

# 141-149 Manchester Street

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The retail spaces at 141-149 Manchester Street were almost completely destroyed by the Christchurch earthquakes. At that time, 141-145 were occupied by “Barbers and Tobacconist”, a hairdresser;<sup>1</sup> “Timewarp”, an antique store;<sup>2</sup> and “Liberty Books”, a secondhand bookshop.<sup>3</sup> Another hairdresser, Kinky Hair, ran its business from 149 Manchester Street.

While the origin of other buildings is largely obscure, the history of 149 Manchester Street is relatively clear as it was listed as a heritage item of significance.<sup>4</sup> Built around 1905 by William Derisley and Henry Wood shortly after they purchased the land, it was a commercial building at the heart of Christchurch for over a century.<sup>5</sup> W. D. Wood has links which can be traced back to initial European settlement in the city, arriving onboard the Randolph in 1850. He was a successful businessman known for founding Woods Brothers in 1856, a milling firm which ran for 114 years in Canterbury.<sup>6</sup> W. D. Wood’s grandson sold the building to investors in 1926, and it end up in the hands of John Bull Cycle Company, owned by the Kiddey family, in 1964.<sup>7</sup> While John Bull Cycle Company owned the building only for the next 15 years, the cycling shop was on the premises until 1984.<sup>8</sup> It was subsequently acquired by Glera Real Estate until 1992 when Nuttalls secondhand dealers took over.<sup>9</sup> Kinky Hair replaced Nuttalls since 2005.<sup>10</sup>

The building at 149 Manchester Street gained recognition due to its unique architectural design. As a continuation of the Victorian period where classical architecture was seen as most appropriate for commercial buildings, the building at 149 Manchester Street has an Edwardian Classical façade.<sup>11</sup> This feature was emphasized by a pair of Palladian windows, which have a shaped parapet and a distinctive arched cornice above each central window.<sup>12</sup> It not only distinguished 149 Manchester Street from the buildings on its either side, it also marked 149 Manchester Street as a characteristic example of commercial building from late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> “Barbers And Tobacconist: Hairdresser,” Zenbu, accessed 3 April, 2012, <http://www.zenbu.co.nz/entry/1146619-barbers-and-tobacconist#>.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> Christchurch City Council, *Christchurch City Plan- Listed Heritage Item and Setting Heritage Assessment-Statement of Significance: Nuttalls Commercial Building, 149 Manchester Street* (Christchurch: Christchurch City Council, c2003).

<sup>5</sup> Christchurch City Council, “Nuttalls Commercial Building”.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.