



**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 156**

***ST AUGUSTINE’S CHURCH AND SETTING - 5*
CRACROFT TERRACE, CHRISTCHURCH**



PHOTOGRAPH: M.VAIR-PIOVA, 5/01/15

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.

St Augustine's Anglican Church and setting has high historical and social significance as one of the city's early 20th century churches and for its association with the growth of hill suburbs such as Cashmere, in large part as a consequence of the area's appeal to Christchurch people seeking more healthful surroundings and new modes of transport, the motor car and tram, which facilitated access to the area. The church was constructed in 1907-08 to provide a place of worship for the Cashmere residents of the Anglican parish of St Saviour's in Sydenham. It opened in April 1908 upon land that had been gifted by the trustees of John Cracroft Wilson's Cashmere Estate. Cashmere Hills subsequently became a separate parish, and its first vicar, Rev Hugh Norris, was appointed in 1923. On-going growth of the parish has seen the church and ancillary buildings extended substantially on a number of occasions.

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.

St Augustine's Anglican Church has high cultural and spiritual significance as the centre for Anglican worship and social life in Cashmere over more than a century. When it opened the church featured a 12th or 13th century memorial stone that had once formed part of St Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury, England. In the new church the stone was used to support the stone slab of the credence table.

It is recorded that a Maori ara (path) from the base of Cashmere over the Port Hills to Governor's Bay and thence to Rapaki traversed what is today Dyers Pass Road.

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.

St Augustine's Anglican Church has architectural and aesthetic significance as a Gothic Revival style building that illustrates the manner in which successive generations of architects have provided for an ever-expanding congregation on a difficult site and in sympathy with the original church. The original structure was a Gothic Revival style building designed by prominent Christchurch architectural firm Collins and Harman. The first stage of the building was completed with the addition of the belltower and spire in 1914. The tower, which was also designed by Collins and Harman, was built on the north side of the original nave and sanctuary, which had separate gabled roofs following Ecclesiological principals. Plans for the church and St Augustine's Schoolroom are housed in the University of Canterbury's Macmillan Brown Collection. By the 1950s plans were being made to replace the church but instead substantial additions were made in 1954-55 (C B Wells), 1970 (Warren and Mahoney) and 1998-99 (Hannan Centre and entrance porch, Trevor Ibbetson, architect). As a result, the most readily visible part of the original church is the landmark tower. Nevertheless the building is significant within the work of the architectural firm of Collins and Harman as one of few churches designed by the firm.

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.

St Augustine's Anglican Church has technological and craftsmanship significance as a rough-cast concrete stucco building with a slate roof. The church has the potential to provide information relating to construction methods and materials of not only the period in which it was built but throughout the time periods it was altered and extended.

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.

St Augustine's Anglican Church and setting has contextual significance as a local landmark that can be seen from afar and also offers a panoramic view of the city of Christchurch. The church is located in a residential area, which is largely contemporary with the original church. St Augustine's Church is one of a number of listed heritage items in the area, including 54 Dyers Pass Road, which was the home of George Way a member of the St Augustine's building committee.

The setting consists of the immediate land parcel, which is largely set aside for car parking but has some planted areas on the street front and around the boundary of the property. In addition to the tower, the end wall of the original nave is easily viewed from the roadway, with its decorative timber bargeboard and triple lancet-arched window.

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.

St Augustine's Anglican Church and its setting has 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

St Augustine's Anglican Church and its setting has overall significance to Christchurch, including Banks Peninsula. The church has high historical and social significance as the first Anglican Church in the suburb of Cashmere. The church was constructed in 1907-08 to provide a place of worship for the Cashmere residents of the Anglican parish of St Saviour's in Sydenham. St Augustine's Anglican Church has high cultural and spiritual significance as the centre for Anglican worship and social life in Cashmere over more than a century. When it opened the church featured a 12th or 13th century memorial stone that had once formed part of St Augustine's Abbey in Canterbury, England. St Augustine's has architectural and aesthetic significance as the work of Collins and Harman and for its extension over time by a number of architects in response to the changing requirements and increasing size of its congregation. The church and its setting has contextual significance within its residential surroundings and as a landmark that can be seen from afar. St Augustine's Anglican Church and its setting has archaeological value 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:

Historic place # 1924 – Heritage NZ List
<http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/1924>

<http://www.staugustines.org.nz/about-us/history.html>

<http://www.warrenandmahoney.com/en/perspectives/modern-heritage/>

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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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