

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

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**2021 District Plan Item No.** HH092  
**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** Anglican Church of St John the Baptist Sunday School & Parish Hall  
**ADDRESS** 71 Church Street, Rangiora

**PHOTOGRAPH**



(Dr A McEwan, 22 December 2018)

<b>DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.</b> (at time of assessment)	N/A	<b>HNZ LIST NO. &amp; CATEGORY</b>	n / a
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**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Part of Lots 4 & 5 DP 11217

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2165359000

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1879 + 1923-24

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
 BUILDER** CG & CJ Chapman, architects; JJ Robinson, contractor (1879 Sunday School); T Shankland (design) of Messrs Shankland and Taylor, contractors (1923-24 parish hall)

**STYLE** Gothic Revival / Vernacular

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Single-storey hall with an L-shaped footprint and gabled roof forms. 1879 section has buttresses and triple lancet windows with vents below. Gabled entrance porch at east end of northern elevation has decorative relief pattern set within lancet arch over door and quatrefoil window on east side. Lean-to along east side of 1923-24 parish hall with west-facing gabled extensions to 1879 section and later hall. Clearlite panels set in to parish hall roof.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Concrete, with stone facings (1879 section), and plaster finish. Corrugated iron.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Extended to west & south (c.1965).

**SETTING**

The Sunday School is located on the west side of Church Street immediately behind St John's Church and south of the intersection with High Street. The hall is open to the street and part of the building extends over the road reserve. The extent of setting is limited to the immediate environs of the Sunday School hall and includes parts of two land parcels, on one of which the church 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. The Church of 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 a lengthy church building programme and generously endowed the parish even after his retirement in 1887. Against the backdrop of the church being extended and remodelled, a programme that culminated with the 'new' church being consecrated on 12 October 1882, a concrete Sunday School was erected at the rear of the site. The building was opened on 29 July 1879. A parish hall was added to the Sunday School in 1923-24, the official opening taking place on 30 April 1924 under the auspices of Archbishop Julius. In the mid-1960s further additions were made to the Parish Hall, which remains in church use today and is also available for hire.

## **HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Church of St John the Baptist Sunday School & Parish Hall has historical and social significance for its association with the Anglican community of Rangiora since 1879. The staged building programme of the hall reflects the efforts of the church community to provide educational and social facilities as the need arose and funds permitted.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Church of St John the Baptist Sunday School & Parish Hall has cultural and spiritual value as a place of Anglican teaching and fellowship.

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The Church of St John the Baptist Sunday School & Parish Hall has architectural significance as the work of local architects CG and CJ Chapman. The two men were cousins and also worked as commission agents and surveyors. Charles George Chapman (c.1838-82) was also an early teacher in the township and served as Rangiora's inaugural borough clerk from 1878 until his death four years later. In 1879 he was a vestryman of St John's. The Chapmans also designed St Alban's Anglican Church vicarage at Ohoka (H041, 1879-80) and the Union Bank of Australia (1882) in Rangiora.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The Church of St John the Baptist Sunday School & Parish Hall has technological and craftsmanship significance for its original Victorian concrete construction and Gothic Revival detailing. The use of concrete echoes the construction of St John's Church; the first stage of which local builder John Robinson was also responsible for (1875-76). Thomas Shankland was a Rangiora builder who had served his apprenticeship with William Wadey and had premises in Ashley Street; he also built the Northern Agricultural and Pastoral Association building (H076, 1924-25).

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Church of St John the Baptist Sunday School & Parish Hall has contextual significance as a historic feature on the periphery of the town centre and for its relationship with the Anglican Church of St John the Baptist. When St John's opened in 1860 it was some distance from the rest of the Rangiora settlement, the church precinct's setting today on the edge of the town centre is therefore a reminder of Rangiora's development and growth.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

As the Sunday School 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 Sunday School & Parish Hall has overall heritage significance to Rangiora and Waimakariri district as a whole. The Sunday School hall has historic and social significance for its association with the Anglican community of Rangiora since 1879 and cultural and spiritual value as a place of Anglican teaching and fellowship. The Church of St John the Baptist Sunday School & Parish Hall has architectural significance as a Gothic Revival style structure designed by local architects CG and CJ Chapman and technological and craftsmanship significance for its Victorian concrete construction and detailing. The Church of St John the Baptist Sunday School & Parish Hall has contextual significance as a historic town centre feature and for its relationship with the Anglican Church of St John the Baptist. The church property has potential archaeological significance in view of the site's pre-1900 development and use.

## HERITAGE CATEGORY

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## REFERENCES

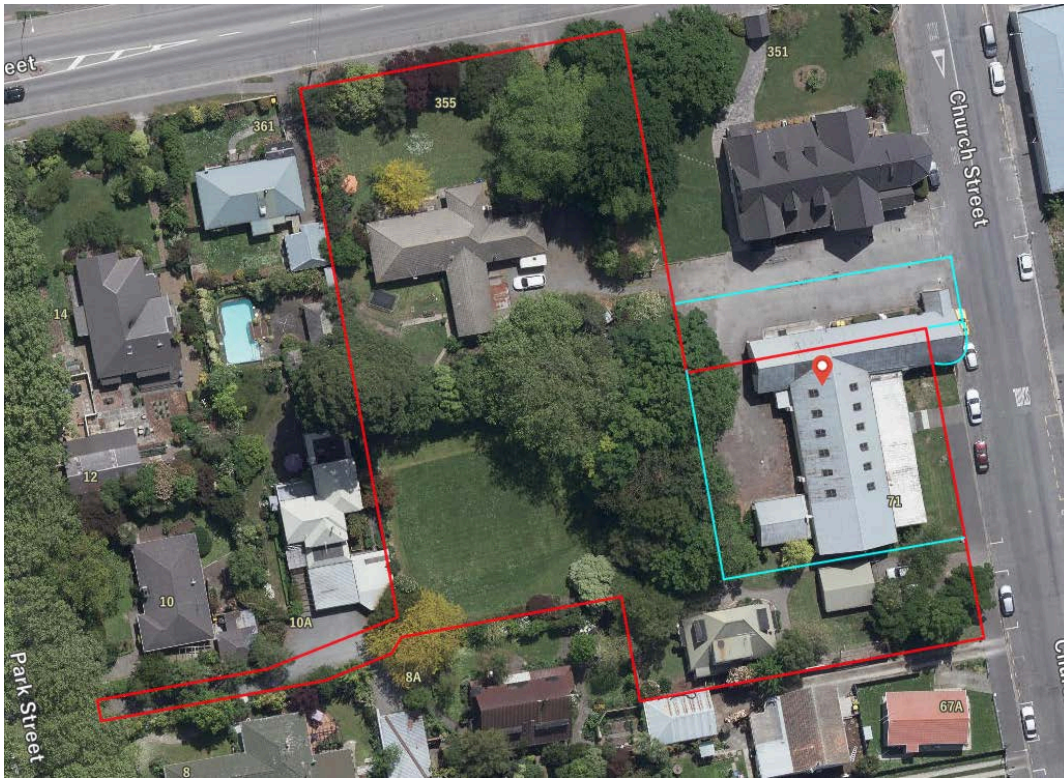
- *Press* 11 April 1864, p. 2; 7 May 1872, p. 2; 29 May 1874, p. 3; 4 November 1875, p. 2; 30 April 1879, p. 3; 13 October 1882, p. 3; 17 August 1922, p. 11; 21 May 1923, p. 3; 1 May 1924, p. 7.
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- *Sun* 27 September 1920, p. 7.
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- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/1823>
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**REPORT COMPLETED**

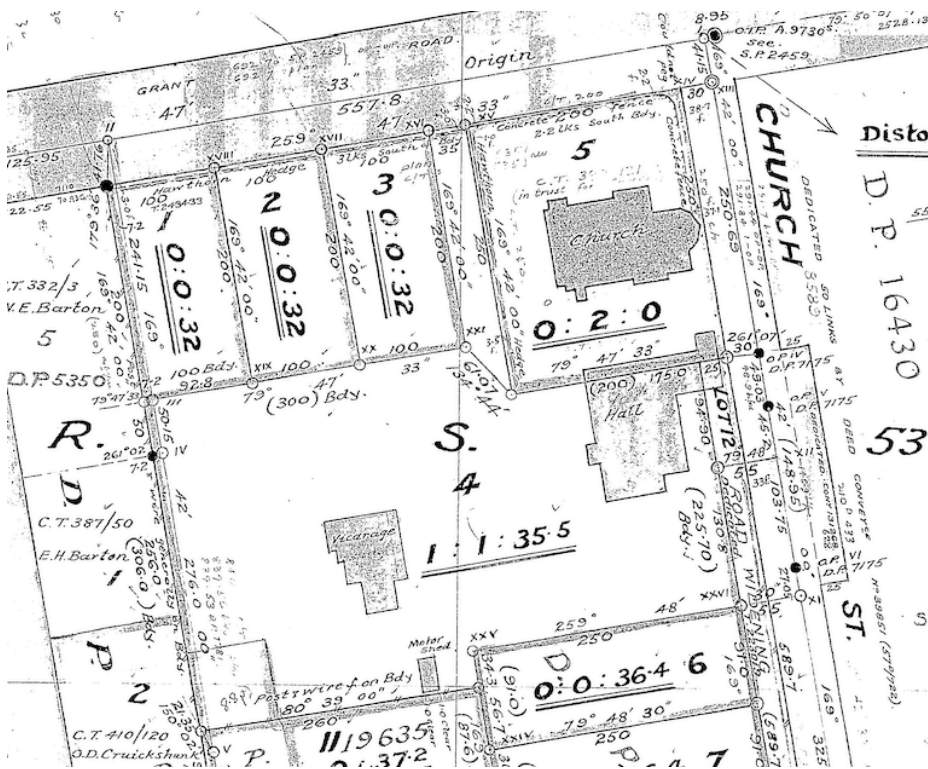
11 June 2019

**AUTHOR**

Dr Ann McEwan / Heritage Consultancy Services



Extent of setting, limited to immediate environs and noting that the south-east corner of the building extends over in to the road reserve, Church of St John the Baptist Sunday School & Parish Hall, 71 Church Street, Rangiora.



Detail of DP 11217, dated September 1937, showing the disposition of the church, Sunday School/Parish Hall and vicarage (no longer extant). QuickMap.