

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former Kakahu Bush School / Kakahu District Hall

ADDRESS 1964 Winchester Hanging Rock Road, Kakahu

PHOTOGRAPH



(HNZPT)

FORMER DISTRICT PLAN ITEM No. No.67 **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 1984 / 2
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Pt RS 25446 [also Lot 1 DP 57217]

VALUATION NUMBER 2467023701 [also 2467023601]

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1884

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Messrs West & Barber, Education Board architects

STYLE Educational vernacular

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with irregular rectangular footprint and hipped and lean-to roof forms. Multi-pane double hung sash windows. External chimneybreast with corbelled top.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber framing and weatherboard cladding, corrugated iron roof.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Extended? (c.1885). Lean-to extensions (post-1938).

SETTING

The hall stands on the north side of Winchester Hanging Rock Road, east of its intersection with Rapuwai Road. The extent of scheduling is limited to the immediate setting of the building, notwithstanding the potential archaeological values of the site as a whole, and includes that portion of the neighbouring property (Lot 1 DP 57217) over which the building extends.

HISTORY

A Kakahu School Committee was formed in 1874 and a school building was under construction by early 1875. After 1884 this school was renamed 'Hilton', so as not to be confused with the new Kakahu Bush School further to the west. Tenders were called for the Kakahu Bush School in May 1884 and it had been completed by August of the same year. An early teacher at the school (1887-1890) was Jessie Mackay (1864-1938), whose father was then managing Raincliff Station. Mackay went on to become a noted New Zealand journalist, feminist and poet and plaque inside the building commemorates her teaching at the school. The Kakahu Bush School remained open until 1938, at which time schools in the district were consolidated upon Pleasant Point. The building became a district hall after the school's closure and is now run by a hall committee.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Kakahu Bush School / Kakahu District Hall has historical and social significance for its association with its past staff and teachers, including Jessie Mackay, and, more generally, the development of the district.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Kakahu Bush School / Kakahu District Hall has cultural significance as a site of community identity and historic continuity since 1884.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Kakahu Bush School / Kakahu District Hall has architectural significance as the work of South Canterbury Education Board architects Messrs West & Barber. Daniel West and Robert Barber succeeded Maurice Duval in mid-1883 and maintained a private practice in addition to serving the Education Board.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Kakahu Bush School / Kakahu District Hall has craftsmanship value as an example of late Victorian construction methods and techniques.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Kakahu Bush School / Kakahu District Hall has contextual significance as a local historic feature that constitutes the historic and social hub of the community.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the former Kakahu Bush School / Kakahu District Hall pre-dates 1900, its site has potential archaeological significance relating to the building's construction and the use of the site for educational and social purposes.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Kakahu Bush School / Kakahu District Hall has overall heritage significance to Kakahu and Timaru district as a whole. The building has historical and social significance for its association with the staff and pupils of Kakahu Bush School and members of the wider community. The former Kakahu Bush School / Kakahu District Hall has cultural significance as a site of community identity and historic continuity and architectural significance as a vernacular educational buildings designed by Messrs West and Barber on behalf of the South Canterbury Education Board. The former Kakahu Bush School / Kakahu District Hall has craftsmanship value for its late Victorian timber construction and contextual significance as a historic feature. Given the age of the building its site has potential archaeological significance relating to the construction and use of the school.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 4 September 1874, p. 3; 27 January 1875, p. 2; 6 December 1883, p. 5; 4 April 1884, p. 3; 14 May 1884, p. 1; 10 June 1884, p. 2; 8 August 1884, p. 2; 23 February 1910, p. 7.
- *Temuka Leader* 7 July 1883, p. 2; 11 September 1883, p. 2; 6 October 1883, p. 3; 11 March 1905, p. 2; 24 February 1910, p. 2; 29 December 1910, p. 1.
- *Press* 7 May 1935, p. 5; 15 January 1936, p. 5; 24 July 1937, p. 3; 5 August 1937, p. 24.
- *South Canterbury Times* 2 June 1883, p. 3; 3 August 1883, p. 2; 14 January 1884, p. 3; 20 January 1885, p. 3; 23 June 1885, p. 3; 23 March 1886, p. 3; 14 March 1888, p. 2.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/1984>
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903; available online.
- Archives New Zealand.
- http://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlscant/kakahu_bush.htm
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Extent of scheduling, limited to immediate setting and including a small strip of land on the neighbouring property, 1964 Winchester Hanging Rock Road, Kakahu.