

**UNDER**

**THE COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY ACT 1908**

**IN THE MATTER OF**

**ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO  
BUILDING FAILURE CAUSED BY CANTERBURY  
EARTHQUAKES  
KOMIHANA A TE KARAUNA HEI TIROTIRO I  
NGA WHARE I HORO I NGA RUWHENUA O  
WAITAHA**

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**STATEMENT OF EVIDENCE OF THOMAS RICHARD HAWKER  
IN RESPECT OF THE CTV BUILDING**

**DATE OF HEARING: COMMENCING 25 JUNE 2012**

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## STATEMENT OF THOMAS RICHARD HAWKER

- 1 My full name is Thomas Richard Hawker. I am known as Tom. I live in Auckland and I am a Presentation Director.
- 2 Before moving to Auckland in January 2012, I had lived in Christchurch all my life. I worked for CTV for 4 years, the last 2 years as a Presentation Director.

### **The CTV Building**

- 3 Until 22 February 2011 CTV was situated on Levels 1 and 2 of the CTV Building (the Building) at 249 Madras Street, Christchurch.
- 4 My desk was in the Presentation Room on Level 2 of the Building. Level 2 was accessed by internal stairs which went up from the entrance/reception area on Level 1. I have made a Floor Plan (Plan 1) of Levels 1 and 2. This Plan is annexed hereto and marked with the reference WIT.HAWKER.0001.6 for Level 1 and WIT.HAWKER.0001.7 for Level 2. I also worked in the Master Control Room on Level 1.

### **Before 22 February 2011**

- 5 After the September 2010 earthquake I noticed internal cracking in the Master Control Room situated on Level 1. This jagged crack went up on a diagonal and was about 1 metre long. I have marked this area with the number "1" on Plan 1. I recall either 2 or 3 people inspecting this crack and taking photos of it after the September 2010 earthquake. I do not know where they were from.
- 6 Part of my job was to be on call if CTV went off air. After the September 2010 earthquake a number of aftershocks caused CTV to go off air. I do not know whether this was due to loss of power or something else. It became a bit of a joke.
- 7 After the Boxing Day 2010 earthquake CTV lost power and I had to return to the Building. I was in the Building with my partner, Penelope Spencer (Penelope), who also worked at CTV and Valeri Volnov (Valeri), the IT person. After Penelope and I had left the Building there was another aftershock and the power was lost again.

- 8 I rang Valeri because I knew he was still in the Building. Valeri said he felt scared and did not want to be in the Building at all. When we arrived back I checked the equipment and Valeri left. There was another aftershock and Penelope and I left the Building too.
- 9 I phoned Murray Wood, the Managing Director of CTV, and I told him that I did not feel that the Building was safe. Murray told me he understood if I did not want to go in and that he would go in himself. However, I did go back in and sort the power again after that aftershock.
- 10 I occasionally worked in Archives in the north-west corner of Level 2. After the Boxing Day earthquake there were cracks in the corners of the walls in that area. You could see little holes, about pinhole size, with daylight coming through them. I have marked this area with the number "2" on Plan 1. I remember there were also cracks in the internal plaster walls and gaps in the brick further along the west wall where daylight shone through, but I am unsure of the exact locations of these. I have marked the approximate location on the west wall with the number "3" on Plan 1.
- 11 After Boxing Day I definitely noticed the floor felt less stable. If a truck drove past the Building would shake. I could feel it moving slowly, but could distinguish it from an aftershock. This was more noticeable on Level 2. In some areas you could feel the floor moving when people walked past, especially on Level 2.
- 12 There was much discussion amongst staff as to whether the Building was safe. A lot of people did not like being in the Building at all and the general consensus was that it did not feel safe.
- 13 Sam Gibbs had stood in about the same place I was on 22 February, which I discuss below, during a large aftershock. Sam told me he thought the Building was going to collapse then the way it was rocking back and forth.
- 14 There was some concern amongst the CTV staff about the fact that we were on the bottom 2 levels of the Building. People were concerned that if the Building did come down, there were a lot of floors above us. After one particular nasty aftershock, Jo Giles got really upset as she thought at that time the Building was going to collapse.

## **Building Demolition**

- 15 The demolition on the west side of the Building was really noisy and felt like constant aftershocks. This was quite unnerving and it was hard to concentrate. I remember on Monday 21 February 2011 there was a wrecking ball being used on the demolition site next door. This shook the Building.
- 16 About a week before the 22 February 2011 earthquake workmen started drilling holes into the outside of the west wall of the CTV Building. I believe they were fixing 5-6 metre long wooden batons to the wall but I did not see them doing it. I think they were just working on the first 2 levels of the Building. Staff were concerned and film footage was taken of this. On Monday 21 February 2011 CTV also filmed the work on the western side of the Building for its news programme.

## **22 February 2011**

- 17 On 22 February 2011, Penelope and I went to buy lunch at around 12.30pm. We were intending to eat it in the staff cafeteria at CTV. On our way back to the Building we went into the dairy opposite Les Mills on the south side of Cashel Street to get a drink. After that we walked out of the dairy and started to cross Cashel Street. We were standing in the middle of Cashel Street in line with the Building's car park entrance when the earthquake struck.
- 18 The Building was directly in front of me. I have drawn another Plan (Plan 2) of the outside of the Building. Annexed hereto and referenced WIT.HAWKER.0001.8 is a copy of Plan 2. I have marked with an "X" to indicate where I was standing on Cashel Street. I could see the entire south side and the south west corner of the Building.
- 19 I watched the Building shake violently for about 5 seconds. I saw cracking appear on Level 5 and then this Level collapsed first and sort of pancaked down, which in turn pancaked the rest of the floors below. Level 6 fell as a whole, it stayed intact as it fell and did not collapse until it hit the rubble at the bottom. The sound was horrific.
- 20 The Building came down very quickly. It would have collapsed completely within about 12 seconds. I noticed smoke coming from the rubble about 10 minutes after the Building had collapsed.

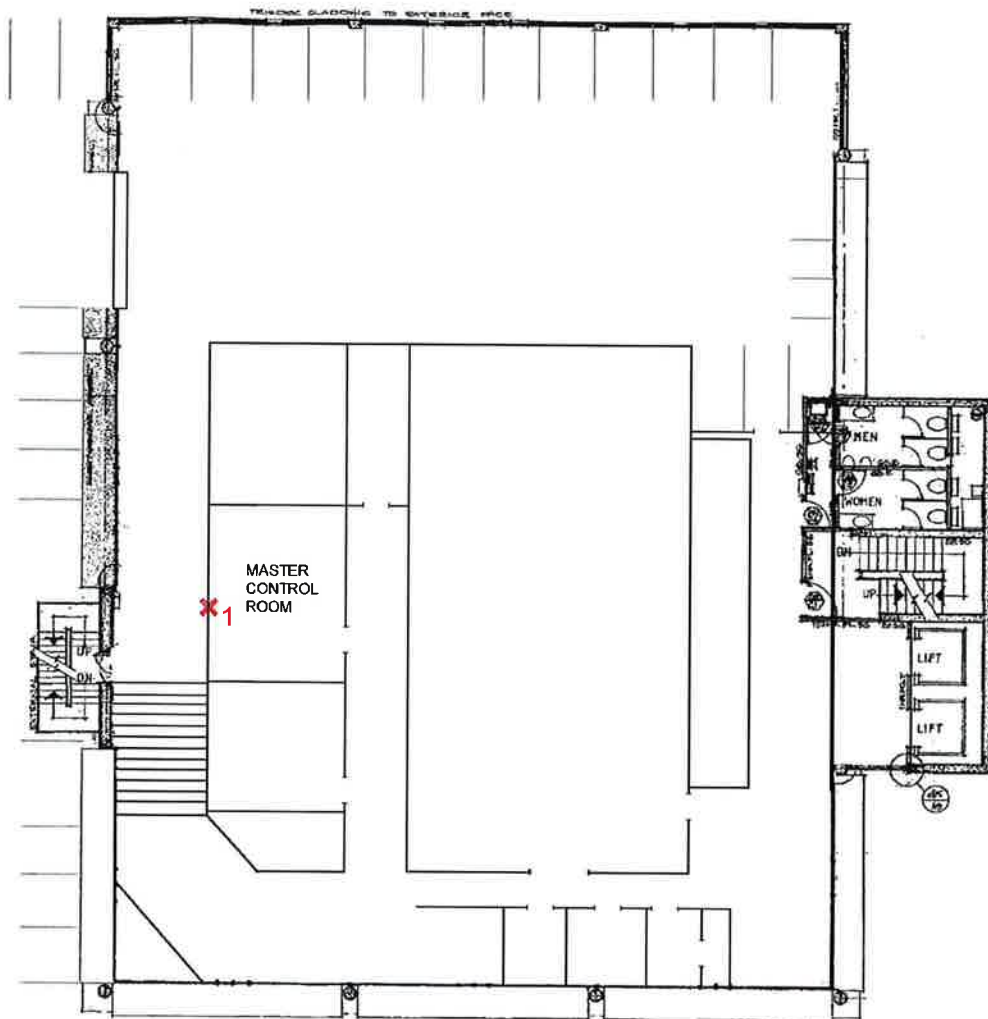
- 21 I had thought because of the way the Building was swaying it might fall towards us but it fell straight down. I know this because my car was parked right beside the south wall of the Building and I have marked its location with the letter "Y" on Plan 2. Only my bonnet, bumper and windscreen were damaged. A photograph of my car showing the damage was taken after it had been removed from the Building site. A copy of that photograph is annexed hereto and referenced WIT.HAWKER.0001.9.
- 22 The Photograph annexed hereto and referenced WIT.HAWKER.0001.10 is taken in the Building car park near the south east corner of the Madras and Cashel Streets intersection. I am at the front of the photo hugging Penelope and another girl, Sasha Stevens, who also worked at CTV and had been at Les Mills when the earthquake struck. This photo was taken by a *Press* photographer. I remember it was taken very soon after the earthquake, even before the fire started.
- 23 Penelope and I stayed at the Building site until about 9.00pm that evening. We assisted the police with who may be in the Building and also drew diagrams for the Police of the CTV Level 1 and Level 2 layout.
- 24 I took the Photograph annexed hereto and referenced WIT.HAWKER.0001.11 somewhere between 4.00pm and 6.00pm that evening. I am standing on the east side of Madras Street outside Blackwells Motors facing what was the east side of the Building.

Signed:   
Thomas Richard Hawker

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> May 2012

# PLAN 1

## CTV BUILDING LEVEL 1 (GROUND FLOOR)



PLAN NOT TO SCALE

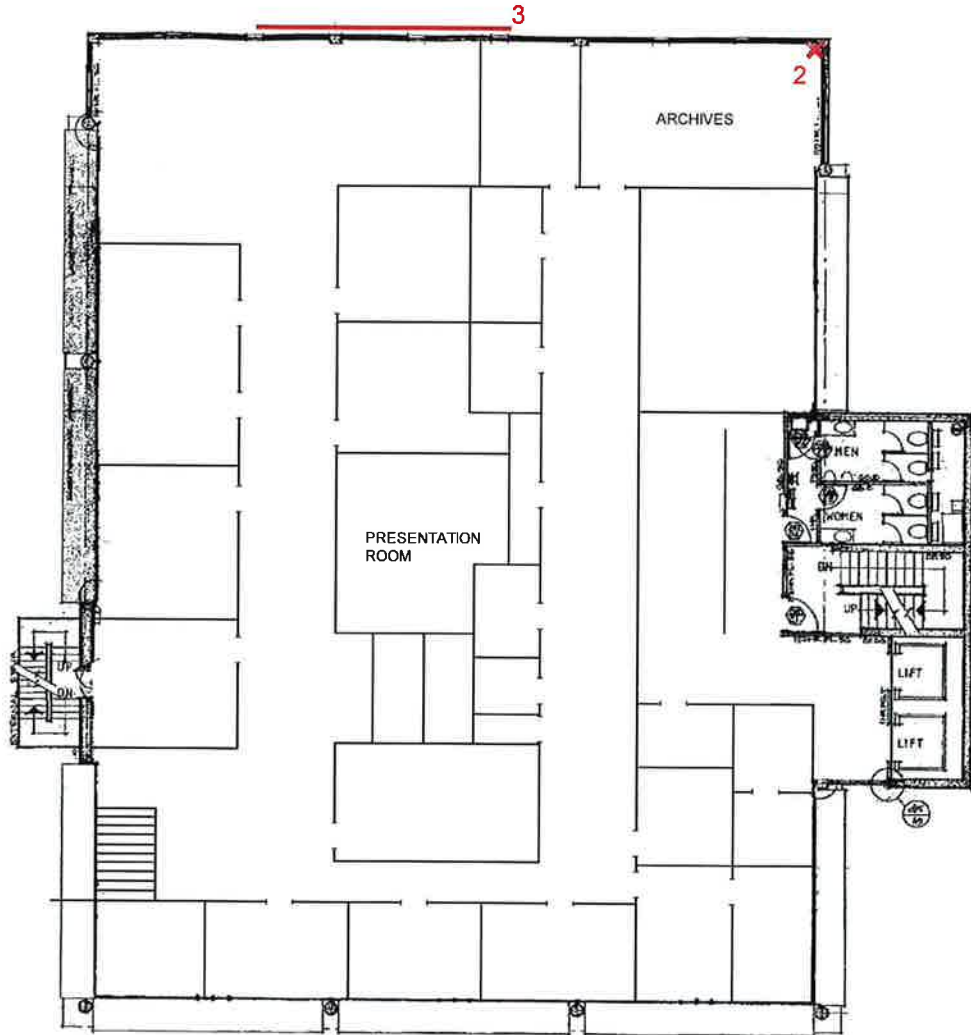


249 MADRAS ST

### KEY

1. Cracking on wall of master control room
2. Cracking in Archives Room
3. Approximate location of other cracks on west wall

CTV BUILDING  
LEVEL 2



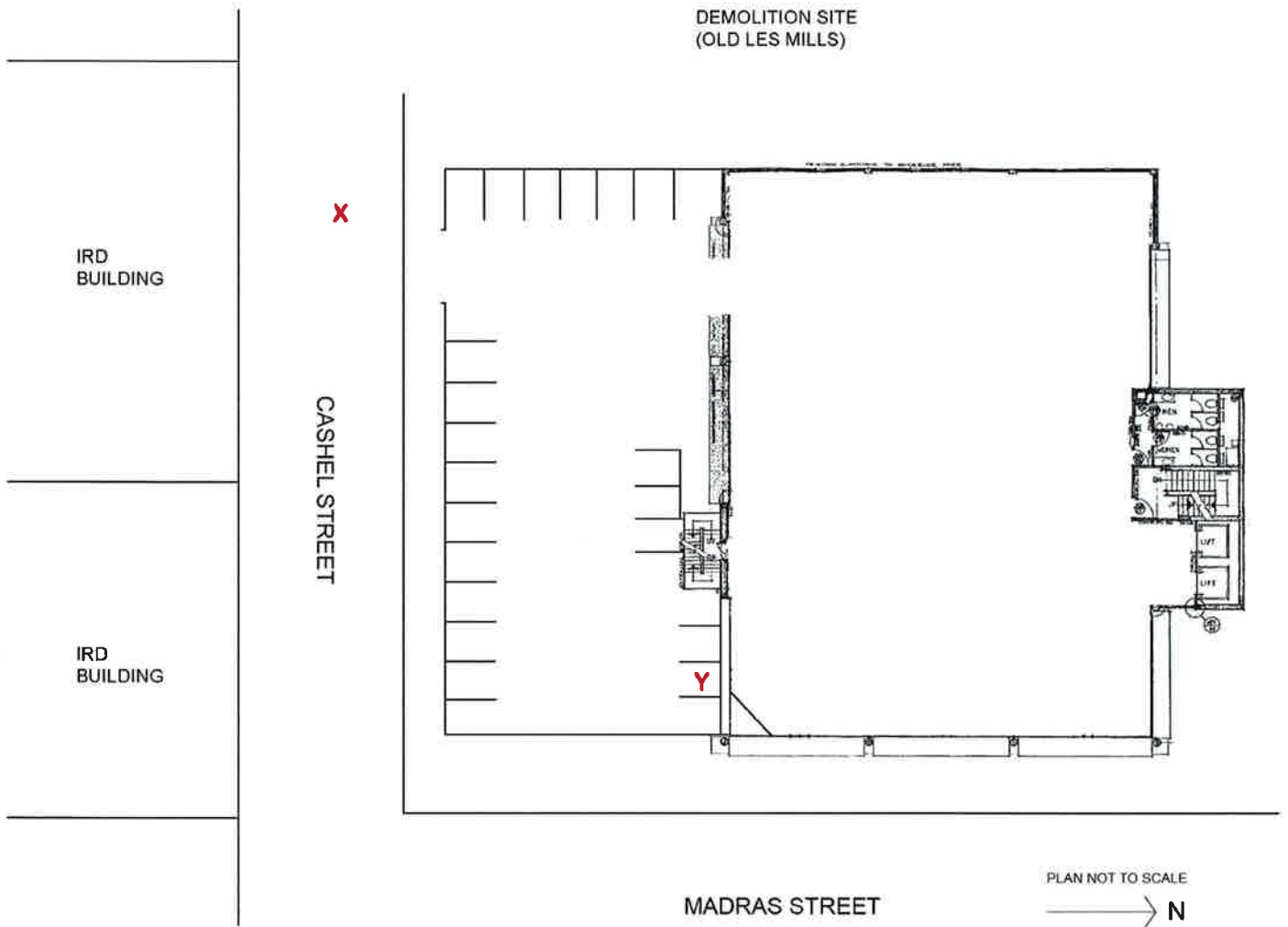
PLAN NOT TO SCALE



249 MADRAS ST

# PLAN 2

## 249 MADRAS STREET SITE PLAN



### KEY

- X. Location at time of the earthquake
- Y. Location of car in carpark











