

APPENDIX 1: Listed Building Property Evaluation

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.

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 summary below is taken from the property evaluation and details the assessment in relation to the class of listing proposed.

1. Donegal Road Methodist Church, 381 Donegal Road, Belfast, BT12 6GR (HB26/23/006)

Donegal Road Methodist Church is a large urban red brick church in a rather plain and functional Gothic Revival style, prominently located along the north side of Donegal Road. It was built in 1926 to designs by engineer Francis D. Brown to serve the expanding Methodist congregation in South Belfast, and retains its original form, proportion and some original detailing, although its authenticity has been somewhat diluted by extensive refurbishments carried out in 1970 by Gordon McKnight, following extensive fire damage in 1969. The alterations are less apparent externally than internally, although the original symmetry has been diluted by subtle alterations to the flanking wings and the flamboyant interlacing tracery is very much of late twentieth-century vintage. The original design reflected the standard non-conformist layout with three-sided gallery, but this has been reduced to a single gallery level, and the church is plain. However, the original roof structure, comprising a series of hammerbeam oak roof trusses represents an important and notable survival above the later inserted ceiling, and is retained largely intact. The church is of considerable social importance, having served the local community through provision of a variety of services over almost a century, and is of historical interest, as a second church on the site, replacing the earlier 'Tin Top' church which stood on the site from 1902. It is enhanced by surviving boundary features and the associated hall, and enhances the urban setting and social history of Donegal Road.

Proposed NIEA listing – **B1**

Extent of proposed listing – **Church, gates 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.