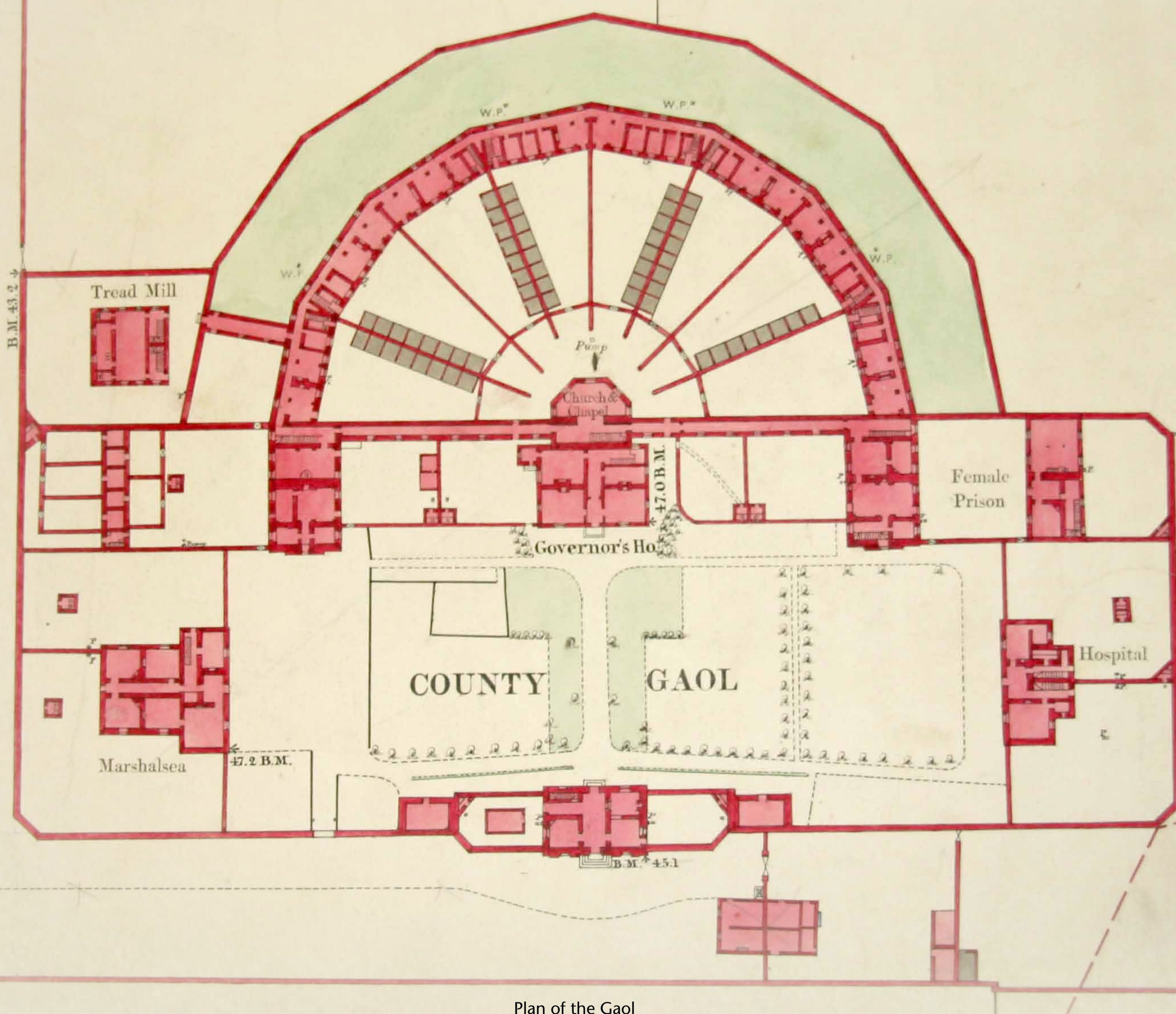


CRIME AND PUNISHMENT – GAOL

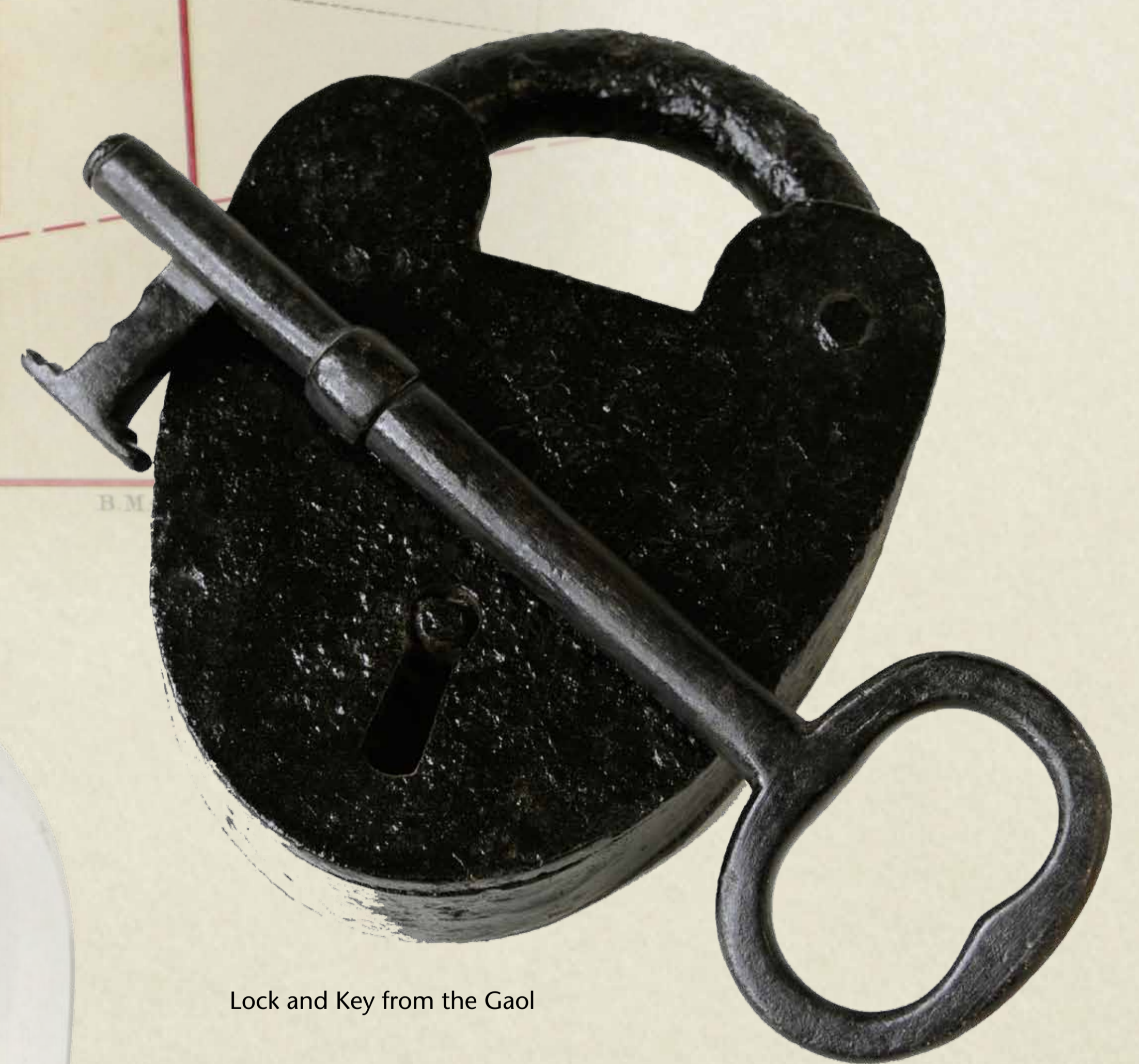
In 1818 the County Gaol later known locally as the 'Cranmore Hotel', after it was supplied with hot water, was erected on a polygonal plan at a cost of £30,000. The Governor's house was located at the centre and prisoners had separate cells and there was a hospital. A treadmill was sited within the execution block which was built in 1823. The prison had a school, surgery and dispensary. The prison could hold 200 inmates and they were held there for long and short terms and while waiting trial.



Plan of the Gaol



Governor's House



Lock and Key from the Gaol

The daily routine of a prisoner was: At 6 o'clock the prisoner is roused. Half an hour is allowed for him to dress, to clean himself and his cell, and to prepare for work. From 6.30 to 7.30 he works in his cell. Half an hour is then allowed him for breakfast. The next hour, including the muster and return to cell, is devoted to the chapel. During each of the next two hours, half of the prisoners are taking their school instruction, and half are taking exercise. From 11 to 1 is devoted to work in the cell. An hour is allowed for dinner; the next after it for exercise; from 3 to 5.30 work; half an hour for supper; from 6 to 8, work; one hour for reading and writing; and bed at 9 o'clock.

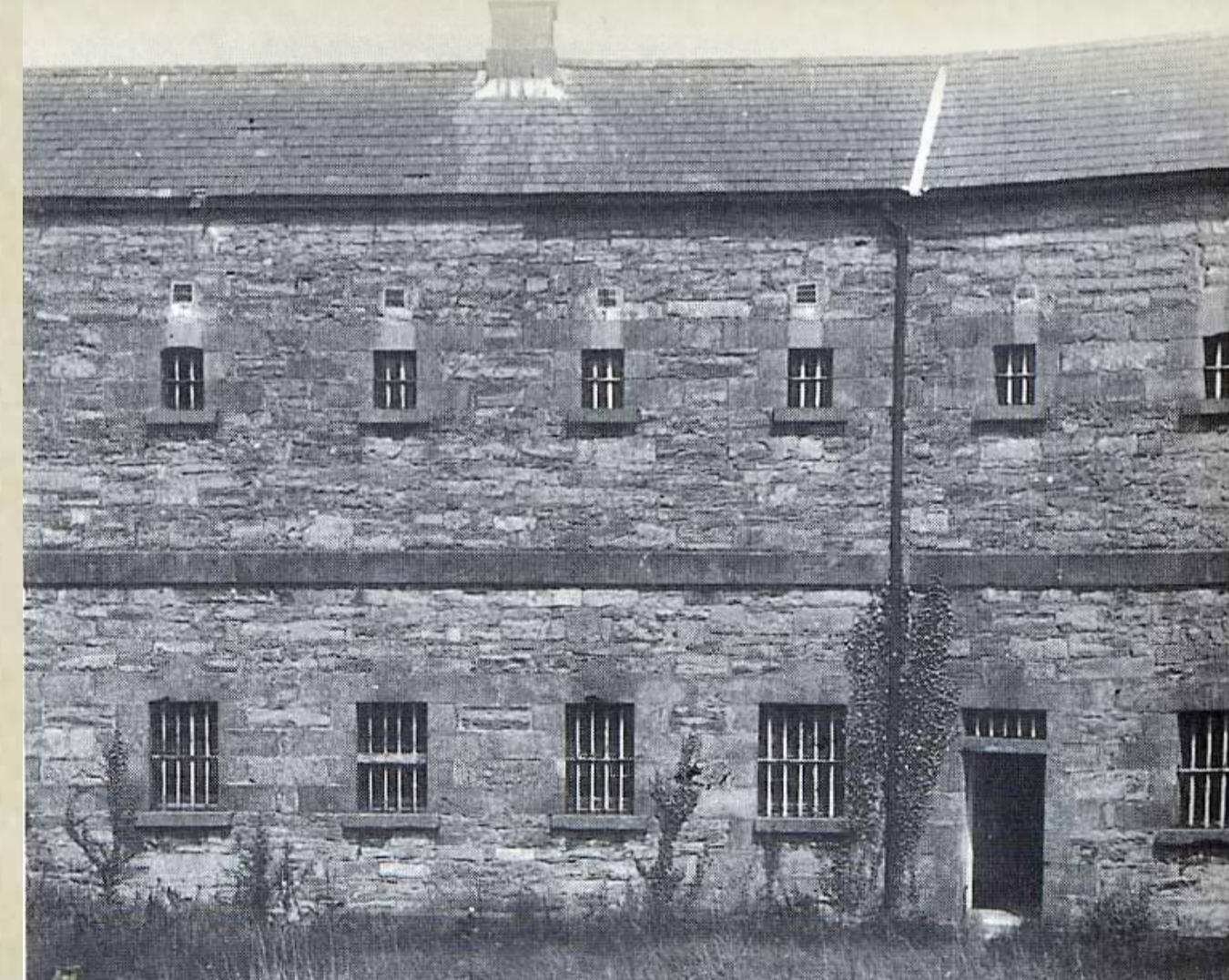
Hard labour for male prisoners included the Tread wheel. Prisoners usually did ten minutes on and five minutes off the tread wheel for up to ten hours. The work was done in silence. Prisoners were medically examined before being put to the wheel. Male prisoners condemned to hard labour had to spend at least 3 months of their sentence on the Wheel. The treadmill which was used to pump water for the prison's sanitation.

Prisoners were also employed Oakum picking, breaking stones and chopping wood. Industrial labour included shoemaking, tailoring, tinsmith, glazing and gardening. Female prisoners were involved in sewing, knitting and washing.

The twentieth century prison was entirely self-sufficient. On Saturdays the prisoners sold their produce in the town. In 1956 the last Governor Mr. Moody closed the prison.



Clock from Governor's House



A view of the cell block

Crimes and famous inmates:

During the Famine starving townspeople were incarcerated in the jail for taking corn from corn boats owned by Pollexfen. Ironically while in jail they were fed by the government.

In 1861 the 'Ballymote Slasher' Matthew Phibbs was executed at the gallows in 1861, the 'Ash-Lane murderer' John McDaid in 1875 was the last man to hang in Sligo Jail for a murder committed in Sligo.

Michael Davitt served a prison term in Sligo Jail in 1879 during the Land War

In 1903 a Mr Doherty from Carrick on Shannon was the last man executed in Sligo Jail, he had murdered his son.

In 1915 Angelo DeLucia was the last man appointed to be hung in Sligo Jail for murdering his wife, along with his accomplice Jane Reynolds who had a child to DeLucia while she was serving her sentence, both were pardoned after a petition was organised.

Michael Collins was imprisoned in April 1918 for calling on the people of Longford to resist conscription into the British Army.

On 26 May 1920 there was a daring escape during the War of Independence by I.R.A. commanders Frank Carty, Frank O'Bierne, Tom Deignan and Charles Gildea after 100 men surrounded the jail.

In 1947 heavyweight boxer Jack Doyle was imprisoned in Sligo jail for issuing a cheque which later bounced. He served four months of hard labour.

