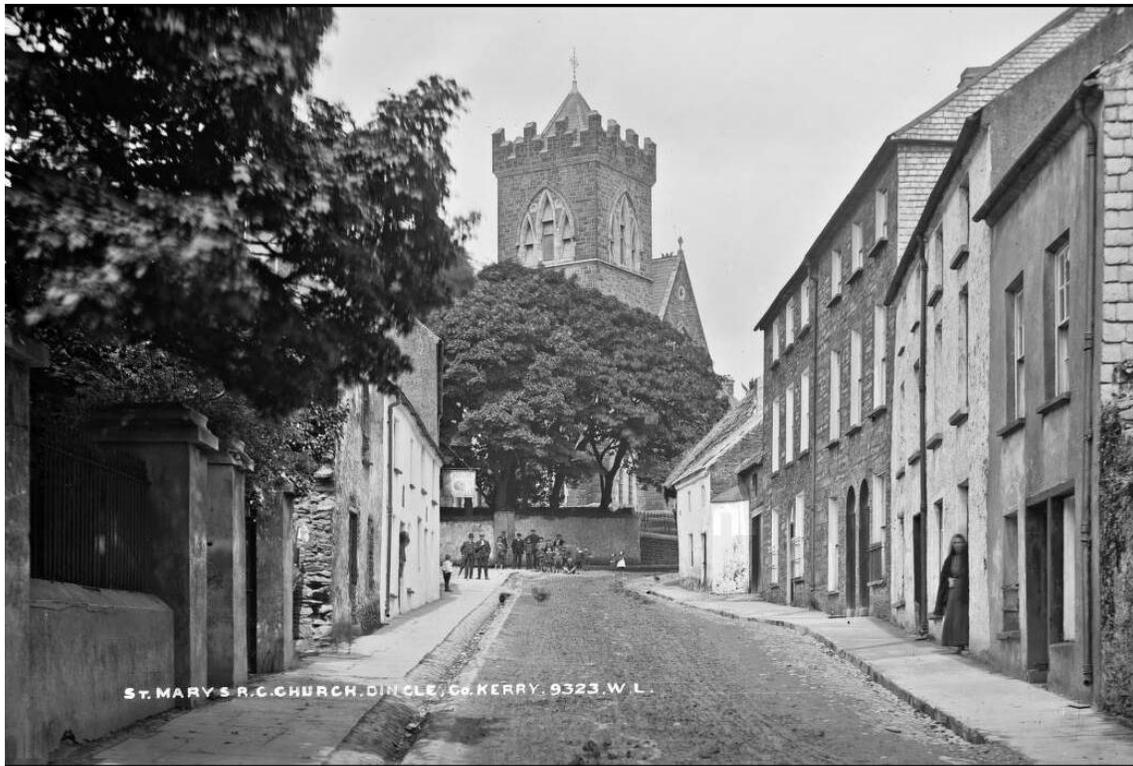




Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment Report for Proposed Car Park Development at Dingle



1: Overview

Part of the proposed development site is located within the curtilage of the Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church, Green Street, a structure protected in the Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021, reference number 21400615. The church is protected for its special Architectural, Social Historical, Technical and Artistic categories of special interest. The site is also located within a designated Architectural Conservation Area (ACA).

James McCarthy was the architect for Saint Mary's RC Church and the foundation stone for its construction was laid on Saint Patrick's Day, 1862. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) includes the following description of the church and its grounds:

Freestanding cruciform-plan single- and double-height Roman Catholic church, built 1862-1865.... Limestone steps to front extended in concrete to either side. Graveyard to site with various cut-stone grave markers, c. 1865-present. Gateway, built c. 1880, to south-east comprising limestone ashlar Gothic Revival style piers with wrought-iron cross finials having stone-built quadrant walls with wrought-iron quatrefoil panels.

The boundary walls of Saint Mary's Church were designed by the renowned architect Rudolf Maximilian Butler who, in 1902, was commissioned to design ornamental entrance gates, boundary walls and railings for the church (this architect was also commissioned to design many of the Carnegie libraries throughout the county around the same time [but interestingly, not the Dingle Carnegie Library]).

2. Legal Definition

Section 2 of the Planning and Development Act (as amended) defines a protected structure as including

- (i) The interior of the structure
- (ii) The land lying within the curtilage of the structure
- (iii) Any other structures lying within that curtilage and their interiors, and
- (iv) All fixtures and features which form part of the interior or exterior of any structure or structures referred to in subparagraph (i) or (ii).

Accordingly, this report has been prepared in light of the location of an existing rubble stone wall proposed for demolition being within the curtilage of Saint Mary's Roman Catholic Church.

3: Kerry County Council Policy

3.1 Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021

Section 11.4.3 of the County Development Plan outlines the Council's planning policy framework for the County's ACAs. It states that "the Council will endeavour to conserve not only the historical built environment but also the traditional townscape and its setting" of the ACAs. Of particular relevance are the following objectives in relation to Architectural Heritage and Conservation:

It is an objective of the Council to:

H-38: Ensure that any development, modification, alteration, or extension affecting a protected structure and/or its setting:-

- Is appropriate in terms of the proposed materials, scale, density and layout,
- Addresses the issue of reversibility,
- Respects the original design plan and form,
- Demonstrates an understanding of the historical importance of the building and its setting and does not detract from the special character / interest of the protected structure...(p.190).

H-42 Promote the positive enhancement of existing ACAs and review the possibility of designating additional ACAs as is deemed appropriate. ACA designation helps to protect existing street layouts, historic building lines and traditional plot widths.

H-43: Ensure that any new development or alteration to a building within or adjoining an Architectural Conservation Area positively enhances the character of the area and is appropriate in terms of the proposed materials, scale, density and layout, proportions, plot ratio and building lines.

H-44: Ensure a balanced approach to maintenance and development of the architectural heritage, having regard to both the qualities of the given architectural context and the modern requirements to safety, comfort and usage, thus facilitating continuity of use of the architectural heritage in a sustainable manner (p.191).

3.2 Dingle Functional Area Local Area Plan, 2012-2018

The following excerpts from the Dingle Functional Area Local Area Plan, 2012-2018 refer specifically to the Dingle Architectural Conservation Area:

Guidelines for Development within the Conservation Area:

Materials. In certain circumstances planning permission will include conditions to ensure that traditional materials, appropriate to a particular building or site, are used...

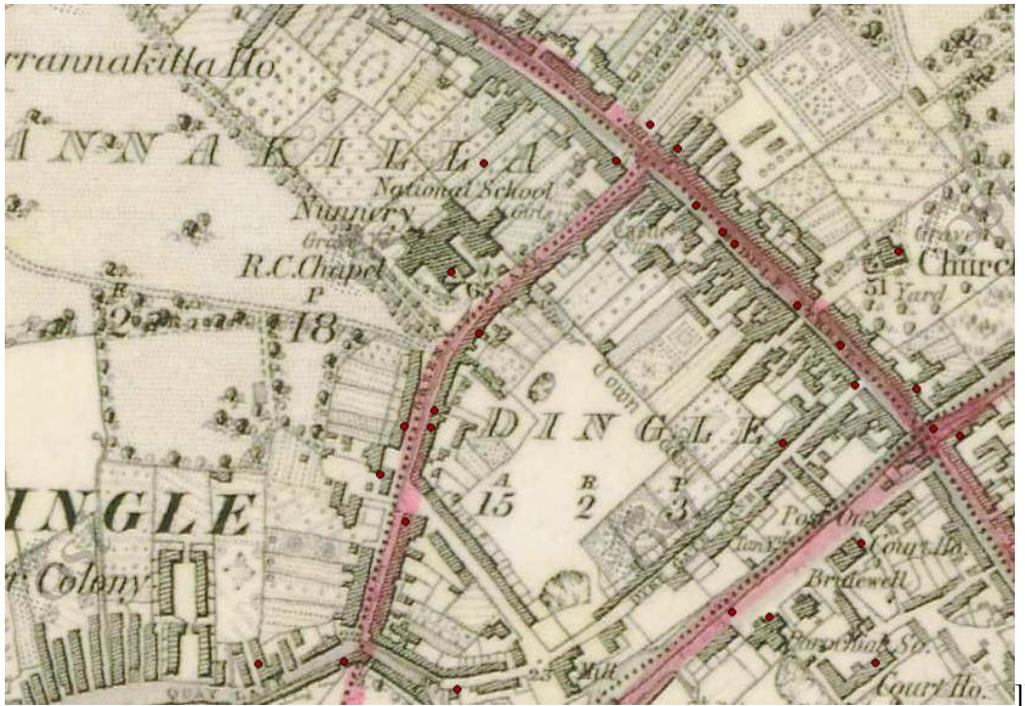
Protected Structures. Some buildings in the Conservation area may be included in the RPS. Any internal or external alterations to a Protected Structure may require planning permission. Elements such as doors, windows, cornices, consoles, cast iron gutters, decorative plaster hood mouldings are critical elements in determining the heritage character of the ACA. The fabric of the ACA therefore, is made up of elements which themselves may be quite small, but when taken together are important in determining the character of the town. The cumulative effect of small changes to these elements whether by removal, crude repair or tactless additions can have a long-term detrimental effect on the character and visual amenity of the town. Whilst the fabric of the town is simple in detail, it reflects almost 200 years of local craftsmanship and is an important expression of the town's vernacular architecture.

Views. Existing views need to be maintained...(p.77).

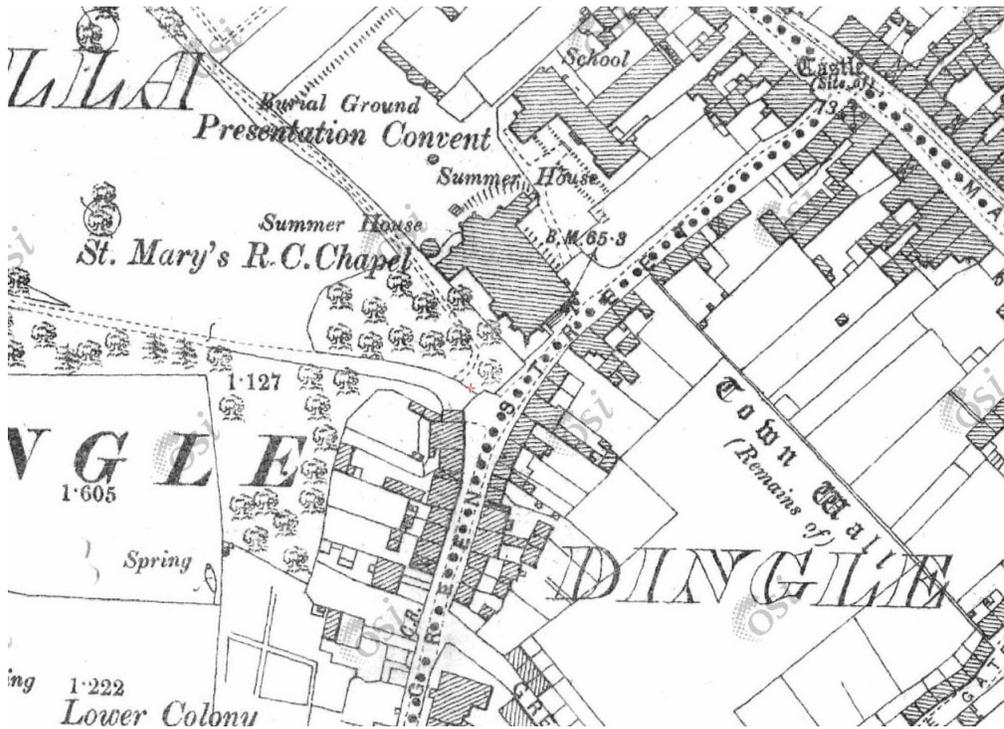
4. Conclusion & Recommendation

The demolition of this portion of wall is required to facilitate an additional car park and an improved access point. On this basis, it is deemed acceptable to remove the portion of wall. Kindly consider using the stone elsewhere in the development as a feature. Where possible, any car park signage should pay cognisance to the need to protect the setting and views of the church and its grounds.

Victoria McCarthy
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 Planning Department
 Kerry County Council
 27th November 2017



First Edition OS Map, surveyed 1841



Second Edition Ordnance Survey Map, surveyed 1893 – wall with pedestrian access point clearly visible



Excerpt from Dingle LAP: Heritage Map showing ACA designation



Excerpt from Dingle LAP: Map showing protected structures in the vicinity of the site