

Trust proposal for Kate O'Brien's former home

■ Feasibility study of Boru House to determine the site's best use

Alan Owens

THE LIMERICK Chronicle can reveal that moves are taking place behind the scenes to place Boru House, the birthplace of famous author Kate O'Brien, into a trust, possibly negating the need for a large purchase price for the house.

Boru House on Mulgrave Street, where the author was born in 1897, has been the subject of repeated acts of vandalism over the last 12 months, and up until recently was listed for sale for €1.4m with a local estate agent.

A number of efforts to have the house restored have fallen by the wayside, due to the price placed on the house.

The house was owned by Gerard Lloyd, who left it to his three sons when he died a number of years ago.

While it is currently in probate, a first cousin of the three brothers has told the Limerick Chronicle that they are willing to have the house placed in trust, thereby removing the need for a large up-front purchase price.

"They have asked me if I could put a proposal together of how to move forward and identify con-



Tom Quinlan, left, and Tom Shortt, outside the Kate O'Brien home, Boru House, on Mulgrave Street

cepts for Boru house," said Tom Quinlan, a conservation architect, originally from Limerick and now based in Hawaii. Tom's mother Vera was born and raised in the house.

"When they asked me to put together a concept, I felt that there was an opportunity for a trust or partnership with the city. They asked me to do that and now they want to see how to

move it forward.

"The first event is not the purchase of the property, rather we will do a feasibility study to determine the best use of the site. They would be keen that there be a long term investment in the site."

These moves have been facilitated by newly-elected City Councillor Tom Shortt, who has been in contact with Tom regarding

INSIDE THIS WEEK

• Fashion	23-25
• Property	33-40
• City Life	49-60
• Motors	61-64
• Sport	65-72

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the matter of Boru House for some time.

"I think this moment should be seized on, partly the moment of Frank McCourt's death, and partly the bit of fresh thinking amongst the Lloyd family that they might be willing to buy into the concept of a trust," explained Cllr Shortt.

"I think it would make an excellent writer's museum or creative writer's centre and possibly a new site for the city library. But the council must make an active contribution to help inform this trust and move it along," added Cllr Shortt.

CHRONICLE NEWS BRIEFS

Gardai investigating an assault on Mary Street

Petula Martyn

GARDAI at Henry Street are investigating an assault on Mary Street in which a 32-year-old man sustained a serious head wound.

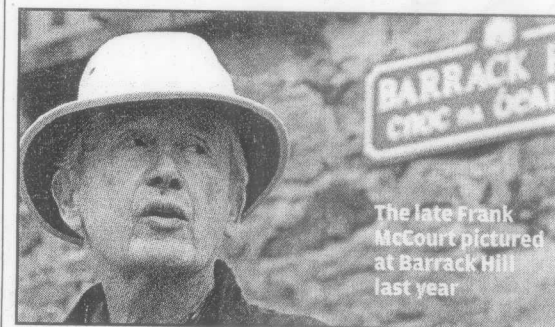
The man was hit over the head with a sharp object during an altercation with another man at

8.50pm on Monday night.

The injured man was brought to the Mid Western Regional Hospital where he received 20 staples to the wound on his head.

His injuries are not believed to be life threatening.

The assailant has not been arrested at this stage of the investigation.



The late Frank McCourt pictured at Barrack Hill last year

Ashes divided between Limerick and New York

Continued from page 1

on Sunday in a hospice in New York, surrounded by his loved ones.

McCourt had successfully beaten the skin cancer, melanoma, but the condition had left him susceptible to meningitis, which he contracted two weeks ago and which ultimately proved fatal.

As he was speaking to the Limerick Chronicle yesterday, Malachy McCourt said the former

"I'm glad I finally got to know what I know about Frank - what an extraordinary human being, and how brilliant he was, and had great humility," he said.

Limerick City Council have opened a book of condolences at City Hall, Merchant's Quay.

Minister for Defence Willie O'Dea was one of a legion of politicians and public figures to offer his condolences to the

Bereaved Stack family's thanks for support