

First Seatoun Scout Hall

38 Ferry Street



Image: Charles Collins, 2015

Summary of heritage significance

- The former Seatoun Scout Hall is a single storey building of timber construction, and is Wellington's oldest purpose built scout hall. Its modest form and materials is a reminder of the kind of plain, utilitarian structures that communities once built for their own use.
- The Seatoun Scouts Hall has significant historic value as it is likely to be Wellington's oldest purpose built scout hall. The Hall served the needs of Seatoun's Scouts for over 60 years before the club merged with the Worser Bay scouts. Hundreds of Seatoun Scouts used this building and it served an important community function.
- The Seatoun Scouts hall has had a lengthy role in the Seatoun Community and this has imbued it with social significance, primarily for its role as a place where so many children attended scouts and cubs. The hall is also of social significance as weekly movie nights were held in the period following its opening and many residents used it.

District Plan:	Map 7 Reference 411
Legal Description:	LOT 2 DP 83848
Heritage Area:	No
HPT Listed:	No
Archaeological Site:	Risk unknown
Other Names:	Seatoun Scout Hall
Key physical dates:	1932
Architect / Builder:	Builder: H.D. Field
Former uses:	Scout hall
Current uses:	Unoccupied
Earthquake Prone Status:	Unknown at time of writing

Google Maps 2012



1.0 Outline History

1.1 History

The scouting movement started in England but it quickly went international. That same year, New Zealand's first scout group was established at Kaiapoi. Sea Scouts was established in 1909. Soon scout groups were established all over the country, some 500 by the end of the year 1909.¹ Wellington's first scout group was established in Brooklyn, closely followed by the 1st Kelburn 1909 Scout Group, which occupies what is probably the country's oldest scout hall – the former Gardens' Battery caretaker's house, built about 1890.

Baden-Powell visited New Zealand for the first time in 1912 (he would make many subsequent visits). The country's first jamboree was held in 1926, the year that the Rev. John Allan founded the 1st Seatoun Scout Group, with Allan Hepburn.² Bob O'Brien, in his history of Seatoun, suggests the group began much earlier – by 1910.³

Plans for a hall were drawn up in 1930. The architect of the hall is not known. No name is shown on the permit drawings. The builder was H.D. Field. The permit application was for a cost of £180⁴ but another account suggests it was built at a cost of £221.⁵ The hall was partly financed by an interest-free loan of £100 from local resident Jack Owen and by raising money through movie shows in the hall after it was built. In fact the hall's weekly movie night became a regular and popular feature of Seatoun life for a period, until the construction of theatres in Kilbirnie and Miramar.⁶

In 1963 the hall, which was also used by cubs, was extended with a lean-to to its north elevation. The permit application value was £700,⁷ but again the figure contrasts with that in Struthers, which puts the cost at £1300.⁸ The builder was E. Crawford and the addition was known as the Barnett Memorial Extension, after a substantial portion of the cost was provided for in Elizabeth Barnett's will.

The 1st Seatoun Scout Group was clearly an active and well organised scouting group but it began to suffer from a decline in numbers towards the end of the 20th century. Some time in the late 1990s it was decided to merge with the nearby Worser Bay Scouts to form the Eastern Bay Scouts and Sea Scouts. They operate out of the Worser Bay building.

The Seatoun Scout Hall was abandoned and was unoccupied for some time.⁹ In 2011 the hall suffered fire damage, but the fire was extinguished before the building was completely destroyed. Since this time, the fate of the building has been in question.

¹ See: S.G. Culliford, *New Zealand Scouting: The First Fifty Years 1908-1958* (Wellington: The Boy Scouts Association of New Zealand 1958), pp.9-10.

² J. Struthers, *Miramar Peninsula: A Historical and Social Study* (Wellington: 1975), p.188.

³ Bob O'Brien, *Waka Ferry Tram – Seatoun and the bays to 1958* (Wellington, 2001), p.134. His evidence for this is that a group of scouts was reported to have left a gathering to help put out a fire at a Seatoun residence in October 1910.

⁴ '38 Ferry Street, erect club house,' 20 August 1930, 00056:108:B9944, Wellington City Archives.

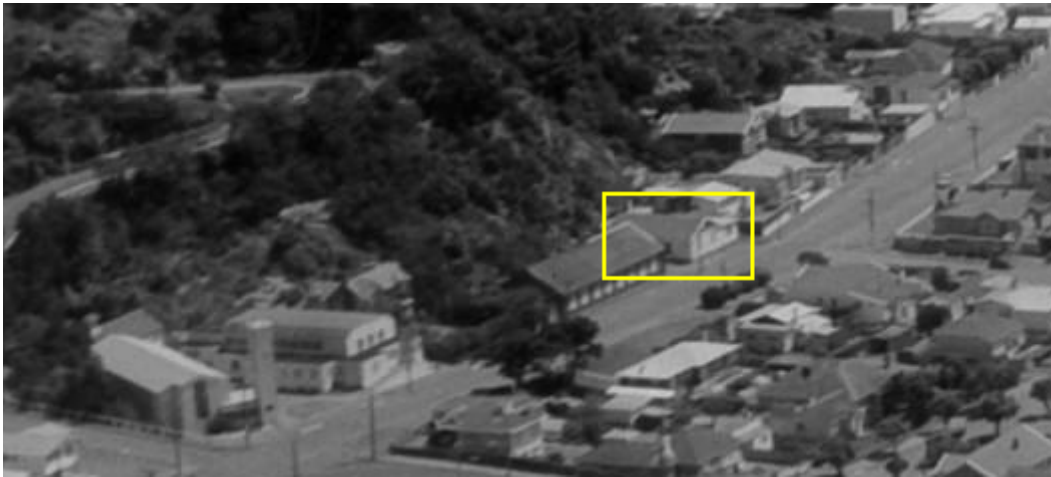
⁵ Struthers, *Miramar Peninsula*, p.188.

⁶ O'Brien, *Waka Ferry Tram*, p.134.

⁷ 'Permit for hall additions,' 00058:178:C8246, Wellington City Archives.

⁸ Struthers, *Miramar Peninsula*, p.188.

⁹ Michael Kelly and Anne McEwan, '36 Ferry Street (Former 1st Seatoun Scout Hall), Seatoun,' unpublished report prepared for Wellington City Council, 2007, pp.3-4.



Seatoun, Wellington, 1963. Whites Aviation Ltd: Photographs. Ref: WA-61169-F.
Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.

1.2 Timeline of modifications

1930	Erect club house	00056:108:B9944
2001	Club house additions and alterations	00078:1738:77343

1.3 Occupation history

Not assessed

1.4 Architect

Architect is unknown – further research required.

2.0 Physical description

2.1 Architecture

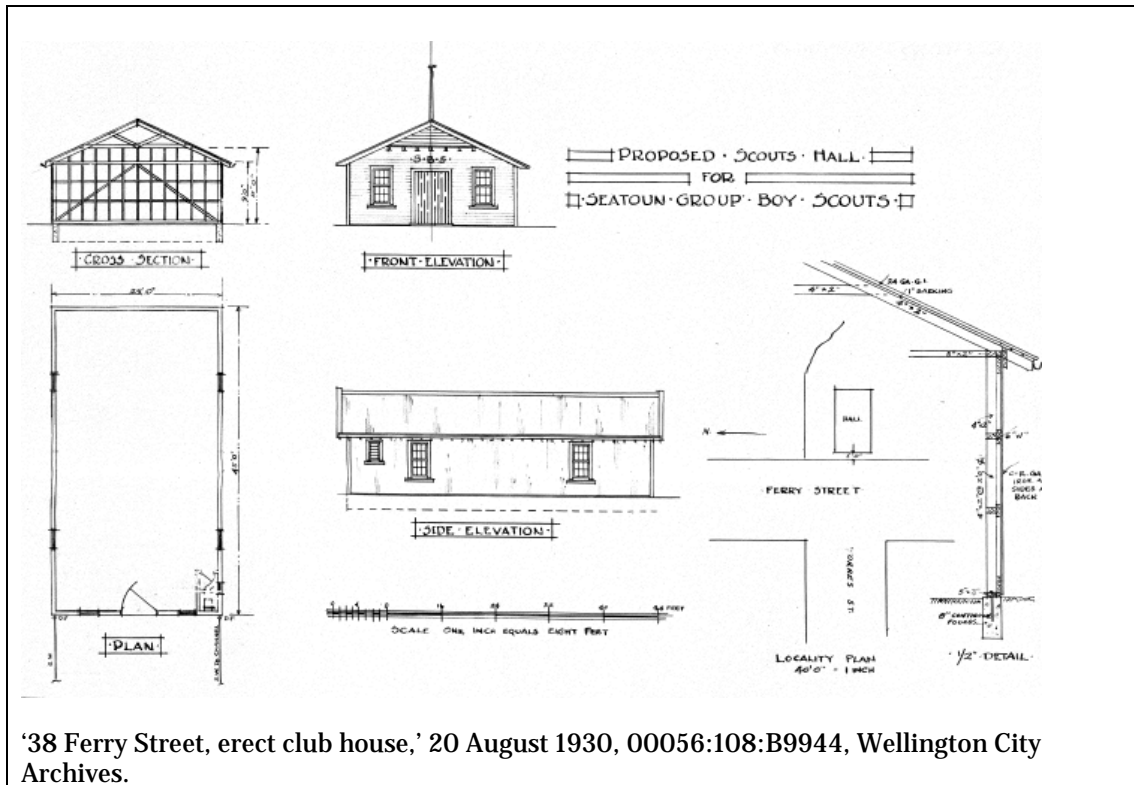
The former Scout Hall is a single storey building of timber construction, with a corrugated iron roof and casement windows. The entrance, off an asphalt forecourt on the southern side of the building, is sheltered by a simple canopy carried on two steel poles.

The building is clad in rusticated weatherboards, has a flag pole atop the gable facing the street, and is comprised of a main section under a gabled roof with a lean-to running along the northern side. The gable apex is infilled with lapped weatherboards resting upon small brackets. This treatment, reminiscent of that commonly given to modest California bungalow style houses in New Zealand, offers some variation in texture on what is essentially a very simple building with little in the way of decorative detailing.

A single diamond-leaded fanlight above the northerly window beneath the gable end also lends a minor decorative note. Similarly the existing paint scheme goes some way towards highlighting the various elements of the facade.

One feature of the facade that is not distinguished from the weatherboard wall surface is the vertical battening, two between the main windows and a third between the gabled section and the adjoining lean-to.

A section of vertical corrugated iron cladding at the rear of the building, on the south-western corner, appears to relate to a second lean-to behind the main gabled section.¹⁰



2.2 Materials

- Timber

2.3 Setting

The Seatoun Scout Hall has a relatively modest appearance, and stands at the intersection of Ferry and Forres Streets in Seatoun. It terminates the view along Forres Street towards Ferry Street. Its location at the T junction lends the building greater townscape impact than it might otherwise have had.

The western boundary of the building stands against the cliff, which separates Seatoun from Seatoun Heights, at the rear of the building. The façade, or eastern elevation, is narrowly separated from the footpath and carriageway by a raised plant bed. The building is in a predominantly residential area that it happily complements.

¹⁰ Architecture taken from: Michael Kelly and Anne McEwan, '36 Ferry Street (Former 1st Seatoun Scout Hall), Seatoun,' unpublished report prepared for Wellington City Council, 2007, pp.4-5.

3.0 Sources

Culliford, S.G. *New Zealand Scouting: The First Fifty Years 1908-1958*. Wellington: The Boy Scouts Association of New Zealand. 1958.

Kelly, Michael and Anne McEwan. '36 Ferry Street (Former 1st Seatoun Scout Hall), Seatoun.' Unpublished report prepared for Wellington City Council, 2007.

O'Brien, Bob. *Waka Ferry Tram – Seatoun and the bays to 1958*. Wellington, 2001.

Struthers, J. *Miramar Peninsula: A Historical and Social Study*. Wellington: 1975.

Criteria for assessing cultural heritage significance

Cultural heritage values

Aesthetic Value:

Architectural: *Does the item have architectural or artistic value for characteristics that may include its design, style, era, form, scale, materials, colour, texture, patina of age, quality of space, craftsmanship, smells, and sounds?*

The former Seatoun Scout Hall is a single storey building of timber construction, and is Wellington's oldest purpose built scout hall. Its modest form and materials is a reminder of the kind of plain, utilitarian structures that communities once built for their own use.

Townscape: *Does the item have townscape value for the part it plays in defining a space or street; providing visual interest; its role as a landmark; or the contribution it makes to the character and sense of place of Wellington?*

The townscape impact of the Scout Hall is modest, but it enhances the view along Forres Street towards Ferry Street. Its location at the T junction lends the building greater townscape impact than it might otherwise have had.

Group: *Is the item part of a group of buildings, structures, or sites that taken together have coherence because of their age, history, style, scale, materials, or use?*

Historic Value:

Association: *Is the item associated with an important person, group, or organisation?*

The Seatoun Scouts Hall has significant historic value as it is likely to be Wellington's oldest purpose built scout hall. The Hall served the needs of Seatoun's Scouts for over 60 years before the club merged with the Worsley Bay scouts. Hundreds of Seatoun Scouts used this building and it served an important community function.

Association: *Is the item associated with an important historic event, theme, pattern, phase, or activity?*

Scientific Value:

Archaeological: *Does the item have archaeological value for its ability to provide scientific information about past human activity?*

The archaeological risk is unknown. There has been historic human activity in the Seatoun area prior to 1900. The flat land was formerly a kumara cultivation ground for Māori.

Educational: *Does the item have educational value for what it can demonstrate about aspects of the past?*

Technological: *Does the item have technological value for its innovative or important construction methods or use of materials?*

Social Value:

Public esteem: *Is the item held in high public esteem?*

The Seatoun Scouts hall has had a lengthy role in the Seatoun Community and this has imbued it with social significance, primarily for its role as a place where so many children attended scouts and cubs. The hall is also of social significance as weekly movie nights were held in the period following its opening and many residents used it.

Symbolic, commemorative, traditional, spiritual: Does the item have symbolic, commemorative, traditional, spiritual or other cultural value for the community who has used and continues to use it?

Identity/Sense of place/Continuity:

Is the item a focus of community, regional, or national identity?

Does the item contribute to sense of place or continuity?

Sentiment/Connection: *Is the item a focus of community sentiment and connection?*

Level of cultural heritage significance

Rare: *Is the item rare, unique, unusual, seminal, influential, or outstanding?*

Representative: *Is the item a good example of the class it represents?*

This hall is a good representative of they type of building that was once commonly constructed by communities throughout New Zealand to serve their needs. It is constructed in a style and in materials common to the period.

Authentic: *Does the item have authenticity or integrity because it retains significant fabric from the time of its construction or from later periods when important additions or modifications were carried out?*

The Seatoun Scout Hall retains significant fabric from the time of its construction, but since suffering fire damage, it is unknown what state the interior fabric is now in.

Local/Regional/National/International

Is the item important for any of the above characteristics at a local, regional, national, or international level?

The Seatoun Scout Hall is of local heritage significance for its architectural, townscape, historic, social, archaeological, and representative values.

4.0 Appendix

Research checklist (desktop)

Source	Y/N	Comments
1995 Heritage Inventory		
2001 Non-Residential heritage Inventory		
WCC Records – building file		
WCC Records – grant files (earthquake strengthening, enhancement of heritage values)		
Research notes from 2001 Non-Residential heritage Inventory		
Plan change?		
Heritage Area Report		
Heritage Area Spreadsheet		
Heritage items folder (electronic)		
HPT website		
HPT files		
Conservation Plan		
Searched Heritage Library (CAB 2)		

Background research

Insert any relevant background information into this section. This may include:

- *Additional plans, such as those for alterations*
- *Chunks of text from other sources such as Cyclopedia of NZ, Papers Past*
- *Additional images*