

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former Temuka Courthouse / Temuka Historical Society Courthouse Museum

ADDRESS 2A Domain Avenue, Temuka

PHOTOGRAPH



(A McEwan, 12 July 2017)

FORMER DISTRICT PLAN ITEM No. No. 120 **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 2032 / 2
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION RS 41310

VALUATION NUMBER 2477034700

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1900-1

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** AJE Schwartz / John Campbell, Public Works Department; Messrs Clinch and Lloyd, contractors

STYLE Transitional Edwardian Baroque

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with L-shaped footprint and hipped roof forms. Symmetrical façade with projecting gabled entrance bay topped by scroll pediment pierced by a finial. Arched fanlight over entry has wagon wheel detailing. Blind arcade above cornice on wings flanking entrance. Elaborate pedimented chimneystacks. Double-hung sash windows have multi-pane upper sashes within arched frames; ornamental keystones over all windows and aprons beneath façade windows. Brick pilasters, string courses, round windows with keystones flank fanlight on entrance bay.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Brick, cement plaster, timber and corrugated iron.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

New outbuildings (1907). Rear addition (1910-11). Mortuary building erected to rear of courthouse (1928).

SETTING

The former courthouse stands on the south side of Domain Avenue, west of its intersection with King Street. It is set back from the roadway behind an ornamental fence with central gates; the garden setting also emphasises the symmetry of the façade. The former Temuka

Post Office and former Temuka Library are located on King Street to the east of the former courthouse. The extent of scheduling is the land parcel on which the former courthouse is located. It is noted that the former mortuary building stands on a separate land parcel behind the courthouse lot.

HISTORY

Temuka's first courthouse was erected on this site in 1871. The foundation stone of its replacement was laid on 22 September 1900, after the original building had been removed from the site for use by a local lodge. While the new courthouse was being built court business was conducted in a building on the opposite side of Domain Avenue. At the end of April 1901 the new building was ready for use. Outbuildings to replace those burnt in early August 1907 were erected on the site later in the same year. By February 1911 a hip roofed addition at the rear of the courthouse to accommodate electoral staff was nearing completion. A morgue was erected behind the courthouse, on Section 1 SO 15125, in 1928. It was funded by the Temuka Borough Council, Geraldine County Council, Levels County Council and the South Canterbury Hospital and Charitable Aid Board. The Temuka Courthouse closed in October 1979 and reopened as the Temuka Museum in 1982. It is open to the public on Sunday afternoons.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Temuka Courthouse has historical significance for its association with the provision of judicial services in the town for almost 80 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 community uses after their closure in the later 20th century.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Temuka Courthouse has cultural significance as a site of community identity and historic continuity. The use, since 1982, of the building as a local history museum enhances its cultural values and community esteem.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Temuka Courthouse has high architectural significance as a transitional Edwardian Baroque design by the Government Architect's office of the Public Works Department. While contemporary reports of the new Temuka Courthouse's opening attribute the design of the building to F Schwartz, there does not appear to have been an architect with that initial in the government's employ. Peter Richardson identifies the designer of the Temuka building as Guido George Schwartz (1853-1926), who was a German-born architect who emigrated to New Zealand in 1879 and practised architecture in Timaru, Christchurch and Wellington. GG Schwartz does not appear to have had an association with the Government Architect's office however. The more likely candidate for the design and/or oversight of the Temuka Courthouse is Augustus JE Schwartz (1837-1916), who was born in Denmark and settled in New Zealand in 1862. Augustus Schwartz was in the government's employ in Christchurch from 1875 and he held the post of the Inspector of Public Works at the time of his retirement in the early 20th century. Government Architect John Campbell authorised the reuse of the Temuka design for the Bluff Courthouse in 1903 (demolished). Te Ara Encyclopedia of New Zealand describes the former Temuka Courthouse as 'one of the finest small-town public buildings' in the country.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Temuka Courthouse has technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its brick masonry construction and ornate classical detailing. Messrs Clinch and Lloyd were local contractors who also built Job Brown's Beehive Stores (1901-2, heritage item # 117).

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Temuka Courthouse 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 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 Volunteer Drill Hall (1872 & 1886), which stood immediately to the west of the Courthouse, was demolished in 1989.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although the former courthouse 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 Courthouse / Temuka Museum has high overall significance to Temuka and Timaru district as a whole. The building has historical significance for its association with judicial services in the town for almost 80 years and its later conversion to a community facility. The former Temuka Courthouse / Temuka Museum has cultural significance as a site of community identity and esteem and high architectural significance as a transitional Edwardian Baroque design by the Government Architect's office. The former Temuka Courthouse / Temuka Museum has technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its brick masonry construction and ornate classical detailing and contextual significance as a local landmark and in relation to the former Temuka Post Office and former Temuka Library. Although the building post-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

A

REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 13 May 1871, p. 2; 1 May 1901, p. 3; 22 October 1907, p. 5; 4 November 2017 (available online).
- *Temuka Leader* 3 May 1900, p. 3; 2 August 1900, p. 2; 18 August 1900, p. 2; 22 September 1900, p. 2; 18 December 1900, p. 1; 29 August 1903, p. 2; 6 August 1907, p. 2; 1 October 1907, p. 2; 22 October 1910, p. 2; 20 December 1910, p. 2; 21 February 1911, p. 2; 28 August 1928, p. 2; 20 October 1928, p. 3.
- *Otago Daily Times* 13 September 1899, p. 2.
- *South Canterbury Times* 21 July 1900, p. 3; 31 July 1900, p. 2.
- *Press* 2 May 1901, p. 4; 29 February 1916, p. 9.
- *Evening Post* 25 May 1926, p. 9.
- *Akaroa Mail & Banks Peninsula Advertiser* 19 June 1903, p. 2.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/2032>
- Peter Richardson 'Building the dominion: government architecture in New Zealand, 1840-1922' PhD thesis, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, 1997. Available online.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903 (available online).
- Peter Richardson 'An Architecture of Empire: The government buildings of John Campbell in New Zealand' MA thesis, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, 1988. Available online.
- <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/2c3/campbell-john>
- <https://teara.govt.nz/en/photograph/11481/temuka-museum>
- <http://www.timarucivictrust.co.nz/activities/the-temuka-court-house>
- <http://wellingtoncityheritage.org.nz/architects/guido-schwartz>



Extent of scheduling, 2A Domain Avenue, Temuka.