

## Hastings CBD Heritage Inventory Project



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### ODDFELLOWS HALL

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**OTHER NAMES:** The Fish Donut Company, Oddfellows Lodge, Gordon Walker 1982 Ltd.



#### LOCATION:

*Street and Number:* 310 Market Street North  
*City / Town:* Hastings  
*Region:* Hawke's Bay

#### LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

*Legal Description:* Lot 105 Deeds Plan 29  
*Certificate of Title:* HB75/215

## **SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

### *Architectural Value:*

The building has important architectural values for Hastings, as it is a potent reminder of the once common building material of timber; it is in a style that is otherwise absent from the city, and it is, in its own right, an accomplished piece of Greek Classical design, abstracted for construction in timber, and a rare example of its type.

### *Historic Value:*

The building has historic value for its original use as Oddfellows Hall, followed by a number of other users, but most particularly, it is an extremely rare survivor from the period of early settlement of Hastings, as it was not destroyed in the 1931 earthquake.

### *Aesthetic Value:*

While its present colour scheme does the building no favours, it nevertheless has aesthetic value for its Classical design; its forthright and bold character, and its landmark value in the streetscape, standing as it does somewhat detached from the closely built area closer to Heretaunga Street West.

### *Social Value:*

It was noted upon the establishment of the Strathhaven restaurant that two generations of Hastings citizens had used the hall for a variety of occasions, and the restaurant allowed this tradition to continue. This means that the hall would hold significant value for many people of Hastings who had used the hall as a venue for their functions.

### *Technological Value:*

As the building survived the earthquake of 1931, its construction in timber has strong technological value.

## **HISTORY:**

In November 1877 the Loyal Hastings Lodge I.O.O.F, M.U. (Oddfellows) was established at the Hastings Hotel<sup>1</sup>. The first officeholders were tradespeople and in 1880 it issued shares to erect the Oddfellows Hall<sup>2</sup>. Then, in 1907 the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows moved their existing lodge room to the 310 Market Street North site, and significantly extended it.<sup>3</sup> The official name of the owners of the building was the Trustees of the Loyal Hastings Lodge Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows No. 6299. Lodges were first voluntary organisations in Hastings providing sickness benefits, medical expenses and funeral expenses for members and their families.<sup>4</sup>

The Oddfellows continued to occupy this building until the 1931 earthquake, when the Hastings Post Office temporarily occupied the building after theirs had been destroyed. Following this, further extensions were carried out on the building.<sup>5</sup> In 1962 Superfit

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<sup>1</sup> M.B. Boyd (1984) *City of the Plains: A History of Hastings*, Hastings City Council: Victoria University Press p.57

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Strathhaven Restaurant – History of the building

<sup>4</sup> M.B Boyd (1984) *City of the Plains: A History of Hastings*, Hastings City Council: Victoria University Press p.57

<sup>5</sup> Strathhaven Restaurant – History of the building

**Manchester Unity Building, 310 Market Street North**

Inventory Number: 70; Property ID: 20878; TRIM Reference: 20878#002#0002

Report by Sarah Akers & Chris Cochran

Draft: December 2009; Final Report: August 2012

Garments began occupying the building, followed by Pattersons Office Systems. Strathhaven Restaurant was then established by Dillon Gowdy Foods Limited in 1982.

In 1993 an application was lodged to convert the restaurant into a funeral parlour. However, by 1996 the building was occupied by Gordon Walker 1982 Limited (auctioneers, chattel valuers and second hand dealers), while still being owned by the Loyal Hastings Lodge. In 2004 the building was occupied by The Fish Donut Company, a gift shop. In 2006 ownership was transferred to Saudara Properties Limited. In 2010 ownership was again transferred, this time to National Service Club Incorporated. The building is currently tenanted by the Fish Donut Company.

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

*Architect:* Not presently known.

*Builder:* Not presently known.

*Date of construction:* c.1907

*Construction details:* This is a timber framed building, with weatherboard cladding, and corrugated iron roof.

*Description:* The Fish Donut Company building, originally the Oddfellows Lodge is of Greek Classical design, simplified and translated into timber. The front façade is an abstraction of a Greek temple, characterized by four plain Doric pilasters supporting a frieze and a high triangular pediment. The door occupies the central bay with a window on either side, each opening framed with a moulded pediment. The cladding is wide rusticated weatherboards, itself an imitation of stone coursing.

The main space, the original hall, is still intact with an impressive board and batten ceiling, while a number of additions and alterations have been carried out over time to the service rooms at the back. An access ramp has been made to a new entrance on the left hand side.

It is a well built structure for its time, and provides a stark contrast in the Hastings CBD which is predominantly post-earthquake architecture of the 1930s. Drawings dated 8 December 1932 suggest that there was some damage to the building, apparently limited, and that two chimneys were to be removed at the back part of the building.

**ELEMENTS OF ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:**

<b>Element</b>	<b>Significance</b>
Form and detail of the front elevation, including timber mouldings	Architectural, aesthetic, technical
Timber linings in the main space	Architectural, technical

**MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES:**

Strathhaven Restaurant – History of the building

Hastings Central Business District Heritage Study Item Identification Sheet – Gordon Walker 1982, 1996

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**OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION:**

*NZHPT Register:* Not registered.

*District Plan:* The building is not listed in the Hastings District Plan as a Heritage item, and is not located within 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):

Proposed Additions and Alterations to the Oddfellows Hall, Market Street, Hastings (1932) (TRIM Ref: 20878#014)

