

sion started to be felt and the prospect of a new school being built began to retreat.

Meantime the Ross property was used as a hostel for a short time before being demolished and the land reverted once more to rough ground. In 1936 prospects for a new art school began to return and preliminary sketch plans were drawn up but there were further delays and nothing was resolved.

With the outbreak of War in 1939 the chances of a new art school being built became more remote. However in 1948 hope returned and the architect George A J Hart was invited to prepare plans for a 1350 sq metre building that would face Gloucester Street.

By March, approval to build had been given by the Christchurch City Council, and the Minister of Education T H McCombs but a decision to relocate certain University departments to Ilam changed these plans. By December 1949 the Director of Education declared that only one building project could be afforded and a new School of Engineering had greater priority. The idea of a new art school was abandoned.

Early in 1950 the School of Art was made a special school within the University and could no longer be considered independent.

This changed forever the opportunity to use the Ross property and the Minister of Education instructed the University Council to hand over this site for other education purposes.

The University Council cooperated and the rough ground was levelled and asphalted for use by Christchurch Girls High School as tennis courts. The historian T.E.Carter wrote in 'A History of the University of Canterbury' that "in terms of real estate they were the most expensive as well as the most ugly tennis courts in Christchurch."

These courts were to dominate the Gloucester/Montreal Street corner until 1987 when they were acquired with other properties for redevelopment as a site for a major tourist hotel.

Once more this corner awaits a new identity.

Neil Roberts. Senior Curator

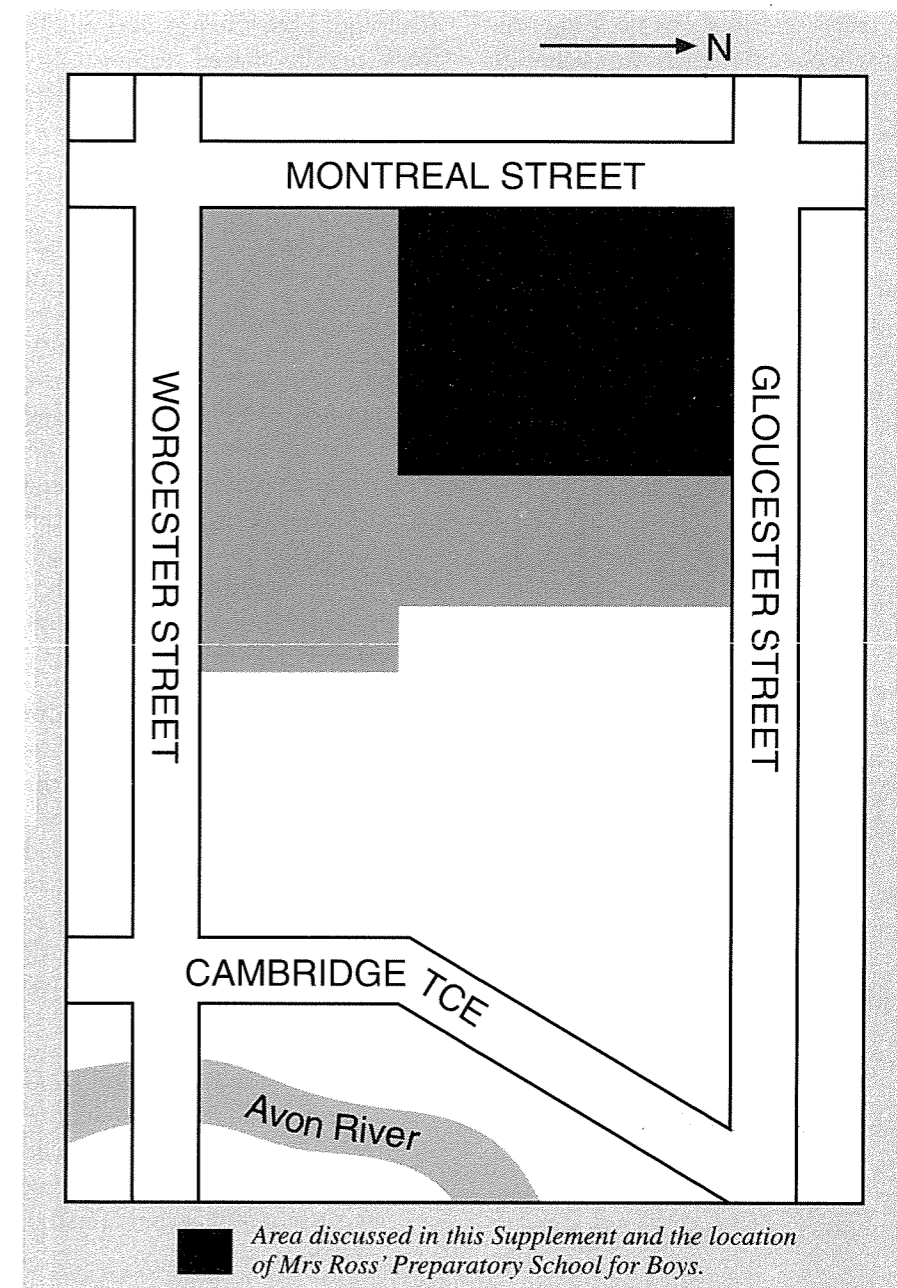
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October - November 1996

The History of the New Gallery Site

SUPPLEMENT to The Robert McDougall Art Gallery Bulletin



History of the New Art Gallery Site I

Recently the Christchurch City Council purchased an inner city site bounded by Worcester Boulevard, Montreal and Gloucester Streets on which a new art gallery will be built early in the 21st century.

The site today presents a rather uninteresting lot used for car parking and few may realise that in the past it has had many far from uninteresting occupants. Curiously enough many of the ingredients that involve culture, education and merchandising that will form part of the mission of the new gallery have occurred already on this site.

Among the occupants there has been

a school, a church, a motor dealership and many notable residents including architects, musicians, teachers and other professionals. Had history taken a different turn there would also have been a School of Art. Over the next four issues supplements to *Bulletin* will explore some of the history of the new art gallery site.

Beginnings

The earliest occupants, as with the rest of inner Christchurch west of the Avon River, were Maori. For centuries kainga had been established and all the land in the vicinity was utilised for food gathering and in some instances, places of burial.

By 1850 this area was no longer intensely occupied by Maori although evidence of their history there remained. With the arrival of European settlers the shape of what was really no more than rough dunes was to change.

Early in 1851 the Canterbury Association began subdivision of Christchurch into town sections numbered and allotted to early colonists. The new art gallery site originally comprised eight town sections, lots 386 - 393. Of these lots 386, 387, 389, 391 and 393 were granted to Mr Robert Chapman and 388, 390, and 392 to the Church Property Trustees.

For almost twenty years this land remained unoccupied as fenced rough ground until 1871 when sections 387 and 389 on the corner of Montreal and Gloucester Streets were acquired by George and Sibella Ross for their Preparatory Boys day and boarding school. Over the following sixty-eight years the two storey corrugated iron house with its distinctive three storey tower was a landmark on this corner.

Often dubbed the 'tin house' it was also named by pupils of the school the 'tin castle' or, because of its lattice paned windows, the 'tin prison.'

Although both George and Sibella Ross initially shared responsibility for the school, it was generally known as Mrs Ross' school.

George and Sibella Ross

Even though he performed a lesser role in the school, George Arthur Emileus Ross (1829 -1876) was an important early Canterbury identity. Born in Edinburgh he was the youngest son of Edward D Ross and Euphemia Gardner. Following his formative education he continued his studies at Oxford University but the strain of study and over-work took their toll and before completing his degree, Ross had a serious breakdown.

In an attempt to restore his health he decided to leave England for New Zealand where a distant relative, the Reverend James Wilson, had gone to live in Christchurch. Ross arrived at Lyttelton on board the *Fatima* on 27 December 1851 and soon after was offered a cadetship on T H Tancred's *Malvern Hills* station.

Within a short time Ross also developed an interest in local politics and in 1853 he became the first Clerk of the Provincial Council, a position he held for five years. The following year he purchased, in partnership

with Charles Harper, the *Waireka* station which lay between the Hawkins and Selwyn Rivers. Over the next decade or so they purchased several other properties and engaged in other land ventures with disastrous consequences.

By 1858 Ross had become the elected member for Rakaia in the Provincial Government. However, that year he also became ill again and stayed with James Wilson and his family at *Dallatur* St Martin's to recuperate.

James Wilson (1813 - 1886) later archdeacon of Akaroa was educated at Edinburgh Academy and Trinity College, Cambridge. In 1837 he married Sibella Anne Morison who soon after began to develop poor health. By 1850 she was advised to seek a better climate. Early in 1851 Wilson, his wife and family of five daughters sailed for New Zealand on the *Isabella Hercus* which arrived at Lyttelton on 1 March.

The family settled at St Martins, where Wilson developed a farm named *Dallatur*, and his name was given to the road which ran past his property. It was while he was recovering his health that Ross got to know Sibella the eldest daughter of the Wilson family, who was then just

18. They became engaged in December 1858 and were married on 2 March the following year at the temporary church which stood close to the Christchurch Wharf on the Heathcote River. After their marriage George and Sibella Ross lived at *Waireka* station. There was no homestead only a woolshed and they occupied two rooms screened off in this.

Despite the primitive conditions, and being a six hour ride from Christchurch, *Waireka* was on the main road west and the Ross family were never short of visitors. Over the following few years the family also began to grow and George and Sibella Ross were eventually to have a family of eight children.

In 1862, with a potentially better prospect in sight, Ross and Harper sold *Waireka* to purchase *Lake Coleridge* station. They also took over the lease on the *Mt Algidus*, *Mt Fourpeaks* and *Clayton* stations and Ross held 28 hectares at West Melton.

From 1863 to 1865 he was part of the Executive of the Provincial Government as Provincial Treasurer. It was in honour of this office that his name was given to the Westland goldmining town 31km south of Hokitika which bears it to this day. The early 1860s were good years for the Ross family but George Ross was over committed. He was not a good businessman and financial trouble began to loom.

The winter of 1867 was disastrous for back country runholders, with heavy snow falls and large stock losses, and Harper and Ross suffered badly with the result that Ross was declared bankrupt. The strain was once again too much and he had a total physical and mental collapse and was too ill to appear at the court hearing in January 1868.

The family moved to live at *Broomfield*, Archdeacon Wilson's property at Upper Riccarton where Ross could restore his health. Wilson decided to give the Ross fam-

ily a new start. He purchased a site on the corner of Peterborough and Montreal streets on which he had a small school built that would be run by his daughter Sibella and George Ross jointly.

Having a sick husband, it was clear that Sibella had to take over the burden of the family and support her seven children. Mrs Ross' Preparatory School for Boys as it was known opened in February 1869 with seven pupils, mostly boarders. All except one were members of the Knight family. The other was the son of architect Frederick Strouts.

During the first year, the school was successful and in 1870 new dormitories were added. However a more central location was sought, and in 1871 Wilson assisted his daughter and son-in-law once again and purchased land on the corner of Gloucester and Montreal Streets on which to relocate the school. Slowly the distinctive corrugated iron building rose on the site and the more recently constructed dormitories were moved from Peterborough Street and positioned beside the Ross house facing Montreal Street, linked by a covered passage way.

By January 1872 all was ready for the first term which commenced on 26 February. As well as George and Sibella Ross the school had two assistants; Gertrude Coward and Basil K G Lawrence who for many years also lived with the Ross family. In 1875 the school had an outbreak of measles and the top room of the tower was made into an isolation hospital. Sibella Ross was also ill that year and George Ross' health began to decline. It did not improve greatly thereafter with the result that he died on 23 November 1876 aged 48. At his death he left a 36 year old widow, four sons and four daughters all in their adolescence. Sibella continued running the school until the end of 1877. A former pupil George Mannering stated in his autobiography that 'she was much loved by the boys'.

After closing the school she let the

empty dormitories to lodgers. In one of the smaller empty rooms dances were held fortnightly between 7.30 - 10.30pm. The closure of the Ross school encouraged the Reverend Charles Turrell to move his school for gentlemen at Riccarton back into town and in December 1881 he moved in next door to Sibella Ross in Gloucester Street.

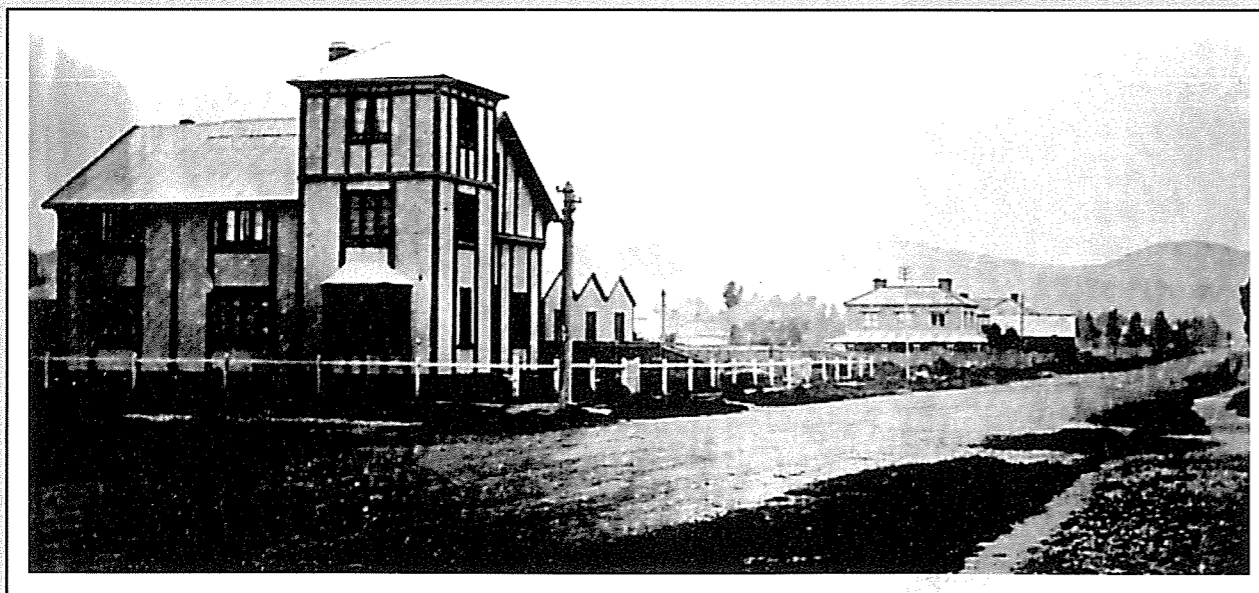
Sibella Ross' four sons entered various professions and the daughters became teachers. By 1900 all but Euphemia and Rachel were married. Both sisters remained living with their mother up until the time of her death. Rachel Ross was a music teacher and for many years sub-organist at Christchurch Cathedral. Sibella Ross died at her home on 7 September 1929 aged 89 years and was buried in St Peters Churchyard, Riccarton.

Her obituary in the *Christchurch Times* described her as, 'a cultured woman with wide sympathies and a serene and tolerant outlook on life. Her charming personality won for her many friends.' As the Ross property had been held in trust as part of Archdeacon Wilson's estate since 1886 it had to be sold. On 17 December 1929 it was offered for sale at public auction and was purchased for £5600 by Canterbury College as a potential site for a new art school.

The Board of Governors of Canterbury College had had the idea of establishing a separate art school building for some time but only in 1929 had they decided to put it into effect.

A New School of Art

By the late 1920s expansion in the roll at Canterbury College School of Art led to a critical shortage of space and there was also a keenness on the part of the Director Richard Wallwork that the school should be relocated in a new building established as a separate school. His efforts it seemed were to be rewarded, but by 1930 the economic depres-



Mrs Ross' School, October 1872. Photograph A.C. Barker, by courtesy of Canterbury Museum.



Deutsch Kirche c1890. Bradley & Co. photograph, courtesy of Canterbury Museum

By May of 1932 it had been proposed that, as the old German church was no longer meeting the needs of the new congregation, it and the site should be sold. It was felt that the site on the corner of Worcester and Montreal Streets was unsuitable for the church to do its work. Tenders were called for the church's removal, but they aroused little interest. So the decision to relocate was reversed and plans for a new church on the site were drawn up.

On 17 April 1933, the foundation stone for the new building for St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church was laid. At the time the rear of the old church had been demolished to make way for the new, more simple, single storey brick structure. More modest than its predecessor, this church was dedicated on 11 June 1933. It remained on the site, serving its congregation, until 1987 when it was ac-

quired with other properties for redevelopment as a site for a major tourist hotel.

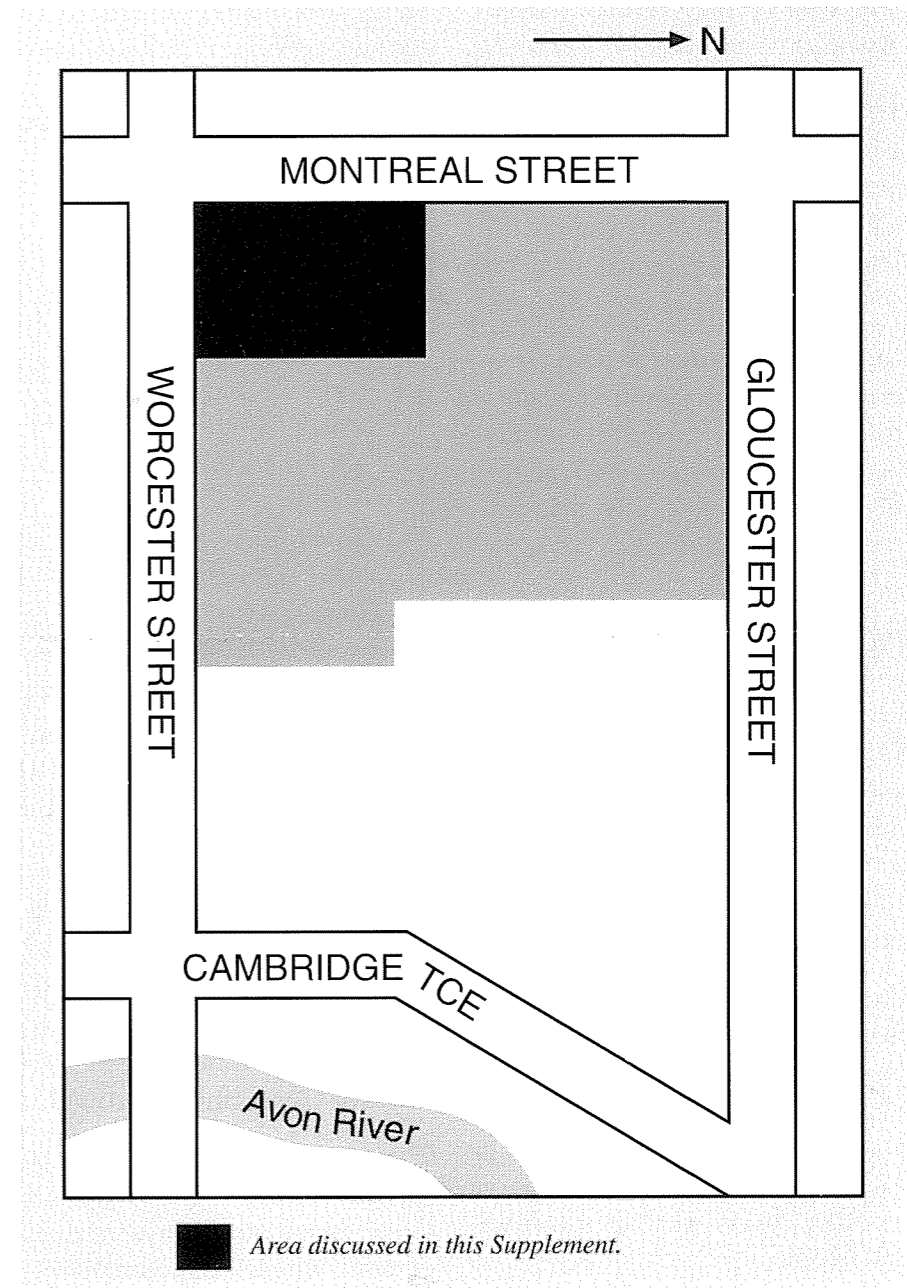
Of all the early structures which stood on the new art gallery site, the two churches were the most public. It is fitting perhaps that the new art gallery entrance will probably be very near where these once stood.

Neil Roberts, Senior Curator

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The History of the New Gallery Site

SUPPLEMENT to The Robert McDougall Art Gallery Bulletin



History of the New Art Gallery Site II

Recently the Christchurch City Council purchased the inner city site bounded by Worcester Boulevard, Montreal and Gloucester Streets.

In these supplements to the Bulletin, we are exploring the history of this site.

This issue will focus on the Montreal Street, Worcester Boulevard corner.

Beginnings

The earliest occupants, as with the rest of inner Christchurch west of the Avon River, were Maori. For

centuries kainga had been established and much of the land in the vicinity was utilised for food gathering. With the arrival of European settlers however the nature of what were no more than rough dunes was to change.

Early in 1851 the Canterbury Association began the subdivision of Christchurch into town sections. This corner of Montreal St and Worcester Boulevard was one of five allotments made to Mr Robert Chapman. But for two decades the corner remained as unoccupied, fenced, rough ground. In 1872, it

was sold to the German Benefit Association as a site for a church.

Deutsch Kirche

By 1870 a number of German and Scandinavian settlers had arrived in Canterbury, and more were to follow in 1872 on board the ship 'Friedelburg.'

In 1871 the German Benefit Association was formed with the objective of assisting settlers of German nationality who were finding it difficult to assimilate into the Canterbury community.

The Association was also keen to provide a church in which services could be conducted in the German language. As a result of an appeal £550 was secured by subscription, and, as it was anticipated that many more German settlers would soon arrive in Canterbury, the Provincial Government also voted a grant of £250.

On 29 April 1872 the real estate firm of A. E. Alport negotiated the purchase of the corner site for £230. The Architect J.S.M. Jacobsen was approached and quickly drew up plans for a wooden church that would hold 230 people.

Tenders were soon called to erect the church and that of £725 by the builder John Greig was accepted. On 6 November 1872 a foundation stone was laid by the superintendent of the Provincial Government, William Rolleston.

Over 400 people attended this ceremony including the Primate of New Zealand and other clergy from a number of denominations.

Among the others gathered were the Mayor of Christchurch Henry Sawtell, the German Consul T.M. Hassall, and the Chancellor of the University of New Zealand H.J. Tancred.

Items were placed underneath the foundation stone with a parchment which stated;

"German Protestant Church. Established and built by German colonists in the province of Canterbury New Zealand by voluntary contributions given by them and their English fellows and also by the aid of a liberal grant from the Provincial Government for the purpose of having the word of God preached in the German language."

The wooden church that was built was a distinctive design with an equally distinctive bell tower, but no bells.

Church Bells

In 1873 the German residents held a meeting at which it was decided to write to the German Chancellor Otto von Bismark asking if the German Government could assist.

The response was positive and Bismark stated that the German Government would present a peal of bells which he recommended should be cast from French gun metal captured during the Franco-Prussian war.

On 21 December of that year J.G. Ruddenklau a prominent figure in the local German community, and later, from 1882 -1883 the Mayor of Christchurch, whilst on a visit to Germany took delivery of three bells. They had been cast by Collier and Co. in Berlin and together weighed more than a tonne.

Ruddenklau immediately arranged for the shipment of the bells to New Zealand and in May of 1874 they duly arrived. By December they had been set in the bell tower, and on Christmas Eve 1874 a ceremony

was held at which the bells were dedicated and their chimes were heard in Christchurch for the first time when "On earth peace and goodwill to all men" was rung out.

At that time the tower was incomplete and substantial fund raising occurred over the following three years to finish it.

The first pastor of the German Church was the Reverend L Lohr. He remained until 1878 when he decided to return to Germany.

His successor was Pastor P.G. Jacobsen who was quite strict in Lutheran practice. Unfortunately as the church had been founded under the doctrine of the state church of Germany, this was not acceptable to all, and some dissension developed resulting in a sudden decline in the numbers of the congregation. By 1883 they had dwindled to such small numbers that Pastor Jacobsen left to live in California.

Services ceased and over the following decade the church was leased to the 'Canterbury Free Thinkers Society' and for a time it became known as the 'Free Thought Hall.'

However in the early 1890s there was a keenness for the church to continue, and in 1892 the Reverend T.A. Meyer, who also held a curacy of the Anglican Church, was able to take services in German. He remained with the church until 1904.

With his departure there was no pastor and services lapsed. The church was again rented, this time to the Spiritualist Society for their meetings. For some years earlier this century it was called the 'Spiritualist Hall.'

In 1914 on the outbreak of war with Germany, the church was confiscated by the New Zealand



The breaking up of the German Church bells in W.H. Price & Sons yard 1918. Weekly Press photograph, courtesy of Canterbury Museum.

Government, although it continued to be used for Spiritualist meetings.

Destruction of the Bells

As the war with Germany continued so too did objections to the German Church bells as they had been presented by the German Government.

The bells had always been a source of irritation to Canterbury people of French descent, but by 1918, feelings were running high against what they saw as symbols expressive of German nationalism. There were demands from an extremist faction in the community that the bells be torn down as they were an 'affront to the allies.'

A group of young Christchurch men formed a plan to take the bells down, but were eventually persuaded not to act as representations were being made to members of Parliament. The decision to remove the bells was finally given ministerial blessing, and, on 17 July

1918, they were taken down in the name of cultural sensitivity and carted to a local foundry where they were ceremonially broken up. The metal was later sold for £116.

Up to that time these bells were considered to have the best peal in the city. Unfortunately when they were melted down, it was found that the metal could not have come from captured French cannon as it had been thought.

The fervour for their wanton destruction had been totally misguided.

As the belfry had no further use it was decided after a few years that it should also be removed.

The Lutheran Church

Despite the vicissitudes that the church had gone through it still had its followers, and in 1922 they successfully petitioned the New Zealand Government to hand over the property to the Evangelical Lutheran Concordia Conference of New Zealand.

The Concordia had been formed in 1907 when the many Lutheran congregations throughout New Zealand (with the exception of Canterbury) joined together. However, the Concordia still retained its original identity as a German State Church.

A new pastor, the Reverend R.H. Altus was appointed to minister what had become St Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Worcester Street and he resumed services there from Easter, 1923. The congregation comprised mostly new members, as few from the old church wanted to be associated with it.

In due course the government refunded rent money received from the Spiritualist Society and eventually compensation was also paid for the destruction of the bells.

A New Church

In 1930 the Reverend H Treager became pastor and began to revitalise the church and its congregation increased.

A keen interest in the motor industry was shared by Crozier's son Clive, who was made general manager of the company, a position he held up until his untimely death in 1942.

During the 1930s considerable advances were made in the company and in 1937 the Worcester Street frontage was modernised and extended. Following Clive Crozier's death, his position in the company was taken by Mr John M Blyth. David Crozier remained as chairman and governing director although in semi-retirement, devoting more time to sporting interests that included yachting. For many years he was Commodore of the Waimakariri Sailing and Power Club. In 1947 aged 77 he built himself a six metre yacht 'Davelin' which he raced.

By 1949 David Crozier Motors Limited had also taken over Larges Rental Car premises one door up on Worcester Street, and when Archibald Nicoll had to move from his studio of many years at 97 Cambridge Terrace, David Crozier offered him space on the first floor and declined to charge him rent.

Nicoll painted Crozier's portrait (illustrated) around 1950. This

painting is currently on long term loan to the gallery from Mr D Nicholls, David Crozier's grandson.

Change

When David Crozier died in 1951 the controlling interest in the company passed to his wife, Mrs Ellen Crozier, with Mr John Blyth as chairman and governing director. Mrs Crozier died in 1955. During the 1950s and 1960s David Crozier Limited expanded its operation forming branches at Victoria Street, Greymouth, Rangiora, and Amberley. By 1970 they also held the dealership for the Massey Ferguson tractor. This growth was also matched at the Worcester Street premises which were gradually expanded, taking over nearby properties until the company also had a frontage on Gloucester Street. By September 1969, when a new 1600m² showroom was opened, David Crozier Limited occupied almost two thirds of what is now the new art gallery site.

The late 1960s saw some more changes which started in December 1968, when the company merged first with South Island Motors and then with Austin Motors, Otago. In 1970, after 51 years,

David Crozier Limited was absorbed into the national New Zealand Motor Corporation which in turn was also consumed in a 1980s take-over leading to the eventual sale of the Worcester Street premises.

In 1987 the site was acquired with other properties for redevelopment; and the buildings demolished. Today little sign remains of the 75 years of commercial activity apart from the concrete foundations. However we are advised that, whilst the buildings of David Crozier Limited may have gone from the surface of the site, some relics of the motor trade remain as over the years large quantities of car parts were buried beneath the ground. It will be interesting to see what turns up when excavation begins for the new gallery.

Maybe one of our New Gallery fundraising ventures could be a vintage carpart swop meet.

Neil Roberts
Senior Curator

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The Radiator, 15 June 1948 p 87
International Press *Who's Who NZ*, 1938 p 113
The Press, 18 September 1969 p 10
Conversations with Mr D Nicholls (Grandson of David Crozier)

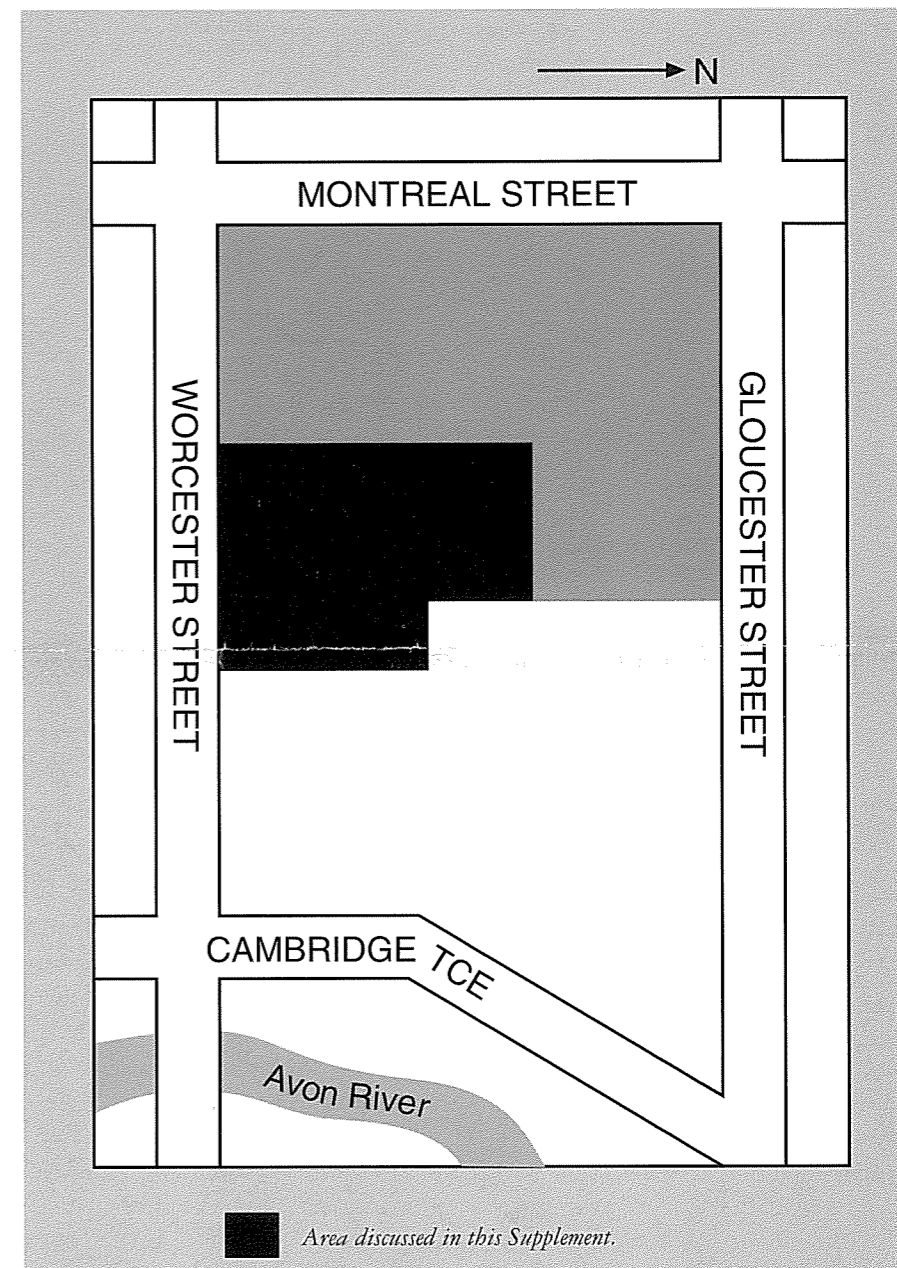


New Gloucester Street Showroom in 1969 (Photo courtesy of the Star Collection at the Canterbury Museum)

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February/March 1997

The History of the New Gallery Site

SUPPLEMENT to The Robert McDougall Art Gallery Bulletin



History of the New Art Gallery Site III

Recently the Christchurch City Council purchased a 7796m² inner city site bounded by Worcester Boulevard, Montreal and Gloucester Streets. In these supplements to the Bulletin we are exploring the history of the site.

This issue will focus on the eastern section facing Worcester Boulevard.

Beginning

The earliest occupants as with the rest of inner Christchurch west of the Avon River were Maori. For centuries kainga had been established and much of the land in the vicinity was utilised for food gathering. With the arrival of European settlers however, the nature of what

was no more than rough covered silt dunes was to change.

Early Occupants

Early in 1851 the Canterbury Association began the subdivision of Christchurch into town sections. This part of the new art gallery site was one of three sections allotted to the Anglican Church Property Trust. By the late 1860s a two storey residence had been built and stood on this site and by 1877 the area had been substantially enlarged and was surrounded by a garden with established trees. A decade later this property on 180 - 182 Worcester Street West was owned by Mr Morgan Archibald and by

the turn of the century it was the home of Mr Edgar Comerford an early Christchurch photographer. In 1912 the property was purchased by Dexter and Crozier and cleared to make way for their new showroom and motor garage.

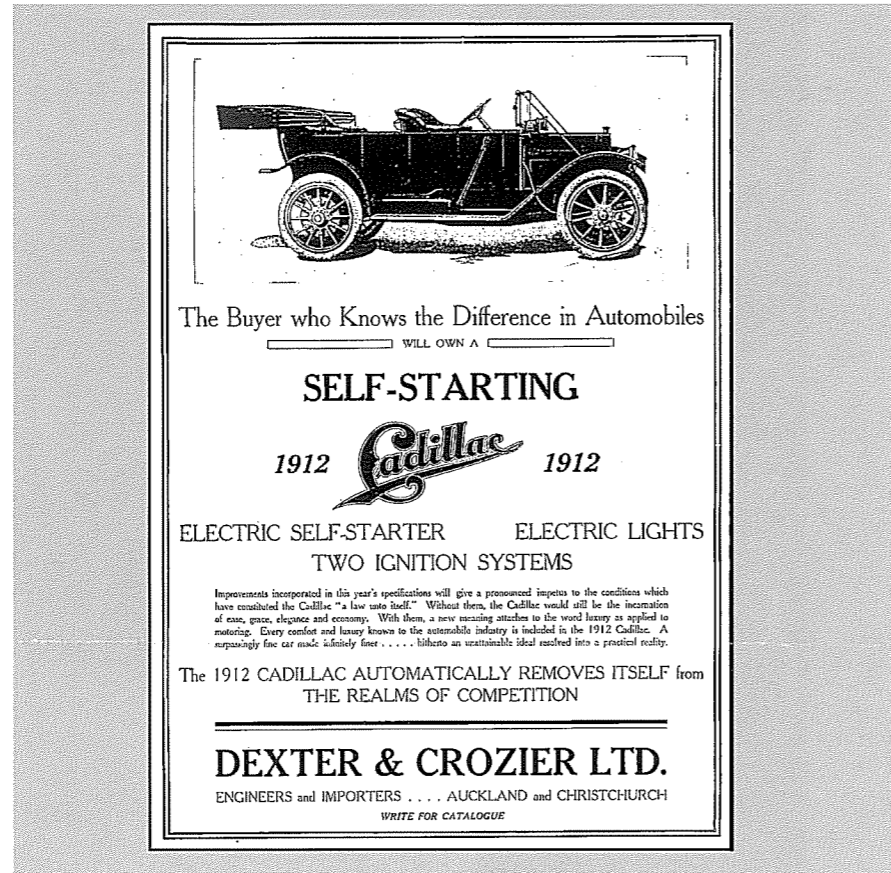
Dexter and Crozier

Dexter and Crozier had originally been established in 1896 in Auckland by Rueben Dexter and David Crozier at premises on Victoria Street, East. At first the company was a cycle importer and manufacturer specialising in Rambler Cycles which were brought into NZ from the USA. By the later 1890s, largely as a result of the foresight of David Crozier, the company had pioneered the importing of motor cycles beginning with a 'Thomas Autoley' in 1899, and an 'Indian' in 1901.

In 1903 David Crozier saw the future potential of the motor car and travelled to the United States to investigate first hand the motor industry there. As a result of that visit he was successful in gaining the agency for Cadillac in New Zealand. These early Cadillac cars were single cylinder machines, chain driven, with just two-seats. Within two years Dexter and Crozier were able to advertise that there were more Cadillacs in New Zealand than any other make of car.

In 1906 the company had a very successful stand in the Machine Hall of the New Zealand International Exhibition held in Hagley Park, and for this they were awarded a gold medal. Two years later the firm decided to open an office and garage in Manchester Street, Christchurch. Among the earliest customers were the New Zealand Express Company and Mr R E McDougall, the benefactor of this Gallery.

Within a few years the Manchester Street premises had become inadequate for the needs of the growing company and a decision was made to relocate to a site that had been



purchased at 57 - 59 Worcester Street West. There, in 1912, a new brick and stucco building of more than 1000m² was opened. It included a showroom, garage, and work and assembly shops. These new premises of Dexter and Crozier known as 'The Motor House' were considered to be the most exclusive and up-to-date of their type in New Zealand at that time.

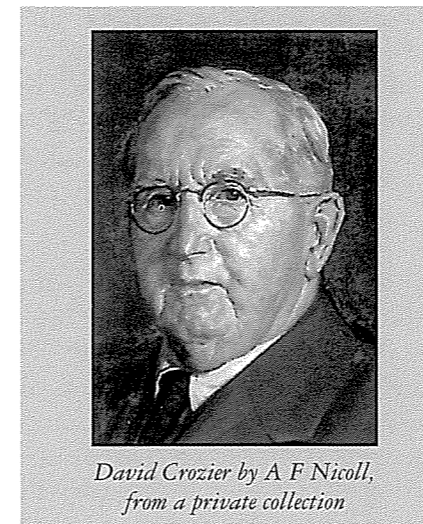
Not only were the premises the most modern, but in March 1912 Dexter and Crozier imported 30 new Cadillacs. These were self-starting with electric rather than kerosene or carbide lamps.

Between 1912 and 1918 other models were added to their showroom floor including; Oakland, Paige, Detroit D & C, Briscoe, Saxon, Maudin, Bean, Beloise and Thornycroft. In 1915 the company imported the first V type 8 cylinder vehicles and in 1917 the Cletrac which was the first caterpillar farm tractor to arrive in New Zealand.

Most of these vehicles were from the United States but in 1918 this was to change when the company

went British and gained an agency for Austin cars, thereby terminating a 14 year exclusive association with Cadillac. The early Austin cars were imported from the Longbridge works in England and were either fully assembled or just a chassis, the bodies being made in Christchurch by the coach builders Cooper and Pryce. The first Austin sold was a 20 hp tourer which cost the owner £635 - 10 - 1 out of which the company got £29-8-5.

In 1919 David Crozier and Rueben Dexter dissolved their partnership. Dexter continued to run the Auckland branch as Dexter Limited. On 20 November 1919 a new company was registered for the Worcester Street address as David Crozier Limited. The two principal shareholders were David Crozier and Andrew Hughes, who was in charge of the workshop and car assembly. The driving force of the company however was without question David Crozier who, as a businessman, was described as a man of vision, practicality, and high commercial integrity, who valued industry, loyalty and thrift.



David Crozier

David Crozier was born in Glasgow in January 1870 the son of Charles Crozier and Charlotte Matchinson, both of Irish decent. In 1874 his parents emigrated to New Zealand and settled in Auckland, where Crozier gained his formative education. Following this he commenced an apprenticeship in 1884 at the engineering and blacksmithing department of the Auckland Railway Workshops at Newmarket.

In 1891 he moved to Hawaii to take up a position in the engineering and blacksmithing department of the Ewa Sugar Plantation Company Honolulu, but within a year had

resigned to join the Honolulu Iron Works. During the five years he was in Hawaii, Crozier was also in the local militia which had the task of quelling two uprisings; one to overthrow the ruling Queen and her government, and the other to defend the provincial government when the Queen and her supporters tried to regain power.

In 1896 Crozier returned to live in Auckland and soon after formed a partnership with Rueben Dexter. Crozier was a keen sportsman all of his life and at this time his particular interest was in cycling. He competed in many cycle races and in 1902 was elected president of the Auckland Cycle Club. Crozier married Ellen Spargo at St Paul's Church Symond Street in 1898. Mrs Crozier was later to develop a strong interest in motoring and was one of the first three woman in Auckland to obtain a driving licence.

From 1904 to 1907 Crozier, often accompanied by his wife, took part in motor trials in Auckland. In 1906 Mrs Crozier drove from Auckland to Wellington, a journey that took her six days to complete.

After 1906 David Crozier began attending motor trials in the South

Island. He also acted as his own salesman at this time often travelling long distances throughout New Zealand and to remote areas, seeking orders for his Cadillac cars.

When in 1908 Dexter and Crozier opened a branch in Christchurch, Crozier moved down from Auckland to manage the office, but it was not until 1919 when he founded David Crozier Limited, that he was able to fully develop his vision for the motor trade. One of the activities of the new company was their involvement in the first large motor show in New Zealand called the Olympia Motor Exhibition. It was held at the Colosseum in Gloucester Street. David Crozier Limited's stand was a central feature of the show and gained high commendation for its exhibits. This was to be the first participation in a number of Olympia motor shows over subsequent years.

In 1920 Crozier was elected Dominion President of the Motor Trade Association of which he had been a member since its inception. He became chairman of the Worcester Finance Company, Director of Austin Federation NZ Limited, and Associated Motor Industries Limited.



David Crozier Limited Worcester Street c1955 (Courtesy of D N Nicholls)



Frederick Strouts

There were several other residents at 58 Gloucester St after Lambert. In 1892 it became the family home of **Frederick Strouts** his former partner. Strouts was born in England in 1834 and it was there he trained as an architect.

He arrived in Canterbury in 1859 with his brother-in-law James George Hawkes with whom he set up a business that included various activities including ironmongery, land agency and surveying. This business was declared bankrupt in 1872. During the 1860s Strouts was also doing a certain amount of design work as well as supervising projects initiated by other architects.

In 1861 he married Charlotte Rosa Lock Sparshott and the first of his five children was born two years later. In 1868 they returned to England and the following year Strouts was elected an Associate of

the Royal Institute of British Architects Following his return to Christchurch he became more involved in practicing his profession. In the 1870s and 80s, like T S Lambert who joined his practice from 1874 to 1877, his office was a very active one. Two of his most notable designs of that period which have survived are the model farm homestead at Lincoln designed in 1877, (now Ivey Hall Lincoln University) and Rhodes Convalescent Home, Cashmere, 1887.

Strouts played an important part in establishing the architectural profession in Christchurch and around 1872 joined Alexander Lean, B.W.Mountfort and W E Armson to form Canterbury's Association of Architects.

In 1908 John Terras Bell who lived at 'Whiteleigh', Addington, died and soon after Strouts and his wife left 58 Gloucester Street. Whether Bell's death influenced this move after sixteen years is uncertain but likely. Strouts died at his home in Kilmore Street in 1915.

John Terras Bell's daughter Gertrude Jane Bell had inherited 58 and 64 Gloucester Street in October 1909. She subdivided the property to create 62 Gloucester Street by reducing the property by half. This change is the reason for the irregular shape to the north east corner of the New Art Gallery site today.

The remainder of 58 Gloucester St was the home of Miss Janet Lucas from 1910

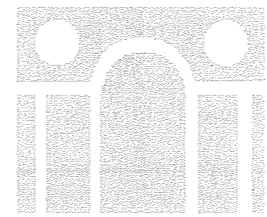
to 1915. It was then purchased by Miss Frances M Evans who shared the address with her two sisters Eva and Ann. Frances died in 1948 but her sisters remained there until 1954.

In 1955, 58 Gloucester St became the location for J Ilott Advertising Limited, with Ronald Scott, later Sir Ron Scott as manager. They remained there until 1968. Then it was redeveloped by David Crozier Limited for their Gloucester St Showroom.

In 1987 Windsor Central, a holding company for the Island of Nauru Government, purchased this property with the others that remained on the site and by the end of 1988 it had been returned to the vacant state it had been 177 years earlier.

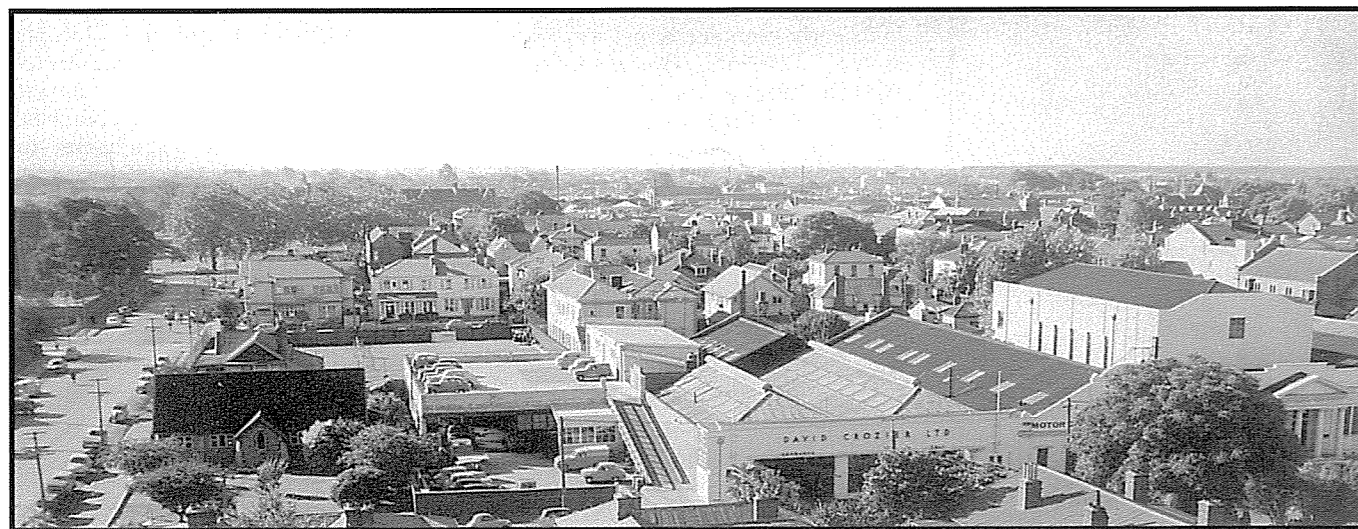
The history of nearly twelve decades on the site has revealed a rich and varied past. With these historical foundations the New Gallery cannot fail to have an equally rich future in the new century.

Neil Roberts



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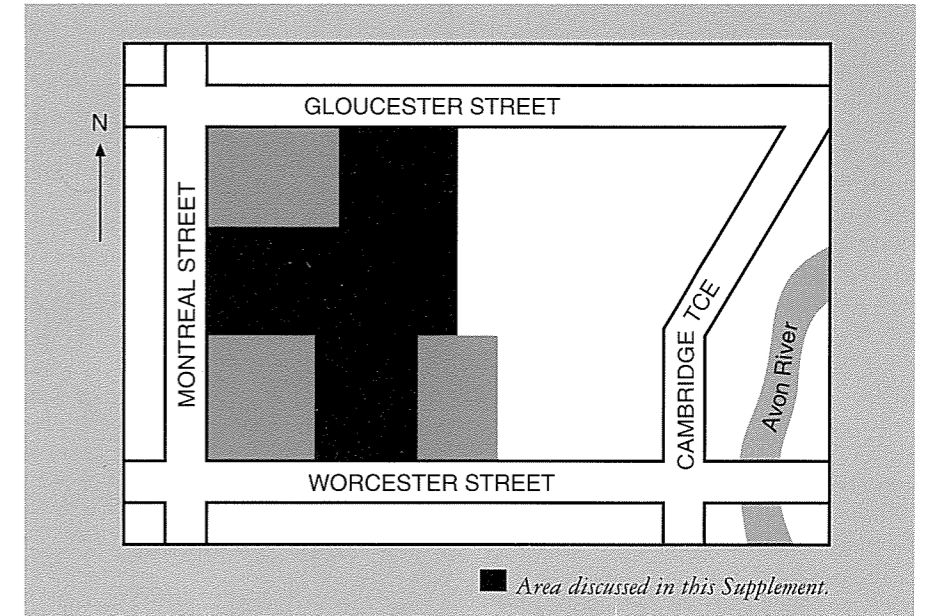
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Art Gallery site 1955 with houses still on Montreal and Gloucester Streets

The History of the New Gallery Site

SUPPLEMENT to The Robert McDougall Art Gallery Bulletin



History of the New Art Gallery Site IV

Recently the Christchurch City Council purchased an inner city site bounded by Worcester Boulevard, Montreal and Gloucester Streets.

In the last three supplements to the Bulletin, the history of some of the more prominent previous occupants of the site has been explored. These have included a school, a church, and a motor engineer and dealership. However, over the years the site was also home to many individual residents, who lived in one or other of the seven houses that faced either Worcester, Montreal or Gloucester Streets.

Residents of Worcester Street:

By 1877 three substantial houses had been built facing Worcester Street.

55 Worcester Street was one of these and the home of **Mr Archibald Morgan**, who in 1864 purchased two of the allotments sold to the Church Property Trustees by the Canterbury Association.

Born in 1824, Archibald Morgan entered the army at an early age and served with the 93rd Highlander regiment prior to coming to New Zealand with the rank of sergeant major. Morgan lived here mostly in retirement with his wife Emily, from the mid-1880s. It was here that he died in 1915 at the age of ninety. Only Mrs Sibella J Ross, who lived on the corner of Montreal and Gloucester Streets for 57 years, was a longer resident on the New Gallery site. In 1912 Morgan sold one of his properties to Dexter and Crozier. Later his house was transferred to them in 1915.

49 Worcester Street, the immediate neighbour of the German church, was initially the home of **Lewis Albert Elerig** and his wife and family. Elerig, a commercial traveller, was resident at this address by the late 1870s and lived there for almost twenty-five years. Then it became the home of **Urban Vigers Richards**, a drill instructor and his wife Katherine Faith Richards, who was a school teacher. They had lived at 316 Montreal Street in the early 1890s.

Mrs **Ann J (Jennie) Tipler** and her husband Walter moved to 49 Worcester Street three years after their marriage. Walter was Ann's second husband. Her first was E J Robinson an inspector of schools for Westland. By 1900 she had a career in music of more than twenty years' standing and was a highly regarded mezzo-soprano and teacher of singing and voice production.

Born in Liverpool as Ann Jane Atkinson, she came to New Zealand as a child with her family who settled initially at Hokitika. It was there that she received her formative education at the Hokitika Academy. In Hokitika and Greymouth she trained under local music teachers and later travelled to Melbourne, where she was, for a time, a pupil of Signor Creechi, the teacher of the famous Dame Nellie Melba. As a soloist, Ann performed regularly in Greymouth and Reefton as 'Jennie Atkinson' and became highly regarded on the West Coast.

Following the death of her husband in 1894, she moved to Christchurch, where her success as a singer was already well known, and she quickly attracted a large circle of pupils. She was also in demand as a performer in light opera and musicals. On 10 July 1895, 'The Press' referring to her role in the musical 'The Sleeping Beauty' stated "*the great charm of Mrs Robinson's singing is the ease with which she gets all the effects*". As well as light opera and musicals, she took many solo roles in oratorio and grand opera.

In December 1898, Ann Jane (Jennie) Robinson married Walter Tipler (1842 - 1906), a schoolmaster, who came from Killinchy near Leeston. After moving to 49 Worcester Street, she continued to teach singing and voice production and was still doing so in 1920. In 1923 she purchased the property which she then owned until her death in 1944, although from 1925 she lived elsewhere in the city.



A.J. Tipler

Residents of Montreal Street

There were two houses at addresses 312 and 316 Montreal Street between the German (Lutheran) Church and Mrs Sibella Ross's 'Tin house' school.

312 Montreal Street was initially part of section 386, purchased for the German Church in 1872, but later assigned a separate land title. A house was built in the 1870s as the manse of the German Church and among its first residents was J Korner. In the 1880s it was occupied by Reverend P J Jacobsen and William Edmund. They were followed in 1890 by James Hall of Patterson and Hall from 1895 to 1901 and then by Francis Ronalds.

The next resident was **Mrs Margaret Funston** and her daughter Alice. Mrs Funston was born in England where she married Frederick Say Funston. They had children born in London before they came to New Zealand where Frederick Funston established himself in Christchurch as a merchant.

The family included three daughters who grew up at 'Melrose' in Lichfield Street, East. All had musical ability, especially Emily and Alice who both became music teachers. Of the two, Emily was the most proficient. By 1878, she had been appointed organist of St John's Anglican Church, Latimer Square, and in the following year of Holy Trinity Church, Avonside. In 1882, she became organist at the Roman Catholic Pro Cathedral and remained so for almost twenty years. As an all round professional musician she performed publicly from 1887 in many concerts.

Emily's sister Alice was less prominent but continued teaching music at 312 Montreal Street until 1917. In 1918, following the death of her mother, she turned the family home into a boarding house which she operated for almost ten years.

From 1927 Mr Vere Churchill Buchanan, a violin teacher, was the occupant of the house until 1932 when the property was purchased by Mrs Annette M Clifford. She reopened it as St Elmo Boarding House and around 1940 it was converted to flats and became first St Elmo Flats and then from 1950 to the 1980s, St Elmo Apartments. In 1987 it was acquired by Windsor Central and demolished with other properties on the site.

316 Montreal Street was initially owned by the Wilson Estate and occupied by Mrs Ross from the 1870s to around 1890 when she moved next door to the 'Tin house' which had been part of the school and dormitories. Her son Edward Ross occupied the house for a year or so then Urban V Richards and his wife moved in. They lived there between 1892 and 1895 before moving to a property they purchased at 49 Worcester Street.

The house was then rented out to a succession of single women many of them retired teachers. From 1916 on, it was home of the Heywood sisters Emma and Lizzie and Mrs Annette Bowen who shared the house with them in the 1920s. Mrs Bowen, wife of Reverend Croisdale Bowen, was an early educator in Christchurch and had opened a private school for young women in Armagh Street in 1894. These were the last residents. With Mrs Ross's death in 1929 the property was sold to Canterbury College and demolished.

Gloucester Street Residents

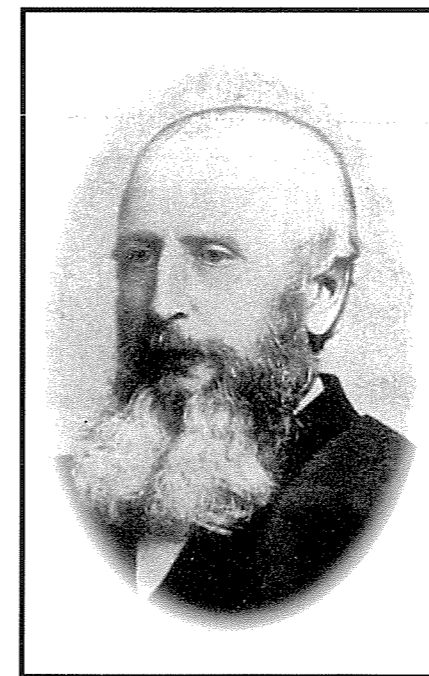
The lots 387, 391 and 393 on the Gloucester St frontage of the new art gallery site all belonged to Rangiora runholder Robert Chapman (1818 - 1882). Chapman was never a resident but often used these, and other town sections he owned, as security for mortgages. Between 1852 and 1877 land records show mortgage transactions occurred no fewer than six times. However in March 1871 he sold two of these sections to Reverend James Wilson and the following year one to John Terras Bell a land agent. The fourth section Chapman retained until 1882 when it was purchased by Reverend Charles Turrell.

54 Gloucester Street was an empty section when it was bought in 1882 by **Reverend Charles Turrell (1828 - 1906)** who had decided to move his school for boys back into town after ten years at Upper Riccarton. He built his new school, his residence and dormitories on the new site. Some of these buildings survived for almost 90 years though considerably altered by the time they were demolished.

Charles Turrell was a graduate of Trinity College Dublin and Bonn University. It was while he was living in Germany that he met Charlotte Wilhelmina Schilling and they married at the home of a friend Henry Austin Bruce (Lord Aberdare). Soon after they went to live in Brussels.

Turrell was ordained and in 1865 and was engaged by the Anglican Church in England to become the incumbent at Leithfield, Canterbury. He and his wife arrived at Lyttelton on 1 January 1866 to take up the post. But after a difficult four years in the Leithfield parish Turrell moved to Christchurch where he was relieving priest at Holy Trinity Church Avonside. It was while he was there that he decided to open a school and in December 1871 advertised that he would be opening a 'boarding school for young gentlemen.' After a few terms the school at Avonside proved inadequate and was reopened in a more substantial house called 'Midmont', in Upper Riccarton.

Whilst living on the continent Turrell had developed some facility for French and German and in 1872 was appointed lecturer in modern languages to the Collegiate Union, the fore-runner to the University of Canterbury.



Rev. Charles Turrell

By 1881 with the establishment of Christchurch Boys' High School, Christchurch Girls' High School, Christ's College, Canterbury College and numerous other private schools in the area bounded by Hereford and Armagh Streets, and Rolleston Avenue an educational precinct had developed. Turrell felt it was desirable to be part of this.

The boarding school which opened in 1883 at 54 Gloucester St was called 'Aberdare House' after his friend Lord Aberdare. Turrell retired from lecturing in modern languages in 1890 and shortly after closed his school. Around 1897 he moved to live at 'Louden' in Mays Road and it was there that his wife died in 1900 and he, six years later.

The house at 54 Gloucester St then became a boarding residence run by James Barford. In 1902 Turrell leased 'Aberdare House' to David Brown Low and his wife who also ran it as a boarding house until 1909.

On Turrell's death the property passed to his eldest son Charles Murray Turrell who was with the NZ Shipping Company in Wellington. He also became responsible for the mortgage as it had never been freehold. For several years he continued to lease out 'Aberdare House'. The last leaseholder was Mrs Emily Chisholm McIntosh Strachey who was a boarding house proprietor.

In June 1920 Turrell sold the house to a widow Elizabeth Davies who owned it for just a few months. The next owner also held it less than a month before selling it in September 1920 to the Girls' Friendly Society Trust Board.

The Church of England Girls' Friendly Society had been founded in England and began in Christchurch in 1883. By 1886 it had 164 members and provided church lodging house accommodation for single women.

In its early years the hostel was known as 'St Catherine's Home for Young Women' and was run by Miss Frances Torlesse at an address almost opposite the Centre of Contemporary Art (CoCA) in Gloucester Street. There the Society had retained rooms and offices until they were transferred to 'Aberdare House'. The hostel at 'Aberdare House' had accommodation for 36 boarders and was managed by matron Ethel Baker and three staff. It continued operating until the end of 1932.

In January 1933 it was purchased by a building contracting firm, Benjamin Moore and Sons Ltd., who converted it into 10 apartments and changed the name to 'Westmore Flats'. These flats were subsequently purchased by Herbert

Eastmond, a shoe store owner, in 1951 and then in 1957 passed to Norman Strachan the last private owner. In February 1966 this property was sold to David Croziers Motors who demolished it for the new showrooms that opened in 1969.

58 Gloucester Street the neighbouring property is the last on the new art gallery site. This was originally owned by Robert Chapman but on 22 May 1872 was sold to John Terras Bell (1838 - 1908) a land and estate agent. At the same time Bell also purchased the adjacent property on the west and by 1876 each had a house that Bell rented. Like the Turrell property this was constantly mortgaged.

In the late 1870s one of Bell's early tenants was architect **Thomas Stoddart Lambert** who lived at this address from 1877 to 1879. Lambert was an architect born in Selkirk, Scotland in 1840 where he also began his training. This he continued in Edinburgh and London in 1866. When he first came to New Zealand he settled at Marton and a few years later in Wellington but found it difficult to find adequate work in his profession.

In 1874 he moved to Christchurch where he joined the office of Frederick Strouts with whom he worked for three years. Among the projects on which they collaborated was a survey map of the inner city. Lambert drew this up in 1877 after having personally measured the more than 4000 buildings between the city belts. It was lithographed and then published by Strouts. The same year Lambert set up his own office and soon had some design work.

These included the Jewish Synagogue in 1881 just three doors from where he had lived in Gloucester St and of great significance to him because of his faith. The 1882 International Exhibition Building for South Hagley Park was also an important project as was Mortens Building later the United Services Hotel in Cathedral Square in 1885. Lambert also designed many schools, churches, halls, warehouses, shops and banks. In 1890 his office dealt with 339 contracts and from that year until 1893 he also ran an office in Dunedin.

Lambert was also elected to the Christchurch City Council on three occasions in 1879, 1881 and 1883 and was Chairman of the Public Works Committee. He was also, from 1881 - 1884, a member of the Council of the Canterbury Society of Arts and remained a working member until 1890. In 1893 he returned to live in Wellington where he conducted a very successful practice until a few years before his death in 1915.