

# Buildings at Risk Londonderry



*County*  
**LONDONDERRY**





### GATE LODGE TO ABERFOYLE HOUSE, NORTHLAND ROAD, DERRY

One of several gate lodges from the Derry area on the online BARNI Register (none of which have featured before in previous *Buildings at Risk* catalogues); this is the younger of two lodges to 'Richmond', which was later to be known as 'Aberfoyle House'. It was added by Robert Corscadden in 1870, after he bought the demesne. Described in the UAHS list of 1970 as being an element of "neat townscape detail", the two-storey former porter's lodge is considered by Dean to be essentially "a big cube below a hipped roof. Faintly Italianate in style, the front elevation alongside the footpath has a first floor pair of semicircular-headed sash windows with dressed stone over a transomed and mullioned timber oriel supported on four brackets". The two tall pedimented archways are a further essential element of the whole composition. One forms the screen to the public foot path, the other at right angles to this off the rear elevation, once gave entry to the park and carriage yard. The lodge is now boarded up, the gates closed and padlocked and the fine pedimented archway is being slowly covered by rampant greenery.

*Refs:*

UAHS, *City of Derry*, 1970, p. 50

Dean, J.A.K., *The Gate Lodges of Ulster*, UAHS, 1994, p. 120

LOCATION

*On the Northland Road, next to Magee*

O.S. MAP NUMBER

7

GRID REFERENCE

434 178

STATUS

*Listed*

BARNI Ref. No. 01/22/003

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

Ulster Architectural Heritage Society, tel: 028 9055 0213

Environment and Heritage Service, tel: 028 9054 3145

Londonderry Divisional Planning Office, tel: 028 7131 9900



**SOUTH LODGE,  
BALLYNAGARD HOUSE, DERRY**

LOCATION

*On the A2 N.W. of Derry City,  
1 1/2 mls. from Culmore Point*

O.S. MAP NUMBER

7

GRID REFERENCE

463 217

STATUS

*Listed*

BARNI Ref. No. 01/27/001

A simple and symmetrical single-storey, three-bay, stone-built gate lodge with a hipped and slated roof, built c.1850 as the second lodge to 'Ballynagard', the second home of the Hart family from Muff. The front entrance door is contained within an unusual bowed central projection. The lodge is vacant and boarded up and the slates on the rear elevation have been removed, exposing the interior to the deleterious effects of the weather. It is one of three lodges from the surrounding area to appear as recent buildings at risk and it, too, could benefit from an injection of interest.

*Refs:*

Rowan, A., *North West Ulster*, Penguin, 1979, p. 403

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### 139 TIRKANE ROAD, MAGHERA

This is a beautiful example of a 19th-century Irish vernacular building that sits in harmony with the surrounding plantings and wider landscape. Noted simply in the MBR as being a “two-storey house”, it retains its harled and whitened walls, sheeted-door, sliding-sash windows, natural slated roof and a pair of welcoming traditional gate-pillars with simple wrought-iron gates. First indicated as being at risk in *Buildings at Risk*, Vol. 6, p. 103, it remains a desirable, yet vulnerable building. Encouragingly, the owner has expressed a desire to see it eventually re-inhabited.

*Refs:*  
MBR

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Environment and Heritage Service, tel: 028 9054 3145  
Ballymena Divisional Planning Office, tel: 028 2565 3333

#### LOCATION

*3 mls. N.W. of Maghera on the  
Tirkane Road*

#### O.S. MAP NUMBER

8

#### GRID REFERENCE

828 038

#### STATUS

*Listed*

BARNI Ref. No. 08/01/001



**ROWAN'S GIFT, 18 DRUMLAMPH LANE,  
CASTLEDAWSON**

LOCATION  
*2½ mls. E. of Knockcloughrim  
(market on map)*

O.S. MAP NUMBER  
*14*

GRID REFERENCE  
*917 964*

STATUS  
*Listed*

BARNI Ref. No. *08/08/001*

Rowan's Gift is a one-and-a-half storey, five-bay, 'L' shaped, stone-built and harled dwelling, with a natural slate roof and highly unusual stepped chimneys on either gable end. The unrecessed sash windows are also of some interest and are indicative of the building's considerable age. In a poor state of repair when it appeared in *Buildings at Risk*, Vol. 2, p. 62, it has deteriorated since then and is slowly disappearing under the undergrowth. Buildings of this type and age are now rare and it is imperative that all is done to secure its future.

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### 9-11 LINENHALL STREET, LIMAVADY

The O.S. Memoirs considered Limavady, or Newtownlimavady as it was then known, to be “rather irregular in form, consisting chiefly of two principal streets united by a cross one”. Catherine Street and Main Street were undoubtedly the two principal thoroughfares, while it is thought probable that it was Linenhall Street which united the two. Built in the mid-19th century, the red-brick nos. 9-11 are the most notable properties remaining on the street, although they have been unoccupied for some time. They have been tidied up considerably since they were featured in *Buildings at Risk*, Vol. 6, but still suffer from the unwanted attention of vandals and, consequently, several of the Georgian window panes have been broken. While applauding the steps taken to brighten the properties up, this should only be seen as a stop-gap at best and finding a long-term use is the ultimate aim.

*Refs:*

O.S. Memoirs of Ireland, *Parishes of County Londonderry II*, Vol. 9, p. 76

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Ulster Architectural Heritage Society, tel: 028 9055 0213

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Londonderry Divisional Planning Office, tel: 028 7131 9900

LOCATION

*Near the centre of town*

O.S. MAP NUMBER

*4*

GRID REFERENCE

*669 230*

STATUS

*Listed*

BARNI Ref. No. *02/12/001*



**PROBATE OFFICE, 13 BISHOP STREET,  
DERRY**

LOCATION

*In the city centre*

O.S. MAP NUMBER

7

GRID REFERENCE

433 166

STATUS

*Listed*

*In the Walled City  
Conservation Area*

The *Historic City Conservation Area* guide states that: “The buildings of Bishop Street span a period of two hundred years. The Irish Society Offices were erected in 1768; the Courthouse by John Bowden of Dublin dates from 1817 and the Deanery of 1833 was built to replace a former building of 1720 in London Street.” This building, the former District Probate Office, was added not long after the Deanery in 1861. It is a small two-storey, three-bay, brick-built building, now painted white, with segmental-headed window and door openings and a tall, slender, corniced chimney, which adds significantly to the character of the building. No longer in use, the building’s external paintwork is beginning to flake, although generally the building appears to be in a fair condition.

*Refs:*

DOE (NI), *Londonderry Historic City Conservation Area*, 1977, Part 2

BARNI Ref. No. 01/19/001

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## ARTILLERY STREET, DERRY

The DOE (NI) review of the *Historic City Conservation Area* considered Artillery Street to be “a fine example of the unique curved streetscape of the historic city with the former St. Joseph’s School (The Playhouse) forming the centrepiece”. The E. J. Toye designed school appeared in *Buildings at Risk*, Vol. 6, and came to wider public prominence in the BBC2 *Restoration* programme as one of three featured Northern Ireland buildings at risk. Encouragingly, it is soon to be renovated, ensuring its long-term future as an arts venue. However, several of the neighbouring properties are currently vacant and suffering from vandalism, although they form an equally important part of the varied and interesting streetscape, which provides a fitting attractive backdrop to the 17th century city walls. The inclusion of the walled city as one of five key tourism signature projects by the Northern Ireland Tourist Board should ensure that all is done to reuse the historic buildings at this sensitive location appropriately.

### *Refs:*

DOE (NI), *Review of Historic City Conservation Area*, 2004, p. 5

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

Ulster Architectural Heritage Society, tel: 028 9055 0213

Londonderry Divisional Planning Office, tel: 028 7131 9900

### LOCATION

*Artillery Street runs parallel with Pump Street and is overlooked by the city walls*

### O.S. MAP NUMBER

7

### GRID REFERENCE

435 164

### STATUS

*Unlisted  
In the Walled City  
Conservation Area*

BARNI Ref. No. 01/19/006



**LING HOUSE, 173 SLIEVEBOY ROAD,  
CLAUDY**

LOCATION  
*2 mls. S. of Claudy*

O.S. MAP NUMBER  
7

GRID REFERENCE  
*546 043*

STATUS  
*Listed*

BARNI Ref. No. *01/01/002*

LEASE POSSIBLE

This late-17th century farmhouse has important historical associations with Colonel Adam Murray, one of the defenders during the siege of Derry. Two-storey, seven-bay, it has an unusual and extremely attractive centrally placed entrance door with boldly chamfered stone surrounds and fanlight above. Although earlier, the door is similar in appearance to that at Bovevagh Rectory in nearby Dungiven, which featured in *Buildings at Risk*, Vol. 3, p. 75 and has now been well restored. Situated in a rural location with panoramic views of the nearby valley, its condition has not deteriorated to any great extent since it appeared in *Buildings at Risk*, Vol. 4, p. 85, although it remains partially boarded up. Discussions which might have resulted in the building being restored as a cultural centre proved unsuccessful. However, the owners are willing to consider offering the building on a long restoring lease.

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## FARM BUILDINGS TO BOOM HALL, DERRY

The highly impressive Boom Hall and its estate-related buildings featured in the very first *Buildings at Risk*, on page 96. Since that time, little has changed in the condition of the main building, which remains something of a gaunt ruin. Built c.1770 by Robert Alexander, who was said by Rowan to have been “a younger brother of the first Lord of Caledon”, it was reduced to a shell by fire in the early 1970s. The farm buildings are also in an advanced state of disrepair. Recently listed B2 they are under the ownership of the local authority, along with the surrounding 28 acres of agricultural land. The farm buildings are recorded in their listing record as being: “...of two-storey construction in rubble schist with sandstone dressings. They are built in a square courtyard plan, each side of eight bays internally. The external elevations have segmental arches with oculus windows over...whilst in need of major repair remain largely unaltered and are not beyond restoration.” There has been recent discussion about turning the grounds into a country park, which would then allow the farm buildings to be restored and converted for public use.

### *Refs:*

Rowan, A., *North West Ulster*, Penguin, 1979, p. 401  
MBR

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Londonderry Divisional Planning Office, tel: 028 7131 9900

### LOCATION

*North of the city at the western end of the new Foyle Bridge*

### O.S. MAP NUMBER

7

### GRID REFERENCE

449 197

### STATUS

*Listed*

BARNI Ref. No. 01/25/001



**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,  
GREAT JAMES STREET, DERRY**

LOCATION

*Great James Street runs W.  
from the Foyle, N. of the  
Walled City*

O.S. MAP NUMBER

7

GRID REFERENCE

STATUS

*Listed  
In the Clarendon Street  
Conservation Area*

BARNI Ref. No. 01/21/001

This building has been the subject of much speculation recently. It was first highlighted as a building at risk in *Buildings at Risk*, Vol. 2, p. 69, where it appeared beside the Whitehall Chambers in Hawkin Street. The Chambers have subsequently been demolished and this equally 'difficult' building is now empty and facing an uncertain future. A very powerful neo-classical composition, it was built in 1837 to the designs of Stewart Gordon, and was to be the third Presbyterian Church in the city. Its front façade is dominated by a projecting central-pediment portico supported by four ionic columns on a broad flight of steps, which are flanked by scrolled edges. Behind is a four-bay, two-storey hall with large, round-headed windows. There is a Venetian window on the rear elevation, behind the pulpit. Set back from the main frontage line of the neighbouring buildings on Great James Street, it is certainly an impressive sight, and would be too valuable an asset to lose.

*Refs:*

Rowan, A., *North West Ulster*, Penguin, 1979, p. 387

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### ST. PATRICK'S RC CHURCH, INISCARN ROAD, DESERTMARTIN

St. Patrick's Church, in common with its namesake in Claudy (*Buildings at Risk*, Vol. 2, p. 66 and Vol. 3, p. 79), has appeared twice before as a building at risk – in *Buildings at Risk*, Vol. 1, p. 89 and then again in Vol. 3, p. 80. It remains unused, although it has been secured from vandalism. A simple, early-19th century, four-bay rendered building, without a use its long-term future must be in some doubt. Until this situation is resolved it will remain as a building at risk, along with a substantial number of other redundant churches.

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#### LOCATION

*1/2 ml. N.W. of Boveagh village  
 crossroads and 4 mls. S.E. of  
 Draperstown*

#### O.S. MAP NUMBER

*13*

#### GRID REFERENCE

*826 922*

#### STATUS

*Listed*

BARNI Ref. No. *08/12/001*



## FORMER CRANNY PRIMARY SCHOOL, CRANNY

### LOCATION

*In Cranny village, 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> mls. N.  
of Moneymore, W. off the A29*

### O.S. MAP NUMBER

*13*

### GRID REFERENCE

*848 891*

### STATUS

*Listed*

BARNI Ref. No. *08/12/002*

Erected by the Drapers' Company in 1820, this former primary school was described in its listing record as being "typical of buildings erected in the Moneymore and Draperstown area by the Drapers' Company of London". First highlighted in *Buildings at Risk*, Vol. 1, p. 90, it has a large, pedimented gable above the double-leaf entrance door, flanked either side by tall segmentally-headed, square-paned window openings, with oversailing eaves to the three-bay wide side elevations. It remains empty and several window panes have been broken.

*Refs:*  
MBR

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## FACTORY, 1 ABERCORN ROAD, DERRY

Several factories that have featured from Derry in the buildings at risk campaign have successfully found new uses – the former Rosemount Factory (*Buildings at Risk*, Vol. 1, p. 100); the Star factory (Vol. 1, p. 101 and Vol. 4, p. 96); and the Welch and Margetson factory (Vol. 1, p. 102). Regrettably, one prominent former shirt factory, the former Abercorn factory, remains at risk following the demolition of the nearby Tillie and Henderson factory, the first of the city’s shirt factories. The ‘Abercorn’ factory is one of the last remaining links to the city’s industrial past, and thus takes on even greater significance. Designed and built in 1863 by the local architect, A. McElwee, it is described as being “one of the earlier factories, with a very pleasantly weathered coloured brick. The fenestration is handled in an austere simple Georgian manner. The sweep of the building from Abercorn Road to Wapping Lane is interestingly achieved and punctuated with ground floor entrance and clock tower at top”. It appeared in *Buildings at Risk*, Vol. 1, p. 99, and remains only partially used.

### *Refs:*

UAHS, *North West Ulster*, 1970, p. 46

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

Ulster Architectural Heritage Society, tel: 028 9055 0213

Environment and Heritage Service, tel: 028 9054 3145

Londonderry Divisional Planning Office, tel: 028 7131 9900

### LOCATION

*On the corner of Abercorn Road, by the roundabout off the Craigavon Bridge, on the west bank of the Foyle*

### O.S. MAP NUMBER

7

### GRID REFERENCE

435 163

### STATUS

*Listed*

BARNI Ref. No. 01/19/002