

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former Temuka Library, Plunket Society and WCTU Rest Room

ADDRESS 53-57 King Street, Temuka

PHOTOGRAPH



(A McEwan, 12 July 2017)

FORMER DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. NO. 118 **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 2035/2
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Pt Lot 4 DP 24229

VALUATION NUMBER 2477034900

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1926-27

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Turnbull & Rule, architects; A Kennedy, contractor

STYLE Neoclassical

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with irregular footprint and gabled and hipped roof forms. Symmetrical façade with pedimented recessed entry flanked by columns; rusticated pilasters frame entrance bay and ends of street front. Blocked cornice, stepped parapet with flagpole, arched fanlight over panelled entrance doors. Two arched, multi-pane windows with keystones on either side of entry, which is accessed via concrete steps. Foundation stone to right of entry. Wreath encircles book motif in entrance pediment. Multi-pane casement and fanlight type windows on side and rear elevations; concrete lintels over openings.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Brick, concrete, cement plaster, timber and corrugated iron.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Restaurant / residential conversion (2001). Garage erected on south side (post-2004).

SETTING

The former library stands in the west side of King Street, immediately to the south of the former Temuka Post Office (heritage item # 119), which is south of King Street's intersection with Domain Avenue. The extent of scheduling is the land parcel on which the former library is located, partly in view of the potential archaeological values of the site.

HISTORY

Local MP TD Burnett, who had contributed £500 towards the edifice, laid the foundation stone of the new Temuka Library on 24 June 1926. The building was erected by the Temuka Mechanics' Institute (est. 1872); funding from the Temuka Borough Council and the Geraldine County Council financed a Plunket Society room and Women's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) rest rooms. Previously the Institute had occupied a timber building on the same site that was built in 1873. GB Cartwright was the Mayor of Temuka at the time of the library's construction and the building was formally opened by Burnett on 14 February 1927. After a new library was built in King Street in the 1990s, the former library was sold by the Timaru District Council in 2001. It was a restaurant before becoming a wholly private dwelling.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Temuka Library, Plunket and Rest Rooms has historical and social significance for its association with members of the Temuka community who formed a library institute for the benefit of local people in the early 1870s. The building represents the renewal of many of Temuka's town centre buildings in the early 20th century and the social pattern whereby Plunket Society and women's rest rooms were seen as important civic amenities during the interwar period.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Temuka Library, Plunket and Rest Rooms has cultural significance as a demonstration of the way of life of Temuka residents between the world wars. The building included a librarian's residence, meaning that its current residential use is consistent with one aspect of the building's original purpose.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Temuka Library, Plunket and Rest Rooms has architectural significance as the work of Timaru architectural practice, Turnbull and Rule. Timaru-born James Turnbull (1864-1947) trained in Melbourne and then established a practice in Timaru in c.1895. The son of Richard Turnbull, a prominent Timaru businessman and politician, Turnbull also designed Job Brown's Beehive Stores (1901-2) in Temuka, Chalmers Church (1903-4, heritage item # 38) in Timaru, and a large number of Timaru houses. Turnbull went into partnership with Percy Watts Rule in c.1920, after which time Percy Rule was the principal designer in the firm. The firm designed St James' Anglican Church at Franz Josef (1928-31) and Rule was awarded a Gold Medal from the NZ Institute of Architects for his design of the Surgical Wing at Timaru Hospital (1936-40) in 1939. The former library provides evidence of the persistence of the classical style during the interwar period, at which time it manifested a George Revival influence.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Temuka Library, Plunket and Rest Rooms has craftsmanship significance for the quality of its brick masonry construction and classical detailing. A Kennedy was a Timaru builder.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Temuka Library, Plunket and Rest Rooms has contextual significance as a local landmark and for its relationship, both physically and stylistically, with the former Temuka Post Office (1901-2, heritage item # 119) and the former Temuka Courthouse (1900-1, heritage item # 120). The library site has been part of a precinct of civic and governmental buildings since the early 1870s. The building was praised by TD Burnett in 1926 for creating a good impression at the south end of the town centre.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although the former library building post-dates 1900, its site has potential archaeological significance in relation to the earlier development of the site for the Mechanics' Institute building.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Temuka Library, Plunket Society and WCTU Rest Rooms has overall significance to Temuka and Timaru district as a whole. The building has historical and social significance for its association with the Temuka Mechanics' Institute and the settlement's provision of its own community facilities. The former Temuka Library, Plunket and Rest Rooms has cultural significance as a demonstration of the way of life of Temuka's residents for almost 70 years and architectural significance as the work of noted Timaru architectural firm Turnbull and Rule. The former Temuka Library, Plunket and Rest Rooms has craftsmanship significance for its brick masonry construction and detailing and contextual significance as a local landmark and in relation to the former Temuka Post Office and former Temuka Courthouse. Although the building post-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Temuka Leader* 7 September 1882, p. 2; 5 February 1924, p. 2; 3 May 1924, p. 3; 5 August 1924, p. 3; 13 February 1926, p. 3; 26 June 1926, p. 3.
- *Otago Daily Times* 1 May 1925, p. 9; 22 March 1926, p. 8.
- *Press* 4 June 1923, p. 4; 30 January 1925, p. 7; 8 July 1927, p. 8.
- *Southland Times* 18 October 1920, p. 5.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/2035>
- https://lianza.org.nz/sites/default/files/mechanics_institutes_verran.pdf



Extent of scheduling, 53-57 King Street, Temuka.



Foundation stone.



HNZPT.