

## Heritage Item 1

### Church of the Holy Name



#### Location

|                           |                                       |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Address:</b>           | 58 Sealy Street, Ashburton            |
| <b>Co-ordinates:</b>      | Northing 5699936 , Easting 2409151    |
| <b>Legal Description:</b> | Lot 2 DP 386200                       |
| <b>Owner:</b>             | Roman Catholic Bishop of Christchurch |

#### Purpose

|                            |        |
|----------------------------|--------|
| <b>Current Use:</b>        | Church |
| <b>Original/Past Uses:</b> | Church |

#### Heritage Significance and Category

|                               |                              |                   |                                      |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>Heritage Significance:</b> | Physical; Historic; Cultural |                   |                                      |
| <b>Heritage NZ:</b>           | Historic Place Category 1    | <b>List #</b> 284 | <b>Date Listed:</b> 5 September 1985 |
| <b>Ashburton DC:</b>          | Category A                   |                   |                                      |

#### Site Assessment

|                       |                                       |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Assessed by:</b>   | Arlene Baird, Davie Lovell-Smith Ltd. |
| <b>Date Assessed:</b> | 27 November 2014                      |

| Detail              |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>Description:</b> | <p>The extent of Heritage New Zealand's list entry includes:<br/> <i>Part of Lot 2 DP 386200 (CT 344997), Canterbury Land District and the building known as Church of the Holy Name (Catholic), thereon.</i></p> <p>The Church of the Holy Name is a vast brick structure set in the heart of Ashburton. The church is rectangular in plan, with a large square bell tower adjacent to the main entrance, taller than the main church but recessed slightly to be subservient. The church is Romanesque in style, identifiable by relatively small openings in comparison to the size of the walls. The other identifiable feature of the Romanesque style is the round arched windows, which occurred in Britain and the colonies from the 1840s. These are quite different from most of the pointed lancet windows, of the more Gothic style, evident in the majority of New Zealand churches. The use of this style by the architect in the 1930s indicates his awareness of churches of similar design overseas.</p> <p>The roof is constructed of tiles with a cross adorning the apex to the north, south and on top of the bell tower. To the front of the building (northern elevation) sits the main entrance to the church, above which is a triple round-headed set of windows – this is unusual as normally a rose window would be found in this location. The side walls (northern and southern elevations) are dominated by the long thin round-headed windows, which break up the vast walls of brick. The bell tower features smaller round-headed windows at regular intervals up the height of the tower.</p> <p>Internally you enter in through the main entrance, above which reads <i>Sanctissimo Nomini Jesu</i>, to a small porch with detailed white painted ceiling. Then through double stained glass doors to the main space which has a central aisle with nave to each side. At the front of the nave are two large statues set into the wall, one of the Virgin Mary and one of Joseph and child. The high walls are broken by the long thin arched windows, which allow a substantial amount of light into the Church. In between the windows sit small wooden crosses with carvings depicting stories from the bible. Decorative wood panelling adorns the walls to a height of over 3m and then forms the window sills for the large windows. The ceiling above is detailed with plasterwork. Doors in the wood panelling access confession rooms.</p> <p>To the front (southern end) of the Church is the chancel where the alter sits, accessed by a number of steps. Above the chancel is a semi-domed roof with three circular windows, below which sits a statue of Jesus on the Cross. Above the main entrance is a large gallery with a balustrade constructed of detailed timber fretwork. This gallery is accessed by a narrow set of stairs.</p> <p>This church makes a distinctive statement of Catholic presence in the town. It is the centre of the Catholic complex of buildings which also includes the school and presbytery. When it was built, this church was the most expensive building in Ashburton and it remains a distinctive landmark, still used today for Catholic worship.</p> |
| <b>History:</b>     | <p>The Church of the Holy Name is the third Catholic church to be built in Ashburton, sixty years after the first Catholic mass was celebrated in 1871. The first Catholic church, designed by Benjamin Mountfort, was opened in Ashburton in 1876 – it may have been called Holy Name or it may have used the name St Augustine's. It was a small wooden building, designed to seat about 200 and served a Catholic population of 900 widely scattered throughout the rural areas of the Ashburton district. When Bishop Redwood visited in 1879 canvas was used to extend the church so the crowd could be accommodated. A Catholic school was established in 1880 and the church was used as a classroom.</p>   |

| Detail                   |  |
|--------------------------|--|
|                          | <p>A second Church was designed in 1882 by Francis Petre, the well-known church architect. Petre's grand Flemish Gothic design proved too expensive for the parish and only the nave was ever built.</p> <p>It was decided, instead, to build a completely new church, and by 1930 sufficient money had been raised for this purpose. The second church was demolished in 1931 and some of its fittings such as pews and statues were re-used in the new church. The architect chosen to design the third church was Henry St Aubyn Murray (1886-1943). Murray, whose practice was based in Christchurch, designed numerous buildings for the Catholic Church in Canterbury, and Ashburton is one of his most well-known.</p> <p>This Church was intended to make a positive statement regarding the Catholic presence in Ashburton, whose Parish contained only half the numbers of the Anglicans. The Romanesque style chosen was often used by Catholic churches to distinguish themselves architecturally from the Anglican Church which built many churches in the Gothic style.</p> <p><b>The architect</b></p> <p>The Church of the Holy Name was designed by Henry St Aubyn Murray (1886-1943). Murray took an active interest in the New Zealand Institute of Architects and was elected to the Canterbury Branch in 1914. He served with the Australian engineers during World War I and was awarded a Military Cross for gallantry in 1917. Murray was Secretary/Treasurer of the Canterbury Branch of the NZIA from 1919 - 1920 and again from 1923 - 1924. He designed two war memorials, one at Akaroa and one at Leeston, and many works for the Roman Catholic Church in Canterbury. These included the Marist Brothers School in Barbadoes Street (c.1924), convents in High Street, (1925), Manchester St (1925), Ferry Road (1929), and Lyttelton (1934), and churches at Little River (1925), Geraldine (1936), Templeton (1922) and Ashburton (1930). Murray was killed in a jeep accident in the North Island in 1943.</p> |
| <b>Notable Features:</b> | Extensive brickwork; arched windows; bell tower; plasterwork ceilings; wood panelled walls; statues; semi-dome above chancel.  |
| <b>Condition:</b>        | The building appears to be in relatively good condition. Brickwork and roof appear intact. External doors are painted green and in tidy condition. Internally the Church is maintained in excellent condition.   |
| <b>Setting:</b>          | The Church is set on busy street in the middle of a cluster of Catholic buildings. The immediate area around the Church is planted with shrubs and kept in tidy condition. There is on-street parking immediately in front of the Church and a sports court belonging to the school to one side. The setting is of historical importance due to its grouping with other Catholic buildings – the Presbytery to the North-West and the school to the South-East.  |











