

ANTIQUITIES

Abbeys, Castles, Fortresses, Round Towers, Early Churches, Sculptured Crosses, Stone Circles, Ogham Stones, Cairns, Souterrams, Pillar Stones, Cromlechs, Forts, Rathes, Moats, Tumuli or ancient monuments of any kind. Exact location of each with short description, noting condition, etc. Relate local legend or tradition associated with building or object. State if in charge of Office of Public Works. Right of way to public? Admission charge (if any). Name and address of caretaker, or where key is kept.

Islandeady Old Church ruins: In Islandeady graveyard to which a narrow roadway leads from the Cestibar/Westport road. Right of way. Not in charge of D.P.W.

DESCRIPTION. Some 52' x 18½' - nave only. Sidewalls internally some 12' high except where there is a breach in southern wall at east gable. Gables perhaps 20' high. East gable has an intact window of two lights, ogee headed, each about 7' high by 12" wide. The mullion is hollow chamfered with slight decoration at its sides near its junction with sill. The window has a lead mould; internal splay and a round-headed head of dressed keyed stones.

The south curtain breach shows the remains of an apse. Also in this wall towards west gable is the doorway - inner framework gone. Outer frame of chamfered stone-work, pointed head. 6' high and 3' 2" wide. The pointed arch carried a pointed mould of which only the terminals remain.

A bay covers an apse in the west gable but it appears to be a narrow pointed light perhaps 4' high and 6" wide.

Also in south wall, between doorway and west gable, a cut stone, rectangular slab and over it the remains of a plain rectangular apse. Inside doorway to the right is the stump. Tradition says that this font never dries - even in the hottest weather it contains water.

HISTORY of the church's erection or subsequent history there is nothing. It may have been a parish church although the spot whereon it is situated was formerly an island. This was "Aleany Ewan" from which comes "Islandeady". St. Aidin is said to be buried by the church's south wall.

"Kilbride Church" ruins in Killbride (locally 'Kil'nerce'). John Inverin. No right of way. Not in charge of D.P.W.

A small structure with no distinctive features remaining except that the large boulder courses show it to have been an early erection. Internally some 17' x 11' - its walls now are down to an average height of 5'.

(Plain sheets of foolscap paper to be used, if necessary, for recording additional information).

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said to be built circa 13th century.

Parish of Islandeady: Barony of Carra: Co. Mayo.

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The antiquity is densely surrounded by scrub and bushes. Known as St. Brigid's Church from which the townland takes its name. Beside it, amidst the debris, is a roughly cut sandstone said to be the Keshenagh stone.

Tradition has no account except that somewhere beside the ruin is a holy well which has at its bottom a stone bearing the name of St. Brigid. The church was burned by the O'G's in 1600.

St. Brigid's well, north of Islandeady. By small-arched railway bridge beside main road near the "Half-way House" (Castletown West post road).

Church ruins in Annagh. To right of way, not in charge of O.P.W. John Boyle. The ruins are of a church of approx. similar dimension to that in Villasee but very little of the walls remain. Heavy boulder masonry mark it as an early foundation.

The site of the church stated to be Patrician (missionary site).

A few fragments of a castle in Cagganagh West. Matthew Foley. To right of way.

Remains consists of a few sizable pieces of stone and masonry lying on the castle site.

In the 16th century the Mac Donells of the Isles of Scotland came to Ireland as mercenaries - these were the "Gallowglass" and in return for their military services were given castles and lands in the occupied areas. This was called "Connacht" or was pay.

The Clan Kinnell are said to have assisted the de Burgo chiefs of the west and Islandeady castle was allotted them. Knox's History of Mayo - page 349. "Rory Mac Donnell occupied Islandeady castle A.D. 1574."

As the parish has no mention of a castle elsewhere and as the castle of Cagganagh is in the Islandeady (townland) district - this is almost certainly the castle referred to.

"Sheeagh" a hill (384') on which there is a cairn called by the O'Donovan (letter to Mayo) "Siosain an ail uisce". Situated 1 1/2 miles from Westport, to the left of the main Westport Keshenagh road.

Cairn taken up from ground.