

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

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**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** Woodbury Coronation Hall  
**ADDRESS** 538 Woodbury Road, Woodbury  
**PHOTOGRAPH**



**District Plan Item No.** New      **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** n / a

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** RS 41143

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2466006800

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1911

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** JH Dean, designer; Messrs Pearce & Cooling,  
contractors

**STYLE** Vernacular

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Single-storey building with additive, irregular rectangular footprint and gabled and lean-to roof forms. Louvred vents in ends of principal gable. Double-hung sash and casement type windows. Lean-to porches; later additions on all sides. Two corbelled chimneys.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Timber framing and corrugated metal cladding, timber fenestration, brick chimneys, corrugated iron roofing, concrete block addition.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Additions (1922 + / pre-2004).

**SETTING**

The hall stands on the north side of Woodbury Road to the east of the village centre and in the south-west corner of the Woodbury Domain. The Woodbury War Memorial & Eleanor Howard Tripp Memorial Library are to the west of the hall and domain along Woodbury Road. Woodbury Cemetery is on the adjacent property to the east of the domain. The extent of scheduling is limited to the immediate setting of the building, rather than the land parcel as a whole and notwithstanding the potential archaeological values of the domain.

## **HISTORY**

The settlement of Woodbury was originally known as Waihi Bush. It began as a milling camp in the mid-1860s and later evolved into a small rural service centre. The Woodbury Domain Board was established in 1880 and in late 1911 a Coronation Hall was built on the edge of the domain to mark the coronation of George V in the same year. The hall was funded in part by a subsidy from central government for coronation projects. It was officially opened on 1 February 1912 by FR Flatman, chairman of the hall committee and a member of the Geraldine County Council and the local road board. A Roll of Honour was installed in the hall in 1919, three years before the local war memorial was erected. The hall was extended several times, beginning in 1922, and is still run by a local committee.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Woodbury Coronation Hall has historical and social significance for its association with the civic, social and recreational life of Woodbury and as a reminder of the role played by public halls in rural communities. It is also significant as it embodies the sense of imperial loyalty that gave rise to projects to commemorate the coronation of successive British monarchs in 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century New Zealand.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Woodbury Coronation Hall has cultural significance as a site of community identity and historic continuity since 1911. The hall also has a commemorative function because it houses the settlement's World War I Roll of Honour, which was unveiled on 23 October 1919.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The Woodbury Coronation Hall has architectural value as a vernacular building that built to be fit for purpose and has been added to as required over the years. Joseph H Dean (c.1833-1916), a carpenter and former hotelier, was credited with drawing the plan of the hall when it opened. A feature of the hall's design was the allowance made for the meetings of the Woodbury Morris Tube Club, which was a rifle club whose members used the Morris aiming tube for rifle practice. It was reported at the time of the hall's opening that size and usefulness had been prioritised over ornament in the design and construction of the building.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The Woodbury Coronation Hall has craftsmanship significance as an example of early 20<sup>th</sup> century construction methods and materials. Messrs Pearce & Cooling were local builders who both belonged to the Woodbury Morris Tube Club. The hall was clad in corrugated iron for weathertightness and to minimise maintenance costs. The framing had been cut from trees felled on the domain site.

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Woodbury Coronation Hall has contextual significance as a local historic feature that constitutes the historic and social hub of the community. The hall is visible from the roadway and is surrounded by mature trees and garden plantings.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

As the Woodbury Coronation Hall post-dates 1900, any potential archaeological values its site may have would likely relate to the previous use and development of the property. The domain was established in 1880.

## SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Woodbury Coronation Hall has overall heritage significance to Woodbury and Timaru district as a whole. The building has historical and social significance for its association with the Woodbury community and cultural significance as a site of community identity, commemoration and historic continuity. The Woodbury Coronation Hall has architectural value as a vernacular hall designed for utility by JH Dean and craftsmanship significance for its early 20<sup>th</sup> century timber and iron construction by local builders Messrs Pearce & Cooling. The Woodbury Coronation Hall has contextual significance as a local historic feature; as the building post-dates 1900 its potential archaeological values may be limited.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

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## REFERENCES

- *Temuka Leader* 16 May 1905, p. 4; 11 September 1909, p. 2; 29 June 1911, p. 1; 12 August 1911, p. 1; 12 October 1911, p. 2; 5 December 1911, p. 4; 14 December 1911, p. 2; 30 January 1912, p. 2; 3 February 1912, p. 2; 25 April 1912, p. 1; 23 July 1912, p. 2; 1 November 1919, p. 4.
- *Lyttelton Times* 13 July 1911, p. 10.
- *Press* 1 May 1891, p. 6; 9 October 1922, p. 3.
- *Timaru Herald* 18 September 1917, p. 5; 27 November 1916, p. 5.
- <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlscant/halls.htm>
- <https://www.woodburyhall.co.nz>
- <https://museum.timaru.govt.nz/explore/scroll/profile?id=2053>
- Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District Christchurch, 1903, p. 886; available online.
- [https://www.rifleman.org.uk/index-3.html#The\\_Aiming\\_Tubes](https://www.rifleman.org.uk/index-3.html#The_Aiming_Tubes)
- <http://www.leatherheadrifleclub.org.uk/History.html>



Extent of scheduling, limited to the immediate surrounds of the hall, 538 Woodbury Road, Woodbury.



Site as whole with hall marked by star.