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BISHOPSTOWN HOUSE

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Ballineaspigmore
and
Bishopstown House

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J.P. McCarthy,
April 1981.



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INTRODUCTION

Ballineaspig, anglicised Bishopstown, consists of two townlands which are Ballineaspigmore and Ballineaspigbeg. Taken together, both townlands occupy an area identifiable in modern day terms as lying approximately between the old Glasheen National School on the east side and what was, until recently, the University Farm Curraheen Road on the west. A townland is the smallest administrative land division in Ireland. Historians and other scholars are as yet inconclusive about the origins of these divisions. They are certainly as old as the seventeenth century.

The townland with which this booklet is concerned is known as Ballineaspigmore. It extends west from the new Regional Hospital at Wilton and includes modern housing estates such as Uam-Var, Benvoirlich and Firgrove. The simplest translation of the townland name is *the large land division of the bishop*. To clarify a popular misconception, Bishopstown does not derive its name from the fact that in the early eighteenth century a bishop of Cork built his country residence there. The name is much older and can be found in sources dating back to the sixteenth century.

PART I
HISTORICAL STATEMENT

Ballineaspigmore was at one time a portion of the medieval manor lands of St. Finbarre's Cathedral. It is situated at the end of a large tract of land stretching west from the Cathedral. Many of the townland names within this area identify the fact that at one time they were churchlands (Fig. 3).

In 1582, at the time of the death of Mathew Sheyne, the See of Cork had three ploughlands in 'Ballinaspick'.[1] This is the earliest reference I can find to the townland. For the year 1641 Ballineaspigmore was described as having 436 acres of profitable land.[2] This is the earliest mention of the division of Ballineaspig into Ballineaspigmore and Ballineaspigbeg. The Civil Survey of 1654-6[3] says of Ballineaspig and of some of the townlands surrounding it:

> the Great tythes of these lands belong to ye Church of Finbarry. The small tythes to ye Vicars.

No subdivision of the townland is mentioned. A census of Ireland for 1659[4] says of Ballineaspigmore that it had thirty four occupants of which eight were English and twenty six were Irish. The persons 'of quality' in the townland at this time were 'Daniell Gefferyes and Capt Thomas Harris gents'.

A document titled Rent-Roll of the Diocese of Cork[5] which is dated 1699, gives an insight into the activities of people occupying the townland at this time. It states:

> Ballenaspugmore, two ploughlands, in lease to Mr. Edward Syng, clerk, for 21 years, from Michelmas, 1692, payeth quarterly, £82.10s.0d. The tenant is oblidged to fence and enclose the lands, and do suit and service at the mannor court of St. Finbarrys[6] and to grind at the mill. . . . During war the rent is to cease, and after the war the tenant may enjoy as long time as was unexpired when the war began.

By 1720 the townland was out of lease and the initial planning for the building of Bishopstown House had begun.

In the year 1710 Dr. Peter Browne, former Provost of Trinity College Dublin, became Bishop of the United Dioceses of Cork and Ross. Among other activities he devoted some of his energies to the matter of repairing and rebuilding churches within Cork city. The most notable surviving example is St. Anne's Shandon.

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At Ballineaspigmore Peter Browne reserved 118 acres of land for the purpose of building 'a good substancial and convenient dwelling house and a chapel thereunto adjoining together with suitable offices'.[7] He also made several 'valuable improvements' there. The nature of these 'improvements' is specified in Part Two of this booklet. The total cost, which was at his own expense, was over £2,000. He intended that Bishopstown House should be 'a fit and convenient residence for himself and his successors the bishops of Cork and Ross'.[8] The dwelling was probably finished in 1726 and the chapel was consecrated in 1730.

Though Browne reserved the land for Bishopstown House in 1720 it was not lawful to do so in practise until 1721. In this year an Act of Parliament[9] was passed which enabled a bishop to set apart any part of his lands which was out of lease, 'as shall be convenient for demesne or mensal lands to him and his successors for ever'.

Little is known of Browne's leisurely activities at Bishopstown House. In 1861 Richard Caulfield[10] made the suggestion that one of Browne's works, titled *The Procedure, Extent and Limits of Human Understanding*, was written in the shellhouse at Bishopstown. This building is a small 'retreat' situated to the north west of the chapel. The essay was published in 1728. It is likely also that parts of a manuscript book of devotions,[11] which is now preserved in St. Finbarre's Cathedral, were written by Browne while at Bishopstown House. Among other entries it contains some of his meditations.

On 25 August 1735 Peter Browne [12] died. A few months previous he laid the foundation stone for a new cathedral.[13] This building was taken down in 1865 when the construction of the present St. Finbarre's Cathedral began. Browne's body was removed to Bishopstown for burial and it was placed in the vault beneath the chapel. There are no details of his funeral available. His will dated 22 July 1735[14] was proved on 7 October of that year. He bequeathed the house and other buildings to his successors free of charge in the hope that 'it should always be a convenient country residence' for them. Furthermore, the will states that for this reason he 'built a chapel for their perpetual use in good hopes that none of his successors would ever frustrate such his design'.

According to an Act of Parliament concerning Bishopstown House which was passed in 1792[15] Browne's successors between the years 1735 and 1772 'occupied and enjoyed' Bishopstown House as a 'mensal house and demesne'. However, two entries in the Register of Cashel[16] indicate that the place was leased during this time and that Browne's wishes were not fully respected. The entries are as follows:

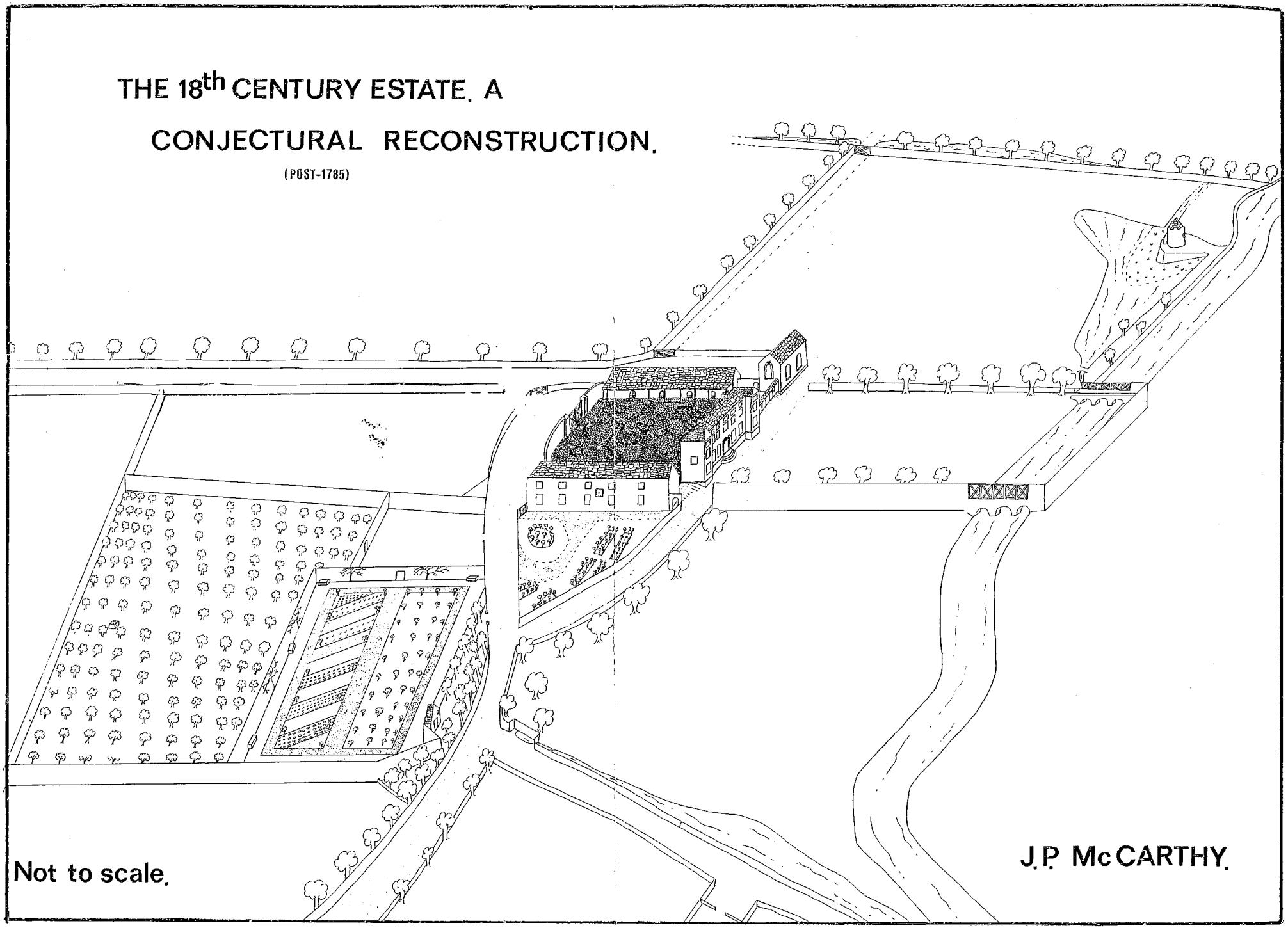


Fig. 1: The cobbled courtyard designs in this drawing are not accurate. My intention is to give a general impression of what the courtyard may have looked like until such time as the actual designs are fully uncovered.

1745 Nov. 1. Upon this day Robert, Bishop of Clogher, [Bp. Cork 1735-45] wrote unto the Archbishop of Cashel.

> My Lord,
>
> Enclosed herewith is the lease of Ballineaspeg, which the owner, Mr. William Lindsay, resigns unto your Grace's hands, in trust for the use of the See, and entirely refers it to your Grace's consideration how that may most effectually be done. The Bishop of Cork proposed giving a bond of £1,000 not to get it for longer than during his own Incumbency, which is humbly submitted to your Grace . . .

1745 Dec. 9. Dr. Jemmett Browne, Bishop of Cork and Ross, passed his bond of this date to Arthur, Archbishop of Cashel for £1,000, conditioned that if he should, during the time he should be Bishop of Cork, continue to keep in his own hands or otherwise to possess and enjoy the dwelling-house and lands of Ballineaspeg as the same had been lately enjoyed by the 2 last Bishops of Cork, without said present Bishop making any lease of same other than for any time during his continuing Bishop of Cork, said bond to be void, or otherwise to remain in full force.

It was Peter Browne's intention that the estate should be used only as a country residence for his successors. Therefore any leasing of the estate, for whatever purpose, was contrary to the wishes expressed in Browne's will. Though the activities of Bishop Robert Clayton and of Bishop Jemmett Browne set a precedent for leasing the estate, it was not until after the death of Bishop Isaac Mann in 1788 that anyone objected publicly to this happening.

In 1772 Jemmett Browne was moved to the Diocese of Elphin and Dr. Isaac Mann succeeded him. In a biographical sketch of Dr. Mann written about 1840[17] there is the following statement relating to his occupation of Bishopstown House:

> he provided for the personal superintendence of his successors by entirely rebuilding the palace at Cork [the present Bishop's Palace] his own residence being, in the meantime, kept at the country seat of Ballineaspeg which he made the abode of innocent cheerfulness and decent but not expensive hospitality.

By 1786 the new Bishop's Palace was completed and a commission[18] which went to see it reported that Mann was in Bath in England 'for the recovery of his health'. This is, perhaps, the reason why Mann leased the estate on 11 October 1785 to Nicholas Smyth.[19] The term of the lease was 21 years at a

rent of £75 per annum and the chapel was not included. The rent was well below the average for a property of this kind at that time and Smyth was to hold the land 'in trust for the said Isaac . . . his executors, administrators and assigns'.

On 10 December 1788 Mann died at Bath and his remains were taken to Bristol. They were shipped from there to Cork where they were deposited for a few days in the Cathedral. On 31 December they were taken to Bishopstown House and deposited in the chapel vault beside the coffin of Peter Browne. In the Dublin Chronicle of 8 Jan. 1789 [20] a letter was published which gives some details of this event. It says:

> The funeral was suberb; all the clergy in the city attended, with scarfs etc. and there was upwards of fity carriages.

Further details of the funeral are from the pen of Richard Caulfield who wrote in 1861:[21]

> I may add the testimony of a respectable old man who died some years ago. He told me he had a distinct recollection of Bishop Mann's funeral and that as it passed from the Palace by the Glasheen Road (where he resided) to Bishopstown, the choir of the cathedral which preceded the coffin were chanting dirges, followed by the prebendaries, both in surplices; and that the parochial clergy followed the coffin in academic costume with a numerous retinue of citizens.

In the chapel at Bishopstown an inscribed monument to Bishop Mann was erected.

Mann[22] was 77 years of age when he died. If Mann had lived until 1806 when the estate was again out of lease then it is probable that the trouble which eventually resulted from his leasing would not have occurred. It is likely, as was the case with Jemmett Browne, that he had the option of leasing the estate for a term within his period as Bishop of Cork. In the short time between 1789 and 1790 two bishops were to succeed Dr. Mann. They were Euseby Cleaver and William Foster. Neither bishop was prepared to 'ratify or confirm' the lease and they would not accept any rent. This was because both were entitled to the use of the estate for their own purposes and as the term of the lease lasted until 1806 they were prevented from doing so. Bishop Foster was advised that the lease was not good and valid in law because of the conditions in Peter Browne's will. He therefore filed a high court bill against Charles Smyth, the administrator and son of Nicholas Smyth who was now deceased, for 'the discovery of evidence in support of

title to be presented on the trial of the issue of ejectment'.[23] Foster was translated to the See of Kilmore before the matter could be tried in court. It thereby became the business of his successor William Bennet to continue with the trial. Bennet filed a bill against Charles Smyth and the executors of Dr. Mann. Before the matter could be brought to trial however an agreement was reached between Bennet, Smyth and Mann's executors for the purchase of the interest in the house, offices and land. In pursuance of this agreement an indenture was drawn up dated 19 Sept. 1791 between Mann's executors i.e. Archdeacon Austin and Samuel Mann, of the one part and Wm. Bennett of the other part. It stated that in 'consideration of £500 sufficiently secured to the executors and also in consideration that Bennet had by this indenture indemnified and discharged the executors from the payment of all rent arrears then due out of the premises, the executors with the consent and approbation of Charles Smyth sold to Wm. Bennet the house, offices and lands with all their interests in same'. Therefore the old lease was at an end.

Because of the problems caused by the 1785 leasing it was Bishop Bennet's wish that the same should not occur again and that the house, offices and land 'should for ever remain as a mensal house and demesne and mensal lands for himself and his successors according to the design and intention of Peter Browne'. In order to ensure that this would happen a statute titled the *32 George 3* was passed in the Irish Parliament in 1792. By this Act Bishopstown became solely 'a mansion-house for the country residence of the bishops of Cork' and it became illegal to lease the estate 'or dispose of it to any other use'.

Finally, all that remained to be done was the sorting out of the total costs accruing since Mann's death. Cleaver received £37.10s.0d. which was equal to the rent during his term of office. Foster received £75 for rent in arrears plus any money invested by him in bringing the case to court and in getting the Act passed. The purchase of the leasehold interest cost £500. Bennet was responsible for all these costs along with what it cost him to bring the matter to court and in getting the Act passed. It was therefore agreed that Bennet should be reimbursed. This was done by means of passing the debt to his successors who would pay by means of an installment system. Bennet's immediate successor was to reimburse Bennet with the full sum. Others were then to pay their predecessors reducing fractions of the original sum until a stage was reached where the cost to Bennet's fourth successor was minimal. Within three months after the passing of the Act Bennet had to prove before the Archbishop of Cashel the full sum of money expended for defeating the lease. When certified by the Archbishop copies were to be placed in the registries in Cork and in Cashel. In an entry for 24 May 1792 the Cashel Register gives the total sum as £777.17s.10d.[24]

In 1792 Bishopstown House was 'in a state of decay and totally unfit for the residence of the bishop'. It is strange that Bennet did not make any repairs there. The explanation for this is possibly that in 1794 he moved to Cloyne Diocese. His successor did not make any repairs to the estate either, although Bishop Stopford did petition the Archbishop of Cashel to grant a commission of dilapidation in connection with Bishopstown House. This was done and the return of the commission for 10 Nov. 1794 was for £75.9s.4½d. as the amount of dilapidation.[25]

Stopford was succeeded by John George Beresford (1805-7) and Thomas St. Lawrence (1807-31). Presumably they did not occupy or repair the house and other buildings there. When St. Lawrence became bishop the property was described as being 'in a state of ruin'. His successor was Samuel Kyle who became bishop in March 1831.

On 15 September 1831 a report in the *Cork Constitution* newspaper stated that an Act of Parliament [26] in order to repeal the earlier Act dealing with Bishopstown had been passed in the House of Lords and 'had been sent down to the Commons'. This was to enable the Bishop to sell the estate under certain restrictions. Kyle's reasons for getting a repeal of the 1792 Act were:

1) There was now a good and substantial See House for the Bishop in the suburbs of the city (the present Bishop's Palace). To this there were 11 acres attached. Bishopstown was located three miles from the city.
2) Since the 1792 Act the lands of Bishopstown House, being still 118 acres, had 'not been demised on leases but had been held either by the said Bishops as mensal lands or by Tenants at Will and the same had become greatly impoverished and deteriorated'.
3) Bishop St. Lawrence was now dead and his executor Rev. Edward St. Lawrence was entitled to receive the last installment as specified in the 1792 Act for the repayment of costs incurred in getting that Act passed. This amounted to a sum of £347.11s. 11½d.
4) A commission found that 'dilapidations to the amount of £1,101.18s.2d. had been permitted on Ballinaspic'.

The Act of 1831 enabled Kyle and his successors to lease the 'whole or any part of the said lands . . . for any term not exceeding 21 years'.

In the early part of the nineteenth century the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, a government body, was established. Their function was to investigate certain matters connected with the wealth of the Church of Ireland. In this regard they were responsible for the reorganisation and sale of churchlands. An entry in Griffith's *Primary Valuation of Ireland*[27] for 1851-2 shows that at this time Bishopstown House was occupied by John

Lewis who had a lease of 21 years from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. By 1876 Lewis was still in residence as he is recorded in a report[28] on landowners in Ireland for this date. It was not until the 1870s that the Ecclesiastical Commissioners were finally in a position to dispose of certain categories of churchland. It is probably about this time that Bishopstown House was bought by John Magner who was a resident in the townland since before Griffith's *Valuation*. (See Addendum at end of notes to Part One below.)

Magner gave the property to his daughter Mary who was married to Edward Neville. When she died it was left to her husband. After his death it passed to the family of Mr. T. Neville M.D. who is resident today in Clonakilty. He remembers the estate as it was in the years 1916 to 1933.[29] From the Neville family the estate was bought by a Mr. Forest who, shortly afterwards, sold it to the Murphy family. In the early 1970s the Murphys sold it to Cork Corporation.

To return to the early nineteenth century, it is obvious from contemporary reports that changes were taking place at this time which reflected an emphasis on agriculture in the use of the property. The 'pleasure-grounds' features were allowed to decay, the mansion house was demolished and the chapel was adapted to the needs of the farmer. This began to happen within a few months of the passing of the 1831 Act judging by an account[30] which is possibly from the pen of Thomas Crofton Croker the antiquary. He says:

> Ballinaspig is now gone to decay. The house is converted into a barn, the offices into a farmhouse and the chapel which was attached to the house is roofless; the roof of the chapel fell in about ten or eleven years since.

In 1848 the marble monument to Bishop Mann was removed to St. Finbarre's Cathedral. When Richard Caulfield[31] visited Bishopstown House in 1861 the chapel was thatched with straw and, of the estate in general, he remarked:

> The place was near being demolished some years ago when in the hands of an ignorant and unprincipled tenant.

Caulfield's visit in 1861 was prompted by a rumour set about by a farm labourer that the chapel vault had been opened and that the bishops' coffins had been interfered with. This was found to be untrue. However it probably did lead to Caulfield obtaining permission in 1865[32] for the removal of the coffins to St. Finbarre's Cathedral where they now rest. In doing this the last tangible connection between St. Finbarre's Cathedral and Bishopstown House was removed. From 1865 onwards the history of Bishopstown House is one of farming.

Having followed the story of the estate through the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, this story would not be in context without knowing a little about what else was happening in the townland during these times. For the eighteenth century the only information I have been able to find is on a manuscript map[33] now preserved in St. Finbarre's Cathedral. It is dated 25 March, 1779 and it is titled 'South Division of part of Ballineaspigmore belonging to Robert Waller Esquire'. The map shows the boundaries of the Bishopstown House estate without details of the estate itself and it also shows field systems on the land occupied today by Benvoirlich and other housing estates to the south east (Photo No. 4).

If it is reasonable to presume that the way of life for the farm labourer changed little between 1779 and the early nineteenth century, then a little knowledge of his lifestyle may be gleaned from the writing of the Rev. Horatio Townsend. He wrote a historical and statistical survey of County Cork which was first published by the Royal Dublin Society in 1810. The Cork farm labourer he says[34] earned on average about six pence per day and had a cabin plus an acre of ground from the farmer. His wife procured extra money by knitting and by either dressing or spinning flax. In a few places wives engaged in occasional labour in the fields. Most labourer's houses were single storeyed and partitioned into two rooms with an open hearth at one end. A peculiarity of the location of labourer's houses was that instead of a central location convenient to the several parts of the grounds they were commonly placed on or very near the boundaries of the farm. The first edition six inch Ordnance Survey map showing Bishopstown House, as surveyed in the period 1841-2, shows two buildings situated at the boundaries of the estate. One of these, that on the eastern boundary, was the gate lodge in Cáit Sé's lane (now Rossa Avenue). The other was beside the northern boundary of the estate which lay immediately to the south of the Regional Technical College. On the opposite side of Cáit Sé's lane were another two buildings which were probably cottages. In the *Griffith Valuation* of 1851-2 it can be seen that Mr. Lewis who occupied the estate at this time was renting two houses. One of his tenants was Thomas Walsh and the other was Michael Healy. By this time Lewis had increased his total land holding in the townland to 123 acres. Excluding the gate lodge it is possible that Lewis's farm labourers may have lived in the other three buildings all of which are adjacent to Cáit Sé's lane. Therefore Townsend's observation is possibly true for Bishopstown House.

In the pre-famine period the surnames of people residing in the townland of Ballineaspigmore included the names Leslie, Egan, Ahern, Callaghan, Walsh and Johnson.[35] In the early post-famine years[36] the surnames of property lessors were Wilmot, Horrigan, Mahoney, Purcell, Leslie, Regan and

Deasy. Most of these people resided in the townland and they were mainly farmers. People occupying property leased from them had the surnames Buckley, Sullivan, Walsh, Healy, English, Cary, Gordon, Sheehan, Caughlan, Connoly, Cronin, Keefe, Lynch, Cavanagh, Kenealy, Leahy, Finnegan, Cunningham, Barrett, Egan, Collins, Kelleher, Murphy, Looney, Flynn, Hogan, Goggins, Fahy and Crowley. Most of these worked for the local farmers.

For the years 1851 to 1891 census returns[37] show that a considerable decrease in the population of the townland occurred during this time. In 1851 the population was 318 persons. By 1891 this had, gradually, become 168 of whom 95 were males. Some of the possible explanations for this are emigration or a move to the city. The figures for the number of houses in the townland during this period also reflect this decrease. Out of a total of 54 houses in 1851, there were only 34 surviving by 1891 and 5 of these were uninhabited.

As well as their permanent labourers, farmers during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were also dependant on casual labour. At Bishopstown House in the years prior to 1923 such a labour force was employed. A bedroom which could accommodate up to four men was provided for them over the barn. By 1923 this labour force was gone. Dr. Neville's recollections[38] of the estate in the years 1916 to 1933 tell of another kind of seasonal help on the farm. Each year young women from Glasheen and from the area around St. Finbarre's Cathedral came to pick fruit growing in the orchard and they also bound the corn after it was cut.

Though the story of the townland of Ballineaspigmore as presented here is incomplete in many ways, I would hope that it will provide the reader with a general understanding of what constitutes the history of this townland. Part Three of this booklet is an attempt to encompass another aspect of the townland's history. By this I mean the history and the prehistory of the townland as reflected in the physical remains of times past. For the history of Bishopstown House the guide, which forms Part Two of the booklet, is intended to serve the same function.

NOTES TO PART ONE

1 Bolster 1972, 171.
2 Books of Survey and Distribution. Cork volume.
3 Simington 1942, Vol. VI, 382.
4 Pender 1939, 192.
5 Smith 1893, Vol. I, 128.

6 *The Manor Court of St. Finn Barr*: A government committee set up in order to investigate this archaic legal system and to consider its abolition, produced its report in 1837. Of the manor court of St. Finn Barr it states that its jurisdiction comprised the parishes of St. Finn Barr and St. Nicholas as well as a large portion of County Cork including part of the town of Bandon. Types of cases tried were those of debt and trespass. It enforced its laws 'by summons in the first instance and execution against the goods of the party'. There was no prison though there was 'an exclusive manor pound for securing goods taken under the execution of this court'. The judge was a person known as the Seneschal and in the St. Finn Barr's court there was no jury. The decree of the court was carried out by the bailiff. The age or date of origin for this court was not established by the committee. (see report appendix, pages 356-7.)

7 Act of Parliament 1792 A.D.

8 Ibid.

9 Act of Parliament 1721 A.D.

10 Caulfield 1861, 104.

11 Described in Winnett 1974, 194-9.

12 *Peter Browne*: His date of birth is unknown (possibly 1664 or 65). In 1682 he entered Trinity College, Dublin and was a Fellow of this college from 1692. He became Provost in 1699 and remained so until 1709. The following year he became Bishop of Cork and Ross. He was the author of several philosophical and other works details of which are to be found in Winnett 1974.

13 This replaced the medieval cathedral.

14 Eustace 1954-6, Vol. I, 223.

15 Act of Parliament 1792 A.D.

16 Brady 1864, Vol. 3, 79.

17 Mant 1840, Vol. 2, 650-1.

18 Brady 1864, Vol. 3, 80.

19 Act of Parliament 1792 A.D.

20 ABHBA 1860, 143.

21 Caulfield 1861, 105.

22 *Isaac Mann*: Born in 1710 in Norwich, England. He was educated in Trinity College, Dublin. Between 1757 and 1772 he was Archdeacon of Dublin. In 1772 he became Bishop of Cork and Ross. He was the author of two religious school texts one of which was a popular catechism. (Brady 1864, Vol. 3, 80)

23 Act of Parliament 1792 A.D. Full details of Bennett's part in the matter are given here.

24 Brady 1864, Vol. 3, 82.

25 Brady 1864, Vol. 3, 82.
26 Act of Parliament 1831 A.D.
27 Griffith's *Valuation* 1852.
28 Government report on landowners in Ireland 1876.
29 Letter *10.12.1980* from Dr. Neville to the author.
30 Smith 1893, Vol. 1, 360.
31 *Richard Caulfield*: He was born in Cork on 23 April 1823. First educated in Bandon, he entered Trinity College, Dublin in 1841. He obtained his doctorate there in 1866. In his day he was a highly respected antiquarian and librarian. He was a fellow of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of London, a member of the Society of Antiquaries of Normandy and an honorary member of the Royal Academy of Madrid. From 1864 he was librarian at the Royal Cork Institution which was located in what is now part of the Cork Art Gallery. In 1876 he was appointed librarian of Queen's College, Cork which is now University College, Cork. He worked there until his death on 3 Feb. 1887. During his time at Q.C.C. he resided at the Royal Cork Institution. He is buried in St. Luke's cemetery in Douglas, Cork.

During his life he was closely connected with St. Finbarre's Cathedral and was a member of the Building Committee for the present cathedral the construction of which began in 1865. He was the author of numerous publications dealing with aspects of Cork history. Further information is available in:

1) The index for 1892-1940 of the *Journal of the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society*,
2) *The Cork Constitution* newspaper, 7 February 1887.
3) University College Cork, Library Manuscript Collection, No. U.83.

32 A manuscript entry in a copy of Part Three of Cotton's *Fasti* now in the library University College, Cork.
33 See photographs section of this booklet, No. 4.
34 Townsend 1810, Vol. 1, 209-12.
35 Tithe Applotment Books, Co. Cork Volume.
36 Griffith's *Valuation* 1852. St. Finbarre's Parish.
37 Census of Ireland 1891.
38 Letter *10-12-1980* from Dr. Neville to the author.

ADDENDUM

Subsequent to the writing of this booklet I have received the following information concerning the estate.

In 1878 John Magner purchased Bishopstown House from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. By this time the property was a little over 122 acres in extent. The immediate previous occupant was James William Atkin, gentleman. The chapel which is described as 'now or formerly belonging to the Bishop of Cork', was not included in the sale. Also the patch of ground at the north side of the footbridges was excluded. It is probable that the reason behind this was because the ground was then in use as a graveyard. The chapel and patch of ground were in the possession of John Lewis through a lease from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners dated 9 Dec. 1868. In purchasing Bishopstown House Magner took the place of the Commissioners in this agreement and was subject to the conditions of the lease which included rights of way.

An inaccurate map of the estate which accompanies Magner's deed shows some interesting details of the property for *c.* 1878. Briefly, these are:

1) A lane leading from the double gateway at the north side of the limekiln and connecting with Rossa Avenue.
2) A limestone quarry in the field immediately to the north east of the bridge on the Curraheen Road over the Twopot River.
3) The bends in the river have not yet been straightened out.
4) Only one quarry is shown in the quarries field. This is the centre one of the three.

PART II
A GUIDE TO
BISHOPSTOWN HOUSE

Introduction

The estate lies in a lowland hilly area which is drained by the Curraheen/Maglin River and the Twopot River. The latter is a tributary of the Curraheen/Maglin which drains into the River Lee. The north western side of the estate is a flat wetland area. The local bedrock is limestone.

In reference to Ballineaspigmore the 1792 Act of Parliament describes Peter Browne's activities there as the construction of a dwelling house and 'improvements'. These improvements were created by landscaping. Who the designer was for Bishopstown House is unknown though it is obvious that he applied on a minor scale what was the fashion of his time. Landscape gardening was the means of tastefully shaping the natural features of a landscape thereby creating a form of artistic expression. This involved the modelling of the natural elements of the landscape i.e. land and water, and the addition of two other elements which were plants and buildings. Broadly, the features of the Bishopstown House estate can be classified into two purpose categories. These are: 1) Domestic and farmyard features 2) Pleasure-ground features. The latter are mainly based around the river and the adjoining wetland.

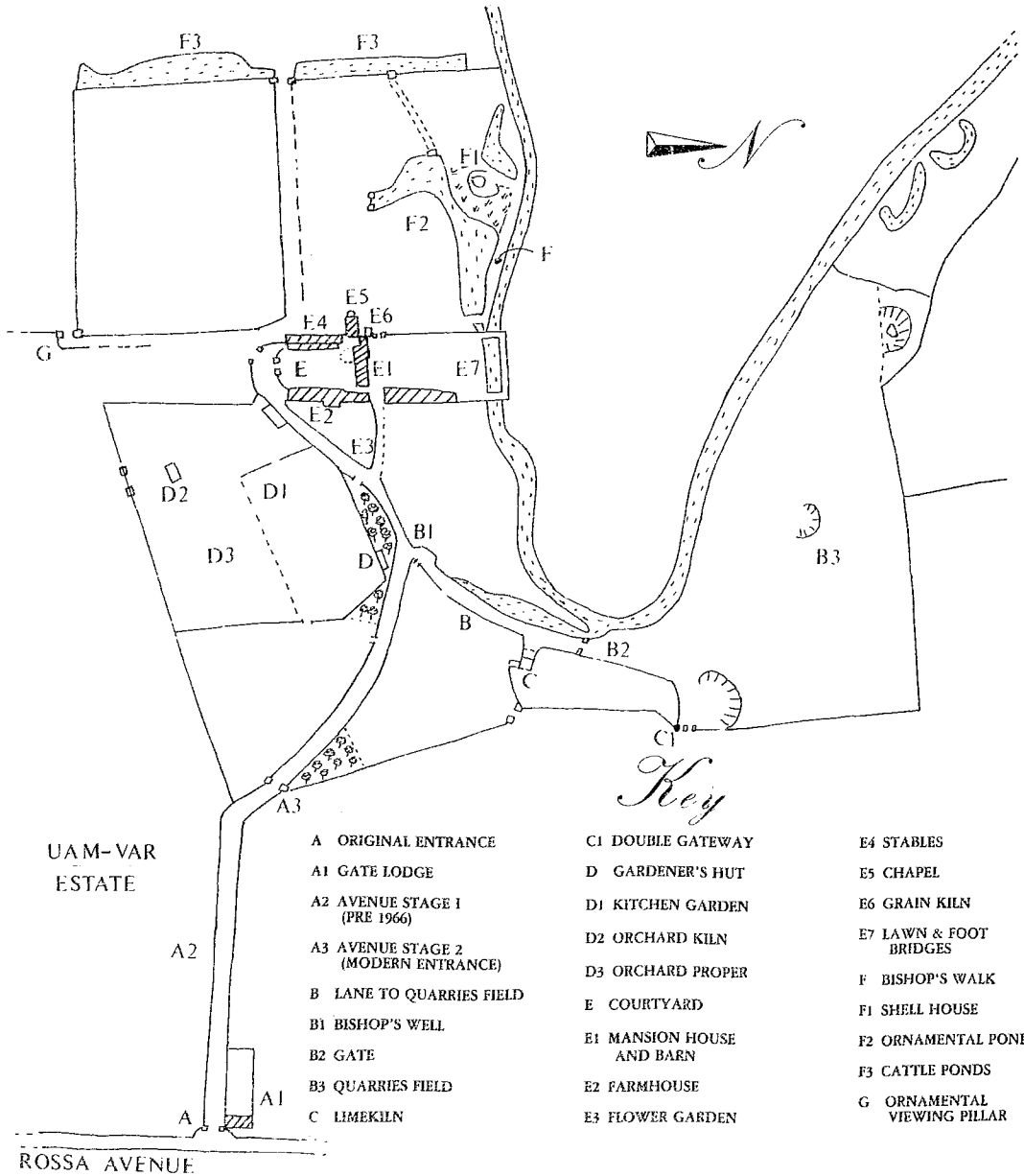
For the use of this guide in conjunction with the map of the estate (Fig. 2) the letters and numbers in brackets following subheadings below are provided.

The estate is situated on the Ordnance Survey 6″ maps, Co. Cork, sheet No. 74 at 9·2 cm from the south margin and 1·2 cm from the west.

Entrance and Gate Lodge (A,A1)

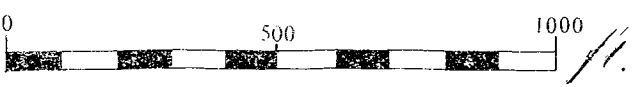
The original entrance to Bishopstown House was in Cáit Sé's lane which became known as Rossa Avenue in the early part of this century. The gateway still remains consisting of two rectangular pillars from which sidewalls curve outwards to form a semicircular entrance facade. Beside the gateway, on the right hand side, was a gate lodge which was still in existence at the beginning of this century. The people living there worked on the estate.

Bishopstown House.



Key

A ORIGINAL ENTRANCE
A1 GATE LODGE
A2 AVENUE STAGE 1 (PRE 1966)
A3 AVENUE STAGE 2 (MODERN ENTRANCE)
B LANE TO QUARRIES FIELD
B1 BISHOP'S WELL
B2 GATE
B3 QUARRIES FIELD
C LIMEKILN
C1 DOUBLE GATEWAY
D GARDENER'S HUT
D1 KITCHEN GARDEN
D2 ORCHARD KILN
D3 ORCHARD PROPER
E COURTYARD
E1 MANSION HOUSE AND BARN
E2 FARMHOUSE
E3 FLOWER GARDEN
E4 STABLES
E5 CHAPEL
E6 GRAIN KILN
E7 LAWN & FOOT BRIDGES
F BISHOP'S WALK
F1 SHELL HOUSE
F2 ORNAMENTAL PONDS
F3 CATTLE PONDS
G ORNAMENTAL VIEWING PILLAR



Boundaries

For the 118 acres estate these were Cáit Sé's lane at the East, the Curraheen Road at the south, the Twopot River at the west, the Maglin/Curraheen River at the north west and the field fence immediately south of the Regional Technical College at the north east. The east and the south boundaries were walled and tree-lined originally.

The Avenue (A2,A3)

As dictated by the principles of landscape gardening the approach to a country mansion was of the greatest importance. It was thought that the avenue should gradually reveal the dwelling in a series of stages. At Bishopstown House there were three stages. The first began in Cáit Sé's lane and ran west to where the present entrance to the avenue lies. It was lined with earthen banks and in the eighteenth century there were trees behind these. The avenue was surfaced with a bedding of limestone chips. The second stage curved gently and descended from the high ground, which forms the east and south sides of the estate, to the lower land where the estate buildings and 'water' features are located. At the junction of stages one and two was a wood, triangular in plan, which is still in existence today. This is a landscaping device intended to enhance the view from various points along the avenue. Nearing the bottom of stage two there is a second triangular wood. This served the same purpose. The third stage began opposite the Bishop's Well and the lane which leads to the limekiln. For half its length on the left hand side there is a low stone wall which had a stile in it. This formed the boundary of a third wood which fronted the north wall of the kitchen garden. The second half of this side of the avenue has a high wall intended to conceal buildings connected with domestic activities. At the right hand side of the avenue is a lane which led to the lawn and to the front of the dwelling. The triangular area between this lane and the avenue was occupied by the flower garden. The avenue ended at the gateway which is the entrance to the courtyard.

The Orchard and Kitchen Garden (D,D1,D2,D3)

The orchard was in two parts. These were the orchard proper and the kitchen garden which was located where the tennis courts are today. An inventory of what was growing on the land attached to the bishop's residence in Cork city in the year 1710 may give some idea of what the orchard at Bishopstown House contained during the eighteenth century. The items listed (Brady 1864, Vol. 3, 69) are: plums, pears, cherries, apple trees, walnuts and peaches. The orchard proper was reserved for the hardier fruits such as

apples, pears, cherries and plums. A kitchen garden contained other fruits and vegetables. These fruits grew on wall trees and shrubs. The inclusion of the kitchen garden within the boundary of the orchard was a recommended design. Much attention was given to the appearance and layout of the kitchen garden. Some of the desirable characteristics were: walks for manuring, borders, an entrance giving the best possible view, a sheltered location and a picturesque arrangement of plants. If something of the original design for the garden at Bishopstown House survived into the nineteenth century these characteristics are reflected on the 1st edition of the six inch Ordnance Survey map for here (see Fig. 1). Dr. Neville says of the orchard that in the early part of this century it contained a greenhouse which grew tomatoes and that also growing in the orchard were apples, pears, plums, gooseberries and strawberries.

Two other features of the orchard are the gardener's hut and the small kiln. The kiln is situated in the orchard proper and it was used for burning waste from here. The ashes produced were probably used as manure. It measures 2·44 m square in plan with an aperture 1·12 m at the front and 0·9 m at the back. The cone has a depth of 1·6 m, a diameter of 1·53 m and it is brick-lined.

The gardener's hut was situated in the north wall of the kitchen garden and it projected into the wood behind. It was demolished a few years ago and consisted of a single room. It had a pitched roof with a gable showing to the front.

The Bishop's Well (B1)

This is a natural stream which has been channelled to run along beside the lane to the kiln and on into the Curraheen/Maglin River. It is probable that originally it drained into the field beside the well which is still a very wet piece of land. It is more than likely that the well was created in the eighteenth century and that, as with the Bishop's Walk, its name derives from an association with Peter Browne.

The Limekiln (C)

This type of kiln was in use in the later part of the eighteenth century and also in the nineteenth century. It was known as a Standing Kiln. Kilns were in use in Ireland since the seventeenth century at least and they produced lime primarily as a manure for the land. I do not know how old the kiln at Bishopstown House is. As lime was also used for building purposes perhaps it is contemporary with the construction of the estate or else it may be post 1831 in date. The following description of limekilns by Millington was

published in a *Rural Cyclopaedia* in 1848 (see Wilson 1848):

> A lime-kiln as usually constructed, is placed, if possible, on the side of a natural hill to avoid the expense of brick-work or masonry in its construction. Indeed lime-kilns should always be built in the immediate vicinity of the stone to be burnt to save its transportation, and if they cannot be formed in the natural soil, they must be wholly built. The kiln itself is an inverted cone excavated out of the soil, or formed in the brick-work or masonry, and must be lined with fire-bricks, or the hardest bricks that can be procured. Its form is usually that of a cone, from twelve to fifteen feet in diameter at its top or largest end, and diminishing down to about three feet in diameter at the draught-hole or ash-pit, which opens by an archway to the front of the kiln, and should be high enough near the front, for a man to stand upright to work in it. The cone should be from twelve to fifteen feet deep from its top to the base. Two strong iron bars, called bearing-bars, are fixed in the brick-work to bear or support the fire-bars that lie upon them, at about an inch asunder. These fire-bars are of wrought iron, about an inch and a half square, and more than two feet longer than the opening they have to cover, so that their ends project into the arch. The bars being properly arranged, a large fire is made upon them, and coals are thrown upon it from the circular platform, formed round the top of the kiln. When the fire is properly ignited, a layer of chalk or limestone, broken into pieces, is in like manner thrown upon it, until the layer is about nine inches thick. Sometime afterwards a layer of coal is deposited in the same manner, and if the mass appears to burn well, the whole kiln may be filled with alternate layers of broken stone and coal, in a proportion that must be determined by trial upon the stone that is burning, as some kinds take more fuel than others, but chalk will burn if the layers are in the proportion of ten to one. This is determined by the baskets from which the materials are thrown into the kiln; they hold a bushel, and ten bushels of chalk require about one bushel of coal. When once the kiln is set properly to work, the fire requires no re-kindling, but its operation may be continued for months together, by merely supplying fresh materials to the top of the kiln in the same proportion as the lime is drawn away from the bottom. The kiln is usually drawn every twenty-four hours, by taking out, or pushing to one side, one or two of the fire-bars, when a quantity of the bottom or fully burnt lime falls down into the ash-hole. If the lime does not fall fast enough, it is agitated by a bar of iron with its end turned up about a foot. This is introduced up the hole between the bars, and the lime is

easily got down. It is then drawn to the front of the arch by an iron hoe, and when cold, is ready for measuring and carting away. The workman judges from his experience how much lime he may draw at once, and if pieces fall that are not sufficiently burnt, they are returned to the top of the kiln again; but this seldom happens, because an experienced kiln man will cease drawing before such pieces appear. The drawing having closed, the fire-bars are re-instated in their proper places, and the kiln is not touched again until the following day. It might be supposed that rain falling on a kiln of this description, would be detrimental to the burning of the lime, and that a roof would be necessary for its protection. The heat is however so great, that any rain water is evaporated without sinking into the kiln; and in dry weather the top of it is sometimes watered, as the presence of moist vapour in the upperpart of the kiln is thought to assist in the escape of the carbonic acid gas.

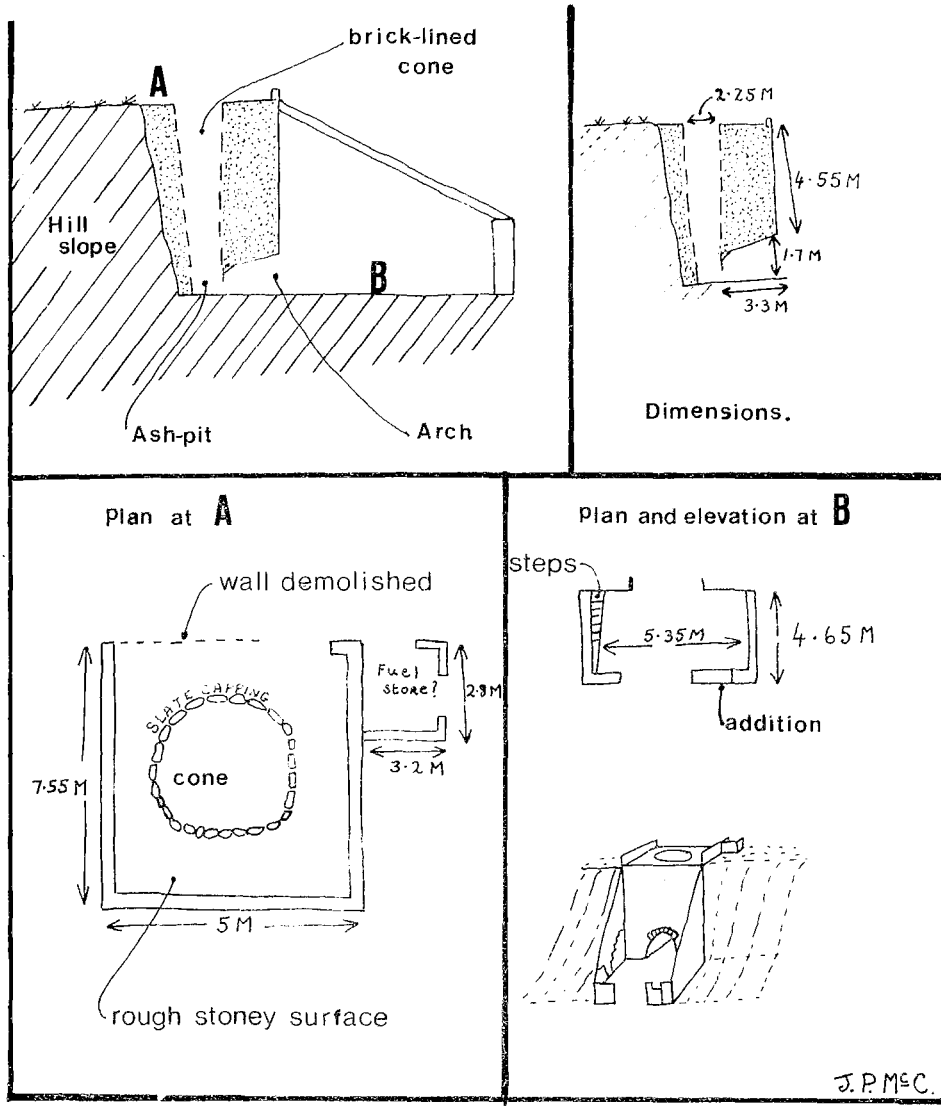
Projecting from the front of the Bishopstown House kiln are two walls which supported a leanto roof. These are not a common feature of limekilns. Some years ago people living in Bishopstown referred to the limekiln as the 'forge'. This was not its original function and the word is either a misnomer or it may refer to a secondary use of the structure. The steps in the north wall may be connected with a small loft the presence of which is suggested by a thin slot in the north and in the south wall.

Writing sometime shortly before 1810 the Rev. Horatio Townsend had the following to say about lime and limekilns in the Barony of Muskerry Co. Cork (Vol. 2, 129):

> This barony has been greatly improved within the last forty years. At the commencement of that period there was scarcely a road in this barony on which a wheel carriage could pass with safety. The farmers in general had no other carriage than a sliding car. More frequently they carried limestone, hay, etc. on horses backs, packed upon side frames of forked sticks. There being now good roads in all directions, wheel carriages are universally used. Lime is an approved manure for all the lands of Muskerry. The drawing of limestone to their farms is therefore one of their most important occupations. They pay for the stone raised at the quarries from three pence to four pence per barrel (half the wheat quarter) and burn it in standing kilns with turf or furze. Such lime generally sells at the kiln from two shillings and four pence to two shillings and eight pence per barrel. Forty barrels are esteemed a good manuring for an acre.

Muskerry begins a few miles to the west of Bishopstown House.

BISHOPSTOWN HOUSE LIMEKILN



The Quarries (B3,C1)

Three disused quarries can be seen at Bishopstown House today. None of these are shown on the 1841-2 Ordnance Survey map. The only quarry shown on this map is that which lies at the junction of Curraheen Road with the entrance to Melbourn housing estate and which is today used as a green. This may have been the original source of limestone for the kiln at Bishopstown House and it may have been brought to the kiln by way of Cáit Sé's lane and into the estate through a gateway which was situated near the Regional Technical College. The carts were probably then driven diagonally across one field to the double gateway, which still remains, at the bottom of the north side of the hill slope in which the kiln is built. Carts could climb the gentle slope here bringing the limestone for placing in the cone of the kiln. The remains of a gateway in the field fence immediately east of the kiln's top may have been connected with this activity also. The quarries at Bishopstown House may have been created when the above source was nearly exhausted or else they may reflect a trend towards eliminating problems of carriage by having the kiln and quarries in close proximity. This activity also reflects the use of the estate after 1831 as a farm. (See Addendum at end of notes to Part One.)

The Courtyard Buildings

The courtyard is entered from the south. Until recently the farmhouse and grainloft were situated at the east side, the barn was at the north side and the stables occupied the western side. The north west corner contained a small single room hut and the chapel. The earliest plan of the courtyard known to me is on a manuscript map which is part of a military survey of the south of Ireland by General Charles Vallancey in the period 1776-85. It shows only two buildings in the courtyard. These are situated at the north and at the west sides and would correspond to the present position of the stables and the barn which was on the site of the mansion house. The chapel which was consecrated in 1730, is not shown. If this map is accurate then the farmhouse building was constructed after 1785 and the eastern side of the courtyard originally opened into the flower garden perhaps. An L-shaped plan would have had its advantages in terms of appearances as one entered the third stage of the avenue. However, if the map is inaccurate then credence can be given to the possibility that the 'offices' mentioned in connection with the construction of the estate are those mentioned by Croker in 1831 when he states that the 'offices' had been converted into a farmhouse. This building has now been renovated for use by the Bishopstown Community Association. A new building has been constructed on the site of

the barn which also utilizes the foundations of the mansion house. This is to be occupied by the Bishopstown Scouts Organisation. The stables is to be the premises of the Bishopstown Tennis and other sports clubs.

No. 1: *The Cobblestones in the Courtyard* (E)

This courtyard is worthy of preservation because it contains a unique example of decorative cobbling. I do not know what the precise details of the designs are. Richard Caulfield said of the courtyard in 1861 that yellow cobbles created the shapes of a crown and of a bishop's mitre. The date 1726 was visible up to three years ago at the approximate centre of the courtyard. Set against the other cobblestones which are either limestone chips or water-rolled sandstone pebbles the designs gave a very 'pretty' effect to the courtyard according to Caulfield. These designs have survived almost intact and will eventually be revealed I would hope in the course of the renovations which are taking place at present. Also in the cobbling there are the letters P and B standing for Peter Browne. The designs shown on my conjectural reconstruction of the estate (Fig. 1) are not a true representation and they are intended to present no more other than a general impression.

No. 2: *The Mansion House* (E1)

The northern end of the courtyard is about 1·25 m above the level of what was the lawn leading to the footbridges. Because of this a retaining wall, which is capped by a cut limestone plinth-moulding and which was part of the base of the mansion house, has survived. The barn and the building there today both utilized it as part of their foundations. I have not been able to find any details of what the house looked like. Possibly it was not very different from the schematic sketch used by Taylor and Skinner in their road maps of Ireland published in 1778 (Photo No. 5)

The decorated cut limestone door-surround which formed the entrance to the mansion house was recently located intact in the course of renovating the farmhouse. It had been placed, possibly in 1831, as part of the front door inside the porch of this building.

The barn which stood on the site of the mansion house until recently was built about the year 1831 and as stated elsewhere in this booklet it had a room overhead for casual farm labourers. From the point of view of the history of the estate as a farm, the stone-faced earthen platform which was in front of the barn is of interest. As described by Dr. Neville this held a large iron lever to which a jennett was tackled and driven around the platform. This action activated a pulping machine in the barn. Placed high on the outside wall of the barn and facing the entrance to the courtyard was a sundial. This was originally in the garden.

No. 3: *The Farmhouse* (E2)

There were three parts to this block. The centre portion was the farmhouse proper which was two storied with a drawing room, small entrance hall, dining room, back entrance hall, pantry, kitchen, and two other rooms for the storage of fruit and dairy produce. On the second storey were three bedrooms for the family and three bedrooms for servants' quarters. Fruit was stored in one of these rooms. The northern end of the farmhouse was an addition made sometime after 1842 as a passage led through here from the courtyard into the flower garden at that time. At a later stage, after this addition was built, a passage ran from the courtyard between this building and the barn into the lawn. The south end of the farmhouse is a separate structure which had a store on the ground floor and a grainloft overhead. The grainloft was reached by a flight of steps from the end of the avenue.

No. 4: *The Flower Garden* (E3)

No details of what the original flower garden was like survive. All we know of it is that it contained the sundial and that it was laid out by Peter Browne. In the early part of this century it was still used for growing flowers. It also contained a vinery for growing grapes. The walls of this are still standing.

No. 5: *The Stables* (E4)

There were two parts to this building. The south end was a carriage house while the rest of the building was used as a stables. This building was in use in recent times as a milking parlour. A glance at the masonry in the east wall reveals several phases of building. At the north side, facing the courtyard, are the remains of three stable doors. At the south side in the cobbling next to the modern additional building, two lengths of limestone slabs are set a few feet apart. These indicate the presence of an entrance here, probably into the carriage house, which was an original feature of the courtyard. Another original and very attractive feature of this side of the building was destroyed in the recent past. It consisted of a leanto slate roof supported by a facade of upright timber posts at intervals. The posts rested on square blocks of cut limestone which are still in position. The slates were not of a uniform size and they were held in place through being hung on timber pegs which rested on a series of laths running lengthways along the roof.

In the nineteenth century the western side of the stables was separated from the field beside it by a fence.

No. 6: *The Chapel* (E5)

This structure is 10·35 m in length and 6 m in width externally. The side walls are 3·90 m high and the gables are 6 m in height. It is lit by four windows; one in the south sidewall, two in the north side wall and one in the eastern gable. Caulfield says that there was a little belfry on top of the eastern gable. The metal bars which are there today are the remains of an early radio antenna. At the western side of the building is a porch which was approached by a flight of five semicircular steps of cut limestone. The window and door-surrounds as well as the pediment and quoins are all in cut limestone. This building also has the same plinth-moulding which can be seen in the remains of the mansion house. There are two entrances to the chapel, one in the east gable opening into the courtyard area and the other inside the porch at the west. A 'covered way' is said to have existed between the east entrance and the mansion house.

Inside the chapel on the north wall there is rectangular impression in the surviving plasterwork. The marble monument or plaque to Bishop Mann may have been situated here. A niche in the internal face of the west gable contained a cut limestone block which is now in St. Finnbarre's Cathedral. This bears the inscription:

HOC
SACELLUM AEDIFICAVIT
PETRUS
CORCAGIENSIS ET ROSSENSIS
EPISCOPUS
ANNO DOMINO MDCCXXX
IDEMQUE
SOLEMNITER CONSECRAVIT
DIE SEP. XXIX

The monument to Bishop Mann reads:

THE REMAINS OF ISAAC MANN D.D.
BISHOP OF CORK AND ROSS ARE
DEPOSITED
IN A VAULT UNDERNEATH

In 1848 this was removed to St. Finbarre's Cathedral. Dr. Neville remembers a latin inscription on the south side of the chapel. I can find no trace of this. He cannot recall what it said. There was also a monument to Peter Browne here of which Caulfield notes that 'being formed of some perishable material, such as plaster of Paris, it gradually crumbled away after

the roof fell in'. The chapel has had at least three roofs; the first of slate, the second of thatch and the third of slate again. The chapel has been used, among other things, as a dairy.

Beneath the chapel is the vault in which Peter Browne and Isaac Mann rested until 1865. It is entered by a flight of steps at the bottom of the east gable. From 1865, it was closed up to 1976. When reopened by Messrs. Staunton, McCarthy and Buckley at this time a large slab mentioned by Dr. Caulfield was found lying on the floor at the north side of the doorway. On the floor of the vault were a pair of low brick walls which had supported the bishops' coffins. The following is Caulfield's description of his investigation of the vault and its contents in 1861 which was occasioned by a rumour that the coffins had been interfered with:

> Jan. 12, 1861. — This morning, a little after 6 o'clock, Mr. Lewis set three labourers to clear away the earth which filled up the space between the steps and the entrance to the vault under the chancel of the Episcopal Chapel at Bishopstown. In about three hours this work was accomplished, and the space cleared, when a very large and weighty flag presented itself, fixed upright, and closing securely the entrance to the vault. This, after much difficulty and the assistance of two other men, we got in an inclined position against the steps, and then descended, by means of a ladder placed against the flag, into the vault, which is 14 feet long by 8 broad, and 6 feet 2 in. high, and paved with square flags. On procuring candles we discovered the two coffins at the upper end of the chamber lying side by side about two feet apart, and resting on two low walls made of brick. The timber of the outer coffins had completely decayed, and lay on the ground as it fell off, like a thick mould. The lead coffins were quite perfect, and evidently had never been disturbed. The first coffin examined was that of Bishop P. Browne. On the lid, embedded in the decayed timber, we found the plate, which required the greatest care to touch, as it was quite corroded, and not much thicker than a sheet of paper. This we succeeded in raising. It was originally square, and in the centre was an oval with a bead pattern, within which were the letters 'P.C & R. 1735'. As the lid of this coffin had never been soldered, and had yielded a little to the weight of the decayed timber that lay on it, it was found necessary to take it off (to replace it in its proper position, and exclude the drops of water which fell from the ceiling near it), when all that was mortal of Bishop Browne presented itself. There was no appearance of an inner shell. The body was placed in the lead, enveloped in folds of linen, which was not in the slightest degree discoloured. The body was nearly

entire from the middle up; so perfect were the features, that any one who had been his portrait at the Palace Cork (see photo No. 1), would readily have detected the resemblance. The lid then was carefully replaced. The outer coffin must have been originally adorned with escutcheons, as the remains of such decorations were found mixed up with the decayed timber. The massive brass handles were as perfect as ever. Bishop Mann's coffin must have been originally stuffed with thousands of small nails. The leaden coffin is in the highest state of preservation. On the lid was a mitre of brass, and below it a large brass plate, quite sound with this inscription:

The Right Revd.
Issac Mann,
D.D.,
Lord Bishop
Of Cork and Ross,
Died 10th Decr., 1788,
Aged 77.

Both the mitre and plate were gilt. The coffin was closely soldered all round. Bishop Browne's coffin is 5 feet 8 inches long, 21½ in. across the shoulders, and 15 in. in depth. After the investigation, which occupied over an hour, the flag was carefully replaced, and the earth filled in as before.

(See also Addendum at end of Part One.)

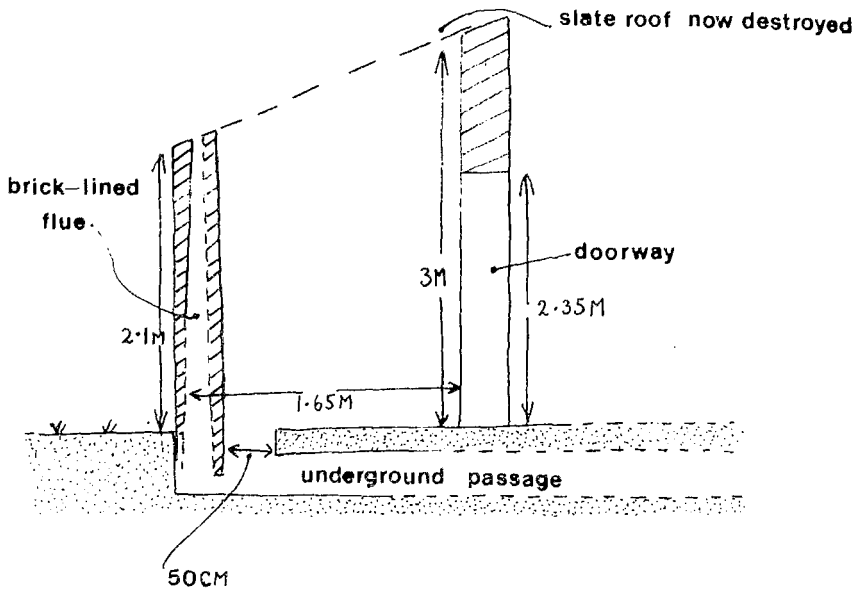
Occupying the place where the 'covered way' is said to have existed was a small hut which may have originally been used as accommodation for casual workers. This was demolished recently.

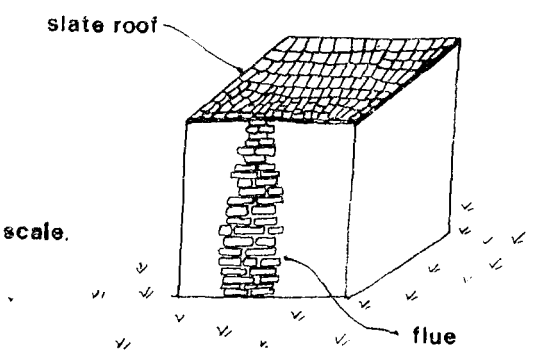
No. 7: *Grain-Drying Kiln* (E6)

I am not as yet certain that this is the correct name for this structure. It needs to be more fully investigated at a future date. The following sketch drawings are included here as an interim record.

In terms of date all that can be said of it is that it was built sometime between 1842 and 1902 i.e. between the first and second editions of the Ordnance Survey six inch maps.

BISHOPSTOWN HOUSE GRAIN KILN





not to scale.

reconstruction.

J. P. McC.

The 'Pleasure-Grounds' or 'Water' Features

Situated to the north and north west of the site of the mansion house are the 'pleasure-grounds' features of the estate. The principles of landscape gardening of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries encouraged the development of wetland wherever possible on an estate. At Bishopstown House the presence of natural springs, of wetland, and of the Curraheen/ Maglin River was put to good use. This may have been one of the main considerations behind the choice of this particular site for the estate.

No. 1: *The Lawn* (E7)

Originally this was a grassy patch of land stretching from the front of the mansion house to the river and lined with trees on either side. In the later years of the estate it became a haggard. Located here then were a large hayshed and outhouses. The latter were a storage place for machinery and domestic fuels. Some farm animals were also kept in this place e.g. bulls and pigs.

No. 2: *The Footbridges* (E7)

Spanning the river at the end of the lawn are two footbridges which are about 33·5 m apart. Each bridge has three arches, which are approximately 3·15 m wide and which have a height of 1·5 m from the river bed to the keyblock. On the upstream side both bridges have cutwaters. The average length for the bridges is 12·2 m and the walkways are 1·6 m wide. In the outer wall of each walkway are a number of small slots set into the wall-top at intervals. These suggest the existence of a timber trellis on each bridge. Some type of flowering vines may have been grown on them. On the northern side of the river is a small recangular patch of ground which is enclosed by a high wall. This is connected to the footbridges. Up to about thirty years ago the ground here was used as a graveyard. I do not know who its occupants were. At a later date their remains were removed and conifer trees were planted. (See Addendum at end of Part One.)

No. 3: *The Bishop's Walk* (F)

At the north western end of the lawn in the fence near the footbridge is the remains of a stile. Moving west immediately beyond the stile there is a small rivulet which runs from the ponds and which enters the river. Crossing this there is a small bridge. The Bishop's Walk begins here and runs west flanking the south bank of the river which is tree-lined and raised somewhat above the level of the walkway. It leads to the shellhouse and is bounded on the south side by one of the two ornamental ponds on the estate.

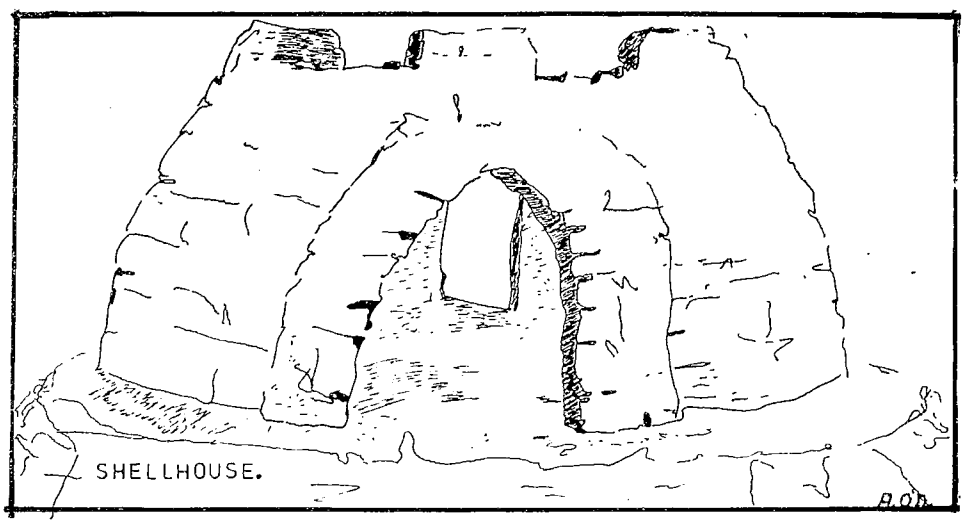
CORK Library UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

No. 4: *The Ornamental Ponds* (F2)

Though now diminished in size these ponds had an approximately L-shaped plan originally. Near the right angle corner of the plan the shellhouse was constructed. The ponds were created by means of modelling the wetland produced by three natural springs now to be seen at the south end of the western pond. At the north west corner of this pond is the beginning of a stone-built subterranean channel through which water flows from the 'cattle' ponds further west. R. Caulfield refers to ponds on the estate of which he says:

> Bishop Browne also constructed large ponds here and he is said to have introduced pike into the stream — a fish which he was particularly fond of.

These ponds and their water sources will require further investigation at a future date.



No. 5: *The Shellhouse* (F1)

This is built on a mount of limestone overlooking the river and the ornamental ponds. Here again the principles of landscape gardening are evident as it was recommended that natural eminences should be utilized to their best advantage. The faces of the mount were roughly squared. A passage slopes down from it on the north west side to meet with the end of the Bishop's Walk.

The shellhouse is a circular structure with an entrance at the south side. Its walltop is crenellated and the roof was conical in shape. The porch is in the shape of two segments of a beehive cone. At the west side in the porch is a low ledge intended for use probably as a seat. Inside the shell house facing north is a window which had a stepped ledge. On the west side is a stone canopied fireplace the flue of which opens at the top of the wall above it. At the east side is a wall niche possibly for shelves of some kind. The walls of the shellhouse were decorated with plasterwork inset with hundreds of shells and pieces of a colourful glassy substance. Most of this is now gone due to vandalism. The types of shells used included razor clams, mussel and cockle shells. The glassy substance is probably glass slag acquired at a glassworks somewhere in Ireland but not in Cork as the industry did not develop in this city until around the early 1780s. (O'Sullivan 1937, 198)

The shellhouse is 4·60 m in diameter. In height it is 2·3 m and 2·80 m if measured to the top of the crenellations. The walls are 0·80 m in thickness. The shellhouse was used by Peter Browne as a retreat.

The 'Cattle' Ponds (F3)

These two ponds are the source of the water flowing underground through the stone-built channel to the ornamental ponds. They were possibly used as cattleponds or else as fishponds. At the western boundary of the field in which these are located is the Twopot River.

Exits and Entrances

There were three of these. Two have already been described i.e. the avenue and that which connected the limekiln and quarries field area with Cáit Sé's lane. The third one survives in part to the south of Bishopscourt school. The northern end of this lane was situated in 1842 opposite the entrance to the carriage house. It ran south in two lengths and opened onto the Curraheen Road beside the crest of the hill which leads down to the bridge over the Twopot River. The south end of the northern length of this lane survives today and it is much overgrown and used as a dump. At the south end on the right hand side is a gateway which opened into the second length of this lane.

Ornamental Viewing Pillar (G)

The southern pillar of the gateway dividing the two lengths of the lane is designed as a viewing spot. If the briars and refuse surrounding it were to be cleared, this structure and the surviving portion of the lane could be used as a picturesque addition to the modern landscape here. The upper portion of the pillar is hollow and two steps lead up into it from the lane. Being sited by the top of the hill overlooking the main part of the estate, it provided at one time an excellent vantage point for viewing the land in all directions around it.

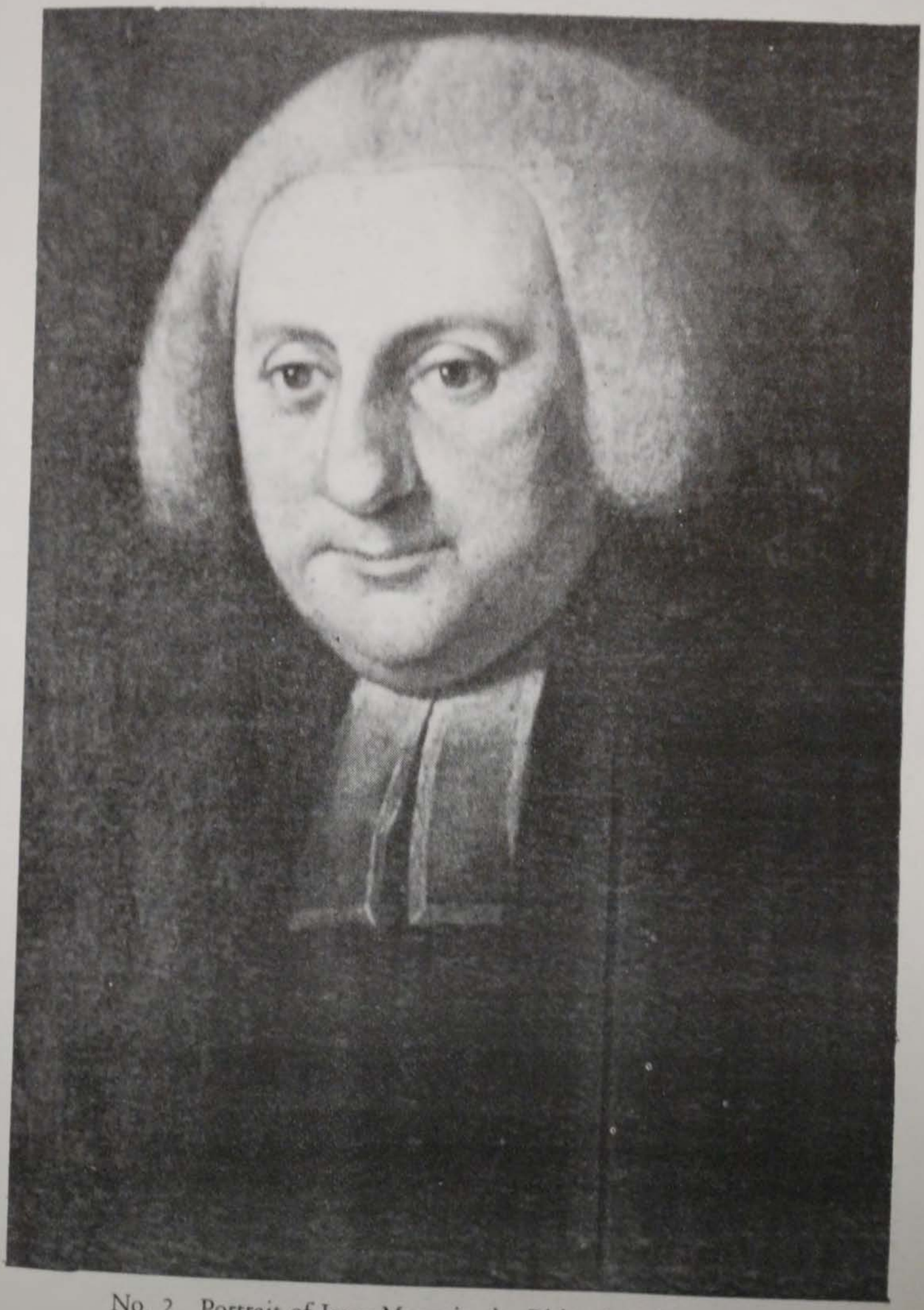
Changes in the Course of the River

That part of the Curraheen/Maglin River which flows by the land of Bishopstown House was straightened at some time during the nineteenth century. The old course of the river had many meanders and bends which were removed at this time. The remains of some of these bends can be seen today by walking through the quarries field along by the bank of the river and on into the next field. There were two small oxbow bends in the river here. Another bend lay immediately west of the shellhouse. Perhaps these were removed in order to prevent flooding, to give greater impetus to the flow of the river and to provide additional land for farming at Scotch Farm and at Bishopstown House. (See Addendum at end of Part One.)

PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD OF BISHOPSTOWN HOUSE



No. 1 Portrait of Peter Browne in the Bishop's Palace, Cork.



No. 2 Portrait of Isaac Mann in the Bishop's Palace, Cork.

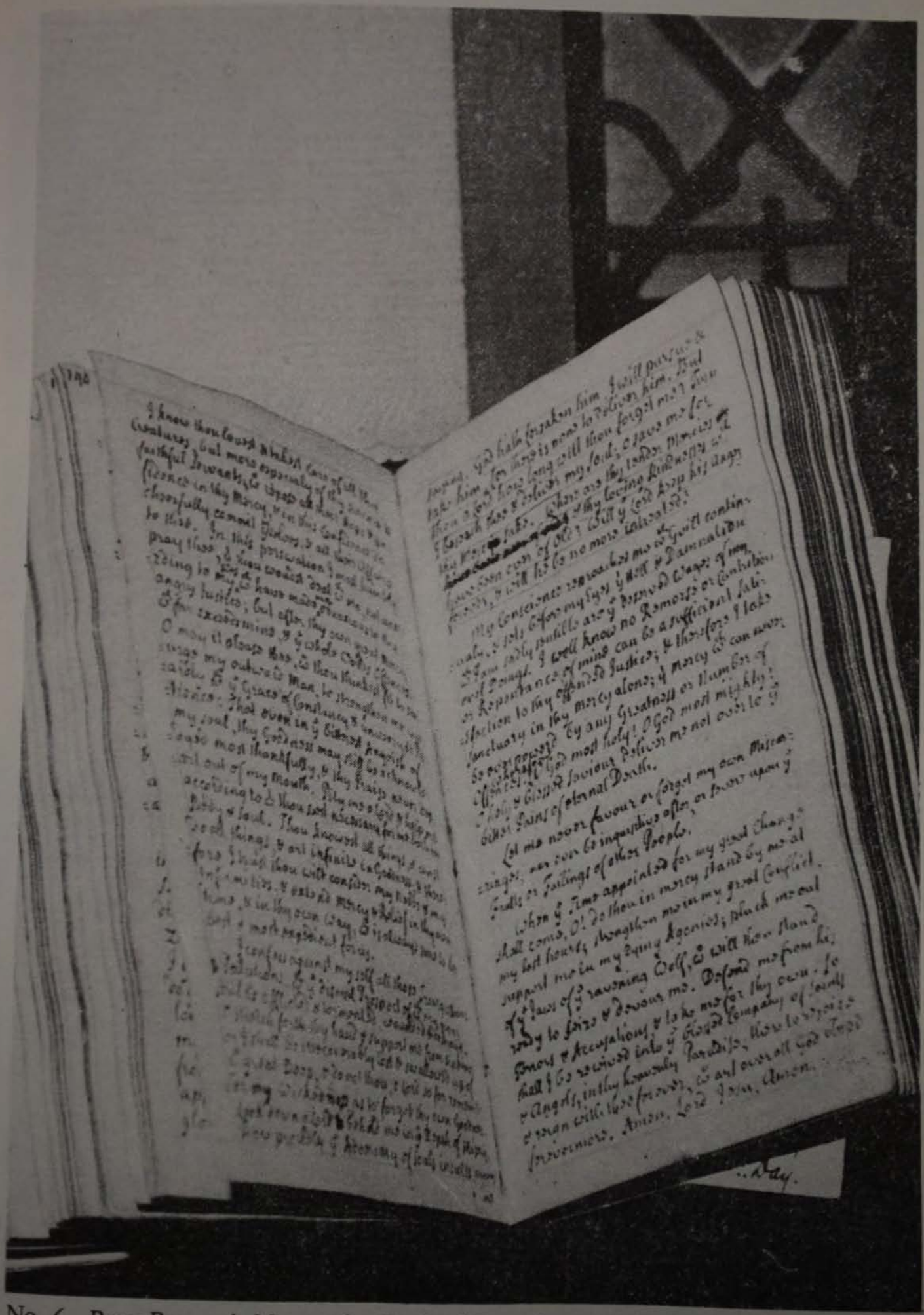


No. 3 Portrait of Richard Caulfield.


The Bishop's
22
A. R. P.
85. 2. 23
21
A. R. P.
49. 2. 7
20
A. R. P.
56. 1. 30
17
A. R. P.
76. 0. 9
19
A. R. P.
14. 3. 15
18
A. R. P.
14. 2. 20



No. 5 Taylor and Skinner's Road Maps of Ireland surveyed in 1777. Note the mansion house as approached from the fork in the Glasheen Road. This fork is the site of the Bishopstown Bar, also known in the present century as Looney's Cross.



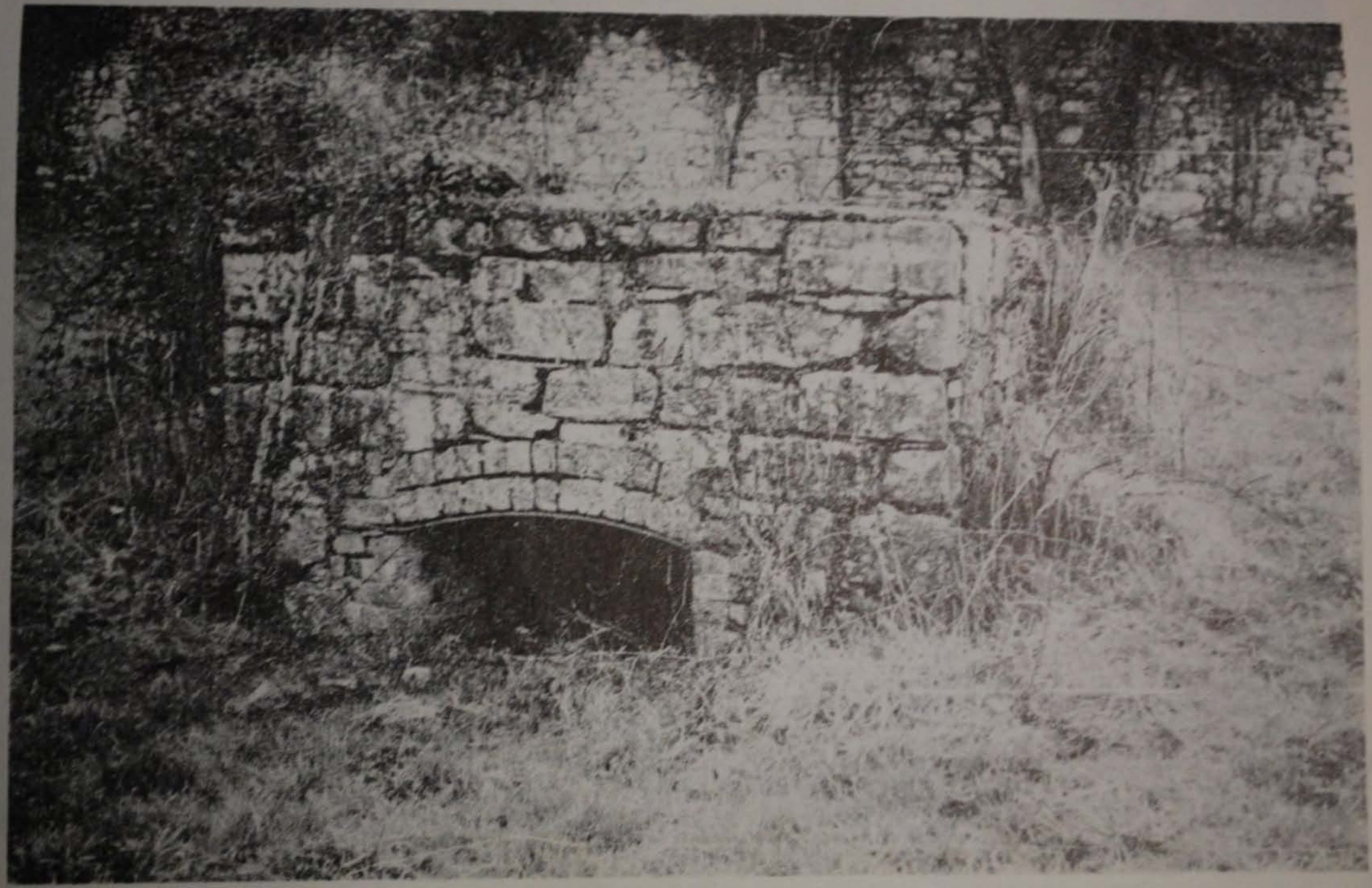
No. 6 Peter Browne's Manuscript Book of Devotions now in St. Finbarre's Cathedral.

No. 7 The Avenue. View showing the junction of stages two and three with the farmhouse in the background and the wood fronting the kitchen garden wall to the left.



No. 9 Limekiln interior showing steps, ash-pit and arch.



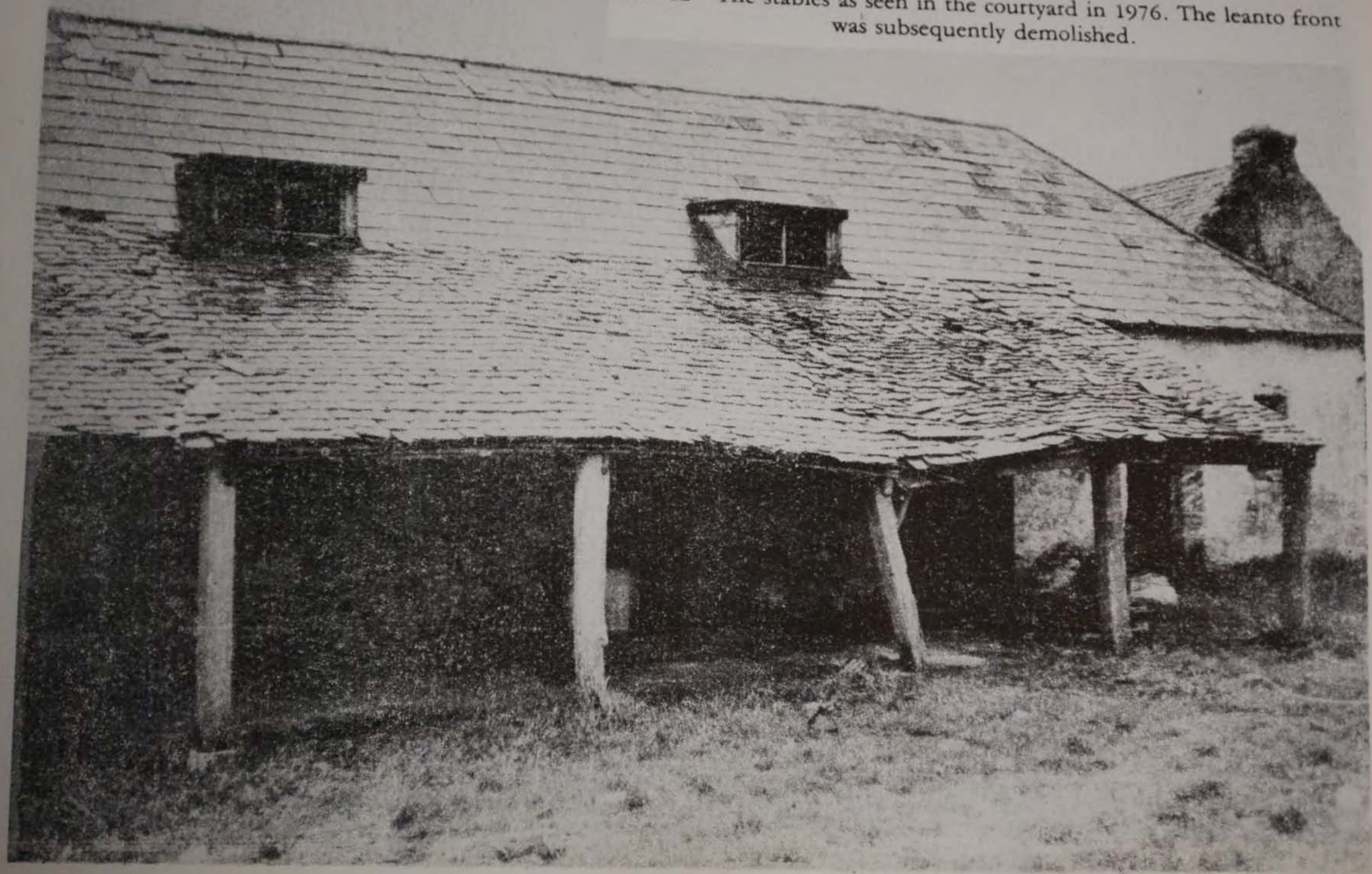


No. 10 The orchard kiln.

No. 11 View from the south showing the entrance to the courtyard with the carriage house on the left and steps leading to the granary on the right.

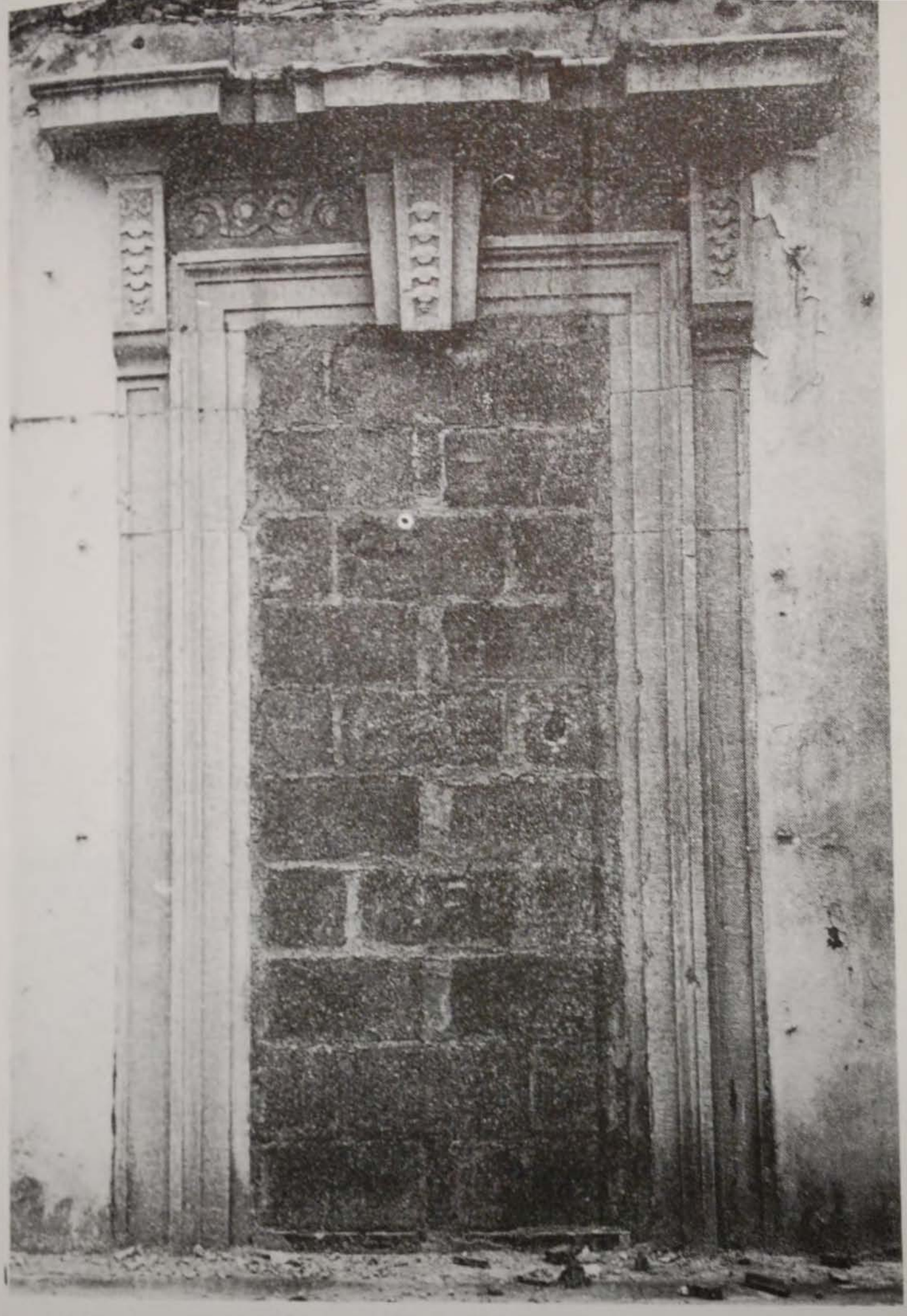


No. 12 The stables as seen in the courtyard in 1976. The leanto front was subsequently demolished.

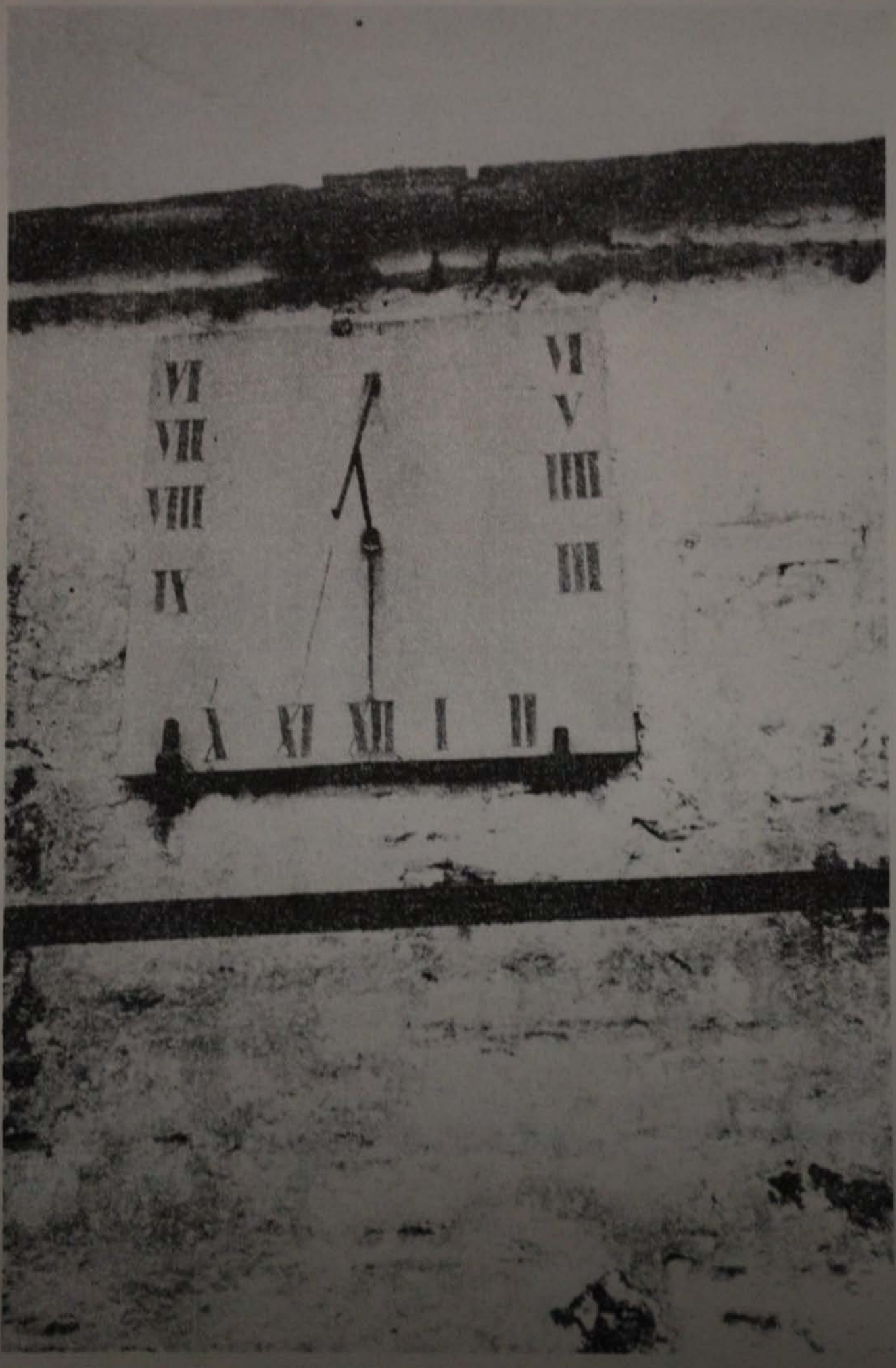




No. 13 The chapel from the south west as it was in 1976.



No. 14 The decorated cut limestone door-surround which was originally the entrance to the mansion and which was inserted in the east wall of the farmhouse *c.* 1831.



No. 15 The sundial as it looked on the wall of the barn in 1976.



No. 16 The eastern footbridge with the western footbridge in the background.

No. 17 View of the western footbridge showing the walkway.





No. 18 The shellhouse.

No. 19 View from the west showing the chapel and stables.



PART III
BALLINEASPIGMORE
MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

The notes in this part of the booklet are provided in conjunction with Fig. 3 in order to show something of the range of other physical remains which reflect the history and prehistory of the townland.

Prehistory/Early History

RINGFORT: Current archaeological thinking accepts that these sites were mostly used as farm dwellings from Early Christian to Medieval times i.e. 400 A.D. to 1,200 A.D. approximately. The most common type of ringfort surviving in the hinterland of Ballineaspig i.e. in the Waterfall/ Ballinora area, consists of a circular area of ground enclosed by either one or two earthen banks and by a deep trench known as a ditch or fosse.

Of the Ballineaspigmore ringfort the only surviving information is that it was first recorded on the Ordnance Survey first edition six inch map of 1841-2 and is shown there as a complete circular enclosure having probably a single bank. It occupied the right angle junction of the southern and western boundaries of Ballineaspigbeg with the townland of Ballineaspigmore. By 1927 a revised edition of the six inch map shows that only the northern half of the fort remained. No trace of the site remains today. In a modern context, it was located at the western entrance to the Bishopstown G.A.A. football pitch at the top of Westgate Estate.

For further information on ringforts in general see Ó Ríordáin 1979, 29-59.

FULACHT FIADH: These 'Ancient Irish Cooking places' were in use from the Bronze Age to Medieval times. They are mentioned in the tales of Finn McCool and the Fianna. A *fulacht fiadh* consist of a horseshoe shaped mound of burnt stones and charcoal surrounding a wooden trough set in the ground. They are located in waterlogged areas so that the trough can fill naturally with water. The people who used these cooking places were, it is believed, bands of hunters and these sites were their temporary dwellings. When the game had been killed and cut up a fire was lit in the immediate vicinity of the trough. Stones were then heated in the fire. When these were very hot they were manoeuvered into the trough causing the water there to

come to the boil. A joint of meat was then wrapped in straw and placed in the water. This was cooked in about three and a half hours the water being kept at boiling point by the constant addition of hot stones from the fire.

Very little can be said of the Ballineaspigmore site other than that it was destroyed sometime early this century. It was located in the wetland beside the Curraheen/Maglin River on the grounds of the University Farm.

In a recent study of *fulachta fiadha* in County Cork Mr. Diarmuid O Drisceol M.A. of the Dept. of Archaeology, University College, Cork listed 1,057 examples of this type of site for County Cork alone. *Fulacht Fiadh* is the folkname for these sites. For further details see Ó Ríordáin 1979, 84-8.

Nineteenth Century History

FLOUR MILL: The mill shown on Fig. 3 is in the townland of Ardarostig. As Poll's lane led from it to the Curraheen Road some of the farmers of Ballineaspigmore probably used this mill when it was in operation. These small mills gradually went out of use when milling companies were established in the city. Once again the Rev. Horatio Townsend gives some interesting information for the early nineteenth century in Cork. He says (Vol. 1, 30):

> The general character of our rivers, as has been observed is rapidity; a circumstance as unfriendly to navigation as it is favourable to the erection of mills. Of this advantage a more than prudent use seems to have been made, particularly in the article of bolting mills, the number of which has greatly multiplied of late. Thirty years ago, I doubt if there were more than three of this description in the whole county, and they sent most of their flour to Dublin. The number now is not easy to be counted, and Cork is the principal market for their flour. The competition, however, is very favourable to the supply of the city, as well as very conducive to the convenience of the farmer, by affording him a near and ready market for his grain. The great number of mills has certainly lessened the profits of the miller's trade, but it shows an increase of wealth, and a spirit of expenditure, ready to embrace an occasion which promises a reasonable reward to industrious speculation.

For 1851-2 the *Griffith Valuation* says of the mill at Ardarostig that it was leased by a Mr. Timothy Hallinan. He also had a mill-pond, house, offices and land. The lessor was Samuel Abbott Esquire. The area of the mill-pond was one acre. The other buildings etc. amounted to an area of approximately 16 acres.

Running east and south east from the mill-pond here were two mill races.

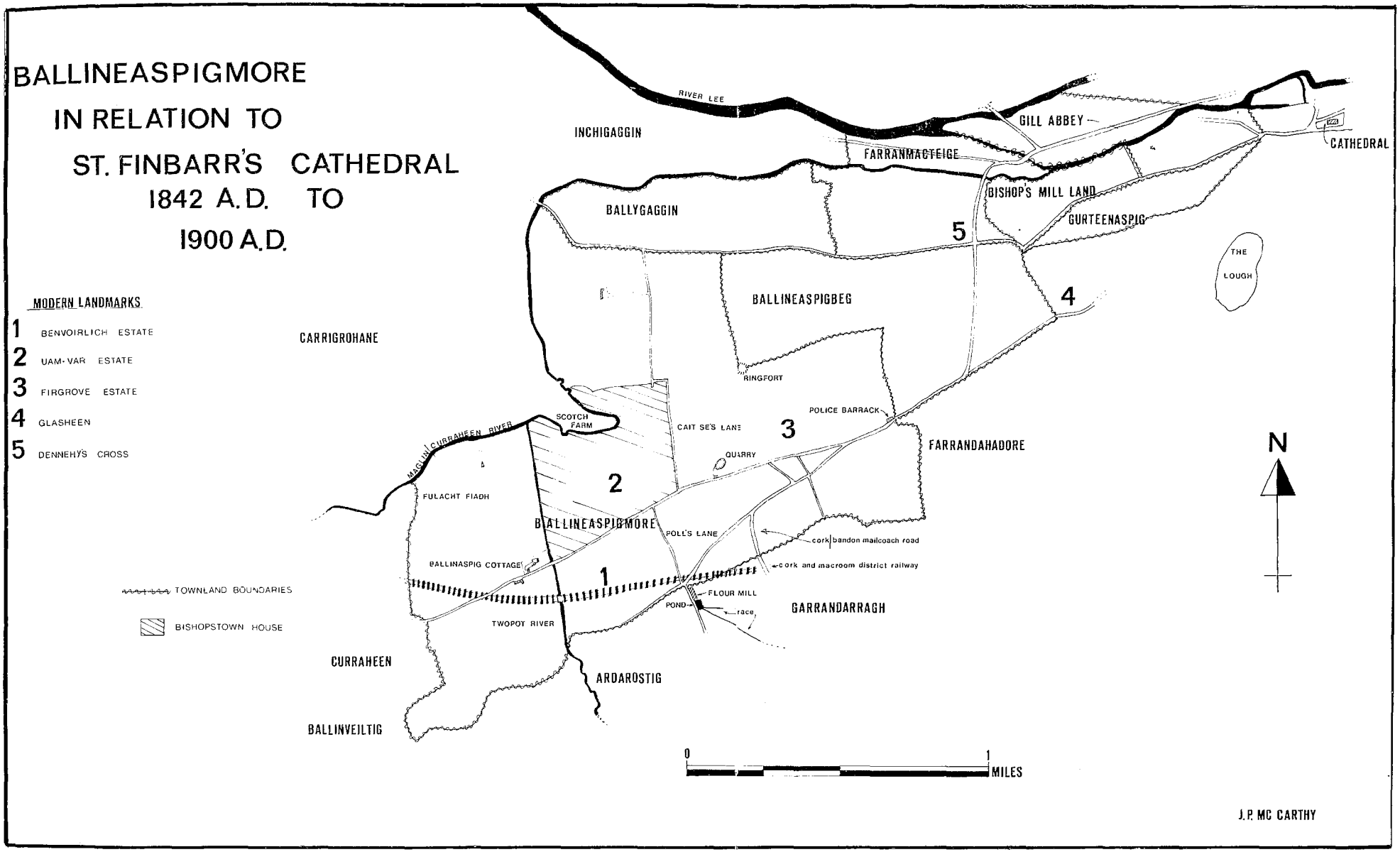


Fig. 3: Based on the 1st edition of the Ordnance Survey.

The south east one ran to another pond opposite a house located on the east side of the Cork/Bandon mailcoach road.

When the Ardarostig mill was demolished I do not know. All that can be seen there today is part of its foundation.

RAILWAY: Part of the railway line of the Cork and Macroom District Railway Company ran through the townland of Ballineaspigmore and traces of it are still to be seen.

In 1878 a derailment occurred on this line which caused the death of five people travelling on the return journey from Macroom to Cork. The site of this accident was near the village of Curraheen and a detailed account of the event by Walter McGrath was published in the Cork *Evening Echo* on Monday, 4 September 1978 (page 5).

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MAPS

1) Manuscript map in St. Finbarre's Cathedral, Cork, titled South Division of part of Ballineaspigmore belonging to Robert Waller Esq.
2) *Taylor and Skinner's Maps of the Roads of Ireland surveyed in 1777.* Published Dublin 1778.
3) *Ordnance Survey maps:* Cork 6″ sheets: No. 74 (1st ed. 1845)
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Cork 25″ sheet: No. 74, 13 (1926 ed.)
4) Military survey of Southern Ireland by Lieut.-Col. Charles Vallancey 1776-85 in the Map Library of the British Library (manuscript maps).

