

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

2021 District Plan Item No. HH020
HERITAGE ITEM NAME Te Whare Tipene / St Stephen's Church (Anglican)
ADDRESS 234 Tuahiwi Road, Tuahiwi
PHOTOGRAPH



(HNZPT)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. H081 **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** 7380 / 1
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Pt Lot 1 DP 12780

VALUATION NUMBER 2161130900

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1867

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Rev AG Purchas, designer; Messrs Herbertson & Byers, builders

STYLE Colonial Gothic Revival

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with irregular rectangular footprint and gabled roof forms. Combined bell tower and entrance porch on north elevation with sanctuary at east end. Lancet arched windows; group of five in west end and paired in lower portion of the tower. Braced supports on south, west and north elevations. Pair of cusped lancet arched windows light the sanctuary. Lancet arched louvres in upper section of bell tower.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber framing and vertical board and batten cladding, stone piles, corrugated metal roofing.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Timber buttresses removed (1920s). Twice reroofed (1920s & date unknown). Vestry on south side removed (1946). Top of tower replaced (1962).

SETTING

The church is set back from the roadway on the east side of Tuahiwi Road. The church grounds are grassed with a backdrop of mature trees. Tuahiwi Marae and Tuahiwi School are to the south of the church along Tuahiwi Road. The extent of setting is the land parcel on which the church is located.

HISTORY

On 9 February 1867 the foundation stone of the 'Maori Church' at Tuahiwi was laid by Governor George Grey before a crowd of 600 or more in a ceremony conducted in te reo Maori and English. The service was supported by church wardens Pita Te Hori and Koro Mautai and Maori leaders in attendance took the opportunity to address Governor Grey in regard to a number of outstanding land matters. The first service in the completed church was held, in both te reo Maori and English, on 11 September 1867. Tuahiwi had been established as a Maori mission station by the Rev James Stack in 1859. The settlement that grew up around the church and native school had a population of around 150 Maori at the turn of the 20th century and, in addition to the church and school, also boasted a post office. In 1903 the Church Missionary Society withdrew from New Zealand and St Stephen's became part of the Anglican Church of New Zealand. In the mid-20th century the church was attached to Rangiora and, later, Woodend parishes. Since c.2000 St Stephen's has been independent of the Rangiora parish.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Te Whare Tipene / St Stephen's Church has high historical and social significance as the oldest Maori church built in the South Island and the last of the churches built under the auspices of the Church Missionary Society and Bishop Selwyn. It is also significant for its association with Maori missionary James Stack and the leaders and people of Te Ngai Tuahiriri and Ngai Tahu who funded the church and supported its ongoing use and maintenance.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Te Whare Tipene / St Stephen's Church has cultural and spiritual significance as a place of Christian worship and fellowship. The building also has a commemorative purpose given the memorial fixtures and furnishings it contains.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

Te Whare Tipene / St Stephen's Church has high architectural significance as the work of amateur architect Arthur Guyon Purchas. Guyon (1821-1906) trained as a doctor and surgeon in England before emigrating to New Zealand in 1846. He was ordained as a priest in 1853 and was the vicar of Onehunga from 1847 until 1875. The son of an architect, Purchas was associated with fellow priest/architect Frederick Thatcher in the design of the 'Selwyn churches', which were influenced by the Ecclesiological Society and built during George Selwyn's tenure as first Bishop of New Zealand (1841-67). Purchas also designed the Anglican churches of St Peter (Onehunga, 1847-48), St James (Mangere, 1857), St Bride (Mauku, 1860) and St Peter in Akaroa (1860-61).

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

Te Whare Tipene / St Stephen's Church has technological and craftsmanship value for the evidence it provides of mid-19th century construction methods and materials. Saltwater Creek builders Robert Herbertson and James Byers were in partnership between July 1864 and July 1871. The stained-glass window *Christ Seated in Majesty* in the sanctuary dates to 1888 and was made by John Hardman & Co. of Birmingham.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Te Whare Tipene / St Stephen's Church has contextual significance as a historic landmark in Tuahiwi and for its relationship with the nearby marae.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the church pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance relating to the development of the property by the Church Missionary Society and its earlier history of Maori use and occupation.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Te Whare Tipene / St Stephen's Church has high overall heritage significance to Tuahiwi and Waimakariri district as a whole. The church has high historical and social significance as the oldest Maori mission church in the South Island and for its association with the Maori community of Tuahiwi since 1867 and cultural and spiritual significance for its religious use and commemorative function. Te Whare Tipene / St Stephen's Church has high architectural significance as a 'Selwyn church' designed by the Rev Dr AG Purchas and technological and craftsmanship value for its mid-19th century construction and detailing. Te Whare Tipene / St Stephen's Church has contextual significance as a local landmark and for its relationship with the nearby marae and school. The church property has potential archaeological significance in view of its pre-1900 development and use.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Press* 12 February 1867, p. 2; 13 February 1867, p. 2; 9 September 1867, p. 1; 29 September 1917, p. 14.
- *Lyttelton Times* 19 July 1864, p. 6; 8 February 1867, p. 1; 11 February 1867, p. 2; 4 October 1867, p. 7; 7 July 1871, p. 3.
- *North Canterbury Gazette*
- *Northern Outlook* 28 April 1997, p. 3; 24 February 1999, p. 9; 8 March 1999, p. 9.
- *Kaiapoi Mail* 18 April 1997 [np].
- <https://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/7380>
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- <http://www.tuahiwimarae.iwi.nz/history/st-stephens/>
- http://anglicanhistory.org/nz/stack_koro1909/
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- <https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/tuahiwi-marae/>
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- *Cyclopedia of New Zealand - Canterbury Provincial Council District* Christchurch, 1903; available online.
- F Ciaran 'Stained Glass in Canterbury, New Zealand, 1860 to 1988' PhD thesis, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, 1992.

REPORT COMPLETED

8 March 2019

AUTHOR

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Extent of setting, Te Whare Tipene / St Stephen's Church, 234 Tuahiwi Road, Tuahiwi.