

RESTORATION OF MARKET ENDS YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENT

THE restoration of the old Potato Market will complete a year of achievement by Limerick Civic Trust, which has already seen the restoration of St. Michael's Graveyard, across the Abbey River, and the publication of a booklet on Limerick's street antiquities.

Commenting on the progress made, ensuring the opening of the market before the end of the year, the Trust states:

Activities

"This major undertaking has dominated our activities for the past two years.

"We divided the work schedule into two phases and we are pleased to announce that phase 1 which consists of over 1,000 sq. metres and half of the site will be completed in total and ready for use from the beginning of September.

"Work on phase 2, which is a similar size, is well advanced. We expect that the entire project will be completed before the end of 1986. The relaying of the cobble stones took longer than expected.

"This was due to their

irregular size and a bad summer. It was worth persevering with as the largest area of cobbled surface left in the city will be preserved for all time. The cobbled surface blends in very well with the new stone buildings at each end of the Market.

"From now on these high quality features will become apparent. We have received many varied and interesting enquiries from people wishing to rent stalls. This is a great vote of confidence for us and augurs well for the long term success of the project.

"Our objective to transform the derelict Potato Market into a live market area in the old spirit and also to create an amenity area will be achieved in the highest standards".

Graveyard

The Trust states, commenting on the completion of renovation at St. Michael's Graveyard: "This historical graveyard was vandalised to an alarming degree before we decided to renovate it. It is located in the centre of Charlotte Quay in a prominent position beside the recently restored Granary.

"It is near the Watergate Flats which have no amenity

area. The purpose of our work was to create a Memorial Park to the many people interred there, such as members of the Arthur, Roche and Bonfield families, and to establish an amenity area for the neighbourhood.

"A team of one supervisor and twelve youths worked there continuously for the past ten months. The boundary wall has been restored and in some places rebuilt, thus complying with the recommendation of Dr. Holmes, the city M.O.H., in the report to the local authority in 1887 that the walls should be properly repaired. Broken tombstones have been repaired and relocated along the boundary walls.

"A series of footpaths and seating facilities have been erected. Grass and shrubs have been set. Tombstones, some of which date back to the 18th century have been unearthed. Our research team documented all information from the tombstones and have related same to a map of the area".

Antiquities

Referring to "Limerick Street Antiquities", the Trust states: "This booklet, a uni-

que piece of research, examines and records remaining old street furniture, lamps, monuments, inscriptions and other historic valuables. It is a product of the Teamwork Scheme and was organised as a joint project with the graphic's department of the Limerick School of Art and Design.

"The subject matter of street furniture is very casually accepted by all of us. Old reminders of our heritage are being abused, uncared for and unfortunately in many cases lost, stolen or destroyed. What a pity it would be if our children, and future generations could not appreciate these old artifacts in their best condition.

"This booklet should revive some pleasant memories of older times and more importantly it identifies and establishes the locations of remaining artifacts so that they can be properly preserved and enjoyed by all for many more decades. This publication will hopefully engender the citizen and tourist alike with a greater appreciation of the city's historical surroundings.

"Booklets may be purchased in most bookshops and newsagents or directly from our office".