

A History of Queensborough, Focused on Queensborough House

By Raymond E. Healy and Grattan C. Healy

We dedicate this paper to the memory of our beloved parents, Raymond E. Healy and Eleanor Catherine Healy (née Farrell).

Location: Queensborough is a small hamlet, consisting of some fifteen dwellings, situated approximately five kilometres east of Drogheda on the north shore of the River Boyne in Co Louth (see Fig. 1). The haven village of Balray lies one and a half kilometres further to the east close to the mouth of the estuary, where the Boyne discharges into the Irish Sea. Not surprisingly, the Boyne Valley is designated an area of high scenic quality by Louth County Council, requiring careful protection from development.

The hamlet describes a slightly curved line following the river, and is bounded to the west by the headland locally known as Gray's corner and to the east by Banktown Head. All of the houses have a SE orientation and thus overlook the river and estuary, with its massive navigational stone walls separating the main channel from the tidal mudflats.

The latter have long been a wildlife sanctuary, but recently have been designated a special protection area (SPA) and a special area of conservation (SAC). These designations along with extant riparian rights held by Beaulieu Demesne afford lasting protection against any further encroachment and development that might detract from this most idyllic of settings. Interestingly, the mudflats are delineated on the 1842 Victoria map¹ of the area as parcel no. 25 and are described in the associated listing as 'slobland' owned by Revd A. J. Montgomery of Beaulieu Demesne (see Fig. 3). Dense mature deciduous woodland covers the gentle escarpment rising up from the river plain to the river terrace and rolling farmland beyond, creating a picturesque backdrop into which the hamlet nestles handsomely. The east-west trending public road from Drogheda to Balray, and Termonfeckin beyond, passes between the hamlet and the river.

Cape Spy is the promontory atop the wooded river terrace above Banktown Head, and according to James Garry² is so named as it has long been frequented by locals and seamen to survey the shipping in the estuary and open sea beyond, since it provides an almost unrivalled view of the whole estuary. It must be a significant part of the reason why a Revenue station was established at Queensborough in the first place.

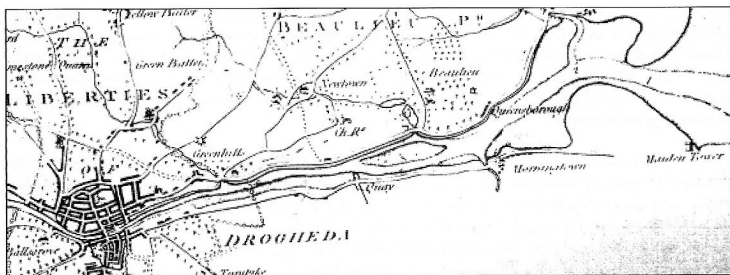


Figure 1 Extract from Taylor and Skinner's map of County Louth, 1778.

1 Act 5 Vict., c. 56: An Act for the improvement of the port and harbour of Drogheda.

2 James Garry, 'Townland Survey of County Louth: Beaulieu', *C.L.A.H.J.*, xix, 4, (1980), p. 283.

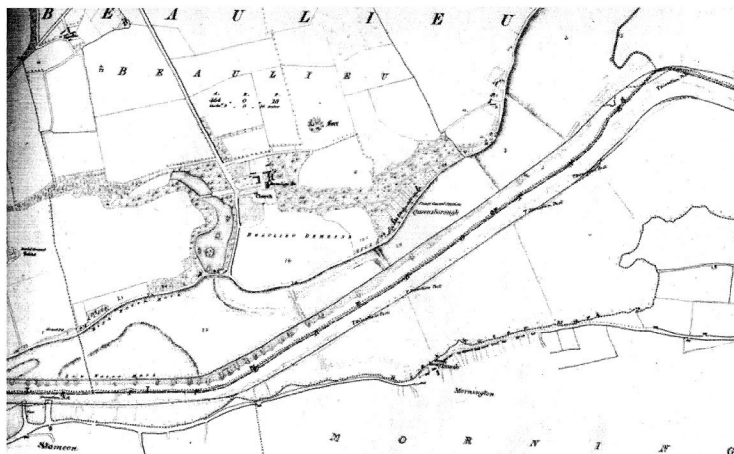


Figure 3: Extract from map of the River Boyne from Drogheda to the sea. Victoria Harbour Act, 1842. Courtesy of Drogheda Port Company.

Indeed, based on the Beaulieu papers, Harold O'Sullivan³ reported the establishment in 1775 of a small plot (i.e., 1 rood 30 perches) for Barnett Carter, a supernumerary tidewater on the local Revenue staff, immediately west of Centry Hill, adjacent to Queensborough, and which is delineated on the 1842 Victoria map. Interestingly, the fields of Beaulieu Demesne immediately behind Cape Spy are called Santry, a probable derivation from Centry or Sentry. Barnett Carter appears occasionally in the Customs and Excise records around this time, as he seems to have been successful in catching smugglers from his perch at Cape Spy, which required days of 'waiting' at that spot.

Origin of the Name: Queensborough has been variably referred to as Quinsboro, Queensberry, Queensbury and Queensborough, where the latter is the current usage albeit normally abbreviated to 'Queensboro'. Harold O'Sullivan suggested that Queensborough is named because of its probable origin in the reign of Queen Anne, who died in 1714. The Revenue Commissioners established a settlement there between 1702 and 1712, during the reign of Queen Anne, and over time the name seems to have evolved from Queensberry to Queensborough.

History: Queensborough lies on the southern boundary of, and was once part of, Beaulieu Demesne, the histories of which are therefore inextricably linked. Beaulieu had been the hereditary seat of the Plunkett family since the thirteenth century, the rights to which Walter Plunkett obtained by royal confirmation in 1418. In 1641 however, Richard Plunkett was a colonel in the rebel army of Sir Phelim O'Neill that besieged Drogheda, and who made their headquarters at Beaulieu. The defence of Drogheda was commanded by the Earl of Ormond and Sir Henry Tichborne (also written Tichbourne). On the defeat of the rebels in 1642, Sir Henry Tichborne immediately occupied Beaulieu. Following the confiscations consequent to the 1641 rebellion, Sir Henry Tichborne acquired Beaulieu on the attainder of William Plunkett, and obtained the

³ Harold O'Sullivan, 'Coastguard Station at Queensborough in the townland of Beaulieu', 2005, unpublished paper; 12 pp.

grants to all his estates under the Act of Settlement of 1662. On his death in 1667, his son, Sir William Tichborne, inherited the estate including the fine 'Artisan Mannerism' style manor house, one of the finest and earliest unfortified residences in Ireland. An earlier Jacobean house was incorporated into that built by Sir Henry Tichborne between 1660 and 1667, and further extended in the eighteenth century by his son Sir William Tichborne, to the form in which we know it today. His son, in turn, Sir Henry Tichborne, was raised to Irish peerage as Baron Ferrard of Beaulieu, shortly after the accession of George I in 1714. As will be discussed later, it was apparently this Sir Henry, prior to becoming baron, who leased the property known as Queensborough to the Crown for the establishment of a station for Revenue officers.

The Tichborne family line failed in 1731 with the death of the first (and last) Baron Ferrard, and the estate passed to the Astons, then to Thomas Tipping in 1769 through marriage, and ultimately in 1776 to the Montgomerys also through marriage, and has descended through the female line to the current owner, Ms Cara Konig-Brock. Aston Lodge, the most easterly house in Queensborough, being a dower house of the estate, was until recently the residence of the late Ms Joceline Montgomery. Indeed, Aston Lodge was never part of the original lease delineating Queensborough (see below), but has to this day remained part of the Beaulieu Demesne. According to Moira Corcoran, quoting Dr John De Courcy Ireland, it was the birthplace of Thomas Charles Wright, one of those who drove the Spanish out of Ecuador, and helped establish it as an independent country.⁴

IRISH CUSTOMS AND EXCISE RECORDS AND BEAULIEU ARCHIVES

In 1715, the name Wright first appears in the Drogheda section of the Establishment record for the Irish Board of Customs and Excise (stored at the UK National Archive, Kew, Surrey). One Joseph Wright is a boatman, and seems to be based at Queensborough, since his entry along with other boatmen, occurs after that for the tide surveyor, a point to be developed below. The family name is prevalent throughout the later records, with Benjamin as a tidewater, and William or Joseph as boatmen. The Wrights are listed in Victoria, Griffith⁵ and the Valuation records as being tenants at Aston Lodge up to at least the 1880s.

However, the earliest reference to Queensborough found so far is in an extract from the minutes of the Irish Board of Customs and Excise dated Monday, 14 January 1712. The entry reads: 'Ordered that Mr. William Gardiner Surveyor at Queensberry in the Port of Drogheda be surveyor at Dunlary in the room of Mr. John Caffry deceased'.

On the other hand the Customs and Excise Establishment record for 1690 shows the tide surveyor and boatmen based at 'Newkey', which was on the south shore of the estuary, implying that the Queensborough station did not yet exist at that time. These facts support the assertion of Harold O'Sullivan that Queensborough was probably established during the reign of Queen Anne, i.e. 1702-14. They also mean that Queensborough would have been established while Sir Henry Tichborne, first Baron Ferrard, was the master of Beaulieu. One could surmise that his considerable influence and undoubted acumen had some bearing on the choice of location.

Over the next ten years or so, it appears that some dubious practices evolved at Queensborough. The appointment of Fielding Wye as tide surveyor at the beginning of 1722 brought these out into the open. The minutes for 20 January 1723 record:

That Mr Fielding Wye Surveyor at Queensborough has complained that Peter McLaughlin, & the Wives of Patrick Legg and Anthony White all three Boatmen in the Port of Drogheda keep publick Houses. Write to Mr Sadler to order Mr Wye the Surveyor to acquaint McLaughlin, Legg & White, that if they do not immediately leave off selling Ale, they shall be dismissed & he is to acquaint the Board which they choose to stick to.

Evidently, they desisted, as they continue to appear in the Establishment record.

⁴ Garry, 'Townland Survey of County Louth: Beaulieu', pp 281-2.

⁵ Richard Griffith, *Union of Drogheda. Valuation of the Several Tenements* (Dublin, 1854), pp 19-20.

Operational problems concerning the boats at Queensborough appear regularly in the minutes, for example in early May 1723 it is recorded:

That the Barge at Queensborough lately had her masts torn away and her hull sunk by a sloop whose cable gave way to the strength of the Tide & fell foul on the Barge; that she is since got up & all her tackle and apparel saved, but her hull is by the said damage rendered wholly useless & not worth repairing. That a new barge is wanting of the Dimensions of 26 foot by the Keel and 7½ by the Beam. Send a copy of the Letter to the Surveyor of Ringsend with direction to report what will be the expence of such a barge as is desired.

The order to build was given on 13 June.

The death of Baron Ferrard in 1731 was accompanied by further problems with the Revenue station at Queensborough. The Customs and Excise minutes for 28 February record:

That the Houses of the Tidewaiters at Queensborough in the Port of Drogheda, being decayed & ruined, for want of being repaired by the Landlord, which has driven four of them to live in Drogheda at a very inconvenient distance from the Service. They took a Survey of the Harbour together & find on the other side the river, about Newkey, a place much more convenient for their situation, where the Surveyor with the Boat may be fixed to greater advantage for viewing all Shippes entering or making towards the Harbour; that the place proposed is Mr Wesley's land; that it is the common place for Shippes to lye that don't come up to the Quay, which will give the Surveyor the opportunity of having his eye more constantly upon them and on the behaviour of the Officers in charge of them. That there is already much better security for the King's Boats⁶ lying there than where they now are; that they may be always afloat and safe from all weathers & etc.

This followed on from an examination in September the year before by Surveyor General Toynton of 'Mormanstown' (now called Mornington) as an alternative base. It appears that as a result of these problems, some of the properties may have been leased outside the Service by the baron's successors, the Astons.

The earliest reference in the Beaulieu papers is a lease dated 22 May 1745 of part of Queensborough between Tichborne Aston and John Burgess of Upper Banktown, farmer, and concerns:

all that and those the houses orchard little meadow otherwise called the bowling green and garden of Queensborough the which was formerly held and tenanted by the several persons hereinafter mentioned: Peter Gaymare, Wm. Brierton, Wm. Baker, Robert Mercer ... unto the said John Burgess his heirs and assigns for and during the natural lives of the said John Burgess, Sarah his wife and Thomas Burgess brother to the said John Burgess of Banktown in County aforesaid and during the Lives and Life of the Survivors and survivors of them he the said John Burgess.

The annual rent was £5. Clearly, there is a well-established mixed settlement at Queensborough by 1745, since none of these persons is listed as a Revenue officer. This appears to be the property once occupied by Ralph Smyth, sheriff, later the Grays and latterly the Morgans, that is today divided again into three residences.

A subsequent lease apparently dealing with the same part of Queensborough, between Thomas Burgess and James Metcalf in 1770 in part states:

unto James Metcalf all that field on the west side of the said Thomas Burgess's garden at Queensborough aforesaid formerly called and known by the name of the Bowling Green now or lately in the tenure or occupation of Thomas Tipping Esquire as the same was formerly meared and bounded and in as ample a manner as the said Thomas Burgess did formerly and the said Thomas Tipping doth now possess and enjoy same, containing one plantation acre.

6 An area of the estuary east of Mornington, near Newkey, was known as 'Man O War', as it provided a sheltered deep water berth for Royal Naval frigates.

We interpret the field known as the Bowling Green to describe the area then open to the Beaulieu estate, currently occupied by the two rear gardens west of Queensborough House, this area measuring approximately one plantation acre, and that Thomas Burgess occupied either the building directly adjacent to Queensborough House, or the western part of Queensborough House. In any case, that section of Queensborough appears not to have been occupied by the Revenue at that time.

However, a lease dated 24 April 1773 between Thomas Burgess of Queensborough, gent and Arthur Lynas of the Town of Drogheda, revenue officer (tidewater at Queensborough), concerns:

a house offices and garden in Queensborough aforesaid lately held by Thomas Galway, mear'd and bounded as follows Viz. by the river Boyne on the South, on the North and West by Thomas Tipping Esq's Estate and on the East by Queensborough houses.

Annual rent was £9 2s. sterling. We interpret the aforesaid house to have occupied the westernmost extent of Queensborough, roughly in the area currently occupied by the modern bungalow of the O'Reilly family. Interestingly, the said Thomas Galway was granted an alcohol licence at Queensborough in 1771.

As another aside, it appears from the minutes of March 1772 that an officer's job was rather hazardous, and that the problem of payment was much the same then as it is today:

Charles Tottenham Collector Drogheda 11th June last in answer to the Board's of the 14th May inclosing a letter from William Lane Tide Surveyor that James Caverley Cockswain there when doing his Duty on the 1st of May was bit by a Dog supposed to be mad. That Surgeon Cleapham attended him regularly until he cured him and inclosing the Apothecary's Bill for medicines amounting to £1 1s. 7d. Write the Collector that he may pay the Apothecary's Bill of £1 1s. 7d. and five Guineas to the Surgeon for his attendance and place the same to his Account of Incidents.

Meanwhile, in 1769, the Beaulieu estate passed to Thomas Tipping, who appears to have taken an active interest in Queensborough. An interesting deed or 'lease to transfer use into possession' in the Beaulieu estate papers, dated 7 February 1771 (with effect from the 6th) apparently had the purpose of returning the Beaulieu estate into the owner's hands out of a trust arrangement with one Gawin Hamilton of Killyleagh, Co Down, his wife, son and heirs. Amongst other property, it concerns:

also all the houses that were built for and inhabited by revenue officers known by the name of the Queensborough houses and of the gardens thereunto belonging containing two acres one rood and twenty perches or thereabouts and also all outhouses, barns, stables, gardens, closes, grounds, lands, meadows, pastures, feedings, commons, profits, ways, paths, passages, waters, watercourses, easements and appurtenances whatsoever to the premises belonging.

This lease confirms that many, if not all, of the houses were built for the Revenue officers at Queensborough. However, it does not clarify whether these houses are new and/or additional structures or those referred to in the 1745 lease, already mentioned.

Shortly after having recovered full ownership and control of the estate, Tipping set about securing leases with the Revenue. The Customs and Excise minutes for 11 July 1771 record correspondence between them and Thomas Tipping about a lease of these properties:

Charles Tottenham Collector Drogheda 9th Instant inclosing a Letter from Thomas Tipping Esq That the Quit Rent of his Estate is in the Hands of the Board as Tenants of Queensborough Houses. Write to the Collector to acquaint Mr Tipping that the Board are ready to pay to the person who is entitled to it whatsoever Rent is due from them for those Houses, but that they cannot allow of its being applied in discharge of the Quit Rent as it would Occasion Confusion.

The minutes for 3 March 1772 record:

Thomas Tipping Esq. his Memorial that in March last he agreed with the Board to set them a Lease of the Houses at Queensborough in Drogheda District for 31 years from the 1st November 1770 at the

yearly Rent of seventy Pounds on his putting the said Houses in good Repair, that they are now in good Order, that there is a Years rent due the 1st November last on payment of which he is ready to execute the Lease. Refer it to the Collector and Tide Surveyor to report the Facts and whether the said Houses to be thoroughly repaired.

This lease finally begins on 1 November 1772. It appears to have been something of a consolidation of the Board's interest in Queensborough, which up to then seems rather haphazard or at least unclear. It would nevertheless take one more stage, in 1811, to completely consolidate it, only just before a major restructuring of the whole service.

By 1773, it appears that this consolidation was recognised in the Establishment record, since Queensborough was given its own sub-heading under Drogheda, listing all officers based there, and showing the senior officer there to be the tide surveyor. This practice would continue until the restructuring in the 1820s.

Interestingly, we uncovered several early, though incidental and somewhat anecdotal, references to Queensborough in the literature. The earliest is found in Moira Corcoran's 'Three Eighteenth Century Drogheda Letters'. In a letter to John Forbes, MP for the County of the Town of Drogheda, dated 1 July 1788, Spencer Huey states:

This day week at a Pattern at Morningtown a Party of upwards of a Hundred (Defenders) who had been sworn passed over to Queensberry in Boats, and paraded there for a considerable time, and every night since, parties have been parading and swearing each other in the neighbourhood of this town.⁷

Another such reference to Queensborough is found in Hughes' *History of Drogheda*, and relates to the first tug-boat ever to operate on the river owned by Patrick Kelly, founder of the Drogheda *Argus* in 1835:

This tug successfully answered the towage of the port for a considerable length of time until one fine morning she took it into her head to run ashore opposite Queensborough. In this gallivant, she met with much injury, internally as well as externally, and remained beached high and dry for some time.⁸

The 1772 lease on the revenue officers' station at Queensborough expired in 1803, but it appears that the situation was stable enough for matters to drift on for many years. The Beaulieu papers show a record of correspondence on this subject from 1805. A letter from Mitchell (his land agent) to Revd Robert Montgomery, now master of Beaulieu, in 1805 in part states '... you would renew Queensboro for term to be agreed on at £170 yearly - the Commissioners to build a wall of stone and lime ten feet high to enclose or shut out the houses and gardens from the demesne'.

A further letter in the Beaulieu papers from Allan MacLean, Custom House, Dublin (secretary to the Board) to Montgomery, seemingly dated 31 May 1811, in part states: 'Your letter of the 28th inst ... you are willing to grant a lease for lives renewable forever for the houses etc., at Queensborough ... the board more agreeable to lease for 999 years ... if agreeable other terms acceptable'.

The minutes of the Board for 6 June record (including the errors):

Received a letter from the Revd. Robert Montgomery dated 1st inst. in consequence of the Board's Secretary's letter of the 30th ulto. on his of the 28th stating the Terms on which he will grant them a Lease of lives renewable for ever of the Surveyor & Boatmen's Houses etc at Queensboro' in Drogheda and acquainting the Board that he accedes to their alteration and is willing to grant (instead of the Lease of lives) a Lease of 999 years on the Terms mentioned in his said Letter of the 28th ulto. Viz. Two Hundred and five Pounds 3s. Scnd all the Papers to the Solicitor with Directions to have Leases prepared.

The minutes of 25 July 1811 record:

7 Moira Corcoran, 'Three Eighteenth Century Drogheda Letters', *C.L.A.H.J.*, xxii, 1, (1989), p. 31.

8 A. Hughes, *The History of Drogheda up to Date ...* (Drogheda, 1893, reprinted 2003), p. 198.

Richard Waller Solicitor dated 24th inst. that pursuant to the Board's order of the 6th ulto. he has prepared two parts of a lease from the Revd. Robt. Montgomery to George McEntagart Esq. Collector of Drogheda in trust for his Majesty of a parcel of Ground & Houses at Queensboro' in that district which are now in his office. That the former lease expired in November 1803 and the rent thereby assured was £70 per annum. That the rent now claimed since the expiration of that Lease is £205 3s. wherefore there is a Blank in the present Lease for the time of Commencement; and if the advance rent is to be paid up to May last, the new Lease must commence from that Day; but if it is not now to be paid, the new Tenure & Rent must commence from the 1st November 1803 and that he thinks it best to pay the Rent from the Expiration of the former lease. Write to the Collector of Drogheda to pay the advance Rent of said Ground & Houses of £135 3s.- a year from the 1st November 1803 (the time the old lease expired) to the first May last from which day the new leases are to Commence and to which day the old rent of £70 per annum has been paid and to place the same amounting to One thousand & thirteen pounds twelve shilling & six pence to Account of Incidents.

This transaction seems finally to have taken place in August, and the lease had effect from 1 May 1811. It concerned:

All that piece or parcel of ground situate at Queensboro containing 3 acres and 10 perches of land Plantation Measure, [i.e. 4.9 statute acres] together with the several houses or tenements built thereon then and since in the possession of His Majesty's Revenue Officers stationed at Queensboro aforesaid all which said premises are situate lying and being in Queensborough in the Barony of Ferrard and County of Louth and are more particularly described in the map or terchart thereof hereunto annexed.

Sadly, neither this lease, nor its map, has been located.

Correspondence in the Customs records shows that there was a decision made around 1819 to introduce the new system of administration from England. This involved the creation of a Preventive Water Guard, and led soon after to a major reorganization of revenue services in the 1820s, which merged the Preventive Water Guard, the Revenue Cruisers and the Riding Officers, to form what we know as the Coastguard. This resulted in the rapid establishment of numerous coastguard stations along the Irish coastline and elsewhere. The Revenue Commissioners' station at Queensborough was converted into a coastguard station in 1821-2, presumably consolidating many of the functions of customs, coastal defence, search and rescue, etc. What is more, it would come to occupy only part of Queensborough, freeing the rest for disposal. By 1827, the Board was in negotiations with the owners of the Beaulieu estate on this subject.

A letter from Allan MacLean, Custom House, Dublin to Alexander Johnston Montgomery in 1827 in part states:

Refers to your offer ... agreeing to give eighty four pounds per annum for the centre and western range of houses at Queensborough for the whole term of years unexpired of the original lease to the Commissioners of Customs provided they are put into repair and vacated by their present inhabitants. Agreed to give Johnston the estimated cost of such repairs £30 upon the transfer of the interests of the crown at the rent of £84 proposed by Johnston.

In a letter from Alexander Johnston Montgomery replying to MacLean, again in 1827, Johnston estimates the repairs at £47 19s. 8d. finds MacLean's estimate of £30 insufficient and declines his offer, but offers £30 per annum for the centre house, which we interpret to be Queensborough House. The letter also apparently includes a detailed schedule of repairs and costs for each house, referred to as no. 1 & 2, no. 3 Carroll's holding, no. 4 Mr Duffy's holding, no. 5 Ms. Ball's holding, Major Edward's holding, formerly the surveyor's, where the latter again we interpret to be Queensborough House. The negotiations by which Alexander Johnston Montgomery would have leased back part of Queensborough from the Crown clearly collapsed, and in 1828 the Crown sold its interest in the lease of the western half of Queensborough for £900

to Revd John Smyth of Newtown, rector of Beaulieu. The lease describes the property as being part of the premises leased in 1811, and specifically:

ALL THAT AND THOSE the House and Garden lately occupied as a residence by the Tide Surveyor at Queensboro with the six small houses to the Westward thereof and the Gardens behind the same as more particularly delineated and described by the map or terchart thereof hereon delineated all which said premises are situate lying and being in Queensboro in the Barony of Ferrard and County of Louth aforesaid.

The deeds to Queensborough House contain a copy of this lease, which in turn refers to the 1811 lease, but the terchart is again missing.

Sometime shortly after 1828, Revd John Smyth, or his nephew, Ralph Smyth, built the Regency-style house currently occupied by the Morgan family, and which is clearly visible on sheet 25 of the 1836 Ordnance Survey 6 inch map of Louth, and in the painting by W. Greenlees in 1838. D'Alton refers to the house as 'the not less beautiful than tastefully laid out villa of Mr. Ralph Smyth (recte Smith), Sheriff of Drogheda'.⁹ He had been sheriff in 1808, 1838 and 1842, as well as mayor in 1812.

After the departure of the Customs and Excise, the records of Queensborough become rather limited, and must be pieced together from many sources. The river continued to be developed, and so the port records are helpful. In 1842 a survey was carried out under the so-called Victoria Act, already referred to. That survey also produced a list of occupants of the houses along the river, and showed the occupant of Queensborough House to be one Robert Ball Hackett, confirmed by Griffith's *Valuation* in 1854, and the rate books (at the Valuation Office in Dublin), beginning in 1856. He had been sheriff of Drogheda in 1831 and was mayor in 1840. Following his death, his representatives occupied the house from 1863 to 1868.

In 1838, William Greenlees painted a series of water colours of Drogheda and its environs, including one of Queensborough, published here by courtesy of the painting's owner, Austin Greene of Drogheda. It shows a westward view of the hamlet observed from the shoreline at Banktown Head. The three principal houses, the Regency-style house, currently occupied by the Morgan family, the mid- to late-Georgian style Queensborough House, until recently occupied by the Healy family,¹⁰ and Aston Lodge, until recently the residence of the late Ms Joceline Montgomery, are all apparent, albeit not accurate in their architectural detail. Also apparent are the three sets of cottages that then comprised the coastguard station, clearly evidenced by the large Union Jack (or possibly a Red Ensign) at full staff. What appears to be a small, square-sailed, single-masted shallop manned by several uniformed sailors, possibly coastguards, and a small rowing boat being launched by four men, probably fishermen, are depicted, whilst other gentry enjoy the amenity variously on foot or horse. In this regard, it is unsurprising, that D'Alton states that Queensborough is 'a neat little village, resorted to in the bathing season, by the townspeople of Drogheda'.¹¹

Interestingly, smoke is also shown rising from a source off the headland. This is the vicinity of one of the beacons on the river, reputedly designed and/or built by Capt. William Bligh, famous, if not infamous, for his exploits in HMS *Bounty* (Vincent Phoenix, Millmount Museum, pers. comm., 2005). Capt. Bligh was in Ireland in 1800 and is credited with the construction of the north wall in Dublin. The perspective of the painting does not afford a view of the navigational walls on which the beacons are built, the former having been largely constructed between about 1780 and 1802, as is apparent from Bald's map of 1834.¹²

A considerable amount of development was happening in Queensborough around this time, notably the reclamation of land from the 'slobland', around an acre in total, which gave rise to larger front gardens on most of the houses, and shifted the road away from them, forming a public road, with a sea wall. In the 1840s, the Coastguard station was being developed, and records and drawings of this development still exist in the National Archives in Dublin. The same files show a further major re-development around 1910-12.

9 John D'Alton, *The History of Drogheda* (Dublin, 1844), ii, p. 398.

10 The Healy family sold the house in 2005, and subsequent changes are not considered here.

11 D'Alton, *History of Drogheda*, ii, p. 398.

12 William Bald, 'Map of the River Boyne with full soundings', original in Drogheda Port Company archive.

The troubles led to attacks on these outlying stations, and many were burned by the IRA in 1921, including the one at Queensborough. In 1944, Archie Lappin acquired the Coastguard stations at Queensborough and Laytown. He developed the former as the set of five red-brick residences we see there today, and he made the latter his home, where he raised a large family.

In conclusion, the origin of Queensborough as a landlord-built estate village serving Beaulieu as asserted by Philip and Delphine Geoghegan,¹³ or a purpose-built station for the Revenue Commissioners strategically placed overlooking the estuary of the Boyne River, remains rather equivocal. Sam Bouie's 1765 survey map of the River Boyne (see Fig. 2) depicts Queensborough in very rudimentary form as consisting of six distinct



Figure 4: Watercolour painting of 'Queensboro, near Drogheda, County Louth' by W. Greenlees, October 21 - 1833. Courtesy of Austin Greene, Drogheda.

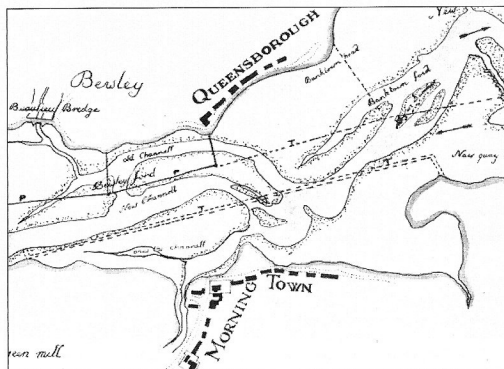


Figure 2: Extract from 'A Survey of the River Boyne from Drogheda to the Bar' by Samuel Bouie, 1765. Courtesy of Drogheda Port Company.

13 Philip and Delphine Geoghegan, *Building Sensitively and Sustainably in County Louth* (Kinsale, 1999), p. 32.

structures, each possibly comprising multiple units. Interestingly, the map shows lines of piles being driven on either side of the proposed channel, representing the initial remedial efforts to straighten and consolidate the channel, and make the river more navigable. Development of the port seems therefore to coincide with the development of Queensborough. The latter does not appear in the records before 1712, and the relevant Revenue officers were definitely based elsewhere in 1690. We can reasonably assume its existence was formalised in the reign of Queen Anne, as a base for Revenue officers providing an excellent station for surveying the port traffic.

Queensborough and its Occupants in 2005: Queensborough is prominently featured as an outstanding example of sensitively-built development in *Building Sensitively and Sustainably in County Louth*, published by Louth County Council (see pages 16, 30 to 33, 51, 60 and 62). The hamlet is described as an ‘attractive built frontage to the estuary’,¹⁴ and further that ‘the diversity of houses ... group together coherently because they all address the estuary and roadside, with gardens to the front and consistent treatment of boundaries with stone walling, and with a wooded backdrop which sets them within the landscape’.¹⁵ Notably, a photograph of Queensborough House itself heralds in the chapter on Building Tradition.¹⁶ As Queensborough is surrounded by the lands of Beaulieu Demesne, its secluded and charming character is seemingly incorruptible.

The hamlet is dominated by the three principal houses, the Regency-style house, currently occupied by the Morgan family, the Georgian-style Queensborough House, formerly occupied by the Healy family, and Aston Lodge, until recently the residence of the late Ms Joceline Montgomery, and occupied in 2005 by Mr Dominic Hartigan.

Interspersed amongst these is a wide variety of smaller house types from simple cottages, to two-storey red bricks, to a modern bungalow (see Table 1). The houses are set well back from the road, each with ample front gardens, although these foreshorten from west to east. The public road is framed between the continuous line of stone walls of the houses and the river wall.

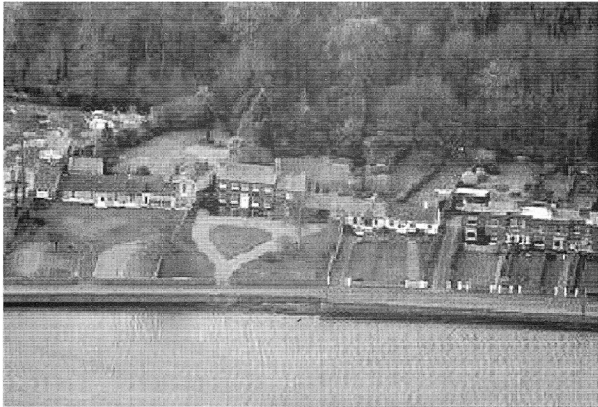


Figure 5: Aerial photograph of central part of Queensborough in 2005. Courtesy of Newsfile.

14 *Ibid.*, p. 16.

15 *Ibid.*

16 *Ibid.*, p. 49.

In considering Queensborough, a report by An Foras Forbartha states:

Two of the houses stand out as being of interest. The house at the West end is five bays, two storeys, white, rendered, with a segmental-headed carriage-arch beside the house.

The second house to the East looks earlier: five bays, two storeys, rendered, with a block-and-start, round-headed doorcase, over a basement and projecting end stacks.¹⁷

Clearly the former is Morgans and the latter is Queensborough House. The report confirms the view that Queensborough House is the older, Georgian and most likely completed in the late eighteenth century, whereas Morgans is Regency dating from the early nineteenth century. The following table sets out the occupants as of 2005 of all premises at Queensborough.

Table 1. Occupants of Queensborough circa 2005

House	Description of Facade	Occupants
1. (West)	Modern bungalow incorporating old cottage	O'Reilly family
2.	Double-fronted, 7-bay, two-storey Regency with modern portico	Morgan family
3.	Modern reconditioned two-storey, old carriage house/stables	Mrs Rita Morgan
4.	Hybrid of old cottage, renovated stables and modern conservatory	Matthews family
5. Queensborough House	Double-fronted, 6-bay, two-storey Georgian with basement	Healy family
6.	Reconditioned 2-storey, old cottage (Queen Anne)	Mr Noel Harte
7.	Reconditioned 2-storey, old cottage (Queen Anne)	Ronan family
8.	Two-storey, 3-bay, red brick Edwardian	Crinion family
9.	Two-storey, 2-bay, red brick Edwardian	Mrs Jan Murdock
10.	Two-storey, 2-bay, red brick Edwardian	Mrs Clarie Reddan
11.	Two-storey, 2-bay, red brick Edwardian	Mr Tom Lyons
12.	Two-storey, 2-bay, red brick Edwardian	Mrs Margaret O'Brien
13.	Reconditioned 2-storey, old cottage (Queen Anne)	Mr Liam McNally
14.	Reconditioned 2-storey, old cottage (Queen Anne)	Collins family
15. Aston Lodge (East)	3-bay single-fronted Georgian	Mr Dominic Hartigan

History of Queensborough House: The key to understanding the early history of Queensborough House lies in the records of the Irish Board of Customs and Excise, currently shared between the National Archives of Dublin and London. They shed much light on the stationing of Revenue officers at Queensborough from at least 1712, and probably earlier. As illustrated by the Establishment extract from 1789, the key official at Queensborough was the tide surveyor. As already mentioned, the lease of 1828, which forms one of the key deeds to the house concerns 'the House and garden lately occupied as a residence by the Tide Surveyor at Queensboro with the six small houses to the Westward thereof'.

That lease effectively cut Queensborough in half, so that most of the eastern part would continue as a coastguard station, albeit Aston Lodge remained part of Beaulieu Demesne, and the western part would move into private hands. As shown by the map in Figure 7 (attached to the 1947 deed to the house), the boundary is at the eastern wall of Queensborough House, therefore given the description used in the lease, it is the former tide surveyor's house. Incidentally that same deed of conveyance from 1947 names the house as Queensborough House, as does the previous lease to Patrick Tallan of 1906.

17 An Foras Forbartha, *Buildings of Architectural Interest in Co. Louth* (Dublin, 1976), p. 64.

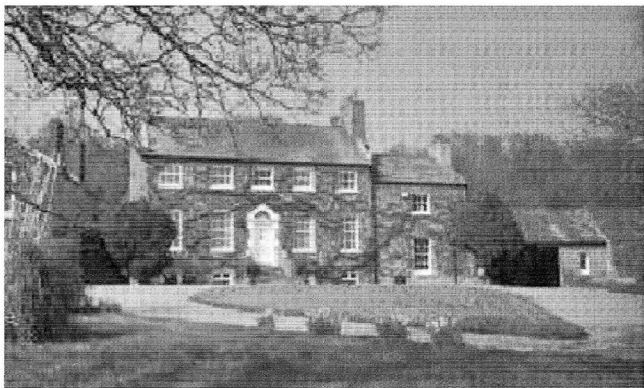


Figure 6: Photograph of front elevation of Queensborough House in spring 2005. Courtesy of Newsfile.

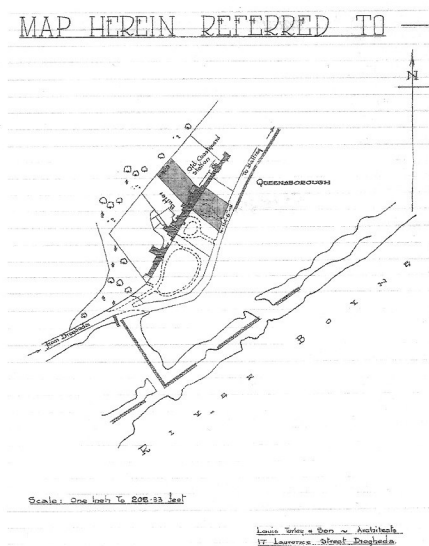


Figure 7: Survey of Queensborough House by Louis Turley & Son, architects, 17 Laurence Street, Drogheda. Annexed to conveyance between Ralph George Smyth and others to Violet Mcvill Aitken, 20 August 1947.

One of three parties built the fine late-Georgian wing that now forms the main part of the house: a) The Revenue, which seems unlikely, as they were tenants, suggesting they wanted someone else to take care of the properties; b) Revd John Smyth, who bought out their part of their interest in 1828, which seems somewhat late for the style in question; or c) and most likely, the Beaulieu estate, which would have provided it for the senior officer at the station, at an appropriate rent. The Customs and Excise Establishment records at Kew provide the names of those in the role of tide surveyor back to 1690, as set out in Table 2 below.

There is a gap in our knowledge in two respects. Firstly, we don't have an absolute start date at Queensborough, just a first reference. We can be pretty confident that it lay between 1690 and 1712, and since we attribute its origins to Queen Anne, we might narrow that to 1702-12. It seems unlikely that a tide surveyor was moved, and probable that the development was associated with a new head man in Drogheda - known as the Collector. In this case we might assume that the change took place under William Abraham Bodens, collector from 1702 to 1711, and that he appointed Thomas Jones in 1703 as the first tide surveyor in Queensborough. The only other reasonable assumption is that the same collector appointed William Gardiner as the first tide surveyor at Queensborough in 1707.

Table 2. TIDE SURVEYORS at Drogheda

Period	Name	Base	Years
1690-7	John Ames (or Aymes)	New Key	at least 7
1700-01	John Caffrey	?	approx 2
1701-03	Alexander Erwin	?	2
1703-07	Thomas Jones	?	4
1707-17	William Gardiner	Queensborough	10
1717-22	Luke Neelson	Queensborough	5
1722-33	Fielding Wye	Queensborough	11
1733-50	Lewis Howell	Queensborough	17
1750-58	Joseph Charnley (or Chearnley)	Queensborough	8
1758-60	Thomas Kelly	Queensborough	2
1760-69	Joseph Maguire	Queensborough	9
1769-71	William Lane	Queensborough	2
1771-at least 1799	Thomas Moore	Queensborough	at least 28
1805-approx 1821	Steele Hawthorne	Queensborough	up to 16

Source: Irish Board of Customs and Excise records, National Archives, Kew, Surrey, UK.

Secondly, we cannot state with absolute certainty that the tide surveyor occupied Queensborough House throughout the subsequent century. It is the obvious location for the senior person, on a rise in the centre, with an excellent view. It even has a window in today's kitchen, and a small lookout window in the room above, ideal for observing river traffic. It certainly was the tide surveyor's house in later years, as implied by the deeds. It is reasonable to assume it was always such. Even if that is not the case, we know it was a revenue house up to 1828.

Interestingly, in 1830 Steele Hawthorne, the last tide surveyor at Queensborough, is captain of the *Hooton*, a 109-ton sailing vessel, and thus continued to derive a livelihood from the Boyne. Subsequent occupants included Major Edwards, as already mentioned, but about whom we know nothing. Robert Ball (Hackett) we know about already, and he appears to have been resident for at least twenty-one years, immediately after being mayor in 1840. The Valuation records show many subsequent changes of occupant, but we know precious little about them.

A Francis W. Leland was a sheriff of the town in 1824, and a member of the Harbour Board in 1830, although this seems too early to be one and the same. Leland is a name closely associated with the townland of Bellichburne. James McCann, and by no coincidence, his landlord, Capt. Smyth, are listed on the directorate of the Drogheda Steampacket Co. in 1892. McCann is a name long associated with milling, brewing and baking in the town, and he may be one of the former millers of McCann & Hill in Drogheda, and indeed, a Hill lived at one point in what is today Morgans. A John Chadwick was mayor in 1881 and chairman of the same Steampacket Co. in 1892, and is likely thus related to the Francis Chadwick in residence at that time. Hughes mentions that notable members of the congregation celebrating the laying of the foundation stone of St Peter's church in 1881 are the mayor, John Chadwick, and Francis Chadwick, as well as a Mrs Healy, West Street.¹⁸ Galbraith is a name long associated with baking in Drogheda, whilst a George Galbraith was a town councillor in 1892, and there may well be a link there. Patrick Tallan is a name still known in Drogheda today. He was a solicitor in town, who died around 1910 in a tragic accident. The firm of his name is the same firm that acted for the sale of Queensborough House in 2005.

The Law family is well known locally, and Mary Law occupied the house from 1921. Violet, known as Lally, and married to an Aitken, remained in the house after her mother Mary's death, and she purchased it from the Smyths in 1947, and lived there up to 1958. It was once again sold, this time to Michael O'Kane, a local cattle dealer of some means, who never lived in the house, but instead bought another Law family house, Weston, and moved there. He then quickly sold Queensborough House in 1959 to Raymond E. Healy who died in May 1995, and Eleanor Catherine Healy (née Farrell), who died in September 2004. The house thus came on the market for only the fifth time ever in 2005.

The Healy Family: The history of the Healy family in Drogheda began in the mid-1840s when James J. Healy moved there from Dublin. He founded a grocery and bakery, as well as accumulating a substantial property portfolio in the town. James had married Catherine M. (née Roche) in 1838, and on his death in 1853, Catherine continued the business at 81 West Street, where she also manufactured soap and candles. Their son, Luke J. Healy, was born in 1842. Stratten & Stratten¹⁹ report that Luke expanded the business around 1872 adding the manufacture of mineral waters to the drug store business. The varied and comprehensive stock included 'patent and family medicines; veterinary preparations; elegant toilet requisites ...; oils, paints, colours, and varnishes; surgical and medical appliances; artists' materials ...; and all kinds of photographic apparatus and materials for professionals and amateurs'. Luke married his second wife Agnes (née Curtin) in 1890.

Luke's older brother, James Stanislaus Healy, was born in 1840, married Kate Mary Appleyard in 1871, daughter of another prominent local family, and became an outstanding solicitor. Hughes mentions James as the electioneering agent for Dr O'Leary, who was elected to the British House of Commons in 1874. Hughes recounts that 'His electioneering agent was a brilliant rising young solicitor named James Healy, member of an old and widely respected Drogheda family. He was remarkably clever, well read in the law, and his forensic ability and charming eloquence are still recalled'.²⁰

James' son, John Edward Healy, was born in 1872, qualified as a barrister, and then went on to become editor of the *Irish Times* for twenty-seven years between 1907 and 1934.

Luke's son, John O'Connell Healy, was born in 1891, and married Violet Agnes (née Jones) in 1919. John was a pharmacist who continued Luke J. Healy Ltd. as a pharmacy and mineral water business at nos. 1 and 82 West Street. John's son, Raymond Edward Healy, was born in 1920, also became a pharmacist, and continued Luke J. Healy Ltd. until his death in 1995. Raymond was a long-serving member of the

18 Hughes, *History of Drogheda up to Date*, pp 75-6.

19 Stratten & Stratten, *Dublin, Cork, and South of Ireland: a Literary, Commercial, and Social Review Past & Present* (London, 1892), pp 125-6.

20 Hughes, *History of Drogheda up to Date*, p. 166.

North-eastern Health Board. In addition, he was a member of the Leinster Schools Rugby cup-winning Castleknock team of 1939, and a member of the Towns' Cup winning team for Co Louth Golf Club, at Baltray, where he was also the captain in 1955.

Eleanor Catherine Healy (née Farrell) was born in 1925 to Matthew Aloysius Farrell and his wife, Eleanor Catherine (née O'Riordan). Matthew was born in 1894, qualified as a solicitor, and ran a solicitor's practice in Longford town until his death in 1953. His father was the illustrious James Patrick Farrell, born in 1865 in Strokestown, and married to Bridget Maria (née Fitzgerald) in 1888. James was a journalist and founder of the *Longford Leader* newspaper, for which he remained editor until his death in 1921. He authored the *History of the County Longford*, published in 1891, and was also leader of the Land League in Co Longford. He was elected to the British House of Commons for West Cavan between 1896 and 1900, and North Longford between 1900 and 1918, and was a member of the Irish Parliamentary Party under John Redmond. He was imprisoned in 1899, 1903 and in 1908 at Kilmainham Jail for his activities as one of the leaders in the Land War in Co Longford. He was a staunch advocate of the Irish National Volunteers, and continued with the Irish Parliamentary Party even after 1916.

Raymond Edward Healy and Eleanor Catherine (née Farrell) married at Donnybrook church in 1953, and lived over no. 1 West Street until acquiring Queensborough House in 1959. They had five children, Grattan, Simon, Raymond, Lynden and Alison, all of whom were raised in the house.

Table 3: Residents of Queensborough House up until 2005.

Period	Resident	Years	Owner	Source*
1712-17	William Gardiner	at least 5	Sir Henry Tichbourne	
			(1st Baron Ferrard)	C & E
1717-22	Luke Nealson	5	"	"
1722-33	Fielding Wye	11	"/William Aston MP	"
1733-50	Lewis Howell	17	William Aston MP/ Tichbourne Aston MP"	
1750-8	Joseph Charnley (or Chearnley)	8	heirs of Tichbourne Aston MP	"
1758-60	Thomas Kelly	2	"	"
1760-9	Joseph Maguire	9	"/William Aston	"
1769-71	William Lane	2	Thomas Tipping	"
1771-at least '99	Thomas Moore	at least 28	"/Revd Robert Montgomery	"
1805-approx '21	Steele Hawthorne	up to 16	Revd Robert Montgomery/Customs	"
1827	Major Edwards	?	Customs	HOS
1828-35	?	?	"/Revd John Smyth	deeds
1835-42	?	?	Ralph Smythe Esq	deeds
1842-63	Robert Ball (Hackett)	at least 21	"	Victoria, Griffith & Valuation
1863-8	Reps Robert Ball (Hackett)	5 years	"/Capt. Ralph Smythe	Valuation
1868-70	Capt Ralph Smythe	2 years	Capt. Ralphe Smythe	"
1870-1	Richard Challenge Lyndsey	1 year	"	"
1871-5	Francis W. Leland	4 years	"	"
1875-6	Vacant	1 year	"	"
1876-8	John Drew MD	2 years	"	"
1878-80	Henry Keogh	2 years	"	"
1880-4	James McCann	4 years	"	"
1884-5	Vacant	1 year	"	"
1885-96	Francis Chadwick	13 years	"	"

Table 3: Residents of Queensborough House up until 2005 — *continued*

Period	Resident	Years	Owner	Source*
1896-1904	Cecil Thornhill	8 years	"	"
1904-6	Sarah Galbraith	2 years	"	"
1906-11	Patrick Tallan	5 years	"	"/deeds
1911-18	Louise D. Murphy	7 years	"	"
1918-19	Agnes Paul	1 year	"/Reps Ralph Smyth	"/deeds
1919-21	John J. McAuley	2 years	Ralph George Smyth+	"/deeds
1921-40	Mrs Mary M. Law	19 years	"	"/deeds
1940-58	Violet M. Aitken	18 years	"/Violet M. Aitken	deeds
1958-9	Vacant	1 year	Michael O'Kane	deeds
1959-95	Raymond & Eleanor Healy	36 years	Raymond & Eleanor Healy	deeds
1995-2004	Eleanor Healy	9 years	Eleanor Healy	-
2004-5	Healy Family	1 year	Reps Eleanor Healy	-

Notes: Residence at Queensborough House up to 1821 is based on the evidence from the title deeds that it was the title surveyor's house. The main section of the house probably dates from 1800 or so.

C & E: Establishment and Minute records of Irish Customs and Excise, National Archives, Kew, Surrey.

HOS: Harold O'Sullivan, extracts from Beaulieu estate papers.

Victoria: list from 1842; Griffith's *Valuation* dates from 1850; Valuation refers to rateable valuations at the Valuation Office Dublin.

Description of Queensborough House as of 2005: The house is a handsome double-fronted Georgian period residence, sitting on three quarters of an acre, beautifully and prominently situated on the highest point of, and centrally within, the hamlet of Queensborough. James Garry, in his 'Townland Survey of Co. Louth: Beaulieu', describes the house as 'of five bays, two storeys, with a block-and-start round-headed doorway over a basement and projecting end-stacks'.²¹

The aforesaid main block is late Georgian, probably built in the late 1700s, whilst the adjoining secondary block without basement is probably Queen Anne modified to the same Georgian style. With the exception of the lower ground-level windows, the front elevation boasts the original, classical Georgian fenestration. The front elevation is augmented by a flight of massive cut-stone steps with capped pillars and parapet walls spanning over, with arch, the lower ground-level areas (trench), dubbed the moat. A narrow forecourt runs the full length of the front of the house, terminating with short low end walls bounding access to garages at either side. The main block is decorated with two ornate cast-iron urns seated atop raised natural stone barges. The house is rendered in lime render, which has been finished using the 'Ruled Ashlar' method. Mature virginia creeper adorns the front elevation, the foliage on which turns a brilliant red in August and September.

The house contains approximately 3,358 sq. ft. of floor space, and boasts six bedrooms, three reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom, en suite, small w.c., storeroom and two staircases. In addition, there are two spacious garages, and two outbuildings; the coalhouse and a small w.c. (see Fig. 9). As stated earlier, with the exception of the lower ground-level windows, the front elevation boasts the original Georgian fenestration, whilst the original architraves and shutters have also been retained.

The elevated ground floor of the main (west) block contains the drawing-room, the dining-room, and the central hall with main staircase, lit by the fanlight over the hall door and a large Georgian light on the rear landing. The drawing-room has been extended to the rear, a study has been added to the rear of the dining-room, whilst a full bathroom has been added to the rear of the main staircase at ground level. The staircase leads up to two bedrooms on the first floor, which are above the former two reception rooms, and one of which is served by an en-suite bathroom. The staircase also leads down to the lower ground level, which contains three bedrooms underlying the former three reception rooms.

21 Garry, 'Townland Survey of County Louth: Beaulieu', p. 280.

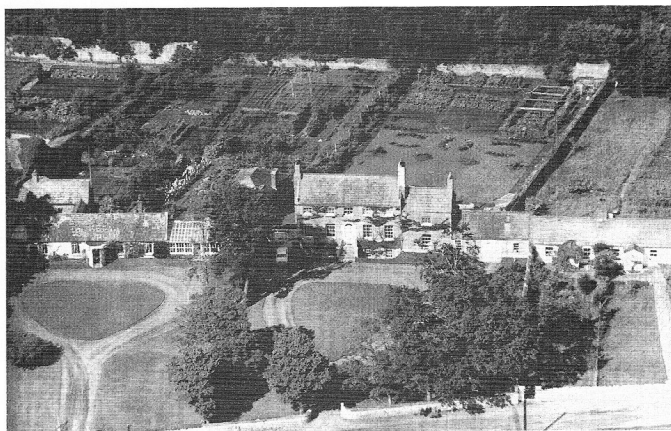


Figure 8: Aerial photograph of Queensborough House, circa 1962, with Butlers directly to the west (left), and the two cottages of the McCormack family and the Ronan family directly to the east (right). Of particular noteworthiness is the intensity of vegetable cultivation apparent in the rear gardens of Queensborough House, as well as in those of the Butlers and Morgans to the west again.

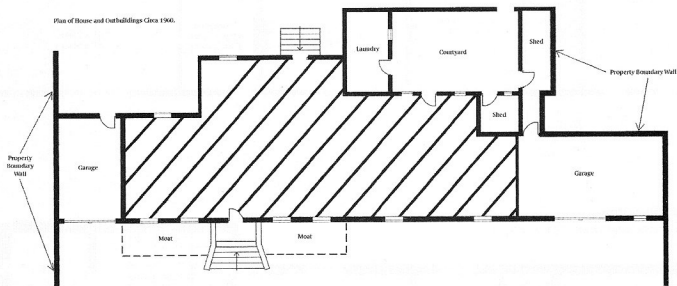


Figure 9: Plan of Queensborough House (diagonal lines) and outbuildings (labelled) circa 1960. For illustration purposes only (i.e., not to scale).

The dining-room, study and two bedrooms directly beneath them in the lower ground level all access the back staircase of the adjoining secondary (east) block. The kitchen occupies the bulk of the ground floor with a bedroom directly above on the first floor, served by an adjacent small w.c. at the top of the staircase. The back hall on the ground floor leads to the store room. The front facade of the secondary block is in line with the adjacent storeroom, garage and cottages to the east, whilst the rear walls of both the kitchen and storeroom are in line with the rear facade of the aforementioned cottages. This and the absence of basement suggest that the secondary block was constructed over, and is a modification of, an earlier Queen Anne cottage.

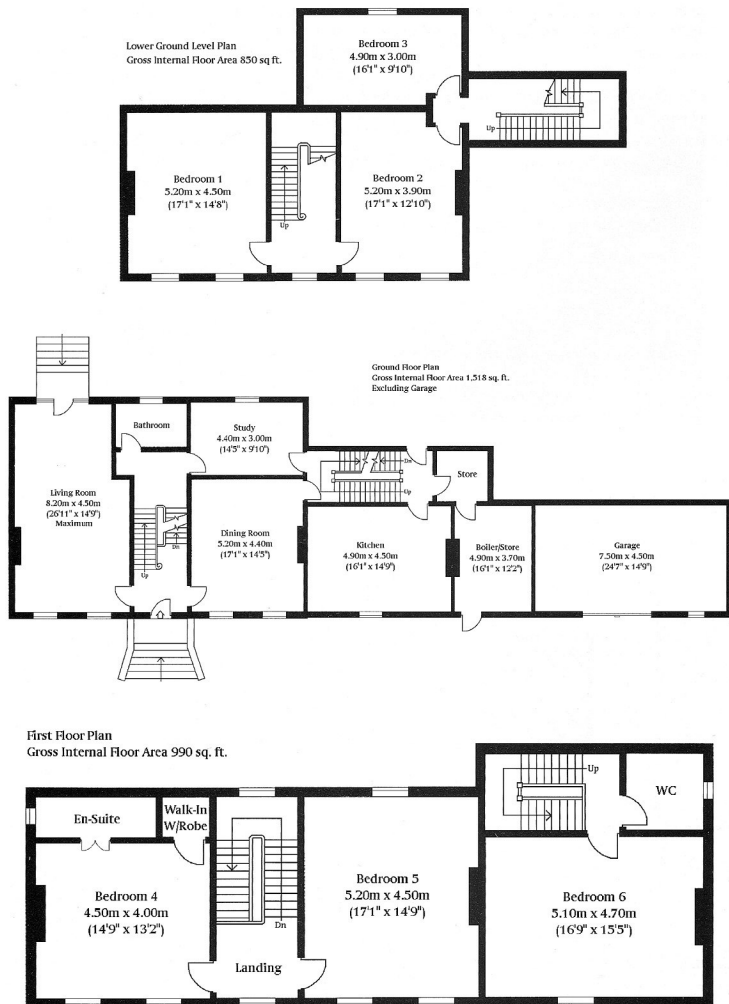


Figure 10: Floor plans of Queensborough House in 2005. For illustration purposes only (i.e., not to scale).

At the rear of the drawing-room, a French door opens out to a flight of cut-stone steps with wrought-iron railings descending to a large terrace. The steps had formerly been positioned to the rear of the study, which was fitted with a half door (glazed upper half, timber lower half), but which was moved to the rear of the newly extended drawing-room *circa* 1964. The disposition of the property prior to these major renovations in 1964 is shown in Figure 9, whilst its disposition in 2005 is shown in Figure 10.

The major renovations undertaken *circa* 1964 centred on the conversion of the lower ground floor from a warren of small dark and damp lime-rendered rooms comprising kitchens (with built-in ovens), pantries and servants' quarters, into three bedrooms. A stone outbuilding that projected out perpendicular to the back wall of the secondary block, and which was called the laundry was demolished. The laundry contained a set of cut-stone steps that descended into what is now the bedroom beneath the study. It is likely that these steps provided access to the kitchens and pantries for all manner of victuals that would have been delivered to the rear of the house. In addition, during these renovations the coal chute and brick barrel-vault were also blocked up, and are believed to underlie the main bathroom immediately behind the main stairwell in the lower ground floor. Notably, the western garage to this day contains two massive brick gate-piers, which would have provided access to the rear of the house for local merchants and traders.

The demolition of the laundry created an expansive terrace running the full length of the back of the house with a low bounding wall. The terrace provides a large seating area that receives late morning and afternoon sun, and from which the extensive rear gardens with towering backdrop of mature woods can be surveyed and enjoyed. With the exception of the west property boundary, the back gardens are enclosed by six-foot high stone walls, presenting an enchanting, secluded retreat.

These descriptions are a snapshot in time, *circa* 2005, but no longer hold true as a consequence of major renovations to all but the façade, profoundly altering the Georgian character of the house undertaken *circa* 2008.

Interestingly, the rear boundary stone wall of Queensborough House contains a small red brick gateway leading into Beaulieu Demesne, close to what was locally referred to as the lower tractor path, and which corresponds to one of the cart tracks indicated in the Victoria map of 1842. One can speculate that the tide surveyor used these paths to access the Sentry Hill, and being the most senior British official in the locale, also to frequent Beaulieu House, possibly as a dinner guest.



Figure 11: Queensborough Coastguard Station, c. 1910. Postcard by Francis W. Payne, 12 Shop Street, Drogheda. Courtesy of Noel Ross, Dundalk.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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