

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

To: **Department of Transport, Harbours Division, Sea Terminal Building, Douglas**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting held on the 10th October 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

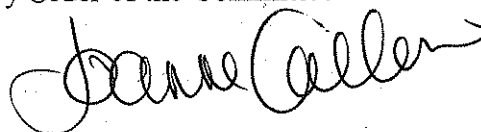
Tower of Refuge, St Mary's Rock, (also known as Conister Rock) Douglas

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 18th day of October 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:

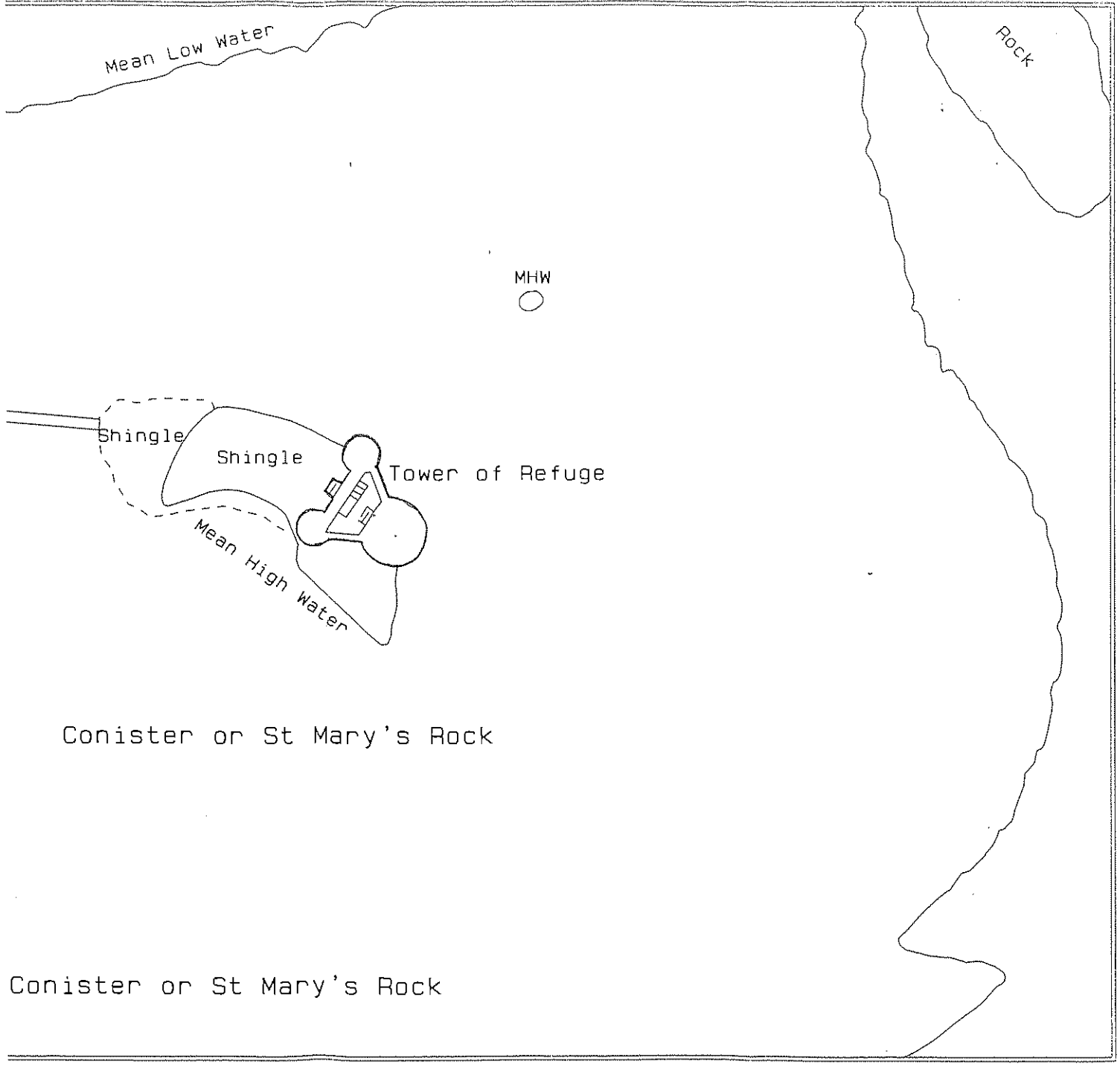
Applications in writing for the de-registration of the building may be made by the owners or occupier of, any other person having an interest in the building, within a period of 28 days of service of this notice. Such application should be sent to the Secretary, Planning Committee, 1st Floor, Murray 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.:-

- Douglas Corporation, Town Hall, Ridgeway Street, Douglas;
- Director of Manx Museum and National Trust, Kingswood Grove, Douglas;
- Advisory Council for Planning and the Environment, 52, Alberta Drive, Onchan.

Scale 1:500



Conister or St Mary's Rock

Conister or St Mary's Rock

jurisdiction

Douglas Corporation

code

DU/H/C/A

location

38877555

ownership

Public

origin



description Tower of Refuge, Douglas Bay

recommendation

Tower of Refuge St Mary's Rock, Douglas Bay

The Tower of Refuge, positioned as it is, is a prominent landmark and could almost be considered a national monument. Passengers arriving on the Isle of Man Steam Packet boats, even before docking, as soon as they pass by feel that they have arrived safely at the Isle of Man.

The Tower was constructed in 1832. A bronze plaque on the Tower dated May 1932 states "in grateful memory of Sir William Hillary, the founder of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution who 100 years ago erected this Tower on the St Marys Rock as a warning to all sea craft and as a refuge in case of shipwreck".

The Architect was John Welch of the firm Hansom & Welch. Their work is well documented throughout the Island and includes the Smelt Memorial in Castletown and buildings at King William's College.

Following its construction, the rock on which it was built was conveyed to Sir William Hillary to be held by him for life as president of the Isle of Man district of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and to all future presidents in trust.

The Tower is constructed largely of local limestone, a particular feature being that the individual stones are drilled and copper rods have been inserted as dowel pins to securely locate one stone on another.

The structure is triangular in plan with three turrets/towers at the corners. A large tower is at the apex with two smaller towers at each end of the baseline. The large tower has been positioned to face the prevailing winds and seas and the base, which provides the access, faces Douglas Bay and is more protected. In addition, the rounding of the corners reduces the exposure of the building to the ravages of the sea. An open deck which is accessed from the rocks by protected stairs is set above the high water mark. In addition there is a square staircase tower which serves the larger round tower and allows for signalling and access to the interior.

Simple and robust in form, the architectural detailing is reminiscent of a mediaeval keep with corbelled castellated battlements and narrow slit windows. The building rises from the rocks on battered stonework which reduces the impact of the waves at sea level. The walls then rise vertically to different heights to be capped by the battlements as noted.

References:

For Those in Peril, Robert Kelly

The Journal of the Manx Museum

The Isle of Man Victorian Society Newsletters

Here is the News - An Illustrated Manx History, Terry Cringle & others

Centenary of the Borough of Douglas, G Kniveton & others

Manx Millennium 2000 AD, articles by IOM Newspapers















1832 — 1932
IN GRATEFUL MEMORY
OF
SIR WILLIAM HILARY

THE FOUNDER OF
THE ROYAL NATIONAL
LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION

WHO 100 YEARS AGO
ERECTED THIS TOWER ON
THE ST. MARY'S ROCK AS
A WARNING TO ALL SEACRAFT
AND AS A REFUGE IN CASE OF
SHIPWRECK

BY

1932



