

## DUBLIN CITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ARCHIVE

Reference Code	DCAA.01.34
Title	Kevin Street Garda Station (04E0294) Collection
Creation Dates	2003 - 2009
Level of Description	Collection
Extent and Medium	4 boxes, plus plans
Creators	Margaret Gowen and Co Ltd
Administrative/Biographical History	Margaret Gowen & Co. Ltd. is a professional archaeological company founded in the early 1980s. The company has carried out numbers of archaeological excavations and development-led investigations arising from the requirements of development control and planning process, in line with legal provisions of the Planning and Development Acts (2000) and the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004) and Amendments Acts.

### Key words:

Bishop's Palace, St. Sepulchre's, burial, medieval, post-medieval, Dutch Billy houses

The development site is located at the corner of Kevin Street and Bride Street and includes the eastern yard of Kevin Street Garda Station. The site is very important both archaeologically and architecturally, as most of the main garda building has been identified as the medieval palace of St Sepulchre, the residence of the Archbishop of Dublin throughout the medieval period and into the 19th century. The original palace, within a walled precinct, took the form of a quadrangle and a recent examination by Danielle O'Donovan reveals that a large section of this medieval quadrangle still survives, incorporated within the existing buildings (the western wing is particularly intact; see for example the officer's mess, which was part of a large tower) (O'Donovan 2003). O'Donovan describes the complex as having a great hall, a private chamber, a chapel and possibly two towers (one almost attached to Marsh's Library) and an examination of the existing buildings has revealed that most of the quadrangle survives, although there are later elements. The south-west building (now the mess) was evidently originally a tower, suggested by the excessively thick walls and internal stone corbels in the east wall that originally held the roof. The western range survives relatively intact and there is a fine doorway in the west wall inserted by Hugh Inge (Archbishop between 1521 and 1528). Further north, there is a curious vaulted structure orientated east-west, which O'Donovan suggests may represent the church, due to its orientation. A total of three barrel-vaulted cellars also survive, which have surviving sections of wickerwork centring. Part of the eastern range also survives at the southern end, where the wall thickness of the buildings suggests that they are medieval in date. However, the north-east corner of the east range has been demolished.

An assessment was carried out in June 2004 in the eastern yard of Kevin Street Garda Station and the western frontage of Bride Street. The assessment consisted of a series of test-trenches excavated throughout the site in three main areas, Areas 1-3. The testing suggested that there are medieval deposits of clay in some areas of the site with the potential for medieval structures, especially in the area of the quadrangle. The post-medieval phase is also well represented by clay and structural deposits and, most importantly, by the standing buildings attached to the western yard of the garda station; at least one is possibly medieval in date.

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Further works were carried out from September to December 2007 including an additional assessment (four trenches) and a monitoring programme, which involved the excavation of a service trench, engineering test-pits and boreholes.

The subsequent excavation revealed that the area was settled in the late 12th century and was laid out in property plots but in a general rural landscape. A pit was uncovered which contained the remains of a stone setting, with a wattle mat, and on this was a male skull (17–25 years old), with the full skeleton of a dog. The dog was fully fleshed on deposition and was dumped at the same time as the human head. The latter produced evidence of trauma, including possible sword wounds, suggesting he died a violent death (Jonny Geber, pers. Comm.)

The archbishop's palace was then enclosed by a substantial ditch, which extended along Bride Street to the east and Kevin Street to the south with an entrance on to Bride Street. This ditch, dated to the 13th and 14th century, was recut several times but remained a strong and defensive feature for some considerable time. Eventually, the main ditch had infilled and the area appears rural in character laid out in large plots bounded by ditches but with evidence of intensive habitation at the southern end, where two medieval wells survived, both of which produced numerous sherds of medieval pottery including a complete 13th-century jug. The remains of a curving metalled roadway, at the southern end of the site, was probably the original medieval Kevin Street and Bride Street.

The post-medieval horizon was marked by pits and gullies, probably dating to the 17th century and, by the late 17th century, there were at least two large wooden buildings (which burnt down), built of imported spruce trees, the oak forests of Ireland being practically depleted by the English Crown by this date. These were probably outbuildings associated with the palace complex. By this date, there were also brick 'Dutch Billy' houses along the Bride Street and Kevin Street frontage, built by Dutch immigrants who arrived in Ireland in their thousands in the late 17th century escaping persecution.

For further information see entry numbers 2004:0517, 2007:479 and 2008:394 on [www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)

### Archival History

Transferred to DCAA by Linzi Simpson, previously of Margaret Gowen and Co Ltd, on 30 Apr 2014

### Scope and Content

The collection contains records from archaeological investigations of a site at Kevin Street Garda Station, excavated by Linzi Simpson. Incorporates archaeological assessment (test-trenching) carried out in 2004, additional test-trenching and monitoring in 2007 (under Licence Extension 04E0294ext.) and subsequent excavation (04E0294ext.)

Includes registers, feature sheets, sample sheets, notebooks, reports, research material, administrative material, post-excavation records, photographs, plans and CDs. One notebook also contains records from sites at Sheriff St. Upper; Kilcullen Service Area, Co. Kildare; Zoo Road, Phoenix Park; St. Maul's Road, Rush, Co. Dublin.

### Appraisal destruction and scheduling information

#### Accruals

#### Arrangement

Collection processed and box lists created by Noelle Mitchell. Arranged by document type.

#### Access Conditions

Available for public inspection Apr 2017, 3 years after date of deposit.

Please review access conditions

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<b>Publication Note</b>	Database of Irish Excavations Reports, <a href="http://www.excavations.ie">www.excavations.ie</a> . O'Donovan, D.
<b>Notes</b>	
<b>Archivist's Note</b>	Noelle Mitchell
<b>Rules or Conventions</b>	ISAD(G): General International Standards Archival Description. 2nd ed.
<b>Dates of Description</b>	7 - 13 May 2014