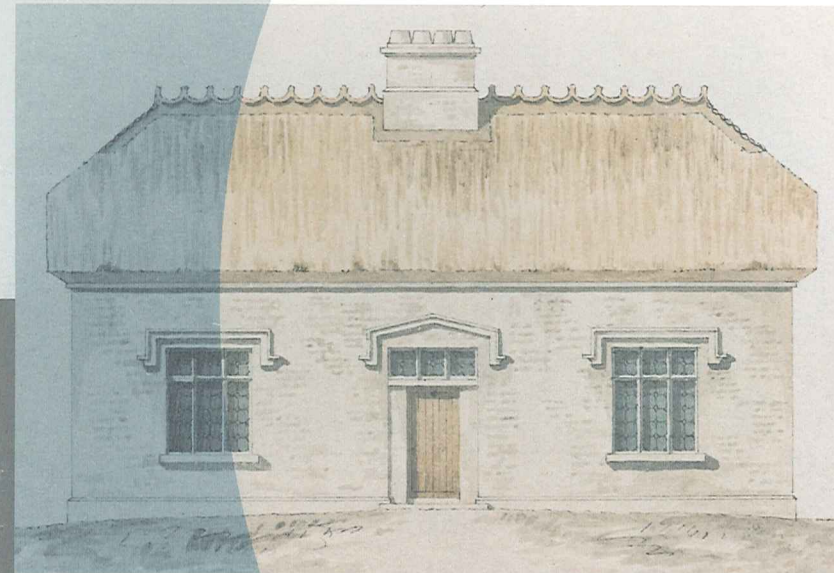


No. 2 Conservation **Guidelines**  
Sources of Information



Titles in the Series **Conservation Guidelines:**

- No 1 Conservation Principles/General Information
- No 2 Sources of Information
- No 3 Windows
- No 4 Mortars, Pointing and Renders
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- No 11 Rising Damp and Timber Decay
- No 12 Interior Decoration and Finishes
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- No 14 Shopfronts
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- No 16 Fire Safety, Security and Maintenance



## Conservation Guidelines

No. 2 Sources of Information

Text by David Griffin

Co-ordinated by the Irish Georgian Society

Edited and produced by the Department of the Environment  
with the assistance of the European Regional Development Fund



## Conservation Guidelines Sources of Information

### Foreword

This series of booklets has been produced by the Department of the Environment to increase awareness of the value of our architectural heritage and to provide information on the basic principles and methods of conservation and restoration.

The titles in the series are listed on the back of each booklet.

These texts are not intended to be comprehensive technical or legal guides. The main aim is to assist architects, builders, owners and others, in understanding the guiding principles of conservation and restoration. They will facilitate the identification of the most common problems encountered in heritage buildings, and indicate the best solutions. It should be appreciated that specialised aspects of conservation and restoration will require professional expertise and more detailed information.

The Department acknowledges, with appreciation, the efforts of the authors of the individual booklets, the Irish Georgian Society who coordinated their production, the Conservation Advisory Panel established under the Operational Programme for Local Urban and Rural Development and all others involved.

### Summary of Conservation Principles

- Research prior to planning work
- Minimum intervention - repair rather than replace
- Respect the setting.

### Summary of Conservation Procedure

- Research and analyse history of building
- Survey building and identify original material
- Plan work according to conservation principles
- Use experts where necessary
- Record all work
- Install maintenance procedures.



## Introduction

Prior to the commencement of any repair or restoration work on an historic building, it is of vital importance that as much as possible is learned about the history and the fabric of the building.

This can be achieved through research and there are two main types of sources, which are the building itself and the drawings and documentation related to it that can be found in archives and libraries. In addition, there is a need to locate craftsmen, particularly those with traditional building skills.

The purpose of this booklet is primarily to draw attention to the wide range and types of documentary material which might be of use to those engaged in research prior to the repair and restoration of historic buildings.

*However, it must be emphasised that documentary sources on their own, particularly the older ones, can present great difficulty with interpretation and need the built sources to complement them.*

## Part I

### **Collections of Material relating to Irish Architecture**

Abbreviations:

- Irish Architectural Archive (IAA)
- National Library of Ireland (NLI)
- National Archives (NA)
- National Gallery (NG)
- Royal Irish Academy (RIA)
- Registry of Deeds (RD)
- Trinity College Dublin (TCD)
- Gilbert Library (GL)
- Representative Church Body Library (RCB)

#### **1. The Irish Architectural Archive (IAA)**

73, Merrion Square, Dublin 2  
Tel. 01-676 3430 Fax. 01-661 6309  
The principal source for records and information concerning architecture and architects in Ireland. The collection includes over 300,000 photographs, 50,000 architectural drawings and engravings, and a library of 19th and 20th century architectural journals.

#### **2. The National Gallery of Ireland (NG)**

Merrion Square, Dublin 2  
Tel. 01-661 5133 Fax. 01-661 5372  
The Gallery collections include a large number of topographical drawings, engravings, photographs, architectural drawings and paintings.

#### **3. The National Library of Ireland (NL)**

Kildare Street, Dublin 2  
Tel. 01-661 8811 Fax. 01-676 6690  
The Library holds a large collection of architectural drawings, maps, topographical drawings, engravings, estate papers etc.

#### **4. National Archives (NA)**

Bishop Street, Dublin 8  
Tel. 01-478 3711 Fax. 01-478 3650  
The archives hold, among many other items, the older papers of the Office of Public Works. The holdings also include architectural drawings, and other material.

#### **5. Representative Church Body Library (RCB)**

Braemor Park, Dublin 14  
Tel. 01-492 3979, Fax 01-492 4770  
The Library houses a very fine collection of church records and architectural drawings etc.

#### **6. Environment Service: Historic Monuments and Buildings**

5-33, Hill Street, Belfast, BT1 2LA  
Tel. Belfast 23600  
The collection includes a large number of architectural drawings and photographs relating to architecture in Northern Ireland.

#### **7. Trinity College (TCD), College Green, Dublin 2**

Manuscripts Department  
Tel. 01-702 1189 Fax. 01-671 9003  
Map Library  
Tel. 01-677 2941 Ext. 2087

#### **8. Gilbert Library (GL)**

Pearse Street, Dublin 2  
Tel. 01-677 7662 Fax. 01-671 4354  
Varied collection of manuscripts and transcripts on topics relating to law, topography, genealogy, parishes and trade guilds, mainly relating to Dublin.

#### **9. Registry of Deeds (RD)**

Henrietta Street, Dublin 1  
Tel. 01-8732233. Fax 01-872 4963  
A major collection of records of registered deeds of transfer of ownership or interest in property, from 1708 onwards.

#### **10. Valuation Office 6, Ely Place, Dublin 2**

Tel. 01-676 3211 Fax. 01-678 9646  
Holds the Griffith Primary valuation, c.1852 for the Republic of Ireland, and, also, records of the Valuation List, 1852 showing occupiers of properties.

#### **11. County Libraries**

Many county libraries have an historical section, with extensive local historical material, and back editions of newspapers.

10. Corporation and County Council

Archives

These archives can provide information on historical procedures and provision of services.

11. History Societies

Local history societies often have historical information and material not found elsewhere.

12. Diocesan records and the archives of Religious Orders

Part II

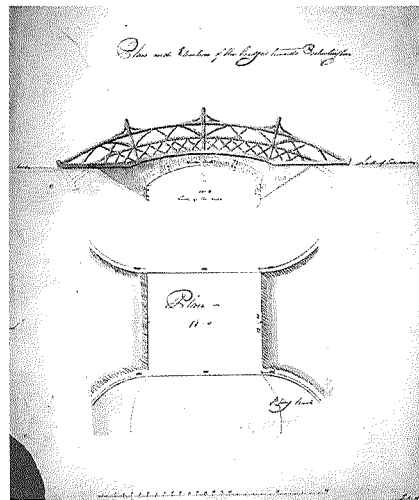
Manuscript Material

1. Architectural drawings (IAA/NLI/NA)

Original architectural drawings, where they survive, are the most important source of information. They can provide valuable information not only for the architectural historian but also for those involved with the repair or restoration of buildings.

For example, in the recent restoration of St. Aidan's Cathedral, Enniscorthy, it was possible to research the correct type of interior decoration favoured by the original architect, Pugin.

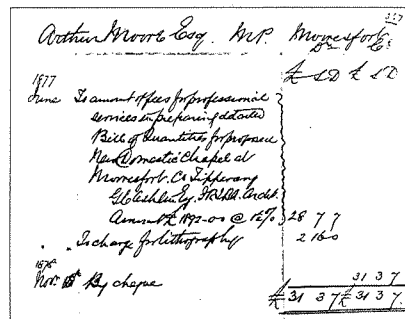
Many large collections sometimes contain various schemes for a building and these can then be used to chart the development of a project.



Example of an original architectural drawing.

2. Building accounts and quantity surveyors' papers (IAA/NLI/NA)

These can provide valuable information, such as the identity of the architect concerned, names of craftsmen and costs. For those engaged in restoration, they can also contain useful information about the origins of materials, such as building stone, bricks, timber, etc. Painters' bills might also contain details of original colour schemes.



Nineteenth century building account.

3. Topographical drawings, sketch books and paintings (NLI/NG/RIA)

These may record the original appearance of a building. The best known examples are those by Francis Place, Austin Cooper, Gabriel Beranger, Daniel Grose and George Petrie.

4. Manuscript Maps (NLI)

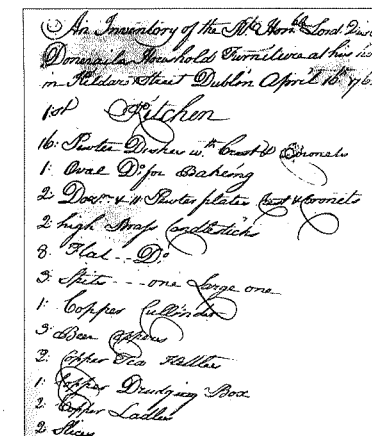
Estate maps, such as those produced by John Rocque, often include vignettes showing views of towns, villages and country houses.



Part of 18th century map by John Rocque.

5. Inventories (NLI)

These often provide descriptions of furnishings in rooms and in some cases fittings, such as chimney pieces. Colour schemes may also be mentioned. Depending on the level of detail, one may be able to reconstruct the plan of a now demolished or altered building by reference to the number of doors in a room or even the number of curtains for windows, thus giving a greater appreciation of the original layout.



Portion of 18th century inventory.

6. Deeds (RD)

Deeds may contain clues as to the dating of structures and record names of developers and owners. Site plans and sometimes plans and elevations may be included.

### Part III

#### Printed material

##### 1. Maps (NLI/TCD Map Library)

Eighteenth century maps such as Charles Brooking's map of Dublin (1728) or Joseph Ravell's map of Drogheda (1749) include engravings of buildings.

The earlier ordnance survey maps of the larger towns and cities include ground plans of public buildings, garden layouts, etc. Different editions of these maps can be used to chart the development of individual areas or buildings.

##### 2. Directories (NL/G L/ IAA)

These may give names of owners, architects, builders and craftsmen, etc. Henry Shaw's *New City Pictorial Directory 1850*, contains useful sketch elevations of the principal commercial streets in Dublin, and is available in a modern reprint. Directories can also contain useful illustrated advertisements. George Henry Bassett's *County Directory for Wexford 1885*, and *County Directory of Armagh 1888*, and Stratten's *Dublin, Cork and the South of Ireland, 1892*, contain very fine illustrations of commercial premises.

##### 3. Architectural and other Journals (IAA/NLI)

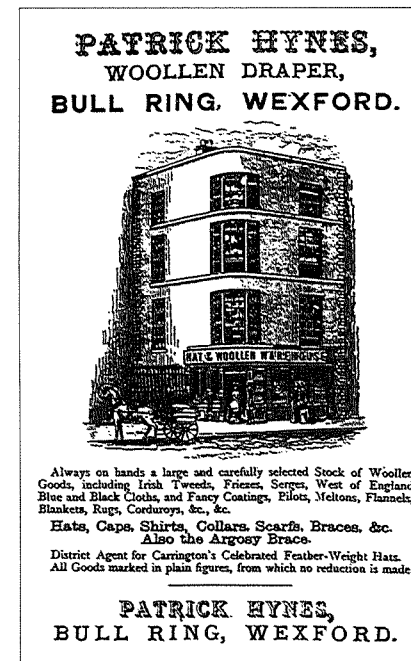
The following journals are recommended:

- The Builder*\* (London)
- The Architect and Building News* (London)
- The Architect* (London)
- The Dublin Builder*, later *The Irish Builder*\*,
- The Architects' Journal* (London),
- The Architectural Review* (London),
- Country Life* (London)
- Institution of Civil Engineers, Minutes of Proceedings* (London)
- Transactions of the Institution of Civil Engineers of Ireland*, (Dublin)
- The Irish Architect and Craftsman*\* (Dublin)
- Plan* (Dublin),
- Build* (Dublin)
- The Irish Architect* (Dublin),
- Architectural Survey*\* (Dublin)
- Dublin Penny Journal*\*

\* indicates that publication has ceased

##### 4. Trade Cards and Bill Heads (NL)

Very often these include useful views of shopfronts and, in some cases, local views.



Example of trade card.

##### 5. Postcards

These often provide views of country houses, courthouses, street scenes, churches, thatched cottages, monuments and industrial buildings, all showing their original treatment. Those showing interiors of churches may feature original details, such as window types, railings, pews etc..

##### 6. Auctioneers' Brochures (IAA)

These brochures are often illustrated and sometimes include floor plans, room sizes and descriptions. Details of leases may also be mentioned.

##### 7. Engravings (NLI/NA/NGI)

The following reports and publications provide useful illustrations:  
*Poor Law Reports* - these include plans, elevations, etc. of workhouses  
*Office of Public Works Annual Reports* include plans, etc. of public works;  
*Incumbered Estates Rentals*, illustrated with views and sometimes plans of many minor country houses.

The following are the best known books of engraved views:  
Pool & Cash's *Views of City of Dublin*, 1780;  
Thomas Milton's *A Collection of Select Views from Different Seats of the Nobility and Gentry in Ireland*, 1783-93.  
James Malton's *Picturesque and Descriptive View of the City of Dublin*, 1792-99;  
Francis Grose's *Antiquities of Ireland*, 1791-95



**Select Bibliography**

Helferty, Seamus and Refausse, Raymond.  
*Directory of Irish Archives*. Dublin, 1988.

**Dos and Don'ts**

*Do* • check primary sources if possible  
• keep accurate notes of research

*Don't* • assume anything

**Summary of Conservation Principles**

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