

Henry Wyatt (1794-1840)

THOMAS HARRISON, 1820

Oil on canvas 76.2 x 45.7 cm

Transferred from Chester Town Hall 2008.107



Thomas Harrison was an architect who designed some of the best and most gravely imposing Neo-Classical buildings in England. He was born in Richmond, Yorkshire, in 1744, trained in Rome 1769-76, and lived in Chester from 1793. His masterpiece is Chester Castle, which forms the finest group of Greek Revival buildings in England. For Chester he also designed the City Club, the Northgate, Watergate House and the Grosvenor

Bridge, once the largest stone arch in the world. His other buildings include the Lyceum Club in Liverpool, the Portico Library in Manchester, and the Gothic Lancaster Castle. He died at his home, St Martin's Lodge, near Chester Castle, in 1829.

Henry Wyatt was born near Lichfield, and went to London in 1811 to study in the Royal Academy Schools and in the studio of Sir Thomas Lawrence, the leading British portraitist of his day. Wyatt practiced portraiture in Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, London and Leamington between 1817 and 1838. During these years he also exhibited at the Royal Academy, the British Institution and the Society of British Artists. He was struck by paralysis in 1838 and died at Prestwich.