

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

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**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** South Canterbury Club

**ADDRESS** 1 The Terrace, Timaru

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(A McEwan, 9 July 2018)

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

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Pt Lot 107 DP 1 & Lot 2 DP 1052

**VALUATION NUMBER** 25000767000A

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1904

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** S & A Luttrell, architects; E Hall, builder

**STYLE** Edwardian villa

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Single storey-building with L-shaped footprint and multiple hip roof forms. South-west elevation overlooking the roadway has central gabled porch flanked by pairs of shallow arch-headed windows. Porch has half wall in brick with timber posts above; gable end has decorative relief work with portrait in medallion motif. Hip-roofed lantern structure behind north-east facing elevation; latter has cross-gabled roofs with battened gable ends. Enclosed veranda between bays; double-hung sash windows. Gabled squash court immediately adjacent to road boundary is positioned to the north of the club building. Decorative wire fence and signage on road boundary with formal garden framing path to main entry. Monopitch roof over modern extension at rear of squash court.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Brick, cement plaster, timber, corrugated metal.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Alterations & additions, including addition to south wall? (1922). Squash court erected (TO Fox, architect; WJ Harding, builder, 1935). Modern addition on northern boundary east of the squash court; north-east-facing veranda enclosed (post-1951).

**SETTING**

The building is set back from the road boundary and stands on the north-east side of The Terrace, north of its intersection with Strathallan Street. The DC Turnbull & Co. site is to the south (heritage item # 27) and the club overlooks the port of Timaru from its elevated site

above the South Island Main Trunk railway line. The extent of scheduling is the two parcels on which the club and its squash court are located.

## **HISTORY**

The South Canterbury Club was established in August 1890 as a gentlemen's club for local businessmen. Initially it met in the Club Hotel in George Street; purpose-built premises in Le Cren's Terrace were erected in 1904. The building was ready for occupation in early 1905 and the club continues to occupy the venue today. The club purchased a section on the northern boundary of the property in 1928 and subsequently a squash court was built on this parcel (1935). In 1988 the club's rules were amended to allow women to join as associate members.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The South Canterbury Club has historical and social significance for its association with the South Canterbury Club and, more generally, the early 20th century development of Timaru and its town centre. The South Canterbury Club is a notable omission from the roll call of 19<sup>th</sup> century gentlemen's clubs that are listed by *Te Ara*, the Encyclopaedia of New Zealand. The club building represents the continuation of the gentlemen's club model over more than a century against a backdrop of social change.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The South Canterbury Club has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its past and present members and the staff who attend them.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The South Canterbury Club has architectural significance as an Edwardian villa style club building designed by Christchurch architects S & A Luttrell. The Luttrell Brothers, who specialised in the design of racing grandstands and the use of modern construction technology, established their New Zealand practice in 1902. Both Alfred and Sidney Luttrell had been born, educated, trained and initially practised in Tasmania, Australia. The Luttrells introduced the Chicago skyscraper style to New Zealand and designed the Theatre Royal (1906-7) in Christchurch, one of a small number of their major commissions that survived the Canterbury 2010-11 earthquakes. The brothers were also architects to the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The South Canterbury Club building is distinctive for the architectural treatment given to both the seaward and street frontages and the lantern roof form is typical of the design of billiard rooms in such clubs.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The South Canterbury Club has technological and craftsmanship significance for its brick construction and timber detailing. The bricks came from Crum's brickworks in Ashburton and the new building was lit with acetylene gas when it first opened. Danish-born Emil Hall was a local contractor who was responsible for the foundations and plasterwork on the Customhouse (1901-2, heritage item # 22). For that building Thomas Pringle had been the principal contractor. Pringle (1847-1923) was a Scottish-born builder and contractor who spent some time in the United States before emigrating to New Zealand in 1878. He established his Timaru business in 1890 and undertook the woodwork for the South Canterbury Club.

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The South Canterbury Club has contextual significance as a historic feature within the Timaru town centre. The concentration of scheduled heritage items and historic character buildings lining Stafford Street and in the vicinity of the port and railway station gives Timaru's principal CBD thoroughfare its distinctive identity and sense of place. The building enhances

the historic residential character of The Terrace and also complements the brick construction of the neighbouring DC Turnbull & Co. site (heritage item # 27).

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

Although the building post-dates 1900 its site may have archaeological values relating to the earlier use and development of the property. An 1875 map of Timaru (South Canterbury Museum) shows the site was vacant at that time, with the Government Landing Service on the beach directly below the future club site. The club history records that there was a rental cottage on the property when it was purchased in 1902. The Timaru lighthouse (known as Blackett's lighthouse, 1877-78, heritage item # 11) stood on Lot 110, to the north of the club site, until it was moved to Maori Hill in 1980. The former harbourmaster's house is still extant on the former lighthouse site.

### **SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The South Canterbury Club has overall heritage significance to Timaru and Timaru district as a whole. The building has historical and social significance for its association with the South Canterbury Club since 1905 and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its past and present members and staff. The South Canterbury Club has architectural significance as the work of leading Christchurch architects S & A Luttrell and technological and craftsmanship significance for its brick construction and timber detailing by two successful local contractors. The South Canterbury Club has contextual significance for the contribution it makes to the Timaru town centre streetscape; its site has potential archaeological values in view of the pre-1900 use and development of the property.

### **HERITAGE CATEGORY**

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### **REFERENCES**

- *Timaru Herald* 10 March 1904, p. 1; 21 April 1904, p. 2; 9 May 1904, p. 2; 23 August 1904, p. 3; 24 January 1905, p. 4; 21 February 1905, p. 2; 10 June 1905, p. 2; 25 July 1905, p. 2; 5 September 1905, p. 1; 6 September 1905, p. 4; 12 September 1905, p. 4; 22 November 1905, p. 1.
- *Ashburton Guardian* 4 July 1904, p. 2.
- *Temuka Leader* 26 January 1905, p. 3.
- *Press* 5 April 1904, p. 7.
- *Evening Post* 18 November 1939, p. 15.
- *South Canterbury Times* 30 April 1890, p. 2.
- <https://teara.govt.nz/en/mens-clubs>
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand - Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903 (available online).
- <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/3116/luttrell-alfred-edgar>
- <http://www.scclub.co.nz>
- A McEwan 'From cottages to 'skyscrapers': the architecture of AE & ES Luttrell in Tasmania and New Zealand'. MA thesis, University of Canterbury, 1988.



Extent of setting, including the squash court site on the northern boundary of the primary parcel, 1 The Terrace, Timaru.



Detail of 1910 view of Timaru, with cottage on adjacent site to club, 1/1-08810-G, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington.