

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME St Anne's Anglican Church
ADDRESS (398?) Pleasant Valley Road, Pleasant Valley

PHOTOGRAPH



(HNZPT)

FORMER DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. No. 63 **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** 1993 / 2
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Pt RS 3608

VALUATION NUMBER 2466026200

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1863

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Belfield Woollcombe, designer; Messrs Young and Huffey, builders

STYLE Colonial Gothic Revival

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with rectangular footprint and gabled roof forms. Gabled entrance porch on west end, gabled chancel at east end. Lancet arched windows, central roof ventilator and belfry on west gable end. Timber braces support east end of nave. Chancel lit by large lancet arched window with paired lights.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Stone and concrete foundations, cob walls with pit sawn weatherboard cladding, corrugated metal roofing.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Shingle roof covered with corrugated iron (c.1883). Lectern installed (1922). Ethel Moffat memorial window installed (1926). Concrete foundations and timber braces added (1970s).

SETTING

The church is located near the centre of a rectangular land parcel on the east side of Pleasant Valley Road, north of its intersection with Gale Cutting Road. The Pleasant Valley Hall lies to the north. Mature trees and lawn provide the immediate setting, with the churchyard at the rear of the church and entry to the site via ornamental picket gates. The extent of setting is the land parcel as a whole, partly in view of the potential archaeological values of the site.

HISTORY

St Anne's Church at Pleasant Valley was erected in 1863 at a cost of £228 17s. Just under half that sum was provided by a government grant. The land and building timber had been gifted by local farmer William Grace and St Anne's [aka Ann's] was in use by August 1863 and duly consecrated on 4 July 1865. A memorial tablet dedicated to Thomas and Caroline Hardcastle was unveiled on 20 September 1920. The Hardcastles and their seven children had arrived in New Zealand from England aboard the *Maori* in July 1858. They settled in Pleasant Valley in January 1863 and were instrumental in building St Anne's Church. In 1925 Mildred Burdon donated a memorial window to commemorate her friend Ethel Moffat, who was the aunt of stained glass artist Veronica Whall. Burdon also gifted a cottage next door to the church as a holiday home for the sisters of the Community of the Sacred Name. St Anne's is part of the Geraldine parish and services are held on the third Sunday of every month.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

St Anne's Anglican Church has high historical significance as the oldest church in South Canterbury still on its original site. The church is one of the oldest in the Canterbury diocese and is also significant for its association with the early colonial settlement of Pleasant Valley by saw millers and farmers.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

St Anne's Anglican Church has cultural and spiritual significance as a place of Anglican worship. The church also has commemorative value for the memorials housed within it.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

St Anne's Anglican Church has architectural significance as a Colonial Gothic Revival style church designed by Captain Belfield Woollcombe (1816-91), who was the resident magistrate in Timaru. Woollcombe was a member of the vestry of St Mary's Anglican Church in Timaru and St Anne's represents the practise of lay design for some of New Zealand's early colonial churches.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

St Anne's Anglican Church has high technological and craftsmanship significance for its cob and timber construction and the quality of the stained glass windows within it. William Young and John Huffey had earlier built a church at Geraldine, which was later moved to Orari. The cob internal wall lining is an unusual use of the material for a New Zealand church. The 1925 stained glass window behind the altar called *Two Angels* was the first Veronica Whall window to be installed in New Zealand. Whall (1887-1967) was a leading English Arts and Crafts stained glass artist and her windows were later installed in the Community of the Sacred Name Convent Chapel and the Nurses' Memorial Chapel, both in Christchurch. The lectern installed in the church in 1922 was carved by Frederick Gurnsey, one of Canterbury's leading craftsman of the day.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

St Anne's Anglican Church has contextual significance as a historic landmark in Pleasant Valley and for its relationship with the Pleasant Valley Hall, these two buildings representing the settlement history of the district.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the church pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance relating to the structure's construction and use. The churchyard has burial plots dating to the late 1860s.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

St Anne's Anglican Church has high overall heritage significance to Pleasant Valley and Timaru district as a whole. The church has high historical significance for its association with the early colonial settlement of Pleasant Valley and Anglican worship in the area and cultural and spiritual significance as a demonstration of the way of life of local settler families. St Anne's Anglican Church has architectural significance as a Colonial Gothic Revival style church designed by Belfield Woolcombe and high technological and craftsmanship significance for its cob and timber construction and Veronica Whall stained glass window. St Anne's Anglican Church has contextual significance as a historic landmark in Pleasant Valley and its site has potential archaeological significance in view of the church's early 1860s date of construction.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

A

REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 25 May 1866, p. 2; 15 May 1867, p. 2; 16 October 1883, p. 2; 11 June 1914, p. 11.
- *Temuka Leader* 25 November 1893, p. 2; 2 August 1900, p. 2; 5 October 1920, p. 3; 17 January 1922, p. 2; 6 August 1931, p. 3.
- *Press* 12 July 1865, p. 2; 10 August 1891, p. 3; 9 January 1897, p. 9; 23 October 1925, p. 16.
- *Lyttelton Times* 30 July 1859, p. 1; 16 June 1864, p. 4.
- *Star* 22 July 1891, p. 3.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/1993>
- <http://anglicansingeraldine.wixsite.com/anglicansingeraldine/st-annes-pleasant-valley>
- F Ciaran 'Stained Glass in Canterbury New Zealand, 1860-1988' PhD thesis, University of Canterbury, 1992.
- B Harper 'St Anne's Church, Pleasant Valley, Geraldine, 1863-1963' Geraldine, 1963.



Extent of setting, only that parcel on which the church is located, 398? Pleasant Valley Road, Woodbury.