



## UK Tentative List of Potential Sites for World Heritage Nomination: Application form

Please save the application to your computer, fill in and email to:  
[UKTL.Application@culture.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:UKTL.Application@culture.gsi.gov.uk)

The application form should be completed using the boxes provided under each question, and, where possible, within the word limit indicated.

Please read the [Information Sheets](#) before completing the application form. It is also essential to refer to the accompanying [Guidance Note](#) for help with each question, and to the relevant paragraphs of UNESCO's *Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention*, (OG) available at: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines>

Applicants should provide only the information requested at this stage. Further information may be sought in due course.

### (1) Name of Proposed World Heritage Site

Gracehill Conservation Area

### (2) Geographical Location

Name of country/region

County Antrim, Northern Ireland

Grid reference to centre of site

grid ref Long 6 20' W Lat 54 51' N

Please enclose a map preferably A4-size, a plan of the site, and 6 photographs, preferably electronically.

### **(3) Type of Site**

Please indicate category:

Natural  Cultural  Mixed  Cultural Landscape

### **(4) Description**

Please provide a brief description of the proposed site, including the physical characteristics. 200 words

Situated two miles to the west of the town of Ballymena in County Antrim, Gracehill village dates from 1759. It is the only complete Moravian Settlement in Ireland and it is characterised by classic Georgian architecture with a grid-like street lay out and central square similar in style and layout to other Moravian settlements across the world. Such an arrangement was very forward thinking at a time when formal town planning was almost unknown.

The Moravian Church remains central to the village, facing the square and flanked by the Manse and the Warden's House. The Brothers and Sisters Walks on either side meet behind the church at the burial ground or "God's Acre". The settlement contains 16 listed buildings and for many years the Environment and Heritage Service (DoE), Ballymena Borough Council and the local community have promoted the conservation of the village. It has the distinction of being the first place in Northern Ireland to be designated as a Conservation Area (1975) and in addition it has been the recipient of many awards including the European Europa Nostra Award.

### **(5) History**

Please provide a short summary statement of any significant events in the history of the site. 200 words

In the 18th century Gracehill was highly structured, The Moravian values called for a community-based way of life; 250 years ago there was a village doctor, access to education and many houses had fresh running water. All the inhabitants belonged to the church and were divided into different groups or “choirs” each with specific duties and dwelling places, hence for example, the single brethren and sisters’ houses and the widows’ cottages in addition to individual family homes.

An important feature of the village is the settlement diaries. These were updated at least weekly over the last 250 years and record not only aspects of the social life of the village but also the effects of national events ( eg 1798 United Irishmens rebellion and the Irish Potato famine) and international events (eg celebrations of victory at the battle of Trafalgar). Events depicted in these diaries are regularly enacted.

The Moravians were renowned for their high standard of education and there were for some time, day and boarding schools for both boys and girls in the village.

Elementary education was offered to children of all religious denominations from the surrounding districts. Gracehill was almost unique in that boarding facilities were available which attracted pupils from all over Ireland.

**(6) Why do you think this site should be inscribed as a World Heritage Site?**  
Give reasons. 200 words

We seek transboundary, transnational serial nomination to the UNESCO world heritage list.

Christiansfeld in Denmark, a sister Moravian settlement of Gracehill, was added to the Danish list of tentative sites for World Heritage Site nomination several years ago.

The international nature and spread of similar historic Moravian settlements has resulted in a network uniting a wide variety of interested groups and institutions worldwide. Gracehill, along with other settlements including Christiansfeld (Denmark), Zeist (Holland), Bethlehem (USA) and Elim (South Africa), has been at the forefront of promoting such links.

We have been actively meeting since 2003 to take forward the initiative and have now had four international conferences the last of which was hosted by Gracehill.

Moravian settlements are important for cultural and heritage reasons that transcend national boundaries. Each settlement is important in its own right but the world wide network to which they each contribute represents a historic interchange of ideas and values, across countries and continents, going back more than two centuries, that is unique and which has a truly international significance for all mankind.

**(7) Please say why the site has Outstanding Universal Value and specify the main features which underpin its importance. 200 words**

Moravian Heritage constitutes a distinct element of the human patrimony: the Moravian Congregations developed a distinctive way to plan and build their settlements. They have spread the congregations and built such settlements in several continents, always creatively adapting the planning and architectural ideas to local conditions while retaining the core principles.

Moravian settlements are outstanding examples of the unity of spiritual, individual and community values and their relationship to the environment;

The cultural heritage of the settlements can be seen as an inseparable part of identity of a living town, contributing to its quality of life

Spiritual values, expressed in buildings, and their spatial organisation in landscape indivisibly and dynamically link people to their heritage.

Gracehill is such a site. It is significant because of its cultural, social, educational, architectural and international associations. It has also contributed to reconciliation during turbulent times in Ireland.

“When our Place appeared to all around us as the only spot of safety, many retired to it as to a city of refuge, and we lodged and fed them during their danger without making any distinction of their being either our friends or foes; the hearts of many who had hated us, and even designed our destruction, were turned.”(Diary entry 1798)



### (8) Outstanding Universal Value

Please state which of the [10 UNESCO criteria for Outstanding Universal Value](#) the proposed site meets, and describe briefly why the criteria were chosen. Please see criteria note at the end of the form.

UNESCO criterion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Why was this criterion chosen? 100 words
(i)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(ii)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	As has been stated Gracehill and its sister settlements demonstrate an interchange of human values over a period of more than two hundred and fifty years that spans the Globe. This includes the ethos of the Moravians in relation to education, architecture and town planning among other areas.
(iii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(iv)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(v)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(vi)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bishop John Amos Comenius was an innovative 17th century Moravian Bishop who pioneered a new style of teaching. His ideas completely transformed education. At a time when both the poor and females were not considered worth educating, Comenius encouraged education for all regardless of sex or class. Moravians carried this ethos wherever they went.  Elementary education was offered to children of all religious denominations from the surrounding districts. Gracehill was almost unique in that boarding facilities were available which attracted pupils from all over Ireland.
(vii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	

<b>UNESCO criterion</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Why was this criterion chosen?</b> 100 words
(viii)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(ix)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(x)	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**(9) Authenticity (for cultural or mixed sites only)**

Authenticity concerns the current state of conservation of a cultural or mixed site; especially whether its importance, its Outstanding Universal Value, is still obvious from its physical condition. Please outline the condition of the site. 200 words

Gracehill was the first designated Conservation area in Northern Ireland, having been designated in 1975. The central area of the Conservation area contains 16 listed buildings and planned green spaces and its form remains much as it did in the early nineteenth century. One of the early school buildings, circa 1765, has recently undergone restoration, at a cost in excess of one million pounds, with the help of the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Church is currently undergoing restoration under the supervision of a specialist Conservation Architect with the assistance of Northern Ireland Environment Agency. Many of the privately owned buildings are in a good state of repair. Many of the buildings eg The Church retain their original function while others have been converted to private use.

**(10) Integrity**

For cultural or mixed sites, please state how much original fabric is included in the proposed site, and its condition. For guidance on how the test of integrity is met for natural sites under criteria (vii) – (x), please refer to the OG 90-94. Information Sheet 6 also provides help on this point. 200 words

The majority of historic fabric of the site remains intact and as a result of Conservation area status where possible inappropriate changes which have occurred over the years have been reversed. The buildings have been a focus of much restoration effort however the green spaces require reinstatement of paths, replanting and restoration of features such as the village pond.

**(11) Are there other examples of this kind of site already on the World Heritage List?**

Yes  No

If yes, please list. 100 words

**(12) What distinguishes this site from other similar sites?**

150 words

There are other Moravian congregations in Ireland but the Moravian ethos was such that they aspired to build completely self sufficient settlements that cared for their inhabitants literally from "the cradle to the grave".  
Gracehill is the only complete Moravian Settlement in Ireland. While the materials used to create the settlement are indigenous the layout, form and function of the buildings are similar to historic sister settlements in South Africa, North America or Europe.

**(13) How does the site contribute to meeting UNESCO's priorities for a balanced World Heritage List?**

200 words

By seeking a transboundary, transnational serial nomination to the UNESCO world heritage list, Gracehill hopes to support and promote the inclusion of under-represented countries such as South Africa and possibly also in South America.

**(14) What benefits do you think World Heritage Site inscription would bring?**

Please indicate the main opportunities and benefits.

Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tourism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Regeneration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please describe. 100 words.

“The village of Gracehill is a unique destination, not only for Ballymena, but for the entire island of Ireland.”  
 Ballymena Tourism Strategy 2010.  
 Gracehill has much to offer that could bring educational, tourism and economic benefits not just locally but also for the region. However it is important that the unique character is conserved and protected. Inscription would help to focus all stakeholders on the perhaps conflicting demands and ensure the survival of this important site. The social, cultural and historic resources and their international context have the potential to enhance educational experiences and demonstrate universal truths.

**(15) Are there any known threats to the proposed World Heritage Site?**

Yes  No

Please indicate any proposed developments, or other potential impacts on the site.

Impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Please describe. 100 words for each issue.
Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Given that Gracehill is an attractive area and property may command a premium, development pressures are ever present.
Environmental	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>	

**(16) Legal Protection**

Please list any legal and other protections, including cultural and natural designations, which cover the whole or part of the proposed site. 200 words

1. Designated Conservation Area protection
2. Listed Building Protection for individual buildings
3. Green spaces have limited protection eg tree preservation Areas.

**(17) Ownership**

Please list the main owners of the site, where possible.

1. Gracehill Moravian Church
2. Gracehill Old School Trust
3. Private Ownership

Do the owners support the application? Yes  No

A statement of support from the principle owners of the proposed site should be attached to the application, preferably electronically.

**(18) Local Authority support for the site**

Please list all Local Authorities with an interest in the proposed site.

Ballymena Borough Council

Does the proposed site have local Authority support? Yes  No

Please attach a statement of support from each one in relation to the application.

Please indicate whether the site is included in the local plan/s by specific policies.

Yes  No  Partly

Please describe. 200 words.

1. Conservation Area Plan, Dept of Environment (NI) now Northern Ireland Environment Agency.
2. Ballymena Borough Council Tourism Strategy 2010-06-10
3. Causeway Coast and Glen Tourism Strategy

### **(19) Stakeholders**

Please list the main parties with an interest in the site. 100 words

1. Gracehill Moravian Church
2. Gracehill Old School Trust
3. Private Ownership

### **(20) How will the Site be managed?**

Please outline the management arrangements for the proposed World Heritage Site, including where the responsibilities lie. 200 words

Gracehill Old School Trust is a registered charity. The trust would work in partnership with the local authority to ensure the appropriate management of the site. It is already involved in education, tourism and conservation projects and has an excellent working relationship with Ballymena Borough Council. The Trust recently managed the Old School restoration project at a cost of £1.5 million.

**(21) Funding: the nomination**

Please indicate how the preparation of the nomination would be funded.  
100 words

Gracehill Old School Trust would work in partnership with the local authority and NIEA to raise funding to prepare the nomination.

**(22) Funding: management**

Please outline how the future management would be funded. 100 words

Gracehill Old School Trust would work in partnership with the local authority and NIEA to raise funding for the future management of the site..

**Name and Contact Details of Applicant**

Name	David J Johnston
Status	Chairman
Address	Gracehill Old School Trust 8 Montgomery Street Gracehill Co Antrim Northern Ireland BT42 2NN
Telephone	
Email	

Completed applications should be forwarded, preferably in electronic format, to the World Heritage Team, Department for Culture, Media and Sport at the following email address: [UKTL.Application@culture.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:UKTL.Application@culture.gsi.gov.uk)

Any material that cannot be sent electronically should be sent to the following address:

World Heritage Team, Department for Culture, Media and Sport  
2-4 Cockspur Street  
London  
SW1 5DH

The closing date for applications is 11th June 2010

## UNESCO's criteria for the assessment of Outstanding Universal Value (para 77 of the Operational Guidelines)

- (i) represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
- (ii) exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;
- (iii) bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
- (iv) be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;
- (v) be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
- (vi) be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance.
- (vii) contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance;
- (viii) be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;
- (ix) be outstanding examples representing significant ongoing ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;
- (x) contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.