

Place name Victoria Hall (fmr)

Survey Date: 4/07/2004

Other name-

Id: 968

Street 47 to 49 Macalister Street

Last Update 4/10/2004

Locality Sale

Postcode

Official Locality

Property No Sec 4, Allot. 10

Local Government Area Wellington Shire

Precinct: Precinct - Sale Town Centre

Easting

Northing

Map

Workshop number

Workshop votes

Field survey number

Community priority

Designer Lloyd Taylor

Builder

Ownership Private

Built Date 1879

Change Date

Description This Italianate style rendered brick building was built for use as a place for public entertainment. The main hall has a stage with a basement, and there is a large gallery over the ground floor main entrance. On the two-storey front facade there are two shops, with the main entrance to the hall being through a vestibule between the shops. (National Trust Register, B4579)

Originally the main building consisted of a large hall 21.6m by 12.2m by 6.7m high, with a raised platform or stage 6.7m by 12.2m. Under the stage is a basement of the same area. At the south end of the hall was a large gallery to which access was gained by a staircase built within a small tower at the south-east corner of the building. The interior of the hall was decorated with pilasters decorated with Corinthian capitals, the ceiling being divided into panels and finished with trapes and cornices moulded in plaster. On the east side of the structure is an annexe 24.3m by 8.2m which was intended to be used as supper room on occasions when balls were given and as a skating rink at other times. (RNE 015508)

The hall has had many uses from theatre to ball venue even as a uniform factory during World War Two. Plans were proposed to convert the building into a cinema entailing considerable alteration. Plans examined by the National Trust were not objected to in principle. It is not known if the proposals were ever implemented. Advice is that the owner has decided to sell the property. (RNE 015508)

Condition and Integrity : The exterior is in excellent physical condition and is intact. The major changes have been the replacement of the shop windows. Internally, the timber floor has been replaced by concrete, the upper level balcony has been removed (a small mezzanine replaces half of it). A large roller door was put into the western wall for truck access and this was at the expense of two windows and a pilaster. An upstairs flat with staircase and external balcony was built into the south-west corner. Sections of the lath and plaster ceiling are in poor condition. Cinema conversion plans have not proceeded. (June 1989) (RNE 015508)

Feature	Style	Wall Materials	Roof Materials
Hall	Victorian	Rendered Masonry	Corrugated iron

Condition Good

Integrity Intact

Redevelopment/change

Commercial

Building

History

Victoria Hall was built in 1879 as a public hall by a syndicate partially funded on public subscriptions, reflecting the prosperity of Sale in the 1860s and 1870s. The architect was Lloyd Tayler, and builder R. Geddes.(3) The building was decorated by an artist by the name of Grist and featured decorative interior paintwork, corniced ceilings, an illuminated proscenium arch and 32 light burners in the auditorium. Performers of the calibre of Dame Nellie Melba, Ada Crossley, Clara Butt and Percy Grainger appeared on this stage.(4)

Other activities included school concerts and church bazaars. During the Second World War, the building was temporarily converted to the manufacture of military uniforms.(4) The hall was also the venue for cinematographic entertainment from its earliest days.(5)

Lloyd Tayler was an important Victorian architect who is considered to have rivalled Leonard Terry as a designer

of commercial buildings, especially bank buildings. Tayler was prominent in the establishment of the Victorian Branch of the Institute of Architects.(2)

Heritage Protections Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
National Trust Register	B4579		Listed
Planning Scheme	HO101		Listed
Register of the National Estate	105508		Listed
Victorian Heritage Register	x		Recommended

National Estate

Research Required

Recommendations

Fieldwork priority?

Stage 1 Ranking Assessed & protected **Stage 2 priority** No Action: Already include

Final Ranking State significance **Final Recommendation**

Statement of significance Victoria Hall is significant because it demonstrates a style of theatre being erected at this period (1879). Though not on the same scale and not nearly as ornate, the hall with its central pediment and central tower is reminiscent of the Princess Theatre in Melbourne (1887) (Criterion D.2). The hall is a valuable example of the work of Lloyd Tayler who was an important Victorian architect and who rivalled Leonard Terry as a designer of commercial buildings, especially bank buildings. Tayler was prominent in the establishment of the Victorian Branch of the Institute of Architects (Criterion H.1). Along with a number of public facilities Victoria Hall reflects, in its size, design and decoration, the growing prominence of Sale within the region and its economic prosperity during the 1860s-70s. The significance of the building is reduced by past alterations but it still retains substantial evidence of the period of its construction and use (Criterion A.4). (RNE 015508)

Extent of designation

Informant

Notes

Follow up

Bibliography (1) National Estate citation 015508 2/09/272/0006/01.
 (2) National Trust File No. 4579.
 (3) Lewis, M. B., 'Australian Architecture Index'.
 (4) Green, O. S., 'Sale: the Early years and later'.
 (5) Information from Peter Synan.
 Sale Heritage Study
 Context Pty Ltd, (2004), Wellington Heritage Study: Sale Review

Macalister Street 0047, ID 968.jpg

Context

1/01/1994



Update Macalister Street 0047, ID 968i.jpg.jpg

Peter Synan

1/01/1994



Update Macalister Street 0047, ID 968(ii).jpg.jpg

Kristy Crawford

19/02/2007

