

LISNASKEA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



THE WORKHOUSE IN LISNASKEA

Lisnaskea has a huge amount of its workhouse left. This building has a date 1842 over the door but the building started a few years before that and more was added in 1844. What you see here in this photograph is the administration block to the left, where the stone steps lead up to the big wooden door, which would be opened by the porter to admit any poor people that had to enter. They would be taken inside, assessed for suitability and if accepted, given a set of grey clothes that would strip them of individuality. If a family came in together, they would be separated and the females would go to one side, the males to the other. Behind the administration block in the photograph you can see the dormitories. The male side is on the right as we see it, the female one on the left. Behind this there used to be a hospital that was demolished in 1967 by the Council to build a small estate. One thing about the Lisnaskea Workhouse is that there was a porter's lodge, now roofless and covered with ivy. It later became the dispensary for the local doctor who was most likely to have been the Workhouse doctor as well.

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