

Heritage Item 9

Peter Cates Grain Store



Location

Address:	229-231 West Street, Ashburton
Co-ordinates:	Northing 5699690, Easting 2409373
Legal Description:	Town sec 193 pt 194 Ashburton Town
Owner:	Cates Grain and Seed Ltd.

Purpose

Current Use:	Commercial/Grain Store
Original/Past Uses:	Commercial/Grain Store

Heritage Significance and Category

Heritage Significance:	Physical; Historic		
Heritage NZ:	Historic Place Category 2	List # 1807	Date Listed: 26 November 1981
Ashburton DC:	Category A		

Site Assessment

Assessed by:	Arlene Baird, Davie Lovell-Smith Ltd.
Date Assessed:	9 December 2014

Detail

Description:

This building is thought to have been constructed in 1896 by the Freidlander Brothers. It is built of timber framed walls with stucco cladding and a large dominating corrugated iron arched roof. The roof sits higher than the neighbouring buildings which, along with its different arched shape, make it a dominant feature on Ashburton's main street.

There is a painted sash window in the front gable of the corrugated roof, with side panels and a vent. Above this window a large flag pole is positioned. The lower section of the front wall has two small pedestrian entrances plus a larger central entrance, all with canopies. The pedestrian entrances have windows to each side of them, albeit the two windows around the southern entrance are considerably larger than the two flanking the northern entrance. Above the windows, signage spans across the whole of the street elevation. There are two lean-to extensions to the northern side of the building, although the date of these additions is unknown.

This building has been consistently used for its original purpose since it was constructed. It stands as a good example and reflection of Ashburton's past and current links with the agricultural industry.

History:

The Freidlander brothers, Hugo, Max and Rudolph began their partnership in 1876 as store keepers and grain merchants. They constructed this building and established The Grain and Seed Company in Ashburton in 1896. Hugo Freidlander was apparently very well thought of in Ashburton as an influential businessman and politician and served as mayor three times between 1879 and 1901.

Over the years, the business continued although under different names and owners – it was firstly sold to Murdoch Bruce Ltd and later to Buchanans Merchants Ltd. The main grain store was enlarged more than once during the 1880's, to enable it to hold a capacity of 70,000 sacks of grain.

Peter Cates Ltd was established in 1973 and moved into the West Street grain and seed store which was vacated when Buchanans Merchants ceased trading. Their Company headquarters have remained in Ashburton.

In 1992 they acquired the pulse seed business of Mair Seed which provided Peter Cates Ltd with an opportunity to extend its customer base from the Aorangi region to the high producing Selwyn and North Canterbury districts. At the same time, the company purchased the former Challenge Seeds complex at Rakaia, providing a second grain and seed cleaning / storage facility, complementing the company's Ashburton operation.

Notable Features:

Arched corrugated roof; front canopied entrances; window and vent on front elevation; location.

Condition:

The building is in current use and well maintained. The roof appears to be in good condition and the paintwork on the side walls and sign is in good condition. The front wall is clad and in reasonable condition as are the front windows and entrances.

Setting:

The building is located on the main street (West Street) which runs through the centre of the town. When it was constructed this would have been an ideal spot for trading in the busy central area of Ashburton and close to the railway station. The setting is of high importance due this being the grain store's original location and the fact that the grain business has successfully traded in this location since its construction in the late 1800s.



