

FORMER DUNNOLLY SCHOOL – 170 Dunnolly Road



Architect:

Construction date: 1891

Visible materials: Painted timber weatherboards and joinery, corrugated steel roof

Architectural style: single class school

Use/building type: Education

Date and compiler: Ian Bowman, December 2014

Heritage New Zealand listing: -

Proposed category: B

PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY

The school, originally named the Waituna School, was opened in 1891 with 13 pupils. The first teacher was Miss McDougal. When the West Taitapu School was renamed Waituna West School, the Waituna School was in turn renamed Dunolly School. As with most country schools, there were annual picnics, and on Arbor Day trees were planted around the grounds, some of which are still growing today. Also in common with other country schools, most pupils rode horses to school. It was only ever a one-teacher school and some of the teachers included:

- Annie McDougal
- Miss White
- Mr Levenson
- Miss Spence
- Mr Brake
- Miss Smith
- Miss Clayton, the last teacher at the school

A number of teachers boarded with local families.

On the first day of school in 1945 only 2 pupils were enrolled and it was decided to close the school and merge it with Waituna West.

When the school was in operation and for ten years after, the grounds were used for a local tennis club, with one court laid during WWI and another just after. Members of the tennis club played interclub matches and membership extended to Waituna West and Tapuae.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The small, single storied, timber framed schoolroom is clad with rusticated weatherboards with a corrugated steel roof. It has a main gable in the aligned in the east west direction and has a lean-to at the rear. A chimney is located at the centre of the east elevation and the roof has a metal ventilator. It has a grouping of three double hung sash windows on the north east corner with double doors on the opposite side of the north elevation. The west elevation has a pair of pivot sash windows. The back door is a four panelled timber door facing west in the lean-to.

The simple design of the school building does not suggest any particular style.

The building has recently been restored and a free standing fire installed in 2019/2020. The building is now used as a private residence.

The school is set in a large paddock of tall grass with isolated large trees surrounding it. Remnants of a playground or tennis court can be made out.

No plans of the building have been sighted and the interior could not be inspected.

REVIEW OF REPORT

Based on a review of the report and viewing of Council files, the assessment undertaken in 2014 for this building is still applicable as at April 2021.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE VALUES

The building has **moderate local** significance for **representivity, authenticity, people, patterns** and **educational** heritage values.

The building is **moderately representative** of small school-houses with a single teaching space and large playing area. The age of the building has **high rarity** values. The building has **high** levels of **authenticity** with little obvious change to its original design, and in 2020 has been renovated as a dwelling.

The need for its original construction, community use and interest, and its later closure reflect **patterns** typical of many small rural schools to a **moderate** extent. In this regard, it also has **low** to **moderate educational** values in the history of Dunolly and rural education in the Manawatu.

SOURCES

Former NZHPT Manawatu Branch Committee files

RECENT IMAGE



Figure 1: 170 Dunolly Road, November 2022 (R Waugh).