

**CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT PLAN – SCHEDULED HERITAGE PLACE  
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
*POPLAR CRESCENT – 230, 2/230, 272, 283 CAMBRIDGE  
TERRACE, 295F MADRAS STREET, 211, 250R, 267  
OXFORD TERRACE, CHRISTCHURCH***

Sixty years of beautification measures in the stretch of the Avon River between Colombo and Madras Streets culminated in 1928-1929 with the ambitious **Poplar Crescent** scheme, a collection of civic amenities in a designed setting. This was the vision of businessman and philanthropist Thomas Edmonds, who wished to commemorate his fifty years in New Zealand with an appropriate gesture.

Thomas John Edmonds (1858-1932) was a prominent and successful Christchurch businessman in the early twentieth century. His company became known across New Zealand for producing the famous Edmonds' Baking Powder. The company's rising sun motif, 'Sure to Rise' motto, branded cookbook and Linwood factory with its award-winning garden were instantly familiar to most New Zealanders. Edmonds was an enlightened employer and public-minded. Towards the end of his life he donated large sums of money for various civic improvement projects. The Poplar Crescent scheme is however the only one of his major contributions to the city to remain substantially intact.

At the centre of Edmonds' proposal were the twin lines of **Poplars** that flanked the Avon between Manchester and Madras Streets. Thomas had been born in Poplar in London, so the redevelopment of this area of central Christchurch had an additional level of meaning. Poplars had been first planted along this part of the Avon in the early colonial period, and therefore represent the continuity of efforts to create an ideal landscape through what came to be known as 'beautification'.

Edmonds' scheme added two significant built elements to the existing landscape, representing two distinct threads of the interwar design discourse. At the western end of the avenue of poplars was the prominent **Edmonds Band Rotunda**, a copper-domed cream-plastered Renaissance fantasy embedded in its own miniature classical landscape of gravel walks, balustrades and pavilion. At the eastern end of the avenue are the neighbouring **Edmonds Clock Tower and Telephone Kiosk**, more informal Free-style compositions in limestone and volcanic rubble representing the Arts and Crafts tradition.

**CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT PLAN – SCHEDULED HERITAGE PLACE  
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 79**

***EDMONDS BAND ROTUNDA AREA AND SETTING (INCLUDING  
ROTUNDA, SHELTER, BALUSTRADES, LANDING AND LAMP  
STANDARDS) - 230, 2/230, 272, 283 CAMBRIDGE TERRACE,  
295F MADRAS STREET, 211, 250R, 267 OXFORD  
TERRACE, CHRISTCHURCH***



**PHOTOGRAPH: CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL 2021**

**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 Edmonds Band Rotunda Area has high historical and social significance for its association with prominent businessman and philanthropist Thomas Edmonds and with nineteenth and early twentieth century efforts at ‘beautification’ of the central city.

Thomas Edmonds was a prominent and successful Christchurch businessman in the first half of the twentieth century. His company became known across New Zealand for producing the famous Edmonds Baking Powder. The company’s rising sun motif, ‘Sure to Rise’ motto, branded cookbook and Linwood factory with its award-winning garden were instantly familiar

to most New Zealanders. Edmonds was an enlightened employer and civic minded. In the interwar period, towards the end of his career, he donated large sums for various civic improvement projects. These included the Radiant Hall (later known as the Repertory Theatre), the Theosophical Society Hall and the Poplar Crescent beautification scheme. The Poplar Crescent scheme is the only one of his contributions to the city to remain fully extant.

The area of Avon River bank between Colombo and Madras Streets was planted with poplars and willows from the 1870s. Samuel Delabere Barker (1848-1901), a founding member of the Christchurch Beautifying Society in 1897, was instrumental in this beautification project and later planted a native garden as well. After his death, the section of Cambridge Terrace between Manchester and Madras Streets was renamed Barker Avenue for a period.

In 1928 to commemorate fifty years in Christchurch, Thomas Edmonds offered to finance a scheme of riverbank improvement in the same area, to be called Poplar Crescent. The key feature of the scheme was a band rotunda and associated landscape beside Cambridge Terrace next to the Manchester Street Bridge. The Edmonds Band Rotunda was completed in 1929 and employed as a venue for musical performance for many years. In 1986 it was enclosed and converted into a restaurant. The rotunda and its associated structures were badly damaged in the 2011 Canterbury Earthquakes, and the rotunda was subsequently largely deconstructed. The reconstruction and repair of the rotunda and associated structures was completed in 2021.

## **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 Edmonds Band Rotunda Heritage Area has high cultural significance for the association of the area with tangata whenua, as part of a concerted effort in the early twentieth century to beautify the city centre, as part of a flush of philanthropic activity in the interwar period, and as a venue for public music performance.

The Ōtākaro-Avon River is highly regarded as a mahinga kai by Ngāi Tahu. The river is scheduled as a site of Ngāi Tahu Cultural Significance on the Christchurch District Plan as a Ngā Wai.

In the late nineteenth century, leading citizens became concerned with the appearance of the central city. An early initiative was the foundation of the Christchurch Beautifying Society in 1897 to coordinate beautification projects. Concerted effort continued in the period between the wars, assisted by a burst of philanthropy from leading businessmen such as Robert McDougall, Henry Bowker, Matthew Barnett and Thomas Edmonds – who financed several public buildings in addition to his riverbank improvement scheme. Outdoor public performance by brass bands was a very popular activity in the first half of the twentieth century, and there were band stands/rotundas in many public parks across the city and on the foreshores at Sumner and New Brighton. Today however there are few band rotundas remaining in the city, and none currently in use.

## **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 Edmonds Band Rotunda Area has high architectural and aesthetic significance as an example of interwar classicism by Christchurch architect Victor Hean. The rotunda is one of the more ornate band stands in New Zealand.

Victor Hean (1901-1979) was born and educated in Christchurch, completing his training in 1927. After a period spent working for contractor P. Graham and Son and architect H. St. A. Murray as a draughtsman, Hean joined the City Council as a draughtsman in the City Engineers Office, rising to the position of Assistant City Architect. While at the CCC he designed many bridges and libraries as well as working on major projects such as the MED Building and the Women's Rest Rooms in Cathedral Square. In 1936 he left Christchurch to become architect for the Palmerston North Hospital Board. Hean joined the Government Architect's Office in 1942 and retired in the position of Ministry of Works Assistant District Architect in Christchurch in 1966.

Hean chose an ornate Renaissance classical 'temple' style for the Edmonds Rotunda in its riverside setting, crowning it with a striking faceted copper dome. The style was carried through the landscape treatment of the surrounding area, including the extensive balustrading, although the shelter and lamp standards adopt a stripped classicism more typical of the period. The rotunda may be compared with the Bandsmen Memorial Rotunda in the Botanic Gardens, a refined Doric composition designed by Luttrell Brothers and completed in 1926.

The Edmonds Rotunda was altered to become a restaurant in 1986. This required the enclosure of the formerly open structure with glazing, the insertion of services and a kitchen in the basement, and the attachment of large external canopies.

The Rotunda Area suffered serious damage in the 2011 Canterbury Earthquakes. The dome rotated on its columns and was at risk of collapse before being lifted off. The riverside balustrade slumped in places. The 2019-21 repair programme by the Christchurch City Council reconstructed and repaired the rotunda and reinstalled the original copper-sheathed dome. The associated structures were also repaired with the site reopening in 2021 as a space for performances and a sheltered place for people to sit and relax.

## **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 Edmonds Band Rotunda Area has technological and craftsmanship significance for the extensive and decorative use of reinforced concrete. There is also notable metal work in the lamp standards and screens.

## **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 Edmonds Band Rotunda Area has high contextual significance on its site and in relation to the remainder of the Poplar Crescent beautification scheme area. The item and setting

boundary are contiguous with the immediate land parcel, a large triangular area confined between the Avon River, Manchester Street Bridge and Cambridge Terrace. The item contains the band rotunda itself, the Poplar Crescent shelter and a comprehensive landscape treatment which includes extensive terracing and associated walls, steps, balustrades, lamp standards and a landing place. The Edmonds Band Rotunda Area is located within the Poplar Crescent heritage place, comprising the area of riverbank between Colombo and Madras Streets subject to Thomas Edmonds' Poplar Crescent development in 1928-1929. This also includes the poplar trees, lamp standards, 'Barker Avenue' native garden and the clock tower and telephone booth on Madras Street. The Rotunda area remains a landmark within the central city.

## **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 Edmonds Band Rotunda Area 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. The site sits within the immediate vicinity of the scheduled Ngā Wai Ōtākaro-Avon River, this section of which sits adjacent to sites scheduled as sites of Ngāi Tahu Cultural Significance in the Christchurch District Plan as the location of Puāri Pā to the south-west and Tautahi Pā to the north-east.

## **ASSESSMENT STATEMENT**

The Edmonds Band Rotunda Heritage Place is of high heritage significance to the Christchurch district including Banks Peninsula. The Area has high historical and social significance for its association with prominent businessman and philanthropist Thomas Edmonds and with late nineteenth and early twentieth century efforts at beautification of the central city. The Area has high cultural significance for its association with city beautification, and its former role as a public musical performance space. It is one of few band stands remaining in the city. The Area has high architectural and aesthetic significance as an example of interwar classicism by Christchurch architect Victor Hean. It is one of the most impressive band stands ever built in New Zealand. The Area has technological and craftsmanship significance for the extensive and decorative use of reinforced concrete. There is also notable metal work in the lamp standards and screens. The Area has high contextual significance on its site, in its immediate designed landscape, and in relation to the remainder of the Poplar Crescent beautification scheme area. It is a city landmark. The Edmonds Band Rotunda Area 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:**

Christchurch City Council Heritage File: 230 Cambridge Terrace (Edmonds Band Rotunda)

**REPORT DATED:** 05/09/14    **UPDATED:** 22/12/14    **UPDATED:** Nov 2022

**CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT PLAN – SCHEDULED HERITAGE PLACE  
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 643  
*THE POPLARS LAMP STANDARDS AND SETTING - 230,  
2/230, 272, 283 CAMBRIDGE TERRACE, 295F MADRAS  
STREET, 211, 250R, 267 OXFORD TERRACE,  
CHRISTCHURCH***



**PHOTOGRAPH : M.VAIR-PIOVA, 15/12/2014**

**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 Poplars Area has high historical and social significance for their association with more than sixty years of on-going beautification efforts in the central city, with beautification advocate S. D. Barker, and particularly with prominent businessman and philanthropist T. J. Edmonds and his Poplar Crescent beautification scheme.

Planting of the Avon River bank between Manchester and Madras Streets first took place in the colonial period when settlers sought a familiar landscape. Poplars and willows were established before 1877. Samuel Delabere Barker (1848-1901) had a particular interest in this area and established a native garden on the Cambridge Terrace bank. After his death, this section of Cambridge Terrace was renamed Barker Avenue for a period.

Barker was a foundation member of the Christchurch Beautifying Society in 1897. From the turn of the century, the Society was at the forefront of efforts to achieve a greater degree of order and consistency on the banks of the Avon. They were active in the Poplars area and created the grassy triangle on the Cambridge Terrace/Madras Street corner in 1902. Interest in native plantings (and the on-going debate between proponents of natives and exotics) was also emerging at this time, and the remnant of S. D. Barker's Cambridge Terrace native garden is one of the oldest remaining examples in the city.

A third concerted phase of city beautification took place in the period between the wars, assisted by a flush of philanthropy from a number of wealthy late-career businessmen wishing to commemorate their success. In 1928, to commemorate fifty years in Christchurch, Thomas Edmonds (1858-1932) offered to finance a scheme of riverbank improvement in the area, to be called Poplar Crescent. Edmonds was from the district of Poplar in east London, and therefore the beautification of this part of the Avon River was particularly appropriate. The key features of the Popular Crescent scheme were a band rotunda and associated landscaping beside Cambridge Terrace and the Manchester Street Bridge, and a clock tower and telephone cabinet beside Oxford Terrace and the Madras Street Bridge. The roadside lamp standards that flank the rows of poplars were also part of this scheme, which was completed in 1929. Most of the Lombardy Poplars that presently line this section of the Avon were planted in 1925 or 1938.

## **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 Poplars Area has cultural significance as the product of three major phases of city beautification by both individuals and groups including the Christchurch Beautification Society and the Christchurch City Council/Thomas Edmonds. The landscape reflects elements of the tastes and social mores of each of the eras in which it was developed, but has been little altered in the intervening years.

The Ōtākaro-Avon River is highly regarded as a mahinga kai by Ngāi Tahu. The river is scheduled as a site of Ngāi Tahu Cultural Significance on the Christchurch District Plan as a Ngā Wai.

## **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 Poplars Area has aesthetic significance as a key element in the sustained efforts by citizens of Christchurch over at least sixty years to create a designed landscape that accorded with their current ideas about what was aesthetically pleasing. This culminated in the romantic fantasy of the Poplar Crescent scheme in 1929. The Area has frequently been depicted in publications on the city.

## **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 Poplars Area has technological and craftsmanship significance for the cast iron Art Deco lamp standards that are distributed along the Cambridge Terrace riverbank in this area. Similar lamp standards are also found in the Band Rotunda and Clock Tower areas.

## **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 Poplars Area has high contextual significance on its site and in relation to the remainder of the Poplar Crescent beautification scheme area. The item and setting boundary are contiguous, and consist of the Cambridge and Oxford Terrace riverbanks between Manchester and Madras Streets. The Poplars are one of three discrete elements that comprise the Poplar Crescent heritage place, which encompasses the area of riverbank between Colombo and Madras Streets subject to Thomas Edmonds' Poplar Crescent beautification scheme in 1928-1929. The other two items in the place are the Edmonds' Band Rotunda Area, and the Edmonds Clock Tower and Telephone Cabinet. The Poplars are a significant city landmark.

## **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 Poplars 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 Poplars Area is of high heritage significance to the Christchurch district including Banks Peninsula. It has high historical and social significance for its association with at least sixty years of on-going beautification efforts in the central city, with beautification advocate S. D. Barker, and particularly with prominent businessman and philanthropist T. J. Edmonds and his Poplar Crescent beautification scheme. The Area has high cultural significance as a landscape which is the product of and represents three major phases of city beautification, and is part of the Avon River landscape which is of significance to Ngāi Tahu. The Area has aesthetic significance as a key element in the sustained efforts by citizens of Christchurch over at least sixty years to create a designed landscape that accorded with the prevailing ideas and norms about what was aesthetically pleasing. The Area has high contextual significance on its site and in relation to the remainder of the Poplar Crescent beautification scheme area. The Poplars Area is a city landmark. The Poplars 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:**

Christchurch City Council Heritage File: Edmonds' Band Rotunda, 230 Cambridge Terrace

**REPORT DATED:** 08/09/2014    **UPDATED:** 22/12/2014

**CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT PLAN – SCHEDULED HERITAGE PLACE  
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 653**

***EDMONDS' CLOCK TOWER, TELEPHONE CABINET AND  
SETTING - 230, 2/230, 272, 283 CAMBRIDGE TERRACE,  
295F MADRAS STREET, 211, 250R, 267 OXFORD  
TERRACE, CHRISTCHURCH***



**PHOTOGRAPH : CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL 2022**

**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 Edmonds' Clock Tower and Telephone Cabinet has high historical and social significance for its association with prominent businessman and philanthropist Thomas Edmonds and with nineteenth and early twentieth century efforts at beautification of the central city.

Thomas Edmonds (1858-1932) was a prominent and successful Christchurch businessman in the early twentieth century. His company became known across New Zealand for producing the famous Edmonds' Baking Powder. The company's rising sun motif, 'Sure to Rise' motto, branded cookbook and Linwood factory with its award-winning garden were instantly familiar to most New Zealanders. Edmonds was an enlightened employer and civic-

mindful. In the interwar period, towards the end of his career, he donated large sums for various civic improvement projects. These included the Radiant Hall (later known as the Repertory Theatre), the Theosophical Society Hall, and the Poplar Crescent beautification scheme. The Poplar Crescent scheme is the only one of his contributions to the city to remain extant post the Canterbury Earthquakes of 2010-2011.

The area of Avon river bank between Colombo and Madras Streets was planted with poplars and willows from the 1870s. Samuel Delabere Barker (1848-1901), a founding member of the Christchurch Beautifying Society in 1897, was instrumental in this beautification project and later planted a native garden as well. After his death, the section of Cambridge Terrace between Manchester and Madras Streets was renamed Barker Avenue for a period.

In 1928 to commemorate fifty years in Christchurch, Thomas Edmonds offered to finance a scheme of riverbank improvement in the same area, to be called Poplar Crescent, which references the trees but also the London district where Edmonds was born. The key features of the scheme were a band rotunda and associated landscape beside Cambridge Terrace and the Manchester Street Bridge, and a clock tower and telephone cabinet beside Oxford Terrace and the Madras Street Bridge. All items were completed in 1929.

## **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 Edmonds' Clock Tower and Telephone Cabinet has cultural significance as a reminder of changing modes of communication, and as a product of the concept of 'beautification' – reflecting the tastes of the interwar period.

Until the second half of the twentieth century, private telephones were not universal and many people relied on public telephones for regular communication. The Edmonds Telephone Cabinet would therefore have provided both for local residents as well as travellers. The incorporation of a post box into the structure also indicates the importance of this mode of communication at this time. The Edmonds' Clock Tower also served an important time-keeping function in this period, as many people did not regularly carry watches until the 1950s.

Throughout Christchurch's history, there have been on-going efforts to design and re-design the physical landscape to have it accord with prevailing notions of what was aesthetically pleasing. One of the most significant periods of city beautification took place in the interwar period, assisted by a flush of philanthropy from a number of leading businessmen including Thomas Edmonds. Edmond's Poplar Crescent riverbank improvement scheme, which included the Edmond's Clock Tower and Telephone Cabinet, reflected the tastes, mores, interests and concerns of Edmonds and Christchurch at this time.

The Ōtākaro-Avon River is highly regarded as a mahinga kai by Ngāi Tahu. The river is scheduled as a site of Ngāi Tahu Cultural Significance on the Christchurch District Plan as a Ngā Wai.

## **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 Edmonds' Clock Tower and Telephone Cabinet have architectural and aesthetic significance for their association with Christchurch architect H. F. Willis and sculptor W. T. Trethewey, and as an example of the Free-style, an architectural style characteristic of the interwar period.

Henry Francis Willis (1893-1972) was born in Dunedin and educated in Christchurch. He joined the city council as a draughting cadet and rose to become assistant city engineer. He was admitted to the NZ Institute of Architects in 1922, and in 1924 left the council and began practising as an architect. He specialised in theatre design, but also designed many other building types during his long career. New Regent Street is a prominent surviving example of his work.

As part of his Poplar Crescent project, Edmonds planned a clock tower, telephone cabinet, drinking fountain and letter box for what was then a triangle at the intersection of Madras Street and Cambridge Terrace. The commission was given to H. F. Willis, who also designed the nearby Radiant Hall for Edmonds at this time. Willis aggregated the cabinet, fountain and letterbox into a single pavilion. Both it and the clock tower were designed in the Free-style, an ahistorical melding that emerged from the Arts and Crafts movement at the end of the nineteenth century, and which was most commonly employed in New Zealand in the period between the wars. Both structures were clad in random rubble volcanic stone, which was also a characteristic treatment for this period. The sculptural work (in Mt Somers limestone) was executed by noted local sculptor William Trethewey, whose oeuvre includes the Citizens War Memorial in Cathedral Square. The Clock Tower is inscribed on its four sides with respectively *Faith, Hope, Peace and Charity*. The Telephone Cabinet is inscribed around the entablature with *Christchurch – Garden City on the Avon*.

The Clock Tower and Telephone Cabinet functioned until the Canterbury Earthquakes of 2010-2011. Both were damaged in the earthquakes and were repaired and restored in 2017/18, a process which included the Clock Tower being partly deconstructed and rebuilt.

## **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 Edmonds' Clock Tower and Telephone Cabinet have technological significance for their construction in reinforced concrete, and craftsmanship significance for the sculptural work undertaken by noted local sculptor William Trethewey. The Clock Tower has considerable carving including medallions depicting Father Time and gargoyles.

## **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 Edmonds Clock Tower and Telephone Cabinet have high contextual significance on their site and in relation to the remainder of the Poplar Crescent beautification scheme area. The item and setting boundary are contiguous with the immediate land parcel, a triangular area confined between the Avon River, Madras Street Bridge and Oxford Terrace. The telephone cabinet was originally at the apex of the triangle, but the removal of the road between it and the Avon has disturbed this symmetry. The item consists of the Clock Tower, Telephone Cabinet and associated lamp standards. The items are located within the Poplar Crescent heritage place, comprising the area of riverbank between Colombo and Madras Streets subject to Thomas Edmonds' Poplar Crescent development in 1928-1929. The Poplar Crescent heritage place also includes two other heritage items: the Edmonds' Band Rotunda Area and the Poplars Area. The Edmonds Clock Tower and Telephone Cabinet are a city landmark.

### **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 Edmonds' Clock Tower and Telephone Cabinet 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 Edmonds' Clock Tower and Telephone Cabinet are of high overall heritage significance to the Christchurch district including Banks Peninsula. They have high historical and social significance for their association with prominent businessman and philanthropist Thomas Edmonds and with nineteenth and early twentieth century efforts at beautification of the central city. The Edmonds' Clock Tower and Telephone Cabinet has cultural significance as a reminder of changing modes of communication, and as a product of the concept of 'beautification' – reflecting the tastes of the interwar period. They have architectural and aesthetic significance for their association with Christchurch architect H. F. Willis and noted local sculptor W. T. Trethewey, and as an example of the Free-style, an architectural style characteristic of the interwar period. They have technological significance for their construction in reinforced concrete, and craftsmanship significance for Trethewey's sculptural work. The Edmonds Clock Tower and Telephone Cabinet have high contextual significance on their site and in relation to the remainder of the Poplar Crescent beautification scheme area. They are a city landmark. The Edmonds' Clock Tower and Telephone Cabinet 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:**

Christchurch City Council Heritage File: Edmonds Band Rotunda, 230 Cambridge Terrace

**REPORT DATED:** 08/09/2014 **UPDATED:** 23/12/2014 **UPDATED:** NOV 2022

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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