

Basic Detail Report

Title A Prospective View of Old Newgate, Connecticut's State Prison

Date c. 1800

Primary Maker Richard Brunton

Medium Ink on paper; line engraving

Description Engraving titled “A Prospective View of Old Newgate, Connecticut’s State Prison.” Attributed to Richard Brunton (1749-1832). This engraving, probably done while Brunton was incarcerated at Newgate Prison for counterfeiting, depicts a pictorial, birds-eye view of the daily routine inside Newgate Prison. It illustrates the various structures in the prison complex, with eleven features identified with a numeric key in the lower right. The structures are the Commandant’s apartment, guard room, work shop, store for nails, bake house, coal house, smith’s shop, well, entrance gate, the pickets and inclosure [enclosure] of prison, and path leading from the work shop to the caverns. Two figures in the upper right are making barrels and another figure at the bottom right is bringing a completed barrel to a shed. Two figures in the lower half that appear to be African American are carrying buckets. These two figures are completely blackened. In the upper right a prisoner is receiving a lashing from a prison guard. A figure on the right is retrieving water from the well. The seal of the State of Connecticut is illustrated in the upper left of the plan within the enclosure. The fence that surrounds the prison is represented by a border of domino-like rectangles; their regularity broken by a few objects that intrude into the frame. An intertwined floral vine decorates three sides of the

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border. The bottom border depicts a pastoral hunting scene of dogs in pursuit of deer.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (image height x width): $20 \frac{9}{16} \times 20 \frac{3}{16}$ in.

(52.2 $\times$ 51.3cm) Frame (height x width): 30 $\times$ 28in. (76.2 $\times$ 71.1cm)