

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former Crown Hotel / Geraldine Heritage Hotel

ADDRESS 31 Talbot Street, Geraldine

PHOTOGRAPH



(Dr J Wilson, September 2018)

FORMER DISTRICT PLAN ITEM No. 102 **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 2018 / 2
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Section 46 Town of Geraldine

VALUATION NUMBER 2475163100

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1906-7

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Clarkson & Ballantyne, architects

STYLE Edwardian commercial classicism

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Two storey-building with rectangular footprint and hipped roof forms. Principal elevation overlooks Talbot Street; having central arched recessed entry. Rusticated piers on ground floor with planar walls above. First floor double-hung sash windows have decorative hood moulds. Foundation stone on Talbot Street elevation. Ground floor windows have small, multi-pane bay windows with shingled sunhoods set within larger openings with voussoirs. Panels beneath window have crown motif. Fire escape beneath first floor windows extends full length of principal elevations.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Brick, cement plaster, timber and corrugated iron.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Ground floor windows modified (date unknown). Parapet removed (?). Extension along Wilson Street (c.1970?). Installation of solar panels on roof (c.2010?)

SETTING

The hotel stands at the north corner of the intersection of Talbot (SH 79) and Wilson Streets. The north-east boundary of the property is formed by the west bank of the Waihi River. The extent of scheduling is the land parcel on which the hotel is located, in view of the potential archaeological values of the site.

HISTORY

A hotel was first erected on this site by Reuben Johnston in 1873. Sarah Mulhern (c.1853-1916) was the licensee of the Crown Hotel when it was rebuilt in 1906-7. She had held the license since May 1902 and reassured her clientele that 'provision has been made for carrying on the trade as usual' during reconstruction of the hotel (*Timaru Herald* 5 May 1906, p. 3). The Crown was then one of three hotels in the town; the others being the Geraldine Hotel at the corner of Talbot and Peel Streets, which dated to the mid-1860s, and the Commercial Hotel, which was reported in March 1906 as being in bad repair. All of the materials of the original Crown Hotel were sold for removal by Sarah Mulhern in May 1906. In 1909-10 Mrs Mulhern, who had emigrated from Glasgow with her then husband Michael in 1883, was at the centre of a legal case that went all the way to the Court of Appeal over the renewal of her licence. This was at a time when the Ashburton electorate, in which Geraldine was for a time located, was 'dry'. The hotel was relicensed in c.1911 and the hotel was later owned by the Geraldine Licensing Trust from 1950 until 2009. It continues to offer hospitality and accommodation today.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Crown Hotel has historical and social significance for its use as a hotel over the last 111 years and as an example of the role played by Geraldine's hotels throughout the 20th century.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Crown Hotel has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its former publicans and their patrons.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Crown Hotel has architectural significance as the work of noted Christchurch architects Clarkson and Ballantyne. The practice was established in 1899, before which time Robert Ballantyne had been in partnership with Frederick Strouts. That firm's best-known work is 'Otahuna' homestead at Tai Tapu, which was built for Sir Robert Heaton Rhodes. Ballantyne had served his articles with Strouts, whereas William Clarkson trained in Christchurch with Joseph Maddison, who was known as a leading hotel architect. The partnership of Clarkson and Ballantyne, who also designed commercial and ecclesiastical buildings, ended when William Clarkson died in 1917.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Crown Hotel has technological and craftsmanship value for its brick masonry construction and plaster detailing.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Crown Hotel has contextual significance as a notable historic feature within the Geraldine town centre. There are a number of other scheduled buildings on Talbot Street, including the former Geraldine Post Office (heritage item # 103); together these items contribute to the historic character of the town's principal thoroughfare.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As development on this site predates 1900, the property has potential archaeological significance relating to the colonial development of Geraldine and its central business district.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Crown Hotel has overall heritage significance to Geraldine and to Timaru district. The hotel has historical and social significance for its continuous use as a hotel for 111 years and

cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its former publicans and their clientele. The Crown Hotel has architectural significance as an Edwardian commercial classical style building designed by Christchurch architects Clarkson and Ballantyne and technological and craftsmanship value for its brick masonry construction and ornamental plaster detailing. The Crown Hotel has contextual significance for its contribution to the historic streetscape of Talbot Street and its site has potential archaeological significance arising from its 19th century use and development.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

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- *Star* 9 June 1899, p. 4.
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- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/2018>
- <http://www.geraldinehotel.co.nz>
- <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/politics/temperance-movement/no-license-era>

REPORT COMPLETED	2 October 2018
AUTHOR	Dr Ann McEwan / Heritage Consultancy Services
REPORT UPDATED	XX
AUTHOR	XX
PEER REVIEWED	XX
REVIEWER	XX



Extent of setting, 31 Talbot Street, Geraldine.