

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

2021 District Plan Item No. HH032
HERITAGE ITEM NAME 'The Priory', former Anglican parsonage
ADDRESS 1990 Oxford Road, Cust
PHOTOGRAPH



(WDC)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. H006 **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** 5269 / 2
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Pt RS 7332

VALUATION NUMBER 2158011900

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1866

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** William & John King, builders

STYLE Domestic Gothic Revival

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Two-storey building with rectangular footprint and varied roof forms. Ground floor lean-to/veranda on north-west elevation has gabled first floor bay with half-timbering. Roofline of north-east elevation is broken by a cross-gable with scalloped bargeboards and shingled gable end over the first-floor balcony. South-east elevation has boxed bay window, stepped parapet with cresting and terminal orbs. Double-hung sash and casement and fanlight type fenestration.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber frame and weatherboards with cement stucco cladding, stone foundations, corrugated metal roofing.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Veranda partially enclosed (date unknown). Stuccoed (c.1950).

SETTING

The dwelling is located on the north side of Oxford Road, west of Tippings Road. The house is set back some distance from the roadway within a mature garden, but it can be glimpsed from the public domain. The former 1876 parsonage (H003) and St James' on the Cust Anglican Church, Sunday School and belfry (H005) are situated to the east of 'The Priory', within the village of Cust. 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 Anglican Church of St James' on the Cust was consecrated on 29 September 1866, a day before its sister church of St Andrew's at Oxford. Initially the vicar who served both churches lived midway between the two settlements, in a parsonage completed just a few weeks after the double consecration ceremonies. AP O'Callaghan was the first curate of the Oxford Parochial District, having been appointed in May 1865. The parsonage was built on glebe land given by Robert Higgins of 'Tara' estate, who was chairman of the Cust Road District at the time. 'Tara' homestead was just a few hundred metres to the west of the parsonage. A new parsonage, at a cost of £480, was erected closer to the Cust church in 1876. The first parsonage was sold to HCH Knowles, formerly of 'Glentui' station, for £275 in October 1875 to fund the new building; it has been held privately ever since. The house has been known as 'The Priory' since at least the mid-1930s and was featured in a historic places and gardens tour around Cust in 2011.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The former Anglican parsonage known as 'The Priory' has historical and social significance for its association with the Rev AP O'Callaghan and its role as a parsonage between 1866 and 1875. Arthur Pyne O'Callaghan (1837-1930) left Cust in late 1868 and retired from the clergy in 1869, later becoming a Member of Parliament (1881-88) and land valuer. The house 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 Priory' has cultural value as it demonstrates the way of life of Anglican clergy and their families in the mid-19th century. 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 Priory' has architectural significance as a large-scale Domestic Gothic Revival style dwelling of atypical design, particularly in relation to the unusual first floor balcony. The architect/designer is currently unknown but may have been Messrs King.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

'The Priory' has technological and craftsmanship value for its mid-19th century construction and detailing by Oxford builders W & J King.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

'The Priory' has contextual significance as a historic feature in the vicinity of Cust and for its relationship with both St James' on the Cust Anglican Church, Sunday School & Belfry (H005) and the former parsonage that replaced it (H003).

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 Anglican parsonage known as 'The Priory' has overall heritage significance to Cust and Waimakariri district as a whole. The dwelling has historic and social significance for its association with the establishment of the local parish and the Rev AP O'Callaghan and cultural

value as a demonstration of the way of life of its early clerical residents. 'The Priory' has architectural significance as a distinctive Domestic Gothic Revival style dwelling and technological and craftsmanship value for its mid-Victorian construction and detailing by Oxford builders Messrs King. 'The Priory' has contextual significance as a local historic feature and for its relationship with the former 1876 parsonage and St James' on the Cust Anglican Church, Sunday School 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

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REPORT COMPLETED

6 March 2019

AUTHOR

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Extent of setting, limited to the immediate garden setting, 1990 Oxford Road, Cust.



Land parcel in context.



WDC files.