



**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE  
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 1016  
*FORMER TOWN HALL AND SETTING - 60 RUE LAVAUD,  
AKAROA***



**PHOTOGRAPH: ROSEMARY BAIRD, 2012**

**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 former Akaroa Town Hall has high historical and social significance as Akaroa's first town hall. It also has a long history as a commercial building. The building was erected in 1864, paid for by members of the community together with a sum from the government. In 1877 the building had to be repaired due to lack of maintenance and criticisms were made of its size. Due to the building's disrepair and inadequate size, once the Oddfellows' Hall opened in 1879 use of the Town Hall declined. In 1903 the site, without the building upon it, was offered to the government for use for police or postal services. Upon the government accepting, the building was sold to SE Wolfreys (1873-1906) who moved it onto his section next door. The hall's original site was subsequently developed for the police. The former town hall was converted into a shop in 1904 and has remained in commercial use ever since, being in turns a shop, and a restaurant. It is now a gift shop again, a use similar to that which it had in 1920 when it was a souvenir store.

## **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 former Akaroa Town Hall has cultural significance for its former use as a venue for civic functions and social events, including providing a library and reading room and a venue for balls, concerts and public meetings. The use of the building as a souvenir shop, restaurant and gift shop also has cultural significance in that it reflects the early emergence of Akaroa as a tourist destination.

## **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 former Town Hall has high architectural and aesthetic significance as a building designed by Charles Moore Igglesden (1832-1920) and built by local builders Cullen and Penlington. Igglesden was town surveyor in Lyttelton for three years as part of a 37-year career with the Public Survey Department. It was during these years that he designed the Akaroa Town Hall. Igglesden was also involved in the design of the Old Government Buildings and the Old Custom House and Post Office in Wellington. One of the builders, William Penlington, was a longstanding Akaroa resident who also built St Peter's Parsonage and made additions to the police station in 1885 and was Mayor of Akaroa in 1880.

The building was designed in an Italianate style. Although the front of the building – which originally had a central doorway covered by a gabled porch with a Palladian arch flanked by two sash windows and a central chimney – has been significantly altered, the features of the Italianate design on the side and rear walls, including the classical detailing and Palladian windows have been retained. Inside there are also original plaster archways and moulded cornices.

## **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.*

The former Akaroa Town Hall has craftsmanship significance as a good example of an early colonial building of simple construction and local materials. The Palladian windows and internal plasterwork is notable, particularly the former as examples of skilfully crafted timber joinery. The former Town Hall also has technological significance in view of its relocation, by way of jacks, from the neighbouring site in 1903.

## **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 former Akaroa Town Hall and its setting has contextual significance as part of the historic streetscape in one of the original commercial areas of Akaroa. It is in close proximity to other heritage buildings, such as the Akaroa Pharmacy and the former Presbyterian Church. Although it has been relocated, that event took place in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the building stands immediately to the north of its original site. The setting includes a narrow rectangular parcel of land that has frontages on both Rue Lavaud and Rue Jolie. The buildings on either side of this property (Akaroa Pharmacy and former Police lockup) are also scheduled.

### **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.*

The former Akaroa Town Hall its setting has archaeological significance because of the potential to provide archaeological evidence relating to past building construction methods and materials, and human activity on the site, including that which occurred prior to 1900. A Survey Office plan appears to show that this property was undeveloped in 1883 (SO 811).

### **ASSESSMENT STATEMENT**

The former Akaroa Town Hall has high overall significance to Banks Peninsula and Christchurch. It has high historical and social significance as the Akaroa's first Town Hall and for its long history as a commercial building. The building has cultural significance through its former use as a venue for civic functions and social events, while its use as a souvenir shop, restaurant and gift shop also has cultural significance as a reflection of Akaroa's development as a tourist destination. The former Town Hall has high architectural and aesthetic significance for its association with Charles Igglesden and its Italianate design. The building has craftsmanship significance as an example of early colonial construction, with the windows and plasterwork being of particular note. The former Akaroa Town Hall and its setting has contextual significance as part of the historic streetscape of one of Akaroa's early commercial areas and its proximity to other heritage buildings. The former Akaroa Town Hall and its setting has archaeological significance in view of the date at which development first occurred on this property.

### **REFERENCES:**

Christchurch City Council Heritage files 60 Rue Lavaud, Akaroa, Former Akaroa Town Hall  
Baird, Rosemary, *Background Information Listed heritage Place, Pot Pourri - 60 Rue Lavaud*, 2012

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

'Obituary – Charles Moore Igglesden' *Evening Post* 17 April 1920, p. 6.

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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.

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