**Ballinrobe Summary Text**

* **Accommodation.**

There are two hotels listed for Ballinrobe and a number of boarding houses and cafés and restaurants with comments on the quality offered in the various establishments.

* **Amenities**

Ballinrobe town had a population in 1945 of 1400. This section provides a detailed description of the layout of the town, with a small hand-drawn map and detailed outline of the streetscapes. The two churches, St. Mary’s Catholic church and St. Mary’s Protestant church are also described in some detail.

Amenities in the town at the time included the Popular Cinema, the Maple Hall, two flour mills and a sawmill, a branch of the Co. Library Service, 3 banks, schools, and a hospital – St. Teresa’s Sanatorium located at Creagh,

An interesting additional note was added by the surveyor to this section of the survey in which he comments on the general aspect and condition of the town in most unflattering terms, describing it as “easily the most ill-kept town in Mayo, if not in Ireland”.

* **Antiquities**

In common with many other parishes in the survey, there is a comprehensive listing and description of the antiquities of the area. These include:

* Hags Castle: - Situated on an island in Lough Mask. The surveyor traces the history of the castle through the various occupiers: the O’Connors, McDermotts, Burkes (De Burgos) and Binghams.
* Cloonagashel Castle: - A detailed architectural description is provided, with a brief history of the building’s occupancy from the Burkes to the Binghams.
* Cushlough Castle: - Located on the shores of Lough Mask. The history of the castle includes details of the history of the Cuff, Burke and Bingham families.
* Liskillen Castle: - Only fragments of the ruin remain. Originally owned by the O’Ruane family. Subsequently passed through the Burke and Staunton families before being sold to a Captain Bowen.
* Abbey at Ballinrobe: - Ruins at Abbey Street, Balinrobe of Augustinian abbey or of a later church on the same site.
* Church ruins in Ballinrobe: - One in graveyard by High Street, nothing known of its history. The other at Chapel Road was the parish church prior to the construction of St. Mary’s.
* Templenalecka:- Ruin located near Cushlough Castle. Believed to have been a secular church.
* Church ruins at Roxboro:- Known as “Teampleen”, no details of history available.
* Church ruins on Devenish Island on Lough Mask
* Church ruins at Killeshine
* Cairns at Rahard and Caher townlands
* Double ring fort at Liskillen.
* St. Patrick’s Well in Cavan Quarter
* Gallows Hill near Ballinrobe
* Ruins of military barracks in Ballinrobe, burned in 1922.
* **Customs and patterns**

This section of the survey for Ballinrobe lists a few calendar customs, funeral customs, and marriage customs.

* **Historic sites**

Here there is a brief note on Ballinrobe Castle, stronghold of Mac William or Burke.

Famous people who were born in or lived in Ballinrobe include Monsignor D’Alton, author of “A history of Ireland from the earliest times to the present day”, who was P.P. of Ballinrobe from 1911-1941. Also H.T. Knox, author of “history of Mayo” was born in Ballinrobe parish. A supplementary note added to the survey mentions that Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore, U.S.A. received his early education in Ballinrobe.

* **Natural features**

In this section of the survey the landscape of the Ballinrobe parish is described, with a suggested tour taking in the most interesting features.

* **Sports and games**

Sports activities and clubs in Ballinrobe parish in 1945 included angling on Lough Mask, Lough Carra and the river Robe, shooting, Ballinrobe G.A.A. Club, golf, horse racing, Ballinrobe Athletics Club, handball, and billiards.