

**WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM**

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**2021 District Plan Item No.** HH047

**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** former Eyreton Road Board & Eyre County Council office / 'Eyre House'

**ADDRESS** 465 Mill Road, Ohoka

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(WDC)

**DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.** H037      **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 3737 / 2  
(at time of assessment)

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Lot 12 DP 60989

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2174012500

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1879

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** Robert Wright, designer; RJ Miller, builder

**STYLE** Bay villa

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Single-storey dwelling with irregular footprint and gabled roof forms. Principal, north-facing elevation has gabled bay terminating a concave veranda with plain posts and decorative brackets. Entry off veranda is set in to side wall of gabled bay, which has decorative bargeboards, string course over window and a finial. Paired, double-hung sash and casement windows. Veranda on west elevation connects to extension at south-west corner, which has a veranda and saltbox roof in imitation of a colonial cottage.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Timber framing and weatherboard cladding, corrugated metal roofing.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Gabled extensions to rear (south) elevation (c.1970 & c.1980). Alterations (c.1998). Addition to south-west corner; comprising bedrooms and internal garage (2002).

**SETTING**

The dwelling stands on the south side of Mill Road and is bordered to the east by Wilson Drive. The village centre of Ohoka is to the west along Mill Road and the setting is rural residential in character. The house is set back from the roadway but the site is open to view. The extent of scheduling is the land parcel on which the house is located, partly in view of the potential archaeological values of the property as a whole.

## **HISTORY**

The Eyreton Road Board was created in January 1870. It met initially in Eyreton and then relocated to Kaiapoi in c.1877 before erecting its own offices in Ohoka in mid-1879; the village having been chosen for its central location. At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Ohoka was the base for the Mandeville and Rangiora River Board and the Eyreton and West Eyreton Road Boards; the district then had a population of c.430. The road board was superseded by the Eyre County Council in April 1912, the latter taking over the assets of the former at that time. In 1985 the county council demolished the surveyor's house on the same site as the council office; two years later the council relocated to Rangiora. Eyre County then merged with Rangiora District Council in April 1989, which later in the year became part of Waimakariri District Council. The Ohoka property was subdivided to its current extent in 1992 and was used as commercial premises before being converted for residential use.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Eyreton Road Board office has high historical significance for its association with the Eyreton Road Board, the Eyre County Council and, more generally, the history of local governance and infrastructural development in North Canterbury.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Eyreton Road Board office has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its early owner/occupiers.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Eyreton Road Board office has architectural significance as a bay villa designed for local government office use. Before he joined the Eyreton Road Board staff, Robert Marshall Wright (1840-1917) was a contractor and builder in Kaiapoi. Wright served as the district surveyor and, later, county engineer, for the Eyreton and West Eyreton Road Boards, the Mandeville and Rangiora River Board and the Eyre County Council in the period 1873 to 1916.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Eyreton Road Board office has technological and craftsmanship value for the evidence it provides of Victorian building materials and methods.

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Eyreton Road Board office has contextual significance for the contribution it makes to the historic character of its setting and the visual evidence it provides of the 19<sup>th</sup> century development of Ohoka.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

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

## **SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Eyreton Road Board & Eyre County Council office, known as 'Eyre House', has overall significance to Ohoka and the Waimakariri district as a whole. The building has high historical significance for its association with the Eyreton Road Board and the Eyre County Council and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of the boards' elected representatives, staff and ratepayers. The former Eyreton Road Board office has architectural value as a modified bay villa designed by RM Wright and technological and craftsmanship value for the evidence it provides of Victorian construction methods and materials. The

former Eyreton Road Board office has contextual significance for the contribution it makes to the historic character of Ohoka; its site has potential archaeological significance in view of the building's age.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

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## REFERENCES

- *Press* 17 January 1870, p. 2; 20 April 1870, p. 1; 10 June 1874, p. 2; 8 April 1878, p. 3; 31 August 1878, p. 6; 13 March 1879, p. 3; 16 July 1879, p. 1; 27 August 1895, p. 6; 7 December 1912, p. 14; 28 July 2012, available online.
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- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/3737>
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## REPORT COMPLETED

5 April 2019

## AUTHOR

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Extent of scheduling, former Eyreton Road Board office, 465 Mill Road, Ohoka.