

THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE FUND

CASE STUDY

Northern Ireland

For 25 years the Architectural Heritage Fund has helped voluntary organisations regenerate historic buildings, creating community and education facilities, workspace and homes. This has often been a catalyst for further regeneration. We have supported relevant voluntary groups with grants, loans and advice on more than 700 projects to date. This is an example:



Urban regeneration: St Patrick's Church Board School, Belfast, Northern Ireland

The school was opened in 1832 adjoining St. Patrick's Church, but closed in the 1980s. A fire in 1995 badly damaged both buildings, and although the Diocese undertook a restoration of the church, a furore was created when the press discovered a proposal to demolish the school building. Happily, it was then restored by the Belfast Building Preservation Trust, and is now occupied by the offices of the Catholic school authorities and a Diocesan Resource Centre and bookshop. The trust retains one of the old schoolrooms, which it has restored to 19th century specification and uses as an educational resource. It is also being

employed increasingly as a meeting and conference facility, and SAVE Britain's Heritage recently launched a campaign here. The school is a Belfast landmark in its own right and European Heritage Days attract many visitors. There are always former pupils among their number eager to provide anecdotes from their schooldays. The project is situated in what is still a relatively deprived part of the city, but it has provided a new sense of confidence. Local shops have benefited from the provision of jobs, and two recently-completed office developments that have been attracted here have further boosted local regeneration.



Organisation: *Belfast Building Preservation Trust*

Contact: *Paul Miller – 028 9023 8437*

Category B listed building, in Belfast City Conservation Area

Architectural Heritage Fund assistance: *£375,000 loan in 1998*

The Architectural Heritage Fund – Registered Charity No 266780

We provide grants, loans and advice to voluntary organisations regenerating historic buildings.

Further information is available from:

Clareville House, 26/27 Oxendon Street, London, SW1Y 4EL

Tel 020 7925 0199

Fax 020 7930 0295

Email ahf@ahfund.org.uk

www.ahfund.org.uk