

WAIMAKARIRI DISTRICT COUNCIL
HISTORIC HERITAGE ITEM RECORD FORM

2021 District Plan Item No. HH044
HERITAGE ITEM NAME Kaiapoi Methodist Church / Kaiapoi Co-operating Parish Church
ADDRESS 53/53A Fuller Street, Kaiapoi

PHOTOGRAPH



(Dr A McEwan, 22 December 2018)

DISTRICT PLAN ITEM NO. H027 **HNZ LIST NO. & CATEGORY** 3760 / 2
(at time of assessment)

LEGAL DESCRIPTION Lot 1 DP 37286

VALUATION NUMBER 2176145800

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1934

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER/
BUILDER** Roy Lovell-Smith, architect; WC Tourell, builder

STYLE Neo-Norman

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Single-storey building with rectangular footprint and gabled roof. Battlemented tower at north-east corner and gabled vestry at south end of west elevation. South elevation connects to church hall (Wesley Centre). Gabled entrance porch at south end of east elevation. Paired arched windows with diamond-pattern leadlights; Norman arch over main entry within base of tower and above subsidiary door to vestry. Perpendicular Gothic tracery in north window. Scalloped bargeboards.

MATERIALS/STRUCTURE

Reinforced concrete, textured cement finish, timber, shingles.

ADDITIONS/ALTERATIONS

Christian Education/Wesley Centre erected at rear of church (Paul & Simon Pascoe, architects; 1978 & 2002). Church reroofed (1999). Stained glass window installed at liturgical west end (north elevation, 1982).

SETTING

The church is on the triangular lot formed by the intersection of Fuller and Peraki Streets to the west of the town centre. The former site of St Patrick's Catholic Church (1882-1978) is immediately to the south of the church on Peraki Street and the campus of St Patrick's School is to the east along Fuller Street, with the Kaiapoi Baptist Church (1977) beyond that.

The extent of setting is the land parcel on which the church is located, including the Wesley Centre that is connected to the church.

HISTORY

Wesleyan Methodist services were first held in Kaiapoi in August 1856. A church was built in Fuller Street in 1860; it was replaced by a larger church at the corner of Fuller and Peraki Streets in 1870. The foundation stone of the third church was laid on 1 September 1934, having been delayed a week due to inclement weather. The stone was laid by Miss SE Evans, who had been appointed treasurer of the new church fund in 1928. The church was opened on 9 February 1935. The new church incorporated the renovated organ from the 1870 church. The Kaiapoi Methodist and Presbyterian congregations merged in 1979 to become the Kaiapoi Co-operating Parish. Since 1996 the parish has been wholly based at the Methodist Church. In 2013 the brick parsonage beside the church was demolished because it had been damaged in the 2010/11 Canterbury earthquakes. The Sunday School hall on the site had earlier been demolished (1975).

HISTORICAL AND SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Kaiapoi Methodist Church has historical and social significance for its association with the Wesleyan Methodist congregation of Kaiapoi and the history of the church community since 1856. More recently the church has been associated with the Union Parish of Kaiapoi.

CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Kaiapoi Methodist Church has cultural and spiritual significance as a place of Methodist-Presbyterian worship and fellowship.

ARCHITECTURAL AND AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Kaiapoi Methodist Church has architectural significance as the work of Christchurch architect Roy Lovell-Smith (1884-1971), who served his articles with AH Hart and then established his own practice in 1905. Lovell-Smith also designed St Ninian's Presbyterian Church (1926) and St John's Methodist Church (1928-29) in Christchurch, St Paul's Presbyterian Church (1926-27) in Timaru, and St Andrew's United Church in Hokitika (1935). In order to supplement his income during the Depression, Lovell-Smith worked in the Valuation Department from 1933 until 1939. He designed rural, urban and suburban houses throughout his career, including the house 'Midway' for his parents William and Jennie and the suffragist Kate Sheppard (1920). Canterbury Museum holds a collection of Lovell-Smith's plans. His Kaiapoi church is comparable to Cecil Wood's Anglican Church of St Barnabas at Woodend (H086, 1932), but whereas that church references the Gothic Revival style, Lovell-Smith's Kaiapoi church employs the round arch of the Norman Romanesque.

TECHNOLOGICAL AND CRAFTSMANSHIP SIGNIFICANCE

The Kaiapoi Methodist Church has technological and craftsmanship significance for its interwar concrete construction and detailing by local builder WC Tourell. RA Blakeley of Kaiapoi was the cabinetmaker responsible for the pulpit and pews inside the church. The 1982 Evans and Blackwell memorial window as made by Graham Stewart of Christchurch.

CONTEXTUAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Kaiapoi Methodist Church has contextual significance as a historic feature in Kaiapoi and for its relationship within the streetscape with the Catholic presbytery on the adjacent site in Peraki Street; the two buildings providing evidence of the historic side-by-side arrangement of Kaiapoi's Catholic and Methodist churches.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although the church post-dates 1900 its site has potential archaeological value relating to the earlier development of the property by the Methodist church.

SUMMARY OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The Kaiapoi Methodist Church / Kaiapoi Co-operating Parish Church has overall heritage significance to Kaiapoi and Waimakariri district as a whole. The building has historic and social significance for its association with the Methodist congregation of Kaiapoi and cultural and spiritual significance for its religious use and purpose. The Kaiapoi Methodist Church has architectural significance as a Neo-Norman design by Christchurch architect Roy Lovell-Smith and technological and craftsmanship significance for its interwar reinforced concrete construction and detailing. The Kaiapoi Methodist Church has contextual significance as a historic feature in central Kaiapoi and for its streetscape relationship to the neighbouring Catholic presbytery. The church property has potential archaeological value in view of the prior development that occurred on the site.

HERITAGE CATEGORY

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REFERENCES

- *Press* 3 September 1934, p. 3; 27 November 1934, p. 5; 6 December 1934, p. 4; 11 February 1935, p. 12.
- *North Canterbury Gazette* 8 May 1934, p. 7; 7 August 1934, p. 7; 24 August 1934, p. 4; 4 September 1934, p. 3; 18 January 1935, p. 7; 8 February 1935, p. 5; 26 February 1935, p. 4; 15 September 1936, p. 5; 4 May 1937, p. 7.
- <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc03Cycl-t1-body1-d4-d1-d1.html>
- <https://libraries.waimakariri.govt.nz/heritage/local-history/places-of-the-waimakariri/kaiapoi/history-of-the-churches-in-kaiapoi>
- http://www.methodist.org.nz/archives/canterbury_methodist_churches
- Methodist Church of New Zealand Archives; available online.
- *Kaiapoi Methodist Church, centennial 1856-1956: brief record and historical survey of 100 years of work, witness and worship at Kaiapoi and district* Christchurch, 1956.
- <http://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/3760>
- <http://www.methodist.org.nz/files/docs/wesley%20historical/two%20into%20one.pdf>
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- F Ciaran 'Stained Glass in Canterbury New Zealand, 1860-1988' PhD thesis, University of Canterbury, 1992.

REPORT COMPLETED

18 February 2019

AUTHOR

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Extent of setting, 53/53A Fuller Street, Kaiapoi.