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1.51 Rowlestowne House (continued): 1: 'Lawn Gates', the original formal entrance to Rowlestown House, which had a gate lodge on the left, now gone. 2: The garden seen through the side gate on the local lane at the side of the property 3: The rear courtyard of the house, through the gate at the side. 4: Entrance gate from the side with corrugated iron roofed farm buildings covered in virginia creeper



1.72 The Police Station, vernacular thatched cottages and Gate Lodge

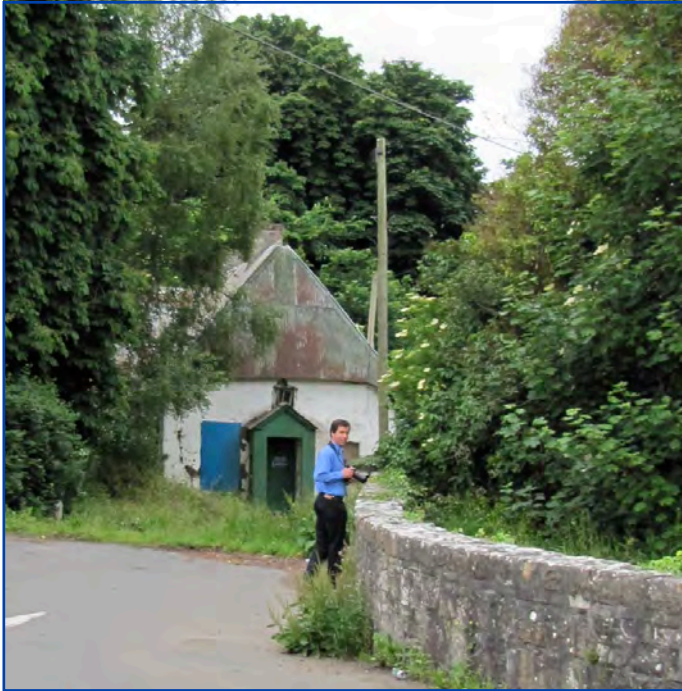
The image, right, from the nineteenth century shows the original Police Station, now extended, three thatched cottages, no longer there, and the slated gate lodge also demolished. The photograph was provided by the Begg family, who live in the refurbished and extended old Police Station.



The old Police Station has been extended by two bays. The photograph provides a unique insight into the appearance of the village. Picture inset, **left** show the building today with its form and side arch through to the rear intact. Cottages have been replaced with a painted blockwork wall. The thatched cottage, barely visible on the picture beyond the station, is still there, although with corrugated iron roof. A precious image...



1.73 Vernacular thatched cottage beyond the Police Station, and Gate Lodge
The image, from the previous page, is used to make a comparison between the buildings on site today and the same buildings just about visible in the photograph.
Both buildings are thatched in the original and have a corrugated iron replacement today. The earlier image confirms that the thatch was half-hipped at the gable .
The image, **below**, combines the current photo with the old one, confirming the match between the old gable and the replacement covering.



1.74 Old Mill at Killossery, beside bridge
 The Old Mill is a remarkable survival from, it is said, the eighteenth century. Its position in the village is pivotal, at the junction between Old Killossery and Old Rowlestown, and beside the bridge across the Broadmeadow River. It is in deteriorated condition, but is capable of careful restoration to keep its essential qualities of structure, the mechanical parts inside still remaining, and even some of its fittings, such as the shop counter. These we would consider to be among the most important vernacular buildings in Co Fingal, especially as they act as a cluster. We would strongly recommend an action plan to save and restore these buildings for future generations. They make a natural gathering location for the village and could generate regional attraction as a centre for entertainment in the atmosphere of a really old group of buildings.



Top, left: Bridge parapet and the gable of the Old Mill, held in mature riverside landscape.

Top, centre: View of one of the corrugated iron roofs of the cluster of buildings of the Old Mill, taken from a higher vantage point.

Bottom, left: Steep pitch of one of the hipped gables, and reducing thickness made in a gentle curve.

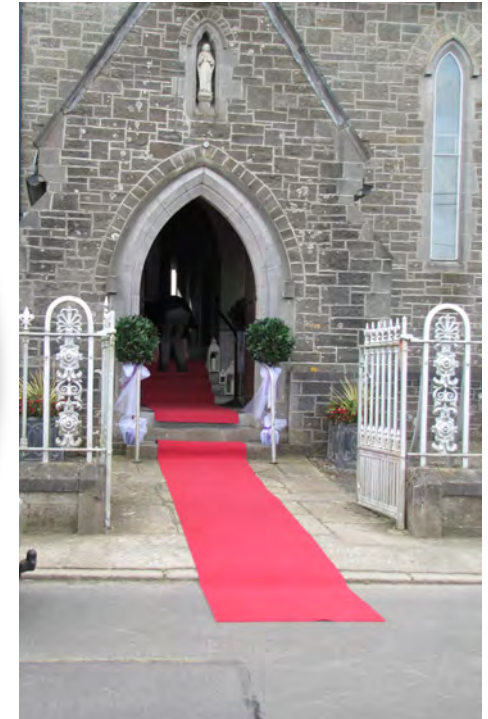
Bottom, right: Image taken from YouTube video, showing some of the hirsting or hurst, the internal structure which contains the machinery of a water mill without conveying vibrations to the building structure



1.75 The Church and Old Graveyard

The church is a landmark building for the Village, with its tall bell-tower as the highest object in the area. The church was built around 1854 in gothic style with steep roof pitch. Close to the school and beside the community centre, this is the active centre of Rowlestown. The community centre is bulky, with a form which obstructs the fine, graceful angles of the church, yet it is a strong symbol of the community, and is in regular use during the week.

The graveyard is probably the oldest occupied land in the area with the remains of an ancient church on the site.



Above: Some of the most ancient headstones in the graveyard at Killossery, and right, the entrance gate and steps through the graveyard wall



1.76 Old and New National Schools

The **Old National School** was vacated some years ago, when a remarkable new school replaced it on a large site set back from but connected to Church Road along the newly constructed Rowlestown Drive. The old school, **below**, is a handsome building

from the middle of the 20th century. Modernised and revitalised, it could be reused to fulfill some promising new function, yet to be discovered. It would be a pity to see such a usable agglomeration of built space being wasted. By contrast the new school is a generous and attractive modern answer to the

idea of a school, accommodating a large number of children on a campus. However its detached location favours arrival and pick up by car, even for people living in the village. Better pedestrian and cycle links in the village and surroundings are possible, to overcome this drawback.





1.8 Spaces and Places

1.8.1 Spaces and Places

Rowlestown is dispersed and informal in its overall layout. It does not lend itself to gathering places, where people, young and old, may meet easily. Those that do exist may or may not function as spaces and places, but they are the starting point for analysis. They are listed here for due consideration when examining the potential of the village for improvement to its public realm. (Numbers are shown on map on following page.)

- ① Outside the graveyard at Killossery
- ② The bus stop
- ③ The bridge, and small green, north of the bridge.
- ④ The Lawn Gates under the canopy of trees, and the woodland glade under the trees
- ⑤ The green on the corner of Church Road (West)
- ⑥ Church Road, outside the church and community centre
- ⑦ The top of Rowlestown Drive and the new school grounds
- ⑧ (if reused for village activities) The old school

- ⑨ Housing groups (semi private)
 - Green area in front of houses across road from the graveyard
 - Culs de sac at the end of Killossery scheme and (not shown on map) 4 houses , east of church.

Right: adequate footpaths on both sides of the connecting lane from Church Road to R125, with incidental spaces which are attractive. On the **right**, this side of the bridge, is a small green area with mature tree hedgerow, and rather perilous access to the river. On the other side of the bridge there is a pull-in for the scheduled bus service to Swords and the airport, with a wide grass verge. Well trimmed grass verges lead up to the R125.

