

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

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**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** former Mendelson's Grain Store

**ADDRESS** 57 Vine Street, Temuka

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(Dr A McEwan, 12 July 2018)

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

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Part Lot 1 & Part Lot 2 DP 3875

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2477022900

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1869?

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** Unknown

**STYLE** Industrial vernacular

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Single storey-building with long rectangular footprint and hip roof. Shallow-arched door and window openings on east, west and north walls. A single double hung-sash window on north and east walls. Panelled door near north-east corner. Three large door openings on north wall.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Brick, concrete, timber, corrugated metal.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

New door opening on west wall; reroofed (date unknown).

**SETTING**

The building stands on the east side of Vine Street (SH 1), north of its intersection with Domain Avenue. The site can be accessed from King Street. Other heritage buildings in the vicinity include the former Temuka Courthouse (heritage item # 120), the former Temuka Post Office (heritage item # 119), Coira's Royal Hotel (heritage item # 123), and Arthur Gabites' 'The Corner' shop (heritage item # 121). The extent of scheduling is limited to the footprint of the building, notwithstanding the potential archaeological values of the site as a whole. It is noted that the building extends beyond the property line at its west end.

## **HISTORY**

Julius Mendelson (1834-82) was born in Poland; after spending time in England and Australia he settled in New Zealand in 1864. Mendelson was a storekeeper in Pleasant Valley, Temuka, Pleasant Point, Geraldine and Ashburton and also had business interests (flour milling) in Timaru. He was naturalised as a New Zealand citizen in August 1865 and served on the Timaru and Gladstone Board of Works, the Temuka Road and Cemetery Boards and was a member of the Geraldine County Council at the time of his death. Mendelson was survived by his widow Carolina (aka Caroline, nee Schwartz) and five of their seven children. Carolina married Temuka town clerk Edward Cutten in 1888. Aspinall & Co. was in possession of the grain store in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the trustees of Mendelson's estate retaining the property in to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The building is now known as Mendelson Barn and is in retail and hospitality use.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Mendelson's grain store has historical significance for its association with Julius Mendelson and the grain industry for which South Canterbury is known nationally.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Mendelson's grain store has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its former owners, their employees and customers.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Mendelson's grain store has architectural value as an industrial vernacular structure that was designed to be fit for purpose. The provision of loading doors on the north wall suggests how the building was used as a grain store.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Mendelson's grain store has technological and craftsmanship significance for its mid-Victorian brick masonry construction. The builder of the store is currently unknown.

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Mendelson's grain store has contextual significance as a distinctive historic feature on the edge of the Temuka town centre and for its relationship with other heritage buildings in the vicinity and commercial buildings on King Street. The shops at 63-73 King Street were built by W Mendelson in 1900-1. The building is also associated, both functionally and historically, with the former Aspinall's grain store (1889) in Commerce Street.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

As the building pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance relating to the colonial development of the property.

## **SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

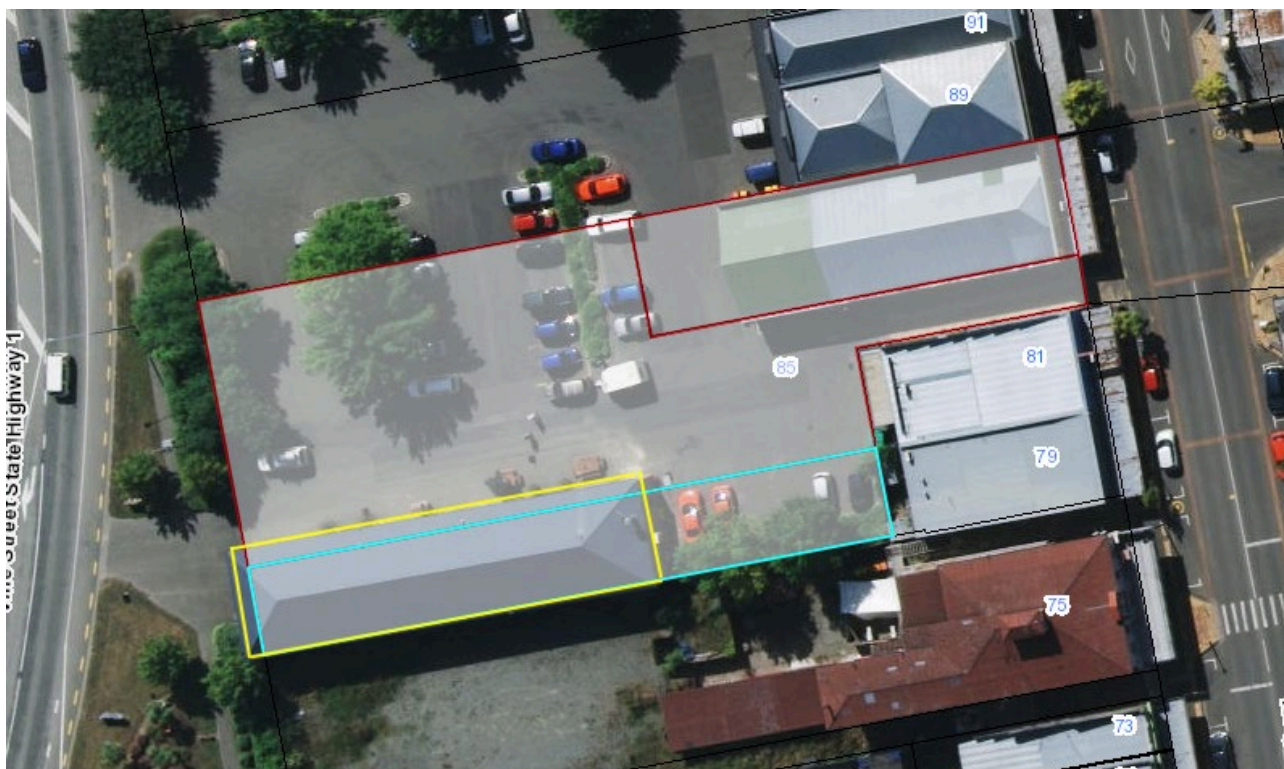
The former Mendelson's grain store has overall heritage significance to Temuka and Timaru district as a whole. The building has historical significance for its association with Julius Mendelson and the district's grain industry and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its former proprietors and their customers. The former Mendelson's grain store has architectural value as a vernacular industrial structure and technological and craftsmanship significance for the building's mid-Victorian brick masonry construction. The former Mendelson's grain store has contextual significance as a distinctive historic feature on the edge of the town centre and the building's site has potential archaeological significance in view of its 19<sup>th</sup> century development.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

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## REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 27 February 1869, p. 2; 28 September 1870, p. 5; 11 October 1871, p. 1; 11 October 1871, p. 1; 15 May 1874, p. 1; 19 January 1876, p. 4; 3 October 1876, p. 4; 14 July 1877, p. 4; 28 December 1882, p. 8.
- *Temuka Leader* 12 December 1882, p. 3; 14 December 1882, p. 2; 9 May 1889, p. 2; 24 July 1902, p. 3.
- *South Canterbury Herald* 9 March 2011 (available online).
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903; available online.
- GR Macdonald Dictionary of Canterbury Biographies, Canterbury Museum (available online).
- <https://www.temukapottery.co.nz/pages/history>



Extent of setting, limited to the footprint of the building, shown in yellow, Vine Street (85 King Street), Temuka.