GORE DISTRICT COUNCIL

HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

HERITAGE ITEM NAME	Holy Trinity Anglican Church
ADDRESS	15-19 Traford Street, Gore
PHOTOGRAPH	

(April 2022)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. (at time of assessment)	n / a	**HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY**	n / a
LEGAL DESCRIPTION	Sections 8 & 9 Block III Town of Gore; Lots 1 & 2 DP 183		
GDC FILE NUMBERS	3245444, 3206314, 3208974, 3207826		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	1953-57		
ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/ BUILDER	H McDowell-Smith, architect; SVB Byron, builder		
STYLE	Gothic Revival		

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with L-shaped footprint and gabled and half-hipped roof forms. Principal, north-facing elevation features a square entrance tower at west end; transepts at east end flank apsidal sanctuary. Later addition links to church at the south-west corner of the latter. Lancet-arched door and window openings; buttresses and open tracery on tower. Nave windows are pairs or triplets with cusped uppers. Textured blockwork with contrasting trim.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Concrete, stone, timber, roofing tiles.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Narthex added (1988).

SETTING

Holy Trinity Anglican Church stands on the south side of Traford Street within an open site bordered to the east by Hokonui Drive. The church hall (1948) stands beside the church on Traford Street; mature trees and lawn provide the foreground to the church when viewed from the roadway. The scheduled setting encompasses the four land parcels on which the church and the church hall are located, excluding the south-west corner of the property.

HISTORY

Gore's first Anglican church was built in Stratford Street in 1881; it was a timber structure and was in use before the Presbyterian church in East Gore, thus becoming the town's first church. The church was relocated to the corner of Traford and Main Streets (Hokonui Drive) in 1890 and then extended four years later. Fund-raising for a new building was already well in hand by the late 1930s but it was to be another twenty years before these plans came to fruition. In 1945 the church and church hall burnt down within weeks of one another and from 1948 services were held in the new Church Hall. The entrance porch of the new church incorporates a piece of limestone from St Paul's Anglican Cathedral in London, which had been bombed during World War II; thereafter fragments of stone were given to a number of New Zealand churches, among them Holy Trinity in April 1945. At the time the stone was presented to the congregation plans for a new church were almost complete and were soon to be presented to the parishioners for their approval. Finally, on 20 March 1954, the foundation stone of the new church was laid by the Bishop of Dunedin, the Rt Rev AH Johnston. The church was dedicated on 23 February 1957 and consecrated, upon becoming free of debt, on 7 February 1959. After a number of parish reorganisations, the church is now part of the Parish of Gore & Districts.

HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Holy Trinity Anglican Church has historic and social significance for its association with the mid-20th century development of the Anglican congregation of Gore. The church provides an example of the boom in church building that occurred around New Zealand in the years after World War II and is notable as a demonstration of the capacity of the local congregation at the time.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Holy Trinity Anglican Church has cultural and spiritual significance as a place of Christian worship, community identity and historic continuity. The building contains a number of memorials, including the lectern eagle that survived the 1945 fire and had been dedicated in 1930 to the memory of Canon Hoani Parata.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

Holy Trinity Anglican Church has architectural significance as the work of Dunedin architect Henry McDowell-Smith, who had entered into a partnership with Edmund Anscombe in 1913 and then practised in his own right after 1921. McDowell-Smith (1887-1965) also designed St Peters' Anglican Church in Queenstown (1932) and there is a scholarship in his name available for architecture students from Otago and Southland to support their studies. The design of the church reflects the persistence of the Gothic Revival style into the 20th century and also, perhaps, the congregation's persistence with the plans completed in 1945, which might be considered a little-old fashioned by the mid-1950s.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

Holy Trinity Anglican Church has technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its mid-20th century masonry construction and detailing. Stacey Vernon Bambridge Byron (1919-88) was a local Gore contractor. The church also has craftsmanship significance in relation to a number of stained-glass windows and other church fittings and furnishings.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

Holy Trinity Anglican Church has contextual significance as a local landmark and as part of the town's Anglican precinct at the corner of Traford Street and Hokonui Drive.

Archaeological and Scientific Significance

Although the building post-dates 1900, its site may have potential archaeological significance relating to its earlier use and development. The site has been occupied by the Anglican congregation of Gore since 1890.

Summary of Heritage Significance

Holy Trinity Anglican Church has overall heritage significance to Gore and to the district of Gore as a whole. The building has historical and social significance for its association with the evolution of the Anglican church in Gore and cultural and spiritual significance given its ecclesiastical purpose and demonstration of historic continuity. Holy Trinity Anglican Church has architectural significance as the work of Dunedin architect Henry McDowell-Smith and technological and craftsmanship significance for the quality of its mid-century construction and detailing. Holy Trinity Anglican Church has contextual significance as a local landmark and as a defining feature within Gore's Anglican precinct; its site may have archaeological significance.

References

- *Mataura Ensign* 22 June 1894, p. 5.
- *Otago Daily Times* 21 November 1929, p. 18; 1 July 1938, p. 16.
- *Otago Witness* 19 February 1881, p. 13.
- *Evening Star* 22 June 1925, p. 10; 3 April 1945, p. 4.
- *Southland Times* 19 January 1880, p. 2; 9 August 1881, p. 2; 27 June 1890, p. 3; 13 March 1901, p. 3; 16 October 1905, p. 1; 16 September 1913, p. 6.
- *Lake Wakatip Mail* 5 April 1932, p. 4.
- https://goreanglican.org.nz/?page_id=10
- https://builtindunedin.com/tag/henry-mcdowell-smith/

Report Completed 13 May 2022

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Extent of scheduling, comprising all marked lots with the exception of the south-west corner of the church property [marked in turquoise], Holy Trinity Anglican Church, 15-19 Traford Street, Gore.