

Craig House (Dwelling)



Location: 238 Wicksteed Street, Whanganui
Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga List Number: 986

Physical Description: The timber framed house is a rectangular planned, two storey house, with a verandah around the west and north elevations. There are single storey extensions to the east, which are not easily visible from the street. The main house has parallel hipped roofs aligned with the street with two chimneys in the valley between them. A single storey, square, bay window projects towards the street. The main house has quoins and, it and, the bay window have eaves brackets, suggesting the house was constructed in the late 1870's. The upper level of the verandah appears to have been glazed in at a later stage. The ground floor level of the verandah is enclosed with trellis work which may also have been installed after its construction. The general form, roof and details indicate the house is an example of the Italianate style.

Other known names:

Current Use: Private Residence

Former Uses:

Register Item Number:

65

Building Type:

- Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Recreation
- Institutional
- Agriculture
- Other

Significance:

- Archaeological
- Architectural
- Historic
- Scientific
- Technological
- Cultural

Thematic Context

- Early Settlement
- Residential
- Industry
- Agricultural
- Commerce
- Transport
- Civic/Admin
- Health
- Education
- Religion
- Recreation
- Community
- Memorials
- Military

Built Heritage Inventory



WHANGANUI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

Heritage Status: Heritage NZPT List **District Plan Class:** Class B

(Cat. 2)

Architectural Style: Italianate

Date of Construction: 1877

Materials: painted timber rusticated weatherboards, coverboards, eaves, quoins and joinery, corrugated steel roofing

Registered owner: W. G. Craig

Legal Description: Lots 2-3 DP 13136

History: Craig House was built in 1877 by Freeman R. Jackson who acquired the property in June of that year.¹ The land on which the house was built was originally part of a Crown Grant sold to Steven Newport in 1853.²

Mr Jackson was a well-known Wanganui businessman responsible for one of the earliest factories in Wanganui, a boiling-down plant on the No. 3 Line.³ Jackson purchased the appliances for a boiling-down plant from James Bull of Rangitikei in 1869 and commenced building his property at No. 3 Line later that year.⁴ There was some concern about the proximity of the plant to the town, particularly given that the plant used water from a creek that flowed into the river above the town.⁵ Jackson was also an auctioneer, responsible for selling a number of the early subdivisions of Wanganui, and founder of a stock and station firm.⁶ He was mayor of Wanganui from 1892 to 1896.⁷

At the time of Jackson's purchase in 1877, the property occupied the southern half of the block between Wicksteed, Campbell, Plymouth and Ingestre Streets.⁸ The property was planted in a number of trees but had no buildings.⁹

In 1885 Jackson sold his property to Dr Robert Charles Earle who had come to Wanganui in the late 1860s.¹⁰ Earle had established a local practice in 1866,¹¹ (Wanganui Times 18/09/1866) and later became the Assistant Surgeon to the

¹ Wanganui City Council, n.d. *Historic Places, Wanganui*. Prepared by the Town Planning Department, Wanganui City Council.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid. NZHPT Buildings File.

⁷ NZHPT Buildings File.

⁸ Wanganui City Council, n.d.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ *Wanganui Times* 18/09/1866.

Built Heritage Inventory



WHANGANUI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

Wanganui Militia.¹²

William and Lara Craig bought the house in 1909 and eventually the house passed to their son, Dr Bruce Craig.¹³ The property is still owned by the Craig family.

Architect/Designer:

History of changes:

Date Period: 1870s

Rarity / Special Features: The building is a substantial and early building in Wanganui.

Integrity: There have been a number of alterations to the building but the original form is still visible.

Representativeness: Typical design and construction for the period.

Context/Group Value: The building is one of several early and substantial houses in Wanganui.

Diversity (Form and Features):

Fragility / Vulnerability:

As a timber building it is vulnerable to fire.

Summary of Significance:

Archaeological Qualities

The building is pre-1900 and should be considered as an 'archaeological site' as defined by the HPA 1993.

Architectural Qualities

The house is designed in typical Italianate style that was popular for larger scaled houses of mid to late 19th century. It has the typical characteristics of hipped roofs, quoinette corners, substantial bracketed eaves, double hung sash windows and bay windows.

¹² WCC n.d.

¹³ NZHPT Buildings File.

Built Heritage Inventory



WHANGANUI
DISTRICT COUNCIL
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

Historic Qualities

The house is associated with a prominent local figure Freeman R Jackson. He was well known in business, political and sporting life as he was an industrialist, farmer, politician (Mayor from 1892-1896) and close associations with the horse racing industry. His association with the property was of comparatively short duration from construction in 1877 until it was sold to Dr Earle in 1877.

Reference Source:

Wanganui City Council, n.d. *Historic Places, Wanganui*. Prepared by the Town Planning Department, Wanganui City Council.

NZHPT Buildings File

Wanganui Times

Associated Pictures:

Date of Survey: 2012

Prepared by: Ian Bowman and Nick Cable