HOW COULD A MEDIEVAL NORMAN CASTLE SURVIVE HIDDEN INSIDE A VICTORIAN UNIVERSITY BUILDING?



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Researchers at University College Dublin have identified substantial remains of the medieval Roebuck Castle inside a building that appeared to be entirely Victorian. The castle was probably built in the early 13th century, soon after the Norman invasion of Ireland, but was long thought to have been demolished. Later builders seem to have constructed around the medieval walls instead. An 18th-century watercolour by Gabriel Beranger helped researchers recognise the surviving features.

WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

The discovery offers an accessible example of how historians combine buildings, artwork and written records to recover the past. It also introduces the Norman presence in Ireland and shows how later generations changed, reused and sometimes accidentally preserved medieval buildings.

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

“Why might later builders have built around the old castle instead of knocking it down?”

Source: TheJournal.ie

https://www.thejournal.ie/ucd-medieval-castle-discovery-7165024-Sep2026/