

SOUTH 7 TARA HILL, KILLINEY



The Tara Hill Tower today, fully restored by its owner Niall Donoghue.

The fortification within a walled compound on Killiney Hill Road consisted of a tower for 16 men with an 18-pounder gun, a guardhouse and a raised earthen battery armed with three 24-pounder guns. Its elevated position meant that it acted both as a supporting position and as an observation post.

was made to strengthen some of the towers again. A number of gunners reoccupied the towers at Tara Hill and Killiney Beach and one of these was posted on guard duty on the roof of the number 7 tower. However, later in 1868 the gunners were withdrawn.

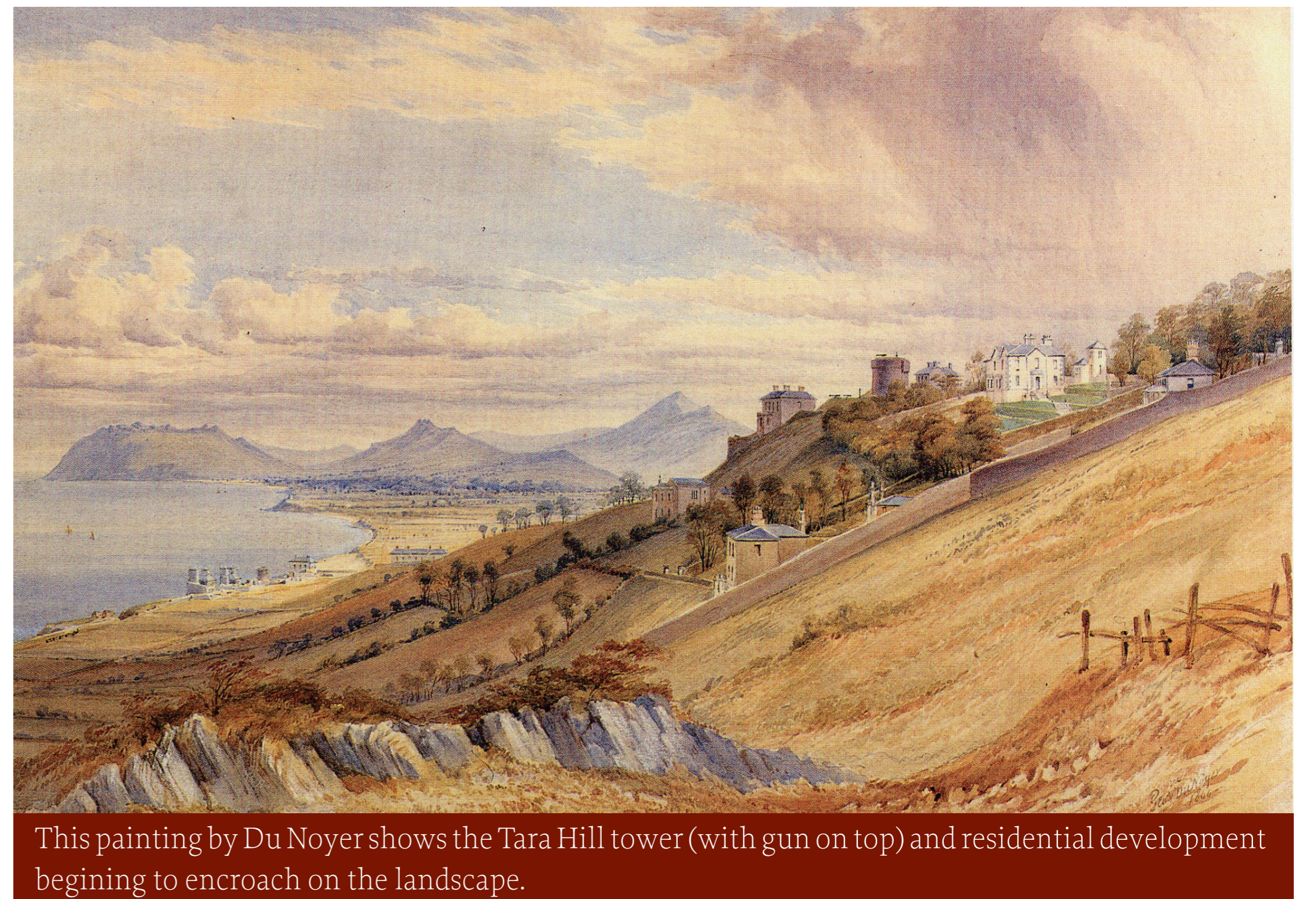
Today the site is owned by Niall Donoghue and for a number of years he has been restoring the tower and the structures associated with it to their early 19th century appearance.



Early 19th century view showing the Tara Hill Tower on the hill and the Killiney Beach and Loughlinstown Towers along the coast.

The site was disarmed in the 1820s, but remained in the charge of an 'Invalid Gunner' of the Royal Artillery. Some of No. 7's Invalids are listed in 'Thom's Directory' as Harris, gunner in charge in 1848, and W. Maybury, gunner in charge in 1850. In 1853, the armament of the tower was upgraded to a 24-pounder, while the battery was armed with three long 32-pounders.

Military policy seems to have changed quite rapidly, as only six years after this decision to provide new facilities, the tower at Tara Hill was disarmed as part of the general reduction in the coastal defences near Dublin. Two years later, in 1867, the Fenian rising broke out and although this was quelled reasonably rapidly, continuing Fenian activity in England made the Irish administration nervous. After a raid on the Martello Tower at Marino Point near Cork, in which the arms and ammunition were taken, the decision



This painting by Du Noyer shows the Tara Hill tower (with gun on top) and residential development beginning to encroach on the landscape.