



Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland



## Homes: Photographic Worksheet

Describe the scene in the black and white photograph:

Can you see any forms of transport?

---

Look at the roadway, does it have a nice smooth surface?

---

Do the buildings have electricity? How do you know?

---

Look closely at the modern colour photograph:

What new buildings do you see?

---

Do any of the older buildings remain?

---

What changes do you see on the roadway?

---

Do you see any new road signs, road markings or streetlights?  
Why do we need them?

---

---

Do you think life was easier for the people of the town in the  
older photograph?

List three reasons for your choice.

---

---

---



Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland



## Homes: Photographic Worksheet

Describe the scene in the black and white photograph:

Can you see any forms of transport?

---

Look at the roadway, does it have a nice smooth surface?

---

Do the buildings have electricity? How do you know?

---

Look closely at the modern colour photograph:

What new buildings do you see?

---

Do any of the older buildings remain?

---

What changes do you see on the roadway?

---

Do you see any new road signs, road markings or streetlights?  
Why do we need them?

---

---

Do you think life was easier for the people of the town in the  
older photograph?

List three reasons for your choice.

---

---

---



Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland



## Homes: Photographic Worksheet

Describe the scene in the black and white photograph:

Can you see any forms of transport?

---

Look at the roadway, does it have a nice smooth surface?

---

Do the buildings have electricity? How do you know?

---

Look closely at the modern colour photograph:

What new buildings do you see?

---

Do any of the older buildings remain?

---

What changes do you see on the roadway?

---

Do you see any new road signs, road markings or streetlights?  
Why do we need them?

---

---

Do you think life was easier for the people of the town in the  
older photograph?

List three reasons for your choice.

---

---

---



Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland



## Homes: Photographic Worksheet

Describe the scene in the black and white photograph:

Can you see any forms of transport?

---

Look at the roadway, does it have a nice smooth surface?

---

Do the buildings have electricity? How do you know?

---

Look closely at the modern colour photograph:

What new buildings do you see?

---

Do any of the older buildings remain?

---

What changes do you see on the roadway?

---

Do you see any new road signs, road markings or streetlights?  
Why do we need them?

---

---

Do you think life was easier for the people of the town in the  
older photograph?

List three reasons for your choice.

---

---

---

Whether house was inspected by the Inspector.

Reasons why house is unfit for human habitation.

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| yes | Walls bad and inclined to fall, the roof bad; and altogether the house is bad, damp and unsanitary.                        |
| yes | Walls and roof bad. Light bad.   |
| yes | Size of house too small, walls badly built and propped, damp, light and ventilation bad.                                   |
| no  | No means of separating sexes, dirty water and sink inside the house, unsanitary, a buttress of stone holding up side wall. |
| yes | Damp clay floor, leaks in walls, no separation of sexes.   |
| no  | Wooden roof, only one apartment.   |
| no  | House cold and bad. Windows bad.   |
| yes | House consists of only a kitchen and a very small apartment containing 2 beds, 9 in family, no separation of sexes.        |
| yes | House very small, clay floor, very damp, in fact it is very dangerous, no separation of sexes.                             |
| no  | Floor bad and damp, whole house 14 x 9 bad drainage, 9 in family, no means of separating sexes.                            |

(Sd) Barnwell Crofton Inspector.

7th April, 1902. Date

## Homes

| Whether house was inspected by the Inspector                                      | Reasons why house is unfit for human habitation   |
|---|---|
| Yes   | Walls bad and inclined to fall, the roof bad; and altogether the house is bad, damp and unsanitary.                         |
| Yes   | Walls and roof bad, Light bad   |
|   |   |
| Yes   | Size of house too small, walls badly built and propped, damp, Light and ventilation bad.                                    |
|   |   |
| No  | No means of separating the sexes, dirty water... sink inside the house unsanitary, a buttress of stone holding up side wall |
|   |   |
| Yes   | Damp clay floor, leak in walls, no separation of sexes.   |
|   |   |
| No  | Wooden roof, only one apartment   |
|   |   |
| No  | House old and bad. Windows bad.   |
|   |   |
| Yes   | House consists of only a kitchen and a very small apartment containing 2 beds, 9 in family, no separation of sexes.         |
|   |   |
| Yes   | House very small, clay floor, very damp, In fact it is very dangerous, no separation of the sexes                           |
|   |   |
| No  | Floor bad and damp whole house 14 x 9, bad drainage 8 in family, no means of separating sexes.                              |
|   |   |
| Sgd. Barnewall Crofton      Inspector<br>7th April 1902                      Date |   |

(Source: CC/Labs/65, May 1902 Donegal County Archive Service)

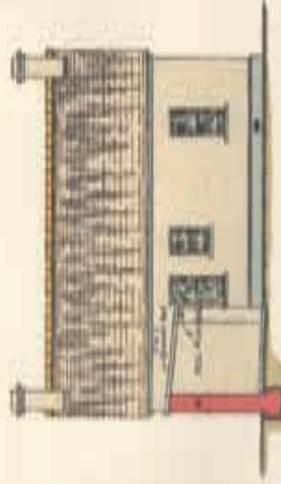
# Inishowen Rural District Council.

SCHEME N<sup>o</sup> 4.

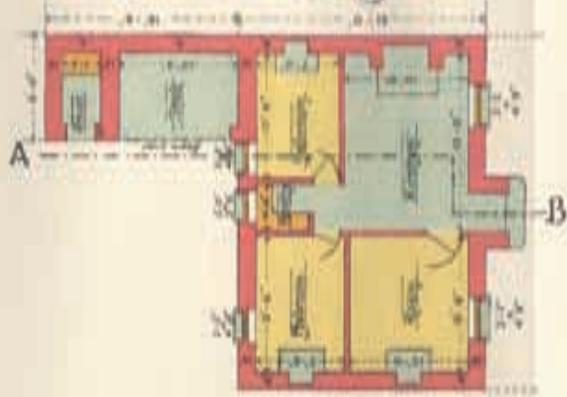
## Proposed Labourers' Cottages.



FRONT ELEVATION

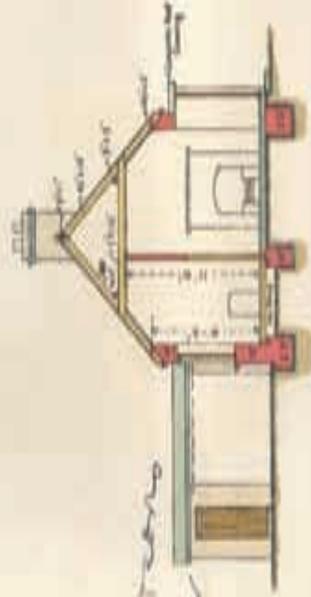


BACK ELEVATION



PLAN

Scale - 8 Feet to 1 Inch



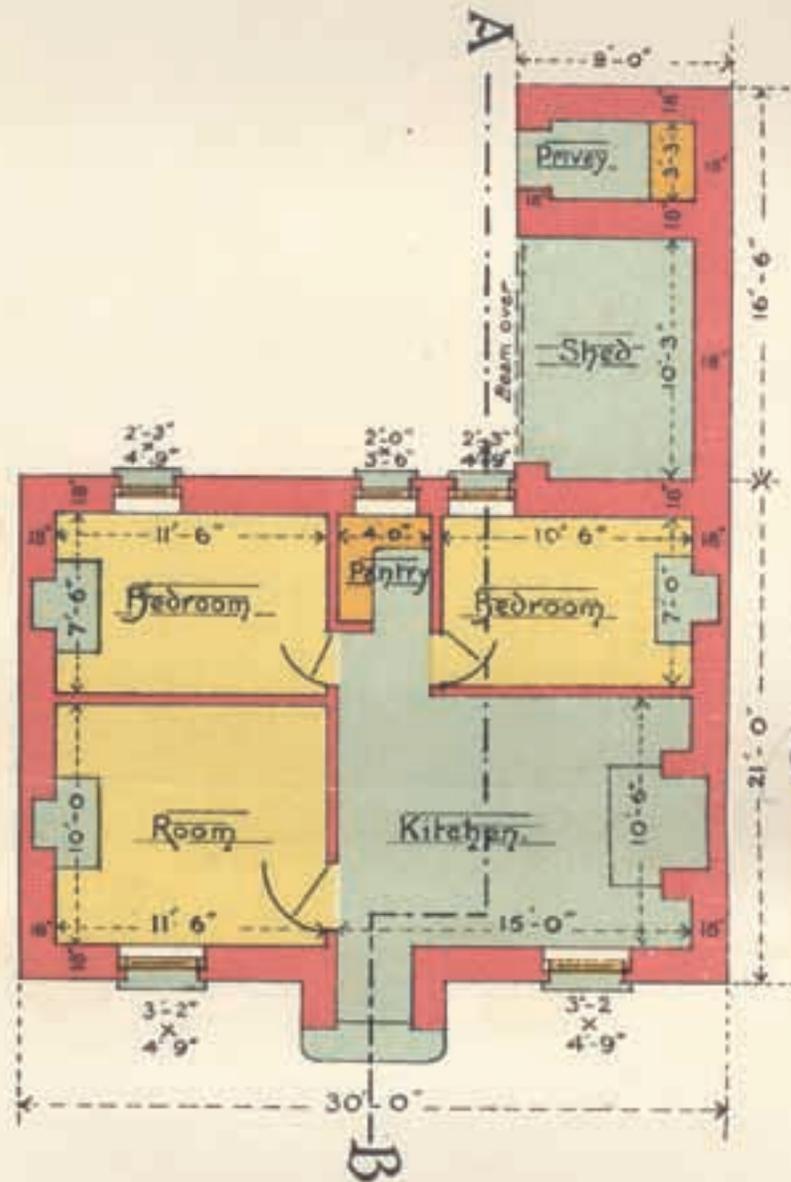
SECTION ON LINE A.B.

*John Bonington  
Elizabeth Bon  
James Bonna  
James Bonington*

E. NOLAN, Architect.  
E. O'CALLAGHAN



· FRONT ELEVATION ·



· PLAN ·

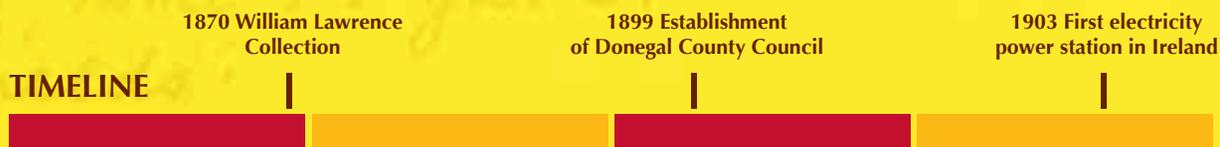
· Sea

*James  
 Elisha  
 James  
 James*

# Local studies -

## Topic: My Home and Locality

Worksheet  
One



Did you know?

### LABOURERS' COTTAGES



In 1898 the Local Government Act was passed for Ireland, setting up Donegal County Council, which held its first meeting in Lifford on the 22nd of April 1899. The Act also set up Rural and Urban District Councils in the County. One of the responsibilities of these councils was to provide new homes for people who could not build or buy their own. In rural areas these houses were called Agricultural Labourers' Cottages and between 1899 and 1924 the Rural District Councils of Donegal built 1,458 cottages for the local poor.

People who applied to live in these new homes were visited by the district inspector who reported on their living conditions. The Councils then used these reports to decide on who should live in the newly built cottages. Some of the inspectors recorded terrible housing conditions, as you will see from the report.

These early cottages had no running water, electricity or indoor toilets but were a vast improvement in the living conditions of the rural poor.

### LAWRENCE COLLECTION

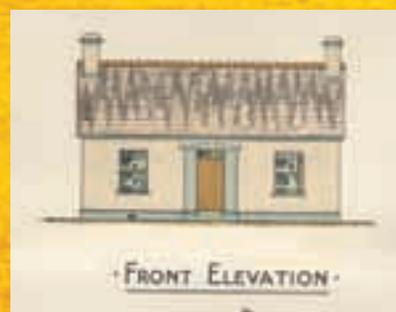
The Lawrence Collection is a collection of over 40,000 photographs taken between 1870 and 1914 by William Lawrence. Lawrence and his chief photographer Robert French travelled all over Ireland taking photographs of towns and villages in every county, including Donegal, and then sold copies to the public.

In the late 19th century all photographs were black and white. The cameras were very large and were fixed to a stand called a tripod. Negatives were made of glass, which made them heavy and very easily broken.

The Lawrence collection is now safely kept in The National Photographic Archive in Dublin.

### IN YOUR PACK YOU WILL FIND:

1. Plans for labourers' cottage to be built in Donegal in 1902
2. A housing inspector's report from 1902
3. A photograph of a local town from the Lawrence collection, a modern photograph and a worksheet



Seirbhís Cartlainne Chontae Dhún na nGall  
Donegal County Archives Service

# Look at the evidence

## 1. Labourers' Cottage Plan, 1902

This is a house design from 1902. How does it compare to the house/apartment that you live in?

Draw a layout of your own home and compare it to the plan.

Are there more rooms? Are the rooms smaller? Why do you think that is?

Do you have the same rooms in your own home and what new additions have you noticed?

How many fireplaces/chimneys are in this house?

Why do you think there are so many?

What was the privy and why is it outside the house?

What was the pantry used for?

## 2. Housing Inspector's Report, 1902

List three reasons given by the inspector as to why the houses are unfit for living in.

How does this compare to people's homes today?

Why do you think the houses were damp?

## 3. Photographs

This is a photograph from the end of the 19th century of a local town. Look carefully at the photograph.

Now you work as the archivist and describe the photograph on the recording sheet on the back.



**DO SOME  
DETECTIVE WORK...**

Find out what year your house or school was built. Look at other houses in your area. What style of houses are common to your area? Are there any buildings in your area over 100 years old? Try to find out.