

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME Anglican Church of the Holy Trinity

ADDRESS 3 Huirapa Street, Arowhenua

PHOTOGRAPH



District Plan Item No. New **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** n / a

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Arowhenua Village Maori Reserve 881 1A Block

VALUATION NUMBER 2468027000

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1931-32

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** AE Lewis, architect; H Andrews, contractor

STYLE Arts & Crafts Gothic Revival

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Gothic Revival style church with rectangular footprint and gabled roof. Norman entrance tower at west end is crenellated and inset with lancet-arched louvred vents. Exposed rafters, lancet arched and square-headed windows, buttresses. East window is a large lancet with Perpendicular Gothic tracery.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Reinforced concrete with roughcast plaster finish, timber, corrugated metal roofing.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Installation of memorial stained-glass window (1966). East window replaced (c.2006).

SETTING

The church stands on a corner site bounded by Huirapa Street to the north and SH 1 to the east. Hedging, wire fencing and a random rubble stone retaining wall delineate the road frontages of the property. Access is from Huirapa Street and the church property is immediately adjacent to a large urupa (cemetery). Te Kura Maori O Arowhenua (Arowhenua Maori School) and Arowhenua Marae are to the west along Huirapa Road. The Ratana War Memorial is directly opposite the church at the north corner of Huirapa Street and SH 1. The extent of scheduling is the land parcel on which the church is located.

HISTORY

The first church erected at Arowhenua was opened by the Rev WJ Stack in August 1866; it was the second oldest in South Canterbury at the time of its demolition in 1932. Tenders were called for a new church in November 1931 and the foundation stone was laid by the Bishop of Aotearoa the Rev FA Bennett on 1 November 1931. The church was opened by Bishop West-Watson of Christchurch and Bishop Bennett on 5 March 1932. The first church, which stood within the grounds of the adjacent cemetery, was subsequently demolished. The church celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2007 and continues to host regular monthly services.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Anglican Church of the Holy Trinity has historical and social significance for its association with the people of Arowhenua and Anglican worship and fellowship in the district since 1866.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Anglican Church of the Holy Trinity has cultural significance as a place of Anglican worship, community identity and historic continuity. The church also has a commemorative function in the stained glass window dedicated to Leslie Talbot, who was the Sunday School superintendent between 1909 and 1941.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Anglican Church of the Holy Trinity has architectural significance as the work of little-known Timaru architect AE Lewis. Albert Ernest Lewis (c.1879-1970) appears to have begun his working life as a joiner before registering as an architect in 1914. He had offices in Hay's Buildings (heritage item # 29), and also designed the Orari Cheese factory (1919) and the Pleasant Point Town Hall (1928).

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Anglican Church of the Holy Trinity has technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its concrete construction and detailing. The building represents an interest in concrete construction for its durability and economy in the interwar period. The interior of the church was ornamented with Maori craftwork, which made it unique in the South Island according to reports at the time of its opening. Gifts to the church when it opened included an altar from St John's Anglican Church at Winchester, a prayer desk from St Paul's Anglican Church at Tai Tapu, an altar desk from Christ's College and a lectern given by Mrs GA Fielden of Orari. Marina Anaha and her daughter Mrs W Mihaka wove the wall coverings. The stained glass window in the west porch by James Powell & Sons of England was installed in 1966.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Anglican Church of the Holy Trinity has contextual significance as a local historic feature and for its association with the Ratana War Memorial, Arowhenua Maori School and Ko Te Hapa o Niu Tirenī marae.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although the church post-dates 1900, its site has potential archaeological significance arising from the historic use and development of the wider setting.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Anglican Church of the Holy Trinity has overall significance to Arowhenua and Timaru district as a whole. The church has historical and social significance for its association with Kati Huirapa, Arowhenua Marae and Anglican worship in the district since 1866. The Anglican

Church of the Holy Trinity has cultural significance as a place of worship and for its memorial function and architectural and aesthetic significance for its Arts and Crafts design by Timaru architect AE Lewis. The Anglican Church of the Holy Trinity has technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its reinforced concrete construction and decorative detailing and contextual significance as a local historic feature in association with the Ratana War Memorial, Arowhenua Maori School and Ko Te Hapa o Niu Tirenī marae. Although the structure post-dates 1900, its site has potential archaeological significance in relation to the historic development of the property.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

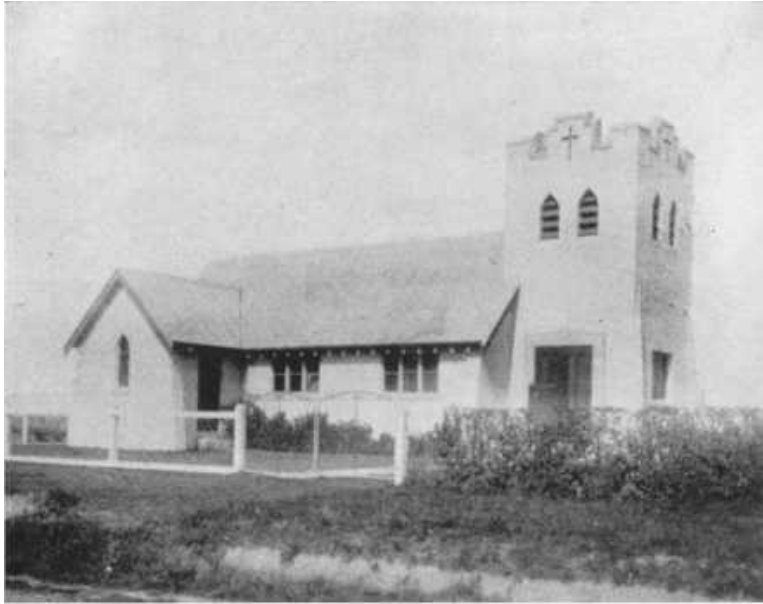
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- *Timaru Herald* 16 January 2007, available online.
- *NZ Herald* 21 March 1932, p. 11.
- *Poverty Bay Herald* 9 March 1932, p. 4.
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- WA Taylor *Lore and History of the South Island Maori* Christchurch, 1952; available online.



Extent of scheduling, 3 Huirapa Street, Arowhenua.



Holy Trinity Church — Arowhenua

Church as it appeared in c.1952. See WA Taylor *Lore and Historic of South Island Maori*.