GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL

HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME	former Gore High & Technical School buildings [2]
ADDRESS	1/2 Richmond Street, Gore
PHOTOGRAPH	

(April 2022/October 2021)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. (at time of assessment)	H20 [at left] **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** n/a
LEGAL DESCRIPTION	Section 1 Block XXVI Town of Gore
GDC FILE NUMBER	3250930
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	1910-11
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/ BUILDER	WA McCaw, architect; Owen Kelly, builder
STYLE	Neoclassical

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Two, single-storey buildings with gabled roof forms. Southern building has H-shaped footprint and principal elevation facing south; the original art room was on the first floor of this building, lit by skylights. Northern building has L-shaped footprint and is set perpendicular to the roadway; it features pediments over the main windows. Corbelled chimneys and ventilators on ridgeline; label moulds over windows; southern building has main entry set beneath a tower bearing the words 'Palma Non Sine Pulvere' (trans. no palm without dust / dare to try) in relief. Double-hung sash and casement-and-fanlight type fenestration.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Concrete foundations, brick masonry walls, cement detailing, corrugated iron roofing.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Cupola of tower removed & gabled addition erected in front of window on south elevation of south building (date unknown).

SETTING

The two buildings stand near the west bank of the Mataura River, on a lot bounded by Richmond Street in the west and Norfolk Street in the south. The town centre is to the south-west and the bridge that carries SH 1 across the river is to the south-east. The buildings stand at some distance from one another, separated by what was the school's playground. The scheduled setting is limited to the southern portion of the reserve on which the buildings stand, rather than the land parcel as a whole.

HISTORY

A school committee was formed in Gore in 1878 and a building erected in the same year. That building burnt down in July 1896; its replacement opened in January 1897. Efforts to secure a high school for Gore were frustrated for many years; the primary school only becoming the district high school as well in April 1902. A month later attendance was reported as still going up, with an average of 320 pupils 'in fine weather' [*Mataura* Ensign 22 May 1902, p. 2]. By 1904 the roll was c.471 pupils, with 70 in the secondary department and a teaching staff of 11. In October 1908 an independent Gore High School was officially established. Tenders were called for new boys' and girls' high school buildings, to be shared with the Gore Technical School (est. 1907), in March 1910; these were to be erected on the recreation reserve running along the west bank of the Mataura River, south of the town centre. The high school building was erected overlooking Norfolk Street and the Manual Technical School building was built behind it on Richmond Street. Sir James Carroll and Apirana Ngata spoke at the opening of the school on 28 June 1911. Carroll was Acting Prime Minister at the time and both men were two of the leading Māori MPs of the 20th century. After the high school relocated to Coutts Road in 1954, the former school site was reserved for a community centre by Gore Borough Council in 1956. Two timber buildings on the site, one an assembly hall dating to the mid-1940s, were demolished by the council in 2020. The two brick school buildings remain in community use and are currently used by the Gore Repertory Society, Gore Karate Club, the Gore Boxing Club and local dance studios.

HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Gore High & Technical School buildings have high historic and social significance for their association with the early years of secondary and technical education in Gore and, more generally, the development of the community's social infrastructure, both in the early and later 20th century.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Gore High & Technical School buildings have cultural significance as sites of community identity and historic continuity.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Gore High & Technical School buildings have architectural significance for their design by Southland Education Board architect, William Armstrong McCaw. McCaw (1863-1955) was appointed architect to the board in 1893 and held the position for 36 years. He had been born in Scotland and came to New Zealand as a young man, working for a period as a builder and architect in Gore before moving to Invercargill. McCaw was the Session Clerk of First Presbyterian Church in Invercargill for 56 years and his obituary in 1955 noted that one of his grandsons was All Black WA [Bill] McCaw, who was born in Gore.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Gore High & Technical School buildings have technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of their brick construction and detailing. Owen Kelly (c.1862-1926) was a successful local contractor and, briefly in the mid-1890s, the proprietor of the Railway Hotel in Pukerau.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Gore High & Technical School buildings have high contextual significance as well-known local landmarks and for their relationship with the current Gore High School buildings and structures, especially the memorial gates, in Coutts Road.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the buildings post-date 1900, their site may have limited potential archaeological value. SO 3755, dated November 1907, shows no structures on the lot that had been surveyed by the Borough Council for a Technical & High School. In 1878 the land on the east side of Richmond Street had been set aside as Recreation Reserve; the mana whenua history of the area, including the Mataura River, may reveal further information about the site's archaeological potential.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE&

The former Gore High & Technical School buildings [2] have high overall heritage significance to Gore and to the district of Gore as a whole. The former school buildings have high historical and social significance for their association with the early staff and students of Gore High and Technical Schools and cultural significance as a place of community esteem and historic continuity. The former Gore High & Technical School buildings have architectural significance as two notable buildings designed by Southland Education Board architect WA McCaw and technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of their construction and detailing by local contractor Owen Kelly. The former Gore High & Technical School buildings have high contextual significance as local landmarks and for their relationship with the school's current campus in Coutts Road.

REFERENCES

- *Mataura Ensign* 13 July 1894, p. 4; 25 January 1896, p. 1; 26 January 1897, p. 2; 10 April 1897, p. 3; 18 July 1899, p. 2; 18 March 1902, p. 2; 19 April 1902, p. 2; 22 April 1902, p. 3; 24 April 1902, p. 2; 22 May 1902, p. 2; 28 April 1903, p. 3; 28 May 1903, p. 2; 14 July 1904, p. 2; 16 July 1904, p. 5; 6 August 1907, p. 4; 27 November 1907, p. 3; 10 December 1907, p. 3; 4 December 1908, p. 3; 18 January 1909, p. 2; 14 March 1910, p. 4; 12 December 1910, p. 5; 23 January 1911, p. 4; 29 May 1911, p. 5; 29 June 1911, p. 3; 21 December 1918, p. 4.
- *Otago Daily Times* 19 March 1910, p. 10; 30 November 1926, p. 10; 30 July 1938, p. 21; 28 October 1948, p. 6.
- *Southland Times* 6 December 1902, p. 4; 29 June 1911, p. 5.
- *Evening Star* 13 October 1908, p. 4.
- *Western Star* 30 November 1926, p. 2.
- *Press* 17 August 1955, p. 6.
- *Stuff* 12 November 2020; available online.

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Extent of scheduling, limited to immediate setting below the turquoise line, former Gore High & Technical School buildings, 1/2 Richmond Street, Gore. [Aerial view shows timber buildings that were demolished in late 2020.]

High School, Gore, circa 1914, Dunedin, by Muir & Moodie studio. Te Papa (C.013970).