



**Report to:** Shadow Planning Committee

**Subject:** **NIEA Intention to List Buildings**

**Date:** Wednesday, 11th March 2015

**Reporting Officer:** John McGrillen (Ext. 3509)

**Contact Officers:** K. Sutherland Ext 3578

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	Correspondence has been received from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) regarding the proposed listing of buildings in Belfast. Article 42(3) of the Planning (NI) Order 1991 requires the Agency to consult with the Council before placing any building on the statutory list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<p>The Department based, on the completion of the detailed surveys, is currently considering the listing of the following properties and has requested the Council's comments in this regard:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Synagogue, Somerton Road</li><li>• Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, Royal Victoria Hospital, 180-184 Falls Road</li><li>• Microbiology Building, Grosvenor Road</li><li>• (Extern Waiting Hall), Royal Victoria Hospital, Grosvenor Road</li><li>• Direct Wine Shipments, 5 - 7 Corporation Square</li><li>• Congregational Church, 101-103 Donegal Street</li><li>• 1 Victoria Square</li><li>• 6 Murray Street</li><li>• 5 Murray Street</li><li>• 4 Murray Street</li><li>• Central Hall, 37-39 Rosemary Street</li><li>• 1-5 Castle Lane &amp; 23-29 Cornmarket</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13-17 Grosvenor Road</li> <li>• War Memorial Building, 9 Waring Street</li> <li>• McCracken's Bar, 4 Joy's Entry</li> <li>• Danske Bank, 12-15 Donegall Square West</li> <li>• Belfast Telegraph Offices, 124-144 Royal Avenue</li> </ul>
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<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	There are no resource implications attached to this report.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	None.

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	Committee is requested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to consider the information provided</li> <li>• to agree to recommend to the NIEA that it would proceed with the listings of the buildings within this report.</li> </ul>

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
Timeline: March 2015	Reporting Officer: Keith Sutherland

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	NIEA- Northern Ireland Environment Agency

<b>8</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1: Evaluation section from NIEA buildings proposed for listing reports. Appendix 2: NIEA correspondence and survey reports

## **Appendix 1: Evaluation section from NIEA buildings proposed for listing reports.**

### **The Synagogue, Somerton Road**

With its minimal Modernist appearance, innovative plan, folded 'Star of David' roof and use of natural light, this building is regarded by Sharman Kadish, leading expert, as the most influential post-war synagogue in these islands. The work of Eugene Rosenberg, an acclaimed exponent of post-war Modernism, it is also important in the International context, being an extremely rare example of the circular form in synagogue design. In terms of social history, it is but one of just two surviving places of worship built by Northern Ireland's Jewish community, and the only one still fulfilling its original purpose.

### **Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, Royal Victoria Hospital, 180-184 Falls Road**

A red brick building complex in Neo-Georgian style dating from 1928-32 to designs by Tulloch & Fitzsimmons and constructed by H. & J. Martin. A well-proportioned principal elevation with refined Classical detailing in Portland stone to the main entrance which has retained most of its original timber sash windows, canted Portland stone bays, prominent heavy corniced eaves, green slate hipped roof, lead clad dormers and tall chimneys. The buildings replaced the children's hospital in Queen Street in Belfast and was initially named Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, with the colonnaded portico (Block B) providing the entrance to the former Children's A&E department. Although this building has now been replaced with a new children's hospital, completed 1998, it remains in use and retains many internal features of interest. Of particular note are the bespoke tiled panels to the Barbour and Musgrave Wards that depict nursery rhymes and the rotunda-shaped public foyers. This complex fronts onto the Falls Road and it is within the Royal Victoria Hospital as it dates from the interwar period and is separated from the main historic buildings, built in the Victorian and Edwardian eras which dominate the Grosvenor Road frontage. There are some similarities in the use of formal rhythm and symmetry employed to provide a neat, uniform and impressive facade. It also shares group value with the Microbiology Building, a brutalist modern structure completed in 1964. The RVH for Sick Children is set back from the Falls Road by a tall red brick wall with panels indented at regular intervals and a stone coping that further enhance the character of the building.

### **Microbiology Building, Grosvenor Road**

An excellent example of a substantial and prominent modern building built between 1961-4, to designs by Sir H Casson, in international style displaying elements of Brutalism. Ribbed cast and battered concrete walling to lower ground floor adds a textural dimension to the building, while a large sculptural external staircase has a striking impact. A relatively rare example of an intact, large scale, modernist building, it retains its modernist features, wrap-around windows, horizontal bands of glazing and concrete panels displaying the building's modular contrast. The building is well-proportioned having a rectilinear form and taut surfaces lacking decoration which characterise the building's distinctive style. Forming part of the wider Royal Victoria Hospital Complex, within main historic buildings were built in the Victorian and Edwardian eras, it represents the move to more simplistic forms and mechanised building components during the post war era and is of significant architectural and historic interest.

### **(Extern Waiting Hall) Royal Victoria Hospital, Grosvenor Road**

Attached symmetrical multi-bay single and two-storey red brick hospital building, built c.1902 in 'Wrenaissance' style to designs by William Henman of Henman & Cooper, to accommodate the rapidly expanding population of Belfast, following the industrial expansion of the city. While the exterior has been altered somewhat by extensions to the front entrance and to the E and W elevations, the overall composition remains intact. It is both rational and elegant with detailing to the entrance that provides a dignified facade on a modest scale, a style aptly described by Larmour

as 'reassuring'. The interior retains some original detail and of particular note is the Sir Ian Fraser Theatre. The detailing and architectural devices employed share much with the neighbouring hospital buildings which comprise a valuable group with considerable social significance in the history of Belfast's development.

#### **Direct Wine Shipments, 5 7 7 Corporation Square**

Terraced symmetrical three-storey stucco-fronted building built c1860. Much historic fabric and detailing survive, including the original warehouse structure, including later changes that reflect its changing use. This building and its history represent the development and changing fortunes of the harbour area in the mid to late Victoria era and is one of the few survivors of a modest scale in the locale. It is of good quality and a good example of a type that is fast disappearing.

#### **Congregational Church, 101-103 Donegal Street**

A mid 20<sup>th</sup> century example of a Gothic-Revivalist church to designs by John Seeds. Progressively remodelled from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century until 1955. The building comprises a double-height central hall over a similar, single-storey hall to ground-floor and is flanked by additional gable fronted, late 19<sup>th</sup> century wings to the north and south. The building has been successively refurbished and modified throughout its history and it is an amalgamation of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early-mid 20<sup>th</sup> century interpretations of ecclesiastical architecture, executed in the Gothic-style. Much historic fabric survives reflecting the varied history of the church. It is a good example of the type and unusual style.

#### **1 Victoria Square**

Attached corner-sited four-storey (with attic) red brick seed warehouse built c1893 to designs by W J Gilliland. Red sandstone pub shopfront spanning the entire ground floor. Although compromised by extensive refurbishment during the redevelopment of the area, this High Victorian building exhibits an array of decorative terracotta and red sandstone elements to the exterior and the industrial framed structure and flooring surviving (virtually) its original plan. This is a good and robust example of the warehouses developed in the late Victorian era as the City continued to flourish in all sectors. It is also an example of the work of an architect of note.

#### **Murray Street- 4,5,6**

Asymmetrical terraced six-storey brick and stone commercial building dated 1910 to designs by James A Hanna. Although the loss of original windows compromises the external appearance of this building, much historic fabric survives with decorative stone detailing, in a loosely Jacobethan idiom, repeated in the adjoining buildings. A major complex of buildings reflecting the growth in the textile industry in the early Twentieth century. The later changes in use to office and public administration are also reflective of the changing circumstances with respect to industry in the City centre. This group is the work of an architect of note and among the most interesting of the Edwardian era and the years immediately following.

#### **Central Hall, 37-39 Rosemary Street**

A three storey building built 1959 to designs by Gibson & Taylor architects in Scandinavian influenced Modern Style. Adjacent to the Non-Subscribing Church to which it belongs. The building has a simplicity of design and detail which, although a different idiom, is in the same spirit as the adjacent Church. The proportions express the building's function as a hall and it is of interest as a surviving example of a style that was used in other public buildings and factories throughout the Province. The history of the site and its association with the church are also of interest. It is one of the works of a practice of note who were involved in several significant public works.

### **1-5 Castle Lane & 23-29 Cornmarket**

Attached multi-bay three-storey with attic red brick commercial building built c1888 to the designs of Robert Watt for the Grand Restaurant and Cafe Company Ltd. Commercial buildings with decorative red brick curved facade addressing a minor civic square. Although compromised by the replacement shopfronts to the ground floor and interior remodelling of the ground and first floor, much historic fabric and detailing survive and the building was among the first purpose-built public restaurants in the City, and including shop units, it reflects the continuing prosperity of the late Victorian era. It is also an interesting example of the work of an architect of note.

### **13-17 Grosvenor Road**

Asymmetrical terraced six-storey brick and stone commercial building dated 1910 to designs by James A Hanna. Although the loss of original windows compromises the external appearance of this building, much historic fabric survives with decorative stone detailing, in a loosely Jacobethan idiom, repeated in the adjoining buildings, A major complex of buildings reflecting the growth in the textile industry in the early Twentieth century. The later changes in use to office and public administration are also reflective of the changing circumstances with respect to industry in the City centre. This group is the work of an architect of note and among the most interesting of the Edwardian era and the years immediately following.

### **War Memorial Building, 9 Waring Street**

Detached four storey building constructed 1958 to designs by Michael Bowley of Glasgow. The original modular, unembellished character of the Modern Movement survives, although some historic detailing has been lost with the replacement of the fenestration and the transfer to new premises of interior features. Designed as a permanent War Memorial Building on the site of buildings obliterated by the Belfast Blitz and also of interest as the result of a nationwide competition. The presence of the Royal Ulster Rifles museum adds to the interest of the site. It is a good example of the type and unusual in the Province.

### **McCracken's Bar, 4 Joy's Entry**

A plainly detailed three storey public house in two parts c1865. Of interest principally for the history of the site, which indicates that the public house may have begun in an older converted building on the Entry. In 1881 the upper floors of No 4 were incorporated in the newly built St George's Buildings on High Street and converted into a dining and meeting hall called the St. George's Hall. This accommodated a variety of purposes throughout its history. When first opened it was used as a restaurant and as a spiritualists meeting hall and it later operated as Belfast's first full-time cinema: the theatre showed its first film 'Bluebeard' to an audience of 1,500 in 1908 but closed in 1916. The Globe Luncheon Bar survived until the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The original layout survives, although with limited historic fabric intact. The public house continued to operate on the ground floor from the 1880s to the present.

### **Danske Bank, 12-15 Donegall Square West**

Attached corner-sited six-storey bank c1972 to the designs of the Building Design Partnership. A bold exercise in mid twentieth-century modernism with a pronounced vertical emphasis. Much historic fabric and detailing survive. The restrained design is reinforced by the quality of the natural stone cladding contrasting with the brown aluminium glazing and presenting one of the strongest expressions of 1970s architecture in the city of Belfast.

### **Belfast Telegraph Offices, 124-144 Royal Avenue**

Attached multi-bay four-storey red brick corner office building built c1886 to designs by Henry Seaver. Square on plan with a six-storey red brick extension to rear and a glazed extension abutting the north. Although compromised by the loss of original windows and by internal alteration, much

historic fabric and detailing survive and the use of ferro-concrete on the Hennebique system in the extension is of note. Its scale and detailing reflect the importance of Belfast's 'premier newspaper' and the continuing expansion of the City centre in developments along Royal Avenue and in commerce. It is also among the first works of an architect of note.