STREET ART AND ARTEFACTS
LIMERICK CITY

Inventory by Category

Compiled and Photographed by Eithne Deloughry O’Byrne
2007-2009

Edited by David Lee

A Limerick Civic Trust research project in association with Limerick City Council and FÁS
INTRODUCTION

This report is an inventory of public art and artefacts on the streets of Limerick compiled by Eithne Deloughry O’Byrne, a participant on the FÁS Local Training Initiative Programme based at Limerick Civic Trust’s history department. The research project was undertaken at the suggestion of Denis Leonard.

Eithne walked the streets of the city, capturing through the lens of the camera a comprehensive photographic catalogue of public art and artefacts including plaques and inscriptions, civic monuments, contemporary sculptures, Georgian street furniture and many other items of interest and historical importance. Each item was then identified, researched and categorised and the results prepared for publication by both Eithne and David Lee, supervisor of the history department, Limerick Civic Trust.

This inventory is a list of what existed in the city at the time the project was completed in July 2009 and identifies well over 200 items. It is produced both in hard copy and on DVD for use primarily by the Planning Department of Limerick City Council and will act as a reference for city planners and developers to make them aware of what should be protected and preserved. It is a superbly arranged work of reference that enables one to swiftly identify items of interest by theme and by street location. Throughout the project Eithne was given full support and encouragement by Dick Tobin, Chief Planning Officer of Limerick City Council.

Of course, things are always changing. As the city develops more items of public art will be added and this present work will need to be revised and amended in coming years. Even at the time of publication in October 2009 many new installations are being undertaken or are in the planning stage.

As chairman of Limerick Civic Trust I am very proud of the contribution that the Trust has made to the enhancement of the city by its many environmental and architectural projects. This inventory is further proof of our enduring commitment to the Trust’s motto ‘Improvement of our Environment by Positive Action’.

The Limerick Civic Trust’s publication ‘Art in the Street Through the Lens’ published in June 2008 grew out of Eithne’s research project. It was very well received and significantly raised public awareness of an important part of our historical heritage which tends to be overlooked. The book also drew public attention to many contemporary pieces of public art that contribute to Limerick’s modern identity.

Gabrielle Wallace O’Donnell
Chairman, Limerick Civic Trust
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NB. The image file on the DVD which accompanies this publication contains all the photographs taken during the course of the research project and each photograph has its own identifying catalogue reference number. Not all of these images are included in this book; however the text accompanying each photograph printed here provides the catalogue reference numbers of all photographs associated with a particular item of street art or artefact.
Boundary Markers

*Corporation Boundary Signs, Nineteenth Century*

These signs were erected around the city boundary to identify the limits of Limerick Corporation’s jurisdiction.

**Fig. 126A**

Boundary sign at the Union Cross, Ennis Road. Erected in 1842 when Martin Honan was Mayor. Inscription reads,

‘BOROUGH OF LIMERICK
3+4” Victoria
Chap, 108+109
Martin Honan
Esqr.
Mayor 1842’

Boundary markers erected by various mayors during their periods of office can also be seen at the following locations:

**Fig. 126B**

On the corner of New Street and O’Connell Avenue; erected by Mayor Stephen Hastings, 1878.
Fig. 126C. On the corner of O’Connell Avenue and New Street; erected by Mayor Martin Honan, 1842.

Fig. 126D
On the corner of South Circular Road and New Street; erected by John J. Cleary, Mayor 1872, ’73, ’74.

Fig. 126E. On the wall of St Joseph’s Hospital, Mulgrave Street; erected by Mayor Martin Honan, 1842.
Fig. 126F. On the wall of Villiers School, North Circular Road; erected by Mayor Martin Honan, 1842.

Fig. 126G
On Park Bridge; erected by Mayor P O’ Riordan, 1891.

Fig. 126H. Limerick Canal (close to Park Bridge); erected by Mayor Martin Honan, 1842.
Fig. 126I Prospect Hill; erected by Mayor Martin Honan, 1842.
**Corporation Boundary Signs, Twentieth Century**

Boundary markers were erected in 1950 to mark the extension of the city limits.

Fig. 127. A Boundary marker on Long Pavement.

Other markers are located at:

- Fig. 127B. Athlunkard Bridge, Corbally.
- Fig. 127C. On the old section of the Dublin Road, Singland.
- Fig. 127D. On the Ballysimon Road at Crossagalla.
- Fig. 127E,F. There are two markers close together at South Hill, beyond the Roxboro roundabout.
- Fig. 127G. Outside Dunnes Stores on the Ennis Road.
- Fig. 127H. The Greenfields Road, beyond the Catholic Institute.

The inscription on these markers reads,

‘COUNTY BOROUGH OF LIMERICK
Local Government
Provisional Orders
Confirmation Acts 1950
M.J. Keyes T.D.
Minister for Local Government
G.B. Dillon
Mayor
M.O. Maicin
City Manager & Town Clerk
C. Stenson
City Engineer’.
Electoral Ward Plaques, Nineteenth Century

Ward plaques were erected following the Limerick Corporation Act of 1853 to identify the new constituencies for local government elections. Made by the Harrison Lee Foundry, many of these iron plaques still survive.

This Dock Ward plaque, on the corner of Hartstowne Street and O’Connell Street, is a typical example.

Other plaques may be seen at the following locations:

Fig. 84
Shannon Ward, Catherine Street / Cecil Street.

Fig. 86
Glentworth Ward, Hartstowne Street / O’Connell Street.

Fig. 87
Glentworth Ward, Lower Mallow Street / O’Connell Street.

Fig. 88
Dock Ward, Lower Mallow Street / O’Connell Street.

Fig. 89
Castle Ward, Treaty Tavern, Thomond Bridge.
Designed and built by the Pain brothers (James and George Richard), Baals Bridge features two plaques on the parapet; one on either side of the road.

Fig. 6A
Inscription reads,

‘This bridge was erected by virtue of an Act of the XI of Geo. the IV.
The R° Hon. Tho. Spring Rice M.P.,
For the City of Limerick.
Commenced taking down the old bridge Nov. 1830
The new bridge finished Nov. 1831.
JA. & G.R. Pain Architects’.
This plaque on Baals Bridge reads,

‘The ancient bridge of four arches
which occupied this site was taken down
and this bridge erected at the expense [sic.] of
the New Limerick Navigation Company
Incorporated 1830
Cha. Wye Williams Esq. Chief Director
Ja. & G.R. Pain Architects’.
The Lock Quay Bridge (1757) over the Limerick Canal is the City’s only brick-built bridge. It is also Limerick’s oldest standing bridge.

Tablet on the Lock Quay Bridge.
Fig. 8B Thomond Bridge.
This bridge was completed in 1840 at the expense of the Corporation of Limerick.

Fig. 8A. This tablet on Thomond Bridge was placed by order of the Town Council in 1843. The bridge was designed and built by the Pain brothers. Note the Ordnance Survey benchmark on bottom of the tablet.
Fig. 9B
Mathew Bridge. Completed in 1846; architect WH Owen.

Fig. 9A
Parapet plaque states,

‘Mathew Bridge
Contracted for in the year 1844 during the Mayoralty of the
Right Worshipful William Geary M.D.
The expense of its erection borne by the Corporation and by Presentments
from the County and City Grand Juries
Opened in the month of June 1846
The Right Worshipful E. F. G. Ryan Mayor
W. H. Owen Architect         John F. Raleigh Esq. Town Clerk
John Duggan Builder          Francis O’Neill Esq. Treasurer’.
Originally known as Wellesley Bridge, this structure was designed by Alexander Nimmo. Although the foundation stone was laid on 15 October 1824 the bridge was not officially opened until August 1835. The contractors were Clements & Sons.

There are three parapet plaques.
The inscriptions on the Sarsfield Bridge plaques read:

(A) ‘Sarsfield Bridge
By authority of Parliament through
liberal grants from the Grand
Juries of Limerick and Clare
Alderman Jerome Counihan J.P.
Mayor of Limerick 1882, 1883
was enabled to declare this bridge
free of toll on Easter Monday 26 March 1883.
William Boyd High Sheriff
Alfred G. Wallace Sol. Town Clerk’.

(B) ‘This bridge was erected AD 1831
under an Act of the IV George IV
introduced into Parliament by the
Right Honourable T. Spring Rice M.P.
for the City of Limerick’.

(C) ‘1975
European Architectural Heritage Year
parapets reconstructed
Alderman Patrick Kennedy
Mayor
James Tully T.D.
Minister for Local Government’.
Fig. 11A
O’Dwyer Bridge (1931) which crosses over the Abbey River from Athlunkard Street.

Fig. 11
Plaque on O’Dwyer Bridge.
The Sylvester O’Halloran pedestrian bridge was erected in 1987 by Limerick Civic Trust to link the Potato Market with Custom House Quay.

Plaque for the Sylvester O’Halloran Bridge.
Shannon Bridge was opened on 30 May 1988 by An Taoiseach Charles J Haughey TD. There are five plaques associated with this bridge:
Plaques (A) and (D) state, in Irish and English respectively:

‘The Shannon Bridge
Opened by An Taoiseach
Charles J. Haughey T.D.
In the presence of’
Ald. Tim Leddin P.C. Mayor of Limerick

City Manager          City Engineer
and Town Clerk        M. Mac Curtain
J.J. Higgins           Consulting Engineer
Consulting Engineer   Contractors
McCarthy and Partners  Ascon Ltd.’.

Plaques (B) and (C) state, in English and Irish respectively:

‘The Shannon Bridge
Opened 30 May 1988
Limerick City Council
Ald. Tim Leddin P.C. - Mayor of Limerick
J.J. Higgins City - Manager & Town Clerk’.

Both plaques then list the names of the Aldermen and Councillors in the four City Wards.

Fig. 13E. This plaque is in the centre of the road on a pedestrian island near the Shannon Bridge roundabout. The plaque rests on the foundation stone for the bridge which was laid on 23 June 1986 by John Boland TD, Minister for the Environment, in the presence of Patrick Kennedy, Mayor of Limerick.
Abbey Bridge was officially opened in December 1999. There are two plaques, one in Irish and the other in English.
Fig. 14C
The Guinness Pedestrian Bridge (1997), Rhebogue, at the meeting of Limerick Canal with the Shannon. A Limerick Civic Trust project. The plaque originally placed at the location has been vandalised.

Fig. 14F
Park Bridge (1835), at the top of Park Road, spans the Limerick Canal. There is no plaque associated with this bridge.
14G Athlunkard Bridge (1830), Corbally.
The bridge was designed and built by James and George Richard Pain.

Fig 14D,E
These plaques on Athlunkard Bridge are situated on either side of the bridge.
Cannons

Fig. 1A,B
Cannon on The Parade outside King John’s Castle.
This 9-pounder, demi-culverin cannon dates from the late seventeenth century. The carriage was constructed for the Hunt Museum (where the cannon was previously sited) at the Ordnance Base Workshops, Clancy Barracks, Dublin in 1996.
Another demi-culverin cannon, also dating from the late seventeenth century, can be seen at Sarsfield Army Barracks on Edward Street.

This cannon, known as a ‘Finbanker’, dates from the late seventeenth century and is on display on The Parade outside King John’s Castle. A Finbanker is a cannon cast in Swedish foundries c.1620 to c.1750. This example had been put to use as a bollard on Custom House Quay until restored and mounted by Limerick Civic Trust.
Two Russian cannons captured during the Crimean War (1853-56) are on display outside the old Harbour Commissioners Office in the Ted Russell Dock.

Two miniature cannons can be seen at the Limerick Boat Club, Sarsfield Bridge. They were used as starter guns for boat races.
Chimney Stacks

Fig. 34A,B,C

(A) Cleeves Factory, Lansdowne, c.1883.
(B) The Good Shepherd Convent, Clare Street (mid 1880s), now the Sculpture Department, Limerick School of Art, and (C) the base of this chimney.
The date of the medieval, Romanesque west door at St Mary’s Cathedral is not certain, but it is the oldest part of the building. Documentary evidence suggests that the cathedral may have been in existence by at least 1111AD.
St Michael’s Church (rebuilt 1881), Denmark Street. The original church was first opened in 1781.

(A) The inscription states,

‘To the honour and glory of God
Under the invocation of St. Michael Archangel
This church was rebuilt A.D. 1881
Except part of Nave and Transepts
His Holiness Leo XIII Sovereign Pontiff
The Most Revd. George Butler D.D. Lord Bishop of Limerick
The Revd. Cornelius Conway Administrator
Jerome Counihan Esqr. J.P. Mayor 1882
Martin Morris Esqr. Architect.’.

(B) One of two water fonts on the Denmark Street elevation of the church. The artwork features St Michael conquering Satan.

(C) The bell tower is surmounted by a finely crafted figure of St Michael vanquishing Satan who is depicted as a dragon.
St Munchin’s (Church of Ireland), Church Street, King’s Island was rebuilt in 1827. The plaque on the western side of the bell tower facing towards the Shannon reads,

“This Church was Rebuilt
A.D. 1827
The Rev’d. John Duddell – Rector

Zachariah Myles
Churchwardens

Thomas Moore

James Pain
Architect

W. O Farrell
Builder’.

Augustinian Church, O’Connell Street.
(A) The inscription states, ‘The adjoining stone [Fig. B] is part of a lintel from our first chapel in Limerick City founded near Fish Lane 1633 after the suppression of our monastery at Adare.’

The present Augustinian Church on O’Connell Street was completed in 1942 and in October 1962 this historic lintel was inserted into the front wall of the church. It is inscribed with the date ‘1633’ along with the letters ‘IHS’ which is an abbreviation for Jesus. The symbol of the heart is from the crest of the Augustinian Order.
Fig. 42D
Fresco (c.1926) of St Joseph with Jesus in his arms on the pediment of St Joseph’s Church, O’Connell Avenue, built in 1904.

Fig. 43A
This stone mounted on an inscribed base is described as being a fragment of the Penal Chapel that once stood in Park Hill during the period 1750-1816. This small, unassuming monument is located on Reboge road near its junction with Park Road. After the building of St Patrick’s Church the Penal Chapel was dismantled.
(B) The facade of the Primitive Methodist Preaching House (1821) on Bedford Row displays a neo-Gothic design, probably by local architect James Pain. The photograph was taken following the removal of the frontage of the Central Cinema that had previously hidden the church facade from public view.

(C) This second photograph was taken following the facade’s enclosure in 2007-08 behind a new, predominately glass, frontage.

Fig. 43D

This date plaque is on the Lower Mallow Street elevation of the former Presbyterian Church built which was between 1899 and 1901 in late Victorian Gothic. The building is now being used as commercial offices following extensive renovation in the mid 1990s.
Dr Butler, Bishop of Limerick, laid the foundation stone for this church on the same site as a previous friary on 28 May 1876. The builders were Messrs McCarthy and Guerin and the executing architect was William Corbett working to a design by PC Hardwick.

The portico of the church consists of four huge limestone pillars with Composite capitals that support an entablature and pediment. The statues are those of St Francis, the Blessed Virgin Mary and St Anthony.
The Jesuits’. The Sacred Heart Church in The Crescent was the first church dedicated to the Sacred Heart in Ireland. The interior was completed in 1868 and opened for worship on 27 January 1869. The facade was not, however, installed until 1900.

(A) Kilrush Church is first mentioned in 1201 in surviving documents but it is generally believed to be much older. The church is located in the centre of a small housing estate on the North Circular Road, across the road from Barrington’s Pier.

(B) View through the round-headed east window into the interior.

(C) The fifteenth century, south facing window was removed from a Franciscan church in St Mary’s Lane, Limerick, and preserved for a time by Robert Vere O’Brien before being inserted in Kilrush church probably around 1900.
Marian Shrines

Fig. 260A
Janesboro shrine sited at Marian Avenue, Roxborough Road.

Fig. 260B
Shrine at Sean Heuston Place.
Fig. 260C
Shrine at entrance to Saint Mary’s housing estate, King’s Island.

Fig. 260D
Ballynanty Beg shrine beside Thomond Park rugby ground. This photograph was taken in early 2008 while construction work was still in progress on the modernisation of Thomond Park.
Shrine inside the grounds of St John’s Hospital.

*Eucharistic Congress (1932) Wall Tiles*

These tiles are traditionally thought to have been installed by some residents of houses built around the time the Congress took place.

On house in Church Street across the road from the Bishops’ Palace in King’s Island.
Fig. 196L
Tile over front door on Clancy’s Strand.

Holy Well

Fig. 261
St Patrick’s Well on St Patrick’s Road.
Clocks

This Gothic Revival clock tower was built in honour of Sir Peter Tait and designed by J Corbett.

Inscriptions on the base of the tower read,

(D) West facing - ‘Erected by Public subscription in appreciation of the enterprise and usefulness of Alderman Peter Tait’.
(C) South - ‘As an employer of large numbers of the Working Classes, and of his liberality and benevolence as a Citizen’.
(B) East - ‘A.D. 1866 and completed in the year 1867’.
(A) North - ‘During Alderman Tait’s Second Mayoralty to Which office he was unanimously Elected’.

Fig. 15 & Fig. 15A,B,C,D,E
Tait’s Clock, Baker Place, 1867.
Tait’s Clock also bears the motto ‘Gratiam dat deus’ (God Give Grace) which was presumably in anticipation of the coat of arms shortly to be granted to Tait by Ulster King of Arms in 1868. The heraldic emblem shown above is that of a raised arm holding a sprig of flowers; whereas the emblem on the official coat of arms granted to Tait in 1868 was that of a raised arm holding a stem with a single rose.

The Dock Clock, Ted Russell Dock.
Clock tower erected in 1880 by Lund and Blockley of London. Built in a sixteenth century Italian Renaissance style, and executed in cut limestone, it was designed by William J Hall, the harbour engineer. The present weathervane was installed in November 1996.
Fig. 17A,B.

(A) St Joseph’s Hospital clock (1827), Mulgrave Street. The clock, when working, was hand wound.

(B) Close-up of weathervane.

Fig. 18

Leamy’s School clock, Hartstonge Street. The building was completed in 1845.
Fig. 20
The clock at Ferguson’s Pharmacy, on the corner of Thomas Street and O’Connell Street, was made by Stokes of Cork.
Crests and Coats of Arms

Fig. 60
Villiers Almshouses (1827), King’s Island.
This stonework crest dates from 1712 and is set in the wall inside the main gate of Villiers Almshouses on Church Street. The crest may possibly be linked to Thomas Smyth who was the Protestant Bishop of Limerick from 1699 to 1725. The heraldic emblem surmounting the crest is a unicorn’s head, an emblem associated with the Smyth family.

In 1633 William Smyth of Rosedale Abbey, Yorkshire settled in Ireland in Dundrum, Co. Down and Thomas Smyth, Bishop of Limerick, is descended from that branch of the family. The unicorn appears on a number of Smyth family coats of arms. The land on which the Villiers Almshouses were built in 1827 was owned by the Church of Ireland.

The crest does require further research as to its origins.
Fig. 61 & Fig. 61A, B, C, D

Fig. 61 D Boru House (1880), once the home of writer Kate O’Brien, is situated on Blackboy Road (a continuation of Mulgrave Street).

Fig. 61 Stone carving of a raised hand holding a sword (the O’Brien family heraldic emblem); the sword appears to be made of metal.

Fig. 61 A Detail on entrance gates to stables. The woodwork is currently (April 2009) in a perilous state of repair.

Fig. 61 B O’Brien name over arch of gateway.

Fig. 61 C Upper section of front gable.
Fig. 62A,B Heraldic stone carvings on Athlunkard Street. They were placed there by builder Jack Cowhey in 1955.

(A) Sculptured piece on side of house next to Athlunkard Bar. Supported by corbels, it features (right), an armoured arm wielding a sword, and (left) a boar’s head. 
(B) Crest set into the front facade of the Athlunkard Bar.
This is a fine stone carving of the O’Brien family crest. It is set into the wall of the bell tower of St Munchin’s Church, King’s Island. The sculptor’s name, ‘JN Purcell’, is inscribed on the bottom right.

Arthur Family Crest, St Mary’s Parish Centre, Athlunkard Street. Originally built as a town house c.1710 the building was occupied by the Ingram, Arthur and Carr families. From 1847 until 1982 it served as the Presbytery for St Mary’s Parish. The building was restored in 1989 as a parish centre and is located in the grounds of St Mary’s Catholic Church.
Crest on Tait’s Clock, Baker Place, showing a raised hand holding a sprig of flowers with the motto ‘Gratiam dat deus’ (God Give Grace).

Royal Coat of Arms over Castle Street entrance to King John’s Castle. The castle served as a British army barracks until 1922.
Limerick City Crests

The city crest features a fortified medieval gateway flanked by towers. Over the years the emblem, and the design of the crest, have taken a number of variant forms. Examples include the following,

(A) City Crest, wall of Toll House, Castle Street (see illustration above).
(B + C) Two on plinth of Treaty Stone.
(D) Manhole cover, Little Catherine Street. There are many more such examples in the city.
(E) Fanlight, Limerick City Gallery of Art, Pery Square. (See Stained Glass category on page 196).
(F) Council Chamber, City Hall (see illustration above). This carving originated from the site of the City Prison on Merchants Quay.
(G) Crest over front entrance to Bishops’ Palace, King’s Island which was crafted in 1991 by David McCarthy, a student in the woodwork class at Crescent College Comprehensive, Dooradoyle.
(H) On wall of restaurant in City Hall (see illustration above). This carving originated from the site of the City Brewery on New Gate Lane. It bears the inscription ‘The City Brewery 1739’.
(I) Ted Russell Room, Bishops’ Palace, Church Street, King’s Island.
(J) Limerick City Gallery of Art; on front of building.

Fig. 185B Balcony railings on gable end of Bishops’ Palace, Castle Street.

The City Crest can be seen throughout the city on Council street furniture (such as lamp standards, manhole covers, street signs etc.) and on items such as civic plaques (e.g. Shannon Bridge and Abbey Bridge plaques). The motto on the city’s coat of arms ‘Urbs antique fuit studisque asperrima belli’ translates as ‘An ancient city well versed in the arts of war.’

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Crest on glass panels, Limerick Institute of Technology facade, Moylish. The institute’s coat of arms incorporates the city motif and, underneath, (left) a book as a symbol of learning, and (right) an artist’s pallet to represent the Limerick School of Art and Design in Clare Street which comes under the administrative umbrella of the Limerick Institute of Technology.

Curios

Primitive stone carvings depicting faces are visible on two of the parapet stones on Mathew Bridge. Their origins are unknown, but it is believed that they originally faced inward to an enclosed area. These curios were turned to face the public when placed there by Limerick Civic Trust. They are to be seen on the return wall of the bridge facing towards Merchants Quay.
Pillar inscribed ‘P8’ on return wall of Mathew Bridge; Bank Place.

Heart shaped stone set in wall on Sráid Seamus O’Cinneide. It was originally part of an ogee-headed window.

Cat With Two Tails, corner of Augustinian Lane and Roches Street. This stone carving is reputed to have originated from Quin Abbey in County Clare and is to be seen high on the side wall of what was once Casey’s fish shop.
Fig. 125C
Heart shaped stone set in wall; the Mount Secondary School, O’Connell Avenue.

Fig. 125D
This somewhat primitive carving of a face is to be seen on the facade of a former bonded warehouse on Ellen Street.

Fig. 125E
Heart shaped stone set into the wall at the bottom of Church Street, King’s Island.
(A) Decorative fountain, Shannon Rowing Club, Sarsfield Bridge; early twentieth century.

(C) Note the stone carvings depicting Gods of the Rivers at the base of the fountain.
(A) **Wild Geese.** Sculptor, William H Turner. Riverside Walk beside City Hall.

(B) Associated plaque.

The sculptural group is the centrepiece of a 14 foot (4.27 metre) diameter fountain pool titled the **Fountain of Heritage.**

Commissioned and donated to the people of Limerick in 1991 by The Wild Geese Company Ltd. of Fairfield County, Connecticut, USA on the occasion of the Treaty 300 Commemorations, the Wild Geese sculpture was first erected in Arthur’s Quay Park and now stands on the River Walk beside City Hall. The plaque states that the artwork is,

‘Dedicated to the courageous men and women of Ireland who left their native land, starting with the Flight of the Wild Geese in October 1691, to seek freedom of religion, political expression and economic opportunity for themselves and their families.’

51
Drinking Fountains

Fig. 22A,B,C
(A) Drinking fountain; Peoples’ Park (1877).
(B) Fountain detail.
(C) Weathervane.

This Victorian fountain was built by John Smith & Company and was donated to the Park by the employees of the Russell Flour Mills.
(A) Drinking fountain, O’ Brien Park, Clare Street. This park was laid down about 1940 and is dedicated to Terence Albert O’Brien, Bishop of Emly who was executed in 1651 following the Cromwellian conquest of Limerick City.

(B) Fountain canopy features the heraldic emblem of a raised hand holding a sprig of flowers which is identical in design to the emblem on Tait’s Clock (1867) in Baker Place. The motto on the canopy, ‘Gratiam dat Deus’ (God Give Grace), is also inscribed on Tait’s Clock and was Sir Peter Tait’s motto on his coat of arms. For a period prior to its installation in O’Brien Park this drinking fountain was sited inside the Limerick Clothing Factory on Lord Edward Street as a source of water for employees. The factory was founded by Sir Peter Tait.

(D) Another view of the canopy.
Cathedral Drinking Fountain (1865); Cathedral Place near John’s Square. It has three plaques (A,B,C)

The Cathedral Fountain is Gothic in style and was built by the Limerick Pery and Jubilee Loan Society for the benefit of the inhabitants of St John’s Parish. Water flowed for the first time from the fountain on 9 December 1865. The fountain had four outlets: two for filling large vessels and two were fitted with iron goblets for on the spot drinking and the filling of small vessels.

The Limerick Pery and Jubilee Loan Society included among its leading lights members of prominent Quaker and Protestant business families in the city.
St John’s Parish Drinking Fountain, Plaque Erected 2008
This plaque is mounted on the side of the drinking fountain facing St John’s Hospital

Bourke House drinking fountain, Athlunkard Street; installed 1860.
Framed by a Gothic arch, this drinking fountain bears the inscription ‘Protect what is erected for your benefit’. It was funded by the Malcomson family, the founders of the Limerick Shipping Company, for the benefit of the people of the locality. The Malcomsons were a Quaker family.

The sponsorship and provision of free public drinking facilities was a popular cause in Victorian times among Quakers, evangelical Christian religious groups and the temperance movement concerned with promoting a healthy, orderly and sober society.
Gargoyles

As well as having a decorative function gargoyles are primarily water spouts designed to throw rainwater from a roof and away from the walls of a building. However, those on Limerick Savings Bank and Leamy’s School illustrated below do not appear to be functional.

Fig. 35A,B,D

(A) Shows a decorative gargoyle feature on the cornice of the Grecian, Doric style, Limerick Savings Bank (1840) on Glentworth Street.

(B) The crenellated tower of Leamy’s School (1845) on Hartstonge Street features decorative gargoyles with grotesque faces in the medieval style; the above is one example.

Fig. 35C In contrast, these plain and prosaic water spouts can be seen on the exterior of St Mary’s Cathedral.
Georgian Street Furniture

Much of the original street furniture and the external features of houses of the Georgian period still survive in those areas of Newtown Pery where the original terraces still stand. The following are just a few representative examples of what is a very large body of period street furniture and artefacts.

**Balconies**

(A) Example of a single window balcony, Catherine Place.
(B) This highly ornate balcony, at first floor level, features on Ozanam House, Hartstonge Street.

**Boot Scraper**

Fig. 109

Typical example of a boot scraper, 60 O’Connell Street.
Capitals

Capitals in a variety of neoclassical decorative styles are to be seen throughout Georgian Limerick on door surrounds. The following examples are from O’Connell Street,
(A) No. 93 O’Connell Street.
(B) No. 72 and (C) No. 73.
Coal-Hole Covers

Coal-hole covers were very much functional items of street furniture designed to endure and as such most of those to be seen in Newtown Pery are rather plain looking. There is, however, some variation in appearance.

Doorways

The design of the doorways on Georgian terraces and residences varied according to the social status of the houses.

Fig. 102A
Georgian doorway, No. 3 Pery Street with elliptical fanlight.
Doorways in Catherine Street with semicircular fanlights. They are quite modest in appearance in comparison with those terraces considered to be more fashionable.

The plaque, placed by Limerick Civic Trust on this building, reads,

‘Edmond Sexton Pery 1719-1806. Born in Limerick, a Barrister and Member of Parliament. He played a prominent role in the eighteenth century development of Georgian Limerick, known as Newtown Pery. He lived in this house.’
The house was built c.1785 as the Bishops’ Palace for the Church of Ireland. Up until that time the Episcopal residence was at the Bishops’ Palace on King’s Island, now the offices of Limerick Civic Trust.

(C) Capital on the doorway.

This is one of many plaques placed at historic sites of importance around the city by Limerick Civic Trust.
(E) Doorway of Bruce House, Rutland Street; once the premises of Bruce’s Bank (established 1806).

(F) Plaque placed on building by Limerick Civic Trust.
Fanlights

Fig. 103
Fanlight, No. 77 O’Connell Street. This elliptical fanlight includes a lamp in the centre of the design and is the only example of such a design to be seen in Limerick. The thin glazing bars form an intricate, delicate pattern.

Fig. 104
Fanlight detail, No. 78 O’Connell Street.
Semicircular fanlight, 40 Cecil Street shows a relatively modest glazing bar pattern compared to the more elaborate designs to be seen on fanlights in O’Connell Street and The Crescent.

Door Knockers

Door knocker, 55 O’Connell Street.
Fig. 107A,B,C,D
Door knockers, O’Connell Street.

Nos. 3 and 4 The Crescent.
**Metal Steps**

Harrison Lee & Sons made these metal steps leading to the doorway of No. 74 O’Connell Street.

**Pavement Grills**

Fig. 259A,B,C.
(A) Pavement grill on Patrick Street.
(B and C) William Street.

Other examples can be seen in the city centre.
**Railings**

Fig. 110

Grecian urn ornamentation on railings, O’Connell Street. The neoclassical influence on the street furniture of Newtown Pery is evident in the decorative Grecian urns that are placed at the intervals along the top of this set of railings.
**Tontine, Pery Square**

The six houses in the Pery Square Tontine development (1838) were the last Georgian terraced houses to be built in the city. James Pain was the supervising architect of the project which was financed by the Pery Square Tontine Company. No. 2 Pery Square was restored by Limerick Civic Trust in 1996-99 and is now open to the public as the Georgian House and Garden Visitor Centre.

The external features of the Pery Square Tontine (Nos. 1-6 Pery Square) include:

![Fig. 113A. Plaque beside entrance to No. 2 Pery Square marking the official opening of the Georgian House and Garden in 1999.](image)

![Fig. 113B,C. The door knob and knocker of No. 2 Pery Square originated from Moore Abbey, County Kildare which was once the home of Count John McCormack.](image)
No. 3 Pery Square. Decorative ironwork on ground floor windowsill.

Fig. 115
Coal-hole covers, outside Nos. 2 and 3 Pery Square.
These metal coal-hole covers were custom-made for the Pery Square Tontine development and feature decorative shell patterns in each corner and the initials ‘P.S.’ (Pery Square) in the centre. Two coal-holes were set in the pavement outside each of the six houses in the terrace and their purpose was to allow coal deliveries to be poured into the cellars beneath.
Only a few of the original covers remain in situ.
Railings, No. 2 Pery Square. The finials on top of the railings take the form of spearheads evoking the weaponry of Antiquity.

Boot scrapers in Pery Square. They were used for the scraping of excess dirt from boots and shoes before entering houses. The streets at that time were unpaved and mucky.

Nineteenth century fire plates can be seen above the balconies of Nos. 2 and 3 Pery Square. They indicate membership of the Globe Fire Insurance Company and its associated fire fighting service.
Horse and Cattle Troughs

Horse troughs provided drinking water for horses in the days when they were the ‘engine’ of road transport.

Fig. 28A Horse trough, cast iron, painted green; situated at the junction of Ballinacurra Road and the South Circular Road.

Fig 28B
The trough shown here is carved out of a single piece of granite and is the only one of its kind in Limerick. Now located beside the gable end of the Bishops’ Palace on Castle Street, it was presented to Limerick Civic Trust by Limerick City Council.

The Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association was established in London in 1859 to provide free public drinking water. Originally called the Metropolitan Free Drinking Fountain Association, it changed its name to include cattle troughs in 1867 in support of animal welfare. By 1879 the Association had erected in London alone nearly 800 public drinking fountains and troughs for cattle and horses, but it did spread its benevolent wings outside of London, and overseas, including Ireland. The surviving cattle troughs are mainly large granite ones, the Limerick trough being a typical example. Earlier designs were of cast iron or zinc lined timber, but both were too easily damaged. The Association’s granite troughs are still a common enough sight on the streets of London, invariably now serving as municipal flower beds.
Inscriptions on Housing Developments

Fig. 135C
This plaque is over the main door of the Villiers Alms Houses, Church Street, King’s Island. The almshouses and schools were endowed by Mrs Hannah Villiers and erected by her trustees in 1826.

Fig. 51
St Alphonsus Terrace (1892), Quin Street.

Fig. 52
Keeper View Terrace (1898), Aherne’s Row, off Sir Harry’s Mall.
Prospect Hill. Inscription on plaque states that the dwellings were built by Limerick Corporation for ‘the working classes’ during the mayoralty of the Right Worshipful Alderman Philip O’Donovan. He was Mayor in 1913-15.

Mary Street, Nos. 40 and 41. This inscription records that the houses were built by Limerick Corporation for ‘the working classes’ in 1893 and 1894.

Roxboro Villas (1894). Corner of Sexton Street and Roxborough Road.
Fig. 56
Grattan Villas (1895), Mulgrave Street.

Fig. 56A
Garryowen Villas (1897). This road connects Mulgrave Street with Garryowen.

Fig. 57
Bishop Street houses built by the Thomond Artisans Dwellings Co. Ltd. in 1904.
O’Connell Terrace (1904), O’Connell Avenue. Houses were built by J Kenny & Sons, Builders.

Tablet states that Limerick City Council’s social housing development on Convent Street was officially opened on 20 June 1996.
Ironwork

Edwardian decorative ironwork railings incorporated into the boundary wall of a house on O’Connell Avenue. The house is located beyond the Model School on the same side of the road. This design seems to suggest musical notation. There is a variety of decorative railing designs in this area and throughout Limerick. One of the leading manufacturers of ironwork in the city was Harrison Lee & Sons.

Fig. 120

This is an example of a plainer, linear style of ironwork by Harrison Lee & Sons. It is located near Verdant Place, King’s Island.
Fig. 119 Limerick Boat Club, Sarsfield Bridge.
The Victorian ironwork staircase was made by Shannon Foundry.
Kiosks

Fig. 39
Kiosk, Prospect Hill (now known as The Hair Kiosk).

Fig. 40
Park Kiosk (c.1917), Boherbuoy.
This business was run by the O'Sullivan family until it closed in the 1980s. The kiosk was recently restored and the original signage on the facade reinstated by Limerick Civic Trust.
Lamps and Public Street Lighting

Fig. 67
Barringtons’ Hospital (1831), George's Quay.
The four gas lamps in front of Barringtons’ Hospital have been there since the hospital’s foundation. In 1985 Limerick Civic Trust was involved in a project to repair and preserve the lamps.

Fig. 69
Candelabra style lamps on Sarsfield Bridge (completed 1835).

Fig. 70
Original gas lamp standard (c.1840); corner of Pery Square and Hartstonge Street.

Fig. 71
Decorative lamp standard; inside gates of Ted Russell Dock.

Fig. 72
Lamp standard in grounds of St Mary’s Cathedral placed there by Limerick Civic Trust.
Fig. 73A,B,C.
(A) Decommissioned lamp standard at Mount Kennett, next to the new skatepark. Two others on the Dock Road, (B) and (C), are on either side of the road near the Irish Wire factory.

Fig. 74
One of a pair of ornate lamp posts to be seen outside No. 103 Henry Street, built c.1790.
Fig. 75
Lamps along the River Walk beside City Hall. The standards came from the Rank’s flour mills on the Dock Road where they were originally used as supports for floors in the silos.
Limerick Civic Trust

This section features those plaques erected by Limerick Civic Trust to commemorate the many projects successfully completed by the Trust since 1983. The curio wall in the courtyard of the Bishops’ Palace is also featured.

Project Plaques

Fig. 181A
Plaque (1983) on the Merchants Quay boundary wall of St Mary’s Cathedral. The restored area is located at the Bridge Street end of Merchants Quay.

Fig. 178
Walls of Limerick restoration project at Mungretgate, High Street, 1987,

‘These remains of the Medieval City Walls built during the 14th Century were restored in 1987 by Limerick Civic Trust with the assistance of the Department of Labour Teamwork Scheme’.
This plaque is to be seen in the covered archway leading to the Sylvester O’Halloran pedestrian bridge,

‘Potato Market
Built 1843
Restored by Limerick Civic Trust
for Limerick Market Trustees,
officially reopened on 2nd July 1987
by An Taoiseach
Charles J. Haughey T.D.
during the Mayoralty of Cllr. Jack Bourke’.

This area was restored by
Limerick Civic Trust in 1986 with the assistance of a
FAS Youth Training Scheme’.
Fig. 182
Bishops’ Palace, Church Street, King’s Island.

Fig. 183
Wall plaque in grounds of St Mary’s Cathedral; Merchants Quay gateway.
This new entrance, constructed in 1991, enhanced the public’s perception of the cathedral for it opened up a new line of sight from Merchants Quay directly focusing on the Romanesque west door.
The gateway was built by Limerick Civic Trust in co-operation with FÁS. It was officially opened by Judge Kevin O’Higgins SC on 18 October 1991 during the Mayoralty of Alderman Jim Kemmy TD.
The funding for the new park benches was awarded to Limerick City Council from the 2006 Multi Annual National Disability Strategy Fund to facilitate the work by the Limerick Civic Trust to address the priority needs of people with disabilities in the Peoples’ Park. Benches installed in 2007 during the Mayoralty of Cllr Joe Leddin’.

Under this project Limerick Civic Trust replaced the twenty-one benches in the Park in 2007 with new ones. The following year the Trust put in a circular bench around a tree near the Pery Gate.
Doorway and Gateways

Fig. 185B The French doors opening onto the first floor, gable-end balcony of the Bishops’ Palace are framed by stonework that originally served as the doorway surround to the Clare Chambers, No. 10 O’Connell Street. When this building collapsed in the 1980s the stonework was donated to Limerick Civic Trust. Fig. 113D It is generally believed that members of the Clare legal profession had meeting rooms in the building and the Clare Chambers plaque was located at the entrance to their rooms. The plaque is now set into the wall in the basement of The Georgian House and Garden, No. 2 Pery Square.
Gateway on Chapel Street restored by Limerick Civic Trust in 1989. Note the configuration of the entrance. The stonework on the lower courses has been trimmed back to accommodate the wheels and hubs of horse-drawn carriages so as to prevent damage to the stone.

**Gateways to Courtyard of Bishops’ Palace and St Mary’s Cathedral**

Fig. 190W Entrance to courtyard of Bishops’ Palace. This Gothic archway originated in the former Saint Mary’s Convent garden built on the site of the medieval Dominican Priory on Bishop Street. The stonework was retrieved during the building of the modern Northern Relief Road. The metal gate installed in the arch was originally the pedestrian gate into Elmhurst House at St Joseph’s Hospital, Mulgrave Street. This gate, and the matching double gates for the carriage entrance to Elmhurst, were donated to the Trust in 1986 by the Mid-Western Health Board.
Fig. 192H,I
Decorative double gates at the Merchants Quay entrance to St Mary’s Cathedral grounds leading to the Romanesque west door. The gates, originally built for the carriage entrance to Elmhurst House at St Joseph’s Hospital, were donated to Limerick Civic Trust in 1986 by the Mid-Western Health Board.
The Pery Gate – A new entrance into Peoples’ Park on corner of Upper Mallow Street and Boherbuoy that was opened in 2008. This new gateway has greatly enhanced the Boherbuoy side of the Park.

‘The Pery Gate
Officially opened on 17th February 2008
during the Mayoralty of Cllr Ger Fahy
by
Edmund 7th Earl of Limerick
&Sylvia Countess of Limerick
A Limerick Civic Trust 2008 Environment Project’.
The Curio Wall and Objects of Interest in the Courtyard of Bishops’ Palace

Fig. 190
The above tablet, set into the boundary wall of the courtyard at the rear of the Bishops’ Palace, reads,

‘This Boundary Wall was built in 2005 by Limerick Civic Trust and FAS/CE using old stone and stones with inscriptions and carvings which were donated to the Trust.

At the time of publication (in April 2009) research was underway as regards the origins and history of the items in the Limerick Civic Trust’s curio collection. The individual pieces in the Curio Wall and other objects of interest in the courtyard are shown below without individual comment.
Fig. 190,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L,M
Stone inscriptions and carvings set into the Curio Wall.
Inscribed stonework, curios and carvings on display in the courtyard of Bishops’ Palace.
St John’s Churchyard Wall

St John’s churchyard wall, Irishtown - A Limerick Civic Trust project.

Fig. 131F
This plaque (2004) is on the exterior of St John’s churchyard wall facing towards New Road, Pennywell.

Fig. 131D
A section of St John’s churchyard wall under reconstruction in 2007.
Fig. 131
Set of three plaques on the exterior of the St John’s churchyard wall facing towards St John’s Hospital.

Fig. 131A
The middle plaque of the three reads,

‘The old stone slab on the left
is the original 1693 foundation stone for St. John’s churchyard walling.
The stone on the right is the
English translation of the text in Latin on the original stone.
For structural reasons this section of the wall was re-built by a
Limerick Civic Trust/Fas Project in 2007
during the Mayoralty of Cllr. Joe Leddin’
Fig. 131B,C
(A) The Latin inscription on the original 1693 plaque on St John’s wall, and (B) translation.

Fig 131E
‘The Unthank Crypt
The Unthanks were a prominent Quaker Family who moved to Limerick from Norfolk England in the early 18th century. The Crypt was restored through an environment project by Limerick City Council, Limerick Civic Trust and FÁS during the mayoralty of Cllr. Ger Fahy in 2007.’
Stonework – Functional

Stone and Iron Buffers

During the era of horse-drawn transport buffer bollards (stone and iron) were placed, in most cases in a leaning position, at the corners of entrance ways and buildings to protect corners against damage by carriage wheels.

Fig. 27A,B,C,D,E,F

(A) Illustrates buffer at the entrance to the Citadel in the grounds of St John’s Hospital.

Other examples may also be seen at:

(B) The women and children’s entrance to the former Employment Exchange on Upper Cecil Street. It served as the main entrance to the Limerick School Project in the 1990s before the school moved to its present premises on O’Connell Avenue.

(C) The entrance to Mary Immaculate College on Summerville Avenue features an iron buffer.

(D) At the corner at Cross’s Funeral Home, Lower Gerald Griffin Street.

(E) On the corner of Dominic Street and Little Glentworth Street.

(F) Buffers can also be seen at one of the gateways into the Potato Market, Merchants Quay.

Also,

Fig. 122G Barrack Hill, off Wolfe Tone Street.
**Stone Bollards**

Fig. 33
These bollards on Merchants Quay were originally sited in the Potato Market where they were used for hitching horses.

**Mounting Stone**

Fig. 26
Equestrians once used this stone on the corner of Windmill Street and Henry Street to help them mount their horses. The famous Treaty Stone once served the public as a mounting stone before it achieved celebrity status.
Roadside milestones date back to the age of coach travel and were used to indicate travel distance. Very few remain today. Those that have survived locally are to be seen at,

(A) The Dublin Road near the Parkway roundabout.
(B) Outside the Irish Wire factory on the Dock Road.
(C) The canal-side milestone shown above in Fig. C is sited adjacent to the Guinness Pedestrian Bridge on the canal walk. It is one mile from Limerick (the distance to Killaloe is also noted). There is another marker, one mile further up the Shannon, by the fishermen’s cottages at Reboge.
(D and E) Illustrate both sides of the roadside milestone at Castletroy located on the main Dublin Road near the turn-off to Monaleen. It indicates the distance to Limerick and Nenagh.
Benchmarks or Sapper Stones

Benchmark stones are upright rectangular shaped stones, approximately 3½ feet in height (1.07m), used during the Ordnance Survey of Limerick to provide exact points of reference. They are also known colloquially as ‘sapper stones’. A sapper is a soldier in the Royal Engineers and it was members of this British Army Corps who carried out the first Ordnance Survey mapping project of Ireland.

Fig. 122A,B,C,D,E,F,G Ordnance Survey Benchmarks.

Fig. 122B (above). Two of this type can be seen in front of King John’s Castle on Castle Street. The one shown above is inscribed,

‘No. 4
20 FEET
FRONT’

Similar benchmarks are sited at various locations in the city including:

(C) Castle Lane beside King John’s Castle.
(D) The corner of the Model School / O’Connell Avenue.
(E) Sarsfield Army Barracks on Edward Street.
(F,G) Barrack Hill, off Wolfe Tone Street.
Stones with just a benchmark chiselled on them can be seen at various locations in the city including:

Fig 123A (above). Sarsfield Barracks, Edward Street.
(B) On the corner of Crosbie Row and St Augustine Place.
(C) Front pillar at the entrance to St Camillus’ Hospital, Shelbourne Road.
(D) Front pillar at the entrance to Villiers Almshouses, Church Street, King’s Island.
(E) Thomond Bridge, beside Treaty Tavern.

Other examples,
Fig. 8A Thomond Bridge plaque.
Fig. 9A Mathew Bridge, on stonework below plaque.

Also on the drinking fountain in Cathedral Place.
Fig. 36A,B
The bandstand in Peoples’ Park was erected by the Corporation of Limerick in 1895. The structure was recently restored to its former glory by Limerick Civic Trust.
This Victorian park pavilion is located on the St Joseph’s Street side of Peoples’ Park was reinstated in 2007. Two plaques set into the brick flooring read:

(B) ‘A Limerick Civic Trust FAS Environment Project
Opened by Cllr. Joe Leddin Mayor of Limerick in 2007’.

(C) ‘A Limerick Civic Trust/FAS Environment Project
With the assistance of Limerick City Council and
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Job Initiative Scheme’.

Victorian park pavilion on the Pery Square side of Peoples’ Park; reinstated in 2003. There are two plaques set into the brick flooring of this structure that state,

(B) ‘Officially opened by Cllr. John Cronin Mayor of Limerick in 2003 to mark Limerick Civic Trust’s 20th Year.’

(C) ‘A Limerick Civic Trust FAS Environment Project
With the assistance of Limerick City Council.
Seamus Carr Architects, ARUP Consulting Engineers’.
Postboxes
There are two types of postboxes to be seen in the city; the free-standing pillar box and the rectangular box set into a wall. Many date from the time of British rule in Ireland as indicated by the Crown insignia on them. The initials VR, ERVII and GR on boxes indicate the reign during which they were installed, being the reigns of Victoria, Edward VII and George V respectively.

(A) Located on corner of Catherine Street / Mallow Street (E VII R).
(B) Catherine Street / Roches Street (E VII R).
(C) John Street / Mungret Street (no royal insignia).
Examples include,
(D) - above. Located in wall outside Villiers Secondary School on the North Circular Road (E VII R). The initials ‘SE’ on the door represent Saorstát Éireann (Irish Free State) marking the end of British rule in Ireland.

(E) In wall of Saint John’s Hospital (E VII R).
(F) In wall at corner of North Circular Road / Shelbourne Road (no royal insignia).
(G) In wall at entrance to Sarsfield Army Barracks, Edward Street (no royal insignia).
(H) In wall to left of Victoria Terrace, South Circular Road (E VII R).
(I) In wall to left of the Redemptorist Church on Henry Street (GR).
Quayside Features

Mooring Rings

Fig. 29A,B
(A) Mooring ring on the river wall of the Potato Market.
(B) Mooring ring set in the ground at O’Callaghan Strand. It appears to have been removed from this location recently (prior to March 2009) due to renovation work.

Mooring Posts

Made of iron or stone, many different types of bollards can be seen along Limerick’s quays.

Fig. 30A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L,M.
(A) Granite bollard on Merchants Quay. The Potato Market was built in 1843 on the site of the Long Dock which dated back to medieval times.
(B) Stone bollard in the Ted Russell Dock, while (G) shows a typical example of the iron bollards that can be seen on the south quays of the Shannon, on O’Callaghan Strand and along the banks of the Limerick Canal.
Quayside Crane and Bases

Fig. 31A,B,C.
(A) Shows the possible outline of a crane base on the ‘Poorman’s Kilkee’ section of Harvey’s Quay.
(B) Historical photographic evidence of Howley’s Quay seems to indicate that the circular stonework shown above in Fig. B was the site of a quayside crane.
(C) Crane on Limerick Canal.

Barrier Posts

Fig. 31D
Quayside barrier posts were located on both sides of the river Shannon and were connected by chains that have been removed in recent years. The barrier posts positioned along O’Callaghan Strand were taken away recently during the construction of the new Riverside Walk.
**Schools**

Crescent Assembly Hall/Theatre at corner of The Crescent and Newenham Street. This building, which has some interesting items of stonework on the exterior, was formerly part of the Crescent School before the school moved to Dooradoyle.

Fig 45A (above). Over the entrance to the building is a fine carving of the Crescent College Crest.

Fig. 45B The most important of the stones set into the wall of the Crescent Hall carries the motto ‘A Deo Victoria’ (Victory from God) and the date ‘1634’. The stone originates from a Jesuit School established in Castle Lane in Ennishtown during that year.
Fig. 45C  This stone commemorates the completion of the Crescent School extension in 1946 and bears the inscription ‘Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam’ (For the Greater Glory of God), the motto of the Society of Jesus, commonly referred to as the Jesuits.

Fig. 194A, B
(A) Bust of Gerald Griffin in niche on facade of the Gerald Griffin Memorial School, Bridge Street. Formerly the City Courthouse (1765), the building was purchased by the Christian Brothers in 1845.
(B) The Christian Brothers crest on the apex of the facade bears the motto 'Signum Fidei' (Sign of Faith).
Fig. 46A,B The Rev. Brother JP Welsh Memorial Schools (1888), Christian Brothers, John Street. Welsh was a prominent figure in the history of the Christian Brothers in Limerick. Bishop Edward Thomas O’Dwyer laid the foundation for the school on 12 September 1888. It was built by Messrs. Ryan Contractors.

Fig. 46A Plaque (1888) on building.
Fig. 46B The crest bears the motto ‘Signum Fidei’ (Sign of Faith).

Fig. 47A
Christian Brothers School, Roxborough Road.
Photograph shows a Celtic cross design at ground level inside the front gate of the old building. Above the cross is a plaque with the date ‘1816’ to commemorate the year the Christian Brothers arrived in Limerick.
Fig. 48A,B,C Limerick Model National School (1853), O’Connell Avenue

(A) Plaque marking the founding of the school in 1853.

Two commemorative stones are located inside the front gate of the school:
(B) Commemorating a visit by An Taoiseach Bertie Ahern to the school in 2006.
(C) Commemorating the visit by Mary Hanafin TD on the 150th Anniversary of the school.

Fig. 49
St Clement’s Redemptorist College (1884), South Circular Road.
Fig. 50C

The Limerick School Project, a multi-denominational national school on O’Connell Avenue. The school first opened in the Red Cross Hall, Cecil Street in 1989 and moved to O’Connell Avenue in 1996. The building was extensively refurbished in 2001.

The logo is by local artist David Lilburn.
Colleges

Fig. 43H
Mary Immaculate College (1898), South Circular Road. The pediment features a statue of Our Lady.

Fig. 50A
Limerick Municipal School of Music, Senior College, Mulgrave Street. The school, founded in 1962, is based in the nurses’ quarters of the former County Hospital (now Senior College).
Traditional Shopfronts

Limerick has some fine examples of eighteenth and nineteenth century shopfronts that add distinction to the Georgian quarter of the city. The design of many of these old shopfronts are very much in keeping with the neoclassicalism of the Georgian era. Shopfronts dating from the Victorian era also feature in Limerick.

Fig. 95

Spirit Store, corner of Bank Place and Rutland Street.
Note the pedimented mid eighteenth century doorway on the left. Similar doorways featured on the Georgian terraced houses on Arthur’s Quay. These houses have since been demolished.
Williams’s Stores, 4 Patrick Street. This building, dating from the 1760s, was the birthplace of opera diva Catherine Hayes (1818-61). From a child born into poverty in a family abandoned by the father, Catherine Hayes rose to be the first Irish soprano to travel the world and become a superstar of her time. She died in August 1861 at the age of 42 and is buried in Kensal Green Cemetery, London.

Nancy Blake’s, Denmark Street.
United Colors of Benetton fashion shop, corner of Henry Street and Sarsfield Street. The nineteenth century entrance surround for the National Bank of Ireland, which once occupied the premises, has been retained and incorporated into the design for the modern entrance into Benetton’s.

Formerly O’Shea’s fruit and vegetable shop in Little Catherine Street. This shopfront, dating from 1827, has a sophisticated neoclassical facade in stucco. The building itself was built in the late eighteenth century. The threshold (B) advertising ‘Fairy Lawn’ is a later feature of the building.
Tom Collins Bar, Cecil Street, with Georgian fanlight doorway on left. The wooden facade is based on a late eighteenth century style.

James Gleeson’s Bar, ‘The White House,’ on the corner O’Connell Street and Cecil Street. The facade has the traditional form of a late eighteenth century shopfront.
W.J. South’s public bar (‘South’s Pub’), 4 Quinlan Street. This street dates from the early years of the nineteenth century.

The Corner Flag (formerly Woulfe’s Bar) at 80 Henry Street retains features of an early nineteenth century shopfront for it has the traditional form of an entablature resting on pilasters.
Fig. 92A,B.
M. Cahill & Son, Tobacco and Snuff Factory, 47 Wickham Street; established 1870.
(A) Upper facade of building.
(B) Mosaic decorative threshold at entrance to Cahill’s tobacconist shop. The shop still retains an old world ambience.

Fig. 93A,B
(A) Nos. 9-11 Patrick Street on corner of Patrick Street and Ellen Street. A fine example of Victorian architecture, this building (1872) was inspired by Venetian palazzo.
(B) Architectural detail - Corinthian capital on pilaster.
(B) Bobby Byrne’s pub, also known as the Wolfe Tone Bar, on the corner of O’Connell Avenue and Wolfe Tone Street.

(C) The large wall plaque on the side of the building was created in granite by Tom Collins c.2005 and depicts Theobald Wolfe Tone, one of the leaders of the 1798 Rebellion.

Fig. 91B

Frawley’s pub on the junction of Mungret Street and Broad Street, Irishtown. The ironwork outside the front window was made by the Bethnal Iron Works. This photograph of Frawley’s was taken before modernisation and renovation in 2008/09. At the time of publication (April 2009) the premises was not open for business.
Leonards Menswear, O'Connell Street. The ‘s’ in ‘Leonards’ was purposely given a different font in order to attract the public’s attention. The business was established in 1935.
Street Art

Cornmarket Area

The following works by Liam Lavery and Eithne Ring depict traditional trades associated with the Cornmarket area and the origins of street names. The works were privately commissioned by the developers.

Fig 230A,B

Upper Denmark Street. This panel depicts a Viking longboat. The city has long links with Scandinavia dating back to the tenth century when Limerick was founded by Danish and Viking settlers. It is through the timber trade with the Baltic in the eighteenth century that Denmark Street acquired its name about 1800.
This panel and plaque recalls Heaphy Theatre on nearby Gerald Griffin Street. Performances took place in the theatre between 1770 and 1818 and some of the leading actors of the day appeared there.

Cornmarket Row is where cereals such as wheat, oats and barley were weighed and traded by farmers and merchants for the home and export market.
High Street is one of the oldest streets in the city, connecting Limerick to the monastic village of Mungret. The panel is divided into four by a crucifix and depicts the old road and a wooden cart.

High Street. This panel is dedicated to Feathery Bourke who sold feathers, scrap iron etc. from his shop in High Street.
Robert Street was renowned for its many blacksmiths who worked here until relatively recent times.
Figurative Civic Sculptures, Nineteenth Century

(A) Doric triumphal column in Peoples’ Park dedicated to Thomas Spring Rice, MP for Limerick City 1820-32. His statue, by Thomas Kirk, surmounts the commanding column. Kirk is better known for his sculpture of Admiral Horatio Nelson that once stood on top of Nelson’s Pillar in Dublin.

Thomas Spring Rice is remembered in Limerick for his leading role in the political struggle against the city’s ‘Corrupt Corporation’, a small clique of politicians who sought by dubious means to retain the political and financial plums of local office in their hands.

(B) Lettering on the base of the column reads,
‘Thomas Spring Rice M.P.
For the City of Limerick
1820-1832’

(C) Inscription on abacus states that the column was ‘Built by Hill Clements and Sons A.D. 1831’.
Daniel O’Connell’s enduring fame as an Irish political leader is based on his securing the Act of Catholic Emancipation in 1829 in the Westminster Parliament. Thereafter he was known as ‘The Liberator’. On 15 August 1857 this imposing monument was unveiled in Limerick and has the distinction of being the first outdoor statue erected to the memory of the great man. John Hogan was the sculptor.

(B) The Sacred Heart statue on the top of the former Jesuit Church can be seen in the background.

(C,D,E) Inscriptions on base of the monument.
The Treaty Stone monument (1865), Clancy’s Strand.

In 1990 the Treaty Stone monument was moved from its original location adjacent to Thomond Bridge to its present site on Clancy’s Strand for road safety reasons.
In 2008 a series of bronze plaques detailing the history of the 1691 Williamite Siege of Limerick and the signing of the Treaty of Limerick were installed at the base of the Treaty Stone. The pieces were cast by Liam Lavery and Eithne Ring. (See the image file on accompanying CD for more images of these plaques).

Manchester Martyrs Memorial (1890), Mount St Laurence Cemetery, Kilmallock Road. This memorial was erected to the memory of three members of the Fenian Movement executed in Manchester in 1867 for their involvement in the rescue of two Fenian leaders from a police van. During the incident a police sergeant was shot dead.
Celtic cross memorial for religious missions in grounds of St John’s Cathedral. The four inscriptions on the base of the cross read,

(B) ‘Mission of the Redemptorist Fathers October 1851.’
(C) ‘Mission of the Oblate Fathers Lent 1952.’
(D) ‘Mission of the Vincentian Fathers May 1863.’
(E) ‘Erected as a memorial of the Mission of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate May 1870.’
Fig. 198A,B,C,D,E,F,G Statue of Patrick Sarsfield (1881) in grounds of St John’s Cathedral, Cathedral Place. Sarsfield is celebrated locally for his military exploits during the 1690 Williamite siege of Limerick.

(A) Railings, with cannon like uprights, enclosing the site.

(E,G) Associated commemorative plaques.
Fig. 200 & Fig. 200A,B
Decorative gates (1901) for Athlunkard Boat Club, Athlunkard Street. These wrought iron gates feature copper work motifs expressing Irish identity. Among the motifs featured are (A) Limerick’s Treaty Stone, (B) Irish round towers, and the Harp of Erin.
Fig. 201A,B

(A) **1916 Memorial** by Albert Power on Sarsfield Bridge.
(B) Plaque in Gaelic script.

Fig. 202A

**Oarsman** (1927), Athlunkard Boat Club, Athlunkard Street.
O’ Grady Memorial (1938); Munster Fair Tavern, at junction of Blackboy Road, Ballysimon Road and Kilmallock Road. The monument is shaped like a huge weight, complete with a lifting ring, supported on four spheres.
Entrance to O’Brien Park, Clare Street.
Freestanding concrete gateway (built c.1940). Constructed in the style of a Classical triumphal arch, with the effect of ashlar masonry, forming a tripartite arrangement reminiscent of the John Russell gateway to Peoples’ Park, Pery Square.

Military memorial in Pery Square erected by the Patrick Sarsfield Branch of the Organisation of Ex Servicemen and Women to commemorate all deceased members of the Irish Defence Forces.
(A,B) War Memorial, Pery Square, in memory of those Limerick men who died in both World Wars: 1914-1918 and 1939-1945.

(C) Plaque dedicated to the memory of those Irish regiments of the British Army disbanded in 1922 following the establishment of the Irish Free State. They were:

XVIIIth. The Royal Irish Regiment
The Connaught Rangers
The Leinster Regiment
The Royal Munster Fusiliers
The Royal Dublin Fusiliers
The South Irish Horse
Merchant Seamen’s Memorial (1986), designed by Capt. EK Donnelly, situated on Russell’s Quay. It commemorates those merchant seamen from Limerick and the Shannon Estuary who lost their lives at sea in the course of duty.

Entrance to the Merchant Seamen’s Memorial on Russell’s Quay. These handrails were salvaged from the SS ‘Trenegloss’ that went aground in 1877 on the Bridges Rocks about five miles below Limerick Docks. They were previously installed on the steps leading up to O’Curry Street from the Dock Road.
Ceiling supports from Rank’s silos on the Dock Road now utilised as sculptural pieces on Nicholas Street.

The Bard of Thomond (1990), crafted by stonecutter Eddie Murphy, on gable end of Bishops’ Palace, Castle Street. Michael Hogan, self-styled Bard of Thomond, was a prolific local poet of the nineteenth century who is mainly remembered in Limerick for his composition ‘Drunken Thady and the Bishop’s Lady’.
The Mayor’s Stone by Eddie Murphy (1991), Old Cratloe Road, opposite entrance to Thomond Park rugby ground. This monument was the brainchild of Alderman Frank Prendergast who drafted the script. The inscription records the fact that close by once stood the Mayor’s Stone at Fearannseoin Mor, a traditional boundary marker of Limerick City. It was from these North Liberties that Patrick Sarsfield led his cavalry on their mission to destroy the Williamite siege train at Ballyneety in August 1690. The original boundary stone for the North Liberties was erected closer to what is now known as Hassett’s Cross in 1703.


Street furniture (2007) on Thomas Street and Bedford Row designed by Nicholas De Jong Associates.

Inscription on this bench seat in Thomas Street reads,

‘In Honour of Cornelius Con Leahy 1876-1921, Olympic Gold Medallist, High Jump Gold, Triple Jump Silver, May 1st Athens 1906’
Fig. 215
Street furniture (2007), Thomas Street and Bedford Row; designed by Nicholas De Jong Associates.

Fig. 216,A,B,C,D
Richard Harris (2007) by sculptor Jim Connolly; Bedford Row. The famous Limerick actor is depicted in his role as King Arthur in ‘Camelot’.
Glazed Street, City Hall

Fig. 228A,B
(A) **Wave** by Tom Fitzgerald; Glazed Street, City Hall.
(B) Detail.

Fig. 229A,B
Glazed Street, City Hall. Works by Seamus Murphy RHA (1907-75) unveiled in 1992.
(A) Depicts Dr Richard Hayes (1882-1958); soldier and military historian.
(B) William O’Brien (1881-1968); trade unionist.
**Graffiti, Murals and Decorative Advertising**

Fig. 252
Old and well weathered advertisement painted on wall over Fine’s Jewellers, corner of Cecil Street and O’Connell Street.

Fig. 254
Graffiti, Canal Bank, Lock Quay, Clare Street.
Fig. 256
Mural in lane off Fox’s Bow.

Fig. 257A,B
Stag mural on Moose Bar, Cathedral Place, by Margerie Daly.
Fig. 258A,B.
Wall murals by Billy Hayes on Moll Darby’s restaurant, George’s Quay featuring ships’ masts and rigging, a compass rose and a depiction of Moll Darby who used to have her celebrated fish stall on George’s Quay.
The Percent for Art Scheme, first introduced by the OPW in 1978 and extended in 1997 to all government departments with constructions budgets, saw a dramatic rise in the number of public art pieces created in the city. The works were installed in housing projects carried out by Limerick City Council. As a result a number of areas in Limerick were exposed to public art that normally would not have been. Under the scheme one per cent of the overall cost of a construction project is ring-fenced and allocated for a public art project.

Fig. 238

Aesop’s Fables (1993). Three carved standing stones by Tom Fitzgerald were placed in the Dunalaun housing estate on the New Road, Thomondgate, depicting animals and insects featured in Aesop’s stories. Of the three original stones, only one now (April 2009) remains standing, the other two have been removed.
The River of Life by Noel Hoare stands in Shannon Close off New Road, Thomondgate. This piece features water, fish and a boat and is a symbolic representation of the River’s life force.

Decorative triangular tiles by Orla Komniska set high on the facade of the social housing development on Convent Street.
Little Gerald Griffin Street.

(B) Hand painted house number tiles by Mary Bogue were placed on social housing in Little Gerald Griffin Street.

(D) To mark the year of construction of the houses, the date was painted on nine tiles placed in the centre of the facade.

Fig. 241A,B
Tiles illustrated with birds and house numbers, by Kieran Whitelaw, are to be seen in Athlunkard Street across the road from St Mary’s Church.
Decorative tiles featuring fish and birds by Cathy McKoll on a small group of houses on the Quarry Road, Thomondgate.

Decorative railing by Phillip Delemere incorporated into railings sited around the front green area of Lee Estate, off Island Road.
Fig. 245A,B,C

(A,C) Enamel painted tiles (1997) depicting nature, by Liam Lavery and Eithne Ring. They are located on an apartment building on the corner of Maher Avenue, Hyde Road.

(B) Detail.
Fig. 247 *Persona* (2000) by Michael Quane. This work is outside the entrance to Mayorstone Garda Station is inspired by the Shakespearean quotation *'All the world’s a stage and all the men and women merely players'* . The sculptor considered that a Garda station is truly a stage on which many human dramas unfold.

Fig. 246A,B,C.

(A & B) Decorative cast ironwork by Phillip Delemere on staircase on Summer Street.

(C) Delemere’s decorative work on spiral staircase on the corner of Summer Street and Cathedral Place.
Meitheal

The following five pieces of public art were created for the Meitheal Sculpture Symposium held in Limerick in 1987.

Fig. 248A,B,C,D

Anti-War Memorial (1987), welded copper and brass, by Vincent Brown; George’s Quay.

Poised Portal by Eileen McDonagh (1987). Constructed from limestone, it stands on Custom House Quay.
Fig. 250

Wave Form, bronze, by Jim Flavin; Merchants Quay. The work is representative of river currents and sea swells.

Fig. 251A,B Sweeney’s Throne, by Tom Fitzgerald, Custom House Quay. The work evokes Sweeney, a mythical king who was cursed and transformed into a bird. It consists of a stainless steel wing which curves down to a throne of limestone. At the foot of the throne is the impression of footprints. The work is described as a trace left behind, after Sweeney’s wanderings through Ireland.
Features, Plaques and Inscriptions Prior to 1800

Fig. 129A
Surviving example of a Dutch gable; off John’s Square.

Fig. 129
Medieval fireplace, 36 Nicholas Street.
Fig. 146D,E,F,G,H
Flower bed, Peoples’ Park.

(E) The decorative stone at the front of this flower bed originated, according to local knowledge, from the first Jesuit church in Limerick. The very weathered artwork and lettering on the stone includes:

(H) In the centre: the lettering ‘IHS 1648’ with the symbol of the heart.

(F) On left side: a coat of arms with the letters G R.

(G) On right hand side: a coat of arms.
Fig. 130A,B.
The Exchange, Nicholas Street.

(A) Surviving section of the Exchange on Nicholas Street. Originally erected in 1673, it was a handsome building with an arcade and covered market on the ground floor and the City Corporation’s Council Chamber on the first floor.

(B) The Exchange suffered serious damage during the Williamite sieges of 1690-91 and was rebuilt in 1702 during the mayoralty of William Davis according to this plaque located to the left of the arcade.
This was the poor house of the city before the workhouse on Shelbourne Road was opened in the early 1840s. This plaque is on the rear wall of the building and simply reads ‘House of Industry A.D. 1774’.

St Mary’s Cathedral, Nicholas Street. Plaque is on wall of the building that is joined onto the north-eastern side of the cathedral. The inscription reads,

‘The Charity Blue School,
Revived A.D. 1772
By Order of the Trustees
R. B. D. W. Gore, Bishop
Hon. A. D. M. Crosbie, Dean
Chris Carrol, Mayor
H. Bindon, Warden’

In the year 1724 a Mrs Alice Craven conveyed to the Dean and Chapter a house, which was joined to the northern-eastern side of the cathedral (corner of Nicholas Street and St Augustine Place), to be called the ‘Blue School’. In 1748 it was allowed to fall into decay and, as recorded on tablet, was revived in 1772. The school was for boys who were taught a trade and had to sing in the cathedral choir. They were dressed in a uniform of blue and yellow.
This plaque is to be seen on the boundary wall of St Mary’s Cathedral on Nicholas Street. The commemorative stone states that in 1786 Limerick was paved and flagged, penthouses* taken down and Thomond Bridge repaired during the mayoralty of Sir Christopher Knight. At that time, as mentioned on the plaque, the Members of Parliament for Limerick City were John Prendergast Smyth and Edmund Henry Pery and the City Sheriffs were Joseph Sargent and Arthur Vincent.

Some lettering on the bottom line of the inscription appears to have been eroded by weathering. The initial of Smyth’s Christian name is missing; as are the letter(s) following the inscribed letter ‘R’, which one assumes is an abbreviation of Mr. Smyth’s official position in the city’s hierarchy. It is possible that the person in question was George Smyth who we know to have been the Recorder of Limerick Corporation in the year 1786.

*In the late eighteenth century the term ‘penthouse’ referred to an outhouse with a sloping roof built onto the side of a building.
Fig. 110A
This plaque was originally placed on the Brazen Head tavern in John Street in 1794 to commemorate its rebuilding. The stone was moved, in the latter part of the twentieth century, to its present location on O’Connell Street. It is set in the wall outside The Brazen Head bar, 102 O’Connell Street.

Fig. 164
Modern plaque marking the site of the original Brazenhead tavern in John Street, Irishtown.
Fig. 136
This stone is at ground level inside the entrance to St. Camillus’ Hospital, Shelbourne Road. The facility was originally built as a workhouse and presumably this stone is a date plaque for that institution.

Fig. 137
Plaque in the covered entranceway to the Potato Market located adjacent to Mathew Bridge.
The inscription reads,

‘A.D. 1843
This Market was erected by
the Reformed Corporation
during the Mayoralty of
The Right Worshipful
Martin Honan
in the second year of his office
John. F Raleigh Esq. Town Clerk
Francis I. O Neill Esq. Treasurer
W.H. Owens Arct.
John Duggan Builder’.

160
This gateway bears the date ‘1844’ and was built as an entrance to the Lock Mill (constructed 1762-4). Located on the north side of Limerick Canal near the junction with the Abbey River, the mill has since been demolished. The inscription over the gateway reads ‘Lock Mills. John Norris Russell’. Russell was a nineteenth century Limerick flour miller, entrepreneur and wealthy merchant.

This plaque on the river wall at Verdant Place marks the completion in 1848 of a public walk leading to the King’s Island embankment. Inscription states,

‘Public Walk
To The Kings Island Embankment
executed under the directions of the
Corporation of Limerick and the
Commissioners of Her Magestys [sic.] Woods
and Forests - Completed in October 1848.
Michael Boyan Civil Engineer
Michael Quin Mayor of Limerick’.
St Mary’s Cathedral boundary wall, Nicholas Street. This commemorative panel, with lettering in relief, was placed on top of the boundary wall in front of the east window. It reads, ‘To the Glory of God and in Memory of Augustus O Brien Stafford. M.P. Died 1857’.

The present east window was installed in 1860 to the memory of Augustus O Brien Stafford who helped Florence Nightingale in her nursing work for wounded soldiers in the Crimean War (1853-6). She in turn supported the Limerick Cathedral authorities in the installation of these triple lancet, stained glass windows in the Early English style as a fitting memorial to his name.

(E) East window, St Mary’s Cathedral. Artwork depicts biblical scenes of healing and succour for the sick.
(F) Close-up of a panel in the central lancet.
Fig. 141A,B,C.
(A) This prosaic commemorative monument in the Ted Russell Dock features two tablets marking the opening of the Floating Dock in 1853 and the Graving Dock in 1875.
(B) Floating Dock inscription.
(C) Graving Dock inscription.

Fig. 142
Date plaque on house, British Military Graveyard, corner of St Ita’s Street and Island Road, King’s Island. The plaque is inscribed ‘1856’.

163
This pillar on the Merchants Quay boundary wall of St Mary’s Cathedral is inscribed ‘1871 R. MacDonnell, Mayor’. Tower of the cathedral can be seen in the left background of the photograph.

Inscription on James Bannatyne & Son flour mills (1874), Ted Russell Dock, Dock Road.
‘The first sod of this park
in memory of the late Richard Russell Esq
was raised on Monday the 26th October 1874 by
The Right Worshipful J.J. Cleary Mayor
in the third year of his Mayoralty …’

The raised level of the pavement has hidden the lower part of the inscription, but the last section of one line of lettering can still be seen, reading: ‘M INST C E ENGINEER’.

Richard Russell (1803-71) had been one of Limerick’s wealthiest merchants and a noted philanthropist.
The club was founded at the Athenaeum on Cecil Street in 1870. The first stone of the club house was laid on 4 April of the same year.

**Fig. 150A,B. Limerick Boat Club, Sarsfield Bridge.**

**UNKNOWN DATES**

**Fig. 146B Stone seat, Peoples’ Park.**

The plaque on the upright section of this seat is very weathered and some words have been lost over time. On the bottom part of the plaque the words ‘SUMMEP [sic.] HILL’ are decipherable.

**Fig. 147**

This inscription - ‘Wm. B. Fitt’ - is on top of a wall at the junction of South Circular Road and New Street. It presumably relates to the Limerick firm of William B Fitt (auctioneers and valuers). A cattle market was once held in this area.
Fig. 148
Archway on Cecil Street bears this lettering in relief, ‘Hartigans Horse Repository and Wm B Fitt & Co. MIAA Auctioneers’.

Fig. 152
Modern inscription for Curraghogue Boat Club, Merchants Quay.
Inscriptions and Plaques - Twentieth Century

Fig. 151
Shannon Rowing Club (built 1902), Sarsfield Bridge.

Fig. 176A
This stone plaque was erected in 1905 on the front wall of Griffin’s undertakers on Lower Gerald Griffin Street to honour John Francis O’Donnell, journalist and patriot poet. Born in Limerick in 1837, he lived there over his father’s shop. O’Donnell died, aged 37, in May 1874 and is buried in Kensal Green Cemetery, London.

The plaque was donated by the Limerick Young Ireland Society. In 2007 it was remounted in the covered entranceway to the car parking area of the new building that was constructed on the site of the former undertaking business.

A flavour of O’Donnell’s patriot verse is provided by his poem A Spinning Song,

‘My love to fight the Saxon goes,/And bravely shines his sword of steel ...
My love is pledged to Ireland’s fight;/My love would die for Ireland’s weal./To win her back her ancient right,/And make her foemen reel./Oh, close I’ll clasp him to my breast/When homeward from the war he comes.’
Fig. 153A, B Colbert Railway Station, Parnell Street.
Plaque reads (Gaeilge & English): ‘To commemorate the 1916 Rising this building was named Colbert Station in honour of Con Colbert’.

Fig. 153C
Henry Clancy was shot on 1 May 1921 by Black and Tans during the fight for Irish independence. Memorial set in the wall close to the railway bridge at Ballysimon states,

‘I ndil-Chuimhne
Annraoi Mac Fhlanncadha
Buidhean–Oifigeach, Complacht C. Cath. Luinnighe
Oghaigh Na h-Eireann
21 Bli-adhna D’aois’.

Translation: In Loving Memory, Henry Clancy, Platoon-Officer, C Company, Limerick Battalion, Irish Volunteers, Aged 21 Years.
Memorial tablet to Michael Scanlan (1892-1920). It is mounted over the main hall door of the building on the corner of Thomas Street and Catherine Street. In Irish and English it reads,

“To the memory of
MICHAEL SCANLAN
Commandant 4th Battalion of East Limerick Brigade
IRA killed by British Forces at this spot on 27 October 1920.
Erected by comrades and relatives’.

To commemorate the planting of trees on the accession of the Republic of Ireland to the European Economic Community on 1 January 1973 this plaque was set into a section of the city’s medieval walls in the Watergate Area, off Broad Street.
At the junction of Childers Road and the Dublin Road, this plaque commemorates the fact that Childers Road was officially opened on 20 March 1978. It is named in memory of Erskine Childers, President of Ireland (1973-4).

Fox’s Bow (1838); reconstructed in 1986.
Limerick Courthouse (Teach Cuirte Luimnigh), adjacent to City Hall, Merchants Quay.

Inscription on plaque states,

‘Civic Centre
Larionad Pobail

This foundation stone was laid by Padraig Flynn T.D. Minister for the Environment
In the presence of
Alderman Tim Leddin Mayor of Limerick
On 1st July 1988’

[The above text is repeated in Irish]

‘J.J. Higgins, City Manager and Town Clerk
M. MacCurtin City Engineer
Hillview Securities Ltd. Developer
McInerney Contracting Ltd. Building Contractor’.
Fig. 157
Arthur’s Quay Shopping Centre. This plaque is located inside the Arthur’s Quay entrance to the shopping centre.

Fig. 158
Ted Russell Park, North Circular Road. Tablet records that GE (Ted) Russell donated the land for the park to Limerick Corporation. The park was officially opened in 1989.
Thomcor House, Mungret Street.
This foundation stone (1991) records that the present building was built on the site of Thomcor Castle which was first mentioned in 1402 and was one of the few medieval town houses in Irishtown to be built in the fortified style.

Mungret Street; plaque on building adjacent to Thomcor House.
It simply states that,
‘This foundation stone was laid by Alderman Jim Kemmy T.D. Mayor of Limerick on 12th June 1992’.
Fig. 160
Plaque adjacent to Riverside Walk at City Hall. On 18 December 1997 a tree was planted there to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the granting of the first charter to Limerick by Prince John, Lord of Ireland, in 1197.

Fig. 162
Fig. 163A,B
(A) Todd’s Row, Cruises Street. Foundation stone laid in 1991 for the Cruises Street shopping development.
(B) Todd’s Row plaque marking the official opening of Cruises Street on Tuesday 8 December 1992 by Cllr. John Quinn, Mayor of Limerick.

Fig. 165
Ted Russell Dock. This tablet marks the occasion when in 1992 the Harbour Commissioners unanimously resolved to name the dock in honour of GE (Ted) Russell on his retirement as their chairman after twenty-six years.
Erected in 1995 to mark the birthplace of Michael J. Keyes TD on Kilmallock Road, this plaque is to the rear of the Munster Fair Tavern. Michael Keyes was Limerick’s first government minister, being Minster for Local Government (1949-51) and Minister for Posts and Telegraphs (1954-57).

In memory of Katie (Cis) Smyth (1897-1995); grounds of St Mary’s Cathedral.

Plaque recording the site of Peter’s Cell which was established as a house for the Canonesses of St Augustine. The plaque was erected by Bord Fáilte Éireann at St Mary’s School, Bishop Street.
Fig. 169
Plaque on wall of No. 6 Gaol Lane, off Sráid Seamus O’Cinneide. This plaque was erected by Bord Fáilte Éireann to mark the site of the medieval Franciscan Friary.
This plaque is set on the ground inside the main entrance to Peoples’ Park on Pery Square and reads, ‘Parkinsons Association Mid-West Branch. Behold God’s perfect creation and reflect on his trembling beauty’.

Stone seating on Arthur’s Quay near main entrance to Arthur’s Quay Park.

Inscription on seat reads, ‘Rotary Club of Limerick - Shannon Commemorating Limerick Charter 800 1197-1997’.
Fig. 173A,B,C
Freemasons Society of Limerick, Castle Street, King’s Island.

(A) Stone laid on 10 June 1999.
(C) Inscription states,
‘This keystone was kindly donated by W. Bro. Edward Harris and Mrs. Rita Harris 24th September 1998’.
The Limerick Memorial on the corner of O’Callaghan Strand and Ennis Road was first erected in 1968 in memory of two Sinn Fein mayors of Limerick City, a chairman of Limerick County Council and a Volunteer killed during the War of Independence (1919-21). The memorial site has seen a number of changes in appearance over the years and the tablets are presently incorporated into the structure of the recently built Hilton Hotel, now the Strand Hotel.
Fig. 149 Wall plaque, No. 15 Barrington Street.

The inscription, in Irish and English, reads,

‘Here lived JOHN DALY (1845-1916) Fenian
Imprisoned 1884-1896 Mayor of Limerick 1899-1902
and his nephew Commandant EDWARD DALY 1891-1916
Commander of the Four Courts, Dublin
during the Rising of 1916, Executed 4 May 1916
Erected by the Thomond Archaeological Society and Admirers’.
Inscriptions and Plaques, Twenty-First Century

Fig. 175
Plaque over entrance to the city museum, The Parade, reads,

‘The Jim Kemmy Municipal Museum
Dedicated by Councillor Jack Bourke Mayor of Limerick.

23rd June 2000

Brendan Keating
City Manager’

Fig. 176B
Pa Healy Road.
This stone commemorates the opening of the Pa Healy Road on Friday 2 November 2007. It is on the left hand side of the road connecting Corbally roundabout to Park Road.
Peoples’ Park is the Republic of Ireland’s first recipient of this prestigious award which is a quality standard for public parks and green spaces. The Green Flag Award scheme began in England and Wales in 1996 as a means of recognising and rewarding the best green spaces in these countries. It was also seen as a way of encouraging others to achieve the same high environmental standards, creating a benchmark of excellence in recreational green areas. Winning a Green Flag Awards brings excellent publicity and both the media and the public are becoming increasingly aware that a site flying a Green Flag is a high quality green space. The judges who assess application for the award realise that all green spaces are different and each site is judged on its own merits and suitability to the community it serves.

Plaque reads,

‘The Peoples’ Park Established 1877.
The Mayor of Limerick Cllr. John Gilligan was presented with the Green Flag award by the UK Civic Trust for the People’s Park at an international ceremony in Liverpool on 24th July 2008. It is the first Green Flag to be awarded to a park in the Republic of Ireland.
This Plaque was donated by Limerick Civic Trust who nominated the People’s Park for the award.’
Public Art Sculptures:
Twentieth and Twenty-first Century

Fig. 217A,B.
Church of the Holy Rosary, Ennis Road.
(A) Our Lady of Fatima, carved by Oisín Kelly (1915-1981), on church bell tower.
(B) Carving bearing the inscription ‘Ave Maria’, by the same artist, on the rear entrance of the church facing towards North Circular Road.
**The Water Gatherer** (1988), 15 Frost’s Corner. By Michael Wilkins, the sculpture is on the roof of the building, once the site of Frost’s pub, located on the corner of Hyde Road and Carey’s Road.

**Volte** (1990) by Vivienne Roche; steel and bronze. Located on Merchants Quay.
Fig. 220
Sculpture in front of the former Villiers School (1839), Henry Street. The work was placed here c.1990 as part of Limerick’s Urban Renewal programme. Villiers School moved to its present location on the North Circular Road in 1953. The Henry Street premises were for a period home to the Shannon Arms Hotel.

Fig. 222A,B
Urban Infill Award 1993; plaque and sculptures located high up on the wall on either side of the entrance to the River Island clothes shop, Quimper Square, Cruises Street.
Players (1992) by Robin Buick; outside AIB Bank, O’Connell Street. The sculpture is a statement of the strong sporting traditions of Limerick.
**Singer from Quimper** (1992) by Rowan Gillespie; Quimper Square, Cruises Street.

In bronze, the piece is approximately 9 feet 6 inches (2.9m) in height.

Limerick is twinned with the Breton city of Quimper.

**Broken Heart** designed by Marie Puzzuti, unveiled 1997.

Beside Jury’s Inn hotel, Lower Mallow Street, this very striking memorial represents the collective hearts of all those broken people who had to leave the famine stricken land of Ireland.
Fig. 224A,B,C,D

Untitled, three of a series of ‘Little Green Men’ executed in bronze by Mike Fitzpatrick and placed on the facade of Limerick City Gallery of Art, Pery Square.

Fig. 225A

Metal sculpture by Sean Lynch over main door of what was St Ann’s School, George’s Quay. The building more recently housed two departments of the Limerick School of Art and Design up to 2008. The sculpture would seem to suggest sails and water movement.
Fig. 236A **Flora and Fauna**, by Liam Lavery and Eithne Ring; cast aluminium panels on railings. Sráid Seamus O’Cinneide. The designs feature the aquatic life of the Shannon.

Fig. 226A,B,C,D  

(A) **The Divided Self** (2000). Limerick Prison, Mulgrave Street. This figurative, life-size sculpture was designed and constructed as part of ‘Expressions 2000’ by the prisoners in Limerick Prison under the guidance of Simon Moller. A powerful piece, the work conveys the separation of people from family and society and is interwoven with the struggle for personal expression, creativity and the survival of the spirit in an environment where freedom is denied. The work is located in the grounds of the prison just inside the railings on the corner of Mulgrave Street and Roxborough Avenue (which is known locally as the ‘Jail Boreen’).  
(D) Detail on the base of the sculpture.
To the People of Limerick (2006) by Kevin McMahon; Maldron Hotel, Southern Ring Road. This work is a roughly 6 feet (c.2m) high cylinder of stickmen, one standing on the other. They symbolise the people of Limerick: without the people there is no city; without the people there is no structure.

Another circular work by the same artist was installed in the grounds of the hotel near the pedestrian entrance celebrating those who had worked in the former Krups electrical goods factory that was located in the area.

This arch design (2007) in cast bronze is set in the pavement at the entrance to Augustinian Lane on Thomas Street. By Liam Lavery and Eithne Ring, this semicircular design evokes the Romanesque arches that are a feature of the Augustinian Church on O’Connell Street.
Street Name Inscriptions
Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries

Fig. 77
‘1786 Mungret Street’. Stone positioned at ground level in lane beside Frawley’s pub on corner of Mungret Street and Broad Street. Presently (April 2009) the lane is closed off to the public by a newly installed door.

Fig. 78
‘Michael Street 1787’. Corner of Bank Place and Michael Street on wall of the Granary.
Fig. 79
‘Myles Street 1826’, Newtown Pery. Inscription very weathered.

Fig. 80
‘Myles Place, Pery Street 1826’, Newtown Pery.

Fig. 81
‘James’s Street 1827’, Newtown Pery. Inscription became weathered over time. The plaque was removed in 2008 and its present location is unknown.
‘Mallow Street 1827’, Newtown Pery. Corner of Upper Mallow Street and James’s Street. The plaque was removed in 2008 and its present location is unknown. Figs. 81 and 82 were placed on right angles together on the same street corner. Both plaques have been removed.

‘Baker Place 1832’, Newtown Pery.

Corner of Clancy’s Strand and Ennis Road. Twentieth century.
Stained Glass

Fig. 263
Stained glass window on the stairway of Bishops’ Palace, Church Street. Made by Bernadette Garvey, it was donated by Paddy Hoare, a former Chairman and Trustee of Limerick Civic Trust. The sun-like design has the logo of the Trust at its centre. The logo features the Castle, representing heritage, and a flower-box to symbolise the environment. It symbolises the motto of the Limerick Civic Trust: ‘Improvement of our Environment by Positive Action’.

Fig. 65E
This fanlight is placed over the main entrance to the Limerick City Gallery of Art in Pery Square. The colourful design incorporates a rendering of the city’s coat of arms within the rays of a sun burst.
Appendix

*Plaques and signs erected in 2009 during the upgrading of O'Callaghan’s Strand and Clancy’s Strand.*

Fig. 266

This information sign erected in 2009, and sited near Sarsfield Bridge, highlights aspects of Limerick’s riverside history. It includes information on Sarsfield Bridge; the ascent in 1786 of a hot air balloon from the North Strand and the story of the ‘Hannah Parr’, a Norwegian emigrant ship.

Fig. 264

Limerick City Crest printed on a perspex information sign situated close to Sarsfield Bridge. O’Callaghan’s Strand, 2009.
This plaque commemorates the upgrading of O’Callaghan’s Strand and its official opening on 29 May 2009 by the Mayor of Limerick, Cllr. John Gilligan.
Located near Sarsfield Bridge.

Information sign in the shape of an oar on O’Callaghan’s Strand reads,

‘Cleeves Milk Factory
Originally built by John Norris Russell as a flax spinning and weaving mill.
It was later taken over in 1889 by the Cleeve family for use as a condensed milk factory, once the largest in the country. Cleeve also operated a toffee factory at Charlottes Quay. The chimney stack was originally 150 feet high (45.7m), reduced by 30 feet (9.2m) in recent years.’
Emblem on gate to St Michael’s Rowing Club. The club, founded in 1901, is situated on O’Callaghan’s Strand close to the Shannon Bridge.

This sign draws attention to the Limerick Memorial on the corner of O’Callaghan’s Strand and the Ennis Road at the Strand Hotel, ‘War of Independence Memorial erected to commemorate the Civic leaders of Limerick City and County who died in the fight for freedom during the years 1919 to 1921.’ The design for this information sign is modelled on the oar used by the oarsmen and women of the many rowing clubs in Limerick.
Fig. 270
Information sign on Clancy’s Strand outside Strand Barracks,

‘House of Industry
1774
The Strand Barracks
Built in response to legislation introduced in 1772 to establish houses of Industry poorhouses and work houses in all counties. After 1840 it became the Strand Barracks and in the mid 1930s became a corporation store and depot.’

Fig. 272
This panel in the Robert Byrne Park depicts the view that can be seen of the opposite bank of the river. It highlights buildings and areas of historic importance in the city.
Fig. 271
The Limerick Soviet, April 1919.
Commemoration plaque marking the general strike that took place in Limerick City against British martial law.
Erected in Robert Byrne Park, Clancy’s Strand in 2009.
Text by David Lee, Limerick Civic Trust.

Fig. 273
Plaque displaying information on the second Williamite siege of Limerick of 1691.
Located on Clancy’s Strand near Thomond Bridge.
Fig. 274
‘This plaque records the previous site of the Treaty Stone 1865 – 1990’

Plaque set in the pavement on Clancy’s Strand near Thomond Bridge.

Fig. 275
Riverside board walk on Clancy’s Strand under construction in 2009. The Treaty Stone is on the right of the photograph.
This information sign on Clancy’s Strand depicts the art work to be seen on a series of bronze plaques installed at the base of the Treaty Stone Monument. The plaques detail the history of the 1691 Williamite Siege of Limerick and the signing of the Treaty of Limerick.

*Fig. 276*

Plaque, dating from 1992, in the Curragower Park on Clancy’s Strand,

‘Pairc Chora Ghabhair
Presented to the City by Menelek Properties Ltd and
Opened by Ald Jim Kemmy T.D.
Mayor of Limerick
On 9th July 1992’
Illustrated information panel (2009) in Curragour Park, Clancy’s Strand, explaining various aspects of the Shannon’s wild life.

This plaque marks the official opening of the Clancy’s Strand riverside boardwalk by the Mayor of Limerick, Cllr. John Gilligan on 29 May 2009. Located near Thomond Bridge.
The Exchange, Nicholas Street

Fig. 281

The Exchange, Nicholas Street following the removal of virginia ivy from the façade in 2009. Photograph taken in July of that year.
This plaque on the Exchange was previously obscured from public view for many years by Virginia ivy that covered the upper part of the façade. It reads,

‘REBUILT AT THE EXPENCE OF THE CORPORATION 1777 FINISHED IN 1778
WALTER WIDENHAM ESQ MAYOR
HENRY BINDON ESQ RECORDER
FRANCIS RUSSELL [lettering indecipherable] ESQ
CHARLES SARGENT [lettering indecipherable]
RT HON EDMUND SEXTON PERY AND THO’S SMYTH ESQ’S REPRESENTATIVES’

The lettering after the names of Francis Russell and Charles Sargent is indecipherable on the plaque. However, from the fact that they were both sheriffs for the city in 1777 during the mayoralty of Walter Widenham it can be assumed that their title of Sheriff was recorded on the plaque after their names.
This inscription stands on the right hand side of the road about 5 kilometres from Limerick on the road to Ballyneety. It was erected in 1786 by the mayor of Limerick, Sir Christopher Knight, to mark the boundary of the County of the City of Limerick which extended out to this point until the City boundaries were revised in 1840.

The lettering ‘Afc’d’ on the stone is probably an abbreviation of the word ‘ascribed’, a word that once had the meaning ‘inscribed’.
STREET ART AND ARTEFACTS
Limerick City

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