

CITY AND COUNTY OF SWANSEA

LISTED BUILDING	H M Prison: Main Block (B Wing), Oystermouth Road
Grade:-	II
Date of Notification:-	15.04.85 amended 30.03.87
National Grid Reference:-	6516092530
O.S. 1:10,000 Sheet No.:-	69 SE
CADW Reference No.:-	11605
C & C of S Reference No.:-	LB:074

Notes:-

Main L shaped block for men at centre of prison compound and directly north of the gatehouse.

Dating from 1861 when the entire prison was rebuilt and enlarged (cost over £30,000), some later additions. Robust Italianate detailing to entrance block. Tall north and west wings with octagonal centre and diagonally placed entrance block (forming the larger part of star plan). Four storeys, coursed rubble with freestone dressings to quoins and window surrounds.

Corrugated asbestos roofs, with oversailing eaves, massive square stacks with cappings. Eight plus seven windows facing south to A wing, three lowered cills to top floor left, iron grilles to openings with many original cast iron window frames behind. Similar detailing to B wing running north. Tall round arched windows to north and west gable ends. Polygonal centre with brick infill wall on east fence (for unbuilt wing?); arched voussoir treatment to advanced centre of south wall, half flying arch attaches north wing to centre. Two storey and basement entrance block facing south-west. Rubble walls, hipped roof, eaves cornice, slightly advanced frontispiece with round arched bipartite window with keyblocks to first floor, fine cavetto moulded and rusticated doorpiece and keyblock linked to stringcourse, blind tympanum and lintel over modern double doors, flight of steps orientated south towards gatehouse. Modern extensions flank entrance block with links forward to buildings on left and right.

Interiors are mostly painted brickwork with open trussed roofs, ironwork stairs, cantilevered landings with latticework hand rails, segmental arched heads to internal openings and doorways. Iron work cell doors, metal grilles and screens to ends of wings and corridors etc.

Reference:-

Dating information from ACES (letter 20th August 1984). H Colvin's Biographical Dictionary, (1978) page 230 gives John Collingwood of Gloucester as architect of earlier prison (1826-8)