

**TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM**

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**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** 'Sundrum', former Spencer house

**ADDRESS** 52 Rae Road, Woodbury

**PHOTOGRAPH**



**Former District Plan Item No.** No. 59      **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 2008 / 2

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Lot 2 DP 378873

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2466018700

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1909-10

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** Herbert Hall of Hall and Marchant, architects

**STYLE** English Domestic Revival

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Two-storey house with an irregular L-shaped footprint and gabled and hipped roof forms. Double-hung sash windows, exposed rafters, tall chimneys, tile-roofed sunhoods and porch. Main entrance door has side- and fanlights.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Brick, timber, tile and corrugated steel roofing.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Carport and workroom addition (Gordon Moller, architect; c.2004).

**SETTING**

The house stands at some distance from the roadway within a mature garden setting. Rae Road is to the west, Woodbury Road to the south and the Waihi River borders the property to the north. Various outbuildings are located to the south of the house. The extent of setting is the immediate garden setting of the house, including its outbuildings, rather than the land parcel as a whole.

## **HISTORY**

'Sundrum' was built by retired Royal Irish Rifles army officer Major Archibald Claude Douglas Spencer (1861-1929) and his wife Harriet (nee Acland, 1866-1948) of Mount Peel Station. The couple married in December 1908 and Major Spencer acquired the Woodbury property from D Morrison in the winter of 1909. Major Spencer was a lay reader and vestryman at St Mary's Anglican Church, Geraldine, and a keen fisherman. The couple had no children. In 1916 TE Rodda, the Government Orchard Instructor, gave a lesson in fruit tree pruning in the Spencers' orchard at Woodbury. After Major Spencer's death, 'Sundrum' was sold and became a guest house for about 40 years, after which time it became a private home once more. The present owners are related to Harriet Spencer.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

'Sundrum' has historical significance for its association with Archibald and Harriet Spencer and the country lifestyle they experienced at the property over 20 years. The house also illustrates the historic pattern of ongoing farm ownership and country living by members of the second generation of an early colonial settler family, in this case the Aclands.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

'Sundrum' has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of the families who have resided in, and holidayed at, the dwelling since its construction.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

'Sundrum' has architectural significance as an example of the residential work of Timaru architect Herbert Hall. Timaru architectural partnership Hall and Marchant was also responsible for the Hydro Grand Hotel in Timaru (1912, demolished) and the Carnegie Library in Fairlie (1912-14). Frederick Marchant (1852-1917) was a civil engineer by training and was in partnership with G Laing-Meason in the 1880s and 1890s; he registered as an architect in 1914. Herbert Hall (1884-1940) was born and educated in Christchurch and trained with Fred Barlow and the Luttrell Brothers before establishing himself in Timaru in c.1908 and registering as an architect in 1918. Hall also designed the South Canterbury War Memorial in Timaru (1925, heritage item # 17), St David's Pioneer Memorial Church at Cave (1930) and the Chateau in Tongariro National Park (1928).

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

'Sundrum' has technological and craftsmanship value for its brick construction and timber detailing. The contractors who erected the house are currently unknown.

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

'Sundrum' has contextual value as a historic feature within its mature garden setting and in relation to the contemporary outbuildings on the property. It is noted that a hymn board was gifted to St Thomas's Anglican Church, Woodbury in 1932 in memory of Major Spencer.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

As the house post-dates 1900 any potential archaeological significance its site may have would likely relate to the earlier use and/or development of property.

## **SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

'Sundrum' has overall heritage significance to Woodbury and Timaru district as a whole. The house has historical significance for its association with Archibald and Harriet Spencer and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its former residents and guests.

'Sundrum' has architectural significance as an English Domestic Revival style house designed

by Timaru architect Herbert Hall and technical and craftsmanship value for its brick construction and timber detailing. 'Sundrum' has contextual value as a local historic feature set within a mature garden and complemented by contemporary outbuildings. As 'Sundrum' post-dates 1900 its site may have limited archaeological value.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

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## REFERENCES

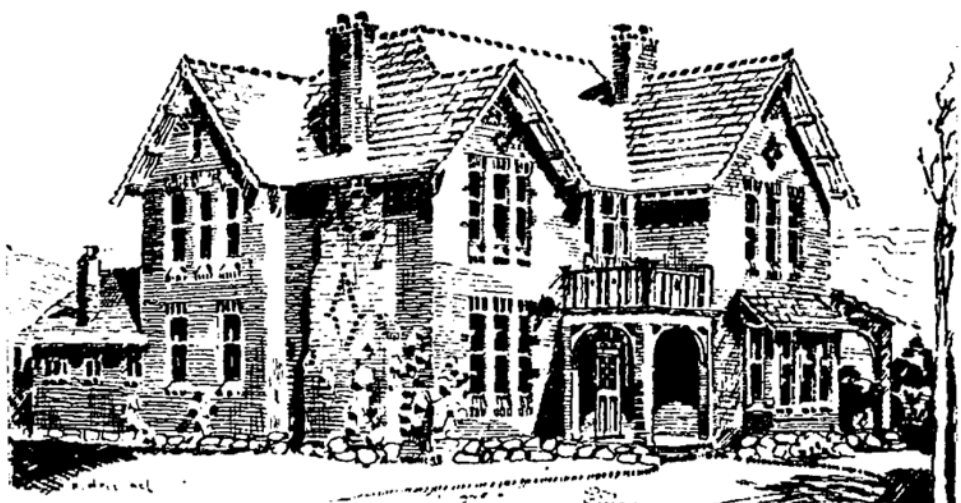
- *Timaru Herald* 15 July 1909, p. 5; 14 July 1916, p. 1; 17 August 1920, p. 10.
- *Press* 25 April 1910, p. 4; 12 May 1911, p. 4; 14 November 1929, p. 15; 18 November 1929, p. 5; 19 November 1929, p. 18; 5 July 1930, p. 15; 2 May 1935, p. 3; 4 January 1936, p. 11; 20 July 1940, p. 16; 30 January 1942, p. 10.
- *Temuka Leader* 5 January 1909, p. 3; 5 June 1909, p. 3; 10 June 1930, p. 2; 20 February 1932, p. 3.
- *Progress* 2 May 1910, p. 21; 1 September 1913, p. 33.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/2008>
- <http://www.thepeerage.com/p3155.htm>



Extent of setting, limited to immediate garden setting with outbuildings, 52 Rae Road, Woodbury.



Land parcel as a whole, with house marked by star.



Residence Woodbury, for Major Spencer

*Progress* 1 September 1913, p. 671.