



Summary Report Renton Hardware Building (List No. 5050)

File: 12009-1174



Renton Hardware, Kevin O'Donnell, Harcourts (2015).

Address	21 Hamilton Street and Tancred Street, HOKITIKA ¹
Legal Description	Secs 292, 294, 296 (CT WS2C/373) and part Legal Road, Westland Land District
Extent	Extent includes the land described as Secs 292, 294, 296 (CT WS2C/373) and part Legal Road, Westland Land District and the structure known as Renton Hardware Building thereon.
Constructed by:	Stevenson and McMillan (Builders)
Owner	Jack Bertram Renton, Margery Gaye Eadie and Judith Winning Fahey

Summary:

Renton Hardware Building, constructed in 1907-8 on a prominent corner site in Hokitika's central business district, has historical significance for its long record as a family business of importers and merchants that goes back to early days in the town's establishment. It tells the story of the importance of such stores supplying hardware products to communities.

¹ The physical address of 21 Hamilton Street is a vacant lot (Sec 690, CT WS1A/584) – however, the business gives its address as 21 Hamilton Street and the corner sections where the building sits have no associated address number on Quickmap or LINZ Landonline.

Scottish brothers, James and Robert Renton arrived in the recently formed township of Hokitika in 1866 and were involved in both gold mining and blacksmithing.² After Robert's death in 1874, James Renton carried on the blacksmithing business, establishing J Renton & Co Blacksmiths in late 1874.³ James Renton purchased an existing hotel on the corner of Tancred and Hamilton Streets in Hokitika - the upper storey was used as living quarters for his growing family and the downstairs was converted for his business.⁴ Renton and Co grew to become a firm of Ironmongers, Importers and General Merchants.⁵ In 1897 James Renton transferred ownership of the business to six of his sons (Robert, Paul, James, Edmund, David and Arthur) and the firm became known as Renton Brothers, though James Renton senior remained as manager.⁶ By 1898 the business had expanded enough for the firm to have bought several more neighbouring properties. The main building was still used as a shop where general ironmongery, earthenware, glassware, cutlery, saddlery and harnesses were sold.⁷ In the early 1900s James Renton and family shifted into a new house on East Gibson Quay, the old corner shop was demolished and tenders were let for a new building on the site.⁸ Stevenson and McMillan, a firm of Hokitika builders, won the tender, and construction of the Renton Hardware building took place between mid 1907 and early 1908.⁹

Constructed of plastered brick and concrete, the Renton Hardware Building is a two-storeyed simple classical style structure with a rectangular floor plan. Much of the ground floor of the north elevation is a glazed shop front and entrance, and is covered by a plain flat roofed verandah that sits above the footpath. Above, on the first floor, and on both floors of the west elevation, are round headed sash windows and a parapet with recessed architectural detailing. The south elevation is void of architectural detailing or fenestration.

The 1907-8 building incorporated both a shop and warehouse.¹⁰ The type of products it dealt in expanded to include agricultural machinery, petrol, cement supplies, wallpaper and they even made up mattresses on site.¹¹ In 1945 the firm became the Renton Hardware Co Ltd, after the retirement of Robert and Paul Renton, and, under the management of Paul's son, became the agents for a new type of machinery, the chainsaw.¹² The firm has been a strong employer in the community and continues much the same function as when the company was first established, supplying a range of goods such as building supplies, bathroom requirements, fine China and glassware and garden supplies.¹³ Descendants of James Renton still own the building and its exterior appearance is much the same as when first built over 100 years ago.¹⁴

² Renton Hardware, *Renton Hardware: proud of its 110 years service to Westland*, West Coast Times, 1984; *West Coast Times*, 13 Mar 1872, p. 3.

³ *West Coast Times*, 23 Oct 1874, p. 2, 5 Nov 1874, p. 2 and 10 Dec 1874, p. 2.

⁴ Renton Hardware - James Renton had married Lucy Dartnall in Motueka in 1870 and they eventually had a family of seven boys and five girls (New Zealand Marriage Index, 1840-1950). The exact date Renton purchased the hotel is not certain.

⁵ *West Coast Times*, 28 Apr 1882, p. 3; Renton Hardware.

⁶ Renton Hardware.

⁷ Renton Hardware.

⁸ Renton Hardware.

⁹ *West Coast Times*, 3 Feb 1908, p. 2; Renton Hardware.

¹⁰ Renton Hardware.

¹¹ Renton Hardware.

¹² Renton Hardware.

¹³ Renton Hardware.

¹⁴ Certificate of Title WS2C/373.

Other Names	Rentons Hardware; Renton Hammer Hardware; J Renton & Co Building
Key Physical Dates	1907-8: Construction of building
Uses	Trade - shop
Protection Measures	Westland District Plan, Operative (last updated January 2008), Schedule of Historic Places and Trees, Ref. 10
Recommendation	Technical change required: Board Paper references: HP 331/1989; <i>Change Name; Change Address; Add Legal Description; Clarify Extent</i>

Attachments

Technical Change Request

List Entry Record

List Number: 5050

Site Reference: P4021



HERITAGE NEW ZEALAND
POUHERE TAONGA

Name: Rentons Hardware

Other Names:	Name	Year From	Year To
	Renton Hardware		

Location: 21 Hamilton Street, HOKITIKA

List Entry Legal Description: Secs 96 98 188 200 202 218 292 294 296 etc DP 967

Local Authority: Westland District

Summary:

List Entry Status: Listed

List Entry Type: Historic Place Category 2

List Number: 5050

Date Entered: 21 September 1989

Extent of List Entry:

Chattels

District Plan Listing:	District Plan	Listed in the Westland District Council Operative 1 June 2002. Ref. 10 in Appendix A: Schedule of Historic Places and Trees.
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Maori Interest: Unknown

Heritage NZ Office: Canterbury/West Coast Office

Other Information: Please note that entry on the New Zealand Heritage List/Rarangi Korero identifies only the heritage values of the property concerned, and should not be construed as advice on the state of the property, or as a comment of its soundness or safety, including in regard to earthquake risk, safety in the event of fire, or insanitary conditions.

General Nature of Wahi Tapu:

Section 66(1)	Section 23(1)	Registered under previous legislation (HPA 1980)
Assessment:	Section 23(2)	Registered under previous legislation (HPA 1980).

Section 66(3) Detail:

Statement of Wahi Tapu:

Report Execution Time: 12/02/2015 15:13:23

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Figure 1: List Entry Report from Pataka

Agenda No: 7(g)
Paper No: HP ~~9730~~ 331/1989
File No: HP 3/4
Status: Decision

Rentons Hardware
21 Hamilton Street

Figure 2: Extract from Board Minute HP 331/1989



**COMPUTER FREEHOLD REGISTER
UNDER LAND TRANSFER ACT 1952**

**Limited as to Parcels
Search Copy**



**S. W. Muir
Registrar-General
1971**

Identifier **WS2C/373**
Land Registration District **Westland**
Date Issued **14 March 1966**

Prior References
WS26/27

Estate	Fee Simple
Area	506 square metres more or less
Legal Description	Section 292, Section 294 and Section 296 Town of Hokitika

Proprietors
Jack Bertram Ranton as to a 37.774/100 share
Margery Gaye Eadie as to a 31.113/100 share
Judith Winning Fahey as to a 31.113/100 share

Interests

Production Id 47307094
Client Reference rburgess001

Search Copy Dated 17/07/13 3 33 pm, Page 1 of 1
Register Only

Figure 3: Certificate of Title WS2C/373 (refer also to associated Diagram at Figure 4 below).

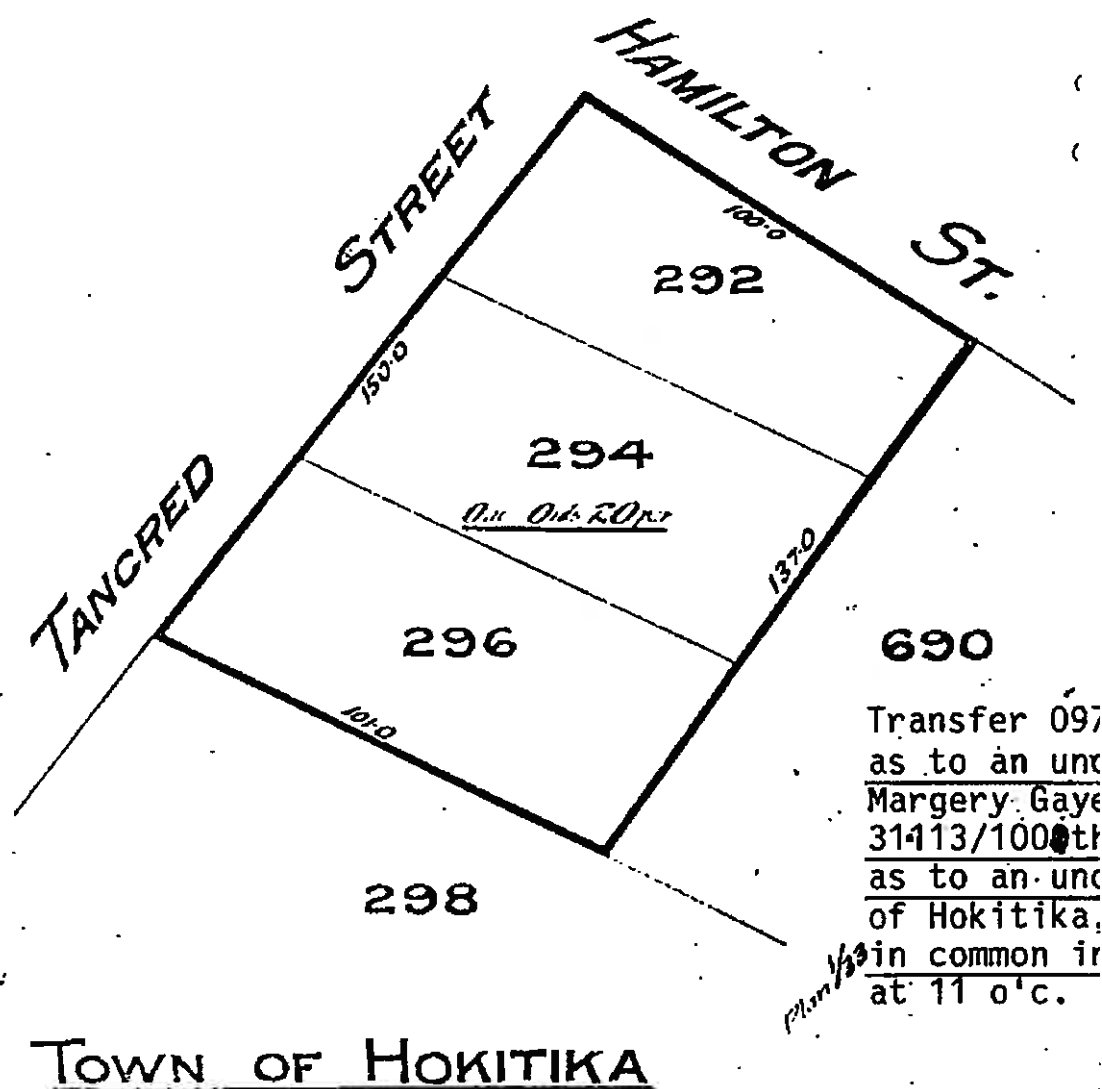


Figure 4: Diagram associated with Certificate of Title WS2C/373.



Figure 5: Quickmap showing Secs 292, 294 and 296 (CT WS2C/373) and Legal Road, Westland Land District, with the red polygon marking the approximate extent of the List Entry, including the area of the footpath.

Images



Figure 7: Google Aerial view showing the Renton Hardware Building as marked by arrow (image 2013)



Figure 8: Renton Hardware, Trish McCormack, December 1988 (New Zealand Historic Places Trust Building Record Form 5050)

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