

Keith Mckay

The development and layout of Princetown.

And he clearly thought that 'I can use this opportunity to create a prisoner of war prison', and set about to plan Dartmoor War Prison, at that time not known as Princetown, simply a place to house upwards of perhaps 10,000 French and later American prisoners of war.

So the prison very much dominates one end of Princetown, can you describe to me how the town is laid out?

I think the entrepreneurial flare that Tyrwhitt possessed clearly, drove this unique place to be what it is today. We started with Tor Royal farm, from there pretty well simultaneously the small hamlet of Princetown emerged and then with the establishment of the prison site effectively what happened was that you had these parameters for the development of the settlement, from there that framework enabled, from certainly the middle of the 19th century, more development to take place and with the coming of the railway for example, tramway, that opened up a whole opportunity for bringing in materials and goods for building, people could gain access and bring their building skills and their business skills for the provision of food and all those sort of things that we need everyday, so there was a whole economy beginning to be built and we can see that economy essentially growing, in terms of the housing, along the old Plymouth road, from the Square where you gained access to Tor Royal and the Plume of Feathers, along the road from the Square up to the Prison. So as we see the whole place beginning to open up for development so we see various buildings to begin to emerge.