

All Saints' Church (Anglican)

344-348 Church Street, Palmerston North

NZHPT Registration Number:	191
NZHPT Registration Type:	Historic Place – Category I
NZHPT Registration Date:	16/11/89
City/District Council:	Palmerston North City Council
District Plan Status:	Category 1



Brief History

The current brick building is the third church to be constructed on the site. The first Anglican service held in Palmerston North took place in a sawmill in 1972. In the three years before the first church, a simple wooden construction, was built services were held in a variety of venues including the courthouse and George Snelson's general store which opened in 1871. In 1881, a more substantial Gothic-style building was constructed to a design by Ernest Larcomb, and the original church was later appended to it. This second building was named All Saints' and was added to in 1891-2 and again in 1901 to accommodate the growing Anglican congregation.

In 1905, Archdeacon C Coleridge Harper commissioned architect Frederick de Jersey Clere to design a new church. Clere was the Wellington Diocesan Architect of the Anglican Church and designed over 120 churches in New Zealand during his working life, including the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit (1914) and the Abbey Theatre (former Baptist Union Church) (1928) both in Palmerston North. His initial design was rejected but in 1913 he was commissioned to create a new design for the building. The builder was John Henry Meyer who began construction that year.

The building was completed in 1914 and consecrated in 1916. It is a large church, 65 feet wide and the total length is over 140 feet. The design is in the English Gothic style and the building is largely authentic on the interior and exterior. Details of the tower, the pinnacles, the form of the parapet, the hood moulds, and the recessed window sills reveal Clere's familiarity with the use of brick in England, particularly in domestic architecture. Among the many interior features is the Great East Window, with tracery forming a cross, installed in 1924 as a memorial to those who died in the First World War, the organ (1929), and the Oamaru stone altar (1939) and heart kauri reredos (1944), both carved by Frank Guernsey. A line of sturdy jarrah pillars supports the hammerbeam roof. The sanctuary, the choir, chapel and organ chamber are all of generous proportions.

The church was closed indefinitely in 2013 pending decisions on earthquake strengthening.

The building has strong spiritual and religious significance and is of historical importance due to its association with the Palmerston North Anglican community. It also has architectural significance as an example the architectural style and of the work of eminent architect, Frederick de Jersey Clere. All Saints' Church also has considerable aesthetic appeal with its landmark spire.

Principal Sources:

All Saints' Church (Anglican), NZHPT Register no. 191, 1/5/2003, Rebecca O'Brien, NZHPT.

Bowman, I & Kelly, M, *Palmerston North CBD Heritage Inventory*, Palmerston North, Palmerston North City Council, 2003.

Maclean, Susan, *Architect of the Angels: The Churches of Frederick de Jersey Clere*. Wellington, Steele Roberts, 2002.

New Zealand Historic Places Trust, *Proposal for Classification: All Saints' Anglican Church*, 1989.

O'Brien, Rebecca, *Upgrade Report: All Saints' Church*, NZHPT, n.d.

Palmerston North City Library Photograph Collection: C 1-3, 15, 16, 18, 22, 27-32, 35, 38-40, 42, 43, 46-49, 83-91, 103; A 23; Bm 52; Sq 98, 99, 350-352, 361, 362, 364.