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My Project

I have chosen to focus my project on The GPO. The GPO was one of the main sights of the 1916 Easter Rising. This also happens to be the place where my Granddad used to work and my Dad works.

About The GPO

The GPO stands for The General Post Office. This building on our main street O'Connell Street in the centre of Dublin, is the headquarters of An Post, the Irish Post Office. Outside the GPO there are 6 massive stone pillars that hold up the roof. They are all 15.2 metres from the ground. There are three statues on the roof of the GPO that were designed by John Smith. The foundation stone of the building was laid on the 12th of August 1814. The structure of the building took 3 years to build. The cost of the building was £50,000.

History of The GPO

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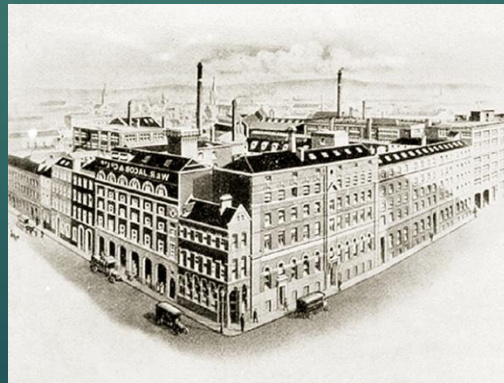
The GPO was first located on the site of the now central bank. It then moved to a building on College Green. On the 6th of January the new post office in Sackville Street, now O'Connell Street opened for business. The building was designed by Francis Johnson.





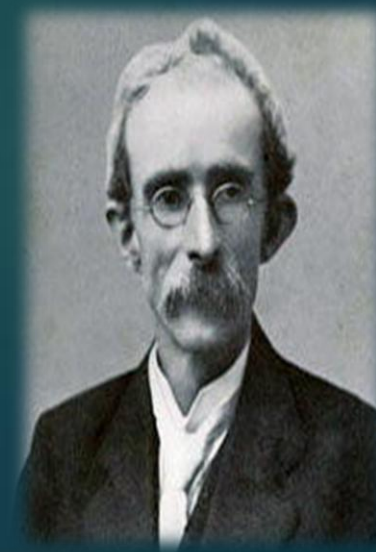
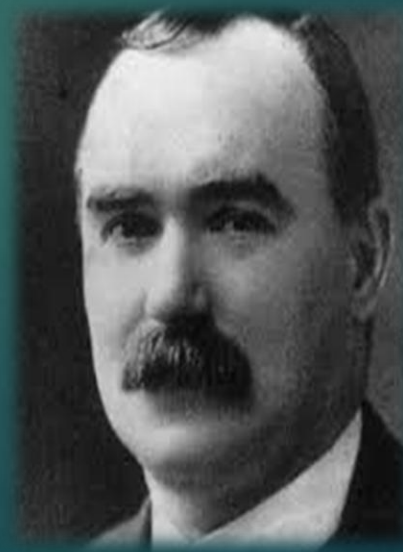
The Rising

During the Rising the GPO was one of the main buildings involved. Other's were Liberty Hall, Dublin Castle and Jacobs Biscuit Factory. The GPO was the headquarters of the Irish Volunteers and the Citizen Army commanded by Padraig Pearse and James Connolly.



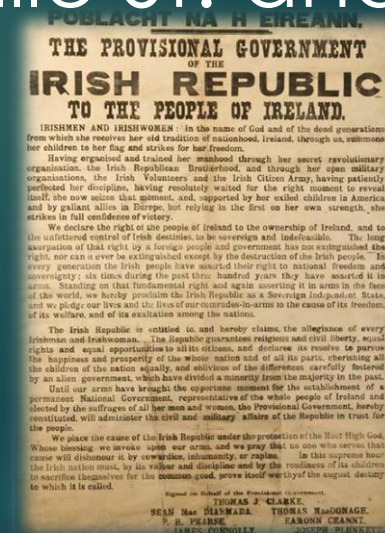
The Rising

The Rising started because the Irish wanted freedom from British rule and independence for Ireland. There were five members of the provisional Government located at the GPO during the Rising. They were Pearse, Connolly, Clarke, MacDiarmada and Plunkett.



The Timeline

- ❖ 12:30 Easter Monday 1916 tri-colour raised at the Henry St. corner of the GPO.
- ❖ Banner with 'Irish Republic' flown at the Princes' St. side of the GPO.
- ❖ Padraig Pearse walked out onto Sackville St. and read the Irish Proclamation.



The 1916 Proclamation

The Proclamation was one of the most important documents of modern Irish history. Drafted by Padraig Pearse it was printed at Liberty Hall before the rising began. Shortly after midnight on Easter Monday, Pearse, standing under the GPO portico read out the proclamation declaring that Ireland had a right to be free of British rule!

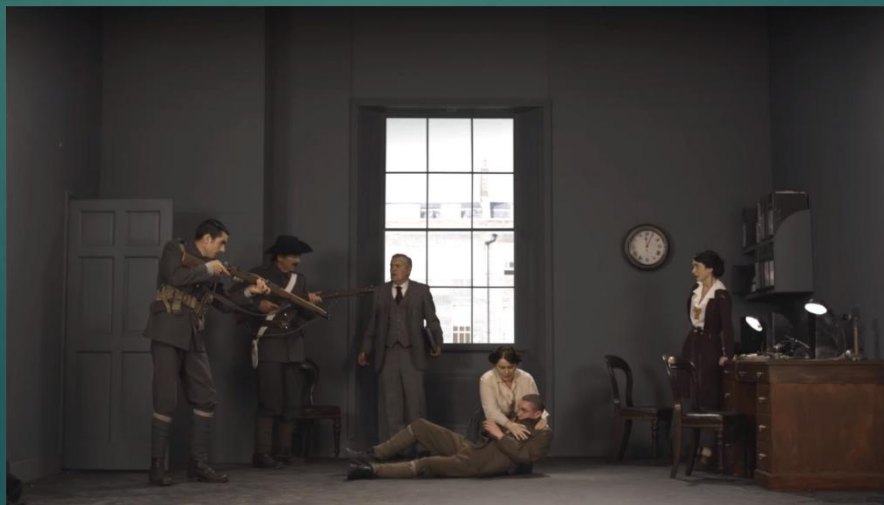


Inside The GPO

Inside the GPO a small number of staff were on duty keeping services open for the public. Just after midday a group of men who had gathered at Liberty Hall entered the building and ordered staff and customers to leave. When the GPO was taken by the rebels lots of women were collecting there British Army Separation Allowance because their husbands were fighting for the British.

Inside The GPO

Upstairs a number of Post Office telegraph staff and a few unarmed soldiers barricaded the doors and refused to leave until shots were fired at them. Downstairs the staff from the mail room were barricading the main door.



Action At The GPO

- The first shots were fired from the GPO at 1:15 PM.
- The British Army came onto Sackville St. but had to retreat due to rifle shots from the roofs and the windows of The GPO.
- Rifle and machine gun fire on the GPO was very heavy and ongoing.
- On Thursday James Connolly was wounded in the shoulder outside The GPO

Action At The GPO

At 8 PM on the 21st of April 1916, the GPO was in flames. The Irish Republican Forces left the building under constant sniper fire.



Surrender

They made their way to Moore Lane. In Moore St. Padraig Pearse came to the conclusion that they must surrender. The loss of life of both members of the Irish Republican Forces and of civilians was huge.



Death Toll

There were more than 500 people killed in the Rising (including civilians). Once the shooting on the streets ended the shooting in the jail started. Sixteen Rebels were shot dead for taking part in the 1916 Rising.



After the Rising

Reconstruction of the building was undertaken by an OPW team lead by J.T Byrne. The broadcasting studios of 2RW which later became Radio Éireann were located at the GPO from 1928 – 1974.



Change of heart

The actions of the British in the executions raised the republicans to hero's.



The Executed

Padraig Pearse,
Thomas MacDiarmada,
Thomas Clarke,
Edward Daly,
William Pearse,
Michael O' Hanrahan,
Eamon Ceannt,
Roger Casement,

James Connolly,
John McBride,
Joseph Plunkett,
Sean Hueston,
Con Colbert,
Michael Malin,
Sean Mac Dermot,
Thomas Kent.

My visit to the GPO



Kilmainham Gaol



The End

Thank you for taking the time to read my project.

