

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME Orari Coronation Hall
ADDRESS 8 MacDonald Street, Orari

PHOTOGRAPH



(Dr J Wilson, September 2018)

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

LEGAL DESCRIPTION RES 4800

VALUATION NUMBER 2466044700

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1912

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Samuel Hurst Seager, architect; D McInnes, builder

STYLE Vernacular bungalow

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

One and a half-storey building with rectangular footprint and gabled and lean-to roof forms. Principal elevation is north-facing and symmetrical about a double-door entry. Gable end is shingled and flares out over the entry to form a sun hood. Hood supported on curved brackets. Tripartite window set in to gable end has shallow hood and name board below. Casement type windows and exposed rafters. Mid-20th century lean-to extensions on both sides.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber framing and weatherboard cladding, shingles, concrete block, corrugated iron roof.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Lean-to extensions (mid-20th century; pre-1951 & pre-1974).

SETTING

The hall stands on the northern edge of the Orari Domain, which is located on the south side of Macdonald Street. Oak Street is to the west and Orari Station Road is to the north-east of the hall. The extent of scheduling is limited to the immediate setting of the building, rather than the land parcel as a whole, and includes the 1893-1983 centenary entrances gates.

HISTORY

By the early 20th century the township of Orari had a population of around 120. There was a school, a general store, a post office at the railway station, a butcher's shop, a bakery, a drapery, a blacksmith's shop and an ironmonger's. The early accommodation house had become an hotel and a church was moved from Geraldine in 1906 (it burned down on its new site in 1925). In 1912 the Coronation Hall was built on the edge of the town's domain to mark the coronation of George V in the previous year. The hall had been championed by Ben Richardson and was funded in part by the Orari Domain Board, with a subsidy from the government for coronation projects and a generous donation from Orari Estate owner Guyon Macdonald. It was officially opened on 2 May 1912, by Guyon Macdonald's wife Florence, and handed over to the Domain Board free of debt in early November of the same year. The hall is now run by a local committee. It hosted the Geraldine Archery Club in the mid-2000s and is also used as a polling booth.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Orari Coronation Hall has historical and social significance for its association with the civic life of Orari and as a reminder of the role played by public halls in the life of rural communities. It is also significant as it embodies the sense of imperial loyalty that gave rise to projects to commemorate the coronation of successive British monarchs in 19th and 20th century New Zealand.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Orari Coronation Hall has cultural significance as a site of community identity and historic continuity since 1912. The hall also has a commemorative function because it houses the settlement's World War I (installed 1916) and World War II Rolls of Honour.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Orari Coronation Hall has architectural significance as the work of Samuel Hurst Seager (1855-1933), one of New Zealand's leading architects in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Seager was the son of a master builder who arrived in New Zealand from England in 1870. He initially worked as a contractor before training as an architect in Christchurch and London. He established his practice in Christchurch in 1885, launching his highly successful career with the winning design for the Christchurch Municipal Buildings. He was known for his residential work, advocacy of town planning and his views on the development of New Zealand architecture. Seager developed the craftsman bungalow settlement at the Spur in Sumner (1902-14), designed rest houses on the Summit Road, served as the government's battlefield memorial architect after World War I and was awarded a CBE in 1926. Seager also designed the Orari Estate homestead for Guyon Macdonald (1911-13, heritage item # 65), which likely explains his involvement in the hall project. Seager called tenders for the Orari hall in November 1911.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Orari Coronation Hall has craftsmanship value as an example of early 20th century construction methods and materials. The builder was Daniel McInnes (1866-1932) who was also the Mayor of Temuka (1907-12) at the time of the hall's construction. McInnes had a saw and planing works in Temuka East and also built 'The Corner' building for Arthur Gabites in 1905-6 (heritage item #121) and the Bank of Australasia (1913), both in Temuka.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Orari Coronation Hall has contextual significance as a local historic feature that constitutes the historic and social hub of the community.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the Orari Coronation Hall post-dates 1900, any potential archaeological significance it may have would likely relate to the previous use and development of the property. The domain was established in 1893.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Orari Coronation Hall has overall heritage significance to Orari and Timaru district as a whole. The building has historical and social significance for its association with the Orari community and cultural value as a site of community identity and historic continuity. The Orari Coronation Hall has architectural significance as the work of preeminent Christchurch architect SH Seager and craftsmanship value for its early 20th century timber construction and detailing by Temuka builder and politician Daniel McInnes. The Orari Coronation Hall has contextual significance as a local historic feature; as the building post-dates 1900 its potential archaeological values may be limited.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Temuka Leader* 12 August 1911, p. 1; 29 August 1911, p. 4; 4 May 1912, p. 3; 29 October 1912, p. 2.
- *Star* 12 June 1916, p. 7.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903; available online.
- Archives New Zealand.
- <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlscant/halls.htm>
- https://www.electionresults.govt.nz/electionresults_2014/e9/html/e9_part8_party_42.html
- <http://geraldine.nz/business/orari-hall-committee/>
- http://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlscant/town_hall.htm



Extent of scheduling, limited to the immediate surrounds of the hall and including the centenary entrance gates, 8 Macdonald Street, Orari.



Site as whole with hall marked by star.