

Disability Resource Centre, 204 Nelson Street South

Inventory Number: 33; Property ID: 21190; TRIM Reference: 21190#002#0003

Report by Phillip Cleaver

Draft: 16 August 2007, updated 5 January 2010, updated July 2012 (Cochran & Murray)

Hastings CBD Heritage Inventory Project



DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTRE



Photo: R. Murray, 2012

LOCATION:

Street and Number: 204 Nelson Street South

City / Town: Hastings

Region: Hawke's Bay

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Legal Description: Lot 287 Deeds Plan 102

Certificates of Title (includes Registry): 34/208, Hawke's Bay Registry

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Architectural Value:

The building has architectural value in its harmonious and well-balanced design and composition, and it is a good representative example of its type of building and conservative mid-century design values. The building has a distinctive appearance arising from the layering of the main elevation elements and the rhythm of the semi-circular windows along the sides.

Historic Value:

The building has a strong affiliation with two groups – initially the Seventh Day Adventist Church, which used the building over a period of over 60 years, and later the Disability Resource Centre, which has, in various manifestations, occupied the building ever since.

Aesthetic Value:

Although the building is somewhat isolated and set some distance from the body of the CBD area, the space to either side of the building allows it to be seen in the round, adding some visual interest to this part of Nelson Street.

HISTORY:

The building at 204 Nelson Street South was originally a Seventh Day Adventist church, owned by the Seventh Day Adventist Trust Property Board. The original building was constructed in 1898, although little of this building remains due to extensive re-building carried out in 1953.¹ At this time, a new church almost double the size of the original building was constructed. Only one wall and a portion of the roof from the original building were retained in their original positions.²

The Seventh Day Adventist Church continued to occupy the Nelson Street property until at least 1960 and possibly as late as 1988, when the property was transferred to Abilities Hawke's Bay Incorporated (later renamed Disability Resource Centre Hawke's Bay Trust).³ In 1929, before the new church was built, the Seventh Day Adventist Trust Property Board transferred ownership of the property to the Australian Conference Association Limited.⁴

In 1989, Abilities Hawke's Bay acquired an adjacent property and, the following year, acquired resource consent to relocate a shed on to this land and link it to the former church.⁵ In 1995 and 2001, building consents were issued for alterations to be made to office space within the building.⁶

The building continues today to be owned and occupied by the Disability Resource Centre Hawke's Bay Trust.

¹ Goldstone, S. R., *Veneered infidelity: the story of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Hawke's Bay 1888-1932*

² *Ibid.*

³ *Wises Street Directory*, 1959-60; Certificate of title 32/208, Hawke's Bay Registry.

⁴ Certificate of title 32/208, Hawke's Bay Registry.

⁵ Certificate of title 85/110, Hawke's Bay Registry; Hastings District Council file information.

⁶ Hastings District Council file information.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Architect: Original Unknown; Albert Garnett (1953)

Builder: Original Unknown; Maurie Hayward (1953)

Date of construction: 1898 (original), 1953 (present building)

Construction details: Reinforced concrete primary structure, timber-framed main roof clad with long-run corrugated steel, timber doors and window, concrete tile roofs

Description: The building is set in open space on Nelson Street and can be viewed in the round. From its external appearance, it is difficult to say what of the 1898 building might remain, but as it stands it is an attractive and well-proportioned structure with a capably executed and visually harmonious design. The outward appearance of the building reflects a conservative mid-century aesthetic informed by Spanish Mission and Deco influences. It sits comfortably in the wider streetscape, which is made up largely of older buildings.

The main architectural interest lies in the street elevation. Containing porches and service spaces, this has a well-balanced symmetrical composition arranged about the central portion, which a tall semi-circular headed stained glass window set in a wall with a gabled parapet, trimmed at the top with shallow stylised dentils. Open porches with tiled hipped roofs flank either side of this; the wall behind these has a plain flat parapet, also ornamented with shallow dentils and a smaller semi-circular headed window outside the line of the porch, and steps back in plan to meet into a high stepped parapet that stops ends the hall, trimmed with more prominent dentils atop the two lower sections.

The main body of the building has a Mansard-type roof with a flat central section not evident from the ground (this is concealed behind the front parapet). There are 4 evenly-spaced semi-circular headed timber windows on both sides of the hall (and a 5th window on the north-east side); these are sub-divided into small lights, some with old obscure glasses. Towards the rear of the building, the joinery changes to modern aluminium. Various modern extensions clutter the back of the property.

Little of the nature of the interior can be seen from outside the building but it appears to be extensively sub-divided.

ELEMENTS OF ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

Element	Significance
Form and detail of the street frontage	Townscape, architectural, aesthetic
Form and detail of the side elevations	Architectural, aesthetic

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES:

Certificates of title 85/110, 32/208, and M1/1353, Hawke's Bay Registry.

Hastings District Council file information.

Wises Street Directory, 1916 to 1959-60.

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OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION:

NZHPT Register: Not registered

District Plan: The Disability Resource Centre is not listed as a Heritage item in the Hastings District Plan and is not included in the Central Character Precinct.

New Zealand Historic Places Act 1993: This site has been identified as a potential archaeological site under Section 2 of the New Zealand Historic Places Act 1993.

ARCHIVE PLAN(S):

Hastings District Council does not hold the original plans for this building.