

AN INTRODUCTION
TO THE ARCHITECTURAL
HERITAGE *of*

COUNTY
LONGFORD



Comhshaol, Oidhreachta agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Heritage and Local Government





Foreword

For a small county, Longford has a rich and varied architectural heritage dating from the start of the eighteenth century to the present. The built heritage covers a great range of building types, from country houses and ancillary structures, churches and public buildings to the more modest but equally important vernacular dwellings and farm buildings. The larger and more impressive architectural entities are generally appreciated but the more modest elements of the built heritage are often overlooked and so are in danger of being lost without record.

In 2005-6 the NIAH undertook the largest survey to date of the post-1700 AD built heritage of County Longford. In all, 951 structures were recorded during the course of the survey, of which some 840 have been recommended for protection. During the course of this survey, a large number of different buildings were identified and recorded. It is hoped that alongside those buildings that have been traditionally admired, the survey will also help to draw attention to many of the less well-known elements that make up the layers of our built environment. In rural areas these include bridges, mills, vernacular dwellings, barns and other agricultural outbuildings, gates and gate piers, and water pumps; while in towns there are houses and local authority dwellings, shopfronts and street furniture.

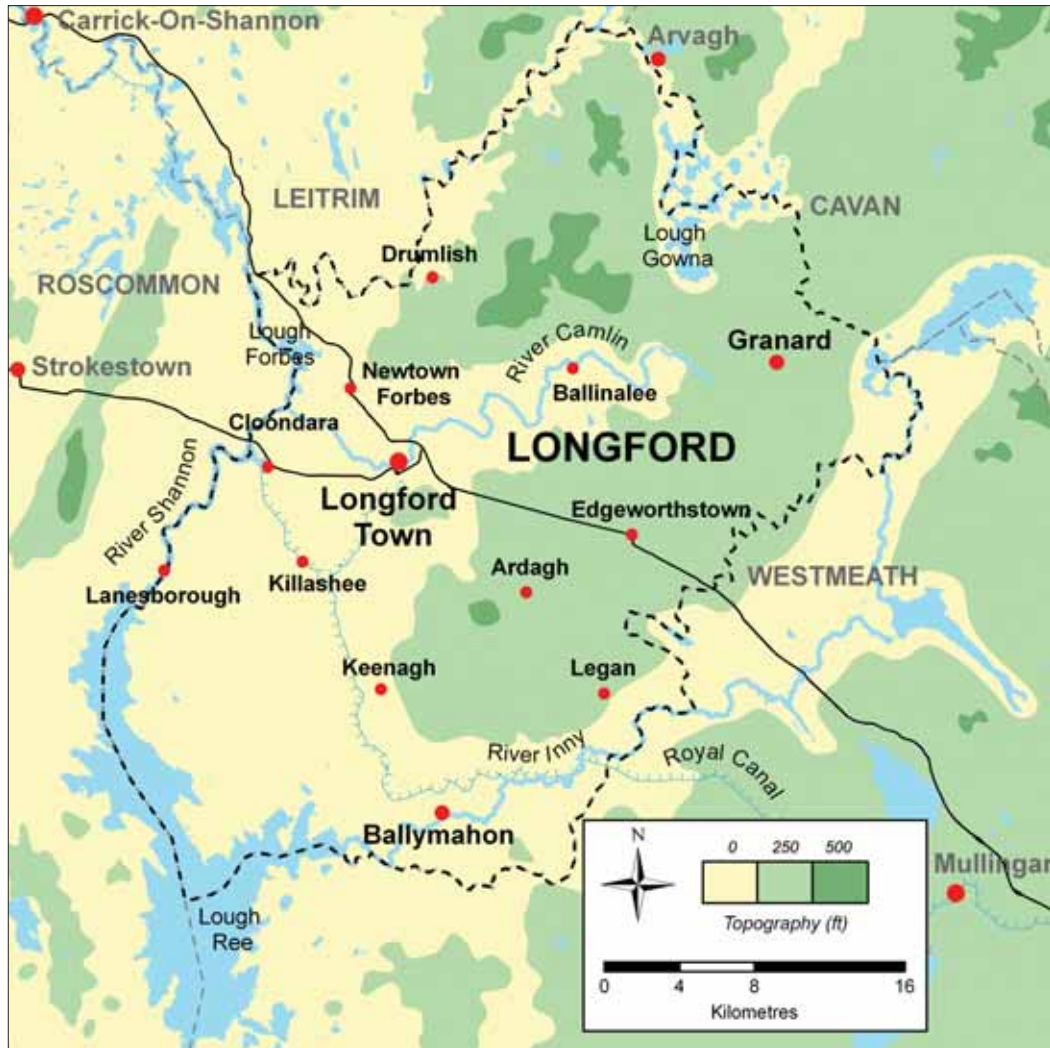
The survey of County Longford is one of a series to be produced by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH). The NIAH is a state initiative managed by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. It aims to encourage the appreciation of, and contribute to the protection of, the post-1700 AD built heritage by systematically recording that heritage on a nationwide basis.

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

For the purpose of this Introduction the spelling for all Parishes, Townlands and Towns is as set out in the *Index to the Townlands, and Towns, and Parishes and Baronies of Ireland* (1851).

COUNTY LONGFORD
View of the Cloondara
Canal, c. 1760.

Introduction



MAP OF COUNTY LONGFORD
Main towns and landscape features.

Longford is a northern midland county in north-west Leinster, bordered by Westmeath to the south and south-east, Cavan to the north-east, Leitrim to the north-west, and the River Shannon to the west, which separates it from Roscommon. The major towns are Longford Town, the county town, which is situated close to the centre of the county, Granard to the north-east and Ballymahon to the south-east.

Set in the geographical centre of Ireland, Longford is the fourth smallest county in the country, running approximately 45 kilometres from north to south at its greatest length, 35 kilometres from east to west at its greatest width, and covering 1,091 square kilometres.

Comprising rolling plains and large tracts of bog land to the west and south-west, the topography is generally flat and low lying. The northern third of the county is hilly, forming part of the drumlin belt stretching across the northern midlands. Cairn Hill is the highest point at 279 metres. The best agricultural lands are found in the east and south-east of the county, particularly to the east of Longford Town and surrounding Ballymahon.

The main rivers are the Shannon and its tributaries the River Camlin and the River Inny. The Camlin passes through Longford Town to join the Shannon at Cloondara, while the Inny crosses through the south of the county from its source in County Westmeath to feed into Lough Ree.

Lakes dotted with islands are characteristic of the borders of the county to the north and west. Lough Forbes and Lough Ree are found along the Shannon to the west and south-west respectively, while Lough Gowna and Lough Kinale form part of the border with Cavan to the north-east. The islands on these lakes were attractive locations for early medieval ecclesiastic settlements as the lakes provided both isolation from the mainland and, conversely, transport links via the rivers through which they were fed. Monastic ruins dating from the sixth century survive on several islands, such as Inis Mór in Lough Gowna and Inchcleraun and Saints Island in Lough Ree.

The county is largely underlain by carboniferous limestone with namurian shales to the north and isolated tracts of sandstone near



COUNTY LONGFORD
General view of the undulating landscape to the north of the county.



COUNTY LONGFORD
View of the raised bog that characterises much of the west and south-west of the county.



ROYAL CANAL

The Royal Canal snakes its way across the south of the county from near Abbeyshrule in the south-east to Cloondara in the west. Canal bridges, locks and lock-keepers' houses are familiar features in the south Longford landscape.

Ardagh, Longford Town and Ballymahon. So-called 'pudding stone' is an unusual local geological feature found at Slieve Caldragh (or Gaulry) near Ardagh. It comprises a mixture of limestone, quartz and sandstone and can be seen in local buildings such as the late medieval towerhouse of Castlerea and the early eighteenth-century market house in Longford Town.

The shaley northern area has traditionally been regarded as the poorer part of the county, and was largely wooded until the seventeenth century, while the moderately well-drained loam soils of the southern area have always been more suited to cultivation. This north/south divide is also reflected in the sixteenth-century division of the powerful Gaelic O'Farrell clan, with the O'Farrell Bane (*Bán*) clan dominating the north of the county and

the O'Farrell Boy (*But*) clan holding sway to the south. In later centuries the southern area became associated with the developed market economy of Leinster, while the northern area remained similar to the less economically developed area of south Ulster and north-east Connaught.

Samuel Lewis, in his *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* of 1837, described the landscape of Longford thus:

"much of the north of the county is in a state of nature, and the practicability of draining, reclaiming, and cultivating to any profitable purpose is exceedingly doubtful. Toward the south the prevailing character is a rich vegetable mould resting on blue clay, very retentive of moisture. In this part of the country every kind of grain and green crop may be cultivated to the greatest advantage."

Pre 1700

There is archaeological evidence of human activity in Longford dating back for several millennia. The earliest known monuments are generally found in the northern half of the county. A group of four megalithic portal tombs, dated to between 3800 BC and 3200 BC, is located close to the western shore of Lough Gowna. The tomb at Aghnacliff is widely known and is a well-preserved example of its type (*fig. 1*). These can be seen as part of a group of portal tombs that extends across the drumlin belt, with further examples in Cavan and Leitrim to the north and north-west. There are two Late Neolithic or Early Bronze Age stone circles in the Abbeylara area, known as the Cartronbore and Cloghchurnel stone circles, which are among the few stone circles known in the midlands of Ireland.

The extended group of prehistoric trackways to the south-west corner of the county, known collectively as the Corlea trackway or togher, is the most significant recent archaeological find in the county. The main trackway (*fig. 2*), constructed of oak planks and dated by dendrochronology to 148 BC, is one of the most extensive monuments of its kind found in Europe.

An extensive linear earthwork comprising an earthen bank and a ditch extends across the north of County Longford from the shores of Lough Gowna to Lough Kinale, on the border with Westmeath, close to the village of Abbeylara. This feature forms part of an extensive earthwork that extends discontinuously from County Leitrim across the north midlands before terminating at Dorsey in County Armagh. This intriguing feature, commonly known as 'The Black Pig's Dyke' is believed to have formed part of the ancient boundary of Ulster, and excavations in Monaghan and Armagh have yielded dates in the last centuries BC.

Ringforts are the most commonly and widely distributed of Irish archaeological sites. In essence a ringfort comprises a circular or oval area, usually measuring between 20 and 40 metres in diameter, enclosed by one or more banks of earth and/or stone excavated from the external ditch(es) that surround the monument. Within the enclosed area archaeological excavation has revealed evidence of circular and, later, rectangular house sites and ancillary buildings. These were not forts in any military sense but rather the defended farmsteads of



(fig. 1)
AGHNACLIFF DOLMEN
 Aghnacliff
 (3800 BC to 3200 BC)

This spectacular portal tomb dates to the Neolithic period and is one of a group of four found close to Lough Gowna. Portal tombs are mainly found in the north of Ireland, and the Longford examples are among the few known in the midlands. They are single-chambered structures characterised by two tall

portal stones at the entrance, generally with a massive capstone forming the roof. They were originally covered with an earthen and/or stone cairn, now generally absent or greatly eroded, and usually contained cremation-type burials.

*Courtesy of the
 Photographic Unit, DoEHLG*

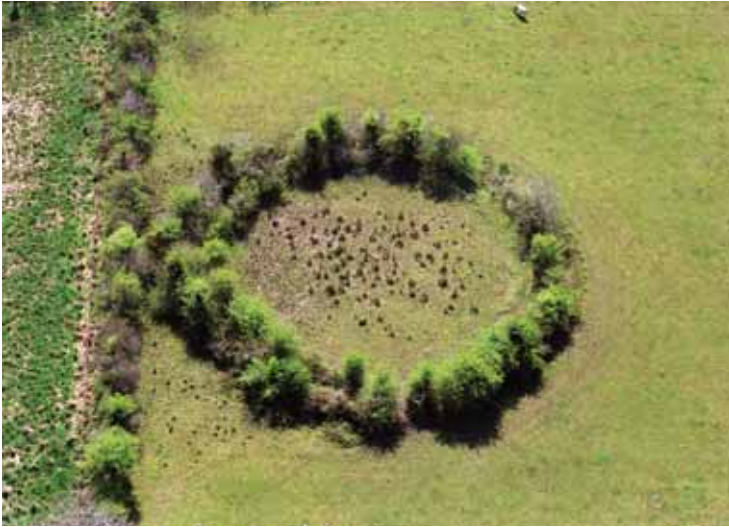


(fig. 2)
CORLEA TRACKWAY
 Corlea, near Keenagh
 (148 BC)

This important Iron Age monument is the most impressive of a large group of toghers or trackways discovered in the Corlea area of south-west Longford. The main trackway is constructed of split oak trunks that are laid over birch rails and would have been suitable for wheeled traffic. It is estimated that at least 300 large oak trees were needed for its construction.

It was dated to 148BC by dendrochronology (tree ring dating) and was originally over a kilometre in length. The complexity of construction and the scale of this monument provide evidence of large-scale social organisation in the area at the time of construction.

*Courtesy of the
 Photographic Unit, DoEHLG*



(fig. 3)
SLEEHAUN RINGFORT
Sleehaun,
near Legan
(c. 800AD)

Aerial photograph of a typical univallate ringfort. Ringforts are the most common and most widely distributed archaeological field monument in Ireland. They are usually found in areas marked by good quality soils and they are familiar features in the Longford landscape, particularly in the east and south-east of the county.

*Courtesy of the
Photographic Unit, DoEHLG*

relatively prosperous minor lords or chiefs. The majority of excavated examples date to the early medieval period (c. 500 – c. 1200 AD) although some examples are known to be from the Iron Age and a few appear to have been inhabited into the later medieval period. There are numerous ringforts in County Longford, mainly concentrated in the areas of good quality agricultural land to the east and the south-east. The trivallate ringfort at Breany, near Ardagh, with its three sets of banks and ditches, is an interesting example of its type, but more common are those surrounded by a single bank and ditch, such as the one found at Sleehaun (*fig. 3*).

Lough Ree was a centre of ecclesiastical development from the early medieval period. Set on the Shannon, the great monastic centre of Clonmacnoise in County Offaly was accessible by river, and a number of satellite foundations to this ecclesiastical centre were established further north in Lough Ree. These

foundations flourished for a thousand years until the dissolution of the monasteries in the sixteenth century. Sites of prayer and meditation, they were also centres for pilgrimage, learning, agriculture and milling.

St Diarmuid, reputedly the teacher of St Ciarán of Clonmacnoise, founded a monastery at Inchcleraun (*fig. 4*) in 540 AD. The importance and scale of the monastery is evidenced by the recorded plundering by the Vikings in 1010, 1057 and 1193. It evolved from a small-scale early medieval monastery to an Augustinian priory in the twelfth century, when it became a noted centre of learning. Other monastic sites developed on Saints Island, also in Lough Ree, during the thirteenth century, and at Inis Mór or Inchmore in Lough Gowna, which was reputed to have been established by St Columcille in the fifth century and later converted to Augustinian rule in the late twelfth century.

(fig. 4)
INCHCLERAUN
Inchcleraun
(c. 850 and later)

The impressive ruins of an early monastic site situated on an island in Lough Ree. A monastery was originally founded here in the sixth century by St Diarmuid. Ruins of six separate church buildings survive, spanning various periods of the site's development. Teampallí Dhiarmada, a tiny single-cell church with projecting antae to the gable ends, is the oldest building still extant and probably dates to the eighth century. The community adopted the Augustinian rule in the twelfth century.

*Courtesy of the
Photographic Unit, DoEHLG*





(fig. 5)
ST MEL'S CATHEDRAL
Ardagh Demesne
(c. 1050)

This simple single-cell church has the projecting stone antae and flat-headed doorway that are characteristic features of early stone churches in Ireland. Excavations in 1967 revealed that the church was constructed upon the site of an earlier timber church, possibly of eighth-century date.

Courtesy of the Photographic Unit, DoEHLG



(fig. 6)
GRANARD MOTTE
Moatfield, Granard
(1199)

This enormous motte was originally built by Richard Tuile in 1199 as a frontier castle on the border of the Anglo-Norman lordship of Meath. Mottes were built during the initial phase of Anglo-Norman occupation in Ireland. They were surmounted by a wooden or sometimes a stone tower. The raised D-shaped enclosure to the right of the motte is a bailey, which was used to house ancillary structures, horses and livestock. The site was later the probable inauguration site of the O'Farrell Bane chieftains during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

Courtesy of the Photographic Unit, DoEHLG

Early medieval church sites also developed further inland in less vulnerable sites away from the river. St Mel, said to be one of St Patrick's nephews, is thought to have founded a church at Ardagh in the fifth century. The extant St Mel's Cathedral (*fig. 5*) is a partly reconstructed eleventh-century ruin, built on the site of an earlier timber church.

Longford has always been an important line of communication through the midlands. One of the major early medieval routeways, known as the Slighe Assail, passed through the centre of the county in an east – west direction. This route was traditionally the main route from Meath to Connaught, and had a significant bearing on the subsequent settlement pattern in the county.

The Anglo-Norman invasion in 1169 was one of the major turning-points in Irish history. In 1172, Henry II granted the Kingdom of Meath, which then included Longford, to one Hugh de Lacy. To consolidate and facilitate their conquest, the Anglo-Normans built earthen mottes, raised mounds of earth originally topped with a timber or stone tower. Baileys, which are enclosures surrounded by an earthen ditch surmounted with timber palisades, are often found in association with mottes. The motte at Granard (*fig. 6*), originally built in

1199 by the Tuite family, is a fine example of an Anglo-Norman motte and is one of the largest of its type in Ireland. There are a number of other mottes in County Longford, generally found in the eastern half of the county.

The Anglo-Normans were responsible for the original development of many towns in Ireland but, unusually, they are not thought to have founded any in County Longford. They established three boroughs in Longford however, at Granard (an existing settlement and the oldest of the urban centres in County Longford), Lanesborough (then Athleague) and at Lissardowlan, which is located to the east of Longford Town. These boroughs had the legal privileges of towns but the urban functions of large villages.

New religious orders were established throughout Europe in the twelfth century. In Ireland the Cistercian order was first, quickly followed by the Augustinian, and later the Dominican, Franciscan and other orders. The Cistercians introduced a standardised monastery plan, comprising a central open cloister square flanked by the church to the north, kitchen and refectories to the south, sacristy and chapter to the east, store rooms to the west, and often including dormitories on the upper levels on two sides.



(fig. 7)

ABBEYSHRULE ABBEY
Abbeyshrule
(c. 1200 to c. 1700)

An aerial view of the Cistercian abbey at Abbeyshrule. This was the fifth religious house established by the order in Ireland, and was colonised by monks from Mellifont under the patronage of the O'Farrells of Annaly in 1200. The now overgrown ruins include the remains of the abbey church and a later sixteenth-century towerhouse or residential tower. Later, possibly in the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century, a small chapel was built inside the chancel of the abbey church using the walls of the existing structure.

*Courtesy of the
Photographic Unit, DoEHLG*

Ecclesiastical establishments followed in the wake of economic prosperity, with monastic endowments by both Anglo-Normans and the native Irish. A Cistercian abbey at Abbeyshrule was colonised by monks from Mellifont, c. 1200, under the patronage of the Gaelic O'Farrells (*fig. 7*), and another was established at Abbeylara c. 1205 or 1211 by the Anglo-Norman Richard Tuite. Both are now in ruins. Other monastic establishments, also now in ruins, include the Augustinian priory of Abbey Derg or Abbey Dearg, founded c. 1205 by Gormghal O'Quinn, Lord of Rathcline, and another Augustinian foundation established by Sir Henry Dillon before 1244 on Saints Island in Lough Ree.

In the thirteenth century the motte and bailey was superseded by the stone castle. Generally taking the form of a tower or keep surrounded by high curtain walls, castles were built by both the Anglo-Normans and the

native Irish. The necessity of these defensive buildings is apparent from a period of local unrest that occurred in 1295, during which Geoffrey O'Farrell destroyed castles at Barry, Camagh and Moydow.

War, famine and the Black Death brought economic decline in the fourteenth century. The town of Granard was sacked by Edward Bruce's army in 1315, and the O'Farrells recovered control over their former territory lost during the Anglo-Norman conquest. By the early fifteenth century the Gaelic lords had risen in strength and many Anglo-Normans or Old English families had either retreated towards to the heartland of the Pale to the east or had become more integrated into native Irish life. The Anglo-Norman boroughs at Athleague, Granard and Lissardowlan declined in importance during the fifteenth century, and were eventually abandoned.

(fig. 8)
CASTLEREA
Castlerea
(c. 1550)

This imposing towerhouse was originally constructed by the powerful O'Farrell family. The most likely builder is Richard O'Farrell, Bishop of Ardagh between 1541 and 1553. It consists of a four-storey tower with a slight batter to the base. It is constructed of roughly coursed limestone and an unusual local conglomerate known as 'pudding stone' that was quarried at Slieve Caldragh, near Ardagh.

*Courtesy of the
Photographic Unit, DoEHLG*



The late medieval towerhouse, common throughout Ireland, was developed around this time. There are a small number of surviving towerhouses in County Longford, mainly sited to the south and east of the county. Branches of the important O'Farrell clan built Castlerea Castle (*fig. 8*), c. 1550, to the west of Ardagh, and Mornin Castle, c. 1500, east of Keenagh. These were constructed in a style typical of

towerhouses, with two or three storeys over a vaulted basement. Rathcline Castle (*fig. 9*), near Lanesborough, a three-storey towerhouse with base batter, was originally built or rebuilt by the Quinn family during the sixteenth century and later extended during the early seventeenth century with the construction of a large three-storey fortified range and flanking towers to the bawn.



(fig. 9)
RATHCLINE CASTLE
 Rathcline
 (c. 1550, c. 1625
 and c. 1666-7)

Rathcline Castle was a three-storey towerhouse built by the Quinn family during the sixteenth century. It was extended in the early seventeenth century with the construction of a fortified three-storey range and towers to the corners of the bawn. Rathcline Castle was attacked by Cromwell, and later restored and enlarged in 1666-7 by Sir George Lane, secretary to the Duke of Ormond and the patron of the town of Lanesborough, only to be heavily damaged during the Williamite Wars. Surrounding the ruins are the remains of seventeenth-century formal gardens and a former fish pond.

*Courtesy of the
 Photographic Unit, DoEHLG*

The growing wealth and confidence of the native Irish is demonstrated by the development of market centres in the late medieval period at the O'Farrell strongholds of Granard and Longford. Abbeycartron, or Mainnistir Cartruin, was founded in Longford in 1400 by Domhnall O'Farrell, who built a Dominican foundation on of the banks of the River Camlin. The presence of friary, castle and market is indicative of the status of Longford Town as an urban centre of some significance.

The territory now comprising County Longford was traditionally known in the early medieval period as Annaly (*Anghaile*), or Teffia (*Teabhtha*), and formed the territory of the O'Farrell clan. In 1543, as part of Henry VIII's strategy for regaining control of Ireland, Meath was divided into two counties and Annaly was included with County Westmeath. Later, in 1570, Annaly was made a shire named Longford after its main town by Sir Henry Sidney, Lord Deputy. It was then considered



(fig 10)
LONGFORD CASTLE
Longford Town
(c. 1627)

Lawrence collection photograph of Longford Castle, c. 1900. It was sited at the gates to the Sean Connolly Barracks, and replaced an earlier castle in the town that was destroyed by Hugh Roe O'Donnell in 1595. It was built c. 1627 by Francis Lord Aungier, who founded the town in the 1620s. Later, in 1641 during the Irish Confederate Wars, it was captured and sacked by Jacobite forces under the command of Thomas Preston, first Viscount Tara. Parts of the castle survived until the 1970s.

Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland

one of the seven counties of Connaught. County Longford was subsequently included as part of Leinster by James I in 1608, with the county being divided into six baronies and its boundaries being officially defined.

The seventeenth century began with the defeat of Hugh O'Neill's army at the Battle of Kinsale in 1601 and the subsequent demise of Gaelic aristocracy. The Stuart conquest under

James I began on his accession to the throne in 1603. A systematic approach for the plantation of Longford was drawn in 1618 by Oliver St John, Lord Deputy. This envisaged the transfer of 25 per cent of the county to New English settlers, at the expense of the native Irish and Old English inhabitants. Arthur Forbes received lands surrounding Newtownforbes and the title Earl of Granard in 1619, and developed a new



(fig. 11)
FOXHALL CHURCH
Foxhall Glebe,
near Legan
(c. 1630; rebuilt 1772)

Detail of the elaborate Doric doorcase, which is a rare example of early seventeenth-century classicism in rural Ireland. An inscription above the door is dated 1772, and refers to the rebuilding of the church, at which time the doorway was removed from its original position and rearranged during reconstruction.

estate village. Construction of the first family seat, Castle Forbes, was begun by his wife Lady Jane Lauder in 1624. A possible flanker of the original castle survives as a folly, although this may date to an earlier structure as Castle Forbes was described as 'an antient seat' by Dowdall in 1682. It was at this time that the large fortified house of Ballinamore Castle was built by Sir Richard Browne south-east of Killashee. Francis Edgeworth received lands at Edgeworthstown. Lands surrounding Granard and Longford were granted to Francis Aungier, with the title Earl of Longford. He built or

(fig. 12)
THE STONEMAN
OF FOXHALL
RATHREAGH CHURCH
Foxhall Glebe,
near Legan
(1634)

This elaborate classical wall-tomb with some Jacobean influences commemorates Sir Nathaniel Fox. It features many finely sculptured features including Ionic columns, Jacobean scrolls, Cupid-head motifs and the Fox family coat of arms. The reclining statue depicts Sir Nathaniel Fox clad in early seventeenth-century armour.



rebuilt Longford Castle as his stronghold in 1627 (fig. 10). Sir Nathaniel Fox was granted the lands of Rathreagh, near Legan, and built a house, Foxhall, now demolished, and a now ruined church, which retains a very rare example in rural Ireland of a classical doorcase dating from the first half of the seventeenth century (fig. 11). Sir Nathaniel Fox is commemorated in the church by a remarkable classical effigial tomb with Jacobean influences, dated 1634. It is known locally as the Stoneman of Foxhall (fig. 12).

The seventeenth century, despite being a period of political and economic turmoil, saw the development of a number of other new urban settlements. Ballinalee was established in 1618 at the initiative of Oliver St John, Lord Grandison, from whom it received the name St Johnstown. It was later incorporated by Charles I as the 'borough and town of St Johnstown' in 1627-30 and by 1641 there was a shoemaker, tanner, blacksmith and joiner listed in the town.

The Irish Confederate Wars of 1641-53 saw the occupation of Longford Town, still the main urban centre, by Jacobite forces and the sacking of Longford Castle, as well as the burning of the Edgeworth family seat and the capture of Castle Forbes. Two centres of New English influence, Newtown-Forbes and Killashee, were also burned to the ground. A *de facto* sovereign state was established, remaining outwardly loyal to Charles I. Cromwell and his New Model Army arrived towards the end of 1649 to reassert English control. In three years the whole island was conquered. 61 per cent of the land in Longford was confiscated at this time, much of it from the Gaelic O'Farrell clans. Catholic strongholds, such as Rathcline Castle, were also sacked.

The Restoration of the Stuart monarchy in 1660 introduced a relatively peaceful period. Charters were granted for the towns of Longford, Granard and Lanesborough. Land settlements were made to those who had remained loyal to the king in the Act of Settlement. Sir George Lane obtained Rathcline Castle and the associated lands at Lanesborough in 1664, and proceeded to build 'fine stone houses and a fair church with a tall steeple'. Lane also built a bridge over the

Shannon at Lanesborough in about 1667, which was described by Dowdall in 1682 as 'in length and breath the largest in the kingdom'. Dowdall also records stone bridges over the Inny at Abbeyshrule and Ballynacarrow, as well as a wooden bridge at Ballymahon. The Achmuty and Sankey families built or rebuilt houses at Brianstown and Tennialick respectively, c. 1660. Mosstown House (*fig. 13*), near Keenagh, was built or rebuilt by Sir Thomas Newcomen during the second half of the seventeenth century.

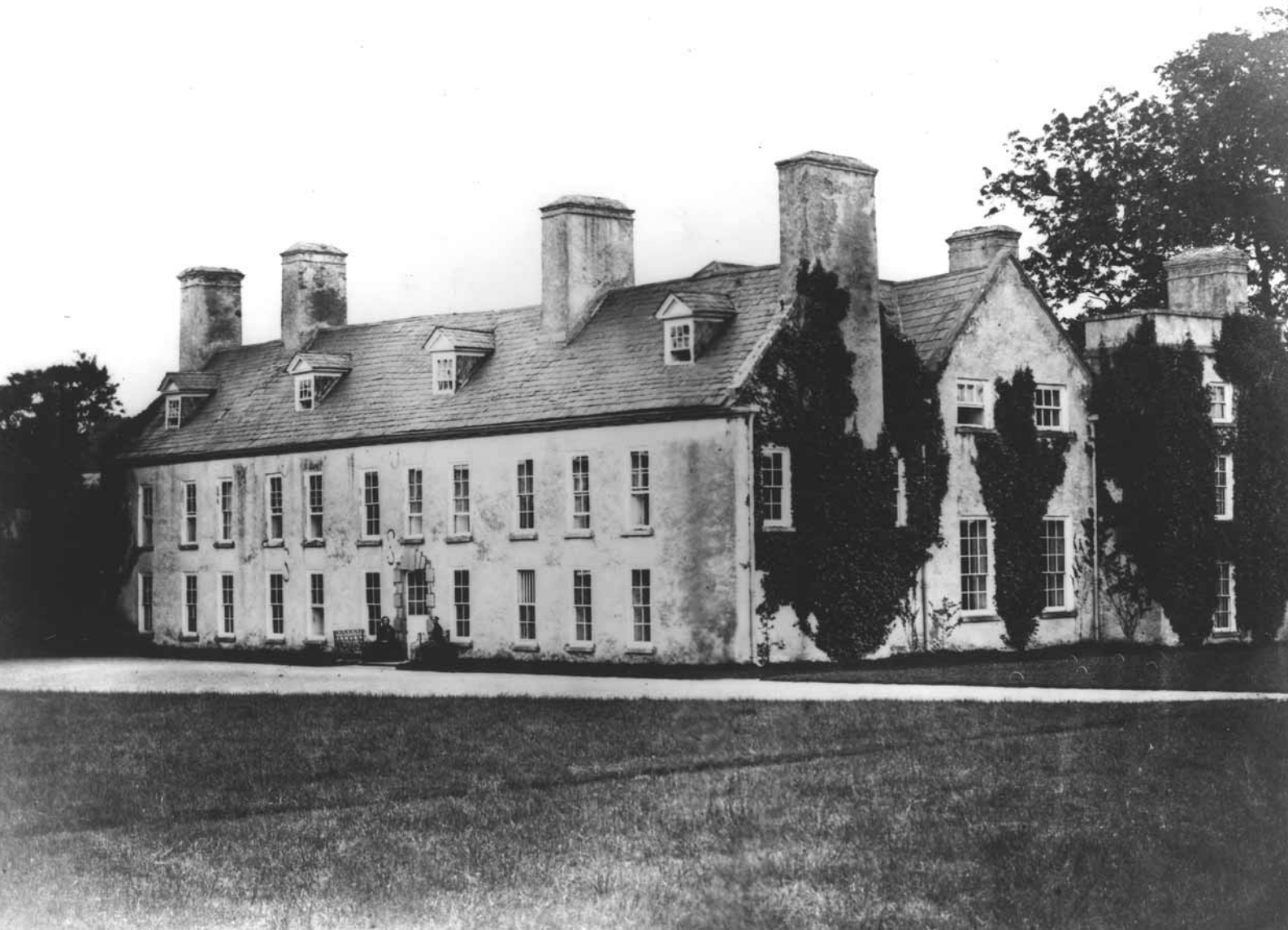
The O'Farrell clan, who attended the royal court in exile on the continent throughout the 1650s, were regranted some of the confiscated lands they held prior to the rebellion. They continued to hold their lands into the early eighteenth century, at which time they were sold off for various reasons mainly in order to pay off high levels of debts.

Economic activity increased in the late seventeenth century and Longford became part of the hinterland that supplied a rapidly growing Dublin. Dowdall, writing in 1682, noted considerable exports of wool and also that there was sufficient corn grown to serve local needs. He described Longford Town as being like 'a large country village but a few good houses in it'. Landlords also benefited from the growing prosperity and began estate improvement. The Earl of Longford rebuilt his house and remodelled his gardens, Sir Arthur Forbes improved his estate lands and developed estate towns at Granard and Newtown-Forbes. The lands of Newcastle demesne were purchased by Robert Choppayne or Choppin Esq. in 1680 and he built 'a fayre house and a wooden bridge', while Sir John Edgeworth improved his estate lands 'building a fair house, planted orchards

(*fig. 13*)
MOSSTOWN HOUSE
Mosstown Demesne,
near Keenagh
(built or rebuilt c. 1660
and altered c. 1730)

An impressive and imposing seventeenth-century house with early Georgian alterations, which was built or rebuilt by the Newcomen family (possibly by Sir Thomas Newcomen 1626-95) during the second half of the seventeenth century. The gabled form and the massive chimneystacks are indicative of its early date. Later the seat of a branch of the Kingston family, it survived up until the 1960s when it was demolished.

*Courtesy of the Irish
Architectural Archive*





MOSSTOWN HOUSE
Mosstown Demesne,
near Keenagh
(built or rebuilt c. 1660
and altered c. 1730)

Detail of cut-stone block-and-start doorcase with Gibbsian keystone serving the main entrance.

*Courtesy of the
Photographic Unit, DoEHLG*

MOSSTOWN HOUSE
Mosstown Demesne,
near Keenagh
(built or rebuilt c. 1660
and altered c. 1730)

Detail of staircase to interior of Mosstown House. The carved timber foliate detailing to the string spandrels was particularly finely detailed. This staircase probably dated to the first half of the eighteenth century.

*Courtesy of the
Photographic Unit, DoEHLG*



and gardens very sumptuous... and purchased land near him on which he planted a very good country town which hath a market and two fairs'.

The Penal Laws were introduced in 1695 to safeguard the Protestant Ascendancy after the turmoil and warfare of 1690-1. Landlords sought new English tenants for their estates, not only for religious reasons, but also because they were seen as more agriculturally progressive than the native Irish. While Longford never experienced plantation on a par with the plantations in Ulster or Munster, changes in landownership and influxes of new social and ethnic groups greatly altered the traditional character of the county.



MOSSTOWN HOUSE
Mosstown Demesne,
near Keenagh
(built or rebuilt c. 1660
and altered c. 1730)

The interior of Mosstown
had timber panelling of
probable early eighteenth-
century date.

*Courtesy of the
Photographic Unit, DoEHLG*

The Eighteenth Century

Following the upheaval and unrest of the seventeenth century, the eighteenth century was a period of relative peace and stability. Successive land settlements had allowed the New English to gain 85 per cent ownership of the land, including the vast majority of land in areas characterised by good quality soils and drainage. Trade and agriculture improved and foreign travel became more common, opening up the country to new ideas and fashions from the Continent. Security and confidence continued to grow following the failure of the Jacobite Rising in Scotland in 1715. Landlords invested in estate improvements. As seats no longer required fortification, wealthy landowners engaged architects from Britain and the Continent to transform their homes, estate buildings and landscapes. Palladian architecture, with its mathematical proportions and subtle decoration seen as emblematic of order and reason, was the style of the times.

Longford did not experience the advent of country houses on the same scale as other counties, particularly compared to the counties to the east, possibly on account of the poor agricultural land that characterised large swathes of the county. However a number of large estates were established or extended during the century, including the Edgeworth estate, the Fetherston estate at Ardagh,

Carrigglass by the Newcomen (later the Gleadowe-Newcomen) family, and by the Bond family who built houses at Newtownbond and at Farragh or Farra. Many of the smaller estates were sublet by non-resident landlords living in Britain. Sublet, in the words of Richard Lovell Edgeworth to ‘a kind of half-gentry or mock-gentry’ of ‘middlemen who relet the lands and live upon the produce, not only in idleness, but in insolent idleness.’ This sharp comment comes from the second volume of his *Memoirs*, edited and published after his death by his daughter, the writer Maria Edgeworth.

Middle-sized houses, such as Tennialick House, Richmount Hill and Castlewilder, were built in the first quarter of the century in the south-east corner of the county on the good agricultural land in the vicinity of Ballymahon. Tennialick House (*fig. 14*) near Ballymahon, was rebuilt or extended c. 1705. Described by Maurice Craig in 1976 as ‘a very remarkable building indeed, unlike anything else in Ireland... it looks more like something in the Cotswolds than an Irish building’. Although now derelict, its former grandeur can be discerned in the elaborate cut-stone doorcases with cornices. The engaged Doric columns supporting the groin-vaulted ground-floor ceilings are particularly notable surviving features.

(fig. 14)
TENNALICK HOUSE
 Tennialick
 (c. 1705)



Archival view of Tennialick House c. 1950, now sadly derelict. Tennialick has a plain rather vernacular appearance that is enlivened by the fine classical doorcases with cornices and by a flat ashlar stringcourse. It was the seat of the Sankey family during the second half of the seventeenth century but passed, through marriage, into the ownership of the important Gore family at the start of the eighteenth century. It is likely that the house was rebuilt or heavily altered immediately after the Gore family came into possession. It was later reputedly used as stabling for dray horses working on the nearby Royal Canal during the nineteenth century but returned to residential use from the late nineteenth century until c. 1950.

Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive



GORE MEMORIAL MONUMENT
 Taghshinny Church
 of Ireland Church
 (1753)

The exceptional marble memorial monument, dated 1753, commemorates Judge George Gore (1675-1753) of nearby Tennialick House. It was carved by John Van Nost the Younger (c. 1710-80), a London-born sculptor from a renowned family of sculptors. The monument has a late baroque character and is of high artistic merit. George Gore served as Attorney General of Ireland in 1715

and subsequently as one of the chief Judges of the Common Pleas (from 1724). George Gore was later succeeded by his second son John Gore (d. 1784) who also served as Attorney General of Ireland of Ireland, Lord Chief Justice and Speaker of the Irish House of Commons in 1767.

Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive



RICHMOUNT HILL
Screeboge,
near Carrickboy
(c. 1720)

This plain but substantial house dates to the first decades of the eighteenth century. The unusual proportions to the main elevation, particularly the large gap between the top floor windows and the eaves, suggests that this building may have formerly had another storey or that the roof originally had a much steeper pitch.



(fig. 15)
BRIANSTOWN HOUSE
Brianstown
(1731; altered c. 1880
and c. 1930)

Archival view of Brianstown House prior to the removal of the upper floor and dormer roof. The Palladian motif to the ground floor was mirrored on the first floor with a central window flanked to either side by round-headed niches. The steeply pitched roof with dormer window openings harks back to earlier buildings such as Beaulieu, County Louth, and Mosstown House, near Keenagh.

*Courtesy of the Irish
Architectural Archive*

Richmount Hill and Castlewilder House, both built c. 1720, retain much of their original form, with regular plans, gabled roofs with end chimneystacks, centrally placed entrances and small attic windows to the gable ends. Though some fittings have been replaced and later additions somewhat obscure the overall composition, particularly at Castlewilder, they are typical examples of early eighteenth-century middle-sized houses in Ireland.

Brianstown House (*figs. 15-6*), built in 1731 for Samuel Achmuty whose heraldic device survives above the door, demonstrates more awareness of formal design and decoration than the earlier houses. Originally a two-storey house over basement, the first floor was removed following a fire in the early twentieth century. Craig describes this building as standing 'Janus-like' between houses such as the Dutch-inspired Beaulieu in County Louth, and

the eighteenth-century Palladian classicism then becoming current through the influence of James Gibbs and William Kent. Grand, more architecturally aware houses following on from the Brianstown precedent date from the mid-eighteenth century. Three particularly interesting houses survive within close proximity of each other, again in the southern area of the county.



BRIANSTOWN HOUSE
Brianstown
(1731)

Detail of the finely carved crest and motto of Samuel Achmuty on the tympanum over the main doorway.



(*fig. 16*)
BRIANSTOWN HOUSE
Brianstown
(1731; altered c. 1880
and c. 1930)

Brianstown House was originally built by Samuel Achmuty in 1731, replacing an earlier house on the site. The entrance is a combination of two Palladian motifs, the Palladian window and the Gibbsian surround, both executed in crisp limestone. Limestone is used elsewhere to emphasise other architectural elements, including stringcourses, quoins and window-surrounds. The single-storey bow-ended ballroom extension was added during the late nineteenth century.



(fig. 17)
LEDWITHSTOWN HOUSE
Ledwithstown
(1746)

This well-portioned small-scale Palladian country house has been attributed to the eminent architect Richard Castle (d. 1751). It has a robust, almost muscular, appearance on account of the heavy parapet with pronounced eaves cornice, the raised corner quoins, and the large tall ashlar chimneystacks that are aligned with the front elevation. The fine pedimented tripartite doorcase is strongly detailed and provides a central focus to the main elevation. This central focus is further enhanced by the splayed flight of steps.



LEDWITHSTOWN HOUSE
Ledwithstown
(1746)

Detail of the fine pedimented tripartite Tuscan doorcase with sidelights.

Ledwithstown House (*fig. 17*), dated 1746, is perhaps the most architecturally significant of the houses built in County Longford during the first half of the eighteenth century. Attributed to the prolific country-house architect and protégé of Edward Lovett Pearce, Richard Castle, it is an exercise in miniature Palladianism. This well-proportioned and well-executed house is as finely detailed as any of Castle's grander commissions, such as at Tudenham Park and Waterstown in adjacent Westmeath, although perhaps not as grand as his sophisticated designs for a hunting and fishing lodge at

Belvedere, to the south of Mullingar.

Creevaghmore House (*fig. 18*), built c. 1750 to the south-east of Ballymahon, conforms more to an early Georgian farmhouse type than to a country house. The U-plan form, with returns to either end of the rear elevation, appears to reflect its practical purpose, with offices and stable to the rear stretching to embrace the closely sited stable buildings. While this house is interesting in its own right, the courtyard retains early stable furniture which contributes to the significance of this fascinating group.

(*fig. 18*)
CREEVAGHMORE
Creevaghmore
(c. 1750)

The central pedimented section, the treatment of the central window openings and the central Gibbsian doorcase give this house a strong classical character, albeit in a vaguely vernacular fashion. The survival of such an intact example of an early eighteenth-century farmhouse is extremely rare, making Creevaghmore an important example of its type.





CREEVAGHMORE
Creevaghmore
(c. 1750)

This unusual doorcase can be seen as a provincial interpretation of a 'correct' Gibbsian-style doorcase as found on contemporary country houses built in a more formal architectural tradition.

Newcastle House (*fig. 19*), although probably dating in part to the end of the seventeenth century, was greatly extended throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries by the Harman and subsequently the King-Harman family, creating a large rambling composition with a complicated and confusing chronology. It represents a departure from the middle-sized house, designed on the scale of the grand demesne house and built to exude strength, power and solidity. The Newcastle estate reached its largest extent in 1888, some 38,616

acres in size, when Wentworth Henry King-Harman was in residence. The estate was described in 1900 as:

“a master-piece of smooth and intricate organisation, with walled gardens and glasshouses, its dairy, its laundry, its carpenters, masons and handymen of all estate crafts, the home farm, the gamekeepers and retrievers kennels, its saw-mill and paint shop and deer park for the provision of venison. The place is self supporting to a much greater degree than most country houses in England.”



(fig. 19)
NEWCASTLE
Newcastle Demesne
(c. 1710 to c. 1860)

Newcastle was probably originally built during the late seventeenth or early eighteenth century. It was later extended and altered on a number of occasions throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, creating a composition with a complicated and confusing chronology. A number of interesting features survive to the interior, including marble

fireplaces, a number of early Georgian timber panelled doors with lugged surrounds, and high-quality neoclassical plasterwork that is probably the best example of its type in Longford. The house was sold to an order of nuns during the mid-twentieth century and was later in use as a hotel.



NEWCASTLE
Newcastle Demesne
(c. 1820)

The unusual Dutch-style curvilinear gable to the porch is echoed over the centre of the main elevation. These were probably added as part of remodelling works c. 1820. The fine carved coat of arms over the doorway is probably that of the King or Harman-King family.



(fig. 20)
CASTLECOR
Castlecore
(c. 1740 or c. 1765)

Aerial view of Castlecor House, c. 1960. The original building is to the top of the image and consisted of a central octagonal block with four projecting wings to alternating sides. The two later extensions somewhat obscure the original architectural impact of this

unusual building. It was originally built as a hunting lodge by the Very Revd Cutts Harman (1706-84), later Dean of Waterford Cathedral from 1759. The original architect is not known.

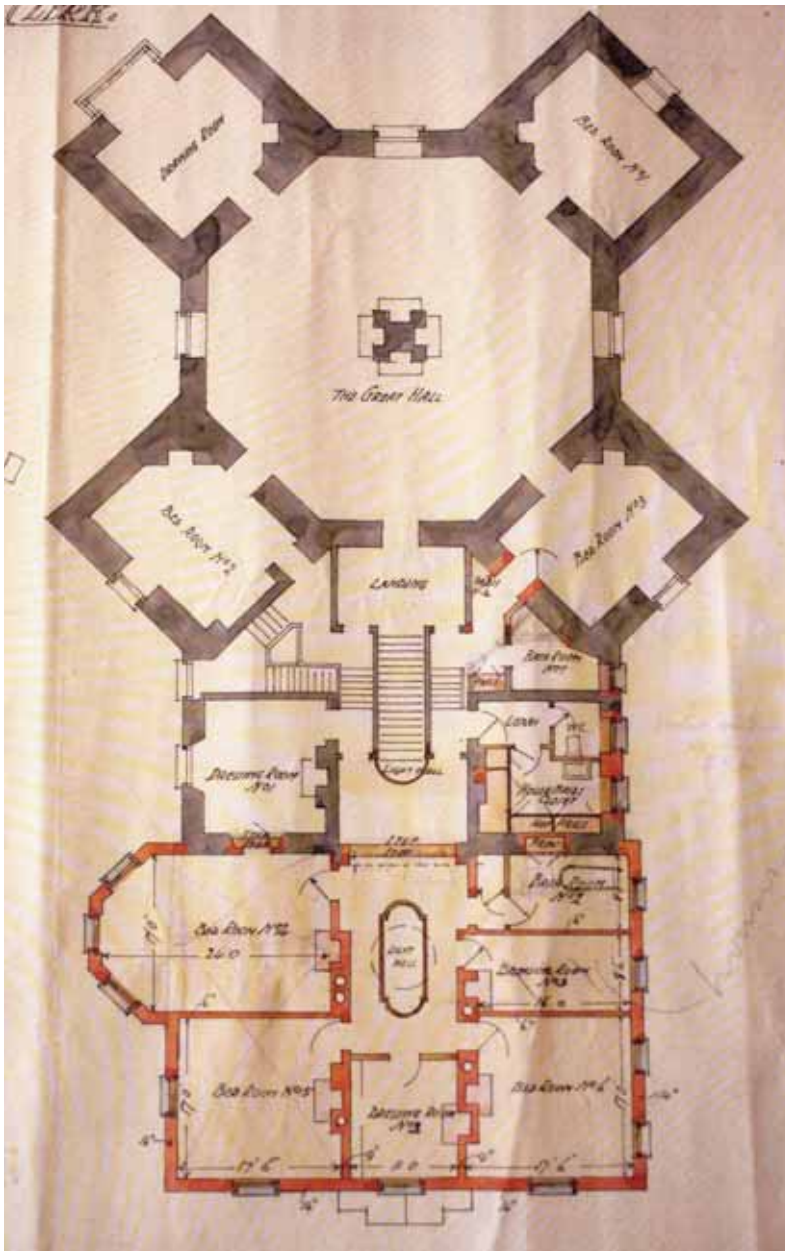
Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive



(fig. 21)
CASTLECOR
Castlecore
(c. 1740 or c. 1765)

View of the extraordinary central chimneypiece to the Octagonal Room, which has marble fireplaces to each of the four faces flanked by Corinthian columns. The mirrors above the fireplace, now modern replacements, reflect the views of the countryside

from the four tall round-headed window openings. The walls are decorated with late nineteenth-century neo-Egyptian artwork, which may have been inspired by illustrations in Owen Jones' book *Decoration*, published in 1856.



CASTLECOR
Castlecore
(1913)

Plans for the extension of Castlecor prepared by A. G. C. Millar, an architect based on Kildare Street, Dublin. This block is built in a style that is reminiscent of a mid-eighteenth-century house, complimenting the earlier architecture. The original block is to the top of the plan.

Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive

The most remarkable building from the middle part of the century is Castlecor (*fig. 20*), near Ballymahon, probably built c. 1740 (alternatively, there is some evidence to suggest it may have been built as late as 1765). It was originally built as a hunting lodge by the Very Revd Cutts Harman, a younger son of the important Harman family. The original structure now forms the rear of the building. It was originally constructed as a symmetrical two-storey block on octagonal plan with four short projecting wings to alternating sides.



(fig. 22)
CLOGH
(c. 1800)

This well-maintained thatched house retains its early form and character, representing one of the more attractive examples of its type in County Longford. It also retains much of its salient fabric, including timber sliding sash-windows. Modest in scale and form, this house exhibits the simple and functional form of vernacular building in Ireland.



(fig. 23)
CASTLEREA MOUNTAIN
(c. 1800)

This attractive vernacular house near Ardagh is aligned at a right-angle to the road-alignment, a feature of Irish vernacular buildings. The position of one of the chimneys suggests that it originally had the 'lobby-entry' plan arrangement that is characteristic of vernacular buildings in the midlands of Ireland.

The single wide room to the octagon at first-floor level has an extraordinary central chimney-piece (*fig. 21*) with marble fireplaces to its four faces. This room must rank as one of the most unusual and interesting rooms built anywhere in Ireland during the eighteenth century. The original splendour and architectural effect is somewhat swamped by subsequent nineteenth and twentieth-century additions that were built on to the front, c. 1850 and c. 1913.

The vast majority of the population lived in significantly more modest vernacular buildings. Most farm holdings in Longford were smaller than the Irish average, particularly the average in Leinster. Vernacular, in architectural terms, refers to buildings that are not architect-designed but follow a traditional plan and use the building methods and materials of the locality. These structures were typically single storey, one room deep with steeply pitched roofs and often built at right angles to, or facing away from, the nearest road. Vernacular

buildings are difficult to date as the plan and materials used remained the same over a long period of time, with examples been constructed into the late nineteenth and perhaps even the early twentieth century. In the midlands, vernacular houses usually had a 'hearth and lobby' arrangement, with the hearth being in line with the entrance lobby. They could be extended lengthways or, more rarely, vertically, so that some now form the lower storey of a two-storey farmhouse. They were usually constructed of local rubble stone, limewashed and roofed with a hipped thatched roof. Typical examples can be found at Clogh (*fig. 22*) and Castlerea Mountain (*fig. 23*), both built c. 1800. There are some surviving examples of vernacular houses of mud/earth construction to the east of the county, such as is found at Freaghmeen (*fig. 24*), near Edgeworthstown. Thatch was often replaced by corrugated iron and later by corrugated cement, as can be seen at Rathmore, near Ballymahon, and at Coolcor,



(*fig. 24*)
FREAGHMEEN
Freaghmeen
(c. 1820)

Single-storey vernacular house near Edgeworthstown. The render is now failing, revealing partially mud-walled construction over rubble-stone footings. The corrugated-metal roof suggests that it was formerly thatched. Corrugated-metal frequently replaced thatch as a roofing material during the twentieth century.



(fig. 25)
BARNEY
Near Ardagh
(c. 1840)

This substantial building is a relatively rare example of a two-storey vernacular house surviving in good condition in the county. The steeply pitched roof suggests that this building may have been thatched originally. The form of this building hints that it may have been extended along its length, a typical feature of vernacular houses.

(fig. 27)
ABBEYSHRULE
(c. 1860)

The form of this building suggests that it is a vernacular interpretation of the typical three-bay two-storey house with muted classical pretensions, examples of which are a feature of the rural Irish countryside.



(fig. 26)
CARTRON
(SHRULE BARONY)
(c. 1860)

An attractive and well-maintained two-storey house. The irregular spacing on the window openings lends it a strong vernacular character. The form of this building hints that it may have been originally single storey with the first floor added at a later date.

NORTH LONGLORD
Aghnaclyff area
(c. 1820)

Archival view of an interesting split-level vernacular house with shop or public house to one end. This building was located somewhere in the Aghnaclyff area, and the photograph (c. 1910) is from the Edgeworthworth family private collection.

Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland



GRANARD
Main Street
(c. 1895)

View of market day in Granard, c. 1895. Note the two-storey thatched houses to the left of the image, now no longer extant. Thatched buildings were once a common feature in Irish towns and villages but are now very rare.

Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland

near Granard. Attractive two-storey vernacular houses, built in the nineteenth century, are to be found at Barney, near Ardagh (**fig. 25**), Cartron, near Ballymahon (**fig. 26**) and at Abbeyshrule (**fig. 27**).

The linen industry was for a time an alternative to agriculture, with women engaged in spinning and men in weaving. An Act of Parliament passed in 1699 that prevented the exportation of woollen goods from Ireland had the unexpected effect of increasing the acreage of flax, which resulted in a flourishing linen industry in rural Longford. By the middle of the eighteenth century a reported 2,000 looms were operating in the county. Arthur Young's *Tour of Ireland* in 1776 also tells of extensive spinning and weaving and three bleaching greens in the county.





(fig. 28)
**AUNGIER MARKET
HOUSE**
Sean Connolly Barracks,
Longford Town
(c. 1710 or earlier)

This building is the former market house in Longford, which was constructed by the Aungier family before c. 1720. It is one of the earliest and best surviving examples of its type in Leinster. It differs from the usual market houses in that it has only one storey. The round-headed arches of the arcade were constructed using 'pudding stone', a local conglomerate. It is now located in the grounds of Sean Connolly Barracks, and was used as barracks stables from c. 1774.



**AUNGIER MARKET
HOUSE**
Sean Connolly Barracks,
Longford Town
(c. 1710 or earlier)

View of the interior. The roof structure is supported on brick groin vaults located between the arcade piers.



(fig. 29)
 ST JOHN'S CHURCH
 OF IRELAND CHURCH
 Church Street, Longford
 Town
 (c. 1710; c. 1785;
 1810-12)

This church was built c. 1710 and subsequently altered and enlarged during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, largely to accommodate the burgeoning congregation brought about by the construction of the military barracks in 1774. It has a late eighteenth-century mid-Georgian classical character on account of the round-headed window openings, round-headed niches and the classical doorcase. The delicate needle spire is a dominant feature of the skyline to the north end of Longford Town.

The dominance of Longford Town as the major urban and commercial centre continued throughout the century. The Aungier family, who probably laid out the plantation scheme burgage plots and main streets in the latter part of the seventeenth century, secured royal grants for fairs and markets to attract economic activity. The Aungier Market House (*fig. 28*) was built c. 1710 by the family and is one of the earliest and best surviving market houses in Leinster. St John's Church of Ireland church (*fig. 29*), also built c. 1710 but altered on a number of subsequent occasions throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, is set facing the site of the castle and was probably originally patronised by the Aungier family. The continued prosperity of the town was secured by the arrival of the military following



(fig. 30)
LONGFORD TOWN
COURTHOUSE
Main Street, Longford
Town.
(c. 1791-5; altered
c. 1830, and 1859-61)

This imposing public building dominates Main Street in Longford Town. It dates to the late eighteenth century but has a confusing chronology due to later alterations, and it possibly contains earlier fabric. The top floor was added in alterations carried out 1859-61. Its form is unusual for a building of its type, and it has the appearance of a grand domestic residence. This building was also in use as the Longford Grand Jury headquarters throughout the nineteenth century (until 1898).



LONGFORD TOWN
COURTHOUSE
Main Street, Longford
Town.
(c. 1791-5; altered
c. 1830, and 1859-61)

View of the impressive pedimented Doric porch with triglyph frieze.



GRANARD MARKET HOUSE
Main Street, Granard
(c. 1785)

This market house was built under the patronage of the McCartney family. It retains typical Georgian market house features, including the arcaded ground floor, shallow hipped roof and regularly placed openings on the upper floor, which was used as a courthouse

throughout the nineteenth century. The hood-mouldings are later nineteenth-century additions. The presence of a large market house in Granard is testament to the economic prosperity and confidence enjoyed in the area during the late eighteenth century.



GRANARD
Main Street
(c. 1760 or earlier)

This unusual building occupies a focal point in the centre of the town, and is probably the earliest building still extant along the main street. Though the rhythm of the fenestration has been altered by the enlargement of some window openings, the

proportions, the central narrow block-and-start doorcase, and the large gable chimneystacks are reminiscent of an architectural style that is associated more with rural middle-sized houses dating to the first half of the eighteenth century.



CLONWHELAN HOUSE
Clonwhelan
(c. 1775)

Well-proportioned and substantial house dating to the second half of the eighteenth century. The symmetry and the tall ground-floor window openings illustrate the classical intentions of the design, while the simple doorcase with spoked fanlight over provides an attractive central focus.

the purchase of the castle and market house by the Royal Commissioners of Barracks in 1774. By 1776 Longford barracks was the largest garrison in the midlands. Longford courthouse (*fig. 30*) dates to the final decade and takes the unusual domestic form of a Georgian town house. Originally a five-bay two-storey building, an extra floor and a pair of courtrooms were added to the rear in the mid-nineteenth century.



(fig. 31)
EDGEWORTHSTOWN
HOUSE
Edgeworthstown
(c. 1725; altered
between c. 1782-1812
and c. 1870)

This unusual house was originally built or rebuilt by Richard Edgeworth c. 1725. It was extensively remodelled on numerous occasions between 1782 and 1812 by his son, the noted inventor and amateur architect Richard Lovell Edgeworth (1744-1817), creating an unusual building with a quirky appearance. It has important historical connections with Maria Edgeworth (1767-1849), the celebrated author, and welcomed many distinguished visitors, including Sir Walter Scott, William Wordsworth and Oliver Goldsmith. The house is now in use as a nursing home and has been extended in recent decades.

Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland

The economies of towns and villages depended on the agricultural hinterlands, and were greatly affected by the lifting of the ban on live cattle exports in 1759 and by the reorganisation of the brown linen markets in 1762. It was in the landlords' interest to ensure that the revenue of market day was brought to their estates; and so began a period of building and rebuilding of estate urban centres. Estate villages such as Keenagh, Granard, Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon expanded at

this time and wide main streets were laid out to accommodate fairs and markets. Granard was largely redeveloped in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century as a regular Georgian street town. A number of late eighteenth-century buildings survive in close proximity along Main Street, including the market house, built c. 1785, The Greville Arms, and an unusual two-storey building with a block-and-start doorcase.

Estate-building and rebuilding grew in the second part of the century in tandem with the developing rural economy. Richard Lovell Edgeworth took up full-time residence at his Longford estate in 1782, determined to create a model estate. Until then, like many landlords in the area, he had been a non-resident landlord with little interest in inward investment. He also concerned himself with moral improvement, and established a school for children on his estate. An amateur architect, cartographer, mathematician and a noted inventor, he applied his talents to both useful and somewhat eccentric inventions. He invented a timber railway that laid its own tracks as it moved forward to facilitate the working of the estate bogs for fuel, a central heating system that emitted warm air above the mantelpieces, a large umbrella for covering haystacks and a telegraph system linking Edgeworthstown with Pakenham Hall in County Westmeath some twelve miles distant. He also carried out various quirky experiments with the layout of the house (**fig. 31**), partially creating its unusual appearance today. His philanthropic outlook informed his daughter Maria's novels *Castle Rackrent*, *The Absentee* and *Ormond*.

(**fig. 32**)
MOSSTOWN DOVECOTE
Mosstown Demesne
(c. 1750)

A distinctive structure that was originally constructed to serve Mosstown House, now demolished. It was built to act as a dovecote or pigeon-house, providing meat and eggs for the table, and as an 'eye-catcher' creating a focal point in the

landscape and a pleasant vista from the main house to the west. The round-headed window openings at first-floor level and the former roundel openings over lend this structure a strong classical character.

Landlords also turned their attention to the building and remodelling of demesne-related structures. The octagonal-plan pigeon house (**fig. 32**) at Mosstown demesne is an interesting example of a functional building also designed as a folly. The former Shuldham Arms at Ballymahon, built c. 1780, is an unusually imposing building in the streetscape and may have been built for the Shuldham estate steward. A four-acre walled garden was laid out in the late eighteenth century at Newcastle demesne by Laurence Parsons-Harman. The garden book of the estate lists 150 species of trees and vines planted between 1787 and 1789.





(fig. 33)
CARRIGGLAS MANOR
Carrigglass Demesne
(1792-1804)

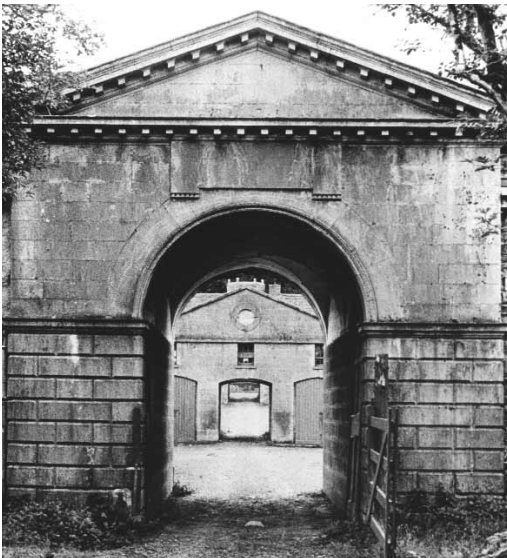
Archival view of the magnificent, if austere, stable block at Carrigglas Manor, built to designs by the eminent architect James Gandon (1742-1823) for Sir William Gleadowe-Newcomen. It was constructed using the highest quality ashlar limestone masonry, and the neoclassical language of Gandon's architecture is given free reign in these functional yet highly refined structures.

Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive



(fig. 34)
CARRIGGLAS MANOR
Carrigglass Demesne
(1792-1804)

View of the farmyard to the south-west. This courtyard has a more rustic quality compared with the stable block but is nevertheless architecturally impressive and well composed. The differing architectural treatment to the two yards has been interpreted as a metaphor for the superior status of the horse over agricultural and farmyard activity.



(fig. 35)
CARRIGGLAS MANOR
Carrigglass Demesne
(1792-1804)

View of the entrance block to the stable block. The mutules to the pediment are a feature of Gandon's architecture. The symmetry of the complex can be seen with the entrances to the other yards visible inside the entrance arch.

Courtesy of The Irish Times

The most significant estate buildings constructed in County Longford during the eighteenth century are the magnificent courtyards at Carriglas Manor (*figs. 33-5*), built between c. 1792 and c. 1804 to designs by the eminent neoclassical architect James Gandon. This complex comprises an elegantly proportioned walled rectangle divided into two courtyards with a stable block to the north-east and a more

architecturally plain and rustic, but nevertheless impressive, farmyard complex to the south-west. The entrance ranges are distinguished from the side ranges, which housed the stables, the animal houses and possibly also accommodation for farm workers, by austere pedimented breakfronts. The owner of Carriglas at the time of the construction, Sir William Gleadowe-Newcomen, also commissioned Gandon to



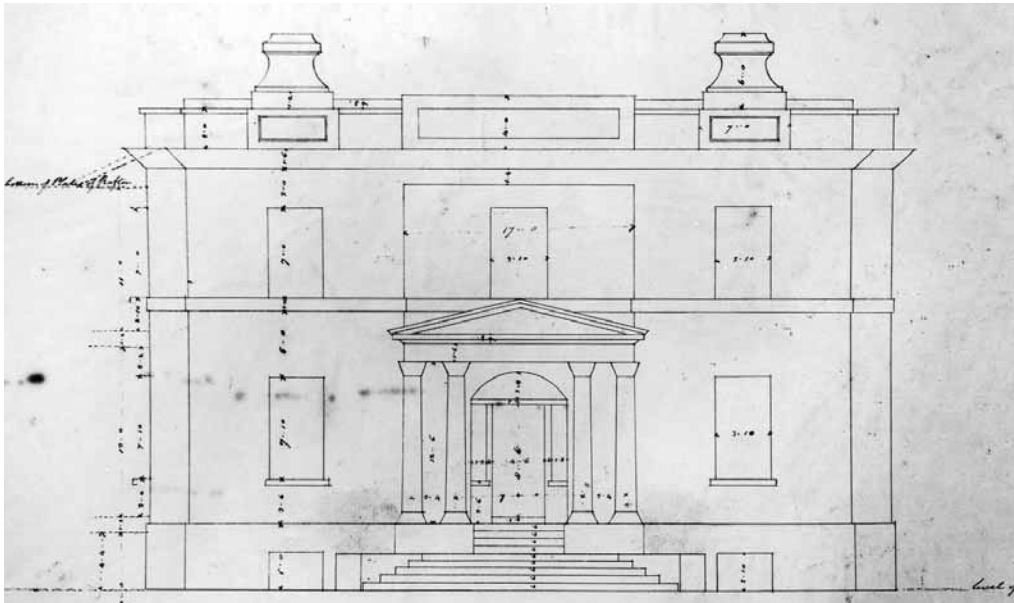
CARRIGGLAS MANOR
Carrickglass Demesne
(1792-1804)

View of the robust pedimented central block dividing the two courtyards.



CARRIGGLAS MANOR
Carrickglass Demesne
(1792-1804)

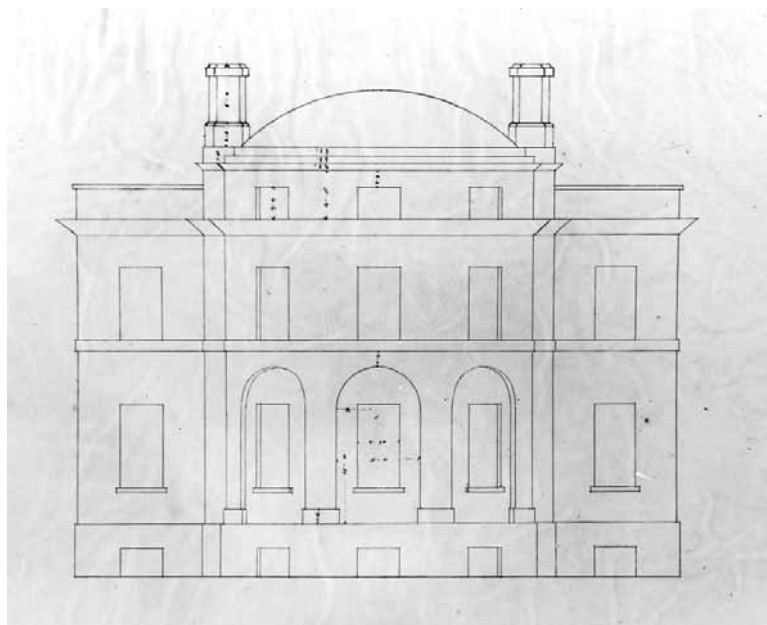
View of the entrance to the farmyard. The centre block is constructed of channelled ashlar limestone, lending it a particularly robust architectural character.

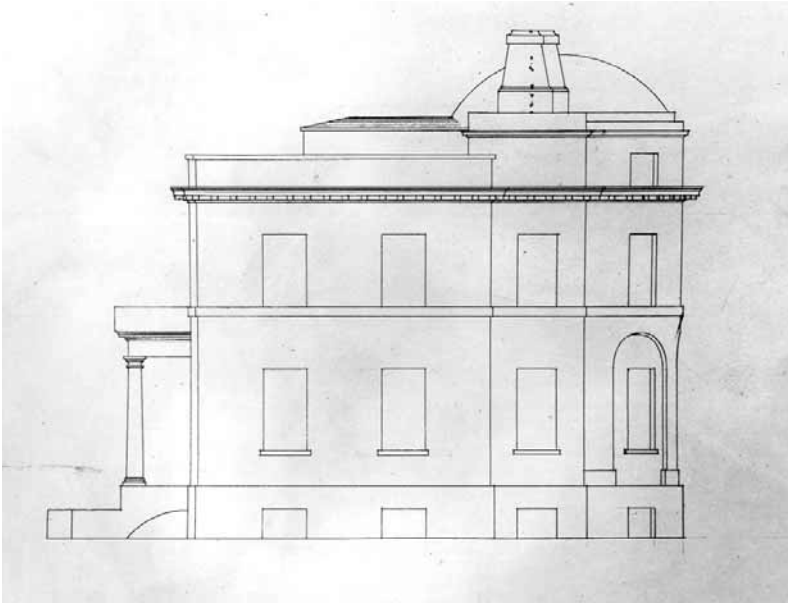


(fig. 36)
CARRIGGLAS MANOR
Carrickglass Demesne
(1792-1804)

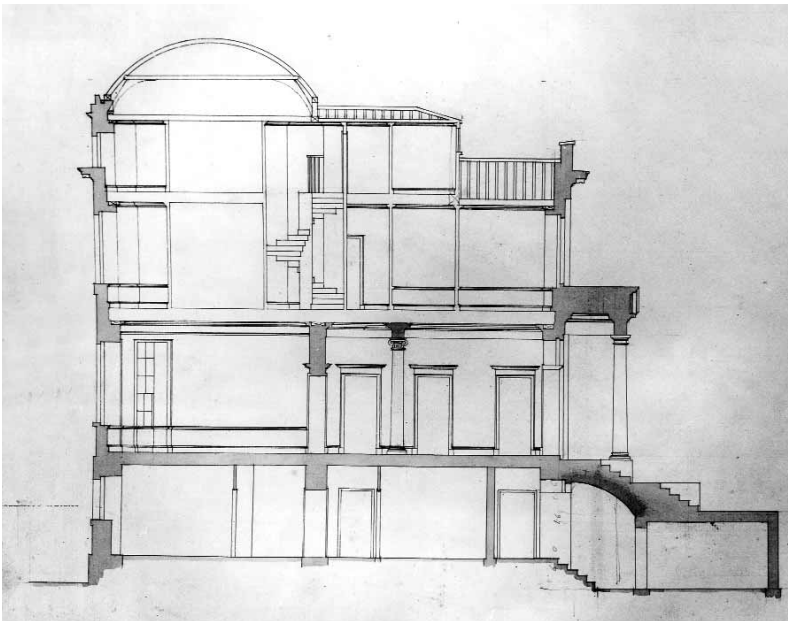
Elevations and sections of Gandon's unexecuted plans for a neoclassical house or villa at Carrigglas. The unusual designs feature a bowed projection to the rear elevation surmounted by a shallow dome.

Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland and the Irish Architectural Archive





design an unusual neoclassical country house or villa (**fig. 36**); but these designs remained on paper following severe financial troubles that led to the eventual collapse of the Newcomen Bank in 1825. Gandon also designed an elegant triumphal-arch gateway (**fig. 37**) incorporating a gate-lodge to either side at Carrigglas, while an unusual red-brick gardener's house, set within an oval-plan walled garden lined with red brick, may also have built to his designs.





(fig. 37)
CARRIGGLAS MANOR
Carriglass Demesne
(1792-1804)

This elaborate and impressive gateway, incorporating two gate-lodges, constitutes the main entrance to Carrigglas Manor and acts as a fitting prelude to this important demesne.

Its design is attributed to James Gandon (1742-1823), and the form of the central gateway is similar to the screens to the front of the Four Courts in Dublin.



KNOCK WINDMILL
Knock, near
Lanesborough
(c. 1760)

This conspicuous former windmill (for corn) stands proudly on an elevated site to the south-east of Lanesborough. It was extant and in use by 1764. Although out of use

for a considerable period of time and now ruined, it remains a local landmark, adding historical interest to the local landscape.



(fig. 38)
SHANNON NAVIGATION
OFFICES
Cloondara
(c. 1760)

This attractive building was probably originally built as a lock-keeper's house or offices associated with the Cloondara Canal. It was built to designs by the canal engineer Thomas Omer for the Commissioners of Inland Navigation. The recessed round-headed blind arches

and the ashlar limestone stringcourses are a feature of many of the lock-keeper's houses built by Omer along the Grand Canal and the Shannon Navigation. It was later in use as Shannon Navigation Offices c. 1840.

The transport network in Ireland remained poorly developed until the later stages of the eighteenth century. Although the mail coach services spread throughout the island following the establishment of the General Post Office in 1710, and later two turnpike roads were provided for in an Act of Parliament of 1735 – namely the Mullingar to Longford Town route and a road from Longford Town to the important crossing-point of the Shannon at Lanesborough – it was not until the latter part of the century that road improvements began in earnest, following the passing of the Grand Jury Act of 1765. This Act was a major impetus for construction on a local basis as it offered financial assistance for the building of roads and bridges. This was partially brought about by an expansion in trade and commerce and by the increased independence of the Irish parliament, which sought to spend treasury surpluses rather than passing them on to the Crown. The majority of the straight roads radiating from many of the towns and villages in County Longford, as well as many of the small single- and double-arched bridges scattered throughout the countryside, were probably constructed in the late eighteenth century by the Grand Juries.

Inland navigation was also developing in the latter part of the century. The Commissioners for Inland Navigation employed the engineer Thomas Omer to undertake the improvement of the River Shannon upstream from Limerick from 1755. A series of locks and beacons were constructed between Lanesborough and Portumna as part of these works. At Cloondara Omer built a short canal with the intention of linking the River Shannon with the Camlin, thus promoting

trade and commerce in the area. The fine lock-keeper's house or navigation offices (**fig. 38**), bridge, and the lock itself located along the Cloondara Canal are interesting precursors to those along the later Royal Canal.

The legislative independence of Grattan's parliament (1782-1800) brought increased optimism and economic prosperity. Industrial development in County Longford was mainly concentrated along the west county border, close to the Shannon Navigation. Now in ruins, the circular-plan windmills at Elfeet and at Knock Hill, near Lanesborough, formed part of a group of five that were built c. 1760 on glacial hills and ridges around Lough Ree. Richmond Mill (**fig. 39**) and miller's house were constructed in 1771 at Cloondara, possibly to avail of the transport opportunities presented by the opening of the Shannon Navigation.

(**fig. 39**)
RICHMOND MILL
Cloondara
(1771)

This massive former corn complex dominates the village of Cloondara. It was originally built in the late eighteenth century, a period that saw a great boom in the Irish milling industry. It was later converted to a whiskey distillery in 1827, employing approximately seventy people and producing up to 10,000 gallons of whiskey a year. It was re-converted to a corn mill during the Father Mathew Temperance crusade in 1843.



Church-building throughout the century appears to have been mainly confined to the Church of Ireland minority. Under the Penal Laws an annual tithe of 10 per cent of all agricultural produce was to be paid to the Church of Ireland for maintenance and upkeep. As well as the income generated from the tithes, the Church of Ireland also received revenue from the Board of First Fruits, which was established in 1711. Initially dependant on voluntary contributions, funding for the Board of First Fruits was low and aspirations for a comprehensive building programme remained unrealised. Church-building therefore required additional

funding, often supplied by landowners such as the Edgeworth, Forbes and Fetherston families, who during the mid-century patronised the construction or alteration of church buildings close to their seats at Edgeworthstown (**fig. 40**), Castle Forbes and Ardagh respectively. The Church of Ireland church at Granard also partially dates to the mid-eighteenth century. Edgeworthstown rectory was built c. 1740, probably, at least partially, under the patronage of the Edgeworth family. Killashee rectory (**fig. 41**) dates to just after the union of the vicarages of Cluan-a-donald and Killashee in 1781.



(fig. 40)
ST JOHN'S CHURCH
OF IRELAND CHURCH
Edgeworthstown
(c. 1750; enlarged
1810-11 and 1888-9)

This plain Church of Ireland church was probably constructed or rebuilt during the mid-eighteenth century under the patronage of the Edgeworth family. It was enlarged in 1810 at an expense of £522, of which £276 was a loan from the Board of First Fruits, with another £251 raised by parochial assessment. A slated spire was added in 1811 to designs by Richard Lovell Edgeworth (1744-1817) and was later replaced in 1935. The Edgeworth family vault is contained within the grounds.



(fig. 41)
KILLASHEE RECTORY
Templeton Glebe,
Killashee
(c. 1786)

This former rectory is an example of the language of classical architecture stripped to its fundamental elements. Its three-bay two-storey form is characteristic of rectory buildings and many middle-class gentlemen's residences dating from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. It was built at a cost of £511 following the union of two vicarages in 1781.



EDWORTHSTOWN RECTORY
Edgeworthstown
(c. 1735; enlarged c. 1830)

This plain Church of Ireland rectory dates to the mid-eighteenth century. Its diminishing window openings and the widely spaced openings are typical of early Georgian architecture. This building is the reputed birthplace of Henry Essex Edgeworth (1745-1807), L'Abbé Edgeworth De Firmont and the Catholic Vicar-General of the Diocese of Paris at the height of the French Revolution. He attended Louis XVI on the scaffold prior to his execution.



(fig. 42)
CORBOY PRESBYTERIAN
MEETING HOUSE
Corboy
(1729)

This distinctive building is the oldest surviving Presbyterian meeting house in continual use outside Ulster, and is in use by the oldest Presbyterian congregation in the midlands. The appealing symmetrical front elevation is enlivened by the robust block-and-start surrounds to the doorways and by the intersecting tracery to the tall window openings. John Wesley (1703-91), the founder of Methodism, preached at Corboy sometime during the mid-eighteenth century, probably c. 1748 or c. 1760.

Arguably the most interesting eighteenth-century religious building in the county is Corboy Presbyterian meeting house (fig. 42) built in 1729 to replace an earlier timber building reputedly founded here in 1675. It conforms to the pattern-book Presbyterian churches of the period, such as those found at Eustace Street in Dublin and Cootehill in Cavan, with its hipped roof, long front elevation and tall round-headed windows. (It is interesting to note that much of the original Corboy congregation emigrated to North America to escape religious persecution in 1729.) It was constructed under the patronage of the Revd James Bond, of Scottish descent, who also built a fine country house at nearby Newtownbond, c. 1731.

Political unrest grew in the final quarter of the century, culminating in the 1798 Rebellion. A Longford magistrate is recorded as stating that a book was in circulation in February 1798, which contained the motto 'May the Potatoe [sic] Beds of Ireland be manured with the blood of its Tyrants' and also states 'As the Hopes of [French] invasion increase, I see the spirit of disaffection here vastly stronger and more universal than in April or May last, and very little spirit here to meet or counteract this disaffection.' Open rebellion broke out in that year and many villages and country seats were laid waste. The Edgeworth family seat was saved by chance, as the English housekeeper had done a kindness to the leader of the rebel group.



VIEWMOUNT HOUSE
 Knockhaw, Longford
 Town
 (c. 1745)

This substantial house dates from the early-to-mid-eighteenth century. The small size of the window openings and the large expanses of blank wall are indicative of a relatively early date. The porch is a nineteenth-century addition. This building was in use as a

Church of Ireland charter school from 1753 until 1826, originally founded under the patronage of Thomas Pakenham (later Baron Longford). It was later in use by the land agent to the Pakenham family to administer their Longford estates, c. 1860.

The insurgents were joined by approximately 1,000 French soldiers under General Humbert who landed in Killala, County Mayo, in August. Initially victorious at Castlebar, the campaign soon ran out of steam, and the combined forces were eventually engaged and defeated at Ballinamuck in north Longford on the 8 September 1798 by the superior forces of Lord Cornwallis. While the French were treated as prisoners of war, the Irish were massacred. Those captured were tried and executed – many are thought to be buried at Bully's Acre in Ballinalee following trials at the former Masonic hall in the town.

The Nineteenth Century

The nineteenth century introduced a period of rapid social and political change. The autonomy of the Dublin parliament was undone by the Act of Union, which came into effect on 1 January 1801. Britain, anxious to avoid a repeat of the 1798 Rebellion, sought to strengthen its political hold on the island. This ushered in a century of unrest and agrarian tensions, resulting in an increased military and police presence. Social changes, most notably Catholic Emancipation in 1829, brought about a new era of church and school-building, while the catastrophic effects of the Great Famine (1845-9) changed the social and demographic profile of Ireland forever.

The prosperity established in the mid-eighteenth century continued into the first decades of the nineteenth century. The economy prospered during the Napoleonic Wars (1803-15) as Britain relied on Ireland for agricultural and

grain supplies. A demand for grains in particular changed the agricultural tradition from pastoral to tillage, which in turn resulted in the development of the rural milling industry. A number of new country houses were built, such as Carriglas Manor and Coolamber Manor, and others were extended and remodelled, such as Castle Forbes and Newcastle. Towns such as Ardagh were redeveloped while Longford Town grew in extent, particularly to the north end, close to the barracks complexes. The transport network expanded to facilitate growth and movement with the construction of the Royal Canal and with works to the Shannon Navigation, and later by development of the railways.

The substantial flour mill at Shrule (*fig. 43*) on the River Inny and the corn mill at Ballymacroly, near Granard, were constructed or extended around this time. At Rodgers Mill,



(fig. 43)
SHRULE MILL
Shrule
(c. 1800; extended
c. 1850)

This massive structure was one of the few purpose-built flour mills constructed in Longford. It dates to the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century but was extended c. 1850. It was producing 4,000 barrels of flour annually c. 1835. It has interesting historical associations with the noted poet and nationalist John Keegan Casey (1846-70), one of the main figures in the Fenian Rising of 1867, who worked as a clerk at the mill sometime during the 1860s.



SHRULE
(c. 1860)

The form of this house is of a type that is relatively common in the expanding mid-nineteenth-century suburbs of the larger towns and cities in Ireland but is rare in County Longford. The regular façade is enlivened by the doorway with its elegant spoked fanlight, and by the distinctive and unusual timber sash-windows. The location of this building adjacent to Shrule Mill hints that it may have been originally built by the owner or manager of the mill.



(fig. 44)
RODGERS MILL
Drumlish
(c. 1810)

This small-scale vernacular mill was owned and operated by the Rodgers family for nearly two centuries, crushing corn and milling oats for a wide hinterland, before its closure in the 1950s. Of

particular note is the restored composite waterwheel and elevated headrace, which provides an interesting insight into historic industrial processes.



AGHNAGORE
(c. 1820)

Lime kilns were a common feature of the rural landscape throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. This example is built into the side of a hill to allow for the easy loading of limestone through an opening in the roof. The kilns were used to burn limestone to produce lime, which was used in construction as a mortar and a render, or to produce a fertiliser, which was then spread on agricultural land. Lime was also used for lime-washing farm buildings, particularly farm buildings, as it was regarded as a cleansing agent.

Drumlish (fig. 44), there is a restored composite overshot water wheel and an elevated headrace. An imposing mid-nineteenth-century corn mill survives at Cloghan, complete with a detached corn kiln. One of the most important elements of the industrial heritage of County Longford is found at Grillage Mill (figs. 45-6), near Killashee, where a small-scale vernacular corn mill survives in remarkably good condition. Of particular significance is the survival of much of the early internal plant and fittings – including machinery to drive three sets of millstones, an undershot water wheel and a drying kiln – which represents a rare intact example of its type in Ireland.

An inevitable depression followed the end of the wars in 1815 resulting from a sharp decline

in demand for Irish produce. The depression was compounded in Longford, particularly in the Granard area, by the collapse of the rural linen industry in the 1820s following the introduction of large-scale industrial mechanisation in Britain. Industrial machinery could now produce mill-spun yarn and the cottage linen-spinning industry was largely eliminated. The weaving industry moved to the north-east of Ireland, close to the centres of mechanisation around Belfast. A flax mill was opened at Cloondara, formerly Richmond Harbour, in 1821, but it quickly fell into disuse. During the 1820s and 1830s emigration from Longford increased enormously. An average of 1.1 per cent of the county's population was leaving every year, the highest rate in Ireland at the time.



(fig. 45)
GRILLAGH MILL
Grillagh,
near Killashee
(c. 1800, extended
c. 1860)

This small vernacular watermill was in use into the 1950s and represents a rare intact example of its type. Of particular significance is the survival of much of the early machinery and equipment to the interior of both the corn mill and to the associated corn-drying kiln to the north-east. This includes machinery to drive three sets of millstones powered by an integral undershot water wheel.



(fig. 46)
GRILLAGH MILL
Grillagh,
near Killashee
(c. 1800, extended
c. 1860)

View of the interior of the corn mill at first-floor level. Note the two sets of millstones in the foreground. The internal undershot water wheel

also survives in remarkable condition; this formerly ran a spur drive in addition to the main drive to power the internal machinery.



GRILLAGH MILL
Grillagh,
near Killashee
(c. 1800, extended
c. 1860)

View of the oven of the former corn-drying kiln to the north-east of the main mill building. The corn and/or oats were laid onto clay drying-tiles on the floor above this heating apparatus.



(fig. 47)
THE OLD FORGE
Castlewilder
(c. 1830)

This interesting and picturesque former RIC barracks was built during a period of increasing agrarian unrest in rural Ireland. It was replaced by an RIC barracks built in Abbeyshrule (now demolished) and was partially in use as a forge from c. 1860 until the first decades of the twentieth century.



BALLYMAHON RIC
BARRACKS
Main Street,
Ballymahon
(c. 1820)

This robust terraced building in Ballymahon was converted for use as an RIC barracks c. 1830, and was the divisional headquarters until

c. 1921. It was attacked, and damaged, by the IRA led by Sean Connolly in August 1920 when a number of guns and ammunition were taken.

The depression brought discontent, which was increased by the political situation following the suppression of the 1798 Rebellion. Fearful of a repeat of the rebellion, the British parliament took steps towards the introduction of a full-time police force in Ireland with the Peace Preservation Act of 1814. The Irish Constabulary Act of 1822 marked the real beginning of the Royal Irish Constabulary and a campaign of barracks-building throughout the country. While the barracks at Castlewilder (fig. 47), Ballinamuck, and at Dublin Street in Longford Town are purpose built, barracks were sometimes accommodated in converted buildings, such as at Ballymahon. RIC barracks were often located close to courthouses and gaols or to a landlord's seat. During the redevelopment of the estate village at Ardagh by the Fetherston family, both a barracks and a courthouse were set close to the demesne entrance.

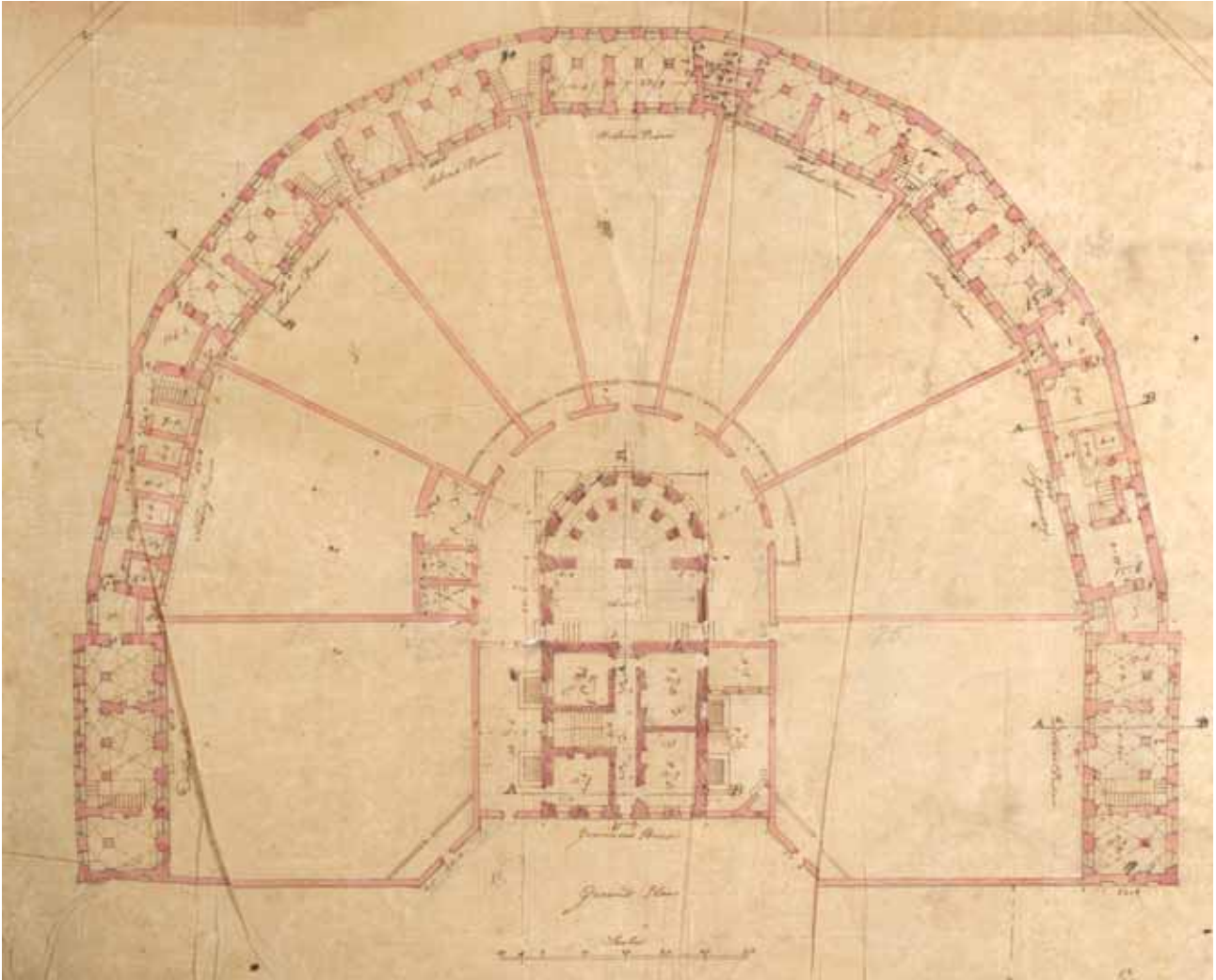
A large prison was constructed in Longford Town during the 1820s, replacing an earlier prison in the town. This complex was largely demolished during the twentieth century but a substantial administration block is still extant (*fig. 48*). New buildings were also constructed at the cavalry barracks in the town by the Barracks Commissioners between 1808 and 1843. The most impressive of these is a fine classical-inspired accommodation block built to designs by John Behan in 1815 (*fig. 49*). There was also a large artillery barracks to the north of Longford Town, now demolished.

(*fig. 49*)
SEAN CONNOLLY
BARRACKS
Longford Town
(1815)

This monumental former cavalry barracks accommodation block was originally built in 1815 to designs by John Behan. The classical proportions and detailing are typical of the barracks architecture of the early nineteenth

century, a period that saw a great deal of barracks construction throughout Ireland. It was originally built to provide accommodation for 9 officers and 222 non-commissioned officers and privates.





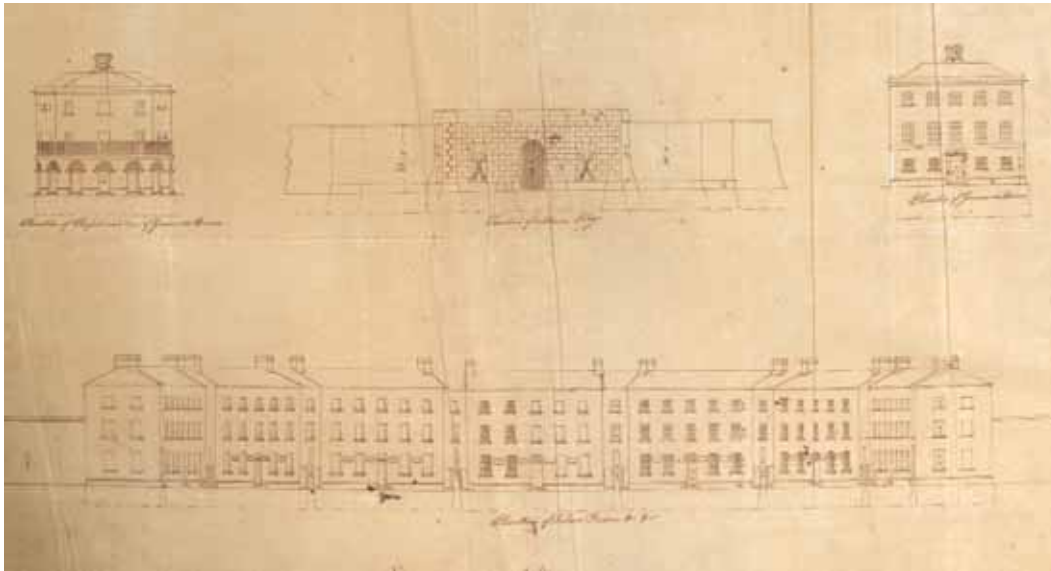
LONGFORD PRISON
Battery Road,
Longford Town
(c. 1825)

The plan of Longford Prison provides an historical insight into the new thoughts on prison design at the time of construction: the governor's house provides a central vantage point to

monitor and control the prison blocks to the rear and the radiating exercise yards between. The prison blocks, now demolished, were segregated into four 'felon' blocks and two debtors' prisons, a prison

infirmary and a solitary-confinement block, all served by individual exercise yards to preclude the mixing of inmates.

Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland



LONGFORD PRISON
Battery Road,
Longford Town
(c. 1825)

Elevations of the prison blocks and the front and rear elevations of the governor's house, possibly prepared by John Hargrave (c. 1788-1833).

Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland



(fig. 48)
LONGFORD PRISON
Battery Road,
Longford Town
(c. 1825)

An impressive building originally built as the administration/governor's block of Longford Town prison, now largely demolished. Originally designed to hold 150 prisoners and cost c. £14,000 to construct. It was built to designs by John Hargrave (c. 1788-1833), an architect who worked extensively in Longford in the 1820s.



TOOME BRIDGE
Toome
(Shrulle Barony)
(c. 1815)

Typical canal bridge over the Royal Canal near Ballymahon. Although humble in form, canal bridges have a robust functional elegance and are attractive features in the rural landscape of south Longford. It was probably built to designs

by John Killaly (1766-1832), the engineer responsible for the construction of the Royal Canal between Coolnahay to Cloondara. Apparently, canal passengers alighted here to catch the Bianconi coach to Athlone from c. 1817-50.



FRANCES' COTTAGE
Lock-keeper's House,
Lock 44.
Ballyclare (Moydow
Barony)
(c. 1815)

Constructed by a single authority, it is not surprising that lock-keepers' houses along the Royal Canal follow a standard plan. The recessed blind arches containing the openings help give this charming building a formal

architectural quality. This architectural motif was commonly in canal architecture in Ireland, as can be seen with the earlier example at Cloondara, built to designs by the engineer Thomas Omer.



RICHMOND HARBOUR
Cloondara
(c. 1817)

This canal dry dock is the only example of its type in County Longford. The quality of the dressed limestone construction is

typical of the attention to detail afforded to even the most mundane of structures by the Royal Canal Company.

Undoubtedly the development of commerce encouraged a growth in communication, the most important being the construction of the Royal Canal. This was built to provide an important communication route from Dublin to the centre of the country, opening up the midlands to trade and industry as well as providing for passenger traffic. It reached the edge of the county by 1814 and was completed by 1818. This monumental feat of engineering had a profound impact on the landscape of south County Longford; finely built canal bridges, locks and lock-keeper's houses became familiar features. The quality of the workmanship was of a very high standard, particularly in the bridges, which is testament to the skill of the craftsmen involved and to the long-term ambitions of the Royal Canal Company and later the Directors of Inland Navigation. Of particular note is the magnificent five-arch

Whitworth Aqueduct (*fig. 50*), near Abbeyshrule, which is arguably the single most impressive feature along the entire length of the canal. Cloondara (formerly Richmond Harbour) straddling the Royal Canal, River Camlin and the Cloondara Canal leading to the Shannon, developed as a transport terminus. It became an important centre for canal business, with a harbour, dry dock, offices, accommodation for the harbour master, stores and an inn. In 1826 work commenced on a new five-mile branch canal linking the Royal Canal main line with Longford Town. It was completed in 1830-1 and a large harbour was constructed at the south end of Longford Town. The canal was never a complete financial success, although it was carrying 134,000 tons of goods traffic annually by 1833, while passenger traffic peaked at 46,000 in 1837.



(*fig. 50*)
WHITWORTH
AQUEDUCT
Drumanure/Cloonbrin
(1814-7)

This magnificent five-arch aqueduct carries the Royal Canal and associated towpaths over the River Inny, a distance of 165 feet. It is built of the highest-quality masonry with extensive ashlar trim used throughout. It was built to designs by John Killaly (1766-1832), and cost c. £5,000.



LANESBOROUGH BRIDGE
Lanesborough
(c. 1835-43;
altered 1993)

Despite modern alterations, this fine bridge with its broad and elegant arches represents a significant mid-nineteenth-century engineering achievement. It was probably built to designs by Thomas Rhodes (1789-1868), the chief engineer with the Shannon

Navigation Commissioners at the time of construction and the engineer responsible for a number of elegant bridges over the Shannon. This bridge formerly had a metal swivel section to the west end, which was built to allow for the passage of river traffic.



RICHMOND HARBOUR
Cloondara
(1814-7)

View of Richmond Harbour from the canal bridge in Cloondara. Richmond Harbour is the terminus of the Royal Canal, and is located adjacent to the River Shannon. Former canal warehouses, offices and harbour master's house are visible to the right of the image. The scale of the harbour and associated structures provides an historical insight into the grandiose ambitions of the Royal Canal Company during the early part of the nineteenth century.



(fig. 51)
EDGEWORTHSTOWN
STATION
Edgeworthstown
(1855)

This appealing and robust Victorian railway station was built to designs by George Wilkinson (1814-90) for the Midland and Great Western Railway

Company in 1855 to serve the Mullingar – Sligo line. It has a functional solidity that is typical of the railway architect of the time.



(fig. 52)
EDGEWORTHSTOWN
STATION
Edgeworthstown
(1855 or c. 1885)

This elegant footbridge represents an interesting example of mid-to-late-nineteenth-century industrial prefabrication. Despite the functional purpose of the footbridge, it has some fine cast-iron decorative detailing that enhances its aesthetic appeal. It may have been installed during the 1880s, a period when many iron railway footbridges were erected at railway stations in Ireland.

EDGEWORTHSTOWN
STATION
Edgeworthstown
(1855 or c. 1885)

Detail of an elegant cast-iron panel to the footbridge with floral and foliate motifs.





BALLYWILLIN STATION
Ballywillin, near
Abbeylara
(c. 1925)

This signal box was originally built by the Midland and Great Western Railway Company to serve the Inny Junction – Cavan line, which opened in 1856 and closed in 1963. It is of a standard design introduced by the Great Western Railway Company from about 1920. It possibly replaced an earlier

signal box at Ballywillin that was damaged during the Civil War (1922-3), a fate that was suffered by many signal boxes. The variety of materials used in its construction makes for a visually pleasing composition, while the decorative brackets add an aesthetic quality to the principal elevations.

Trade along the canal was focused not only on Dublin, but also on the River Shannon. The invention of steam propulsion brought increased traffic along the river from 1826, which used Lanesborough on the Roscommon – Longford border as a port. The Shannon Navigation Act of 1835 and the appointment of the Shannon Commissioners brought about a phase of improving works in the 1830s and '40s between Killaloe and Carrick-on-Shannon. Elegant new bridges were constructed in ashlar limestone at Lanesborough and Termonbarry in the early 1840s. But the years of commercial inland navigation were to be short lived, as both river and canal trade were severely affected by the advent of the railway in the 1850s.

The Midland Great Western Railway Company bought the Royal Canal in 1845 and used the land along the banks to build the railway from Dublin. The first section of the Dublin – Sligo railway line was opened as far as Longford Town in 1855. George Wilkinson, best known for his workhouse designs, was employed as architect. Fine stations with open platform shelters were built at Edgeworthstown (*fig. 51*), Longford Town and at Newtown-Forbes. Ballywillin Station was built on the Inny Junction to Cavan line, an off-shoot of the main Dublin – Sligo line. Goods sheds, bridges, footbridges (*fig. 52*) and signal boxes are among the related buildings that were built in fine materials to excellent design.

(fig. 53)
EDGEWORTHSTOWN
NATIONAL SCHOOL
Edgeworthstown
(1840)

This former national school was probably at least partially constructed under the patronage of the Edgeworth family. The form of this school building indicates that it was originally a two-classroom school, the classroom to the top floor

accessed by an external stone staircase to one end. This suggests it had separate classroom for boys and girls, a common feature of Victorian-era schools, reflecting the strict social thinking of the time.



Following the passing of the Education Act of 1831 the National Education Board began a school-building programme. Many schools were constructed to standardised plans but few early buildings remain intact. The designs for national school buildings were standardised in the 1860s by the Board of Works. St Columille's National School near Aghnacliff, built in 1892, is a relatively intact example of a Board of Works school.

Schools outside the national school system were built throughout the century, such as a former Church of Ireland school at Keenagh and a school at Keel, both built c. 1830 under the patronage of the Countess Dowager of

Rosse. The two-storey former school at Edgeworthstown (**fig. 53**), dated 1840, with an external staircase providing access to the upper-level schoolroom, is an interesting precursor to the later Board of Works schools. Luke White funded the construction of a school at Tullyvane near Lanesborough, close to his seat at Rathcline. A two-storey school at Ardagh (**fig. 54**), built c. 1835, was patronised by the Church of Ireland. An attractive Arts and Crafts-style complex of school and master's house on Battery Road in Longford Town (**fig. 55**), built in 1886, is an interesting departure from the historical Gothic and classical styles that had dominated school architecture throughout the century.

(fig. 54)
ARDAGH NATIONAL
SCHOOL
ARDAGH
(1836-8)

This building was originally constructed as a Church of Ireland primary school, with accommodation for the schoolmaster and schoolmistress, under the patronage of Dr Murray, Dean of Ardagh, at a cost of £400. It was later in use as a national school between 1892 and 1928. Its unusual relationship to the road is due to the realignment of the routeway as part of extensive works in Ardagh during the 1860s.



(fig. 55)
CLONGUISH NATIONAL
SCHOOL
Battery Road,
Longford Town
(1886)

This picturesque Arts and Crafts-style schoolhouse combines single-storey classrooms for girls and boys and a two-storey teacher's residence under the same roof. Its designs have been tentatively attributed to the architect

James Rawson Carroll (1830-1911), who worked extensively on the remodelling of Ardagh in the 1860s. It was erected on a site donated by the Earl of Longford, who also gave £1,000 towards its construction.

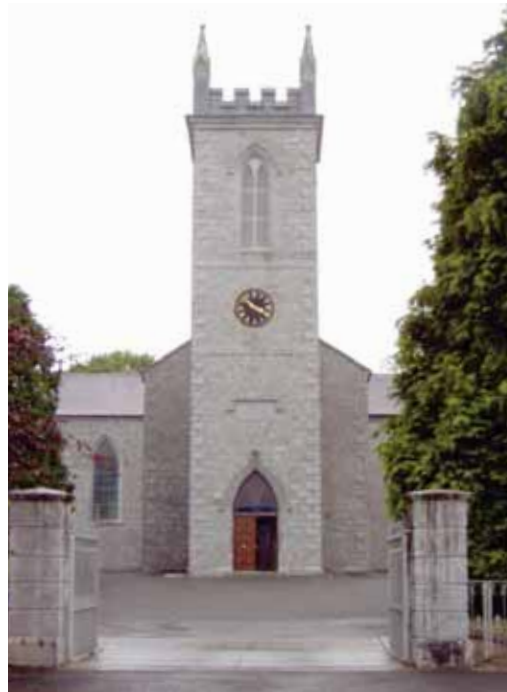
Catholic Emancipation in 1829 ushered in a period of church-building. Catholic church-building in Longford falls into two distinct periods, pre-1840 and post-1860. Simple barn-style, T-plan or cruciform-plan churches were built in the period leading up to the Great Famine. The church at Cloondara is a typical example of the simple hall, while Newtown-Cashel, built 1833, has transepts added to the hall to create the ubiquitous T-plan church.

CLUAN-A-DONALD
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Cloondara
(1835)

This plain early-to-mid-century hall-type Catholic chapel is typical of its date. Its simple, almost vernacular, form is indicative of the lack of resources available to the Church at the time of construction. The pointed-arched window openings lend it the bare minimum of Gothic detailing. It was originally built by the Revd Richard Farrell, who was responsible for the construction of a number of churches in Longford in the 1830s.

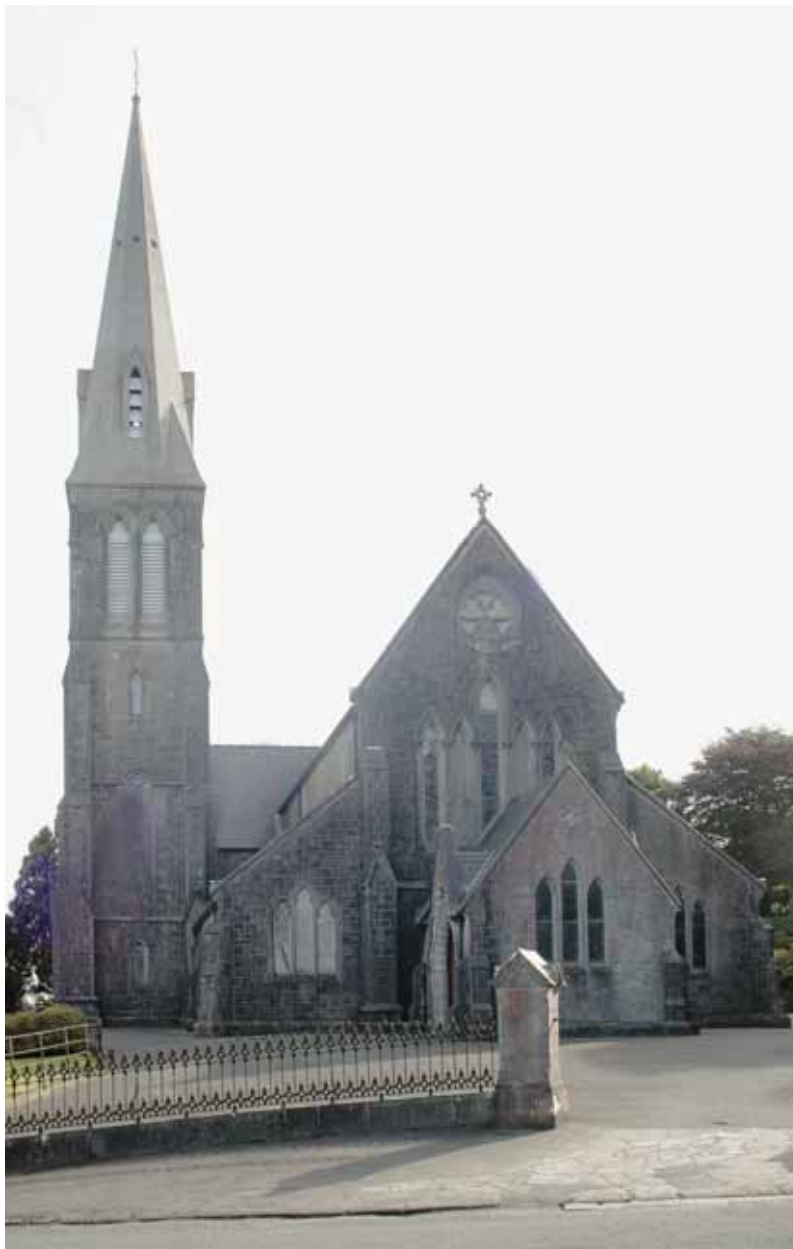


More prominently sited and elaborate architectural churches, influenced by the work of the celebrated English architect A.W.N. Pugin (1812-52), are associated with the post-1860 period. A great Gothic Revival exponent, Pugin looked to medieval church architecture for inspiration. Opposed to classicism, he advocated irregular plans that expressed the function of each element of the building, truth to materials, and the use of decorative details such as carved stone, mosaics and stained glass. St Mary's at Granard (*fig. 56*), built in 1867 to designs by John Bourke, has a soaring broached spire, added c. 1887, which dominates the skyline of the town. Pugin's influence is most apparent at the magnificent St Brigid's Church



BLESSED VIRGIN
CATHOLIC CHURCH
Newtown-Cashel
(1833)

The early nineteenth-century building is unusually substantial and well-detailed for a church of its date. The cut-limestone dressings are finely carved and serve as a reminder of the high-quality workmanship of early nineteenth-century artisans. The form of this church is reminiscent of Church of Ireland churches of its date, having a square-plan tower with corner pinnacles to the front. A plaque to the tower commemorates that it was built by the Revd E. McGaver, Pastor.



(fig. 56)
ST MARY'S CHURCH
 Church Street, Granard
 (built c. 1862; altered
 c. 1887 and c. 1904-7)

This fine church dominates the east side of Granard Town and is a notable example of the late nineteenth-century penchant for dramatic, even theatrical, architecture. It is extensively detailed with high quality cut-limestone, which demonstrates the growing power, wealth and architectural ambition of the Church at the time of construction. It was built in an Early English Gothic style to designs by John Bourke (d. 1871) on a site granted to the Church by Richard Greville. The tower was finished c. 1887.

ST MARY'S CHURCH
 Church Street, Granard
 (built c. 1862; altered
 c. 1887 and c. 1904-7)

The bright spacious interior is enriched by the stained-glass windows. The principal feature is the elaborate open timber roof structure with hammerbeams and cross-braces having decorative carved openwork.

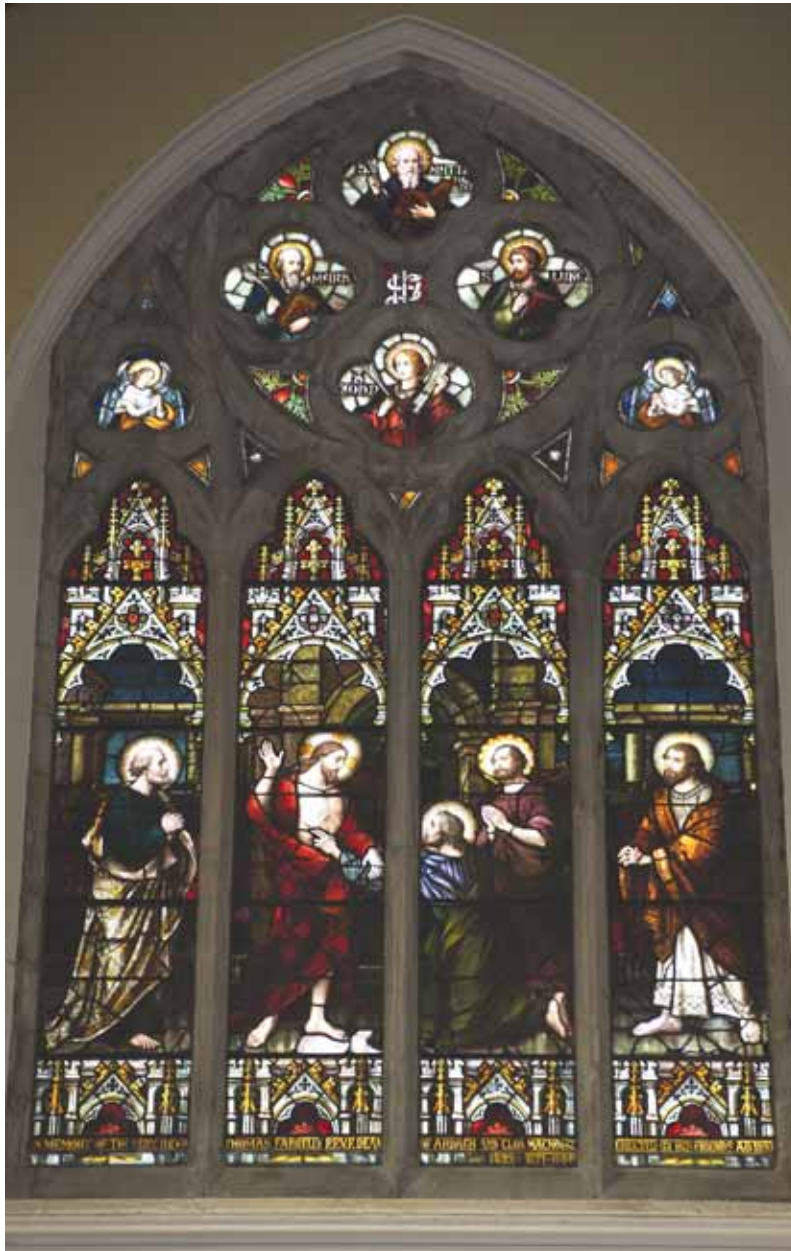




(fig. 57)
ST BRIGID'S CHURCH
Ardagh
(1878-81; spire
completed 1903)

A spectacular and complex church, built to designs by William Hague (1836-99). The high-quality design is embellished by extensive stone carving, the stained-glass windows, mosaics and marble altar goods. The contrast between the yellow sandstone masonry and the grey limestone detailing creates a highly picturesque composition. The tower and spire were completed c. 1903 by T.F. McNamara (1867-1947), a partner of Hague and an accomplished and prolific architect in his own right.

at Ardagh (fig. 57). Dated 1881 and designed by William Hague, it is one of the finest parish churches of this period in Leinster. Executed in rock-faced sandstone with extensive cut and dressed limestone detailing throughout, the side aisles, spired bell tower, transepts, chancel, stair tower and sacristy are all clearly expressed as individually massed elements. The tower and spire were completed c. 1903 by T.F. McNamara, a partner of Hague and an accomplished and prolific architect in his own right. It is only on viewing the interior that a complete picture of this accomplished building can be assessed. Wall mosaics, stained glass mainly, by Mayer & Co. of Munich, and the marble reredos exhibit the highest level of craftsmanship.



ST BRIGID'S CHURCH
Ardagh
(c. 1910)

View of the fine stained-glass window to the west gable end by J. Watson & Co. of Youghal, depicting the Baptism and Visitation.

ST BRIGID'S CHURCH
Ardagh
(1878-81)

Detail of richly detailed mosaic work to a side chapel.



ST BRIGID'S CHURCH
Ardagh
(1878-81)

Detail of carved head of St Brigid adjacent to doorway. It is carved in Caen stone and was possibly executed by James Pearse (1839-1900) who worked extensively on the detailing of the building. James Pearse was the father of the political figure Patrick Pearse (1879-1916).



ST MEL'S CATHEDRAL
Longford Town
(c. 1890)

Photograph from the Lawrence Collection taken prior to the completion of the campanile, with works still in progress.

Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland



(fig. 58)
ST MEL'S CATHEDRAL
Longford Town
(1840-93)

This imposing, if austere, cathedral is considered one of the finest classical-style churches in Ireland and represents one of the largest building projects undertaken by the Catholic Church in the country during the nineteenth century. Its construction was commissioned by Bishop O'Higgins, a man noted for his extravagant taste. It is the work of three eminent architects of the nineteenth century: John B. Keane (d. 1859),

plans; John Bourke (d. 1871), who designed the campanile tower and continued the works after Keane's death; and George C. Ashlin (1837-1921) who designed or supervised the construction of the Ionic entrance portico. The designs were not universally admired, and Pugin in about 1850 described the plans as 'a bad copy of that wretched compound of pagan and Protestant architecture, St Pancras New Church in London'.



ST MEL'S CATHEDRAL
Longford Town
(c. 1890)

Detail of the sculpture to the pediment depicting the enthronement of St Mel as first Bishop of Ardagh by St Patrick. It was carved by George Smyth to designs by George Ashlin (1837-1921).

The lull in church-building from 1840 to 1860 was primarily due to the inevitable economic collapse brought about by the Great Famine but also to the channelling of available funds towards the construction of the great St Mel's Cathedral in Longford Town. William O'Higgins, Bishop of Ardagh from 1829 to 1853, played a significant role in the development of the Catholic Church in the county. He campaigned for the construction of a cathedral and seminary, and for the establishment of Catholic classical schools as he was opposed to the national school system. These classical schools aimed to teach Latin to young boys with the intention of creating future priests. He founded schools in Drumlish and Ballymahon and laid the foundation stone of St Mel's Cathedral (*fig. 58*) in 1840. Constructed in a classical style, and apparently modelled on the Pantheon, St John Lateran in Rome and the Madeleine church in Paris, it represented a

departure from the favoured Gothic Revival style in vogue at the time. An exceptional feature of the design is the five-storey bishop's palace set at the rear behind the high altar (*fig. 59*). Delayed by the onset of the Great Famine, the cathedral was dedicated by O'Higgins's successor Bishop John Kilduff in 1856, and finally consecrated in 1893. It is the work of three eminent architects of the nineteenth century: John B. Keane (d. 1859), who made the original plans; John Bourke (d. 1871), who designed the campanile tower and continued the works after Keane's death; and George C. Ashlin (1837-1921) who designed or supervised the construction of the Ionic entrance portico. The distinctive profile of the Italianate campanile tower makes it a dominant feature on the skyline of Longford Town. The well-crafted, if rather austere, exterior conceals a fine interior that is remarkable for its use of space, and for the richness and complexity of its decoration.



(fig. 59)
ST MEL'S CATHEDRAL
Longford Town
(1840-93)

View of the austere and unusual rear elevation, which was originally intended as an episcopal residence. However, it was never used for this purpose.



ST MEL'S CATHEDRAL
Longford Town
(c. 1935)

View of attractive early twentieth-century stained-glass window to one of the side chapels. The style of these windows is reminiscent of the work of the renowned Harry Clarke Studios.



ST MEL'S CATHEDRAL
Longford Town
(1840-93)

The impressive and well-lit interior is remarkable for its use of space, and for the richness and complexity of its decoration. The side aisles are separated from the

main body of the church by continuous Ionic arcades. The high semi-circular rib-vaulted ceiling is lit by lunette openings at clerestory level.



(fig. 60)
ST MEL'S COLLEGE
Longford Town
(1858-63)

This imposing building was originally constructed as a Catholic seminary. The scale of this building is testament to the increasing confidence of the Catholic Church in Ireland at the time. The bulk of this structure is alleviated by the various breakfronts, the central

Italianate tower, the variety of window openings and by the fine Tuscan porch. It was built to designs by John Bourke (d. 1871), who was overseeing the works to St Mel's Cathedral at the time of construction. It cost over £16,000 to build.



ST ANNE'S CHURCH
Ballycloghan
(1860)

Simple mid nineteenth-century church, executed in good quality snecked limestone masonry with ashlar trim. It was built to designs by John Bourke (d. 1871) at a cost of £600.

ST MEL'S COLLEGE
Longford Town
(1858-63)

View of the fine Tuscan porch in crisp limestone and the elegant fanlight over the doorway.



CONVENT OF MERCY
Newtown-Forbes
(1897)

This chapel was constructed to serve the former Convent of Mercy, built in 1867. The crisp limestone dressings to the openings provide an attractive textural effect against the plain rendered walls. It was built to designs by the eminent architect William Hague (1836-99).



(fig. 61)
CONVENT OF MERCY
Barrack Street,
Granard
(1892-5)

This convent building is representative of many of its type constructed throughout Ireland during the later nineteenth century, having projecting gable-fronted end bays and a projecting central bay containing the main entrance. The front façade is enlivened by the ornate bargeboards to the projections and the fine triple-light window to the central breakfront. It was built to designs by William Hague (1836-99) and the main contractor was P. Kelly of Longford Town.



LONGFORD METHODIST CHURCH
Battery Road,
Longford Town
(1897)

A simple but attractive late nineteenth-century Methodist church. The contrast between the dark grey rock-faced masonry and the light-coloured cut-stone detailing to the openings helps to create an appealing textural and tonal variation to the façade. It cost £2,700 to construct and replaced an earlier Methodist church on the same site.

The late nineteenth-century building programme carried out by the Catholic Church also included the construction of convents and seminaries, often on a massive scale. Bishop Kilduff continued Bishop O'Higgin's plans and engaged John Bourke to design St Mel's Seminary (*fig. 60*), which was completed in 1863 and opened to students in 1865. Bourke went on to design the Convent of Mercy, Longford Town in 1874, perhaps the largest ecclesiastical complex in the county. Built in snecked rock-faced limestone, the polychrome brick dressings, carved stone and timber details

and variety of openings enliven the façades. The Order of Mercy established a number of convents throughout the county in the 1880s and '90s. Gabled breakfronts, hood-mouldings and pointed-arch openings are typical Gothic Revival features found at Edgeworthstown, Newtown-Forbes and at Ballymahon. The convent at Granard (*fig. 61*), built on the site of the former union workhouse, is perhaps the most accomplished of the small-town convents, with gabled projections, decorative bargeboards and extensive carved limestone detailing.

Church-building by minority Protestant denominations in Longford was limited. A well-detailed, small-scale Primitive Methodist church at Keenagh, built c. 1820, is an interesting reminder of the religious diversity in rural areas. The Methodist church on Battery Road in Longford Town continues the simple hall-and-porch form of the Keenagh church, though the fine rock-faced limestone masonry gives a more robust appearance. A Presbyterian church was also built at Lisraghtigan, near Granard, using finely cut and carved stone. It is interesting to note that these churches were built in the Gothic Revival style, a style which was generally adopted for church-building by both the established church and non-conformists throughout the nineteenth century.

There was a great boom in Church of Ireland church-building in the first decades of the century. The extraordinary activity of the Church of Ireland's Board of First Fruits, fuelled between 1801 and 1821 by government money and supported by tithes, resulted in the construction of many small-scale churches throughout rural Ireland. Most, like St Catherine's at Ballymacormick (**fig. 62**), conform to a simple hall with two, or sometimes three, pointed windows and a three-stage tower to the west end. In the larger towns, Church of Ireland churches usually had spires, as can be seen in Longford Town and at Ballymahon. Interestingly, many churches in the county benefited from landlord patronage and are more elaborate than the norm. The Countess



ST CATHERINE'S
CHURCH
Ballymahon
(c. 1800; altered 1824)

The graceful narrow spire is a prominent feature in the town of Ballymahon. The unusual corbelled pinnacles to the corner of the tower are a distinctive feature. The church was enlarged in 1824, with the addition of side aisles, porch, belltower and a spire, which were built to designs by Samuel Mullen using a grant of £1,140 from the Board of First Fruits.

(fig. 62)
ST CATHERINE'S
CHURCH
Curry, Ballymacormick
(1826)

A typical example of the standard hall-and-tower-type church that were built in great numbers throughout the country by the Board of First Fruits (1711-1833), particularly between 1808 and 1830.

This church was constructed using a gift of £900 from the Board. These simple but well-built churches have become almost iconographic features of the rural Irish countryside.





of Rosse patronised a number of churches including St Munis's at Forgney (**fig. 63**) and St George's at Keenagh (**fig. 64**). St Thomas's near Aghnaclyff (**fig. 65**) is a curious almost minaretted church, while St Paul's church at Newtown-Forbes (**fig. 66**), built or rebuilt under the patronage of the Forbes family, has distinctive crow-stepped parapets. An interesting feature found at a number of the Church of Ireland churches in Longford is the presence of side vestibules flanking the tower to the west end. Examples of this can be found at St Patrick's in Ardagh (**fig. 67**), at Forgney, and at the now ruined St Anne's church, Kilglass. The Church

(fig. 63)
ST MUNIS' CHURCH
Forgney
(built 1810; altered
1813 and 1870)

The impressive bell tower and unusual vestibules were added in 1813 at the expense of the Countess of Rosse in honour of her late husband Laurence Parsons-Harman. These side vestibules are a feature that is found at a number of churches in Longford, including those at Ardagh and at Kilglass, but is uncommon elsewhere.



ST MUNIS' CHURCH
Forgney
(1897)

This window was added to the church in 1897 and commemorates Oliver Goldsmith, the celebrated author and playwright, who was born at nearby Pallas in 1729. Goldsmith's father, the Revd Charles Goldsmith, was minister of Forgney from 1718 to 1730 at an earlier church in the parish. The window was made by Watson & Co of Youghal.

Courtesy of Representative Body of the Church of Ireland Photography: David Lawrence



(fig. 64)
ST GEORGE'S CHURCH
Keenagh
(1832)

This well-detailed church differs from the more commonly encountered Board of First Fruits hall-and-tower church in that it has unusual short transepts. The wide window openings retain interesting reticulated

tracery and quarry glazing. A plaque to the tower indicates that it was built under the patronage of Jane, Dowager Countess of Rosse. It was constructed to designs by William Farrell (d. 1851) at a cost of £2,000.



(fig. 65)
ST THOMAS' CHURCH
Rathmore, near
Aghnacliff
(1829)

This picturesque Church of Ireland church was built in 1829 using a gift of £830 from the Board of First Fruits. The simple form is enhanced and emphasised by the corner buttresses and the pinnacles, which help to give this church a strong silhouette and presence for such a small-scale structure. Its appearance is similar to a number of churches built in Ulster around the same time.



ST JOHN'S CHURCH
Ballinalee
(built c. 1825; extended
1832)

St John's Church is a picturesque cruciform-plan church with wide Tudor window openings and with high-quality cut-stone detailing used throughout. It was originally built to designs by John Hargrave (c. 1788-1833) c. 1825 and later extended, c. 1832, probably to designs by William Farrell

(d. 1851). Lewis (1837) records that it was constructed 'using a gift of £1,100 and a loan of £300 from the Board of First Fruits, and that it was enlarged in 1830 by aid of a loan of £300 from the same Board, and with a donation of £100 from the Countess Dowager of Rosse'.



(fig. 67)
ST PATRICK'S CHURCH
Ardagh
(1810; tower 1812;
altered c. 1860-5)

A substantial hall-and-tower-type church with the side vestibules flanking the tower that are a feature of a number of the Church of Ireland churches in Longford. It was a cathedral church for a period during the early nineteenth century, until the Dioceses of Ardagh and Kilmore were united in 1839. It was remodelled, c. 1860-5, to designs by James Rawson Carroll (1830-1911).



ST PATRICK'S CHURCH
Ardagh
(c. 1860-5)

This charming lychgate is significant both as the entrance to the church and also for its symbolic function as the covered point where coffins were traditionally met by the clergyman. Lychgates are unusual in Ireland, being a typical feature of Anglican churches. It was erected to designs by James Rawson Carroll.



(fig. 66)
ST PAUL'S CHURCH
Newtown-Forbes
(built or altered 1829)

This church was built under the patronage of the Forbes family of Castle Forbes. The crow-stepped parapets to the gables are an unusual feature, being vaguely Scottish Baronial in character, and may have been inspired by the

Scottish heritage of the Forbes family. They have a parallel in a stable range at Castle Forbes. It was built to designs by John Hargrave, who was commissioned to carry out work at Castle Forbes itself around the same time.



of Ireland did little building during the second half of the nineteenth century as numbers of parishioners were already in decline. However, a notable exception is St John's church at Lanesborough (fig. 68). This church is of a more informed Gothic Revival style and displays Pugin's influence with individually massed nave, chancel, porch and bellcote.

The Board of First Fruits also provided housing for clergy. In common with church-building, most rectories were constructed in the first decades of the century. Generally taking the form of a classically proportioned three-bay, two-storey-over-basement house with central round-head doorway, these substantial houses reflect the social importance of their occupiers. It is a housing type that falls between the farmhouse and the country house and takes its inspiration from the intellectual classical style with little reference to the vernacular. Typical examples can be found at Kilcommock, Shrulue and Rathcline. Templemichael rectory, located on the outskirts of Longford Town, is more urban in character with a fine ashlar limestone façade. On a larger scale is the three-storey example at Ardagh, which was in use as the bishop's residence from its construction in 1823 until 1839.

(fig. 68)
ST JOHN'S CHURCH
Lanesborough
(1858-62)

This charming late nineteenth-century church was built to designs by Joseph Welland (1798-1860), architect to the Board of First Fruits (1711-1833) and subsequently to the Ecclesiastical

Commissioners where he had responsibility for all Church of Ireland building projects from c. 1843 until his death. The bell was presented to the church in 1859 by Col. Henry White MP, of Rathcline House.



KILCOMMUCK RECTORY
Kilcommock Glebe,
near Keenagh
(rebuilt 1827)

Typical Board of First Fruits rectory built during the first decades of the nineteenth century. It is an example of the language of classical architecture stripped to its barest fundamental elements. The brick porch is a later addition, probably added during the later nineteenth century.



MOJDOW CHURCH OF IRELAND RECTORY
Mojdow Glebe
(c. 1760; altered
c. 1830)

The form of this substantial rectory, having projecting wings to either end, suggests that it originally dates to the mid-eighteenth century. The finely executed limestone doorcase provides an attractive central focus.



BALLINALEE RECTORY
Vicarsfield Glebe,
Ballinalee
(1822 or 1827)

This rectory is of a higher architectural standard than is usually encountered in Longford. The low overhanging hipped roof lends it a Regency character. It was built to designs by John Hargrave (1788-1833), the architect responsible for the original designs of the nearby associated church in Ballinalee.



TEMPLEMICHAEL
RECTORY
Templemichael,
Longford Town
(c. 1760 and c. 1840)

Elegant and well-proportioned former rectory that is elevated by the ashlar limestone façade. High-quality craftsmanship and attention to detailing is apparent in the complex cut-stone doorcase and the pronounced moulded eaves cornice. The present building replaced and probably incorporates the fabric of an earlier rectory to this site built in 1760.



(fig. 69)
ST BRIGID'S
PAROCHIAL HOUSE
Ardagh
(c. 1905)

This richly detailed parochial house is visually associated with the adjacent church through the choice and quality of the building materials and finishes. Its deliberate asymmetry is typical of many substantial late-Victorian and Edwardian structures. It was built under the direction of Monsignor James O'Farrell to designs by T.F. McNamara (1867-1947) of Hague & McNamara architects, the firm responsible for the design and execution of the associated church.

The housing of the Catholic clergy was generally more akin in proportion and scale to the prosperous farmhouse and set on smaller plots of land. Predominantly dating to the second part of the century, several parochial houses in Longford are unusually architectural and well executed. While the parochial house at Newtown-Cashel is an early classically inspired building, bolder houses in the Gothic Revival style were built at the end of the century. St Brigid's Parochial House at Ardagh (fig. 69) is a notable example of its type and is constructed in the same rock-faced sandstone and dressed limestone as the adjacent church. The Bishop's House, built in 1905 on the outskirts of Longford Town, is notable not only for its fine ecclesiastical-style entrance gates, well-massed and articulated exterior, but also for the delicately painted drawing-room ceiling.



ST MICHAEL'S
Templemichael Glebe,
Longford Town
(c. 1905)

This structure was built as the residence of the Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Ardagh and Clonmacnoise. The asymmetrical façade with projecting gables and bay windows is typical of the domestic architecture at the time of construction. It was possibly built to designs by T. F. McNamara (1867-1947) who worked extensively in the diocese during the early twentieth century.

Land hunger in Longford, one of the most densely populated counties, was a serious problem. In the period before the Great Famine the Leinster counties were noted as having a population of, on average, 247 people per square mile, while the figure in Longford was 362 people per square mile. While the high population density meant increased rents for landlords, it left much of the population vulnerable to starvation.

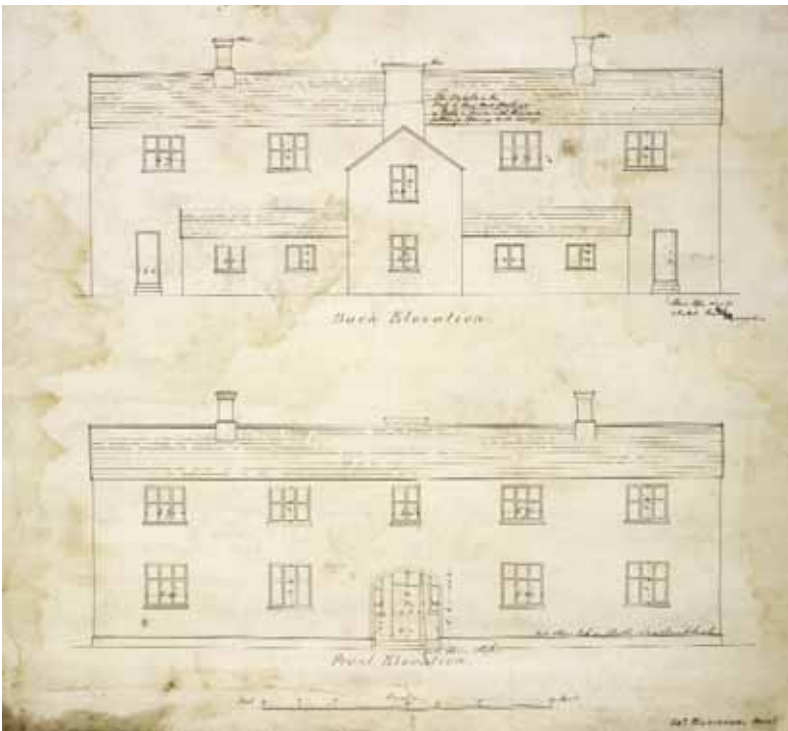
The Poor Law Union was established in 1838 to address growing problems of destitution. They instituted large-scale public works including the construction of union workhouses. These were built to a standard plan in the Tudor-Gothic Revival style to designs by George Wilkinson. Three workhouses were

built in the county on the outskirts of Ballymahon, Granard and Longford Town. Longford Town workhouse was built to the east of the town and opened in 1842. Intended to accommodate up to 1,000 inmates, 2,300 were recorded in 1848. More than 16,000 people died at the workhouse in the first ten years of operation, necessitating the creation of mass graves to the south in the area that became known as 'Bully's Acre'. Now largely demolished, the former fever hospital (**fig 70**), built in 1848 to designs by Wilkinson, is the only surviving structure of the institution. Granard and Ballymahon workhouses, both now also demolished, were opened in 1842 and 1850 respectively, and both were designed to accommodate 600 inmates.



(fig. 70)
**LONGFORD UNION
WORKHOUSE**
Dublin Road,
Longford Town
(1848)

View of the former infectious diseases hospital/infirmary of the Longford Town Union Workhouse, built to designs by George Wilkinson (1813/4-90). The symmetrical form and the projecting end bays are typical of workhouse architecture in Ireland. Workhouses are historically linked with the Great Famine and are an important physical reminder of this traumatic period in Irish history.



**LONGFORD UNION
WORKHOUSE**
Dublin Road,
Longford Town
(1848)

View of the original drawings of the elevations for the infectious diseases hospital/infirmary at the Longford Town Union Workhouse, as prepared by George Wilkinson (1813/4-90).

*Courtesy of the Irish
Architectural Archive*

The effects of the Great Famine were deeply felt throughout County Longford, as elsewhere in the country. Statistically, the rate of 'excess mortality' in the county was around twenty per thousand per year between 1846 and 1851 and was in the middle range of the national experience, though higher than the majority of Leinster counties. The Census Reports tell that the population fell from 115,491 in 1841 to 82,348 in 1851. This trend continued throughout the remainder of the nineteenth century and by 1900 the population of the county stood at 46,672, or only 40 per cent of the pre-Famine figure. Longford Town, however,

seemed to defy this general pattern of decline. By 1861, its population had increased to 4,872 and, in 1867, *Thom's Directory* recorded that 'in point of extent and trade this place is by far the most thriving and important town between Dublin and Sligo.'

The Famine also had a long-term effect on the economy. Landowners saw a steep decline in rents and a resulting shortage of funds for improvements. The late 1870s and 1880s were particularly hard, with record rainfalls, failing harvests and agricultural depression followed by evictions. The National Land League, led by Michael Davitt and Charles Stewart Parnell,



SUMMERSIT
Derrydarragh
(c. 1870)

This attractive and well-proportioned house dates to the second half of the nineteenth century and is one of a number of attractive middle-sized houses built along the shores of Lough Ree to the south-west corner of the county.



(fig. 71)
 PORTANURE LODGE
 Cleraun
 (c. 1875)

The form of this house is typical of many medium-sized houses built throughout rural Ireland during the second half of the nineteenth century. The central entrance porch doubles as a viewing platform overlooking Lough Ree to the south. The elaborate cast-iron railings to the porch add decorative interest.



PORTANURE LODGE
 Cleraun
 (c. 1875)

This charming boathouse opens onto Lough Ree. It is unusually well-built using high quality dressed ashlar limestone with cut-stone detailing throughout. The craftsmanship and conscious design involved is evident in the simplicity and the harmony of its parts. It demonstrates the attention to detail afforded to even this most prosaic of structures at the time.



(fig. 72)
COOLAMBER MANOR
Cloonshannagh or
Coolamber Manor
Demesne
(c. 1830)

This imposing house was built in a late Georgian/Regency classical idiom to designs by John Hargrave (1788-1833). The giant order pilasters between the bays of the two main facades, along with the very prominent

eaves cornice and blocking course, lend this building a distinctive appearance that is reminiscent of a contemporary seaside villa. The full-height bow to the side elevation adds incident along the main approach to the house.



LACKAN
(c. 1870)

Typical mid-to-late nineteenth-century house or farmhouse, which is enhanced by the retention of all salient fabric. As in many buildings of its type, the decorative focus is reserved for the central doorway.

and founded in 1879, was active in Longford. The League held massive demonstrations calling for the reduction of rents and gave support to tenants under threat of eviction. Between 12 and 14 January 1881, the local Land League successfully resisted the forcible eviction of a large number of Lord Granard's tenants in the Drumlish area. This pressure eventually led to the various Land Acts and a great change in the political, social and landholding structures.

As the population declined, there was a corresponding increase in farm size and a move

back towards a pastoral economy. The mid-to-late nineteenth century saw the emergence of a new middle class and the construction of a number of modest-scale two-storey houses throughout the county. A number of these adopted features, such as symmetrical layouts and fanlights, from more classical houses, like Torboy House. Attractive middle-sized houses such as Summersit and Portanure Lodge (*fig. 71*), both constructed c. 1870, represent a continuation of the classical tradition prevalent during the first half of the century.



(fig. 73)
CARRIGGLAS MANOR
Carriglass Demesne
(1838-43)

This rambling Tudor Revival house, with its dramatic roofline of Tudoresque chimneystacks, turrets and gabled projections, is one of the finest houses of its type and date in the country and is an example of the nineteenth-century

penchant for dramatic architecture given a romantic interpretation. It was designed by Daniel Robertson (d. 1849) for Thomas Langlois Lefroy, Baron of the Court of Exchequer in 1841 and later Lord Chief Justice of Ireland (from 1852).

Large-scale estate building projects were undertaken by Thomas Langlois Lefroy at Carriglas, the seventh Earl of Granard at Castle Forbes and Thomas John Fetherson at Ardagh. For the rebuilding of Carriglas Manor, Castle Forbes and Ardagh estate village, all three landlords chose Gothic Revival styles. The Gothic Revival style was popular with many landlords, as it suggested connection with the medieval past and was in keeping with the fashionable Romantic movement. An exception is Coolamber Manor (*fig. 72*), built in Regency classicism for Major S.W. Blackhall, c. 1830.

Carriglas Manor (*fig. 73*) can be described as Tudor Gothic. The regular rhythm of the façade is Gothicised by soaring towers, lofty Tudor-style chimneystacks, gablets, castellations and carved embellishments.



CARRIGGLAS MANOR
Carrickglass Demesne
(1838-43)

Archival view of Carrigglas Manor illustrating one of the drawing rooms. The richly detailed ceilings have delicate plaster ribs and miniature bosses, while the doors have attractive Perpendicular Gothic panelling.

*Courtesy of the Irish
Architectural Archive*



CASTELLATED LODGE
Carrigglas Manor
(1838-43)

Picturesque gate-lodge in executed in a Tudor Revival style, mirroring the architecture of the main house itself.



(fig. 74)
CASTLE FORBES
Newtown-Forbes
(c. 1624; altered c. 1828,
c. 1860 and c. 1925)

Although originally dating to the seventeenth century, Castle Forbes was greatly modified and altered on two occasions during the nineteenth century, firstly (c. 1828) by John Hargrave following a fire in the 1820s. More extensive works were later carried out (c. 1860) to designs by J. J. McCarthy (1817-82) working in a Gothic Revival style that he was familiar with due to his numerous ecclesiastic commissions. Castle Forbes has been the home of the Forbes family, Earls of Granard, for almost 400 years.

Courtesy of Lady Forbes



CASTLE FORBES
Newtown-Forbes
(c. 1624; altered c. 1828,
c. 1860)

A view (c. 1900) of Castle Forbes from the Lawrence Collection. Following a fire in 1923, the block to the left side of the image, possibly seventeenth-century in origin, was rebuilt to designs by F. W. Forster as part of extensive modifications.

Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland



CASTLE FORBES
Newtown-Forbes
(c. 1860)

This flamboyant gatehouse was built to designs by J. J. McCarthy (1817-82), and provides a dramatic entrance to the courtyard at Castle Forbes. The carved stone achievement of arms above the entrance is that of the seventh Earl, George Forbes, who commissioned McCarthy to build this structure.

Courtesy of Lady Forbes



CASTLE FORBES
Newtown-Forbes
(c. 1860)

The central clock tower provides a dominant focus and adds to the picturesque skyline of turrets and towers at Castle Forbes. The crow-stepped parapets are a feature of the Scottish Baronial style and are, perhaps, a reference to the Scottish ancestry of the Forbes family.

Courtesy of Lady Forbes

The alterations to Castle Forbes (**fig. 74**), on the other hand, are executed in a more evolved Gothic Revival style. Designed by the rising church architect J.J. McCarthy for the seventh Earl of Granard, this building demonstrates an understanding of the works of two of the most influential figures in nineteenth-century architecture, A.W.N. Pugin and John Ruskin. Advocates of the Gothic Revival, they looked to the Middle Ages for architectural inspiration, encouraging not only the imitation of architectural features, but also proposing the adoption of construction methods to improve structural clarity.

Sir Thomas John Fetherston employed the architect James Rawson Carroll to improve Ardagh Village in 1860-5 as a memorial for his late uncle, Sir George Ralph Fetherston. Set around a triangular green and close to Ardagh House, this picturesque village owes much to the aesthetic views of the Romantic movement. Carroll's scheme involved the construction of a number of estate worker houses of various designs (*fig. 75*), a land agent's house, an RIC barracks (*fig. 76*), and a courthouse centred around a triangular village green, with an earlier Church of Ireland church enclosing the east end of the village. The village is laid out so that

the demesne of Ardagh House, originally constructed or rebuilt during the first half of the eighteenth century, forms the north end of the village while the front elevations of the majority of the estate buildings in the village face towards the front of the house. Common Gothic and Tudor Revival features found throughout the village include steeply pitched roofs, tall chimneystacks, cast-iron pivot windows, overhanging eaves and decorative carved bargeboards. The impressive and richly ornamented Gothic-style clock tower (*fig. 77*) at the centre of the village green forms the focal point of the entire project.

(*fig. 75*)
ARDAGH ESTATE
VILLAGE
Ardagh
(1860-5)

View of a typical estate-worker's house in Ardagh, built to designs by James Rawson Carroll (1830-1911). The juxtaposition between the red sandstone masonry and the grey limestone detailing creates an attractive appearance that is a feature of the village.





(fig. 76)
ARDAGH RIC
BARRACKS
Ardagh
(1860-5)

This appealing former RIC barracks was originally built to designs by James Rawson Carroll (1830-1911) as part of his extensive remodelling work in Ardagh for the Fetherston family.

The steeply pitched roofs, pointed gables, pierced bargeboards and mullioned windows with quarry glazing are characteristic features of Carroll's work in the village.



(fig. 77)
FETHERSTON
CLOCK TOWER
Ardagh
(1860-5)

This complex Gothic-style memorial clock tower exhibits stone masonry and craftsmanship of the very highest quality. It forms the focal point of Carroll's remodelling work in Ardagh. It was commissioned by Sir Thomas Fetherston as a memorial for his uncle Sir George Fetherston (1784-1853). An inscription dedicates the village of Ardagh to the memory of George Fetherston and commemorates his 'life-long devotion to the moral and social improvement of his tenantry'.



**ARDAGH ESTATE
VILLAGE**
Ardagh
(1860-5)

Attractive high-quality wrought-iron gates and railings are a feature of Ardagh, adding artistic incident to the streetscape at the centre of the village.



TRAVELLERS' REST
Ardagh
(1860-5)

An unusual and functional feature, which occupies a prominent position in the centre of Ardagh Village. It continues the early

tradition of providing a travellers' rest in the centre of a village or town.



**ARDAGH ESTATE
VILLAGE**
Ardagh
(1860-5)

View of the streetscape of Ardagh depicting a number of detached and semi-detached workers' houses.

Urban development continued throughout the nineteenth century, in spite of set-backs brought about by economic downturns, famine and emigration. *Pigot's Commercial Directory* of 1824 describes a 'prosperous' Longford Town, with a Saturday market and two annual fairs, two military barracks, a courthouse and a prison under construction. The prison was enlarged in the middle of the century, perhaps reflecting the increased activity of the RIC and the courthouses in the county. Market houses at Ballymahon (**fig. 78**) and at Edgeworthstown, indicate the importance of these towns as regional market centres.

Increased market activity brought banking to rural towns. Banks were usually designed in an Italian classical style, communicating a sense of permanence and security to its customers. An Italianate Ulster Bank (**fig. 79**) was built in Longford Town while the branch at Granard, designed by Thomas Jackson & Son c. 1872, took on a more domestic classical appearance. The National Bank buildings at Ballymahon (**fig. 80**) and Longford Town were built to designs by Francis Caldbek in the Italianate style favoured by the company. These buildings conform to Caldbek's standard bank design of a three-storey block with projecting



(fig. 78)
BALLYMAHON MARKET
HOUSE
Main Street,
Ballymahon
(1819-26)

The finely executed cut-stone façade and classical features lend this market house a sense of authority befitting an important civic building. It was built to designs by Samuel Mullen for the Shuldham family, whose carved crest is to the pediment. The first floor was formerly in use as a courthouse. The market house reflects the growing prosperity of Ballymahon at the time of construction.



(fig. 79)
ULSTER BANK
Main Street,
Longford Town
(c. 1863)

This richly detailed building was one of the first bank buildings to be constructed in the southern counties by a Belfast bank. It has a commanding presence in the streetscape, reflecting the period when bank buildings were designed to express the solidity and wealth of the institution through their architecture. It was built to designs by James Bell Junior (1829-83).



(fig. 80)
BANK OF IRELAND
Main Street,
Ballymahon
(1869)

This Italianate building was originally built to designs by William Caldebeck (1824-72) as a branch of the National Bank. It represents a good example of his standard bank design, which became the template for bank buildings in the late nineteenth century throughout Ireland. A condition of the purchase of this plot in 1866 was that the building erected should cost no less than £1,000.



ULSTER BANK
Main Street,
Edgeworthstown
(1915)

This purpose-built Queen Anne Revival-style building has a strong presence in the streetscape due to the steeply pitched roof with dormer openings and the tall chimneystacks. It is well detailed with extensive render decoration to the principal elevation, while the Doric porch provides a central focus.



(fig. 81)
ST JOHN'S HALL
Church Street,
Longford Town
(1861-4)

This attractive Italianate Church of Ireland hall was constructed using the highest quality limestone and is extensively detailed throughout. Built to designs by James Bell Junior (1829-83), at an estimated cost of £1,500, this impressive structure has the appearance of a mid-to-late nineteenth-century bank building.

**KING-HARMAN
MEMORIAL
MASONIC HALL**
Battery Road,
Longford Town
(1890)

Detail of the Masonic crest with the characteristic square and compass devices.



(fig. 82)
KING-HARMAN
MEMORIAL
MASONIC HALL
Battery Road,
Longford Town
(1890)

An eclectic building with rich terracotta detailing used to create a striking composition. Such an approach was typical in the late nineteenth century, when many devices of seventeenth and early eighteenth-century English and Flemish architecture were employed as part of a more informal attitude to

design. It is named in honour of Col. E. R. King-Harman, MP, a former Provincial Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Meath from 1880 until his death in 1888. It was built to designs by John O. Moyan, a Cavan Freemason, on a site provided by the Earl of Longford.



end bays containing separate entrances to the banking hall and to the associated bank manager's residence. Bank-building continued into the first decades of the century with the Queen Anne Revival-style Ulster Bank, built at Edgeworthstown c. 1915, the curious gable-fronted former Munster & Leinster Bank, built in 1922 in Longford Town, and the Georgian Revival-style Bank of Ireland built or rebuilt at Granard in 1933.

The latter part of the century saw the rise of purpose-built society buildings. The Protestant Hall (*fig. 81*), built c. 1861-4 on Church Street in Longford Town, indicates a strong Protestant presence organising itself in reaction to the rising Fenian movement at the time. The quirky and richly detailed King-Harman Memorial Masonic Hall (*fig. 82*) built on Battery Road in Longford Town, along with the lodges at Ballymahon, built c. 1850, and Granard, built c. 1870 (*fig. 83*), are interesting historical reminders of the strong Freemasonry movement in Longford at the time of construction.

As the century progressed houses in towns and villages were improved or rebuilt, particularly in areas that were close to the canal and later the railway. Uniform terraces such as Keon's Terrace and along Church Street in Longford Town, built in 1838 and c. 1835 respectively, based on classicism and exhibiting knowledge of proportion and with features such as fanlights, were built by speculators to accommodate the growing middle class.

The majority of the surviving traditional shopfronts date from the last decades of the nineteenth century and the early twentieth century. Their frontage was usually constructed of timber, moulded render or a combination



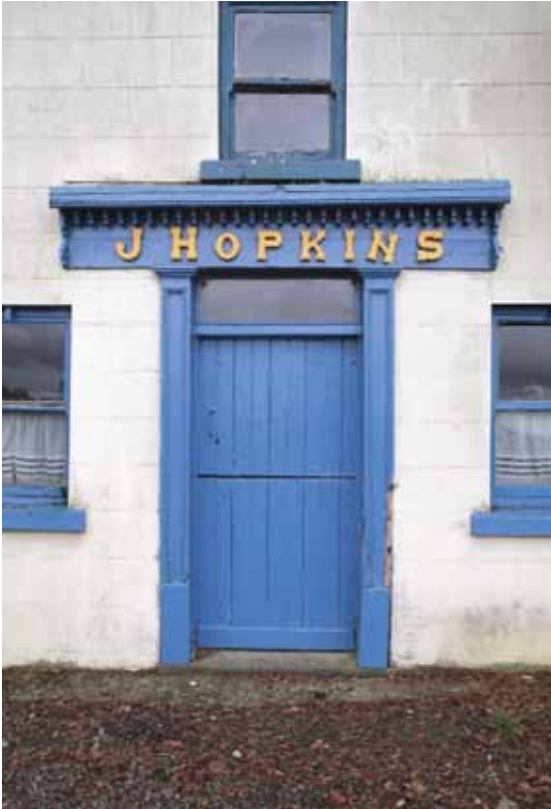
(*fig. 83*)
GRANARD MASONIC
LODGE
Longford Road,
Granard
(c. 1870)

View of the former Masonic hall in Granard. Its façade is enlivened by the detailing to the openings. The stained-glass windows and the quatrefoil openings to the gables lend it a vaguely ecclesiastic character.



(*fig. 84*)
MAIN STREET
GRANARD
(c. 1820; shopfront
c. 1880)

Simple traditional shopfront based on a simplification of the classical formula of pilasters supporting entablature over, with the frieze acting as the fascia. The external timber shutters were a feature of Irish market towns as they provided protection on busy market days.



J. HOPKIN'S
Cornadowagh,
near Newtown-Cashel
(c. 1900)

Although out of use, this building retains a simple timber fascia with attractive carved timber lettering, and a timber half-door flanked by delicate pilasters.



JOHN O'HARA
Main Street, Granard
(c. 1820; shopfront
c. 1900)

Attractive early nineteenth-century building enhanced by the later timber shopfront. The timber fascia and pilasters are particularly well carved and serve as a reminder of the quality of craftsmanship available at the time. Brightly coloured traditional shopfronts add vibrancy and incident to Irish towns and villages but are now fast disappearing.

**COUNTY
LONGFORD CLUB**
Main Street,
Longford Town
(c. 1885)

This richly detailed late nineteenth-century Italianate building is enlivened by the extensive stucco decoration to the main façade. This building was formerly in use as a gentlemen's club known as the 'County Longford Club' from c. 1895 until c. 1925. Its members were made up mainly of successful local businessmen and members of the legal profession.



of both. These shopfronts are a feature of Irish towns and villages, adding colour and vibrancy to the streetscape. Unfortunately they are now a rapidly disappearing feature in Ireland as is the case in County Longford where few examples are still in existence. Many traditional shopfronts are based on a simplification of the classical formula of columns and entablature, with the columns flanking the display windows and the entablature supplying a fascia for the shop or family name. Examples in Longford range from well-executed name fascias, such as O'Hara's at Granard, to simple name fascia and pilasters such as J. Hopkins near Newtown-Cashel, to more elaborate shopfronts with decorative consoles such as Skelly's at Ballymahon and P.P. Masterson at Abbeylara.



**KING-HARMAN
MEMORIAL CLOCK
TOWER**
Keenagh
(1878)

Impressive and imposing turret-like Gothic clock tower. It commemorates Laurence King-Harman (1816-75) of Newcastle House 'a good landlord and an upright man'. It was built to designs by Sir Robert William Edis (1839-1927) while *Slater's Directory* (1881) states that it cost over £1000 to erect.

**KING-HARMAN
MEMORIAL CLOCK
TOWER**
Keenagh
(1878)

Detail of the plaque featuring a carved marble portrait of Laurence King-Harman set in a classical aedicule. The carved foliate decoration is particularly noteworthy.



The Twentieth Century

The opening decades of the twentieth century were a time of enormous political and economic upheaval. The Great War (1914-18), The Easter Rising (1916), the War of Independence (1919-21) and the Civil War (1922-3) profoundly changed the political landscape. From the foundation of the Free State until the end of the twentieth century, Ireland was characterised by prolonged periods of economic stagnation and emigration. The population of Longford continued to decline, and by the mid-1960s the population was 28,989 or a mere 25 per cent of the 1841 census figure. Such a climate was not conducive to architectural innovation or development on a major scale. The main focus of public building activity was largely confined to improving the poor social infrastructure, most notably in the provision of social housing and the construction of new schools, hospitals and garda stations.

During the War of Independence, republicanism had strong support in Longford, particularly in the north of the county. However, as a county, Longford experienced only a low level of destruction of property during the upheaval of 1916-23, with the exception of some disturbances in north Longford. The main street in Granard was largely burnt out

by the Black and Tans in November 1920 following the assassination of the District Inspector of the RIC. The flying column of the Longford Brigade of the IRA, under the command of Sean MacEoin, the 'Blacksmith of Ballinalee', organised several effective ambushes of Crown forces in Longford including the Clonfin Ambush in February 1921. A number of RIC barracks were also attacked and damaged, including Ballymahon barracks.

After 1922, the Land Commission was given the power to purchase and break up large landholdings that were not being farmed by the owner, resulting in the break-up of many country estates. Country houses were left with only their demesnes and, unless the owners had another income, this could scarcely support the maintenance of a large property. Many houses were abandoned and subsequently demolished. Longford lost a number of important houses during the twentieth century including Newtownbond (*fig. 85*), Foxhall (*fig. 86*), Mosstown, Lissard (*fig. 87*) and Farragh, while Doory Hall (*fig. 88*) is now a scant ruin. Other important structures such as Ardagh House, Edgeworthstown House, Newcastle and Castlecor were sold and converted to institutional use.

GREVILLE ARMS HOTEL
Main Street,
Granard
(c. 1790; rebuilt
c. 1922)

This large late eighteenth or early nineteenth-century house was converted for use as a hotel during the mid-nineteenth century. It was burnt by the Black and Tans in 1920 and subsequently largely rebuilt. It has historical connections with Michael Collins (1890-1922), who first stayed at the hotel in 1917 and became a regular visitor to the town between 1917-22. Collins was engaged to Kitty Kiernan, the sister of the hotel owner at the time.



(fig. 85)
NEWTOWNBOND
Newtownbond, near
Edgworthstown
(c. 1730; altered
c. 1770)

Plain early-to-mid-eighteenth-century gable-ended house that was the home of the Bond family for almost 200 years. The attractive pedimented doorcase with sidelights provided a central focus. It was demolished sometime during the mid-twentieth century.

*Courtesy of the Irish
Architectural Archive*





(fig. 86)
FOXHALL HOUSE
Foxhall,
near Legan
(c. 1750)

Large country house of mid-eighteenth-century appearance, having central pedimented breakfront. The Fox family was originally granted extensive lands here in the early seventeenth century. The estate was later acquired by the Land Commission and the house subsequently demolished.

Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive



FARRAGH
Farraghroe
(c. 1820; extended
c. 1855)

Large eclectic house of fine ashlar masonry built to designs by John Hargrave (c. 1788-1833) for Willoughby Bond. Later Victorian works, including the unusual bowed projection to the side elevation, were carried out to designs by Nathaniel Montgomery. It was demolished c. 1961.

Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive



(fig. 87)
LISSARD HOUSE
Lissard, near
Edgeworthstown
(c. 1770; incorporating
earlier block c. 1700)

Substantial three-storey house with unusual 'blind' floor between the ground and top floors to the principal elevation. It was associated with the O'Ferrall/More O'Ferrall family throughout the nineteenth century, and was later demolished c. 1952, after the lands were purchased by the Forestry Department. One of the last residents of the house, a Richard More O'Ferrell, was murdered by the IRA in 1932.

*Courtesy of the
Photographic Unit,
DoEHLG*



(fig. 88)
DOORY HALL
Doory
(c. 1820)

Elegant late Georgian country house with fine Doric porch. It was built to designs by John Hargrave for Mrs Frances Jessop, replacing an earlier Jessop house to site. It is now in ruins.

*Courtesy of the Irish
Architectural Archive*



CARTRON HILL
Battery Road,
Longford Town
(1896)

An attractive house with some Arts and Crafts influences. The deliberate asymmetry is part of an ordered coherent scheme that is typical of the late Victorian period.



(fig. 89)
WINSTON
Battery Road,
Longford Town
(1897)

This interesting house was reputedly built by an English gentleman who worked in the Foreign Office. The irregular massing and plan, and the variety of materials and finishes used in its construction, help give this building an attractive appearance.

WINSTON
Battery Road,
Longford Town
(1897)

Detail of a grotesque terracotta roof finial.



Given the social and economic climate, it is hardly surprising that no new large-scale houses were built during the twentieth century. Instead, the focus of middle-class house-building shifted to the suburbs of the larger towns, with a number of interesting houses constructed by professionals in their vicinity. Battery Road in Longford Town became a fashionable suburb from the mid-nineteenth century associated with the wealthy middle class and with

military officers and officials at the large barracks complexes at the north end of the town. Carton Hill, Winston (*fig. 89*) and Eden Vale (*fig. 90*) are eclectic detached houses with various Arts and Crafts influences dating to the turn of the century. Later twentieth-century additions on Battery Road include the Arts and Crafts-style St Ronan, built 1927, and the plain International-style Hill Crest.

(*fig. 90*)
EDEN VALE
Battery Road,
Longford Town
(1902)

This eclectic building displays influences from the Arts and Crafts movement in the varied treatment of its roofline, a rich surface texture and the use of small-paned timber casement windows.





HILLCREST
Battery Road,
Longford Town
(1937)

The stark horizontal block-like forms of this building are a feature of the formalist Modernist style. It is a rare example of its type in the midlands.



CORBOY
Near Edgeworthstown
(c. 1900)

Example of a typical rural local authority house. It is well built to a conscious architectural design, which could be considered an 'improved' interpretation of vernacular housing of the time.



ST MEL'S ROAD
Longford Town
(1898)

The gable-fronted forms along this attractive terrace of twenty local authority houses make a strong architectural statement along St Mel's Road. It was built by the Longford Town Commissioners and dates to a period when a great many houses of this type were being built on the outskirts of the larger towns in Ireland.

By 1921, following the enactment of various Land and Labourers' Acts (1880-1921), almost two-thirds of Irish tenants owned their land; over 50,000 houses, built to various designs on half-acre roadside sites, were constructed throughout the country. Housing styles varied considerably but they were generally simple and solid, with masonry or concrete walls and slated roofs. Many of these buildings still exist, although the majority have been heavily altered and extended. A good surviving example can be seen at Corboy, near Edgeworthstown. Local authorities constructed social housing in the larger towns and cities. A particularly noteworthy terrace of twenty houses with a distinctly Arts and Crafts flavour was constructed by the Longford Town Commissioners along St Mel's Road in Longford, in 1898.

The Bord na Móna housing developments built c. 1952 at Lanesborough and at Derraghan, near Keenagh, are two of a number built throughout the midlands following the Turf Development Act (1950) and were an important landmark in Irish public housing. Designed by Frank Gibney and containing a number of different housing types, they provided simple but modern accommodation for workers employed at the nearby power station at Lanesborough. Gibney's ideas were derived from various sources including the English Garden City movement and 1930s architecture in the Netherlands. The Lanesborough scheme, comprising sixty-one houses on the outskirts of the town, is interesting for its eye-catching circular-plan house set at the entrance to the estate (*fig. 91*).



(*fig. 91*)
BORD NA MÓNA
HOUSING
Lanesborough
(1952)

This distinctive house marks the entrance to the Bord na Móna housing scheme at Lanesborough. This scheme was built to designs by Frank Gibney (1905-78) for workers employed at the nearby power station. It is one of a number of housing schemes he designed for Bord na Móna workers throughout the midlands during the early 1950s.

Lanesborough Power Station, built by Bord na Móna in 1958, is a notable example of government-sponsored functional architecture and is, perhaps, the largest structure ever built in County Longford. The functional design of the power plant owes much to the early twentieth-century architectural styles of the Bauhaus and the work of Le Corbusier and is constructed using the most modern materials available at the time. The two chimneystacks are local landmarks and dominate the skyline of

Lanesborough. Sod peat, and later milled peat, was transported to the station using an extensive bog railway system. These narrow-gauge rail networks are important in social and economic terms, and are an integral element of the landscape of the midlands. Electricity substations, such as the example at Cornacarta (*fig. 92*), were part of a broader network of electricity distribution arising from the Rural Electrification Scheme in the late 1940s and early 1950s.



(*fig. 92*)
BALLYMAHON ESB
SUBSTATION
Cornacarta
(c. 1950)

Substations of this nature were built to a common plan throughout Ireland as part of the Rural Electrification Scheme in the late 1940s and 1950s. The linear fenestration pattern, matched by flat-roofed profiles, show

an awareness of the contemporary Modernist movement. The distinctive thunderbolt-and-wave motif in use by the ESB at the time provides a decorative element on an otherwise stark functional structure.



(fig. 93)
DEAN EGAN LIBRARY
Main Street,
Ballymahon
(1930)

This library retains stylistic features reminiscent of the Modernist style commonly employed in state architecture in the first half of the twentieth century. It represents an interesting addition to the predominantly nineteenth-century streetscape of Ballymahon.



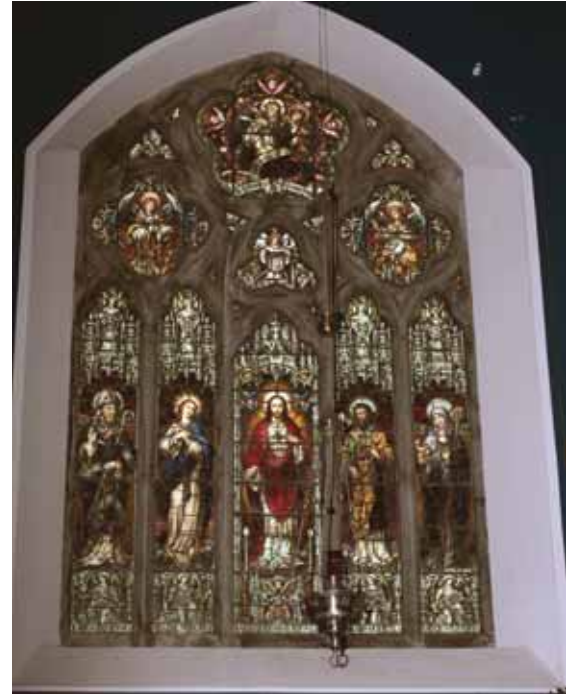
SCOIL NAOMH
PADRAIG
Gaigue, near
Ballinamuck
(1950)

Typical mid-twentieth-century school, built to standardised plans prepared by the Office of Public Works. The emphasis on the horizontal is articulated in the long low façade and the paired window openings to the front façade.

Building activity under the new state was focused on meeting social needs. Simple functional buildings such as Ballymahon library (fig. 93) and Lanesborough garda station, built 1930 and c. 1924 respectively, were constructed throughout the country. A new county hospital was constructed in Longford Town in 1962 on the site of the former union workhouse. Education was also an important

priority and the Office of Public Works embarked on an extensive school-building programme from the 1930s, of which numerous examples still exist today. Standard plans, often displaying light Modernist design influences, were produced and designs adapted to fit the needs of a particular site. Scoil Naomh Padraig near Ballinamuck is a typical mid-century school with tall windows for natural light.

The Catholic Church continued to build in the grand Gothic tradition of the nineteenth century into the first decades of the twentieth century, with St Matthew's (*fig. 94*) in Ballymahon the most notable example in the county. Several modest churches in a variety of architectural styles were built towards the middle of the century, particularly to the north of the county. St Columba's (*figs. 95-6*) at Mullanalaghta, built in a muted Hiberno-Romanesque style, is the most significant of the mid-century churches in Longford.



(*fig. 94*)
ST MATTHEW'S
CHURCH
Ballymahon
(1902-6)

This impressive and richly detailed Gothic-style church dominates the northwest side of Ballymahon. The design is complemented by high-quality detailing to both the interior and the exterior. It was designed by T.F. McNamara (1867-1947) and cost £13,000 to build.

ST MATTHEW'S
CHURCH
Ballymahon
(1902-6)

Fine pictorial stained-glass window by the renowned firm Mayer & Co. of Munich, depicting Christ, St Patrick and St Brigid. Its rich colours and intricate detailing add vibrancy to the chancel gable.

(fig. 95)
ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH
Mullanalaghta
(1939-41)

The slightly battered walls and the round-headed openings lend this building a muted Hiberno-Romanesque feel. It was built to designs by Ralph Henry Byrne (1877-1946), an architect noted for his academic, and rather eclectic, approach to

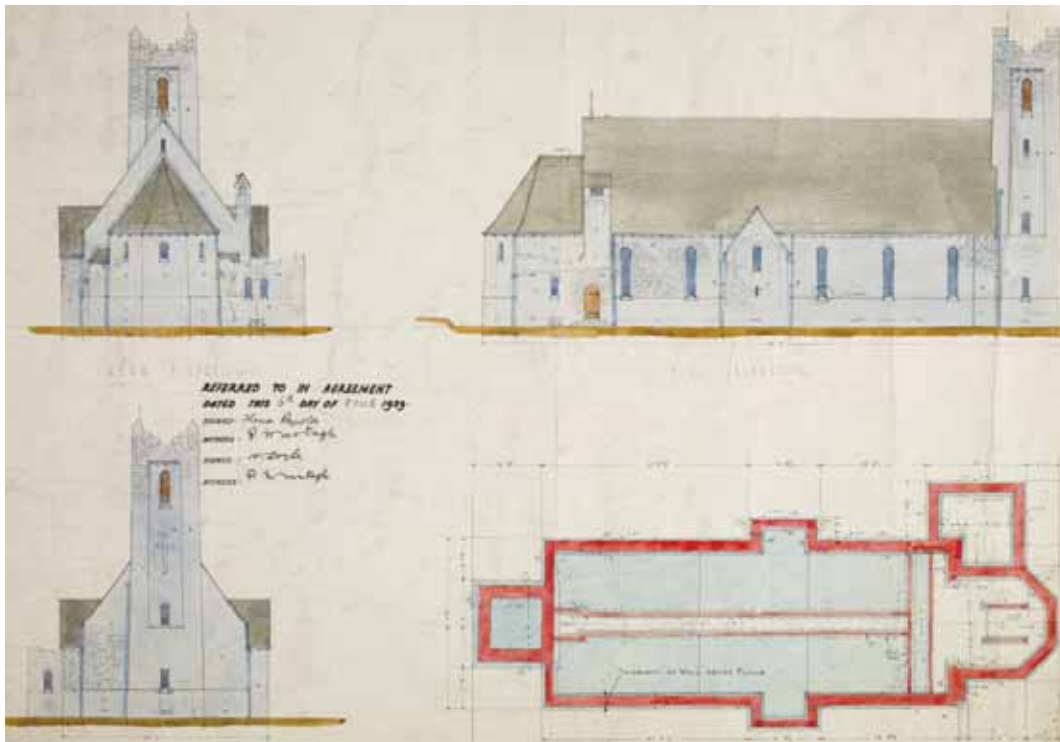
design. It was built using stone taken from nearby Derrycassan House, the former seat of the Dopping family. The carved stone detailing is unusual in a twentieth-century building, even a high-status public one such as a church.



(fig. 96)
ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH
Mullanalaghta
(1939-41)

Original elevation and plan drawing as prepared by the office of Ralph Henry Byrne.

Courtesy of the Irish Architectural Archive





(fig. 97)
ST JAMES' CHURCH
 Drummeel, Clonbroney
 (c. 1825; remodelled
 1929-33)

Unusual and distinctive church remodelled in the early 1930s to designs by Rudolph Maximilian Butler (1872-1943) who added the round towers, sprocketed roof and the circular dormer-type windows to a typical early nineteenth-century T-plan chapel. The quirky remodelling was apparently inspired by the then parish priest's experiences of Moorish architecture during his time as a seminarian in Salamanca, Spain.



ST JAMES' CHURCH
 Drummeel,
 Clonbroney
 (1929-33)

View of a fine stained-glass window in the style of the renowned Harry Clarke Studios.



ST JAMES' CHURCH
 Drummeel,
 Clonbroney
 (1929-33)

Detail of intricate mosaic tiling to floor, possibly by Oppenheimer Ltd.



CONVENT OF MERCY
St Joseph's Road,
Longford Town
(c. 1900)

View of an attractive and well-detailed oratory in the nuns' graveyard at the Convent of Mercy, Longford Town. It represents a fine

example of an early prefabricated structure, and it is notable for the high quality ironwork and carved timber used throughout.



CONVENT OF MERCY
St Joseph's Road,
Longford Town
(c. 1900)

Detail of the carved timber and moulded ironwork.



(fig. 98)
ST DOMINIC'S CHURCH
Keenagh
(1981)

The inventive plan adopted for this church is the result of liturgical changes adopted by the Second Vatican Council in the early 1960s.

This allowed architects to move away from traditional church plans and experiment with unconventional forms and styles.



LETTERGONNELL
Near Drumlish
(c. 1890 and c. 1930)

This post box has an interesting combination of the original British and later Irish symbols, marking the period when the State established its own postal system and representing a subtle form of cultural reclamation. It was cast by W.T. Allen and Company of London (1881-1955), a firm that were responsible for many of the late-Victorian and Edwardian post boxes in Ireland.

KILEENY
Near Cloondara
(c. 1900)

Mass-produced cast-iron water pumps are a feature of the rural Irish landscape. They represent interesting social artefacts dating to the period before the introduction of

the mains water supply. The various raised elements and the elegantly curved handle add aesthetic interest to these utilitarian objects.

At Drummeel (**fig. 97**), Rudolph Maximilian Butler carried out a quirky remodelling of an earlier T-plan chapel, creating a distinctive and unusual building. New styles were adopted for church-building projects following liturgical changes brought about by the Second Vatican Council (1962-5). Our Lady of Lourdes' at Abbeyshrule and St Dominic's (**fig. 98**) in Keenagh are departures in plan, form, interior and embellishment from traditional church design and construction. Both these buildings were built in the early 1980s to designs by John Kernan.

Changes in technology brought about changes in building form and design. Concrete and steel were increasingly utilised as the century progressed. Providers, a furniture and hardware shop on Main Street in Longford Town, built c. 1950, has bands of glazing to achieve an almost transparent façade. Black's, also in Longford Town, has a surviving Vitrolite shopfront with chrome trim, c. 1950. These sophisticated shopfronts are becoming increasingly rare in Irish streetscapes, with Black's being the last surviving example of its type in the county.

Conclusion

The built heritage of County Longford makes an important contribution to its identity and sense of place. Architectural heritage not only tells of changes in building and design fashions through the decades and centuries, it contributes as layers of social, economic and historic information that significantly aid our understanding of a place and its people. Buildings also demonstrate technological developments, apparent in the use of traditional materials, such as timber, stone, plaster, slate, cast iron and thatch in older buildings, through to the use of modern materials, such as concrete and steel, in more recent buildings.

Many sites and structures included in this survey have survived due to the high-quality materials and excellent craftsmanship that went into their construction. It is important to recognise that these buildings contribute to local, regional and national identity. The relative prosperity of the first decade of the twenty-first century has created new opportunities as well as potential dangers – opportunities to conserve and protect what is special about a



building or place, but also the potential to destroy. Derelict and poorly presented architectural heritage is common in urban and rural areas. Routine maintenance and respect for traditional building techniques can do much to ensure the survival of these buildings. It is important to safeguard the built heritage as it is a tangible link to the past.

The public reaction to the recent catastrophic fire at St Mel's Cathedral clearly illustrates the importance of historic buildings within the community and it should be possible to find the resources to restore this important landmark structure. On a more positive note, the recent renovation of Longford Town courthouse, which was closed in 1994 and threatened with demolition, has resurrected an important architectural centrepiece, improving the visual amenity along Main Street in the process. Ledwithstown House has also been rescued from near dereliction in recent decades, ensuring the survival of an important mid-eighteenth-century house. Castlecor House, one of the more important elements of the

CLYNAN BRIDGE
Cloghan/Tennalick
(c. 1700)

This substantial nine-arch bridge spanning the River Inny is one of the earliest large-scale bridges still extant in the county. The large masonry piers between the arches are indicative of its early date.

Courtesy of Richard McLoughlin, Lotts Architecture



LONGFORD

View of the shores of
Lough Ree at Claraun.

built heritage of Longford, has recently been purchased by new private owners, which hopefully will ensure its survival for future generations. The reopening of the Royal Canal as far as the Shannon will help create more opportunities for tourism in the county, as well as providing an important local amenity.

Protection of our built heritage is not just a matter of the big restoration projects. There is always the danger that the less prominent elements of the built heritage are not recognised and are insensitively altered or destroyed. These are as important to our understanding of a place as the fine country house, the richly detailed church and the large civic building. Small incremental alterations to the details and fabric, such as the replacement of timber sash-windows and slate roof, can also erode a building's heritage value over time. Longford County Council administers a conservation grant scheme to aid owners of buildings on the Record of Protected Structures to undertake sympathetic repairs. Preventative maintenance, such as the repair of slipped slates and the clearing of gutters, will prolong the life of a traditional building almost indefinitely.

Designated a 'Heritage Village' and three-time winner of the National Tidy Towns Competition, Ardagh Village is a testament to this 'good housekeeping' philosophy and the benefits this can give to both the people who live there and to the visitors who come to experience and enjoy the gems of our built heritage.

The range of structures highlighted in this introduction is a small proportion of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage of County Longford. The survey contains a broad range of sites and structures that are urban and rural, public and private, large and small; these all contribute to the unique character of the county. The survival of these structures is testimony to the durability of their construction, the quality of their design and the care and respect of their owners. It is hoped that the survey and this publication will help increase a popular awareness of, and an appreciation of, the county's rich and varied heritage. As time passes and more buildings are constructed throughout the county, there will be the need for further assessments.



**MONEYHOOLAGHAN
HOUSE**
Moneyhoolaghan
(c. 1880)

Attractive house of late-nineteenth-century appearance that retains its early fabric.



'THE YANK'S HOUSE'
Lisduff (Montgomery)
(c. 1865)

This attractive house is currently (late 2009/early 2010) undergoing sensitive restoration after years of dereliction. The well-proportioned front elevation, and the two-storey over raised basement form, lends this building quite a formal architectural character for what is, in essence, a vernacular farmhouse. It was reputedly built in the 1860s by a local man returning to the area after a number of years working in America.

Courtesy of Catherine Kane

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ST CATHERINE'S
CHURCH OF IRELAND
CHURCH
Killloe Glebe
(1824 and altered 1861)

The striking silhouette of St Catherine's Church of Ireland church, Killloe. This fine church was originally built to designs by John Hargrave (1788-1833) in 1824 using a gift of £900 from the Board of First Fruits and £200 from Willoughby Bond, Esq., of nearby Farragh or

Farraghroe House. The tower may have been added in 1861 as part of 'sundry works' at the church carried out to designs by William Gillespie and William Joseph Welland, the architects for the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

Registration Numbers

The structures mentioned in the text of this Introduction are listed below. Further information on each structure may be found by accessing the survey on the internet at www.buildingsofireland.ie and searching by the 'Registration Number'. Structures are listed by page number.

Please note that most of the buildings listed are in private ownership and are not open to the public.

2	Cloondara Canal Cloondara Td. <i>Reg. 13307006</i>	9	Sleehaun Ringfort Sleehaun Td. <i>Not included in survey</i>	19	Foxhall House Foxhall Td. <i>Not included in survey (demolished)</i>	32-3	Castlecor Castlecore Td., near Ballymahon <i>Reg. 13402608</i>
2	Cloondara Bridge Cloondara Td. <i>Reg. 13307005</i>	10-11	Inchcleraun Ecclesiastical Site Inchcleraun Td. <i>Not included in survey</i>	19	Rathreagh Church Foxhall Glebe Td., Legan <i>Reg. 13315009</i>	34	Clogh (Rathline By.) Td. <i>Reg. 13402210</i>
5	Inis Mór Ecclesiastical Site Inchmore <i>Not included in survey</i>	10	Saints Island Ecclesiastical Site Saints Island <i>Not included in survey</i>	20	Abbeyshrule Bridge Abbeyshrule/Cloonbrin Tds. <i>Reg. 13402347</i>	34	Castlerea Mountain Td. <i>Reg. 13401910</i>
5	Inchcleraun Ecclesiastical Site Inchcleraun <i>Not included in survey</i>	10	Inis Mór Ecclesiastical Site Inchmore Td. <i>Not included in survey</i>	20	Ballynacarrow Bridge Agharra Td. <i>Reg. 13402406</i>	35	Freaghmeen Td. <i>Reg. 13401522</i>
5	Saints Island Ecclesiastical Site Saints Island <i>Not included in survey</i>	12-3	St Mel's Cathedral Ardagh Demesne <i>Not included in survey</i>	20-23	Mosstown House Mosstown Td. <i>Not included in survey (demolished)</i>	35	Coolcor Td. <i>Reg. 13401012</i>
7	Castlerea Castle Castlerea Td. <i>Not included in survey</i>	12-3	Granard Motte Moatfield Td., Granard <i>Not included in survey</i>	20	Ardagh House Ardagh Demesne Td., Ardagh <i>Reg. 13312039</i>	36-7	Barney Td. <i>Reg. 13401912</i>
7	Aungier Market House Sean Connolly Barracks, Longford Town <i>Reg. 13002495</i>	14-5	Abbeyshrule Abbey Abbeyshrule Td. <i>Not included in survey</i>	24	Farragh or Farra, Farraghroe Td. <i>Not included in survey (demolished)</i>	36-7	Cartron Td. (Shrulle By.) <i>Reg. 13402734</i>
7	Royal Canal Multiple townlands	15	Abbeylara Abbey Abbeylara Td. <i>Not included in survey</i>	24-5	Tennalick House Tennalick Td. <i>Reg. 13402348</i>	36-7	Abbeyshrule Td. <i>Reg. 13402738</i>
8-9	Aghnacliff Dolmen Aghnacliff Td. <i>Not included in survey</i>	16	Castlerea Castle Castlerea Td. <i>Not included in survey</i>	24-5	Tennalick House Tennalick Td. <i>Reg. 13402348</i>	38-9	Aungier Market House Sean Connolly Barracks, Longford Town <i>Reg. 13002495</i>
8	Cartronbore Stone Circle Cartronbore Td. <i>Not included in survey</i>	16	Mornin Castle Mornin Td. <i>Not included in survey</i>	24	Castlewilder Castlewilder Td. <i>Reg. 13402321</i>	39	St John's Church of Ireland church Church Street, Longford Town <i>Reg. 13002006</i>
8	Cloghchurnel Stone Circle Cloghchurnel Td. <i>Not included in survey</i>	16-7	Rathcline Castle Rathcline Td. <i>Not included in survey</i>	26-7	Brianstown House Brianstown Td. <i>Reg. 13401305</i>	40-41	Longford Courthouse Main Street, Longford Town <i>Reg. 13002198</i>
8-9	Corlea Trackway Corlea Td. <i>Not included in survey</i>	18	Longford Castle Church Street, Longford Town <i>Not included in survey (demolished)</i>	26	Richmount Hill Screeboge Td. <i>Reg. 13402304</i>	41-2	Granard Market House Main Street, Granard <i>Reg. 13305027</i>
8	Black Pig's Dyke Multiple townlands, near Abbeylara	19	Castle Forbes Castleforbes Demesne Td. <i>Reg. 13303001</i>	28-9	Ledwithstown House Ledwithstown Td. <i>Reg. 13402217</i>	42	The Greville Arms Main Street, Granard <i>Reg. 13305028</i>
9	Breaney Ringfort Breaney Td. <i>Not included in survey</i>	19	Castle Forbes (tower/dovecote) Castleforbes Demesne Td. <i>Reg. 13303005</i>	29-30	Creevaghmore House Creevaghmore Td. <i>Reg. 13402719</i>	42	Main Street, Granard <i>Reg. 13305026</i>
				30-31	Newcastle House Newcastle Td. <i>Reg. 13402709</i>	42-3	Edgeworthstown House Edgeworthstown <i>Reg. 13309029</i>

43	Mosstown House (pigeon house) Mosstown (Rathcline By.) Td. <i>Reg. 13313010</i>	50	St John's Church of Ireland church Edgeworthstown <i>Reg. 13309011</i>	56-7	Grillagh Mill Grillagh Td. (Moydow By.), Killashee <i>Reg. 13401810</i>	66	Termonbarry Bridge Cloondara Td. <i>Reg. 13401301</i>
43	Shuldham Arms (former) Main Street, Ballymahon <i>Reg. 13316013</i>	50	Castleforbes Demesne Td., Newtownforbes <i>Reg. 13400820</i>	56	Flax Mill (former) Glebe Td. (Longford By.), Cloondara <i>Reg. 13307018</i>	67	Longford Town Railway Station Earl Street, Longford Town <i>Reg. 13004044</i>
43	Newcastle House (walled garden) Newcastle Demesne Td. <i>Reg. 13402708</i>	50	Ardagh Demesne Td., Ardagh <i>Reg. 13312037</i>	58	The Old Forge (former Castlewilder RIC barracks), Castlewilder Td. <i>Reg. 13402320</i>	67	Newtown-Forbes Railway Station Townparks (Ardagh By.) Td., Newtown-Forbes <i>Reg. 13303018</i>
44-5	Carrigglass Manor (stable block and farmyard complex) Carrickglass Demesne (Longford By.) Td. <i>Reg. 13401415</i>	50	St. Patrick's Church of Ireland Church Granard Td., Granard <i>Reg. 13305002</i>	58	Ballinamuck 1798 Visitor Centre (former Ballinamuck RIC barracks), Ballinamuck <i>Reg. 13301002</i>	67	Ballywillin Railway Station Ballywillin Td. <i>Reg. 13401105</i>
47	Carrigglass Manor (gardener's house) Corradooey Td. <i>Reg. 13400911</i>	50-51	Edgeworthstown Rectory Edgeworthstown Td., Edgeworthstown <i>Reg. 13309017</i>	58	38 Dublin Street, Longford Town (former Longford Town No. 1 RIC barracks) <i>Reg. 13002376</i>	68	St Columkille's National School Polladooey Td., near Aghnacliff <i>Reg. 13400306</i>
47	Carrigglass Manor (walled garden) Corradooey Td. <i>Reg. 13400913</i>	50-51	Killashee Rectory (former) Templeton Glebe Td., Killashee <i>Reg. 13311004</i>	59-61	St Christopher's Service (administration block) (former Longford Town Prison) Battery Road, Longford Town <i>eg. 13001036</i>	68	Keenagh National School Keenagh Td., Keenagh <i>Reg. 13313024</i>
47-8	Porter's Lodge (former) Carrigglass Manor, Carrickglass Demesne (Longford By.) Td. <i>Reg. 13401409</i>	52	Corboy Presbyterian Meeting House Corboy Td. <i>Reg. 13401440</i>	59	Sean Connolly Barracks Church Street, Longford Town <i>Reg. 13008020</i>	68	Keel National School Keel (Moydow By.) Td. <i>Reg. 13401918</i>
48-9	Cloondara Canal Cloondara Td. <i>Reg. 13307006</i>	53	Viewmount House Knockhaw Td. <i>Reg. 13007038</i>	62	Toome Bridge Toome (Shrule By.) Td. <i>Reg. 13402705</i>	68	Edgeworthstown National School Edgeworthstown Td., Edgeworthstown <i>Reg. 13309013</i>
49	Cloondara Canal (lock keeper's house/navigation offices) Cloondara Td. <i>Reg. 13307004</i>	53	'Bully's Acre' Ballinallee or SaintJohnstown Td., Ballinallee <i>Reg. 13304010</i>	62	Frances' Cottage Ballyclare (Moydow By; Killashee E.D.) Td. <i>Reg. 13311005</i>	68	Tullyvrane National School Tullyvrane Td., near Lanesborough <i>Reg. 13401708</i>
49	Cloondara Canal (lock) Cloondara Td. <i>Reg. 13307007</i>	53	Ballinallee Masonic Hall (former) Ballinallee or SaintJohnstown Td., Ballinallee <i>Reg. 13304013</i>	62-3	Richmond Harbour (dry dock) Glebe Td., Cloondara <i>Reg. 13307015</i>	68	Ardagh National School Ardagh Demesne Td., Ardagh <i>Reg. 13312013</i>
49	Cloondara Bridge Cloondara Td. <i>Reg. 13307005</i>	54-5	Shrule Mills Shrule/Garrynagh Tds. <i>Reg. 13402612</i>	63	Whitworth Aqueduct Cloonbrin/Drumanure Tds., near Abbeyshrule <i>Reg. 13402337</i>	68-9	Clonguish National School Battery Road, Longford Town <i>Reg. 13001043</i>
49	Elfeet Windmill Elfeet (Adamson) Td. <i>Reg. 13402109</i>	54	Ballymacroly Mill Ballymacroly Td. <i>Reg. 13401020</i>	63-4	Richmond Harbour Glebe Td., Cloondara <i>Reg. 13307014</i>	69-70	Cluan-a-Donald Catholic Church Cloondara Td., Cloondara <i>Reg. 13307008</i>
49-50	Knock Windmill Knock Td., Lanesborough <i>Reg. 13310006</i>	54-6	Rodgers Mill Drumlish <i>Reg. 13302002</i>	64	Lanesborough Bridge Lanesborough Td., Lanesborough <i>Reg. 13310001</i>	70	The Blessed Virgin Catholic Church Cornadowagh Td., Newtown-Cashel <i>Reg. 13402113</i>
49	Richmond Mill and Distillery (former) Cloondara Td., Cloondara <i>Reg. 13307011</i>	55	Shrule Td. <i>Reg. 13402611</i>	65-6	Edgeworthstown Railway Station Edgeworthstown <i>Reg. 13309002</i>	70-71	St Mary's Catholic Church Church Street, Granard <i>Reg. 13305005</i>
49	Richmond Mill and Distillery (former miller's house) Cloondara Td., Cloondara <i>Reg. 13307010</i>	56	Cloghan Mills Cloghan Td., (Shrule By.) <i>Reg. 13402351</i>				
		56	Aghnagore Td. <i>Reg. 13307024</i>				

72-3	St Brigid's Catholic Church Lyanmore Td., Ardagh <i>Reg. 13312031</i>	82	St Munis' Church of Ireland Church Forgney Td. <i>Reg. 13402721</i>	88	Ballinalee Rectory Vicarsfield Glebe Td, Ballinalee <i>Reg. 13304007</i>	93	Portanure Lodge (boathouse) Cleraun Td. <i>Reg. 13402506</i>
74-7	St Mel's Catholic Cathedral St Mel's Square, Longford Town <i>Reg. 13002327</i>	82	St Anne's Church of Ireland Church Glebe (Ardagh By.; Foxhall E.D.) Td., Kilglass <i>Reg. 13401922</i>	88	Moydow Rectory Moydow Glebe Td <i>Reg. 13401901</i>	94	Coolamber Manor Cloonshannagh or Coolamber Manor Demesne Td. <i>Reg. 13401520</i>
78-9	St Mel's College (formerly St. Mel's Seminary) Deanscurragh Td., Longford Town <i>Reg. 13003002</i>	82-3	St George's Church of Ireland Church Kilcommock, Keenagh <i>Reg. 13313025</i>	89	Templemichael Rectory Templemichael Glebe Td., Longford Town <i>Reg. 13008015</i>	95	Torboy House TorboyTd. <i>Reg. 13401917</i>
78	St Anne's Catholic Church Ballycloghan Td. <i>Reg. 13401915</i>	84	St Thomas Church of Ireland Church Rathmore (Granard By.) Td, near Aghnacliff <i>Reg. 13400601</i>	89	Newtown-Cashel Parochial House Cornadowagh Td., Newtown- Cashel <i>Reg. 13402112</i>	95	Lackan Td. <i>Reg. 13401447</i>
79	Convent of Mercy St. Joseph's Road, Longford Town <i>Reg. 13004039</i>	85	St John's Church of Ireland Church Gorteenrevagh Td., Ballinalee <i>Reg. 13304009</i>	89	St Brigid's Parochial House Lyanmore Td., Ardagh <i>Reg. 13312033</i>	96-7	Carrigglass Manor Carrickglass Demesne (Longford By.) Td. <i>Reg. 13401414</i>
79	St Elizabeth's Convent of Mercy Aghafin Td., Edgeworthstown <i>Reg. 13309009</i>	86	St Patrick's Church of Ireland Church Edgeworthstown Road, Ardagh <i>Reg. 13312032</i>	89-90	St Michael's Bishops House Templemichael Glebe Td., Longford Town <i>Reg. 13401401</i>	97	Carrigglass Manor (gate lodge) Carrickglass Demesne (Longford By.) Td. <i>Reg. 13401412</i>
79	Convent of Mercy Townparks (Longford By.) Td., Newtown-Forbes <i>Reg. 13303029</i>	87	St Paul's Church of Ireland Church (Longford By.) Td., Newtown- Forbes <i>Reg. 13303021</i>	90	Ballymahon Union Workhouse Ballymahon Td., Ballymahon <i>Not included in survey (demolished)</i>	98-9	Castle Forbes Castleforbes Demesne Td. <i>Reg. 13303001</i>
79	Convent of Mercy Ballymahon Td., Ballymahon <i>Reg. 13316005</i>	87	St John's Church of Ireland Church Lanesborough Td., Lanesborough <i>Reg. 13310007</i>	90	Granard Union Workhouse Grassyard Td., Granard <i>Not included in survey (demolished)</i>	99	Castle Forbes (gatehouse) Castleforbes Demesne Td. <i>Reg. 13303002</i>
79	Convent of Mercy Barrack Street, Granard <i>Reg. 13305011</i>	87	St John's Church of Ireland Church Lanesborough Td., Lanesborough <i>Reg. 13310007</i>	90	'Bully's Acre' (former workhouse graveyard) Longford Town Union Workhouse Glack Td., Dublin Road, Longford Town <i>Reg. 13005116</i>	99	Castle Forbes (stable block) Castleforbes Demesne Td. <i>Reg. 13303003</i>
80	Primitive Methodist Church Keenagh Td., Keenagh <i>Reg. 13313016</i>	88	Kilcommock Rectory Kilcommock Glebe Td., near Keenagh <i>Reg. 13402209</i>	90	Longford Town Union Workhouse Glack Td., Dublin Road, Longford Town <i>Not included in survey (demolished)</i>	100	Ardagh House Ardagh Demesne Td., Ardagh <i>Reg. 13312039</i>
80	Longford Town Methodist Chapel Battery Road, Longford Town <i>Reg. 13001044</i>	87	Shrulle Rectory Glebe (Rathcline By.) Td., near Lanesborough <i>Reg. 13402610</i>	90-91	Longford Town Union Workhouse (former workhouse infirmary) Glack Td., Dublin Road, Longford Town <i>Reg. 13005036</i>	100	(former estate worker's house) Ardagh Demesne Td., Ardagh <i>Reg. 13312018</i>
80	Tully Presbyterian Church Lisraghtigan Td., near Granard <i>Reg. 13401501</i>	87	Rathcline Rectory Glebe (Rathcline By.) Td., near Ballymahon <i>Reg. 13401706</i>	100	Longford Town Union Workhouse Glack Td., Dublin Road, Longford Town <i>Not included in survey (demolished)</i>	100	(former land agent's house) Ardagh Demesne Td., Ardagh <i>Reg. 13312015</i>
80-81	St Catherine's Church of Ireland Church Curry (Moydow By.; Moydow E.D.) Td., Ballymacormick <i>Reg. 13401802</i>	87	Ardagh Rectory (former bishop's house) Moor Td., Ardagh <i>Reg. 13312008</i>	90-91	Longford Town Union Workhouse (former workhouse infirmary) Glack Td., Dublin Road, Longford Town <i>Reg. 13005036</i>	100	Ardagh Courthouse (former) Ardagh Demesne Td., Ardagh <i>Reg. 13312025</i>
80	St Catherine's Church of Ireland Church Ballymahon Td., Ballymahon <i>Reg. 13316019</i>	88	Kilcommock Rectory Kilcommock Glebe Td., near Keenagh <i>Reg. 13402209</i>	92	Summersit Derrydarragh Td. <i>Reg. 13402501</i>	101-2	Fetherston Clock Tower Ardagh Demesne Td., Ardagh <i>Reg. 13312017</i>
				93-4	Portanure Lodge Cleraun Td. <i>Reg. 13402505</i>	103	'Travellers' Rest' Ardagh <i>Reg. 13312038</i>

104	Ballymahon Market House (former) Main Street, Ballymahon <i>Reg. 13316010</i>	108-9	John O'Hara Main Street, Granard <i>Reg. 13305036</i>	113	Doory Hall Doory Td. <i>Reg. 13314005</i>	120	Longford County Hospital Dublin Road, Longford <i>Not included in survey</i>
104	Edgeworthstown Market House Main Street, Edgeworthstown <i>Not included in survey.</i>	108-9	J. Hopkins Cornadowagh, Newtown-Cashel <i>Reg. 13402111</i>	114-5	Cartron Hill Battery Road, Longford Town <i>Reg. 13001004</i>	120	Scoil Naomh Padraig Gaigue Td., near Ballinamuck <i>Reg. 13400501</i>
104-5	Ulster Bank Main Street, Longford Town <i>Reg. 13002251</i>	109	Skelly's Main Street, Ballymahon <i>Reg. 13316017</i>	114-5	Winston Battery Road, Longford Town <i>Reg. 13001010</i>	121	St Matthew's Catholic Church Main Street, Ballymahon <i>Reg. 13316007</i>
104	Ulster Bank Market Street, Granard <i>Reg. 13305030</i>	109	P.P. Materson Abbeylara <i>Reg. 13306001</i>	115	Eden Vale Battery Road, Longford Town <i>Reg. 13001033</i>	121-2	St Columba's Catholic Church Cloonagh (Granard By.) Td., Mullanalaghta <i>Reg. 13400605</i>
104	Bank of Ireland (former National Bank) Main Street, Longford Town <i>Reg. 13002232</i>	109	P. J. Groarke & Son (Former County Longford Club) Main Street, Longford Town <i>Reg. 13002139</i>	115	St Ronan Battery Road, Longford Town <i>Reg. 13001031</i>	123	St James' Catholic Church Drummeel Td. <i>Reg. 13401029</i>
104-5	Bank of Ireland (former National Bank) Main Street, Ballymahon <i>Reg. 13316015</i>	109	King-Harman Memorial Clock Tower Keenagh <i>Reg. 13313015</i>	115-6	Hillcrest Battery Road, Longford Town <i>Reg. 13001006</i>	124	Convent of Mercy (oratory) St Joseph's Road, Longford Town <i>Reg. 13005056</i>
105	Ulster Bank Main Street, Edgeworthstown <i>Reg. 13309019</i>	110	Ardagh House Ardagh Demesne Td., Ardagh <i>Reg. 13312039</i>	117-8	Corboy Td. <i>Reg. 13401438</i>	125	Our Lady of Lourdes Drumanure Td., Abbeyshrule <i>eg. 13402346</i>
106-7	St. John's Hall Church Street, Longford Town <i>Reg. 13002022</i>	110	Edgeworthstown House Edgeworthstown Td., Edgeworthstown <i>Reg. 13309029</i>	117-8	13-32 St Mel's Road, Longford Town <i>Regs. 13002297; 13008013</i>	125	St Dominic's Catholic Church Cartronawar (Rathcline By.) Td., Keenagh <i>Reg. 13402208</i>
106-7	King-Harman Memorial Masonic Hall Battery Road, Longford Town <i>Reg. 13001042</i>	110	Newcastle House Newcastle Td. <i>Reg. 13402709</i>	118	Lanesborough Bord na Móna Housing Scheme Lanesborough Td., Lanesborough <i>Regs. 13310012; 13310022</i>	126	Lettergonnell Td., near Drumlish <i>Reg. 13400510</i>
107	Allied Irish Bank (former Munster & Leinster Bank) 60 Main Street, Longford Town <i>Reg. 13002243</i>	110	Castlecor Castlecor Td., near Ballymahon <i>Reg. 13402608</i>	118	Derraghan Bord na Móna Housing Scheme Derraghan Td., near Keenagh <i>Not included in survey</i>	127	Kileeny, near Cloondara <i>Reg. 13401341</i>
107	Bank of Ireland (former Hibernian Bank) Main Street, Granard <i>Reg. 13305021</i>	110-11	Greville Arms Hotel Main Street, Granard <i>Reg. 13305028</i>	119	Lanesborough Bord na Móna Power Station Aghamore (Rathcline By.) Td., Lanesborough <i>Reg. 13310014</i>	125	Providers Ltd. Main Street/Richmond Road, Longford Town <i>Reg. 13008003</i>
107	Ballymahon Masonic Lodge Ballymahon Td., Ballymahon <i>Reg. 13316025</i>	111	Newtownbond Newtownbond Td. <i>Not included in survey (demolished).</i>	119	Lanesborough Bord na Móna Power Station (chimneyestacks) Aghamore (Rathcline By.) Td., Lanesborough <i>Reg. 13310015</i>	125	Black's 49 Main Street, Longford <i>Reg. 13002256</i>
107	Granard Masonic Lodge Longford Road, Granard <i>Reg. 13305001</i>	112	Foxhall House Foxhall Td. <i>Not included in survey (demolished)</i>	119	Ballymahon ESB Substation Cornacarta Td., near Ballymahon <i>Reg. 13402216</i>	126	Clynan Bridge Cloghan/Tennalick Tds. <i>Reg. 13402350</i>
107	Keon's Terrace 1-4 New Street, Longford Town <i>Regs. 13002334-5; 13004003-4</i>	112	Farragh or Farra, Farraghroe Td. <i>Not included in survey (demolished)</i>	120	Dean Egan Library Main Street, Ballymahon <i>Reg. 13316028</i>	129	Moneyhoolaghan House Moneyhoolaghan Td. <i>Reg. 13401606</i>
107	F. J. Gearty; Church Street, Longford Town <i>Regs. 13002016-7</i>	113	Lissard House Lissard Td. <i>Not included in survey (demolished)</i>	120	Lanesborough Garda Station Knock Td., Lanesborough <i>Reg. 13310011</i>	129	'The Yank's House' Lisduff (Montgomery) Td. <i>Reg. 13401927</i>
107-8	Main Street, Granard <i>Reg. 13305023</i>					131	St. Catherine's Church of Ireland Church Killoe Glebe Td. <i>Reg. 13400914</i>

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