

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former Washdyke Junction Railway Signal Box

ADDRESS 16 Afghan Street, Pleasant Point

PHOTOGRAPH



(Dr A McEwan, 12 July 2018)

FORMER DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. No. 130 **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 1997 / 2
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION RS 40783

VALUATION NUMBER 2482121301

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION c.1911/12?

**ARCHITECT / DESIGNER /
BUILDER** NZ Railways Department, architects

STYLE Railways vernacular

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Two-storey building with rectangular footprint and gabled roof forms. External flight of stairs to first floor control room, entry sheltered by partially-enclosed porch. Large multipane windows on first floor, smaller two-pane windows on ground floor; finials atop gable ends.

MATERIALS / STRUCTURE

Timber framing and rusticated weatherboard cladding, corrugated iron roofing.

ADDITIONS / ALTERATIONS

Relocated from Washdyke to current site (1978). Railway turntable installed to west of station and signal box (1998).

SETTING

The Pleasant Point railway station (heritage item # 129) and signal box are located on a narrow strip of land that is bordered by the Pleasant Point Highway (Main Road, SH 8) to the north and Afghan Street to the south. St Mary's Catholic Church (1889) is to the south and the former Pleasant Point post office (1912) is to the east; both are on Afghan Street. The extent of setting is limited to that portion of the land parcel on which the station and signal box are located and the railway line, including the turntable, is laid.

HISTORY

Washdyke became a railway junction on the South Island main trunk line when the branch line that eventually reached Fairlie was built. The station at Washdyke was built in time for the line's opening as far as Pleasant Point in 1875. A post and telegraph office was also located at the station and in 1903 six trains a day were passing through Washdyke. A signal box had been erected to the south of the station by March 1912. The Pleasant Point branch railway line closed in 1968, making a number of stations and other railway buildings redundant. The Pleasant Point Railway and Historical Society took over the station site in 1970 and it became the nucleus of the Pleasant Point Museum, whose prize exhibits also include an 1878 D16 locomotive and an 1895 half-birdcage carriage. Extra line was laid to the east on the station, on the old formation, to provide for the running of vintage trains to Keanes Crossing. Funds were raised for some of this work by traction engine, vintage car and tractor rallies staged in 1970 and 1980. The former Washdyke Junction signal box was relocated to Pleasant Point by the society in mid-1978. The Pleasant Point Railway continues to host 'streaming days' throughout the year.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Washdyke Junction railway signal box has historical significance as an early 20th century South Canterbury railway building that was relocated by the Pleasant Point Railway and Historical Society to enhance its museum operations.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Washdyke Junction railway signal box has cultural significance for the esteem in which it is held, as a reminder of South Canterbury's railway history, by members of the Pleasant Point Railway and Historical Society.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Washdyke Junction railway signal box has architectural significance as a standard New Zealand Railways design, which was developed during George Troup's tenure as Chief Draughtsman of the NZR. Sir George Troup (1863-1941) was the principal architect of the Railways Department from 1888 until his retirement in 1925; under his direction the department developed a set of standardised plans for railway buildings that were erected nationwide. Best-known for the Dunedin Railway Station (1904), Troup had the ultimate responsibility for the signal boxes erected by the department, including the one now at Pleasant Point.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Washdyke Junction railway signal box has technological and craftsmanship significance as an early 20th century building with signalling technology that was the responsibility of HJ Wynne, who was appointed signal engineer to the NZ Railways Department in 1900.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Washdyke Junction railway signal box has contextual significance as a local historic landmark that is associated with the Pleasant Point railway station and the operation of the Pleasant Point Museum.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although the signal box was not erected on this site until the later 20th century, its site has potential archaeological significance relating to the development of the station precinct and, more generally, the district's transport infrastructure.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Washdyke Junction railway signal box has overall heritage significance to Pleasant Point and to Timaru district as a whole. The building has historical significance as an early 20th century signal box and cultural significance as an esteemed component of a historic railway station and museum precinct. The former Washdyke Junction railway signal box has architectural significance as a Troup-era standard signal box design and technological and craftsmanship significance for its early 20th century signalling apparatus. The former Washdyke Junction railway signal box has contextual significance as a local historic feature and potential archaeological significance in view of the pre-1900 development of its site.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

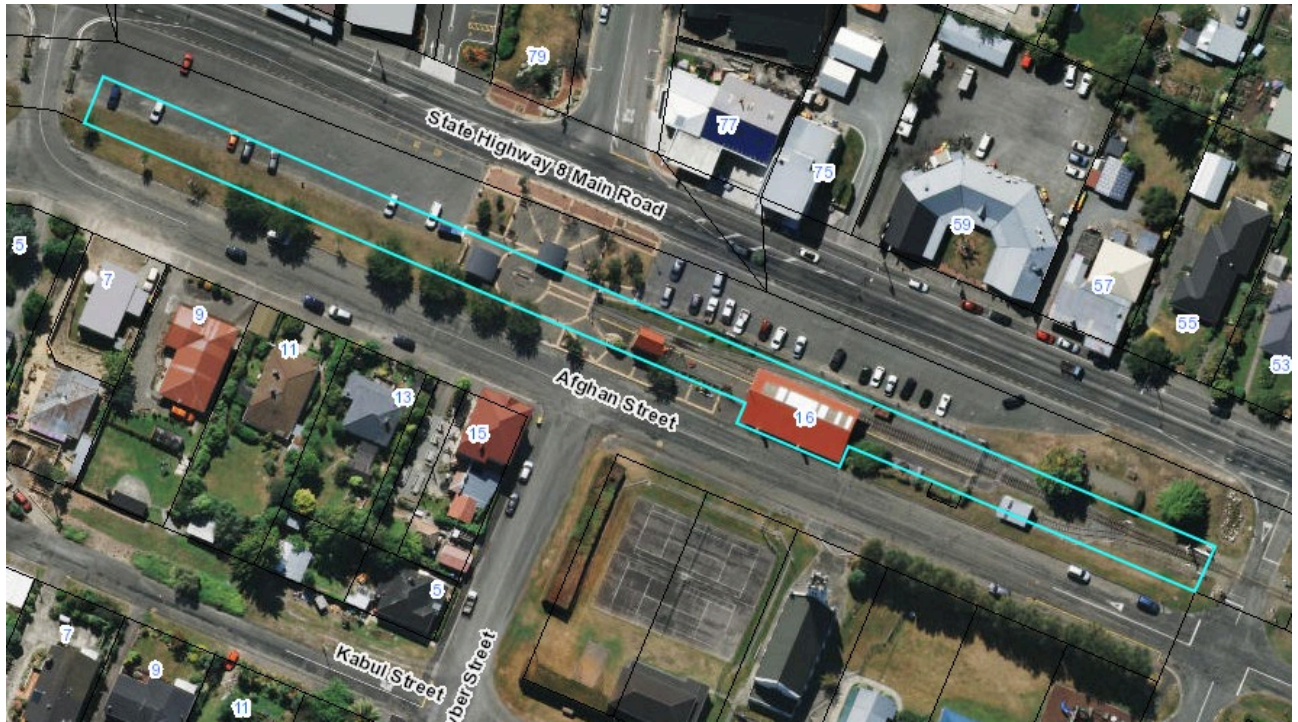
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Extent of setting, Pleasant Point railway station & signal box, 16 Afghan Street, Pleasant Point.



Land parcel as a whole. Signal box to left of railway station.