

**TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM**

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**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** former Sugrue / Houston / Bracefield Shops/Dwelling

**ADDRESS** 70 Church Street, Timaru

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(TDC)

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

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Lot 4A DP 538

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2499154700A

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** c.1883

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** Unknown

**STYLE** Victorian commercial classicism

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Two storey-building with an L-shaped footprint and monopitch roof forms. Street front has straight veranda carried on simple posts extending over the foot path. Three entries, central one is recessed; one shop has chamfered corner. First floor façade has three double-hung sash windows with classical surrounds and quoins. Moulded cornice conceals roof behind. Single-storey lean-to at rear. Brick chimneys, one corbelled.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Brick, cement plaster, corrugated iron roofing.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Unknown, if any.

**SETTING**

The building stands on the south side of Church Street in the block bounded by Matilda Street in the west and Sutter Street in the east. The town centre is to the east and the immediate setting is largely residential. The extent of scheduling is the land parcel on which the building is located.

**HISTORY**

Irish-born Thomas Sugrue (c.1831-97) built two shops and a dwelling in Church Street in c.1883. It was being rented to Moore and Co. when Sugrue, who was the manager of the Timaru branch of the Dunedin aerated water company Carew & Co., offered it to let in June 1884. In the later 1880s and 1890s the building was occupied by Thomas Sugrue, by then the Timaru reservoir caretaker, and David Houston, a grocer and the owner of the Church Street Cash Store. The building was purchased from Mrs Sugrue by George Bracefield in 1900. Bracefield (c.1853-1916) had emigrated to New Zealand from England as a child and learnt his trade in Christchurch before he established a butchery business in Timaru in 1887. His first butchery was located further west along Church Street. Bracefield married Lavina (Lavinia) Hunt in 1878, had a family of eight children and was briefly in partnership with Ernest Tomlinson in 1891. In that year there were seven butchery businesses operating in Timaru. Tomlinson and Bracefield were adjudged bankrupt in 1891 and the latter was discharged from bankruptcy two years later. Bracefield died at his Church Street home in January 1916. He was survived by his second wife Kate. The Timaru architect Barrie Bracefield (1936-2014) was a descendant of George and Lavinia Bracefield. The butchery was taken over by their son Mark, who was still running it in the mid-1930s, and later occupied by Leo Hertnon, butcher, and Mable Knott, fruiterer (mid-1950s). The building remains in commercial/residential use today.

### **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Bracefield butchery and dwelling has historical and social significance for its association with Thomas Sugrue and George Bracefield and, more generally, the commercial development of suburban Timaru.

### **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Bracefield butchery and dwelling has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its former proprietors and their customers. It represents the characteristic Victorian practice of shop proprietors living above their premises.

### **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Bracefield butchery and dwelling has architectural significance as a Victorian commercial classical style building that retains a high level of external authenticity. The designer of the building is currently unknown.

### **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Bracefield butchery and dwelling has technological and craftsmanship value for its brick construction and classical detailing. The contractor responsible for erecting the store is currently unknown.

### **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Bracefield butchery and dwelling has contextual significance as a notable historic feature on Church Street. The building forms a pair with a two-storey historic character commercial building at 97 Church Street; both buildings standing out within the streetscape because of their height and non-residential appearance and use.

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

As the building pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance.

### **SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

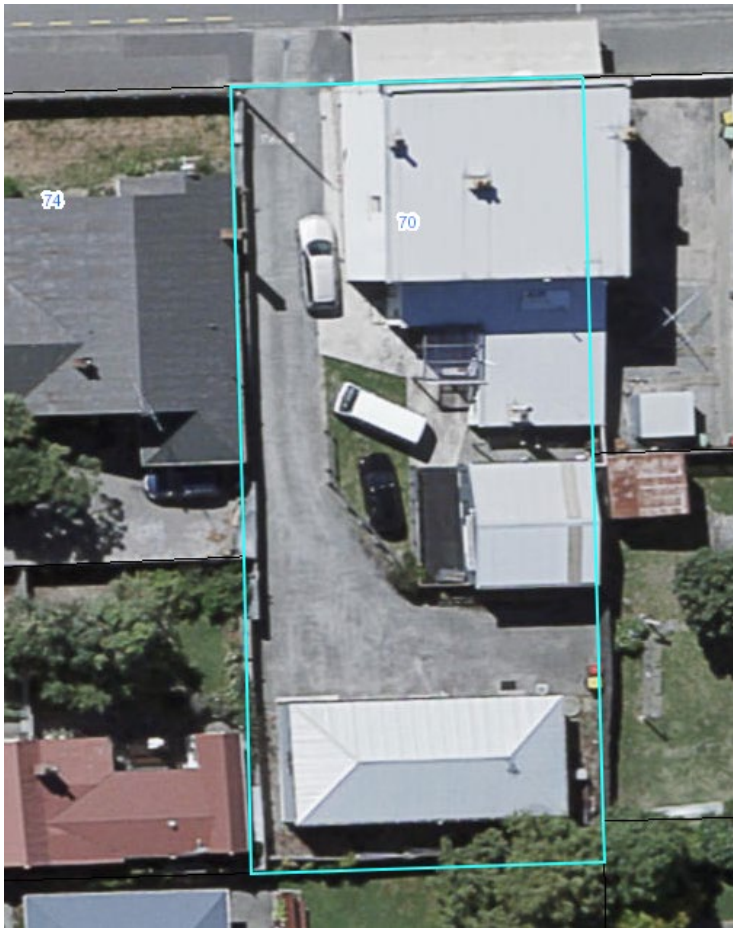
The former Sugrue/Houston/Bracefield shops/dwelling has overall heritage significance to Timaru and Timaru district as a whole. The building has historical and social significance for its association with Thomas Sugrue and the Bracefield family, as well as the commercial development of the suburban Timaru, and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its early occupants/proprietors and their customers. The former Bracefield butchery and dwelling has architectural significance as a well-preserved Victorian commercial classical building and technological and craftsmanship value for its brick construction and classical detailing. The former Bracefield butchery and dwelling has contextual significance for the contribution it makes to the streetscape of Church Street and its site has potential archaeological significance in view of the early 1880s development of the property.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

**B**

## REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 30 December 1890, p. 1; 2 February 1891, p. 1; 18 November 1891, p. 4; 26 December 1891, p. 4; 13 August 1892, p. 1; 1 July 1893, p. 2; 4 September 1893, p. 3; 31 March 1897, p. 1; 25 August 1900, p. 2; 14 September 1900, pp. 1 & 2; 5 April 1905, p. 4; 24 December 1909, p. 6; 10 January 1916, p. 6; 6 December 1916, p. 10; 5 December 2014 (available online).
- *Temuka Leader* 18 February 1892, p. 2; 6 July 1893, p. 2.
- *South Canterbury Times* 18 January 1883, p. 2; 26 June 1883, p. 3; 5 June 1884, p. 3; 29 April 1885, p. 3; 23 December 1887, p. 3; 21 November 1888, p. 3; 14 May 1889, p. 2; 11 September 1889, p. 3; 14 January 1890, p. 2; 25 February 1890, p. 2; 3 September 1890, p. 3; 14 June 1893, p. 1; 25 July 1893, p. 3.
- *Lyttelton Times* 17 February 1892, p. 4.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903; available online.  
[http://www.timaru.com/aeratedwaters\\_history/aeratedhist.html](http://www.timaru.com/aeratedwaters_history/aeratedhist.html)



Extent of setting, 70 Church Street, Timaru.