

Clonmore, Herbert Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow

“Detached three-bay two-storey double-pile former house, built c.1898, now in use as a medical centre. To the east elevation there is a single-storey pitched-roofed extension, added c.1980, whilst to the west elevation there is a small single-storey pitched roof projection which appears to be original. The façade is in brick to the front and west elevations, and unpainted roughcast to much of the east elevation, with a projecting string course between ground and first floor level, dentilled brick eaves course, and simple brick mouldings to the entrance. The double-gabled pitched roof has an overhang and is covered in slates, with decorative clay ridge tiles and bargeboards and brick chimneystacks with pronounced corbelling. The entrance is set within a recessed porch fronted by an elliptical-headed opening, and consists of a timber door with large sidelights and fanlight. At either side of the entrance there is a single-storey hipped roof canted bay with mullioned and transomed timber frames with leaded glazing to the upper lights; there is a similar bay to the extension. The other windows are flat-headed and have mullioned and transomed timber frames and moulded brick sills. Cast-iron rainwater goods. The property faces onto a street but is separated from it by a relatively small tarmac-covered forecourt (originally the garden), which is enclosed by a polychrome brick wall and decorative iron gates.

Though extended in relatively recent years this late 19th-century former house is still largely well preserved and remains an important part of the varied late Victorian / Edwardian character of the north side of Herbert Road” (Buildings of Ireland/ NIAH/NBHS)

This house was completed in 1898 by prominent local builder and chairman of the Town Council, John Plunkett, who had a house on Adelaide Road,. In December of the following year, he wrote disputing the charge of £9 11s which the electrical engineer had applied for wiring of his new houses at Clonmore and Herbert Road. The engineer reported that the wiring had been done in accordance with Mr. Plunkett’s wishes. Mr. Plunkett had leased the house and ground to a Mrs Jane Mackey in 1898 for a term of 24, years at a yearly charge of £40. At the time of the 1901 census, she was described as a retired dressmaker aged 69 and from Dublin, and was living there with two teenage children, a female friend and one servant.

Mrs Mackey lived there until her death in 1908. She was not well at the time, and along with other residents of the area objected to the noise of a brass band practice being held nightly in a premises at the rear of the house. The property on Barrack Lane was owned by the Urban Council and let to the Gaelic League. The letter of complaint was sent in by the residents Robert Heatley, G. A. Stanley, Elizabeth Campbell, Herbert Malley and Joseph Mackey of 50 Pembroke Road, Dublin (on behalf of Jane Mackey). The Town Clerk said that they had no power over the noise, but they could write to the Gaelic

League pointing out that the sub-letting of the premises by them was contrary to their tenancy agreement.

In 1911 Joseph Mackey and family were living at the house. In the census of that year he was described as from Dublin and as living on income from investments. With him were his wife Gertrude, from Donegal, and one female servant. In 1924 he sold the house for £1,000 to Dr. Henry Joseph Raverty, whose family had the Medical Hall across the road for several generations. In more recent years the house has functioned as a medical centre.

(Photo: Google Street View); This post first appeared on the Victorian Bray FaceBook page in June 2025)