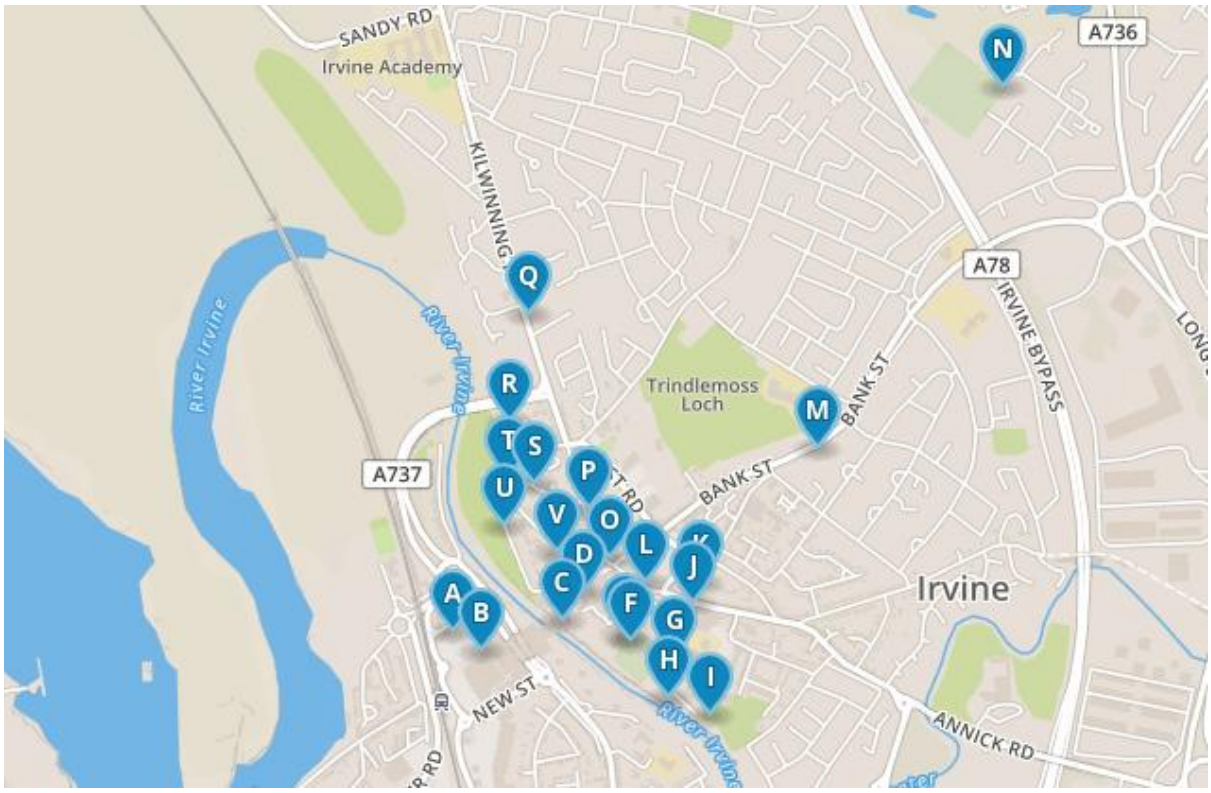
Irvine Heritage Trail Route



Letters for each plaque can be found on the map above.

Start at Cunninghame House.

(A) Cunninghame House

Friar's Croft, KA12 8EE
OS Grid Ref – NS 31686 38744

Cross over the car park[1] to the Asda entrance to the shopping centre.

(B) Rivergate Shopping Centre

5 Fullarton St, Irvine, KA12 8EJ
OS Grid Ref – NS 31744 38681

Enter shopping centre and proceed through it. Note the metal plaques taken from Irvine Bridge[2] on either side of the picture window overlooking the river.

(C) Edgar Allan Poe

Unit 48, Charles Chester Jewellers
OS Grid Ref – NS 31994 38784

The site of Bridgegate House where Edgar Allan Poe resided during his stay in Irvine.

Exit the shopping centre at the Bridegate entrance. Walk over the square to the road up to Trinity Church.

(D) Trinity Church

Bridgegate, KA12 8BJ
OS Grid Ref – NS 32045 38857

Plaque on the wall of the road leading up to the church building.

Go up Bridgegate and right into Hill Street. Continue onto Peden Place and go towards the churchyard.

(E) John Galt

Irvine Old Parish Church Hall, Peden Place, KA12 0DD
OS Grid Ref - NS 32156 38712

Plaque on wall of the Church Hall.

To the left of the Church Hall was the site of the Burgh School where John Galt received his education.

Enter the churchyard.

(F) Duncan Forbes

Irvine Old Parish Churchyard
OS Grid Ref - NS 32168 38703

The Forbes memorial stone is on the wall of the churchyard next to the entrance.

Proceed up the path and past the church and down to the Kirk Vennel entrance.

(G) Irvine Parish Graveyard

Irvine Old Parish Church, 47 Kirkgate, KA12 0DG
OS Grid Ref - NS 32274 38664

Turn right on Kirk Vennel, past the graveyard extension and go down the path next to Thronwood Drive. At the bottom of the path turn left.

(H) St Inan's Well[3]
River Irvine Walkway
OS Grid Ref - NS 32267 38522

Go back up the path to Kirk Vennel and turn right. Go to the end of Kirk Vennel and onto Golffields.

(I) Powder House
Golffields
OS Grid Ref - NS 32388 38473

Retrace your steps to the Kirk Vennel entrance to the churchyard and continue on Kirk Vennel to High Street.

(J) Ross Tollerton
Alex and Robert Lennon Gents Hairdressers, 15 High Street, KA12 0BA
OS Grid Ref - NS 32350 38783

On the corner of Kirk Vennel and High Street. This was the family home of Ross Tollerton. Note the VC winner paving slab outside.

Cross over High Street and go down Glasgow Vennel[4].

(K) Robert Burns
Visulize This, 10 Glasow Vennel, KA12 0BD
OS Grid Ref - NS 32387 38870

Burns worked at flax heckling here when he was in Irvine. His lodgings were at 4 Glasgow Vennel.

Go back to High Street and turn right past the Porthead Tavern[5] and the World War One Memorial[6] to Irvine Townhouse.

(L) Marymass
Irvine Townhouse, 66 High Street, KA12 0AZ
OS Grid Ref - NS 32220 38868

Traditionally where the Marymass Queen is crowned annually.

Continue north and turn right into Bank Street. Proceed up Bank Street.

(M) Mary Andross
104 Bank Street, KA12 0NF
OS Grid Ref - NS 32725 39224

The family home of Mary Andross.

Continue up Bank Street, onto Manson Road and over the by-pass to Stanecastle Roundabout (quite a distance but on the bus route). Turn left and keep on the path to Bank Street, cross over and go down the avenue to Knadgerhill Cemetery[7]. Once inside turn right, go to the end of the path[8] and turn right.

(N) John Smith
Knadgerhill Cemetery, Bank Street, KA12 0YE
OS Grid Ref - NS 33302 40244

The memorial stone to John Smith.

Retrace your path to High Street and turn right.

(O) Joe Caldwell
The Carrick, 112-114 High Street, KA12 8AH
OS Grid Ref - NS 32114 38938

Once the Eglinton Arms which Joe Caldwell bought in 1960.

Continue up High Street[9].

(P) Alexander Macmillan
Irvine Library[10], 168 High Street, KA12 8AN
OS Grid Ref - NS 32072 39071

Plaque here to commemorate Alexander Macmillan's contribution to the world of literature. Continue up High Street, onto Eglinton Street, past Wellwood[11], onto Burns Street, past the World War Two Memorial Garden[12] and onto Kilwinning Road.

(Q) Sisters of Sinai
Hamilfield, 12 Kilwinning Road, KA12 8RU
OS Grid Ref - NS 31919 39646

Hamilfield was the family home for Agnes and Margaret Smith.

Go back along Kilwinning Road and cross over to the south side of Marress Road. Follow the path at the footbridge onto Academy Road and into the carpark at Sovereign House.

(R) Sir David Paulin
Sovereign House, Academy Road, KA12 8RL
OS Grid Ref - NS 31848 39334

The annex of Irvine Royal Academy which Sir David attended and his father was rector.

Go back onto Academy Road, turn right, go onto Castle Street, cross over and turn right then left into Seagate[13].

(S) Seagate Castle
Seagate, KA12 8RX
OS Grid Ref - NS 31914 39148

Go back down Seagate and turn left down Castle Street.

(T) Lord David Boyle
Castle Street
OS Grid Ref - NS 31841 39167

Lord Boyle's statue stands on the grass bank of Castle Street.

Follow Castle Street onto Low Green Road and round to walk south.

(U) George Henry
Low Green Road
OS Grid Ref - NS 31869 38909

Plaque on the wall of the Low Green. The site of the town's brewery[14] and where George Henry was born and brought up.

Follow Low Green Road onto West Road, up behind the Forum Centre and round to going northwards.

(V) Anne Cousin
Mure Church, West Road, KA12 8RE
OS Grid Ref - NS 31982 38966

The Mure Church[15] was the Free Church when Anne's husband was the minister here.

[1] The area is known as Friar's Croft as in medieval times it was owned by Carmelite friars.

[2] When the shopping centre was built it replaced the bridge over the River Irvine. This bridge was first recorded in 1533, replaced in 1748 and widened in 1827.

[3] Above the well is the stone inscription of 1921.

[4] This road was the route to Glasgow carters would take to avoid the Townhead Port and the toll they would have to pay. Note the Buchanite's meeting house (the house angled onto the street on the north side) where a religious sect met during Burns stay in Irvine.

[5] This was the site of Provost Hamilton's house who befriended Burns during his time in Irvine.

[6] Constructed in 1921 in the style of a mercat cross.

[7] You will pass the memorial stone for the camp site of the Scottish army with an English force nearby this led to the Treaty of Irvine.

[8] You will pass the memorial to VC winner Ross Tollerton.

[9] You will pass the Bank of Scotland building which is on the site John Galt's home.

[10] Inside the library are various historical items relating to Irvine – a plaque for John Smith of the International Brigade, a plaque for No.1 Commando Unit, a miner's lamp from the National Union of Mineworkers and stained glass panels from Trinity Church.

[11] Wellwood is the home of the Irvine Burns Club it was once the home of Provost Paterson and was a bequest to the club from his sons.

[12] The garden was made in 1952 as a gift from Mrs A M Watson and landscaped by the Ex-Servicemen's Club.

[13] In medieval time Irvine's harbour was at the foot of Seagate. Land levels have since risen and the River Irvine silted up to leave today's harbour well away from the town centre.

[14] The brewery became a lemonade plant for A G Barr and Company and was demolished in 1965.

[15] Mure Church was named after the Mure sisters of Perceton in 1900.