



PATEA Heritage Inventory



PATEA

Heritage Inventory

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Amended and reprinted in June 2003

Cover: Aotea Memorial Canoe, Patea
Photographed by Aidan Robinson, 2003

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PATEA

Heritage Inventory

Introduction

The purpose of the study is to identify buildings and objects that have cultural heritage value to Patea. This document is an information resource recognising and providing information on the identified buildings and objects.

Methodology

The Patea Heritage Working Party was established to help prepare initial list for consideration and to provide detailed local knowledge.

The Patea Heritage Working Party was made up of:

Livingston Baker
Ena Baker
Jim Baker
George McWhirter
Estelle Nottage
Gordon Hughson

Others who assisted were:

1. Chris Cochran, Conservation Architect of Wellington who provided specialist advice (including completion of the evaluations) and inspiration throughout the process.
2. Bronwyn Allerby, Policy Planner at South Taranaki District Council, who began the process for Kaponga, Manaia, Opunake, Outer Hawera, Patea, Waverley, and continued with the Eltham process.
3. Carolyn Vercoe, a student from Waikato University who researched and inputted data during the 1998-99 summer holiday period; and
4. Tracey Coles, Policy Planner at South Taranaki District Council, who continued with the process to its completion.

An initial list of buildings and objects was prepared for this inventory. Research was then carried out by the Patea Heritage Working Party. The list was progressively reduced as evaluation established whether or not the building/object met the criteria for inclusion. This is explained in the following section *Criteria for Selection and Assessment*.

This inventory was amended and reprinted in June 2003 as a result of the review of the set of heritage inventories. New information and amendments may have been made to existing entries, and new buildings and objects may have been added to this document

Study Area

The study area includes the township of Patea.

Criteria for Selection and Assessment

Account has been taken whilst compiling the inventory, of the need to be as representative as possible of all aspects of the history of the area, of all buildings and object types, and of all periods from first settlement up to the present day.

The Historic Places Act 1993, section 23, lists 13 criteria for the assessment of historic places, and although these are not individually listed here, they are all (in slightly modified form) included in the criteria listed below.

Buildings and objects of cultural heritage value have been selected for inclusion (with expert assistance from Chris Cochran, Conservation Architect) in the inventory on the basis of the following criteria:

Historic

Whether the building reflects aspects of New Zealand or local history, and in respect to local history, whether it illustrates any of the themes of the development of the town, such as settlement history, farming, transport, trade, civic, cultural and social life.

Whether the building is associated with events, people or ideas of importance in national or local history.

Whether the building has potential for public education.

Architectural

Whether the building has architectural or artistic value, or is representative of a particular style of architecture or period.

Whether the style of the building contributes to the general character and sense of place of the town of Patea.

Technical

Whether the building has technical value for its structure, or for the choice or use of materials, or is representative of a particular building technique.

Symbolic

Whether the building is held in high public esteem, or has symbolic, commemorative or spiritual value.

Rarity

Whether the building has rarity value as a particular building type, or for its age or style.

Townscape

Whether the building has townscape value, not for its intrinsic architectural value but for the part it plays in defining a space or street, in providing visual interest, or for its role as a landmark.

Group Value

Whether the building is part of a group of buildings that, taken together, have coherence because of their age, history, style, scale, materials, proximity or use.

Rather than simply listing whether a building has any value under each of these headings, an attempt has been made to quantify that value. The criterion have been weighted, with maximum values for each of the criteria as shown below:

Historic Value	out of 5
Architectural Value	out of 4
Technical Value	out of 2
Symbolic Value	out of 3
Rarity	out of 2
Townscape Value	out of 2
Group Value	out of 2
Overall Cultural Heritage Value	out of 20

There is no cut-off date for buildings included in the inventory. Modern buildings can contribute to townscape values and sense of place, and they are identified in the inventory for these formal qualities, as well as for architectural or technical excellence, rather than for historic value, this being difficult to assess from a close time perspective.

Note that the land on which a building stands is taken as being integral with the building. This is particularly important where a garden setting, fences, gates, graves or other associated structures contribute to the heritage values.

Site Assessment

All buildings were inspected from the outside or from current photographs. Interiors were inspected where possible on the site visits and these interior qualities were taken into account in assessing historical, technical and architectural values as appropriate. It is possible that important interiors exist in buildings that were unable to be inspected inside.

Naming of Buildings/Objects in Inventory

The various buildings and objects included in the inventory are named according to information supplied by the Patea Heritage Working Party members. It is accepted that entries in the inventory may be known by other names.

Limits to the Study

The inventory does not include a formal assessment of condition. However, if a building is in very good or very poor condition, this is noted in the description. Similarly, no account is taken of compliance with the Building Act 1991 or the ability of a building to resist earthquake forces.

Sites of significance to Tangata Whenua, whether of archaeological or traditional value, or waahi tapu, are not included in this study.

Sources

Copies of architectural drawings, newspaper articles, certificates of title, historical notes, and other resources have been used in preparing the inventory. This resource can be added to as further information comes to light. Sources are listed on each register sheet in this document.

Continual Updating of the Inventory

The inventory includes buildings and objects that are assessed today to be of significant cultural heritage value to the town. Assessment will change with time as the criteria assume different values in the community, as the town changes, and as new buildings and objects of value are created. The inventory may be updated from time to time to include new information that comes to light.



Bank of New Zealand, 44 Bedford Street

1875

Use	Residential	Historic Value	2 out of 5
Materials	Timber, brick, corrugated iron roof	Architectural Value	2 out of 4
NZHPT Registered	Not registered	Technical Value	1 out of 2
Valuation No	12440-287-00	Symbolic Value	1 out of 3
Legal Description	Sec 9 Blk XVII Town of Patea	Rarity	- out of
		Townscape Value	1 out of 2
		Group Value	- out of 2
		Overall Cultural Heritage Value	7 out of 20
Reference	B1		

Description

The Bank of New Zealand is a timber building with a corrugated iron roof.

History

The Bank of New Zealand (BNZ) began its activities in Patea on 15 May 1873. This was the first purpose-built BNZ Bank building in Patea built in 1875 at a cost of £728.15.6.

Alterations to the road in Bedford Street left the bank building raised approximately one metre above the footpath level. This prompted the BNZ to move its operations into a new two storey building at their Egmont Street site in 1881. These premises were replaced by the present building on the same site in 1964.

The Bedford Street property was sold in 1882 and became a private residence.

Architect

Not known.

Builder

Not known.

Sources

Patea Mail (1981), *Patea Mail – Centennial Edition*, September 1981
Livingston Baker, Patea Heritage Working Party

Date

January 2000



Original Patea Bridge, Bedford Street

1874

Use	None	Historic Value	2 out of 5
Materials	Concrete filled steel caissons	Architectural Value	- out of 4
NZHPT Registered	Not registered	Technical Value	1 out of 2
Valuation No	Middle of Patea River	Symbolic Value	1 out of 3
Legal Description		Rarity	1 out of 2
		Townscape Value	1 out of 2
		Group Value	- out of 2
		Overall Cultural Heritage Value	6 out of 20
Reference	B2		

Description

Today all that remains of the original Patea Bridge are two pairs of concrete filled steel caissons.

History

The early importance of the river and port was emphasised by the fact that there was no bridge over the Patea River of any substantial structure, and no road linking Patea with Wanganui. Recognising that this road link was increasingly necessary to the continued growth of the area, efforts were pooled to construct the Wanganui/Carlyle road which was opened in 1870.

The first Patea Bridge was opened in 1874, and its remaining steel caissons can be seen downstream from the present bridge, which was constructed in 1959.

Architect

Not known.

Builder

Not known.

Sources**Date**

January 2000



Old Patea Hospital, 32 Dorset Street **c. 1880**

Use	Not Known	Historic Value	3 out of 5
Materials		Architectural Value	1 out of 4
NZHPT Registered	Not registered	Technical Value	1 out of 2
Valuation No	1244019700B	Symbolic Value	1 out of 3
Legal Description	Lot 1 DP 4387 Lot 1 DP 5196	Rarity	- out of 2
		Townscape Value	1 out of 2
		Group Value	1 out of 2
		Overall	
		Cultural Heritage Value	8 out of 20
Reference	D1		

Description

The hospital consists of various buildings, built at different times, but with a unifying use of brick as the main material in some parts, a concrete frame forms the main structural element, with brick infill panels. There is a flat-roofed and a tile-roofed part to the complex at the front, while generally roofs are hipped and clad in corrugated iron. The buildings are utilitarian and straightforward in their design and are suffering now from lack of maintenance.

History

The Patea Hospital has its origins in October 1876 when a local committee, headed by James Lett, obtained the use of two government immigrant cottages. The hospital was a joint Government-County Council responsibility from 1877 - an arrangement that did not always work smoothly.

In 1883 the Patea Hospital Board formed, with R A Adams as the Chairman. This was only to be an interim measure of stabilisation, as two years later the government introduced the "Hospital and Charitable Act 1885". This legislation set up the Patea District Hospital Board, which consisted of the Major, four Borough Councillors and all nine County Councillors.

The first surgeon at Patea Hospital was Dr Samuel Walker, a former surgeon for the Armed Constabulary who had won the New Zealand Cross at the Otatau Engagement in 1869. Walker left Patea in 1877 and was replaced by Dr J N Newman and then by Dr A C Croft. Numerous doctors would fill the roll of the only Doctor at Patea Hospital until the arrival of Dr A G Harvey who was appointed in 1897. Dr Harvey was a significant figure in initiating lectures on nursing for ladies around the district. Appointed at the same time was the hospital's first matron, Miss Jean Allen of the Dunedin Hospital with Miss Alma Prouse as first probationary nurse. Together with the board, Dr Harvey instituted Annual Hospital Balls, which provided additional funding for a new kitchen, operating equipment and other facilities.

The next major figure to arrive at the Patea hospital was Dr W T Simmons. His period as Medical Superintendent began in 1904, only one year after he had finished medical school. Dr Simmons together with holding this position until 1953 played a large role in the Borough Council and community activities, which included the building of the Patea Town Hall.

Despite the additions to the hospital made in the time of Dr Harvey, the hospital was often overcrowded. A bequest of the McBroom farm at Kohi in 1903, allowed the hospital and the Board to plan a new hospital, which was designed by Mr T H James and contracted out to a Mr N Meuli of Wanganui for £3748. The new brick hospital was opened in September 1909, and the old building was transformed into the nurses home.

Many other bequests from people in the district allowed the hospital to provide the community with many other facilities, including maternity facilities, a children's ward and a patient's lounge.

Considerable modernisation of the hospital took place in the 1950s and 60s including the opening of the Simmons Ward. In 1968 as a part of a general reorganisation, the Patea Hospital Board merged with the Wanganui.

When the hospital finally closed its doors on the 5 December 1990, it had served the Patea District for over 100 years.

Architect

T H James

Builder

N Meuli, Wanganui

Statement of Significance

Over 100 years of medical history is embodied in the buildings of the Patea Hospital, making them historically significant to the town; almost everyone living in Patea before 1990 will have some connection with the place. Architectural values derive from the functional rather than the aesthetic qualities of the buildings.

Sources

The Patea Mail (September 1981)

Church I, *One Hundred Years Plus at Patea's Hospital*.

Date

June 2003



The Pah, 170 Egmont Street

1881

Use	Residential	Historic Value	3 out of 5
Materials	Timber, corrugated iron roof	Architectural Value	2 out of 4
NZHPT Registered	Category II Register Number 5422	Technical Value	1 out of 2
Valuation No	12440-078-00	Symbolic Value	- out of 3
Legal Description	Pt Lot 1 DP 6584	Rarity	- out of 2
		Townscape Value	1 out of 2
		Group Value	- out of 2
		Overall Cultural Heritage Value	7 out of 20
Reference	E1		

Description

The Pah is a bay villa of timber frame construction, timber weatherboards and a corrugated iron roof.

History

'The Pah' was built by the Gibson family, and Thomson (1976) provides an insight into its history in the following excerpt:

"By 1890 he had four sons and four daughters and his family was well established in a large elegantly built, if unusual, home. When the first children were born John and Janet had been in the small house behind the shop on Leicester Street. However, in February 1878, Janet's father, Daniel McGregor, '... in consideration of the natural love and affection that he hath towards his daughter' conveyed to her by legal deed the five acres of land on Egmont Street that he had bought in the 1870 land sale. It was, he said, for her 'sole and separate use free from debt and control of her present or any after-taken husband.'

The house which they built, 'The Pah', was unusual in that it was constructed with the kitchen and living quarters being all in one but the children did not appreciate the arrangement when, after dark, it was necessary to run across the intervening space which was merely a roofed-over passage open at both sides. After this [Gibson Store, Patea] was completed the builders moved on to the homestead, bringing this to its present dimensions and final elegant design by 1907. The two parts of the house were joined by incorporating the covered passage way into a high hall between the kitchen and drawing room.

The large home housed only ladies, Janet Gibson and her daughters, Nell, who never married and who was the main housekeeper, Tui who ran the shop, Huia the youngest daughter and Bessie when she was not away nursing. Ms Janet Gibson died at the age of 81 in Jul 1932 and was buried near her husband in Patea cemetery. The great house was now the home of only Nell and Tui and they continued to live there until Nell's death in 1948. After Nell's death, Tui sold the big house to Peter and went to live in Wanganui with her widowed sister, Alice."

Architect

Not known.

Builder

Not known.

Sources

Livingston Baker, Patea Heritage Working Party

Mrs Winn

Thomson K W (Ed, 1976), *The Legacy of Turi, A Historical Geography of Patea County*, The Dunmore Press; Palmerston North

New Zealand Historic Places Trust Register

Date

January 2000



Library and Plunket Rooms, Egmont Street **1930**

Use	Library and Plunket Rooms	Historic Value	3 out of 5
Materials	Brick, tiled roof	Architectural Value	3 out of 4
NZHPT Registered	Not registered	Technical Value	1 out of 2
Valuation No	12440-172-00, 12440-173-00	Symbolic Value	1 out of 3
Legal Description	Pt Blk XXXVII Town of Patea	Rarity	- out of 2
		Townscape Value	2 out of 2
		Group Value	1 out of 2
		Overall Cultural Heritage Value	11 out of 20
Reference	E2		

Description

The Library and Plunket Rooms building is Georgian with twin wings on either side of a porch supported by columns. The porch was originally the entrance to the lobby which divided the library into a newspaper room and library room. The windows have Lutyen shutters, an architectural style representative of the last decades of Britain's Imperial years. There is a clock tower above the main entrance on the roof.

Inside the building, the ceiling and upper walls are plastered, and the lower walls panelled in rimu. A brass plaque commemorates local settler Hunter Shaw who gifted the Library and Plunket Rooms to Patea.

History

The Library and Plunket Rooms building are part of the bequest by Mr Hunter Shaw gifted during the 1930s. The building was designed by the Auckland architectural firm of Gummer and Ford who designed a number of notable New Zealand buildings. The Patea Library is an example of Gummer's style even though it is one of his smallest commissions.

To the right of Library and Plunket Rooms building is a war memorial. The marble plaque in the centre of the memorial reads 'British South Africa 9th November 1900' in capital letters. This inscription puzzles local historians as the Boer War did not end until 1902. The World War I plaque underneath was moved from the original gate at the Patea Domain during the 1950s. Alongside this plaque is another plaque which reads 'Lest we forget. Erected in the memory of the honoured dead of three world wars 1899-1902: 1914-1918: 1939-1945. Those who fell in the wars from the areas of Patea, Whenuakura, Opaku, Patea, Kakaramea, Alton, Hurleyville and Manutahi.'

In 2001, the amalgamation of District Council services into one building meant the library would no longer be run from this building. Presently the building is under Council ownership and may be used for Council and community meetings in this area.

Architect

Gummer and Ford, about whom Shaw (1991) made the following comments:

*"New Zealand's most prominent architectural practice during the 1920s was that of **Gummer and Ford** in Auckland, which started its operations in 1923. Few New Zealand architects experimented with anything daringly new, although some of them, like Gummer and Ford, were to strip the classical forms back to their bare essentials in a manner which seemed to give them real life."*

Gummer and Ford designed the Auckland Railway Station (which also incorporates a clock tower), the New Zealand Guardian Trust Building (Queen Street, Auckland), the Dilworth Building (corner of Queen and Customs Street, Auckland), the Remuera Library, and Wellington's National Art Gallery and Museum. Gummer worked with others (as well as Ford on occasions) to design most of the country's largest war memorials including the Bridge of Remembrance in Christchurch, the Dunedin War Memorial, and as already mentioned, the Wellington Dominion Museum and Art Gallery.

Builder

Not known.

Sources

Livingston Baker, Patea Heritage Working Party

Shaw P (1991), *New Zealand Architecture From Polynesian Beginnings to 1990*

Hodder and Stoughton; Auckland

Date

January 2000

Information added in November 2002.



Aotea Memorial Canoe, Egmont Street

1933

Use	Memorial	Historic Value	4 out of 5
Materials	Timber, concrete, paua shell for decorative purpose	Architectural Value	1 out of 4
NZHPT Registered	Not registered	Technical Value	1 out of 2
Valuation No	12440-172-00, 12440-173-00	Symbolic Value	3 out of 3
Legal Description	Pt Blk XXXVII Town of Patea	Rarity	2 out of 2
		Townscape Value	2 out of 2
		Group Value	1 out of 2
		Overall Cultural Heritage Value	14 out of 20
Reference	E3		

Description

The Aotea Memorial Canoe is 16.8 metres long and is mounted on top of a concrete structure. The memorial was the gateway to the second Patea Town Hall, which was pulled down in 1981 for structural reasons. The memorial is constructed primarily of concrete with paua shells in the shape of diamonds set into the beams of the concrete base. Whole paua shells are set into the beam which supports the canoe on the framework.

History

The canoe commemorates the settlement of the area by Turi and his Hapu, who travelled from Hawaiiiki to Kawhia and then overland to Patea. The unique memorial to the great navigator was unveiled on 2 April 1933 by the Hon J A Young, Minister of Internal Affairs. The erection of the memorial was due to the efforts of Mr Panenui, Mr Tupito and Mr Wakarua, who after working on Jubilee celebrations came up with the idea and helped to raise funds by holding a display of Maori Culture at Pukekura Park in New Plymouth. The money raised formed the nucleus of the Turi Memorial Fund. The memorial was erected at a cost of £500, and the Maori Trust Board arranged for the balance of the funds. The original carved figures were made of punga tree trunks.

In recent years the concrete fence in front of the memorial has been removed and the area surrounding the canoe tidied up as part of the urban upgrade.

There are marble plaques on either side of the canoe on the structure.

The plaque to the left, written in capital letters, reads:

“HE TOHU WHAKAMAHARATANGA
TENEI NA NGA URI E NOHO NEI I RUNGA
I TENEI MOTU I AOTEAROA
MO O RATOU TUPUNA MO
TURI ME RONGORONGO
ME TA RAUA WHANAU ME TO RAUA OPE”

The plaque to the right, also in capital letters, reads:

“THIS IS A TOKEN OF REMEMBRANCE
ERECTED BY THE DESCENDANTS LIVING
THROUGHOUT AOTEAROA OF THEIR
ANCESTORS TURI AND RONGORONGO
THEIR FAMILY AND FELLOW VOYAGERS
ERECTED 1933.”

Architect

Possibly Jones Brothers, Monumental Masons, Hawera.

Builder

Jones Brothers, Monumental Masons, Hawera carried out the intricate carving of the prow of the canoe.

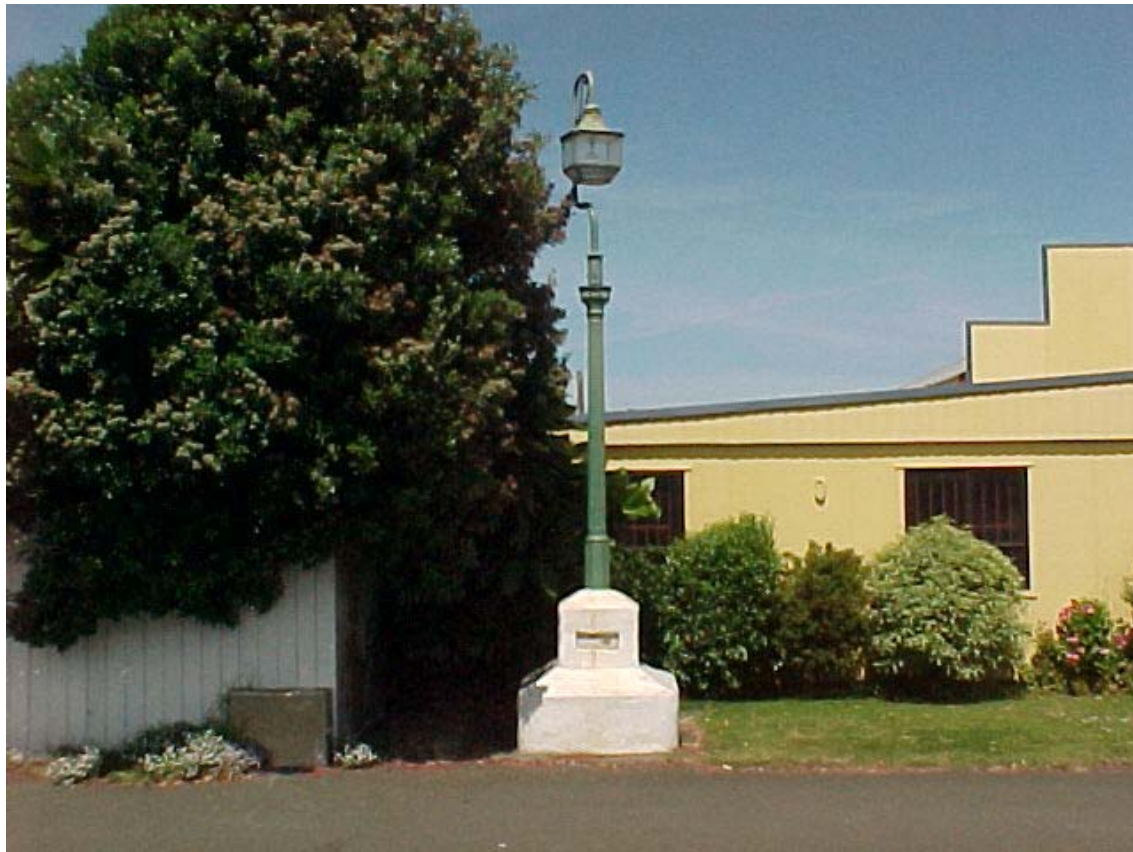
Sources

Patea and Waverley Press, Friday 4 August 1933.

Date

January 2000

Information added in November 2002.



Boer War Memorial, Egmont Street

1900

Use	War Memorial	Historic Value	2 out of 5
Materials		Architectural Value	1 out of 4
NZHPT Registered	Not registered	Technical Value	1 out of 2
Valuation No	12440-424-00	Symbolic Value	1 out of 3
Legal Description	Lots 1-2 Deeds 54, lots 1-2 DP 383, Lot 5 DP 383	Rarity	1 out of 2
		Townscape Value	1 out of 2
		Group Value	- out of 2
		Overall	
		Cultural Heritage Value	7 out of 20
Reference	E4		

Description

This unusual war memorial consists of a concrete base with a small plaque, a cast iron column with a Corinthian style capital, and finally a 'question mark' shaped steel tube supporting a large square lantern. It is set back from the footpath in front of the Patea Museum.

History

The Boer War Memorial was built to remember those people in the Patea district who left to fight in the South African/British Boer War between 1898-1902. The Memorial was originally placed in the triangle outside the Central Hotel at the southern end of Egmont Street in 1900.

The time that the Memorial was built was unusual, as this war did not end until 1902.

Architect

Not known.

Builder

Not known.

Statement of Significance

This is one of a small number of Boer War Memorials around the country, and an unusual one in its functional attribute of being a street light. It is clearly a one-off special design, although it utilises a cast iron column that might be found in another context as a verandah post.

Sources

E and L Baker

Date

June 2003



Albion Hotel, Egmont Street

c. 1870(?)

Use	Hotel	Historic Value	2 out of 5
Materials	Timber, corrugated iron roof	Architectural Value	2 out of 4
NZHPT Registered	Not registered	Technical Value	1 out of 2
Valuation No	12440-214-00	Symbolic Value	1 out of 3
Legal Description	Lot 2 DP 7255	Rarity	- out of 2
		Townscape Value	2 out of 2
		Group Value	1 out of 2
		Overall Cultural Heritage Value	9 out of 20
Reference	E5		

Description

The Albion Hotel is a two storey corner building of timber construction. There are double hung, sash windows on both the ground and first floors of the building.

History

Thomson (1976) describes the purchase of land for the Albion Hotel and the establishment of the business as follows:

"A larger area a mile or so to the north of the military centre had been surveyed and this was to be placed on to the market in 1870. Those who had started business near the military redoubt could see that the town centre would be established in this surveyed area, so the hotel proprietors and other business men ... set about choosing their sites Mr Pharazyn, the Commissioner of Confiscated Lands, had been authorised to value buildings and improvements and add a protective amount to prevent property from being purchased over the head of a bona fide settler ... Mr Quinlivan had erected a hotel building called the Albion.

The day of the sale was quite an occasion and Patea had never seen so many civilians before! The hotels were packed and Cobb and Co. ran a special coach on Sunday brining twelve passengers from Wanganui. Quinlivan's section was the first to be sold and the valuation on the building enabled him to buy the property at the Government upset price. The sale was very lively but only 110 of the 250 town sections were sold."

Architect

Not known.

Builder

Not known.

Sources

Thomson K W (Ed, 1976), *The Legacy of Turi, A Historical Geography of Patea County*, The Dunmore Press; Palmerston North

Date

January 2000



Gibson Store, 90 and 96 Egmont Street **c.1870**

Use	Retail (partially empty)	Historic Value	3 out of 5
Materials	Timber	Architectural Value	2 out of 4
NZHPT Registered	Not registered	Technical Value	1 out of 2
Valuation No	90 = 12440-223-00	Symbolic Value	- out of 3
	96 = 12440-224-00	Rarity	- out of 2
Legal Description	90 = Lot 2 DP 6802	Townscape Value	2 out of 2
	96 = Lot 2 DP 6802, Lot 2 DP 7257	Group Value	- out of 2
Reference	E6	Overall Cultural Heritage Value	8 out of 20

Description

The Gibson Store building is of interest for the ornate pillars decorating the original corner building. Also of note is the condition of the interior of the building, both upstairs and down.

History

The Gibson Store was built by John Gibson, a local businessman. Thomson (1976) described it as, "a large and elegant two-storey shop building (which still stands on the corner of Egmont and Leicester Streets)". He bought the section at the government auction of town sections in May 1870 for £30. The price paid tends to indicate that he had made improvements to the section. Whether the improvements were made to the 1870's shop is not clear but it certainly dates back to the 19th century.

The Gibsons' lived in a small house behind the shop building. In November of 1872, Janet and John Gibson's first child, William, was born. For his birth Janet returned to Wanganui but their other ten children were born in Patea at almost regular two-yearly intervals. At each confinement Janet received the best of attention and care and her husband insisted she stay in her room for a month with a nurse to tend her. About half of the family were born while they lived in this little house but later a larger house was built on the edge of town.

By 1875 John Gibson's business interests included a wholesale and retail wine, spirit and ale business, a shipping agency and a general store. Gibson's Store included ryegrass seed for the farmer, an item much in demand in the early years of pasture development, groceries (including special lines in teas, biscuits, jams and confectionery), drapery (including readymade clothes, lots of materials and bedding), boots, leather goods (including an assortment of English and Colonial-made saddlery bridles, whips, girths, stirrups), hardware lines (including paints and varnishes and glassware and crockery directly imported from the famous European potteries).

John Gibson established himself firmly in Patea as a public figure. He played an active role in helping to establish business and cultural ventures in Patea during the 1870's, including assisting with the inauguration of a Patea Literary Institute (the forerunner of a local library) in 1875, serving on its committee of management, and serving on the Patea East Road Board.

In the 1880s after being elected to the newly constituted Borough Council, Councillor Gibson was a member of the By-Laws, Works and Finance committees. From 1882 to 1886 he was Chairman of the Patea Harbour Board. In the 1880s he was involved in the Patea Steam Shipping Company, which bought the *SS Waverley* in 1883.

The next year (1905) he gave up sole ownership of the business, turning it into a limited company with his sons as directors. It was about this time that the shop was extended with a new single storey addition on the Egmont Street frontage, which almost doubled the floor space. The original 1870s building remained little changed. The back of the shop housed the wine and spirit department with capacious cellars below and a wooden hoist projecting from the rear of the upper floor to facilitate unloading the drays that pulled in behind the shop. This remained unaltered and is still basically the same as is the upper storey with its five large sash windows on each street frontage. In addition, the whole Egmont Street frontage was covered by a Verandahhh, giving a more unified look to the old and new buildings.

During the depression of the 1930s the business was amalgamated with the Taranaki Chain Stores. Taranaki Chain Stores was wound up in 1937 at which time the neighbouring Hughsons Limited bought that part of the business. In 1952 Hughsons purchased the building and a twin sliding door was put in to connect the Hughson and Gibson stores.

Hughsons traded in clothing and furniture until 1996, when they sold the building to Maher & Bright, who traded as Sophie's Collectibles. The business has since closed and this part of the building is presently empty. The Patea Trading Centre occupies the ground floor section of the building, with residential accommodation above the shop on the corner of Egmont Street/Leicester Street.

Architect
Not known.

Builder
Not known.

Sources
Thomson K W (Ed, 1976), *The Legacy of Turi, A Historical Geography of Patea County*, The Dunmore Press; Palmerston North

Date
January 2000



Leicester Street façade of the former Gibson Store building



St George's Anglican Church, 31 Egmont Street **1885**

Use	Anglican Church	Historic Value	4 out of 5
Materials	Timber, corrugated iron roof	Architectural Value	4 out of 4
		Technical Value	2 out of 2
NZHPT Registered	Category I Register Number 150	Symbolic Value	3 out of 3
Valuation No	12440-496-00A	Rarity	1 out of 2
Legal Description	Pt Blk L Town of Patea	Townscape Value	2 out of 2
		Group Value	- out of 2
		Overall Cultural Heritage Value	16 out of 20
Reference	E7		

Description

St George's Anglican Church is of ecclesiastical design with a timber frame and cladding. The corrugated iron roof features an unusual ridge to ground A-frame design. It has seating for 206 people and a choir of twenty. Stained glass windows make an important contribution to the warm, intimate atmosphere of the interior. The roof was originally timber shingles but is now sheathed in corrugated iron. The church was renovated in 1957.

History

Bishop Hadfield consecrated St George's Anglican Church on 5 March 1885. Thompson and Ellerm built it at a cost of £750. After renovations in 1957-1958, the Rt Rev E J Rich, Assistant Bishop of Wellington, rededicated it on April 27 1958.

The building is still used today by the Anglican Church.

Architect

Messrs Atkins and F de Jersey Clere, to a F de Jersey Clere design (Firm of Atkins and Clere)

Frederick de Jersey Clere is an architect who designed Gothic Revival churches into this century, and is probably most celebrated for the ferro-concrete Catholic St Mary of the Angels in Wellington. The previous year (1917), he had designed an Anglican cathedral to the same fourteenth-century perpendicular Gothic design which was not built. Before that he had designed many of his more than 100 churches as architect to the Wellington Anglican diocese from 1883, most of them in wood, mostly Gothic, most still standing.

Clere was born at Walsden, Lancashire, in 1856, the second son of an Anglican clergyman, and was articled to a Brighton architect at age 16. His family emigrated to Wellington in 1877.

Builder

Thompson and Ellerm

Sources

Church records, researched by Ngaere Baker

Taranaki Herald, 22 October 1974

New Zealand Historic Places Trust (NZHPT) Buildings Record Form

McGill D (Text) and Sheehan G (Photographs) (1997), *Landmarks – Notable Historic Buildings of New Zealand*, Godwit Printing; Auckland.

Patea Mail (1981), *Patea Mail – Centennial Edition*, September 1981

Date

January 2000



Memorial Gates, Egmont Street

Pillars 1920, Gates 1997

Use	Gates	Historic Value	2 out of 5
Materials	Wrought iron gates concrete pillars	Architectural Value	1 out of 4
NZHPT Registered	Not registered	Technical Value	- out of 2
Valuation No	12440-509-00	Symbolic Value	2 out of 3
Legal Description	Sec 2 Blk XLV Town of Patea	Rarity	- out of 2
		Townscape Value	1 out of 2
		Group Value	- out of 2
		Overall Cultural Heritage Value	6 out of 20
Reference	E8		

Description

The gates are a memorial to those who fell in the First World War. The original gates were built in 1927, with the replacement gates installed in 1997. The original pillars remain and are part of the new gate.

History

Over £300 was raised from local residents, with the proposal being to erect the gateway in accordance with the funds available. Replica gates were installed in 1997 to replace the original gates as they were badly rusted. The original pillars still remain.

The Memorial plaques were removed from the gates during the 1950's and are now situated on the War Memorial next to the Plunket and Library rooms on Egmont Street.

Architect

Not known.

Builder

Not known.

Sources

Patea & Waverley Press, August 1919

Livingston Baker, Patea Heritage Working Party

Date

January 2000



Egmont View, 1 Hadfield Street

1879

Use	Residential	Historic Value	2 out of 5
Materials		Architectural Value	3 out of 4
NZHPT Registered	Not registered	Technical Value	1 out of 2
Valuation No	12440-058-01	Symbolic Value	- out of 3
Legal Description	Lot 1 DP 46, Lots 3 & 3A DP 224 Lots 1-7 DP 3555, Lots 1 & 2 DP 6613	Rarity	1 out of 2
		Townscape Value	1 out of 2
		Group Value	- out of 2
		Overall	
		Cultural Heritage Value	8 out of 20
Reference	H1		

Description

From its elevated site at the top of Hadfield Street, and set amongst mature trees, the Egmont View house provides wonderful views of the mountain and the Patea River. It is a very handsome colonial style house with a verandah with paired posts along the front (east) elevation and wrapping around each end; there are three windows on the first floor with a central pediment enhancing the stately character of the main elevation. All the windows are double-hung, and the cladding is rusticated weatherboards with corrugated iron on the roof. It is in very original condition. Large trees and some old sheds give the setting a feeling of great age.

History

Richard Dixon built Egmont View in 1879. He died whilst building the Patea River wharf. He and then his widow and his two nephews occupied the house.

Mrs C Honeyfield purchased this house in 1905 from the Wilford family. Mrs Honeyfield moved to this address after the death of her husband Mr Edmond Honeyfield, who was the original owner and developer of the large estate 'Park Farm'.

Mr Honeyfield was a prominent public figure and was involved in many public roles, including the Anglican Church vestry, becoming a Justice of the Peace and being elected to the County Council in 1898. 'Egmont View' has been the scene of four Honeyfield weddings and was home to Catherine Honeyfield until 1945.

The 'Park Farm' estate is still run by her grandsons and great-grandsons today.

Architect

Not known

Builder

R Dixon

Statement of Significance

This house has high architectural significance as an early, authentic colonial building, well proportioned, sedate and eminently functional. It has a spectacular site and enjoys extensive views, although a long drive and a setting with large trees means that it is not prominent in streetscape views. Historic interest derives from its association with prominent local families.

Sources

E and L Baker

Thomson K W (1976). *The Legacy of Turi: A Historical Geography of Patea County*. The Dunmore Press.

Date

June 2003



Beaconsfield, 12 Lincoln Street

1880/81

Use	Residential	Historic Value	3 out of 5
Materials	Timber, corrugated iron roof	Architectural Value	2 out of 4
NZHPT Registered	Not registered	Technical Value	1 out of 2
Valuation No	12440-402-00	Symbolic Value	- out of 3
Legal Description	Pt Secs 45-47 Town of Patea	Rarity	- out of 2
		Townscape Value	1 out of 2
		Group Value	- out of 2
		Overall Cultural Heritage Value	7 out of 20
Reference	L1		

Description

Beaconsfield is a ten roomed, two storey house with a Verandahhh three sides. Arthur Fryer, a local Hawera historian describes the house as 'an Italianate house. Its origins lie in the architectural tastes of Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert, who chose that style for the rebuilding of the royal home of Osborne on the Isle of Wight. That was in 1845. Elements of the style were copied all over the world. Big houses had a tower of some Italian villas. That is the origin of the two storey porch on the Bakers home.

History

On 21 September 1880 Captain Charles Allan Wray placed an advertisement in the Patea County Mail which read: "*Tenders will be received until noon on Monday, the 4th October next, for the erection of a ten roomed house. The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted. Plans and specifications may be seen on application to the undersigned. C A Wray.*" Mr F Searling was the successful tenderer who built the house. Captain Wray named the house Beaconsfield, possibly after Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881), one-time Prime Minister of England granted the title Lord Beaconsfield by Queen Victoria in 1876.

Captain Charles Allen Wray was a prominent Patea citizen, and was the Resident Magistrate of the Patea District (Patea to Normanby). He had a long family background in the Royal Navy and was himself in the Indian Navy from 1856 until 1863, when it was abolished. In 1864 he arrived in New Zealand and was a member of Percy Smith's surveying parties in the Patea area in 1865. In 1868 he volunteered to serve in the Colonial Forces.

In January 1869 he was appointed acting quartermaster at Patea for a year, until the post was abolished and he became merely storekeeper. In November he was promoted to rank of Captain and appointed Commissioner of Confiscated Lands, and in 1871 was given other government jobs including paymaster. However none of these provided much salary for him and he applied for a raise in consideration of his responsibilities. He progressed as a local businessman and a respected citizen, becoming Chairman of the Patea Education Board in 1876. As Commissioner of Lands he was in a good position to apply for 'reserves' for the Education Board and Harbour Board which brought in good rents in later years. Charles Wray left Patea in 1888. These items are on display at the South Taranaki Museum. He returned to England in 1909 where he died in 1920.

The next resident was Mr H F Christie. He was the manager of the Bank of Australasia. He rented the house until 1897 (Patea Mail says between 1879-82 Beaconsfield was used as hospital during this time) when Dr G G Gillon (MB, CM) rented the house and used it as a private hospital. On 12 January 1901 the property was sold to May E Palmer who in turn sold it to Annie Death on 18 February 1911. On 9 August 1917, she sold the property to Mr E F H Hemingway, proprietor of the Patea & Waverley Press, who in turn sold it to Daniel Quickenden, proprietor of the Central Hotel. From then the house was tenanted as two flats, using the common bathroom on the landing.

The Quickenden Estate sold Beaconsfield in 1982 to the present owners, who have restored the house as nearly as possible to the original design and character as money and time have allowed.

Architect

Not known.

Builder

Mr F Searling

Sources

Jim Baker, Present Owner and Member of the Patea Heritage Working Party
Arthur Fryer, *A Little Bit of History*
Patea Mail (1981), *Patea Mail – Centennial Edition*, September 1981

Date

January 2000
Minor amendment made November 2002.





St Luke's Co-operating Parish Church, 6 Oxford Street **1879**

Use	Church	Historic Value	2 out of 5
Materials	Timber, modern cladding, corrugated iron roof	Architectural Value	1 out of 4
NZHPT Registered	Not registered	Technical Value	- out of 2
Valuation No	12440-468-00B	Symbolic Value	1 out of 3
Legal Description	Lot 1 DP 13052, Secs 9 and 10 Blk XXXVI Town of Patea	Rarity	- out of 2
		Townscape Value	- out of 2
		Group Value	- out of 2
		Overall Cultural Heritage Value	4 out of 20
Reference	O1		

Description

The St Luke's Co-operating Parish Church has the addition of a porch to the front but once had a small porch at the front of the building. Modern cladding has been added to the original front gable, and a new window has been added to the side of the building. The small church hall is located to the rear left of the section.

History

The church site was purchased in 1876 in the names of Messrs W Aitchison and D Coutts. The church was opened on 2 November 1879 and cost £430 to build.

In 1962 the Presbyterian and Methodists combined, and the church became The Patea Presbyterian and Methodist Church. In 1971 the church was moved to prevent it from shading the new manse. Mr Hunger donated the additional area of land required to reposition the church. A new porch was added at the time the church was moved at a total cost of \$7,200. The original Manse associated with this church was moved to Kent Street in 1958 and is still used as a residence.

Architect

Mr W Aitchison

Builder

Mr D M Warren

Emmett Bros (modern porch addition)

Sources

Patea Mail (1981), *Patea Mail – Centennial Edition*, September 1981

Livingston Baker, Patea Heritage Working Party

Date

January 2000



Freezing Works, 43 Portland Quay

1881

Use	Presently empty	Historic Value	3 out of 5
Materials	Various, many buildings concrete	Architectural Value	1 out of 4
NZHPT Registered	Not registered	Technical Value	2 out of 2
Valuation No	12380-054-00	Symbolic Value	1 out of 3
Legal Description	Lots 140, 149, 158-162, Pt Lots 138, 139, 148, 150, DP 26 Sec 138 Pt Sec 137 Whenuakura District Blk VII Carlyle SD	Rarity	1 out of 2
		Townscape Value	- out of 2
		Group Value	- out of 2
		Overall Cultural Heritage Value	8 out of 20
Reference	Por1		

Description

The remains of the large Freezing Works (established in 1881) and Coolstores (1889) can be seen downstream from the approach to the River Bridge.

History

The Patea Mail - Centennial Edition (1981) by the Patea Mail included the following article about the Patea freezing Works: *"The earliest farming in Patea was pastoral. Sheep were farmed for wool skins and tallow cattle for hides. Meat had to be consumed immediately or pickled into ham. The first processing plants were Boiling Down works, of which there were several, S B Corrigan's at Manutahi, R E McRae's at Kakaramea, W William's at the Patea Heads and a number of others.*

Apart from meat that could be sold in butcher's shops or as hams it was more or less a waste product, not much use except for processing into fertiliser. The advent of refrigeration incited the Patea A & P Association to investigate the possibilities of a meat processing plant in the district, which resulted in the West Coast Meat and Produce Export Company being formed. This was set up in August 1883 as a tinning plant and tallow factory only. It went into liquidation as the result of a fire in May 1885.

At the end of 1887 O W Oldham, Manager of the Gear Meat Company Wellington was induced to start the industry again in Patea under a sort of co-operative arrangement, which commenced killing stock in February 1888. This was the Western Packing and Canning Company.

Late in the evening of 1 June 1897 fire broke out and destroyed the slaughter house and tinning building, the boiling down plant was also partially damaged but the outbuildings were saved. Oldham personally lost heavily, of his loss of £5,000 only £1,200 was covered by insurance. Public subscription and more capital enabled the concern to redevelop on an even larger scale.

The reopening was held on 5 April 1898 when despite rain there was a good gathering of country settlers. The new works covered twice the area formerly occupied and new plant and appliances had been installed. Capacity was expected to rise to a thousand sheep a day, which would employ more than 60 men. Beef was to be taken in hand at the end of the sheep season and there was also talk of processing pork for the first time, so that operation would continue all year. There was accommodation for staff and a Post Office named "Canville" was opened in 1891. At this time the Company was reconstructed as a limited liability company of £50,000 of 5,000 £10 shares.

This company, G V Pearce, Chairman of Directors bought out Oldham's interest in 1900. The loss of £2772 disclosed in the Annual Report issued in December 1901 so discouraged shareholders that it was decided at the AGM February 1902 to sell the works as a going concern.

Robert Darling became the proprietor for the next two years, specialising in "Meat extract".

In November 1904 Thomas E Thompson became the proprietor. He introduced freezing to the works. The Western Packing and Canning Company was wound up and replaced by the Patea Freezing Company. The company was freezing mutton, beef and pork as well as canning and the produce was on the Admiralty Purchase List. This was a difficult time for the meat industry and in 1908 Thompson had to take into partnership Hawera Stock and Station Agents A S Tonks and R H Nolan.

By April 1910 the Company's affairs were in a bad way and the shareholders agreed to voluntary liquidation. Again the company changed hands and became The Patea Freezing Company Limited. This company experienced the vagaries of the prosperity of the commandeered prices of the First World War, the shortage of shipping after the war, the introduction of Bobby Calf industry and the beginning of the depression of the 1930s."

In 1933 the company went into liquidation and a new Patea Freezing Company was formed. The Directors used various subterfuges to hide from the Government that they were negotiating with an overseas concern W & R Fletcher Ltd, a subsidiary of Vestys'. It was against Meat Board policy to allow any more overseas capital into the industry. Fletchers held 245 of the Company's 490 shares. By the time the full implications were known the Government had to conceded a fait accompli.

The company flourished and was overwhelmingly the greatest employment of labour in the district. However, the Patea plant developed a bad reputation for stoppages and under productiveness, so that when over processing capacity throughout the country became apparent in the early 1980s, Patea became one of the first works to close down, ceasing operations in August 1982.

The collection of buildings here are a reminder of Patea's hey-day.'

Architect

Not known.

Builder

Not known.

Sources

Patea Mail (1981), *Patea Mail – Centennial Edition*, September 1981

Date

January 2000



Powerstation, PowerHouse Road

1901

Use	Old PowerStation (now empty)	Historic Value	3 out of 5
Materials	Brick, concrete	Architectural Value	- out of 4
NZHPT Registered	Not registered	Technical Value	2 out of 2
Valuation No	12360-153-00	Symbolic Value	1 out of 3
Legal Description	Lot 1 DP 1763, Secs 487 673, Pt Sec 491 Patea District Blk VI Carlyle SD	Rarity	2 out of 2
Reference	Pow1	Townscape Value	- out of 2
		Group Value	- out of 2
		Overall Cultural Heritage Value	8 out of 20

Description

The remains of the second powerhouse are constructed of concrete. A tunnel/hole provides the entrance from the top of the cliff down into the building. The original powerhouse was made of timber.

History

The Powerstation was the first municipally owned electrical plant in New Zealand. Transmission to Patea, a distance of three miles, was by a single-phase line at a voltage of 3,000 volts, distribution at 110 volts single phase. The station was at first for lighting only. But, later the plant was run on Monday afternoons to enable housewives to do ironing. Consumers had the choice of either being charged by meters or per installed point, with the former option being preferred.

The water supply for the Powerstation came from the Kaikoura Stream, on which was located Payne's Flour Mill Dam, which the Council bought for extra water storage at the time the scheme was being constructed. This was let to flax millers until the end of 1905, after which it was used to control the flow of water to the hydro. Locker & Dickson commenced the building of the dam in September 1901.

When the dam broke in 1920 the attendants' hut, attached to the powerhouse was swept into the sea along with its two occupants, leaving the powerhouse and machinery undamaged. At this time water rights had been obtained to the Mangaroa Stream and work was in hand to add this water supply to the system. The idea was dropped when the decision was made to build a new powerhouse lower down the cliff and install higher-powered machinery.

In 1918 a 65 horsepower suction gas motor was installed in York Street as part of the town water reticulation scheme. This supplied electricity to operate the pumps but could not be synchronised with the hydro, although the hydropower could be used to operate the pumps. This motor could supply the needs of the town when for any reason the hydro was closed down. In 1927 a Ruston Hornby Diesel Electric Set was installed, which could be run in parallel with the hydro or separately when required. This plant was sold to the government in 1941. Additional power was bought from South Taranaki Power Board.

At the meeting of the Council on 8 July 1952 the engineer reported that the hydro generator had burned out. He recommended that no further repairs be carried out. At the meeting of 13 January 1959 it was reported that the Borough Power enterprise had been sold to the South Taranaki Electric Power Board for £15,000.

Architect

Climie and Fairhall, Hawera

Builder

W M Aitchison

Turnbull and Jones supplied the required machinery for the Electric Lighting Works for Patea.

Statement of Significance

Sources

Patea Mail (1981), *Patea Mail – Centennial Edition*, September 1981
Livingston Baker, Patea Heritage Working Party

Date

January 2000

D I and A L Honeyfield

Powerhouse Hazards

1. This site is not recommended for children under 10 years.
2. All children are the responsibility of their guardian at all times.
3. You enter this property at your own risk. Take care as this is an unstable area.

Hazards are:

1. Electric fencing approximately three-six metres from cliffs.
2. The cliffs are eroding badly becoming unstable. Do not stand too close to the edge and, when on the beach, keep well away from the cliffs as large pieces often fall off.
3. The tunnel down to the powerhouse is very dangerous. Extreme caution is required when going down and up. The floor is very slippery with slime and littered with timber (old wooden steps). There are also old semi rusted power lines on the side of the wall. Two years ago the tunnel steps were in good order but vandals wrecked them. There were also wooden ladders down the cliffs. They had been there for 20 years and someone also took them. What a shame.
4. When you are on the sand remember this is a West Coast beach, beware of the waves and do not get cut off by the surf.



Old Post Office, Stafford Street

1923

Use	Residential	Historic Value	2 out of 5
Materials	Brick with white compo finish	Architectural Value	3 out of 4
NZHPT Registered	Not registered	Technical Value	1 out of 2
Valuation No	12440-194-00	Symbolic Value	1 out of 3
Legal Description	Sec 1 and 2 SO 12981	Rarity	- out of 2
		Townscape Value	2 out of 2
		Group Value	1 out of 2
		Overall Cultural Heritage Value	10 out of 20
Reference	S1		

Description

When first built, the Post Office building was described as a handsome two storey structure built of brick with white compo finish. The design is strictly utilitarian, money not being expended in elaborate decoration or ornamentation of any kind, the general idea being to obtain a maximum of space for the workers for the minimum of cost. The building presents a solid substantial appearance.

The building was not built to face the main street, but instead faces Stafford Street. The entrance to the box lobby and the counter is at the corner of the two streets. The whole structure was well designed with a view to assisting the staff and public alike. Inside the entrance were the postal boxes for posting letters, while straight ahead on the Egmont Street end of the building were the private letterboxes.

The counter was slightly to the right of the entry to the building, facing Stafford Street. Behind the counter was a spacious mailroom and at the back of the building was the Telephone Exchange. In the centre of the building was a Strong Room, both fire and burglar proof and capable of holding a large quantity of documents and other valuables. The upstairs portion of the house was utilised by the Postmaster for residential purposes and included a kitchen, bathroom, dining room, sitting room and bedrooms.

History

In the early days Patea was serviced by an irregular mail service from Wanganui. The mails were carried under military escort, sometimes by the Government Steamer Stuart, or the vessels Gundagai and Woodpecker, which traded regularly between the ports. A military Post Office was opened in Patea in May 1867, in the charge of Mr James Hirst, previously a Captain in the Patea Rangers. The office was conducted at Mr Hirst's house where the Imperial Troops were encamped, near the river.

In 1968 a fortnightly mail service by horse was established between New Plymouth, a distance of 100 miles. The frequency of this service was increased to weekly in 1870-71; and in 1871-72 the mode of conveyance was changed to coach and the frequency increased to twice weekly.

In November 1867, the present township of Patea was surveyed, and a site was reserved for a Post Office. In the same year there was erected on the site a Departmental Building, on the completion of which the Post Office business was removed from the charge of Mr Hirst. A Telegraph Office was opened in 1870, and later in that year a Money Order Office and Post Office Savings Bank Branch were also opened. A Telephone Bureau was opened in 1898 and a Telephone Exchange was opened in 1901 with 18 subscribers.

The building in which the Post Office and Telegraph Office were combined in 1870 was enlarged from time to time over the next ten years. In 1879-80 the building in use up to 1923 was erected, the old one being shifted further down the section and converted into a Postmasters residence.

The present building was opened by the Hon J G Coates, Post-master General and Minister of Public Works and Railway on Thursday 11 October 1923 at a cost of £7,500.

The Post Office is now in private ownership and is used for residential purposes.

Architect

Government Architect, John J Mair

Builder

Mr A G Bignell, Wanganui

Sources

Patea and Waverley Press, Friday 12 October 1923

Patea Mail (1981), *Patea Mail – Centennial Edition*, September 1981

Date

January 2000



Methodist Church, Stafford Street

1875

Use	Church	Historic Value	3 out of 5
Materials	Timber, corrugated iron roof	Architectural Value	1 out of 4
NZHPT Registered	Not registered	Technical Value	1 out of 2
Valuation No	12440-193-00	Symbolic Value	1 out of 3
Legal Description	Sec 4 Blk XXXV Town of Patea	Rarity	1 out of 2
		Townscape Value	- out of 2
		Group Value	- out of 2
		Overall Cultural Heritage Value	7 out of 20
Reference	S2		

Description

The original shingle roof remains on the building but is covered with a modern roof.

History

In 1875 a quarter acre section in Carlyle was granted by the Government and the church was built. An adjoining section was purchased the following year. The church measured 30 × 30 feet and was built by Holthan & Warren for the contract price of £55.10

The church was originally known as the Wesleyan Chapel, and later became known as the Methodist Church. Four years later it was enlarged with provision made for forty additional seats at a cost of £66.10. The original builders, Holthan & Warren completed these additions. After the union of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches in Patea (1962), the church was used by the Wesleyan West Coast Maori Mission and is now used by the Assembly of God.

It is thought that this is the oldest church between Wanganui and New Plymouth still used for its original purpose.

Architect

Not known.

Builder

Holtham and Warren

Sources

Patea Mail (1981), *Patea Mail – Centennial Edition*, September 1981

Morley History of Methodism

Livingston Baker, Patea Heritage Working Party

Date

January 2000

Minor amendment made November 2002.