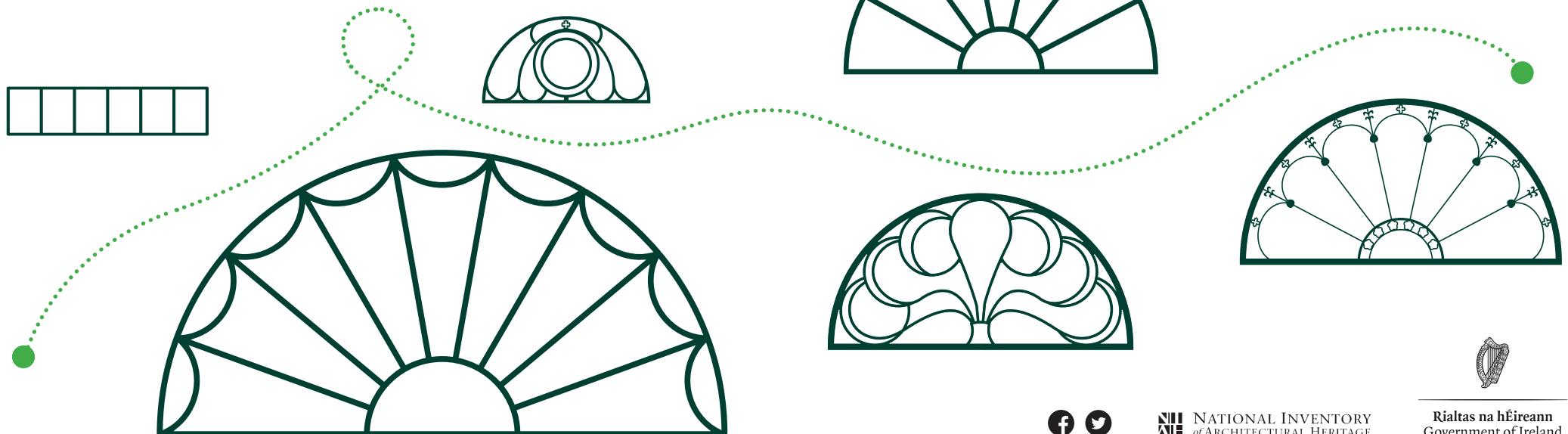


Fantastic Irish Fanlights of Donegal

Ireland has a rich heritage of fanlit doorcases in both urban and rural areas, which range from very simple to extremely sophisticated. Fanlights were designed and made throughout Ireland from the early 18th century to the end of the 19th century. Fanlights, sidelights and their doorcases usually display either Classical or Gothic details. They give houses and many other types of buildings a visual focus. You can read all about the fanlight design families in the Fantastic Irish Fanlights series on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage Facebook page www.facebook.com/www.buildingsofireland.ie/.



Fanlight Design Families

Fanlight designs were made in variations on a number of themes we call families as they are like siblings or cousins and only rarely like identical twins. You will find line drawings of the main design families on the activity sheet that accompanies this trail. Fanlights of all designs were handmade from metals, timber and glass.

This self-directed tour introduces Ireland's lovely legacy of fanlight creativity and practical skills. It is a brief snapshot of the fanlights of this county showing off a few individual highlights.

Please note these buildings are privately owned so view them from the road only.

National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)

The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland as an aid in its protection. The Building Survey, available at www.buildingsofireland.ie is a wonderful source of information on our architectural heritage and is also a valuable education and research tool. You can search over 65,000 records by location or Registration Number – these are the numbers that appear in the captions of the buildings featured on this trail.

Why not give it a try? Learn more about the buildings you already know and love and discover new architectural highlights in your local area.



NIAH NATIONAL INVENTORY
of ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Fantastic Irish Fanlights Tour — County Donegal

Ballyshannon

Ballyshannon, the gateway to south Donegal, has just a few surviving fanlights among its many interesting 18th- and 19th-century buildings, but these are worth searching out.

- On the corner of Upper Main Street and Church Lane you can admire a very unusual fanlight, a simple oval ornamented with ribbon loops, with surviving handmade glass. This design reminds us of classical plasterwork.
- On The Mall, off Main Street, the pretty rectangular fanlight of the elegant house Lia Fáil is composed of lozenges with little squares ringed by circlets.
- A lovely Victorian terrace of the 1880s on College Street has a delightful set of doorways: curly-topped mouthorgan fans with carved shamrocks over door and sidelights and original panelled doors.

Raphoe

Raphoe has some fine buildings with a few good fanlights on The Diamond.

- At the Royal School House, just to the east, the quirky rectangular cobweb fanlight and original panelled door survive from the early 1800s.



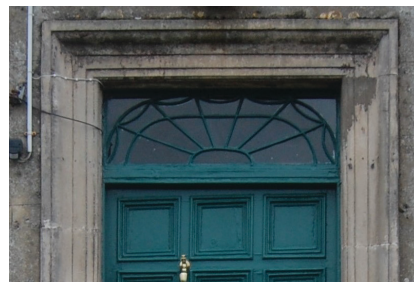
Upper Main Street, NIAH 40852013



Lia Fáil, NIAH 40852036



College Street, NIAH 40852048



School House, Raphoe NIAH 40833004



Ramelton

Ramelton, on the Fanad Peninsula, has many fine buildings with some fanlight details indicating a local 19th-century joiner.

- An elegant corner house at the east end of Castle Street has an elliptical arched cobweb fan over an original door, engaged columns and sidelights with early glass.
- Heading west, at Market Cross, you will find a similar doorway; this house with its simple shopfront is a lovely composition in fine condition.
- The Mall and Bridge Street have many nice mouthorgan fans, with no fewer than six on the Corner House at Shore Road!
- A corner house near the bridge at the west end of The Mall also has that characteristic elliptical doorway and cobweb fanlight.

Activities

1. Tweet your favourite fanlight photos and tell us the stories behind these old hall doors #fantasticfanlights
2. Kids: fill in the fantastic Irish fanlights colouring page!

We hope that you have enjoyed this tour and that you have learned something new about fanlights and about the design and practical skills our ancestors used to create them.



Castle Street, NIAH 40800506



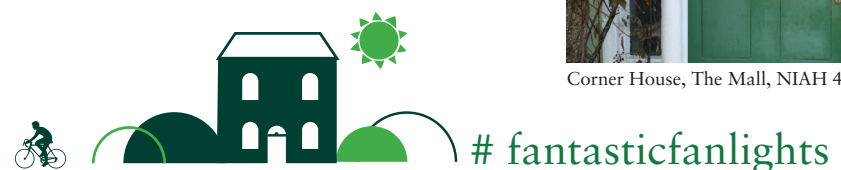
Market Cross, Ramelton, NIAH 40823070



Bridge Street, Ramelton, NIAH 40800402

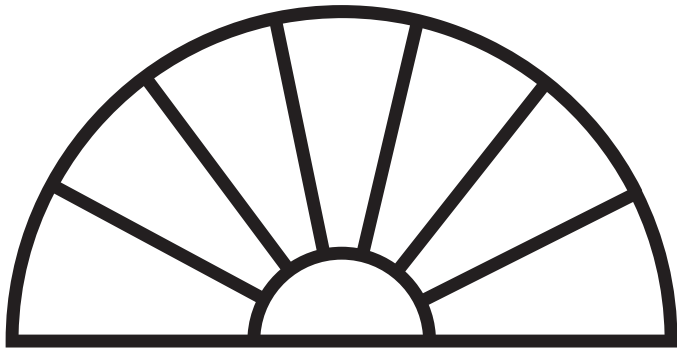


Corner House, The Mall, NIAH 40800205

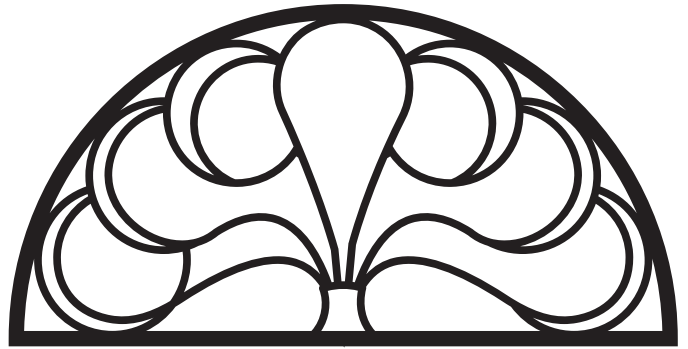


Fantastic Irish Fanlights

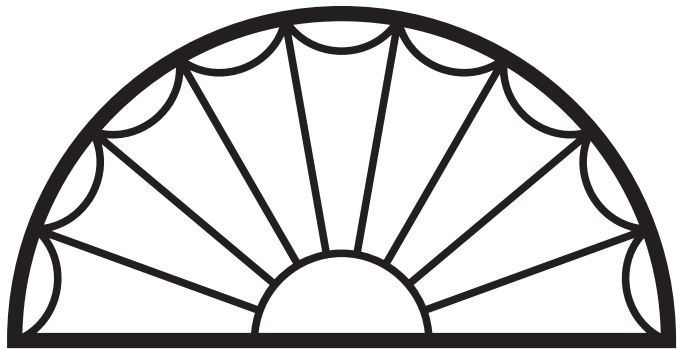
Colouring fun #fantasticfanlights



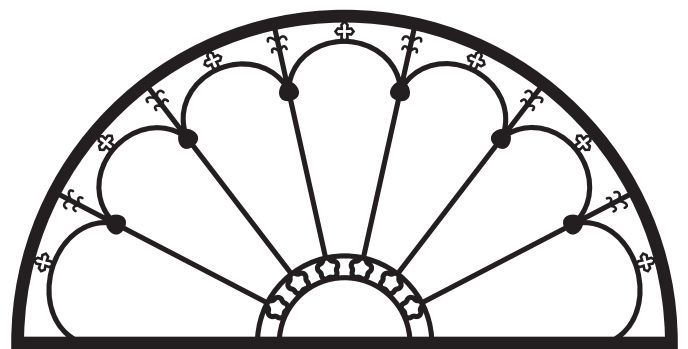
This is the basic radial design with hub and spokes.



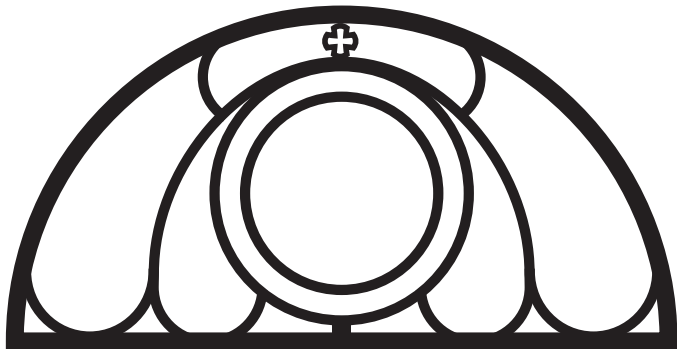
This is a floral design like a bouquet of flowers and leaves.



This is a cobweb design, made by adding concave loops to the radial design. It can have several sets of cobweb loops.



This is a petal design, made by adding convex curves to the radial design. It can have several sets of petal curves.



This is a teardrop design, made using circles and curves that are shaped like tears.



This is called a mouthorgan design, as it looks like a mouthorgan - or a set of teeth!

1. Tweet your favourite fanlight photo and tell us the stories behind these old hall doors. **#fantasticfanlights**
2. Kids: are there typical fanlight designs in your area? Send us your drawings of interesting fanlights and we'll show them in our fanlight fanmail on Facebook.

The NIAH team is happy to receive photographs of your fanlights, or any other building, to help improve our knowledge of the built heritage of Ireland. Post to our Facebook page, or write to niah@chg.gov.ie.

