

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME 'Tarahaoa', Arowhenua Maori School building

ADDRESS 37 Huirapa Street, Arowhenua

PHOTOGRAPH



(TDC)

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

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Arowhenua Village Maori Reserve 881 11 Block

VALUATION NUMBER 2468028000

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1894

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Daniel West, South Canterbury Education Board architect

STYLE Victorian educational vernacular

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with irregular rectangular footprint and gabled roof. Double-hung multi-pane sash and casement windows; brackets beneath sills of former. Windows on east and west elevations have hood mouldings. Lean-to entry and hall at rear (south elevation). Louvred vents in gable ends.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber framing and weatherboard cladding, corrugated iron roofing.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Additions (1912). Relocated to present site (1951).

SETTING

The school building is set back from the roadway within the grounds of Te Kura Maori O Arowhenua on the south side of Huirapa Street. Arowhenua Marae is immediately to the west and to the east, adjacent to the intersection with SH 1, are the Anglican Church of the Holy Trinity and the Ratana War Memorial. The school building is visible from the roadway at the rear of the school campus. The extent of scheduling is limited to the immediate environs of the building, rather than the land parcel as a whole.

HISTORY

A 'native' school was opened by the Hon Tame (Thomas) Parata at Arowhenua on 28 January 1895. It had been built on land gifted by Mrs J Kahu and was once one of 166 'native' schools that operated throughout New Zealand under the auspices of the Native Schools Act between 1867 and 1969. The act required that Maori provide land and funds to establish 'native' schools, which came under the control of the Department of Education in 1879. By that time there were 57 'native' schools in New Zealand; eight years earlier the requirements for providing money to fund school buildings and teachers' salaries had been dropped. In 1894 primary schooling became compulsory for Maori, agitation for the school at Arowhenua having a much longer history. Arowhenua Native School was awarded second place in the Hurdley Shield competition for school gardens in South Canterbury in 1930, just one point off that of the winning school. Seven years later the school won the prize. In 1951 the school building was relocated to its present site and reopened by the Minister of Maori Affairs, the Hon EB Corbett. Four years earlier, in 1947, 'native' schools became known as Maori schools; in 1955 they peaked in number at 166. The transfer of Maori schools to the control of regional education boards was completed in 1969. Arowhenua Maori School celebrated its centenary in 1995 and today the kura (school) is a full primary school with, in 2015, a roll of 40 children.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Arowhenua Maori School building has high historical and social significance for its association with past and present pupils and staff of the school, with Kati Huirapa and the people of Arowhenua Marae and, more generally, the Native School system that operated in New Zealand for over 100 years. The school is believed to be the only former 'native' school still in contemporary use in the South Island.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Arowhenua Maori School building has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of the school community and both historic and modern Maori education attitudes and practices.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Arowhenua Maori School building has architectural significance as the work of Timaru architect Daniel West. A carpenter turned architect West (c.1828-1910) was in partnership with Robert Barber between 1881 and 1886; the firm succeeded Maurice Duval as architects to the South Canterbury Education Board in mid-1883. West and Barber also designed the Italianate style 'Green Hayes' homestead for John Hayhurst in 1881 (heritage item # 90) and the Kakahu Bush School building in 1884 (heritage item # 67). The firm undertook additions to Timaru's Dominion Hotel (heritage item # 36) in 1885-86; West alone extended the Royal Hotel (heritage item # 25) in Timaru in 1890 and designed the Timaru Customhouse (heritage item # 22, 1901-2). He resigned from his position with the education board in December 1894 and was succeeded by EM Blake. Additions to the building in 1912 were undertaken by the Public Works Office, Christchurch.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Arowhenua Maori School building has craftsmanship value for the quality of its timber construction and detailing.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Arowhenua Maori School building has contextual significance as a local historic feature within the grounds of Arowhenua Maori School and in relation to Arowhenua Marae, including its wharenuī Ko Te Hapa o Niu Tireni, the Anglican Church of the Holy Trinity and the Ratana War Memorial.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although the school building was relocated to its present location in 1951, its site has potential archaeological values relating to the property's historic use and development.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Arowhenua Maori School building has high overall significance to Arowhenua 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 Arowhenua Maori School and the implementation and development of the Native Schools system and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of a South Canterbury Maori community. The Arowhenua Maori School building has architectural significance for its design by South Canterbury Education Board architect Daniel West and craftsmanship value for its timber construction and detailing. The Arowhenua Maori School building has contextual significance as a local historic feature; its site has potential archaeological values in view of the historic development of Arowhenua paa.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 30 January 1895, p. 3; 27 July 1912, p. 2; 26 October 2013; available online.
- *Temuka Leader* 15 December 1900, p. 3; 13 October 1928, p. 2; 15 May 1930, p. 2.
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- WA Taylor *Lore and History of the South Island Maori* Christchurch, 1952; available online.
- <https://www.news.library.auckland.ac.nz/2017/10/06/native-schools/#.XMdrAC-B1EI>
- <https://teara.govt.nz/en/maori-education-matauranga/page-3>
- <https://www.arowhenuamaori.school.nz>
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/7590>
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/7768>
- <https://www.nzcer.org.nz/system/files/Chapter%201%20Ranginui%20Walker.pdf>

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REPORT UPDATED	XX
AUTHOR	XX
PEER REVIEWED	XX
REVIEWER	XX



Extent of scheduling, limited to the immediate environs of the school building at south end of land parcel, 37 Huirapa Road, Arowhenua.



Pupils working in the school garden at Arowhenua Native School, Canterbury, in 1933. *Native Schools Album, Archives New Zealand (Auckland)*

A Civilising Mission?: Perceptions and Representations of the New Zealand Native Schools System ed. Judith Simon & Linda Tuahiwi Smith, Auckland University Press, 2001, p. 103.