

WWCA/B6

La Touche Collection

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Descriptive List

Identity Statement

Reference Code: IE WWCA/B6
Title: La Touche Hotel (Grand Hotel) , Greystones Collection
Date: 1893 - 1973
Level of
Description: Fonds/ Item
Extent: 2 boxes

Context

Creator

La Touche Hotel (Grand Hotel), Greystones, Co Wicklow.

Archival History/ Source of Acquisition

The collection was created by the La Touche Hotel, formerly Grand Hotel, Greystones and donated to Wicklow County Archives in 2008.

Biographical History

The Grand Hotel (later known as the La Touche Hotel) opened its doors in 1894, catering to the Anglo-Irish elite and wealthy British tourists. Designed by architect William M. Mitchell, the luxurious hotel boasted 40 rooms, a billiards room, a smoking room, and a ladies' dining room. Famously, during the Irish War of Independence, Michael Collins proposed to Kitty Kiernan at the hotel in 1921. The Grand Hotel gradually declined over the 20th century and closed its doors in 2004.

The La Touche family, originally of Huguenot descent, controlled vast estates in County Wicklow, particularly in Greystones, Delgany, and Bellevue. The La Touche family established Ireland's first private bank in the 1700s, cementing their position as one of the country's most powerful financial families. While their banking enterprise contributed to Ireland's economy, it primarily served the British elite, landlords, and wealthy Protestant businessmen. Over time, financial downturns weakened the bank, leading to its absorption into larger financial institutions in the 19th century. Bellevue House, built by David La

Touche II in 1754 was the family's main residence. This grand Georgian mansion featured elaborate gardens, sprawling woodlands, and a deer park. It served as a social hub for British officials, Protestant clergy, and wealthy landowners. By the early 1950s, Bellevue had fallen into ruin and was ultimately demolished, marking the definitive end of the family's dominance in the region.

The La Touches contributed to the development of Greystones' roads, hotels, and Protestant churches. They helped shape the Victorian seaside town, though primarily for the benefit of the wealthy elite. Today, while the La Touche name remains associated with Greystones, their once-powerful dynasty has faded into history, leaving behind only remnants of their legacy in the town's historical records and infrastructure. For more information see <http://latouchelegacy.com/>

Content and Structure

The records for the Grand Hotel, Greystones, span from 1893 to 1963 and include detailed accounts, minute books, and registers that provide an in-depth look at the hotel's operations and finances. The accounts book, starting in 1894, tracks the hotel's expenses, including advertising, furniture, wages, repairs, and various supplies like laundry, coal, and wine. The minute books document meetings of the hotel's directors and shareholders, covering topics such as profits, repairs, advertisements, and staff-related matters. They also detail treasury reports, water issues, and other operational concerns. Additional documents include the hotel's shareholder register, which lists shareholders' personal information, shares, and capital, as well as ledgers containing share transactions. Other materials include correspondence related to Francis La Touche and La Touche Holdings, and a comprehensive inventory of the La Touche Hotel's assets, including its contents and valuation, totalling £28,589:8:6.

Scope and Content

The collection houses Minute Books, Registers of Shareholders, Account Ledgers and an Inventory of Assets of the Grand Hotel, Greystones, span from 1893 to 1973.

System of Arrangement

Documents are arranged from fonds to item level description.

Collection description adheres to ISAD(G).

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1 Minute Books

1/1 11 February 1893 to 26 June 1912

Minute Book for the Grand Hotel Greystones Ltd from 1893-1912. and General Meeting of Shareholders from 1893 -1902. This book contains the monthly minutes of meetings held by the directors of the hotel, detailing profits and loss, accounts, repairs and advertisements. The back of the book details the general meetings of the shareholders, attachment of the meetings notices and reports from the hotel directors.

1 item

1/2 26 July 1912 to 27 May 1924

Minute Book for the Grand Hotel Greystones Ltd from 1912-1924. Minute book follows the format of date and location of meeting and list of those present. Minutes from previous meeting signed, profits and loss account submitted and approved, and bank account report passed and signed. Additional discussion among the directors includes repairs, salaries, advertisements, water issues, insurance and letters received by the hotel.

1 item

1/3 27 May 1924 to 30 July 1943

Minute book of the Grand Hotel, Greystones. The minute books give the flavour of what was involved in the running of the hotel. From requesting larger water mains due to shortages during their busy season, repairs required to the building, dealings with service providers, advertisements and coupon deals. The minutes also contain the treasury accounts report for the hotel over the years 1924-1943.

1 item

1/4 27 August 1943 to 08 March 1963

Grand Hotel Greystones Ltd. Minute Book dated 1943-1963. The Minute book contains details of costings for improvements to be made to the hotel. The dividends of the shares associated with the hotel, the transfer of debentures upon the death of shareholders. Bonuses

to be paid to staff, and holiday requests. The minutes also contain the treasury accounts report for the hotel over the years 1943-1963.

1 item

2 Account Book & Shares Registers

2/1 10 August 1893 to 31 July 1936

Accounts Book dating from 1893 with first pages detailing the names of the shareholders of the Grand Hotel. From 1894 the account book starts to detail the cost of running the hotel from advertising cost, furniture, utensils, wages, repairs, fuel, lighting, insurance and rates and taxes. The account book keeps a very detailed account of all the costing and their variation over the years that include cost of laundry, coal, groceries, oil and wine.

1 item

2/2 24 February 1893 to 31 March 1917

Register of the Grand Hotel, Greystones Ltd. Ordinary Shares. The register contains the name, address and occupation of the members of the Hotel. It details the numbers of shares held, the value of the shares and cash payable on the shares. The register contains an index at the front with reference to the page detailing their shares information. Occupations of the members ranged from farmers, merchants, contractors, solicitors and gentlemen. The register also contains a Summary of Capital and Shares made up on the 15 April 1893, when nominal capital was £15,000 divided into 3,000 shares of £5 each.

1 item

2/3 13 December 1913 to 09 April 1946

Ordinary Shares Preference Shares of the Grand Hotel Greystones. Ledger contains shares folios 1 to 88 of Ordinary shareholders, their names, address, description, the capital disposed of and capital acquired. Folio 89 to 94 contains details on Preference Shares. The back of the Ledger contains a register of Transfer of Ordinary and Preference Shares.

1 item

2/4 1929 to 1973

Large binder volume containing documents relating to Francis La Touche and La Touche Holdings Limited. The binder contains correspondence about the transfer of shares and certificates, Stamp duty issued by the Oifigí Poiblí na gCoimisinéirí Ioncaim, forms for lost certificates, correspondence from the Accounts office of the Courts of Justice, and Exchange Control Orders.

1 item

3 Inventory of the La Touche Hotel

3/1 August 1968

A large volume of Inventory and Valuation of the Contents, Cutlery, China, Plate ware, Glassware and Linen, The Property of the La Touche Holdings Limited situate La Touche Hotel, Greystones, Co Wicklow for asset purposes as part of a going concern”, completed by William Montgomery & Sons, 97/99 Grafton Street, Dublin 2. The first page contains a sketch to scale 1:30 of the La Touche Property. Content of the book contains every item within the Hotel starting from the entrance porch. Gent’s toilet and cloakroom, Bar and Lounge, reception lounge, back hall, middle lounge, dining room, resident’s lounge, offices, 60 bedrooms to the kitchen, housemaid’s pantry, garages and boiler house. The items were valued at a sum of £28,589:8:6.

1 item