



Heritage Trail Map
Created by TY Heritage Trail Photography Team

Red Dot = A location
Pink Dot = Starting point (Stratford College)
Yellow line = Bus Route
Red line = Walking route

Thanks/ Credits:
JACI, Jewish Arts and Culture Ireland; JACI, Jewish History Museum; Hannah Bloom, Videography; Chair, Saul Woolfson; Jewish History, Historian, Dr. Natalie Wynn; The Irish Jewish Museum & Archives; Seven Mile, Director; Belfast Jewish Heritage; Irish Jewish Museum; Steven Jaffe; Betha Cohen, Jewish Culture Walk; Asher Benson (2007), Jewish Dublin; Portraits of Life by the Liffey, A. & A. Farmer, Ltd.

Interviews:
Patricia Gordon, Principal Stratford College; Alan Green, Manager Stratford Schools; Hilary Abrahamson, The Irish Jewish Museum; Saul Woolfson, Chair JACI; Donore Avenue, Dublin; Patrick Comerford, The Synagogues of Dublin series; <https://www.patrickcomerford.com/>; Natalie Wynn, 'The History and Internal Politics of Ireland's Jewish Community in Their International Jewish Context' (2018-19), (PhD thesis, 2015), <http://www.tara.tcd.ie/handle/2323/77084>.

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Heritage Trail of Jewish Dublin Then and Now



Transition Year Heritage Trail Team, Stratford College, 2022-2023.
Photo taken on the steps of Stratford College, 1 Zion Road, Rathgar, Dublin 6.

For almost 100 years the heart of the Jewish community centered around South Circular Road and the Clanbrassil Street area of Portobello, known as 'Little Jerusalem'. From the mid-1870s onwards, east European Jews had begun to settle in Dublin. The Jewish population in Ireland increased tenfold, from 394 in 1881 to 3,805 in 1911, after the Second World War it peaked and then began to gradually decline. Our trail will give you a glimpse of Jewish life through the selected buildings and accompanying memories.

1 Stratford College

Then

Now

Photos Courtesy of Irish Jewish Museum and by TY Heritage Trail Photography Team.

Stratford College is a co-educational fee-paying school. Originally founded by the Jewish community in 1954, today the school welcomes students of all faiths and none. This commitment to cultural and religious diversity, while at the same time being committed to the religious education and formation of Jewish students, makes Stratford College unique. The school was first located in a house called 'Stratford' on Terenure Road East and subsequently moved to the present campus in Rathgar. Zion National Schools in Bloomfield Avenue was opened in 1934 and was the first purpose-built Dublin Jewish school in which both Hebrew and secular education were combined.

[Listen to this link to hear Alan Green & Patricia Gordon speak about Stratford Schools.](#)

2 Herzog Park

Situated beside Stratford College, it was acquired by Dublin Corporation in 1954 and was set out to be a park in 1985. Originally known as Orwell's Quarry Park it was renamed in 1995 in honor of Chaim Herzog, former President of Israel, who grew up in Dublin. The renaming of the park coincided with the tri-millennium of Jerusalem. Stratford National school children were involved in designing the playground you see today.

Photo by TY Heritage Trail Photography Team.

[Listen to this link to hear Alan Green & Patricia Gordon speak about Stratford Schools.](#)

3 Clanbrassil Street

Clanbrassil Street was the hub of Jewish life for almost 100 years. It is situated in what was known as 'Little Jerusalem', off South Circular Road and Portobello; and from the late 19th Century until the 1980s, its kosher shops served the Jewish community. Here people shopped, chatted, exchanged news and recipes.

Then

Now

Old photos of Clanbrassil Street. Courtesy of The Irish Jewish Museum.

4 Greenville Hall Synagogue 1925 - 1984

Then

Now

Left photo: Courtesy of The Irish Jewish Museum. Right photo: Photo taken by TY Heritage Trail Photography Team. Historian, Dr. Natalie Wynn outside Greenville Hall, February 2023, JACI Project.

Greenville Hall Synagogue was built to serve the Lithuanian Jewish immigrants. The building was completed after World War I and served from 1925. It closed its doors in 1984. It is now home to Mason Technology.

[Listen to historian Dr. Natalie Wynn speak about its history.](#)

5 St. Catherine's Primary School

Now

The Stolpersteine 'stumbling stones' outside St. Catherine's National School.

Photo: TY Heritage Trail Photography Team.

Visit *The Stolpersteine* 'stumbling stones' outside St. Catherine's National School. The stones commemorate six Irish victims of the Holocaust: Ettie Steinberg Gluck, her husband Wojteck Gluck, and their baby son Leon, along with Isaac Shishi, Ephraim Saks and his sister, Jeanne (Lena) Saks. Ettie Steinberg attended this school. In Ireland, the national Holocaust Memorial Day commemoration takes place on the Sunday nearest to the 27th of January – the date that Auschwitz-Birkenau was liberated in 1945. (See: Holocaust Education Trust Ireland (HETI); Mansion House, Dublin).

[Listen to historian Dr. Natalie Wynn speak about the bakery and her family's connection to it.](#)

6 The Bretzel Bakery

Open since 1870 the Bretzel Bakery on Lennox Street is a Portobello institution. It is well known to generations of the Dublin Jewish community with its Kosher status re-established since William Despard took it over in 2000.

[Listen to historian Dr. Natalie Wynn speak about the bakery and her family's connection to it.](#)

7 '32' Lennox Street Synagogue

Then

Now

Left photo: Courtesy of Irish Jewish Museum. Right: Photo taken by TY Heritage Trail Photography Team.

The Jewish community who arrived in Ireland from Poland, Russia, and the Baltics in the 1880s formed small congregations or hebroth in an area that would become known as 'Little Jerusalem'. The shul or synagogue in Lennox Street was founded in 1887 by immigrants from Lithuania and Poland and closed in 1974. It moved to Stratford College, where worship continued until 1981.

[Listen to Saul Woolfson, Chair of JACI speak about his memories of Lennox Street Synagogue and his family's connection to it.](#)

8 Irish Jewish Museum

Then

Now

Left photo: Courtesy of Irish Jewish Museum. Right: Photo taken by TY Heritage Trail Photography Team.

The Irish Jewish Museum in Walworth Road was officially opened in 1985 by Chaim Herzog, former President of Israel and is situated in a small former synagogue. The museum highlights the place of Jewish influence in Ireland's cultural and historic heritage. It houses an impressive collection of artefacts relating to the Irish Jewish communities of the whole island and their contributions and associations in Irish society in the last 150 years.

[Listen to Hilary Abrahamson of The Irish Jewish Museum speak about the Jewish community in Ireland, Ballybough Cemetery and the growth of the Jewish population over time.](#)

9 Adelaide Road Synagogue

Then

Now

Photos courtesy of Irish Jewish Museum.

Adelaide Road Synagogue was the first purpose-built synagogue of the Dublin Jewish community. It served the Dublin orthodox community from 1892 to 1999. It was called the 'English shul' (synagogue) by Eastern European immigrants because Adelaide Road followed the style and customs of British synagogues.

[Listen to Saul Woolfson, Chair of JACI speak about his memories of Adelaide Road Synagogue, the building, and the changed demographic in the area.](#)

10 Terenure Synagogue

Then

Now

Left photo Courtesy of Irish Jewish Museum. Right photo by TY Heritage Trail.

Many Jewish families moved from Dublin City to the suburbs of Terenure, Rathgar & Rathfarnham from the 1950s onwards and the small hebroth in 'Little Jerusalem' closed. Some of the community who moved from Dublin City built this synagogue. It was designed by Irish architect Wilfrid Cantwell, with a 600-seating capacity, and was completed and dedicated in 1953.

11 Bertha Cohen

Then

Now

Left photo: Courtesy of Irish Jewish Museum. Right: Photo taken by TY Heritage Trail Photography Team.

Bertha Cohen outside of Islamic Relief sharing her memories with Rachel Heather, TY student of Rubenstein's shop. Clanbrassil Street, February 2023. Photo by TY Heritage Trail Photography Team.

[Listen to Jewish Community member Bertha Cohen speak about her memories of this area.](#)

12 The Bretzel Bakery

Then

Now

Left photo: Courtesy of Irish Jewish Museum. Right: Photo taken by TY Heritage Trail Photography Team.

The Bretzel Bakery, Supervisor, Anna Drabik, 9/2/23

13 St. Catherine's National School

Then

Now

Left photo: Courtesy of Irish Jewish Museum. Right: Photo taken by TY Heritage Trail Photography Team.