

**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 1121
*DWELLING AND SETTING - 30 DUBLIN STREET, LYTTELTON***



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.

30 Dublin St has historical and social significance for its association with Marist priest Fr David Kennedy and local body politician and identity George Briggs, and as a small colonial cottage. Significant numbers of similar cottages were built in Lyttelton during the 1860s, which was a period of rapid growth in the settlement.

Lyttelton Town Section 49 was originally sold to prominent UK-domiciled anti-slavery campaigner Joseph Denman in 1851. In 1863 Denman sold the bare site to local carpenter James Stout, who subdivided it into six sections. The site of 30 Dublin Street was sold in May 1864 to labourer Duncan Kennedy, who built this cottage in 1865. Lyttelton developed rapidly during the 1860s, with important public works such as the Lyttelton Rail Tunnel (1860-67) under way, and an increase in trade and immigration. The town's population tripled between the mid-1850s and the end of the 1860s.

The Scottish-born Duncan Kennedy and his Irish wife Mary arrived in Lyttelton from Melbourne in 1863. Shortly before the Kennedy's purchased 30 Dublin Street, Mary gave birth to a son, David. Ordained as a Catholic priest in 1891, David Kennedy (1864-1936) spent much of his career in the church teaching at Napier's Meeanee Seminary (later relocated to Greenstreet). The first New Zealand-born Marist priest, Kennedy is credited with

playing a significant part in establishing the Catholic Church as a New Zealand institution. He was also an astronomer of repute, and was elected a fellow of the Royal Astronomical and Royal Meteorological Societies.

In 1869 the Kennedy family sold their Lyttelton home and relocated to Papanui. The cottage has changed hands regularly through its subsequent history, with most occupants being labourers at the port and their families. Between 1932 and 1946 the cottage was let. One prominent tenant in the mid 1930s was George Briggs, a popular barman at the Empire Hotel who served as Lyttelton's mayor between 1948 and 1959. It is not known when the appellation *Rose Cottage* was first applied.

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.

30 Dublin Street has cultural significance for the capacity it has to illustrate the modest way of life of a colonial working family.

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.

30 Dublin Street has architectural and aesthetic significance as an example of a small vernacular colonial cottage. The timber and corrugated iron cottage was modified in the early twentieth century to suit the tastes of the period and the requirements of its new owners. These modifications included alterations to the verandah and the removal of dormer windows. The general appearance and cottage form of the building remained however. Some damage was sustained in the Canterbury Earthquakes of 2010-2011, and the cottage has undergone a restoration in the period since.

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.

30 Dublin Street has technological and craftsmanship significance for its capacity to reveal information on construction techniques and use of materials in the colonial period.

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.

30 Dublin Street has high contextual significance as part of a closely-built colonial streetscape consisting largely of houses of a similar scale, form, age and relationship to the street. This streetscape is an important contributor to Lyttelton's colonial townscape. The setting of the cottage is its immediate parcel, a very small urban section. The cottage is located right on the road frontage and covers much of the section, leaving only a courtyard

garden at the rear. It is wedged tightly between the heritage-listed cottage at 32 Dublin Street and the larger heritage-listed former boarding house at 28 Dublin Street.

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.

30 Dublin Street 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. The cottage was constructed in late 1864 or 1865; there is no evidence for any earlier buildings on site.

ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

30 Dublin Street has overall heritage significance to the Christchurch district including Banks Peninsula. The dwelling has historical and social significance for its association with Marist priest Fr David Kennedy and local body politician and identity George Briggs, and as a small colonial home. Significant numbers of similar cottages were built in Lyttelton during the 1860s, which was a period of rapid growth in the settlement. The dwelling has cultural significance for the capacity it has to illustrate the modest way of life of a colonial working family. The dwelling has architectural and aesthetic significance as an example of a small vernacular colonial cottage. The dwelling has technological and craftsmanship significance for its capacity to reveal information on construction techniques and use of materials in the colonial period. The dwelling has high contextual significance as part of a closely-built colonial streetscape consisting largely of houses of a similar scale, form, age and relationship to the street. This streetscape is an important contributor to Lyttelton's colonial townscape. 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. The cottage was constructed in late 1864 or 1865; there is no evidence for any earlier buildings on site.

REFERENCES:

CCC Heritage File: 30 Dublin Street, Lyttelton

Te Ara Encyclopedia of New Zealand *David Kennedy*

REPORT DATED: 24/02/2015

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.