



THE CHRISTCHURCH CIVIC TRUST (Incorporating EnVO)
(Incorporated under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957)

P.O. Box 1927, Christchurch, New Zealand

19 September 2000

Dear Member

There are several community issues and events affecting the Civic Trust that we need to tell you about before the next issue of the Civic Trust News and these are outlined below.

Millennium Foot Bridge.

You may have read in the newspaper that the Civic Trust, Merivale Precinct Society and a Park Terrace resident have lodged an application to appeal the erection of the Millennium footbridge across the Avon River in Park Terrace. The Trust is prepared to assist with this appeal, but is not prepared to spend a considerable amount of its funds to engage in the legal process. We have agreed to circulate our members so that they may have the opportunity to contribute to an appeal fund set up by the Civic Trust. The Merivale Precinct Society has also circulated its members for the same purpose and an extract from their newsletter is attached to this letter. If the appeal does not go ahead for some reason, donations will be returned to the donor. Send donations to Civic Trust, P O Box 1927, Christchurch.

Former McKellar and Fleming houses (Wesley Lodge) Park Terrace.

Wesley Lodge has been closed and the stately homes it occupied have been under threat of demolition for some time. A group set up by Cr. Judy Waters has been running a buy-a-brick campaign to raise funds to purchase the properties. The group has organised a conducted tour of the site by Dr Ruth Helm during the upcoming Heritage Week on Sunday October 15, at 11.30 am. Visitors will be encouraged to buy bricks. Bricks may also be bought by sending your donation (\$10 per brick) to Christchurch Heritage Trust P O Box 2367, Christchurch.

Since the campaign was started, another prospective buyer has made a conditional offer on the properties. If this offer falls through, we need to be ready to promptly proceed with securing the property as the risk of demolition will increase. In the event of the property being sold, the donations collected will be used to place a Heritage Covenant on the buildings to ensure they are not destroyed or devalued in future years by subsequent owners.

Other concerns.

Our involvement in the above issues has led to recent newspaper comment that the Civic Trust is part of a conservative sector of the community that opposes change in the city. Nothing could be further from the truth!

For thirty years the Civic Trust has fought to retain and protect notable heritage and amenity features which make Christchurch stand out from other cities. Strangely, this objective is seen as highly desirable by modern marketing experts – in their parlance, this "point of difference" is what attracts visitors. Wellington City has financially profited from its recent work on retaining their heritage sites.

Our forefathers planned this city very well and endowed it with many admirable buildings and open spaces. We do not apologise for wanting to retain and maintain the best and/or unique

features passed down to us. Nor do we apologise for objecting to developments that fail to respect the environment in which they are standing.

We acknowledge that it is necessary for the central city to have suitable new developments if it is to remain commercially viable – it is only marginally so at this time. Heritage buildings will not survive unless they are largely self-supporting and that requires a significant amount of healthy commercial activity in the surrounding area. The Civic Trust supports well-conceived, appropriately designed developments that will enhance and be of long term benefit to the city.

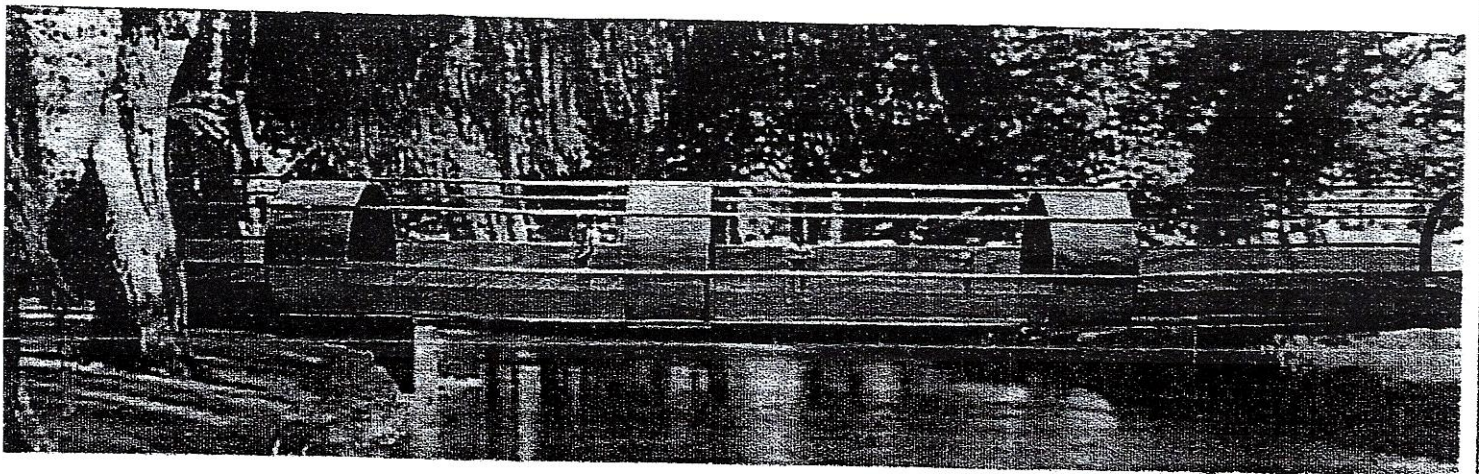
We appreciate your continuing support, we invite your comments and contributions and ask you to consider the appeals outlined above.

Yours faithfully



Ronald L Fussell
Chairman

THE MILLENNIUM FOOTBRIDGE



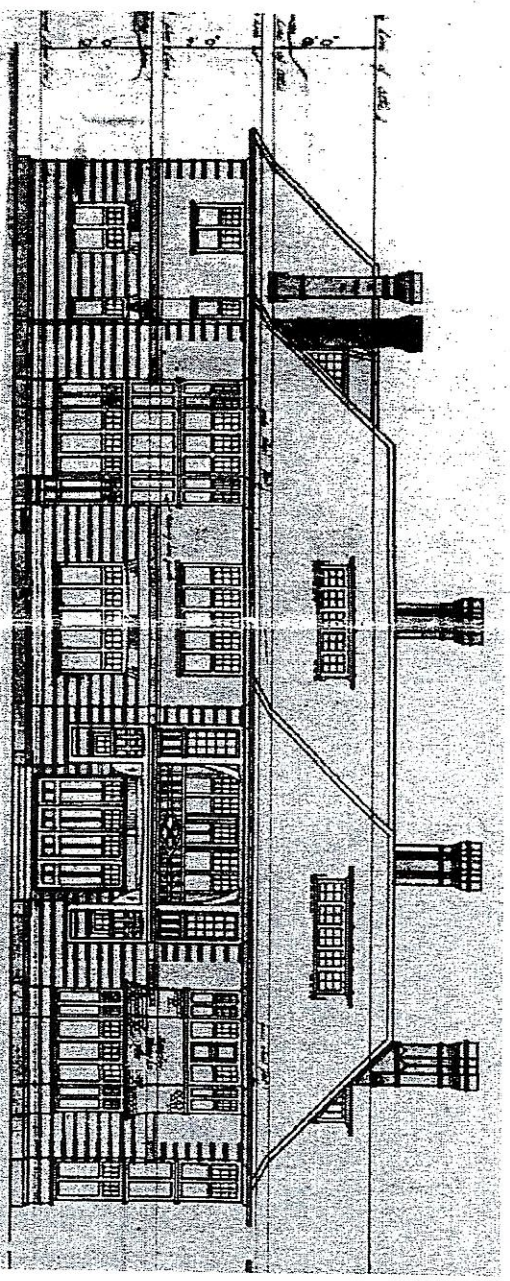
Merivale Precinct Society has lodged jointly with the Civic Trust an application to appeal the siting of the Millennium footbridge in Park Terrace opposite Dorset Street. The Society has received numerous calls from members and the public opposing the bridge, mainly for aesthetic reasons. The appeal will involve some considerable expense and therefore donations are being sought from the community to cover the costs. Can you help? Cheques should be made payable to: "Millennium Bridge Environment Court Appeal", Box 1927., Christchurch. All donations will be very gratefully received and acknowledged. Some fundraising events are also planned so watch this space. For further information please contact Gina Williamson ph. 355.7883.

Help protect

our domestic

HERITAGE

Make a donation to assist the retention of these two significant dwellings through the 'buy a brick' campaign. The campaign was initiated by Canterbury Regional Council, Judy Waters. Its focus is to ensure the retention of the McKellar and Fleming Houses in Park Terrace. (Currently under threat of demolition, these two significant Christchurch homes could be saved in much the same way Mona Vale was saved, through Community awareness and effort.) Funds will be held by the Christchurch Heritage Trust and used to assist the owners in the conservation and restoration of the two houses.

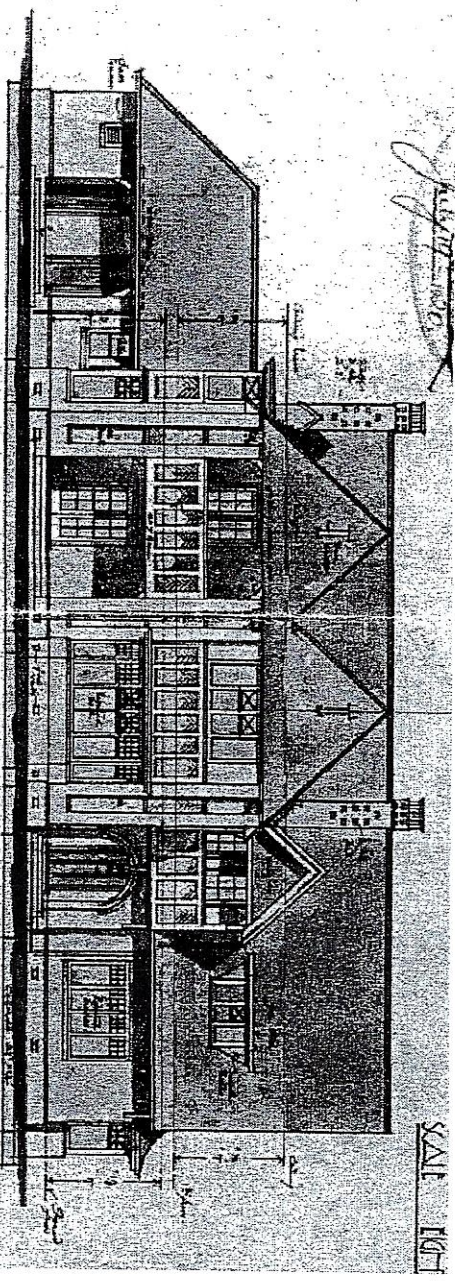


McKellar House

Built in 1912 for McKellar family
Designed by Samuel Hurst Seager

Project no. 100

SCALE 1:100



Fleming House

Built in 1926 for Fleming family

Buy a Brick' and help save these houses from demolition.

Please accept my donation of:

\$10

\$50

specify

Name _____

Address _____

For further information contact:
Judy Waters
Ph 355 5691
judy.waters@ecan.govt.nz

All contributions to the campaign will receive a certificate of acknowledgement.

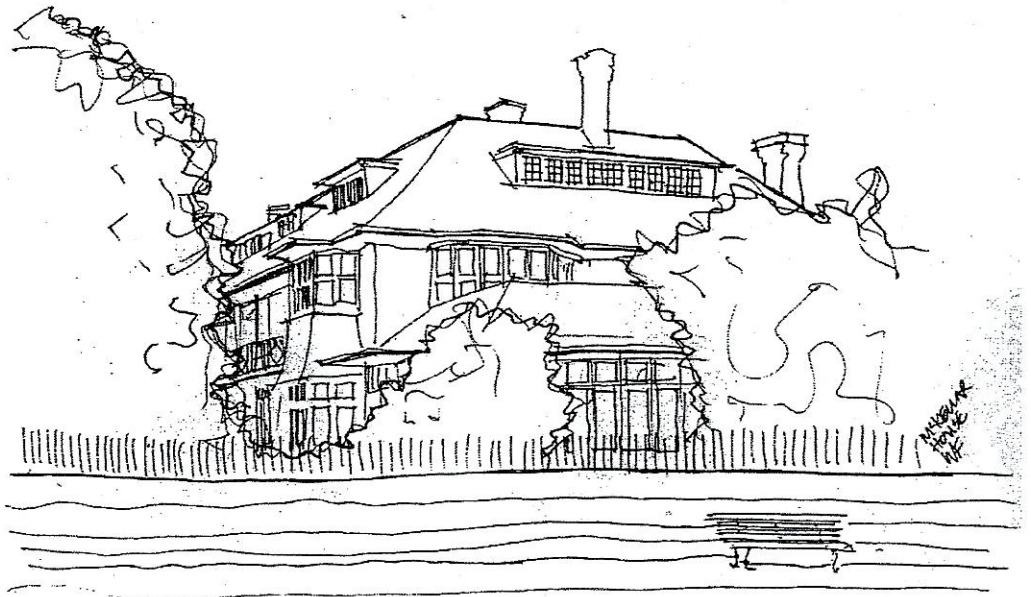
These two houses are unique examples of Edwardian Arts and Crafts architecture. They make an invaluable contribution to the built heritage fabric of the City.

The McKellar House (1912) and the Fleming House (1926) sit at the northwest entrance to the city opposite Hagley Park and Carlton Mill corner.

Designed by noted local architects Samuel Hurst Seager and Cecil Wood, the two houses form a gateway to the domestic architecture of the inner city.

The houses sit together on one site and provide living examples of residential architectural development of early 20th Century Christchurch.

The houses formed part of Wesley Lodge, Rest-home for the Elderly, run by the Methodist Church Mission until 1997.



Donations made payable and posted to:

CHRISTCHURCH HERITAGE TRUST
PO BOX 2367
CHRISTCHURCH.

Patron: Diana, Lady Isaac
Trustees: Mr Derek Anderson (Chair)
Councillor Anna Crighton
Mr Ian Clark
Mr Hamish Doig

All contributions to the campaign will receive a certificate of acknowledgement.