



DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 1038
DWELLING AND SETTING - 164 RUE JOLIE, AKAROA



PHOTOGRAPH : ROSEMARY BAIRD, 2011

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.

164 Rue Jolie has historical and social significance both as a colonial dwelling and for its ownership and occupancy by a number of prominent Akaroa individuals and their families. In 1842 the property was purchased by Charles Barrington Robinson, one of the first two Police Magistrates of Akaroa. He never lived there and sold the property to James Harris, another early settler, in 1875. Research to date suggests that Harris erected the house in 1878, before selling the property to James Garwood in 1881. Garwood was manager and owner of a local store, Justice of the Peace, Akaroa agent for the *Lyttelton Times* and the second Mayor of Akaroa. Garwood immediately leased the dwelling to Alexander McGregor and then sold the property to him in May 1893. McGregor was a notable Akaroa settler who arrived in Akaroa in 1871. Originally an auctioneer and land agent he moved on to a career in parliament and civic life. Akaroa mayor from 1883-86 and 1897-1900, McGregor also represented the Banks Peninsula-Ellesmere electorate in parliament for three years, during which time he confirmed a loan for funding the town's water supply. McGregor was also responsible for the planting of the Garden of Tane, an area originally known as the Akaroa Domain. 164 Rue Jolie remained in the possession of the McGregor family for 100 years, until 1981. During this time one of the occupants was local builder Thomas Penlington, who

was married to Alexander McGregor's daughter Annie. The present owners use the dwelling as a holiday house.

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.

164 Rue Jolie has cultural significance as it demonstrates the way of life of people in Akaroa during the 19th century.

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.

164 Rue Jolie has architectural and aesthetic significance as a colonial cottage that represents a period in Akaroa's 19th century domestic architecture. The cottage is constructed of timber with a corrugated iron roof and features three finial trimmed dormer windows and a bullnose veranda supported by latticed posts. Triple paned casement windows light the dormers while the ground floor is lit by sash windows. There is a narrow steep stairway rising from a central hallway. The dwelling provides a good example of the colonial vernacular of Akaroa and the front elevation, with its decorative timber features, retains its original symmetry.

Thomas Penlington extended the house to the rear in the early 1900s by adding a kitchen, pantry and bathroom. In 1985 further extensions and modifications were made – the living room was extended, sections of the roof were replaced, a new driveway, garage and timber deck were added; this work also left the original front of the building untouched.

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.

164 Rue Jolie has technological and craftsmanship significance as an example of colonial construction techniques using local materials and through the use of decorative timber elements.

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.

164 Rue Jolie has contextual significance through its relationship to two nearby heritage areas. The first is the southern length of Rue Jolie, from Beach Road to the Garden of Tane, which contains an important concentration of smaller 19th century Akaroa homes, the oldest dating from the 1860s. 164 Rue Jolie contributes positively to this streetscape. The second important heritage setting is the neighbouring Garden of Tane, which has a direct link to

Alexander McGregor who lived in the dwelling from 1881 to 1901. McGregor was responsible for planting the Garden of Tane after the Canterbury Provincial Council set aside a parcel of land for a reserve in 1874. The Garden of Tane has significant social, cultural and botanical heritage values in its own right.

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 dwelling and its setting are of archaeological significance because they have 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.

ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

164 Rue Jolie has overall significance to Banks Peninsula and Christchurch. The dwelling has historical and social significance as a colonial dwelling with links to several prominent Akaroa settlers, most notably Alexander McGregor whose family resided at the property for 100 years. The building has cultural significance as a demonstration of the way of life of its former residents and architectural and aesthetic significance as a 19th century colonial vernacular dwelling which retains many of its original features. The dwelling demonstrates technological and craftsmanship significance as an example of colonial construction using local materials and featuring decorative timber elements. 164 Rue Jolie has contextual significance for its contribution to the historic streetscape of Rue Jolie and for its proximity to the Garden of Tane, the planting of which is directly associated with a former owner of 164 Rue Jolie. The dwelling has archaeological significance by virtue of the date at which development occurred on the site.

REFERENCES:

Baird, Rosemary, *Background Information Listed heritage Item, 164 Rue Jolie, Akaroa*, 2011

Historic place # 1726 – Heritage NZ List

<http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/1726>

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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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