

**HERITAGE ASSESSMENT FOR SCHEDULED HERITAGE BUILDING:
EMILY SIEDEBERG MCKINNON HOUSE**



Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, February 2019

PROPERTY INFORMATION

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| Temporary 2GP Scheduled Heritage Building Reference No. | BX007 |
| Address | 75a and 75b York Place, DUNEDIN |
| Located within a Heritage Precinct | N/A |
| HNZPT List Reference & Description | List No. 9100, Category 1 Historic Place |
| Heritage Covenant: | No |
| Building Use at Time of Record | Commercial and Residential |
| Condition of Property: | Not known to be at risk because of condition |

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

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|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Historic/Social | Meets criteria |
| Spiritual/Cultural | Does not meet criteria |
| Design | Meets criteria |
| Technological/Scientific | Does not meet criteria |

RECOMMENDATION:

The building meets one or more of the significance criteria from Policy 2.4.2.1.b and is recommended for inclusion in Appendix A1.1 of the 2GP.

RECOMMENDED PROTECTION

| [Tick] | Features | Details |
|--------|--------------------------------|--|
| ✓ | Building envelope | Entire external building envelope excluding rear elevation |
| | External/ancillary elements | |
| | Internal elements and/or rooms | Not considered as part of this desktop assessment. Owner may nominate interior elements for protection |
| ✓ | Excluded elements | Rear elevation |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As the home and practice rooms for New Zealand's first woman medical graduate, this residence, built for in 1903 for Dr Emily Siedeberg, has outstanding historical significance. As a substantial Queen Anne-style Edwardian inner-city residence designed by prominent Dunedin architect James Louis Salmond, it has aesthetic and architectural significance.

The Siedeberg McKinnon House is comparable to scheduled heritage buildings within Dunedin of a similar history and period. When compared with other scheduled buildings, it meets the threshold to be included on the district plan heritage schedule.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY

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|---|---|
| Architectural Period | Edwardian (1902-1914) |
| Style | Queen Anne |
| Date of Construction | 1903 |
| Architect/Designer/Builder | James Louis Salmond (architect) (1868-1950) Stephen Samuel Aburn (1869-1947) |
| Historic Use & Cultural Associations | Emily Siedeberg's home and consulting rooms |
| Primary Construction Materials | Unpainted brick, cement, timber joinery |
| Notable Architectural Characteristics | Typical Queen Anne detailing |

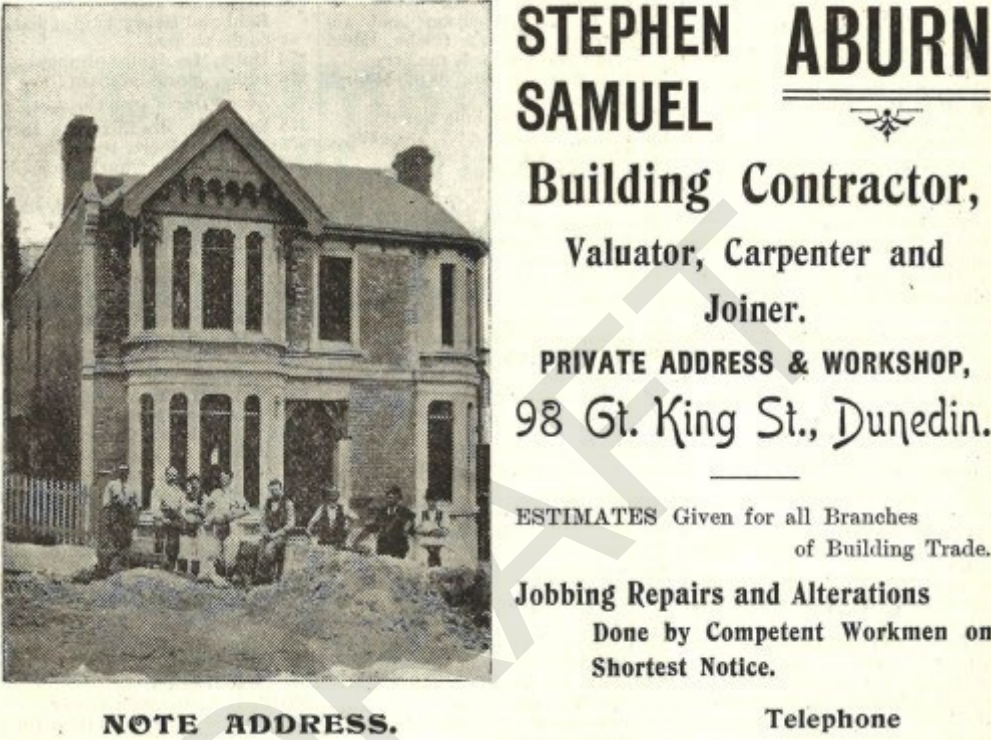
This report is based on Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga's list entry report and the *Built in Dunedin* entry.

Previous site development

Both iwi history and archaeological evidence show Māori occupation in the Ōtākou / Otago region since the 12th century. Today, Kāi Tahu mana whenua is recognised over a large part of Te Wai Pounamu. Kāti Māmoe and Waitaha shared occupation are always acknowledged. The hapū Kai Te Pahi, Kāti Moki, and Kāti Taoka still maintain their presence and responsibility as kaitiaki in this region. While there were no permanent settlements around York Place, the area near the Toitū Tauraka waka (List No. 9774) was known as Ōtepoti.

Design and construction

Emily Siedeberg commissioned James Louis Salmond to design her home and consulting rooms in 1903. Built in Queen Anne style, the bay windows with decorative mouldings and multicoloured coloured glazing, elaborately decorated gable, and entranceway, and exposed red brick are typical of Salmond. Originally the house also featured his signature chimney stacks and a slate roof. There was a separate side entrance and waiting room for patients, her consultancy room, and a tearoom. The rest of the house was dedicated domestic space.



**STEPHEN ABURN
SAMUEL**
**Building Contractor,
Valuator, Carpenter and
Joiner.**
**PRIVATE ADDRESS & WORKSHOP,
98 St. King St., Dunedin.**
ESTIMATES Given for all Branches
of Building Trade.
**Jobbing Repairs and Alterations
Done by Competent Workmen on
Shortest Notice.**
NOTE ADDRESS. Telephone

Advertisement for builder S.S. Aburn from Stone's Otago & Southland Directory, 1905. Image courtesy of McNab New Zealand Collection, Dunedin Public Libraries.

Later history and development

The house became the 'core of a life dedicated to welfare and community work' while Siedeberg lived there.

Following Dr Siedeberg McKinnon's death in 1968, the house was converted for use by Otago Polytechnic and housed, variously, the School of Architecture and Building, the School of Art, and the School of Nursing. In later years it has returned to a mixed-use situation with a doctor's consultancy and hairdresser on the ground floor and four studio apartments on the first floor.

Notable people/Themes

Emily Siedeberg-McKinnon

Franz and Annie Siedeberg emigrated to New Zealand and settled in Dunedin in 1873 after ten years in Clyde where their daughter Emily was born. Block 18 Section 20 was owned by the family for many years and Franz, a builder, constructed several dwellings on the land. Emily grew up with parents who

encouraged her to pursue a career as a doctor and attended Otago Girls' High School and University of Otago where she was the first female enrolled to study medicine at times in the face of pronounced gender prejudice. In 1896 Emily Siedeberg became the first woman in New Zealand to graduate with a medical degree. Following locum work at Seacliff Asylum and a period of post graduate education in Europe, Dr Siedeberg returned to Dunedin and set up her own medical practice.



Emily Siedeberg in graduation dress (Cyclopedia of New Zealand)



Dr Siedeberg-McKinnon in the 1950s (Otago Pioneer Women's Memorial Association)

Following the death of her father, Dr Siedeberg commissioned this building in 1903 as her home and consultancy rooms. Over the course of her life, she was intimately involved in various local and national organisations which promoted the rights and health of women, she fought 'the wrongs of womankind as she would fight for the life of a patient'. Emily Siedeberg was an extraordinary woman both in her career and as a zealous advocate in seeking health and social justice reforms that women, children, and families continue to benefit from today.



*Emily Siedeberg outside her York Place home, in her yellow Clement-Bayard motor car.
Image reproduced by kind permission of Steve Clifford.*

For the following 20 years Dr Siedeberg was the sole female practitioner in Dunedin and during that time she took on such roles as Medical Superintendent of St Helen's Maternity Hospital (the first in the Dominion to have an antenatal clinic) from 1905-1938, Medical Officer of the Caversham Industrial School, and anaesthetist at the Dental School. Following her marriage in 1928, at age 55, to James Alexander McKinnon in 1928, Dr Siedeberg McKinnon moved from York Place and didn't return until 1954 and where she remained into the 1960s.

J. Louis Salmond (1868-1950)

Hardwicke Knight records that Salmond was born in England, son of Rev. Dr William Salmond who came to Dunedin to take up the position of Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy at Otago University.

Built in Dunedin's summary of J L Salmond's life and career is reproduced in edited form below:

J. Louis Salmond established his practice in Dunedin in 1891, in the difficult years of the Long Depression. He had been an articled pupil of Robert Arthur Lawson, who left Dunedin in 1889. After Lawson returned from Australia in 1900 the two men went into partnership as Salmond & Lawson. Early works by Salmond include the Shennan family home "Threave" in High St, and the Roslyn Presbyterian Church.

Lawson died in 1902 and Salmond subsequently went into practice with Newton Vanes, who served in World War 1 and afterwards remained in England.

ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

HISTORIC/SOCIAL

The building demonstrates heritage values within this criterion. This residence has historical significance as the home and medical practice rooms for New Zealand's first woman medical graduate Emily Hancock Siedeberg, and to a lesser degree, for its association with the Otago Polytechnic.

Siedeberg was a significant figure in New Zealand's medical history, including being medical superintendent for St Helen's Maternity Hospital, Medical Officer of Caversham Industrial School, playing a leading role in the New Zealand Society for the Protection of Women, and the National Council of Women (among others). She lived in the York Place house until after she got married in 1928). It was home to her extended family who were prominent in various fields in Dunedin. She moved back to York Place in 1954, following the death of her husband in 1949, remaining there into the 1960s.

Designed for her by prominent Dunedin architect James Louis Salmond, on a site already occupied by her family (built in front of the old family residence) her home reflected her status as a doctor. Historically, the house represents the lifestyle of a professional in the early twentieth century.

After the Siedeberg's ownership, the house became the home of the Otago Polytechnic's School of Architecture and Building (1969-?), The School of Art (till 1983), and the School of Nursing (1983-1987).

SPIRITUAL/CULTURAL

The building does not demonstrate heritage values within this criterion.

DESIGN

The building demonstrates heritage values within this criterion. The JL Salmond designed house is notable for its aesthetic and architectural qualities, demonstrating the popularity of the Queen Anne style for residential architecture at the turn of the twentieth century. The bay windows, elaborately decorated gable, and exposed red brick are typical of Salmond, and originally the house also featured his signature chimney stacks. It is a residence reflecting the professional status of Siedeberg as a medical practitioner.

TECHNOLOGICAL/SCIENTIFIC

The building does not demonstrate heritage values within this criterion.

REFERENCES

Heritage New Zealand List Entry: Listed as a Category 1 historic place June 2023.

Host, Emily Olga. 'Emily Siedeberg McKinnon' ('Notes made by Mrs Host when visiting the Hocken Library in 1966'). Hocken Collections.

Maxwell, Margaret D., *Women Doctors in New Zealand: an historical perspective, 1921-1986*, MS (NZ), Auckland 1990.

'Built in Dunedin', 'Emily Siedeberg's House', *Built in Dunedin: A City's Buildings and their Stories*, 25 July 2016 <https://builtindunedin.com/2016/07/25/emily-siedebergs-house/> accessed 5 September 2022.

Sargison, Patricia A., *Notable Women in New Zealand Health Te Hauora ki Aotearoa: Ōna Wāhine Rongonui*, Longman Paul, Auckland, 1993.

Sargison, Patricia A., *Siedeberg-McKinnon, Emily Hancock*, Dictionary of New Zealand Biography, first published in 1996, *Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand*, <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/3s16/siedeberg-emily-hancock> accessed 5 September 2022.

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|----------------------------------|---|-----------------|----|
| Date Assessment Completed | 5 July 2023 - Based on Heritage New Zealand List Entry report | Author | HB |
| Date Peer Reviewed | 18 July 2024 | Reviewer | MM |
| Date Confirmed Complete | 18 July 2024 | | |

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