

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

---

**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** former Canterbury Farmers' Co-operative Association  
Wool and Grain Stores

**ADDRESS** 1 Heaton Street, Timaru

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(www)

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

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Part Section 4 and Part Section 5 Town of Timaru

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2500023200

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1888-89 + 1892

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** FW Marchant for Messrs Meason & Marchant,  
architects; George Williams, builder (1888-89); Frank  
Palliser, contractor (1892)

**STYLE** Industrial classicism

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Multi-level building with irregular rectangular footprint and gabled roof forms. Two-storey east-facing elevations are staggered and have temple front facades with full-height pilasters dividing each elevation in to five bays. Arched central openings on ground floor; first floor arcading features stone keystones. Circular gable end vents with keystones on east and west elevations. Building is single-storey at rear (west elevation). Lantern mounted on ridgeline of south bay.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Brick, concrete, ironbark and red pine timber, bluestone, corrugated metal.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Lantern in ridgeline of southern bay enclosed (date unknown).

**SETTING**

The former wool and grain stores stand on the north side of Heaton Street, immediately adjacent to the Timaru railway line. The port of Timaru lies to the north-east of the building. The environs are industrial in character. The extent of setting is the two land parcels on which the building is located.

## **HISTORY**

The Canterbury Farmers' Co-operative Association (CFCA) was established in late 1880, the first of its kind in New Zealand. It was formed to ship locally-produced wool and grain to overseas markets and provide stock and station services to its farmer shareholders. The company, initially representing 347 shareholders, developed quickly and by the turn of the century had premises in Cains Terrace and Beswick Street, on both sides of Heaton Street, and in Temuka. Branch offices were open in London, Sydney, Auckland and Wellington. In 1890 the association established, in tandem with the New Zealand Farmers' Co-operative Association of Christchurch, an insurance company. The Heaton Street building was erected in two stages to the design of local engineer-architect FW Marchant, the second stage being built in 1892 on the site of a former coal yard. In 1924 the nine major regional farmers' co-operatives formed a federation and by the late 20<sup>th</sup> century amalgamation of the co-operatives had reduced the number to seven, one of which was the CFCA. A centennial history of the association, which was involved with sports teams, parade floats, balls and fashion shows over the years, was published in 1980. By 2008, however, all but one of the co-operatives nationwide (Allied, based in Taranaki) had ceased to trade. The former stores have been occupied in part by a fitness club since the 1990s.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Canterbury Farmers' Co-operative Association wool and grain stores have high historical significance for their association with the first farmers' association established in New Zealand and, more generally, the development of both pastoralism and agriculture in the district and the port of Timaru.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Canterbury Farmers' Co-operative Association wool and grain stores have cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of their former directors, staff and the shareholders they served.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Canterbury Farmers' Co-operative Association wool and grain stores have high architectural significance for their monumental classical façade design and as an industrial structure designed in two stages by Frederick Marchant. Marchant (1852-1917) was a civil engineer by training and was in partnership with surveyor and fellow engineer Gilbert Laing-Meason from the early 1880s until the early 1910s. Messrs Meason and Marchant designed a new Timaru boys' high school building in North Street in 1912. Marchant registered as an architect in 1914 and was later in partnership with Herbert Hall. Hall & Marchant were responsible for the Hydro Grand Hotel in Timaru (1912, demolished) and the Carnegie Library in Fairlie (1912-14). Marchant's obituary recorded that he had designed the first ferro-concrete bridge in New Zealand at Opihi (1909).

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Canterbury Farmers' Co-operative Association wool and grain stores have technological and craftsmanship significance for their brick construction and detailing. Timaru builder and contractor Frank Palliser was born in Yorkshire and learnt his trade in England before emigrating to New Zealand. He also built Timaru's Salvation Army Barracks, hotels in Timaru, Temuka, Fairlie, Winchester and Pleasant Point, and 'Elloughton Grange' for William Grant (heritage item # 5, 1893).

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Canterbury Farmers' Co-operative Association wool and grain stores have high contextual significance due to the visual impact of their eastern facades and as one of a number of large industrial structures that line the western boundary of the railway line as it

passes through Timaru. The former grain and wool stores lie to the north of the former Timaru Milling Company mill (heritage item # 39, 1881-82) and the former JR Bruce's Dominion Roller Flour Mills & Biscuit Factory (1916 & 1924-25), and to the south of the former Belford Flour Mills (heritage item # 40, 1877-78) and the former Evans Atlas Flour Milling Company stores and mill (heritage item # 42, c.1879 +). By virtue of their original use, the former CFCA stores are also associated with the former Peter McRae's stone grain store (aka Timaru Landing Service building, heritage item #44, 1870 & 1875-76). Buildings in Cains Terrace associated with the CFCA are also extant.

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

As the building pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance relating to the industrial development of the property and the early operation of the stores. The 1875 map of Timaru (South Canterbury Museum) shows two buildings on Section 5 prior to the erection of the existing wool and grain stores. By 1882 both Sections 4 and 5 were in possession of the CFCA.

### **SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Canterbury Farmers' Co-operative Association wool and grain stores have high overall heritage significance to Timaru and Timaru district as a whole. The building has high historical significance for its connection with New Zealand's first farmers' association and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of those who owned and operated the stores for over 100 years. The former Canterbury Farmers' Co-operative Association wool and grain stores have high architectural significance for their monumental classical facades and as an industrial design by Frederick Marchant and technological significance for their brick construction and detailing. The former Canterbury Farmers' Co-operative Association wool and grain stores have high contextual significance as a local landmark and defining historic feature within a significant industrial precinct; their site has potential archaeological significance in view of the building's age and location.

### **HERITAGE CATEGORY**

A

### **REFERENCES**

- *Timaru Herald* 26 October 1880, pp. 2 & 3; 25 November 1880, p. 4; 13 December 1880, p. 2; 14 June 1881, p. 2; 23 March 1882, pp. 2 & 4; 2 December 1882, p. 2; 19 November 1888, p. 4; 29 November 1888, p. 2; 13 October 1891, p. 4; 18 July 1908, p. 7; 7 March 1917, p. 6; 30 January 2017, available online.
- *Star*
- *Temuka Leader* 17 October 1882, p. 3; 20 November 1888, p. 2; 24 November 1891, p. 2; 17 December 1892, p. 2.
- *South Canterbury Times* 25 October 1880, p. 2; 14 June 1881, p. 3; 19 August 1881, p. 3; 22 March 1882, p. 3; 28 August 1888, p. 3; 22 September 1888, p. 2; 24 September 1888, p. 3; 9 July 1892, p. 3; 19 September 1899, p. 2.
- *Press* 23 November 1891, p. 6.
- *Otago Witness* 13 February 1890, p. 6.
- *Lyttelton Times* 24 June 1890, p. 6.
- *Colonist* 14 May 1904, p. 4.
- *Ashburton Guardian* 28 August 1890, p. 3.
- *Poverty Bay Herald* 10 March 1914, p. 3.
- *Manawatu Times* 7 March 1917, p. 5.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand - Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903 (available online).
- <https://teara.govt.nz/en/stock-and-station-agencies/page-3>
- <https://teara.govt.nz/en/photograph/17387/canterbury-farmers-co-operative-association-store>



Extent of setting, comprising two land parcels at 1 Heaton Street, Timaru.



Detail from 1909 photograph, 1/1-008813-G, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington.