

Blarney Housing; Part 8 Planning Application Co. Cork.

Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment -C

December 2025



Contents

Part One: Introduction, Methodologies, and Heritage Protection.....	pg 05
Part Two: History and Chronology.....	pg 11
Part Three: Existing Buildings, Proposed Works, and Conservation Impact Assessment.....	pg 21
Appendix A: NIAH Records.....	pg 34
Appendix B: RMP Records.....	pg 55

:



Part One: Introduction, Methodologies, and Heritage Protection

Part One: Introduction, Methodologies, and Heritage Protection

1.01 Overview of Report

This Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment (AHIA) has been carried out on behalf of our client, HRP Construction Ltd, to provide an assessment of a Part 8 submission for a proposed housing project in Blarney, Co. Cork. The project has been designed by Deady Gahan Architects (DGA), taking into account design feedback by James Bourke Architects (JBA) relating to the historic context of the site. The purpose of this report is (i) to provide an overview of the historical context of the site and identify any built fabric of note in the area and (ii) to assess the impact of the proposal on the character of the area, with particular reference to views from Blarney Castle.

1.02 Project Background

The development site, measuring approximately 3.7 hectares, is located in Blarney. The proposed development will consist of:

- The construction of 138 no. residential units comprising a mix of 4-bed semi-detached houses; 3-bed detached houses, 2 and 3 bed semi-detached and townhouses; and a block of 1 and 2-bed apartments
- A civic centre
- All associated ancillary development

In February 2025, comments were provided from the Cork City Council Conservation Officer on an earlier design. Taking into account this feedback, JBA were engaged as conservation consultants to review the design and provide feedback / suggested design alterations to the house types. The alterations sought to better reflect the historic context of Blarney and to compliment the Architectural Conservation Area (ACA). A revised design for the proposed civic centre was also provided by JBA. The overall design was then updated by DGA to form the basis of the current Part 8 submission.

1.03 Overview of Methodologies

This report has been written in accordance with the ICOMOS Guide to Recording Historic Buildings (Butterworth Architecture, 1990) and the RIAI

Guidelines for the Conservation of Buildings, 3rd Edition (RIAI, 2010). The report is based on site visits, map research, historical research, and visual inspections.

Heritage Protection

1.04 Statutory Protection

All development should be assessed on consistency with statutory heritage policies, designations and guidelines. Ireland has ratified European and International conventions in relation to the protection of its built heritage. These, along with a large body of conservation charters and associated conventions and documents, are an essential framework for good practice in the protection and enhancement of the Historic Environment.

(A) Planning and Development Act 2000

The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) requires that Planning Authorities compile and maintain a Record of Protected Structures. The RPS is a mechanism for the statutory protection of our built heritage. A protected structure may be included in the RPS on account of its architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical point of view. Each owner and occupier of a protected structure is legally obliged to ensure that the structure is maintained and protected from endangerment, whether by direct action or neglect.

When a structure is protected the protection includes the structure, its interior, the land within its curtilage and other structures within that curtilage (including their interiors), and all fixtures and features that form part of the interior or exterior of all these structures. All works which would materially affect the character of the Protected Structure, or a proposed protected structure, require planning permission even when those works would otherwise be exempt.

There are a total of 6 Protected Structures within the study area (Blarney Village Centre/ Blarney Castle). Of these, the most relevant to the site is Blarney Tower House & Bawn, due to the impact of the proposed works on views from the castle.

In addition to the RPS the designation of historic areas as Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) under Section 81 of the Planning & Development Act is a way to protect the character of Ireland's historic areas. An Architectural Conservation Area

(ACA) is a place, area, group of structures or townscape that is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, technical, social, cultural, or scientific, interest, or that contributes to the appreciation of a Protected Structure

The Study Area is partially located within an ACA.

(B) National Monuments Act 1930-2004

Structures and/or sites may be protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930- 2004. This can be in addition, or as an alternative, to protection under the Planning and Development Acts. The protection of structures under the National Monuments Acts takes place at national level within the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Sites protected under the National Monuments Acts are contained in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP). The RMP is established and maintained by the National Monuments Section of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Any works to structures included on the RMP are subject to various provisions, including a Section 12 Notification process to the Minister prior to works progressing on site.

There are eight structures in the study area listed on the RMP, many of which are associated with Blarney Castle.

(C) Historic and Archaeological Heritage and Miscellaneous Provisions Bill 2023

When fully enacted the Historic and Archaeological Heritage Bill will revise and replace the existing National Monuments Acts and other related legislation/enactments with a modernised legislative code for the protection of historic monuments and archaeological heritage. Under this new legislation the monument will become a Prescribed Monument.

The provisions of the new bill are planned to be enacted in the near future, and any promoters of works will need to be familiar with the new legislative provisions to ensure an efficient permission application and execution of any works.

(D) National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage is a unit within the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government engaged in

compiling an evaluated record of the architectural heritage of Ireland. The NIAH survey was established on a statutory basis by the enactment of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999.

There are a total of 18 structures included on the NIAH in the Study area. Of these, eight are part of the Blarney Woolen mills complex.

(E) Wildlife Acts

The Wildlife Acts 1976 - 2000 are the principal statutory provisions providing for the protection of wildlife (both flora and fauna) and the control of activities which may impact adversely on the conservation of wildlife and their habitats. The Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government is the Competent Authority for the servicing of a number of wildlife-related international agreements and implements a number of EU Regulations, Directives and International Conventions.

Competing conservation requirements of the natural and the built heritage may give rise to dilemmas. Conservation Rangers from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government can be consulted and may be able to suggest measures to avoid damage to the habitats of fauna.

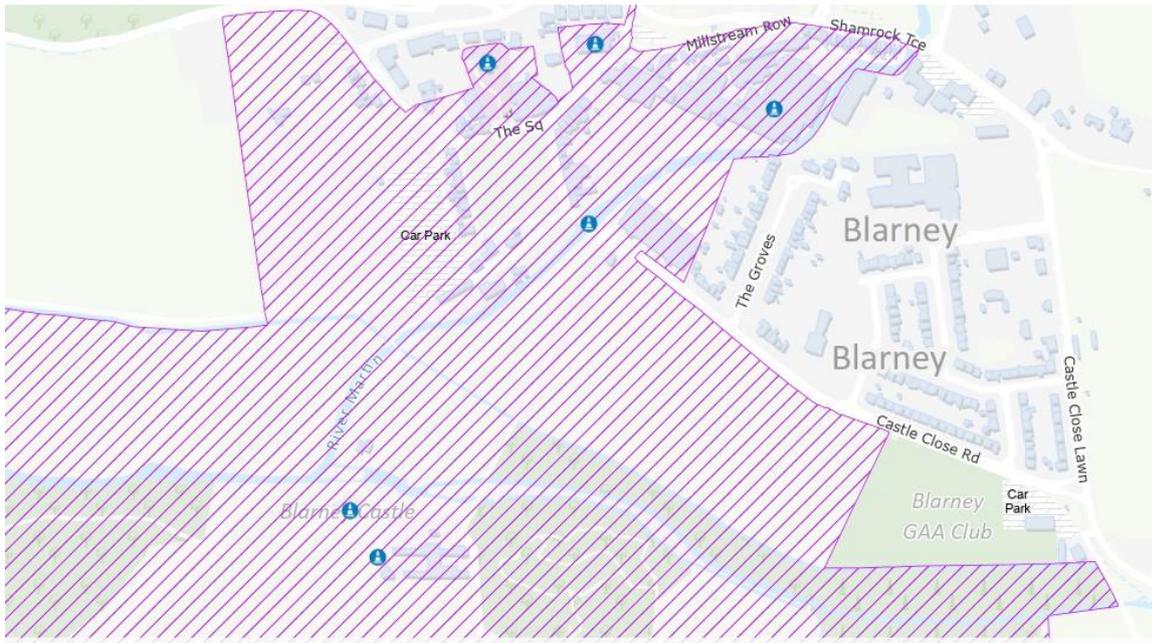


Fig 1.01. Extract from the digital map of Cork City Council Development Plan showing the location of Blarney ACA and the Protected Structures in the area.

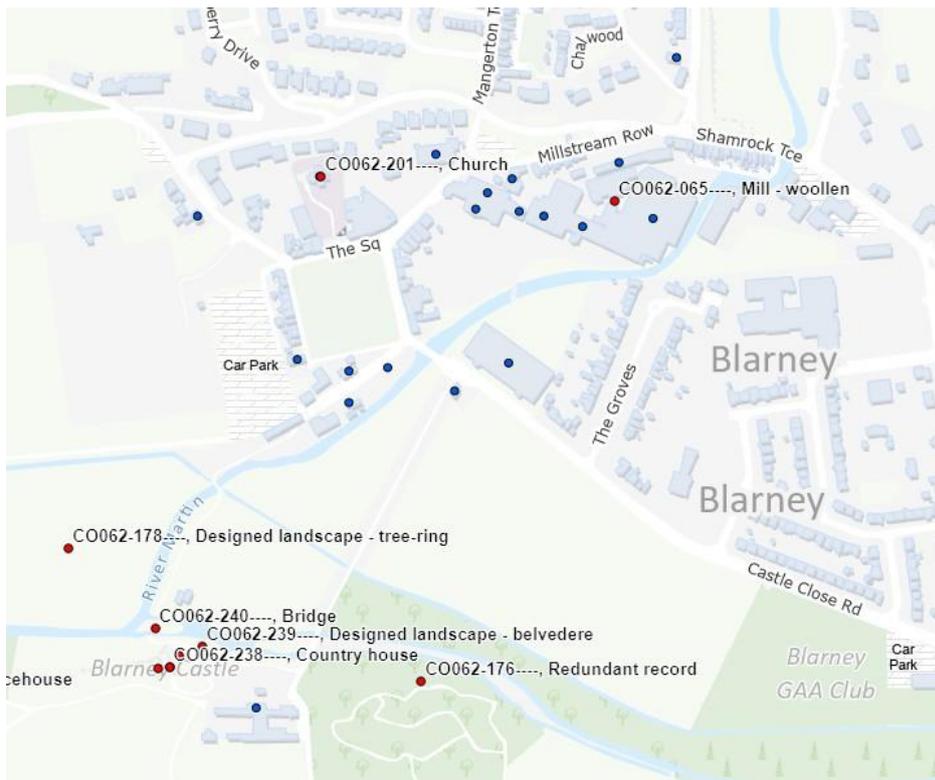
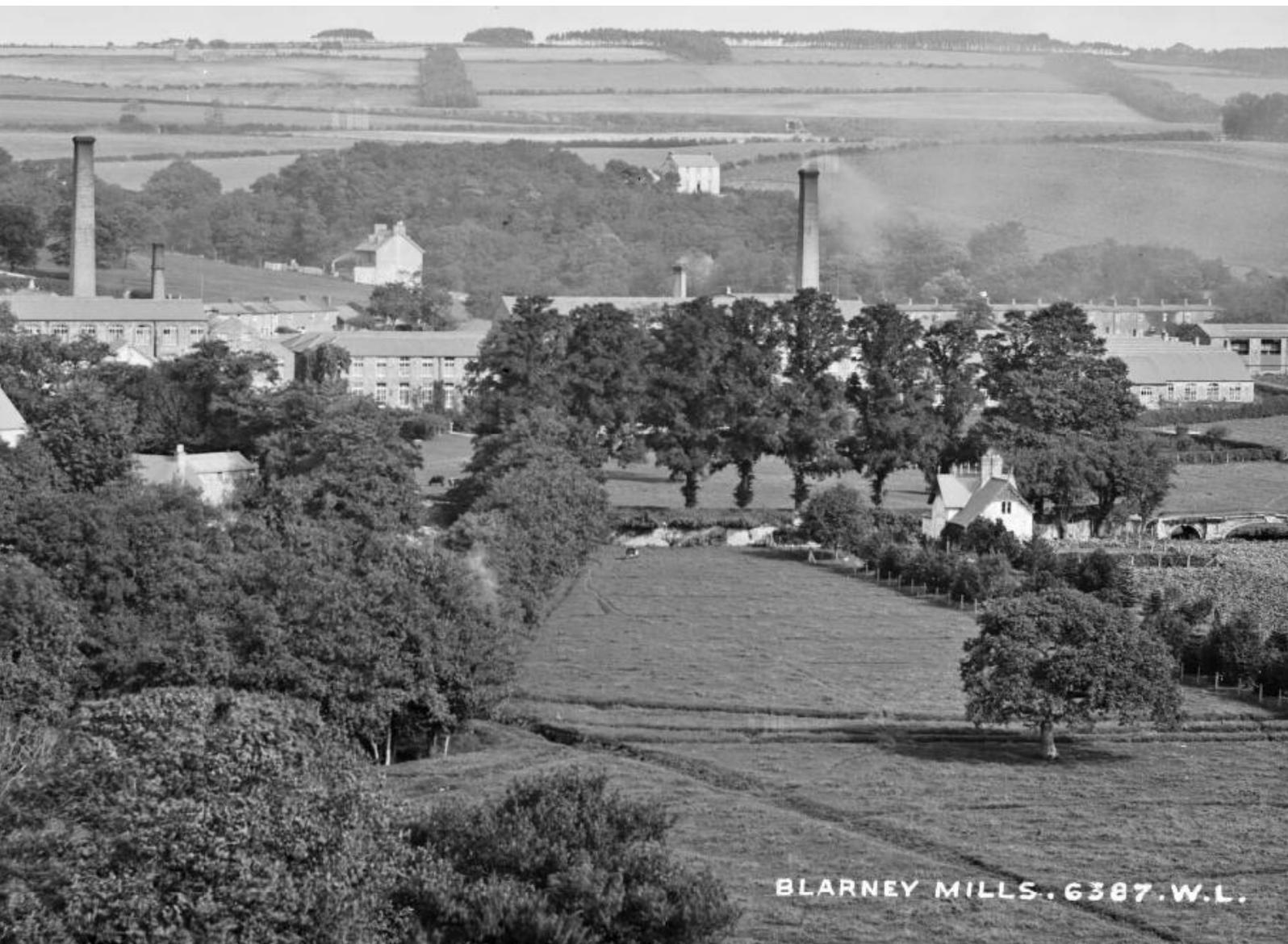


Fig 1.02. Extract from the Historic Environment Viewer showing the location of the NIAH records and structures included on the RMP.



Part Two: History and Chronology of Blarney

Part Two: History and Chronology

2.01 Blarney Castle and House

The settlement at Blarney became a stronghold of the MacCarthys of Muskerry. The site of Blarney Castle is the oldest known area of settlement in the village, where a wooden hunting post once sat on the limestone outcrop. A second stone structure was built in place of this in the eleventh century, and this in turn was demolished and a third castle was built in the fifteenth century, the remains of which still stand today.

After the Nine Years War in the late seventeenth century, the MacCarthy lands were forfeited and eventually came into the possession of Sir James Jefferyes, Governor of Cork. He built a mansion adjacent to the castle and undertook extensive landscaping works. The Rock Close is reputed to have been built on a druidic site from pre-historic times. The house was substantially destroyed by a fire in the 1820s, with just the wing walls remaining. A new house in the Scottish baronial style was completed on a site to the south of the castle in 1874 and is intact today. The property passed through marriage to the Colthurst family, who still occupy it today.

2.02 Blarney Village and Woollen Mills

In the early 1700s, Blarney village was a very small settlement and likely consisted of simple cabins. In the mid-late 1700s, Sir John Jefferyes set out to construct a planned town, which forms the basis of the square at the village centre today. Blarney was developed as an industrial village, with the focus being on the linen trade. Jefferyes established a number of water-powered mills in Blarney, mainly producing linen and cotton. Arthur Young provides a description of the town from between 1776-1778. According to his account, the textile industry was thriving:

in 1765, when Mr. Jefferys began to build this town, it consisted only of two or three mud cabins; there are now 90 houses. He first established the linen manufactory, building a bleach-mill, and houses for weavers etc., and letting them to manufacturers from Cork, who have been so successful in their works as to find it necessary to have larger and more numerous edifices, such as a large stamping mill for printing linens and cottons, to which annexed another bleach-mill, and since there has been a third erected; the work carried on is that of buying yarn, and weaving it into linens,



Fig 2.01. Photograph of Blarney Castle from the NLI Lawrence Collection, c1865-1914.



Fig 2.02. Photograph of Blarney House from the NLI Lawrence Collection, c1865-1914.

The square was designed as the focal point of the village, a social heart for the mill workers whose cottages enclosed it. It is a good example of a classical Georgian town planning exercise with square plan form and the Church of Ireland Church of the Resurrection centrally located on axis to the north. This was built 1766 and overlooks the village green. It is thought that square was originally enclosed by buildings on all four sides, which appears to be visible on the map from the 1700s. The square is described by Young as:

composed of a large handsome inn and manufacturers houses, all built of excellent stone, lime and slate. A church, by the first fruits and liberal addition of above £300 from Mr. Jefferys.

The historic OSI maps show that in addition to worker's houses, the buildings around the green once included institutions of note including the 18th century market house on the north-east corner, the RIC barracks centrally on the east side, a courthouse, and a late 18th century schoolhouse on the south-east corner. Apart from the set piece square, the village evolved along established roads leading to and from the settlement, responding to the topography of the land to produce an informal incremental linear form.

The textile industry of Blarney went through various phases of success over the years. The initial phase of mill building overseen by Sir John Jefferyes appear to have been initially very fruitful enterprises. However, the industry was badly affected by the collapse in trade caused by the 1820 banking crisis. In Samuel Lewis' description of Blarney, 1837, he describes the then relatively recent regression of the village as follows:

The village, though now of little importance, was once the most thriving in the county, and between the years 1765 and 1782, when the linen manufacture was carried on, had not less than 13 mills in operation, erected by St. John Jefferyes, Esq., at an expense of about £20,000. The cotton trade was afterwards introduced and flourished for a time, but has decayed; and the only establishments now in operation are a spinning-mill belonging to M. Mahony, Esq., in which about 120 persons are employed in spinning and dyeing woollen yarn for the extensive camlet manufactory in Cork; and a paper-mill, erected by G. Jenkins, Esq., which employs about 170 persons.

Fortunately for the village, the mill of M. Mahony, now Blarney Woollen Mills, described above,

became a catalyst for renewed industry and growth over time. The Mahonys were a famous milling family, who moved their primary operations from Glanmire to Blarney in 1823-1824. The Mahony mill led to the creation of jobs and housing in the village, which undertook a growth spurt in the mid-1800s. While the original mill building burnt down in 1869, it was soon rebuilt on a much larger scale. The enlarged building complex brought an increase in required staffing numbers, and the Mahonys began the development of over 100 terraced houses close to the mill in the mid-1800s. At the height of the Martin Mahony & Bros. woollen mills production it was said that there were in excess of 1,000 people employed in the factory. The houses constructed by the Mahonys around the village are of note due to their incorporation of curved felt roofs. The roof structure consists of Belfast roof trusses covered with tarred roofing felt, which was a quick and efficient means of production.

The nineteenth century also saw the development of the town as a tourist destination. The accessibility of the village and of the castle was vastly improved when the Cork and Muskerry Light railway was completed in 1887, with the line continuing to operate until 1934. The line ran from Cork to Blarney, a distance of 18 miles. The platform still exists today, and a number of buildings associated with the railway are included on the NIAH. The development of the railway line has been referenced to have necessitated demolition of the houses along the south side of the planned village square, but no buildings are visible in this location in early OSI maps (1840), suggesting that they may have been removed for other reasons.

Blarney Woollen Mills continued to operate until 1973, one of the few large-scale mills in Ireland to survive the Industrial Revolution. The mills were sold and reopened as a heritage, craft, and souvenir shop which is a well know tourist destination today. This, along with Blarney Castle, make Blarney one of the most important tourist destinations in Cork.

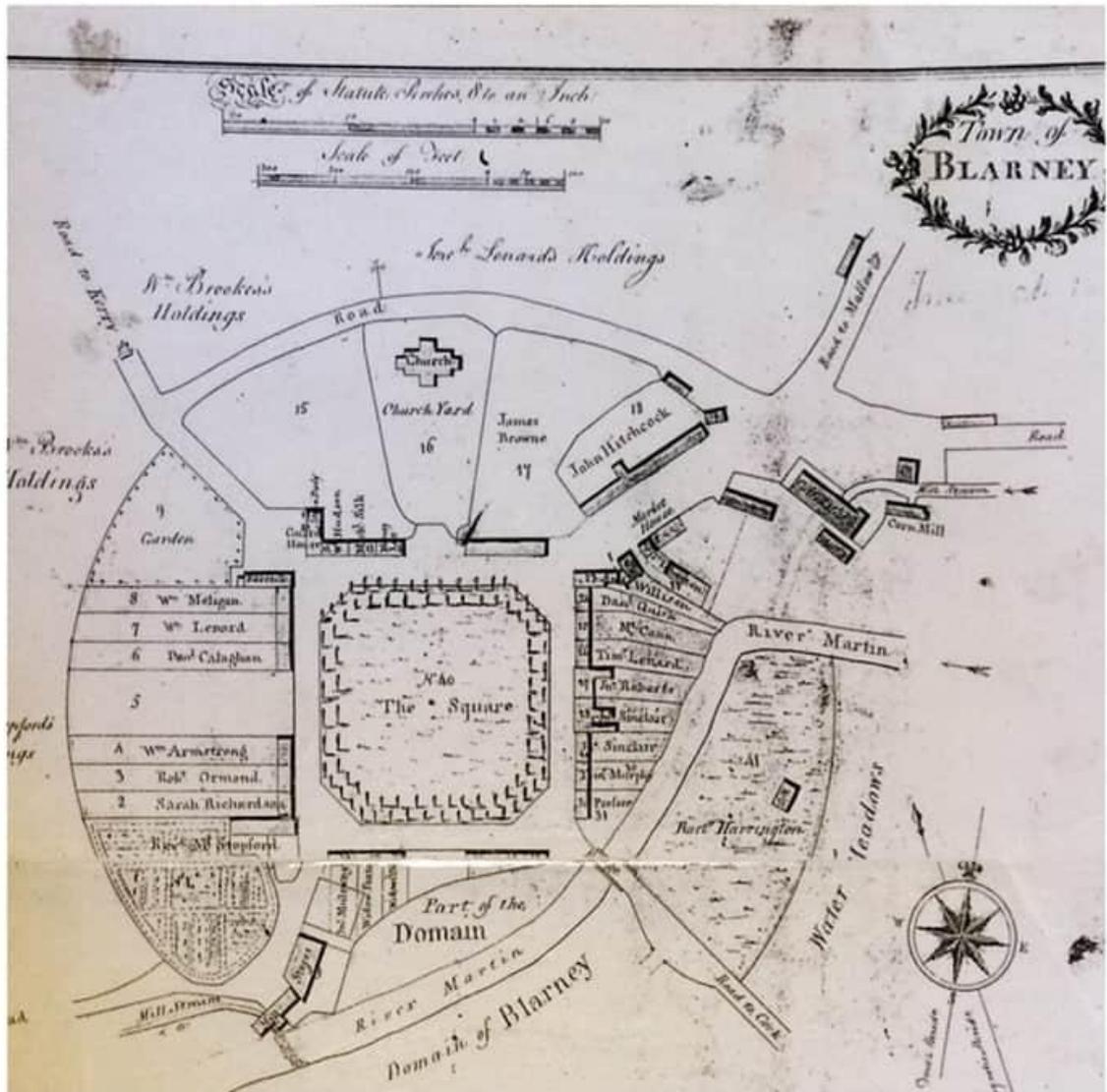


Fig 2.03. 1700s map of Blarney depicting the central town square. The Church of the Resurrection occupied a prominent position along the north axis. Mill buildings are visible to the north-east of the square. A built edge is depicted along the south side of the square, but buildings are not clearly visible in this location (part of the map is obscured). There is a centrally located gap in the built edge along the west side of the square.

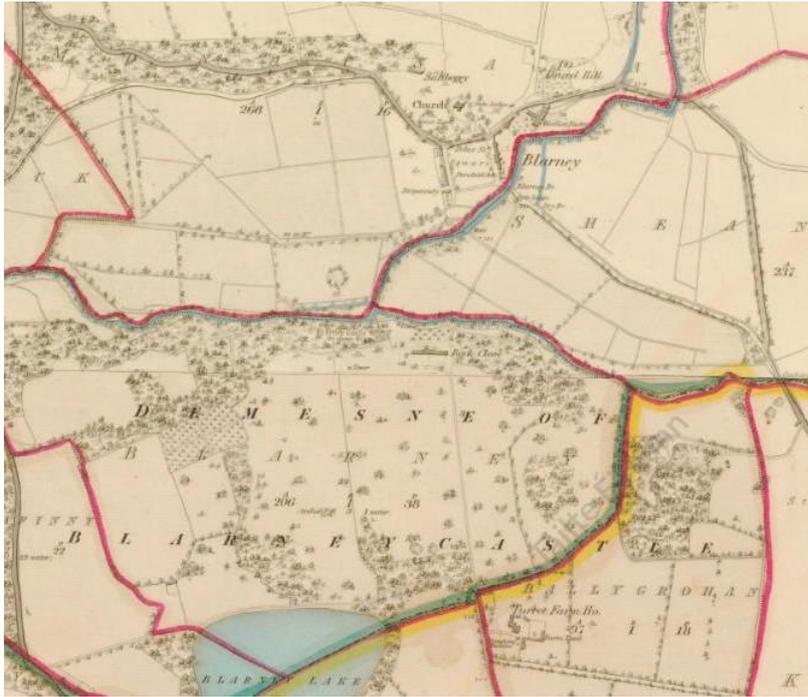


Fig 2.04. First edition OSI map, 1840.

The village square is clearly depicted and indicates a dispensary to the south-west corner (Stopford House), police station along the east side, and parochial school to the south-east corner. The south edge of the square is free from any buildings at this time. Some gaps are visible in the built edge on the other sides also. The woollen mills are clearly depicted as 'woollen factory'. A large house named 'Laurel Hill' is visible opposite the mill (later St. Helen's Convent). The Church of the Resurrection is also visible. To the south of the village, Blarney Castle is show in ruins, and there is no indication of Blarney house or stable yard.

2.03 Character Analysis of Blarney Village and ACA

There are a wide variety of building typologies which contribute to the character of Blarney village and ACA. It is significant of Blarney, and in particular the ACA, that the character of the village is defined by the combination of the formality and classical symmetry of the planned square and the informality of expression of the buildings themselves, which are for the most part modest vernacular dwellings.

The domestic character of the village consists of a variety of forms, with the houses being a mixture of single and two storey dwellings, freestanding, attached or in terraces. They are of solid construction, generally being simple planar forms with typical vernacular vertical opening proportions and solid/void ratios. There is often a hierarchy of openings, which are larger at ground floor. Windows are traditionally vertical painted timber sliding sashes, singly or grouped. Doors are traditionally solid painted timber, panelled or, on more modest buildings, vertically boarded. Many buildings exhibit an articulation and emphasis of the doorways, which are often deeply recessed to form a sheltered entrance. The roofs are typically steeply pitched with slate roofs, flush verges and simple stepped render eaves details. A number of the dwellings have felt barrel vaulted roofs, namely the workers cottages built by the Mahonys in the 1800s. Dormers are found in some of the buildings, typically later additions. The houses incorporate a variety of render finishes, with roughcast and smooth finishes and plain render plinths, platbands, eaves bands, and window and door surrounds. Ancillary structures such as garden walls and archways help to unify the streetscape and add another layer of interest to the built fabric of the village.

There are a number of domestic scale buildings surrounding the square which are of historic note, many of which have had civic functions over the years. Stopford House (later Emerald House), located to the south-west corner, and was originally built as the rector's house. It is visible as a dispensary in the early OSI maps and was a civil war barracks in the 1920s. A handball alley was present to the rear of the house in the 25'' OSI maps. A schoolhouse was present to the south-east corner of the square. There was a hotel along the east side of the green (Smith's Hotel, later the Blarney Castle Hotel), along with a court-house (now the library) and police barracks. This was the site of an IRA attack in 1920, which resulted in considerable damage to the adjoining Smiths Hotel.

The relative simplicity in form and detailing found in the majority of the buildings around the village square is in contrast to the elaborate detailing exhibited in Blarney House (1874) and gate lodge (1874). The sandstone and limestone country house is in the Scottish baronial style and displays a great attention to detail, incorporating turrets, stepped crenelated gables, gargoyles, and carved string and eaves courses. The gate-lodge, while plainer, also incorporates finely executed masonry detailing, as well as griffins to the gable ends, terracotta ridge cresting, timber bargeboards, and a timber verandah.

Also of particular note in the context of Blarney ACA is the industrial heritage of the village, which is evident in the buildings associated with the Woollen Mills. The buildings around what is now the heritage centre typically date to around 1860-1890 and are predominantly of stone construction, with brick detailing and some brick volumes present. Many buildings have segmental headed windows with brick detailing including brick cills, voussoirs, and black-and-start surrounds. Roofs are pitched slate throughout. The features add colour of the mill complex and texture to the built fabric, and elements such as brick towers provide a notable vertical punctuation in the streetscape. The architectural language found in the mill complex is also present in the stables of Blarney House, a detached H plan farmyard complex with rubblestone walls and camber headed window openings with red brick block-and-start surrounds, voussoirs and stone sills.

The millers house, an integral part of the mill complex, is of a contrasting style, with an irregular plan and hipped slate roofs, canted bay, dormer windows, and recessed round headed door opening. Walls are rendered with square-headed window openings having limestone lintels and sills. The form and expression of this building is in contrast to the simple rectangular masses found in the majority of the mill complex, and the external expression also contrasts with the industrial context of the building's surroundings.

The other complex of note in the village is the former railway station, to the south of the village square. The station itself, dating to 1887, is striking in its simple design and incorporates corrugated iron walls. The nearby station masters house, built c. 1890, is of timber construction, with a timber clapperboard walls, and timber veranda with corrugated iron roof. A nearby store/ goods shed, built c. 1890, also has timber clapperboard walls.

According to the NIAH, the use of clapperboard and corrugated iron was relatively uncommon throughout the country at this time, but railway companies were quick to recognise the rapid and inexpensive construction possibilities of these mass-produced materials.

Other stand-alone buildings of historic interest in the village are the Church of the Resurrection, a 1776 Board of First Fruits church in a classical design, and the Church of the Immaculate Conception, a 1900 Roman Catholic church. Finally,

Blarney Castle and historic gardens are an integral component of the ACA. There are a number of notable structures in the grounds of the castle, including an ice-house, tree-ring, bridge, belvedere, and lime kiln. The Rock Close is thought to have been built on a druidic site from pre-historic times, and the demesne contains many ancient yew and oak trees.

For NIAH and RMP records of the various structures in the study area, please see the appendix of this report.

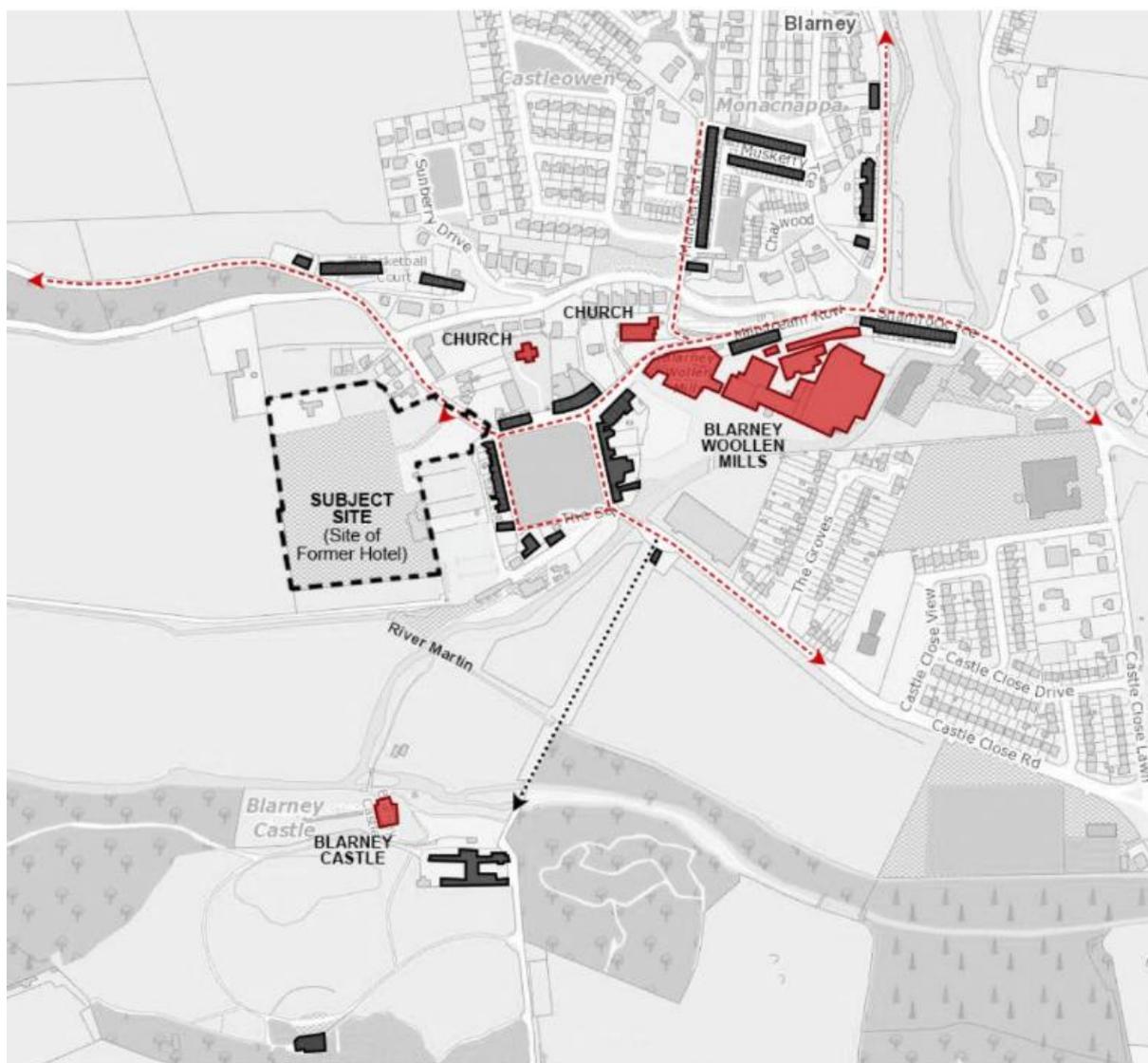


Fig 2.06. Site Plan by DGA highlighting the location of structures intact today which are visible on the historic OSI maps



Fig 2.07. Photograph from the NLI Lawrence Photograph Collection. Hotel in Blarney Square (Smiths Hotel, now Blarney Castle Hotel) 1865-1914.



Fig 2.08. Photograph of the Hotel in Blarney Square (Smiths Hotel, now Blarney Castle Hotel) c.1895 © Rare Irish Stuff. com



Fig 2.09. Character Reference 01: Blarney Village square (domestic)



Fig 2.10. Character Reference 02: Blarney Woollen Mills (industrial)



Part Three: Proposed Works with Conservation Impact Assessment

3.01 Introduction to Conservation Approach

The current design has been undertaken by DGA, taking into account feedback on the design provided by JBA in March 2025. Revised designs were provided by JBA, reflective of the site analysis undertaken and feedback provided by Cork City Council Conservation Officer based on a previous design. The comments from the Conservation Officer and requirements for the development can be summarized as follows:

- A high standard development that respects the setting of Blarney Castle and compliments and enhances the character of the ACA.
- Demonstrating an understanding of the local context and contributing positively to the receiving built environment.
- Further development of the proposed house types in terms of design and materials reinterpreting the relevant features and materials of the ACA in an appropriate and contemporary manner avoiding pastiche.
- Further development of window proportions.
- Variety/breaking up of long singular roof.
- Clarification of materials.

The vernacular homes are the primary point of reference, most notably those in the nearby village square. While the various historic buildings within the site context undoubtedly contribute positively to the character of the ACA, they are considered to be of less relevance in terms of the detailing of the proposed development, which in our opinion should be more attuned to the typical domestic heritage in the village. The industrial heritage of the woollen mills forms a secondary reference in terms of the detailing and expression of the proposed larger scale buildings, namely the library and apartment block.

The site design proposed by DGA focuses on four principal Character Areas, providing variety to the streetscapes. The proposed Character Areas are identified by their own distinctive external treatment and material palette. Notwithstanding this, a number of principles in the external

treatment are consistent across all houses and which in terms of design and materials look to the reinterpreting of the relevant features and materials of the ACA in an appropriate and contemporary manner. These include:

- Variety in the ridge heights of the houses in direct response to the conservation officer's requirement for 'breaking up of the long singular roofs'. This variety in roofscape will enhance the overall development character when viewed from Blarney Castle, will reflect the character of the village and will help breakdown the perceived scale of the development.
- The use of steeply pitched gable roofs, sometimes with dormers, which allow for the stepped roof profiles. This configuration of the dwellings sets up hierarchical roof forms with dominant and secondary roofs. Plain roof profiles with flush verges and stepped eaves detail reflect the vernacular heritage of the village.
- The incorporation of a limited number of porches and single storey bay windows which act as focal points on key vistas.
- Traditional opening proportions and solid/void ratio with controlled distances between window sills and heads, and a hierarchy of window openings (larger at ground floor).
- The articulation and emphasis of entrance doorways, many of which are recessed.
- The use of a material palette which reflects the historic character of the area, namely; pitched roofs, which should be in natural slate, a mixture of smooth and roughcast render walls, brick volumes and / or detailing, and timber sliding sash windows (areas O1 and O2 only).
- Coherence of design across street elevations, with the use of ancillary structures such as garden walls, archways to unify elevations



Fig 3.01: Sample street elevation by James Bourke Architects, March 2025

3.02. Character Areas

The proposed layout by Deady Gahan Architects divides the site into four character types. As noted in their design report, a goal of the subject development is to assemble the proposed housing typologies in clusters that create a variety of neighbouring types. The layout focuses on the creation of distinctive streetscapes, strong node points and backdrops along view lines through the use of feature buildings and different material finishes. Each character area will form a different neighbourhood characterised by specific architectural and landscaped treatments, and the use of different character zones will assist in placemaking and provide variety across the site.

Buildings in Character Areas 01, 02, and 03 are all dwelling units, and draw on the domestic character of Blarney. Character Area 04 is reserved for the larger volumes of the library / community centre / café and apartment block. This refers to the industrial heritage of the village, most notably the buildings of Blarney Woolen Mills.

The external treatments of the character zones have been chosen to reflect the dominant domestic character in Blarney, i.e.: render houses. The three domestic character zones reference vernacular typologies, with pitched slate roofs and simple eaves details, and emphasis on vertical windows, and stepped forms to break down their massing.

Character Area 01 defines the site entrance and the edges along the access street. It is the area which most closely relates to the existing building typology in Blarney, and acts as a link between the village and proposed development. It is characterised by a combination of plain and rough-cast render walls, with simple raised render window and door surrounds and a raised render plat-band. The windows have a vertical emphasis in keeping with the Blarney streetscapes. Timber sliding sash windows are proposed. Low level render walls are incorporated in front of houses to create a hierarchy of public and private spaces.

Character Area 02 defines the built edge surrounding the central open space. This is the more formal area of the site and brick detailing has been incorporated in the design. The majority of the building walls are plain render, in keeping with the existing townscape, but decorative brick elements have been incorporated in the form of window heads, eaves, and door surrounds. A limited number of volumes have been designated as brick ones, but these only occur on secondary volumes, reinforcing the dominance of the render palette in the scheme. Similar to Character Area 01, windows have a vertical emphasis, and timber sliding sash windows are proposed. Low level brick walls with metal railings are incorporated in front of houses.

Character Area 03 is characterised by a more modern style, with references to the vernacular in their simple and crisp detailing. This area is defined by plain off-white render walls and simple windows. Deeply recessed doorways articulate the elevations.

Character Area 04 refers to the industrial heritage of the village, being a modern interpretation of a brick warehouse. The monopitch metal roofs emphasise the contrasting industrial character. The volumes which make up the civic centre are broken down through the use of flat roof glazed links, reducing the apparent massing on site. Recessed and projecting bays on these buildings articulate the facades, and there is a play between vertical and horizontal planes.

Fig 3.03. Character Area Locations





Area 01



Area 02



Area 03



Area 04



Fig 3.04. Character Areas, 3d views

3.03 Visual Impact from Blarney Castle

The development is located within Blarney ACA and within the viewshed of Blarney Castle. The impact of the development on the views from Blarney Castle has been an understandable source of concern. The importance of Blarney Castle necessitates the development to respond to the site context in an appropriate and sensitive manner. The scale, location, massing, form and setting of the houses have evolved through a considered design approach to mitigate the impacts of the proposed design.

The views are noted by Lewis in 1837 as follows;

'The top of the castle commands a very fine view over a rich undulating tract intersected by the rivers Blarney, Comane, and Scorthonac, and bounded on the north-west by the lofty chain of the Boggra mountains'

These views from the castle northwards towards the village have altered over the years, particularly with the expansion of Blarney village in the late 20th-21st centuries, predominantly to the north and east of the historic town square, with this area of the village now being more suburban in character. While the construction of a new housing development to the west of the square will represent a new settlement pattern which will affect the viewshed of the Castle, the site is a sensible location for development, being close to the village centre and infrastructure. The aim of the works to date has been to mitigate the impacts of the proposed development through careful design.

Photomontages undertaken by G-Net 3d clearly display the potential impact of the proposed houses on the setting of Blarney Castle. These views demonstrate the success of the mitigation measures employed in the design namely:

-The buildings are generally restricted in height to 1-2 storey volumes, with the exception of the central 3 storey step-down apartment building. The low rise approach limits the visual impact of the development.

-The roofscape is broken down through the use of stepped roof profiles. The massing is also broken down by limiting the lengths of terraced buildings and

-The incorporation of a buffer zone of vegetation along the southern end of the site softens the visual impact of the proposal.

-The centrally located green space and road to the south of this forms a visual axis from the castle which provides a break in the built line.

-The use of appropriate materials and vernacular details will assist in integrating the development into the existing village.

While the proposed development will evidently have an impact on the views from Blarney Castle, in our opinion adequate measures have been taken to mitigate this impact, and the development does not unduly diminish the significance of the protected structure.



Fig 3.05. Aerial view of Blarney in 1956 (Morgan Aerial Collection, NLI) vs Google Satellite imagery illustrating the suburban expansion of Blarney in relatively recent years, most notably to the north of the historic core.



Fig 3.06. Photomontages by G-Net 3d demonstrating the visual impact of the proposal on the Blarney Castle viewedshed.

3.04 Impact on Blarney ACA

A significant portion of the site is located within Blarney ACA. As there is no existing built heritage within the site, it is assumed that the inclusion of this section of land within the ACA is primarily due to its proximity to and visibility from Blarney Castle. The impact on this element has been previously outlined.

In terms of the impact of the proposal on the village core, in our opinion this will be relatively limited. An existing surface carpark forms a buffer space between the village square and the east side of the site, and the distance between the development and town square ensures that the visual impact of the development on the historic village core is not a source of concern.

The proposed civic centre defines the entrance to the development, with a proposed plaza located to the south-east of it. This area forms a connection point to the village square via a green pedestrianised zone, which softens the potential visual impact of the development on the village square and creates an important link between the existing settlement and proposed development. The plaza is an open and inviting entrance to the proposed development.



Fig 3.07: Site layout plan with approximate extent of Blarney ACA highlighted pink



Fig 3.08. Photomontages by G-Net 3d demonstrating the visual impact of the proposal at the entrance of the site

3.05 Impact on Other Buildings of Note

The nearest building of historic interest is a small dwelling to the north-west of the site entrance, which is included on the NIAH (20845001). The NIAH record includes the building as it had maintained much of its original fabric, and states that it is *'a notable twentieth century addition to the predominantly nineteenth century architectural heritage of the area.'*

The proposal, and in particular the civic centre, will have a visual impact on this building. Mitigating factors are as follows:

-The building has been subject to restoration in recent years, with planning permission granted for the construction of a new dwelling to the southern side (reference 2341736), which is the side closest to the proposed cafe. Some of the original features (e.g. windows) will be replaced as part of these works. These works have significantly altered the original character of the building.

- The civic centre steps down towards the boundary adjoining this building, with the café being a single storey volume, minimising its visual impact on the neighbouring dwelling. There is a planted boundary proposed to the north of the café, with a central green space, which will act as a buffer to the building included on the NIAH.

The proposal will also have an impact on the views from the Church of the Resurrection. However, these views are not thought to be of particular importance to the church, which is set up on axis with the village square and whose principal view is towards this square (south). The impact of the proposal on the church is not thought to be of particular significance.

3.05 Conclusion

JBA have carried out a review of the current proposal. Gable ended buildings with a hierarchy of forms and stepped plans respond to the building typology encountered in Blarney and to its vernacular heritage. The design and materials look to the reinterpreting of the relevant features and materials of the ACA. The variety in the ridge heights of the houses, which was in direct response to the conservation officer's requirement for variety and 'breaking up of the long singular roofs' breaks down their massing and diminishes their visual impact. In our opinion, the proposed alterations demonstrate an understanding of the local context and contribute positively to the built environment of Blarney. While the development has an undeniable visual impact on the viewshed of Blarney Castle, in our opinion the impact has been adequately mitigated and the development does not result in any unacceptable diminishment of the significance of the protected structure.

Bibliography

<https://catalogue.nli.ie> (photographic references)

Samuel Lewis A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, 1837.

<https://corkcitylibraries.tumblr.com/post/185651342828/new-city-a-short-history-of-blarney>

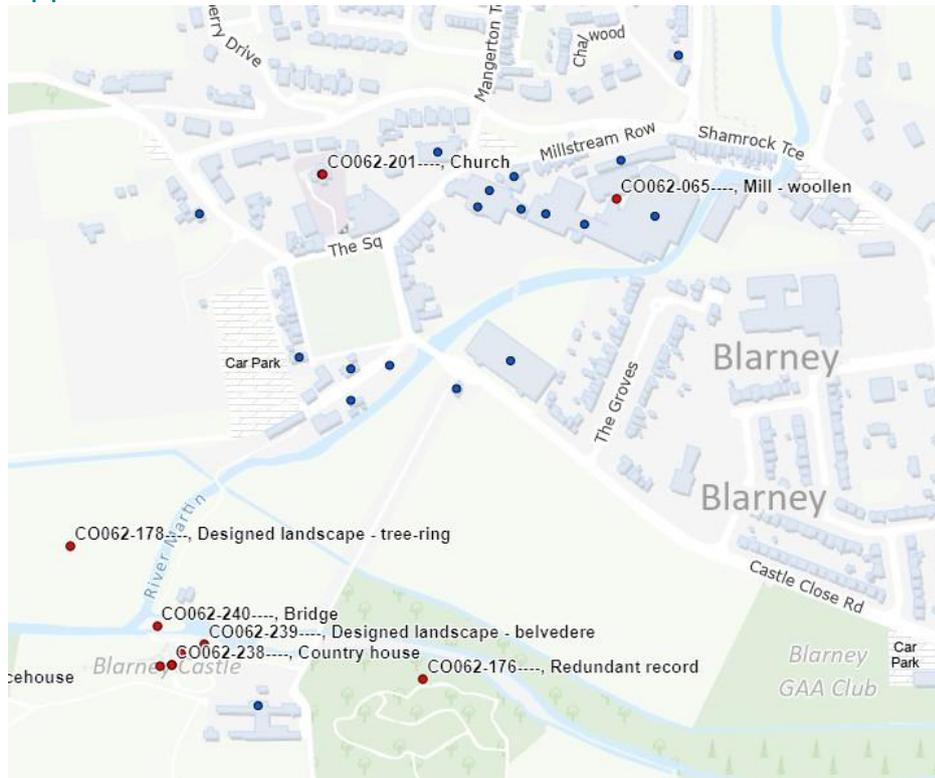
www.corkpastandpresent.ie

Arthur Young A Tour in Ireland 1776-1778

<https://www.buildingsofireland.ie>

<https://heritagedata.maps.arcgis.com>

Appendix A: NIAH Records





Survey Data

Reg No	20845001
Rating	Regional
Categories of Special Interest	Architectural
Original Use	House
In Use As	House
Date	1930 - 1950
Coordinates	160817, 75771
Date Recorded	24/03/2009
Date Updated	--/--

Description

Detached three-bay single-storey house, built c.1940, having box bay windows to front (north-east). Extensions to side (north-west) and rear (south-west) elevations. Flat roof with rendered parapet, concealed rainwater goods with uPVC downpipes and rendered chimneystacks. Rendered walls with plinth and platbands. Lean-to tiled canopy to front (north-east) elevation surmounting box bays and entrance. Square-headed window openings with rendered sills and plinths to bay windows having replacement timber casement windows. Square-headed window openings with render sills having timber boarding in place elsewhere. Square-headed door opening with glazed timber door.

Appraisal

Located just off the main square in Blarney this house is one of group of similarly designed houses, though it is the only one to maintain much of its original fabric intact. Its flat roofed form contrasts with the pitched roofed traditional housing stock, and indicates an awareness of contemporary continental architectural fashions. It is a notable twentieth century addition to the predominantly nineteenth century architectural heritage of the area.

Emerald House, The Square, MONACNAPA, Blarney, CORK



 [View on map](#)

Survey Data

Reg No	20845015
Rating	Regional
Categories of Special Interest	Architectural, Artistic
Previous Name	Emerald Place
Original Use	House
In Use As	House
Date	1830 - 1850
Coordinates	160920, 75626
Date Recorded	24/03/2009
Date Updated	--/--/--

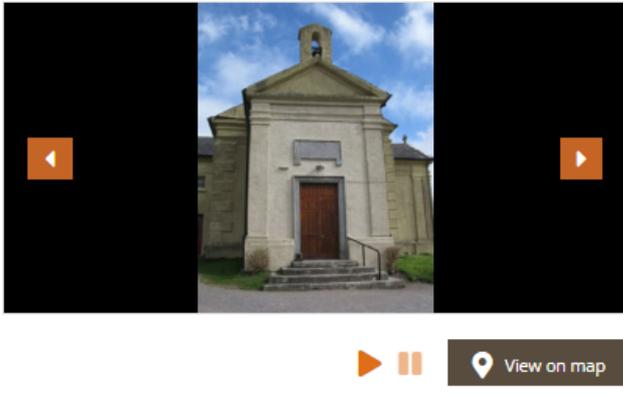
Description

Detached four-bay two-storey house, built c.1840, with gable-fronted end-bay to front (south) and extension to rear (north). Now also in use as guest house. Pitched artificial slate roof with rendered chimneystacks, timber bargeboards with final to gable-fronted bay. Roughcast rendered walls with render plinth and sill band to first floor. Square-headed window openings with stone sills, having two-over-two pane timber sliding sash windows. Square-headed door opening to front elevation with timber and glazed door. Rendered enclosing wall to east having wrought-iron gate with square-profile rendered piers.

Appraisal

Set within its own grounds, this simply designed building is marked as a dispensary on the first edition OS map. The building is enhanced by the retention of historic features and materials including the mid nineteenth-century style two-over-two pane sash windows. The gable-fronted bay with timber bargeboards was probably a later addition.

Church of the Resurrection (Garrycloyne), The Square, MONACNAPA, Blarney, CORK



Survey Data

Reg No	20845002
Rating	Regional
Categories of Special Interest	Architectural, Artistic, Historical, Social
Original Use	Church/chapel
In Use As	Church/chapel
Date	1775 - 1780
Coordinates	160943, 75814
Date Recorded	23/03/2009
Date Updated	--/--

Description

Freestanding cruciform-plan gable-fronted double-height Church of Ireland church, built 1776, comprising three-bay nave, having porch to front (west), single-bay transepts to sides (north, south) and single-bay chancel to rear (east). Underground vault to southern end of church. Pitched slate roofs with rendered eaves course and uPVC rainwater goods. Rendered bellcote to west gable and cross finial to south gable. Roughcast rendered walls with channelled quoins, plinth, architrave and paired corner pilasters to transepts and camber-headed recesses to gabled elevations. Round-headed statuary niches with cut limestone surrounds and sills throughout. Tooled limestone plaque to porch. Square-headed window openings to western end of nave having rendered and tooled limestone surrounds, sills and keystones having twelve-over-six pane timber sliding sash windows. Bipartite square-headed window openings eastern end of nave having cut limestone surround, sill and colonette mullion having lead-lined stained glass windows. Venetian window set in segmental-arched recess to south and north elevations of transepts. Cut limestone surrounds, mullions and sills with lead-lined stained glass windows. Group of three round-headed windows to east elevation of chancel within segmental-headed carved limestone surround. Having stone sill and lead-lined stained glass windows. Square-headed door opening to porch having cut limestone surround, double-leaf timber panelled doors and limestone stepped approach. Round-headed door opening to north transept having rendered surround with blind flanking sidelights. Timber panelled door with Y-tracery fanlight and limestone stepped approach. Set within segmental-headed recess. Square-headed door opening to south elevation having cut limestone surround, voussoirs and step with timber panelled door, giving access to vault. Graveyard surrounding site having upstanding and recombinant grave markers. Rubble stone boundary wall with cast-iron railings and square-profile rubble stone piers flanking cast-iron gates.

Appraisal

A handsome late eighteenth century church occupying a prominent site overlooking the town's main square. Its classical design differs greatly from the Gothic Revival churches which were built by the Church of Ireland throughout the nineteenth century. The church's pediment is echoed on all elevations which creates a pleasing symmetry, while the heavy cornice, substantial quoins and paired pilasters articulate the building.

Blarney Railway Station, MONACNAPA, Blarney, CORK



▶ || 📍 View on map

Survey Data

Reg No	20845016
Rating	Regional
Categories of Special Interest	Architectural, Technical
Previous Name	Blarney Railway Station
Original Use	Railway station
In Use As	Shop/retail outlet
Date	1885 - 1890
Coordinates	160973, 75613
Date Recorded	23/03/2009
Date Updated	--/--

Description

Detached five-bay single-storey former railway station, built 1887, having cat-slide canopy and former platform to front (south-east). Now in use as shop. Pitched corrugated-iron roof with timber finials to gables and uPVC rainwater goods. Timber brackets supporting veranda. Corrugated-iron walls. Square-headed window openings having timber casement windows. Square-headed door openings with glazed timber doors to front elevation and double-leaf timber panelled door to side (north-east) elevation.

Appraisal

This unusual structure is striking in its simple design. The Cork and Muskerry Light Railway, which was funded under the Tramways and Public Expenses (Ireland) Act of 1883, operated from 1887 to 1934. The eight and a half mile line from Cork city to Blarney was built by contractor Robert Worthington. This building retains much of its original fabric including corrugated-iron, timber casement windows, eaves brackets and gable finials. Together with the associated structures, include the timber railway master's house and goods store located directly across the road, this group makes a significant contribution to the town's architectural, social and industrial heritage.

Blarney Railway Station, MONACNAPA, Blarney, CORK



 [View on map](#)

Survey Data

Reg No	20845018
Rating	Regional
Categories of Special Interest	Architectural, Technical
Previous Name	Blarney Railway Station
Original Use	Station master's house
In Use As	Outbuilding
Date	1880 - 1900
Coordinates	160976, 75580
Date Recorded	23/03/2009
Date Updated	--/--

Description

Detached two-bay single-storey former station master's house, built c.1890, composed of two adjoining timber structures having timber veranda to north-west, west and south-east elevations. Now in use as store. Pitched roof (material not visible) with timber bargeboards and finials to gables, remains of cast-iron rainwater goods. Timber battened walls with carved panelling to plinth level. Square-headed window openings having uPVC casement windows. Square-headed door opening with timber panelled door. Corrugated-iron roof to veranda supported on timber posts with timber railings. Double-leaf wrought-iron gates to front of site.

Appraisal

A picturesque structure which retains much of its character and fabric intact, with the verandah being a particularly attractive feature. The clapperboard and corrugated-iron utilised in its construction are notable, as though relatively uncommon throughout the country, railway companies were quick to recognise the rapid and inexpensive constructional possibilities of these mass produced materials. The Cork and Muskerry Light Railway, which was funded under the Tramways and Public Expenses (Ireland) Act of 1883, operated from 1887 to 1934. The eight and a half mile line from Cork city to Blarney was built by contractor Robert Worthington. It forms part of a group of former railway structures with the former station to the north and good shed to the east, which together are an integral part of the town's social, industrial and architectural heritage.

Blarney Railway Station, MONACNAPA, Blarney, CORK



 View on map

Survey Data

Reg No	20845017
Rating	Regional
Categories of Special Interest	Architectural, Technical
Previous Name	Blarney Railway Station
Original Use	Store/warehouse
In Use As	House
Date	1880 - 1900
Coordinates	161014, 75618
Date Recorded	24/03/2009
Date Updated	--/--

Description

Detached four-bay single-storey former goods shed, built c.1890, having recent lean-to porch flanked by breakfront bays to front (south-east) and recent extensions to sides (south-west, north-east). Now in use as house. Flat-roofed felt clad roof with recent concrete block chimneystack. Timber clapperboard walls. Square-headed window openings having replacement uPVC windows. Square-headed door opening having glazed timber door set in glazed porch. Wrought-iron gate to north-east of site.

Appraisal

A modest structure which retains much of its character and fabric intact. The clapperboard utilised in its construction is notable, as it an uncommon material throughout the country, though along with corrugated-iron, was used by railway companies which were quick to recognise the rapid and inexpensive constructional possibilities of these mass produced materials. The Cork and Muskerry Light Railway, which was funded under the Tramways and Public Expenses (Ireland) Act of 1883, operated from 1887 to 1934. The eight and a half mile line from Cork city to Blarney was built by contractor Robert Worthington. It forms part of a group of former railway structures with the former station and master's house to the west, which together are an integral part of the town's social, industrial and architectural heritage.

Blarney Woollen Mills, SHEAN LOWER, Blarney, CORK



 [View on map](#)

Survey Data

Reg No	20845014
Rating	Regional
Categories of Special Interest	Architectural, Historical, Social, Technical
Previous Name	Mahoney's Mill
Original Use	Factory
In Use As	Factory
Date	1920 - 1960
Coordinates	161137, 75622
Date Recorded	24/03/2009
Date Updated	--/--/--

Description

Detached eighteen-bay single-storey factory, built c.1940. Pitched saw tooth aluminium roof with single-pitch monitors and aluminium rainwater goods. Roughcast rendered walls with plinth. Square-headed window openings having concrete sills and aluminium casement windows. Square-headed door openings having concrete block surrounds with single and double-leaf glazed timber doors. Concrete wall to front of site having square-profile piers with stone cladding.

Appraisal

Built as part of Blarney Woollen Mills complex, this factory is an excellent example of the continued evolution of industrial architecture. At the time of its construction it was built using the most up to date materials and makes an interesting mid twentieth century addition to this predominantly nineteenth century group. Its angled roof lights and large window openings were designed to maximise natural light, which was made possible by the utilisation of modern materials. It is an important reminder of the town's industrial heritage.

Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception, MONACNAPA, Blarney, CORK



Survey Data

Reg No	20845003
Rating	Regional
Categories of Special Interest	Architectural, Artistic, Social, Technical
Original Use	Church/chapel
In Use As	Church/chapel
Date	1880 - 1920
Coordinates	161063, 75838
Date Recorded	24/03/2009
Date Updated	--/--

Description

Freestanding gable-fronted double-height Roman Catholic church, built c.1900, comprising nave with clerestory having porch to front (west), eight-bay single-storey side aisles to sides (north, south), octagonal chapel to north-west corner and sacristy to north-east. Outshoots to north elevation of side aisle housing confession boxes. Glazed outshoots to south elevation of side aisle now accommodating doors. Pitched slate roofs with terracotta ridge cresting and aluminium rainwater goods. Conical slate roof to octagonal chapel. Limestone copings to gables with bellcote to west, wrought-iron cross finials to east and west gables. Pitched slate roofs to clerestory windows with terracotta finials. Roughly dressed stone walls having red brick quoins, sill and impost courses. Buttresses to east and west elevations of nave with red brick quoins and tooled limestone quoins. Elliptical recess to apex of east gable having rubbed yellow brick surround. Blind lancet recesses to east elevation having rubbed yellow brick surround and tooled limestone sill. Recessed quatrefoil window opening with yellow brick surround and limestone plate tracery to front elevation of nave, having lead-lined stained glass windows. Paired pointed arch window openings to rear elevation with red and yellow brick surrounds, limestone sills and lead-lined stained glass windows. Paired pointed arch window openings to front elevation, side aisles and sacristy having yellow brick surrounds, limestone sills and lead-lined stained glass windows. Ocular window openings to north elevation outshoots. Elliptical window openings to octagonal chapel having yellow brick surrounds and lead-lined stained glass windows. Square-headed door opening to porch having glazed timber door. Pointed arch door openings to south elevation and sacristy having yellow brick surrounds with timber battened and glazed timber doors. Recessed pointed arch-headed door opening behind carved ogee-headed limestone surround with timber battened door to octagonal chapel. Scissor beam timber ceiling to interior. Decorative mosaics to chancel. Carved timber gallery to rear (west) of church. Outbuilding to rear with pitched slate roof, roughly dressed rubble stone walls and redbrick quoins. Pointed arch window and door openings with yellow brick surrounds. Rubble stone boundary wall having square-profile red brick piers to front of site.

Appraisal

An eye-catching church offering a variety of size, form, texture, materials and style to the streetscape. It occupies a prominent elevated site and is visible from the main square. It retains much of its original form as well as fine crafting displayed in the window and door surrounds. The outshots with oculus windows which were purposely constructed to house the confession boxes are of note. The ornate interior, particularly the chancel and carved timber gallery, represents a considerable artistic achievement.

White Oaks, MONACNAPA, Blarney, CORK



Survey Data

Reg No	20845005
Rating	Regional
Categories of Special Interest	Architectural
Original Use	House
In Use As	House
Date	1900 - 1940
Coordinates	161304, 75935
Date Recorded	23/03/2009
Date Updated	--/--/--

Description

Detached two-bay two-storey with dormer attic house, built c.1920, having porch to side (north) and flat roof extension to rear (west). Pitched slate roofs with rendered chimneystacks, cast-iron rainwater goods and timber bargeboards with finial. Rendered walls. Square-headed window openings with render sills and two-over-two pane timber sliding sash windows. Round-headed window opening to porch, having one-over-one pane timber sliding sash window. Square-headed door opening to porch with timber panelled door and single-pane overlight.

Appraisal

Occupying a prominent position on an elevated site, this house adds diversity to a streetscape which has largely been modernized in recent years. Well maintained, the house retains its timber sliding sash and dormer windows.

Blarney Woollen Mills, MONACNAPA, Blarney, CORK



 [View on map](#)

Survey Data

Reg No	20845008
Rating	Regional
Categories of Special Interest	Architectural, Historical, Social
Previous Name	Mahoney's Mill
Original Use	Worker's house
Date	1870 - 1890
Coordinates	161250, 75827
Date Recorded	25/03/2009
Date Updated	--/--

Description

Terrace of two-storey former workers houses, built c.1880, fourteen-bays to front (south-east) elevation. Western units now in use as workshops, other units disused. Pitched slate roof with red brick chimneystacks and remains of cast-iron rainwater goods. Rubble sandstone walls with red brick quoins having chamfered edges to western end. Square-headed window openings with red brick voussoirs, sills and timber casement windows. Two-over-two pane timber sliding sash windows to central unit. Square-headed door openings having red brick block-and-start surrounds, some blocked, others having steel doors. Segmental-arched carriageway openings with red brick voussoirs and block-and-start surrounds, having double-leaf timber battened doors. Located within larger mill complex.

Appraisal

Although no longer in use, this terrace appears to have been constructed as mill workers' houses. It is an important part of the former Mahoney's Mill complex which began production in 1823. Lewis, in his 'Topographical Directory' notes 'a spinning-mill belonging to M. Mahony, Esq., in which about 120 persons are employed in spinning and dyeing woollen yarn for the extensive camlet manufactory in Cork'. The mill provided much needed employment in the town and other workers' houses are to be found throughout the town. The mill ceased operating in the 1970s when it was purchased and converted into its present use. It retains many notable features and adds colour and textural variations to the surrounding area. This fine complex is an important reminder of Blarney's industrial heritage.

Blarney Woollen Mills, SHEAN LOWER, Blarney, CORK



 [View on map](#)

Survey Data

Reg No	20845013
Rating	Regional
Categories of Special Interest	Architectural, Historical, Social, Technical
Previous Name	Mahoney's Mill
Original Use	Store/warehouse
Date	1870 - 1890
Coordinates	161282, 75771
Date Recorded	25/03/2009
Date Updated	--/--/--

Description

Detached five-pile eleven-bay single-storey warehouse, built c.1880, having gable-fronted projecting end-bay to north of front (south-west) elevation and square-profile red brick chimney to rear (north-east). Pitched slate roof with cast-iron rainwater goods and timber bargeboards to gabled end-bay. Rubble sandstone walls. Segmental-headed window openings having red brick sills, voussoirs and block-and-start surrounds throughout, having replacement timber casement windows. Double-height round-headed former carriageway opening to gabled end-bay having painted brick voussoirs and block-and-start surrounds. Recent timber framed windows surmounting timber-glazed doors. Various window openings altered to accommodate recent square-headed door openings. Located within larger mill complex having rubble stone enclosing wall.

Appraisal

An integral part of the former woollen mill complex, established by the Mahoney family in the 1820s. It provided an important source of employment for local people, and expanded and developed throughout the subsequent one hundred and fifty years, until its closure in the 1970s. It retains many notable features and adds colour and textural variations to the surrounding area, while the tapered chimneystack is a particularly notable feature. This fine complex is an important reminder of Blarney's industrial heritage.

Blarney Woollen Mills, MONACNAPA, Blarney, CORK



Survey Data

Reg No	20845012
Rating	Regional
Categories of Special Interest	Architectural, Historical, Social, Technical
Previous Name	Mahoney's Mill
Original Use	Mill (water)
In Use As	Hotel
Date	1870 - 1890
Coordinates	161211, 75759
Date Recorded	25/03/2009
Date Updated	--/--

Description

Detached double-pile fourteen-bay three-storey former mill, built c.1880, with recent porch to front (south-west) elevation. Now in use as hotel. Pitched slate roof with cast-iron rainwater goods. Rubble sandstone walls with brick quoins. Elliptical-headed window openings having brick sills, voussoirs and block-and-start surrounds with timber casement windows. Set within mill complex.

Appraisal

An imposing building with a long front, which forms an integral part of the former woollen mill complex, established by the Mahoney family in the 1820s. It provided an important source of employment for local people, and expanded and developed throughout the subsequent one hundred and fifty years, until its closure in the 1970s. It retains many notable features and adds colour and textural variations to the surrounding area. This fine complex is an important reminder of Blarney's industrial heritage.

Blarney Woollen Mills, MONACNAPA, Blarney, CORK



[View on map](#)

Survey Data

Reg No	20845011
Rating	Regional
Categories of Special Interest	Architectural, Historical, Social, Technical
Previous Name	Mahoney's Mill
Original Use	Mill (water)
In Use As	Restaurant
Date	1870 - 1890
Coordinates	161172, 75773
Date Recorded	24/03/2009
Date Updated	--/--

Description

Attached triple-pile ten-bay two-storey former warehouse, built c.1880, having flat-roofed two-storey extension to south-east and recent extension to rear (north-east). Hipped slate roofs with cast-iron rainwater goods. Red brick walls with chamfer to eastern corner and cast-iron bracing plates. Square-headed window openings with red brick voussoirs and sills with timber casement windows. Windows to south and north ends of front elevation adapted to accommodate recent glazed timber doors. Waterwheel to interior. Set within mill complex with rubble limestone enclosing wall.

Appraisal

An imposing building with a long front and deep plan, which forms an integral part of the former woollen mill complex, established by the Mahoney family in the 1820s. It provided an important source of employment for local people, and expanded and developed throughout the subsequent one hundred and fifty years, until its closure in the 1970s. It retains many notable features and adds colour and textural variations to the surrounding area. This fine complex is an important reminder of Blarney's industrial heritage.

Blarney Woollen Mills, MONACNAPA, Blarney, CORK



Survey Data

Reg No	20845010
Rating	Regional
Categories of Special Interest	Architectural, Historical, Social, Technical
Previous Name	Mahoney's Mill
Original Use	Mill (water)
In Use As	Shop/retail outlet
Date	1870 - 1890
Coordinates	161147, 75777
Date Recorded	24/03/2009
Date Updated	--/--

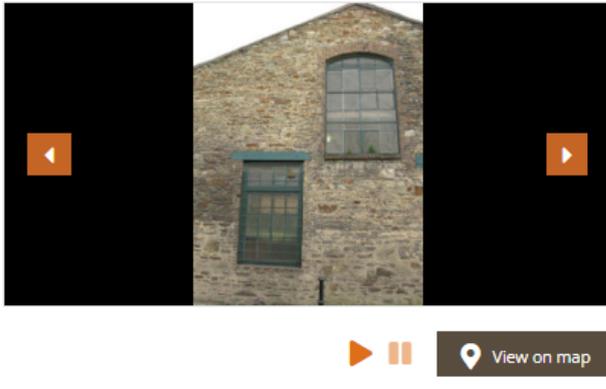
Description

Attached gable-fronted two-bay four-storey former mill, built c.1880, having lean-to single-bay two-storey extension to side (south-east). Abutting mill building to north-west. Now in use as a retail outlet. Pitched slate roof with cat-slide roof to lean-to and cast-iron rainwater goods. Rubble sandstone walls with roughly dressed quoins and cast-iron bracing plates to side (south-east) elevation. Red brick walls to lean-to extension. Square-headed window openings with red brick-block-and-start surrounds and sills, having timber casement windows. Located within larger mill complex with rubble stone enclosing walls.

Appraisal

Built as part of the former Mahoney's Mill complex, the mill provided much needed employment in the town and rows of workers' houses are found through out the town. The mill ceased operating in the 1970s when it was purchased and converted into its present use. It retains many notable features and adds colour and textural variations to the surrounding area. This fine complex is an important reminder of Blarney's industrial heritage.

Blarney Woollen Mills, MONACNAPA, Blarney, CORK



Survey Data

Reg No	20845006
Rating	Regional
Categories of Special Interest	Architectural, Historical, Scientific, Social, Technical
Previous Name	Mahoney's Mill
Original Use	Mill (water)
In Use As	Store/warehouse
Date	1860 - 1880
Coordinates	161143, 75810
Date Recorded	25/03/2009
Date Updated	--/--/--

Description

Attached four-bay two-storey former mill, built c.1870, having single-bay two-storey block to side (south-west). Now in use as warehouse. Hipped and pitched slate roof with cast-iron rainwater goods and rooflights. Red brick walls to first floor, rubble stone walls to ground floor and side (north-east) elevation, having red brick voussoirs throughout. Segmental-headed window openings with red brick sills, block-and-start surrounds and timber casement windows throughout. Square-headed window openings to ground floor of side (north-east) elevation, having replacement steel lintels and timber casement windows. Located within larger mill complex with rubble stone enclosing walls.

Appraisal

This building forms part of a large scale former mill complex once known as Mahoney's Mill, established in 1823 and expanded and altered for 150 years, until its closure in the 1970s. The mill provided the main source of employment for the town and surrounding area throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The variety of materials used in its construction adds colour and textural interest to the streetscape. This fine complex is an important reminder of Blarney's industrial heritage.

Blarney Woollen Mills, MONACNAPA, Blarney, CORK



Survey Data

Reg No	20845007
Rating	Regional
Categories of Special Interest	Architectural, Historical, Social, Technical
Previous Name	Mahoney's Mill
Original Use	Mill (water)
In Use As	Shop/retail outlet
Date	1860 - 1880
Coordinates	161117, 75795
Date Recorded	24/03/2009
Date Updated	--/--

Description

Attached double-pile twelve-bay three-storey former mill, built c.1870, having attached buildings to north-west, north-east and south-east. Now in use as shop. Pitched slate roof with cast-iron rainwater goods and red brick eaves course. Rubble sandstone walls with red brick quoins and cast-iron bracing plates. Segmental-headed window openings having red brick block-and-start surrounds and sills with timber casement windows. Pair of windows to ground floor of south-east elevation converted to door openings with recent glazed timber doors. Located within larger mill complex with rubble stone enclosing walls.

Appraisal

This building is an important part of the former Mahoney's Mill complex which began production in 1823. Lewis, in his 'Topographical Directory' notes 'a spinning-mill belonging to M. Mahony, Esq., in which about 120 persons are employed in spinning and dyeing woollen yarn for the extensive camlet manufactory in Cork'. The mill provided much needed employment in the town and rows of workers' houses are found throughout the town. The mill ceased operating in the 1970s when it was purchased and converted into its present use. It retains many notable features and adds colour and textural variations to the surrounding area. This fine complex is an important reminder of Blarney's industrial heritage.

Blarney Woollen Mills, MONACNAPA, Blarney, CORK



 [View on map](#)

Survey Data

Reg No	20845009
Rating	Regional
Categories of Special Interest	Architectural, Artistic, Historical, Social
Previous Name	Mahoney's Mill
Original Use	Miller's house
In Use As	Shop/retail outlet
Date	1870 - 1890
Coordinates	161110, 75780
Date Recorded	25/03/2009
Date Updated	--/--/--

Description

Attached irregular-plan eight-bay two-storey with dormer attic former miller's house, built c.1880, having central three-bay projecting block with central breakfront having two-storey canted bay. Single-storey canted bay with parapet and two-bay gable-fronted extension with canopy to south-east. Abutting mill building to rear (north-east). Now in use as a commercial outlet and public house. Hipped slate roof with rendered chimneystacks and cast-iron rainwater goods. Flat-roofed to dormer. Square-headed window openings having limestone lintels and sills with replacement timber casement windows. Pointed arch-headed window to addition having rendered sill and replacement timber casement window. Recessed round-headed door opening with chamfered rendered surround double-leaf timber panelled door surmounted by lead-lined stained glass fanlight having tooled limestone threshold. Polychrome tiled floor to interior porch with glazed timber doors. Located within larger mill complex within rubble stone enclosing walls.

Appraisal

An integral part of the former mill complex, this house, known as "Saint Helen's", is a reminder of the close proximity many millers favoured to their source of prosperity in the nineteenth century. It is surprising to contemporary eyes, to see fine domestic dwellings such as this one, set at the heart of an industrial complex, at the express wishes of its wealthy owner. The mill ceased operating in the 1970s when it was purchased and converted into its present use. This fine building retains much of its historic form and fabric intact, and forms part of an significant group which is an important reminder of Blarney's industrial heritage.

Blarney House, SHEAN LOWER, Blarney, CORK



Survey Data

Reg No	20845019
Rating	Regional
Categories of Special Interest	Architectural, Artistic
Previous Name	Blarney Castle
Original Use	Gate lodge
In Use As	Gate lodge
Date	1870 - 1875
Coordinates	161083, 75594
Date Recorded	25/03/2009
Date Updated	--/--

Description

Detached two-bay two-storey gate lodge, built 1874, with gabled break-front end-bay and veranda to front (north-west). Flat-roofed extension to side (north). Pitched slate roofs with terracotta ridge cresting having terracotta griffins to gables, red brick chimneystack, and carved timber bargeboards. Snecked limestone walls with quoins. Square-headed window openings with limestone sills, surrounds and lintels. Bipartite windows to rear elevation and first floor of front elevation with tripartite window to ground floor of front elevation with tooled limestone mullions. Replacement uPVC windows throughout. Square-headed door opening to side (south-west) elevation breakfront, having cut limestone block-and-start surround with timber panelled door. Former square-headed door opening to front (north-west) elevation now converted into window having rubble limestone wall with uPVC casement window. Carved timber veranda to front supported on timber posts supporting with rail panelling. Rubble stone boundary walls with double-leaf cast-iron gates to north of site, flanked by square-profile rubble stone piers with round-headed pedestrian arch.

Appraisal

The finely executed masonry of this gate lodge is testament to the skilled craftsmen who were involved in its construction. Details such as the griffins which adorn the gable ends, the terracotta ridge cresting, timber bargeboards and handsome timber verandah add to its character and charm. The high quality of the lodge and gates is indicative of the wealth and grandeur of the main house which they serve.

Blarney House, BLARNEY, Blarney, CORK



View on map

Survey Data

Reg No	20845020
Rating	Regional
Categories of Special Interest	Architectural, Artistic, Historical, Social
Previous Name	Blarney Castle
Original Use	Country house
In Use As	Country house
Date	1870 - 1875
Coordinates	160710, 75065
Date Recorded	24/03/2009
Date Updated	--/--/--

Description

Detached multiple-bay three-storey over basement Scottish Baronial style country house, dated 1874, having porch to front (north), single-storey wing to side (west) terminating in corner turret and full-height corner turret to north-east. Stepped crenellated gables to front elevation, full-height canted bay surmounted by gable front and full-height external chimneybreast with fake machicolation opening to west elevation. Corner-sited bartizans with conical roofs to front and south-west corner. Pitched slate roof having stepped crenellated parapets with carved ball finials to gables. Limestone chimneystacks with sandstone quoins. Concealed and cast-iron rainwater goods having carved sandstone gargoyles to eaves. Wrought-iron finials to turrets and bartizans. Snecked dressed limestone walls with sandstone quoins and carved sandstone stringcourses. Carved stringcourse to turret with floral motive and engraved date reading 1874. Carved sandstone and limestone plaques to front elevation. Single and paired square-headed window openings having sandstone block-and-start surrounds and sills with one-over-one pane timber sliding sash windows. Tripartite window openings to bay windows having sandstone surrounds and sills with one-over-one pane timber sliding sash windows, strap work cresting to roof. Round-headed window to front elevation having sandstone surround comprising Corinthian pilasters surmounted by architrave, frieze and dentilated cornice surmounted by cresting. Square-headed door opening with double-leaf timber panelled door opening to flight of sandstone steps and set within sandstone diastyle portico comprising Composite columns, architrave, frieze and dentilated cornice.

Appraisal

Built in 1874 for the St. John Jeffereyes family, whose earlier house had been attached to the medieval castle, this house was erected on a new site probably to afford more privacy from tourists due to the increasing popularity of the castle's Blarney Stone. The house is built in the Scottish Baronial style to a design by architect John Lanyon and displays a great deal of attention to detail. The house remains the centrepiece of an extensive demesne with outbuildings, walled garden, icehouse and gate lodges in landscaped grounds and wooded parkland.

Blarney House, BLARNEY, Blarney, CORK



 [View on map](#)

Survey Data

Reg No	20845022
Rating	Regional
Categories of Special Interest	Architectural
Previous Name	Blarney Castle
Original Use	Outbuilding
In Use As	Outbuilding
Date	1840 - 1850
Coordinates	160880, 75251
Date Recorded	24/03/2009
Date Updated	--/--

Description

Detached H-plan farmyard complex, built c.1845, comprising single-storey multiple-bay ranges to north and east and two-storey range to south. Ranges to east block not accessible. Hipped and pitched slate roofs, red brick chimneystacks, eaves course and cast-iron rainwater goods. Timber cupola to eastern range, with clock, pitched slate roof and wrought-iron weather vane. Rubble stone walls with sections of roughcast render. Camber-headed window openings with red brick block-and-start surrounds, voussoirs and stone sills having six-over-six pane timber sliding sash windows. Camber-headed door openings with red brick-block-and-start surrounds, voussoirs and timber battened doors with overlights. Square-headed carriage arch openings to northern range having red brick block-and-start surrounds and replacement timber battened doors. Courtyard areas to south of eastern range having recent gravel surface. Cobblestone drainage gullies to base of walls. Rubble stone enclosing walls to site with segmental-arch-headed carriageway opening to north-east having rough dressed sandstone piers and red brick voussoirs with dated keystone 1843.

Appraisal

A fine farmyard complex which is an integral part of the Blarney Castle demesne. The survival of historic features and materials, such as slate roofs, timber sash windows, and sandstone entrance arch add much to its character. Together with the lodges, ice house, lime kiln and landscaped grounds, it forms part of fine demesne group which is a significant addition to the architectural heritage.

CO062-178---- : Designed landscape - tree-ring

Currently the information for this record has not been uploaded.

CO062-240---- : Bridge : BLARNEY

Description: Remains of bridge over River Blarney to NE of Blarney Castle (9465, 9642) and immediately to E of tower (CO062-239---). Depicted by Beranger between 1750 and 1765 (Harbison 1991b, 44-5) as ruinous with single semicircular arch with crumbling parapet surviving in the river. S abutment very ruinous but appears to be integral part of lower levels of tower.

CO062-239---- : Designed landscape - belvedere : BLARNEY

Description: Roofless circular 3-storey 18th-century tower built atop earlier structure c. 30m NE of country house (9642). Ground floor of earlier structure remains, built into E-facing slope; roughly circular in plan with flattened NE side, jagged E end of which continues beyond circumference of tower and forms N side of segmental-arched doorway. Photograph (Hinde 1994) shows S side of doorway also protruding; protrusion subsequently removed; depicted by Beranger (Harbison 1991b, 44-5) as integral part of bridge structure. Internally short flight of stone steps up to 1st floor door in SW wall which leads out to higher ground level. From this level up, later 3-storey circular tower (int. diam. 3.1m) contained wooden stairs to top. Late 18th-century print (ibid.) shows conical roof topped by louvred cap. Beranger's depiction of bridge (c. 1750-1765) shows it as ruinous; earliest phases of tower must therefore pre-date 1750. Named 'Tower' on 1842 OS 6-inch map.

CO062-177002- : Cave : BLARNEY

Description: 'The 'Dungeon' consists of a natural cave that penetrates the northern side of the knoll on which Blarney Castle is located. The cave comprises a long, low and very narrow passage (17.5m long) that was integrated into a gun turret of the 17th century MacCarthy manor-house. The outer 3.5m length of the cave passage was artificially cut through enlarging the height and width of the passage. A drystone section of walling (3.5m long) was constructed against the artificially enlarged cave entrance.' (pers. comm. Marion Dowd 2013)

CO062-177001- : Bawn : BLARNEY

Description: Bawn wall of Blarney Castle (CO062-177----): Section of bawn wall (total L 64.2m) survives atop rock-face to W of tower 1, in line with N face of tower. Nearest section to tower (L 14.2m) has fallen and been replaced by modern wall. Bawn wall (int. H 2.2m) has wall-walk with parapet (H 1.3m; Wth 0.3m) surmounted by 12 wide stepped battlements (H 0.7m), each with gun loop in merlon. At W end is 2-storey corner tower, oval in plan (int.: 3.6m E-W; 2.1m N-S); entered at ground-floor level through inserted brick-arched passageway; entered at 1st-floor level by lintelled door on E side, from wall-walk of bawn wall. At each level are five splayed and lintelled gun loops. Roughly inserted into internal wall face are five tiers of pigeon nesting boxes. Short section of bawn wall (L c. 4m) returns S from corner tower; this points in direction of circular tower, now standing in isolation, c. 70m to SSE. Interior of circular tower roughly pear-shaped in plan (1.75m NW-SE; 2.15m SW-NE), built directly on limestone outcrop; entered by much-altered doorway on NE side; corbelled roof. Projecting stones on either side of doorway indicate former presence of walls extending to E and to NNW. A third tower lies c. 210m ENE of latter tower, at E end of 19th-century stable block. E gable of stable block protrudes

slightly into SW side of otherwise circular tower (H c. 5m); ground-floor door in SE corner appears to be insertion with wooden frame and door, now blocked. Unroofed interior (diam. 7.75m; wall thickness 0.7m) partially filled with rubble. Neither of latter two towers retain any recognisable defensive features and their exact relationship to the bawn is unclear. The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Cork. Volume 3: Mid Cork' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1997). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.

**CO062-177---- : Castle - tower house :
BLARNEY**

Description: Just S of Blarney village; atop limestone outcrop, overlooking junction of rivers Martin and Blarney. Complex composed chiefly of tower house and part of bawn, with fragmentary remains of country house (CO062-238----) immediately E of tower house. The tower house is of two distinct phases: the primary 4-storey tower (tower 1) is rectangular in plan (6.5m N-S; 6.8m E-W); later, a larger and slightly taller 5-storey extension (tower 2) butted against E wall, and E end of S wall, of tower 1, giving the complete plan an L-shape (see plan Woods 1896, 338); tower 2 extends 8.5m to E and 14m to S of tower 1. North wall of tower 2 incorporates part of earlier wall at ground-floor level, which is extension of N wall of tower 1; this wall may have been part of bawn wall contemporary with tower 1. At foot of S wall of tower 2 part of earlier wall protrudes; this could be associated with same bawn wall. Tower 1: Original entrance probably in E wall at ground-floor level, but now obscured by inserted passage, which joins SE corner of ground-floor chamber to base of spiral stairs in NE corner of tower; just above ground-floor level, quarried passage leads from stairs into tower 2. Stairs accommodated by protrusion of 0.4m on external E face of tower 1. First,

second and 3rd floors all entered from spiral stairs by door with pointed arch in NE corner; corners bulge inwards to accommodate stairwell. Each floor has window in centre of all four walls, except W wall which only has window at 2nd and 3rd floors, and N wall of 2nd floor which is blank; all these windows have splayed and lintelled embrasures; when tower 2 added, windows in E wall of tower 1 were blocked up. Both ground and 1st floors have quarried doorways at E end of S wall, giving access respectively to 1st and 2nd floors of tower 2. Ground-floor: chamber (3.9m E-W; 2.9m N-S) covered by pointed wicker-centred vault (axis E-W). Window in W wall is much altered but base of original light visible outside; S window has flat-headed light, lower part of which is blocked; at W end of S wall is inserted embrasure with two openings for gun loops facing S; N window is large 5-light oriel window, inserted into earlier window embrasure. First floor: lights are square-headed, ogee-headed and round-headed, to N, W and S respectively; large window embrasure inserted into SW corner, with single square-headed light set directly on corner of tower. Between 1st- and 2nd-floor levels is small mural chamber in N wall, entered directly from stairwell, with blocked garderobe at W end. Second floor: covered by pointed wicker-centred vault (axis E-W); W window has round-headed light, S window has ogee-headed light. Third floor: modern concrete floor. N window has double ogee-headed light with hood moulding; W and S windows have single lights: W is flat-headed, S ogee-headed. Dominating this chamber are two inserted fireplaces: occupying W third of room is a large fireplace with flat joggled arch supported by curving jambs; butting against this is smaller fireplace, along S wall, with flat lintel supported by two rounded corbels; both feed into wide squat chimney stack, which occupies W third of tower 1 at roof level. Conversion of 3rd floor to kitchen (by insertion of fireplaces) probably happened when tower 2 added; passage links this floor to 4th floor of tower 2. Top of spiral stairs

gives access, through lintelled door, to N wall-walk; wall-walk, parapet wall and remains of battlements preserved atop N, W and S walls; inserted stairway on E wall leads from S wall-walk around chimney stack up to higher W wall-walk of tower 2. Atop SW corner is bartizan supported by four tapering corbels. Tower 2: Southern two-thirds of tower 2 occupied by five main floors; northern third occupied by series of mural chambers and passageways, and by spiral stairs in NE corner. Stairs give access to all main floors and to chambers and passageways in N wall. Tower 2 entered by ground-floor door near N end of E wall; surround in two plain orders with pointed arch, yett-hole through S jamb. Lobby (3m E-W; 1.6m N-S) covered by plank-centred segmental vault (axis E-W) with murder-hole (now blocked); from lobby, doors, each with pointed arch, give access straight through to main ground-floor chamber, N to base of spiral stairs, and S to mural chamber (5.8m N-S; 1.8m E-W) covered by pointed vault (axis N-S). Main 1st-, 2nd-, 3rd-, and 4th-floor chambers have central window in S wall; 1st and 2nd floors have two windows each in W wall whilst 3rd and 4th floors have one; 1st, 2nd and 4th floors have two windows each in E wall, 3rd has one. Many of windows at 1st-, 2nd-, and 3rd-floor levels have had their embrasures enlarged to take wide rectangular lights, divided by one or two mullions. At 4th-floor level windows in E, S and W walls have similar rectangular lights, but square-set embrasures with pointed arches on inside edge, appear to be unaltered; similar window embrasure in centre of N wall has double ogee-headed light. Ground-floor: main chamber (11.8m N-S; 4.5m E-W) is split level: northern two-thirds of floor recently covered by stone flags; southern third is low platform built around rock outcrop, with central flight of concrete steps. Near S end of E wall is much-altered embrasure with single round-headed light, now blocked, and angled gun loops set into S corner. North window has deep (D c. 4m) splayed and lintelled embrasure; outer section

of embrasure (D 0.9m) is part of wall contemporary with tower 1 (see above); original window had double-ogee-headed light (frame visible on external face) but when tower 2 built E light blocked up. First floor: main chamber covered by pointed wicker-centred vault (axis N-S). Entered via passage from stairway by door on N side of window embrasure near N end of E wall. Inserted fireplace in centre of E wall; stone surround with entablature-like mantle, very similar to mantelpiece, inscribed with date 1636, in Monkstown Castle (CO087-028----). Second-floor: main chamber (11.3m N-S; 5.9m E-W) has recent concrete floor. Window S of centre in W wall has square-set embrasure covered by segmental vault; on N side of embrasure, door with pointed arch accesses stairs descending into mural passage (5.6m N-S; 1.2m E-W), covered by pointed vault, leading to 1st floor of tower 1. Entire N wall of main chamber once contained large fireplace with flat joggled arch, only ends of which survive; slightly higher but much narrower fireplace later inserted here. Projecting slightly (c. 0.5m) into chamber, at NW corner, is SE corner of tower 1. Much-altered entrance passageway from spiral stairs at N end of E wall. Third-floor: chamber entered, via passage from spiral stairs, by lintelled door at N end of E wall. Blocked fireplace in centre of E wall has wooden lintel and cut-stone jambs. N wall set back (D c. 1m) under pointed wicker-centred arch. Deep ledge (D c. 0.6m) marks division between main 3rd- and 4th-floor chambers. Fourth-floor: At this level main chamber extends full length of tower. N end (c. 4m N-S) now has concrete floor over area occupied by mural chambers at lower levels (see below); on W side is door with pointed arch leading to passageway to 3rd-floor of tower 1; on E side is projection which contains top of main spiral stairs of tower 2. Window embrasure in N wall has door on E side giving access to spiral stairs in NE corner rising to wall-walk level. Wall-walk survives atop all four walls of tower 2. Continuous machicolation, supported by tapering corbels,

along W, S and southern two-thirds of E wall; lintel between corbels midway along S side is famed "Blarney Stone". Atop E wall is bellcote, N side of which was once chimney stack. Vaulted passages and chambers in N wall; at 1st-floor level mural passage (3.2m E-W; 1.1m N-S) links spiral stairs of tower 2 to spiral stairs of tower 1. Above this, between 1st and 2nd floors, and between 3rd and 4th floors, are two garderobe chambers (3.2m E-W; 1.8

CO062-201---- : Church :

Description: On rising ground, overlooking Blarney village to S. C of I parish church of Garrycloyne, moved to present location in 1766 (Mulcahy 1993, 46) from earlier site in Knocknalyre (9583); completed c. 1775 but repaired and enlarged in 1835 when chancel remodelled inside as apse (ibid., 48). Church is cruciform in plan: rectangular nave (long axis E-W) with transepts mid-way along N and S walls; porch at W end, chancel at E end (see plan: ibid.). Entrance porch, transepts and chancel all gable-ended with pediment atop shallow Doric pilasters at corners; heavy quoins on corners of nave; all these features are rendered. Nave lit by rectangular sash windows; blind round-headed niches with cut-stone surrounds, on side walls of projections. Bellcote atop porch. Interior has flat plastered ceiling; wooden galleries at W end and in N transept with neo-classical wooden details; latter gallery with separate entrance, was for Colthurst family (ibid., 49). Churchyard contains 19th- and 20th-century burials. The above description is derived from the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Cork. Volume 3: Mid Cork' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1997). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.

CO062-065---- : Mill - woollen :

Description: In Blarney village, on N bank of Martin river. Complex consists mainly of late 19th-century buildings, varying in size, but with similar architectural details: chiefly random rubble sandstone construction, with brick quoins and brick window surrounds; large camber-headed windows with fixed frames; upper lights hinged to open outwards. The roofs are slated but the N-facing sides are glazed. The main body of buildings is aligned NW-SE. The interiors are mainly open plan, with wooden floors supported by iron columns. At NW end is a rectangular, 3-storey, 5-bay structure (long axis NE-SW); stone quoins; chimney stacks atop gables. Large spinning mill was added to SE side, using side-wall of above structure. Spinning mill (now shop and knitting unit) is a 3-storey, double-gable-ended structure; datestone on N elevation reads: "Rebuilt O'Mahony & Brothers 1870". Extended by 3 bays to SE, using identical architectural style; built over tail-race channel. The addition uses side-wall of earlier structure at SE end; this latter is L-shaped 3-storey structure (long axis NE-SW); stone quoins; brick addition to SE makes rectangular ground plan. To NE of spinning mill is rectangular 4-bay, 3-storey powerhouse (long axis N-S), built against high ground to N; ground and 1st floors stone-built, 2nd floor brick-built; gable-ended to N, hipped roof to S. Wheel-pit (now infilled) along E elevation; remains of brick lining of wheel-pit evident on E wall of powerhouse. Millrace (now dry) approached from E along high ground, behind terraces of millhouses, where it meets E wall of powerhouse and turns sharply to S, falling c. 7m into wheel-pit. To SE of above complex is carding mill (now a restaurant); 2-storey, rectangular structure with triple hipped roof; ground floor random rubble sandstone construction; 1st floor of brick. SW elevation of 10 bays; NW elevation shows signs of rebuilding. Carding room and hoisery section were on ground and 1st floor respectively. N part of SE wall used by later 3-storey, double-gable-ended structure (now a hotel); SW

elevation of 14 bays; yarns were wound and partially spun in the upper floors, ground floor accommodated the hosiery section started in 1926 (O'Mahony 1989, 44). Two-storey addition to rear, at W end. Short distance to N is long 2-storey rectangular structure (long axis NE-SW); formerly stables with oat loft overhead; also accommodated a canteen. Weaving sheds at SE end of complex attached to spinning mill at SW end; series of nine 1-storey, broad gable-ended buildings; chimney stacks on SE gables; river flows along SE wall. Part of interior modernized but much still open plan with iron columns. This housed mainly Dobcross looms; also accommodated the "invisible menders", tweed shop, steamer's and carpenter's workshop. To SW of spinning mill is late 19th-century 2-storey residential house, originally free-standing but recently attached to spinning mill. Original entrance to mill complex on NE side; entrance to house and grounds, with gate lodge, on NW side, this has now been converted into main entrance to "Blarney Woollen Mills". Across river, to N of mills, overgrown ruin with adjacent infilled cleaning ponds. Millpond located c. 1km to N on Martin River; sluice at S end fed millrace. Close to mills are terraces of 2-storey houses, with rounded tarred roofs, built between 1806 and 1892 (Meehan 1979, 19-20). Mills were purchased by Martin O'Mahony in 1824 (Morley 1991; O'Mahony 1989, 37; O'Mahony 1994, 84) who converted the old cotton and flax mill to woollen production. Woollen mills indicated on 1842 OS 6-inch map as irregular in plan, long axis NW-SE, on W end of present complex; mills burnt in 1869 but rebuilt shortly afterwards and again extended in 1880. In 1880s some 800 people were employed; the equipment included '113 power looms for weaving, 2,000 spindles for worsted spinning, 9,000 for woollen spinning and 2,300 for twisting' (O'Mahony 1994, 85). Closed 1975 and machinery and furnishings removed. Part of complex later reopened as a commercial outlet named "Blarney Woollen Mills". The above description is derived from

the published 'Archaeological Inventory of County Cork. Volume 3: Mid Cork' (Dublin: Stationery Office, 1997). In certain instances the entries have been revised and updated in the light of recent research.