

**TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM**

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**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** former Worthington / Maze Farmhouse

**ADDRESS** 3 Maze Road, Pleasant Point

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(www)

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

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Part RS 16863

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2482007000

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** c.1877?

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** Unknown (R Worthington, owner/builder?)

**STYLE** Colonial vernacular

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Single-storey dwelling with rectangular footprint and gabled roof forms. Twin-gabled wings on east-west axis abut gabled bay running along west side. Latter features a faceted bay window on south-facing facade. Return veranda on west, south and east elevations. Double-hung sash windows. Lean-to at rear (north elevation).

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Concrete, timber, brick and corrugated metal.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Veranda and weatherboard lean-to additions (date unknown).

**SETTING**

The farmhouse stands to the west of the township on the north side of the Pleasant Point-Cave Highway (SH 8). The property is bound to the east by Maze Road. The extent of setting is limited to the immediate environs of the house, notwithstanding the potential archaeological values of the land parcel as a whole.

## **HISTORY**

Robert Worthington (1844-1920) was the son of Captain Edward Worthington of Guernsey in the Channel Islands. According to family history sources, Edward did not want his sons to join the Royal Navy and so sent Robert and his younger brother John, both of whom were born in Tours, France and spoke French fluently, out to New Zealand in 1861 to take up sheep farming. Robert had bought land in Pleasant Point by 1865 and appears to have settled there in 1866. John also moved to Pleasant Point where he became the pound keeper. Family history records that both men lacked practical skills, having been brought up with servants, and so therefore struggled to make a living, especially during the depression of the 1880s. Robert Worthington married Catherine Jagger in St Mary's Anglican Church, Timaru in June 1869 and the couple initially farmed in Te Ngawai Road. Robert was elected to the first local school committee in February 1869. The Te Ngawai Road property, which included a four-room stone house, was put up for sale in August 1877, suggesting this may have been when the Maze Road farmhouse was built. The latter property was for sale in March 1882 but appears not to have sold as it was being marketed on the Worthingtons' behalf a year later. Robert Worthington was declared bankrupt in August 1883, which may account for his desire to sell his second, smaller Pleasant Point farm. (Worthington later ran a livery stable in Pleasant Point, but he died in Christchurch.) The farmhouse was then acquired by Michael Maze (c.1841-1917), who applied to the Geraldine County Council for a slaughterhouse license on the property in August 1887. According to his obituary Maze was a well-respected horse breeder and a life member of the Timaru A & P Association. It appears the property remained in the Maze family until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century; the farmhouse is still in rural-residential use today.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Worthington / Maze farmhouse has historical significance for its association with the Worthington and Maze families and the development of farming at Pleasant Point.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Worthington / Maze farmhouse has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of the families who have resided in the dwelling since its construction.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Worthington / Maze farmhouse has architectural value as a mid-Victorian villa-style farmhouse rendered in permanent materials.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Worthington / Maze farmhouse has technological and craftsmanship significance for its concrete construction. The house is noted in Geoffrey Thornton's definitive history of concrete construction in New Zealand.

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former Worthington / Maze farmhouse has contextual value as a historic feature within its rural setting and for the contribution it makes to the historic character of the Pleasant Point area.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

As the farmhouse pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance relating to the dwelling's construction and the development of pastoralism at Pleasant Point.

## SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Worthington / Maze farmhouse has overall heritage significance to Pleasant Point and Timaru district as a whole. The farmhouse has historical significance for its association with the Worthington and Maze families and the development of farming in the area and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of its former residents. The former Worthington / Maze farmhouse has architectural value as a mid-Victorian vernacular farmhouse and technological and craftsmanship significance for its concrete construction. The former Worthington / Maze farmhouse has contextual value as a historic feature on the outskirts of Pleasant Point and its site has potential archaeological significance in view of the building's pre-1900 date of construction.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

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## REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 22 April 1865, p. 6; 19 September 1866, p. 3; 16 February 1869, p. 6; 10 April 1869, p. 5; 16 February 1870, p. 6; 18 March 1871, p. 2; 27 May 1871, p. 3; 2 September 1871, p. 3; 3 July 1874, p. 2; 19 November 1875, p. 4; 20 December 1875, p. 3; 15 August 1877, p. 2; 1 January 1878, p. 2; 4 January 1878, p. 2; 20 March 1880, p. 2; 4 May 1882, p. 2; 9 March 1883, p. 3; 2 March 1885, p. 3; 18 October 1901, p. 2; 25 October 1907, p. 7; 14 July 1917, p. 8.
- *Temuka Leader* 4 January 1883, p. 4; 4 August 1883, p. 2.
- *Lyttleton Times* 29 June 1869, p. 2; 11 November 1876, p. 1.
- *South Canterbury Times* 29 March 1882, p. 3; 22 April 1884, p. 2; 17 August 1887, p. 2.
- *Press* 9 August 1920, p. 8.
- *Feilding Star* 10 June 1908, p. 2.
- G Thornton *Cast in Concrete – Concrete construction in New Zealand, 1850-1939* Auckland, 1996.
- <http://www.pointhistory.org.nz>
- [http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~nzbound/genealogy/green\\_dolphin\\_st.htm](http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~nzbound/genealogy/green_dolphin_st.htm)



Extent of setting, limited to garden setting, 3 Maze Road, Pleasant Point.



Land parcel as a whole, farmhouse site marked by star.