

Historic Heritage Inventory



Waitakaruru School



Location: Cnr Canal West Road and State Highway 25, Waitakaruru

Heritage Status

Historic Places Trust Registration Number:

Historic Places Trust Category:

HDC Heritage Category: **B** - Heritage Feature. Regional or Sub-Regional Significance

Other:

Physical Description: School building, resource centre and stone memorial to Rodger Freeth.

Other known names:

Notable features:

Style:

Materials: Timber, corrugated iron roof

Date of Construction: 1918

History: In 1902, the first school at Waitakaruru opened in the house of William Coxhead. By 1904, the school was shifted to a small lean-to adjoining a cart-shed outside the house. About 1910, the school shifted to a new building down by the lagoon. Another school building was erected on the Coxhead farm, down Mahuta Road near the site of the first Waitakaruru

District Plan Schedule

Number: **HAU175**

Heritage Category: **B**

Heritage Type:

- Wahi Tapu
- Cultural Landscape
- Building
- Group of Buildings
- Structure
- Monument
- Historic Place
- Archaeological Site
- Other

Date Period:

1911-1940

Significance:

- Archaeological
- Architectural
- Cultural
- Historic
- Scientific
- Technological

Thematic Context

- Maori
- Early Settlement
- Industry
- Extraction
- Forestry
- Agriculture
- Transport
- Communication
- Commerce
- Residential
- Social/Cultural
- Civic
- Health
- Educational
- Church/yard
- Other

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Bridge. It was made of kahikatea and was large enough to accommodate the 19 children attending. The Coxhead farm was sold to Mr I. Haley, who took over rentals for the school building. In 1913, the Miranda school closed and pupils were expected to travel to Waitakaruru. As the present school building was too small, plans for another building were made. A new site was chosen near the Canal junction and the new school was opened in 1918, comprising a single room with porch, two toilets, fencing and furniture. In 1922, a flagpole was erected at the school and in the following year, 500 Macrocarpas were planted. In 1928, an additional room was added and the original room was remodelled. In 1935, the former Post Office building was brought up to the school for use as a Dental Clinic. This was refurbished and realigned in 1991 and is now the Learning Resource Centre. The teacher's residence was also built at this time. In 1936, another room was built after the school had been lifted and turned diagonally across the section. Another classroom was added in 1949 and the roll continued to increase dramatically. The Anglican Church hall across the Canal Bridge was used for classes from 1953-1954 until another classroom was built. Further additions were made in 1968 with a new classroom, boiler house and toilet block.

Outside the school is a memorial plaque to Rodger Freeth, who achieved the New Zealand Land Speed Record in 1993. Freeth used Canal West Road to attempt the record on Sunday 7th February using an imported Lola Indy car from America. The school was used as a base of operations during the attempt. Freeth reached a speed of 319kph on the south to north run and 307.3kph on the north to south run.

Architect:

Designer:

Builder:

Engineer:

History of changes:

Condition: Good

Integrity: Substantially intact

Current Uses: School

Former Uses:

Registered owner: Ministry of Education

Legal Description: Pt Sec 22 Blk IV Piako SD

Reference Source: Clover, K. (1977) "Waitakaruru: School and District Jubilee 1902-1977". Clover, K. (2002) "Waitakaruru: The School and District Centenary 1902-2002, The Last 25 Years".

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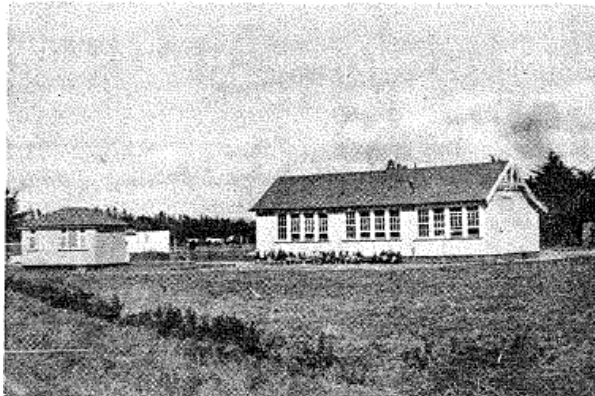
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Associated Pictures:



School and Dental Clinic, 1940



Waitakaruru School, 1918

