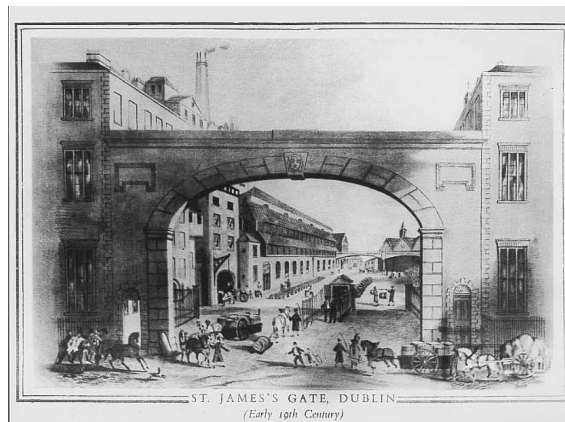




## Archive Fact Sheet: St. James's Gate



**19<sup>th</sup> century representation of entrance to St. James's Gate Brewery**

Traditionally, St. James's Gate lay just outside the walls of the medieval city of Dublin. The Gate was the city's western customs house where tolls (taxes) were collected by the city officials from people entering the city of Dublin. Everyone who wanted to enter Dublin city from the south and the west, had to enter the city through this gate.

The area has always been associated with St. James and the holy well of St. James lay next to the Gate. (There has been a church of St. James near the Front Gate since the 1100s). St. James's Gate was also the start of a pilgrimage to Compostella in Spain and pilgrims from all over Ireland used to gather on this site to start the journey to Spain.

The medieval gate of St. James was demolished in 1734, 25 years before Arthur Guinness took over the Brewery on the site. However, the Front Gate of the Guinness Brewery as we know it today, stands very near the site of the original St. James's Gate.

**If you have any further questions about the history of Guinness please contact us at:  
Guinness Archive, GUINNESS STOREHOUSE®, St. James's Gate, Dublin 8  
Telephone: +353 1 471 4557, Email: [guinness.archives@diageo.com](mailto:guinness.archives@diageo.com)  
Opening Hours: Mon – Fri 09:30 to 17:00 by appointment**

**The GUINNESS® and GUINNESS STOREHOUSE® words and associated logos are trade marks**

It is unclear who is represented on the head above the gate. It is said that the head represents either St. James; Ceres (the Goddess of Corn) or Bacchus (the Greek God of Wine and Merriment).

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