

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME Queen's Hotel
ADDRESS 2 Barnard Street, Timaru

PHOTOGRAPH



(A McEwan, 11 July 2018)

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

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Lot 190 DP 1

VALUATION NUMBER 2500039200

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1878

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Thomas Machin, architect; J Simpson, builder

STYLE Commercial classicism

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Two storey-building with irregular rectangular footprint and hipped roof with centre gutter. Cross gables at rear (west elevation). East and south elevations address the roadway and meet at a rounded corner with segmental pediment atop the solid parapet. Circular opening in the pediment was intended to be fitted with a clock. Simple cornice, arch-headed double-hung sash windows. Rusticated ground floor. First floor fire escape balcony on both principal elevations. Monopitch extension to west on North Street has two storeys but is not as high as original façade. Single storey addition to north on Barnard Street repeats rusticated wall surface but has metal fenestration.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Brick, cement plaster, corrugated iron roofing.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

West and north lower-level extensions, first floor facades plastered (mid-20th C?).

SETTING

The building occupies a corner site on the west side of Barnard Street, with North Street to the south. The Timaru Police Station and Timaru Courthouse (heritage item # 41) are on the opposite side of North Street. The extent of scheduling is the land parcel on which the hotel is located.

HISTORY

Thomas Bell Jones opened the Queen's Hotel opposite the Timaru Courthouse on 1 October 1878. Jones (c.1841-1907) was a blacksmith and had previously been declared bankrupt in 1875. He held the license until September 1880, at which time it was transferred to T Hurt. By 1893 AF Anderson was in possession of the hotel and it has passed through a number of hands since. In 2014 it was announced that the hotel was closing but new owners were found and the hotel continues to operate today.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Queen's Hotel has historical and social significance for its association with its early publicans and their patrons and, more generally, the commercial and social development of Timaru's town centre.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Queen's Hotel has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its former publicans and their patrons, whether as hotel guests or visitors to the bar.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Queen's Hotel has architectural significance as a mid-Victorian commercial classical building designed by local builder turned architect Thomas Machin. As a contractor Machin was responsible for the Timaru and Gladstone Board of Works building (1874, heritage item # 43) and the former Union Bank of Australia (1876-77), both in Stafford Street, as well as Bruce's Royal Flouring Mills (1881-82, heritage item # 39). Machin also practised as an architect, which was permissible before registration and the protected status of the term 'architect' was legislated in the early 20th century. Machin described his approach to the construction of buildings and the design of hotels for fire safety in a letter to the editor of the *Timaru Herald* in September 1879. His comments about the dangers of oversize cornices would suggest that the Queen's Hotel was designed in part to reflect Machin's advocacy of life safety over architectural ornament.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Queen's Hotel has technological and craftsmanship value for its brick construction and simplified classical detailing. The architect's concern for fire safety (see above) is notable in the design and execution of the building.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Queen's Hotel has contextual significance as a notable historic feature and for its relationship with other contemporary Timaru hotels, including the Excelsior (1872-73), the Dominion (heritage item # 36), and the Old Bank Hotel (heritage item # 33). North Street formed the boundary between the government town and Rhodes town in the early colonial period. The proximity of the Queen's Hotel to Timaru's police station and courthouse maintains the historic relationship between the town's justice precinct and the nearest hospitality provider.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the building pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Queen's Hotel has overall heritage significance to Timaru and Timaru district as a whole. The building has historical and social significance for its 140-year history as a hotel and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its early proprietors and their patrons.

The Queen's Hotel has architectural significance as the work of local builder/architect Thomas Machin and technological and craftsmanship value for its brick construction and simplified classical detailing. The Queen's Hotel has contextual significance for the contribution it makes to the Timaru town centre streetscape and its site has potential archaeological significance in view of the building's age.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 7 July 1875, p. 2; 20 February 1877, p. 4; 8 June 1878, p. 1; 13 June 1878, p. 4; 26 September 1878, p. 3; 28 September 1878, p. 2; 2 October 1878, p. 2; 12 October 1878, p. 2; 6 November 1878, p. 3; 15 September 1879, p. 2; 8 September 1880, p. 1; 13 June 1882, p. 3; 26 September 1884, p. 2; 21 October 1893, p. 2; 26 February 1907, p. 4; 27 August 2014 & 23 September 2014 (available online).
- *South Canterbury Times* 8 June 1880, p. 2; 5 March 1881, p. 2; 16 May 1882, p. 3; 23 June 1886, p. 3.
- *Temuka Leader* 21 April 1898, p. 1.
- *Globe* 20 June 1878, p. 3.
- *Taranaki Herald* 30 September 1907, p. 2.
- <http://www.timarucivictrust.co.nz/activities/queens-hotel> [Note date of hotel and the architect responsible are both incorrect on this web page].



Extent of setting, 2 Barnard Street, Timaru.