

# St Teresa/Craigmore: an Historic Landscape Assessment of its Lands and Environs



John Olley  
BEng (Sheffield) PhD (Cambridge)

October 2021

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# St Teresa/Craigmore an Historic Landscape Assessment of its Lands and Environs

## 1. Introduction

This report has been commissioned by Oakmount to form part of the documentation for a planning submission for the site of St Teresa's House in Blackrock. The site represents a large part of the grounds that constituted the small demesne that was the setting for Craigmore House, built in 1862. It is situated on Temple Road, Blackrock with an entrance at the junction with Newtown Avenue. Parts of the original lands of Craigmore have been lost to development and to amenity provision. To the west, an Alzheimer's unit now occupies the walled garden, and nearby bordering a watercourse is a small residential development. To the north, land was lost through the upgrading of Temple Road to a dual carriageway as part of the creation of the Blackrock Village bypass. To the south, some lands have become part of the public Rockfield Park. (Figure 1.1)



Figure 1.1 Location of St Teresa's and the site plan of proposals

Currently in the southern end of Rockfield Park there are a number of large outcrops of granite. In addition, at the southwestern extremity of the St Teresa's site there is an area containing out crops of granite. The physical nature of the land gave the name to Rockfield, the townland and the name of a modest demesne and its house. The original name of St Teresa's house was Craigmore, an Anglicisation of the Irish, *Creig Mór* – large rock. This is within the area where places, townlands, houses and villas took on names that were descriptive of the physical location or its experience.

Thus the town of Blackrock got its name from the physical feature of outcrops of limestone calp on the original foreshore . The outcrops turned black when wetted by the sea. These have all but disappeared consumed for lime manufactured in nearby kilns and the remainder removed with construction of the Dublin to Kingston Railway in the 1830s.<sup>1</sup>

## 2. Early Development of Blackrock



Figure 2.1 In the 17th Century the parish of Monkstown stretched along the coast from Booterstown to Dalkey. Down Survey Parish Map of Monkstown and Kill 1654. (TCD)

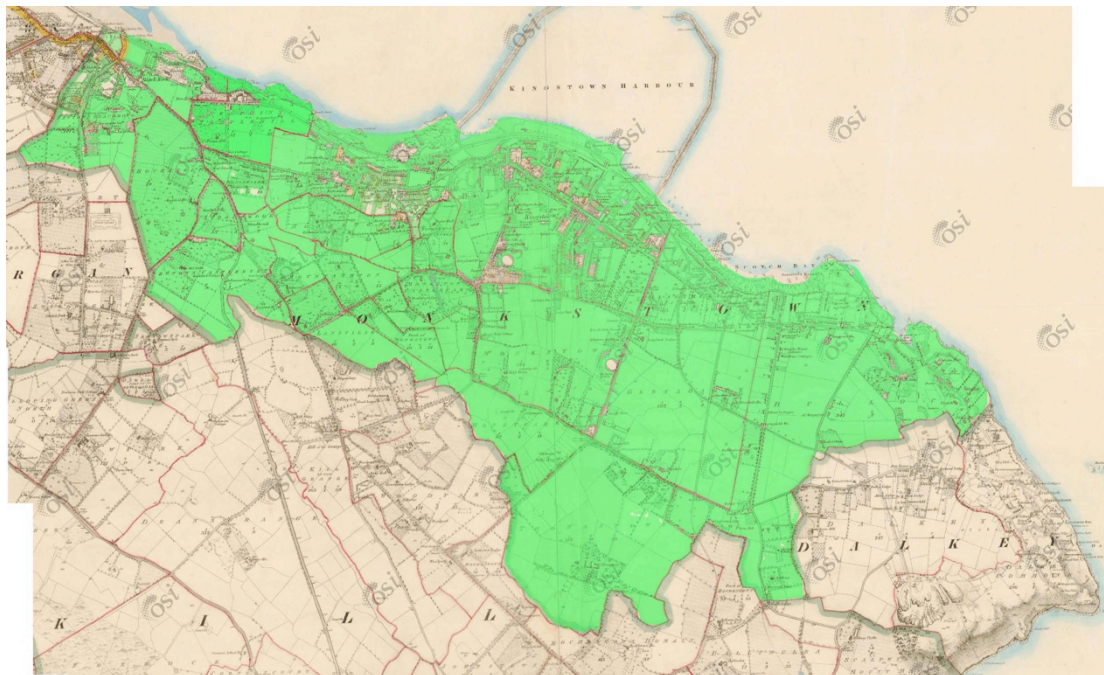


Figure 2.2 In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Monkstown Parish (shaded green) stretched along the coast from Blackrock to the boundary of Dalkey Parish shown here on the 1837 OSi Map

<sup>1</sup> The rocks and a kiln are shown on a painting and engraving dated 1744, see figure below



Blackrock, County Dublin is located in the parish of Monkstown that stretches along the coast as far as Dalkey. (Figure 2.1 & 2.2) Although in existence since the Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland, the extent and boundaries of the parish may well have already existed. The remains of a pre-Norman church at Kill of the Grange and on Dalkey Island with the characteristic antae on the west face and the early church site adjacent to Monkstown Castle each signals this likelihood.<sup>2</sup> A substantial part of this parish then called Carrickbrenan was in the possession of St Mary's Abbey before the Norman invasion in 1169. The thirteenth century saw the gift of more lands to the abbey between 1206 and 1235 of "that part of Stillorgan which lay next to the sea".<sup>3</sup> This is the area that today can be identified with Blackrock. The manors of Carrickbrenan and Bullock had been sublet to lay concerns and were probably further sub-divided. The harbour at Bullock was of great importance as a route into Dublin for people arriving to Ireland and for commerce. Bullock was also important for fishing. To secure this, a tower house was built at Bullock. It seems plausible that the "castles" that existed along the coast towards Dublin were for security of that route and the coastline. They would have been conspicuous seen from the sea on approach from the east an important show of defence for the arm of the Pale reaching to Bullock Harbour.

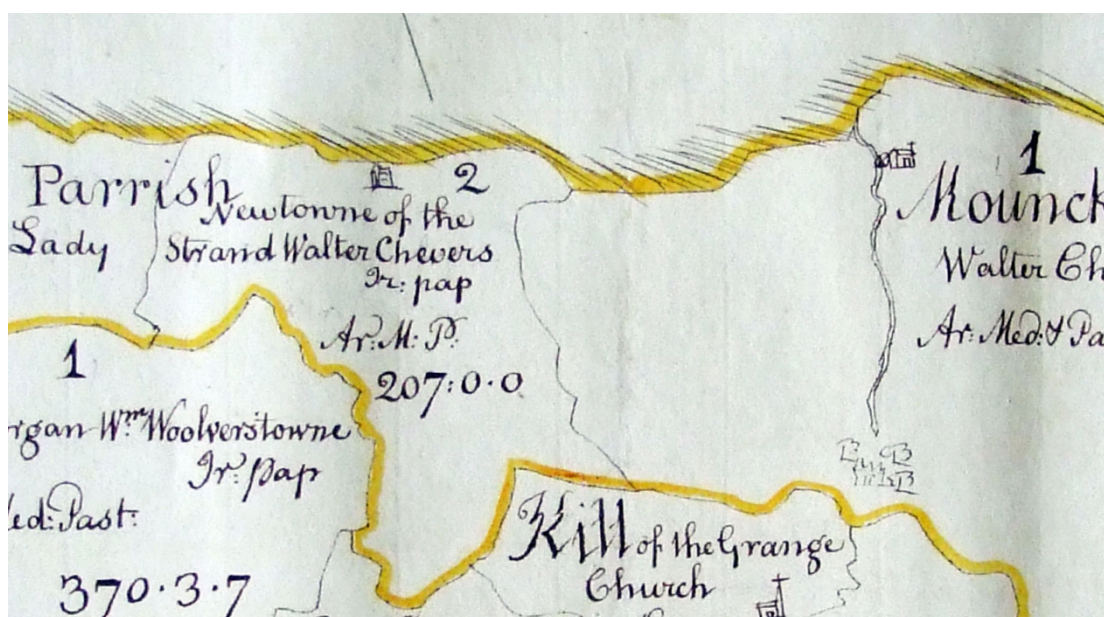


Figure 2.3 Detail of the Down Survey, showing at the coast the castle at Newtown, Blackrock, then called Newtown of the Strand. (TCD)

These Castles seen from the sea, guarding the route from Bullock to Dublin may have also been local centres of the sub-tenanted manor of Carrickbrenan (Monkstown) as they managed the immediate hinterland. The Down Survey Map of the 1650s of the Parish of Monkstown shows a castle located somewhere between Temple Hill and Seapoint, at a location of high ground before the land drops steeply down to the rocky shore now the site of the railway. (Figure 2.3) The overlay of the Down Survey Map of Monkstown Parish onto the 1837 OS Map gives a convincing match that puts the

<sup>2</sup> Margaret Murphy and Michael Potterton, *Dublin Region in the Middle Ages*. (2010) ch .7

<sup>3</sup> C. Ó Conbhuí, "The Lands of St Mary's Abbey, Dublin" *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy: Archaeology, Culture, History, Literature*, 1961-1963, vol. 62, p.24.







The Castle, a conspicuous landmark along the coast, as well as appearing on the Down Survey Map, it also continued to be indicated on charts of Dublin Bay. It is clearly identified on the Collins Chart, published in 1693. (Figure 2.5)



Figure 2.6 View of Blackrock, Engraving after a painting by William Jones 1744 (NLI)



Figure 2.7 View from Strand Road Sandymount showing from left to right the three hills, Dalkey, Killiney and Roches (ARC)

The castle also appears in an engraving from a painting by William Jones of c.1744. (Figure 2.6) Although the vertical dimension of this image is greatly exaggerated for dramatic affect, it displays a series of recognisable elements of the view. It clearly delineates the three hills, Dalkey, Killiney and Rocheshill with the obelisk (built 1742) atop Mount Mapas (Killiney Hill) at the centre. (Figure 2.7) It shows the Black Rocks sheltering a bathing place and a limekiln that is presumably devouring the rocks. (Figure 2.8) And it identifies *Newtown Bourn* a settlement within a bawn with the tower of the castle prominent. (Figure 2.9) Referring to the engraving, Erlington Ball points out “a small town, had been built, and in a lease of that period the square of Newtown is mentioned”.<sup>5</sup> Rocque’s Map of 1760 apparently shows a collection of buildings around an open space including one at the probable location of the castle. (Figure 2.10)

<sup>5</sup> Francis Erlington Ball, *A History of the County Dublin* (1902) p.14





Figure 2.8 Detail of the 1744 engraving of painting of Blackrock by William Jones showing bathing places between the black rocks and at the top right the limekiln.



Figure 2.9 Detail of the 1744 engraving of painting of Blackrock by William Jones showing *Newtown Bourn* with the tower of the castle to the left.

Following the dissolution of the monasteries and by the time of the Down Survey and Civil Survey of 1654, the lands of Monkstown parish had passed to Walter Cheevers. As a catholic, Cheevers was dispossessed yet was able to regain his lands later. These lands were bordered respectively to the west and south, by the large Fitzwilliam Estate of the centred on Merrion and absorbing Booterstown, and by Stillorgan centred on Stillorgan Castle.





Figure 2.10 Detail of the Rocque Map of County Dublin, 1760. Indicated are the square of Newtown adjacent to the site of the castle; the near octagon of the deerpark of Stillorgan Demesne; the location of Rockfield Demesne, apparently containing woodland and the future site of Craigmore at the northern end of the demesne. Note also the watercourse feeding the fish ponds and then passing through the deerpark and apparently its course manipulated as it approached and passes by Blackrock and Newtown. (*UCD Digital Library*)

By the eighteenth century, the lands of western end of Monkstown Parish had become divided in to smaller parcels while Stillorgan and Merrion became the site of large demesnes with grand landscape designs. Stillorgan House, a seventeenth house of modest proportions saw the development of a grand early eighteenth-century designed landscape with input from the architect, Edward Lovett Pearce probably assisted by Richard Castle. (Figure 2.10) A stream ran through the demesne feeding three fish ponds then passing by walled gardens and on through the deerpark before making its way down to Blackrock and the sea. The near octagonal geometry of the deerpark is still clearly visible in aerial photographs and many sections survive as boundary walls within the dense twentieth-century residential development. One side of the octagon, had straightened the parish boundary and the accompanying small watercourse

became the border with what later became Rockfield Demesne and townland. (Figures 2.4 & 2.10) The Rocque map suggests that in the mid-eighteenth century Rockfield was wooded to a large extent.

Both Mount Merrion and Stillorgan Houses and Demesnes commanded expansive views down to the coast and across Dublin Bay.<sup>6</sup> By the mid-eighteenth century a number of villas appear closer to the coast as the fashion for sea bathing and the idea of its and the sea air's health benefits.<sup>7</sup> The County Dublin map by John Rocque of 1760 show separate bathing places for men and women along the coast. (Figures 2.8 & 2.11)



Figure 2.11 Detail of the Rocque Map of County Dublin, 1760 note the separate bathing places for men and women. (UCD Digital Library)

Frescati was built c.1729 for the Provost of Trinity College on land of the Fitzwilliam Estate. The house and gardens were further developed by Emily, Duchess of Leinster from 1766. Lissaniskea was built c.1746 and later in the 18<sup>th</sup> century it was extended with a wing looking out to sea and bows at either end facilitating views northwest and southeast along the coast. (Figure 2.12)

A neighbour of Craigmore, bounded by the stream and townland boundary is St Joseph's built c. 1750 and originally known as Prospect House. (Figure 2.13) Its name leaves no doubt of its siting on an eminence and asserting the importance of the views of Dublin Bay and the distant view of Howth Head. It too had a plan with bays

<sup>6</sup> See for instance the views in Finola O'Kane's *William Ashford's Mount Merrion*, (2012) pp.15-17

<sup>7</sup> See for instance Richard Russell, *A Dissertation Concerning the Use of Sea Water* (1753)



to the north west and south east giving views towards the skyline of the centre of Dublin and towards Killiney Hill and its Obelisk (built 1742) respectively. It was later to receive an enlarged entrance wing giving an overall footprint of a double-stacked form with rectangular element attached to the double-bowed wing whose main façade gave the prospect of the sea.



Figure 2.12 Lissaniskea Detail of 1955 oblique aerial photograph of Blackrock (NLI)



Figure 2.13 Prospect House later called St Joseph's seen from the ground floor of Craigmole House (St Teresa's) today with a service block tacked onto the seaward side.

Perhaps more spectacular were the pair of houses that were positioned on the cliffs above the sea, Blackrock House and its neighbour Maretimo both dating from c. 1774. Both developed impressive designed setting with terraces, summerhouses and paths down to the waters edge where a bathing pavilion and harbour were created. (Figure 2.14)

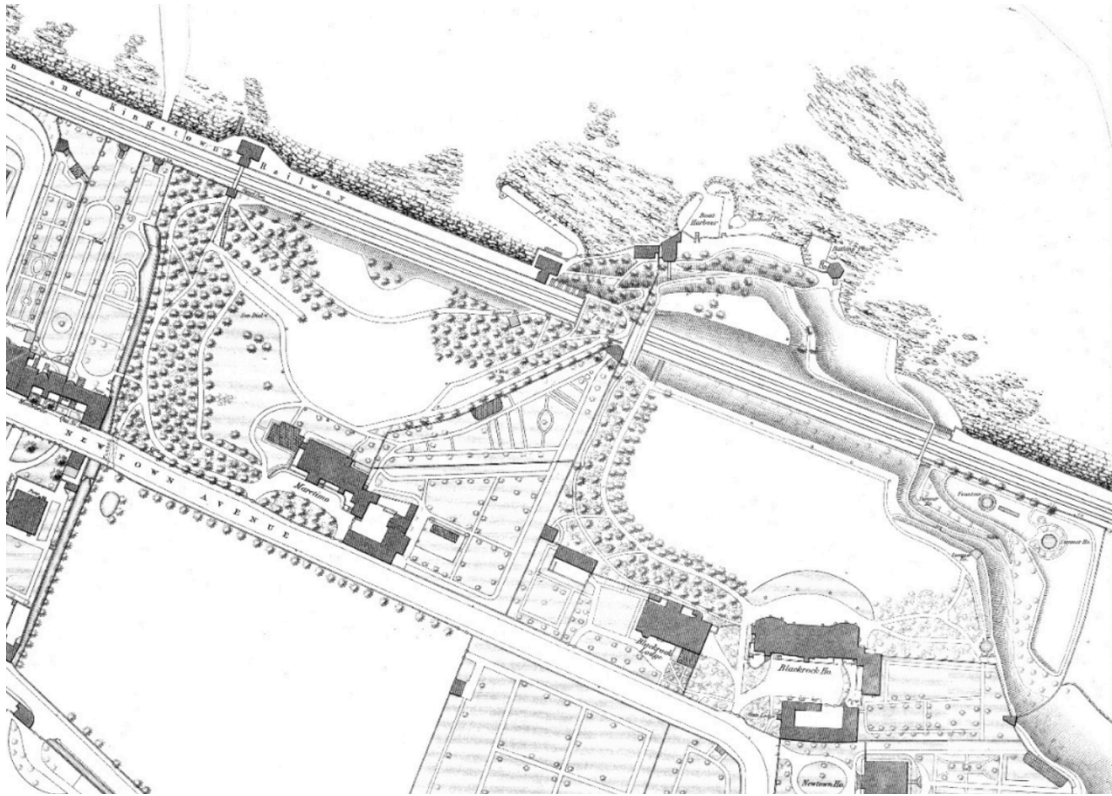


Figure 2.14 Maretime and Blackrock House and their coastal terraced gardens in 1867 (*UCD Digital Library*)



### 3. Blackrock and the Quaker Community

In 1834 the Dublin to Kingstown (Dun Laoghaire) railway was opened. This increased the possibility of living in Blackrock and commuting daily to Dublin for business. It also brought more day-trippers or those staying in boarding houses. The railway was to initiate a transformation of the shoreline and the nature of the foreshore as well as the transformation of Blackrock and its surroundings.

The railway's construction was partly financed by the Pim family. Thomas Pim of Monkstown House became the first chair of the Dublin and Kingston Railway Company. The Pims, a Quaker family, were very successful businessmen, industrialists and prominent philanthropists. They were behind the establishment of the Friends Meeting House in Monkstown designed by George Papworth in 1832. Thomas's brother James Pim acquired Monkstown Castle and demesne in 1838. By then there was a new Monkstown Castle, a classical house with D-ends, possibly also designed by George Papworth c.1829. (Figure 3.1) It was adapted in 1838 with an addition of a porch by the architect, John Skipton Mulvany.<sup>8</sup> The house had an entrance hall that led into a sky-lit stair hall. To either side of the hall were rooms with the bowed ends. The house looked to the northeast across the demesne with its substantial lake/fish pond to the sea beyond Dun Laoghaire. (Figure 3.2). In 1738 James Pim had commissioned Ninian Niven to produce a design to create a public amenity of the demesne park. The proposal contained a botanic garden, a hilltop observatory as a centrepiece for the gardens, a galleried palm house, an American garden, a pinetum, willow-hung islands in the lake and dripping cliffs. This ambitious landscape with its potential educational role was never executed but the proposals were published.<sup>9</sup>



Figure 3.1 Monkstown Castle built c.1829 possibly designed by George Papworth with additions by John Skipton Mulvany 1838

<sup>8</sup> Frederick O'Dwyer, 'The architecture of John Skipton Mulvany', *Irish Architectural and Decorative Studies* 3 (2000), p.27.

<sup>9</sup> N. Niven, *Prospectus of the proposed public gardens at Monkstown Castle* (Dublin, 1839). Edward Mallins and Patrick Bowe, *Irish Gardens and Demesnes from 1830* (1980) p. 38.



Figure 3.2 Monkstown Castle and Demesne, home of James Pim from 1838 (1<sup>st</sup> edition OS Map 1837)

For Quakers, engagement with plants and botanical science was seen as a way getting to know and understand God's works. In the eighteenth century, Quakers made a considerable contribution to botanical knowledge and to the discovery and collection of plants. The Quakers, Peter Collinson and his collaborator in America, John Bartram, were responsible for the introduction of countless American species into Britain and Ireland. A fellow Quaker, William Curtis established *The Botanical Magazine* still extant and now known as the *Curtis's Botanical Magazine*. It published a series of impressive engravings of each introduced or discovered species. Also, thought by some to be a Quaker was the extremely influential, Philip Miller, curator of the Chelsea Physic Garden and the author of the *Gardener's Dictionary* first published in 1733. The *Dictionary* listed all known plants in Britain and Ireland and discussed their appropriate cultivation.

The growing Quaker community in Blackrock in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century included, as well as the Pims, members of the Bewley, Perry and Goodbody families. Thomas Bewley, whose house was Rockville, was renowned for his collection of plants and their cultivation. He had packed his modest site with glasshouses and plants, a rockery and a tropical ravine where he cultivated orchids and ferns. He sponsored plant-hunting expeditions to Peru, the Himalayas, and Java. His garden was the subject, and centrepiece of a series of garden visits to Blackrock by a correspondent of the *Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener* in 1862. A distinguished visitor to Rockville was the horticulturist, William Robinson who was later to become famous for promoting a natural approach to gardening that was to dominate fashion well into the twentieth century. He recorded his tour of the outstanding plant collection over several issues of his *Gardener's Chronicle* in June and July 1864.



Thomas Bewley of Rockville had married Rebecca Hogg from Redford, County Tyrone in 1835. Rebecca's younger brother, William Hogg already a merchant of Cole Street in Dublin was to marry Mary Pim, the daughter of Thomas Pim of Monkstown House at the Friends Meeting-House in Monkstown in 1845. Thomas Pim's nephew James Pim of Monkstown Castle had married Eliza Hogg, William's eldest sister in 1823. A number of William and Mary Hogg's children were born at Uplands, a house neighbouring the Friends Meeting House and just 500 metres from Monkstown House and Monkstown Castle. However in 1863 William Hogg was to build a new house, Craigmore. (Figure 3.3 & 3.4)



Figure 3.3 Craigmore House (St Teresa's) 2021. Built 1863 to designs by John McCurdy for William Hogg

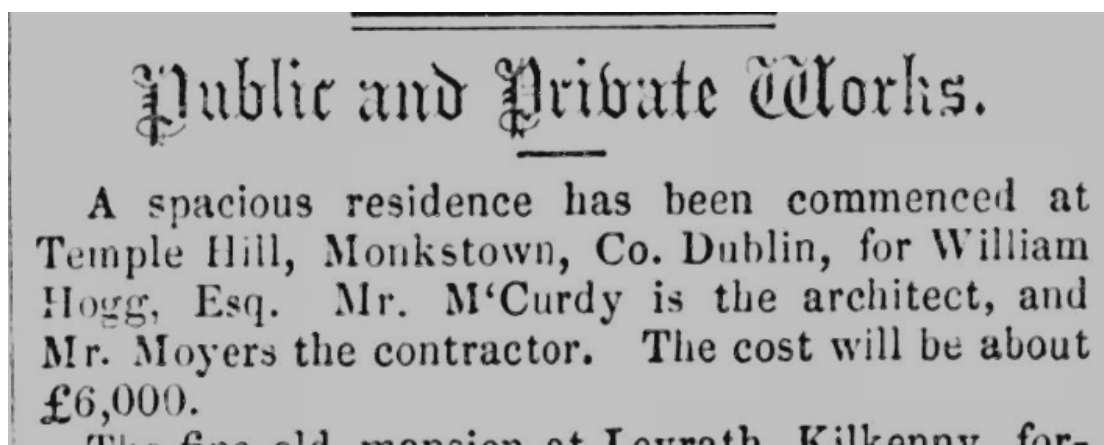


Figure 3.4 Notice in *The Dublin Builder* 1863, 5, 15<sup>th</sup> April, p.69

#### 4. Rockfield

In the early 1860s William Hogg bought the lease or title of the majority of the small demesne of Rockfield. Rockfield House was near the centre of the eastern side of its demesne hard against Newtown Park Avenue and looking south over the southern extent of the demesne laid out as parkland with a scatter of trees with some grouped on the substantial outcrops of granite. Just to the north were the walled garden and the entrance from Newtown Park Avenue. (Figure 4.1) The demesne was enclosed by a wall and a boundary planting of trees. The southern half of the western border of the site was also the boundary of the parish of Monkstown which was also the border with the deerpark of Stillorgan House. The Down survey map shows the boundary as meandering suggestive of the line of a watercourse. (Figure 2.4) A stream or other natural feature was often used to define divisions of territory. At some later date this boundary was straightened and indeed did contain a minor watercourse that continued to follow the edge of the townland and demesne in the southern section. (Figure 4.2). A service drive entered the demesne from the north from Temple Road and crossed an area of fields to arrive at the walled garden and service side of the house.



Figure 4.1 At the centre of the map is Rockfield Demesne in which the future site of Craigmore is shaded green. 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS Map 1837





Figure 4.2 Detail of Rockfield showing the boundary planting and watercourse (Map surveyed 1865 published 1868) (ARC)

The original house retained a modest, narrow area of the demesne stretching along Newtown Park Avenue but this did not include its walled garden. On acquiring the greater part of Rockfield from Robert Gray of Temple Hill, Hogg divided it across from east to west along the line of the northern edge of the walled garden and leased or sold the southern half to George Orr Wilson who proceeded to build Dunardagh and took possession of the walled garden. On the northern section of Rockfield, against Temple Road, Hogg was to construct his own house, Craigmore. The entrance to Craigmore and Dunardagh was paired at the point where the original service entrance to Rockfield had entered from Temple Road. Part of the remaining land

immediately north of the walled garden had already been acquired from Gray in 1859 by the Friends Society to become, the Friends' Cemetery.

Dunardagh was gifted to George Orr Wilson by his father, a shipping magnate of Belfast. Its name *Dun (fortress) Ardagh (high field)* could suggest that it had re-imagined the highest outcrop of granite in the demesne as an ancient fortress now overlooked by the new house. A principal room that occupies the south corner of the house aligns directly with the outcrop that, because of its prominence had been used by the Ordnance Survey as a trigonometry point.

It is not known who designed Dunardagh, although it has been suggested it was John McCurdy. McCurdy was certainly a friend of George Orr Wilson possibly through their shared interest in sailing, for McCurdy designed a yacht for Wilson. However, in 1863, John McCurdy did designed Craigmore and was probably the designer of both the lodges and the twinned gates and piers built c.1865-66 shortly after the houses were completed. (Figure 4.3)



Figure 4.3 The paired entrance gates and piers to Dunardagh and Craigmore, relocated to northern corner of the site during the creation of the Blackrock Bypass in the 1980s



## 5. Craigmore

Craigmore was built on the northern part of Rockfield Demesne an area of two fields shown on the 1837 OS map. (Figures 4.1& 5.1) The land bordering on Temple Road had been described in a late-eighteenth century survey as “Lord Clonmell’s Field”. The site was bounded on the north by Temple Road and on the west the lands of Prospect House (later to be called St’ Joseph’s). To the east was the drive to Dunardagh and to the south a field boundary. To the north and west the original Rockfield demesne wall and boundary planting enclosed the site. To the east the drive to Dunardagh was to become concealed with new planting. The site dropped down both to Temple road and to the stream that formed part of the western edge. The house was sited at the top of the rise from the north and west. To the south it looked onto a fairly flat area with a slight rise to the southeast and a local highpoint used again as an OS trigonometry point. The walled garden was built to the west of the house on the slope down towards the stream. Two service yards with building, stables, coach house etc adjoined the north side of the walled garden and approached the northwest corner of the house. (Figure 5.2)

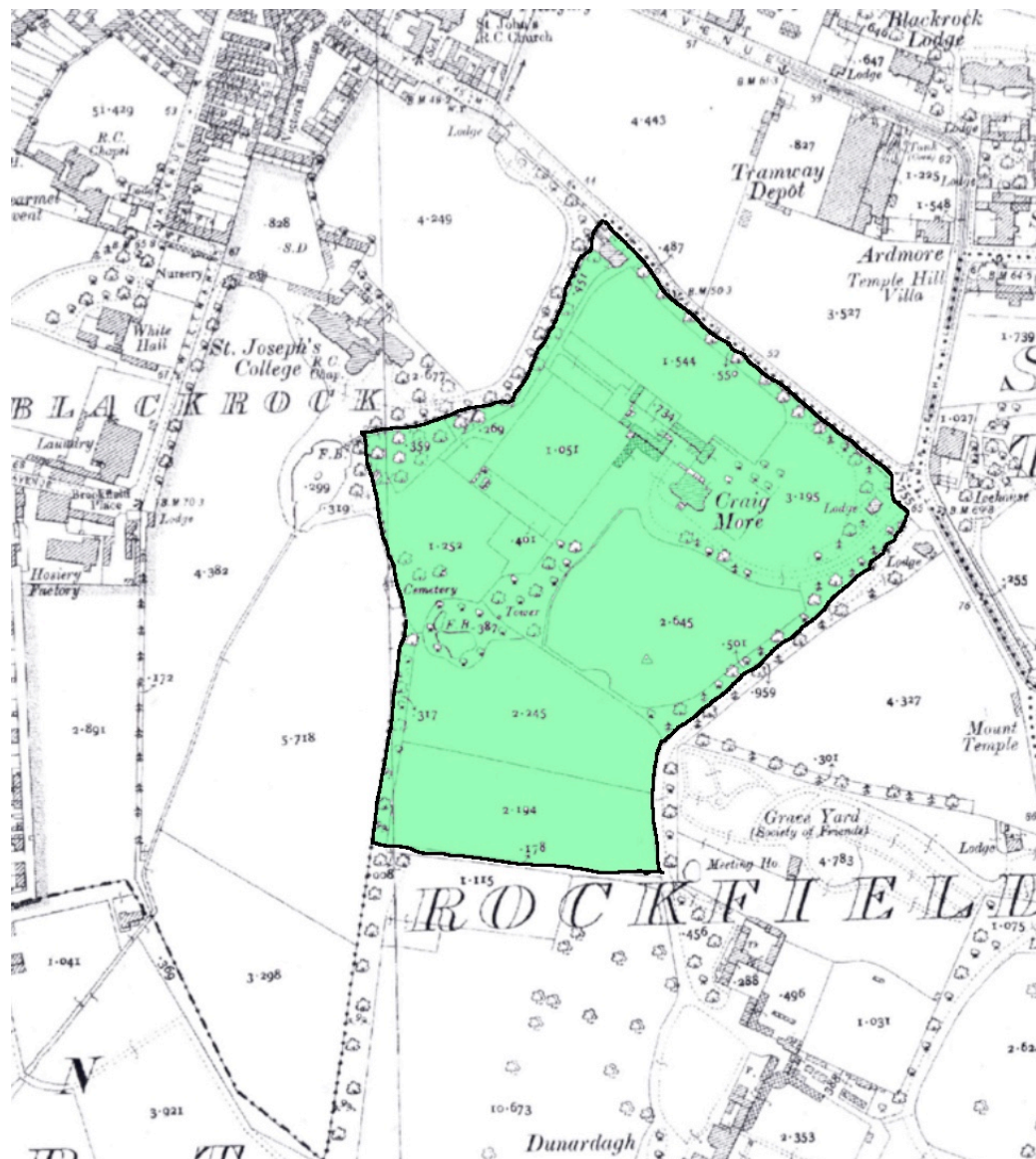


Figure 5.1 The Lands of Craigmore (shaded green) 1907, OS 25 inch Map

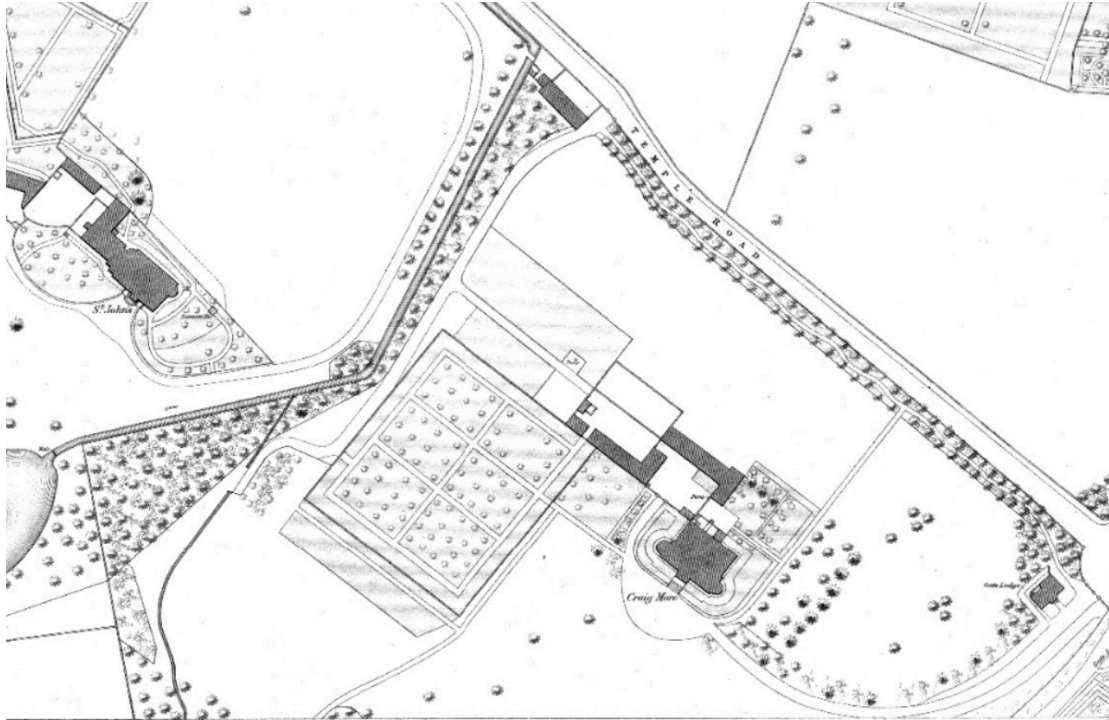


Figure 5.2 Craigmore House and formal gardens 1867 (UCD Digital Library)

The approach to Craigmore House climbed past the lodge, and along the curving drive planted either side with a sequence of lime and Austrian pine. At times there was a gap allowing a view south to the Dublin Mountains before turning to reveal the house and point of arrival.

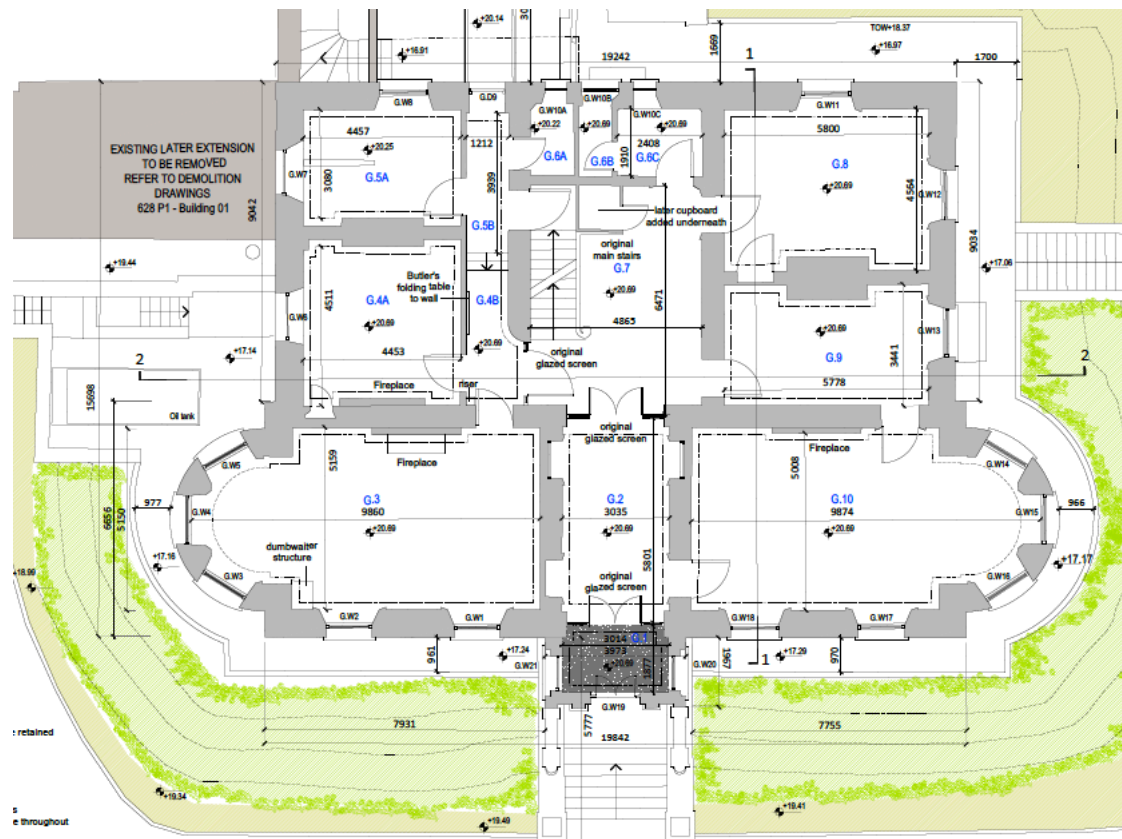


Figure 5.3 Survey drawing of the ground floor of Craigmore, 2019





Figure 5.4 Craigmore House from the west 2021

Craigmore, with its two storeys over basement, has a footprint of a double “D”-ended front section with a rectangular section behind, all bound together with a strong granite cornice. (Figures 5.3 & 5.4) This form existed next door at Prospect House and at Lisaniskea, although in these cases the two parts of the geometry are thought to date from different times. At Lisaniskea the bow-ended section was added to an older building giving full views across the bay to Howth and the bows looking along the coastline. At Prospect House the double bay section appears as the original house to which was added the rectangular element. Its name and the topographical situation of the house would have allowed sea views over the bay and prospects along the coast to Dublin and to the Dalkey and Killiney Hills.

However, a house with the most striking similarity to the form of Craigmore was Monkstown Castle. Like Monkstown Castle, Craigmore is entered through a porch leading to a hall and onto a grand top-lit stair hall. Either side of the hall were rooms with bowed-ends. (Figure 5.5) Monkstown Castle as mentioned above was the home of James Pim and his wife Eliza who was William Hogg’s eldest sister and was next door to the childhood home of Hogg’s own wife.



Figure 5.5 Craigmore (left), Monkstown Castle (right)

Internal alterations have occurred at Craigmore. Apparently the service stair to the basement is not the original and there is currently no service stair to the first floor. From the configuration of the plan, a servants' stair could have expected to occupy the narrow space to the rear of the grand stair. (Figure 5.3) Furthermore the first floor at the front with the bowed ends has been the subject of substantial change and subdivision. At a time it apparently was a single space end to end with stained glass obscuring the view out of the east end. (Figure 5.6) Subsequently it was subdivided and at the moment it has not been possible to establish the original plan.



Figure 5.6 Looking along the first floor southeast room with later stained glass obscuring the view of garden and wider landscape.



## 6. Views from Craigmore

At the rear of Craigmore there are rooms at either corner with the one on the northeast corner being grander at each level. (Figures 5.2 & 5.3) They looked onto a terraced planted area to the north and to formal planting to the east. The more modest rooms at the other corner look out to the service yards and buildings.

The eastern bow looked over the formally planted area and to the west there was a formal garden before the entrance to the walled garden. Views into the walled garden are minimal even from the first floor as it slopes down away from the house towards the stream. The walls of the walled garden are of stone. However the exterior of the wall facing the house is faced in brick. (Figure 6.1) Since the seventeenth century a brick wall or a brick-faced wall was considered to give the best contribution to the creation of the microclimate for wall fruit or tender plants. Planting against this wall becomes part of the composition of the view from house. Above the wall Prospect House (now known as St Joseph's) can still be seen from the ground floor bow of Craigmore. (Figure 6.2) From the windows and porch of the entrance front could have been seen the semi-circular hard surface of the carriage turn, bounded to the south by park railings and leading onto an open grassed expanse.



Figure 6.1 Southern corner of the walled garden. The wall facing the house is faced in brick



Figure 6.2 Current view from the bow on the ground floor of Craigmore looking northwest over the wall of the walled garden to Prospect House (now St Joseph's)



The orientation of the house and the service buildings appears at first parallel to the original state of Temple Road before the construction of the dual carriageway. (Figure 5.1 & 5.2) However there is a distinct deviation from this alignment. The house's exact position back from the road, and its precise orientation may have been carefully and deliberately calculated. The central axis of the house aligns with the apparent peak of Three Rock Mountain seen from the house. (Figures 6.3 & 6.4) The axis continued through the house crosses Dublin Bay and aligns with the apparent highest point on Howth Head as seen from Blackrock. The cross axis that runs along the length of the double bow front of the house leads precisely to the Mount Mapas Obelisk that tops Killiney Hill. (Figure 6.5) Even if this remarkable orientation were accidental, the resultant views would have been appreciated.



Figure 6.3 The two perpendicular axes of Craigmore House as they stretch out to significant features in the wider landscape





Figure 6.4 The axes of Craigmore House aligning with distant significant landscape features



Figure 6.5 The southeast axis of Craigmore house arrives at the Mount Maps Obelisk



The principal rooms had their dominant orientation to the lands of Craigmore, and the view to Three Rock Mountain. (Figure 6.6 & 6.7) In the middle distance were the rising lands of Stillorgan Demesne with its deerpark all subdivided into ever smaller villa demesnes, and then higher up towards the eighteenth century demesnes of Leopardstown and Burton Hall. And finally still visible today on the skyline of the mountain is a cairn. From the north side window of the bow there may have been a view out to sea and also from the dual aspect of the rooms in the northeast corner. Any significant views to the sea were from secondary rooms.



Figure 6.6 The current view from above the porch looking towards the Dublin Mountains. The still extant pairs of Austrian pines originally framed the view of Three Rock Mountain currently obscured by self seeded trees and planting in Rockfield Park



Figure 6.7 View of Three Rock Mountain taken inside Rockfield Park that would resemble the nature of the view from Craigmore House if not screened as in Figure 6.6



Strangely and maybe by coincidence, the axis to Mount Mapas Obelisk passes between Monkstown Castle and Monkstown House that are just 200 meters apart, the homes of Hogg's sister and of his wife's family respectively. When Thomas Pim died in 1855 his son William Harvey Pim, brother of Mary Hogg, built an aggrandised Monkstown House. The new house included a tower that became a conspicuous landmark in the Monkstown/Blackrock area. (Figures 6.8 & 6.9)



Figure 6.8 Monkstown House built after 1855



Figure 6.9 View of Blackrock from Strand Road, the tower of Monkstown House a feature in the landscape (ARC)

The axis to Three Rock Mountain passes through the small demesne of Obelisk Park that took its name from the impressive landmark of the obelisk designed by Edward Lovett Pearce. This was the home of the Perrys and subsequently the Goodbodys. Higher up the axis passes along the edge of the Leopardstown Park Demesne. The Quaker, Joseph Malcolmson of Portlaw had married a Pim, Charlotte. Charlotte returned to County Dublin sometime after her husband's death in 1858. In 1861 she acquired Leopardstown House and revamped it to designs by Mulvany. The intriguing designed landscape of the demesne was developed over the next few years. A section of it still survives in the grounds of Leopardstown Park Hospital despite a large swath having been cut through the lands to build the M50.

## 7. Development of Planting at Craigmore

The nineteenth century had confirmed the practice of ensuring greater privacy for country houses and villas. They were concealed from outside and from all but distant views by judicious siting and by planting. The house would have generally been hidden from close views until the moment of arrival along an approach drive. The original boundary planting of Rockfield Demesne provided screening from Temple Road and along the boundary with the demesne of Prospect House. Planting was then instigated along the drive to Dunardagh completing the enclosure to the east. There was also planting along the short approach drive to Craigmore House. Cartographic evidence indicates that to the south of the house a few specimen trees were planted to create a miniature parkland similar to that inherited by Dunardagh from within the original Rockfield demesne.(Figure 7.1)



Figure 7.1 The state of Craigmore just after construction, 1865. Compare with the 1837 Osi Map in Figure 7.2 below. (Detail of Map surveyed 1865 published 1868) (ARC)



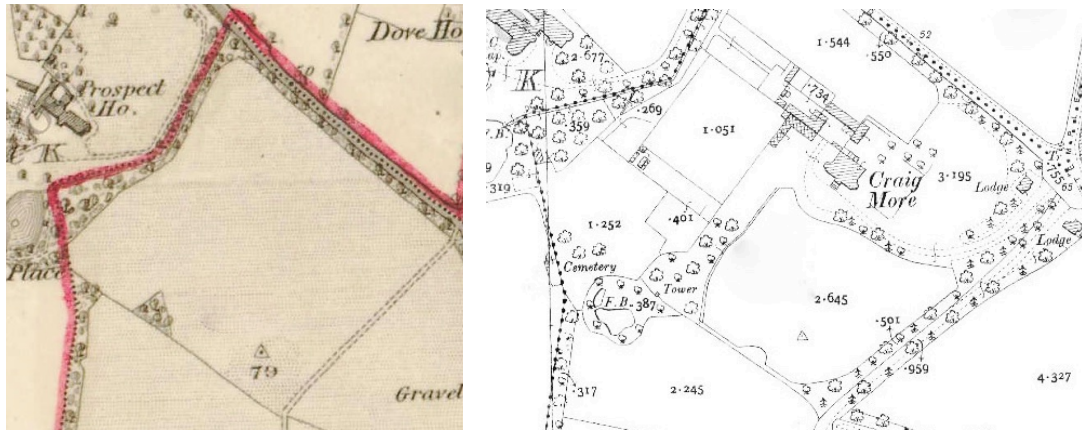


Figure 7. 2 Comparison of the location of Craigmore in 1837 and 1909

The 1837 OS map shows a small triangle of trees at the field boundary. (Figure 7.2) This was incorporated into new planting that stretched north towards the house. This line of planting included a yew hedge whose fragments remain, as overgrown individual trees within the thicket of self-seeded and original trees. (Figure 7.3) Cartographic evidence suggests that the field boundary was apparently also initially planted along its length, although the c.1909 map shows no planting at all. (Figures 7.1 & 7.2) However, a 1955 oblique aerial photograph shows two pairs of mature Austrian pines and almost nothing else. The pines are extant today. (Figures 7.4 & 6.6) Their spacing approximately corresponds the width of the house and therefore clearly framed the view towards the Dublin Mountains.



Figure 7.3 Remnants of the yew hedge

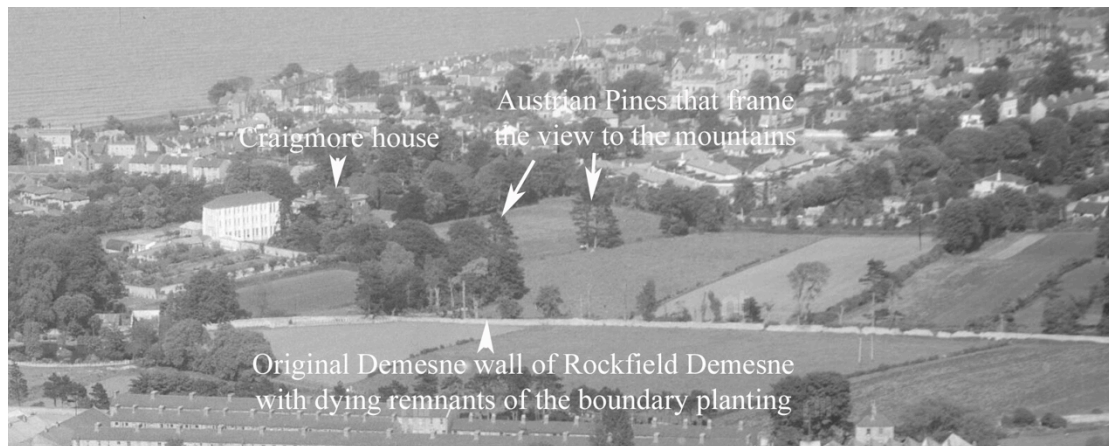


Figure 7.4 Detail of the 1955 aerial photograph indicating the pines that framed the view of Three Rock Mountain and the original Rockfield Demesne wall and the dying remnants of the boundary planting. (NLI)

The boundary planting also sheltered a walk around part of the extent of this miniature demesne. (Figure 7.5) In the eighteenth and nineteenth century, planting was used to screen areas and buildings, to frame views within and beyond the boundary. Through the nineteenth century there was an increasing number of tree species introduced into Britain and Ireland and used along with earlier introductions as specimen trees and planting. Characteristic of demesnes and villa gardens was the use and celebration of exotics and Craigmore was no exception. (Figures 7.6 & 7.7) Even the Austrian Pines were a recent introduction in 1835.<sup>10</sup>

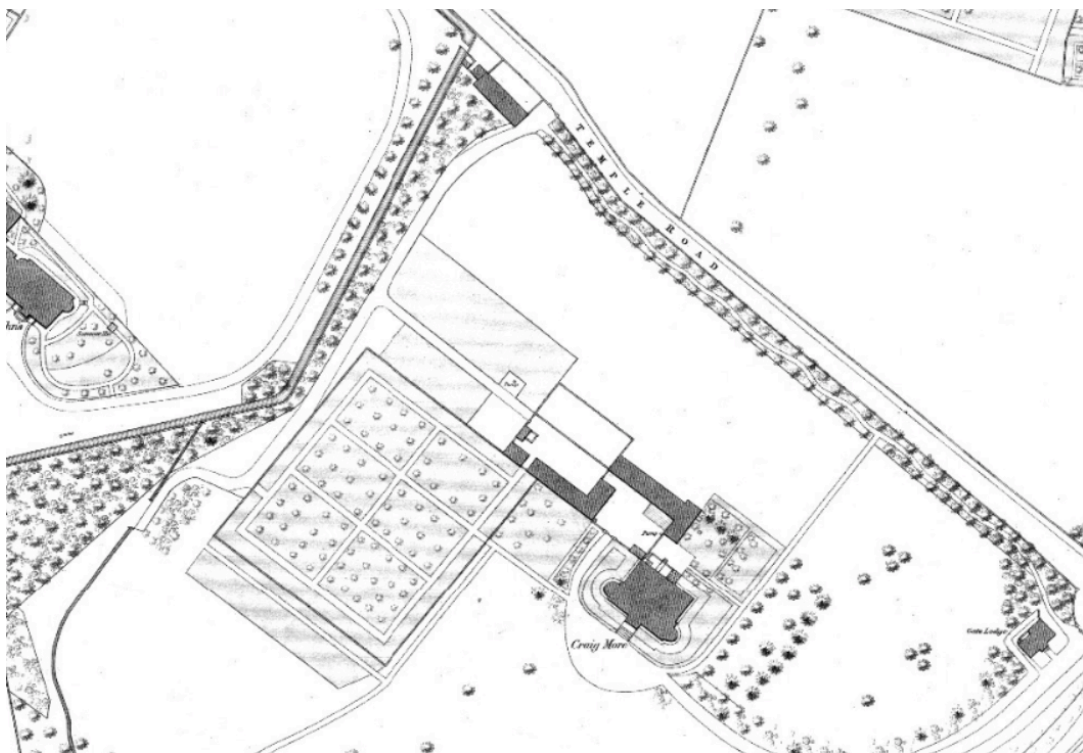


Figure 7.5 Craigmore, the boundary planting to Temple Road shelters a walk to create part of a circuit around the miniature demesne (UCD Digital Library)

<sup>10</sup> A. Mitchell, *Trees of Britain and Northern Europe* (1974) p.171, Austrian Pine introduced 1835 often used in shelterbelts by coast.





Figure 7.6 Examples of non-native trees at Craigmore. Holm Oaks (*Quercus ilex*) introduced c.1500, left, and Deodar Cedar (*Cedrus deodara*) introduced 1831, right.



Figure 7.7 Austrian Pine, introduced in Britain and Ireland 1835



## 8. The inclusion of an area south of the immediate parkland boundary

The nature of the original field boundary south of the house is unclear. (Figures 7.1 & 7.2) Currently part of this boundary is a rendered concrete-block wall marking the boundary between the site of St Teresa's and Rockfield Park. The first map of 1865 shows planting along the boundary, as far as the triangle of trees shown on the 1837's map. Later the 25-inch c.1909 map shows a double boundary with no trees. However, the oblique aerial photograph of 1955 shows two pairs of mature Austrian pines, one at the edge of the western side planting. (Figure 7.4) To the east adjoining the boundary planting to the original drive to Dunardagh there are a couple of small trees, perhaps the hawthorns that are still there today. The pines framed the view of Three Rock Mountain as they could potentially do again today.

The 1909 map shows a double boundary that probably contained a boundary walk. (Figure 7.2 & 8.1) The inner boundary was clearly a wire fence strung between and tensioned by Victorian stanchions many of which survive today. (Figures 8.2 & 8.3) The wire fence allowed an almost unobstructed view beyond. At one point the space between the boundaries increases momentarily. This corresponded to the point at which there is a small outcrop of granite. (Figure 8.4) The rock has an almost tetrahedral shape. (Figure 8.5) The surviving stanchions and their support struts confirm the deviation of the fence at this point. The inner fence completes the enclosure of the parkland that was possibly intended for grazing horses. In front of the house, there is the railing park-fence currently embedded in a hedge of *leylandii*. (Figure 8.6) To the west there was the yew hedge. There survives a wide gate at the south-western corner and a pedestrian gate at the north-western side. (Figures 8.3 & 8.7).



Figure 8.1 Probable original boundary walk looking west towards the tetrahedral granite out crop around which the walk diverted





Figure 8.2 Stanchions for the wire fence, the stay resists the tension in the wire fence. The stanchion on the right is a corner post where the fence changes direction around the granite outcrop. and has stays



Figure 8.3 Gate into the paddock from the boundary walk



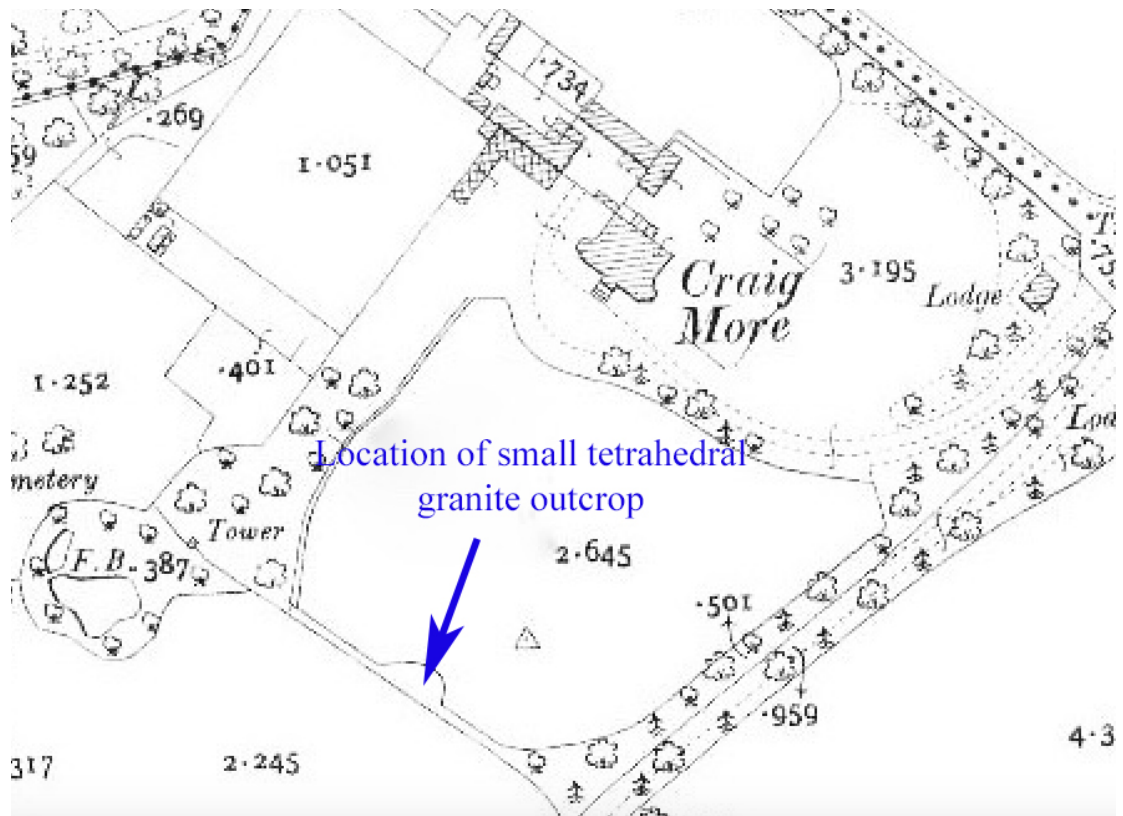


Figure 8.4 1909 OS Map showing the location of diversion of the boundary walk around the granite outcrop



Figure 8.5 The tetrahedral out crop of granite with the boundary walk diverting around it





Figure 8.6 The hedge of *leylandii* in front of the house that covers a park railing fence embedded in it.



Figure 8.7 Pedestrian gate in the park railing fence



## 9. The Pond, its appearance and development as a designed garden feature

On the first edition OS Map of 1837, there is no feature shown south of the boundary discussed above. (Figure 9.1) However, the map, surveyed in 1865 and published in 1868, shows a pond of a size that it is unlikely to have been omitted from the first edition OS map. The detailing around the pond on the map appears to indicate the presence of uneven vertical steps surrounding the pond. This area of St Teresa's is overgrown with ivy, brambles and self-seeded trees and their associated accumulation of leaf litter. However, site visits identified areas of live rock in this area and a considerable amount of very large blocks of granite and the approximate location of the pond.



Figure 9.1 Site of Craigmore 1837 (left) and 1865 (right)

The presence of live rock suggests that this was another one of those outcrops of granite that can still be found in Rockfield Park. What might lie beneath the ivy and brambles etc. could be the result of quarrying an outcrop leaving parts upstanding and a basin that subsequently filled with water to create the pond. The small watercourse that ran along the inside of border of the boundary planting appears to have been below the level of the pond and unlikely to have been the source of water.

Questions arise: was the quarry a source of granite used in the construction of the house and was the outcrop initially the large rock, Craigmore (*Creig Mór*)?

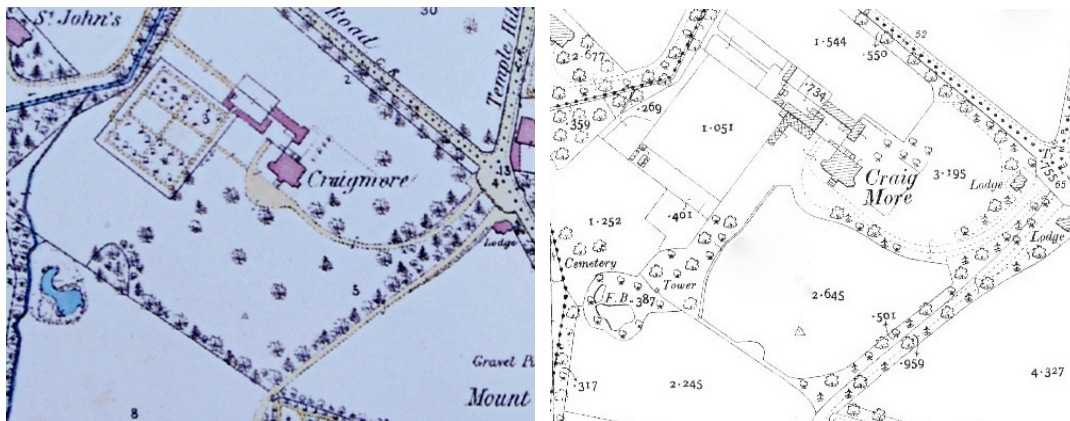


Figure 9.2 Craigmore 1865 (left) and 1909 (right)



At some moment in the latter part of the nineteenth century the area of the pond and possible quarry was incorporated into the gardens. (Figure 9.2 & 9.3) A dry-stone wall enclosed this area of which much remains although now no more than a metre at its highest point. It may also have been battered in form. The wall can be clearly seen in the 1955 photograph. (Figure 9.4) At one point, the live rock is incorporated in the wall. In addition this area included a footbridge across a narrow arm of the pond and a miniature tower or turret was built. (Figure 9.3)

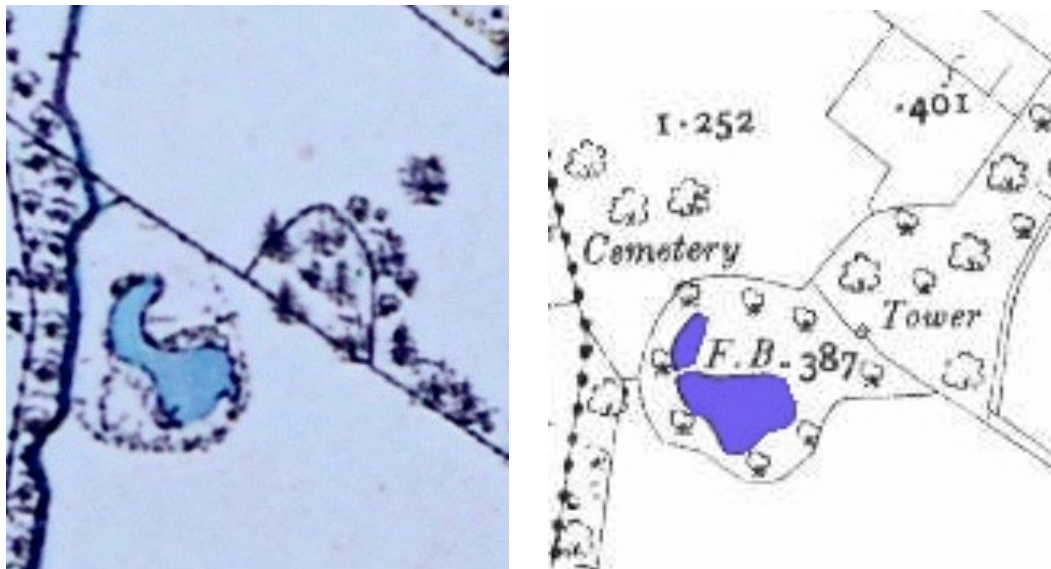


Figure 9.3 The pond area was enclosed and developed with a turret and footbridge and planting. Left in 1865 before and right 1909 after enclosure and development



Figure 9.4 In the centre of the image is the pond area. Its encircling wall can be clearly seen close to the demesne wall. 1955 (NLI)





Figure 9.5 The miniature tower, just 4 feet square in plan, is a figure in a miniature landscape where it sits on an eminence. Viewed here from the east, the land drops away from the turret to the south and west.





Figure 9.6 The turret is precisely 4 feet square in plan. Clockwise from the top left – east, south, west and north faces.



The turret is located along an original boundary and appears to have been keyed into a wall on the east side. (Figures 9.5 & 9.6) It is positioned at an edge where the land drops down on two sides. Thus, as seen from the other side of where the pond was, it appears that it stood on an eminence albeit small in scale. The footbridge crossed at a point where the ground rises along the southern side of the pond to an apparent platform on top of live rock. There is still some evidence of planting. A number of yew trees are located around the area just inside the enclosing boundary. This looks like a miniature, designed landscape exploiting the terrain left by the quarry if that is what it was. This landscape, with its live rock and strewn blocks may have been exploited and planted as a rockery.

Rockeries were a common and fashionable element within gardens in the mid-nineteenth century. They could be planted with alpinas and/or ferns. At Craigmore, the presence of water, though not so common would have been a bonus extending the potential range of ferns that could be planted. The 1865 map shows a sizable rockery at Temple Hill House although the correspondent of *Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener* on his visit in 1862 to Blackrock was rather scathing of the beginning of an attempt to create a rockery from a pile of stones.<sup>11</sup> (Figure 9.7) However, William Hogg's brother-in-law, Thomas Bewley had a number of elaborate rockeries at Rockville. As well as the one in the open, he had an elaborate rockery created inside a glasshouse to display his vast collection of delicate ferns and orchids. (Figure 9.8)

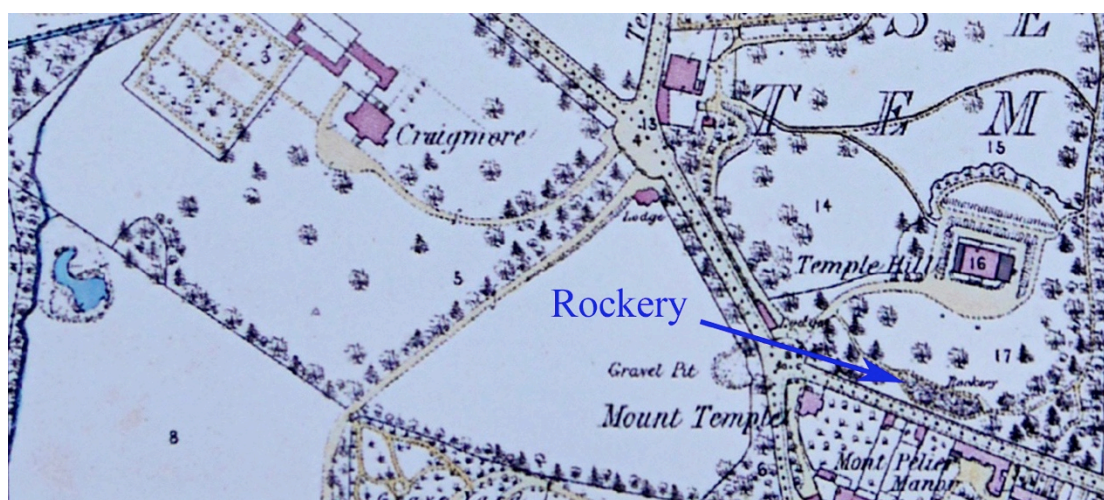


Figure 9.7 Rockery indicated at Temple Hill on the map surveyed in 1865

<sup>11</sup> *Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener*, April 8, 1862, p.30



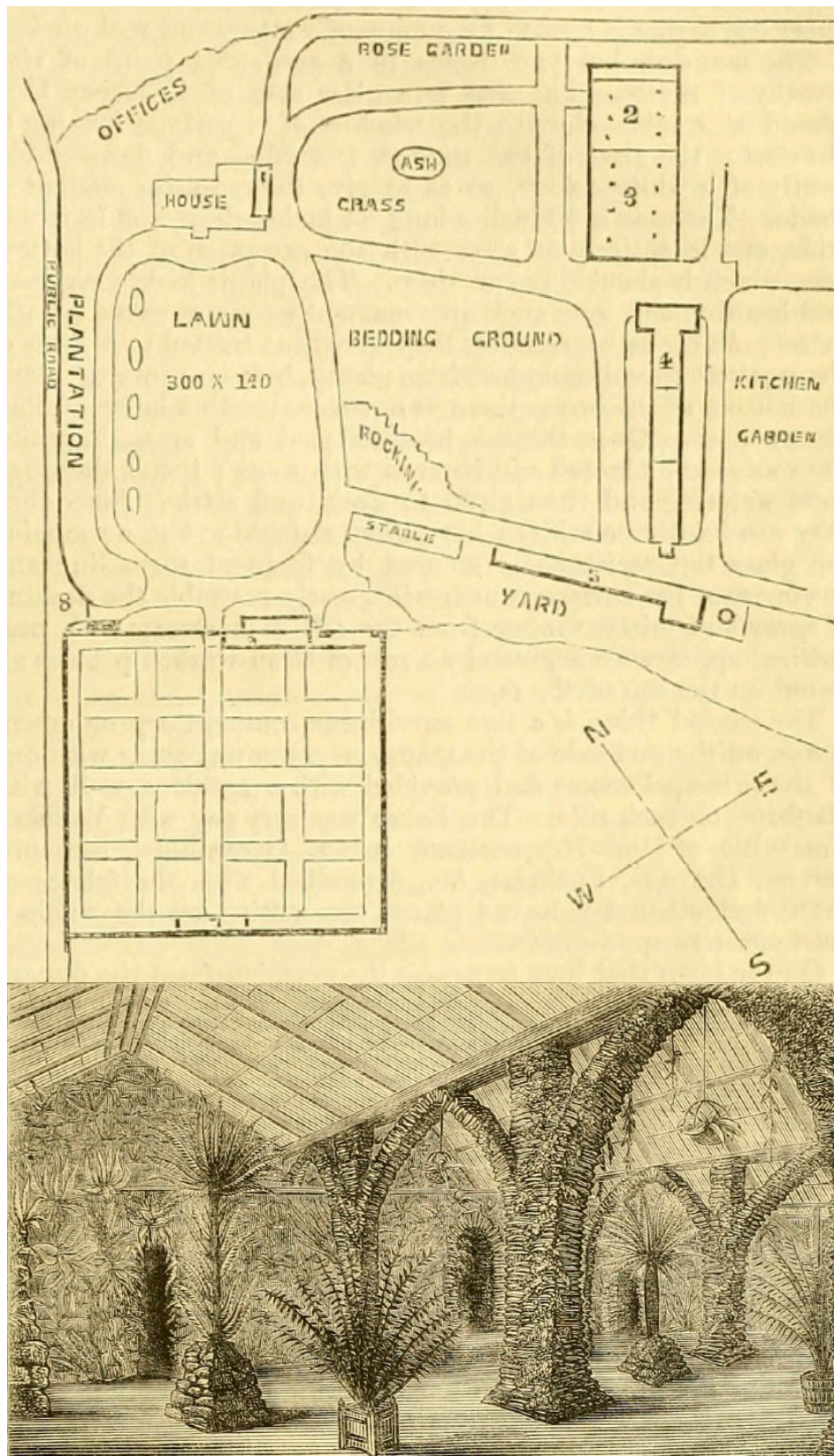


Figure 9.8 Rockville House in 1862 home of Thomas Bewley, brother-in-law of William Hogg. Above a schematic plan of Rockville with the outdoor rockery and marked “2” the indoor rockery for ferns and orchids below. “The North end of the house is a solid wall, and in front of it is a fine, massive, irregular specimen of rockwork, formed of different materials ... furnishing materials for geological study” *Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener* March 18 & 25 1862 pp.499, 517 and 518

By 1865, the grand houses and villas had an array of glasshouses for the production of fruit and to pursue the owners' passions for exotic plants and flowers. In addition many had conservatories attached to the house often of elaborate forms. (Figure 9.9) At this time, shortly after their construction, neither Craigmore nor Dunardagh had glasshouses. (Figure 9.10) At some point, during the latter part of the nineteenth century, each acquired an "L"-shaped glasshouse addressing the pleasure gardens and in the case of Craigmore the house. At Dunardagh the conservatory/glasshouse addressed a formal terrace as part of the development of the gardens around the house. Although it has not been possible to follow the developments of either house between 1865 and 1910, it is known that additional work was done on both properties together in 1874. At this time, an advertisement in the *Gardeners' Chronicle* for a heating system for glasshouses included a recommendation from a group of eminent gardeners who had inspected an installation at Temple Hill House.<sup>12</sup> This group included not only Robert Gray's gardener at Temple Hill, Thomas Moore (who was also the editor of the Irish garden journal, *Gardeners' Record*) but also James Lister, the gardener of Dunardagh.

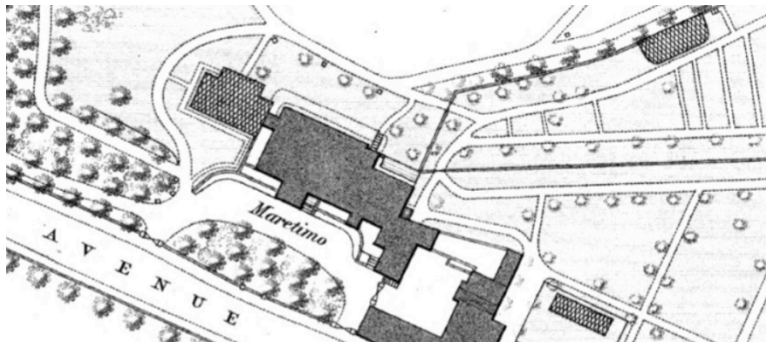


Figure 9.9 Conservatory and glasshouses at Maretimo (shown crosshatched) 1867

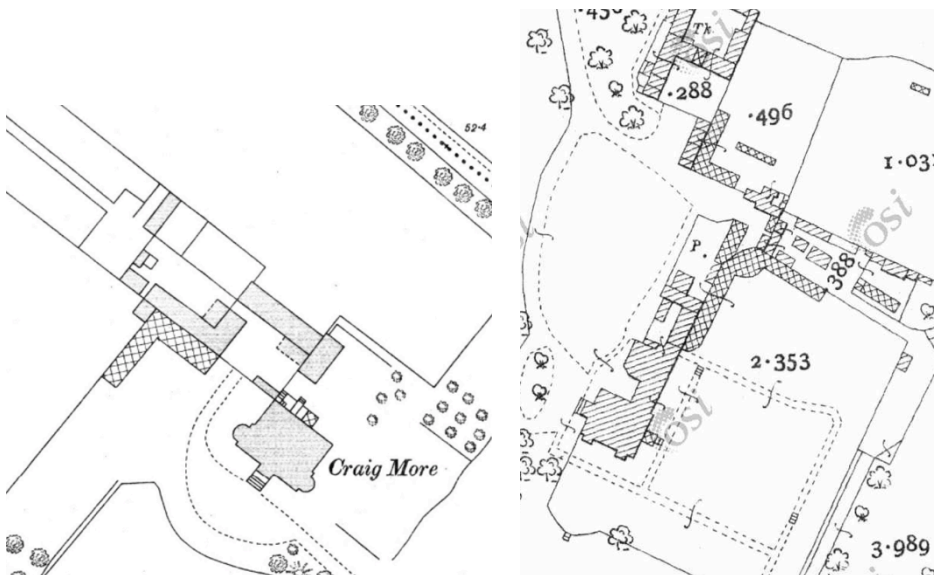


Figure 9.10 Glasshouses (crosshatched) at Craigmore (left) and Dunardagh (right) 1909

<sup>12</sup> *Gardeners' Chronicle*, 1874, May 9, p.591



## 10. The Development of the urban fabric of Blackrock

By the time of publication of Rocque's map of Dublin and its suburbs of 1760, Blackrock had already established itself as a fashionable bathing place. Indeed the rendering of the view by Jones in the engraving of 1744 indicates a bathing place amongst the black rocks. The image also shows "houses of entertainment". (Figure 2.6) A resident in 1757 describes the view from his "summer retreat, overhanging a cliff and out of one of his parlour windows nothing intercepted a view but the mountains of Wales and out of the other window he had a romantic prospect of mountains, valleys, woods and country houses, ... and the obelisk at Stillorgan".<sup>13</sup> His house was called Rockfield. The townland of Rockfield formed part of the lands that became centred on what is today occupied by Temple Hill House. It was from Robert Gray, a later owner of these lands, that Hogg acquired the land on which to build Craigmore, from whom the Friends Society bought the land to establish their graveyard. These lands had been earlier in the possession of Lord Clonmel.

In the second half of the eighteenth century a number of grand villas were to line the coast, these included Maretimo and its neighbour Blackrock House. (Figure 2.14) They used the area of steep descent to the shore to create spectacular terraced gardens. Maretimo was built c. 1774 for Nicholas Lawless who became Baron Cloncurry whose country estate was Lyons, co Kildare. His lands in Blackrock also included the area between Maretimo and Temple Road. In 1798, he commissioned a design to develop this land with terraces of houses. One scheme was to address the entrance to Maretimo with a shallow crescent with very deep plots stretching back to Temple Road. In another proposal a shallow crescent was fitted in with its rear to Temple Road. A further Scheme addressed Temple Road opposite Rockfield the future site of Craigmore with a promenade 600 feet long and 40 feet. Nothing became of these proposals for development.<sup>14</sup> However, elsewhere development began in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with a series of terraces of late Georgian houses facing the sea, first with Montpelier Parade c. 1802 with further developments through the mid century. However, Monkstown Crescent was upstaged by Longford Terrace. Sea views were blocked as development moved closer to the shoreline. Development gathered pace with the coming of the Dublin to Kingstown railway, making possible for families to relocate to the seaside suburbs and commute to Dublin for their business. In Blackrock, Idrone Terrace was built and the lands of Seapoint were developed with Tobernea and Ardenza Terraces. Both turned their back on the road to address the sea.

Meanwhile many of the early villas had taken on new roles as boarding houses or schools. Frescati and Prospect House became schools in the late eighteenth century. Temple Hill was for a time a boarding house and a hotel had been established at Seapoint. The large demesnes were being fragmented with villas beginning to occupy increasingly smaller plots of lands, and bespoke building was being replaced by speculative development. In Monkstown, landholdings of the Pakenham and de Vesci families were being developed early on. Robert Gray, as well as giving long leases or selling land that allowed for the building of Craigmore and Dunardagh, was for a time in partnership with the architect John Semple for the laying out and construction of Belgrave Square, Monkstown. Mulvany was to design some of the square as well as some of the earlier Brighton Vale and Trafalgar Terrace during the 1840s and 50s.

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<sup>13</sup> Francis Erlington Ball, *A History of the County Dublin* (1902) p.15

<sup>14</sup> Drawings for each of these schemes are in the National Library of Ireland

This is a detailed historical map of the Clifton area in Bristol, showing streets, buildings, and landmarks. The map includes labels for 'Baths', 'Prospect', 'Clifton Villa', 'Martello Tower', 'Belgrave Square', 'Knights Villa', 'Clifton Lodge', 'Eglington Lodge', 'Seafield Lodge', 'Plantation', 'St James', 'Maplebury', 'Hilton Lodge', and 'Carlisle Ho.'. The map also shows 'T. 10 AVENUE', 'CAVE ROAD', 'Belgrave Ter.', and 'Belgrave Square'. The map is oriented with North at the top.



Firstly, on the seaward side of the railway was Brighton Vale a one storey over basement terrace. Then came Trafalgar Terrace mostly two storeys over basement rising to three storeys as a centrepiece and at the ends. Some distance behind after generous plot depths is the north side of Belgrave Square. Here a modest two-storey terrace enjoys its orientation looking south over the central garden. The south side of the square was of a grander design, three storey over basement placed on higher ground and back from the square with front gardens so as to gain views of the sea looking across the bay to Howth. Each element of this overall layout contributed to sea views and also enjoyment of their south facing side with each house on Trafalgar Terrace having a conservatory to their rear. (Figure 10.2)

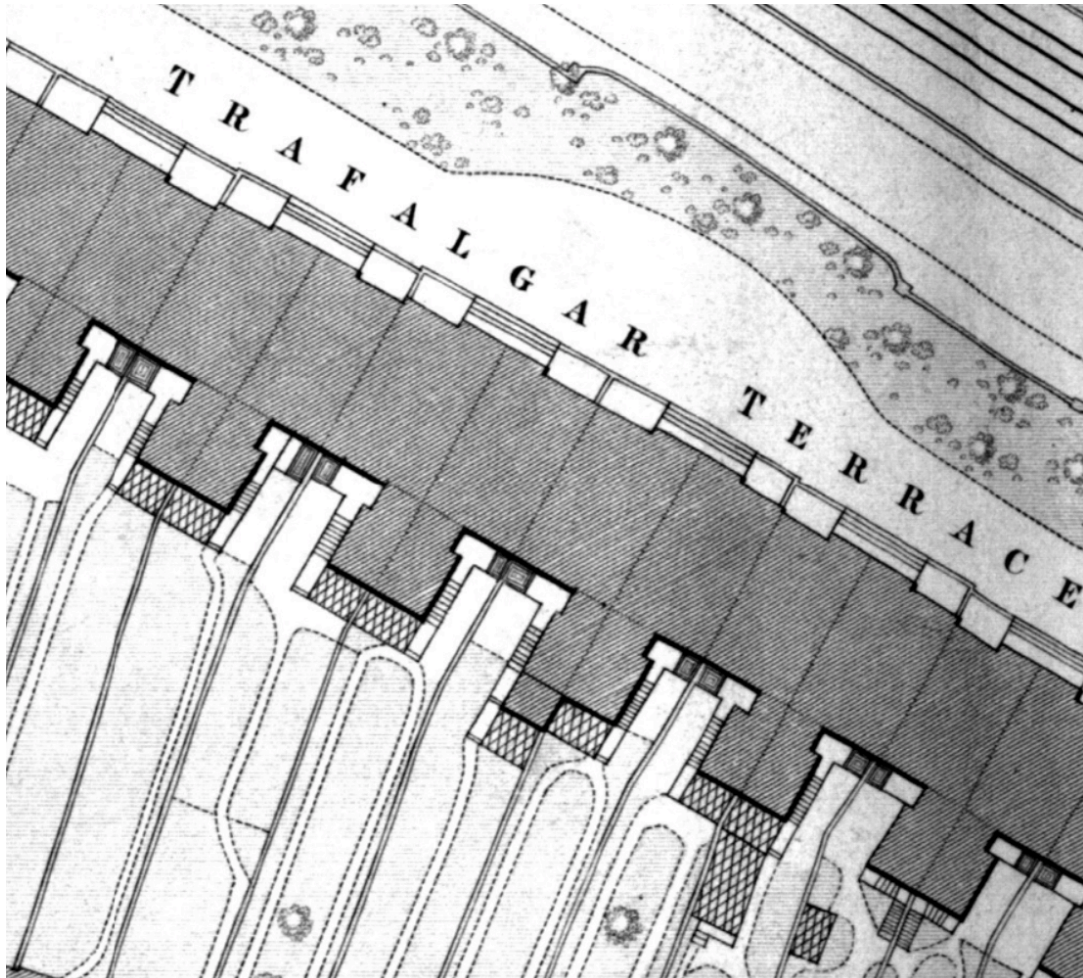


Figure 10.2 Trafalgar Terrace with sea views to the north and each house with a conservatory at the south-facing rear of each house

With the railway and the scale of the terraces that stretched along the coast fronting the sea dramatically transformed the view of Blackrock and Monkstown seen from the bay. Further inland the large demesnes of Stillorgan and Monkstown were continuously sub-divided to accommodate smaller and smaller demesnes with a plethora of villas to create the scene described in Lewis's *Topographical dictionary of Ireland* of 1837: "The Scenery is beautifully diversified, and the neighbourhood thickly studded with handsome seats and pleasing villas, most of which command fine views of the bay and the adjacent country".

The process of subdivision continued through the nineteenth century as more of those who could afford it forsook the city centre for a healthier life in the coastline suburbs. However, following independence, there was a radical shift in the direction of the evolution of the landscape of Blackrock. (Figure 10.3) Many big houses and their immediate settings were transformed. Prospect House already a school was acquired by the Vincentine Order and renamed St Joseph's College. After a period as a hospital Temple Hill became the Sisters of Charity's St Patrick's, a clearinghouse for adoption and a nursery college. Craigmore and Dunardagh were both acquired by Daughters of Charity of St Vincent de Paul in 1935 renaming them St Teresa's and St Catherine's respectively.

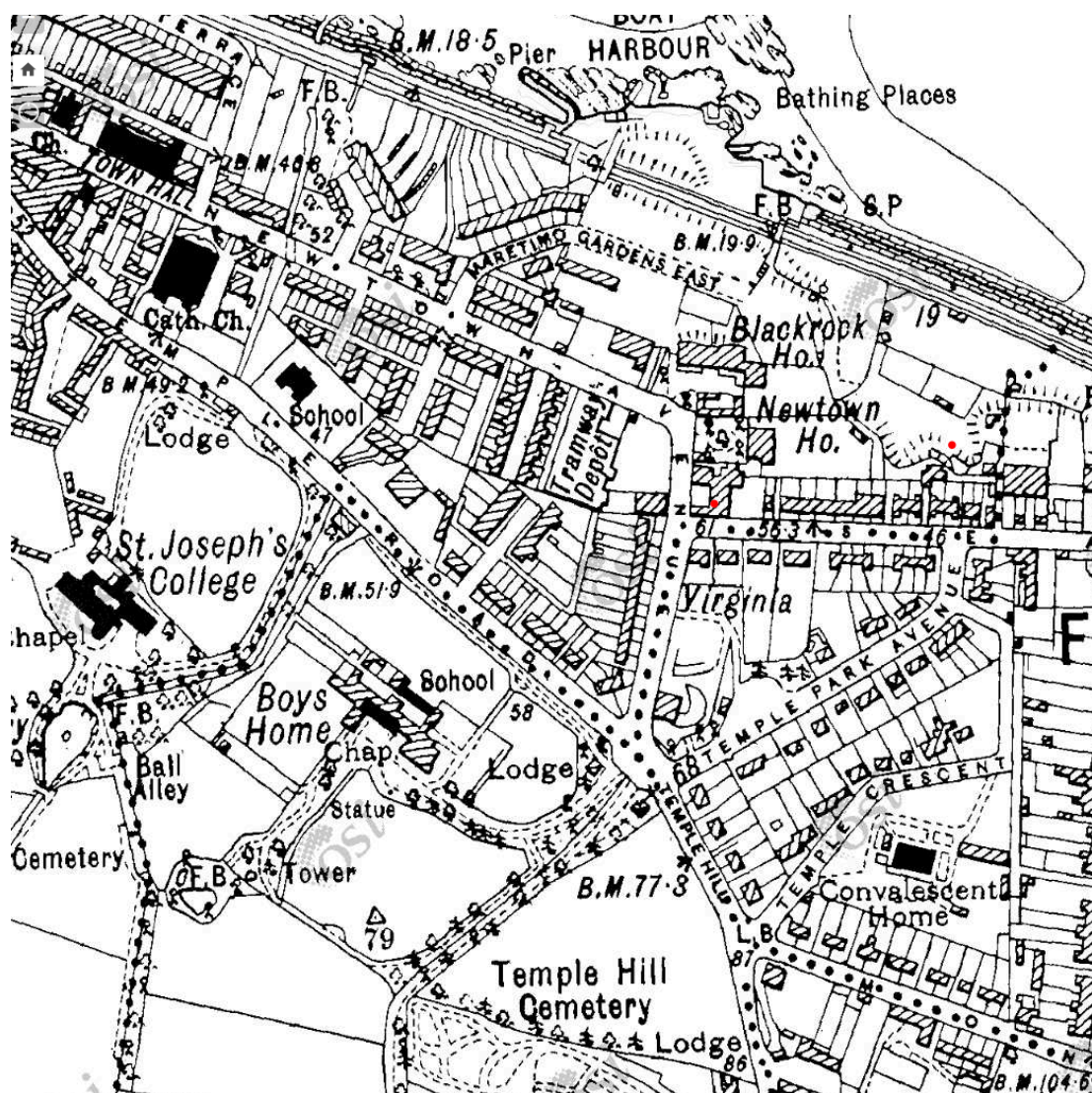


Figure 10.3 Blackrock Newtown in 1937

In the early 1930's Maretimo was demolished and two storey houses in terraces and semi-detached filled the grounds and later spread into the grounds of Blackrock House cutting it off from the sea. The lands fronting Maretimo, that Lord Cloncurry was considering developing at the end of the eighteenth century had by 1900 accommodated the tramway depot. Later an enclave single storey houses was built. This was followed by short terraces and semidetached two-storey houses built before the early thirties in the lands facing Craigmore (St Teresa's) across Temple Road.



(Figure 10.3) Also the gardens of Temple Hill were subjected to development leaving the big house stranded on its high ground.

At St Joseph's substantial additional buildings had been added, including a chapel built c.1887. At St Teresa's addition accommodation was added piecemeal beginning in the 1930's removing the glasshouse and covering the formal gardens to the north and east of the house. (Figure 10.3)

In the 1980's, at St Joseph's, houses were constructed surrounding Prospect House on the lands cleared of the nineteenth century additions compromising the setting of the big house. And in the recent years both Temple Hill and Prospect House were both further confined with additional houses and themselves converted into a series of apartments. (Figures 10.4 & 10.5)



Figure 10.4 Prospect House lost its setting as the semi-detached houses of the 1980's and the very recent additional housing crowd in around it





Figure 10.5 The streets and housing took over most of the grounds and gardens of Temple Hill House (centre) in the 1930's with its setting being squeezed further very recently by the terraces on its east side

Beginning in the 1980's along with the building of the Blackrock village bypass two shopping centres were built and offices began to line part of the new road. This added a new scale of building. Currently these shopping centres have been re-developed representing a very substantial jump in scale both in bulk and height. (Figure 10.6 & 10.7)



Figure 10.6 Frescati Shopping Centre (late 1980's) for which Frescati House was demolished





Figure 10.7 The current development of the site of both the Blackrock and Frescati Shopping Centres (2021)



Figure 10.8 View from Dun Laoghaire Pier to Blackrock where the scale of the current developments of Blackrock and Frescati Shopping Centres dwarf the nineteenth century Idroene Terrace