

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former Miles Archer & Co. stores, tramway tunnel & siding / DC Turnbull & Co. stores, tramway tunnel & siding and offices

ADDRESS 1-9 Strathallan Street, Timaru

PHOTOGRAPH



(A McEwan, 9 July 2018)

FORMER DISTRICT PLAN ITEM No. NO.27 **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 2055 & 7307 / 2
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Lot 2 DP 75499

VALUATION NUMBER 2500078900

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1880-81 (grain/wool store and tramway tunnel & siding) + 1901 (offices)

ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/BUILDER Unknown / JS Turnbull, architect; Messrs Hunt and Werry, builders (offices)

STYLE Industrial vernacular / Edwardian commercial classicism

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Composite two- and three storey-building cluster with irregular L-shaped footprint and varied roof forms. Office building at south-east corner of the site is two storeys in height, has L-shaped plan, plastered walls, solid parapet, dentilled cornice and ornamental window surrounds. Three-storey wool and grain store extending along northern boundary has exposed brick walls, sawtooth and gabled roof forms, arched door and window openings, with east elevation chamfered to fit boundaries of site. South elevation of stores building still has a painted strip bearing name 'Miles Archer ...'. Arched portal of tunnel passing under The Terrace is located at the south-west corner of the site.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Brick, concrete, cement plaster, corrugated metal.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Tramway walled in (c.1920s). Demolition of c.1940 store at 9 Strathallan Street (c. 2010). Western section of store reroofed (2017).

SETTING

The building cluster stands on the north side of Strathallan Street, adjacent to its intersection with Station Street and Cain's Terrace. The property is bordered to the west by The Terrace. The Port Loop Road is to the north-east and pedestrian access to it over the railway line is provided immediately to the east of the office building. Beside the spiral pedestrian ramp is a 1950 Canterbury centenary plaque marking the site of Le Cren's landing service. There are a number of other heritage buildings in the vicinity, including the former Customhouse (heritage item # 22) and the former Maclean and Stewart's auction mart (heritage item # 28). The extent of scheduling is the land parcel on which the building is located, which is largely consistent with the HNZPT combined list entry for historic places #s 2055 and 7307.

HISTORY

DC Turnbull & Co. purchased the former Miles Archer & Co stores in Strathallan Street in 1901 and proceeded to erect new offices on the site. Previously Miles Archer had occupied the site since the mid-1860s; John Mee (died 1916) ran the business for many years before taking it over in 1895 after Miles Archer & Co went into liquidation. The large site, over three acres in extent at the turn of the 20th century, spanned The Terrace and included brick stores and a private railway siding. The company traded in wool, grain and coal, as well as general produce. New brick buildings were erected by Miles Archer in 1877-78 and 1880-81; the former a two-storey structure likely on the west side of The Terrace and, it is assumed, the latter of three storeys on the subject site. In May 1881 it was reported that a tramway to connect the company's buildings was created by tunnelling under The Terrace. David Clarkson Turnbull (1868-1951) founded the merchant and export company DC Turnbull & Co. in 1894; the business had previously been located beside the Royal Hotel in Cain's Terrace. Turnbull was also a director of the Timaru Harbour Board. The eastern part of the tramway tunnel is said to have been used as an air raid shelter during World War II; the tramway turntable immediately to the east of the building site appears to have survived at least until the 1980s. The property is still held by DC Turnbull & Co., with the offices in use although the stores are largely vacant. In recent years conservation work has been undertaken on the site.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The DC Turnbull & Co. stores, tramway tunnel & siding and offices have high historical significance for their association with Miles Archer & Co., DC Turnbull & Co. and the commercial development of Timaru. The property has been held by DC Turnbull and Co. for 117 years and for well over 140 years the site has been associated with merchant activity intimately connected with both the port and the nearby railway line.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The DC Turnbull & Co. stores, tramway tunnel & siding and offices have cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of the buildings' owners, their staff and customers over many decades.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The DC Turnbull & Co. stores, tramway tunnel & siding and offices have architectural significance for their composite industrial vernacular and Edwardian commercial classical designs. The designer of the grain store is currently unknown but in late 1877 local architect FJ Wilson called tenders for brick offices and warehouses for Miles Archer & Co., suggesting he may have been responsible for later buildings on the same site. 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). The new offices which DC Turnbull & Co. occupied in August 1901 have architectural significance as the work of Timaru architectural practice, Turnbull and Rule. Timaru-born James Turnbull (1864-1947) trained in Melbourne and then established a practice in Timaru in c.1895. The son of Richard Turnbull (1826-90), a prominent Timaru businessman and politician, and the brother of David

Clarkson Turnbull, JS Turnbull also designed Job Brown's Beehive Stores (heritage item #117, 1901-2) in Temuka, Chalmers Church (heritage item #38, 1903-4) and a large number of Timaru houses. Turnbull went into partnership with Percy Watts Rule in c.1920, after which time Rule was the principal designer in the firm. The firm designed the Timaru Boys' High School War Memorial Library (1924, heritage item # 16), Temuka Library (heritage item #118, 1926-27), St James' Anglican Church at Franz Josef (1928-31) and the 1930 additions to the Bank Street Methodist Church (heritage item # 51). Rule was awarded a Gold Medal from the NZ Institute of Architects for his design of the Surgical Wing at Timaru Hospital (1936-40) in 1939.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The DC Turnbull & Co. stores, tramway tunnel & siding and offices have technological and craftsmanship significance for their brick masonry construction and ornamental detailing. The identity of the builders of the late 1870s/early 1880s structures on the Miles Archer site is currently unknown. Timaru builder William Henry Hunt was in partnership with William Werry from 1895. Werry and Hunt erected a number of commercial buildings in central Timaru, including the Coronation Buildings (JS Turnbull, architect, 1902, heritage items # 34) and Hay's Buildings (1907-8, heritage item # 29). The firm also undertook extensive water-race construction in the North Island.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The DC Turnbull & Co. stores, tramway tunnel & siding and offices have high contextual significance as a notable historic building cluster that serves as an important reminder of the historic importance of Strathallan Street as a busy thoroughfare connecting the town to the port. The structures on the DC Turnbull site make a notable contribution to the streetscapes of The Terrace, Strathallan Street and Port Loop Road. The concentration of scheduled heritage items and historic character buildings lining Stafford Street, and in the vicinity of the port and railway station, gives Timaru's principal CBD thoroughfare its distinctive identity and sense of place.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As some of the structures on the site pre-date 1900, the property has potential archaeological significance relating to its colonial use and development. Buildings on the site are shown in the 1875 town map of Timaru (South Canterbury Museum) and the property's location in close proximity to the railway and harbour is also noteworthy as regards potential archaeological values.

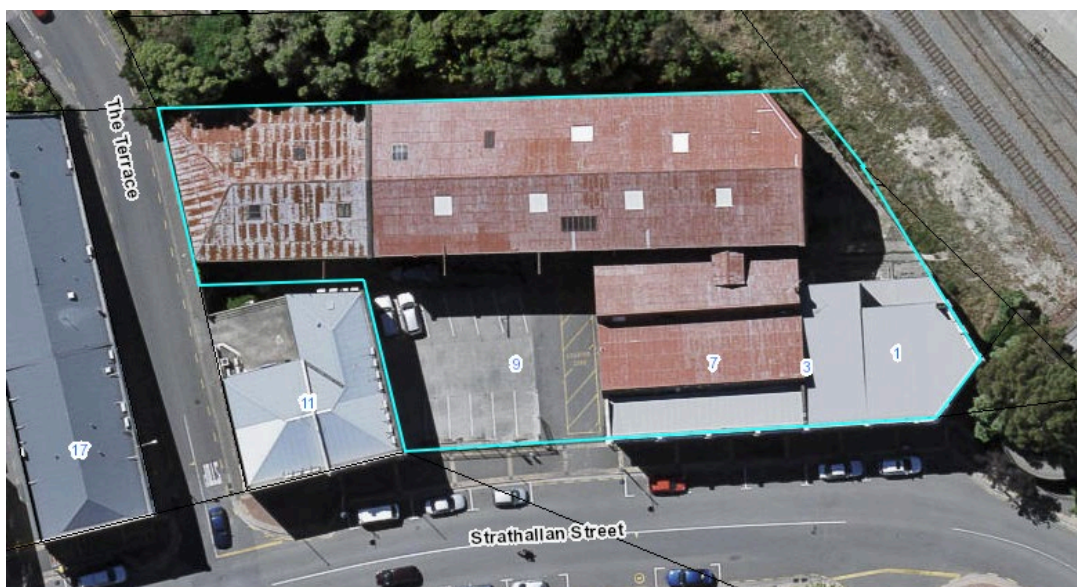
SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The DC Turnbull & Co. stores, tramway tunnel & siding and offices have high overall heritage significance to Timaru and Timaru district as a whole. The buildings have high historical significance for their association with Miles Archer & Co., DC Turnbull & Co. and the commercial development of Timaru, and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of their past owners, staff and customers. The DC Turnbull & Co. stores, tramway tunnel & siding and offices have architectural significance as a composite of industrial vernacular structures built to be fit for purpose and Edwardian commercial classical-style offices designed by leading Timaru architect JS Turnbull. The DC Turnbull & Co. stores, tramway and offices have technological and craftsmanship significance for their brick masonry construction and detailing and high contextual significance for the contribution they make to the Timaru town centre and harbourside streetscape. The building cluster's site has potential archaeological significance in view of the colonial use and development of the property.

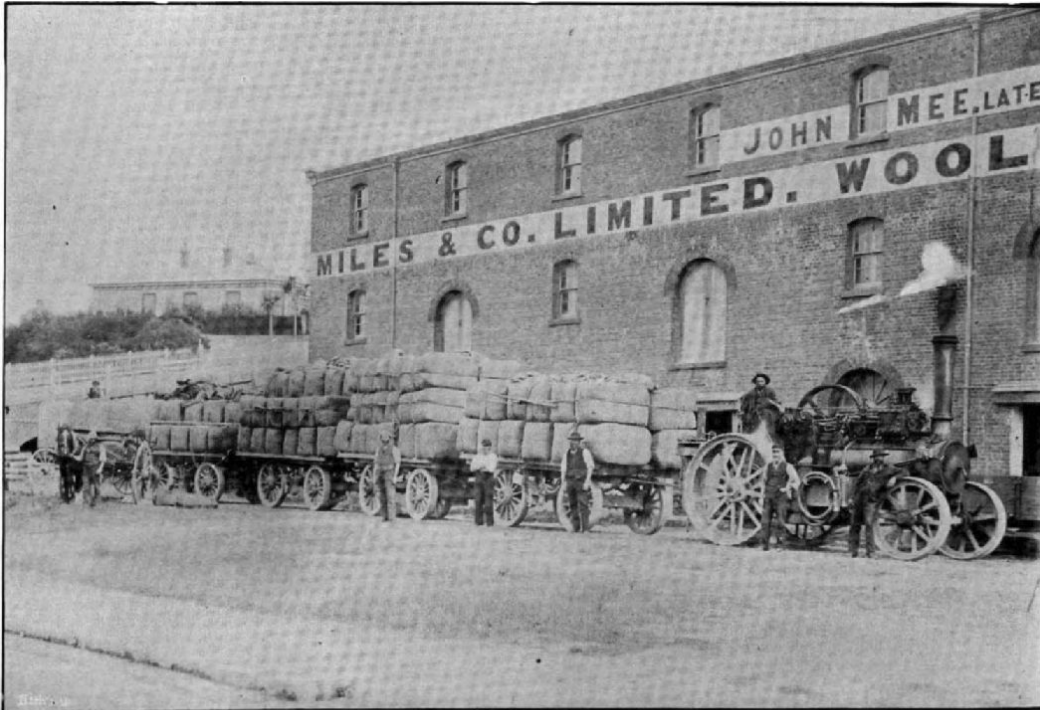
HERITAGE CATEGORY

REFERENCES

- *South Canterbury Times* 5 February 1881, p. 2; 9 May 1881, p. 2; 14 June 1900, p. 2; 17 August 1901, p. 4.
- *Press* 29 November 1877, p. 3; 26 April 1878, p. 3.
- *Lyttleton Times* 19 June 1878, supplement, p. 1; 13 May 1879, p. 3.
- *Timaru Herald* 30 November 1867, p. 2; 11 December 1867, p. 2; 21 May 1875, p. 3; 11 May 1876, p. 2; 20 May 1876, p. 2; 11 October 1877, p. 2; 11 December 1877, p. 7; 19 October 1880, p. 3; 9 May 1881, p. 2; 10 June 1881, p. 3; 21 August 1882, p. 1; 16 September 1885, p. 3; 28 January 1886, p. 3; 13 November 1894, p. 3; 9 April 1897, p. 4; 6 February 1902, supplement, p. 2; 19 June 1916, p. 3; 1 May 2007, 31 October 2014, 1 February 2016, 9 & 16 May 2018 (available online).
- *Temuka Leader* 27 September 1883, p. 2.
- *The Courier* 28 May 2017 (available online).
- M Mosley *Illustrated Guide to Christchurch and Neighbourhood* Christchurch, 1885, pp. 161-62 (available online).
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/2055>
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/7307>
- <https://collections.museumvictoria.com.au/articles/1898>
- <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc03Cycl-t1-body1-d7-d1-d4.html#name-423318-mention>
- <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc03Cycl-t1-body1-d7-d1-d38.html>
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Extent of setting, 1-9 Strathallan Street, Timaru.



MR. J. MEE'S GRAIN AND PRODUCE STORES.

South elevation of wool store with The Terrace at centre left. *Cyclopedia of New Zealand* 1903.



Extent includes part of the land described as Lot 2 DP 75449 (CT CB43B/1282), Canterbury Land District, and the buildings known as D.C. Turnbull & Co. Limited Wool Store Buildings thereon. This extent is indicated by the yellow dashed lines – the red solid line indicates the land parcel but does not account for the oblique angle of the aerial. (Canterbury Maps, 2017)

[Note the purple dashed lines indicate the extent of the List entry 7307 the Brick Tunnel & Railway Siding - this narrow strip is excluded from the extent of the List entry 2055].

HNZPT extent of list entry aerial.