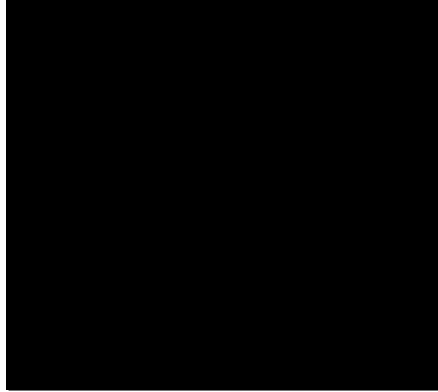


Alan & Anna Orman



CORPORATE SERVICES  
03 SEP 2020  
COMHAIRLE CHONTAE UÍBH FHAILÍ

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03 SEP 2020  
PLANNING

FOR ATTENTION: RECORD OF PROTECTED STRUCTURES

**NEW SUBMISSION TO SUPERSEDE THE FIRST SUBMISSION (CDP/D/09)**



**'DRAFT OFFALY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027'**

**REQUEST FOR PROTECTED STATUS OF THE FOLLOWING - Dated 1 September 2020**

1. The Portlaw Roof/Belfast-truss curved roof with all chimney stacks, of Grove Cottage Clashawaun, Ballycumber Rd, Clara, Co Offaly, R35 CA32.
2. The 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**In Reference to Point 1:**

Grove Cottage Clashawaun, Ballycumber Rd, Clara, Co Offaly, R35 CA32 was 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), additional important information came to light regarding both the Architectural & Historic significance of Grove Cottage. It dates 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 Damian Murphy, 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 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*.



*Grove Cottage, Clashawaun, Ballycumber Road, Clara (right)*



*Streetscape*



Grove Cottage is one of only two remaining experimental workers' houses based on the Portlaw Roof/Belfast-truss curved roof in Clara and indeed County Offaly. 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**

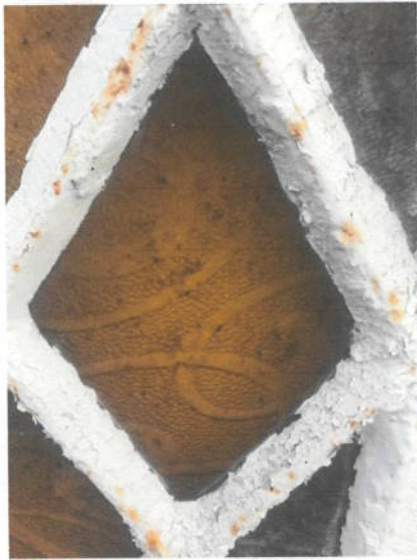
**Structures or sites that make a significant contribution to the architectural heritage within their region or area.** They also stand in comparison with similar structures or sites in other regions or areas within Ireland. Examples would include many Georgian terraces; Nenagh Courthouse, Co. Tipperary; 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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. Grove Cottage's items stayed intact except the fence and arch, which were relocated and placed in the back garden of Grove Cottage. The intent is to restore the items to their right full place. May I also point out Frederick O'Dwyer's statement regarding the fact that Grove Cottage's boundary wall is similar to the Clara Quaker Meeting House.



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/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>





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

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 junior, 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-  
 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.<sup>61</sup> 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 Limerick<sup>62</sup> and by other industrialists in Harold's Cross  
 Dublin, Carrick-on-Suir, Blarney and Banbridge, and much later, in 1869-74, at  
 Clara (Plate 48). Mulvany was probably architect to at least some of these develop-  
 ments. Mayfield itself also spawned further commissions for grand houses from the  
 Malcomsons in counties Waterford, Tipperary and Dublin. Mulvany exhibited per-  
 spectives of each at the RHA.



### THE PERRYS, GOODBODYS AND MALCOMSONS

Little has been published on the role of the Quaker entrepreneurs in the Irish  
 my in the mid-nineteenth century. Many of the families discussed here were interre-  
 lated. 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, and enterprise that survived just four  
 years.<sup>63</sup> 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,<sup>64</sup> 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.<sup>65</sup> 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



## Grove Cottage, Ballycumber Road, ERRY (ARMSTRONG), Clara, County Offaly



### Survey Data

Reg No	14802030
Rating	Regional
Categories of Special Interest	Architectural Technical
Original Use	Worker's house
In Use As	House
Date	1860 - 1900
Coordinates	225139, 232280
Date Recorded	28/09/2004
Date Updated	--/--/--



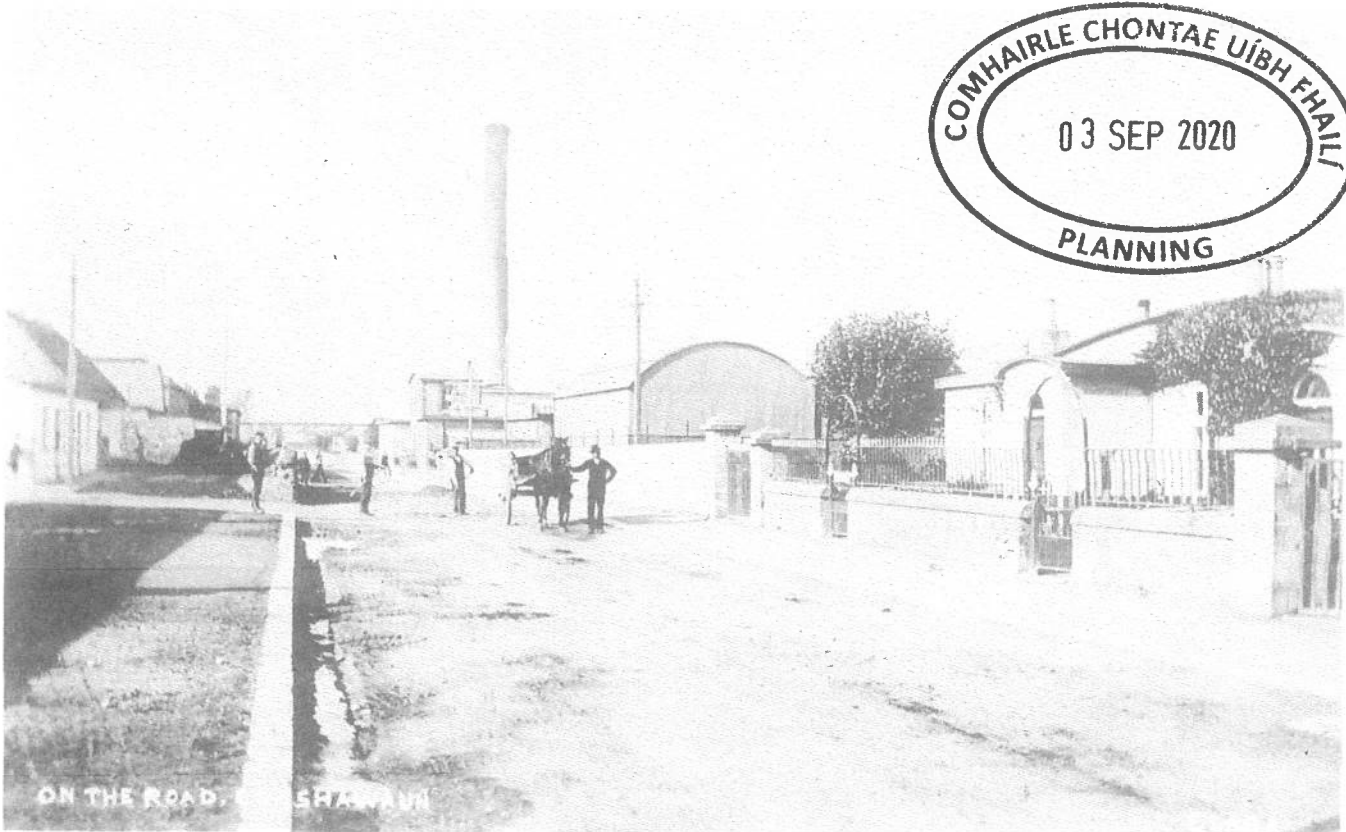
## Description

Semi-detached four-bay single-storey house, built c.1880, with adjoining garage. Set back from road. Shallow segmental felt roof with rendered chimneystacks and terracotta pots. Rendered walls with timber eaves board. Replacement timber casement windows with painted sills. Round-headed door opening with timber and glazed door and fanlight within segmental-roofed projecting porch. Site bounded to front by plinth wall with tooled limestone coping and cast-iron piers and gate. Ashlar gate piers with wrought-iron vehicular gates.

## Appraisal

One of a pair of experimental houses built by the Goodbody family as housing for their workforce. Over a period of a hundred years, an amount of worker's housing was constructed by the family but unlike the traditional pitched style utilised by them, these cottages have shallow segmental roofs covered with an experimental felt. This structure, along with its adjoining house, is unique in Clara and of technical interest. Together they contribute positively to the streetscape.





Two pictures of Clashawaun in 1904.



Share

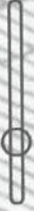
Data Catalogue

- Aerial 2005-2012
- Aerial 2005
- Aerial 2000
- Aerial 1995
- Digital Globe 2011-2013
- Historic Map 25 inch (1888-1913)
- Historic Map 6 inch B&W (1837-...)
- Historic Map 6 inch Colour (1837-...)

Selection

Historic Map 25 inch (1888-1913)

Transparency



Close Menu



R35 CA32  
GROVE COTTAGE, CLASHAWAUN,  
CLARA, CO. OFFALY, R35 CA32

