

**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 1083
*ST PETER’S CHURCH AND SETTING – 834 GEBBIE’S PASS
ROAD, TEDDINGTON***



PHOTOGRAPH : BRENDAN SMYTH, 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.

St Peter's Church, Teddington was opened in 1871 and has high historical and social significance as a 19th century church that has continued to be an active church in the Christchurch Anglican Diocese throughout its history and for its association with some of the earliest settler farming families in Canterbury. The church is built on land that belonged to Mary Gebbie and became the property of the Church Property Trustees in December 1884. The church was consecrated the following year in January 1885. The building was constructed by William Dyer of Governor's Bay and later lined by J. Hall in 1876 with re-roofing in iron being undertaken in 1896. The church was part of Governor's Bay Parish when it was opened and was called the 'Head of the Bay' church with the name Teddington appearing in the church registers in 1886. The parish of Governor's Bay became a Parochial

District in 1895. From 1930 it was part of the West Lyttelton and the Bays Parochial District and it is now part of the Mr Herbert Parochial District. Following damage to St Cuthbert's Church, Governor's Bay in the Canterbury earthquakes, the congregation of St Cuthbert's Church also currently worships at St Peter's.

The church is connected with some of the earliest settler farming families in Canterbury with William Deans Gebbie, youngest son of Mary Gebbie, being the first person to be buried in the churchyard. The Gebbie family still remains in the area and the church is on Gebbie's Pass Road. William Flower Blatchford, who arrived in the area in 1851 aboard the *Isabella Hercus*, was employed by the Gebbie and Manson families to teach their children. He married Agnes Manson in 1860 and continued to live in the area first as schoolmaster and then as a farmer. He also taught a weekly Sunday School and was a lay reader for the church for 45 years. In 1905 a memorial window was commissioned from Curtis, Ward and Hughes of London to commemorate these two men.

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.

St Peter's Church and its setting has high cultural and spiritual significance as an Anglican Church that has been in use for well over a century and has housed many religious and social ceremonies for the local farming community in that time. It also has commemorative stained glass. The setting has high cultural and spiritual significance, particularly to its community, as it contains a graveyard with interments dating from earliest European settlement.

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 church has high architectural and aesthetic significance as an early timber church designed by Benjamin Mountfort in the 1870s. It is the smallest of the timber colonial churches designed by Mountfort (36 feet by 16 feet) but was carefully conceived to present a unified whole in treatment of its form and relationship to its fenestration. Mountfort trained as an architect in England under Richard Carpenter, an important member of the Gothic Revival movement. Mountfort immigrated to New Zealand in 1850 and became New Zealand's pre-eminent Gothic Revival architect. He has been credited with defining Christchurch's Gothic Revival character with a group of major buildings including the Canterbury Museum, the Provincial Council Buildings and Canterbury College (later the Arts Centre).

The church is constructed of board and batten, with a pitched metal roof and features a string course running the length of the building. The timber used was kauri with a matai floor. After there were problems with borer, in 1904 some of the timber was replaced with rimu. The church has lancet windows, with a double window at the west end and a triple window at the east end. There is a small entrance porch on the north side. The church is an ecclesiologically correct parish church with the interior having a raised chancel and an open timber roof. The church has been extended to the east with a small single storey extension with a double pitched roof. The organ, which had been in Gebbie's Pass Church since 1937 was moved to St Peter's in 1974.

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.

St Peter's Church has technological and craftsmanship significance through its ability to demonstrate construction techniques from the 1870s, especially of the board and batten method, which was used prior to the adoption of machine manufactured timber boards and for its stained glass window made in 1905 by Curtis, Ward and Hughes, the well-known London stained glass firm. The window depicts 'The Risen Christ's Eighth Appearance' and was raised as a memorial to William Flower Blatchford and William Deans Gebbie.

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.

.St Peter's Church Teddington and its setting has contextual significance as it sits within a landscape of rural paddocks, as it has done since it was constructed and which reflect the community it was built to serve. The setting of St Peter's Church consists of the immediate land parcel, which includes a graveyard. The site is unique in the landscape with its thick hedge along the front boundary and a pair of metal gates between large timber gate posts and a short length of white timber fencing. A path runs from the road to the entrance porch and to the north of the church. There are several trees on the site, among which trees is a large protected oak at the front of the site. The graveyard is situated to the rear of the church on the east side.

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.

St Peter's Church and its setting are of archaeological significance, noting that the setting also contains a graveyard, because have the ability 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

St Peter's Church and its setting are of overall high significance to Christchurch, including Banks Peninsula. The church has historical and social significance as a 19th century church that has continued to be an active church in the Christchurch Anglican Diocese throughout its history and for its association with some of the earliest settler farming families in Canterbury. The church and its setting has high cultural and spiritual significance as an Anglican Church that has been in use for well over a century and has housed many religious and social ceremonies for the local farming community in that time. The setting has high cultural and spiritual significance, particularly to its community, as it contains a graveyard with interments dating from earliest European settlement. The church has high architectural and aesthetic

significance as an early timber church designed by architect Benjamin Mountfort in the 1870s. It is the smallest of the timber colonial churches designed by Mountfort (36 feet by 16 feet) but was carefully conceived to present a unified whole in treatment of its form and relationship to its fenestration. St Peter's Church has technological and craftsmanship significance through its ability to demonstrate construction techniques from the 1870s, especially of the board and batten method, which was used prior to the adoption of machine manufactured timber boards, and for its stained glass window made in 1905 by Curtis, Ward and Hughes a well-known London stained glass firm. St Peter's Church and its setting has contextual significance as it sits within a church and graveyard setting with a wider landscape of rural paddocks, as it has done since it was constructed and which reflect the community it was built to serve. St Peter's Church and its setting are of archaeological significance because have the ability 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.

REFERENCES:

Christchurch City Council, *Heritage File, St Peter's Church, Teddington, Governor's Bay*
Lovell-Smith, Margaret, *Background Information Listed Heritage Place, St Peter's Church, Teddington - 2008*

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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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