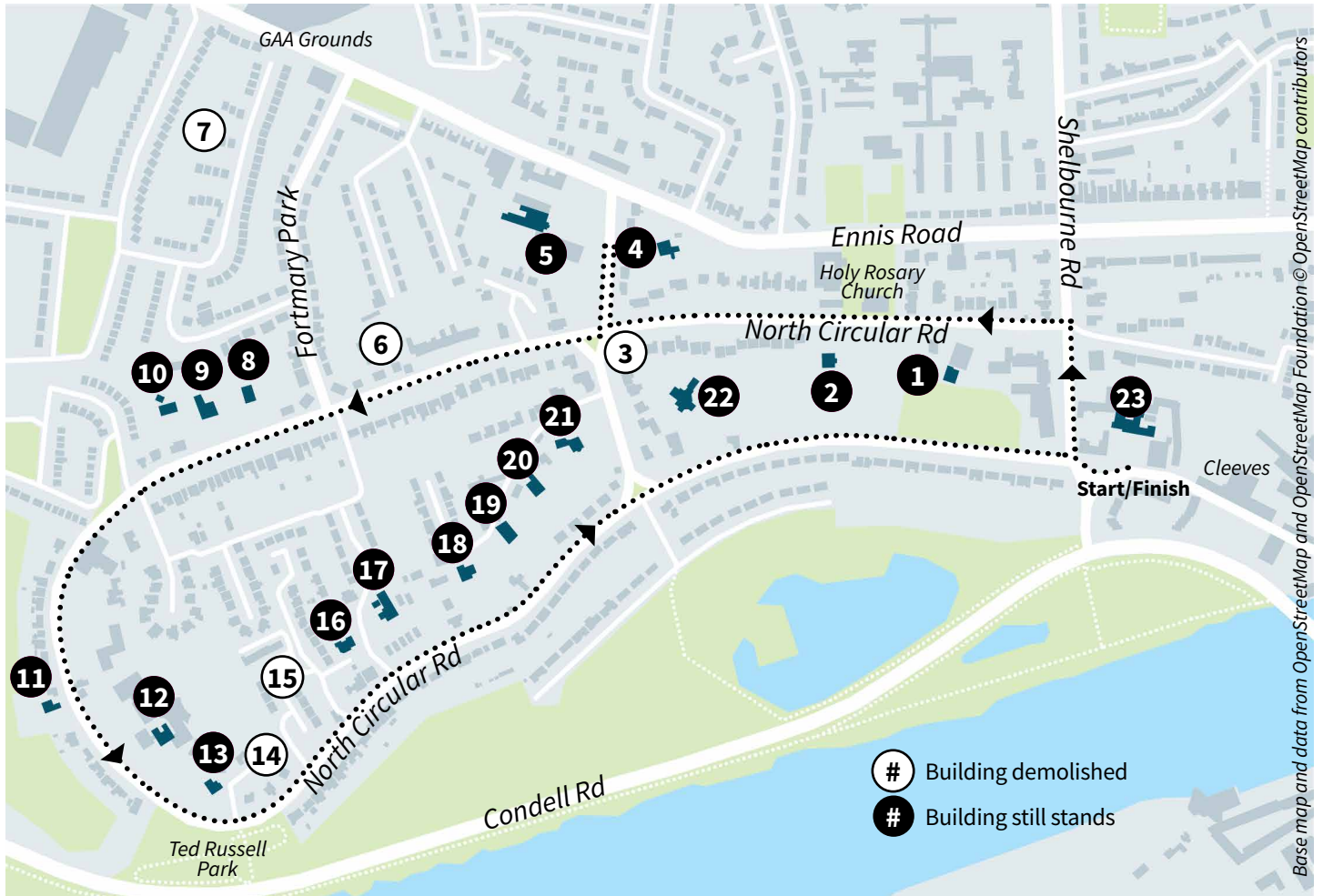




Distinguished Villas

National Heritage Week 14–22 August 2021

A self-guided walking tour of some of the landmark homes to be found along the North Circular Road.



Base map and data from OpenStreetMap and OpenStreetMap Foundation © OpenStreetMap contributors

See page two for clippings that offer an overview of the history of each house - a more comprehensive account will be included in the upcoming book that Paul O'Brien is co-writing with Randel Hodkinson.

To read more, view a photograph of each building; and use the tour's interactive map; visit the Distinguished Villas page online at www.openhouSELimerick.ie/heritage-week-2021/distinguished-villas/

This community-led project will continue to develop as more information becomes available. You are invited to add to the body of knowledge of each house through emailing: distinguishedvillas@openhouSELimerick.ie

Please note all villas are private residences and are **not** open to the public. Please respect their privacy.

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|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Shelbourne. | 14. Old Church (Demolished). |
| 2. Kilmoyle. | 15. Lota (Demolished). |
| 3. Laurel Ville (Demolished). | 16. Kyleglas. |
| 4. Thornville. | 17. Sunville. |
| 5. Ardbeg. | 18. Shannon Lawn. |
| 6. Fort Mary (Demolished). | 19. Beechlawn. |
| 7. Coolraine (Demolished). | 20. Bellevue. |
| 8. Orelan. | 21. Evergreen. |
| 9. Cragfield. | 22. Portland. |
| 10. Bracken Brae. | 23. Fernbank. |
| 11. Hawthorne. | |
| 12. Tivoli. | |
| 13. Riverside. | |

#OHL2021

OpenHouse Limerick October 29th–31st 2021
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1. **Shelbourne.** In 1808, Michael McCarthy, PLG, lived here. He gave evidence at a fishery court case in 1842. Offered for sale in 1946, it was reached by a winding avenue and was situated on eight acres.
2. **Kilmoyle.** In 1909, Gerald E. Goodbody was resident. J. O'Brien Esq. offered this house for sale in 1920.
3. **Laurel Ville (Demolished).**
4. **Thornville.** George William Esq., was resident in 1841, the same year he became a subscriber of the Limerick Musical Academy. He left the house in 1843 with the sale notice describing it as 'recently built.' James Harvey, Esq., was resident in 1846. He died in 1848. From 1849, Daniel Gabbett Esq., was resident.
Mrs Russell was resident in 1861. She provided a reference for one of Hall's kitchen ranges, manufactured in Limerick. In 1885, the leasehold in the house was sold. In 1916, Mrs Ellis Goodbody sold Thornville. In 1960, the exec. of Arthur Blood Smyth (1870-1960), solicitor, sold the house which appears to have been the Kennedy family home since the 1960s.
5. **Ardbeg (Altered).** Thomas Revington was a member of the Grand Jury and a merchant and proprietor of the Limerick Warehouse Company. The house was burgled in 1869 and large haul of silver and wearing apparel was stolen.
Robert de Ros Rose, a well known Limerick sportsman who was a follower of the Limerick Hounds and operated a coaching service between Kilkee and Milltown Malbay, was a resident in the 1870s. He died 21 April 1900. Richard de Ros Rose was appointed High Sheriff in 1901; and later as Deputy Lieutenant of Limerick by Lord Dunraven. By 1928, Edward Ludlow Esq., was resident.
In 1941, Honora Margaret Hayes applied for a licence to operate Ardbeg as a hotel.
6. **Fort Mary (Demolished).** Home to the O'Mahony's (book sellers) in the 1980s. Home of Michael J. Cleary in 1877.
7. **Coolrairie (Demolished).** Home to the Todhunters in the 1860s. Offered for sale by the exors of William O'Connell in 1919. Mrs Kathleen de Courcy, previously of the SCR, was resident in 1927. Charles S. Barry, a victualler, offered the house for sale in 1946. It appears that the house stayed in the family as a daughter, Alice was resident in the 1970s. Charles died in July 1973. The exors of Barry offered the house for sale in 1975 with a description of a Georgian residence on 7.25 acres.
8. **Oreland.** Home to John McKern who married into the Meredyth family. Home to Rev. Francis Meredyth MA, Precentor of St. Mary's Cathedral. He died in 1905.
In 1914, Cooper Charles O'Donoghue was proposed as a member of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland. Mrs Salmon sold the household furniture in 1914.
9. **Cragfield.** H. Potterton mentioned in Joyce's *Ulysses* lived at (1866-c.1875) Craig Cottage, now called Cragfield Villa. W.T. Monsell and family were resident by 1877. W. Maunsell in 1880. Mrs and Misses Irwin in 1888.
Thomas P. Marshall married Esther (Essie), youngest daughter of the late Mr. P. Kelly and Mrs. Kelly of Cragfield in 1913. Miss P. Marshall was resident in 1931. Mrs Mary Anne Kelly died in 1939 and left an estate valued at £7,269.
In 1948, Mrs O'Toole advertised for a cook/general servant. In 1981 J.J. O'Toole applied for PP to rebuild the gate lodge and widen the entrance of Cragfield. The O'Toole of JJ O'Toole's in Raheen Business Park, sold the house in 2013 for €1m following the death of their mother Nuala O'Toole.
10. **Bracken Brae.** Home of the Tidmarsh family in the late 19th century and the O'Mara family in 1915. Offered for sale in 1916. Home to Denis Quaid in the 1920s. His son, Charles K. Quaid was a distinguished playwright in 1940s America. Rosie, wife of Dr Jerome Boyce, gave birth to a daughter, Nancie.
11. **Hawthorne.** In 1863, the O'Donnell family were resident. In 1909, William Spillane DL and his wife were resident. Their daughter, Aileen married T. J. Grant Coakley of the Munster and Leinster Bank. Mrs Spillane sold the house in 1910; and by Mrs Finlay in 1948. It operated as a guesthouse.
12. **Tivoli.** Edward Taylor Dartnell sold the house in 1842. A full list of its contents are online. Other residents included J.N. Russell in 1883; Sir Vincent Nash in 1909; and F.G.M. Kennedy in 1915; sold by G.F.T. Finch Esq., in 1918. F.H. Wheeler Massey was resident in 1937. Catherine Daly, wife of Edward Daly, died at Tivoli in 1937. Miss M. Daly sold the house in 1940.
13. **Riverside.** Also known as Derravoher, recently sold to Villers School. Riverside replaced an earlier house known as Lansdowne Cottage.
14. **Old Church (Demolished).** Replaced an earlier house known as Kilrush Cottage and as Little Kilrush. Thomas Revington was the owner of this townland in the mid-nineteenth century.
The Marquis of Lansdowne and Matthew Barrington drained and enclosed the area around Little Kilrush. In 1845, the entire farm at Little Kilrush, amounting to 55 acres was offered for rental.
In 1875, Robert Vere O'Brien was resident. He was injured at a shooting party at Dromoland Castle, and recovered. He died in 1913. He was a nephew of Sir Stephen de Vere who died in 1904.
15. **Lota (Demolished).** Eugene O'Callaghan (-1881), a native of Cork and a prominent merchant served as mayor of Limerick, was resident in the 1870s. The Massy family were resident in 1890.
In 1910, Ethel Tidmarsh married S.H.J. Thunder of Seneschalstown House, Meath. Stuart Harman Thunder served during World War I and was mentioned in despatches seven times. The Tidmarsh family appeared to have been owners and at times rented the house. David Tidmarsh was knighted. He was the Chairman of Cannocks. A native of Kilkenny, he died in 1920. In 1918, his son, John Moriarty Tidmarsh of the Royal Air Force was killed in a mid-air collision in Yorkshire. He was a recipient of the Military Cross.
16. **Kyleglas.** William O'Donnell, Esq. was resident in 1895. Mr. E.J. Long JP in 1919. His daughter, Kathleen married W.J. Riordan of Iona, SCR, Limerick. In 1951, the estate of Joseph Dodds offered the house for sale. Dodds left £16,000 in his will. Bridget Agnes Guerin ran Kyleglass as a guesthouse in the 1970s.
17. **Sunville.** E. Cruise offered the house for sale in 1863. Home to Donogh O'Malley until his death in 1968.
18. **Shannon Lawn.** William Spillane was resident in 1885. In 1897, Stephen B. Quin Esq. was resident. It was sold in 1930 by Sir F. Kearney, who had at least one daughter, unsuccessfully contested the election in 1900 on the Unionist ticket. In 1930, Mr. J. V. Rank purchased Shannon Lawn for £900. J.T. McSheehy, RM, JP was resident in 1939; and in 1945, J. Noonan sold it, described as having '3 bedrooms, drawing room, dining room etc.'
In 1966, Capt. Gerard O'Gorman Quin and his wife, Anne Stolz took up residence. O'Gorman Quin was President of the Irish Association of the Order of Malta.
19. **Beechlawn.** Built by the Quaker family of Alexander in 1802. This house was offered for sale in 1925 by Lady Cleeve. Subsequent residents included: in 1927, Alice, wife of John F. Bourke Esq. of Beech Lawn and daughter of Frank Persse; in 1932, Mrs Wilts; and in the 1940s, the Goodwin family.
20. **Bellevue.** Home of artist Douglas Alexander and, more recently, the home of Cleeves Toffee makers. Douglas Alexander, one of three brothers, were prominent Limerick Quaker merchants. They first developed this area of Limerick and between them, they built Beechlawn and Evergreen Villa, now called Kilcornan Villa.
21. **Evergreen.** Kilcornan, a Georgian villa built by Samuel Alexander in the mid-1800s, is just a short stroll from the city centre. In a bid not to make it appear ostentatious, the house was built into a hollow, so neighbours would think it was a bungalow.
22. **Portland.** Residence of the Church of Ireland Bishop. Archibald Murray was resident in 1885. The Murrays were described as merchants in the census of 1911. The house was described as having 10 windows at the front. When Bruce Murray (1856-1941) died, the house was sold which included the head rent of Bellevue House and Evergreen Lodge. The house consisted of four principal bedrooms and four servants' bedrooms; on six acres. In 1949, Aer Lingus offered Portland for sale.
23. **Fernbank.** Built by Wilkinsons and later purchased by the Cleeve family. More recently a convent and school operated by the Salesians (1924-2020). Acquired by the local authority in 2020, and now part of the larger Cleeve's industrial complex close by. The high quality wood carving might be the work of the Ahane School (John Logan).