

GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME Waikaka Valley Presbyterian Church

ADDRESS 15 Waikaka Road, Willowbank

PHOTOGRAPH



(April 2022)

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

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Part Section 7 Block I Chatton SD

GDC FILE NUMBER 3266310

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1953-54

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** IG Dunn for Miller, White & Dunn, architects; Watson Rhodes, builder

STYLE Arts and Crafts / Modern Gothic Revival

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with U-shaped footprint and gabled roof forms. Square-plan entrance/bell tower and gabled vestry are positioned at either end of principal, north-facing elevation. Tower has louvred vents and St Andrew's cross and burning bush motif in relief over double doors. Name of church in metal lettering on east wall of tower. Louvred vents in gable ends, narrow rectangular windows with triplet in east wall. Secondary entry to vestry, which is lit by smaller, paired casement windows. Plain parapet on tower and no eaves.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Masonry, cement plaster, tile roofing.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Unknown, if any.

SETTING

The church is located on the west side of Waikaka Road, north of its intersection with Morrison Road; both roads border the property. The Waikaka Valley War Memorial and the Willowbank Community Hall are also located on the site. The scheduled setting is distinct from that of the war memorial.

HISTORY

A Presbyterian church was opened in the Waikaka Valley in July 1885. The church was enlarged in 1899 and replaced in the early 1950s. The foundation stone of the new church was laid on 10 December 1953 by the Rev MJ McFadgen. The Pukerau Presbyterian Church, the other in the Pukerau Waikaka Valley Presbyterian parish, was closed in April 2022; the Waikaka Valley church remains in use.

HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Waikaka Valley Presbyterian Church has historic and social significance for its association with the local Presbyterian congregation, which has met together since 1885.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Waikaka Valley Presbyterian Church has cultural and spiritual significance as a site of Christian worship and fellowship since 1954.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Waikaka Valley Presbyterian Church has architectural significance as mid-20th century interpretation of the Arts and Crafts variant 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; the latter also designed the Presbyterian War Memorial Church at Otama (1955-56).

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Waikaka Valley Presbyterian Church has craftsmanship value for the quality of its construction and detailing. Watson Rhodes was a Gore builder.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Waikaka Valley Presbyterian Church has contextual significance as a local landmark and for its relationship with the Willowbank Community Hall and the Waikaka Valley War Memorial (1921); all three structures sharing the same site.

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 Waikaka Valley Presbyterian Church has overall heritage significance to Waikaka Valley/Willowbank 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 and spiritual significance as a place of Christian worship and fellowship. The Waikaka Valley Presbyterian Church has architectural significance as a mid-century interpretation of the Gothic Revival style by Dunedin architect IG Dunn and craftsmanship value for the quality of its construction and detailing by Gore builder Watson Rhodes. The Waikaka Valley Presbyterian Church has contextual significance as a local landmark and for its relationship with the Willowbank Community Hall and the Waikaka Valley War Memorial. The church site may have archaeological values arising from its use and development as a place of worship since 1885.

REFERENCES

- *Mataura Ensign* 12 November 1898, p. 3; 14 November 1899, p. 3; 9 April 1903, p. 2; 16 August 1910, p. 5; 17 June 1919, p. 4; 25 July 1919, p. 1.
- *Otago Daily Times* 2 July 1885, p. 2; 23 September 1933, p. 14.
- *Otago Witness* 24 August 1888, p. 17.
- *Southland Times* 9 June 1927, p. 1.
- https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/pdf/hoc_fr_bulletins/38_bulletin.pdf
- <https://www.southernpresbyterians.nz/church/Pukerau-Waikaka-Valley>
- https://www.otago.ac.nz/library/pdf/hoc_fr_bulletins/Bull_60_Architects.pdf

REPORT COMPLETED

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AUTHOR

Dr Ann McEwan / Heritage Consultancy Services

REPORT REVISED

5 September 2022

AUTHOR

Dr Ann McEwan / Heritage Consultancy Services



Extent of scheduling, Waikaka Valley Presbyterian Church, 15 Waikaka Road, Willowbank. The site is shared with the Willowbank Community Hall and the Waikaka Valley War Memorial; the separate setting of the latter is shown below the turquoise line.