

Castle Gardens – Points of Interest

1 The War Memorial

This memorial was unveiled in 1923 built to honour the men from Lisburn who died in the Great War. Names of those who died in World War II were then added to it. The bronze statue of victory is by Henry C. Fehr.



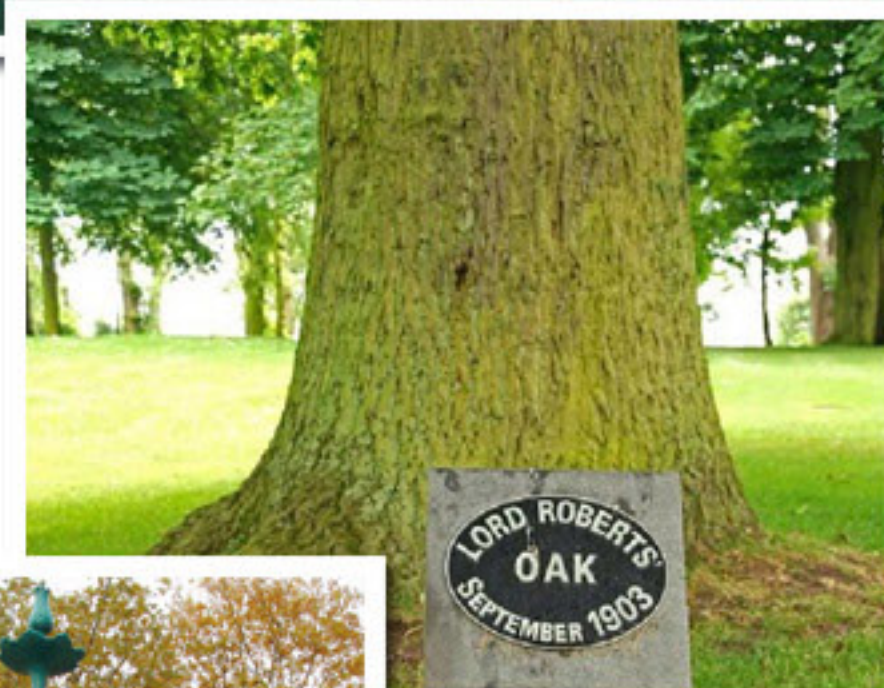
2. World War II Air Raid Shelter.

Now an education space. The shelter was built to protect people from flying masonry rather than a bomb shelter. It was never actually used for that purpose.



3. Lord Roberts Oak Tree

Field Marshall Lord Roberts was affectionately known as “bobs” and known as the “Wellington of the Victorian era”. He served in India under General John Nicholson. In 1903 he came to Lisburn to view Nicholson’s memorial in Lisburn Cathedral. Cheering crowds gathered as he arrived to plant the sapling oak tree. Lord Roberts became Chief of the British army.



4. Egret Fountain

Not much is known about this object. It depicts three egrets and foliage. The fountain has been retiled and the plumbing fixed to restore it to its former glory.



5. Wallace Drinking Fountain “Les Wallaces”

Les Wallaces were drinking fountains commissioned by Sir Richard Wallace for the people of Paris during the Franco-Prussian war. Designed by Wallace and made by Charles Auguste Lebourg, the four graces adorn the fountain - kindness, simplicity, charity and sobriety. Fifty fountains were donated to Paris and five given to the people of Lisburn. Now only two remain in Lisburn, one in Castle Gardens and one in Market Square. The others were melted down during the 1939-1945 war effort.



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6. The Wallace Memorial

Sir Richard Wallace was Lisburn's greatest benefactor. His heir, Sir John Murray Scott gave Castle Gardens to the people of Lisburn. Designed by a Belfast company, Robinson & Co., the monument was paid for by public subscription as a thank you to Sir Richard Wallace. It's inscription reads "...to perpetuate the memory of one of whose delight was to do good and in grateful recognition of his generous interest in the prosperity of the town."

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7. Crimean Cannon

This Russian cannon was captured at the Battle of Sebastopol. Admiral Meynell, a former MP, presented it to the people of Lisburn in 1858. Made of bronze many such cannons were melted down, some were used to make the Victoria Cross medals.

9.



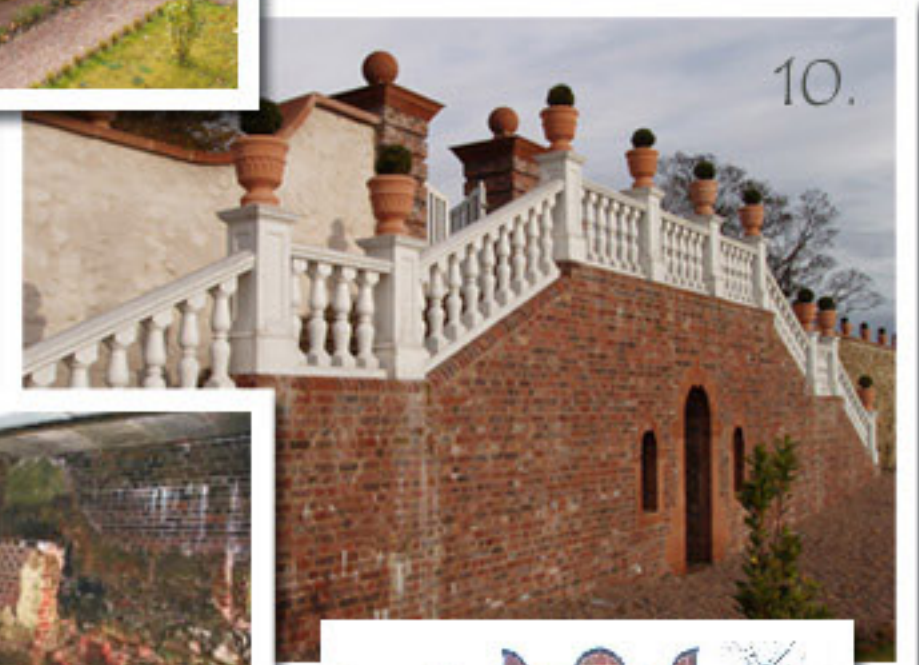
8. 17th Century Musket Loops

These were uncovered in the recent archaeological excavations. They were probably used during the Castle's time as a defensive fortification in the 1600s.



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9. 17th Century Terraces

Of Dutch influence, the building of the terraces began in 1656. Residents of the Castle used the walled terrace gardens for recreation purposes. They would have been adorned with flowerpots and specially commissioned patterned tiles. In their heyday there would have been orchards aplenty. At the bottom of the terraces was a pond stocked with fish.

10. The 17th Century Perron

This is a large double staircase leading from the Bowling Green to the first garden terrace. The perron was only discovered during the archaeological dig. The shaded area below may have been used to sit away from the sun or for plant displays. The perron was a high status structure, which was popular in European gardens at the time.

11. The Gazebo

This was uncovered during the archaeological project and came as a great surprise! It survives below the bowling green. It is thought to be the remains of a summerhouse, a place for the inhabitants of the Castle to relax. A basement room survives below ground containing an oven and a fireplace. No other feature of its type is thought to have survived in Ireland.

12. The East Gateway

This is part of the original Castle wall. It is constructed from red sandstone and basalt stones. The wall survived the great fire of 1707.