1 The First Farmstead (in ruins)

2 Second Farmstead

3 Farmhouse & 4 Dower house

6 The Milking Parlour

5 The Stables

Ballymurrin Stories -*Restoring the Quaker Farmstead*

4:The Dower House (Box Tree Cottage)

Ballymurrin Quaker Farmstead

1668

Over 350 years ago Quakers came to Ballymurrin

Philip and Delphine Geoghegan, owners of Ballymurrin from 1994

Box Tree Cottage /the Dower House

Two names for one place may seem odd…The use of the name 'Dower House' represents the tradition of making a separate house to move elderly parents into a smaller house, to make way for the growing family of their second son, in this case, Valentine.

The name 'Box Tree Cottage' is recent, used because of the ancient Box Tree in the garden,.

The gable, **left,** has a random pattern of windows. Where the pitch of the roof is less steep, on the right, an extension of the building was added to provide a bathroom. It is also known that The entrance door is recent. Prior to that the only access was through the main farmhouse. It appears that there was previously a window in this location, and that the opening was lowered to give the house an independent access.

The garden entrance is a beautiful piece of stonework, rounded and with original lime finish holding on at the front, and the stonework visible inside the garden.

Left, The fireplace is diminutive, by comparison with those in the main house. Its brickwork surround is recent, fitted with a wood burning stove. There are remnants of a larger carved stone fireplace in the garden.

Left, below, although the windows were changed, the lower area and shutters are intact keeping the original internally. The shutters are from the time of building and different from those in the main farmhouse.

On the **right,** the kitchen units were made by the Strawbridges in the 1990s. Everything is in perfect condition as new and no need for IKEA here. We added in the small internal window above the worktop to draw in the evening sun and light in the evening.
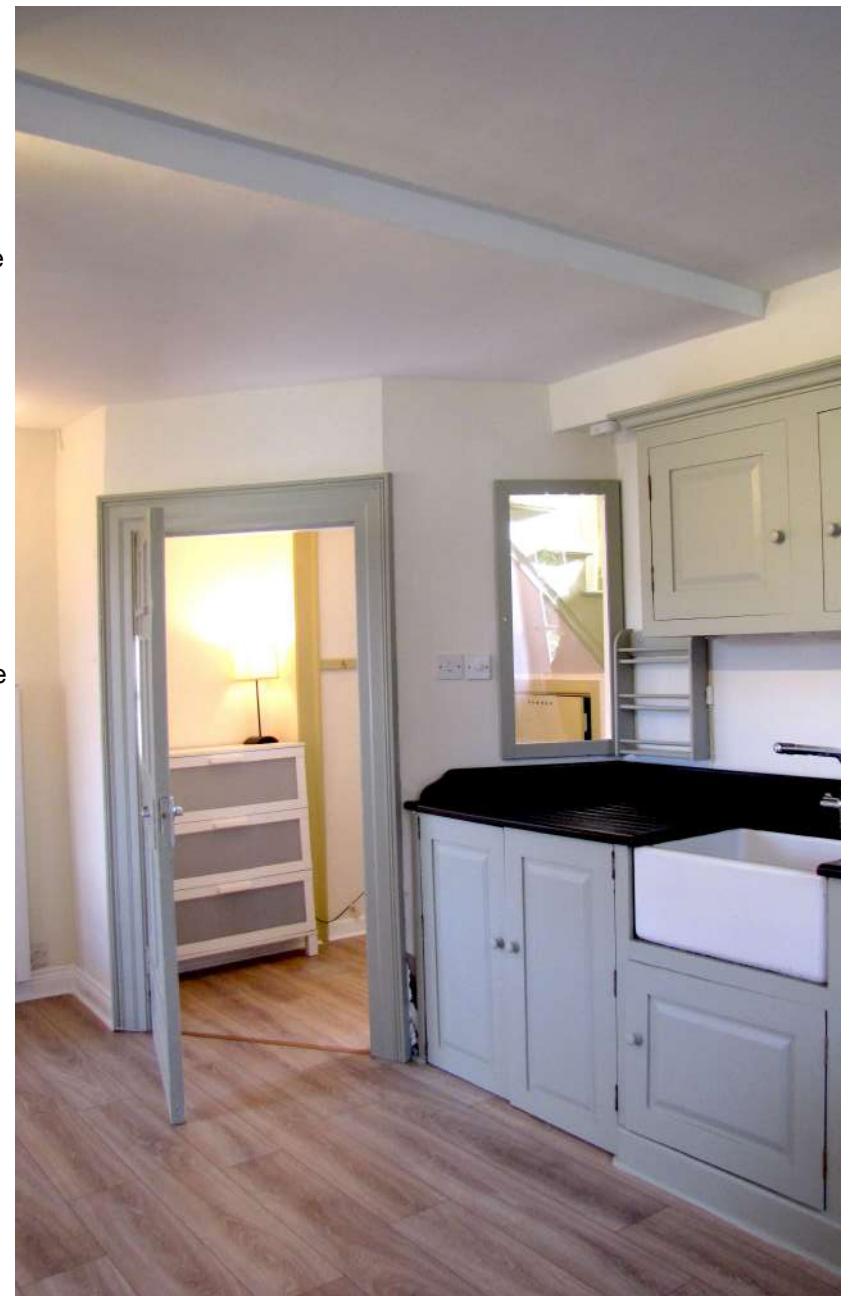
We consider that the addition of the Dower house would have been during the early years of the first decade of the eighteenth century. There is a delicacy of treatment by comparison with the main farmhouse, The staircase is of beautiful simplicity with slender balusters and polished handrail.

The window surround of the landing look-out rear window has intriguing elements of decoration; the timber mouldings, miniature dentil mouldings, **above,** on the edge of the shutter surround and unusual receding striped infill between the shutters and the angled ceiling of the shutter box are hesitant hints at decoration. Perhaps in the same vein the lightness and delicacy of the staircase point to an informed yet restrained decoration.

Right: At the top of the stairs there is a modification of the opening leading through to the main house . Note the rounded moulding, a decorative detail leading to the upper hall, to the main stair of the farmhouse. This was closed to create a small second bedroom with a door leading through, which is closed off but retained in place.
Left; The shutter of the rear window is replicated throughout the house addition, yet different in style (and date) to those in the Parlour of the farmhouse.

The main bedroom

The scale of this part of the building is delightful. Although some changes have been made since its construction ,the place maintains its intimacy with a country cottage feel.

Right: However the main bedroom is unusual. It has a large floor plan, although about one third of it is held under the added sloping roof for the bathroom below. Useful perhaps for cots and small children, the low ceiling in practice limits it to storage.

Upper left: The access to the bedroom is at the top of the stairs with a narrow landing, leading through a fine plain panelled door.

Lower, left: This is the internal view of the outside gable facing into the garden. There is a curious juxtaposition of two windows. Perhaps the small, low window was seen as a way of bringing light into that area. The small window and its opening are quite rough-and-ready in their construction.

The Main Farmhouse

Box Tree Cottage, the Dower House

The Second Farmstead with Cart House, Forge and Kitchen
With bedroom(s) above