GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL

HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME	former Mataura Lodge of Oddfellows' hall
ADDRESS	3 Lodge Street, Mataura
PHOTOGRAPH	

(April 2022)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. (at time of assessment)	n / a	**HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY**	n / a
LEGAL DESCRIPTION	Section 4 Block II Town of Mataura		
GDC FILE NUMBER	3269616		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	1885		
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/ BUILDER	Unknown		
STYLE	Vernacular hall		

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with rectangular footprint and gabled roof. Principal, north-east facing elevation combines a symmetrical façade with stepped parapet and blind arcade effect, with only a small window in the central bay, with a panelled door providing access to the lean-to wing along the west wall. Secondary entry on east wall; corbelled chimney.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber, cement plaster, metal roof.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Remodelled (1925).

SETTING

The building stands on the south side of Lodge Street, between the Mataura War Memorial (1922, relocated 2007) in the east and the former Masonic Lodge / Kilties Pipe Band hall (1927) in the west. The town's main commercial area is located to the north-east of the site. The scheduled setting is the land parcel on which the building is located.

HISTORY

Construction of Mataura's Oddfellows' hall commenced in November 1885; the lodge having been formed two years earlier and initially meeting in Cameron's Hotel and Humphries' hall. At that time the street was known as Short Street, but with the construction of both an Oddfellows Hall and a Masonic Lodge on the neighbouring property the name was later changed to Lodge Street. The new hall was in use by mid-January 1886 and became the venue for the Pearl of Mataura Rebekah Lodge, a women's lodge, in 1922. Between 1911 and 1927 the Masonic Lodge (est. 1909) also met in the Oddfellows' hall; in 1927 they moved into their own hall built right next door. According to Muir, the Oddfellow's hall was remodelled by Charlie Rose in 1925, reopening on 3 September of that year. The hall was also used as a meeting place by other groups; including, for example, a Chess and Draughts Club in July 1887 and, in August 1919, the Mataura Highland Society and a public meeting to discuss the Southland Hydro-electric Power Scheme. Both the men's and women's lodges were disbanded in 2013 and the Oddfellows' hall has since been converted to residential use.

HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Mataura Lodge of Oddfellows' hall has historic and social significance for its association with the Mataura Lodge of Oddfellows and the Pearl of Mataura Rebekah Lodge, the groups' early members and, more generally, the development of Mataura's social infrastructure. It is especially notable that the building was home to a women's lodge, founded by local nurses, between 1922 and 2013.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Mataura Lodge of Oddfellows' hall has cultural value as a place of community identity and for the esteem in which it is held as a reminder of the late 19th century development of Mataura.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Mataura Lodge of Oddfellows' hall has architectural value for its modest vernacular styling that was designed to meet the specific needs of its users. The designer of the building is currently unknown.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Mataura Lodge of Oddfellows' hall has technological and craftsmanship value for the evidence it can provide about late Victorian construction methods and materials. The contractor for the building is currently unknown.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Mataura Lodge of Oddfellows' hall has contextual significance for its contribution to the historic character of Lodge Street and for its relationship with a number of other heritage buildings and structures in the vicinity; especially the war memorial and former Masonic hall.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the building pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological values relating to its colonial use and development.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Mataura Lodge of Oddfellows' hall has overall heritage significance to Mataura and to the district of Gore as a whole. The building has historic and social significance for its association with the Mataura Lodge of Oddfellows, the Pearl of Mataura Rebekah Lodge and,

more generally, the development of Mataura's social infrastructure. The former Mataura Lodge of Oddfellows' hall has cultural value for the esteem in which it is held as an early Mataura building and architectural value as a late 19th century vernacular building designed to meet the specific functions of its users. The former Mataura Lodge of Oddfellows' hall has technological and craftsmanship value for the evidence it can provide of Victorian building methods and materials and contextual significance for the contribution it makes to the historic character of Lodge Street, particularly in relation to other heritage buildings and structures in the vicinity. The property has potential archaeological value.

REFERENCES

- *Mataura Ensign* 15 July 1887, p. 4; 10 May 1892, p. 2; 18 August 1919, p. 1.
- *Southland Times* 23 November 1883, p. 2; 23 July 1886, p. 3.
- *Otago Witness* 21 November 1885, p. 13; 23 January 1886, p. 13; 1 July 1887, p. 29.
- DCW Muir *Mataura: City of the Falls* Mataura Historical Society, 1991.

REPORT COMPLETED 13 May 2022

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Extent of scheduling, former Mataura Lodge of Oddfellows' hall, 3 Lodge Street, Mataura.