

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former Geraldine Town Board Office

ADDRESS 5 Cox Street, Geraldine

PHOTOGRAPH



(Dr J Wilson, September 2018)

FORMER DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. No.106 **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 2020 / 2
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Sec 1 SO 442460

VALUATION NUMBER 2475152000A

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1885 (rebuilt 1975-76)

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** D McKenzie, architect; Messrs Dierck & White,
builders

STYLE Vernacular with vestigial classical detailing

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with rectangular footprint and gabled roof. Symmetrical façade, with projecting flat-roofed entrance porch flanked by double-hung sash windows. Rough-hewn coursed bluestone with ashlar limestone dressings, including quoins, porch and window surrounds. Multi-pane fanlight over entrance door. 'Town Board Office' inscribed in lintel over entry.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Bluestone (basalt) and limestone, corrugated iron.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Deconstructed at original site (1969) and rebuilt on current site (1975-76). Chimneys removed (date unknown). Addition at rear (before c.2004) and to the west (2014).

SETTING

The former Geraldine Town Board office is located on the south side of Cox Street (SH 79), roughly midway between Hislop Street to the west and Talbot Street to the east. The building is set back from the roadway with the former Wharton women's rest (1927) to the east of the former office. The Geraldine Domain and recreational reserve lie to the south-west of the Geraldine Historical Society Museum complex. The extent of scheduling is limited to the northerly portion of the site, including the former Town Board office, its approach from the roadway and the former Wharton building. It is noted that the HNZPT extent of list entry

includes only the building's footprint and excludes both the former women's rest and the later additions to the museum.

HISTORY

The Geraldine Town Board was established in June 1884. The board held its first meetings in the premises of the Literary Institute, but soon built its own premises in Talbot Street near the post office. A foundation stone was laid on 10 March 1885 and the building first occupied on 1 July. In December 1904 the town district became a borough, which continued to use the former town board office until 1965. After a short time serving as a bus depot, the 1885 building was dismantled by members of the Geraldine Historical Society in 1969 and then reconstructed on its present site in 1975-76. The foundation stone of the building on its new site was laid on 2 April 1975 and on 20 November 1976 it was re-opened as the town's museum. The Wharton building, designed by Harold Broadhead and built by JW Miller, is also part of the museum complex. It was gifted to the town for use as a women's rest room by Mrs Margaret Wharton in 1927. After new toilets were built by the council in 2001, the Wharton building was used for a time by the local branch of the Plunket Society before being taken over by the Historical Society. Additions to the museum carried out before c.2004 and in 2014 considerably enlarged the facility, which is open daily.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Geraldine Town Board office has historical significance for its association with the provision of local government services in the town for 80 years. The building has added significance for its association with the Geraldine Historical Society since 1969 and the social pattern whereby former governmental buildings gained new community uses after their closure in the later 20th century.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Geraldine Town Board office has cultural significance as a site of community identity and historic continuity. The use, since 1976, of the building as a local history museum enhances its cultural values and community esteem.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Geraldine Town Board office has architectural significance as the work of Geraldine architect David McKenzie (1831-86). McKenzie was born in Scotland and spent time in Australia before emigrating in New Zealand in 1862. Once settled in Timaru he became a partner in the firm Messrs McRae and McKenzie, contractors and builders, which was responsible for erecting the Timaru Landing Service building (heritage item # 44). In c.1866 McKenzie relocated to Geraldine and took up the practice of architecture. At the time of his death McKenzie was secretary to the Geraldine Domain Board and the Geraldine Racing Club.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Geraldine Town Board office has technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its reconstructed stone masonry construction and vestigial classical detailing. Messrs Dierck and White were local contractors and quarrymen. GH Payne was the stonemason who reassembled the building in 1975-76.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Geraldine Town Board office has contextual significance as a local landmark on State Highway 79 as it passes through the township. It is associated with the Wharton women's rest, which was built on the site in 1927, and the commemorative gateways that provide access to the Geraldine Domain.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the former Town Board office post-dates 1900 on this site, and the property has been extensively redeveloped in the last 20 + years, the property may have limited archaeological values.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

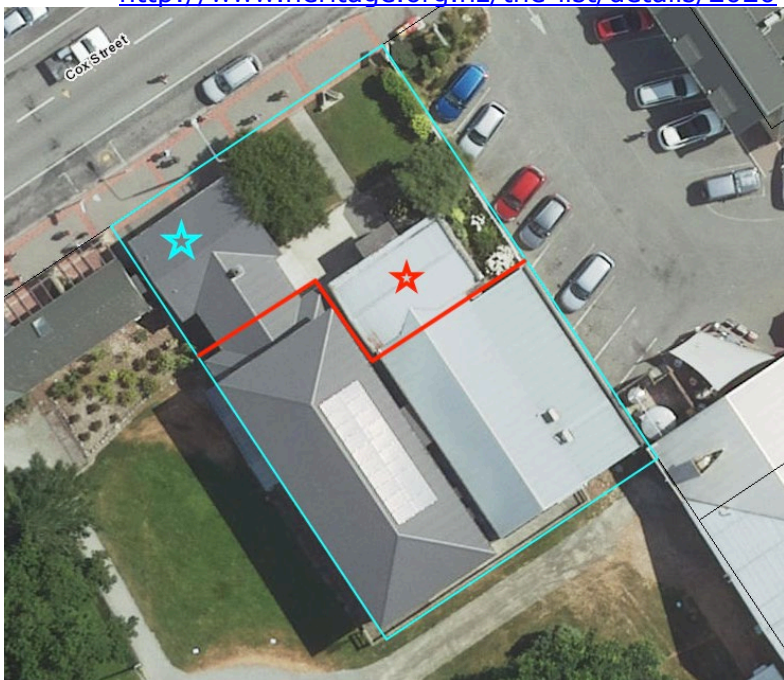
The former Geraldine Town Board office at the Geraldine Historical Society Museum has overall significance to Geraldine and Timaru district as a whole. The building has historical significance for its association with local government in the town for 80 years and its later conversion to a community facility. The former Geraldine Town Board office has cultural significance as a site of community identity and esteem and architectural significance as a locally designed vernacular building with vestigial classical detailing. The former Geraldine Town Board office has technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its stone masonry (re)construction and contextual significance as a local landmark and in relation to the former Wharton building and Geraldine Domain.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 16 January 1885, p. 2; 24 August 1886, p. 3; 20 October 2011 (available online).
- *Temuka Leader* 4 November 1884, p. 3; 1 January 1885, p. 2; 17 January 1885, p. 3; 21 February 1885, p. 2; 23 May 1885, p. 2; 24 August 1886, p. 2; 25 February 1905, p. 2; 9 March 1905, p. 4; 4 December 1923, p. 2; 3 June 1924, p. 3; 14 August 1924, p. 2; 29 November 1924, p. 3; 26 March 1925, p. 2; 6 May 1926, p. 2; 7 May 1927, p. 2; 24 November 1927, p. 2.
- *Lyttelton Times* 18 July 1884, p. 4.
- *South Canterbury Times* 6 February 1885, p. 2; 7 February 1885, p. 2; 10 February 1885, p. 3; 11 February 1885, p. 3; 19 February 1885, p. 2; 10 March 1885, p. 3; 12 May 1885, p. 3; 28 July 1885, p. 3.
- *Press* 5 July 1938, p. 7.
- *The Geraldine News* 10 September 2015, p. 1.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/2020>



Extent of scheduling, limited to northerly portion of the site, 5 Cox Street, Geraldine. Red star denotes former Town Board office; turquoise star is former Wharton women's rest rooms.