

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

2021 District Plan Item No.

HH069

HERITAGE ITEM NAME

Woodend Methodist Church

ADDRESS

86 Main North Road (SH 1), Woodend

PHOTOGRAPH



(HNZPT)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.
(at time of assessment)

H085

HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY

3795 / 2

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Part RS 367B

VALUATION NUMBER

2161302600

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION

1910-11

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER**

Edward England, England Brothers, architect; Messrs Wadey & Efford, contractors; Messrs Ayers & Son, bricklayers

STYLE

Gothic Revival hall type

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with rectangular footprint and gabled roof forms. Lower-level vestry at rear of church opposite main entry on west elevation. Paired lancet-arched windows, buttresses, cement plaster detailing including door and window surrounds. Circular motif on façade bears name and date of building.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Brick, cement, timber, concrete, corrugated metal.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Church hall relocated from Sefton; kitchen and lounge added on site (1973). Post-EQ repairs and strengthening, including replacement of slate roof with corrugated metal (c.2018).

SETTING

The church is on the east side of Main North Road, north of its intersection with Woodend Road. A churchyard is to the rear (east) of the church and to its north-east is located a stand-alone church hall. The wider setting is largely residential in nature. The extent of setting is the land parcel on which the church, hall and churchyard are all located.

HISTORY

The first Methodist services were held in Woodend in late 1858. A Sunday School (1861) and church (1864 + 1877) followed. A new brick church was dedicated on 18 May 1911, tenders having been called in September of the previous year and the foundation stone laid on 22 December 1910. The Prime Minister, the Rt Hon GW Forbes, was present at the unveiling of jubilee memorial tablet at the church on 26 November 1933. Also present was Samuel Ayers, who had attended the first church service in his father's house in 1858. The church celebrated its 150th year in October 2008 and is now part of the Rangiora Methodist Parish. Services are currently being held in the hall while the church is being repaired and strengthened following the damage caused by the 2010/11 Canterbury earthquakes.

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Woodend Methodist Church has historical and social significance for its association with the Methodist congregation of Woodend and the history of the church community since 1858.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Woodend Methodist Church has cultural and spiritual significance as a place of Methodist worship and fellowship. The church is held in esteem by members of the community who have supported the repair and strengthening of the building.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Woodend Methodist Church has architectural significance as the work of leading Christchurch architects, the England Brothers. Robert England junior (1863-1908) established his practice in Christchurch in 1886, being joined in partnership by his brother Edward (1875-1949) in 1906. After Robert died in 1908, Eddie Edward continued the practice, specialising in large timber homes for wealthy clients. The England Brothers were responsible for some of Christchurch's most notable late 19th and early 20th century residential buildings, including the former McLean's mansion (1899-1902) and the 1900 section of Riccarton House. From the time the practice was established the England Brothers also designed Methodist churches, including the Leeston Wesleyan Church (1889) and the Dunsandel Methodist Church (1911-12). A number of the firm's Christchurch buildings were demolished following the Canterbury earthquakes.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Woodend Methodist Church has technological and craftsmanship significance for its brick and cement construction and detailing by Rangiora building contractors Wadey and Efford. The firm was also responsible for erecting the band rotunda in Victoria Park (1906) and the Catholic convent (1907), both in Rangiora, as well as the later St Barnabas's Anglican Church at Woodend (1932-33, H086). The Ayers family were well-known North Canterbury bricklayers and also members of the Methodist church. Amongst a number of brick buildings erected by Samuel Ayers that are scheduled on the district plan is the family home in Rangiora (aka Turvey House, 1875, H047).

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Woodend Methodist Church has contextual significance as a historic feature in central Woodend. It is a notable masonry survivor of the 2010/11 earthquakes in North Canterbury.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although the church post-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological value relating to the earlier development of the property by the Methodist church.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Woodend Methodist Church has overall heritage significance to Woodend and Waimakariri district as a whole. The building has historic and social significance for its association with the Methodist congregation of Woodend and cultural and spiritual significance for its religious use and purpose. The Woodend Methodist Church has architectural significance as a Gothic Revival hall type church designed by notable Christchurch architectural practice the England Brothers and technological and craftsmanship significance for its Edwardian brick and cement construction and detailing. The Woodend Methodist Church has contextual significance as a historic feature in central Woodend and for its relationship to the churchyard and hall on the same site. The church property has potential archaeological value in view of the prior development that occurred on the site.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

B

REFERENCES

- *Press* 17 November 1908, p. 7; 9 December 1910, p. 5; 23 December 1910, p. 3; 19 May 1911, p. 7; 10 April 1913, p. 2; 28 August 1933, p. 16; 27 November 1933, p. 16.
- *North Canterbury Gazette* 19 May 1933, p. 8; 29 August 1933, p. 4; 28 November 1933, p. 5; 10 November 1938, p. 2.
- *Star* 23 December 1910, p. 1.
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- *The News* 6 August 2015, p. 1 (available online).
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REPORT COMPLETED

19 February 2019

AUTHOR

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Extent of setting, 86 Main North Road, Woodend.



Press 28 August 1933, p. 16. PapersPast.