

The Suffragettes

In 1909 the Women's Social and Political Union protested at the visit of Chancellor David Lloyd George to Newcastle.

Several women were arrested in what became known as the 'Battle of Newcastle'.

Find out more about the imprisonment and force-feeding of Suffragettes in Newcastle Gaol.



gaol /dʒeɪl/ = jail
noun
a place for the confinement of people accused or convicted of a crime.

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THE LIFE AND DEATH OF NEWCASTLE GAOL 1822-2022



An exhibition about Newcastle's borough Gaol at Carlol Square – the prison, the prisoners and its legacy in the city

7 June - 31 July 2022

The City Library, Charles Avison Building
33 NEW BRIDGE ST W, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE NE1 8AX



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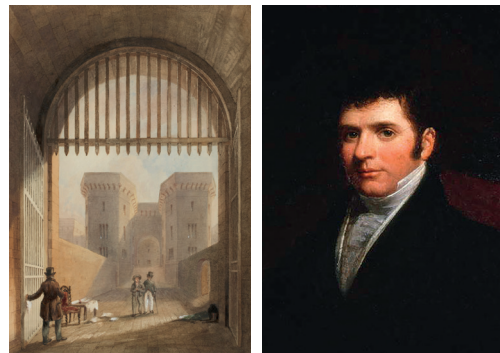
NEWCASTLE GAOL 1822- 2022

In this exhibition we look at the history of the gaol at Carloli Square from its design to its demise.

There are few signs of the gaol's existence visible today. Our team of researchers use archival collections and visualisations to bring it back to life.

The story of Newcastle Gaol reflects the changing story of crime and punishment in our city.

The exhibition has six themes: Newcastle's New Gaol; Life Inside; Policing the Prison; The Suffragettes; Executions; Death and Afterlife of the Gaol.



Newcastle's New Gaol

We look at the closure of the medieval prison at Newgate and the birth of a new prison at Carloli Croft, a large expanse of land within the town walls.

By the 1820s, Newgate was considered 'inconvenient, insufficient and insecure' and in 1822 an Act of Parliament authorised the building of a new gaol for the town and county of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Local architect John Dobson was chosen to design the prison.



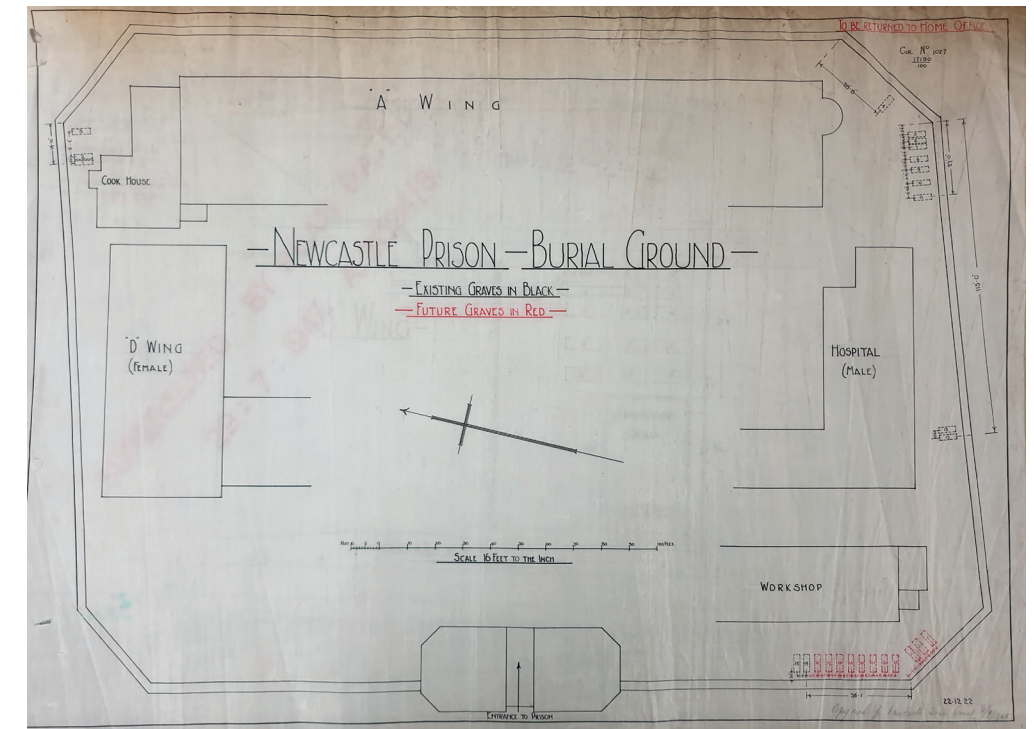
Life Inside

In this exhibition we share details of the work, diets and punishments of the inmates of Newcastle Gaol.

Although the gaol housed men, women and children, the most common prisoner was a young working class man, who worked as a labourer, and was convicted of larceny.

Policing the Prison

As a town centre prison, Newcastle Gaol was difficult to police. There were many sensational escapes over the high walls, while passersby hurled contraband in the opposite direction for the inmates. We also highlight some of the prison governors and local police who ensured the gaol functioned.



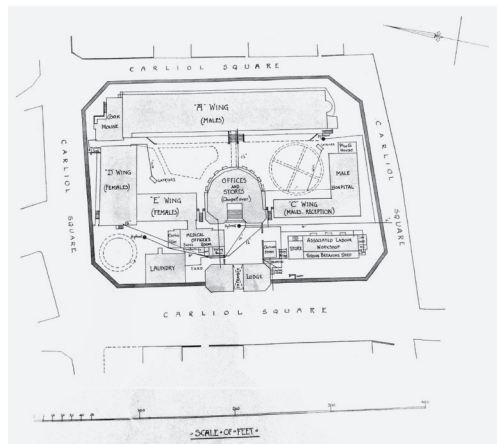
Executions

Between 1828 and 1925, 16 prisoners who had been housed in the gaol were executed by hanging – 15 men and 1 woman

The last execution to take place in public was that of George Vass in 1863.

We explore the history of capital punishment and postmortem punishment in Newcastle.

| THE FELONS' PLOT | | | |
|--|----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| 15 men were executed by hanging in Newcastle upon Tyne between 1844 and 1919. By law they were denied Christian burial as a further punishment and the bodies of those executed were buried within the walls of Carloli Square Prison. The hangings of Ernest Bernard Root and Ambrose Quinn on 28th November 1919 were the last executions in Newcastle and in 1929 Carloli Square Prison was closed by the Home Office. It was demolished soon after and a telephone exchange was built on the site. During the demolition only 11 bodies were found in the prison yard. These were interred in secrecy and without ceremony in an unmarked plot in All Saints Cemetery, Jesmond, on the morning of 18th October 1929. During further excavations of the prison site in 1929 another body was discovered and was reinterred in the felons' plot. | | | |
| Mark Sherwood | 23 - 9 - 1844 | John Robert Miller | 7 - 12 - 1901 |
| Patrick Forbes | 24 - 9 - 1860 | Henry Perkins | 6 - 12 - 1906 |
| George Mass | 14 - 3 - 1863 | John Alexander Dickson | 8 - 8 - 1910 |
| John William Anderson | 22 - 12 - 1875 | John Victoria Amos | 22 - 7 - 1913 |
| Patrick Judge | 10 - 11 - 1880 | William James Cavanagh | 16 - 12 - 1917 |
| William How | 12 - 3 - 1890 | Ernest Bernard Root | 28 - 11 - 1919 |
| Samuel George Emery | 11 - 12 - 1894 | Ambrose Quinn | 28 - 11 - 1919 |
| John Miller | 7 - 12 - 1901 | | |



Death and Afterlife of the Gaol

In 1925 the gaol was closed by the Home Office. It was demolished soon after and the bodies of the executed were interred in All Saints Cemetery, Jesmond.

The closure coincided with a regeneration of the district of East Pilgrim Street in the 1920s. 100 years later this area is once again being transformed. This gives us an opportunity to explore the unique tangible and intangible heritage of the area.