

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

2021 District Plan Item No. HH064

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former Bank of New Zealand manager's residence / Rangiora Museum

ADDRESS 29 Good Street, Rangiora

PHOTOGRAPH



(HNZPT)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. New **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 3089 / 2
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Part RS 890

VALUATION NUMBER 2165209000

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1881

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** WB Armson, architect?; Messrs Boyd & Keir, contractors

STYLE Victorian commercial classicism

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with rectangular footprint and mansard roof. Principal elevations are symmetrical; east-facing elevation previously overlooked High Street; north-facing elevation overlooked Ashley Street. East elevation has arched entry flanked by paired windows and topped by a cross-gabled pediment. North elevation has a cross-gabled pediment over a pair of arch-headed windows. Bracketed eaves, double-hung sash windows with hood moulds and, mostly, aprons. Decorative pilasters at building corners.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber framing and rusticated weatherboard cladding, corrugated metal roofing.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Relocated to current site (1967). Reroofed; display and archives extension added to west end (1971-72).

SETTING

The building stands on the southern portion of the Good Street Reserve, north of the Rangiora Bowling Club. Good Street borders the reserve to the east and Blckett Street is to the south. The museum stands close to a replica cob cottage and is partially screened from the road by trees and shrubs. The extent of scheduling is limited to that portion of the land parcel on which the building is located and is intended to protect sightlines from the roadway.

HISTORY

The Bank of New Zealand erected new premises at the corner of High and Ashley Streets in Rangiora in 1881, having had a branch in the town since 1872. The building opened for business in August 1881 and was operated by the bank until May 1967, after which time the upper floor of the building was removed to Good Street and the lower section was demolished. The Rangiora & Districts Early Records Society was incorporated in 1960 and it took over the relocated bank building in late 1967. The new Rangiora Museum was officially opened on 2 December of that year. A replica cob cottage, built largely from blocks sourced from a cottage built by the Doak family, was erected around the same time as the museum opened. The museum was recognised as a Waimakariri Landmark in 2003 and is open to the public for display and research purposes.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Bank of New Zealand manager's residence has historical and social significance for its association with the banking and commercial history of Rangiora between 1881 and 1967 and, since 1967, as the home of the Rangiora Museum.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Bank of New Zealand manager's residence has cultural significance as a demonstration of the way of life of its former bank managers, their families and customers. Bank managers were typically provided with on-site accommodation in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The esteem in which the building was, and is, held by the local community is demonstrated by its repurposing in 1967 and ongoing use as a local history museum.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Bank of New Zealand manager's residence has architectural significance as the upper floor of a Victorian commercial classical style building whose designer may have been WB Armson, the leading Christchurch architect responsible for a number of Bank of New Zealand buildings throughout Canterbury in the later 1870s and early 1880s. Armson (1832/3-83) specialised in bank design and given his involvement with premises for the BNZ in Temuka (1875), Lyttelton (1878), Rakaia and Ashburton (1881), and Geraldine (1883) it seems highly likely that he also designed the Rangiora building. The Kaiapoi BNZ (H012) was designed by TS Lambert, but only after Armson's death had curtailed his commission. Armson's Bank of New Zealand in Dunedin is considered to be his finest work (1879-83). He was an English-born, Australian trained architect who founded the firm that survived as Collins Architects until the late 20th century.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Bank of New Zealand manager's residence has technological and craftsmanship significance for its timber construction and classical detailing. Local contractor and politician Thomas Keir (1837-1910) was born in Scotland and emigrated to New Zealand in 1864. After two years working as a carpenter in Christchurch he settled in Rangiora, where he was a builder and contractor in partnership with Hugh Boyd for some 40 years. Boyd (1843-1924) was also a Scottish-born carpenter and joiner who emigrated to New Zealand in 1864. He settled in Rangiora where family members were already resident and commenced business in 1865. Boyd had met Keir on the voyage out to New Zealand. He was an inaugural Rangiora Borough councillor, served a term as Mayor of Rangiora, and was prominently involved in local education matters for over 40 years. Boyd and Keir also built the BNZ at Kaiapoi (H012, 1883-84) and Johnston's Buildings in Rangiora (H072, 1896-97).

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Bank of New Zealand manager's residence has contextual value as a historic feature within the Good Street Reserve. Since 1967 it has stood near to the Rangiora Bowling Club (H078); the building is also associated with a replica cob cottage erected in 1972.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although the former Bank of New Zealand manager's residence pre-dates 1900, its site has limited potential archaeological value in regard to the relocated building.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Bank of New Zealand manager's house / Rangiora Museum has overall heritage significance to Rangiora and the district of Waimakariri as a whole. The building has historical and social significance for its association with the banking and commercial history of Rangiora and cultural significance as a place of community esteem that demonstrates the historic way of life of bank managers and their families. The former Bank of New Zealand manager's residence has architectural significance as a Victorian commercial classical design that may have been the work of leading Christchurch architect WB Armson and technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its timber construction and classical detailing by leading Rangiora builders Boyd and Keir. The former Bank of New Zealand manager's residence has contextual value as a historic feature just north of the town centre; its site has limited potential archaeological value in relation to the relocated building.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Press* 15 November 1880, p. 3; 31 January 1881, p. 3; 17 May 1881, p. 2; 26 November 1924, p. 15.
- *Star* 9 November 1880, p. 3; 1 August 1881, p. 2; 6 April 1898, p. 3.
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- <https://rangioramuseum.wordpress.com>
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REPORT COMPLETED

8 April 2019

AUTHOR

Dr Ann McEwan / Heritage Consultancy Services



Extent of setting, limited to that part of the site on which the building is located and maintaining sightlines from the public domain, former BNZ manger's residence / Rangiora Museum, 29 Good Street, Rangiora.