

Asset Ref No.	HB/01/25/004b; Boom Hall Registered Historic Garden L003; House, Stables and Gates/Screens/Lodge HB01/25/004 A-C (also Cropmark LDY 014:041)	
Heritage Type	Built	
	<i>Post-Medieval</i>	
Location	OS 6-inch map sheet	
	Townland	Ballynashallog
	Parish	
	LCA	Derry Slopes
	ITM Coordinates	
	NG Coordinates	
Protection Status	Registered Garden; House & Screens Record only & Stables B2	
Condition		
Ownership (if known)	Local Government	
Site Description	<p>HOUSE Built 1760-1779</p> <p>A large rectangular 2 storey stone built house in Georgian style becoming 3 stories on the side overlooking River Foyle. It is presently ruinous without roof, floors and internal finishes. The entrance or W front is 7 bays wide with a 3 bay wide slightly projecting breakfront, symmetrically arranged with projecting single storey small porch with side entry on S side. This porch spans across the basement area which forms a storey height plinth around the building. The porch has corner $\frac{3}{4}$ engaged Roman Doric stone columns, with deep frieze and cornice and flat roof. The W side has a single window opening now built up as are all the window openings on basement and ground floor. The ground floor windows were formerly tall s/s with multiple planes with ashlar sandstone trim. First floor windows square in proportion with sandstone trim. A bold good moulded cornice terminates the wall tops running round the building perimeter. On the east side is the principal architectural feature of the house. A large polygonal bay, full house height with similarly proportioned window openings on each facet and the central opening at first floor enriched as an aedicule with moulded pediment, consoles and fluted pilasters. Walls are built of good random rubble schist and trimmed with ashlar sandstone (probably Dungiven). On the N side is a small polygonal bay defining the staircase. This may have been a mid 19th cent addition. The walls of the breakfront are smooth rendered. The S and N sides are 5 bays wide with window proportions similar to other facades. The house is sited on sloping ground which falls quickly to the River Foyle and enjoys a splendid view of it and the site of the late 17th century boom laid across the river about this location during the siege of Derry. The house has 2 long avenue approaches and the southern one had a gate lodge now demolished but piers remain.</p> <p>STABLES Built 1760-1779</p> <p>A 2 storey 5 bay wide stone built partially derelict stable block with partly collapsed slated roof symmetrically composed in Georgian style and enclosing a courtyard on 4 sides. The S and entrance facade has central segmental arched gateway, sandstone trimmed in short and long voussoirs, on each side 2 vertical window openings, some built up, at first floor level 900mm diam. oculii over openings below, each with moulded architrave. First floor continues over gateway. The courtyard is square with 2 storey buildings enclosing it. Window and doors occur spasmodically and there was, in the past, living accommodation</p>	

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	<p>within the block and several stairways. First floor constructed of timber. Much of the roof timbers are collapsed. The exterior wall of the stable looked onto a wall garden no longer extant except for arched gateway access. There are no other openings in this wall. The east wall has a segmented gateway with several window openings occurring randomly. The stable block is sited to the NW of the main house and a short distance from it. What would have been the back avenue passes it. To the rear and to the north of the stable block is another walled garden in an unkempt state. The walls are built of random rubble schist with sandstone and brick trim.</p> <p>GATE PILLARS Built 1760-1779</p> <p>Gate pillars and segmental walls opening onto Culmore Road. Four pillars, two at the former entrance gates, two at the ends of the segmental walls. The walls are of whinstone capped with a sandstone coping. The piers are clad in ashlar sandstone. Best preserved is the pillar to the north of the former gates. 2.5m to underside of coping. 1.1m across base and depth. A 200mm by 800mm recess rising 2m on the south side displays the wrought iron fixings for the gate now gone. The recess is rendered in lime mortar and reveals brickwork behind. The top hat coping is finely cut with a projecting cornice. It is missing on the sister pillar to the south. The adjacent wall is 1.5m high the pillars at the end 2m. Both end pillars retain their coping which matches the coping described above.</p>
Landscape Context (setting)	
Site Appraisal	<p>HOUSE</p> <p>The remains of a substantial rural villa, enjoying a handsome site, and though ruinous retains sufficient of its external architectural detail and form. It is a fine example of Georgian style architecture if a little severe in execution.</p> <p>STABLES</p> <p>A good example of a stable courtyard with fine long and short ashlar sandstone arched entrances. Though in a ruinous condition the buildings are largely unaltered and are not beyond restoration.</p> <p>GATE PILLARS</p> <p>A once grand entrance now neglected and surrounded by suburban housing.</p>
Sensitivity	
Associations	<p>Architect: Priestly, Michael</p> <p>HOUSE</p> <p>A house appears to have existed on this site from the 17th century. The Alexander family acquired the property post the seige period. Around 1779 the building of the present house began for one of the brothers of which there were 2, Robert and James. James had made money in India, he held government posts and was MP for Co Derry 1774-84 which latter year he was created Baron Caledon and later Earl of Caledon. There were 2 parliamentary representatives at this time, the other being Sir Hugh Hill. Michael Priestly it is assumed prepared the design. Priestly died in 1780s. The Alexanders were prominent Derry merchants actively engaged in various trades and enterprises. The house was occupied in the early 1830s by the C of I Dean of Derry Rev. Gough. Griffiths VB records the</p>

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lessee as Rev. Dean Gough Val. £48-7-0. While in 1858 valuation the house rose to £90.00 so it must have been considerably enhanced in the intervening period though some of this enhancement may been in the outbuildings. The lessee was Daniel Baird and the lessor was the Hon Irish Society. Baird acquired the property in the 1840s. Later the Cooke family occupied the house followed by Corscadden and a Sir John Barr, Mayor of Derry. The house was taken over by the Services in the second world war when afterwards, the McDevitt family bought the property. The Derry City Council purchased the ruins and the most remains of the estate in the 1990s. No decision has yet been made as to what use or otherwise it is to be put.

STABLES

The stable block is shown on the 1832 O.S. map and is most likely contemporary with the house of 1779 and may have been designed by M. Priestly. The wall garden to the west is not shown but is shown on the later map of 1856 and may, therefore have been erected by the Blairs (see HB01/25/004A). The stable block is tenanted by a Patrick McCloskey who keeps horses stabled there as well as grazing them on the adjacent fields. The block is now part of the complex owned by the Derry District Council (see HB01/25/004A).

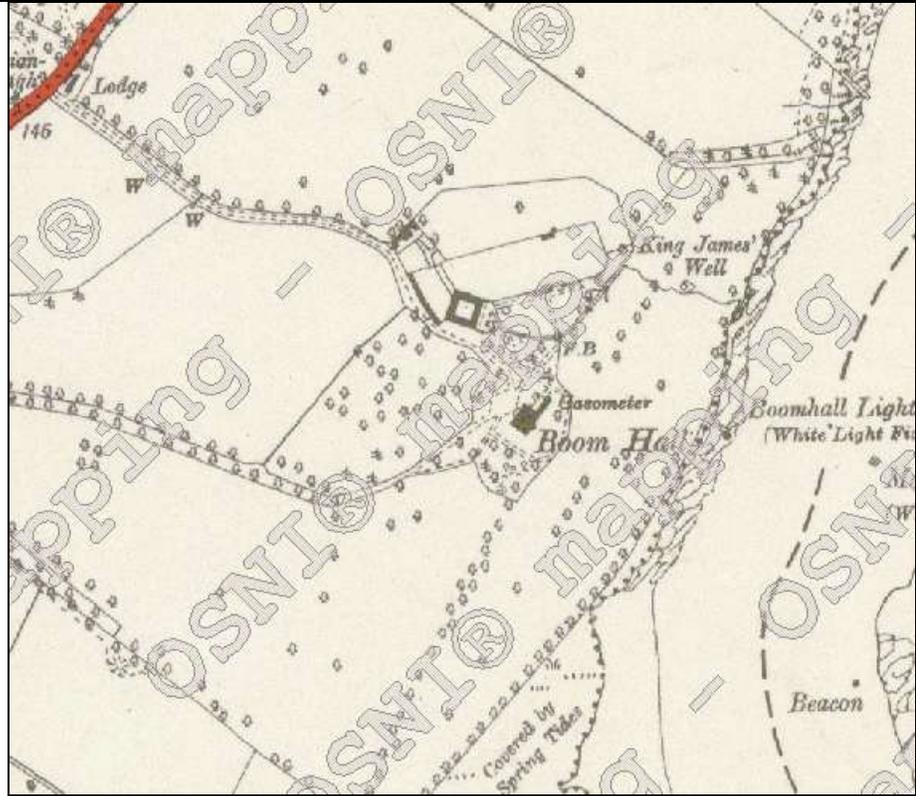
GATE PILLARS

Former main entrance to Boom Hall (HB01/25/004A) now disused with a concrete bollard placed centrally to discourage traffic. Structure contemporaneous with main house and appears on 1830 map with a gate house adjacent to the south east. Likely that they were designed by the architect for the house Michael Priestly.

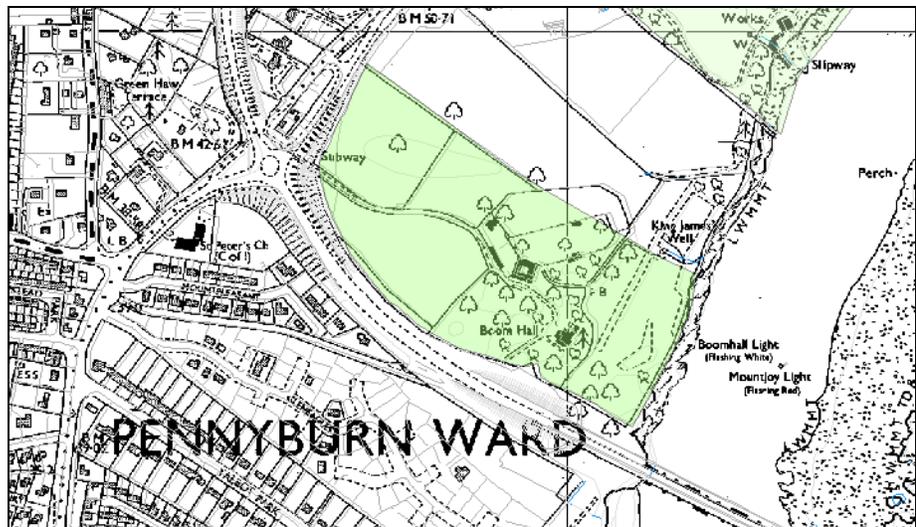
Recommendations



Present-day mapping extract (www.osni.gov.uk)



1st edition 25-inch OS map extract 1873-1954



Extract from NIEA SMR MapViewer of the site

References

<http://maps.ehsni.gov.uk/MapViewer/Default.aspx>

UAFP O.S. Map 1832 Londonderry No. 13.

UAFP O.S. Map 1st Rev. 1856 Londonderry No. 13.

Griffith Val. Book 1831 Parish of Templemore Ballynashallog TD.

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	<p>Griffith Val. Book 1858 Parish of Templemore Ballynashallog TD.</p> <p>Memoir, City & N West Liberties of Londonderry 1837, pp83, 84, 206.</p> <p>M Bence Jones A Guide to Irish County Houses p.45</p> <p>UAHS Buildings of City of Derry, pp53, 54 (gives description of building interior before becoming ruinous).</p> <p>A Rowan North West Ulster p.p. 49, 401, 402.</p> <p>A Malley, The History of Boomhall, Londonderry (unpublished).</p> <p>J A K Dean The Gate Lodges of Ulster a gazetteer. UAHS 1994 page 113.</p>
Plates	
Additional Notes	

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