

Work of Civic Trust is praised by President

By CLIODHNA McGOWAN

AS the end of the century dawns it is appropriate to be celebrating the restoration of a building from a previous century said President Mary McAleese at the opening of Limerick Civic Trusts' Georgian House Project.

"Cherishing our past, recognising it as a treasure and a resource, as a unique part of our heritage, is not in any way incompatible with being a modern forward looking nation.

"It is rather a reflection of our maturity in coming to terms with a rich and complex past and the best possible guarantee of facing the future with confidence, with a complete and rounded sense of who we are as a people," she said.

She praised the achievements of Limerick Civic Trust in conserving and restoring Limerick's architectural heritage and in particular, No 2 Pery Square.

"If architecture is an embodiment of the built memory, then this building is part of Limerick's rich memorial to past architects and builders and a storehouse, in its own right, of many memories and stories," she said.

The building, which cost over £1 million to restore, will be used as a visitor centre with exhibits on Georgian Limerick and will be opened up for a variety of civic uses.

The president also praised the trust's other achievements including the total restoration of the Bishop's Palace in King's Island and St Munchin's Church and graveyard, the restoration of old cannons for public display and the development of the potato market.

Limerick Civic Trust's help in setting up other civic trusts around the country was also highlighted by President McAleese.

Chairman of Limerick Civic Trust, Senan O'Connor, said that the building and its garden have been restored to act as a catalyst for the preservation of the greater parts of Georgian Limerick.

He said that project supervisor Dorothy Meaney and her dedicated team of restorers had worked hard over the past three years to restore the house to its former glory.

Guests at the official opening included Mayor Jack Bourke, bishops Edward Darling and Donal Murray who blessed the house, city manager Brendan Keating, Chairman of Limerick County Council Cllr Michael O'Kelly, Earl of Limerick Patrick Pery and Countess of Limerick Sylvia



President Mary McAleese with Dorothy Meaney, supervisor of the renovation scheme at the Georgian House in Pery Square, Martin McAleese and Senan O'Connor, chairman of Limerick Civic Trust, at the official opening of the renovated house (LL)

Pery.

No 2 Pery Square, completed in 1838, was built by the Pery Tontine Company, the Georgian equiv-

alent of a modern day development company. The terrace was the last Georgian terrace built in Limerick.

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