

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

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**2021 District Plan Item No.**

**HH070**

**HERITAGE ITEM NAME**

St Barnabas's Anglican Church and Lychgate

**ADDRESS**

147 Main North Road (SH 1), Woodend

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(www)

**DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.**  
(at time of assessment)

H086

**HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY**

3797 / 2

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

Part RS 358

**VALUATION NUMBER**

2159168800

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION**

1932-33 (church) & 1903 (lychgate)

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER**

Cecil Wood, architect; Messrs Wadey & Efford, contractors (church); DC Shilton, designer/builder (lychgate)

**STYLE**

Arts & Crafts / Gothic Revival

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Single-storey building with L-shaped footprint and gabled and mansard roof forms. Church has gabled vestry on south elevation and a battlemented tower on northern elevation; latter is at the meeting point with the church hall, which is at right angles to the church. Flagpole atop tower, niche with figure of St Barnabas above main entry set within base of tower. Splayed buttresses, paired windows with pointed tops and geometric tracery. Shingled gable ends. Gothic Revival style lychgate has scalloped bargeboards and shingled gable roof.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Reinforced concrete cavity walls, textured cement finish, timber, shingles.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Hall addition (Don Donnithorne, architect, 1993).

**SETTING**

The church is set back from the road boundary on the west side of Main North Road and at the north-eastern edge of Woodend. The churchyard is to the south of the church and the lychgate stands on the road boundary directly opposite the entry to the church. The extent of setting is the land parcel on which the church and lychgate are located, notwithstanding that archaeological values may be present on the church property as a whole, which includes the two parcels on to which the churchyard extends.

## **HISTORY**

Woodend's first Anglican church was erected in 1860; a vicarage followed in 1876. A lychgate in memory of HB Gresson (1809-1901) was erected at the entry to the church property in 1903. It was consecrated by Bishop Julius on 19 April of that year; Judge Henry Barnes Gresson having been provincial solicitor for the Canterbury Provincial Council, a judge on the Supreme Court (1858-75), and a committed member of the Anglican church. Gresson farmed at Woodend in the later 1870s and 1880s and was buried in St Barnabas's churchyard along with his wife Anne. The last service to be held in the original timber church occurred on 11 June 1928, after the building had been condemned by the Church Property Trustees. Services were then held in the Sunday School hall until a new church was built on the same site. Initial plans for a stone church were amended to achieve greater economy with the use of reinforced concrete. The foundation stone of the second church was laid by Archbishop Julius on 1 October 1932. The church opened on 10 June 1933 and was finally consecrated on 11 June 1938. A vicarage also built to the design of Cecil Wood was erected across the road from the church in 1950 (144 Main North Road). The church is now part of the Woodend-Pegasus Anglican Parish and hosts morning and afternoon services each Sunday.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

St Barnabas's Anglican Church and Lychgate have historical and social significance for their association with the Anglican congregation of Woodend and the history of the church community since 1860.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

St Barnabas's Anglican Church has cultural and spiritual significance as a place of Anglican worship and fellowship. The Gresson memorial lychgate has cultural significance for its commemorative purpose.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

St Barnabas's Anglican Church has architectural significance as the work of acclaimed Christchurch architect Cecil Wood (1878-1947). Wood was one of New Zealand's most successful and highly regarded inter-war architects. He trained with Frederick Strouts and went on to design the Hare Memorial Library (1915) and Memorial Dining Hall (1923-25) at Christ's College; Tai Tapu's St Paul's Anglican Church (1930-31) and Public Library (1931-32), and St James's Anglican Church at Cust (1935, H005). His Woodend church is comparable to Roy Lovell-Smith's Kaiapoi Methodist Church (H027, 1934), but whereas that church references the Norman Romanesque style, Wood's church employs the lancet arch of the Gothic Revival. St Barnabas's was one of only five New Zealand buildings, and the only church design, included in the centenary exhibition of the Royal Institute of British Architects titled 'International Architecture 1924-1934', which was held in London in 1934. Although he did not live to complete the building, Wood also designed the Cathedral of St Paul in Wellington (1937-47). While Don Donnithorne is a noted architect in his own right, his 1993 addition to the church is considered to have 'severely compromised ... the visual impact of Wood's original design' (Helms, Vol. 2, p. 76).

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

St Barnabas's Anglican Church has technological and craftsmanship significance for its interwar concrete construction and detailing by Rangiora building contractors Wadey and Efford. The firm was also responsible for erecting the band rotunda in Victoria Park (1906) and the Catholic convent (1907), both in Rangiora. The figure of St Barnabas above the entry was carved by Christchurch master carver, and frequent Cecil Wood collaborator, Frederick Gurnsey. The Gresson memorial lychgate has craftsmanship value having been made by Daniel Shilton (c.1857-1920), a local carpenter and a member of the church vestry. Shilton Street in Pegasus is named for him.

## CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

St Barnabas's Anglican Church and Lychgate have contextual significance as historic features in Woodend and for their relationship with the churchyard on the same and adjacent sites. The church property is also associated with the Wood-designed vicarage on the opposite side of Main North Road.

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although the lychgate and church both post-date 1900 their site has potential archaeological significance relating to the earlier development of the property by the Anglican church.

## SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

St Barnabas's Anglican Church and Lychgate have overall heritage significance to Woodend and Waimakariri district as a whole. The two structures have historic and social significance for their association with the Anglican congregation of Woodend and cultural and spiritual significance for their religious use and commemorative purpose. St Barnabas's Anglican Church has architectural significance as an Arts and Crafts design by pre-eminent Christchurch architect Cecil Wood and both structures have technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of their construction and detailing. St Barnabas's Anglican Church and Lychgate have contextual significance as historic features on the outskirts of Woodend and for their relationship with the churchyard and nearby vicarage. The church property has potential archaeological significance in view of the prior development that occurred on the site.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

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## REFERENCES

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- M Stocker *Angels and Roses – the art of Frederick George Gurnsey* Christchurch, 1997.



Extent of setting, lychgate marked by star, 147 Main North Road (SH 1), Woodend.