

GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME

Waimumu Memorial Church

ADDRESS

900 Glendhu Road, Waimumu

PHOTOGRAPH



(October 2021)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM No.
(at time of assessment)

n / a

HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY

n / a

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Lot 1 DP 4176

GDC FILE NUMBER

3281764

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

1952-53

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER**

Unknown

STYLE

Hall type

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with rectangular footprint and gabled roof with hipped ends. Entrance porch at west end has two sets of concrete steps on the west and north sides. Memorial plaques are set within a lancet arch on the principal, west-facing elevation of the porch. Above the arch is the name of the church in relief letters. Rectangular windows lighting the porch and nave have four or six panes; latter have a central casement in the array of fanlights. Side entry near north-east corner.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber, roughcast plaster, roofing tiles.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Unknown, if any.

SETTING

Waimumu Memorial Church stands on the north-east side of Glendhu Road overlooking its intersection with Waimumu Road. The building stands on a grassed lot that is bordered by a timber picket fence; a former Sunday School hall (pre-1966) at the rear of the church is now used by the Waitea Playgroup. The Waimumu Hall and former Waimumu School are also located at the crossroads. The scheduled setting encompasses the lot on which the church is located, which appears to extend out into the road reserve.

HISTORY

Presbyterian services were being held in the Waimumu School at the turn of the 20th century, as the school was the only public building in the settlement. The land on which the church was built was owned by the Waimumu Dairy Factory Company in 1909. In April 1948 the church lot was subdivided from the dairy factory site. Two years later the Presbyterian Synod of Otago and Southland approved a grant for a church to be built at Waimumu. The Hon TL MacDonald, who lived in Gore and was then Minister of Defence, unveiled the memorial plaques on the church on 8 March 1953, the same day on which the church was opened by the Rev GA McLean. George McLean (1916-88) was a former labourer and freezing worker who was a student minister under the Southland Presbytery in the early 1940s and had been ordained in May 1952. The memorial plaques list the names of ten local servicemen who served in World War I and II. The church is now owned by the Waimumu Te Tipua Public Hall Society, which was incorporated in 1957.

HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Waimumu Memorial Church has historic and social significance for its association with the local farming community, and their efforts to commemorate the local experience of both world wars, as well as the post-war growth of the Presbyterian church in Southland.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Waimumu Memorial Church has cultural and spiritual significance as a place of community identity and historic continuity. The commemorative value of the church is augmented by the presence of the district and school Rolls of Honour displayed in the nearby hall.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

Waimumu Memorial Church has architectural significance as a mid-century ecclesiastical building that demonstrates the persistence of the colonial hall type for church design and the vestigial influence of the Gothic Revival style in the treatment of the entrance porch detailing. The designer of the church is currently unknown.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

Waimumu Memorial Church has craftsmanship value for the quality and integrity of its mid-century construction and relief detailing. The contractor is currently unknown.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Waimumu Memorial Church has contextual significance as a local landmark that marks the centre of the Waimumu settlement in conjunction with the Waimumu Hall and former Waimumu School (closed 1996), which stand on the opposite side of Glendhu Road.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the church post-dates 1900, any potential archaeological significance of the site would likely relate to its earlier use and development. The land parcel from which the church site was later subdivided was the chosen site of the Waimumu Dairy Factory in 1909.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Waimumu Memorial Church has overall heritage significance to Waimumu and to the district of Gore as a whole. The building has historical and social significance for its association with community efforts to commemorate the local men who served in both world wars and cultural and spiritual significance given its ecclesiastical and commemorative functions. Waimumu Memorial Church has architectural significance as a mid-century church that shows the persistence of earlier forms of church design and craftsmanship value for the quality and

integrity of its construction and detailing. Waimumu Memorial Church has contextual significance as a local landmark and in relation to the hall and former school that together mark the heart of the rural community. The property may have limited potential archaeological value.

REFERENCES

- *Mataura Ensign* 14 January 1911, p. 1.
- *Otago Daily Times* 29 March 1950, p. 6.
- *Southland Times* 7 May 1909, p. 2.
- <https://www.presbyterian.org.nz/archives/Page180a.htm>
- <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/5m11/macdonald-thomas-lachlan>
- <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc04Cycl-t1-body1-d7-d126.html>

REPORT COMPLETED

13 May 2022

AUTHOR

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Extent of scheduling, Waimumu Memorial Church, 900 Glendhu Road, Waimumu. [Aerial shows former school site at 907 and Waimumu Hall at 899 Glendhu Road].