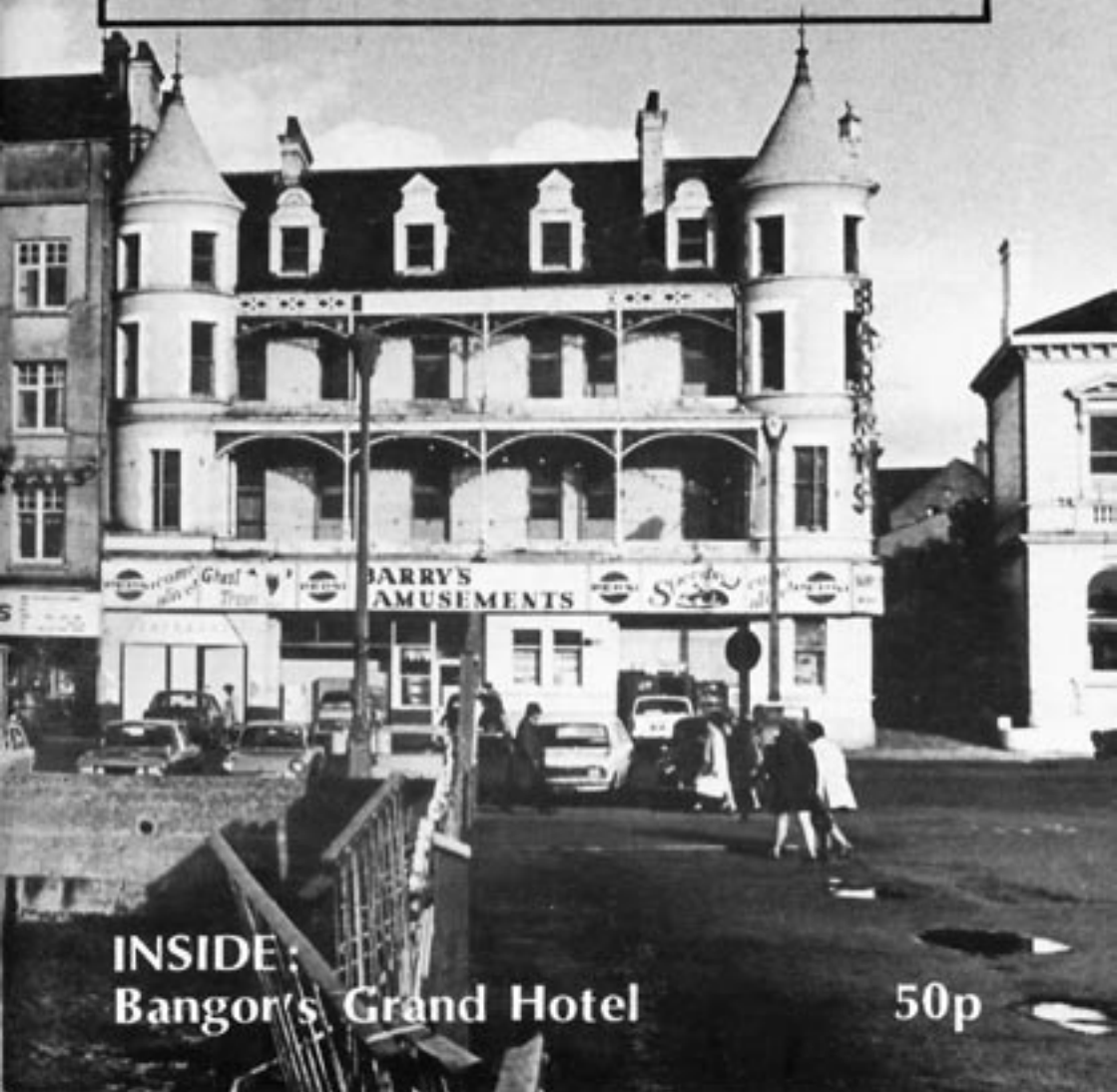


No 1

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Heritage Newsletter



INSIDE:
Bangor's Grand Hotel

50p

The Ulster Architectural Heritage Society exists to promote the appreciation and enjoyment of good architecture of all periods - from the prehistoric to the contemporary - in the nine counties of Ulster; to encourage the preservation and restoration of buildings of merit or importance;

and to increase public awareness of the beauty, history and character of local neighbourhoods. This newsletter outlines some of the major activities of the Society over the last year.

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Staff:

Elizabeth Cavanagh (*Secretary*)

Denis Vance (*Manager, ACE Team*)

Our front cover photograph, taken in 1968 by H A Patton, shows Barry's Amusements in Bangor (see p.8). The back cover shows 53-59 Camden Street, Belfast, restored by Hearth Housing Association in 1983 (see p.24).

Photographs and drawings are by members of committee except where stated; contributions are by John Lewis-Crosby, Ian Gailey, Marion Meek, Marcus Patton and Keith Jeffreys.

Editorial

In the sixteen years of its existence, the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society has campaigned vigorously on behalf of the province's built environment. The first thrust of the Society's work was to achieve legislative protection for historic buildings equivalent to that in England, which has now largely been achieved. We have always endeavoured to protect specific buildings and townscapes throughout the province, and this newsletter chronicles some of our more recent cases. In the last few years we have come to feel that the burden of our work however should be more educational, since the best basis for a good environment is a public that knows and cares about its surroundings.

This newsletter, which we hope initially to bring out on an annual basis, is part of this effort to reach a wider public. As well as being distributed free to members, this is going on sale in newsagents where we hope it will find its way to other readers concerned about Ulster's built environment. We hope that they will wish to become members too, but initially will be well satisfied if the newsletter simply acts as a focus for their thoughts.

So often we hear "I didn't know that building was going to come down", "If I'd known that house was for sale, I'd have been glad to restore it", "I didn't know I could object to planning applications", "Do you remember such and such a lovely house that used to be there"... The extent of concern for the loss of our heritage is very widespread, but too many people assume that "progress" is inevitable, and take an apathetic attitude. We hope this will encourage them to speak out, either to us - we are always glad to take up any worthwhile cases drawn to our attention - or to their local councillors and planners.

Progress is a word that often seems to require inverted commas around it; it has come to stand in many people's eyes not for the brave new world forecast after the war, but for blandly commercial developments with a facelessness entirely appropriate to the year 1984. Progress wasn't always so uninteresting, and with the technology available to us now it certainly doesn't need to be. Microchip technology also means that old buildings can be adapted to new uses much more conveniently and economically than used to be the case in the days of mainframe computers and giant typing pools. Let us hope that 1984 may prove a turning point for progress!

The Ace Team



In May last year the Society took a major initiative when it appointed Denis Vance as manager of a small team of building workers, financed by the Action for Community Employment (ACE) scheme of the Department of Economic Development, to carry out holding repairs to vacant or derelict listed buildings in the province.

The scheme had been first mooted the previous year, but took a considerable time to set up and finance; under ACE the wages of the team are met up to 90% of an approved limit by Manpower Services, with the Society responsible for administration, materials and overheads, and the remaining 10% of wages. Since this could still have represented a considerable drain on our modest resources, we had to obtain the backing of the Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch of the DoE, who agreed to underwrite any loss on approved projects, and in addition the owners of buildings are asked to make a contribution. Once Denis had been appointed we were in a position to approach potential "customers", and in June he and his team of joiner, slater and two labourers started work at the old Sullivan School in Holywood.

The intention of the scheme is not basically to restore buildings, but to carry out the stitch in time that "mothballs" buildings until such time as they can be restored - repairs to roofs, gutters and downpipes, blocking or boarding up to repel vandalism, stripping out and treating dry rot, urgent structural repairs and shoring. In the case of two buildings so far it has also involved extensive clearing out of debris, pigeons, winos and old clothes, but we have been very fortunate in recruiting a team which is hard-working and

enthusiastic. Much of the work is unpleasant, but the members of the team do feel that they are performing a useful service and all have acquired a keen interest in historic buildings!

At Sullivan School the work, which consisted mainly of stripping out, roof and gutter repairs, reglazing and treatment of fairly severe dry rot, was largely financed by the Library Board, which owns the building and plans to use it as a library in due course. The neglect of the building over some years had resulted in rising costs for its rehabilitation however, and there was a distinct question mark over its future. The efforts of the team over some three months have certainly enthused the Board, and it is considering the possibility of a second phase of ACE work next year to re-roof the building and ensure that it is properly "enveloped". Its future cannot yet be regarded as assured, but it is certainly very much rosier than it was a year ago.

The team's next project was a true holding repair at a listed building in Church Street, Omagh, which was lying open and vandalised, and the subject of a demolition order. A week's work secured the building and satisfied Building Control that the house was no longer dangerous. It is now mothballed and awaiting a new use, and negotiations with several interested parties are under way at present.

A short scheme at the old Poor Law Hospital in Lisnaskea in September ensured the future of a portion of the large building which we re-roofed and has now we understand found a new occupant; and an old lighterman's dwelling and workshop on the Newry Canal near Portadown has been re-roofed in advance of more extensive restoration by Craigavon Council to use the building as a museum.

In Glenarm, a short scheme cleared ivy and trees from the Barbican entrance to the Castle, reglazed and painted windows and the enormous doors. The building had been vacant for many years, but Lord Dunluce is now to take it over for use as an Estate Office.

The team carried out an urgent holding scheme at the Barry's Amusements building in Bangor at the request of the Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch as can be read elsewhere in this newsletter. There have also been minor repairs at other properties, and many others have been costed and are on the waiting list. The scheme is funded by ACE for two years, but we are convinced that this form of prompt positive action is essential to save threatened buildings, and we are very actively seeking ways to continue the work of this team on a permanent basis.

The Last Picture Show?

In the course of the Society's outing to Bangor in 1981, attention was drawn to two buildings in particular in the town which were not listed but were obviously important and both under some threat. They must now be regarded as fighting for survival, but both have been given the protection of statutory listing, which gives them some breathing space, and the Society has been actively involved in negotiations to find a future for both. They are Barry's Amusements, which is dealt with elsewhere in this newsletter, and the Tonic Cinema.

Ulster is not rich in art deco or thirties buildings, and with many of the picture houses, which were among the most vigorous examples of the building of that era, now demolished, the Tonic is not only our finest surviving cinema building, but also one of our best Thirties buildings. For too many people it still has an outmoded or even ugly appearance, and its sweeping streamlined curves have lost the first excitement that bowled over the people of Bangor when the Tonic arrived, redolent of "the modernistic, but not the modernistic that appals", as the Co Down Spectator reported when it opened its doors in 1936.

Deriving its name from the Tonic Bus Co which took visitors round the coast for bracing doses of Donaghadee air, the Tonic was designed by John McBride Neill, a young architect making something of a speciality of cinemas, and its deco interior and Compton organ were all in situ till the cinema changed hands some fifteen years ago. The organ is well looked after at a local school, but the rest of the interior was gutted in the late sixties.

The owners applied for permission to convert it to a supermarket in 1982; the Society did not object to the use as such, but pointed out that subdivision of the building to form a 3-in-1 cinema, or even to combine a cinema with a more profitable use, would be feasible. The large balcony could become a cinema in its own right, with access from the existing foyer, and possibly with associated use of the first floor restaurant, flats and ground floor shops. This would still leave a large space with access from the side and rear suitable for adaptation to warehousing, supermarket, or any other such use, and there is no shortage of adjacent carparking.

At the time of the 1982 application the building was listed, and the planners refused permission for the supermarket; the cinema closed its doors last autumn, and at present its future is uncertain. The North Down Borough Council is contemplating its use as an entertainments centre, and certainly a town the size of Bangor should be capable of supporting a small cinema; it is hoped that some entrepreneur will realise its potential.



Glenmachan House

In the mid and late 19th century, Belfast was a wealthy city whose merchants could afford luxurious mansions. In our own century many of these have been torn down to make way for roads or housing estates, and one of the last of the really big houses still to be privately occupied was Glenmachan House on the Old Hollywood Road. Built about 1870 for Sir William Ewart of the cotton-spinning family, it was lived in till about five years ago by Mrs Forrest, a granddaughter of Sir William, who retained the elegance and splendour of the Victorian interiors, and kept the surrounding estate well maintained.

The house is a vast two-storey classical stucco building rambling round an internal courtyard and forming the setting for a stupendous conservatory whose cast-iron barley-sugar columns double as downpipes. On the death of Mrs Forrest the contents were sold off and the house with its 20-acre site put on the market with a rather extravagant price-tag. No measures appear to have been taken to put a caretaker into or otherwise protect the property, and, particularly over the last eighteen months, vandalism set in and has irrevocably damaged fine woodwork and plasterwork, while fireplaces and timber have been stolen.

The Society is convinced that there was a good future for the building five years ago, perhaps as a prestigious hotel, or for conversion into fine flats or maisonettes, and feels that there has been to some extent a failure of the legislation here. We are pressing for the establishment of a permanent local "Architectural Heritage Fund" to assist such restorations and conversions, more flexible vesting powers for derelict listed property, and for more stringent use of Repairs Notices.

The shell of the building is still sound however, and for an entrepreneur interested in gutting it and restoring only the exterior, this remains a fine and well-situated building. But if you are interested, act fast!

Does Anyone Remember Belfast?

Possibly the most contentious issue which the Society has become involved in over the last year has been one that involves no conservation area and hardly any listed buildings, but nevertheless affects much of the central area of Belfast. It concerns the proposals drawn up by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive for the improvement of the large numbers of unfit houses remaining in the city, proposals which were placed before the City Council as a new Belfast Renewal Strategy about a year ago.

At that time forty five redevelopment areas (RDAs) and comprehensive development areas (CDAs) had already been declared and their implementation had resulted in the rebuilding of large swathes of late 19th-century housing in the Shankill, Crumlin, Grosvenor Road, Sandy Row and Donegall Pass areas during the seventies. Some of this demolition is still proceeding, and throughout the last decade the world's press has been able to use photographs of it to illustrate the "blitzed" city of Belfast, often apparently quite unaware that their photographs showed the result of demolition for new housing and roads. The new housing has now largely been built up, and very good some of it is too. It was something of a disappointment then to the Executive that its plans for yet more Brave New Belfast should have been thrown out so vigorously by the Belfast City Council, and objected to so vociferously by many residents' groups.

Aware that there was a need for housing improvements in the city on a scale probably unparalleled anywhere in the UK, the Society had stood on the sidelines during the first phase of redevelopment; large areas were changing, it was hoped for the better, but the problem was an urgent one, and the Housing Executive was carrying out rehabilitation alongside the new building: it could be seen as a drastic medicine for a chronic ailment. But this time round, the ailment could not be seen as being so severe, and the UAHS has given its backing to several residents' groups objecting to the plan, as well as presenting the Housing Executive with a long list of serious objections to a continuation of its policy of redevelopment areas as opposed to more gradual improvement and renewal.

The Executive's Strategy is a lengthy document that is impossible to cover here in detail, but the inclusion of a further forty-two redevelopment areas (albeit mostly smaller than the original ones) to an already redeveloped inner-city housing core, and the extension of these RDAs into relatively well-off areas capable of generating their own improvements forms the gist of the problem. As a philosopher once remarked, when looking at his much-darned

socks, they had changed a lot, but they were still his socks. When this issue of identity-despite-change was applied to Belfast by our Chairman in the course of a meeting with officials of the Housing Executive, the immediate response of one of their officers was, "Does your wife still *darn* your socks?" It would appear that the Executive has entered the age of disposability, and expects us to throw out our old buildings when they need repairs!

It is much easier to argue the case for retention of old buildings when they are listed and officially "historic", than it is to persuade people to retain fairly ordinary or "typical" buildings. There is nothing rare about two-up and two-down brick terrace housing in Belfast - yet. But the acres of simple artisan's dwellings which were the pride of Belfast at the end of the 19th century - and indeed the envy of many other towns - have been so decimated by redevelopment that they may indeed become rare, and historic.

The gist of our argument has therefore not been on architectural or historic grounds but simply that the houses, while being unfit, are in no way incapable of improvement to become fit - Belfast has never had the 'back to back' housing that formed terrible slums in many British cities. Sanitary improvements, general building repairs, replacement of wornout fittings or wiring, upgrading of kitchens, elimination of damp - all these elements of 'unfitness' can be dealt with as straightforward repairs and do not require wholesale demolition. It is also far cheaper to deal with unfitness in this way - the Abbey National Building Society recently improved a show house in Donnybrook Street for £14,000 including the price of purchase; a new house costs nearly twice this to build.

There are several arguments against rehabilitation which have been quoted frequently and, in our opinion, erroneously, by the proponents of new-build, and which we have attempted to puncture. The favourite is that old houses are too small for modern families: we have pointed to the apparently enormous demand identified by spec builders for even one-bedroom houses for the young, the old, the single and the modest.

Have you ever heard the favourite housing statistic that a new building has a life of sixty years and a rehab a life of only thirty? And did you then wonder why Belfast City Hall continues to be a sound and well-loved building after seventy years while Divis Flats may be demolished after twenty? Thirty-year life is an economic statistic related to the duration of loans made available for improvement work as opposed to the longer loans negotiated for new building, yet these economic lives are frequently quoted as if they were physical ones.

Some new building is necessary in any healthy city, and we have often complimented the Housing Executive on the quality of its new buildings. But redevelopment areas have a damaging blighting effect on neighbouring sound housing stock, where people become reluctant to take up improvement grants; and the slow progress of tackling complete areas instead of replacing only the worst housing means that people remaining in proposed RDAs live in appalling conditions for some years until they are rehoused.

We have had some useful discussions with the Housing Executive about this question, and realise that they themselves have their hands tied by legislation which obliges them to "deal" with unfit housing, often within very stringent cost limits set by the DoE. We hope to make a submission in the new year to present the DoE with problems both we and the Housing Executive would like to overcome, such as how listed buildings and terraces such as Joy Street or 85-91 Antrim Road may in future be restored rather than demolished, and we hope that our criticisms will have constructive results.

Annalong Mill

After many years of uncertainty the future of the little Corn Mill at Annalong Harbour seems assured. Just before and after the death of Tommy Hamilton, the last miller, the property was heavily vandalised, with the kilns and much of the ancillary machinery wrecked and the roof damaged.

The rescue came from Newry & Mourne District Council, whose Councillors decided that there should be a Marine Park to the North of the Harbour, and the mill fell within the take of the land. At first there was talk of restaurants and museums, but many of the Councillors realised that they had something unique on their hands and, following a consultant's report, it was decided to promote an ACE scheme with the assistance of the Department of Economic Development. A small work team was formed early in 1983 under the leadership of Dr Fred Hammond who had acted as foreman for a similar ACE scheme restoring the mills at Marybrook. Our Chairman was invited to act as consultant, and the team has made good progress. To date the roof has been replaced, the kiln largely rebuilt, and new floors installed. Next year will see work on the actual machinery, much of which will have to be replaced from other derelict mills, and eventually it is proposed to open the mill to the public, and, perhaps, produce stone ground wheaten meal.

St. Michael's New Quarters

The old Water Office building in Donegall Square North built in 1886-9 as Richardson, Sons and Owden's Linen Warehouse by Lanyon, Lynn & Lanyon, is currently being refurbished by Marks and Spencer to form an extension to their store in Royal Avenue, and the Society has welcomed this new use for the building.

It was less happy with the initial plans to leave a flat roof on the building and suggested that the opportunity be taken to restore the elaborate roofscape of ironwork, chimneys and dormers that graced it before the Blitz, but compromise has been reached in that a correctly pitched roof will go back, hiding the ugly lift machinery that would otherwise have cluttered the flat roof.

Robinson & Cleaver's

While Marks and Sparks are in the ascendant, the old order of Robinson & Cleaver's goes down on 10 March this year, when after ninety years trading as a prestigious department store, this business will close. It is frustrating to speculate whether Marks and Spencers might have considered taking the building over had it come on the market earlier, and been able to retain the sumptuous ground floor of Robinsons as a department store; in the event it has been acquired by a consortium of local businessmen who plan to convert it into a number of ground floor shops with offices over, and it is reported that there is a very considerable interest from English chain-stores wanting a part of the action.

The new owners appear likely to remove the grand marble staircase which Young and Mackenzie put in as the focal point of the great store in 1888; this will be almost inevitable if the proposed conversion is into smaller units, but if one large store could retain most of the ground floor it may still be kept. If it is to be removed, its salvage should certainly be made a condition of the planning permission. The building is listed, so that exterior alterations will be kept to a minimum, and the Society will comment on them when the plans become available. It would be pleasant to see the fine Victorian lettering of the shop fascia reproduced in the names of the new shops occupying the building, and is it too much to hope that tinted glass will be considered an unnecessary expenditure?

Nothing built for economic purposes is ever very good . . . the Medicis and Louis XIV weren't cash-conscious. (JK Galbraith, in a lecture to the RIBA, November 1983).

Retaining Our Faculties

The Society has a love-hate relationship with Queen's University. Queen's has carried out sensitive restoration work at Elmwood Hall, the exterior of the Old Library, and in many minor buildings, but it has also been responsible for the demolition of good buildings to make way for such bland modern buildings as the Students' Union and the Staff Club block. It is Queen's misfortune that it must reconcile the needs of a thriving modern university with the restrictions inherent in its occupation of what is architecturally speaking one of the most sensitive areas of Belfast. The Society recognises Queen's problems, but has found itself at odds with the University over several recent developments.

The conversion of W H Lynn's Old Library dating from 1864 into part of the new library was broadly a conservation victory, since Queen's had originally proposed its demolition and replacement with a second 'stack' building, which would have been disastrous. The HBC fought a hard battle to maintain the building and to ensure that the only exterior alteration was a glazed corridor at first floor level linking the Old Library to the existing stack, fairly innocuous in itself. Unfortunately the interior has been spoilt by the removal of fine ornamental shelving (apparently redundant in a modern library!), some of which was salvaged by eagle-eyed passers-by who have delightedly reused it, and by the interpolation of a massive concrete structure which now occupies the central space and obscures the rose window. The white facings of the mass concrete columns supporting this structure have been a missed opportunity for brick piers that could have echoed existing brick columns, and there is a distinct feeling that this structure was designed first, then squeezed into the old shell.

The Cambridge-based architects for the conversion, Messrs Twist and Whitley, assured one of our committee members that the alterations were all perfectly in order, since the Library was "only a Victorian building"!

The Society has not interfered in that project, despite the reservations expressed above, since the building itself has been retained and it would be possible to reinstate most of it at a later date if the opportunity arose. It has however lodged firm objections to two planning applications recently lodged on behalf of the University, for demolition of buildings at 13-17 Chlorine Gardens and at 2-10 University Street.

The Chlorine Gardens houses consist of a pair and a half of 3-storey semi-detached houses dating from the turn of the century, in good condition and forming part of a row of sound Edwardian



houses between the Science Library and Malone Road. The University proposes to demolish them, somehow making good the remaining semi-detached house at No 11, and to replace them with a flat-roofed block housing a new school of architecture.

It is our understanding that while some of the staff would like a new building, most of the students would prefer to work in older buildings (as some quite happily do at present), and the proposed new building would not appear to have any facilities that could not quite easily, and more cheaply, be provided by adapting the existing buildings. We have suggested that the architecture department could meet its needs by adaption of the pair of existing buildings, while the third house could be adapted for much-needed student accomodation.

Our other objection has been to the proposed demolition of 2-10 University Street, and their replacement by a block of flats for Malone Housing Association (which houses University staff and students). Again, the buildings are not in the actual proposed Queen's Conservation Area, but they are basically sound, and part of a good, almost complete, street of Victorian housing. Adaption of these houses to flats or bedsitters would certainly not be beyond the talents of a private developer in the area, and surely need not tax the resources of the University unduly!

85 - 91 Antrim Road Belfast

This terrace, which had acquired widespread fame or notoriety over the last decade as the home of Gerry Fitt, is a listed group of early 19th-century brick houses with Tudor-style ogee windows, and was vested by the Housing Executive as part of their RDA 5. At the time of vesting, the Executive proposed to rehabilitate it, but last spring the Executive lodged an application for demolition.

This case was particularly vexing since a similar terrace (which had actually been less altered) had been demolished by the Executive the previous year in Donegall Pass, again as part of an RDA, and no other examples of its type exist. The UAHS objected to the application on the grounds that, quite apart from the intrinsic merit of the building, it was important for a public body like the Executive to lead the way in the restoration of listed buildings, and downright immoral that it should vest listed property and proceed to demolish it.

The UAHS asked Hearth to investigate the possibility of restoring the terrace as a housing association project, and the Executive was very co-operative about transferring the property. Structural engineers Kirk McClure and Morton advised that the building was structurally very sound, even after the fire during the summer which eventually drove Gerry Fitt from his home, and careful re-examination of the costings in the light of that report indicated that restoration could be carried out for some £100,000, much less than had been originally estimated by NIHE. However DoE approval was not forthcoming to permit Hearth to tackle the scheme, and demolition of the terrace now seems almost inevitable.

Postcards: The Society is publishing a set of eight postcards featuring some of the province's Conservation Areas — Camlough, Cushendall, Downpatrick, Enniskillen, Glenarm, Newry, Rostrevor and Sion Mills. These should be available around Easter.

Prints: The Society has commissioned original prints from a number of local artists over the last few years, and copies of some of these are still available:

Church Island by Seamus Carmichael, Downpatrick by Richard Croft, Barry's Amusements by Camilla Brown, the Grand Opera House Belfast by David Barker, Drumbeg Lockhouse by Marcus Patton, and Armagh by Stephen Conlin. Prices range from £25 to £40, and details are available from Elizabeth Cavanagh.

Blackwater Drainage Scheme

It seems almost unbelievable that in a Europe whose principal geographical features appear to be butter and beef mountains, and lakes composed of olive oil, milk and wine, the Department of Agriculture should propose to spend £21m turning the River Blackwater between Benburb and Augher into a canalised river, the inevitable concomitant of the drainage of a small area of additional farmland.

The Society has always opposed this plan, which involved the last but one significant stretch of this river which is in the condition that God intended it to be. In its opposition it has been joined by the Ulster Society for the Preservation of the Countryside, the National Trust, the Ulster Trust for Nature Conservation, and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

The Department refuses to divulge cost-benefit statistics to show how effective previous drainage schemes have been - apparently that knowledge is for the Minister and civil servants alone - but we can be certain that no input is made for the cost to us and future generations of the legacy of beauty that is lost in drainage operations.

On the Upper Blackwater a number of important features will be impaired or destroyed. Starting at the bottom end, the destruction of the top weir at Benburb means that even if Orr's Mill is restored as proposed, as an example of the weaving, beetling and bleaching aspects of the linen industry, its great turbine will be without its natural source of power, as will the turbine of Benburb Servite Priory. Members will remember this mill and priory from our visit to Benburb in 1982. Even more important from the point of view of architectural heritage will be the effect on the Demesne at Caledon, where the channel is to be deepened and the bridge lost. Caledon is one of our few great houses still in private hands, and instead of a noble river running through its lovely parkland there will soon be a man-made channel six feet deep. Further up, a less important demesne, but one open to the public, will also be affected — Favour Royal just to the west of Aughnacloy, where the Blackwater runs alongside the forest.

The Society has confined its comments to architectural features that will be lost, but it joins with the countryside societies in expressing dismay at the destruction of a river landscape that was once found in many parts of Ulster and is now becoming rare.

Our Archive

Every time one of our members prepares a Heritage Society List, he takes hundreds of photos and buys copies of all the important maps and documents. Only a small sample of the photos is published and the maps are reduced in scale with an unavoidable loss of detail. The authors keep their photos and copy documents, and probably have no further use for them.

The UAHS has decided to build up a photo archive, based primarily on the areas of their lists and books, but also to cover other topics that the society is interested in. Photos of buildings under threat, before and after photos of conservation projects, architects' new work, collections of post cards are all possible additions to the archive, helping to build up a picture of Ulster past and present.

The work has only just begun, using money left to the Society by the late Philip Bell, with donations added to the Philip Bell Fund in his memory. Photos are being collected mounted on A4 card and identified. Once a sufficient number has been put together to make them of value, it is hoped that Queen's University Architecture Library will allow the archive shelf room for public access. Members considering contributing to the archive may retain copyright, and the society is willing to pay for the printing of photos from your negatives. If you think you have pictures of interest which we can copy, please let us know.

Castleward Marina

The Society normally confines its planning comments to architecture; last year however, it joined its voice to those of various countryside bodies and the National Trust in objecting to a yacht haven proposed for Castleward Bay on Strangford Lough. Although the proposed haven was some distance from Castle Ward itself, the Society took the view that Castle Ward's setting is of considerable importance.

The bay is already used on a casual basis for yachting, which seems quite acceptable, but a marina-type development could result in a visual clutter and commercialisation that would greatly detract from the present calm of the area; there were also fears that the marina may prove unworkable after work had started, which would result in possibly greater destruction of the amenity of the area. The Society was represented at the public inquiry into the application, and the application was in fact turned down.



Railways Platform

The Society is becoming increasingly concerned about the remaining features of Northern Ireland's railway network. A great many interesting buildings have disappeared, notably the station at Great Victoria Street, and with modernisation any building or structure which does not appear to have an immediate economic use is at risk.

The Society wants urgently to review what remains and find new uses for buildings before they become redundant. Ballymoney Station for example is at risk — NI Railways say that it is far too big and should be replaced with a smaller structure. While not our best station, it is attractive, and surely it must be cheaper for NIR to repair and retain it than to demolish it and replace it with an inferior building. Sometimes, as with Portrush, where the old station is part of an amusement arcade adjoining the new Portrush terminus, retention can actually be compatible with replacement. But what is the future for attractive stations like Lisburn and Moira?

Uel Weir, an architectural student at Queen's University recently wrote a thesis outlining the condition and history of many of the buildings at risk, but we would be glad of any further information from members on any railway buildings in their area which appear to have particular interest. The Society is opening up discussion with NIR, the Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch of the DoE, the National Trust and the Railways Preservation Society, so that a comprehensive strategy can be worked out. The co-operation of any members with specialist knowledge, and indeed of sympathetic private entrepreneurs, would be most helpful.

Barry's Amusements

Well-known to any visitor to the seaside resort of Bangor, the twin turrets of Barry's Amusements have been a prominent feature of the town's seafront since they were erected as the focal point of the Grand Hotel some time around 1893. An intriguing photograph in Bangor Town Hall shows the right hand turret complete and apparently in operation as an hotel before the building of the left-hand portion had even started, but it was obviously designed as a symmetrical structure.

By 1930 the Hotel had closed, and for a while there was a cinema at the back of the building, but the Amusement Arcade was in operation before the war. Over the years the upper floors of the building became disused, and when the property came on the market a couple of years ago its future was uncertain. The Society, realising its importance as a prominent part of a visually intact 19th-century seafront to Bangor Bay, drew attention to its plight, commissioning a silkscreen print of it from Camilla Brown (copies of which are still available from the Society's office), and asking the Historic Buildings Council to list it.

Last October the HBB agreed to pursue the statutory listing, but North Down Borough Council objected that because of the condition of the building it was unlikely a developer would undertake its restoration, leaving an eyesore on the main seafront. The Society joined representatives of the Historic Buildings Branch of the DoE in a deputation to the Council, which led to their withdrawing their objections to the listing. By that time however tenders for demolition were apparently in operation, and the HBB acted promptly to spot-list Barry's.

That was not the end of the story of course; the new owner of Barry's made it clear that he would ask for listed building consent to demolish it, but the HBC offered extensive grant-aid for its restoration, and immediately funded a holding operation by the Society's ACE team, which proceeded to clear out tons of old machinery, chocolate and paper that still filled the building, and to seal it against vandalism.

On the night of 10 December a red glow lit up Bangor Bay when a severe malicious fire destroyed outbuildings and the old ballroom behind the main structure. Despite reports in the media that the building had been gutted and that the "well-known local landmark" of Barry's was now gone for ever, the work of our team in blocking up all major openings at the rear of the building ensured that the fire never reached the interior of the listed portion, and the building control officers again declared the building to be safe.

Ironically however, the planning sub-committee of the Borough Council had voted the previous week not to support the listing after all. The decision was extremely close, being decided by a casting vote, and it is most unfortunate that councillors were not aware at the time that the building had been cleaned out and was about to be repainted. However when the outcome of that meeting was made known, our team had to abandon the scheme, at the request of the DoE. It was most frustrating that the council voted before seeing the result of the team's work.

There has been very considerable interest and public support for our campaign to save this building, but as we go to press its fate still hangs in the balance. The DoE in Northern Ireland has never to date listed a building against the wishes of a local council - although in England it happens not infrequently, since it is considered that architectural merit is not something many local councillors are trained to judge - and unless the undoubted public support for restoring the building is brought to bear on the Borough Council, the listing is likely to be rescinded. A planning application for listed building consent to demolish lodged in December has been strongly opposed by the Society, on the grounds that quite apart from the merits of the existing building, it is not in a dangerous condition and there are no plans for a replacement building; we have however, supported the proposed change of use aspect of the application, for a shopping arcade with flats above - pointing out that this is entirely compatible with the retention of the listed building.



Stop Press: Barry's has been demolished, following a further meeting immediately before Christmas between North Down Council and representatives of the Historic Buildings Branch, at which the Council insisted on delisting. This permitted immediate demolition without awaiting the outcome of the planning application, and gives the planners negligible control over any replacement building on this important location. Where a fine, if tattered, Victorian building once stood, Messrs Gilmore have donated an imposing gap-site to the people of Bangor.

Second City or Second Rate?

Twenty years ago, the walled city of Londonderry was one of the finest architectural gems in the north. To walk up Shipquay Street with its handsome Georgian and Victorian shops, its trees, railings, stone steps and the occasional cannon used as a bollard, used to be a positive pleasure. And a walk round the city walls, playground for four schools and the vantage point from which the city within and without could be enjoyed, provided exercise and a feeling of the closeknit urban fabric.

Today that fabric is torn and the new has little respect for the old. Bomb holes are rarely replaced with restoration, more often in simple modern styles. Large temporary carparks wait for a new cash and development, to follow the pattern of the Richmond Centre. This enormous shopping complex is nearly finished now and everyone hopes that it will be a commercial success, bringing new life and jobs into the city. A big visual mistake however is already clear. The great modern slab has attempted to clothe itself in mellow brickwork, but the heavy horizontal lines are completely at odds with the old surroundings, where comparatively small units give a vertical emphasis as they climb the hill.

Another factor in urban renewal has been the North West Centre for Learning and Development. Its purpose is to create jobs, especially for the young, and to bring life back to the city. These aims are so clearly worthy, that its unusual schemes attract support, even though (or maybe because) they are visually half-baked. Their proposals include a 'medieval village' opposite the Richmond Centre and a 'castle' facing the Guildhall. It seems a great pity that their socially desirable projects are likely to end up as Disneyland gone wrong.

The city council has plans for a theatre, museum and library, in or near the walled city. Each will be large and need a lot of space round them. Unfortunately only the museum is intended to be in a restored historic building, even though there are empty schools and warehouses crying out for such uses. Housing in the city centre has also caused a radical change. Old terraces on Bogside, Long Tower and the Fountain have been replaced by new estates, widely spaced and foreign in character to the old city. Even if they are more spacious, what have they added in the way of gardens or parks? The land remains bleak and windswept — the old terraces at least provided warmth and strength.

Change need not be a bad thing for a city - it can provide vitality and interest. By all means, cut out decay, but too big an operation can end up with a massive haemorrhage: if we don't watch out, the whole of historic Derry will disappear.

Activities 1983

The year's activities commenced with the Annual General Meeting, at which we had a spirited and thought-provoking address by Mr John Gorman, Chief Executive of the Housing Executive. Our President was admired for his neutral stance throughout the proceedings!

In February, Professor Alistair Rowan, one of the founding fathers of the Society, came to Belfast to speak on "The Irishness of Irish Architecture", being an expanded version of the address he gave last year at our "Shared Heritage" conference. We were pleased to collaborate with the Institute of Irish Studies and allow a wider audience to hear this most interesting lecture. One was fascinated to discover just what could be regarded as a totally Irish feature, and also to learn the influence of Irish architecture on the outside world.

Through the good offices of Robert McKinstry, our vice-chairman, our members were able to have a Sunday afternoon preview of the recently restored Malone House in March. This was also an ideal occasion to launch, in conjunction with the City Council, our little book on the house, the first of a series of Society publications in a new smaller format with colour illustrations, which will be published from time to time.

On Easter Monday, by kind permission of Lord and Lady Dunleath, we were able once more to open Ballywalter Park. This event appears to increase in popularity each time, and we succeeded once again in disrupting traffic along the Ards peninsula. The kind offer, made at the Shared Heritage conference, by Mr and Mrs Brian Mills, to visit the newly restored Bellamont Forest was followed up in May. While in the area, the opportunity was taken to visit Ballyhaise and the Dartrey Demesne, although due to some directorial error some members saw rather more of Monaghan than intended!

Portaferry in June was a most exciting, though not very well-attended, day. Supported by members of the Upper Ards Historical Society, we visited the town centre, Quentin Castle and Portaferry House. How sad to see such a magnificent house unoccupied. In August, David Evans arranged what for this Society tends to be an unusual event, a visit to a modern building, the Castle Buildings at Stormont, where the architect, Stan Blayney, showed us round.

Our cross-border foray in September was a visit to the Ramelton area, arranged by our Chairman through his many contacts in Co Donegal. We enjoyed the hospitality of such wonderful people as Mrs Scott, our old friend Anne Crookshank, and Mrs Day and daughters at Fort Stewart. The Festival event was

a lecture by Dr Eddie McParland on "James Gandon and the Growth of Dublin", the outcome of a detailed study which is shortly to be published in book form.

At our Christmas party in December, members imbibed their wine while being entertained with music and song by two appropriately dressed members of Committee, Richard Pierce and Marcus Patton. The competition, arranged by Mrs Primrose Wilson, in which members were invited to name buildings and famous faces, attracted a good deal of attention; the winner was Tony Merrick, and the runner-up Ciaran Molloy, who had only joined the Society that day (he has of course been studying our lists for some years!)

How Old Is Belfast?

When Brands and Normans department store in Castle Lane was demolished in November, Nick Brannon from Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch, Department of Environment, was given seven days to carry out a brief rescue excavation. This was the first controlled archaeological excavation in the city centre and an opportunity to test the potential.

Seventeenth century maps and accounts describe a great castle in this area, one of Sir Arthur Chichester's fine houses, and it was hoped that part of it would be found. The excavation showed however that Chichester's castle must have been much smaller than it appears on the 17th-century illustrations, and was probably under the present British Home Stores. The excavation also showed that 17th-century Belfast's streets aligned on a Cornmarket rather than a High Street frontage. Under 'modern' deposits, 17th-century soils were found to contain structural debris such as bricks, roofing slates and glazed ceramic ridge-tiles. A brick-built drain and the remains of a wall undoubtedly belonging to the castle-complex were uncovered. Below the 17th-century layers were a number of medieval pits and ditches, an extra bonus in this short exploration.

Now that the dig is over, the finds will be studied. Where were the bricks made, for example? It is claimed that 1,200,000 bricks were manufactured for Chichester. And the glazed ridge tiles - are they from Chichester's old home in Devon or were they local imitations? Numerous sherds of pottery were found and it will be interesting to see where they all came from. Examples from Staffordshire and Devon or Somerset have already been identified, along with the work of Dutch potters probably working in England.

Congratulations

A newsletter of this kind tends to be full of recriminations against the owners of buildings who allow their charges to rot or be tastelessly modernised or demolished. It is pleasant therefore to be able to record very briefly some of the improvements and restorations that have taken place over the last year or so.

Perhaps the most prominent restorations this year have been two carried out by the Parks Department of Belfast City Council—the **Palm House** in the Botanic Gardens which was finally re-opened after years of painstaking restoration, and **Malone House** which was rebuilt from the smouldering ruins left after it was burnt down during the firemen's strike. The Society produced a special guide to Malone House last year, and its monograph on the Palm House was undoubtedly of assistance in ensuring that that building was restored.

In Ballymena, the 18th-century **Montgomery's Shop** has been restored as a pub, a focal point in the new shopping complex in the town. In both **Draperstown** and **Carnlough**, courthouses have been converted into libraries. In **Londonderry**, a shop in Bishop Street has become a Heritage Library, while the old Foyle College has become a youth training centre.

Back in Belfast, the **King's Arms** at Balmoral is a new kind of licensed premises where each room of the Victorian house has been converted into a different bar or restaurant, one of them even boasting a library for the enjoyment of customers! Congratulations are due to the **Open University** in University Road for acquiring its new fibreglass chimney stack so that it now looks like a real building.

In the centre of Belfast, the **Scottish Provident Buildings** have been given a facelift, and Jackson's **Old Town Hall** in Victoria Street has been refitted as a County Court. In Bangor, the **Tower House** has been restored by North Down Borough Council.

Of new Belfast buildings erected over the last year, **Argos House** in Cornmarket designed by BDP deserves particular praise as sensitive infill, its moulded brickwork echoing the design of neighbouring buildings. In **London Street** John Neil & Partners have designed a terrace of infill housing using polychrome brickwork that is well worth a look; and as a piece of completely modern architecture, the new extension to **Fleming Fulton School** by Shanks Leighton Kennedy & Fitzgerald is particularly striking.

The National Trust has put a new roof on **Hezlett House**,

Castlerock, where the thatch had built up to an incredible thickness over the years and was putting undue strain on the roof timbers. The Trust has also been restoring **Mussenden Temple** at Downhill, which must be one of the most nerve-wracking buildings in Ulster to work on on a windy day, sited at the top of a spectacular cliff.

Four new **Conservation Areas** have been designated in 1983-Portaferry, Newry, Bessbrook and Moira. Bessbrook is particularly interesting, since it was established as a model town by the Richardson family in 1845, preceding both the better-known model towns of Saltaire (1852) and Port Sunlight (1888).

Hearth

Hearth is the housing association managed by the Society in collaboration with the National Trust; it is financed by the DoE to provide rental housing for those in need through the restoration of buildings of architectural or historic interest anywhere in Northern Ireland. There are some forty housing associations in the province, each with a special interest, but Hearth is unique not only in its interest in historic buildings, but also in having its own small architectural practice. This enables Hearth to carry out its own feasibility studies and measured surveys of buildings, a number of which have been passed on to the Record Office as records of buildings since demolished. It is an unfortunate fact of life for housing associations that only a small proportion of schemes proposed actually go ahead, and in Hearth's case, since it is usually a last resort before demolition, when schemes do not proceed the buildings usually come down. As a result of the frustration at seeing buildings lost in this way when schemes have been considered viable, the Hearth committee also revived over the last couple of years its 'revolving fund' to buy, restore and sell historic buildings using privately raised finance.

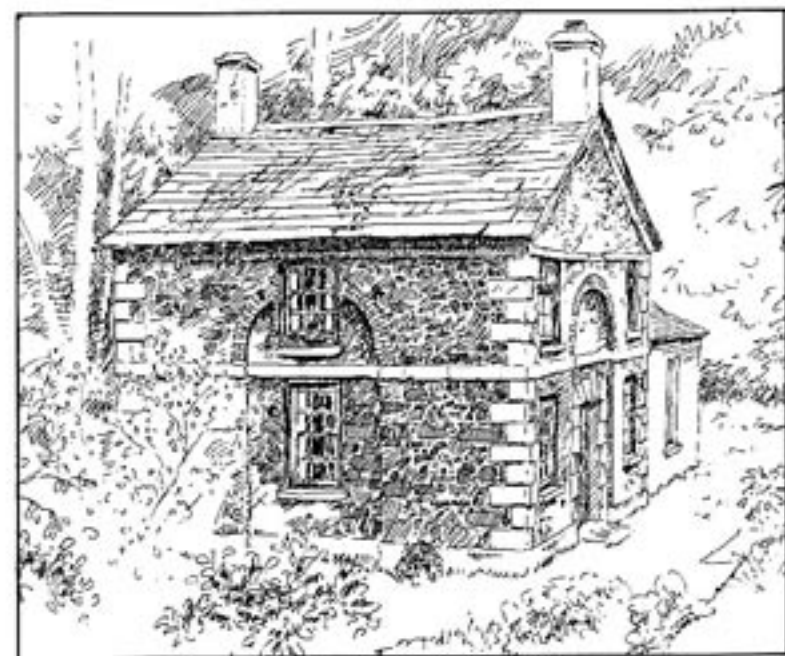
This has been a busy year for Hearth, with the restoration of Camden Terrace (53-59 Camden Street, Belfast) completed in the autumn, work going on again at Seaforde (restoring six houses in Main Street, of which more will be said in our next newsletter), and the restoration of Drumbeg Lockhouse by the revolving fund in the summer.

Camden Terrace was built about 1850 as a terrace of four substantial town houses, consisting of three stories plus attics and basements. Over the years they had fallen on hard times, becoming bedsitters, a theatrical store and finally derelict property scheduled for demolition to form a car park. Hearth first negotiated with Queen's University to acquire the houses in 1978, but government spending restrictions prevented any proper repairs being carried out

to the houses before restoration started in May 1982, and in addition to the conversion works necessary to create twelve flats within the existing structure, extensive dry and wet rot had to be tackled, tackled.

The flats were completed in October last year at a contract figure of approximately £285,000, and in the course of the works contractor F S Brown & Co had to tackle complex demolition work, including the entire rear wall and returns to the block and their replacement with new returns incorporating fire escapes to the flats, as well as the lowering of the attic floor, and restoration of internal plasterwork and missing front porticos and railings. The twelve tenants have expressed themselves well pleased with the very spacious and elegant flats, and another building in the lovely suburb around Queen's has been restored to new life.

On a much more modest scale, Hearth's revolving fund (known for purposes of confusion as the Historic Environmental and Architectural Rehabilitation Trust) has completed its first project, the well-known Lockhouse at Drumbeg on the Upper Malone Road. Already completely lacking electricity and sewerage this little building had not seen much maintenance over a long time, and shortly before the contractor took the site over, vandals broke in and set fire to it, destroying the roof and almost all the internal woodwork.



The Trust's plans had to be drastically revised after this but it was decided to proceed, and the contractor Jose Areias found that much more extensive restoration was involved than he had originally bargained for. The contract ran to over £35,000, including considerable replacement and repointing of stonework, and replacement of doors and windows to the original detail, as well as provision of modern services and creation of an internal bathroom within the tight shell of the original building.

Standing beside it now, near the remains of the waterway, it is quite possible to transport oneself back in imagination to the early 1760s when the canal and lockhouse were built; and there was considerable interest in the property when it was put on the market. As we go to press, a sale has been agreed and the new owner hopes to move in shortly, so that the extensive loans that were made available for the work by the National Trust, the Pilgrim Trust and the Architectural Heritage Fund in England, can be repaid.

OBITUARY

The Victoria Music Hall, May Street, Belfast

Last August, a long battle to save the only surviving Music Hall in Belfast was lost, and the Victoria Memorial Hall, as it became known when it left the services of St Cecilia for those of the Lord in 1887, came down to make way for yet another city centre gap site.

Built in 1840 by the Anacreontic Society, the stucco classical revival building was distinguished by interesting early cast-iron roof trusses and internal plaster ornamentation featuring armed putti, and it gave its name to the adjacent Music-Hall Lane. Its architect was Thomas Jackson senior; one of the small clutch of architects responsible for many of the fine buildings of Belfast's heyday, he also built St Malachy's church in Alfred Street and (probably with his son) the Old Town Hall in Victoria Street.

In 1887 the music hall closed and the building became a church, with the solemn motto "Meddle not with them that are given to change" inscribed on a tablet over its entrance. In the early 1970s, the Plymouth Brethren vacated the church, and the inevitable process of nil maintenance and slow decay set in. Various alternative uses for it were suggested, including rehearsal space for a local theatre company, and two years ago architectural students at Queen's suggested some enterprising conversions including



restaurant and arts centre uses. However the continuing deterioration of the building forced the Historic Buildings Council to grant listed building consent for demolition last year, and the bulldozers moved in.

The Old Workhouse, Downpatrick

The Old Workhouse in Downpatrick had become a factory set in behind the Down Council's headquarters in Strangford Road, and it was demolished last April to make way for a new maintenance workshop and garage for the Council.

The Society lodged objections to the demolition, but the building was not listed, and there was little prior warning of the proposal. The demolition was unfortunate, since, as our ACE team demonstrated with the Lisnaskea Workhouse (see elsewhere in this newsletter) a little repair work to property of this kind will provide substantial and desirable premises at modest cost.

Old Corn Mill, Bangor

Bangor's town centre was very much a product of the late 19th-century (until the car bombs of 1972), but just up a narrow alley at the foot of Main Street there stood a rubblestone and brick mill building with a history extending back to the late 18th-Century. It was not in good condition and had little architectural interest, so that the Society did not object to its demolition to make way for car parking towards the end of last year, but its passing deserves note.

Book Reviews

Brian Walker and Hugh Dixon, *No Mean City: Belfast 1880-1914 in the Photographs of Robert French*, The Friar's Bush Press, 134pp., £10.95.

Published collections of old photographs have become very popular over the past few years. Often they do no more than cash in on the apparently unlimited market for nostalgia, but sometimes such a collection can represent an important contribution to our knowledge and understanding of the relatively recent past. This is certainly the case with *No Mean City*. It has been produced jointly by Brian Walker who, although a lecturer in political science at Queen's University, has now virtually become a local history industry in himself, and Hugh Dixon, one of UAHS's most distinguished, scholarly and enthusiastic members, who is rapidly turning into Belfast's answer to Sir Nikolaus Pevsner.

This well-designed volume contains a fascinating series of pictures taken by the Dublin-based photographer Robert French. The plates of Belfast streets and buildings have been organised so that the reader, if desired, can use the book as a guide and take it round the centre of the city. It would perhaps be advisable not to attempt reading it while taking one of Mr. Dixon's celebrated Edwardian 'bikeabouts'. There are excellent captions, full of historical detail and especially informative, as one would expect, regarding architectural features. One or two small errors have evaded the eagle eyes of the authors. Carl Rosa has changed sex to 'Carla' on page 5, while on page 103 it is asserted that the Belfast Central Railway crossed the Lagan at Donegall Quay. The book possesses a full 'scholarly apparatus', but this does not at all intrude on the enjoyment to be gained by the lay reader.

The photographs have a timeless quality, emphasised somewhat by the comparative absence of people. One or two pictures contain crowds, and there is a group of small girls who appear to have followed the photographer at a distance from the Botanic Gardens on p.48 to Fisherwick Presbyterian Church on p.50. They subsequently turn up, with friends, in Alexandra Park (p.83). For the most part, however, the 'heroes' of the book are buildings without people. One sometimes suspects that that is exactly how some architects prefer them to be. There are a few pictures of interiors which usefully remind us that internal fittings are frequently just as important as exteriors. One photograph is of Robinson and Cleaver's magnificent grand staircase - will this survive the impending closure of the store? Often the details are memorable. In one plate of Queen's University young trees in front of the main building are protected with contemporary-looking tree-

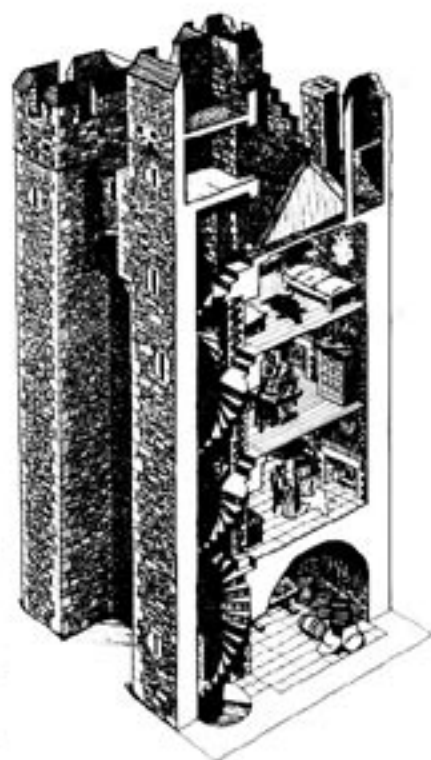
guards. Can it be that Belfast in the Victorian and Edwardian eras (the 'good old days?') suffered from vandalism?

Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland, *Historic Monuments of Northern Ireland*, Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 168pp., £3.50.

From Ballylumford Dolmen, unexpectedly but entirely happily situated in the front garden of a private house on Island Magee, to the strange Ralignaman Women's Graveyard near Carrickmore in County Tyrone, which no dead man nor living women was allowed to enter, this useful publication covers the 154 historic sites in state care at the end of 1982.

The book is intended to replace the volumes of *Ancient Monuments of Northern Ireland* (Volume I, *In State Care*, and volume II, *Not in State Care*). But it is in detail now effectively only a guide to the monuments in state care; those not so blessed are relegated to a 'selected list' which names some 250 additional sites. Both sorts of site, however, are treated in the substantial and interesting introduction, which puts Northern Ireland's ancient monuments in their historical and archeological context. Although the official title is now 'historic' monuments, most of them are in fact 'ancient', and the introduction suffers a little from implying (presumably unintentionally) that nothing of any survives from the years following about 1750 except Hillsborough Market House, Magilligan Martello Tower, Ballycopeland Windmill and two sets of ornamental gates (those at the Moy and the Richhill gates now in Hillsborough).

The detailed entries for individual sites are not always quite as extensive as they were in the old *Ancient Monuments* volumes. No doubt in keeping with the modern serious and scientific approach to such things, anecdotes, 'human interest' stories and traditional lore are mostly omitted. Yet this kind of material is often very important, since the essential significance of



Historic Monuments Branch D&E

'ancient monuments' lies only with the people who built and used them. Fortunately the new volume is not entirely 'dryasdust'. It recounts, for example, how John Sely, a fifteenth-century Bishop of Down, was ejected from Kilclief Castle 'for living with Lettice Thomas, a married woman'. The volume, too, is lavishly illustrated in both colour and black and white. Its defects are only minor, and it is an important book which should be on the shelves, or perhaps better still in the glove compartment or haversack, of anyone with an interest in the history of Northern Ireland.

NI Housing Executive and NI Council for Educational Development
Somewhere to Live, a collection of leaflets, a film strip and cassette, £20.

Education and Housing have combined to provide a teaching pack for non-examination 15 and 16 year olds, to introduce them to all the problems and procedures of house-hunting in Belfast. It takes the form of a stout cardboard box containing information for the teacher and full sets of leaflets for the children, including some jolly (if crude) familiarisation exercises.

Background material includes an account of all that the Housing Executive has to do when clearing unfit properties (areas with **one third** unfit houses may be compulsorily purchased for demolition).

On the conservation front unfortunately it has little to offer. It does have a trail that introduces the class to the varieties of pre and post-war houses, and a back-up history of housing types. However the film strip shows historic houses as museum pieces in Cultra, and it actually comes out with the statement "The problem is there are too many old houses". What they should have said was **unfit** houses. They also admit that the majority of people would rather not move from their houses, so perhaps there is still hope for the future of our past! The other big omission is the environment - gas cylinders loom over their show houses unremarked, and the layout of streets and play areas gets very little attention. It would be nice to see the pack extended in these directions and it is to be hoped that advantage will be taken of the flexible format of the box to expand it accordingly.

Do you suppose . . . that any workman worthy the name will put his brains into a cup or an urn, which he knows is to go to the melting pot in half a score years? The way to have a truly noble service of plate, is to keep adding to it, not melting it. (John Ruskin, A Joy For Ever).

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Listed Building Bureau

Anyone looking for a "house with character" finds his initially enthusiastic enquiries to estate agents met with endless pictures of neo-Georgianised dwellings and very little information about really historic buildings. Yet there are many valuable buildings in the province in need of new uses - either domestic or commercial. Elsewhere in this issue we have mentioned Glenmachan House, which is rather too large for the average family but may be of interest as a commercial venture. Here follow brief notes on some other listed buildings, of various sizes, in need of new uses. We would be glad to hear of other buildings for future issues of this newsletter.

Carlisle Memorial Church, Carlisle Circus; Belfast: A vast space enclosed by a magnificent ecclesiastical structure still in reasonable condition. Could be adapted for housing or warehousing or, possibly for industrial use.

Clifton Street Presbyterian Church, Belfast: Another empty city church - surely there are firms desperate for warehousing space in Belfast?

McAusland's Warehouse, Victoria Street, Belfast: Another large building, with very substantial floors behind a splendidly ornamental facade; a grade A listed building which the DoE wish to find a new use for; again suitable for housing or storage.

Moira Railway Station, Moira: Suitable for a small house.

Great James Street Presbyterian Church, Derry: An attractive neo-classical church of 1837 by Stewart Gordon, with splendid rolling staircase at the front.

Mount Panther Schoolhouse, Dundrum: The oldest national schoolhouse in Ulster, this charming gothick building would adapt very readily to use as a reasonable size bungalow. With or without a 5-acre garden.

General Post Office, Royal Avenue, Belfast: Opened in 1886, this solid and eminently respectable stone building was designed by James Owens of the Board of Public Works. A prime commercial building for shops or offices and likely to be used only as a site for the same if the right entrepreneur does not come forward.

ULSTER ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS

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An Introduction to Modern Ulster Architecture	£3.00
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LISTS AND SURVEYS

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Orders for all the foregoing publications, and standing orders for future publications, may be sent to the Society at 181A Stranmillis Road, Belfast 9, and will be fulfilled subject to availability, and at the charges for postage and packing ruling at the date of order.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

The Society depends on an active membership for its effectiveness. Members can help in its work in many ways — by monitoring planning applications, for example, or drawing attention to undesirable development. The Society organises regular outings, expeditions, lectures and social events. Members also enjoy the privilege of buying all the Society's publications at a 25% discount (see overleaf for a full list).

To: The Secretary,
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181A Stranmillis Road
Belfast 9.

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Please pay to the account of the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society, Northern Bank Ltd., Donegall Square North branch, the sum of £
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by
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