

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

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**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** St Mary's Anglican Church  
**ADDRESS** 77 Talbot Street, Geraldine

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(Dr A McEwan, 9 July 2018)

**FORMER DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.** No. 105      **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 2021 / 2  
(at time of assessment)

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Lot 2 DP 513399

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2475155200

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1882-83

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** Maurice de H Duval, architect; P Clayton, contractor

**STYLE** Early English Gothic Revival

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Single-storey building with L-shaped footprint and gabled roof forms. Church is aligned on an east-west axis; entrance porch at south-west corner. Gabled office wing extends northwards at right angles to the original church. Gabled roof vents, buttresses, string course beneath lancet arched windows. Metal cresting atop main ridge, metal crosses atop gable ends. Circular window above baptistry at west end of church.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Brick, cement plaster, timber and corrugated iron. Coursed 'Summerhill stone' brickwork, concrete and decramastic roof (1958 addition).

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Memorial porch added (Herbert Hall architect, J Miller builder, 1925). Stained glass memorial windows installed (various dates). Office wing added (1958).

**SETTING**

St Mary's Anglican Church stands on the east side of Talbot Street, south of its intersection with Cox Street (SH 79). The church hall is located on the same land parcel to the south of the church; the former vicarage is to the north-west of the church on a separate lot. The former Geraldine Town Hall (heritage item # 108) is on the opposite side of Talbot Street from the church. The Waihi River esplanade borders the property to the east. The extent of setting is the land parcel on which the church is located, partly in view of the potential archaeological values of the site.

## **HISTORY**

The first Anglican church built in Geraldine was erected in c.1864. A new brick masonry church was erected in 1882-83, with the old church becoming the church hall. St Mary's was consecrated on 16 August 1883. When the church was opened it was intended to extend it in the future with the addition of a tower and steeple at the west end and a cross-shaped chancel, vestry and organ chamber at the east end. These plans were not, however, carried out. At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century attendance at services numbered around 100 and Geraldine parish included the churches located at Woodbury, Peel Forest, Mount Peel and Pleasant Valley. In January 1906 the first church was removed from the site (moved to Orari where it burnt down in 1925) and a new hall was erected beside the church in 1907. After World War I a memorial window (*The Risen Christ*) was installed in the entrance porch by the parish in memory of the local men who died in the war. In 1925 this porch became a memorial chapel and baptistry accessed via a new porch. The church has been identified as earthquake-prone and is currently awaiting seismic strengthening.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

St Mary's Anglican Church has historical and social significance for its association with the local Anglican congregation and the role of the church and its members in the development of Geraldine.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

St Mary's Anglican Church has cultural and spiritual significance as a place of Anglican worship and fellowship since 1883. The church also has a commemorative function, embodied in its memorial porch (in memory of Caroline Innes Speechly, 1840-83), stained-glass windows and related plaques.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

St Mary's Anglican Church has architectural significance as a design by Maurice de Harven Duval, a French or Belgian architect who practised in Timaru between c.1877 and 1895. Duval undertook a considerable amount of work for the Catholic church in Canterbury, including St Mary's Church at Pleasant Point (1889), was the architect to the South Canterbury Board of Education, and also designed residential and commercial buildings. The designer of the 1958 English Cottage style addition to the church is not recorded on its foundation stone.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

St Mary's Anglican Church has technological and craftsmanship significance as a brick masonry building, reflecting cotemporary building methods and materials, and for its four stained glass windows, including two by leading English Arts and Crafts stained glass artist Joseph Nuttgens: *The Risen Christ* (1923-24) and *St Mary BV and the Christ-Child* (1926-27). The latter was donated by Maria Williams in honour of her children.

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

St Mary's Anglican Church has contextual significance as a historic feature on Talbot Street. There are a number of other scheduled buildings on Talbot Street, including the former vicarage of St Mary's (heritage item # 104) and the former Geraldine Town Hall (heritage item # 108); together these items contribute to the historic character of the town's principal thoroughfare. The siting of the Geraldine War Memorial, on a plot immediately south of the church property, and the Geraldine Library and Service Centre across the road, also enhance the visibility of St Mary's Anglican Church within the community.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the church pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance relating principally to the Anglican church's use and development of the site since the mid-1860s.

## SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

St Mary's Anglican Church has overall heritage significance to Geraldine and Timaru district as a whole. The church has historical and social significance for its association with local Anglicans and cultural and spiritual significance as a place of worship and commemoration. St Mary's Anglican Church has architectural significance as a Gothic Revival style church designed by Timaru architect Maurice Duval and technological and craftsmanship significance for its brick masonry construction and stained-glass windows. St Mary's Anglican Church has contextual significance as a local landmark and in relation to other historic features in the vicinity. The site of St Mary's Anglican Church has potential archaeological significance in view of its pre-1900 date of construction.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

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## REFERENCES

- *Temuka Leader* 18 February 1893, p. 2; 11 February 1899, p. 3; 16 December 1899, p. 2; 8 May 1900, p. 4; 27 January 1906, p. 2; 21 May 1925, p. 4.
- *Timaru Herald* 15 August 1883, p. 3; 8 September 1883, p. 2.
- *Lyttelton Times* 18 August 1883, p. 6.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903; available online.
- J Spence 'The English Church in Canterbury, New Zealand, 1843-1890' MA thesis, University of New Zealand, 1948. Available online.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/2021>



Extent of setting, 77 Talbot Street, Geraldine. Church is located at the centre of the site.