

GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former Reid & Gray building [incl Gore Club]

ADDRESS 12/14/16 Mersey Street, Gore

PHOTOGRAPH



(October 2021)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM No. H26 **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** n / a
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Section 15 Block VI Town of Gore

GDC FILE NUMBER 3226586

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1908

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Edmund Wilson, architect

STYLE Edwardian classicism

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Two-storey building with rectangular footprint and hipped roof forms. Principal, south-facing elevation has a symmetrical, centre-and-ends composition with segmental pediment over main entry on ground floor and open-bed pediments over central windows within side bays on first floor. Rusticated stonework effect on end bays of ground floor, panelled doors, double-hung sash windows; solid parapet. Arched drive-through access to rear yard at west end of façade; east bay bears name panel for 'Gore Club'.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Brick, cement plaster & metal roof.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Shop windows installed on ground floor (1919). Parapet removed (date unknown).

SETTING

The building is located on the north side of Mersey Street, in the block bounded by Fairfield Street to the west and Main Street to the east. There are a number of other scheduled heritage items in the vicinity within the central business district. The scheduled setting encompasses the land parcel on which the building is located.

HISTORY

Reid & Gray were a firm of agricultural implement suppliers that was established in Oamaru in c.1868. The company set up in Gore in 1883 and rebuilt its timber premises in Mersey Street in 1908. From the beginning, the first floor of the new building was leased to the Gore Club, which was founded in 1906 and incorporated in 1908; its first president being solicitor, and former and future Mayor of Gore, Dugald Poppelwell. The club's rooms were officially opened on 22 April 1909; facilities included a billiard room, reading room and caretaker's room. Although Reid & Gray were still operating in Gore at mid-century, the ground floor of their Mersey Street building was occupied by the National Mortgage & Agency Company, stock agents, by the early 1930s. It was from the NM&AC that the Gore Club purchased the building in 1965. The ground floor is now in use as professional rooms.

HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Reid & Gray building has historic and social significance for its association with the agricultural development of the district, the Gore Club and, more generally, the commercial development of Gore's town centre in the early 20th century.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Reid & Gray building has cultural value for the esteem in which it is held as a historic town centre building and for its association with the members and activities of the Gore Club.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Reid & Gray building has architectural significance for its Edwardian classical design by noted Invercargill architect Edmund Wilson. Wilson (1871-1941), who had earlier been in partnership with JE Mackenzie, also designed the Mataura Presbyterian Church (1932-33). His best-known building is the Civic Theatre in Invercargill (1906), one of New Zealand's most notable Edwardian Baroque style buildings. Born and trained in Invercargill, Wilson also undertook a large number of church commissions in Southland and beyond. He was an active member of the Anglican church and a leader in the architectural profession.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Reid & Gray building has technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its Edwardian construction and classical detailing. The contractor of the building is currently unknown.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Reid & Gray building has contextual significance for the contribution it makes to the historic character of Mersey Street and the central business district.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although the building post-dates 1900, its site has potential archaeological value relating to the colonial development of Gore's town centre. Reid & Gray had occupied the site since 1884 and the building at the rear of the lot may pre-date the building on the road frontage.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Reid & Gray building [incl Gore Club] has overall heritage significance to Gore and to the district of Gore as a whole. The building has historic and social significance for its association with local agriculture and the Gore Club, as well as the development of the town centre. The former Reid & Gray 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 architect Edmund Wilson. The former Reid & Gray building has technological and craftsmanship significance for the evidence it can provide of Edwardian building methods and materials and the quality of its ornamental detailing. The former Reid & Gray building has contextual significance for its contribution to the historic character of Mersey Street; its site has potential archaeological value.

REFERENCES

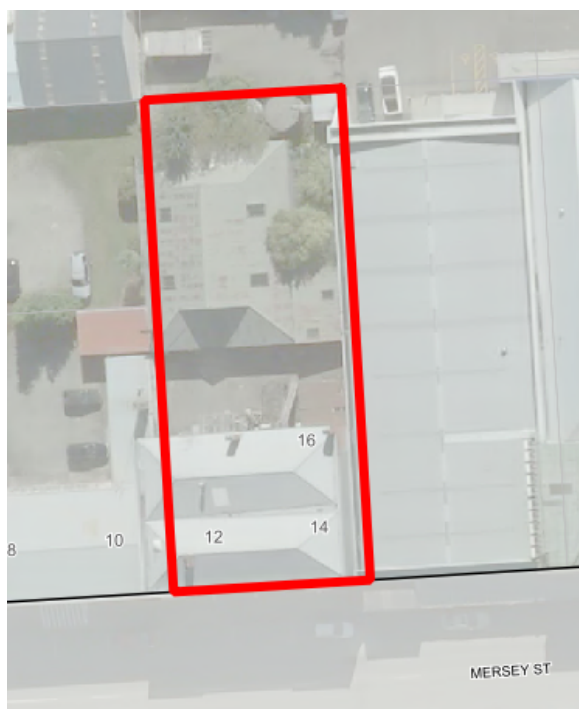
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- *North Otago Times* 15 September 1868, p. 3.
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- *Wise's New Zealand Post Office Directory*; various dates.
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REPORT COMPLETED

10 May 2022

AUTHOR

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Extent of scheduling, former Reid & Gray building, 12/14/16 Mersey Street, Gore.