

## **Gazebo (Relocated)**

343 Matahiwi Road, Masterton (formerly 59 Falkirk Avenue, Seatoun)



Image: Historic Places Trust

### **Summary of heritage significance**

- This gazebo is a now rare example of extravagant garden architecture that is uncommon in New Zealand. It is a picturesque, many gabled structure, that is highly decorated in a high Victorian/Edwardian fashion.
- This gazebo is intimately associated with the character and heritage of Seatoun, and is particularly associated with Herbert Rawson.
- The gazebo has some educational value as it is a unique example of an exquisite garden feature. These are uncommon in New Zealand gardens so is an important representative of the time.

District Plan:	Pre relocation: Map 7, reference 111
Legal Description:	Unknown – relocated to Masterton
Heritage Area:	-
HPT Listed:	Category II, reference 3651
Archaeological Site:	-
Other Names:	-
Key physical dates:	Built: 1902 Relocated: 2011
Architect / Builder:	-
Former uses:	Gazebo
Current uses:	Gazebo
Earthquake Prone Status:	EQ Not Necessary

Extent: Googlemaps showing approximate address of relocated gazebo (2014)



## 1.0 Outline History

## 1.1 History<sup>1</sup>

The gazebo is a small wooden octagonal building with a gabled roof and eight finials. It has been made with great skill and features beautifully carved details. It has a scalloped long roof tiles/shingles that match the boards on the external sides of the gables. The windows, unusually, are glassed, and it has no floor.

By 1908 the gazebo had been purchased by Herbert Rawson, a prominent Wellington dentist, with many business interests, and who played a large role in the history of Seatoun. He trained as a dentist with his brother Henry, who was 14 years his senior, and subsequently took over his practice in the 1870s. His dentistry practice thrived both in Wellington and in the provinces where he travelled for regular clinics. He was the first president of the New Zealand Dental Association, and his obituary stated that he was instrumental in passing the first Dental Act in New Zealand. He also made his own nitrous oxide and used it long before it was used internationally. In addition to dentistry, he was a man with substantial business interests, being chairman of the Mercantile and General Insurance Company, and a director of the Tawa Land Company. In 1904 he had a substantial building constructed on the corner of Woodward Street and the Terrace, where his practice was based. He also established a company to create a picture theatre and skating rink complex in Thorndon in 1910.

He was extremely interested in the development of Seatoun and was passionate about sanitation, trees, roads, and other developments in the suburb. He was a member of the Seatoun Roads Board and chair of the Seatoun and Bays Progressive Association. He owned a substantial (and ever expanding) amount of land in Seatoun and established a dairy farm there. He was chair of the Wellington Ferry Company, which helped to open the suburb for day-trippers and encouraged settlement of the area, and proposed the building of the Seatoun Wharf.

Between 1909 and 1918 he had 15 cottages built on land that had formerly made up his dairy farms and later he and his family built grander residences in Ludlum and Inglis Streets as 'show homes' for their subdivision of the 'home block', which was to be more impressive than the other areas they had developed.

The Gazebo was purchased by Rawson and placed in his garden, which is reported as being large and beautiful with a number of features. Newspapers report a number of garden parties held there, often as fundraising events to raise money for more public tree planting, or a children's playground, or other work of the Seatoun and Bays Progressive Association.

Rawson died in 1926 and the subdivision (22 sections, 2 houses, the garden, artificial lake, gazebo, etc) was put up for sale in 1929. The sections were all quickly sold.

The section occupied by the gazebo was purchased by sisters Helena Reta Ward (nee Jacobsen) and Clare Jacobsen, and they built a new house at what is now 59 Falkirk Avenue. Helena and Clare owned the property for 50 years, but following the death of Helena (Clare died in 1968) the house and gazebo was sold to Graeme Colgate. By this time the gazebo had fallen into disrepair and Colgate carried out substantially repairs with funding from the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.

In 1986 Colgate sold the section to Bruce Hancox, who only owned it for four years before selling it to Sarah (Sally) Verbiest. Further repairs were carried out by the new owner under the guidance of Ian Bowman before it was sold in 2001 to Rachel Haupt and Simon Clutterbuck.

In 2011 the owners applied to Wellington City Council and the NZHPT to assess whether or not they could relocate the gazebo. This was approved, and the gazebo was moved to 343 Matahiwi Road, Masterton.

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<sup>1</sup> History adapted from: Elizabeth Cox, 'Gazebo – 59 Falkirk Avenue, Seatoun, Wellington', initial report prepared New Zealand Historic Places Trust. 2011.

## **1.2 Timeline of modifications** (original plans do not exist)

c.1908 Moved to 59 Falkirk Avenue

c.1980 Restoration/repair

2011 Removal and placement on new section at 343 Matahiwi Road, Masterton

## **1.3 Occupation history**

Not assessed

## **1.4 Architect**

Unknown

## **2.0 Physical description**

### **2.1 Architecture**

The summer house or gazebo is an ornate Edwardian, many gabled structure. It has decorative bargeboards and eaves, finials, and shingling. It has trellised battens above the base. The Gazebo is an important and valuable piece from its period and is a now rare example of extravagant garden architecture that is relatively uncommon in New Zealand.

### **2.2 Materials**

Painted timber joinery:

- Timber trellis
- Battens
- Bargeboards
- Eaves
- Finials

### **2.3 Setting**

While the gazebo once sat in a garden setting, it has now been relocated; this new setting could not be assessed at the time of writing.

### **3.0 Sources**

Cox, Elizabeth. 'Gazebo – 59 Falkirk Avenue, Seatoun, Wellington'. Initial report prepared New Zealand Historic Places Trust. 2011.

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## 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?

This gazebo is a now rare example of extravagant garden architecture that is uncommon in New Zealand. It is a picturesque, many gabled structure, that is highly decorated in a high Victorian/Edwardian fashion.

**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?

**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?

#### **Historic Value:**

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

This gazebo is intimately associated with the character and heritage of Seatoun, and is particularly associated with Herbert Rawson.

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

#### **Scientific Value:**

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

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

The gazebo has some educational value as it is a unique example of an exquisite garden feature. These are uncommon in New Zealand gardens so is an important representative of the time.

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

There is technical interest in the materials and craftsmanship of the gazebo.

#### **Social Value:**

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

The gazebo, prior to its relocation, was held in high public esteem. It has an important association with the development of Seatoun, and with Herbert Rawson, who was particularly associated with the suburban development of the area.

**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?*

***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?*

The gazebo is a now rare example of extravagant garden architecture that has become increasingly uncommon in New Zealand.

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

The gazebo is a good representative of its kind, and represents the period of its construction well.

***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 gazebo maintains authenticity of design, materials, and craftsmanship and is in reasonably original condition (although relocated).

***Local/Regional/National/International***

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

This gazebo is a unique example of extravagant garden architecture from the turn of the century. It is important locally due to its historic associations, its excellent architecture, its rarity and authenticity, its educational and technical values, and the high esteem which it is held in.