

TUAM TREASURES



WHY WE LOVE IT

DRAMA QUEEN: From public hall in the early 1880s...to the Opera House in the 1890s...to movie theatre from the 1930s.

FROM ONE EXTREME TO THE OTHER: Richly ornamented Edwardian style features on 210 Tuam Street - former home to auctioneers Lawrie and Wilson - in stark contrast to the Modernist frontage of Miller's Department Store.

STYLE GURUS

T.S Lambert designed the Italiante style Tuam Street Public Hall (Odeon Theatre) in the 1880s, providing seating for 2,200 people.

Can you help us solve the mystery? Do you know who designed the Lawrie and Wilson building? heritage@ccc.govt.nz

I'VE GOT THE BLUES: Hues of blue draw our gaze to the Samuel Hurst Seager designed building (1906) where the Christchurch Brick Company operated – today we know it as the Blue Kiwi.

George Hart's design for the Miller's building was considered to be at the height of modern design when it opened in 1939.

WHAT HAPPENED THERE?

EVERYTHING FROM WRESTLING TO WORSHIP: The Canterbury Winter Show 1899 – showcasing Canterbury produce, meats and cheese...Suffragette meetings and women's votes in 1893...Stanley McKay's Gaieties 1935 - performing dogs...Wrestling bouts in the 1930s and 40s...Performances by the old Vic Theatre Company with Laurence Olivier and Vivian Leigh in 1948...church services in the 1980s.

BRICKIES AND BROTHERS: 'Christchurch Brick Company' was backstamped on the products coming from the company operating from the building. In 1953 the Fuller Brothers ran a printing business here.

WONDERFUL & WEIRD

MODERN, SPORTY TYPES: Millers employees could enjoy the use of three tennis courts, provision for badminton on the roof, and quoit hockey, indoor bowls, ping pong, deck tennis, deck quoits and basketball on the fourth floor.

CHALLENGES

The once dilapidated Lawrie and Wilson building was purchased and restored by the Christchurch City Council in the late 1990s.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

<http://library.christchurch.org.nz>