

**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE  
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 729  
*PHARMACY AND SETTING –  
58 RUE LAVAUD, AKAROA***



**PHOTOGRAPH: DR VAUGHAN WOOD, 2013**

**HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

*Historical and social values that demonstrate or are associated with: a particular person, group, organisation, institution, event, phase or activity; the continuity and/or change of a phase or activity; social, historical, traditional, economic, political or other patterns.*

Akaroa Pharmacy has historical significance through its continued use as a pharmacy since 1883. The land on which it stands was purchased by Akaroa pharmacist Henri Citron in 1879 and he opened a pharmacy on the site in 1883. Citron had arrived in Akaroa in 1877 and he was therefore amongst a handful of French settlers who arrived after the initial influx in 1840. There is no record of the land having been built on prior to this time. The building was designed by Thomas Cane, one-time Canterbury Provincial architect, and built by MR Goodwin. In 1888 the property was sold to George Fawcitt Dodds Snr who also ran a pharmacy on the site. The building remained in the ownership of the Dodds' family until 1947. Throughout this time a pharmacy operated in the building, although not always by the Dodds. Other pharmacists have owned the building since 1947 and it still operates as a pharmacy.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

*Cultural and spiritual values that demonstrate or are associated with the distinctive characteristics of a way of life, philosophy, tradition, religion, or other belief, including: the symbolic or commemorative value of the place; significance to Tangata Whenua; and/or associations with an identifiable group and esteemed by this group for its cultural values.*

Akaroa Pharmacy has cultural significance for its association with the way of life of Akaroa's chemists, and their customers, since 1883.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

*Architectural and aesthetic values that demonstrate or are associated with: a particular style, period or designer, design values, form, scale, colour, texture and material of the place.*

Akaroa Pharmacy has architectural and aesthetic significance as a surviving commercial building designed by Thomas Cane (1830-1905). Cane had arrived in Christchurch in 1874 and, in the following year, succeeded Benjamin Mountfort as Canterbury Provincial Architect. In 1876, with the abolition of the provincial government system, Cane was appointed architect to the Canterbury Education Board, in which role he designed Christchurch Girls' High School at the Arts Centre site (1876). Cane also designed the Timeball Station in Lyttelton (1876) and the Grand Hotel in Akaroa (1882).

The building is a two-storey timber-frame commercial building clad in rusticated weatherboards with a hipped roof on concrete foundations. It stands on the corner of Rue Lavaud and Rue Croix. The principal frontage is on Rue Lavaud and here the building retains much of its original integrity with two display windows and two recessed doorways, one parallel to the street and one on a diagonal at the corner. The window and door frames have Italianate style decoration with matching details in the upper floor windows. Other than a difference in paint colour and the change from a corrugated iron roof to Decramastic tiles, with the original roof retained underneath, the façade is close to its original design.

The Rue Croix frontage has been altered, particularly by an extension west towards Rue Jolie. A series of alterations, starting with a lean-to that was in place by 1940, have culminated in an extended ground floor, partially constructed of concrete block, with an upper floor added in 1979. In the 1990s further changes were made meaning that only the placement of the central doorway and the sash-type fenestration has remained unchanged. Internally the property remains much as it was, with some small additional divisions within the rooms – five, first floor rooms becoming seven for instance. In 1991 the main shop was roughly doubled in size with a room at the back being divided into two. The central brick chimney and fireplaces remain in place (although one fireplace was replaced by a heater), but may be removed following the Canterbury earthquakes.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

*Technological and craftsmanship values that demonstrate or are associated with: the nature and use of materials, finishes and/or technological or constructional methods which were innovative, or of notable quality for the period.*

Akaroa Pharmacy has technological and craftsmanship significance as it demonstrates the construction techniques and materials that were in use in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century in Akaroa. Its construction, materials and detailing evidence the period in which it was built.

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

*Contextual values that demonstrate or are associated with: a relationship to the environment (constructed and natural), a landscape, setting, group, precinct or streetscape; a degree of consistency in terms of type, scale, form, materials, texture, colour, style and/or detail; recognised landmarks and landscape which are recognised and contribute to the unique identity of the environment.*

Akaroa Pharmacy and its setting have contextual significance as a prominent corner building in one of two commercial areas that developed within Akaroa in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The building is a prominent feature in the historic Rue Lavaud streetscape and is in close proximity to other heritage buildings, notably the former town hall next door and the former Presbyterian Church opposite.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

*Archaeological or scientific values that demonstrate or are associated with: the potential to provide information through physical or scientific evidence an understanding about social historical, cultural, spiritual, technological or other values of past events, activities, structures or people.*

Akaroa Pharmacy and its setting have archaeological significance because of the potential to provide archaeological evidence relating to past construction methods and materials, and human activity on the site, including that which occurred prior to 1900.

## **ASSESSMENT STATEMENT**

Akaroa Pharmacy and its setting has overall significance to Banks Peninsula and Christchurch. It has historical and social significance for its continuous use as a pharmacy since 1883. Akaroa Pharmacy has cultural significance for its association with the way of life of Akaroa's chemists, and their customers, since 1883. The pharmacy has architectural and aesthetic significance as a commercial building designed by Thomas Cane which retains many of its original features. Akaroa Pharmacy has technological and craftsmanship significance as it demonstrates the construction techniques and materials that were in use in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century in Akaroa. Akaroa Pharmacy has contextual significance as a prominent corner building in one of Akaroa's two early commercial areas and through its proximity to other heritage buildings, such as the former Town Hall and former Presbyterian Church. The building has archaeological significance in view of its pre-1900 date of construction.

## **REFERENCES:**

Christchurch City Council Heritage File *58 Rue Lavaud, Akaroa Pharmacy*  
Historic Place # 5287 – Heritage NZ List: <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/5287>

<http://www.akaroacivictrust.co.nz>

Wood, Dr Vaughan, *Background Information Listed heritage Place, 58 Rue Lavaud, Akaroa Pharmacy*, 2013

**REPORT DATED: 25 FEBRUARY, 2015**

PLEASE NOTE THIS ASSESSMENT IS BASED ON INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT THE TIME OF WRITING. DUE TO THE ONGOING NATURE OF HERITAGE RESEARCH, FUTURE REASSESSMENT OF THIS HERITAGE ITEM MAY BE NECESSARY TO REFLECT ANY CHANGES IN KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING OF ITS HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE.

PLEASE USE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CCC HERITAGE FILES.