

# Youghal Heritage Trail

## Visitor Map

## Legend

- |                        |                                 |   |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 1 Site of the Exchange | 7 The Red House                 | 13 The College                          |
| 2 Water Gate           | 8 Tynte's Castle                | 14 Medieval College Gardens             |
| 3 Clock Gate           | 9 Boyles Almshouses             | 15 Quaker Meeting House & Burial Ground |
| 4 Benedictine Priory   | 10 Myrtle Grove                 | 16 St. Mary's Catholic Church           |
| 5 The Magazine         | 11 St. Mary's Collegiate Church | 17 Town Hall                            |
| 6 Market Place         | 12 Landward Town Walls          |   |

- Sites marked in blue are inaccessible to the public
- P Parking
- 🏠 Accommodation
- 🚻 Public Toilets
- G Garda Station
- i Tourist Information





# Youghal Town

## History and Historical Sites

### Site of the Exchange

The first exchange was constructed in 1672 and was situated outside the old town wall fronting onto the medieval quays, northwest of the Water Gate. It was demolished in the mid 18th Century and replaced by a new building in 1753. This provided for the civic affairs of the town, housing an Exchange, Council House, Court House, Custom House and Grand Jury Room. In 1847 the Exchange building was replaced by the present Courthouse which was built as part of the famine relief works.

### Water Gate

This was built in the 13th Century to provide access through the town walls to the docks. It is still known as Cromwell's Arch, as this is the place from which Oliver Cromwell left Ireland in 1650.

### Clock Gate

This is the third gate on this site in the town walls and was completed in 1777. The tower was used as the town gaol until the mid-19th century. Prisoners were executed by hanging from the windows.

### Benedictine Priory

Also known as St John's House it is a former 12th-century Irish Benedictine monastery situated in the centre of the Town. The monastery was founded in 1185. It was a double monastery in that it also served as a hospital for the sick. Oliver Cromwell made his headquarters in Youghal during the winter of 1649 and he inspected his troops every morning from the beautiful monastery windows. Small portions of the building still survive, which include a Gothic moulded door, ornamental spandrels and a gable-end with period window. The archway beyond the door leads to a passage of the original structure

### The Magazine

An urban tower house known at the Magazine was situated on the front of the property now located at 54 North Main Street. This building was supposedly occupied by Oliver Cromwell when he wintered his army in the town in 1649-1650. The Magazine was demolished in 1845 as part of construction works for the present building.

Youghal is a historically famous town of international renown, located in a beautifully sheltered harbour on the south coast of Ireland and a key location within Ireland's Ancient East. The town has a long and varied history, springing from its origins as a medieval walled port town and connections with many of the major events in Irish history. Youghal blossomed through the medieval period and on into the eighteenth century, before declining in the mid-nineteenth century.

### Market Place

This point marks the location of the linear Medieval Market Place, which can be seen in the noticeable widening of the street. Market Places were a key part of Medieval towns, particularly from the 13th Century onwards, when there was a period of tremendous growth and economic expansion

### The Red House

The Red House was built in the early 18th Century for the Uniacke family. It is reputed to be the only example of the Dutch or Queen Anne style town house continuing in use as a private dwelling in Ireland.

### Tynte's Castle

This 15th Century Norman tower was used by a local merchant family as a house and as a store for valuable goods. It is unusual to have such a fortified dwelling built inside the town walls. Sir Robert Tynte owned the tower in the early 17th Century - he married the widow of the poet Edmund Spenser.

### Boyles Almshouses

Richard Boyle, 1st Earl of Cork built these almshouses in 1613, the oldest in Ireland. They were built with a promise to provide "Five Pounds apiece for each of ye old decayed soldiers". The pledge was later extended to their widows. Distinctly Jacobean in style, there are six almshouses altogether, four front North Main Street, while the remaining two face Church Street. The almshouses retained their original use until the 19c, when they underwent alterations to provide homes for senior citizens.

### Myrtle Grove

This attractive house was the home of Sir Walter Raleigh when he was resident in Youghal. It was purchased by Richard Boyle, first Earl of Cork, in 1602. It was a fine example of a late medieval dwelling.

### St. Mary's Collegiate Church

The church was built in 1220 and extended in the 14th and 15th Centuries. It is one of the few parish churches of the period still in use in Ireland. It has a fascinating history which is fully illustrated in the church.

### Landward Town Walls

The first record of the town walls is a charter of 1275, granted by King Edward I, for their repair and extension. The walls surrounded the town on the shoreline as well as inland. Most of the inland portion still survives today.

### The College & College Gardens

The College was founded in 1464 by Thomas Fitzgerald, 7th Earl of Desmond, with students arriving within a year. Students would typically have been teenagers, the sons of wealthy nobles and merchants. The College was so renowned around Europe that a Papal Bull of Pope Innocent VIII in 1492 refers to the College as "University of the City of Youghal". It was Gerald Fitzgerald, 14th Earl of Desmond who captured the town from the English during the Desmond rebellion in 1579 - he ransacked the town and destroyed the town walls during the few weeks he had control of it. In 1587 The College & Gardens passed into the hands of Sir Walter Raleigh who in turn sold it to Sir Richard Boyle for £1500 in 1602.

Boyle rebuilt it as his home then added the five turrets around the house and walls in 1641. Roger Boyle, his son and famed dramatist, was born here. It remained in private ownership until 2001 when it was bought by the former Youghal Town Council. Today, the gardens are open to the public during daytime and the impressive town walls dominate the gardens from the higher ground. Splendid views over Youghal are to be had from the top.



Sir. Walter Raleigh  
Mayor of Youghal, 1588/89

However, the arrival of the railway in 1860 revived the town as a Victorian seaside resort, which was largely focused on the Strand area of Youghal, to the southwest of the historical town centre. It is this history that has brought us the Youghal of today - a distinct and unique place, which blends a modern town centre, teaming with tangible historic character and curiosity, complimented by the beaches and waterside amenities of a seaside suburb. We hope you enjoy visiting our heritage town and many of the historic sites we have identified on this map.

### Quaker Meeting House & Burial Ground

The Society of Friends, or Quakers, was founded in the 17th Century with the first recorded Friends Meeting for Worship held in Ireland dating back to 1654. Many Quakers were merchants and businessman who were very highly regarded. According to historical sources, the Quakers built the first meeting house in Youghal in 1681 - the present building is a combination of 19th & 20th Century alterations and modifications. A Quaker burial ground lies to the south west of the meeting house and is surrounded by a stone wall. Quaker burial grounds are usually very simple in their layout with plain, uniform grave stones, or none at all.

### St. Mary's Catholic Church

St. Mary's Catholic Church was built in 1796 by public subscription and a donation of £700 by Dr. William Coppinger, Bishop of Cloyne. The spire of the Church was removed in 1919 due to its unsound condition. The interior of the Church is constructed in a simple, classical design with a marble altar and classical style columns supporting the gallery and roof. St. Mary's still functions as the parish church for the town of Youghal.

### Town Hall

The Town Hall and the fashionable 140 yard long tree-lined promenade were created on Parliament Quay in 1772-9. The building stands on land that was reclaimed from the river in the 18th Century. The building was used for the business of the local authority and borough courts of this time. The building also contained an assembly room where concerts and balls were held. A public library and reading rooms were established in 1824. Today, the Town Hall houses the Municipal District Offices of Cork County Council..

