

(Mayo N)

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FORM A.

I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY

NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES,
HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.

BARONY OF Tirawley

TOWN OR VILLAGE ~~xxxxxxx~~ Killala PARISH Killala COUNTY Mayo (North).

Insert in Form D. Material

TOPOGRAPHY

Brief description of outstanding scenic views in the district, natural attractions, or unusual topographical features.

Situate on the west bank of the River Moy where that river flows into Killala Bay, on the north coast of Mayo, Killala is 8 miles distant from Ballina, 31 miles from Castlebar and 45 from Sligo.

For many centuries and indeed, up to about a century ago, Killala was a busy thriving little town and port. Ships from Spain, France and other countries were a common sight in the harbour and large numbers of the townspeople were engaged in the manufacture of linen and in fishing.

~~From those days of romance and prosperity, little remains to tell of Killala's early importance, excepting the huge warehouses, derelict and forlorn and which now serve only to disfigure the town.~~

The late Rev. S. Greer, (Moy Salmon), in his book, "The Windings of the Moy";

GEOLOGY

Brief notes on unusual geological features, such as caves, eskers, etc.

There are no unusual geological features.

is now owned by

MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES
OF IMPOSING CHARACTER

*Location and brief description. Owner. Past associations. Libraries or art collections?
Gardens? Open to visitors? Admission charge?*

"CILL ALAITHE". This splendid residence, on the outskirts of the town as one enters from the Ballina road, was erected about fifty years ago by a member of the Gore family and ~~passed into the hands of Mr A.K. Miller of Derry during the past few weeks.~~ The house is large, containing about thirty rooms in all, is in perfect condition and would appear to be in the style of the period of erection.

The two hundred acres of land attached to the demesne are well wooded and contain a small natural lake, convenient to the house.

The gardens are large and planted with many beautiful shrubs and trees in addition to many varieties of flowers. The glasshouse is well stocked with vines and the gardens also contain a large number of fruit trees of various kinds.

Mr Miller will not refuse admission to visitors who seek ~~the~~ permission.

PALMERSTOWN ESTATE. Home of one of the numerous branches of the Knoxes, the Palmerstown Estate is very pleasantly situated at Palmerstown Bridge, 2½ miles from Killala, on the Ballycastle road.

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*Had been*MANSIONS ETC. Cont'd.

Mr Knox informed me that the original Palmerstown Manor was destroyed by fire when the French forces passed by here after their landing at Kilcummin in 1798 and that the present building ~~was~~ erected in the sixteenth century and used as a coach house and stable until after the burning, when it was converted into a dwellinghouse.

The doorways and windows of the house are of cut stone in the early style. Nearby are the vestiges of what would appear to have been a very large mansion. In 1798, Palmerstown Manor was owned by a Mr Palmer.

Near the front door, lie the barrels of two cannon guns, said to be relics of the French invading army, ~~and which were salvaged from the river bed. I have heard this belief contested however and the assertion made that at least one of the cannon was of English origin. Which ever contention may be true, it seems more than likely that the guns were at least, in some way connected with the landing of the French.~~

visitors will obtain permission from the owners to view the house and gardens, but apart from the dwelling itself and the cannon, ~~the~~ barrels only of which remain, there is not much of interest, here.

CASTLEREAGH. At the opposite side of the Palmerstown Bridge, was Castlereagh, imposing residence of the first of the Knox family to settle in this area.

In recent years, the property has been acquired by the Land Commission. The huge mansion has been demolished and the land divided. The magnificent woods for which Castlereagh was famed, have been almost entirely cleared and thus one of the most beautiful sights, in an otherwise almost treeless region, has been spoiled.

~~The name 'Castlereagh' appears to have been derived from an ancient castle of that name which stood near here. Traces of the old castle, which was last occupied by a branch of the De Burghos, may still be seen from the roadside. I have read of a Carrickansass Castle, said to have been built by the Burkes and to have been 35 feet square and 45 ft. high. I presume that this was Castlereagh since there is no ruin at Carrickansass.~~

ANTIQUITIES.MOYNE CONVENT Cont'd.

Members of many of the great families of the district have been interred in the church and amongst these were the O'Dowds, De Burghos, Barretts and Lynotts.

A rough description of the foundation may serve as a useful guide to the visitor.

The whole of the south side is occupied by the church, which includes nave, aisle, south transept, belfry, choir and Chapel of the Blessed Virgin. East of the cloisters are the chapter house and refectory. North of the cloisters is the kitchen and west, are the store rooms. East of the chapter house is a modern house while traces of former buildings may be seen on the north side. The massive square tower which springs from the gable ends, is about ninety feet high and commands a wonderful view of Killala Bay and the surrounding country.

The Convent of Moyne is said to have been built on the site of an early foundation of St. Muca, or Muicin, patron saint of Moyne.

St. PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, KILLALA.

St. Patrick, on his return to Ireland, erected a church at Killala about the year 440 and on that site was built the Cathedral which was seized by the Protestants during the Reformation period, *and is still in use.*

The exact date on which the Cathedral was built seems very difficult to trace but in 1670, Bishop Thomas Otway carried out extensive renovations.

The chief architectural features of the Cathedral are the Gothic south doorway which has survived from the earlier building but which is now blocked up, the Gothic window under the wheel ^{rose} window to the east and the square tower with a stone steeple, *to which has been added a steeple.*

The Protestant See of Killala was joined to that of Achonry at the beginning of the seventeenth century and to Tuam in 1834.

G. Buer 15.5.43