



**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE  
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 72  
*ANTIGUA BOATSHEDS AND SETTING – 2 AND 13  
CAMBRIDGE TERRACE, CHRISTCHURCH***



**PHOTOGRAPH: M.VAIR-PIOVA, 9/12/2014**

**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 Antigua Boatsheds have high historical and social significance as the city's only remaining 19<sup>th</sup> century boatsheds, which were built for pleasure boat hire and continue to fulfil this purpose over 130 years later. They were constructed by Lyttelton boatbuilders Albert Shaw and JT Tidd and opened in August 1882 to meet the demand for pleasure boating in Victorian Christchurch. On the first anniversary of the boatsheds opening it was reported Messrs Shaw and Tidd had 40 boats 'continually in use' (*Press* 6 August 1883, p. 2). Later in the same year Shaw and Tidd enlarged their premises, having applied to the city council to extend their frontage on the river by 30 ft (9 metres). The boatsheds were taken over by Samuel Anstey of Fendalton in November 1896 and *The Press* of 1902 and 1903, Anstey advertised that Anstey had 70 well-built boats to choose from.

After a fire destroyed the eastern half of the building in 1907, the boatsheds were rebuilt, with the two bays on the eastern end becoming two-storeyed at a later date. Photographic services were offered by owner Samuel Anstey in the late 1890s and a shop was installed at

the west end of the building in the 1920s, although refreshment rooms were already noted in 1883. Boats have been made on the premises by various owners in the past but the impact of that activity on the boatsheds is not currently known. The boatsheds are significant for their association with their various owners, including Samuel Anstey (owned 1896-1919), who was known as 'one of the leading amateur florists of Christchurch' (*Colonist* 4 September 1919, p. 4), and Bill Dini, who operated the sheds between 1948 and 1978. The family of the present operators have owned the business since 1978. The land the boatsheds sit on is owned by the City Council. Due to recent upgrades and restoration work the Boatsheds suffered very little damage in the 2011 Canterbury earthquake. Decking repairs, necessitated by the earthquake damage were undertaken in 2014.

## **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 Antigua Boatsheds have cultural significance because of their setting on the north bank of the Otakaro (River Avon) and that river's value to tangata whenua as a mahinga kai. The boatsheds themselves have cultural significance as the last remaining historical commercial boatsheds on the Avon River and for their contribution to the city's longstanding cultural activity of boating on the Avon River.

## **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 Antigua Boatsheds have architectural and aesthetic significance for their form and detailing, in which the utilitarian requirements of a multi-bay boatshed is given a picturesque appearance through the repetition of gabled roof forms and use of paint to highlight the building's board and batten construction. Fretted bargeboards and finials evoke the Carpenter Gothic style, which was consistent with the Montreal Street Boatsheds (opened 1875, destroyed by fire 1929) but in contrast to the Elizabethan half-timbering seen on a number of the city's historic rowing sheds, none of which are still extant.

## **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 Antigua Boatsheds have technological significance for what they may reveal as an example of colonial construction techniques and have craftsmanship significance in view of their ornamental bargeboards and finials and for their construction by a firm of boat builders.

## **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 Antigua Boatsheds have high contextual significance in relation to their immediate setting, the wider context of the city centre and to the history of boatsheds throughout New Zealand. They are immediately adjacent to a 19<sup>th</sup> century footbridge that crosses the River Avon at this point and offer access to patrons to the grounds of Hagley Park and the Botanic Gardens. The boatsheds, which are in close proximity to Christchurch Hospital, Canterbury Museum and the Christchurch Arts Centre, contribute to the historic identity of the central city and are a landmark on the River Avon.

The building is contextually significant amongst the country's remaining historic boatsheds. Most of these are private or club rather than commercial sheds, including the Star Boating Club in Wellington (1887, relocated 1889 and 1989). The building is also contextually significant amongst Christchurch's other Victorian and Edwardian recreational structures, such as the Teahouse at Riccarton Racecourse.

### **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 Antigua Boatsheds have 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 Antigua Boatsheds are of overall high significance to Christchurch, including Banks Peninsula, and New Zealand. The boatsheds have high historical and social significance for their age and history of continuous use as commercial pleasure boatsheds. The Antigua Boatsheds have cultural significance for their contribution to the city's sense of place and identity as the last remaining historical commercial boatsheds on the Avon River and for their contribution to the city's longstanding cultural activity of boating on the Avon River. They have architectural significance for their picturesque form and detailing. The boatsheds have high contextual significance in the inner-city environs of the River Avon and in the context of the city's recreational structures, and amongst the nation's few remaining historical commercial boatsheds. The Antigua Boatsheds have archaeological significance in view of their age and location on the bank of the Otakaro (River Avon).

### **REFERENCES:**

CCC Heritage files – Antigua Boatsheds

Historic place # 1825 – Heritage New Zealand List  
<http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/1825>

Antigua Boatsheds History  
<http://boatsheds.co.nz/history/>

R C Lamb *From the Banks of the Avon* 1981

John Wilson *Lost Christchurch* (Lincoln, 1984)

**REPORT DATED: 20 NOVEMBER 2014**

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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