

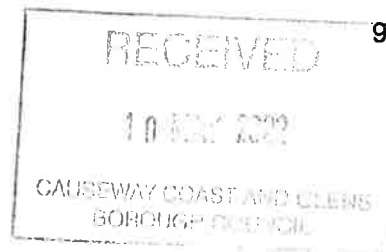


Portrush Heritage Group

Registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland NIC108470

16 Carneybaun Road
Portrush
Co. Antrim
BT56 8JB
9th May 2022

The Chief Executive
Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council
66 Portstewart Road,
Coleraine,
Co. Londonderry
BT52 1EY



Dear sir/madam,

BALLYWILLAN NATIONAL SCHOOL, MAGHERABUOY ROAD, PORTRUSH

Portrush Heritage Group wishes to apply to have this building protected through the issue of a Building preservation Notice by Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council. This building is of significant historical interest in the Portrush area and is deserving of being listed, protected from demolition or development and preserved for the future. An application to have this building Listed as a Building of Special Historic Interest has been sent to Department of Communities.

The building is Ballywillan National School, Portrush (also known by Causeway Coast & Glens Council as "Quigley's Cottage")

Location: The building is located on the Magherabuoy Road, Portrush, Co. Antrim nearly opposite the original entrance gates of Ballywillan Cemetery. Its location is marked on the attached maps.

Ownership: Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council.

This former school building should be listed as it is important historically due to its original use as a place of education, its connection to and co-location with the (now ruined) Ballywillan Church, its place in the social and economic history of Portrush and it being the oldest School Building still standing in the Portrush area. J Bleakly in the Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland for the Parish of Ballywillan refers to it as *Ballywillin Parish School* and states that it was established in 1829. The school would have been integrated into the new National Schools system introduced into Ireland from 1831 thus explaining why it appears on mid-nineteenth century maps as "National School".

This was the first proper school in the Portrush area and would have remained in use until 1853 when two new schools, male and female were established adjacent to the new Holy Trinity Church on, what is now, Main Street. These schools continued in use until the opening of the new Kelly Memorial School in 1896 on Victoria Street. This school closed in

1957 when the new Portrush Primary School on Crocnamac Road was opened and pupils transferred to it or to Carnalridge Primary School.

The building was used for some time as a store for the council graveyard workers and was restored some years ago to its present condition. The building is rectangular in plan, constructed of random rubble basalt. The original widow openings are rectangular but have been infilled at the top with red brick to create a *lancet* window shape. This change may have occurred when the council refurbished the building, however, we have no evidence to prove this. Prior to being used as a store the name of the building used by the Council i.e., *Quigley's Cottage* would seem to imply that the building was used as a residence.

The door of the building opens directly unto Magherabuoy Road and the building is enclosed on three sides by the graveyard of the, now ruined, *Ballywillan Parish Church*.

The co-location of this building with the former Ballywillan Parish Church imparts an importance given the long history of that church. Believed to date to the 12th or 13th Century and described in Lewis' Topographical Dictionary of Ireland 1837 as "an ancient, spacious and handsome edifice in the early English style, and is said to be the only one in the diocese or county, built prior to the Reformation, in which divine service is now performed". It continued in use until 1843 when a new church was built in Portrush. The graveyard surrounding the Church and School contains many interesting graves including that of Dorothea Ross reputed to be the illegitimate daughter of King James II conceived during a stopover he made in Ballymoney on his way to the siege of Derry. Although denied by the King it is worth noting that her gravestone is said to have been erected by Queen Anne, her half-sister. On the headstone is the Stuart Coat of Arms and a Fleur de Lys. Also buried there are six military personnel from the First World War which is unusual in that government policy was to bury and commemorate such individuals in Imperial War Cemeteries near to where they were killed rather than returning them to the UK.

References:

The Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland for the Parish of Ballywillan inform us, in "Fair Sheets" prepared by J Bleakly dated 26th October 1835:

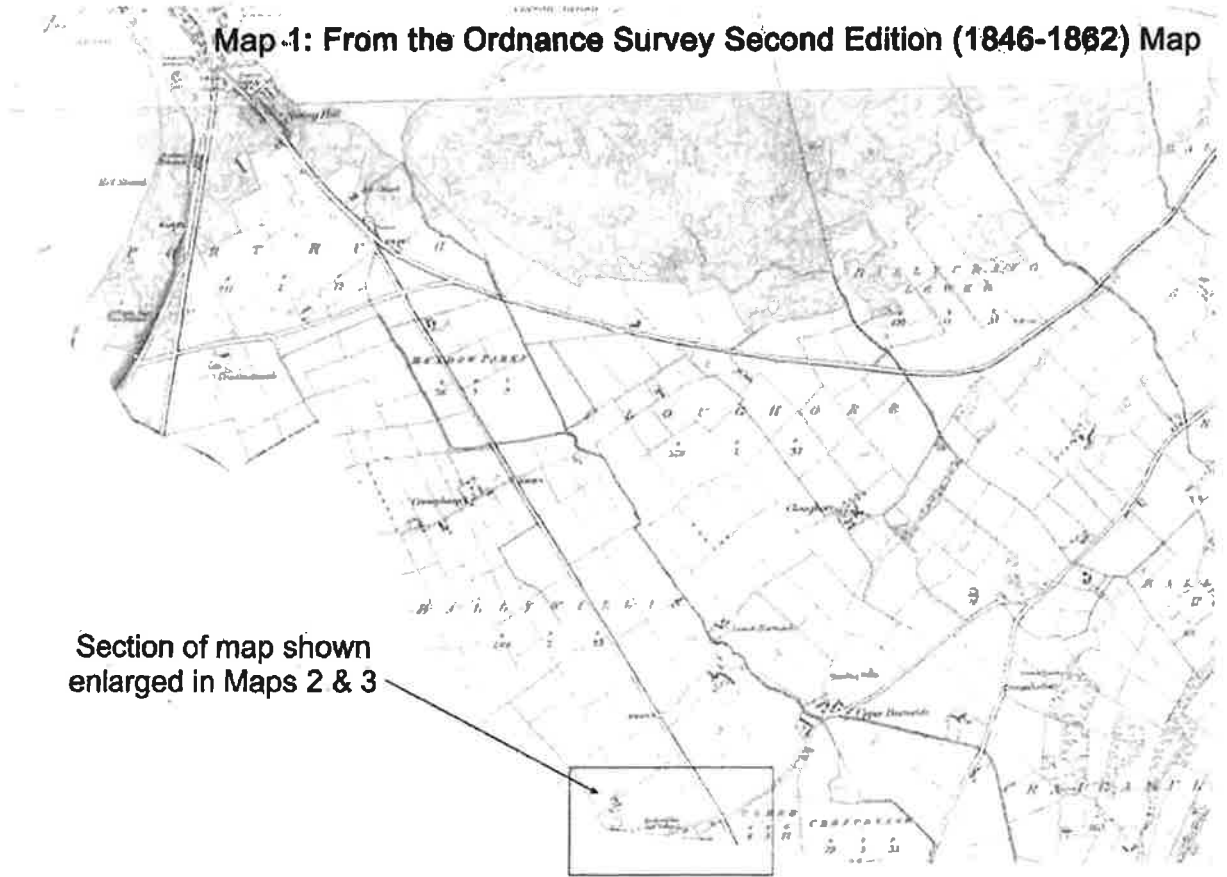
Ballywillin parish school, situated near the old church and on the leading road from Coleraine to Bushmills, a good house, slated, 32 and a half by 16 feet inside, established in 1829; income for the last quarter the master received from the Revd. William Mill, rector of the parish, 15 pounds, from pupils 4 pounds; expenditure: fuel provided by the children, house built by subscription and cost 70 pounds, viz. 15 pounds collected through the parish, 55 pounds from the Revd. William Mill; intellectual education: books published by the Association for Discountenancing Vice; moral education: visited by the clergy of the Established Church; number of pupils: males, 9 under 10 years of age, 6 from 10 to 15, 15 total males; females, 8 under 10 years of age, 10 from 10 to 15, 2 above 15, 20 total females; total number of pupils 35, all Presbyterians; master James Greer of the Established Church.

And in "Fair Sheets" prepared by Thomas Fagan in June 1838 under the heading "Social Economy – Schools":

Ballywillin <Ballywillan>, master James Harton, Established Church; pay school, 3s 4d and 4s 2d per quarter annual income; schoolhouse stone and lime, would cost 20 pounds; number of pupils by the Protestant return: 11 Established Church, 14

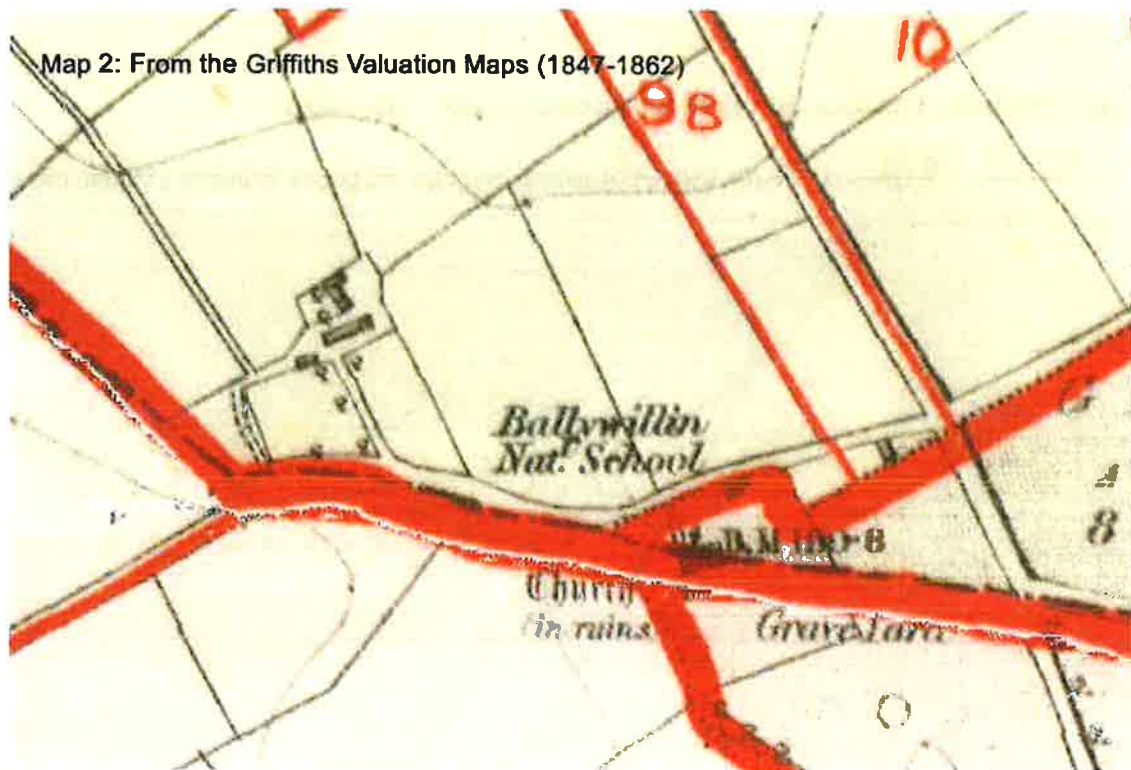
Presbyterians, 2 Roman Catholics, 27 males, 13 females; incumbent gives 2 pounds, parish school.

Map 1: From the Ordnance Survey Second Edition (1846 – 1862) Map



Section of map shown enlarged in Maps 2 & 3

Map 2: From the Griffiths Valuation Maps (1847 – 1862)



Map 3: From the Ordnance Survey Second Edition (1846 – 1862) Map

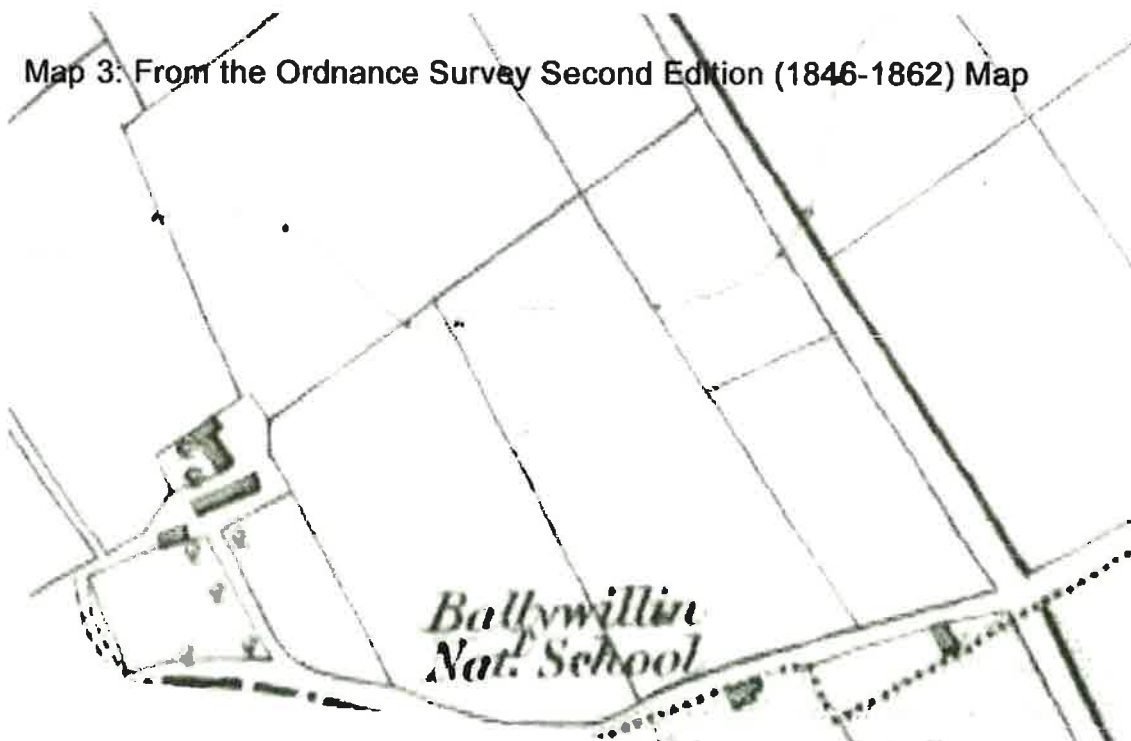


Image 1: Ballywillan National School



If you have any queries or require further clarification on any aspect of this application please do not hesitate to contact me at [REDACTED]

Yours,

[REDACTED]

John Moore

Vice-Chair

