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THE FRANCISCAN FRIARY, ENNIS
750 Years (1240-1990)

1240 Founded at the behest of Donncadh Cairbreach Ó Briain, King of Thomond.

c.1300 Enlarged and repaired by King Turlough O'Brien, the fine east window dating from this phase. A few years later Mathew McNamara built the Sacristy and the Refectory.

c.1400 Benefactions from the McNamaras or the O'Briens allowed the cloisters to be built and the south transept added.

c.1460 Central tower/belfry erected.

1507 Irish Provincial Chapter held in Ennis.

1543 Monastery suppressed, though monks linger on there.

1570s-84 Used as a courthouse.

1599 Served as a place of refuge when Red Hugh O'Donnell attacked the town.

1617 Last monk of the old community, Dermot Broudin, died.

1617-22 Converted into a chapel for Church of Ireland services.

1751 Tower struck by lightning, and again later in the century.

1792 Restoration undertaken, including addition of pinnacles to the tower.

1871 Abandoned as not up to Victorian standards and Church of Ireland moves to Bindon Street.

1887-82 Roof collapses leaving friary open to the skies.

1893 Taken over by Board of Works as National Monument no. 170. Major repairs and conservation undertaken.

1969 Church of Ireland handed over their remaining rights to the Ennis Franciscans who, since 1830, had been in a new friary nearby.
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