

**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE  
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 503  
FORMER P & D DUNCAN FOUNDRY – 1-7/204 ST ASAPH  
STREET, CHRISTCHURCH**



**PHOTOGRAPH: M. VAIR-PIOVA, 10/12/2014**

### **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 P & D Duncan Foundry building has high historical and social significance as the former foundry of P & D Duncan Ltd, specialist manufacturers of agricultural machinery, for its association with the Duncan family, and a rare reminder of the important history of heavy industry in this area of the central city.

The firm that became P & D Duncan was established in Cashel Street in 1865 by Peter Duncan (1838-1907). He was joined in partnership two years later by his older brother, David. The company specialised in the manufacture of agricultural machinery, but also carried out other work, including the manufacture of components for the Coleridge Power Station. The Duncan brothers came from Forfarshire in Scotland. Peter, who served as managing director, was involved with St Paul's Presbyterian Church and the Agricultural and Pastoral Association, and was described in his obituary as a 'kindly, upright and devout Scot'.

In 1877 Dunedin and Christchurch were connected by rail for the first time and a new Christchurch Railway Station opened at the southern end of Manchester Street. The commercial activity generated by this railway expansion provided a stimulus to industry and encouraged the development of the vacant city blocks between Moorhouse Avenue and the central business district. Christchurch's heavy industry grew rapidly in this period and became concentrated in the southern central city area. In 1876 P & D Duncan Ltd relocated to St Asaph Street. The same year Scott Brothers' Atlas Foundry opened behind Duncans' on Martin Street (now Welles Street), and in 1878 R Buchanan and Sons' City Foundry opened next door. The present three storey building was part of a wider site redevelopment in 1903-1904 by Duncans to replace its mid nineteenth century buildings.

P & D Duncan closed in 1986 after a century of contribution to the development of New Zealand agriculture. The threat of demolition in the early 1990s was averted by the decision of the owner to convert the building into residential apartments and a retail store. The building sustained moderate damage in the Canterbury Earthquakes of 2010-2011.

### **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 P & D Duncan Foundry building has cultural significance as an early twentieth century former industrial building in central Christchurch, reflecting the former concentration of industrial activity and its associated workforce with their distinctive way of life in this part of the central city. It is also representative of the culture of inner city living utilising large warehouses and industrial buildings for residential use once the original use has ceased.

### **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 P & D Duncan Foundry building has high architectural and aesthetic significance as an industrial building designed by the early twentieth century Christchurch architectural practice of Clarkson and Ballantyne, and as one of a small number of pre-WWI commercial or industrial buildings remaining in the central city.

New Zealand-born William Clarkson (1863-1917) was articled to Joseph Maddison before travelling to England in 1886 for further study. He established a practice in Christchurch on his return in 1890. In 1899 Clarkson formed a partnership with Robert Ballantyne, an Australian-born and trained architect who had previously worked with Frederick Strouts. Prominent works by the firm included the Provincial Hotel, High Street Chambers and the Agricultural and Industrial Hall in Manchester Street – since all demolished.

The three-storey brick and stone 'Free' style P & D Duncan Foundry building was completed in 1904. It features a moulded parapet which contains the firm's name and dates. Oamaru Stone detailing enhances the building with prominent keystones and horizontal banding. The adjacent R Buchanan & Sons foundry building (1905) adopted a similar style and material palette.

The P & D Duncan Foundry was converted for mixed residential-retail use in the mid-1990s. The conversion was carried out by prominent architectural practice Warren and Mahoney.

Six two-level apartments were created on the first and second floors, with retail space on the ground floor. Shop windows were inserted for the retail space. The adjacent R. Buchanan & Sons Foundry building was also converted at the same time. The P & D Duncan building sustained moderate damage in the Canterbury Earthquakes of 2010-2011. Parapets were lost in part, but strengthening undertaken as part of the 1990s conversion ensured that the building retained its overall structural integrity. It has consequently remained in occupation. Earthquake repairs have yet to be completed.

## **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 P & D Duncan Foundry building has high technological and craftsmanship significance for the capacity it has to illustrate turn-of-the-century masonry construction techniques, materials, fixtures and fittings. It also has the capacity to reveal information about 20<sup>th</sup> century structural strengthening methodologies and upgrade techniques for the conversion to residential use. The building retains its original Jarrah floors and Oregon trusses.

## **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 P & D Duncan Foundry building has contextual significance in relation to the adjacent Buchanan's Foundry building as together they form a small group of listed buildings that represent the significant industrial history and character of this part of the city. The two buildings have particular streetscape significance due to their consistency in style, materials, scale and age. There are other unlisted industrial buildings from later periods in the area.

The setting of the P & D Duncan Foundry consists of its immediate land parcel. This large square property extends from St Asaph Street through to Welles Street. The listed building occupies the St Asaph Street frontage; behind this is a modern extension, a car park and garaging on the eastern boundary.

## **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 P & D Duncan Foundry building has archaeological significance because it has the potential to provide archaeological evidence relating to human activity on the site, possibly including that which occurred prior to 1900. The firm operated on the St Asaph Street site from 1876.

## **ASSESSMENT STATEMENT**

The P & D Duncan Foundry building is of high overall heritage significance to the Christchurch district, including Banks Peninsula. The building has high historical and social significance as the former foundry of P & D Duncan Ltd, specialist manufacturers of agricultural machinery, for its association with the Duncan family, and a rare reminder of the important history of heavy industry in this area of the central city. The building has cultural significance as a former industrial building in central Christchurch, reflecting the previous concentration of industrial activity and its associated workforce with their distinctive way of life in this part of the central city. The building has high architectural and aesthetic significance as an industrial building designed by the early twentieth century Christchurch architectural practice of Clarkson and Ballantyne, and as one of a small number of pre-WWI commercial or industrial buildings remaining in the central city. The building has high technological and craftsmanship significance for the capacity it has to illustrate turn-of-the-century masonry construction techniques. The building has particular contextual significance in relation to the adjacent R Buchanan & Sons City Foundry building. The two buildings together constitute a major heritage landmark, representing the industrial character and history of this area of the central city. The P & D Duncan Foundry building has archaeological significance because it has the potential to provide archaeological evidence relating to human activity on the site, possibly including that which occurred prior to 1900.

**REFERENCES:**

CCC Heritage File: P & D Duncan Ltd, 204 St Asaph Street

*Press 05/02/1907 p 7*

Historic place # 1911 – Heritage NZ List

<http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/1911>

<http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/2d19/duncan-david>

<http://www.teara.govt.nz/en/photograph/203/p-d-duncans-engineering-works-christchurch>

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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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