

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former Temuka Post Office

ADDRESS 59 King Street, Temuka

PHOTOGRAPH



(A McEwan, 12 July 2017)

FORMER DISTRICT PLAN ITEM No. No. 119 **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 2036 / 2
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Secs 2 & 3 SO 17995

VALUATION NUMBER 2477034401 & 2477034800

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1901-2

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** James Baine, draughtsman, Public Works Department;
F Palliser, contractor

STYLE Edwardian Baroque

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Two-storey building with irregular trapezoidal footprint; pavilion and hipped roof forms. Single-storey wings to west and south. Symmetrical elevations overlook both road frontages; main entry is off King Street. Recessed entrance porch has arched opening with keystones, building name and open-bed segmental pediment bearing crest and sovereign's initials (ER). Rusticated pilasters on ground floor with paired pilasters with Gibbs surround on first floor. Pediments over ground floor windows and at string course level. Double-hung sash windows with multi-pane upper sashes. Rounded at south-east corner, timber stairs to first floor on south elevation. Swags and rosettes above first floor windows on King Street frontage. Separate entry to postmaster's residence off Domain Avenue is set behind fencing that matches same extending along the road frontage up to and including the former Temuka Courthouse.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Brick, cement plaster, timber and corrugated iron.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Telephone exchange addition to south elevation (1913). Pediments over main entrance and central bay overlooking Domain Avenue removed; 'widow's walk' railing around main roof and chimneystacks on west elevation and north-east & south-east corners removed (pre-mid-1980s).

SETTING

The former post office stands on the south-west corner of King Street and Domain Avenue. The former Temuka Courthouse is to the west and the former Temuka Library is to the south. The William Rolleston Memorial Lamp (1904, heritage item # 122) is located on the footpath immediately adjacent to the former post office. The extent of scheduling includes the two land parcels on which the building is located. It is noted that the Heritage NZPT list entry only includes Sec 3 SO 17995.

HISTORY

Temuka's first post office was erected on this site in c.1867. After that building was sold for removal, construction commenced on a new masonry post office in August 1901. The new building was opened by acting Premier and Post-Master General Sir Joseph Ward on 16 June 1902. Accommodation for the postmaster was provided on the first floor and in the single storey wing at the rear (west elevation) of the post office. The building's first telephone exchange opened on 27 August 1902, it was extended in early 1913 and superseded by a new exchange in 1949. Banking operations and postal services moved out of the building in 1988 and 1993 respectively. After the post office's closure, the building was purchased by the Temuka Assembly of God. It has been under new ownership and in retail use since 2008.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Temuka Post Office has historical significance for its association with the provision of government post and telegraph services in the town for roughly 90 years. The building represents the renewal of many of Temuka's town centre buildings in the early 20th century and the social pattern whereby former government buildings gained new uses after their closure in the later 20th century.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Temuka Post Office has cultural significance as a site of community identity and as a demonstration of the way of life of its former postmasters, their families, staff and customers.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Temuka Post Office has architectural significance as an Edwardian Baroque design by James Baine of the Public Works Department. Baine was a draughtsman in the office of the Government Architect, John Campbell, who had overall responsibility for the 'corporate' style of government buildings from 1899 until his retirement in 1922. The Temuka post office represents Campbell's preference for the ornamental exuberance of the Edwardian Baroque style in the early 20th century.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Temuka Post Office has technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its brick masonry construction and classical detailing. Frank Palliser was a Timaru builder and contractor who also erected 'Elloughton Grange' for William Grant (1893, heritage item # 5). Palliser built Timaru's Salvation Army Barracks and erected hotels in Timaru, Fairlie, Winchester and Pleasant Point. He was assisted in erecting the Temuka Post Office by Messrs W Petrie & Son.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Temuka Post Office has contextual significance as a local landmark and for its relationship, both physically and stylistically, with the former Temuka Courthouse (1900-1, heritage item # 120) and the former Temuka Library (1926-27, heritage item # 118). A precinct of civic and governmental buildings has occupied this part of the Temuka town

centre since the early 1870s. The former post office's corner site makes it a defining feature at the southern end of the town's main commercial street.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although the former post office post-dates 1900, its site has potential archaeological significance in relation to the earlier development of the site.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Temuka Post Office has overall significance to Temuka and Timaru district as a whole. The building has historical significance for its association with government services in the town for c.90 years and cultural significance as a demonstration of the way of life of its former staff and customers. The former Temuka Post Office has architectural significance as an Edwardian Baroque design produced by the Government Architect's office and technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its brick masonry construction and classical detailing. The former Temuka Post Office has contextual significance as a local landmark and in relation to the William Rolleston Memorial Lamp, the former Temuka Courthouse and former Temuka Library. Although the building post-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

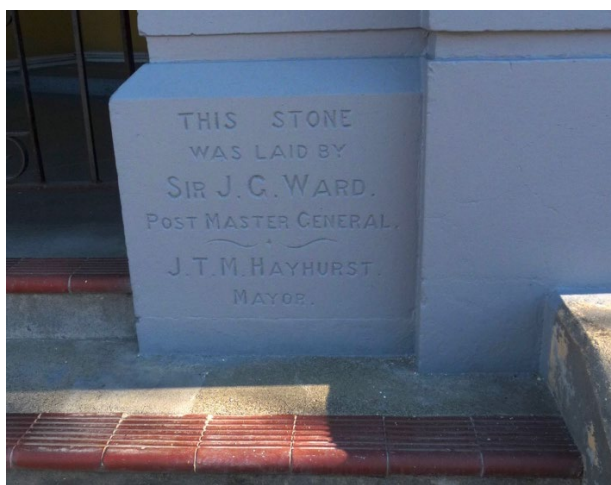
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Extent of scheduling, 59 King Street, Temuka.



Foundation stone and historic image.