

**CHRISTCHURCH CITY PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE ITEM AND SETTING  
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
*ST PAUL’S CHURCH*– 1 HAREWOOD ROAD,  
CHRISTCHURCH**

The first church on this site was one of the earliest churches in Christchurch having been built in 1852. The parish was established to service the community that quickly developed around the Papanui Bush following the arrival of the Canterbury Association Settlers. This early date illustrates the objective of the Canterbury Association to promptly provide places of worship for its new settlers. By the mid 1870s the original church was no longer adequate and a new church was built in 1877. The church has continued to serve the Anglican community of Papanui for 160 years whilst the graveyard, in which the first burial took place in 1853, remained open until 1995 and is the resting place of a number of notable Cantabrians.

**CHRISTCHURCH CITY PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE ITEM AND SETTING  
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 237  
ST PAUL’S CHURCH AND SETTING – 1 HAREWOOD  
ROAD, CHRISTCHURCH**



**PHOTOGRAPH: CCC HERITAGE FILES, 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.*

St Paul's Anglican Church has high historical and social significance as the second church to be built on this site for the parish of St Paul's in Papanui. Research to date suggests that the first church on this site was the earliest church on the Canterbury Plains, outside of the city of Christchurch, having been completed in 1852. The first St Paul's Anglican Church was erected to provide for the settlement of Papanui, the first settlement on the plains outside Christchurch. The village grew initially because of the 30ha Papanui Bush which provided timber for the new town. The foundation stone of a replacement church was laid by Bishop Harper on 2 February 1876 and the new building opened in December 1877. The scale of this church indicates the on-going importance of both the Anglican Church and the settlement of Papanui in the late 1870s. The church was consecrated in 1880 and the newly installed bells were chimed to mark the occasion. The church continues to function as the Anglican church for the Papanui community to this day.

St Paul's was damaged in the Canterbury earthquakes of 2010/11. Internally the lath and plaster wall were badly cracked. A repair and restoration programme was undertaken over 2013-2013 which included returning large windows to their original style and removing 1970s panelling to reveal the original tongue and groove angled wood detail. Insulation was added where possible and the porch and front area of the church raised to meet public access requirements. The church was formally re-opened in October 2013.

## **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 Paul's Church has high cultural and spiritual significance as the site of a centre of Anglican worship for 160 years and in the present building for 130 years. The early development of a church on the site indicates both the central position of the Anglican Church in directing Canterbury's early religious expression, and the desire of Papanui's early settlers to nurture their spiritual and communal life. Papanui has cultural significance to tangata whenua as the bush was an important food source due to the abundance of birds that lived among the tōtara, mātai, kahikatea and kānuka trees, the name Papanui is the Maori word for 'a platform in a tree from which birds are snared' (CCL).

## **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 Paul's Church has high architectural and aesthetic significance as one of the larger and more prominent colonial Gothic Revival churches designed by architect Benjamin Mountfort. Mountfort established a forty year career as one of New Zealand's leading Victorian colonial architects. As Provincial Architect he executed a large number of both secular and ecclesiastical commissions, including the Canterbury Provincial Government Buildings and Canterbury Museum. Mountfort's many Gothic Revival churches range widely in size and design, but are considered accomplished ecclesiologically-correct compositions. St Paul's Anglican Church illustrates a number of features common to Mountfort's churches, including its Early English Gothic style, clear functional articulation and vertical emphasis, lancet windows, and board and batten walls with string courses. The church's belltower was demolished in 1910 and rebuilt in different form in 1912. The building was also extensively renovated in 1926, and in 1986 when the shingled roof was replaced with decramastic tiles. Following damage in the Canterbury earthquakes the church has been repaired and strengthened and restoration has been undertaken at this time to restate and uncover earlier known features. The decramastic roofing was replaced as part of the repairs with corrugated iron on the church and shingles on the bell tower; the 1970s panelling has been removed to reveal the original tongue and groove angled wood detail and windows reinstated as per the original intent. The church has retained its architectural integrity as a timber colonial Gothic Revival church.

## **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 Paul's Church has technological and craftsmanship significance as a large architecturally designed 1870s timber church which has retained a high degree of integrity. The timber gothic detailing, open interior which reveals the complex structure of the building and other elements including the leadlight windows and other fixtures all reveal the level of craftsmanship evident in the building. The church has technological significance for what it may reveal of 19<sup>th</sup> century colonial building techniques and materials.

## **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 Paul's Church has high contextual significance due to its location in the centre of a large triangular section on the south side of Harewood Road just past the intersection with Papanui Road/Main North Road. The setting consists of an extensive graveyard, which surrounds the church and includes a World War I war memorial which sits in the entrance way to the Church and graveyard. The grounds also contain a number of mature trees, and a church hall. The church and its setting are located on the margins of Papanui's commercial area, which abuts the graveyard on its eastern side. On the western boundary is the main trunk railway line. The scale of the church, the height of its spire, and the extent of its grounds with its long open boundary along Harewood Road, gives St Paul's Anglican Church high landmark significance in Papanui and the 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.*

St Paul's Church 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 pre-1900. The first church on the site was erected in 1852, and burials in the graveyard began in 1853.

## **ASSESSMENT STATEMENT**

St Paul's Anglican Church and its setting is of high heritage significance to the Christchurch District, including Banks Peninsula. It has high historical and social significance as a colonial church in one of the earliest parishes in Canterbury. The early date of the first church on the site serves as an illustration of the central place that the Anglican Church held in the planning of the Canterbury settlement and as a reminder of the early establishment and importance of Papanui during the colonial period. St Paul's Church has high cultural and spiritual significance as the site of a centre of Anglican worship for 160 years and in the present

building for 130 years. The church building has high architectural and aesthetic significance as it was designed by the leading Gothic Revival architect Benjamin Mountfort. It has technological and craftsmanship significance due to the level of integrity the building has maintained and due to the design and execution of the individual components that make up the building. The building has high contextual and landmark significance due to its location near a major Papanui intersection, its large open setting with a grave yard and the form, style and scale of the building and its bell tower. St Paul's Church 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 pre-1900.

## REFERENCES:

CCC Heritage files – 1 Harewood Road

NZHPT Registration Proposal (2005) *St Paul's Anglican Church and Churchyard*

<http://christchurchcitylibraries.com/TiKoukaWhenua/Papanui/> 28 October 2014

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/news/christchurch-earthquake-2011/7939642/Repairs-for-St-Pauls-Papanui>

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 CITY PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE ITEM AND SETTING**  
**HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**  
**HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 1318**  
**ST PAUL’S CHURCH GRAVEYARD – 1 HAREWOOD**  
**ROAD, CHRISTCHURCH**



**PHOTOGRAPH: CCC HERITAGE FILES, 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.*

St Paul's Graveyard has high historical and social significance as one of the city's earliest graveyards associated with a church. The first St Paul's Anglican Church was erected in 1852 and the first burial in the churchyard took place in 1853. The first person buried in the graveyard was the Reverend George Dunnage who had been appointed the first vicar but was unable to take up the position due to ill-health. The original church land was extended in 1859 when the Reverend John James of Oxfordshire, England presented 10 acres to the parish. In 1868 the Superintendent formally conveyed a five acre reserve for church purposes, the remaining 10 acres of the land that had belonged to the church becoming St James Park. St Paul's Anglican Church churchyard is the resting place of a cross-section of local Papanui society, and includes a number of notable Cantabrians including [William Guise Brittan](#) (1807–1876) politician Sir Robert Heaton Rhodes (1861–1956), VC winner Sir

Charles Upham (1908–1994) and Provincial Engineer Edward Dobson (1816–1908). There are also four Commonwealth burials of the 1914-1918 war. The graveyard was closed in 1995, except for the use of existing plots. In 2014 the church partnered with the Papanui Heritage Group in the Tombstone Project which recorded the marked burials in the cemetery.

### **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 Paul's Graveyard has high cultural and spiritual significance as the burial place of people associated with the church for 160 years. The early development of a church on the site indicates both the central position of the Anglican Church in directing Canterbury's early religious expression, and the desire of Papanui's early settlers to nurture their spiritual and communal life. As a consecrated burial site the churchyard enhances the spiritual value of the site. Papanui has cultural significance to tangata whenua as the bush was an important food source due to the abundance of birds that lived among the tōtara, mātai, kahikatea and kānuka trees, the name Papanui is the Maori word for 'a platform in a tree from which birds are snared' (CCL).

### **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 Paul's Graveyard has architectural and aesthetic significance due to the variety of age and styles of the monumental masonry of the gravestones, from imposing 19<sup>th</sup> century Victorian styles through to late 20<sup>th</sup> century headstones. There are also four war grave headstones.

### **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 Paul's Graveyard has technological and craftsmanship significance as evidence of the techniques and detailing employed by monumental masons over a period of 160 years.

### **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 Paul's Graveyard is located in a large triangular section on the south side of Harewood Road just past the intersection with Papanui Road/Main North Road. The graveyard has high contextual significance as part of the churchyard that surrounds the church. St Paul's reflects the English model of have a church with a churchyard containing a graveyard around the church, a reflection of the Anglican tradition that the Canterbury Association wished to emulate. The grounds also contain a number of mature trees. The graveyard, church and its setting are located on the margins of Papanui's commercial area, which abuts the graveyard

on its eastern side. On the western boundary is the main trunk railway line. The considerable size of the graveyard which extends over a large proportion of the churchyard gives it landmark significance as the extent and age of the graveyard is clearly visible from Harewood Road.

### **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 Paul's Anglican Church 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 pre-1900. The first church on the site was erected in 1852, and burials in the graveyard began in 1853.

### **ASSESSMENT STATEMENT**

St Paul's Graveyard is of high heritage significance to the Christchurch District, including Banks Peninsula. The graveyard has high historical and social significance as an early colonial graveyard attached to a church which remained in use for over 140 years. St Paul's was one of the earliest parishes in Canterbury and the early date of the graveyard renders it an important historical record of Anglican life in Papanui since 1853 as well as an illustration of the central place that the Anglican Church held in the planning of the Canterbury Settlement. It serves as a reminder of the early establishment and importance of Papanui and the notable Christchurch residents who were affiliated with the parish. It has cultural and spiritual as a consecrated graveyard. It has architectural and aesthetic significance due to the chronological range of monumental masonry which reflects the changing style of gravestones from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century through to the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. St Paul's Anglican Church has technological and craftsmanship significance as evidence of the techniques and detailing employed by monumental masons over a period of 160 years. The graveyard has contextual significance due to its association with the church, its visibility and its obvious age and extent. St Paul's Anglican Church 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 pre-1900.

### **REFERENCES:**

CCC Heritage files – 1 Harewood Road

NZHPT Registration Proposal (2005) *St Paul's Anglican Church and Churchyard*  
<http://christchurchcitylibraries.com/Heritage/Cemeteries/Papanui/> 2 November 2014

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