

Appendix 1

Ulster History Circle blue Plaque criteria

The Ulster History Circle receives many nominations for blue plaques each year. To be considered for selection each nominated person has to meet basic selection criteria. They must -

- be dead for 20 years or, if less, have passed the centenary of their birth;
- be associated with the province of Ulster through birth, education, work or vocation; and
- have made a significant contribution to the development or delivery of education, industry, commerce, science, arts and literature, politics, international affairs or other calling anywhere in the world.
- proposals will be considered for the commemoration of sites of special historical interest.

A candidate who has already been publicly acknowledged, in Ulster, by way of an existing memorial e.g. statue, plaque, named building or thoroughfare will normally not be accepted for a blue plaque.

The Circle considers all the suggestions that meet the basic criteria. Where accepted for selection, detailed research is carried out into the surviving addresses of candidates using sources such as biographies, street and electoral registers, and census and valuation records.

Generally, only one plaque is allowed per person, so the building on which the plaque is to be placed has to be chosen very carefully. Where the candidate was born in Ulster the Circle will seek to erect the plaque on the birth house, or any suitable replacement building on the same site. Where there is no suitable replacement, where it is in an inaccessible location or where the place of birth can not be traced, an alternative building, in which the candidate was educated, lived or worked, will be selected. In suitable cases, the site of a benefaction, e.g. Magee College, Londonderry can be used. Where the candidate was born outside Ulster, the most suitable place, education, residence or work will be selected.

Except in exceptional cases, buildings marked with plaques must be visible from the public highway

Before a plaque can be erected, the owners of the building in question have to give their consent. Where listed buildings are involved, the building owner must obtain consent from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. If granted, the plaque is produced and fixed to the building. The cost of plaque design, manufacture and installation is borne entirely by the Ulster History Circle.

Unveiling ceremonies are always held. These occasions, where possible attended by descendants, friends and colleagues of the person being commemorated, and are often memorable, emotional events.

The presence of a plaque does not afford a building any statutory protection; it has, for example, no connection with listing. Plaques that have been removed in the course of redevelopment or renovation are recovered and replaced later in the same or an alternative location