

## **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 main features alongside the recommended class of listing.

### **1. St Columba's Church of Ireland, Knock, Kings Road, Belfast, Co. Antrim, BT5 6JG, HB26/13/058**

#### **Property evaluation**

St Columba's Church of Ireland is a solid example of a Gothic Revival church. It is a rather large building, yet manages to assimilate into its suburban setting along the Kings Road, positively contributing to the Kings Road Conservation Area.

The history and construction of the church are of a particular interest; first built in 1896 to replace an earlier 'Iron Church', it was gradually added to as and when sufficient funds were gathered. Extensions to the main church building were designs by Samuel Patrick Close, the original architect. This is certainly one of his better works, with a clear craft emphasis on the interior. The truncated tower is also seen at Trinity Presbyterian Church (HB23/05/009) in Bangor by the same architect.

The interior retains its design integrity, displaying original fine craftsmanship. The simplified hammer beam roof, oak altar furniture, encaustic floor tiling and oak pews are original elements and the Neo-Romanesque reredos is unusual in its design. Later alterations including the refurbishment to the west end baptistery and construction of the choir vestry add to the story and development of the parish church, the latter having been constructed in sympathetic and appropriate style that does not detract from the main volume nor its surroundings.

St Columba's has been a place of worship for the Kings Road community for over a century and continues to be of local interest both historically and architecturally.

Proposed NIEA listing – **B1**

Extent of proposed listing – **Church**

**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.