

**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE**  
**HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**  
***SUMNER FORESHORE, CHRISTCHURCH***

**Tuawera/Cave Rock** is a landmark geological and cultural feature at the outlet of the estuary of the Heathcote and Avon Rivers in Sumner. A **pilot/signal station** atop the rock provided navigational assistance for vessels crossing the Sumner bar from the 1860s until the early twentieth century.

In 1905 the Sumner Borough Council decided to create an esplanade along the suburb's foreshore. Beautification measures, which included a band rotunda, were initially carried out in a piecemeal fashion. Following WWI however, a comprehensive scheme was devised to develop the esplanade in association with the creation of a large-scale war memorial. The **Sumner War Memorial**, a series of stone pedestals with lamp standards, a sea wall and associated landscaping, was carried out between 1923 and 1926. A composite coronation and South African War memorial dating from 1902 was relocated to become part of the scheme in 1925. Although the beautification scheme was never fully realised, an important addition was made in 1935 when a substantial donation enabled the construction of the **Sumner Clock Tower**, a further section of sea wall and associated landscaping.

**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE**  
**HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**  
**HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 507**  
***TUAWERA/CAVE ROCK AND PILOT/SIGNAL STATION, AND***  
***SETTING – 25, 27 ESPLANADE, CHRISTCHURCH***



**PHOTOGRAPH : M.VAIR-PIOVA, 10/01/2015**

**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.*

Tuawera/Cave Rock has high historical and social significance as a landmark feature at the entrance to the Avon - Heathcote estuary that has provided a focal point for the community and tourism in Sumner. It also has significance for the pilot/signal station which surmounts it. This provided assistance with navigation of the Sumner bar for fifty years, and has particular association with long-standing pilot Joseph Day.

Cave Rock is a large isolated rock feature, the eroded remains of a lava flow. The rock is named for the clefts which bisect it. The size and location of the rock have made it a landmark and focal point in Sumner. Maori knew it as Tuawera; the Canterbury Association's Captain Thomas named it Cass Rock after one of his surveyors, but it soon became Cave Rock by popular usage. The suburb's commercial area is concentrated in the area to the south of the rock, and the infrastructure and beautification measures that provided for the suburb's long-standing popularity as a tourist resort (such as lamp standards, drinking fountains, bandstands and a jetty) have been concentrated in the area immediately around the rock. The rock's environs have consequently seen many galas, fireworks displays and other entertainments.

The vantage point that the rock provides has also made it important to navigation on the Christchurch coast. In the early days of Canterbury, heavy goods were transmitted through to Christchurch by small coastal vessels travelling up the Avon and Heathcote Rivers. In order to do this however, they had to cross the treacherous Sumner (sand) bar into the Estuary, and a number of vessels were lost. To facilitate the successful navigation of the bar, the Canterbury Provincial Government appointed a pilot in 1864 and erected a signal mast on top of Cave Rock to enable him to signal the state of the tides. The second pilot, Joseph Day, was appointed in 1867 and served for more than two decades. The stone pilot/signal station building was constructed on top of Cave Rock in 1898. In addition to housing the signal equipment, it also contained a fog horn to summon the crew of the Sumner lifeboat, which was kept in a shed adjacent the rock. Day is commemorated in a plaque on the building. The Lyttelton Harbour Board discontinued their operation of the Pilot/Signal Station in 1914, with subsequent services provided by the Sumner Lifeboat. The Sumner Lifeboat Brigade/Institution has continued to play a role in the upkeep and operation of the mast and station until recent times. Radio-telephone equipment has been kept in the building. The Cave Rock Reserve was vested in the Lyttelton Borough Council in 1919. The rock was damaged by the 2010 -2012 Canterbury earthquakes and has, as a consequence, had remedial maintenance work undertaken to remove all loose or dangerous areas of rock. This work was undertaken in conjunction with the Tangata Whenua and the City Council.

## **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.*

Tuawera/Cave Rock is of high cultural and spiritual significance for its importance to tangata whenua, and as an instantly-recognisable symbol of Sumner. Tuawera means 'cut down as if by fire' and refers to the many people who died from eating the flesh of a great whale that was stranded on the shore. It also has cultural significance for the role it played. It also has significance for the pilot/signal station which provided assistance with navigation of the Sumner bar for fifty years, and as a reflection of the nature and culture of European settlement in this area.

Tūrakipō, a chief of Ōpawāho sought Hineao, a daughter of Te Ake of Akaroa for a wife. She spurned his advances so Tūrakipō cast a spell of death upon her. In revenge Te Ake her father went to the hill overlooking Sumner and sent forth mighty karakia against Tūrakipō and his people. In answer to his prayers a whale was stranded on the shore which the people of Tūrakipō eagerly cut up and feasted upon. Those who ate the whale fell asleep and subsequently died. Tūrakipō, feeling that the stranded whale was the result of makutu (black magic), did not partake with his people. However, later, having few followers left to help him he was duly slain by Te Ake's party. The rock represents the carcass of that deadly whale which was beached by means of makutu.

Cave Rock is also of cultural significance as a long-standing and instantly recognisable symbol of Sumner. The prominent landmark featured on the seal of the Sumner Borough Council and continues to feature on publicity relating to the suburb.

## **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 Tuawera/Cave Rock Pilot/Signal Station has architectural and aesthetic significance as a building that was simply designed for a specific purpose in a particular location, but which as a consequence is an unusual structure which connects closely with the rock on which it sits. The small building is circular to assist visibility and possibly to reduce wind resistance. The octagonal pavilion roof responds to the building's circular form; the mast extends out of the lantern top of the roof. The building is built of scoria and nestles into the natural landform, with the wall splaying out slightly in response to the slope. Consequently it blends with Cave Rock itself.

### **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 Tuawera/Cave Rock Pilot/Signal station is of technological and craftsmanship significance as a purpose built circular stone building integrated into its location and exhibiting the craft of the stonemason of that time. It is also of technological significance for the equipment it housed including the signal mast.

### **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.*

Tuawera/Cave Rock, its setting and the Pilot/Signal Station that surmounts it have high contextual significance on their site, within their setting and wider context. The site of the item is primarily the immediate parcel, a rectangular section that encompasses a small area of the foreshore, the main section of Cave Rock and an area of beach. A small section of rocky promontory extends into the sea to the north of the parcel boundary. The setting of Cave Rock and the Pilot/Signal Station is the Sumner Foreshore Heritage Place, an area encompassing the foreshores of both Sumner and Scarborough beaches, and which includes Cave Rock, a number of war memorials structures, an area of sea wall, a row of Norfolk pines, the Sumner Clock Tower, and other associated landscaping. The wider context for Cave Rock and the Sumner Foreshore Heritage Place includes the Port Hills coast and the number of heritage items arrayed along its length, and (more particularly for Cave Rock), the coastal cliffs of which Cave Rock is an extension. Cave Rock has landmark significance both in Sumner and in wider Christchurch.

### **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 Tuawera/Cave Rock Pilot/Signal Station is of archaeological significance because it has 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**

Tuawera/Cave Rock and its Pilot/Signal Station have overall high heritage significance to the Christchurch district including Bank Peninsula. The rock has high historical and social significance as a landmark feature at the entrance to the Avon - Heathcote estuary that has provided a focal point for the community and tourism in Sumner since their genesis. It also has significance for the pilot/signal station which surmounts it. This provided assistance with navigation of the Sumner bar for fifty years, and has particular association with long-standing pilot Joseph Day. The rock is of high cultural and spiritual significance for its importance to tangata whenua, and as an instantly-recognisable symbol of Sumner. Tuawera means 'cut down as if by fire' and refers to the many people who died from eating the flesh of a great whale that was stranded on the shore. The pilot/signal station, a circular stone building, has architectural and aesthetic significance as a functional structure designed to suit its particular function and unusual site – which gives it an individual appearance. The Tuawera/Cave Rock Pilot/Signal station is of technological and craftsmanship significance as a purpose built circular stone building integrated into its location and exhibiting the craft of the stonemason of that time. It is also of technological significance for the equipment it housed including the signal mast. The rock and the pilot/signal station that surmounts it have high contextual significance on their site, in their setting and wider context. The site is primarily the parcel; the setting the Sumner Foreshore Heritage Place; and the wider context the Christchurch coastal environment and its heritage items. Tuawera/Cave Rock and its Pilot/Signal Station have landmark significance. The Tuawera/Cave Rock Pilot/Signal Station is of archaeological significance because it has 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

**REPORT DATED:** 11/12/14

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**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE  
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE  
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 1288  
*THE ESPLANADE WAR MEMORIALS , SEA WALLS AND  
SETTING- 25, 27 ESPLANADE, CHRISTCHURCH***



**PHOTOGRAPH : M.VAIR-PIOVA, 12/01/2015**

**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 Esplanade War Memorials have high historical and social significance as Sumner's major remembrance of those who served and those who served and died in the South African/Boer War, and in the campaigns of World War One. They also have significance for their connection with Hon. John Barr MLC, stonemason and politician.

The Coronation Memorial Lamp and Drinking Fountain was first erected near the corner of The Esplanade and Marriner Street in 1902. It commemorates the coronation of Edward VII that year, and the two Sumner soldiers who died in the South African War in 1900. It was relocated to The Esplanade in 1925 as part of the Peace Memorial scheme (below).

Sumner's first memorial to WWI, a granite tablet on the Sumner Borough Council building commemorating those who had made the supreme sacrifice, was unveiled on 24 March

1923. Around the same time, a larger and more general 'Peace Memorial' was commenced on The Esplanade. Officially opened on 22 December 1923, the peace memorial took the form of a series of stone pedestals surmounted with lamps and set with marble plaques recording major actions of the war. Two larger pedestals surmounted with four lights (instead of the standard two) marked the entry to the jetty. The original scheme proposed eleven pedestals distributed at regular intervals between the Clifton tram bridge and Cave Rock, but was incomplete at the time of the unveiling. This scheme was completed in early 1924, but then extended along Scarborough beach to Marriner Street during 1925-26 with at least a further six pedestals, to total around seventeen at its fullest extent. The memorials were augmented with additional landscaping during this period, which included three sections of stone sea wall, garden beds, benches, and plantings of Norfolk Pines. The memorial was coordinated by the Peace Memorial Committee, funded by donations and constructed by the borough council. The masonry work was carried out by Hon. John Barr (1867-1930), a member of the Legislative Council from 1907 until his death, and mayor of Sumner Borough when the memorial was first proposed. Barr unveiled the main memorial tablet at the opening in 1923.

During the 1950s, the construction of protective works along Scarborough beach by the Christchurch City Council saw the destruction of this section of the memorials and their associated landscaping, leaving only the original eleven, and the Coronation Memorial Lamp along Sumner beach. The two sections of sea wall along Sumner beach and some of the Norfolk Pines also remain extant. The general area has been re-landscaped on a number of occasions, and the lighting renewed. The only memorial/lamp damaged in the earthquakes 2010-2012 and requiring repair is the Boer War Memorial which rotated about its central axis. Repair is scheduled for April 2015.

## **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 Esplanade War Memorials have high cultural and spiritual significance as memorials to Sumner personal who served in the South African Wars and WWI. Unusually the memorials also encompassed female personal, as one (since removed) commemorated the troopship *Marquette*, sunk in 1915 with the loss of both New Zealand servicemen and nurses. It is also notable that the memorials were not called war memorials but 'peace memorials', focussing on a more positive future rather than the dark days of the recent past. In this manner, the lights were understood to metaphorically suggest 'light out of darkness'. ANZAC commemorations in Sumner took place at the Esplanade memorials until WWII.

## **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 Esplanade War Memorials have architectural and aesthetic significance as an unusual and important New Zealand war memorial, and as a significant part of a comprehensive scheme of landscaping and beautification for the Esplanade carried out between 1923 and 1926. The scheme was not fully executed, and part of that that was completed has since been lost. The lamp standards on the WWI memorials were partly replaced in the 1990s, and the South African memorial lamp standard fully replaced as the original was missing.



## **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 Esplanade War Memorials have technological and craftsmanship for the quality of the stone work carried out in the main by stonemason Hon. John Barr, a member of the Legislative Council and a former mayor of Sumner.

## **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 Esplanade War Memorials and setting have high contextual significance on their site, in their setting and wider context. The site of the item is primarily the immediate parcel, a long narrow section that encompasses much of the Sumner and Scarborough foreshore. The setting of the Esplanade War Memorials is the Sumner Foreshore Heritage Place, an area encompassing the foreshores of both Sumner and Scarborough beaches, and which includes the war memorials, Cave Rock, the Sumner Clock Tower, and the landscaping associated these features including the remaining sections of stone seawall, stone kerbing and Norfolk Pines. The wider context for the Sumner Foreshore Heritage Place includes the Christchurch coast and the number of heritage items arrayed along its length. The Esplanade War Memorials have landmark significance in Sumner.

## **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 Esplanade War Memorials 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 Esplanade War Memorials and setting are of overall high significance to the Christchurch district including Banks Peninsula. The memorials have high historical, and social significance as Sumner's major remembrance of those who served and those who served and died in the South African/Boer War, and in the campaigns of World War One. Notably they were not called war memorials but 'peace memorials', focussing on a more positive future rather than the dark days of the recent past. They also have significance for their connection with Hon. John Barr MLC, stonemason and prominent local and national politician. The Esplanade War Memorials have high cultural and spiritual significance as memorials to Sumner personal who served in the South African Wars and WWI. The lights were understood to metaphorically suggest 'light out of darkness'. ANZAC commemorations in Sumner took place at the Esplanade memorials until WWII. The memorials have



architectural and aesthetic significance as an unusual and important New Zealand war memorial, and as a significant part of a comprehensive scheme of landscaping and beautification for the Esplanade carried out between 1923 and 1926. The memorials have technological and craftsmanship for the quality of the stone work carried out in the main by stonemason Hon. John Barr. The memorials have high contextual significance on their site, in their setting and wider context. The site and setting comprise the Sumner Foreshore Heritage Place; and the wider context the Christchurch coastal environment and its heritage items. The memorials have landmark significance. The Esplanade War Memorials 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 File: Sumner Foreshore, Lamps, Cave Rock, Walls

**REPORT DATED:** 12/12/2014

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**DISTRICT PLAN – LISTED HERITAGE PLACE  
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 1323**  
***SUMNER CLOCK TOWER AND SETTING – 147R ESPLANADE,  
CHRISTCHURCH***



**PHOTOGRAPH : M.VAIR-PIOVA, 10/01/2015**

**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 Sumner Clock Tower and setting has historical and social significance as a formal memorial to pioneering telegraphic engineer Edmund Green and his family. It also however commemorates the wider efforts of the Sumner Borough Council in the early twentieth century to foster an image of Sumner as a fashionable seaside resort, and their efforts to provide unemployment relief for local workmen during the Great Depression.

The climate, sea views and clear air of the eastern bays ensured that the Sumner area was a popular holiday destination from earliest settlement. Initially tourism was restricted to the well-healed, who often built second homes in Sumner to escape the smoggy Christchurch winters. The completion of a tram line along the coast in 1888, and its electrification in 1905 facilitated the arrival of both permanent residents and mass tourism. At every fine weekend

and holiday since, the suburb has filled with holiday makers come to enjoy the seaside. The Sumner Borough Council (1891-1945) carried out considerable works in the first decades of the twentieth century to beautify their suburb for tourists and residents alike. A comprehensive beautification scheme for The Esplanade, incorporating Sumner's main war memorial in a series of lamp standards set on stone pedestals, was carried out over large a large section of the foreshore between 1923 and 1926.

In 1934 retired builder Richard E. Green gifted funds to the New Brighton and Sumner Boroughs for the construction of clock towers on their respective foreshores. The Sumner Clock Tower was to be a memorial to his father Edmund Green, who came to Canterbury in 1859 to help establish New Zealand's first telegraph system. This tower was commenced in late 1934 and completed towards the end of the following year. Construction was carried out by borough council staff, assisted by subsidized labour provided under a government work scheme. Subsidized labour was also employed on the other beautification works carried out at this time. During WWII the Army requisitioned the clock tower, enclosing it to create a fortified sentry post as part of wider foreshore defensive works.

### **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 Sumner Clock Tower has cultural significance as a memorial to pioneer Edmund Green and his family, and for the manner in which it commemorates the former Sumner Borough (1891-1945) and its works.

### **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 Sumner Clock Tower has architectural and aesthetic significance as a stripped classical structure by Christchurch architect Frederick Barlow. It formed part of a larger programme of beautification works carried out by the Sumner Borough Council during the 1930s.

In the interwar period, considerable landscaping work was carried out across the city for the purposes both of commemoration and beautification. The extensive works that the Sumner Borough Council carried out at this time not only provided for the needs of the growing community in the sea-side suburb, but also fostered the appeal of the place for sightseers in what was (and still is) a popular resort.

In the wake of WWI, an existing South African war memorial on the foreshore was augmented with a series of similar stone lamp standards commemorating major campaigns of WWI. With the on-set of the Great Depression in 1929 and the subsequent availability of subsidized labour, the borough council was able to supplement these earlier features with an ambitious programme of beautification across the council territory that included extensive park landscaping, a series of tram shelters, and seawalls.

Much of this work was overseen in an honorary capacity by retired architect F. J. Barlow, a Sumner resident. Frederick Barlow (1868 - 1939) commenced practise in Christchurch in 1893 and was responsible for a number of prominent buildings in the Edwardian city, including the Chief Fire Station, Dunlop Tyre Company, Tepid Baths, Federal Hotel - all of

which are no longer extant - and the Rangiora Council Chambers (now public library), which remains. Barlow also designed the machinery hall and the art gallery for the Christchurch International Exhibition of 1906 - 1907, and buildings for the Workers' Dwellings Act settlement in Sydenham.

Continuing his earlier work for the borough council, Barlow also designed and superintended the construction of the Sumner Clock Tower. He employed a stripped classical style for the building, which was constructed in concrete and clad in basalt rubble. All the facings were also in concrete. The robust palate was a pragmatic response to the sea-side location, but also consistent with the materials employed in the earlier landscaping works in the borough. The tower is set with two black granite plaques commemorating respectively the Green family and the laying of the foundation stone by the then Mayoress. The open interior features a (now redundant) drinking fountain. Further landscaping in the vicinity, including a section of stone seawall from the clock tower to Euston (now Menzies) Street was also carried out at the same time as the clock tower.

### **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 Sumner Clock Tower has technological and craftsmanship significance for its random rubble basalt stonework and its clock. The clock is an English 'Pul-syn-etic' electric turret instrument, with four six foot diameter dials that were lit at night. The 'Pul-syn-etic' clock was invented in the Edwardian period. Each face has a separate unit behind it with accumulators to ensure accuracy and consistency of timekeeping. Richard Green required that the clocks resemble the famous Singer factory clock at Clydebank in Scotland. Significant repair work to the faces and mechanism was undertaken by the Municipal Electricity Department (MED) in 1985.

### **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 Sumner Clock Tower has high contextual significance within its setting and its wider context. The clock tower is located on the foreshore at the eastern end of Scarborough beach. The setting of the clock tower comprises the immediate parcel, a long, narrow plot which includes much of the Sumner and Scarborough beach foreshores, but which excludes Cave Rock. In the immediate area of the clock tower, the foreshore area widens into a grassy park with trees, a 1960s tearooms and a paddling pool. The clock tower was positioned in this location because of its high visibility, suitably extensive surroundings to offset the substantial structure, and because it complemented the existing landscaping - providing a suitable termination to the memorial lamp stands arrayed along Scarborough beach. These are no longer extant. As a consequence of its prominent location, the Sumner Clock Tower has high landmark significance.

### **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 Sumner Clock Tower is of archaeological significance because it has 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 Sumner-Redcliffs area was an area of Maori habitation from the earliest times, and excavations in the wider area have yielded important artefacts.

## **ASSESSMENT STATEMENT**

The Sumner Clock Tower is of overall heritage significance to the Christchurch district including Banks Peninsula. The clock tower has historical and social significance as a formal memorial to pioneering telegraphic engineer Edmund Green and his family. It also however commemorates the wider efforts of the Sumner Borough Council in the early twentieth century to foster an image of Sumner as a fashionable seaside resort, and their efforts to provide unemployment relief for local workmen during the Great Depression. The clock tower has cultural and spiritual significance as a memorial to pioneer Edmund Green and his family, and for the manner in which it commemorates the former Sumner Borough (1891-1945). The clock tower has architectural and aesthetic significance as a stripped classical structure by Christchurch architect Frederick Barlow. It formed part of a larger programme of beautification works carried out by the Sumner Borough Council during the 1930s. The clock tower has technological and craftsmanship significance for its random rubble basalt stonework and its 'Pul-syn-etic' electric turret clock. The clock tower has high contextual significance within its immediate Scarborough foreshore setting, and within the wider context of the beautification measures implemented by the Sumner Borough Council along the length of the Sumner foreshore, and including Cave Rock. The Sumner Clock Tower is of archaeological significance because it has 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 File: Sumner/Scarborough Clock Tower

**REPORT DATED:** 10/12/2014

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