

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

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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 [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

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

deer.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (image height x width): 20 9/16 × 20 3/16in.

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