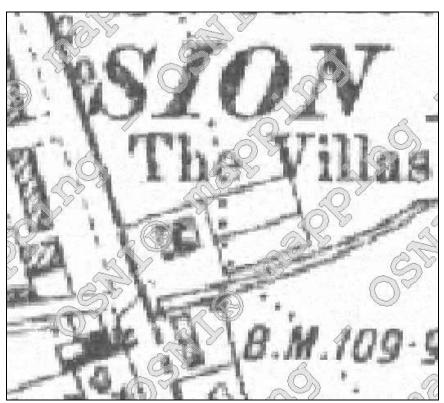| Asset Ref No.	Hb/10/07/008a & Hb/10/07/008b 122 & 124 Melmount Rd, Sion Mills (Including Gates & Walling)	
Heritage Type	Built	
	Post-Medieval houses	
Location	OS 6-inch map sheet	
	Townland	
	Parish	
	LCA	Foyle Valley
	ITM Coordinates	234093; 392991; 234080;392989; 234094;392984; 234085;392973
	NG Coordinates	
Protection Status	Listed Grade B1	
Condition		
Ownership (if known)	Private	
Site Description	HB/10/07/008A 122 Melmount Rd Built 1900-1919. Semi-detached two bay two storey house built c.1905 situated on the east side of Melmount Road, at the southern end of Sion Mills Conservation Area. The house is rectangular on plan with rear return to east (further extended to east) and canopy over entrance to north. There is a further lean-to extension at the re-entrant angle of the return. The west elevation faces onto the road and, alongside HB10/07/008B, forms a symmetrical front with central chimneystack and shared dormer window. Roof is clay tiled, pitched and slightly sprocketed, featuring clay ridge tiles, timber barge boards and boxed eaves; cast iron gutters and downpipes. Central red brick chimneystack with stepped cap and vertical banding, rear chimneyshaft on return is similar in style but smaller and for a single chimneypot. Timber framed and roughcast. Windows are irregularly spaced and sized, the majority have been replaced with UPVC frames; painted concrete sills. Principal elevation faces west and features a rectangular bay window with timber-framed canopy; supported on decorative timber corbels, clay tiled roof; to its left is a small rectangular 1/1 sash with horns. Shared dormer window with pitched roof, tile hung cheeks and decorative timber framing to apex. Left (north elevation) has the entrance door surmounted by a timber-framed canopy with timber squinches and clay tile roof, a four-panelled timber door with bolection mouldings is accessed by a concrete step, to the right is a Victorian style lamp. This elevation has six irregularly spaced and sized windows, including one at attic level. The attic level features decorative timber framing and two raised timber bands running at head and sill level (that to head level is dentilled). Rear (east) elevation has a red brick chimneystack on the return. Small UPVC skylight on rear pitch. Painted brick wall forms boundary to neighbouring back yard. Setting: The house is set back from the Melmount Road at the southern end of the Sion Mills Conservation Area. A gap in the wall with two low steps provides access to the house and its neighbour (HB10/07/008B). Large rectangular garden to rear. Roof: Pitched clay tile Walling: Timber framed and roughcast Windows: Mainly replacement UPVC RWG: Half-round cast-iron gutters.	

	HB/10/07/008B 124 Melmount Rd
	Built 1900-1919.
	Semi-detached two-bay two-storey house built c.1905 situated on the east side of Melmount Road, at the south end of Sion Mills Conservation Area. The house is rectangular on plan with rear return to east, with lean-to extension, and canopy over entrance to south. The west elevation faces onto the road and alongside HB10/07/008A, forms a symmetrical front. Roof is clay tiled, pitched and slightly sprocketed, angled clay ridge tiles, timber barge boards and boxed eaves; cast iron gutters and downpipes. Central red brick chimneystack with stepped cap and vertical banding, rear chimneyshaft on return is similar in style but smaller. Windows are irregularly spaced and sized, all timber framed except in the extension to the rear; painted concrete sills Principal elevation faces west and features a rectangular bay window with timber-framed canopy; timber frame and supported on decorative timber corbels, clay tiled roof; to its right is a small rectangular window; 1/,1 one sash with horns. Shared gabled dormer with tile hung cheeks and decorative timber framing to apex. North gable is completely abutted by No.122 (HB10/07/008A). South elevation contains four-panelled timber entrance door with bolection mouldings and lion's head knocker door at left, surmounted by a timber-framed canopy with timber squinches and clay tile roof; accessed by a concrete step. Attic level has decorative timber framing and two raised timber bands running horizontally above and below the window. There are six irregularly spaced windows, including one at attic level; all 1/1 sash with horns with exception of one UPVC window contained at extension to east end. The base of a former greenhouse seen on the 1st survey photograph (c. 1975) remains and is now used as a flowerbed. Rear (east) elevation features a lean-to extension on the end of the return gable. Brown UPVC windows on extension. Red brick chimneystack to return; chimneybreast visible on gable wall. Painted brick wall forms boundary to neighbouring back yard. Enclosed yard in painted roughcast to match walls. There is a garage to south-west of the house, built in similar style with pitched and clay tile roof and painted roughcast doors. Timber doors on north elevation. Setting: The house is set slightly back from the Melmount Road at the southern end of the Sion Mills Conservation Area. It is separated from the road by a lawn and low cut stone wall having an access gap with two low steps shared between both houses. Large rectangular garden to rear. Roof: Pitched clay tiled Walling: Painted roughcast and decorative timber frames Windows: Timber, mainly one over one sash with horns Rainwater goods: Cast iron gutters and downpipes.
Landscape Context (setting)	
Site Appraisal	These semi detached houses are designed in the Arts and Crafts style located on the southern end of the model village of Sion Mills. They contribute to the quality of the Sion Mills Conservation Area. These early twentieth century houses create an attractive symmetrical front onto Melmount Road, enhanced by the low stone wall running north-south in front of them which also ties them as a group to the adjacent Church of the Good Shepherd and hall.
Sensitivity	
Associations	Sion Mills was a company-owned town established by Herdman & Co., a flax spinning mill, run by the Herdman family as a model village for their workers and village maintenance staff, who all had an option for healthcare, until the village was privatised in the mid 1960s when the mills needed to raise capital during a slump in the linen industry. The buildings are first shown on the third edition OS map of 1905, captioned 'The Villas'. 122 Melmount Rd is added to the Valuation Revisions in 1905 as a 'house' which is initially vacant but becomes occupied in 1907. The lessor is E. T. Herdman and the property is valued at

	£10.10s. The adjoining property, No. 124, was also built the same year, but has separate tenancy; both properties were leased from E. T. Herdman. In 'Architecture in Ireland' (1994), Jeremy Williams writes: 'The Halls in their tour of Ireland in 1843 praise the full employment given to 700 workers, 500 of them women, living in sound and comfortable cottages and going to Sunday school that the Herdman family themselves attended, and all in the verdant countryside' (Williams, p.358). Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Hall continued: 'But this system of social order and social industry is not, as we have said the only advantage enjoyed at Sion Mills.... A school is established, and to the Sunday-school the Messrs. Herdman themselves attend, taking the greatest interest in the educational progress of their workpeople, and distributing motives to improvement, lavishly and judiciously. Nor are they behind London in the idea, that 'the people' may derive benefit from the introduction of more refined tastes into the business of everyday life. The traveller's ear is refreshed, if he pass along during the long evenings of winter, or the bright cheerful ones of summer, by the music of a full band and instead of the saddened hearts and saddened features he has been led to suppose inseparable from the crowded factory, he hears a chorus of cheerful voices, or the echoes of dancing feet' (Scott). A July 1874 census recorded a total of 1008 persons living in the village, which consisted of 136 houses. Many of the villagers were lodgers, as the number of workers fluctuated; in March 1889, there were 1113 workers but by February 1897, the number had gone down to 1096 (Ferguson, p.93). Worker accommodation in the early twentieth century was detailed in the Herdman Diaries, which between 1900 and 1910 declared that 'the problem of the supply of workers is influenced considerably by the available accommodation' (Ferguson, p.93). In an effort to raise capital, the company sold off village houses sold off in early 1960s for prices ranging 'from £60 for smallest to £120 for two-storey houses' (Herdman, p.123).
Recommendations	
Mapping	 *Present-day mapping extract (www.osni.gov.uk)*

3rd edition 6-inch OS map extract 1857-1932

Extract from NIEA SMR MapViewer of the site (Map ID Nos.1-4)

References	http://maps.ehsni.gov.uk/MapViewer/Default.aspx
	PRONI OS/6/6/10/1 First Edition OS Map (1832-33)
	PRONI OS/6/6/10/2 Second Edition OS Map (1855)
	PRONI OS/6/6/10/3 Third Edition OS Map (1905)
	PRONI VAL/12/E/182/1 Town Plan of Sion Mills (1866-1898)
	PRONI VAL/12/B/42/1A-F Valuation Revisions (1860-1923)
	PRONI VAL/2A/6/9A Griffiths Valuation (1858)
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Plates	
Additional Notes	