Gate Lodges of County Donegal









An Taisce

The National Trust for Ireland - Donegal Branch

Protecting and preserving Ireland's heritage since 1948

An Taisce

The national association of An Taisce was founded in Dublin in 1948. The Donegal Association of An Taisce was inaugurated in 1972.

An Taisce is a voluntary organisation. It seeks to enhance and protect our heritage through persuasion and through raising the awareness of the many riches in our natural and built heritage that are part of our county.

Our Noble Task:
The founders of An Taisce foresaw the conflict that would be created between the pursuit of economic progress and the protection of Ireland's inherited riches. It was the beginning of a long and delicate piece of work, described at the time, as the noble goal.

Members in Donegal are aware of what this county has to offer: plenty of room for our people, clean fresh air, miles of beaches and rocky coastline, mountains, unpolluted rivers and lakes. Our man-made heritage is as varied as our scenery. Our forbears left the marks of habitation and commerce, peace and war, in buildings and artifacts.

It is as important now as it was when An Taisce was founded to protect the real riches of Donegal, owned by nobody and available to all, in the search for the other kind of wealth and expertise that could destroy our heritage, An Taisce does not object to progress and development provided it is done in a manner sensitive to our environment. Insensitive development is evident in our towns and villages, the countryside, the wild places and the bogs that are threatened. Beaches, lakes and rivers need careful monitoring, artifacts disappear from the landscape. We need a programme to list buildings, houses, bridges and monuments that are at risk.

An Taisce, a voluntary body, cares for all aspects of our environment. It still has the same aims as those of the founder members, to cherish and preserve our heritage, to protect our inherited riches, to safeguard our treasures.

An Taisce invites you to do your part in continuing this work by joining the organisation. Your annual subscription will support An Taisce's activities and ensure that another generation will pursue our noble goal.

For further information contact http://www.antaisce.org/

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Dedication.

This reprint is dedicated to the memories of the late Antoin MacGabhann, Thomasina Kelly, Maureen O'Dowd and P.J Corry who served for many years on our committee.

Editorial Note

This is a reprint of the original edition (and only volume) that appeared in 2000. That volume is in A4 format and consists of the original photographs glued to the page accompanied by relevant text. It was displayed at the Gate-Lodges of Donegal Exhibition that was hosted by the Donegal County Museum, Letterkenny in 2000. It was stored privately subsequent to the exhibition.

The Donegal Association of An Taisce decided to publish this reprint in both hard copy and on the web. This is to ensure that the beauty and layout of the original volume and the diligent work on which it is based gets a wide and lasting circulation.

This reprint retains all the text and the sequence of text and photographs of the original. The descriptions of the conditions of the buildings and their ownership are as described in 2000.

The original was in A4 format whereas this reprint is in A5. Every effort has been made to retain the spatial balances between text and photographs that were a feature of the original. Thanks are due to the design staff at Donegal Printing Company for their success in this regard as well as for the cover designs.

Tribute must be paid to our then and current Chairman, May McClintock, who conceived of and led the project from start to finish, including the production of the original edition.

The Conclusion Section on Page 80 lists the people involved in the project. It is sad to record the deaths of Miss Maureen O'Dowd, Mr Jim McCormack and Mr P.J. Corry in the intervening years. We extend our sincere sympathy to their surviving relatives.

Noel Foley
Donegal Association of An Taisce
August 2013

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Introduction

The Gate-Lodges of Donegal Exhibition was promoted by Mr and Mrs David Rowe, An Taisce Dublin; help and advice given by Mr J.A.K. (Dixie) Dean, B.Sc., R.I.B.A., author of Gate Lodges of Ulster. At the time of Mr Dean's research a considerable number, about 125, of these lodges were listed in Donegal. However in 1998-1999 when the current research took place, many had disappeared and the list is now reduced to 70. This exhibition aims to draw attention to the remaining lodges, their distinctive architecture, state of decay, refurbishment in some cases not very sympathetically executed, ownership and their part of our architectural history. It is felt that many now in near ruinous condition could be restored and An Taisce proposed that the remaining buildings should be included in the Buildings at Risk Project.

Gate Lodges

These buildings evolved early in the 18th century in response to the changing character of the parkland. They are mostly found where the private drive of a country house meets the public road. Originally gate lodges were built to house the employees of the estate it guarded, the lodge was usually modest, even Spartan, in the accommodation it provided. Many of the designs were by professional architects who experimented with designs for working-class families in small structures of style and distinction.

The exhibition is dedicated to the hundreds of families who lived in these little houses.

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Aghnagaddy, Ramelton

c. 1830



Gate-lodge owned by Mrs Honor Myles, situated on the main Letterkenny-Ramelton road. The lodge of squarish plan, two roomed with two bay elevations under a hipped roof. In harled walls the windows small and square each having a pair of casements with decorative upper glazing bar pattern. Building in ruinous condition.

Ardnamona

c. 1840



This lodge is at the entrance to Ardnamona Estate, owned by Ammabel and Kieran Clark. A single storey gabled building with its back turned to the road, the doorway the left hand opening of three bays. Label mouldings to lattice glazed windows. The pretty bargeboard carried through the catslide rear extension roof. Dilapidated and overgrown.

Ardnamona



The Southern Gate Lodge to the South West of Ardnamona House is near the bridge where the Eske River exits the lake. It is no longer in the ownership of Ardnamona.

Ards, Creeslough



The Wrays once owned the Ards estate, which was subsequently purchased by Alexander Stewart, younger brother of the 1st Marquess of Londonderry of Mount Stewart, Co. Down.

Ballymore Gate Lodge, c. 1820, architect perhaps W. V. Morrison, who was employed by the Stewart family at Mount Stewart. The canted gables under half-umbrello roofs and Gothic windows. Single storey, two bay to the front elevation, the walls are stuccoed with stone quoins, with Y-tracery in the lancet windows. Occupied and well kept.

Ards, Creeslough

c. 1810

Cashelmore Gate



A pleasant single storey Irish Georgian cottage with hipped gables. Three bays on a standard plan in harled walls, the windows squared sash. Late back return wing and ornamental timber gabled porch at the front door.

Ballyconnell, Falcarragh



When Ballyconnell House was enlarged about 1840, it was dressed up with Tudor embellishments by the Olpert family.

East Lodge c. 1840, architect possibly J.B. Keane. This lodge is a sort of Classical Tudor mix now much improved and extended into a two storey house stuccoed with stone quoins. The original building probably resembled the lodge at Coxtown. The single story hall projection is the original building with an open pediment over a rounded door opening with hood moulding. The ground floor windows have label mouldings. Cast iron gate sweep and octagonal posts with finialed cappings.

Occupants of East Lodge: Dr and Mrs McGill

Ballyconnell, Falcarragh

c. 1840

West Lodge



Low cast iron screen with decorative posts.

Ballymacool, Letterkenny



Ballymacool House was built by the Spar family and later underwent a Tudor Revival when acquired and occupied by the Boyds. The house was burned down in 1997.

East Gate Lodge

c. 1835 architect perhaps W.V. Morrison.

One and a half storey, stuccoed, three bay and symmetrical with coved eaves to gabled roofs. The gables have lost bargeboards and some large, scalloped slates remain. There is a variety of openings, those to the front elevation flat-arched mullioned with three wooden latticed lights. The porch side windows chamfered with Venetian arched heads, have traceried bipartite lights. The entrance arch is Tudor four

Ballymacool, Letterkenny



centred. On the leading gables facing the gateways, canted oriels also mullioned and transomed with lattice panes to round headed lights.



West Gate Lodge:
Identical to East Gate.

This and the lodge to Drumboe Castle at Stranorlar are replicas.

Barnhill, Letterkenny



Lodge was built pre 1834, a small standard late Georgian building, three bay with hipped roof.

Brown Hall, Ballintra



The Hamilton family have been at Brown Hall since the 18th Century, the house was designed by Robert Woodgate, Sir John Soane's clerk-of-works in 1794. Two gate lodges remain, one probably built by James Hamilton when the house was built, then one c. 1830 of a standard plan single storey with lattice-paned windows. The third lodge was built in about 1840 by Abraham Hamilton and has been demolished. The last two gate lodges were probably sited to help retain stock in the deerpark.

Camlin Castle, Ballyshannon



The Tredennick family from Cornwall moved to Ballyshannon when their lands were confiscated by the Commonwealth. Camlin Castle was re-built in 1838, designed by J.B. Keane when the very impressive gateway was built. Two other gate lodges both pre 1835 were later demolished.

Main Entrance c. 1838

A fine folly that remains fairly intact: a tall circular flagstaff tower housing a spiral staircase. The tower is decorated with loopholes to light the stairs. To balance the design, a buttressed Tudor carriage archway with label moulding below a battlemented parapet displays a blank shield.

Carnagarve, Moville

c. 1850



Carnagarve, renamed Ravenscliff is an early 19th century house, one kilometre North East of Moville.

Gate lodges:

Two little matching gabled lodges guard the entrance. Each apparently single storey but skylights illuminate minimal bed space in the loft. Three bay fronts with label mouldings and foiled bargeboards with pendant hipknobs. There was a diagonally-set chimney stack to each, but now replaced with terracotta pots.

Carrick Lodge, Carrick

c. 1865



Architects possibly Young and Mackenzie

The house was extended to a Tudor/Scots Baronial style in 1860's by new owners; the Musgrave family. A lodge was built in a similar style.

Carrick Lodge:

Simple three bay, two up two down, one and a half storey with roughcast walls highlighted in a quarry-faced boulder treatment of quoins, window dressings cills heads, crowstepped gables with great kneelers. The building has recently been restored by the present owners and is used as an attractive craft shop.

Carrownaff Lodge, Moville

c. 1860



These two identical lodges were possibly built by the Haslett family, architect not known. In Picturesque Tudor manner, one and a half storey gabled on a T plan. In quoined stuccoed walls under label mouldings are cast iron margined lattice windowed with neatly pivotal openers. Nearby at Gortgowan is the same lodge, but with squared sash windows.

Carrownaff Lodge, Moville



Castlegrove, Ramelton



This elegant house was the property of the Grove family, now tastefully refurished by the Sweeney family as an hotel.

Gate Lodge

c. 1863

Built inside the entrance gates which have two squared stuccoed carriage piers small ball finials on tall stems. The ashlar lodge well maintained, is without embellishment, but elegant in its simplicity. It is simple storey, three bay under a hipped roof with a parapet to the front elevation. There are Georgian style panes in windows.

Cavanacor, Ballindrait



The house is now owned by Eddie and Joanna O'Kane, maintained as a family home but open to the public.

Gate Lodge

c. 1850

The lodge is built at a slight angle opposite the main entrance, a two storey, three bay gabled with harled walls. The ground floor windows were enlarged to take modern casements with not very pretty louvre shutters. The lodge was occupied until recently and is worthy of restoration.

Claragh, Ramelton

c. 1830



The lodge at the entrance to Claragh was built by Mr James Watt in a pleasant Georgian style. It is on a simple two up two down plan, one and a half storey, but given an irregular outline with two single storey outshots with lean-to roofs. The roof is hipped gable with clipped verges and eaves. Access to the bedrooms is from a staircase open to the living room.

Cliff, Ballyshannon

c. 1840



This building was the Summer residence of the Connollys of Castletown, County Kildare. One lodge survives, it was built for Colonel Edward Conolly M.P. A modest standard two roomed three bayed with hipped roof and deep soffited eaves.

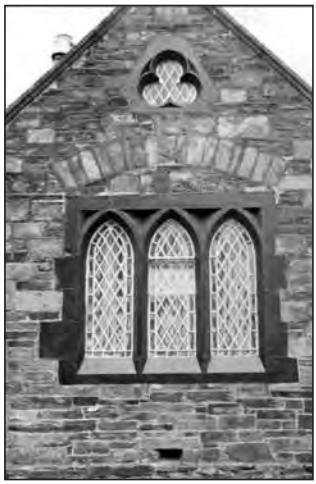
Clonleigh, Ballindrait

c. 1863



Architects probably Welland and Gillespie.

This lodge is unique and highly distinctive with an obvious ecclesiastical feel because of the margined lattice-paned cast iron church windows. It is mainly faced in random uncoursed rubble, with dressed stone to skewtable gables, sculpted kneelers and shamrock motif apexes. There is a gable hall projecting off the side elevation, with a lancet-headed door and blank shield. The present owner has re-designed the interior from a two-roomed 'nave' with another room in each of the 'transepts' and is a comfortable and homely dwelling.



Cloverhill, Inver

c. 1900



The lodge is a large gabled house of random rubble with red brick quoins and window dressings. The gates are earlier, or at least the lions on top of them are, two stone lions holding shields. Similar animals were at Clonleigh, Lifford, but were taken to Old Mountjoy, Tyrone.

Cloverhill, Inver



Convoy

1806 / c. 1850



The complex entrance to Convoy House is now unkempt and ivy-infested. It consists of a carriage gate under a castellated parapet with shallow pointed archway flanked by a pair of rounded turrets, framed by quadrant wall also battlemented. Convoy House was built by the Montgomery family, parts of whose early house – primitive carved faces, coats of arms and date-stones – are incorporated in the gate lodge. The two storey Gothic tower is approached by curving steps behind a quadrant wall. Further beyond and completing the irregular composition is a single storey lodge dating from c. 1850, long abandoned. The elevation is to the main road, two bay with lancet windows below a hipped roof.

Coxtown, Ballintra

c. 1835



Architect probably J.B. Keane

The lodge displays many features typical of the work of J.B. Keane and is a miniature version of Coxtown House, lived in by the Hamilton family since 1830's. The lodge is single storey, standard plan, three bay below a hipped roof from which projects a hall gable to form an open pediment over it. Sometime roughcast with dressed stone quoins, plinth, open surrounds and label mouldings. The front door is double-leafed under a Tudor hood-moulded arch. This building resembles the lodge at Ballyconnell, Falcarragh.

Coxtown, Ballintra





Culdaff, Culdaff

c. 1825 & c. 1900



The Young family owned Culdaff, probably the first lodge was built by George Young c. 1825.

Moville Gate c. 1825

A late Georgian lodge, single storey, three bay below a shallow-pitched roof and extended eaves. It is harled with ashlar quoins, dressed stone to casement windows having small squared panes. Below the eaves is a tiny breakfront door with a little rustic pediment.

Culdaff, Culdaff



Village Lodge c. 1900
This a bungalow type lodge, single storey with roughcast walls. The living room has a canted projection under a half umbrello roof. The lodge was built for George Lawrence Young.

Danby, Ballyshannon

Pre 1904



An earlier lodge (pre 1835) was replaced at the turn of the 20th Century for Mr James Forbes. The present building is on an 'L' plan. Verandah has a trellis.

Daneville Lodge, Bundoran

Pre 1836



This building was the lodge to a park previously known as Fairview. It is a plain, miniature gabled, three bay, single storey lodge and resembles the neighbouring one at Rochfort.

Doe Castle, Creeslough

Pre 1834



Before the causeway approach, a modest single storey, three window structure, gabled with harled walls. It was probably built for General George Vaughan who inherited Doe Castle c. 1800.

Donaghmore Glebe, Castlefinn Pre 1840



The present High Victorian house was built c. 1880 and replaced the old rectory. The two lodges are Georgian style three bay, each with a hipped roof and projecting eaves. The bed spaces in the loft of one lodge, resembles those at the Bawn, Tyrone and Argory, County Armagh.

Present occupants:
Denis McConnell (Lodge on this page)
Barney Tinney (Lodge on next page)

Donaghmore Glebe, Castlefinn



Drumboe, Stranorlar



The big house at Stranorlar, Drumboe Castle was demolished. Originally there were four gate lodges. East Lodge, Inner Lodge, West Lodge all pre 1836 and the Town Lodge in 1870, the one surviving building.

Town Lodge, 1870: This lodge is identical in every respect to those at Ballymacool, Letterkenny, which can be explained by the connection through marriage in 1799 of Major John Boyd of Ballymacool to Frances Hayes, daughter of Sir Samuel Hayes of Drumboe. One and a half storey, three bay gabled with a steeply-pitched roof. The principal ground floor windows are tripartite with big timber lattice glazing bars. The gabled projecting hall has side lights with simple tracery under Venetian arches, the front door Tudor arched with a datestone. The carved wave bargeboards and hipknob survive on the road gable end. There are narrow round headed lights to attic rooms.

Drumbristan Glebe, Ballintra

c. 1830



Formerly the lodge resembled the Inver Rectory lodge, but it has been raised to one and a half storey with gable ends and a canopy on timber post support added across the front elevation to form a verandah. At one time this building served as a school-house. It is notable for its tripartite windows with pointed heads in unusual stone lintels.

Dunfanaghy

c. 1845



The building is derelict, stone, ordinary standard plan, single storey, three bay structure with hipped roof.

Dunlewey

c. 1810



Dunlewey House was built by the Dombrain family early in the 19th century and is now owned by the Guinness family.

Dunlewey Lodge:

Beautifully situated overlooking Dunlewey Lake and the spectacular backdrop of Errigal. Originally this building was a two roomed single storey lodge gable-on to the avenue with pretty Georgian Gothic lancet sash windows with Y-tracery. It has been extended by an identical addition alongside to form a double pile, the front door moved from side to front façade. The lodge is beautifully maintained and in excellent condition.

Dunlewey



Fernhill, Kilmacrennan

Pre 1834



The lodge here was originally very small, standard with three bay and a single storey. The door opened directly into the living room and the chimney stack on an end elevation. The roof is hipped and has tiny windows. It has been renovated and bears little resemblance to the original building.

Fort Royal, Rathmullan



Fort Royal is a classical Italianate house, built by Charles Wray in 1807 and later enlarged by him in 1837. It is now a well known hotel.

Lodge:

There were originally two lodges, North Lodge c. 1840, now ruinous, South Lodge c. 1845. The latter is situated opposite the gates and is a one and a half storey, three bay, two up two down lodge. There are simple bargeboards with sharp finials to hipknobs repeated on the dainty little timber porch to the double-leafed front door with semi-circular fanlight. The windows to the main elevation are bipartite with dressed stone surrounds and plain label moulded lintels. Neat, harled and white washed.

Glenalla, Rathmullan

c. 1860



Glenalla House was built by Thomas B. Hart. The nearby estate cottages and school are picturesque with gables, bargeboards and quarry glass, but the lodge if it was of the same style has been shorn of many of its decorative features.

Glenalla Lodge:

The building is one and a half storey in pleasant uncoursed rubble stone, bargeboards are plain.

Glendooen, New Mills



Known locally as the school teacher's residence because Miss Jennings, the teacher in the nearby school, lived there for fifty years. However it was built by the Church of Ireland rector when Glendooen was erected as the rectory for Conwal parish, and the lodge a residence for the coachman. The original house was a plain three bay structure, it has been enlarged by the present owners, the Robinson family, and is now a pleasant residence.

Glen Gollan, Buncrana

Pre 1833



The lodge was probably built for Mr Thomas Norman who died in 1833.

Glen Gollan Lodge:

A pretty, small Georgian single storey three bay building with a hipped roof, which has been tastefully extended, designed by Caroline Dixon. Present owner Mrs Liz Erskine is responsible for the current excellent state of the lodge.

Glen Gollan, Buncrana



Glenmore, Ballybofey



Glenmore House was a Georgian building but was renovated in half-timbered Elizabethan fashion, now vandalised and badly in need of repair.

Gate Lodges:
There are two gate lodges both unpretentious, one dating from before 1835, the other c. 1840. They were built for Charles Style whose family also owned the nearby Cloghan Lodge.

Occupant of front lodge not at home when we called.

Occupants of Glenmore rear lodge:
Mr and Mrs Gerard McKenna

Glenmore, Ballybofey



Glenveagh Castle, Church Hill c. 1920



Glenveagh Castle was built in 1870 by Mr and Mrs John George Adair. The two gate lodges were built c. 1920.

Kilmacrennan Entrance Lodge:

This was formerly a single storey two bay gable structure, now with an extension of thatch on corrugated asbestos. There are Georgian style squared sash windows in roughcast walls.

Glenveagh Castle, Church Hill

c. 1920



Gartan Entrance Lodge:

This lodge is roughcast and plain, a single storey three bay symmetrical with low pitch of the gabled roof, bracketed canopy over the front door.

Gortgowan, Moville

c. 1860



Gortgowan was built as a rectory, during the incumbency of Rev. Charles Seymour.

Gortgowan Lodge:

This lodge is a one and a half storey, three bay building. The left-hand bay has a breakfront gable with side elevations, wave and barge carved bargeboards. The walls are stuccoed with quoins with Tudor style label mouldings to Classical windows.

Greencastle

c. 1845



Greencastle lodge is plain, one storey two up two down with a projecting central hall similarly gabled.

Inver Rectory, Inver

c. 1830



The rectory is the home of the present incumbent of the combined parishes.

The gate lodge was sold by the church authorities and now stands deserted but worthy of preservation.

Inver Lodge:

c. 1830 built for Rev. Alexander Montgomery. The lodge is standard shape, hipped roof, bracketed eaves, single storey three bay and harled. However the distinct wide tripartite windows have three pointed arch stone lintels, repeated over the door to form a fanlight. The panes are square.

Killtourish, Ardara



Killtourish House, originally a farm house was built by Andrew Hamilton. The next owner Colonel Gardiner from York sold it to Mr Harry Simms in 1923. Colonel Gardiner added the Dutch gabling, the Simms family used it as a holiday home until 1947. It was then occupied by Dr. McLaughlin, the present owner is Mr. Campbell.

The gate lodge is a plain three bay structure, well kept by its present owner. The very impressive pillars enhance the lodge.

Kiltoy, Letterkenny

Pre 1834



The lodge is situated opposite the entrance to Kiltoy. It was built for Rev. William Boyd, whose family owned Ballymacool and was originally thatched. It has been rebuilt by A.D. and Thomasina Kelly.

Lough Eske, Donegal



Thomas Brooke built Lough Eske Castle in 1751 and a lodge, which is now demolished. One hundred years later, another Thomas Brooke replaced the original house in the Elizabethan Revival style. Two new porters' lodges date from this time.

Boat-house Lodge, c. 1861
Architect probably Fitzgibbon Louch.
This two storey lodge was built over a vaulted basement at water level which provided storage for boats. It has gables with stuccoed walls and stone quoins. The windows are bipartite with lintel stones forming a pair of lancet heads framing y-tracery. The fretted fascia under the eaves are formed by rows of large pendulous onions. The single storey projecting hallway features similar fascia, carved bargeboards, ornate collar tie, purlin ends and pendant hipknob.

Lough Eske, Donegal





Crossroads Lodge, c. 1860

Architect probably F. Louch. This lodge is one and a half storey, two up, two down, three bay. The windows are squared-paned sash. It is built in rubble masonry with wave and foil carved timber bargeboards. There is a spiky hipknob and fancy cresting to all ridges.

Rathmullan House

c. 1841



Rathmullan House was built by Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Knox of Prehen, sold to Mr Narcissus Batt in 1832. Robert Batt enlarged the house and built two gate lodges c. 1841. Now an hotel owned by the Wheeler family.

Rose Cottage: c. 1841

A pleasantly proportioned lodge, Rose Cottage is situated opposite the stable-yard entrance. It is a standard plan, three bay, single storey with a hipped roof and a tiny central chimney stack, and a small hall projection. The windows, Georgian style squared sash in harled walls, pretty climbing roses.

Rathmullan House



Main Entrance Lodge: c. 1841

This lodge is also single storey, three bay on a square plan but with pyramidal roof and small chimney stack. The walls are stuccoed with squared Georgian style sash windows. The door has plinth, quoins and Roman Doric portico. The architecture is reminiscent of the work of Thomas Jackson.

Malin Hall, Malin



Malin Hall was built in 1758 for the Harvey family. The two gate lodges were built later.

Village Gate c. 1830
This lodge is late Georgian, standard two room, three bay with a hipped roof.

Malin Hall, Malin



North Lodge c. 1825
This is the most northerly gate lodge in Ireland. It was built for John Harvey and is another late Georgian building of standard plan, three bay, single storey but with a hipped-gable roof.

Worthy of restoration.

Marble Hill, Portnablagh



The Babington family built the first house before 1834. Early in the 19th century Mr. G. Barclay replaced the earlier house, architect was either Sir Richard Morrison or J.B. Keane. The lodge too was replaced probably in 1895.

Marble Hill Lodge c. 1895

This building has a steep hipped roof bellcast at the eaves with secret hip flashings. It is single storey, three bay with a projecting porch under its own hipped roof. The lodge was built for Hugh Law who purchased the estate in 1894. The entrance is probably from the earlier period.

Millfield, Buncrana

c. 1880



Architects possibly Turner and Babington.
It is three bay, single storey symmetrical with a pyramidal roof and central chimney stack. The windows are paired with segmented heads and a gable breakfront hall.

Mount Charles Hall, Mountcharles



Mount Charles Hall was the seat of the Marquess of Conyngham of Slane Castle, County Meath.

West Lodge Pre 1834

This lodge has an extremely steep roof pitch, one and a half storey, two up two down and three bay. The attic room windows are Georgian style squared sash, the lower windows are transomed and mullioned with diamond pattern casements. Walls are harled, simple front door and mouth organ fanlight.

Mount Charles Hall, Mountcharles



East Lodge c. 1840
A modest one and a half storey, three bay with Tudor label mouldings.

Mulroy House, Carrigart

c. 1865



Architect perhaps William Burn.

Mulroy House was owned by the Clements family, the most notorious owner being the 3rd Earl of Leitrim, who was murdered nearby in 1878. The architect, William Burn, is thought by Mark Bence-Jones to have been employed by the Earls of Leitrim in Mulroy and at Lough Rynn, county Leitrim.

Mulroy Gate Lodge:

This is one and a half storey irregular lodge on an 'L' plan in uncoursed rubble with red brick dressings and quoins. On the front gable a single storey ashlar canted bay with a flat roof, and alongside, over the internal angle the main roof carries down in a catslide to form a front door canopy. The windows are small square paned sash, attic windows are bipartite. The bargeboards are simply carved, saw toothed earthenware crestings and finials.

Oakfield, Raphoe



Sometime early in the nineteeth century this Queen Anne style villa of 1739 ceased to be a deanery for the Diocese of Raphoe and was acquired by the Johnston family who furnished the park and added two gate lodges.

Both lodges, pre 1835 were demolished. The front lodge mimicked the house with its dormer windows to the front and the side pitches of its hipped roof. Probably originally thatched. The building on the side is now a modern bungalow.

The present owner of Oakfield, Mr Robinson, has opened up another entrance and built a gate lodge.

Portnason, Ballyshannon



There are two Neo-Classical lodges built for Robert Johnston, c. 1870's.

Secondary Entrance Lodge c. 1880
A single storey three bay stuccoed building, with a hipped roof and four diagonally set brick chimney stacks. The openings have banded surrounds, the walls quoined and plate glass modern windows.

Main Entrance c. 1870
Another single storey three bay lodge under a hipped roof with a gabled central breakfront framing the front door. Segmentally headed architrave windows in stuccoed walls.

Raphoe Palace, Raphoe



The palace was built as a fortress about 1661 and occupied by bishops of Raphoe diocese until the 1830's. Between 1763 and 1780 Bishop Oswald walled in fifty acres of demesne, planted extensively and was probably responsible for the erection of the town gate lodge.

Town Lodge c. 1770

The lodge is one and a half storey, with a traditional mid-Georgian look. It is a sizeable building with very low eaves, a gablet window over a modern ground floor one. In 1834 it was described as a 'school-house'. About 1800 the two octagonal turrets with mock loopholes and crenellated parapets were erected. To the right is a wick-gate with segmentally headed arch, the balancing short wing wall on the left connects to the lodge.

Redcastle, Moville



Redcastle was the house of the Wray family traditionally 17th century though possibly early 18th century. When the house became an hotel, the historic appearance was destroyed by the replacement of the small gabled dormers with continuous strip dormers.

West Lodge c. 1830
Is between the road and the gates, late Georgian in style but on an unusually grand scale. It is single storey, three bay with a hipped roof on extended eaves. The central doorway was later reduced to a window.

Rochfort Lodge, Bundoran

Pre 1836



This is a tiny, plain single storey gabled building, three bay asymmetrical with the front door to the left. Probably originally thatched.

Rockhill, Letterkenny



Rockhill was the property of the Chambers until the early 1830's when it was acquired by John Vandaleur Stewart of Ards, Creeslough. The house is now owned by the Irish Army and is well maintained and is of three distinct periods.

Two lodges, Northwest and Northeast have been demolished.

Back Lodge:

This once beautiful picturesque lodge is difficult to find near the old school at Letterleague. Described by Mr Dean in 1980 as 'rotting and empty.' One and a half storey on an 'L' plan, three up three down with a spacious dog-leg staircase hall and landing. It is stuccoed and most of the windows are label moulded with cast iron lattice panes with pivoted openers. The front door has a pointed, diamond paned fanlight and on the

Rockhill, Letterkenny



wall projecting alongside a round headed niche. The steeply pitched roofs are decorated with fretted barge boards and big scalloped slates. The architect of this most attractive lodge was probably John Hargrave, who worked for the Chambers at Rockhill and the Stewarts at Ards. It is regretted that the present owners have allowed the building to fall into such a sad state of repair. It should be included in a list of buildings at risk.

St Ernan's, Donegal

c. 1845



St Ernan's was the island retreat of John Hamilton (1800-84) and built by him in 1825. The tenants built the causeway and at the entrance is a beautifully situated lodge.

The lodge is one and a half storey two up two down, with ornamental serrated bargeboards to gables. The uncoursed squared masonry is now painted and a flat roofed rear return and entrance hall is incompatible with the original lodge.

St. Mura's, Buncrana



The Neo-classical style house was built in 1870 for D.M. Colquhoun. Architects probably Turner and Babington.

There were two lodges built c. 1880. The surviving lodge is three bay, single storey symmetrical building under a pyramidal roof with a central chimney.

There is a gabled breakfront hall with simple decorative bargeboards over a door with segmental head to the fanlight. There are red brick dressings and quoins.

Salt Hill, Mountcharles

c. 1840



The house was built for the agent of the Marquess of Conyngham at Mount Hall.

Lodge:

The present owners Mr and Mrs Temple have renovated and restored the building which is now used as self catering apartments. It was probably initially a one and a half storey, three bay, two up two down traditional lodge in the Tudor Picturesque manner. It was later extended by an additional building. Two windows with label mouldings remain but the front door has been replaced by a projecting chimney. The entrance now via a single storey gabled hall tacked on to a rear extension gable. The ground floor windows are now square paned, paired sashes in roughcast rendered walls.

Seaview, Bundoran

c. 1880



The lodge is a smaller version of Seaview Villa. It is single storey stuccoed with plinth and channelled pilaster quoins. The moulded window surrounds have segmented heads. Two bay deep by three bay front elevation, the fanlit doorway with Doric pilaster casing off centre. It has a hipped roof.

Tirnaleague, Carndonagh



Tirnaleague House has Victorian bays two storey with a projecting two storey centre porch. There were two lodges built for the Carey family, the rear lodge c. 1840 has been demolished.

Front Lodge pre 1840

This building is a simple single storey structure with bracketed eaves to a hipped roof. The walls are rendered and whitewashed.

Woodlands, Stranorlar

c. 1840



There were two gate lodges built by James Johnston, the Clady Road Lodge has been demolished.

Rear Lodge:
A late Georgian style building symmetrical, three bay, single storey with a hipped roof.

Above information from Mr. Dean.

Maurice Simms obtained the following information from Mr Crawford Taylor, Carrickashannon.

The Woodlands rear gate lodge was last occupied by Mrs Fanny Quinn. Slates were removed some years ago. Note the fine gate pillar with solid sandstone capstone. Access to the

Woodlands, Stranorlar



lodge is very overgrown, two Sitka spruce trees have fallen into the back of the house.

The house, Woodlands House was burnt in the 1970's. The present owner Mr Carlin lives in Scotland.

Conclusion

Many have contributed to this publication; photographers include Ms Mary Gallagher McBride, Miss Maureen O'Dowd, Miss Noreen O'Dowd, Mr Neil Doherty, Mr Brian Bovaird, Mr Maurice Simms, Mr P.J. Corry and Mr John O'Connor. Advice was freely given by Mr J.A.K. Dean. We are indebted to Mr and Mrs J. McCormack M.P.S.I. for their input for without their generosity this project would have been impossible. Thanks to Monica McDevitt for the typing, and the venue was provided by the Museum staff in Letterkenny.

I endeavoured to put it all together and I take full responsibility for any mistakes that may become evident.

May McClintock
Chairman Donegal North West An Taisce Association

This book records in text and pictures the condition of Gate Lodges in Co. Donegal in the years 1998/1999.

Gate Lodges in Donegal and elsewhere evolved with the large estates early in the 18th century. They are usually located where the driveway of a country house meets the public road. For the most part the accommodation they provided was modest by today's standards. Many of the designs were by professional architects that produced relatively small structures of style and distinction.

This is a reprint of the original edition and only volume that appeared in 2000 to form part of Gate-Lodges of Donegal Exhibition that was hosted by the Donegal County Museum, Letterkennny in 2000. This edition retains all the text and the sequence of text and photographs as well as the spatial balances between text, blank spaces and photographs that were a feature of the original.

An Taisce

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