

The Bristol Riots, October 1831: The Burning of Lawford's Gate Prison

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Sold



Description

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Oil on canvas laid on paper
8.9 by 13.2 cm., 3 ½ by 5 in.

Lawford's Gate prison was built in 1791, as part of a wider programme of prison reform in Gloucestershire, spearheaded by Sir George Onesiphorus Paul (1746-1820). It was built on the boundary of Bristol and neighbouring county of Gloucestershire, but as the city grew, became subsumed into Bristol. Like many of Bristol's prisons, it was attacked during the riots and badly damaged by fire. It was little used again and fully abandoned by 1860, although it was not pulled down until 1926.

Another version of this subject, in watercolour, is in the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery (Accession number M4117). A number of views of the riots, by Müller, are also in the museum.