

Declaration

In accordance with Part IV, Section 57 (2) of the Local Government (Planning and Development) Act, 2000 (as amended).

Louth County Council

This declaration specifies what works would, or would not, in the opinion of the planning authority materially affect the character of the protected structure, or any element thereof, and, as a result, require planning permission. Under the Act, protection extends to the entire structure including its interior and the land lying within its curtilage. It also extends to any other structures lying within the curtilage of the protected structure, to their interiors and to all fixtures and features that form part of the interior or exterior of any of these structures. Where specified in the Record of Protected Structures, protection may also extend to any other feature within the attendant grounds of the protected structure.

Nothing in this declaration exempts works that would not otherwise be exempt from a requirement for planning permission. Changes of use or intensification of the current use may require planning permission. If in doubt, the owner/occupier should consult the planning authority for further advice before commencing any works.

This Declaration may be referred to An Bord Pleanála for review within 4 weeks of its issue, upon payment of the requisite fee in accordance with Part IV, Section 57 (8) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended.

Applicant Name:	Freemasons Lodge		
Status (i.e. Owner or Occupier):	Owner		
Date of Request for Declaration:	23/06/2026	Date of Inspection:	20 th August 2026
Date of Issue of Declaration:		Previous Declarations:	None

Address

Name of Building: Masonic Hall RPS D435

Address 1: No. 23 Jocelyn Street

Address 2: Dundalk

Address 3: Co. Louth

Eircode: A91 X638

Protection Status:

Details:

Under the Planning and development Act 2000 (as amended)

Record of Protected Structures: Yes

RPS Ref. No. D435

Architectural Conservation Area: Yes

ACA 23 – Jocelyn Street/
Seatown Place

Under the Planning and development Act 2000 (as amended)

Record of Monuments and Places:

No

Zone of Archaeological potential:

Yes

ZAP2

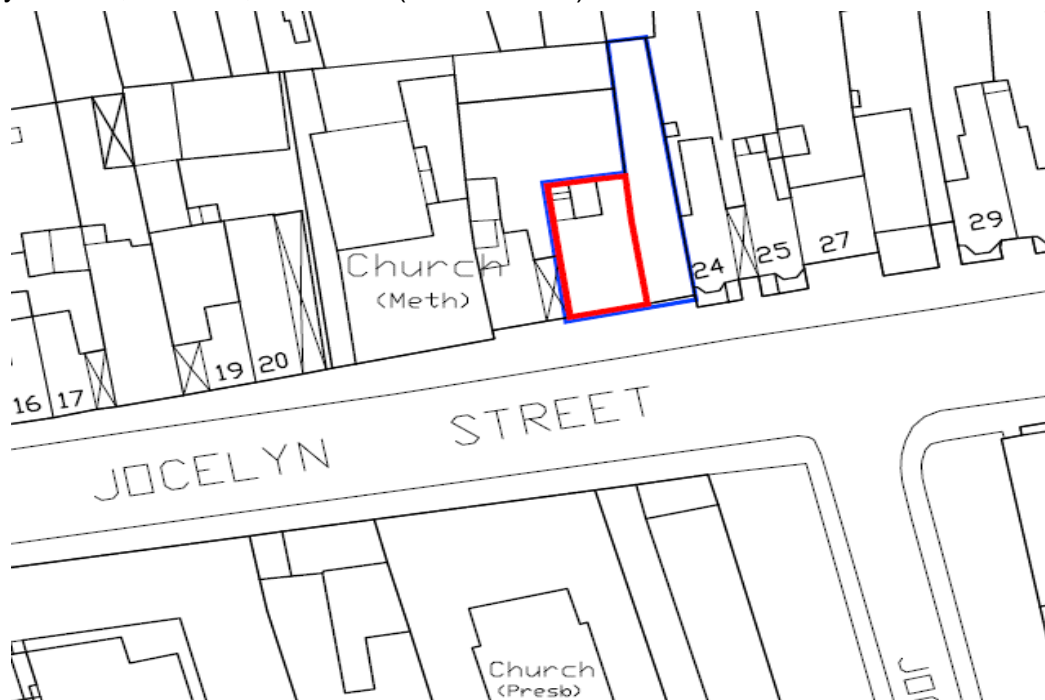
Preservation Order or Temporary P.O.:

No

NIAH Registration No. (if applicable): 13705026

Introduction:

The referrer has sought a Section 57 Declaration as per the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in respect of works to Protected Structure D435 Masonic Hall, No. 23 Jocelyn Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth (shown below):



Subject Site Photo taken 20/08/2026

Protection Status:

Under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) is set out in the Louth County Development Plan 2021-2027 as varied.

RPS ID: D435

Masonic Hall, No. 23 Jocelyn Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth:

Type: Hall

Description: Attached three-bay two-storey Masonic Hall. Dated 1888. Carriage arch in wall to East of South (front) elevation.

Appraisal: The building makes a notable addition to the streetscape due to its architectural form, colourful façade and retention of original features. Plain brickwork is enlivened through the use of moulded brick and stone detailing.

NIAH No. 13705026:

Survey Data

Reg No	13705026
Rating	Regional
Categories of Special Interest	Architectural, Historical, Social
Original Use	Masonic lodge/hall
In Use As	Masonic lodge/hall
Date	1885 - 1890
Coordinates	305257, 307392
Date Recorded	18/07/2005
Date Updated	--/--/--

Planning History:

55525487: Masonic Lodge, Jocelyn Street, Dundalk; demolition and reconstruction of screen wall. Permission Granted.

Planning Enforcement History:

UD34/2010: Masonic Hall, 23 Jocelyn Street, Dundalk: unauthorised metal coping to Protected Structure, insertion of 3 PVC windows. Status: Case Closed.

Description of the Structure:

NIAH No. 13705026: description and appraisal of Protected Structure D435 Masonic Hall, No. 23 Jocelyn Street, Dundalk is as follows:

Description

Attached three-bay two-storey brick Masonic Hall, dated 1888. Carriage arch in wall to east of south (front) elevation leading to yard. Roof concealed behind red brick parapet with row of rectangular blind niches, stone coping, cast-iron downpipes. Red brick Flemish bond walling, rock-faced limestone plinth with chamfered ashlar capping, yellow brick banding to sill levels at ground and first floor, yellow terracotta tile string above first floor window heads, concave limestone cornice below parapet on yellow brick header course on moulded red brick corbel course. Square-headed window openings, limestone sills, flat brick arches, painted two-over-two sliding sash windows. Round-headed entrance door opening set in single-storey breakfront, moulded brick entablature, limestone cornice, stepped recessed roll-moulded red and yellow brick reveals, yellow brick keystone rising into frieze, hardwood door with twelve raised-and-fielded panels and original brass door furniture, plain-glazed fanlight, granite threshold step. Square-headed carriage arch, flat red brick soldier course head, tooled chamfered limestone threshold, painted timber vertically-sheeted gates with wicket. Street fronted.

Appraisal

Built by Thomas McDonald in 1888 the funding for construction of this unusual Masonic hall was donated by a Mr. Murray of the Dundalk Distillery. The building makes a notable addition to the streetscape due to its architectural form, colourful façade and retention of original features. Plain brickwork is enlivened through the use of moulded brick and stone detailing.



Source: buildingsofireland.ie

Referral Question:

Would works materially affect the character of the protected structure and as a result, require planning permission?

This request, as detailed in Section 10 of the S57 request form, pertains to the following:

Repair & repointing of brickwork at parapet

Replacement of modern folded metal parapet gutter with traditional lead gutter.

Repair of timber roof members, damaged by moisture ingress

Restoration and rebuilding of brick and stone parapet, previously removed and stored onsite.

Repair of existing ceilings internally where damaged by moisture ingress.

Repainting and redecorating internally.

Refurbishment of existing sliding sash windows

Legislative Provision:

Section 57(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) states 'that notwithstanding Sections 4(1)(h) and any regulations made under Section 4(2), the carrying out of works to a protected structure, or proposed protected structure shall be exempted development only if those works would not materially affect the character of:

- a) the structure; or
- b) any element of the structure which contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.

Assessment:

I have reviewed the RPS in respect of this property.

Description of proposed works for which this declaration relates:

Repair & repointing of brickwork at parapet

Replacement of modern folded metal parapet gutter with traditional lead gutter.

Repair of timber roof members, damaged by moisture ingress

Restoration and rebuilding of brick and stone parapet, previously removed and stored onsite.

Repair of existing ceilings internally where damaged by moisture ingress.

Repainting and redecorating internally.

Refurbishment of existing sliding sash windows

Having reviewed the description of the proposed works, I conclude that the work involves repair, restoration/rebuilding, refurbishment and repainting and would not materially affect the character of the protected structure.

Any further documentation attached (maps, photographs, sketches, notes etc.)?

- Declaration Form
- Site Location Map

Recommendation:

I hereby recommend that a Declaration of Exemption be issued for the development described above, for the reason(s) set out hereunder:

WHEREAS the question has arisen as to whether works would or would not materially affect the character of the protected structure or any element of the structure which contributes to its special architectural, historical or social interest at Masonic Hall, No. 23 Jocelyn Street, Dundalk, Co. Louth.

AND WHEREAS the Freemasons Lodge requested a declaration on the question from Louth County Council on the 23rd June 2026.

AND WHEREAS Louth County Council in considering this referral, had regard particularly to –

- a) Section 2 of the Planning and Development Act 2024, as amended,
- b) Section 4(1)(h) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended,
- c) Section 57 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended,
- d) The Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities,
- e) The nature and extent of work set out in the referral question,
- f) The status of the Protected Structure D435
- g) The planning history of the site

AND WHEREAS Louth County Council has concluded that:

The nature of the proposed development is exempted development on the grounds that the works would not materially affect the character of the protected structure or any element of the structure which contributes to its special architectural, historical or social interest.

The works involve repair, restoration/rebuilding, refurbishment and repainting and would not materially affect the character of the protected structure or any element of the structure which contributes to its special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest.

The said development, therefore, comes within the scope of Section 4(1)(h) and Section 57(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

NOW THEREFORE Louth County Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 57 of the 2000 Act as amended, hereby decides that the Section 57 works as outlined is development and is exempted development.

Signed by Inspector



Eugenia Thompson
Senior Executive Planner
20/08/2026

Signed by Planning Authority Officer



Turlough King
A/Senior Planner
20/082026