

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME Clerical Vestry and Sexton's Room
ADDRESS Temuka Cemetery, 2 Murray Street, Temuka
PHOTOGRAPH



(HNZPT)

FORMER DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. No. 114 **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** 2037 / 2
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION R 857

VALUATION NUMBER 2478051700

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1892-93

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Daniel West, architect

STYLE Italianate

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Small, single-storey building with hexagonal footprint and tiered hip roof. Rusticated weatherboards with quoins, bracketed eaves, wrought iron finial. Panelled door flanked by narrow sash windows.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber, corrugated iron.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Unknown, if any.

SETTING

The vestry building stands near the entrance gates to Temuka Cemetery on the north side of Milford Clandeboye Road, east of its intersection with Murray Street. A portion of the cemetery is located on Part RES 2558, west of RES 857. The Taumatakahu Stream borders the site to the north. 'Green Hayes', the former Hayhurst house (heritage item # 90), is located further to the west of the cemetery along Milford Clandeboye Road. The extent of scheduling is the land parcel as a whole in view of the archaeological and cultural values of the site. It is noted that the Heritage NZPT extent of list entry is restricted to the footprint of the building.

HISTORY

Temuka Cemetery was set aside in 1868, an earlier burial ground closer to the town centre having proved unsuitable. The cemetery's early operations were overseen by the Temuka (later Arowhenua) Cemetery Board. The board called tenders for a cottage to be erected on the site in 1886. In October of the following year the board decided to obtain plans for a 'small building containing one room for the accommodation of the clergy' (*Temuka Leader* 18 October 1887, p. 2). It appears, however, that the board did not act in this matter until November 1892, when Timaru architect Daniel West called tenders for a 'room' at Temuka Cemetery. The building was also used to house the sexton's maps and burial records. At some time between 1983 and 2003 the quoins on the building were painted a contrasting colour from the walls.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The vestry has historical and social significance for its association with the Temuka Cemetery and the way in which it functioned in the late 19th and 20th centuries.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The vestry has cultural significance as a demonstration of the way of life of the people of Temuka who buried their family and friends in the cemetery and were assisted by clergy and the cemetery's sexton.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The vestry has architectural significance as an Italianate style building designed by Timaru architect Daniel West. West (c.1828-1910) was a carpenter turned architect who was in partnership with Robert Barber from 1881, if not earlier, until 1886. West designed a wide range of building types for private clients and also served as architect to the South Canterbury Education Board. Messrs West and Barber designed the Italianate style 'Green Hayes' homestead for John Hayhurst in 1881 (heritage item # 90).

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The vestry has craftsmanship value for the quality of its timber construction and detailing.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The vestry has contextual significance as a notable historic feature within Temuka Cemetery.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the vestry, and the cemetery in which it is located, pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The vestry has overall significance to Temuka and Timaru district as a whole. The building has historical and social significance for its association with the Temuka Cemetery and cultural significance as a demonstration of the way of life of the people of Temuka. The vestry has architectural significance for its Italianate design by Timaru architect Daniel West and craftsmanship value for its timber construction and detailing. The vestry has contextual significance as a notable historic feature within the cemetery grounds. As the cemetery and the building pre-date 1900 the vestry's site has potential archaeological significance.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

B

REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 15 December 1886, p. 2; 23 February 1910, p. 7.
- *Temuka Leader* 18 October 1887, p. 2; 5 November 1892, p. 2; 21 February 1931, p. 2; 20 June 1931, p. 2.
- *South Canterbury Times* 5 October 1887, p. 3; 5 June 1888, p. 3.
- *Lyttelton Times* 16 September 1887, p. 3.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/2037>



Extent of scheduling, vestry beneath star, 2 Murray Street, Temuka.



Vestry and entrance gates.