



5 Whitefriars, Aungier Street, Dublin 2, Ireland  
+353 1 6710338 [www.irishfamilyhistorycentre.com](http://www.irishfamilyhistorycentre.com)  
[family.history@eneclann.ie](mailto:family.history@eneclann.ie)

Client: Irish Social Housing Property II Sarl

Date: 19 May 2021, Revised 10<sup>th</sup> Aug. 2021

The site is located in the townland of Goosegreen. Goosegreen is in the Civil Parish of Clonturk, in the Barony of Coolock, in the County of Dublin, one of the first baronies ever defined or set out in Ireland. Goosegreen is bordered by the following townlands:<sup>1</sup>

- Ballybough to the south
- Clonturk to the north
- Drumcondra to the west
- Marino to the east
- Puckstown to the north
- Richmond to the south

In this report we have set out examples of historical names associated with Goosegreen together with their origins and relevance. These examples are highlighted and italicised in the text, as potential names for your development.

---

<sup>1</sup> [www.townlands.ie](http://www.townlands.ie)

**Images in this report:**

Please note that images in this report are provided for research/illustrative purposes only. To reproduce any images from this report, permission must be sought from the copyright owner.

## REPORT

The site is located in the townland of **Goosegreen - Faiche na Gé** - the name of this townland is thought to have been possibly derived from the name of an area of common land near Peckham Rye, south of London by the same name where goose drovers would rest overnight before bringing the birds up to the London markets.<sup>2</sup> It could of course have had a more local meaning and may have referred to a place where barnacle geese, that still overwinter in the Dublin area, flocked. The name Goosegreen was in use as early as 1748 as evidenced by a deed between William Phillips Esquire and Richard Evans Gentleman both of the city of Dublin that referred to the '*several fields and lands called the Goose Green and Goodman Hill part of the lands of Drumcondra*'.<sup>3</sup> The deed is important because it identified Goosegreen as part of the lands of Drumcondra. The name Drumcondra can be dated back to the 12th century when it was recorded in the Calendar of Archbishop Alen's register.<sup>4</sup> There have been a number of possible origins for the name including 'ridge of **Conrí/Conradh/Conra**', 'charming hill' and the more complicated 'delightful hill of the water region'.<sup>5</sup>

The parishes of Clonturk and Drumcondra were once held by the Priory of all Hallows. The Priory was founded by the king of Leinster, Diarmuid Mac Murrough in 1166 and the farmlands of Drumcondra and Clonturk were granted to the Priory. In 1304 Drumcondra was let to John le Marshal and in 1473 the Symcock family were tenants.<sup>6</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> North Dublin City by Augustine Dillon Cosgrave in the Dublin Historical Record Vol. 23, No. 1 (June., 1969)

<sup>3</sup> Registry of Deeds Book 133, page 93, Memorial number 89419

<sup>4</sup> Calendar of Archbishop Alen's register, c. 1172-1534 /prepared and edited from the original in the Registry of the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough and Kildare by Charles McNeill ; with an index compiled by Liam Price. (Dublin, 1950)

<sup>5</sup> M.A. McNamara, *Authentic derivations of place-names in County Dublin traced and explained with the aid of real evidence* (Dublin, 1922), p. 64. cited in 'The Growth of Drumcondra, 1875-1940' by Ruth McManus.

<http://doras.dcu.ie/25800/2/2%20The%20Growth%20of%20Drumcondra%201875-1940%20FINAL%20AUTHOR%20VERSION.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> 'Drumcondra' by M. J. Tutty in the Dublin Historical Record, Vol. 15, No. 3 (Sep., 1959), pp. 86-96 (11 pages)

After the dissolution of the monasteries the Priory and its lands were granted by Henry VIII to the **Bathe** family of county Meath. James Bathe first held a lease of the lands in 1550 and his son built a castle on the lands in 1560.<sup>7</sup> The Bathe family still held the land in the 1650s. In the Civil Survey dating from 1654-1656 it was recorded that a James Bath was the proprietor of 200 acres of meadow, arable and pasture lands of Drumcondra and that:<sup>8</sup>

*'There is upon ye premisses One Castle with a Stone house slated One Barne & a Gate house slated Three thatcht houses valued by ye Jury at 500li Also an Orchard & some few Ash trees sett for Ornamt.'*

The Down Survey map dating from this time does not record Drumcondra but does include the name Drumcourt/y[?].<sup>9</sup> The parish was bounded on the south by the River **Tolka**, one of Dublin's three main rivers.



<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*,

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.irishmanuscripts.ie/digital>

<sup>9</sup> <http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/down-survey-maps.php#c=Dublin>

The lands of Drumcondra were taken from the Bathe family and during the Commonwealth granted to Colonel Michael Jones, then Governor of the city of Dublin. They then appear to have passed to the MP Captain Chichester Phillips (1647-1728) who lived at Drumcondra Castle. Chichester Phillips is possibly best known for granting lands at Ballybough as a cemetery for the Jewish community. It would appear that the Phillips family still held the lands or part of, in 1748, when William Phillips leased part of the lands to Richard Evans.

The site of interest was once part of the grounds of **Highpark House**. Highpark house appears to have been built on Goosegreen townland in the 1770s as we can refer to a lease dated July of 1773 that refers to 'All that Dwelling house lately erected by the aid Michael Raye with the offices and gardens belonging to the same together with that part of the lands of Highpark lately in the said Michael Rayes possession'.<sup>10</sup> Michael Raye was described as a tailor of Dublin city and the house and lands were leased to George Purdon Drew. George Purdon Drew left the holdings to Helena and Mary Purdon and Mary Purdon leased the house and lands to William Walker.<sup>11</sup>

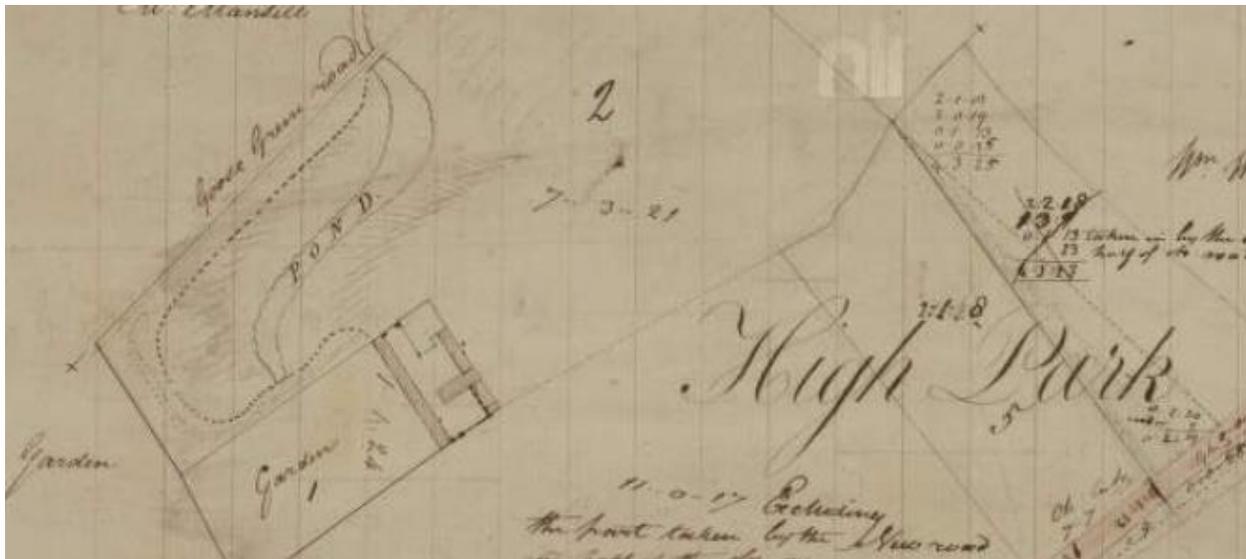
We have a late 18th century map of High Park showing the house, outhouses, garden and pond, the property of William Walker Esq. Goosegreen road is shown west of the buildings and there is also a reference to a new road, presumably what was to become in time, **Grace Park** road:<sup>12</sup>

---

<sup>10</sup> Registry of Deeds, Vol. 293, Page 510, Memorial number 197079

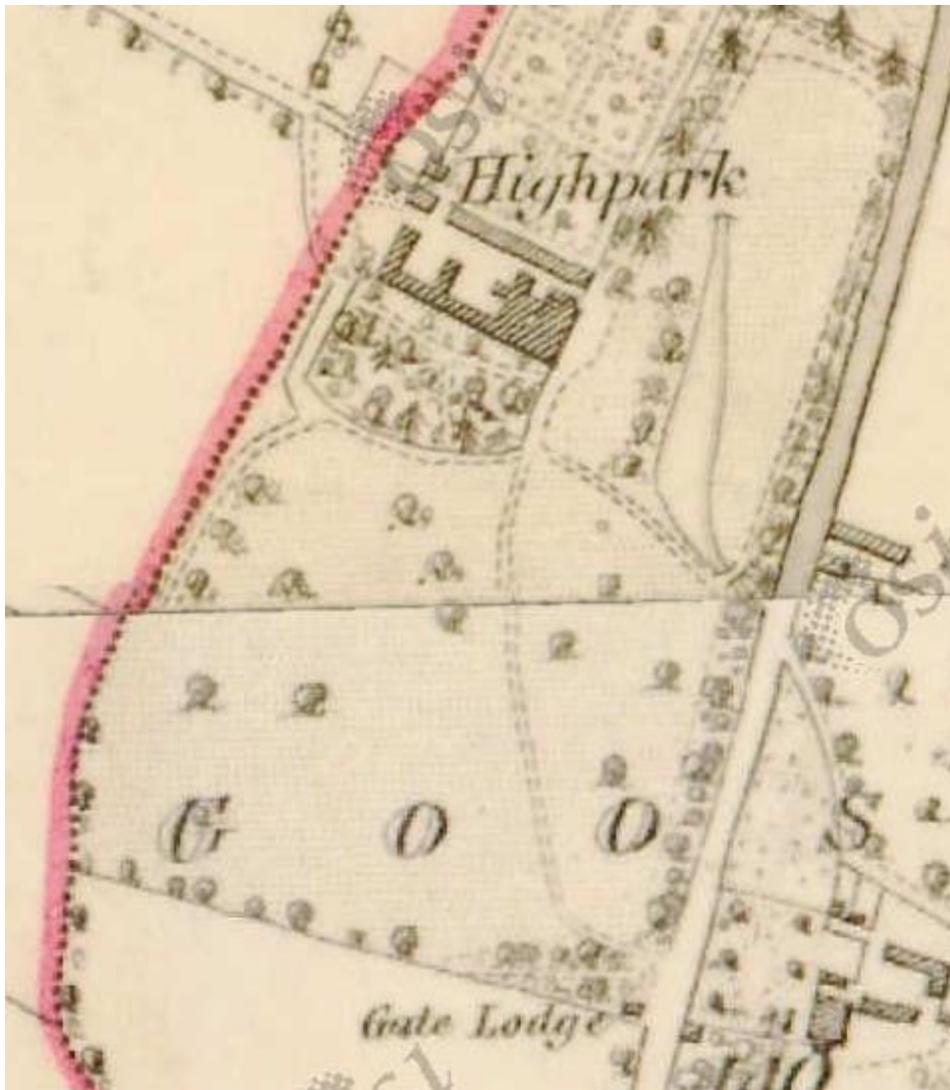
<sup>11</sup> Registry of Deeds, Vol. 477, Page 4, Memorial number 299361

<sup>12</sup> 'A survey of part of the Lands of High park in the parish of Clonturk, Barony of Coolock and County of Dublin March 9th 1790' Longfield Map Collection National Library of Ireland, <http://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtls000301169>



At some point after William Walker's tenure the house would appear to have modernised and enlarged as the 1790 map differs in shape from the earliest Ordnance Survey map dated 1837-1842. [see overleaf]<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup> <http://map.geohive.ie/>



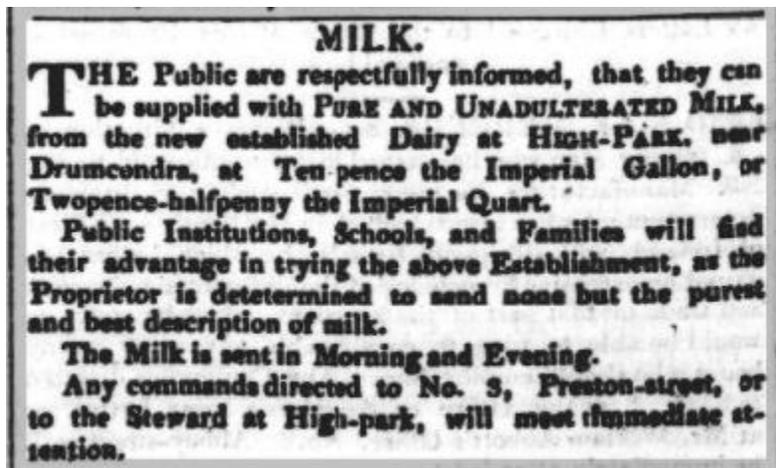
After William Walker there was a series of occupiers. John Carleton, the Dublin city merchant, lord mayor and alderman occupied High Park after William Walker. John Carleton was mayor of Dublin from 1793 to 1794, an Dublin alderman and Treasurer of Dublin Corporation, appointed to the role from 1798 to 1814. He appears to have got into financial difficulties and was declared bankrupt. High Park was put up for sale in 1814. The house could be seen every day except Sunday and 'Tickets for admission to be had' to see the house were available from Alderman's Carleton's office in Eustace street.<sup>14</sup>

---

<sup>14</sup> *Saunders's News-Letter* 11 July 1814

Thomas Ball<sup>15</sup> (1778-1826), a master in chancery, was the next occupier of High Park but it was a short lived tenure. The house was put up for sale in 1825 and advertised as 'only two miles from the castle'.<sup>16</sup> Major Brownrigg was the next occupier.

Robert Shaw Brownrigg was a member of the Bengal Native Infantry in the service of the East India Company. He made many improvements to the house and grounds and ran a dairy from the house as evidenced by the following advertisement:



*Saunders's News-Letter* 31 May 1828

Robert Shaw Brownrigg died in 1831. His will left his entire estate to his 'beloved wife Coralie'.<sup>17</sup> A sale notice for the house and lands noted that he had spent up to £3,500 on improving the house and that there was a greenhouse with vines.<sup>18</sup>

Following Robert Brownrigg's death the house was the home of Robert Grey, described as a 'respectable merchant in Linenhall-street'.<sup>19</sup>

---

<sup>15</sup> *Ball Family Records* compiled by Rev. Wm Ball Wright (York, 1908)

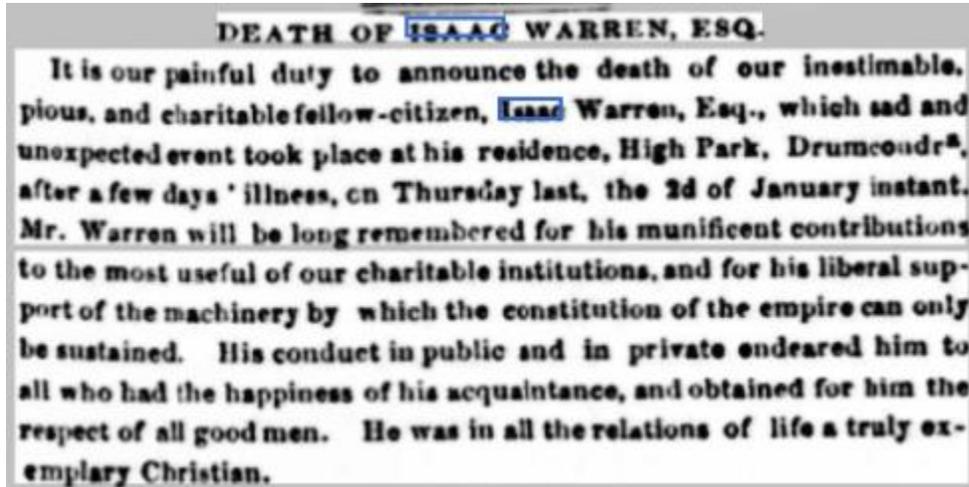
<sup>16</sup> *Saunders's News-Letter* 23 June 1825

<sup>17</sup> Will of Robert Shaw Brownrigg National Archives Kew PROB 11/1811/121

<sup>18</sup> *Dublin Evening Post* 29 December 1831

<sup>19</sup> A Day's Ramble on the North Side of the City in *The Dublin Penny Journal*, Vol. 2, No. 87 (Mar. 1, 1834), pp. 273-275 (3 pages)

Isaac Warren, a china glass and earthen ware merchant of Nos. 31 and 21 Essex Street<sup>20</sup> followed Robert Grey and died at the house in 1846. The following obituary was published:<sup>21</sup>



We know that by the time of Griffith's Valuation, a nationwide survey of land and property, assessed in Clonturk parish on 20 July 1848 that a Captain Robert Hillard leased High Park from the representatives of the late Isaac Warren, Esq., [see Lot 3a below]:<sup>22</sup>

GOOSEGREEN.				exemptions,	71 1 21	300 10 0	521 5 0	821 15 0
1	a	James Lawless, . . .	D. H. Sherrard, Esq., . . .	House and yard, . . .	—	—	1 8 0	1 8 0
—	b	Peter Meade, . . .	John Mooney, . . .	House and yard, . . .	—	—	1 8 0	1 8 0
—	c	Aune Duffy, . . .	Michael Mooney, . . .	House, . . .	—	—	1 5 0	1 5 0
—	d	Michael Mooney, . . .	D. H. Sherrard, Esq., . . .	House, office, & garden, . . .	0 1 30	3 4 0	1 10 0	4 14 0
2	a	Wm. J. Lynch, Esq., . . .	John N. O'Neill, Esq., . . .	House, offices, & land, . . .	17 3 24	74 16 0	60 0 0	134 16 0
—	b	James Cassidy, . . .	Wm. J. Lynch, Esq., . . .	Gate-lodge, . . .	—	—	1 15 0	1 15 0
3	a	Captain R. Hillard, . . .	Reprs. of late Isaac Warren, Esq., . . .	House, offices, and land, . . .	14 2 39	67 0 0	78 0 0	145 0 0
—	b	Joseph Sullivan, . . .	Captain Robt. Hillard, . . .	Gate-lodge and office, . . .	—	—	3 3 0	3 3 0
4	a	Hugh Boyd, Esq., . . .	John Gray, Esq., . . .	House, offices, and land, . . .	19 0 1	90 1 0	40 0 0	130 1 0
—	b	Margaret Baker, . . .	Hugh Boyd, Esq., . . .	House, . . .	—	—	2 5 0	2 5 0
—	c	Elizabeth . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—

In February of 1857 the townland of Goosegreen along with other holdings in Dublin and Wexford belonging to Richard Williams, were put for auction as part of the Encumbered Estates Courts sales.<sup>23</sup> The lands of Goosegreen, approximately 48 acres, were sold for £500 in trust to a Mr. O'Neill, who presumably acted on the

<sup>20</sup> www.findmypast.ie 'The Post Office Annual Directory And Calendar For 1843, Dublin'

<sup>21</sup> *Dublin Evening Packet and Correspondent* 6 January 1846

<sup>22</sup> www.findmypast.ie 'Griffith's Valuation 1847-1864'

<sup>23</sup> www.findmypast.ie 'Landed Estate Court Rentals 1850-1885'

part of the Convent of Our Lady of Charity of Refuge<sup>24</sup> and St. Mary's Asylum.<sup>25</sup> By July the building of the asylum on the grounds of High Park was underway.<sup>26</sup> By May of the following year there were 64 inmates and the asylum was advertising its new laundry facilities.<sup>27</sup> High Park house became a convent under the Lady Superioress who in 1859 was named Mrs Kelly.<sup>28</sup> (Mrs. did not indicate her marital status, but her social status as 'mistress' of the convent).

By March of 1859 a Juvenile Reformatory for girls aged from 7 to 14 years had been opened where the girls would 'receive a Religious and Industrial Education suited to their sphere of life, and calculated to render them useful members of society.'<sup>29</sup>

In the late 19th century there was a number of building works carried out at the premises. Between 1879 and 1881 there were new three storey wings added to the asylum and in 1880 a new chapel was opened.<sup>30</sup>

Every January a charity sermon was held in aid of Our Lady of Charity and Refuge who appeared to be continually in need of funds. On 21 January 1871 the *Evening Freeman* noted:

*Perhaps there is no institution in the city in which more real practical good is accomplished than in St. Mary's Highpark, Drumcondra. Within it the fallen woman is brought back to the ways of virtue and holiness from which she had strayed, and the erring child is saved from a career of vice and infamy. The work of the institution is to lead the abandoned sinner to repentance and a life of practical usefulness, and to arrest the juvenile offender on her way to ruin, and to lead her on the way she should go.'*

The poet and novelist Nora Tynan O'Mahony (1866-1954) writing of her 1906 visit to Highpark 'In a Magdalen Asylum' stated:

---

<sup>24</sup> The Charity's records are held by the Department of Health & Children.

<sup>25</sup> *Saunders's News-Letter* 25 February 1857

<sup>26</sup> *Dublin Evening Post* 28 July 1857

<sup>27</sup> *Evening Freeman* 26 May 1858

<sup>28</sup> *Catholic Telegraph* 26 March 1859

<sup>29</sup> *Ibid.*,

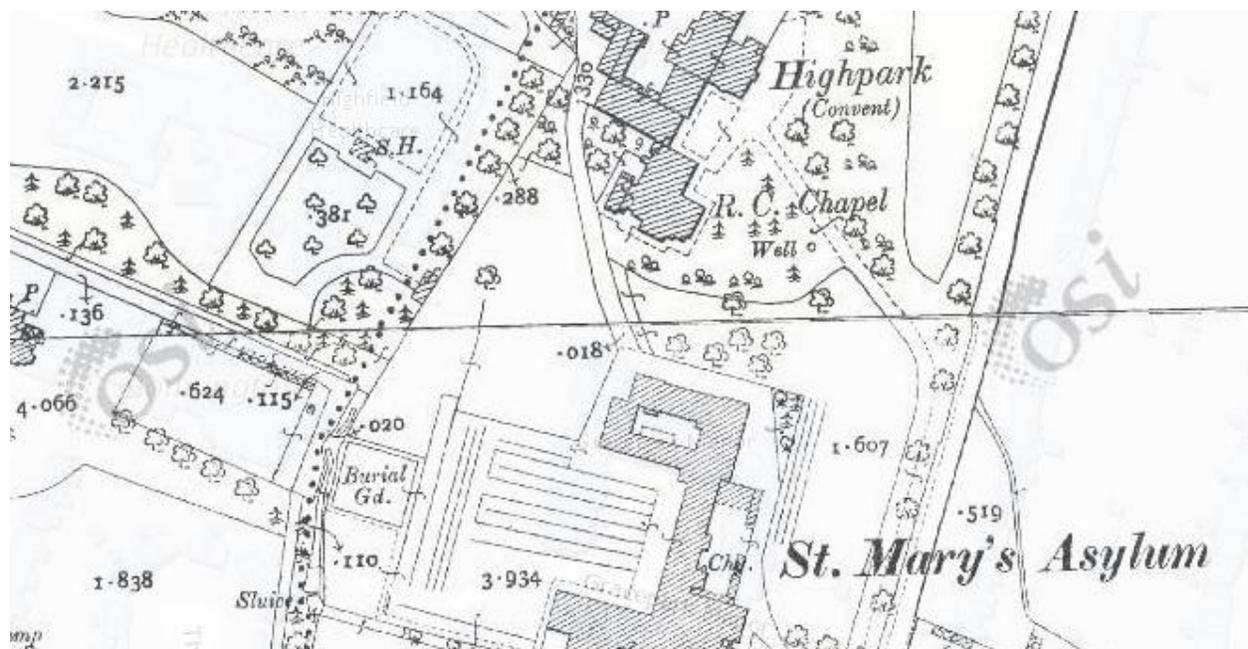
<sup>30</sup> <https://www.dia.ie/>

*'Altogether my visit was delightfully and surprisingly pleasant, and I bade goodbye to the kind nuns and to my newly made friends amongst the penitents with a genuine regret promising to come another day very soon "to see the penitents at their best," that is, at work in the huge laundry for which the convent is celebrated.'*

31

In January of 1916 according to the Rev. M. Phelan, S.J., in the annual charity sermon there were 218 women housed in the Asylum.<sup>32</sup> These women worked in the laundry there that only ceased as a commercial laundry in 1991.<sup>33</sup> An Grianán Training Centre was established in the grounds of High Park in 1971 and Martanna House hostel for teenage girls was opened in 1966.<sup>34</sup>

The site in question is specifically on the land that was formerly the burial ground for St. Mary's Asylum to the west of the building, as seen in the Ordnance Survey map below dated 1888-1913.<sup>35</sup>



<sup>31</sup> 'In a Magdalen Asylum' by Nora Tynan O'Mahony in *The Irish Monthly* Vol. 34, No. 397 (Jul. 1906).

<sup>32</sup> *Irish Independent* 5 January 1916

<sup>33</sup> <http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/2013Magdalen>

<sup>34</sup> 'Mother and Baby Homes Commission of Investigation Final Report' 30 October 2020

<https://assets.gov.ie/118565/107bab7e-45aa-4124-95fd-1460893dbb43.pdf>

<sup>35</sup> <http://map.geohive.ie/mapviewer.html>

It is difficult to determine how many bodies were interred from the burial grounds and the exact years that the grounds were in use as different years are given. There are online lists of persons buried on the premises.

We cannot find an authorised source for these names got the names from <https://theraggedwagon.wordpress.com/2013/02/03/1993-riddle-of-the-magdalene-laundry-dead-who-are-they/> Many of them were not issued with death certificates at the time of death. Two women, both of whom were recorded as seamstresses at High Park did have their deaths registered:

1902	1902	1902	1902	1902	1902	1902	1902	1902	1902
2074	Eleventh Mary December Bridget High Park Phelan Phelan	Spinstress	60	Seamstress	Phthisis 6 months Certified	July 1902 Phelan High Park Co. Dub.	1902	Registrar	Richard Fibbs
2075	Eleventh Frances High Park Hickey Hickey	Spinstress	60	Seamstress	Cancer 12 months Certified	July 1902 Phelan High Park Co. Dub.	1902	Registrar	Richard Fibbs
1902	Eleventh Edith						1902	Registrar	

Mary Bridget Phelan was aged only 26 when she died at High Park on the 11 December 1902 from phthisis better known as tuberculosis. Frances Hickey [appears on the list as 'Hackey'], aged 60, died 19 December 1902. We cannot find either in the 1901 Census but possibly Mary Bridget Phelan is the same Marion Phelan, a 24 year-old laundress, born in Spain, enumerated in High Park in 1901:<sup>36</sup>

**CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.**  
(Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.)

**FORM A.** No. on Form B. \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 31st of MARCH, 1901.

Number	NAME and SURNAME.		RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE.	SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	MARRIAGE.	WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb; Blind; Imbecile or Lame; or Lunatic.
	Christian Name.	Surname.										
1	Mary	Bridget	Daughter	Catholic	Read & write	26	F	Laundress	Not Married	Dublin		
2	Marion	Phelan	Daughter	Catholic	Read & write	24	F	Laundress	Not Married	Spain		

<sup>36</sup> <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/reels/nai003677855/>

## Magdalene Institutions

The Magdalene Laundries were called after Mary Magdalene, also known in the gospels as Mary of **Magdala**, **The Magdalene**, or Madeline. (Magdala means 'tower' or 'elevated', 'great', 'magnificent', in Aramaic). In the original gospels, and the gnostic gospels, Mary was a woman of wealth and status, a female companion along with Jesus' mother, and sister, who used her wealth to support his ministry. She was known in many Christian traditions as "the apostle to the apostles" or even a "Second Eve" who made up for the disobedience of the original. In the first 500 years of Christianity, Mary Magdalene was gradually conflated with Mary of Bethany, and the unnamed sinner-woman who anointed Jesus feet. The idea of the Magdalene as a prostitute or fallen woman dates to a narrative by Pope Gregory I, ca. 591. In the medieval church she became a symbol of repentance. In the 18th Century, social and moral reformers adopted the 'Magdalene' as the patron of 'way-ward' women. In Ireland, the original Magdalene Asylum was established by the Church of Ireland. Catholic orders of nuns enthusiastically took over the idea, and established convents, asylums and laundries. Originally intended as 'half-way' homes and refuges for women at risk, they became forced labour institutions. The pioneering journalist, Mary Raftery, disclosed the story that as many as 58 women were buried in the High Park Magdalene Cemetery, with no civil death records.<sup>37</sup>

It is impossible to highlight a suitable name for the site area taken from the period 1857 to 1993 when the exhumation of the bodies in the graveyard under the aegis of Our Lady of Charity of Refuge took place. Many women and children were buried in the grounds. Some of them remain anonymous - some of the Magdalenes were buried without their real 'given names', but as the Magdalene of St. Cecelia, the Magdalene of Lourdes, etc. Each of them had a life worth remembering and worthy of memorial and given that the site is the location of new development it would seem important to recognise this in some way. It should be possible to concentrate on an individual and discover more about their life using census and possibly workhouse and newspaper records but this is not within the scope of this report.

---

<sup>37</sup> Restoring dignity to Magdalenes, August 21st 2003, Irish Times.

You might also seize the bull by the horns and call the apartments - **Magdala**, or **The Magdalene**.

Names of landmarks within Goosegreen that predate the purchase of High Park house by the Convent were **Broomhill House** (later the **Bonnington Hotel**), **Hartfield**, **Sionhill** Cottages, **Rosemount** cottage, **Upton Lodge** and **Ivy Lodge**.

Names of former proprietors include: **Ball**, **Bathe**, **Brownrigg**, **Carleton**, **Walker**, **Warren**, **Williams**.

Although the development site is situated completely within the former grounds of High Park/ Magdalene Laundry, there is a right of way south of the Bonnington Hotel, providing access from the Swords Road. The original house known as 'Garden Farm' was built in 1881; by the time of the 1883-1913 edition O.S. Maps, it was re-named '**Broomhill**'. The O.S. map shows a water course and sluice bounding the north side of the burial ground.