

DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
ST PETER’S CHURCH, -
24 MAIN SOUTH ROAD; PART OF 25, 25A YALDHURST
ROAD, CHRISTCHURCH

St Peter’s Church is western Christchurch’s original Anglican Church. Consecrated in 1858 it was the second church to be consecrated by Bishop Harper, after he arrived in Canterbury in 1857. In 1852 the then vicar of St Michael’s, Archdeacon Mathias, gifted twenty acres for the establishment of a church. It was not until 1857 however that the Parish of Riccarton was defined, a first vicar appointed, and a church building begun. The first vicar, Rev. Croasdaile Bowen, was ordained by Bishop Harper in 1857 in his first ordination for the new diocese of Canterbury. Bowen’s new parish initially covered the entire western part of Christchurch and its hinterland, and was later enlarged to include Governors Bay and Little River.

As the main Anglican Church west of the city, St Peter’s attracted a large congregation including many well-known early colonists and public figures. The original church proved inadequate for the needs of the growing congregation and was enlarged in 1860 and 1861. The oldest surviving portion of the present church is the Early English style chancel, added in 1875.

**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 1285
ST PETER’S CHURCH AND SETTING
*24 MAIN SOUTH ROAD; PART OF 25, 25A YALDHURST
ROAD, CHRISTCHURCH***



PHOTOGRAPH : M.VAIR-PIOVA, 23/12/2014

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.

St Peter's Church has high historical and social significance as western Christchurch's original Anglican Church, for the congregation that has been associated with it since the 1850s, and for the connection of the church with clergyman Croasdaile Bowen. In 1852 the vicar of St Michael's, Archdeacon Mathias, gifted twenty acres for the establishment of a church. It was not until 1857 however that the Parish of Riccarton was defined, a first vicar appointed, and a church building begun. The first vicar, Croasdaile Bowen, was ordained by Bishop Harper in 1857 in his first ordination for the new diocese of Canterbury. Bowen's new parish initially covered the entire western part of Christchurch and its hinterland, and was later enlarged to include Governors Bay and Little River. He was to serve the Riccarton

parish until his death in 1890, and is buried under the chancel. The new St Peter's, consecrated in 1858, was the second church to be consecrated by Harper. As the main Anglican Church west of the city, it attracted a large congregation including many well-known early colonists and public figures, a number of whom are interred in the graveyard, which was consecrated with the church. The original church proved inadequate for the needs of the growing congregation and was enlarged in 1860 and 1861. The oldest surviving portion of the present church is the Early English style chancel, added in 1875. Noted architects Benjamin Mountfort, his son Cyril Mountfort and Cecil Wood were involved in the design of the current church.

Following the Canterbury earthquakes the church was severely damaged, and though the roof and gable forms remain the transepts have been deconstructed to window sill level. The 1920s portion of the church remains structurally intact.

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 Peter's Church has high cultural and spiritual significance as a centre of Anglican worship and parish life in Riccarton for over 150 years. The additions and alterations to the church over nearly eighty years indicate the centrality of the church building to the life of its community. The final addition to the church in 1929 was dedicated to Archdeacon Bowen. The church contains a number of stained glass windows, furniture and fittings which were presented as memorials to parishioners. The church, its graveyard and setting are of cultural spiritual value and tell of worship and burial practices over a period of 150 years.

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 Peter's has high architectural and aesthetic significance as a large, masonry, Gothic Revival church, built in a number of stages over several decades by different architects. These indicate the changing needs of the parish and the development of the Gothic Revival style. The original church was timber and was designed by Benjamin Mountfort and Isaac Luck, opening in 1858. This building proved inadequate for the needs of the growing congregation however, and was enlarged by Mountfort and Luck in 1860 and 1861. The oldest surviving portion of the present church is the Early English style stone chancel, added by Benjamin Mountfort in 1875. The current church is built in a typical Victorian cruciform style with a square castellated tower and gabled roof forms that define the chancel, nave and transepts and organ chamber.

A talented and individual practitioner of Neo-Gothic, Mountfort established a forty year career as one of New Zealand's leading architects from the late 1850s. As both Provincial Architect and architect to the Anglican Diocese, he executed a large number of both secular and ecclesiastical commissions, including the Canterbury Provincial Government Buildings and Canterbury Museum. Mountfort's many Neo-Gothic churches range widely in size and design, but are always accomplished ecclesiologically-correct compositions. After Mountfort's death, his son and successor Cyril added an Early English style nave and transepts to St Peter's in 1901. Cyril Mountfort's architecture is regarded as similar but less effective than that of his father. His two most successful ecclesiastical designs are considered to be St

Luke's in Kilmore Street, now demolished, and St John's Hororata. In 1929 architect Cecil Wood extended the nave and added a tower and vestries to the western end.

Unlike the Early English Gothic of the Mountfort's' sections of the church, Wood designed his additions in the late or Perpendicular Gothic. This served to not only differentiate his portion from the earlier parts, which accorded with the honesty of treatment required by the principles of the Arts and Crafts movement to which Wood subscribed, but also suggests a process of stylistic evolution common to many British parish churches, which were frequently added to over many centuries. Wood set up practice in Christchurch in 1908, and emerged as the city's leading architect between the wars. He was most well known for his domestic designs, but also executed a number of prominent educational, public and ecclesiastical commissions. Other Wood churches include St Barnabas Fendalton and St Paul's Tai Tapu. St Peter's was reordered internally in 1977 by Christchurch architect Don Donnithorne. This included the choir stalls being removed from the chancel and a nave altar being installed along with a semi-circular communion rail.

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 Peter's has high technological and craftsmanship significance as a large stone Gothic Revival church demonstrating three types of masonry, and for its stained glass windows. The three surviving sections of the church each show the hand of different masons working in different periods, with various types and sizes of masonry laid in different fashions. Benjamin Mountfort's chancel is constructed of large tooled blocks of brown basalt. Cyril Mountfort's nave and transepts utilise flat slabs of rock-faced grey Halswell basalt laid in courses, but is lined on the interior with red brick with Oamaru Stone banding. Wood's also used rock-faced Halswell Basalt, but larger blocks, and not in courses. Wood's section also exhibits the finest exterior carving, including in spandrel panels and the gargoyles on the tower. The facings of all three sections are Oamaru stone. St Peter's also exhibits the work of a number of leading English stained glass firms, from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including Clayton and Bell, Heaton, Butler and Bayne, Lavers and Barraud, James Powell and Son and Lowndes and Drury, with a number of notable windows.

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 church has contextual significance as part of an ecclesiastical precinct contributed to by many of the city's most prominent architects and as a landmark building in a very traditional churchyard setting. The setting of St Peter's Church consists of the triangle of land that is the immediate land parcel and part of the neighbouring land parcel containing the old hall and new hall. Surrounding the church is the graveyard, which contains a number of mature trees. Beyond the lychgate are the verger's cottage (1901), the old hall (Clarkson and Ballantyne, 1910) and the new hall (Heathcote Helmore, c1950). These are also set in parkland type setting with many mature trees. Beyond these is part of the former glebe. Together these buildings form an important ecclesiastical, historical and architectural precinct contributed to by many of the city's most prominent architects. St Peter's Church is located on a large v-

shaped site at the intersection of the Main South and Yaldhurst Roads. Situated between these two busy arterials, but located in a very traditional, peaceful churchyard setting, St Peter's is one of the city's landmark buildings. The site post-earthquake now contains temporary prefabricated accommodation for the Anglican Parish and includes the offices of the Diocese and Bishop.

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 Peter's and its setting are of archaeological significance because they have the potential to provide archaeological evidence relating to past building construction methods and materials, burial practices and human activity on the site, including pre-1900.

ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

St Peter's Church and its setting are of high overall significance to the Christchurch District, including Banks Peninsula as western Christchurch's original Anglican Church and for the parish and congregation that has been associated with it since the 1850s. St Peter's Church has high historical and social significance for the connection of the church with Archdeacon Mathias who gifted twenty acres for the establishment of a church and clergyman Croasdaile Bowen who was ordained by Bishop Harper in 1857 in his first ordination for the new diocese of Canterbury. It has high historical and social significance for its role within the Anglican Diocese and Riccarton community since the 1850s. St Peter's Church has high cultural and spiritual significance as a centre of Anglican worship and for the memorials commemorating past parishioners contained within it. St Peter's has high architectural and aesthetic significance as a large, masonry, Gothic Revival church, built in a number of stages over several decades by noted architects B W Mountfort, Cyril Mountfort and Cecil Wood. St Peter's has high technological and craftsmanship significance as a large stone Gothic Revival church demonstrating different types of masonry construction, and for its stained glass windows. The church has contextual significance as part of an ecclesiastical precinct contributed to by many of the city's most prominent architects as a landmark building in a very traditional churchyard setting. It has high archaeological significance because of its potential to provide archaeological evidence relating to past building construction methods and materials, burial practices and human activity on the site, including pre-1900.

REFERENCES:

Christchurch City Council, *Heritage File, St Peter's Church Riccarton – Main South Road/25 Yaldhurst Road*

Christchurch City Council, *Christchurch City Plan – Listed Heritage Item and Setting. Heritage Assessment – Statement of Significance. St Peter's Anglican Church, Graveyard and Setting – 24 Main South Road - 2011*

REPORT DATED: 07/11/2014, 22 MARCH 2017

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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**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 355
*ST PETER’S CHURCH GRAVEYARD AND SETTING -
24 MAIN SOUTH ROAD; PART OF 25, 25A YALDHURST
ROAD, CHRISTCHURCH***



PHOTOGRAPH : M.VAIR-PIOVA, 23/12/2014

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 graveyard at St Peter's Church has high historical and social significance for its association with the church, its use as a graveyard since the 1850s and for the large number of notable Cantabrians that are buried in it. As the main Anglican Church west of the city, St Peter's Church attracted a large congregation including many well-known early colonists and public figures. A number of these people are interred in the graveyard, which was consecrated with the church in 1858. Among the many well-known figures interred there are:

provincial superintendent William Moorhouse; early runholder George Moore and his daughter Annie Townsend; deaf educator Gerrit van Asch, Edward Seager who was instrumental in establishing Sunnyside Hospital and his nephew prominent architect Samuel Hurst Seager; Sir Henry Wigram and his wife; district nursing founder Sibylla Maude; John Ballantyne founder of Christchurch's well-known department store and horticulturalist Edgar Stead.

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 Peter's graveyard has cultural and spiritual significance as part of a centre of Anglican worship and parish life for over 150 years and as the burial place for many prominent Cantabrians. It has high cultural and spiritual value as an expression of European burial practices for over 150 years.

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 graveyard has aesthetic significance for its spacious, well-maintained grounds containing gravestones, lawn and mature trees, surrounding St Peter's Church. The trees are mainly oaks, silver birch and yews, many of which were planted by the first vicar of the original church, the Rev. Croasdaile Bown. The yews previously formed an avenue from the lychgate towards the church entrance, but many of these trees have been lost over the years. The graveyard was reordered in lawn cemetery fashion in 1960, with the removal of iron railings surrounding family plots and headstones placed in rows on concrete strips. To this end there has been a loss of the tangible evidence of earlier burial practices and the monumental masonry associated with this.

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 gravestones in the churchyard have technological and craftsmanship significance for the degree of craftsmanship they demonstrate in their design and execution.

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 graveyard has contextual significance as a very traditional churchyard setting and as part of an ecclesiastical precinct contributed to by many of the city's most prominent architects. The setting of St Peter's graveyard consists of the triangle of land that is the immediate land parcel and part of the neighbouring land parcel containing the old hall and

new hall. The graveyard contains a number of mature trees and consists of a large v-shaped site at the intersection of the Main South and Yaldhurst Roads. Although situated between these two busy arterials it still presents a very traditional, peaceful churchyard setting. The graveyard was re-ordered in lawn cemetery style in 1960.

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 Peter's graveyard and its setting are of archaeological significance because they have the potential to provide archaeological evidence relating to past burial practices and human activity on the site, including pre-1900.

ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

The graveyard and its setting at St Peter's Church are of high overall significance to the Christchurch District, including Banks Peninsula for its association with the church and its use a graveyard since the 1850s. The graveyard, which was consecrated with the church in 1858, has high historical and social significance for the number of notable Cantabrians that are buried in it and the role it has had in the community as part of Anglican worship and burial practices. St Peter's graveyard has cultural and spiritual significance as part of a parish life for over 150 years and as an expression of European burial practices for over 150 years. The graveyard has aesthetic significance for its spacious, well-maintained grounds containing gravestones, lawn and mature trees, surrounding St Peter's Church. The graveyard has contextual significance as a very traditional churchyard setting and as part of an ecclesiastical precinct contributed to by many of the city's most prominent architects. St Peter's graveyard and its setting are of archaeological significance because they have the potential to provide archaeological evidence relating to past burial practices and human activity on the site, including pre-1900.

REFERENCES:

Christchurch City Council, *Heritage File, St Peter's Church Riccarton – Main South Road/25 Yaldhurst Road*

Christchurch City Council, *Christchurch City Plan – Listed Heritage Item and Setting. Heritage Assessment – Statement of Significance. St Peter's Anglican Church, Graveyard and Setting – 24 Main South Road - 2011*

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**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 1314
*ST PETER’S CHURCH LYCHGATE AND SETTING
24 MAIN SOUTH ROAD; PART OF 25, 25A YALDHURST
ROAD, CHRISTCHURCH***



PHOTOGRAPH : M.VAIR-PIOVA, 23/12/2014

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 lychgate at St Peter's Church has historical and social significance for its association with the church site and formerly as the original porch for the 1858 church. It was designed by Benjamin Mountfort and Isaac Luck as part of the first timber church on the site. It was removed and erected as the lychgate following the 1929 additions made to the church by Cecil Wood.

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 lychgate and setting at St Peter's Church have cultural and spiritual significance as part of a site that has been a centre of Anglican worship and parish life for over 150 years. The site is held in high regard by the parishioners.

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 lychgate has architectural and aesthetic significance as the only surviving remnant of the original 1858 church, being the former porch. It is of a deep gabled roof form with an exposed rafter roof, low side walls and gothic detail in the inset decorative barge boards. The original church was designed by Benjamin Mountfort and his business partner at the time Isaac Luck. Luck arrived in New Zealand in 1851, advertising himself as a builder, architect and surveyor. Luck went into partnership with Mountfort in 1857, having previously married his sister in 1853. He and Mountfort worked on several projects together over the 8 year partnership with current research suggesting this was the first of them. The original timber church was designed to suggest successive periods of construction through differing styles, as is found with mediaeval churches. The porch also reflected this reference to mediaeval examples, such as the famous 15th century timber porch of Margetting Church in Essex. In 1929 when Cecil Wood extended the nave and added a tower and vestries to the stone church, the porch was recycled to become the lychgate.

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 lychgate at St Peter's Church has technological and craftsmanship significance for its ability to demonstrate timber construction techniques from the 19th century and for the detailed craftsmanship employed in the decorative elements.

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 lychgate has contextual significance as part of the churchyard with its established trees and graves. The setting for the lychgate is within the churchyard and consists of the triangle of land that is the immediate land parcel and part of the neighbouring land parcel containing the old hall and new hall. It sits on the western edge of the graveyard, providing access to the parcel of land leading to the other buildings in the ecclesiastical precinct. The remains of an avenue of yew trees leads from the lychgate to the church entrance.

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.

Although a relocated remnant of the original church, the St Peter's Church lychgate 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.

ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

The lychgate at St Peter's Church and its setting are of overall significance to the Christchurch District, including Banks Peninsula for its association with the church site and formerly as the original porch for the 1858 church. The lychgate at St Peter's Church has historical and social significance for its association with the church site and formerly as the original porch for the 1858 church. The lychgate and setting at St Peter's Church have cultural and spiritual significance as part of a site that has been a centre of Anglican worship and parish life for over 150 years. It has architectural and aesthetic significance for its design by Benjamin Mountfort and Isaac Luck and as the only surviving remnant of the original 1858 church, being the former porch. The lychgate at St Peter's Church has technological and craftsmanship significance for its ability to demonstrate timber construction techniques from the 19th century. The lychgate has contextual significance as part of the churchyard with its established trees and graves and although a relocated remnant of the original church, the St Peter's Church lychgate 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.

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Christchurch City Council, *Heritage File, St Peter's Church Riccarton – Main South Road/25 Yaldhurst Road*

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