

**ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIRST ADDITION TO THE LIST OF BUILDINGS OF SPECIAL
ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST
IN THE BELFAST CITY COUNCIL**

Department for Communities
Causeway Exchange
1 – 7 Bedford Street
Town Parks
BELFAST
BT2 7EG

Dated *28th September 2023*

HISTORIC BUILDINGS LIST NUMBER 4087

NOTE: Further additions to the list relating to this Council area may be issued at a future date.

SCHEDULE

181st ADDITION TO THE LIST OF BUILDINGS OF SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST IN THE BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

HB Ref. Number	OS Map Numbers 1:2,500 or 1:10,000	Irish Grid Ref.	Building	Date Listed	Grade	Description and Evaluation	Date of Erection
HB26/50/339	130/13	J3360 7433	Belfast Electric Light Station including yard to east end and gantry cranes, 6 Chapel Lane (and 9-13 Marquis Street), Belfast, BT1 1HH		B2	Completed in early 1895, this building is Belfast's earliest power station and is thought to be the oldest surviving civic structure of its kind within Northern Ireland. It was built as something of an experiment, the then Belfast Corporation being uncertain whether the provision of electrical power, even on a limited scale, would prove popular. In consequence it is a relatively small, functional and unassuming structure, that was - and is - largely hidden from view. Its importance lies not so much in its size or aesthetic qualities, however, but in what it represents in terms of late Victorian technological progress and the continuing growth of Belfast as a major industrial centre; it also reveals much of the attitudes of the City fathers towards innovation and diversification in the face of their ongoing (and heretofore, lucrative) investment in the local gasworks.	1880 - 1899

						<p>Due to its limited size and lack of room for expansion, the building itself had a fairly short lifespan as a generating station, the growth in popularity of both domestic and street electric lighting added to the calls for the electrification of the tram system, leading to it swiftly being superseded by a much larger, and architecturally more impressive plant at East Bridge Street in 1898. It was subsequently adapted as a sub-station, with a large portion of the eastern end replaced in 1923. Despite this, the larger eastern - engine room - section, though stripped of the machinery, has survived largely intact and retains the gantry crane system that would have hauled the apparatus into, (and eventually out of), place.</p> <p>With the demolition of the East Bridge Street complex in the 1980s, the Chapel Lane station has become the last tangible piece of the Belfast's late Victorian electrical infrastructure, and notwithstanding the changes noted above it remains an important, albeit currently discreet, remnant of the city's economic and social history.</p>	
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Further information on these records can be accessed on the historic buildings database at www.communities-ni.gov.uk

PLANNING ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2011

STATUTORY LIST OF BUILDINGS OF SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST

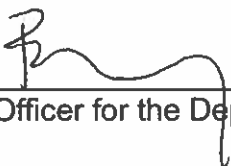
WHEREAS

1. by section 80 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 the Department for Communities (hereinafter called "the Department") is required to compile lists of buildings of special architectural or historic interest;
2. it appears to the Department that the buildings described in the attached Schedule are buildings of special architectural or historic interest;
3. the Department has consulted with the Historic Buildings Council and Belfast City Council

NOW THEREFORE the Department in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 80 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and of every other power enabling it in that behalf hereby includes on the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest the building/s set out in the attached schedule.

Dated

28/9/2023


Senior Officer for the Department for Communities

NOTE: Subsection (7) of the said section 80 provides that the following shall be treated as part of the listed building:-

- a. any object or structure within the curtilage of the building and fixed to the building;
- b. any object or structure within the curtilage of the building which, although not fixed to the building, forms part of the land and has done so since before 1 October 1973.