

**TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM**

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**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** 'Park Lane', former Humphrey Hall House

**ADDRESS** 11 Park Lane, Timaru

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(Dr A McEwan, 11 July 2018)

**DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.** New                      **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** n / a  
(at time of assessment)

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Lot 9 DP 11115

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2496064500

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1938-39

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** Humphrey Hall, architect

**STYLE** Modern

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Two storey house with irregular rectangular footprint and flat or monopitch roof forms. Principal elevation is elevated above Lysaght Street due to sloping site. Living room to right of central entry is lit by large strip window; enclosed roof garden with pipe railing balustrading above. Entrance porch is approached by a short flight of steps and has a rippled canopy; bedroom wing to left of entry is partly supported by piloti. Curved stair well on south elevation with glass block window. Secondary entrance and vehicle access on same side of the house. River stone base beneath living room.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Brick/concrete [?], cement plaster, river stones, metal roofing.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Roof garden enclosed (date unknown).

**SETTING**

The property is located on the east side of Park Lane, immediately adjacent to its intersection with Lysaght Street. The principal elevation faces north. 'The Croft' (heritage item # 8) is on the opposite side of Park Lane, with Craighead Diocesan School further to the west and the town centre at some remove from the suburb of Highfield to the south-east. The extent of scheduling is the land parcel as a whole.

## **HISTORY**

'Park Lane' was built in 1938-39 by the architect Humphrey Hall for his own use, apparently as both a case study in Modern design and in anticipation of his marriage to Enid Haselden. Hall was the son of Herbert Hall, a noted Timaru architect, and he is a leading figure in the history of New Zealand Modern architecture. Hall lived at Caroline Courts prior to the completion of his Highfield home, which he appears to have shared with his father. Hall junior left Timaru for war service in 1940 and resumed his architectural career in Christchurch after the war. The house was sold on his departure for Europe and thus was a short-lived home for the Hall family. The building remains in residential use.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

'Park Lane' has historical significance for its association with Humphrey Hall and the development of the suburb of Highfield in Timaru. The house also represents the common social pattern through the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries of architects and builders erecting their own homes as demonstrations of, and advertisements for, their skill and competency.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

'Park Lane' has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its previous residents.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

'Park Lane' has very high architectural significance as one of New Zealand's first Modernist houses and as a landmark in 20<sup>th</sup> century residential design. Humphrey Hall (1912-88) was the son of noted Timaru architect Herbert Hall, whose best-known work is the Chateau at Tongariro National Park (1928). Humphrey studied with his father and then at the Royal British Institute of Architects in London (c.1936-37). Upon his return to New Zealand he built his Highfield home and married. Hall enlisted in the army in 1940 and was a prisoner of war after he was captured at Al Alamein in September 1942. After he was repatriated to New Zealand, Hall moved to Christchurch and entered in to a 10-year partnership (1945-55) with fellow Modernist Paul Pascoe. The pair wrote a seminal essay about the New Zealand house titled 'The modern house' (*Landfall* 1947) and have been described as 'one of the foremost modern architectural firms in the country'. After the partnership ended Hall went in to practice with Keith McKenzie with whom he designed the Hermitage Hotel at Mt Cook (1958 NZIA Gold Medal award winner) and the Brutalist style registry building at the University of Canterbury (1974). 'Park Lane' is recognised for the influence of European Modernism upon its form and plan, especially that of Le Corbusier's Villa Savoye in France (1929). The house has been widely published; beginning in 1940 with the centenary publication *Making New Zealand*.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

'Park Lane' has technological and craftsmanship value for its construction and detailing.

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

'Park Lane' has contextual significance as a local landmark within the suburb of Highfield and within the history of New Zealand architecture. A large number of other notable houses are located in the area, including 'The Croft' (heritage item # 8) and the Craighead School House (heritage item # 9), but 'Park Lane' stands out for its Modernist design.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

As the house post-dates 1900 any potential archaeological significance its site may have would likely relate to the earlier, colonial development of the Highfield area. Lysaght Street was surveyed in 1937 (DP 1115).

## SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

'Park Lane' has high overall heritage significance to Timaru and Timaru district as a whole. The house has historical significance for its association with Humphrey Hall and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its former residents. 'Park Lane' has very high architectural significance as one of New Zealand's earliest Modernist dwellings, built for his own use by second-generation architect Humphrey Hall, and technical and craftsmanship value for its construction and detailing. 'Park Lane' has contextual significance as a local landmark and in relation to the history of New Zealand architecture. As 'Park Lane' post-dates 1900 its site may have limited archaeological value.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

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## REFERENCES

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Extent of setting, 11 Park Lane, Timaru.



House as built. Te Ara Encyclopedia of New Zealand.