



BAILE STAIRIÚIL

Historic Town



FIODH ÁRD *Fethard*

EOLAS TURASÓIREACHTA *Visitor Information*

5

MARKET SQUARE *Market Square*

Market Square

The medieval layout of Fethard is still evident today with all five entrance roads leading into the market square. Each route is deliberately right-angled, perhaps for reasons of defence. The early 13th century square is similar in shape and size to that of Cashel indicating that it may have been laid out under the patronage of the archbishops of Cashel. New towns were laid out with 'burgage' plots – each owner or burgess was entitled to a plot of land, usually a long thin strip extending from the main street to the town wall.

It is known that Fethard flourished in the years after its foundation and this is reflected in the array of goods that were known to have been sold in the town. These included: cereals, dairy products, honey, meat, silk, wine skins, sea-fish, coal, nails, hides, fleeces, cloth, timber and salt.

The Everard Mansion

The square was more enclosed in the past by a substantial residence built by the Everards some time in the seventeenth century. The only known depiction of the mansion is in a map of 1703. In 1750 Sir Redmond Everard who was an absentee, living in France, sold this important estate to Thomas Barton, wine merchant, of Bordeaux.

Thomas Barton demolished the old Everard mansion in Fethard and by 1763 had completed his enormous town house. This latter was an eleven-bay two-storey house with a façade 37 metres long (highlighted in red on the map).

The Barracks

The Barton house was converted into a British cavalry barracks in 1805, four years after the Act of Union. A large drill ground was set up behind it and Fethard became known as a garrison town. Following the War of Independence, the last British troops departed in January 1922 and the barracks was handed over to the Third Brigade of the old IRA. In the Civil War that followed, the barracks was destroyed by anti-treaty forces and left as a ruin until the 1960s when the last masonry was removed. Today the area within the Town Wall is the former cattle mart and the drill ground beyond the Wall is home to the GAA – still known locally as 'Barrack Field.'

Three of the Barracks gateways stand – one to each side of the Garda station, a third on the Rocklow Road, and the front doorway of the building which now stands close to the North Gate.



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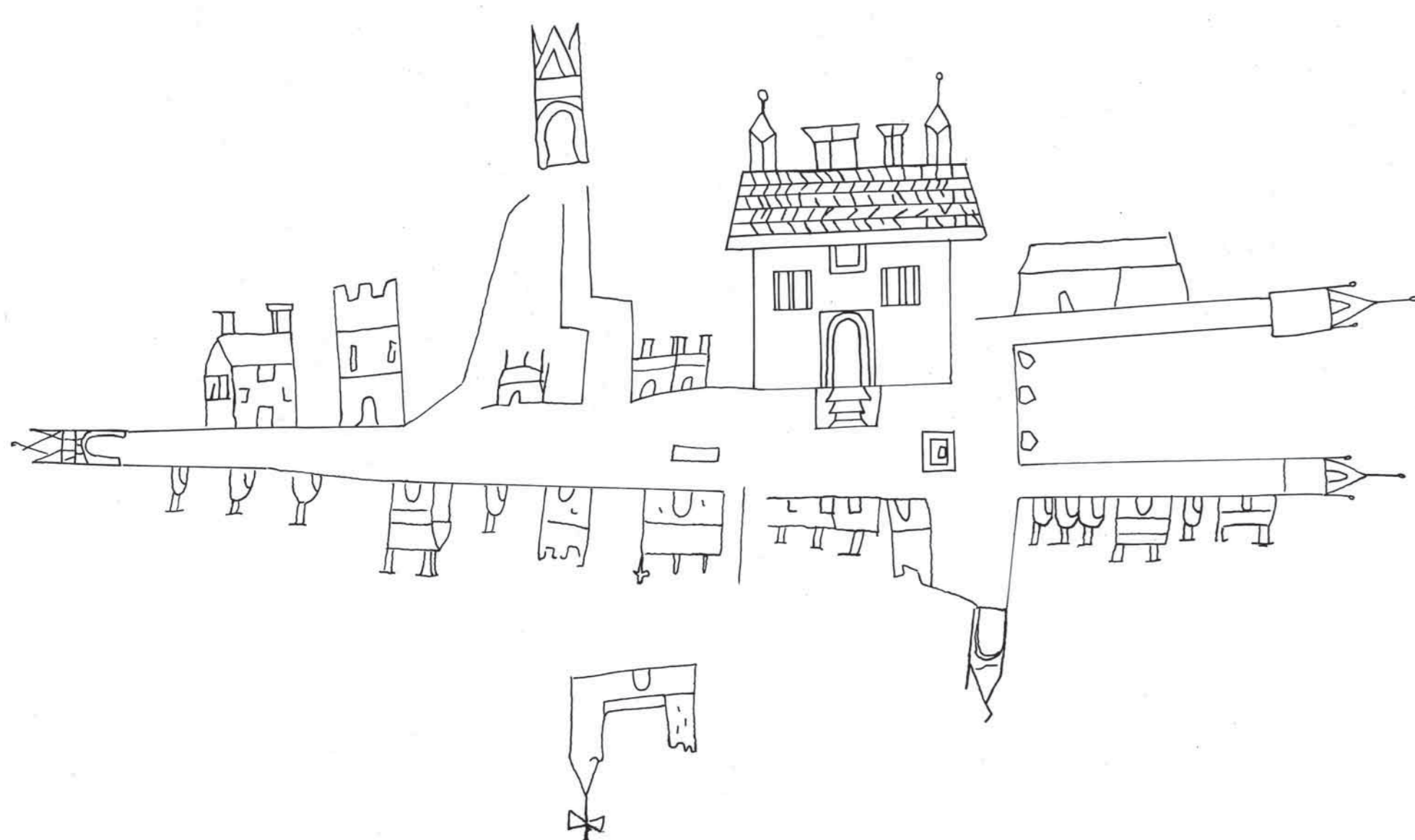
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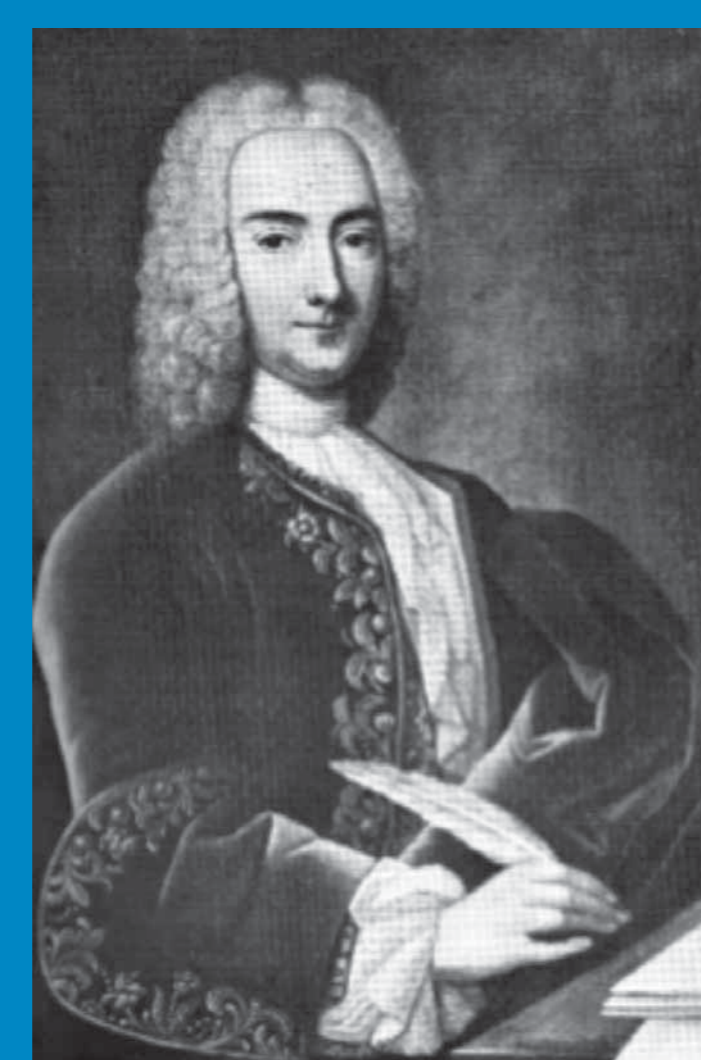
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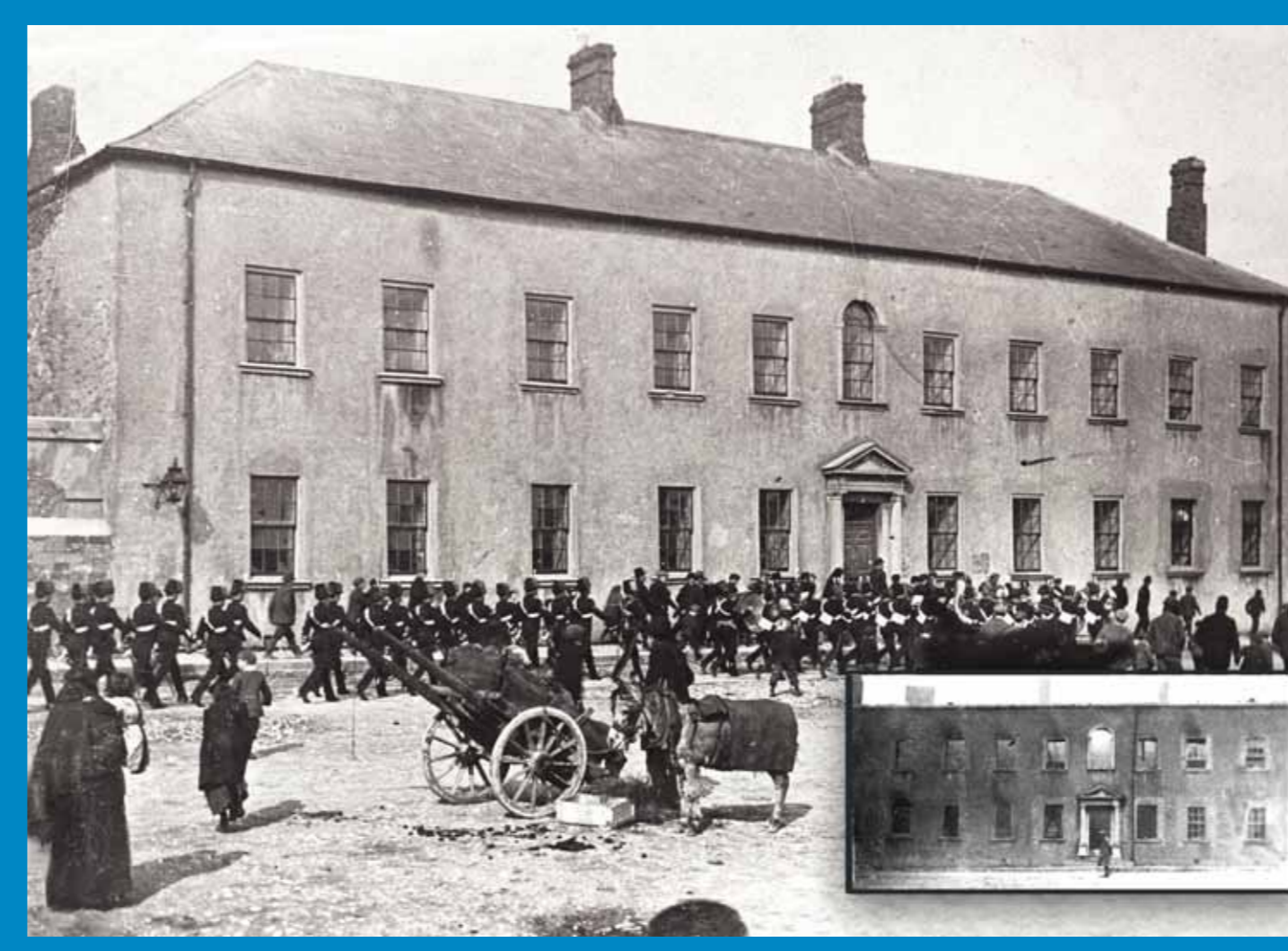
Fethard map 1703, by Redmond Grace, showing the old Everard Mansion. Redrawn by Tadhg O'Keeffe (Irish Historic Towns Atlas)



French Tom Barton



Chateau Langoa Barton

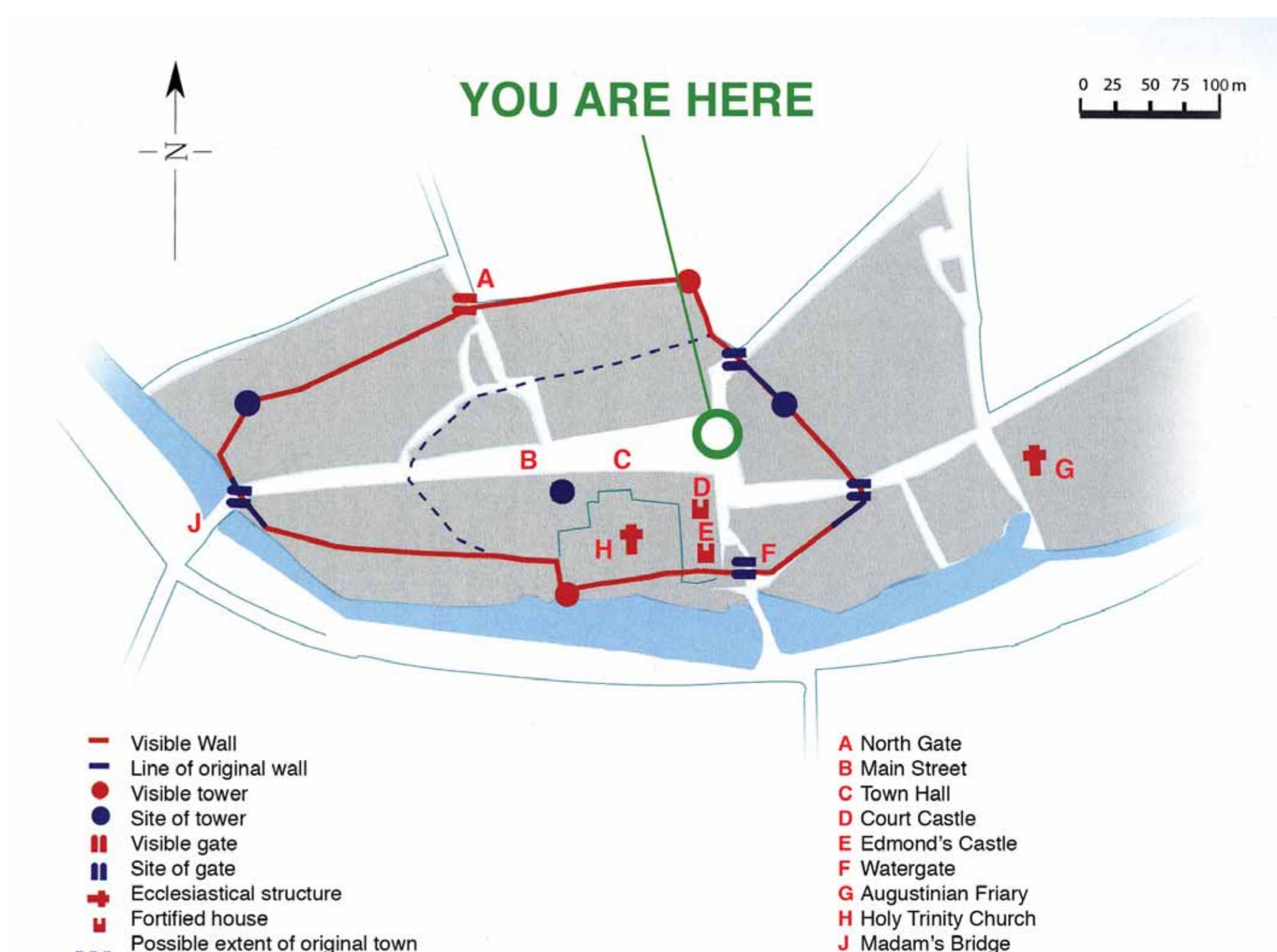


Fethard Military Barracks
Destroyed by fire in 1922 (inset)



Stokes's Hotel prior to demolition Aug. 1993.

The Barton family, previously from Fermanagh, are one of the most famous of the Irish 'wine geese.' Descendants of the Bartons still have their wine business at the Chateau Langoa Barton making them 'the oldest wine growing family in the Medoc.'



- Visible Wall
 - Line of original wall
 - Visible tower
 - Site of tower
 - Visible gate
 - Site of gate
 - ✚ Ecclesiastical structure
 - Fortified house
 - - - Possible extent of original town
- A North Gate
 - B Main Street
 - C Town Hall
 - D Court Castle
 - E Edmond's Castle
 - F Watergate
 - G Augustinian Friary
 - H Holy Trinity Church
 - J Madam's Bridge