



Isle of Man
Government

Reillys Ellan Vannin

DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE ENVIRONMENT

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1999

THE REGISTERED BUILDINGS REGULATIONS 2005

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting held on the 4th December 2007, the Department of Local Government and the Environment, in pursuance of its powers under the above Acts and Regulations REGISTERED

**Spooyt Vane Sunday School And Mission Room Ballaleigh Road
Kirk Michael Isle Of Man**

as represented by the buildings delineated 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 4th December 2007,
By Order of the Department

E J Callow
Secretary, Planning Committee.

1st Floor, Murray House,
Mount Havelock,
Douglas,
IM1 2SF.

NOTE :

Under The Town and Country Planning Act 1999;

**Schedule 2
The Protected Buildings Register**

Notifications of entries on register etc.

2. (1) As soon as may be after a building has been entered in the register, or the register has been amended by removal of a building from it, the Department shall serve a notice on the owner and the occupier of the building stating that it has been entered in or removed from the register.
- (2) The owner or the occupier of, and any other person having an interest in, a building which has been entered in the register may apply to the Department to remove the building from the register-
- (a) within the prescribed period after service on him of a notice under sub-paragraph (1);
- (b) after the expiration of the prescribed period after the decision of the Department on a previous request under subsection in relation to the building.

Under the Registered Building Regulations 2005

3. Periods for purpose of Schedule 2 paragraph 2(2)

- (1) The period specified for the purposes of paragraph 2(2)(a) of Schedule 2 to the Act (period after notice of registration, within which owner or occupier may request de-registration) is 21 days.
- (2) The period specified for the purposes of paragraph 2(2)(b) of Schedule 2 to the Act (period after initial period, during which owner or occupier may not request a de-registration) is 5 years.

To: **Property Owner**

Commissioners Office, Main Road, Kirk Michael.
Director, Manx National Heritage

REGISTERED BUILDING CONFIRMATION

NAME: Spooyt Vane Old Sunday School and Mission Room
ADDRESS: Ballaleigh Road, Kirk Michael
POST CODE: IM6 1HH
LOCAL AUTHORITY: Michael Commissioners
GRID REF: 309 890

Introduction

Spooyt Vane Old Sunday School and Mission Room is a small single-storey stone building, located in a quiet rural nook south of Kirk Michael. The hall was constructed in the mid-nineteenth century as a school house and it was later used as an Anglican Mission Room, during which time it was said to be the smallest chapel in the Island.

The property is located near to Spooyt Vane House, the remains of an ancient keel and the waterfall, to which it owes its name. The name 'Spooyt Vane' means 'White Spout', which is with regard to the appearance of the waterfall.

History

During the 1830's the well-known architect John Welch designed many churches and chapels on the Island at the request of Bishop Ward. Of these buildings, three were combined schools and chapels, namely St. Luke's, Baldwin (1836); St. Stephen's, Sulby (1838) and St. James's, Dalby (1839). Bishop Ward wished to bring places of worship and educational centres for children to the inhabitants of remote rural areas, who might otherwise have to walk many miles to the parish church or the nearest village school. Spooyt Vane Old Sunday School and Mission Room is believed to date from 1860 and like these other remote buildings, its original purpose was to provide a school room for local children in the area who might otherwise find it difficult travelling miles into Kirk Michael village for their education.

The exact date of construction is not known, although it has been suggested on the Manx Note Book website that the building was constructed in 1860, which seems to be a likely date. The hall was certainly built by 1869 as it was included in the first Ordnance Survey map which dates from that time, and the map referred to the property as a "School".

The hall is believed to have been constructed for Miss Gore Currie who was a niece of the Bishop Powys (Quayle J.R., 1927). Miss Gore Currie must have been related to Bishop Powys through marriage, as in 1833 he married Miss Percy Gore Currie, daughter of William Curry of East Horsley Park in Surrey.

Horatio Powys was Lord Bishop from 1854 until 1877 and like many other Bishops of Sodor and Mann he had a keen interest in carrying out building improvements and alterations. He was responsible for enlarging the chapel at Bishops Court in addition to various improvements to the property, including the construction of the west wing.

The cost of the construction of the school hall was £100 and the property was built at the sole expense of Miss Gore Currie who personally managed the school there for many years. At the time when Wood's Atlas of 1867 was surveyed, the land on which the hall was built belonged to John Cannon and it was part of Ballanea quarterland, in the town of Bannister. In 1880 the land was said to have belonged to the Kelly family (a Directory confirms they farmed Ballanea in 1881), who then sold the hall and the surrounding land to the trustees for use as a school room (Manx Note Book website). However, this would suggest that the property was not legally settled when it was first built.

There is a tablet on the wall above the front porch which simply says '*SPOOYT VANE*'; no date of construction is given, although archive photographs have revealed that the tablet formerly said '*SPOOYT VANE MISSION ROOM ENLARGED 1901*'. The 1901 extension is a small brick built section at the rear of the building. The previous existence of the date '*1901*' on the tablet could be an indication of when the building began to be used as an Anglican Mission Room. During the period when the building was used for religious purposes, it was said to be the smallest chapel in the Island (Kniveton G.N., 1997).

It is not known when the building ceased to be used as an Anglican Mission Room, although it is now disused and is privately owned.

Architecture

Spooyt Vane Old Sunday School and Mission Room is an attractive stone building set in a quiet rural location on Ballaleigh Road in the parish of Michael. The exact location of the property is at a road junction between Ballaleigh Road and a path which was an old route leading to farmland to the south, along with Spooyt Vane waterfall, St. Patrick's keeil and priest's cell (which are now both ruins), just outside the boundary of Glen Mooar. This path is privately owned and public access is granted by courtesy of the landowner.

The hall is constructed with random rubble stone walls, including slates and beach stones which are readily available from the nearby coast. The external walls are un-rendered and they are an attractive feature of the local area. The roof is half-pitched with natural slate tiles and there is a brick-built chimney stack with a single pot which is centrally located in the north facing wall.

There is a small front porch on the western elevation, which is constructed of random stone walls with a slate pitched roof. The porch almost certainly dates from when the hall was first constructed as its formation matches the main body of the building and it was also included on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1869. On the wall above the porch there is a plaque which reads '*SPOOYT VANE*'. The front door and gate are simple designs in painted timber and they are likely to be original features. The lintels to the door and windows are slate.

To the rear, or the east side of the property, there is a small brick-built extension which dates from 1901. The extension is narrower and shorter than the main body of the building and has a pitched slate roof to match.

The cast iron windows are a design which is seen on many churches and chapels dating from the mid-nineteenth century, such as St. Luke's Church in Baldwin (1836), Quayle's Hall in Ramsey (1837) and Welch House in Onchan (1842). Due to the fact that the hall is believed to date from 1860, the mid-nineteenth century cast iron windows therefore pre-date the building and they appear to have been taken from another property and re-used in this hall, perhaps in order to save on construction costs. The reason the windows appear to have been reused is because they were originally longer in length with arched heads, but now they have been divided into two shorter sections. The lower parts are located on the north elevation of the main building and the upper parts with arched heads are located in the south elevation of the main building and the brick built extension, dating from 1901.

The boundary walls to the site are constructed of random stones to match the building and they are topped with a softer stone, possibly limestone. These walls are an important feature of the property and they separate the hall, along with its small garden area, from Ballaleigh Road. These boundary walls had been constructed by the time the 1869 Ordnance Survey Map was surveyed, although the boundary to the south (where there is not a boundary wall) appears to have been altered slightly since that time.

The roof of the hall fell in 1999 and it was then replaced, saving the building from severe damage. At the same time that the roof was replaced, the brick built chimneystack was reduced in height and this was more than likely for safety reasons. Other than these alterations, which were necessary in order to safeguard the future of the building, the hall remains in its original condition.

RECOMMENDATION

Spooyt Vane Old Sunday School and Mission Room is suggested for inclusion on the Protected Buildings Register for the following reasons;

Architectural Interest and Aesthetic Quality

The hall is an attractive stone-built property set in a quiet rural nook south of Kirk Michael.

The building has a simple style which blends in well with the local surroundings. The un-rendered stone walls of the hall and the boundary walls are an attractive feature of the area and compliment the natural slate roof. The cast iron windows are characteristic of the mid-nineteenth century.

A brick-built extension was added to the rear of the property in 1901 and in 1999 the main roof was replaced and the chimneystack was reduced in height. However, other than these changes the hall has remained in its original condition.

Historic Interest

The hall was constructed as a school house in approximately 1860, in order to provide teaching facilities for local children in the area who might otherwise find it difficult travelling miles into Kirk Michael village for their education.

The building has also been used as an Anglican Mission Room and during this time it was reputed to be the smallest chapel in the Island.

Close Historic Association

The hall was constructed for Miss Gore Currie, who paid the £100 building costs and personally ran the school there for many years. She was a niece of Bishop Powys, who was Lord Bishop of Sodor and Mann from 1854 until 1877.

SOURCES AND REFERENCES

Books

Gelling C.J., 1998, *A History of the Manx Church*.

Kniveton G.N., (ed), 1997, *An Illustrated Encyclopaedia of the Isle of Man*.

Maps and Plans

Wood's Atlas, 1867, **DoLGE**.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1869, **DoLGE**.

Current digital maps, **DoLGE**.

Photographs

- Current photographs
Taken on site.
www.manxscenes.com
www.island-images.co.uk
- Archive photographs
Manx National Heritage (Manx Museum library archives)

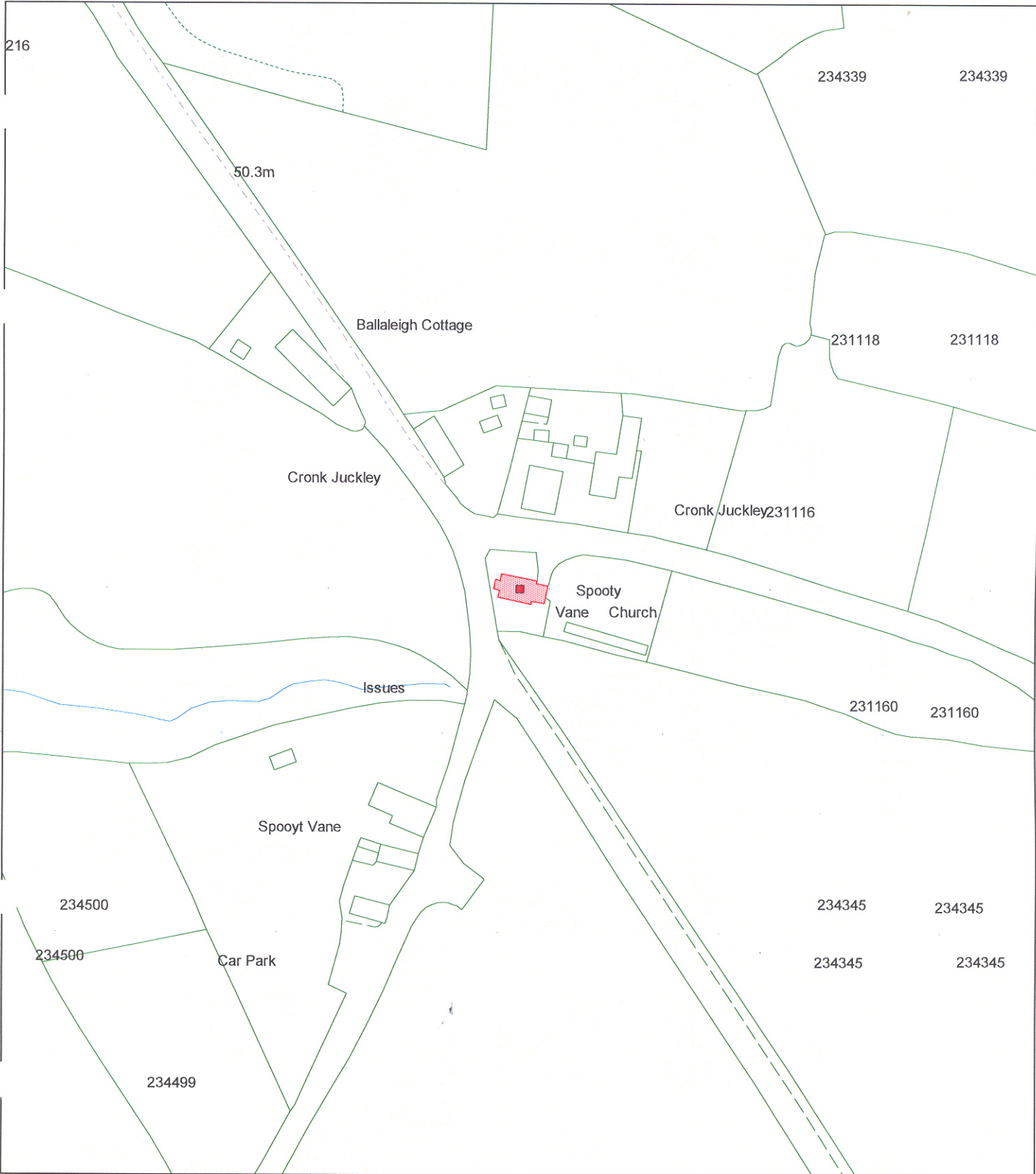
Internet Sites

Manx Note Book website
www.isle-of-man.com/manxnotebook

Department of Local Government and the Environment



Directorate of Planning and Building Control



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Comments	07/00252/REGBLD
Date	04 December 2007