

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former St Paul's Presbyterian Church

ADDRESS 856 Cleland Road, Totara Valley

PHOTOGRAPH



(HNZPT)

FORMER DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. No. 77 **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** 1995 / 2
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Pt RS 9044

VALUATION NUMBER 2481007900

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1890

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** W Annand, designer; Messrs Morgan & Travers, stonemasons

STYLE Classical

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with rectangular footprint and gabled roof forms. Entrance porch on northern elevation; main elevation behind the porch has a 'temple front' with pilasters, entablature and pedimented gable end. Narrow arch-headed stained glass windows light the main church space. Circular wreath motif, with inset relief carving of burning bush and church motto, in façade gable end.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Random rubble and ashlar limestone; timber and corrugated iron.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Porch added (H Broadhead, architect, 1925). Conversion to residential use (post-2013).

SETTING

The former St Paul's Presbyterian Church stands on the east side of Cleland Road, opposite its intersection with Hays Road. A small outbuilding (former Sunday school) stands to the east of the former church. The church is visible from the roadway and the extent of setting is the land parcel on which the building is located, partly in view of the potential archaeological values of the site. It is noted that the Heritage NZPT list entry excludes the former Sunday school from the extent of listing.

HISTORY

Limestone quarrying for local use commenced in Totara Valley in the 1870s. Several bridges and a number of buildings were subsequently erected in the locale in the later 19th century. Presbyterian services in the district were first held in local homes and then in the new Totara Valley School (1887). The gift of land for a church by the New Zealand and Australian Land Company was facilitated by CN Orbell, the manager of the Levels estate. 'Pine Hill' owner Dougald Blue served as the chairman of the church building committee. Tenders were called in October and November 1889 and the church was opened on Sunday 5 October 1890 by the Rev Bruce Todd of Geraldine. The church was built to accommodate 120 worshippers. By the turn of the century 40 children were enrolled in the Sunday School at St Paul's. The congregation's hope in 1890 that it would soon be able to erect a porch and vestry came to partial fruition in 1925 when an entrance porch was added to the building. Funds for the porch had been left to the church by local landowner Andrew Cleland (died 1919). The church was part of the Albury-Pleasant Point parish until its closure in 2012. It was sold privately in 2013 and is being converted to residential use.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former St Paul's Presbyterian Church has historical and social significance for its association with the local Presbyterian congregation and the development of Totara Valley.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former St Paul's Presbyterian Church has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of local families who worshipped in the church, led by clergy from Pleasant Point.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former St Paul's Presbyterian Church has architectural significance as a simple hall type building with classical detailing. William Annand (c.1841-1920) was the overseer of the Levels Road Board and he supplied plans for the church free of charge.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former St Paul's Presbyterian Church has technological and craftsmanship significance as a masonry building, constructed from locally quarried limestone taken from the Fraser Bros. estate.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former St Paul's Presbyterian Church has contextual significance as a local landmark that is one of a number of stone buildings and structures throughout the Timaru district. Two scheduled bridges on Cleland Road (heritage item # 85) and Hays Road (heritage item # 78) are near the church and in the wider area there are a number of scheduled farm buildings.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the church pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance relating to the building's construction and use.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former St Paul's Presbyterian Church has overall heritage significance to Totara Valley and Timaru district as a whole. The church has historical and social significance for its association with local Presbyterians and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of past congregations and their clergy. The former St Paul's Presbyterian Church has architectural significance as a classically-detailed hall-type ecclesiastical building and technological and craftsmanship significance for its masonry construction using locally

quarried limestone. The former St Paul's Presbyterian Church has contextual significance as local landmark and in relation to other limestone structures in the locale. The former St Paul's Presbyterian Church has potential archaeological significance in view of its pre-1900 date of construction.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *South Canterbury Times* 10 April 1888, p. 3; 3 September 1888, p. 3; 13 October 1890, p. 3; 24 December 1894, p. 2.
- *Timaru Herald* 9 October 1889, p. 3; 22 October 1889, p. 1; 22 November 1889, p. 1; 4 December 1889, p. 4; 24 July 1890, p. 2; 29 September 1890, p. 2; 1 October 1890, p. 2; 28 May 2013 (available online).
- *Oamaru Mail* 5 April 1897, p. 3.
- *New Zealand Times* 21 February 1896, p. 2.
- *Sun* 31 August 1920, p. 1.
- *Press* 10 September 1932, p. 16.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903; available online.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/1995>



Extent of setting, 856 Cleland Road, Totara Valley.