

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

2021 District Plan Item No. HH098
HERITAGE ITEM NAME former Head, Hodgson & Howat's store
ADDRESS 1693 Cust Road, Cust
PHOTOGRAPH



(Dr An McEwan, 10 July 2019)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. n / a **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** n / a
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Part RS 3669 Blk VII Mairaki SD

VALUATION NUMBER 2158016700

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION c.1876?

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Lewis Head, builder?

STYLE Carpenter's Gothic Revival

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

One and a half-storey building with irregular rectangular footprint and saltbox roof. Principal elevation faces north and features three gabled dormers over a straight veranda carried on timber posts with diagonal brackets. Lean-to at rear with small gabled extension. Multi-pane casement windows and brick chimney on east elevation.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber framing and stucco cladding, brick, corrugated metal roofing.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Exterior clad in stucco (mid-1950s); veranda roof and brackets replaced, bargeboards and finials removed, dormer windows replaced, shingle roof reclad in corrugated metal (pre-2000).

SETTING

The building is close to the road boundary and occupies almost the full width of the property. It is situated on the south side of Cust Road within the village centre; the setting is largely residential in character with some commercial and community buildings to the east, including the fire station and former post office. Earlys Road is further to the east and Mill Road to the west. The extent of scheduling is limited to the immediate environs of the building, notwithstanding the potential archaeological values of the site as a whole.

HISTORY

John Head (c.1848-??), his wife Elizabeth and their daughter Martha emigrated from England in 1873. Lewis Head (1852-1937), who is assumed to be John's younger brother, arrived at the end of the following year and both families were soon settled in Cust. Although both John and Lewis were described as labourers on the relevant shipping lists, John worked as a bootmaker in Cust and Lewis is described by the local museum as a builder; he is credited with building John and Elizabeth Head's house and shop on the main street. John Head served as chairman of the Cust School Committee in the late 1870s and early 1880s, was appointed the registrar of dogs for the district in 1881 and was the clerk of the Cust Road Board between 1881 and 1891. Upon his retirement from the road board Head reportedly sold his home and business to RH Hodgson, a fellow bootmaker. In c.1904 the property was purchased by David Howat (aka Howait, c.1861-1918), who was described as a labourer in the electoral rolls of the early 20th century. Howat's store is mentioned in newspaper advertisements from 1914 and, after his death in 1918, David's widow Sarah (nee Hodgson) and other family members ran the store until 1967; it closed under new ownership not long after its sale. The building has been solely in residential use ever since.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Head, Hodgson & Howat's store has historical and social significance for its association with three early Cust families and the commercial development of the settlement in the later 19th and early 20th centuries. The building represents, in particular, the fortunes of the Head family, who arrived as assisted emigrants from Dorset, England in 1873 and went on to prosper in business and community endeavours.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Head, Hodgson & Howat's store has cultural value as a village centre historic feature that is appreciated by members of the local community.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Head, Hodgson & Howat's store has architectural value as a combined commercial and residential building that originally featured Carpenter's Gothic Revival detailing. Despite the removal of that detailing the building retains its original form and can still be read as an example of the style. The designer is currently unknown.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Head, Hodgson & Howat's store has technological and craftsmanship value for the evidence it provides of mid-Victorian construction methods and materials. Lewis Head is credited with the construction of the building for his brother John.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Head, Hodgson & Howat's store has contextual significance as a notable historic feature within the Cust town centre. It is the sole survivor of a cluster of commercial buildings that once stood immediately to the west of the Cust Institute Hall, now also demolished.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

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

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Head, Hodgson & Howat's store has overall heritage significance to Cust and Waimakariri district as a whole. The building has historic and social significance for its association with John Head, RH Hodgson, and David Howat and their families and the commercial development of Cust. The former Head, Hodgson & Howat's store has cultural value as a historic feature held in esteem by members of the community and architectural value as a Victorian commercial/residential building that retains the overall form of its original Carpenter's Gothic Revival styling. The former Head, Hodgson & Howat's store has technological and craftsmanship value for the evidence it provides of mid-Victorian construction methods and materials and contextual significance as a surviving historic feature within the Cust town centre streetscape; its site has potential archaeological value.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Press* 15 November 1877, p. 2; 13 February 1878, p. 3; 12 June 1878, p. 1; 16 December 1880, p. 3; 13 January 1882, p. 3; 27 May 1886, p. 1; 17 April 1891, p. 3; 6 October 1896, p. 1; 25 August 1937, p. 16.
- *Lyttelton Times* 25 March 1881, p. 1; 17 April 1891, p. 1; 11 August 1914, p. 11; 27 November 1918, p. 12.
- *Oxford Observer* 9 November 1889, p. 5; 18 September 1897, p. 2.
- *Star* 11 February 1891, p. 3; 19 October 1914, p. 8.
- *North Canterbury Gazette* 9 November 1937, p. 7.
- <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc03Cycl-t1-body1-d4-d14.html>
- <http://transcriptions.nz/Library.BMDs/HODGSON.BMD%27s.Christchurch.Library.html>

REPORT COMPLETED

3 July 2019

AUTHOR

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Extent of setting, limited to immediate environs of the building, 1693 Cust Road, Cust.



Building in c. 1892. Cust Museum.