

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former HJ Sealy house / 'Craighead Lodge', former Le Cren house / Shand House, Craighead Diocesan School

ADDRESS 1/3 Wrights Avenue, Timaru

PHOTOGRAPH



(A McEwan, July 2018)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. 9 **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 2051 / 2
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Lot 1 DP 40947

VALUATION NUMBER 2496052700

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1875 / 1888

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Thomas Roberts, architect

STYLE Italianate villa

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Two-storey, north-facing house with irregular rectangular footprint and gabled roof forms. Bracketed eaves, decorative quoins, square and faceted bay windows, double-hung sash windows with label moulds over some. Flagpole mounted to northern gable end. Pediment over main entry with arched openings on both floors.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Brick, concrete and corrugated metal.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Unspecified additions (Meason and Marchant, 1888). Additions to south-west corner (from mid-20th century). Len Home wing addition (1990). Partial demolition and seismic strengthening (2013).

SETTING

The former house stands on the south side of Kitchener Square, the land parcel being bounded to the south by Wrights Avenue. Numerous school buildings, including the chapel, are located within the grounds. The extent of setting is limited to the footprint and northern garden setting of the house, so that it retains its visibility from Kitchener Square, rather than the land parcel as a whole.

HISTORY

Henry Sealy (1838-1925) built this house in c.1875. Sealy had emigrated to New Zealand with his brother Edward in 1859 and the two men subsequently worked in partnership as surveyors. Henry married Emma Askin at St Mary's Anglican Church in Timaru in 1873 and the couple had three children. A family history based on HJ Sealy's diaries and letters dating from 1858-1878 is held in the South Canterbury Museum. Henry Le Cren purchased the property, which he named 'Craighead', in 1881 and held it until his death in 1895. When it was offered for sale in June 1896 the property ranged over 40 acres and included a gardener's lodge. The so-called 'Township of Craighead' was subdivided in December 1910, Mayor Wright was then said to be in residence. This large parcel between Wai-Iti Road in the south and Douglas Street in the north, included Chalmers Street, Craighead Street, Kitchener Square and Wrights Avenue/Sealy Street. Craighead Girls' School opened in 'Craighead' by the Misses Shand (Anna, Eleanor, Fanny and Elizabeth) in May 1911. The sisters were the daughters of Professor John Shand of Otago University. Following the sisters' retirement, the school became an Anglican church school in 1926 and an integrated state school in 1982. The former Sealy house is now known as Shand House.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Shand House has historical significance for its association with Henry Sealy and Henry Le Cren, two early settlers whose wealth and rural interests can be seen in the location, size, and style of the house in which they lived.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Shand House has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of the Sealy and Le Cren families and of the teachers and pupils who have occupied the house since 1911.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

Shand House has architectural significance as an example of the Italianate villa style that was popular in the 1870s and 1880s. Thomas Roberts was the engineer to the Timaru and Gladstone Board of Works in the early 1870s and he also advertised his services as an architect and licensed surveyor. Additions made to the building by Henry Le Cren in 1888 were designed by Messrs Meason and Marchant, civil engineers and architects.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

Shand House has technological and craftsmanship significance for its masonry construction and Italianate detailing.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Shand House has contextual significance as a local landmark within the grounds of Craighead Diocesan School. the former Orbell residence ('The Croft', heritage item # 8) is located to the east and there are a large number of early 20th century dwellings in the vicinity, owing to the subdivision of the Craighead estate in 1910. School buildings have taken their cue from the architectural style and form of Shand House.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the house pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance relating to the structure's construction and the development of the property by Messrs Sealy and Le Cren.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Shand House has overall heritage significance to Timaru and Timaru district as a whole. The house has historical significance for its association with the Sealy and Le Cren families and

with the Misses Shand who established Craighead Girls' School. Shand House has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its former residents. Shand House has architectural significance as an example of the Italianate villa style designed by local engineer and architect Thomas Roberts and technical and craftsmanship significance for its construction and Italianate detailing. Shand House has contextual significance as a local historic feature and its site has potential archaeological significance in view of the dwelling's pre-1900 date of construction.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

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REPORT UPDATED	xx
AUTHOR	xx
PEER REVIEWED	xx
REVIEWER	xx



Auckland Weekly News 17 November 1937, p. 48.



Extent of setting, limited to building footprint and northern garden setting, 1/3 Wrights Avenue, Timaru.