

Old O'Curry Street Barracks gets new lease of life as €500,000 invested in renovation by Shannon Foynes Port Company

New life has been breathed into a historic Limerick City building thanks to a €500,000 renovation of the old barracks on O'Curry Street by its owners Shannon Foynes Port Company.

The Port Company has confirmed that works have been completed to 'fit-out' stage on the restoration of the architecturally acclaimed building.

Welcoming the completion of works, Limerick based Shannon Foynes Port Company board member Councillor Kieran O'Hanlon said that the investment has transformed the disused and dilapidated barracks into a fit-for-purpose commercial building.

"It is fantastic to see this building brought back to its old glory as it has gradually fallen into a state of disrepair over the past two decades. The barracks is architecturally one of the finest buildings in Limerick from that era so it's great to see it restored and ready for use again.

"The barracks has a quite unique design and really stands out on O'Curry Street. Indeed, it is one of the most outstanding buildings in this part of Limerick and it is only right that it is listed and designated for preservation.

"We are currently deciding on its future use but it will be as a commercial premises. Essentially, this renovation is after giving this great old building a new lease of life and will be a real boost to the O'Curry Street area."

Renovation works on the five-bay, two storey building were carried out by Collins Building and Engineering from August through to December.

The barracks was built in the 1870s and was originally intended as lodgings for international sailors coming into Limerick but never, in fact, served this purpose. Instead, it served most of its time as a barracks, firstly for the Limerick Militia, then the RIC and later An Garda Siochana, which used it as station up to two decades ago and later as a training centre.

The binding 99 year RIC lease for the building expired in late 2010 when it was handed back over to Shannon Foynes Port Company, the successor to the original owners Limerick Harbour Commissioners. The building has many historic links, not least that the lease was originally signed by RIC Inspector General Neville Chamberlin, who founded the game of snooker. It took another historic turn during the Civil War when local residents prevented it from being burned down to prevent the fire from spreading to the nearby gas works.

Ends

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