



Identity Statement

Reference Code: IE GCCA / GS11/02
Title: County and County of the Town of Galway Gaol¹, Plans and Drawings
Dates: 1831-1866
Extent: 10 items

CONTEXT

Creator(s): Grand Jury

Administrative History / Biography

Hardiman includes details in his book, 'History of the Town and County of the Town of Galway from the Earliest Period to the Present Time, 1820', about the building of the county and town gaols at Nun's Island, Galway. An Act of Parliament was obtained in 1802 'for building a new gaol for the county of Galway and for purchasing land sufficient for same, and for the purposes relating thereto' (Hardiman, p302). The site was acquired on Nuns' Island for £664.7s.6d. Thomas Hardwick (1752-1829), architect, of New Brentford, Middlesex, prepared the plans for the new gaol for county Galway on the model of Gloucester Gaol, and carried out under supervision of Richard Morrison in 1808-9.

Much of the building work was carried out by John Brehan. Plans for alternations, for the adaptation to the separate system of confinement were drawn up by Samuel U Roberts in the early 1860s.

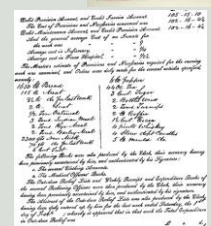
The foundation stone for the new town Gaol was laid in 1807, to the south of the new county gaol. Both the Galway town and county gaols were opened in circa 1811, and was closed in 1939.

Slater's Royal National Directory of Ireland 1870 stated that 'The county gaol, however, merits more particular notice; it was opened for the reception of prisoners in June, 1811. It is situated at a place called Nun's Island, at the west end

¹ Act for building new gaol was passed in 1 Apr 1802. The site was acquired on Nuns' Island for £664.7s.6d. The gaol was designed by John Hardwick (1752-1829) and carried out under supervision of Richard Morrison in 1808-9. It opened in Dec 1810. W. Papworth, ed., *The Dictionary of Architecture* (Architectural Publication Society, 1853-1892) says the design was based on William Blackburn's Gloucester County Gaol. (D.A. Beaufort Journal 1808 (p.88) says that both county and city gaols were designed by Richard Morrison. (Irish Architectural Archives, Dictionary of Architects, 1720 – 1848. Much of the building work was carried out by John Brehan. Plans for alternations, for the adaptation to the separate system of confinement were drawn up by Samuel U Roberts in the early 1860s.

http://www.dia.ie/architects/view/2388/HARDWICK%2C+THOMAS+%23#tab_works, (Aug 2012).

If quoting from the archives please cite and reference all collections appropriately & acknowledge Galway County Council Archives.





of the town, and is a very handsome building, in the form of a crescent, vaulted throughout; and for classification and general convenience is, perhaps, equal to any prison in the kingdom. The town gaol is contiguous' (p38).

Galway prison was closed under S.I. No. 87/1939 - Galway Prison Closing Order, 1939. The Order signed by the Minister for Justice, Patrick Rutledge, stated 'The Prison at Galway in the County of Galway shall be closed as on and from the 1st day of May, 1939'.

Archival History

The collection has been in the custody of Galway County Libraries for many years. The drawings received minor conservation treatment in 2012 and were digitised by Mallon Technologies, Cookstown, Co. Tyrone in 2012.

Archivist's Note

Listed by Patria McWalter, Archivist, 2011

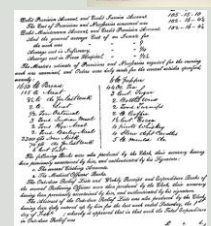
Scope & Content

Plans and drawings, some with slight colour tint, of the two adjacent prisons, with drawings related to a proposed amalgamation in 1866. The 1831 plan is signed 'Dublin Castle 20 October 1831, His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant approves...', and 'Referred to by Deed of Contract dated the tenth day of February 1832'. Others which generally relate to proposed alternations are signed by the County Surveyor, Samuel Roberts, (1858 & 1866) and also annotated 'Plans referred to in Bond dated 10 November 1858' and also include additional signatures.

1. March 1830 -1832 Ground 'Plan of the principal story of an addition, and other improvements' to the Town Gaol of Galway, drawn by Frederick Darley², Architect. Plan shows hospital airing ground, female airing ground, kitchen, convalescent ward, master debtors' yard, pauper debtors' yard, Matron's room, corridor leading out to male criminal prison and Governors House, and also the general layout of the main body of the prison. A blue line indicates main sewer to the River.
 Includes handwritten annotation 'Dublin Castle 20th October 1831, His Excellency, the Lord Lieutenant approves' signed Wm [Gosser] and 'Referred to by deed of contract dated the tenth day of February 1832' signed Wm Clarke. Also includes signatures of Denis Clark, James O'Hara and L M Lynch. Also 'This plan approved of for self and Brother Jurors' [J O'Hara] (from the Grand Jury).

²Born in Dublin in 1798, the second surviving son of Frederick Darley, he was styled Frederick Darley, junior, until his father's death in 1841. An application to succeed Francis Johnston as architect to the Board of Works which was made by his father on his behalf in 1825 states that he had been Johnston's pupil. From 1833 until 1843 he was the Ecclesiastical Commissioners' architect for the Archdiocese of Dublin. During the 1830s - from 1836 or earlier - he was also architect to Trinity College, Dublin, a position which he held until at least 1850. He is described as architect to the Royal Dublin Society in 1846, and He was architect to the Board of National Education from 1848 to circa 1856, as such he was responsible for the design of a series of model schools and model agricultural schools which were built throughout the country. In 1860 he was one of four architects appointed to inspect and report on the restoration of St Patrick's Cathedral (Irish Architectural Archives, Dictionary of Architects, 1720 – 1848, http://www.dia.ie/architects/view/1382/DARLEY-FREDERICK%5B2%5D#tab_biography (May 2012).

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5. November 1863 Plan on tracing paper of County Galway Prison plan of first floor, with 'proposed work' coloured red, with annotations '*Plan referred to in annexed Report, bearing date 28th Nov 1863*'. Handwritten note on reverse side states '*Ordered with the exception of door on corridors*'. Signed Wm Joyce, Clerk.
Scale: 8 feet to one inch
Size: 680 mm x 455mm

6. May 1866 Linen backed colour 'General Plan' of 'County and County of Town of Galway Prisons', with light tints of blues, marked No.1, indicates adjacent prisons, one marked 'County of the Town Prison' and the other 'County Prison'. The former includes turf house, treadmill, yards, hospital yards, female yard, tried felons yards. The County Prison includes, in semi-circle shape, separate cells for males, chapel, cells for females, debtors ward, office, work shed, female yard, hospital, inspection yard, and Governor's House, and entrance gate. Signed by the County Surveyor, Samuel Roberts, May 1866.

Scale: 20 feet to one inch
Size: 990 mm x 655mm

7. May 1866 'County and County of Town of Galway Gaols Amalgamation' with light tints of blues and reds, marked No.3. Shows ground floor plan of paupers debtors apartments, Masters Debtors apartments, punishment cells, turnkeys room, individual cells, coal store, general kitchen exercise apartments, and the Governor's house, with an attached piece with the basement plan of the Governor's house, Signed by the County Surveyor, Samuel Roberts, May 1866.

Scale: 8 feet to one inch
Size: 990 mm x 655mm

8. May 1866 County and County of the Town of Galway Gaols Amalgamation Male prison first floor colour plan, marked No. 4, with light tints of blues and red. Includes first floor plan of Governor's residence. Includes note indicating '*This portion of the prison was altered in 1859 and adapted to the separate system of confinement*'. Signed by the County Surveyor, Samuel Roberts, May 1866.

Scale: 8 feet to one inch
Size: 990 mm x 655mm

9. n/d Appears to be half drawn plan of the gaol, showing general layout of cells and exercise yards, with pencil dimensions.
Size: 990 mm x 655mm



Handwritten notes and annotations on a document, likely related to the prison plan, mentioning dates and specific details.



10. n/d Colour plan of 'treadmill showing proposed stalls
 Size: 655 mm x 315mm
 Scale: 6 feet to one inch

Allied Material:

O'Donoghue, Brendan, *The Irish County Surveyors 1834-1944* (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2007)

Curtin, Geraldine, Female Prisoners in Galway Gaol in the Late Nineteenth Century, *Journal of the Galway Archaeological and Historical Society* Vol. 54, (2002), pp175-182, The Galway Archaeological and Historical Society

Curtin, Geraldine, *The Women of Galway Jail, Female Criminality in Nineteenth Century Ireland*, 2001, Arlen House

Registers papers of the Chief Secretary's Office, CSO see <http://www.csorp.nationalarchives.ie/>

NOTE: Galway prison was closed under S.I. No. 87/1939 — Galway Prison Closing Order, 1939. The order signed by the Minister for Justice, Patrick Rutledge, stated 'The Prison at Galway in the County of Galway shall be closed as on and from the 1st day of May, 1939'.

Galway County Council, General Purposes file (109/38/72) contains correspondence relating to the transfer in 1940 of Galway Gaol by the Department of Justice to Galway County Council, and the subsequent conveyance of the property by the Council to the Galway Diocesan Trustees. The latter transaction required the permission and approval of the Department of Local Government and Public Health. The property extended over 4 acres and included several cottages. The Dioceses acquired the property as a site for a new Cathedral, for the nominal sum of £10. The conveyance was conditional that if the building of the proposed Cathedral had not commenced and the walls had not reached a height of twelve feet before expiry of a specified period the site was to be re-conveyed back to Galway County Council for £10.

The old jail was demolished and in 1949 John J Robinson of Dublin was appointed architect for the new cathedral. Cardinal D'Alton, the Archbishop of Armagh, blessed the site and the foundation stone on 27 October 1957, and constructed which began in 1958 was undertaken by John Sisk Ltd. In 1965 it was dedicated to Mary, Mother of Jesus and St Nicholas by Cardinal Richard Cushing.

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