



# Take the Lurgan Town Trail...

A journey of discovery following the heritage buildings of Lurgan. In all parts of the town are to be found many impressive examples erected by talented local builders and craftsmen. They have an appeal deeper than can be conveyed by mere terms of brick, stone and plaster. Discover the treasure of our past by taking a fresh look at the rich architectural legacy left by previous generations.



*Lurgan*  
town trail



For further information, please contact:  
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discover  
the treasure of our past...

# lurgan town trail

## preface



For the past 400 years the town of Lurgan in County Armagh, Northern Ireland has been a beacon of fine heritage and architecture. Founded in the early 17th century, Lurgan has developed a heart around some of the finest buildings on the Island of Ireland.

Within the town centre is the largest urban park in Northern Ireland, 200 acres in size including a 59 acre lake. No other town offers such a stark yet complimentary contrast between historic buildings and the peace and serenity of the natural environment.

We would therefore encourage you to visit Lurgan and be amazed at the magnificence of its built heritage before taking time to pause and reflect in the tranquility of Lurgan Park.

The buildings of Lurgan are a precious heritage. They have an appeal deeper than can be conveyed by mere terms of brick, stone and plaster. A tangible record of lives well spent, they tell of contented possession and of love of home, and town and memory.

They have witnessed the passing generations of townspeople and live as outward symbols of their intellectual and spiritual life. Considered as some of the best examples of Ulster architecture, these buildings have much to recommend them and quietly assert themselves as works of merit to which time has given added value. In them are exhibited the true principles of building and work, showing so much knowledge and skill in the use of materials indigenous to the locality.

Ever present there is a feeling of harmony ranking them high in the scale of accomplishment. The buildings selected for this guide are the result of a variety of influences and fulfil many conditions which make for good architecture - careful design, consideration for neighbours, thoughtful and appropriate use of materials.

We are indebted to the members of Craigavon Historical Society who originally produced this publication. Now revised and updated we hope it will whet your appetite to explore a town which cannot fail to engage your senses.

**Kieran Clendinning**  
**Craigavon Historical Society**

# introduction

In 1610, during the Plantation of Ulster by James I, John Brownlow of Nottingham was granted 1500 acres of land at Doughcarron, including Lurgevallivacken, to hold forever at a total rent of £8. His son William joined him the same year taking a further 1000 acres at Ballynamoney for a rent of £5.6s.8p per annum. The name "Lurgan" first appeared in the grant dated 1629 to William Brownlow giving permission for a weekly market and two annual fairs.

William Brownlow died in 1660 and John's grandson, Arthur Brownlow, inherited the estate when he came of age. He quickly set about developing Lurgan, granting his tenants renewable leases to ensure stability of tenure. He stipulated the size of dwellings which his tenants must erect (20 to 30 feet long and 18 to 20 feet high) and also required that they leave a right-of-way through their tenements or small holdings to his estate. The buildings of the town would originally have been mud or stone walled with thatched or shingled roofs; thatched houses remained common until the late 19th century.

Despite demolition and redevelopment in the 20th century the essential character of the main street is much as it was 100 years ago.



Arthur Brownlow was largely responsible for the early development of linen manufacture in the area, introducing weaving to his tenants and buying their produce. The practice enabled small family farms in the district to support a number of adults - subdivision of farmland by successive generations (without the supplementary income provided by linen) would not otherwise have been sustainable.

Between 1710 and 1779 there was a ten fold increase in the export of linen cloth from Ireland to 18 million yards, most of it from Ulster. It was still produced primarily by small farmers and their families who sold their work at local markets. Many fortunes were made in the 18th century through commerce in linen and these were used to finance the development of Lurgan, and industrialisation of linen manufacture in the latter half of the 19th century.

Despite demolition and redevelopment in the 20th century the essential character of the main street is much as it was 100 years ago. The laneways leading off it still reveal evidence of the rows of workers houses, factories, warehouses and farm buildings which were once so typical of and important to the town. Some of these laneways are open to the public but, if in doubt, you are requested to respect the privacy of the owners.

Numerals in brackets throughout the trail refer to map references.

We hope that you enjoy the trail.

# lurgan town trail

We start our trail at the car park in Robert Street beside the coursed rubble wall which runs unbroken from High Street down to the side entrance of Lurgan Park. This defines the length of the tenements held by the original English settlers of Lurgan when they arrived in the early 17th century. Tenements varied in size but averaged approximately 30m wide by 200m long and most, if not all, would have contained small holdings and even farmyards. They occupied both sides of along ridge, approximately 150 feet above mean sea level, bounded on the west by a stream and on the east by bog land.



This area had originally been called in the Gaelic “Lurga bhaile mhac Cann”, the long ridge townland of the McCanns. This was anglicised to Lurgevallivacken and for obvious reasons this was later truncated to Ballylurgan or Lurgan. The early years of settlement were troubled, culminating in the 1641 rising when the wall round the original castle was razed and the town was partially burned. However by the end of the 17th century the town had become firmly established and in the 18th century rural based linen, tanning and farming, with their requirements for urban markets and services, brought prosperity to the town.

In 1778 the first Methodist place of worship (a small dwelling in Nettleton Court just off Queen Street) was opened by John Wesley, who had visited Lurgan as early as 1756. At the top of Robert Street on the left hand corner of Malcolm Road and Queen Street is Queen Street Methodist Church (1). This building has the simple Victorian Gothic front and cruciform roof. It was built as a mission centre for the Methodist New Connexion in 1839 but this group met with little success and the Primitive Methodists took over the building as a Meeting House in 1856.

Thomas Elias and Mary Anne Russell, parents of the poet George William Russell, were members of this Church. The Primitive and Wesleyan Methodists united in 1878 though the two church buildings in Lurgan - Queen Street and High Street (Wesleyan) - have continued in use with separate congregations.

Malcolm Road follows the line of Factory Lane, a narrow laneway which led to Malcolm's Weaving Factory. In the mid 19th century, the “cotton famine” created by the American civil war made the importance of linen greater than ever before and the value of exports in 1864 exceeded £18 million.

James Malcolm built his first power loom factory in 1855 and in 1866 established the first factory in the British Isles for hemstitching of linen by machine. Linen was the essential basis of Ulster's prosperity at this time and stimulated other enterprises both industrial and commercial.



# high street



**The first Quaker meeting for worship in Ireland was held near here in 1654 in the house of William Edmondson.**

**A**t Bengal Place (2), 49/51 High St. stood a fine pair of large 3 storey stucco houses of c1830, porches with coupled ionic columns, Greek key pattern mouldings and good ironwork. These houses were built by the Cuppage family, some of whom were officers in the Indian army, hence the association with Bengal. The houses in Bengal Place later became the Orchard County hotel, which sadly suffered damage from a terrorist bomb. Only the ground floor storey remains of these houses (left hand side of image above).

On the opposite side of the road a fine wrought iron gateway leads into the former Friends Meeting House (3). The first Quaker meeting for worship in Ireland was held near here in 1654 in the house of William Edmondson. The earliest meeting house here dated from about 1696 while the meeting house, with its Italianate facade, is predominantly from 1882. The New Meeting House was completed in 1996, 300 years from the date the site was acquired.

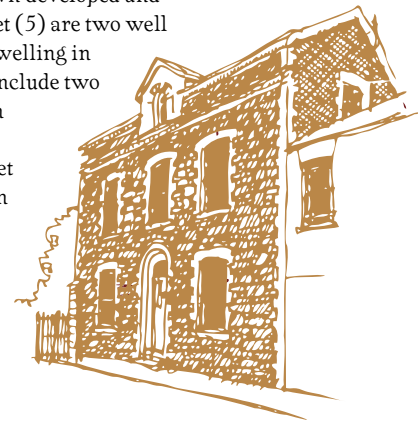


# quaker meeting house

**T**he graveyard with its simple headstones and inscriptions is found beyond the former Meeting House. Many of the early Quaker families were closely associated with the linen industry and their influence, particularly during the 18th century, was out of all proportion to their small numbers. The land on which the Meeting House stands was donated by Robert Hoop (of Hoophill). He arrived in Lurgan in 1664 and by 1700 he had risen, through trade in linen, to become its wealthiest citizen.

Hiding the former Friends Meeting House from the main street is a terrace of late 19th century three storey town houses, 80-90 High Street (4). Built, like so many of Lurgan's best buildings, in locally quarried blackstone (basalt), they have notable yellow brick dressings. The plaque at No 88 denotes the birthplace in 1674 of James Logan, the Quaker Secretary to William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania. James Logan held a number of important posts in Pennsylvania; he served as mayor of Philadelphia 1723; was appointed chief justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court 1731-36; and was acting governor of Pennsylvania 1736-38. He was also a trustee of the Academy of Philadelphia (the forerunner of the University of Pennsylvania). During his lifetime James Logan amassed an extensive library of 3000 volumes (still largely intact) bequeathed at his death to the city of Philadelphia. James Logan died 1751 regarded as Pennsylvania's most influential statesman, its most distinguished scholar and its most respected citizen.

This terrace probably indicates the width of the original tenement at this site. Typically, frontages have been subdivided two or three times as the town developed and prospered. On the other side of the street, 45 & 47 High Street (5) are two well proportioned smooth rendered dwellings, built as a single dwelling in the late 18th century and sub-divided in the 19th. Features include two fine classical door cases. The original building was an urban farmhouse with extensive outbuildings at the rear. At this point you can best appreciate the scale of Lurgan's main street which would do justice to a town much larger in size. Queen Street leads to High Street, widens out to Market Street and finally at, Church Place, is as much as 50 metres wide.





## presbyterian church

The First Presbyterian Meeting House and Graveyard (6) is next on our trail. The first church building here was erected in 1827 and was refronted in about 1860 with a fine classical portico. The building above, though now greatly altered, was formerly the manse.

The foundation stone of the church was laid by Mr Charles Brownlow who later became Lord Lurgan. One of the most notable ministers in the 19th century was the Rev Thomas Millar whose monument is beside the old courthouse (31). His grave is in the graveyard situated behind the church.

High Street contains many fine houses of brick, stone and stucco and fortunately many of these are in pristine condition. 48 High Street (7) is a three storey town house built in the early 19th century and previously the home of the John S Carrick, tea, sugar and seed merchants, after whom Carrick School was named. The walls are of variegated brickwork and there is a fine classical arched doorway. The gateway at the side leads to an attractive yard at the rear.

42-46 High Street (8) were built in the early 19th century with squared rubble stonework to the upper floors. They were occupied by Mr Ross who also owned the linen factory at the rear. Notable features of this group are the eight coade stone keys with interesting sculpted heads. Those identifiable include Queen Victoria, Shakespeare and a lion. Do you recognise any of the others? Coade stone gets its name from Elenor Coade, who, with her daughter, invented the first artificial stone in the 18th century.



## belfast banking company

Number 16 High Street (9) was originally occupied by the Belfast Banking Company and later, when they amalgamated in 1970, the Northern Bank. This two and a half storey decorative brick building with fine stone detailing was erected in 1902. Although the ground floor was considerably altered when it ceased to be a bank, the sturdy columns to the first floor and the wrought iron sturdy to the side gate are original.

23 High Street (10), a well proportioned three storey building was previously used as a hotel, The Greyhound. Here was at one time a posting house on the stage coach route from Belfast to Armagh. A few doors away a gateway leads into what was originally a large urban farmyard.

High Street Methodist Church (11), opened 1826 and extensively renovated in 1910, replaced an earlier building at the rear built in 1802. The present building has a simple classical facade. The new halls to the rear are built on the site where the first Presbyterians in Lurgan met for worship in 1684 and the first Presbyterian Church was built here in 1714.

At the end of the laneway running down the right hand side of the church was a brewery, Johnstons, which at the end of the 19th century was the only one in County Armagh. It has now completely disappeared. The brewery owner was said to have been a major contributor to the fund for building a temperance hall in Church Place.





## mechanics institute



The Mechanics Institute (12), a two storey building with basement, was opened in 1858 at a cost of £1,400. The building originally had a good library, reading rooms and rooms for evening classes. The clock tower provides a vertical accent in the heart of the town. The large rectangular Victorian post box at the front was probably originally built into a wall.



## town hall



Lurgan Town Hall in Union Street (13), built in 1868 at a cost of £2,300, has recently been refurbished. It has a simple and restrained exterior but boasts a fine hall. It adjoins and is overshadowed by the Mechanics Institute on one side and on its other is a building which once housed a Police Barracks. Union Street was extended in the 1830s to form a road to Tandragee and got its name from the Union Workhouse (27) which was built on it.

Sir John Dill was born on Christmas Day 1881 at No. 63 Market Street, once the Ulster Bank, with a house on the upper storey. Sir John had a long and distinguished army career and was appointed head of the British military mission in Washington in 1942. Following his death in 1944 Sir John was buried in Arlington National Cemetery, U.S.A. where he is commemorated with a fine equestrian statue. An Ulster History Blue plaque was unveiled at his birthplace September 2007.

2a High Street (14) is a very fine three storey red brick building. It had been one of a pair occupying very narrow sites flanking the entrance to Windsor Avenue which, in the 19th century became the main entrance to Brownlow House. Before the entrance was constructed to match the new Brownlow House the site had been occupied by the Black Bull Inn.





## northern bank



The Northern Bank (15) was founded in 1824 as Ireland's first Joint Stock Bank following the collapse a few years earlier of a number of private banks. The Lurgan Branch was one of eight opened in 1835. Thomas Halls was appointed as its first manager having previously served as the Bank's local agent. Prior to that, Halls had been manager of Brownlow's Bank, a private bank which went out of existence in 1820 along with another in the town, Malcolmson and Co. - the 1820s were a period of universal depression in trade.

The present bank building in sandstone and brick was extended in 1970. The original windows to the first floor have pediments, alternately triangular and segmentally arched. Opposite the bank is an excellent group of three storey red brick buildings, numbers 23-25 Market Street, which includes the Central Bar, formerly known as the Carnegie Inn (16).



## carnegie street



A little way down Carnegie Street is the Carnegie Library (17). It is a robust and attractive brick building with stone dressings, erected in 1906 with an endowment from the American industrialist, Andrew Carnegie (b.1835 in Scotland). This was one of 2,800 such libraries world-wide. Of particular note are the original entrance and weather vane. The library has recently been greatly extended.

## ulster bank



The Bank of Ireland (18), converted from a former shop, has a classical ground floor elevation in limestone with rendered upper storeys and, unusually for Lurgan, balustraded parapet. The Ulster Bank (19) opposite is a grander purpose built building in golden sandstone with a granite base, a mixture of materials shared with its sister banks in Banbridge and Dungannon. Built in 1911, it has an elegant central bay window to the first floor. All around this area of the town one is struck by the rich variety and quality of the buildings - two doors to the right of the Ulster Bank the upper floors display an exceptional example of decorative brick facings.

## the cinema



Number 8 Church Place, "The Cinema" (20) is a large three storey building with polychrome brickwork to the upper floors. Notable features include the Italianate arcaded ground floor with marble like pillars. It was erected in 1913 by Samuel Hewitt as a cinema known as "The Hippodrome". The ground floor, the cinema, was destroyed by fire in 1921. After repair it was used as a variety market in the 1930s and 40s. During the 1960s the top storey, originally the Hewitt dwelling house, was used as a playhouse.

39 Church Place (21) with its Ionic columned doorway was built as a dwelling for Rev Arthur Fforde, Rector of Shankill Parish 1748-1767. It was later converted to use as a convent school and now houses the Credit Union.

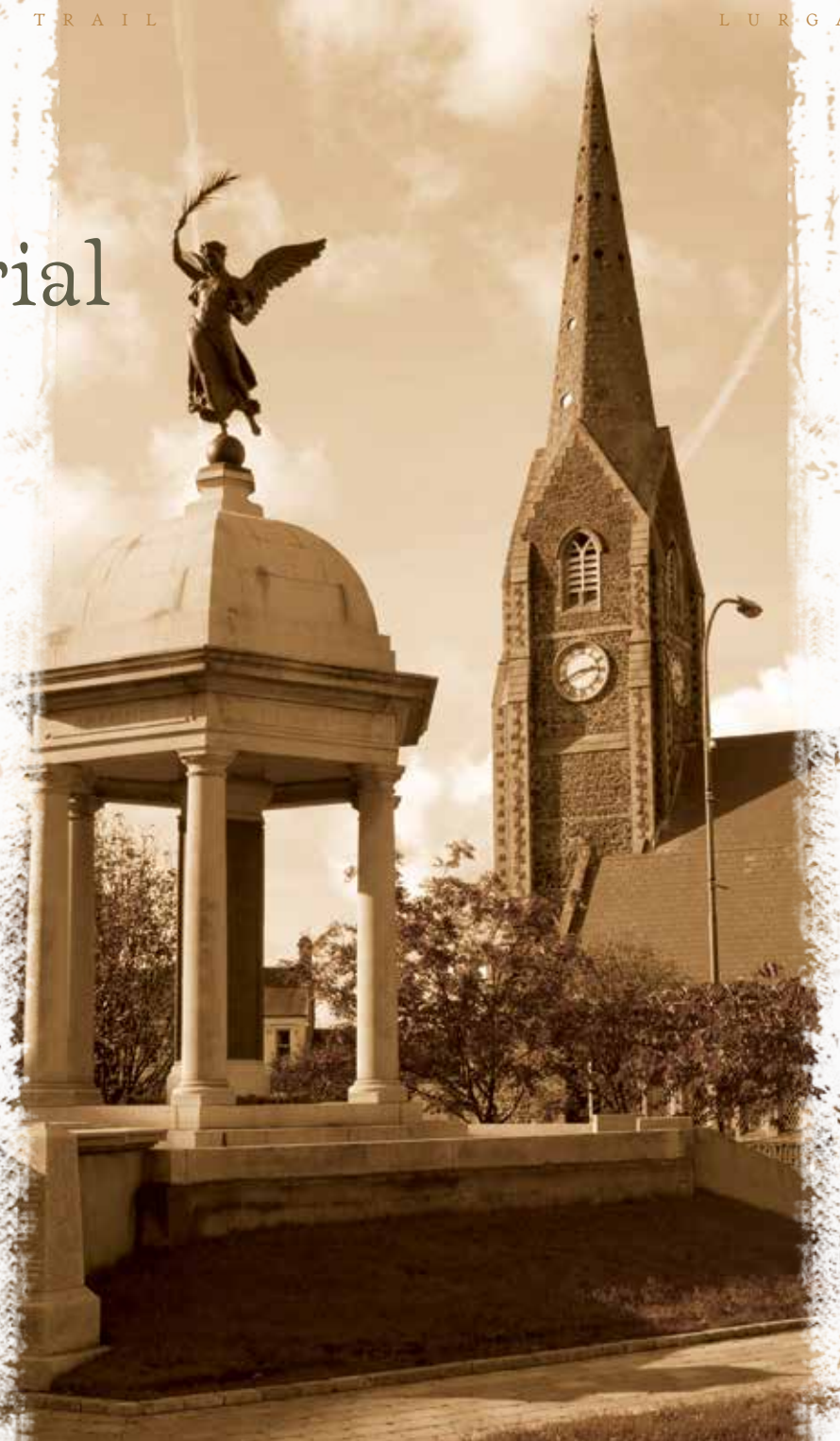


## the war memorial

Unveiled by the Governor of Northern Ireland on 23 May 1928, the simple hexagonal War Memorial (22) with its granite pillars and bronze plaques commemorates the deaths of more than 300 men from the Lurgan area in the Great War (1914-18) and a further 81 who died in the 1939-45 war. Beside it stands a smaller memorial to members of the UDR who died in the Recent Troubles. These memorials stand on the site of the Mall which had previously been the location of the Victoria memorial fountain (42).

Market Street, formerly The Mall, was from the 17th century the site of open air markets in Lurgan. Here local farmers and weavers brought their produce for sale - pigs and cattle, turnips, cabbage and hay, flax and linen. Each had their own location in the street and the Public Shambles where butchers displayed their meat was on the site of modern Union Street. Until the 1830s Lurgan was the largest public market for fine linens in Ulster - in 1776 Arthur Young attended the market with Mr Brownlow and commented as follows:

*"The cambrics are sold early, and through the whole morning; but when the clock strikes eleven the drapers jump upon stone standings, and the weavers flock about them with their pieces: ... The draper's clerk stands by him, and writes his master's name on the piece he buys, with the price; and, giving it back to the seller, he goes to the draper's quarters and waits his coming. At twelve it ends; then there is an hour for measuring the pieces and paying the money; for nothing but ready money is taken; and this is the way the business is carried on at all markets."*




## shankill parish church

The Church of Christ the Redeemer (23), affectionately known locally as "the big church", is thought to be the largest parish church in Ireland. It was consecrated in 1725 and mostly built in two periods, 1725 and 1863, with enlargement taking place in 1931. The architectural style is Gothic and it is constructed in blackstone with sandstone dressings. The stones from the old Church in Shankill Graveyard were used for the fine octagonal steeple. The previous copper clad timber framed steeple was blown down in "The Big Wind" of 1839. The organ was presented to the church in 1863, the bells were installed in 1877 and the clock in 1878.

Up to the end of the nineteenth century there was a Middle Row in The Mall containing a Linen Hall, accessed through the Church grounds, a Market House and various other dwellings and shops. The Market House had an open arcade at ground level and assembly room above approached by a set of outside steps. Courts were held in the upstairs room and prisoners detained in a 'black hole' in the basement. It was destroyed by fire in 1776 and rebuilt further along the row. In later years some dwellings and shops were added but these quickly became unsanitary and were eventually demolished to form the wide expanse of Market Street much as we see it today.

# Lurgan Town Trail Map

- 1 Queen Street Methodist Church
- 2 Bengal Place
- 3 Friends Meeting House
- 4 80 - 90 High Street
- 5 45 & 47 High Street
- 6 First Presbyterian Meeting House
- 7 48 High Street
- 8 42 - 46 High Street
- 9 16 High Street
- 10 23 High Street
- 11 High Street Methodist Church
- 12 The Mechanics Institute
- 13 Lurgan Town Hall
- 14 2a High Street
- 15 Northern Bank
- 16 Carnegie Inn
- 17 Carnegie Library
- 18 The Bank Of Ireland
- 19 The Ulster Bank
- 20 The Cinema
- 21 Convent School
- 22 War Memorial
- 23 Christ Church - Church of Ireland
- 24 Church Place
- 25 St Joseph's Convent
- 26 Hill Street Presbyterian Church
- 27 Lurgan Hospital (Former Workhouse)
- 28 Old Technical College
- 29 The Gasworks
- 30 Millar Memorial
- 31 Old Court House
- 32 Shankill Burial Ground
- 33 Lurgan College
- 34 Johnston Allen Ltd. Factory
- 35 10 - 32 Brownlow Terrace
- 36 The Model School
- 37 Lurgan Weaving Company Ltd.
- 38 St. Peters Roman Catholic Church
- 39 The Distillery/Soye's Mill
- 40 School House
- 41 Brownlow House
- 42 Jubilee Fountain



## church place



The three storey dwellings at 20-23 Church Place (24) form a superb terrace. It was erected in 1885 by Mr Donnelly, replacing modest two storey thatched dwellings. Of note is the decoration around the windows and the bold yellow brick arched doorways. Similar dwellings, probably erected at the same time line both sides of Edward Street before the scale of buildings suddenly reduces.

Stamina permitting, you may wish to branch off here to examine some buildings not on the main trail - they are probably best seen from a car. Further along Edward Street is St Joseph's Convent (25) originally belonging to the Sisters of Mercy but now being put to other uses. It was built in 1856 as a convent with school attached. The campanile, or bell tower, is similar to those found on the Mechanics Institute and Model School which were built at about the same time. Hill Street Presbyterian Church (26), built in blackstone with freestone comers, is Victorian Gothic in style and dates from 1862, a time of rapid growth in Lurgan due to the expansion of the power loom weaving. The copper clad spire was added to the church at a later date. There are many fine brick and rendered houses in a variety of styles in Hill Street. No.94 must be Lurgan's smallest house comprising just two rooms - when still used as a dwelling it was locally called the "Honeymoon Cottage".

At the Sloan Street/Union Street junction is Lurgan Hospital, formerly the Union Workhouse (27). The blackstone Workhouse has been incorporated into the later Hospital though its perimeter wall facing Union Street remains largely as built.

We pass the Old Technical College (28) as we walk down William Street. It was closed when the new Tech was opened in 1961. The old "Tech" had, in its day, been the second largest in Northern Ireland after Belfast.

A blue plaque marks the birth place of George William Russell, later known as AE, who was born on 10 April 1867. His parents were Thomas Elias and Mary Anne (nee Armstrong) from Drumgor. The young George attended Lurgan Model School for 7 years. During this time his parents moved house to the Gate Lodge at the entrance to Brownlow House giving him freedom to play and dream in the demesne, for he was acutely sensitive to nature's beauty. In 1878 the family moved to Dublin, and George Russell later became one of the founders of the late nineteenth century Irish literary revival. There is a bronze bust of Russell in the town hall and his paintings hang in Armagh Museum.

## gasworks



A little further down and on the opposite side of the street is the site of The Gasworks (29). Gas lighting was introduced to the town after the Towns Improvement Act of 1854 nearly 50 years after the world's first gas main was laid in London (1807). The Gasworks was built on the site of the old Bridewell or jail erected in 1831.

As a by-product of the original production process, sulphate of ammonia fertiliser was also produced. A labour saving vertical retort was introduced in 1911. The fuel crises in the 1960s and 70s led to the modernisation of the plant to produce gas from oil but this proved uneconomic and forced the closure of the plant. The former Gasworks showroom is now a supermarket.

At the corner of William Street and Charles Street is the Millar Memorial (30) erected around 1860 in memory of the Rev. Thomas Millar. Millar was born in Cookstown, County Tyrone in 1819 and in 1844 he received "a call" to First Lurgan Presbyterian Church. This energetic young man was determined to work not just for the good of his pastoral flock but for all the people of the town. He promoted a school attached to the church and in 1850 he was installed as president of Lurgan Literary Society. He died tragically in the Trent rail disaster of 1858.

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Also at this corner is the Old Court House (31), a fine brick building which dates from 1874. It was made redundant when the new Court House was completed in the centre of Craigavon. Prisoners sentenced here were sent to Armagh. Of note are the dumpy Corinthian columns at the main entrance, the decorative arched chimneys, the semi-circular bay and the brickwork itself.

## the court house

Shankill Burial Ground (32), accessed via Deans Walk, was the site of the old parish church (the name comes from the Gaelic "seancill" meaning Old Church).

John Brownlow and his fellow settlers had found the church in a ruinous state when they first arrived in the district and used it for shelter, later restoring it for worship. The shape and siting of the mound suggests that it may earlier have been a rath or hill fort. It is now occupied by Brownlow Memorial, erected in 1737 as the mausoleum of the Brownlow family.

The graveyard also contains many other interesting monuments including the grave of Rev Arthur Fforde (21) now sadly, vandalised. He had directed in his will that he should be interred on the north side of the graveyard "to remove that superstitious imagination which prevails among many that such place is profane and unholy". A woman named Margery McCall "who died twice" is also buried in the graveyard. A grave robber, trying to steal her ring shortly after she had been buried, revived her and she returned home in her shroud. Whatever the truth of the story, she was definitely dead by 1711.



## the railway



Next we come to the railway line. Ireland's first railway, from Dublin to Kingstown, had been built in 1834 and, in August 1839, the railway line from Belfast to Lisburn was started under the direction of its contractor, William Dargan. It was extended to Lurgan by 18 November 1841 and to Seagoe, at the edge of Portadown, two months later. The completion of the Portadown rail link was to take a further nine months because of the soft ground encountered and work on the line provided much needed famine relief.

The railway brought with it the means to expand trade in agricultural goods and linen and improve communications with the rest of the island, Britain and the world. Lurgan's original railway station, a replica of Lisburn's with bright polychrome brickwork, has unfortunately had to be replaced by a more modern and stark construction in dark brown brick.

Some distance from the town centre, but a pleasant walk on a nice day, is Lurgan College (33) in College Walk. "Watts Endowed School" was the original name of this college when it was completed in 1873/74. Samuel Watts, a local brewer, had bequeathed the major part of his wealth to establish an "English, Classical and Agricultural School for the Education of Boys". In 1925 the school amalgamated with the Misses Frasers Girls School and became firmly co-educational. The original school buildings, to the right of the present frontage, were designed by Belfast Architects, Young and MacKenzie, who were also responsible for some of Belfast's notable buildings.

Young and MacKenzie also designed the factory of Johnston Allen Ltd. (34) in Victoria Street. Though it is not on the main trail, it is nevertheless of considerable interest. The power loom factory was erected in 1888 with a capacity for more than 500 looms. The original chimney shaft was 150 feet high, the tallest in Lurgan. To accommodate the increasing workforce the factory owners built houses in Woodville Street and Victoria Street. The linen factory ceased manufacture in January 1982.

Just beyond the remains of Johnston Allens factory and on the opposite side of Victoria Street is the Dougher cemetery where an old corn mill donated by Charles Brownlow, later Lord Lurgan, was used as a Catholic Church in the early 19th century. The development of the railway cut the cemetery off from the town and led to the re-siting of the church on North Street.



## brownlow terrace




On the opposite side of the railway line, numbers 10 to 32 Brownlow Terrace (35) were constructed in the 1850s as dwellings for workers at The Lurgan Weaving Company Ltd next door. The handsome brick two and three storey terrace has yellow brick string courses and arches over openings and a fine corbelled and decorated chimney at Ulster Street corner.

The houses mark an era of increasing prosperity and industrial expansion in the town when factory owners were able to provide better planned and more sanitary housing for their workers than those which existed in the cramped courtyards squeezed in behind the town's main street. Between 1850 and 1870 the population of the town more than doubled from 4,200 to 10,600.



## the model school



The Model School (36) was built about 1850 and from the outset was non-denominational. The National Schools system, proposed in 1831, had Model Schools at its apex to serve as an example to other National Schools. Built for 600 pupils and at a cost of £8,000, features include the basalt base, the fine brickwork and tower whose decorative stone heads in the keystones of arches survey the scene in the playground below. Lord Lurgan, probably instrumental in bringing The Model to Lurgan, was a frequent visitor.

## lurgan weaving company



The Lurgan Weaving Company Ltd. (37) or "The Limited" as it became known is another fine example of Lurgan's industrial architecture. The two storey building in Ulster Street, erected about 1880, was the entrance and offices of the factory. The factory itself contained 472 looms and its products included cambric of the finest quality. The brick perimeter wall and characteristic saw-tooth roof of the weaving sheds are notable.

Factories like "The Limited" did not immediately replace the handlooms - as late as the 1860s houses with weaving sheds were built in Mary Street right beside The Lurgan Factory and in the surrounding rural areas this practice continued with labourers' cottages into the first decade of the 20th century. Female members of the household often worked at home, folding, packing, stitching and sewing for the linen factories and this outworking became an essential feature of the industry.

Moving up Ulster Street past the stone wall which marked the back of the gas works we come to North Street. Originally called Back Lane, it led to the rear of Brownlow House and on via the Lough shore to Antrim. We pass a number of 19th century houses in a variety of styles with simple stuccoed finish and characteristic doorcases - one, a single storey unoccupied cottage has two doorways, one for the occupants and the other to let cattle pass through to the rear of the house.





## st. peters church

The interior is designed in the style of Pugin, the famous Victorian Gothic architect.



St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church (38). Constructed in a number of phases between 1867 and 1900 in the Gothic style, the Church was completed in 1927. The slender spire, built of Drogheda limestone and reaching almost 200 feet in height is the tallest structure in the town. Charles Brownlow, later the first Lord Lurgan, granted the use of an old watermill for Catholic worship, at the instigation of his niece. The current building replaced an earlier purpose built church which was started on the present site in 1829. This site was also donated, rent free for ever, by Lord Lurgan.

200 yards beyond St. Peter's Church is The Distillery (39) which, though largely burned in the 1830s, is the oldest surviving industrial building in Lurgan. The original building had three floors.

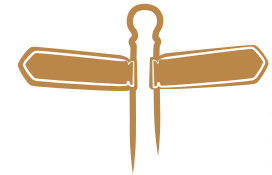


Just beyond it is the corn mill and numerous other stone buildings associated with Lord Lurgan's home farm. Hidden inside them is the giant water wheel which was driven by a conduit under the road from Lurgan Lake to power the corn mill and other agricultural machinery.



A little further along North Street is the attractive old stone School House (40) associated with the Brownlow estate.

## erasmus smith school & no.32 north street



The Erasmus Smith School stood on the corner of North Street with Ulster Street. It was built in 1812 and was a genuinely Free School with a strong charitable connection. For the first half of the nineteenth century, it provided the bulk of children in Lurgan with all the education they would ever receive. No. 32 North Street in the mid nineteenth century was the house of William Macoun. He, with James Macoun, had founded the linen factory in Ulster Street that was to become Lurgan Weaving Company. Today the Macoun House is the premises of the Irish National Foresters.

If you have stuck to the main trail then, returning back up North Street we go along Wellington Street. Church Walk to the right has a typical terrace of mill workers dwellings and the car park opposite was formed when three rows of tightly packed mill workers dwellings were demolished. The terraces of houses on either side of Wellington Street from No.30 upwards were built to house Belgian refugees during World War I, though none ever lived in them.



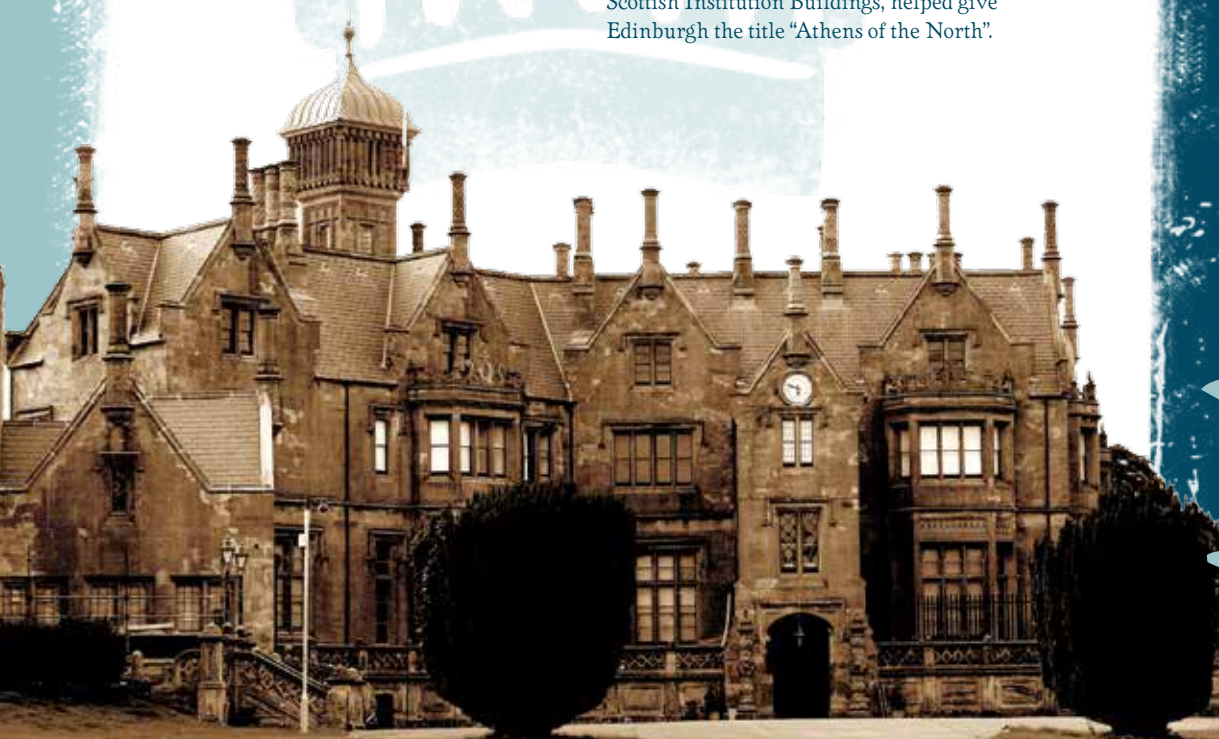
## brownlow house

**The bulk of this building dates from 1836 though it also contains parts of the older house, dating from the 17th century.**

Turning left at the end of Wellington Street we arrive at Lurgan's grandest secular building, Brownlow House (41). Erected by Charles Brownlow, it had been called

Lurgan House until Mr Brownlow was raised to the peerage. It is constructed in the Elizabethan style using freestone imported from Scotland.

The "modern" house was designed by the celebrated Scottish architect William Playfair (1789-1857). Playfair was more at home with the classical style - his many fine Greek Revival buildings, including the National Gallery of Scotland and the Royal Scottish Institution Buildings, helped give Edinburgh the title "Athens of the North".



Of particular note at Brownlow House are the tall spiralled chimney pots, the delightful tower with lantern and dome, and the decorative carriage gates at the entrance. Lurgan Park and the golf course behind were formerly the Demesne of Lurgan House. Though greatly altered for recreational purposes, they still form one of the finest town parks in Ulster.



The Lake or "mill dam" was dug by hand during the 18th century and served both as an ornament surrounded by landscaped walks and as power source to drive Brownlow's corn mill in the townland of Dougher.







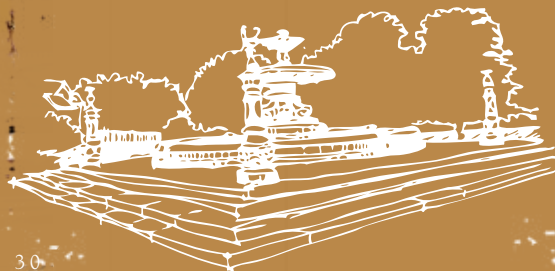
# jubilee fountain

The cast iron Jubilee Fountain, was erected to celebrate 50 years of Queen Victoria's reign.



The cast iron Jubilee Fountain (42), dating from 1887, was erected to celebrate 50 years of Queen Victoria's reign; it was originally sited in "The Mall" at Church Place where the War Memorial now stands.

A pleasant walk through the trees which form The Great Avenue, which leads from Brownlow House to the Belfast Road, takes us back past the swimming pool to our starting point in Robert Street.



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