

## APPENDIX 1: Property Evaluations

### Background

The Second Survey of all of Northern Ireland's building stock, is currently underway, to update and improve on the first List of buildings of special architectural or historic interest which began in 1974. This second survey is due to be completed in 2016.

In considering whether to include a building as Listed, the Department (NIEA) takes into account the architectural and historic interest of a structure and is also given the power to consider:-

- any respect in which its exterior contributes to the architectural or historic interest of any group of buildings of which it forms part; and
- the desirability of preserving, on the ground of its architectural or historic interest, any feature of the building which consists of a manmade object or structure fixed to the building or which forms a part of the land and which is comprised within the curtilage of the building.

Should the Department for Communities decide to list, this places certain responsibility on the owner, for example, a listed building has to be maintained in a way appropriate to its character and cannot be altered or demolished without prior approval.

The summaries below are taken from the property evaluation and detail the assessment in relation to the class of listing proposed.

- 1. Parochial House, St. Peter's Cathedral, St. Peters Square, Belfast, BT12 4BU (HB26/33/003 B)** –Four storey L-shaped ashlar sandstone Parochial House begun in 1867 to designs of John O'Neill, constructed a year after St. Peter's Cathedral (HB26/33/003A) was completed and attached to the latter's south east corner. The buildings are located in the Divis area of central west Belfast, now densely surrounded by modern housing. The site was given to the bishop in 1858 for the construction of a church by the Belfast baker, flour merchant and philanthropist Bernard (Barney) Hughes. John O'Neill completed the work on the cathedral when the original architect Father Jeremiah McAuley left Belfast to complete his ecclesiastical training. O'Neill being a prolific architect of many prominent churches in and around Belfast. A two storey entrance portion was added in recent years as were small extensions to the rear. Despite these modern additions and the replacement of the original windows, much original historic fabric and fine detailing survives throughout such as the steep slated gables with corbelled eaves and original joinery and cornicing internally. As much of its setting is now modern, this Parochial House and Cathedral survive as the most significant group of historic buildings in the immediate and wider area, with the twin spires of the Cathedral visible across much of the city.

Proposed NIEA listing – **B1**

Extent of proposed Listing: – **Parochial House** (currently not listed)

**Note:**

Listed buildings in Northern Ireland are divided into four categories:

**Grade A**

Special buildings of national importance including both outstanding grand buildings and the fine, little altered examples of some important style or date.

**Grade B+**

Special buildings that might have merited A status but for relatively minor detracting features such as impurities of design, or lower quality additions or alterations. Also buildings that stand out above the general mass of grade B1 buildings because of exceptional interiors or some other features.

**Grade B1 and B2**

Special buildings of more local importance or good examples of some period of style. Some degree of alteration or imperfection may be acceptable.