

**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 1185
*FORMER TAKAMATUA SCHOOL AND SETTING – 6706
CHRISTCHURCH AKAROA ROAD, AKAROA***



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.

The former school building has historical and social significance for its continued community use throughout its life, first as a local rural school, then as a community hall and finally, for the past 37 years its use once again in association with educating children as a outdoor education centre for a Christchurch school.

The former Takamatua School was built in 1922 when the previous school on the site, built in the 1870s, was deemed insanitary. The school remained in use as a school until 1937 when Takamatua School was merged with Akaroa and the children from Takamatua were taken by bus to Akaroa each day. From 1937 the building became the local community hall, administered by the local Domain Board, during which time it was used for Sunday school,

social functions and public meetings. The Takamatua Domain Board maintained the school building and grounds until 1977. In 1956 the land on which the school stands was brought under the 1928 Public Reserves, Domains and National Parks Act and was declared to be a reserve for recreation purposes in 1979. From 1977 until the present day it has been an outdoor education centre maintained and administered by Chisnallwood Intermediate School. An agreement was drawn up with Banks Peninsula District Council that the school would have the use of the building and grounds for outdoor education, they would maintain the building and would pay rental to the Council and local residents could still hire the building. The school had to provide a toilet block to meet Health Department standards and worked hard to improve the water supply. Since then two stand alone bunkrooms were built in c. 1982 and in 1984 an addition was made to the school building to provide two bunkrooms and a toilet for parents. In addition they have built two double garages to the rear of the school to house boats used for their water skills courses and a confidence course has been constructed to the rear of the section. The school have kept the former school building in good repair.

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 school building has cultural significance as a tangible reminder of the cultural importance the community placed on education from the earliest settlement period; as an important centre for the Takamatua community from 1922 until 1977; and for its continued use as an education establishment for the last 37 years, while remaining available for community use as needed. The former school also has cultural significance for its commemorative value. The school building houses a Roll of Honour commemorating former pupils who served in the First World War. This was unveiled at the opening of the school in 1922 and is located on the northern wall of the school building. A memorial gate honouring former pupils who served in the Second World War provides access to the former school site.

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 school building at Takamatua has architectural and aesthetic significance as a representation of the type of building used in the early 20th century to house small, rural, one-teacher schools, constructed of timber weatherboard with a metal roof. The design in 1922 was simple with a single classroom 21 feet square with what was described as a porch attached; an internal entrance hall to the classroom itself. An extension was added to the southern side in 1984 which is not entirely in keeping with the original building but is subservient to the original structure, leaving the original school building easy to read. This extension has been altered since 2012 with the addition of a new multi-pane door and the alteration of one of the existing windows to a multi-pane door with side window on the eastern side of the building. Internal features include a panelled dado and dado rail, and interior lining of tongue and groove horizontal boarding.

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 building that housed the former school at Takamatua has technological and craftsmanship significance as an example of 1920s construction techniques, materials, fixtures and fittings.

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 Takamatua School and setting has contextual significance. The school sits on the Christchurch to Akaroa Road and has contextual significance through its location on the main road, central to the local community. The setting consists of the immediate land parcel and includes World War II memorial gates at the entrance to the site from State Highway 75, a mature backdrop of mixed trees and pine shelterbelt, and an expansive grassed area fronting the buildings.

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 site of the former Takamatua School and its setting are of archaeological significance because they have the ability to provide archaeological evidence relating to human activity on the site, including that which occurred prior to 1900, due to the fact that there has been a school on the site since the 1870s.

ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

The former school at Takamatua and its setting are of overall significance to Christchurch, including Banks Peninsula. The former school building has historical and social significance for its continued association with community use throughout its life, first as a local rural school, then as a community hall and finally, for the past 37 years its use once again in association with educating children as a outdoor education centre for a Christchurch school. It has cultural significance as an important centre for the Takamatua community from 1922 until 1977, for its continued use as an education establishment for the last 37 years, as a tangible reminder of the cultural importance the community placed on education from earliest settlement period and as a site of commemoration of both World War I and II. The building has architectural and aesthetic significance as a representation of the type of building used in the early 20th century to house small, rural, one-teacher schools. The building that housed the former school at Takamatua has technological and craftsmanship significance as an example of 1920s construction techniques, materials, fixtures and fittings. The school sits on the Christchurch to Akaroa Road and has contextual significance through its location on the main road, central to the local community and for its grounds containing two war memorials. The site of the former Takamatua School and its setting are of archaeological significance

because they have the ability to provide archaeological evidence relating to human activity on the site, including that which occurred prior to 1900.

REFERENCES:

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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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