GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL

HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME	former Wilson house / 'Wilden'
ADDRESS	15 Lewis Street, Gore
PHOTOGRAPH	(April 2022)
DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. (at time of assessment)	n / a **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** n / a
LEGAL DESCRIPTION	Lot 2 DP 7488
GDC FILE NUMBER	3284252
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	c.1938
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/ BUILDER	Unknown
STYLE	Art Deco Moderne

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Two-storey building with irregular rectangular footprint and flat roofs concealed by solid parapets. Principal elevation faces east and includes integrated garage with panelled doors and recessed entry accessed via a short flight of steps. Casement windows, some multi-paned; three adjacent to north-east corner have flattened arch heads. Incised lines at base and top of walls.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Concrete, cement plaster.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Some windows replaced (c.2015).

SETTING

The house stands on an elevated site on the west side of Lewis Street, a cul de sac north of Thomas Street. The property is open to the street and there is garaging at the south-west corner of the lot, in addition to a single car garage beneath the house. The scheduled setting is the land parcel on which the building is located.

HISTORY

EG (Ernest Gordon) Wilson entered into a partnership with James Blaikie in Gore in 1912; the firm of Blaikie and Wilson, civil engineers and land and mine surveyors, was thus created. Wilson (c.1890-1941), who had been born at Knapdale, took over the firm in c.1915 and he later provided his services to a number of local bodies, including Gore Borough Council. He married Catherine McKissock in 1919 and the couple had one daughter; they lived in Elizabeth Street before their home in Lewis Street was built in c.1938. After her husband died, Catherine Wilson retained the property until 1955, when it was transferred to Bernard Esquilant. He undertook a subdivision of the Wilsons' large holding; this created the north end of Lewis Street whilst the next owner (IR Gardiner) further subdivided the house lot in 1966, thus forming the cul de sac. The property was subdivided to its current extent by Gardiner in 1969 and the house remains in private residential use.

HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Wilson house has historic significance for its association with EG Wilson and his family and, more generally, the pattern of residential development that occurred in this part of north-west Gore in the mid-20th century.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Wilson house has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its early occupants.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Wilson house has architectural significance as an Art Deco Moderne style house that retains a good level of authenticity and is contemporary with some of the character-defining buildings of the central business district. The designer of the house is currently unknown.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Wilson house has technological and craftsmanship value for the quality of its concrete and plaster construction and detailing. The contractor for the building is currently unknown.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Wilson house has contextual significance as a marker of the mid-century development of Lewis Street and for the contribution it makes to the local streetscape.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the building post-dates 1900, its site may have limited potential archaeological value. The property appears to have been undeveloped, rural land until the Wilson house was built.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Wilson house has overall heritage significance to Gore and to the district of Gore as a whole. The building has historic and social significance for its association with EG Wilson and his family and, more generally, the residential development of north-western Gore. The former Wilson house has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its early occupants and architectural significance as an Art Deco Moderne house that is contemporary with some of the CBD's character-defining commercial buildings. The former Wilson house has technological and craftsmanship value for its concrete construction and detailing and contextual significance for the contribution it makes to the mid-century character of the local streetscape. The property may have limited potential archaeological value.

REFERENCES

- *Evening Star* 29 September 1934, p. 16.
- *Mataura Ensign* 17 April 1912, p. 1; 21 March 1919, p. 4.
- *Otago Daily Times* 1 August 1941, p. 10.
- *Otago Witness* 9 November 1910, p. 33.

REPORT COMPLETED 13 May 2022

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Extent of scheduling, former Wilson house, 15 Lewis Street, Gore.

The property seen from the air in 1948. Retrolens.