

Houses

57, 59, 61 & 63 Wright Street



57, 59, 61 & 63 Wright Street. Image: Google Maps (2009)

- 57, 59, 61 and 63 Wright Street are a row of four Edwardian villas that were built by well known local builders, Hawthorn and Crump
- Although it seems likely that none of the houses (or their occupants) have had a notable or unusual history, the group of houses can be seen as representative of the development of the Newtown/Mount Cook area.

Extent: Cityview GIS 2013



House No. 57

District Plan:	Map 6, reference 363/6
Legal Description:	PT Sec 707 Town of Wellington
Heritage Area:	None 2013
HPT Listed:	Listed from 1982 – 1994, currently not listed (2013)
Archaeological Site:	Central City NZAA R27/270
Other Names:	
Key physical dates:	c.1901 (destroyed by fire) rebuilt c.1903
Architect / Builder:	Hawthorn & Crump
Former uses:	House
Current uses:	House
Earthquake Prone Status:	SR 269418 , Bdg StrengthInv, Bldg -Added to List Due To Heritage Listing, Outside Earthquake Prone Policy

House No. 59

District Plan:	Map 6, reference 363/7
Legal Description:	PT Sec 707 Town of Wellington
Heritage Area:	None 2013
HPT Listed:	Listed from 1982 – 1994, currently not listed (2013)
Archaeological Site:	Central City NZAA R27/270
Other Names:	
Key physical dates:	c.1901
Architect / Builder:	Probably Hawthorn & Crump

Former uses:	House
Current uses:	House
Earthquake Prone Status:	SR269420 , Bdg StrengthInv, Bldg -Added to List Due To Heritage Listing, Outside Earthquake Prone Policy,

House No. 61

District Plan:	Map 6, reference 363/8
Legal Description:	PT Sec 707 Town of Wellington
Heritage Area:	None 2013
HPT Listed:	Listed from 1982 – 1994, currently not listed (2013)
Archaeological Site:	Central City NZAA R27/270
Other Names:	
Key physical dates:	c.1901
Architect / Builder:	Probably Hawthorn & Crump
Former uses:	House
Current uses:	House
Earthquake Prone Status:	SR269422 , Bdg StrengthInv, Bldg -Added to List Due To Heritage Listing, Outside Earthquake Prone Policy

House No. 63

District Plan:	Map 6, reference 363/9
Legal Description:	PT Sec 707 Town of Wellington
Heritage Area:	None 2013
HPT Listed:	Listed from 1982 – 1994, currently not listed (2013)
Archaeological Site:	Central City NZAA R27/270
Other Names:	
Key physical dates:	c.1901
Architect / Builder:	Probably Hawthorn & Crump
Former uses:	House
Current uses:	House
Earthquake Prone Status:	SR269424 , Bdg StrengthInv, Bldg -Added to List Due To Heritage Listing, Outside Earthquake Prone Policy

1.0 Outline History

1.1 History

These four houses on Wright Street are likely to have been built in c.1901 by well-known local builders Hawthorn and Crump.¹ Evidence to support this date includes that the buildings are not visible on the c.1892 Thomas Ward Map, and that No. 59, 61 & 63 make their first appearance in the 1901 street directories. No. 57 appears to have been built at the same time as its neighbours, but was destroyed by arson as it neared completion. The arsonist appears to have lit two fires, one in the basement of No. 57, and one in the basement of Mr Iremonger's house at No.55.² No. 57 was rebuilt and was occupied by 1903, when it first appears on the street directories.

Mr Iremonger's house at No.55 is interesting as, although it is not listed on the WCC District Plan, it was also built by Hawthorn and Crump in c.1901³ for approximately £600. Iremonger was a painter and paperhanger who worked as a contractor on many Hawthorn and Crump building sites.⁴ It is possible that both the plan and the construction costs for Iremonger's house are typical of the other Wright Street properties developed by Hawthorn and Crump.

Hawthorn and Crump were building contractors who were active in the years between 1897 and 1908.⁵ Colin Campbell Crump⁶ and John Thomas Hawthorn also traded as the Kensington Estate Company in partnership with property speculator Harry Crump from 1902⁷ – c.1908, with the intent to develop land in Abel Smith and Kensington Streets, Te Aro. Both Colin Crump and John Thomas Hawthorn were involved in local politics and Colin Crump later became mayor of Onslow in 1914.⁸

The houses at 53, 55, 57 & 59 Wright Street were registered by the NZHPT in 1982, but were removed from the register in 1994 as they were found to have insufficient significance to merit registration. They were not included in the 2005 NZHPT Wright Street Historic Area.

¹ Rebecca O'Brien letter from the NZHPT to Barbara Fill (undated but c.2005)

² THE WRIGHT-STREET FIRE. ARSON BY SOME PERSON OR PERSONS UNKNOWN. *Evening Post*, 3 August 1901, Page 2

³ WCC Archives ref 00053:70:4254 application to build a dwelling at 55 Wright Street by Hawthorn and Crump for Mr Iremonger, February 1901

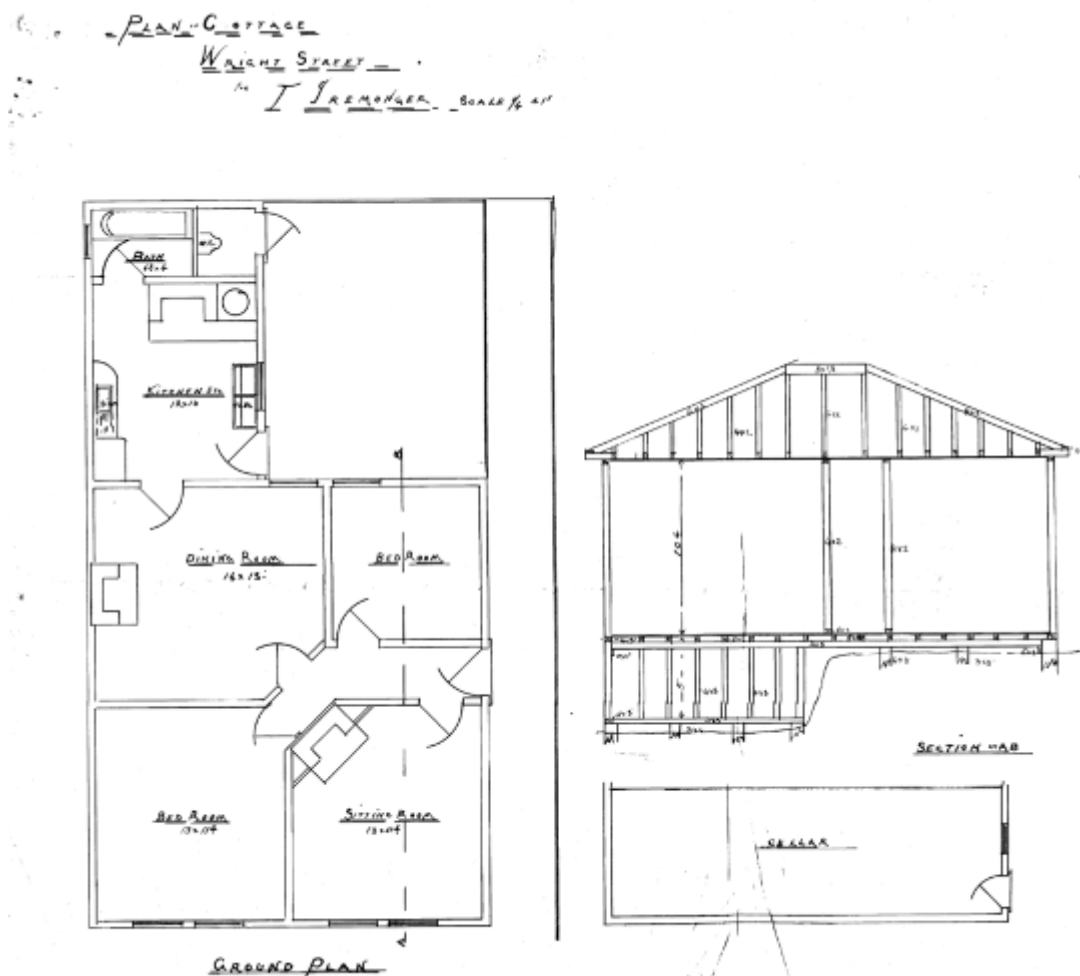
⁴ THE WRIGHT-STREET FIRE. ARSON BY SOME PERSON OR PERSONS UNKNOWN. *Evening Post*, 3 August 1901, Page 2

⁵ First & last known dates for advertisements by Hawthorn and Crump are; - LOCAL AND GENERAL. *Evening Post*, 22 May 1897, Page 4; *Evening Post*, 7 April 1908, Page 1

⁶ PERSONAL MATTERS *Evening Post*, 30 April 1914, Page 7

⁷ *Evening Post*, 20 November 1902, Page 8

⁸ PERSONAL MATTERS *Evening Post*, 30 April 1914, Page 7



No. 55 Wright Street (not listed) the proposed plan for a house for Mr Iremonger submitted for consent in February 1901,⁹ this is likely to be a standard plan for the houses from approx 51 – 63 Wright Street (odd numbers only) as the aerial photograph shows a similar roof plan for these seven buildings.

1.2 Timeline of modifications

No. 57 Wright Street

1901	00432:573:48477; 57 Wright Street
1922	00233:419:1922/871; Repairs to premises, No 57 Wright Street - Public Health Department
1982	00058:0:C59870; 57 Wright Street, partial re-pile

No. 59 Wright Street

1901	00053:70:4288; 59 Wright Street, dwelling
1980	00058:1270:C53876; 59 Wright Street, upgrade 2 flats & one carpark
1998	00078:847:41075; 59 Wright Street, additions and alterations to premises

⁹ WCC Archives ref 00053:70:4254 application to build a dwelling at 55 Wright Street by Hawthorn and Crump for Mr Iremonger, February 1901

No. 61 Wright Street

1900	00053:58:3673; 61 Wright Street, dwelling
1919	00053:196:10804; 61 Wright Street, additions
1955	00056:524:B38935; 61 Wright Street, garage
2000	00078:858:61597; 61 Wright Street, alterations to kitchen and bathrooms

No. 63

1930	00056:94:B8744; 63 Wright Street, garage
1983	00058:0:C62129; 63 Wright Street, porch and shower
1983	00058:0:C63087; 63 Wright Street, re-pile
1974	00058:904:C40073; 63 Wright Street, convert dwelling to 3 flats
1986	00059:17:D3679; 63 Wright Street, convert three flats to two flats

1.3 Ownership history

Not Assessed

1.4 Occupation history

	63	61	59	57
1901 (first listings)	Edward M Boulton – manager for Blackburne and Smith	Thomas Ronaldson - Clerk	Wm Jas Adamson - Telegraphist	
1902	Miss Palmer Clark (one of these two houses)		Wm Jas Adamson - Telegraphist	
1903	Walter Jackson – Butcher	Mrs Mary Taylor Frederick Hancock - Bootmaker	Wm Jas Adamson - Telegraphist	Ross Fleming – Law Clerk
1904	Samuel John Birch	Mrs Jane Chappell	Wm Jas Adamson - Telegraphist	Ross Fleming – Law Clerk
1905	Samuel John Birch	Mrs Jane Chappell	Wm Jas Adamson - Telegraphist	John Dunham - Clicker
1910 - 11	Spencer Jacob Tucker - Telegraphist	Mrs Jane Chappell	Wm Jas Adamson - Telegraphist	Thos Albright - Carter
1912 - 13	Spencer Jacob Tucker - Telegraphist		Thomas Snow	William Arthur Ramsay – ironmonger's assistant
1917 - 18	Spencer Jacob Tucker - Telegraphist	Edwin Parkin	Hedley John Crewes - Typist	Alex Ross - bootmaker
1925	Arthur Griffiths Hembrow – coach painter	Miss Maida Adams & Eric Manning Foothed –	Hedley John Crewes - Typist	Charles Hugh Jones – blacksmith

		motor engineer		
1935	Jno Alex Culling - inspector	Misses Maida and Julia Adams	Hedley John Crewes - Typist	James Alexander Nicholson; Mrs Oben
1940	Jno Alex Culling - inspector	Harold George Burtles – hotel employee	Hedley John Crewes - Typist	Mrs Margaret Olney; Jack Colin Carr - carpenter
1945	Cecil Allan Hollamby	Joseph Francis Kearney - watersider	Charles Florence Nicholls – Harbour Board employee	Victor Allan Martin – factory hand; Charles Jackson – motor mechanic
1957	H R Lightenberg - manager	Mrs P D Naylor	Colin Gray - clerk	Victor Allan Martin – factory hand
1961 - 62	Rossen	Mrs Hilda Kingi	Mrs Grace Martin	Mrs Eftihia Papadapouos
1967 - 68	Samuel Brook – civil servant	Mrs J W Donovan	Ms Hilda Kingi	William Aldridge
1971 - 72	Samuel Brook – civil servant	Mrs J W Donovan	Ronald Hutchings	57A – H Chapman – salesman 57 – Derek C McAdam
1975	Apartments	Mrs J W Donovan	Anthony C Hall	Apartments

1.5 Architect

Unknown

2.0 Physical description

2.1 Architecture

Difficult to assess as the buildings are not visible from the street

2.2 Materials

Timber structural frame
Corrugated mild steel roof cladding
Rusticated timber weatherboard

2.3 Setting

Houses 57, 59, 61 & 63 are located on the undulating residential streetscape of Wright Street in Mount Cook. The street is comprised of an interesting mix of houses, many of them dating from the early decades of the 20th century. Near neighbours are the fine Italianate / San Francisco-style houses at 56, 58, 60, 62 & 64 which stand at the highest point of the street - near the south end - with No. 64 being the southernmost one.

3.0 Sources

Papers Past

Evening Post, 20 November 1902, Page 8

Evening Post, 7 April 1908, Page 1

LOCAL AND GENERAL. *Evening Post*, 22 May 1897, Page 4;

O'Brien, Rebecca. Letter from the NZHPT to Barbara Fill (undated but c.2005)

PERSONAL MATTERS *Evening Post*, 30 April 1914, Page 7

THE WRIGHT-STREET FIRE. ARSON BY SOME PERSON OR PERSONS UNKNOWN.
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Wellington City Archive

WCC Archives ref 00053:70:4254 application to build a dwelling at 55 Wright Street by Hawthorn and Crump for Mr Iremonger, February 1901

4.0 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?

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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?

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?

The buildings have some value as a group of buildings that are similar in scale, age & history.

Historic Value:

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

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

Although it seems likely that none of the houses (or their occupants) have had a notable or unusual history, the group of houses can be seen as representative of the development of the Newtown/Mount Cook area.

Scientific Value:

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

Central City NZAA R27/270

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?

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?*

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?*

Local/Regional/National/International

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