

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

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**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** 'Linwood type' open-air classroom / former  
Clandeboye School Building

**ADDRESS** 2 Kotuku Place, Clandeboye

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(Dr J Wilson, September 2018)

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

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Part RES 4402

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2471016100

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1929

**ARCHITECT / DESIGNER /  
BUILDER** George Penlington, Canterbury Education Board  
architect

**STYLE** 'Linwood type' classroom bungalow

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Single-storey building with butterfly footprint and gabled roof forms. Two staggered classroom wings on a north-south axis are linked by an entrance annex. Grouped multi-paned casement windows. Exposed rafters, bracketed gable ends, classrooms accessed via annex and individual glazed doorways.

**MATERIALS / STRUCTURE**

Timber framing and weatherboard cladding, corrugated iron.

**ADDITIONS / ALTERATIONS**

Unknown, if any.

**SETTING**

The building stands near the south-east boundary of the former school property, which is bounded by Rolleston Road to the south-east and Kotuku Place to the south-west. The large Clandeboye Fonterra dairy factory is directly to the south, on the opposite side of Rolleston Road. The building can be glimpsed from the roadway but is largely obscured by mature trees. The extent of scheduling is limited to the immediate environs of the former school building, rather than the land parcel as a whole.

## **HISTORY**

Before it became the site of the district's only remaining dairy factory, Clandeboye was a typical small rural service centre. Clandeboye School opened in 1900, once the district had been more closely settled by small and medium-sized farms. The original school building, which was relocated along with the teacher's house from Geraldine Flat, was superseded by another on a different site in 1912. This school building burnt down in September 1928. At that time the roll was 60 pupils and classes were held in the repurposed shelter shed and a marquee after the fire. A new school was opened on 30 May 1929 by TE Gunnion, the Mayor of Temuka. (The teacher's house had burnt down five days earlier). The school remained open until the 2004 review of South Canterbury schools saw it merged with Temuka Primary School on the Temuka site at the beginning of 2005. The Clandeboye school building was subsequently taken over by the dairy company Fonterra for use as a training centre.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The 'Linwood type' open-air classroom at the former Clandeboye School has historical and social significance for its association with the Clandeboye community, past teachers and pupils of the school and, more generally, the development of the open-air classroom and the influential Open-Air Schools' League (OASL) founded by Professor James Shelley and others in Christchurch in 1924. The Clandeboye school building is one of relatively few survivors of the many small country school buildings once found throughout Timaru district. Apart from the school few other traces, besides the 1915 hall and the dairy factory, remain of this rural village.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The 'Linwood type' open-air classroom at the former Clandeboye School has cultural value as a demonstration of inter-war educational philosophy and practice. The design was intended to create a healthy and constructive learning environment for children at a time when older educational buildings and practices were being challenged as outdated and unhygienic.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The 'Linwood type' open-air classroom at the former Clandeboye School has architectural significance as an open-air classroom designed by Canterbury Education Board architect George Penlington. Penlington (1865-1932) was born and educated in Akaroa before training in the Public Works Department and joining the Canterbury Education Board as a draughtsman in 1900. In 1904 he was appointed architect, remaining in that position until his retirement in 1931. Penlington is best known for his design of the Christchurch Teachers' College (Peterborough Centre, 1924-30) and Hagley High School (1924). In the later 1920s Penlington designed buildings in timber, largely for financial reasons, although the 1931 Hawkes' Bay earthquake was to validate the structural wisdom in doing so. A classroom erected at Temuka in 1926 was Penlington's response to the OASL's open-air classroom, first introduced at Fendalton Primary School in 1924. The 'Temuka type' was then replicated at other Canterbury schools during a period when the two open-air classroom models (Fendalton & Temuka) were pitted against each other in regional discussions about modern school design. The OASL criticised the Temuka type for 'watering down' the Fendalton model, whereas supporters considered the Temuka type to be more flexible and workable in its design. A modification to the 'Temuka type' was made at Linwood in 1929 and this was the model adopted at Clandeboye and Winchester (1930).

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The 'Linwood type' open-air classroom at the former Clandeboye School has craftsmanship value for the quality of its timber construction and detailing. The builder is currently unknown.

## CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The 'Linwood type' open-air classroom at the former Clandeboye School has contextual significance as a local historic feature within the grounds of the former primary school. It is also significant for its relationship to other Canterbury classroom buildings that adopted the 'Temuka/Linwood type', which was pioneered in South Canterbury.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the school building post-dates 1900, its site may have limited potential archaeological values.

## SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The 'Linwood type' open-air classroom at the former Clandeboye School has overall significance to Clandeboye and Timaru district as a whole. The building has historical and social significance for its association with past teachers and pupils of the school and the development of the open-air classroom and cultural value as a demonstration of the educational philosophy that led to the development of the open-air classroom type in the later 1920s. The former Clandeboye School building has architectural significance for its design by George Penlington and craftsmanship value for its timber construction and detailing. The former Clandeboye School building has contextual significance as a local historic feature that represents the historic development of the settlement and in relation to other open-air school buildings in Canterbury. As the former school building post-dates 1900 its site may have limited potential archaeological values.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

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## REFERENCES

- *Temuka Leader* 7 May 1912, p. 3; 14 June 1928, p. 1; 9 August 1928, p. 2; 6 September 1928, p. 3; 8 September 1928, p. 3; 8 December 1928, p. 3.
- *Press* 29 January 1929, p. 7; 31 May 1929, p. 4; 15 June 1929, p. 4; 17 April 1930, p. 8; 23 August 1930, p. 14.
- *Evening Post* 27 May 1929, p. 13.
- *South Canterbury Times* 9 August 1899, p. 3.
- *Otago Witness* 25 September 1912, p. 47.
- Archives New Zealand.
- MN Williams 'Building Yesterday's Schools: An Analysis of Educational Architectural Design as Practised by the Building Department of the Canterbury Education Board from 1916-1989' University of Canterbury, Christchurch, 2014.
- <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/final-decision-south-canterbury-schools>
- [https://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-nz/QWA\\_01717\\_2007/2b28f179822d00052eca86c48e25b5bec7e3b3e0](https://www.parliament.nz/resource/en-nz/QWA_01717_2007/2b28f179822d00052eca86c48e25b5bec7e3b3e0)
- <http://www.stuff.co.nz/timaru-herald/news/297674/Watlington-school-site-still-not-sold>



Extent of scheduling, limited to immediate setting of the building, 2 Kotuku Place, Clandeboye.



Land parcel as a whole.