

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former Bank of Australasia (incl. Manager's Residence)

ADDRESS 129 King Street, Temuka

PHOTOGRAPH



(A McEwan, 12 July 2018)

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

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Part Section 38 Town of Wallingford

VALUATION NUMBER 2477021400B

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1913

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** JS Turnbull, architect; D McInnes, builder

STYLE Edwardian classicism

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Two storey-building with irregular rectangular footprint and hipped roof forms. Symmetrical façade overlooking King Street has centre and ends composition with entry marked by temple front motif at first floor. Rusticated ground floor with shallow arch-headed windows. Aprons beneath windows on both floors; first floors windows have multi-pane upper sashes, Gibbs surround and keystones. Cartouches decorate pilasters delineating first floor bays. Side and rear elevations have exposed brick walls, façade is largely rendered in cement plaster. Single-storey wings at rear.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Brick, cement plaster, concrete, timber and corrugated metal.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

New decking and timber addition at rear (pre-1975?).

SETTING

The former bank stands on the west side of King Street, in the block bounded by Wood Street to the north and Domain Avenue to the south. The Temuka Hotel (heritage item # 125) is to the north and there are a number of heritage buildings, on both sides of King Street, to the south. The extent of scheduling is the land parcel on which the building is located. The brick outbuilding is believed to be contemporary with the bank.

HISTORY

The Bank of Australasia opened a Temuka branch in temporary premises in Commerce Street in August 1905. Purpose-built premises were erected in King Street eight years later; Timaru architect JS Turnbull having called tenders in March 1913. The building was ready by December of the same year and the new bank was hailed as the 'finest [building] in town' when it was completed. AE Rawson was the first resident manager. The Bank of Australasia merged with the Union Bank of Australia in 1951, the new entity being named the ANZ Bank. Archives of all three banks are held by ANZ. The bank's Temuka branch now operates out of a smaller building at 93 King Street; the subject building having served other commercial and residential purposes over the last twenty years or more.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Bank of Australasia has historical and social significance for its association with the banking and commercial history of Temuka. It was one of two banks operating in the town in the early 20th century, the Bank of New Zealand being the other.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Bank of Australasia has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its former bank managers, their families and customers. Bank managers were typically provided with on-site accommodation in the 19th and early 20th centuries; historically the former Bank of Australasia therefore combined commercial and residential functions.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Bank of Australasia has architectural significance as the work of leading Timaru architect James Turnbull. After training in Melbourne, Turnbull (1864-1947) returned to New Zealand and established a practice in Timaru in c.1895. The son of Richard Turnbull, a prominent Timaru businessman and politician, Turnbull also designed Job Brown's Beehive Stores (1901-2) in Temuka, Chalmers Church (1903-4, heritage item # 38) in Timaru, and a large number of Timaru houses. Turnbull went into partnership with Percy Watts Rule in c.1920 and the practice was also responsible for the former Temuka Library (heritage item # 118).

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Bank of Australasia has technological and craftsmanship significance for its brick masonry construction and classical detailing. The builder was Daniel McInnes (1866-1932) who was also a borough councillor and one-time Mayor of Temuka (1907-12). McInnes had a saw and planing works in Temuka East and had also built 'The Corner' building for Arthur Gabites in Temuka to JS Turnbull's design in 1905-6 (heritage item 121).

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Bank of Australasia has contextual significance as a notable historic feature within the Temuka town centre. The concentration of scheduled heritage items and historic character buildings lining King Street, between Fraser Street in the south and Wood Street in the north, gives Temuka's main commercial thoroughfare its distinctive identity and sense of place. The residential aspect of the building can be appreciated from the vantage point of the Timaru-Temuka Highway.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the former Bank of Australasia post-dates 1900, its site may have limited potential archaeological value. It was reported in May 1913 that the builder had to 'clear away debris and other "tippings" of past years to a depth of nine feet' to find a solid footing for the building's foundations (*Temuka Leader* 6 May 1913, p. 2).

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Bank of Australasia has overall heritage significance to Temuka and the district of Timaru. The former bank has historical and social significance for its association with the banking and commercial history of Temuka and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its former managers, their families, staff and clientele. The former Bank of Australasia has architectural significance as the work of Timaru architect JS Turnbull and technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its brick construction and classical detailing by local builder and politician, Daniel McInnes. The former Bank of Australasia has contextual significance for its contribution to the historic streetscape of King Street; its site may have limited archaeological potential in view of the building's age.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 22 March 1913, p. 12; 3 July 1913, p. 8; 4 November 1913, p. 3; 9 April 1919, p. 2.
- *Dominion* 19 November 1920, p. 1.
- *Temuka Leader* 29 August 1905, p. 2; 20 September 1910, p. 2; 6 May 1913, p. 2; 17 May 1913, p. 1; 28 October 1913, p. 3; 11 December 1913, p. 2; 13 December 1913, p. 7.
- http://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlscant/town_hall.htm
- <http://thecommunityarchive.org.nz/node/68060/description>



Extent of setting, 129 King Street, Temuka.