

Presentation to Moore Street Consultative Group

**Submission by
National Graves Association**



4th November 2016

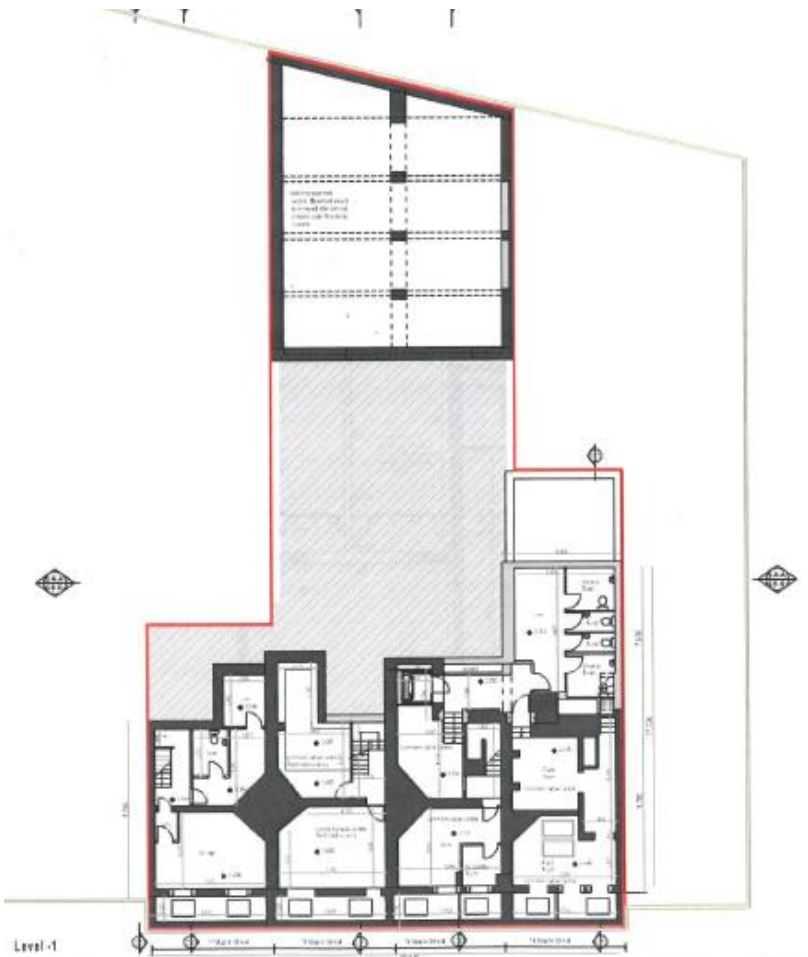
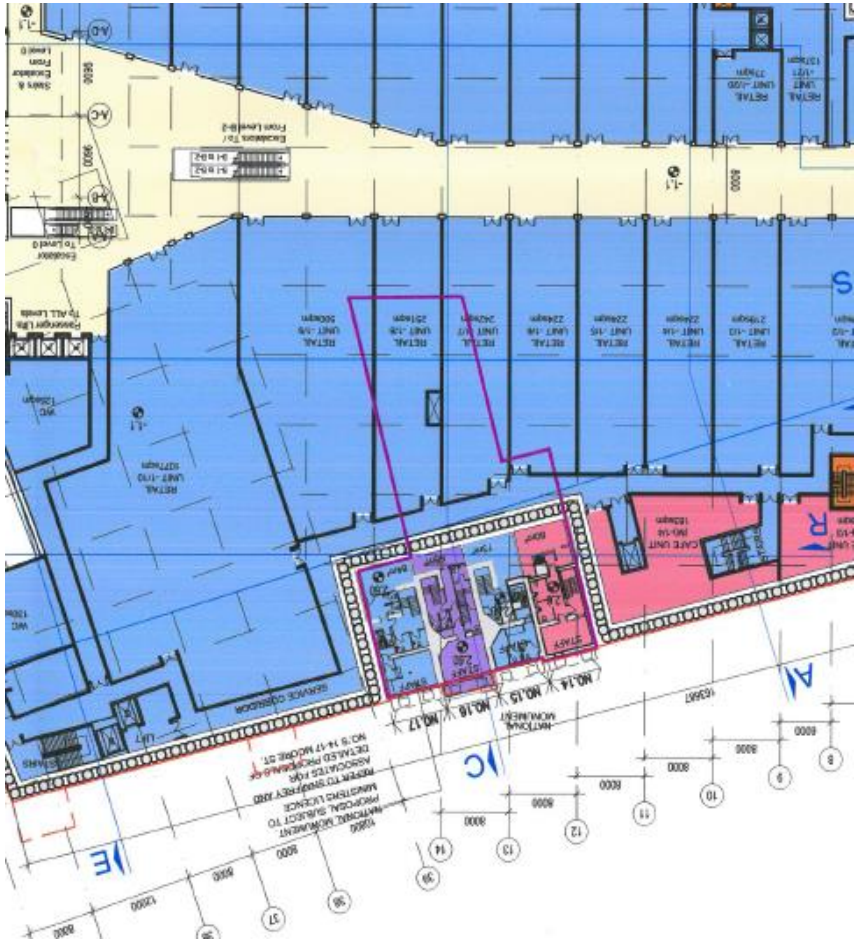
The National Graves Association support the concept of the development of a Commemorative Centre / Museum at 14 to 17 Moore Street, they do not support the demolition works in close proximity of the National Monument nor do they support the removal of the Streets and Lanes and the demolition of the Battlefield site, the objective is to preserve this irreplaceable link to the country's founding

It has been highlighted on numerous occasions and in many supporting documents that the level of intervention proposed to the National Monument buildings are as a direct result of the level of the demolition works proposed in the direct vicinity of and adjoining the National Monument. For example we are told that No. 18 was derelict in 1916 and therefore is of no significance, however we are also told that the sliver building proposed to the gable of No. 17 is required to provide structural stability, therefore No. 18 is of huge significance if it is securing the stability of the National Monument.

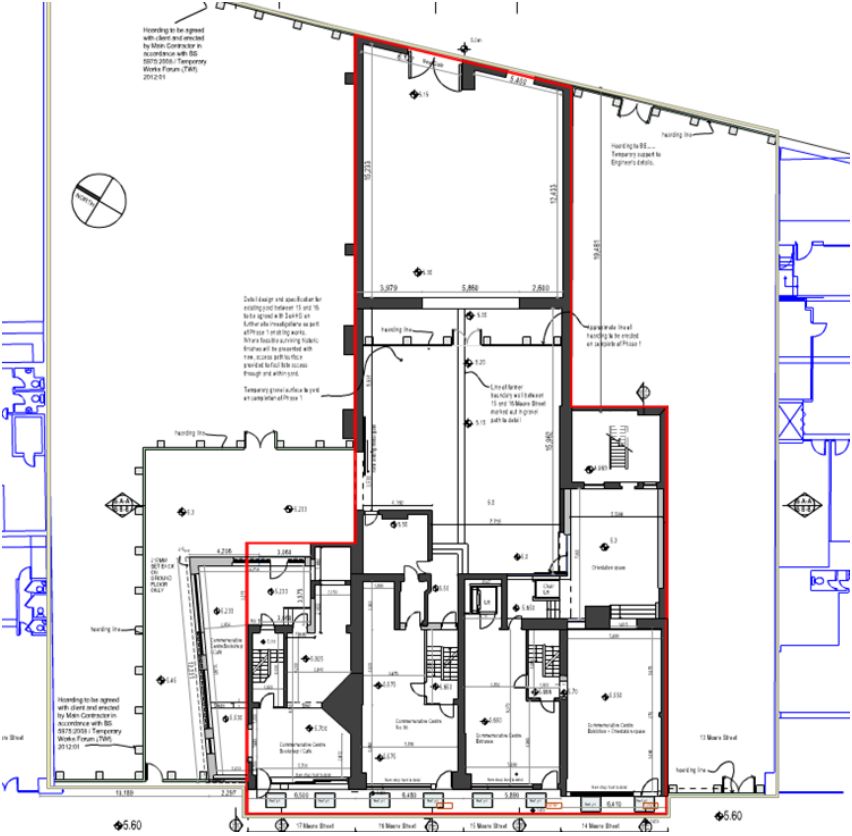
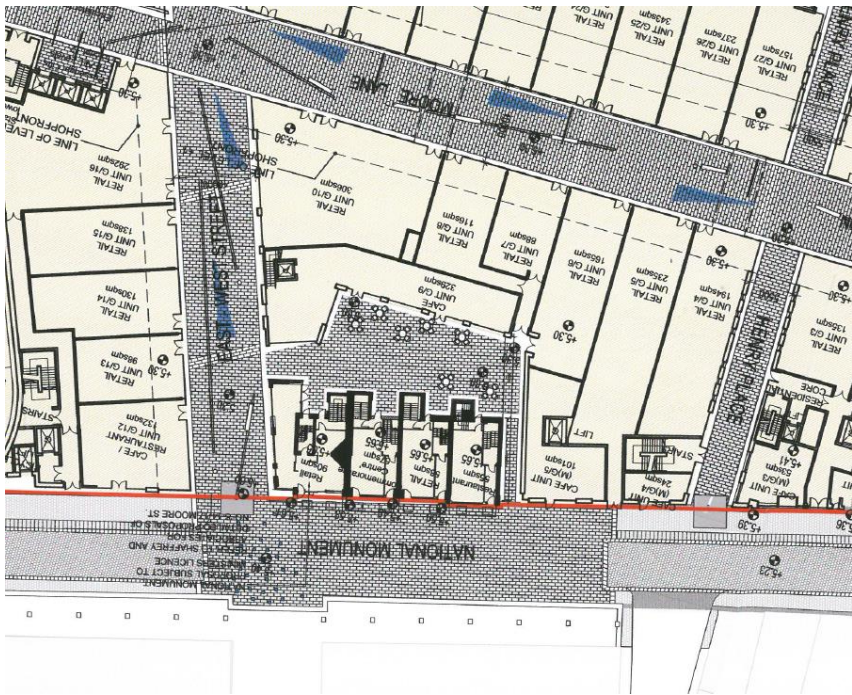
If Moore Street No. 10 – 25 were renovated rather than demolished the level of temporary works and support works required to the National Monument would be minimised and the buildings could be retained without the drastic alterations proposed as part of the application for Ministerial Consent for Works to the National Monument

The documents submitted in March 2014 in response to the Ministers Decision show total disregard for the Ministers Decision, namely 'Works for which Consent is refused' In that the two storey extension to the gable of No. 17 is included, the basement extension to no. 14 and 15 are still included and alterations to the basements remain unchanged. The justification for the works is the requirement for toilets, could toilets etc not be located in one of the adjoining buildings that it is proposed to demolish? In a letter dated 29th July 2014 Mr Terry Allen states 'The structure proposed for the gable end at No. 17 Moore Street will assist in securing the stability of the National Monument structure. It will also enhance the National Monument structure in terms of its façade onto Moore Street and the new street required to be constructed under relevant planning permission'. Surely a previous planning permission should not be able to dictate permissible works to a National Monument, especially in a case where the planning permission drawings no longer match the proposed works to the National Monument or the works within the vicinity of the National Monument, the following slides demonstrate the level of change that has been incorporated into the plan since the planning permission was granted by An Bord Pleanála and demonstrates why the current planning permission could not longer be deemed as relevant to the matter before the Minister

Basement plan granted planning permission on the left and the basement plan submitted to the Minister on the right



Ground floor plan granted planning permission on the left and the basement plan submitted to the Minister on the right



Secant Piles are proposed within 1.5m to the centre line of the piles from the National Monument, as the piles are 1.2m diameter the clearance between the piles and the National Monument is as little as 0.9m, bearing in mind that each pile is proposed as 18.7m deep, this allows very little room for error.

To put the pile size into context, each pile compares with one of the pillars of the GPO, the pillars measure circa 1.5m in diameter and are circa 15m high, each pile will be 1.2m dia and circa 18m deep.

You can imagine the size of the machinery that drives these piles, a picture is shown by TJ O Connor in Volume 6 of the EIS and an actual on site photograph of a similar (although smaller dia. secant piles) is shown below, bear in mind that we only have a 900mm clearance from the edge of the pile to the National Monument



PROPOSED WORKS AS DEEMED APPROPRIATE

It is our preference that the area outlined red is renovated and rejuvenated *appropriately* rather than being the subject of huge demolition, this would incorporate a commemorative centre, preservation of the terrace No. 10-25 Moore Street including the National Monument. We propose that the accommodation required ancillary to the Commemorative Centre be housed in adjoining structures, No. 13 and / or No. 18. We propose that the area hatched in green be developed in a manner that is sensitive to the scale of the GPO battlefield route, ie not to exceed the overall scale and height of the existing buildings.

We propose the restoration of the existing granite kerbs and limestone sets that have been covered with asphalt.

We do not object to the development of the remainder of the site if this area is preserved as shown.



REASONS

We recognise that communities need economic development to remain strong, and that people need places to live, work and shop. The National Graves Association strives to ensure that such development is well-planned in such a way as to protect the irreplaceable historic resource that any battlefield represents for that community, as well as for the entire nation.

Developers have flexibility when it comes to choosing sites for commercial ventures, but we cannot change where history happened. Battlefields cannot be moved or reconstructed elsewhere; their historic significance is fixed permanently by events that happened upon previously unexceptional ground. The land itself tells much of the story

Nothing brings history alive more vividly than visiting the places, the buildings and more than anything, the battlefields where it happened, especially with a guide who knows the subject thoroughly.

Not only will you understand much better the physical and strategic challenges faced by the individuals, but you will feel an emotional connection too. This is a battlefield where men, women and children triumphed and where they fell. The graves of those who never returned are still there.

Franc Myles states in his report *'It is rather unusual in archaeological inquiry to be able to put names and dates on that physical past that is being recorded. In this instance the fact that the founding personalities of the State travelled through these openings, some to their eventual execution by one means or another is particularly poignant'*

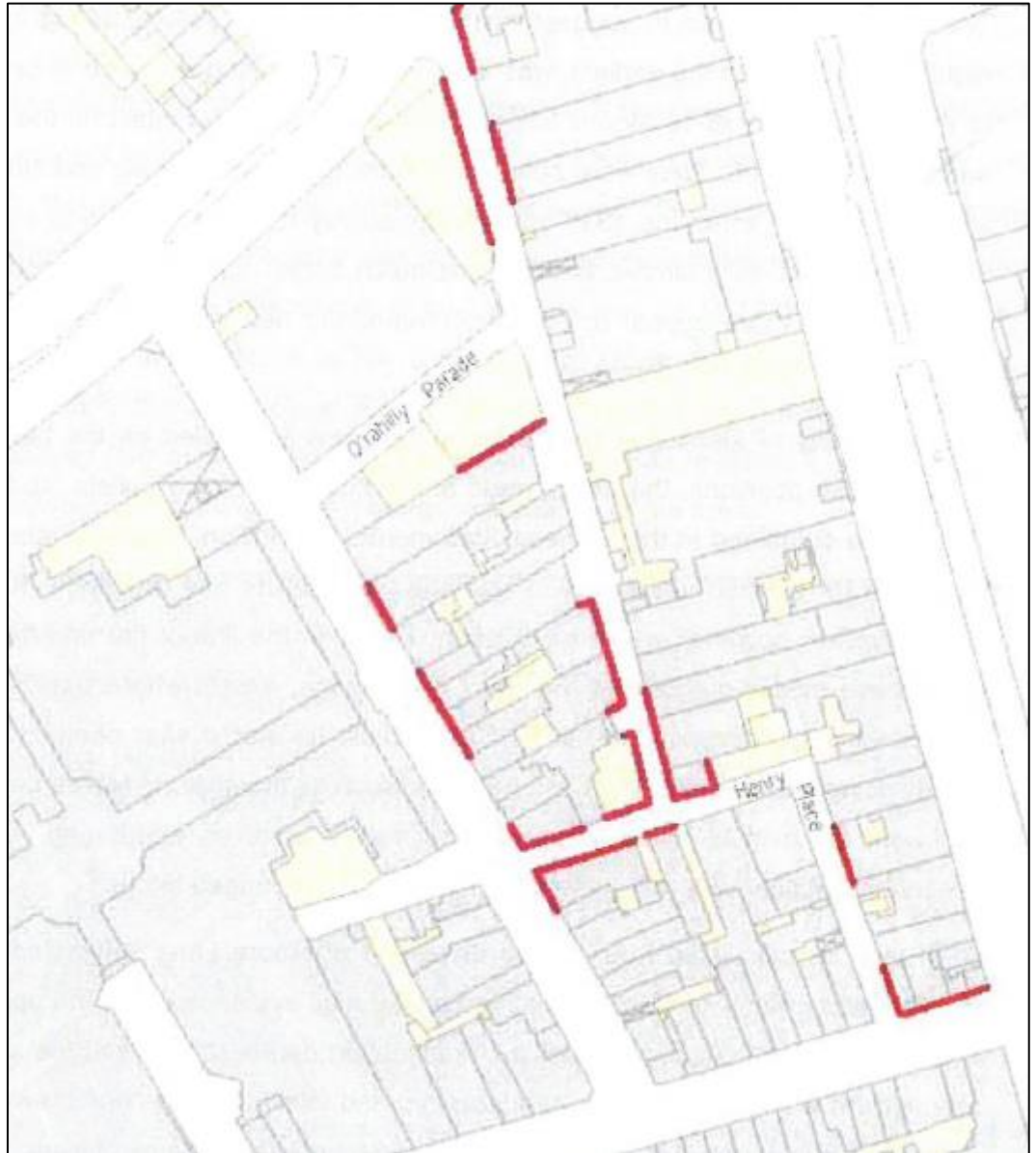
Reasons

This plan was included in the archaeological survey dated February 2012 and shows the extent of surviving pre-1916 built fabric visible from the public realm.

The report also states that the paving setts and granite kerbs of Moore Lane remain in tact, all be it under tarmacadam cover of later years.

In reality this plan is not totally accurate either as further areas of buildings that are not lined red on this plan have been agreed to retain some pre 1916 fabric.

We cannot allow this battlefield site to be destroyed when much of the route and the building fabric that existed in 1916 remains in tact today.



The report prepared by Shaffrey Associates in November 2005 for Dublin City Council on Page 42 states the following: *The activities relating to the 1916 Rising which took place in Moore Street, happened throughout the entire street, the adjacent lanes and within many of the buildings themselves. The historical analysis in chapter 3 of this report describes the extent to which the rebels infiltrated and occupied the houses on Moore Street, in particular those within the central terrace on the east side of the street, namely Nos. 10 to 25 which were all*



occupied during the final stages of the Rising. However, a small number of buildings/sites can be identified as being of particular significance due to the specific events which took place within them. In addition to No. 16, No. 10 - on the corner of Moore Street and Henry Place, Nos 20-21, the former Hanlon's fish shop, and the corner site at the junction between Moore Lane and O'Rahilly Parade (formerly Sackville Lane), which is now part of Dublin City Council's Cleansing Depot, are also sites of notable importance. Of these, Nos. 20-21 Moore Street and the Moore Lane/O'Rahilly Parade site have been altered extensively since 1916 and retain little of the character of this time (with the notable exception of surviving granite kerbs and limestone setts along Moore Lane adjacent to the latter site. No. 10, from an external appraisal, does appear to retain its 19th century form....

Thank you

Presented by Orlagh Cawley
of Plan Design Associates
Unit 2 Killala Road Business Park,
Killala Road, Ballina, Co. Mayo
Ph (096) 72058