

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

2021 District Plan Item No.

HH066

HERITAGE ITEM NAME

Rangiora Town Hall

ADDRESS

303 High Street & 175 King Street, Rangiora

PHOTOGRAPH



(Dr A McEwan, 9 July 2019)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.
(at time of assessment)

H079

HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY

3788 / 2

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Part RS 53

VALUATION NUMBER

2166110010

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

1925-26

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER**

H St A Murray, architect; F Williamson, builder

STYLE

Neoclassical

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Two-storey building set within larger complex has rectangular footprint and hipped and gabled roof forms. Principal elevations face north and east and are linked by a corner dome and rounded corner. High Street elevation is divided into five bays with recessed entry at west end; first floor windows are arched with multiple panes. String course over first floor windows, with rondels between each one. Square-headed ground floor windows have hood moulds. Foundation stone set into base near corner entry, latter has rusticated wall surface with keystones above arched openings. Metal balconies beneath first floor windows under corner dome; windows are separated by pilasters and topped by words 'Town Hall.' in relief. King Street elevation has secondary treatment with one bay having two narrow ground floor windows and arched window above. Remainder of King Street façade is largely blank with pilasters and double string course. Modern additions to both facades and at rear.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Reinforced concrete, cement plaster, corrugated metal roofing.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

King Street windows lighting auditorium covered over (c.1936?). Seating in auditorium reduced and ground floor office space extended (1970). Site redevelopment for cinema complex, town hall strengthening and refurbishment (Fulton Ross Team Architects, 2014-15).

SETTING

The building stands at the south-west corner of the intersection of High and King Streets. The town centre is to the east and the Anglican Church of St John the Baptist (H052) is to the west. Rangiora Borough School is to the south along King Street. The extent of scheduling is the land parcel on which the building is located and that part of the road reserve on to which the building appears to encroach. It is noted that the 2014-15 additions to the building are excluded from the Heritage NZPT extent of registration.

HISTORY

The Rangiora Town Hall and Library opened on 27 May 1926, the occasion being marked by two choral concerts, the evening one organised by local professional musician G Gibbs-Jordan. Originally the public library shared the ground floor with the auditorium and there was a large reading room on the first floor beneath the dome. Auditorium seating for 600 people was manufactured by local furnishers Hargreaves and Harper and from the town hall's opening the auditorium was a cinema called Everybody's and, later, the Regent. The new town hall replaced the Rangiora Institute Hall and Library that was erected in 1872 and burnt down in 1925. The Rangiora Borough Council occupied the building from 1967, when the library moved in to the former borough council chambers in Percival Street, until 1981. Movies were shown in the auditorium up until the September 2010 Darfield earthquake. The town hall was recognised as a Waimakariri Landmark in May 2010 and reopened after redevelopment and refurbishment on 7 March 2015. It continues to function as a cinema, public hall and function venue.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Rangiora Town Hall has high historical and social significance for its association with the civic and social life of the people of Rangiora and district since 1926. It is also associated with the provision of local government services between 1926 and 1981 and with community efforts to preserve local heritage buildings after the 2010 and 2011 Canterbury earthquakes.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Rangiora Town Hall has cultural significance because it is esteemed by the community as a Waimakariri Landmark.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Rangiora Town Hall has architectural significance as the work of Christchurch architect Henry St Aubyn Murray. Murray (1886-1943) was born and educated in Christchurch and served his articles with Fred Barlow, the designer of the Rangiora Borough Council Chambers (H077). In 1908 he was one of four New Zealanders who represented Australia at the Olympic Games held in London that year. Murray also designed a number of Catholic churches in Canterbury, including the Church of the Holy Name in Ashburton (1930), as well as the Akaroa (1922-23) and Leeston (1924) war memorials.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Rangiora Town Hall has technological and craftsmanship value for its reinforced concrete construction and classical detailing. F Williamson was a Christchurch builder.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Rangiora Town Hall has contextual significance as a historic landmark on High Street and within the town centre streetscape. The building defines the street corner on which it is

located and stood diagonally opposite John Knox Church for many years (1922-2014), until the latter was demolished following the Canterbury earthquakes.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the building post-dates 1900 and the property has been extensively redeveloped, its site may have limited potential archaeological value.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Rangiora Town Hall has overall heritage significance to Rangiora and the district of Waimakariri as a whole. The building has high historical and social significance for its association with the civic and social life of the people of Rangiora since 1926 and cultural significance as a place of community esteem and local identity. The Rangiora Town Hall has architectural significance as a Neoclassical design by Christchurch architect Henry Murray and technological and craftsmanship value for its reinforced construction and classical detailing. The Rangiora Town Hall has contextual significance as a historic landmark within the town centre; its site has limited potential archaeological value.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Press* 22 July 1925, p. 14; 15 August 1925, p. 16; 17 August 1925, p. 10; 18 August 1925, p. 7; 19 August 1925, p. 11; 7 November 1925, p. 20; 2 May 1926, p. 8; 9 September 1926, p. 5.
- *North Canterbury Gazette* 12 November 1935, p. 5; 17 March 1936, p. 5.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/3788>
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- <https://landmarks.waimakariri.govt.nz/rangiora-heritage/rangiora-town-hall>
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REPORT COMPLETED

9 April 2019

AUTHOR

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Extent of setting, including that part of the building that appears to extend out in to the road reserve, Rangiora Town Hall, 303 High Street, Rangiora.