

Roscommon Town

Map and Heritage Guide



Designed and produced by the
Roscommon Heritage Group

Edition II - March 2007

Roscommon



25. Roscommon Castle 1269



1. The Museum 1865
Formerly Presbyterian Church



5. The Old Gaol mid 1700s now called The Stone Court, Post Office, red brick, early 20th century



Roscommon Heritage Group Publications
Sacred Heart Church Centenary Booklet
Roscommon/Kiltrees Placenames and Maps
Pocket Guide to the Town Monuments



23. Swimming Pool 2000



21. The Courthouse 1821



20. The Sacred Heart Church 1897-1905



19. The Old Infirmary 1785
Reconstructed 1880
as Co. Library



18. Lisavault Community Centre



Roscommon Gaol 1269



TOWN PARK



LEVER ROAD



Swimming Pool Handball Alley



Kingdom Hall



Playing Fields



Gym



Girls' Primary School 1883



Girls' Secondary School



Government Offices



Boys' Secondary School



Co. Roscommon V.E.I. Community College



Railway Station



Military Barracks 1785



Southside of Lake



The Abbey Hotel



The Old Abbey



The Old Abbey



16. The Abbey Hotel



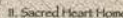
15. The Old Abbey
Dominican Abbey 1256
Patric O'Connor's tomb &
14th-century Altar Front



The Old Abbey



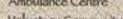
The Old Abbey



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The Old Abbey



The Old Abbey



The Old Abbey



10. St. Coman's Church 1778
Graveyard with remnants of
Augustinian Abbey



7. St. Coman's Monument
on site of St. Coman's Vat
or Well 2005



13. Lion's Gate 1787



14. Kilmaine Church &
Mausoleum



Kilmaine Church & Mausoleum



12. Famine Memorial Garden
Gable with workhouse bell
and Gothic doorway from
boys' senior school 1885



Golf Course

NOTE: PARK
Derry Gaol Bridge
284 Mts. Station, 'Haila' ditch
Lion's Gate, Crofton Mausoleum

Girl Guides Old
forded trail, ring
forts

Key to Map

- 1

The County Museum: A former Presbyterian Church, it contains artefacts from the 12th century and many historical items of local interest.
- 2

The Hayden Monument: Erected by the people of the town as a tribute to Luke Hayden MP, a Parnellite candidate of the Home Rule Party in the British House of Commons from 1885-1897. He was proprietor of the local newspaper, *The Messenger*, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for 17 years and one of the founding members of the Land League.
- 3

The Harrison Hall: Once a 17th-century Sessions House, this building was remodelled by George Esner in 1792 as a courthouse and Market House, and became the Catholic Church in 1836. After 1903 it became a Hall to commemorate Dr. John Harrison. Used as a dance hall, cinema and theatre, it was sold to the Bank of Ireland in the 1970s.
- 4

Byrne Monument: Erected to the memory of eminent veterinary surgeon William Byrne of Castlestrange, who died in 1910.
- 5

The Old Gaol: Built in the mid-1700s with 40 cells and reputed to have had the only female hangwoman, Lady Betty, in the country. The gallows position can still be seen on the third storey. It served for a time (until about 1840) as a mental institution.
- 6

Round Tower: The corner between Castle Street and Lanesborough Street is shown as a tower on the 1736 Essex map. Construction at the top and on the eastern side seems to relate it to the Old Jail.
- 7

St Coman's Well: The well appears on the Essex map of 1736 and a lease of 1800. The field has always been known as the Hummaun Field and the well as Dabhnach Chomain or Ducomane. It no longer produces water and its location is marked by a stone monument outside the entrance to Dunnes Stores.
- 8

Chapel Lane: Some ancient carved stones from an old National School in the area are set into the wall at the site of a Penal Church which was turned into a National School in 1842. From 1853 the Mercy nuns lived in a house on the lane. A stone water font dated 1717, said to be from the Penal Church, can be seen in the Sacred Heart Church. A Crucifixion Plaque is located nearby.
- 9

The East Gate: A gateway stood across the southern end of Main Street until the beginning of the 19th century. It is shown on the 1736 map by Francis Plunkett and was sketched by Rev Daniel Beaufort, father of Francis Beaufort, originator of the Beaufort Scale for estimating wind speed, in his Diary of his travels through Ireland in 1808. The gate does not appear on the OS map of 1838.
- 10

St. Coman's Church: The site is claimed to be that of St. Coman's first church and also the location of an early Augustinian foundation. Early decorated stonework can be found in the door and window casings of the tower. An important 9th-century gravestone (now in the County Museum) was located here. Decorated slabs in the interior and the graveyard date from the early Christian and Medieval times.
- 11

Teach de hÍde: This was the Gatehouse and Masters Residence of the Workhouse, now known as the Sacred Heart Home. Erected in 1842 at the cost of £8,822, it was designed for 700 paupers but housed up to 1,600 people during the famine years. It is now used as a geriatric hospital.

- 12

Famine Memorial Garden: At former Roscommon Union Workhouse, built in 1842. Famine Memorial Garden built in 1998 with two Gothic doorways and quoins from 1883 Senior Boys School, now demolished. Workhouse bell. Sculpture by Maurice Harron.
- 13

Lion's Gate: Main entrance to the Crofton estate of Mote Park. Date 1787 on right hand gable high up. Mote Park House now demolished.
- 14

Kilmaine Church and Mausoleum: Medieval church ruin with Crofton Mausoleum as a later addition. Pilgrimage Wayside Cross in field behind it.
- 15

The Dominican Priory: Founded for the Dominicans in 1256 by Felim O'Connor, whose tomb, consisting of a stone recumbent figure dating from 1290, can be seen surmounting a 15th-century tomb with eight Gallógí, or mail clad figures with swords. The tower remained until 1792. In 1577 the church and grounds were taken over by Sir Nicholas Malby. After 1698 the friars left but remained in nearby villages until the mid-19th century.
- 16

Abbey Hotel: Eighteenth and 19th-century property of Stephen St. Lawrence Burke. In 1915 it became the property of the O'Connor family until it was bought by Thomas Greally in the 1960s and converted into a hotel.
- 17

The Old Military Barracks: Erected in 1702 after the Jacobite war. One hundred and sixty three men were listed as members of the garrison housed in the town in 1813. In 1860 the Midland and Western Railway encroached on its parade ground and the garrison moved to Athlone. Later the old barracks was used as a private residence and for Co. Council purposes.
- 18

Lisnamult Community Centre: Houses community centre for over 100 houses with childcare facilities and children's playground and sports field.
- 19

The County Library: Formerly a hospital known as the Old Infirmary, this building dates from 1783, with the wings on either side of a later date. An early surgeon here, Dr. Lysaght, was renowned for plastic surgery. In the 1940s the hospital was transferred to the new buildings on Athlone Road. The Old Infirmary was completely reconstructed and refitted as the County Library and Development offices in the 1980s.
- 20

The Sacred Heart Church: The church was designed by Mr. P.J. Kilgannon of Boyle and the foundation stone was laid in 1897. It was opened for use in 1903 and the tower was completed in 1916. Extensive mosaic work was carried out by Russian artists and copies of Italian masterpieces are incorporated into the altar front and the organ gallery. Much of the money for construction was given by benefactors from North and South America. The Rose window above the organ depicts the patron saints of every Diocese in Ireland.
- 21

The Courthouse: Designed in 1821 by Sir Richard Morrison and completed in 1828 as a Courthouse and Grand Jury headquarters, it stills serves as a courthouse but also contains the County Council offices and Council Chamber. A steamroller, the first to be brought across the Shannon, can be seen nearby.
- 22

The Methodist Church: In 1820 a Methodist Chapel was erected by Mr. Michael Sheera, last governor of the Old Jail. The church was erected in 1905.
- 23

Swimming Pool: Erected by Roscommon County Council in 2000 on site of previous swimming pool.

- 24

The National School: Located behind the post office, this school (now demolished) was erected in 1880 for older boys. A carved plaque, broken, built into the wall mentions the names O'Connor and Davys. Gothic entrance doors and quoins from an earlier building are now built into the Famine Memorial Garden (No.12) and a small open space at the east end of Athlone Road.
- 25

The Castle: Built in 1269 by Robert de Ufford, a Norman Chief Justice, it has four corner towers and a double towered entrance gate. Over the centuries it has been held by both Irish and English. After 1698 Sir Nicholas Malby Governor of Connaught, made alterations and added mullioned windows. A road leading east from the Castle is still known as the Walk and was used to exercise horses.

Nearby places of interest:

- Strokestown Park House & Famine Museum, Strokestown
- St. John's Heritage Centre, Strokestown
- King House, Boyle
- Lough Key Forest Park, Boyle
- La Tène Stone (rare decorated Iron Age stone), Castlestrange
- Clonalis House (home of the O'Conor Don), Castlerea
- Cruchan Aí, (Heritage Centre for Rathcroghan Royal Inauguration site), Tulsk
- Iron Age Bog Causeway, near Kenagh, Co. Longford

Other Roscommon Heritage Group Publications:

- Sacred Heart Church Centenary Booklet
- Roscommon/Kilteevan Placenames and Maps Booklet

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