

Hastings CBD Heritage Inventory Project



ST MATTHEW'S EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTRE

OTHER NAMES: Canon Drake Hall



Photo: S Akers, 2010

LOCATION:

Street and Number: 207 Lyndon Road West
City / Town: Hastings
Region: Hawke's Bay

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:

Legal Description: Lots 267-270 DDP SAINT MATTHEWS
Certificate of Title: HB 458556

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Architectural Value:

St Matthew's Early Childhood Centre is a utilitarian timber-framed structure, but it is distinguished by its board and batten cladding and its neatly gabled entrance porch, also the interesting flagpole holder over the main doorway. It is a careful and well-proportioned design, although not particularly distinguished in any way.

Historic Value:

The building (and its predecessor) has had a long history with the St Matthew's Parish community. Many members of this community, as well as the wider community are likely to have used the hall over the years, meaning that it will be held in high esteem by many of the people of Hastings.

Aesthetic Value:

The building has little townscape value, being set well back from the road, and little group value, being a surprising neighbour to the very different St Matthew's Church close by. But the building still has an aesthetic value in its own right for its shape and form, and the patterns and textures of its cladding.

HISTORY:

The St Matthews Early Childhood Centre was commissioned by and built for the Waiapu Board of Diocesan Trustees in 1955¹. It was built with donations given as a memorial to Canon Drake, who was a long serving priest of St Matthew's². The building is also known as the Canon Drake Hall, and was relocated to its current site in 1984 from the adjacent site at 215 Market St South (currently 'Farming House') before the land was sold.³ The building was purpose-built for the St Matthews Scout Group, for use as a Scout hall and it remained as such for many years. The Centre is presently owned by the Waiapu Board of Diocesan Trustees Church, and is operated as the St Matthew's Early Childhood Centre. The building is significant for the history of the St Matthew's site, complementing the St Matthew's Church, St Matthew's Memorial Cairn, and the St Matthew's Parish Centre.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Architect: Unknown

Builder: possibly a Mr Peters⁴, relocation undertaken by J Mackersey

Date of construction: 1955

Construction details: Timber framed building, clad in vertical board and batten.

Description: This building occupies land immediately adjacent to the east (chancel) end of St Matthew's Church, and it is set well back from the Lyndon Road West road boundary. The building has a large near-rectangular plan form, with a high gabled roof running

¹Council Building Permit Records

² Personal Communication, S Hilton, 2012

³ Council Building Permit Records

⁴ Personal Communication, S Hilton, 2012

St Matthew's Early Childhood Centre, 207 Lyndon Road West

Inventory Number: 83; Property ID: 21192; TRIM Reference: 21191#002#0011

Report by Chris Cochran

Final Report: August 2012; Amended November 2012

north-south; the main entrance porch, which projects from the main line of the building, is half way along the long west elevation, and it is given prominence by a tall flagpole rising from its gable roof form. The bracket for the flagpole is neatly detailed with a bundle of rods around the shaft of the pole, an unusual Classical detail to find in such a timber building.

The cladding of vertical board and batten gives the building a distinctive patterning, and is contrasted with the horizontal weatherboarding of the gable ends. Joinery is timber casement windows, and the roof cladding is corrugated iron.

ELEMENTS OF ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE:

Element	Significance
The form of the building.	Architectural.
The board and batten and weatherboard cladding.	Architectural, aesthetic.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES:

Council Building Permit Records (PID: 21191)

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION:

NZHPT Register: Not registered.

District Plan: St Matthew's Early Childhood Centre is not specifically listed as a Heritage item in the Hastings District Plan, and is not located within the Central Character Precinct.

ARCHIVE PLAN(S):

Canon Drake Hall, St Matthew's Church Hastings, for Waiapu Board of Diocesan Trustees (1954) (TRIM Ref: 21191#0087)

