

ANTIQUITIES

Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Souterrams, Pillar Stones, Cromlechs, Forts, Rathes, 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.

Stone building at Carn.

There is a peculiar stone structure at Carn, six miles from Crossmolina and about a mile from the parish church at Ballyglass. This building is small and circular in shape and is situated on a small hill near the roadside. Within ten feet of the structure is a pile of stones standing about five feet high and irregularly shaped. I was told that up to a few years ago, several more of those piles stood and that at one time, thirteen of those mounds formed a crescent pattern near the hut. One pile of stones was erected within a few feet of the door which faces south, southwest.

I have found it impossible to trace the origin of this dwelling, as dwelling it appears to have been. The opinion held by local people is that this was a stronghold used by the Barretts or Lynotts during the wars between those two factions. I believe the building belongs to a much earlier period.

The following is a description of the hut:-

The building is in fairly good condition on the whole though obviously unappreciated and neglected and has been used as a hen-house for years; it is still used for that purpose. The landowner is Mr Roderick Finnerty, Carn, Moygownagh, Ballina and he does not object to inspection by visitors. The Office of Public Works have not taken the hut into their charge nor do they appear to have examined the building.

The wall is vertical, circular and apparently of an even thickness of $2\frac{1}{2}$ '; in parts it is 7' high and in other parts 6'.

The interior diameter is roughly 10 feet and a double row of niches or receptacles are built in all round the interior of the wall in alternate fashion. Two holes or sockets, on opposite sides and at the top of the wall, seem to have been used for holding a beam from which to suspend meat which was probably roasted over a fire placed in the centre of the floor. It appears that animal bones were found in the hut.

In the east wall, a patched up breach was obviously a window measuring app. $2' \times 1\frac{1}{2}'$.

The doorway is badly damaged and I am told, was arched on the outside; inside, it is rectangularly shaped without trace of an arch and measures approximately $6' \times 2'9"$.

Inside, the roof appears to slope to a point, a small circular hole appearing at the top but apparently not penetrating to the outside. This apex is about twelve feet from the ground level. From outside, the roof seems to be corbelled, sloping to a point and being partly covered with growth; from the top of the wall to tip of roof is about 8'.

Two windows, one in the north east and the other in the south east of the roof measure each, $15" \times 12"$.

There is a number of forts in the parish but none of importance.
