

Client Name:
Office of Public Works

Architect:
Office of Public Works

Duration:
May 1999 - August 2000

Contract Value:
10m

National Museum of Ireland - Country Life Castlebar, Mayo

Description

This involved the retention of an existing Victorian Gothic House, which was designed in 1865 by Sir Thomas Deane of Deane & Woodward, and the construction of 4 new Exhibition halls.

The existing house and courtyards are situated on a plateau above a series of stepped grass terraces, leading down to a man-made lake. The Exhibition Building, framed by the lake, acts as a displaced plinth to the main house. The storage and conservation buildings are set in line with the existing courtyards, forming one side of a new public space to the rear of the house and also a further private courtyard to the side of the existing courtyards. The third side of the new public square is defined by a glazed link building that connects the Exhibition and Storage Building and reflects the existing line of the former rear garden of the house.

Restoration works included the removal of all timber flooring to remove dry rot and make sound and replacement. All timber lintols were replaced and windows reweighted. The wiring and plumbing systems were upgraded. Flooring and fireplaces were removed, stored and reinstalled. Cornices were replicated throughout the house. All existing doors were fireproofed. Graining works were carried out to walls to replicate original features. The walls in the hallway were scraped back and painted to give the impression that they are marble finish. The Library was upgraded and repainted and all intricate moulding installed. The Exhibition Building has four floors, each relating to a terrace from its entrance at House level to the lowest level at the lake.



JJ Rhatigan & Company Project Overview