

HISTORIC DUNDALK

SOME BUILDINGS OF NOTE



THE OLD GAOL

Built between 1845 and 1853 to relieve problems of the undersized gaol (now Dundalk Town Hall). Designed by John Neville, the total cost of the gaol when completed was £23,000. The Italianate building is situated on a site known as Gallows Hill. The entrance building or Governor's house became home to the Garda Síochána in 1945, while the cell blocks are now occupied by the Louth County Archive.



DUNDALK COURT HOUSE

Began in 1813 and finished in 1818 for the sum of £11,198 and on the site of the 'old courthouse', it was designed by Edward Park, Dublin for the County Louth Grand Jury. The build contract stipulated that the true proportions and rules of Grecian architecture be strictly followed. The design of the portico followed the dimensions of the Temple of Thesus in Athens.



OLD LOUTH HOSPITAL

Built in 1834 and designed by architect Thomas Smith in Tudor-Gothic style. The building is now used by the nearby Grammar School. It was designed to compliment the elegant Stapleton Place, named after Maria Frances Catherine Stapleton, wife of the third Earl of Roden. The street being laid out in 1813 but not completed for another 100 years.



SEATOWN WINDMILL

Standing seven storeys high the windmill was a said to have been one of the largest in Ireland. While no precise date has been established for its construction, evidence points to its existence in the early 1790's. An increase in the production of oats and wheat during the Napoleonic wars, was probably the main reason for its construction. Prior to the building of the Windmill the site had been occupied by a brewery. It has not been in use since about 1855.



ST. PATRICKS CATHEDRAL

St. Patrick's Church Roden Place, more commonly referred to as the Cathedral was completed in 1847. It is a late Georgian Perpendicular Gothic Church, modelled on King's College Chapel in Cambridge. It consisting of nine bays of coursed granite with pinnacled buttresses dividing each bay, and a single large perpendicular window filling each gable. The cost was £25,000 and monies were raised through local subscription.



THE TOWN HALL

In 1856, a group of businessmen, led by Robert Jocelyn, 3rd Earl of Roden commissioned the building as a corn exchange for the town, it was designed in the Italianate style at a cost of £7045. Once complete, it was offered for sale in 1864 to the town commission for £4,000. In 1899 the town commissioners became the urban district council, with the building becoming their new offices.



'SEATOWN CASTLE'

The Franciscan Friary Seatown or as it is known locally 'Seatown Castle' was founded c1246 by John De Verdun, great-great-grandson of Bertram de Verdun. In 1315 the friary was looted and burned down by Edward Bruce's army, who also killed the guardian and twenty-two friars. The friary had land for the grazing of cattle and the growing of corn, also a corn-mill, orchard and a fish weir on the Castletown river. Only ruins of the belltower remain.



GREAT NORTHERN BREWERY

The Great Northern Brewery began production in 1896 and was the second largest brewery in Ireland, after St. James's Gate. Bought in the late 1950's by Smithwick's Ale, and thereafter by Guinness. Until 1960, the brewery produced stout & ale, but it became the Harp lager brewery under Guinness. In 2015 the brewery closed, and the site is now owned by John Teeling and converted for operation as a whiskey distillery, the Great Northern Distillery.



'THE GREEN CHURCH'

Dating to the early 13th century and built at the time of the Norman conquests, it is dedicated to St. Nicholas of Myra patron saint of Sea Mariners. The distinctive green copper spire dates from 1932 but is an replica of an earlier spire from 1787. Its green spire has resulted in the church being nicknamed "The Green Church". Burials in its churchyard include people from all walks of life, from nobility and businessmen to tradesmen and working-class.

HISTORIC DUNDALK

AN INDUSTRIAL POWERHOUSE

Dundalk has long been a town shaped by industry, trade, and manufacturing, with its growth, employment and heritage rooted in these sectors. From its earliest settlement, the town thrived through its connections to the UK and Europe via its bustling port. During the Industrial Revolution and post-Victorian era, Dundalk became a manufacturing powerhouse. Notable companies like the Great Northern Brewery, Macardle Moore Brewery, Malcolm Brown Whiskey Distillery, P.J. Carroll's tobacco factory, Clarks, Hallidays, Connolly's and Rawson's Shoes, the G.N.R.I Railway, Dundalk Port Company, Heinkel Car Manufacturing, and D.E.W Engineering contributed to its significant employment and export-driven economy.

A FEW INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR

P.J. CARROLLS TOBACCO FACTORY
(Now Dundalk County Museum)

GREAT NORTHERN DISTILLERY
(Previously the Great Northern Brewery)

CLARKE RAILWAY STATION
(Now Dundalk Railway Station)

THE 'DUNDALK STYLE' OF ARCHITECTURE

The Dundalk Style is an ornate, highly decorated architecture that was in vogue in the second half of the nineteenth century. Invented by the rich merchants of Dundalk it was admired and copied around the country, under the name "The Dundalk Style", given it by the Irish Builder Magazine in 1867.

The **MAID OF ERIN STATUE** was erected in 1899 to commemorate the 1798 Rebellion led by Theobald Wolfe Tone. Located at the front of the courthouse on the market square.



THE KELLY MONUMENT

fronting the Pro Cathedral of St. Patrick's commemorates the death of Capt. James Kelly, Gerald Hughes, James Crosby and James Murphy who were drowned in a heroic attempt to save the crew of the ill fated "MARY STODDART" wrecked in a violent storm in Dundalk bay on the 6th April 1858.



DUNDALK BAY & THE NAVY BANK

A DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS INITIATIVE

In the early 19th century with the introduction of steam and an increase in the size of the ships using Dundalk port, it became essential for the depth of the water channel to be increased.

It was agreed that a new channel be constructed between Soldiers' Point and the Quays in Dundalk. This man-made embankment was dug by 'NAVIES', deriving its name from 'NAVIGATORS' thus giving its name to the area; 'The Navy Bank'.

This is a beautiful 2km walk and is full of diverse wildlife, as well as being one of the most important habitats for native and migratory birds in Ireland.



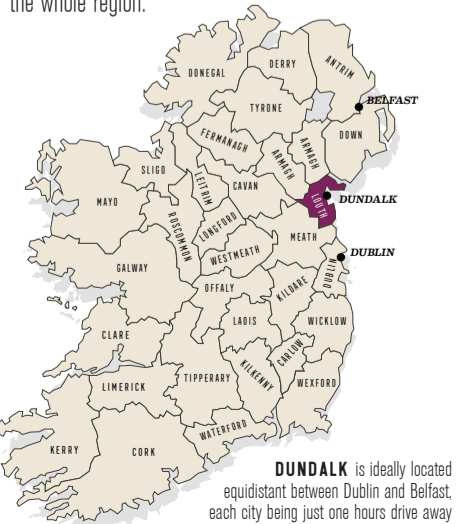
HISTORIC DUNDALK

a BRIEF HISTORY

AN EARLY SETTLEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dundalk Town, located on the eastern coast of County Louth, is a town with a rich history dating back to very ancient times. Its name derives from the Irish "Dún Dealgan," meaning the fort of Dealgan, who was a mythical figure in Irish folklore. The town has been a strategic settlement due to its location between the Mourne Mountains and the Irish Sea, making it a hub for commerce and defence since 1185.

The earliest evidence of settlement in Dundalk dates from the Bronze Age, with archaeological discoveries revealing significant human activity in the area. However, the town's importance primarily grew during the early medieval period, particularly in the 12th century, when the Normans arrived in Ireland. Dundalk then became a prominent settlement under the control of the powerful 'De Lacy' family. They built a castle in the town, which helped establish Dundalk as a key military and trade center for the whole region.



DUNDALK is ideally located equidistant between Dublin and Belfast, each city being just one hours drive away

ECONOMIC AND TRADING GROWTH

During the 16th and 17th centuries, Dundalk's growth continued, influenced by its location as a port for trade between Dublin and Belfast. It was also an important center for the linen industry, and by the 19th century, it had developed a diverse economy, with textile manufacturing, brewing, and distilling emerging as key industries and some of the towns principal employers. The town's proximity to the border with Northern Ireland also played a role in its strategic importance during the Irish War of Independence and the subsequent Civil War.

A TOWN FOR THE 20TH CENTURY

Dundalk saw significant expansion in the 20th century with the construction of new housing and infrastructure and its location equidistant between Dunlin and Belfast has only reinforced its importance as one of Irelands largest towns with a its diverse economy, including modern manufacturing, education and services. Today, Dundalk remains an important cultural and economic center in County Louth, with a rich heritage preserved in its historical buildings, museums, and festivals, making it a town proud of its past and optimistic about its future.



Comhairle Contae Lú
Louth County Council

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THIS WALKING TOUR MAP AND GUIDE HAS BEEN PRODUCED FOR YOU BY THE DUNDALK TIDY TOWNS ASSOCIATION TO HELP YOU EXPLORE DUNDALK'S RICH HISTORY AND ITS UNIQUE ARCHITECTURE.

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HISTORIC DUNDALK

WALKING TOUR MAP AND HERITAGE GUIDE



WELCOME TO OUR WALKING TOUR OF DUNDALK TOWN, CO. LOUTH. DUNDALK IS A VERY HISTORICAL AND A UNIQUE TOWN FIRST SETTLED IN THE 12TH CENTURY. A TOWN OF SIGNIFICANT IMPORTANCE DURING THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION WITH STRONG TRADING CONNECTIONS TO THE UK. IT IS A TOWN OF CONTRASTS, DIVERSE ARCHITECTURE AS WELL AS ITS CHARM AS A COASTAL TOWN.

