

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

2021 District Plan Item No. HH072
HERITAGE ITEM NAME former Waikuku Wesleyan Methodist Church
ADDRESS 1403 Main North Road (SH 1), Waikuku
PHOTOGRAPH



(HNZPT)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. H088 **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** 3794 / 2
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Part RS 1235

VALUATION NUMBER 2159164800

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1899-1900

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** J Withers, designer/builder

STYLE Gothic Revival vernacular hall type

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with rectangular footprint and gabled roof forms. Entrance porch with cross-gables on principal, east-facing elevation. Lower-level gabled vestry at rear (west elevation). Lancet-arched windows, decorative bargeboards and finial. Diamond-pattern leadlights.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber frame and weatherboard cladding, corrugated metal.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Entrance porch & vestry added (1919).

SETTING

The former church is on the west side of Main North Road (SH 1), north of its intersection with Gressons Road. The wider setting is largely residential within a rural landscape. The extent of setting is the land parcel on which the church is located.

HISTORY

Methodist services in Waikuku were held in the local schoolroom from 1873 until a church was erected over the summer of 1899-1900. Local farmer Charles Skevington gifted the land for the church and it was opened on 8 February 1900. The church was extended in 1919 with the addition of an entrance porch and vestry. The last service was held in the church on 2 December 1990. The building was subsequently sold and was used until c.2007 by the Gospel Way Outreach church. It remains in private ownership.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Waikuku Wesleyan Methodist Church has historical and social significance for its association with the Methodist congregation of Waikuku and the history of the local church community from 1900 until 1990. The 1919 additions to the church, as well as its closure in 1990, demonstrate the ebb and flow of church adherents in the locality.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Waikuku Wesleyan Methodist Church has cultural and spiritual value as a former place of Methodist worship and fellowship.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Waikuku Wesleyan Methodist Church has architectural significance as a Gothic Revival vernacular hall type church designed by Southbrook builder James Withers. Withers (1843-1910) was a member of the Methodist church and also responsible for erecting the Anglican church at Southbrook in 1880. The designer of the 1919 additions to the church is currently unknown.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Waikuku Wesleyan Methodist Church has technological and craftsmanship value for its late Victorian timber construction and detailing.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Waikuku Wesleyan Methodist Church has contextual significance as a historic feature in Waikuku. Although it is no longer used as a church the building can easily be read as an ecclesiastical building from the public domain.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the church dates to 1899-1900 its site has potential archaeological value relating to the development of the property by the Methodist church.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Waikuku Wesleyan Methodist Church has overall heritage significance to Waikuku and Waimakariri district as a whole. The building has historic and social significance for its association with the Methodist congregation of Waikuku and cultural and spiritual value for its former religious use and purpose. The former Waikuku Wesleyan Methodist Church has architectural significance as a Gothic Revival vernacular hall type church and technological and craftsmanship value for its late Victorian timber construction and detailing. The former Waikuku Wesleyan Methodist Church has contextual significance as a historic feature in Waikuku and the church property has potential archaeological value in view of the development that occurred on the site at the turn of the 20th century.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Press* 16 March 1880, p. 2; 10 February 1900, p. 9; 12 July 1919, p. 10; 10 April 1920, p. 12; 6 September 1932, p. 11.
- *North Canterbury Gazette* 2 November 1934, p. 3.
- *Timaru Herald* 7 March 1900, p. 3.
- *Star* 26 July 1910, p. 3.
- *Lyttelton Times* 8 August 1873, p. 2; 18 February 1886, p. 7; 28 October 1899, p. 5; 11 December 1899, p. 3; 10 February 1900, p. 7; 16 October 1911, p. 11.
- <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc03Cycl-t1-body1-d4-d11.html>
- http://www.methodist.org.nz/archives/canterbury_methodist_churches
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/3794>
- <https://libraries.waimakariri.govt.nz/heritage/local-history/places-of-the-waimakariri-surrounding-areas/history-of-the-churches-of-tuahiwī,-waikuku-and-woodend>
- [http://www.methodist.org.nz/files/docs/wesley%20historical/8\(3\)%20ouryesteryears%201840%20.pdf](http://www.methodist.org.nz/files/docs/wesley%20historical/8(3)%20ouryesteryears%201840%20.pdf)
- <https://www.southbrook.school.nz/southbrook-school/history>

REPORT COMPLETED

19 February 2019

AUTHOR

Dr Ann McEwan / Heritage Consultancy Services



Extent of setting, 1403 Main North Road, Waikuku.



Church at opening in 1900. WDC files.