



ULSTER
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SOCIETY

Survey Report

Reference: Survey Report No. 54

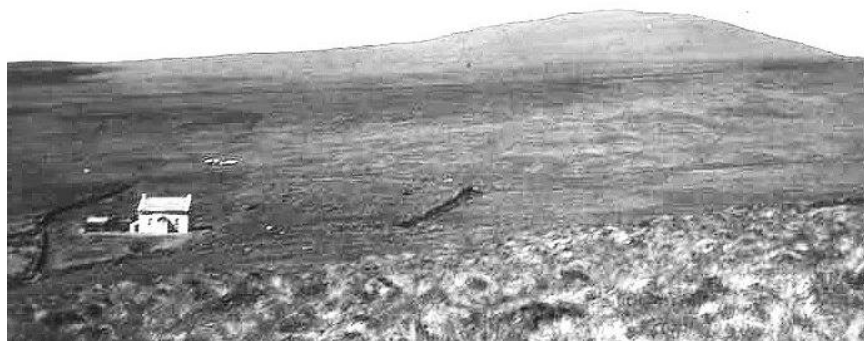
Author: Michael Catney

Location:

In association with:



Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td, Co. Antrim



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Ulster Archaeological Society
c/o School of Geography,
Archaeology and Palaeoecology
The Queen's University of Belfast
Belfast BT7 1NN

Cover illustration:- view of Game Keeper's Cottage with Craigs Hill in the background. – National Trust Archive

LIST OF FIGURES

Figures:-	Page
1 Game Keeper's Cottage location road map	3
2 NT Divis and Black Mountain Trails map	3
3 Co Antrim, 6 inch to 1 mile series map - Revision 1, extract	5
4 Co Antrim, 25 inch to 1 mile series map, 1st Edition, 1894,extract:-	5
5 Co Antrim, 25 inch to 1 mile series map, 2nd Edition, 1901, extract:-	6
6 Co Antrim, 25 inch to 1 mile series map,4th Edition, 1931,extract	7
7 Co Antrim, 25 inch to 1 mile series map, 5th Edition , 1937,extract	7
8 Irish Grid 25 inch Map 146-3 (1967 -1972) OS/11/146/3/1	8
9 Game Keeper's Cottage complex in the NT Black Mountain:- - <i>Google EarthTM</i>	9
10 Plan View of Game Keeper's Cottage and Out-Buildings	13
11 possible Front (South) Elevation of Cottage and Out-Buildings	14
12 possible Side (West) Elevation of Cottage and Out-Buildings	14
13 John Dougherty Barbour (1824–1901)	15
14 Sir Milne Barbour, Bt (1868 –1951)	15
15 Thomas Andrews, with his wife Helen Reilly(nee Barbour) and daughter Elizabeth; c 1911	16

LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Plate	page
Pl 1 Game Keeper's Cottage with Electricity Overhead Line in the foreground	8
Pl 2 condition of Game Keeper's Cottage - <i>looking South</i> . 30 May 2015	9
Pl 3 Survey in progress at the Game Keeper's Cottage, on the NT Black Mountain., - 26th July 2014	12
Pl 4 Hunting activity on Divis Mountain	17
Pl 5 Hunting activity on Divis Mountain	17

Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td

Summary

The Game Keeper's Cottage was built between 1897 and 1900 for the specific purpose of establishing a Game Reserve in the Divis and Black Mountain area in the North Belfast Hills.

It was built by John Dougherty Barbour (1824–1901) who was chairman of Linen Threads which was the largest thread manufacturing business in the world at that time. Upon the death of J D Barbour the property passed to his son John Milne Barbour (1868 – 1951) who carried on with the Game Keeping project in Divis and Black Mountain in association with Henry Upton (1853 – 1939) the 4th Viscount Templeton.

The cottage underwent an extension in that a loft conversion was carried out between 1929 and 1933.

Available records have shown that the cottage was demolished between 1959/60 and 1969.

Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td

Credits and acknowledgements

The survey was led by Harry Welsh and other members of the survey team were, Malachy Conway, Chris Stevenson, Ian Gillespie, Ray Preston, Ian Forsythe, George Rutherford, Katie Todd, Grace McAllister, Olive Campbell, David Craig, Connor Craig, June Welsh, Liz McShane, Michael Catney. The Ulster Archaeological Society (UAS) is particularly grateful to Mr Malachy Conway, Archaeologist of the National Trust, who worked closely with the survey team in choosing the site and facilitating access and was in attendance during the survey. We would also like to thank Dermot McCann the National Trust Divis Warden for his invaluable help not only for assisting in access to the site but also in providing a wealth of site and local area knowledge.

The staff at the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) were most helpful in sourcing books, maps and documents and their assistance throughout was very much appreciated.

Mr Keith Holmes, a former colleague of mine from NIE, must also be thanked for sourcing information that narrowed the date of the demolition of the Game Keeper's Cottage to sometime between 1959 and 1967.

Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td

1 Introduction

1.1. Location

The Game Keepers Cottage is situated in a shallow valley between two hills in the National Trust(NT) property of Divis and Black Mountain, Belfast.

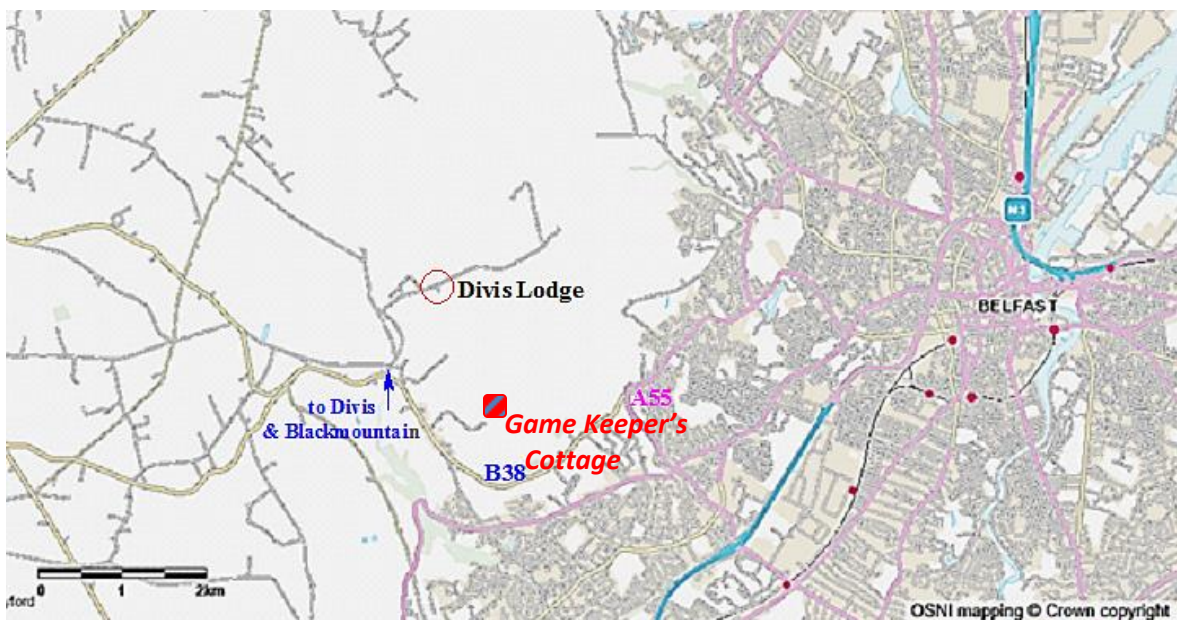


Fig 1 Game Keeper's Cottage location road map

To the South and what would have been the front of the cottage is the Black Hill with a peak of 350m OD and to the North is Craig's Hill with a peak of 360m OD. The cottage is at 320m OD. The Irish Grid reference point for the cottage is J28184, 73327 the Irish Grid X-Y co-ordinates being 328184, 373327 and the *Google Earth* location is given as 54 35 31.32N 6 01 4.06W.

The cottage ruin is accessible from a Trail in NT property as shown in figure 2 below

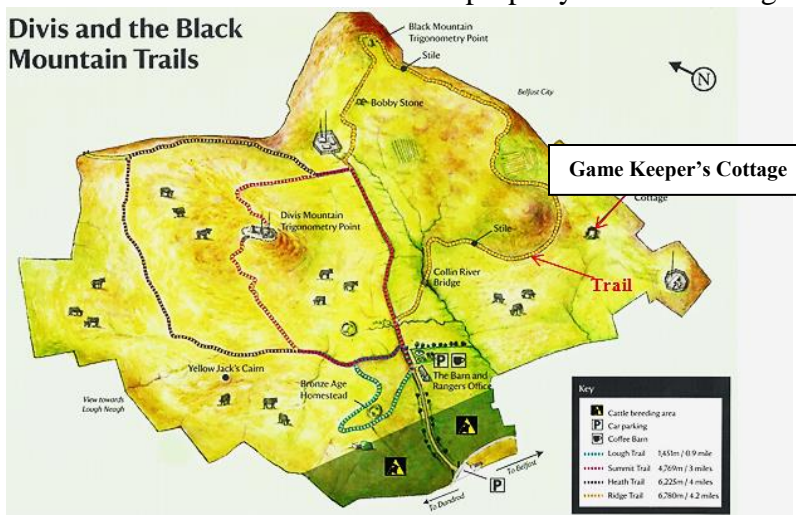


Figure 2: NT Divis and the Black Mountain Trails map

Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td

1.2 Background

The survey was carried out on 30th May 2015, by members of the Ulster Archaeological Society. This was the forty-ninth archaeological monument survey carried out by the Society, whose survey programme has been running since April 2006. The programme was undertaken in response to a decision taken by the committee of the Society to extend an opportunity to members to participate in practical surveys of archaeological monuments that had not previously been recorded. This decision had been prompted by a bequest to the society from the late Dr Ann Hamlin, from which the items of survey equipment were purchased. During discussions with Mr Malachy Conway, Archaeologist of the National Trust in Northern Ireland, it had been noted that many archaeological sites on National Trust property had not been subject to a detailed archaeological survey. It was therefore agreed that members of the society would commence a programme to survey these sites.

1.3 Previous archaeological surveys

Other sites and monuments have been archaeologically surveyed within the National Trust Divis and Black Mountain property by the UAS, including other vernacular house sites; House Site 1, UAS Survey No 11; Divis Farm, UAS Survey No 25; Johnston's Green, UAS Survey No 39; Survey of Reavy House Site at Divis, UAS Survey Report No. 40, Divis Barn, UAS Survey No 41 and Divis Lodge, UAS Survey No 49. However, as far as it is known, there has been no previous archaeological survey in the immediate area of the Game Keeper's Cottage complex

1.4 Cartographic Evidence

The Game Keepers Complex in the Townland of Black Mountain is made up of three fields, a 639 square foot house with a lean-to shed and two out-buildings which were identified as being kennels in the Land and Property Valuation Records.

The first signs of development of this complex can be traced to the 1st Revision in 1857 of the OS/6 County Series 6" (1:10,560) maps for Antrim with map tile 60 showing that a field has been laid out as in figure 3 below. For the purposes of this report this field will be referred to as Field A. The house, shed and out-buildings of the complex had not been built at this time.

Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td

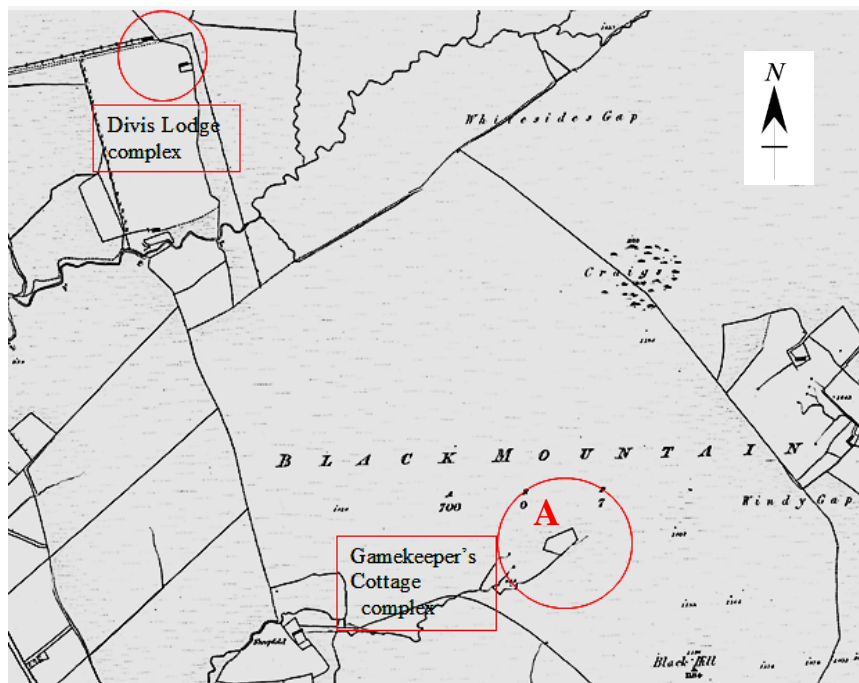


Figure 3. Co Antrim, 6 inch to 1 mile series map - Revision 1, extract OS-6-1-60-2 (1857) Surveyed 1832 - 33. Revised 1857 (PRONI 1)

A fuller picture of the development of the site emerges when the OS/10 County Series, 1:2500 (25inch) plans, 1890s – 1950s are examined. There was only 5 editions to this series of maps produced, namely:-

1st Survey -1894; 1st Rev. 1901; 2nd Rev. – 1920; 3rd Rev. – 1931 and last Rev. – 1937.

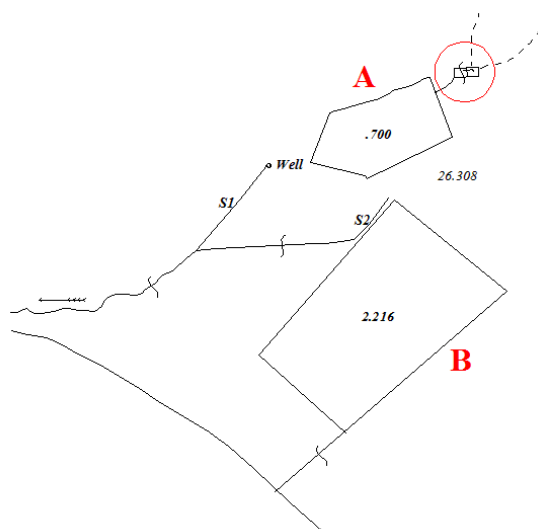


Figure 4. Co Antrim, 25 inch to 1 mile series map, 1st Edition, 1894,extract:-
- OS-10-1-60-11-1: Surveyed 1894 – (PRONI 2)

Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td

In the first issue of the 25 inch map series (figure 4) the outline of a building foundation is shown with a second field, Field B, identified. The size of the fields given as being Field A, 0.700 acres and Field B, 2.216 acres. It is also worth noting that a Well had been sunk at a natural Spring or Riser point. Indeed these fields were positioned close to two Springs and associated streams, *S1* and *S2*, obviously to acquire a good supply of fresh running water.

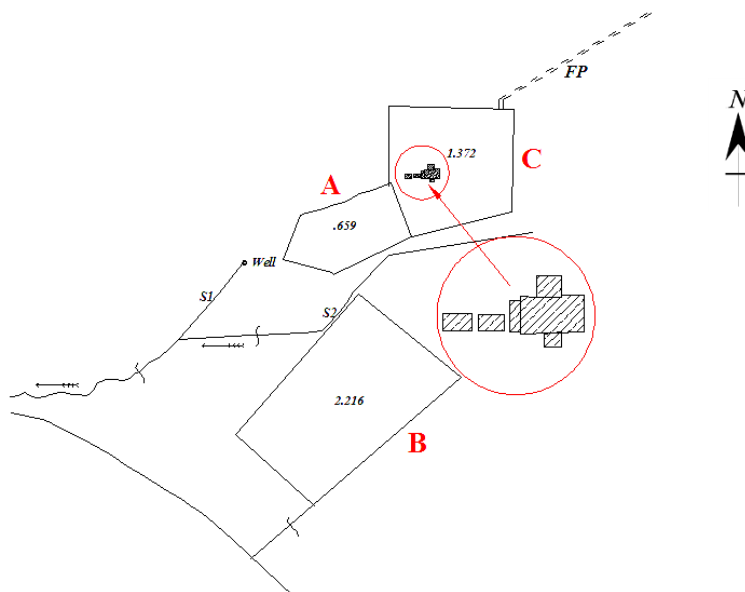


Figure 5. Co Antrim, 25 inch to 1 mile series map, 2nd Edition, 1901, extract:-
 - OS-10-1-60-11-2: Surveyed 1894 – Revised 1901- (PRONI 3 & 4)
 (Note :- the above map section also applies in detail to the 3rd Edition issued in 1920.)

In figure 5, the 2nd Edition of this 25 inch to 1 mile map series issued in 1901 it can be seen that the Game Keepers cottage had been built at that stage complete with the lean-to shed and the two 2 outbuildings as mentioned above. It can also be seen that what may have been a drainage system was installed which discharged into stream *S2*. A footpath *FP* had been put in place leading from Field “C” to a lane which ultimately provides access and egress to and from the site to the junction of the Ballygomartin and Whiterock Roads in North Belfast, a distance of about 2¼ miles. This is likely to have been the “lane” that Eileen Fulton referred to in her memories of Sammy Lyttle as he made his way to and fro in the 1920s past her grandfather John Magill’s farm on the Black Mountain (McShane, p8)

This arrangement held good until sometime between the issue of the 3rd OS Map edition in 1920 and the 4th edition which was surveyed in 1931.

Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td

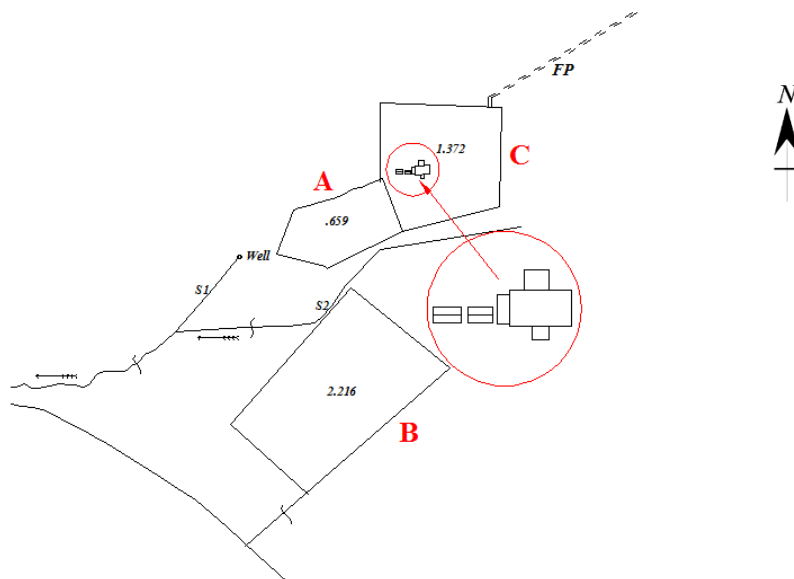


Figure 6. Co Antrim, 25 inch to 1 mile series map, 4th Edition, 1931, extract:-
- OS-10-1-60-11-4: Surveyed 1894 – Revised 1931- (PRONI 5)

As can be seen in the 1931, 4th Edition OS Map (Figure 6), the Cottage, shed and outbuildings are shown in outline form only, which means that they were not roof covered and therefore uninhabitable.

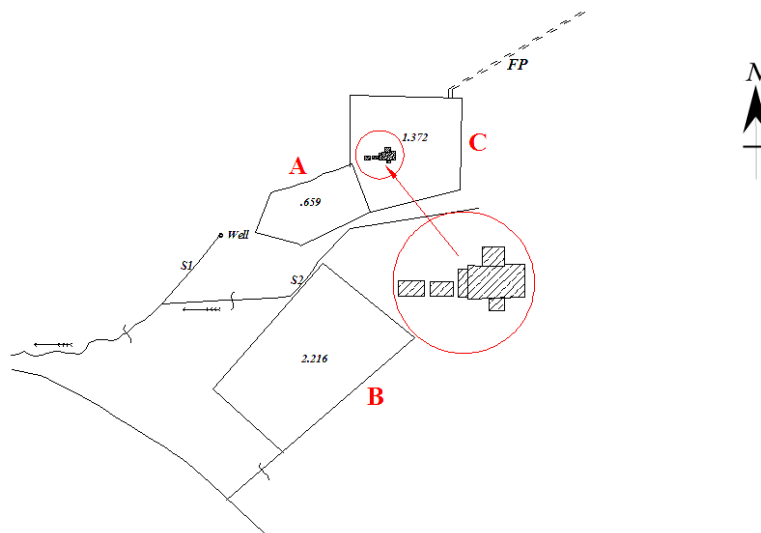


Figure 7. Co Antrim, 25 inch to 1 mile series map, 5th Edition, 1937, extract:-
- OS-10-1-60-11-5 Surveyed 1894 – Revised 1937- (PRONI 6)

Revision 5, and the last of this series of 25 inch maps, surveyed in 1937 shows the Cottage and associated buildings to have been fully restored to a habitable condition, figure 7.

Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td

From 1937, no OS maps are available which depict this particular area in North Belfast until the issue of a 25 inch to 1 Statute Mile Irish Grid Edition 1 map dated 1969, (figure 8).

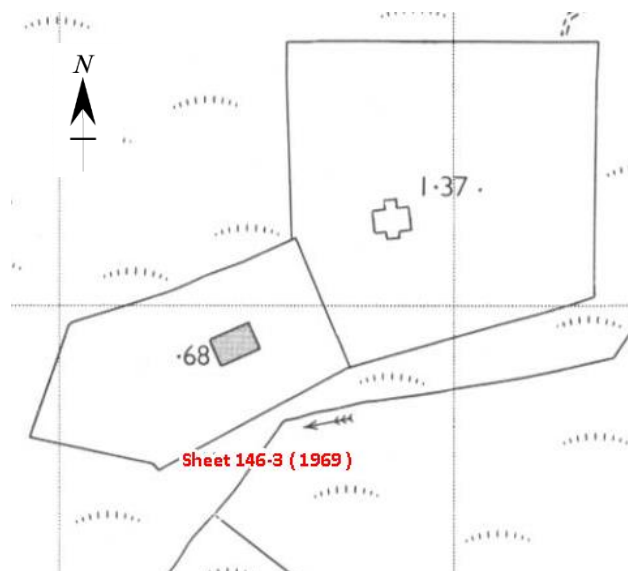
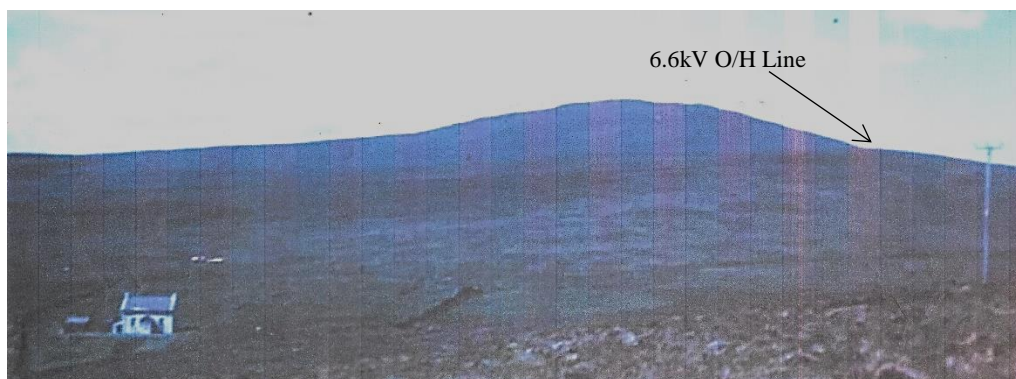


Figure 8. OSNI – Online Map Shop. Historical Maps (OSNI):- OS/11/146/3
Irish Grid 25inch Map 146-3 (1969):- x, y co-ordinates 328184, 373327

By 1969, as shown in figure 8, the Gamekeeper's Cottage was not useable, the attached shed had been removed as had been the outbuildings.

However a photograph showing the Game Keepers Cottage with a 6.6kV Wood pole Overhead (O/H)Electricity line in the foreground (fig. 9) provides an indication of a period in time when the cottage was taken down.



Pl 1. Game Keeper's Cottage with Electricity Overhead Line in the foreground
(NT Archive)

Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td

In Plate 1 the Cottage together with the Lean-to Shed and one of the two Kennels are all shown to be still standing and given that the Electricity company records show that the Wayleave for the installation of the overhead line was not signed until 1st May 1959 with the line being constructed a short time latter i.e., likely to have been between May 1959 and the end year of 1960 hence taking Plate 1 then, together with the Irish Grid 25inch Map 146-3 (1969)- figure 8, the Game Keeper's Cottage can be said to have been taken down sometime between 1959/60 and 1969 .

The current state of the cottage is as shown in Plate 2, page 9, “*condition of Game Keeper's Cottage - looking South. 30 May 2015*”.



Pl 2 condition of Game Keeper's Cottage - *looking South. 30 May 2015*

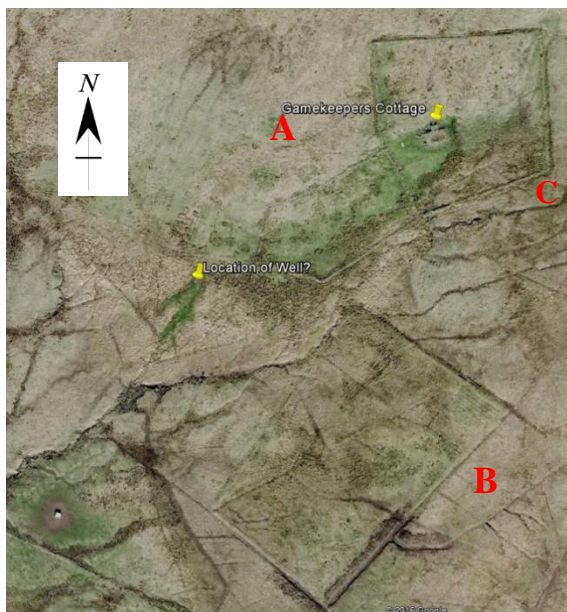


Figure 9. Game Keeper's Cottage complex in the NT Black Mountain, *GOOGLE Earth™ 54 35 31.32N 6 01 4.06W*, as viewed 04 May 2016

Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td

1.5 Archiving

Copies of this report have been deposited with the National Trust, Belfast Hills Partnership and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency: Built Heritage (NIEA). All site records have been archived by the Ulster Archaeological Society.

2. Survey

2.1 Method

It was decided that the survey would take the form of the production of plan drawings and elevations, accompanied by a photographic survey. This report was compiled using the information obtained from these sources, in addition to background documentary material.

2.2 Production of Plans and Profile Drawings

Plan drawings and elevations were completed, using data obtained from the field survey. Measurements were obtained by using the society's *Leica Sprinter 100* electronic measuring device. Sketch plans at a scale of 1:200 were completed on site by recording these measurements on drafting film secured to a plane table and backing up the data on a field notebook for subsequent reference. Detailed measurements were taken of the Game Keeper's Cottage and associated concrete bases using measuring tapes. Field measurements were later transferred to a computer-based drawing package for storing and printing.

2.3 Survey Observations

Black Mountain: Game Keeper's Cottage

30 May 2015

The cottage plan is a rectangle. The length runs east-west and the main front faces south. Two annexes are built against the main structure; one on the north, the other on the west. Neither extends to the corners of the main structure, nor has a connecting doorway to it. All are built of angular basaltic stones with a maximum dimension of 30-60 cms. The outside walls of the ensemble are rendered with Portland cement and horizontally banded by trowel lines at intervals of 28-30 cms.

The walls have been mostly reduced to rubble, nowhere standing as high as 2 m. Four windowsills remain, but none is intact. Two are in the south front, apparently spaced to allow for a central doorway, evidence for which may be hidden under the rubble. The eastern sill has a surviving length of 107 cms., is 8.5 cms. thick, and projects 8 cms. from the face of the wall; the window width is 98cms. The western sill has a surviving length of 109 cms. and projects 7 cms.

A sill in the main north wall, west of the annex, has a full length of 106 cms., is 9 cms. thick, and projects 7 cms., with a window width of 91cms. There is another windowsill in the west wall of the north annex. It has a full length of 75 cms., is 8 cms. thick, and projects 7 cms. This is the only sill without a drip groove. It is also the only one without a quarry tile core. The other three are each composed of cement moulded around three quarry tiles, 31cms wide by 4 cms. thick.

Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td

Internal rubble packed against the walls obscures the width, but the front wall seems to be 440 mm. thick. The main apartment appears to have had no walled division.

The north annex was accessed from the east, and the west annex, from the south.

From the west annex, and 62 cms. back from its south front, a concrete base extends 4.48 m. west. The SW corner of this base is clearly visible, but the northern extent is hidden under soil and grass.

Further west is another concrete base 2 m. square, in poor condition, about 8 m. from the annex.

The cottage sits near the centre of a rectangular enclosure referred to in this report as Field "C", in area recorded on OS maps as being in the order of about 1.372 acres. The perimeter is a bank of boulders that are as much as 0.9 m. maximum dimension. The height is generally 0.7 m. to a domed living coping of moss and grass with some heather, bilberry, and foxglove. The untidy arrangement of stone that is the southern part of the west perimeter suggests that stretch was never finished.

Close behind the cottage the underlying rock is exposed as a cliff face 2 m. high. The cottage would therefore be sheltered from the north wind. To the east and west the cliff softens to a steep grassy slope that effectively divides the enclosure into a high northern part and a low southern part.

Two lines of stone run from the west annex to the cliff, as though to close off a small area. These stones are of the same character as those in the house walls and some have cement adhering to one side. A fragment of blue slate was found a few metres from the cottage, but no other roofing material was seen. Any further roofing evidence may be sealed beneath the rubble.

The NE quadrant of the enclosure is highest. Soil cover is thin and the rock is exposed in places. The vegetation is heathy. Bright points of colour, blue, pink, and yellow are provided by milkwort, lousewort, and tormentil.

From the NE quadrant there is a pronounced step to the NW quadrant, which is fairly level, clear of heather, but grassy with rushes at the margins, and no rock shows through. A low bank marks its southern extent and directs surface run-off towards the perimeter boundary, away from the rear of the cottage.

The southern part of the enclosure is grassy on the east with occasional surface boulders. Towards the south a drain parallels the perimeter, draining to the west where the ground falls away steeply to a wet area, which may have been enhanced as a pond. The south perimeter bank stops short of the corner of the enclosure to allow drainage towards a small stream, which flows west. A dry gap in the bank, a few metres short of the wet gap may have been a pedestrian entrance. This entrance seems to be almost level with the levelled area where the cottage stands.

Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td

2.4 Photographic Archive

A photographic record of the site was made using a *RICOH Caplio 500Gwide* digital camera. A photographic record sheet was employed to itemise the photographs taken during the site survey on 30 May 2015. The photographs have also been archived in jpeg format and saved to compact disc.

An aerial Drone was also deployed by David Craig from the UAV Aerial Photography Company – IRISHSIGHTS.com which produced an aerial view of the ruin and the immediate environs together with mapping and measurements back-up for the UAS survey.



PL 3. Survey in progress at the Game Keeper's Cottage, on the NT Black Mountain., - 30th May 2015

3 Discussion

The cartographic evidence indicates that the Game Keeper's Cottage complete with Lean-to Shed and two Out-Buildings were erected sometime between 1894 and 1901.

In fact the Primary Valuation of Ireland Revision Book "D" covering the period 1897 to 1909 (PRONI 9) records that in the year 1900 a Mr John D Barbour had taken over the Black Mountain and had put in place *Buildings* with rateable value of £2 -15s 0p. These buildings had not been present in previous Valuations up to and including 1897. Indeed, a "*New House*" Valuation carried out on all new properties in Belfast Rural District No.1 in 1900 established that the rateable Valuation of this property would be £2 -15s -0p and that the owner was John D

Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td

Barbour with the occupier being a Mr Samuel Lyttle, (see Appendix "1" below). The Valuer's Note Book Vol.2 gives a precise set of measurements for the House and Out-Buildings. The valuation also describes the property as being a "Game Keeper's Cottage together with Offices and a Mountain". From the Valuation Note Book and the measurements taken by this UAS Survey a plan view of the Cottage and Out-Buildings can be drawn as shown in Figure 10 as follows.

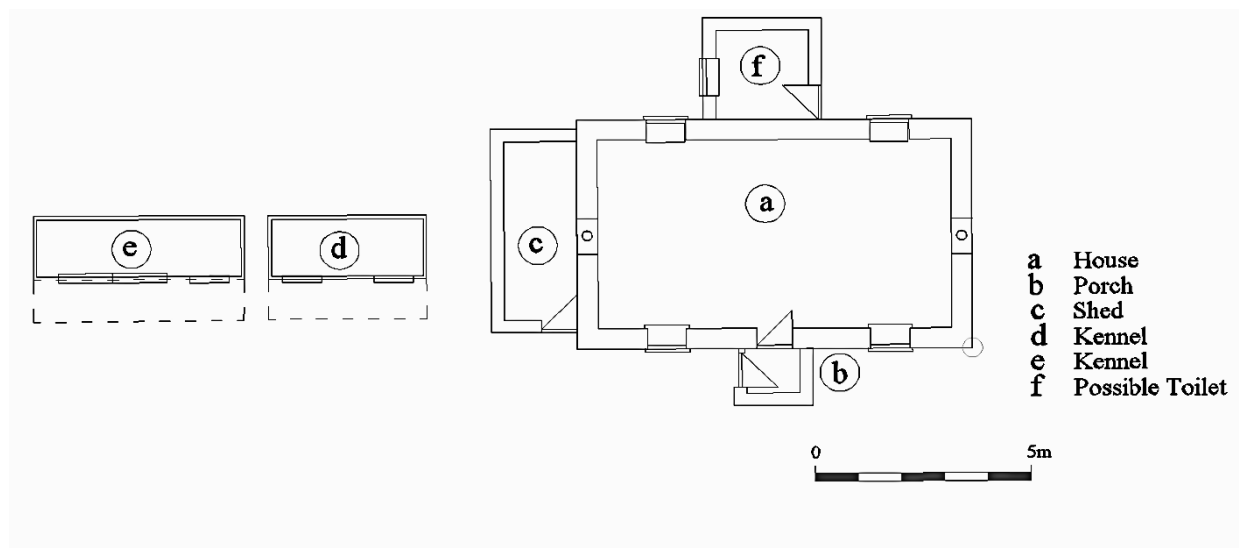


Figure 10. Plan View of Game Keeper's Cottage and Out-Buildings

The Valuation Rate set was based on the number of 10 cubic foot of space occupied by the Buildings under examination with a rate set depending upon whether the building was a House or an Office i.e. an Out-Building such as a shed, barn, workshop or for a purpose other than for human habitation. For this House the Valuation Rate (VR) was set at $2\frac{3}{4}$ pence per 10 cubic feet whereas that rate for the Out-Buildings was at $1\frac{1}{2}$ pence per 10 cubic feet. The calculation used the ground plan together with the height of each unit from ground to eaves to calculate the volume concerned which means that there was no upper story in the house when valued. Up to the final revision of this series of the Primary Valuations of Ireland which was Revision "E" covering the period 1920 up to 1929. there was no change in the VR of £2 -15s -0p for this property.

In the early 1930s the *Primary Valuation of All Ireland* commonly known as the *Griffith Valuation* was overtaken by a new scheme know as the *Northern Ireland General Revaluation*. The first valuations under this replacement scheme covers a period of time from 1935 until 1957. However, the Valuers Field Books for this new scheme are available from 1933 onwards.. A noticeable difference in the new scheme was in the unit of measurement to be used to ascertain the Valuation to be applied. Whereas the previous scheme used a unit of volume in terms of 10 Cubic feet, the new scheme uses a unit of plan area in units of square yards with $2\frac{3}{4}$ pence per sq. yd., for a house and $1\frac{1}{2}$ pence per sq. yd., for Offices or Out-Buildings.(see, Appendix 2, below).

Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td

In the First Northern Ireland General Revaluation (Appendix 2, below) of this property the new valuation confirms the measurement taken in the 1900 Valuation. However one distinct difference emerges in that the main house unit has been assessed to have an area equal to $1\frac{2}{3}$ that of the Ground floor plan area i.e., instead of 30ft x18ft returning an area $10 \times 6 = 60$ sq. yds. a figure of $60 \times 1\frac{2}{3} = 100$ sq. yds. was assessed and this in fact is stating that the house had by this time had had the attic space converted to provide additional living space. The $1\frac{2}{3}$ factor is in recognition that the Headroom and therefore the free Ambulation area in an attic space would be restricted by the slope of the roof.

The Property Valuation made on 27th March 1933 clearly indicates that a conversion involving a modification to the roof had taken place. This would, most likely, explain the anomaly highlighted in the 1931 Ordnance Survey map discussed earlier when the house was shown to be without a roof. The conversion had begun sometime after the 1929 Valuation and had been completed before the First Northern Ireland General Valuation of this property made on 27th March 1933

From the Valuers Note Book shown in Appendix 2 below a set of Front and Side Elevations diagrams may be drawn up for the Cottage and Out-Buildings up as follows:-



Figure 11. possible Front (South) Elevation of Cottage and Out-Buildings



Figure 12. possible Side (West) Elevation of Cottage and Out-Buildings

Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td

As has been established John D Barbour had built the Cottage and Out-Buildings sometime between 1897 and 1900. John D or John Dougherty Barbour was at that time the owner of the largest producer of Linen Thread in the World with a Mill situated at Hilden near Lisburn, Co, Down. The Barbour family had been involved in producing linen thread and other linen produce at Hilden from the latter part the 18th century. At the time that this site in Black Mountain was being fully developed by John D Barbour, Viscount Templeton carried out extensive restructuring of what was to become know as *Divis Lodge* in the adjacent townland of *Divis*. In fact this was when the name *Divis Lodge* first appeared on the Ordnance Survey records.(M^cShane, Catney, p22). The 1901 Census of Ireland records that at Black Mountain on the night of Sunday 31st March 1901 a Samuel Lyttle (Game Keeper) aged 28yrs., his wife Jane aged 28yrs., their daughter Agnes aged 2yrs 7mths., and daughter Jane aged 8mths., did sleep or were abode in this townland at House No. 10 owned by J D Barbour of Kilmakee. The same 1901 Census taken on 31st March 1901 for the townland of Divis recorded a Mr Robert Darling, a Game Keeper from Scotland, was resident in house 1, namely, *Divis Lodge*. Mr Darling did not reside at the house before the 1897 Valuation Revision was taken. It would therefore appear that in the years 1897 to sometime before the 1901 Census John D Barbour and Viscount Templeton were at one in establishing a Game Reserve covering the townlands of Divis and Black Mountain with Mr Darling coming over from Scotland to work with Samuel Lyttle to establish and run the Reserve. After six years it would seem that the venture had bedded down with Mr Darling leaving Divis Lodge in 1906 and Viscount Templeton putting Divis Lodge, as a note in the 1897 to 1909 Valuation Revision Book states “*out to Samuel Lyttle – not here but at Black Mountain*” *i.e.*, Samuel Lyttle would act as a caretaker for Divis Lodge. This was the case until a Mr John Smith, a Shepard from Londonderry, had taken up residence in Divis Lodge as was recorded in the 1911 Census for Divis Td..

On the 18th June 1901 Mr John Dougherty Barbour passed away with the business and properties passing to his son John Milne Barbour. This did not appear to affect what would seem to have been an established joint Game Keeping undertaking on Divis and Black Mountain between the Barbour family and Viscount Templeton.

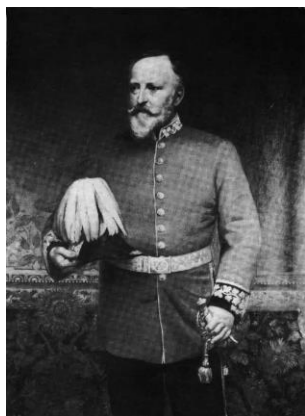


Fig. 13. John Dougherty Barbour (1824–1901) Fig. 14. Sir Milne Barbour, Bt (1868 –1951)

Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td

John Milne Barbour became the Member of Parliament (MP) for the Antrim (1921 -1929) in the first Northern Ireland parliament. He then served as MP for the newly created South Antrim Constituency from 1929 until his death in 1951. He held the offices of Minister of Commerce for Northern Ireland from 1925 until 1941 and then as the Minister of Finance for Northern Ireland from 1941 until 1943. In 1943 he was created baronet of Hilden, in County Antrim to become known as Sir Milne Barbour.. Bt. (McGuire, Quinn, ps., 267, 268)

A poignant connection to history involving the Barbour family can be made in that John Dougherty's daughter, being also Sir Milne Barbour's sister, Helen Reilly Barbour, (1881-1966) on the 26th June 1908 married Thomas Andrews (1873-1912) the designer of the RMS *TITANIC*. They had a daughter *Elizabeth Law Barbour Andrews* (1910 – 1973). (McGuire, Quinn, pps 267, 268)



Figure 15. Thomas Andrews, with his wife Helen Reilly(nee Barbour) and daughter Elizabeth; c 1911

(Note:- this picture was most likely taken to the left of the front porch of *Dunallan*, 20 Windsor Avenue, Belfast)

As is well documented, in the early hours on 15th April 1912 the TITANIC sank in the North Atlantic ocean after colliding with an iceberg which resulted in the loss of over 1,500 lives. Thomas Andrews lost his life that morning in what became arguably the most famous maritime disaster in history. A tragedy for the Andrews and Barbour families as it was also for all the other families who lost loved ones in the disaster.(Wikipedia,)

From at least the time of his father's death in 1901 to his own passing in 1951 Sir Milne Barbour had a very heavy burden of office not only as a leading political figure in Northern Ireland before and after the formation of the state in 1921 but also as chairman of a world leading Linen Manufacturing business. Nevertheless, all of that notwithstanding , Sir Milne Barbour

Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td

maintained an interest in the Game Keeping project on Divis and Black Mountain in conjunction with Viscount Templeton which had begun at the turn of the twentieth century.

The records show that game keeping was an active sport in this area up until the late 1930s. One such record entitled "*DIVIS SHOOT - GAME BOOK*" held by the National Trust of Northern Ireland covering the period 1925 to 1938 records steady year on year shootings involving mostly "*Grouse*", "*Hare*" and "*Snipe*" during the months of August, September and October from 1925 up to 1936. 1937 was recorded as being not a good year. A final note in the SHOOT BOOK dated 31st July 1938 seems to have signalled the end of that period of Game Shooting with a note reading as follows:-

"We saw practically no young birds in August 1937, and after two day (12th and 14th) decided that we would only "skin" the place if we shot any more. In early June 1938 we looked over the ground and made enquiries & we found that although there had been a number of pairs which nested & hatched out their broods, by the end of May there were no young birds to be seen.

John Smith had shot 12 foxes - 3 old ones and 9 cubs - and evidently this was the cause of the disappearance of the old birds. In the previous August (1937) we had come to the conclusion that the very severe snowstorm in March 1937 had either killed or driven off the old breeding stock. However we are now inclined to think that foxes were also responsible for the bad showing in 1937. After consultation we decided to give up the shoot. I had ten very happy years on Divis."

Walter F Clarendon

National Trust Archives



Pls, 4 and 5. Hunting activity on Divis Mountain (after:- McShane, Catney, p 14)

Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td

Records are not available to determine what happened to the sport after 1938. With the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 to 1945 it is likely that shooting of any kind would not have been viewed as a thing to do until at least after the war had ended in 1945.

In 1955, BMNI had vested land on Divis and Black Mountain hence Game Shooting would have been most unlikely. It would therefore seem that Game Shooting came to an end in Divis and very likely Black Mountain in 1938.

Apart from the brief spell between the years 1929 and 1933, when the cottage seems to have been rendered uninhabitable as mentioned above, Sammy Lyttle appears to have had an unbroken tenure in the cottage under what would have been the going terms of remuneration for a Game Keeper in c1900 with such terms exemplified in a letter of acceptance dated *23 Feb. 1897* and sent by one *James McClean*, the successful applicant for the post of Game Keeper at Clandeboye, to *Lord Dufferin at Clandeboye* which reads:- "*wages £70 a year, house, suit of cloths, coals and the keep of a cow, with further rise in wages in a year or so if I give Lord Dufferin satisfaction*". The keep of a cow might explain the entry in the 1901 Census which nominates one of the Out-Buildings as a "*Cow House*"

What subsequently became of Sammy Lyttle, the Game Keeper, after the 1933 General Valuation mentioned above, or perhaps after 1938 when Game Keeping on the mountain appears to have ceased, is presently unknown.

Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td

Conclusions

What appears to be an insignificant ruin of 1000sq ft., cottage does in fact provide an important link to the life of the Divis and Black Mountain area of North Belfast and important events in Northern Ireland at the beginning and early years of the 20th century.

Recommendations for further work.

This monument should be marked perhaps with an information board placed on the National Trust Divis and Black Mountain Trail close to where the ruin is situated as shown in figure 2 above.

Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td

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Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland (OSNI)

Online Map Shop, Historical Maps 1:10,000 Metric Scale Irish Grid (1957 -1986), web link:-
<https://mapshop.nidirect.gov.uk/Catalogue/Digital-products/Historical-products>

Public Records Office for Northern Ireland (PRONI):-

	PRONI Reference	Description:-
PRONI 1	OS/6/1/60/2	Co Antrim, 6 inch to 1 mile series map - Revision 1
PRONI 2	OS/10/1/60/11/1	Co Antrim, 25 inch to 1 mile series map, Surveyed, 1894
PRONI 3	OS/10/1/60/11/2	Co Antrim, 25 inch to 1 mile series map, Surveyed, 1894, Revised 1901
PRONI 4	OS/10/1/60/11/3	Co Antrim, 25 inch to 1 mile series map, Surveyed, 1894, Revised 1920
PRONI 5	OS/10/1/60/11/4	Co Antrim, 25 inch to 1 mile series map, Surveyed, 1894, Revised 1931
PRONI 6	OS/10/1/60/11/5	Co Antrim, 25 inch to 1 mile series map, Surveyed, 1894, Revised 1937
PRONI 7	Val/12/A/7/A/13	Belfast Rural District No.1 – Valuers Note Book Vol. 2, p20
PRONI 8	VAL/3/D/1/9/C/21	First Northern Ireland General Revaluation Records - Serial No. 323, dated 27/3/1933
PRONI 9	VAL/12/B/5/3D	Primary Valuation of Ireland Revision "D", 1897 to 1909

1901 Census, The National Archives of Ireland - for Divis & Black Mountain Td's:-

<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1901/Antrim/Ballygomartin>

Last viewed:- 18th May 2016

1911 Census, The National Archives of Ireland - for Divis & Black Mountain Td's:-

<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1911/Antrim/Ballygomartin>

Last viewed:- 18th May 2016

Wikipedia:-

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/RMS_Titanic

last viewed on 16/05/2016

Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td

PPENDIX 1

Belfast Rural District No.1 – Valuers Note Book Vol. 2, p20;
New House, 1900 (PRONI 7)

20. *New House*
Electoral Div. *Ballygomartin* _____ Ward.
Town of _____ Street
Townland of *Black Mountain*
Reference to Map *Dist. 60. Lot 2 a*
Occupier. *John D Barbour*
Immediate Lessor *Infer*
Description of Property *Game keeper's cottage Black Mountain*
Full-Rent,
Ground Rent,
Cost of construction
Reputed Price if purchased,
How held,
If Lease, length of term and fine if any,
Expenditure by Occupier,
Repairs and Improvements, by whom done *None*
Taxes, by whom paid, *None*

SKETCH PLAN OF BUILDINGS.
(Index Letters for each block.)

Parallels $\frac{1}{2}$ of an Inch.

INDEX LETTER	DESCRIPTION OF WALLS. Rubble, Masonry, Brick, Hammered Work, &c.	ROOF. Slate, Tiles, Corrd. Iron, Thatch.	DIMENSIONS.			CUBICAL CONTENTS	ESTIMATE PER C.F.	ESTIMATED TOTAL £
			LENGTH	BREADTH	HEIGHT			
a	Am.	S	30	18	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	8370	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	95
b	"	Boch.	6	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	9	243	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	3
c	"	S	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	16	5	520	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	3
d	"	CS	12	5	6	360	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	5
e	"	"	16	5	6	480	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	5
f	Rem.	S.	9	8	7	504	2 $\frac{3}{4}$	6
g								112
h								

General Remarks. *3% on Cost Cost 3.7.0*
less 5% 0.10.0
Remote situation 2.17.0

Valuation fixed at £ *2.15.0* ✓

Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td

APPENDIX 2
 First Northern Ireland General Revaluation Records
 Serial No. 323, p1, dated 27/3/1933 (PRONI 8)

20/4/34 Job
 SURVEYED VALUED 27/3/33

E.D. } BALLYGOMARTIN TLD. } BLACK MOUNTAIN		O.S. 60		LIST NO. 0		SERIAL NO. 323				
WARD } } ST. }		PAGE								
MAP NO	LOCAL NO	OCCUPIER		IMMEDIATE LESSOR		DESCRIPTION				
2a		Saml. Lyttle		John D. Barbour		Gamekeeper's H. & O.				
2Ba						H.O.V.L.				
TOTAL AREA OF HEREDITAMENTS		VALUATION								OBSERVATIONS.
		AGRICULTURAL		INDUSTRIAL		F. T.		HEREDS. NOT		
A.	R. P.	LAND	BUILDINGS	HEREDS.	HEREDS.	HEREDS.	DISTINGUISHED	E.		
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	
							5 0	5	10	2/20
1	1 24		10				2 15	2	15	Appliment Papers
										See also V.O. No 7
FRONTAGE..... Ft.....		INS. ACCOMMODATION 1 R. K. Sec. 1B. / 2B.		STANDARD.....		VAL. (OCC. OWNER) £.....				
RENT & TENURE		Rent free - Employee G.T. St. Rm. Km. Secty. occupied by Gamekeeper. 1 st . 20/11/33								
Situated on top of mountain unapproached by road about 2 mls. from 'Bus route. N.O., F.R.										
Estimated free Rent 4/3 pw. Scale Val. £ 5. 0. 0										

R.V.I.

Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td

APPENDIX 2 contd.
(PRONI:- VAL/3/D/1/9/C/21 Serial No. 323, p2,)

REFCE	DESCRIPTION OF		DIMENSIONS			CONTENTS cubic ft	PRICE	EST ^d COST £	SIZES	Sq Yds	PRICE	VALUATION £	SKETCH PLAN
	BLOCK	WALLS&ROOF	F	D	H								
a.	H	Rms	30	18	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	8370	2 $\frac{3}{4}$		1 $\frac{2}{3}$	100	✓		
b	Porch	"	6	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	9	243			1	3	✓		
c	Coals.	" S	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	16	5	520			1	13	✓		
d	Kennel	W CI	12	5	6	360	1 $\frac{1}{2}$		1	6	✓		
e	"	- -	16	5	6	480			1	8	✓		
f	H.	Rms.	9	8	7	504	2 $\frac{3}{4}$		1	8	✓		
g	Kennel	W.C.P.	6	5	5				1	3	✓		
	House								111	10	4. 12		
	Sheds.								30	4	10		
										2	5. 2		
										say 2	5/10		

1900
REVⁿ

Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td

APPENDIX 3**PHOTOGRAPH RECORD FORM****Site:** Game Keeper's Cottage, Black Mountain Td, Co. Antrim**Date:** 30th May 2015

Make and model of camera:- <i>RICOH Caplio 500Gwide</i>		
Frame no	Direction viewed	Details
RIMG0001	Looking SW	Game Keeper's Cottage Site
RIMG0002 & 3	Looking SE	Game Keeper's Cottage Site
RIMG0004	Looking NW	Game Keeper's Cottage Site
RIMG0005 to 33	various	Cottage ruin close-ups