

FOR ATTENTION: RECORD OF PROTECTED STRUCTURES**'DRAFT OFFALY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027'****REQUEST FOR PROTECTED STATUS OF THE FOLLOWING - Dated 15 August 2020**

1. The Portlaw Roof/Belfast-truss curved roof with all chimney stacks, spanning Grove Cottage Clashawaun, Ballycumber Rd, Clara, Co Offaly, R35 CA32 and Rosslyn Clashawaun, Ballycumber Rd, Clara, Co Offaly, R35 RT20.
2. The 19th century "Faux" stain glass windows with diamond wrought iron grid, on the back wall of Grove Cottage Clashawaun, Ballycumber Rd, Clara, Co Offaly, R35 CA32.
3. Grove Cottage's original intact front boundary wall, gate posts, wrought iron vehicle gate, wrought iron pedestrian gate, -as well as the wrought iron gate arch and fence which were relocated by the previous owners to the back garden of Grove Cottage.

In Reference to Point 1:

Grove Cottage Clashawaun, Ballycumber Rd, Clara, Co Offaly, R35 CA32, alongside the adjoining house Rosslyn Clashawaun, Ballycumber Rd, Clara, Co Offaly, R35 RT20 were surveyed in 2004 and included in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage with a Regional Rating and Category of Special Interest of both Architectural and Technical. Due to a Planning Permission Application Refusal (Ref no. PL2/20/177) to change the roof and remove all the chimney stacks of Rosslyn, additional important information came to light regarding both the Architectural & Historic significance of the two houses. They date to earlier (late 1860's) than the c1880 stated by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, -are again confirmed as the Portlaw Roof/Belfast-truss curved roof with a strong link to the Architect J.S. Mulvany. Please find attached 2 photo copy pages from a research article, done by the Georgian Society in the form of Frederick O'Dwyer, entitled '*The Architecture of John Skipton Mulvany*', published in '*Irish Architectural and Decorative Studies*', Volume III to confirm the abovementioned details. We have also informed the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage of the new information and received an e-mail from [REDACTED], the Architectural Heritage Officer, to thank us. He confirmed that their conservation records have now been updated to reflect the new information.

Several research papers done by the Dublin School of Architecture at DIT, now Ireland's Technical University have been published confirming the importance and uniqueness of experimental houses like Rosslyn and Grove Cottage, as part of the Goodbody and Quaker legacy in how Irish Villages developed. As part of their extensive research project entitled *Mapped: A Study of Planned Irish Villages*, Gillian Darley wrote an article called *Irish Utopias*, in which she states the following, referencing Clara, Clashawaun and the experimental workers' houses with their unusual roofs built by the Goodbody Family, p 45:

"Perhaps one of the most significant milestones in Clara's development was the match of Lydia Clibborn to Jonathan Goodbody. The social

and industrial experiments instigated by her relatives, the Malcomsons (Portlaw) and the Richardsons (Bessbrook), were widely known in Quaker circles. These connections were to be inspiration for the Goodbody's to build the Clashawaun Jute factory in the 1860's. **Deciding to experiment with workers housing, the Goodbodies constructed a village of forty four cottages. Clashawaun is perhaps the most striking adaption visible in the town's form. Every aspect of this built, even the landscape, was designed in accordance to benefit working life and workers welfare. In 1873 they were enlarged and improved the complex to 120 cottages. There is strong evidence that these houses used the same roof system that other utopian ventures were adopting at the time from Portlaw, seen in Niamh Denny's article featured."**

The article by Niamh Denny which Gillian Darley references is entitled *The Portlaw Roof Truss: A Historic and Architectural Investigation of the Portlaw Roof* and also features in *Mapped: A Study of Planned Irish Villages*.



Rosslyn & Grove Cottage, Clashawaun, Ballycumber Road, Clara



Streetscape from Rosslyn



Streetscape from Grove Cottage

Grove Cottage and Rosslyn are all that remain of the experimental workers' houses based on the Portlaw Roof/Belfast-truss curved roof in Clara and indeed County Offaly. Without the Protected Status, the Portlaw Roof/Belfast-truss curved roof of these two houses will always be at risk and Offaly County Council's reasons for Refusal, open to personal interpretation. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage's Handbook states very clearly the criteria used to rate a structure Regional and also recommends how it should be viewed and ultimately treated, p20:

"REGIONAL

Structures or sites that make a significant contribution to the architectural heritage within their region or area. They also stand in comparison with similar structures or sites in other regions or areas within Ireland. Examples would include many Georgian terraces; Nenagh Courthouse, Co. Tipperary; or the Bailey Lighthouse, Howth. Increasingly, structures that need to be protected include structures or sites that make a significant contribution to the architectural heritage within their own locality. Examples of these would include modest terraces and timber shopfronts."

In Reference to Point 2:

On the back wall of Grove Cottage are two beautiful 19th century false windows for decorative purposes, in the style of stain glass windows with a diamond pattern wrought iron grid. They are unique and the only remaining examples of this architectural decorative art form in Clara, as the other 19th century houses with this feature have been demolished.





In Reference to Point 3:



Attached you will find a photo copy of a Clashawaun, Ballycumber Road streetscape dated to c1904 from the publication, '*Clara A Pictorial Record, Tullamore: Esker Press*'. The two houses are clearly visible in the bottom photograph (right hand side) with the original walls, gate posts, gates, fences on top of the walls and the arches. Unfortunately, Rosslyn's was removed sometime in the 1970's. Grove Cottage's items stayed intact except the fence and arch, which were relocated and placed in the back garden of Grove Cottage. The intend is to restore the items to their right full place.



We trust this request will meet with your approval

Mise le Meas

 A. Orman

Alan Orman & Anna Orman



For Your Reference:

<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/14802031/rosslyn-ballycumber-road-erry-armstrong-clara-co-offaly>

<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/buildings-search/building/14802030/grove-cottage-ballycumber-road-erry-armstrong-clara-co-offaly>

<http://www.dit.ie/media/architecture/documents/research/publications/mdelaney/MA PPED%20A%20Study%20Of%20Planned%20Irish%20Villages.pdf>

<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie/app/uploads/2019/10/NIAH-Handbook-Edition-September-2017.pdf>

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near Waterford, being leased by Joseph Malcomson's father, David, in 1824, a year before the family set up in Portlaw. Pouldrew was operated by a younger son, David, but as he died in 1840 and the OS map of 1841/42 shows a relatively modest house on the site, the work must postdate him.

Mulvany appears to have had a hand in the the design of Malcomsons' work on housing (effectively a rebuilding of the village of Portlaw), constructed between 1850 and 1855, and in the provision of a school and hall in the mill complex itself (Plate 39), erected in 1854.⁶¹ All these buildings have Belfast-truss curved roofs covered with tarred linen produced at the plant (Plate 49). Similar housing was built by the Malcomsons in Co Limerick⁶² and by other industrialists in Harold's Cross (Dublin), Carrick-on-Suir, Blarney and Banbridge, and much later, in 1869-74, at Mayfield (Plate 48). Mulvany was probably architect to at least some of these developments. Mayfield itself also spawned further commissions for grand houses from the Malcomsons in counties Waterford, Tipperary and Dublin. Mulvany exhibited perspectives of each at the RHA.

THE PERRYS, GOODBODYS AND MALCOMSONS

Little has been published on the role of the Quaker entrepreneurs in the Irish economy in the mid-nineteenth century. Many of the families discussed here were inter-related. Undoubtedly there were other business ventures before the Ruhr mines for which Quakers from opposite ends of the country united to fund projects of mutual advantage. Several of the families, for instance, were involved in setting up the Friends' Boarding School in Dublin in 1840, an enterprise that survived just four years.⁶³ Joseph Malcomson was a subscriber to the school, as was his brother David, the Clonmel mill owner, James and Henry Perry, and Thomas and Jonathan Pim. The school's thirty-three pupils included several of Mulvany's future clients.

While James Perry undoubtedly did much to further Mulvany's career, we do not know if he employed him at his own residence, Obelisk Park, Blackrock. The present appearance of the house dates from a reconstruction (1874-75), carried out under the superintendence of the architect Sir Thomas Drew. Perry certainly employed him on two ventures at Athenry, Co Galway – the construction of a model farm on the former Oranmore estate, sold by the Incumbered Estates Court in 1850,⁶⁴ and the erection of a railway hotel (Plate 38) on the opposite side of the town. Both projects were begun in 1853 and were complete by 1854.⁶⁵ A tourist guidebook published in the latter year described the hotel, with its characteristic Mulvany bracketed eaves and a curved-roof veranda, as a 'very superior building'.

Perry was reported as having greatly developed the old estate, which was



48 – Clashawum, Clara, Co Offaly
– pair of houses (late 1860s, much altered), with a longitudinal curved roof. The boundary wall is similar to that at the Clara Meeting House.

49 – Brown Street, Portlaw, Co Waterford
– terraced houses with transverse curved roofs. The centre house here (early 1850s), is one of the few estate houses in Portlaw with surviving original sash windows and decorative eaves.
(photo: Colm Murray)



Clashawaun, Clara, King's Co



ON THE ROAD, CLASHAWAUN

COMPTON'S CHONT
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READING

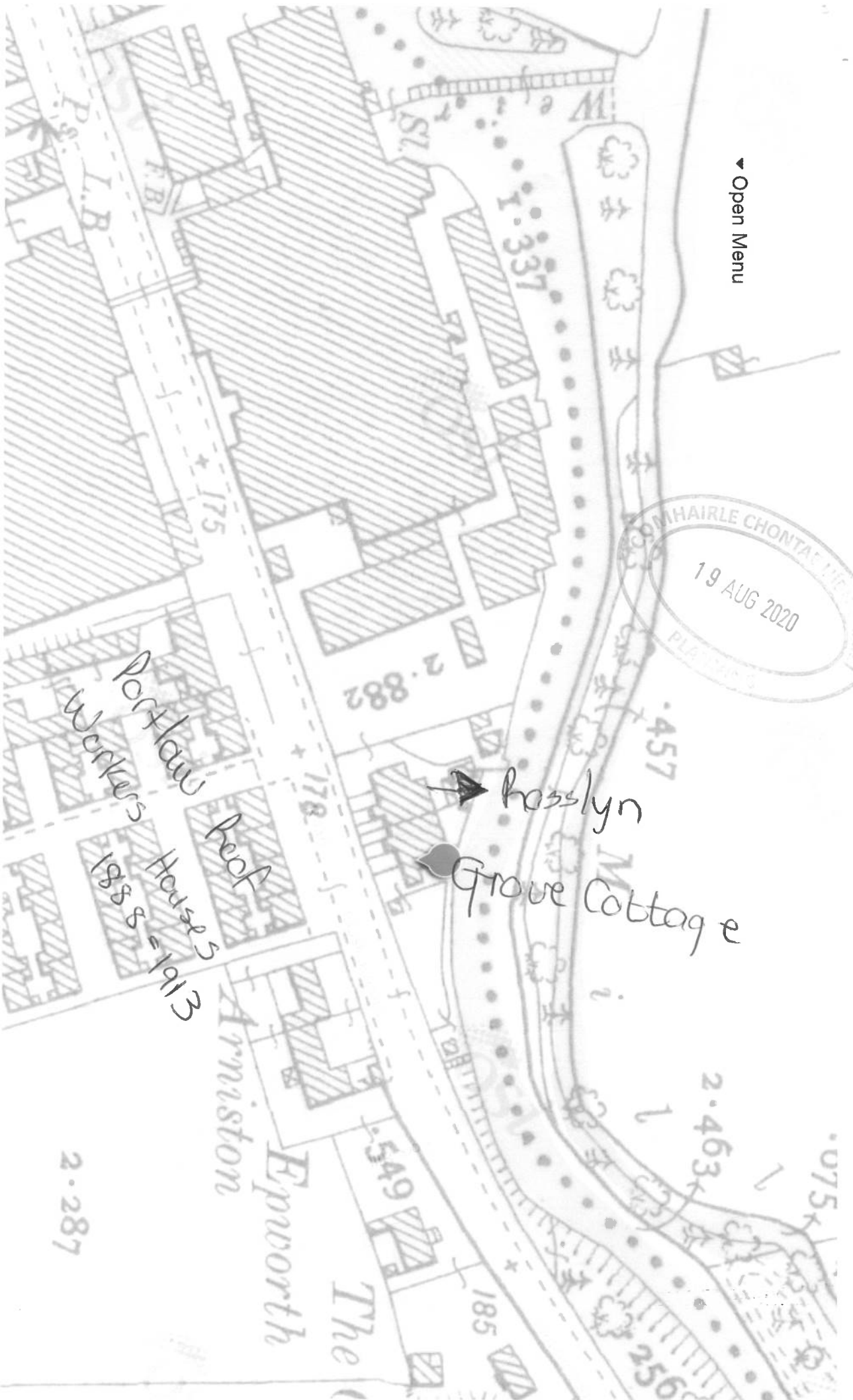
COMHAIR
19 AUG 2020
Open Menu



Ordnance Maps
Ireland -

1888 - 1913: Ordnance Map of
Clashawawn + Clara.

▼ Open Menu

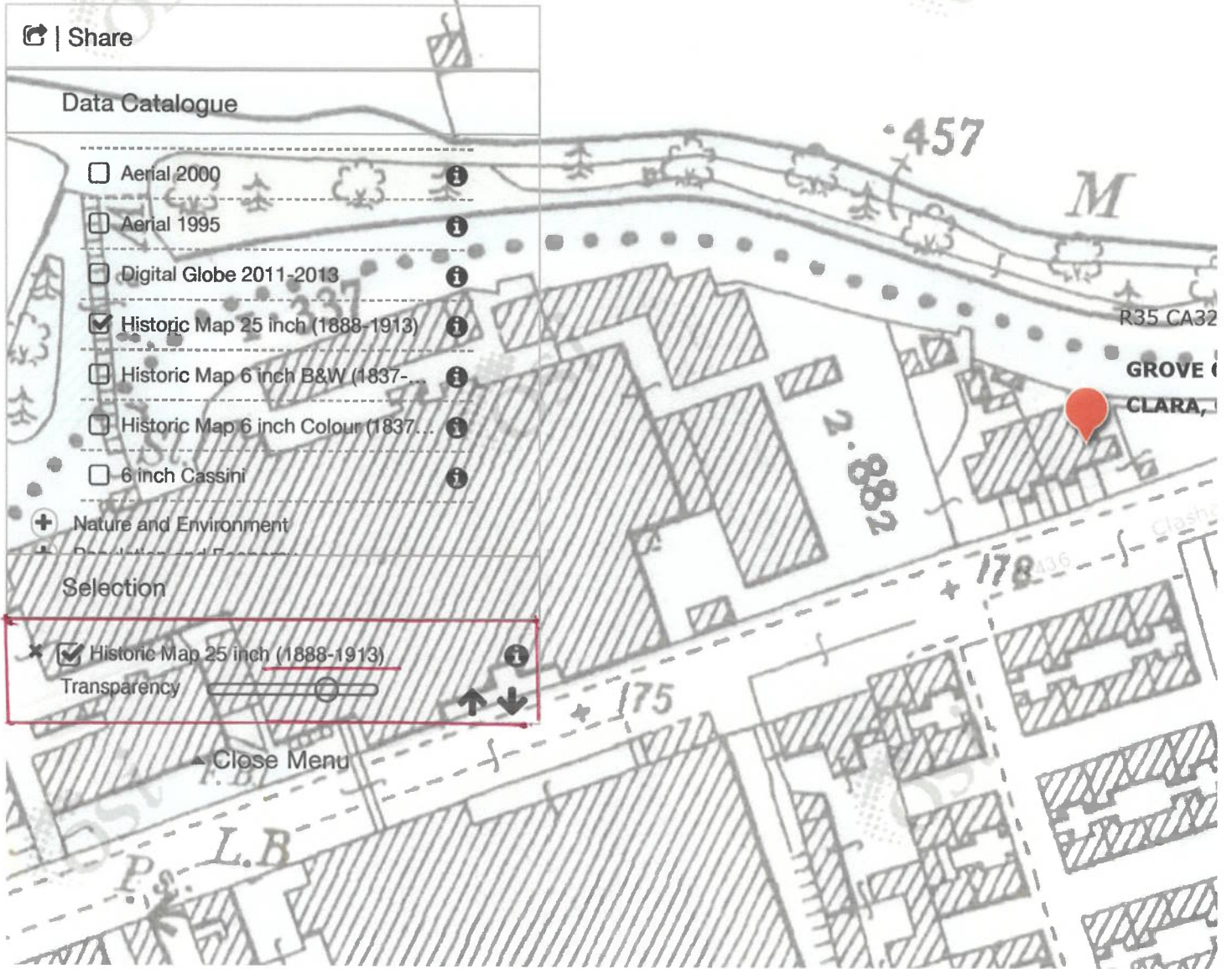


1888-1913: Clashavawn; Clary
Drchnae Maps Ireland

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Ireland

Present Day: Clashawain; Clara





For reference purposes & trace.

