

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1991**

**THE REGISTERED BUILDINGS ( GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1991**

To: **The Vicar and Wardens of Malew**  
**c/o Revd Michael Roberts, Malew Vicarage, St Mark's Road, Ballasalla**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2000, the PLANNING COMMITTEE of the Department of Local Government and the Environment, in pursuance of its powers under the above Acts and Regulations REGISTERED

**The School and School House, St Mark's Malew**

as represented by the buildings shown outlined in red on the plan hereto attached, in the PROTECTED BUILDINGS REGISTER by reason of its special 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 6<sup>th</sup> day of December 2000

By Order of the Committee



R. M. Quine  
Secretary, Planning Committee.

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Murray House,  
Mount Havelock,  
Douglas,  
IM1 2SF.

**NOTE :**

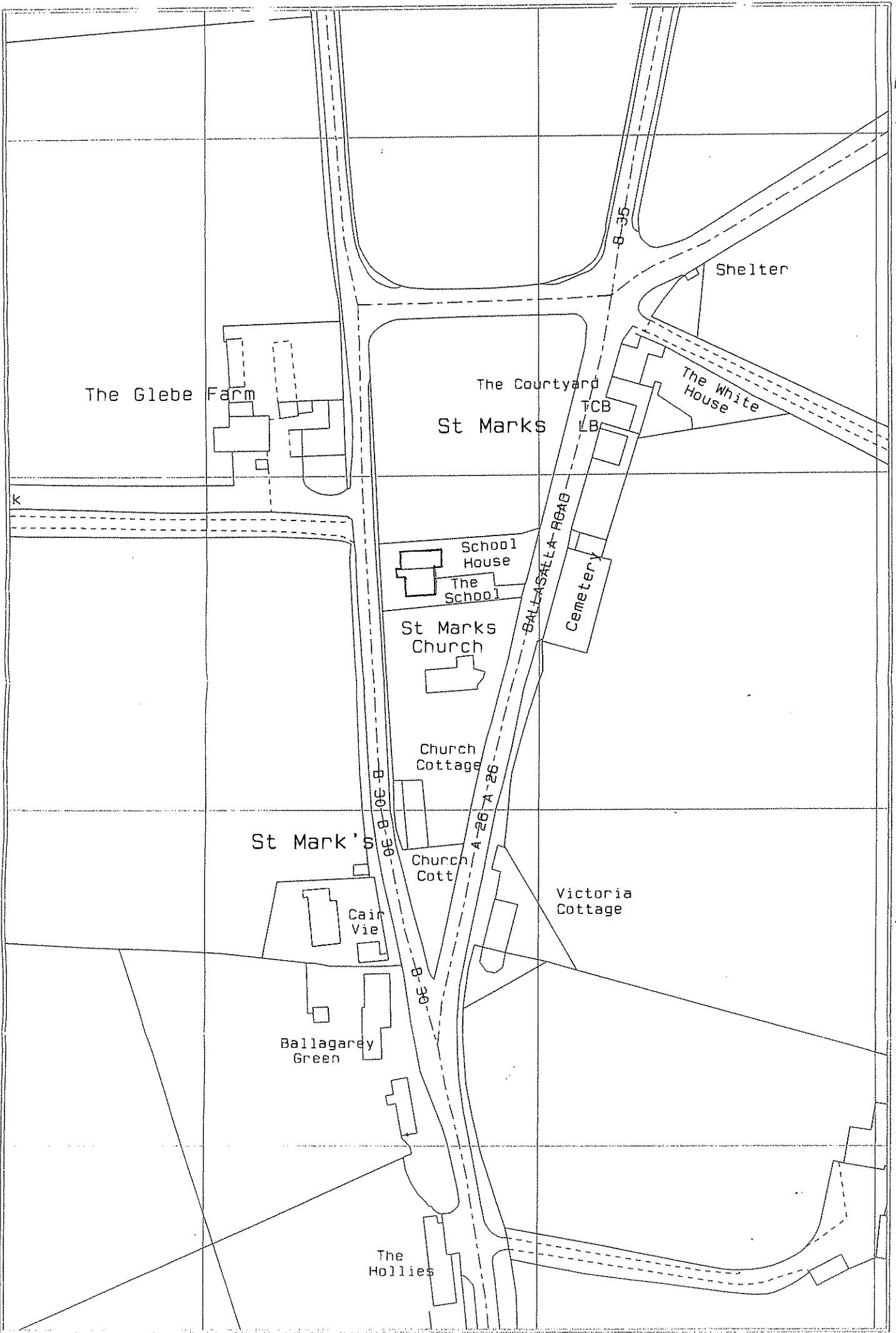
**Rights to request de-registration of the building are provided under the Regulations and in summary are that:**

**Applications in writing for the de-registration of the building may be made by the owners or occupier of, any other person having an interest in the building, within a**

periods of service of this notice. Such application should be sent to the Secretary, Planning Committee, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Murray House, Mount Havelock, Douglas, IM1 2SF.

In the event that de-registration is not requested by any party within the 28 day period described above, then de-registration may not be requested within a period of 3 years.

c.c.:- Malew Parish Commissioners, Commissioners' Office, Ballasalla  
Chief Minister, Hon D J Gelling MHK, Grenaugh Beg, Glen Grenaugh, Santon  
Manx National Heritage, Kingswood Grove, Douglas  
Advisory Council on Planning and the Environment, 52, Alberta Drive, Onchan.



Scale 1:1000

Department of Local Government & the Environment, Isle of Man

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## THE SCHOOL AND SCHOOL HOUSE ST MARK'S MALEW

Nothing of the history of St Mark's is recorded before the consecration of the church in 1772. In 1827 the Reverend John Thomas Clark was appointed chaplain of St Mark's, he found the church and parsonage in a terrible state of repair. Assisted by the great church building Bishop William Ward, Clark set to work to improve the buildings.

By 1830 he had replaced the parsonage with a new building, in 1843 he instigated the building of the school and the school house. The school carries a plaque which states the year of erection to be 1843, but this may be the date that subscriptions opened as The Manx Sun of 31 May 1845 carried an article announcing that on the 19 May a new school house and a house for the master was commenced at St Mark's

The same newspaper on 6 September 1845 announced that the new school was nearing completion and was expected to open on 21 September. In 1847 the school had 88 children attending and 115 in the Sunday school. The schoolroom also housed the circulating library which at that time contained 302 volumes.

The completed building was described by Bishop Ward as: "Sufficiently neat to be in the suburbs of London". It is built in Manx vernacular style, the materials used coming from the immediate locality. St Mark's is on the edge of the area where the extremely hard granite was traditionally used in construction, particularly on features such as quoins and weathering features. Several of the buildings in the hamlet contain granite, this includes the church belfry, but the main body of the school and school house are built in random stone rubble-filled walls, with a rendered finish. The walls have an overall thickness of 24 inches.

The front and rear porches designed by Armitage Rigby were added in 1902 are built in coursed granite and incorporate damp proof courses unlike the original structure. The bathroom extension to the house is built in cavity brickwork.

The roof is of pitched and gabled design and was reclad in Welsh slate approximately 10 years ago. When the roof cladding was replaced, new lead flashings and valleys were provided. An internal inspection of the roof revealed that many new timbers have been inserted and roofing felt has been used. The roof is of purlin and rafter construction, the school house having two A- frames carrying the purlins between the gable walls.

The school house is at right angles to the schoolroom, resulting in two storey projections on front and rear elevations. Sandstone kneelers are located at the base of the verges on these projections and the verges have sandstone copings. Rigby replicated the kneelers on the front porch in brickwork and provided a matching arch over the adjacent window.

Main windows to the schoolroom and the school house are sliding sash with some smaller casement windows, whilst external doors may be original or of Rigby's 1902 design.

Internally the floors, with the exception of the concrete in the porch extensions, are of square edged timber boards supported on timber joists bedded into the main walls. The school house retained what appeared to be its original internal doors and brass lever latches until recent works. The building's chimneys, like those of the nearby cottages, also built by the Rev Clark, have an almost Moorish appearance: the same distinctive style is reflected in the belfry to the church and is quite uncommon in the Island.

There is no record of who designed the original school and the master's house but it is reasonable to assume that Rev Clark played no small part in deciding its final form.

It is, however, recorded that in 1902 the architect Armitage Rigby (1860-1910) prepared plans for the replacement of the small front porch with a more spacious design, the new porch was intended to act as the boys' cloakroom. His plans also provided a new rear porch to give the girls a separate entrance and cloakroom. Both porches had stoves, presumably to dry wet clothing, which until that time would have dried in the schoolroom where the children were being taught. The porches unlike the main structure were built in granite.

Rigby who was a contemporary of Baillie-Scott moved to the island between 1890 and 1895, after returning from studying in New York. He married into a Manx family and lived on the island for several years contributing many fine buildings. He is recognised as being one of the Island's foremost architects who did much to develop and perfect the use of the Arts and Crafts style of Architecture within the Island.

In 1917 the school ceased to be a church school and control was handed over to the Isle of Man Board of Education. The building however was jointly owned by The Board and the church, a situation that still existed until recently, when the church acquired the Board's interest.

In 1948 plans were submitted to provide the master's house with a ground floor bathroom extension. This extension was built in brick, and unlike Rigby's adjacent rear porch does not harmonise well with the original structure.

The school closed in the mid 1950s and since that time the schoolroom has been used infrequently for church and social functions.

The school house has been unoccupied for several years, and it has not received the same standard of maintenance as the schoolroom. Recently the interior of the house has been stripped in anticipation of refurbishment. Internally in the schoolroom, a suspended ceiling has been installed and kitchen units fitted in the rear porch. It would appear that the suspended ceiling replaced an earlier ceiling as the plasterwork only extends part way up the walls above the suspended ceiling.

The school and school house is important as a body of evidence which details the development of a parish and in particular the evolution of an educational building over a period in excess of 150 years.

As an individual building it is important in its context as part of the ecclesiastical grouping on the triangle which also contains Malew church (1772) and Church Cottages (1846 & 1899).

It is considered worthy of Registration due to another important factor, this being the building's association with the Arts and Crafts Movement Architect, Armitage Rigby, who designed the front and rear porches in 1902, and transformed the external appearance of the building giving it its distinctive architectural style.

**It is therefore recommend that the school and school house, St Mark's, defined in red on the attached plan, be placed on the Protected Building's Register on the following grounds:**

- 1 Aesthetic quality and the building's association with the acclaimed architect Armitage Rigby.**
- 2 The building's high degree of external originality to external elevations.**
- 3 Group importance with St Mark's church and Church Cottages**

## REFERENCES

Department of the Environment / Department of National Heritage. Planning Policy Guidance 15, Planning and the Historic Environment. 1994.

Harrison W. The Manx Society Volume 28. 1878, Douglas Isle of Man

Kornwolf J D. M H Baillie-Scott and the Arts and Crafts Movement. 1972,  
John Hopkins Press, London.









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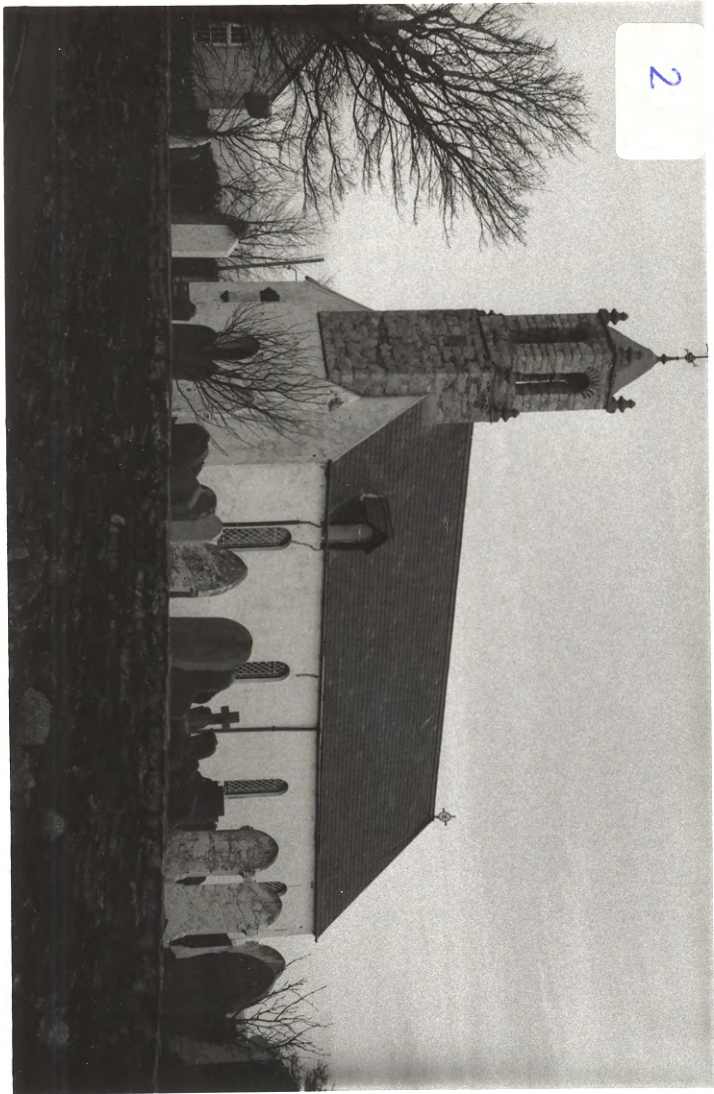
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St. Marys  
1772