Archaeological Survey, Clogherbrien Graveyard, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

October 2008

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Table of Contents

| 1. | | Introduction | 2 |
|----|-----|--------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| 2. | | Site Location & Description | 2 |
| 3. | | Boundaries | 4 |
| 4. | | Entrance | 4 |
| 5. | | Pathways | 4 |
| | 5.1 | Recommendation | 5 |
| 6. | | Desire Lines | 5 |
| 7. | | Named Tombs | 5 |
| | 7.1 | Recommendations | 5 |
| 8. | | Unnamed tombs | 6 |
| | 8.1 | Recommendations | 6 |
| 9. | | Inscribed Headstones | ···· 7 |
| | 9.1 | Recommendations | 7 |
| 10 | | Unnamed Headstones | ···· 7 |
| | 10. | .1 Recommendations | 7 |
| 11 | | Unnamed Gravemarkers | 8 |
| | 11. | 1 Recommendation: | 8 |
| 12 | | Miscellaneous | 8 |
| 13 | | Architectural Fragments | 8 |
| 14 | • | Dangerous areas of ground or collapse | 9 |
| | 14. | .1 Recommendations | 9 |
| 15 | • | Description of buildings within Clogherbrien graveyard | 9 |
| | 15. | 1 General | 9 |
| | 15. | 2 Southern room and elevation | I(|
| | 15. | 3 West elevation and Southern & Northern Room | 10 |
| | 15. | .4 Eastern elevation | I |

| | 1).) | interior east-west dividing waii | 1 1 |
|-----|---------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| | 15.6 | Northern elevation | II |
| | 15.7 | Possible upper level | II |
| | 15.8 | Recommendations | II |
| 16. | | nmmary of recommendations for future management/conservation of clogherbrien graveyard | 12 |
| 17. | R | eferences | 14 |
| 18 | Fi | gures | 15 |
| 19 | Pl | ates | 19 |
| 20 | $\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{j}}$ | ppendix 1 Named Tombs | 34 |
| 21 | $\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{j}}$ | ppendix 2 Unnamed Tombs | 40 |
| 22 | $\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{j}}$ | ppendix 3 Inscribed Headstones | 49 |
| 23 | $\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{j}}$ | ppendix 4 Unnamed Headstones and Gravemarkers | 60 |
| 24 | $\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{j}}$ | ppendix 5 Architectural Fragments | 62 |
| 25 | $\mathbf{A}_{\mathbf{j}}$ | ppendix 6 Misc Area | 63 |
| 26 | A | ppendix 7 Plaque | 64 |

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List of Figures Figure 1: Plan of Clogherbrien graveyard 2008. 15 Figure 2: Extract from OS Discovery Series with Clogherbrien highlighted in red. 16 Figure 3: Extract from RMP Sheet 29 with Clogherbrien highlighted in red. 17

Figure 4: Extract from 1st edition OS map 1842.

List of Plates

| Plate 1: View of approach road from the west to Clogherbrien Church and Graveyard | 19 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Plate 2: View of well located to the west of Clogherbrien Church & Graveyard | 19 |
| Plate 3: View of the grave plot of Mary O' Connor, for whom the well known song 'The Rose of Tralee' was written | 20 |
| Plate 4: View of bedrock forming part of the northern boundary wall of the graveyard | 20 |
| Plate 5: View of southern boundary wall from east | 21 |
| Plate 6: Interior view of pedestrian gate on southern boundary wall | 21 |
| Plate 7: Exterior view of turnstile located on eastern corner of southern boundary wall | 22 |
| Plate 8: View of centrally disposed formal gravel path from south | 22 |
| Plate 9: View of oldest recorded tomb (ref. no. 238) for the Cronin family which | 23 |
| dates to 1788 | 23 |
| Plate 10: View of unnamed tomb (ref. no. 250) with large amounts of loose rubble | 23 |
| stone in its vicinity | 23 |
| Plate 11: View of oldest recorded headstone with the surname Flynn and dating to 1739 | 24 |
| Plate 12: View of possible grave slab recorded between tombs 260 and 261, from east | 24 |
| Plate 13: View of possible architectural fragment (ref. no. 12) | 25 |
| Plate 14: View of possible architectural fragment (ref. no. 13) | 25 |
| Plate 15: View of possible architectural fragment (ref. no. 218) | 26 |
| Plate 16: View of ruined church at western end of graveyard from southeast | 26 |
| Plate 17: Interior view of southern room from east | 27 |
| Plate 18: Interior view of northern room from east | 27 |
| Plate 19: View of large opening in eastern elevation allowing access/egress to the | 28 |
| two rooms | 28 |
| Plate 20: View of southern elevation | 28 |
| Plate 21: Interior view of window ope in southern elevation, Southern Room | 29 |
| Plate 22: View of overgrown western elevation from north | 29 |
| Plate 23: Exterior view of window ope in western elevation | 30 |
| Plate 24: Interior view of eastern elevation, Northern Room | 30 |
| Plate 25: View of possible formal entrance way between northern and southern | 31 |
| rooms | 3 T |

| Plate 26: View of northern elevation | 31 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Plate 27: View of west established ivy on northeastern corner of northern elevation | 32 |
| Plate 28: View of rubble stone and debris in northern room, from southeast | 32 |
| Plate 29: View of remain of walls on possible upper level southwestern corner | 33 |
| Plate 30: View of remains of walls on possible upper level northwestern corner | 33 |

| Townland: Clogherbrien, |
|---------------------------------------|
| Parish: Clogherbrien |
| Barony: Trughanacmy |
| Local name of graveyard: Clogherbrien |
| NGR: 81210, 116080 |
| RMP No.: KE029-059 |
| No. of named tombs: 31 |
| No. of unnamed tombs: 33 |
| No. of inscribed headstones: 125 |
| No. of unnamed headstones: 14 |
| No. of unnamed grave-markers: 53 |
| No. of architectural fragments: 3 |
| No. of cross slabs: 0 |
| |

1. Introduction

Clogherbrien graveyard was surveyed using a Trimble Pro X-H GPS (Figure 1). The survey is linked to GPS and tied into the National Grid. The graveyard plan was produced using Adobe Illustrator. Reference numbers mentioned in the main body of the report relate to the ID point given when the survey was undertaken (see attached A1 plan). A digital photographic record and surname database was also compiled to complement the cartographic survey (Appendices 1 - 7). Photographs of the features within the graveyard are referenced in the appendix and all photographs are provided on the attached disc.

The survey was undertaken in May 2008 and was undertaken with due regard to:

- Conservation principles as produced by ICOMOS in the Venice and Burra Charters
- The publication in 2004 of the Architectural Heritage Protection-Guidelines for Planners by the DoEHLG
- The heritage objectives as outlined and adopted in the current Kerry County Council Draft Development Plan 2003-2009, (121-124).

The Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe was signed at the Granada Convention in 1985 and ratified by Ireland in 1997. The conservation aims as stated in the Burra Charter are for the retention or restoration of historical significance with the minimum of physical intervention and that such intervention work be reversible, maintain the structure's character and setting and that all conservation works should be undertaken following comprehensive research.

2. Site Location & Description

Clogherbrien Church and graveyard is located in Clogherbrien townland approximately 2km northwest of Tralee town centre (Figure 2).

It is situated immediately north of the R558, the main Tralee-Fenit road.

The grounds of the graveyard slope sharply from north to south and bedrock is frequently exposed throughout the grounds.

There are expansive views in all directions from the graveyard.

There is no defined space for parking for visitors to the graveyard, nor is there a hard shoulder

present along this road (Plate 1). Therefore, visitors must resort to parking near entrances of existing dwellings nearby which is a dangerous practice.

The interior of the graveyard has recently been 'cleaned' by a local group and this has had an adverse negative impact on some of the features including headstones and tombs. It is blatantly apparent that the work was undertaken without any professional care guidance or expertise. In essence the recent 'clean up' should be classified as cultural vandalism.

There are several mounds of rubble stone within the graveyard and it is unclear if the stone is from tombs or were formerly gravemarkers identifying burials within the graveyard.

There is very little growth and no trees growing within the graveyard. The lack of vegetation most likely reflects the recent work that may also have involved the use of broad spectrum weed killer which should not be allowed.

There is no water tap servicing the graveyard. A small formalised built well is located immediately west of the graveyard and it is possible that visitors to the graveyard may source their water here, however, the immediate area of the well is often soft, muddy or waterlogged and would need to be properly ordered and more accessible (Plate 2).

There are no formal refuse facilities for the burial ground.

The graveyard was visited on three separate occasions and each time, two sheep were grazing within the grounds or using the ruins of the church for shelter. It is likely that the sheep have contributed to some of the damage to graves and tombs in the graveyard, as well as perhaps to the church ruins. The sheep were deliberately put in the graveyard to try and keep the grass growth to a minimum. However, sheep do immense damage to monuments and they should be removed as a matter of urgency.

Clogherbrien graveyard contains the resting place of Rose O' Connor, the original Rose of Tralee, (ref. no. 120) but does not record the date of her death (Plate 3). Subsequent research discovered that she died in the year 1849. The official Rose of Tralee website records that the famous song was written about her by William Mulchinock in an attempt to convince her to marry him, despite the fact that he came from a wealthy family in Tralee while Mary was a maid in his parent's house. Having been wrongly accused of murder of a local man, William fled to India where he stayed for six years. He arrived back in Tralee coincidentally on the same day that Mary's funeral was taking place. Despite marrying another woman and moving to America with his new family, he is said to have been heartbroken and returned alone to Tralee to live out the remainder of his days six years after leaving for America. He supposedly requested to be buried next to her upon his death; however no record of William Mulchinock was found in the vicinity of Mary's grave or indeed in the burial ground itself. It is always

possible that his is one of the illegible headstones recorded in the graveyard.

Clogherbrien is recorded in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP as KE029-059 where it is classified as 'church and graveyard' (Figure 3).

3. Boundaries

The northern boundary is comprised of naturally exposed limestone bedrock interspersed with a rubble limestone wall where the bedrock is not exposed (Plate 4).

The western and eastern boundaries are constructed from rubble limestone and capped with a projecting limestone coping.

The southern boundary comprises a rubble limestone and sandstone wall with 'cow and calf' coping (Plate 5).

All boundaries are in a good state of preservation.

4. Entrance

There are two entrances located in the southern boundary; one centrally disposed pedestrian gate and an eastern stile entrance.

The centrally disposed entrance consists of a locally forged iron gate set between two cut sandstone and limestone piers which are devoid of their capping (Plate 6).

The gate itself is locked with a padlock and it appears that this gate has not been used in many years.

The eastern entrance comprises a metal turnstile (Plate 7).

5. Pathways

There is a formal internal perimeter gravel path servicing the grounds which also extends north-south through the centre of the graveyard (Plate 8). In general, the graves are accessed by walking over the grass. However, the upper slopes of the graveyard, in particular near the tombs, contains a large amount of rubble limestone and smaller fragments that makes move-

ment in this area a little precarious.

5.1 Recommendation

The loose rubble stone on the upper slopes of the graveyard should be gathered up under archaeological supervision and the area made safe.

6. Desire Lines

The existing formal paths service the graveyard adequately and coupled with the tidy nature of the grounds in general, there is no need to recommend proposed pathways in this instance.

7. Named Tombs

Thirty-one named tombs were recorded in varying states of preservation.

Fifteen of the named tombs were in good condition and require no repair work at present (ref. no.'s 226, 232, 235, 238, 257, 258, 259, 260, 266, 267, 273, 276, 277, 280 and 281).

The remaining sixteen tombs varied in condition.

The render on five tombs is cracked, falling off or missing (ref. no.'s 227, 230, 231, 239 and 286).

Eleven tombs are overgrown and collapsed to varying extents (ref. no.'s 222, 228, 239, 251, 256, 269, 272, 274, 275, 283 and 284).

The oldest recorded tomb dates to 1788 and records the burial of members of the Cronin family (ref. no.238). This tombs is unusual while it looks like two separate tombs with two separate headstones, they are linked at the base at the time of construction to create a singular tomb (Plate 9).

7.1 Recommendations

Focused targeted archaeological excavation should be undertaken where the tombs are collapsed. This work may require Ministerial Consent.

All vegetation on the tombs should be cut back and removed. The tombs can then be reconstructed, repaired and repointed sensitive to their original construction. This work may require Ministerial Consent.

The render should be replaced sensitive to the original construction, where it is missing from the tomb listed above.

The ivy and other growth should only be fully removed as the primary element of an agreed strategy of repairs and other conservation and restoration works. Otherwise ivy and other growth should be simply cut back and maintained at a controllable level.

Restoration works should only be carried out by qualified personnel under supervision.

An information booklet on care and maintenance for tombs should be compiled and supplied to the relevant parish church.

8. Unnamed tombs

Thirty-four unnamed tombs were recorded in various states of preservation.

Eleven of the thirty-four tombs could be regarded as being in good condition and not requiring any repair work at present (ref. no. 219, 221, 223, 225, 237, 240, 246, 249, 265, 279 and 282).

The remaining tombs are largely overgrown, partially or totally collapsed or open while the fabric of others is exposed as the render or rubble stone forming the skin of the tomb has either been removed or robbed out in the past (ref. no's 220, 229, 233, 234, 236, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 247, 248, 250, 252, 253, 255, 261, 263, 264, 268, 270, 278 and 285).

It was difficult in some instances to define the tombs due to the large quantity of rubble stone in the area, naturally exposed rubble limestone bedrock, (ref. no's 250 and 278) (Plate 10).

8.1 Recommendations

Focused targeted archaeological excavation / refurbishment and conservation work should be undertaken where the tombs are collapsed. This work may require Ministerial Consent.

All vegetation on the tombs should be cut back and removed. The tombs can then be reconstructed, repaired and repointed sensitive to their original construction. This work may require Ministerial Consent.

All open and exposed tombs should be fully repaired and sealed. This work may require Ministerial Consent.

A clean-up of rubble stone in the areas of the tombs should be undertaken under archaeological supervision in order to define the exact extents of some of the tombs.

It is likely that local information would furnish the names associated with these unnamed tombs and this information should be collected.

Construction of new tombs should not be allowed and others requiring repair should be undertaken using best practice. An information booklet should be provided on this.

9. Inscribed Headstones

A total of 125 inscribed headstones were recorded in Clogherbrien graveyard.

The vast majority of headstones were in good condition.

A number of headstones were broken, fallen over or close to collapsing (ref. no.'s 21, 48, 53, 88, 143, 162, 166 and 179).

The kerb setting or railing for a number of grave plots needs to be repaired or replaced (ref. no.'s 58, 130, 149, 190 and 199).

The oldest recorded headstone dated to 1739 with the surname of Flynn (Plate 11).

9.1 Recommendations

The broken or collapsed headstones should be repaired and made good.

10. Unnamed Headstones

Fourteen unnamed headstones were recorded within the graveyard.

The unnamed graves are mainly composed of 19th century and modern headstones from which the engraving has eroded, as well as modern graves which are without a headstone or the information card on the temporary metal cross has faded over time and is no longer legible. Unnamed headstones are grouped together with the unnamed gravemarkers on the plan of the graveyard (Figure 1 and attached A1 plan).

10.1 Recommendations

It is possible that the names on some of the headstones may be retrieved by undertaking a tracing or rubbing of the headstone under archaeological supervision.

11. Unnamed Gravemarkers

Fifty-three gravemarkers were recorded within the graveyard.

The unhewn sandstone grave-markers are identifiable as a rubble stone or roughly rectangular stone completely devoid of any inscription or decoration.

They are generally low set and rise above the ground surface for an average 0.3m. Occasionally, a distinguishing feature of these stones is a semi-circular concave shape cut into the stone, often at the top of the stone.

Gravemarkers are grouped together with the unnamed headstones on the plan of the graveyard (Figure 1 and attached A1 plan)

11.1 Recommendation:

The grass would need to be removed / reduced by hand under archaeological guidance and supervision to fully expose the full extent of the burial markers. This work may require Ministerial Consent.

12. Miscellaneous

A possible grave slab (ref. no. 262) was recorded lying prone between tombs 260 and 261 (Plate 12). It is possible that this slab may have formed the top name slab of a nearby tomb and later reused to denote the location of a grave.

13. Architectural Fragments

Two architectural fragments (ref. no's 12 & 13) were recorded towards the eastern side of the graveyard, and have been reused as burial markers (Plate 13 & 14). They comprise two punch dressed blocks.

Another fragment (ref. no. 218) was located on the western side of the graveyard in close proximity to the church (Plate 15). This fragment is only barely visible projecting above the ground. It is manifest as a chamfered slab with a central three ordered projection at right angles and although its function cannot be ascertained at present, it is certain that it came from the ruined medieval parish church of Clogherbrien.

14. Dangerous areas of ground or collapse

The ruins of the church can be considered to be in a poor state of preservation and should be fenced off to prevent possible injury to members of the public (Plate 16). The graveyard was visited on three separate occasions and each time, two sheep were grazing within the graveyard and using the church ruins as shelter.

14.1 Recommendations

The owner or owners of the sheep should be instructed to remove the sheep immediately from the grounds due to the likelihood of damage to the ruins and the graves themselves.

15. Description of buildings within Clogherbrien graveyard

15.1 General

It is difficult to establish the exact nature of the ruins in the graveyard but they appear to comprise of the reduced remains of two vaulted rooms most likely corresponding to the remains of a crypt (Plates 17 & 18).

The floor level within the vaults has built up over the years and it is not possible to stand to full height in the northern vault. Furthermore, there is much collapse and robbing out of fabric. Access/egress into the two vaults is gained through a large opening on the eastern elevation (Plate 19). No precise information as to the exact nature of the building can be discerned from the relict structure and certainly twin vaulted crypts in parish churches are unusual to say the least. The structure is best paralled with a somewhat similar structure in Killiney graveyard in the Dingle Peninsula where a vaulted two storey tower of similar dimensions (*circa* 7.7m square) abuts the SE angle of the medieval church and was later adapted as a burial tomb in the 19th century (Cuppage et al 1986, 307).

The 1st edition OS map 1842 depicts the ruined medieval structure in Clogherbrien as a square building abutting the western boundary with the northern boundary extending from the northeastern corner of the church, given an unusual size and layout to the graveyard (Figure 4). Clogherbrien was examined by Thomas O'Connor in 1841 who also only records what he determined were the vaulted remains of a square crypt whose walls were 0.9m thick (O'Donovan 1841, 78).

It is likely if not very possible, given the similarity to Killiney, that further remains of a more typical rectangular church structure exist below existing current ground level.

15.2 Southern room and elevation

The southern elevation does not survive to full height and is in a poor state of preservation (Plate 20). The quoinstones are missing from both corners while a large void is apparent towards the centre of the elevation; to the immediate east of the window ope. The elevation is heavily overgrown with well established ivy.

The southern elevation and room is lit by one window ope on the southern elevation, towards its western end. Internally, the window measures $1m \times 0.95m \times 0.75m$ and has a widely splayed embrasure with a rounded arch over while externally, the window measures $0.25m \times 0.75m$ (Plate 21).

15.3 West elevation and Southern & Northern Room

The western elevation does not survive to full height and is heavily overgrown with well established ivy (Plate 22).

A single window ope, centrally disposed, helps to light the southern room. The flat lintelled window measures $0.9m \times 0.95m \times 0.75m$ (Plate 23).

Another window ope lights the northern room and comprises a flat lintelled, splayed embrasure measuring 1m x 0.85m x 0.8m (Plate 18).

A small niche is present in the southwestern corner of west wall in the northern room, at approximately 1.2m above present ground level. An identical feature is evident directly opposite on the eastern wall of the northern room.

15.4 Eastern elevation

Entrance to the two rooms is gained through the partially missing eastern elevation. The southern room is completely open at this end but remains intact for the northern room.

An intramural recess is located in the northern corner of eastern elevation (Plate 24).

As above, a small niche is present on this elevation directly across from an identical one on the western elevation.

15.5 Interior east-west dividing wall

This wall forms this division between the southern and northern vaulted rooms.

It is mainly featureless but an opening is present towards its eastern end which allows access to the northern room (Plate 25).

While the sides of the opening are ragged, a flat lintel is evident over the opening suggesting it was a formal entranceway but the exact nature cannot be determined due to the build-up of soil and poor ragged condition of the opening (Plate 25).

15.6 Northern elevation

This wall survives in a very poor state of preservation (Plate 26) and is heavily overgrown with well established ivy, the roots of which are especially evident on the northeastern corner of the building (Plate 27)

Two large openings are evident, with collapsed stone recorded on the interior of the northern room (Plate 28), however, it is unclear whether either of these two openings could represent window opes.

15.7 Possible upper level

A visual inspection of the exterior possible upper level discovered the continuation of the southern and western elevations with the remains evident on the southwestern corner of the building (Plate 29), with similar results recorded on the northwestern corner (Plate 30).

15.8 Recommendations

The building has been surveyed as much as possible.

The ruined church should be preserved and protected. The building should be securely fenced off during construction works in case of accidental damage.

The build-up of earth and rubble in the interior of the twin vaulted structure should be removed under archaeological licence to determine the exact nature of the interior features and rooms of the ruins.

No conservation restoration works should be undertaken without an additional comprehensive individual report based on the results of invasive archaeological and architectural inves-

tigation specific to the particular site.

16. Summary of recommendations for future management/conservation of Clogherbrien graveyard

- The loose rubble stone on the upper slopes of the graveyard should be tidied up under archaeological supervision.
- Focused targeted archaeological conservation and reconstruction should be undertaken where the named and unnamed tombs are collapsed. This work may require Ministerial Consent.
- All vegetation on the tombs should be cut back and removed. The tombs can then be reconstructed, repaired and repointed sensitive to their original construction. The render should be replaced sensitive to the original construction. This work may require Ministerial Consent.
- All open and exposed tombs should be fully repaired and sealed. This work may require Ministerial Consent.
- A tidy up of the rubble stone in the areas of the tombs should be undertaken under archaeological supervision in order to define the exact extent of some of the tombs and to better safeguard them.
- The ivy and other growth should only be fully removed as the primary element of an agreed strategy of repairs and other conservation and restoration works. Otherwise ivy and other growth should be simply cut back and maintained at a controllable level.
- Restoration works should only be carried out by qualified personnel under supervision.
- An information booklet on care and maintenance for tombs should be compiled and supplied to the relevant parish church.
- It is likely that local information would furnish the names associated with these unnamed tombs and this information should be collected.
- Construction of new tombs should not be allowed and others requiring repair should be undertaken using best practice. An information booklet should be provided on this.
- The broken or collapsed headstones should be repaired and made good.
- It is possible that the names on some of the unnamed headstones may be retrieved by undertaking a tracing or rubbing of the headstone under archaeological supervision.

- The grass would need to be removed/reduced by hand under archaeological guidance and supervision to fully expose the full extent of the burial markers. This work may require Ministerial Consent.
- The owner or owners of the sheep should be instructed to remove them immediately from the grounds due to the likelihood of damage to the ruins and the graves themselves.
- The ruined church should be preserved and protected. The building should be securely fenced off during construction works in case of accidental damage.
- The build-up of earth on the interior should be removed under archaeological licence or Ministerial Consent to determine the exact nature of the interior features and rooms of the ruins.
- Following conservation works by trained professionals, the ruins should then be resurveyed and recorded.
- An information board similar to one already existing at Killury graveyard, in Lissycurrig townland near Causeway, should be established at a suitable location within the graveyard, most likely to the east of the entrance gate on its interior.
- The Care and Conservation of Graveyards, a publication from The Office of Public Works (OPW) is recommended reading for future maintenance of the church and graveyard.
- An informative booklet on Clogherbrien graveyard should be compiled by Kerry County Council and supplied to the relevant parish church. It should include helpful tips for parishioners on caring for the graveyard, and the individual plots, as well as giving advice about works which may professional services such as the cleaning of old headstones etc.
- All primary ground works should be archaeologically monitored and all features recorded and protected.
- No conservation restoration works should be undertaken without an additional comprehensive individual report based on the results of invasive archaeological and architectural investigation specific to Clogherbrien Graveyard.

Note on Recommendations

All recommendations as set out above are recommendations only based on visual site fieldwork undertaken by the writer. No invasive or other intervention work was undertaken in the course of producing this report. Ultimately, no responsibility will be accepted by the writer with regard to the undertaking of the conservation work as rec-

ommended in this report and based only on visual inspection. The ultimate decision on recommendations etc rests with Kerry County Council.

17. References

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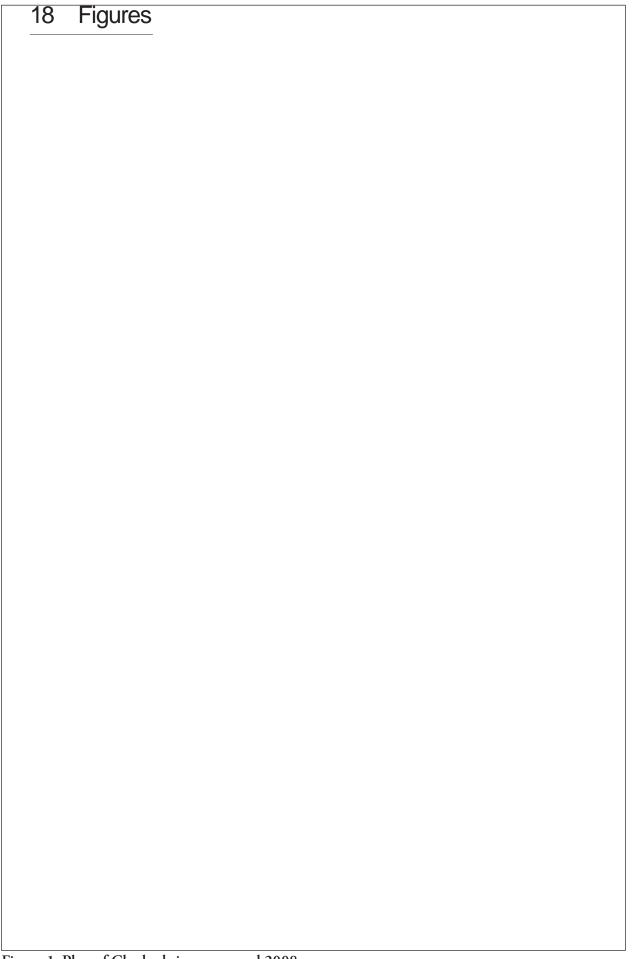
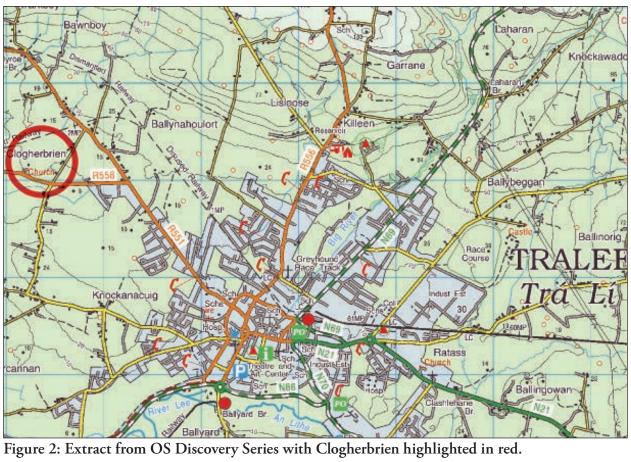


Figure 1: Plan of Clogherbrien graveyard 2008.



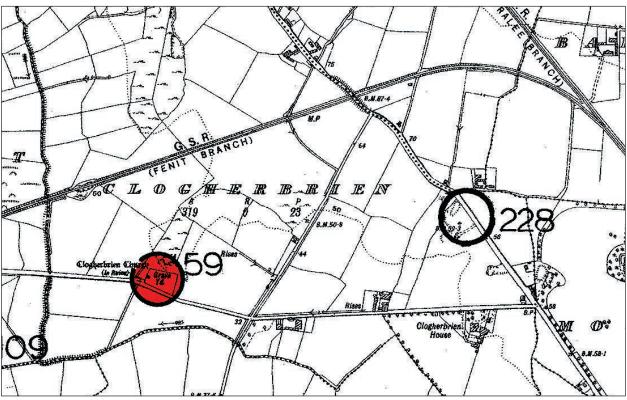


Figure 3: Extract from RMP Sheet 29 with Clogherbrien highlighted in red.

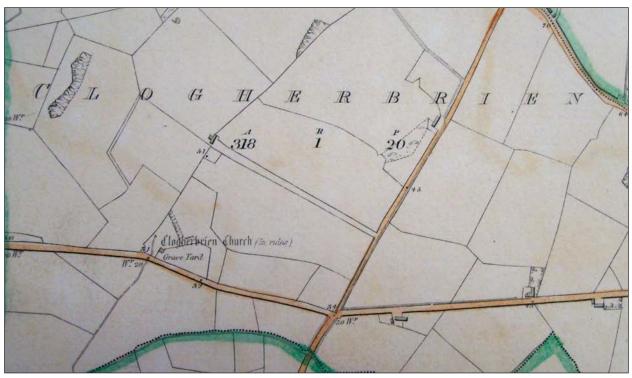


Figure 4: Extract from 1st edition OS map 1842.

19 Plates



Plate 1: View of approach road from the west to Clogherbrien Church and Graveyard

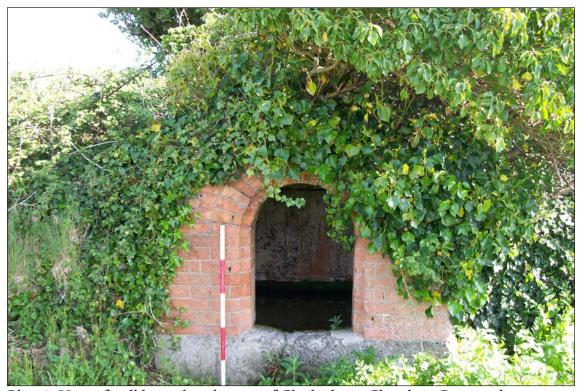


Plate 2: View of well located to the west of Clogherbrien Church & Graveyard



Plate 3: View of the grave plot of Mary O' Connor, for whom the well known song 'The Rose of Tralee' was written



Plate 4: View of bedrock forming part of the northern boundary wall of the graveyard



Plate 5: View of southern boundary wall from east





Plate 7: Exterior view of turnstile located on eastern corner of southern boundary wall

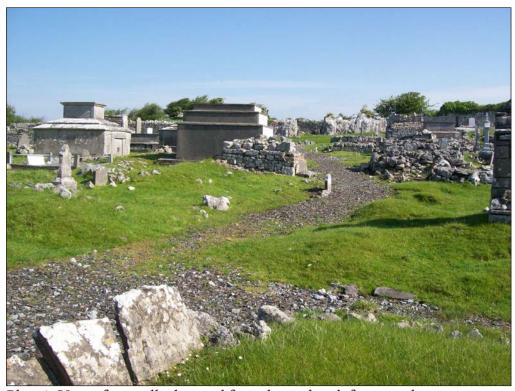


Plate 8: View of centrally disposed formal gravel path from south



Plate 9: View of oldest recorded tomb (ref. no. 238) for the Cronin family which dates to 1788



Plate 10: View of unnamed tomb (ref. no. 250) with large amounts of loose rubble stone in its vicinity



Plate 11: View of oldest recorded headstone with the surname Flynn and dating to 1739



Plate 12: View of possible grave slab recorded between tombs 260 and 261, from east



Plate 13: View of possible architectural fragment (ref. no. 12)



Plate 14: View of possible architectural fragment (ref. no. 13)



Plate 15: View of possible architectural fragment (ref. no. 218)



Plate 16: View of ruined church at western end of graveyard from southeast

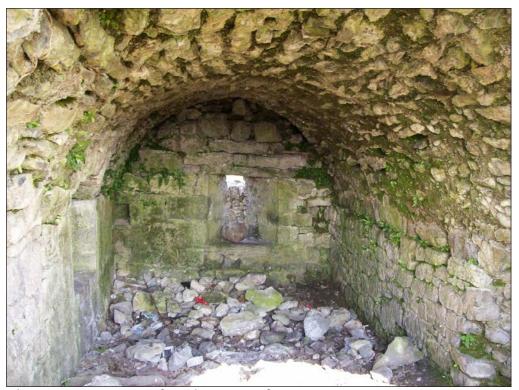


Plate 17: Interior view of southern room from east



Plate 18: Interior view of northern room from east



Plate 19: View of large opening in eastern elevation allowing access/egress to the two rooms



Plate 20: View of southern elevation

Plate 21: Interior view of window ope in southern elevation, Southern Room



Plate 22: View of overgrown western elevation from north

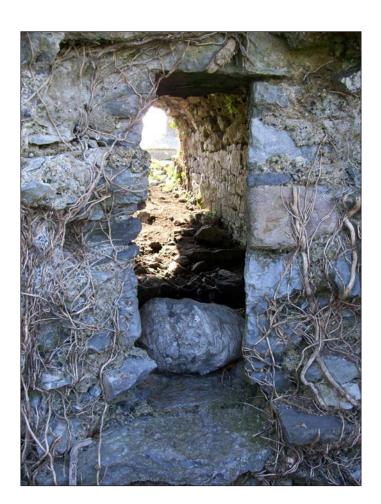


Plate 23: Exterior view of window ope in western elevation



Plate 24: Interior view of eastern elevation, Northern Room



Plate 25: View of possible formal entrance way between northern and southern rooms



Plate 26: View of northern elevation



Plate 27: View of well established ivy on northeastern corner of northern elevation



Plate 28: View of rubble stone and debris in northern room, from southeast



Plate 29: View of remain of walls on possible upper level southwestern corner



Plate 30: View of remains of walls on possible upper level northwestern corner

20 Appendix 1 Named Tombs

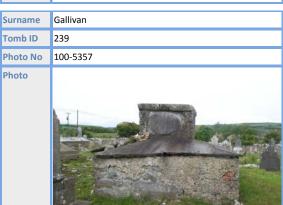




| Surname | Walsh |
|----------|----------|
| Tomb ID | 235 |
| Photo No | 100-5352 |
| Photo | |

| 0 | 100-5352 |
|---|----------|
| | |
| | |

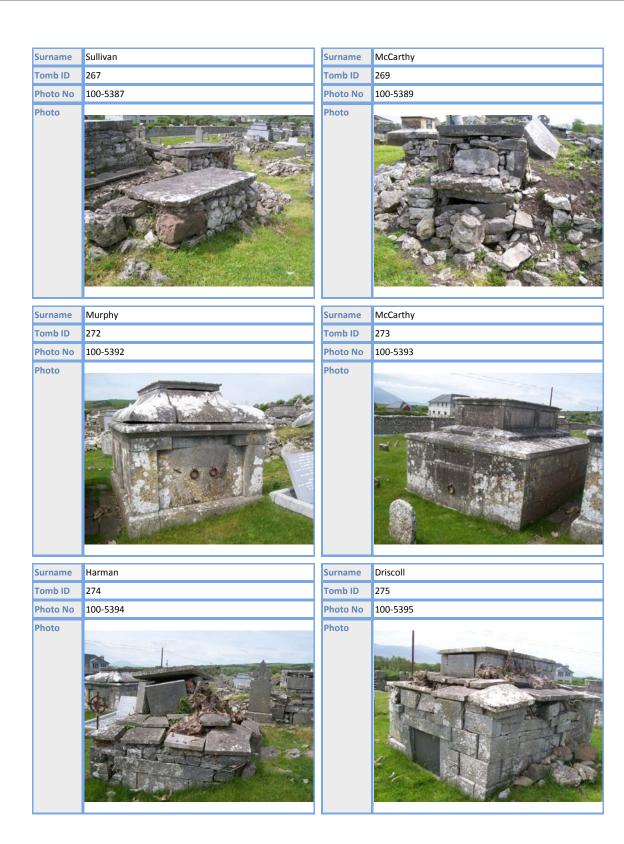










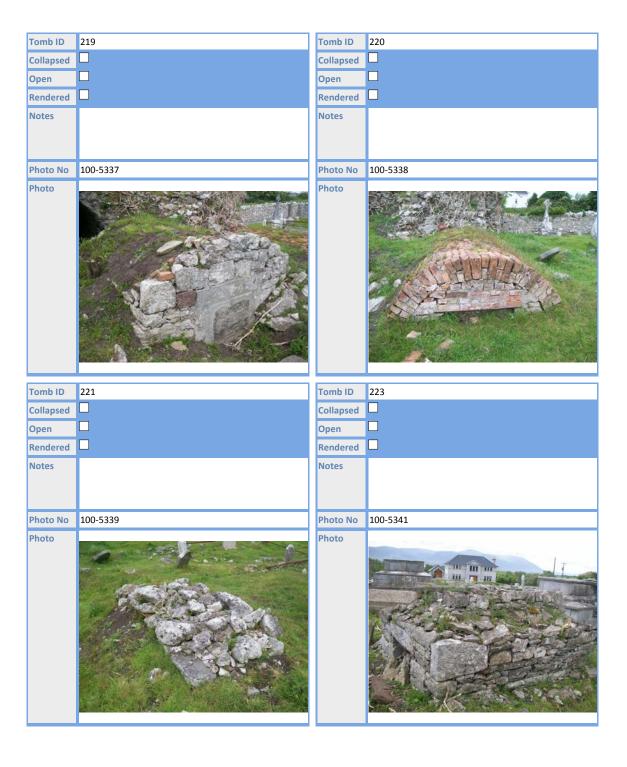


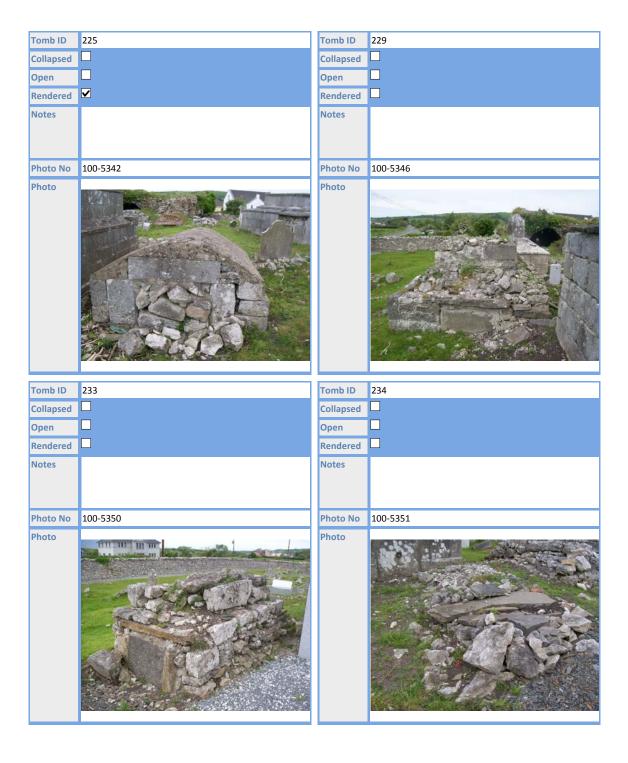




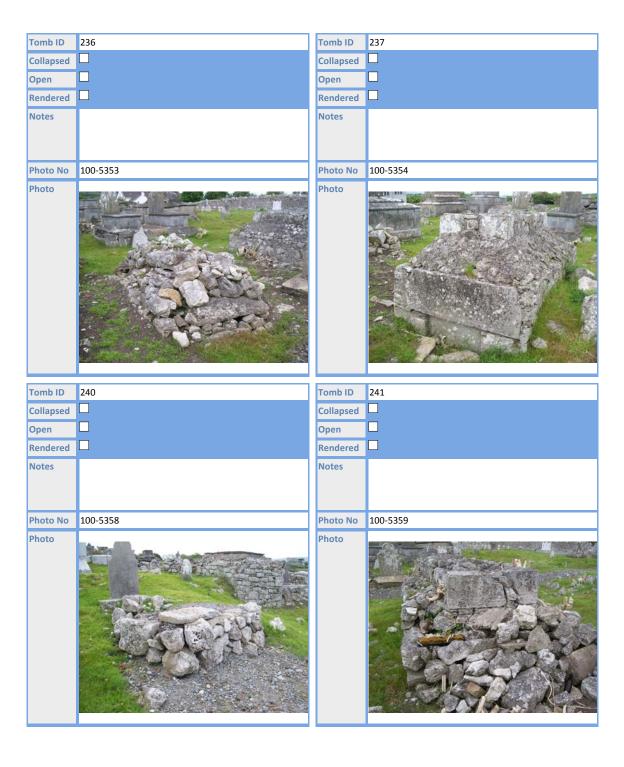
39

21 Appendix 2 Unnamed Tombs





41

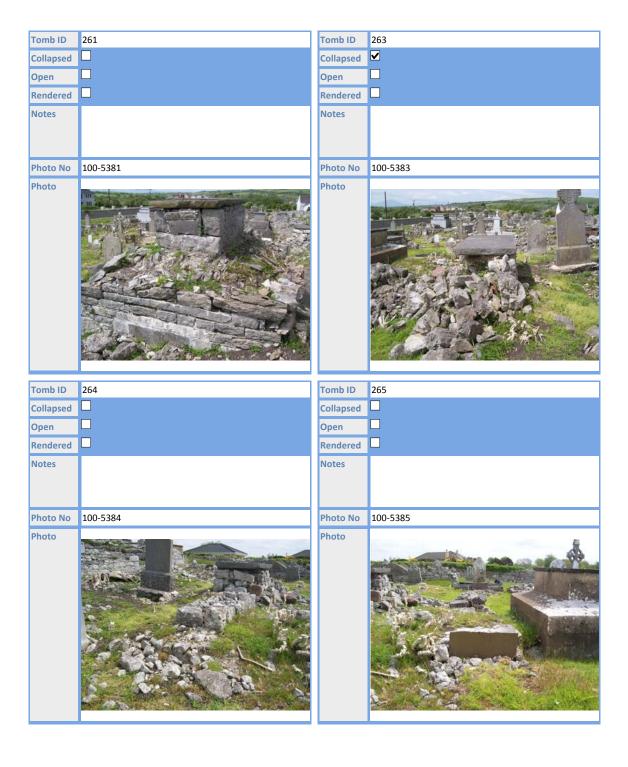


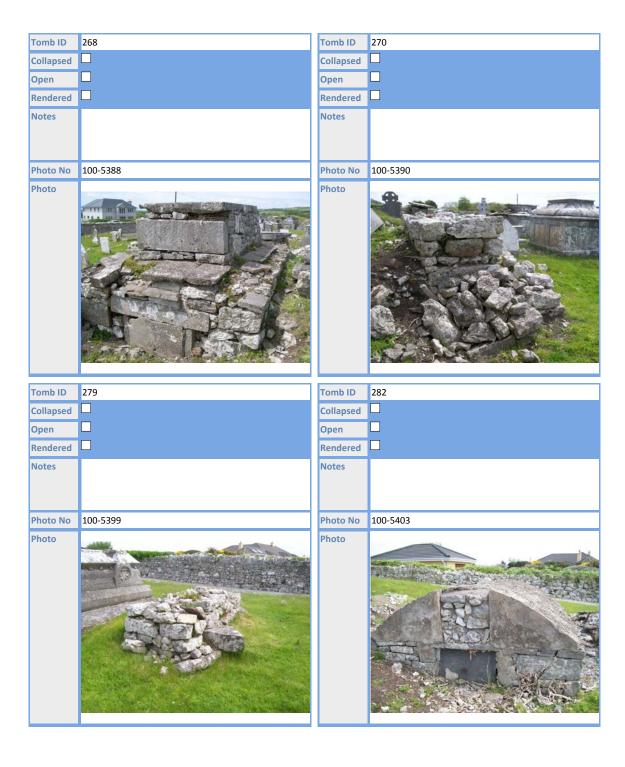
42

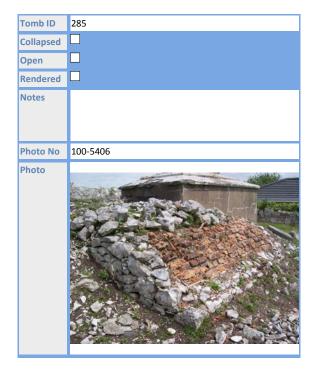












22 Appendix 3 Inscribed Headstones



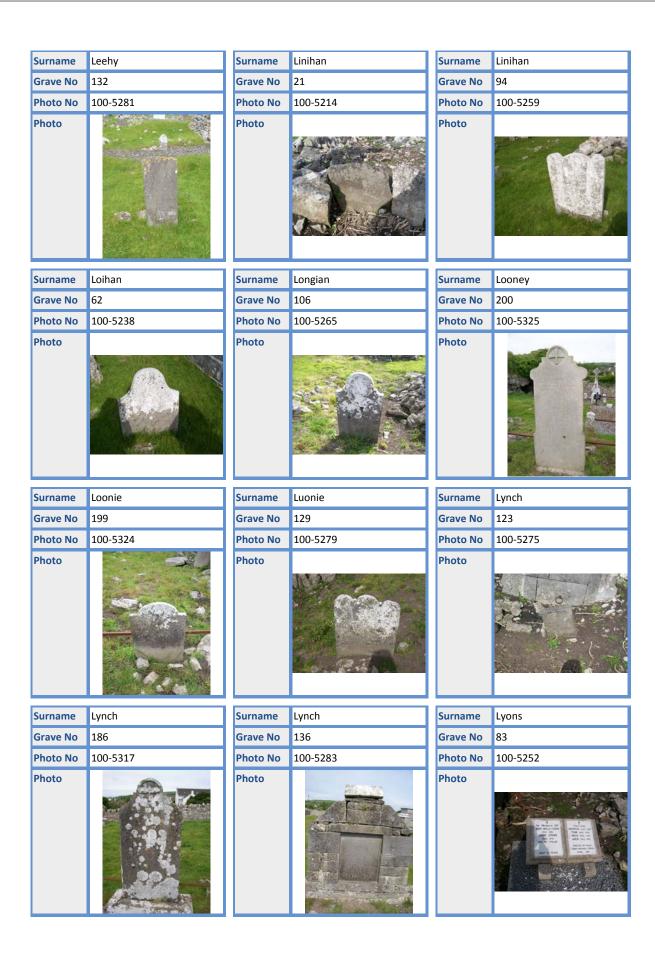


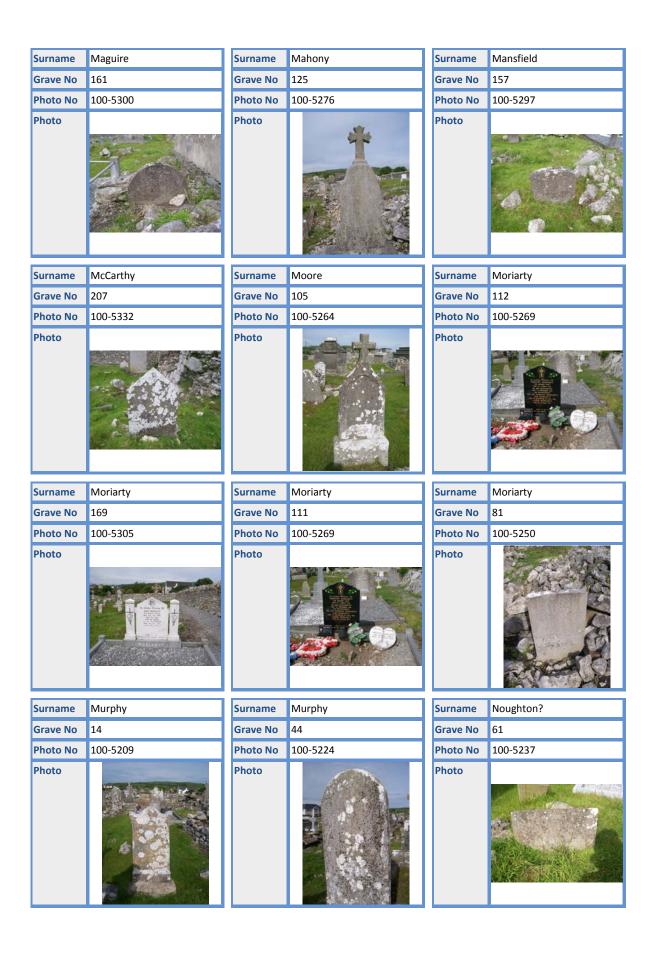


















23 Appendix 4 Unnamed Headstones and Gravemarkers

| Grave No. | Notes | Photo No. |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| 1 | Grave Marker | |
| 3 | Grave Marker | |
| 6 | Grave Marker | |
| 16 | Grave Marker | |
| 18 | Grave Marker | |
| 27 | Steel Cross | |
| 28 | Grave Marker | |
| 29 | Grave Marker | |
| 30 | Grave Marker | |
| 35 | Grave Marker | |
| 36 | Grave Marker | |
| 37 | Grave Marker | |
| 41 | Grave Marker | |
| 43 | Grave Marker | |
| 47 | Grave Marker | |
| 49 | Grave Marker | |
| 50 | Grave Marker | |
| 51 | Grave Marker | |
| 60 | Steel Cross | |
| 64 | Grave Marker | |
| 65 | Grave Marker | |
| 66 | Grave Marker | |
| 68 | Grave Marker | |
| 73 | Grave Marker | |
| 78 | Grave Marker | |
| 87 | Grave Marker | |
| 96 | Grave Marker | |
| | Grave Marker | 100-5266 |
| 124 | Grave Marker | |
| 140 | Grave Marker | |

| Grave No. | Notes | Photo No. |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| 147 | Grave Marker | 100-5291 |
| 148 | Steel Cross | |
| 150 | Grave Marker | |
| 151 | Grave Marker | |
| 155 | Grave Marker | |
| 158 | Grave Marker | |
| 163 | Grave Marker | |
| 164 | Grave Marker | |
| 165 | Grave Marker | |
| 167 | Grave Marker | |
| 171 | Grave Marker | |
| 172 | Grave Marker | |
| 176 | Grave Marker | |
| 181 | Grave Marker | |
| 188 | Grave Marker | |
| 189 | Grave Marker | |
| 191 | Grave Marker | |
| 193 | Grave Marker | |
| 194 | Grave Marker | |
| 208 | Grave Marker | |
| 209 | Grave Marker | |
| 211 | Grave Marker | |
| 212 | Grave Marker | |
| 213 | Grave Marker | |
| 216 | Grave Marker | |
| 217 | Grave Marker | |

24 Appendix 5 Architectural Fragments







25 Appendix 6 Misc Area







26 Appendix 7 Plaque

