

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former Wai-Iti / Gleniti School Building

ADDRESS 20 Gleniti Road, Gleniti, Timaru

PHOTOGRAPH



(A McEwan, July 2017)

FORMER DISTRICT PLAN ITEM No. New **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** n/a

LEGAL DESCRIPTION RS 40849

VALUATION NUMBER 2503328600B

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1879

ARCHITECT / DESIGNER / BUILDER Maurice de H Duval, architect; RD Sibly, contractor

STYLE Victorian educational vernacular

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with irregular footprint and gabled roof forms. Random rubble masonry walls with dressed quoins and window surrounds. Large, multi-pane casement windows on façade. Two-pane, double-hung sash windows topped by label moulds on side elevations. Quatrefoil motif in gable ends. Cross-gable on rear, south-facing elevation. Three memorial plaques mounted within recessed cement-rendered panel on the façade. Weatherboard extensions to the rear, with entrance porch on west side.

MATERIALS / STRUCTURE

Bluestone and limestone, timber, corrugated metal. Marble memorial tablets.

ADDITIONS / ALTERATIONS

William Mathews memorial installed (1902); World War I memorial plaque installed (1919). Lean-to timber extensions to rear and possible remodelling of north-facing windows (c.1935?). Addition of WWII memorial tablet (date unknown).

SETTING

The former school building is set back from the roadway on a large plot situated on the south side of Gleniti Road; the property is bounded by Claremont Road to the south and is north-west of the intersection with Claremont and Wai-Iti Roads. The extent of scheduling includes the former Gleniti Institute Public Library (heritage item #7) and the immediate setting of both buildings, rather than the parcel as a whole, which includes the Gleniti Domain along the western boundary of the school site.

HISTORY

The Wai-Iti School committee met for the first time at TW Fyfe's house in January 1879. It was resolved at that meeting to request the Education Board build the new school in stone; perhaps local quarryman David Fyfe, who was a member of the committee, influenced that decision. Tenders were called for a school and school master's house by the South Canterbury Education Board architect in the same month. The school opened in late July 1879 with a roll of over 60 and Mr Walker appointed as the first schoolmaster. In December 1902 Lady Ranfurly, the wife of the Governor of New Zealand, unveiled a memorial at the school to William Matthews, who was drowned while serving in the South African War in September 1901. The settlement's World War I memorial was unveiled at the school on 19 December 1919. With a growing roll it was decided to relocate the school in the late 1960s; the new school opened in 1975. The former school site was then transferred to the Timaru District Council and the South Canterbury Arts Society leased the former school and library buildings for their use. The former school continues to be used by the society.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Wai-Iti / Gleniti School building has high historical and social significance for its association with the Gleniti community and past teachers and pupils of the school. The building represents the historic independence of Wai-Iti, renamed Gleniti in the 1880s, from Timaru and it is also significant for its use by the community for almost 140 years.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Wai-Iti / Gleniti School building has cultural significance as a demonstration of the way of life of a rural community in the later 19th century whose members worked together to provide for their children's educational needs. The three commemorative plaques mounted on the building, commemorating local people who served in the South African War, and World War I and II, enhance the cultural significance of the building.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Wai-Iti / Gleniti School building has architectural and aesthetic significance for its design 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, including St Mary's Church at Pleasant Point (1889), was the architect to the South Canterbury Board of Education, and also designed residential and commercial buildings.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Wai-Iti / Gleniti School building has craftsmanship significance for the quality of its masonry construction and use of locally quarried stone. The building's stone construction is especially notable as a departure from the norm, of timber buildings, at the request of the local community. The memorial plaque for William Matthews was designed and made by Samuel McBride, chairman of the Gleniti School committee who was also a monumental mason.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Wai-Iti / Gleniti School building has contextual significance as a local landmark and in conjunction with the former Gleniti Institute Public Library.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the former school building pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Wai-Iti / Gleniti School building has high overall significance to Gleniti and Timaru district as a whole. The building has high historical and social significance for its association with the past teachers and pupils of the school and the efforts of local people to provide for facilities for the education of their children. The former Wai-Iti / Gleniti School building has cultural significance as a demonstration of the way of life of a rural community in the late 19th century and architectural and aesthetic significance for its design by Maurice Duval. The former Wai-Iti / Gleniti School building has craftsmanship significance for its masonry construction and detailing and contextual significance as a local landmark and in relation to the former Gleniti Institute Public Library. As the building pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

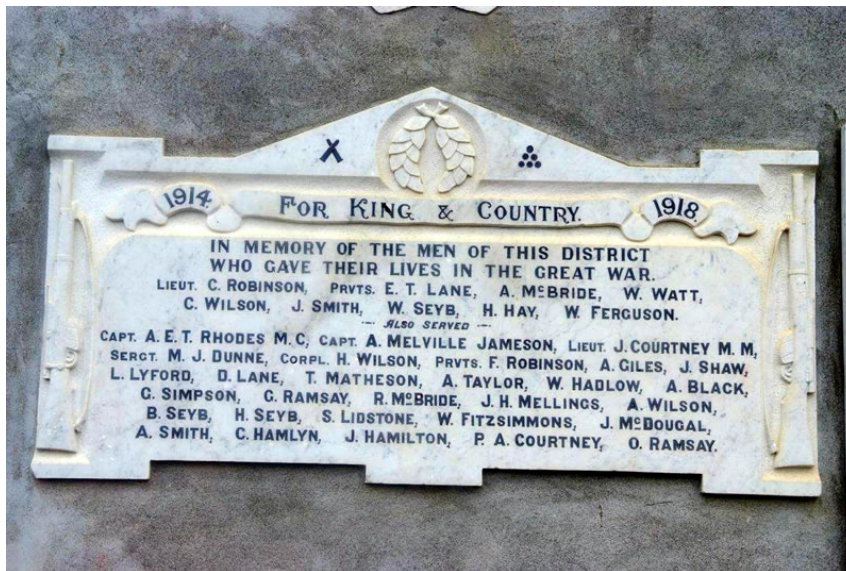
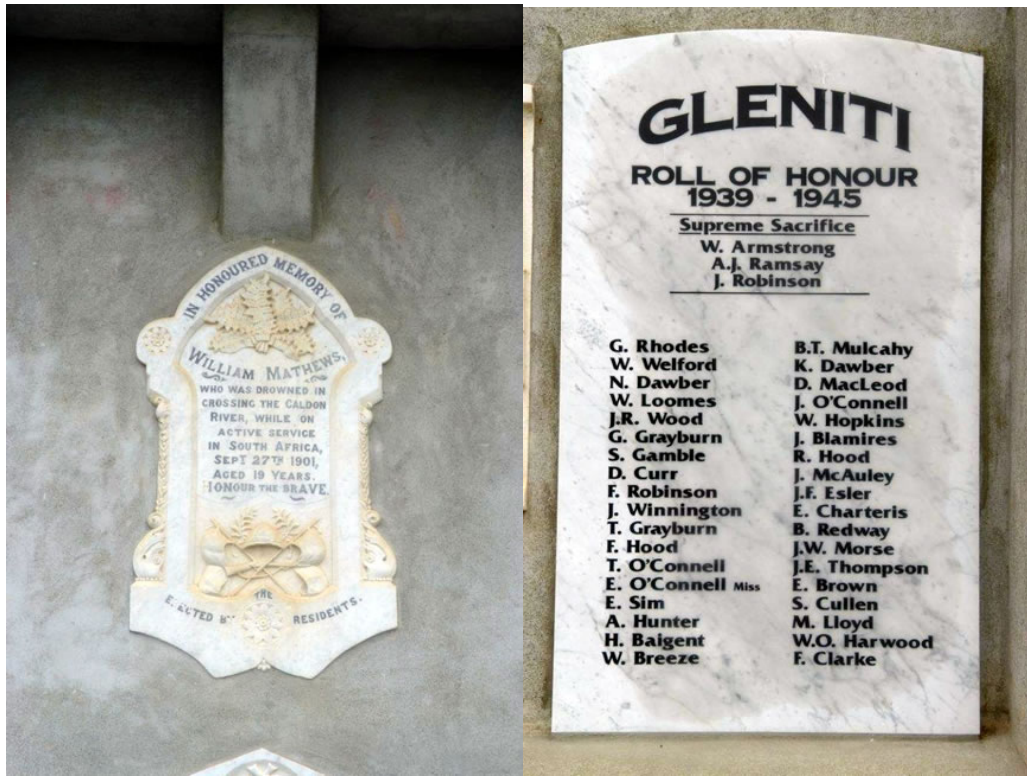
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Extent of scheduling, 20 Gleniti Road, Gleniti, Timaru.



Memorial tablets, former Wai-Iti / Gleniti School building.