

Conservation of Traditional Stone Barn

Annagh, Ballymacward, Ballinasloe, Co Galway.



John and Terry Hanlon, Annagh House, Ballymacward, would like to acknowledge
co- funding of this project from

The Heritage Council's GLAS Traditional Farm Building Grant Scheme

Locational Information

Name and Address	Annagh townland, Ballymacward, Co.
of Building:	Galway.
Description:	Barn to south-west of dwelling house.
O S Map No.:	Sheet Galway 073
Forms of Protection:	Not Protected.



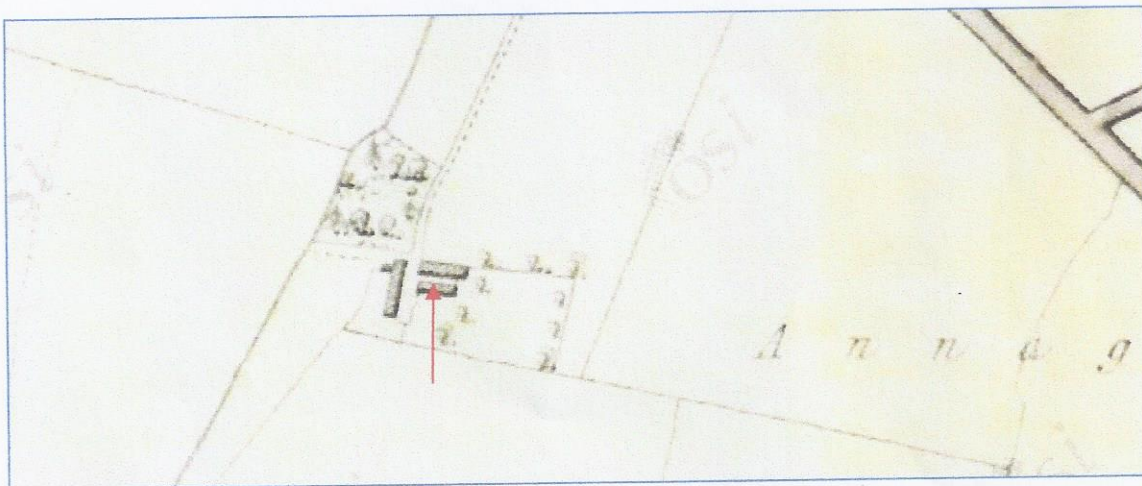
Plate 1 Barn building, prior to the conservation works commencing.

Historical Information

The stable building is located in the townland of Annagh, in the parish of Ballymacward and the barony of Kilconnell. The name Annagh is derived from the Irish *Eanach*, meaning marsh or cut out bog. There are three Recorded Monuments in the townland, comprising a ringfort (RMP No. GA073-005), a burial mound (RMP No. GA073-007) and the site of an enclosure (RMP No. GA073-006), which is located to the north of Annagh House.

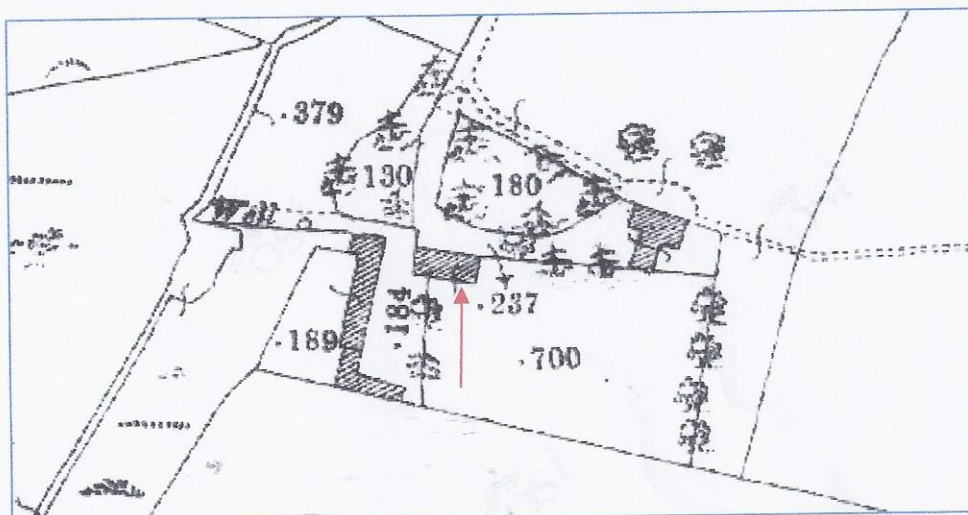
Annagh House, Ballymacward, is a late-nineteenth century building (c. 1862) with early to mid-nineteenth century outbuildings to the south-west located in Annagh townland. The First Edition OS Map (1838) shows three rectangular buildings, one of which is the subject stables building, on the site to the west of Annagh Hill (Illus. 2).

Griffiths Valuation, 1855, shows the outbuildings, which are described as offices, in the possession of William Hussion and in the ownership of Rep. John Usher (15a on Illus. 4). The Second Edition OS Map (1890-98) shows Annagh House to the east of an altered set of outbuildings (Illus. 3). One of the outbuildings shown on the First Edition OS Map had been removed by the time the Second Edition was surveyed and another was altered to form a long range to the west. The stables appears unaltered in terms of plan-form. Annagh House was first named on the Cassini Edition Map (1940s). This house was derelict for some years before current owner, John Hanlon and his family restored it in 1980.



Illus. 2 Site Location Map. Extract of First Edition OS Map, GA073, 1838.

© Government of Ireland.



Illus. 3 Site Location Map. Extract of Second Edition OS Map, GA106, 1897-1913.

© Government of Ireland.



Illus. 4 Extract from Griffith's Valuation, 1855.

Building Description

The stable building is located on the southern side of a surfaced yard to the south-west of Annagh House. It comprises a five-bay, two-storey stone-built structure, with a pitched roof of natural slate. The slates to the front pitch are largely of the same size throughout but the slates immediately below the ridge to the rear pitch are much smaller than those lower down on the same pitch and they are irregularly spaced.

The ground floor facade is dominated by two large carriage arches at either end, both having brick to the segmental arches.



Plate 2 Stable building, from south, prior to works commencing.



Plate 3 West gable of stable building, prior to works commencing.

Internally the ground floor is divided in two by a rendered wall that runs north-south from the front wall. In the eastern half of the stable, which measures 3.63m east-west and is 4.35m in width, there is a loft floor over the ground floor stable but the loft floor to the western half of the building has been removed. There is well preserved parging to the slates in the smaller barn and there is evidence of parging in the main barn, but it was poorly preserved. The main barn measures 10.15m east-west and is 4.35m in width. The Wildlife Survey carried out by Pat Roberts showed evidence of bats in the small barn only.

Monitoring of Conservation Works

Site visits have been undertaken on five occasions over the course of the works, on 13th and 25th September, 12th October, 5th November and 16th November, giving at total employment benefit to the writer of 25 hours. The floor area of the main barn is 44.15m² and the floor area of the smaller barn is 15.79 m².

The work carried out during the project are as follows:

The building was completely scaffolded to facilitate the works. The small barn at the eastern end of the building was the subject of some minor works but the main barn on the western side of the building was extensively conserved.

Loft

Prior to the works commencing there was no floor to the loft in the main barn. New ceiling joists were erected and marine grade plywood was fixed to them to form the new loft floor (Plates 6-7). A timber stairs was added to the western end of the building, giving access from the interior of the ground floor (Plates 4-5). In the small barn to the east, the existing 9" x 1" timber floor boards were removed due to their poor condition and the loft was re-floored with like in new treated timber boards. The timber planks to the first floor doorway in the western gable were replaced with a hinged timber plank door, which was fitted with a galvanised pad bolt to ensure it can be locked for safety. A new louvered timber window was fitted to the ope in this western gable on the ground floor.

Roof

Slates were first stripped from the roof of the main barn on both the front and rear pitches and the timbers were examined by the building contractor. They were seen to be in an advanced state of decay. The existing rafters were removed and replaced with rafters, 125 x 44mm, which was treated (Plates 8-12). Battens of 3" x 1" were used, cut down from 6" x 1" pressure-treated timber. The roof was then re-slatted using existing slates and slates from salvage elsewhere. Slates were not removed from the small barn and no roof timbers were replaced there during the works.

Parging

Lime parging was applied to the underside of all the slates in the main barn (Plates 14-17). A small amount of parging was added to areas where earlier parging had fallen away in the small barn (Plates 13 and 18), mainly on slates abutting the internal dividing wall between the barns, on the western side of the small barn. A lime mix of 1:2½ was used, comprising NHL 2 lime and sharp sand, with a 3mm grit. The lime mix also included some animal hair (tail clippings) and commercially-sourced synthetic fibre. The parging mortar was well mixed and applied in ideal conditions (10°C-12°C, in soft misty weather). As a result the lime went off without needing any additional protective coverings.

Photographic Record of Works

Photos taken 13th September, 2018



Plate 4 Stairs and ceiling joists, viewed from front of barn.

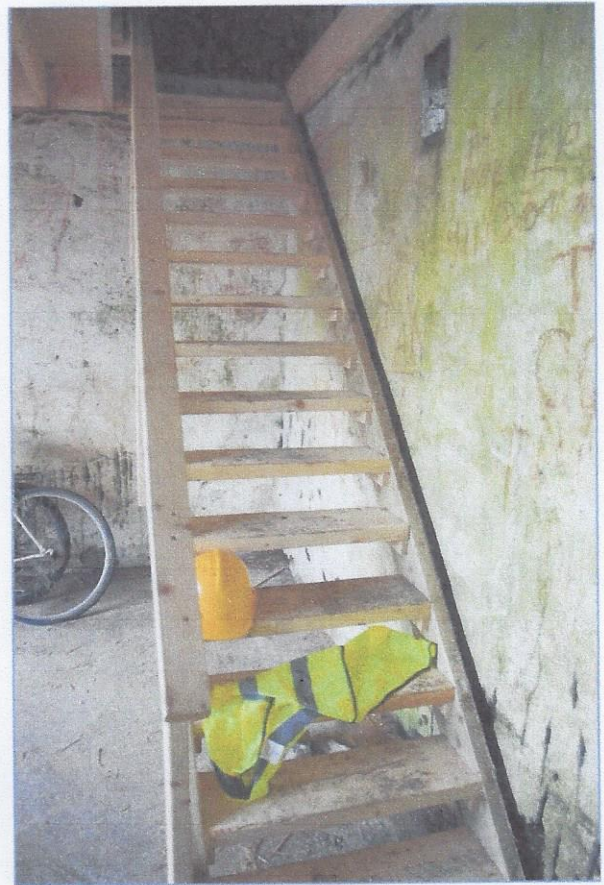
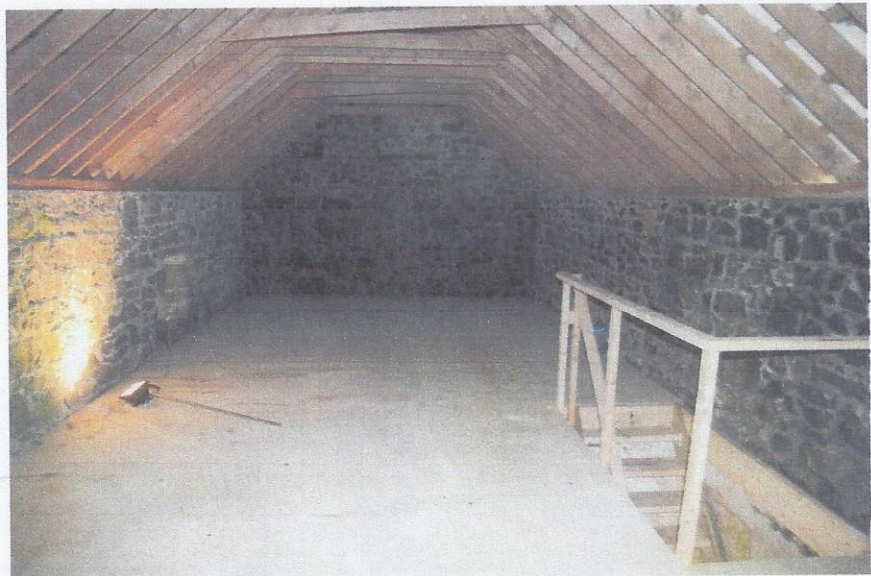


Plate 5 New Stairs to first floor.

Plate 6 First floor, looking east, prior to re-roofing.



**Plate 7 First floor,
looking west, prior to
re-roofing.**

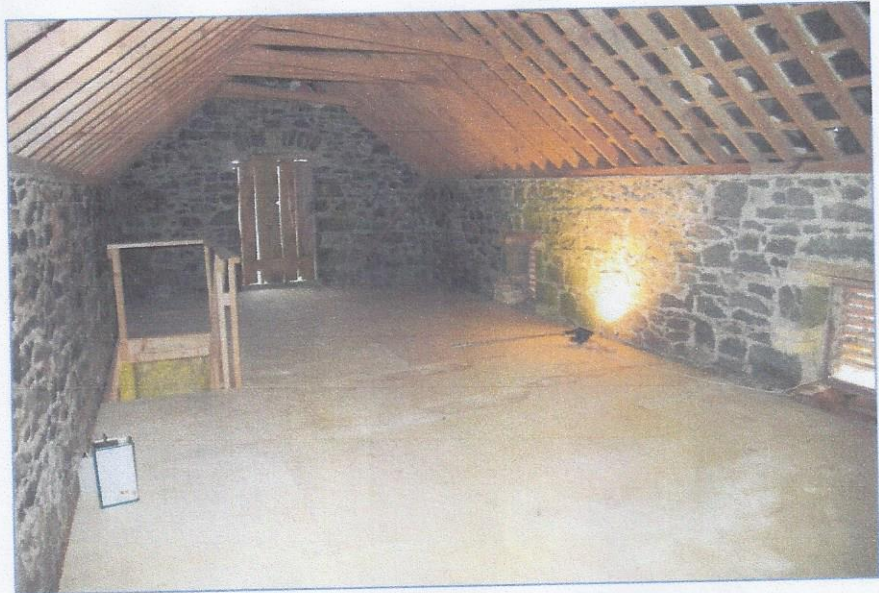


Photo taken 25th September.

**Plate 8 New rafters
and cross ties.**



**Plate 9 New rafters to building,
from front.**



Photos taken 12th October, 2018

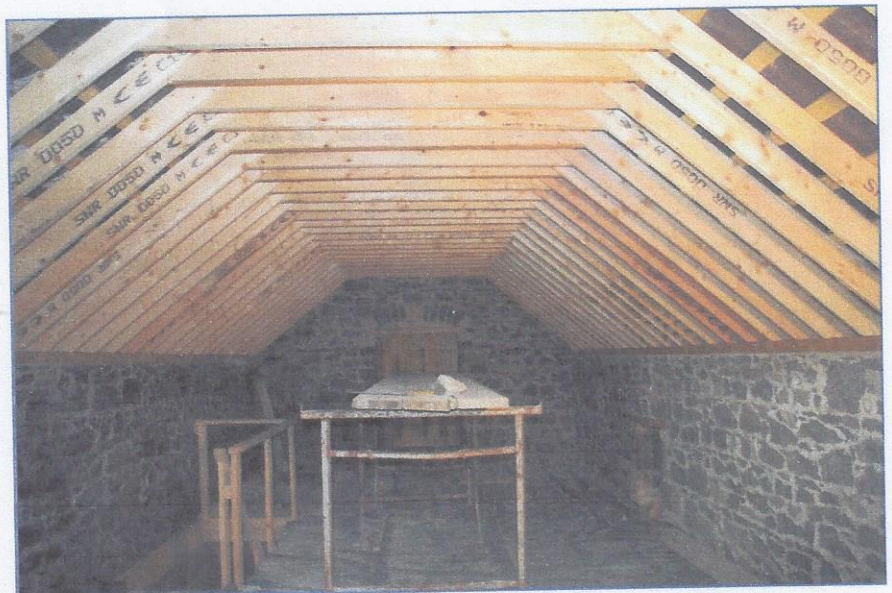
**Plate 10 Re-slating complete,
from front.**



**Plate 11 Re-slating complete,
from rear.**



**Plate 12 Interior, main barn,
following completion of
slating.**



**Plate 13 Interior, small barn,
showing no alteration.**



Photos taken 5th November, 2018

**Plate 14 Freshly applied
parging, main barn.**



Plate 15 Parging, during application.



Photos taken 16th November, 2018

Plate 16 Parging, rear pitch, main barn, following completion.



Plate 17 Interior of main barn, looking east, following completion.

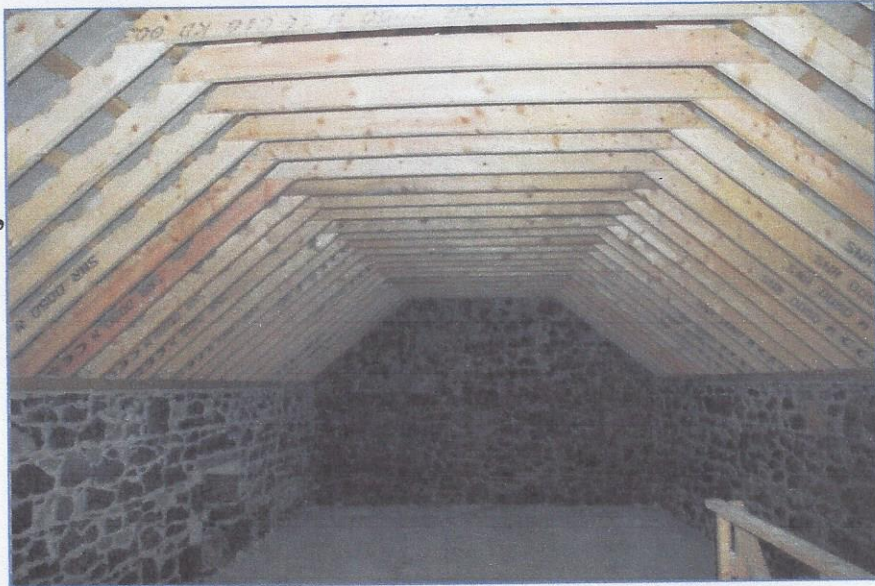


Plate 18 Interior of small barn, showing patching to parging, following completion.





Plate 19 Front elevation of barn, following completion.



Plate 20 West gable, following completion.



Plate 21 East gable, following completion.



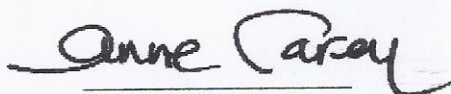
Plate 22 Rear of building, following completion of works.

Conclusions

Conservation works to a two-storey traditional stone barn were undertaken over a nine-week period, from mid-September to mid-November, 2018. The works were carried out by Frank Colleevey, Building Contractor and Michael and John Mullins, Stonemasons, with the assistance of John Hanlon, owner of the building, to specifications agreed with Ms Anna Meenan, Heritage Council, following the submission of an application for the Heritage Council's GLAS Traditional Farm Building Grant Scheme.

The works comprised the replacement of decayed roof timbers to the front and rear pitches of the main stone barn. The condition of the existing battens, rafters and cross ties were found to be very poor following stripping of the roof slates and the timbers were replaced. The existing poorly preserved loft floor to the small barn to the east was replaced with a new timber floor, using 9" by 1" timber boards. A new marine ply floor was constructed in the main barn and access via a timber stairs was provided to the first floor loft space from the ground floor.

The works to the two-storey stone barn have brought back into use a spacious loft area in the main barn and upgraded the existing loft space in the small barn. The poor condition to the roof to the main barn required that it be removed but the replacement of the original slates and the extensive parging internally have enhanced both the appearance and the functionality of the building.


Anne Carey

John and Terry Hanlon, owners of the building, wish to thank Anna Meenan, Heritage Council, Anne Carey, Archaeological and Historic Buildings Consultant, Pat Roberts, Ecologist, Frank Colleevey, Building Contractor, Michael and John Mullins, Stonemasons and Tom Seale, Woodlawn Heritage Group.

Ann Carey, MA, MUBC, MIAI, Archaeological and Historic Buildings Consultant , will give a talk on this project on site, on Saturday 12th October 2019 at 12mid-day.