

**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 231
*FORMER WEST CHRISTCHURCH SCHOOL / HAGLEY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND SETTING – 510 HAGLEY
AVENUE, CHRISTCHURCH***



PHOTOGRAPH: M.VAIR-PIOVA, 16/12/2014

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.

The Hagley Community College main building and its setting has high historical and social significance as an educational site since 1863. Christchurch High School was established in 1858 and was originally located north of St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, at the intersection of Oxford Terrace and Antigua Street. It was relocated to the present Hagley Avenue (previously known as Lower Lincoln Road) site in 1863. Ten years later the school was purchased by the newly established West Christchurch School, which offered primary schooling. In 1904 a secondary division was established at the school to 'provide an education to fit pupils for business life', as opposed to the university focus that other secondary schools in the city were said to have at the time. Primary and intermediate classes ceased in 1932 and 1939 respectively and in 1936, under the control of the Canterbury University College, it became Christchurch West High School. Renamed Hagley High School in 1966, it is now known as Hagley Community College.

After the original school building on site was condemned and demolished, a new West Christchurch School was designed by Samuel Farr and opened in 1874. This building was demolished to make way for the present brick building on the site. Designed by architect George Penlington who was an old boy of the school, it was opened by the then Minister of Education, C J Parr in September 1924. In the early 1990s the building was threatened with demolition, however a major refurbishment was undertaken instead, which was said to be the most expensive school rebuilding project in New Zealand at the time. The historic school building was re-opened by Governor-General Dame Catherine Tizard in February 1995. Today Hagley Community College is a central city school for adult and adolescent students. It was not damaged in the 2010-2011 earthquakes.

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.

The Hagley Community College main building has high cultural significance as a place of learning since 1863 and as a leader in adult and community education since the 1970s. The school is esteemed by past and present staff and pupils and is associated with a distinctive and particular educational philosophy and style of learning.

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.

The Hagley Community College main building has high architectural and aesthetic significance for its inter-war neo-Georgian styling and association with George Penlington, Canterbury Education Board architect (1900-31). This style was popular for secondary and tertiary educational buildings between the world wars in England, the United States and New Zealand. Penlington's design may nod to the collegiate gothic with its central fleche and gables but use of this style is more evident in his former Teacher's College building in Peterborough Street (1924-30, aka Peterborough Centre) was executed in the Collegiate Gothic educational buildings.

The façade of Hagley Community College's main building has a symmetrical 'centre and ends' composition, whereby projecting entrance and terminal bays emphasise the formal symmetry of the gabled building. Ionic columns frame the entrance beneath a decorative pediment inset with a clock. A flagpole mounted on a fleche, directly behind the central pediment, further enhances the symmetry of the principal elevation. The decorative brickwork of the façade and the building's fenestration and ventilation system, the latter based upon modern 'open-air classroom' principles, are also notable features of Penlington's design. In 1929 an additional wing, also of two storeys, was added by R Savage at the rear of the building and at right angles to it. When this extension was demolished in 1993 a time capsule produced documents including a letter stating the cost of the building was £9500. Sheppard and Rout designed a new replacement three-storey wing in 1993 to house offices and classrooms. Penlington's 1924 building was earthquake strengthened during this redevelopment.

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.

Hagley Community College's main building has technological and craftsmanship significance for what it may reveal of interwar construction methodologies, materials, fixtures and fittings as a masonry building featuring both brick and reinforced concrete, with stone detailing. The building has technological significance for its open-air classroom ventilation and the quality of its brickwork which is enlivened by quoins and a classically detailed entrance porch. Along the facade there are various decorative elements and features using brick and the original slate roof remains. The clock is in working condition except for the bell.

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.

The Hagley Community College main building has contextual significance as a landmark on Hagley Avenue, opposite Hagley Park and in close proximity to Christchurch Hospital. The setting includes that portion of the campus from the front fence to the rear of the building, including the entrance gates, lawn and mature trees. The main building stands at the centre of the campus facing north towards Hagley Park.

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.

Hagley Community College's main building and its setting has archaeological significance because it has the potential to provide archaeological evidence relating to past building construction methods and materials, and human activity on the site, including that which occurred before 1900. There are no recorded archaeological sites in the vicinity but the place has been the site of a school since 1863. The 1862 map of Christchurch shows buildings on the block bounded by Hagley Avenue, Selwyn, St Asaph and Antigua Streets and also indicates area of maze cultivation and a nursery to the north of Balfour Terrace.

ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

The main block of Hagley Community College has overall high significance to Christchurch, including Banks Peninsula as the site of education since 1863 and for its association with the progressive teachings of Hagley Community College. The building has high historical and social significance for its long association with education in the City. In 1904 a secondary division was established at the school to 'provide an education to fit pupils for business life', as opposed to the university focus that other secondary schools in the city were said to have at the time. Primary and intermediate classes ceased in 1932 and 1939 respectively and in 1936, under the control of the Canterbury University College, it became Christchurch West

High School. Renamed Hagley High School in 1966, it is now known as Hagley Community College. The Hagley Community College main building has cultural significance as a place of learning since 1863 and as a leader in adult and community education since the 1970s. The school is esteemed by past and present staff and pupils and is associated with a distinctive and particular educational philosophy and style of learning. The main block of Hagley Community College has high architectural and aesthetic significance as the work of Education Board architect George Penlington and for its collegiate neo-Georgian styling. Hagley Community College's main building has technological and craftsmanship significance for what it may reveal of interwar construction methodologies, materials, fixtures and fittings as a masonry building featuring both brick and reinforced concrete, with stone detailing. The main block of Hagley Community College has contextual significance in relation to the campus site and the southeastern sector of Hagley Park. Hagley Community College's main building and its setting has archaeological significance because it has the potential to provide archaeological evidence relating to past building construction methods and materials, and human activity on the site, including that which occurred before 1900.

REFERENCES:

The Press 26 November 1994

Historic place # 1874 – Heritage NZ List

[HTTP://WWW.HERITAGE.ORG.NZ/THE-LIST/DETAILS/1874](http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/1874)

Colin Amodeo *West! 1858-1966: a social history of Christchurch West High School and its predecessors* (Christchurch, 2006)

Murray Noel Williams 'BUILDING YESTERDAY'S SCHOOLS An analysis of educational architectural design as practised by the Building Department of the Canterbury Education Board from 1916-1989' PhD, University of Canterbury, 2014 (available online)

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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.