

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

2021 District Plan Item No. HH014
HERITAGE ITEM NAME Anglican Church of St John the Baptist
ADDRESS 351 High Street, Rangiora

PHOTOGRAPH



(Dr A McEwan, 22 December 2018)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. H052 **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** 1823 / 2
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Lot 5 DP 11217

VALUATION NUMBER 2165358800

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1875-76 + 1882

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** BW Mountfort, architect; JJ Robinson (first stage) and
Messrs Pollock & Thompson (second stage), builders

STYLE Gothic Revival

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

One-and-a-half-storey church with an irregular rectangular footprint and gabled roof forms. Lower walls are plastered concrete with chamfered edges at door openings. Height of concrete varies according to disposition of doors and windows. Apsidal sanctuary and cross-gabled transepts; dormers windows light the nave. Entrance at west end of north elevation has lean-to porch roof. Cusped lancet arched windows, circular rose window in eastern transepts, shingled gable ends. Stained glass and diamond-pattern quarry glass. Gabled porch at west end of southern elevation.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Mass concrete foundations and lower walls, Oamaru stone corners, timber frame and board and batten cladding above, tile roofing.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

World War I memorial erected in church grounds (1920). Jubilee memorial plaque installed in church grounds (1935). Church reroofed with iron (1901) and tiles (1990). Infill of west end door opening with patterned concrete block (date unknown). Refurbished (2007-8).

SETTING

The church is located on the south side of High Street and is bordered to the east by Church Street. The Sunday School and parish hall are located to the south of the church. A modern

gabled lychgate provides entry to the church grounds from High Street and a memorial cross is mounted close to the west end of the church. A low concrete fence marks the street front boundaries of the property. The extent of setting is the land parcel on which the church, and part of the Sunday School, is located.

HISTORY

After meeting in a chapel-schoolroom since June 1856, Rangiora's Anglicans erected a church on a site gifted by Ingram Shrimpton in 1859-60. St John the Baptist was consecrated on 12 April 1860; the Rev Benjamin Dudley (1805-92) was installed as the curate of the parish of Rangiora at the same time. Dudley oversaw the church building programme and generously endowed the parish even after his retirement in 1887. The church was extended in 1864 and ten years later the parishioners decided to enlarge the building according to plans prepared once again by diocesan architect BW Mountfort. The extensions were nearing completion by May 1876 and comprised the chancel and transepts; in 1882 the nave and aisles were completed. The original building was then dismantled and removed and the new church consecrated on 12 October 1882. A planned tower and steeple were never built due to a shortage of funds and the organ console was not raised until the late 20th century. A free-standing belfry was erected in 1879, the same year in which the organ was installed and a concrete Sunday School was built behind the church. A parish hall was added to the Sunday School in 1923. A new vicarage replaced the early 1870s parsonage in 1958. The church was subject to a conservation report in 2002 and was refurbished in 2007-8. It remains in use by the church congregation.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Anglican Church of St John the Baptist has high historical and social significance for its association with the Anglican community of Rangiora since 1860. The staged building programme of St John'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

The Anglican Church of St John the Baptist 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 the Dudley family, George and Ann Leech, and parishioners who died serving in World War II.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Anglican Church of St John the Baptist has high architectural significance as the 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 first Church of St John the Baptist and its 1864 extension. Mountfort also designed St John's first parsonage in 1872-73 (demolished 1958).

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Anglican Church of St John the Baptist has high technological and craftsmanship significance for its Victorian composite construction and Gothic Revival detailing. The

monolithic concrete base of the church demonstrates Mountfort's interest in innovative construction methods. Local builders JJ Robinson and Messrs Pollock and Thompson were responsible for the staged construction of the new church. Stained glass windows of note in the building include those made by Lavers, Barraud & Westlake of London (*The Good Shepherd with St John the Baptist*, designed by BW Mountfort, 1883) and James Powell & Sons of Whitefriars, England (Leech memorial window, 1963-64).

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Anglican Church of St John the Baptist has high contextual significance as a landmark historic feature in Rangiora and for its relationship with other built elements within the church precinct, including the Sunday School & Parish Hall and the parish's World War I memorial. When it opened in 1860 the Church of St John was some distance from the rest of the Rangiora settlement, its location today on the edge of the town centre a reminder of Rangiora's early colonial development.

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

The Anglican Church of St John the Baptist has high overall heritage significance to Rangiora and Waimakariri district as a whole. The church has high historic and social significance for its association with the Anglican community of Rangiora since 1860 and cultural and spiritual significance as a place of Anglican worship and fellowship. The Anglican Church of St John the Baptist 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. The Anglican Church of St John the Baptist has high contextual significance as a historic landmark in Rangiora 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

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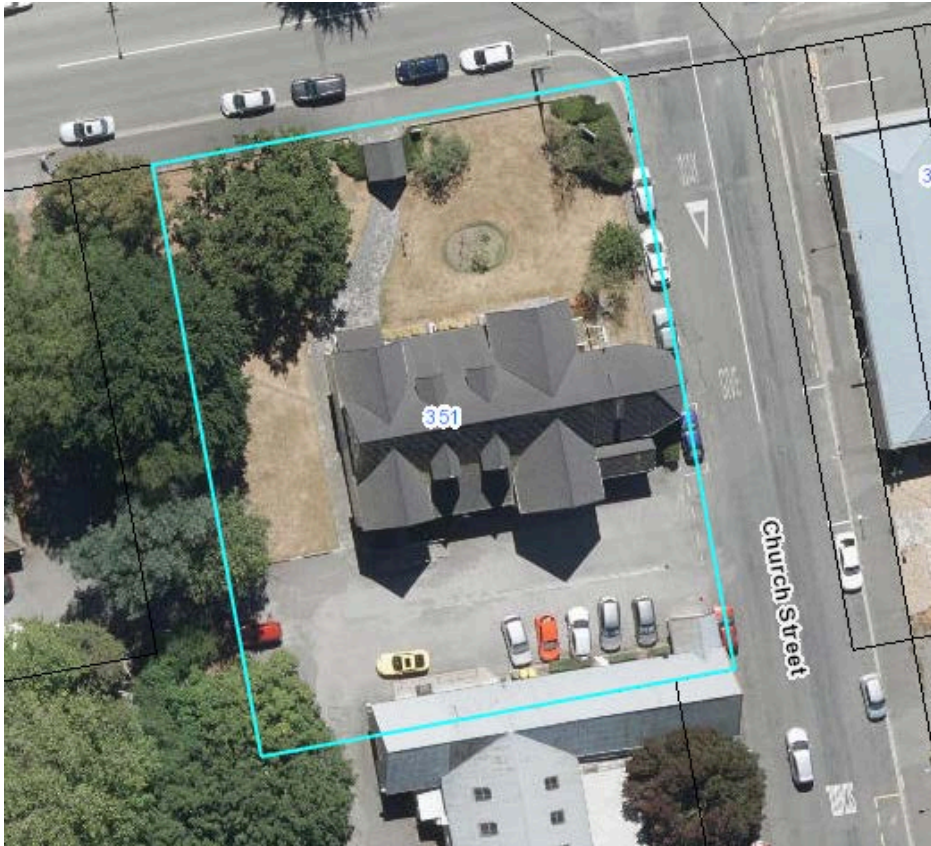
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REPORT COMPLETED

2 April 2019

AUTHOR

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Extent of setting, Anglican Church of St John the Baptist, 351 High Street, Rangiora.