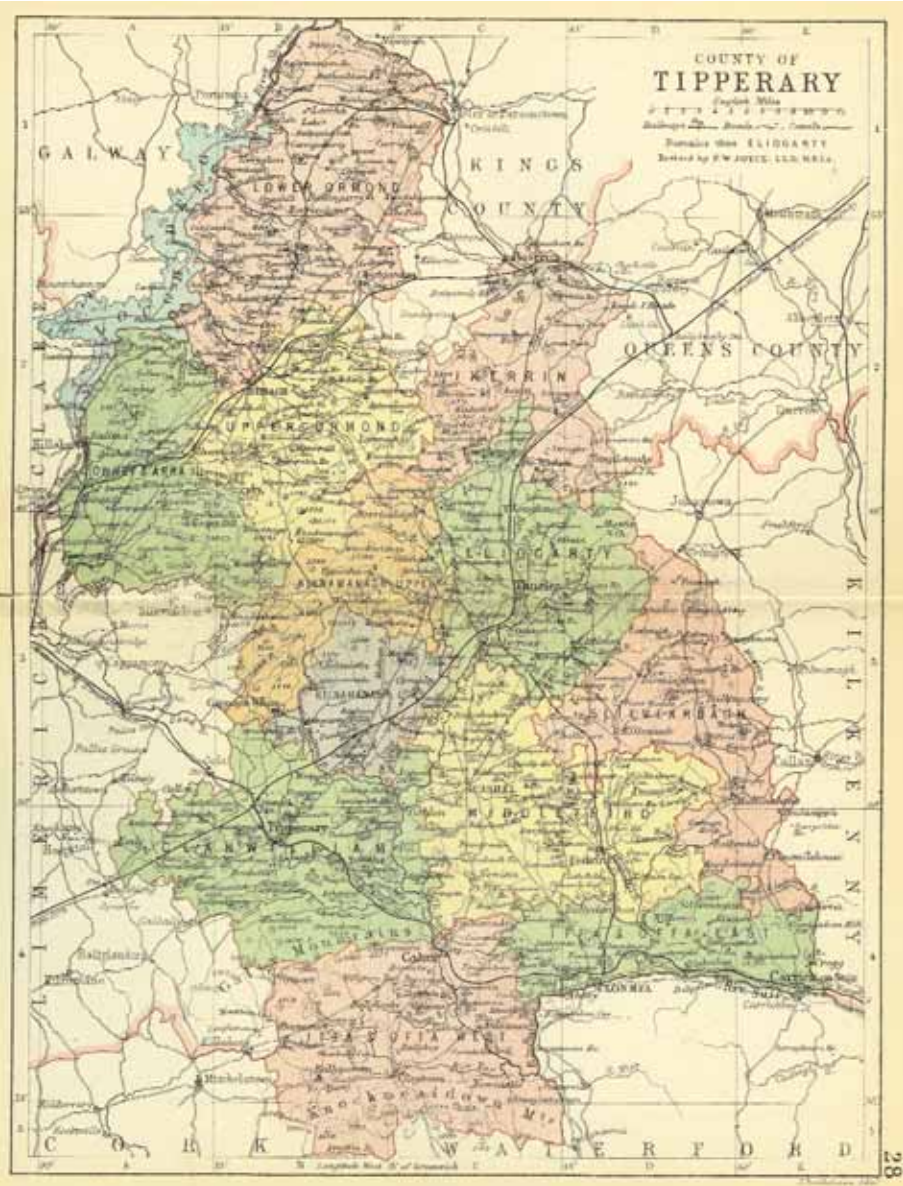


AN INTRODUCTION
TO THE ARCHITECTURAL
HERITAGE *of*

COUNTY NORTH
TIPPERARY





COUNTY OF TIPPERARY
George Philip and Son,
London and Liverpool
c. 1940

This map highlights the various baronies in the historic county of Tipperary. Lower Ormond, Upper Ormond, Owney and Arra, Ikerrin, Elogarty and part of Kilnamanagh Upper, form the administrative county of North Tipperary.

Foreword

LOUGH DERG



Tipperary is an inland county bordered by Galway and Clare to the west, Offaly to the north and Kilkenny and Laois to the east. The county boundary was modified several times over the centuries, with parts of Offaly and Limerick once belonging to the northern part of Tipperary. The present boundaries date from the late sixteenth or early seventeenth century. The Grand Jury (Consolidation) Act of 1836 provided for the recognition of a second assize town for the county of Tipperary. Accordingly, two years later the historic county was divided into two ridings, with Nenagh as the judicial and administrative centre for what became known as North Tipperary, and the original assize town, Clonmel, continuing as the county town of the south riding only. In 2000, the counties were renamed North Tipperary and South Tipperary respectively. For the purposes of this architectural survey, the two administrative counties have been treated separately.

The Architectural Inventory of North Tipperary was carried out in the summer of 2004. It consists of 1165 records of buildings and other items within the county that were deemed worthy of recording, of which some 800 have been recommended for protection. The Inventory should not be regarded as exhaustive and over time other buildings and structures of merit will come to light. The purpose of the survey, and of this Introduction to the architectural heritage, is to explore the social and historical context of the buildings and to facilitate a greater appreciation of the built heritage of North Tipperary.

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



Introduction

North Tipperary is bounded on the west by the River Shannon and by Lough Derg, the largest of its lakes. Historically Ireland's greatest water highway, the Shannon has played an essential role in the history and development of North Tipperary, in particular, by providing access to the region from the outside, linking the great monastic settlements along its course, and carrying longships in the Viking era. It allowed trade to and from the region from the Atlantic and the rest of the country and provided food, employment and, latterly, leisure for the inhabitants of the surrounding district. The Shannon is fed by smaller tributaries, including the Ballyfinboy, Nenagh, Kilmastulla and Little Brosna rivers. The sources of the Nore and the Suir, two of the 'Three Sisters', both lie near the town of Roscrea. All of these rivers were a valuable source of power, with the Civil Survey of 1654-6 recording 68 mills in North Tipperary. In the west of North Tipperary lie the Arra Mountains, which provided the famous grey-green stone known as Killaloe Slate. The Silvermines, Keeper Hill and Mauherslieve lie to the south and south-west and provided minerals such as copper, lead and zinc. The extraction of these ores was carried out from at least the medieval period until the late twentieth century. With the exception of these mountainous areas, and the tracts of bog at the eastern edge of North Tipperary, the landscape consists of fertile land over carboniferous limestone, separated by ranges of low hills.

The archaeology of early settlement is scattered across North Tipperary in the form of prehistoric sites, dating to the period 4000BC to AD500. An example is the impressive monument at Ashleypark (c.3350BC), near Ardcroney (**fig. 1**). However, the densest concentration of prehistoric tombs, standing stones and fulachtai fia (cooking places) is in the Silvermines and Slieve Felim Mountains. A good example of a megalithic wedge tomb, known as Dermot and Grania's Bed, can be found on the south-western spur of Mauherslieve. Evidence of the dwelling places of people in the early medieval period (AD500-1200) is in the form of ringforts and crannogs, the former scattered throughout the county, the latter to be seen on Lough Duff and Lough Nahinch. The county is traversed by a web of roadways, some with their origins in the prehistoric period. Many examples of toghers (Irish tóchar, a causeway), and wooden trackways, have been found in bogland, especially at Killoran, near Templetuohy, while some remains of 'Cromwell's Road', possibly dating from the seventeenth century, survive on the northern slopes of the Silvermines Mountains. Archaeological excavations in advance of bypasses on the N7 and N52 roads have yielded significant archaeological evidence, showing that the lowlands had much more intense occupation in prehistoric times than was previously known. North Tipperary is particularly rich in early ecclesiastical sites and several of today's towns and villages have the



(fig. 1)
ASHLEYPARK
Neolithic burial site
(c. 3350 BC)

This spectacular prehistoric monument consists of a megalithic burial chamber set into an earthen mound, surrounded by a double bank of earth.



CASTLE STREET,
Nenagh
(c.1890)

A view of what is now Pearse Street, as taken by W. Lawrence at the turn of the nineteenth century. Apart from the loss of the oriel-windowed corner building on the right-hand-side, the street is relatively changed today, apart of course, from modern traffic.

Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland.

remains of these religious centres at their core. A crossroads on the Slighe Dála, one of the most important east-west roadways in ancient Ireland and now at the centre of the modern town of Roscrea, was chosen by St Cronan as a location for his monastery in the seventh century (*fig. 2*). His first foundation at Monaincha, on an island in the bog two miles to the east, had been found too inaccessible. The round tower at Roscrea continues to be a major landmark for travellers on the main Dublin-Limerick road. Terryglass is another early example of a monastic settlement that developed over the centuries, at the centre of which is the former Church of Ireland church. At Lorrha, St Ruadhán's sixth-century monastery continued

(*fig. 2*)
SAINT CRONAN'S
CHURCH
Church Street,
Roscrea
(12th century)

Pedestrians approach the church through the surviving façade of the twelfth-century Saint Cronan's church, one of the most significant achievements of Irish Romanesque architecture.



to prove attractive to the Anglo-Normans, who added a motte-and-bailey castle, a Dominican friary and an Augustinian priory. The small nineteenth-century Church of Ireland church has been built within the eastern end of the medieval church and is accessed through a doorway, in the ruined nave, having an arch dating from the late twelfth and early thirteenth centuries. Holycross, a village straddling the boundary between North Tipperary and South Tipperary, is famous for its extensive and well-preserved Cistercian abbey lying beside a fine medieval stone bridge over the River Suir (*fig. 3*). The abbey was founded in 1185-6 and rebuilt in the fifteenth century by James Butler, fourth earl of Ormond. Its ruined church was



(*fig. 3*)
HOLYCROSS ABBEY
Holycross

An antique view, drawn by Gabriel Beranger in the late eighteenth century, of the famous Cistercian abbey founded in 1185-6. The thatched roofed buildings may represent the re-use of monastic buildings. The

gate at the north (left-hand) end of the bridge has long since disappeared. The bridge is of early fifteenth-century date, the downstream side (depicted) having been widened in 1626.

Courtesy of the Royal Irish Academy

re-roofed in the 1970s and has served since as the Roman Catholic parish church. Nearby is the former Roman Catholic barn-type church, now a community centre. At the northern end of the village is a disused Church of Ireland church, itself standing within the large enclosure of an early monastic site, all serving to illustrate continuous religious use of the site over many centuries.

The Anglo-Normans obtained charters in the thirteenth century for what are now the county's major towns of Nenagh, Roscrea, Thurles and Templemore and established burgages and markets. Only Nenagh and Thurles appear to have been walled towns in the medieval period, but little trace of these defences is to be seen today in either place. The settlement at Templemore was shifted by the Carden family, having originally been situated in what is now the town's public park.

Smaller settlements continued to develop under the Anglo-Normans following their settlement of the area in the twelfth century.

Although there may already have been a small settlement at Nenagh, it grew rapidly with the granting of the lands of Munster to Theobald fitzWalter in 1185. The castle at Nenagh (*fig. 4*), built in 1200-20, is an early example of a stone castle built by the Anglo-Normans in order to control and administer their newly acquired territories. It comprises a five-sided enclosure with flanking towers and a distinctive circular keep, which latter has become an emblem for the town. At Roscrea, the royal castle was surrounded by a river and a rock-cut moat, with a tall gatehouse complete with drawbridge and portcullis guarding access to the interior. In the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries hall-houses were constructed by the Anglo-Normans across the county, mainly as the chief residences of lords who had received a land grant and established a manor. These buildings were two storeys high with an entrance on the first floor and usually comprised only one main room per storey.



(*fig. 4*)
NENAGH CASTLE
O'Rahilly Street,
Nenagh
1200-20

The round donjon, the strongest point in the Anglo-Norman manorial centre of Theobald fitzWalter, is a major landmark in North Tipperary. It forms one corner of a pentagonal castle, with a double-towered gatehouse at a second corner and other towers formerly at the remaining corners.

Pre 1700

A great phase of castle-building began in the fifteenth century with the construction of the stone tower houses that are such characteristic landmarks in the Tipperary countryside. These solid buildings, with thick walls invariably constructed from local dark limestone, were built to defend the strongholds of both Gaelic and Old English families. Their primary function was defensive, so windows were narrow and impenetrable and the tower was often surrounded by a high stone bawn or walled courtyard. Good examples of these rectangular towers survive at Lackeen, Moycarky and Lisquillbeen. This form of building continued in use until the seventeenth century, with later examples displaying larger windows in the upper floors and a higher level of ornamentation to the stonework. Many of the houses built in the seventeenth century were somewhat fortified, although they gradually became more commodious. At Sopwell, a large Z-plan house of four storeys displays the typical stone mullioned windows of the period. At Loughmoe Court, an existing tower house was extended to form a Z-plan fortified house, but here the fortifications are less evident, the large windows having six lights (**fig 5**). A string-course to the exterior of the later block defines the division

of the storeys within, an early attempt at formalisation of the façade. Numerous tower houses survive today as part of a larger building, extended and contained within the fabric of later buildings. Farney Castle is an interesting example, incorporating architectural fabric of significance from the fifteenth to the nineteenth centuries.

At Lackeen, near Lorrha, a house was built in the seventeenth century outside the bawn wall of a medieval tower house (**fig. 6**). It can be seen today in a ruined state with the early eighteenth-century Lackeen House, now derelict, added to form a new front. This remarkable site therefore displays typical examples of architecture from three different periods. Cloughjordan House comprises a seventeenth-century house attached to a pre-existing tower house, which was extended again in the eighteenth century to give a U-plan building overall. Steeply pitched roofs and massive protruding chimneystacks are features of late seventeenth-century houses, as is a projecting stair tower to the rear, often resulting in a T-plan.

North Tipperary was heavily planted with settlers in the mid-seventeenth century, particularly the most northern barony of Lower Ormond. This transferral of property was fur-



(**fig. 5**)
LOUGHMOE COURT
Tinvoher
(15th to 17th centuries)

This imposing monument, close to the Dublin-Cork railway line comprises a large early seventeenth-century house added to a fifteenth-century tower house of the Purcells. The well-carved string-courses emphasise the scale of the later addition and the commodious mullioned-and-transomed windows contrast starkly with the slit windows of the older structure.



(**fig. 6**)
LACKEEN CASTLE and
LACKEEN HOUSE
Abbeville
(16th century and 17th to 18th centuries respectively)

The theme of continuity over many centuries is evident at Lackeen Castle. Just outside the bawn wall, which has its original arched entrance gateway, is a seventeenth-century house, to which the five-bay two-storey block was added in the early eighteenth century.



(fig. 7)
COOLROSS
(c. 1690)

Unusually heavy chimneystacks suggest an early date for the construction of this vernacular farmhouse. The small, square first floor windows are typical of vernacular buildings, as is the oversized porch.

(fig. 8)
HOLYCROSS BRIDGE
Holycross
(c. 1415, partly rebuilt
1626 and after 1750)

A plaque dated 1626, at the north-west corner of the bridge commemorates James Butler, Earl of Dunboyne and his wife Margaret O'Brien, who 'rebuilt the bridge which has fallen'.



ther consolidated after the Jacobite Wars of 1689-91, following which the Penal Laws were enacted against the Roman Catholic population. Despite this increased settlement, few houses of later seventeenth-century date are known to exist, perhaps due to political turbulence or because older houses were simply extended at the time, as personal circumstances or fashions changed. Many of the middle-sized classical eighteenth-century farmhouses of the North Tipperary countryside have a two-storey block to the rear giving the buildings a long T-plan form. It appears that in numerous cases this rear section is in fact an earlier block, the house having been extended by the addition of a formal block at right-angles. With records so sparse for this period of Irish history, it is often very difficult to accurately date houses of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. This is because the architectural forms of rural houses developed only very gradually, depending on the builder's experience and knowledge of architecture, the family's status and the political stability of the local area. Lodge House near Puckaun is one such example, where the slightly irregular central block of this late seventeenth or early eighteenth-century building had more formal single-bay wings added in the mid-eighteenth century.

At Coolross, near Lorrha, there is a rare example of a vernacular house of late seventeenth-century date, its antiquity indicated by its very stout chimneystacks (fig. 7). It is curious that we know much more about the larger, more formal, houses of the period than we do of the smaller, vernacular, houses, which must have been much more numerous.

Although rare, other building types and structures survive from the period before AD1700. The power of the water in rivers and streams was harnessed for corn-grinding, cloth-fulling, iron-forging, and brewing, among other uses. These small buildings are difficult to recognise and to date, as they are often in a ruinous state and may include several phases of construction. Some early examples can be identified, such as the small rubble limestone watermills at Lackeen Castle and at the Dominican Priory in Lorrha, the latter being clearly a medieval building.

The Bridge Act of 1634 raised taxes for the building or repair of bridges and toghers, and several examples of early bridges have been identified in the North Tipperary. Bridges built before the eighteenth century tended to be narrow, with roughly cut voussoirs, and often incorporated refuges to keep pedestrians safe from passing traffic. Holycross Bridge is a splendid example, rebuilt by James Butler, Baron of Dunboyne in 1626. A translation of the Latin inscription on the limestone plaque to be seen in a parapet of the bridge reads:

To the traveller. Nicholas Cowley constructed me: Lord James Butler, Baron of Dunboyne, and his wife, Lady Margaret O' Brien rebuilt the bridge which [had] fallen and ornamented it with their arms in the year of Our Lord 1626. Say, I beg you, before you go away this short prayer: May the two who built it escape the pit of hell (fig. 8).

The Eighteenth Century



(fig. 9)
MOUNT FALCON
Mountfalcon
(1720)

Richard Faulkner built this house in 1720. The façade is notable for its heavy balustrade and central gablet with ball finials. Considerable skill is seen in the carving of the doorcase, replete with scroll consoles to the pediment.

There was little change between the late seventeenth century and the early eighteenth century in the architectural form of houses in North Tipperary. The characteristic five-bay two-storey house, with an attic, and with chimneystacks at the gable ends, continued to be built. As the century progressed, the political situation stabilised and the economy grew accordingly, encouraging investment in new properties that began to reflect the status and wealth of their owners. The scale of the buildings increased and basements were introduced. Sometimes, earlier buildings were remodelled to conform to this semi-formal type, as appears to

be the case at Ballynavin Castle. In general, the concept of the defensive bawn walls, associated with the tower houses and fortified houses, did not completely disappear, but can be found instead in the form of high stone walls surrounding the farmyard to the rear or to the side of houses. Mount Falcon (figs. 9-11), built by Richard and Maria Faulkner in 1720, displays all of these features, and although the stuccowork added in the nineteenth century has altered the character of the front façade, the original cut-stone block-and-start door-surround has been retained.



(fig. 10)
MOUNT FALCON

Decorative quality is echoed in the public elevation of the farmyard at Mount Falcon, its Gothic Revival castellations acting as a foil to the more classical treatment of the dwelling house.

(fig. 11)
MOUNT FALCON

Whimsical details to the pediment include incised scrolls to the end acroteria. The apex is rounded off with a ball finial. The initials 'RFM' and a date '1720' are incised above the window.





(fig. 12)
DAMER HOUSE
Castle Street,
Roscrea
(c. 1730)

Built by the Damer Family, this impressive house stands within the curtain wall of the thirteenth-century Roscrea Castle. Its façade is pierced by an unusually large number of small-paned windows and the sandstone walls have moulded courses to eaves and basement levels. The house has ancillary blocks and fine walled gardens.

The gable-ended house continued as the preferred type for farmhouses right through the eighteenth century, with the introduction of an ornate fanlight sometimes the only indication of a later date. The century also witnessed the introduction of the 'Big House'. Following the sale of the Butler lordship of Roscrea, construction began on Damer House (fig. 12-14) in the 1720s inside the curtain walls of the thirteenth-century royal castle. The building is of three

storeys over a basement, with a façade of nine bays, and its scale and hipped roof form differ from the earlier houses of the area. The middle of the eighteenth century saw the construction of some of the largest houses in the county, with square or rectangular blocks of two or three storeys over a basement, and often located on elevated or prominent sites. The classically proportioned façades reflected the hierarchy of the rooms behind, with the piano nobile



(fig. 13)
DAMER HOUSE

The accomplished carved timber staircase in the hall.



(fig. 14)
DAMER HOUSE

An elegant room in the house.



(fig. 15)
CASTLELOUGH
Castlelough
(c. 1720)

The rear part of this country house displays a great variety of timber sash windows. The small panes and the exposed sash boxes are typical of early windows. A new front block was added by Lanyon, Lynn and Lanyon in 1866.



(fig. 16)
DONNYBROOK HOUSE
Donnybrook
(c. 1740)

The sober appearance of this medium-sized country house is relieved by its slight breakfront.

(fig. 17)
DROMINAGH HOUSE
Drominagh Demesne
(c. 1770)

The façade of this imposing country house is particularly notable for the 'Venetian' arrangement of narrow windows flanking the openings of the middle bay. It is a theme that is repeated in several other houses in North Tipperary.



(entrance floor having the main reception rooms) situated over a basement, with bedrooms above. Castlelough (c.1720) (fig. 15) is a house of two eras, being a fine early eighteenth-century house with notable original windows and glazing, having a three-bay, two-storey house of 1866 added to the front of the older house.

The piano nobile theme recurs at Donnybrook House (fig. 16), built c.1750, with its classically proportioned façade enlivened by interesting architectural features such as the breakfront with lunette window and the finely carved limestone doorcase.

North Tipperary is notable for having a fine group of country houses featuring a 'Venetian' arrangement of narrow windows flanking the openings of the central bay. Drominagh House (c.1770) is a most imposing five-bay three-storey example (figs. 17-18). Other instances are



(fig. 18)
DROMINAGH HOUSE

The cut-limestone doorcase has fine fluted pilasters and a pediment with carved decorative detail.

Fairyhill House (c.1784) **(fig. 19)**, South Park (1785), Lisbryan (c.1785) **(fig. 20)** and Milford House (c.1790). All are likely to have been designed by the same architect.

Prior Park **(fig. 21)**, built 1779-86 for James Otway to the design of William Leeson, is the archetypal 'Big House' of the Irish countryside, situated high above the surrounding farmlands and reached only by way of a long avenue. Although rather austere, it is of the highest

quality construction with many cut-limestone details and a fine stable-yard to the rear. Some houses of this type were destroyed during the Troubles of the 1920s when they were seen as a symbol of the malign system of absentee landlordism and alien government; others were abandoned or de-roofed in later decades. Johnstown House (Peterfield), near Puckaun, is today a ruin, but in its heyday dominated its picturesque landscape.

(fig. 19)
FAIRYHILL HOUSE
Gortinangle
(1784)

Maurice Craig described Fairyhill as 'a very nice little 'doll's house' and suggested that it was designed by the architect of South Park and Lisbryan House.

Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive

(fig. 20)
LISBRYAN HOUSE
Lisbryan
(c. 1785)

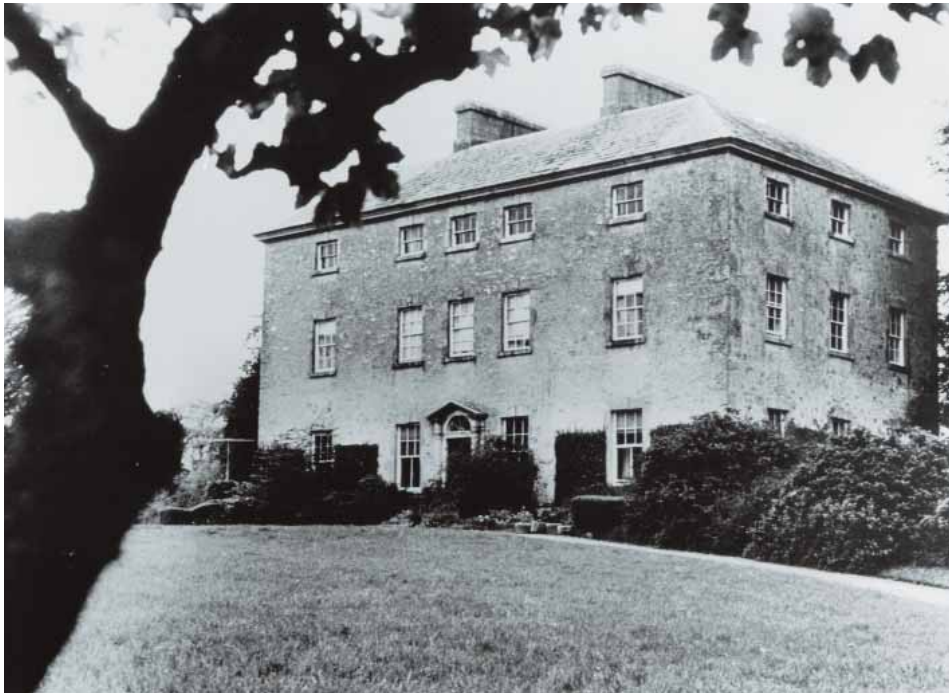
This house, which is quite similar to Drominagh House, has an impressive flight of cut-limestone steps leading to a finely-carved limestone block-and-start doorcase.



(fig. 21)
PRIOR PARK
Priorpark
(1779-86)

The unusual grouping of openings in the façade of this typical 'box Georgian' country house gives the appearance of much wall and few windows. The house was built to the designs of William Leeson, for James Otway. The interior was altered c. 1850.

Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive





(fig. 22)
SOPWELL HALL
Sopwell
(1745)

A country house designed by the architect Francis Bindon, the sobriety of Sopwell Hall is lightened by the limestone Gibbsian surrounds to the openings of the front façade and side walls. The well-carved cornice and eaves emphasise the horizontal appearance of the elevations.



(fig. 23)
INANE HOUSE
Inane
(c. 1730)

The earliest part of Inane House is a long two-storey block with relatively narrow windows. About 1825, a later block was added to the north and a courtyard to the south.



One large estate which has survived to the present day is Sopwell Hall (**fig. 22**), near Borrisokane. Built c. 1745 by Colonel Francis Sadleir, the house has been attributed to Francis Bindon, who had connections with the owner. A well-preserved seventeenth-century fortified house on the grounds illustrates the site's long history of settlement. The crisp cut-stone details and original proportions of the façade of the eighteenth-century house are retained, while the roof and interior were significantly remodelled in 1866-8. The extensive landscaped grounds incorporate two gate-lodges, impressive limestone stable-ranges, outbuildings and a steward's house of the 1870s.

Many smaller estates survive in the northernmost part of the county, albeit with lands which are now greatly diminished. As we have seen already, early blocks to the rear of eighteenth-century houses are numerous. A good example is Inane House (**fig. 23**), where an early eighteenth-century block stands behind a mid-nineteenth-century Tudor Revival house. At Beechwood Park (**fig. 24**), built in 1741, the early block to the rear incorporates part of a tower house, while an older structure also survives at the back of South Park.

While the fertile lands of North Tipperary had always supported agriculture, trade restrictions, imposed by Britain on Ireland in the

(fig. 24)
BEECHWOOD PARK
Graigue Upper
(1741)

Unusual in having end stacks despite its hipped roof, Beechwood Park is a good example of a medium-sized country house. The main block was built in 1741 and the wings in 1853. A towerhouse with a datestone of 1594, at the rear, gives the house a T-plan overall.

Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive



(fig. 25)
KILBOY HOUSE
Kilboy
(c. 1775)

The pediment, scrolls and triple keystone are fine features of this triumphal arch gateway. Only the basement storey survives of the country house of five bays and three storeys over a basement.

(fig. 27)
MODREENY
Modreeny
(c. 1790)

This estate bridge crosses a stream close to Modreeny, a late eighteenth-century country house. The bridge has eagles at one end and urns at the other, atop pannelled cut-limestone piers linked by fine cast-iron parapets.

Other small buildings associated with the larger rural houses and country houses include gateways (fig. 25) and gate-lodges, the latter usually introduced late in the century and often of very simple design. Simple structures that supported life in a big house also survive, such as limestone ice-houses, and limekilns (fig. 26). Demesne structures, some of which are of considerable merit, also include estate bridges (fig. 27) and boathouses.

eighteenth century, greatly encouraged agricultural production, mainly meat, and butter and other dairy produce. Most estates had farm buildings designed as an integral part of the overall composition of the demesne, with particular buildings reserved for different functions. Their owners tended to keep the farmyard at some distance from the house, although a stable-yard with carriage houses close by, was not unusual. Many of the smaller eighteenth-century houses in this region, although designed with some degree of classical formality to their front façades, are in fact farmhouses with farmyards to the rear obscured by high stone enclosure walls. This persisted in many instances into the end of the century, an example being Whitstone House (1790), which has a proportioned front façade, with laterally-placed chimneystacks and only one window in the rear wall, thus ensuring that the farmyard remains hidden from visitors to the reception rooms of the house.



(fig. 26)
YOUGHALVILLAGE
(c.1800)

Crushed limestone was turned to powder in these kilns, being spread on the land as fertiliser, or slaked to produce lime for mortars and renders in building work. They were an important part of rural industry between about 1750 and 1900.





(fig. 28)
GRAIGUE
(Moycarky parish)
(c. 1800)

A well-kept thatched house and associated farmyard, near the village of Moycarky. The hipped roof and lobby-entry plan form are typical of vernacular houses in the district. The slate-roofed farm building appears to have clay walls.



(fig. 29)
AUGHALL BEG
(c.1800)

Vernacular houses are typically very carefully sited in the landscape, with a low-key presence, good shelter and well-crafted boundaries.

Few vernacular houses of recognisably eighteenth-century date are known in North Tipperary. It is characteristic of the vernacular building tradition that their features can appear relatively unchanged over several centuries, making it difficult to date these buildings. The majority of vernacular houses and farm buildings are indicated on the earliest Ordnance Survey maps (c.1840) and are thus as likely to be late eighteenth century as they are to be early nineteenth century (*figs. 28-9*). Single-storey vernacular houses for the general population, were almost all originally thatched. They were built by their owners, who used 'templates' passed down orally through the generations, and largely outside the influence of formal architectural styles and building technology. The typical small farmhouse is a modest building with few and small windows, placed irregularly in the long elevations. The main space in the house is the kitchen that is a room traditionally used for cooking, entertaining and sleeping, more in the mode of the medieval hall than its modern equivalent which is often used solely for cooking. There are two recognisable

plan forms associated with vernacular houses in Ireland, and both are seen in North Tipperary. The lowlands tend to have 'lobby-entry' houses, recognisable externally due to the alignment of chimneystack and entrance door. In such houses, there is a small lobby or hall between the front door and a wall or partition ('jamb wall') at right angles that protects the hearth fire behind it from draughts from the doorway which was traditionally kept open during the day. Lobby-entry houses often have hipped roofs and clay walls. The other principal plan type is 'direct-entry', the house entered directly from the outside, the hearth being located at the opposite end of the kitchen to the entrance door. These latter houses are more likely to have pitched roofs and stone walls. Farm buildings were arranged around a yard, usually to the front of the dwelling house, and are simple rectangular structures, mainly single storey or with a loft for fodder over a stable or byre, with square-headed doorways and narrow vents for air and light. Today the majority of such out-buildings are roofed in corrugated-iron.



(fig. 30)
LITTLETON CHURCH
OF IRELAND
Bally Beg
(1786)

Its tower and octagonal
steeple dominate this rela-
tively small church, whose
façade is similar to that of
St Mary's Church,
Templemore. Well-carved
pinnacles unify the whole
composition, while pilasters
and buttresses break up and
add interest to the eleva-
tions. The church was
enlarged in 1820.

The rise in the Protestant population following the plantations created a demand for new churches. The end of the eighteenth century saw the beginning of a huge boom in church-building, supported by local landowners and the Board of First Fruits. The Church of Ireland church at Littleton (*fig. 30*), dating from 1786, is the earliest and most intact of these churches. St Mary's church, Templemore (*figs. 31-2*) was built in 1790 but remodelled in the early nineteenth century. Glebe houses were built to accommodate the clergy, Kilfithmone rectory (c.1785), being a good example. For most of the eighteenth century the enactment of the Penal Laws prevented the construction of Roman Catholic churches, although some small



(fig. 31)
ST MARY'S CHURCH
Church Street,
Templemore
(1790)

St Mary's is one of North
Tipperary's larger Church of
Ireland churches. The façade
of the church is similar to
that at Littleton. One of the
plaques in the porch com-
memorates a rebuilding of
1856. The 'cat-slide' roofs
to the side aisles are some-
what unusual.

(fig. 32)
ST MARY'S CHURCH
Church Street,
Templemore

These well-carved octagonal
entrance pliers lead into the
surrounding graveyard and
contribute to the fine set-
ting of the church.





(fig. 33)
INCH HOUSE
Inch
(c. 1800)

This single-storey structure is a rare survival of a private Roman Catholic chapel built for the residents of a country house. The stained-glass lancet windows clearly indicate the ecclesiastical function of the building.



(fig. 35)
ST PETER'S CHURCH
Moycarky

St Peter's has one of the most exuberant interiors in North Tipperary. Its three galleries have rails with decorative arcade detailing. The plaster ceiling, with coffer-work, and the impressive backdrop to the altar, all contribute to a sense of drama.



(fig. 36)
ROSCREA QUAKER MEETINGHOUSE
Rosemary Street, Roscrea
(1773)

This building, the best surviving Quaker meeting-house in North Tipperary, has the lack of pretension associated with the smaller denominations. Its location, in a yard off a side street, is also typical. Although much altered and extended over the years, its external character still remains. Its south gable is slate-hung.

private chapels were built, as for example at Inch House (fig. 33), owned by the Ryans, one of the few landed Roman Catholic families in North Tipperary. With the Catholic Relief Acts in the latter part of the century, a small number of Roman Catholic churches were built, such as that of Moycarky (figs. 34-5), built in 1793, which is of high quality construction and incorporates an ashlar façade. The Quaker community appears to have been quite small in North Tipperary, the only surviving meeting-house, built in 1773, being at Roscrea (fig. 36).

(fig. 34)
ST PETER'S CHURCH
Moycarky
(1793)

One of the earliest Roman Catholic churches, in North Tipperary Moycarky has a later stone-faced façade and an unusual and decorative external staircase leading to one of the galleries.





(fig. 37)
BALLYARTELLA BRIDGE
Ballyanny
Lower/Ballyartella/
Ballyannymore
(c. 1700 and c.1730)

An early eighteenth-century stone bridge that was widened, possibly as an imposition of the Road Act of 1727. The original south elevation retains a pedestrian refuge and both elevations have triangular-plan cut-waters. The irregularity of the arches and their rough voussoirs indicate an early date for its construction.

(fig. 38)
BALLYARTELLA BRIDGE

Detail of the arches, cut-waters and the pedestrian refuge.

A network of turnpike roads was developed in Ireland from the late 1720s that, over the course of the eighteenth century, allowed access to hitherto unreachable and very sparsely populated areas of the county. This followed the Road Act of 1727, which specified that roads had to be wider than 12ft and resulted in the widening of existing bridges and the construction of many new ones. Ballyartella Bridge (figs. 37-8), over the Nenagh River, predates these improvements and retains its semi-circular refuges. The wider thirteen-arch bridge over the Shannon at the historic crossing-point between Ballina, Co. Tipperary and Killaloe, Co. Clare dates in part from the late eighteenth century, with a section rebuilt in the nineteenth,

although some of the fabric of a seventeenth-century structure may survive. As was typical of bridge building at the time, this example is constructed mainly of roughly coursed rubble limestone, with cut-stone details to the cutwaters and the surviving masonry parapet. The downstream side of the medieval bridge at Holycross was rebuilt in the middle of the eighteenth century (fig. 39). Sometimes the local landowner was responsible for the construction of the bridges, as was the case at Drominagh Demesne (figs. 40-1) where in 1776 Richard Biggs constructed a triple-arched toll bridge, incorporating toll collectors' booths, over the River Ballyfinboy. Some milestones survive from the late eighteenth century, typically triangular in



(fig. 39)
HOLYCROSS BRIDGE
Holycross
(c. 1415, partly rebuilt
1626 and after 1750)

An historic crossing of the Suir, Holycross Bridge straddles North Tipperary and South Tipperary. Its downstream side, seen here, was rebuilt after 1750.



(fig. 40)
DROMINAGH
DEMESNE/BALLINDERRY
(1776)

This rare example of a toll bridge stands on a minor road over the Ballyfinboy river close to Drominagh House and close to the shores of Lough Derg. It has segmental-arched toll booths built into the parapets at each side.

(fig. 41)
DROMINAGH
DEMESNE/BALLINDERRY

The booth on the west side has a plaque overhead that reads 'This Bridge was Built 1776. Richard Biggs Esqr Overseer'.



form and giving the distance in miles to the nearest town in each direction (*fig. 42*). In addition to travel by road, the Irish parliament encouraged various schemes for water transport from the early eighteenth century, which included the great Shannon Navigation. The limestone quay of c. 1780 at Garrykennedy (*fig. 43*) incorporates stone steps and a protruding mooring platform. It was at this time that yacht-racing as a competitive sport began on Lough Derg, so that the harbours took on a new importance during the summer months.

The Cromwellian plantation of North Tipperary resulted in the foundation or expansion of several towns. Cloughjordan, a good example, is said to have been founded by James Harrison, a colonel in Cromwell's army. A for-

mer barracks building of c.1800 in the centre of Cloughjordan (*fig. 44*) forms one side of the present village green that was originally intended as its parade ground. The barracks was later converted to a row of private houses. Borrisokane expanded when it was settled by disbanded Cromwellian soldiers.

The new possibilities of travel by road encouraged the growth of towns, which increasingly applied for licences to hold markets and fairs in order to trade the goods and livestock brought in from the surrounding countryside. In the 1770s, Sir John Carden, the foremost landowner in Templemore, made an application to hold one fair a month, and on receipt of this right, laid out a large, wide thoroughfare with ample space for a cattle-market. The provision



(*fig. 42*)
BIRDHILL
(c. 1780)
This milestone stands indicates distances to Dublin, Limerick and Nenagh of 105 miles, 8 miles and 11 miles respectively. It is a well-preserved reminder of the era of coaching travel in Ireland and was a precursor of the more familiar 'finger-posts' that are still used today.

(*fig. 43*)
GARRYKENNEDY
HARBOUR
Garrykennedy
(c. 1780)
A small harbour on Lough Derg with walls and steps of roughly dressed limestone(?) and with a distinctive rounded mooring platform at the opening to the lake.

(*fig. 44*)
THE SQUARE
Cloughjordan
(c. 1800)
This terrace of three-storey houses is the only side built of a large military barracks. A green opposite the terrace was the intended parade ground. St Kieran's Church of Ireland church was built on another side. Some of the houses retain their original rear yards and outbuildings.



(*fig. 45*)
GARDA SIOCHÁNA
TRAINING COLLEGE
Thurles Road/Barrack Street/Church Avenue, Templemore
This view of the barracks is from c. 1900. The complex is little changed today, apart from the loss of timber sash windows.
Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland



of such a market-place along a broad street is a common feature in Irish market towns and can be seen also in the earlier towns of Thurles and Roscrea. Carden sold sites on the sides of this broad street with stipulations in the leases for specific building forms. His plan for the town also incorporated St Mary's Church of Ireland church, forming the focal point at a bend in the Roscrea road out of the town. The slightly later Richmond Barracks (*fig. 45*), built c.1800, today aligns on a grand axis with the façade of the Roman Catholic church. Built to accommodate one thousand men, the former barracks is one of the earliest of the large military instal-

(fig. 46)
SUMMERHILL
Nenagh
(c. 1780)

This row of two-storey and three-storey dwellings with basements is the best surviving group of eighteenth-century urban houses in North Tipperary. Built by the wealthier townspeople, the houses have a variety of square-headed and round-headed doorways, approached by steps, and most retain their six-over-six pane timber sliding sash windows.



(fig. 47)
24 SUMMERHILL
Nenagh
(c. 1780)

This house is greatly enhanced by its intricate cobweb fanlight. The integral carriage archway is typical of the terrace and leads to a yard of outbuildings at the rear.



(fig. 48)
16 SUMMERHILL
Nenagh
(c. 1750)

A square-headed doorway, lugged-and-kneed and reached by the cut-limestone steps with decorative handrails.

lations constructed in the years after the 1798 rebellion, with its classical three-storey blocks arranged around a vast open square and parade ground. The Mall, Templemore was laid out about the same time, with a terrace of tall three-storey houses. On Summerhill, Nenagh, there is a larger and more intact grouping of terraced Georgian houses with doorcases typical of the era, some having lugged square-headed architraves, and others with round-headed limestone block-and-start surrounds (*figs. 46-8*).

While trade restrictions prevented any large industries from developing in North Tipperary in the eighteenth century, the abundance of agricultural goods produced on the fertile farms and estates of the area and the need to process this produce, resulted in a significant number of smaller industrial buildings. Water and wind power was harnessed to power a variety of mills and breweries. The earlier water-mills were modest in scale, with walls of coursed rubble limestone and small, irregularly spaced window-openings. The internal machinery of cogged

wheels and drive-shafts, on several floors, and powered by a waterwheel attached to the building, was constructed almost entirely of timber. The larger mills were often accompanied by a miller's or mill manager's house. The size of the buildings increased towards the end of the century and displayed a greater formality to their façades and fenestration. At Whitefield Mill (*fig. 49*) original features such as the mill-race, mill-wheel and diamond-pattern cast-iron windows, help to retain the original character of this former corn-mill.



(fig. 49)
WHITEFIELD MILL
Whitefield
(c. 1780)

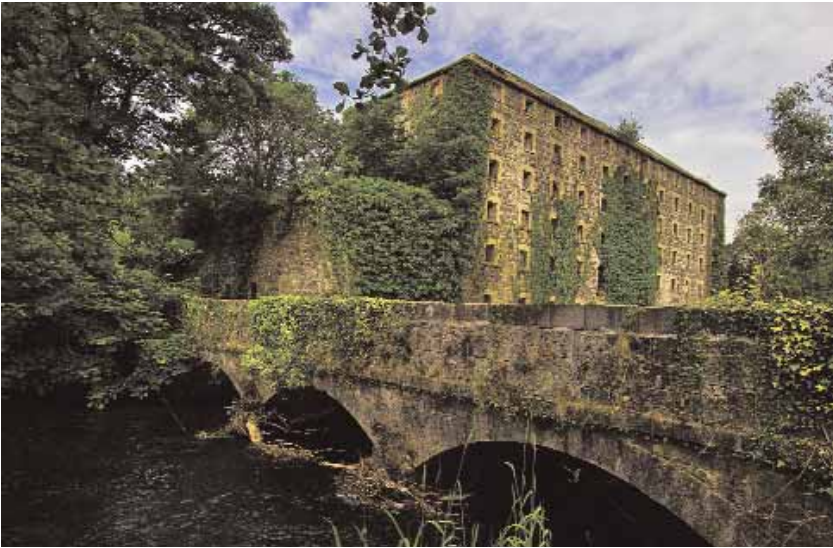
Whitefield Mill, near Templemore, is substantially intact, retaining its machinery, mill wheel and millrace. It has small, latticed windows and a bellcote, from which a bell was rung to summon the millworkers.

The Nineteenth Century

The eighteenth century comprised probably the longest period of peace known to the country. It came to a dramatic close with the failed and bloody rebellion of 1798, when the United Irishmen, inspired by the French Revolution and the new democracy of the United States, attempted to lead a movement that would remove British control over Irish affairs. The political fall-out of this event was the Act of Union, passed in 1800, uniting Ireland and Britain into a single political entity.

While many industries in Ireland declined under competition from large-scale British industry, North Tipperary was not heavily affected, due to the overwhelmingly agricultural basis of the area's economy. Furthermore, the Napoleonic wars of 1804-12 had inflated the price of grain and shifted the use of farmland from pasture to tillage. The northernmost part

of Tipperary was the main grain-growing district and flour was the principal product. Most of the flour-mills of the nineteenth century were small in scale and served only their localities; but some larger, more commercial examples survive, such as at Derrinsallow, where a massive twelve-bay six-storey limestone edifice stands on the Little Brosna River (*fig. 50*). At Loughmore a substantial manager's house is attached to the eastern end of the mill (*fig. 51*), the height and small windows of which are characteristic of these first large-scale industrial buildings. This mill was later converted for sawing timber, a typical re-use at the end of the century when local flour-milling ceased in favour of cheaper imports. Some much smaller mills, built in the vernacular tradition, survive. The water-mill at Knockanfoil More is a good example, complete with its water-wheel



(*fig. 50*)
DERRINSALLOW MILL
Derrinsallow
(c. 1830 and c.1850)

This massive twelve-bay, six-storey water mill, fed by the Little Brosna River, forms part of the estate of Lord Rosse of Birr Castle. Turbines, for generating electric power, were installed in 1908 to supply the town of Birr. Derrinsallow Bridge, in the foreground, was erected after 1840.



(*fig. 51*)
GRAIGUEFRAHANE
(c. 1800)

This industrial-scale mill, five-storey with an attic, stands on the site of an earlier mill depicted on the Down Survey map of 1655-8, and near the gaunt ruin of Loughmoe Court. It served as a corn mill and as a sawmill, with a miller's house attached to its western side.

(*fig. 52*). Occasionally, purpose-built accommodation for mill-workers is to be seen at Riverstown (*fig. 53*), where there is a terrace of small two-storey houses of c.1800. The mill itself now stands as a gaunt ruin. Windmills are a rare type in North Tipperary. They comprise round limestone-built towers, with opposing doorways, and a line of small windows lighting the interior. The impressive structure (*fig. 54*) at Ballykinash, Carrig (c. 1820) stands on a height overlooking a later quarry, with a corn-drying building at the roadside, having a vaulted roof. The latter building seems to have been re-used as an explosives store when the quarry came into operation.

Several other industries endured the difficult times of the nineteenth century, including the quarries of 'Killaloe' slate in the Arra Mountains, which in their heyday employed hundreds of men. This distinctive grey-green slate was used on buildings all over Ireland, and was also exported. The waste heaps from the quarries created man-made mountains that can still be seen today. On the north face of the Silvermines Mountains, metal extraction had taken place since at least the thirteenth century, mining ceasing as recently as 1982. The most notable modern traces are the ruins of substantial concrete structures for sorting and processing the ores. Stone-built Cornish engine-houses are to be seen at Shallee (*fig. 55*), with a polychromatic brick chimney, and in the village of Silvermines itself. These structures accommodated steam-engines for draining water from the mine-shafts. The inhabitants of Silvermines were heavily involved in the mining enterprise and some cut-stone terraced houses built in 1856, reminiscent of mining districts in the north of England, can be seen on the main street.



(*fig. 52*)
KNOCKANFOIL MORE
(c. 1840)

One of the few intact examples in the county, this whitewashed vernacular mill retains its impressive steel and timber overshot water wheel. The small, square windows and battened timber door are usual in buildings of this type.



(*fig. 53*)
BALLYLOUGHNANE
(c.1800)

This terrace, in Riverstown village, was probably originally comprised of eight dwellings, each with a two-bay ground floor and a single-bay first floor. They housed workers at the nearby flour mill.



(*fig. 54*)
BALLYKINASH
(c. 1820)

Only two windmills survive in North Tipperary, this example, in the village of Carrig, having the flared sides typical of the early nineteenth century. A line of small windows, and opposite doorways give a good idea of the former layout of spaces within what is now a roofless shell.



(*fig. 55*)
SHALLEE
(Coughlan)
(c.1865)

Two stone-built Cornish engine houses stand at Silvermines, one near the village and the other at nearby Shallee. They housed steam engines whose function was to pump water out of the mines, the steam being vented through the

chimneys. The first documented mining licence was granted in 1289 and from then until 1982, lead and zinc were extracted, with smaller amounts of copper, tin and iron.

Despite the hardships of the century this era also heralded some major improvements in the country's infrastructure. A programme of road-building commenced under the auspices of the Marquess of Anglesea and was engineered by Richard Griffith. This opened up the mountain district to the north of Thurles, with the completion in the 1830s of the road from Thurles to Newport, still named Anglesea Road on the Ordnance Survey maps, and the road from Nenagh to Tipperary. Charles Bianconi's carriage transport service, begun in 1815, had depots in every postal town in County Tipperary and expanded over the next two decades with the ever-increasing network of roads.

The importance of the Shannon for transport was strengthened with the beginning of steam navigation, which introduced new possibilities for trade between north-west Tipperary and the capital, by way of large lake steamers as far as Shannon Harbour, and thence via the Grand Canal to Dublin. Traffic on the Shannon was at its peak about 1850, with Dromineer (fig. 56) the chief port in the area, receiving bulk coal destined for the gas-works and barracks at Nenagh, in addition to provisions and guano for fertiliser. Goods transported out included the agricultural produce of Nenagh's hinterland, mainly flour, oatmeal, barley and livestock. The store at Dromineer, dating from c.1845, survives, as does the original residence

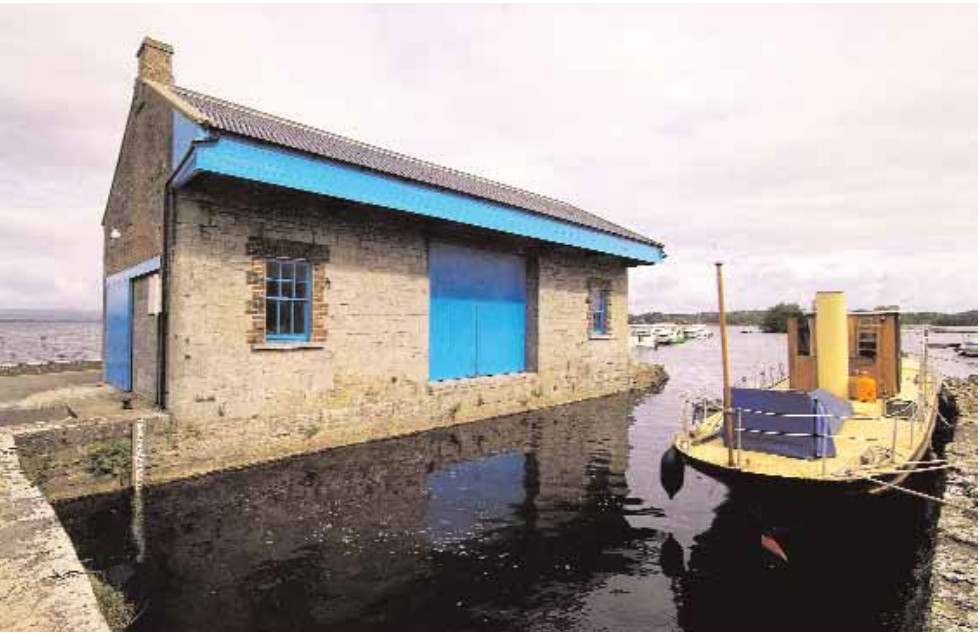
(fig. 56)
DROMINEER
(c.1845)

A diminutive rectangular harbour and its well-preserved goods shed are a reminder of the era during which Dromineer was a port of call for the Grand Canal Company. Goods, mainly agricultural produce, were shipped in and out until about 1950. The port also facilitated Shannon cruises, mainly for Sunday day-trippers.



(now the Sail Inn Hotel) of the Shannon Navigation Company's Dromineer agent. Guinness barges continued to call at Dromineer until the 1950s.

After the arrival of the railway, goods and livestock were transported by train. The Great Southern and Western Railway's Dublin to Cork line opened in 1849. The station at Thurles (figs. 57-8), designed by Sancton Wood in the Gothic Revival style favoured at the time, is asymmetrical, with snecked ashlar limestone walls and good cut-stone detailing. The stations further north in the county, on the Dublin to



(fig. 57)
THURLES RAILWAY
STATION
Railway Road,
Thurles
(1848)

Sancton Wood, the architect of Heuston Station, Dublin, designed the station at Thurles. A short arcade of pointed arches punctuates the irregular plan of the building. The iron footbridge was cast by George Smith & Company of Glasgow.

(fig. 58)
GARRYVICLEHEEN
Thurles

This former stationmaster's residence is now in use as a private house. The chamfered surrounds and the dropped keystones of its doorways and windows are particularly notable features.





(fig. 59)
ROSCREA RAILWAY
STATION
Fancroft Road,
Roscrea
(c. 1870)

The platform elevation of Roscrea Station has an arcade of round-arched windows, linked by hood mouldings springing from pilasters. The rather over-large cut-stone chimneystacks give the building a quirky appearance.

Limerick line, have more varied architectural styles. The long single-storey station at Roscrea (figs. 59-60), with its large, closely spaced round-headed windows, is more classically influenced, as is Cloughjordan, the latter almost domestic in scale.

(fig. 60)
ROSCREA RAILWAY
STATION

Light shines through the coloured glass of the round-headed windows to create a delightful play of light on the stone-flagged floor of the waiting room.



This development of new rail and road routes necessitated the construction of additional bridges that were often built to an exacting standard. Whereas the majority of earlier bridges were of rubble stone, cut limestone, often rusticated, was the standard choice in the nineteenth century (fig. 61). Earlier bridges were repaired by the Grand Juries or by other bodies such as the Shannon Commissioners (fig. 62). Railway bridges were constructed to carry existing roads over the newly laid railway lines and are quite uniform in design, with a particular emphasis on rustication of the limestone blocks. There are also metal girder bridges, over smaller rivers, with fine cast-iron parapets and plaques (fig. 63).

(fig. 62)
KILLALOE BRIDGE
Cullenagh/Ballina

The bridge was partially rebuilt in 1825, as noted in the plaque - 'Five central arches of this bridge rebuilt 1825' and also after 1837 by the Shannon Commissioners.



(fig. 61)
TYONE BRIDGE
Tyone
c. 1830

This bridge, notable for its finely crafted limestone masonry, spans the Nenagh River at the probable site of a bridge mentioned in the Civil Survey of 1654-6, and is close to the ruins of a medieval nunnery.



(fig. 63)
BURGOO BRIDGE
Limerick Street/Burgoo,
Roscrea
(1898)

Late nineteenth-century bridges frequently have plaques giving the date of construction, the name of the engineer and, occasionally, the name of the builder. This cast-iron plaque provides all three elements.



(fig. 64)
LIBERTY SQUARE
Thurles

A busy market-day in Thurles, about 1890, centred on what appears to be an unworthy successor to the medieval market-house of the town. The market-place is now a car park, but otherwise the square has seen remarkably few changes.

Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland



(fig. 65)
FINN'S
Main Street,
Borrisoleigh
(c. 1860)

Finn's public house closes the view from Palace Street. It is an impressive three-storey building with a particularly fine timber shopfront, whose fluted pilasters and highly ornamented console brackets contribute significantly to the heritage of the village.



(fig. 66)
FINN'S

Interlace motifs adorn the console brackets of the fine shopfront.

Increasing ease of travel and transport of goods encouraged the growth of towns where wholesale grocers, wine, spirit and seed merchants and tea, coffee and spice dealers began to appear on the main streets (fig. 64). Finn's public house in Borrisoleigh (figs. 65-6), T. Kennedy's and T. Morkan's shops in



(fig. 67)
T. KENNEDY
Patrick Street,
Templemore
(c.1820)

Templemore has many good nineteenth-century shopfronts. Kennedy's is of timber with perpendicular glazing to the windows and panelled pilasters with carved consoles and a carved cornice.

(fig. 68)
T. MORKAN
Patrick Street,
Templemore
(c. 1900)

Morkan's, a typical two-storey street building, is greatly enhanced by its render details, exemplified by the exaggerated flaring of the fluted pilasters.



(fig. 69)
FIRST EDITIONS
19 Liberty Square,
Thurles
(c. 1890)

Fine timber detailing to its shopfront and brick detailing typical of the turn of the twentieth century, give distinction to this commercial premises in Thurles.

Templemore (figs. 67-8) and First Editions in Thurles (fig. 69), are particularly fine examples. The growing middle class of merchants and traders built suitable premises for their businesses, frequently living directly over the shop. Others chose to live in terraces, often displaying the elaborate carved doorways and fanlights fashionable in the late Georgian period (figs. 70-1). In the smaller towns and villages, commercial premises often combined a shop and public house with the residence of the owner.



(fig. 70)
THE TERRACE
Shesheraghmore,
Borrisokane
(c. 1815)

This pleasant row of Georgian houses graces the approach to Borrisokane town from Nenagh and is considerably enhanced by the mature beech trees lining the street.



(fig. 71)
THE TERRACE

The entrance doorways have concave surrounds, wide cobweb fanlights and attractively glazed sidelights, and are reached by flights of steps over the basement areas.



Later in the nineteenth century, detached houses were increasingly preferred, set in their own grounds on the outskirts of the towns and essentially forming new suburbs. The classically inspired façades of the late Georgian period gave way to asymmetrically planned houses with gabled roofs and an emphasis on exterior decorative detail. The Arts and Crafts movement sought a return to honesty in design and craftsmanship not to be found in the mass-production that was the inevitable result of the industrial revolution. Carraig Dúin (*fig. 72*), built in 1898, on the outskirts of Thurles, is a relatively rare example of the style in North Tipperary.

(*fig. 72*)
CARRAIG DÚIN
Kickham
Street/Boheravoroon,
Thurles
(1898)

Designed in the Arts and Crafts style with an irregular plan, this building displays good quality decorative brick and timber truss details. The windows and doorway are also typical of the era.



(*fig. 73*)
NENAGH GARDA
STATION (formerly
Provincial Bank)
Kickham Street/
Emmet Place,
Nenagh
(1864)

This fine freestanding former bank building was clearly influenced by Italian Renaissance styles and makes a fine contribution to the streetscape.

(*fig. 74*)
NENAGH GARDA
STATION

Detail of mosaic in the hall,
showing the monogram of
the Provincial Bank.

The greater economic activity in the towns required commercial and civic institutions to support it, the most notable of which were the banks. Although banking as a business existed in the eighteenth century in Ireland, it was not until the mid-nineteenth century that the country saw a real boom in this sector and the accompanying construction of purpose-built premises. The substantial building of the

Provincial Bank in Nenagh (*figs. 73-74*), constructed in 1864 and now housing the town's Garda Station, retains many of its original features, including in its foyer, the stucco-and-mosaic motif of the former institution. The façade, influenced by Italian architectural styles, acknowledges the original exchange buildings of the Renaissance and this Venetian Gothic style became the architecture of choice for the



(fig. 75)
AIB BANK
Main Street,
Roscrea
(c. 1880)

The ornate caryatid-like consoles include masks of beasts and half-human creatures. The plaques at the bottom of the consoles are the less esoteric emblems of the provinces that make up the name of the Munster and Leinster Bank, one of the smaller banks absorbed by the AIB.

(fig. 76)
AIB BANK
Main Street,
Roscrea

Detail of pilaster to the right-hand side of the entrance.



(fig. 77)
BANK OF IRELAND
Liberty Square,
Thurles
(c. 1900)

Rusticated stone to the ground floor contrasts with the smooth-faced stone of the first floor. The cornices and oversized consoles to the window heads are the main decorative elements in an otherwise solid and restrained bank building.

Provincial Bank throughout the country. The AIB Bank in Roscrea (figs. 75-6), dating to later in the century, is markedly less formal but is richly embellished with stucco and carved foliate stonework. Contrasting stonework is a feature of the Bank of Ireland branches in Thurles (fig. 77) and Roscrea, which have rusticated ground floors and smooth-faced first floors.



(fig. 78)
ROSSOULTY
(c. 1885)

This roadside letterbox displays the crown motif and the royal monogram of Queen Victoria.

Post-boxes started to appear around the county in the late nineteenth century, both as pillar boxes, but more commonly mounted in walls (fig. 78). Other finely-crafted cast-iron street furniture also became a feature of the towns, the 'Fancy Fountain' in Roscrea being a particularly ornate example (fig. 79).



(fig. 79)
THE FANCY FOUNTAIN
Rosemary Square,
Roscrea
(c. 1860)

The elaborate cast-iron 'fancy fountain' formerly stood at the junction of Castle Street and Main Street, until it was moved about 1925. It has an octagonal basin with gas lamps and a tiered centre-piece with human figures and birds.



(fig. 80)
TOWN HALL AND
COURT HOUSE,
Nenagh

Lawrence's view of Nenagh about 1900 shows the courthouse (1843), the town hall (1889) by Robert Paul Gill, and the newly-built church of St Mary of the Rosary, by Walter Doolin and dated 1892, but completed by George Ashlin in 1910.

Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland

Town halls were provided in various towns, that in Nenagh (*fig. 80*) being erected in 1889. The market-house in the middle of the very wide main street of Templemore (*fig. 81*) was built in 1816 and later adapted for use for the local authority. It was widened along its sides in 1927, having been burnt in the Troubles of the 1920s. A growing demand for more public spaces and meeting places led to the erection of such buildings as the lecture hall in Nenagh, constructed in 1869 (*figs. 82-3*).



(fig. 81)
TEMPLEMORE TOWN
HALL
Main Street,
Templemore
(1816)

This former market-house, erected in 1816, stands proudly in the wide main street of Templemore. It was rebuilt in 1927, with arcaded side additions, having been burnt by British forces during their sacking of the town in 1920.



(fig. 82)
LECTURE HALL
Pearse Street,
Nenagh
(1869)

In 1889, Basset wrote that this building was run by the Young Men's Christian Association and held 'debates, essays, readings and literary and musical entertainments', with a library of 1,400-1,500 books and a reading room. Its fine oriel window is echoed in Conradh na Gaeilge's building across the lane.



(fig. 83)
LECTURE HALL

The fine double-leaf paneled door of the Lecture Hall is set into a classical surround and is reached by a short flight of granite steps.

With Nenagh becoming the assizes town in 1838 came the requirement for suitable administrative buildings, specifically a courthouse and a prison. The courthouse of 1843 (*figs. 84-5*), designed by J. B. Keane, is principally a Georgian-style building, despite its late date. There is an emphasis on light to the interior through the tall multi-paned windows, while the monumental pedimented Ionic portico demonstrates the importance of this civic building in the town square. Keane is also responsi-

ble for the adjacent gaol, which comprises a series of cell-blocks, with tiny window-openings, radiating from the remarkable governor's building. This latter structure, octagonal in plan, has, in contrast, generous rooms well lit by large windows (*fig. 86*). The gaol complex is entered through a triumphal-arch gatehouse (*fig. 87*), in the niche over which was the bearing for the hangman's noose. Somewhat incongruously, a statue of the Virgin Mary was placed there, after the Sisters of Mercy acquired the



(*fig. 84*)
NENAGH COURTHOUSE
Banba Square,
Nenagh
(1843)

The monumental courthouse, by J.B. Keane, is one of the finest in Ireland. It is built of limestone, with a portico is of Portland Stone. The building was repaired and refurbished by the Office of Public Works and reopened in 2006.

(*fig. 85*)
NENAGH COURTHOUSE

A detail of one of the capitals.



(*fig. 86*)
NENAGH GAOL
O'Rahilly Street,
Nenagh
(1839-42)

An octagonal plan was chosen for the governor's houses at Nenagh and Downpatrick. It stands at the centre of a radial arrangement of gaol buildings. Latterly, the house was used as a convent and a school, and is now a heritage centre.



(*fig. 87*)
NENAGH GAOL

This intimidating entrance gate is very similar to that at Carlow and undoubtedly by the same architect. Condemned prisoners were hung from the Diocletian window above the entrance proper, the Sisters of Mercy placed the statue of Our Lady at the same spot. The gateway has a three-bay, two-storey guardhouse to the rear.



(fig. 88)
THE BRIDEWELL
Gaol Road,
Newport
(1862-6)

Newport's intact bridewell had cells for four males and three females, separate day rooms, with exercise yards to the rear. It also had accommodation for the bridewell keeper and his family. It was used as a gaol until the 1880s, and as a lock-up into the early 1920s.

buildings in the 1880s. Smaller gaols and courthouses were also located in more rural locations, most notably at Newport, where the bridewell of 1862-6 (*figs. 88-9*), with male and female exercise yards, stands to the rear of the courthouse built as part of the overall scheme. Small RIC barracks (*figs. 90-1*) also appeared in rural areas, particularly in the early and mid-nineteenth century, often sited on or close to the larger demesnes.



(fig. 89)
THE BRIDEWELL

Stairways at each end of the front corridor gave led to landings, off which the cells, with their heavy iron doors and diminutive round-headed windows, were accessed.



(fig. 90)
COOLBAUN
(Kilbarron parish)
(c. 1855)

The projection to the façade of this T-plan former RIC barracks accommodates both the main entrance and the stairs. Label-mouldings to the windows provides the only ornamental detailing.

(fig. 91)
COOLBAUN
(Kilbarron parish)

A defensive loop or shot-hole to one side of the entrance door.



The Great Famine was arguably the most traumatic period in Irish history. The country's population had reached over 8 million by 1841. Provision for the destitute was finally made in the 1840s with the construction of workhouses throughout the country. These were built to similar plans, but on different scales, to the designs of George Wilkinson, following the passing of the Poor Relief (Ireland) Act in 1838. The workhouse at Borrisokane, built in 1853 and one of the latest of the series, is of the standard plan, with separated male and female sleeping wards and exercise yards. The design of these buildings is more heavily influenced by classical and Georgian architecture than by the simplified Tudor style most often applied by Wilkinson. Despite the bleak purpose of these

institutions, the high quality of construction can be appreciated in the details of the cut stonework and carpentry. The workhouse at Thurles, now demolished, had a fine cut-stone entrance block, with an incised date of AD1841.

Shelter for the poor was also provided in the form of almshouses, a superb example of which survives in Thurles (*figs. 92-3*). Dated 1889 and designed by Albert E. Murray, the Stannix Almshouses, named after their patron Emma Stannix, were built to provide homes for widows over sixty. They still provide sheltered housing today. Built in an asymmetrical picturesque brick and half-timbered manner, their domestic scale contrasts strikingly with the institutional nature of the large mid-nineteenth-century workhouses.



(fig. 92)
STANNIX ALMSHOUSES
Kickham Street,
Thurles
(1889)

Almshouses are relatively rare in Ireland. This group, designed by Albert Murray, has a continuous verandah supported on carved timber posts that is both decorative and functional.



(fig. 93)
STANNIX ALMSHOUSES

The master's house is distinguished by being two-storeyed. It terminates the street end of the complex and its form and the detailing of its façades are typical of late nineteenth-century Tudor Revival architecture.

A comprehensive system of education for all children gradually emerged as a result of various government inquiries into educational needs, culminating in the establishment of the national school system in 1836. The churches and local landlords also acted as patrons. Early examples of these schools for young children, particularly in the countryside, were often a single room heated with an open fire and lit by large windows, such as at Finnoe and Castletown, both erected c.1820. In contrast, Sopwell National School (*fig. 94*), built in 1826 by the Earl of Charleville and Francis Trench of Sopwell Hall and operated by the Board, has many of the features of a gate-lodge or small estate house. The schools of the nineteenth

century display a variety of architectural styles, from the small buildings of the countryside, which differ only slightly from single-storey rural houses, to the more formal architecture of the schools located on large estates. An architectural type quickly developed that saw the girls' and boys' classrooms separated and accessed through separate entrances. Another arrangement was to have one classroom placed above the other, with an external stair leading to the upper floor, as at Borrisokane National School (*fig. 95*), built in 1845. The diversity in design of the schools was gradually replaced later in the century by a new series of schools designed by the Office of Public Works.



(*fig. 94*)
SOPWELL NATIONAL SCHOOL
Sopwell
(1826)

Estate influence is evident in the detailing of this former school. A cut-limestone arcade forms a verandah, flanked by gabled projections, and somewhat similar to the later block at Inane House. The scalloped bargeboards are a typical of the smaller buildings associated with estates.



(*fig. 95*)
BORRISOKANE NATIONAL SCHOOL
Main Street (off),
Borrisokane
(1845)

An unusual heart-shaped plaque displays the name and date of construction of this former national school at Borrisokane. The tooled edging of the heart is an attractive detail.



(*fig. 96*)
SACRED HEART CONVENT
Convent Road,
Roscrea
(c. 1855-65)

This convent, now largely disused, dominates the western side of the town of Roscrea. The earliest part of the complex is a three-storey house of c.1790. Other buildings in the group date to the early nineteenth century and the twentieth century.

Although some convents and other Roman Catholic religious institutions had been founded in the later eighteenth century, it was following Catholic Emancipation in 1829 that the country witnessed a huge increase in the construction of these buildings. Convents consistently incorporated a chapel and a garden, with a graveyard for deceased members of the order. Many of the monasteries and convents gradually took on an educational role, eventually providing facilities such as industrial schools. The builders of the earlier religious buildings displayed a proclivity for classical architecture,

emulating the larger houses of the period, while various forms of Gothic or Tudor are seen in the majority of those buildings and extensions constructed later in the century. At the Sacred Heart Convent in Roscrea (*fig. 96*), founded in a late eighteenth-century house, the educational function of the order grew rapidly so that the enormous school buildings of the nineteenth century now dwarf the original convent building. At the Presentation Convent in Thurles (*fig. 97*), begun in 1826, the influence of the Gothic is evident, particularly in the chapel and in the pointed arches of some openings,



(*fig. 97*)
PRESENTATION CONVENT
Cathedral Street,
Thurles
(1826)

The doorway of the convent has splendid Gothick panelling and an exuberant over-light. The complex forms part of the ecclesiastical quarter at Thurles.



(fig. 98)
CONVENT OF THE
SISTERS OF MERCY
Church Avenue,
Templemore
(1863)

The façade of this medium-sized convent clearly reflects the layout of the functional spaces within - a residential building, with a chapel to the left-hand side.

(fig. 99)
ST MICHAEL'S COMMUNITY CENTRE
Hollycross
(1834)

St Michael's was made redundant by the restoration of Hollycross Abbey in 1971-5. The large window in the front gable mimics one in the abbey. Scars in the long, side-walls show that it had been intended to add transepts. The church had 'a spectacular Gothick timber reredos'.



(fig. 100)
ST JAMES'S CHURCH
Killea
(1832)

Described by Maurice Craig as an early T-plan barn church, St James's may be a rebuild of an earlier church of 1782. Sandstone buttresses add an ornamental quality to what is a very simple rural Roman Catholic church. The interior has shallow barrel-vaulted plaster ceilings.

(fig. 101)
ST JAMES'S CHURCH
Killea

Tudor arches, crocketed finials and clustered colonettes provide the structure to this splendid Gothick reredos, with statues of Our Lord and the Virgin and Child standing in niches flanking the tabernacle.



although the overall massing of the main buildings is still Georgian in its proportions. The Convent of the Sisters of Mercy in Templemore (fig. 98), built in 1863, however, typifies the smaller religious buildings of the later nineteenth century, with its gabled roofs and porch, lancet windows and domestic scale.

The number and the architectural importance of Roman Catholic churches increased significantly in the years immediately following Catholic Emancipation. With the exception of the more important churches, the preference for the T-plan or 'barn' churches continued, particularly in the countryside. St Michael's at Hollycross (fig. 99), built in 1834, is a good example and, despite the large size of the building, the form remains very simple. The growing interest in the use of Gothic can be seen in

the large lancet windows, while the fine ashlar limestone of the front elevation illustrates the desire for a more impressive church building than had previously been possible. The Roman Catholic church in Borrisokane, completed in 1839, and now also converted for community use, has Gothic lancet windows to the exterior and classical plasterwork to the interior, a style often found in the early post-Emancipation years. St James's church at Ileagh (fig. 100-1), built in 1832, is a T-plan church of the type commonly constructed from the late eighteenth century until well into the nineteenth century. Here, however, the remarkable and well-preserved Gothic interior is characteristic of the period and incorporates an elaborate reredos that is very ornate for such a small church.



(fig. 102)
CHURCH OF THE
SACRED HEART
Church Avenue,
Templemore
(1877-83)

This church, whose soaring
spire was added after 1889,
was designed by George
Ashlin and built on the site
of an Erasmus Smith school,
on land bequeathed by Sir
John Carden. It stands at
one end of a one-kilometre
avenue at whose other end
stands the former Richmond
barracks.

(fig. 103)
CHURCH OF THE
SACRED HEART
Church Avenue,
Templemore

Mosaics, murals and stained-
glass by Mayer of Munich
and Earley of Dublin have
created a highly decorated
apse, somewhat similar to
that at Borrisoleigh. The
nave and aisles are separat-
ed by piers of polished
Aberdeen granite. Elsewhere,
Caen stone and Sicilian and
Irish marbles have been
used.



(fig. 104)
CHURCH OF THE
SACRED HEART
Church Avenue,
Templemore

Trios of angels adorn the
outer ends of the side-walls
of the apse.



(fig. 105)
CHURCH OF THE
SACRED HEART
Palace Street,
Borrisoleigh
(1892)

W.G. Doolin was the archi-
tect for this Gothic Revival
church, with its sumptuous
interior, the glory of which
is the polygonal apse with
its gilded ceiling by Meyer
and stained-glass windows
by Joshua Clarke.

(fig. 106)
CHURCH OF THE
SACRED HEART
Palace Street,
Borrisoleigh

A detail of the sandstone
order-arched entrance to
the church.

The passion of the English architect A.W.N. Pugin for the Gothic Revival was to have a huge influence on the architecture of Roman Catholic church buildings during this period. His promotion of Gothic as the one 'true' architectural style for these churches, was continued through his son, E.W. Pugin, in partnership with George Ashlin. The characteristic features of their work, high-quality stone masonry and carving and rich interior decoration and fur-

nishings, are all to be found in the Church of the Sacred Heart in Templemore (figs. 102-4), designed by Ashlin and completed in 1883. The use here of coloured marbles, mosaics and wall-paintings in the interior is immediately identifiable as Gothic Revival in style. The church of the same name at Borrisoleigh is very much smaller, but has an equally ornate interior (figs. 105-6). While the preference for this style of architecture prevailed throughout Ireland



(fig. 107)
CATHEDRAL OF THE
ASSUMPTION
Cathedral Street,
Thurles
(1865-72)

The Cathedral of the Assumption, consecrated on 22nd June 1879, incorporates part of the 'Big Chapel' erected in 1807-9, itself built on the site of a medieval Carmelite friary.

Bishop Patrick Leahy, whose statue stands in the forecourt, commissioned J.J. McCarthy to produce the Italian Lombardic Romanesque design. His successor, Archbishop Thomas Croke engaged George Ashlin to complete the interior. The Ursuline convent is to the left of the picture, the Bishop's palace to the right.



(fig. 108)
CATHEDRAL OF THE
ASSUMPTION

The arcade motif is the dominant feature of the building's interior. The ambulatory emphasises the sanctuary, an idea repeated in the adjoining baptistery.



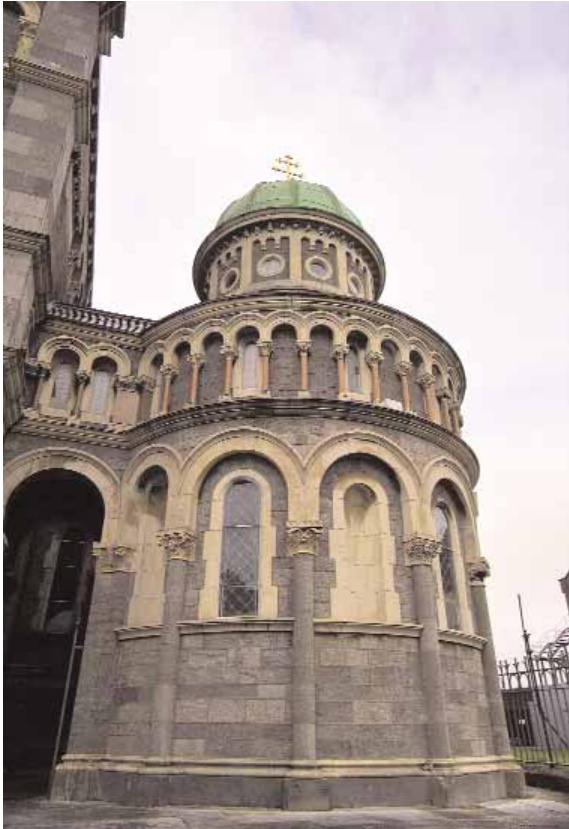
(fig. 109)
CATHEDRAL OF THE
ASSUMPTION

Pride of place in the sanctuary is given to the splendid sixteenth-century tabernacle by Giacomo della Porta, from the Jesuit church in Rome.



(fig. 110)
CATHEDRAL OF THE
ASSUMPTION

This landmark tower stands almost completely free-standing and continues the elaborate carved-stone embellishments of the cathedral. Decoratively carved piers and finely-wrought gates and railings emphasise the grandeur of the cathedral complex.



(fig. 111)
CATHEDRAL OF THE
ASSUMPTION

Attached to the south-eastern corner of the cathedral is the remarkable baptistery, clearly reflecting the Italian inspiration behind Archbishop Croke's grand oeuvre.

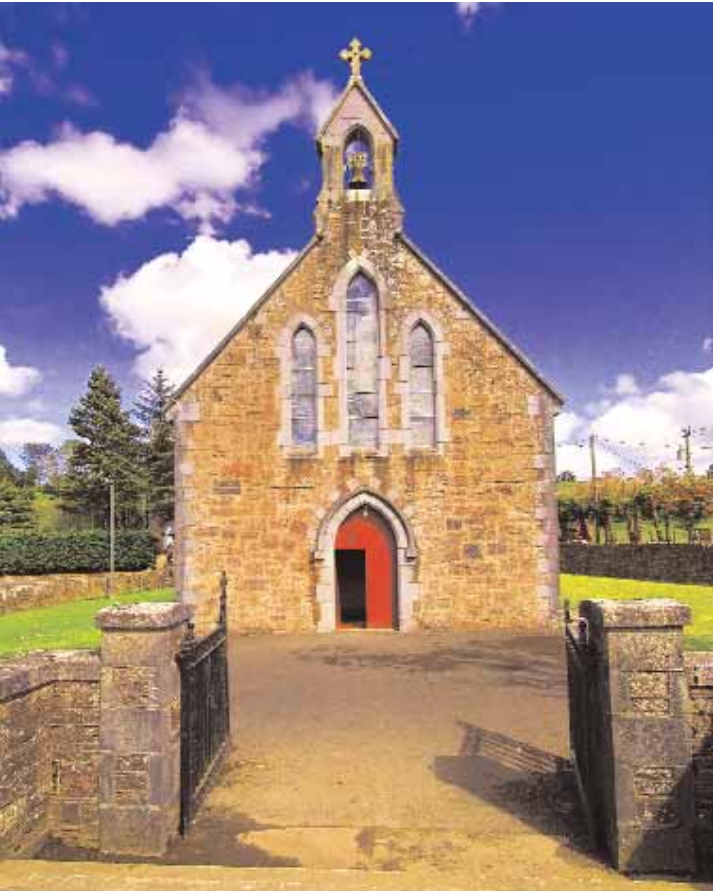


(fig. 112)
CATHEDRAL OF THE
ASSUMPTION

Snakes form an exotic element of the decorative carved marble baptismal font. An ambulatory colonnade sets apart the area around the font and emphasises the round plan of the building.

(fig. 113)
ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH
Rossfinch
(c. 1890)

Polychromatic stonework is an attractive feature of this rural church.



(fig. 114)
ST MARY OF THE
ROSARY
O'Rahilly Street/St
Flannan's Street,
Nenagh
(1896)

Exuberant cast-iron gates mark the entrance to the grounds of the church of St Mary of the Rosary.

Revival. In the countryside, the simplicity and small scale of St Joseph's church in Ballinahinch (fig. 113) are unusual for a Roman Catholic church of this period, while the polychromatic stonework and decorative wrought-iron fence show an influence of the Arts and Crafts movement not often displayed in rural areas. High quality cast-iron gates are a feature of many large urban churches, giving a decorative

emphasis to the main entrance (fig. 114). Roman Catholic churches of all architectural styles, even in remote areas, present a wealth of stained-glass windows, often of very high quality and craftsmanship. The Church of the Visitation, Rearcross (figs. 115-16), stands in stark contrast to all other churches in North Tipperary. It is a rare example of a 'tin church', roofed and clad in corrugated-iron. Formerly a Methodist church in Wales, the structure was dismantled and shipped to Ireland in 1886 to become the Roman Catholic church for the village.



(fig. 116)
CHURCH OF THE
VISITATION

The interior retains its arch-braced timber trusses and timber-boarded walls.



(fig. 115)
CHURCH OF THE
VISITATION
Rearcnogy More
(re-erected 1887)

This rare 'tin church' is clad and roofed in corrugated-iron. Originally a Methodist chapel standing in Wales, it was dismantled and re-erected in Rearcross village in 1887 and re-consecrated as a Roman Catholic church. Its interior is lined with tongued-and-grooved boarding and it retains its simple stained-glass windows.



(fig. 117)
LOUGHMORE CHURCH
Tinvoher
(1825)

This Roman Catholic church in Loughmore village was described by Maurice Craig as ‘especially fine, with a gothic reredos...the finest seen in the county...containing curious classical details’. The octagonal turrets were added in 1898. Regrettably, the church and its exuberant gateway were demolished about 1980.

Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland



(fig. 118)
CHURCHQUARTER
(c. 1890)

The juxtaposition of church and parochial house is a common theme in Ireland. The presbytery at Kilcommon has an unusually elaborate doorway. The church dates from the early 1870s.

The church at Loughmore (fig. 117), built c.1825 and demolished c.1980, was another example of a quirky Roman Catholic church. Local craftsmen embellished what was probably quite a simple structure, to produce a building that Maurice Craig regarded as having the finest Gothic reredos in the county.

Often at this period a presbytery was built for the parish priest, adjacent to the church. While often of a simple, functional type, some

examples of good architectural design are to be seen, such as the presbytery (c.1890) at Kilcommon (fig. 118), with its elegant doorway.

St Patrick’s College, Thurles (fig. 119), was constructed in 1829 as a seminary for the Archdiocese of Cashel and Emly. The Synod of Thurles was held there in 1850. No longer used for the training of priests, it has become an education centre for the district.



(fig. 119)
SAINT PATRICK’S
COLLEGE
Cathedral Street,
Thurles
(1829)

The former seminary of the Roman Catholic diocese of Cashel and Emly is set in extensive grounds at the end of a long straight tree-lined avenue, forming a grand axis with the Cathedral of the Assumption. The Synod of Thurles was held here in 1850.

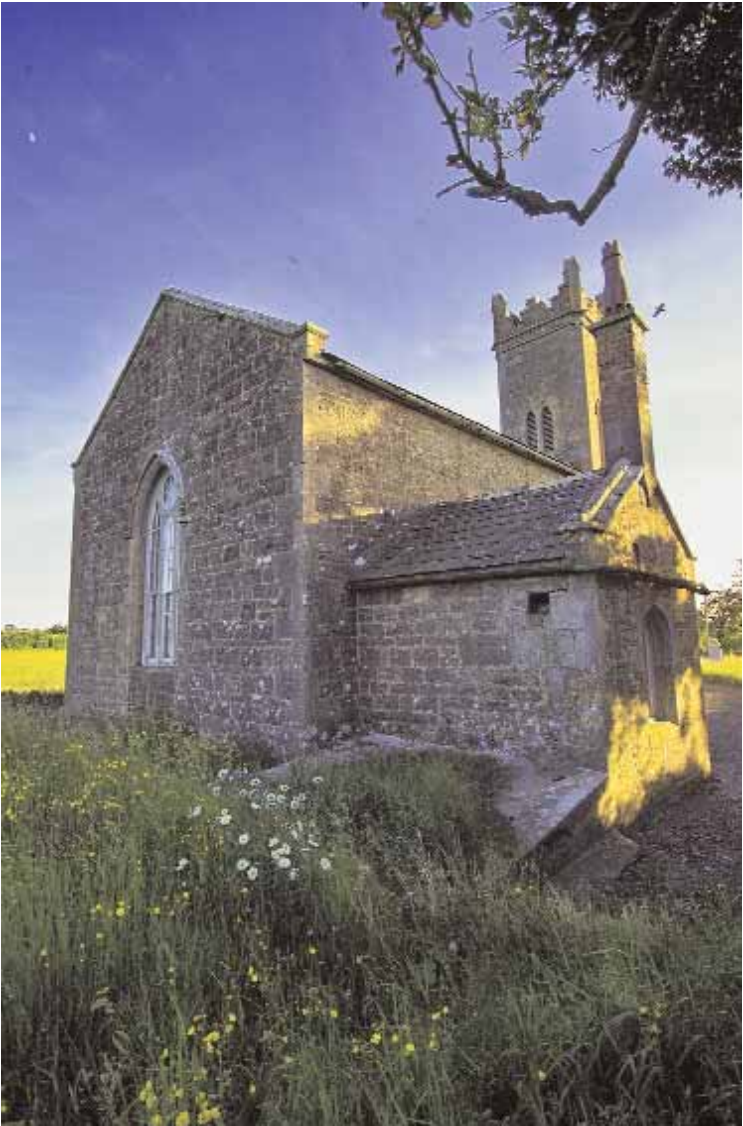


(fig. 120)
ST RUADHÁN'S CHURCH
Lorrha
(c. 1815)

Lorrha's Church of Ireland church was built onto and partly within the ruined medieval parish church, itself incorporating elements of the early Christian church of St Ruadhán. The Board of First Fruits erected a glebe-house for the incumbent of the parish in 1816.

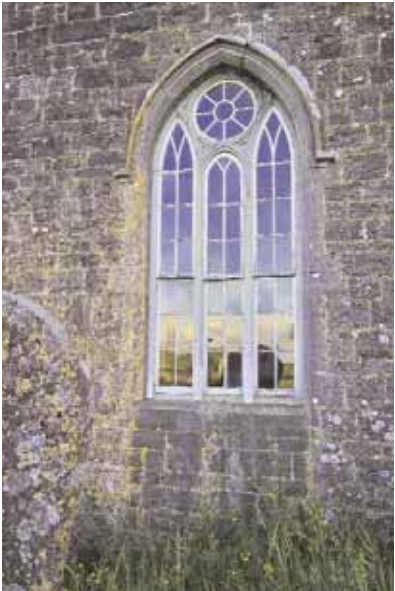
Some medieval churches were re-used or adapted after the Reformation, such as St Ruadhán's Church (1815), Lorrha (fig. 120). However, the boom in the construction of Roman Catholic churches was preceded by an equally unprecedented increase in that of Church of Ireland churches under the supervision of the Board of First Fruits, a body that was funded by the government. With the Act of Union the Church of Ireland lost its clerical boroughs, and the compensation paid, in addition to annual Government allocations, was used by the Board to fund the construction of churches in even the most remote corners of

Ireland. The typical grant was £500, enough to finance a single-cell church with a shallow chancel, a square west tower and often a small vestry at one side of the nave. Any additional funds made available allowed architectural embellishments, including carved stone hood-mouldings, finials or pinnacles, and decorative windows. The church of 1832 at Dorrha (figs. 121-22) is a typical example that has retained its beautiful original windows complete with panes of hand-spun glass. Borrisokane Church of Ireland church (1812) is an earlier example of the type with noticeably smaller windows. The Board of First Fruits also funded glebe hous-



(fig. 121)
GRAIGUE
(Dorrha par.)
(1832)

The church at Dorrha is a simple First Fruits design with some Tudor Revival details. It has a tower at its west end and a vestry in the north wall. The surrounding graveyard stands within the large D-shaped enclosure of an early Christian monastery.



(fig. 122)
GRAIGUE
(Dorrha par.)

The finely crafted small-pane timber sliding sash windows.



es to accommodate the rectors of these parish churches. Those built in the early part of the century were often uniform in design, modest in size and displaying simple classical features and proportions. The glebe house at Feigh West (*fig. 123*) is recognisably one of these purpose-built rectories, having steps to the main entrance over a half-sunken basement, and a

carriage-house and outbuildings to the rear yard. The former glebe house for Ballymackey parish, at Lisnamoe, is more unusual (*fig. 124*). The design of the rectories diversified later in the century, although the classical style continued to be preferred in most cases. Not all churches, whether funded by the Board or by private individuals, conformed to the simple

(*fig. 123*)
FEIGH WEST
(1816)

This glebe-house was built by the Board of First Fruits and stands close to the Church of Ireland church (1813) at Aglish.



(*fig. 124*)
BALLYMACKEY GLEBE
Lisnamoe
(c. 1845)

This house has an unusual appearance for a rectory, being two-storeyed over a half-basement, and having projecting bays flanking round-headed niches in the elevation closest to the visitor. The highlight of the front elevation is an oriel window having pointed-arched heads to the upper panes of the sashes.



type described above, particularly when greater monies were available. St Kieran's church, Cloughjordan (*fig. 125*), built in 1837 to the design of J. and G.R. Pain, is T-plan in form with a centrally placed tower over the west entrance, crowned with an elegant cut-stone spire. While the vast majority of Church of Ireland churches were built in the first half of the nineteenth century, a number of parishes found it possible to re-use existing buildings. Christ Church (Corbally) at Cappalahan, near Roscrea, is a most interesting example (*fig. 126*). Here, an existing mill building that had been closed due to an insufficient flow of water was re-opened as a church in 1829. Following the collapse of the floor during a crowded service, mercifully without injuries, the building was remodelled to incorporate the school on the ground floor with the church above. St Cronan's Church of Ireland church, Roscrea (*fig. 127-8*), erected in 1812 on the site of an earlier church, is approached through the sumptuous Romanesque western gable of a twelfth-century church.

(*fig. 125*)
ST KIERAN'S CHURCH OF
IRELAND CHURCH
The Square,
Cloughjordan
(1830)

James and George Richard Pain designed this church for the Board of First Fruits, the cruciform plan being unusual. It is sited at the south side of what had been intended as the parade ground for a barracks, its symmetrical façade forming a focal point to the village green.



(*fig. 127*)
SAINT CRONAN'S
CHURCH OF IRELAND
Church Street,
Roscrea
(1812)

This sober edifice, designed by James Sheare in 1812, and apparently incorporating a church of 1787, is one of the largest of the denomination's churches in North Tipperary. It stands in the graveyard of the early Christian monastery of St Cronán. Across the street stands an intact twelfth-century round tower.



(*fig. 128*)
SAINT CRONAN'S
CHURCH OF IRELAND
Window detail

(*fig. 126*)
CHRIST CHURCH
(Corbally Church of
Ireland)
Cappalahan
(1829)

As stated by a plaque over the doorway, this building started out as a water mill, being reconstructed as a church, with a school beneath, in 1829. The tower was added in 1842. The church overlooks Timoney Park, the residence at the time of Mr Hutchinson, who contributed to the building.



Due to the small congregations of the Methodist Church in North Tipperary, its buildings tend to be modest in scale, usually taking the form of a small single hall, sometimes with a small porch to the main entrance and/or a vestry to the rear. The front elevations were sometimes enlivened through the decorative use of stonework, brickwork or ceramics, as at Cloughjordan (*fig. 129*), built in 1875.

Although architectural preferences were to change significantly over the course of the nineteenth century, designs for the middle-sized house in the countryside did not differ dramatically from those of the late eighteenth century (*fig. 130*). Rectangular or square forms, of two or three storeys, with basic classical proportions, and not unlike the glebe house type, became the established norm, particularly for

(*fig. 129*)
CLOUGHJORDAN
METHODIST CHURCH
Main Street,
Cloughjordan
(1875)

A church of 1790 stood on this site before the erection of the present building in 1875. Designed by A.B. Milne, it has battered walls and unusual polychrome tiling to the gable end.



(*fig. 130*)
YOUGHAL HOUSE
Youghalvillage
(c. 1800)

This country house, one of the finest on Lough Derg, has pleasingly proportioned windows and a curiously understated doorway. Its over-sailing eaves emphasise the relatively squat nature of the house.



(fig. 131)
DERRINVOHIL HOUSE
Derrinvohil
(1845)

Derrinvohil is a small country house with a façade of one storey over a half-basement and having a tower to one of the rear corners. The projecting porch and full-height projecting bay windows add further interest to this quirky building.

(fig. 133)
INANE HOUSE
Inane
(c. 1830)

The earliest house at Inane is early eighteenth century. A Tudor Revival block, pictured above, was added c. 1830, with a façade having slightly projecting gables linked by an arcade. This façade also double timber sash windows with hood-mouldings, and with croix pommées adding a castellated detail



(fig. 132)
ST KIERAN'S
Lisheen
(ED Rathcabban)
(c. 1810)

The splendid doorcase to Saint Kieran's has engaged columns displaying entasis or inclining sides, giving an exaggerated sense of perspective. It has an unusually wide fanlight and attractive glazing to the sidelights.

(fig. 134)
INANE HOUSE

A trefoil-headed timber sliding sash window under the entrance arcade.



larger farmhouses. Window-openings increased in size in response to improved techniques of glass-making that allowed for larger panes. The house type with hipped roof and centrally placed chimneystacks also became common. A smaller house type also emerged, single-storey over a half-basement, which retained all the features of a larger classical house but on a smaller scale (*fig. 131*). While many early nineteenth-century houses were economical and unadorned, individual expression and decorative detailing can often be found in the main entrances and in glazing, where elaborate fanlights (*fig. 132*) or complicated glazing patterns (*figs. 133-4*) are displayed. In some cases existing eighteenth-century houses underwent alter-



(fig. 135)
BIRCHGROVE HOUSE
Birchgrove
(c. 1730 and c. 1830)

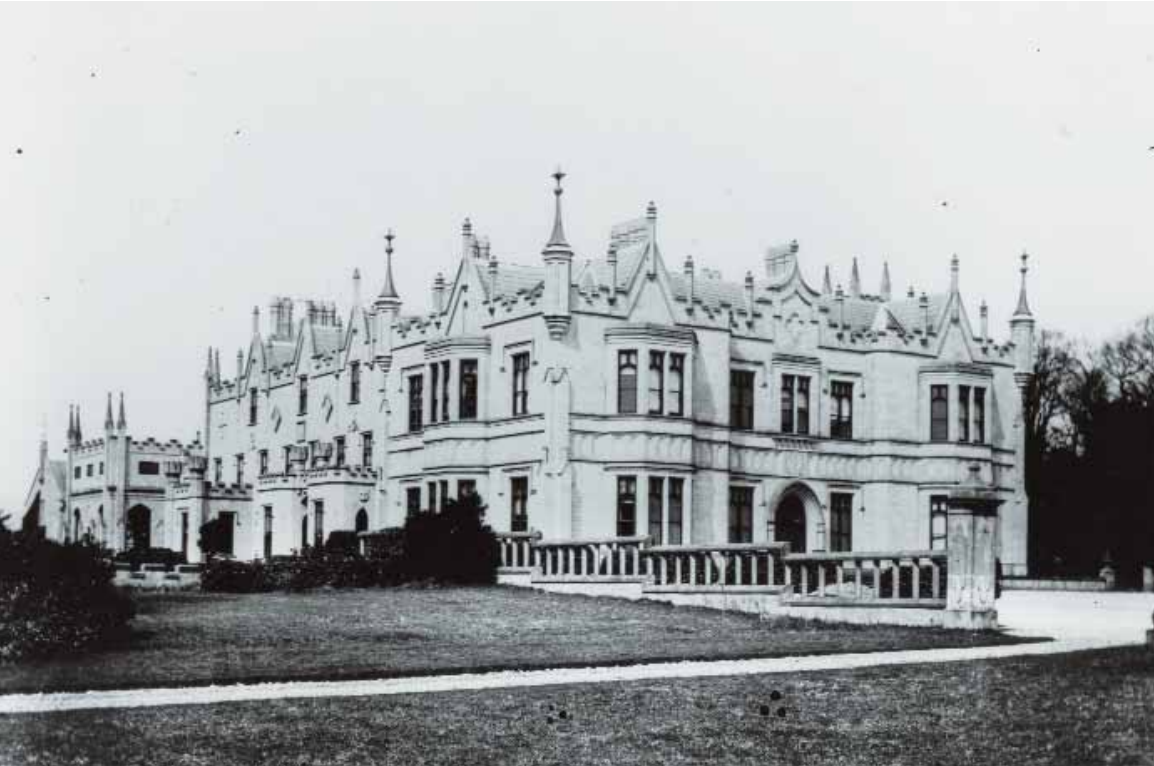
The tower of this house, with its ogee-shaped lead dome house is visible from some distance away, and forms part of an early nineteenth-century block added to a three-bay three-storey block of about a hundred years earlier. The tetrastyle porch also appears to be an addition.

ations to their original fenestration or were given extensions (*fig. 135*) in order to accommodate this fashion for ornamental glazing. At Lisduff House (*fig. 136*), very large multi-paned windows in the front elevation light the reception rooms, with the nineteenth-century out-buildings also displaying unusually ornate windows.



(fig. 136)
LISDUFF HOUSE
Lisduff (Rathnaveoge parish)
(c. 1800)

Unusually large windows with intricate glazing are the dominant feature of this house.

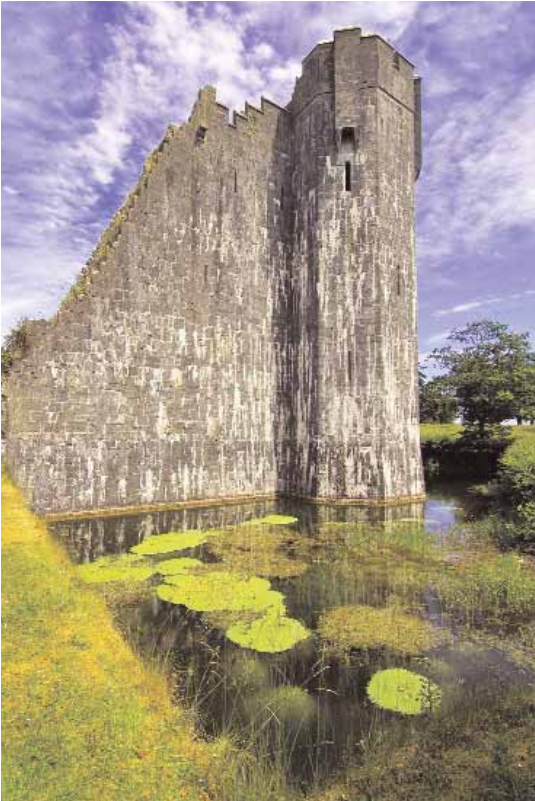


(fig. 137)
TEMPLEMORE ABBEY
Templemore Demesne
(1856-63)

William Vitruvius Morrison designed this Tudor-Gothic country house, incorporating elements of several earlier eighteenth- and nineteenth-century structures. The house was burnt and demolished in the 1920s and today, outbuildings, two gate-lodges and a gateway remain.

Courtesy of the Irish
Architectural Archive

While the classical influence continued for houses of a modest size, the Gothic style quickly became fashionable for the larger houses after c.1800. These houses, of asymmetrical plan with castellated skylines, were part of the picturesque movement that also affected garden and demesne design. In emulating the romantic idea of medieval castles, the impression intended was of ancient ownership of the land, whereas in many cases the estates had only recently been acquired. A small number of large buildings in this style were constructed, such as Templemore Abbey (figs. 137-8) and Timoney Park, neither of which stands today. A most extreme antiquarian example is William Morrison's Brittas Castle (fig. 139) of c. 1830, designed for Major Henry Langley with the intention of replicating a typical English castle of the fourteenth or fifteenth century. Unfortunately, Morrison's client was killed by falling masonry in 1834 and only the gateway was completed.



(fig. 138) [BW print]
TEMPLEMORE ABBEY

The mediaeval-style grand
hall of Templemore Abbey.

Courtesy of the Irish
Architectural Archive

(fig. 139)
BRITTAS CASTLE
Brittas (Thurles parish)
(c. 1830)

Designed by William Vitruvius Morrison, this mock castle is said to have been based on the medieval castle at Ballintober, Co. Roscommon. The works were abandoned due to the death by falling masonry, of the owner, Major Henry Augustus Langley in 1834.



(fig. 140)
KILLOSKEHAN CASTLE
Killoskehan
(c. 1600, c. 1700 and 1867)

In 1867, Sir Thomas Newenham Deane was commissioned to remodel and extend Killoskehan Castle, an early eighteenth-century house attached to an early seventeenth-century towerhouse. He gave the towerhouse some Scottish Baronial detailing, added dormer windows and a projecting entrance to the later house, and built a fine Tudor Revival block to the rear.

Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland

Sometimes these castellated houses of the Romantic Movement actually incorporated a medieval castle. Castletown, formerly Castle Cambie, a fortified house of c.1600 was extended in the early nineteenth century with a crenellated wing. More frequently, existing Georgian country houses were converted to Gothic or Tudor castles, complete with battlements, machicolated towers and windows with stone mullions and transoms. Killoskehan Castle (fig. 140) comprises a seventeenth-century tower house to which an eighteenth-century house was added. A further block was

added and the whole remodelled c.1865, with battlements, dormer windows, gables and tall chimneystacks added to give the building a grander appearance in the Tudor style. The improvements extended to other parts of demesnes, including gate-lodges (figs. 141-2). A walled garden at Barnane (fig. 143) incorporated a large castellated folly tower, so that service buildings and structures were also afforded a picturesque treatment. Follies as independent structures, frequently castellated towers situated in prominent positions, survive on large demesnes throughout North Tipperary and were



(fig. 141)
KILLOSKEHAN CASTLE
Killoskehan
(1867)

This very fine Tudor Revival gate lodge was designed by Sir Thomas Newenham Deane and incorporates Arts and Crafts and oriental details.



(fig. 143)
BARNANE HOUSE
Barnane
(c.1860)

Jonathan Carden acquired the lands of Barnane in 1701, the family progressively adding further blocks to a medieval towerhouse. Only the basement of the house now remains. The extensive walled garden survives intact, with its mock towerhouse, a theme recurring at Killawardy, to the east, also owned by the Cardens.



(fig. 142)
SOPWELL HALL
Sopwell
(c. 1865)

Designed in the classical mode for Sopwell Hall, the dominant feature of this gate-lodge is its pedimented entrance portico with fluted Doric columns. Fine cast- and wrought-iron railings and gates compliment the building.



(fig. 144)
KILLORAN TOWER
Killoran (Moyne parish)
(c. 1860)

Folly towers, associated with demesnes, catch the eye in the North Tipperary landscape.

a favoured feature of the Romantic landscape (fig. 144). A late example of a cottage orné is Fortescue (fig. 145), built in 1887, and displaying an extraordinary level of detail, from the decorative ceramic tiles on the front elevation to the intricately carved bargeboards.

Country houses on a smaller scale were sometimes influenced by the Romantic movement. Lisheen Castle (fig. 146), c.1840, repre-

sents the remodelling of an earlier house. A particular feature of the nineteenth century, and not necessarily dependent on the architectural style of the main house, was the quality of farmyard and stable-yard buildings (fig. 147). Crisp cut-stone details to the openings and quoins are displayed on many outbuildings, whatever their function (fig. 148). The farmyard at Solsborough House was laid out to a formal



(fig. 145)
FORTESCUE
Killlough
(1887)

This cottage orné is dated 1887 and is an enlargement of a house of 1880. Its projecting decoratively carved bargeboards and the timber finials to the dormer windows are all very typical of the style. The tile hanging is a more unusual feature.



(fig. 146)
LISHEEN CASTLE
Lisheen (Moyne parish)
(c. 1840)

Burnt in the 1920s and restored recently, Lisheen Castle displays mullioned windows, castellated turrets and the exposed stonework typical of the period.

(fig. 147)
BARONNE COURT
Stonestown
(1828)

A Tudor archway leads into a well-kept yard of stone buildings with dressed limestone voussoirs to the flat-headed and arched openings. The main house, Baronne Court, has been demolished. In 1850, it was in the highest category of valuation, at over £50.

(fig. 148)
INANE HOUSE
Inane
(1826)

Impressive stable-yards compliment the early nineteenth-century block of Inane House. The pedimented gateways have Tudor arches and the round windows to the first floor of the ranges add an unusual touch.





(fig. 149)
SOLSBOROUGH HOUSE
Solsborough
(1830)

Well-designed stable-yards are a feature of country houses and often survive the ruination of the houses themselves. These buildings at Solsborough display a high quality of craftsmanship. The brick window and door surrounds are typical of the mid-to-late nineteenth century. There are timber arches to each stall in the interior.



(fig. 150)
KILTEELAGH HOUSE
Shannonvale
(1863)

This asymmetrical Victorian house is notable for its roof-scape and details, the latter including fish-scale slates and ridge crestings.



(fig. 151)
DROMINEER
(c.1890)

Lough Derg has been a draw for those seeking recreation since the nineteenth century. This building is one of a small group of humble holiday houses, with timber-clad walls and corrugated-iron roofs. The verandah and simple casement windows are attractive features.

and geometric plan around two yards, and includes carriage-houses, stable blocks, barns and a bellcote (fig. 149). At Derrinvohill, built in 1845, the craftsmanship of the stone masons is evident in both the house and the slightly earlier farmyard, the latter given equal attention to detail.

In the later nineteenth century the fashion for the imitation of Gothic and Tudor styles abated, although the influence of the picturesque continued throughout the Victorian period, in the form of asymmetrical multi-gabled houses with decorative external details. These features are particularly evident in the country houses, villas and sporting lodges built along the shores of Lough Derg. In his Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, published in 1837, Samuel Lewis observed this recreational quality of the district when he wrote that ‘never did foot of hound or hoof of horse sweep over a finer sporting country’. The increase in the popularity of sailing and fishing as pastimes also increased when the yacht club at Dromineer, one of the oldest in the world, was founded in 1837. Kilteelagh House (fig. 150), built in 1863 by Lieutenant Colonel W.C. Gason, is one of the larger houses of the period situated on the shoreline of the lake, whose roof has fish-scale roof slates, decorative bargeboards and ornamental chimneystacks. Towards the end of the century, smaller holiday houses also appeared around the lake, several examples of which are to be seen at Dromineer (fig. 151).

The North Tipperary economy remained predominantly agricultural and, despite the Great Famine, agricultural production increased rather than declined. The area under cultivation expanded, and the size of smallholdings increased due to the loss of life and emigration



(fig. 152)
MONROE
(Inch parish)
(c. 1800)

This vernacular house, indicated on the Ordnance Survey map of 1840, has clearly been modernised, probably c. 1900, and given some formal architectural details. There is a farmyard to the rear, and well-built limestone pliers to the various gateways.



during the famine years, coupled with the various late nineteenth-century land acts and the cessation of the practice of subdividing farms equally between sons. Consequently, the pattern of modern Irish agriculture that emerged was of family farms based on mixed tillage and livestock.

Many vernacular houses were extended in the nineteenth century and re-roofed with slate (**fig. 152**) as the financial situation of later generations improved. New farm buildings were added, sometimes forming a separate yard alongside an earlier arrangement. In general, the traditional layout of farmyards, and their relationship to the dwelling house, appears to have been largely retained through to the present day. Architectural fashions sometimes featured when finances allowed, such as in the provision of larger window openings or the application of raised or trompe l'oeil quoins (in the latter, a three-dimensional effect is achieved by paint-work). Larger two-storey vernacular houses (**fig. 153**) tended to be built in the second half of the century and have pitched slate roofs and regular fenestration. In many urban areas, streets of small, mainly single-storey, thatched houses stretched out along roads on the outskirts, Bunker's Hill, Roscrea being an example photographed for Lawrence about the year 1890 (**fig. 154**).

(fig. 153)
ROAN
(c. 1870)

Two-storey vernacular houses are not numerous in Ireland, and in many cases themselves started out as single-storey buildings. This lobby-entry house has its doorway and old kitchen hearth in line, a windbreak adding further protection from the elements. An older house lies to the rear, a progression not untypical within vernacular housing.



(fig. 154)
GROVE STREET
(formerly Bunker's Hill),
Roscrea

Streets of thatched houses were a very common sight on the outskirts of many Irish towns in the nineteenth century. The houses in this photograph, taken c.1890, were demolished and replaced by local authority housing about 1910.

Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland

The Twentieth Century

The first quarter of the twentieth century saw a prolonged period of unrest as the struggle for native government culminated in the War of Independence (1919-21) followed by the bitter Civil War (1922-3). County Tipperary had the second highest incidence of military action in the country. In architectural terms, the biggest casualties were the larger country houses, some of which survive today in North Tipperary as no more than a roofless shell, having been regarded as symbols of the Ascendancy culture and burned by Republican insurgents and others. Derrylahan Park, built in 1862 to the design of Sir T.N. Deane, was burnt in 1921 and is now largely demolished, although the surviving gate-lodge, entrance gates and ancillary buildings give some indication of the quality of design and craftsmanship that would have been found in the main house. During the conflict, towns were not spared either.

Templemore, for example, was sacked by the British military and its town hall and other buildings were burned out. Some country houses suffered destruction in peacetime, being left slowly to decay over the course of the century. Richmond House, near Nenagh, built in 1733, survived the Civil War but had its roof removed in 1957, unfortunately a common practice at the time used to avoid paying rates. Its stone portico was dismantled and now stands at George's Quay in Dublin.

Of course, new houses continued to be built in the twentieth century. A house of c.1920 (*fig. 155*) replaced the eighteenth-century Modreeny House, and is of a type more commonly seen in an urban context. It displays contemporary Arts and Crafts style features, such as steeply pitched gables, small-pane casement windows and a porch with its roof resting on stocky columns.

(*fig. 155*)
MODREENY HOUSE
Eminiska (Modreeny parish)
(c. 1920)

A small Arts and Crafts style house now stands on the site of a late eighteenth-century country house.





(fig. 156)
BUTLER
Croke Street,
Thurles
(c. 1915)

Coloured leaded glass is a
feature of several shopfronts
in Thurles.



(fig. 157)
DEVLIN'S MEDICAL HALL
Liberty Square,
Thurles
(1904)

This building was remodelled, and the top floor added, in 1904. At the same time, the whole building was given an Italianate façade, apparently echoing the façade of the cathedral.

(fig. 158)
DEVLIN'S MEDICAL HALL

The tiled floor at the entrance, the pestle and mortar symbolising the pharmacist's trade.



Inspiration from Art Nouveau and the decorative arts most often manifested itself in the design of shopfronts, and allowed scope for individual craftsmanship and original use of materials. Several good quality shopfronts from c.1920 survive in Thurles and have coloured and glazed ceramic tiles, and coloured leaded glass display windows (fig. 156). The mid-twentieth century saw a preference for Vitreolite for external cladding and stainless steel frames to the display windows, resulting in a very distinctive type of shopfront that is now becoming rare. Another method of decorative ornamentation, particularly in small country towns, was the addition of elaborate plasterwork embellishments to otherwise plain, rendered façades. Devlin's Medical Hall in Thurles is a fine example (figs. 157-8). This type of stucco-work was employed on other structures also, and a good example can be seen at the remarkable mausoleum in Loughmore graveyard (fig. 159). Built c.1910, this mausoleum is the resting-place of Daniel and William McCormack, brothers wrongly hanged in 1858, for the murder of a land agent. They were re-interred here, having originally been buried at the gaol in Nenagh.

(fig. 159)
MCCORMACK BROTHERS
MAUSOLEUM
Tinvoher,
Loughmore
(1910)

Hanged wrongly in 1858, for the killing of a land agent, the remains of Daniel and William McCormack were removed from Nenagh Gaol in 1910 and re-interred in this exuberant mausoleum, with considerable ceremony and large crowds.



(fig. 160)
PARK AVENUE AVENUE
Friar Street/Mathew
Avenue,
Thurles
(c. 1920)

This large-scale former hotel, stands close to Thurles Railway Station. It exhibits good brick detailing and a fine, wide shopfront framed by colonettes.

(fig. 161)
AIB BANK
Bank Street,
Templemore
(c. 1910)

Richly decorated with classical detailing, this bank, whose form is based on the Italian Renaissance palazzo, has perhaps the most decorative exterior in Templemore, with a rusticated and arcade-like ground floor, a pedimented Venetian-style window over the entrance, and a heavy bracketed cornice.

A common characteristic of early twentieth-century urban buildings is the brick façade, often with alternating or projecting courses providing decorative interest and contrasting sharply with the more traditional rendered and painted facades of the majority of urban buildings, particularly in the more rural towns (fig. 160). Some quite exuberant commercial and bank buildings were also constructed, such as the AIB bank in Templemore (fig. 161). Also around this time, the practice of incorporating a date-stone on the main elevation became commonplace. New materials had been appearing since the late nineteenth century. Corrugated-iron, initially used to roof large spaces such as train sheds at railway stations, became more generally applied to buildings, including houses, about the turn of the century (fig. 162). The political instability of the era



(fig. 162)
DROMINEER
(c. 1910)

This corrugated-iron lakeside house, undoubtedly designed to be temporary, has now survived its first century. Its detailing, including the verandah and the projecting gable with its decorative exposed timber truss, is typical of such buildings.

necessitated the construction of several new RIC barracks, which became Garda Síochána stations after the foundation of the State in 1922. The buildings at Templederry, built c.1910 for the RIC, and at Borrisokane, built c.1935 for the Garda Síochána (*fig. 163*), are very similar in their proportions despite the differing treatment of the renders. At Borrisokane, the brick surrounds to the window and door openings have been left exposed as an architectural feature, more clearly identifying its urban context. Thomas Joseph Cullen designed the David Clarke Memorial Hall in Borrisokane, a building erected in 1914, redesigned and remodelled in 1929, and displaying a monumental cut-limestone doorcase. The changes in

landownership, the dismantling of many of the larger estates and the reduction in the rural population, all generated a need for the provision of public housing schemes. The extensive terraces of two-storey houses at Grove Street, Bunker's Hill and Burgoo in Roscrea (*fig. 164*) were built c.1910 by the local authority, in response to this need. They comprise distinctive house types, those on Grove Street having gables and timber porches to the front elevation, and those on Burgoo (also called Limerick Street) having recessed porches complete with sociable built-in seating. Larger houses of this era are also to be seen, particularly in Thurles, Templemore and Roscrea (*figs. 165-66*).

(*fig. 163*)
BORRISOKANE GARDA
STATION
Main Street,
Borrisokane
(c. 1935)

A public building that forms a low-key part of the streetscape, this garda station nevertheless displays attractive brick detailing.



(*fig. 164*)
LIMERICK STREET
(or Burgoo)
Roscrea
(1913-14)

A plaque states that these local authority houses were built in 1913-14, the engineer, Joseph Day, and the contractor, Edward Brophy, both being based Roscrea. Thomas Dooley, clerk to the now defunct Roscrea District Council, apparently got the idea for the attractive and humane verandahs from Wales.



(*fig. 166*)
CHERRYHILL
Birr Road
Roscrea
(c. 1910)

Ionic cast-iron columns support the ornate balcony of this early twentieth-century house. The brick dentils to the cornice, and terracotta ridge crestings to its fish-scale tiled roof, add further decorative effect.

(*fig. 165*)
FRIAR STREET
Thurles
(c. 1910)

This simple urban house, set back from the street line, is greatly enhanced by the craftsmanship and attention to detail shown in its bay windows, doorways and the ornate points to the railings.



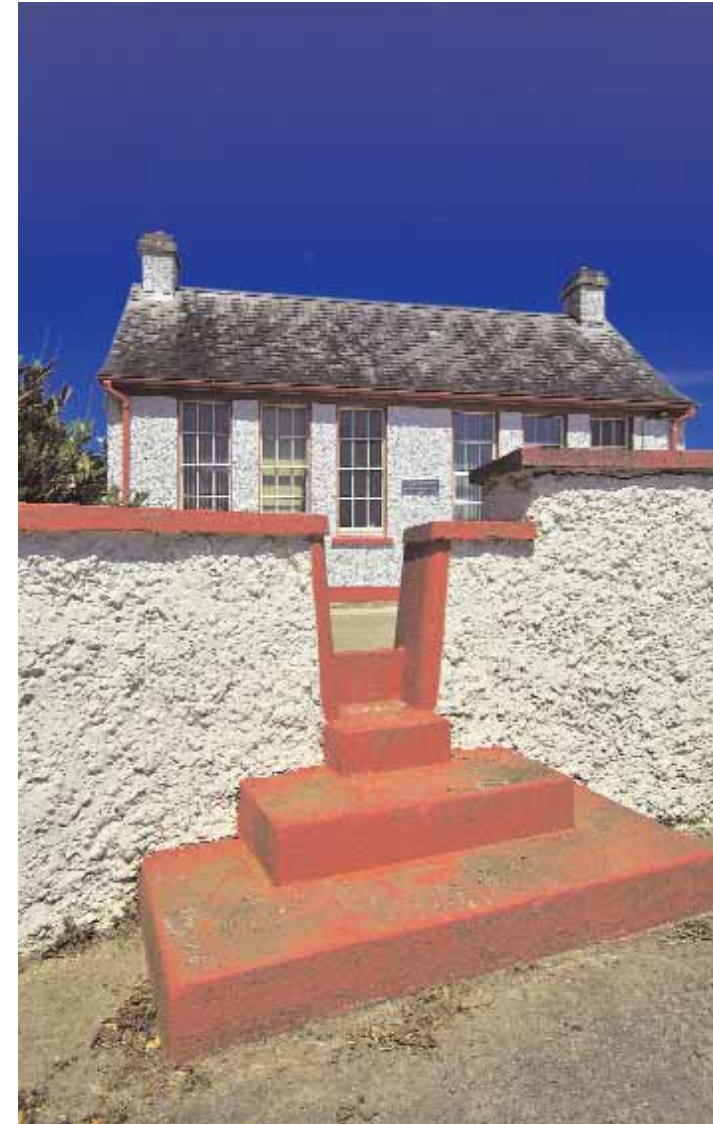


(fig. 167)
YOUGHALARRA
NATIONAL SCHOOL
Monroe
(Youghalarra parish)
(1931)

This rural national school is typical of those built by the Office of Public Works after the foundation of the State.

The new State instigated greatly expanded social construction programmes, including waves of school building. Many of these schools were sited near their respective churches, reflecting the religious segregation within the education system. Until the 1930s the main type of rural school was a single-storey building with one main classroom space having a fireplace at each end. The room was often subdivided by a timber screen, to form two rooms. This standard Office of Public Works design was repeated consistently throughout the 1920s and 1930s (fig. 167). In the following two decades modern materials were introduced, including concrete block and cement render, with facilities such as toilets and playground shelters to either side of the classroom block (fig. 168). This latter type is still in use throughout the countryside while the majority of the earlier schools have closed.

New hospitals were erected around the country, financed primarily by the Irish Hospital Sweepstakes, the building programme being overseen by the architect Vincent Kelly. His design for the hospital in Nenagh, built between 1932 and 1936, illustrates the influence of his study of hospitals in Europe with its emphasis on a clean, well-lit and properly ventilated environment (fig. 169). Architectural features, such as the curved shapes, canopies and flat roofs, are characteristic of the architecture of the 1930s and represent the introduction of the International style to Ireland on a significant scale. The construction of cinemas at this time also introduced modern architecture to country towns, with even the most modest cinema buildings being influenced to some degree by the Art Deco and Art Moderne theatres and picture-houses of the rest of Europe and of America. The stepped forms and



(fig. 168)
KILKEARY NATIONAL
SCHOOL
Kilkeary
(1949)

This is a relatively intact example of a mid-twentieth-century national school, complete with concrete boundary walls and an attractive stile.



(fig. 169)
NENAGH GENERAL
HOSPITAL
Thurles Road,
Nenagh
(1932-6)

This hospital, not untypically, stands on the site of a workhouse that was built in the 1840s. It was designed by Vincent Kelly and it displays good architectural detailing, with over-sailing flat roofs and an entrance block which is framed by four columns topped with lamps. Recent additions are in harmony with the older buildings.



(fig. 170)
ORMOND CINEMA
Summerhill/
St Flannan's Street,
Nenagh
(c. 1930)

Cinemas are usually good examples of the International mode of architecture. The Ormond Cinema very cleverly addresses its narrow corner location with a dramatic and stylish entrance front.

rounded corners typical of these buildings can be seen in the former cinema building (1946) on Banba Square and the Ormond Cinema (c.1930), both in Nenagh (**fig. 170**). The confidence of the new native government was also expressed in monuments celebrating patriots as well as individuals instrumental in the birth of national cultural bodies. The statue on Liberty Square, Thurles, of Archbishop Croke, first patron of the Gaelic Athletic Association (**fig. 171**), is especially fine.

Relatively few churches in North Tipperary date to the early years of the twentieth century. The Methodist church in Roscrea (**fig. 172**)

was designed by G.F. Beckett and erected in 1902, and has an unusual rounded porch. Windows from the Harry Clarke Studio can be seen in the Roman Catholic churches at Cloughjordan and Puckaun, while some of the larger congregations, such as those of Roscrea and Templemore, commissioned the stained-glass studios of Meyer and Earley. Architectural values for Roman Catholic churches remained extremely traditionalist for most of the century. Newport's Church of the Most Holy Redeemer (1933), unusually, has a classical portico fronting a flat-roofed nave, making a dramatic statement on the road into the town



(fig. 171)
ARCHBISHOP CROKE
MEMORIAL
Liberty Square,
Thurles
(1922)

This monument, one of the finest in the county, commemorates the archbishop who was the first patron of the Gaelic Athletic Association, a body founded in 1884 in the nearby Hayes Hotel.



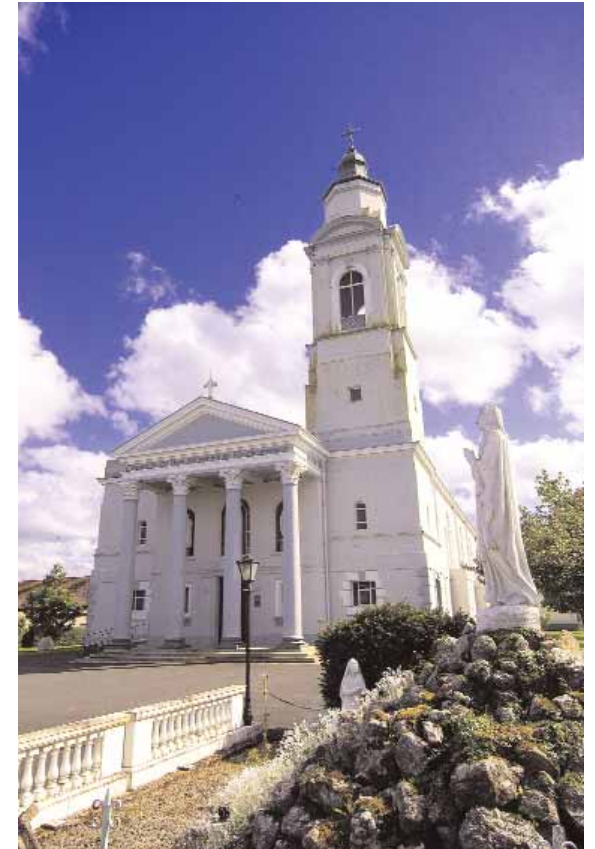
(fig. 172)
ROSCREA METHODIST
CHURCH
The Mall,
Roscrea
(1902)

The façade of the methodist chapel at Roscrea has antae projections to the front gable and round-headed windows, the architect perhaps being inspired by the west front of the

Romanesque St Cronan's church. A plaque states: 'This stone was laid on May 26th 1902 by Mrs Lloyd Vaughan Golden Grove Roscrea. G.F.Beckett Architect. Joseph Day Builder.'

(fig. 173)
CHURCH OF THE MOST
HOLY REDEEMER
Church Street,
Newport
(1933)

By the time of its erection, this church, with its classical portico, though exuberant, must have seemed old fashioned, only its flat roof today suggesting modernity. The building makes a dramatic appearance on the western approaches to the town.



from Limerick City (**fig. 173**). The church of Our Lady of Lourdes, Silvermines (1961), although modern in many ways, incorporates traditional architectural elements, such as transepts, belfry, apse and nave. However, by this time the imperatives of the Second Vatican Council, together with a growing confidence in the frankness of Modernist architecture and materials, produced a clarity of line and sim-



(fig. 174)
CHURCH OF OUR LADY
QUEEN OF IRELAND
Gurteen (Dorrha parish)
(1984)

Designed by Anthony and Barbara O'Neill, the church at Rathcabban is round in plan and has a glazed curtain wall. Its interior exemplifies the spirit of the Second Vatican Council, with the closer integration of priest and congregation.

plicity of form typical of the era, albeit employed in an increasingly eclectic manner. By the 1980s, Roman Catholic churches were being constructed on entirely different plan forms, with an emphasis on the congregation's participation in the service. Several of these churches were built to a circular form, such as Our Lady Queen of Ireland church at Gurteen (Rathcabbin), designed by Anthony and Barbara O' Neill Architects and completed in 1984 (fig. 174).

The early twentieth century also saw innovations in engineering, as illustrated by the five-span bridge constructed over the River Shannon at Portumna (fig. 175). This important crossing-point between counties Tipperary and Galway has a long history of bridges and ferries dating back to the fourteenth century. The

twentieth-century steel structure seen today was built in 1911 and designed by C. E. Stanier of London to the specification of the Tipperary North Riding County Surveyor J. O. Moynan. It retains the cut-stone piers of an earlier nineteenth-century bridge and has a pivoting swing bridge over the navigation channel.

Dairying continued to be important in North Tipperary and the early twentieth century saw the emergence of commercial and cooperative creameries, for the pasteurisation of milk and the production of butter (fig. 176). Major employers in the second half of the century included meat factories in the major towns, sugar production at Thurles and metal-mining at Silvermines, these industries requiring large concrete buildings to accommodate these diverse processes.



(fig. 175)
PORTUMNA BRIDGE
Lehinch
(1911)

The present steel structure of Portumna Bridge is by C.E. Stanier of London, to the specification of J.O. Moynan, County Surveyor. The Tipperary end of the bridge is supported on concrete-filled cast-iron cylinders, with stone piers elsewhere, dating to an earlier structure of 1834.



(fig. 176)
CLYBANANE
(c. 1920)

Metal vents along the roof ridge and the blocked loading door in the gable indicate that this parish hall was formerly a creamery.

Conclusion

The towns and countryside of North Tipperary display a great variety of historic architecture, from the remains of early medieval buildings to the Modernist Roman Catholic churches of the late twentieth century. The aim of this Introduction has been to provide an overview of those buildings and structures erected after AD1700 and which were recorded during the North Tipperary Architectural Inventory.

The northern half of the county is particularly notable for the number of inhabited seventeenth and early eighteenth-century houses standing at the centre of working farms. Many buildings of all eras in the county share architectural features and styles common to other parts of Ireland. However, some buildings are unique, such as the cathedral in Thurles, with its exceptional blend of Italian and Irish styles, or have few parallels, such as the octagonal-plan governor's house at the gaol in Nenagh.

The survival of the historic building stock is a testament to the quality of its construction, combining various traditional building methods using local hard grey limestone, soft lime mortars and renders and a slate roof, all of which weather extremely well. Craftsmanship of the highest standard can be seen in the stained glass and carved stonework of churches and in the carved stone doorcases of many country and town houses. The age of a building does not compromise its relevance to modern society, as can be demonstrated by the eighteenth-century churches still in use for worship, and the nineteenth-century courthouses that continue to fulfil their original function. Other

building types have been successfully adapted for a different use without undue loss of original character or fabric. Several former Church of Ireland churches have been converted for community use or as private houses, while part of the gaol in Nenagh now houses a heritage centre, having formerly been used as a convent and later, a school.

The architectural fabric of previous centuries provides the most tangible evidence of North Tipperary's history and society and requires careful attention to ensure its survival. When this fabric is lost, we see the removal of cultural markers, the erosion of historic and aesthetic character, all of which is likely to impact negatively on our legacy to future generations. An extreme example is loss through demolition, as happened during the course of the survey, in the case of the largely intact workhouse at Thurles. More common is the loss of historic building materials and features, such as the replacement of timber sash windows, panelled doors, cast-metal rainwater goods and thatched roofs with less suitable modern materials.

In the public mind, buildings such as country houses and large urban churches are rightly regarded as being of obvious architectural significance. However, it is perhaps more important to acknowledge that it is the modest buildings of the countryside and market towns that give a district or region its special character. In a period of rapid economic change, the considerable contribution of North Tipperary's built heritage to the distinctiveness of the county puts an onus on all of us to protect and cherish this cultural legacy.



SILVERMINES
MOUNTAINS

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Registration Numbers

The structures mentioned in the text of this Introduction are listed below. It is possible to find more information on each structure by accessing our survey on the Internet at: **www.buildingsofireland.ie** and searching by the Registration Number. Structures are listed by page number.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|----|--|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|---|----|--|----|--|
| 00 | Ashleypark neolithic burial site, Ashleypark Td. <i>Not included in survey</i> | 00 | Mount Falcon, Mountfalcon Td. <i>Reg. 22401013</i> | 00 | Kilboy House, Kilboy Td. <i>Reg. 22402609</i> | 00 | Garrykennedy Harbour, Garrykennedy Td. <i>Reg. 22401301</i> | 00 | Sail Inn Hotel, Dromineer Td. <i>Not included in survey</i> | 00 | Bank of Ireland, Liberty Square, Thurles <i>Reg. 22312093</i> | 00 | Stannix Almshouses, Kickham Street, Thurles <i>Reg. 22312055</i> | 00 | Archbishop's House, Cathedral Street, Thurles <i>Reg. 22312055</i> |
| 00 | Dermot and Gráinne's Bed, Baurnadomeeny Td. <i>Not included in survey</i> | 00 | Damer House, Castle Street, Roscrea <i>Reg. 22303056</i> | 00 | Youghalvillage Td. <i>Reg. 22401436</i> | 00 | The Square, CloghJordan <i>Reg. 22304010</i> | 00 | Thurles Railway Station, Railway Road, Thurles <i>Reg. 22312068-9</i> | 00 | Bank of Ireland, Castle Street, Roscrea <i>Reg. 22303032</i> | 00 | Finnoe National School, Carney (Commons of) Td. <i>Reg. 22401012</i> | 00 | St Joseph's Church, Rossfinch Td. <i>Reg. 22403106</i> |
| 00 | Saint Cronan's Church, Church Street, Roscrea <i>Not included in survey</i> | 00 | Castletough, Castletough Td. <i>Reg. 22401305</i> | 00 | Modreeny, Modreeny Td. <i>Reg. 22410123</i> | 00 | Ricmond Barracks (now Garda Síochána Training College), Thurles Road/Barrack Street/Church Avenue, Templemore <i>Reg. 22308061</i> | 00 | Garryvicleheen, Thurles <i>Reg. 22312071</i> | 00 | Rossoulty Td. <i>Not included in survey</i> | 00 | Castletown National School, Castletown (Castletownarra parish) Td. <i>Reg. 22401909</i> | 00 | St Mary of the Rosary Church, O'Rahilly Street/St Flannan's Street, Nenagh <i>Reg. 22305008</i> |
| 00 | Holycross Abbey, Holycross Td., Holycross <i>Not included in survey</i> | 00 | Donnybrook House, Donnybrook Td. <i>Reg. 22401521</i> | 00 | Aughall Beg Td. <i>Not included in survey</i> | 00 | The Mall, Templemore <i>Reg. 22308049-52</i> | 00 | Roscrea Railway Station, Fancroft Road, Roscrea <i>Reg. 22303004</i> | 00 | The Fancy Fountain, Rosemary Square, Roscrea <i>Reg. 22303081</i> | 00 | Sopwell National School, Sopwell Td. <i>Reg. 22401103</i> | 00 | Church of the Visitation, Reardnogy More Td. <i>Reg. 22403801</i> |
| 00 | Nenagh Castle, O'Rahilly Street, Nenagh <i>Not included in survey</i> | 00 | Drominagh House, Drominagh Demesne Td. <i>Reg. 22400603</i> | 00 | Littleton Church of Ireland, Bally Beg Td. <i>Reg. 22404802</i> | 00 | Summerhill, Nenagh <i>Reg. 22305008</i> | 00 | CloughJordan Railway Station, Townfields Td. <i>Reg. 22401604</i> | 00 | Nenagh Town Hall, Banba Square, Nenagh <i>Reg. 22305010</i> | 00 | Borrisokane National School, Main Street (off), Borrisokane <i>Reg. 22302004</i> | 00 | Loughmore Church, Tinvoher Td., Loughmore <i>Not included in survey</i> |
| 00 | Sopwell Castle, Sopwell Td. <i>Not included in survey</i> | 00 | Fairyhill House, Gortinarable Td. <i>Reg. 22400820</i> | 00 | St Mary's Church, Church Street, Templemore <i>Reg. 22308002</i> | 00 | 24 Summerhill, Nenagh <i>Reg. 22305026</i> | 00 | Tyone Bridge, Tyone Td. <i>Reg. 22402116</i> | 00 | Nenagh Courthouse, Banba Square, Nenagh <i>Reg. 22305007</i> | 00 | Sacred Heart Convent, Convent Road, Roscrea <i>Reg. 22303102</i> | 00 | Presbytery, Churchquarter Td. <i>Reg. 22403902</i> |
| 00 | Loughmoe Court, Tinvoher Td, Loughmore <i>Not included in survey</i> | 00 | South Park, Rahinane Td. <i>Reg. 22305087</i> | 00 | Kilfithmone rectory, Killoskehan Td. <i>Reg. 22402807</i> | 00 | 16 Summerhill, Nenagh <i>Reg. 22305034</i> | 00 | Killaloe Bridge, Cullenagh/Ballina Tds <i>Reg. 22306005</i> | 00 | St Mary of the Rosary, O'Rahilly Street/St Flannan Street, Nenagh <i>Reg. 22305008</i> | 00 | Presentation Convent, Cathedral Street, Thurles <i>Reg. 22312056</i> | 00 | St Patrick's Church, Churchquarter Td. <i>Reg. 22403901</i> |
| 00 | Farney Castle, Farneybridge Td. <i>Reg. 22404019</i> | 00 | Lisbryan House, Lisbryan Td. <i>Reg. 22400806</i> | 00 | Inch House, Inch <i>Reg. 22403414</i> | 00 | Whitefield Mill, Whitefield Td. <i>Reg. 22402925</i> | 00 | Burgoo Bridge, Limerick Street/Burgoo, Roscrea <i>Reg. 22303070</i> | 00 | Finn's, Main Street, Borrisoleigh <i>Reg. 22309009</i> | 00 | Nenagh Courthouse, Banba Square, Nenagh <i>Reg. 22305007</i> | 00 | Saint Patrick's College, Cathedral Street, Thurles <i>Reg. 22312099</i> |
| 00 | Lackeen Castle, Abbeville Td. <i>Not included in survey</i> | 00 | Milford House, Milford Td. <i>Reg. 22400704</i> | 00 | St Peter's Church, Moycarky Td. <i>Reg. 22404709</i> | 00 | Derrinsallow Mill, Derrinsallow Td. <i>Reg. 22400203</i> | 00 | Finnn's, Main Street, Borrisoleigh <i>Reg. 22309009</i> | 00 | T. Kennedy, Patrick Street, Templemore <i>Reg. 22308014</i> | 00 | Templemore Town Hall, Main Street, Templemore <i>Reg. 22308037</i> | 00 | St Ruadhán's Church, Lorrha Td. <i>Reg. 22400412</i> |
| 00 | Lackeen House, Abbeville Td. <i>Reg. 22400414</i> | 00 | Prior Park, Priorpark Td. <i>Reg. 22400918</i> | 00 | Roscrea Quaker Meetinghouse, Rosemary Street, Roscrea <i>Reg. 22303051</i> | 00 | Derrinsallow Bridge, Derrinsallow Td. <i>Reg. 22400204</i> | 00 | T. Morkan, Patrick Street, Templemore <i>Reg. 22308013</i> | 00 | First Editions, 19 Liberty Square, Thurles <i>Reg. 22312088</i> | 00 | Lecture Hall, Pearse Street, Nenagh <i>Reg. 22305048</i> | 00 | Dorrha Church of Ireland church, Graigue Td. (Dorrha parish) <i>Reg. 22400503</i> |
| 00 | CloughJordan House, Oxpark Td. <i>Reg. 22304016</i> | 00 | Johnstown House, Johnstown Td. <i>Not included in survey</i> | 00 | Ballyartella Bridge, Ballyanny Lower/Ballyartella/Ballyannymore Tds <i>Reg. 22401423</i> | 00 | Knockanfoil More Td. <i>Reg. 22402014</i> | 00 | Gatehouse, Nenagh Gaol, O'Rahilly Street, Nenagh <i>Reg. 22305006</i> | 00 | The Terrace, Shesheraghmore Td., Borrisokane <i>Reg. 22302028</i> | 00 | St James' Church, Killea Td. <i>Reg. 22402905</i> | 00 | Borrisokane Church of Ireland, Main Street, Borrisokane <i>Reg. 22302023</i> |
| 00 | Lodge House, Lodge (Killodiernan parish) Td. <i>Reg. 22401407</i> | 00 | Sopwell Hall, Sopwell Td. <i>Reg. 22401002</i> | 00 | Holycross Bridge, Holycross Td, Holycross. <i>Reg. 22313007</i> | 00 | Ballyloughnane Td. <i>Reg. 22400516</i> | 00 | The Terrace, Shesheraghmore Td., Borrisokane <i>Reg. 22302028</i> | 00 | The Terrace, Shesheraghmore Td., Borrisokane <i>Reg. 22302028</i> | 00 | Church of the Sacred Heart, Church Avenue, Templemore <i>Reg. 22308048</i> | 00 | Ballymackey Glebe, Lisnamoe Td. <i>Reg. 22402106</i> |
| 00 | Coolross Td. <i>Reg. 22400201</i> | 00 | Inane House, Inane Td. <i>Reg. 22401710</i> | 00 | Drominagh Demesne/Ballinderry Tds <i>Reg. 22400605</i> | 00 | Ballykinash Td. <i>Reg. 22400520</i> | 00 | Carraig Duín, Kickham Street/Boheravoroon, Thurles <i>Reg. 22312065</i> | 00 | The Bridewell, Gaol Road, Newport <i>Reg. 22311020</i> | 00 | Church of the Sacred Heart, Palace Street, Borrisoleigh <i>Reg. 22309011</i> | 00 | St Kieran's Church, The Square, CloghJordan. <i>Reg. 22304009</i> |
| 00 | Holycross Bridge, Holycross Td, Holycross. <i>Reg. 22313007</i> | 00 | Beechwood Park, Graigue Upper Td (Ardcrony Parish) <i>Reg. 22401510</i> | 00 | Birdhill Td. <i>Reg. 22403107</i> | 00 | Shallee (Coughlan) Td. <i>Reg. 22402604</i> | 00 | Nenagh Garda Station (formerly Provincial Bank), Kickham Street/Emmet Place, Nenagh <i>Reg. 22305058</i> | 00 | Borrisokane Workhouse, Gortataggart Td. <i>Reg. 22312001</i> | 00 | Cathedral of the Assumption, Cathedral Street, Thurles <i>Reg. 22312054</i> | 00 | Christ Church Corbally, Cappalahan Td. <i>Reg. 22401809</i> |
| 00 | Ballynavin Castle, Ballynavin Td. <i>Reg. 22401016</i> | 00 | Whitstone House, Whitstone Td. <i>Reg. 22401020</i> | 00 | Dromineer Td. <i>Reg. 22401415</i> | 00 | AIB Bank, Main Street, Roscrea <i>Reg. 22303029</i> | 00 | Thurles Workhouse, Gortataggart Td. <i>Reg. 22312001</i> | 00 | Thurles Workhouse, Gortataggart Td. <i>Reg. 22312001</i> | 00 | Ursuline Convent, Cathedral Street, Thurles <i>Reg. 22312053</i> | 00 | St Cronan's Church (Church of Ireland), Church Street, Roscrea <i>Reg. 22303037</i> |

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|----|--|----|---|----|---|----|---|
| 00 | Cloughjordan Methodist Church, Main Street, Cloughjordan <i>Reg. 22304011</i> | 00 | Lisheen Castle, Lisheen Td. (Moynes parish) <i>Reg. 22403603</i> | 00 | Borrisokane Garda Station, Main Street, Borrisokane <i>Reg. 22302011</i> | 00 | Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church, Silvermines, Cloonnanagh Td. <i>Reg. 22307008</i> |
| 00 | Youghal House, Youghalvillage Td. <i>Reg. 22401435</i> | 00 | Baronne Court, Stonestown Td. <i>Reg. 22400513</i> | 00 | David Clarke Memorial Hall, Mill Street, Borrisokane <i>Reg. 22302002</i> | 00 | Church of Our Lady Queen of Ireland, Gurteen Td. (Dorrha parish) <i>Reg. 22400501</i> |
| 00 | Derrinvohil House, Derrinvohil Td. <i>Reg. 22400708</i> | 00 | Inane House, Inane Td. <i>Reg. 22401711</i> | 00 | Limerick Street (or Burgoo), Roscrea <i>Not included in survey</i> | 00 | Portumna Bridge, Lehigh Td. <i>Reg. 22400301</i> |
| 00 | St Kieran's, Lisheen Td. (Dorrha parish) <i>Reg. 22400404</i> | 00 | Solsborough House, Solsborough Td. <i>Reg. 22402022</i> | 00 | Grove Street, Roscrea <i>Reg. 22303008</i> | 00 | Clybanane Td. <i>Reg. 22401203</i> |
| 00 | Inane House, Inane Td. <i>Reg. 22401701</i> | 00 | Kilteelagh House, Shannonvale Td. <i>Reg. 22401413</i> | 00 | Friar Street, Thurles <i>Reg. 22312076</i> | | |
| 00 | Birchgrove House, Birchgrove Td. <i>Reg. 22401209</i> | 00 | Dromineer Td. <i>Reg. 22401417</i> | 00 | Cherryhill, Birr Road, Roscrea <i>Reg. 22303001</i> | | |
| 00 | Lisduff House, Lisduff Td. (Rathnaveoge parish) <i>Reg. 22402203</i> | 00 | Monroe Td. (Inch parish) <i>Reg. 22404002</i> | 00 | Youghalarra National School, Monroe Td. (Youghalarra parish) <i>Reg. 22402012</i> | | |
| 00 | Templemore Abbey, Templemore Demesne Td. <i>Not included in survey</i> | 00 | Roan Td. <i>Reg. 22404009</i> | 00 | Kilkeary National School, Kilkeary Td. <i>Reg. 22402124</i> | | |
| 00 | Timoney Park, Timoney Td. <i>Reg. 22401805</i> | 00 | Derrylahan Park, Walshpark Td. <i>Not included in survey</i> | 00 | Nenagh General Hospital, Thurles Road, Nenagh <i>Reg. 22305109</i> | | |
| 00 | Brittas Castle, Brittas (Thurles parish) <i>Reg. 22404101</i> | 00 | Richmond House, Richmond Td. <i>Reg. 22402006</i> | 00 | Banba Square, Nenagh (former cinema) <i>Reg. 22305057</i> | | |
| 00 | Castletown (also Castle Cambie), Castletown (Kilbarron parish) Td. <i>Reg. 22400904</i> | 00 | Modreeny House, Eminiska Td. (Modreeny parish) <i>Reg. 22401021</i> | 00 | Ormond Cinema, Summerhill/St Flannan's Street, Nenagh <i>Reg. 22305023</i> | | |
| 00 | Killoskehan Castle, Killoskehan Td. <i>Reg. 22402812</i> | 00 | Butler, Croke Street, Thurles <i>Reg. 22312116</i> | 00 | Archbishop Croke Memorial, Liberty Square, Thurles <i>Reg. 22312050</i> | | |
| 00 | Gate lodge, Killoskehan Castle, Killoskehan Td. <i>Reg. 22402813</i> | 00 | Devlin's Medical Hall, Liberty Square, Thurles <i>Reg. 22312049</i> | 00 | Roscrea Methodist Church, The Mall, Roscrea <i>Reg. 22303062</i> | | |
| 00 | Gate lodge, Sopwell Hall, Sopwell Td. <i>Reg. 22401102</i> | 00 | Mc Cormack Brothers' Mausoleum, Timvoher Td., Loughmore <i>Reg. 22310003</i> | 00 | SS Michael and John's Roman Catholic church, Moneygall Road, Cloughjordan <i>Reg. 22304023</i> | | |
| 00 | Walled garden, Barnane House, Barnane Td. <i>Reg. 22402806</i> | 00 | Park Avenue House, Friar Street/Mathew Avenue, Thurles <i>Reg. 22312028</i> | 00 | St Patrick's Roman Catholic Church, Puckaun, Killadangan Td. <i>Reg. 22401411</i> | | |
| 00 | Killoran Tower, Killoran Td. (Moynes parish) <i>Reg. 22403606</i> | 00 | AIB Bank, Bank Street, Templemore <i>Reg. 22308053</i> | 00 | Church of the Most Holy Redeemer, Newport <i>Reg. 22311007</i> | | |
| 00 | Fortescue, Killough Td. <i>Reg. 22402509</i> | 00 | Dromineer Td. <i>Reg. 22401418</i> | | | | |
| | | 00 | Templederry Garda Station, Cloghinch (Templederry parish) Td. <i>Reg. 22402721</i> | | | | |



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