

Dartrey Mausoleum

Freestanding red brick mausoleum attributed to James Wyatt, built on a square ground plan having limestone base plinth with tetrastyle pedimented entrance front and bowed central bay to rear. Round-headed doorway to centre of principal elevation having flanking blind window openings and oculi. The building originally carried a dome with central oculus however this was replaced in the 19th century with a shallow pyramidal slate roof – a Zinc clad dome, has been reinstated as part of recent works. Exposed brick interior having plastered soffit to dome. Niche to east wall having Carrera marble sculptural grouping by Joseph Wilton (appointed 'Sculptor to his Majesty' by George III in 1764). The mausoleum originally stood facing Dawson's Grove, the family seat (now demolished). It is currently surrounded by dense forest.

Dartrey Forest
Black Island

County Monaghan
Republic of Ireland

Architects

James Wyatt

Year Built

c.1770

Style

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Listing

Protected Structure (Republic of Ireland)

Condition

The estate and lands on which the mausoleum stand were sold to the Irish Forestry Commission (Coillte) in 1946 and the structure sadly fell into considerable decay and dereliction. In recent years the Dartrey Heritage Association have undertaken considerable restoration and conservation works with the support of Monaghan County Council, the Heritage Council and the Irish Georgian Society.

History

Commissioned by Thomas Dawson, 1st Baron Dartrey in memory of his first wife Lady Anne Fermor, who died in March 1769. The mausoleum is modeled on the pantheon in Rome and is believed to be by James Wyatt – making this Wyatts first commission in Ireland. Curiously, Lady Anne was never laid to rest in the mausoleum but at the nearby St John's Church and later reinterred in 1798 at Stoke Poges Church, Buckinghamshire.

Dawson later married Philadelphia Hannah Freame, granddaughter of William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, USA.

Sources

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Photos



Location

SatNav Co-ordinates: 54.09864287517659, -7.073603308562198