

### 3 GUILD HALL

The Guild Hall on Castle Street is a whitewashed, rough-rendered, three-storey structure and was the former seat of the Grand Jury until the abolition of the Grand Jury system in 1898.

#### AN GILDHALLA

Foirgneamh aoidaite, garbhlindeáilte, trí stór é seo agus bhí se ina ionad ag an Ard-Ghiúiré go dtí gur tháinig deireadh le córas an Ard-Ghiúiré i 1898.



### 4 OLD MEETING HOUSE

The Presbyterian Meeting House (c. 1680) is one of the earliest Presbyterian church buildings in Ireland. Its plan is unusual, consisting of two rectangles lying side by side. This plan evolved because of an addition to the original church in the early nineteenth century. Two masts from the wreck of the British naval vessel 'Saldhana' support the span of the opening created between the original building and the addition. The building is associated with Francis Makemie (1657-1708), the Father of American Presbyterianism. The Meeting House ceased to operate as a place of worship in 1906. It now houses Ramelton Community Library.

#### AN SEANTEACH TIONÓIL

Tá an Teach Tionóil Preispitéireach (c. 1680) ar cheann de na foirgnimh eaglasta ba shine de chuid na bPreispitéireach in Éirinn. Tá a leagan amach neamhchoitianta; dhá dhronuilleog taobh le taobh. Tharla an leagan amach seo as siocair gur méadaíodh an tseaneaglais go luath sa naoú haois déag. Tá dhá chrann seoil ón long bhriste de chuid fórsaí farraige na Breataine, an "Saldhana", ag iompar réise na hoscailte a cruthaíodh idir an foirgneamh bunaidh agus an méadú a cuireadh leis. Tá baint ag an fhoirgneamh le Francis Makemie (1657-1708), Athair an Phreispitéireachais i Meiriceá. Tháinig deireadh leis an teach tionóil mar ionad adhartha i 1906. Tá Leabharlann Pobail Ráth Mealtain lonnaithe ann san am i láthair.

### 5 TULLYAUGHNISH OLD CHURCH

The church was built by Sir William Stewart c. 1622 and continued in use until the early 1820s. The pellet-moulded surround was brought from the old church on Aughnish Island and probably dates from the 12th century.

#### SEANEAGLAIS THULACH EACH-INISE

Ba é an Tiarna William Stewart a thóg an eaglais c. 1622 agus bhí sí in úsáid go dtí luathbhlianta na 1820aidí. Tugadh an colbha millín-mhúnlaithe ón tseaneaglais ar Each-Inis, ar dócha go dtéann sé siar go dtí an 12ú haois.



### 6 THE BRAE

The Brae or 'Bridge Street' contains examples of Georgian architecture. One of the houses was restored by the Ramelton Georgian Society. There are attractive external stone steps up to the entrance similar to those found in front of other houses in the street.

#### AN MHALA

Tá samplaí d'ailtireacht Sheoirseach le feiceáil ar an Mhala nó "Sráid an Droichid". Rinne Cumann Seoirseach Ráth Mealtain ceann de na tithe a athchóiríú. Tá céimeanna tarraingteacha cloiche suas go dtí an bealach isteach, cosúil leis na cinn atá le fáil ar thosach roinnt tithe eile ar an tsráid.



### 7 GAMBLE'S SQUARE

The 'A. Gamble & Co. Ltd.' building consists of a five-bay, two-storey house with shop to ground floor (c. 1850) and has a striking shopfront with elegant carved brackets, a cornice with dentils and red painted raised lettering. Across the road is a warehouse known as the 'Fish House' built of random rubble with strainer arches on the ground floor. It was here that fishermen used to unload their catch.

#### CEARNÓG GAMBLE

Is é atá i bhfoirgneamh "A. Gamble & Co. Teo." ná teach cúig bhá, dhá stór, siopa ar urlár na talún (c. 1850) agus éadan siopa a bhfuil tarraingt súl ann, ar a bhfuil braccanna ealaíonta snoite, coirnís mhaisithe agus litreacha ardaithe le péint dhearg orthu. Tá trádstóras ar an taobh eile den bhóthar a dtugtar "Teach an Éisc" air, a rinneadh as clocha agus spallaí scaoilte agus tá áirsí teanntais ar urlár na talún. Ba ghnách leis na hiascairí a gcuid éisc a dhíhluchtú anseo.



### 8 RAMELTON BRIDGE

This sturdy three-arch bridge (c. 1794) over the River Lennon has thin squared rubble stone voussoirs to the arches, rubble stone vaults, piers and cutwaters.

#### DROICHEAD RÁTH MEALTAIN

Tá stuachlocha tanaí cearnacha de spallaí cloch ar na háirsí, agus boghtaí, píaraí agus corra uisce de spallaí cloch ar an droichead láidir trí-áirse seo (c. 1794) os cionn Abhainn Lennon

### 9 BLEACH GREEN

Ramelton had County Donegal's largest linen bleaching works. Flax was grown locally to supply the industry. The linen was laid out on the Bleach Green to dry. The small square buildings with pyramidal roofs were watchmen's posts.

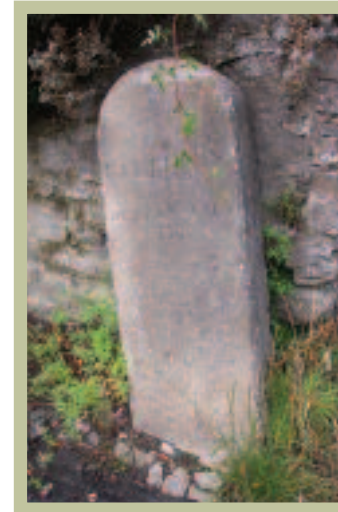
#### AN TUAR

Bhí na hoibreacha ba mhó tuartha línedaigh i nDún na nGall lonnaithe i Ráth Mealtain. Dhéantaí an líon a fhás go háitiúil le soláthar don tionscal. D'fhágtáí an línedach amuigh ar an Tuar lena thriomú. Is é a bhí sna foirgnimh bheaga chearnacha le díonta pírimidiúla ná túir faire.



### 10 MILESTONE

The freestanding milestone (built c. 1850) by the roadside is a 'Protected Structure' with the distances to Ramelton and to Dunfanaghy inscribed on it.



#### AN CHLOCH MHÍLE

Is "Déanmhas Cosanta" í an chloch mhíle shaorsheasta (a tógadh c. 1850) atá ar thaobh an bhóthair agus na hachair go Ráth Mealtain agus go Dún Fionnachaídh inscríofa air.

# RAMELTON HERITAGE TOWN



## BAILE OIÐHREACHTA RÁTH MEALTAIN



Donegal County Development Board  
Bord Forbartha Chontae Dhún na nGall



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## RAMELTON

Situated in a rich agricultural hinterland, Ramelton was for many centuries a dominant regional centre for industry, trade and local government. From the thirteenth to the seventeenth centuries, Ramelton was the location of an O'Donnell castle. The town was built c. 1610 by William Stewart of Ayrshire, and the former wealth of Ramelton depended on its status as the main port for this part of east Donegal occupying a strategic position at the entrance to Fanad Peninsula. Before being overshadowed by Letterkenny, Ramelton had a thriving professional, industrial and commercial community. The fine series of warehouses in the town were used for grain storage and date to the early nineteenth century when the grain trade was at its height.

The town's growth gathered pace in the mid-1700s. The Grand Jury, the forerunner of the County Council, had its sittings in Ramelton. The increasing trade in linen for the export market was reflected in the building of impressive town houses in the late eighteenth century. During the eighteenth century, the port prospered and the town grew westward along the river. On the north side of the river, Bridge End developed associations with the linen industry. Ramelton had County Donegal's largest linen bleaching works. There was a decline in the linen industry in the 1840s due to competition from Belfast. In the 1850s, the silting of the port and the arrival of the railway in Letterkenny contributed to the decline in industry in Ramelton. Its role as a centre for local government ended with the abolition of the Grand Jury system in 1898. At the beginning of the twentieth century, Ramelton had seven churches and was known as 'The Holy City' due to the religious diversity found in the town. The town retained its importance as a business and commercial centre into the twentieth century. Bord Fáilte designated Ramelton as a 'Heritage Town' in recognition of its distinctive historic character, built heritage and identity as a 'Georgian Town or Port'. The area of the plantation town is designated as a zone of archaeological potential by the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government.

## RÁTH MEALTAIN

Tá Ráth Mealtain suite i gceantar torthúil talmhaíochta, agus bhí sé ina ionad ceannasach réigiúnda, leis na céadta bliain, ó thaobh tionsclaíochta, trádála agus rialtais áitiúil de. Ón tríú haois déag go dtí an seachtú haois déag, bhí caisleán de chuid na nDálach suite ann. Thóg William Stewart as Ayrshire an baile thart fá 1610, agus bhí iar-shaibhreas Ráth Mealtain ag brath ar a stádas mar phríomhphort don chuid seo d'oirthear Dhúin na nGall suite go straitéiseach ar an bhealach isteach go Leithinis Fhánada. Sular tháinig Leitir Ceanainn i mbarr a réime, bhí borradh mór faoi lucht tionsclaíochta, gairmiúlachta agus gnó i Ráth Mealtain. Tá roinnt trádstóras breá sa bhaile, a úsáideadh le grán a stóráil, siar go dtí tús an naoú haois déag nuair a bhí trádáil an ghráin i mbarr a réime.

Tháinig borradh faoin bhaile i lár an ochtú haois déag. Shuíodh an tArd-Ghiúiré, réamhtheachtaí na Comhairle Contae, i Ráth Mealtain. Tógadh títhe sonracha baile go mall sa naoú haois déag mar thoradh ar an mhéadú ar thrádáil an líneadaigh don mhargadh onnmhairíochta. I rith an ochtú haois déag, tháinig rath ar an phort agus d'fhás an baile siar cois na habhann. Ar an taobh thuaidh den abhainn, d'éirigh ceangal idir Ceann an Droichid agus an tionscal líneadach. Bhí na hoibreacha tuartha líneadaigh ba mhó de chuid Chontae Dhúin na nGall le fáil i Ráth Mealtain. Tháinig meath ar thionscal an líneadaigh sna 1840aidí mar gheall ar iomaíocht ó Bhéal Feirste. Sna 1850aidí, chuir sioltadh an phoirt agus teacht an iarnróid go Leitir Ceanainn leis an mheath a bhí ag teacht ar an tionsclaíocht i Ráth Mealtain. Tháinig deireadh lena sheasamh mar ionad rialtais áitiúil nuair a cuireadh deireadh le córas an Ard-Ghiúiré i 1898. Ag tús an fichiú haois, bhí seacht n-eaglais i Ráth Mealtain, agus thugtaí "An Chathair Naofa" air as siocair go raibh an oiread sin éagsúlachta creidimh ann. Bhí tábhacht leis an bhaile mar ionad gnó agus trádála isteach san fhichiú haois. D'ainmnigh Bord Fáilte Ráth Mealtain mar "Bhaile Oidhreachta" mar gheall ar a thréithe suntasacha stairiúla, a chuid foirgneamh, agus a fheiniúlacht mar "Bhaile nó Port Seoirseach". Tá achar an bhaile phlandála ainmnithe mar cheantar ina bhfuil féidearthachtaí seandálaíochta ag an Roinn Comhshaoil, Oidhreachta agus Rialtais Áitiúil.

### 1 DONEGAL ANCESTRY/HERITAGE CENTRE

Donegal Ancestry/Heritage Centre is situated in a former three-bay, three-storey warehouse with coursed rubble walls and adjoining gable-fronted engine shed. A plaque reads 'L and LSR Way Co 1864' standing for 'Londonderry and Lough Swilly Railway Company 1864'. The Steamboat Store (where the exhibition is housed) was built in 1863.

### IONAD OIDHREACHTA/SINSEARACHTA DHÚIN NA nGALL

Tá Ionad Oidhreachta/Sinsearachta Dhúin na nGall suite in iar-thrádstóras trí bhá, trí stór ar a bhfuil ballaí garbhshaoirseachta agus bothán inneall beannach lena thaobh. Tá "L and LSR Way Co 1864" scríofa ar phlaic ansin, agus is é atá ann ná giorrú ar 'Londonderry and Lough Swilly Railway Company 1864'. Tógadh An Stór Galbháid, ina bhfuil an taispeántas san am i láthair, i 1863.



### 2 MILL HOUSE

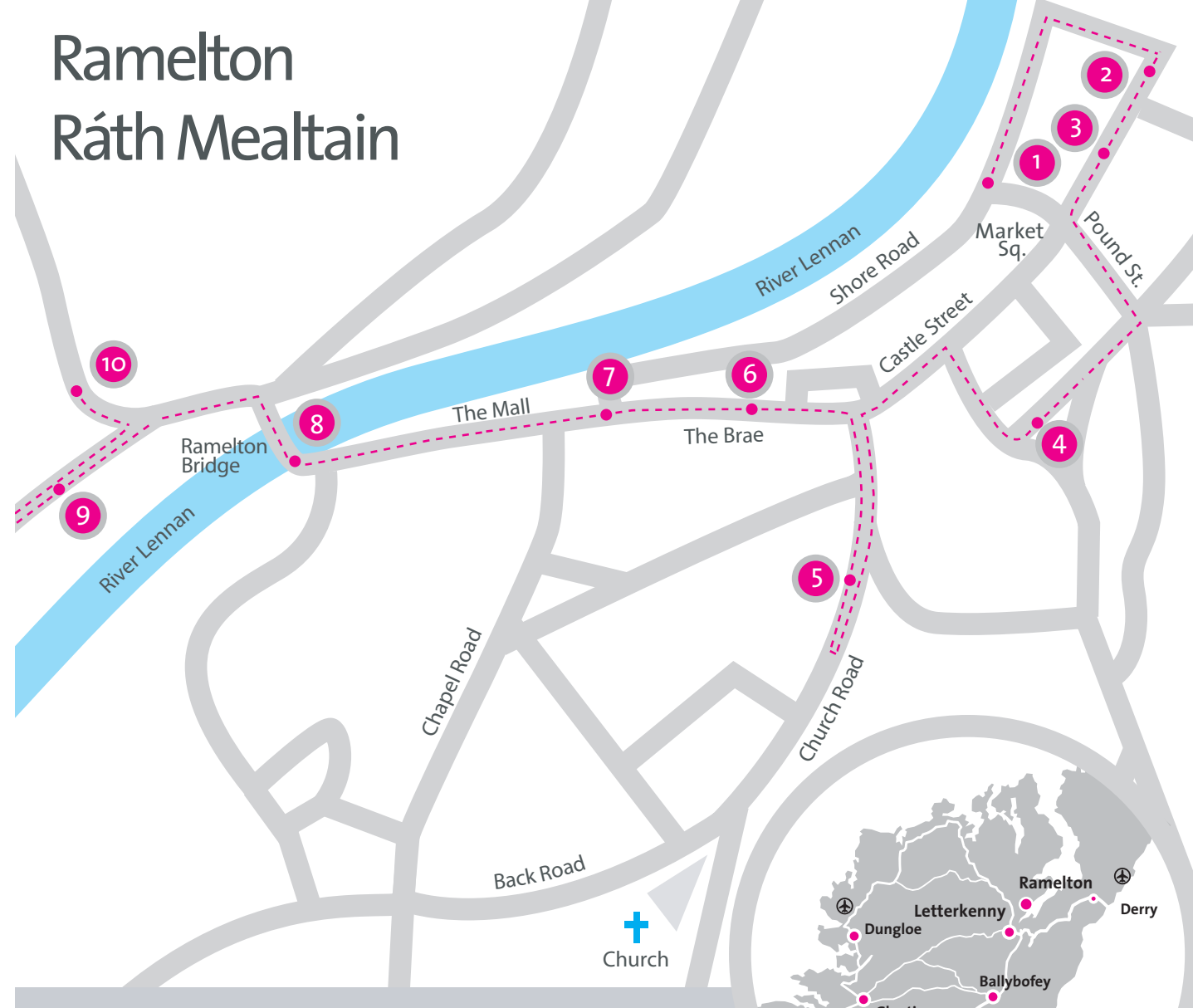
Three-bay, three-storey house (c. 1820) built of coursed rubble with yellow brick dressings to the tall windows which contain Georgian glazing-bars. It has a deep-set, elliptical-headed Doric doorcase with sidelights, a cobweb fanlight and a panelled door. The high-pitched, hipped roof has wide eaves and central chimney stacks.

### TEACH AN MHUILINN

Teach trí bhá, trí stór (c1820) garbhshaoirseachta atá ann agus é maisithe le brící buí suas go dtí na fuinneoga arda ar a bhfuil barraí glointhe de dhéantús Seoirseach. Tá doras domhain ceann-eilipseach de dhéantús Dórach ann, le taobhshoilse, feanléas de stíl líon damháin alla, agus doras painéalaithe. Tá bunsileáin leathana agus simléir lánacha ar an díon ardchlaonta gabhail éadain.



# Ramelton Ráth Mealtain



1. Donegal Ancestry / Heritage Centre / Ionad Oidhreachta/Sinsearachta Dhúin na nGall
2. Mill House / Teach an Mhuilinn
3. Guild Hall / An Gildhalla
4. Old Meeting House / An Seanteach Tionóil
5. Tullyaugnish Old Church / Seaneaglais Thulach Each-Inise
6. The Brae / An Mhala
7. Gamble's Square / Cearnóg Gamble
8. Ramelton Bridge / Droichead Ráth Mealtain
9. Bleach Green / An Tuar
10. Milestone / An Chloch Mhíle

# HERITAGE TOWNS BAILTE OIDHREACHTA

There are five 'Heritage Towns' in County Donegal  
Tá cúig 'Bhaile Oidhreachta' i gContae Dhúin na nGall

Ardara | Ard an Rátha  
Ballyshannon | Béal Átha Seanaidh  
Moville | Bun an Phobail  
Ramelton | Ráth Mealtain  
Raphoe | Ráth Bhoth



## RAMELTON / RÁTH MEALTAIN

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An action of the County Donegal Heritage Plan (2007-2011)  
Gníomh de chuid Phlean Oidhreachta Chontae Dhúin na nGall (2007-2011)