

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

To: **Estates and Housing Directorate, Department of Local Government and the Environment.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting held on the 20th December 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

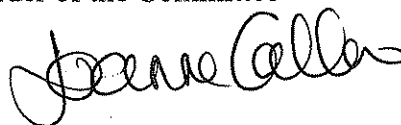
The Albert Tower in the Parish of Maughold.

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 day of, *January 27th 2003*

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:

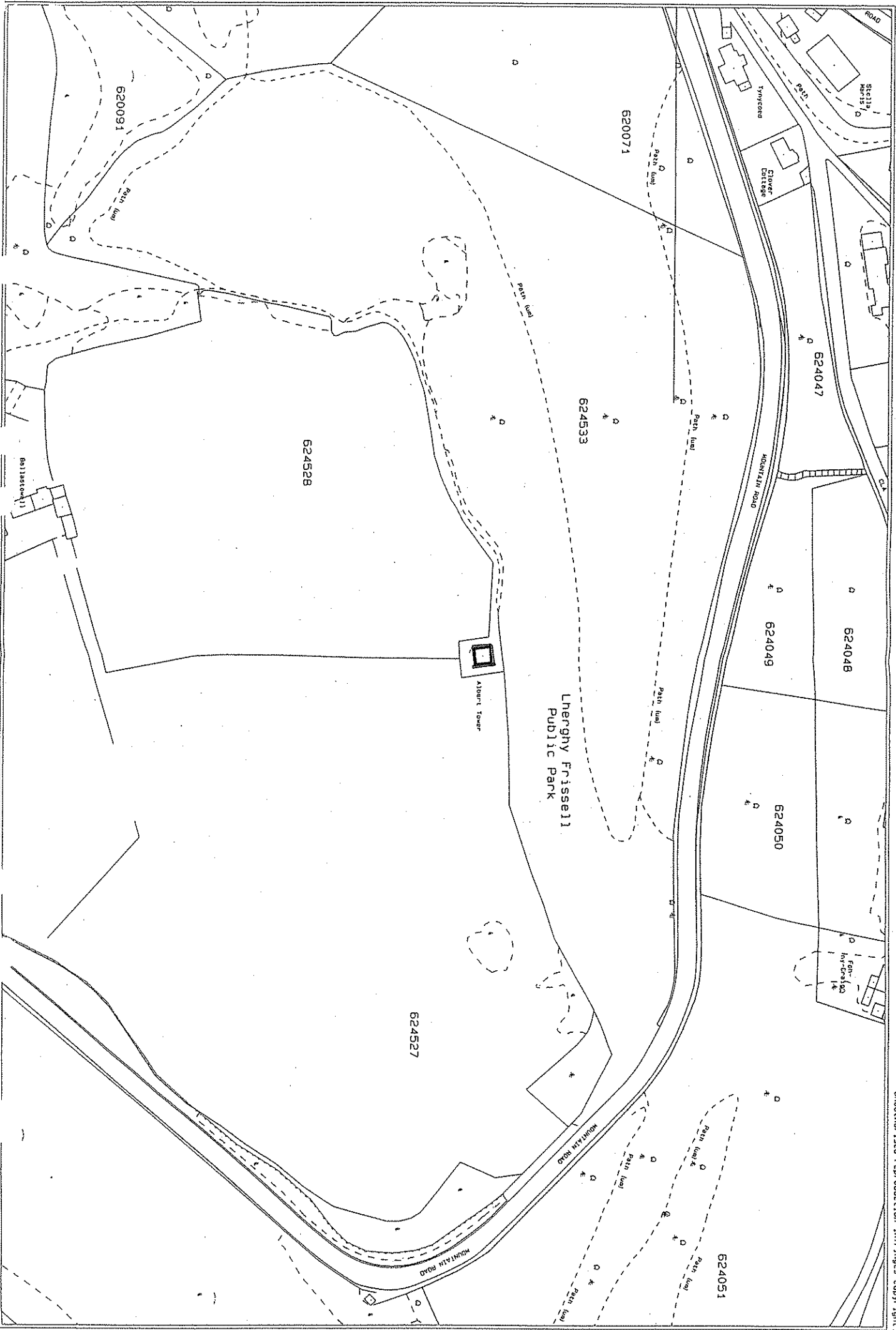
Applications in writing for the de-registration of the building may be made by the owners or occupier of, any other person having an interest in the building, within a period of 28 days of service of this notice. Such application should be sent to the Secretary, Planning Committee, 1st Floor, Murray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

- Mrs J. Penrose, Clerk to Maughold Parish Commissioners, 24 Barrule Park, Ramsey, IM8 2BS.
- Director of Manx Museum and National Trust, Kingswood Grove, Douglas, Isle of Man;
- Advisory Council for Planning and the Environment, 52, Alberta Drive, Onchan, Isle of Man.

Scale 1:1250



ALBERT TOWER, RAMSEY

Ramsey's outstanding landmark, the Albert Tower was "erected on Lhergy Frissell to commemorate the visit to Ramsey of Prince Albert on the 20th September 1847. Queen Victoria remained on the Royal Yacht in Ramsey Bay, whilst the Prince climbed to the top of the hill. The tower is of slate and granite, 45 feet (13.7m) high and 16 feet (4.9m) square." (Kniveton p.12)

Built from mountain blue slate from the nearby Claughbane quarry, quoins and lintels of South Barrule granite with granite corners, windows and coping, the tower marks the spot where Prince Albert stood to admire the view over the town.

The tower was designed by a Manchester architect, George Watson Buck, C.E.A., who also designed the Stockport Viaduct. A pioneer of railway engineering in England and a colleague and friend of the famous George Stephenson, Mr Buck came to the Island to retire in Ramsey. The tower was erected by two Ramsey builders at a cost of £300, which was raised locally to commemorate the visit.

There is a plaque over the front door which features the three legs carved in relief, and is still legible; although its condition is only fair. The carving by Mr T. Clague, the Ramsey stonecutter whose handiwork adorns many Northside gravestones, reads:

ALBERT TOWER

Erected on the spot where H.R.H. Prince Albert stood to view Ramsey and its neighbourhood, during the visit of her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria to Ramsey Bay, the XXth September, MDCCCXLVII.

“ ‘Royal Ramsey’ acquired its name, because, in the days before air travel, it was the starting-point of three visits (in 1847, 1902 and 1920) by the reigning Sovereign of Great Britain. The first visit, to Ramsey only, was that of Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort on September 20th, 1847. Although the Queen did not land in person, her husband did so and apparently enjoyed the excursion. The visit gave rise to the printing of the one and only issue of the “Ramsey Times” by Frears Leech, followed a few days later by a broad sheet on the same subject.” (Radcliffe p. 68)

The Royal Squadron anchored in Ramsey Bay, flags were hoisted and guns were fired. The High Bailiff, F. Tellet, Esq., embarked from the shore, bearing an address and was joined on board by the Archdeacon. Many boats from the harbour surrounded the Royal Yacht while hundreds of people lined the shores and crowded the pier. Prince Albert landed on the beach below Ballure Glen, and accompanied by the Hon. Mr. Anson, the Hon. Capt. Gordon and Capt. Crippin walked up through the beautiful winding glen to the top of the hill, where the Prince was most taken with the splendid view that was provided. As they ascended, they were joined by many distinguished persons from the town, including Messrs. Quiggan and Cubbon. The Prince later continued along the pier.

It is reported that at nine o'clock that night, after the Prince had departed a party of gentlemen, carrying requisite material, walked up to the point of the hill where the Prince had stood and with the consent of the proprietor, a Mr Edward Stowell, Wm. Callister Esq named the place in commemoration of the visit, “Albert Hill”, and the adjoining glen “Victoria Glen”.

Following the Prince's visit, a monument was called for in order to commemorate the visit. Within a week, High Bailiff Telet presided over a meeting in the Court House which decided to purchase a site and Mr Edward Stowell of Ballastowell – the Tower Farm, made a gift of the land.

Easter Monday the following year, (1848), saw the laying of the foundation stone by Mrs Eden, the wife of the Lord Bishop, Robert John Eden. The Reverend Kermode said a

prayer on top of the hill for the Queen and the Royal family. A parchment was read and placed in a bottle which was sealed and placed under the foundation stone.

In June of that year it was reported that many visitors to Ramsey were climbing the hill and taking away momentos of the partly constructed tower.

One year to the Prince's visit it was almost complete and canons were fired from the hill.

The official opening was on the 24th July 1849, when between three and four thousand people from all over the Island set out from the Market Place, two thousand of them reportedly reaching the tower. The High Bailiff of Ramsey presented the key to Deemster Drinkwater who unlocked the door and proceeded to the top of the tower, with the Committee. Following the hoisting of a St. George's flag bearing the Manx arms, a royal salute was fired, the National Anthem was played and three cheers were given. To allow anyone who desired to enter the tower free of charge, the Deemster donated to the Committee a sum 'equal to that which might be collected on the occasion.'

"The tower, much more accessible since the 1930's when public footpaths were laid out on the front of Lhergy Frissell, the hill on which it stands, has not been open to the public since the Second World War, because of the state of the internal staircase." (Radcliffe p. 70)

In the early part of the 1939-45 war, the tower was used as a look-out by the Home Guard.

It has been suggested, that the Prince coming from Germany, where every hill has its "Aussichturm" would comment on the need for such "outlook-tower" to view the beautiful surroundings.

REFERENCES:

Books:

Constance Radcliffe: Shining By The Sea, A History of Ramsey 1800-1914
1989, Nelson Press, Isle of Man

Gordon N. Kniveton (Ed): An Illustrated Encyclopedia of the Isle of Man
1997, The Alden Press, Oxford

Other sources:

Manx Life: January/February 1974

Manx Star: 13/9/71 p.18
15/4/78 p.3
3/12/82 p.10

The Isle of Man Examiner: 28/11/75 p.14



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