

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former O'Driscoll/Evans house / 'Lisava'

ADDRESS 1 Lisava Avenue, Timaru

PHOTOGRAPH



(TDC)

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

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Lot 1 DP 23904

VALUATION NUMBER 2499132900

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1884

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Maurice de H Duval, architect; Frank Palliser, builder

STYLE Italianate

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Two-storey building with irregular rectangular footprint and hipped roof forms. Principal elevation faces east and is symmetrical about an arched entry with vermiculated voussoirs. Bracketed eaves, quoins, double-hung sash windows, and corbelled balcony over main entry. Stable windows in living room open on to veranda with cast iron posts on north elevation. Leadlight windows on stairwell, cornice between floors.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Brick, plaster and corrugated metal.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Conversion in to flats (1937); restored to single-family home (1978). Sunroom addition (date unknown).

SETTING

The dwelling stands on the west side of Lisava Avenue, which runs off the north side of North Street between Gibson Street in the west and Grey Road in the east. The house can be glimpsed from the roadway but is largely screened by mature vegetation. The extent of setting is the land parcel on which the house is located.

HISTORY

The house at 1 Lisava Avenue was built by Thomas O'Driscoll (1838-91), an Irish-born publican who was the proprietor of the Hibernian Hotel and an active member and supporter of the Catholic church. O'Driscoll emigrated to New Zealand in 1866 and worked for a time as a builder before becoming a hotelier. On 26 December 1879 O'Driscoll incited fellow Hibernians to protest against the members of the Orange lodge who planned to march through the streets of Timaru; he was subsequently fined £100 for the part he played in the subsequent riot. Brosnahan describes the O'Driscolls as the leading family in Timaru's Catholic parish. The house was later owned by William Evans (1838-1930) and, somewhat confusingly, named 'Lisava' as was every other house in which the Evans family resided. Evans had also been born in Ireland from whence he emigrated to New Zealand in 1861. He set himself up as a merchant in Timaru in 1875, developing the former Atlas Foundry site (Flockton & Co foundry est. 1868) as premises for his coal, grain and timber business. Evans subsequently established the Atlas Roller Flour and Oatmeal Milling Company in 1888; he also had an interest in the Crown Roller Mills in Dunedin. Evans was twice married and had ten children. He died at his home in 1930. Lisava Avenue was created in 1936 and named for the Evans's house. The property was subdivided to its current extent in 1965 and remains in private residential use.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

'Lisava' has historical significance for its association with Thomas O'Driscoll and William Evans and their families and as a demonstration of the wealth that was achieved by some of the district's early settlers.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

'Lisava' has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of the O'Driscoll and Evans families from 1885 until the mid-20th century.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

'Lisava' has architectural significance as a design by Maurice de Harven Duval, a French or Belgian architect who practised in Timaru between c.1877 and 1895. Duval undertook a considerable amount of work for the Catholic church in Canterbury, including St Mary's Church at Pleasant Point (1889), was the architect to the South Canterbury Education Board, and also designed residential and commercial buildings.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

'Lisava' has technological and craftsmanship significance for its brick masonry construction and ornamental plaster detailing. Timaru builder and contractor Frank Palliser was born in Yorkshire and learnt his trade in England before emigrating to New Zealand. He also built Timaru's Salvation Army Barracks and hotels in Timaru, Temuka, Fairlie, Winchester and Pleasant Point. In 1893 Palliser built 'Elloughton Grange' in Pages Road (heritage item # 5) to the design of Maurice Duval.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

'Lisava' has contextual value as a historic feature in the suburb of Seaview and for its association with the former Evans Atlas Flour Milling Company grain stores and mill (heritage item # 42).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the building pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological value relating to the structure's construction and the development of suburban Timaru.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former O’Driscoll/Evans house known as ‘Lisava’ has overall heritage significance to Timaru and Timaru district as a whole. The house has historical significance for its association with Thomas O’Driscoll and William Evans and their families and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of two successful Irish immigrants. ‘Lisava’ has architectural significance as the work of the architect Maurice Duval and technical and craftsmanship significance for its brick construction and plaster detailing by contractor Frank Palliser. ‘Lisava’ has contextual value as a local historic feature and its site has potential archaeological value in view of its pre-1900 date of construction.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

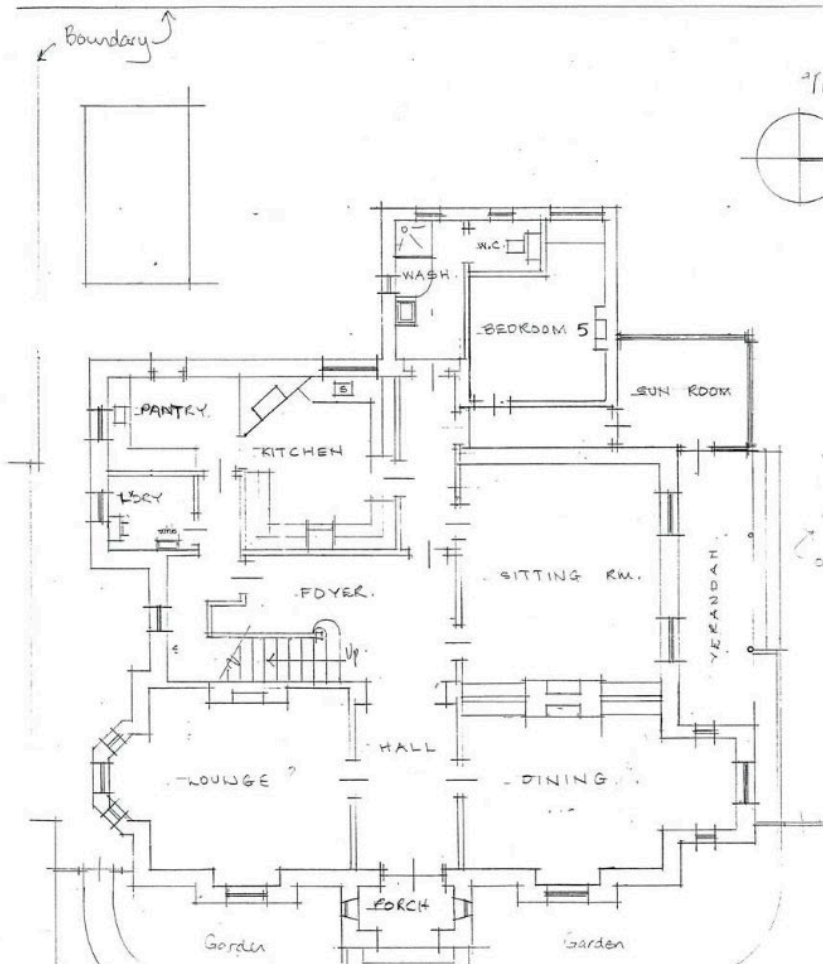
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REFERENCES

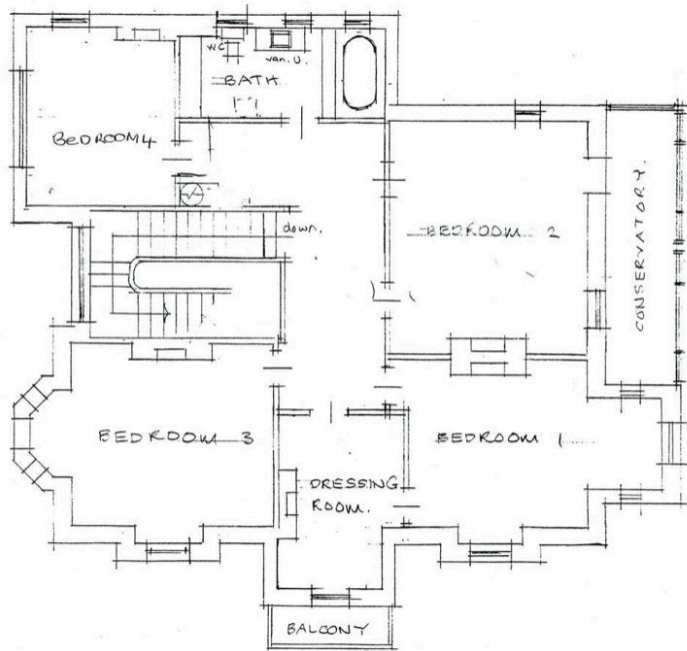
- *Timaru Herald* 18 June 1885, p. 2; 20 November 1895, p. 2; 5 June 1899, p. 2; 25 September 1909, p. 10.
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- *South Canterbury Times* 10 April 1884, p. 3.
- *Star* 9 October 1891, p. 3.
- *Temuka Leader* 10 October 1891, p. 2; 4 March 1930, p. 3.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903; available online.
- S Brosnahan *Thinking about Heaven – a history of Sacred Heart parish, Timaru* Timaru, 2011.
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Extent of setting, 1 Lisava Avenue, Seaview, Timaru.



Ground floor plan.



First floor plan.