

## What you can discover about your Town on your 2km walk.

During this time of restrictions there are more people out taking a daily walk within the 2km range. Many take a route that includes a walk through the Main Street. Now that the Town is not as busy with traffic and as one walks up and down the street and in the surrounding laneways, the buildings have taken on a “notice me” vibe.

Have you wondered about the older buildings in the town and how and when they came to be? Well wonder no more. Check out the **Historic Environment Viewer**. It is described on the website as:

“... a new free-to-use digital service provided by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. It has been developed to enhance the users’ experience by facilitating access to the databases of the National Monuments Service Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) in a seamless one-stop point of access for both data resources. The viewer is capable of being accessed on the majority of browsers and platforms, including smart phones.”

When you search for Maynooth in this database there are options to select. In this case a map of the town comes up showing information on key buildings and monuments. For buildings, hover and click on the blue dot and an image of the building comes up, which links to an architectural description and appraisal.

Here is an example: This is now the Avenue Restaurant

**Date:** 1750 - 1790  
**Original Use:** house  
**In Use as:** house  
**Rating:** Regional  
[View Main Record](#)



### Description

End-of-terrace three-bay two-storey house, c.1770, on a corner site on a symmetrical plan with shallow segmental-headed door opening to centre. Reroofed and refenestrated, c.1980. Gable-ended roof. Replacement fibre-cement slate, c.1980. Concrete ridge tiles. Rendered chimney stacks (shared). Rendered coping to gables. Cast-iron gutter with replacement uPVC downpipe, c.1980.

Roughcast walls. Painted. Square-headed window openings. Stone sills. Replacement aluminium casement windows, c.1980. Shallow

segmental-headed door opening. Replacement glazed timber panelled door, c.1980. Road fronted on a corner site. Concrete flagged footpath to front.

### Appraisal

This house, which dates to the earliest phase of construction on the planned Main Street, is an attractive middle-size house that has been extensively renovated in the late twentieth century, leading to the loss of most of the original fabric. Composed of graceful proportions on a symmetrical plan the house conveys the aspirations to sophisticated architectural forms that were an aim of the establishment of a planned estate town. The reinstatement of traditional-style timber fenestration might restore a more accurate representation of the original appearance of the house. The house is of particular importance for its age and for continuing the established street line of the planned street, while contributing to the regular roofline of the terrace as it proceeds to meet with the entrance to the Carton estate to north-east.

**Brady’s Clock House**  
**Date:** 1895 - 1900  
**Original Use:** house  
**In Use as:** house  
**Rating:** Regional  
[View Main Record](#)



### Description

End-of-terrace three-bay two-storey house, built 1896, on a corner site on an L-shaped plan retaining early aspect with render pub front to ground floor, single-bay two-storey side elevation to south-west and two-bay two-storey return to rear to south-east. Hipped roof on an L-shaped plan with slate. Clay ridge tiles. Rendered chimney stack. Cast-iron rainwater goods on eaves course. Rendered walls. Painted. Rendered channelled piers to ends and to corner. Rendered medallion to first floor. Square-headed window openings. Stone sills. Moulded rendered surrounds. Early 2/2 timber sash windows.

Render pub front to ground floor (continuing around side elevation to south-west) with panelled pilasters, fixed-pane timber display windows in bipartite arrangement and timber panelled double doors having overlight and fascia over with moulded cornice. Road fronted on a corner site. Concrete flagged footpath to front.

### Appraisal

This building, which has been well-maintained to

present an early aspect on to the road, is of considerable social and historical significance, being one of the earliest surviving purpose-built commercial premises in the town, thus representing the early commercialisation of Maynooth. Composed of balanced proportions to each floor, both elevations present a graceful frontage on to the road that has been lost in many of the neighbouring buildings on Main Street.

The building retains many important early or original salient features, including timber sash fenestration and materials to the roof, while the render pub front is of particular interest, attesting to the high quality of craftsmanship traditionally practised in the locality. The building is also of importance for its impact on the streetscape of Main Street, continuing the established street line of the planned street as it turns to meet with Court House (originally Market House) Square, while contributing to the regular roofline of the terrace.

Here is an example from the Monuments information that are marked on the map with red dots.

**Class:** Field boundary  
**Townland:** MAYNOOTH  
**Scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP:** No

**Description:** An archaeological assessment (Licence no. 02E1452) of a proposed development site at the rear of No. 8 Main Street, Maynooth revealed the presence of a ditch running N-S. A short length (L c. 30m) was subsequently excavated (Licence no. 02E1452 ext.) and proved to be of medieval date, having 13th-14th-century pottery in its base. It remained open until the site was developed in the mid-18th century. It measured up to 2.6m in width and 1.1m in depth. The remains of an 18th and 19th century stone-lined drain, a well and cistern overlay the ditch. It seems likely that the ditch was simply a field boundary, but it forms part of the line of a putative large enclosure surrounding the earlier part of the town. (www.excavations.ie)

There is so much more to explore in this database including online jigsaw puzzles. It will add to the enjoyment of those out taking their daily walk and if you are cocooned you can take a virtual stroll through the beautiful historic town of Maynooth, through your place of birth or other places of interest.

Copy the following link into your browser to find more.

<https://www.archaeology.ie/archaeological-survey-ireland/historic-environment-viewer-application>

Or scan the QR code opposite with your QR scanner on your mobile phone.

**Susan Durack**

