# Appendix 13.3

# Descriptions of Architectural Heritage Sites

## SITE CH-9

**RPS No:**
19-09
**NIAH Reg. No:**
14805011
**TOWNLAND:**
Cloniffeen
Raghra
**CLASSIFICATION:**
Bridge
**ITM:**
596625 725477

## Shannon Bridge

Sixteen-arch masonry road bridge, completed in 1757, carrying the Ballinasloe Shannonbridge road across the River Shannon and linking Counties Offaly and Roscommon. Concrete fixed reinforced-concrete span added to east end in 1983. Random rubble limestone walls with dressed limestone voussoirs to semi-circular arch-rings. Stone corbels to rendered soffits. Dressed limestone string courses to parapets surmounted by dressed stone coping. Full-height upstream and downstream V-cutwaters with pedestrian refuges to parapet. Limestone plaque to east end gives dates for bridges construction and opening to navigation. Modern metal lamp standards to road surface.

**Appraisal**
Lending its name to the village located on the Offaly side of the river, Shannonbridge is one of the finest bridges in Ireland. The massive sixteen-arched structure is a testament to eighteenth-century engineering and stone masonry. Spanning Ireland's longest river, the bridge links Counties Roscommon and Offaly.

## SITE CH-10

**RPS No:**
19-13
**NIAH Reg. No:**
N/A
**TOWNLAND:**
Cloniffeen
**CLASSIFICATION:**
Magazine Building
**ITM:**
596738 725393

Remains of the former ammunition store and associated storage buildings known locally as the 'Magazine', built as part of the Napoleonic defences at Shannonbridge between 1812-1817. Single-storey building with cut-stone details to door and window-surrounds, internal walls of fine brickwork for specific store areas. Pitched roofs with timber trusses and brick-arched vaults in some locations. Located within agricultural lands with dense vegetation. Also on the site lie the remains of Battery No. 2, on the east bank, which formerly comprised two twelve pounders. This Battery formed part of a group of batteries built prior to the Magazine building and shown on the 1810 map. It consists of a semi-circular ditch and parapet with two gun embrasures, overgrown with vegetation. The area contained temporary accommodation for a magazine and guardhouse, prior to the completion of the existing magazine building.

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**Appraisal**
Built as part of a complex at a strategic point on the River Shannon to defend against a possible French invasion within the Offaly border in Shannonbridge, the structures are of significant historic significance. Much work has taken place on the Roscommon side of the Shannon and a new tourist trail located around the fortifications and restores caponniere. The ammunition building and Battery No. 2 form part of the architectural group of structures associated with the Shannonbridge Fortifications.



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**CH-10 Cut-stone door surround detail**

## SITE CH-11

**RPS No:**
19-11
**NIAH Reg. No:**
N/A
**TOWNLAND:**
Raghra
**CLASSIFICATION:**
House
**ITM:**
597073 725485

A late 18th century three-bay, two-storey, gable-ended house; natural slates on roof, rough-cast rendering on walls and late-19th century timber sash windows. The doorcase has been altered.

**Appraisal**
This simple house has the weight of a late 18th century house and has quality despite the later alterations.

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**Site CH-11**

## SITE CH-12

**RPS No:**
19-08
**NIAH Reg. No:**
14805010
**TOWNLAND:**
Cloniffeen
**CLASSIFICATION:**
Bridge
**ITM:**
596672 725368

Single-span cast-iron twin-leaf swivel bridge, built in 1843, and originally spanning the River Shannon. Relocated to quayside. Designed by the engineer Thomas Rhodes and constructed by J & R Mallet, Founders, Dublin. In two sections, each on a rotating platform mounted on modern stone-clad plinths.

**Appraisal**
Removed from its original context, this swivel bridge would have been the opening span to the eastern end of Shannon Bridge. Erected in 1843 as part of improvements to the Shannon Navigation, the swivel bridge would have allowed steamers to pass between Limerick Athlone and terminal harbours. It



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was replaced in the 1980s by the present fixed beam and slab arrangement and these notable pieces were relocated here to the quayside.



**Site CH-12**

## SITE CH-13

**RPS No:**
19-01
**NIAH Reg. No:**
14805002
**TOWNLAND:**
Raghra
**CLASSIFICATION:**
School
**ITM:**
597325 725460

Detached six-bay single-storey national school, built in 1940, with single-storey blocks to rear angles and modern extension to rear. Set back from the road. Hipped slate roof, terracotta ridge tiles, roof vent and some cast-iron rainwater goods. Pebble-dashed walls with smooth rendered plinth and red brick to sill level, plaque to front elevation with date of 1940. Timber sash windows with painted sills to front and sides, timber casement windows to rear. Square-headed door openings to rear bays with rendered surrounds and timber and glazed doors. Modern multiple-bay single-storey school extension to rear.

**Appraisal**
A hipped roof, large windows and red brick enhance the picturesque setting of this school building. Designed in a single room style, the two blocks to the rear angles housed cloak room and toilets. A door in each block indicates the possibility of separate entrances for boys and girls. The discreet construction of a modern extension, conjoined at the rear, is testimony to local sensitivity to the historical and architectural significance of the original school building.

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**SITE CH-13**



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## SITE CH-14

**RPS No:**
19-02
**NIAH Reg. No:**
14805003
**TOWNLAND:**
Cloniffeen
**CLASSIFICATION:**
Church/Chapel
**ITM:**
597127 725445

## St Kieran's RC Church

Detached Roman Catholic church built in 1865 by Reverend Patrick Masterson P.P., with seven bays to side elevation, side chapels and sacristy to south-east and porch to north. Set to side of road. Pitched slate roof with terracotta ridge tiles, cross finials and cast-iron rainwater goods. Pebble-dashed render to walls with smooth rendered plinth. Triple-light ogee headed window openings to front elevation with block and start rendered surround with stained glass, shouldered arched window openings to nave with stained glass, rendered surround and rendered hood mouldings. Pointed arched door opening with block and start surround to front elevation. Segmental-headed door opening to north elevation set in pitched roofed porch. Detached two-stage bell tower and grotto to south west of site.

**Appraisal**

This church shows interesting architectural features externally, most notably the unusual shouldered arched window openings and elongated stained glass panels to nave. The detached bell tower is also noteworthy. This ecclesiastical structure continues to play an important social role, being the replacement for the smaller original Roman Catholic church, located to the west along the main street.



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**Site CH-14**

## SITE CH-15

**RPS No:**
19-03
**NIAH Reg. No:**
14805004
**TOWNLAND:**
Raghra
**CLASSIFICATION:**
Church/Chapel
**ITM:**
597042 725495

## Shannonbridge Community Centre

Detached T-plan former Roman Catholic church, built in 1858 by Reverend Farrell Duffy. Former sacristy to rear and toilet extension to side. Now used as a community centre. Set within its own grounds adjacent to parochial house. Pitched slate roof with terracotta ridge tiles, cut stone bellcote and replacement rainwater goods. Ruled-and-lined render to walls with stone plaque above door reading, erected by Reverend Farrell Duffy P.P. Anno Domini 1855. Pointed-arched window openings to nave and transepts having intersecting glazing bars, lower part of transept windows now blocked up. Pointed-arched door opening to nave with tooled stone surround with fanlight having intersecting glazing bars and replacement timber double door. Pointed arched door opening to transept with rendered surround, fanlight with intersecting glazing bars and replacement timber double doors. Games court and portable stage to interior. Gallery with panelled balustrade is intact to rear of nave. Sacristy converted to kitchen use. Ruled-and-lined rendered wall with piers and wrought-iron gate to road.

Appraisal

Having been deconsecrated and replaced by a more modern church, this former place of worship has been converted for use as a community centre. Its exterior remains quite intact, though some of its attractive windows have been partially blocked. Retaining its T-plan form, fine door surrounds and tooled bellcote, this public building remains ecclesiastical in character.



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**Site Ch-15**

## SITE CH-16

**RPS No:**
19-04
**NIAH Reg. No:**
14805005
**TOWNLAND:**
Cloniffeen
**CLASSIFICATION:**
House
**ITM:**
596833 725463

## The 'Laurels'

Detached four-bay two-storey house, built c.1880, with return to rear. Pitched slate roof with rendered chimneystacks, terracotta pots, terracotta ridge tiles and cast-iron rainwater goods. Ruled-and-lined render to walls with smooth rendered plinth. Timber sash windows with painted sills. Segmental-headed door opening with moulded stucco surround and timber doorcase with pilasters, panelled door and fanlight.

**Appraisal**

Located at the centre of Shannonbridge, this symmetrical house adds a refined character to the main street with the retention of features including a timber doorcase with segmental-headed fanlight and Victorian timber sash windows. The house boasts a nineteenth-century character and within the changing and modernised streetscape, this domestic structure is architecturally significant.

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**Site CH-16**



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## SITE CH-17

**RPS No:**
19-05
**NIAH Reg. No:**
14805006
**TOWNLAND:**
Cloniffeen
**CLASSIFICATION:**
Public House
**ITM:**
596744 725453

## Luker's

Terraced two-bay two-storey house, built c.1860, with shopfront and two-storey return and extensions to rear. No longer used as a house. Fronts directly onto street. Pitched slate with terracotta ridge tiles, brick and roughcast rendered chimneystacks and cast-iron rainwater goods. Ruled-and-lined render to façade. Roughcast render to gable, rear elevation, return and extension. Timber sash windows with stone sills. Timber shopfront with rendered stall risers, double display windows, timber fascia with ceramic lettering and cornice. Recessed square-headed door opening to pub with timber panelled and glazed door. Recessed square-headed door opening to living accommodation with timber panelled door with overlight. Tiled roof to return with smooth render chimneystack and replacement rainwater goods. Replacement casement windows. Roughcast render to outbuildings with corrugated roof. Rear accessed by wrought-iron gates and smooth rendered gate piers.

**Appraisal**

Retaining many original features, those most notable being elements of the shopfront, particularly the ceramic lettering, windows and outbuildings to rear. Located next to the bridge, the nearest crossing point of the River Shannon to Galway Bay, the many extensions indicate that this building has obviously remained in constant use, testimony to the former vitality of Shannonbridge.




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**Site CH-17**

## SITE CH-18

**RPS No:**
19-07
**NIAH Reg. No:**
1480509
**TOWNLAND:**
Cloniffeen
**CLASSIFICATION:**
Machinery
**ITM:**
596699 725447

Cast-iron quay crane, erected c.1840. Located to quayside. Spoked cog wheel to shaft with maker's mark reading 'Courtney and Stephens Dublin', 'H. Lee and Sons Limerick', 'Board of Public Works Shannon Navigation, to lift 1 ton 1-8-03'.

**Appraisal**

This crane was used to lift goods on and off the barges coming in to Shannonbridge via the canal. The robust design stands testament to the great age of engineering associated with canal building in the early nineteenth century. Cranes and machinery of this nature, built for canal works, represent the great technical advances achieved in Ireland and Britain during this period.



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**Site CH-18**

## SITE CH-19

**RPS No:**
19-06
**NIAH Reg. No:**
14805008
**TOWNLAND:**
Cloniffeen
**CLASSIFICATION:**
Lock Keeper's House
**ITM:**
596709 725471

Detached three-bay two-storey lock keeper's house, built c.1760, to a design by Thomas Omer. Now used as a tourist office. Fronts east onto street. Pitched slate roof with cement ridge tiles, rendered chimneystacks, terracotta pots and rendered coping. Squared coursed limestone to walls, on rock platform with limestone plinth and string course at first floor level. Round-headed blind recesses to each elevation with limestone keystone and limestone pediments to gable wall. Replacement sash windows with tooled limestone surrounds. Square-headed door opening with timber panelled door set in tooled limestone surround with limestone cornice, limestone threshold and accessed by two limestone steps.

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**Appraisal**
Believed to derive from a 1750s design by Thomas Omer, this lock keeper's house is an excellent example of canal architecture similarly found on the Grand Canal and Lagan Navigations. It was built as part of the early navigation scheme of the Shannon when a short canal with a flash lock was built in the 1750s. Facing east along Main Street, the four faces of this building are dominated by blind recessed arches. Along with pedimented gables this structure is testament to the quality of stone masonry and importance of the role of the lock keeper in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.




**Site CH-19**



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## SITE CH-20

**NIAH Reg. No:**
14805001
**TOWNLAND:**
Cloniffeen
**CLASSIFICATION:**
Water Tower
**ITM:**
597389725517

Concrete water tower, erected c.1950, with adjacent pump house. Four stilts with horizontal tie-beams support square-profile reservoir. Flat roofed pump house with rendered and brick walls.

**Appraisal**

Set on a height, this mid twentieth-century water tower is indicative of its contemporary modern style. Functional in its design and cast from concrete, it has an industrial character. Its associated pump house has been enriched with varied external finishes including red brick and render. Together the structures add a modern feel to the predominantly nineteenth-century town.



**Site CH-20**

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## SITE CH-21

**NIAH Reg. No:**
14805007
**TOWNLAND:**
Cloniffeen
**CLASSIFICATION:**
Water Pump
**ITM:**
596721 725470

Cast-iron water hydrant, c.1900, with missing cap. Set in concrete to front of lock keepers house facing east.

**Appraisal**

Though missing its cap this water pump provides and interesting insight in to the inner mechanics of such features of nineteenth-century streetscapes. Modest in design and decoration this pump would have played an important role socially, being a source of fresh water for the community.



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