

ANTIQUITIES

Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Souterrams, Pillar Stones, Cromlechs, Forts, Raths, Moats, Tumuli or ancient monuments of any kind. Exact location of each with short description, noting condition, etc. Relate local legend or tradition associated with building or object. State if in charge of Office of Public Works. Right of way to public? Admission charge (if any). Name and address of caretaker, or where key is kept.

CASTLECARRA Situated on the northern edge of Lough Carr on a slight
and trees which screen it from view to within 50 yds on its landward side.
Timothy Quinn. No right-of-way. Not in charge of Office of P. Works

DETAILS A rectangular fortress some 45' x 35' internally with a small
eastern abutment - originally surrounded by a defensive wall built within
a few feet of the castle walls and parts of which only portions remain
including the fragments of a north-eastern corner bastion.

The castle was three-storey - the walls are about 40' high. There is much
debris or filling in much of the ground floor - two apartments run
side by side, however, from the west wall. Both are vaulted - the one
nearest the south curtain is approx. 20' x 10' - the other is larger, about 35'
and is 11' wide. Another (small) vaulted room lies in the south-east corner.
Otherwise the ground floor is full of stones and earth concealing any other
rooms.

The south and west walls show large breaches at ground floor level, ^{and first} ^{respectively.}
The southern breach probably contained the entrance.

The windows are plain featured - rectangular, or rectangular in
round vaulted arching. 2nd floor south wall has a mural passage
from its centre window (going west). Another mural leads from an
upper window in the north wall near east gable.

The east gable has at 1st floor level, near north curtain, a plain
rectangular doorway which gives access to the right in a mural passage
ending in an entrance at a higher level; and straight directly opposite
to a chamber some 8' x 5' x 10' high. The chamber is the upper part of
the eastern abutment - the lower portion's entrance is covered by the
fallen stones and debris inside the castle's ground floor.

Externally the abutment shows a small gable opening ~~which~~ closed
up.

The castle with its defensive wall stood within a courtyard whose arched
entrance still stands.

(The ruin is difficult to locate without a guide - tree-bidden as it is - although
a long rough lane leads to within a few hundred yards of it. - continue
through gate (right-of-way to lane) to lake shore - then turn sharply right)
at lane's end

Castlecarrig History: One of the most important castles in the barony and one of the earliest Norman settlements in Co. Mayo.

In 1236 Richard de Burgo finally broke the power of the Hibernians in this area and ejected them from the territory they had held so long. Carrig was then set out into two divisions viz. Carrig, and Ullacavan. The latter was the Castlebar district which de Barry was allotted. Carrig was given to Adam Stanton a Kildare Baron. He built Castlecarrig immediately and made it the mans. house. Bussiscarra gets its name from the small town or settlement founded by him - the "Bussis of Carrig".

For generations the Stantons held Castlecarrig and held considerable power although subject to the Burke overlordship. A second Stanton castle also was situated a few miles distant on Lough Carrig shore - now called Castleburke. A third was in Ballyfean district - Kantank Castle.

In the 14th century the Stantons were "more Irish than the Irish" and changed their name to McEvilly.

Castlecarrig passed from the Stantons to Lord Grouardon in the period of Sir Nicholas Malby's rule in Connaught. In 1586 it was acquired from Lord Grouardon by a Captain Bowen who resided there for some time. In 1589 the Burkes and Stantons besieged Bowen in his castle but the action failed.

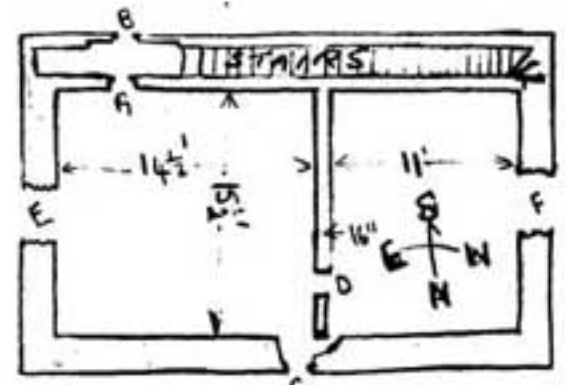
In the same year Sir Richard Bingham, Governor of Connaught, presided over a meeting at which the Mac William Burkes and his people had representatives to sue for peace and arrange terms with Bingham who harassed the Burkes, Stantons and other families and ultimately crushed them.

CAPT. T. F. BOURKE In Castleburke. Right-of-way. (not in charge of office of Public Works. (Kendall w. Chalke's house).)

The castle stood on the edge of Lough Carrig and in the south-west corner of a large courtyard - parts of whose walls yet remain as also its arched western entrance and a structure in the south-eastern angle.

The castle is rectangular in shape, with towers and good quoining. Its

Height is perhaps 45/50 feet.

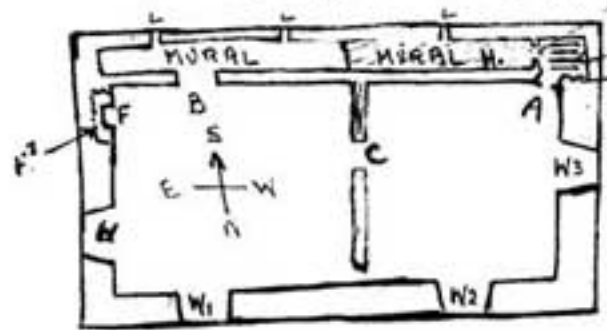


ROUGH GROUND FLOOR PLAN.

The ground floor is divided into two rooms by a light (16") partition wall destroyed in its upper parts for a good part - with a pointed, chamfered limestone doorway (6' x 4 1/2" = A) giving to the mural stairs in the south curtain which has a similar door (B) leading out. This latter door however probably led into additional rooms

built to the outside wall of the castle and traces of which remain to south, and in better preservation to the south-east angle.

A plain doorway stands in the partition wall (D). In the east and west walls were eyes - probably embrasures - there are wide breaches now (E-F) in north wall (C) is what may have been a plain doorway.



ROUGH PLAN 1ST FLOOR

Over the castle's ground floor were the first and second wooden floors - the whole being covered by a vaulted ceiling which formed the floors of the castle's top story. There is a large breach in the vaulting.

Much reconstruction is apparent in the first and second floors whose levels were for some reason changed. The first floor was brought down some distance and the second floor raised to within hardly more than 6 ft. from the vault ceiling.

The alteration necessitated the building up to a large extent of the wide plain windows (W and W3) in east and west gables, and the extending downwards of those in the north curtain (W1 and W2). A smallish plain fireplace was inserted in the east gable's first floor under the original fireplace (F1) which was built up and which was a finely cut one of decayed stone timber, now blackened and beigned. There is a partition doorway (C).

From the east room's south wall is a doorway (B) to a mural in the same wall's length. This mural's floor runs about half the wall's length - the other half being taken up with stairs and a mural which opens (mural H) into the first room's companion but which has its floor some five feet higher. This construction is presumably the result of the floor alterations.

First floor doorway (A) is of cut limestone, pointed lead. Also the doorway to the higher mural (B) (both passages are 6' wide) (Have rectangular loops). There is a 2' x 2' x 2' recess behind the room entrance.

From the point the stairway is spiral. Leads to a pointed limestone doorway to a mural passage running the length of the west gable. What looks like a gander's opening (dubis filled) lies at the end of the passage which has an eye loop and a second broken one. (Contd. on page 6)

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Two steps higher is a smallish painted doorway to the second floor which has a plain east fireplace.

Two steps higher is another painted doorway giving access to a 5' wide mural passage in the south wall's length. The compartment (vaulted) has an ege loop and a rectangular end.

The top-story apartment whose floor is the vault ceiling over the room beneath has its ^{side} walls some 12' high. The east gable has a plain chimney. The east wall of the room has a plain fireplace and a built-up apex. The west wall has, beside north curtain, a high pointed entresol with a broken window which contained two ege headed lights, each 31" x 6 1/2". A narrow mural runs through this wall from the entresol. (mullion gone)

The north curtain has a similar entresol window of cut and chamfered stone - the mullion is missing. Entresol has a small recess.

The south curtain has the remnants of a pointed chamfered apex in a pointed arch. This window commanded the view of Lough Lanna.

Also projecting outside this wall is a slop stone.

There is nothing distinctive about the remains of the rooms adjoining the castle's south-east angle.

Some 30 yds. from it - at approx. south-east corner of the lawn is a 13' (width) square building some 30' high, with walls 3' thick and which had two upper floors. A northern wing of this structure has disappeared.

Ground floor has a broken plain doorway in north face which led into the new destroyed wing, a plain east window (2 1/2') and a rectangular loop beside it, a plain lake (or south) window - and various tiny apertures all around.

First floor has a plain west fireplace, a large plain north door (which led into new destroyed portion), ~~entrance~~ south apex, and east & west recesses.

Top floor has plain east fireplace and small apertures east, west and south.

HISTORY: As related in history of Castlebarra this castle was originally built by R. Staunton. It was then called Kilvonnell Castle. It became Castlebarra because of its association with Keibald Buxter, son of Grainne's uncle, and famous in history as "Ibhat na long" or "Isly of the ships". He sided with the English - was knighted in 1602 and became first Viscount Mayo in 1627. Died in 1629 and buried in Ballintober Abbey.

His submission to the English was made at Aghagower (adjoining parish) to Sir Richard Bingham in 1592.

Obtained the castle of Kilvonnell by collaboration with his famous mother in a trick which united Inghis Staunton and his family.

(Full account under "Historic Houses - Ruinal to Lanna")

Luffetawn Castle In Luffetawn. Marcus Keane. No right of way.

not in charge of D.P.W.

All of this castle is in ~~debris~~ except for some wall portions - one of which is some 35' long and has a mural passage through it with a cut stone pointed doorway leading to it from one side, and a plain doorway on its other side opposite to first. The wall is some 10/15 high.

Nothing is known of its history except that it was at one time a Burke castle. O'Donovan (Letters of Mayo) 100/102 - relates how Graine Hall, when in possession with her son "that na h-ang" tried to exact tribute from Hubert Burke of Luffetawn and was refused. Also how an attempt by her to have Hubert slain in his castle failed. O'Donovan adds that Graine finally obtained Luffetawn.

of Carlow and West Wick

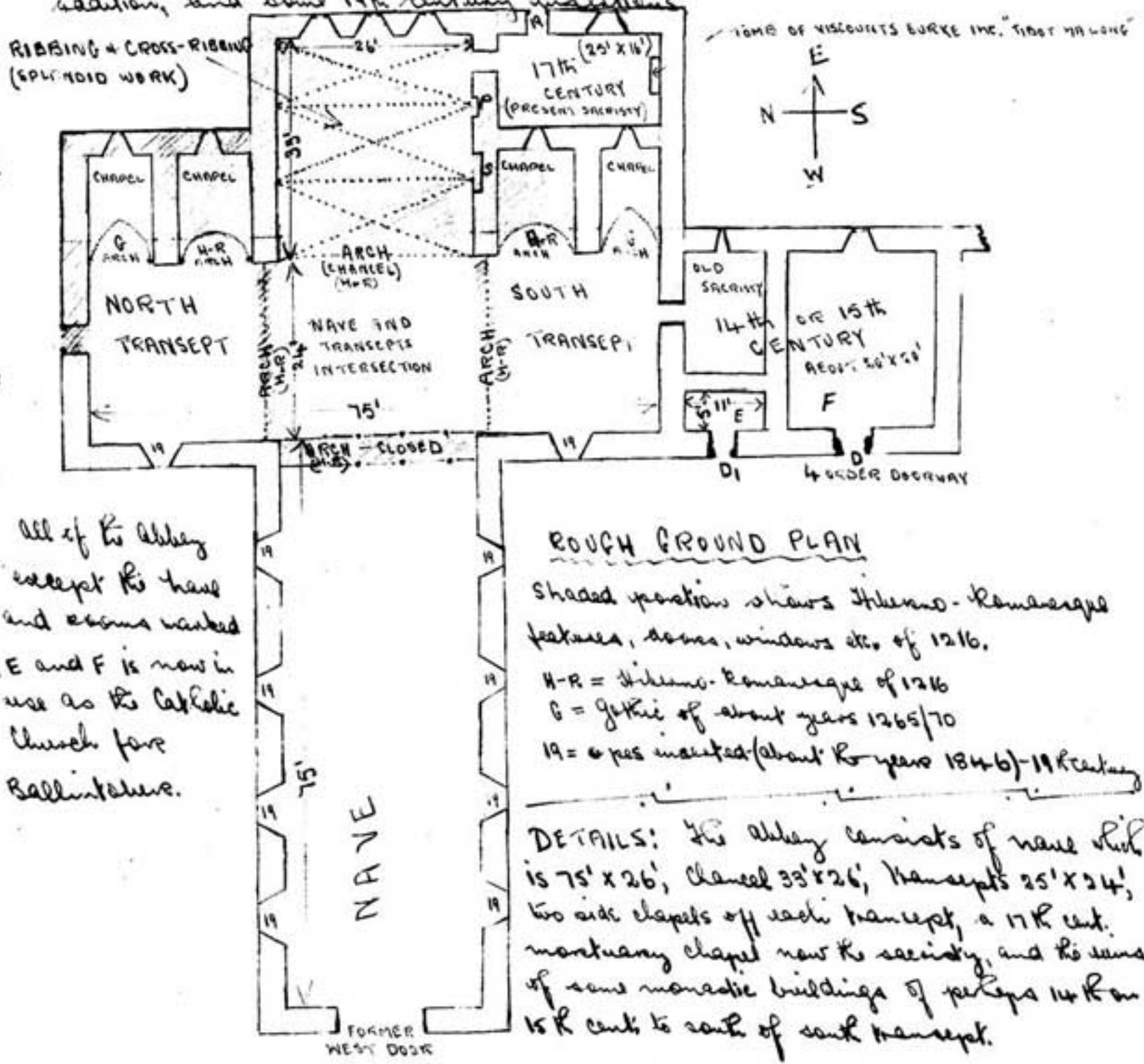
Ballybuck Castle: In Ballybuck. J. Malone. No right of way.

In total ruin to foundations. A few well bits amidst the debris of its history nothing beyond that it was a Burke castle - at one time owned by the Mac Phillipin - a branch of the Burke family s.e. of Philip Burke.

Castle Island in Lough Carrig where George Moore's ashes are interred has the completely ivy and scrub-covered remains of a castle which is said to have belonged to William Barrett a Welshman who settled here towards the end of the 12th century and who was finally driven out after his island fortress had been taken by Adam Skantow who settled in Carrig about the year 1236 and whose castle - "Castlesana" was just across the lake from Castle Island.

BALLINTOBER ABBEY. In Ballintober. Part of the abbey, re-roofed at the close of the last century, is now used as a Catholic church.

The abbey, which was the most famous in Co. Mayo, and still is, contains 13th century Hiberno-Romanesque architecture which is the finest in the country, 13th century Gothic work, 14th or 15th century construction, 17th century addition, and some 19th century insertions.



All of the abbey except the nave and rooms marked E and F is now in use as the Catholic church for Ballintober.

ROUGH GROUND PLAN

Shaded portion shows Hiberno-Romanesque features, doors, windows etc. of 12th.

H-R = Hiberno-Romanesque of 12th

G = Gothic of about years 1265/70

19 = work inserted (about the years 1846) - 19th century.

DETAILS: The abbey consists of nave which is 75' x 26', chancel 33' x 26', transepts 25' x 24', two side chapels off each transept, a 17th cent. mortuary chapel near the sacristy, and the remains of some monastic buildings of perhaps 14th or 15th cent. to south of south transept.

From nave west gable to chancel gable is 132' and from north transept wall to south transept wall is 75'. Chancel is 33' x 26' and transepts 25' x 24', the intersection being 26' x 24'. The intersection well held a linear-long fellow.

The abbey was damaged by fire in 1265 - at which period the Gothic architectural style had almost superseded the Hiberno-Romanesque. In repairing, the new style was adhered to but surviving Romanesque features were allowed to stand. Thus the duality of styles. Two of the chapels have Hib.-Romanesque - semi-circular arches about 11' (10' 6")

Bellincher Abbey (contd. from page 8)

high. They are each 9' wide. The inner vaulting is also the Irish round style. The other two chapels have the pointed arches - each 7½' wide and about 14' high - inner pointed vaulting. Each chapel has a narrow east Romanesque light. The chapels are abutments to the transepts.

The chancel and transept arches are at least 40' in height. The chancel itself is the predominant feature of the abbey. It retains its vaulted roof - upheld by splendid stone groining on finely carved corbels. The whole, and especially the long corbel shafting, is a rich example of the Hiberno-Romanesque period. So also the east chancel windows. There are three round-head single lights some 18" wide by about 7' high, moulded and finely carved (exterior) and enriched with light decorative tracery which differs for each light. Over these is a plain, moulded, round-head light and over again is a rectangular light in a round arch - neither is large.

Chancel north wall has a nicely cut piscina (P) and the Scilla (S). The latter is plain featured - with the round head.

The north transept has a round-head (H.R.) door 7' x 32½" with a straight, plain, projecting mould over.

In the present sacristy is the covered part of the Vicounts Mayo. The sacristy was built in 17th century as a northward chapel. It is now renovated. The south transept chapel lights give to sacristy.

The nave, whose walls are about 30' high, has four long pointed limestone lights in round arches. The west gable has a round, plain arched door about 15' high and 13' wide. This has been altered - it is said that a fine pilared doorway once stood here. The nave lights are insertions of about 1846 - when a local priest set about "renovating" the abbey. (The work was perhaps interrupted by the famine - which was fortunate) The 1846 insertions are in the transepts. West nave gable also has a pointed and moulded light over doorway.

Of the monastic 14th or 15th century buildings the upper portions are destroyed. There is however in one room's west wall (Room F) a splendid doorway some 12' high and 58" wide. Four entablatures - pointed arches on finely cut rounded columns with decorated capitals. The window above being the 11th cent. This room also

Ballintober Abbey (contd. from page 9)

had a slender, pointed eastern light. Its ruined walls stand to a height of perhaps 15'. Buildings which adjoined it are completely effaced.

The old sacristy is vaulted. The room next to it is small being but 11' by 5' (E) by 14' high - vaulted. It has a good doorway 5' 4" x 4 2" - rectangular in a two-arched round arch.

The Romano-Romanesque dressings are in sandstone.

[DESCRIPTIVE DETAILS FROM SURVEY MEASUREMENTS AND NOTES - THERE IS NO LEAFLET ON THIS ABBEY]

History: Founded in 1216 A.D. by Cathal O'Conor, King of Connaught for Regular Canons of St. Augustine. His king was the famous "Cathal O'Conor" or "Cathal of the Wine-Red Hand" concerning whose birth story is the well-known legend.

Four masters 1225: "Mallerside O'neighin, Abbot of Yohespatrik a son of chastity and wisdom, died. By him the church of Yohespatrik together with its sanctuary and recesses had been with great exertions begun and finished in honour of St. Patrick, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and St. John of the Apostles."

The Abbey took three years to build and was "roofed and shingled with oak." It suffered severely in a fire in 1265. (Four barons give note on fire)

Four masters 1505: "John, the son of Richard Burke, the choice of the English youths of Ireland, was treacherously slain by the sons of Ulrich Burke in the monastery of Yohespatrik."

The Abbey, like all others was suppressed in the time of the religious persecution. In 1542 it was surrendered to the Crown. (Henry VIII)

From then on its fame and powers waned although monks continued, often secretly, to reside in or near it. There is a tradition that mass has been celebrated regularly since its election within the walls. After changing hands several times the Abbey buildings and small property left therewith passed to the Blakes of Galway. In 1795 the Abbey and lands were bought by George Moore of Marshall.

Four masters 1216 relate that the Archbishop of "Yam" was taken and manacled by the men of Connaught. Some historians are of opinion that in reparation for this incident Cathal of Connaught founded the Abbey of Ballintober.

Bunzlauer Abbey - contd. from page 11.

Behind it is the Sedilla - 6' long and 14" deep, enclosed in a heavy fine leaf-moulded, well-edged arch on light columns with good capitals and bases. The leaf has a mould-head-carved terminals.

Behind the seat is a 5'9" by 10" chamfered, age-headed light. High in the wall over piscina is an irised eyes which would appear to be a irised eye. [Arch + arch contain about 25/10' high]

The sedilla light has an antero lead mould. Also in south wall are three large windows these mullions and tracery are gone. The arches are pointed.

North church wall has a large door-like opening at first floor height from apartments off. Near the centre of wall is a pointed, chamfered limestone door - 8' x 4'2". Thence to east gate a plain door leads into vicinity (A) which is 20' x 12' and has a single access in its crumbling north wall and a built-up seat window of two lights, small rectangular, chamfered. The now-covered elements of stairs leading to destroyed upper rooms lie near the doorway into the church.

Room B is featureless, walls broken step except for an interesting hole light at Y, the angle of the building. The sill, which is only a few inches above the ground, has a V notch cut out of it.

Next room C is featureless. A broken western apex.

Room D is 20' x 12' - barrel vaulted - about 12' high. The western entrance is chamfered with a lightly pointed head. Downway is 6' x 33'. The east wall has a neat, clean-cut, rounded-topped fireplace. Between it and west wall is a hollowed stone wash-place with a slop stone cut. The right of fireplace is a slender eye light and above it a small rectangular light. There are also some recesses in the room and about the many fallen pieces of the church windows mullions and tracery.

Room E has a plain north fireplace-bank, and two eastern entrance apses. One is of two eye lights and the other is a single eye.

The upper story of this range of buildings is destroyed.

Room F has a plain entrance, arched, under the passage at head of stairs which led up from the kitchen. At the end of the passage is a garden-like opening. There is a western, plain fireplace on the ground floor, and also two windows. One is a chamfered and rebated, well-cut, eye light, 51" x 10". The other is damaged and was a rectangular loop 29" x 4". The western first floor has a
(contd on page 13)

Buniscauna Abbey (contd. from page 11)

Two light (eggs) with nucleus missing, and a single light egg.

History: Mack Sallan (History book of Thom) and Knox (Notes on
Crosses of Thom...) give 1298 as the date of the founding of Buniscauna
Abbey. Possibly by Adam Stanton of Castlebar. It was built
for the Carmelites who held it for a century, and then for some
unknown reason they abandoned it. It was vacant for 30 years
and the Stantons invited the Augustinians to take it over. The
Augustinian Friars of Ballinacree took possession and were
confined in it by the Pope in 1412. In 1430 the Pope
granted an indulgence to contributors to its repair as it had
lately been burned.

It was later suppressed and its lands confiscated.
Its power then waned and it was vacated for good.

Buniscauna Church ruins. Remains Buniscauna Abbey. In charge
of Office of Public Works.

This was one of the large parish churches - (perhaps 15th century).
Now only about 90' x 18' internally. Sidelwalls 15' high. One
gable 25' with a steep high top. The other gable broken.
North entrance has a plain arched doorway. Plain stylized
loop eyes. Slight talus.

Church remains in Ballybunkeo beside the old castle ruin.
Called "Ceampal Shannagane". Nothing of history. The site
is said to be Pagan.

Church remains beside the road in Loggulla. No history.
Only fragments remain.

Church remains on Church Island on the western reef of
Lough Corrib. Completely obscured in dense scrub and bush
growth. Called "Ceall-ghrian" after St. Grian (Grian) who
is said to have had a church here to the century since.
Abbot of "Raithin" which is in Inland parish - Rahins.

Russisearra and Bellintcher. Savary of Cassa.

1711/13 (8)
Co. Mayo.

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Seven Famine graves in the hills in Yennagoy. The graves lie on the hillside in mountain country. Loose piles of stones mark the interments which have been placed together.

There are other Famine graves in Drumkeen in the Kilavally district.

This end of the parish suffered severely in the Famine times.

There are the ruins of a house on the mountain side in Kinurey. The house was owned by the African missions before they transferred to Ballingfad near Balla. This house is often stated to be the most authentically ghost-haunted house in Co. Mayo. At one time owned by a man called Costly who acquired the place about 1854. Place is called Kinurey House.

[The ghost is said to be Costly's]

ADDENDUM to Castlebrack. David Murphy - Irish poet, in 1861, composed a poem in the castle to Viscount Mayo. Called "Togiarra Tighre".