GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL

HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME	former Hannah / Spooner cottage [‘Clematis Cottage’]
ADDRESS	68 Kana Street, Mataura
PHOTOGRAPH	

(April 2022)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. (at time of assessment)	H5	**HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY**	7287 / 2
LEGAL DESCRIPTION	Lot 1 DP 2722		
GDC FILE NUMBER	3263779		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	early 1880s?		
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/ BUILDER	Unknown		
STYLE	Vernacular colonial cottage		

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with rectangular footprint and saltbox roof. Principal, west-facing elevation has gabled entrance porch with door in north wall and arch-headed window; porch is flanked by double-hung sash windows. Chimney breaks through ridgeline at south end; side walls blank.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber framing & weatherboard cladding, brick chimney, corrugated metal roofing.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Conversion to museum (later 1980s/early 1990s). Restoration (2014).

SETTING

The former cottage stands on the east side of Kana Street, overlooking its intersection with Forth Street. There is an outbuilding to the rear (east) of the cottage, which is set back from the road boundary behind a picket fence. The scheduled setting is the land parcel on which the building is located.

History

The land on which the subject building stands was part of a grant of three lots made to local labourer William Gourlie in 1879. Gourlie died in April of the following year and administration of his estate was granted to James Pollock in June 1881. Pollock transferred the land to James Park and Robert Winning, local storekeepers, in July 1882. In March 1884 Park's wife Mary acquired the property and she held it until it was transferred to their son James Henry Park, a local schoolteacher, in 1920. James Hannah, a labourer, acquired the property from Park in March 1923. A subdivision undertaken by Hannah in 1927 created the subject lot and the one immediately to the south, on which a matching cottage once stood. In 1928 Hannah sold the subject cottage to Henry Geddes, another local labourer. Three months after Geddes acquired the property he transferred it to James Spooner, a machinist, in August 1928. Spooner and his wife Doris (nee Marriner, died 1938) had previously lived in River Street, Mataura. After James Spooner died, in 1984, his executors transferred the cottage in December 1985 to the Mataura and Districts Historical Society, in whose hands it remains. The cottage opened as a local history house museum in 1993 and was renovated in 2014. In 2015 it won best project at the New Zealand Museum Awards.

Historic And Social Significance

The former Hannah / Spooner cottage has historic and social significance for its association with a number of early Mataura residents, including the Hannah and Spooner families, as well as the Mataura and Districts Historical Society and their efforts to preserve and present local history.

Cultural And Spiritual Significance

The former Hannah / Spooner cottage has cultural significance as it is esteemed for its survival as a colonial cottage and for its conservation and community use by the Mataura and Districts Historical Society.

Architectural And Aesthetic Significance

The former Hannah / Spooner cottage has architectural significance as a well-preserved colonial cottage that has been sensitively repurposed as a local history museum. The designer of the cottage is currently unknown.

Technological And Craftsmanship Significance

The former Hannah / Spooner cottage has technological and craftsmanship value for the evidence it can provide of colonial construction methods and materials. The builder of the building is currently unknown.

Contextual Significance

The former Hannah / Spooner cottage has contextual significance for the contribution it makes to the historic character of Kana Street. Although it is no longer in residential use, the building continues to demonstrate Kana Street's history as a mixed-use environment.

Archaeological and Scientific Significance

As the building pre-dates 1900, its site has potential archaeological value relating to the colonial development of Mataura.

Summary of Heritage Significance

The former Hannah / Spooner cottage ['Clematis Cottage'] 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 Hannah and Spooner families, the colonial

development of the town and the Mataura and Districts Historical Society. The former Hannah / Spooner cottage has cultural significance because it is esteemed as a colonial survivor and is the home of the Mataura Museum and architectural significance as a well-preserved and sensitively repurposed vernacular cottage. The former Hannah / Spooner cottage has contextual significance for the contribution it makes to the historic character of Kana Street and as a reminder of the road's early residential history. The building's site has potential archaeological value in view of its pre-1900 development.

REFERENCES

- *Mataura Ensign* 25 November 1884, p. 2; 11 January 1918, p. 7; 8 May 1918, p. 4.
- *Otago Daily Times* 30 October 1874, p. 2.
- *Thames Star* 10 May 1918, p. 2.
- *Otago Witness* 3 August 1926, p. 47.
- *Southland Times* 24 January 1878, p. 3; 24 March 1881, p. 3; 25 May 1882, p. 3; 29 December 1884, p. 2; 12 June 1889, p. 3.
- *Evening Star* 5 July 1920, p. 6.
- https://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/7287

REPORT COMPLETED 10 May 2022

AUTHOR Dr Ann McEwan / Heritage Consultancy Services

Extent of scheduling, former Hannah/Spooner cottage, 68 Kana Street, Mataura. [Aerial was taken when the matching cottage at 66 Kana Street was still extant.]