

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME Winchester Lodge 1737 E.C.
ADDRESS 142 Temuka-Orari Highway, Winchester
PHOTOGRAPH



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

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Lot 1 DP 38289

VALUATION NUMBER 2470007700

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1878-79

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Daniel West, architect; James Radford, builder

STYLE Neoclassical

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with squat L-shaped footprint and gabled roof. Classical temple front façade with unadorned lean-to bay on the south side. Offset entry with arched surround and fanlight; blind arched moulding in central bay and blind rectangular window in side (north) bay. Bays separated by pilasters with entablature and triangular pediment above. Gabled end (pediment) has circular vent with decorative grille. Masonic symbols inscribed on brackets beneath blind window on façade. Double panelled entrance doors; fanlight over is inscribed 'Winchester Lodge 1737 E.C.'. Small lean-to at rear (east elevation).

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Concrete, cement plaster, corrugated iron.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Windows replaced with aluminium sashes (date unknown); rear extension (east elevation, c.1980).

SETTING

The building stands on the east side of the Temuka-Orari Highway (SH 1), immediately south of its intersection with Vernon Street. On the opposite side of the highway is the former Aitken residence (1912); further to the south is the Wolseley Hotel. The scheduled setting is the land parcel on which the lodge is located.

HISTORY

The Winchester Lodge 1737 English Constitution was consecrated on 3 September 1877, three months after the first meeting to discuss the formation of a lodge in the area was held. Meetings were held in the school until a concrete lodge building was built. The lodge building was described as an 'ornament to the town' when it was nearing completion in March 1879. It was officially consecrated on 24 June 1879, which was a feast day for the Masons in honour of St John the Baptist. In July 1880 it was reported that the windows had just been frosted and the name of the lodge 'printed in illumined letters' above the door. An iron fence was being erected to enclose the property at that time. The lodge remains in use and in 2012 it became the venue for the newly-established Lodge Arowhenua No. 473, a number of whose members are local Filipino dairy workers.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Winchester Lodge 1737 has high historical and social significance as one of the oldest lodge buildings in New Zealand that is still in Masonic use. English Freemasonry dates to the early 18th century and the earliest lodges in New Zealand date to the early 1860s. Within Canterbury, Heritage NZPT lists only the Masonic lodges in Lyttleton (1876-77) and Akaroa (1877). More generally the building is also associated with the 19th century proliferation of friendly societies in New Zealand, which supported their members in times of hardship, especially in the era before the introduction of social welfare.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Winchester Lodge 1737 have cultural significance as a site of community identity and historic continuity since 1879.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

Winchester Lodge 1737 has architectural significance as a Neoclassical building built to the design of local carpenter turned architect Daniel West. Historically the temple front treatment of the façade is characteristic of Masonic lodges built throughout New Zealand. West (c.1828-1910) was later in partnership with Robert Barber (1881-86). West and Barber designed the Italianate style 'Green Hayes' homestead for John Hayhurst in 1881 (heritage item # 90) and succeeded Maurice Duval as architects to the South Canterbury Education Board in mid-1883. The firm also undertook additions to Timaru's Dominion Hotel (heritage item # 36) in 1885-86; West alone extended the Royal Hotel (heritage item # 25) in Timaru in 1890 and designed the Timaru Customhouse (heritage item # 22, 1901-2).

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

Winchester Lodge 1737 have technological and craftsmanship significance as an example of Victorian concrete construction methods and techniques. James Radford was a bricklayer and plasterer from Devonshire, England who arrived in New Zealand in 1864. He also did contracting work for the Temuka Road Board and continued to operate his business after being declared bankrupt in early 1880.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Winchester Lodge 1737 have contextual significance as a local landmark and for the contribution it makes to the historic character of Winchester. The property was subdivided to its current extent in 1976.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the lodge building pre-dates 1900, its site has potential archaeological significance relating to the 19th century development and use of the property. It was reported in 1931 that the lodge occupied the site of the first school building (1870) in Winchester.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

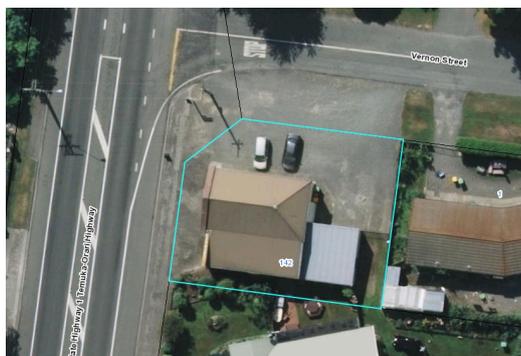
Winchester Lodge 1737 E.C. has overall heritage significance to Winchester and to the district of Timaru as a whole. The building has high historical and social significance for its age and association with Freemasonry and cultural significance as a place of community identity and continuity since 1879. Winchester Lodge 1737 has architectural significance for its Neoclassical styling by Timaru architect Daniel West and technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its concrete construction and detailing by James Radford. Winchester Lodge 1737 has contextual significance as a local landmark and its site has potential archaeological significance given the building's age and the site's history of prior development.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 1 September 1877, p. 2; 24 September 1878, p. 4; 3 July 1880, p. 2; 6 July 1885, p. 3; 23 February 1910, p. 7.
- *South Canterbury Times* 1 November 1879, p. 2; 1 June 1886, p. 3.
- *Temuka Leader* 31 July 1878, p. 1; 4 December 1878, p. 2; 5 February 1879, p. 2; 5 February 1880, p. 3; 27 January 1931, p. 3.
- *Press* 7 September 1877, p. 2; 27 June 1879, p. 2; 9 September 1879, p. 2.
- *Globe* 28 March 1879, p. 4.
- *Lyttelton Times* 3 May 1864, p. 4.
- *NZ Freemason* 4 December 2012, pp. 14-15 (available online).
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903; available online.
- http://sifreemasons.org.nz/?page_id=128
- 'Lodges of Southern New Zealand' *Friends of the Hocken Collections Bulletin* no. 43, November 2002. Available online; providing background information.
- List of Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga; available online.



Extent of scheduling, 142 Temuka-Orari Highway [SH 1], Winchester.