GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL

HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME	'Sunbury Place', former Begg/Park house
ADDRESS	11 Crawford Road, Mataura
PHOTOGRAPH	

(April 2022)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. (at time of assessment)	n / a	**HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY**	n / a
LEGAL DESCRIPTION	Part Section 30 Block XVII Town of Mataura Bridge		
GDC FILE NUMBER	3263779		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	mid-1880s		
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/ BUILDER	Unknown		
STYLE	Villa		

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

One-and-a half-storey building with irregular square footprint and cross-gabled roof forms. Principal, west-facing elevation has enclosed veranda with gable over entry. Corbelled chimneys on ridgeline at north and south ends with lantern style tower between. Double-hung sash windows. Service wing at south-east corner.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber framing & cladding, brick chimneys, corrugated metal roofing.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Veranda enclosed; west gable end window replaced by two windows (date unknown).

SETTING

The house stands on an elevated site overlooking Kana Street, on the north side of Crawford Road. The former Hannah/Spooner cottage is directly to the west and Mataura Presbyterian Church is to the south-west of the property, which is rural in character. The scheduled setting is the land parcel on which the building is located.

History

The house stands at the south-western corner of Section 30, which was originally granted by the crown to Finlay McKay. The section was subdivided to its current extent in 1884, although both parcels are still commonly held. Robert Leith Begg, a tea merchant and soap manufacturer, built 'Sunbury Place' in the mid-1880s. He had previously been in business in Dunedin and Clyde and settled in Mataura, where he opened a general store, in 1884. Begg married Helen Christie in 1859 and the couple had seven children. The Beggs added a vinery to the grounds of Sunbury in 1888, the same year in which RL Begg & Sons was operating shops in Mataura, Dunedin and Invercargill. Helen Begg died at 'Sunbury Place' in 1890 and Robert put the house up for sale in the autumn of 1903. At that time the property comprised an 8-room house, an octagonal vinery, a stable, buggy shed and workshop. 'Sunbury Place' was bought by James Park, a painter and one of Mataura's early settlers. Scottish-born Park (1846-1915) had immigrated to New Zealand in 1862 and lived in the Clutha district for some years before settling in Mataura in 1873. He was a member of the first Mataura Borough Council and actively involved in the Presbyterian church and the Mataura Bowling and Highland Clubs. Park died in 1915 but his widow Mary (c.1847-1920) remained at the home until her death in 1920; she was survived by their eight children. The house has since passed through other hands and remains in private residential use.

Historic And Social Significance

'Sunbury Place' has historic and social significance for its association with the Begg and Park families and the contribution they made to the early development of Mataura.

Cultural And Spiritual Significance

'Sunbury Place' has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its early occupants.

Architectural And Aesthetic Significance

'Sunbury Place' has architectural significance as a distinctive Victorian villa that was designed to take in the view overlooking the town of Mataura Bridge. The designer of the house is currently unknown.

Technological And Craftsmanship Significance

'Sunbury Place' has technological and craftsmanship value for the evidence it can provide of Victorian construction methods and materials. The builder of the building is currently unknown.

Contextual Significance

'Sunbury Place' has contextual significance as a local landmark, given that it can be seen from both Kana Street and the other side of the Mataura River.

Archaeological and Scientific Significance

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

Summary of Heritage Significance

'Sunbury Place', the former Begg/Park house, 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 Begg and Park families and the contribution they made to the development of Mataura. 'Sunbury Place' has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its early occupants and architectural significance as a distinctive Victorian villa that was designed to take in the view from its elevated site. 'Sunbury Place' has technological and

craftsmanship value for the evidence it can provide of Victorian building methods and materials and contextual significance as a local landmark; its site has potential archaeological value in view of the dwelling's age.

REFERENCES

- *Mataura Ensign* 5 February 1884, p. 3; 24 January 1888, p. 2; 30 March 1888, p. 5; 8 May 1888, p. 2; 26 October 1888, p. 4; 30 November 1888, p. 7; 7 April 1903, p. 3; 23 November 1915, pp. 4 & 5; 28 June 1920, p. 4; 2 July 1920, p. 4.
- *Otago Daily Times* 26 November 1883, p. 2; 23 May 1890, p. 2.
- *Dunstan Times* 2 June 1882, p. 2.
- *Otago Witness* 12 December 1857, p. 3; 7 August 1863, p. 1; 15 March 1905, p. 58.
- *Southland Times* 24 January 1878, p. 3; 28 July 1888, p. 1; 24 October 1888, p. 3; 13 November 1888, p. 3; 30 November 1888, p. 3; 4 March 1898, p. 2; 25 November 1915, p. 6.
- *Evening Star* 5 July 1920, p. 6.
- DCW Muir *Mataura: City of the Falls* Mataura Historical Society, 1991.

REPORT COMPLETED 18 May 2022

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Extent of scheduling, 'Sunbury Place', former Begg/Park house, 11 Crawford Road, Mataura.