

**City Surveyors  
Department  
(1854-1936)**

**Limerick City  
Council**

**L/CS**

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## **Introduction**

The first city surveyor of Limerick Corporation was appointed in office in 1854 by legislative requirement under the Limerick Improvement Act 1853. The City Surveyor was responsible for repairing streets and roads, cleansing, the fire brigade, public lighting, sewerage and lavatories, and the water supply system (after it was purchased by the Corporation in 1883). The responsibility of Local Authorities to provide these sanitary and environmental services were formalised by acts such as the Sanitary Services Act 1878 and Public Health (Ireland) Act 1878.

The first City Surveyor, William Corbett, held office from 1854-1899. The second city surveyor was John .J Peacocke who held office from 1899 to 1932. He was responsible for a large number of staff, which in 1902 consisted of a clerk of works, assistant clerk of works, two stewards, a roads gang of 6 men, a steam rolling gang of 6 men, a quarry gang of 26 men, a flagging gang of 7 men, and a sewerage gang of 3 men. The third city surveyor was Charles Stenson who held office from 1932 to 1963. In 1935 his official title was changed from City Surveyor to City Engineer.

The collection consists of correspondence, street repair application books, and volumes which relate to wages received by cleansing and repairs employees, who reported to the city surveyor. It is useful to researchers interested in public health, and in the historic role of Limerick City Council in the provision of services which have continued into the twenty-first century such as water supply, sewerage, street cleaning, collection and disposal of refuse, burial ground and abatement of nuisances.

Researchers should also consult related collections of Limerick City Council Archives held by Limerick Archives which include L/SMIN Limerick City Council Special Minute Books, L/FM Limerick City Council Financial Management pre 1934, and L/WW Limerick Waterworks Collection.

### **A Letters from the City Surveyor's Office (1910 – 1925)**

Damp press outgoing letter books from the City Surveyors Office. Includes letters to City Council solicitors requesting prosecutions magistrate orders and executive notices to be drawn up, letters to public health committee, letters discussing topics such as sanitary service, street repairs and cleansing, building contract specifications (occasionally sketches included), and letters to suppliers and contractors. Letters generally signed by City Surveyor J.J Peacocke. Includes letters such as letter to Alderman Peter Monaghan listing amount due, and amounts paid by allotment holders in Fair Green (10 September 1917); letter to Messrs James Welsly and Son discussing ownership of the town wall (10 September 1917). Index to correspondents included.

5 volumes.

[1/1]		
2/[1-5]		
2/6	1 June 1910 – 30 May 1911	c. 1000 pp
2/[7-9]		
2/10	31 October 1916 – 21 July 1918	c. 1000 pp
2/11	23 May 1918 – 2 March 1920	c. 1000 pp
2/12	3 March 1920 – 12 December 1921	c. 1000 pp
[13]		
2/14	29 September 1923 – 21 January 1925	c. 1000 pp

### **B Street and Road Repair Applications (1854-1870)**

Registers of applications made by William Corbett for finance for repair and improvement works of roads, streets, and sewages in Limerick city area. Details recorded include address of place needing work, reference to how the work was brought the surveyors attention, summary of investigations carried out by the surveyor and of work required, and estimate of costs. Applications are brought to the attention of the town clerk and the finance committee and are annotated with details of their approval or rejection of the application.

3 volumes.

3/1	27 February 1854-26 August 1856	c.140 pp.
3/[2]		
3/3	7 October 1857-23 June 1863	c.160 pp.
3/4	30 June 1863- [ ] March 1870	c.190 pp

## **C Wages Records (1877-1936)**

### **(i) General Pay Book (1877-1917)**

Weekly workmen's account books from Limerick City Council Surveyor's Department. Entries are arranged under various categories relating to the type of work or location of workmen such as 'sewage', 'fire-station, Roches street', 'new flagging, Sir Harry's Mall', 'stone breakers, Dock Quarry'. Details recorded for each workman include name, days worked, wages per day, total value of the week's work, and workman's signature. Also inserted are invoices received each week for services and materials purchased by the surveyors department. Invoices are generally signed by William Corbett and include invoices from companies such as 'Michael Hayes, Slater and Plasterer', 'Southill Stone Quarry', and 'E and M. Hickey, Ironmongers'. From 10 June 1915, additional columns included which record the occupation and national insurance contributions of workers and the employer

5 volumes.

4/1	1 February 1877-27 March 1879 Incomplete. <b>Closed for Conservation</b>	c.180 ff.
[2-6]		
4/7	7 February 1889-31 July 1890	c.250 pp.
4/9	8 December 1893-25 April 1895	c.250 pp.
4/10	2 May 1895-2 April 1896	c.100 ff
[11-19]		
4/20	10 June 1915-23 August 1917	480 pp.

### **(ii) Repairs Pay Books (1927-1936)**

Surveyor's Department Repairs Pay Books. Weekly entries are arranged under by sections relating to place or category of work carried out such as 'Lemonfield Quarry', 'Street Works', 'Public Health, Parks, Buildings' and 'Sundry Works'. Details for each employee are recorded under columns titled 'works', 'no [of employee]', 'name', 'occupation', 'time worked', 'rate of wages', 'amount payable', 'pay tick', 'national insurance' and 'remarks'. At end of each week 'apportionment' is calculated which records the total sum of wages which can be apportioned to each fund such as the improvement fund, free library fund or water works fund.

3 volumes

5/1	8 December 1927-22 August 1929	500 pp.
[2]		
5/3	2 July 1931-11 May 1933	502 pp.
[4]		
5/5	24 January 1935-27 August 1936	444 pp.

**(iii) Cleansing Department Pay Book (1915-1934)**

Cleansing Department Pay Books. Weekly entries are arranged under sections relating to place or category of work carried out such as 'Stewards', 'refuse inspectors', 'carters', 'sweepers', and 'depot men'. Details for each employee are recorded under columns titled 'no [of employee]', 'name', 'time worked', 'rate of wages', 'amount payable', 'pay tick', 'national insurance' and 'remarks'. At end of each week 'apportionment' is calculated which records the total sum of wages which can be apportioned to each category of work.

3 volumes.

6/1	17 June 1915-27 June 1918	481 pp.
[2]		
6/3	26 October 1922-25 March 1926	480 pp.
[4]		
6/5	3 September 1931-14 January 1934	502 pp.

**(iv) Repairs Department Time Sheets (1908-1936)**

Volumes consisting of weekly time sheets for workers employed by City Surveyor's Repairs Department for carrying out repairs of streets and other repair work. Entries arranged under headings relating to category or place of work such as 'repairs of streets and roadways', 'broken stones supplied from Prospect Quarry', 'sanitary', 'Peoples Park' and 'Town Hall'. Details recorded include name, occupation, hours worked each day, total time worked, rate of wages, amount payable and 'remarks'.

7 volumes.

7/1	11 June 1908-9 September 1909	486 pp.
[2-9]		
7/10	2 December 1926-17 May 1928	502 pp.
[11-12]		
7/13	21 April 1932-6 July 1933	506 pp.
7/14	13 July 1933-2 August 1934	498 pp.
7/15	9 August 1934-6 December 1934	172 pp.
7/16	13 December 1934-14 November 1935	470 pp.
7/17	14 November 1935-27 August 1936	440 pp.

**(v) Cleansing Department Time Sheets (1903-1936)**

Volumes consisting of weekly time sheets for workers employed by City Surveyor's Cleansing Department. Entries are arranged by 'cleansing No. 1 district', and 'cleansing no. 2 district' and organised under headings relating to category or place of work such as 'steward', 'sweepers', 'depot men' and 'carters'. Details recorded include name, hours worked each day, total time worked, rate of wages, amount

payable and 'remarks'. 'Remarks' include entries such as 'injured at work'. Entries occasionally are arranged by 'North District' and 'South District'

3 volumes.

8/1 [2-17]	12 February 1903-3 March 1904	c. 200 pp.
8/18	11 May 1933-22 August 1935	498 pp.
8/19	29 August 1935-3 September 1936	318 pp.