

function of the Gerald Griffin school.

Across the bridge, the custom house is on the right, at the end of Rutland St, with what remains of Bank Place, leading to Charlotte's Quay, on the left. For a long time a lone William and Mary style door has been a remnant of Bank Place's prosperity. Here were some of Limerick's private banks in the last century. One such bank, Bruce's, was run by a notoriously unsavoury character, who just happened to be a friend of Lord Clare. Bruce had an artificial leg, made of iron, and when a client asked for leniency in regard to money matters, it was the banker's habit to tap this limb and reply "That's the softest part of me". The custom house is somewhat quaint. Built of dark limestone, it dates from 1769 and was designed by Davis Ducart, a Sardinian engineer. With a central long room and wings for offices, with arcades, the Palladian structure replaced a brick building and cost £8,000 to erect. Across the road a little way up, in the graceful curve of Rutland St, is the city hall, a three-storey seven-bay Georgian house of brick with a limestone-faced ground floor, a reminder that Patrick St, beyond it, leads to Georgian Limerick.

Bruce's bank

City Hall