

# Stone Jug to make tsb a pretty penny

By ANNE SHERIDAN

THE sale of the historic "Stone Jug" or "Penny Bank" on Glentworth Street is to go under the hammer at a public auction in late April and bids will start at €1.65million, the Limerick Leader can exclusively reveal.

But the listed building, owned by Permanent TSB, is expected to fetch more than the initial asking price according to local auctioneer John de Courcy, who is facilitating the sale.

The auction will take place on Wednesday, April 25, at 3pm in Pery's Hotel, Glentworth Street.

"It's a very unique building and is really lovely inside. It's a great opportunity for someone to buy a nice building and use it either for personal use or commercially," said Mr de Courcy.

The auctioneer said it is hard to establish at this stage what the building will be used for but expects it will attract a lot of interest from those who wish to establish a prime office in the city centre. He suggests that architects, solicitors and accountants could be prospective buyers, but said there are many other possible uses for the site.

"A lot of old banks are converted into betting shops because they wouldn't require a change in planning permission," he said. He also mentioned the possibility of a credit union and a restaurant.

At the time of the clo-

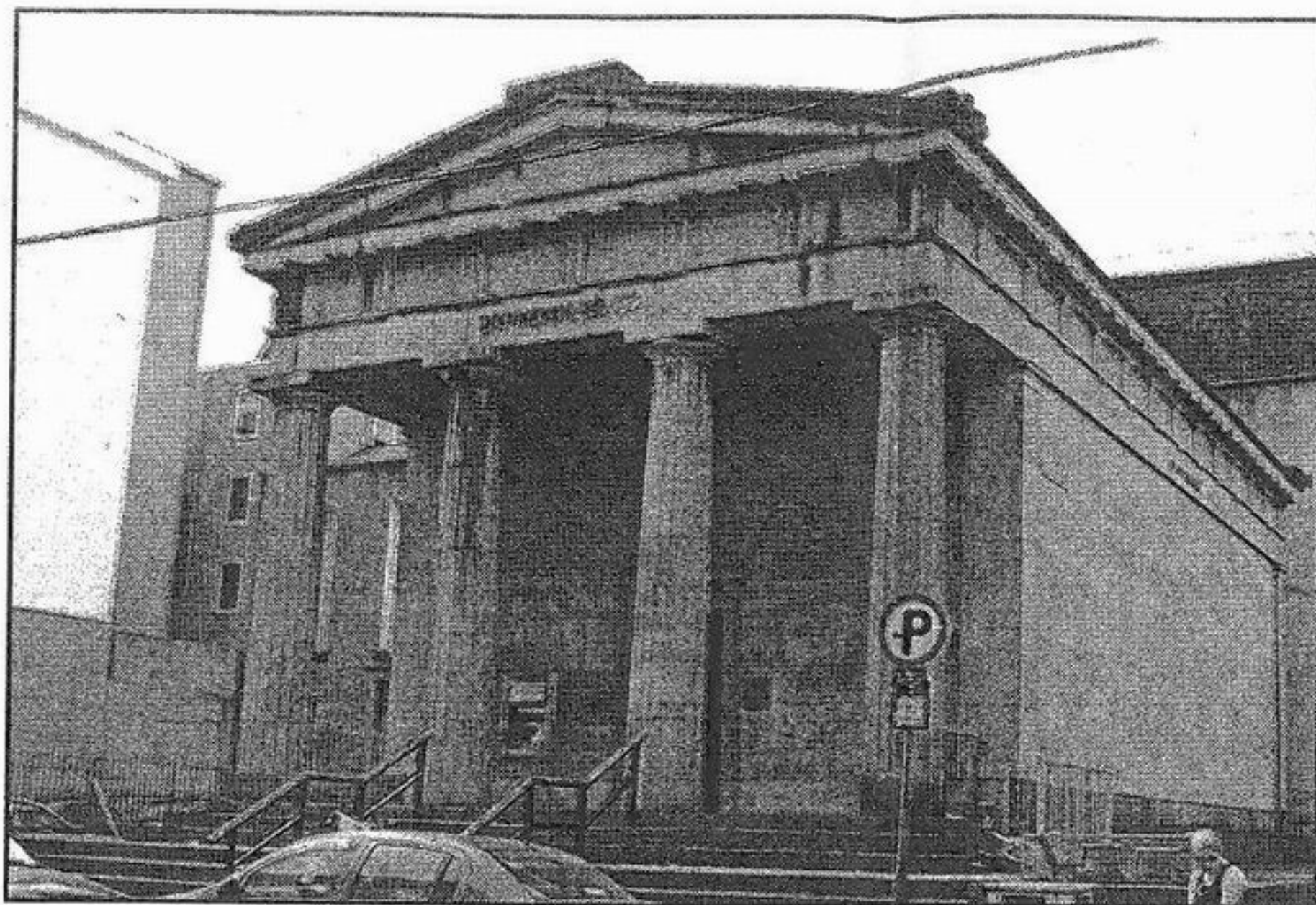
sure of the bank Permanent TSB, area manager Des Moore said he'd like to see the building used to serve the public interest. "In terms of use, we'd love to see the city council buy it. But it also has great commercial use," said Mr Moore.

Mayor Joe Leddin quashed rumours earlier this year that Limerick City Council was intending to purchase the building but several councillors requested that the council should keep a close eye on its sale.

Former Mayor, Cllr Diarmuid Scully, previously told the Limerick Leader that he hoped the premises will be used for cultural purposes rather than a commercial venture. He suggests that a sports museum or new library are much needed projects to enhance the city.

"Obviously, a commercial enterprise is more likely but we have no shortage of restaurants, bars or nightclubs in the city," said Cllr Scully.

Originally built as the Cork and Limerick Savings Bank, after a series of bank amalgamations it became the permanent tsb Bank. It is considered one of the finest small buildings in Ireland in a neo-classical style. The facade has four Doric columns with fluted shafts and was commissioned in 1839 from W.H. Owen. It was built by Sir Thomas Deane and an identical building was erected in Wales around the same time.



The tsb bank in Glentworth at Street, goes for auction in April

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