

# Lock Keepers Houses on the Lagan

Most of the locks had lock keeper's houses. At Union Locks (No. 14 -17) where there were a flight of locks, there was just one house.

At least five houses were designed by Thomas Omer who was the first engineer of the canal. These houses had a unique design, which allowed the lock to be seen from any window in the house. Two Thomas Omer-designed houses are lived in, at Lock No. 6 and 8. The one at Lock 7 is in ruins.



*Lock Keeper's House  
Lock No 6*

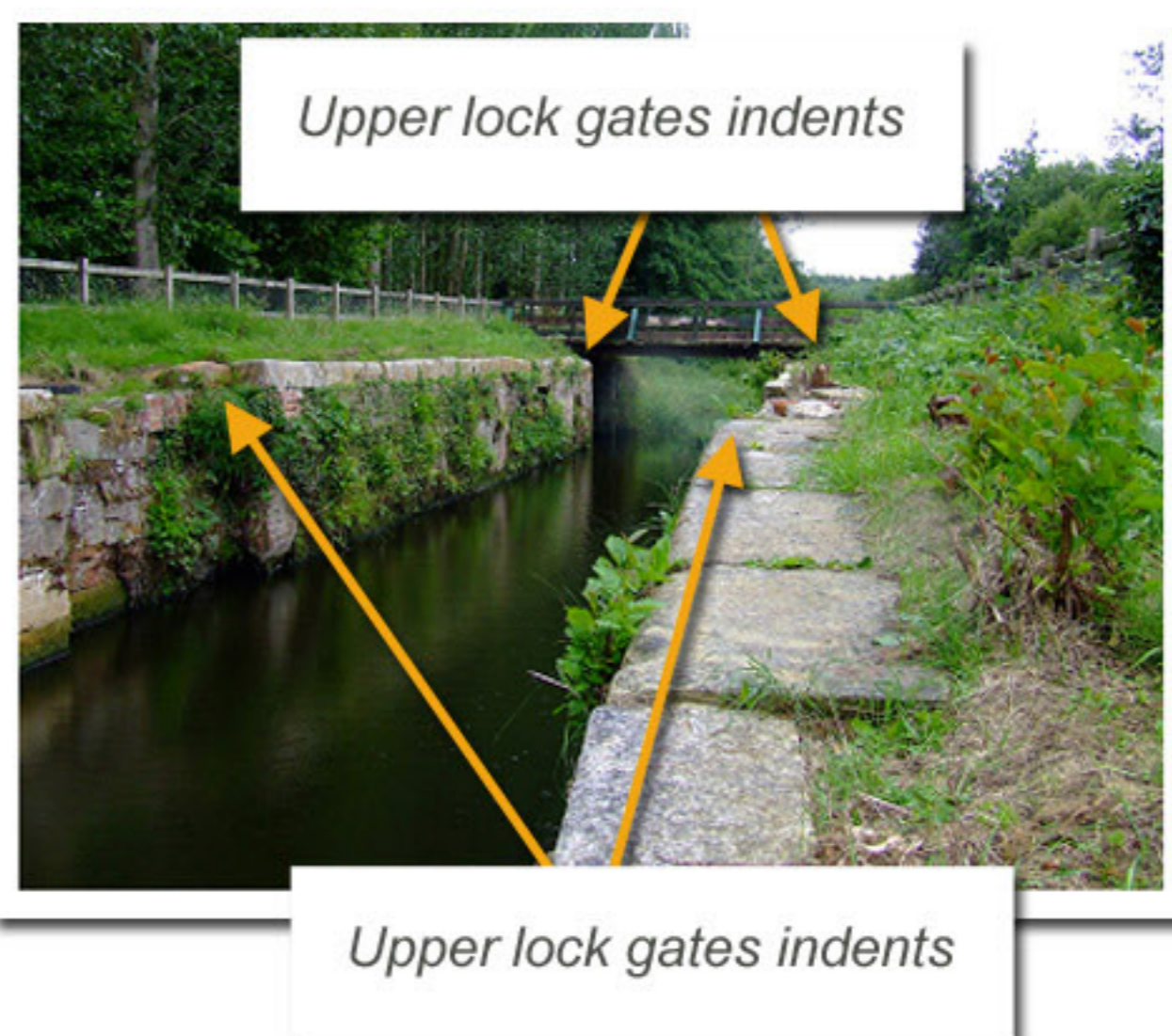


*Lock Keeper's House  
Lock No 8*

## Locks

The lock chambers are the parts of the locks between each of the lock gates. All of them apart from Lock No 1 are still in existence. The place where the lock gates are is usually marked by an indent in the walls in each side of the lock chamber. The outline for Lock No 1 can still be seen in the car park at Stranmillis Boat Club.

Lock No. 2 today – the house was sited on the island on the left of the picture.



## Weirs

Weirs were used for diverting water from the river into the canal and controlling water levels. These were usually upstream of the locks. The weir at Lock No 3 also controlled water levels for Locks 1 and 2. Looking after the weirs and the water levels was part of the job of the lock keeper and when the river was in flood they would have had to keep working night and day until the level had come down.

## Bollards



Bollards were used for tying the boats up. Many still have grooves made by the ropes and chains.



# Lock Keepers Houses on the Lagan

## Lock No 1 "Moly Wards"

Lock No. 1 has been filled in, but visitors can see the outline of the lock quite clearly in the car park in Lockview car park at Stranmillis. There was a cottage and stables where the boat club is now. There were several families, the Wards being one of them, which are strongly linked with the Lagan Navigation.



Molly Ward ran a tavern nearby which was frequented by the United Irishmen in the 1790s. There is a story that Molly Ward was storing a keg of gunpowder for the United Irishmen when the house was raided. In order to hide it she threw a blanket over it and made her mother sit on it with her grandchild.