

Plans for Stone Jug building put on hold

By JOHN HOGAN

SARFIELD Credit Union is waiting on a declaration from the Planning Authority before making any plans for its new headquarters in the listed Stone Jug building.

Having concluded the purchase of the historic structure for €1.72 million, directors from the Sarsfield Credit Union are in discussion with a number of architects regarding the renovation of the interior of the building. However, at the moment they are unclear about what kind of restrictions would be placed on a designer until they receive notification from the Planning Authority.

Speaking to the Limerick Chronicle, Sarsfield Credit Union Chairman Flan O'Neill

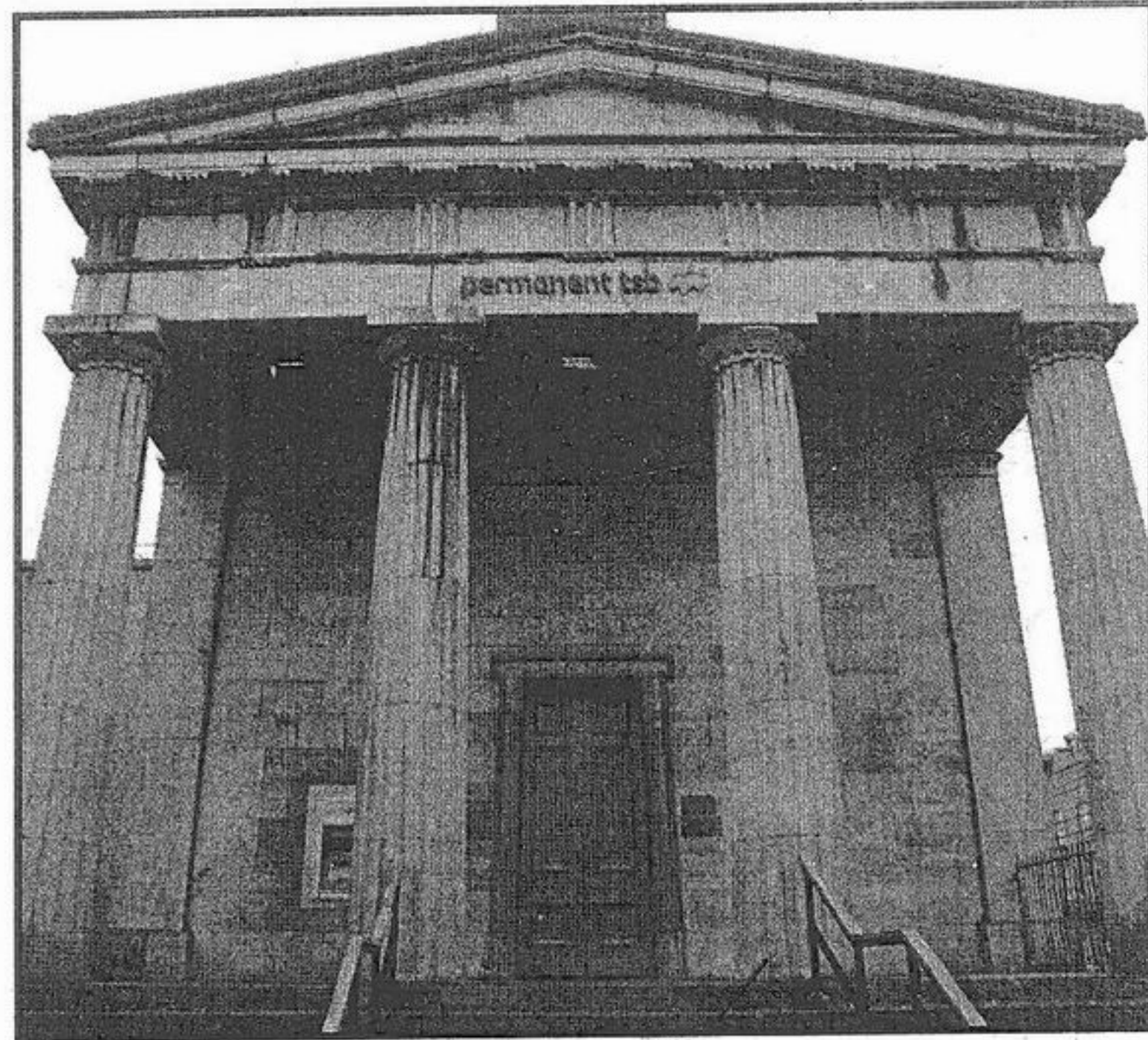
said that even though they had spoken to architects, no design team had been put together yet. "The reason we need to wait for the declaration from the Planning Authority arises from the fact that the Stone Jug is a listed building," said Mr O'Neill, "once we get it, we will know the parameters within which we can work and at the moment getting that declaration is the most important thing."

Once the Credit Union has received the declaration from the Planning Authority, designers will have a reasonably blank canvas on which to work inside the Stone Jug. "The building is empty to the extent that it has no useable furniture," said Flan O'Neill, "there's a huge hall and a balcony and once we get the go ahead we will have a share of freedom to design it to suit our needs."

The Sarsfield Credit

Union Chairman is excited by the prospect of moving into the branch's new home in Glentworth Street saying it will particularly suit some of the older members of the Credit Union. "We opened in Limerick in 1962," said Flan, "and a lot of our original customers are still with us so it has been getting progressively more difficult for some of them to climb the stairs in our current location in the Belltable"

Mr O'Neill is not just enthused about the move to Glentworth Street for practical reasons, he believes it is an honour that the Sarsfield branch will have such prestigious offices. "It's a very imposing building," said Mr O'Neill, "it's been a financial institution for 166 years and we would hope to continue that tradition for another 166 years and give it a new lease of life under new ownership."



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