

Fantastic Irish Fanlights of Carlow

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.

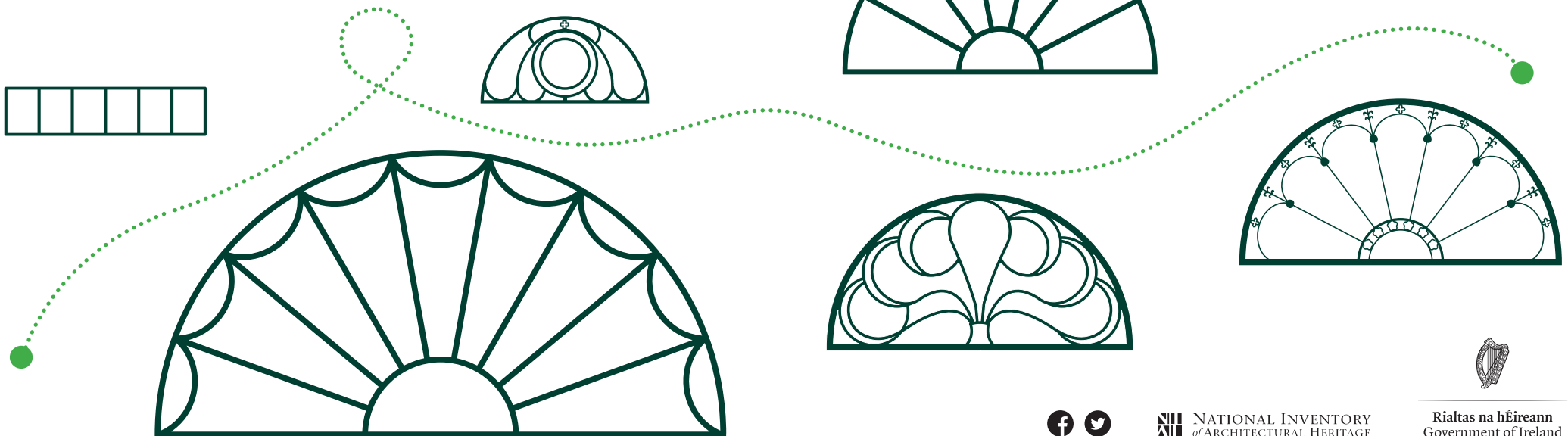
This self-directed tour introduces Ireland's lovely legacy of fanlight creativity and practical skills. It is a brief snapshot of the fanlights of this county showing off a few individual highlights.

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.



Fantastic Irish Fanlights Tour — County Carlow

Carlow Town

Carlow Town has many fantastic fanlights.

- They are a great addition to the character of Dublin Street, especially the unusual cluster of bulbous petals at No. 26, and to Montgomery Street and Athy Road.
- In St Patrick's College, College Street, admire the elaborate painted fanlights with central circles at the main entrance and elsewhere.
- Wander south to take in the fanlights on Burrin Street and, right at the end of Pembroke Road, see a set of unusual fanlights with clasping fingers around a central circle—this is probably a local design.
- The country houses of Carlow boast many lovely fanlights. **Altamont** near Ballon has a very elegant cobweb fan with many original glass panes, as pretty as the gardens.



26 Dublin Street, NIAH 10000763



St Patrick's College, NIAH 10000437



Pembroke Road, NIAH 10000246



Altamont House, NIAH 10301326.
Image reproduced courtesy of OPW.

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!



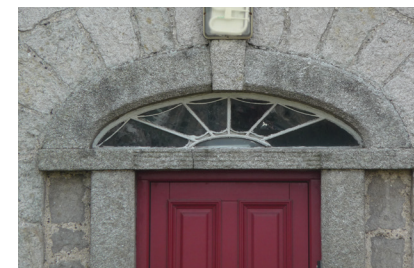
Tullow

Tullow has some interesting fanlights.

- On Barrack Street there is a very unusual fanlight, of clasping fingers holding a heraldic shield, possibly a cousin of those on Pembroke Road in Carlow Town.
- On the Dublin Road the granite-built St Columba's Schoolhouse has a lovely elliptical-arched entrance with a simple cobweb.



Barrack Street, NIAH 10400302



St Columba's Schoolhouse, NIAH 10400303

Borris

Borris is an architectural delight in granite.

- Triangular-arched doorcases with simple V design fanlights are a local feature, as at Step House.
- DJ Nolan down the street has a fine 19th-century shop front with a mouthorgan fanlight over the shop door.

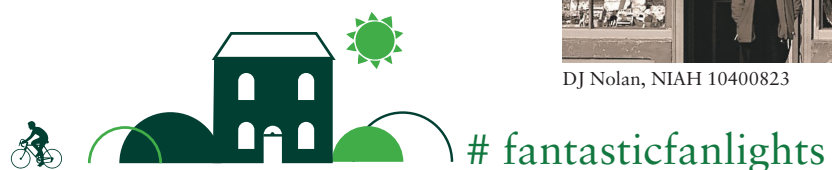


Step House, NIAH 10100817



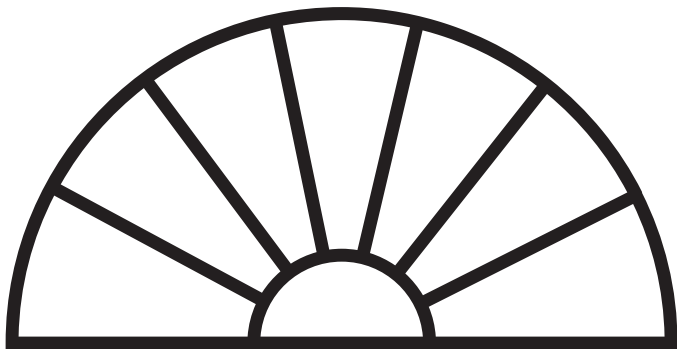
DJ Nolan, NIAH 10400823

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.

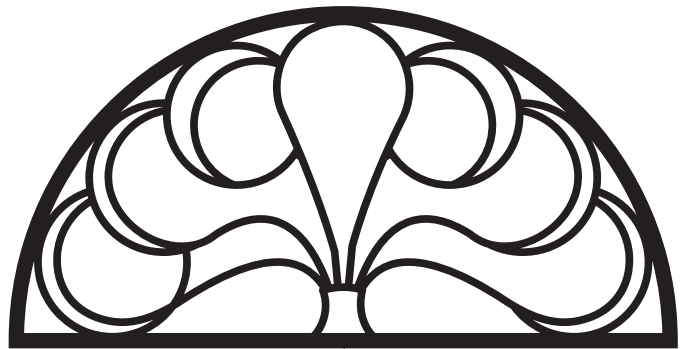


Fantastic Irish Fanlights

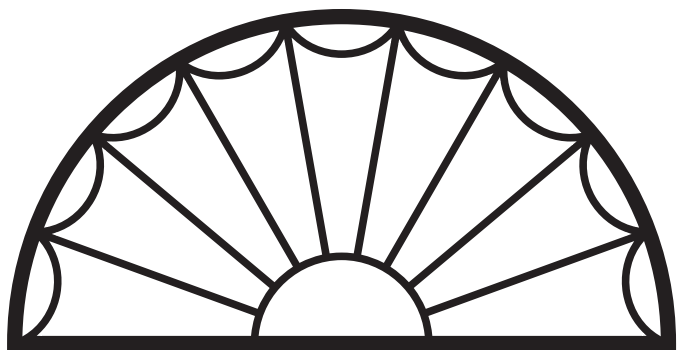
Colouring fun #fantasticfanlights



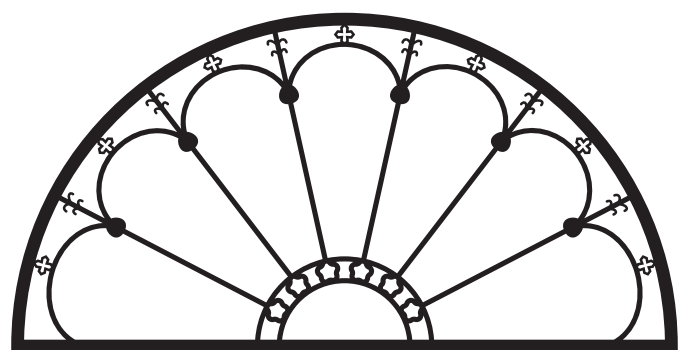
This is the basic radial design with hub and spokes.



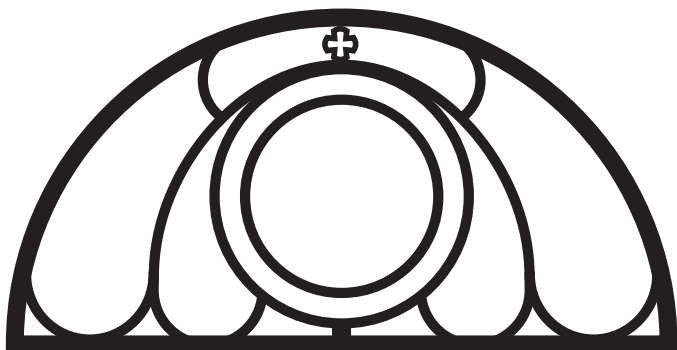
This is a floral design like a bouquet of flowers and leaves.



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.

