

**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE  
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 736  
*PILGRIMS LANDING SITE AND SETTING – OXFORD STREET  
BETWEEN END AND NORWICH STREETS, LYTTELTON***



**PHOTOGRAPH : MARGARET LOVELL-SMITH, 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.*

The Pilgrims' Landing Site has high historical and social significance as it marks the place where the first Canterbury Association settlers landed with the arrival of the first of the 'First Four Ships', the *Charlotte Jane*, in Lyttelton Harbour on 16 December 1850. On the same date 84 years later the Pilgrims' Rock was unveiled, originally in the railway yard. The Canterbury Pilgrims' Association was formed in 1923 and suggested the idea of the rock in 1934. People were in favour and New Zealand Railways agreed to lease the site for a peppercorn rental, provided that the stone would be moved in future if the railway decided it was necessary. The rock was unveiled by Sir Heaton Rhodes and dedicated by the Rev. F. Guise Brittan.

The date of 16 December continued to be regarded as highly significant in Canterbury's history. In 1957 the first suggestion of moving the stone was raised, but was resisted. 33 years later in 1990 the stone had become hidden from public view by the development around it and the idea of moving it became accepted. In November 1990 the rock was moved to its current location on the southwest corner of Norwich Quay and Oxford Street and a precinct was created around it. The area has seats, lamps and plaques. A mural was painted on the wall below the overbridge at the foot of Oxford Street, which depicts the arrival of the settlers in 1850. According a plaque on the site, the area marks the approximate landward end of the first jetty and seawall and is considered to by a more accurate location to mark the Pilgrims' Landing Site. The Pilgrims' Landing Site has historical and social significance for its association with the arrival of the first Canterbury Association settlers.

## **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 Pilgrims' Landing Site has high cultural significance through its association with the arrival of officially organised European settlement in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the arrival of the first four ships organised by the Canterbury Association for their planned Anglican settlement. It has cultural and spiritual significances as a reminder of past societal mores associated with the belief in organised colonisation by groups with particular religious and social ideals.

The area has cultural associations with early to Maori as the original waterfront area pre reclamation was known to have two Maori occupation sites on it.

## **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 landing site has some aesthetic value in that the walls, seats and lights assist with clearly demarcating the area and creating a visual and physical link to the place where the

Canterbury Association settlers came ashore. The rock walls have been designed to complement the surrounding aesthetic of the neighbouring over-bridge.

### **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.*

There is no evident or known technological or craftsmanship significance associated with this site.

### **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 Pilgrims' Landing Site has high contextual significance as it marks as closely as possible the original landing site of the first Canterbury Association settlers. As well as the site itself, there is also the associated adjacent contemporary mural depicting the arrival of the settlers in 1850.

### **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 Pilgrims' Landing Site has archaeological significance for its potential to provide archaeological evidence relating to human activity on the site, including that which occurred prior to 1900. Due to land reclamation the site may still have intact remnants of the original jetty and the original waterfront area was known to have two Maori occupation sites on it.

### **ASSESSMENT STATEMENT**

The Pilgrims' Landing Site has heritage significance and value to Christchurch and Banks Peninsula and including the Canterbury Province for its association with the arrival of the first Canterbury Association settlers. The site has high historical and social significance as marking the beginnings of organised European settlement in the 19<sup>th</sup> century through its association with the arrival of the first four ships organised by the Canterbury Association. It has high cultural and spiritual significance as a reminder of past societal mores associated with the belief in organised colonisation by groups with particular ideals, and for its commemorative nature. The area has cultural associations with early to Maori as the original waterfront area pre reclamation was known to have two Maori occupation sites on it. The Pilgrims' Landing Site has high contextual significance as it marks as closely as possible the original landing site of the first Canterbury Association settlers. The Pilgrims' Landing Site has archaeological significance for its potential to provide archaeological evidence noting that due to land reclamation the site may still have intact remnants of the original jetty and the original waterfront area was known to have two Maori occupation sites on it.

**REFERENCES:**

Lovell-Smith, Margaret, *Background Information Listed Heritage Place, Pilgrims' Rock, Oxford Street, Lyttelton* - 2014

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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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