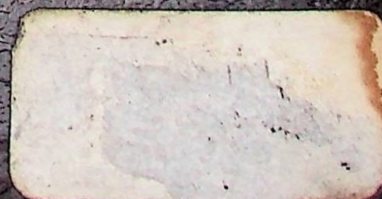


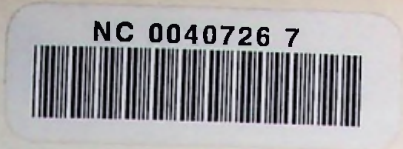
THE HISTORY OF RATHFARNHAM

Thesis for N.C.A.D.

Joe Dunne. 3rd year Visual Communications  
Faculty of Design N.C.A.D. Dublin 1978



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THE HISTORY OF RATHFARNHAM

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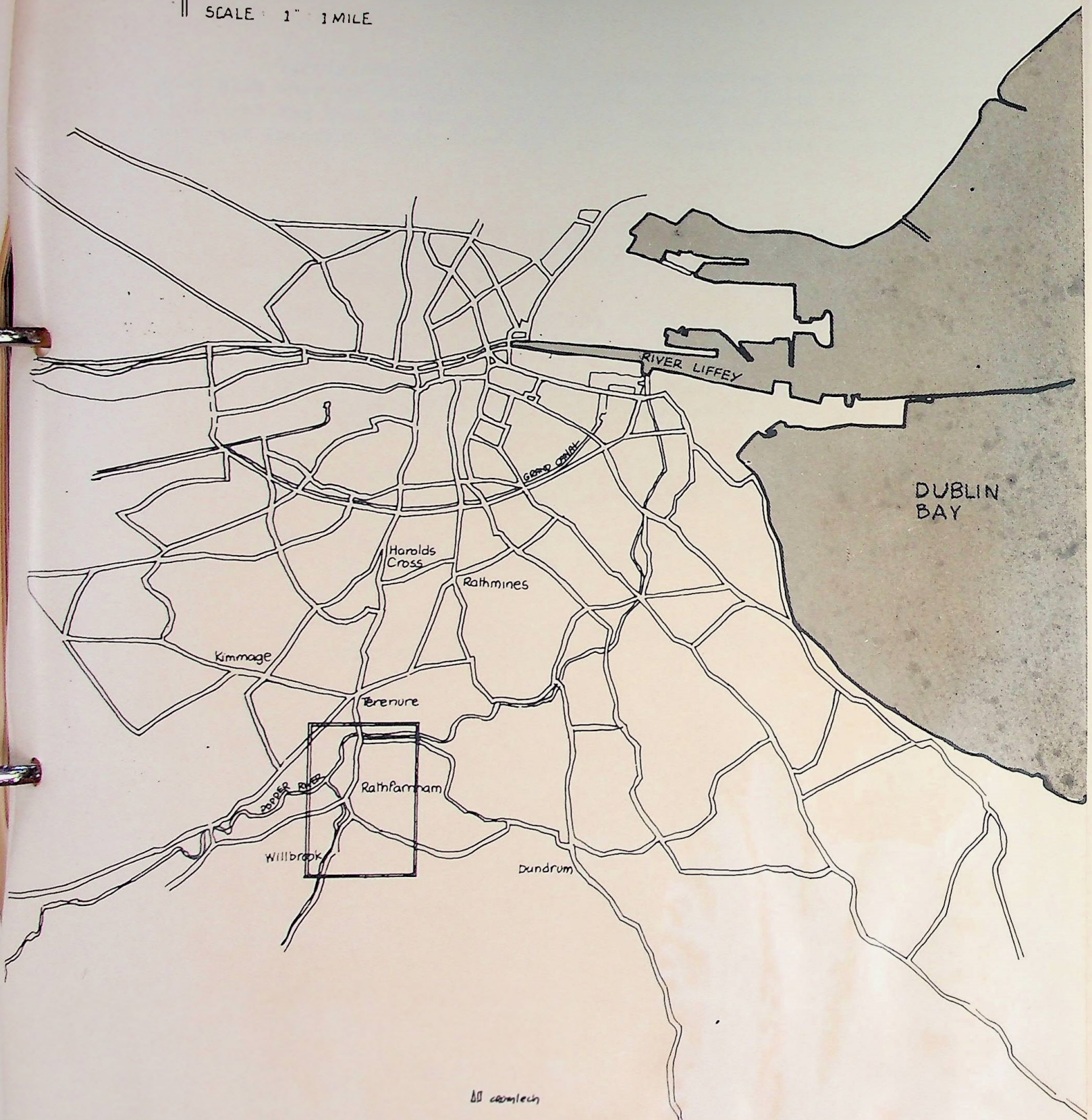
## INTRODUCTION

With this thesis I have aimed at making a study of the origin, development and present day status of Rathfarnham village and surrounding area including Rathfarnham Castle. This involved studying the nature and development of settlements that have occurred in the area.



SCALE: 1" = 1 MILE

MAP SHOWING THE AREA OF RATHFARNHAM BEING STUDIED, AND ITS POSITION IN RELATION TO THE CITY OF DUBLIN



BB contour

Mc Peller  
○ 250

Dalmen  
BT

Kilmashogue Mt  
▲ 1339

Three Rock Mt  
▲ 1479

Tibradden Mt  
▲ 1540

THE ORIGINS OF RATHFARNHAM

Little recorded information exists regarding settlement, earlier than 1199 when we read that Milo le Brett, a Norman, built the original Castle on the site of the existing one. Research in determining the exact date and location of the first settlement required a study of the following:

- (1) The origin and meaning of the Irish name 'Rathfarnham' with particular reference to the work 'Rath' which occurs there.
- (2) The existence of mounds in the area which are said to have been originally an ancient settlement.
- (3) Evidence of prehistoric settlement in the nearby Dublin Mountains. Tibbradden, Kilmashogue and Three Rock.
- (4) Origin of the name 'Rathfarnham' with reference to the word "fearnan" which occurs there.
- (5) The finding of Bann Flakes (leaf shaped flakes of flint or chert) dating 3000 - 2000 BC. and socketed bronze axe heads. 1200 - 1000 BC.
- (6) The first mention of Rathfarnham during the reign of the Vikings in Dublin.



- (1) The origin and meaning of the name 'Rathfarnham' as given in Patrick Weston Joyce's book: Irish Names of Places:

For this purpose the name must be translated into Irish 'Rath-fearnan' and in this form it can be divided into two separate words 'Rath' and 'Fearnan.'

The word 'Rath' is used to denote a circular fort or entrenchment. The word was and frequently is applied to great high entrenched mounds which are commonly designated by the word 'Dun'. These Rathes were frequently built on tops of low hills between 200 - 500 feet. The only evidence that would support the existence of a Rath in Rathfarnham is that the village itself is built on a small hill of about 200 feet in height. The presence of wells is an important factor in determining the existence of any early settlement. These wells appear on the O.S. map of 1837 of which the remains of one may still be seen. (see map and photos)

- (2) Preshistoric Mounds:

Another source which may point to the origin of the name is the existence of mounds at the end of Ballytore Road, near Rathfarnham village. These are said to either mark the settlement of some people or were used as part of a defence system in such a settlement. Photographs were unavailable due to the fact that they exist on private land and permission was not granted to take them.

The following letter is a reply to an inquiry made concerning the name of Crannagh Road in connection with these mounds. The possible connection between Crannagh and Cranog, the latter being an ancient form of settlement, and the mounds seems likely, but no record has been kept as to why this name was chosen.

- (3) Evidence of prehistoric settlement in the surrounding mountains:

The Hell Fire Club on Mount Pelier was built for William Connolly who owned Rathfarnham Castle at one stage. Before it was built there stood a large cairn consisting of a rude wall or circumvallation of large flat stones set edgewise within which a great quantity of smaller stones were collected into a heap. In the centre was a large monolith 9ft. high 6ft. wide and 3ft. thick. A similar stone 5 - 6ft. high stood 60 yards to the south west.

On the top of Tibbradden Mountain are the remains of an ancient cairn and beehive burial place in which when opened, was found an urn now preserved in the National Museum. The Irish name Tigh Bradden means the house of Bradden who supposedly was a chieftan at one time.

Kilmashogue: the Irish translation Cill Mashog meaning the church of St. Moshamhog or Mashose.

There also exists what may be the remains of a burial place on the top of Three Rock Mountain. The curious formation of huge stones on the mountain top, from which it gets its name, are said to have been used to mark the spot as a burial place.

The existence of a Dolmen in Larch Hill west of Kilmashogue Mountain is evidence of settlement around 3,000 B.C.



2. Remains of a well in the grounds of Rathfarnham Castle:

*Seoltar freagra don  
An Stiúrthóir Cúnta*

(Address any reply to the  
Assistant Director).

Telephone: 383171-4  
Telegrams: "Ordsur, Dublin."

Our Ref.

Your Ref.

27 : 1 : 1978

Mr Joe Dunne  
43 Meadow Park  
Churchtown  
Dublin 14

A Chara,

There seems to be historical connection between the name 'Crannagh' and its location. The name is not recorded on the early Ordnance Survey documents, and does not appear even on the 1937 edition of the six inch map. It appears to have been introduced simply as a street name.

Mise le meas

*Rón*

Príomhoifigeach Logainmneacha

OIFIG na SUIRBHÉIREACHTA ORDANÁIS  
(Ordnance Survey Office),

PÁIRC AN FHIONNUISCE  
(Phoenix Park),

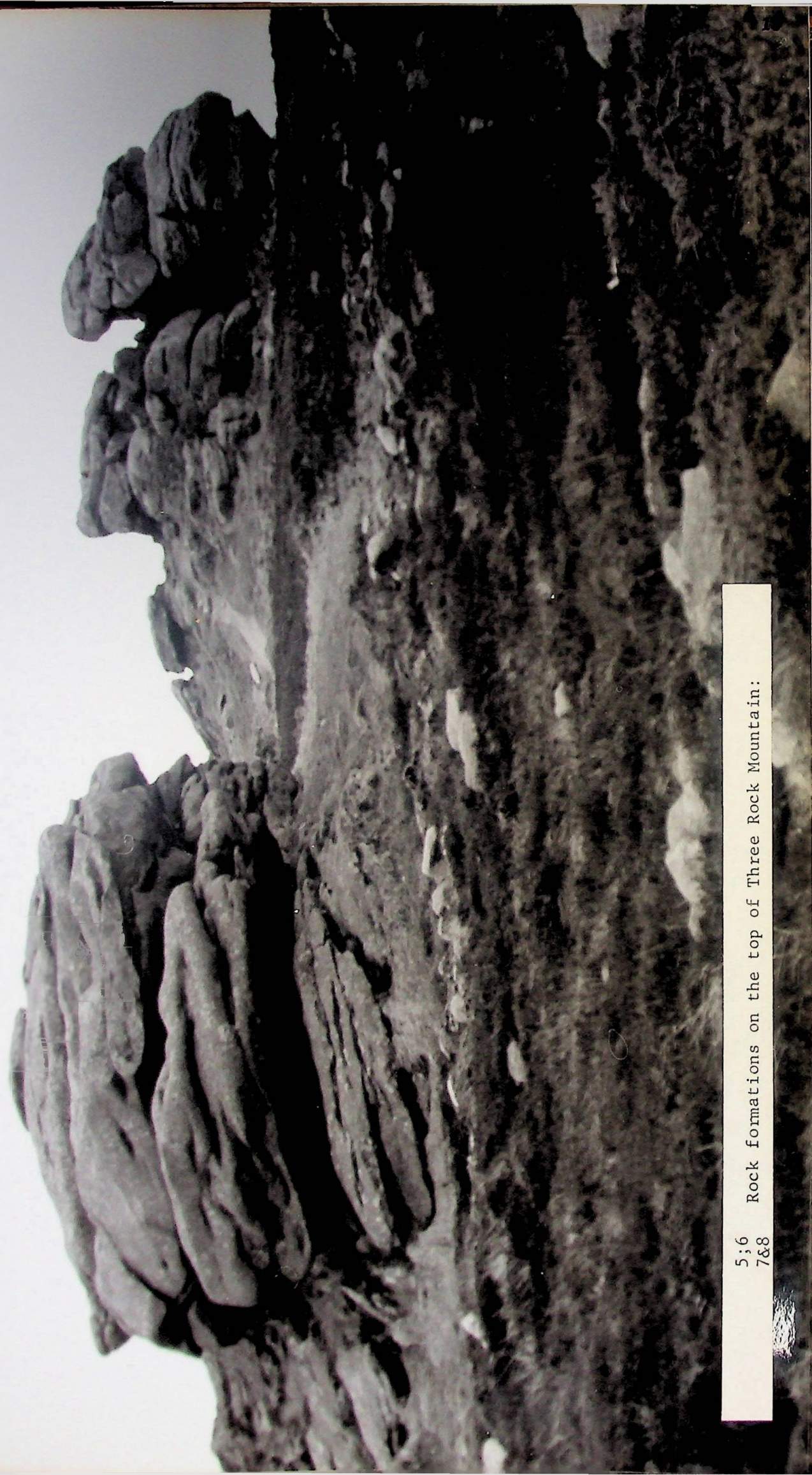
BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH  
(Dublin).



3&4 Remains of a beehive burial place. Tibbradden Mountain:



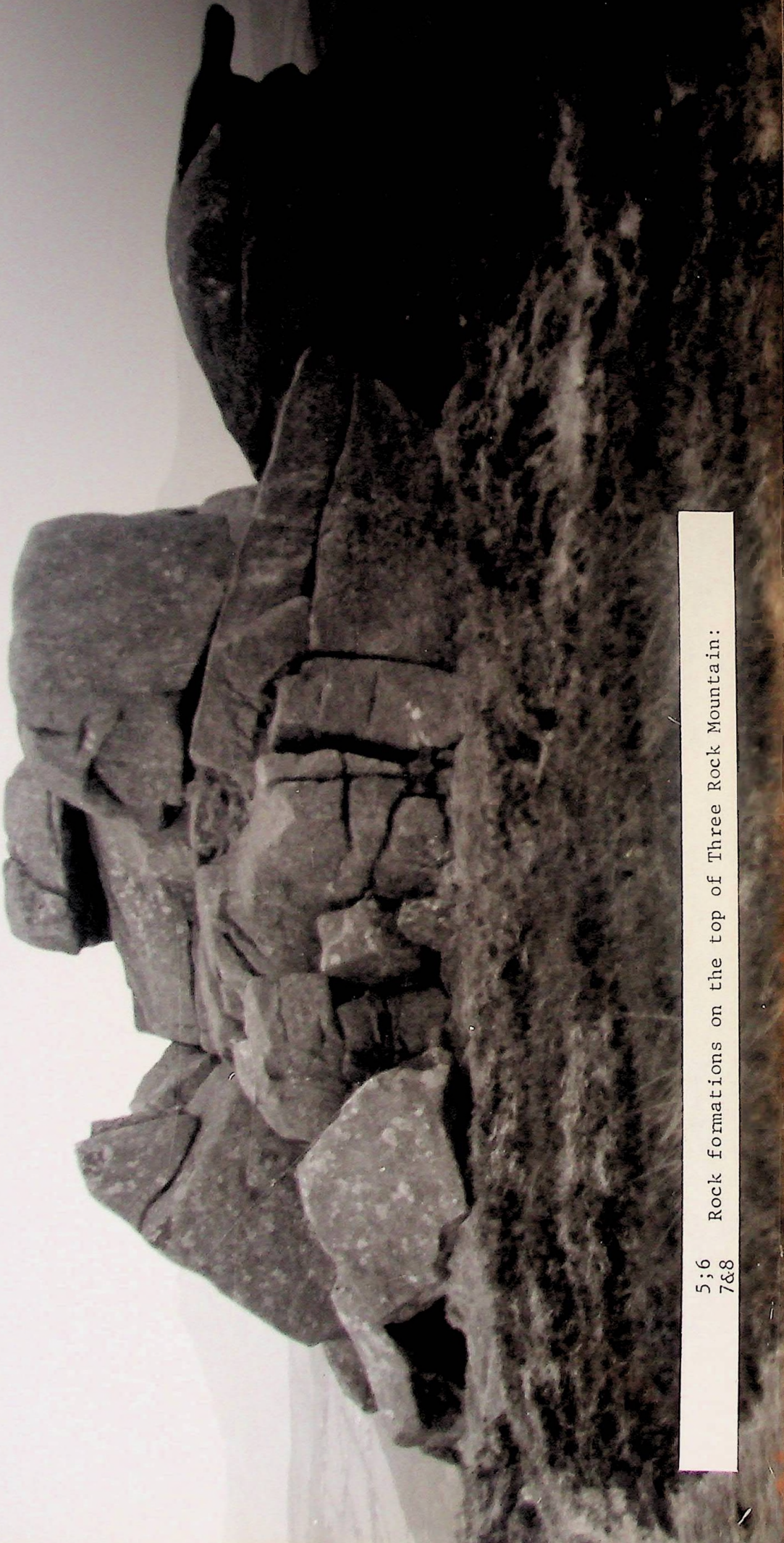
3&4 Remains of a beehive burial place. Tibbradden Mountain:



5:6 Rock formations on the top of Three Rock Mountain:  
7&8


5:6 Rock formations on the top of Three Rock Mountain:  
7&8





5:6 Rock formations on the top of Three Rock Mountain:  
7&8





5;6  
7&8

Rock formations on the top of Three Rock Mountain:



9. A Dolmen located in Larch Hill in the Dublin Mountains:

(4) The origin of the name with reference to the word fearnan:

The second part of the name 'Fearnan' refers to the alder tree. This tree was called 'fearn' in Irish and at present the diminutive 'fearnog' is used. The syllables farn and fern indicate the prevalence of the tree in this particular area.

The origin of this name is well supported by the existence of at least twelve alder trees on the banks of the lake in the grounds of Rathfarnham Castle. This may also help to pinpoint to position of the first settlement in the area.

The alder tree has a rough black bark and blunt leaves. It is of the same family as the birch and loves the banks of rivers and streams. The wood does not rot quickly in water - hence it was probably used to make the very first boats and certainly the reason for using alder piles to support bridges. The bark is useful in tanning leather and making coloured dyes. The tree has small cones. The male flowers, drooping reddish catkins and female flowers, small and oval, appear in spring before the first leaves.

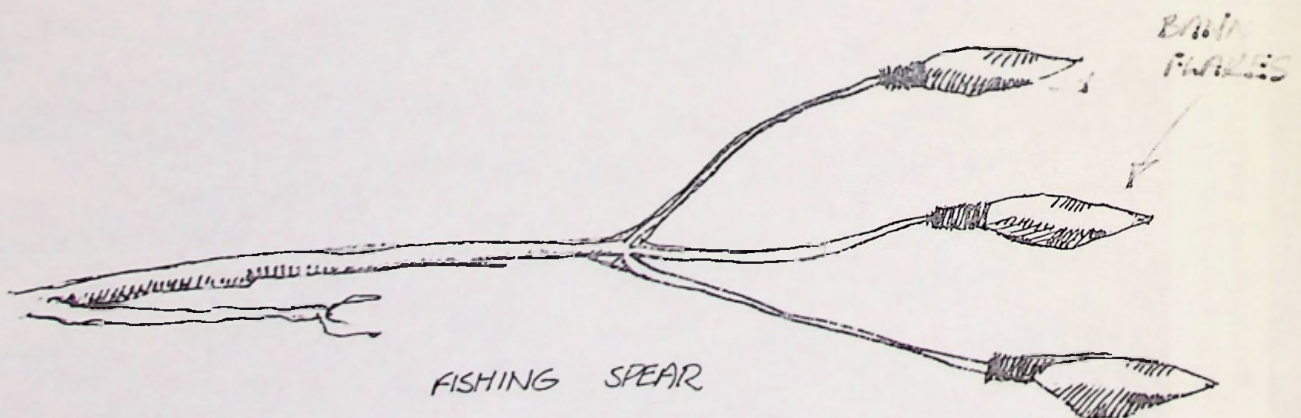
\* see photographs, maps and illustration.

(5) Archaeological findings in the area:

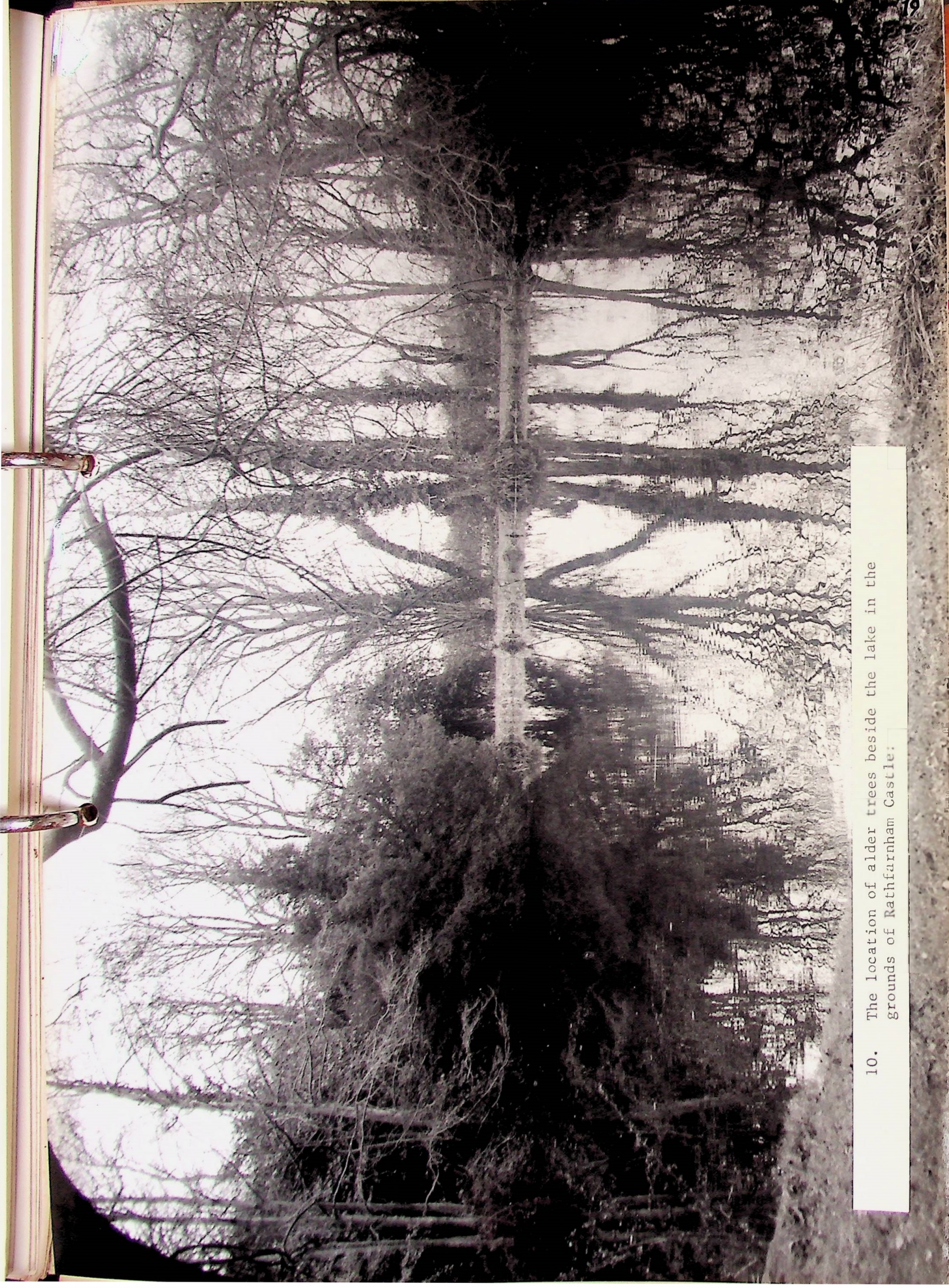
The only other items that would help to date the first settlements in the area are: 6 Bann flakes and 3 socketed bronze axe-heads. There is no certainty as to whether these finds were originally from Rathfarnham due to the lack of information recorded when they were first dug up. They may well have been lost by another collector some time previously.

The bann flakes are Neo lithic dating between 3000 - 2000 B.C. These are leaf shaped flakes of flint or dert and other stone and are generally found in the vicinity of lakes, rivers and streams.

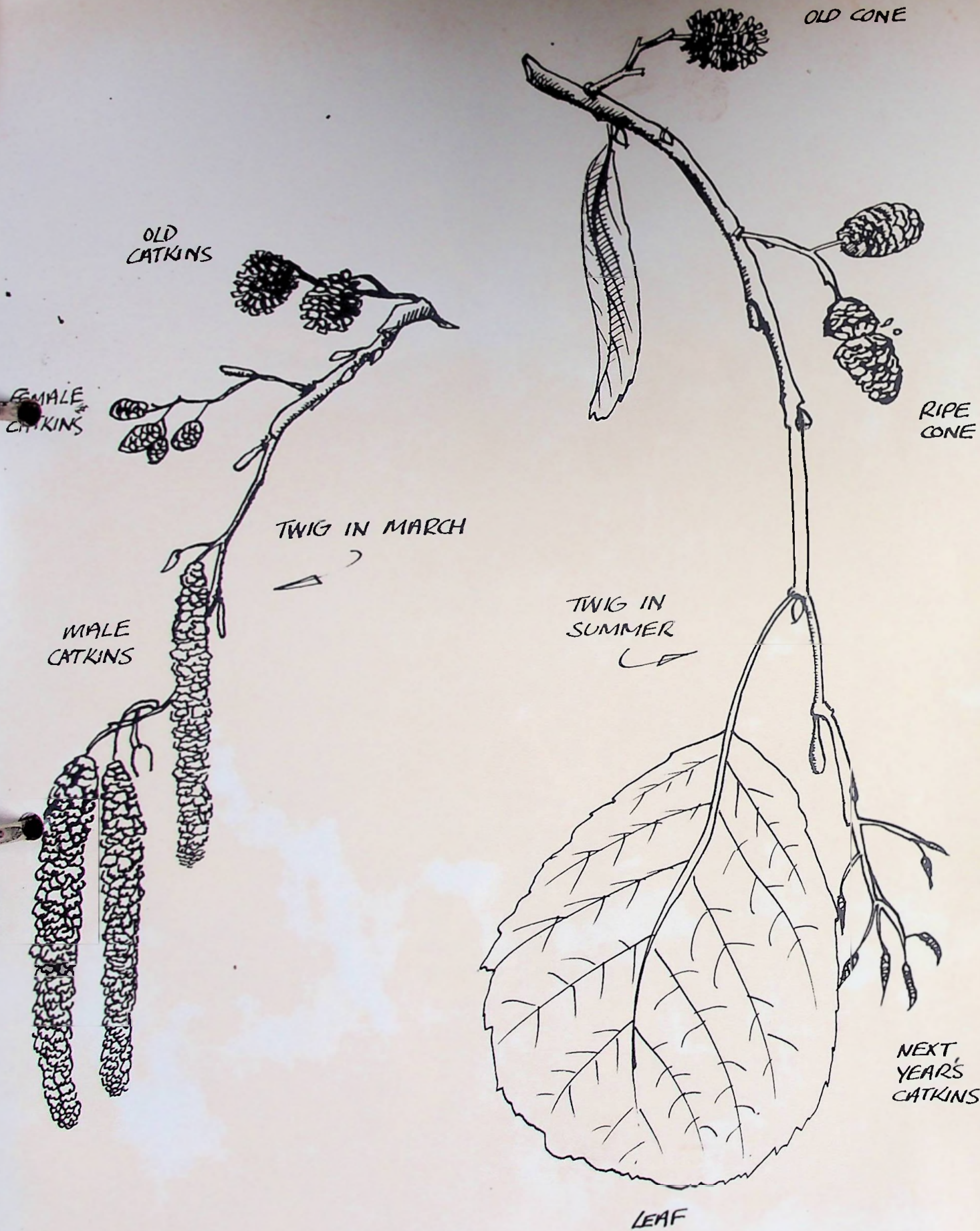
This suggests that they may well have been used for spear fishing.



The axe heads are from the bronze age and dates between 1200 - 1000 B.C.



10. The location of alder trees beside the lake in the grounds of Rathfarnham Castle;



11. The alder tree in March and Summer:

pe Dunne - Mar. 31 - 78



12. The alder tree showing the male and female catkins  
Rathfarnham Castle Grounds:

(6) The situation in Dublin at the beginning of the 10th century:

In 897 the foreigners were according to the Irish annals, expelled from the fortress of Uth Cliath (Dublin) by Cearbhall (Carroll) King of Leinster and many of them after being besieged in Irelands Eye, fled to Mercia. The Irish victory was both partial and temporary for in 919 we read that Sitric or Sygtrygg grandson of Ivar with an immense Royal Fleet recovered Dublin and the neighbouring territory as far as 'Cerd Fuairth' now Confey near Leixlip. The same year Sitric having sailed for Mercia to support the claims of his brother Reginald to that province in his absence Niall Glundubh (Black Knee) 'King of Ireland' assembled an army to attack Dublin. He was met at 'Cell Moraimohcc' now Kilmashogue near Rathfarnham, by the sons of Sitric and suffered a disastrous defeat.

In the grounds of Glen Southwell near St. Columbas College on the side of Kilmashogue Mountain are still to be seen the remains of a large Cromlech which possibly marks the graves of the Chieftians slain in this battle.



13. A Cromlech near the grounds of Columba's College  
on the side of Kilmashogue Mountain.



THE DEVELOPMENT OF RATHFARNHAM

INTRODUCTION:

In this section I will aim at tracing the development of Rathfarnham from the time of the first recorded settlement by Milo le Brett in 1199 up to the present day. This involved asking three basic questions: how? when? and why did the development occur?

There are two areas of study relating to development which should help to answer these questions:

A: The social or political structure.

B: The economic Structure.

A: The Social Structure:

- (1) What was the social structure at the time of the first settlement and which class was in the majority?
- (2) How did it affect the development of the area?
- (3) What changes took place in the social structure and in what way did the previous structure evolve?

B: The Economic Structure:

- (1) What was the economic framework of the area?
- (2) What sources of income existed and which was the most common?
- (3) What were the favourable conditions present in the area that allowed growth of this income?
- (4) How did the wealth or lack of it influence the development of, in terms of the size and standard of buildings and farms, the layout and extent of the original village?

"BEGINNINGS"

The Norman Invasion:

In 1169 the Norman invasion began in Ireland. By 1185 most of the great leaders of the conquest which followed were dead, including Strongbow who was in control of Leinster. The way was now open for fresh grants of land from Prince John, who had been made Lord of Ireland in 1177.

The man responsible for building the original and first Rathfarnham Castle was a Norman, Milo le Brett. The Manor was conferred on him in 1199 by John, who had by then become king. It included a considerable portion of the adjoining lands among Kimmage and Tempoleogue.

The Normans brought with them a new method of government and land holding to Ireland, feudalism. A man did homage to the King as his Lord and swore an oath to be faithful to him at all times and to render certain services. In return the King granted the lord a fief or territory. This was the case with King John and Milo le Brett.

In Norman Ireland the manor was usually identical in size with the parish. It was divided into two portions; the demesne land - 500 - 750 acres which the lord kept for himself and from which he drew his income, and the tenancies - small holdings which the lord let to tenant farmers in return for their services. There were two main types of people in the manor: those who were freemen and those who were serfs bound to the land.

There were three types of freemen:

- (1) those who held lands at fixed rents - lands passed from father to son.
- (2) those who held land on lease.
- (3) cottiers - held only cottage and a little land, paid rent for their cottage - did labour service for land - mostly farm labourers who worked permanently on the demesne for a small wage - majorities were English and Welsh.

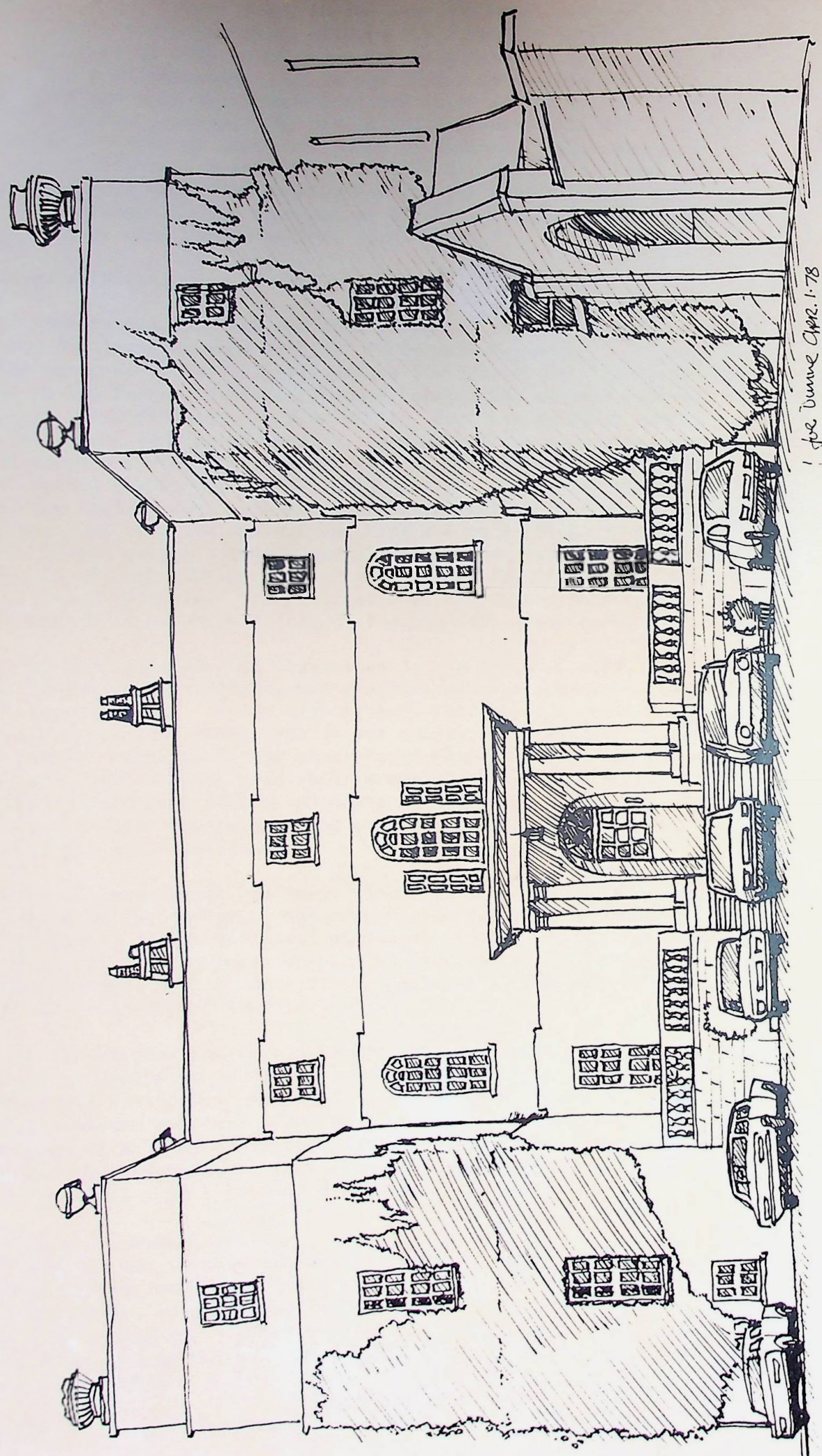
The unfree serfs were practically all Irishmen. Their average holding was between 40 - 60 acres. They had no right to the land and owed the lord heavy labour services on the demesne.

In the case of Rathfarnham the demesne took in the land east of the main Rathfarnham Road and south of the Dodder river, the Castle itself being located near the main road. It would seem that the land on the south and west of the Castle would have been used by the various tenants.

Economic Structure:

The main source of income in the area would have been from the land itself and there would seem to have been considerable milling carried out in the area. Records supporting this tell of a member of the Le Brett family obtaining a licence in 1375 to carry corn from Rathfarnham to Cork by boat and another telling of Melena the wife of William de Waville confirming to the economy of St. Patricks, a mill, which her husband had built near Rathfarnham. (late 12th century)

14. Rathfarnham Castle showing main entrance, East and North towers and the entrance -ouse on the right:



Joe Dunne Apr. 1-78

The presence of the Dodder river in the area was certainly one of the most favourable conditions which allowed the growth in Rathfarnham to occur. A number of other conditions may be considered with regard to the position of Rathfarnham. It is one of the principle roadways leading south and this would have provided quick access to the city for trade and military matters. The castle and demesne itself are on raised ground which provides an important point of defence. This was much needed as one reference points out: In 1321 Sir Phillip le Brett and a large body of followere from Rathfarnham and the Dublin forces were defeated at Tallaght by the clansmen of O'Toole. Such attacks from the clans of Wicklow were common at that time.

The English Settlers:

For some time during the 14th and 15th centuries the land was leased to the Harold family, from whom Harolds' Cross gets its name. The castle was again occupied by the original owners (le Bretts) until it passed by marriage to the Eustace family. Thomas Eustace was created Viscount Baltinglass, Lord Kilcullen by Heny Vlll. This was probably under Henry's surrender and regrant system, to win over the Gaelic rulers. This had certain advantages for the ruler who had surrendered, mainly that the ruling power could be retained in their own family since they accepted the English law. However, one disadvantage in English law was that if the lord rebelled against the King all hi s property was confiscated by the crown. This occured in 1579 when Viscount Baltinglass with the aid of Hugh O''Byrne of Wicklow defeated the Lord Deputy Grey at Glenmalure in C. Wicklow. This was part of the second Desmond rebellion. The land was confiscated by Elizabeth 1 along with other Wicklow estates.

In 1582 the Castle became the possession of the Loftus family. At this time the fabric of the building was restored and was adapted to the family's requirements. Built also at this time was the familiar entrance to the castle grounds on the left as one enters the village. ( see illustration) Although it has been stated elsewhere that the present building was built at this time this is quite untrue. Evidence of unmistakable thirteenth century masonry remain especially in the eastern tower. The vaulted appartments and certain architectural details confirm the date of the whole building.

Loftus married Jane Purdan and their eldest son, Dudley Loftus, succeeded to possession of the castle. His son Adam Loftus took up residence there and was prominent in the political movements of Charles I. In 1640 he joined the parliamentary party and in 1641 due to an outbreak of revolution the castle was strongly fortified. After this time the Loftus family declined due to financial trouble.

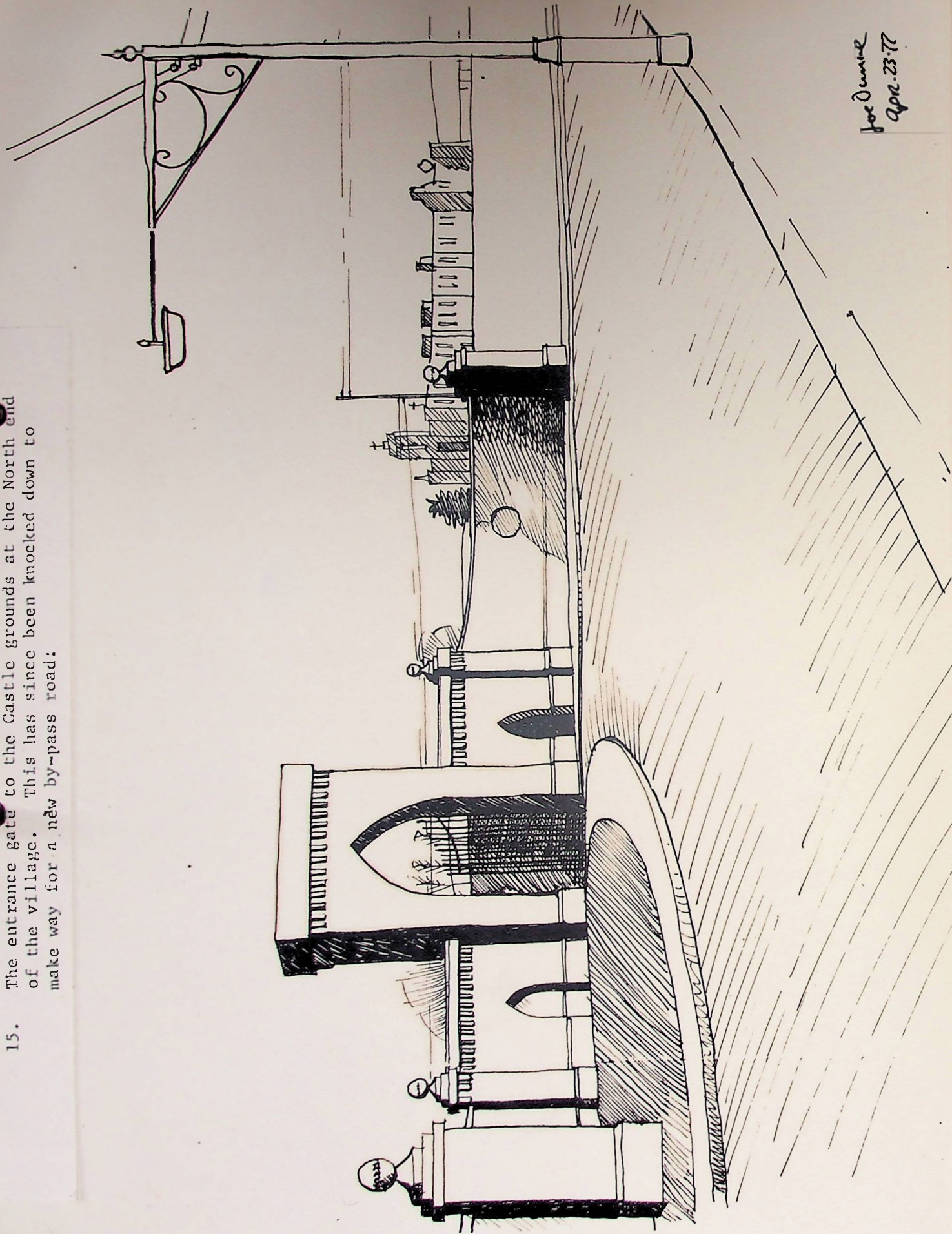
During the war between the Royalists and the parliamentarians, the castle was stormed by Royalists under the command of the Marquess of Ormonde. Rathfarnham was included in the pale so the general social and economical structures remained much the same for this time. However, the village was the scene of so many skirmishes and encounters between the Dublin settlers and the mountaineers that it became a very undesirable place of residence and fell into a decayed condition.

The village in 17th century:

A cengus made in the seventeenth century gives an account of the area of Rathfarnham village and Butterfield village which ajoined it in former times. The number of habitants in Rathfarnham is given as seventy pers- ons occupying 22 houses. Included were classified gentlemen; Darby Bungoyne, James Bishop and William Graham, and a smith, a carman, a cowherd a cooper and a gardener.

In addition there were 77 residing in Butterfield including Robert Dixon

15. The entrance gate to the Castle grounds at the North end of the village. This has since been knocked down to make way for a new by-pass road:



Joe Dunne  
Apr. 23.77

who had 13 servants, a large farmer- Henry Walsh, 2 carmen, a brogue maker and a weaver. Nothing remains of this village beyond the name of Butterfield Ave. which attaches to the road on the right at the southern end of Rathfarnham village. The village probably stood along this road extending along the bank of the Owen Doher river which at this point is spanned by a bridge.

From this survey we can tell that the village at this time was quite small but self sufficient judging by some of the occupations.

#### The Castle Returned to Loftus:

The Castle after its restoration was resumed by Adam Loftus who was raised to Baron Loftus of Loftus Hall and Viscount of Ely. The family continued as strong adherents to the Stuarts and his son succeeding was promoted to Marquis of Ely.

In 1690 Loftus was killed at the seige of Limerick having fought at the Battle of Aughrim. His daughter was married to the Marquis of Wharton who became owner of the Castle and their son, Duke of Wharton sold the property to the Right Honorary William Connolly. He nearly visited the residence and sold it eventually to John Meadly who was successfully Archbishop of Dublin and Armagh. In 1746 the Castle went to the heiress wife of Mr. William Bellingham Boyle. In 1767 he sold it to representatives of Nicolas Loftus who was a grandson of the first Earl of Ely. A large sum of money was raised for the modernizing of the Castle. Nicolas died in 1769 and all his possessions went to his Uncle (Loftus). In the reign of George III in 1771 he was made the second Earl of Ely. It was during this time that interior decorations were made.

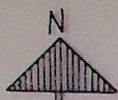
The apartment at the left of the great hall was changed in shape and the new semi-circular window introduced. Stucco work was wrought by Venetian craftsmen who had just settled in Dublin. In the drawing room on the same floor square panels were put at intervals around the ceiling. Paintings for these insets were done by a swiss artist named Angelica Kauffmann.

The Windows were changed from the narrow pointed lancets to ordinary square headed lights. Battlements, that extended around the top were removed to give place for the heavy stone capped parapet. Two buildings, that originally stood projecting from the front corner towers, (forming an enclosure into which cattle were driven at night) were knocked down. The ground floor, which now contains vaulted rooms and cellars, and originally the kitchens and great fire place could be entered via the original main door but at this stage the most surrounding the Castle was filled in and the ground raised to the level of the modern hall door.

#### The Village in the 18th Century:

Little mention is made of the village of Rathfarnham during these times. References to 18th Century residents tell of the manufacture of paper carried on in Rathfarnham by a Mr. Mansergh who died in 1763 and by Thomas Slator. Also there were dye works owned by Mrs. Elizabeth Fisher which were established near the bridge. Rathfarnham as the author of 'Tour Through Dublin' sees it in 1783: "It consists property of two villages about a half mile distant from each other called upper and lower Rathfarnham. The upper village consists of one neat well built street, a pretty Church and a large Castle belonging to the Earl of Ely, the Castle Grounds contain beautiful gardens, statues, a fine green house and aviary."

# RATHFARNHAM








SCALE: APPROX 9" = 1 MILE

ROADWAY FROM DUBLIN CITY EXTENDED FROM TITHE MAP 1878

Included in 1864 survey as a FLOUR mill but is not existing in the 1907 revisions

prehistoric mounds



-  ROADWAYS
-  RIVERS LAKES PONDS
-  BUILDINGS
-  FIELDS
-  WOODS

from 1978 ORDNANCE SURVEY

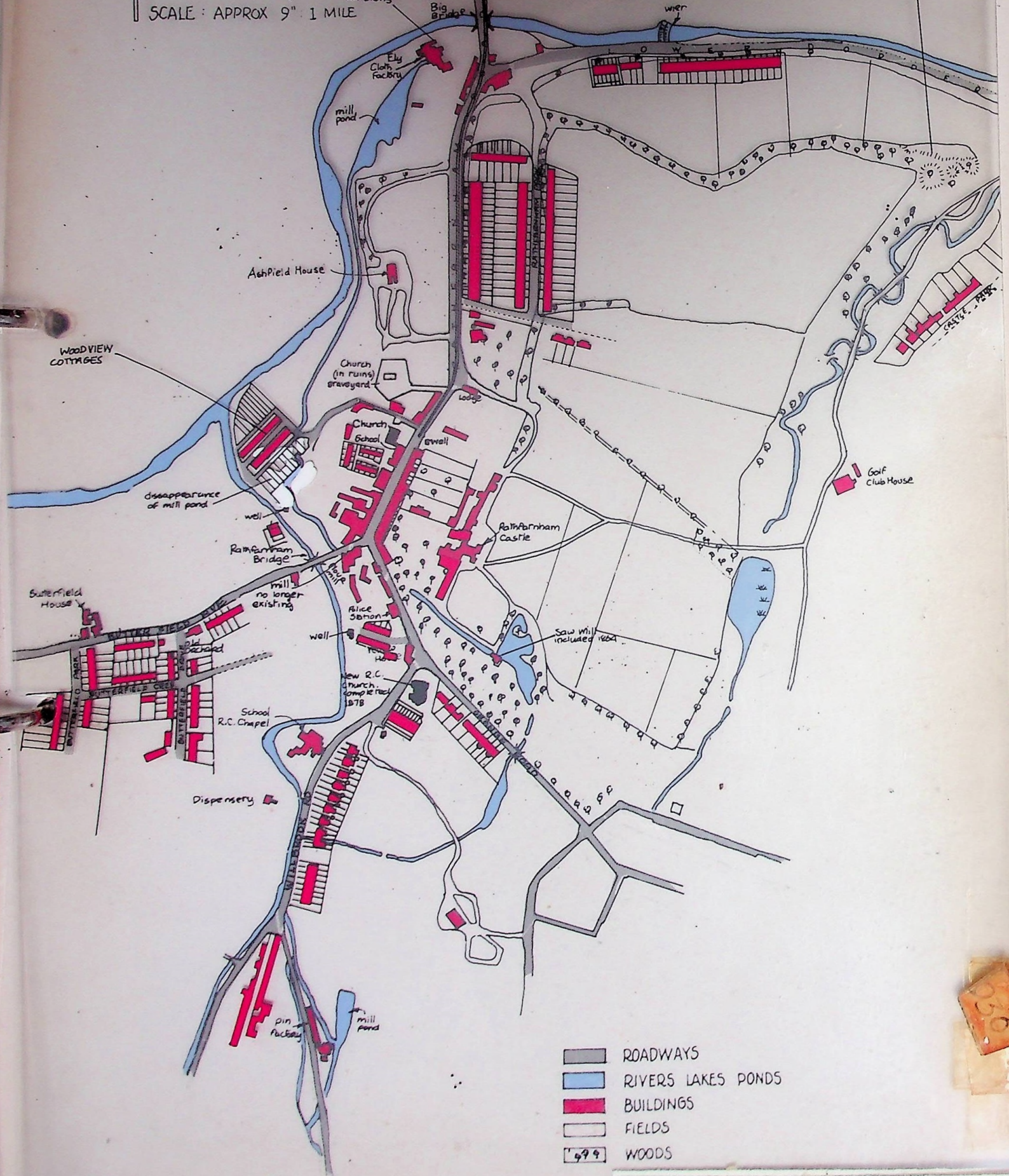







SCALE: APPROX 9" = 1 MILE

Included in 1864 survey as a FLOUR mill but is not existing in the 1907 revisions

DUBLIN City extended from Terenure 1878

prehistoric mounds



-  ROADWAYS
-  RIVERS LAKES PONDS
-  BUILDINGS
-  FIELDS
-  WOODS

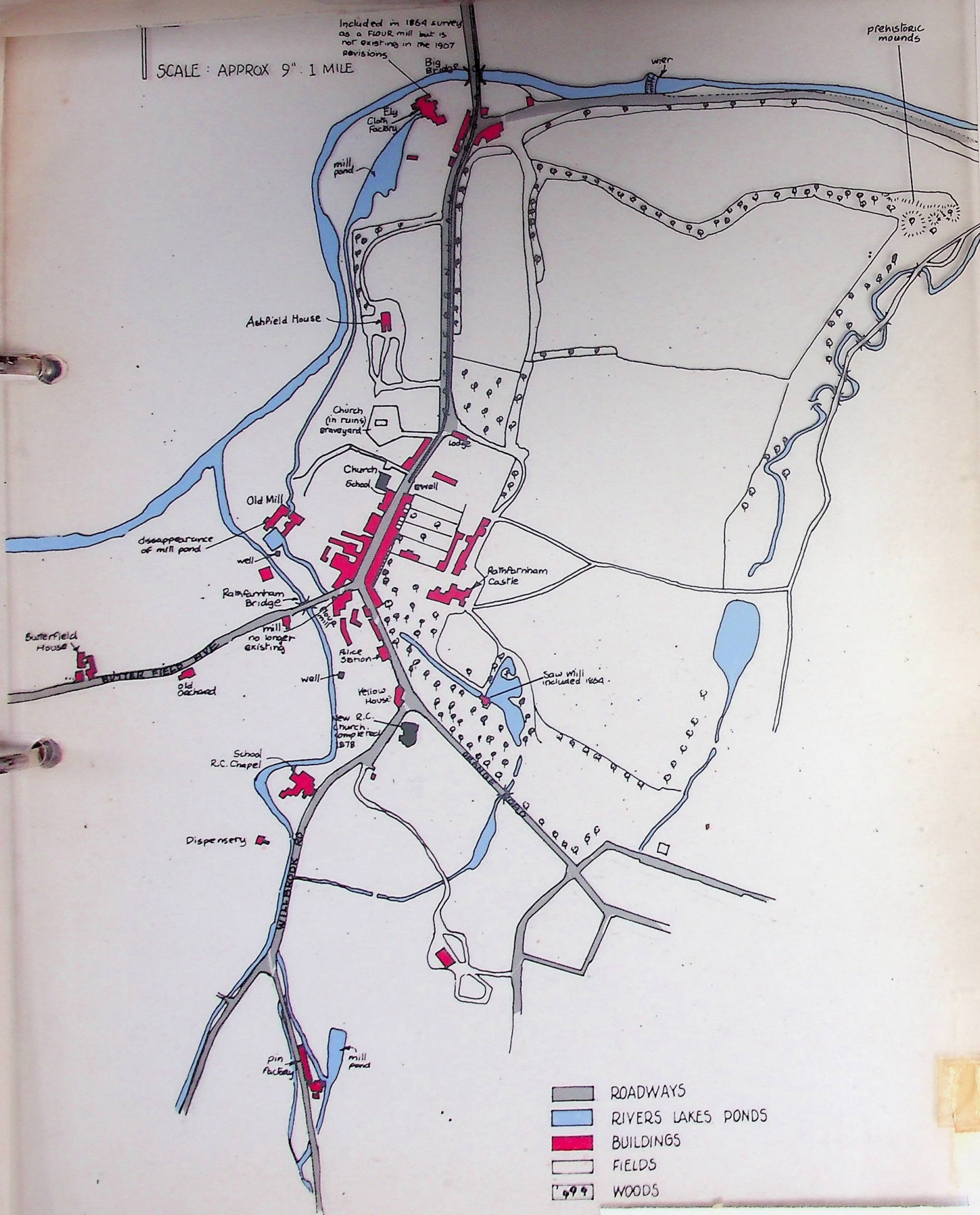
from 1936 ORDNANCE SURVEY



SCALE: APPROX 9" = 1 MILE

Included in 1864 survey as a FLOUR mill but is not existing in the 1907 revisions

prehistoric mounds



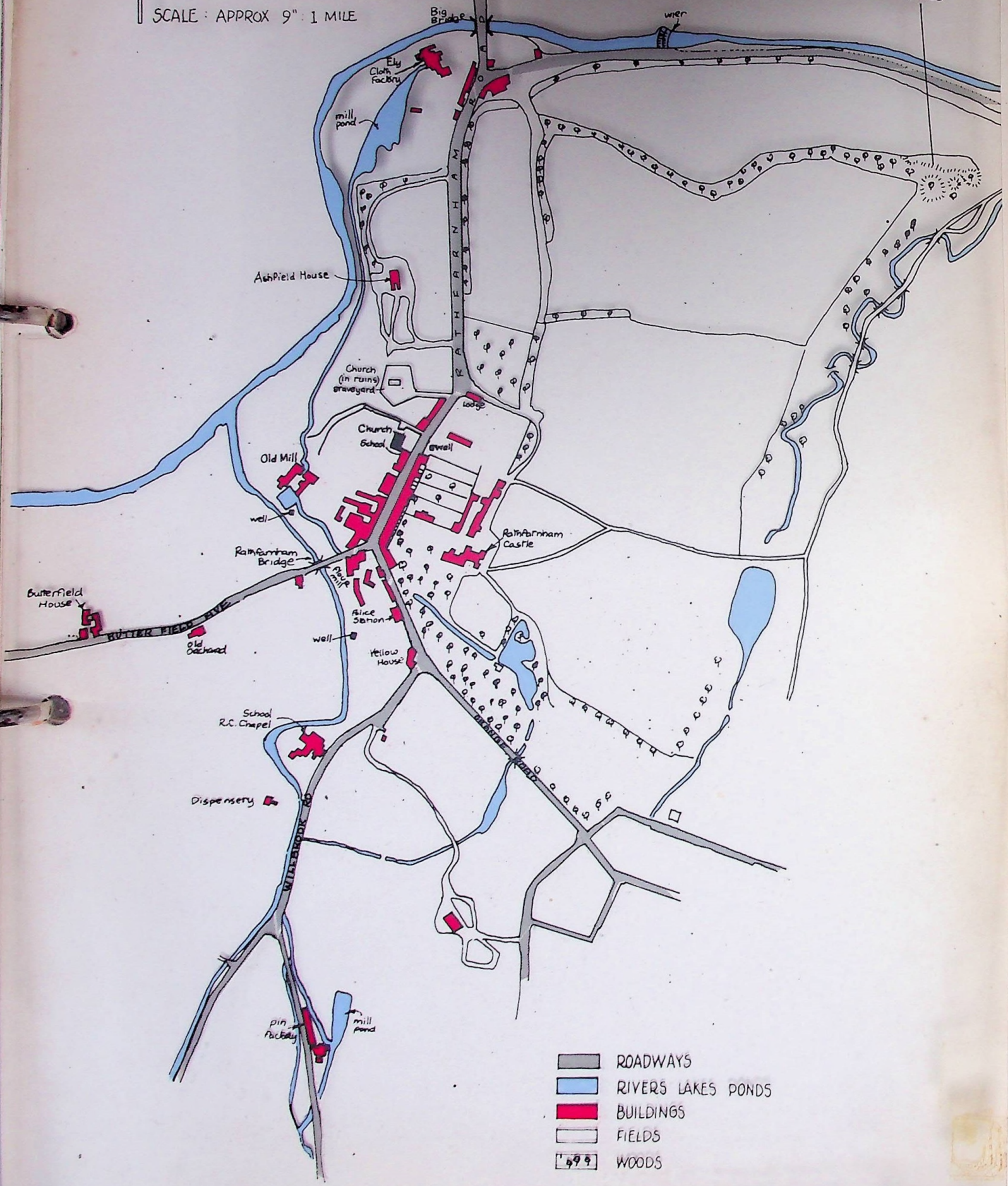
- ROADWAYS
- RIVERS LAKES PONDS
- BUILDINGS
- FIELDS
- WOODS



from 1907 REVISION of 1864 SURVEY



SCALE: APPROX 9" : 1 MILE

prehistoric mounds



-  ROADWAYS
-  RIVERS LAKES PONDS
-  BUILDINGS
-  FIELDS
-  WOODS

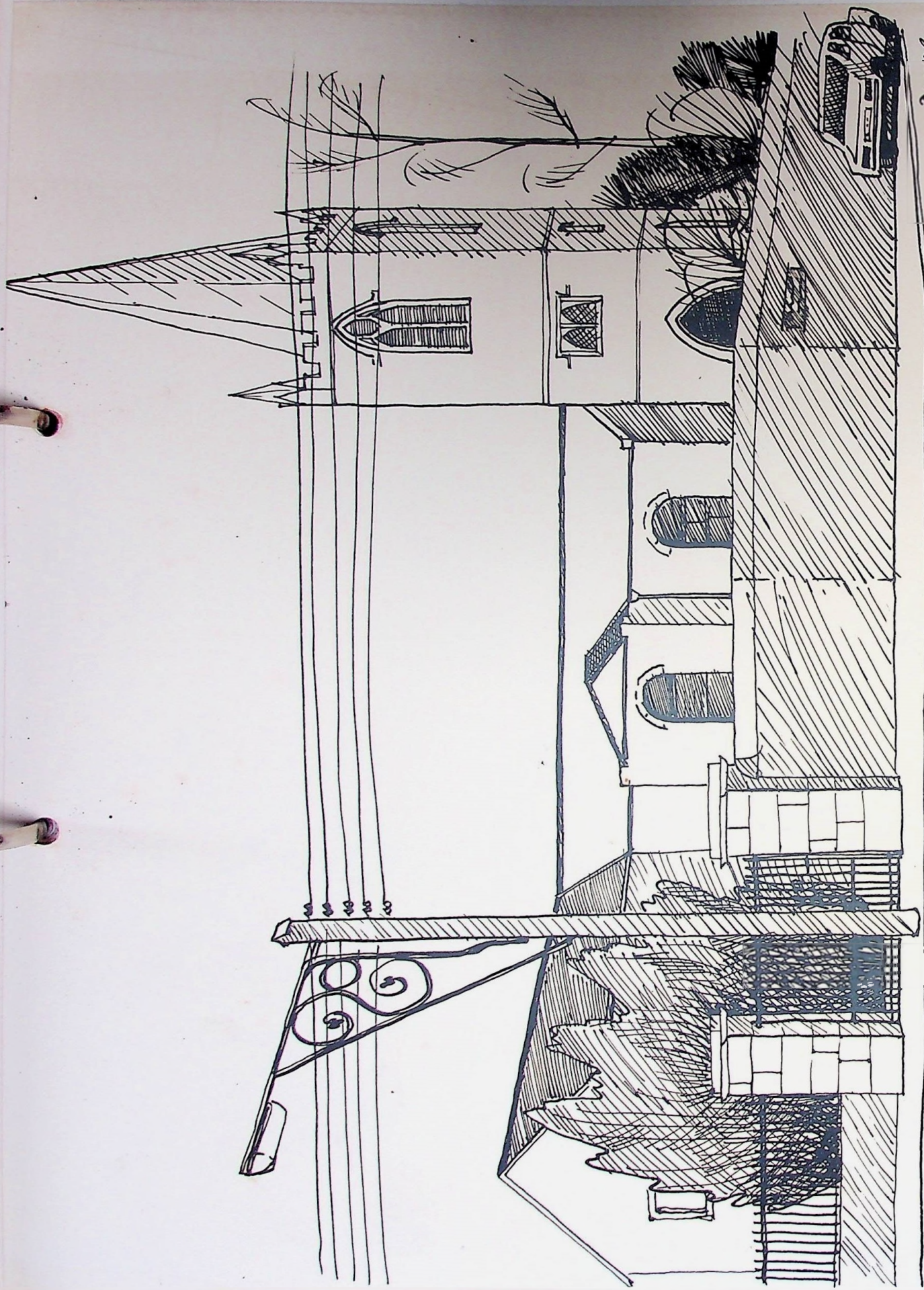
from FIRST ORDNANCE SURVEY 1837

As in the rest of Ireland the main industry and source of income was still agriculture or connected with agriculture. Such would have been the case in Rathfarnham.

In Rathfarnham Castle Henry Loftus was succeeded by his nephew Charles Tottenham who was created Marquis of Ely. At the beginning of the 19th Century the Castle was dismantled when the family moved to Loftus hall in Co. Wexford.

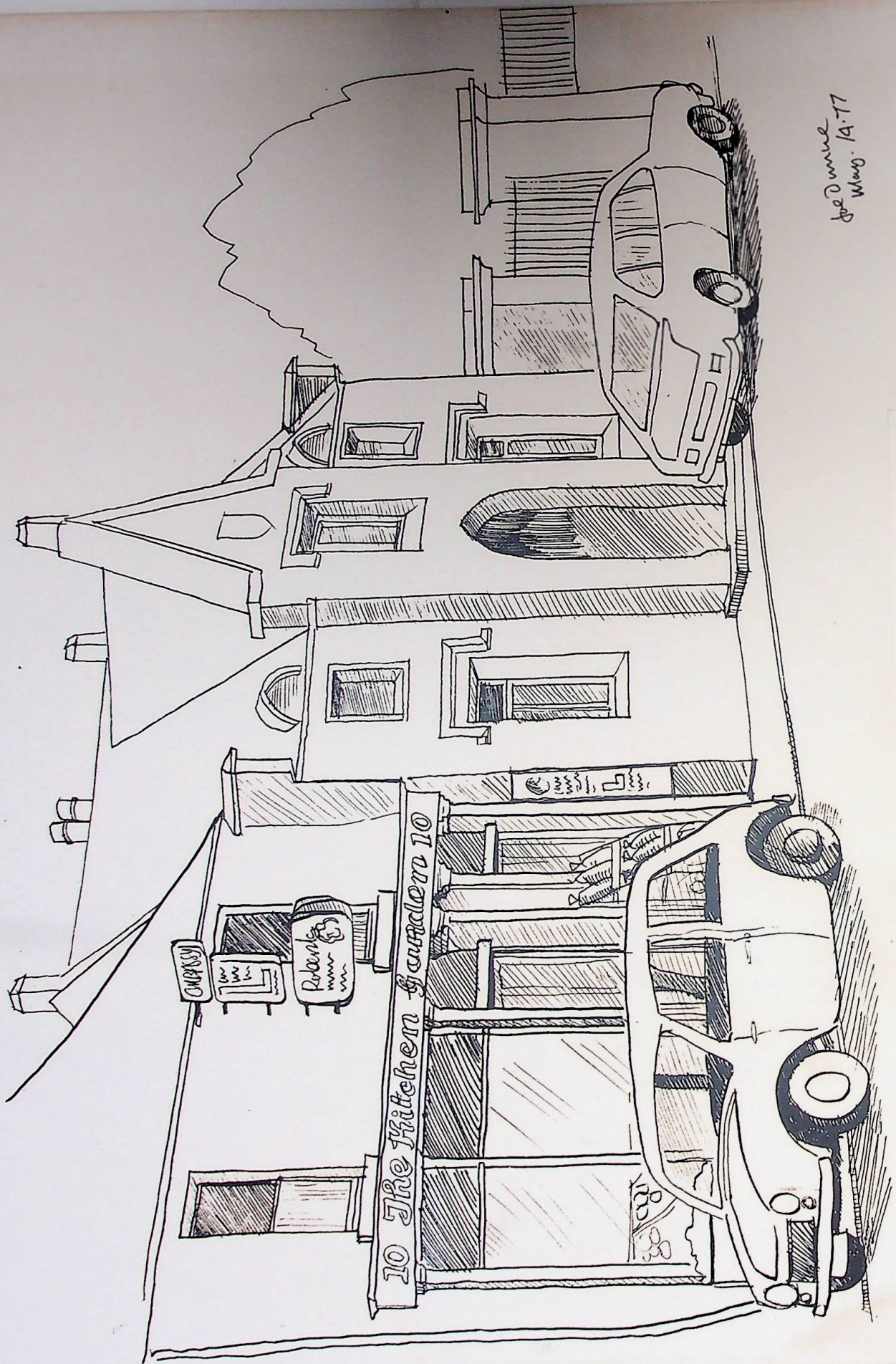
After this time the Castle fell into the hands of various tenants. This marked the end of a long succession of ownership by the ascendancy of Dublin. At one time the lands were let as a dairy farm to a tenant named Roper and during the troubles of 1798 it was again used as a military barracks. One reference to the rebellion includes: "On June 4th rebels had appeared at Santry and Rathfarnham respectively North and South of the city. However, only small struggles took place in Dublin and Wicklow and they were easily suppressed. Later on the Castle was put up for sale.

In 1852 the residence was bought by Lord Chancellor Blackburne who passed the property to his son. He held it until 1910 when it was aquired by the Jesuits. It has remained in possession of the Jesuits up to the present day and is used for laymens retreats and other functions.



Joe Dunne  
27/02/25/77

16. The Protestant Church, Main Street, Rathfarnham Village:



Joe Dunne  
May. 14.77

17. A shop front in the village, and the rectory to the Protestant Church on the right:



18. The Old National School and Roman Catholic Chapel,  
Willbrook Road:



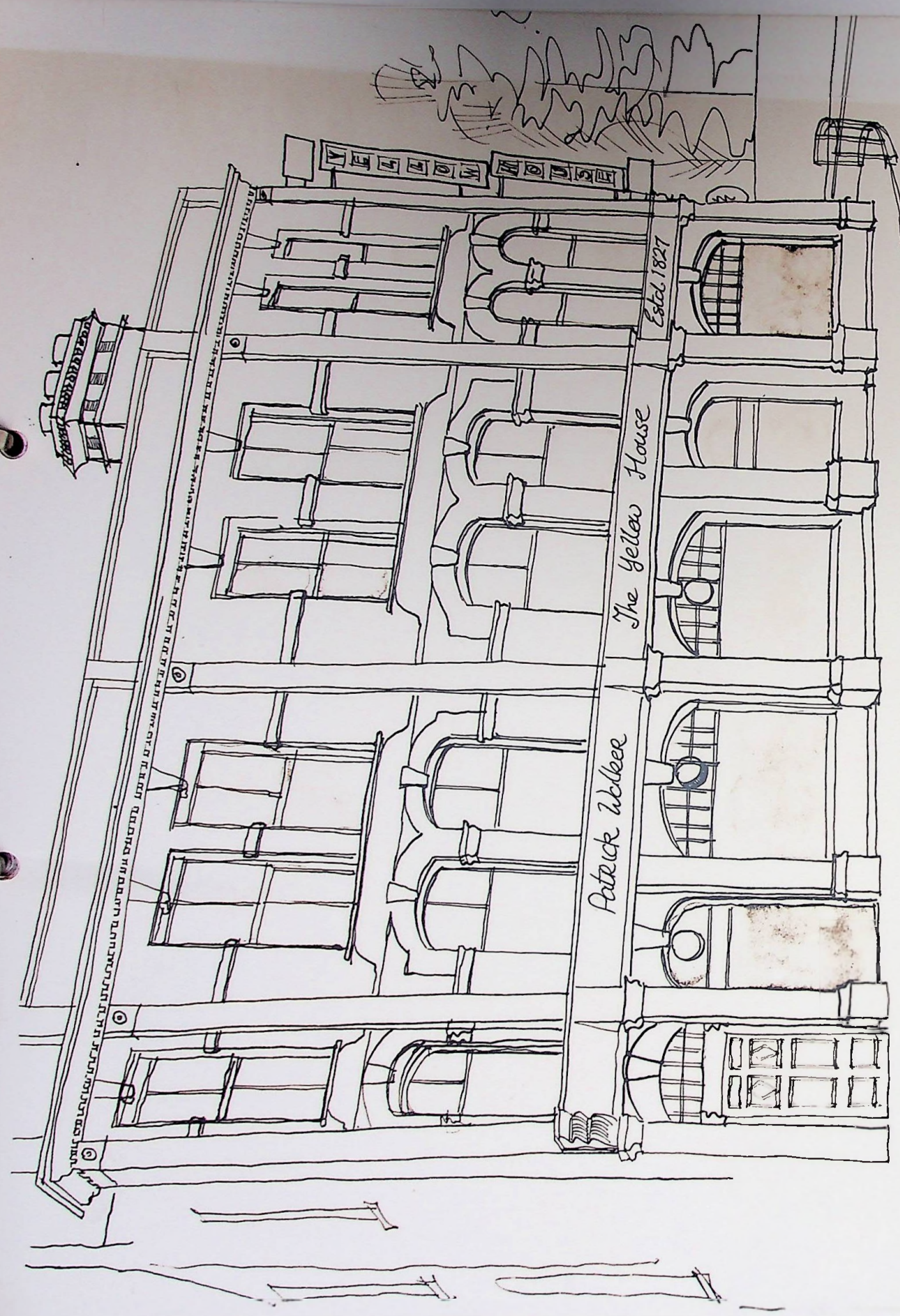
Joe Dunne  
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19. Entrance Doorway to Old National School:



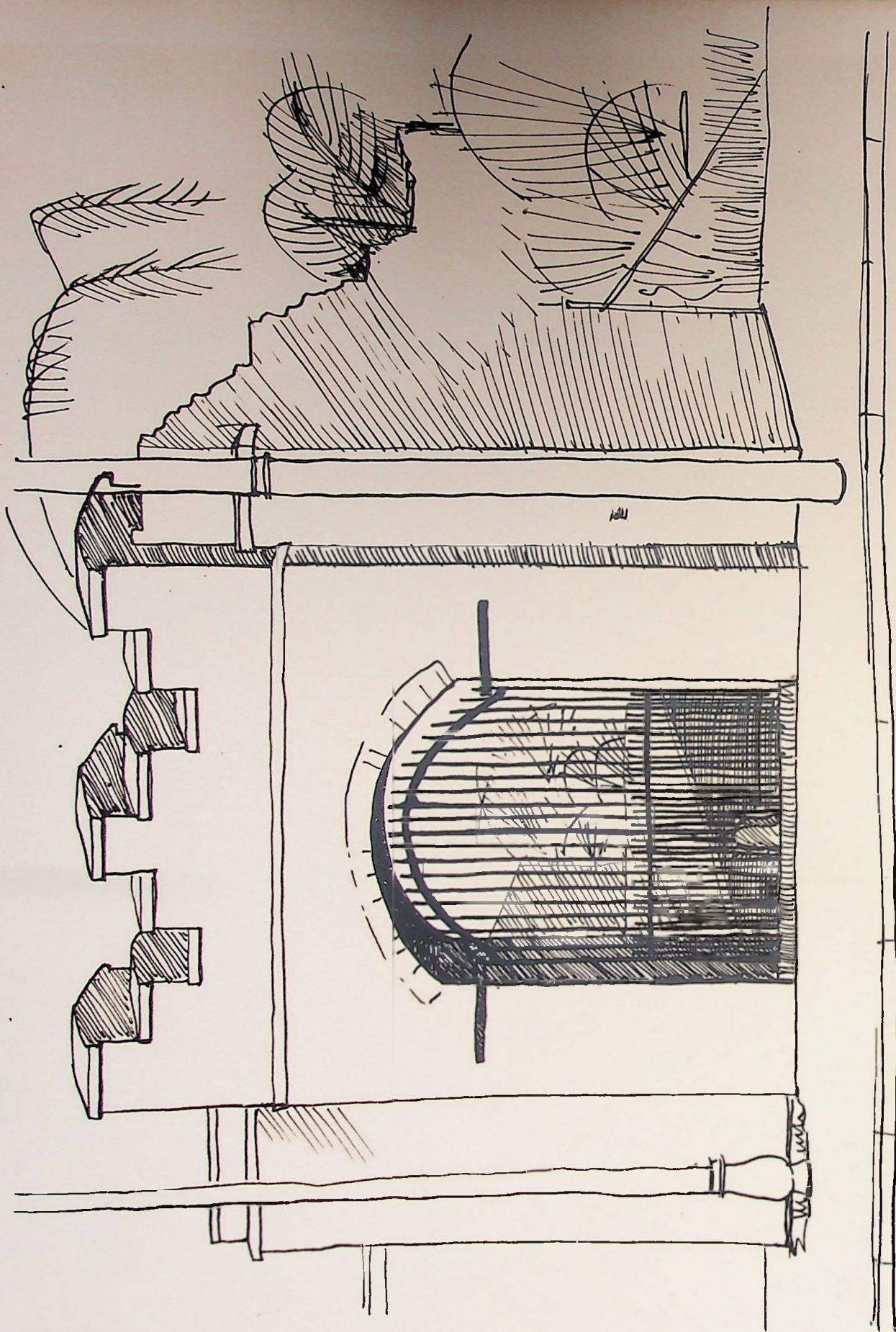
20. Roman Catholic Church, completed in 1878:





*Joe Dunning  
Apr. 1877*

21. The "Yellow House" one of the best known and longest established taverns South of the Liffey:



22. Entrance to the old graveyard at the North end of the Village:

Joe Dunne  
Apr. 23. 77



23. The Old Church and Graveyard:

Expansion and Rapid Change:

Things began to change rapidly soon after. On the completed survey map of 1936. We see the beginnings of expansion. Most change occurs outside the original village street. Considerable building has taken place on Lower Dodder Road, Willbrook Road and Grange Road. New Roads include Rathfarnham Park, Butterfield Park, Crescent, and Drive; St. Marys Avenue and Wood View Cottages.

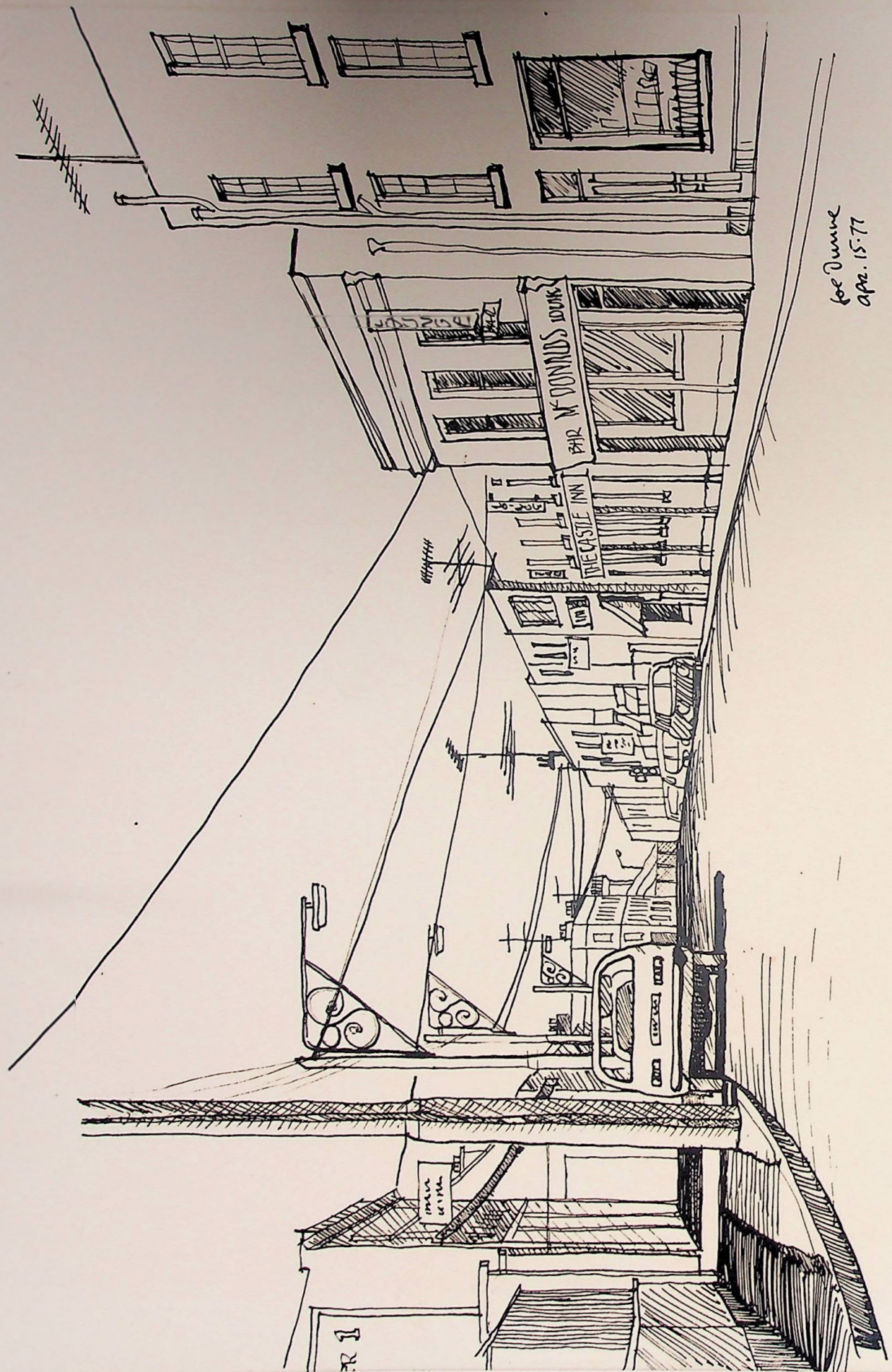
Why did the rapid expansion occur at this time? Reference to the village in 1928 may help to answer this question: The leading families in the area then were the Guinness family (no relation to the well known brewery) the Turbetts, Crowleys, Whitesides, Irwins, Temples, Loves and La Touche family of Huguenot stock. Most of the land was held by these families and the employment they gave provided Rathfarham's lifeblood. When all the families died out the building started.

Another factor which must have affected growth at this time was the fact that Ireland had become a free state and a huge building scheme was put into action.

Rathfarnham found itself a centre of importance for a brief period during the last war. The Dublin people were in a bad way for fuel and turned to using turf. They did not know how to go about getting turf or even how to cut it, so for a while there was big business there in supplying the city.

The upto date map of Rathfarnham show the continuation of the rapid expansion which has occurred. Newer residential roads include: Dodder Park Road; Ballytore Road; Crannagh Road and Park, Brook Vale, Glenbrook Park, Fairbrook Lawn and Fairways Estate which was built over the site of a golf course. 1974 saw the completion of a new Road from the top of Dodder Park Road, along the Dodder river, via Templeogue and out to Tallaght.

The map also show the position of the new road to by-pass the original village which is proving too narrow to accomadate growing traffic. The expansion has brought with it a definite change in the social and economic structures of the area.



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Apr. 15.77

24. Main Street, Rathfarnham Village (from South end)

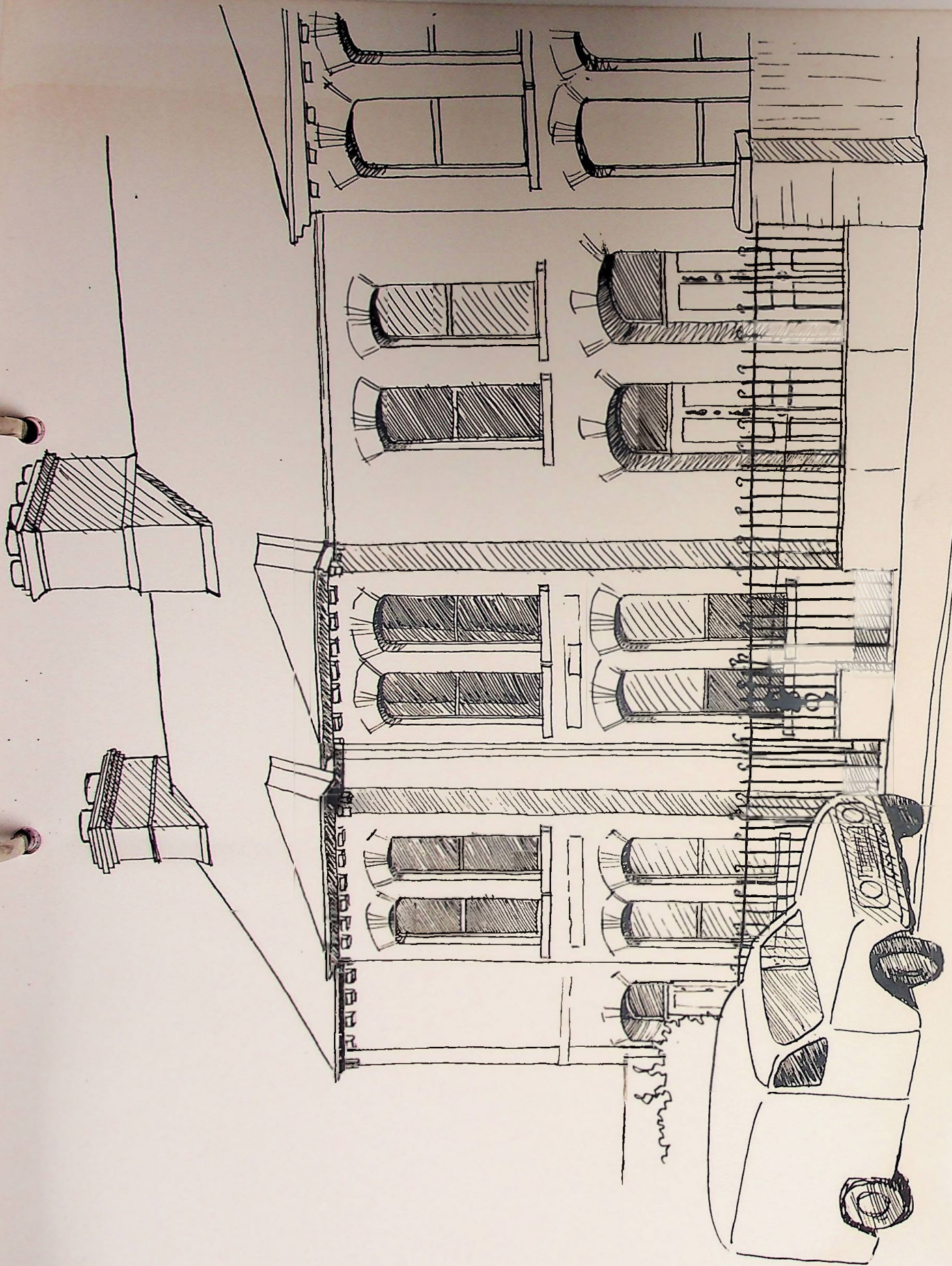
25.

Waste ground at the junction between Butterfield Avenue and the south end of the village. This area is now being developed to make a round-about to ease the traffic situation:

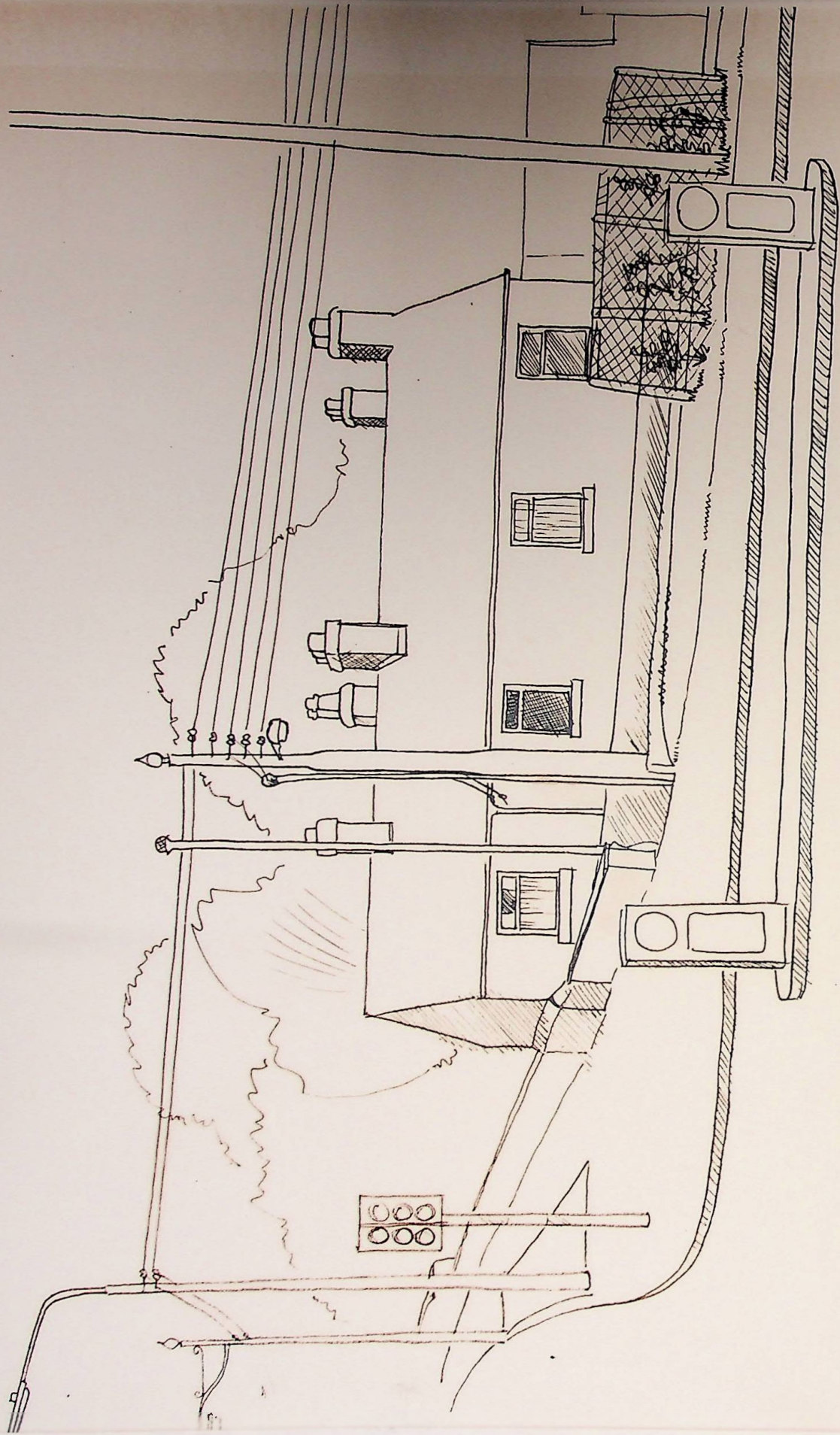
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for Dunne  
Apr. 15-77



26. An example of architecture, village Main Street:



Joe Dunne  
May. 7.77

27. Dodder Bridge the junction between the new road and Rathfarnham Road:



SUMMARY:

The Origins of Rathfarnham:

Although little recorded information exists prior to 1199, the origins of Rathfarnham may well be as far back as 2000 or 3000 BC. When translated the name Rathfarnham means "the fort of the alders," and the presence of alder trees in the area supports the possible existence of a prehistoric settlement of some king. Remains of prehistoric burial places existing in the nearby Dublin Mountains also supports this theory.

Rathfarnham certainly existed when the Vikings were in possession of Dublin being mentioned in an account of one of the battles that took place on Kilmashogue Mountain near it.

The Development:

The growth of Rathfarnham can be traced from 1199 when the Castle was built as part of the Norman invasion. In the 15th century the Castle and lands passed by marriage into the possession of English settlers and remained the property of the Aacendancy of Dublin until the beginning of the 19th century. Rathfarnham played an important part as an outpost of the pale lands and was at this time a self-supporting village community. Since early in the 20th century, as we can see from survey, map that have been made since then, Rathfarnham has gone through a major change. At present it is no longer rural orientated community that it had been for so long. It seems as though it has almost been swallowed up by the ever expanding city.

The Present Day Status of Rathfarnham:

The original self sufficient community living in the village has long since disappeared. Now the area has become part of the city. Most of the newer residents work in the city and so there is little dependance on local industry for an income. Thousands of houses now sprawl over the tracts that were once occupied by the dairy herds and Lambs fields have long since been concreted over. The only industry that seems to exist in the area is 'Hallmark' Cards which is located on Butterfield Avenue (not shown on map) but this would only provide employment for a limited few.

Rathfarnham was an obvious choice for such an expansion. The Dublin Mountains providing a scenic backdrop, and its proximity to the hub of commerce allowed the growth to occur.

There is little evidence remaining of Rathfarnham as a community. This is probably partly due to the lack of social life and amenities in the area. There is no where for people to meet except for a night out in the pub. Numerous attempts have been made to start youth clubs using the old National School, Willbrook Road as a hall but have fizzled out, due probably to lack of leadership. There is an 'old folks' club which provides some social life for about 30 - 40 of the elderly in the area, but has little effect since the majority living in Rathfarnham who are in need of social life are newly-weds and younger people. One thing which has helped a little in sustaining some element of community is the building of the St. Marys New National School for boys, which was completed in 1976.

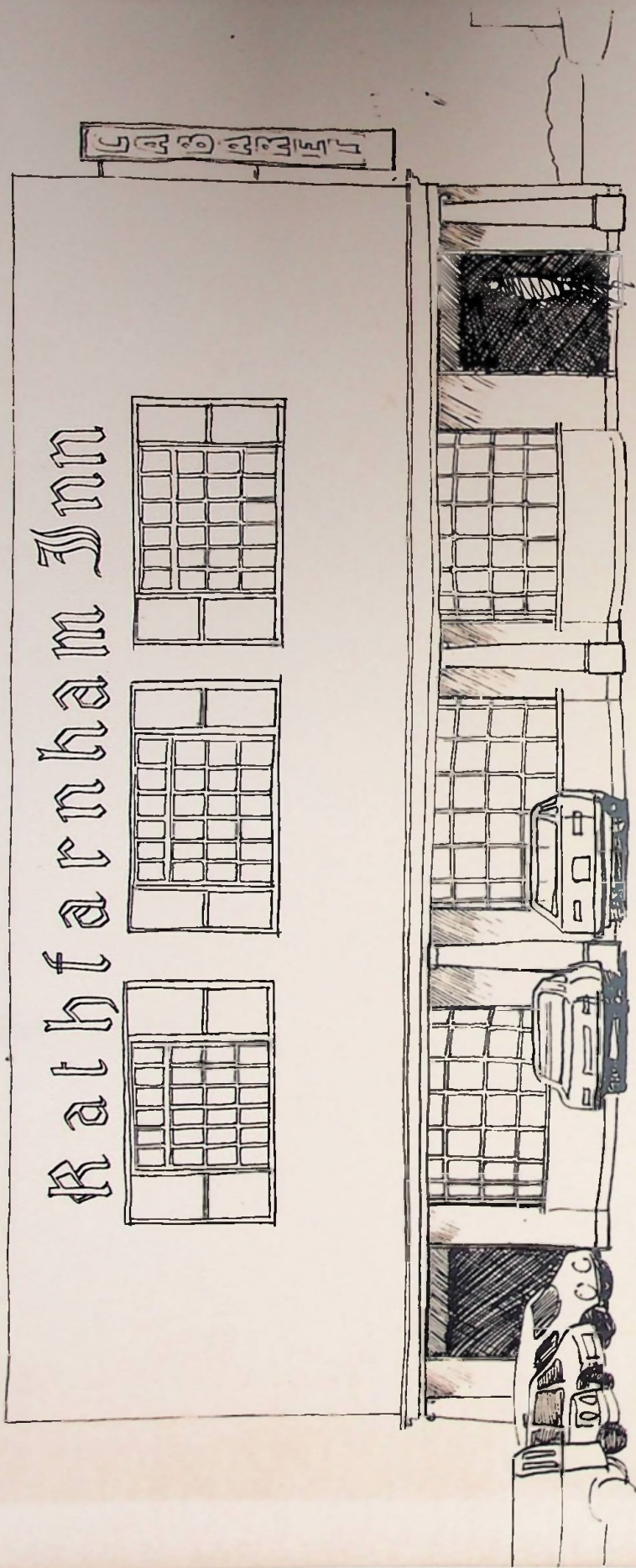
All that remains of the original Rathfarnham, besides its name, is the village street and Rathfarnham Castle. The village street still contains its character amid the changing surroundings but even here things have begun to change. The new "Rathfarnham" Inn provides an example of contemporary architecture among the older street buildings. At the North end of the village the entrance gate to the grounds of the Castle, built towards the

end of the 16th century and accounted to be among the best productions of that architecture was knocked down in 1977 to make way for the new by-pass road.

#### The Future of Rathfarnham:

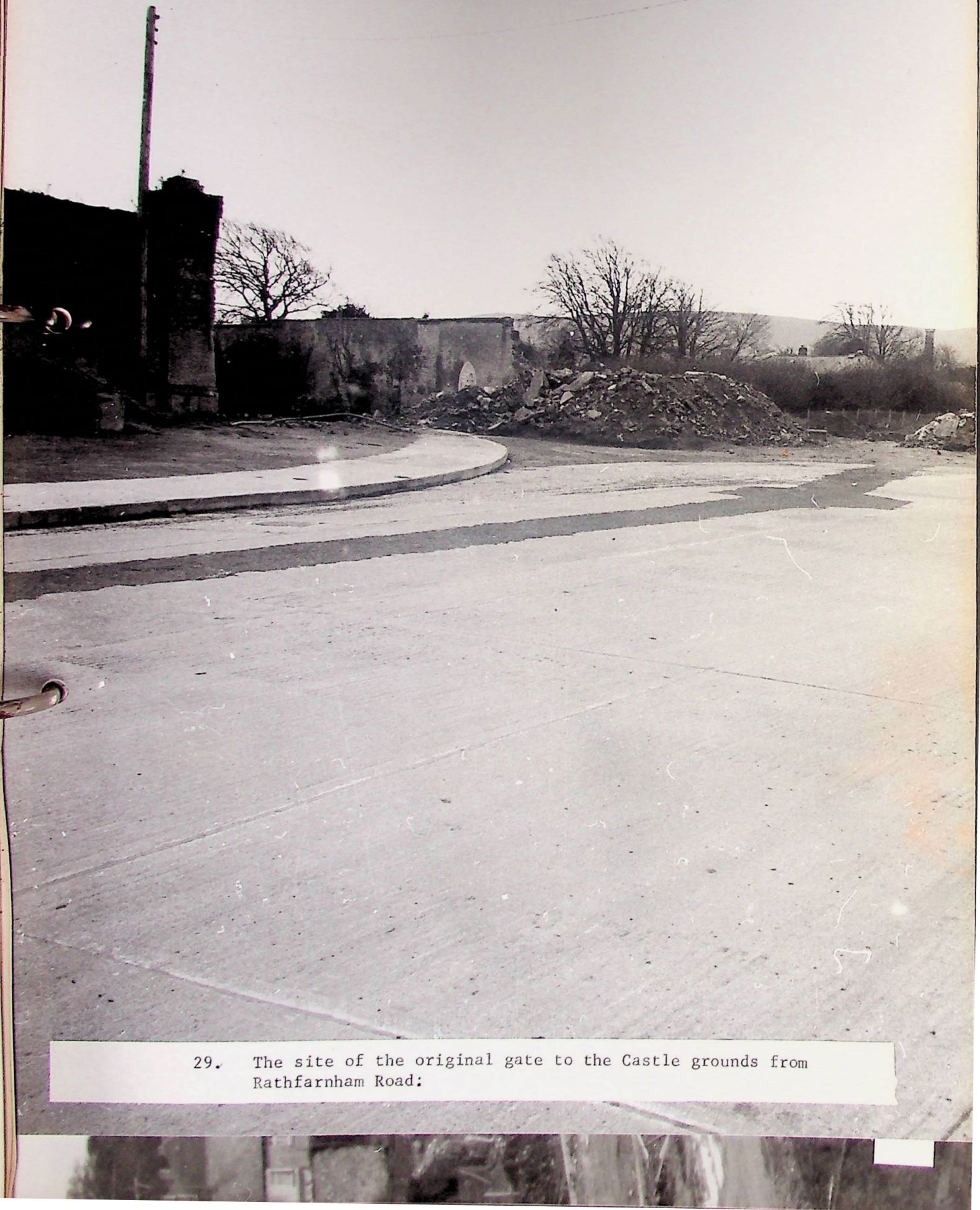
The new by-pass road development has certainly pulled apart and changed the face of Rathfarnham and in a way has intruded on the grounds of the Castle. Also the development of the round-a-bout at the junction between Butterfield Avenue and the main Rathfarnham Road has caused considerable change.

Plans for the future include the building of more houses on the grounds of Rathfarnham Castle which were put up for sale recently. In all, the present day status of Rathfarnham is hard to define since so much is changing so rapidly, but at least one can say that Rathfarnham or the Rathfarnham area is alive, maybe not too well, but living since all living things are in a constant state of change.

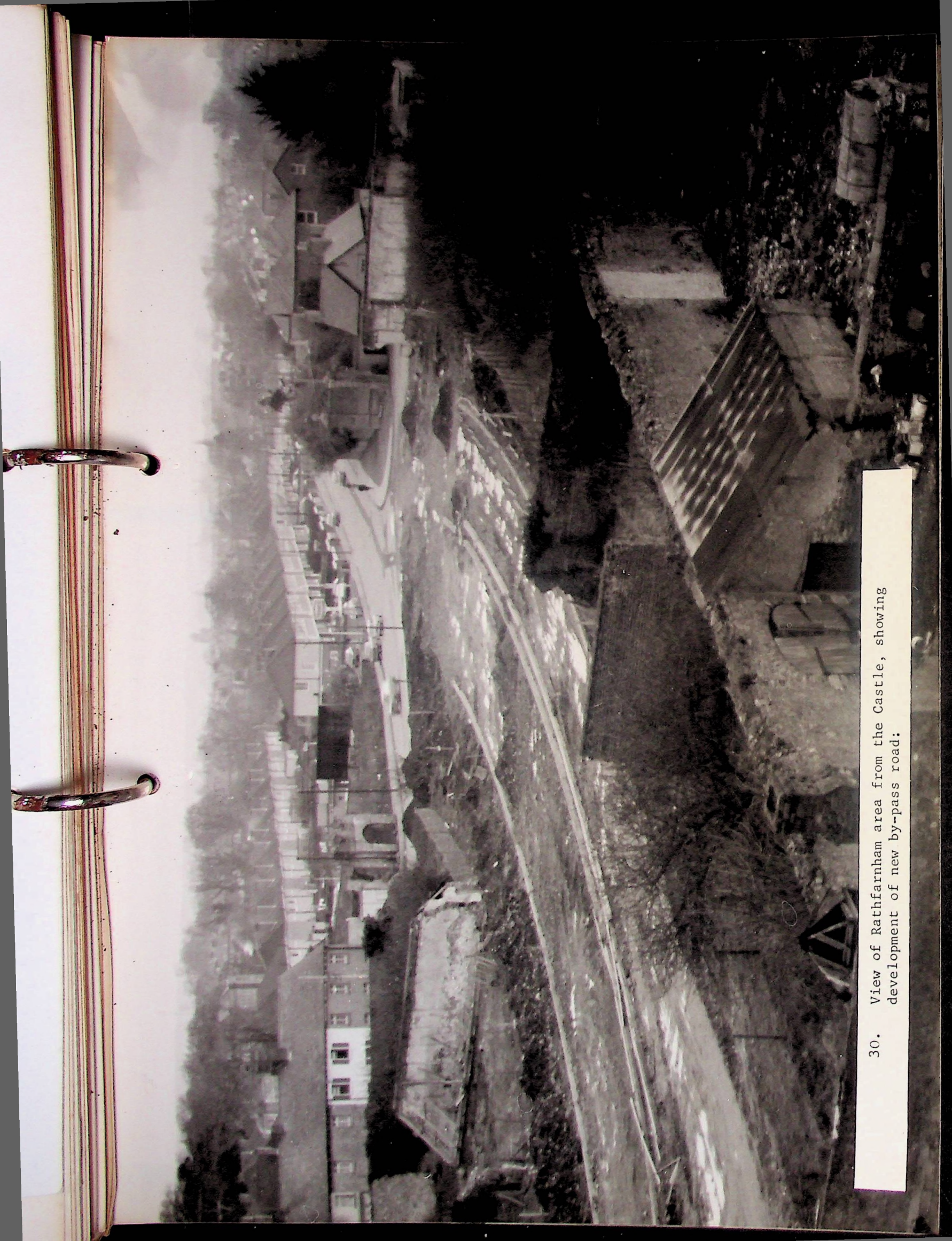


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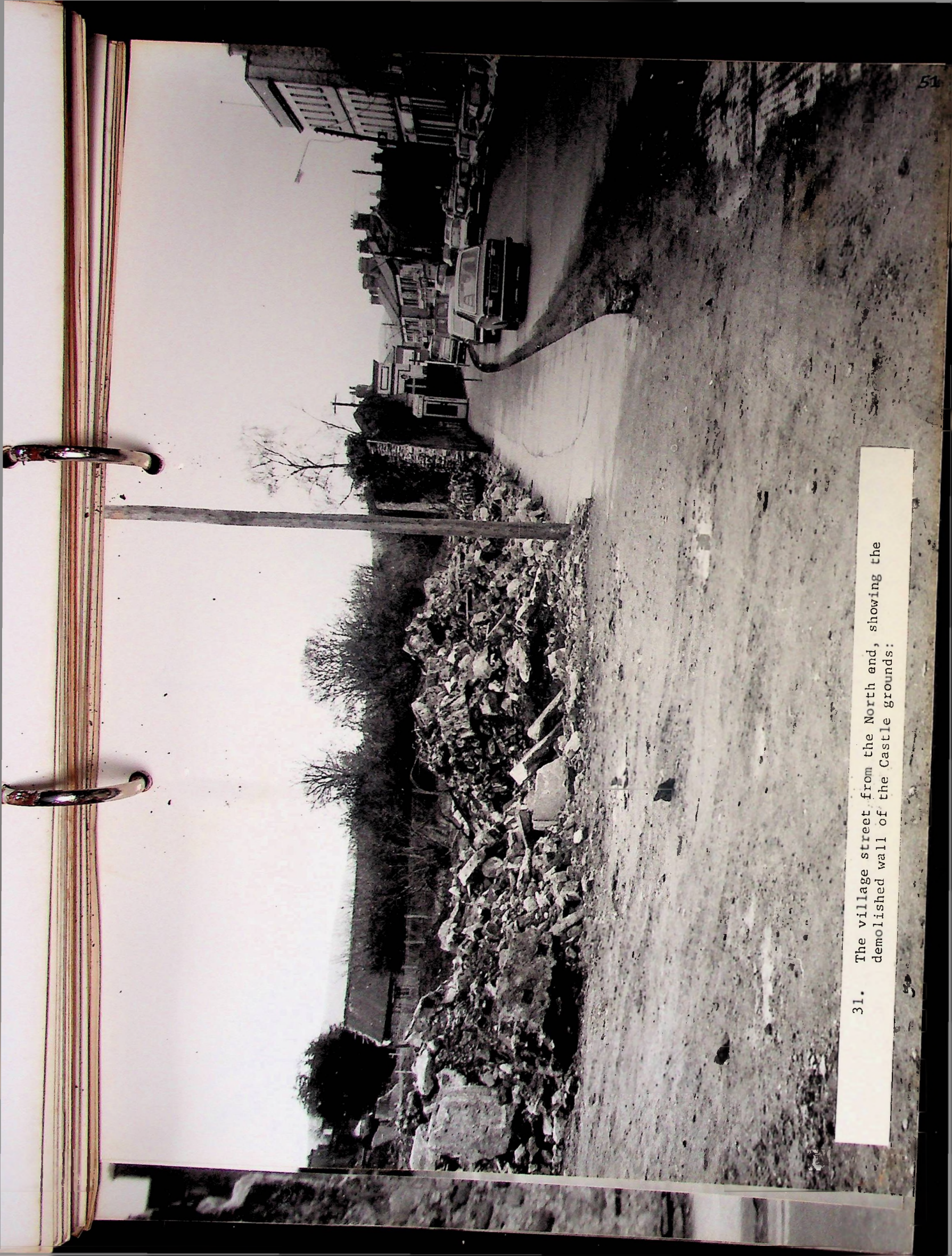
28. Rathfarnham Inn: an example of contemporary architecture in the village Street:



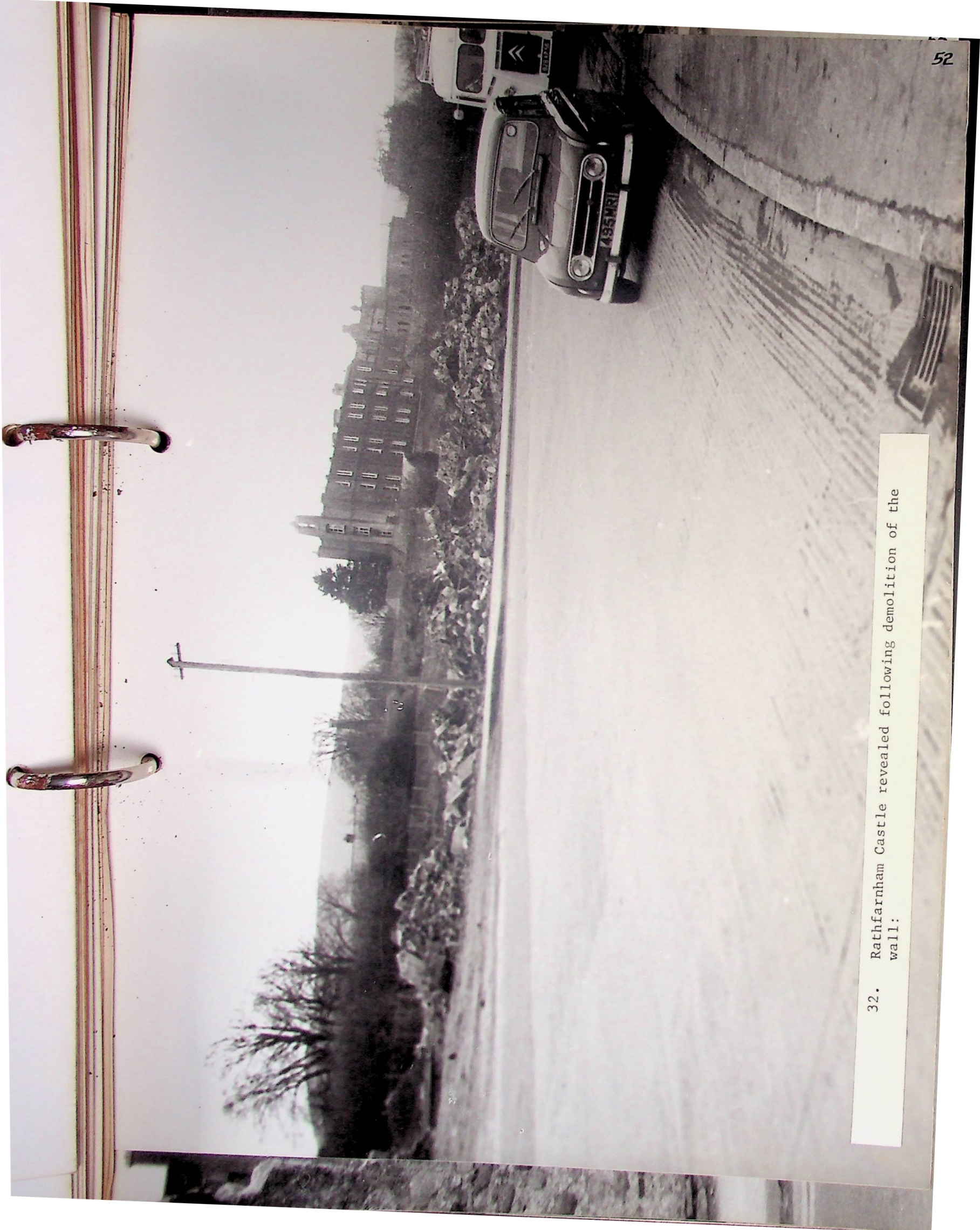
29. The site of the original gate to the Castle grounds from Rathfarnham Road:



30. View of Rathfarnham area from the Castle, showing development of new by-pass road:



31. The village street from the North end, showing the demolished wall of the Castle grounds:



32. Rathfarnham Castle revealed following demolition of the wall:



33. The demolished wall of the Castle grounds:





34. A view from the south end of the area showing where the new by-pass road will rejoin the main Rathfarnham Road:



35. Development of the round-about at the junction between Butterfield Avenue and the main Rathfarnham Road:

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