

**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 1230
*THE AKAROA BOATING CLUB BOATSHED AND SETTING -
BEACH ROAD, BETWEEN BRUCE-AYLMERS VALLEY,
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 Akaroa Boating Club Boatshed has historical and social significance for its century-long connection with recreational boating (and particularly rowing) in Akaroa Harbour, as a social/sporting focus in the town, and for the social venue that the shed's hall has provided over time for the community.

The first rowing club in Akaroa, the Akaroa Boating Club, was founded in 1864; a second club, the Akaroa Rowing Club was founded in 1881. Both clubs initially had separate premises at Daly's Wharf. In 1892 the Rowing Club built new premises on the present site, south of the Main Wharf. After the Boating Club lost its premises to fire in 1904, the two clubs co-located in the Rowing Club's building.

At the turn of the century, competitive rowing was flourishing at Akaroa. The Rowing Club was one of the strongest in the country, and the competitive achievements of two rowers in particular – George Welch and Dick Arnst, figure highly in the history of rowing in New Zealand. Most Akaroa families have had some connection with one or other of the clubs.

The first Beach Road boatshed was destroyed by fire in 1913, but replaced the following year with the present building. A significant feature of the new building was the first floor social hall, which has provided a venue for the town through to the present. The clubs thrived through the interwar years when regattas and competitions were a major feature on Akaroa's calendar, but declined after WWII. The building is still owned by the ABC, but competitive rowing no longer takes place at Akaroa and the nearby Akaroa Sailing Club is the major user. The building is also run as a conference centre by the Akaroa Village Inn.

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 ABC Boatshed has cultural significance for its role since 1914 as an important venue for social interaction in the town, both amongst active members of the associated boating clubs and other users of the facilities. The hall was once a popular venue for balls and dances. It remains in use today

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 ABC Boatshed has architectural and aesthetic significance as a very visible Arts and Crafts-style building by well-known Christchurch architect J. S. Guthrie.

The ABC decided that their new building should be ornamental. Consequently they decided to employ a Christchurch architect rather than have an Akaroa tradesman design their clubroom (*Akaroa Mail* 4 April 1913). John Steele Guthrie began to practise on his own account after becoming a member of the NZIA in 1908. Although Guthrie was to design a variety of building types in a number of styles, he quickly established himself as an innovative architect of domestic buildings, introducing Christchurch to the Californian Bungalow and Georgian Revival styles with respectively *Los Angeles* (1909) and *The Long Cottage* (1917). Guthrie was particularly active in the period between 1919 and 1929, when he was in partnership with his brother Maurice. The ABC Boatshed is one of his earlier buildings.

Although the ABC Boatshed is in essence a large shed, it uses typical Arts and Crafts/Californian bungalow features such as wooden shingles, casement windows and differing ground and first floor cladding treatments. The interior is comparatively plain, with the social hall open to the ridge.

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 ABC Boatshed has technological and craftsmanship significance as a large timber building of the first decades of the twentieth century, constructed of rimu and matai. The builder was Mr Mutton of Lyttelton.

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 ABC Boatshed has contextual significance in relation to its waterfront site and setting, and its Akaroa foreshore context. The Boatshed is located off Beach Road over the water, about 250 M south of the Main Wharf. The setting of the building is the footprint of it and its ramp. There are no other buildings in the immediate vicinity. The Boatshed sits in a very prominent position and can be seen from many locations in the town and on the water, including the Main Wharf. It is clearly a major landmark in the seaside town. The Boatshed has wider contextual significance in relation to the buildings and objects associated with commercial and recreational activity on the water, and those buildings and objects added to the waterfront during the first decades of the twentieth century with the express purpose of improving its appearance. This includes the Britomart Reserve with its gun (1908), the Wharfinger's Office and *Fishermen's Rest Shelter* (1910), the Post Office (1915), Main and Daly's Wharves, the Akaroa Yacht Club and its jetty, and the Lighthouse – which has been located near the Boathouse since the 1970s.

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 Boatshed 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

The Akaroa Boating Club Boatshed is of heritage significance to the Christchurch district including Banks Peninsula. It has historical, social and cultural significance for its long-standing association with recreational boating (primarily rowing) on Akaroa harbour, as a focus for the town's sporting activity and interest, and as a centre for community interaction and conviviality in the venue provided by the Club's social hall. The Boatshed has architectural and aesthetic significance as a landmark Arts and Crafts-style building designed by well-known Christchurch architect J. S. Guthrie. The ABC Boatshed has technological and craftsmanship significance as a large timber building of the first decades of the twentieth century, constructed of rimu and matai. The builder was Mr Mutton of Lyttelton. The Boatshed has contextual significance in relation to the other maritime-associated structures of the Akaroa waterfront, particularly the nearby Lighthouse, the Akaroa Yacht Club and the Main Wharf; and those buildings and places linked with early twentieth century endeavours

to beautify the waterfront, such as the Britomart Reserve and the Post Office. The Boatshed 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.

REFERENCES:

CCC Heritage File: Beach Road Boathouse

REPORT DATED: 24/03/14

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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