



COURTS SERVICE  
*An tSeirbhís Chúirteanna*



# Ennis Courthouse



The refurbishment of Ennis Courthouse.



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## Ennis Courthouse

### History

Ennis Courthouse was completed in 1850, (designed by Joseph B Keane with Henry Whitestone as Architect of record) and occupies a prominent site in the town rising above a public park and the River Fergus. Its prominence in the townscape complements its continuous occupancy from its first use as home to the Clare Grand Jury until 1899 and subsequently to Clare County Council and the Courts until the present refurbishment.

### Brief

The brief had a major conservation focus given the Courts Service's commitment to securing the historical and architectural importance of its building stock. The building was to be fully upgraded to meet the current state of the art needs of all court users. Universal access was also required for the entire building. To meet these needs, the building had to be completely re-engineered to accommodate cabling to meet modern technology requirements, heating and ventilation ductwork, heating pipes, new fire and security wiring, disabled toilets, and the work necessary to meet current building and fire regulations and health and safety requirements. A new lift was required to serve all floors.

### Refurbishment Works

The original courtrooms were modified minimally to meet current Courts Service standards and to improve accessibility. Acoustics were improved without compromising any of the fabric or features. An additional courtroom for civil and family law business has been incorporated into the lower ground floor, along with judges' chambers, consultation rooms and public waiting areas.

All the existing sash windows were refurbished. Existing original panelled doors were successfully upgraded to meet fire regulations. Fire separations between floors were achieved without damaging original lath and plaster ceilings and original cornices.

Lime plaster has been used extensively, along with appropriate heritage paints. New interventions have been inserted without disguising their modernity and to contrast with the original building features.

One of the main challenges was to successfully integrate the requirement for additional modern office space and the requirement for state of the art services into the historic fabric of the building. In order to cause minimum interference with the intact fabric, including original skirtings, doors, architraves, ceilings and cornices, the design approach was to service the ground and first floors from the basement or from the attic. As a result, minimum intervention was required to the building's fabric.

The requirement for additional office space was met by the insertion of a new floor and the creation of a new link corridor at first floor level. The new corridor necessitated the removal of the original glazed corridor lantern. This was successfully relocated in one piece in the new link corridor. All work has been completed to ensure the continued viability of this building.

Ennis Courthouse has the facilities to meet the demands of the High, Circuit and District Courts in Ennis and the surrounding area for many years to come.





## Building Team

Architects :  
*Dermot & Sean Merry Architects*  
*Deaton Lysaght Architects*  
*(Phase 1)*

Quantity Surveyors :  
*Tom McNamara & Partners*

Structural Engineers :  
*Michael Punch & Partners*

Mechanical & Electrical Engineers :  
*Finbar Pigott & Partners*

Contractors :  
*Brian McCarthy, Building & Civil*  
*Engineering Contractors Ltd*

## Judges

*His Honour Judge Carroll Moran*  
(Judge of the Circuit Court)

*Judge Joseph Mangan*  
(Judge of the District Court)

### Court Officials:

South Western Regional Manager:  
*Mr. Dick Robinson,*  
*Tel: 061 313568*  
*Fax: 061 314732*

County Registrar:  
*Mr. Patrick Wallace*  
*Tel: 065 6821041*  
*Fax: 065 6822499*

Chief Clerk:  
*Ms. Brid O'Dea*  
*Tel: 065 6821041*  
*Fax: 065 6822499*

District Court Clerks:  
*Ms. Josephine Tone/Mr. Peter Golden*  
*Tel: 065 6821682*  
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