

Christchurch
The Garden City

Central City Heritage Guide

For more information:

About Christchurch

refer to www.christchurch.org.nz

About Christchurch heritage places

refer to the Historic Places Trust Pouhere Taonga website:

www.historic.org.nz

On other sites significant to Māori

visit Ti Kōuka Whenua, the Christchurch City

Libraries' website:

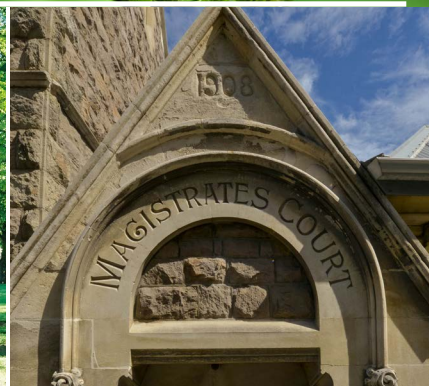
<http://christchurchcitylibraries.com/TikoukaWhenua/>

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Christchurch
City Council 



Discover Central Christchurch heritage

– unique places – fascinating stories!

While the Canterbury earthquakes in 2010 and 2011 had a significant impact on Christchurch's built heritage, much remains in Central Christchurch which is perfect for exploring. Our heritage places are unique treasures for our present and future generations of residents and visitors to enjoy. Discover our special places and their fascinating stories in this walking guide.

Though a large number of heritage buildings were demolished following the earthquakes, some damaged buildings have already been repaired and strengthened and are operational and accessible. Other earthquake damaged buildings are currently undergoing repairs, or have temporary protection measures in place while decisions are made about their future – these are identified as earthquake damaged in this brochure. For your safety please observe security fencing and other safety measures.

This city has a rich Māori and European cultural heritage and many of these sites are part of this walk. Take your time to experience the heritage places of central Christchurch using the map of sites provided – there are opportunities to shop or dine along the way.



Discover our rich heritage

The Christchurch Botanic Gardens (1)

150 years ago the Botanic Gardens (1863) were established. They cover 30 hectares and house features of botanical and architectural heritage value.



Cunningham House (2)

Cunningham House (1923) is the largest and oldest of the Botanic Gardens display houses. The building was funded by a bequest made to the Botanic Gardens by Mr C.A.C.

Cunningham, a Christchurch law clerk, on his death in 1915. Local architects Collins and Harman modelled the design on the Reid Winter Gardens at Springburn Park in Glasgow.



Climatological Station and Magnetic Observatory (3)

The Climatological Station has provided daily readings for well over a century. The 1940s wooden building beside the Climatological Station is a remnant of the Magnetic Observatory set up here in 1901. Explorers such as Robert Scott and Ernest Shackleton calibrated their instruments here before heading south to Antarctica.

Bandsmen's Memorial Rotunda (4)

This Classical rotunda is a memorial to the bandsmen who died in the Great War 1914-18. Designed by nationally successful Edwardian architects the Luttrell Brothers, the Rotunda was completed in 1926. **Due to earthquake damage it is currently closed.**

Curator's House (5)

The Curator's House was designed in 1919 by leading Christchurch architects Collins and Harman in an English Domestic Revival style. The first curator to live in the new house was James Young (Curator 1908–1933), and successive curators continued to reside in the house until the 1980s. This was one of the first heritage buildings to be seismically upgraded, repaired and opened following the Canterbury earthquakes.



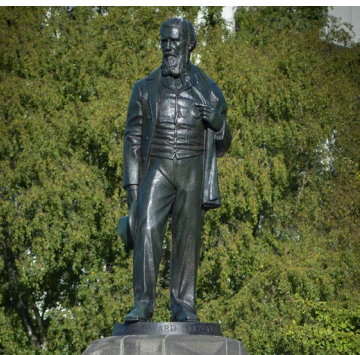
Canterbury Provincial Council Superintendents Statues

From 1852–1876 New Zealand was divided into six (later to become ten) self governing provinces with a central government. Statues of three of the four Canterbury Provincial Council Superintendents, Fitzgerald, Moorhouse and Rolleston (removed for repair) are located along Rolleston Avenue.

Moorhouse Statue (6)

William Sefton Moorhouse was the region's longest serving Canterbury Provincial Superintendent, serving from 1858–62 and 1866–68. Moorhouse is known for his support for a railway tunnel between Lyttelton Port and the Canterbury Plains which went on to be completed in 1867. Renowned English sculptor G.A. Lawson produced a model for this work based on photographs.





Fitzgerald Statue (7)

The commemorative bronze statue of J.E. Fitzgerald, the first superintendent of the Province of Canterbury (1853–57), was donated by Christchurch citizen Richard Green. The sculptor Francis Shurrock was a leading interwar New Zealand sculptor.

Nurses' Memorial Chapel (8)



Designed by J.G. Collins the Chapel (1927-28) is this country's only memorial built specifically to commemorate New Zealand women killed in war. It contains a magnificent collection of stained glass

windows, with four of the nine stained glass windows crafted by noted English glass artist Veronica Whall (1887–1967). Due to earthquake damage it is currently closed.

Antigua Boat Sheds (9)

The 1882 Antigua Boatsheds are the last survivor of a number of commercial boatsheds that once stood along the banks of the Avon River. Rowing boats are still available for hire from these premises. The adjacent footbridge was built to provide access to the hospital. It is the third on the site, and although modified, dates principally from 1901.



Robert McDougall Gallery (10)

This was the City's first public art gallery, funded by a generous gift of £26,000 by Robert E. McDougall and opened in 1932. The Robert McDougall Art Gallery closed its doors as the City's public art gallery in 2002, and the new Christchurch Art Gallery opened in its place in 2003. Due to earthquake damage it is currently closed.



Canterbury Museum (11)

The early Canterbury Museum buildings (1870–1877) sit at the west end of Worcester Boulevard. Fine stonework, a prominent tower, large rose window and distinctive porch all contribute to the charm of this Gothic Revival building by B.W. Mountfort.



Christ's College (12)

Founded in 1850, Christ's College is housed in a magnificent precinct of buildings designed by the City's leading architects over a 140 year period. Set around an open quadrangle the complex contains the oldest school building still in use in the country - the 1863 Big School by J.E. Fitzgerald. Earthquake strengthening ensured the retention of the school's many heritage buildings, and an extensive repair and strengthening programme has been completed.



The Arts Centre (13)

This complex of outstanding stone Gothic Revival inspired buildings was designed by various architects. Construction spanned over nearly half a century from the 1870s serving as the University of Canterbury and housing Boys' and Girls' High Schools and the Art School. New Zealand's famous scientist Ernest Lord Rutherford worked and studied here. The Arts Centre was extensively earthquake damaged and is undergoing a long term remediation and seismic strengthening programme. Interpretation boards along Worcester Boulevard provide insights into history of the buildings and the works currently underway. **Under repair.**



Worcester Boulevard Houses (14)

The residential area to the west of the inner city has some of the oldest surviving dwellings in central Christchurch. A number of the larger homes were designed by prominent



Christchurch architects in a diversity of architectural styles. Over the years, the area has been home to academics, musicians, artists and well-known Canterbury identities. An intact group of modest late Victorian villas stand at 15 - 23 Worcester Boulevard. A number of good examples of Art Deco apartment blocks can also be found in this area.

Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu (15)

The spectacular Christchurch Art Gallery Te Puna o Waiwhetu opened in 2003. With their building closed since the earthquakes, the Gallery exhibits in various locations in the City as part of their Outer Spaces programme. **Under repair. Scheduled to re-open Summer 2015/2016.**

CoCA Gallery (16)

This building was designed for the Centre of Contemporary Art by architects Minson, Henning-Hanson and Dines in 1965. It is an excellent example of 1960s modernist architecture in New Zealand. It received an Enduring Architecture Award from the New Zealand Institute of Architects in 2002. **Under repair. Scheduled to re-open Spring 2015.**



Former Cranmer Bridge Club (17)

25 Armagh St (c1900) is connected with a number of prominent Christchurch individuals, during its history of use as both home and business/professional/club premises. Look for architect Samuel Hurst Seager's direct quote from the arcading of Benjamin Mountfort's Christchurch Club in the entry porch detailing. It is thought to represent both the first example in New Zealand of an architect paying homage to his predecessors, and an attempt to develop a distinctively New Zealand form of contemporary architecture from the models of the past. An older brick wing to the rear of the existing building was demolished due to earthquake damage. **Under repair.**



Cranmer Square (18)

Cranmer Square was a feature of the original town plan for Christchurch, surveyed by Edward Jollie in 1849–50. The Square was named for Thomas Cranmer, one of the so-called Marian Martyrs executed by Mary I for their protestant faith.

As the centre of a historical educational precinct, the square has been used from at least the 1860s for both formal and informal recreation. **40 Cranmer Square (19)** is one of the City's oldest remaining retail buildings. Built in the early 1870s it served for many years as the tuckshop for the now demolished Normal School. The neighbouring **cottage (20)** was probably built in c1859.

The former **St Margaret's College building (21)** (1913–14) was the Anglican girls' school's first purpose-built building. **56 Armagh Street (22)** (1874/1908) was home to prominent Anglican clergyman and advocate for Māori, Canon James Stack; and respected medical practitioners Doctors Irving and Bennett, who between them practised from the premises for more than seventy years.



Cranmer Square



40 Cranmer Square

Former Teacher's Training College / Peterborough Centre (23)

This Collegiate Gothic complex (1927–1930) was built as the Christchurch Teachers College. Among the well-known New Zealanders who trained at the Peterborough Street site are former Prime Ministers, Bill Rowling and Jenny Shipley, as well as artists Rata Lovell-Smith and Grahame Sydney. The complex was converted to apartments in the 1990s. The building's future has recently been secured with its purchase by a new owner who intends to retain it with a new use. **Earthquake damaged.**



Victoria Clock Tower (24)

The upper part of the structure was designed by Benjamin Woolfield Mountfort and constructed in 1859 in England. Originally intended to have been incorporated into the Canterbury Provincial Council buildings complex, it was too heavy for its intended site. In 1897 the structure was incorporated into a memorial clock tower for the 60th Jubilee of Queen Victoria's Reign, with a stone base at the intersection of High, Lichfield and Manchester Streets. The tower was relocated due to traffic volumes, and erected on its present site in Victoria Street in 1930. **Victoria Mansions (25)** (1935), an Art Deco apartment building is located behind the tower, and a former early residence 'Ironsides House' (26) (1899) is located on the corner of Durham and Salisbury Streets and is now a restaurant. The clock stopped and the finial bent with the force of the earthquakes. The tower suffered structural and stonework damage which has now been repaired and strengthened.



Workers' Cottages (27)

The area made up of three narrow streets - Beveridge, Conference and Peacock Streets, and bounded by Montreal and Durham Streets was developed for residential use early in the City's European history. Modest timber cottages such as the group on the corner of Montreal and Beveridge streets provided affordable workers' accommodation in a convenient location close to the central city, and the main route north (Papanui Road).



Knox Church (28)

Although Canterbury was to become an Anglican settlement by the activities of the Canterbury Association, Presbyterians were active early on - the first permanent European settlers in the 1840s, the Deans family, were Scottish Presbyterians and the first Presbyterian service in Canterbury was conducted in 1853. R.W. England designed this church (1902) in the Gothic Revival style executed in brick with Oamaru stone facings. The brick construction suffered extensive damage in the earthquakes and the exterior was reclad in a contemporary style and materials, however the interior remains the same.



Repaired Knox Church exterior



Repaired Knox Church interior

Worcester Chambers (29)

This Georgian Revival style building was constructed in 1928 for Digby's Commercial College – a secretarial school. The architect Cecil Wood was a leading New Zealand interwar architect who favoured the Georgian Revival style for commercial and residential buildings from the late 1920s. This building performed well in the earthquakes as it had been structurally strengthened.



The Canterbury Club (30)

Founded in 1872 as a social club for city men, the Canterbury Club commissioned Frederick Strouts to design premises for its members in a domestic Italianate style. The gas lamp and hitching post outside survive from the era when the Club was founded. The Club still operates from the building today.



Avon River Bridges ★

The network of largely Victorian and Edwardian bridges crossing the Avon River were early feats of engineering, and many feature decorative ironwork railings, informative plaques and inscriptions. **Some are earthquake damaged.**

Former Municipal Chambers (31)

Designed by Samuel Hurst Seager, the Queen Anne design of the former Municipal Chambers (1887), constructed in brick, was a marked departure from the stone Gothic Revival public architecture frequently designed and constructed in Christchurch in the late 1800s. The building suffered considerable damage in the earthquakes and has been extensively braced pending a decision on its future. **Earthquake damaged.**



Prior to earthquake damage



Temporary protection measures

Kate Sheppard National Memorial (32)

The Kate Sheppard National Memorial was sculpted in 1993 by Margriet Windhausen. It was unveiled on 19 September 1993 and commemorates the centenary of women's suffrage in New Zealand - the first self-governing country in the world to grant women the right to vote.



Canterbury Provincial Council Buildings (33)

A masterpiece of one of New Zealand's most distinguished Victorian architects B.W. Mountfort, the Canterbury Provincial Council Buildings (1858–1865) were the finest example of Gothic Revival architecture in New Zealand prior to their severe earthquake damage. They are also the only remaining purpose built provincial government buildings in the country. Sections in timber and stone were built around an internal courtyard and linked by flagstone corridors. There are two debating chambers, one in timber and one stone; the stone chamber which remains in part, collapsed in the February earthquake was considered the finest Gothic Revival interior outside England. A programme of careful deconstruction to secure the building along with weatherproofing and retrieval and storage of material has been undertaken. **Earthquake damaged.**



Prior to earthquake damage



Temporary protection measures

Magistrates Court (34)

The former Magistrates Court (1880, with an additional building built in 1909) is the oldest purpose-built court building remaining in Christchurch, and is still in use for judicial purposes today.



Victoria Square (35)

This was an important site of early trading between Ngāi Tahu and European settlers. Many Māori, particularly Ngāi Tūāhuriri from Kaiapoi came here to sell their produce. A **pou whenua (carved post) (36)** depicting tipuna (ancestors) and mahinga kai (food and resource gathering) was crafted by local carver Riki Manuel and erected in the square in 1994. The Square also features a **Queen Victoria statue (37)** (1903), **Captain Cook statue (38)** (1932), and the **Bowker Fountain (39)** (1931) - the first illuminated fountain in Australasia. The City's oldest iron bridge is located in Victoria Square and across the bridge is the **Floral Clock (40)** (1953).

The stone ramp leading down to the river was once used as a **watering spot for horses (41)**. Fronting the Square in Armagh Street is the **former Cook and Ross building (42)** (Earthquake damaged). Completed in 1927 for Henry Owen, proprietor of chemists Cook and Ross the building is one of the City's best examples of the Georgian Revival style.



Christchurch Town Hall (43)

This modernist building was designed in 1965 by one of New Zealand's leading architectural firms Warren and Mahoney - the result of the largest and most significant design competition seen in New Zealand until the 1990s. Officially opened in 1972, this building served as the City's town hall until 2011. It was the first purpose-built town hall constructed in New Zealand for 50 years. The acoustic engineering of the auditorium influenced auditoria design internationally.

The building has suffered earthquake damage from liquefaction and lateral spreading of the ground towards the Avon River. **Due to earthquake damage it is currently closed.**



Edmonds Band Rotunda and shelter (44), clock tower and telephone cabinet (45)



Edmonds Band Rotunda prior to earthquake



The structures along the section of Avon riverbank from Madras Street to upstream of Manchester Street were gifted to the City in 1929. The gift, by prominent businessman and philanthropist Thomas Edmonds founder of the Edmonds baking powder factory commemorated 50 years of the business in Christchurch. Edmond's baking powder was first developed in 1879 and has been a household baking ingredient for generations of New Zealanders.

Poplars (46) were first planted along this stretch of the Avon River in 1877 – the existing ones were planted in 1925 (Oxford Terrace) and 1938 (Cambridge Terrace) by the Christchurch City Council. The Band Rotunda suffered structural and land damage as a result of the Canterbury Earthquakes, requiring the building to be carefully deconstructed and stored while a decision is made on its future. The impressive domed roof can be seen on site. The clock tower sustained cracking at two levels and after its removal, the top section was reinstated on its repaired base.

'A Tribute to Firefighters' (47)

'A Tribute to Firefighters' was created in 2002 by Christchurch artist Graham Bennett and located in the Firefighters Reserve. This was completed with steel from the World Trade Centre site and gifted by the City of New York to the City of Christchurch to acknowledge firefighters worldwide.



Tautahi Pā / 'The Bricks' (48)

This site lies within the highly significant area of a Ngāi Tahu pā (traditional settlement) established by the Ngāi Tahu chief Tautahi in the eighteenth century. The Ōtākaro (Avon River) was an important mahinga kai or food and resource gathering area, for Ngāi Tahu, and for Tautahi's people and their relatives visiting from Te Pataka O Rakaihautū (Banks Peninsula). This place was later a landing place on the Avon River used by the first European settlers. The Canterbury Association surveyors established a camp here in 1849, and carried out the survey of the city from the first European dwellings constructed within the four Avenues. During the 1850s, The Bricks served as Christchurch's trade entrance, and was consequently the focus of earliest European settlement.



Barbadoes Street Cemetery (49)

The Barbadoes Street Cemetery (1852–1973) is Christchurch's oldest cemetery. A large number of the City's earliest pioneers are interred there, in sectors divided by denomination. The headstone designs and inscriptions are fascinating. **Earthquake damaged.**





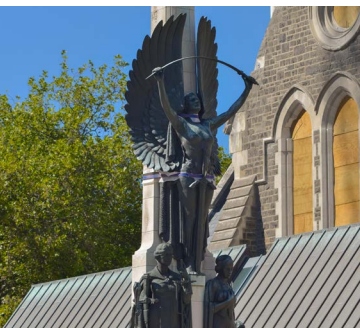
Prior to earthquake damage

Christchurch Cathedral (50)

This Gothic Revival Anglican Cathedral was part of plans for the new settlement of Christchurch by the Canterbury Association, based in England, in 1850. It was designed by the prominent English architect Sir George Gilbert Scott (1811-1878). Construction began in the 1860s and although the nave was consecrated in 1881, the transepts and chancel were not completed until 1904. The building was deconsecrated to allow its partial deconstruction to make the building safe while long term options are considered. Earthquake damaged.



Earthquake damaged church, made secure

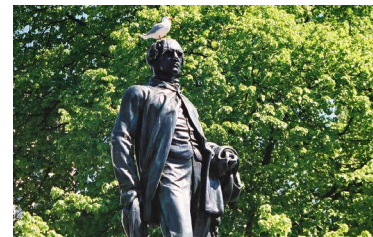


Citizens War Memorial (51)

Sculpted by William Trethewey and unveiled in 1937 this memorial comprising six allegorical bronze figures set on a Portland stone plinth commemorates those lost in the Great War (1914-1918).

Godley Statue (52)

This monument to John Robert Godley (1814-61), Resident Chief Agent for the Canterbury Association and the acknowledged 'Founder of Canterbury', dates from 1867 and is one of the earliest public statues erected in New Zealand. The bronze statue is the only example of noted Victorian Pre- Raphaelite sculptor Thomas Woolner's work in New Zealand. Shaken from its plinth during the 22 February 2011 earthquake, the statue sustained significant damage. It was repaired and reinstated in February 2015. During the conservation process a Victorian moulding hammer was found preserved inside the arm of the statue.



Former Chief Post Office (53)

Designed by government architect William Clayton in 1879 and originally built to house the Chief Post Office and other government departments, this building reflects the prevailing Gothic style of early Christchurch public architecture. An Italianate influence is also evident. The handsome clock tower houses an English replica of Big Ben. Earthquake damaged.



New Regent Street (54)

At the time of its construction the concept of an entire street made up of small speciality shops was a new one for the nation. The 40 shops on individual titles were designed in the Spanish Mission Revival style by H. Francis Willis in 1930. Built from 1930-1932 it was one of the few large scale building projects undertaken in the South Island during the Depression. The shops suffered moderate damage in the earthquakes. A strengthening, repair and conservation work programme has included the replacement of decorative tile shopfronts.



Isaac Theatre Royal (55)

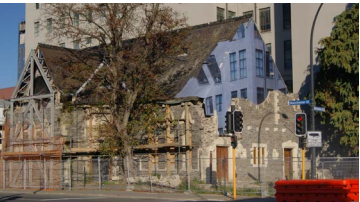


Repaired Isaac Theatre Royal Building

The Isaac Theatre Royal next door in Gloucester Street (1928) has hosted everything from wrestling matches, cinema and vaudeville to Shakespeare, ballet and grand opera. Many well-known artists have performed there over time including Louis Armstrong, Dame Kiri Te Kanawa and Dame Malvina Major. The painted interior dome was conserved on site, and reinstated in a new theatre building behind the original façade.



Prior to earthquake damage



Temporary protection measures in place

in the 1990s, and most recently as a restaurant. The tower was removed due to earthquake damage. The intention is to rebuild the church (excluding the tower) in lightweight construction clad in a veneer of the original stone. **Earthquake damaged.**

Former Government Building (57)



Square and Worcester Street. Its style contrasts with the

The Isaac Theatre Royal next door in Gloucester Street (1928) has hosted everything from wrestling matches, cinema and vaudeville to Shakespeare, ballet and grand opera. Many well-known artists

Former Trinity Congregational Church (56)

For the Trinity Congregational Church (1874), B.W. Mountfort chose an Early English Gothic style in stone. The building was used commercially in the 1920s, for services by the Pacific Islanders' Congregational Church in the 1960s, as a theatre in the 1970s, as a wedding venue

Designed in 1911 by J.C. Maddison (1850–1923). With its imposing Renaissance palazzo style, the Former Government Building has a powerful presence in the

predominant Gothic style of many of the City's buildings. Structural strengthening to a high level ensured this building withstood the earthquakes well. Next door on Worcester Street is the **State Insurance Building (58)** (1935–1937) designed by Cecil Wood. **Earthquake damaged.**

Latimer Square (59)

Named after one of the Marian Martyrs executed by Mary I for their protestant faith, Latimer Square served as one of the City's main recreational spaces, being used for sports events, horse racing, the Agricultural and Pastoral Show, volunteer parades, fairs and other entertainments until the 1880s. Later the square became a venue for promenading, picnics and public gatherings. During WWII, air raid trenches were dug there. In Hereford Street to the south of Latimer Square is the site of the new **Anglican 'cardboard cathedral' (60)** designed by Japanese architect Shigeru Ban and constructed with a system of cardboard tube cladding.



Christchurch Club (61)

The haunt of early Canterbury run-holders, including the English author Samuel Butler, the Christchurch Club (1862) was built as a gentlemen's club for early Cantabrians. Designed by B.W. Mountfort, it became an important centre of early colonial political and social life. This timber Italianate-styled building features executed in timber that are normally associated with stone buildings. A substantial wing of the building was demolished due to earthquake damage and there is an intention to rebuild this. **Under Repair.**



Prior to earthquake damage



Under repair



Bridge of Remembrance (62)

Designed as a triumphal arch and unveiled in 1924, the Bridge of Remembrance (earthquake damaged) was constructed to commemorate those lost in WW1 and now honours Canterbury troops

who have fought and died in all wars. The architects were Gummer and Ford, and sculptural elements were carved by F.G. Gurnsey. Repair and strengthening of the arch and bridge is underway. Adjacent is **Friendship Corner (63)**, where trees represent each of Christchurch's sister cities.

65 Cambridge Terrace, Office and Flat (64)



This 1962 Modernist building is a prime example of Sir Miles Warren's work from the 1960s and has been nationally recognised. Its design won the New Zealand Institute of Architects silver medal in 1969, and the New Zealand Institute of Architecture 25 year award in 1995.

Rhododendron Island (65)

Created by the Christchurch Beautifying Society, this small island in the river planted with rhododendrons was originally the site of the Council's first swimming baths.

Former Doctor's Residence (66)

Prominent medical practitioner Dr Fitzgerald Westenra commissioned Christchurch architectural firm Collins and Harman to build this family home and surgery in 1907-08. The former dwelling has been occupied by restaurants for the last thirty years.

St Michael and All Angels Church (67)

St Michael's designed by William Fitzjohn Crisp in 1872, is known as the 'mother church' of Anglicanism in Christchurch and served as the pro-Cathedral until 1881. The free-standing belfry beside the church was designed by B.W. Mountfort and built in 1861. The bell it houses came to Canterbury in 1850.



Former Post Office High Street (68)



This building by Government Architect J.T. Mair in the stripped classical style was opened in 1932. It has been associated with the specialist movie hire business Alice in Videoland since 1992, and now also houses a café. Earthquake strengthening ensured that this building survived the earthquakes incredibly well. The triangle reserve in front of the building is the location of the first public water supply well in Christchurch.

Ng Building (Former *Marriner's Buildings*) (69)

This commercial classical building (1911) has housed a range of businesses over time, including Bains Warehouse for almost 80 years from the 1920s. This area of Madras and Lichfield Streets was a warehouse district from the 1880s.



Grosvenor Hotel (70)

Moorhouse Avenue was historically a busy transport hub and industrial area. From the 1870s a large number of hotels catered for travellers and local workers, of these the Grosvenor is the only remaining. The Grosvenor was erected to a design of architect Samuel Farr for proprietor John Mumford in 1877. A recent seismic upgrade meant this building withstood the earthquakes very well, and is now home to an intimate café and wine bar, that features original wood and exposed brick.



Catholic Cathedral (71)

The City's basilica-style Roman Catholic Cathedral (1905) designed by F.W. Petre was one of New Zealand's finest neo-Renaissance churches. The building earned lavish praise from George Bernard Shaw when he visited Christchurch in 1934. The building incurred severe damage in the earthquakes. The large copper dome was removed to lessen the weight on the remaining walls, and features such as the stained glass windows have been removed for storage. Earthquake damaged.



Prior to earthquake damage



Earthquake damaged church, made secure



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City Centre - Heritage Places

For traffic updates
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