

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

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**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** former St Monica's Catholic Church

**ADDRESS** 7 Anne Street, Cave

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(www)

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

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Section 24 Cave Village

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2482016400

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1911-12

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** S & A Luttrell, architects; W Walker, stonemason

**STYLE** Gothic Revival

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Single storey-building with L-shaped footprint and gabled roof forms. Gabled entrance porch set within symmetrical north elevation; gabled sacristy at south-east corner. Narrow lancet-arched windows, plain bargeboards and trussed gable ends, buttresses and apsidal sanctuary. Rough-hewn limestone blocks with ashlar sills and voussoirs. Diamond-pattern cathedral glass. Two roof ventilators and cross-shaped finials atop gable ends.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Limestone, timber, corrugated metal.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Unknown, if any.

**SETTING**

The building is set back from the road boundary on a large lot on the south side of Anne Street, between Philip Street in the west and Charles Street in the east. The streetscape is rural-residential in character. The extent of scheduling is limited to that part of the land parcel which is delineated as the church site.

## **HISTORY**

St Monica's Catholic Church was erected in 1911 to serve local members of the Fairlie parish. Bishop Grimes of Christchurch laid the foundation stone of the church on 21 May 1911, in the presence of over 400 people. Monumental mason Samuel McBride of Timaru gifted the foundation stone. It was reported in late 1912 that 'over a fourth of the total population of the [Fairlie] district are Catholics' (*NZ Tablet* 3 October 1912, p. 45). The parish priest who oversaw the building of St Monica's, as well as the church at Albury (1903) and presbytery in Fairlie (1916), was Father Le Petit. The church was officially opened on 1 September 1912. In 1963 St Monica's became part of the Pleasant Point parish. The church was closed and deconsecrated on 11 November 2012. It is no longer in use.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former St Monica's Catholic Church has historical and social significance for its association with the local Catholic community and, more generally, the early 20th century development of Cave and of the Catholic church in South Canterbury.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former St Monica's Catholic Church has cultural value as a former church that demonstrates the way of life of its past priests and congregants.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The former St Monica's Catholic Church has architectural significance as a Gothic Revival style church designed by Christchurch architects S & A Luttrell. The Luttrell Brothers, who were architects to the Catholic Diocese of Christchurch in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, specialised in the design of racing grandstands and the use of modern construction technology. Both Alfred and Sidney Luttrell had been born, educated, trained and initially practised in Tasmania, Australia; they established their New Zealand practice in 1902. The Luttrells introduced the Chicago skyscraper style to New Zealand and designed the Theatre Royal (1906-7) in Christchurch, one of a small number of their major commissions that survived the Canterbury earthquakes. The former church at Cave is typical of the Luttrells' parish churches, including the contemporary Catholic Church of the Immaculate Conception in New Brighton (1911, demolished) and Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church in Sumner (1912, demolished). With the loss of a large number of Luttrell-designed buildings following the 2010/2011 Canterbury earthquakes, the former St Monica's church represents their notable work as diocesan architects. The Luttrell Brothers also designed the South Canterbury Club in Timaru (1904).

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The former St Monica's Catholic Church has technological and craftsmanship significance for its limestone masonry construction and timber detailing. The stonework was undertaken by W[illiam?] Walker, the son of James Walker, a Scottish stonemason who emigrated to New Zealand abroad the *Canterbury* in 1874. Walker senior was in partnership with Charles McDougall at Kakahu, where they had a pot kiln and burnt lime; he built the Opihi Hotel (heritage item # 71, 1878) and the Catholic church at Albury. The stone for St Monica's was locally sourced from the Mona Vale estate of Tasman Smith. The woodwork was undertaken by T Foden of Fairlie.

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former St Monica's Catholic Church has contextual significance as a historic feature within Cave village. It is the oldest of the three Cave churches: St David's Pioneer Memorial (Presbyterian) Church (1930) is located outside both the village and Timaru district, whilst All Saints' Anglican Church (1953) stands beside the Cave Hall on Elizabeth Street.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the building post-dates 1900, any potential archaeological values its site may have would likely relate to any prior use and development of the property.

## SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former St Monica's Catholic Church has overall heritage significance to Cave and Timaru district as a whole. The building has historical and social significance for its association with the Catholic community of Cave and cultural value as a former place of Christian worship and fellowship. The former St Monica's Catholic Church has architectural significance as the work of leading Christchurch architects S & A Luttrell and technological and craftsmanship significance for its stone masonry construction and timber detailing. The former St Monica's Catholic Church has contextual significance as a local historic feature within the village; its site may have limited potential archaeological value in view of the building's post-1900 date of construction.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

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## REFERENCES

- *Timaru Herald* 17 November 1903, p. 4; 3 February 1911, p. 5; 15 March 1911, p. 2; 22 May 1911, p. 2; 30 August 1912, p. 1; 28 March 1916, p. 3.
- *Temuka Leader* 25 May 1911, p. 4.
- *New Zealand Tablet* 3 October 1912, p. 45.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand - Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903 (available online).
- <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/3116/luttrell-alfred-edgar>
- *Inform - The newsletter of the Catholic Bishop of Christchurch* Spring Issue 90, September 2012; available online.
- <http://www.pointhistory.org.nz/chapters/religion#the-roman-catholic-church>
- <http://www.gcatholic.org/churches/oceania/41819.htm>
- <https://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlscant/cavechurches.htm>
- A McEwan 'From cottages to 'skyscrapers': the architecture of AE & ES Luttrell in Tasmania and New Zealand'. MA thesis, University of Canterbury, 1988.
- <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~nzlscant/run.htm>



Extent of setting, limited to delineated church site, 7 Anne Street, Cave.