

**WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM**

2021 District Plan Item No.

HH117

HERITAGE ITEM NAME

Southbrook Substation

ADDRESS

Intersection of Flaxton & Lineside Roads, Southbrook,
Rangiora

PHOTOGRAPH



(www)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.
(at time of assessment)

n / a

HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY

n / a

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Section 3 SO 386223

VALUATION NUMBER

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

1929

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER**

JR Templin, Consulting Engineer

STYLE

Neoclassical

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with rectangular footprint and concealed, shallow gable roof. Doors with multi-pane fanlights are set within narrower north and south elevations; shaped parapets with scroll motif on longer east and west sides are framed by the name of the substation in relief. North parapet bears date of building in relief. Pilasters divide blank, side walls into bays.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Reinforced concrete, corrugated metal.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

NCEPB name removed from parapet (c.1994?). Realignment of Flaxton Road (c.1985 & c.2015).

SETTING

The building stands on the west side of Lineside Road, immediately north of its intersection with Flaxton Road and just south of the Southbrook, Todds, Lineside and Station Roads crossing. The extent of scheduling is the land parcel on which the building is located, and includes that part of the road reserve over which the building extends.

HISTORY

The Southbrook substation was erected by the North Canterbury Electric Power Board in early 1929, two years after the board had been established. The substation was put in to service on 20 October 1929. The Rangiora Borough Council also erected substations in the township, having run its own electricity department since 1919 and not wishing to forgo the profitable enterprise. The NCEPB was based in Rangiora and built offices in the town at the same time as erecting the Southbrook substation. The board was superseded by Mainpower NZ Ltd in 1994 as part of the electricity restructuring of the period. The substation remains in use today.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Southbrook substation has historical and social significance for its association with the provision of electricity supply to North Canterbury since 1929 and, more generally, the development of modern infrastructure in the district during the inter-war period.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Southbrook substation has cultural value as a symbol of the impact that electricity supply to North Canterbury homes and businesses had upon the lives of the district's residents.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Southbrook substation has architectural significance as a Neoclassical pavilion style building that is comparable in form and detailing to the heritage substations erected by the Municipal Electricity Department in Christchurch between the world wars. Restrained classical styling was combined with modern electrical technology to create the appearance of an impregnable 'Temple to Electricity' (CCC heritage booklet). John Richard Templin was an American-born electrical engineer who immigrated to New Zealand in 1905 and lived permanently in the country from 1910 until his death in 1961. He was a consulting engineer in Christchurch from 1914 until his retirement in 1938 and first chairman of the Canterbury Branch of the NZ Institution of Engineers. The JR Templin Travelling Scholarship is awarded for a year's study in the USA to postgraduate students in engineering (University of Canterbury) and horticulture (Lincoln University), Templin's great love outside of his work.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Southbrook Substation has technological and craftsmanship value for its reinforced concrete construction and classical detailing.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Southbrook Substation has contextual significance as a landmark historic feature and for its relationship with a number of contemporary Rangiora Borough Council substations, including those in Good Street, Percival Street (1932), Blakett Street and High Street to the west of the Plough Hotel.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the building post-dates 1900, its site may have limited potential archaeological value.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Southbrook Substation has overall heritage significance to Rangiora and the district of Waimakariri as a whole. The building has historical and social significance for its association with the provision of electricity to North Canterbury homes and businesses since 1929 and cultural value as a symbol of the impact electricity supply had upon the lives of the district's residents. The Southbrook Substation has architectural significance as a Neoclassical temple

style design by electrical engineer JR Templin and technological and craftsmanship value for its reinforced concrete construction and classical detailing. The Southbrook Substation has contextual significance as a landmark historic feature in Southbrook; its site may have limited potential archaeological value in view of the building's age.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Press* 14 September 1928, p. 1; 19 September 1928, p. 4; 16 January 1929, p. 4; 18 January 1929, p. 1; 24 January 1929, p. 4; 21 February 1929, p. 8; 19 June 1929, p. 5; 20 November 1929, p. 3.
- *Sun* 18 June 1919, p. 10.
- *Ellesmere Guardian* 22 May 1920, p. 3.
- *North Canterbury Gazette* 3 February 1933, p. 7.
- DN Hawkins *Rangiora: the passing years and people in a Canterbury country town* Rangiora, 1993.
- *The Architectural Heritage of Christchurch 10. Pavilions, temples & four square walls – Christchurch pump houses and substations* Christchurch City Council; available online.
- <http://www.mainpower.co.nz>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MainPower>
- <https://www.jrtemplintrust.co.nz>
- <https://ensoc.com/academic/templin-scroll/>
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REPORT COMPLETED

31 July 2019

AUTHOR

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Extent of setting, including that part of the road reserve over which the building extends, Southbrook Substation, intersection of Flaxton and Lineside Roads, Southbrook, Rangiora.