

Parliament Buildings History and Architecture



Northern Ireland
Assembly



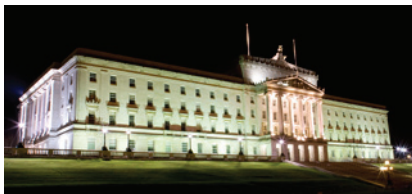


Parliament Buildings, home of the Northern Ireland Assembly, is one of the best-known and most striking pieces of architecture in Northern Ireland.

History

Northern Ireland's first parliament sat in Belfast's City Hall. One of its first actions was to set up a committee to find a location for the new parliament. That was in 1921, and the intention was to build three separate buildings to house Northern Ireland's civil and law courts alongside parliament.

The committee chose Stormont Estate as the new location but for many reasons – mainly financial – the courts were never built. Yet the name Parliament Buildings survived, despite the fact that there is only one structure.



In 1928 the Duke of Abercorn formally laid the foundation stone of Parliament Buildings and it was officially opened in 1932.

Architecture

The architect was Sir Arnold Thornely and you can see his vision in the many remarkable features of the building.

Designed in the Greek classical tradition, the building is made from English Portland stone. It is mounted on a granite base quarried from the Mourne Mountains. The front façade is 365 feet wide (a foot for each day of the year) and 92 foot high to the top of the statue of Britannia.



THIS FOUNDATION STONE
WAS LAID BY HIS GRACE THE
DUKE OF ABERCORN K.G.K.P.
THE FIRST GOVERNOR OF
NORTHERN IRELAND, ON
THE 19TH DAY OF MAY, 1928.

ARNOLD THORNEY
ARCHT.

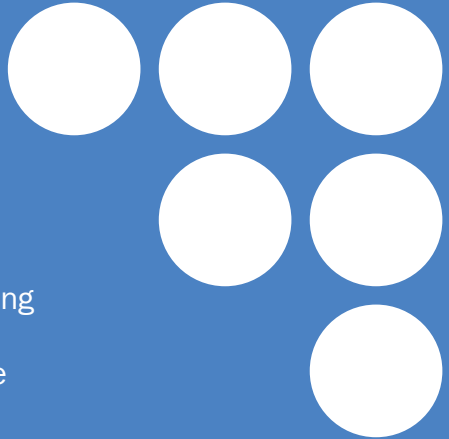
STEWART & PARTNERS LTD
ARCHT.

THIS BUILDING
WAS OPENED ON BEHALF
OF KING GEORGE V. BY
EDWARD PRINCE OF WALES
ON THE SIXTEENTH DAY OF
NOVEMBER 1932.

Why not visit?

You can arrange a tour of Parliament Buildings by contacting the Events Office on +44 (028) 9052 1802/1975 or e-mailing eventsoffice@niassembly.gov.uk.

Tours last 30–45 minutes and provide information on Parliament Buildings, past and present. You will find out how political life in Northern Ireland has developed, about the structure and role of today's Assembly, and about the architecture of the building and Stormont Estate.



Working for You