



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 21st August 2007, the Department of Local Government and the Environment, in pursuance of its powers under the above Acts and Regulations REGISTERED

Whitehouse Main Road Kirk Michael Isle Of Man IM6 2HH

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 23rd November 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.

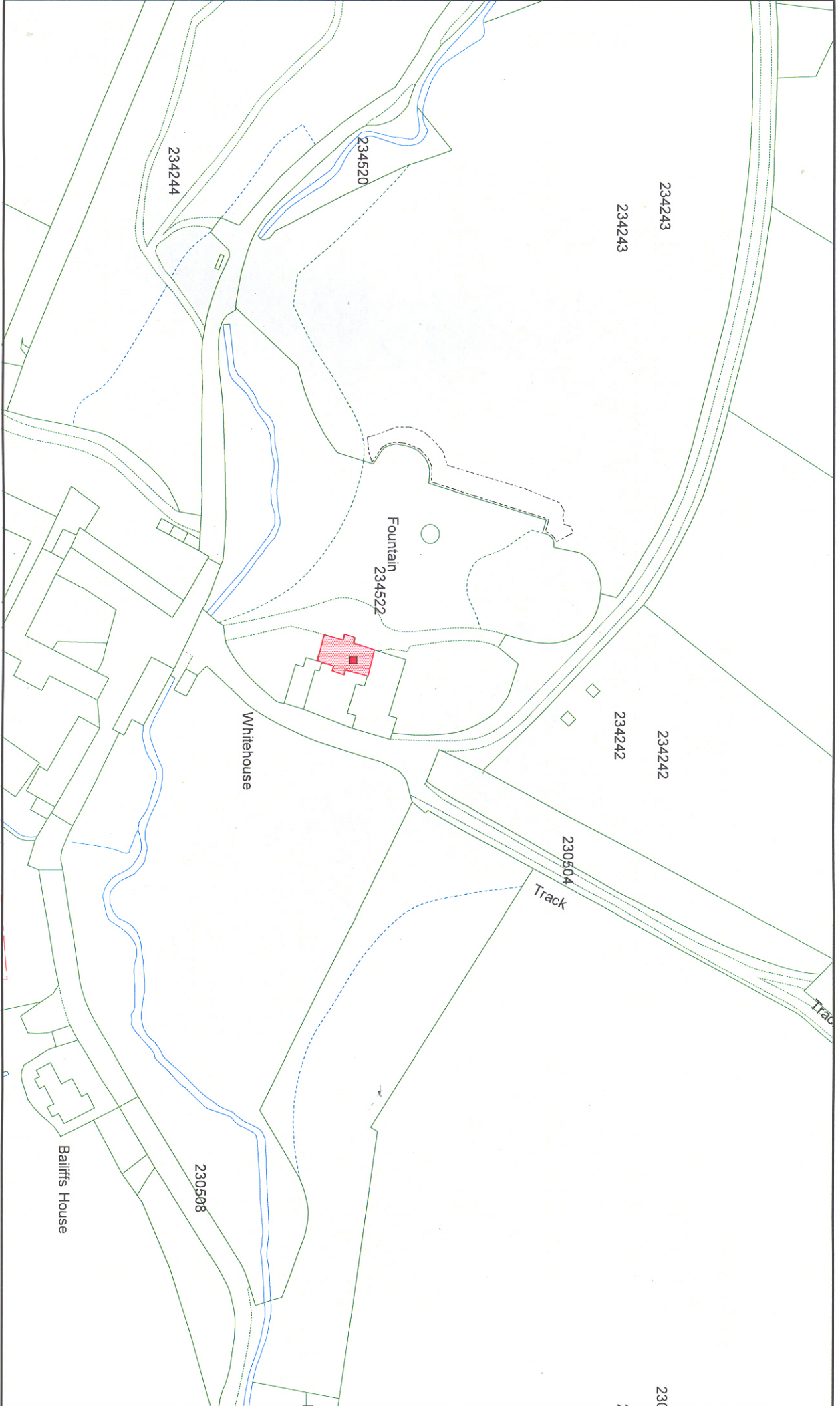
Under the Registered Building Regulations 2005

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 – FILE COPY**
Commissioners Office, Main Road, Kirk Michael
Director, Manx National Heritage

Date	Comments
23 November 2007	07/00250/REGBLD



Base Map reproduced from Isle of Man Survey mapping. Licence Number GD0000/97
 © Crown Copyright. Department of Local Government and the Environment, Isle of Man.
 Unauthorised reproduction in any form may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.

 Produced using UrbanForm 7.3

1:1445
 Km 0.04 0.06 0.08 0.1

REGISTERED BUILDING CONFIRMATION

NAME: The Whitehouse
ADDRESS: Main Road, Kirk Michael
POST CODE: IM6 2HH
LOCAL AUTHORITY: Michael Commissioners
GRID REF: 323 909

Introduction

The Whitehouse is a landmark building in Kirk Michael. The property dates from the eighteenth century and has had subsequent additions. It is set back from 'Main Road' in extensive farmland and historically it was one of the most important quarterland farms in Michael.

Notable owners of the Whitehouse include some of the most significant figures in Manx history, such as the Taubman family, who were later of the Nunnery; Sir Miles Wilks, Napoleon's gaoler on St. Helena; Captain Quilliam of Trafalgar fame; Evan Gell, one of the Island's leading farmers and Joseph Mylchreest who became known as the 'Diamond King'.

History

The present mansion dates from the eighteenth century, but the name 'Whitehouse' is found as early as 1688 in the Diocesan Registers.

Notable residents of the Whitehouse include the Taubman family, who were later of the Nunnery, Mark Wilks who was Napoleon's gaoler on St. Helena, Captain Quilliam of Trafalgar fame, Evan Gell, a farmer who developed a shorthorn breed of cattle on the Island, and Joseph Mylchreest, otherwise known as the 'Diamond King'.

Mark Wilks (1760-1831)

Son of the Rev. James Wilks, Mark Wilks was born at the Vicarage in Kirk Michael and married into the Taubman family.

He went to work in India as a young officer in 1782 for the East India Company. He rose through the ranks and was a colonel at the time of the Mysore war of 1799; later he was the Resident of Mysore state between 1805 and 1808. He wrote an account of the history of the state, from the early days to the fall of the King Tippu Sultan during the Mysore war. He may therefore be considered the first historian of modern Karnataka.

Mark Wilks must have returned to the Isle of Man shortly after leaving Mysore as he was elected a member of the House of Keys in 1810. However, his time in the Island was short-lived, as in the spring of 1813 he was offered the post of Governor of St. Helena, which he remained until 1816. In 1815 Napoleon arrived at St. Helena following his defeat in the battle of Waterloo and Mr Wilks was his gaoler until he left the post in 1816. Napoleon is said to have liked and respected Wilks and had missed him after he left St. Helena (Moore A.W., 1901). Wilks returned to the Isle of Man in 1816 and was again elected a member of the House of Keys. He later became Speaker of the House of Keys, following the death of his father-in-law who had previously held the position.

Captain John Quilliam 1771-1829

Captain John Quilliam served with Nelson as First Lieutenant on H.M.S. Victory at the battle of Trafalgar in 1805. Following the battle of Trafalgar, Quilliam must have returned to the Island for a time, as he was elected a member of the House of Keys in 1807 and again in 1809. On his retirement from the Royal Navy he lived at the Whitehouse and died there in 1829 (Cashin T.L., 1999), although he is buried in Arbory churchyard.

Early nineteenth century

Directories from the early nineteenth century reveal that in 1823, a Mrs Margaret James was living at the Whitehouse and in 1837 the resident had changed to Miss Louisa Cannell, who was included under the section for 'Gentry and Clergy'.

Evan Gell (1806-1887)

During the nineteenth century a Mr. Evan Gell purchased the Whitehouse. He was formerly a wine and spirit merchant from Kirk Michael, but became a farmer when he moved into the Whitehouse. He lived there for many years and was recorded as living there in directories from 1846 to 1883.

He was one of the Island's leading farmers, particularly with regard to improving the breed of cattle (Cashin T.L., 1999). He was Justice of the Peace, Captain of the Parish of Michael and was elected a member of the House of Keys in 1844 and again in 1874. He was said to have been a personal friend of Captain John Quilliam.

Evan Gell was having serious financial problems and he had no option other than to sell the Whitehouse in a public auction in order to help pay his creditors. The property was purchased by Joseph Mylchreest for £9,500.

In Kirk Michael Parish Church there are two sidelights and a brass tablet in the chancel which were erected in 1913 by the executors of the late Mrs Walker to the memory of the Gell family (Captain Gell, formerly of the Whitehouse).

Joseph Mylchreest 1839-1896

Joseph Mylchreest, otherwise known as the 'Diamond King', made his fortunes in the diamond mines of South Africa and returned to Peel, his hometown in 1888. After returning to the Island to a heroes welcome, he became interested and involved in Manx affairs, becoming MHK for Peel from 1891 to 1896. It is believed that he developed an interest in agriculture and this is why he left Peel and moved to the Whitehouse. His main farming objective was to establish pedigree cattle and sheep with a view to improving the stock of other farms on the Island (Mylchreest B., 1993). He also used his wealth to buy other farms, including Kirby Farm, which had 200 acres in Braddan, Kerrow-ny-Glough in Greeba, Lhergy Vreck in Kirk Michael and Glenaspit in Patrick.

After purchasing the Whitehouse he set about transforming it into a magnificent Victorian Style mansion, suitable for a man of his new found status.

The Diamond King is said to have become "*a legend in his own lifetime*" (Cashin T.L., 1999, p.6) and the Whitehouse became a focal point of the village, with many social occasions being held there.

Joseph Mylchreest had six children and the Whitehouse was always a lively family home where he and his wife Phoebe entertained a wide circle of friends from all walks of life. He was a great benefactor to the people of Michael and had a keen interest in developing Peel as a tourist resort, following the decline of the fishing and ship building industries at the end of the nineteenth century. He died a comparatively young man on 28th December 1896 and he remains one of the best remembered Manx personalities of the nineteenth century.

In Kirk Michael Parish Church the centre light, reredos and wainscoting in the chancel were erected in 1898 to the memory of Joseph Mylchreest, by his widow Phoebe

Architecture

The Whitehouse is a striking Manx farmhouse, originally dating from the eighteenth century, with later additions. The oldest part of the property is the main body of the house which can be said is typical of the larger Manx farmhouses, with its rectangular shape with a pitched roof, chimneystacks at either end, five windows across the first floor of the front elevation and the front door positioned centrally underneath. However, a characteristic not typical of a traditional Manx farmhouse is the projecting porch on the front elevation with the square bay above; a feature which makes the property appear more elegant than other farmhouses. The front door located in the porch is a Georgian style with side lights and a curved fan light above.

Substantial Victorian alterations and extensions were carried out for Joseph Mylchreest during the late nineteenth century. These additions however, have since been removed and the property has regained its Georgian frontage, with modern extensions which are much less-imposing.

Alterations by Joseph Mylchreest

After purchasing the Whitehouse, Joseph Mylchreest set about transforming the Georgian property into a magnificent Victorian style mansion with the addition of a four-storey tower, a

two-storey wing to the north, a conservatory to the south and castellated parapets to all the property, except for the conservatory. All of the alterations for Joseph Mylchreest were reportedly carried out by local tradesmen (Examiner, May 18th 1895), with the Kelly Brothers of Kirk Michael responsible for much of the work. However, since then these additions have been demolished and the house has been returned to its former Georgian style. The Victorian alterations can still be seen in archive photographs.

Electricity was installed in the house, after only arriving in the Island five years earlier. Joseph Mylchreest also built a large dam reservoir in the hills above the house and water was fed down from this to a water wheel and generator house. The electricity was stored in accumulators in a large building, built specially for this purpose. He also installed a coke-burning stove for the central heating of his large conservatory. In addition to this, he added a decorative wooden staircase which became a central feature in the house. The staircase and much of the hand-made furniture were crafted by the Kelly Brothers of Kirk Michael, who were also responsible for much of the carved wooden interior of the parish church.

At the time Joseph Mylchreest lived at the Whitehouse there was a large walled garden and various farm buildings around the mansion house. These included stables, a coach house and a farm manager's house, with the farm workers living in their own cottages in the village. The stables had stalls where the carriage horses were kept and each of these had the horse's name on an engraved plate above (Mylchreest B., 1993). The cattle were supplied with water without manual labour, with the water running into a trough in front of the cattle stalls. The steward of the farm was a Mr Nivison and the business was run with such success that Joseph Mylchreest reportedly said that "*...he is immensely satisfied with the place and never has any wish to leave it.*" (Examiner, May 18th 1895).

The 1869 Ordnance Survey map shows that many of the Whitehouse outbuildings which have survived today date from at least that time. They are arranged in a courtyard fashion to the south of the main house and are hidden from view of Main Road by large mature trees.

The property today

Following the removal of the Victorian additions, the Whitehouse has now regained its former Georgian style. The tower, the north wing, the conservatory and the castellated parapets have all been removed. The two-storey north wing has been replaced with a single storey extension and the conservatory to the south has been replaced with a lean-to extension. The parapet on the old house has been reduced in height and where the porch projects from the front elevation the parapet is pitched, emphasising this central feature.

The windows are Georgian style, similar to that in archive photographs of the property which have revealed they were sliding sash with six panes over six. However, some of the modern windows on the front elevation appear to be casements rather than sash windows and have three panes over nine instead. The front door with its fanlight and sidelights appears to be original. The property certainly seems to have retained many of its original Georgian features when viewed from 'Main Road'.

In front of the Whitehouse along 'Main Road', there is a low stone wall with a cast concrete coping that has been replaced in recent years. Old photographs have shown that cast iron

railings once surmounted this wall, but these have now been removed. At its present low level, the wall provides fine views across the fields to the Whitehouse and the hills beyond.

RECOMMENDATION

The Whitehouse is suggested for inclusion on the Protected Buildings Register for the following reasons;

Architectural Interest and Aesthetic Quality

The Whitehouse is a striking Manx farmhouse dating from the eighteenth century. The property was extensively altered during the Victorian era, with the addition of a tower and castellated parapets, however these have since been removed and the property has been returned to its Georgian style.

The property possesses many Georgian style features such as the windows on the front elevation and the front door with its fanlight and sidelights.

To the south of the main house there are a series of outbuildings which are arranged in a courtyard fashion. These appear to have survived from at least the time when the Ordnance Survey Map of 1869 was surveyed, and although they are not visible from Main Road, further investigation may be necessary if they are to be considered for inclusion on the Protected Buildings Register along with the main house.

Historic Interest

The name 'Whitehouse' is found as early as 1688 in the Diocesan Registers and the quarterland was one of the most important farms in the parish of Michael.

Close Historic Association

Notable owners of the Whitehouse include some of the most significant figures in Manx history, such as the Taubman family, who were later of the Nunnery; Sir Miles Wilks, Napoleon's gaoler in St. Helena; Captain Quilliam of the Trafalgar; Evan Gell, one of the Island's leading farmers and Joseph Mylchreest who became known as the 'Diamond King'.

Landmark Qualities

The Whitehouse is a well-known property in Kirk Michael. It stands alone as a prominent feature in the landscape and the low stone wall along Main Road gives uninterrupted views across the fields to the Whitehouse and the hills beyond.

SOURCES AND REFERENCES

Books

Cashin T.L., 1986, *A Michael Village Trail*.

Dearden S. & Hassell K., 1997, *The Isle of Man, A Postcard Tour. Volume Four – Peel and the West*.

Kitto J., 1990, *Historic Homes of the Isle of Man*.

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

Mylichreest B., 1993, *The Diamond King*.

Newspapers

Examiner, 18th May 1895, *The Home of the Diamond King*.

Articles

Manx Millennium (2000 A.D.), Published by Isle of Man Newspapers.

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
- Archive photographs
From books and leaflets referred to above.
Manx National Heritage.

Other - Internet Sites

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

Information on Colonel Mark Wilks
www.kamat.com/jyotsna/blog/blog.php?BlogID=1026