

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

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**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** Peel Forest Hall  
**ADDRESS** 1209 Peel Forest Road, Peel Forest  
**PHOTOGRAPH**



(Dr J Wilson, September 2018)

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

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** RES 4161

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2464004500

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1927

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** JS Turnbull, architect; JW Miller, builder

**STYLE** California bungalow

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Single-storey building with rectangular footprint and gabled roof. Ridgeline ventilators (2), exposed rafters, multi-pane casement windows. Recessed entry with cross-gabled roof on principal (east-facing) elevation. Name and date plaques within shingled gable end over entry.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Timber, corrugated iron, brick.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Unknown.

**SETTING**

The hall stands on the west side of Peel Forest Road, north of its intersection with Dennistoun Road. The building is set against a back drop of mature vegetation and shares the site with a small playground and two tennis courts. Access is via a gravel driveway, the hall being set back from the roadway. The extent of scheduling is the land parcel on which the hall is located.

**HISTORY**

Construction of the Peel Forest Hall on Domain Board land commenced on 4 March 1927. When the hall was approaching completion it was reported that it would differ from the 'usual run of halls which have been built during the past few years ... [because] more attention has been paid to the architectural side' (*Temuka Leader* 14 April 1927, p. 2). It opened on 18 April 1927 and was free of debt by late May of the same year. The hall included a library room and accommodated both a piano and billiard table. Over the years it has hosted social events, farewells and political meetings. In April 1936, for example, the Peel Forest Park Board held its annual meeting in the hall at which it was reported that 40 parties had been held in the venue in the preceding year. The Park Board leased the hall to the Hall Committee for a nominal sum; the committee then had responsibility for the use and maintenance of the venue. Ground was cleared for a second tennis court in 1936 but it was formed at a later date. The hall is still in use today, run by a local committee.

### **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Peel Forest Hall has historical and social significance for its association with the local community and visitors to the area, having been built to serve both groups. It is also notable as a reminder of the role played by public halls in the life of rural communities.

### **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Peel Forest Hall has cultural value as a site of community identity and historic continuity since 1927.

### **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The Peel Forest Hall has architectural significance as the work of noted Timaru architectural practice, Turnbull & Rule. Timaru-born James Turnbull (1864-1947) trained in Melbourne and then established a practice in Timaru in c.1895. The son of Richard Turnbull, a prominent Timaru businessman and politician, Turnbull also designed Job Brown's Beehive Stores (heritage item #117, 1901-2) in Temuka, Chalmers Church (heritage item #38, 1903-4) and a large number of Timaru houses. Turnbull went into partnership with Percy Watts Rule in c.1920, after which time Rule was the principal designer in the firm. The firm designed the Temuka Library (heritage item #118, 1926-27), St James' Anglican Church at Franz Josef (1928-31) and the 1930 additions to the Bank Street Methodist Church (heritage item #51). Rule was awarded a Gold Medal from the NZ Institute of Architects for his design of the Surgical Wing at Timaru Hospital (1936-40) in 1939.

### **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The Peel Forest Hall has technological and craftsmanship value for its interwar construction and detailing. The builder JW Miller also built the Wharton building (see heritage item # 106) in Geraldine in 1927. The noted Canterbury artist Austen Deans (1915-2011), who lived in Peel Forest for many years, painted a landscape mural for mounting in the hall in August 1993.

### **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Peel Forest Hall has contextual significance as a local historic feature that constitutes the historic and social hub of the community. A sculpture of Austen Deans by his son Paul was unveiled across the road from the hall in November 2018.

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

As the Peel Forest Hall post-dates 1900, any potential archaeological values would likely relate to the prior use and development, if any, of the site.

### **SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The Peel Forest Hall has overall heritage significance to Peel Forest and Timaru district as a whole. The building has historical and social significance for its association with the Peel Forest community and cultural value as a site of local identity and historic continuity. The Peel Forest Hall has architectural significance as the work of noted Timaru architectural practise Turnbull & Rule and technological and craftsmanship value for its timber construction and detailing. The Peel Forest Hall has contextual significance as a local historic feature; the potential archaeological value of the site may be limited.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

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## REFERENCES

- *Temuka Leader* 11 November 1911, p. 2; 3 November 1925, p. 2; 14 April 1927, p. 2; 21 April 1927, p. 4; 14 May 1927, p. 3; 26 May 1927, p. 3; 19 July 1927, p. 3; 9 April 1931, p. 3; 27 June 1931, p. 3; 7 May 1932, p. 1.
- *Press* 29 June 1927, p. 7; 6 June 1935, p. 6; 15 April 1936, p. 18; 20 October 1941, p. 3; 12 October 1943, p. 3.
- *Otago Daily Times* 20 November 2018 (available online).
- <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlscant/halls.htm>
- M Frey & S Newman *On a Saturday Night – Community Halls of Small-Town New Zealand* Christchurch, 2012.
- [https://christchurchartgallery.org.nz/media/uploads/2017\\_12/SouthCanterburyArtists.pdf](https://christchurchartgallery.org.nz/media/uploads/2017_12/SouthCanterburyArtists.pdf)



Extent of scheduling, 1209 Peel Forest Road, Peel Forest.