

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

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**2021 District Plan Item No.** HH021  
**HERITAGE ITEM NAME** Kaiapoi / Kaiapohia Pa Monument  
**ADDRESS** 6 Preeces Road, Waikuku  
**PHOTOGRAPH**



(www)

**DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO.** H082      **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** 3793 / 2  
(at time of assessment)

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION** Pt RS 41401

**VALUATION NUMBER** 2159174700

**DATE OF CONSTRUCTION** 1898-99

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/  
BUILDER** Samuel Hurst Seager, architect; Messrs Graham & Greig, contractors; Charles Kidson, sculptor

**STYLE** Figurative pou (column)

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Column surmounted by tekoteko stands on an elevated mound with a small grotto beneath. The grotto is framed by curved retaining walls with a vertical reed moulding, the ends are finished with carved figures. The grotto door surround is also carved. Memorial plaque set within former grotto opening.

**MATERIALS/STRUCTURE**

Mount Somers stone and concrete; marble foundation stone.

**ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS**

Grotto enclosed (date unknown). Tekoteko removed after the February 2011 earthquakes; currently being exhibited by Canterbury Museum (2012- ).

**SETTING**

The monument stands on the northern side of Preeces Road, close by its intersection with Kaiapoi Pa Road. The new town of Pegasus is to the south-east and the village of Waikuku is to the north-west. The scheduled setting is the land parcel on which the monument is located, which is listed by Heritage NZPT as a traditional site (historic place list entry 5733).

## **HISTORY**

After many years of planning the foundation stone of a monument to mark the site of Te Pa o Turakautahi (also known as Kaiapoi or Kaiapohia Pa) was laid by Canon James West Stack on 20 October 1898. The event was also something of a farewell to Canon Stack, who had served the Anglican church as Maori missionary for 40 years. The completed monument was unveiled by Premier Richard Seddon on 3 April 1899. It was reported at the time that 'it is almost needless to say that the unveiling ceremony ... was viewed by members of the [Ngai Tahu] tribe as the most important event in their modern history' (*Star* 4 April 1899, p. 4). The ceremony was hosted by the Tuahiwi kainga, led by Thomas Green and H Uru. The centenary of the siege and sacking of the pa was commemorated in the presence of the Governor-General Bledisloe in October 1931. The monument was damaged in the 2011 Canterbury earthquake and the tekoteko has yet to be reinstated; it is currently on display in the Quake City exhibition in Christchurch.

## **HISTORIC AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Kaiapoi / Kaiapohia Pa Monument has high historic significance for its association with Kaiapoi Pa and the events surrounding its siege and sacking by Ngati Toa in 1831. It is also significant for its association with Ngai Tahu and the importance of the Kaiapoi area in iwi history, as well as with Canon James Stack (1835-1919) who was a keen supporter of the monument project and wrote a history of Kaiapohia Pa in 1893.

## **CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Kaiapoi / Kaiapohia Pa Monument has high cultural significance as a place of cultural identity and historic continuity. The memorial was reported as marking 'the spot tapu or sacred to the Maoris as the site "te kowhanga o kaikai waro" – the next or cradle of the tribe' (*Press* 3 April 1899, p. 6).

## **ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE**

The Kaiapoi / Kaiapohia Pa Monument has high aesthetic significance as the work of Samuel Hurst Seager (1855-1933), one of New Zealand's leading architects in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Seager was the son of a master builder who arrived in New Zealand from England in 1870. He initially worked as a contractor before training as an architect in Christchurch and London. He established his practice in Christchurch in 1885, launching his highly successful career with the winning design for the Christchurch Municipal Buildings. He was known for his residential work, advocacy for town planning and his views on the development of New Zealand architecture. Seager developed the craftsman bungalow settlement at the Spur in Sumner (1902-14), designed rest houses on the Summit Road, served as the government's battlefield memorial architect after World War I and was awarded a CBE in 1926.

## **TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE**

The Kaiapoi / Kaiapohia Pa Monument has high craftsmanship significance for the quality of stone carving by Christchurch sculptor Charles Kidson. Kidson (1867-1908) was friends with Samuel Hurst Seager, they had met when both were instructors at Canterbury College School of Art, and through him Kidson gained the Kaiapoi monument commission and that for the John Grigg statue in Ashburton (1905). John Greig built a number of churches for BW Mountfort in the 1870s, including St Stephen's in Lincoln (1877). He went in to partnership with Peter Graham in 1896 and the firm was busy completing the Christchurch Anglican Cathedral at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## **CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE**

The Kaiapoi / Kaiapohia Pa Monument has contextual significance as a local landmark and for its relationship with Kaiapohia Pa and the historic events that took place there. The

monument was located at the centre of the historic pa, the site having been divided by Preece Road.

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE**

As the monument pre-dates 1900, and the settlement history of Kaiapohia stretches back to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, its site has significant potential archaeological value relating to its historic use and development.

## **SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE**

The Kaiapoi / Kaiapohia Pa Monument has high overall heritage significance to Waikuku and to the district of Waimakariri as a whole. The memorial has high historical significance for its association with Kaiapoi/Kaiapohia and the sacking of the pa in 1831 and high cultural significance given its commemorative purpose. The Kaiapoi / Kaiapohia Pa Monument has high aesthetic significance for its design by leading New Zealand architect SH Seager and high craftsmanship significance for the quality of its carving by noted Christchurch sculptor Charles Kidson. The Kaiapoi / Kaiapohia Pa Monument has contextual significance as a local landmark and for its association with the site on which the events of 1831 took place. The monument's site has potential archaeological significance relating to its historic use and development.

## **HERITAGE CATEGORY**

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## **REFERENCES**

- *Press* 13 December 1897, p. 6; 14 October 1898, p. 6; 21 October 1898, p. 5; 22 March 1899, p. 5; 3 April 1899, p. 6; 4 April 1899, p. 5; 17 October 1931, p. 17; 14 August 1934, p. 18; 20 December 1934, p. 24; 15 September 2017 (available online).
- *Star* 12 October 1898, p. 2; 15 October 1898, p. 8; 4 April 1899, p. 4.
- *Otago Witness* 24 July 1918, p. 32.
- *Wairarapa Times* 21 October 1898, p. 3.
- *Thames Advertiser* 22 October 1898, p. 3.
- *NZ Mail* 27 July 1904, p. 35.
- *NZ Herald* 31 October 1931, p. 8.
- *Auckland Weekly News* 4 November 1931, p. 43.
- *Northern Outlook* 12 January 2005, p. 8.
- M Dunn *New Zealand Sculpture – A History* Auckland, 2002.
- *NZ Parliamentary Debates* 1<sup>st</sup> session, 14<sup>th</sup> parliament, 19 July – 16 August 1900; available online.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/3793>
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/5733>
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- KL Jones *Nga Tohuwhenua Mai Te Rangi: A New Zealand Archaeology in Aerial Photographs* Wellington, 1994; available online.
- <https://libraries.waimakariri.govt.nz/heritage/local-history/places-of-the-waimakariri/kaiapoi/history-of-the-maori-pa>
- <https://my.christchurchcitylibraries.com/ti-kouka-whenua/kaiapoi-pa/>
- <http://www.nzcms.org.nz/200-years/2014-pilgrimage/2014-kaiapoi-pa/>

**REPORT COMPLETED**

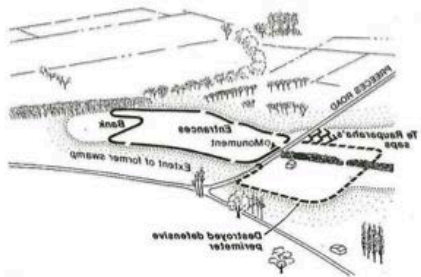
5 February 2019

**AUTHOR**

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Extent of setting, with monument marked by pin, 6 Preece's Road, Waikuku.



Kaipoi and the Kaipoi monument, north of Christchurch. Part of the defensive perimeter of the pa is clearly defined by the defensive bank or bastion of the pa. The defended area extended to the left of the road in the vicinity of the buildings.

KL Jones *Nga Tohuwhenua* p. 213 (see above for full reference).