

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

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**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** Pleasant Point Town Hall & War Memorial

**ADDRESS** 5 Halstead Road, Pleasant Point

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(A McEwan, 12 July 2017)

**DISTRICT PLAN ITEM No.** New                      **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY**      n / a  
(at time of assessment)

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Lot 1 DP 8992 & Lot 2 DP 5

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2482140300A

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1921 (memorial) / 1928 + 1953-54 (town hall)

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** AE Lewis, architect; G Dawson, contractor (hall)  
Samuel McBride, stonemason (war memorial)

**STYLE** Arts & Crafts Bungalow / Classical obelisk

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

One-and-a-half storey building with L-shaped footprint and gabled and hipped roof forms. Principal elevation faces west and is built on the road boundary. Two-storey entrance bay has open bed pediment bearing building name and date and is surmounted by a flagpole; triple casement and fanlight type window above entrance doors accessed via concrete steps. Extension on the north elevation has three bays of varied lengths; two hipped and one gable roof. Casement windows with multi-pane fanlights. Corbelled chimneys and exposed rafters. Veranda on north elevation shelters entry to Plunket Rooms. Obelisk mounted on stepped base and surmounted by a cross. Inscribed names with later name plaques attached.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Brick, concrete, cement plaster, timber and corrugated metal (town hall). Coromandel granite & concrete (memorial).

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Erection of Memorial Lounge and Plunket Rooms extension (1953-54). Relocation of war memorial to Town Hall site (c.1954?). Additional inscriptions on memorial (later 20<sup>th</sup> century).

**SETTING**

The town hall and war memorial stand on the east side of Halstead Road in the block bounded by Harris Street to the north and the Pleasant Point Highway (SH 8) to the south. A playground occupies the corner of the site, north of the memorial, and the town's swimming

pool is on the neighbouring property on Harris Street. An oak tree planted to mark the Year of the Veteran (2006) stands to the south-east of the memorial. The extent of scheduling is limited to the immediate environs of the town hall and war memorial, as shown in the aerial below.

## **HISTORY**

Pleasant Point's World War I memorial was unveiled by local MP TD Burnett, on a site west of the railway station in Afghan Street, on 15 September 1921. Burnett also laid the foundation stone of the Pleasant Point Town Hall on 16 August 1928. The hall, which was erected by the Pleasant Point Town Board, had been completed by mid-December 1928; Burnett once again doing the honours in opening the building. The town hall was designed as a venue for theatrical performances, social events and movie screenings, as well as to house the town's library and board offices. Previously the community had gathered in the Oddfellows' Hall in Maitland Street. As a World War II memorial project, the building was extended northwards to provide a Memorial Lounge and Plunket Rooms. The extension was opened on 4 March 1954, the same year in which the Pleasant Point Town Board was disestablished. Around the same time the World War I memorial was relocated to the Town Hall site. The Pleasant Point sub-branch (est. 1920) of the Temuka Plunket Society met in the Town Hall before their new clinic was built, initially in the room intended for the library, which did not move in to the Town Hall until 1934. The library has been run by an incorporated society since 1968 and the building also continues to fulfil a local government role by hosting meetings of the Pleasant Point Community Board. The Plunket Society maintains a clinic in the building by appointment.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Pleasant Point Town Hall & War Memorial have historical and social significance for their association with the civic and social life of the community since 1921/28. The relocation of the war memorial and the erection of the town swimming pool on the neighbouring site (1967) enhanced the significance of the town hall as the centrepiece of Pleasant Point's civic centre.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Pleasant Point Town Hall & War Memorial have cultural significance as sites of community identity, commemoration and historic continuity. A Roll of Honour is housed in the board room and the Town Hall and World War I memorial are particularly esteemed by the families and descendants of those who died serving in overseas wars.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The Pleasant Point Town Hall has architectural significance as the work of little-known Timaru architect Albert Lewis. Lewis (c.1879-1970) was registered as an architect in 1914, had offices in Hay's Buildings (heritage item # 29), and also designed the Orari Cheese factory (1919). The 1953-54 extension to the building was designed in sympathy with Lewis' original design. The War Memorial has aesthetic value as a conventional obelisk that is typical of the dozens of small-scale memorials erected throughout New Zealand in the 1920s.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The Pleasant Point Town Hall has craftsmanship value for its brick construction and architectural detailing. TS Gillies was the contractor responsible for erecting the 1953-54 Memorial Lounge and Plunket Rooms extension. The Pleasant Point War Memorial has craftsmanship value for its stonework by Timaru stonemason Samuel McBride. McBride also crafted the Wrecks Monument (heritage item # 49), designed and built the Troopers' Memorial (1904, heritage item # 18) and was the contractor for the 1907-9 additions to St Mary's Anglican Church (heritage item # 50), all in Timaru.

## CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Pleasant Point Town Hall & War Memorial have contextual significance as local landmarks and for the contribution they make to the historic character of Pleasant Point's town centre. The building is comparable to the former Geraldine Town Hall (heritage item # 108) in its age, styling and historic uses.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the town hall and war memorial post-date 1900, their site may have limited potential archaeological values.

## SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

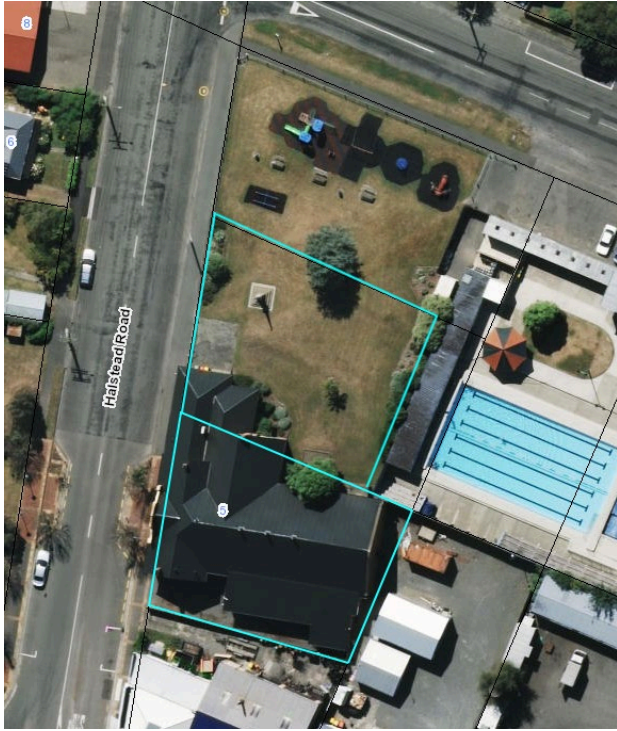
The Pleasant Point Town Hall & War Memorial have overall heritage significance to Pleasant Point and Timaru district as a whole. The building and memorial have historical and social significance for their association with the civic and social life of the community since 1921/28 and cultural significance as sites of commemoration and historic continuity. The Pleasant Point Town Hall has architectural significance as the work of Timaru AE Lewis; the war memorial has aesthetic value as a conventional obelisk crafted by Timaru stonemason Samuel McBride. The Pleasant Point Town Hall & War Memorial have craftsmanship value for their construction and detailing and contextual significance as local landmarks. As the building and memorial post-date 1900 their site may have limited potential archaeological values.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

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## REFERENCES

- *Temuka Leader* 17 September 1921, p. 3; 16 August 1928, p. 2; 26 April 1932, p. 2.
- *Timaru Herald* 7 July 1919, p. 2.
- *Press* 23 July 1928, p. 7; 8 December 1928, p. 25; 11 December 1928, p. 5; 11 January 1929, p. 6; 5 December 1929, p. 19; 24 December 1929, p. 4.
- *Progress* 1 September 1915, p. 20; 1 November 1920, p. 10.
- <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/pleasant-point-war-memorial>
- <https://www.timaru.govt.nz/community/facilities/community-centres-and-halls/pleasant-point-town-hall>
- <http://www.pointhistory.org.nz/chapters/community-services>
- <http://www.pointhistory.org.nz/chapters/health#the-plunket-society>



Extent of scheduling, 5 Halstead Road, Pleasant Point.



View of building before extension undertaken and war memorial relocated, 1951. WA-28068-F, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington.



War memorial and north elevation showing 1953-54 extension. Dr A McEwan, 12 July 2019.



Foundation stone. Dr A McEwan, 12 July 2019.