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STUDIES IN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY BUILDING HISTORY

PH.D THESIS SUBMITTED TO HISTORY OF ART DEPARTMENT TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

DECEMBER 1997 VOLUME TWO ARTHUR GIBNEY
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Irish Roof Construction

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WHEREAS the Commissioners for Building of St. Mark's Church having fixed on a Model for the Roof of said Church, give Notice, that they are ready to take in Proposals for the same.

The Scantling of the Roof is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Inch</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The principal Rafters</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Girders</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King Posts (being 3 to each Pair of Principals)</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crown Beam</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Crown Beam</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discharging Braces between the two Crown Beams</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main Struts between the King Posts</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Lateral Trusses</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal Struts</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purlins</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Rafters to be 12 Inches from Center to Center</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small Collar Beams</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wall Plate</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ridge Piece</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ceiling Joice</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Those inclined to send Proposals may see the Model and Plan at Mr. Charles Nobileau's, Churchwarden, at his House in Fleet-street; and the Commissioners will meet at the Vestry-room of St. Andrew's, on Friday the 28th Day of August 1752, to receive Proposals and contract for the Roofing of the said Church, and likewise to receive Proposals for Slating and Rendering said Roof, in the best Manner, with double Slates.

N.B. The Scaffolding is to be found by the Contractor for said Roof.
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10 South Frederick Street, Dublin: fig. 23

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CROSS PURLINS: 3" x 8/16"
DIAGONAL VALLEY RAFTERS: 4" x 4"
COMMON RAFTERS: 1" x 4"
MAIN PURLINS: 7" x 8/16"
Roof construction of typical Irish provincial town house. The use of masonry gables and purlin construction avoided the need for trusses. Many houses in Cork city (and notably the 1740's house on Pope's Quay) were built in this fashion.
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Francis Price: Trussed girder and fig.
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a girder
b binder
c joist
d ceiling joist
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A Bill of scantling for the schoolmaster’s house of Drogheda.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Unit</th>
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<tr>
<td>Flooring beams</td>
<td>12 x 6’</td>
<td>Inches, 10 x 2’ Squa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joists</td>
<td>10 x 2’</td>
<td>A x A.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ground joists of oak</td>
<td></td>
<td>10 x 3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trimmer joists</td>
<td>10 x 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trimmers to chimney</td>
<td>10 x 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trimmers to stairs</td>
<td>6 x A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sleepers to stairs of oak</td>
<td>5 x A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lintel of oak</td>
<td>5 x A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dischargers in chimney breasts ditto</td>
<td>5 x A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cills of window oak</td>
<td>5 x A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wall plate oak</td>
<td>0 x 5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J p o l e t s</td>
<td>12 x 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King posts</td>
<td>10 x 0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collar beams</td>
<td>12 x 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principal rafters</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bottom 13 x 9, Top 8 x 7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hips</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bottom 13 x 6, Top 9 x 5.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valleys</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bottom 7 x 7, Top 6 x 6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knee plates</td>
<td></td>
<td>7 x 7.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purline</td>
<td>0 x 0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small rafters</td>
<td></td>
<td>5 x 0.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagonal beams</td>
<td>12 x 7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sashers, one inch and three quarters thick</td>
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Founded March 6th A.D. 1715

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Published according to Act of Parliament, January 1, 1779.

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Published according to Act of Parliament, March 1770.

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   William and John Wall's accounts P2/34/11.
   Mun. P2/28/3, P2/69/19, P2/70/20, 21, 22.
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70. Ibid, 98.
71. Ibid, 97.
72. Ibid, 98.
73. Ibid, 99.
76. Ibid, 97.
77. TCD, mss. see the Muniments P2 series of tradesmen's accounts.
78. Commons' Jour. VI, app. ccxi, app. ccxiii, app. ccxli, app. cccxiv.
79. Ibid.
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80. Nat. Archives, Ball’s accounts, Dublin business records, mss. Dub. 43.
81. TCD, mss. see the Muniments P2 series of labourers’ accounts.
82. *Commons’ Jour.* VI, app. ccxxxiv, app. ccxxv, app. ccxxxiv.
83. Irish Arch. Archive, Thomas Eyre’s letter book, Eyre to Clarke, 28 Sept. 1756, 81/88
84. Ibid.
85. *Commons’ Jour.* V, app. ccxxxvii.
86. Ibid, app. xcix.
91. Richard Colley, *An account of the foundation of the Royal Hospital of King Charles II*, Dub. 1725, 23.
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3. A square of flooring or slating was 10 ft. x 10 ft. or 100 sq. ft. The 1767 Dublin edition of William Hawney's *The complete measurer* defines a perch of masonry as 21 feet in length, 1 foot in height by the thickness of the wall.


5. Richard Colley, *An Account of the foundation of the Royal Hospital of King Charles II*, Dublin 1725, 13, 14.


9. Nat. Lib. Irl. Flower papers, mss. 11455 (1.2)


15. TCD mss. Dr. Steevens’ Hospital papers, 1327.


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21. TCD mss., Charles Brooking’s accounts Mun. P2/49/1, P2/53/4
24. *CARD* VI, 477.
29. Nat. Archives, Ball’s accounts, Dublin business records, mss. Dub. 43.
32. *Commons’ Jour.*, VI, app. xiii.
37. Irish Arch. Archive, Boyle papers, Blessington Manor, photocopies.
38. *Commons’ Jour.* V, app. cvi
39. *Commons’ Jour.* V, app. ccxxviii
41. *Commons’ Jour.* V, app. lxxviii
43. Ibid, 98.
44. Ibid, 98.
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46. *Commons' Jour.* V, app. lxxviii, app. lxxvii
47. Ibid, app. lxxvii, app. lxxix
48. Ibid, app. xc, xci
49. Ibid, app. xc
50. Ibid, app. ccxxiii
51. Ibid, app. xcvi
52. Ibid, app. lxxviii, app. lxxix, app. xc
53. Ibid, app. lxxv, app. lxxvi, app. lxxvii
54. Ibid, app. xc, app. xci
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56. Ibid, app. lxxviii, app. lxxix, app. xciv
57. Ibid, app. civ.
58. Edward McParland, unpublished research on military barracks and fortifications in Ireland.
59. Ibid,
60. *Commons' Jour.* V, app. xcix.
61. Ibid, app. xci.
62. Ibid, app. xcvi.
63. Ibid, app. xcvi.
64. Ibid, app. cx, cxiv, cxv, cxvi.
65. Ibid, app. xciv.
66. Ibid, app. lxxviii.
67. Ibid, app. lxxviii.
68. Ibid, app. xcv
69. Ibid, app. xciv.
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70. Ibid, app. lxxviii.
71. Ibid, app. cv, cvi.
72. Ibid, app. lxxvii.
74. *Commons' Jour.* V app. lxxv, app. lxxci, app. lxvii.
75. Ibid, app. xc, app. xci.
76. Ibid, app. lxxxix.
77. Ibid, app. lxxxviii, app. lxxvii, app. lxvii, app. xciv.
78. Law accepted the standards of workmanship and materials at Tullamore but the military report was highly critical of its standards.
79. *Commons' Jour.* V, app. cvi.
80. Ibid, app. lxxxvii, lxxxviii.
81. Ibid, app. xcvi
82. Ibid, app. lxxv.
83. Ibid, app. lxxviii, app. lxxv.
84. Ibid, app. xciv, app. lxxxix, app. xcvi.
85. Ibid, app. civ.
86. Irish Arch. Archive, mss. the General Accompt of Thomas Eyre, 24, 27, 28,36, 46, 81/88.
87. Nat. Lib. Irl. Pakenham Mahon papers, mss. 10,770(2)
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5. Ibid, 16.
10. Hodgson has clearly based the format of his tables on Hoppus's text.
16. Chambers used trussed partitions in Charlemont House, Gandon’s drawings for the villas at Carriglass and Roslyn Park indicate their use. Johnston used them at Ballynagall House, Co. Westmeath.
Chapter 3


25. Idem, 98,


34. *Commons' Jour. V. app. ccxxxi*.


41. Ibid, 15.

Chapter 4

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17. Ibid, 117, 118.

18. Ibid, 118.


20. Ibid, 90, 91.

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30. Ibid, P2/19/27.


38. Ibid, P2/25/54-60.


41. Ibid, P2/22/22.

42. TCD, mss. Isaac Wills' accounts, Mun. P2/31/19.


44. Richard Colley, *An account of the foundation of the Royal Hospital of King Charles II*, Dub. 1725, 23.
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50. TCD, mss. Joseph McCleery’s accounts, Mun. P2/65/1-3; Isaac Will’s
counts P2/65/8.
51. Commons’ Jour. IV, app. xxxii
52. Commons’ Jour. V, app. lx, app. xlvii.
53. Ibid, app. ccxxxi.
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55. Kenneth Severens, "The rebuilding of St. Werburgh’s Church", Bulletin of the
56. Nat. Archives, Business records, Dublin, Ball account books, mss. 43.
60. Nat. Archives, Ball’s accounts, Dublin business records, mss. Dub. 43.
61. Wren Society Volumes, XIV, 49-64.
63. Wren Society Volumes, XVII, 68.
64. Henry Guinness, "Dublin trade guilds", Royal Soc. Antiquaries
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2. *CARD*, VI, 534.
5. *Commons' Jour*, IV, app. xxxiii.
15. Ibid, 163.
18. Ibid, 121, 122.
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29. Ibid, D354/779.
30. Ibid, D354/725.
32. *Commons' Jour.* IV, app. xxxiii.
33. Irish Arch. Archive, photocopy, George Semple's proposal for St. Patrick's Hospital.
34. Ibid.
37. Irish Arch. Archive, photocopy, George Semple's proposal for St. Patrick's Hospital.
38. Ibid.
41. *Commons' Jour.* IV, app. xxxiii.
43. Nat. Archives, Ball's accounts, Dublin business records, mss. Dub. 43.
44. Irish Arch. Archive, Drogheda Grammar School folio.
46. Nat. Archives, Ball's accounts, Dublin business records, mss. Dub. 43.
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52. Brit. Library, Egmont papers, mss. add. 46964B.


57. Ibid, 94.


60. *CARD*, VII, 364.

61. *CARD*, VI, 549.


68. Irish Arch. Archive, Drogheda Grammar School folio.

69. Nat. Archives, Ball’s accounts, Dublin business records, mss. Dub. 43.

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74. Ibid, 85,86.
76. *Commons' Jour*, V, app. lxxvii.
77. Nat. Archives, Ball's accounts, Dublin business records, mss. Dub. 43.
78. Eileen McCracken, *The Irish woods since Tudor times*, Belfast, 1971, 78.
83. Ibid, 354/763.
86. *Commons' Jour*, V, app. xviv, app. xiv, app. xciii.
92. Ibid, ledger 1770-1771. Cust. 15.


102. Ibid.


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11. Ibid.
15. Ibid, app. cxxvii.
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18. TCD, mss. Dr Steevens' Hospital papers, 81.
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8. Ibid, 102.


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