

Former Wellington Gas Company Building
60-64 Courtenay Place



Photo: *Charles Collins, 2015*

Summary of heritage significance

- The former Wellington Gas Company Building is a relatively grand example of a late-Victorian commercial building. It was designed by prominent local architect, Thomas Turnbull, and is particularly notable for its well-proportioned and ornate Classical Palazzo-style facades to both Courtenay Place and Tory Street.
- This building housed the offices and main showroom of the Wellington Gas Company from 1898 to 1992. The company manufactured and sold coal-gas; and imported, sold and educated consumers on the use of gas appliances in the 19th and 20th centuries.
- This building is relatively unaltered and has occupied this prominent corner site for over 110 years. It makes a major contribution to the streetscape, and to the sense of place and continuity of Courtenay Place and the nearby Courtenay Place Heritage Area.

District Plan:	Map 16, Reference 66/1
Legal Description:	Lots 1-5 DP 5594
Heritage Area:	Not part of a Heritage Area.
HPT Listed:	Historic Places Trust Category II
Archaeological Site:	Central City NZAA R27/270, Pre-1900 building.
Other Names:	
Key physical dates:	1898
Architect / Builder:	Architect: Thomas Turnbull, Builder: W. Murdoch
Former uses:	Warehouse space, Offices, Shops
Current uses:	Offices, Apartments
Earthquake Prone Status:	124 Served (SR179868)

Extent: Cityview GIS 2012



1.0 Outline History

1.1 History

The Wellington Gas Company was established in 1870, and manufactured gas from 1871. The Company occupied three and a half acres of land on Courtenay Place and Tory Street, and produced coke – a high quality fuel used to smelt iron ore. By-products of coke production included coal-gas (used for street-lighting and by domestic and commercial consumers for lighting and cooking), and ash and coal-tar that were used to produce asphalt and creosote. The four huge gas holders were a local landmark, and the gasworks supplied approximately 450,000 cubic feet of gas per day to 3,500 customers in 1897.¹

The Wellington Gas Company building at No. 60 - 64 Courtenay Place was designed as the office and showrooms for the gasworks by prolific Wellington architect, Thomas Turnbull, in 1898. The permit was issued in June that year and builder W. Murdoch undertook the construction.² The original layout of the building included offices, a board room and a lecture room on the ground floor, with a large, open, warehouse space with exposed roof trusses at first floor level.

New Zealand suffered from a shortage of servants in the 19th and 20th centuries and the situation was known colloquially as ‘the servant problem’. This meant that relatively affluent women were more likely to do their own cooking and cleaning than their European counterparts, and that New Zealand women became ‘early adopters of labour-saving devices.’³ The showrooms at the Wellington Gas Company building were used to demonstrate ‘labour-saving’ gas-powered domestic appliances that included cookers, water-heaters, washing ‘coppers’, lamps, gas fires and toasters, presumably to an over-worked and much-relieved female audience. Cooking demonstrations led by Miss Una Carter (1890 – 1954)⁴ were popular occasions and were held ‘at a convenient hour to most ladies – in the afternoon.’⁵

The Wellington Gas Company established an auxiliary works in Miramar in 1907 and the new gas works supplied coal gas to the burgeoning suburbs to the south and east of the city.⁶ Miramar became the company’s main production site in 1914 with the installation of new ‘retorts’ that could produce up to 2,150,000 cubic feet of gas per day. The Courtenay place gasworks closed in c.1915 when its plant and equipment were moved to Miramar.⁷ The valuable inner-city site was subdivided and sold in 1919, with the exception of the company’s 1898 offices and showrooms.⁸ The gas company added a three-storey building to the rear of the existing building in 1925, it was renamed Welgas Holdings Limited in 1981, and sold both buildings in 1992.

¹ *The Cyclopedia of New Zealand [Wellington Provincial District]*, (Wellington: The Cyclopedia Company Ltd, 1897)

² Adapted from: Wellington City Council, “Welgas Building”, *Wellington Heritage Building Inventory 2001: Non-Residential Buildings*. (Wellington City Council, 2001), COURT15.

³ Jane Tolerton. 'Household services - Domestic service since 1900', *Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand*, updated 13-Jul-12 URL: <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/household-services/page-3>

⁴ See Carter, Una Isabel (1890 – 1954) cooking teacher, demonstrator and writer; Jean-Marie O'Donnell. 'Carter, Una Isabel - Carter, Una Isabel', from the Dictionary of New Zealand Biography. Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand, updated 30-Oct-2012

URL: <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/biographies/3c7/carter-una-isabel>

⁵ GAS COMPANY Dominion, 2 April 1919, Page 10; GAS COMPANY.

Evening Post, 1 April 1919, Page 10

⁶ WELLINGTON GAS COMPANY. Wanganui Herald, 2 July 1907, Page 7

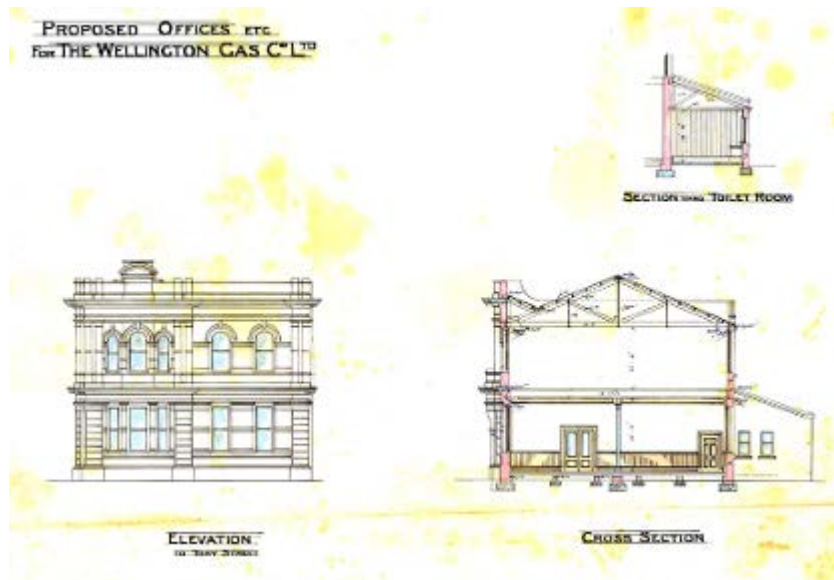
⁷ MIRAMAR GAS WORKS. Evening Post, 23 April 1914, Page 8

⁸ GAS COMPANY Dominion, 2 April 1919, Page 10

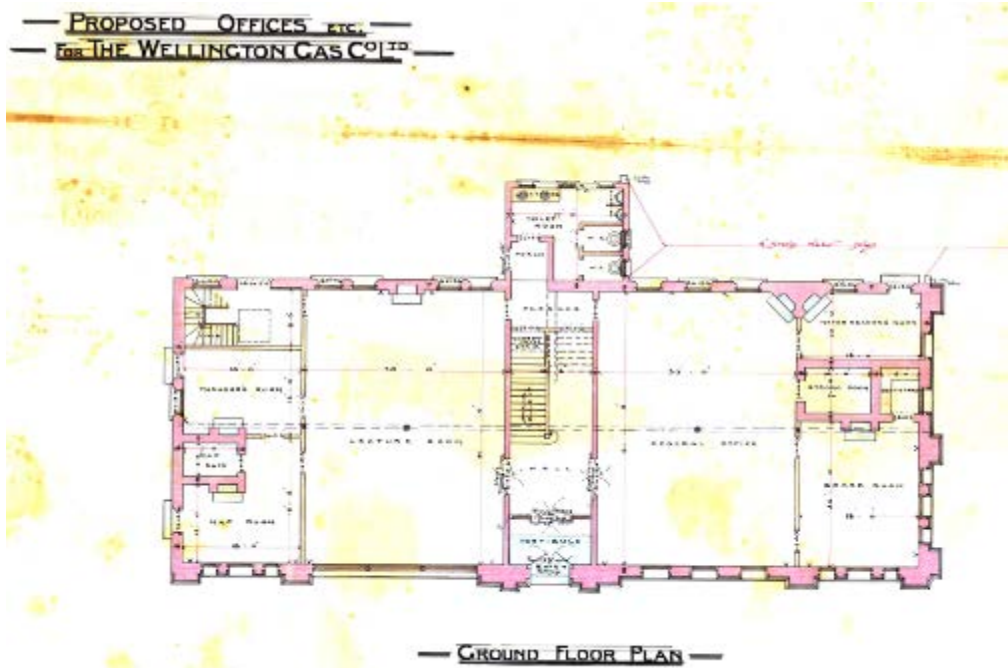
In 1993 Sertrack Ltd purchased both the original (1898) and the later (1925) buildings and undertook a major redevelopment. The buildings were strengthened and partly converted to residential apartments, and the development was renamed 'Maison Cabriole'. In 1994 the ground floor of the historic building was fitted-out as the Courtenay Place branch of the National Bank. Further fit-out work was undertaken in 2007, and the building is still in use as a National Bank branch today.



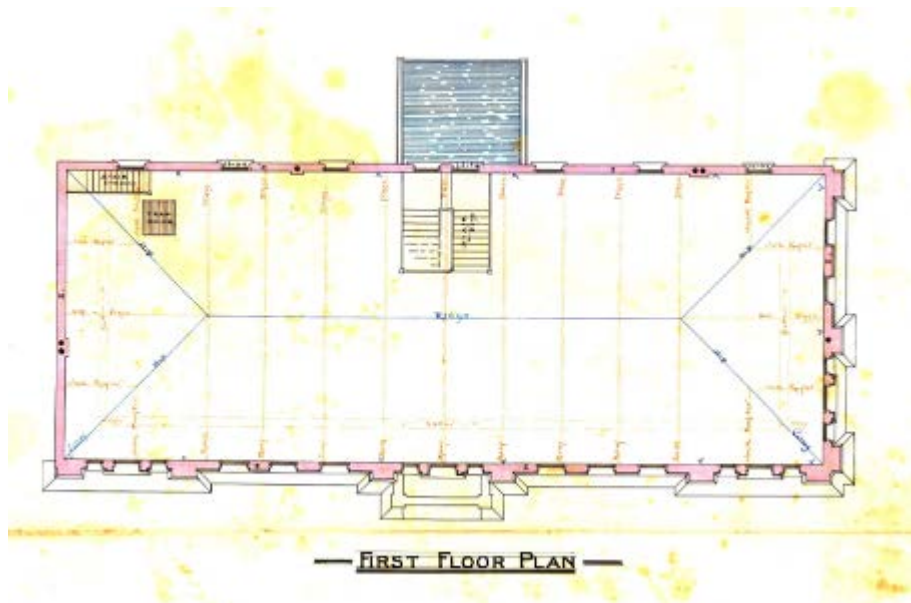
Front elevation. (00053:44:2856)



Elevation to Tory Street, Cross Section and section of toilet room. (00053:44:2856)



Ground floor plan. (00053:44:2856)



First floor plan. (00053:44:2856)



The Wellington Gas Company building, 1927.
(1/2-048940-G, Sydney Charles Smith Collection, Alexander Turnbull Library)

1.2 Timeline of modifications

- 1898 Built by the Wellington Gas Company. (00053:44:2856)
- 1925 Permit was issued for a three storey building to be added to rear of existing building. (00055:46:A4267) This work was undertaken in 1930.
- 1926 Offices converted into shops. (00056:9:B877)
- 1962 Building alterations. (00058:225:C10165)
- 1968 Fire escape stairs. (00058:583:C27624)
Building egress. (00058:1031:C44923)
- 1977 Ground floor altered. (00058:1099:C47545)
Alterations to shop. (00058:1119:C48358)
- 1993 Apartment fit-out. (00060:86:3187)
Building strengthened. (00060:192:2060)
Building refurbished. Retail/apartments/restaurant, stage 1. Known as Maison Cabriole. (00060:193:2413)
Plumbing altered. (00060:193:2530)
- 1994 Fit-out of National Bank. (00060:126:4599)
Signage added. (00060:196:5468)
- 2007 Fit-out National Bank ground floor. (00078:3098:172040)

1.3 Architect

Thomas Turnbull

Thomas Turnbull (1824-1907) was born and educated in Scotland and trained under David Bryce, Her Majesty's Architect. He travelled to Melbourne in 1851 and after nine years there moved to San Francisco. He arrived in New Zealand in 1871 and soon established a thriving business. His son William, a distinguished architect in his own right, became a partner in the firm in 1891. Turnbull was a member of the Royal Institute of British Architects. He was a pioneer in the design of buildings to withstand earthquakes and he was responsible for breaking down prejudice against the use of permanent materials for building construction. He specialised in masonry construction for commercial purposes but was also responsible for some fine houses. Among his most important buildings were the Willis Street churches of St Peter (1879) and St John (1885), the former National Mutual Building (1883-84), the General Assembly Library (1899) and the former Bank of New Zealand Head Office (1901), all in Wellington. Among his numerous domestic designs Antrim House, Wellington (1905), remains his best known.⁹

2.0 Physical description

2.1 Architecture

The former Wellington Gas Company Building is a two storey commercial building with two well proportioned Classical facades to both Courtenay Place and Tory Street. It is a typical Classical Palazzo-style design of the late Victorian period, with groups of three semi-circular headed windows with moulded architraves and keystones, bracketed cornice, and parapet with triangular and segmental arches.¹⁰

Courtenay Place façade is divided into five bays and the two end bays to the east and west, and the central bay over the original entrance doors are the most highly decorated and articulated. These three bays, along with the southernmost, corner, bay to Tory Street sit forward from the main façade and are framed at first floor level by a pair of simple Tuscan pilasters. These bays are distinguished at parapet level by a central, semi-circular stylised acroterion flanked by two smaller triangular acroteria. The façades are tied together with a large overhanging, dentilled, cornice, and similar string course that runs below the first floor windows.

The building has been much-altered at ground floor level, and the addition of a modern verandah, with its thick band of advertising above, detracts from the architect's original composition of the elevation as a Classical Palazzo or palace. Vestigial remnants of the original ground floor elevation can be seen on the Tory Street façade with the pair of rusticated piers that surround the modern shop window to the south of the elevation. The northern bay of the Tory Street façade is a remarkable survivor, with its substantially intact ground, first floor and parapet. The facades above verandah level on Tory Street and Courtenay Place are also in near authentic condition.

⁹ Historic Places Trust, "Turnbull, Thomas", Accessed September 2012, <http://www.historic.org.nz/corporate/registersearch/ProfessionalBio/Professional.aspx?CPName=Turnbull,+Thomas>

¹⁰ Wellington City Council, "Welgas Building"

2.2 Materials

Construction materials are reinforced masonry walls on concrete foundations, with timber floors, roof trusses and joinery.

2.3 Setting

The Former Welgas Building is a substantial building which dominates a prominent corner site on the northern side of Courtenay Place where it intersects with Tory Street. Built in 1898, it is one of the earliest buildings in Courtenay Place and has seen substantial changes to the setting around it.

Today, adjacent on the western side on Courtenay Place is the comparatively modest Victory Building, built in 1928. On Tory Street side there is car and pedestrian access to the Maison Cabriole Apartments, a wider development of which the Welgas Building is today included.

The building marks a transition between the Courtenay Place Heritage Area and the less-historic western end of Courtenay Place.

3.0 Sources

CT WN 242/36, Land Information New Zealand

Historic Places Trust, "Turnbull, Thomas", Accessed: September 2012, <http://www.historic.org.nz/corporate/registersearch/ProfessionalBio/Professional.aspx?CPName=Turnbull,+Thomas>

Wellington City Council, *Wellington Heritage Building Inventory 2001: Non-Residential Buildings*. Wellington City Council, 2001.

The Cyclopaedia of New Zealand [Wellington Provincial District], (Wellington: The Cyclopaedia Company Ltd, 1897)

Newspapers

'Telegraph Mail Notice', *Evening Post*, 5 May 1898, Page 6.

"The New Building For the Wellington Gas Company", *Evening Post*, 21 May 1930

GAS COMPANY *Dominion*, 2 April 1919, Page 10

GAS COMPANY. *Evening Post*, 1 April 1919, Page 10

MIRAMAR GAS WORKS. *Evening Post*, 23 April 1914, Page 8

WELLINGTON GAS COMPANY. *Wanganui Herald*, 2 July 1907, Page 7

Wellington City Archives

“60-64 Courtenay Place, offices”, 20 Jun 1898, 00053:44:2856, Wellington City Archives.

“60-64 Courtenay Place, building”, 08 Apr 1925, 00055:46:A4267, Wellington City Archives.

“60-64 Courtenay Place, convert offices into shops”, 17 Mar 1926, 00056:9:B877, Wellington City Archives.

“60-64 Courtenay Place, building alterations”, 28 Mar 1962, 00058:225:C10165, Wellington City Archives.

“60-64 Courtenay Place, office alterations”, 04 Nov 1964, Wellington City Archives.

60-64 Courtenay Place, building alterations, level 5”, 12 Jul 1965, 00058:408:C17463, Wellington City Archives.

“60-64 Courtenay Place, fire escape stairs”, 30 Sep 1968, 00058:583:C27624, Wellington City Archives.

“60-64 Courtenay Place, partitions, level 3”, 17 Jan 1975, 00058:959:C42106, Wellington City Archives.

“60-64 Courtenay Place, staff room, level 1”, 12 Dec 1975, 00058:1012:C44200, Wellington City Archives.

“60-64 Courtenay Place, building alterations - partitions - 2nd floor”, 3 Feb 1976, 00058:1018:C44448, Wellington City Archives.

“60 Courtenay Place, building alterations - 1st floor partitions”, 25 Feb 1976, 00058:1022:C44604, Wellington City Archives.

“60 Courtenay Place, building alterations – egress”, 13 Apr 1976, 00058:1031:C44923, Wellington City Archives.

“60 Courtenay Place, alter ground floor premises”, 13 Jun 1977, 00058:1099:C47545, Wellington City Archives.

“60-64 Courtenay Place, alterations to interior of Ashe's Shoe Store”, 26 Oct 1977, 00058:1119:C48358, Wellington City Archives.

“60-64 Courtenay Place, alter partitions”, 1984, 00058:0:C65788, Wellington City Archives.

“60-64 Courtenay Place, apartment fitout”, 1993, 00060:86:3187, Wellington City Archives.

“60-64 Courtenay Place, building strengthening”, 1993, 00060:192:2060, Wellington City Archives.

“60-64 Courtenay Place, building refurbishment”, 1993, 00060:193:2413, Wellington City Archives.

“60 Courtenay Place, plumbing alterations”, 1993, 00060:193:2530, Wellington City Archives.

“60 Courtenay Place and 30 Tory Street [24 Tory Street], carparking building”, 1993, 00060:193:3049, Wellington City Archives.

“60-64 Courtenay Place, fitout of National Bank branch”, 1994, 00060:126:4599, Wellington City Archives.

“60-64 Courtenay Place, signage”, 1994, 00060:196:5468, Wellington City Archives.

“60-64 Courtenay Place, National Bank, Ground Floor, Interior fit-out”, 2007, 00078:3098:172040, Wellington City Archives.

Criteria for assessing cultural heritage significance

Cultural heritage values

Aesthetic Value:

Architectural: Does the item have architectural or artistic value for characteristics that may include its design, style, era, form, scale, materials, colour, texture, patina of age, quality of space, craftsmanship, smells, and sounds?

The former Wellington Gas Company Building is a relatively grand example of a late-Victorian commercial building. It was designed by prominent local architect, Thomas Turnbull, and is particularly notable for its well-proportioned and ornate Classical Palazzo-style facades to both Courtenay Place and Tory Street.

Townscape: Does the item have townscape value for the part it plays in defining a space or street; providing visual interest; its role as a landmark; or the contribution it makes to the character and sense of place of Wellington?

The building occupies a prominent corner site and contributes to the streetscape of Courtenay Place.

Group: Is the item part of a group of buildings, structures, or sites that taken together have coherence because of their age, history, style, scale, materials, or use?

The building contributes to (but is not part of) the adjacent Courtenay Place Heritage Area.

Historic Value:

Association: Is the item associated with an important person, group, or organisation?

This building housed the offices and main showroom of the Wellington Gas Company from 1898 to 1992. The company manufactured and sold coal-gas; and imported, sold and educated consumers on the use of gas appliances in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Association: Is the item associated with an important historic event, theme, pattern, phase, or activity?

This building is associated with the early development of Courtenay Place.

Scientific Value:

Archaeological: Does the item have archaeological value for its ability to provide scientific information about past human activity?

There was pre-1900 human activity on this site. Although some of the sites have been altered by rebuilding or landscaping or subdivisional change, there is archaeological value in the immediate surrounds.

Educational: Does the item have educational value for what it can demonstrate about aspects of the past?

Technological: Does the item have technological value for its innovative or important construction methods or use of materials?

Social Value:

Public esteem: *Is the item held in high public esteem?*

Symbolic, commemorative, traditional, spiritual: *Does the item have symbolic, commemorative, traditional, spiritual or other cultural value for the community who has used and continues to use it?*

Identity/Sense of place/Continuity:

*Is the item a focus of community, regional, or national identity?
Does the item contribute to sense of place or continuity?*

This building is relatively unaltered and has occupied this prominent corner site for over 110 years. It makes a major contribution to the streetscape, and to the sense of place and continuity of Courtenay Place and the nearby Courtenay Place Heritage Area.

Sentiment/Connection: *Is the item a focus of community sentiment and connection?*

Level of cultural heritage significance

Rare: *Is the item rare, unique, unusual, seminal, influential, or outstanding?*

Representative: *Is the item a good example of the class it represents?*

Authentic: *Does the item have authenticity or integrity because it retains significant fabric from the time of its construction or from later periods when important additions or modifications were carried out?*

The Tory Street façade is substantially intact at ground, first floor and parapet levels. The Courtenay Place façade is in near authentic condition above verandah level .

Local/Regional/National/International

Is the item important for any of the above characteristics at a local, regional, national, or international level?

4.0 Appendix

Research checklist (desktop)

Source	Y/N	Comments
1995 Heritage Inventory	Y	
2001 Non-Residential heritage Inventory	Y	
WCC Records – building file		
WCC Records – grant files (earthquake strengthening, enhancement of heritage values)	Y	
Research notes from 2001 Non-Residential heritage Inventory		
Plan change?		
Heritage Area Report		
Heritage Area Spreadsheet		
Heritage items folder (electronic)		
HPT website		
HPT files		
Conservation Plan		
Searched Heritage Library (CAB 2)	Y	

WCC Permits

00053:44 :2856	60-64 Courtenay Place, offices	Applicant: Murdoch. Owner: Wellington Gas Company	Building Permit/Consent	20 Jun 1898
00055:46: A4267	60-64 Courtenay Place, building	Owner: Wellington Gas Co. Builder: Fraser Burke Co. Legal description: Lots 1-5 DP 5594. Note: Three storey building added to rear of existing building.	Building Permit/Consent	08 Apr 1925
00056:9: B877	60-64 Courtenay Place, convert offices into shops	Legal description: Sections 2 and 4 Town Acre 227 [Lots 1-5 DP 5594]. Owner: Wellington Gas Company. Builder: Fletcher Construction Company. Application value: £4,670.	Building Permit/Consent	17 Mar 1926
00056:94 :B8797	60-64 Courtenay Place, additions to	Owner: Wellington Gas Co. Builder: Mitchell. Legal description: Lots 2 and 4 DP 219-220.	Building Permit/Consent	16 Jan 1930

	building at rear	Application value: £8,500. Floor area: 1,423 square feet x 3. Note: Additional three storeys to building at rear of 60-64 Courtenay Place.		
00058:225:C10165	60-64 Courtenay Place, building alterations	Legal description: Lots 1-5 DP 5594, Lots 2 and 4 Town Acre 3471 DP 219-220. Owner: Fashions Limited. Builder: Hall and Kiel. Application value: £2000. Note: Nill. Work not done	Building Permit/Consent	28 Mar 1962
00058:370:C15850	60-64 Courtenay Place, office alterations	Legal description: Lots 2 and 4 Town Acre 219-220 [Lots 1-5 DP 5594]. Owner: Wellington Gas Co. Builder: Upton and Shearer Limited. Application value: £8,840. Note: Permit is for an internal office fitout.	Building Permit/Consent	04 Nov 1964
00058:408:C17463	60-64 Courtenay Place, building alterations, level 5	Legal description: Lot 2 DP 3471 [Lots 1-5 DP 5594]. Owner and applicant: Wellington Gas Co. Application value: £300. Note: Permit is for partitions.	Building Permit/Consent	12 Jul 1965
00058:583:C27624	60-64 Courtenay Place, fire escape stairs	Legal description: Lots 1-5 DP 5594, Lots 2 and 4 Town Acre 3471 DP 219-220. Owner: Wellington Gas Co. Builder: Owner. Application value: \$185	Building Permit/Consent	30 Sep 1968
00058:959:C42106	60-64 Courtenay Place, partitions, level 3	Legal description: Lots 2 and 4 Town Acre 220 [Lots 1-5 DP 5594]. Owner: Wellington Gas Co. Builder: Upton and Shearer Limited. Application value: \$16,000.	Building Permit/Consent	17 Jan 1975
00058:1012:C44200	60-64 Courtenay Place, staff room, level 1	Legal description: Lots 1-5 DP 5594. Owner: Wellington Gas Co. Builder: Upton and Shearer Limited. Application value: \$11,680	Building Permit/Consent	12 Dec 1975

00058:10 18:C4444 8	60-64 Courtenay Place, building alterations - partitions - 2nd floor	Legal description: Lots 1- 5 DP 5594, Lots 2 and 4 Town Acre 3471 DP 219- 220. Owner: Wellington Gas Co. Builder: L Hall Builders Limited. Application value: \$5300	Building Permit/Consent	03 Feb 1976
00058:10 22:C4460 4	60 Courtenay Place, building alterations - 1st floor partitions	Legal description: Lots 1- 5 Town Acre 219-220 DP 5594. Owner: Wellington Gas Co. Builder: Upton and Shearer Limited. Application value: \$35000	Building Permit/Consent	25 Feb 1976
00058:10 31:C4492 3	60 Courtenay Place, building alterations - egress	Legal description: Lots 1- 5 Town Acre 219-220 DP 5594. Owner: Wellington Gas Co. Builder: Upton and Shearer Limited. Application value: \$5700	Building Permit/Consent	13 Apr 1976
00058:10 99:C4754 5	60 Courtenay Place, alter ground floor premises	Legal description: Lots 1- 5 Town Acre 219-220 DP 5594. Owner: Wellington Gas Co. Builder: Upton and Shearer Limited. Application value: \$9100	Building Permit/Consent	13 Jun 1977
00058:111 9:C48358	60-64 Courtenay Place, alterations to interior of Ashe's Shoe Store.	Legal description: Lots 1- 5 DP 5594, Lots 2 and 4 Town Acre 3471 DP 219- 220. Owner: Ashe's Shoe Store Limited - M Stevenson Limited. Builder: FL Jeffries and Co Limited. Application value: \$4500	Building Permit/Consent	26 Oct 1977
00058:0: C65788	60-64 Courtenay Place, alter partitions	Owner: Wellington Gas Company. Builder: CEMAC Commercial Interiors. Legal description: Lots 1-5 DP 5594. Application value: \$9,731.	Building Permit/Consent Microfiche	1984
00060:86 :3187	60-64 Courtenay Place, apartment fitout	Owner: Sertrak Ltd. Contact: Design Club International Ltd. Legal description: Lots 1-5 DP 5594. Application value: \$320,000. Note: Known as Maison Cabriole.	Building Permit/Consent	1993
00060:19	60-64	Owner: Sertrak.	Building	1993

2:2060	Courtenay Place, building strengthening	Applicant: Kosta Serepisos, P Trakadas. Legal description: Lots 1-5 DP 5594. Application value: \$110,000. Note: National Bank building.	Permit/Consent	
00060:19 3:2413	60-64 Courtenay Place, building refurbishment	Owner: Sertrak Ltd. Applicant: Design Club International Ltd. Legal description: Lots 1-5 DP 5594. Application value: \$345,000. Note: Retail/apartments/restaurant, stage 1. Known as Maison Cabriole.	Building Permit/Consent	1993
00060:19 3:2530	60 Courtenay Place, plumbing alterations	Owner: Sertrak Ltd. Applicant: Design Club International Ltd. Legal description: Lots 1-5 DP 5594. Application value: \$25,000.	Building Permit/Consent	1993
00060:19 3:3049	60 Courtenay Place and 30 Tory Street [24 Tory Street], carparking building	Legal description: Lots 1-5 DP 5594. Owner: Sertrak Ltd. Applicant: Design Club International Ltd. Application value: \$125,000.	Building Permit/Consent	1993
00060:12 6:4599	60-64 Courtenay Place, fitout of National Bank branch	Legal description: Lots 1-5 DP 5594. Owner: Sertrak Ltd, Black Horse Properties Ltd (tenant). Applicant: Andrews Scott Cotton Architects. Application value: \$78,300.	Building Permit/Consent	1994
00060:19 6:5468	60-64 Courtenay Place, signage	Owner: National Bank. Applicant: Gordon Hussey. Legal description: Lot 2 DP 3471. Application value: \$9,000.	Building Permit/Consent	1994
00078:30 98:17204 0	60-64 Courtenay Place, National Bank, Ground Floor, Interior fit-out.	Legal description: Lots 1,2 and 4 DP 5594. Owner: Thakor Laka Vasan Applicant: Slade Architects LTD. Project value: \$65,000.	Building Permit/Consent	2007

The extension of the Wellington Gas Company's premises, by the erection of new offices and show rooms, is to be begun at once, and completed by the 15th of October. The tender of Mr. M. Murdoch has been accepted for carrying out the work. According to the plans of Messrs. Turnbull & Son, the architects, the new premises will have a frontage of 120ft to Courtenay-place, and extend back 47ft, rising to two stories. The building will present to the street front a solid and substantial appearance, without any special pretensions to ornamentation. The main feature of the interior will be the provision made for a large show-room and lecture-hall, in which the company proposes to demonstrate the many uses of gas. The main entrance will be from the centre facing Courtenay-place, into a vestibule, and thence into a hall. On the right front are the general office 42ft by 30ft, board room 22ft by 18ft, and behind these the strong room, meter reader's room, and stationery department. On the left the plans provide for the show-room and lecture hall measuring 42ft by 30ft, a map room 18ft by 18ft, manager's room 18ft by 13ft, and in the northern corner a staircase leading to the upper floor, which may also be approached by the main staircase in the hall adjoining the vestibule. The whole of the upper floor is set apart for storage purposes and subdivided. The windows of the show-room in the street front will extend down to the floor for exhibition of wares. The tenders sent in were as follows:— M. Murdoch, £3537 (accepted); Patterson & Martin, £3699; T. Carmichael, £3628; Wilkinning & Dryden, £3762; J. Russell, £3969; D. M'Lean, £4063.

At a meeting of the third-class members of the Oriental Football Club held last evening, Mr. Wilks was elected captain, and Messrs. Bendall, H. Brewer, and Wilks were elected a Match Committee.

The Taranaki County Council has agreed to the request made by the New Zealand Cyclists' Touring Club that it should erect notice-boards on the dangerous parts of the county roads for the guidance of cyclists. ...

Evening Post, Volume LV, Issue 105, 5 May 1898, Page 6