

Newark

georgian buildings trail

This is the fourth leaflet in a series of seven and the full range may be viewed on our website www.newarkcivictrust.org.uk/

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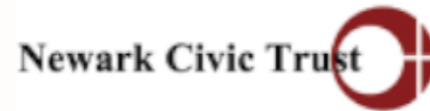
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Newark Georgian Buildings Trail
Distance: 2.25km
Time: 2 hours. Easy trail

Start/Finish: at the bronze model of Newark
in the Castle Grounds
Wheelchair & pushchair friendly

*This trail explores many
of the town's most
interesting Georgian
buildings*

*Start the route at the bronze model of
Newark in the Castle Grounds. Leave
the Castle Grounds via the iron gates,
then turn right to walk along Castle
Gate. As you pass the zebra crossing, look
across at the range of **large buildings
opposite (1)**. All built in the 1720s, each*



The reigns of the four Hanoverian Georges - 1714 to 1830 - coincided with a time of relative peace and prosperity for the whole of Great Britain. There was a boom in house building, in a style influenced by those who, fortunate enough to complete 'The Grand Tour' of Europe, gained an enthusiasm for classical Greek and Roman architecture. This style, which we now call 'Georgian', was characterised by geometrical proportion and balance, symmetry in the pattern of windows and doors (sometimes with 'blind windows' placed solely for this purpose) and, of course, classical decorative elements such as columns, raised parapets and triangular pediments - an elegant look that remains popular to this day. Publication of the first 'pattern books' helped to spread the latest fashions, and the scarcity of building land

led to the construction of the first uniform terraces - often by a new industry of speculative builders. Edinburgh's New Town and Bath's Royal Crescent are famous examples of the style at its best. At the heart of the country, Newark also prospered and grew - new and replacement buildings, on a more modest scale, were constructed in the town centre and expanding beyond the line of the medieval defences into the surrounding fields. In fact, Newark is known as a Georgian town, despite the buildings from many other periods that line its streets. This trail follows a route that enables us to point out some, but only a small sample, of the buildings of Newark that illustrate the styles of the Georgian period.

has a triangular pediment over its centre bay and a pedimented door case with a simple semi-circular fanlight over. The doors themselves have six or eight panels. The windows (where originals remain) are tall and graduated in size to reflect the status of the rooms inside. These style features are typical of the

early-Georgian period and also reflect the increased availability of glass and bricks due to advances in industrial technology. Note that the brickwork is in elegant Flemish bond (alternate headers and stretchers).

Cross Castle Gate at the zebra crossing and proceed up Stodman Street. Keep an eye on the buildings on the right hand side - although modern shop fronts have disfigured their elevations at street level, the upper storeys, with splayed window heads and raised parapets, tell you that they are Georgian. Reaching the Market Place, you are confronted with a number of Georgian buildings. The **Town Hall (2)**, by John Carr of York, is Palladian in style, begun in 1773. Of seven bays, the centre is a three-bay loggia with slim Doric columns rising through both upper storeys. Behind

the classical front is a columned market on the ground floor with a fine assembly room above. Carr designed this building shortly after working with Robert Adam on Harewood House; Adam's influence is apparent throughout.

Almost hidden in the NW corner is the former Subscription Library, now a pub named the 'Sir John Arderne', after a 14th Century Newark resident who is famed as the first ever surgeon. Built in 1830 in yellow-grey brick with a triangular pediment, it is one of the town's last true Georgian buildings.

Occupying part of the island site in front of the Town Hall is an early Georgian building, currently a hairdresser's, rendered and with a later raised parapet. Its colonnade is a feature repeated on other buildings of similar date around the Market Place, replicating the shady walkways popular in Italy.

The colonnade can be seen on the replica (1967) of the 1708 Moot Hall on the left and on the Clinton Arms and Saracen's Head on the right - two large coaching inns of c1720 - the former elaborately decorated with stonework in Etruscan style (note that the brickwork is all 'headers' to display quality).

On the eastern side, No 31 (currently Boot's Opticians) has an early 18th Century façade over a much earlier timber frame building, while the **Porter's shop building (3)** has the most elaborate and imposing door case in town. When the first floor café is open it is possible to see and use the fine staircase, with alternating plain, fluted and turned balusters. Next door, Southchurch House is also early Georgian, but with a later raised parapet.



From Southchurch House proceed past the tall chimney that was once the flue for the church's heating system and turn along Church Walk towards Appleton Gate. Note the grey-rendered **Church House (4)** to your right. Built in mid 18C, this brick built town house straddles the line of the old town ditch. Moulded eaves and a narrow, flat-topped parapet, together with a door case comprising two Tuscan columns and a flat hood, emphasise the Georgian symmetry. The restored railings add to its charm.

At the junction with Appleton Gate turn right and proceed to the corner of Bridge Street. The large shop (Imperial Buildings) on your left is early Georgian, of 7 bays with a raised panelled parapet and decorative plasterwork window surrounds on the upper floors. The yellow brick buildings in Bridge Street to your right replaced medieval timber frame houses when the street was widened in about 1830.

Turn down Balderton Gate (once the route of the Great North Road) and after about 100m you will see on your right a large house built of brick with stone quoins, or corner bracing. **Wilson House (5)**, was built in c1760 for the Reverend Bernard Wilson,



a controversial and wealthy rector of Newark. The original 3-storey, 5-bay building with its raised and panelled parapet and splayed window heads is spoilt by the later wings and porch.



Carry on along Balderton Gate, cross Sherwood Avenue at the

pelican crossing and go to the corner of William Street. Here you can see **Nos 117 and 119 Balderton Gate (6)**, a very attractive pair of mid-Georgian town houses on 3 and a half storeys with a plain raised parapet and splayed stone window heads. The equally attractive ironwork balconies were probably added early in the 19th Century. Next door, No 121 is similar in date, but somewhat less grand, with brick window heads and an identical door - centrally placed as in all good Georgian designs. The balcony seems to have been made by the same craftsmen as 117/119 and gives a definite lift to the front elevation.

Moving further along, the exteriors of **Nos 123-129 Balderton Gate (7)** illustrate that the Georgian style influenced houses for all sectors of society. Next door, Nos 131-135 are late Georgian, and may be by the same builder. Note that they all have the same design of doorway, with fanlights over - another innovation of the period.



The house numbers change as we move further on and enter London Road. **Nos 43-49** form a terrace with identical door cases having classical roundels and 'egg and dart' decorations and the stone window heads have keystones. Nos 51-53 are mid-Georgian, although the door cases are earlier in style and the windows are later. **No 55 London Road (8)** has a classical porch and splayed window heads, while the bay windows are a Victorian addition. The terrace of **Nos 57-63 (9)** is early Georgian and the elaborate 3-D



blind windows are unique locally; the elegant ironwork balconies are later additions. As you reach No 63, note the ominous house name of 'Gallowsfield'.

Turn around and bear left to follow London Road as

far as the traffic lights at its junction with Sherwood Avenue. Cross with care and continue to the entrance to London Road Car Park. Pause and look diagonally across the road at the group of early Georgian houses opposite. The one nearest was once the home of the manager of the Castle Brewery, in front of which it stands.

Cross London Road car park or retrace your route a little to enter Beaumont Gardens (NB: these are closed between dusk and dawn) and follow the footpath across, past the modern library and Wilson House to reach Balderton Gate once more. Turn left and proceed towards the town centre, then turn right at Boyes and go on to Appleton Gate. Pause on the pavement opposite the War Memorial to look across at the **Georgian buildings opposite (10)**.



On the right, No 10 Appleton Gate was built in 1730 as the new vicarage. It exhibits the Georgian features of symmetry about the central doorway with its classical features, and a projecting timber cornice with raised triangular pediment; note that the windows have been altered over time, with only the one over the doorway retaining its original shape.

No 12 in the centre is mid-Georgian (c1770) and had a raised parapet added much later. A pedimented door case with splendidly ornate cast-iron fanlight draws the eye to the centre of this house. The upper storeys each have seven windows to the upper storeys, on the second alternately glazed and blind and on the first only the second from the right is blind.

The last of the three is named 'The Wittenoom Building' after the schoolmaster who had it built in 1817 from reclaimed materials to extend the Magnus School's accommodation, giving rise to occasional non-standard features. An applied timber cornice, for instance, was probably fitted before the later parapet was added. The door case has an attractive teardrop fanlight and the centre panel of the wall standing forward has semi-circular window arches. These now form part of the National Civil War Centre - Newark Museum's galleries.



Turn away from Appleton Gate and proceed along Church Walk, past the church, to reach the corner of Wilson Street. Built in 1766 by Reverend Bernard Wilson, this **terrace of 3 storey houses (11)**, was originally mirrored by identical buildings on the opposite side of the street. In parliamentary elections, the tenants had to vote for the Duke of Newcastle's candidate (the vicar owed his position to the Duke) or face eviction.

A short way down Kirk Gate stands **No 42**. This mid-18th Century former hotel has quality stone window arches with keystones. Particular features here are the mansard roof, for greater interior height; the simple elegant chamfered bay to the 2nd storey and an impressive cast iron grille to the side passage door.



Move further along Kirk Gate to the junction with Middle Gate and turn left to see **No 3 Middle Gate (12)**. This imposing town house (c1780) has, with the exception of some 20th Century glazing, archetypal Georgian features of symmetry and classical style elements.



Return to Kirk Gate, turn left and go to the junction with Castle Gate. Turn left again and go on to pause outside **No 11 Castle Gate (13)** - a very pretty early Georgian (1725) house with a hipped roof, triangular pediment over the centre bay and a simple but elegant door case. Our image shows how it would have looked in its original state.

Cross Castle Gate at the zebra crossing to return to the Castle Grounds and the end of the trail.

