111 Bridge Street, Nelson

C ranked item on operative NRMP

DP 1755



[22 April 2024]

Date of construction and early use in question, façade has been stuccoed [1970] and a new veranda erected [2006]. Group significance / contribution to streetscape. Part of Inner City Area historic character precinct. Age, style, design and history is noted but of modest heritage value. Pre-1900 date is not supported by assessment statement.

Title issued to David Gorrie in February 1884; property having previously been held by his father James Gorrie, a carpenter, coach builder and wheelwright. James Gorrie established the family business in Bridge Street in 1850 and Gorrie & Sons traded from c.1858. David Gorrie died in January 1886 and his estate offered all of his property for sale, including the Bridge Street premises, in February 1891. At that time the property, comprising half of Section 218, extended through to New Street and included a house, blacksmiths' shop, wheelwrights' shop and a large painter's shop and carriage works. After part of the back of the lot fronting New Street was subdivided, title for the remainder of the lot was issued to Ellen Wright, a Nelson widow, in 1915. Wright had had an interest in the property since 1884, her husband William having held a mortgage over it since 1876.

Ellen Wright subdivided off the remainder of the New Street frontage and transferred that lot to Annie Sharp in 1919. The Bridge Street portion, including what is now 117 Bridge Street, was transferred by Wright's executors to Joseph Henrys in 1923. Following subdivision into two lots the subject lot was transferred to Mary Cook, the wife of butcher Charles Cook, in 1928. Until the mid-1960s the building was occupied by a butcher's shop; in 1966 it was purchased by Bevan and Edward Brough, nurserymen and florists.

Alterations include stucco plaster cladding (c.1970), remodelling of shopfronts in c.1965 and pre-2017, and a new veranda erected (c.2006). The building retains the name 'Brough's Nurserymen – Florists' above the first floor windows. With the demolition of the neighbouring building in the early/mid 2010s [?] a new suspended canopy was installed over three new full length openings on the west elevation.

Recommendation: do not schedule as individual heritage item; acknowledge contribution to historic character of Bridge Street.

26 May 2016 – updated 4 May 2023 [*Italicised text added 19 April 2024.*]

Assessment according to the heritage criteria:

Historic And Social Significance
The former Gorrie and Sons building is associated with several Nelson businesses and has some historic and social value as a demonstration of the commercial development of the city's central business district since the mid-19th century.

Cultural And Spiritual Significance
The former Gorrie and Sons building has limited value in relation to this criterion.

Architectural And Aesthetic Significance
The former Gorrie and Sons building has limited architectural value as a highly modified Victorian commercial building.

Technological And Craftsmanship Significance
The former Gorrie and Sons building may have some minor value under this criterion assuming that any 19th century building fabric remains. The original builders were likely members of the Gorrie family.

Archaeological Significance
The site of the building has potential archaeological significance given the colonial development that occurred on the site from c.1850.

Scientific Significance
The former Gorrie and Sons building may have minor scientific value for its potential to provide further information about its original design and construction.

Group, Landmark And Contextual Significance
The former Gorrie and Sons building has contextual value as a building that contributes to the established character of Bridge Street and the central city as a whole.

Summary Statement
The former Gorrie and Sons building is a highly modified Victorian building of unknown vintage. While it remains in commercial use and contributes to the established character and amenity of Bridge Street, the building has modest historic and architectural qualities.

Recommendation
Delete this item from Appendix 1 as it does not meet the heritage assessment criteria.

References:
I Bowman, M Clark & J Mueller 'Building Heritage Inventory' report for 111-113 Bridge Street, 2009.
Nelson Examiner & NZ Chronicle 16 July 1853, p. 2; 3 March 1858, p. 4.
Nelson Evening Mail 25 January 1886, p. 2; 30 March 1933, p. 2; 24 October 1940, p. 2.
Colonist 9 September 1882, p. 1 (supplement); 9 January 1884, p. 2; 17 February 1886, p. 3; 21 January 1891, p. 2.
Historic street directories.

Review date: 19 April 2024