

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

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**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** 'Ashfield', former Brown/Hayhurst house

**ADDRESS** 71 Cass Street, Temuka

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(www)

**FORMER DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.** No. 113      **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** n / a  
(at time of assessment)

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Lot 15 DP 35

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2477038400

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1878-79

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** FJ Wilson, architect

**STYLE** Italianate villa

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Two-storey dwelling with rectangular footprint and hipped roof. Principal elevations face north and east; latter is symmetrical. Return veranda on three sides has timber posts and decorative brackets. Veranda on east elevation is broken by enclosed entrance porch with balustraded balcony above. Double-hung sash windows; Chicago type windows on first floor flank door to balcony over entrance porch. First floor porch on north elevation has a lean-to roof and half-timbered detailing.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Brick, timber, stucco, corrugated iron.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Vinery (1883, W Upton, architect). Summer house and internal alterations (c.1915).

**SETTING**

'Ashfield' is centrally located near the western boundary of a large property that is bounded by Cass Street in the south and St Leonards Road in the north. A railway reserve and, beyond it, McNair Road border the site to the east. Much of the property is given over to garden and mature trees. Entrance gates on Cass Street signal the presence of a large, well-established residential property. The extent of setting is the land parcel on which the house and its garden are located, partly in view of the potential archaeological values of the site.

## **HISTORY**

'Ashfield' was built for Job and Elizabeth Brown; the former was the son of Elijah Brown of 'Dinting House'. Job Brown (1836-1907) owned the Beehive Stores and was a draper and general merchant in Temuka. He was also a member of the Temuka School Committee and the town's Cemetery Board; like his parents, Brown supported the Methodist Church by hosting social functions at his home. The couple had one child, a daughter Amelia, who married Lieutenant-Colonel JTM Hayhurst in 1881. The Hayhursts had four sons and a daughter. Amelia (c.1862-1937) inherited 'Ashfield' after her mother's death in 1909. John Hayhurst was Mayor of Temuka for eight years over several terms. After her husband's death in a car accident in 1914 Amelia Hayhurst moved from the Hayhurst family home 'Green Hayes' (heritage item # 90) back to 'Ashfield'. At the time of her death Amelia Hayhurst was eulogised for her service to the local Anglican church and as a foundation member of the Temuka tennis and croquet clubs. The property extended to Levens Lane until two subdivisions of the western portion undertaken by Amelia Hayhurst in 1926 and 1929. In the 1990s the property was converted to offer bed and breakfast accommodation and, more recently, it has also been operated as a wedding and function venue.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

'Ashfield' has historical and social significance for its association with the Brown/Hayhurst family, the contribution they made to the civic and social life of Temuka, and as an expression of a settler family's financial success and social standing.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

'Ashfield' has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of a successful second-generation settler family from the late 1870s until the early-20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

'Ashfield' has architectural significance as the work of early Timaru architect FJ Wilson. South African-born Francis John (Frank) Wilson (c.1836-1911) was said to have 'practically rebuilt Timaru after the big fire' of 1868 (*Poverty Bay Herald* 21 April 1911, p. 5). Wilson arrived in Timaru in c.1855 and not only worked as a contractor and architect but also as a publican, holding licenses for hotels in Timaru and Washdyke in the mid-1860s. Wilson also designed the Criterion Hotel in Stafford Street (1872-73), the headmaster's house at Timaru Boys' High School (1873-74, item # 52) and the Bank Street Church (1874-75, item # 51). He and his wife Emily had ten children and although Frank Wilson died in Gisborne in 1911 he was remembered at the time as one of the 'prominent citizen(s) of Timaru in the early days' (*Timaru Herald* 28 April 1911, p. 7). Wilson left Timaru in the 1880s and, after a period spent in Australia, he later lived and worked in Wellington, Palmerston North and Gisborne. Frank Wilson's son Frank was also an architect and his grandson Francis Gordon Wilson (1900-59) became Government Architect of New Zealand (1952-59). 'Ashfield's' vinery was designed by Timaru and Temuka architect William JN Upton (c.1837-1910). Upton was a builder/architect who had arrived in the district in c.1863. He built Temuka's Presbyterian Church and served for a time as Inspector of Works for the Timaru and Gladstone Board of Works. Upton settled in Temuka in c.1882 and lived in a house he designed and built himself; he left the town in late 1884 to try to find work in Auckland, in view of the economic downturn then affecting the country. Upton died in Mangatainoko in September 1910.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

'Ashfield' has craftsmanship value for the quality of its construction and detailing.

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

'Ashfield' has contextual value as a historic feature in suburban Temuka, whose presence is signalled by the property's mature trees and entrance gates on Cass Street. The house is

associated with 'Dinting House' (heritage item # 128), the home of Job Brown's parents, and 'Green Hayes' (heritage item # 90), the former Hayhurst house, both in Temuka.

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

As the house pre-dates 1900 the site of 'Ashfield' has potential archaeological significance relating to the later 19<sup>th</sup> century development of the property by Job and Elizabeth Brown.

### **SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

'Ashfield' has overall heritage significance to Temuka and to Timaru district as a whole. The house has historical and social significance for its association with two generations of the Brown/Hayhurst family and cultural value as a demonstration of their way of life. 'Ashfield' has architectural significance as a Victorian villa designed by notable Timaru architect Frank Wilson and craftsmanship value for the quality of its construction and detailing. 'Ashfield' has contextual value as a local historic feature in suburban Temuka and its site has potential archaeological significance in view of the age of the house.

### **HERITAGE CATEGORY**

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### **REFERENCES**

- *Temuka Leader* 4 December 1878, p. 1; 26 February 1879, p. 2; 18 October 1879, p. 2; 22 February 1883, p. 2; 11 March 1893, p. 2; 16 March 1893, p. 2; 5 October 1895, p. 2; 29 February 1896, p. 2; 21 November 1896, p. 2; 21 December 1918, p. 2.
- *Timaru Herald* 2 May 1877, p. 3; 29 May 1877, p. 1; 26 September 1878, p. 1; 24 November 1881, p. 2.
- *Globe* 26 January 1877, p. 3.
- *Press* 19 February 1916, p. 16; 22 September 1916, p. 5.
- *Otago Daily Times* 23 December 1937, p. 11.
- *Dominion* 15 August 1914, p. 6.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903 (available online).
- <http://www.stuff.co.nz/timaru-herald/features/8632354/The-Manor-they-are-accustomed-to>

