

ULSTER ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE SOCIETY  
AND  
AN TAISCE

HISTORIC BUILDINGS  
GROUPS OF BUILDINGS  
AREAS OF ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

IN THE TOWN OF

# MONAGHAN



ULSTER ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE SOCIETY  
AND  
AN TAISCE, COUNTY MONAGHAN BRANCH  
LIST OF  
HISTORIC BUILDINGS  
GROUPS OF BUILDINGS  
AREAS OF ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE  
IN THE TOWN OF  
**MONAGHAN**



*Memorial carved by Thomas Kirk in St. Patrick's church*

Prepared February - August 1970

by

C.E.B. Brett

in consultation with

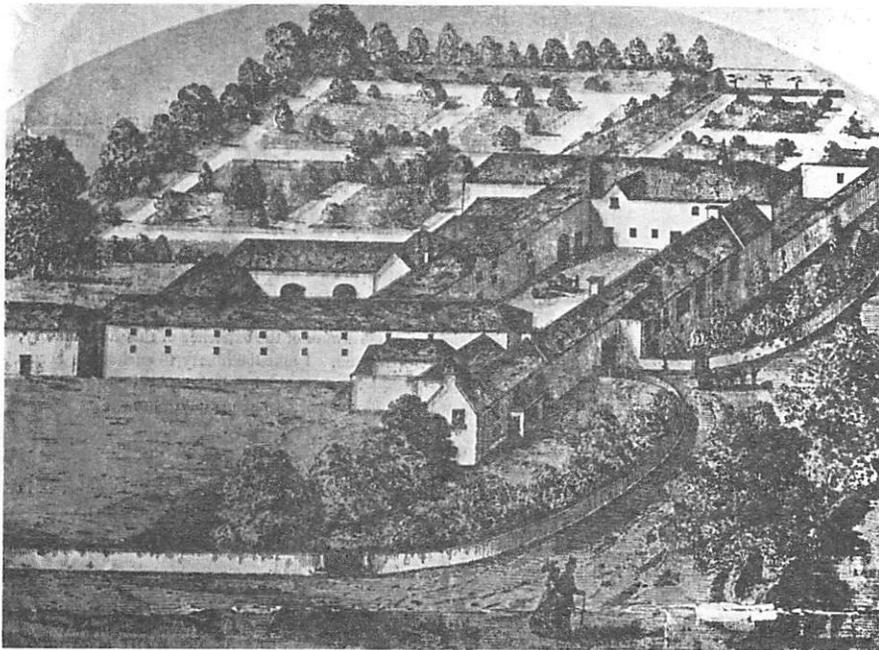
members of the Committee of the Branch

# INTRODUCTION

This List represents a joint venture - the first, but it is to be hoped not the last - between the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society and An Taisce.

The Ulster Architectural Heritage Society was formed in November 1967, and since its inception has compiled and published a series of surveys, of which this is the eleventh. While based in Belfast, its interests and membership extend throughout the nine counties of the province of Ulster. The County Monaghan Branch of An Taisce was formed in April 1970. It was felt that the publication of a list of the buildings of importance and interest in the town would make an important contribution to its future planning and development, as well as lending impetus to the growth of the branch.

Both bodies are non-political and non-sectarian; both bodies welcome this opportunity for cross-border co-operation of a practical and constructive kind. There is a need in every part of Ireland for a greater awareness and appreciation of the best of the country's historic environment, and of its monuments of every period - up to and including the present day.

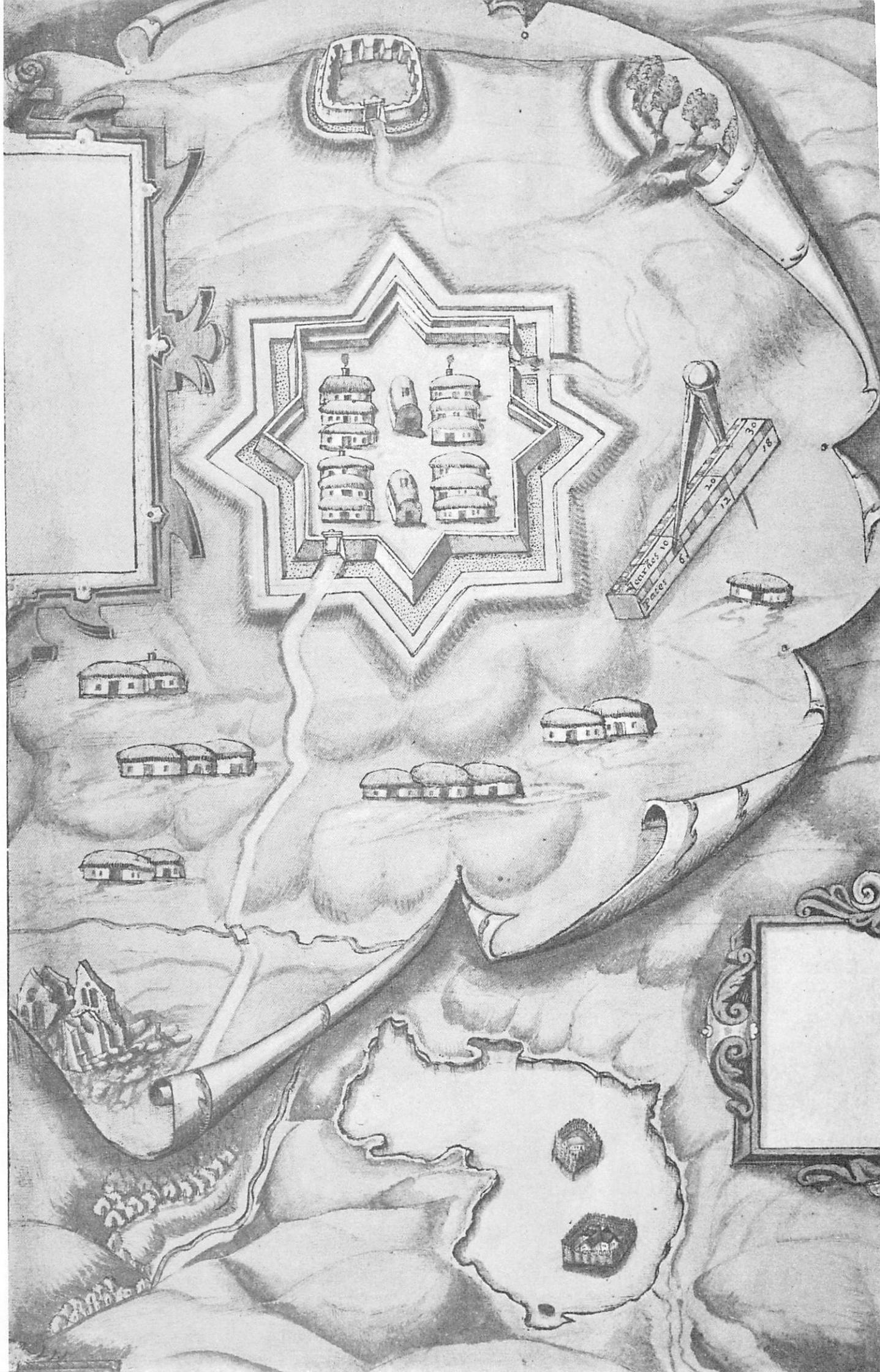


*The Old Brewery, Spark's Lake, now part of St. Louis Convent.*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The map of Monaghan in about 1602 on page 3 is reproduced by permission of Professor G.A. Hayes-McCoy and the Irish Manuscripts Commission; that of Monaghan in 1787 on page 5, copied by J.H.M. Wilson in 1902 from the original survey of Arthur Neville made for Lady Blayney, by permission of Messrs. Martin and Brett, Solicitors, Monaghan; the ordnance survey map of 1962 is reproduced with acknowledgements to the Minister for Finance. The photograph of the Diamond sixty years ago is reproduced by permission of Mr. Hewitt Henry; those of the Presbyterian Church by permission of Rev. W. Herron. All the remaining photographs were specially taken for this publication by Lord Rossmore. The compiler gratefully acknowledges much information and assistance made available by Mr. Sean MacCinna; Mr. Frank Keelaghan; Mr. Peadar Ronaghan; Father Joe Duffy of St. Macartan's Seminary; Mr. W. Redmond; Dr. E. McNally; Mr. George Cannon; Mrs. R. Carroll; Archdeacon Heavener; and Dr. Maurice Craig.

The print on page 2 is of the old Brewery, now part of St. Louis' convent; the photograph on page 4 is of the Market Cross, Old Cross Square; that on the front cover was taken from the roof of the Council Offices in Hill Street; the Zulu warriors on the back cover are from the Lloyd memorial (killed at Isandula, 1879) in St. Patrick's Parish Church.



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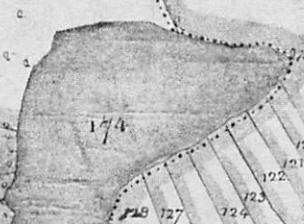
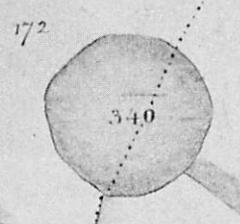
It is not suggested that all the buildings listed must be retained in the redevelopment of the area. Individual buildings, groups, areas or trees marked A are considered essential; those marked B are important and should be retained wherever feasible. The rest are of sufficient importance to merit integration in a new scheme. Every building listed deserved photographic recording should its preservation prove impracticable.



Mullaghmo. naghan.  
167

Turkeenan.  
295

Pigeon House



# PREFACE

The County of Monaghan, territory of the Lords of Oriel, later of the MacMahons, is ancient in Irish history; the town of Monaghan, though of very respectable antiquity, is of more recent date. The records of the earliest monastery on the site melt into the shadows of history. The town as it exists to-day owes its existence to military considerations - for here were the fortified crannogs of the MacMahons (one of which is still to be seen in the Convent Lake); here the castle to which Owen O'Neill's grandson made his escape in 1492; here an English garrison was placed in 1602 under the command of Edward Blayney; here the 'little fort' and the settlement of which Sir John Davies wrote in 1606: "We came to the town of Monaghan, which doth not deserve the name of a good village, consisting of divers scattered cabins, or cottages, ... in the midst of the village there is a foundation of a new castle, which being raised ten or twelve feet from the ground, and so left and neglected for the space of almost two years, is now ready to fall into ruins again." A map of the town in about 1602, drawn by Richard Bartlett (decapitated in Donegall seven years later) turned up in London in 1956, and has been published by the Irish Manuscripts Commission. It shows, within a star-shaped fort, fourteen thatched houses; outside it, thirteen more, and the ruins of the Franciscan abbey of 1462, cast down by the English in 1540. This was the nucleus of the thriving town of to-day. But apart from the leafy crannog in the Convent Lake, the town can now show no relics either of its monastic history, or of the years of blood and the sword that followed. It is said that many of the older houses in the centre of the town were built of stone taken from the town walls. Rushe records that the drapery house in Market Street, facing down Dawson Street, was built by the 'extensive merchant' Frank Adams from the stones which had formerly formed the dun of Dunsinair. Monaghan bears to-day the character of a market town laid out in the eighteenth century; a town of stout and seemly stone houses with characteristic detailing; a town which prospered and expanded during the first half of the nineteenth century - the years of linen, tillage and corn. It is a town which bears the marks of the Famine: in 1841 the population was 4190; in 1891 it had fallen to 2938; in 1966 after a slow fall, a gradual rise, and a boundary extension, it stood at 5019.

The layout of Monaghan is curious. In his Statistical Survey of 1801, Sir Charles Coote remarked - "the town is remarkably neat, but is rather whimsically built, branching triangularly from the centre." Indeed its unconventional structure is refreshing after the boring gridirons of so many of the planters' towns in the North. The Diamond, the triangular Church Square, and the triangle of Market Street are interlocked in an attractive chain-link relationship. And there is a cross-link between the two lakes - Peter's Lake, and the Convent Lake - connected by Dawson Street, said to have been built across a bog that connected the two. Rushe records the gloomy legend that the town is to be destroyed by an earthquake which is to join the two lakes, probably in a year when St. Patrick's day falls upon a Monday. (Nervous tourists and eager amateurs of catastrophe may care to know that this will next occur in 1975).

The characteristic building material of the town is the excellent local stone. This is a hard grey limestone, less gritty and obstinate than Mourne granite, but of equally good colour and wearing quality. The earlier buildings are mostly of stone from the 'very fine quarry' near Milltown bridge; the later ones, including the cathedral, from the quarry (now water-logged) near Old Cross Square, just beyond the former gasworks. As Wilkinson remarked in 1845, "The limestone" (near Monaghan and Clones) "is principally of a dark colour, close grained, earthy and hard, but flat-bedded. It generally occurs in quarries which are liable to be flooded, and therefore more difficult and expensive to be worked." It is a great shame that so many of the stone buildings which give the town its individuality and character should have been encased in meretricious plaster or cement rendering, roughcast, or stucco. This is especially so of those buildings - very numerous - which are of skilfully dressed stone; but it is true also of the many lesser buildings of random rubble. If stone walls admit damp, as sometimes they may, the matter can be cured by craftsmanlike re-pointing; wholesale rendering is a lazy and unsatisfactory cure, which has done great injury to the amenity of the town as a whole. It is greatly to be hoped that this process may be reversed, and that in the future plaster may be stripped away, and excellent stonemason's work laid bare once again - as was done by Messrs. J. J. McCaldin, at 1 and 2 Church Square, in the early 1950's.

One of the most endearing features of the town's architecture is the prevalence of softly rounded corners; these are much less usual than might be thought, and much less appreciated than they should be. Every opportunity should be taken of restoring those which have

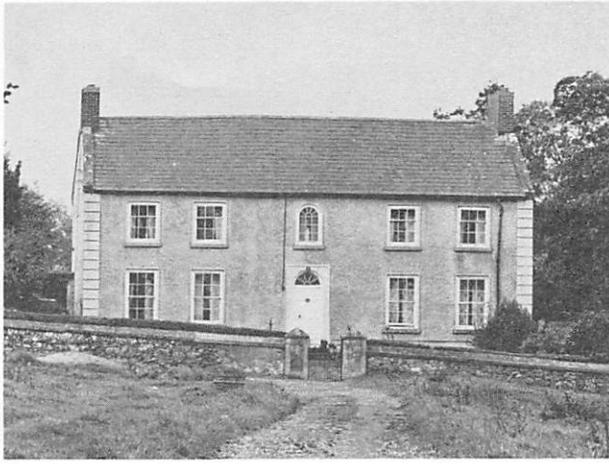


been spoiled, and reviving the old tradition on the future redevelopment of corner sites. At the same time, an attempt might be made to raise the standards of design of shop-fronts and fascia boards. There is a surprising absence of good traditional fronts; most of the modern ones are of poor quality or of inappropriate materials. Suitable lettering can make a vast difference to the appearance of a shopping street. Very recently, there has been (as in so many Irish towns) a rash of projecting neon signs. One can spoil the visual cohesion of a street, several may ruin it - and at the same time, defeat their own purpose, for when they jostle against each other in competition none stands out. Electricity and telephone poles and wires are unduly obtrusive in several parts of the town; some of the poles have enough miscellaneous antennae and ironmongery to track a moon rocket. It is understandable, though regrettable, that wires must remain above-ground in many villages; but Monaghan is a county town, and it might be thought that civic pride would demand that, at least in the central area, wires and cables should be laid underground. If poles are obtrusive, however, growing timber is not: the town has a sadly bare and leafless appearance, and would benefit greatly from a programme of planting, especially if semi-mature trees could be transplanted. They will be particularly need in the future to relieve the tarmac grimness of car-parks.

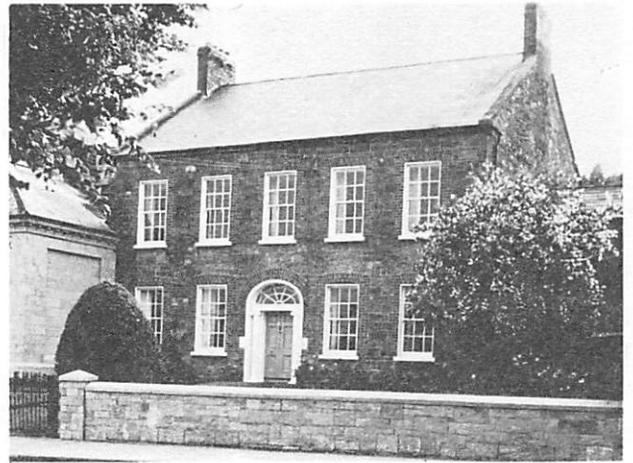
Ecclesiastically, Monaghan is an important town. St. Macartan's seminary is a late classical building of distinction; St. Macartan's cathedral, by J. J. McCarthy, is one of his most distinguished works, and a fine example of the rich yet restrained style of the later nineteenth century - a style as yet too little appreciated. The St. Louis Convent has grown over the years until it covers a very large area, but the buildings of several periods have been sensitively designed to harmonise with each other. St. Patrick's parish church is notable for the important collection of memorial sculptures, chiefly by Thomas Kirk and Joseph Robinson Kirk, which it contains.

The town has been a consistent prizewinner in its class in the Tidy Towns Competition. A development plan for the town was prepared in 1967 by the County Council Planning Section, and adopted by resolution of the Urban Council on 9th February 1968. The policies and proposals contained in this plan are eminently constructive, and, unlike too many such plans, pay real attention to considerations of amenity. In many respects, the List which follows may be treated as a footnote to the plan; and many of the general comments on the development and appearance of Monaghan made here repeat points already made by its authors. It is worth noting particularly the sensible proposals for dealing with the ever-growing problems of traffic and parking; the encouragement given to schemes for modernising older buildings; the restriction on tall buildings; the control of advertising; the provision of encouragement and advice for the tidying or painting of groups of buildings; the restoration of the Market House and old Market Cross; the landscaping of a pedestrian area in front of the Courthouse; the extension of Peter's Lake Park; placing underground of electricity and telephone wires; and the preservation of trees. The compilers of this List find themselves in full support of the proposals for the future of the town contained in the Development Plan, and especially support the declaration on page 2 - "It is also the policy of the council to preserve the character of the town and its townscape when new dwellings are proposed on a street frontage."





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b



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- a Will Ville (No. 87)
- b Provincial Bank of Ireland, North Road (No. 43)
- c St. Macartan's Seminary (No. 62)
- d Former Barracks, Belgian Square (No. 57)
- e Savings Bank (No. 38)
- f Former Railway Station (No. 49)
- g Doorway, 12 North Road (No. 46)
- h Doorway, 15 North Road (No. 47)

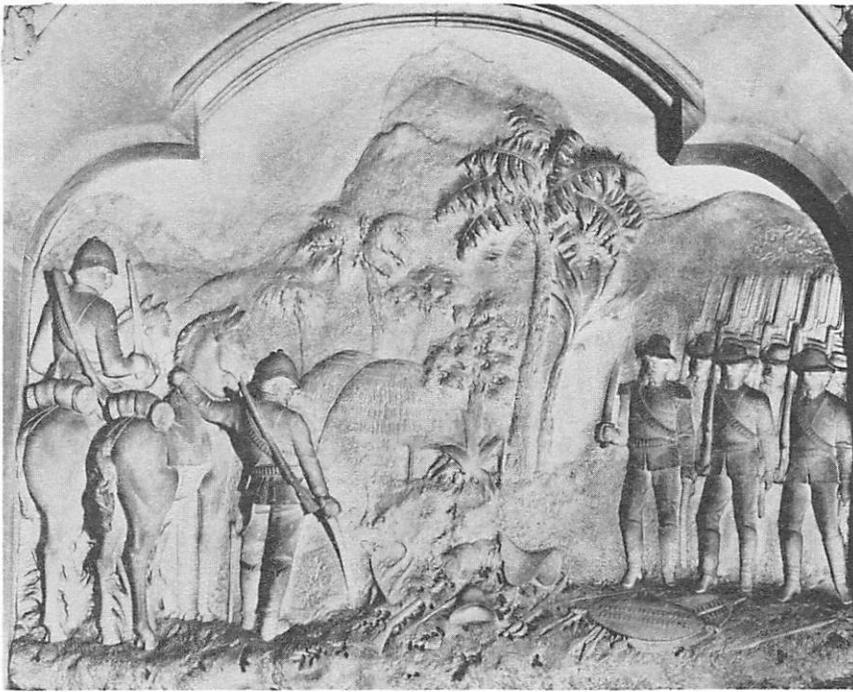


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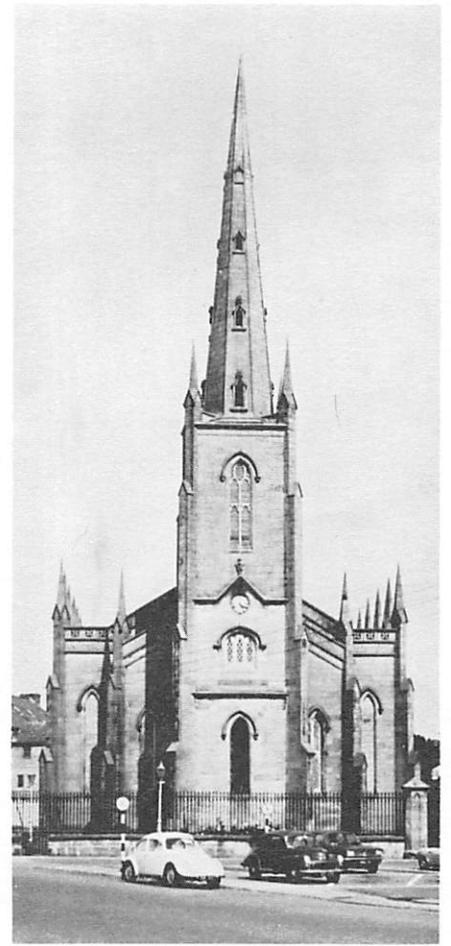
No.	Building	Class	Date, Type, Architect, etc.	References
	THE DIAMOND		<p>As a square, not of great distinction; as an open space providing a focus and centre for the town, important. In 1801, Coote says: 'a handsome square, which has the court house in the principal front, with a new town clock, commands one entrance, and here the linen market is held on Mondays'. The old courthouse disappeared early in the century; the hiring cross was removed in the 1870's, to make way for the Rossmore memorial in the centre of the square, to its present site in Old Cross Square. If an adequate car-park could be built near-by, and the feeling of spaciousness restored by banning parking and planting mature trees, the Diamond would be greatly improved.</p> <p>In 1835, John O'Donovan noted: 'The large house in the Diamond opposite Glasslough Street is said to occupy the site of a Castle ... in the rear of this, some old walls are to be seen, said to be the remains of an old Abbey'.</p>	O'Donovan, Letters.
1	ROSSMORE MEMORIAL The Diamond	A	<p>c.1875; architect unknown. A formidable High Victorian fountain of red sandstone, now deeply weathered, in the very centre of the square on an octagonal plinth of two granite steps. The eight letters R-O-S-S-M-O-R-E are strung conveniently around the octagon above. There is an inscription, "In memory of the Rt. Honble Henry Robert 4th Baron Rossmore who died at Windsor 28th day of March 1874 in his 23rd year"; another inscription, now wholly illegible; and a scattering of escutcheons and badges. The central pink marble column supports a drinking bowl: around this, eight grey marble columns with floral sandstone capitals, support the pinnacled superstructure on pointed arches; the finial is borne on eight more little columns, this time of granite; the weathercock, the original railings, and the drinking trough, have now disappeared. It would be nice if the fountain could be restored.</p> <p>The appearance of this striking, if at present rather unfashionable, monument is greatly disimproved by the fact that immediately beside it stands an enormous silver-painted steel pole carrying no less than 41 wires, and a lamp; and by three traffic direction signs.</p>	
2	<u>South Side:</u> THE DIAMOND Nos. 1 & 2		<p>The transition from the Diamond to Church Square is ruined by the new Ulster Bank (completed 1969), a building wholly unsuitable and insensitive in scale, proportions, materials and siting. Expensive materials - granite and marble - have been used, but the design carries no conviction; here, if ever, the local tradition of curved corners should have been respected.</p>	
3	Nos. 3, 4, 5		<p>Tall three-storey rendered buildings, with quoins and glazing-bars complete upstairs, in the late classical tradition; the shopfronts rather obtrusive, but with careful repainting and well-selected lettering these could look fine.</p>	
4	Nos. 6, & 7		<p>Decent three-storeyed stucco terrace houses, with shops, and without their glazing-bars; could be painted to look handsome.</p>	
5	No. 9	B	<p>A rather good three-storey house, with heavily rusticated stucco, glazing-bars complete; well-painted; but the black vitrolite shopfront is unfortunate. Sir William Whittla, author of one of the first Materia Medica, was born in this house.</p>	
6	<u>East Side:</u> THE DIAMOND		<p>The gable-wall of the end house in Dublin Street closes this side of the square: a plain rendered wall, with a half-lunette and four windows with astragal glazing, it could make a contribution if skilfully painted.</p>	

No.	Building	Class	Date, Type, Architect, etc.	References
7	<p>North Side:  <b>THE DIAMOND</b>  Oriental Hotel</p>		<p>A three-storey stucco building, most of its glazing-bars gone, with over-large and inappropriate orange plastic lettering.</p>	
8	<p>No. 16</p>	B	<p>Three-storeyed buildings with curved corner, stuccoed, but almost certainly 18th century stonework underneath the plaster. A most distressingly inappropriate flat advertising hoarding has, very recently, been affixed to the curve of the corner.</p>	
9	<p>No. 17  (Alma House)</p>	A	<p>Three-storeyed granite, with a very fine curved corner, and most glazing-bars intact: the stonework rather over-pointed recently; some unsuitable white plastic lettering on glossy black, modern fascias and shopfronts; but this could be made delightful.</p>	
10	<p>Nos. 18, 19, 20</p>		<p>The hotel and Wellworth's (built as a Town Hall, no longer so used) were a late 19th century venture by the fifth Lord Rossmore: carried out in red brick, they are without charm but lend a certain dignity to the square.</p>	
11	<p>West Side:  <b>THE DIAMOND</b>  No. 23  (Munster &amp; Leinster  Bank)</p>	B	<p>A tall four-storey three-bay building, probably of the late 18th century but considerably altered. It is of stucco, with a pedimented architrave on console brackets in the central bay at first-floor level. There are quoins on the north side only. Three hooded attic windows project from the roof. The glazing-bars are complete in the upper floors.</p>	
	<p><u>Church Square</u></p>	A	<p>Church Square is a triangular space, full of parked cars, dominated by the parish church and the court-house, both buildings of character and merit. The railed grass around the church seems very bare; there used to be trees here.</p>	
12	<p><b>ST. PATRICK'S(C. of I.)  PARISH CHURCH</b></p>	A	<p>1836; architect unknown. A very pleasing plain Regency-Gothic church in the Episcopalian tradition of the period, with tall pointed windows, needle-sharp pinnacles between them, and a very nicely proportioned needle spire: the clock added in 1902 to commemorate the coronation of Edward VII. In the tower which carries the spire, there is a nice curly stone staircase; and built into the wall the crudely lettered grave-slab of Oliver Ancketell of Ancketell's Grove, who died in 1666.</p> <p>Samuel Lewis writes: "The church, a very handsome structure, in the later English style of architecture, with a tower and spire, was erected on the site of the former edifice in 1836, at an expense of £5330, of which £1100 was a legacy, with interest, bequeathed by the late Dowager Lady Rossmore; £1000 a bequest of Mrs. Jackson; £2000 a loan from the late Board of First Fruits, the remainder being raised by subscription."</p> <p>Shirley, writing in 1879, did not think so much of the church: "The present church of Monaghan is a large building of debased Gothic with a tolerable spire, a small chancel, and no centre aisle." He did not think much of its predecessor either: a church was "certainly built before the Rebellion of 1641, the same probably as the ugly structure with an octagonal tower which stood a little to the south-east of the present church erected in 1836." Both buildings appear on the first Ordnance Survey Map of 1835.</p> <p>The interior of the church is broad and spacious; there is a gallery on three sides, and both it and the roof are</p>	<p>Rushe  Shirley p. 310  Lewis II p. 384  O. S. 1835</p>

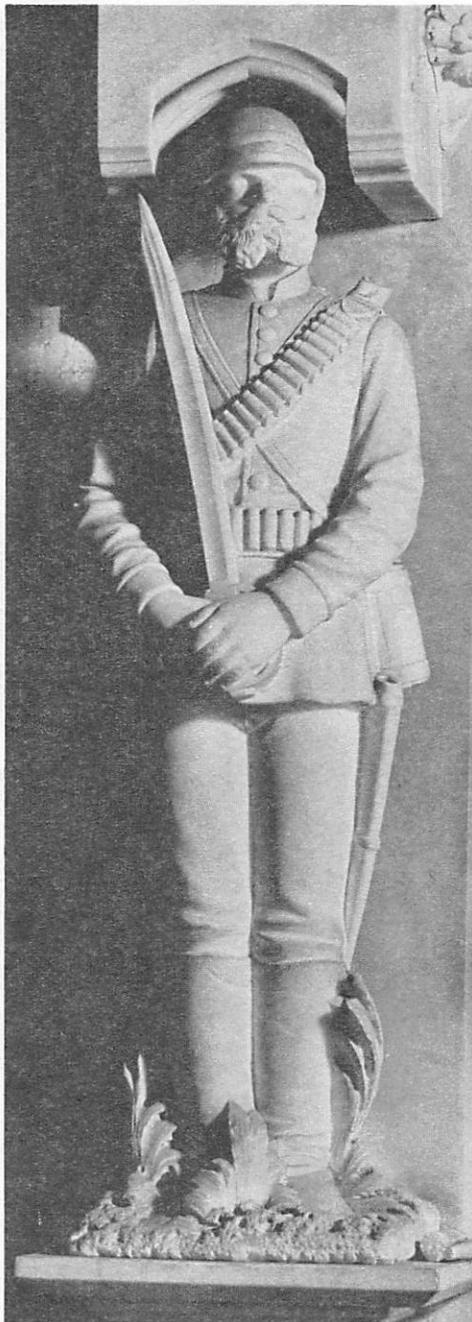
No.	Building	Class	Date, Type, Architect, etc.	References
12	ST. PATRICK'S (C. of I.) PARISH CHURCH (continued)	A	<p>borne on octuple columns (wood or cast-iron?) encased in composition. The ceiling is very pleasantly vaulted. The original pewing has survived only at the front of the church; at either side of the east wall, flanking the chancel but facing west, are delicate boxes for the bishop and the baron - the one surmounted by a mitre, the other by a coronet - each with four slim columns to support the fretted and pinnacled summit, and an ogee screen behind, executed in dark varnished wood; to either side, elegant curved-wall box-pews presumably for the episcopal and baronial families and retainers; all these furnished with faded and tattered cushions faced in red cloth; the baron's family pew with a table at which one could certainly play patience throughout an over-long sermon.</p> <p>Unhappily, late Victorian pine pews have been substituted through the rest of the church for the original boxes; and a totally inappropriate pulpit and sedilia, of white marble with polychrome marble ornaments, were inserted in front of the chancel in 1865, to designs by James E. Rogers, executed by C. W. Harrison. The altar-rails are similar, and equally inappropriate.</p> <p>In the gallery, there is a fine organ case (organ by Telford, about 1865); topped by a variant on the Rossmore arms, with dragoon and horse for supporters, in dark carved wood.</p> <p>But the principal interest of the church resides in the notable collection of memorial tablets, especially those by the Kirks - the father Thomas, (1781-1845), son of a Scots settler, born in Cork; and the son, Joseph Robinson Kirk (1821-1891); and those by the Lewis family of Cheltenham.</p> <p>Reading from the chancel, the principal memorials are as follows:-</p> <p><u>Chancel:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Charles Westenra, missing in action, India, 1824; by T. Kirk, 1842. A most uncommon composition, cavalrman's funeral, caparisoned horse, boots reversed; "Thy arm which often tamed/the savage steed of Hindoostan/ lies all unnerved and motionless."</li> <li>2. Hester Lewis, d. 1840; by Lewis of Cheltenham; an urn wreathed in seaweed.</li> <li>3. Mary Anne Rossmore, d. 1807; by T. Kirk, 1842. A dramatised death-bed scene, exhibited at the Royal Hibernian Academy in 1843 under the title "the Parting Glance", with Grecian detail in the manner of Flaxman, and a grieving hound.</li> <li>4. Augusta Rossmore, d. 1840; by Lewis of Cheltenham. A most uncommon and individual plaque portraying the bereaved husband, in his dressing-gown, seated on a spoon-back chair, bewailing the emptiness of the second chair at his side.</li> </ol> <p><u>North side:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Anna Westenra, d. 1831; by C. Lewis, of Cheltenham; an urn extravagantly festooned with flowers.</li> <li>6. Richard Westenra, d. 1838; by G. Lewis, of Cheltenham; a shrouded urn.</li> <li>7. Richard Jackson, d. 1834; T. Kirk fecit; a shrouded cenotaph, over which leans a charming but botanically</li> </ol>	<p>Apollo, October 1966</p> <p>Apollo, illn., p. 312</p>



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**St. Patrick's parish church, 1836 (No. 12)**

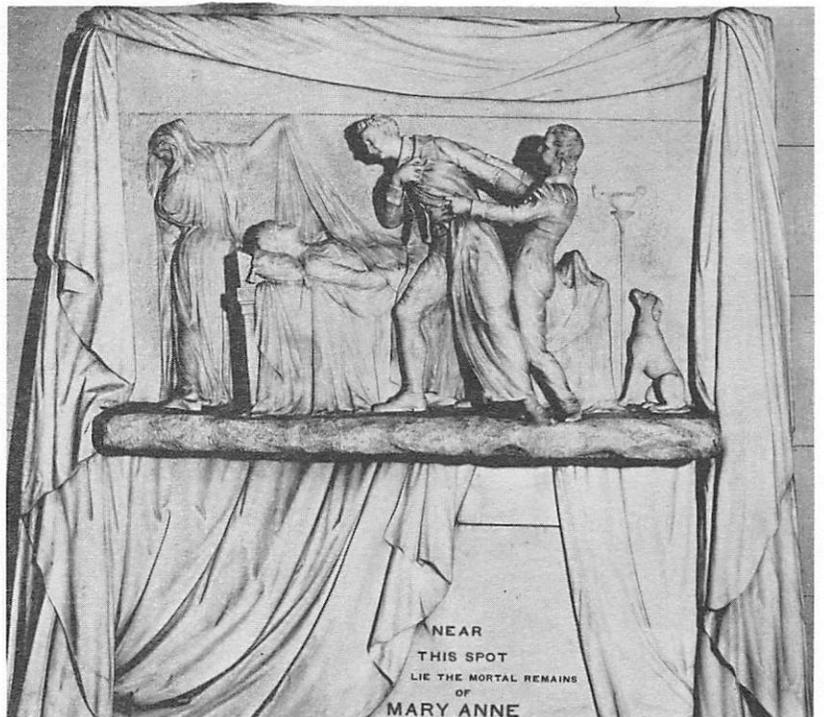
*a* *Lloyd memorial, 1879, perhaps by J.R. Kirk*

*b* *Exterior*

*c* *Supporter, Lloyd memorial*

*d* *Mary Anne Rossmore memorial, 1842, by Thomas Kirk; "The Parting Glance"*

d



NEAR  
THIS SPOT  
LIE THE MORTAL REMAINS  
OF  
MARY ANNE

No.	Building	Class	Date, Type, Architect, etc.	References
12	ST. PATRICK'S (C. of I.) PARISH CHURCH (continued)	A	<p>suspect tree, apparently a cross between a weeping willow and a weeping palm.</p> <p>8. Isabella Wales, d. 1837; unsigned; plain but well-proportioned.</p> <p><u>South side:</u> 9. Francis Burton Cole, d. 1833; T. Kirk R.H. A. fecit; a very good marble recording angel.</p> <p><u>Gallery South side:</u> 10. Captain J. O. Lucas, killed at Ferozeshah, 1845; by Joseph Robinson Kirk. A splendid military trophy with drum, cannon, spears and bayonets, plus two small but endearing Indian elephants.</p> <p>11. Samuel McDowell, M. D., d. 1845; scroll by Lewis of Cheltenham.</p> <p><u>Gallery North side:</u> 12. Charles Lucas, d. 1796; plain marble cenotaph.</p> <p>13. H. C. J. Lloyd, killed 1879 at Isandula; signed by Purdy &amp; Millard of Belfast (but the figure carvings are outstandingly good, and may well be unsigned work by J. R. Kirk). The large marble slab in the centre is carved with the scene of two whiskered English officers, with finely modelled horses, saluting the grave of their dead comrade; in the centre a Kraal of beehive huts; to the right, an approaching column of hairy Boer irregulars. The frame incorporates supporters, on the left a fuzzy-bearded soldier in the Kipling tradition; on the right, a pair of Cetewayo's Zulu warriors, one standing and one kneeling, with assegais, shields, and rifle. A medal is incorporated in a little reliquary at the foot of the central relief.</p>	
13	CHURCH SQUARE No. 14 (former rectory)		A very congruous three-storey house, three-bays wide, five deep, of bi-coloured brick laid in diaper pattern, with regency glazing-bars; the ground floor a shop, rather injudiciously 'modernised' to make a boutique.	O. S. 1835
14	CHURCH SQUARE No. 1	B	Part of a long fine terrace, apparently originally of five stone three-storey houses; all but No. 1 have, alas, been plastered. Despite the modern shopfronts, this could be magnificent if the stonework were laid bare along its full length.	
15	COURTHOUSE	A	<p>1829; cost £10,000; built with stone from the mountain quarry at Eshnaglogh. Attributed by the Shell Guide, almost certainly wrongly, to John Bowden, who died some years earlier. Possibly by Joseph Welland; according to the Board of Works papers, "Mr. Willand's plan to the Grand Jury not as suitable as the one submitted by Mr. Morrison for a courthouse in the county of Kerry."</p> <p>"A handsome modern building of hewn stone, containing spacious court-rooms and all requisite offices, and in every respect well suited to its purpose" (1837)</p> <p>A handsome, if rather heavy, courthouse built of unusually large blocks of well-dressed yellowish stone. The pediment is carried on half-fluted Doric columns in antis, in the pediment a variant on the Hanoverian coat-of-arms. The lion and unicorn (the latter hornless) are carved with uncommon crispness and vigour. Of the three original entrance doors, two have been converted into windows. The ground-floor is blank and strongly</p>	Souvenir, S. I. D. Lewis II p. 383 Board of Works Records, 1827.

No.	Building	Class	Date, Type, Architect, etc.	References
15	COURTHOUSE (continued)	A	<p>rusticated. The windows above have lugged architraves. The building stands on a solid plinth, with a flight of ten steps to the portico; lavatories have been inserted beneath it to either side; these are new, added from the original stone about 1950, when the railings were removed.</p> <p>The main block is flanked by two forceful demi-hexagonal coach-archways with strong keystones. The doors and gates are painted a somewhat over-vivid red.</p> <p>The interior, apart from the courtroom, is disappointing. There are fluted Doric half-columns in the hall. The courtroom contains galleries carried on cantilevered iron members with anthemias; an elaborate pattern of deal box-pews at various levels; and a carved canopy, with laurel leaves, and a disagreeable pendant fluorescent lighting strip, above the Judge's chair.</p>	
16	DAWSON MEMORIAL Church Square	A	<p>1857; W. J. Barre of Newry. Colonel Dawson was killed at Inkerman in 1854, and the stele of this granite obelisk is inscribed with 'Alma' and 'Inkerman'. There is a plinth of five steps; there are stylised anthemias at the corners of the base. "In 1857, architects were invited to send in designs for a testimonial to a member of the Dawson family killed in the Crimea. Mr. Barre competed, and was again successful. His design was selected, and the memorial was erected in Monaghan under his superintendence". An uncharacteristic structure for the exuberant Barre, this design clearly owes much to the classical leanings of his master, Thomas Duff (compare the Ross obelisk by Duff at Rostrevor, Co. Down). Barre won the competition for the memorial in 1857; it looks very much as if he was not prepared to waste his earlier design - an obelisk on a pedestal - which won first prize in the competition for a memorial to Lord Londonderry on Scrabo Hill in 1856, but was set aside (to Barre's furious indignation) in favour of the Scottish baronial design submitted by Charles Lanyon, though actually by his young protege, W. H. Lynn.</p> <p>Until about 1935, there was a railing around the monument, within which stood two cannon captured during the Crimean War. The obelisk is still flanked, cheek by jowl, by an incongruous bright-yellow-painted wooden hut, serving as a café, and so inscribed, erected in 1922.</p>	Dunlop, Life of Barre p.20 Brett, Buildings of Belfast pp. 31, 32
17	HIBERNIAN BANK Church Square  <u>Market Street and the Market Place</u>	A	<p>1875; O'Neill and Byrne, architects. A very fine ornate stone two-storey bank on an extensive angular site, the stonework recently cleaned. Both the use of the site, and the detailing, are excellent. The windows above are segmental-headed, those below round-headed; there are carved details in the 'romanesque' taste; the corner is admirably turned by a quadrant with well-grouped windows above and a fine portal below.</p> <p>From Church Square, market street climbs up a slight incline and opens into a broad sloping triangular space surrounding the Market House. The latter is splendid, one of the most delicate and elegant 18th century buildings in the north; there is a good terrace of houses on the uphill side of the square, but for the rest Market Street is rather a jumble of stucco and shopfronts. The scale, however, is coherent, and it is important that on any rebuilding the rooflines, the window levels, and the pattern of pitched and slated roofs, should be retained, to serve as a foil to the market-house. Here again, a dignified space loses its character through too much car parking.</p>	I. B. XVII, pp. 240-1

No.	Building	Class	Date, Type, Architect, etc.	References
18	THE MARKET HOUSE	A	<p>There is an incomparably horrible electricity pole at the foot of Market Street.</p> <p>1792; by Colonel Samuel Hayes of Avondale, Co. Wicklow, a talented amateur architect. An extremely elegant classical granite market-house of modest size, with all its arches still unblocked. At each end, a pediment surmounts a tall rusticated central arch flanked by niches; each side is of five bays, the three central ones broken forward, with open arches, surmounted by a subsidiary pediment. In the outer bays are blank windows with plain architraves. Above the arches are inset panels with carved festoons; above the windows, and above the niches in the end walls, medallions. In the pediment at the east end is an oval medallion, framed in laurel, inscribed "Dedicated to the Convenience of the inhabitants of Monaghan by the Rt. Hon. Lieut. Gen. Robert Cunninghame 1792 S. H. of Avondale Del." In the pediment at the west end is the date 1792, and the very finely carved Conygham coat of arms, framed in delicate sprays of oak-leaves and oak-apples. Originally the market-house stood on a plinth of low steps, now removed.</p> <p>The grilles blocking the openings are not original; they are rather clumsy and obtrusive, as is the seedsman's signboard on the south facade.</p>	Lewis II p. 383 Coote p. 169
19	MARKET STREET Nos. 18, 22, & 23-26  <u>Hill Street</u>	B	<p>Tall stucco three-storey houses, all of some quality; nos. 23-26 have a coach-arch, glazing bars complete, and an attractive pattern of keystones.</p> <p>This is the best street in the town, rising up the modest hill overlooking the central pattern of squares. Almost every building in it is of merit; almost every building is of well-dressed stone, though there is a deplorable tendency to encase the stonework in plaster, and to 'modernise' the windows and doors. The recent 'modernisation' of No. 10 is particularly sad: not that its new appearance is, in itself, unpleasant: it would be quite in place in a modern housing estate, but is quite out of place here.</p>	O. S. 1835
20	HILL STREET Nos. 1 & 2 (Council Offices)	B	A fine pair of three-storey and basement three-bay stone houses of about 1860, with dressed stone architraves and a parapet - below the latter, a sudden and disconcerting layer of brickwork.	
21	HILL STREET No. 3		A four-storeyed rendered Georgian house, with glazing-bars complete, which could look fine with redecoration.	
22	HILL STREET No. 4	B	A good long low two-storey house of about 1820, with glazing-bars complete, roughcast and well painted.	
23	HILL STREET No. 5	A	A fine two-storey stone house in the manner of about 1800, with thinner windows flanking a central window upstairs and square doorcase downstairs. The door is at the head of a fan-shaped flight of six stone steps; there are good railings. The house was probably originally thatched. Well painted and cared for.	
24	AVIEMORE Hill Street, No. 6	A	c. 1760. Looking straight down Mill Street to the centre of the town, a splendid site and a splendid (sham) facade: the original site proposed for the cathedral: once a school for young ladies. To a substantial late-18th century house there has been added, about 1840, a stucco facade, the ground floor rusticated, with heavy quoins, arabesques at the parapet, and architraves. The top six feet or so of this front stands up above the	

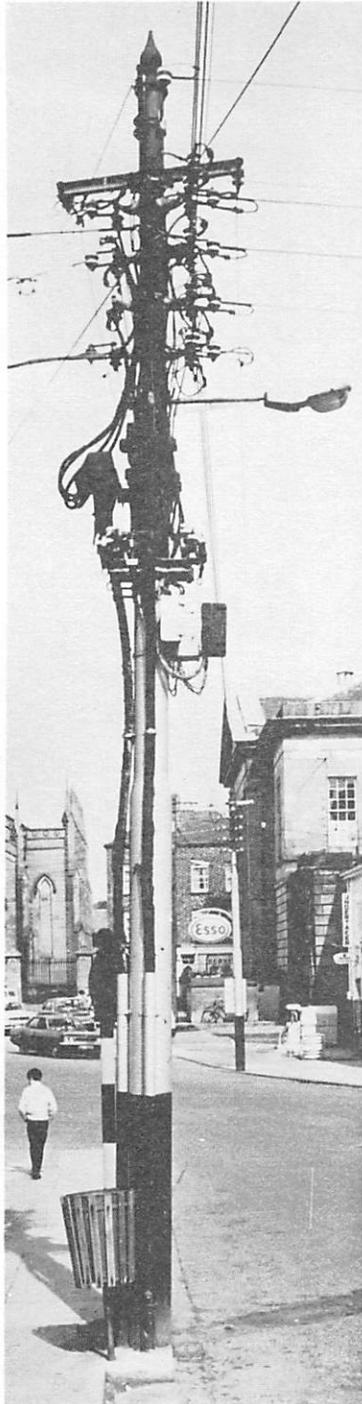
- a and b *Parking in the Diamond: before 1914, a cloud no bigger than a man's hand; and today*
- c *The Courthouse (No. 15); a fine building marred by wires, pole, and petrol sign*
- d *Electricity pole, Church Square*



a



b



d



c

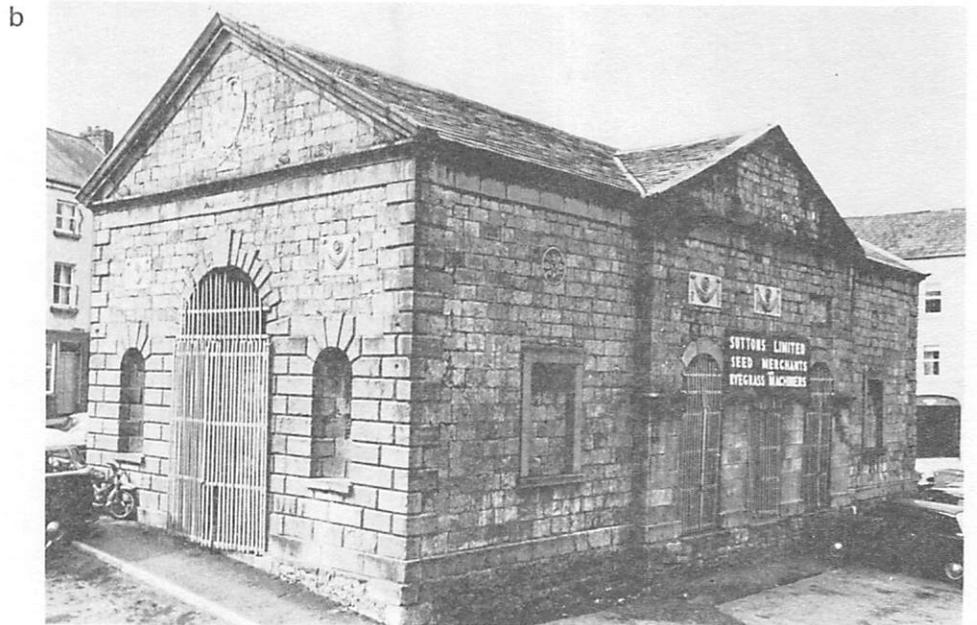
No.	Building	Class	Date, Type, Architect, etc.	References
24	AVIEMORE Hill Street, No. 6 (Continued)	A	<p>roofline: for some odd reason, the parapet was never joined to the tall slated chimney a few feet away: had this been done, the imposture (charming as it is) would have been completely masked from ground level.</p> <p>The front door is at the head of a flight of nine stone steps; the garden is surrounded by fine heavy cast-iron railings topped by fleurs-de-lys, with honeysuckle pattern gate-posts. At the rear of the house, the remains of an 18th century pigeon house.</p> <p>Altogether, a most imposing front just where the layout of the town demands it.</p>	
25	HILL STREET No. 7	B	A late classical two-storey and basement house, roughcast, to which has been added a little battlemented porch with a Gothick archway, approached up a flight of 13 steps, with good iron railings.	
26	HILL STREET Nos. 8 & 9		A pair of good mid-Victorian stucco two-storey houses, roughcast, with stout quoins and architraves, well painted.	
27	HILL STREET No. 10		The lower side of Hill Street droops down the hill below street level; this two-storey house is set at right angles in a little garden. Originally Georgian, it now retains of its original character only its wide fanlight and three-light doorcase.	
28	HILL STREET Nos. 12,13,14,15,16,17	A	An excellent mixed group of late 18th century houses, for the most part roughcast and attractively colour-washed, some of two storeys, the corner house of three.	
29	HILL STREET Nos. 18, 19, 20	A	Handsome two-storey stone houses in the late Georgian manner; wide sash-boxes and most glazing bars intact; No. 18 has a square doorcase, the others fanlights. No. 21 used to be similar until its unhappy 'modernisation'.	
30	HILL STREET No. 22  <u>Mill Street</u>	B	<p>A tiny two-storey dwelling with coach-arch, harled, with its original glazing.</p> <p>An important street, leading up from Church Square to Aviemore at the upper side of Hill Street. The numbering of the houses is quite uncommonly inconsistent and confusing here. At the Church Square end, both the corners are turned by curved houses; alas, in both cases the stone has been plastered over.</p>	
31	MILL STREET Nos. 1 & 2		A nice late-Georgian house, stuccoed, with quoins.	
32	MILL STREET Nos. 7, 8, 9, 10		Pleasant three-storey classical stuccoed, with most glazing-bars intact.	
33	MILL STREET Nos. 4 & 5	A	A very good two-storey stone building with coach archway; glazing-bars removed.	
34	MILL STREET No 6	B	A fine tall square three-storey building, stuccoed, with quoins and architraves added.	
35	MILL STREET Nos. 14, 15, 16	B	Good 18th-century three-storey houses, now rendered, but with character.	
36	MILL STREET Nos. 17,18,19,20	A	A very good group of three-storey 18th-century houses set on a steep slope, roughcast and mostly very well colour-washed, with glazing bars for the most part intact.	

No.	Building	Class	Date, Type, Architect, etc.	References
37	MILL STREET Nos. 21 & 23	B	<p>A fine three-storey building of squared stone, originally a stage-coach-inn, now the stage for the Dublin Express bus, of about 1830, rather spoiled by an ugly later square rendered porch, and an inset brickwork doorway. Former vocational school, and reported to have a ghost.</p> <p>HIGH STREET is a continuation of Hill Street; its upper side is occupied by the hospital, built in 1938 on the site of the old County Gaol of 1824.</p>	
38	SAVINGS BANK	B	<p>By William D. Butler of Dublin, 1855. A pretty little square house with an exterior porch at each end, great heavy rusticated quoins, and a little arcade of three round-headed windows in the centre of the facade.</p>	
39	ROWAN TREE HOUSE	B	<p>A pleasant modest late classical house, perhaps c.1810, set in a garden on the edge of the town: two-storey, of colour-washed rubble-stone, with a hipped roof. The central bay breaks forward, and a later bay-window replaces the original porch. The windows retain their glazing bars.</p> <p>NORTH ROAD leads from Church Square to the station, running between Peter's Lake and the higher ground of Hill Street.</p>	
40	LIBRARY and MOTOR TAXATION OFFICE	B	<p>1969, by S. G. MacCann. One of the town's very few contemporary public buildings, executed in glass and concrete. The exterior staircase, with cantilevered canopy, leading to the offices upstairs, is dramatic and imaginative. The front is, externally, of less interest; it is perhaps a pity that an asymmetrical pattern of glazing was adopted.</p>	
41	PETER'S LAKE	A	<p>The Council deserves the utmost credit for the way this attractive sheet of water has been redeemed. It is surrounded by rushes and trim grass; there is a pretty little bridge over the stream; there are swans, and a few young trees. However, a further effort would be rewarding, for the lake is surrounded on every side but one by the unromantic backs of buildings, by an unfortunate outcrop of corrugated iron, and by little piles of rubbish. Probably the most satisfactory solution would be the planting of substantial numbers of trees, some evergreen, in carefully placed clumps and screens.</p>	
42	ORANGE HALL	B	<p>1882; probably by William Batt, of Belfast. A simple red brick building with a round corner turret, the latter with six square-headed lancet windows in the lower storey, six pointed ones above; and a slightly comical lean-to porch on the opposite corner.</p>	
43	PROVINCIAL BANK OF IRELAND	B	<p>? c. 1900: an austere but successful design, the banking-hall in front having segmental-headed plate-glass windows inset in recesses; on the roof, a square lantern. Unfortunately the yellow stone of which it is built does not harmonise well with its neighbours. There used to be a holy well near here.</p>	
44	Next door, Manager's house.	A	<p>An exceptionally fine two-storey stone house of about 1830, with brick window-dressings, glazing bars complete, and an excellent doorcase with fanlight and Ionic columns: all very well cared-for: late classical at its best.</p>	O.S. 1835 as 'Bank'
45	NORTH ROAD Nos. 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22	B	<p>A fine group: numbers 21 and 22, pleasant two-storey stucco houses: Nos. 19 and 20 excellent three-storey houses of stone, with brick dressings painted grey,</p>	post 1835

No.	Building	Class	Date, Type, Architect, etc.	References
45	NORTH ROAD Nos. 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 (Continued)	B	fanlights, and a coach arch; Nos. 17 and 18 similar, but roughcast. This very coherent group is not helped by the proximity of the redbrick Credit Union building, with bright yellow lettering, at one end; and of the Gospel Hall at the other.	
46	NORTH ROAD No. 12	A	A good two-storey stone house, with brick dressings, glazing-bars complete, with Ionic portico and excellent curly metal fanlight.	post 1835
47	NORTH ROAD No. 15	B	Pleasant single-storey Regency cottage, roughcast and white-painted, with shallow bay windows and a fine semi-circular fanlight with Doric columns.	post 1835
48	MODEL SCHOOL North Road	B	Architect to Board of Public Works; 1860. A very pleasant high-gabled single-storey range of stone buildings, with pointed doorways and a central ogee window, inscribed "Monaghan National Model School". The boys' entrance is at one end of the original block, the girls' at the other: to this has been added a three-storey block, to-day used as social welfare offices.  The school is beautifully set on the slope of the green hillside, in a grassy garden full of good trees and shrubs.	Builder 1860 p. 141. Rushe, History, p. 252
49	Former RAILWAY STATION North Road	A	c. 1860; by Sir John MacNeill? Slightly more modest, but strongly reminiscent of Sir John MacNeill's magnificent G. N. R. station of 1863 at Portadown, without the portico. The central five wide bays project; there are windows in the outer arches, the central arches are open and give access to the station proper. On either side is a long low range of nine recessed arches, with inset round-headed windows; those in the west range retain their original geometrical glazing pattern. The central bays are surmounted by a shallow pediment. The whole range is executed, in muted polychromy, in a faded reddish-brown brick, with pale creamy brickwork used as relief.	
50	GARDA SIOCHANA STATION, The Plantation		c. 1850. A very large, square, tall gabled three-storey building with high stone chimneys, long-and-short dressed quoins, pointed windows with glazing-bars.	
51	GOODS SHED (entrance from corner of the Plantation and Glass- lough Street)  GLASSLOUGH STREET	B	An excellent, very large, stone shed, its roof now of aluminium. The ends are pedimented, with an oculus above three large, and two smaller, round-headed arches; the side walls each contain six very broad segmental arches with inset loading doors, now for the most part blocked up.	
52	<u>East Side:</u> Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6		Good three-storey stucco houses, with their original glazing bars. No. 6 (the Beehive pub) has pleasant ornamental architraves and keystones.	
53	Nos. 12 & 13	A	A fine three-storey house of dressed stone, with heavy long-and-short-work architraves to the windows, a wide segmental arch over the shop windows, and a segmental-headed three-light doorcase with a pleasing shallow lead fanlight.	
54	<u>West Side:</u> No. 77	B	A three-storey stone house with wide brick relieving arches - the windows (long ago) presumably three-light, now framed in brick infill; later stone porch with ornamental barge-boards. Nos. 75, 76 and 77 originally constituted a coaching inn, with dormitories upstairs.	



a



b

- a Lake View (No. 95)
- b Market House, 1792, by Samuel Hayes (No. 18)
- c Rossmore memorial (No. 1) with accompanying ironmongery
- d Dawson memorial, 1857, by W.J. Barre (No. 16)
- e Infirmary, 1768 (No. 82)

c



d



e



No.	Building	Class	Date, Type, Architect, etc.	References
55	West Side: GLASSLOUGH STREET Nos. 84-89		Tall three-storey terrace houses, stuccoed, Nos. 88 and 89 with uncommon wide glazing-barred windows on the ground floor.	
56	Nos. 92-98		Good three-storey stone houses, Nos. 96 and 97 with wide stone archways; below, varied shopfronts and a superfluity of projecting signs.	
57	Former BARRACKS, Belgian Square	A	Late 18th or very early 19th century: occupied by Belgian refugees early in the first world war: inscribed 'Belgian Square, 1914' over the central gateway. A fine nine-bay range of stone two-storey buildings, now dwellings, the block to the left labelled 'A', that to the right 'B', on the keystone over the doorcase. Mainly built of random rubble, but with finely dressed architraves, and keystone; the south-west block partly slate-hung. The central pointed archway gives access to the court behind it is asymmetrically flanked on the one hand by a mildly castellated turret, on the other by a narrow bay with blank niches - one pointed, one rectangular.	O. S. 1835 (Barracks)
58	BELGIUM PARK Nos. 11 & 12	B	1841. A pleasing pair of stone two-storey houses in the Jacobethan style; the central doorway blocked up.	
59	Former FEVER HOSPITAL Belgium Park	B	c. 1850. A good nine-bay two-storey range of random blackstone, roughly dressed around mullioned and transomed small-paned windows and pointed-segmental doorway; rows of small square ventilators between the storeys, and beneath the eaves.	
60	WESTENRA TERRACE & STANLEY TERRACE Armagh Road		Two rather puzzling three-storey redbrick terraces of the mid-19th century, seemly and dignified. Westenra Terrace has a coach-arch, fanlighted doors, and white-ish brick dressings to the openings; Stanley Terrace has square-headed doorways, glazing bars in the Georgian style, and the four central houses elegantly projected.  Which block came first? The stylistic symptoms are contradictory.	
61	ST. DAVNET'S MENTAL HOSPITAL Armagh Road	B	Main block started 1869, completed 1871. A very long range of two-storey stone buildings with brick dressings, facing south-east across the valley to the cathedral; with extensions, the facade now amounts to 60 bays, with a glazed loggia running along the greater part of the front.  The original kitchen and dining-hall are set in a dignified square block with tall round-headed windows below, segmental windows above, behind the centre of the range of wards.  The Catholic chapel is simple and pleasing, with brick arches to the windows left pleasantly bare inside. The former Resident Medical Superintendent's house near the gates has a nice little tower and campanile.	Rushe, Historical Sketches p.114
62	ST. MACARTAN'S SEMINARY Emyvale Road	A	The central block 1840; opened 1848; to plans by Thomas Duff of Newry. "A noble structure and well calculated to excite the warmest admiration" (Freeman's Journal, 1864). A very fine dressed-stone facade of 17 bays in the classical tradition: the three central bays, quoined and pedimented, of three storeys: on either side, a further quoined three-storey bay: then five bays of two storeys: finally, at each end, a three-storey pavilion with a wide three-light window. The sides and rear elevations are of dressed stone random laid, with reddish-gold brick dressings. There are later additions, and a	Rushe, History of Co. Monaghan p. 247 McKenna, pp 51- 57. Centenary, p. 66; pp. 59-62; pp. 65- 67.

No.	Building	Class	Date, Type, Architect, etc.	References
62	ST. MACARTAN'S SEMINARY (Continued)  <u>Dublin Street</u>	A	<p>tower, at the rear. The interior, though quite unaltered, is rather undistinguished; there is a fine fanlighted internal doorway: and the oratory has an uncommonly good set of stations of the Cross in enamel and mosaic by Richard J. King of Dublin.</p> <p>The Museum contains the Clogher Cross, a very fine reliquary of about 1400 from the thatched church at Slavin, Lough Erne.</p> <p>The new school buildings added in 1967 to designs by Sean MacCann are harmonious.</p> <p>A fine street, curving as it descends from the Diamond to Old Cross Square; narrow, and too much choked by traffic for its merit to be easily appreciated. There is not a single inappropriate or intrusive building in the street; the rooflines are varied but always pleasing; though there are few buildings of great architectural interest, this street would lend itself to a potentially most rewarding civic-trust-type scheme. Here, as elsewhere, there has been a recent incursion of obtrusive neon signs.</p>	
63	<u>South Side:</u> ROYAL BANK OF IRELAND	B	<p>A solid classical stucco 7-bay building, of two storeys, with an extra round-headed window in the pediment, horizontally channelled, with pseudo-pilasters, and a later granite doorcase. Well-kept and well-painted, though not everybody may care for its rather jaundiced yellow colour.</p>	
64	DUBLIN STREET No. 10	B	<p>A good three-storeyed stone house, stuccoed, with quoins, coach arch, and glazing-bars complete in the windows.</p>	
65	DUBLIN STREET No. 15 (Palace Bar)	B	<p>A very tall four-storeyed house, stuccoed and quoined; beside it a most curious three-storey building, only one bay wide, perched over a coach-arch. Charles Gavan Duffy, Young Irelander, editor of the Nation, and Premier of Victoria, Australia, was born in this house.</p>	
66	FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	B	<p>A most uncommon building: contrary to external appearances, the original church of 1827, or a large part of it, is embedded within the new church of 1901.</p> <p>The body of the old church now forms a parish hall below the new church. It is entered through the remarkable four-ribbed pointed archway of the old building, now encased inside a new basement porch. Access to the new church is by a flight of external steps, carried on an arch (reminiscent of a drawbridge) to the new pointed portico, with the date 1901; inside, the pediment of the old church constitutes the back wall of the porch, and there is the date 1827 inscribed in a quatrefoil - below it, a still earlier datestone - 1745: D.H. - the initials of Dacre Hamilton of Cornacassa.</p> <p>The interior of the new church is a broad, tall, barn-type space, with pitch-pine roof, and a gallery on two slim octagonal cast-iron columns. There are some pleasant art-nouveau light fittings.</p> <p>Externally, the new church is rather forbidding. The intended spire, which would have lightened its mass, was unhappily never built; instead there is a stumpy pyramidal roof with louvred openings. The rose window above the doorway is surmounted by carvings in low relief of rose, thistle, shamrock, and bunches of grapes. The ground-floor walls are held together by tie-bars.</p>	

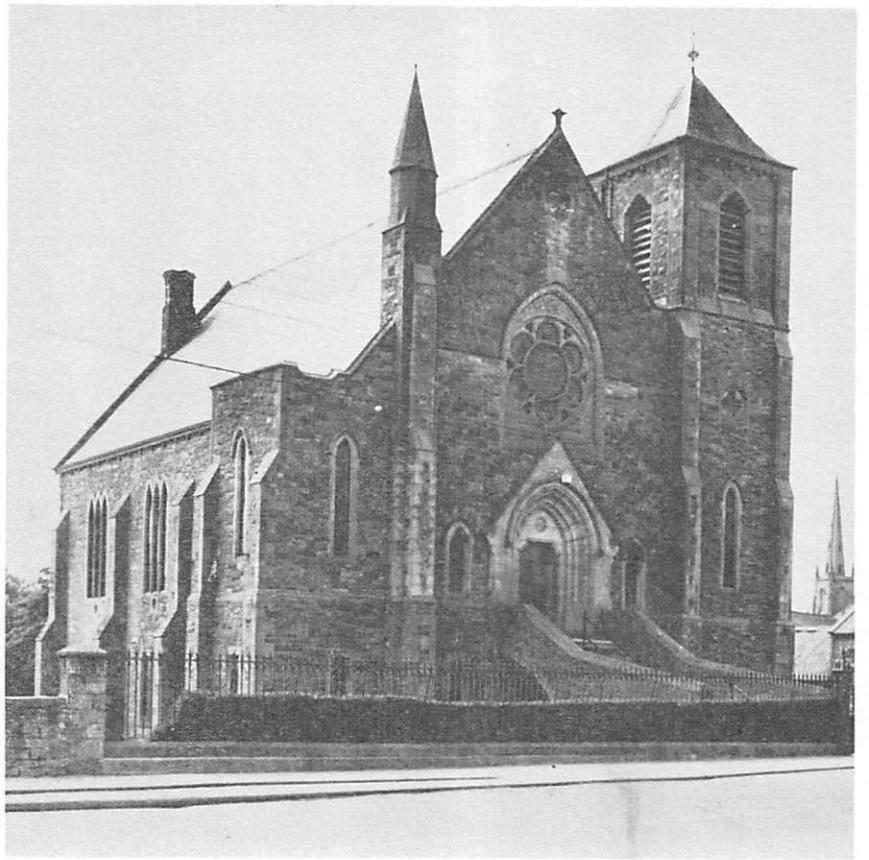
No.	Building	Class	Date, Type, Architect, etc.	References
67	DUBLIN STREET North Side: Nos. 31-34		Pleasing three-storey houses of mellow brick, with glazing-bars, and vestiges of granite quoins. No. 33 has been rendered. The brickwork of No. 34 ends oddly in mid-air, as though an intended continuation had been unexpectedly abandoned.	
68	No. 35		A stone three-storey house, rendered.	
69	Nos. 36 & 37		Three-storey brick houses with their original glazing-bars.	
70	No. 40	B	A good mid-18th century house, with three-light window and coach arch (the barber's shop nestling within it).	
71	No. 41		A three-storey house, the stonework painted grey.	
72	Nos. 42-45		A terrace of three-storey 18th century houses, variously rendered and stuccoed.	
73	Nos. 46-50	B	Good three-storey stone houses, with most of the glazing-bars gone.	
74	Nos. 54, 55, 56	A	An exceptionally fine group of three-storey houses of dressed stone, painted grey, with shallow triple windows under the eaves; triple windows in cambered arches at first-floor level; broad segmental arches, with finely-cut slanting voussoirs, in Nos. 54 and 56; and most glazing-bars complete.  No. 57 was similar, but has been rendered.	
75	Nos. 58 & 59	B	Three-storey houses, stuccoed or harled, with strong quoins.	
76	No. 63 (Tourist Office)		A large stuccoed house, three-storey with basement, evidently stone underneath, with a nice plain doorcase and geometrical lead fanlight, most glazing-bars complete, rather spoiled by an unhappy fascia board and mosaic tiling.	
77	No. 64		A large four-bay rendered house, three-storey with basement, with all glazing-bars complete, which would well repay careful repainting.	
	OLD CROSS SQUARE		A rather shapeless open space on a slanting slope, traversed by the road-way, bored under by the turgid remains of the canal, with too many cars and caravans, too few trees, and those few pollarded.	
78	THE MARKET or HIRING CROSS	A	A most curious object, perhaps of considerable antiquity. As McKenna remarks, "its early history is swallowed in oblivion". It may have been the Cross to which proclamations were affixed in 1714. It is not, in fact, cruciform, but comprises a curious polygonal block of stone, with concave sockets in three faces - the back broken off, on the top of a square chamfered granite stele with a vertical slot in the back, set on a plinth of six bluestone steps. Dr. Maurice Craig has suggested that in fact it may have been a 17th century sun-dial.	
79	CANAL BRIDGE	B	c. 1839. The Ulster canal was under construction when Lewis wrote in 1837. A fine, very long, stone bridge over the abandoned canal; with imagination, the latter could be converted from a linear rubbish tip into an amenity.	Lewis



a



b



c

a *Monaghan First Presbyterian Church (No. 66) as it appeared in 1827;*

b *As its architect intended to rebuild it;*

c *As it is today*

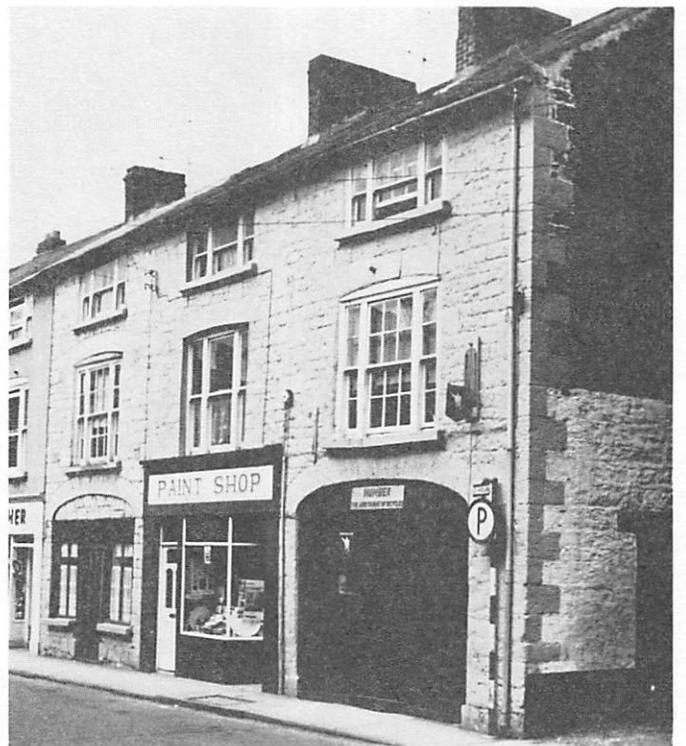
d

d *Aviemore, 6 Hill Street (No. 24)*

e *54, 55 and 56 Dublin Street (No. 74)*



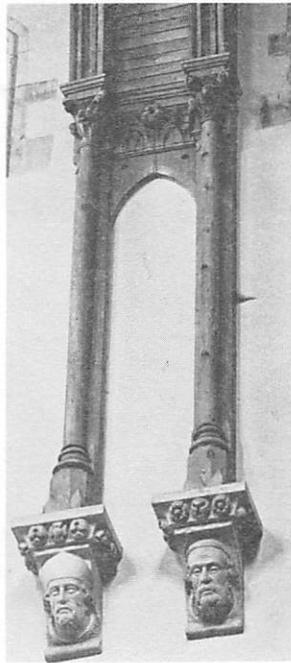
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No.	Building	Class	Date, Type, Architect, etc.	References
80	OLD CROSS SQUARE No. 15		A pleasant two-storey 18th century small house of random rubble, with brick relieving arches and glazing-bars.	
81	OLD CROSS SQUARE Nos. 18-24, 25-31		Mixed bunches of 18th century modest houses, very variously treated - some obtrusively modernised: nos. 27 and 31 have sunburst doors; No. 30 the least altered: as a group, they lend form and character to the square, notwithstanding the variety in their appearance.	
82	OLD INFIRMARY <u>off</u> Old Cross Square	A	<p>1768. A fine range of three-storey dressed-stone classical buildings, in use as part of St. Davnet's hospital until three years ago, but now unbelievably derelict and vandalised.</p> <p>Samuel Lewis wrote in 1837, just before the Famine, "the county infirmary, a good building, occupying an open and elevated site, is supported by a parliamentary grant, by the interest of a legacy of £4000 bequeathed by the late Francis Ellis, Esq., a rent-charge of £20 by the late J. Wright, Esq., and £100 per annum from Bishop Sterne's Charity; also by Grand Jury presentments and subscriptions. During the year ending January 6th, 1835, it afforded relief to 286 in-patients and medicine and attendance to 900 out-patients."</p> <p>The original building appears to have been only three bays wide - the central, pedimented, bay projecting: 'County Monaghan Infirmary' incised in the stone lintel over the first-floor window, the date '1768' incised in the lintel of the round-headed doorway. An additional three-storey bay, and a two-storey returned bay, have been added at each end. The building is of squared stone with well-dressed window surrounds and string-course. In front is a charming sloping garden, with very fine mature trees.</p> <p>Perhaps the building has deteriorated beyond redemption; but if a new use could be found for it, it might still make a notable contribution to the town.</p>	Lewis II p. 384
83	GASWORKS TERRACE <u>Off</u> Old Cross Square		1845. The gasworks itself (of the Monaghan Lighting Company) is now abandoned and largely dismantled, leaving behind but an aroma of its former self. There remain, however, three excellent two-storey houses of dressed stone, their original glazing-bars intact; empty, but capable of further useful life.	Rushe, Historical Sketches
84	ST. MACARTAN'S CATHEDRAL Castleblaney Road	A	<p>Commenced 1861, to designs by J. J. McCarthy of Dublin, in "the 14th century Gothic style". "Described by one eminent authority as 'a dream of beauty'."</p> <p>In fact, one of McCarthy's best works: an excellent example of the High Victorian ecclesiastical style at its best, rich without ever being over-ornate. McCarthy died in 1882; the building was completed by William Hague, who was responsible for the tower and spire. It was dedicated in 1892.</p> <p>The Cathedral is sited on a hill at some distance from the town, with an attractive approach up the hillside by flights of stone steps above a rectangular pool (none too clean, unfortunately), presided over by a statue of Saint Macartan in white marble, all laid out and landscaped in 1948. The building is of squared and rough-dressed hard local limestone from the quarry near Old Cross Square, with buttresses, sharply-pointed pinnacles and an excellent soaring spire, with columnar dormers, over the south door.</p>	Builder, 1861, p. 495 Rushe, Historical Sketches, p. 62 Guide, passim Centenary McKenna

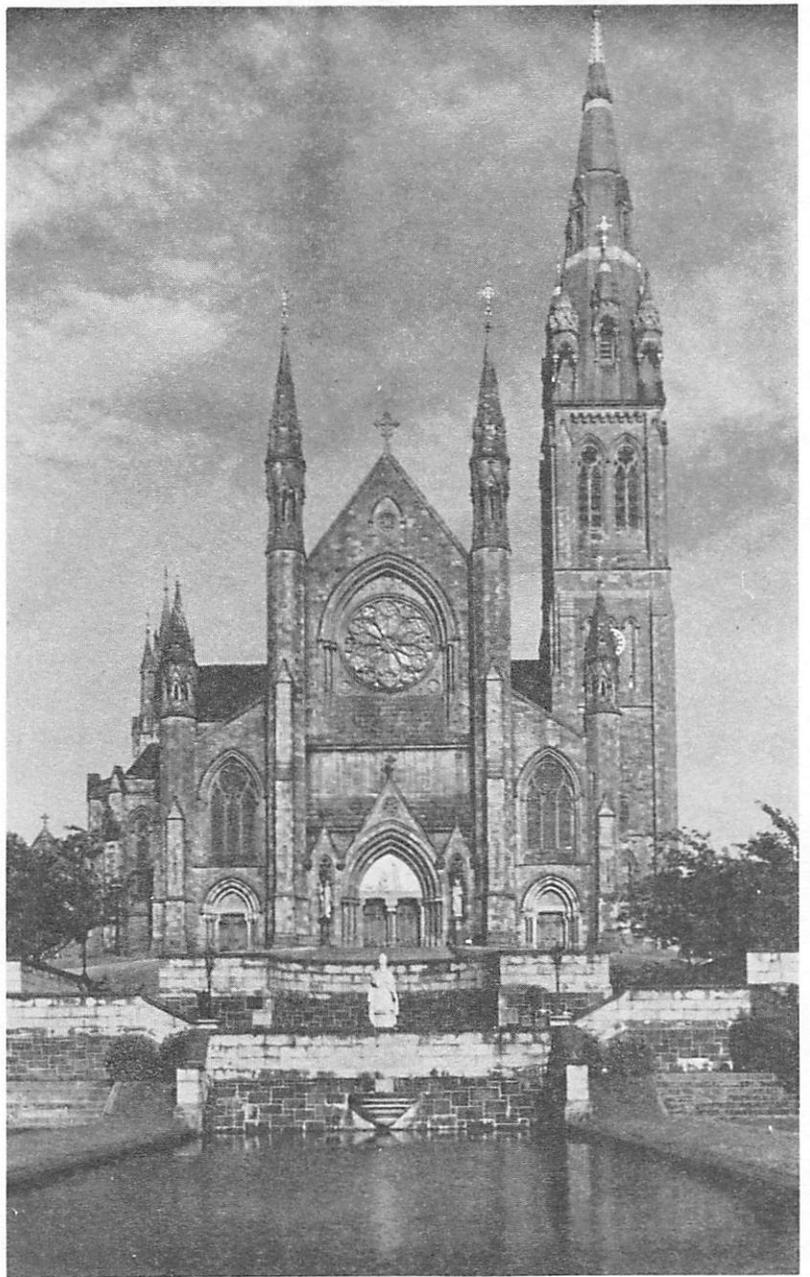
No.	Building	Class	Date, Type, Architect, etc.	References
84	ST. MACARTAN'S CATHEDRAL (Continued)	A	<p>The west facade incorporates a rather charming Giottesque tympanum relief of Christ giving the keys to St. Peter the shepherd, with a flock of very woolly sheep, palm trees, and so forth; the tympanum over the south door portrays a rather baroque Virgin and child surrounded by putti, their heads and wings melting into banks of fluffy cumulus. These are unsigned.</p> <p>On either side of the west door, in niches, stand Ss. Peter and Paul, carved (like the series of figures inside) in white marble by Professor Pietro Lazzerini of Carrara.</p> <p>Inside, the nave is very high and imposing, the arches pointed with romanesque capitals, a clerestorey, and an excellent hammer-beam roof of pale wood, supported by pairs of angels. Above the west door there is a tremendous organ loft, supported on curious angled columns. The roof-supports are carried down on paired slim columns to corbelled heads.</p> <p>The east wall is faced with plain marble, patterned in the quattrocento Florentine manner, with excellent altars and altar-rails of subdued polychromy; only the bishop's throne and the thirty-five-foot pulpit stand out in their multi-coloured exuberance: gilded and pyramidal, both are admirable.</p> <p>The stonework on the whole is, throughout, excellent; the woodwork rather less so: the pews and confessionals are of rather inadequate pitch-pine in the manner of the 1870's. The statues of St. Brigitta, St. Joan Baptista (with lamb), Christ, and St. Patricius (the latter spurning snakes, and holding up a shamrock large as a rose), all by Professor Lazzerini, are quite in keeping. The plain stone-slab floor is admirable; so are the cast iron grilles housing the heating system. The glass is, for the most part, rather undistinguished, but quite in keeping. There are good brass fittings, now electrified.</p> <p>As a whole, the cathedral is dignified, spacious and airy, rich but uncluttered. The south transept contains a memorial to the successive bishops of Clogher to whom it owes its present form: Dr. Charles McNally, a native of the parish, to whom its foundation is due; and Bishop Donnelly, who carried on the work, ornamented the building, and dedicated it as a cathedral. Statues of both stand in rank with Heber McMahon, warrior bishop of Clogher, Saints Tiarach, Ultan, Columcille, and Dympna, high in the gable above the south porch.</p>	
85	House at corner of LATLURCAN ROAD/ CASTLEBLAYNEY ROAD	B	A two-storey three-bay house, early 19th century, rendered, with hipped roof, three-light doorcase with geometrical rectangular fanlight.	O. S. 1835
86	LATLURCAN(or Aughini- miny) OLD CHURCH	B	<p>"Built early in the last decade of the 18th century" according to Rushe; but "this date is upwards of half-a-century too late" according to McKenna. The church was perhaps rebuilt in 1790; thereafter it served as parish church, and pro-cathedral till 1892. This was the old catholic parish church, for long used as a mortuary chapel, now used as a store for the cathedral works. Set in the graveyard on the outskirts of the town, it is a very modest simple pleasing barn-church, with a facade of squared rubble: under the gable a quatrefoil, at either side a pointed window with Gothick glazing. There are three similar pointed openings in each side wall.</p>	Rushe, Monaghan in 18th century, p. 91 McKenna p. 32

No.	Building	Class	Date, Type, Architect, etc.	References
87	WILL VILLE, Farmhouse, above Latlurcan	A	An extremely pleasant wide two-storey farmhouse, rendered, with plain quoins, wide glazing-barred windows, and a central round-headed window above a fan-lighted doorway in a rectangular doorcase; perhaps mid-18th century. Birthplace of Don Juan McKenna, one of the liberators of Chile, and Bernardo O'Higgins' second-in-command.	O. S. 1835 McKenna p. 108
88	Terrace, Killygoan, BALLYBAY ROAD  <u>Dawson Street</u>		Four two-storey houses set in a walled garden with very good mature trees - chestnuts, yew, and monkey-puzzler: each house of two bays, roughcast, (some with creepers), square-headed doorways, and glazing-bars in the regency manner.  On the whole, an arid and depressing thoroughfare; perhaps appropriately, if it is indeed built over a bog.	
89	DAWSON STREET No. 17) (former Methodist Manse)	B	A pretty stucco cottagey house of about 1850 with glazing-bars of the period, a central arched doorway, and a round-headed window above it beneath the gable. Excellent heavy cast-iron railings with Dionysiac thyrus or fir-cone motif on either side of the door; very well painted.	
90	Former METHODIST CHURCH Dawson Street		1861. A very plain granite building, now disused, with simple belfry, and large central traceried window, with a porch at each end.	Rushe (Sketches) p. 64
91	FARMEEHUL, The Glen, Ballybay Road  <u>Park Street</u>	A	A most attractive square Georgian box of a house, perched on the summit of a high mound amidst woodland. The front door is approached up four long flights of granite steps - thirty in all - and has a broad semi-circular fanlight, and fluted wooden Doric columns. The front is of two storeys above the basement; each front is of three bays, with canopied bay windows on the main facade; rising to a hipped roof, with paired central chimneys. The structure is of granite with brick dressings, covered in cream-washed stucco. The front windows are casement, the remainder retain their original glazing-bars. The house may have been built by, and was certainly lived in by, the Rushe family.  An attractive street of two and three-storey terraces leading from the Clones Road to the market square; mostly of stone, though some stuccoed or rendered; on the whole coherent and attractive, though very recently very much prejudiced by vertical neon signs - "Mini-market", "The Arcade Foodstore", "Superstore".	
92	PARK STREET Nos. 6 - 24	A	An exceptionally good three-storey late Georgian terrace, originally belonging to the brewery, on the whole in fine order, with small square windows in the top storey. Only Nos. 9 and 10 are really discordant. A shamrock-shaped iron plate, with the date '1822', was recently removed from between Nos. 21 and 22 because of rust, but is to be replaced.	
93	ST. JOSEPH'S (R. C.) CHURCH Park Street		Original church 1824; present church 1900; architect William Hague. Externally, a slightly whimsical piece of late Gothic stonework, with a small belfry perched above the passage between church and parochial house next door. Internally, a long tall barn-church with pitch-pine roof; the east end richly lit by a fine large five-light Victorian stained-glass window, above a good white marble high altar and flanking altars.	Souvenir McKenna, pp. 36, 37
94	PAROCHIAL HOUSE Park Street	B	The parochial house, married to the church and apparently built at the same time, looks earlier, and is a fine	McKenna, p. 36



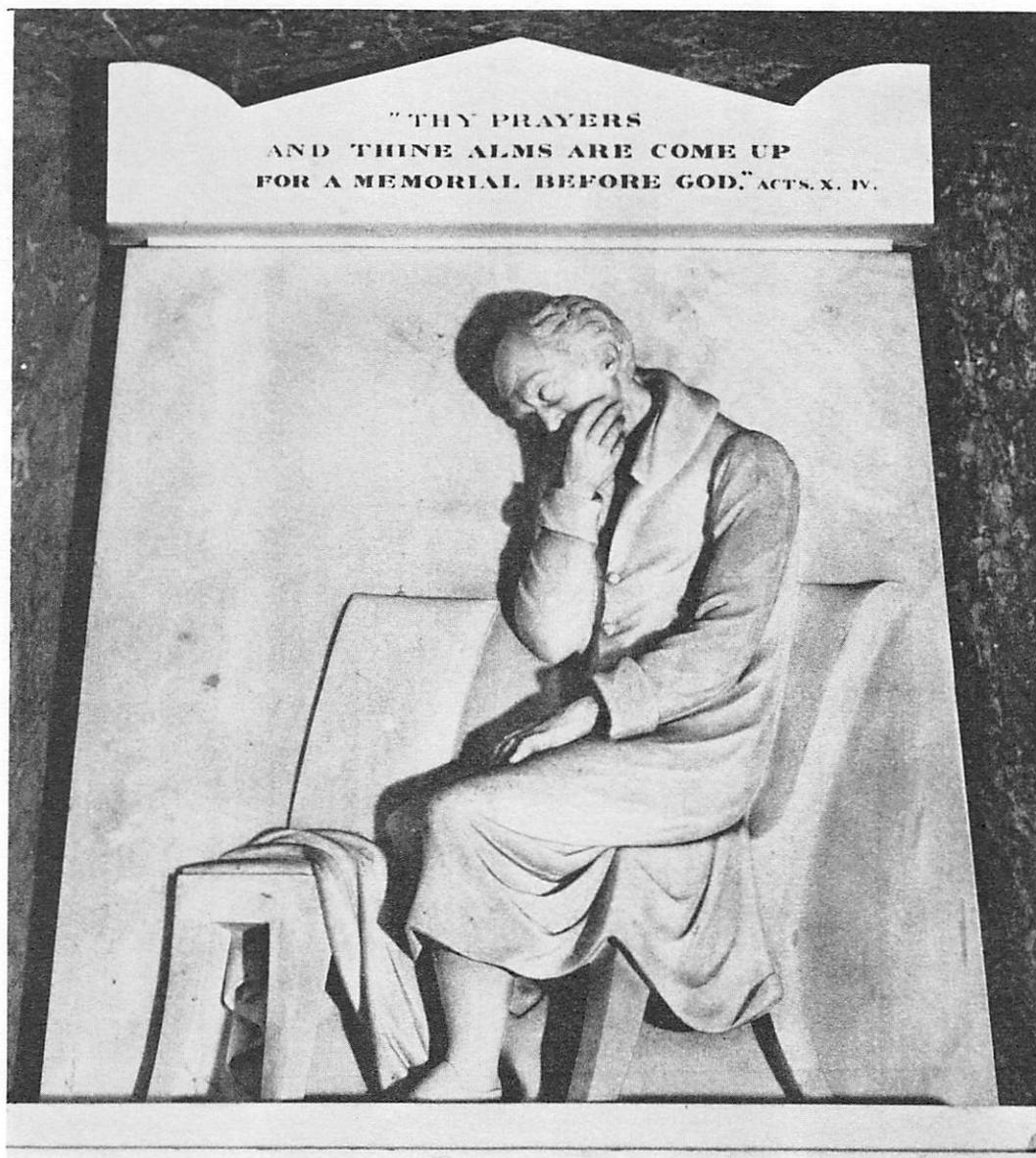
*a, c and d Saint Macartan's cathedral (No. 84):  
corbels, west front, and pulpit*

*b Latlurcan Old Church (No. 86)*



No.	Building	Class	Date, Type, Architect, etc.	References
94	PAROCHIAL HOUSE (Continued)	B	two-storey stone building with segmental dripstones above the lower windows, which have Tudor ogee heads.	
95	LAKE VIEW <u>off</u> Park Street	A	An excellent terrace of five two-storey houses, of dressed stone random laid, the fenestration uneven; the first house has an oculus window; all have segmental arches of stone above the openings; and charming small radial fanlights.	O. S. 1835
96	CONVENT LAKE	A	In the convent grounds, a most romantic and delightful small lake, with a small bushy island near the shore; the latter the site of one of the crannogs fortified and used as strongholds by the MacMahons in the 15th century, though no doubt of much greater antiquity. The crannog "looks very small now to have anything in the way of a house, but of course once the piling fell into disrepair and collapse, the materials it had protected would gradually disintegrate by the action of the water." The lake is overlooked by Tully Fort, the inauguration seat of the MacMahons.	Hayes McCoy Clogher Record 1954, Vol 1, No. 2, p. 4.
97	ST. LOUIS' CONVENT & SCHOOL		A very extensive group of buildings of various dates, spread over a wide area on the outskirts of the town between the Clones Road and Dawson Street.  The original range of two-storey brewery buildings, dating apparently from the 1820's, survives at the heart of the group, and houses the sisters' refectory. In 1859 the conversion to a convent was started and various additions have been made from Victorian and Edwardian times up to the present day - (hall completed 1959) - but all in stylistically coherent stonework.  The stone canal stores, renovated by the sisters, earned a commendation in the Tidy Towns Competition.  The chapel is, architecturally, unremarkable.	Souvenir
98	TULLY HOUSE Tully	B	A pleasant three-bay two-storey rendered villa, late 18th or early 19th century, with a good three-light doorway with fanlight.	
99	HORSESHOE BRIDGE		c. 1839. A very tall bridge indeed, ivy-clad; far below, the canal is a stinking ditch running through a deep cutting, gradually becoming choked with rubbish.	
100	BALLYALBANY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH		The original church was built in 1788 by John Wright, builder - "a very wide house with stone stairs in the ends outside going up to the gallery doors, and covered with thatch". The church was re-roofed in 1846. The original pulpit on the west wall and box pews were removed in 1886, when the exterior was rendered. There are now pine pews, and a fussy gallery. Above the porch a pointed window, glazed in the Georgian style, appears to be the only survivor of the original structure.  The adjacent church hall is a pleasant stone building of 1881, in the classical manner, with round-headed windows in the side walls, a round-headed doorway, and a trefoil window above.  In the churchyard wall, an incised stone: 'Ballyalbany School, 1834'; but the school itself has been demolished.	Orr and Hazlett, pp. 50, 87, 122
101	BALLYALBANY BRIDGE (over the river Blackwater)	A	A beautifully curved and humped two-arch stone bridge, 18th century or possibly earlier, much repaired over the years, with buttress and central cutwater; part rubble, part dressed stone; crudely repointed.	

No.	Building	Class	Date, Type, Architect, etc.	References
102	MILLTOWN BRIDGE (over River Blackwater) AND MILLS	B	A straight three-arch bridge of blackstone, with triangular cutwaters, much patched over the years, just downstream from the massive mills built by Frank Adams, once 'the most extensive merchant in the town': part five-storey, part seven-storey, of dressed stone, now incorporated manfully in the modern buildings of D. Patton Ltd. 's Milltown Mills.	Rushe, History of Co. Monaghan p. 237



*Memorial to Augusta Rossmore in Saint Patrick's church, carved by Lewis of Cheltenham.*



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The National Trust for Ireland

An Taisce was founded in 1948; since then, its membership has increased to 7,000 in 1978: it has 31 associations throughout the country. Its aim is to conserve our physical heritage, our amenities, and our historical, scientific and artistic assets for the benefit of those living in and visiting Ireland. It is a voluntary body entirely independent of Government. It is governed by an annually-elected council, and membership is open to all. Though An Taisce is a Prescribed Body under the 1963 and 1976 Planning Acts, it receives no government subvention. The minimum annual subscription is £7 but larger amounts are greatly welcomed; the minimum family membership is £10.

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41 Percy Place  
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181A Stranmillis Road  
Belfast 9

The Society was formed in 1967, and in 1978 has a membership of about 1,300, drawn from both sides of the border. Its objects are to promote the appreciation and enjoyment of good architecture of all periods; to encourage the preservation of buildings and groups of artistic merit or historical importance; and to encourage public awareness and appreciation of the beauty, history and character of local neighbourhoods. The Society provides outings, visits, lectures and social activities for its members, who are also entitled to buy its publications (particulars overleaf) at a discount. Like An Taisce, the Society receives no government subvention, though it is often consulted and frequently makes its views known on planning applications and other matters of public concern. Membership costs £2 a year; for those under 25, £1; life membership, £30; corporate membership, £10 a year, or £50 for ten years.

If you have found this survey of interest, will you become a member of one or other body - or both?

The following review of the foregoing Survey appeared in the *Clogher Record*, Vol. VII, No. 2 (1970), at pages 325-335, and is reproduced by kind permission of the Clogher Historical Society.

*Historic Buildings, Groups of Buildings, Areas of Architectural Importance in the town of Monaghan.* By C. E. B. Brett. Ulster Architectural Heritage Society and An Taisce, County Monaghan Branch. 32 pp (foolscap), 10s. 6d.

The author of this pioneer work, Mr C. E. B. Brett of Belfast, has performed a magnificent service for the townspeople of Monaghan. He has opened their eyes to the beauty in their midst, not by fulsome flattery but by thorough, impartial if at times sharp criticism. Lord Rossmore's many photographs are on a par with the professionalism of Mr Brett, and the entire production is a credit to the newly-formed local branch of AN TAISSCE.

It is comparatively easy to point out omissions in a work which must necessarily be selective. Nevertheless, there are some details which this reviewer would like to see included in a second edition. Mr Brett did not include the informative pre-1641 map of Monaghan reproduced in Rushe's *Historical Sketches*, presumably because Rushe gave no source for this map. It seems that Rushe copied the map from Shirley's *History of Monaghan* (p. 197) who says he got it in T.C.D. As has been already pointed out in the *Northern Standard* (16/10/70), photograph (a) on page 17 should be attributed to 1930 not 1914. There is no mention of the Christian Brothers' new secondary school, the manses and rectories around the town, Bessmount, Tully House, Tranquilla House, Ballyleck or the remains of Cornacassa, celebrated by the novelist Carleton as "Castle Cumber" in *Valentine Mc Clutchy* (1845), and also in *Willy Reilly and His Dear Colleen Bawn* (1855).

While the impact of this volume is still fresh (it was launched in the town on 30 September 1970), it may help to assemble here some historical notes from unpublished or rare sources which were, unfortunately, not made available in time to the author. The numbers here refer to the numbering of the buildings in Mr Brett's text.

No. 5. Dr Whitla was not born here but in No. 7, i.e. the present Oriel Hotel, which was originally two houses, according to Mr R. H. Henry, former proprietor of Henry's Medical Hall.

No. 6. HENRY'S MEDICAL HALL was the post office until 2 November 1908 when it was changed to its present site in Mill St.

No. 12. ST. PATRICK'S PARISH CHURCH, according to a note in the Rushe MSS in the library of St Macartan's College, was designed by Farrell, the C. of I. diocesan architect, and built by Clarke Brothers "who afterwards built the Provincial Bank on the North Road".

An unsigned letter in the *Enniskillen Chronicle and Erne Packet* of 24 Nov. 1831 states :

We are about having erected in this town a new church, on a very magnificent and superb scale, to the building of which the Rossmore family contributed the splendid donation of one thousand pounds . . . A few days since, our new Lord Lieutenant proceeded to the site on which the building is to be erected, attended by the worthy rector of the parish (the Rev. Charles Evatt), the gentlemen of the committee, and a large concourse of the respectable parishioners of all religious sects, for the purpose of laying the first stone. The builder, Mr John Clarke, having previously made the necessary arrangements, his lordship, on his arrival, deposited in the stone a manuscript and various pieces of coin; and having performed the usual ceremony, his lordship immediately proceeded to a field adjoining the town, and with his accustomed munificence, marked out a large plot of ground, to be converted into a cemetery for the use of the parishioners of all classes and denominations. In the evening his lordship directed that all tradesmen and labourers employed at the building should be plentifully regaled at his expense.

No. 15. The COURT HOUSE was built by Thomas Stewart, a forbear of Mr Aubrey Donaldson of Clones who has lately built the Hillgrove Hotel. The site was acquired in 1829.

The minute book of the Court House Committee (1840-1878) has some interesting historical details. Gas lighting was installed about 1850 and the gas was supplied by the Monaghan Gas Company. There were large gates in front of the Court House in the 1850s. The Court House keeper was under strict regulations regarding the consumption of coal and gas. On 18 March 1865 meetings of the Monaghan Philharmonic Society were allowed in the Court House for the first time; Protestant service was held here in 1865 while the Church was being painted; a military concert given by the Monaghan Militia; the Young Men's Improvement Society soirée (1868-9); a dancing class for six months (1873), a subscription ball in honour of the marriage of the Hon. Norah Westenra (1873). In 1874 permission was refused for dramatic entertainment to be given by the Theatre Royal company, Belfast, for a second dancing class, and the fees for functions were

stepped up. Concerts were given by Ballybay Brass Band, by George Cecil, by a Mr Laird (1875) and in aid of the County Fever Hospital (1875).

No. 23. HILLSIDE RESTAURANT was once "occupied by Dan McAleese, M.P., who owned and printed the *People's Advocate* on the premises". (This and quoted information in Nos. 24-39 below is by courtesy of Dr G. H. Henry, Monaghan, who kindly lent me a MS in the hand of the late Miss Ina Rogers and compiled from the deeds in the office of Harry Rogers, Solicitor, c. 1900.)

No. 24. AVIEMORE was built by Sir James Hamilton about 1760. "He employed the best masons that could be had and their pay was 1/6 per day. Sir James was agent for the Rossmore estate and for nearly the whole county besides. His son Dacre Hamilton built Cornacassa." A school was conducted here later by the Misses Cinnamond, daughters of a spirit merchant.

No. 25. LAUREL LODGE, formerly The Laurels, was "the residence of Richard Jackson who was High Sheriff of Monaghan in 1826 when the famous election of 'Stoney Saturday' took place. For a full account of this election see Father Martin Cahill's article in CR (1964). According to Pigot's Directory of 1824, Jackson endowed a school in 1808. "His wife who survived him left £1000 to put a steeple on St Patrick's Church (C. of I.)."

No. 26. KLONDYKE HOUSE was once "the residence of Charles McKelvey, sub-inspector of police" during the Fenian crisis (1866). See CR (1967), 223. "The house was so called because some bank clerks lived there!"

No. 27. At HOLLY LODGE lived Thomas Reilly, attorney, father of Young Irelander Devin Reilly. "At one election (? 1834) he brought a Mr Louis Perrin from Dublin to contest it against Lord Rossmore and as Perrin won the Rossmores were very angry. The house (Holly Lodge) did not belong to them but the plot of ground in front of the house which was on a separate lease did; so they evicted him from the plot and dug it up right to the hall door. John Reilly succeeded his father, he married a daughter of Surgeon Young."

No. 37. MILL ST 21 & 23 was formerly called the Royal Temperance Hotel, and later Curran's Hotel.

No. 38. The SAVINGS BANK was founded in 1819. The first minute book (1819-37) survives in the Rushe Papers in St Macartan's College.

No. 39. ROWAN TREE HOUSE was occupied by "Col. Lewis who subsequently lived at Ballyleck. After him it was taken by Edward Percival Morphy . . . [who] became captain in the Monaghan Militia and . . . [later] agent to the Anketell Grove estate. His sister was Mrs Thomas Edmund Wright, they were cousins of Miss Elgar afterwards Lady Wilde. A half-brother of Captain Morphy was Sir Robert McClure, a naval officer, who was one of the discoverers of the North West Passage."

No. 41. PETER'S LAKE was named after Peter McAdam who originally owned Milltown Mills and extensive property in Mill St, according to Mrs R. J. Carroll, "Glencree", Killygoan, who has seen the early leases. Other traditions associate the lake with Peter McEntee who had a tobacco factory on the Diamond, and with Peter McPhillips who owned the Westenra Hotel.

No. 44. PROVINCIAL BANK MANAGER'S HOUSE was built as a bank by Clarke Brothers (see No. 12 above).

No. 62. ST. MACARTAN'S SEMINARY during its first thirty years (1848-78) is well described by the Commission of Inquiry set up by the Lord Lieutenant in December 1878 :

The Rev. Peter McGlone, the president of St. Macartan's Seminary, informed us that erection of this seminary was commenced in 1839, and the school was opened in 1849, under the direction of the Most Rev. Charles McNally, D.D., Roman Catholic bishop of Clogher. He stated that the only endowment was an income from the lands of Lacca, in the county of Monaghan, producing £80 per annum, enjoyed under the will of Dr McNally. The institution was enlarged and completed by the present bishop, the Most Rev. Dr Donnelly, who, within the three years before our inquiry, had expended upon the buildings over £5000. The funds were subscribed from time to time by the Roman Catholic bishops, clergy and laity of the diocese of Clogher. The school had ceased to be a purely ecclesiastical training school, and now also takes in boys intended for lay pursuits. The theological and lay pupils learn the same classical and mathematical course. Nineteen pupils were sent up for the Intermediate examinations in 1879, all of whom passed, eleven obtained prizes, and five gained exhibitions. The building is a fine one. There were, at the date of our inquiry, forty-one intern pupils, and ten day scholars; all were Roman Catholics; no others had ever applied for admission. There was accommodation for, perhaps, eighty boarders. The ordinary pension for boarders was £25 per annum, and for day scholars £5. The cost of the building had been about £20,000. The site, with about thirty acres of land, utilized for the purposes of the school, and part of which was acquired within the past ten years, was held by lease, subject to rent. The bishop was the superintendent and responsible authority of the school. The teaching staff consisted of a president, three priests, and a lay professor appointed by the bishop. The president's salary was £50, and those of the other professors £30 per annum, with board and residence. The course of instruction included Classics, English, French and Mathematics, as prescribed in the programme of the Intermediate Education Board. Natural Philosophy and Chemistry had been taught, but it was reluctantly proposed to discontinue these subjects for want of suitable apparatus. There had been forty-four or forty-five boarders at one time; but on the average, the seminary had not been more than half full. There were no free pupils, nor any receiving pecuniary aid towards their education. (*Endowed Schools (Ireland) Commission 1878-81. Vol. 1, Report, p. 122; by courtesy of Dr Michael Quane*)

No. 65. Neither the PALACE BAR (15 Dublin St) nor the house next door (Mr Frank Brady's shop) would seem to be the birthplace of Charles Gavan Duffy as the proprietors of both can be traced to the early 19th century.

No. 78. The MARKET CROSS is also puzzling. A loose page in the Rushe MSS already mentioned, compiled by the local secretary of the Royal Society of Antiquaries (presumably D. C. Rushe himself) disagrees with but does not dispose of Dr Craig's suggestion that the Cross was a sundial. The page is undated, but the ref. to the Castle in the final paragraph suggests c. 1887.

The only ancient monument in the town is a stone pillar called 'the Cross'. It appears to take its name from a large stone on the top of the pillar which is similar to the stone on the top of the cross in Tynan village though much larger. There are no carvings or marks on either stone. The Monaghan stone is six and a half feet in circumference and is a polygon with 6 square sides and 6 triangular sides, top and bottom being flat squares. The four square sides are 1 ft. 9 ins. square and meet one another at one of the angles. The other angles touch the top and bottom of the stone, the base of each triangle between the squares forming the side of [the] top and bottom square. Each of the 4 squares on the sides contains a circular cavity 10 inches in diameter and 5 inches in depth. The pillar on which the Monaghan stone stands is a comparatively modern structure and consists of three blocks of stone rising from the top of a square pyramid of stone steps. The whole structure rises to about twelve feet from the ground to the top of the stone.

The Monaghan 'Cross' as it is called, formerly stood in the centre of the Diamond but was removed a few years ago to the centre of Meetinghouse Square to make room for a monument erected on its former site to the late Lord Rossmore.

About two miles from Monaghan there is a stone of similar shape but somewhat smaller, the top of which is used as the stand for a sundial in front of Mr Mitchell's house at Rosefield. As it is only a short distance from the site of the ancient monastery of Kilmore it is probable it was brought thence.

Unfortunately there is no local tradition bearing on either of these stones, nor is there any clue as to what happened the original crosses of which these were probably the capitals, except that the Monaghan stone was once on the top of a cross. This, together with the name it is known by (viz. 'The Cross') and the similar position of the stone on the restored cross in Tynan village point to the same conclusion, that the stone was the capital of a cross.

In the memory of either this or the last generation there has not been a trace of the ancient monastery of Monaghan nor is its site even known.

The last portions of the Castle of Monaghan were taken down about thirty-five years ago [c. 1852]. It occupied the south-side of the Diamond.

No. 84. ST. MACARTAN'S CATHEDRAL took thirty years to build (1861-92); the first few years' work is fully described by the *Freeman's Journal* of 1 January 1864 :

The site of the new cathedral . . . has been purchased by the bishop for £800 at a fee-farm rent of ninepence a year for ever, and it contains eight Irish acres. The ceremony of laying the foundation stone was performed by the bishop in the presence of nearly all the prelates of Ireland on 18 June 1861, but owing to his lordship not being able to come to a satisfactory arrangement with contractors, the work was not in reality commenced for twelve months subsequently. Plans and drawings have been supplied by Mr J. J. McCarthy, architect, and the sinkings for the foundation were carried on most vigorously. It was not, I have been told, unusual to see 400 or 500 horses and carts, filled with lime, stone and sand, arrive at the building together — the horses and carts and the men having been supplied gratuitously by the people of the various parishes surrounding. All the people could do they have done . . . The foundations, which consist of inverted arches, calculated to bear immense weight, were laid in a brief time under the superintendence of Mr Farrell, clerk of works, who acts under the immediate direction of Mr McCarthy. The erection of the walls was actively proceeded with as long as the means could be supplied by the priests and the people of the diocese . . . The walls have already reached a height of thirty-two feet above the level of the foundations. Those who visited the last exhibition of the Royal Hibernian Academy of Arts may remember a beautiful coloured drawing of this cathedral church as seen from the south side. It was in the outer room and attracted general attention. Through the munificence of the trustees of the Rossmore Estate a large field adjacent to the building was given to the Lord Bishop, and in this field there is a large quarry from which a plentiful supply of grey and cream-coloured freestone has been raised. With this material the cathedral is being built.

No. 85. HOUSE AT CORNER OF LATLURCAN ROAD/CASTLE-BLAYNEY ROAD (more properly called Latlurcan House; see O.S. reproduced on p. 7). Father Daniel McMullen, parish priest of Monaghan (1814-26) built and lived in this house, after him Dean Patrick Bellew (1826-51), Bishop Charles McNally (1851-64), and Bishop James Donnelly (1864-92). Presumably it was sold by Bishop Richard Owens (1892-1909) when the present palace was built in 1900.

No. 91. FARMEEHUL was built in 1875 by Surgeon Matthew G. Rushe after a dispute which is described by his son Denis C. Rushe in one of his scrap books as follows :

In 1808 Farmeehul [farm] was acquired by the Monaghan Brewery, first under Hachell and then under Warren. In 1857 when the Brewery was broken up owing to one of the joint owners (Warren) insisting on getting his share in it disposed of, all had to be sold. The building [went] to the sisters of St. Louis.

My father, Matthew G. Rushe, was then a young surgeon and apothecary and had previously bought a small farm in Rooskey where the Mental Home now stands but the estate agent (Colonel Lewis) objected to receive him as tenant as he said he

was a papish rebel. My father occupied and paid the rent for the Rooskey land in the name of the former tenant and on the death of the latter an ejectment was served on my father. Of course he gave a lot of trouble to the agent Dolling. During the newspaper controversy my father bought the Brewery farm of which there was then a lease in existence, of which many years of the term was yet to run. The then owner of the estate was Henry Robert 3rd Baron Rossmore who interfered in the dispute. In 1857 my father agreed to give up his claim to the Rooskey farm and the estate [agreed] to acknowledge him as tenant of the Brewery farm part in Tully part in Drumbear and to deliver to him the lease of the Brewery farm.

My father handed over possession of the Rooskey farm to the estate bailiff and entered into possession of Tully and Drumbear. But he found that part of the farm was held by Frank Adams, a merchant in Monaghan, and when he demanded the lease the officials in the estate office denied all knowledge of it and treated my father as a mere tenant. During the controversy that followed the then Lord Rossmore died leaving a family of minors. My father who was going to take legal proceedings for the recovery of the remainder of the farm was advised he had no grounds and all the documents which could have proved his title were in the rent office. He had only the verbal promise of Lord Rossmore deceased. The dowager Lady Rossmore assured my father that she would use her influence with her eldest son when he came of age to get him to carry out his father's promise.

In the sixties Adams died and his family left Monaghan and the withheld portion of the farm was in pursuance of the dowager's promise given to my father. In 1871 the fourth Lord Rossmore came of age but it was found that his leasing powers were insufficient to give more than a 99 years lease. My father accepted that this was the extent to which he could redeem his father's and mother's promise. On this lease in the year 1875 my father built Farmeehul and the remainder of the lands were bought by my father and me. At the sale of the Rossmore estate the place was purchased by me.

No. 97. ST LOUIS CONVENT AND SCHOOL : The initial impact of the St Louis Sisters in Monaghan is described by Rushe in an MS written for *Réalt an Locha*, a school annual which appeared in the early 1920s.

Quite a sensation was caused when the bishop, Most Rev Charles McNally, D.D., announced at Mass one Sunday that he was about bringing nuns all the way from France to town, but it was some months before they came and during the interval the prospect of their coming was the principal subject of conversation. Few people in the town had ever seen a habited religious. The Protestant idea of a nun was derived from English historians and novelists who pictured them as an infamous class of beings. Amongst Catholics some had read about them and a few had traditions of their goodness handed down from bygone generations. In some instances the pet name 'rialtha' was given by old grannies to favourite little girls. Few then knew that it was part of the old Irish name for nun *bean riaghailta* and as the people became more englished the word was pronounced 'royalty' with the accent on the a.

The first sisters of St Louis who arrived on 6 January 1859 were Mother Genevieve, Sister Clare and Sister Clémence, and their first residence was in a house in Mill Street, Monaghan, where a school was opened for the girl and infant children of the Catholic bourgeois, and soon afterwards the infants were transferred to the cottage on the North Road but the entrance was through Mill Street for there was then a high wall between the cottage and the road.

All the children were sent in 'nice new frocks' made months before and carefully put by until the great event arrived of the first day at the Convent School. The sensation caused by the fact of a religious community being part of the town was very great. Every time the sisters passed through the streets the people ran to the doors or stuck their heads out of the windows to stare at them. The Protestants, although the older ones considered they were doing wrong by looking on such creatures, were so fascinated by what they saw and heard that they could not possibly resist the temptation of having a peep at the strangers. Shortly after their arrival postulants began to join the Order. The girls' school in Latlurcan was taken over, to which Sister Clare and a postulant walked daily, and about July the disused brewery on the lake shore was made the new and permanent mother house of the Irish sisters of St Louis. The mansion house of the former owners became the convent, the dining room being converted into the new chapel, and the other buildings were transformed into schools and institutions under the sisterhood.

The effect on the inhabitants of the town cannot now [1920] be realised. Good manners and ladylike culture were strongly inculcated, each girl was required to courtesy coming into the schoolroom, little boys to bow. The 'courtesy' was then a much more elaborate ceremony than it is now. Religious and social expressions, mannerly forms of bearing etc. were carried home into the family which quite revolutionised their mode of life. But the climax was reached when the children were able to say their prayers in French. Shopkeepers frequently brought out their children to repeat to their customers the Hail Mary in French. The same fascination which allowed the Protestants to look at the nuns induced them to listen attentively to the recitals. Some of the older Orangemen denounced their neighbours for encouraging such prayers in which they could divine papish idolatry, brass money and wooden shoes. Protestant parents who aspired to grandeur became greatly perturbed and the dancing master who gave a course of lessons to grown-up young people each winter was required to have a special class for juveniles. Pressure was brought to bear on the Government and a Model school was built much earlier than was intended by the National Board. It had the evil effect of killing the private day school

of the convent and it was some years before the National school became the great institution it is now and recovered the female children of the well to do Catholics of the town.

Another remarkable change caused amongst the people was the feeling of self respect impressed upon the pupils. Prior to the advent of the sisters Protestant children usually looked down on Catholic children and no Catholic no matter in how good a position the parents were, could aspire to play with Protestants of the same class. Although the first nuns who came were strangers to Ulster they were not long here until they noticed this evil and quickly set about impressing on their pupils the importance of their self respect. In the next generation which grew up the seeds of these lessons made Catholics feel their own equality.

Much generosity was shown by the people of both town and country to the infant community and in after years great indignation was felt when it was learned that the sisters suffered many privations during their earlier years of which their neighbours were wholly ignorant. In the parish of Tydavnet there was in those times much turbary which has been cut out long since. The then parish priest, Rev. Father Peter McMahon, called on his parishioners to give the convent as much turf as would keep the community warm during its first winter. The people complied by delivering at the convent in one day as much turf as kept it heated for two years.

[There were] two other remarkable events. One was the playing of an organ in the old convent chapel. It was the first organ erected in any Catholic place of worship in the diocese for 300 years. It is hoped that this venerable relic is being preserved in the branch of the Order to which it has been removed. The other [event] was the erection of a bell which rang out the Angelus to the people of Monaghan for the first time for centuries.

#### Sites of schools about 1860

The Protestant Diocesan school was on the hill now occupied by the Irish Christian Brothers. Rev John Blakely had a Presbyterian secondary school at Corlat. Thomas Slemmon Shaw, M.A. (T.C.D.) had a school where Mr Noel Mallon's bar is at present, before his appointment as headmaster of Carrickmacross Grammar School by the Marquis of Bath on 1 May 1857 (see JRSAL, lxxxvi, Part 1 (1956), 49-50). According to Rushe he took all his pupils with him. There was a Protestant primary school run by a successful teacher, Charles Hally, in Dawson St; a Presbyterian primary school at the back of the meeting house run by Birch but it was closed about this time (1860); Michael McEntee ran an independent school under the National Board in Mill St and closed it to become the first headmaster of the Model School (1860). Catholics had a boys' and girls' school at Laturcan called the 'Chapel School' as distinct from Hally's 'Church School' and Birch's 'Meeting School'. The Misses Warren kept a private school for girls on the North Road, mostly for Protestant children but for a considerable number of Catholics as well.

#### Denis Carolan Rushe, the historian of Monaghan

Mr Brett is generous, as we all must be, in his references to Rushe's three works, *Historical Sketches* (1895), *Monaghan in the Eighteenth Century* (1916), *History of Monaghan for 200 years* (1921). This is a fitting place to pay tribute to Rushe in the words of the address presented to him in 1925 near the end of his life.

Dear Mr. Rushe,

On behalf of your friends, within and outside the county, and on the occasion of your retirement from the secretaryship of the County Council of Monaghan,<sup>2</sup> we desire you to accept this address with the accompanying gifts.

For nearly one hundred years your family has had an active and intimate connection with the county. They and you have been associated from their inceptions, with the many institutions and organizations which go to make up our present condition of progress, whether it was the County Infirmary, where your father practised, or the Convent of St. Louis, whose beginnings you saw, as a pupil, you and they were in touch with them all. And so with the remainder of your career:— in St. Macartan's College, in Trinity College Dublin and in your profession as a solicitor, you met with individuals who in later life were destined to co-operate with you in your work of building up the institutions of our town and county. From your admission as a solicitor in 1878, you made a name and reputation that were not confined to the county. The Land Courts and Revision Courts witnessed your energy and ability in supporting the cause and principles you had espoused, and your services as an agent in many Parliamentary Elections in County Monaghan and in South Tyrone were given readily and with successful results.

When the final report of the Judicial Commissioners constituted under the Educational Endowments Act 1885 was finally approved by order in Council you were one of the nine selected in Counties Monaghan and Fermanagh to administer the Endowments of the Ulster Royal Schools. Since then, you have been the efficient secretary to the Board, and we cannot help recalling that of the original nine appointed you are the only one alive today. In drafting the scheme for University Scholarships you took a leading part, and your scheme for Secondary Scholarships from Primary Schools was adopted *en bloc* by practically every county in Ireland.

When after many years of struggle, Local Government was conferred on Ireland it was but fitting that you should be entrusted with the task of its administration in your own county. Like every other task of your life, you undertook it with zeal, courage, and honesty of purpose, and the success which you attained is revealed by the name which County Monaghan has acquired as amongst the first in the administration of Local Government affairs.

All this would have more than occupied the time of most men but you found outlet for your energies in many directions. You acted as secretary to the New York Herald Relief Fund in 1879; and as secretary to the splendid bazaar which was organized preliminary to the Dedication of St. Macartan's Cathedral.

Since 1880, you have been President of the Monaghan Conference of St. Vincent de Paul, and only last month you assisted in a presentation from that society to His Eminence Cardinal O'Donnell. Monaghan Show and Home Industries Association owe a great part of their development and present success to your untiring exertions. Your zeal for and knowledge of the ancient civilization of our native land are well known and are evidenced by your Fellowship of the Royal Society of Antiquaries. Natives of County Monaghan whether living at home or in distant lands, are permanently indebted to your learning and to your researches into the history of our county, shown in your many publications notably "Historical Sketches of Monaghan", and "The History of Monaghan 1660-1860".

Whether we look at your achievements as a solicitor or as secretary of our County Council or at the results of your work outside your profession, as educationalist, historian, or social worker, we are impressed with the persistence and directness of purpose, the great and unwearied energy, the unflinching courage and unflagging earnestness which inspired you and brought to a successful result your every undertaking.

It is intended with the surplus at our disposal to endow a ward in the County Infirmary, an institution in whose welfare you have at all times taken a more than fatherly interest. It will be known to future generations as the "Carolan Rushe" ward.

SEOSAMH Ó DUFAIGH.

#### FOOTNOTE:

No. 65 above: *The Monaghan Estate Book for 1971 makes it clear that, Gavan Duffy's birthplace was on holding No. 55 as marked on Neville's map (reproduced on page 5), now 13 Dublin Street. My thanks are due to Mr. Peadar Ronaghan for drawing my attention to this important historical source and to Mr. Christopher Pringle for permission to use it.*

S.O'D.

# ULSTER ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE SOCIETY



The two gentlemen above are hard at work compiling a List for North Down; print of Rockport House, seat of John Turnley, Esq., by Edward Proctor, 1832.

The interests of the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society extend, in time, from the very earliest structures, through those of the Georgian and Victorian periods, to the very latest in contemporary architecture; and in space, throughout the nine counties of the province of Ulster. Its objects are: to promote the appreciation and enjoyment of good architecture of all periods; to encourage the preservation of buildings and groups of artistic merit or historic importance; and to encourage public awareness and appreciation of the beauty, history and character of local neighbourhoods.

Membership of the Society costs £2 a year; for those under 25, £1; life membership, £30; corporate membership, £10 a year, or £50 for ten years. Members receive half-yearly reports, may take part in architectural outings, social events, and lectures, and also enjoy the privilege of buying the Society's publications by post at a 25% discount. Publications to date include:

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