

Conservation Section, Planning & Property Development Department
Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8

An Rannóg Caomhantais, An Roinn Pleanála agus Forbairt Maoine
Oifigí na Cathrach, An Ché Adhmaid, Baile Atha Cliath 8
T. 01 222 3927 F. 01 222 2830

To the Chairperson and Members of the Central Area Committee

Addition of the Garden of Remembrance, Parnell Square, Dublin 1 to the Record of Protected Structures in accordance with Section 54 and 55 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

Recommendation	
Address	Description (to appear on RPS)
Parnell Square, Dublin 1	Garden of Remembrance

Photo:



Introduction:

It is proposed to initiate procedures under Section 55 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) to add the Garden of Remembrance, Parnell Square, Dublin 1 to Dublin City Council's Record of Protected Structures.

Name and Address of Owner:

Office of Public Works, Jonathan Swift Street, Trim, Co. Meath, C15 NX36.

Request for Addition:

- Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht on the 4th of June 2014.
- Councillor Mannix Flynn on the 3rd of December 2012.

Summary of Applicant's Reasons for Seeking Addition:

- *Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht:* List of recommendations for inclusion on the RPS of structures deemed as being of 'Regional' significance or higher identified during Stage 1 of the Dublin Survey carried out by the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. The Garden of Remembrance, Parnell Street has been assigned a National rating. The Stage 1 recommendations were issued to Dublin City Council on the 4th of June 2014. The Garden of Remembrance is the only Nationally rated structure included on the list of recommendations which is not on the Record of Protected Structures.
- *Councillor Mannix Flynn:* Emergency Motion to the City Council on the 3rd of December 2012. *Having regard to the national significance of this site as a memorial to the men and women who gave their lives to the cause for Irish freedom, we call on Dublin City Council to initiate a procedure to declare this site a protected heritage structure of National importance.*

Addition of Significant 20th Century Structures:

Policy CHC3 of the Dublin City Development Plan 2016-2022 provides as follows: *To identify and protect exceptional buildings of the late twentieth century; to categorise, prioritise and, where appropriate, add to the RPS. Dublin City Council will produce guidelines and offer advice for protection and appropriate refurbishment.*

In June 2014 the Minister recommended that this structure be included on Dublin City Council's RPS. The Garden of Remembrance, Parnell Street has been assigned a National rating by the NIAH. The Garden of Remembrance is the only Nationally rated structure included on the list of recommendations which is not on the Record of Protected Structures.

Following on from the above, in June this year, the Conservation Section carried out a screening process for the 20th century Stage 1 Ministerial Recommendations (137 in total). These were then screened for National and high level Regional significance using the criteria provided in the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2011. Twenty eight significant structures were identified to be prioritised for addition including this structure.

Site Location & Zoning Map:

The Garden of Remembrance forms the northern portion of the former Rotunda Gardens. It has a frontage on Parnell Square North, East and West and the southern boundary of the Garden adjoins the buildings and associated parking and open space of the Rotunda Gardens.



Zoning map: The subject site is zoned Z9: *To preserve, provide and improve recreational amenity and open space and green networks*. It is also zoned a Conservation Area.

Recent Planning History:

Planning Ref	Description	Decision
5620/05	Planning & Development Regulations 2001 - Part 8 Planning & Development Act 2002 Pursuant of the requirements of the above, notice is hereby given of the proposed development by Dublin City Council on behalf of the Office of Public works. The proposal consists of the a new pedestrian entrance to the Garden of Remembrance, Parnell Square from the North side of the square opposite the Hugh Lane Gallery. The work consists of: (1) Enlarging the existing indented pavement to create a viewing platform, which extends at street level and rests on top of the north side of the existing 'crucifix' shaped sunken garden. An etched glazed screen forms the boundary between the platform and the sunken garden. (2) Entry to the garden is gained by two dogleg stone staircases, which are placed at either end of the viewing platform and descend into the Garden of Remembrance without disturbing the crucifix form of the garden.	Granted permission with no observations 03-Jan-2006
WEB1196/12 An Bord Pleanala Case Reference PL29N.242067	An Bord Pleanala refused permission for the proposed development: the creation of a covered walkway through an existing podium and connecting a new hard and soft landscaped civic area located at the western extremity of the Garden of Remembrance. The new civic area incorporates seating, water features, feature lighting and sculptured elements. The proposal also provides for a gated opening in the railings along Parnell Square West to access the memorial, new service access gates to Parnell Square North and all associated site development works. The application site area measures 2,140 sq m	Refuse Permission 25-Nov-2013

Summary Description (extracted from Merlo Kelly, 'Garden of Remembrance' in Ellen Rowley (ed.), *More Than Concrete Blocks, Volume 2, 1940 – 1973*)

The National Garden of Remembrance, completed in 1966 to the designs of Daithí Hanly, was designed to commemorate those who died in the cause for Irish freedom: '*It is hoped that this Garden will be a place where Irish people can sit and muse on their past, and experience heartfelt thankfulness to the dead who fought, suffered and died that Ireland might be free from foreign domination – that it may in short be a place of remembrance.*' (Oibre 4, 1966)

In 1971, Oisín Kelly's *Children of Lir* memorial was added to the raised platform at the west end of the garden: '*It is my act of faith that while strident voices compel attention and constant reiteration of slogans sells corn flakes or wins elections, it is the quiet voices, like the grain of mustard seed which change our lives. I should like a memorial which does not attempt to bully my countrymen into having splendid thoughts and noble feelings, but rather one whose message was implicit, a hint rather than a shout. I complained once to a poet that I had been disappointed with Clonmacnoise. He replied "You must bring Clonmacnoise with you." It is that image in the heart which is the only sane purpose of this monument.*' (Oisín Kelly, 1959, OPW Archives).

The sunken garden extends along the north boundary of the former New Gardens (c.1750), around which Parnell Square, then Rutland Square, developed in the second half of the eighteenth century. A cruciform pool generates the form of the granite-paved sunken garden, which is enclosed by four raised grass terraces at street level. These are retained by rock-faced limestone walls. Decorative railings feature ancient Irish artefacts, copied from originals in the National Museum – the Brian Boru harp, Loughnashade trumpet, and the Ballinderry sword.

The pool is composed on an east-west axis, and terminates in a raised apse to the west. Its north-south axis aligns with the Hugh Lane Gallery, formerly Charlemont House. Blue-green mosaic tiles decorate the pool, which includes depictions of swords, shields and broken spears, illustrating the Celtic tradition of throwing weapons into water to mark peace after battle. The rim of the pool enclosure is decorated with a cast concrete wave-form trim, a pattern which is repeated on the raised platform pool and flower beds.

Wide granite steps create a formal approach to the raised apse, which displays Oisín Kelly's *Children of Lir* memorial in an oval pool at its centre. The curved marble-clad wall of the apse is 12-foot high, and inscribed with Liam Mac Uistín's *We saw a vision* in gilt Celtic lettering.

Site Location:

The garden is located to the north of Parnell Square, on the site of the eighteenth century *New Gardens*. These pleasure gardens, designed by Robert Stevenson, were established by Sir Bartholomew Mosse in 1749 to raise funds for his Lying-in Hospital to the south of the square.

In 2007, works were carried out to the north-western boundary of the garden, and a new accessible entrance was provided on axis, with the entrance to the Hugh Lane Gallery.

Further works were carried out prior to the 1916 centenary celebrations, including *the installation of a lift and universal access to the podium; the conservation of the Children of Lir sculpture; the installation of a new water system; repair of the reflective pool and redecoration of the railings* (OPW Archives, centenary works records).

Original Brief:

In 1937, the Minister for Finance Seán McEntee proposed the creation of a memorial garden, to commemorate those who died in the struggle for Irish freedom. A section of the Rotunda Hospital gardens was chosen as the site for the project. This site had significance as it marked the location where Óglaigh na hEireann was founded in 1913, and where the Volunteer prisoners had been held overnight on Easter Saturday in 1916.

In 1939, government approval was obtained for the funding of the project, and the site was acquired from the Rotunda Hospital for £2,060. Several delays ensued, such as World War II, a change of government, and the construction of a temporary paediatric unit for the hospital on the site (Louise Kelly, OPW). The site was also under consideration for a national concert hall, which added further delays. A design competition was launched by the Commissioners of Public Works in January 1946, and architects were invited to submit design proposals for *'the conversion of the northerly end of the Rotunda Gardens into a Garden of Remembrance to be dedicated to those who gave their lives in the cause of Irish freedom.'*

The winning design was by the architect Daithí Hanly. The design was described by the one of the assessors as follows: *'His treatment, with the large monumental feature and its apsidal planting, the sunk garden, the great cross motif on plan and the general arrangement, overcomes many of the inherent difficulties of the site and his entrance approach is simple and dignified.'*

Some minor amendments were made and outlined in a 1950 letter from the Commissioners of Public Works to the Secretary of the Taoiseach, which makes reference to a report on the scheme by Raymond McGrath, Principal Architect with the OPW. Granite flags were suggested by McGrath, in place of Hanly's proposed concrete paving. The estimated cost of the project was revised from £23,000 in November 1947 to £30,000 in December 1950. Hanly's scheme was formally approved by M Ó Muimhneachain in the Department of the Taoiseach on 30 December 1950, and instructions were given to proceed with the project *'as soon as practicable'*.

'As regards appointment of a sculptor for the memorial proper, Mr Hanly is of the opinion that the sculpture would be best made the subject of a limited competition on the lines of the Davis Memorial for which Mr Kavanagh was one of the selected sculptors. For a short list he suggested Kavanagh, Campbell, Hiliary Heron, Seamus Murphy and Oisín Kelly.' (OPW archives, A96/6.8.46). In 1957, following submission of a preliminary report, Oisín Kelly was appointed as sculptor for the memorial in the Garden of Remembrance and a meeting between Hanly and Kelly was arranged.

The process was extraordinarily protracted, drawn out over several years.... It wasn't until February 1961 that a contract for the works was signed and construction works on the garden commenced (OPW Archives, A96: 6/10/57).

On Easter Monday in April 1966, the Garden of Remembrance was formally opened by President de Valera and Archbishop McQuaid, in a commemoration ceremony to mark the Golden Jubilee of the 1916 Rising. The Taoiseach Seán Lemass was also in attendance. *'This moving and beautiful ceremony, which culminated in the sounding of the Last Post and the hoisting of the national flag and the flags of the four provinces, was the climax of over 30 years' work and the realisation of a dream ...'* (Oibre 4, 1966)

In 1968, the Marinelli Foundry in Florence was awarded the job to cast the sculpture for the sum of \$50,000 USD (Louise Kelly, OPW). Kelly made several trips to Florence to assist in making a full-scale model for each of the eight elements of the composition. The finished sculpture weighed eight tons and was shipped from Livorno to Dublin (Oibre 10, 1973). In July 1971, the memorial was unveiled by Taoiseach Jack Lynch.

NIAH Ministerial Recommendations for Garden of Remembrance, Parnell Square, Dublin 1

Garden of Remembrance (or Rotunda Gardens), Parnell Square, Dublin 1

NIAH Ref No: 50010658

Date: 1965 - 1970

Rating: National

Importance Values: ARTISTIC;
CULTURAL; HISTORICAL; SOCIAL



Description: National Garden of Remembrance, dated 1966, to designs of Dáithí Hanly, at north end of Parnell Square, having raised apse platform to west and sunken cruciform pool. Raised limestone paved semi-circular platform to west with monumental bronze group by Oisín Kelly, dated 1971, entitled 'The Children of Lir' set in small pool enclosed by low granite plinth wall with wave-form trim. Platform enclosed to west by marble-clad curved wall and pair of rock-faced limestone walls with inscribed gilt Gaelic lettering to centre, taken from 'We Saw a Vision' by Liam Mac Uistín, and two bronze plaques with French and English translations. Twenty-two stone steps lead to central sunken cruciform pool set on east-west axis, decorated with waves of blue mosaic tiles and repetitive mosaic motif of shields and spears (symbolising ancient custom of throwing weapons into water on cessation of hostilities). Low granite plinth wall encloses pool with cast concrete wave-form trim. Cruciform paved area encircling pool with rock-faced limestone ashlar retaining walls to lawns above. Secondary entrance to north side of gardens, built c.2005, with modern glazed terrace and two sets of stone steps descending to pool level accessed via stainless steel gate opposite Hugh Lane Gallery. Limestone paved platform to east, having two flights of limestone steps either side of three platforms with rock-faced limestone ashlar faces and benches. Two rock-faced limestone-clad wings to either side of principal east entrance, one containing tool store, other containing caretaker's office, with concrete canopy facing garden sheltering benches. Stylized iron railings to upper platform at east of site with symbols of Brian Boru harp, Loughnashade trumpet, and Ballinderry sword. Iron entrance gate on roller with central bronze replica of processional Cross of Cloyne surmounted by words 'GÁIRDÍN CUIMHNEACHÁIN'. Flanking masonry wings bearing text 'GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE / DEDICATED TO THOSE WHO GAVE THEIR / LIVES IN THE CAUSE FOR IRISH FREEDOM', Irish translation to south wing. S-curved iron railings enclose both entrance wings. Cast-iron railings on moulded granite plinth wall enclose east, north and west sides of garden with lawn to east. Double cast-iron gates to south of west railings allowing vehicular access to rear of apse. Rock-faced limestone wall between Rotunda Hospital grounds and garden.

Appraisal: Parnell Square has its origins c.1750 as the New Gardens of the Lying-In Hospital, designed by Robert Stevenson and developed by Dr. Batholomew Mosse to raise funds for his charitable maternity hospital. In 1784, an Act of Parliament was passed to remove the wall surrounding the Gardens, introduce railings and street lighting and the gardens were renamed Rutland Square in honour of the Lord Lieutenant, the Duke of Rutland. The gardens were enhanced with the addition of the great round Assembly Rooms or Rotunda in 1764 (the former Ambassador cinema), and the construction of the new Assembly Rooms in 1784 to the designs of Richard Johnston (now the Gate Theatre). Under the 1785 Act of Parliament that created Rutland Square, the hospital was prevented from building further on the garden, but an extension was added in 1895 on Parnell Square West, while a Nurse's Home designed by F.G. Hicks was built in 1940. In 1935 the Dublin Brigade Council of the Old IRA suggested to the Government that a site on the northern part of the Rotunda Gardens be converted into a

memorial garden, marking the site where Óglaigh na nÉireann was founded in 1913 and where prisoners of 1916 had been held during Easter Week. The site was acquired from the Governors of the Rotunda Hospital in October 1939 at a cost of £2,000. World War Two and controversy delayed the construction of the park until 1964, but the Garden was completed in time for the 50th anniversary commemoration of the 1916 Rising. Rutland Square was renamed in honour of the political leader Charles Stewart Parnell in the same year. Hanley's design drew heavily on Ireland's Celtic past and made use of much religious iconography. The encroachment of the Rotunda Hospital buildings on the space once occupied by the eighteenth-century gardens means its legibility as a Georgian Square has been compromised. At a visit by Queen Elizabeth II in 2011, Hanley's original intentions of the ceremonial use of the space were fulfilled with the placement of a wreath on the stone platform and a guard of honour in the apse overlooking the garden. The Garden of Remembrance provides a very public platform for the commemoration of those killed in the struggle for Irish Independence and is a unique symbolic expression of Irish nationhood. The emphasis on religious iconography and ancient Celtic motifs in Hanley's design, coupled with Kelly's bronze sculpture serves not only to effectively commemorate the dead but also to draw a parallel between them and the ancient warriors of the heroic, Celtic and pre-colonial past.

References:

- The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage Survey of Dublin City, Stage 1 Ministerial Recommendations issued on the 04/06/14.
- Merlo Kelly, 'Garden of Remembrance' in Ellen Rowley (ed.), *More Than Concrete Blocks, Volume 2, 1940 - 1973* (Dublin City Council, forthcoming).

Significance/NIAH Rating:

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) has 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 NIAH has assigned the Garden of Remembrance on Parnell Square a National rating. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage in its 2017 handbook clarifies the meaning of this designation as follows: *Structures or sites that make a significant contribution to the architectural heritage of Ireland. These are structures and sites that are considered to be of great architectural heritage significance in an Irish context. Examples include Ardnacrusha Power Station, Co. Clare; the Ford Factory, Cork; Carroll's Factory, Dundalk; Lismore Castle, Co. Waterford; Sligo Courthouse, Sligo; and Emo Court, Co. Laois.* As a result, it is included in the list of Ministerial recommendations for inclusion on the RPS of structures deemed as being of 'Regional' significance or higher identified during Stage 1 of the Dublin Survey. It is the only Nationally rated structure included in the Stage 1 Ministerial Recommendations which is not already a protected structure.

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

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage assigned this building ARTISTIC; CULTURAL; HISTORICAL & SOCIAL interest.

The Conservation Section has considered the opinion of the NIAH and is in agreement with the four categories of special interest assigned. Councillor Mannix Flynn's reasons for addition have also been considered in detail. As a result the Garden of Remembrance is considered to be of special interest under the following headings:

- **ARTISTIC:** Dáithí Hanley's design drew heavily on Ireland's Celtic past and made use of much religious iconography. The emphasis on religious iconography and ancient Celtic motifs in Hanley's design, coupled with Kelly's bronze sculpture serves not only to effectively commemorate the dead but also to draw a parallel between them and the ancient warriors of the heroic, Celtic and pre-colonial past.
- **CULTURAL:** The Garden of Remembrance is a significant memorial to the development of Irish Nationhood and to the men and women who gave their lives to the cause for Irish freedom.
- **HISTORICAL:** The Garden of Remembrance is located on part of the 1750 'New Gardens of the Lying-In Hospital'. In 1935, the Dublin Brigade Council of the Old IRA suggested to the Government that a site on the northern part of the Rotunda Gardens be converted into a memorial garden, marking the site where Óglaigh na nÉireann was founded in 1913 and where prisoners of 1916 had been held during Easter Week. The site was acquired from the Governors of the Rotunda Hospital but World War II and controversy delayed the construction of the park until 1964. The Garden was completed in time for the 50th anniversary commemoration of the 1916 Rising and Rutland Square was renamed in honour of the political leader Charles Stewart Parnell in the same year.
- **SOCIAL:** The Garden of Remembrance provides a very public platform for the commemoration of those killed in the struggle for Irish Independence and is a unique symbolic expression of Irish Nationhood. At a visit by Queen Elizabeth II in 2011, Hanley's original intentions of the ceremonial use of the space were fulfilled with the placement of a wreath on the stone platform and a guard of honour in the apse overlooking the garden.

Conclusion:

The Conservation Section has considered the Ministerial recommendation and the applicants' reasons for seeking addition and concluded that the structure merits inclusion on the Record of Protected Structures.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Garden of Remembrance, Parnell Square, Dublin 1 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	
Address	Description (to appear on RPS)
Parnell Square, Dublin 1	Garden of Remembrance

Paraic Fallon
Senior Planner

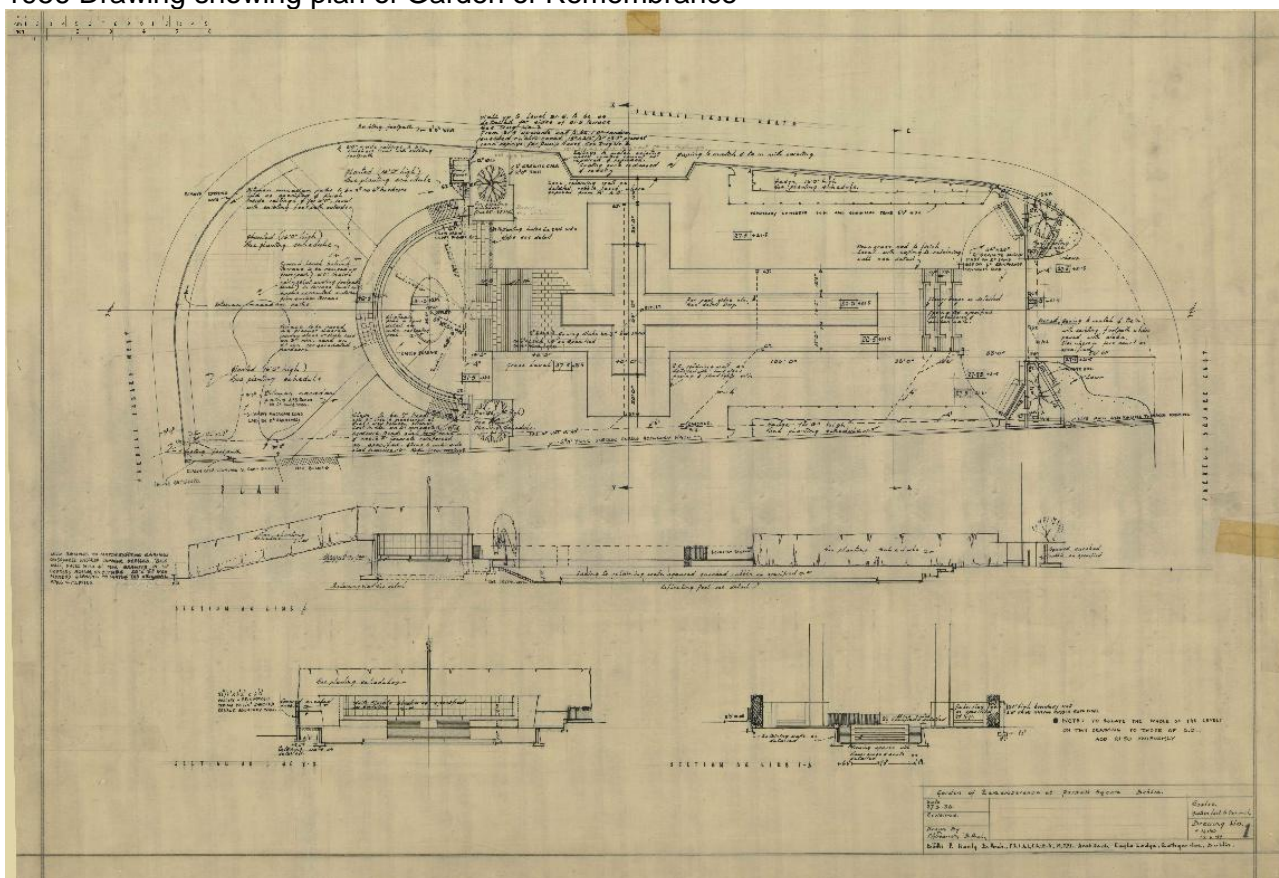
Extent of Protected Structure Status & Curtilage



Aerial Photograph showing location of building



Archival Images:
 1956 Drawing showing plan of Garden of Remembrance



Garden of Remembrance at Parnell Square, Dublin.	
Date	27.3.56.
Revisions.	
Drawn By	P. O'Donnell B. Arch.
Checked By	D. P. Hanly B. Arch., F.R.I.A.I., F.R.I.B.A., M.T.P.I., Architect, Eagle Lodge, Rathgar Ave., Dublin.
Scale.	Sixteen feet to One inch.
Drawing No.	R. 14-180
Date	19.6.56

Image of Oisín Kelly sculptor with model of the Children of Lir monument.



Photographic Record:



View of entrance to Garden of Remembrance from Parnell Square.



View SW of Garden of Remembrance towards the Children of Lir monument.



View NE towards main entranceway from Children of Lir monument.



View of Children of Lir monument.



Views of Oisín Kelly's Children of Lir monument.



Engraved poem 'An Aisling' by Liam Mac Uistín was engraved on the wall to the SW/rear of Children of Lir monument in 1976.

"An Aisling":

I ndorchacht an éadóchais rinneadh aisling dúinn. Lasamar solas an dóchais agus níor múchadh é. I bhfásach an lagmhisnigh rinneadh aisling dúinn. Chuireamar crann na crógachta agus tháinig bláth air. I ngeimhreach na daoirse rinneadh aisling dúinn. Mheileamar sneachta na taimhe agus rith abhainn na hathbheochana as. Chuireamar ár n-aisling ag snámh mar eala ar an abhainn. Rinneadh fírinne den aisling. Rinneadh samhradh den gheimhreach. Rinneadh saoirse den daoirse agus d'fhágamar agaibhse mar oidhreacht í. A ghlúnta na saoirse cuimhní gí orainne, glúnta na haislinge.

This translates to:

"We Saw A Vision":

In the darkness of despair we saw a vision, We lit the light of hope and it was not extinguished. In the desert of discouragement we saw a vision. We planted the tree of valour and it blossomed. In the winter of bondage we saw a vision. We melted the snow of lethargy and the river of resurrection flowed from it. We sent our vision as swim like a swan on the river. The vision became a reality. Winter became summer. Bondage became freedom and this we left to you as your inheritance. O generations of freedom remember us, the generations of the vision.