

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

2021 District Plan Item No. HH084
HERITAGE ITEM NAME former Summerhill School building
ADDRESS 365 Summerhill Road, Summerhill
PHOTOGRAPH



(WDC)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. H118 **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** n / a
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Part RS 7430

VALUATION NUMBER 2158001500

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1878

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Thomas Cane, Canterbury Education Board architect

STYLE Victorian educational vernacular

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with rectangular footprint and gabled roof forms. Lean-to veranda along north elevation is terminated by lower-level gabled bay. Lean-to at rear (south elevation). Lower-level bay on west elevation. Double-hung sash windows and multi-pane casement windows and French doors.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber framing and weatherboard cladding, corrugated metal roof.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

School building converted to residential use; southern gabled bay added (post-1947).

SETTING

The former school building is set back from the roadway on a triangular plot formed by the intersection of Summerhill Road in the north and Ashley Road in the south/south-east. The extent of scheduling is the land parcel as a whole, partly in view of the potential archaeological values of the property.

HISTORY

A side school of Cust School opened at Summerhill in June 1879 with an initial roll of 22. Helen Ladbrooke was the inaugural teacher and over the years the school building was also used for local gatherings and to host Presbyterian services and a Sunday school. It also served as the local post office for a time (1910-13). In December 1883 the school became independent of the Cust school district and was thereafter known as the Summerhill School. The school operated until December 1943, although it was closed for a period in c.1907/8, apparently due to a shortfall in funds to pay the teacher's salary. The school property was sold in c.1947, the former teacher's house (c.1883) having already been removed to Cust, and the former school building subsequently converted to residential use. The building remains in private residential use today. The 150th anniversary of the Cust area schools, including Summerhill and Springbank (1870-1975), was held in November 2017.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Summerhill School building has historical and social significance for its association with the rural community of Summerhill and the former teachers and pupils of the school. It appears that the former school was the only civic or public structure ever built in Summerhill. Its conversion to residential use, after the consolidation of schools in the area at Cust, is typical of the adaptive reuse of redundant educational buildings around New Zealand in the later 20th century.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Summerhill School building has cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of a rural community in the late 19th and 20th centuries as well as historic education practices.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The former Summerhill School building has architectural significance as the work of notable Canterbury architect, Thomas Cane. Cane (1830-1905) was appointed provincial architect in 1874 and, following the abolition of the provincial government system in 1876, subsequently appointed architect to the Canterbury Education Board. Cane designed the Timeball Station in Lyttelton (1875) and the first Christchurch Girls' High School building (Christchurch Arts Centre, 1876) but undertook few architectural commissions after he was declared bankrupt in 1885.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The former Summerhill School building has craftsmanship value for the evidence of its Victorian timber construction and detailing.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Summerhill School building has contextual value as a local historic feature that marks the centre of the Summerhill rural area.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the former school building pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The former Summerhill School building has overall significance to Summerhill and Waimakariri district as a whole. The building has historical and social significance for its association with the former teachers and pupils of the school and cultural value as a demonstration of the way of life of a rural community in the late 19th and first half of the 20th

centuries. The former Summerhill School building has architectural significance for its design by Thomas Cane and craftsmanship value for its surviving Victorian timber construction and detailing. The former Summerhill School building has contextual value as a local historic feature and as a marker of the Summerhill rural community. As the school building pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Press* 8 July 1878, p. 1; 15 October 1883, p. 3; 22 December 1883, p. 1; 1 July 1890, p. 4; 26 January 1894, p. 3; 30 August 1922, p. 3; 13 October 1925, p. 15; 5 October 1938, p. 2; 21 February 2017 (available online).
- *Star* 13 June 1879, p. 2; 14 September 1893, p. 3; 5 August 1908, p. 2; 9 September 1908, p. 3; 11 August 1910, p. 3; 17 November 1911, p. 2.
- *Lyttelton Times* 16 November 1883, p. 6; 15 December 1888, p. 4; 26 December 1888, p. 3; 5 September 1893, p. 8; 1 October 1894, p. 6; 1 June 1901, p. 3; 7 March 1904, p. 8; 22 November 1906, p. 2.
- *North Canterbury Gazette* 16 December 1932, p. 10; 13 July 1937, p. 5.
- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Canterbury Provincial District* Christchurch, 1903; available online.
- Archives New Zealand.
- *Cust Area Schools – 150 Years Jubilee* booklet, Cust, 2017.

REPORT COMPLETED

22 February 2019

AUTHOR

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Extent of scheduling, 365 Summerhill Road, Summerhill, Cust.