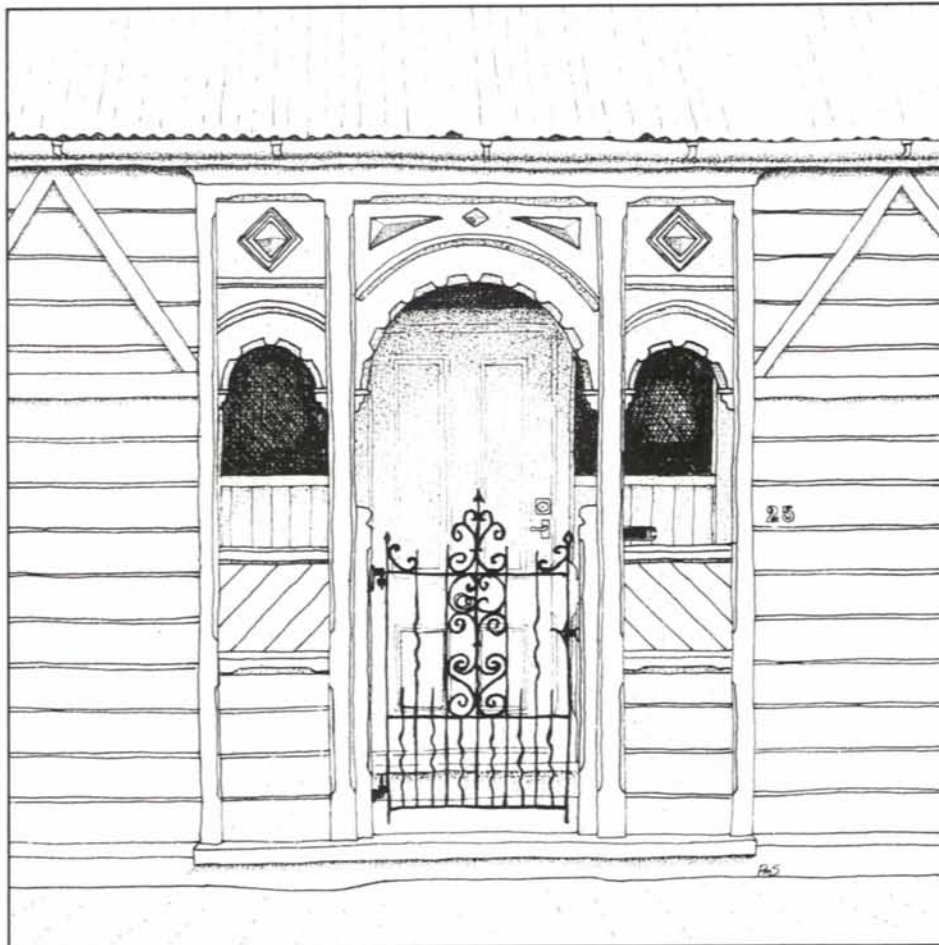
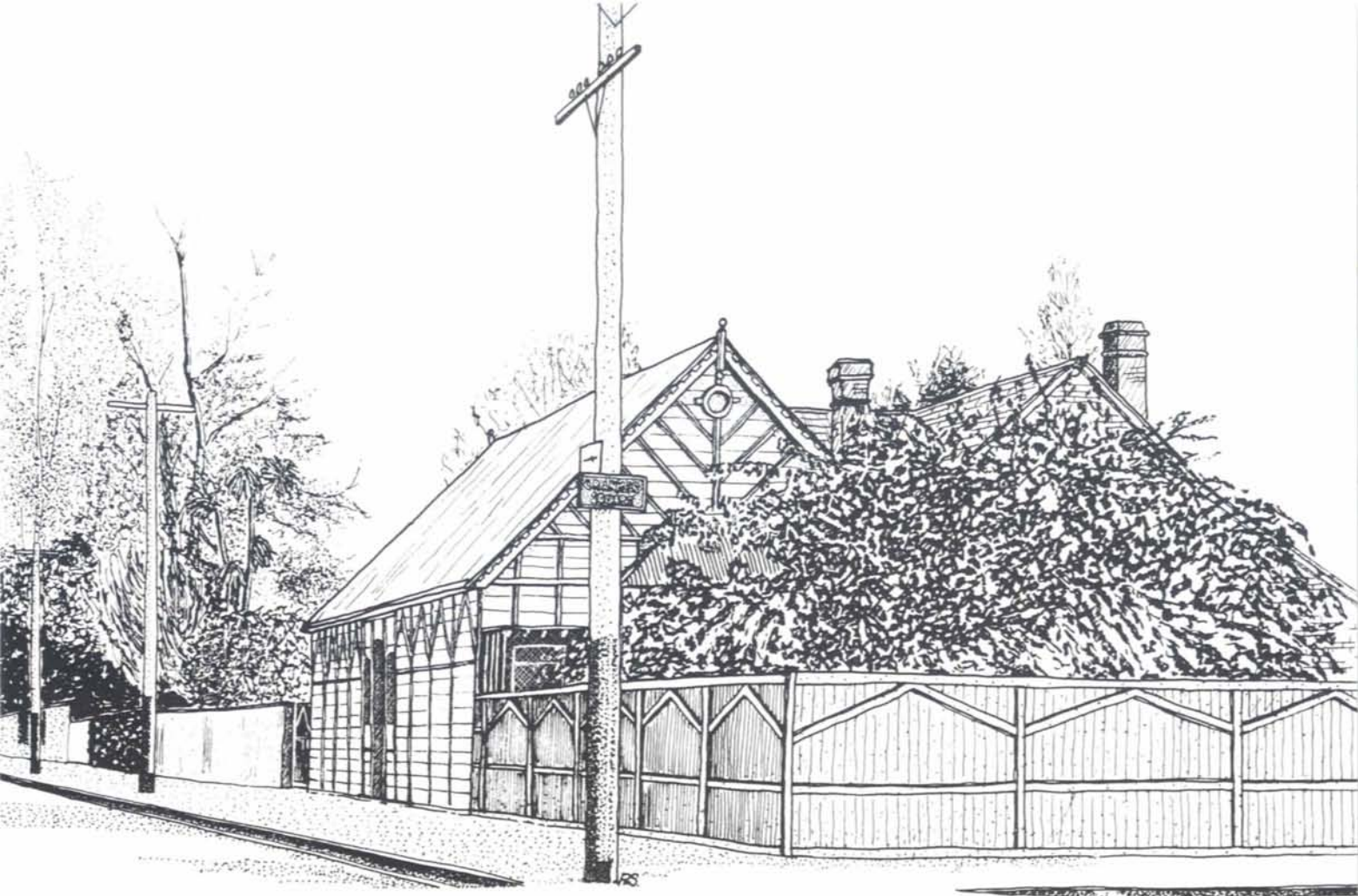


THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE OF CHRISTCHURCH

4. Cranmer Club



CHRISTCHURCH CITY COUNCIL
TOWN PLANNING DIVISION



Preface

Christchurch has a charm that depends to a large extent on features built or planned by man. The quiet dignity of the city owes much to its early buildings. It is still possible to trace the history of Christchurch in the many fine examples of colonial architecture that remain. Action by the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (Canterbury Regional Committee) and other public interest groups has saved several important city buildings including the Provincial Government Buildings, Trinity Church, the Theatre Royal and the old university (now the Christchurch Arts Centre).

As the city grows and changes, there is a danger that historically or environmentally valuable buildings may be thoughtlessly or needlessly destroyed. The Christchurch City Council District Planning Scheme lists 190 historic buildings and objects, and provides opportunities and incentives for their retention. Although the scheme encourages preservation, in the end only the determination of the community can effectively protect or revitalise buildings it considers important.

One of the major aims of the present series of booklets is the identification and description of the city's most valuable historic buildings, in the hope that greater public awareness of their importance will increase their chances of survival. Even if preservation should prove impossible in some cases, this series will gather information, illustrations and analyses of each building to provide a published record of the city's rich architectural heritage.

If these booklets encourage you to think about the historic significance of this city's architecture, and help you to recognise the special value of Christchurch's historic buildings, then they will have served their purpose.

The Cranmer Club

Introduction

The Cranmer Club stands at 25 Armagh Street on the south-west corner of Cranmer Square. It is a most distinctive building with its deep red colour and its mixture of building materials. Furthermore it is unusual in that its elegant Armagh Street frontage abuts the footpath.

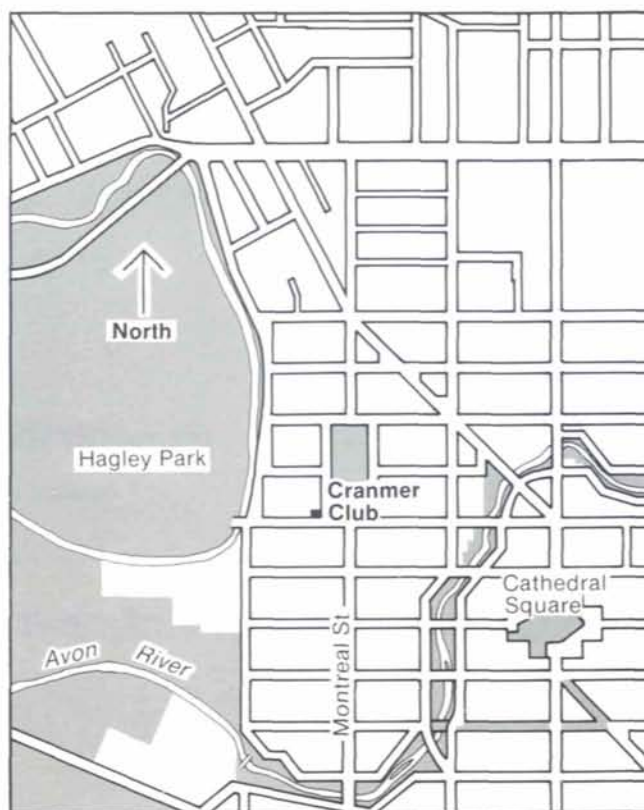
Although partially hidden behind a large elm tree the building deserves close inspection because it is a good example of how a house can be adapted and modified to suit the needs of successive owners. It unashamedly reveals the extent of its alterations yet the combination of different materials, lines and styles give it a charm which is fastidiously preserved.

The first stage of the Cranmer Club building was constructed in 1864 as an everyday two-story colonial cottage. Its builder, Dugald Macfarlane, was a man of means and was therefore able to build in brick, a departure from the usual all-timber construction. Samuel Hurst Seager, one of Christchurch's most distinguished architects, designed the wooden part of the building on the south eastern corner of the site in 1900.

A later owner, Dr Anderson, added a brick section on the first floor. It remains clearly visible within the brickwork.

The present owners, the Cranmer Bridge Club, have made further alterations to the interior to adapt it for its members' use. However the exterior was left intact and the former home has benefitted from careful maintenance. The Club has even retained the original colour of the building, hence the appropriateness of its alternative name "The Red House".

The Cranmer Club is one of several historic buildings around Cranmer Square although unlike some of the others, its future is secure. It is likely to remain a distinctive domestic-scale feature of the Square if only because its form is well-suited to the needs of its owners.



Dugald Macfarlane, the first owner 1864-1871

Dugald Macfarlane was born in 1790 in Perthshire, Scotland where his father was a farmer. In 1811 he gained a commission in the army as a Second Lieutenant and rose to the rank of Captain before fighting at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.¹ After the war he lived in France for several years. When his wife Jane Drummond died he returned to Scotland with his children and managed his sister's farm.² He moved on to London after a short period to work in a Government Office. In 1850 Macfarlane and his second wife, Mary-Anne Shaw, together with the six children from their respective earlier marriages, emigrated to Canterbury. The family sailed on the "Sir George Seymour", one of the Canterbury Association's first four ships, arriving at Lyttelton on 17 December, 1850.

Macfarlane worked as a manager and farm advisor for Mr J.C. Watts Russell of "Ilam Farm".³ In 1851 he took up the Ledard Run on the banks of the Waimakariri River near Kirwee. He named the run after a sheep farm near Loch Ard, Scotland. However, he was forced to sell the farm ten years later to A.R. Creyke of Racecourse Hill after an outbreak of scab in his sheep flock. Another farm of 480 ha (1200 acres) near the Kowai Forks, Leithfield, was bought in 1860 and he farmed there until 1863 when the family moved to Christchurch.

He purchased the section on the corner of Armagh Street and Cranmer Square (Town Section 287 of 1012m²) from the Church Property Trustees for £150.00 in July, 1864. This section had originally been granted to the Trustees from the Canterbury Association in May, 1858.

Macfarlane was by now 74 years old and could reasonably be expected to settle into retirement. However, he

proceeded to establish a wine and spirit business with his sons, and to build a house for himself on the Cranmer Square property. Until recently the date of construction of the Red House had never been adequately determined.⁴ However, it is now clear that it was built in 1864. The Land Registry Office recorded that Macfarlane took possession of T.S. 287 on 29 July, 1864. On 29 September, 1864 Macfarlane placed an advertisement in the *Lyttelton Times* declaring that he and his sons were in business as wine and spirit merchants and samples could be had at their cellars in Cranmer Square. This is the earliest known such advertisement. The Red House must therefore have been built within two months, between July and September, 1864.



Armagh Street looking west — 1860

Canterbury Museum, Dr Barker.

¹Acland records the story that Macfarlane was at the Duchess of Richmond's ball the night before the battle and, like others, had to hurry away to march with his regiment. In his haste he could find only one boot at his lodgings and allegedly fought through part of the battle with a dancing shoe on one foot.

²Macfarlane claimed to have known the Scottish novelist, Sir Walter Scott, quite well and had frequently dined at his Edinburgh home.

³Mr J.C. Watts Russell was a major runholder in Canterbury. He lived on his farm "Ilam" and employed managers for runs such as "Dalethorpe"

in Malvern County.

⁴A Dr Barker photograph of September, 1860 looking west to Cranmer Square has been claimed to be the earliest record of Macfarlane's home. However, not only does the photograph pre-date the house by four years but it is also clear that the cottage recorded by Barker is single storey weatherboard with an external chimney, and is painted white. Macfarlane's home was built of brick and would therefore appear dark, and was two storied with internal chimneys.

Although Macfarlane sold the house and his business in May, 1871, he continued to live in east Worcester Street until his death in 1882 aged 92 years.⁵

A report on Macfarlane's funeral helps to establish his prominence in early Christchurch.

... the funeral was one of the largest that has been seen

in Christchurch. Among those who attended it were many of the oldest settlers of the district, and many citizens who hold, or have held, very prominent positions here. A very large crowd witnessed the funeral ... In the city many of the houses of business were closed during the afternoon.⁶



Dugald Macfarlane

**D. MACFARLANE AND SONS,
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS,
CRANMER SQUARE,
CHRISTCHURCH.**

Importer direct from the Oldest Houses in London.

ORDERS FORWARDED TO ANY PART OF THE PROVINCE.

Parker, Beatty and Hill, owners 1871-1899

Isaac Elison Parker was a farmer from Ohoka, Kaiapoi when he bought the Red House from Macfarlane for £630 in 1871. He kept the property for four years but in 1873 tried to sell the house and the contents of the wine cellar.⁷ The reason for this is unclear. The sale notice was authorised by T.B. Craig, Accountant and Agent, suggesting Parker was in financial difficulties. The notice describes the "splendid" property as comprising "about ¼ acre of land, 8-roomed house, with cellar underneath; cottage, stables, artesian well etc ... The Cellar (45 x 14 feet) is known to be the best wine cellar in the province." Possession could be "had at once". Parker must have survived this difficulty for the Red House was not sold until 1875 to George Beatty for £850. Parker did not prosper however. He died in May, 1881 aged 34 years while employed as a cook at Christchurch Hospital.⁸

Beatty had emigrated to Canterbury in 1861 with his parents on the "Royal Stuart" when he was 21 years old. At various times he was a Sergeant of Police, the owner of Section 7821 (a 66 ha farm at Courtenay) which he purchased in 1864,⁹ and an officer in the Christchurch Fire Brigade. When he bought the Red House he was licensee of the Q.C.E. Hotel, Gloucester Street, next to the Theatre Royal in which he had shares. This hotel was more commonly known as the Palace Hotel.¹⁰ Like Parker, Beatty occupied the house for only four years before selling it to Sarah Hill, a widow, on 25 March, 1879 for £1100 sterling. Beatty died three years later at the age of 42, on 11 November, 1882¹¹ five months after the Theatre Royal had been modified and upgraded.¹²

Mrs Hill lived in the Red House until her death in 1898 when the house passed to her trustees in England. They held the property for a year before subdividing the original quarter-acre (1012m²) section.

Samuel Hurst Seager purchased the two portions on 27 July, 1899 for £976, paying £726 for the corner section of 22¼ perches (575m²) containing the house. On the same day he re-sold the vacant portion to a neighbour, John Anderson, for £250.



Palace Hotel

Samuel Hurst Seager, owner 1899-1907

The new owner of the Red House was to make significant changes to the property, and it is to Seager that it owes much of its present day interest. Samuel Hurst Seager was born in London in 1858 and arrived in Christchurch with his parents in 1870. His father was a joiner, builder and organ builder while his uncle, Edward Seager, was Superintendent of Sunnyside Hospital. The young Seager studied at Canterbury College between 1879 and 1882 but architecture was his dominant interest and he worked for a time as a draftsman in the office of Christchurch's leading architect, Benjamin Mountfort.

In 1882 he went to England to study architecture at University College, London, completing his studies with distinction and returning to New Zealand in 1884 as an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects. Seager quickly established himself in Christchurch by winning the competition to design the new Municipal Chambers on the corner of Worcester Street and Oxford Terrace, in 1885. The building, in the most up-to-date Queen Anne style, was a brilliant beginning for the young and essentially untried architect.

⁵Lyttelton Times' 16 September, 1882 p.6.

⁶Lyttelton Times' 19 September, 1882 p.5.

⁷Lyttelton Times' 24 September, 1873 p.4.

⁸Register of Burials in the Church of England Cemetery vol.2 p.179.

⁹Beatty's family later farmed around Coalgate. Beatty's Road at Kimberley is named after him.

¹⁰The Palace was converted into the Kings Theatre in 1910 with seating for 1400. The first floor facade still remains at 156-8 Gloucester Street above The Press office and Smarts Electrical.

¹¹Lyttelton Times' 13 November, 1882 p.4.

¹²Lyttelton Times' 19 June, 1882 p.6.

From 1891 to 1893 Seager worked in Sydney, but returned to Christchurch in 1893 to lecture in Architecture and Decorative Design at the Canterbury College School of Art. By the turn of the century when he designed his additions to the Red House, Seager was recognised as the leading designer of large houses in Canterbury. Among his best known houses are 'Daresbury' and Elizabeth House, both in Christchurch. However, he was also turning his attention to the problems of building small houses in wood, notably at Clifton Spur, Sumner, between 1902 and 1907.

When Seager sold the Red House to the architect J.J. Collins on 10 October, 1907, he moved to the house he had built for himself at Sumner in 1902, No. 1, the Spur.

During the later part of his career, Seager's interests increasingly turned towards questions of town planning and the problems of art gallery lighting, a field in which he made important contributions and for which he hoped to be remembered.

Seager died in Sydney on 5 October, 1933. The obituary which appeared in 'The Press' the following day described him as "one of the most prominent architects in New Zealand . . . (who) did probably more for his profession than any other New Zealander has been able to do."¹³

S. H. Seager



Canterbury Museum



Canterbury University

'Daresbury' — 67 Fendalton Road.



Canterbury University

McMillan Brown cottage — 2 Whisby Road.

Collins, Acland, Dr Anderson, owners 1907-1964

John James Collins, a well-known Christchurch architect, purchased the Red House for £1200 in 1907. His father had emigrated aboard the 'Bangalore', arriving not long after the first four ships of the Canterbury Association which had carried the Macfarlane family to the colony. J.J. Collins was born in 1855 and educated at Christ's College. He began his career in architecture in 1871 by working for W.B. Armson. While working with Armson and later in partnership with R.D. Harman¹⁴ they designed many buildings for the North Canterbury Hospital Board, and Canterbury College on the present Arts Centre site.

Other major commissions included Nazareth House, Brougham Street, the Press Company Building, Cathedral Square and Whitcombe & Tombs Building (present day

Whitcoulls), Cashel Street. Collins also made his mark with large, picturesque houses such as "Te Koraha" (now 'The House' at Rangi Ruru School), "Bluecliffs" and the former "Longbeach" homesteads.

Collins was a keen sportsman enjoying shooting and rowing. He designed the Canterbury Rowing Club boathouse by the Fitzgerald Avenue river bridge.

In 1911, he sold the Red House to L.G.D. Acland for £1750 being yet another owner who lived in the house for the short period of four years. Collins retired in 1921 and moved into another historic building 'Englefield' in Fitzgerald Avenue. He was twice married before dying on 2 June, 1933 at his Bristol Street home, aged 78 years.¹⁵

Collins, Hunt & Loveridge



J.J. Collins



Canterbury Museum

The Red House in its Cranmer Square setting c.1900

¹³The Press' 6 October, 1933.

¹⁴Collins' old firm continues today as Collins, Hunt & Loveridge.

¹⁵Obituary 'The Press', 3 June, 1933 p.17.

Leopold George Dyke Acland was described as a 'gentleman' in the land transfer document. This description does little to indicate the varied life he lived.¹⁶ He was born in 1876. His father, a former run holder, was related to the Aclands of Mount Peel. The young Acland was educated at Christ's College after which he left to work on Mount Peel and Cracroft Stations.



Mr and Mrs L.G.D. Acland

Canterbury Public Library

Then, from 1897, he owned the following properties in succession: 'Glentanner' near Mount Cook, the 'Lanercost' in the Amuri district, 'Braemar' in the McKenzie Country, 'North Clumbar' near Hororata, 'Cecil Peak' on Lake Wakatipu which he retained almost to his death, and 'Loburn', the last only briefly. He settled finally on part of 'North Clumbar'.

His management of runs was much interrupted. He served with the Rough Riders in the South African War. In 1902 he joined an exploring expedition to New Guinea. In 1906 he set out on an extended world tour during which he lost his left arm in a brush with a tiger in India, managed a shipping office in Kobe, Japan, travelled by the trans-Siberian railway to Moscow and Saint Petersburg and went on to England. At the commencement of World War I he joined the Army Service Corps with the rank of second lieutenant. He won the Military Cross on Gallipoli, was attached to General Godley's staff with the rank of major and served in France. He was awarded the O.B.E.

Acland owned the Red House for ten years selling it on 30 August, 1921 to Dr Douglas Anderson for £2250.

During his later years at Hororata he made his home with H.M. Reeves, his partner for part of the time on 'Cecil Peak' and 'Loburn'. It was there in 1924 that the house was burnt to the ground and his original notes for 'The Early Canterbury Runs' were destroyed.

In 1935, after the death of Reeves, Acland married his widow. He died in 1948.

Dr Anderson was born in Christchurch in 1889.¹⁷ His father, Dr C.M. Anderson, was an early eye, ear, nose and throat surgeon in Christchurch. Douglas Anderson was educated at Christ's College and then in 1906 followed his father and two uncles to receive his medical education at the University College Hospital in London. He qualified in medicine in 1914 and on the outbreak of the First World War volunteered for service and was posted to France as a Royal Army Medical Corp Officer.

In 1915 Dr Anderson returned to Christchurch to practice medicine for a short time. He joined the New Zealand Medical Corps and was posted overseas in 1918 as the Senior Medical Officer on the S.S. Ulimarua, or New Zealand Transport No. 100. He served again in France, experienced trench warfare, then took part in the army of occupation.

While in England in 1916 Dr Anderson married Kathleen Clarke Patterson, a Belfast resident. They returned to Christchurch in 1919 and he took over the practice of the late Dr William Irving who had rooms at 56 Armagh Street. He practiced there for two years before buying the Red House. For a period Dr Anderson was medical officer to the former St Helens hospital and to St Margaret's College. He was in general medical practice for 44 years and built up a very large practice being particularly skilled in obstetrics and diseases of children. He retired in 1963, and sold the Red House the following year.

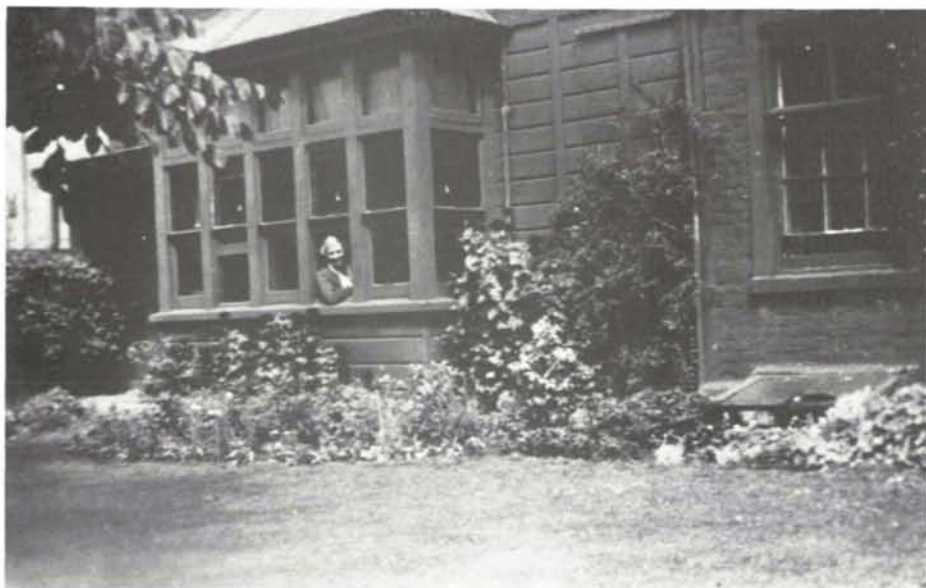


Dr Anderson



Mrs Anderson

Miss M.M. Anderson

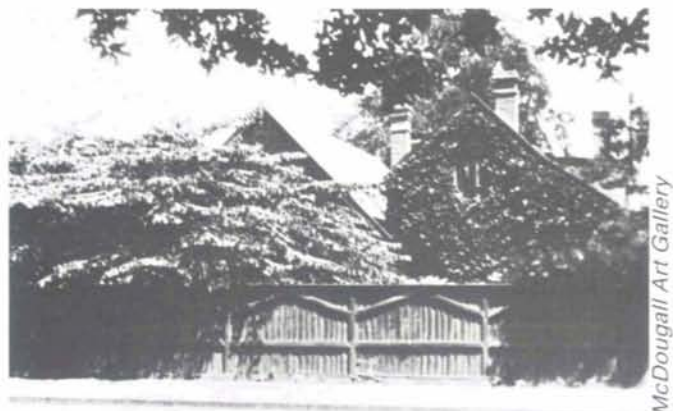


Miss M.M. Anderson

¹⁶Biographical details from L.G.D. Acland, 'The Early Canterbury Runs', ed. W.H. Scotter.

¹⁷Obituary 'The Press', 17 January, 1972. 'New Zealand Medical Journal', February, 1972 p.18.

Dr Anderson was President of the Canterbury Division of the British Medical Association for a term and enjoyed his membership of the Savage Club. He was a keen fisherman and an accomplished pianist. He died on 15 January, 1972 aged 83 years.



McDougall Art Gallery

The Red House c. 1920

The Cranmer Club Inc, the present owner

The Cranmer Bridge Club was first formed in February, 1959 with Mrs Elta Taylor as President and Miss Jean McKenzie CBE as Secretary. The Club rented premises at 55 Armagh Street for its 71 members to play rubber bridge on a social rather than competitive basis.

In October, 1963, under the Presidency of Mrs Addie Rose MBE, a special general meeting was called to discuss the possibility of purchasing the Red House which was being offered for sale by auction by Dr Anderson.¹⁸ A special committee was formed to investigate the feasibility of the Club purchasing the property and it co-opted the services of a builder, Mr Geoff Simpson, and a retired bank manager, Mr John Austin, to assist it. An appeal to members to help raise the necessary finance by way of debentures was enthusiastically supported. The Club was able to purchase the property on 31 October, 1963 for £7500. Government valuation was £4600. When the Club's new premises were officially opened by the Mayor, Mr G. Manning, on 8 February, 1964 the Club had 107 members. Since buying the Red House the Club has done little to alter or change the building. The rooms on the first floor

His wife Kathleen was President of the Christchurch Sub-centre of the Red Cross for a period and was very involved in voluntary groups such as PNEU at Selwyn House. She was also a keen supporter of Te Wai Pounamu Maori Girls' College and learnt the Maori language. She died in 1982.



Miss M.M. Anderson

The Red House c. 1940

which had been occupied by Dr Anderson's daughter were made into a self-contained flat with the addition of a kitchenette, additional plumbing, and external stairway entrance. This flat has been a source of income to the Club and helped pay the interest on the member's debentures.

A major change to the eastern grounds occurred in the 1970's with the creation of a gravelled car parking area where a picturesque garden had flourished. The large elm tree which hides part of the building was successfully retained.

In 1969, the Club was approached by the Christchurch Bridge Club with a view to forming an Optimum Bridge Club in their new premises in Nova Place. The Cranmer members chose to retain their identity, and to keep the building they had worked so hard for. This concern to maintain their distinctive Club house is reflected in 1984 with the commitment to an extensive re-roofing programme. The Club continues to flourish with five sessions of bridge being played every week for 50 weeks of the year by its 76 members.

The building

The house which Dugald Macfarlane built in 1864 was in many ways typical of the dwellings erected in Christchurch in the 1860s. It was rectangular in plan, rising to two stories at the front and with a single storey lean-to at the back. Because of the extensive alterations made to the interior since it was built it is now almost impossible to reconstruct the original plan. It is clear, however, that there was a central hall with stairs providing access to the upper floor. On either side of the hall were the two principal rooms and at the rear a large kitchen and possibly two further rooms. The first floor probably contained three bedrooms, making up the total of eight rooms mentioned when the house was advertised for sale in 1873.



What makes Macfarlane's house exceptional is its brick construction and the fact that it possessed a large cellar. Before 1864 the great majority of Christchurch's buildings, irrespective of function, were built of wood. By 1864 however, bricks were readily available locally at about £4.10 per thousand and in the next few years brick buildings became increasingly common, although timber remained the dominant building material.¹⁹

The brickwork of the Red House is now overlaid with many coats of paint which have helped to protect it from weathering. The bricks are laid in English bond, i.e. alternate courses of headers and stretchers, thus making it possible to distinguish the original section of the house from the accumulation of single storey brick additions at the back. The quality of the brickwork is not particularly high, perhaps indicating that brick construction was then still something of a novelty in Christchurch.



Original brickwork



.... with wooden lintel

¹⁸ *The Press* 12 October, 1963 p.36.

¹⁹ In Mr W. Harris' opinion the bricks used in the Red House come from Freeman's Bay, Auckland. The bricks are distinguishable by their orange colouring which is much lighter than the red bricks made from

Canterbury clay. Sample bricks taken from the building are hand made in wooden moulds and are the product of three different makers. The presence of wire — cut bricks on the top of some walls suggests the Red House may have suffered earthquake damage around 1900.

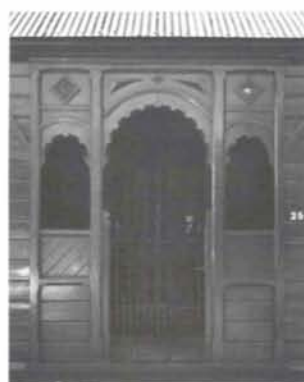
The other exceptional feature of the house is the large cellar used by Macfarlane to store his stock of wines and spirits. Because of the high water table in many parts of Christchurch, cellars beneath houses have always been an uncommon feature. Macfarlane's cellar is 13.7 metres long by 4.2 metres wide and extends under the whole of the two storey section of the original house. Access is by steps under the stairway to the first floor. The walls and ceiling are whitewashed but the floor is earthen. Few modifications have been made to the cellar over the years and its appearance has probably changed little since it was first excavated by Maple Brothers.

After Macfarlane sold the Red House in 1871 few changes of any note were made to the building until 1899 when Hurst Seager bought the property. Seager immediately set about transforming the house to suit his own requirements and in doing so gave the building an architectural distinction it had not previously possessed. Seager extended the house to the south by adding a single storey wooden block which abuts the footpath on the Armagh Street frontage. By extending the building to the very edge of the property Seager gave his house a distinctive urban quality which is seldom seen in New Zealand cities. However Seager needed only to look as far as the opposite corner of Cranmer Square to find a local precedent, as the corner shop and house dating from the 1870's also stands on the very edge of the footpath.

On the south side Seager's addition presents a long, window-less facade to the street. The flatness of the facade is relieved by wooden battens which outline an arcade on its surface, while in the centre it is punctuated by a deep entrance porch. This porch, with its arched screen and fine wrought iron gate is the most striking feature of the Armagh Street elevation. The form of the screen, with its large central arch flanked by two smaller arches is a variation of the Renaissance Palladian motif but its immediate source is much closer to hand. Seager has in fact borrowed it from the arcade of the Christchurch Club in Latimer Square, built to Mountfort's design in 1859. Mountfort was an architect whom Seager particularly admired and by quoting so directly from Mountfort's work he was paying tribute to his illustrious predecessor. Furthermore, by creating a link between his own design and one of the major buildings from the first decade of Christchurch's history, Seager was emphasising the importance of establishing an architectural tradition in a country which conspicuously lacked one. Seager was not, however, imitating past architectural styles in the way Victorian architects had done; rather he aimed to employ the principles underlying the architecture of the past to create a contemporary New Zealand style. In this ambition he was abreast with the most advanced architectural thinking of his day.

The porch opens into a wide entrance hall with a large room on either side. It is not clear what use Seager made of these rooms but both are well lit by bands of casements in the bay windows which extend across the end walls of each room. The use of coved ceilings adds considerably to the sense of spaciousness in these rooms. The gable above the eastern bay window, now partially obscured by the large elm tree in the grounds, is embellished by diagonal battens which provide a visual link with the detailing of the south wall. Unfortunately the gable at the western end has lost its embellishments.

A side entrance at the western end of the house, now unused, opens into a secondary hall between the original house and Seager's addition. Although its specific function



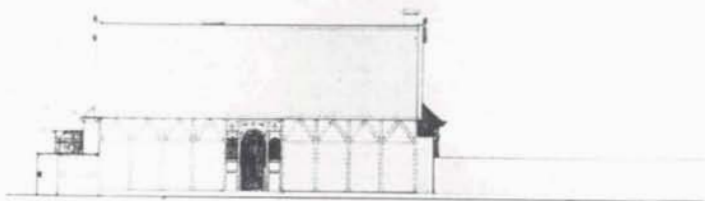
Christchurch Club arcade

is not clear it may well have served as a business entrance while Seager conducted his architectural practice on the site.

Changes to the building since Seager's time have left the exterior of his additions virtually unchanged. The roofline of the original house was modified during Dr Anderson's ownership when two sunrooms were added above the single storey section at the rear of the house. This addition has spoiled the line of the original gable although the outline of the original form of the house can still be seen in the brickwork. The Andersons lowered the hall ceiling, and



1924 brick addition



STREET FRONTAGE



GARDEN FRONTAGE



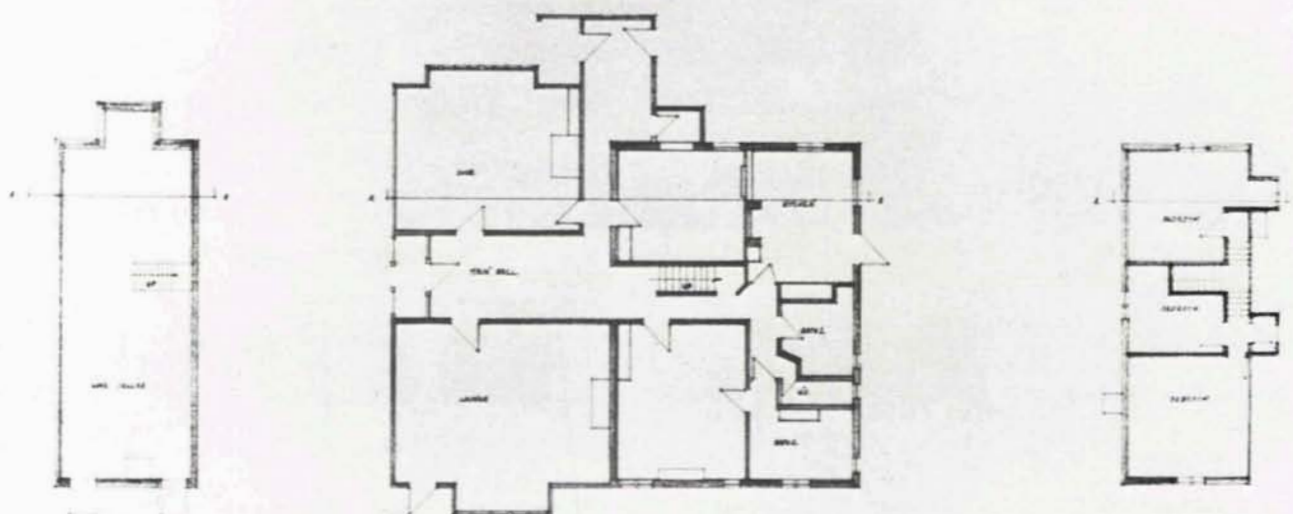
REAR ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION

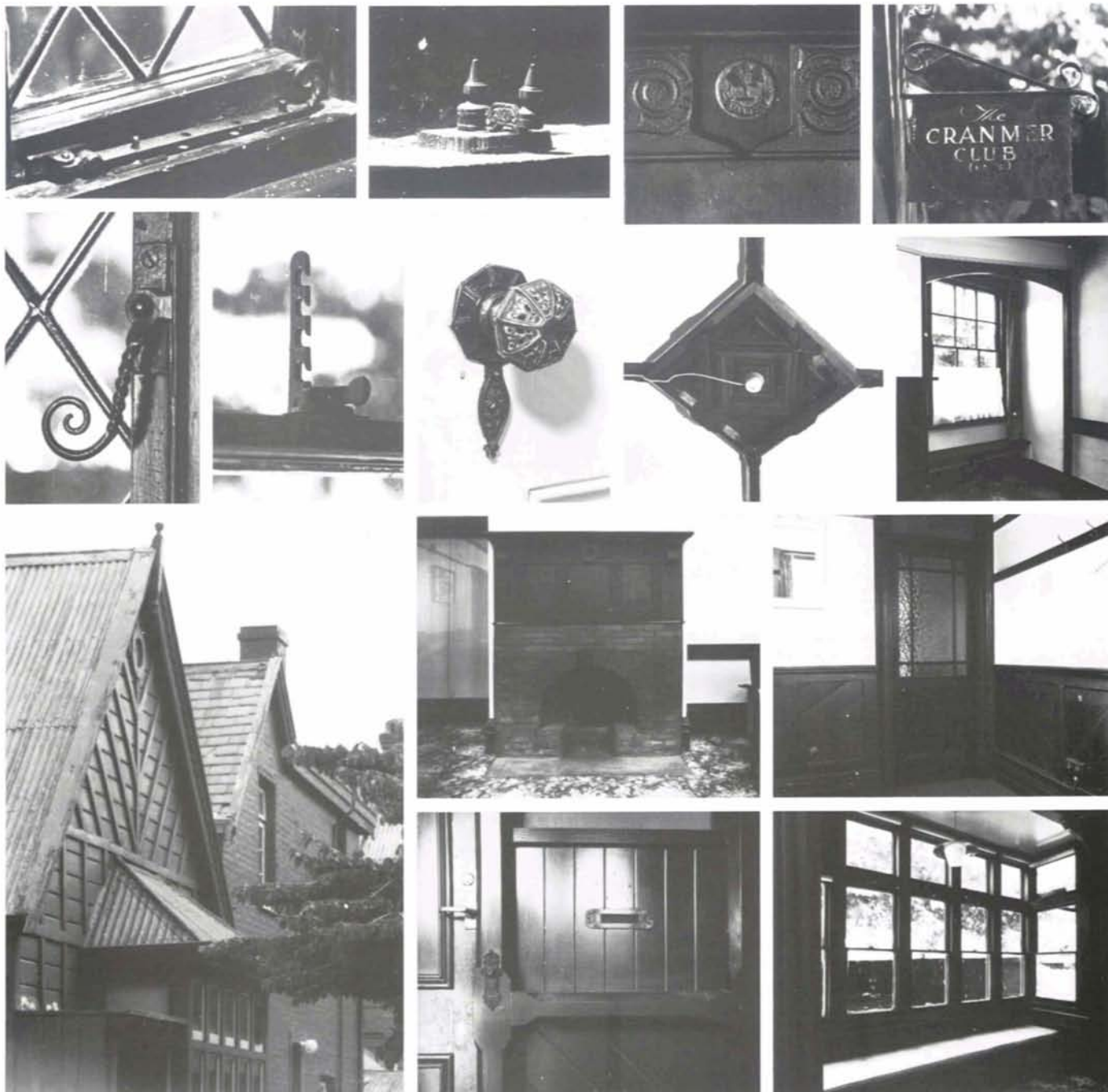


SECTION AA



a heavy felt-covered door separated the surgery from the family part of the house. The colour of the house has darkened with successive paintings over the years. Other minor changes were made to the interior by the present owners, the Cranmer Bridge Club. In 1968 the installation of a sliding door between two rooms linked the Seager addition to the original Macfarlane house. Some rooms were given new uses: the former surgery and waiting room became the women's powder room and the men's cloak room respectively; the former bathroom became the Secretary's office. However, much of the interior's original character and many attractive details have survived.

One of the building's most noticeable features is its deep red colour. This is almost certainly another of Seager's legacies as red ochre was a colour of which he was especially fond and one which he employed extensively on the cottages he designed and built on Clifton Spur in the years just after the completion of his additions. The red walls not only create a pleasing complement to the green of Cranmer Square but also emphasise the mass of the wooden sections of the building, giving them a solidity and weight to match that of Macfarlane's original brick house.



Conclusion

The history of the Cranmer Club building has been one of addition and adaption to suit the needs and interests of its owners. From its solid but simple beginnings, it has evolved into a building of considerable architectural and historical interest. While the present-day architectural character of the Club owes much to Hurst Seager, the building's association with the distinguished and sometimes colourful careers of other owners gives it added interest. The Red House is therefore more than just an important element in Christchurch's streetscape. It is also a vital link with the city's past.



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