

do ■ co _ mo ■ mo _ nz
inc

new zealand working party for the
documentation and conservation
of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the
modern movement

Contact:
Dr Prof Julia Gatley
DO_CO_MO_MO_NZ Chair
C/- School of Architecture and Planning
The University of Auckland
Private Bag 92019
AUCKLAND 1142
P. +64-9-923 4656
E. julia.gatley@auckland.ac.nz

17 December 2024

Dunedin City Council
50 The Octagon
Dunedin

Dear Dunedin City Council,

RE: PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO DUNEDIN HERITAGE SCHEDULE

As Chair of DOCOMOMO New Zealand, the New Zealand arm of an international society concerned with the DOcumentation and COnservation of buildings, sites and neighbourhoods of the MOdern MOvEMENT, I am writing to congratulate the Dunedin City Council on its recent and current work to add new buildings and sites to the city's heritage schedule, and more specifically to convey my support for the addition of an increased number of modern buildings to the heritage schedule. Heritage does not stop at some predetermined date such as 1940 – it is a continuum, and the sooner that modern buildings can be added to heritage schedules the better, in order to capture the best and most important examples while they remain extant and retain their design integrity.

It is clear that much research into the local building stock has informed the selection of the buildings proposed for additions to the schedule at the present time and that collectively they will increase the diversity and comprehensiveness of the schedule. The proposed additions demonstrate a range of building types, architects and architectural design languages. I make the following more specific observations:

- The Cargill Court Apartments are an important inclusion because post-war apartment buildings are under-represented on heritage schedules. New Zealand now has a long history of building housing at higher densities.
- The Archway Lecture Theatres are included in the book, *Long Live the Modern: New Zealand's New Architecture, 1904-1984* (Auckland University Press, 2008), which identified 180 of the country's best and most important modern buildings extant at that time, with a view to encouraging the listing and scheduling of more modern buildings.
- It is good to see the Rutherford House here, a 1959 house by Warren and Mahoney, who only established their partnership in 1958 and whose well-known

early work is mostly in Christchurch. Projects in other places are consistent with a growing reputation and profile.

- Murray Cockburn's career is under-researched and his work under-recognised, meaning the inclusion of his Church of the Holy Name is a valuable addition.
- The Mason and Wales Architects Office is on the DOCOMOMO register (<https://www.docomomo.org.nz/register/the-register/>) and will be included in a book of selections from the DOCOMOMO registers, to be published by DOCOMOMO International, hopefully in 2025.
- The Hercus Building is a distinctive, bold and memorable piece of architecture that also has historical significance, given its association with Sir Charles Hercus.
- The former Truby King Harris Hospital has special significance as both the first Karitane hospital and a Karitane training hospital. Sir Truby King is closely identified with the Otago region and the building also demonstrates the period emphasis on the provision of fresh air and sunlight for hospital patients.

Other proposed buildings such as the Former Mosgiel Knitwear House and Former Green Island Civic Centre further demonstrate the significant heritage value of 20th century buildings in the city.

Congratulations again on this major scheduling exercise and I look forward to seeing the proposals confirmed.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide further information.

Yours sincerely,



Julia Gatley