

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former Jackson Memorial Methodist Sunday School

ADDRESS 34 Church Street / 37 Theodosia Street, Timaru

PHOTOGRAPH



(Dr A McEwan, 11 July 2018)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. New **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** n / a
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Part Lot 290 & Part Lot 288 DP 1

VALUATION NUMBER 2500056600

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1907

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** JS Turnbull, architect; Messrs Baird & Son, builders

STYLE Edwardian Baroque

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Two-storey building with rectangular footprint and gabled roof with hipped lean-tos on west, south and east sides. Symmetrical façade has single-storey wings on either side of central section crowned by open-bed pediment. Façade ground floor windows have Gibbs' surround and keystones. Twin entries frame central bay; doors are framed by pilasters and topped by broken pediments and circular windows. Palladian arch motif on first floor beneath central pediment. Dentilled cornices and casement type windows with multi-pane fanlights. Hall is lit by clerestory windows above lean-to 'skirt' around building. Boundary fencing emphasises the symmetry of façade.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Brick, cement plaster, corrugated metal.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Painted and 'Methodist Sunday School' relief lettering removed from within central pediment; 'Harlequin Sports Club' painted in its place (c.2009).

SETTING

The former Sunday School stands on the south side of Church Street, east of its intersection with Theodosia Street (SH 1). The building is centrally located on its site, which consists of two land parcels. The neighbouring streetscape is light industrial and residential in nature.

The extent of setting is both land parcels on which the building is located; it includes the historic plastered brick and wrought iron fencing along Church Street.

HISTORY

The first Wesleyan Methodist church services in Timaru were held in a private home in Sandytown in 1863. A site for a Methodist church was gifted by the Rhodes brothers and a timber chapel subsequently built in Bank Street in 1866. This chapel was extended in 1868 and superseded by a new church in 1875; the chapel was then moved to the rear of the site for use as a Sunday school (demolished post-1930). A new Sunday School was erected in Church Street in 1907, the church and school properties connecting at the centre of the block. Local merchant and former Mayor of Timaru John Jackson (1837-1909) funded the site and gifted money for the new school in memory of his wife Martha (nee Warrington, c.1832-1904). The foundation stone was laid on 14 March 1907, tenders having been called in the previous November. The building was officially opened on 5 August 1907. The church celebrated its centenary in 1965 but closed in 1991. The Sunday School was subsequently purchased by the Harlequin Rugby Football Club in 2009. The club refurbished the building before officially moving in on 10 October 2012. Previously, the Harlequins RFC amalgamated the Star and Zingari clubs in 1998.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Jackson Memorial Methodist Sunday School has historical and social significance for its association with John and Martha Jackson and the former Bank Street Methodist Church, which was the first and oldest surviving Wesleyan Methodist church built in South Canterbury. The former Sunday School has added historical significance for its association with church member Laurel McAlister (1892-1981), who was the national president of the Methodist Women's Guild Fellowship from 1959 until 1962. McAlister was actively involved with the Sunday School from 1916 until 1942 and was also a founding member of the Timaru Townswomen's Guild. She was awarded an MBE for her work during World War II in 1946.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Jackson Memorial Methodist Sunday School has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of members of the Bank Street Methodist Church community for many years. More recently its heritage values have been appreciated and conserved by members of the Harlequins RFC.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Jackson Memorial Methodist Sunday School has architectural significance as an Edwardian Baroque style building designed by noted local architect JS Turnbull. Timaru-born James Turnbull (1864-1947) trained in Melbourne and then established a practice in Timaru in c.1895. The son of Richard Turnbull, a prominent Timaru businessman and politician, Turnbull also designed Job Brown's Beehive Stores (1901-2) in Temuka, Chalmers Church (1903-4, heritage item # 38), and a large number of Timaru houses. Turnbull went into partnership with Percy Watts Rule in c.1920, after which time Percy Rule was the principal designer in the firm. The firm designed St James' Anglican Church at Franz Josef (1928-31) and Rule was awarded a Gold Medal from the NZ Institute of Architects for his design of the Surgical Wing at Timaru Hospital (1936-40) in 1939. Turnbull & Rule also undertook the 1930 additions to the Bank Street Methodist Church (heritage item # 51).

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Jackson Memorial Methodist Sunday School has technological and craftsmanship significance as an Edwardian brick and plaster building with ornate classical detailing. William Baird & Sons were also responsible for erecting the Temuka Presbyterian manse in 1910.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Jackson Memorial Methodist Sunday School has high contextual significance as a landmark on Church Street and for its relationship with the former Bank Street Methodist Church. As its name suggests Church Street is associated with some of Timaru's most notable churches. The western boundary of the Sunday School site was altered when the underpass on Theodosia Street / State Highway 1 was created in the early 1990s.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although the former Sunday School post-dates 1900 its site may have archaeological values relating to its prior use and development. The 1875 plan of Timaru (South Canterbury Museum) shows a building on the south side of Lot 288 and both that lot and Lot 290 were part of the landscaped garden of a dwelling on Lot 289. Between 1875 and 1882 the site was the residential property of Archdeacon HW Harper of St Mary's Anglican Church.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

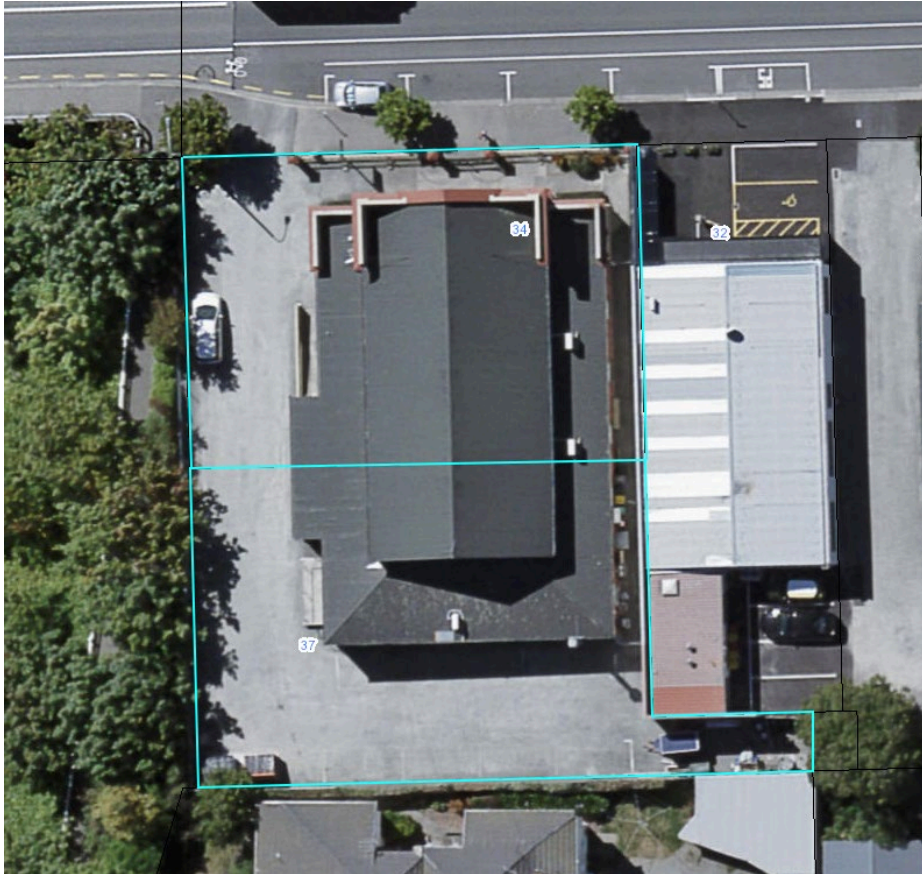
The former Jackson Memorial Methodist Sunday School has overall heritage significance to Timaru and Timaru district as a whole. The building has historical and social significance for its association with Martha and John Jackson and the Bank Street Methodist Church community and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of past Sunday School pupils and their teachers. The former Jackson Memorial Methodist Sunday School has architectural significance as an Edwardian Baroque style building designed by Timaru architect James Turnbull and technological and craftsmanship significance for its masonry construction and classical detailing. The former Jackson Memorial Methodist Sunday School has high contextual significance as a local landmark and in relation to the former Bank Street Methodist Church. The former Jackson Memorial Methodist Sunday School has potential archaeological significance in view of the pre-1900 development that occurred on the site.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 27 July 1904, p. 2; 30 November 1906, p. 7; 1 December 1906, p. 3; 15 March 1907, p. 7; 6 August 1907, p. 6; 11 October 1907, p. 6; 15 August 1910, p. 2; 27 March 1920, p. 5; 31 January 2009, 11 October 2009 & 6 June 2017(available online).
- *Temuka Leader* 19 March 1907, p. 4; 20 July 1909, p. 4.
- *North Otago Times* 19 July 1909, p. 2.
- *South Canterbury Times* 17 January 1881, p. 3; 1 December 1882, p. 1; 9 March 1883, p. 3.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903; available online.
- J Wilson 'Timaru's Collection of Old Churches' *Historic Places* June 1989, pp. 7-10.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/3155>
- <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/5m1/mcalister-laurel-grace-barker>
- <http://www.methodist.org.nz/files/docs/mcnz%20admin%20office/archives/2014/parsi%20archives%20collection%20south%20canterbury.pdf>



Extent of setting, 34 Church Street / 37 Theodosia Street, Timaru.