

Blackrock Castle

By
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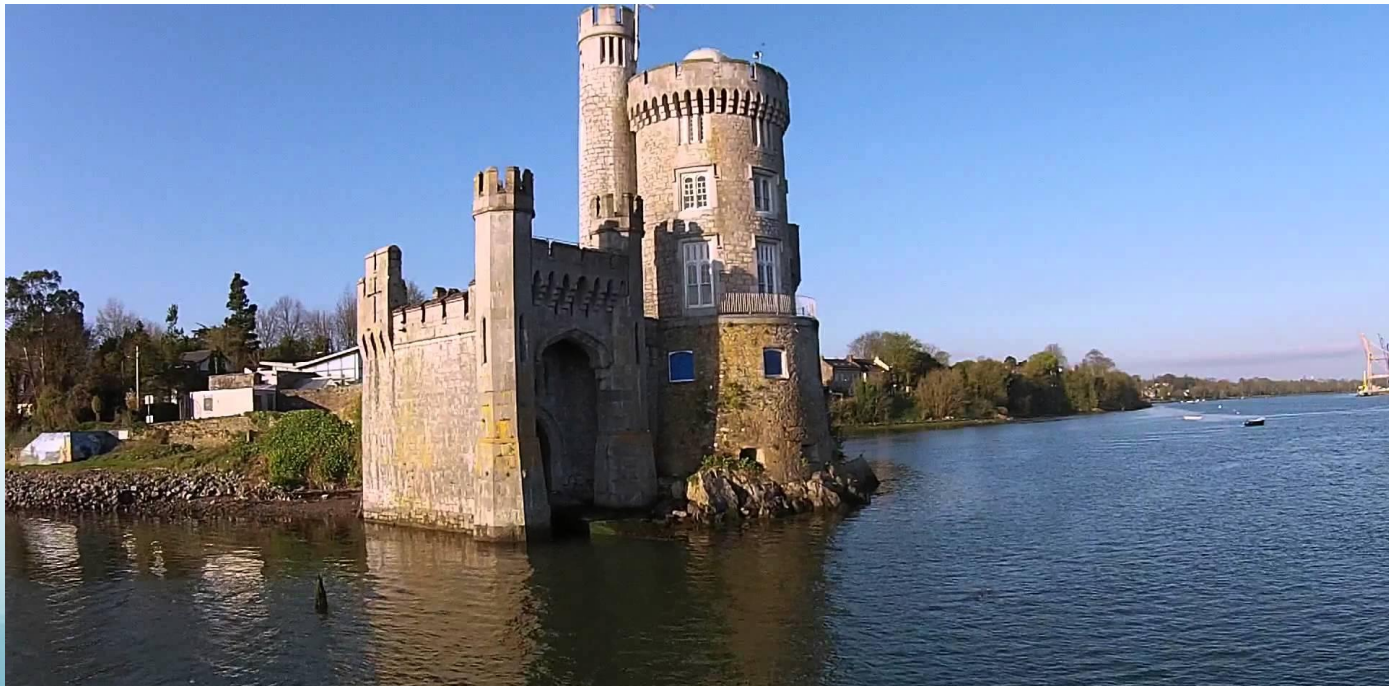


The History

- James and G.R. Pain designed Blackrock Castle, was completed on 3 March 1829. It's situated three miles east of Cork city.
- The new building cost the City of Cork £1,000
- It's the third structure to stand on the site. The first was built about 1582 to resist pirates and other invaders. That castle burnt down in 1722 and was replaced by another which was also destroyed by fire in 1827 following a banquet.



- Some time after it was rebuilt the Castle was privately owned and was used as a private residence, offices, rowing club headquarters, and restaurant. The Castle was then purchased by Cork Corporation in 2001, and they changed it into an observatory and museum.



A picture of Blackrock Castle in 1831



The Structure

- The present castle consists of a large circular tower with crenellated parapets resting on large corbels. It incorporates portions of the walls of the second castle which were strong enough to withstand the impact of cannon balls. On its eastern side it is joined to a cylindrical tower rising several feet above the main structure. At the side of this tower is a watergate leading to a slipway.



→ Crenellated Parapets

Today

- Today the Castle is used as an observatory and museum which opened in 2007 and is open to the public.
- It hosts events and also has a radio telescope where you can send messages into space.
- The castle also has labs for astronomical research.
- There is also a restaurant called The Castle Café.



The Castle Café.



- I like to visit Blackrock Castle as it is very close to where I live.
- Sometimes we go there for hot chocolate and if we are very lucky we go there for dinner.
- I really enjoy going into the museum because there is some really interesting things to do.
- Our school visits to take part in interesting workshops throughout the year.



The end