



The Museum of Newport Irish History MNIH

4th talk of our 24th Annual Lecture Series

☞ *Lecture made possible by a generous gift from Margaret Armstrong Murray,* ☞
given in memory of her husband, Vincent J. Murray

James Hoban: The Irish Immigrant Who Built the White House

Maureen D. Brady

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

A Virtual Presentation via Zoom

From the rural midlands of Ireland to the heart of American power, the story of Irish immigrant James Hoban is one of talent, tenacity, and transatlantic passage. This talk explores the remarkable life of the son of a humble tenant farmer whose consummate craftsmanship and talent earned him a coveted place at the prestigious Royal Dublin Society and a consequential apprenticeship with a noted Irish architect.

In America, Hoban worked directly with George Washington to design and build the White House, returning to it again and again, to oversee key additions, repairs, and renovations over many decades and various administrations of U.S. Presidents.

Set against the backdrop of early America, Hoban's career reveals how his Irish steadfastness, combined with his devotion to his adopted land, shaped a young nation's most iconic building, even as war, fire, and politics threatened its survival.

Blending architectural insight with social history, this talk seeks to bring Hoban out of the shadows and restore him to his rightful place as one of Ireland's most influential contributors to the story of America.

MAUREEN D. BRADY holds a Master of Arts (MA) from NYU's Graduate School of Arts & Sciences in Irish and Irish-American Studies from Glucksman Ireland House, including coursework and research at Trinity College Dublin. Currently, she is an Instructor in the Lifelong Learning Programs at Rutgers University's Osher Institute (OLLI-RU) and at Brookdale Community College, a role she assumed after a successful corporate career in aviation and banking. The courses she teaches are focused on Irish history, literature, and culture. Brady is a recipient of the Marlene Pomper Distinguished Teacher Award from OLLI-RU, the Francis Beirne Scholar Award sponsored by the St. Patrick's Day Foundation of New York City, and she has been named a "Top New Jersey Irish American Leader" by InsiderNJ.com. Brady is a Founding Member of the newly-launched Irish American Society of the Jersey Shore. We welcome Maureen back for this, her third talk for the Museum.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

To register, visit www.NewportIrishHistory.org. Click "Lectures," then the link to reserve under the Feb. 25 listing. You will receive immediate e-confirmation with the Zoom login info. If you do *not* see this email, check your spam. Registering for this Zoom lecture is free, but donations supporting our lecture series are always welcome via our website's "Donate" page or by check payable to "MNIH," mailed to the PO Box address below.

Non-computer/-mobile device Users: This lecture, including the speaker's slides and Q&A, will be recorded, and a link to view will be available on our website's 'Lectures' page after the event. Please enjoy the lecture with a family member or friend who can provide Internet access.

Questions or Assistance with Registration: Contact Ann Arnold at (401) 841-5493 or tpm1@earthlink.net

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