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1. REVIEW INFORMATION

1.1. Information Relating to the Original Registration

Refer to Appendix 5 for further information.

1.2. Reason for Review

The review is to remove the registration as the place or area has been demolished or destroyed.

1.3. Nature of Demolition or Destruction

The place or area was demolished following damage caused by the 7.1 magnitude Canterbury earthquake.

1.4. NZHPT Involvement

The NZHPT was advised by a concerned local that the Waimakariri District Council had deemed damage caused by the 7.1 magnitude earthquake of 4 September 2010 to be so great that it was structurally unsafe and required full demolition.

The NZHPT tried to persuade the Waimakariri District Council that decisions about demolition for heritage properties should not be made in haste. NZHPT visited the site on 10 September 2010 and met with the Mayor but it was clear that the Council was determined for the building to be demolished urgently. The NZHPT arranged for Dan Witter to record the building in its various stages of demolition, as a minimal record of this pre-1900 site.

2. IDENTIFICATION

2.1. Name of Registration

Registered Name: Museum (Formerly Courthouse & Jail)

2.2. Location Information

Current Registered Address

145 Williams Street

KAIAPOI

Canterbury

2.3. Legal Description

Rural Sec 39906 (CB 37A/315), Canterbury Land District

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1 This section is supplemented by visual aids in Appendix 1 of the report.
2.4. Summary

The building at 145 Williams Street in Kaiapoi, completed in October 1890, is an early example of a rural area’s Court house and it had its original lock up behind. The building operated as a Court house until 1955 and latterly operated as a museum for the district.\(^2\)

A contract dated 5 April 1890 shows that W Grey was to build the Court house, together with a stable and lock up. It was due for completion on 29 August 1890 but was not finished until 14 October of that year. The architect was William Crichton. The Court house building was a single storeyed classical style brick building with stone facings on a concrete base. The entrance was from a porch and this opened onto the Court room. Other rooms within the building included a Magistrate’s office, clerk’s office and a bailiff’s and witnesses rooms.\(^3\) Maori Land Court hearings were held here also.\(^4\)

The lock up was originally a free standing building at the rear of the Court house. In the 1990s additions were made that incorporated the lock up as part of the main building, which by then operated as a Museum.

The building was badly damaged by the 7.1 magnitude earthquake that occurred in Canterbury on 4 September 2010. Despite efforts to dissuade the Council from hasty decision making about the fate of the building, it was demolished in its entirety on 11-13 September 2010. Dan Witter, archaeologist, took photographs of the building during demolition. A report will be presented to NZHPT in due course.

\(^2\) NZHPT Buildings Record Form 3790.
\(^3\) Ibid.
3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1. Confirmation of Registration and Demolition

A phone conversation with Ivan Taylor of Kaiapoi on 14 October 2010 has confirmed that the whole of the registered historic place, including the lock up, has been demolished.

3.2. Evidence of Demolition or Destruction

An online article prepared by Judith Taylor, South Island Museum Development Officer for National Services Te Paerangi, 12 October 2010, describes the sequence of events leading up to and during the demolition of the building (Refer to section 5.3 of this review report).

4. OTHER INFORMATION

4.1. Key Physical Dates

1890  Court house and lock up construction

1990s  Additions resulting in lock up being incorporated into the one single building

2010  September 11-13 demolition following earthquake of 4 September.

4.2. Team Review and Response

The Christchurch team of the NZHPT Southern Regional Office was informed on 14 October 2010 of the proposal to remove this registration as the place or area has been demolished or destroyed in its entirety.

The Christchurch team of the NZHPT Southern Regional Office agreed that there is sufficient evidence to indicate that the place or area has been demolished in its entirety and should therefore be removed from the Register.

4.3. NZHPT Regional File Number

12007-047
5. APPENDICES

5.1. Appendix 1: Visual Identification Aids

Location Maps
Quickmap detail of Kaiapoi with an arrow showing site of Museum (formerly Courthouse & Jail) at 145 Williams Street, Kaiapoi.
Extract from Quickmap with Google Maps overlay showing the building at 145 Williams Street, Kaiapoi.
The physical extent of registration is the legal land parcel RS 39906 as shown in dashed box above.
Current Identifier

COMPUTER FREEHOLD REGISTER
UNDER LAND TRANSFER ACT 1952

Search Copy

Identifier CB37A/315
Land Registration District Canterbury
Date Issued 01 April 1993

Prior References CB111/174

Estate Fee Simple
Area 485 square metres more or less
Legal Description Rural Section 39906
Proprietors Waimakariri District Council

Interests
Subject to Part IV A Conservation Act 1987
Subject to Section 11 Crown Minerals Act 1991
5.2. Appendix 2: Information Relating to the Registration

Museum (Formerly Courthouse & Jail)

Location: 145 Williams Street, KAIAPOI
Other Names: Courthouse Museum, Museum
(Formerly Court House & Gaol)

Record Number: 3790
Registration Type: Historic Place Category II
National File No:

Local Authority: Waimakariri District Council
Date Registered: 06 Sep 1984
Local Authority Listing: Waimakariri District Plan Operative 28 November 2005. Site No. H020 in Appendix 28.1:
Heritage Protection
Mechanisms:

Legal Description: Rural Sec 39906

Location Description:
NZAA Site No:
Extent of Registration:
Chattels/Objects:
Registration Status: As at Registration

Brief Description:


Current Uses:
Former Uses: Museum [Civic facilities and recreation]

Notable Features:

Historical Narrative:

Construction Professionals:
Dates: Original Construction - 1860
Physical Description:
Construction Details:

Assessment under Section 23 of the Historic Places Act 1993
Assessment by Section 23(1) Registered under previous legislation (HPA 1980)
Trust Board: Section 23(2) Registered under previous legislation (HPA 1980).

Section 23(1) Assessment

Historical Significance:

NZHPT Register of Historic Places, Historic Areas, Wahlu Tapu and Wahlu Tapu Areas
Printed: 13 Oct 2010 Data Last Updated: 30 Sep 2010
Section 23(2) Assessment

Other Information:
Associated NZHPT Registrations:
DOC Managed: Reserve:
VNZ Number: 21752 07800

GPS: Easting: 2,492,346.52 Northing: 5,758,369.51 Taken From: Mapping coordinates taken from Quickmap

Other NZHPT Information: Received permission and the use of an image for the Register Online from Waimakariri District Council on 29 Feb 08.

Name altered to currently match the original Board Minutes on 06/05/05.

BCC paper HP 168/1984 - "Museum (Formerly Courthouse & Jail, 145 Williams Street, Kaiapoi"

Information from Previous Database (8 August 2001):
Previous Classification: C

NZHPT Branch: Canterbury Branch File No National:
NZHPT Team: Canterbury/West Coast Office (South) File No Regional: 12007-047
Region: Canterbury Region Web Page Status: Basic information

Entry Written By: Date Entry Completed:
Nomination Received: Date Owner Notified:

Owners, occupiers, nominators of registered place:
Owner - Waimakariri District Council, (Person ID: 2973) As At: 09 May 2003

Information Sources:

NZHPT Register of Historic Places, Historic Areas, Wahi Tapu and Wahi Tapu Areas
Printed: 13 Oct 2010 Data Last Updated: 30 Sep 2010
Museum (formerly Courthouse & Jail), 145 Williams Street, Kaiapoi.

Extracts from the Board minutes HP 188/1984

5.3. Appendix 3: Evidence of Demolition

Cleared site at 145 Williams Street, Kaiapoi (NZHPT, September 2010).
It was clear early in the week after the Canterbury earthquake that the Kaiapoi Museum (located in the Kaiapoi Historic Court House) was being assessed for demolition. The President of the members of the museum committee were not notified of the decision to demolish and only found out from the tenant of a neighbouring building.

Intervention by the Committee and the Heritage Trust (NZDPT) to save the Category 2 building was successful.

Full credit goes to the committee and volunteers who did a great job of collection and record retrieval over the past week. They worked under extreme pressure and at a very worrying time for everyone.


13 Oct 2010
On Thursday 8 September several museum members were given permission by a building inspector to enter the street part of the building. They started to remove filing cabinets and offsite records and then moved on to taking down photographs from the walls. However the building inspector had not let the Civil Defence (EQ) know of his decision and these members were evicted by the police. They were given the understanding that they would be able to remove the rest of the material and artifacts later under supervision.
On Friday 10 September a small number of museum members under C.O.'s supervision worked until 6.30pm with forklifts to get most of the collection out and stashed into two very large containers on the street outside. Further items moved were brought out by the demolition staff the next morning. Although there were concerns, staff were later safely repackaged by a team of 15 volunteers and are now closed away in a secure building until new plans evolve about the future of the museum and its collection.

Kaiapoi Museum asks “why the hurry?”

Patron of the Kaiapoi District Historical Society and convenor of the North Canterbury Museums Group, Ivan Taylor who has over 40 years experience as a heritage building scholar and knew the building very well, is of the opinion that it could have been saved and restored rather than demolished. He understands that the NZHPT conservation officer was also of the same opinion. The Committee wants to know why the demolition happened in such a hurry.

Ivan has written to the Waimakariri District Council on behalf of the Society, setting questions. The Council think that the damage to the building, while significant, was probably irreparable and gives that there was no immediate danger to people from a building collapse, more time should be allowed for decisions making about the building and the collection’s future.

Museum and collection significance

At one point the building was signed off as being empty for demolition by the engineer with the collection still intact untouched. He also made the following comment, “That it was only an old brick building full of jonquils.” Ivan comments that he probably didn’t even go inside the building, and certainly didn’t have any understanding of the buildings contents or heritage value to both Kaiapoi and European local and National history. This court building was originally used as the Funki Lard-Dash for the South Canterbury Farmers Union. It was also used as an office and store by the Bank. The Museum contained items and documents recording the 130 plus years of Kaiapoi’s district history. The demolition took three full days and the demolition contractor reported that the building was still very strong as it no stage did any part of it fall down.


13 Oct 2010
News

To begin, it had to either pull or push away from the road.

As the road was moved the museum held an extensive early social history and cultural collection, some large early maps, early maps and early Pukapuki Mazda collections. The building was supported in 1990. The museum was an important community facility, entirely run by a dedicated volunteer committee and has recently completed the New Zealand Museums Standards Scheme.

While it’s important to acknowledge that everyone was under pressure and much stress at the time and also that people safety always needs to come first, the Kaiapoi Museum did. We know how the city’s decision to demolish was made and it’s a sector we need to work to prevent destruction to heritage.

Collections and buildings sustained damage across the Canterbury region; some damage not yet been fully assessed or may be under-reported. Recovery will take years with some local losses to some heritage structures and contents.

Image credits:
1. Kaiapoi Museum being demolished - Saturday 11 September, 5:30pm. Photo courtesy of Kaiapoi Museum
2. Kaiapoi Museum being demolished - 13 September. Photo courtesy of Kaiapoi Museum
3. The fire container - 10 September. Photo courtesy of Kaiapoi Museum
4. Kaiapoi Museum volunteers - seeing the container contents for the first time on 9th September. Photo courtesy of Kaiapoi Museum
5. Part of the Kaiapoi Museum’s collection in storage - 17 September. Photo courtesy of Kaiapoi Museum

Judith Taylor is the South Island Museum Development Officer for National Services To People. Learn more about Judith.

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