

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former Primitive Methodist Centenary Memorial Church / Gospel Chapel

ADDRESS 146 Talbot Street, Geraldine

PHOTOGRAPH



(Dr J Wilson, September 2018)

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

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Pt Lot 14A DP 33 & Pt Lot 7 DP 33

VALUATION NUMBER 2475128200

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1908

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** WA Sherratt & Co, contractors

STYLE Gothic Revival

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with rectangular footprint and gabled roof forms. Gabled porch and vestry, lancet-arched door and window openings. Terracotta terminal atop gable end of porch. Perpendicular Gothic Revival tracery in porch window, English Domestic revival style battened gable ends, plain bargeboards. Bi-colour roofing tiles.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber, concrete, asbestos roof tiles.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Belltower atop west gable end removed; picket fence replaced by solid masonry boundary wall (date unknown).

SETTING

The church stands on the east side of Talbot Street, between Huffey Street in the north and St Andrew Street in the south. A pair of former immigrants' cottages and 'Balmoral Cottage' (heritage item # 110) are located closer to the Huffey Street intersection. The extent of setting encompasses the two land parcels on which the church is located, partly in view of the potential archaeological values of the site. The boundary wall along the road frontage is included in the setting.

HISTORY

In September 1907 the decision was made to erect a new Centenary Memorial church by Geraldine's Primitive Methodist congregation; 1807 having been the establishment year for this branch of Methodism. The four foundation stones of the church were laid on 6 August 1908. The new church was opened three months later, one of the services held on November 15 involving the unveiling of three memorial tablets. The original 1875 church (demolished mid-2010s), which was moved to the rear of the property to make way for the new building, then became a Sunday School and the meeting place of local members of the Plymouth Brethren church. The union of all Methodist groups to create the Methodist Church of New Zealand occurred in 1913, thereafter the Talbot Street church hosted Geraldine's united congregation. In 1977 the town's Presbyterian and Methodist churches merged and worship was held in St Andrew's Co-operating Church. The union church was dissolved in 2009 and the Methodist church consequently closed. The Christian Brethren Church of New Zealand now worships in the Talbot Street church, which has been renamed the Gospel Chapel.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Primitive Methodist Centenary Memorial Church has historical and social significance for its association with the local Methodist congregation and the role of the church and its members in the development of Geraldine. Both the Sherratt and Huffey families were closely involved in the life of the church and their names are also to be found in conjunction with some of the historic cottages near the church on Talbot Street.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Primitive Methodist Centenary Memorial Church has cultural and spiritual significance as a place of worship and fellowship since 1908. The church also has a commemorative function pertaining to the centenary of Primitive Methodism.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Primitive Methodist Centenary Memorial Church has architectural significance as an Edwardian Gothic Revival style church that demonstrates the enduring appeal of the Gothic style for Protestant churches in to the 20th century as well as the emerging influence of contemporary residential architectural styles in its gable end detailing. The designer was probably William Sherratt (see below).

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Primitive Methodist Centenary Memorial Church has technological and craftsmanship value for its Edwardian timber construction and detailing. The builder, and presumed designer, was William Sherratt (1870-1953), the son of Amos Sherratt, who had commenced contracting at Lyttelton upon his arrival in New Zealand in 1863. Amos Sherratt settled in Geraldine in 1879 and in c.1884 he established the timber, coal and firewood company WA Sherratt & Co. The firm was continued by William after his father's death in 1900. The Calmon's asbestos 'slate' roof was laid by Messrs Hepworth, Ross & Co. of Christchurch.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Primitive Methodist Centenary Memorial Church has contextual significance as a historic feature on Talbot Street. There are a number of other heritage buildings on the southerly portion of Talbot Street, including the former immigrants' cottage (mid-1870s), 'Balmoral Cottage' (c.1885?, heritage item # 110), and the former Elliott cottage and shop (c.1876? / c.1897, heritage items # 111 & 111A). The church stands out within its immediate light industrial setting.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although the church post-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance relating to the use and development of the property by the Primitive Methodist church since the mid-1870s.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Primitive Methodist Centenary Memorial Church has overall heritage significance to Geraldine and Timaru district as a whole. The church has historical and social significance for its association with local Methodists and cultural and spiritual significance as a place of worship and commemoration. The former Primitive Methodist Centenary Memorial Church has architectural significance as an Edwardian Gothic Revival style church and technological and craftsmanship value for its timber construction and detailing by a local contractor. The former Primitive Methodist Centenary Memorial Church has contextual significance as a local historic feature and in relation to several heritage buildings in the vicinity. The site of the church has potential archaeological significance in view of its pre-1900 development.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Temuka Leader* 28 October 1893, p. 3; 7 July 1900, p. 2; 10 September 1907, p. 4; 21 July 1908, p. 3; 1 August 1908, p. 2; 8 August 1908, p. 1; 3 September 1908, p. 1; 17 November 1908 p. 2.
- *Timaru Herald* 6 September 1875, p. 2; 24 September 1875, p. 7; 10 October 1908, p. 4; 24 October 1908, p. 4; 21 August 1917, p. 11.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903; available online.
- http://www.methodist.org.nz/touchstone/lead_articles/2009/march_2009/parish_dissolves_cv_agreement



Extent of setting, including street front boundary wall, 146 Talbot Street, Geraldine.



Postcard of the Geraldine Primitive Methodist Church and Sunday School. PS.002950, Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington.