

**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE  
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 190  
*WOOLSTON BOROUGH MONUMENT AND SETTING—  
FERRY ROAD BETWEEN RADLEY STREET AND  
RICHARDSON TERRACE, CHRISTCHURCH***



**PHOTOGRAPH : M.VAIR-PIOVA, 6/01/15**

**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.*

The Woolston Borough Monument is of historical and social significance as a memorial to the Woolston Borough and its first mayor, John Richardson. The monument was a gift by first mayor John Richardson in 1893 to commemorate the proclamation of Woolston as a borough on July 27 that year. The monument originally stood outside the Borough Council Chambers further down Ferry Road. A tanner and currier by profession, the Scottish-born Richardson was first elected to the Woolston Town Board in 1884. As mayor, he served until

1896, and then was re-elected in 1902. Woolston Borough amalgamated with Christchurch in 1921, and a marble plaque on the monument commemorates this event, date. The monument also featured a drinking fountain which had gone by 1974, when the monument was renovated. A nearby horse trough was removed in 1993.

## **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 Woolston Borough Monument has cultural significance as a commemoration of the regard in which the people of Woolston held the achievement of the status of Borough; of the life of the Borough (1893-1921); and of its first mayor John Richardson. The practical nature of the memorial, with lamp and fountain, would have symbolised the progressive nature of the new borough.

## **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 monument is of architectural and aesthetic significance for its classical-style design and construction in Oamaru limestone, inset with a marble plaque. The lamp standard which surmounts it was cast by Anderson's Foundry in Christchurch. The monument's designer and mason have not been identified. The monument has architectural and aesthetic significance as an example of nineteenth century monumental design. As a monument with practical public amenity, it compares with (for example) the Edward VII Coronation Drinking Fountain on Brougham Street. In 1993 the monument was dismantled and the base and top capping stone cleaned and repaired. The main body of the monument was reportedly completely replaced with new stone and the marble plaque cleaned and re-lead.

## **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 Woolston Borough Monument has craftsmanship significance for its use of materials, the quality of the execution of its stonework, and technological significance as (originally) a multi-purpose facility, with lamp and fountain. It remains technologically significant as one of few surviving gas lamp standards in the city (albeit adapted to electricity).

## **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 Woolston Borough Monument and its setting is of contextual significance for its site and landmark qualities. However it must be noted that this is not the regional setting for the monument and it has been relocated to this area. The setting consists of a largely open grassed area of road reserve adjoining the Heathcote River, and fronting Ferry Road. Located at the intersection of Richardson Terrace and Ferry Rd, overlooking the Heathcote River, the monument's present location on a busy thoroughfare highlights the monument as a landmark and connects it with the river transport aspect of Woolston's history, T

The removal of the monument from outside the Borough office has deprived it of its original . The removal of the nearby horse trough, presumably fed from the same well as the drinking fountain, in 1993 has also removed some of its context on the present site.

### **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 Woolston Borough Monument 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 Woolston Borough Monument is of overall significance to the Christchurch including Banks Peninsula. The Woolston Borough Monument is of historical and social significance as a memorial to the Woolston Borough and its first mayor, John Richardson. The Woolston Borough Monument has cultural significance as a commemoration of the regard in which the people of Woolston held the achievement of the status of Borough; of the life of the Borough (1893-1921); and of its first mayor John Richardson. The monument is of architectural and aesthetic significance for its classical-style design and construction in Oamaru limestone, inset with a marble plaque. The Woolston Borough Monument has craftsmanship significance for the quality of the execution of its stonework, and technological significance as (originally) a multi-purpose facility, with lamp and fountain. The Woolston Borough Monument is of contextual significance for its setting and landmark qualities. The Woolston Borough Monument 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:**

CCC Heritage Files - Woolston Borough Monument

**REPORT DATED: 6.3.2015**

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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