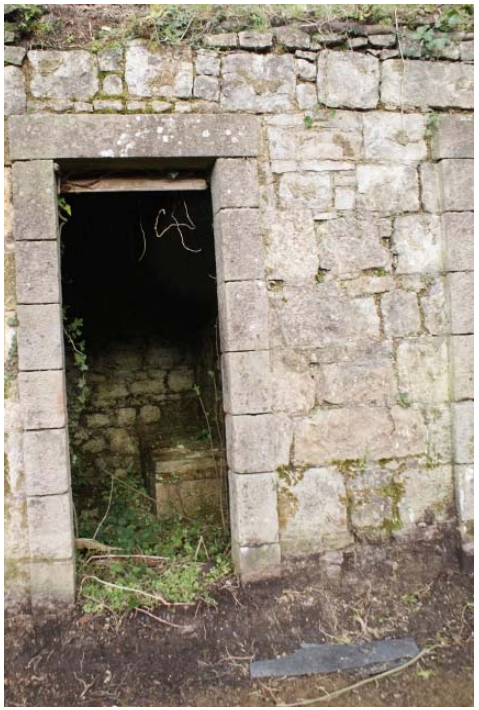
Girls' Front Block

Many children were orphaned as a result of the famine. In the second phase of workhouse building, two front blocks were added to accommodate children.



Refractory (Prison cell)

Paupers could be locked up in darkness with only a stone bed for insubordination or disobedience

The Bakehouse

There is a bakehouse in the men's quarters, which was operated by the male paupers. It was heated by coal and turf.

Kitchen Soup Cauldrons

There were iron pots in the kitchen which could hold 80 gallons of soup. Many of these were left over from the famine relief schemes of 1847. They were made in the Royal Arsenal Navy works at Woolich.

Seven Seater Loo !

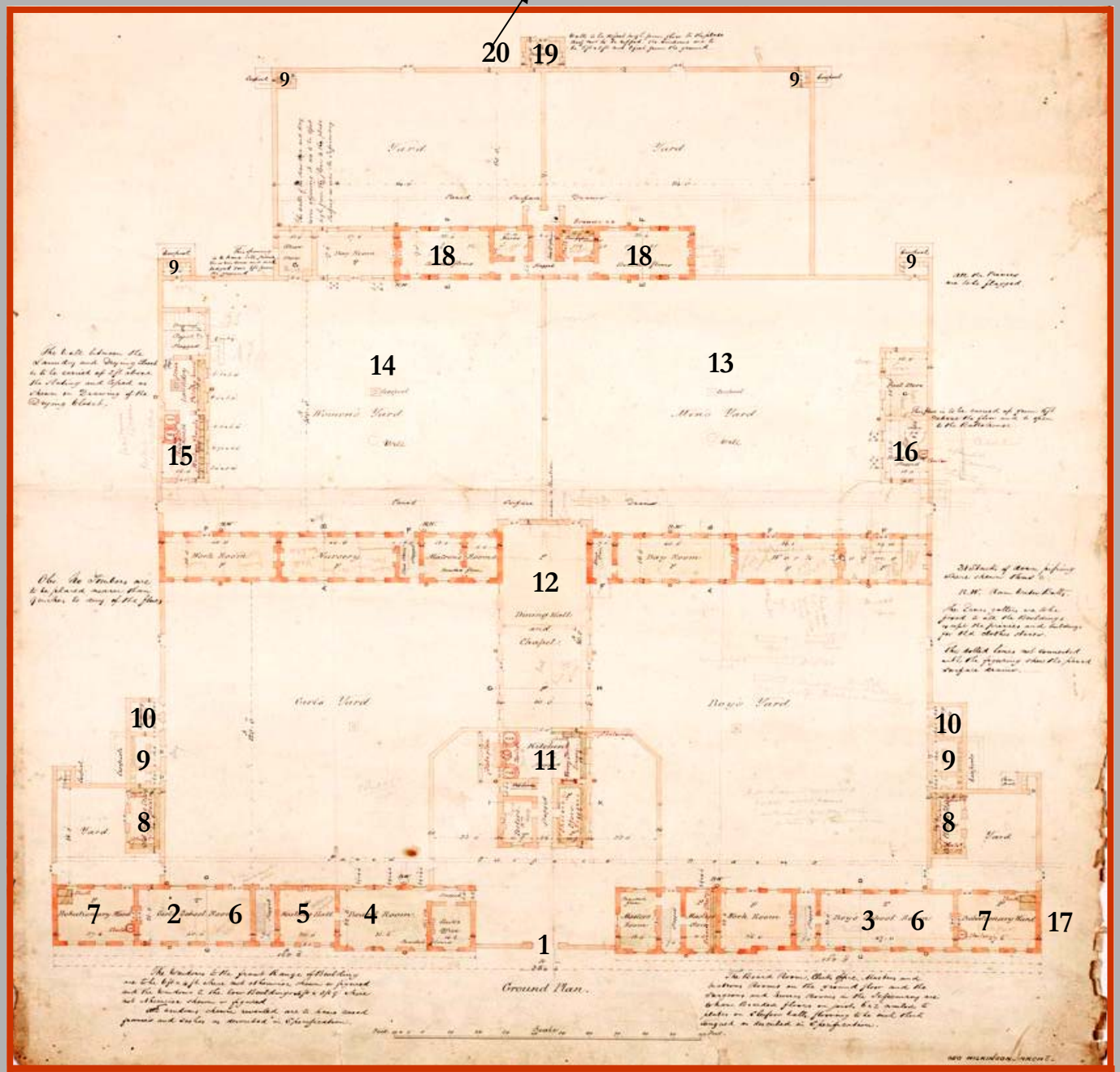
BAWNBOY WORKHOUSE

There were 163 workhouses built in Ireland between 1840 and 1853. Bawnboy workhouse was one of thirty workhouses built in the second phase, during the years 1850-1852.

The Lych Gate

Unfortunately the lych gate was dismantled in the seventies. The stones and roof timbers were marked and saved. The Lych Gate above was rebuilt in 2013 with most of the original material and is understood to be the only one left in Ireland.

Your contribution towards the preservation of this national treasure will be much appreciated. Thank you.



Ground Plan of Workhouse

The architect employed by the Poor Law Commissioners to design all the workhouses in Ireland, George Wilkinson, prepared the same plans for all the second phase workhouses. This plan is for Portumna workhouse in Co. Galway. The plan of Bawnboy workhouse buildings was virtually the same as the one above but has sadly not yet been located.

Bawnboy Workhouse Ltd. wish to thank the Architectural Archives for permission to reproduce this plan.

Bawnboy Workhouse Ltd. also wish to acknowledge with gratitude the assistance of:
Cavan County Council,
Cavan Monaghan Leader,
Clann Credo,
Tús,
Breffni Integrated,
and the Ballyconnell Credit Union.

Items of Special Interest

1. Lych-gate entrance
2. Girls' block
3. Boys block
4. Board Room
5. Waiting room
6. Children's schoolrooms. Dormitories upstairs.
7. Probationary wards. New Paupers were admitted here and given a bath and a uniform
8. Clothes stores
9. Privies
10. Refractory cells
11. Kitchen
12. Dining Hall/Chapel
13. Men's yard,
14. Women's yard
15. Laundry
16. Bakery
17. Weighbridge
18. Infirmary
19. Dead house
20. To graveyard

Research: Dymphna Headen, Secretary, Bawnboy Workhouse Ltd.
Design: *N.R.*

Website: www.workhouse.bawnboy.com