

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

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**2021 District Plan Item No.** HH030  
**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** former St James' on the Cust Anglican Church parsonage  
**ADDRESS** 1776 Cust Road, Cust

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(Dr A McEwan, 10 July 2019)

**DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.** H003      **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** 5270 / 2  
(at time of assessment)

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Lot 1 DP 60487

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2158008800

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1876

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** BW Mountfort, architect; William Gardiner, builder

**STYLE** Domestic Gothic Revival

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Two-storey building with rectangular footprint and gabled roof forms. Principal, east-facing elevation has straight veranda carried on simple posts terminated by two-storey gabled bay. Double-gabled north elevation overlooks expansive terraced garden. Sunhoods over first floor windows, gable dormers on east and west elevations. Boxed bay window with flared roof on east elevation has casement and fanlight type fenestration. Casement windows.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Timber frame and weatherboard cladding, corrugated metal roofing.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Unspecified improvements (1885). Single-storey additions to south and west (early 1970s?).

**SETTING**

The dwelling is located on the north side of Cust Road, west of Mill Road. The house is set back from the roadway within a mature garden and the property is bordered to the north by a branch of the Cust River; a tributary flows through the site beneath the terrace on which the house stands. St James' on the Cust Anglican Church (H005) is to the east of its former vicarage. The extent of setting is limited to the garden setting of the house, notwithstanding the potential archaeological values of the land parcel as a whole.

## **HISTORY**

The Church of St James' on the Cust was consecrated on 29 September 1866. Initially the vicar lived in 'The Priory' (H006) on the Oxford Road, which was built at the same time as the church in Cust. A new parsonage, at a cost of £480, was erected to the west of the church in 1876. The first resident vicar was the Rev Hugh Henry Scriven Hamilton (1848-1946) who had recently emigrated from England with his wife Margaret. Hamilton held the cure of Cust from December 1876 until September 1879. The parsonage, by then known as a vicarage, was sold in 1945 and has been held privately ever since. The property was subdivided to its current extent in 1991. St James' Church is now part of the Anglican Parish of Oxford-Cust.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former St James' on the Cust Anglican Church parsonage has historical and social significance for its association with the Rev HHS Hamilton, his family, and all those who subsequently lived in the vicarage and served St James' on the Cust Church until it was sold. It is also significant as a demonstration of the activity of the Anglican church in the colonial period as it built churches and vicarages throughout Canterbury to house growing congregations and their clergy.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former St James' on the Cust Anglican Church parsonage has cultural significance as it demonstrates the way of life of Anglican clergy and their families in the later 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Anglican vicars were typically provided with a house as part of their employment and their homes consequently became important venues for the social and pastoral life of the community.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The former St James' on the Cust Anglican Church parsonage has architectural significance as the work of preeminent Canterbury architect, Benjamin Mountfort (1825-98). Mountfort trained and practised in London before emigrating to New Zealand with his family in 1850; a colonist on one of the 'First Four Ships'. He designed churches and vicarages for the Anglican diocese throughout his career and was also responsible for the Canterbury Provincial Council buildings (1858-65), and early buildings for Canterbury Museum (from 1869) and Canterbury University College (1877/1882, Christchurch Arts Centre). Mountfort was an ardent proponent of the Gothic Revival style and 'by the 1880s was recognised as New Zealand's foremost church architect' (Lochhead, NZDB entry – see below). He was a member of the Anglican church, a leader in the profession, and is credited with playing a key role in establishing the architectural character of Christchurch. The Cust parsonage was one of eight Mountfort designed between 1873 and 1876 and is comparable to the vicarage at Lincoln (1876), which also survives.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The former St James' on the Cust Anglican Church parsonage has technological and craftsmanship value for its construction and detailing by Rangiora builder William Gardiner.

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The former St James' on the Cust Anglican Church parsonage has contextual significance as a historic feature in Cust and for its relationship with both St James' on the Cust Anglican Church & Belfry (H005) and 'The Priory' on the Oxford Road (H006).

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

As the former parsonage pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological value relating to the structure's construction and early use.

## SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former St James' on the Cust Anglican Church parsonage has overall heritage significance to Cust and Waimakariri district as a whole. The dwelling has historic and social significance for its association with the Anglican clergy of Cust and cultural significance as a demonstration of the way of life of its former residents. The former St James' on the Cust Anglican Church parsonage has architectural significance as a Domestic Gothic Revival style dwelling designed by preeminent Canterbury architect BW Mountfort and technological and craftsmanship value for its mid-Victorian construction and detailing. The former St James' on the Cust Anglican Church parsonage has contextual significance as a historic feature at Cust and for its relationship with the neighbouring St James' on the Cust Anglican Church and Belfry. The site of the former parsonage has potential archaeological value in view of the structure's pre-1900 construction.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

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## REFERENCES

- *Press* 29 February 1876, p. 2; 8 October 1879, p. 2; 20 April 1885, p. 3.
- *Lyttelton Times* 28 February 1876, p. 1; 9 August 1876, p. 3; 19 October 1876, p. 1; 11 March 1879, p. 6.
- *North Canterbury Gazette* 15 September 1936, p. 5.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/5270>
- <https://libraries.waimakariri.govt.nz/heritage/local-history/places-of-the-waimakariri/oxford-and-districts/history-of-churches-in-oxford,-carleton,-coopers-creek,-cust-and-horrelville>
- I Lochhead *A Dream of Spires – Benjamin Mountfort and the Gothic Revival* Christchurch, 1999.
- <https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/1m57/mountfort-benjamin-woolfield>
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903; available online.
- [http://anglicanhistory.org/nz/blain\\_directory/directory.pdf](http://anglicanhistory.org/nz/blain_directory/directory.pdf)

**REPORT COMPLETED**

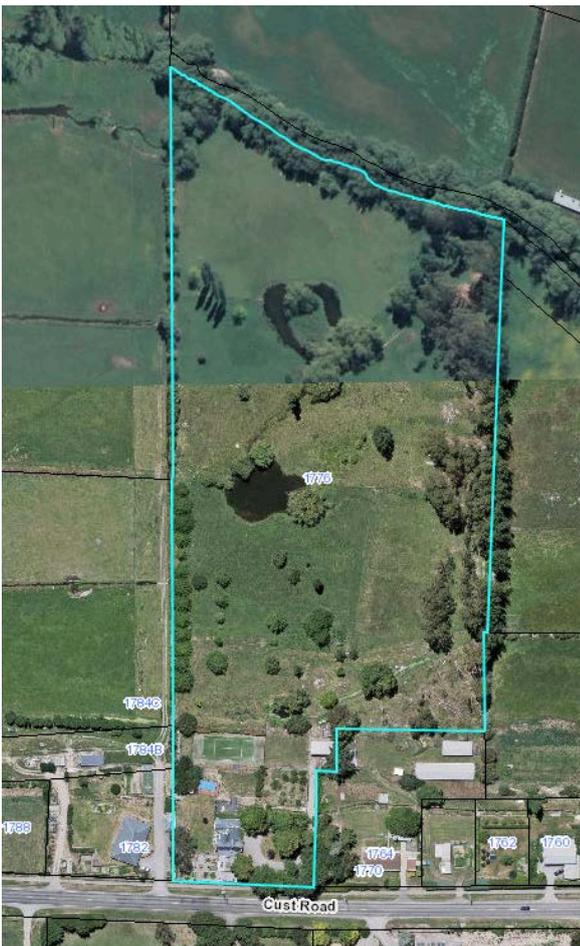
4 March 2019

**AUTHOR**

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Extent of setting, limited to the immediate garden setting and following the line of the upper terrace, 1776 Cust Road, Custer.



Land parcel as a whole.



Cust parsonage. Lochhead, p. 235.