



Priory, Grange Road, from *Footprints of Emmet* by J.J. Reynolds (1903).



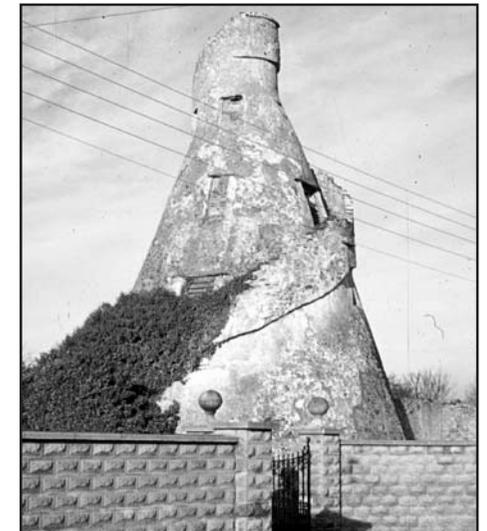
Gertrude Curran's grave, Priory from *Footprints of Emmet* by J.J. Reynolds (1903).



Ely House, Nutgrove Avenue was formerly known as Ely Lodge.

Whitehall

The first avenue on the left, beyond Nutgrove House, is Whitehall Road where stands that curious structure known as the Bottle Tower or Hall's Barn. This was built by Major Hall in 1742 in imitation of the better constructed Wonderful Barn erected about the same period near Leixlip. The floors and other timber work have long



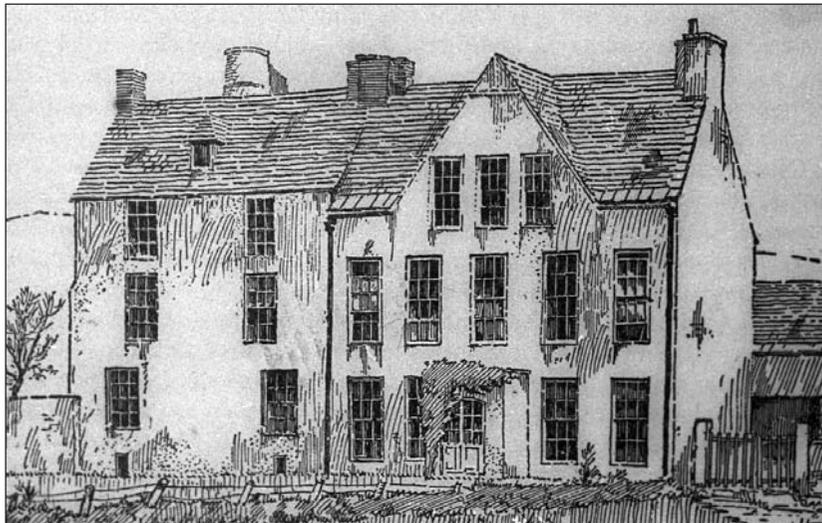
The Bottle Tower from Whitehall Road.

disappeared and the winding stone steps are not considered safe to ascend. While the ground floor may have been used as a barn, the first and second floors appear to have been residential as they are both fitted with fireplaces. A smaller structure behind the barn, built on somewhat similar lines was a pigeon house.



The Bottle Tower and Pigeon House

The old house named Whitehall which was demolished some years ago stood adjacent to the barn. It was also built by Major Hall about the same time.



Whitehall.

In *The Story of a Success* Pearse tells of the realisation of one of his life's ambitions and it was from here that he set off for the city on his bicycle for the last time on Easter Sunday 1916. After the rising the college continued to function under the care of Miss Margaret Pearse until it finally closed down in 1935. After the death of Miss Pearse in 1968 St. Enda's passed into the hands of the state and has since been opened as a public park.

Priory

Directly opposite to St. Enda's was Priory, the home of John Philpot Curran, at the time of Emmet's rising. The house was formerly named Holly Park but when Curran bought it in 1790 he changed the name to Priory. Here he lived for 27 years at the peak of his fame and here he was to endure the tragic events which cast a shadow on his private life. First, the untimely death of his daughter Gertrude, followed by the loss of his wife, who left him for another man, and lastly the discovery of the association of his daughter Sarah with Robert Emmet.

Gertrude Curran died in 1792 at the age of 12 as the result of a fall from a window. Curran had her buried in the grounds of the Priory and over the grave he placed a recumbent slab on which was fixed a metal plate bearing the inscription:

Here lies the body of Gertrude Curran
fourth daughter of John Philpot Curran
who departed this life October 6th 1792

Age twelve years.

The position of the grave was clearly marked on the early editions of the O.S. maps. It was about midway along the northern boundary of the corner field facing the fortification, on the north side of the boundary bank and a few yards from it. It was formerly enclosed by a grove of trees, which can be seen in J.J.Reynold's photograph of 1903 but these were cut down about 1928. Some time later the

From 1840 to 1858 Hermitage was the home of Richard Moore, Attorney General, and in 1859 it came into the possession of Major Richard Doyne, stated to be a veteran of Waterloo. From 1872 to 1885 it was occupied by George Campbell, merchant of 58 Sackville St., and after lying vacant for a few years it was tenanted by Major Philip Doyne of the 4th Dragoon Guards. In 1891 Colonel Frederick le Mesurier, barrister is returned as occupier and in 1899 Mr. William Woodburn.

St. Enda's College was founded by Pdraig Pearse in 1909 and was at first housed in Cullenswood House, Ranelagh. Pearse felt that the confined surroundings of this house gave no scope for the outdoor life that should play so large a part in the education of youth, so in 1910 he leased Hermitage from Mr. Woodburn and moved his college here. A long billiard room was converted into a study hall and chapel, the drawing room became a dormitory and the stables opening off an enclosed square became class rooms.



Drawing room, St. Endas.

In 1778 it was the residence of Rev. Jeremy Walsh, curate of Dundrum, and in 1795 it was converted into a boarding house by Mr. Michael Kelly. A newspaper advertisement in 1816 invites enquiries from prospective visitors. In a description written in the last century the old fashioned kitchen and panelled staircase are specially noted.

Berwick House

The tall house at the bend in the road, until recently occupied by the De la Salle Brothers, seems to be identical with a house named Waxfield where the death is recorded in 1766 of Mr. John Lamprey. In 1836 it was known as Hazelbrook, a name which was later transferred to the nearby milk bottling plant and ice cream venture. From 1844 to 1899 it was known as Bachelor's Hall, after which it became the headquarters of a charitable institution under the name of Berwick Home. In 1944 it again became a private residence and the name was changed to Berwick House.



Berwick House in 1977.

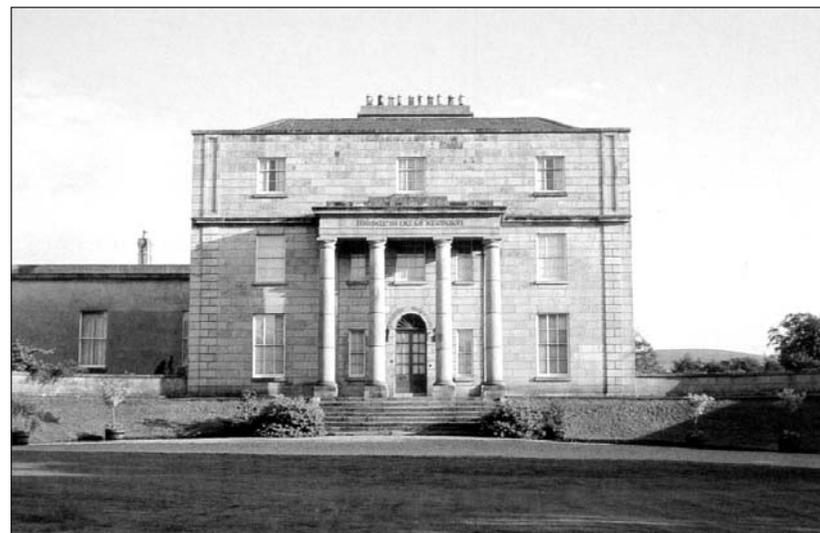
Loreto Abbey

The imposing buildings of Loreto Abbey in Lower Rathfarnham form a landmark visible for many miles south of the city. The mansion which now forms the centrepiece of the group was built by Mr. William Palliser about 1725. No expense was spared in its construction and decoration, as can still be judged by the beautifully preserved interior, the polished mahogany and, in one room, embossed leather wallpaper. William Palliser died in 1768 without issue and Rathfarnham House passed to his cousin the Rev. John Palliser, who was rector of the parish. After his death in 1795 the house was purchased by George Grierson, the King's Printer, who resided here for a few years. When Grierson removed to his new abode in Woodtown the house remained unoccupied for some years until in 1821 it was purchased by Most Rev. Dr. Murray for the newly founded Loreto Order.



Rathfarnham House is part of the Loreto Abbey complex.

Within the grounds also, at the corner nearest to Whitechurch is an obelisk, stated to have been erected by a former owner, Major Doyne, over the grave of a horse that carried him through the battle of Waterloo. The date however of Major Doyne's occupation does not support this. Unlike the constructions of Edward Hudson, which were purposely of the roughest material, this monument was of cut stone with small moulded pillars. Unfortunately the heavy hand of the vandal descended on it, toppled it from its base and smashed the supporting pillars. It has since been re-erected, leaving out the pillars.



St. Enda's, formerly known as Hermitage is now the home of the Pearse Museum.
Courtesy of the Pearse Museum

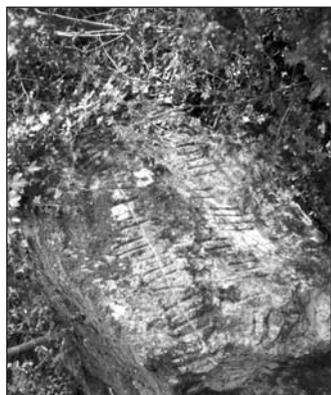
Edward Hudson was succeeded by his son William Elliot Hudson, who was born here in 1796. A distinguished scholar, he was a friend of Thomas Davis and Gavin Duffy and was a patron of Irish literature and art. Shortly before his death in 1857 he endowed the Royal Irish Academy with a fund for the publication of its Irish Dictionary and he also left the Academy Library a valuable collection of books.

South of the house he put up a grotto surmounted by a tall pillar stone, a Brehon's chair and a fanciful construction consisting of two great boulders, one balanced on top of the other, which has since been demolished.

Just inside the boundary wall he cut an inscription in Ogham on the two faces of a large rock. When the letters are translated they read:

RIDENT VICINI GLEBASETS A KH A MOVENTEM
EDUARDUM HUDSON

In the pretty glen adjoining the Whitechurch road he erected a sort of temple with several small chambers and flights of steps. The estate was at that time known as the Fields of Odin and is so called on maps of the period.



Picture left: Ogham Stone and right: Obelisk



Picture left: Emmet's Fort and right: Temple-like structure.

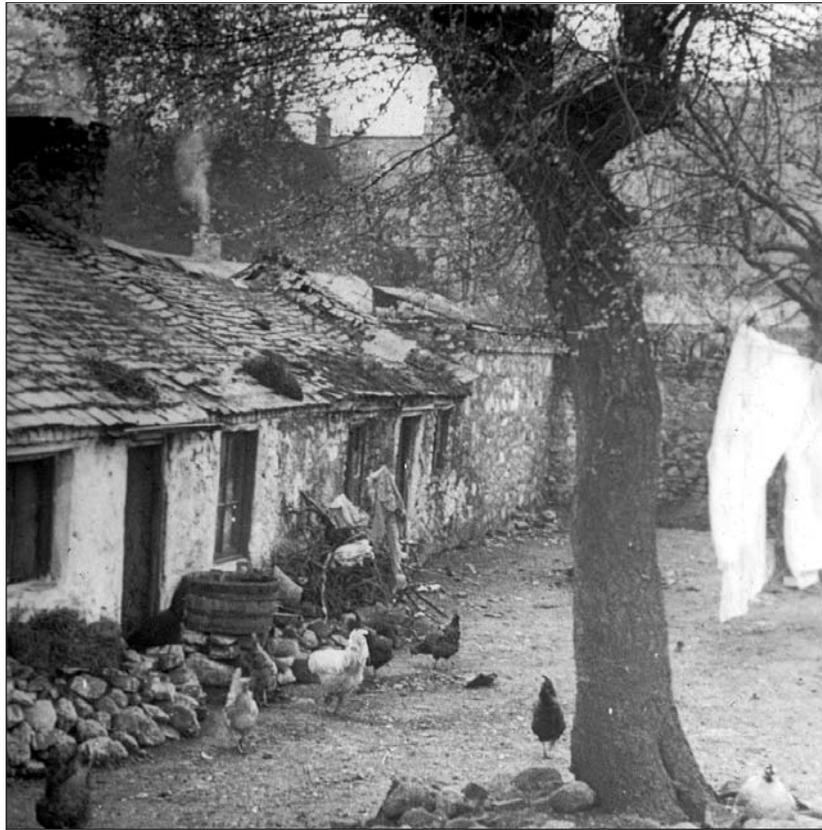
The foundress Rev. Mother Mary Frances Teresa Ball made many improvements to the place. She is said to have added a storey to the old house although there is no evidence from the exterior to support this. Many additions have been made over the years, the church was built in 1840, the novitiate in 1863 and six years later the part named St. Joseph's wing which contains the concert hall and refectory. St. Anthony's wing was erected in 1896, St. Francis Xavier's in 1903 and the Lisieux building in 1932 for the accommodation of visiting prelates to the Eucharistic Congress. In 1999 the boarding school closed down and on the 15th August 2000, the last sisters left and moved to the newly constructed Loreto House.



The drawing room, Loreto Abbey from Ball's *A History of the County Dublin*, was preserved in its original condition by the Loreto Order.

The Ponds

Loreto Terrace on the north side of the Abbey was formerly known as The Ponds, a name originating apparently from the large pond which two hundred years ago occupied the low lying field between Loreto Terrace and Nutgrove Avenue. This area was described in



The Ponds, Rathfarnham (Courtesy of Mrs. Monica O'Connor).

Joyce's *Neighbourhood of Dublin* in 1912 as "the dilapidated locality known as the Ponds" but it has since been largely rebuilt. An old photograph from Mr. Larry O'Connor's collection shows what it looked like at that time.

The last of the old houses was demolished in the 1950s. It was a very early eighteenth century gabled residence named Grove Cottage and was probably the oldest occupied house in Dublin.

middle of the last century the name of the house was changed to Silverton but it was later changed back to the original Silveracre. Most of the land is now built on. It was also the home in the early part of twentieth century of Surgeon Croly, who founded Baggot St. Hospital.

St Enda's

The next estate on the same side is Hermitage or St. Enda's, the former home of Pdraig Pearse and later of his sister Miss Margaret Pearse. The house, which is entirely faced with cut granite and has an imposing stone portico, was occupied in the eighteenth century by Edward Hudson, an eminent dentist. He had a passion for Irish antiquities which he demonstrated in an unusual way by the erection of a number of romantic ruins around the estate. Inside the boundary wall near the entrance gate he built a small watch tower and further along, a hermit's cave, a dolmen, a ruined abbey and beside a deep well, a tiny chamber with stone bench and narrow fireplace. At the corner of the road to Whitechurch the loopholed and crenellated structure known as the Fortification, or Emmet's Fort was another of his creations.



Pictured left: Watch Tower and right: Hermit's Cave and Dolmen.



Washington Lodge, Grange Road in 1977.

On the other side is Silveracre, once the home of Dr. Henthorn Todd, Professor of Hebrew in T.C.D., who was connected by marriage with the Hudson family of the adjoining estate of Hermitage. He was well known as an Irish scholar and was the editor and translator of a number of Irish documents as well as the author of a life of St. Patrick. He died here in 1869. About the



Silveracre in 1977.

This place was the scene of a skirmish at the outbreak of the rising of 1798. The insurgents of the south county assembled at the Ponds on 24th May 1798 under the leadership of David Keely, James Byrne, Edward Keogh and Ledwich. The two latter had been members of Lord Ely's yeomanry but had taken to the field with the United Irishmen. The insurgents were attacked by the local yeomanry corps but were able to defend themselves and the yeomanry were forced to retreat. A party of regular troops were then sent against them and a stiff encounter took place. A number of the insurgents were killed or wounded and some prisoners taken including Keogh and Ledwich. The survivors retreated to join up with a party from Clondalkin and a further engagement took place at the turnpike on the Rathcoole road where the enemy were successfully repulsed.



Grove Cottage, The Ponds, Rathfarnham.



Church of the Annunciation and the Yellow House, Rathfarnham in the early 1960s.



The site of Nutgrove School c. 1977.

Chapter 3

Grange Road to Harold's Grange and Taylor's Grange



THE road to Harold's Grange continues southward from Loreto Abbey past some very old houses. The first is Washington Lodge, its attractive eighteenth century facade hidden by a shrubbery. On the opposite side on Convent Lane stood Snugborough which had its gable end to the road. In recent years new avenues have been laid out here on both sides of the road. Barton Drive, on the left, occupies the site of a house named Barton Lodge.



Snugborough, Grange Road in 1977. This house was recently replaced by an apartment block.