

BLAZE: INVESTIGATIONS AFTER FIRE AT NORTH CIRCULAR ROAD

Landmark house destroyed by fire

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INVESTIGATIONS are continuing after one of the most historic houses in the city was gutted by fire.

The former Bishop's Palace at the North Circular Road was destroyed by the inferno, which took place on Thursday night last.

Four units of Limerick Fire and Rescue service attended the scene of the fire, at Kilmoyle House, the former residence of Bishop Donal Murray at the North Circular Road.

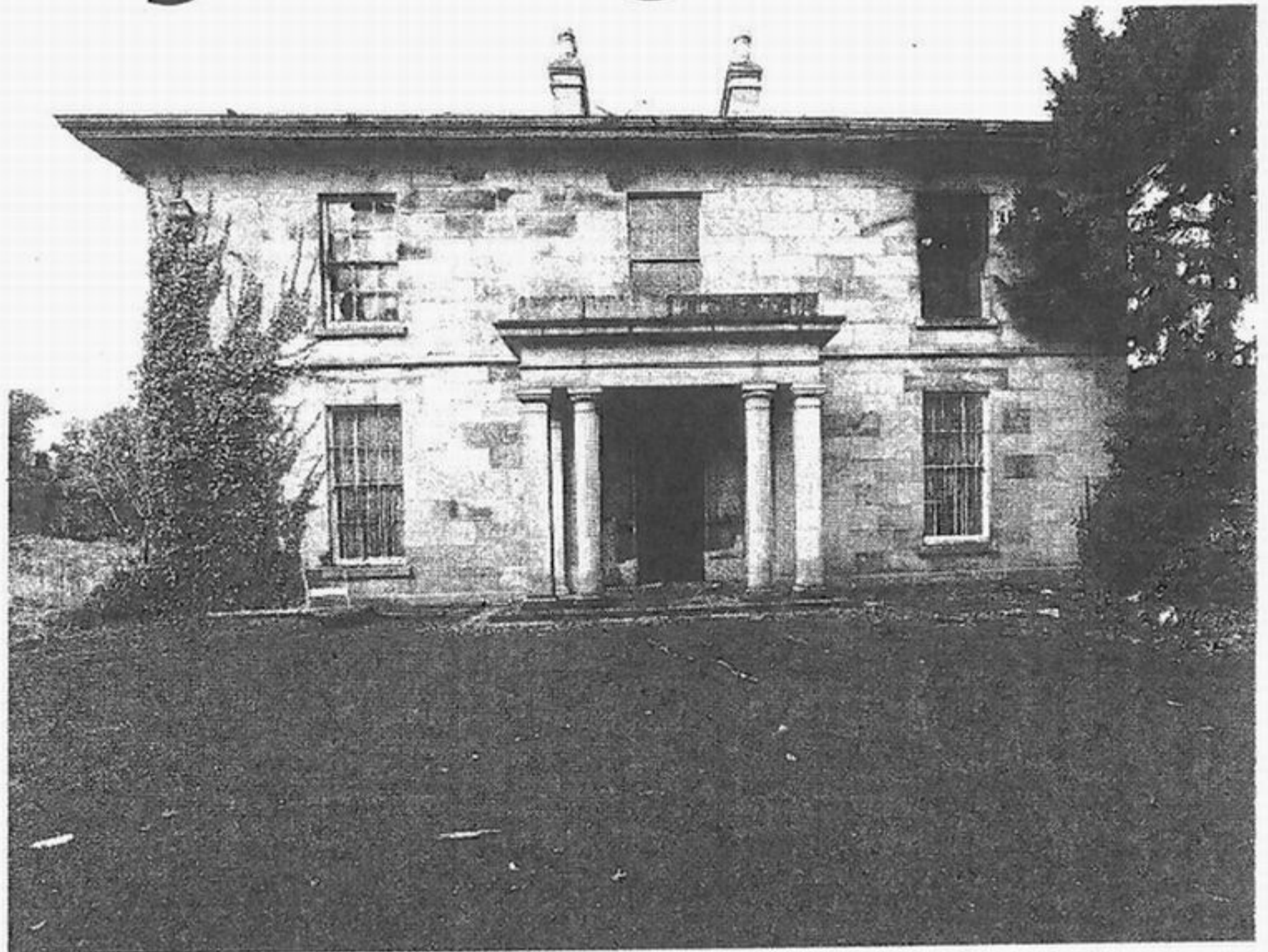
They remained on the scene for over four hours battling the blaze at the eight-bedroom, three-storey property.

As recently as 2014, the landmark property was bought by businessman Gerry McManus, a brother of philanthropist JP McManus for a cut price fee in the region of €1.1m.

He visited the scene of the fire on Friday morning, Kilmoyle which has not been occupied for years,

The property was for a time one of the most expensive in the country, with Aidan Brooks snapping it up for €26m. He sold it to Mr McManus in 2007.

It is understood the interior of the house has been extensively damaged, with



Members of Limerick Fire and Rescue Service remained at the scene of a fire at the former Bishop's Palace in the North Circular Road for over four hours on Thursday night

PICTURE: LIAM BURKE/PRESS22

the gardai sealing the premises off pending a technical examination.

No-one was injured, however.

Built around 1845, Kilmoyle House has 7,159 square feet of living space, and is listed as a building of important architectural heritage.

The property also comes with a 650 sq ft mews attached to its north side which was built around 1960.

It is believed Mr McManus was planning to carry out remedial works at the historic house.

In a post on Facebook, Limerick band Foxjaw said they are "seriously gutted" to hear of the razing of the old Bishop's Palace.




"[It] is where we finished recording our first album, the Devil in Music and recorded our entire second album, Ghost's Parade. Even the music video to our song, That Old Chestnut was re-

corded in the house," the rock group said.

The cause remains unclear. Mayorstone Gardai are investigating and can be contacted at 061-456980.

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