

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1991
THE REGISTERED BUILDINGS (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1991

To: Mr A N Quillin, The Legal Representative of the Estate of Mr H A Quillin deceased, 22 Lime Street, Port St Mary, Isle of Man.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting held on the 6th June 2002, 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 Old Sail Loft, Shore Road, (The Underpass), Port St Mary

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 20th day of September 2002

By Order of the Committee



J Callow
Secretary, Planning Committee.

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

NOTE :

Rights to request de-registration of the building are provided under the Registered Building 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 period of 28 days of service of this notice. Such application should be sent to the Secretary, Planning Committee, 1st Floor, Murray House, Mount Havelock, Douglas, IM1 2SF.

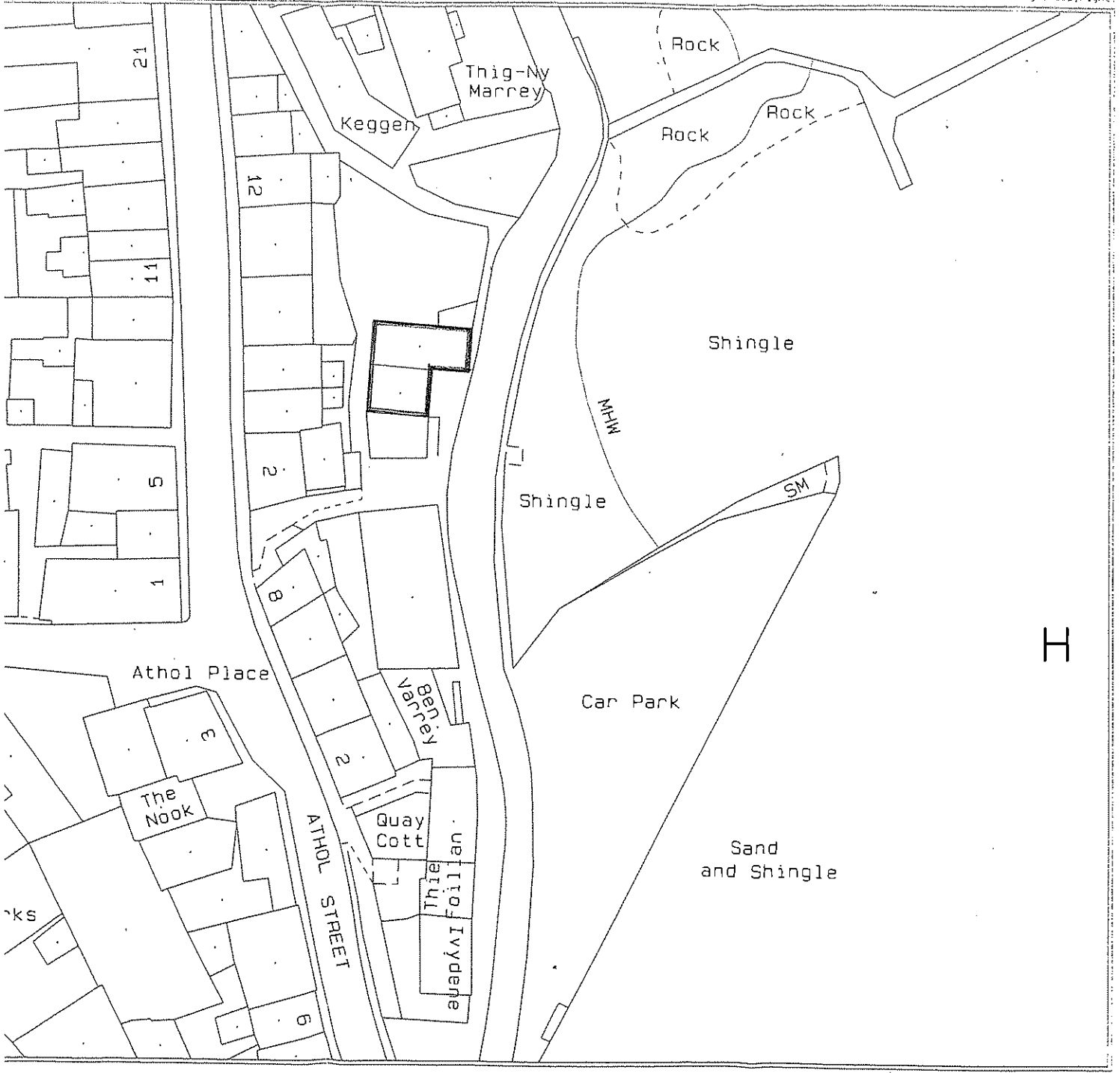
In the event that de-registration is not requested by any party within the 28 day period described above, then de-registration may not be requested within a period of 3 years.

c.c.:-

Clerk to Port St Mary Commissioners, Town Hall, Port St Mary
Director, Manx Museum and National Trust, Kingswood Grove, Douglas
Advisory Council on Planning & the Environment, 52 Alberta Drive, Onchan

Scale 1:500

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INITIAL REPORT
THE OLD SAIL LOFT, PORT ST MARY,
ISLE OF MAN

From the earliest days of Registration, the area centering on The Harbour, Port St Mary, has been identified as being of historic and architectural importance and as recognised in a study of the Village of Port St Mary carried out by Melville Dunbar Associates in December 1993.

“The surrounding buildings are generally of high quality. The most important being the Old Net Factory... and the adjoining building to its North, previously used as a sail loft, carpenters shop and smithy”.

The building was erected in 1858 to serve the needs of the fishing industry in the South of the Island. It is evident from an examination of the exterior of the building that the 3-storey sail loft building, was the first to be erected on the site and at some stage early in the history of this building the adjoining dwelling was added onto the southern side of the property.

Mr William Clucas, formerly a sail-maker, spent much of his life in Port St Mary and recalled that his father had also been a sail-maker and rigger who had a business in the loft located on the harbourside, from the early life of the building. His father employed 7 or 8 men making sails for schooners and other fishing boats.

Mr Clucas followed the same trade and was a skilled sail maker and rigger. Latterly he was employed for more than 20 years by the Isle of Man Steam Packet Company. In the early days, all of the working boats had sails and those of the fishing boats were made

from cotton canvas: schooner sails would be made from flax canvas. Large quantities of fabric were required in the making up of the sails. The sail loft was where patterns for sail-making were created and sails were laid out and fabricated.

A photograph in the Manx Museum archives shows Mr William Clucas in the sail room, on the top floor of the large warehouse building, still operating as a sail-maker, in 1949. With the recent demise of the owner Mr Alan Quillan, the property has lost the last in a line of owner/occupiers who operated the trade of shipwright /sail-maker from this building.

As stated, the upper floor of the building was used for sail maker's loft: the middle floor as a joinery/shipwright's workshop for purposes relating to the production of boats operating out of Port St Mary and farther a field: the ground floor contains not one, but two forges, for fabricating the iron elements of the craft including the long Keel plates. It is of interest to note there is a small opening in the front gable elevation, underneath the external staircase, whereby the continuous forging of the Keel plates was enabled as the continuous length of plate extended from inside the workshop out onto the quayside. Many items of interest were donated to the Manx Museum and National Trust sometime ago and are held in the Nautical Museum in Castletown, however the building still contains numerous items relating to its use and the property has changed very little during its lifetime.

The sail loft and adjoining cottage together make a striking architectural statement on the lower Shore Road, Port St Mary. The materials used in the construction of both sections of the property are a mixture of local Manx slate stone, but other local stones are also evident, in particular the large granite quoins (corner stones).

Much of the stonework is of high quality and laid in courses: slate lintels span all major

openings and all but one window visible on the major elevations, are of original sliding sash style.

The Old Sail Loft and the adjoining cottage are a unique remnant of the history of the fishing industry of the Isle of Man.

As outlined in the catalogue accompanying the Great International Fishery Exhibition of 1883:

“Port St Mary with the adjacent ports of Castletown and Port Erin, is the next most important port after Peel... It contains one hundred and one boats, representing a tonnage of 2,095 tons with a capital of £80,800 and employing 787 men and boys”.

The document goes on to explain “The insular Government... is constructing a new breakwater at Port St Mary at a cost of £15,580.00 . . . There is no other portion of Europe, and with the exception of Newfoundland, there is probably no other country in the world, where so large a proportion of the population is dependent on fishing for their livelihood”. It is further explained that in Great Britain the norm at that time was one person out of every 75 employed on the fishing industry; however, in the Isle of Man, one out of every 5 depended on fishing for his daily bread and one person out of every four was directly or indirectly dependent on fishing for their livelihood. This indicates the importance of the fishing industry in the historical and sociological development of the Isle of Man, particularly in fishing ports of the Island.

It is accordingly judged that the Old Sail Loft has played a significant part in the development of the village of Port St Mary and in the wider sense in the development of the fishing industry in the Isle of Man. As such, the building should be recognised and given the protection of Registered Building Status. It is accordingly recommended that the building be advertised as being considered for entry into the Protected Buildings Register.





24.08.2006

