



LIVING CITY PROJECT 2

Foreword

In the year 2000, the Foyle Civic Trust received funding from the Department of Social Development to employ a co-ordinator/education officer. Thus began involvement with local schools in a very successful education programme. The aim of the Project was to highlight the Walled City Historic Conservation Area through art and history projects. The Project ran for three years and covered Bishop Street, The Diamond and Shipquay Street areas. The students produced excellent studies and there was a public exhibition of their work for each phase. The Foyle Civic Trust always hoped that there could be a permanent record of the results of this project but no funding could be sourced. Out of this however came the idea of a more professional, permanent and on-going record and thus the Living City Project was conceived.

Phase 1 of the Living City Project funded by a grant from Derry City Council presented a survey of the principal streets of the Walled City, namely Shipquay Street, The Diamond and Bishop Street.

Phase 2, which is funded by a grant from the Department of Environment N.I.E.A., presents a survey of the remaining streets within the city walls in the form of descriptions, historical information, maps, drawings, and photographs, old and new. It includes both historical and new build works including The Playhouse, The Verbal Arts Centre, St Columb's Cathedral and works undertaken through the Townscape Heritage Initiative by the Walled City Partnership.

This Project will provide a valuable reference for anyone carrying out research, in addition to being the only comprehensive record of the Buildings and Streetscape of the Walled City.

The Foyle Civic Trust would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of the late Annesley Malley O.B.E. to this project, also to Derry Central Library and all others who made material available and of course our funders Derry City Council for Phase 1 and N.I.E.A. for Phase 2.

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Overview

Phase 2 of the Project follows on from the successful completion of Phase 1. The Living City Project is a pilot project designed to pull together research carried out by the Foyle Civic Trust of the Walled City of Derry/Londonderry into a manageable form to assist the Trust in its work. The Living City Project was initiated by the late Annesley Malley O.B.E. It involves the collation of material gathered to date by the Foyle Civic Trust alongside property record sheets, prepared for illustrative, and identification, purposes only. Phase 1 was of Bishop Street, Shipquay Street and the Diamond. Phase 2 covers the remaining streets within the walls. Phase 2 has involved substantial additional primary research including review of historical data; researching documents and maps. For this Phase, a set of 6 files have been provided covering the buildings and streets. Photographs have been integrated into the data sheet files. Both digital and hard copies have been produced. The Team working on the project comprised Sharon Brown, Alan Oliver and Nick Brown, Oliver Brown Partnership Limited with photographer Colin Peck of Colin Peck Studios. Phase 1 was funded by Derry City Council, and Phase 2 by Department of Environment N.I.E.A.

The Living City Project provides a valuable insight into this wonderful historic city. The completion of the work is very timely in view that Derry/Londonderry is to be the UK City of Culture 2013. What is evident from the work is just how valuable the Historic Walled City is to Derry, and to its future prosperity. There is tremendous potential to build on the Project and the information collated to date.

What is apparent from the Living City Project is that approximately 50% of the historic buildings dating from the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries within the Walls are already gone, through bomb damage and demolitions, particularly in the period from the 1970's. What is evident is that there is good photographic record of a number of the historic buildings and of fabric lost which would facilitate reinstatement and accurate repairs. To protect the unique character and sense of place of this historic Walled City it is considered critical to prevent future loss of its heritage buildings and to ensure that new interventions are not harmful to the special character of the place. Scale of interventions is an issue along with the protection of those in closest proximity to the walls. The Walled City is important to local people and visitors, to the economy and tourism.

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