

ULSTER ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE SOCIETY

LIST OF

HISTORIC BUILDINGS

GROUPS OF BUILDINGS

AREAS OF ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

IN THE BOROUGH OF

BANBRIDGE



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ULSTER ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE
SOCIETY
by
C. E. B. Brett, C.B.E., M.A.
and Lady Dunleath

Revised November 1980, by H. C. Hatrick

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This List was commissioned in March 1969 by Banbridge Urban District Council from the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society. The Society was extremely pleased to receive the invitation, and hopes most earnestly that the List which follows will not only prove of interest to local people, but will be of value to all those concerned in the future planning and development of Banbridge.

The cost of its production and publication has been generously met by a local firm, Joseph Morton Limited.

The Society feels that other towns and villages in Ulster might well find similar lists helpful and valuable: it hopes that the publication of the List may lead Councils and local sponsors elsewhere to follow the enlightened example set by Banbridge.

The compilers of this List wish to express their gratitude for much assistance and information generously made available to them by Mr. J. L. Morton; Mr. John Cowdy; Mr. J. H. Rea; and Mr. Robert McKinstry, and for help from several other citizens of Banbridge. The drawings in the Public Record Office for Northern Ireland are reproduced by permission of the Deputy Keeper. The illustration of the Market House in the nineteen-twenties was kindly made available by the Banbridge Chronicle. The remaining illustrations were specially taken for this List by Patrick Rossmore.

It is not suggested that all the buildings listed must be retained as and when Banbridge is redeveloped. Individual buildings, groups and areas marked A are considered essential; those marked B are important and should be retained wherever feasible. The rest are of sufficient quality to merit integration in a new scheme. Every building listed deserves photographic recording should its preservation prove impracticable.

Preliminary Note.

Banbridge is an attractive market-town, once a great centre of the linen trade, placed where the main Dublin-Belfast road crosses the river Bann. The road rises and dips through rolling country, and then falls steeply to the riverside; the centre of the town bestrides the ridge (and the cutting engineered through its summit) above the crossing. The application of water-power to textile manufacture in the first half of the 18th century brought great prosperity to the valley of the Bann, and Banbridge still retains something of the homely affluence of the period when it was an important textile trading market. There are very many terraces (some now decrepit) of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, mostly very modest, but they nevertheless give the town a decided and agreeable character of its own.

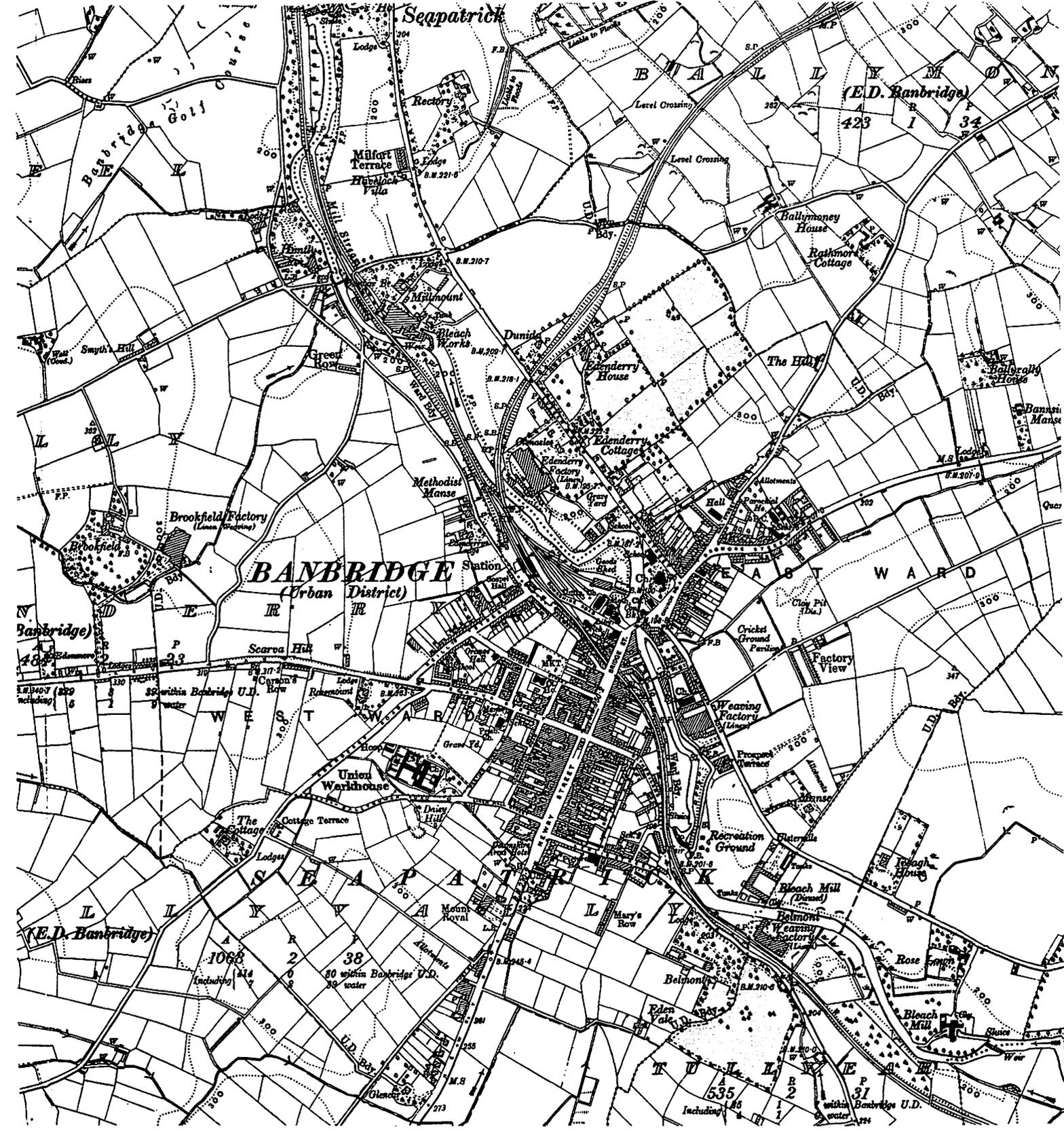
The main highway through the town is broad and spacious; the houses and shops by which it is lined are harmonious and well-cared-for. The Civic Trust scheme of 1962 was extraordinarily successful. It would be possible to cavil at a few of the colours chosen - in particular, the greens - and the first rapture has regrettably been allowed to fade rather; the scheme needs refreshing and renewing to-day; but the general standard of decoration is far above that of most Ulster towns. Indeed, it is clear that Banbridge is fortunate in enjoying the services of one or more craftsmanlike decorators and sign-writers, who take pride in a skilled job done well. There are a few intrusive and unsuitable stores and shop-fronts, and any substantial increase in their number would swiftly threaten the unity of the whole town; but up to the present they are subordinate to the admirable traditional terrace blocks.

The central spine of the town is so broad that it succeeds in absorbing large numbers of parked cars without undue damage. If it were possible to provide adequate parking space elsewhere, however, the main street would be seen to much greater advantage. The long thin central stripes of concrete between the carriageways are somewhat divisive; it would be nice if they could be replaced by trees and grass, or even cobbles. Of the rows of poplars planted in 1879, only four rather solitary trees survive at the four ends of the embankment of the cut.

The principal open forum of the town, Church Square, though potentially delightful - surrounded as it is by buildings of the first rank, and close to the water-side - is shapeless and disappointing, mainly due to the demands of through traffic. If and when a by-pass is built, it will provide a golden opportunity for restoring the calm and distinction of the square. In the meanwhile, walls and railings should be removed or made as inconspicuous as possible; and trees (rather than municipal flower-beds) should be planted.

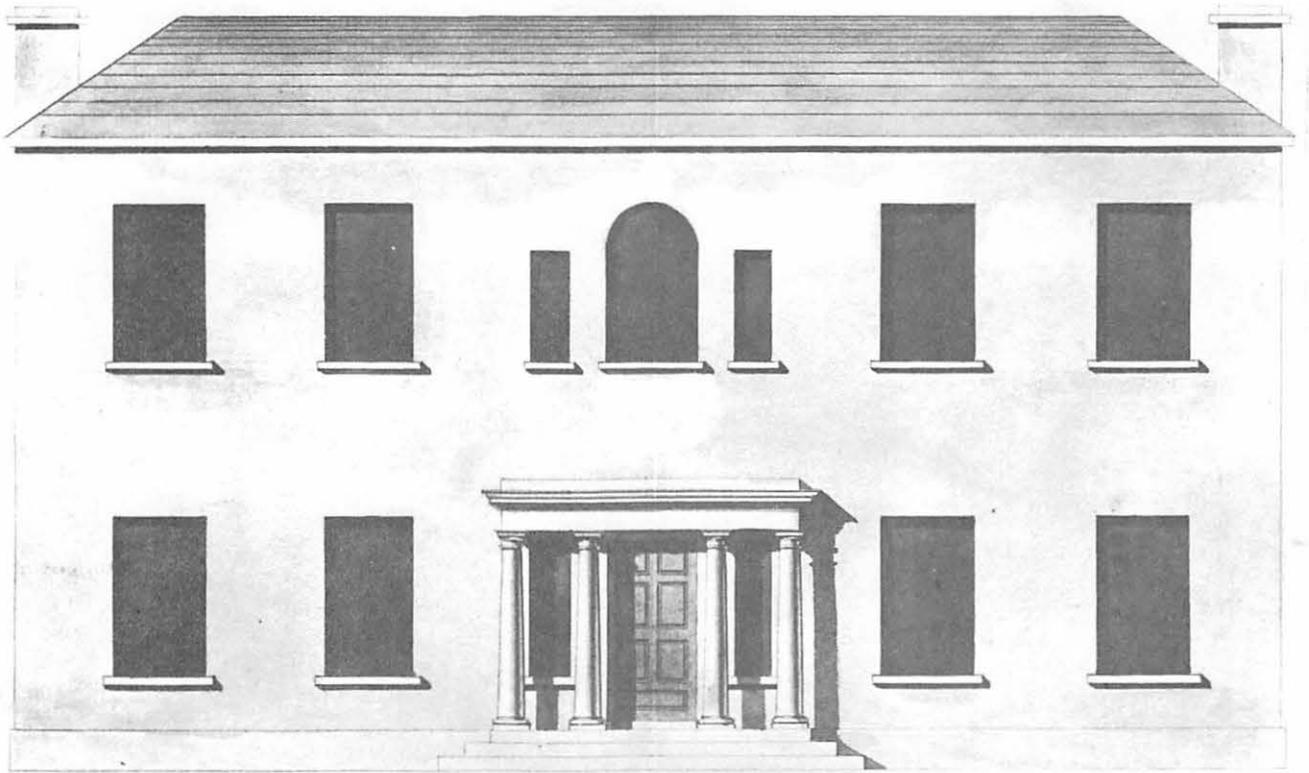
Like many Ulster towns, Banbridge is so laid out that it tends to turn its back on the river which flows through it in a charming S-bend. But there is a surprisingly good riverside park (despite the deplorable access to it) running behind the houses to the east of the Main Street. It would be well worth seeking to provide more green fingers of access linking the central roadway and this park. Downstream from the bridge, the river banks are ragged and untended, but could be made delightful, and at modest cost. The overgrown railway cutting through the centre of the town could also make a charming green pathway linking the river banks upstream and downstream of the bridge. This List is an assessment of the town as it stands to-day, and plans for the future have not been taken into account; it is good to know that plans exist for the extension of park and playingfields along the river banks.

The List deals only with buildings inside the Borough boundary. Outside it, there are mills and factories both new and old; and there are a number of new housing estates and suburbs - some good, some less good. Some particularly fine buildings line the valley of the Bann, both upstream and downstream. The town is ringed by mills, many of them of importance to the industrial archaeologist - see pages 16 to 19 of E. R. R. Green, and the impressive list to be found there - and by mill-owners' (and other) houses, 'several of them of architectural importance. Though they cannot be included in this List, mention should be made, at least, of Huntley House, a handsome 2 storey mansion with tetrastyle Ionic portico, its rear part an L-shaped Regency cottage orné with ornamental pergolas in the Brighton manner along the river frontage; Brookfield, approached past a pair of delightful white-washed lodges (painted with contrasting quoins) and a beech avenue, a rectangular house of about 1830 with a Doric portico and exuberant fanlight; Ballyvalley House; Mutton Hill; and the strange but exceptionally attractive Lodge, perhaps of about 1830, on the Newry Road, a house with enormously tall elegant oriel bay windows and a central Irish round tower. Clearly, as the town expands, it is important that its expansion should be planned in the context of the pleasant countryside and distinguished buildings amidst which Banbridge is set.



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey Map with the sanction of the Controller of H. M. Stationery Office. Crown Copyright reserved.

NO.	BUILDING	Category	DATE, TYPE, ARCHITECT, ETC.	REFERENCE
1	THE BANN BRIDGE	B	<p>1832; single-arched stone bridge, seemly but of no special distinction, by William Dargan, the great Irish road, railway and canal engineer. Replacing the earlier bridge of 1712, this is the raison d'être of the town; yet its high parapets obscure the view upstream to Solitude House on its island, and downstream to the Lancasterian School perched above the bend of the river. It is arguable that, in this instance, the parapets should be removed and replaced by open railings so as to make the charming valley more part of the town.</p>	<p>Archaeological Survey Lewis T.D. Linn</p>
2	Group: CHURCH SQUARE	A	<p>An irregularly shaped open space through which the south-bound traveller passes before reaching the bridge and the hill beyond: potentially very pleasant, but at present amorphous. If and when the Belfast - Dublin traffic bypasses the town, a serious attempt should be made to restore the riverside village-green character of the area. In the meanwhile, the railings around the Parish Church could with advantage be removed; the fine trees so barbarically cut down in 1963 should be re-planted; there should be more grass and cobblestones (a useful triangle remains in the South-East corner) and fewer high curb-stones and municipal rose-bushes.</p> <p>Church Square is given character by a splendid group of monuments and buildings, comprising:</p>	
3	CROZIER MONUMENT	A	<p>1862, designed by W.J. Barre of Newry; cost £700; statue and carvings by Joseph Robinson Kirk, of Dublin. Monument to Captain Francis Crozier (d. 1848), a native of Banbridge, frozen to death in the ice with Sir John Franklin's expedition in search of the North-West Passage. Barre's biographer, Dunlop, says: "The monument is in the form of an octagonal pedestal, rising from a square plinth, and carries a colossal statue of Captain Crozier. The octagonal portion of the shaft is treated as a niched arcade in which it was originally intended to place a series of bas-relief carvings illustrative of the career of Captain Crozier as an Arctic explorer. The idea was, however, abandoned, in consequence of the funds at disposal being too limited. The junction of the octagonal shaft with the square base is effectively managed by the introduction of open spur buttresses at each angle. On the weathering of each of those buttresses is placed an Arctic bear. The character throughout is that of the Gothic of the thirteenth century. The carving has been used as far as possible to symbolise the work of the expedition" - it includes scallop-shells, foul anchors, bears' heads, a sort of Arctic otter chewing a salmon, and convolvulus.</p> <p>The four grieving polar bears on the buttresses, now rather weather-worn, rear their hind-quarters in salute to the Captain.</p> <p>The two small panel carvings in the niches, with the larger Crozier Memorial (also by J.R. Kirk) in Seapatrik Church, are of considerable merit. All display the Erebus and Terror (the ships of the expedition) starkly embedded in great chunky three-dimensional ice-floes, exciting and near-abstract triumphs of the imagination, as weird and poetic as the rockery mountains invented by Joachim Patinir, and for the same reason: neither artist had ever seen what he sought with such intensity to portray.</p>	<p>Apollo Linn Dunlop</p>

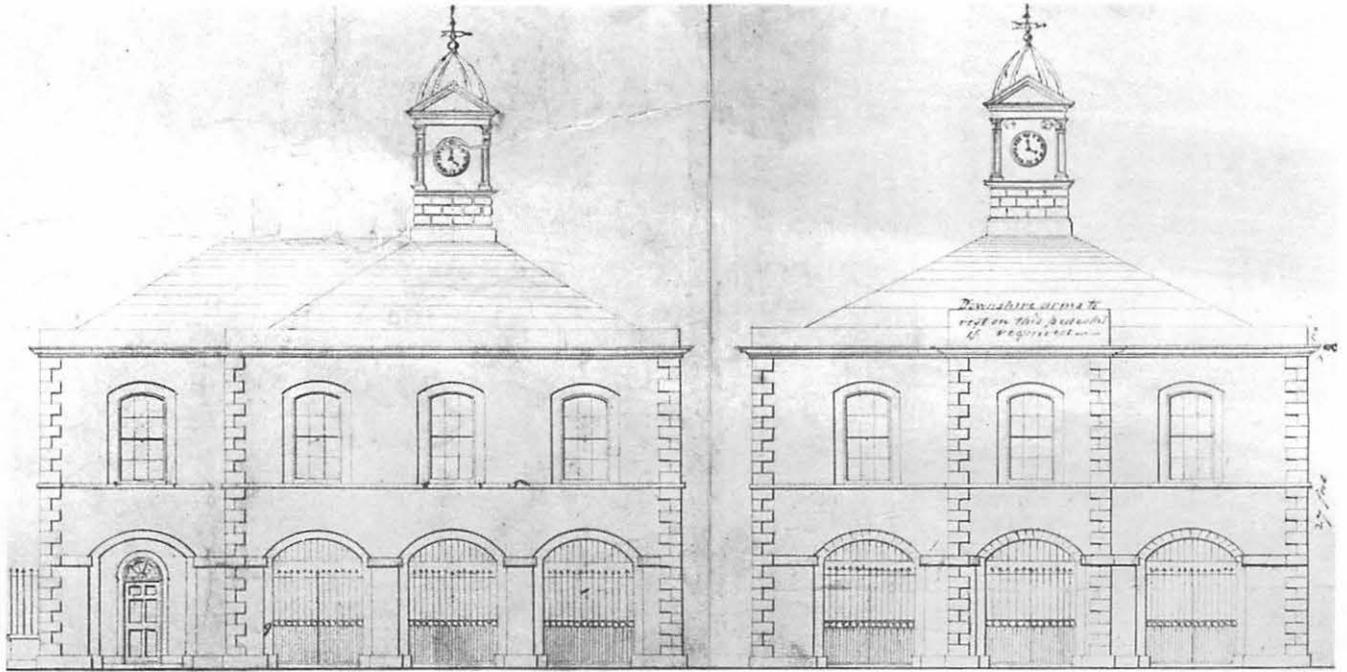


Above and below,
 No. 56, the Downshire Arms Hotel.
 Above; Charles Lilley's proposal
 for re-fronting the Inn in 1810 -
 colour-washed drawing in the Public
 Record Office;
 below; the Inn as actually re-fronted
 in 1816, and as it remains to-day.
 Left, No. 9, the Crozier House in
 Church Square of 1791.



NO.	BUILDING	Category	DATE, TYPE, ARCHITECT, ETC.	REFERENCES
4	SEAPATRICK PARISH CHURCH	A	<p>Foundation stone 1834; completed 1837 "in the Carpenter's Gothic style of that period". Only the "graceful and well proportioned" tower and spire, and part of the transept, survive of the original church. Extensive additions (the north transepts) 1864 by W. J. Barre. Further additions (including the chancel) by Thomas Drew 1882-3. Pulpit and font 1883 by Mr. Sharpe of Great Brunswick Street. "Costly brass eagle" 1883. Reredos and alabaster panels removed from rood-screen of Christ Church cathedral, Dublin; oak furniture by the redoubtable Harry Hems of Exeter; chime of bells 1920.</p> <p>The blackstone exterior, apart from the spire, is undistinguished. The interior is fine, spacious and airy. The roof is plain and simple; the transepts added by Barre are clearly recognisable, with their flowery-capitalled columns. The East window of c. 1897, a copy of Leonardo's Last Supper, is excellent and entirely suitable. There are several good memorials, far the best that to Captain Crozier (see No. 3).</p> <p>The church is well-placed beside the river, the old ford, and William Dargan's bridge; but its riverside character has been lost due to unsightly walls and railings, the cutting of trees, and a large church hall of grey brick in the Aldergrove airport manner in course of erection at the rear.</p>	<p>Linn Lewis T. D.</p> <p>1883 IB 14, 162, 212, 358</p>
5	MASONIC HALL (built as Unitarian Church)	B	<p>1849; a fine stucco building, pediment (with oculus) surmounted by couchant lion, slim round-headed windows, interesting door and window-mouldings; well painted and cared for.</p>	Linn
6	R. U. C. STATION		<p>A square blackstone building - originally the Downshire Estate office? - with yellow brick dressings of c. 1860, with good ironwork railings; dour but full of character, rather like a policeman's uniform.</p>	
7	CHURCH SQUARE Nos. 1/11		<p>Ordinary well-scaled three-storey dwellings and shops, mostly c. 1830, dependent for their charm on the quality of the paintwork. A nice triangle of cobble stones in the angle of the square.</p>	
8	'BURNLEIGH', Church Square	A	<p>c. 1800. Two-storey modest but excellent plastered rubble house with good Ionic doorcase and fanlight; triple windows on ground floor; glazing-bars complete.</p>	Archaeological Survey
9	CROZIER HOUSE, Church Square	A	<p>1791. Three-storey and basement, stuccoed, the ground floor rusticated; the main doorcase, at the head of a fine flight of steps with good railings, incorporates narrow windows, paterae and swags; in the tympanum an attractive lunette of the sleeping Venus with Cupid, tree and urn. The ground-floor windows are set in arched recesses, with dentils and festoons above the triple lights.</p> <p>A most attractive house, quite apart from its historical associations with the Crozier family; happily purchased in 1968 by a public-spirited citizen, Mr. Lloyd Cowdy, with a view to the restoration of its exterior, in consultation with the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society.</p>	Archaeological Survey
10	CHURCH SQUARE Nos. 37/41		<p>Pleasant three-storey houses of c. 1830, stucco, with glazing bars, in some need of redecoration.</p>	

NO.	BUILDING	Category	DATE, TYPE, ARCHITECT, ETC.	References REFERENCES
11	"RIVERSIDE INN" Church Square		A dignified 3-storey Victorian stucco house of c. 1870, with a fine two-storeyed oriel bay and excellent floral keystones, recently debased by a garish and totally unsuitable ground floor refronting of the pub.	
12	Group: CHURCH STREET 4-10 Church Street	A	A series of fine terraces, dating from c. 1800 to c. 1850, 2-storey and 3-storey, some of them outstandingly well-painted, cheerful and attractive (especially Tyrella House); others still dreary in their carcasses of rendering, but capable of being made equally handsome.	
13	1-3 LEDLIE BUILDINGS, Church Street	B	A similar terrace, at present uninspiring; could be charming.	
14	LANCASTERIAN SCHOOL, Church Street	A	1826. Beautifully sited overlooking a rather neglected bend of the river, a real gem - though itself neglected too: until recently used as a youth club, it will soon be derelict unless restored. Two tall bays, with single sashed windows set in recessed arches, are linked by a two-storey central range behind a balcony borne on four Tuscan columns of granite. The building is of rubble, roughcast, in great need of re-whitewashing. The small incongruous brick addendum at the rear could easily be removed. It is greatly to be hoped that a new use can be found for the school before its condition deteriorates further.	Linn
15	OLD PRESBYTERIAN GRAVEYARD, Church Street	A	A good walled graveyard, sprinkled with yews (some dead or dying) containing many interesting memorials: in particular a number of slate slabs of the 1820s with incised lettering of unusual clarity and beauty, probably all from the same skilled hand; and an unusual memorial (to Samuel Waugh of Ballymoney) and surround all of wrought iron.	
16	Group: DROMORE STREET	B	This street, curving down to the river crossing, contains a number of good terraces of two- and three-storey houses and shops. No. 43 shows how much can be made of these houses by attractive painting; Nos. 15-23 are better than most, with unusual doorcases. Some have been demolished, but the survivors could, with a measure of sensitive restoration, provide a most attractive introduction to the town for south-bound travellers.	
17	BALLYMONEY HILL Nos. 6/22	B	A terrace of small 2-storey houses climbing with stepped gables up a steep hillside; there is considerable variety, but most are probably little later than 1800; they are for the most part whitewashed and cheerfully painted with variegated glazing-bar arrangements and doorways.	
18	ST. PATRICK'S R. C. CHURCH, Dromore Street	B	1841. A simple pointed blackstone facade, with four granite buttresses supporting pinnacles, and pointed windows, perched on a steep hill; started in 1839. Gallery a later addition; the interior redecorated in 1885. An uncommonly good plaster ceiling with unusual geometrical tracery and coved vaulting.	Linn
19	OLD PRIMARY SCHOOL, beside St. Patrick's Church	B	1858; a long low cottage-like schoolroom with twin gabled porches, each having charming curly barge-boards.	



No. 45, The Market House;
Above, Michael McGarigan's
original elevations in the Public
Record Office.

The Market House in the twenties;
the archways boarded-up, but
otherwise unspoiled.

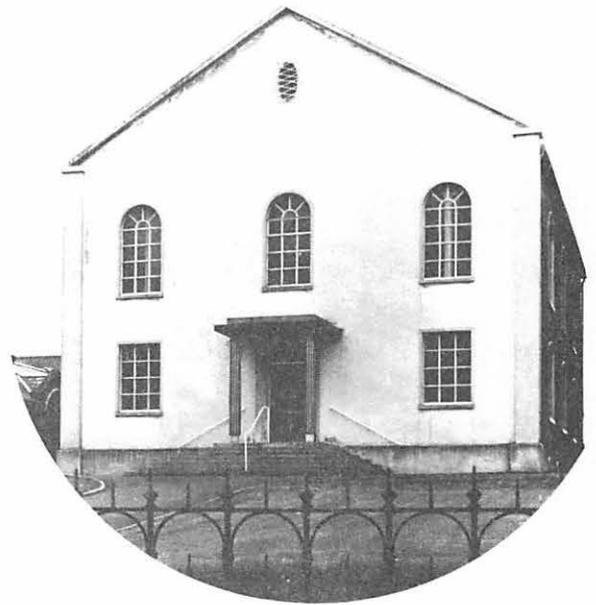
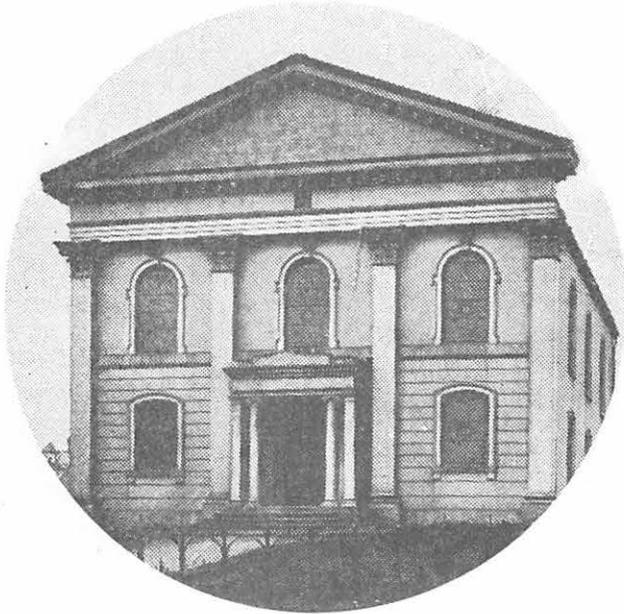
Below: the Market House to-day,
with air-raid siren above the coat
of arms, an ugly concrete slab on
each front, and plate-glass windows.



NO.	BUILDING	Category	DATE, TYPE, ARCHITECT, ETC.	REFERENCES
20	COBURNS, BROWN'S STORE Off Dromore Street		A pleasant courtyard of three-storeyed warehouses of various dates, once whitewashed, incorporating a three-storey brick dwelling-house of perhaps c. 1820 now dilapidated.	
21	BROOK LANE Off Dromore Street		Under an archway, a steep row of seven small whitewashed two-storey houses, tumble-down but still kept painted, with original glazing bars, and early iron corner lamp-bracket.	
22	"ENVILLE", now ELECTRICITY SHOWROOMS Castlewellan Road	A	c. 1845; An uncommonly finely built stucco large house, with horizontal rustication, fine bracketed granite doorcase, heavy straight dripstones above window architraves, and very delicately-detailed eaves with modillions and paterae. Now an Electricity Showroom. It is a great pity that a plate glass window was inserted into the facade, but its introduction has been effected with skill and sensitivity: two windows have been turned into one, and the moulding and sill skilfully carried through.	
23	'SOLITUDE' Off Castlewellan Road	B	A most attractive 3-storey and semi-basement narrow tall stucco house of c.1840, beautifully sited on an island between the river Bann and the mill-race, with access by a road bridge and a foot-bridge.	
24	BANNSIDE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Castlewellan Road	B	1866. The exterior distinctly strange; Italianate rendered facade, with too-tall pediment surmounted by curious tiny bell-less belfry in the baroque manner; the base of the pediment broken to admit broad recessed arch enclosing paired windows divided by a single column, and surmounting paired arched doorways. The interior much better: plain deal pews: gallery borne on four rather crude Tuscan columns: rather fine compartmented ceiling with feathery plaster rosettes in a sort of kind of Japanese-Rococo style.	Linn
25	COBURN'S WAREHOUSE, Castlewellan Road		A fine three-storey range of double-roofed warehouse, blackstone with brick dressings, retaining all glazing-bars complete, of c. 1850; built by Clibborn, Hill & Co; later William Walker; then Robinson & Cleaver.	ERR Green p 17
26	OLD BREWERY, Castlewellan Road	B	1840; 1853 converted to Bleachworks; now houses hens. A once-splendid range of 3-storey random blackstone originally built around a courtyard, the south wing now demolished. The central bay pedimented, with a simple but effective lozenge inset.	Linn
27	'BELMONT', Rathfriland Road	A	Datestone: "V.D.1853". A fine square two-storey merchant's mansion of horizontally rusticated golden freestone with tetrastyle Ionic portico; an excellent example of the Greek revival style at its late best.	
28	OUTBUILDINGS of BELMONT (now flats) overlooking Rathfriland Road		An impressive 9-bay range of three-storey buildings, plastered, well-sited to overlook the wooded slope down to the river.	
29	By DUNBAR'S BRIDGE	A	An attractive small 2-storey stucco house of c.1820, with good doorcase and fanlight, overlooking the river.	

NO.	BUILDING	Category	DATE, TYPE, ARCHITECT, ETC.	REFERENCES
30	ORANGE HALL, Victoria Street		1875, according to the reliable Linn; but bears the date 1881. A two-storey stucco building, with round-headed windows upstairs and a fine stucco swag of fruit between them in the centre. At present very dreary, but could look handsome if well repainted.	Linn
31	COURTHOUSE, Victoria Street	A	1873; by the County Surveyor, Henry Smyth, C. E.; builder, John Thompson of Belfast; cost £2,465. "The building, which is in the Gothic-Italian style of architecture, presents a handsome exterior". An opulent and individual Italianate extravaganza in stucco. The tall central block, with lower flanking wings, rises to a pyramidal apogee in the extraordinary chimney-casing, decorated with unexpected anthemion. The upper windows in the main block are round-headed, with large geometrical astragals; in the ground floor there are five large oculi, like overgrown portholes. There is a simpler courthouse-keeper's house at the rear.	Linn BNL 20 October 1873 Grand Jury Presentment Book 1872 p.66 PRONI LA 3/7/106
32	UNITARIAN CHURCH, Downshire Road	A	1846. Originally Presbyterian. One of the last and best of the classical Presbyterian Churches of Ulster: a splendid tetrastyle Ionic pedimented stucco portico raised on a granite plinth: in some need of repainting. The interior is extremely fine. The U-shaped gallery is carried on unusual slim green-painted cast-iron Roman Ionic columns. The box-pews (some upholstered) are excellent. There is a tall traditional pulpit with precentor's box below, reached by double curved flights of 13 stairs flanked by cast-iron balusters. The compartmented ceiling has an enormous feathered central rose. In the vestibule, there are twin curling staircases to the gallery; the floor is of ancient granite slabs; there is a good Ionic-aediculed memorial tablet by R. Love of Belfast. The detailing throughout is of the highest quality - e.g. the tip-ups on the curving seats in the corner pews in the gallery. This is a church quite unspoiled by the passage of time, and of particular merit.	Archaeological Survey Linn
33	METHODIST CHURCH, Downshire Road		1871. A plain pointed blackstone facade with five pinnacles and rudimentary battlements. The interior is exceedingly plain and severe.	Linn
34	BANN TERRACE (fronting towards Downshire Road; backing to Railway Street)	A	Two excellent three-storey houses of c.1800, five-bay, now rendered, with wide fanlights in three-opening pilastered doorcases, with glazing bars complete. Run down, but not beyond restoration.	

NO.	BUILDING	Category	DATE, TYPE, ARCHITECT, ETC.	REFERENCES
35	Group: BRIDGE STREET, THE CUT, and NEWRY STREET	A	<p>The individual character of Banbridge depends to a very great extent upon the cutting and flyover at the summit of the very steep hill over which the Dublin road passes, broad, dignified, and lined by congruous terraces all the way from the river crossing to the Downshire Arms Hotel. As Lewis described it in 1837:</p> <p>"In the centre of the principal street to the west of the river formerly stood the Market-house, a large and inconvenient building, which was taken down in 1832 to make way for a series of improvements. Prior to that period the street was very steep and difficult of access; but an excavation, 200 yards long and 15 feet deep, has been made along its centre, crossed by a handsome viaduct of one elliptic arch of hewn granite, under which the mail coaches and other vehicles pass. The street being very wide, a carriage road was left on each side of the excavation, running parallel with it and on a level with the ground floors. The houses, shops, and public buildings: these side roads are protected throughout their entire length by a stone wall rising from the bottom of the excavation to the height of three feet above their level.</p> <p>This great undertaking was completed in 1834, at an expense, including the erection of the viaduct and the formation of its approaches, of £19,000" - a phenomenal sum at that date.</p> <p>The bridge over the cut, (formerly known as 'The Jingler's Bridge' from a lady called 'The Lurgan Jingler' who kept an apple stall there) was rebuilt in 1885, and in 1892 rather prosaically renamed "Downshire Bridge". On the rebuilding, heavy iron lamp-standards, now surmounted by absurd modern lights, were added. The side-walls of the cutting have recently been adorned by protuberant strengthening-irons.</p> <p>Of the trees planted along Bridge Street and Newry Street in 1879 only the four rather lonely black poplars at the ends of the cut survive.</p>	Linn Archaeological Survey Lewis T.D. Rea
36	BRIDGE STREET	B	<p>On the bridge, there is a curious memorial fountain of 1906 to Dr. R. B. McClelland - a pink marble bowl, surmounted by a pink marble finial borne on black marble columns with white marble foliated capitals.</p> <p>There are many good terraces, houses, and shops, for the most part well and cheerfully decorated (a legacy of the Civic Trust Scheme of 1962), generally very well scaled, though some of the shop-fronts are unfortunate and garish. Only a few can be specially picked out from a generally very satisfying and harmonious street. It is worth noticing, and would be worth improving, the green and rural former railway cutting, full of weeds and songbirds, which threads its way in its steep stone cleft under Bridge Street.</p> <p>On the east side (odd numbers):</p>	Linn
37	BRIDGE STREET No. 5	B	<p>Excellent traditional shop-windows, especially the four-light window to the right, probably c.1820 and contemporary with the building, which has triple window-openings in the upper three storeys.</p>	
38	BRIDGE STREET No. 33	B	<p>A small thin 3-storey jeweller's shop squeezed between two squatter ones - vermiculated quoins: and a nice stucco eyebrow moulding over the clock set between the first-floor windows.</p>	



Above, No. 62, Scarva Street Church as it used to be, until its refronting in 1963; and as it is now, alas.

Contrast with this No. 32, the Unitarian Church, Downshire Road, below; both interior and exterior are distinguished, and quite unaltered.



NO.	BUILDING	Category	DATE, TYPE, ARCHITECT, ETC.	REFERENCES
39	BELFAST BANK HOUSE, 39 Bridge Street	B	A fine bulging High Victorian stucco house - (originally the house of Dr. R. B. McClelland)- of about 1880, with a heavy two-storey central oriel, the coupled central windows divided by columns, and four small stucco medallions of a Saracen's head with the motto "SANT QUI REPUTAT" - the McClelland crest and motto. Particularly good starry iron spikes to discourage loungers from leaning on the ground floor window-sills. Very well painted.	Information supplied by Mr. J. H. Rea.
40	BRIDGE STREET No. 47A		Good three-storey brick house of c.1830, with nice modest doorcase, set in an entry at right angles to the street.	
41	IVEAGH INN, 51 Bridge Street	A	A very good public-house facade of c.1875, 3-bay, 3-storey, with three tall pilasters (fancy capitals) and a high balustrade at the eaves; some pretty floral ornament; the ground floor triple-arched, rather ecclesiastical in feeling, admirably painted in imitation of red marble. The interior modernised, alas.	
42	HENDERSON'S STORE, behind No. 57 Bridge Street	A	C.1790. A fine 4-storey rubble and brick tall warehouse, formerly a water-powered flour mill, colour washed, the fenestration much altered but still good - especially intriguing in the rear gable.	O.S. E.R.R. Green
43	BRIDGE STREET, No. 69	A	A very nice modest 3-storey house of about 1810 with Doric doorcase, and particularly crisp later stucco rustication on the ground floor, especially the faceted quoins and voussoirs around the doorway. On the west side (even numbers):	
44	MARKET HOUSE, Bridge Street	B	1832; apparently by Michael McGarigan, whose elevations are in the Public Record Office. Cost the Marquis of Downshire £2,000; "a large and handsome edifice surmounted by a dome". Alas, much altered: also the dome was never more than a modest if charming cupola with clock - sensitively restored by T. T. Houston & Co. in 1949. A foursquare-plus building of random blackstone with heavy granite quoins at the corners and to the central projection; the Downshire coat of arms surmounts the central bay; it in its turn is surmounted by an ugly air-raid siren perched on an ugly platform. Segmental-headed windows in recessed arches with brick dressings fill the archways (originally open, save for arrow-headed railings) of the covered market, except at the corner where a perfectly horrible concrete slab with modern windows has been superimposed. On close inspection the building is a little disappointing; but it is the only one of the four corner-stones of the central crossing of Banbridge to retain any dignity: and the cupola alone makes it worth preserving or, better still, restoring to its original state. McGarigan's drawings would make this a simple task: could not the arches be re-opened and the covered space become a central meeting-place, home for notice-boards, and wet-weather clearing-house for the town gossip at present exchanged liberally at 'The Welcome', the stone coping outside?	Lewis Linn P.R.O.N.I. D 671 P

NO.	BUILDING	Category	DATE, TYPE, ARCHITECT, -ETC.	REFERENCES
45	BRIDGE STREET No. 6		3-storey stucco of c.1840, the paintwork peeling and with vegetation sprouting in the gutters, but a pleasant facade with rudimentary pilasters, the upper windows architraved, the ground floor horizontally rusticated; arched doorcases with Ionic columns; would repay repair and redecoration.	
46	BRIDGE STREET No. 24		c. 1880? Three storey grey stucco, the ground floor incongruously shopped; a central pediment and knobs on the roofline; pedimented windows on either side of two-storeyed recessed oriel, with appliqué plaster plaques of urns and foliage.	
47	ULSTER BANK		1904, by Lepper and Fennell of Belfast. On a slanted granite plinth, an Ionic ground floor facade, with brick above; a modest but not unpleasing academic exercise in the classical manner.	1904 IB 40
48	NEWRY STREET		On the whole, of rather less decided character than Bridge Street, and more invaded by discordant shop-fronts; but still in general cheerful and harmonious. On the west side (even numbers):	
49	NEWRY STREET Nos. 6/8	B	c.1860. A five-bay three-storey stucco block, the windows eccentrically spaced, the part of the ground floor unshopped having fine crisp stucco mouldings (with floral ornament) outlining doorway and paired windows.	
50	NEWRY STREET Nos. 10/12		c.1855; Three-storey painted brick, with dormers and square architraves, and very pleasing frilly cast-iron ornament at gutter level.	
51	NEWRY STREET 16/20; 48/50; 56; 58/62; 64/68; 72		All good plain two or three-storey stucco terrace houses of pleasant proportions and seemly appearance. Bambrick's saddler's shop at No. 56 is particularly atmospheric and pleasing.	
52	POPLAR ROW Off Newry Street		A steeply-descending terrace of two-storey brick cottagey houses, once whitewashed, of c.1800; stepped gables and glazing bars; the alleyway cobbled; more atmospheric than comfortable. At the rear, a strange gaunt coffin-like coffin-factory in tarred wood of suitably mourning hue. On the east side (odd numbers):	
53	COBURN'S SHOP, Newry Street	B	c.1850; pleasant three-storey stucco, four-bay, with pretty bargeboards to gables, and (until June 1969) very nice ground-floor window-bars of hoops and fleurs-de-lys with good gilt lettering. Alas, an excellent front, which could ill be spared, swept thoughtlessly away: why was planning permission given for this?	
54	NEWRY STREET Nos. 45/47		A three-storey stucco block of c.1830, with stone quoins; and very curious cubist neo-Gibbsian rusticated window architrave added when new windows inserted (between the wars perhaps?) Surprisingly effective, if architecturally unconventional.	

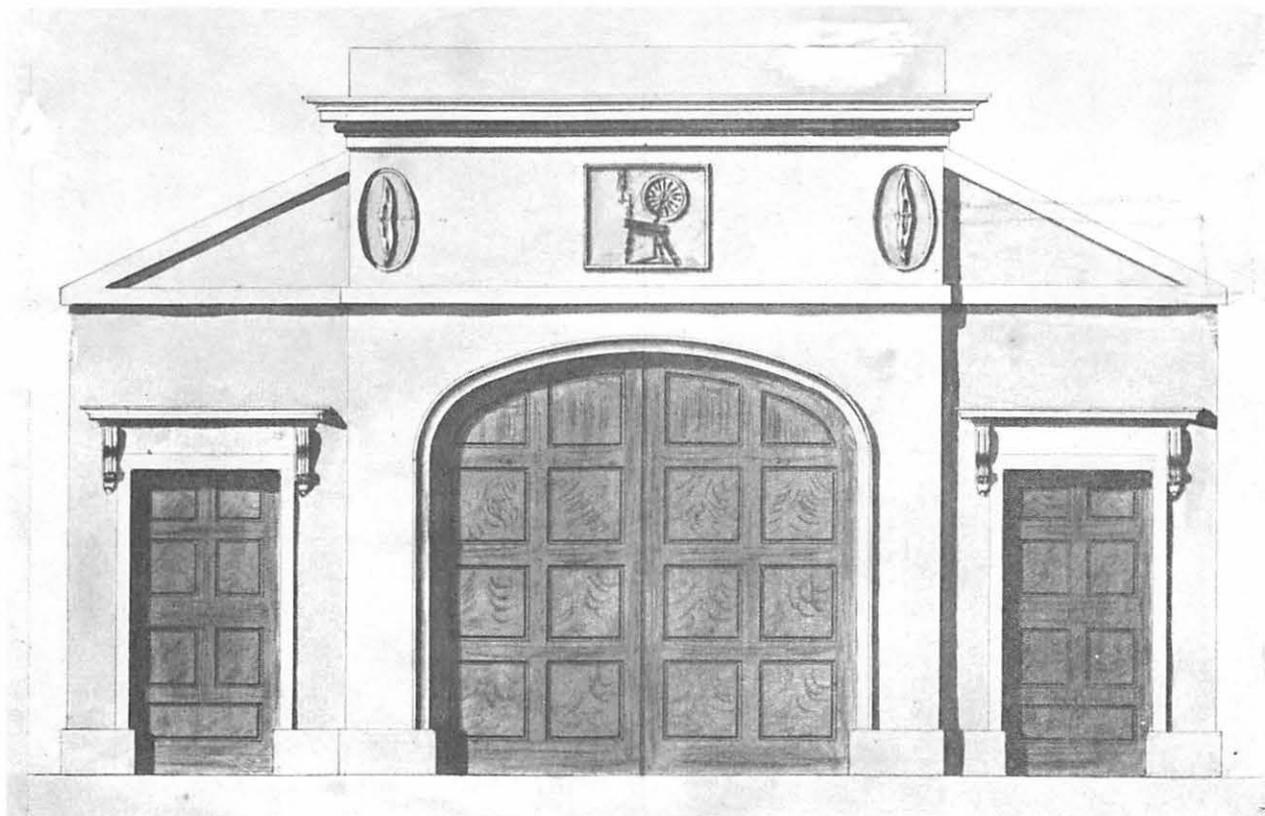
NO.	BUILDING	Category	DATE, TYPE, ARCHITECT, ETC.	REFERENCES
55	NEWRY STREET No. 87		A pleasing little 2-storey dwelling with original glazing-barred shop window incorporated in a single unit with the doorway.	
56	DOWNSHIRE ARMS HOTEL, Newry Street	A	<p>1816. An excellent example of a Georgian coaching inn, two-storey, painted plaster, with hipped roof.</p> <p>In 1804 Robert Sharland of Hillsborough, estimating for repairing and rebuilding the old inn on the same site, wrote "The Inn is at present in a most wretched condition, the roof ready to fall, the Offices nearly down, the Barn and most of the outhouses propped, and only two 8 Horse stables in a state to remain which are badly thatched and will require to be slated and fitted up anew with Racks, Mangers, Doors, etc." The rebuilding was not then proceeded with; further drawings by David McBlain and by Charles Lilley, dating from 1810, are amongst the Downshire Estate papers in the Public Record Office; but the present building does not accord with any of these.</p> <p>The Inn has two projecting bays, with recessed arches enclosing one- or three-light windows, connected by a balcony borne on four tall fluted Doric columns: beneath is a wide and welcoming doorway with a fine nine-barred shallow fanlight, and side lights, set in a pilastered frame.</p> <p>At the rear there is a charming broad cobbled courtyard surrounded by good slated and whitewashed stables, coach-houses and outbuildings, very little altered.</p>	Archaeological Survey Linn PRON D 671 P
57	WAR MEMORIAL	A	c.1920; by F. W. Pomeroy. Much better than most such memorials; a Portland stone obelisk surmounted by a bronze soldier cheering and raising his helmet; four vigorous inset bronze reliefs (also by Pomeroy) of 'Le Cateau, August 26th, 1914'; 'In the Trenches'; 'The Great Attack, 1916'; and 'Defending the Flag'.	
58	MORTONS' WAREHOUSE, Commercial Road	B	Various dates; a towering range of grey-washed brick. One bay four-storey, with enormous ornamental tie-bars; a peaked pulley-gable in the centre; the other bay three-storey. Some good iron window-bars.	
59	TERRACE, 1/10 Commercial Road	B	c.1840; very pleasing two-storey brick terrace, well-pointed, with central archway and passage to rear; No. 4 burned out.	
60	CROWN POST OFFICE AND TELEPHONE EXCHANGE, Scarva Street	B	<p>1938: T. F. O. Ripplingham, chief architect, Ministry of Finance. The neo-classical grey-brick style at its most successful. Three-storey, with recessed arched windows on ground floor, an attic storey tucked under the eaves, and pantiles; with a fine pompous stone flagstaff - holder over the door.</p> <p>The architect deserves credit for his carefully neighbourly attitude to the Market-house next door.</p>	
61	THE FIRST AND LAST PUB, 28 Scarva Street		c.1840; three-storey stucco, the ground floor a strong and effectively simple composition of three segmental-headed windows in heavy architraves: recently rather well redecorated though the strip sign is inappropriate.	



Right: No. 14,
the Lancasterian School,
Church Street - a delightful
riverside setting only 250
yards from Church Square.

Above: No. 67, the curious
wedge-shaped house at
78 Rathfriland Street.

Below: "Elevation of the
entrance to the Linnen Market
for the Town of Banbridge in
the County Down" - drawing by
Charles Lilley in the Public
Record Office.



NO.	BUILDING	Category	DATE, TYPE, ARCHITECT, ETC.	REFERENCES
62	PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Scarva Street	B	<p>1830; extensively altered by Young & Mackenzie of Belfast 1877; stained glass windows 1900; renovated 1907; organ inserted and alterations made to accommodate it in 1920, W. W. Larmor C. E.; the fine Corinthian pilastered and pedimented facade, and Ionic porch, were, incredibly, demolished in 1963. A perfectly horrible new porch with slatted pretences at columns was substituted, and the facade now looks grotesque.</p> <p>Fortunately the interior remains, rather broad but well-proportioned; there is a fine gallery on cast-iron columns, fronted with red baize behind curious bellied cast-iron balusters. This, the good varnished pews, and the pitch-pine ceiling, date from the 1877 restoration. There are some pleasant marble memorials in the vestibule.</p> <p>The adjacent schoolhouse of 1858 was "built by the congregation themselves, without architect or contractor", and - all things considered - does them credit.</p>	<p>Boyd Linn</p> <p>Linn</p>
63	Former PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHURCH; now GARAGE.	A	<p>1830. A very finely-proportioned peeling stucco pedimented facade, making even in its present state a major contribution to the streetscape. Pediment with blank oculus; four plain pilasters; door and windows altered; inscription "Primitive Methodist Meeting House 1830" now almost effaced.</p>	
64	SCARVA STREET Nos. 85/93		<p>c.1835; A strange terrace of small houses, dipping sharply, No. 93 with an astonishingly low doorway no more than 5 feet high; 91 and 93 two-storey, the rest single storey; Nos. 85/87 whitewashed and fashionably painted in tangerine.</p>	
65	RATHFRILAND STREET		<p>This street contains a number of good traditional two and three-storey stucco houses and shops; Nos. 3/7 comprise a sound and solid 3-storey block incorporating a regency shop-window; No. 13 has an uncommon fanlight and half-door; Nos. 21/23 are particularly good, with shop-type windows on the ground floor.</p> <p>Nos. 6, 16, and 29 are all narrow houses attractively painted.</p>	
66	RATHFRILAND STREET Nos. 52/78	B	<p>c.1830; a pleasant terrace of 2-storey houses, built on a wedge-shaped strip of land adjoining the former railway line; No. 73 ends almost in a point, like a slice of cake, half the roof jutting out over thin air, supported only by a pretty curling iron bracket. These houses have an uncommonly high ratio of window-space to wall for their period.</p>	
67	VICTORIA HOUSE Newry Road		<p>Perhaps c. 1810; a four-bay block, two-storey and basement, now stuccoed, a splendid Doric granite doorcase inside the very solid porch; architraves, and glazing-barred windows.</p>	
68	BEECHVALE Newry Road		<p>Perhaps c. 1835; a stuccoed farmhouse, with quoins, architraved windows, a pleasant fanlight with a central circle, and a doorway with side lights surrounded by cable moulding; Victorian bay windows have been added on the ground floor.</p>	

BANBRIDGE

Revision 1980

Although the town has changed, architecturally the past ten years have been a success story. Inevitably there have been losses, regretted but necessary for meaningful progress and there is compensation in the quality of replacements and restorations. The Civic Buildings and the infill structure of the Northern Bank differ widely in design but each is appropriate for situation and purpose.

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive has been very active providing an above-average development in the Scarva Street–Riley Street area, subtly coloured in the original and detailed manner which presaged the groups of houses which are being knit so successfully into the fabric of our towns. Selection of a Georgian idiom for the Dromore Street housing was a bold stroke. Excellent restoration schemes have been achieved on the Court House in Victoria Street and on Scarva Street Presbyterian Church. There are other improvements throughout the town, in particular the adaptation for a new use of the Iveagh Inn.

In series with Hillsborough and Dromore, Banbridge now has a by-pass. There is little traffic in the through lanes but the remainder of the town is still very busy. The character of Bridge Street and Newry Street has been altered by the modern impedimenta which continue the lines of the walls of the Cut. This is necessary to provide safe shopping areas where, now that vigilance has been relaxed, there are occasional traffic jams and also unfortunately an occasional explosion.

It is doubtful if the continuing volume of traffic around Church Square will permit much softening of the present furnishings but the merit of the buildings and their relationships one to another justifies every effort to achieve an appropriate setting. The result could be as fine as anything elsewhere in the country provided that restraint is exercised in the number of materials employed. At present special attention is being paid to proposals within the square pending designation as a conservation area.

A number of buildings have been listed by the Department of the Environment and Listed Building Consent is required before these structures may be altered or demolished. Work necessary to retain the original character may be considered for grant assistance and schemes have been completed or are in progress within the town and surrounding area.

Extensive car parking has been provided behind the main street frontage. Development of the riverside is in progress and a portion has been attractively landscaped. The scheme includes a single-pylon suspension bridge and a two-tier amenity block.

- P5/Item 1 – As recommended the parapets of the Bann Bridge have been removed. Views over the new railings are at present disappointing but considerable enhancement promises to result on completion of improvements to the river banks.
- P7/Item 6 – The R.U.C. station is partly-obscured by the now familiar outworks and more are in progress.
- P7/Item 7 – Sadly the area of cobble stones in the angle of the square has gone.
- P7/Item 8 – Rather harsh rendering has been substituted for the traditional plaster finish of Burnleigh.
- P7/Item 9 – Restoration of Crozier House took place as planned and the building has been decorated for the second time to an excellent colour-scheme by the Borough Council.
- P8/Item 14 – A comprehensive restoration scheme is vitally necessary for the former Lancasterian School. Minor repairs have barely been sufficient to arrest decay.
- P8/Item 16 – Little remains in original form of Dromore Street but the replacement terraces of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive follow the same sweeping lines. These neo-Georgian houses are well detailed and forecourts are furnished with railings, cast square-sets and planting. Surprisingly the backs of the houses are entirely modern. Some idea of what could have been the future of the street may be seen in recent alterations to the remaining houses.
- P8/Item 17 – The Ballymoney Hill houses have been replaced.
- P8/Item 19 – The Old Primary School has been demolished.
- P10/Item 21 – Brook Lane has been demolished to make way for the new housing the distinction of which appears to merit the more stylish spelling of Brooke Terrace and Gardens.
- P10/Item 24 – Bannside Presbyterian Church has been embellished with two sets of remarkable hammered bronze doors which more than make up for the dull masonry paint which has been applied to the front.
- P10/Item 27 – Single-storey extensions, part of the adaptation of Belmont to a hotel, are grey and uninteresting at present. Painting to match the main building would help.
- P10/Item 29 – Upper windows of the house by Dunbar's Bridge have been up-dated, still sashed but of different proportion.
- P11/Item 31 – A meticulous restoration of the Court House involved rebuilding of cornices and parapets; the interior is very fine. One of a series of rehabilitations carried out by Works Division of the Department of Finance. Between the Court and the Orange Hall, a terrace of six restored houses odd without chimney pots and with painted plastic gutters but otherwise a decided asset.
- P11/Item 32 – A decent colour scheme for the Unitarian Church. Too many hues included but a nice thought in the bright porch ceiling.
- P11/Item 34 – Bann Terrace has been demolished.
Redevelopment within the north-west sector of the town includes the swimming pool and fire station but there is nothing more surprising than the Civic Building, a full-blown classical concept in load-bearing brickwork with cast stone details all fronted with an impressive portico. Architect, Maurice H. Ferguson. A Community Centre is under construction re-using the old railway goods shed and there will also be an open-air, flood-lit, display area.

- P12/Item 35 – The parapets of the bridge over the Cut have also been replaced by railings providing improved sight-lines. The McClelland fountain now stands in Reilly Street.
- P12/Item 37 – An artificial stone, aluminium and plastic replacement shopfront has destroyed the character of No. 5 Bridge Street.
- P14/Item 39 – Regrettably the Belfast Bank House has had to give way to a new banking hall. The modern design respects the proportions of the street and the materials, including a natural slated roof, have been carefully chosen. Altogether a model of what may be achieved.
- P14/Item 41 – A fine restoration and new use for the former Iveagh Inn as part of a house-furnishing premises.
- P14/Item 42 – Henderson's Store is in process of demolition.
- P15/Item 45 – Another inappropriate shopfront in Bridge Street at No. 6.
- P15/Item 49 – A square modern replacement for Nos. 6/8 Newry Street.
- P15/Item 50 – Progressive loss of character at Nos. 10/12 Newry Street. Shopfronts are modern and one building has night-vent windows.
- P15/Item 51 – Casements divided into eighteen panes have been substituted for twelve-pane sashes in a pair of buildings in Newry Street.
- P15/Item 52 – Poplar Row has been shorn of detail and little atmosphere remains.
- P15/Item 54 – Plastic Fascias contrast with neighbouring hand-painted signs.
- P16/Item 55 – An out-of-scale shopfront.
- P16/Item 56 – The Downshire Arms has succumbed to progress, plastic gutters have been fitted and the windows have a stained finish.
- P16/Item 58 – Morton's Warehouse has been reconstructed.
- P16/Item 59 – 1/10 Commercial Road has been demolished.
- P16/Item 61 – The addition of a scagliola finish to the front of the First and Last Pub was unnecessary.
- P18/Item 62 – Astoundingly the facade of Scarva Street Presbyterian Church has reverted to the pre-1963 appearance. Architect, Robert McKinstry.
- P18/Item 63 – The Primitive Methodist Church has been demolished.
- P18/Item 64 – Nos. 85/93 Scarva Street have also been cleared away to accommodate the housing scheme.
- P18/Item 65 – Lack of attention to detail has resulted in total loss of character of No. 21 Rathfriland Street.
- P18/Item 66 – Nos. 52/78 Rathfriland Street have been demolished.
- P18/Item 67 – Victoria House has been attractively re-decorated.
- P18/Item 68 – The scheme at Beechvale is marred by use of plastic gutters and felted bays.

ULSTER ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE SOCIETY



The two gentlemen above are hard at work compiling a List for North Down; print of Rockport House, seat of John Turnley, Esq., by Edward Proctor, 1832.

The interests of the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society extend, in time, from the very earliest structures, through those of the Georgian and Victorian periods, to the very latest in contemporary architecture; and in space, throughout the nine counties of the province of Ulster. Its objects are: to promote the appreciation and enjoyment of good architecture of all periods; to encourage the preservation of buildings and groups of artistic merit or historic importance; and to encourage public awareness and appreciation of the beauty, history and character of local neighbourhoods.

Membership of the Society costs £4 a year; for those under 25, £2; life membership, £60; corporate membership, £20 a year, or £100 for ten years. Members receive half-yearly reports, may take part in architectural outings, social events, and lectures, and also enjoy the privilege of buying the Society's publications by post at a 25% discount. Publications to date include:

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