

Bunratty castle

The Castle was built by Sioda MacConnara about 1450. During the 16th and 17th centuries, it was an important stronghold of the O'Briens - Kings, and later Earls, of Thomond. It was restored and furnished by the late Lord Gort during the 1960s and is held in trust for the Irish nation.

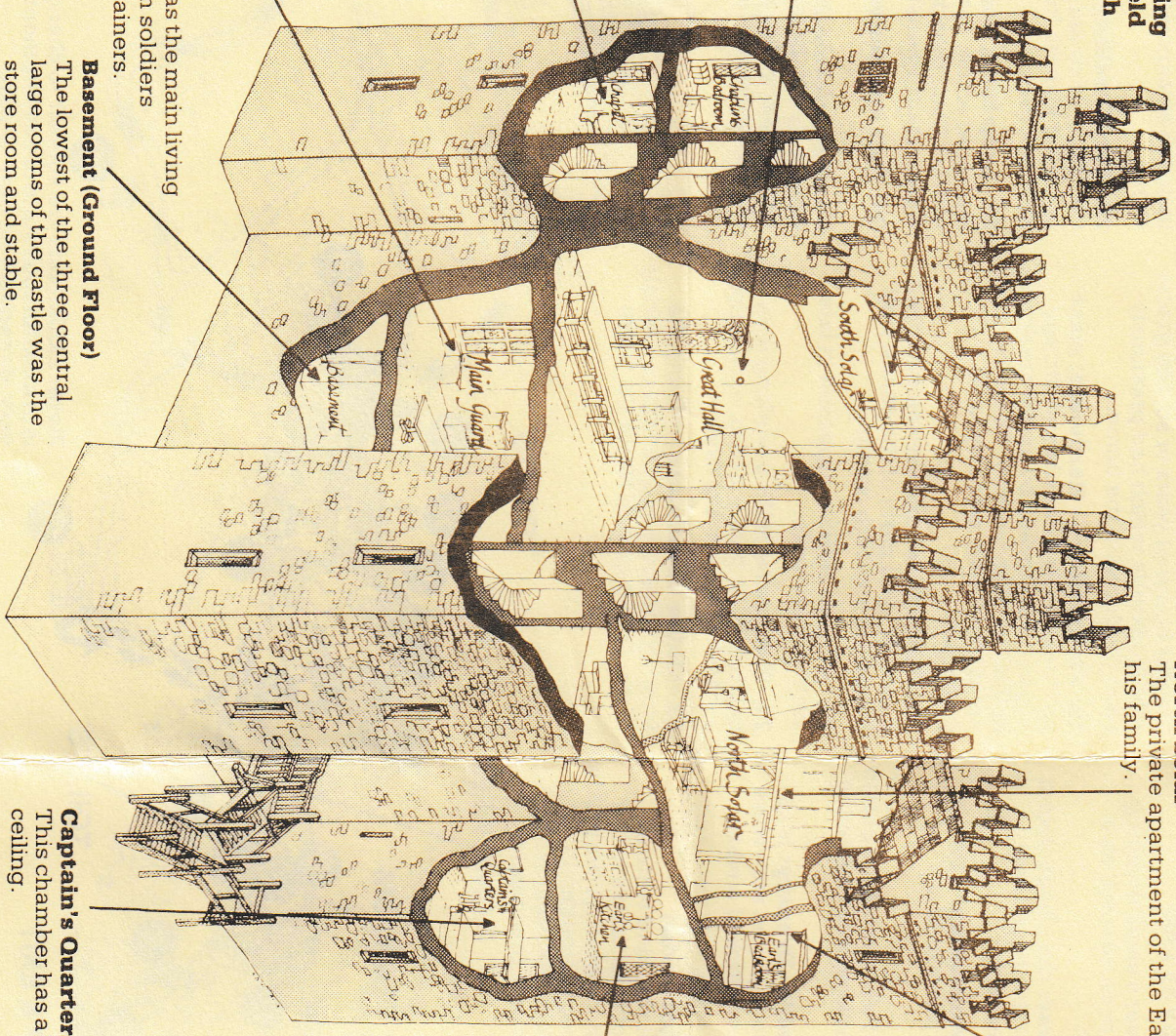
South Solar
The South Solar Chamber, with its original fireplace, is furnished in the style of the 16th and 17th centuries.

The Great Hall
The original banquet hall and audience chamber of the Earls of Thomond.

Public Chapel
The lower chapel has a finely decorated stucco ceiling.

Main Guard
This vaulted hall was the main living room of the common soldiers and of the Earl's retainers.

Basement (Ground Floor)
The lowest of the three central large rooms of the castle was the store room and stable.



North Solar
The private apartment of the Earl and his family

The Earl's Bedroom
Draped with damask in the fashion of the period.

Earl's Kitchen
Here food was cooked for the Earl's private household.

Captain's Quarters
This chamber has a finely decorated ceiling.

Other Attractions in the Area:

Cragganowen Project, near Quin, Co. Clare
16th century tower house, prehistoric lake dwelling, Early Christian fort and the "Brendan".

Knappogue Castle, Quin, Co. Clare
Furnished 15th century tower with later additions.

Hunt Museum, Plassey, Limerick
Exhibition of Irish Antiquities and European Art Objects.

Dunguaire Castle, Kinvara, Co. Galway
15th century fortified house with a graphic display on its history.

Medieval Banquets and Entertainment at:
Bunratty Castle
Knappogue Castle
Dunguaire Castle
Bookings: (061) 61788

Ballycasey Crafts Centre, Ballycasey, Shannon
Artists and craftsmen working together. Visitors welcome. Phone: (061) 362105.

A Shannon Development/Aer Rianta Project

Further information available from:-
Manager, Bunratty Castle and Folk Park,
Co. Clare, Ireland
Tel: (061) 361511

WALK AROUND GUIDE BUNRATTY CASTLE & FOLK PARK

Bunratty Folk Park

The exhibits in Bunratty Folk Park are replicas of rural and urban house types from many parts of Ireland, as they appeared in the late 19th century.

- 1. Blacksmith's Forge:** from Athea, Co. Limerick, a typical example of a rural forge.
- 2. Cashen Fisherman's House:** from North Kerry. The two roomed house of a salmon fisherman.
- 3. Bunratty Castle:** Information over.
- 4. Mountain Farmhouse:** from the upland region of West Limerick.
- 5. Barn:** demonstration of hand operated weavers looms.
- 6. Shannon Farmhouse:** from the first runway site at Shannon Airport.
- 7. Golden Vale Farmhouse:** with stables and a corn barn - the home of a wealthy farmer from Munster's rich Golden Vale.
- 8. Bothan Scoir:** the dwelling of a labourer employed by a wealthy farmer.
- 9. Tea Room:** a byre in the Golden Vale Farmyard contains a tea room. Picnic area nearby.

10. Belvoir School: from East Co. Clare, this is one of the small rural schoolhouses which had been built in all parts of the country by 1900.

11. Artisan House: a small dwelling house which has been adapted as a potter's workshop.

12. Doctor's House: the village doctor used the parlour of his house as a surgery and dispensary.

13. Brown's-Pawmbrokers: a typical late 19th century pawmbroker's establishment.

14. J. J. Corry's - Pub: the village public house. This example serves food, wine and soft drinks.

15. Sean O'Farrell's - Drapery: Irish textiles - linen, wool, poplin etc - were famous. The draper stocked a wide range of these.

16. Foster's - Printworks: establishments of this kind were a common feature of Irish towns in the 19th century. They catered for the needs of increasing literacy throughout society, by producing pamphlets, handbills, notices and newspapers.

17. Terraced Houses: these houses were built for workers in expanding towns and villages. Here a handknitter displays her craft in No. 1, while No. 2 is used as a 19th century photographic studio.

18. Cahill's - Grocer: increasingly, over the last hundred years or so, the grocer sold foodstuffs which had previously been produced in the home.

19. Fitzpatrick's - Hardware: mass produced tools, utensils and fittings began to be stocked by hardware shops in the late 19th century. These replaced items previously made by local craftsmen.

20. Post Office: this service had been provided in all parts of the country by the end of the 19th century.

21. Artisan House: furnished in late 19th century style.

22. Horizontal Mill: a working corn mill based on findings of an excavation at Mashanaglass, Co. Cork.

23. Moher Farmhouse: reflects the farming economy and building materials of the Moher area of North Co. Clare.

24. Bunratty House: a simple late Georgian dwelling, of the type occupied by minor gentry in the 19th century.

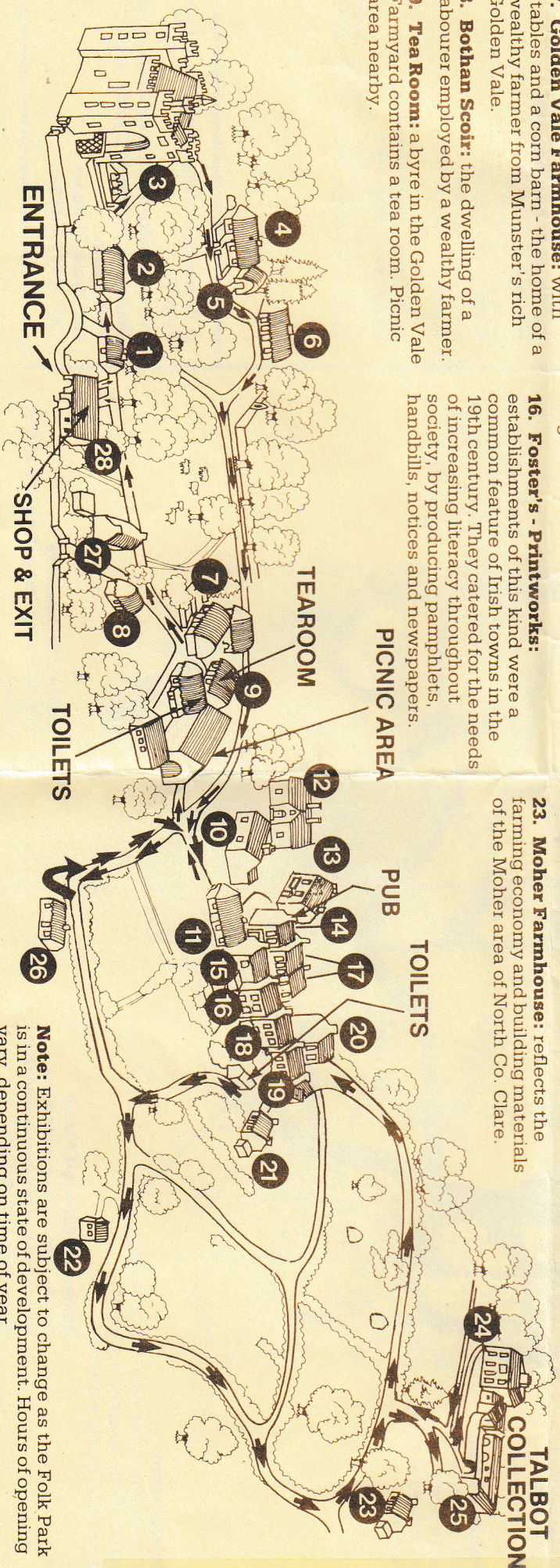
25. Talbot Collection: agricultural machinery and implements assembled by Rev. M J Talbot and presented to the Folk Park in 1976. The exhibition includes an explanatory audio visual show.

26. Byre Dwelling: an example, from Co. Mayo, of an ancient dwelling occupied by both humans and their milking cows.

27. Loop Head House: built of mortared stone. In the Loop Head area of West Clare thatch roofs were roped as a protection against winter gales.

28. Exit and Souvenir Shop.

Further information on Bunratty Castle and Folk Park is contained in the official guide book available at the entrance and souvenir shop (28).



Note: Exhibitions are subject to change as the Folk Park is in a continuous state of development. Hours of opening vary, depending on time of year.