

APPENDIX 1: Structure 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 in Belfast was due to be completed in 2017 but is ongoing.

The structures being considered are considered by HED to fall within the definition of the word 'building'.

*"Listed building" is defined in section 80(7) (lists of buildings of special architectural or historic interest) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011: "(7) In this Act "listed building" means a **building** which is for the time being included in a list compiled under this section.*

*"Building" is defined in section 250(1) (interpretation) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. The term "building" **includes any structure or erection**, and any part of a building, as so defined, but does not include plant or machinery comprised in a building;*

*Under section 80 Lists of buildings of special architectural or historic interest
80—(1) The Department—*

*(a) shall compile lists of **buildings (which means structure/erection)** of special architectural or historic interest; and*

(b) may amend any list so compiled.

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 from the evaluation in the consultation report and details the main features alongside the recommended class of listing.

All Saints' Church, Canterbury Street, Belfast, BT7 1LB

HB26/27/054

Evaluation

All Saints' Church of Ireland was designed by Architect W J Fennell in 1898 and opened in 1899. It is a freestanding red brick late-Victorian Gothic Revival church with red Dumfries sandstone dressings. All Saints' Church is located on Canterbury Street, facing onto University Street, approximately halfway between Wolseley Street and the Ormeau Road in South Belfast, approximately 0.5 miles NE of The Lanyon Building (HB26/27/005) at Queen's University. The front façade faces south onto University Street, and is enclosed by red brick terraced housing on Canterbury Street on the W side, and similar on Westminster Street on the E. All Saints was one of the largest churches in Belfast and MacNeice in his history of the Church of Ireland in Belfast notes that the trend in the 1890s was to build large churches. He describes all Saints as 'a fine church' which had had 'a succession of devoted men as incumbents'. A contemporary newspaper article commented on the setting of the church, finding that it was 'favourably situated for presenting a fine picture from various points of view'. The site was thought to give the church 'an abundant supply of light and freedom of approach from all sides' and also allowed for a 'garden space' around the church and a 'carriage drive' to the main entrance, features which some other local churches lacked. (Northern Whig) It is also possible that Fennell was involved in the naming of the streets either side of the church, which were named after the Iron Church was built. Among Fennell's Belfast lectures was one entitled 'Canterbury: A Lecture on the Gothic Art of England' given in November 1905, and another on the same topic, called 'Westminster' in September 1906. The streets either side of All Saints are named Canterbury and Westminster with valuation records suggesting that Canterbury was named and developed first (c1891). Following the erection of the chancel (1905), the contemporary architectural journal, the Irish Builder, commented that the church was now 'one of the largest and most beautiful in the city'. The Lord Bishop of Down, Connor and Dromore, in his opening sermon, remarked that one of the greatest beauties of architecture, 'more than florid or enriched ornamentation', was 'the beauty of proportion' which had been achieved at All Saints by the construction of the chancel. All Saints' Church is a robust presence on University Street with its setting enhanced by the close proximity of terraced housing flanking side elevations in Canterbury Street on W side and Westminster Street on E elevation forming a pleasing urban form. The building is of local interest and social and cultural importance.

Proposed NIEA listing – **B2**

Extent of proposed listing – Church, boundary walls, piers and original gates

Image:



**International Research Centre for Experimental Physics, The Queen's University of Belfast,
University Road, Belfast, BT7 1NN**

HB26/27/077

Evaluation

A large brick building in a modern style with neo-Georgian elements consisting of flat-roofed interlocking three-dimensional blocks of varying heights with a tall, canted entrance tower, constructed to the designs of John MacGeagh. The building was designed in 1955 and constructed between 1958 and 1962, during a period of rapid growth for the university and of increasing commitment to research and study in the discipline of physics. The involvement of physicists had been extremely significant in the Second World War as physics was seen to play a huge part in winning the war with British academic physicists making a significant contribution to the development of the atom bomb. Radar and radio, vital to wartime communications, also required physics trained personnel. A shortage of scientists, particularly physicists, was a concern in the mid-1950s, when it was proposed that Ulster could start training scientists and technicians to accelerate the nuclear power programme for the UK. The building was officially opened by The Queen Mother in April 1962. The building is of similar style and detailing to The Sir William Whitla Hall (HB26/27/067), also by John MacGeagh which opened in 1949 and is located on its West side. MacGeagh is remembered for 'thoroughness of design and attention to detail' and the neo-Georgian idiom in which he often designed. The Whitla Hall, designed with Edward Maufe is perhaps his most significant work, but he was also responsible for several other buildings at Queen's University including the School of Geology, and the main library tower (now remodeled), as well as more minor structures such as the tower and archway on the N side of the quadrangle. MacGeagh is also well-known as the designer of the north and south transepts of St Anne's cathedral and several noted churches and church halls. The building was part of a wider post-war regeneration of Belfast and the construction of the physics building, Transport House, the Electricity Board offices in Danesfort and several other substantial steel and concrete structures led the Belfast Telegraph to note that Belfast's 'war scars' were healing. The building features a distinctive entrance tower with towers being a traditional feature of academic physics laboratories in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the height facilitating experiments on pendula and freefalling bodies. The new building had several unique features specific to its function: delivery points equipped with cranes and hoists were to enable heavy equipment to be brought into the building. The building was designed to be easily decontaminated from radioactive dust, with three distinct systems of mechanical ventilation.

Proposed NIEA listing – **B2**

Extent of proposed listing – Building and Railings

Image:



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.