

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

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**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** former St John the Evangelist Anglican Church / Waihi School Chapel

**ADDRESS** Waihi School, 12 Harrison Road, Winchester

**PHOTOGRAPH**



**Former District Plan Item No.** No. 68      **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 3164 / 2

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Lot 1 DP 46763

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2466042400

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1878/1889

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** Thomas Cane, architect; Messrs Clinch & Lloyd (1878) & Mr Young (1889), builders

**STYLE** Colonial Gothic Revival

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Single-storey building with rectangular footprint and gabled roof forms. Arcaded entrance porch on north elevation, gabled chancel at east end. Lean-to vestry on south side of chancel. Paired lancet arched windows with cusped headers light the nave. Stained glass window lighting the chancel has three cusped lancet lights beneath a sexfoil. Two paired lancets with trefoils at west end. Ventilator on ridgeline. Stringcourse below windows.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Timber framing and weatherboard cladding, corrugated iron roofing.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Addition of porch, chancel, vestry and belfry (1889). Belfry blown off (date unknown). Whall window installed (1930). Chapel relocated to present site (1972).

**SETTING**

The chapel is located on the grounds of Waihi School on the west side of the Temuka-Orari Highway (SH1), north of its intersection with Harrison Road. The principal buildings of Waihi School are located to the north-west. Hedging and mature trees largely screen the chapel from the road. The extent of setting is the immediate environs of the chapel, rather than the land parcel as a whole.

## **HISTORY**

St John the Evangelist Anglican Church was erected in Winchester in 1878. Only the nave was built at first, the modest church being consecrated by Bishop Harper on 25 March 1879. The church was reconsecrated, after it had been extended in 1889, by Archbishop Julius on 7 June 1890. After the Anglican and Presbyterian congregations were combined on the Presbyterian site in Winchester, St John's was moved to the grounds of Waihi School in June 1972. The building was gifted by the Anglican parish to the school, which had worshipped at St John's since its foundation, and has served as the school chapel ever since. Waihi School was established in 1907 and its founder Joseph Orford (1862-1924) had close links to St John's in Winchester, sometimes conducting services when the Temuka vicar was not available. The stained glass installed in the chancel of the church in 1930 was donated by the Waihi Old Boys' Association in Orford's memory.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Waihi School Chapel has historical significance for its association with the Anglican congregation of Winchester and the teachers and pupils of Waihi Preparatory School for Boys.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Waihi School Chapel has cultural and spiritual significance as a place of Anglican worship and religious education. The church also has commemorative value as a memorial to JR Orford, the founder of Waihi School.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The Waihi School Chapel has architectural significance as the work of notable Canterbury architect, Thomas Cane. Cane (1830-1905) was appointed provincial architect in 1874 and, following the abolition of the provincial government system two years later, was subsequently appointed architect to the Canterbury Education Board. Cane designed the Timeball Station in Lyttelton (1875) and the first Christchurch Girls' High School building (Christchurch Arts Centre, 1876), but undertook few architectural commissions after he was declared bankrupt in 1885. He combined his work as Education Board architect with private practice. Cane's original plans for the church included the chancel, porch, vestry and belfry, which were added to the nave in 1889.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The Waihi School Chapel has technological value for its colonial timber construction and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its memorial stained glass window. Clinch and Lloyd were Temuka builders and contractors. The 1930 chancel window *The Christ-Child Blessing in Majesty with Emblems of Faith and Hope* is the work of Veronica Whall (1887-1967), a leading English Arts and Crafts stained glass artist. Her windows are also installed in St Anne's Anglican Church at Pleasant Valley (heritage item # 63), the Community of the Sacred Name Convent Chapel and the Nurses' Memorial Chapel, both in Christchurch.

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Waihi School Chapel has contextual value as a historic feature within the grounds of Waihi School and for its relationship with the original school building, near which it has stood since 1972.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

As both the school and the chapel, on this site, post-date 1900, any potential archaeological values would likely arise from the prior use and development of the land.

## **SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The former St John the Evangelist Anglican Church / Waihi School Chapel has overall heritage significance to Winchester and Timaru district as a whole. The chapel has historical significance for its association with Anglican worship in Winchester and the Waihi School and cultural and spiritual significance as a demonstration of the way of life of local settler families and the school community. The Waihi School Chapel has architectural significance as a Colonial Gothic Revival style church designed by Thomas Cane and craftsmanship significance for its Veronica Whall stained glass window. The Waihi School Chapel has contextual value as a historic feature with the grounds of Waihi School.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

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## REFERENCES

- *South Canterbury Times* 12 July 1889, p. 2.
- *Temuka Leader* 5 March 1881, p. 1; 29 June 1889, p. 3; 9 July 1889, p. 2; 27 October 1894, p. 2.
- *Press* 13 March 1878, p. 3.
- *Lyttelton Times* 21 March 1878, p. 3.
- *Globe* 28 March 1879, p. 4.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/3164>
- F Ciaran 'Stained Glass in Canterbury New Zealand, 1860-1988' PhD thesis, University of Canterbury, 1992.
- <http://archive.is/wgAK>



Extent of setting, limited to the immediate environs of the chapel, 12 Harrison Road, Winchester.



Land parcel as a whole with chapel marked by star, 12 Harrison Road, Winchester.