

ELEGANT COLONIALS

- LATIMER SQUARE
- CHRISTCHURCH CLUB
- OCCIDENTAL HOTEL



WHY WE LOVE IT

LEAFY GUARDIANS: Trees were originally planted around Latimer Square in the 1870s and 1880s.

COLONIAL FORM: The Christchurch Club's timber Italianate styled building on the corner of Worcester Street and Latimer Square has architectural decoration produced in timber that are normally seen on stone buildings.

ALL IN THE FAMILY: Collins Family Hotel and Boarding House (now the Occidental Hotel), was established in 1861 and named for the family who were former housekeepers of the Christchurch Club.

WHAT'S IN A NAME? The hotel was renamed the Occidental Hotel in 1889 when it was transferred to John Harris.

A RARE GEM: Despite many additions, the Occidental Hotel is the oldest surviving hotel in Christchurch.

STYLE GURUS

The Christchurch Club was designed by outstanding architect Benjamin Mountfort in 1859 and completed in 1862.

James Collins employed architects Samuel Farr and his business partner Cornelius Cuff to design the Collins Family Hotel and Boarding House (Occidental Hotel) in 1864.

WHAT WAS HERE BEFORE

LATIMER SQUARE:

1860s: uncultivated ground

1870s - 1880s : trees planted...sports events... a children's playground...an English lawn...in the middle a band rotunda (1885)...a tramway through the centre.

WONDERFUL & WEIRD

THREE BISHOPS: Latimer Square is one of three Squares named after the 16th Century martyred Anglican Bishops: Latimer, Cranmer, and Ridley (now Cathedral Square). Latimer and Cranmer Squares were both intended to have churches built on site.

NEVER THE TWO SHALL MEET: Gentlemen members of the Christchurch Club would stay in the Club itself; their wives and children would lodge at the former Collins Family Hotel and Boarding House – now the Occidental Hotel.

CHALLENGES

ON THE HOME FRONT: During World War II more than 440 metres of trenches were dug in Latimer Square in preparation for the anticipated Japanese air attacks.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

<http://library.christchurch.org.nz>