

GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former Bank of New Zealand & bank manager's residence

ADDRESS 90-92 Kana Street, Maitāura

PHOTOGRAPH



(October 2021)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM No. H4 **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 7300 / 2
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Lot 2 DP 14366

GDC FILE NUMBER 6562583

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1892

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** RW England, architect; Andrew Swanston, contractor

STYLE Italianate

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Two-storey building with irregular rectangular footprint and centre-gutter hipped roof; single-storey extensions to the north, south & east. Symmetrical façade, with portico entrance and central pediment above bracketed eaves. Pilasters with quoin or block detailing; panelled entrance door approached via a short flight of steps. Double-hung sash windows with casement type windows in later additions.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Brick, cement plaster, corrugated metal.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Additions to north and south elevations (mid-20th C).

SETTING

The former Bank of New Zealand stands on the east side of Kana Street, overlooking its intersection with Bridge Street. The building forms the eastern terminal vista along the length of Bridge Street and stands near the former Macgibbon store at 61 Kana Street. The scheduled setting is the land parcel on which the building is located.

HISTORY

The Bank of New Zealand established an agency in Mātaura in 1873. The cottage in which the bank was first housed was immediately to the north of the subject site; it burnt down in 1917. Tenders were called in July 1892 for a new bank, at which time John Penny was the manager. Penny and his family lived on the first floor of the bank and John Penny remained at Mātaura until he was transferred to the Rakaia branch in 1911. The bank closed in c.1993 and the building is now in private residential use.

HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Bank of New Zealand has historic significance for its association with the development of the district's financial infrastructure and as a reflection of the size and scale of Mātaura and its commercial activity in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Bank of New Zealand has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of past bank staff, their families and customers.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Bank of New Zealand has architectural significance for its design by one of Christchurch's leading architects, RW England. Robert England junior (1863-1908) established his practice in 1886 and was joined in partnership by his brother Edward (1875-1949) in 1906. After Robert died, Eddie Edward continued the firm, specialising in large timber homes for wealthy clients. The England Brothers were responsible for some of Christchurch's most notable late 19th and early 20th century residential buildings, including the former McLean's mansion (1899-1902) and the 1900 section of Riccarton House. From the time the practice was established the England Brothers also designed Methodist churches and BNZ buildings; the latter commissions included banks in Akaroa (1904), Methven and Oxford (both 1910). A number of the firm's Christchurch buildings were demolished following the Canterbury earthquakes.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Bank of New Zealand has technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its late Victorian masonry construction and detailing. Andrew Swanston (c.1855-1917) was a Christchurch builder and contractor who was also responsible for building the Mātaura water race and a number of railway stations in the lower North Island.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Bank of New Zealand has contextual significance as a local landmark and as a reminder of the commercial hub that once stood around the perimeter of Bridge Square on the east bank of the Mātaura River.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the structure pre-dates 1900, its site has potential archaeological significance relating to its historic use and development. There was an earlier building on the lot, a combined school/courthouse erected in 1874, which was demolished to make way for the new bank.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Bank of New Zealand & bank manager's residence has overall heritage significance to Mātaura and to the district of Gore as a whole. The building has historic significance for its association with the development of the district's financial infrastructure and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its former staff, their families and

customers. The former Bank of New Zealand has architectural significance as an Italianate design by leading Christchurch architect RW England 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* 1 July 1892, p. 4; 5 July 1892, p. 6; 8 July 1892, pp. 4 & 5; 31 January 1893, p. 5; 7 November 1893, p. 2; 28 July 1917, p. 4.
- *Southland Times* 2 September 1873, p. 2; 11 March 1911, p. 5.
- *Lyttelton Times* 28 December 1917, p. 5.
- <https://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/7300>
- <https://districtplan.ccc.govt.nz/Images/DistrictPlanImages/Statement%20of%20Significance/Banks%20Peninsula/HID%20728.pdf>

REPORT COMPLETED

10 May 2022

AUTHOR

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Extent of scheduling, former Bank of New Zealand, 90-92 Kana Street, Mātaura.