

GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former Mataura Railway Station

ADDRESS 90 Main Street, Mataura

PHOTOGRAPH



(October 2021)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM No. H3 **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 7345 / 2
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Section 1 and part Section 2 Block IV Town of Mataura

GDC FILE NUMBER 3247570

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1920

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** George Troup (principal architect), NZ Railways
Department

STYLE 'Troup Vintage' station

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with rectangular footprint and gabled roof forms. Decorative detailing includes eaves brackets, corbelled chimneys, wall battens and trussed gable ends, finials and double-hung sash windows with coloured, multi-pane uppers. Suspended porch with gablet over main entry; gabled canopy over platform.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber framing and weatherboard cladding, brick, iron, tile roofing.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Unknown, if any.

SETTING

The former Mataura Railway Station stands on the east side of Main Street, opposite the block bounded by Nuffield Street in the south and Carlyle Street in the north. The station and its platform lie on the west side of the rail line; the town centre is to the north-east. The scheduled setting encompasses the land parcels on which the building is located, as well as that portion of the rail corridor over which the building extends.

HISTORY

The Invercargill-Gore branch railway line opened in 1875 and with it a number of stations along the line, including at Mataura. At the turn of the 20th century the station had 'one of the largest goods sheds on the Southland section' (*Cyclopedia of NZ*) and shipped goods from the paper mill and freezing works, as well as other local produce. On 11 May 1921 a fire destroyed the station building, which had been rebuilt on the other side of the line in 1913. A new station was quickly erected in its place; it was nearing completion by December 1920. The goods shed was removed from the station precinct in 1982 and passenger trains stopped running on the line in February 2002. The Gore District Council agreed to acquire the station building from KiwiRail for \$1 in May 2019, but the sale did not proceed and the building's future is yet to be determined.

HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Mataura Railway Station has historic significance for its association with the development of Southland's railway infrastructure since the 1870s and the use of the rail line to ship freight and transport residents and visitors around the district and beyond between 1921 and 2002.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Mataura Railway Station has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of past station staff and patrons and for the esteem in which it is held by the local community and the Rail Heritage Trust of New Zealand.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Mataura Railway Station has high architectural significance as a notable example of a Troup-era railway station design. Sir George Troup (1863-1941) was the principal architect of the Railways Department from 1888 until his retirement in 1925 and under his direction the department developed a set of standardised plans for railway buildings that were erected nationwide. Best-known for the Dunedin Railway Station (1904), Troup was also an active member of the Presbyterian church and served on Wellington City Council after his retirement from the NZ Railways; he was knighted in 1937.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Mataura Railway Station has technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality and integrity of its inter-war construction and detailing.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Mataura Railway Station has contextual significance as a local landmark that is well-known in the community.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although the structure post-dates 1900, its site has potential archaeological significance relating to its use and development since the 1870s.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Mataura Railway Station has overall heritage significance to Mataura and to the district of Gore as a whole. The station building has historic significance for its association with the development of the region's transport infrastructure and cultural value for the esteem in which it is held by members of the local community. The former Mataura Railway Station has high architectural significance as a notable example of a 'Troup Vintage' style

station and contextual significance as a local landmark. The building's site has potential archaeological significance relating to its pre-1900 use and development.

REFERENCES

- *Mataura Ensign* 4 December 1929, p. 7; 11 May 1920, p. 4.
- *Auckland Star* 11 May 1920, p. 2.
- *Grey River Argus* 12 May 1920, p. 3.
- *Otago Daily Times* 5 June 1875, p. 3.
- *Southland Times* 19 October 1874, p. 3; 8 June 1875, p. 3; 1 September 1875, p. 2.
- *Southern Cross* 31 May 1913, p. 8; 11 December 1920, p. 8.
- <https://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/7345>
- <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc04Cycl-t1-body1-d7-d123-d11.html>
- <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/2t49/troup-george-alexander>
- <http://railheritage.org.nz/Register/Listing.aspx?c=21&r=13&l=52>
- <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/123569592/future-of-mataura-railway-station-hangs-in-the-balance>
- <https://www.stuff.co.nz/southland-times/news/126398992/community-is-divided-over-the-future-of-matauras-historic-railway-station>

REPORT COMPLETED

10 May 2022

AUTHOR

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Extent of scheduling, including that portion of the rail corridor into which the station building extends, former Mataura Railway Station, 90 Main Street, Mataura.