

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME 'Dinting House', former Brown house

ADDRESS 74 Wilkin Street, Temuka

PHOTOGRAPH
(date/source of photo)

FORMER DISTRICT PLAN ITEM No. No 128 **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** n/a
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Lot 1 DP 45671, also Lots 6 & 7 DP 26438

VALUATION NUMBER 2478014517

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1883

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** W Upton, architect

STYLE Square-plan villa

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with an irregular square footprint and multiple hipped roof forms. Arched entrance porch on west elevation has a pavilion roof. Verandas on north and west elevations. Bracketed eaves, corbelled chimneys.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber, corrugated metal, brick.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Unknown, if any.

SETTING

'Dinting House' is set back from the roadway on the east side of Wilkin Street, midway between Richard Pearse Drive in the north and Princes Street in the south. The house is centrally located within the block that is bounded to the east by Rayner Street North. Vehicle access to the property is via both Wilkin Street and Rayner Street. The extent of setting is the three land parcels on which the house and its garden are located, partly in view of the potential archaeological values of the site.

HISTORY

The home of Elijah (c.1840-1927) and Martha (c.1843-1903) Brown was built in 1883 and known as 'Dinting House'. The couple emigrated from England in 1863 and settled in Temuka after a couple of years of residence in Brisbane, Australia and Timaru. Garden parties to raise funds for the Methodist church to which they belonged were held by the Browns at their home until at least 1935. Martha Brown was also a keen supporter of the local cricket club, for which her husband and two sons played. Local business premises closed for two hours as a mark of respect on the day of her funeral. Elijah Brown was a successful coal and wood merchant and a keen sportsman; the couple also had five daughters. The Browns' hospitality was carried on after Elijah Brown's death by his daughter Gertrude (died 1946). The Browns' youngest daughter Lillian married Thomas Buxton in 1898; he later became a Temuka Borough Councillor (1899), the Mayor (from 1902) and a Liberal MP from 1908 until he retired from politics in 1914. Elijah and Martha Brown's younger son Stanley also achieved success in his field, becoming a member of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1910 and a Fellow in 1913. 'Dinting House' has passed through a number of hands since it left the Brown family. In 1967, when the property was subdivided, it was owned by TN Lovatt (1896-1968), a master potter who worked for the Temuka Pottery from 1941 until 1966 and then opened his own studio in Temuka.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

'Dinting House' has historical and social significance for its association with the Brown family and the contribution they made to the social life of the town, especially in regard to the annual garden parties held to benefit the Methodist Church.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

'Dinting House' has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of a successful settler family from the 1880s until the mid-20th century.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

'Dinting House' has architectural significance as the work of Timaru and Temuka architect William JN Upton (c.1837-1910). Upton was a builder/architect who had arrived in the district in c.1863. He built Temuka's Presbyterian Church and served for a time as Inspector of Works for the Timaru and Gladstone Board of Works. Upton settled in Temuka in c.1882 and lived in a house he designed and built himself; he left the town in late 1884 to try to find work in Auckland, in view of the economic downturn then affecting the country. Upton died in Mangatainoko in September 1910.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

'Dinting House' has craftsmanship value for the quality of its construction and detailing.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

'Dinting House' has contextual value as a historic feature in suburban Temuka, whose presence is signalled by the mature trees and hedging on Wilkin Street. The block bounded by North Town Belt (Richard Pearse Drive), and Rayner, Princes and Wilkin Streets was subdivided in 1967, reducing the setting of 'Dinting House' to its present-day size.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the house pre-dates 1900 the site of 'Dinting House' has potential archaeological significance relating to the colonial development of the house and garden by the Browns.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

'Dinting House' has overall heritage significance to Temuka and to Timaru district as a whole. The house has historical and social significance for its association with two generations of the Brown family and cultural value as a demonstration of their way of life. 'Dinting House' has architectural significance as a Victorian villa designed by local architect William Upton and craftsmanship value for the quality of its construction and detailing. 'Dinting House' has contextual value as a local historic feature in suburban Temuka and its site has potential archaeological significance in view of the age of the house.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

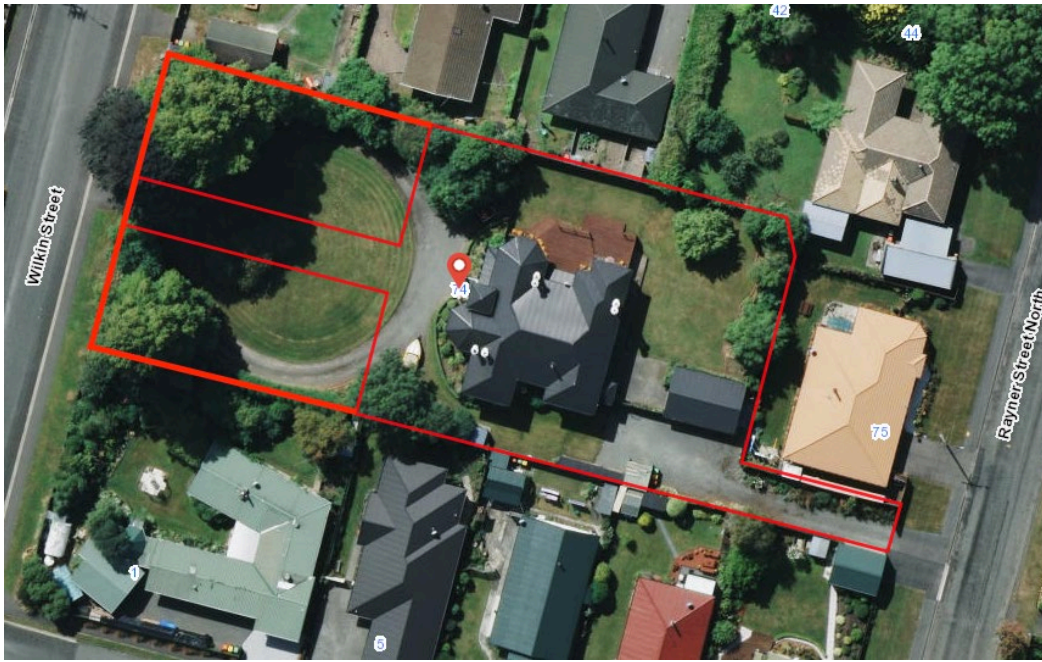
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REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 5 September 1877, p. 1; 16 April 1883, p. 1; 7 May 1890, p. 2; 21 November 1900, p. 2; 20 April 1903, p. 2; 22 March 1913, p. 9; 5 December 1919, p. 7.
- *Temuka Leader* 23 February 1884, p. 2; 8 March 1884, p. 2; 19 April 1884, p. 2; 16 August 1884, p. 2; 4 December 1884, p. 2; 14 December 1884, p. 2; 18 June 1887, p. 2; 23 April 1898, p. 2; 21 April 1903, p. 2; 29 November 1910, p. 2; 18 March 1913, p. 4; 2 December 1913, p. 2; 12 November 1918, p. 3; 1 December 1921, p. 3; 20 January 1923, p. 3; 13 February 1926, p. 2; 1 October 1927, p. 2; 4 October 1927, p. 2; 13 December 1927, p. 3; 19 April 1928, p. 2; 29 November 1930, p. 2; 19 May 1931, p. 4; 15 March 1932, p. 2.
- *Press* 21 April 1928, p. 23.
- *Woodville Examiner* 9 September 1910, p. 2.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand - Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903 (available online).
- *Calendar of the Royal College of Surgeons of England* 1914, p. 118 (available online).
- <http://www.nz museums.co.nz/account/3359/object/86077>

A GRAND
GARDEN PARTY
will be held at
Mr E. Brown's "Dinting House"
TO-DAY,
THURSDAY, 25th NOVEMBER
commencing at 2.30 p.m.
BOWLS, CROQUET, TENNIS.
Refreshments. Tickets 1/-.
Proceeds in aid of Wesley Church
Trust.

Temuka Leader 25 November 1909, p. 2. PapersPast.



Extent of scheduling, 74 Wilkin Street, Temuka.