

*I would like to recommend the Iona District of Glasnevin (comprising Iona Rd, Lindsay Rd, Gartan Ave, Iona Dr, Iona Park, Iona Crescent) be added to the list of Architectural Conservation Areas.*

*It is my opinion that the Iona District is an area of very special architectural, historic, and social interest. Designed and built largely by master builder Alexander Strain circa 1900 the area is made up of some of the finest examples of redbrick Victorian terraces in Dublin. These houses are not only architecturally significant, they are also noteworthy in the quality of the materials and methods used in their construction. These houses have a number of unique period features including stained glass bay windows, stained glass and siberian pine front doors, granite and wrought iron boundary railings and gates, and intricate wooden finials. The survival of these distinctive features and materials contribute to the distinct character of the area but, as of yet, are afforded very little protection.*

*The repetitive patterns of boundary railings, bay windows with the original stained glass, and the stained glass and wooden front doors, comprise a shared palette of materials that make the area truly unique, giving a sense of architectural harmony unlike anywhere else. In addition to the architectural harmony created by these buildings, many of the roads in this area are planted with mature plane trees and lined with the original lamp posts (some have been removed over the last couple of years, considerably detracting from the visual character of the area).*

*There are also a number of public buildings in this area that contribute to the district's social importance. The first of these is Lindsay Road National School, built by Thomas Farquharson in 1910 on land leased by the aforementioned Alexander Strain. The construction of the school was to meet the needs of four Dublin City Presbyterian churches – Abbey, Scots, Ormond Quay and Union Chapel - with the foundation stone being laid on 25th June 1910 and the first pupils enrolled on 17th January 1911. To this day the school is a social linchpin of the community.*

*The second such building is the Parish Church of St. Columbas that was built circa 1903 on grounds sold by the Redemptoristine Sisters in St. Alphonsus Convent in Drumcondra. This church and the surrounding grounds host a variety of events throughout the year and are of huge social and cultural significance to Iona and surrounding districts.*

*Iona district is located adjacent to a number of other sites of architectural, archaeological, social, and cultural significance. DeCoursey Square and environs is recognised as an ACA and is just a couple of minutes walk from the boundary of Iona, with Glasnevin Cemetery and the National Botanic Gardens located just north-west of DeCoursey. Iona district, DeCoursey, the Botanic Gardens and Glasnevin Cemetery should not be considered in isolation from one another. Together they comprise an area of distinct topographical and architectural features that help define an area much greater than its component districts or sites.*

*The original cobble paving and granite kerbstones of Iona District have been largely lost but remain in some places. My hope is that in granting ACA status these remaining areas will be protected before they are removed.*

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*The roofscape of Iona are worthy of note. They are composed largely of red-brick parapets (very unique to the buildings of the Iona District), finial topped pitched rooves, and original rooflights. The roads are punctuated every two houses with side lane access. These lanes are lined with wrought-iron fences and gates which, again, contribute greatly to the unique and distinctive character of the district.*

*I hope I have demonstrated here that the cumulative impact of the Iona District's buildings, our proximity to other significant areas/sites, the topography of the area and the cultural and social significance of the public spaces demonstrate how needed ACA status is."*

*Aine Planas*

