



Department for

Communities

www.communities-ni.gov.uk

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Historic Environment Division
Heritage Buildings Designation Branch
Klondyke Building
Cromac Avenue
Gasworks Business Park
Malone Lower
Belfast
BT7 2JA

Tel: (028) 9056 9216

Our Ref: HB26/23/001 B

Date: 07/09/2016

Dear Sir/Madam

REVIEW OF ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST

RE: FERGUSON MEMORIAL, BALMORAL CEMETERY, STOCKMAN'S LANE, BELFAST, BT9 7JA

The Department for Communities (the Department), is currently engaged in a survey of all Northern Ireland's buildings for the purpose of updating and improving on the list of buildings of special or architectural/historic interest. Where this letter refers to building(s), this term includes all types of structures.

The Department has now re-considered the heritage value of the above building and concluded that it remains of sufficient interest for protection as a listed building. Under Section 80 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 such buildings must be of '*special architectural or historic interest*'. **Its statutory listing therefore remains unchanged.**

However, the reasons why your building is thought to meet the statutory test may have been clarified by the review. I attach a copy of our report which explains our understanding of the current heritage value of the building in more detail. This report (with the exclusion of internal information) will be published on our website in due course. If you have details of the history of the property additional to that contained in the report, or have any other concerns over its accuracy, I should be most grateful if you would make this information available to me.

Buildings such as yours make a particular contribution to Northern Ireland's heritage and to the character of our communities.

You may also be aware that we provide advice on maintenance in the form of technical notes which can be accessed from our website or forwarded to you upon request. Our network of area conservation architects are also happy to discuss proposals for repair or change with you at an early stage.

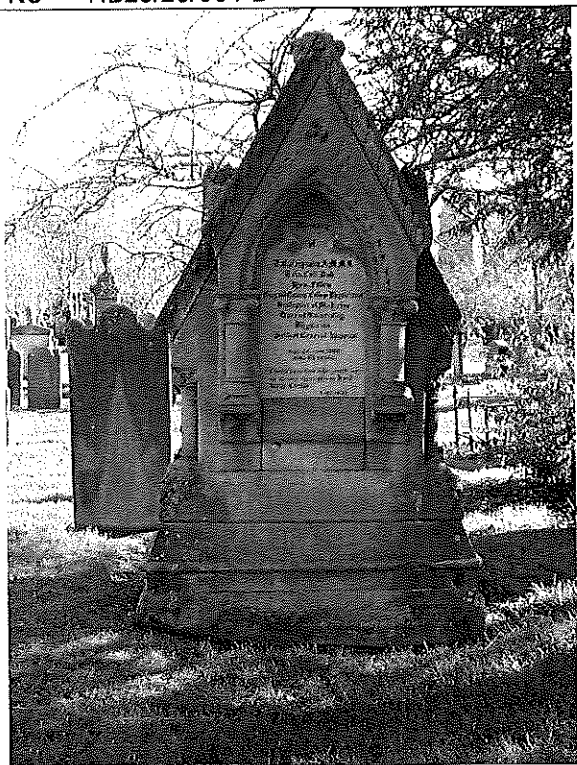
If you would like to find out more about Northern Ireland's historic buildings in general, and the work of this Department to protect and promote this legacy in particular, this information is also available on our website at www.communities-ni.gov.uk

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Brown'.

G BROWN

Enc HBC Second Survey Report
Map

<p>Address Ferguson Memorial Balmoral Cemetery Stockman's Lane Belfast BT9 7JA</p>	<p>HB Ref No HB26/23/001 B</p> 
<p>Extent of Listing Memorial</p>	
<p>Date of Construction 1860 - 1879</p>	
<p>Townland Malone Lower</p>	
<p>Current Building Use Memorial</p>	
<p>Principal Former Use Memorial</p>	

Conservation Area	No	Survey 1	B	OS Map No	146-8
Industrial Archaeology	No	HED Evaluation	B2	IG Ref	J3150 7096
Vernacular	No	Date of Listing	08/10/1987	IHR No	
Thatched	No	Date of Delisting		HGI Ref	
Monument	No			SMR No	
Area of Townscape Character	No				
Local Landscape Policy Area	No				
Historic Gardens Inventory	No				
Vacant	N/A				
Derelict	No				

Owner Category

Building Information

Exterior Description and Setting

Gabled neo-Gothic style sandstone memorial dating from 1865 to designs by architect W.J. Barre. Located in Balmoral Cemetery.

Trefoil sandstone arch supported on bracketed Corinthian limestone columns with inset carved marble plaque. Foliated mouldings to gable ends.

The plot is facing west and is located within the south west part of Balmoral cemetery. Four square painted sandstone piers linked by dwarf painted sandstone walling, topped by iron railings and supporting iron gates mark the entrance to the cemetery at its southwest corner. An un-coursed rock-faced basalt wall serves as a boundary to the south.

Other listed structures within Balmoral cemetery are Cooke memorial (HB26.23.001A) and the McKee memorial (HB26.23.001C).

Interior Description

N/A

Architects

Barre, William J

Historical Information

By the middle of the nineteenth century Belfast's graveyards were becoming overcrowded, partly as a result of the rapidly expanding population of the city and partly as a result of cholera epidemics and the Great Famine. The opening, in 1855, of a new cemetery at Balmoral – which was also known as the Belfast Cemetery or the Malone Cemetery – helped to alleviate the situation. What had prompted the creation of this cemetery was an incident in which a funeral conducted by Reverends Henry Cooke and Joseph Mackenzie was obstructed by a Church of Ireland rector. In response a number of Presbyterians decided to open a cemetery of their own. Mackenzie secured the site and a board of trustees was appointed, Cooke being one of them. In 1953 the cemetery was taken over by Belfast Corporation.

Among the more interesting monuments in Balmoral Cemetery is that to Professor John Creery Ferguson, an important figure in the history of medicine in Ireland. Born in 1802 in Tandragee, County Armagh, Ferguson was the son of Thomas Ferguson, a doctor and apothecary, and Elizabeth Creery, the daughter of the local Church of Ireland rector. He was educated at the Feinaiglian Institution, Trinity College, Dublin and Edinburgh University. In 1827 he received his licence and in 1829 he was admitted a Fellow of the College of Physicians in Ireland.

Through a visit to Paris he became aware of the stethoscope and at the Dublin General Dispensary in November 1827 was the first person in either Britain or Ireland to hear the human foetal heart. Through his advocacy of it the stethoscope became part of the standard medical equipment in the Rotunda Hospital in Dublin. In 1837 he was appointed the first Professor of Medicine at School of Medicine of the Apothecaries' Hall. In 1846 he became King's Professor of the Practice of Medicine in the School of Physic at Trinity College, and in 1849 was appointed the first Professor of Medicine at Queen's College (now University), Belfast. While in Belfast he was also attending physician at the Belfast General Hospital and president of the Ulster Medical Society.

Ferguson has been described as 'an unassuming man' and 'a popular man with a genial disposition'. He was married first of all to Jane Clarke from Dublin, and then to his cousin, Miss Tate. Ten of his eleven children survived him. He died in Belfast on 24 June 1865 and was buried in Balmoral Cemetery on 28 June.

According to the Dictionary of Irish Biography, his monument, which noted his various medical positions, was erected by his former colleagues. The Gothic-style monument is by William Barre. Larmour (1987, p. 105) highlights the fact that the Fitzpatrick memorial at Knockbreda is of a similar design.

References

Northern Ireland Environment Agency
First Survey Record – HB/26/23/001B
HB Records – HB/26/23/001B

Published sources

Gravestone Inscriptions: Belfast, vol. 3 (Belfast, 1986)
Paul Larmour, Belfast: an illustrated architectural guide (Belfast, 1987)
Paul Larmour, The architectural heritage of Malone and Stranmillis (Belfast, 1991)
Dictionary of Irish Biography, 9 vols (Cambridge, 2009)

A Directory of Ulster Doctors (who qualified before 1901), 2 vols (Belfast, 2013)

Online sources

Natural Stone Database: www.stonedatabase.com

Dictionary of Irish Architects: www.dia.ie

Criteria for Listing

NB: In March 2011, revised criteria were published as Annex C of Planning Policy Statement 6. These added extra criteria with the aim of improving clarity in regard to the Department's explanation of historic interest. For records evaluated in advance of this, therefore, not all of these criteria would have been considered. The criteria used prior to 2011 are published on the Department's website under 'listing criteria'.

Architectural Interest

A. Style
B. Proportion
C. Ornamentation
J. Setting
K. Group value

Historical Interest

X. Local Interest
U. Historic Associations
R. Age
S. Authenticity
V. Authorship

Evaluation

Gabled neo-Gothic style sandstone memorial dating from 1865 to designs by architect W.J. Barre. Trefoil sandstone arch supported on bracketed Corinthian limestone columns with inset carved marble plaque. Elaborately carved, it commemorates Professor John Creery Ferguson, an important figure in the history of medicine in Ireland, being the first person in either Britain or Ireland to hear the human foetal heart. It is located within Balmoral cemetery which contains a number of interesting memorials, the Cooke memorial (HB26.23.001A) and the McKee memorial (HB26.23.001C), together having significant group value and making a positive contribution to their setting.

Replacements and Alterations

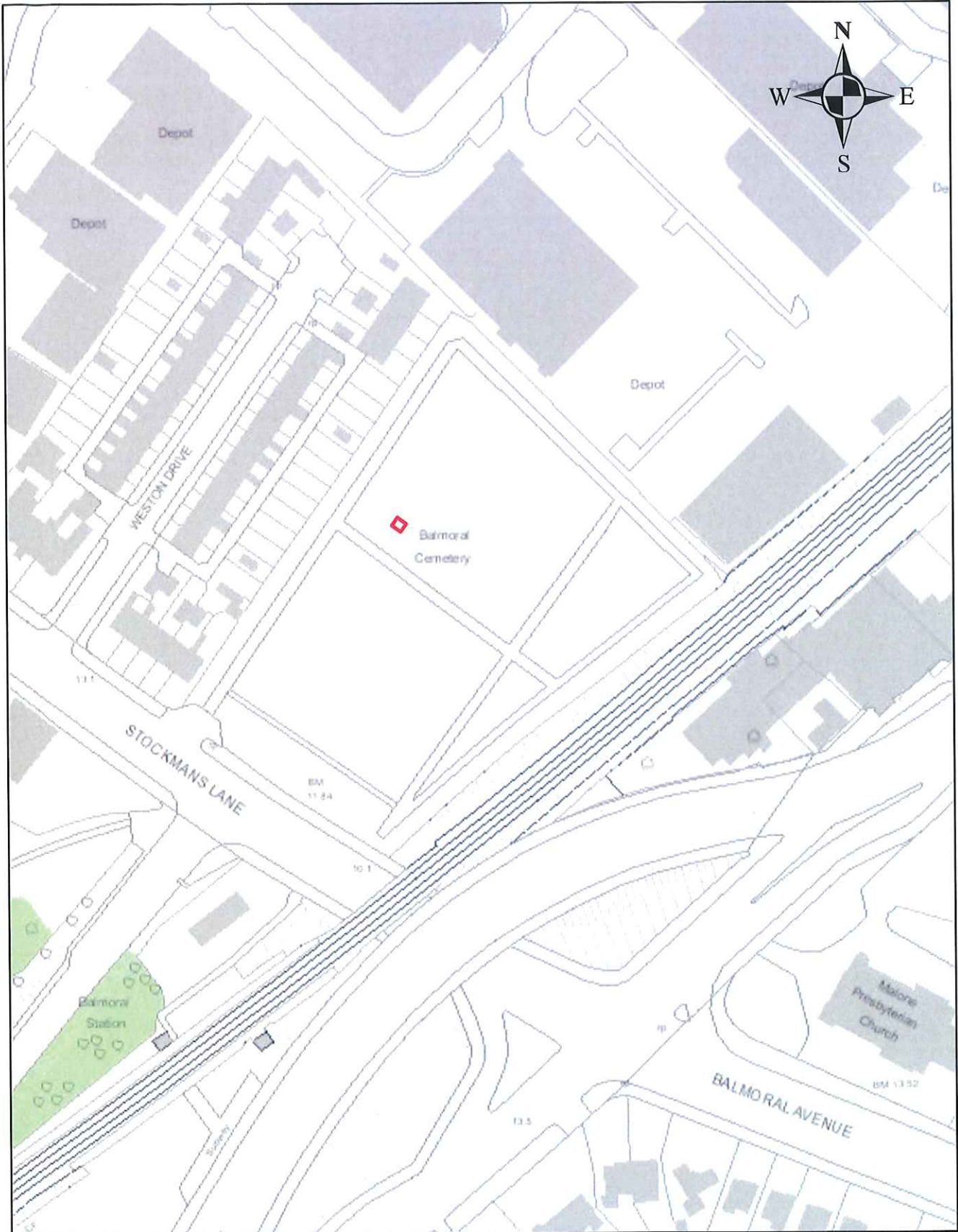
None

If inappropriate, Why?

General Comments

Monitoring Notes – since Date of Survey

Date of Survey 03/03/2014



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Title: **HB26/23/001 B**
Scale: **1:1,250**
Drawn by: **JM**
Date: **24 February 2016**
Description:
Listing Map



