

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

An Rannóg Caomhantais, Roinn Pleanála, Maoine, Fiontraíochta & Forbairt Eachnamaíochta
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28th of February 2017

To the Chairperson and Members of the Central Area Committee

Recommendation:

Addition of 55 Amiens Street, Dublin 1 to the Record of Protected Structures in accordance with Section 54 and 55 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000.

Recommendation	
Proposed Entry	55 Amiens Street, Dublin 1

Photo of Structure



Name and Address of Owner: Dr. Martin Purcell, Address unknown

Introduction & Reason for Amendment/Addition

- Councillor Nial Ring, Central Area Committee: That this Committee agree that No 55 Amiens Street (shop & home of Tom Clarke) be added to the list of protected structures.

Planning History: No recent planning history

Development Plan Zoning & location map: Building is located on the northwest side of Amiens Street between the junctions of Amiens Street and Buckingham Street Lower and Portland Row. It is in a terrace of buildings that front directly onto the street. A lane runs to the rear of the terrace. Once a stable lane, cottages were built in the lane in the late nineteenth century. Although the original triangle of cottages has been demolished the lane is known as Frankfort Cottages.



Summary Description

Terraced four-bay three-storey house, built c. 1790, with two shopfronts at ground floor level.

Roof: Pitched roof with replacement tiles and yellow-brick chimneystack. Roof partially concealed behind parapet wall on front elevation. Rear section of roof appears to be a flat roof.

Walls: Machine-cut red brick front elevation wall laid in Flemish bond with parapet wall to front elevation with granite capstones. Cement rendered rear elevation wall.

Openings: Square-headed window openings on front elevation with granite sills and single-pane and two-over-two timber sash windows. One six-pane sash survives to first floor window.

Square-headed window openings on rear elevation with replacement timber casement windows. Granite sills visible on second floor windows, one window has replacement concrete sill. One window has been reduced in width. Ground and first floor windows not visible from rear lane.

Narrow door opening on front elevation with timber panelled door and glazed oversight set into shopfront surround. Shopfront on southwest of front elevation has plain timber pilasters supporting plain fascia. Cornice and terminating brackets are missing from top and sides of fascia. Stallriser supports glazed shop window. Top section of timber window divided into three. Metal security grill fixed to external window frame. Square-headed door opening within shopfront has timber panelled double doors with bolection mouldings.

Shopfront on northeast of front elevation has plain timber pilasters supporting plain fascia with cornice and terminating in console brackets. Console brackets do not match in size or style. Stallriser supports glazed shop windows. Top section of timber windows divided into three. Metal security grill fixed to external window frame. Square-headed door opening incorporated into shopfront. Door concealed behind metal security shutter. Glazed overlight to door. No names or lettering on shopfronts.

Front Site: Granite paving slabs survive to front site of building. Original railings removed in nineteenth century. Two metal covers on ground likely to conceal basement lights. Building fronts directly onto Amiens Street.

Rear and Side Site: Rear site backs onto rear lane, known as Frankfort Cottages. Garage backs onto Frankfort Cottages with a metal roller shutter garage door. No access to rear yard.

Interior: No access to interior.

Historical Background:

Amiens Street was named after Edward Stratford, second Earl of Aldborough and Viscount Amiens. Rocque's map of 1756 illustrates the street as a wide road on the easterly reaches of the city named The Strand. There is some development at its southern end but the remainder of the road is lined with fields. However with the construction of the new Customs House in 1781-1791 and Aldborough House on nearby Portland Row in 1796 the area was quickly developed. Duncan's map of 1821 illustrates new roads laid out in this part of the city including Portland Row and Buckingham Street Lower, both of which transect Amiens Street and between which 55 Amiens Street is located. It is clear to see on Duncan's map the terrace of buildings of which 55 Amiens Street is part.

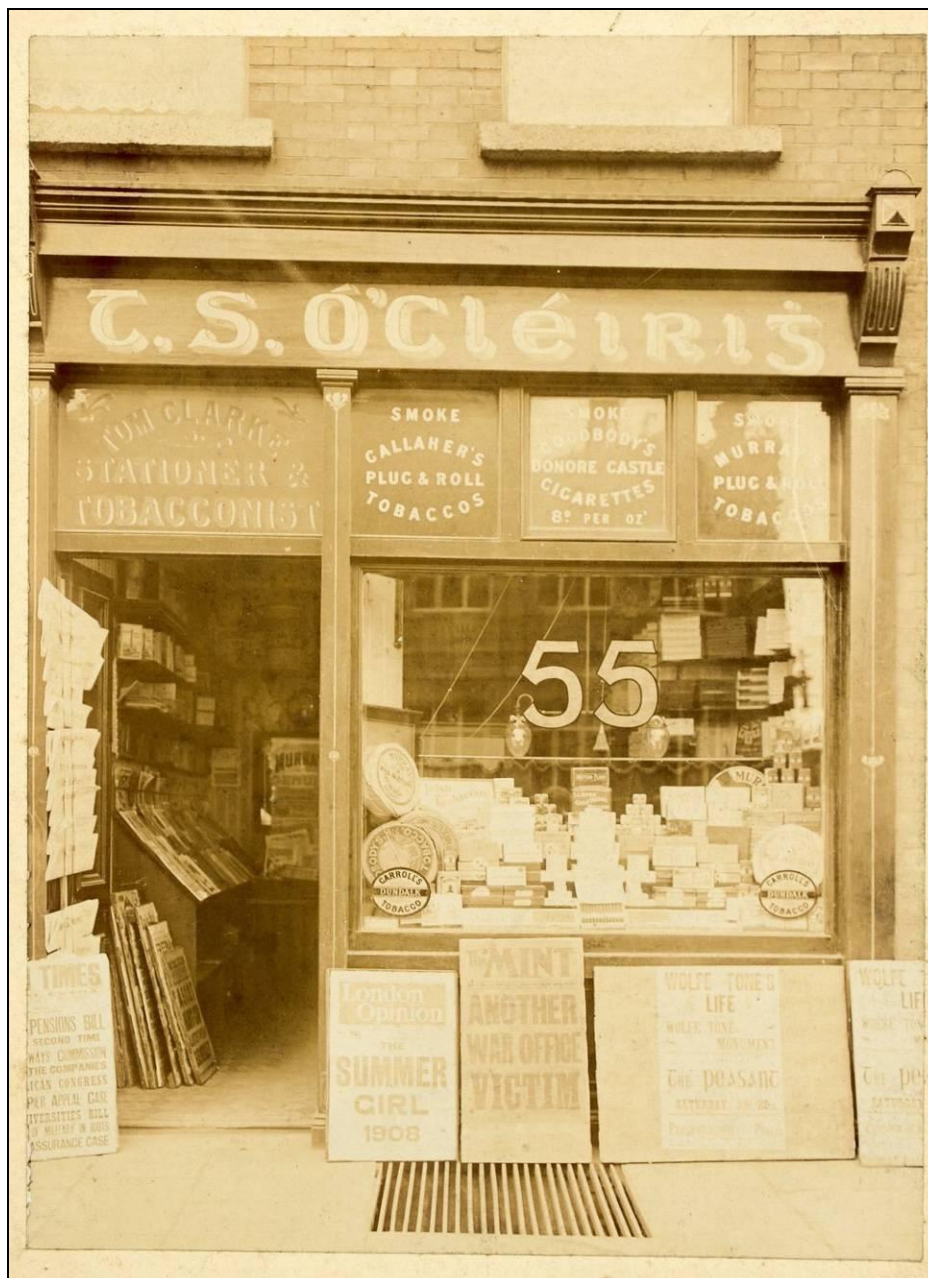
Being in such close proximity to the Customs House and with the construction of Amiens Street Station in 1844 the street became a thriving commercial street with many hotels to cater for railway travellers.

The first edition Ordnance Survey Map of the area dated 1846-1847 illustrates 55 Amiens Street as the widest building in the terrace. It has an enclosed front site and the door is accessed up three steps. The building has a rear return but there is no mews or stable building in the rear site backing onto the rear lane. There is a small outbuilding located along the southwest boundary of the rear site. It is interesting to note that only the lower end of this section of Amiens Street, between Buckingham Street Lower and Portland Row as been developed by the mid-nineteenth century.

The second edition Ordnance Survey map dated 1864 illustrates that construction of this side of the street up to Portland Row junction is now complete. There is little change to 55 Amiens Street. The front site remains enclosed and there is a rear mews building. Thoms Street Directory lists 'Patrick McKeever, Scotch, Manchester and general drapery establishment, silk mercer, hatter etc.' as occupant of no. 55 in 1865. He remained the sole occupant until 1874 when James Byrne, 'provision dealer' was also listed as occupant. Perhaps it was at this time that the ground floor of the building was divided into two retail units. Patrick McKeever remained as occupant until 1900.

The 1889 Ordnance Survey map shows a tramline running down the centre of Amiens Street. The front site of no. 55 is now open to the street while most of the neighbouring buildings still have enclosed front sites. In 1900 Thoms lists Miss Crozier, Draper and Mary Coughlan, 'fruiter and news agent' as occupants. But in 1909 Miss Crozier has a new neighbour. Thomas James (Tom) Clarke opened a tobacconist at 55 Amiens Street shortly after his return to Ireland from New York in 1907. The 1910 and 1911 listings in Thoms Street Directory for no. 55 Amiens Street list P.S Clarke Tobacconist, stationer and newsagent. He is not listed as an occupant in 1912. It is believed that Tom Clarke moved his shop to Great Britain Street, now Parnell Street circa 1911. Tom Clarke

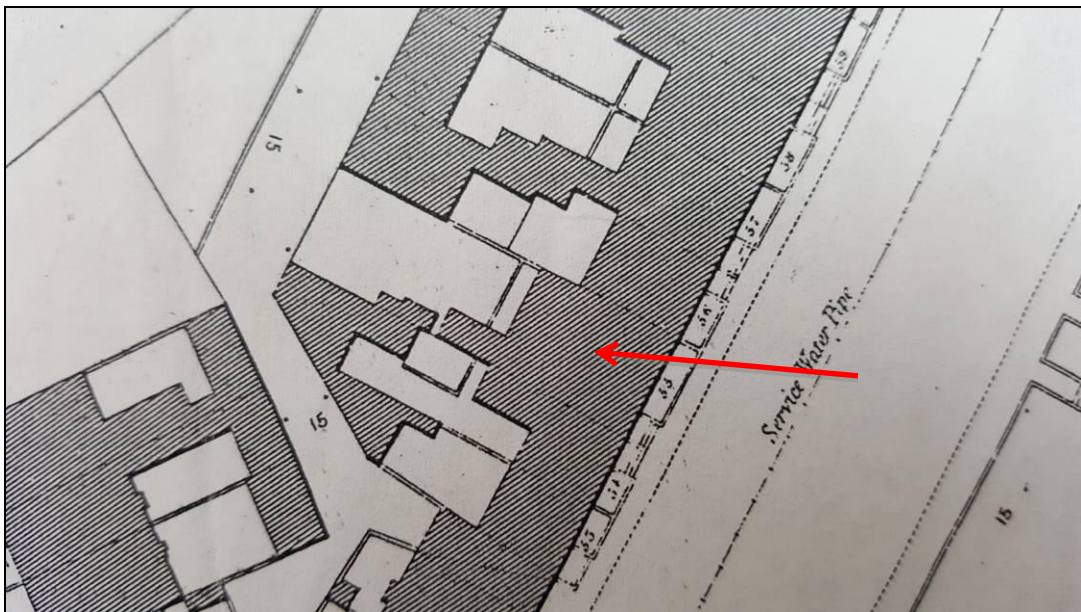
(1858-1916) was born in the Isle of Wight and educated in Dungannon. He was arrested on a Fenian bombing mission to London in 1883 and spent 15 years in prison. After a period in New York, he returned to Ireland in 1907 and helped reinvigorate the IRB, playing a critical role in steering it towards insurrection. He was the first signatory of the 1916 Proclamation of the Republic and was in the GPO during Easter week. He was executed 3 May 1916.



Tom Clarke's shop at 55 Amiens Street. The numbers 55 are clearly seen on the shop window. The shopfront arrangement remains the same today with one large shop window and three small windows above. The door appears to be a timber panelled door with bolection mouldings. The console bracket visible in the photograph is similar in size and form to the corresponding bracket surviving today. Photo source: Dr. Shane Kenna, Twitter page



1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map, Sheet 9
Scale: 1:1056
Surveyed 1838-47, Published 1847



1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map, Sheet 9
Scale: 1:1056
Surveyed 1838-47, Published 1847



2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map, Sheet 18-48

Scale: 1:1056

Surveyed 1889, Published 1889

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.

Ministerial Recommendations have not yet been issued for this section of Amiens Street, however the draft survey has assigned 55 Amiens Street a Regional rating. *These are structures or sites that make a significant contribution to the architectural heritage within their region or area.*

The NIAH states the following in relation to the building: *Amiens Street, formerly The Strand, was renamed in memory of Viscount Amiens, Earl of Aldborough, whose mansion is located on nearby Portland Row. This terraced house, one of a pair, on the northern side of Amiens Street appears to have been constructed during the late nineteenth century. The facade's machine-cut brick, typical of the time, represents the advances in building technology of the Victorian period. Such brick, with its smooth and uniform finish, could be produced quickly and on a mass scale. This differed greatly from the production of handmade bricks which had been used in construction before that age. The house and its pair have modest timber shopfronts, which are becoming a rare feature in a rapidly changing city.* The NIAH have assigned a date of 1890, however on the basis of the historical research above it is likely that the building is much earlier and was refaced with modern red brick in the late 19th century.

Assessment of Special Interest under the Planning & Development Act 2000 (identified by the NIAH)

- *Architectural:* Late 18th century building with 19th century shop to ground floor and living accommodation above. This building retains its modest shop front and timber sash windows which are becoming a rare feature in a rapidly changing city. It contributes to the character of the surrounding built environment.
- *Historical:* Tom Clarke, Irish Nationalist operated a shop in the building between circa 1909 and 1911. Tom Clarke (1858-1916) was born in the Isle of Wight and educated in Dungannon. He was arrested on a Fenian bombing mission to London in 1883 and spent 15 years in prison. After a period in New York, he returned to Ireland in 1907 and helped reinvigorate the IRB and played a critical role in steering it towards insurrection. He was the first signatory of the 1916 Proclamation of the Republic and was in the GPO during Easter week. He was executed 3 May 1916.

Conclusion & Recommendation:

55 Amiens Street is considered to be of Regional significance. It is therefore recommended that **55 Amiens Street, Dublin 1** be added to the Record of Protected Structures in accordance with Section 54 and 55 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000.

Recommendation	
Proposed Entry	55 Amiens Street, Dublin 1

Paraic Fallon
Senior Planner

Date

Extent of Protected Structure Status

Extent of proposed protection for 55 Amiens Street is shown on the map below outlined in red.



Photographic Record:

External:



Figure 1: Front elevation of 55 Amiens Street



Figure 2: 55 Amiens Street in terrace of buildings



Figure 3: Detail of two shopfronts on ground floor front elevation



Figure 4: Detail of doors on front elevation of building



Figure 5: Detail of consile bracket on shopfront



Figure 6: View of fascia of shopfront and missing cornice and console brackets



Figure 7: View of granite paving slab at front site of building



Figure 8: Detail of first floor front elevation window6



Figure 9: First floor front elevation windows



Figure 10: Yellowbrick chimneystack on northeast end of roof



Figure 11: View of upper levels of rear elevation



Figure 12: View of rear elevation and rear site of structure



Figure 13: View of rear elevation and rear lane