

Rebuilding 1

The people who have lost their all can't afford to be too anxious for the good appearance of the streets in the effort to restore their business.

HENRY CAMPBELL, DUBLIN TOWN CLERK

Through late 1916 and into 1917 the Irish Builder complained constantly about the speed of reconstruction, especially in O'Connell Street, Lower. Much anxiety was also expressed about the materials being used. Structurally, 'ferro-concrete' was strongly advocated for its fire resistant qualities, its availability when other materials such as steel were difficult to get due to war restriction, its speed in use, and its lower cost. For building façades, only stone would do. To use modern machine made brick would be an act of vandalism.

City Architect Charles J. McCarthy reported in October 1917 that 'plans have been deposited with me for the rebuilding of eighty-seven premises in the destroyed area'. However, 'a very considerable number of the designs submitted were found to be unsuitable, having regard to the character of the street and to the surrounding buildings'. In disapproving these unsuitable designs 'a great deal of tact has to be exercised so as to avoid offence to the parties responsible for them'. Rejected schemes were either amended or replaced with new proposals and by late 1917 a total of seventy new buildings had been approved.

DUBLIN RECONSTRUCTION.

The following is a list of some of the buildings in the "destroyed area" that are likely to be rebuilt in the near future, with the names of their respective owners and architects. This list is by no means complete, and we shall be glad to receive from architects engaged in designing buildings in this area any further additions or corrections:—

NAME OF BUILDINGS.	OWNERS.	ARCHITECTS.
Lower Sackville Street		
No. 1 ...	Hopkins and Hopkins.	O'Callaghan & Webb, 31 Sth. Frederick St.
Nos. 6 and 7 ...	D.B.C.	Miller and Symes, 39 Kildare Street.
No. 8 ...	Grand Cinema & Restaurant.	F. W. Higginbotham, Bachelor's Walk.
Nos. 10 and 11, and corner of Abbey St. ...	Munster & Leinster Bank, Ltd.	McDonnell and Dixon, 20 Ely Place.
Nos. 12 and 13 ...	Hibernian Bank	W. H. Byrne and Sons, 20 Suffolk Street.
No. 17 ...	Hoyte and Son	Geo. P. Beater.
Nos. 21 to 27 ...	Clery and Co.	Resident Architects: Ashlin and Coleman, 7 Dawson Street.
No. 29 ...	F. O'Ferrall, Ltd.	Donnelly, Moore, Keefe and Robinson, 36 Nassau Street.
No. 31 ...	Saxone Shoe Co.	Donnelly, Moore, Keefe and Robinson, 36 Nassau Street.
Nos. 35 to 39 ...	Metropole Hotel Co.	Resident Architects: W. Mitchell and Sons, 18 South Frederick Street.
No. 40 ...	Eason and Sons	J. A. Ruthven, c/o Messrs. Eason and Sons.
Nos. 43 and 44 and corner of Abbey St. ...	Manfield and Sons	Bachelor and Hicks, 86 Merrion Square S.
No. 45 and 46 ...	Elvery and Co.	Geo. P. Beater, 10 Leinster Street.
Upper Sackville Street.		
No. 1 ...	Tyler and Sons, Ltd.	O'Callaghan and Webb, South Frederick St.
No. 3 ...	J. McDowell	F. Bergin, 36 Westmoreland Street.
No. 8 and corner of Cathedral St. ...	H. E. Tasse	P. J. Munden, Trinity Street.
Henry Street.		
No. 17 ...	Harrison and Co.	Geo. P. Beater.
Nos. 18, 19, 20 ...	Bewley, Sons and Co.	Geo. P. Beater.
No. 21 ...	Irish Farm Produce Co.	Geo. P. Beater.
No. 27 ...	J. McDowell	W. G. Clayton.
No. 34 ...	Dundon and Co.	P. J. Munden, Trinity Street.
No. 35 ...	A. Clarke and Co.	P. J. Munden, Trinity Street.
No. 37 ...	E. Marks and Co., Ltd.	McDonnell and Dixon, 20 Ely Place.
Nos. 41 and 41A and corner of Moore St. ...	P. McGivney	E. Bradbury, College Park Chambers, Nassau Street.
No. 44 ...	Messrs. O'Brien	E. Bradbury.
No. 48 ...	A. Stevenson	Henry J. Lyons.
Earl Street North.		
No. 2 ...	A. Sullivan	Fuller and Jermy, 179 Gt. Brunswick St.
No. 3 ...	J. J. Lalor	G. L. O'Connor, 27A Dawson Street.
No. 4 ...	Philip Meagher	G. L. O'Connor, 27A Dawson Street.
No. 5 ...	Winstanley and Co.	E. Bradbury.
Nos. 6 and 7 ...	Downes, Sir J.	F. Bergin, 36 Westmoreland Street.
No. 25 ...	Nagle and Co.	McDonnell and Dixon, Ely Place.
No. 28 ...	Rowe and Co.	G. L. O'Connor, Dawson Street.
Nos. 29 and 30 ...	Tyler's	O'Callaghan and Webb.
Lower Abbey Street.		
No. 1 ...	Mooney and Co., Ltd.	McDonnell and Dixon, Ely Place.
No. 3 ...	L. H. Rosenthal, K.C.	G. L. O'Connor, 27A Dawson Street.
No. 5 ...	J. J. Davin	O'Callaghan & Webb, 31 Sth. Frederick St.
No. 6 ...	Corrigan and Wilson	Geo. F. Beckett, 97 Stephen's Green.
No. 14 ...	Dr. R. H. Johnston	A. E. Murray.
Nos. 15 to 18 ...	Wynn's Hotel	A. Scott and Son, Sackville Street.
The Royal Hibernian Academy		A. E. Murray, 37 Dawson Street.
Middle Abbey Street.		
No. 38 ...	The Oval Bar	McDonnell and Dixon, Ely Place.
Nos. 79 to 82 ...	Eason and Son, Ltd.	J. Ruthven, c/o Eason's.
Eden Quay.		
No. 1 ...	Gerald Mooney	O'Callaghan and Webb, South Frederick St.
No. 9 ...	Henry Smith, Ltd.	H. J. Lyons, 14 South Frederick Street.
No. 11 ...	Douglas Hotel	F. W. Higginbotham, Bachelor's Walk.

Buildings likely to be rebuilt in the near future
Irish Builder, 29 September 1917, p. 493

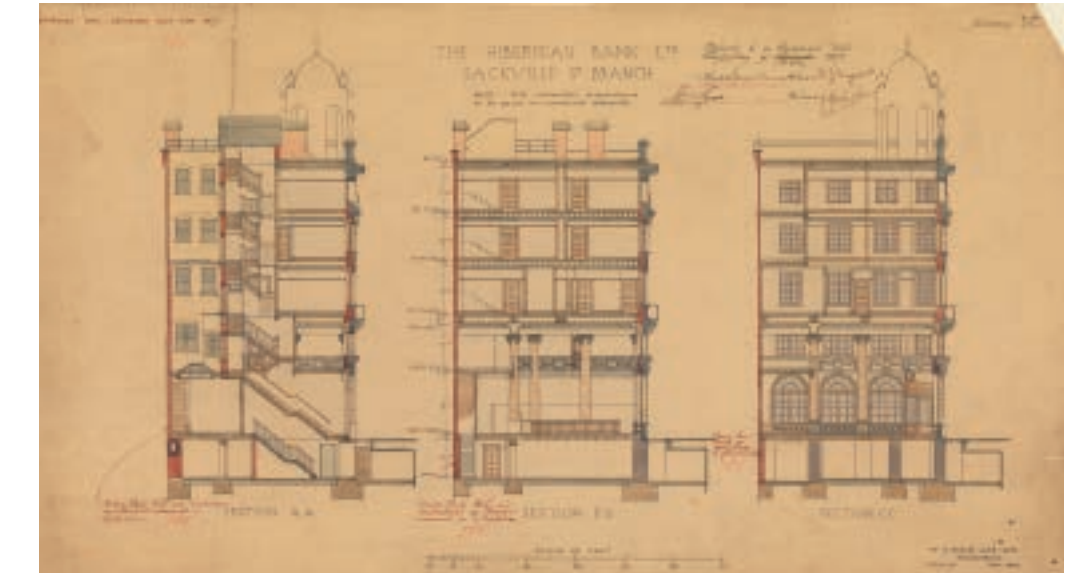
This list confirms that while progress in O'Connell Street was slow, reconstruction in the surrounding streets was moving at a quicker pace.

Temporary Structures at the corner of O'Connell Street, Lower, and Eden Quay
IAA Westropp Collection, 96/57 Vol. 10 p. 53 1, detail

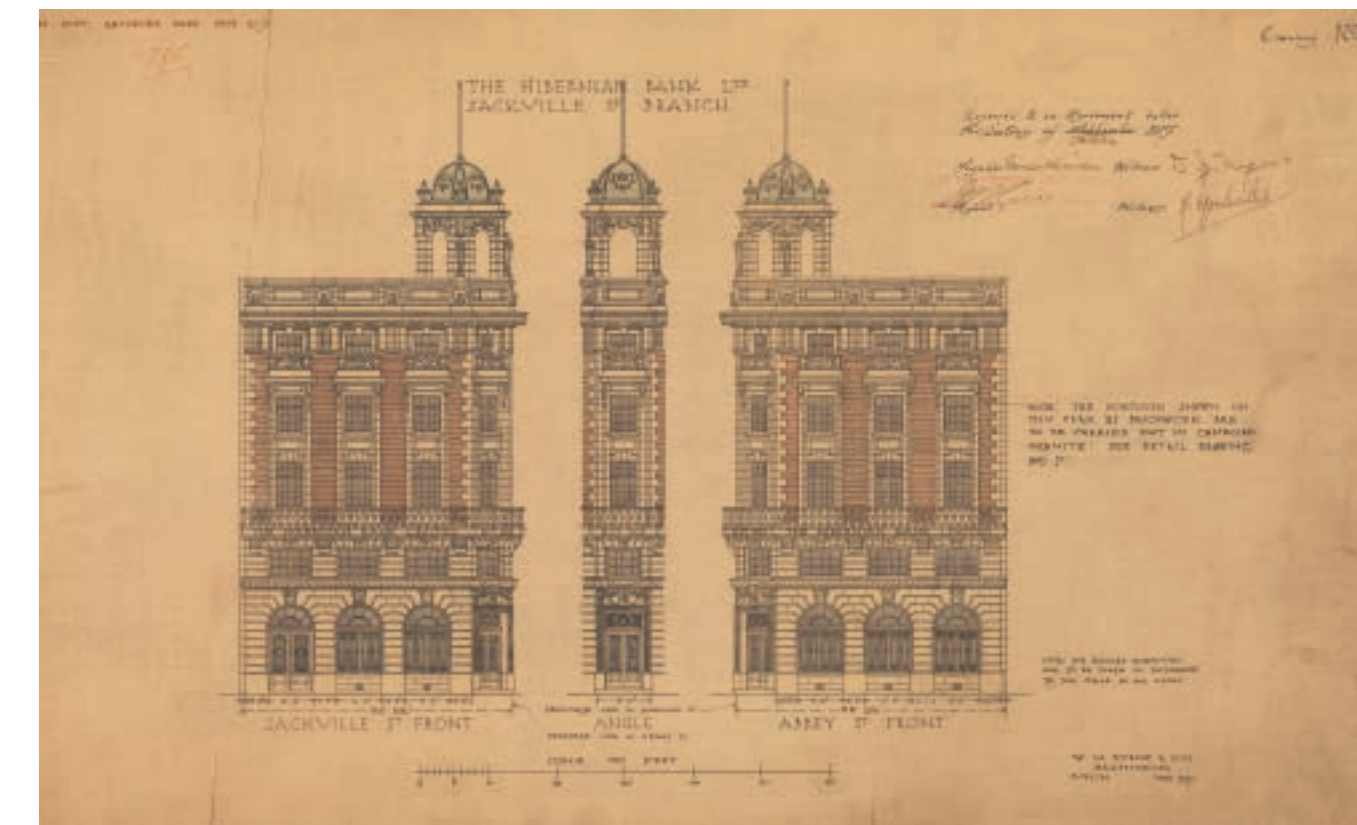
The first buildings on O'Connell Street after the Rising were temporary structures hastily erected to allow trading resume - wooden frames clad in expanded metal and plaster, with internal walls of timber sheeting and asbestos tile roofs. It was partly out of fear that such structures might become 'permanent' that the Corporation and others campaigned for planning legislation.



Hibernian Bank, corner of O'Connell Street, Lower, and Abbey Street, Lower, May 1916
Irish Builder, 13 May 1916, p. 198



Sections, proposed Hibernian Bank Plan, W.H. Byrne & Son Architects, February 1917
IAA W.H. Byrne & Son Collection, 2006/142



Elevations, proposed Hibernian Bank, W.H. Byrne & Son Architects, February 1917
IAA W.H. Byrne & Son Collection, 2006/142



Hibernian Bank, 1924
IAA W.H. Byrne & Son Collection, 2006/142

Planning delays were compounded by shortages of materials, especially acute due to war-time restrictions. Nonetheless, by March 1922 over £644,000 had been provided for works on 172 buildings under the terms of the Reconstruction Act.

The Hibernian Bank asked architects W.H. Byrne and Son to design a new building to replace its destroyed premises on the corner of Abbey Street, Lower, and O'Connell Street, Lower. This brick-faced scheme, with stone dressing, was actually the second proposal submitted to City Architect Charles J. McCarthy for approval. He had asked that the all-stone façade of the first proposal be amended so that the new bank might blend with its already-approved brick-fronted neighbours.

The Irish Builder thundered against what it called the 'vandalistic policy of the Corporation in prescribing red brick fronts for the new Sackville Street', an attitude supported by interests as disparate as Irish quarry owners, Republican politicians and the architecture profession. As evidenced by the annotation on the drawing, and by the finished bank building, the campaign for stone was, in this instance, successful.