GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL

HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME	former MacGibbon's shops and store
ADDRESS	61 Kana Street, Mataura
PHOTOGRAPH	

(October 2021)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. (at time of assessment)	n / a	**HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY**	n / a
LEGAL DESCRIPTION	Section 1 Block I Town of Mataura Bridge		
GDC FILE NUMBER	3247583		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	1907		
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/ BUILDER	John Lipscombe, designer/builder		
STYLE	Commercial classicism		

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with rectangular footprint and hipped roof forms. Principal elevations face south and east and meet at a chamfered corner. Pedimented parapet, double-hung sash windows; primary entrance centrally located on south elevation. Small pediment with sculptural relief work at corner; larger pediments are framed and topped by ornamental scrolls. Pilasters mark divisions between bays.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Brick, cement plaster, metal roof.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Entrances to shops blocked (post mid-1940s). Buildings on the northern portion of the site demolished (pre-1983).

SETTING

The building stands on the west side of Kana Street overlooking its intersection with Bridge Street. The town's main commercial area is located to the west of the site, which is bordered to the west by the east bank of the Mataura River and the bridge that carries SH 93 over it. The former Bank of New Zealand is on the opposite side of Kana Street and the former Mataura Paper Mills complex is to the north along the same road. The scheduled setting is the land parcel on which the building is located.

HISTORY

James Pollock's 1871 stone store, at the corner of Kana Street and Bridge Square, was taken over by John MacGibbon in 1872 and subsequently rebuilt in timber. MacGibbon had immigrated to New Zealand from Glasgow, Scotland with his wife and children in 1849; he settled in Mataura in December 1858 in order to establish a ferry service and accommodation house. MacGibbon was later joined in business by his sons Thomas, John, Ebenezer and Archibald. The MacGibbons were general merchants and stock and station agents with shops in Mataura, East Gore and Gore. A new masonry building overlooking Bridge Street was erected in 1907; it comprised three shops (drapery, mercery & boots, grocery & ironmongery) and a store to service them. The shops closed in c.1944; thereafter the building was used as a hostel by the Mataura Paper Mills until the early 1970s and then by the Mataura Paper Mill Social Club. The building is currently unused.

HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former MacGibbon's shops and store has historic significance for its association with the MacGibbon family and the notable contribution, in commerce, politics and Presbyterian church life, they made to the development of Mataura. More generally the building is also notable as evidence of the ongoing commercial development of Mataura's town centre, which once included both sides of Bridge Street, in the early 20th century.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former MacGibbon's shops and store has cultural value for the esteem in which it is held as a reminder of the early 20th century development of Mataura.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former MacGibbon's shops and store has architectural significance as a commercial classical style building designed by Invercargill contractor JS Lipscombe. Lipscombe also designed a new grocery store for FJ Sherwood in Bridge Street in 1912.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former MacGibbon's shops and store has technological and craftsmanship value for the evidence it can provide about Edwardian masonry construction methods and materials. JS Lipscombe also built Hotel Cecil in Invercargill (1911) and was clerk of works for First Presbyterian Church in Invercargill in 1912.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former MacGibbon's shops and store has contextual significance for its landmark quality, given its corner site and proximity to the Mataura River bridge, its contribution to the historic character of Kana and Bridge Streets, and for its relationship with a number of other heritage buildings in the vicinity. Together with the former BNZ, the former MacGibbon's building serves as a reminder of the historic urban form of Bridge Square. The building is also connected, in view of their shared history, with the former MacGibbon's building in Gore (1900/1904) and the former MacGibbon's house at 155 Kana Street.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although the building post-dates 1900, its site has potential archaeological value arising from its proximity to the Mataura River and the prior use and development of the property. James Pollock opened a store on the lot in mid-1871.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former MacGibbon's shops and store has overall heritage significance to Mataura and to the district of Gore as a whole. The building has historic significance for its association with the MacGibbons family and, more generally, the development of Mataura's town centre. The former MacGibbon's shops and store has cultural value for the esteem in which it is held as an early 20th century Mataura commercial building and architectural significance as an Edwardian commercial classical style building designed by Invercargill contractor JS Lipscombe. The former MacGibbon's shops and store has technological and craftsmanship value for the evidence it can provide of Edwardian building methods and materials and contextual significance for its landmark quality and the contribution it makes to the historic character of Kana and Bridge Streets, particularly in relation to other heritage buildings in the vicinity. The building's site has potential archaeological value.

REFERENCES

- *Mataura Ensign* 12 January 1901, p. 2; 31 October 1907, pp. 1 & 3; 22 February 1912, p. 7; 11 January 1918, p. 7.
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- *Southland Times* 29 February 1892, p. 2; 13 July 1907, p. 4 (supplement).
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- *Southern Cross* 25 November 1911, p. 2 (supplement).
- *Progress* 1 December 1912, p. 221.
- DCW Muir *Mataura: City of the Falls* Mataura Historical Society, 1991.
- http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc04Cycl-t1-body1-d7-d123-d10.html
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Extent of scheduling, former MacGibbon's store, 61 Kana Street, Mataura.