

GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME former St Saviour's Anglican Church / Mataura Masjid

ADDRESS 127 Main Street / 2 Dover Street, Mataura

PHOTOGRAPH



(October 2021)

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

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Section 1 Block X Town of Mataura

GDC FILE NUMBER 3206028

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1925-26

**ARCHITECT / DESIGNER /
BUILDER** Unknown

STYLE Arts & Crafts Gothic Revival

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with L-shaped footprint and gabled roof forms. Entrance porch at south-east end has dedication plaque mounted on nave wall beside it. Exposed rafters, lancet arched windows with hood moulds, secondary entrance to vestry on northern side. Two ventilators on ridgeline; triple lancet window at north-west end is framed by buttresses.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Brick, timber, corrugated metal.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Lychgate erected (date unknown). Hall erected (1970s?). Ornamental wrought iron crosses removed from gable apexes (c.2018).

SETTING

The Mataura Masjid stands on the north-west side of Main Street, overlooking its intersection with Dover Street. The town centre is to the south and the site is fenced along the road frontages. A hall is located to the rear of the former church and there is a lychgate that now serves as a shelter for seating near the corner of the property. The scheduled setting is the land parcel on which the building is located.

HISTORY

Mataura's first Anglican church opened in August 1884; previously local Anglicans had held services in the courthouse. It was replaced in 1926 by a brick church, which was dedicated on 4 February 1926 by Bishop Edwards of Dunedin with the Hon GJ Anderson, the Minister of Mines, Marine and Labour, in attendance. Part of the Parish of Gore, St Saviour's closed in 2015 and the church property was then purchased and repurposed as the Mataura Masjid / Islamic Centre of Gore in 2018. The building is now one of seven Masjids (mosques) in the South Island and serves Muslims from a wide area. Local Anglicans now attend Holy Trinity Church in Gore.

HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Mataura Masjid has historic and social significance for its association with the local Anglican congregation and, more recently, the Muslim community.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Mataura Masjid has cultural and spiritual significance as a place of worship, community and historic continuity.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Mataura Masjid has architectural significance as an Arts & Crafts Gothic Revival style church that conveys its architectural pedigree economically through its standard floor plan and lancet arched windows. The designer of the church is unknown at this time.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Mataura Masjid has craftsmanship value for the evidence it can provide of early 20th century masonry construction methods and materials. The builder is currently unknown.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Mataura Masjid has contextual significance as a local historic feature that is close to the town centre and now represents a recently arrived community of faith in the district.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

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

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former St Saviour's Anglican Church / Mataura Masjid has overall heritage significance to Mataura and to the district of Gore as a whole. The building has historical and social significance for its association with the local Anglican congregation and Muslim community and cultural and spiritual significance given its ecclesiastical purpose. The Mataura Masjid has architectural significance for its Art and Crafts Gothic Revival styling and craftsmanship value for the evidence it can provide of early 20th century building materials and methods. The Mataura Masjid has contextual significance as a local historic feature; its site may have potential archaeological value.

REFERENCES

- *Mataura Ensign* 8 August 1884, p. 3; 1 March 1889, p. 4; 18 April 1899, p. 2.
- *Southland Times* 17 December 1883, p. 3; 1 March 1884, p. 2; 11 March 1885, p. 3.
- *Ashburton Guardian* 20 May 1927, p. 1.
- *Otago Witness* 16 August 1884, p. 12; 16 February 1926, p. 57.

- *Evening Star* 4 February 1926, p. 9.
- *Press* 27 July 1959, p. 1.
- *Otago Daily Times* 20 July 2018 (available online).
- https://goreanglican.org.nz/?page_id=10
- <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc04Cycl-t1-body1-d7-d123-d1.html>
- <https://fianz.com/mataura-masjid-islamic-centre-gore/>

REPORT COMPLETED

18 May 2022

AUTHOR

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Extent of scheduling, Matura Masjid [former St Saviour's Anglican Church], 127 Main Street, Matura.