

UNDER THE COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ACT 1908

**IN THE MATTER OF ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO
BUILDING FAILURE CAUSED BY
CANTERBURY EARTHQUAKES**

**KOMIHANA A TE KARAUNA HEI TIROTIRO I
NGA WHARE I HORO I NGA RUWHENUA O
WAITAHA**

AND IN THE MATTER OF THE CTV BUILDING COLLAPSE

**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF STEPHEN ADRIAN GRENFELL
IN RELATION TO THE CTV BUILDING**

DATE OF HEARING: COMMENCING 25 JUNE 2012

**STATEMENT OF STEPHEN ADRIAN GRENFELL
IN RELATION TO THE CTV BUILDING**

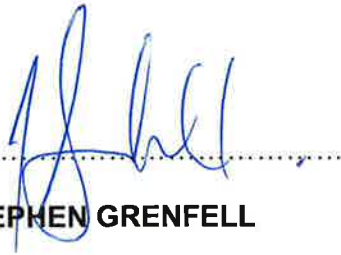
Personal Background

1. My name is Stephen Adrian Grenfell. I reside in Christchurch and am General Manager for Blackwell Motors (Blackwells). I have been employed by Blackwells since 1984.
2. Blackwells was previously located at 220 Madras Street, Christchurch. The HSV Showroom entrance was in line with the east side of the CTV building. I was sitting in my car outside this entrance of Blackwells when I saw the CTV Building (the Building) collapse on 22 February.

22 February

3. I have prepared a plan of the corner of Madras and Cashel Streets (the plan). This is attached and marked "A". Blackwells, IRD Building and the CTV car park have not been drawn to scale and their placement is approximate only. The issues that I refer to in my evidence are marked on this plan.
4. I was parked directly opposite the CTV Building outside Blackwells on Madras Street. I have marked my location as "1" on the plan. I had just got in my car because I was off to an appointment. I was parked on the east side of Madras Street and my car was facing north.
5. I remember the car suddenly lurched forward and I felt the car jump up from the ground. I thought that I had been hit from behind by another car. There was no impact noise so I quickly realised that it was an earthquake.
6. About 5 seconds into the earthquake the Blackwells parapet along Madras Street fell down beside the car. This prompted me to open the car door and get out of the car to get away.

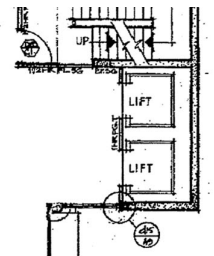
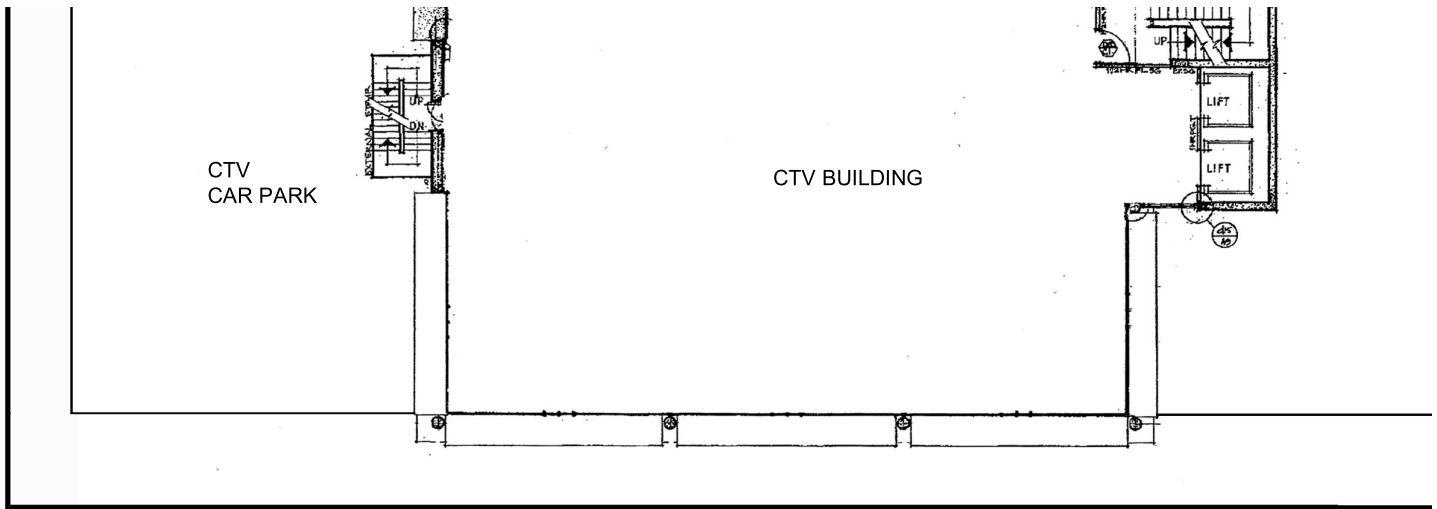
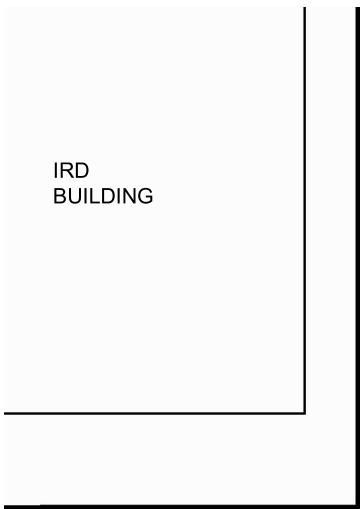
7. As I was shutting the car door I turned so I was looking at the CTV Building. The Building was twisting towards the east in a slightly north direction. It was rocking back and forth and appeared to me to be trembling. I could tell it was going to collapse.
8. I immediately jumped back into the car and shut the door as I thought the car may give me some protection. I was sitting in the drivers' seat and had a view of the Building out the passenger seat and left rear windows. I could clearly see the bottom two levels. It was at this point that the Building started to come down.
9. The Building twisted towards the east before I saw the southeast corner of the building collapse. It looked like it collapsed on Levels 1 or 2. After this corner went the rest of the Building seemed to wrap around and the whole Building collapsed. It looked like it came down on itself.
10. The northeast end of the Building appeared more intact as the Building came down. I think this may have been why it appeared to twist as it collapsed.
11. I saw concrete coming down squashing cars on the side of road. It was very noisy and there was a lot of dust.
12. The Building collapsed about ten seconds after the earthquake began. I am not sure if the earthquake had ended at this point.
13. The dust cleared and I could see that the north core remained standing. A piece of concrete appeared to be hanging from it on a 40 degree angle. It ran parallel with Madras Street approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{2}{3}$ the length of the Building.
14. I left my car at this point and ran around to attend to my staff at Blackwells.
15. I sent six photographs to the Royal Commission; these are attached and marked "B". The photographs were taken by me on my phone. The first photograph shows where my car was parked on the day. I have outlined its approximate position in red. It was taken approximately 15 to 20 minutes after the earthquake. The other photographs were taken early the next morning from Blackwells.

Signed: 
STEPHEN GRENFELL

Date: 18/5/2012

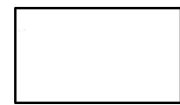
"A"

WIT.GRENFELL.0001.5

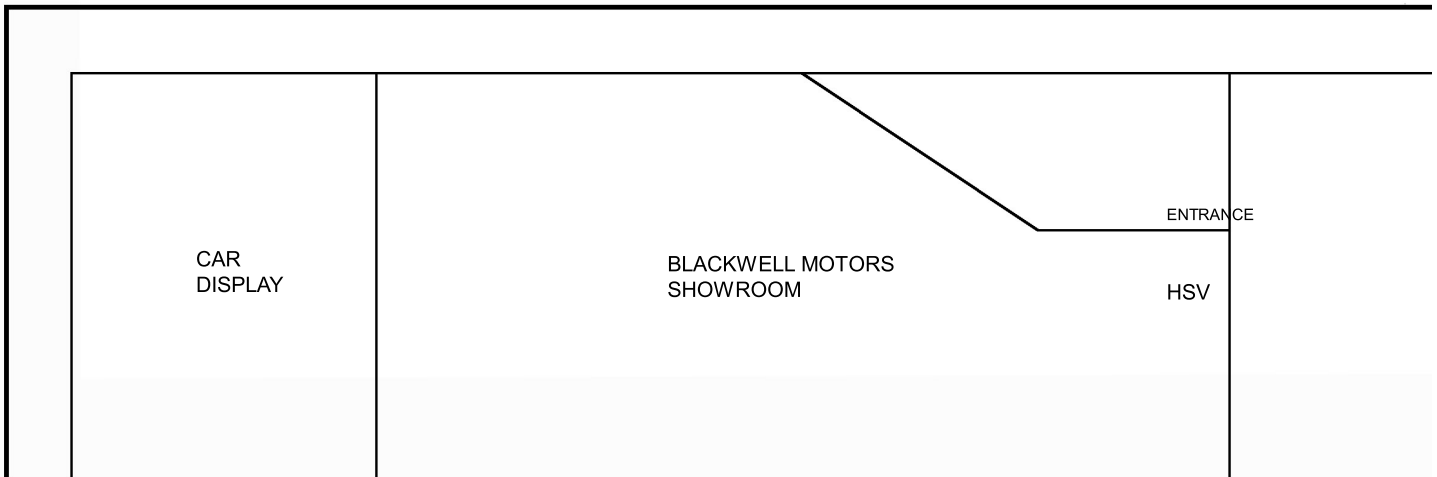
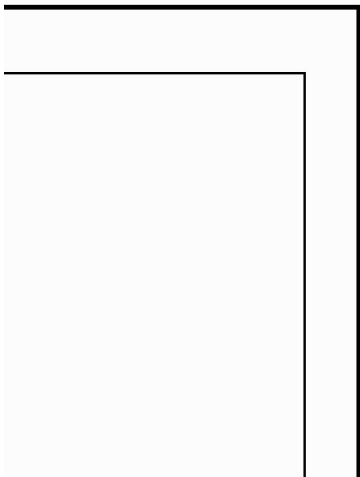


CASHEL STREET

MADRAS STREET



1



KEY

1. Location of Stephen Grenfell

PLAN NOT TO SCALE



N

"B"

WIT.GRENFELL.0001.6



1









