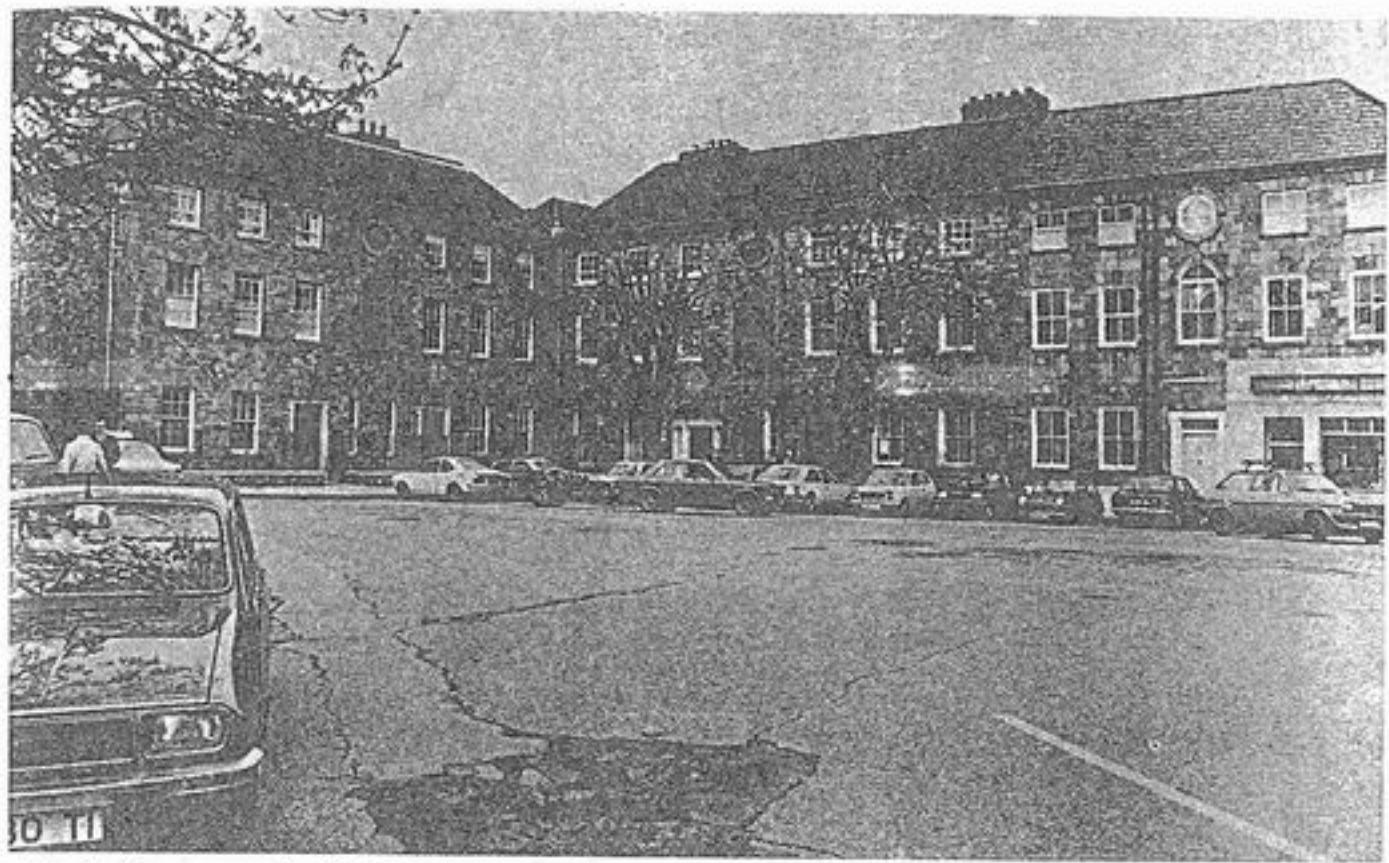


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*John's Square, refurbished by the Corporation, the building in the left foreground houses the Municipal Museum.*

**ST. JOHN'S CHURCH**

St. John's Church, occupying the site which forms the east side of St. John's Square, was completed in 1852, and replaces a 15th century church on the same site.

It would appear from records that "St. John's Church below the City of Limerick" was in existence when Donatus O'Brien established the Canons of St. Mary's Cathedral about the year 1194. The church was named in later historical documents and referred to as "St. John's of the Holy Cross in the liberties of the City of Limerick".

The rebuilding of St. John's Church in the middle of the 15th century is noted in Ferrar's History of Limerick. A sketch made in 1680 by Dyneley shows this Church as being Gothic in style, with nave, two aisles, double bell chamber on west gable, entrance door on north side, and being sited in a yard with entrance from John Street. The church survived the reformation and sieges, and in 1693, during the clearing away of debris, after the second siege, there was built a wall around the churchyard.

The present building, now named Church of St. John the Baptist, is a Gothic revival in style, has two aisles, an apse on east gable, a bell tower and spire to the west, and with entrance door in the west gable. The church today is

unused and stands enclosed by presumably the same limestone and brick wall as constructed in 1693. The entrance to the churchyard is now from John's Square.

The church has been donated to Limerick Corporation to be used for cultural purposes.

**JOHN'S SQUARE**

This square, noted on a map dated 1786 as "New Square", was constructed after 1751, and contains houses on three sides with St. John's Church and churchyard forming the fourth and east side. Access is central on the west side from Gerald Griffin Street, and from the north and south around St. John's Churchyard.

Eight three storey houses with basements were originally planned for the Square, all to be "of a uniform size, at the same cost and from the same plan, and were constructed in four pairs, symmetrical in layout and elevation. Two larger end houses, designed in the same manner, but somewhat richer in external finish, were subsequently added to the composition. A public house of later time, at the end of a row of two storey small dwelling houses, has also found its way into the Square.

The houses were described as being "large and commodious, and were used as town houses for the wealthy county families. Among those