



**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 1210
*DALY'S WHARF, SHELTER AND SETTING – 1A RUE
BALGUERIE, AKAROA***



PHOTOGRAPH: SIMON DAISLEY 2013

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.

Daly's wharf, shelter and setting have historical significance for their association with Akaroa's maritime history and local merchant James Daly, after whom the wharf is named. By 1875 James Daly (died 1885) had built a wharf to service his nearby warehouse, which stood on the site of the War Memorial Garden (1922-24). Daly operated a store in Akaroa with his brother-in-law George Armstrong.

By the early 20th century Daly's wharf was in a state of disrepair and so it was rebuilt in 1914 by the borough council, during the mayoralty of George Armstrong jnr, largely for the benefit of visitors. The wharf was designed by council engineer WD Wilkins and built by Robert Powrie. A brass tablet was attached to the wharf on its completion in May 1914. It read: 'The foundation stone of this wharf was laid by the Hon R Heaton Rhodes, MP for the Ellesmere Electorate, on April 8, 1914. G Armstrong, Mayor. WD Wilkins, Engineer.' Rather than directly following the line of Rue Balguerie, the wharf runs due west so as to achieve a bigger draft for vessels. The contemporary shelter at the end of the wharf appears to have had a flat or sloping roof initially, however by 1932 the current octagonal structure with turret roof was in place.

From 1910 a saltwater bath operated close to Daly's wharf on the foreshore. The three whaling try pots which are now set in brick close to the French landing site were placed first, in about 1913, near the base of Daly's Wharf. They were moved to their present location in 1970. The wharf was extensively restored in 2002 with the work including installing new piles and bracing, replacing some of the timber decking and repairs to the stairs. Today the wharf is mainly used for recreational fishing and boating.

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.

Daly's wharf and shelter has cultural significance for its association with Akaroa's way of life as a coastal settlement that was heavily reliant on shipping for the transport of goods and people. The wharf is also associated with the 20th century growth of Akaroa's tourism industry that contributes much to the village's identity.

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.

Daly's wharf and shelter has aesthetic significance for the design and picturesque appearance of the shelter shed at its seaward end. The wharf is a 'hammer' shape in plan with a boarded walkway extending 55 metres from the shore. On the hammerhead section of the wharf sits a board and batten octagonal shelter with a turret roof constructed of metal diagonal shingles, topped with a short finial.

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 wharf has some technological value as evidence of early 20th century wharf construction methods. A conservation plan dating from 2001 was unable to ascertain whether any of the original fabric remains as repairs have been made to the wharf over the past 100 years. The use of metal diagonal shingles is a notable feature of the shelter as they are not a common roofing material in Banks Peninsula.

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.

Daly's wharf and shelter have high contextual significance as they relate to the historical importance of maritime access and trade to the town, especially at the north or French end of the village. The wharf is located in close proximity to a group of listed heritage items including the former Plunket Rooms on the foreshore, the former Customs House and the

cluster of listed buildings around the Rue Balguerie and Rue Lavaud intersection. Daly's wharf and shelter have considerable landmark significance due to their high visibility from many parts of the township and it is notable that there has been a wharf in this locale since the 1840s. The wharf forms the western boundary of Heritage New Zealand's Akaroa Historic Area.

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.

Daly's Wharf and shelter 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. There may be evidence relating to the previous wharf on the site dating from the 1840s.

ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

Daly's wharf and shelter and setting have overall significance to Christchurch, including Banks Peninsula. The wharf has historical and significance due to the role it has played in both the maritime trade of Akaroa and its promotion and growth as a popular seaside location and for its association with local merchant James Daly, after whom it is named. Daly's wharf and shelter has cultural significance for its association with Akaroa's way of life as a coastal settlement that was heavily reliant on shipping for the transport of goods and people. The wharf is also associated with the 20th century growth of Akaroa's tourism industry that contributes much to the village's identity. The shelter at the end of the wharf has aesthetic significance as a picturesque addition to the wharf that also fulfils a practical purpose. The wharf and shelter have contextual significance due to their proximity to a number of other listed heritage buildings and structures and landmark significance due to its longevity on the site and visibility from many parts of the township. Daly's Wharf and shelter 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. There may be evidence relating to the previous wharf on the site dating from the 1840s.

REFERENCES:

Jim Espie *Conservation Plan Daly's Wharf, Akaroa - Banks Peninsula District Council* (2001)

Akaroa Mail and Banks Peninsula Advertiser 10 April 1914, p. 2; 30 January 1914, p. 4; 5 November 1912, p. 2.

John Wilson & Louise Beaumont *Akaroa Historical Overview* (for CCC, June 2009)

'Akaroa Historic Area – Heritage NZ List

<http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/7443>

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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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