

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME Schoolhouse & Residence
ADDRESS Waihi School, 12 Harrison Road, Winchester

PHOTOGRAPH



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

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Lot 1 DP 46763

VALUATION NUMBER 2466042400

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1907

ARCHITECT / DESIGNER / BUILDER JS Turnbull, architect; T Pringle, contractor

STYLE English Domestic Revival

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

One-and-a-half to two-and-a-half storey building with T-shaped footprint and half-hipped and gabled roof forms. Principal, north-facing elevation has roof extending to form a veranda that is supported on timber posts, gabled and pent dormer windows, expose rafters and multi-pane casement windows.

MATERIALS / STRUCTURE

Timber framing and weatherboard or stuccoed board-and-batten cladding, concrete foundations, brick chimneys, corrugated iron roofing.

ADDITIONS / ALTERATIONS

Unknown.

SETTING

The school building, centrally located within a cluster of buildings on the grounds of Waihi School, is situated on the west side of the Temuka-Orari Highway (SH1), north of its intersection with Harrison Road. The campus is screened from view from the highway by a tall macrocarpa hedge. The school chapel (the former St John the Evangelist Anglican Church, Winchester, 1878/1889, relocated 1972, heritage item # 68) is to the south. The extent of setting is the immediate environs of the original schoolhouse and residence, rather than the land parcel as a whole.

HISTORY

Waihi School opened in September 1907; its founder Joseph Orford (1862-1924) had close links to St John's Anglican Church in Winchester, sometimes conducting services when the Temuka vicar was not available. British-born Orford was a graduate of King's College, Cambridge. He immigrated to New Zealand in 1894 and subsequently taught at Wanganui Collegiate. He fought in the South African War and then returned to Whanganui before leaving the city in early 1907 to go to Waihi. The purpose-built school building erected by Orford initially accommodated the headmaster's residence, the pupils' dormitory, dining hall and the schoolroom. The school was wholly a boarding school for boys, between the ages of 8 and 14, when it opened. Today it teaches year 5 to year 8 boys and has accepted day pupils since 2000. Old boys of the school include Charles Upham VC (1917-22) and Charles Hamilton, the inventor of the Hamilton jet.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Waihi School building has historical significance for its association with JR Orford and the teachers and pupils of Waihi Preparatory School for Boys.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Waihi School building has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of the early teachers of pupils of Waihi School.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Waihi School building has architectural significance as the work of noted Timaru 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) in Timaru, and a large number of Timaru houses. Turnbull went into partnership with Percy Watts Rule in c.1920, after which time Rule was the firm's principal designer. The practice designed the Timaru Boys' High School Memorial Library (1923-24, heritage item # 16), the Temuka Public Library (1926-27, heritage item # 118), 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. The English Domestic Revival style is expressive of both Orford's personal origins and the original residential use of the building, in addition to its accommodation of the first schoolroom.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Waihi School building has technological and craftsmanship value for its timber construction and detailing. Thomas Pringle (1847-1923) was a Scottish-born builder and contractor who spent some time in the United States before emigrating to New Zealand in 1878. He established his Timaru business in 1890 and also built the Customhouse (heritage item # 22) and Rhodes' Buildings in Timaru (heritage item # 31).

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Waihi School building has contextual value as a historic feature within the grounds of Waihi School and for its relationship with the school chapel, which was relocated from Winchester in 1972.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the school post-dates 1900, any potential archaeological values would likely arise from the prior use and development of the land.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Waihi School schoolhouse and residence has overall heritage significance to Winchester and Timaru district as a whole. The 1907 building has historical significance for its association with Joseph Orford and the Waihi School and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of past and present teachers and pupils of the school. The Waihi School building has architectural significance as an English Domestic Revival style building designed by noted Timaru architect JS Turnbull and technological and craftsmanship value for its timber construction and detailing by Thomas Pringle. The Waihi School building has contextual value as a historic feature with the grounds of Waihi School.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Temuka Leader* 21 June 1924, p. 3; 7 August 1924, p. 2.
- *Press* 21 June 1924, p. 17.
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- *Progress* 1 March 1907, p. 180.
- *Timaru Herald* 18 July 1907, p. 7; 12 January 2010 & 26 October 2011 (available online).
- *Lyttelton Times* 9 September 1907, p. 5.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903; available online.
- <https://teara.govt.nz/en/photograph/11485/waihi-school-for-boys>
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- <http://archive.is/wgAK>
- <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/soldier/j-r-orford>
- <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/5u2/upham-charles-hazlitt>
- <https://www.hamiltonjet.com/global/sir-william-hamilton>
- <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlscant/stjohnwaihi.htm>



Extent of setting, limited to the immediate environs of the school building, 12 Harrison Road, Winchester.



Land parcel as a whole with school building marked by red star and chapel marked by yellow star, 12 Harrison Road, Winchester

