

HERITAGE ASSESSMENT FOR SCHEDULED HERITAGE BUILDING: PUKEHIKI LIBRARY



[Pukehiki Library](#) (accessed 14 October 2022)

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Temporary 2GP Scheduled Heritage Building Reference No.:	BX052
Address:	1051 Highcliff Road, Pukehiki
Located within a Heritage Precinct:	N/A
HNZPT List Reference & Description/NZAA No.:	Not listed with Heritage New Zealand.
Heritage Covenant:	No
Building Use at Time of Record:	Library
Condition of Property:	Not known to be at risk because of condition.

HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE ASSESSMENT

Historic/Social	Meets criteria
Spiritual/Cultural	Meets criteria
Design	Meets criteria
Technological/Scientific	Does not meet criteria

RECOMMENDATION:

The building meets one or more of the significance criteria from Policy 2.4.2.1.b and is recommended for inclusion in Appendix A1.1 of the 2GP.

RECOMMENDED PROTECTION

[Tick]	Features	Details
✓	Building envelope	Entire external building envelope
	External/ancillary elements	
	Internal elements and/or rooms	Not considered as part of this desktop assessment. Owner may nominate interior elements for protection
	Excluded elements	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1908 as the community library for the small Pukehiki community, this diminutive single gable weatherboard building has historic, social, cultural, and design significance. The library service, dating from 1869, demonstrates the cultural, and historical importance of education for nineteenth century immigrants. Located at the centre of Pukehiki, the library is one of three key buildings that form the centre of the settlement.

The Pukehiki Library is not comparable to scheduled heritage buildings within Dunedin because this function is underrepresented on the schedule and is a rare example. It compares on a national/regional level with recognised heritage places of similar function.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Architectural Period	Edwardian (1902-1914)
Style	Colonial
Era/Date of Construction	1908
Architect/Designer/Builder	Not known
Historic Use & Cultural Associations	Library/Pukehiki community
Primary Construction Materials	Timber, corrugated sheet metal
Notable Architectural Characteristics	Library sign

Previous site development

Sandymount/Pukehiki is a small settlement on Otago Peninsula. The community grew around the developing dairy industry in the 1860s. A church was built 1867-1869. By the end of the nineteenth century Pukehiki had a creamery, school, post office, volunteer hall.

Pukehiki Library

The Pukehiki Library was founded in 1869 by public subscriptions. Chambers Encyclopaedia were also imported for the local Library in the early 1900s. Library charges were 2 shillings for adults and one shilling for 10 – 16-year-olds. The local families subscribed to a weekly London newspaper 'The Graphic'. There was much excitement when the mail and newspapers arrived. The families took turns

reading them for one week and then passing them on. As the papers got well used and became ragged in the process the newspaper subscription was stopped. People came large distances to borrow and change books, showing the cultural importance of libraries and education.

The first 'Library' was in a large cupboard in the church vestibule. The church was built in 1867-68 to serve the growing number of residents settling in the Pukehiki area. It was the centre of parish life until after World War II. The church has a very long history of use, being the second oldest, continuously used and Presbyterian church in Otago.

Design and construction

The cupboard Library was used until 1908. In 1908, the cupboard became too small so the land next to the church was bought. The current library was built to accommodate the expanding collections. It was called the Portobello Road Library and opened between 8.00 and 9.30pm once a week on the Saturday nearest to the full moon. Who designed and built the library is not known.

The library is a small rectangular building of timber construction with a gabled roof and centrally placed door flanked by double hung windows faces the Highcliff Road and sits behind a low stone wall with a timber 'picket' gate. Its simple colonial style and materials, combined with its roadside location give it aesthetic and design value. The library sits next to the Pukehiki Presbyterian Church and opposite the Pukehiki Hall, marking the centre of the small community.

Later history and development

In the early 2000s, the community restored the library, recognizing its historic and community significance.

Notable people/Themes

Further research may provide additional information regarding the people connected to the library.

Libraries in New Zealand

Heritage New Zealand's list entry for Aratapu Library provides context on the cultural and historical significance of libraries:

'Libraries embodied the ideal of self-improvement through lifelong learning. In Britain, movements towards universal education and in particular adult self-improvement combined both these strands—the educational and the cultural—and these values were brought to New Zealand by 19th-century immigrants, who saw and used reading as a central part of their value system. Public libraries were set up soon after organised European settlement began in 1840. The Port Nicholson Exchange and Public Library is thought to be New Zealand's first public library and was established by a group of local settlers and opened in May 1841 in Wellington. The first libraries were generally run by organisations like mechanics' institutes though, which promoted adult learning. Libraries opened in Auckland and Nelson in 1842 and whilst anyone could join, they had to pay a subscription fee. Provincial and then Central Government became involved in the funding of libraries from the early 1850s and Central Government later took control of some public libraries...'

ASSESSMENT OF HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

HISTORIC/SOCIAL

The building demonstrates heritage values within this criterion.

Pukehiki Library demonstrates a significant element in the history of the Pukehiki community – the sharing of knowledge and the importance of education in this relatively isolated community in the nineteenth century. That the community came together to build the library showing its social significance. In the twenty first century, the community's efforts restoring the building show the importance of the history and heritage of the library.

SPIRITUAL/CULTURAL

The building demonstrates heritage values within this criterion.

The Pukehiki Library is part of a wider cultural narrative about the importance of self-education and the development of libraries in the nineteenth century, a culture of universal education brought by nineteenth century immigrants.

DESIGN

The building demonstrates heritage values within this criterion.

This diminutive library, with its simple colonial form and materials has representative aesthetic value as a small community building. It is one of three buildings (the adjoining church and the volunteer hall across the road) that form the historic centre of Pukehiki.

TECHNOLOGICAL/SCIENTIFIC

The building does not demonstrate heritage values within this criterion.

REFERENCES

Aratapu Library, <https://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/9947>

The Cyclopedia of New Zealand [Otago & Southland Provincial Districts], Cyclopedia Company Limited, 1905, Christchurch (<https://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Cyc04Cycl-t1-body1-d5-d21-d1.html>)

Pukehiki Church <https://www.heritage.org.nz/the-list/details/7326>

Pukehiki Library ([Pukehiki Library](#), accessed 14 October)

Date Assessment Completed	25 October 2022	Author	HB
Date Peer Reviewed	12 July 2024	Reviewer	MM
Date Confirmed Completed	19 July 2024		

APPENDIX



Before restoration (2001, <https://www.pukehiki.nz/library.html>)