Views From The Past

Longford Street
late 19th Century (A)

Marsh's Library
Built in 1701 (B)

Carmelite Church circa 1840 (C)

Wexford Street 1950 (D)

The Swan Bar 1922 (E)

Royal College of
Surgeons Ireland (F)

DiggesLane
late 19th Century (G)

The Walking Tour

1 GOLDEN LANE

2 The CARMELITE CHURCH was designed by Sir George Papworth and dates to 1825. The medieval Carmelite monastery, established in the 13th century would have been located nearby and was an important ecclesiastical foundation.

3 Formerly the CARMICHAEL SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, the Avalon Hostel was first constructed in 1872 and elegantly extended in terracotta in 1905.

4 This terrace is an example of original GEORGIAN TOWNHOUSES dating to 1810.

5 ST PETER'S CHURCH was demolished and replaced by the current YMCA in the 1980's. It replaced the 12th century parish which was located further north within the curvature of Stephen St Upper.

6 NO.43 shows characteristics common to the mechanised era of material production of the Victorian period.

7 First developed in the 1700s YORK STREET was once a handsome residential Georgian street set out to create an impressive connection between Aungier Street and St. Stephens Green.

8 THE SWAN BAR is another formerly gable fronted building. The physical damage of gunshots from the 1916 Rising was evident on the facade up until recent renovation.

9 NO.24 dating to 1760, displays the box-like appearance and proportions of a Georgian town house.

10 NO.25 is an example of a formerly gable-fronted house (Dutch Billy) and dates to 1740.

11 NO.21 a recently conserved original mansion of Aungier Estate with title deeds going back to 1680. Its notable features include a centrally located magnificent heavy timber staircase.

12 JJ.SMYTHS dates to the mid- 1700s. It was the birth place of Thomas Moore, the Irish poet, in 1779. It is now one of Dublin's most popular jazz venues. The original rear gables of 9-9A can be seen from beyond JJ.Smyths.

13 BOW LANE is derived from the original Elbow Lane. Upon leaving the narrow laneways c1680, note the contrast between the expansive width of Aungier Street.

14 DIGGES LANE Formally named Goat Alley from before 1691 to at least 1756.

15 NO. 9-9A is one of the oldest and formally grandest city mansions of the original Aungier Estate. It contains an original staircase, a rare survivor in Dublin.

16 The site of the medieval church of ST.PETER'S dates from before 1121.

17 The original expansive width of AUNGIER STREET was set out by Sir Francis Aungier as a suburban estate in 1661. Construction of the earliest mansions began on the north east end.

18 LEITRIM HOUSE orignally comprised of separate buildings and dates to the mid c1700. Sometime after 1843 the buildings were joined together as The Barrack Hospital.

19 NO.19 (The Central Dairy) originally a gable fronted house dates to c1728. It retains one of the few remaining cruciform type roofs in Dublin.

20 The area within 12th century curvature of St. Stephens Street Upper reflects the medieval enclosure of ST PETER'S CHURCH.

21 Inside the public foyer of BEAUX LANE HOUSE is an early 1600s witching bottle. Found to have contained pins it was a spell device to protect against evil spirits.

22 From here you can see the projecting closet return of NO.25 Aungier Street, evidence of the original 'Dutch Billy'.

23 ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS IRELAND

ADDITIONAL SITES OF INTEREST

24 MOLYNEUX HOUSE

25 DUBLIN CASTLE

26 MEDIEVAL PALACE OF ST SEPULCHRE (KEVINS ST GARDA STATION)

27 MARSH'S LIBRARY
The interior of Marsh's Library has changed little since it was founded in 1701. The staircase and oak bookshelves are original, and the books have stayed in the same place on the shelves for more than 300 years.

Aungier Street
Sráid Aungier
A Walking Tour

Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council

Dublin City Council
City Architects Division & Conservation Office
Dublin City Archaeology
Dublin Civic Trust
Design: Lorraine Doyle and Laoise Casey

The Aungier Street Area

Timeline

1611

The area is thought to have been the location of the early medieval monastic settlement of 'Dubhlinn'. The suburb later developed as overspill outside of the city's walls in the 11th and 12th centuries. The curvature of present day Stephen's Street Upper corresponds to the medieval boundary of St.Peter's Church and St Stephen's.

Present day Aungier Street has the appearance of a typical Dublin retail thoroughfare. However the unassuming brick and rendered facades hide a substantial collection of pre-1700 buildings.

1673

Aungier Street was the first planned suburban estate to emerge from the post medival city, with some of the oldest and grandest residential dwellings in Dublin still surviving today.

It was laid out by Sir Francis Aungier in 1661 to house the wealthy upper class. At 21m in width, it was one of the most spacious streets in the city notably characterised by large luxurious detached townhouses. Orginally built with overhanging eaves and a massive party-wall chimney breast, these structures depict the tentative evolution of timber frame construction to mass masonry structures.

1728

By the 1720s Aungier Street's grandeur had faded and it had transformed into a bustling residential and retail thoroughfare, with business at ground floor level and residential accomadation above.

Smaller two and three bay, four storey gable fronted or parapeted buildings were built to house mostly wealthy merchants and barristers in the 18th century. Although the 18th century 'Dutch Billy' curvilinear gable-fronts have been replaced by later styles, the existing projecting closet returns at the rear of the houses are evidence of their former presence.

1756

From the later part of the 18th century, many of the gable fronts would have been replaced by the more common box-like exteriors of the Georgian period. Leitrim House on Stephens Street Upper is and example of a fine Georgian building.

A large working class population emerged by the twentieth century, many of which were employed by Jacob's biscuit factory on nearby Bishops Street. The commercial interventions, sub-division, and Victorian modification of the facades and roof structures has had a substantial impact on the character of the street.

1846

The array of sheet-glass sash fenestration and decorative frontages are typical of the Victorian ornamental style.

The Carmelites can be linked to Whitefriars Street back to the early 13th century. However, their property was confiscated in 1539 by the Crown as part of the Dissolution of Monasteries.

They went into hiding only resurfacing in the mid 18th century, eventually returning to their original location in 1825. The existing church was built in 1832 and its rendered Victorian facade dates to 1914.

1909

Many of the residents of Aungier Street would have witnessed to the events of the 1916 Rising. Until recently, The Swan Bar displayed damage by gunshots to its facade.

Towards the end of the thoroughfare a large number of original gable-fronted houses were demolished in the 1960s and 1970s and replaced by large apartment blocks in the 1990s.

St. Peter's Church linked to the original 12th century parish and dating back to 1680 was demolished and replaced by the current YMCA in the 1980s.

Historic Fabric of Aungier Street

St Michael Le Pole

The ecclesiastical settlement and church of 'Saint Michael of the Pool', overlooked the Black Pool, Dubhlinn, from present day Great Ship Street. The pool itself occupied the site of the present day Dublin Castle gardens.

Viking Burials

Excavations in 2003 (prior to the construction of the Dunnes Stores HQ) uncovered evidence of a 9th Century Viking Cemetery and associated settlement. Five male warrior burials, presumably associated with the longphort established by the Vikings in AD841, were found. They represent the Vikings first permanent encampment at Dublin.

Bird Market

In the 1950s, behind the 'Aviary Pub' on New Bride Street, a weekly bird market took place in a back alley.

Robert Emmet

The Irish Nationalist Robert Emmet (1778-1803) was executed after leading an unsuccessful revolution against British rule. His passion and courage in the face of death made him a permanent symbol of romantic and revolutionary Irish Nationalism. St.Peter's was the parish attended by Robert Emmet and the burial ground of his family.

Theatre

In 1733 a theatre was erected on Longford Street, designed by Edward Lovett Pearce. Pearce was a renowned architect whose work included the Parliament buildings at College Green and Castletown house. A remaining archway and doorway is visible from the street today.

St Valentine

Relics of St. Valentine given to an Irish Carmelite Priest Fr.Spratt by Pope Gregory XVI in 1835 in the Carmelite Church are still visited by couples today, who come to have their wedding rings blessed in the presence of the famous saint's relics.

Sheridan Le Fanu

One of the first vampire tales written by 19th century gothic short story writer Sheridan le Fanu, 'An Account of Some Strange Disturbances in Aungier Street' describes one of its buildings, believed to be a City Mansion:

> *"The house, to begin with, was a very old one. It had been, I believe, newly fronted about fifty years before; but with this exception, it had nothing modern about it. The agent who bought it and looked into the titles for my uncle, told me that it was sold, along with much other forfeited property, at Chichester House, I think, in 1702; and had belonged to Sir Thomas Hacket, who was Lord Mayor of Dublin in James II's time. How old it was then, I can't say; but, at all events, it had seen years and changes enough to have contracted all that mysterious and saddened air, at once exciting and depressing, which belongs to most old mansions."*

Jacobs Biscuit Factory

The location of the old Jacobs Biscuit Factory. Jacobs was the main employer of Aungier Street and its environs in the early 20th century, employing 1059 men and 2085 women. It was occupied by 150 men in the 2nd Battalion under Commandant Thomas MacDonagh. The battalion surrendered on Easter Sunday.

Leper Hospital

Mercer Street Hospital was once the site of late fourteenth century Leper Hospital pictured right, of which the present day facade is still reminiscent.

Old 'Smithy'

The partial remains of an old smithy's workshop built c1900 is now echoed by its use in the present day as a lock smith.

Historic House Types

CITY MANSION

1660 -1680, originally fully detatched, typically four-bay in width with a central door case, a steep roof with dormer windows and over hanging roof eaves

FORMERLY GABLE FRONTED HOUSE

Mid 1720s, typically three bay, large corner chimney stacks, projecting closet returns and curvilinear front gable. Often called a 'Dutch Billy'

GEORGIAN TOWN HOUSE

1720s - 1780s, typically terraced, classically proportioned, typically three or four story over basement with shop on ground floor

VICTORIAN

1840s -1900s Often decorative and elaborate, distinguished by the presence of larger window panes, arched openings and terracotta coloured machine made brick