

# Commercial buildings



## Top of the class

The Victorian Horse Sale Yard in Maclaggan Street was opened in 1889 by Wright Stephenson and Co. as a Horse Bazaar. It is the only sale yard building of its type known to still exist in New Zealand.



## Hey guess what?

The 47m bell tower of the Municipal Chambers in the Octagon was truncated just above the dock level in 1963, because it was considered an earthquake risk. The bell tower was rebuilt recently to R A Lawson's original architectural plans.

You can read Dunedin's commercial history just by looking up at the words cast onto the frontages of the many purpose built historical commercial buildings. Banks, insurance offices, warehouses, hotels and great stores offer a glimpse of how Dunedin's early businessmen wished their new home to be seen and understood: New Zealand's prosperous commercial capital with buildings to match.

The present positive attitude toward architectural preservation means that many historical buildings are being adapted to new uses. A Starbucks now occupies part of the old Penroses department store building. The 1883 New Zealand Clothing Factory warehouse in Dowling Street was the headquarters of Hallenstein Brothers until 1988, but is currently home to Milford Galleries Dunedin and the Christian Outreach Centre. The Crown Milling Company building in Manor Place has been converted to accommodate a ground floor restaurant and upstairs apartments.



The former Union Bank

But some buildings retain their original function. Now known as the Mercure Hotel Dunedin, Wain's Hotel, (among the largest and grandest of the 86 licensed houses in Dunedin in the 1880s), the old corner portion of the Southern Cross Hotel (originally the Grand Hotel, designed by Italian architect Louis Boldini), and the Savoy are all still in use. The Bell Tea Company, New Zealand's oldest and largest tea company, still has its home in the original building at the corner of Hope and Carroll Streets. And you can still use the virtually unmodified bathrooms of the Art Deco New Zealand Road Services Building on Cumberland Street, which is now part of the Otago Settlers Museum.



The former National Bank of New Zealand

