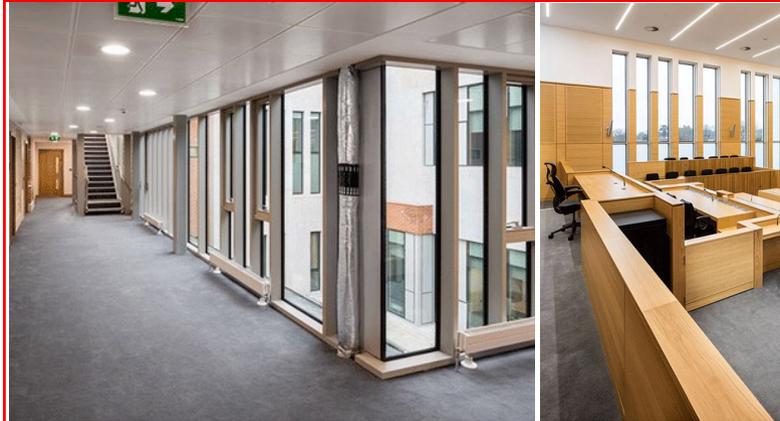




An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna
Courts Service

Wexford Courthouse



The courthouse occupies a prominent position on an elevated site on Belvedere Road at the meeting of Wygram Place with Davitt Road North. There is an existing building on the site which is a protected structure.

Building history

The building was originally built as the Tate School between 1864 and 1866 and opened on the 18 March 1867. The existing building is substantial and represents an important element of the mid-nineteenth century architectural legacy of Wexford.

William Tate grew up circa 1720 in the town of Wexford. In 1755, he obtained a grant of land for two estates in Jamaica from the British Government to set up plantations. In his Will (dated 1792), he left the larger part of his estate to Wexford including £2,500 to 'poor relations'. He left £1,000 for bread for needy housekeepers in Wexford town to be distributed every Sunday after Divine Service,

without any discrimination according to religion.

He willed the establishment of a "charity school for as many children as the school would admit and, if funds permit, girls could be admitted on the same terms as boys". Legal objections and wrangles delayed the school project until the Court of Chancery made an order in 1859 that building and lands for the school were not to exceed £2,000.

The site for the school was purchased for £350 from George Waldron at Windmill Hill, and the deed was signed by Joseph Seven Waddy. The school was built for £1,650 between 1864 and 1866. In 1875 there were 44 pupils. In 1911 there were 20 people in the school on census night including teachers and two visitors. In February 1944 there were 24 boarders and 7 day pupils. The school closed in 1949, due to financial difficulties, and was sold to Wexford Corporation for £5,000 in 1950.

The historical, social, religious, sporting, educational and financial aspects of the school are described by Jim Jenkins in his book "The Tate School" Wexford 1867-1949.

New courthouse

The new building and the refurbishment of the existing building allows the Courts Service to provide appropriate modern facilities for a historic county town while contributing to the ongoing regeneration and evolution of the town. It provides significantly improved and accessible courthouse facilities for all its users.

The building composition respects the existing building and uses similar high quality stone and brick materials whilst providing a contemporary expression of an



important civic function. A new public entrance forecourt has been provided which is framed by the existing building, the new public entrance, and a pedestrian canopy entrance.

Internally the building is organised around the centrally located courtrooms. There are two courtrooms at first floor level and two at second floor level. The central location of the courtrooms allows the functional ease of circulation routes for judges, jurors, the public, and those in custody to be optimised. Support offices are located at ground floor level and within the existing building which enjoy attractive views outwards towards the river. The design provides natural daylight to all courtrooms and public circulation areas.

The completed building, with its prominent form and location, is the latest civic addition to the historic and evolving fabric of Wexford Town and should contribute to the life of the town for many years into the future.

How to get there

By train (Iarnród Éireann)

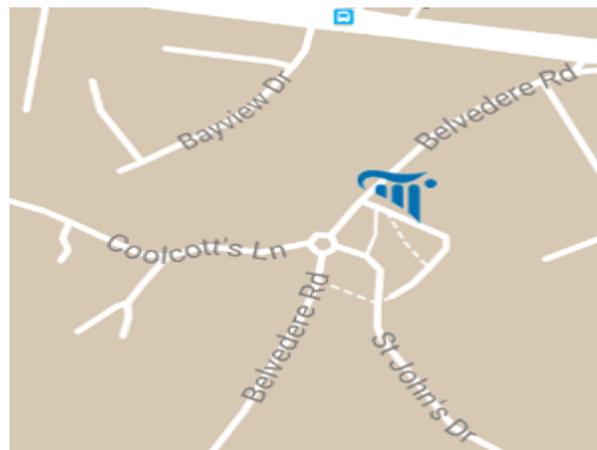
The train station (O'Hanrahan) is located on Redmond Road approximately 10 minutes walking distance to the courthouse. Check www.irishrail.ie for timetables.

By bus (Bus Éireann)

Route 2 from Dublin to Wexford. The Bus Station, Redmond Road, is a 10 minute walk to the courthouse. For timetable details visit www.buseireann.ie

By car

From Dublin: take the M11 and follow the signs to the town centre.



Parking

There is no parking available in front of the courthouse. There is on street parking nearby and car parks available in the town.

Enquiries

Wexford Court Office

Courthouse, Belvedere Road, Wexford.

Tel: +353 912 2097

Fax: +353 53 912 4798

Email: wexfordcourtoffice@courts.ie

Office opening hours :

Monday to Friday:

10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

and

2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

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