

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

2021 District Plan Item No. **HH003**

HERITAGE ITEM NAME St Bartholomew's Anglican Church

ADDRESS 23B Cass Street, Kaiapoi

PHOTOGRAPH



(Dr A McEwan, 22 December 2018)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. H032 **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** 285 / 1
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Lot 3 DP 26905

VALUATION NUMBER 2175224800

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1855 + 1862

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** BW Mountfort, architect of Mountfort & Luck; Henry Jones, builder (1855)

STYLE Gothic Revival

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey church with an irregular T-shaped footprint and gabled roof forms. Inverted V-shaped frame with low walls and a steeply pitched roof; principal entrance at north-west end is sheltered by a gabled porch; multi-gable sanctuary at south-east end. String course beneath transept windows, open buttresses, external cross-bracing and half-timbering; belfry on ridge at north-west end. Gabled vents in nave roof. Narrow lancet windows either singly or grouped.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber framing and cladding, corrugated metal roofing.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Relocated and belfry added (1860). Chancel and transepts added (1862). Post-EQ repairs including new roof and foundations (2016-17).

SETTING

The church is located on the south-west side of Cass Street opposite its intersection with Meadow Street. The parish hall is located on the same property to the north-west of the church; the vicarage is on the neighbouring property further to the north-west. The church

grounds are open to the street and the wider setting is residential in character. The extent of setting is the land parcel on which the church and parish hall are located.

HISTORY

The Rev John Raven was the first vicar of the Anglican parish of Kaiapoi (1853-58), which at that time also included Rangiora. The first stage of St Bartholomew's Church was erected in Darnley Square in 1855 but weakening of the foundations through erosion led to its relocation to Cass Street in 1860. The church reopened on 20 May of that year, a belfry being the only addition to the building at that time. A chancel and transepts were added in 1862 and the building has been little changed since then. A new parish hall was built beside the church in 1958, the earlier hall then being demolished (built 1875/1885, demolished c.1970). The church property was subdivided to its current extent in 1968. The church was restored and repaired after the Canterbury earthquakes and today the Kaiapoi parish also has oversight of churches at Clarkville, Eyreton and Ohoka.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

St Bartholomew's Anglican Church has high historical and social significance as the oldest surviving church in Canterbury and for its association with the Anglican community of Kaiapoi since 1855. The staged building programme of St Bartholomew's reflects the efforts of the local community to build a church of the size the congregation required as funds permitted, as well as the growth and development of the Anglican church in Canterbury in the latter half of the 19th century.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

St Bartholomew's Anglican Church has cultural and spiritual significance as a place of Anglican worship and fellowship and for the commemorative value of a number of the fittings and furnishings within it; including memorial windows dedicated to Josiah Birch and John Clemett.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

St Bartholomew's Anglican Church has high architectural significance as the earliest extant work of preeminent Canterbury architect Benjamin Mountfort (1825-98), who trained and practised in London before emigrating to New Zealand with his family in 1850. Mountfort 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). He 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). Mountfort 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. He was in partnership with his brother-in-law Isaac Luck from 1857 until 1864, during which time he designed the belfry and 1862 extensions to the original 1855 St Bartholomew's.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

St Bartholomew's Anglican Church has high technological and craftsmanship significance for its mid-19th century construction and Gothic Revival detailing. Henry Jones was a local carpenter and builder who later relocated to Christchurch. The expression of the structure of the building on its exterior reveals the influence of the Ecclesiological Society on Benjamin Mountfort. Stained glass windows of note in the building include those made by Lavers, Barraud & Westlake of London (*The Sermon on the Mount* and *The Four Evangelists*, c.1883-84).

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

St Bartholomew's Anglican Church has high contextual significance as a landmark historic feature in Kaiapoi and for its relationship with other elements within the church precinct, including the Parish Hall (1958) and vicarage (1930).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

As the church pre-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological significance relating to colonial development and use of the church property.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

St Bartholomew's Anglican Church has high overall heritage significance to Kaiapoi and Waimakariri district as a whole. The church has high historic and social significance as the oldest church in Canterbury and cultural and spiritual significance as a place of Anglican worship and fellowship since 1855. St Bartholomew's Anglican Church has high architectural significance as a Gothic Revival style structure designed by leading New Zealand architect BW Mountfort and high technological and craftsmanship significance for its Victorian construction and detailing. St Bartholomew's Anglican Church has high contextual significance as a historic landmark in Kaiapoi and for its relationship with other structures within the church precinct. The church property has potential archaeological significance in view of the site's pre-1900 development and use.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

A

REFERENCES

- *Lyttelton Times* 2 August 1851, p. 4; 12 May 1855, p. 1; 6 September 1856, p. 4; 25 February 1860, p. 1; 30 May 1860, p. 4; 9 November 1861, p. 4; 27 February 1892, p. 3.
- *Press* 19 August 1933, p. 6.
- *North Canterbury Gazette* 25 August 1933, p. 5.
- *North Canterbury News* 25 August 2016, available online.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/285>
- <https://libraries.waimakariri.govt.nz/heritage/local-history/places-of-the-waimakariri/kaiapoi/history-of-the-churches-in-kaiapoi>
- 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
- F Ciaran 'Stained Glass in Canterbury, New Zealand, 1860 to 1988' PhD thesis, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, 1992.
- <https://www.metalroofing.org.nz/feature-articles/saint-bartholomew's-church-church-move>
- <http://www.peelingbackhistory.co.nz/canterburys-oldest-surviving-original-church-is-built-1854/>

REPORT COMPLETED

2 April 2019

AUTHOR

Dr Ann McEwan / Heritage Consultancy Services



Extent of setting, St Bartholomew's Anglican Church, 23B Cass Street, Kaiapoi.



Church during post-EQ work programme. www.