

(Mayo N)

11

FORM A.

**I.T.A. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GENERAL SURVEY**

**NATURAL FEATURES, ANTIQUITIES,  
HISTORIC ASSOCIATIONS, ETC.**

BARONY OF Tirawley

TOWN OR VILLAGE Killlala PARISH Killlala COUNTY Mayo (North)

*Insert in Form D. Material*

**TOPOGRAPHY**

*Brief description of outstanding scenic views in the district, natural attractions, or unusual topographical features.*

Situate on the west bank of the River Moy where that river flows into Killlala Bay, on the north coast of Mayo, Killlala is 8 miles distant from Ballina, 31 miles from Castlebar and 45 from Sligo. For many centuries and indeed, up to about a century ago, Killlala was a busy thriving little town and port. Ships from Spain, France and other countries were a common sight in the harbour and large numbers of the townspeople were engaged in the manufacture of linen and in fishing. ~~From those days of romance and prosperity, little remains to tell of Killlala's early importance, excepting the huge warehouses, derelict and forlorn and which now serve only to disfigure the town.~~ The late Rev. S. Greer, (Moy Salmon), in his book, "The Windings of the Moy";

**GEOLOGY**

*Brief notes on unusual geological features, such as caves, eskers, etc.*

There are no unusual geological features.

*is now owned by*

**MANSIONS, CASTLES AND ESTATES  
OF IMPOSING CHARACTER**

*Location and brief description. Owner. Past associations. Libraries or art collections? Gardens? Open to visitors? Admission charge?*

**"CILL ALAITHE".** This splendid residence, on the outskirts of the town as one enters from the Ballina road, was erected about fifty years ago by a member of the Gore family and ~~passed into the hands of Mr A.K. Miller of Derry during the past few weeks.~~ The house is large, containing about thirty rooms in all, is in perfect condition and would appear to be in the style of the period of erection.

The two hundred acres of land attached to the demesne are well wooded and contain a small natural lake, convenient to the house.

The gardens are large and planted with many beautiful shrubs and trees in addition to many varieties of flowers. The glasshouse is well stocked with vines and the gardens also contain a large number of fruit trees of various kinds.

Mr Miller will not refuse admission to visitors who seek ~~the~~ permission.

**PALMERSTOWN ESTATE.** Home of one of the numerous branches of the Knoxes, the Palmerstown Estate is very pleasantly situated at Palmerstown Bridge, 2½ miles from Killlala, on the Ballycastle road.

## TOPOGRAPHY cont'd.

says of Killala, "For a 'Childe Harold' or anyone approaching Byron's Childe, Killala is a place to die rather than to live."

Nevertheless, the town, with its charming air of antiquity, the Round Tower and old Cathedral, the splendour of the ruined Abbeys nearby and the beautiful Bay, holds many absorbing interests for the visitor.

The picturesque, old-world quay should be seen, if only for the views that are obtainable from there of the broad Bay with that barrier of sandhills, Bartra Island, in the foreground and a couple of miles across, on the opposite bank, Enniscrone and County Sligo. Very nice views of the town and of Moyne Abbey are also obtainable from here.

As for a ~~really~~ splendid view of "Killala's Broad Bay", ~~Winnerton~~, as well as the surrounding country, there is none to compare with that from Mullaghcarn, site of coronation of ancient kings and perhaps the most ancient of the many historic places around Killala. To reach this, proceed on the Ballycastle Road to the residence of Rev. Fr. Timlin, P.P. and leaving the tarred road at this point, continue uphill on the old Green Park Road for about half a mile.

From the summit, on a clear day, the ~~wide~~ eye may gaze across a wide expanse of sea, to perceive to the north, the mountains of Donegal, with the little harbour of Killybegs nestling at their feet. Killybegs is about thirty five miles distant by direct sea route. Across on the opposite shore of the Bay, Easky and further east, the long strand and town of Enniscrone will be easily discerned.

The Sliabh Gabh or Ox mountains of Sligo, to the east and the Nephin Range (Mount Nephin, 2,646 ft.) to the west, ~~and~~ south west and south, give the impression of a natural surrounding barrier. On a very clear day, Croagh Patrick, the "Holy Mountain" may be picked out on the far south western horizon. Closer at hand, the wooded lands of the Palmerstown Estate and the remnants of the extensive Castlereagh woods and the Cloonaghmore River flowing between on its way to the sea, make a very pleasing picture. The ruins of Rathfran Abbey, on the bank of the river, stand clear and impressive.

*(Good, safe bathing may be enjoyed from)*  
~~Those who enjoy a stretch of quiet strand and good, safe bathing, will be delighted with the strands of Ross and Rathfran Bay. This splendid three mile stretch of strand may best be approached by branching to the right off the Ballycastle Road, when half a mile out from Killala. This road leads right out to the shore which must be followed ~~round~~ for about half a mile by the coastguard station until the sandhills and the long stretch of fine strand is reached.~~ *(combine)*

The strand, the sandhills, cliffs and rocks and the many beautiful views of sea and shore ~~comprise~~ to make this a natural and unspoiled watering place. The "Burro", a wide expanse of grassland and sandhills ~~and~~ *(property of Mr Joynt, Ross)* is used only for occasional grazing of cattle and seems to offer itself as the ideal golf links.

~~Unfortunately however, there are no catering facilities whatever nearer than Killala, which is four miles distant. Accomodation is very scanty and primitive and there is no shop in the locality but here, I consider, are very interesting possibilities of development.~~

Killala parish extends for about two miles along the left bank of the River Moy and the scenery here is very pretty. The ruined Abbey of Moyne, two miles from Killala, occupies a beautiful site on the river bank.

Palmerstown Bridge, 2½ miles from Killala, on Ballycastle Road and the newly reopened grinding mill on the bank of the Cloonaghmore River nearby, make a very pretty picture on this road.

Killala has a reputation for the breeding of racehorses. Court-hill Stables, 4 miles on Crossmolina Road, usually holds some good class horses and Mr Martin Doohar of Killala has a couple of good horses at his stables in the town.