

TIMARU DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former Sutherlands School Building / Sutherlands Hall

ADDRESS 689 Pleasant Point – Cave Highway, Sutherlands

PHOTOGRAPH



(TDC)

FORMER DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. No. 70 **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** 2007 / 2
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Lot 1 DP 1388

VALUATION NUMBER 2482009300

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1883

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** M de H Duval, architect

STYLE Victorian educational vernacular

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with rectangular footprint and gabled roof forms. Entrance porch at east end has lower roof. Double-hung sash windows and large multi-pane casements with fanlights on northern elevation. Two chimneys and ridgeline ventilator. Sunhood over porch entry. Small lean-to at rear (south elevation).

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber, brick & corrugated iron.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

School building enlarged on south side (1917).

SETTING

The former school building is set back from the roadway on a large plot on the south side of the Pleasant Point – Cave Highway. Also on the same site is the Sutherlands War Memorial (date unknown). The former Sutherland homestead (heritage item # 69) is located to the east of the site. The extent of scheduling is the parcel as a whole, partly in view of the potential archaeological values of the property.

HISTORY

Well-known local farmers Andrew Cleland and Alexander Sutherland were both involved in the foundation of the Sutherlands School in the early 1880s. A school committee was formed in September 1882 and tenders were called in late May 1883; the school was reported as nearing completion three months later. A concert and dance to celebrate the school's opening were held on Friday, 19 October 1883. Children had to cross the railway line (1876) running across the front of the school property in order to attend classes. At the turn of the 20th century the school had a roll of 30 and the teacher in charge was Leonard Ellis (appointed 1902) from Orari. A five-roomed house was provided for the teacher. A war memorial was erected in the school grounds by the community after World War I. The original plaque memorialises the one local man to be killed during the war (Henry Mellon, killed 1917), as well as the fourteen men who served. A later plaque records the names of three men killed during WWII (TM Blakemore, DB Giles and AG Sutherland), and the twelve who served, including four members of the Cleland family. The school closed in 1938, whereupon schooling in the district was consolidated upon Pleasant Point. The building has since been used as a public hall, having previously served as a venue for social functions and political rallies whilst still a school.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Sutherlands School building has historical and social significance for its association with the Sutherlands community and past teachers and pupils of the school. The school and war memorial are the only civic or public structures surviving in Sutherlands, which never boasted a store or hotel.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Sutherlands School building has cultural significance as a demonstration of the way of life of a rural community in the later 19th century and historic education practices.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Sutherlands School building has architectural significance for its design by Maurice de Harven Duval, a French or Belgian architect who practised in Timaru between c.1877 and 1895. Duval undertook a considerable amount of work for the Catholic church in Canterbury, including St Mary's Church at Pleasant Point (1889), was architect to the South Canterbury Board of Education, and also designed residential and commercial buildings.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

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

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Sutherlands School building has contextual significance as a local landmark and in relation to the Sutherlands War Memorial, which occupies the same site.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the former school building pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Sutherlands School building has overall significance to Sutherlands and Timaru district as a whole. The building has historical and social significance for its association with the past teachers and pupils of the school and cultural significance as a demonstration of the way of life of a rural community in the late 19th century. The former Sutherlands School

building has architectural significance for its design by Maurice Duval and craftsmanship value for its timber construction and detailing. The former Sutherlands School building has contextual significance as a local landmark and in relation to the Sutherlands War Memorial. As the school building pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 23 August 1883, p. 3; 7 September 1883, p. 3; 13 October 1883, p. 4; 30 January 1885, p. 3; 23 June 1917, p. 6; 7 August 1919, p. 7; 17 September 1919, p. 2; 26 May 1920, p. 4; 27 December 1920, p. 5.
- *South Canterbury Times* 5 September 1882, p. 2; 10 May 1883, p. 2; 29 May 1883, p. 3; 7 June 1883, p. 2; 31 August 1883, p. 2.
- *Press* 30 April 1935, p. 6; 11 November 1935, p. 21.
- *Sun* 27 December 1917, p. 5.
- *Globe* 25 February 1876, p. 2.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903; available online.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/2007>
- <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/media/photo/sutherlands-war-memorial>
- AJ Pike *Pleasant Days – A history of public education in the Pleasant Point district* 1993.
- O Oliver (ed) *Pleasant Point 1868-1968 – A Century of Schooling* 1969.
- Archives New Zealand.



Extent of scheduling, parcel outlined in turquoise, 689 Pleasant Point – Cave Highway, Sutherlands. The parcel outlined in red, which is not included in the extent of setting, was set aside for the Fairlie branch railway.



Sutherlands War Memorial, date unknown. nzhistory.govt.nz.