

Form RB1

Registered Building No. 160

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1991

THE REGISTERED BUILDINGS (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1991

To:

Mr and Mrs J A Ranscombe  
The Red House  
Victoria Road  
Douglas

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting held on the 12th January 1996, the PLANNING COMMITTEE OF the Department of Local Government and the Environment, in pursuance of its powers under the above Acts and Regulations REGISTERED various buildings including and associated with "The Red House", Victoria Road, Douglas as defined in red on the enclosed plan, in the PROTECTED BUILDINGS REGISTER by reason of architectural and historic interest.

THE EFFECT OF THIS REGISTRATION IS IMMEDIATE and prohibits the alteration or demolition of the structure or appearance of any part of the building except in compliance with an obligation imposed by or under any statutory provision or with the prior written consent of the Planning Committee.

Dated this

26th day of January

By Order of the Committee

*R M Quine*  
R M Quine

Secretary, Planning Committee

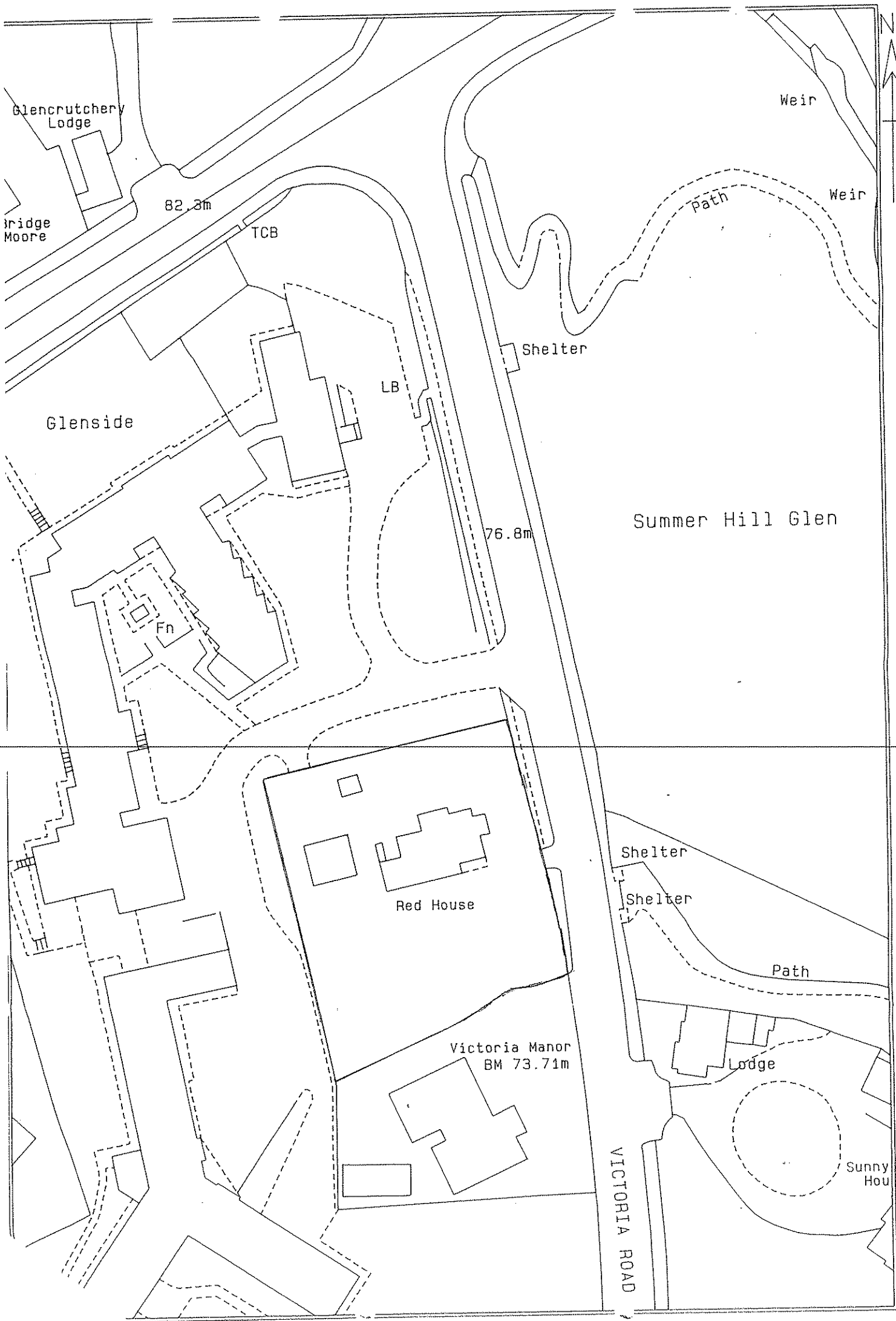
3rd Floor, Murray House  
Mount Havelock  
Douglas  
Isle of Man

Note: Rights to request de-registration of the building are provided under the Regulations and in summary are that:

Application in writing for de-registration may be made by the owner or occupier of, and any other person having an interest in the buildings within a period of 28 days of service of this notice. Such application should be sent to the Secretary, Planning Committee, 3rd Floor, Murray House, Mount Havelock, Douglas.

In the event that de-registration is not requested by any party within the 28 period described above, then de-registration may not be requested within a period of three years.

- cc
- 1) R B File
  - 2) Douglas Corporation, Town Hall, Ridgeway Street, Douglas
  - 3) Manx National Heritage, Kingswood Grove, Douglas
  - 4) ADCO, Rose Cottage, Mount Rule, Braddan



Scale 1:500

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<p>jurisdiction</p> <p>Douglas Corporation</p>	<p>code</p> <p>DU/A/H/A</p>
<p>location</p> <p>38927776</p>	<p>ph</p>
<p>ownership</p> <p>Private</p>	
<p>origin</p> <p>Built 1892/3</p> <p>Architect;</p> <p>M.H.Baillie Scott</p>	

**description**

The Red House, Victoria Road, Douglas.

Red tiled roof with masonry walls of exposed red brick at the ground floor with half timbered gables or vertical tiling above. The bargeboards are elaborately carved and painted red, white and green (as originally). The massing of the house is sculptural with a maximum expression of the interior functions and emphasis of entrance porches and Jacobean chimneys.

The building is sited in well defined grounds.

The interior has not been inspected but is thought to contain features necessary to the integrity of the overall design concept.

The whole appears to be maintained to the highest standards and to the original specifications.

**recommendation**

The house is significant as a good example of its style blending the traditional British rural features with American influences. As the house belonged to the architect it seems reasonable to assume that the design was not compromised in any significant manner.

The total building and its setting (garden) should be protected

The Red House, Victoria Road, Douglas, 1892 - 93

This building is considered worthy of entry in the Protected Buildings Register being one of the most important works of the internationally renowned Architect Mackay Hugh Baillie Scott.

Following a period of some three years in spent articles with Maj Charles E Davis, City Architect of Bath, Baillie Scott accompanied by his recent Bride, came to the Isle of Man on Honeymoon and during an interview some years later with John Betjeman, Editor of the Architectural Review, Scott recalled, "I went to the Isle of Man for a holiday. I was so seasick I couldn't face the journey back, so I set up practice there".

In the fullness of time Baillie Scott came to know Archibald Knox the local born artist whose fame also spread beyond these shores. The two were later to collaborate in the design and fabrication of architectural features such as stained glass, copper repoussé fireplace hoods, iron gates and such like, incorporated into some of Baillie Scotts houses in the Isle of Man.

Baillie Scott was destined to become an Architect of international repute designing properties throughout England and as far afield as Switzerland and Russia.

His works in the Isle of Man form a record of his early development: his sensitive and creative use of craftsmanship and materials together with a quite revolutionary approach to internal planning and inter-relationship of spaces not seen before in English circles.

Whilst on the Island Baillie Scott began submitting illustrated articles to building magazines, which was to prove fortunate, as his office records were later destroyed in two office fires.

Baillie Scott has long been recognised as an Architect of good quality Arts and Crafts buildings, however with the gradual discovery of more of his works and of the recognition of their standing alongside other acknowledged masters of the period such as Voysey, Welds, Lethaby Ashbee, Mackintosh and Lutyens, his reputation is increasing in stature in major terms.

Accordingly it is of vital importance that those buildings which Baillie Scott designed in the Isle of Man and which remain substantially in their original form should be entered in the Protected Buildings Register.

His first major project on the Isle of Man, The Red House was designed and built by Baillie Scott during 1892-93 for occupation by himself and his family - the foundation stone reads "This stone was laid by Mackay Hugh Baillie Scott - aged 1 year 5 months October 20th 1892". At this time the Architect himself was only three days short of his twenty-seventh birthday.

The Red House is charming when viewed from any angle. Half-timbered gables and barge boards were elaborately carved by local craftsman and painted red, white and green. The Jacobean chimney provides a striking feature in the external composition: internally chimney pieces and fireplace inglenooks were to become an important element in the work of Baillie Scott.

The Plan Form of the Red House is a most important feature of the design; Scott uses circulation space ingeniously to provide a positive element in his design, moving in the direction of converting the external walls into space containers. Changes in level add interest and the main landings of the house are large enough to be furnished and used as living spaces.

Entering by way of a small porch vestibule one enters the hall which could also be used as a living room, from whence direct access to all the

rooms of the house can be afforded. The Red House illustrates Baillie Scott's early development of living spaces opening into one another. The vitality of the Hallway space is heightened by the introduction of hinged, wooden panels between the Hall, Drawing Room and Dining Room and are a most important innovation at the Red House. This innovative approach to planning represents a major contribution to the domestic architecture of the period.

In Baillie Scott's words "These rooms are divided by panelled screens which are removable and when taken from their position may be used as folding screens in the various rooms. By this means the inconvenience which arises from the inevitable smallness of rooms in a house where economy is to be studied is obviated, and in a small house on festive occasions a large amount of space can be obtained"

The quality of the spaces is enhanced by a heavy massing of the fireplaces, the intimate inglenooks and open multi-roomed living areas with graduated changes in level achieving a coherence of quite amazing stature. The heavily carved timber in mediaeval style is carried through into the interior in carved grotesques and friezes. Here for the first time Baillie Scott also introduces the imported brickwork of the exterior walls, internally.

Even the renowned Hermann Muthesius recorded, with the aid of photographs, that "Here in the hall, one is struck by the almost total transference of the exterior architecture of the brick walls and half timbering. This creates a primitive mood that corresponds precisely with the ideal of the inhabitant and the creator".

This is the only house which Baillie Scott built for himself, although he renovated several old houses. Being Scott's first major work on the Island, The Red House makes a most important contribution to the Island's

built heritage.

- Sources
- 1) Kornwolf "M H Baillie Scott and the Arts and Craft Movement"
  - 2) Diane Haigh "Baillie Scott - The Artie House"