

OTHER SIGHTS

TEACHER'S TRAINING COLLEGE AREA

Rantakatu 7

Raahe Teachers' Training College is one of Finland's best-preserved late 19th century teachers' colleges. The park area features several school buildings and residential buildings, designed by Werner Polón and built in 1899–1900, as well as the greenhouse. After the teachers' college closed down in 1971, the first information technology school in Finland and later a university of applied sciences was opened.

GELLMAN'S OLD HOSPITAL

Rantakatu 4

A wooden building in the Art Nouveau style, the town hospital was built in the 1910s with funds donated by Isak Gellman, a merchant, alderman and sea captain who moved to Raahe from Sweden. Raahe District Hospital was built around it.

HAARALA CEMETERY

Kappelintie 4

Haarala Cemetery has a number of monuments that are valuable in terms of cultural history. The cemetery was opened in 1809 and expanded in 1860 and 1887. The newest part was inaugurated in 1989. The cemetery also includes an urn cemetery and a separate non-denominational area. The area features the Haarala Chapel, designed by Ilmari Wirkkala and completed in 1932.

SALOINEN CHURCH

Kirkkoherrantie 17

St Olaf's Church was completed in 1932 to replace the wooden church, which had been built in the 1620s and burned down in 1930. The church houses a number of items salvaged from the old church during the fire, including Medieval sculptures of Saints and two altar cabinets from the 15th century. The church's chancel has stained glass windows made by Onni Oja in 1979. The churchyard has a neoclassical belfry from 1787, sketched by King Gustav III of Sweden. In the summer, the belfry houses a café.

PATTIJOKI CHURCH

Koulutie 7

Designed by Josef Stenbäck and located in Pietarinmäki, Pattijoki, the church dates from 1912. The church walls are cast concrete, and the building is roofed with concrete shingles. The altarpiece is a Tyrolean gilded wood sculpture called *The Crucifixion of Christ*. The front of the church features the stained glass window *The Resurrection* from 1983, designed by artist Matti Lammi. The wooden chandeliers were designed by Josef Stenbäck. A memorial to the fallen soldiers of the Finnish War (1808–1809) who were buried in Pietarinmäki stands in front of the church.

PATTIJOKI MUSEUM BRIDGE

Koulutie 1

Now reserved for pedestrian and bicycle traffic, Pattijoki stone arch bridge (1897) is located near the church.

OLKIJOKI TREATY MUSEUM

Siikajoentie 544

During the Finnish War, an armistice agreement the Convention of Olkijoki was signed between Sweden and Russia on 19th November 1808 at the Lassila Inn, part of which has been turned into a museum. The Treaty Museum was inaugurated in 1937.

KASTEELI STONE AGE STRUCTURE

Linnalantie 74

Kastelli Giant's Church a mysterious relic consisting of large circular rock walls with gate-like openings. It was built by Late Stone Age hunter-gatherers in 3000–2000 BCE.

VIHANTI CHURCH

Onnelantie 7

The wooden cruciform church of Sofia Magdalena (1784) in Vihanti with a belfry (1752). The master builder was Simon Silvén from Mehtäkylä, Kälviä. The altarpiece, *The Crucifixion of Christ*, was painted by Emanuel Granberg in 1787.



RAAHE TOURIST INFORMATION

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OLD TOWN RAAHE ADVENT CALENDAR

As Christmas approaches, a magical atmosphere descends upon Old Town Raahe as the window Advent calendar reveals 24 unique locations in Old Town Raahe, one day at a time. Come admire the beautifully decorated windows, on display until Epiphany, or follow the calendar's daily openings through the Visit Raahe channels!

"Nothing is really what you would expect in Raahe, as there is always a new surprise around the corner. The mentality in Raahe does not include making a fuss about what you have. That is why Raahe always surprises those who come here. Waiting around the corner may be the magnificent district of Old Raahe or the gate of a steel mill. In the other direction, the visitor may find the mist-covered sea or a small, high-quality boutique."



Old Town of Raahe

The Old Town of Raahe is one of Finland's best-preserved historic wooden towns from the 19th century. The area covers the northern part of Raahe's grid plan area, which is based on the Renaissance town plan by Claes Claesson in 1650. Claesson was a town planner working for Count Per Brahe, the founder of the town.

Old Town is a harmonious, classicistic wooden house district built according to a regular grid plan. A large part of the town burned down in 1810. The fire destroyed three-quarters of the town, about 60 buildings, including the town hall and its archives. The majority of the buildings in the old town date from the rebuilding period after the fire and represent wooden classicism and the Empire style. The architecture of wooden Raahe is characterised by heavily profiled fascia boards. The facade moldings, pilasters and various coffers are also uniquely impressive.

The old town has two market squares of national significance. Raahe's first market square, today's Myhrberg Park, is one of Finland's three remaining 17th century squares, and Pekkatori Square can well be considered the country's most significant 19th century square along with the Senate Square in Helsinki.

The Old Town of Raahe was protected in the town plan in 1984 and 1986. Today, there are about 150 houses and 200 courtyard buildings in the area.

Raahe, a town of many stories

A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME TO OLD TOWN



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1 PEKKATORI

A market square with closed corners, Pekkatori Square, originally named Isotori, is the most important entity included in the town plan drawn by Gustaf Odenwall after the great fire of Raahe in 1810. It was to become an administrative and commercial centre. Plots around the square were assigned to the town's most notable burghers, who were aldermen, merchants and shipowners. A new town hall was to be built on the plot in the southwest corner of the square. **The Lang (1a), Fontell (1c), Montin (1d), Frieman (1f) and Hedmansson (1g)** houses were completed in 1811–1815 and represent the wealthy town construction of the era. The influence of neoclassicism is visible in the dimensions of the houses. The style of the **Hansa House (1e)** also known as "Stone-Sovio", completed 35 years later, and the **Rein House (1h)**, built on the plot of the town hall more than half a century later, in 1870, does not differ from the general impression of the other buildings around the square. The Montin and the Hansa House log buildings are plastered.

1b. Trade House of Lang

Full of fascinating stories from the Age of Sail, Lang's historical Lower Mansion features a café, shop and a Boutique-hotel. The building was used for trading in the name of Johan Lang from 1811 to 1934.

1i. Patala

The buildings around Pekkatori Square also include Patala, which later housed Oma-Pata, the canteen cooperative of the teachers' college. In terms of its architecture, Patala is one of Raahe's most impressive classicistic town houses.

2 CHURCH SQUARE

The Church of the Holy Trinity was completed in 1912 on the site of the old 17-century wooden church, which had burned down four years earlier. Representing the styles of romantic nationalism and Art Nouveau, the church was designed by architect Josef Stenbäck. The church was built using granite quarried from the Raahe archipelago, and its latest renovation in 2011–2012 saw the rich colours of the interiors restored. The altarpiece was painted by Eero Järnefelt. The sculptures by Mikael Balt saved from the fire of the old church have been moved to Raahe Museum. The churchyard features the town's first cemetery and a soldiers' memorial park cemetery.

The church square is surrounded by neoclassical and Empire-style buildings: The building at **Kirkkokatu 17 (2a)** features vertical board and batten siding and was built in the early 19th century. Featuring horizontal siding with pilasters, the **Himanka House (1812) (2b)** has a closed courtyard with old household buildings. The oldest parts of the **Old Pharmacy (2c)** date from 1787. The Empire-style **Väänänen House (2d)** dates from 1813.

3 LEUFSTADIUS HOUSE

The oldest part of the house of sea captain Johan Leufstadius dates from 1804, and the small

part facing Cortenkatu, the former tobacco factory, is from 1830. The house has also been used as a private retirement home. The house is preserved as a historical landmark building.

4 MYHRBERG PARK

The buildings around the town's first market square, Myhrberg Park, provide a good overview of wooden town construction in Raahe from the 18th century to the early 20th century.

4a. Heikku's House

The house was completed on the plot of the old town hall in 1812, right after the great fire. A fine example of Gustavian neoclassicism, the house has a mansard roof, which is uncommon in Raahe, and smooth closed tongue-and-groove panelling reminiscent of a stone building. The Heikku's House has a closed courtyard with one of the town's few gates preserved in their original form. The house includes the town's banquet rooms.

4b. Freitag Courtyard

The courtyard and buildings owned by merchant and alderman Freitag were built in the first half of the 19th century. The wing facing Rantakatu was later modified and made higher. In terms of its façade and cladding, the house is a typical example of the late 19th century: the façade is divided by battens into zones with either horizontal or vertical boarding. In the corner of the courtyard is a green building later converted to the Art Nouveau style.

Sovelius House

The Sovelius House is the oldest surviving residential building in Raahe. Refer to Museums, H.

5 RANTATORI SQUARE

Raahe's original harbour was located here by the town bay, Pikkulahti. Raahe's shipyards were located north of the Packhouse Museum up until the early 19th century. Due to post-glacial rebound, the ship docks and harbour had to be moved a few kilometres to the southwest. The effects of post-glacial rebound are illustrated by columns installed on the square. Today, Rantatori hosts a number of events. Located by the shore, **Ruiskuhuone (5a)** was the town's first fire station, where the steam fire-engine was kept. The Art Nouveau building was completed in 1906, replacing the Sovio shore-side warehouses. The building had a hose tower in the middle, but this was later pulled down. The building now houses a restaurant with a terrace. The old fire station, dating from 1942, is located on the southern side of the square.

6 RAAHE THEATRE

An Art Nouveau building completed in 1913 as Salvation Army premises. Now houses Raahe Theatre.

7 UNION BANK OF FINLAND

A plastered brick building designed for the bank by architect Valter Thomé and completed in 1915. The palace-like building was inspired by 17th century Baroque architecture.



8 REIPONKATU-KOULUKATU CROSSING

There are several town houses at the crossing that are significant in terms of their architecture and the townscape.

8a. Dyer's House

In a fire insurance document from 1854: "a rather old, one-storey wooden building". The dyer's workshop on the Koulukatu side dates back to 1851.

8b. Old Clergy House

The old clergy house was built as the residence for Raahe's chaplain in 1812. The building was used as the parsonage from 1923 to the 1950s.

8c. Registrar's House

Featuring a hip roof, the beautifully restored town house was

completed in 1848 and expanded in the early 20th century.

8d. The Misses Berg's House was home to dyer Berg's brother, saddler Jakob Berg, whose son Nils continued in his father's profession. Nils's widow later founded a bakery, which was continued by her unmarried daughters, the Misses Berg.

9 KESKUSKOULU (CENTRAL SCHOOL)

Raahe's central school, completed in 1912, was designed by architect Jac Ahrenberg according to a Baroque concept in the spirit of Per Brahe. The building originally housed a secondary school and private higher classes, which were combined into the Raahe

coeducational secondary school in 1952. During the war, the school building was used as a military hospital. In 1958, the building became the central elementary school and later a lower comprehensive school.

10 REIPONKATU

Reiponkatu was a street of the sailors and craftsmen. The street was named after ropemakers ("repstagaren" in Swedish). The houses were modest and the plots narrow. Household buildings on the side of the church hill have been preserved as cultural heritage.

10a. Sofia Lybecker School

The wooden house of ropemaker J. P. Westerberg, completed in 1840. Zachris Franzén's daughter

Helene Bergbom donated this building to her sister Sofia Lybecker's school in 1859. At an early age, Sofia had become conscious about lack of educational opportunities of girls with limited means, and she established the school with her mother's inheritance in 1843. The girls' school later turned into a crafts institute, which operated in the same building until the early 1980s. Today, the Lybecker Institute is part of the Raahe Municipal Education and Training Consortium.

10b. Jacob's Spring

Located at the northern end of Reiponkatu, this old shared well is protected by a decorated wooden structure. The spring is about 250 years old. The well was used until the 1970s.

STATUES AND MONUMENTS

A Statue of A. Myhrberg

Born in the Sovelius House, August Maksimilian Myhrberg (1797–1867) fought in, for example, the Greek War of Independence, the November Uprising in Poland and the First Carlist War in Spain. He died in Sweden and was buried in the St Johannes cemetery, next to von Döbeln, who acquired his fame in the Finnish War. Sculpted by Evert Porila (1886–1941), the statue was unveiled in 1931. A relief of Myhrberg by Kari Juva on the wall of the Packhouse Museum was unveiled in 2008.

B Statue of President Urho Kekkonen

A bronze statue by sculptor Matti Peltokangas (b. 1952), unveiled in 2008. The initiative for the statue project came from the local regional association, Siika-Pyhäjokialueen liitto, which wanted to highlight the significance of Urho Kekkonen to the development of the area. Among other things, Kekkonen supported the locating of the Rautaruuki steelworks in Raahe.

C Statue of Per Brahe

The statue of Per Brahe, Governor-General of Finland, who

founded Raahe and gave the town his name, was erected in the middle of Isotori Square in 1888 and named the Pekka statue. The statue was sculpted by Walter Runeberg, son of Finland's national poet J. L. Runeberg. The square was named Pekkatori. There is a larger version of the statue in Turku.

D Defender Statue

The Defender statue by sculptor Johannes Haapasalo (1880–1965) dates from 1908. It depicts the Russification of Finland: one hand protects the head and the other holds a stone that the man is ready to throw at the attacker. The work of art was bought and donated to the Town of Raahe by John Grundström (1877–1953), who lived by Härkätori Square in his childhood.

E Kari Juva Sculpture Park

The sculpture park was established in the Town Hall Park in 2008 in honour of sculptor Kari Juva (1939–2014), who lived in Pyhäjoki and Raahe in his youth. The park features 19 sculptures. Juva's sculpture *Wind in the Sails* can be found in front of the library.

MUSEUMS

F Packhouse Museum

Built in 1848, the former Customs House and Packhouse also featured the Seaman's House, where young sailors signed up on ships in the Age of Sail. Raahe Museum, Finland's oldest non-university museum, was established in 1862 and has been operating in the building since the late 19th century. Among other things, the museum displays the history of the Age of Sail in Raahe as well as Mikael Balt's wonderful 17th-century church sculptures from Raahe's first church.

G Crown Granary Museum

The former Crown Granary dates from 1852. The museum showcases the history of Raahe from prehistoric times to the modern age with artefacts like the Old Gentleman, the oldest diving suit in the world.

H Sovelius House

Built in the 1780s, the Sovelius House is the oldest surviving

residential building in Raahe. The house is the town's only example of two-storey construction in the 18th century. Upstairs, the Shipowner's Home offers us a glimpse of the life of a wealthy shipowner-merchant family in the 1890s. Restored in the Art Nouveau style, the downstairs rooms feature changing exhibitions.

I Old Pharmacy

The pharmacy was built in 1811–1813. According to tradition, the main building was brought from Sweden. The pharmacy moved to Kauppakatu in 1924. The impressively eclectic interiors from 1900 were taken from the old location opposite to the church. Raahe's first pharmacy was established in 1793. The pharmacy museum's collection is one of the most valuable collections of pharmaceutical objects in Finland. The oldest objects date back to the late 18th century.

11 SWANLJUNG HOUSE

The impressive main building constructed in 1814 by the Swanljungs has retained its original appearance, and the closed courtyard with household buildings and cellar is a rare sight in Old Town.

12 ÄMMÄNKATU

This street was named after cows (ämmä), which were kept by many households in Raahe. In the summer, the cows were walked along the streets and taken to pastures north of the town. The name of the district of Lehmiranta (Cow Shore) also dates from this period.

13 TOWN HALL

Designed by Empire architect Anders Fredrik Granstedt, the plastered log house was built for customs supervisor Brunow in 1839. In 1862, the town purchased the partially completed building from Brunow, who had moved to Hamina, and turned it into the town hall. While changes have been made to the interiors over the decades, the outward appearance of the building is in accordance with the original plans.

14 HÄRKÄTORI PARK

The Härkätori market square was established after the great fire of Raahe in 1810. The square was intended for cattle markets.