Welcome to Gort. Located 20 miles South of Galway City, Gort lies between the Slieve Aughty Mountains and The Burren. The name Gort comes from ‘Gort Inse Guaire’, or garden of Guaire’s Island. Legend tells us, Gort was home to Guaire, a famous 6th century King of the South Galway Aighne Tribe, whose palace was located at the curve of the Cannahowna/Gort River. He had a great reputation for generosity. Poets and Bishops were welcome guests at his royal ‘fort of lasting flame’. The bards celebrated his generosity in poetic exaggeration by representing his right arm longer than his left. “As generous as Guaire” was an accepted expression of the time.

In the middle ages the O’Shaughnessy family had a stronghold in Gort. In the 17th century their estates were confiscated and given to the Verekers, who became known as the Viscounts of Gort. In the early 19th century, Viscount Gort drew up a plan for a town with wide streets and a spacious square.

While the town can trace its history back to the 6th century, it is its recent literary and cultural history which places Gort high on the tourist trail. This focus is on Gort’s associations with W.B. Yeats at Thoor Ballylee, Lady Gregory at nearby Coole Park, Edward Martyn at Tulira and the many famous people of the Celtic Literary Renaissance who visited the area. Their creative influence is reflected in the Town through the activities of The Wild Swan Theatre Company, The Lady Gregory Yeats Trail, Coole Music, Coole Voices, Gort Vibes Cinema Club, Cooley Collins Traditional Music festival, Comhaltas and a host of visual artists, musicians and craftsmen who work and live in the region. It is our intention with this walking trail of Gort, to share with you the past and the present influences in the area.
The library was the former local Protestant church built in 1830. The design was attributed to the architect Pain. The 2 storey building was formerly the minister’s residence. Its first manager was George Grubb. It was incorporated into the Bank of Ireland in 1843 and has remained a popular resource. Next to it is our Men’s Shed.

**CONVENT (BRIDGE HOUSE) 53.0656 -8.8176**

Dating from the 1760’s. Originally the home of Lord Gort, it is probably the oldest inhabited dwelling in the town. At various stages until 1857 it served as a dispensary, a police barrack and an auxiliary workhouse during the Great Famine. The founding sister of the Convent served with Florence Nightingale in the Crimeea.

**GORT/CANNANOHWA/ BLACKWATER RIVER 53.0654 -8.8187**

It has its source as the Owengoween Lough in the Slieve Aughty mountains. It flows into Lough Cutra in Killarney National Park and becomes The Beagh River. 3km the river is swallowed in a depression known as ‘The Devil’s Punchbowl’ and then reappears under a grotto of antiques. The Garda station H.Q. is located across the road.

**GLYNNS HOTEL 53.0659 -8.818**

The building was previously used as a dwelling. In 1979 to 1985 it was owned by (Kates Cafe) This building was many interesting guests. Count John McCormack, Princess Emmy and Princess Grace of Monaco all visited here and it is the favourite hotel of Lady Gregory’s grand-daughters. The exterior of the building is still the same as it was in the 19th Century.

**LIBRARY AND CEMETARY 53.0652 -8.8199**

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**FARMERS’ TOWN HOUSE/ LIBRARY & CEMETARY**

When the Penal laws were removed, the town of Gort was established and Goughs, (the South). It was presented to the people of the South of Ireland by the British Government in the 1970’s. It was opened in 2013 and has remained a popular venue ever since.

**SOUTH GALWAY EDUCATION CENTRE 53.0628 -8.8194**

An adult education centre run by the GreTfe it was originally the Technical School. It remained empty for years until the early 2000’s when a local group campaigned successfully to have the building renovated when it was refurbished and rebult. It was built on the site of Gort Workhouse.

**THE OLD FEVER HOSPITAL 53.0665 -8.8187**

Est 1846. The Tudor style is typical of workhouses designed by architect George Wilkinson. Located adjacent to the Workhouse, the fever hospital was built to deal with the epidemics borne on the Famine. Building the fever hospital was to accommodate approximately 150 people the numbers rose to nearly 450. Fever sheds had to be built to expand accommodation for the increasing number of patients. Sir George Wilkinson was a great believer in preventive medicine, in his treatise on the workshop of local stonemason Jethro Yeats used to get his horse shod here.

**CATHOLIC CHURCH 53.0662 -8.8184**

This is a residential facility for Brothers of Charity service users. It is home to adults and is used by others as a day resource. Next to it is our Men’s Shed.

**ORCHARD HOUSE 53.0654 -8.8192**

This is a residential facility for Brothers of Charity service users. It is home to adults and is used by others as a day resource. Next to it is our Men’s Shed.

**KEANE’S SHOP 53.0655 -8.8185**

This was once the home of the Glynns, a well known merchant family whose members include Patrick McMahon Glynn, one of the founders of the Australian Federation. His brother Joseph Glynn, was prominent in legal circles in the first half of the 19th century. One branch of the Glynn’s opened a tobacco factory here. It was first opened as a bank, The Munster and Leinster, in 1919 becoming the A.I.O. in 1966.

**THE COURTHOUSE 53.0671 -8.8189**

This was built in 1815, one of the most complete examples of this class of public building to have been remodelled over the years so that the staircases survive in its original form. The building in fact, was the site of many trials. It was here, in 1996, that thelazygalway/uk police officer, George Wilkinson, was tried and convicted of the manslaughter of his servant, John Cruise. It was here, in 1996, that the lazygalway/uk police officer, George Wilkinson, was tried and convicted of the manslaughter of his servant, John Cruise. It was here, in 1996, that the lazygalway/uk police officer, George Wilkinson, was tried and convicted of the manslaughter of his servant, John Cruise. It was here, in 1996, that the lazygalway/uk police officer, George Wilkinson, was tried and convicted of the manslaughter of his servant, John Cruise. It was here, in 1996, that the lazygalway/uk police officer, George Wilkinson, was tried and convicted of the manslaughter of his servant, John Cruise. 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