GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL

HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME	former Waimea Plains Flour & Oatmeal Mill grain store
ADDRESS	[9] Flour Mill Road, Mandeville
PHOTOGRAPH	

(April 2022)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. (at time of assessment)	n / a	**HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY**	n / a
LEGAL DESCRIPTION	Lot 4 DP 556497		
GDC FILE NUMBER	8171792		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	1894		
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/ BUILDER	R Doull, designer; J Day, bricklayer		
STYLE	Industrial vernacular		

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Small, two-storey building with square footprint and pyramidal roof. Arched opening at ground level on north-east elevation; two slot openings and doorway above. Some damage to walls.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Brick, timber, corrugated metal.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Unknown, if any.

SETTING

The former mill building stands in a paddock at the eastern terminus of Flour Mill Road. The Croydon Aviation Heritage Centre is to the north, on the opposite side of Waimea Highway (SH 94). Despite its distance from the road, the former grain store can be seen from the highway, set against the backdrop of the Waterfall Range. The scheduled setting is limited to the immediate environs of the building, rather than the land parcel as a whole.

HISTORY

Robert Doull established a flour mill at Mandeville close by the Otamita Stream in 1887; it was known as the Waimea Plains Flour Mills. Trained as a flour miller Doull (c.1839-1901) immigrated to New Zealand from Scotland in 1862 and built flour mills in Kaihiku, west of Balclutha, and Balclutha before a period spent farming in Hawkes' Bay. He returned to Southland and bought the flour and oat mill his brother David had built at Wyndham before settling in Mandeville in c. January 1887. A small timber mill building was followed by an oatmeal kiln and mill and then, in 1894, Doull erected a brick grain store. In 1898 the mill was further improved with the shift from millstones to modern roller plant; it was water-powered with a race cut from the nearby stream. Doull died in May 1901 on a voyage to Scotland, his son John having taken over the Mandeville mill before his departure. Doull senior was survived by his wife Elizabeth and their three children; Elizabeth left Mandeville in 1903 and offered the mill property, which included a dwelling, for sale in late 1909. In February 1910 Charles Wilkinson took over the mill from Harraway & Sons, which had operated it since 1905 if not earlier, and installed D Collett as the miller; two years later the mill was closed down. Local farmers the Horrel Brothers converted the mill to a shearing shed in 1917. Today only the grain store is still extant, a millstone from the plant having been mounted outside the Mandeville Hall and inset with a number of memorial plaques.

HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Waimea Plains Flour & Oatmeal Mill grain store has historic significance for its association with Robert Doull and the flour and oat mill he established in Mandeville in 1887. Doull designed his own plant and buildings, patented an oatmeal turning device and imported machinery from Australia and the USA to keep up with the latest in milling technology.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Waimea Plains Flour & Oatmeal Mill grain store has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of the people who built and worked at the mill.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Waimea Plains Flour & Oatmeal Mill grain store has architectural significance as a vernacular industrial building that was designed by Robert Doull to be fit for purpose.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Waimea Plains Flour & Oatmeal Mill grain store has technological and craftsmanship significance as a late 19th century industrial structure. John Day was a Gore contractor who also undertook some of the construction at Flemings' 'Creamoata' mill in that town.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Waimea Plains Flour & Oatmeal Mill grain store has contextual significance as a local historic feature, which explains the name of the road providing access to it and serves as a reminder of the early industrial development of Mandeville.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the mill building pre-dates 1900, its site has potential archaeological significance relating to its use and development in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Waimea Plains Flour & Oatmeal Mill grain store has overall heritage significance to Mandeville and to the district of Gore as a whole. The former grain store has historic

significance for its association with Robert Doull and his modern flour and oatmeal mill and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of the people who built and worked at the mill. The former Waimea Plains Flour & Oatmeal Mill grain store has architectural significance as a utilitarian structure designed by its owner to be fit for purpose and technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its brick construction by Gore bricklayer John Day. The former Waimea Plains Flour & Oatmeal Mill grain store has contextual significance as local historic feature and its site has potential archaeological significance.

REFERENCES

- *Mataura Ensign* 1 April 1887, p. 5; 12 April 1895, p. 6; 30 July 1898, p. 2; 25 April 1901, p. 3; 17 January 1903, p. 2; 22 November 1909, p. 4; 15 March 1910, p. 2; 23 June 1913, p. 3.
- *Otago Witness* 19 April 1894, p. 22; 10 November 1898, p. 28; 7 September 1899, p. 29; 2 February 1910, p. 4; 21 February 1912, p. 39.
- *Clutha Leader* 21 June 1901, p. 3.
- *New Zealand Mail* 17 May 1905, p. 62.
- *Southland Times* 23 November 1909, p. 1; 30 March 1910, p. 2; 27 November 1917, p. 3.
- *Otago Daily Times* 3 January 1938, p. 12.
- https://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc04Cycl-t1-body1-d7-d102.html
- https://www.windmillworld.com/world/newzealand/nz1546.htm

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AUTHOR Dr Ann McEwan / Heritage Consultancy Services

Extent of scheduling, limited to immediate setting, former Waimea Plains Flour & Oatmeal Mill grain store, [9] Flour Mill Road, Mandeville.

Land parcel as a whole with former mill building marked by star.