

GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former MacGibbon's building

ADDRESS 88 Main Street, Gore

PHOTOGRAPH



(October 2021)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. H19 **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** n / a
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Part Section 10 Block VI Town of Gore

GDC FILE NUMBER 3218008

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1900 [rebuilt 1904]

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Mackenzie & Wilson, architects

STYLE Edwardian classicism

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Three-storey building with irregular triangular footprint and hipped roof forms. Principal elevations face south and east and are linked by a chamfered corner. The ground floor has modern shopfronts and a suspended veranda; first and second floors have rusticated piers and sculptural pediment and console motifs between floors. Two-pane sash windows with arched heads and hood moulds with keystones; solid parapet. 'General Merchants – 1872 AD – Drapers and Clothiers' in relief on panel between first and second floors.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Brick, cement plaster & metal roof.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Unspecified additions & alterations (Anscombe & Coombs, architects; 1913). Parapet removed, veranda and shopfronts replaced (date unknown).

SETTING

The building is located on the west side of Main Street overlooking its intersection with Mersey Street. There are a number of other scheduled heritage items in the vicinity at the southern end of the central business district. The scheduled setting encompasses the land parcel on which the building is located.

HISTORY

The building that stands at the corner of Main and Mersey Streets was built by MacGibbon & Co. Ltd, the company formed by Ebenezer MacGibbon and others in 1903. Initially founded in 1872 as a family business by John MacGibbon of Mataura, MacGibbon's were general merchants and stock and station agents with shops in Mataura, East Gore and Gore. The latter premises were severely damaged by fire on 29 January 1904; less than four years after fire had necessitated the construction of new buildings for MacGibbon's and J Holland at the corner of Main and Mersey Streets. MacGibbon's occupied temporary premises on the other side of Main Street while their new building was rebuilt as a replica of the 1900 design. MacGibbon's closed in 1962; the building remains in commercial use today.

HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former MacGibbon's building has historic significance for its association with MacGibbon & Co, its founding family and, more generally, the commercial development of Gore's town centre in the early 20th century.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former MacGibbon's building has cultural value for the esteem in which it is held as a historic town centre commercial building.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former MacGibbon's building has architectural significance for its Edwardian classical design by Invercargill architects Mackenzie & Wilson. The firm, which was established in 1897, also designed Ambrose's Buildings (1906) and a South African War memorial for Gore in 1900, as well as Catholic churches in Invercargill and Otautau. Edmund Wilson (1871-1941) was architect of the Civic Theatre in Invercargill (1906), one of New Zealand's most notable Edwardian Baroque style buildings.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former MacGibbon's building has technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its Edwardian construction and classical detailing. The contractor for the building is currently unknown.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former MacGibbon's building has contextual significance for its landmark qualities and the contribution it makes to the historic character of Main Street and the central business district.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although the building post-dates 1900, its site may have potential archaeological values relating to the colonial development of Gore's town centre.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former MacGibbon's building has overall heritage significance to Gore and to the district of Gore as a whole. The building has historic significance for its association with the MacGibbon family and their successful business enterprises, as well as the development of the town centre. The former MacGibbon's building has cultural value for the esteem in which it is held as a historic town centre building and architectural significance as an Edwardian classical style building designed by noted Invercargill architects Mackenzie & Wilson. The former MacGibbon's building has technological and craftsmanship significance for the evidence it can provide of Edwardian building methods and materials and the quality of its ornamental plasterwork. The former MacGibbon's building has contextual significance for its

landmark qualities and contribution to the historic character of Main Street; its site may have potential archaeological value.

REFERENCES

- *Mataura Ensign* 9 August 1887, p. 4; 8 September 1900, p. 2; 18 September 1900, p. 2; 9 October 1900, p. 2; 11 October 1900, p. 5; 23 May 1903, p. 5; 9 February 1904, p. 5; 6 June 1906, p. 2; 22 May 1913, p. 1.
- *Evening Star* 29 January 1904, p. 4.
- *Otago Witness* 3 February 1904, p. 40.
- *Marlborough Express* 30 January 1904, p. 4.
- *Auckland Star* 14 September 1900, p. 6.
- *Wise's New Zealand Post Office Directory*; various dates.
- <http://www.toituosm.com/collections/smith-gallery/wall-1/john-jane-macgibbon>

REPORT COMPLETED

10 May 2022

AUTHOR

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Extent of scheduling, former MacGibbon's building, 88 Main Street, Gore.