

**CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT PLAN – SCHEDULED HERITAGE PLACE
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
*CANTERBURY CLUB GAS LAMP AND HITCHING POST –
CAMBRIDGE TERRACE BETWEEN HEREFORD- WORCESTER
STREETS, CHRISTCHURCH***

The Gas Lamp and Hitching Post have overall significance to Christchurch, including Banks Peninsula. They stand together outside the Canterbury Club in Cambridge Terrace and are remnants of the colonial city's street lighting and transport infrastructure.

This historic place includes two scheduled items: the Gas Lamp and its setting and the Hitching Post and its setting. Both are located on the footpath immediately adjacent to the main entrance of the Canterbury Club.

The heritage values of both structures have long been recognised. They have a strong physical and historical relationship with the Canterbury Club (est. 1872) and are located just off Worcester Boulevard, which is the primary thoroughfare within the city's Gothic Revival core.

**CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT PLAN –SCHEDULED HERITAGE PLACE
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 1344
CANTERBURY CLUB GAS LAMP AND SETTING – CAMBRIDGE
TERRACE BETWEEN HEREFORD- WORCESTER STREETS,
CHRISTCHURCH**



PHOTOGRAPH: M.VAIR-PIOVA, 15.12.2015,

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 Gas Lamp has high historical and social significance as the only surviving gas light in Christchurch. Early street lighting used gas lamps and by 1876 Christchurch had 152. This lamp was erected by the City Council in c1875, on the corner of Cambridge Terrace and Worcester Street (later Boulevard). Earlier the Christchurch Gas Company had been established in 1863 and after 1864 gas lights slowly replaced the city's kerosene lamps. A photograph in the Christchurch City Libraries collection appears to show the lamp being carried on a timber post in c1882. By 1913 there were 1335 lamps in the city. With the opening of the Lake Coleridge hydroelectric works in 1915, electricity began to replace gas

as the power source for the city's lighting. The gas was tuned off in 1918, by which time there were only 59 old-style gas lamps remaining.

While it was turned off in 1918, the lamp was not removed and so could be restored for use during a visit of Queen Elizabeth II in 1963. During the 1970s it was moved to its present position outside the Canterbury Club and the light was fitted with strengthened glass. In the late 1990s the lamp was electrified for a short time, but a gas supply was restored to the lamp in 1999.

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 lamp has high cultural significance as a tangible reminder of a past way of life when the streets were lit by gas each night. At first they were lit manually and later pilot lights were introduced. Street lamps were installed not only to provide inner city lighting but as a safety measure to light the areas as the city grew and more hazards became apparent.

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 Gas Lamp has architectural and aesthetic significance as a picturesque cast and wrought iron 19th century streetlight. The cast iron stand is 2 metres high with 'shoulders' to hold the lamplighters ladder. The stand supports a glass lamp with a finial ventilator. The maker of the light and lamp stand is unknown but it was reported in 1875 that the council was awaiting a supply of Skelton's lamps from England.

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 Gas Lamp has technological significance as a functioning gas light which dates from the mid-1870s. The lamp has craftsmanship significance as an example of the level of detailing applied to iron street furniture during the 19th century.

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 Gas Lamp and its setting has contextual significance as part of a precinct of central city heritage buildings and structures. The lamp stands on the footpath, beside the listed hitching post, immediately adjacent to the main entrance of the Canterbury Club (est. 1872). Both the gas lamp and hitching post are rare examples of 19th century street furniture.

A number of significant buildings and structures are situated within this location including Worcester Chambers and Harley Chambers, the Worcester Street bridge, the former Municipal Chambers and the Club itself.

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 Gas Lamp and its setting has archaeological significance because it has the potential to provide evidence of human activity and construction methods and materials, including those that occurred prior to 1900. Although the lamp was relocated in the 1970s, Cambridge Terrace was formed and the Canterbury Club built well before 1900. The site is also proximate to Ōtākaro (River Avon), which was highly regarded as a mahinga kai by Waitaha, Ngāti Māmoë and Ngāi Tahu.

ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

The Gas lamp has high overall significance to Christchurch, including Banks Peninsula as the sole surviving example of an original gas street light in Christchurch. It has high historical significance as a survivor of some 1335 lamps that lit the inner city. This lamp was erected by the City Council in c1875, on the corner of Cambridge Terrace and Worcester Street (later Boulevard). Earlier the Christchurch Gas Company had been established in 1863 and after 1864 gas lights slowly replaced the city's kerosene lamps. The lamp has high cultural significance as a tangible reminder of a past way of life when the streets were lit by gas each night. The Gas Lamp has architectural and aesthetic and technological and craftsmanship significance for its design, materials and gas-powered light. The structure also has contextual significance in relation to the adjacent Hitching Post and the Canterbury Club and wider contextual significance in relation to the broader heritage precinct of the Worcester Boulevard area. The Gas Lamp and its setting has archaeological significance because it has the potential to provide evidence of human activity and construction methods and materials, including those that occurred prior to 1900.

REFERENCES:

Christchurch City Council Heritage files – Gas lamp and hitching post

Historic place # 1838 – Heritage NZ List
<http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/1838>

John Wilson et al *Contextual Historical Overview for Christchurch City* (CCC, 2005)

REPORT DATED: 17 JANUARY 2015

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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**CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT PLAN –SCHEDULED HERITAGE PLACE
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 77
*CANTERBURY CLUB HITCHING POST AND SETTING –
CAMBRIDGE TERRACE BETWEEN HEREFORD- WORCESTER
STREETS, CHRISTCHURCH***



PHOTOGRAPH: M.VAIR-PIOVA, 15.12.2015,

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 Hitching Post has historical significance due to its age, historic function and association with the Canterbury Club. The Canterbury Club was established in 1872 as a club for men with professional and commercial interests, including lawyers, bankers, importers and accountants, in contrast to the runholders involved with the Christchurch Club. The newly formed club purchased a property on the corner of Worcester Street and Cambridge Terrace and had Italianate styled clubrooms built in 1873. The hitching post was erected, sometime in the late 1870s/80s, at the instigation of the club and it therefore serves as a reminder of a time when horses were the main form of transport in the city.

Hitching posts were typically located outside public and commercial buildings, part of the necessary infrastructure associated with the era of horse transport. In 1933 it was reported that only four or five posts remained in the inner city, including one outside the Canterbury Club and another outside the Public Library just along Cambridge Terrace. Today a hitching post also remains outside the Christchurch Club. Heritage New Zealand also lists a historic hitching post in Palmerston North (1900) and a hitching rail in Raetihi (early 20th century).

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 hitching post remains has cultural significance as a tangible reminder of a past way of life when horses were the means of transportation and would require to be tethered when a destination was reached. Hitching posts stood outside most inner city business, theatres, halls and clubs in the Victorian and early Edwardian period.

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 Hitching Post has architectural and aesthetic significance as a utilitarian structure with a robust form and a shaped hitching notch at the top. The post is a 900mm timber object with a shaped top and chamfered corners. The metal hook and ring that were attached at the top of the post on the kerbside have been removed.

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 Hitching Post has craftsmanship significance as a surviving example of a 19th century hitching post.

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 Hitching Post and its setting has contextual significance as part of a precinct of central city heritage buildings and structures. The post is mounted on the footpath, beside the listed gas lamp and immediately adjacent to the main entrance of the Canterbury Club (est. 1872). Both the gas lamp and hitching post are rare examples of 19th century street furniture.

A number of significant buildings and structures are situated within this locale; including Worcester Chambers and Harley Chambers, the Worcester Street Bridge, the former Municipal Chambers and the Club itself.

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 Canterbury Club Hitching Post has archaeological significance because it has 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. The site is also proximate to Ōtākaro (River Avon), which was highly regarded as a mahinga kai by Waitaha, Ngāti Māmoe and Ngāi Tahu.

ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

The Canterbury Club Hitching Post and its setting has overall significance to Christchurch, including Banks Peninsula as a surviving example of Victorian street furniture. It has historical significance as an object that is associated with the foundation period of the Canterbury Club and the era of horse transport in the city. The hitching post has cultural significance as a tangible reminder of a past way of life when horses were the means of transportation and would require to be tethered when a destination was reached. The structure has contextual significance in relation to the adjacent gas lamp and the Canterbury Club and has wider contextual significance in relation to the broader heritage precinct of the Worcester Boulevard area. The Canterbury Club Hitching Post has archaeological significance because it has 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:

Christchurch City Council Heritage files – Gas lamp and hitching post

Historic place # 1839 – Heritage NZ List
<http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/1839>

John Wilson et al *Contextual Historical Overview for Christchurch City* (CCC, 2005)

Auckland Star 12 September 1933, p. 6.

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