



The mystery porch

Russian porch riddle

By **PATRICIA FEEHILY**

A RUSSIAN connection has been traced in the quest to solve one of Limerick's architectural curiosities.

The Jesuit porch at the Crescent, which, according to Civic Trust director, Denis Leonard, was never part of the original layout of the Crescent, may have been provided by a former Russian consul in the city.

"It was certainly there before the Jesuits bought the place," Mr Leonard said.

The Civic Trust is currently involved in a major project to rejuvenate the Crescent, probably the loveliest streetscape in Limerick.

But the porch is seen as being

totally out of line with everything else.

"It couldn't have been part of the original plan," said Mr Leonard, "but it has been there for so long that it might as well stay."

In fact he described the porch as having been constructed of "the most beautiful pieces of stone," and in its day probably a most expensive addition to the street.

In the 1830's the building was owned by a Vereker who was honorary consul for the Russian Embassy, and he is now being blamed for the imposition of the porch.

The Jesuit Church is one of the buildings given a facelift in the Civic Trust project.