

Asset Ref No.	HB/01/25/002A -D Brookhall Country House, Gate Lodge, Gate Screen & Outbuildings; Registered Historic Garden L004 (also Cropmark LDY014:044)	
Heritage Type	Built	
	<i>Post-Medieval</i>	
Location	OS 6-inch map sheet	
	Townland	Ballynashallog
	Parish	
	LCA	Derry Slopes
	ITM Coordinates	245367; 420407
	NG Coordinates	
Protection Status	Listed Grade B+	
Condition		
Ownership (if known)	Private	
Site Description	<p><i>COUNTRY HOUSE, GATE LODGE, GATE SCREEN & OUTBUILDINGS</i></p> <p>HOUSE & OUTBUILDINGS</p> <p>Built 1780-1799</p> <p>A 2 storey double pile house with small 2 storey N side return in smooth rendering, part slated roof, part flat roof, with large bow bays, verandah with metal trellis and basement extending under the greater part of the house. Georgian style. The entrance elevation has double, panelled central doorway with rectangular fanlight with projecting flat roof portico supported on 4 couplets of Roman Doric columns resting on oversized bases, in a tetra style arrangement. On either side of doorway, round headed niches without statues. Beyond these, single Wyatt style sliding sash windows with total of 20 panes each and on either side of that again repeat niches. A plinth runs across the front. The height of this is that of window and niche cills and same height as column bases. Over, a continuous string course marking a solid parapet which is returned on the sides but becomes openwork in the middle with a Guilloche pattern. The solid parapet has a small central blocking piece which shield and corner blocks. The top of the parapet forms a gentle downward curve between. To either side of the door there are black fish sculptures. The pull brass door bell is fixed in the wall. Both door leaves have 2 rectangular panels above and below and an octagonal one between. Behind the parapet a flat roof covers the single storey front which abuts the full length of the 2 storey part behind which is 7 bays wide with a 3 bay bowed break front. This is expressed in the slating The windows are 12 pane sliding sash, all similar. At each extreme corner there are tallish chimney stacks, rendered and panelled on front. On the flat roof there is a central glazed dome lighting the inner porch and another smaller glazed dome lighting an inner room (called a gallery.) A wing screen wall sticks out from the south west corner giving privacy to the south garden terrace and screened former glasshouse. This wall has 2 small out of character windows and a double door. On the other side there is a 2 storey side return. This projects to the north and its W wall sets back from the entrance front. Its ground floor is much lower than the main floor and a flight of external steps runs along it. It has a pitched and slated roof with a single chimney stack rising from the ridge. The south side is the end of the flat roofed front and also the end of the 2 storey east facing part. The 2 storey gable is practically a complete bow bay 3 bays wide with 3 tall sliding sash 18 pane windows at ground floor and 3 shorter 9 pane sliding sash windows directly over. The verandah along the east front is returned along the south gable and goes just past the tall sliding sash 18 pane window to the gallery. The verandah</p>	

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which adds delight and a picturesque quality to the facades is supported on projecting walls, its outer edge following the profile of the bays. Its roof is a slated skirt supported on a metal trellis which has pairs of slim slender columns spaced to frame the windows behind with segmented arches filled in with metal tracery. Under the verandah and echoing the window positions above a row of large square sliding sash 6 pane windows with reeded architraves all round. The middle one is in fact a door to the basement with stone steps leading down to it. A small s/s 2 pane window lights a toilet. The wing screen wall is interposed between it and the rest of the south side. The east elevation which looks down on the River Foyle is 5 bays wide with a central bowed bay equal in width to that at the front. The verandah extends across the entire east side expressing the profile of the bowed bay. The bay has 3 windows at ground and first floors similar to the south bay with single window on either side on each level. The metal trellis and skirt roof also extends across this front. Under basement windows as before. There are steps at each end of the verandah leading down to the terraced lawns which change level from south to east. The hipped and slated roof expresses each bay and there are 2 chimney stacks on the ridges. Slates on the bay roofs are graduated smalls. C.I. guttering and downpipes. The side return has 2 no. small sliding sash 4 pane windows at ground and first floor and a glazed panel door leading out onto a platform which continues the verandah on the north side. Under this platform a door gives access to the basement and there are 2 windows. Also on this side 4 sliding sash windows and one tiny window. A new flue in brick has been erected just above the eaves. The north elevation looks out on a partially sunken court which drops to a lower level to a service road or lane. The house is approached by a long winding avenue downhill through pleasing landscape planted with indigenous and exotic trees of fine appearance. The present owner's forbears particularly his uncle established an arboretum which attracts visitors. The house enjoys marvellous view of the River Foyle and the countryside beyond. The garden is laid out in a series of stepped terraces of lawns and the lower ends in a ha-ha with concealed metal fence below. Further downhill is a walled garden divided into 3 sections which contains interesting plant specimens. The S section is managed by Derry City Council with separate road access. At the rivers edge there is a quay named after the initial builder of the house, Sir George Fitzgerald Hill, BT MP. The screen wall to the west formerly had a conservatory against its E side.

Single and 1½ storey former farm buildings, pitched, hipped, ½ hipped slated roofs, whitewashed stone walls in a 'U' formation around a courtyard. Construction is of rubble schist with sandstone dressings. There is a bellcote at the N. end of the W. wing.

GATE SCREEN

Built 1800-1819

The gate screen consists of 4 no. square sandstone pillars, with centre pair of decorative C.I. gates and C.I. railings on each side, between pillars, in restrained but pleasing design and supported by a low wall. The sandstone ashlar pillars have each a cornice coping (one is missing) with a band of fluting under. The quadrant walls are built of coursed ashlar sandstone with plain sandstone coping. A pair of ship's anchors are mounted, one on each side of the gate.

GATE LODGE

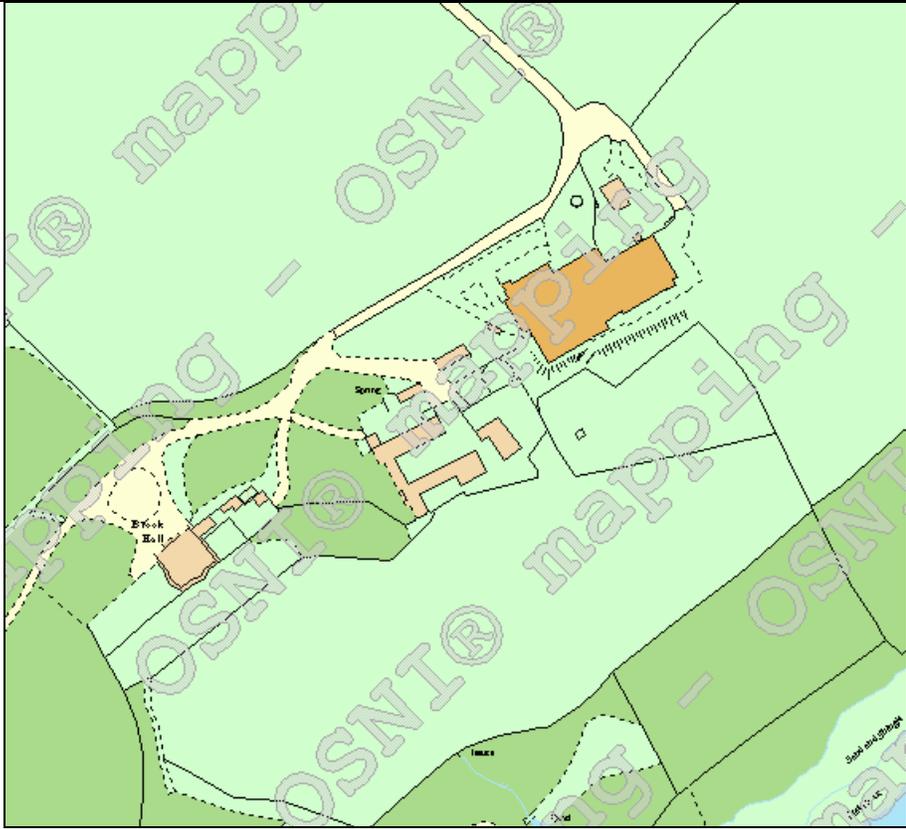
Built 1820-1839

An octagonal 2 room single storey cottage, smooth rendered and painted with tetra style portico and slated pyramidal roof. Cottage has a single storey extension. The entrance to the house was under the portico but it is now altered to a sliding sash 16 pane window. The

	<p>portico columns are fluted Doric order supporting a flat entablature. Each facet of the octagon has a large recessed panel in which is placed a window, casement type but with small panes, some recently replaced and not painted white. The slated roof, low pitch has single chimney stack at the apex. An extension has been added to the lodge and is connected by a porch link. It does not contribute to the setting of the lodge but neither does it spoil the principal elevation. This lodge is closely associated with the pillars, gates, railings and anchors for Brookhall (see HB01/25/002D).</p>
Landscape Context (setting)	
Site Appraisal	<p>HOUSE & OUTBUILDINGS</p> <p>A pleasant and interesting mid Georgian House with early Victorian alterations giving it a Regency style appearance. Superbly sited overlooking the River Foyle and surrounded by good landscaped grounds and fine winding avenue approach. The grounds contain a fine arboretum with tree specimens from various parts of the world.</p> <p>A simple group of former late 18th century farm buildings with farm courtyard. The buildings have little architectural form and the only interest is the overall plan layout and its value as a group related to the main house which is adjacent.</p> <p>GATE SCREEN</p> <p>Good well proportioned gate pillars and pleasing railings. Of local historical and wider interest because of the historical importance of some of the occupants of Brookhall and a pleasing entrance to an interesting arboretum. While the anchors are a relatively recent addition, they add interest to the grouping.</p> <p>GATE LODGE</p> <p>An early 19th century gate lodge which still retains some of its original Georgian character. It has an interesting plan form and fine portico. Of local historical interest because of the significance of some of the occupants and its association with the entrance to an interesting arboretum as well as being the entrance to Brook Hall. However the relatively large extension has degraded the architectural character considerably.</p>
Sensitivity	
Associations	<p>HOUSE & OUTBUILDINGS</p> <p>A house was here in the 1st half of the 18th century and belonged to the Wray family. The property was acquired by the Hill family possibly around mid cent. Hugh Hill was MP for the constituency in 1768 to 1795 when he died. He probably built the house, i.e. the 2 storey part which extended to the N which possibly explains the location of the fanlight doorway in the present kitchen. His son, Sir George Fitzgerald Hill, became MP in 1797. He carried out various improvements to the house. The 1832 OS map shows the house with 2 bays on the E front and is longer than the present house. Sir George built the quay at the River's edge where nearby, there is also an icehouse. Sir George was Privy Councillor and vice-treasurer for Ireland from 1817. He was appointed Governor of Trinidad where he died in 1839. (It was George Hill who identified Wolfe Tone in Bunclara, they had been at Trinity College together.) The Griffith Valuation Book of 1831 gives Henry Barr Beresford as lessee with a valuation of £76. The Valuation Book of 1858 gives Samuel Gilliland as lessee with Lady Hill as lessor and valuation of £80. It is thought that Beresford carried out the alterations to the house c.1840 when the east front was shortened and the single storey west front added. The Gilliland family has resided in the house since the middle of the last century. Commander Gilliland created the arboretum and improved the walled garden.</p>

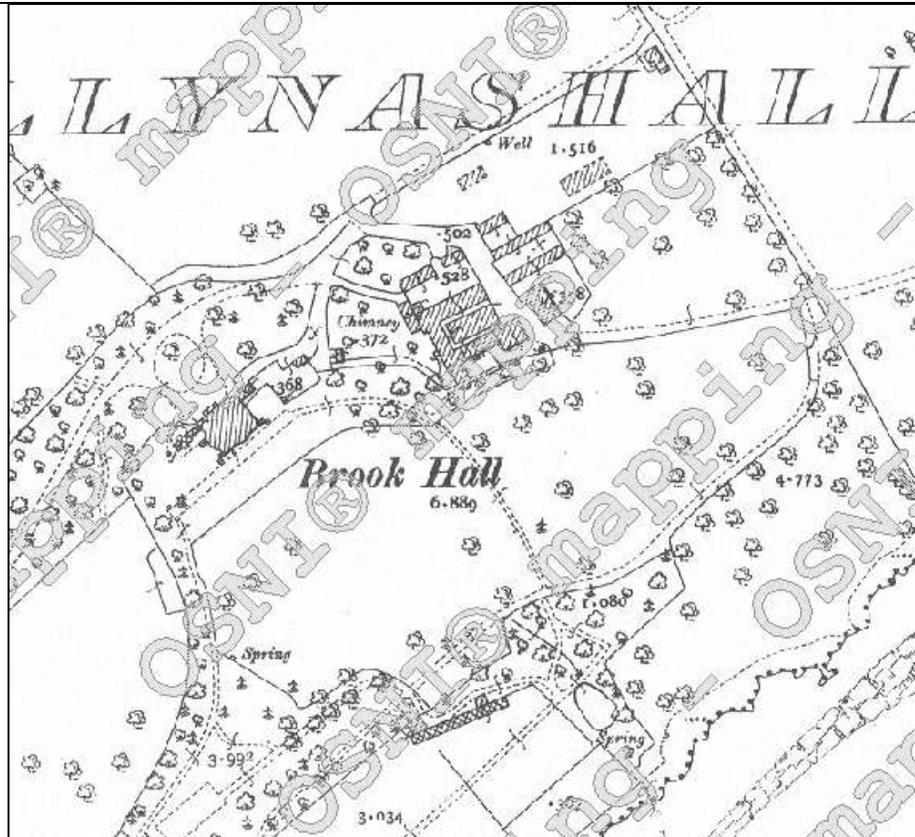
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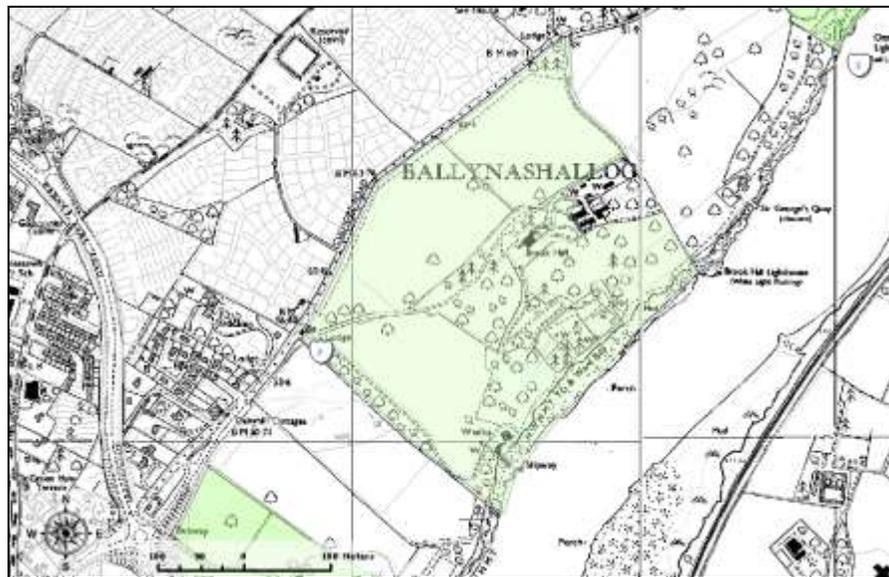
	<p>Recently the house has been reslated. Samuel Gilliland was a Derry merchant and erected the Rock Flour mills mid 19th century.</p> <p>The outbuildings are shown on the 1832 O.S. map and it is likely they were built when Hugh Hill built the house c. 1790.</p> <p>GATE SCREEN</p> <p>It is thought the lodge was erected during occupancy of Henry Barr Beresford, though it may have been erected by George Hill. The gates and pillars appear to be of George Hill's time. The anchors are from the yacht "Sunbeam" owned by Lord Brasson and purchased by the present owner.</p> <p>GATE LODGE</p> <p>It is thought the lodge was erected during occupancy of Henry Barr Beresford, though it may have been erected by George Hill. There was another lodge at the north avenue but that one has been demolished and the avenue line changed. The extension was erected c.1970s. The gates and pillars appear to be of George Hill's time.</p>
<p>Recommendations</p>	<p>The may be scope to market the tourist potential of these structures and gardens to a greater degree, particularly features such as the arboretum and the Hill family association etc.</p>
<p>Mapping</p>	 <p>Present-day mapping extract (www.osni.gov.uk)</p>

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



Extract from NIEA SMR MapViewer of the site

References

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

UAFP O.S. Map 1832 Co Londonderry 13.

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	<p>Griffiths V B 1831 Parish of Templemore Ballynashallog TD.</p> <p>Griffiths V B 1858 Parish of Templemore Ballynashallog TD</p> <p>A Rowan North West Ulster p.401</p> <p>J A K Dean The Gate Lodges of Ulster p.113</p> <p>K Newmann Dictionary of Ulster Biography</p> <p>Lewis Topographical Dictionary Vol II Parish of Templemore.</p>
Plates	
Additional Notes	

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