

**The Chairman and Members of
North West Area Committee.**

Meeting: 15th May 2018

Item No: 17

**Addition of Saint George's Cemetery, Whitworth Road, Dublin 9 to the Record of
Protected Structures in accordance with Section 54 and 55 of the Planning and
Development Act, 2000 (as amended).**

Recommendation	
Proposed Entry	Saint George's Cemetery, Whitworth Road, Dublin 9

Photo of Cemetery:



Introduction:

It is proposed to initiate procedures under Section 55 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) to add Saint George's Cemetery, Whitworth Road, Dublin 9 to Dublin City Council's Record of Protected Structures.

Cemetery Owner: United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough, Represented by Mr David Wynne (Chairman), St. George and St. Thomas Parish Oversight Committee, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin 6

Request for Addition:

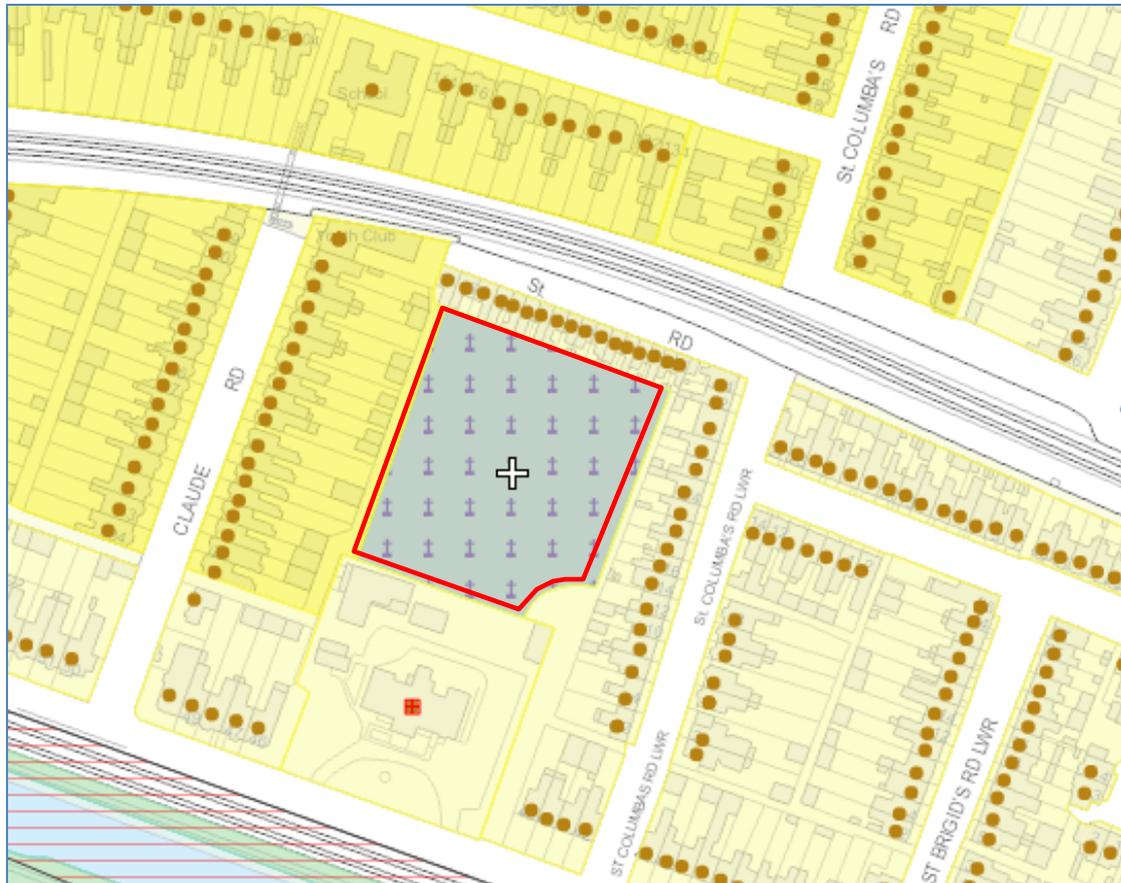
The request to assess the site came from the following:

- Conservation Section, Planning and Development Department, Dublin City Council.

Summary of Applicants Reasons for Seeking Addition:

- *Dublin City Council Conservation Section:* Nominated for addition as the cemetery owners are seeking grant assistance for repairs to the cemetery wall under the 2018 Built Heritage Investment Scheme. The cemetery is also considered to be of Regional significance.

Site Location & Zoning Map:



The area is zoned Zone 9: To preserve, provide and improve recreational amenity and open space and green networks.

Recent Planning History:

There is no recent planning history

Summary Description and Historical Background

Summary description: Enclosed Church of Ireland Cemetery established 1793, with upright and recumbent grave markers of varying materials and designs. Calp limestone boundary walls with formal entrance gate to southeast. The high boundary walls and delineated pathways are typical of a nineteenth-century garden cemetery, as opposed to a churchyard. The variety of designs found in the grave markers is significant in terms of artistic value. The site is further enhanced by the grave monument of Francis Johnston, one of the most important Irish architects of the Georgian period. His grave monument, built to his own design, is located to the north of the cemetery.

Historical Background: The site of St George's Cemetery is located just north of the Royal Canal. The land was donated by Luke Gardiner in 1793 as the site for a new church and cemetery for St George's parish. The church was not built here but was built instead at

Hardwicke Place in 1814 to the design of Francis Johnston. It was a key element in Gardiner's ambitious urban design for the northward expansion of the city.

The Whitworth Road site was used as the cemetery serving the parish. The Whitworth Fever Hospital was built in 1818 to the front of the site (later Drumcondra Hospital) and has been occupied by the NCBI since 1987. The cemetery contains a great many historic grave markers, including a number of elaborate monuments. It is important to the social history of the city, and requests for access by descendants of those buried there are received every month. It is the burial place of Francis Johnston, one of the most important Irish architects of the Georgian period, whose works include the GPO, Townley Hall, Co Louth and St George's Church, referred to above. Saint George's Church is regarded as the pinnacle of Francis Johnston achievements in Dublin and remains one of the highlights of Dublin's Georgian architectural heritage.



View of entranceway into cemetery



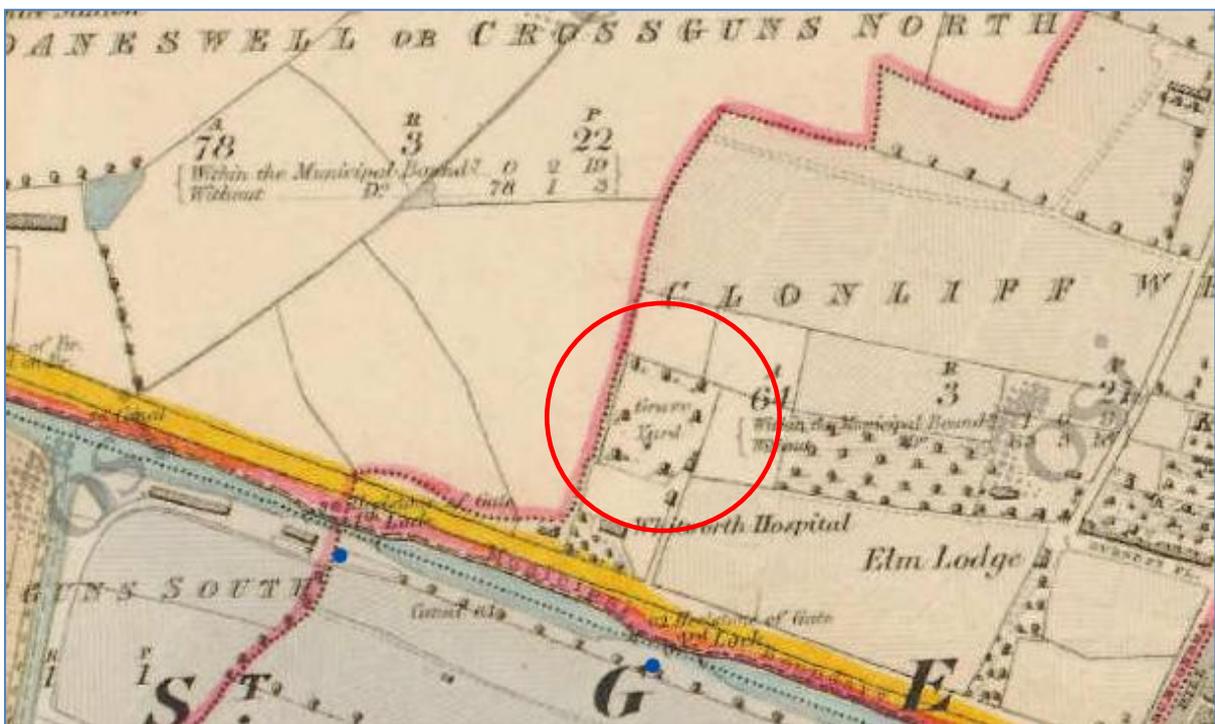
View of Saint George's Church on Hardwicke Place



View of Francis Johnston's tomb in Saint George's cemetery on Whitworth Road



View of tombs and grave markers



Extract from First Edition 1837 OS Map showing location of cemetery and the later Whitworth Hospital which was constructed in 1818 immediately to the south.



Extract from Google Maps 2018 showing cemetery

References:

Lotts Architecture 2018 *St Georges Graveyard Method Statement*. Unpublished report accompanying grant application.

Significance/NIAH Rating:

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) has not been carried out for this area. The NIAH uses eight categories of special interest (architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, technical & social) and identifies five categories of rating in seeking to rank buildings. The NIAH rating values are International, National, Regional, Local and Record Only (I, N, R, L, O). Structures which are considered of International, National, and Regional significance are deemed worthy of inclusion on the RPS.

The cemetery is considered to be of Regional rating. *These are structures or sites that make a significant contribution to the architectural heritage within their region or area.* Therefore it is recommended for addition to the Record of Protected Structures.

Assessment of Special Interest Under the Planning & Development Act 2000:

The cemetery is considered to be of the following special interest:

- **ARTISTIC:** The variety of designs found in the grave markers is significant in terms of artistic value.
- **HISTORICAL:** The site is further enhanced by the grave monument of Francis Johnston, one of the most important Irish architects of the Georgian period. His grave monument, built to his own design, is located to the north of the cemetery.
- **SOCIAL:** The cemetery is in no longer in active use but remains a significant part of the social fabric of the area, and an important social and historical reference.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Saint George's Cemetery, Whitworth Road, Dublin 9 be added to the Record of Protected Structures, in accordance with Section 54 and 55 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

Recommendation	
Proposed Entry	Saint George's Cemetery, Whitworth Road, Dublin 9

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