

**CHRISTCHURCH DISTRICT PLAN – SCHEDULED HERITAGE PLACE
HERITAGE ASSESSMENT – STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
HERITAGE ITEM NUMBER 1065**

***FORMER GOVERNORS BAY LOCK-UP AND SETTING –
153 GOVERNORS BAY-TEDDINGTON ROAD,
ALLANDALE***



PHOTOGRAPH: G WRIGHT, MARCH 2023

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 Former Governors Bay Lock-up has historical and social significance for its association with the history of policing in Christchurch and the development of Governors Bay, Allandale and the wider Whakaraupō-Lyttelton Harbour area. It was built in 1877 as part of a small complex of police buildings on this site, of which this is the only remaining structure.

In 1851 Thomas Harding purchased Rural Section 232 (50 acres) from the Canterbury Association. This was later owned by his son James Harding in 1867, and Thomas's brother-in-law Paul Nixon Hodgson in 1874.

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During the late 1870s, encouraged by local politician Thomas Henry Potts of Ōhinetahi, the Canterbury Provincial Government decided that a permanent police station was required at Governors Bay/Allandale, a constable having been stationed at the bay at various times since 1866. In 1876 Hodgson sold six acres of land for a reserve for £300 at which time the subdivision of this part of RS 232 took place. In 1877 the lock-up, a two-storey, seven-room house and a stable block were built at a cost of £1000; the house was also used as the local post and telegraph office.¹ As part of the incentive and remuneration package for rural and provincial policemen and their families, local residences were provided. This ensured the policeman was available when required and did not have to live a distance from the community they served. The Governors Bay station was opened on 30 July 1877. Policemen recorded as stationed in Governors Bay during the late 1870s were Sergeant M'Donnell and Constable George Benjamin Dance. The station did not last long, closing on 1 August 1880, by which time it had been decided by the Police Department that a resident police officer in Governors Bay/Allandale was not required as there was not the work to justify the position and the lock-up was seldom used.²

Simple timber lock-ups were typical for police stations of the time, particularly in towns and rural areas. The lock-ups consisted of two cells, designed to hold offenders for a short period until release or more permanent arrangements could be made. Cells such as these were also used around the country as a holding cell for intoxicated members of the public. The cells at Governors Bay/Allandale would likely have had similar use in the three years that they were in police use. As a preserved example the former Governors Bay lock-up is an increasingly rare example as many of the former lock-ups have been demolished or physically changed to adapt them for other uses over time.

Following the removal of a permanent police presence from Governors Bay/ Allandale the police station buildings remained on the site and in 1882 William Henry Teape established a coach and Royal Mail business there. Teape and his family lived in the former police house and he stabled his horses in the stable building.³ The lock-up became a tack room for the coach equipment. Teape ran a 10-person coach service which carried people and mail between Teddington and Lyttelton. Following Teape a series of proprietors, P Pim and J Durey, Robert Harris and finally Alfred Small ran the coach and mail service from Governors Bay/Allandale. Small retained the use of the lock-up as a tack room, with the southern cell often used in the 1900s by swaggies/itinerant labourers who were fed by Mrs Small and allowed to sleep in the cell. The Smalls left the district in 1920.⁴

The coaching business evolved as a business, due to the increase in motorised transport, and by the early 1920s the site was used as a base for truck transport with Percy Jones beginning a service using two Model T Ford one-ton trucks. Jones was resident in the former police house in 1926-27 when it was destroyed by fire.⁵ The original stable block was demolished in 1962, leaving the lock-up as the sole remaining building of the original police complex. When a new workshop was constructed in the 1960s, the lock-up was shifted within the site and became a storeroom.⁶

¹ Robertson, Jane. *Head of the Harbour* p.265

² Robertson, Jane. *Head of the Harbour* p.265

³ Robertson, Jane. *Head of the Harbour* p.217

⁴ Robertson, Jane. *Head of the Harbour* p.217

⁵ Robertson, Jane. *Head of the Harbour* p.218

⁶ Robertson, Jane. *Head of the Harbour* p.220

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The land on which the lock-up sat was formally gazetted as a reserve (Reserve 3060) for a Public Recreation Ground in February 1978. Later that year the property was subdivided into three sections by the then local authority Mt Herbert County. Lots 1 and 3 (the site of the lock-up) were retained as reserves and Lot 2 became an extension of the neighbouring property. The Recreation Reserve was formally named the Allandale Domain in 1985. Despite this gazetting, the section on which the lock-up sat has continued to be used as a contractors' yard, while the larger area of the domain on the foreshore has continued to be used for recreational purposes.

By the 1990s, following various uses as a storage space and at one stage in the late 1930s as an apiary⁷, the lock-up was in very poor condition. It was restored in 2003-2004 by the Governors Bay Heritage Trust, with financial assistance from the Parkinson Trust. To enable its restoration the building was shifted a couple of metres to its current position. Owned by the Christchurch City Council, it remains in the care of the Trust as a historic museum. An interpretation panel on the site sets out the history of the building for visitors. The building is also known as the Allandale Lockup.

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 Former Governors Bay Lock-up has cultural significance as the two-cell design demonstrates the means of temporary incarceration that was used across New Zealand in the mid-19th century. It demonstrates the distinctive way of policing in the second half of the 19th century in New Zealand when the philosophy of policing was one of a localised presence, embedded within the community.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

Architectural and aesthetic values that demonstrate or are associated with design values, form, scale, colour, texture and material of the place.

The Former Governors Bay Lock-up has architectural significance as a surviving 1870s lock-up. The building is single storied, of weatherboard construction, with a single gabled corrugated iron roof and retains the form, scale and design of a later 19th century colonial lock-up. The building sits on volcanic stone piles which were inserted as part of the restoration process. It consists of two cells with a door at each end of the building. The cells were constructed to prevent escape with a double layer of timber throughout and a layer of sheet metal between the external and internal timber layers. The southern cell contains more sheet metal for greater security.⁸ The single gabled two cell structure of the Former Governors Bay Lock-up is more unusual in its end-to-end construction, with existing examples such as the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga-listed former lock-ups; in Oxford, Rawene, and Russell, all being examples of side by side two cell lock-ups.

⁷ Robertson, Jane. *Head of the Harbour* p.265

⁸ Robertson, Jane. *Head of the Harbour*/On-site Interpretation Board

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The tender notice from 11 Nov 1876 stated that drawings and specifications could be seen at the office of the Provincial Architect, who at that time was Thomas Cane. The same notice called for tenders for two other lock ups in St Albans and Woolston (*Lyttelton Times*, 16/11/1876).

Cane (1830-1905) was born in Brighton, England, and worked for Sir George Gilbert Scott before emigrating to Canterbury in 1874. As Canterbury's Provincial Architect, a position to which he was appointed in 1875, Cane designed the Lyttelton Timeball Station (1876). After the abolition of the provincial governments in 1876 he established a private architectural practice. Cane was architect to the Canterbury Education Board, in which role he designed the first Christchurch Girls High School (now part of the Arts Centre of Christchurch) and also added a wing to the Christchurch Normal School (demolished) in Cranmer Square. Cane also designed Condell's House at Christ's College. Cane was also an accomplished water colourist.

Each cell in the Governors Bay Lock-up had a thick toughened door with a viewing flap for observing the prisoner. The doors were double locked for increased security. The top of each gable had metal bars – partially glazed for light and ventilation. The interior is stark with a tongue and groove interior. Originally the cells would have had a basic platform/bench for prisoners to sleep on. These no longer exist however an interpretative platform has been placed in the northern cell.

The restoration in 2003/04 retained as much original fabric as possible. Due to the deterioration of the building some new material including weatherboards and piles were required to restore the building to its original condition.

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 Former Governors Bay Lock-up has technological and craftsmanship significance as it retains many original features including steel-lined walls, metal bars, doors, locks and viewing flaps. These features are evidence of the use of materials and manufacture of fixtures and fittings associated with a basic, functional police building in the mid-19th century. A chain lock, which remains on each door, enabled the door to be opened to allow things to be passed in whilst ensuring the door remained locked.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Contextual values that demonstrate or are associated with: a relationship to the environment (constructed and natural) setting, a group, precinct or streetscape; a degree of consistency in terms of scale, form, materials, texture, colour, style and/or detailing in relationship to the environment (constructed and natural), setting, a group, precinct or streetscape; a physical or visible landmark; a contribution to the character of the environment (constructed and natural) setting, a group, precinct or streetscape.

The Former Governors Bay Lock-up has contextual significance as it remains on the same land parcel on which the original police complex was built in 1877. The property is located on

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the main road and is part of the Allandale Reserve. This part of the reserve is currently used as a construction storage site.

The building has been shifted twice on the site to allow use of the larger site for ongoing construction-based activities. It was moved in c.1960 to accommodate development of the wider site and then moved slightly in the early 21st century to give it its own space and facilitate restoration. The setting consists of the area of land around the building between the road and the more recent storage buildings.

The Former Governor's Bay Lock-up has contextual significance in relation to other lock-ups around New Zealand. A similar two celled lock-up dating from 1879 exists in Oxford, North Canterbury, although it has a hipped roof with two cells side by side rather than end on as is the case with the former Governors Bay Lock-up. The nearest large-scale police presence during the second half of the 19th century was Lyttelton which was based in a rented home from at least the 1860s and in 1882 had a purpose-built police station erected on Sumner Road. The Lyttelton station remained in use until the 2010/11 earthquakes and had a lock-up (or cell block) at the rear. Built in 1903, this cell block most likely replaced an earlier lock-up on the site. The Lyttelton Police Station cell block remains and is also a scheduled heritage item in the Christchurch District Plan.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL 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 Former Governors Bay Lock-up and setting have archaeological significance because they have the potential to provide archaeological evidence relating to past human activity on the site including that which occurred prior to 1900. Although the building has been moved, the site was first developed for use as a police complex in 1877 and has been used for a variety of purposes since that date. Its proximity to the coastline of Whakaraupō-Lyttelton Harbour means archaeological evidence of tangata whenua activity on the site may also be present.

ASSESSMENT STATEMENT

The Former Governors Bay Lock-up and setting, including the interior, are of overall heritage significance to the Christchurch District, including Banks Peninsula.

The Former Governors Bay Lock-up has historical and social significance for its association with the history of policing in Christchurch and the development of Governor's Bay and Allandale and the wider Whakaraupō-Lyttelton Harbour area. The Former Governors Bay Lock-up has cultural significance as it demonstrates a distinctive way of life in the second half of the 19th century in New Zealand when the philosophy of policing was one of a localised presence within the community. The Former Governors Bay Lock-up has architectural significance as a surviving 1870s lock-up which demonstrates the less common end-to-end cell arrangement of colonial lock-ups. The Former Governors Bay Lock-up has technological and craftsmanship significance as it retains many original features including steel lined walls, metal bars, doors and locks. The Lock-up has contextual significance as it remains on the same land parcel on which the original police complex was built in 1877. The

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Former Governors Bay Lock-up and setting have archaeological value because they have the potential to provide archaeological evidence relating to past human activity on the site including that which occurred prior to 1900.

REFERENCES:

Certificates of Title and Canterbury Deeds Books

Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga website – listings for lock-ups and Condells House
<https://www.heritage.org.nz/list-search?keywords=lock+up®ion=&listEntryType=&generalUsage=&specificUsage=&themeType=&isPublic=>

Lyttelton Times, 16/11/1876; 17/1/1878

On-site Interpretation Board

Robertson, Jane. *Head of the Harbour A history of Governors Bay, Ōhinetahi, Allandale and Teddington*. (2016)

Thomas Cane, National Library <https://natlib.govt.nz/records/22460644> Accessed 28/6/2023

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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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