

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

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**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** former Catholic Presbytery

**ADDRESS** 15 Jollie Street, Geraldine

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(TDC)

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

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Lot 1 DP 461257

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2475165500

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1884

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** M de H Duval, architect

**STYLE** Bay villa

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Single-storey building with rectangular footprint and gabled roof forms. Twin gabled wings abut gabled wing running perpendicular to the roadway. Double-hung sash windows, exposed rafters on enclosed veranda beside gabled entrance porch. Quoins and batted gable ends.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Masonry, timber, corrugated iron roofing.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Trusses on gable ends removed (post-1956). Chimneys removed (post-2004).

**SETTING**

The former Catholic presbytery stands on the south side of Jollie Street, in the block bounded by Hislop Street to the west and Pine Street to the east. The Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception is located to the south of the property, at the intersection of Hislop and Peel Streets. The presbytery's former stable building is still extant at the rear of the house (13 Jollie Street). The extent of setting is the land parcel on which the former vicarage is located, partly in view of the potential archaeological values of the site.

## **HISTORY**

Geraldine's first Catholic church was erected in 1878. A presbytery was built in 1884, the same year in which Geraldine became a separate parish from Temuka and Father Keane was appointed the first resident priest. Previously Keane had been curate to Father Devoy at Timaru; he was appointed to Geraldine in the hope that the climate would be more beneficial to his health. Among the donors to the presbytery building fund was William Postlethwaite, the MP for Geraldine (1882-84). Tenders were called in January 1884 and the presbytery was ready for Father Keane by August of the same year. Today the church at Geraldine is part of the Opihi-St Mary Mackillop Parish, which also includes Temuka and Pleasant Point. The presbytery is now privately owned and has been used in the past as backpacker accommodation. The lot on which the former presbytery and its stable are located was subdivided in c.1986.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Catholic presbytery has historical and social significance for its association with its resident priests and the Catholic congregation they served. The closeness of the presbytery to the church demonstrates both the typical provision of housing for priests and their availability for pastoral care well beyond the offering of church services around the parish.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Catholic presbytery has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its resident priests.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Catholic presbytery has architectural significance as a late-Victorian villa designed 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, was the architect to the South Canterbury Education Board, and also designed residential and commercial buildings. A member of the church, Duval designed Geraldine's first Catholic church, St Joseph's Catholic Church at Temuka (1879-81, heritage item # 115) and St Mary's Catholic Church in Pleasant Point (1888-89). He was also responsible for St Mary's Anglican Church (1882-83, heritage item # 105) in Geraldine. The former presbytery is notable as a modest residential building, in contrast with some of the grander houses Duval designed, such as 'Elloughton Grange' in Timaru (1893, heritage item # 5).

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Catholic presbytery has technological and craftsmanship value for its late-Victorian construction materials and methods. The builder is currently unknown, although it may have been William Young with whom Duval worked on other commissions.

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Catholic presbytery has contextual value as a historic feature on Jollie Street. It is associated with the Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception in Hislop Street, which was erected in 1935-36 to replace the original 1878 church, as well as the former stable building at the rear of the former presbytery.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

As the former presbytery pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance relating to the Catholic church's use and development of the property.

## SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Catholic presbytery at Geraldine has overall heritage significance to Geraldine and Timaru district as a whole. The former presbytery has historical and social significance for its association with Geraldine's Catholic priests through the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and cultural value as a demonstration of their way of life. The former Catholic presbytery has architectural significance as a bay villa designed by notable Timaru architect Maurice Duval and technological and craftsmanship value for its masonry construction and detailing. The former Catholic presbytery has contextual value as a local historic feature and in relation to its former stable and the Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception. The site of the former presbytery has potential archaeological significance in view of its pre-1900 use and development.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

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## REFERENCES

- *Temuka Leader* 29 January 1884, p. 2; 5 February 1884, p. 2; 17 April 1884, p. 2; 19 April 1884, p. 2; 19 July 1884, p. 2; 9 August 1884, p. 2; 23 June 1896, p. 2.
- *South Canterbury Times* 18 November 1884, p. 2.
- *NZ Tablet* 14 January 1925, p. 19.
- *Press* 7 December 1935, p. 6; 25 November 1939, p. 20.
- *Lyttelton Times* 19 January 1884, p. 6; 26 April 1884, p. 3.
- *NZ Herald* 1 May 1908, p. 5.
- S Brosnahan *Thinking about Heaven – a history of Sacred Heart parish, Timaru* Timaru, 2011. Available online.
- [https://lea.do.id.au/Geraldine\\_Catholic\\_History/index.html](https://lea.do.id.au/Geraldine_Catholic_History/index.html)
- <https://archives.chchcatholic.nz/history-of-parishes/south-canterbury/>
- <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlscant/duval.htm>



Extent of setting, 15 Jollie Street, Geraldine.



Detail from 1947 aerial showing church, stable, presbytery and hall (left to right) with interconnecting paths. WA-06391-F, Whites Aviation Collection, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington.