



CHAPTER 1

BUILT HERITAGE AWARENESS AND CONSERVATION



Introduction

- Earliest settlements were simple structures of wattle and daub.
 - Saplings and mud were used to form a solid base structure.
- Earliest settlement was found at Mount Sandel in Coleraine, Co. Derry.



Settlement

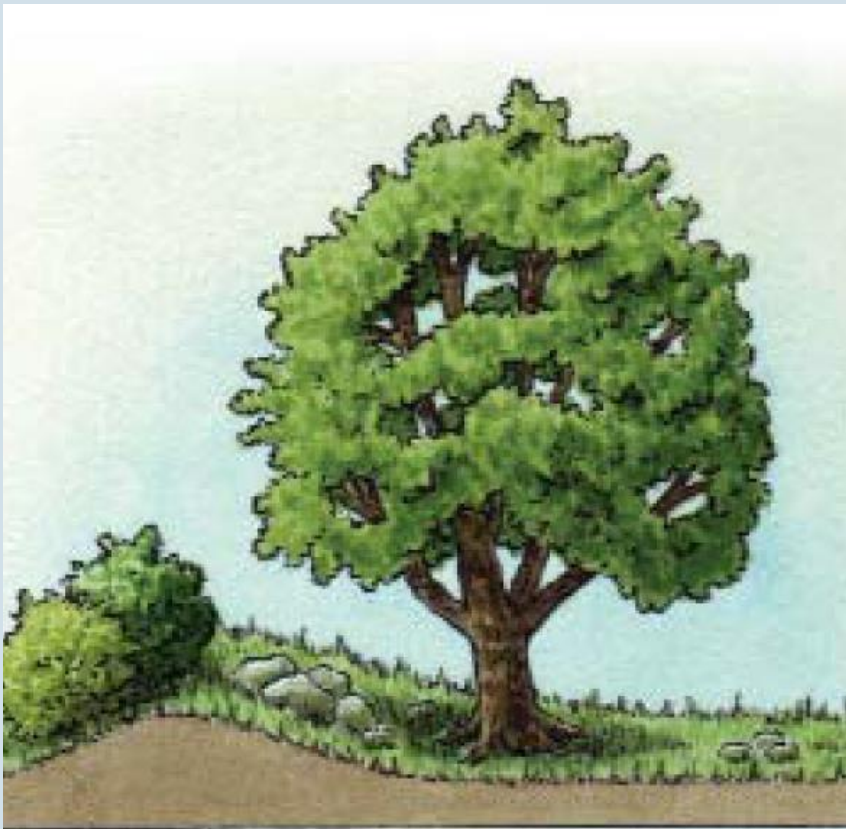
Factors influencing location of settlements are:

- Shelter
- Supplies of fresh water
- Availability of food
- Availability of raw materials for building and industry
- Trading routes

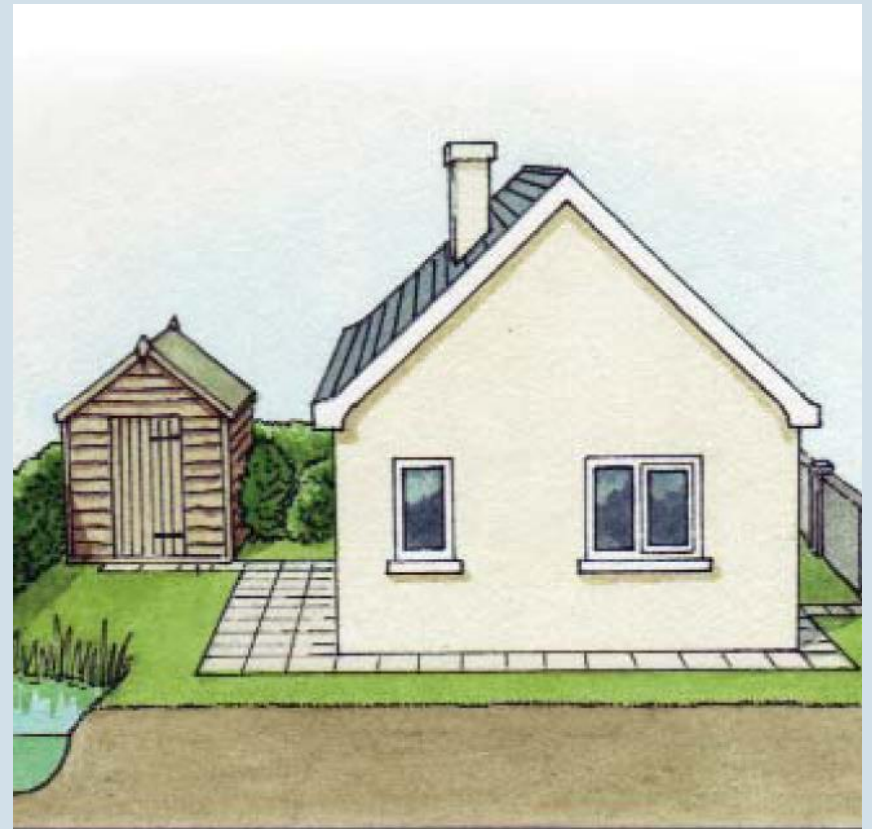


Environment

Natural Environment



Built Environment



Built Heritage

- This refers to buildings and structures which were in our ancestors' settlements.
- These can be classified as follows:
 - Fortified buildings
 - Religious structures
 - Formal architecture
 - Informal architecture



Prehistoric Settlement

- The earliest settlements were found at Céide Fields, Co. Mayo.
- Building methods advanced through the discovery of new materials.
- Buildings which survive from that period include Newgrange Passage Tomb, Co. Meath.



Pre-Christian Settlement

- Rathes and ringforts were the most common settlements of this period.
- These were used as defensive settlements and consisted of a dwelling in the centre surrounded by some form of embankment for defence.



Early Christian Settlement

- Key architectural heritage buildings of this period include:
 - Round towers
 - Monasteries
 - Churches



Viking and Medieval Settlement

- Viking and Medieval settlements formed the basis of many major towns and cities of Ireland today.
- Most surviving architecture is defensive, such as tower houses and castles.



Architectural Style - Romanesque

- This style is characterised by:
 - Decorative semi-circular arches over windows and doors
 - Vaulting
 - Heavy columns
 - Large towers



Architectural Style - Romanesque

- Height of buildings was restricted due to the lack of support for the roof structure.



Architectural Style - Gothic

This style evolved from Romanesque due to three major developments:

- Pointed arches
- Flying buttresses
- Ribbed vaulting



Formal Architectural Styles

Romanesque

1. Rounded arches
2. Heavy columns
3. Vaulting
4. Large towers

Gothic

1. Pointed arches
2. Flying buttresses
3. Ribbed vault
4. Higher buildings than Romanesque



Vernacular Architecture

- Informal style which reflected:
 - Local builders' skill and style
 - Local materials
 - Climate
 - Terrain
- Buildings were not standardised
- Examples:
 - Tipi of the Native Americans
 - Igloo of the Inuit people
 - Thatched cottage in Ireland



Cottage Styles

While not standardised, two main types of cottage can be seen in Ireland:

- Western cottage
- Eastern cottage



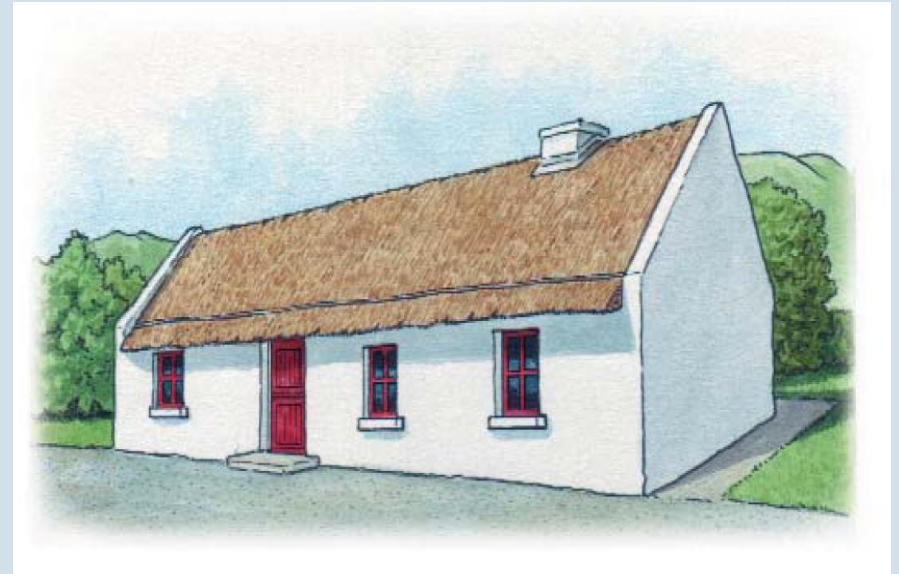
Western Cottage

- Usually modest and simple
- Minimal in their internal division, mostly one or two rooms
- Roof was of simple design and non-hipped



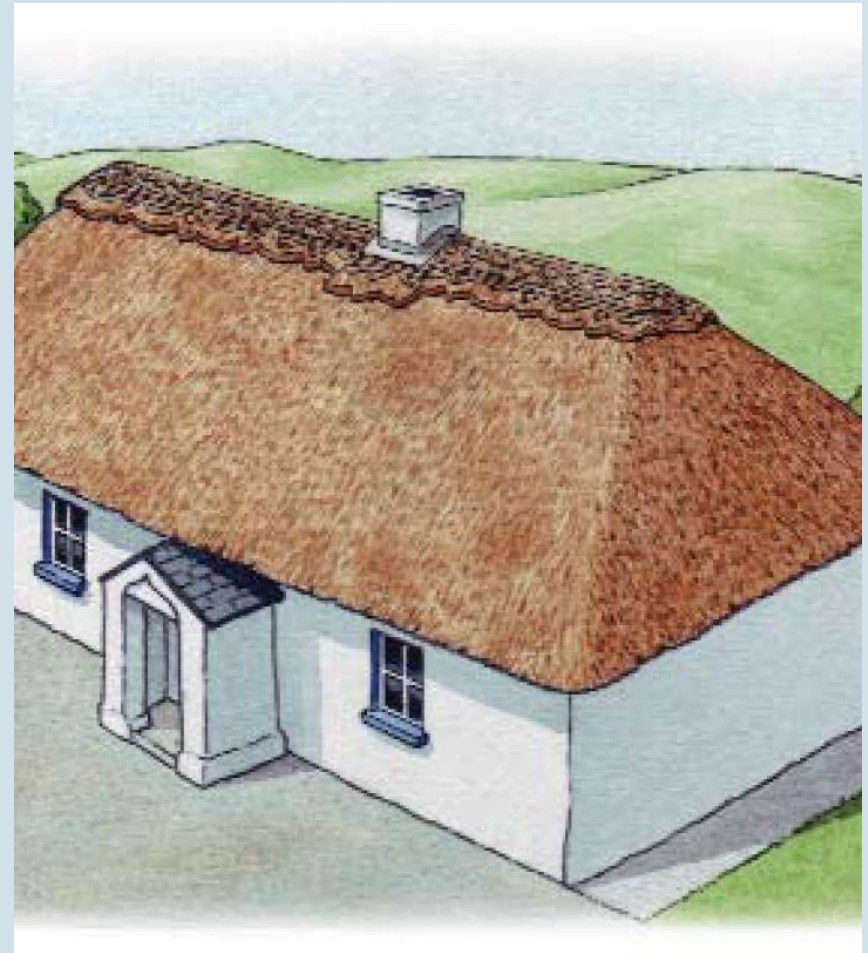
Western Cottage

- Animals would have been housed in some of these dwellings, and so a drain would be included for waste.
- Materials used: stone, mud, peat, straw, timber



Eastern Cottage

- Usually more elaborate than western style
- Hipped roofs
- More detail in thatching
- More internal division



Cottage Style Development

- Cottages developed and were extended.
- Architectural influences such as Palladian and Classical styles can be seen.



Georgian Architecture

- Facade is key
 - Door focal point
 - Fanlight over door
 - Tall proportion windows
- Usually has steps leading to the door
- Commonly in a terrace



Conservation

- Three key stages to conservation (the overall process):
 - Research
 - Restore
 - Respect
- Two approaches to conservation (when carrying out work)
 - Restoration
 - Reconstruction

