

GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME

Otama Presbyterian War Memorial Church

ADDRESS

697 Otama Road, Otama

PHOTOGRAPH



(April 2022)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.
(at time of assessment)

n/a

HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY

n/a

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Lots 4, 5 & 6 DP 6414

GDC FILE NUMBER

3240141, 3261102 & 3270888

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

1955-56

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER**

IG Dunn for Miller, White & Dunn, architects; CW Archer, builder

STYLE

Modern Gothic Revival

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with L-shaped footprint and gabled roof forms. Narrow spirelet on gable ridge near principal, southern elevation, which bears St Andrew's cross and burning bush relief ornament and foundation stone. Rectangular windows; entrance doors accessed via steps with pipe railing at east and north elevations. Church hall is attached at right angles to church at rear (north elevation). Fencing on road boundary has decorative metalwork mounted on solid base.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Concrete, cement plaster, corrugated metal, copper.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Alterations/addition to rear (north elevation) of building: new entrance porch and steps (c.2010).

SETTING

The Otama Presbyterian War Memorial Church stands on the north side of Otama Road and shares a large open parking lot with the Otama Hall, which is located to the north of the church. Otama School is on the opposite side of the road and the Otama Soldiers' Memorial is directly south of the church, on the corner of Otama and McBain Roads. The scheduled setting comprises the three land parcels on which the church is located and includes the boundary fencing.

HISTORY

A Presbyterian church opened at Otama in February 1885. The foundation stone of a new, war memorial church was laid on 25 February 1956 by WC Mackay. The church was dedicated to the memory of the men who had died or served in the armed forces overseas. An architectural drawing and file for the church are held in the Hocken Library at the University of Otago, Dunedin. The church is now the only one remaining within the Knapdale/Waikaka parish; the Knapdale church having been sold in 2019 and the Waikaka church sold for removal in 2020.

HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Otama Presbyterian War Memorial Church has historic and social significance for its association with the local Presbyterian congregation.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Otama Presbyterian War Memorial Church has cultural significance as a site of Christian worship and fellowship since 1885. The church also has commemorative significance and was dedicated as a war memorial in 1956.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Otama Presbyterian War Memorial Church has architectural significance as mid-20th century interpretation of the Gothic Revival style. Miller, White and Dunn were architects to the University of Otago and also designed the Gore Post Office & Automatic Telephone Exchange (1952-58). Miller & White had been established in Dunedin in 1927 and by the early 1950s the firm was being run by James White and Ian Dunn.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Otama Presbyterian War Memorial Church has craftsmanship significance for the quality of its construction and detailing. Charles Archer (c.1904-74) was a Gore contractor.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Otama Presbyterian War Memorial Church has contextual significance as a local historic feature and for its relationship with the neighbouring hall, school, and war memorial; together these sites and structures denote the centre of the Otama community.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although the church post-dates 1900, its site may have potential archaeological values relating to its earlier use and development by the church.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Otama Presbyterian War Memorial Church has overall heritage significance to Otama and to the district of Gore as a whole. The church has historic and social significance for its association with the local Presbyterian congregation and cultural significance given its ecclesiastical function and commemorative purpose. The Otama Presbyterian War Memorial Church has architectural significance as a mid-century Modern interpretation of the Gothic Revival style by Dunedin architect IG Dunn and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its construction and detailing by Gore contractor CW Archer. The Otama Presbyterian War Memorial Church has contextual significance as a local historic feature and for the part it plays within a cluster of buildings and structures that denote the community centre of Otama. The church site may have archaeological values arising from its use and development as a place of worship since 1885.

REFERENCES

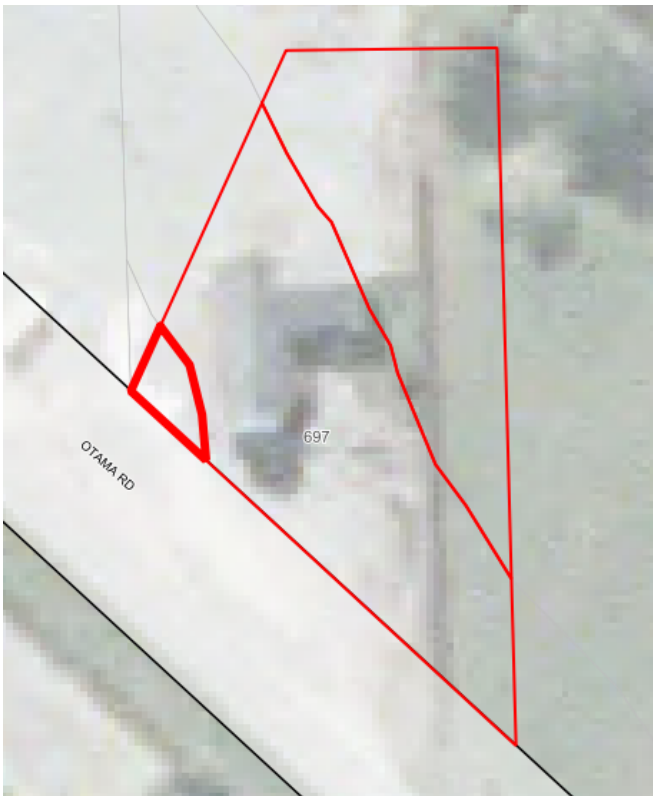
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- *Southland Times* 6 September 1928, p. 8.
- *Press* 22 June 1955, p. 2; 4 December 1969, p. 27.
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- <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc04Cycl-t1-body1-d7-d103.html>
- <https://www.southernpresbyterians.nz/church/Knapdale-Waikaka-Presbyterian-Church>
- <http://kiamatetoa.com/php/viewMemorialAdmin2.php?memorialID=213>
- https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/pdf/hoc_fr_bulletins/Bull_60_Architects.pdf

REPORT COMPLETED

19 May 2022

AUTHOR

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Extent of scheduling, encompassing all three land parcels, Otama Presbyterian War Memorial Church, 697 Otama Road, Otama.