

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former St John's Presbyterian Church

ADDRESS 10 Manse Road, Pleasant Point

PHOTOGRAPH



(Dr A McEwan, 12 July 2018)

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

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Lot 2 DP 501944

VALUATION NUMBER 2482150201

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1911-12

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** TC Mullions, architect; Messrs Kennedy & Meechen,
contractors

STYLE Gothic Revival

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single storey-building with rectangular footprint and gabled roof forms. Rough-hewn stone blocks with ashlar facings. Lancet-arched windows, buttresses, bell turret over main entrance. Triple lancet in west end; quatrefoil beneath gable end at east end. East elevation has lean-to roof accommodating vestry and choristers' room.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Limestone, timber, Marseilles tiles.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Interior alterations; including installation of memorial windows (late 1950s and 1969). Rev N Oakley memorial belfry erected (Robert Oakley, architect; 1974). Memorial plaques removed (c.2016).

SETTING

The building stands close to the road boundary on the west side of Manse Road, south of its intersection with SH 8 Main Road. The church manse (1941) and hall (1954) on adjacent properties are part of the historic Presbyterian precinct that is situated on an elevated site overlooking the town centre. The extent of scheduling is the land parcel on which the former church is located.

HISTORY

The first Presbyterian church in Pleasant Point was erected in 1875. Four years later the settlement separated from Temuka parish with oversight of Washdyke, the Totara Valley and Cave. A manse built on Manse Road in 1881 was enlarged in 1897 and then superseded by a new house overlooking the Main Road in 1941. The foundation stone of a new church was laid on 19 October 1911. The church was finished by December 1912 and officially opened on 9 March 1913 by the Rev John Mackenzie of Christchurch. Both the building stone and the excavation work for the new church had been gifted to the trustees. A memorial tablet to the Rev George Barclay (died 1908), the 'founder of the Presbyterian Church in South Canterbury' (*Temuka Leader* 11 March 1913, p. 2), was unveiled at the time of the church's opening. The first church survived until it was demolished at the same time as a new church hall was built beside the manse (1954). St John's was closed in early 2012, due to its earthquake-prone status, and services have been held in the church hall since that time. The former church was offered for sale in 2016, the memorial plaques having been removed and put in to storage.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former St John's Presbyterian Church has historical and social significance for its association with the local Presbyterian community and, more generally, the early 20th century development of Pleasant and of the Presbyterian church in South Canterbury.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former St John's Presbyterian Church has cultural value as a former place of Christian worship and fellowship. Stained glass windows in the church were installed to commemorate those killed in World War II and the 90th anniversary of the parish.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former St John's Presbyterian Church has architectural significance as a Gothic Revival style church designed by Thomas Coulthard Mullions (1878-1957). Mullions practiced architecture in Timaru between 1904 and 1915; occupying rooms in the Hay's Buildings, which he designed, from the time they were completed (heritage item # 29, 1907-8). He designed and built his own home at 8 Park Lane, designed Stafford Chambers (heritage item # 24, 1908) and oversaw the construction of 'The Croft' (former Orbell house) at 12 Park Lane (1908, heritage item # 8). Mullions later practised in Auckland where he patented a cavity concrete block in 1919. Notice that he had been commissioned to design the church at Pleasant Point was published in *Progress* in May 1910. Tenders called by Mullions in June 1911 noted that the church was to be built of stone to a modified plan, the delay caused by the initial tenders being too expensive for the parish.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former St John's Presbyterian Church has technological and craftsmanship significance for its limestone masonry construction and detailing. The stone for St John's was locally sourced from Alexander Sutherland's property. A Kennedy, a Timaru contractor, built the Oxford Buildings in Timaru (heritage item # 47, 1924-25) and the Temuka Library (heritage item # 118, 1926-27). Stained glass windows in the church are attributed to Bradley Brothers of Christchurch (*St George and the Defeated Dragon*, 1958) and Miller Studios in Dunedin (*The Sower*, 1969).

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former St John's Presbyterian Church has contextual significance as a historic landmark in Pleasant Point. It is associated with the past and present manses, and the church hall, as well as the Sutherlands' farm from whence the stone was quarried (see 'Baile-Chnuick' / former Sutherlands' homestead, heritage item # 69, 1875).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the building post-dates 1900, any potential archaeological values its site may have would likely relate to any prior use and development of the property. The plot was purchased by the church property trustees in 1909 but was immediately adjacent to the original church site.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former St John's Presbyterian Church has overall heritage significance to Pleasant Point and Timaru district as a whole. The building has historical and social significance for its association with the Presbyterian community of Pleasant Point and cultural value as a former place of Christian worship and fellowship. The former St John's Presbyterian Church has architectural significance as the work of noted Timaru architect TC Mullions and technological and craftsmanship significance for its stone masonry construction and detailing. The former St John's Presbyterian Church has contextual significance as a local landmark and for its place within the Presbyterian precinct; its site may have limited potential archaeological value in view of the building's post-1900 date of construction.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

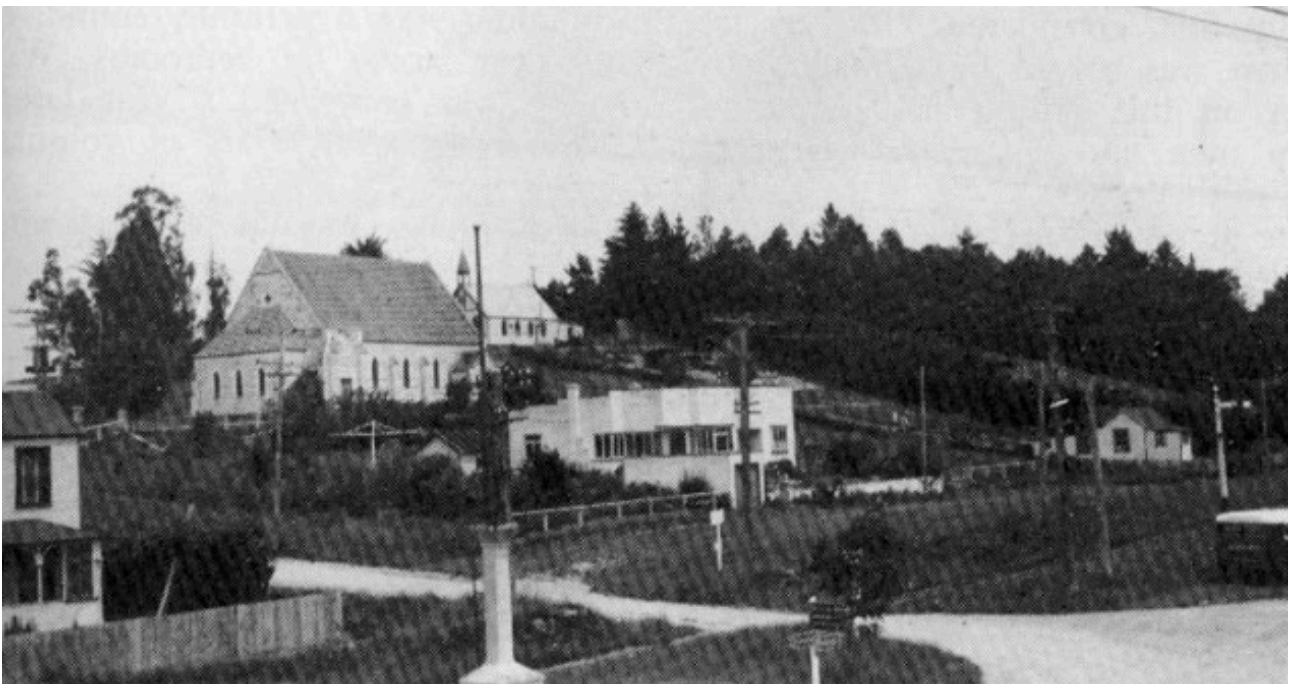
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REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 24 August 1909, p. 6; 6 June 1911, p. 1; 27 September 1911, p. 2; 11 March 1913, p. 9; 15 March 1913, p. 5; 12 March 2012, available online.
- *Temuka Leader* 21 October 1911, p. 2; 4 April 1912, p. 3; 3 December 1912, p. 4; 11 March 1913, p. 2.
- *Progress* 2 May 1910, p. 21.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand - Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903 (available online).
- <http://www.pointhistory.org.nz/chapters/religion#the-presbyterian-church>
- F Ciaran 'Stained Glass in Canterbury New Zealand, 1860-1988' PhD thesis, University of Canterbury, 1992.
- https://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlscant/St_John_Pleasant_Point.htm
- <http://web.archive.org/web/20160826125233/http://burdett.co.nz/wiki/pmwiki.php?n=PPU.1710-ManseRoadPleasantPoint>



Extent of setting, former St John's Presbyterian Church, 10 Manse Road, Pleasant Point. Church hall and manse are immediately to the north.



View of Presbyterian precinct with first church set back behind the current one. Pleasant Point History web site.