

Houses (Description Cards) (1 of 3)

Card 1:

Mill Worker's House (Belfast)

These were terraced houses built for the workers in the mills. They were typically 'two up, two down' houses meaning that a living room and kitchen were downstairs and upstairs there were two bedrooms. There was little light or fresh air in the houses and no running water, so people found it difficult to keep clean. The houses were often damp because they were built from cheap materials. Toilets, located outside at the end of the row, were shared among all the houses. There were no yards, gardens or open spaces.



Houses (Description Cards) (2 of 3)

Card 2:

Mill Worker's House (Sion Mills)

The houses were two storey with a kitchen, living room, dining room and a small enclosed yard on the ground floor. Upstairs there were two bedrooms and a bathroom. The houses were terraced dwellings of a simple rectangular form with plastered walls and grey natural slate pitched roofs.

Sion Mills village had about 240 mill workers' houses with large open spaces nearby; these included Church Square, the Park, a riverside area and an organised recreational area at the mill which was within walking distance.



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Houses (Description Cards) (3 of 3)

Card 3:

Mill Owner's House (Glenmachan, Belfast)

Land at Glenmachan off the Old Holywood Road in east Belfast was purchased by the prominent Belfast architect of the time, Thomas Jackson, who proceeded to build Glenmachan House as his own residence. It was completed in 1879 and sold to Sir William Ewart one of the best known linen mill owners in Ulster.

Glenmachan House, a large house with four sitting rooms and eight bedrooms was set in its own extensive grounds of 33 acres. The house also had stables, a conservatory and a sweeping entrance. It had two bathrooms and a lavatory with 'ample pantries and culinary accommodation'.

C.S. Lewis, the famous author, visited this house on many occasions and would have known it very well. Mill owners' houses tended to be far away from their factories and were surrounded by large gardens. They were ornately decorated with stained glass and had expensive furnishings.

