

A NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR GEORGIAN HOMES



Some of the Georgian homes saved from demolition.

A NUMBER of large Georgian homes in Belfast's Markets area have been saved from demolition.

The 28 homes in Joy Street and Hamilton Street are to be rehabilitated by the Housing Executive — even though it may cost them money.

To rehabilitate a typical five-person house will cost

£14,525 — nearly £2,000 more than a new dwelling.

The decision by the Executive board to rehabilitate rather than demolish was taken after pressure from local interests to preserve the buildings.

Originally, the Executive had decided to preserve only 21 smaller homes in Joy

Street, near St. Malachy's Church.

But local people lobbied for the retention of the other 28 Georgian homes.

An Executive spokesman said: "These are some of the last remaining Georgian homes in the city and are of historical and architectural interest.

"There was also a demand from the people living in them to remain. The houses had originally been earmarked for redevelopment."

Architects who examined the buildings also pointed out their architectural interest, but warned they were in poor state of repair and structurally suspect.



These houses in the lower Markets area, designed by the Housing Executive, could have replaced the Georgian homes pictured above.