

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

HERITAGE ITEM NAME St Patrick's Catholic Church

ADDRESS 54 Third Street, Kumara

PHOTOGRAPH



(WCRC, September 2023)

TTPP PLAN ITEM No. HHxx **HNZ LIST No. & CATEGORY** N/A

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Lot 2 DP 3528 Town of Kumara

WDC FILE NUMBER 2570028801

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1877

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** [Michael?] Houlahan, contractor

STYLE Colonial Gothic Revival

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with an L-shaped footprint and steeply pitched gabled roof. Principal, north-east elevation has central entry with lancet-shaped tympanum set below a triple lancet window. Side walls are lit by paired lancets set within a lancet frame. Vestry at south-west end has lower gabled roof and projects beyond the main church space.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Timber framing and lapped weatherboard cladding, corrugated metal roofing.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Addition of vestry at south-west end? (mid-20th century?).

SETTING

The church stands close to the south-west boundary of a lot located on the south side of Third Street, west of its intersection with Tui Street. There is a freestanding belltower beside the main entry to the church (north-east elevation) as well as a small auxiliary building (post-1971) on the site, which is open to the road and largely grassed. The extent of setting is the land parcel on which the church is located, partly in view of the site's potential archaeological values.

HISTORY

St Patrick's Catholic Church was opened by Bishop Redmond on 17 March 1877; it was the first church to be built in the settlement and was associated for many years with a convent school run by the Sisters of Mercy. Tenders had been called in early February by D Hannan, the secretary of the Kumara Catholic Church Committee and it was duly reported that the congregation was very pleased to be able to build and open a church in such a short time. At the turn of the 20th century there were four churches in the Kumara Catholic District: Kumara, Greenstone, Stafford and Waimea. Having been part of the Wellington diocese, the district was, by 1906, part of the Christchurch diocese; the resident priest since 1888 was Father Daniel O'Hallahan. The property was subdivided to its current extent by the church in 1997. Services are currently held at St Patrick's on the second and fourth Sundays of each month.

HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

St Patrick's Catholic Church has historic and social significance for its association with the Catholic congregation of Kumara since 1877 and the role played by the church in the settlement's growth and development.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

St Patrick's Catholic Church has cultural and spiritual significance as a place of Christian worship and Catholic identity since 1877.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

St Patrick's Catholic Church has architectural significance as a Colonial Gothic Revival style building that retains a good level of external authenticity. The designer of the church is currently unknown.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

St Patrick's Catholic Church has technological and craftsmanship value for the quality of its timber construction and detailing. Mr Houlahan, the contractor, may have been Michael Houlihan, a Stafford brewer who was also a member of the Catholic church.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

St Patrick's Catholic Church has contextual significance as a local landmark and historic feature within Kumara.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

The site of St Patrick's Catholic Church has potential archaeological significance in view of the building's age.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

St Patrick's Catholic Church has heritage significance to Kumara and the Westland District. The church has historic and social significance for its association with the local Catholic community since 1877 and cultural and spiritual significance as a place of worship and Catholic identity. St Patrick's Catholic Church has architectural significance as a later 19th century Gothic Revival style church that retains a good level of external authenticity and technological and craftsmanship value for the methods and materials used in its construction. St Patrick's Catholic Church has contextual significance as a landmark building in Kumara and

its site has potential archaeological significance given its use and development by the church since 1877.

REFERENCES

- <https://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc05Cycl-t1-body1-d3-d25-d16.html#Cyc05Cycl-fig-Cyc05Cycl539c>
- <https://westcoast.recollect.co.nz>
- *New Zealand Tablet* Vol. 5, Issue 256, 29 March 1878, p. 3; Volume VI, Issue 313, 18 April 1879, p. 16; 29 June 1911, p. 1185.
- *Kumara Times* 24 August 1877, p. 2.
- *West Coast Times* 17 March 1877, p. 3; 19 March 1877, p. 2.
- *Tuapeka Times* 28 March 1877, p. 6.
- *Grey River Argus* 2 February 1877, p. 1.

REPORT COMPLETED

13 September 2023

AUTHOR

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Extent of setting.



INTERIOR OF ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, KUMARA.

Cyclopedia of New Zealand – Nelson, Marlborough & Westland Provincial Districts
Christchurch, 1906, p. 539.



c. 1963 confirmation service at St Patrick's. West Coast Recollect.