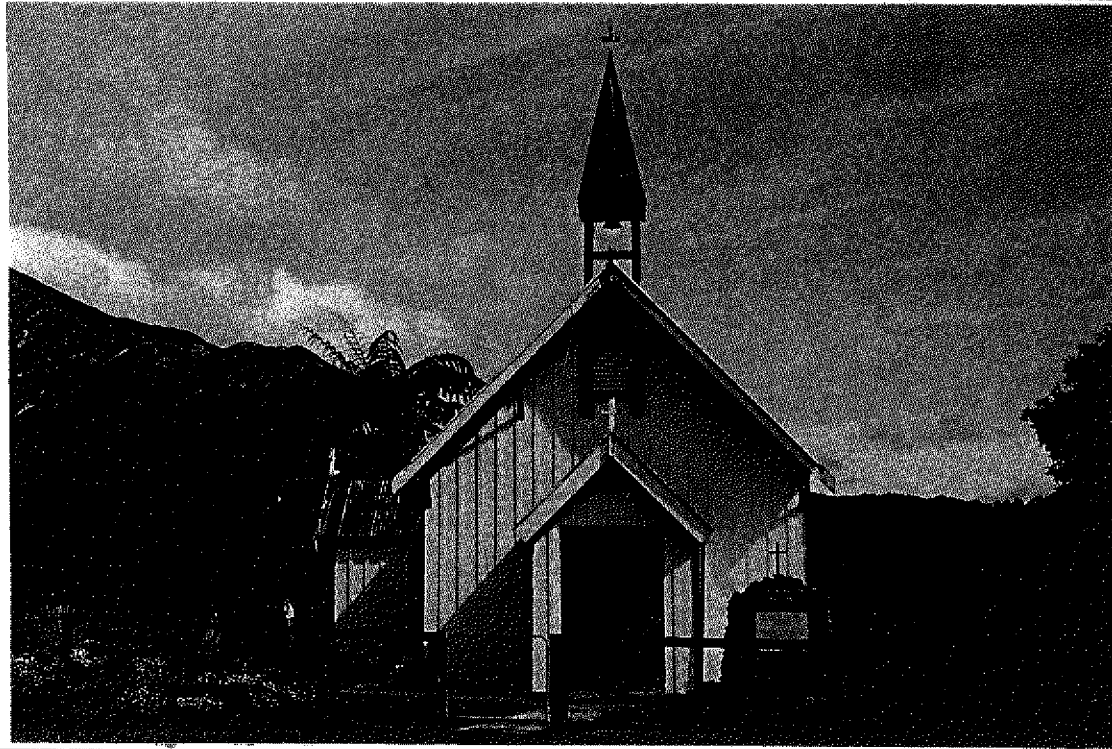




N.Z. HISTORIC PLACES TRUST BUILDINGS RECORD FORM

COMPUTER No.: D-254675

HP FILE No.:



NAME of Building/Structure
Pepara Church

REGION Wanganui
LOCAL BODY Wanganui District Council
CITY/TOWN Koriniti Marae
STREET AND No. Wanganui River Road
DISTRICT SCHEME DETAILS Zoned Rural A.

IF BUILDING IS PART OF AN HISTORIC AREA,
ENTER NAME OF PRECINCT OR CONSERVATION AREA

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION:

Style
Construction
Materials Timber walls with corrugated iron roof
Architect/s Anglican Diocesan Board Architect
? F de J Clere
Engineer/s N/A
Builder/s Ngati Pamoana/Ngati Poutama people
Date of Construction 1920-21
Associated Buildings
Use/s Religious purposes
Condition of Building The building is in quite good condition and is currently being repaired

TAKEN BY: Judith Crawley

Negative held by: Judith Crawley

Neg. Ref. No.

BUILDING TYPE: Church

OWNER Name Te Awe Potaka
Address Address Unknown

OCCUPIER Name
Address

RECOMMENDED CLASSIFICATION

Research by

Inspected by

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

HISTORY

Pepara (Babel) Church at Koriniti was built in 1920-21 to a design drawn by the Anglican Diocesan Board. Architect, possibly F de J. Clere. It was built by voluntary labour provided by the Ngati Pamoana people assisted by their neighbours the Ngati Poutama from nearby Hikurangi pa. Supervising the construction were Nikorima Pokiha and Canon W.G. Williams. Five years later a Mission House was built nearby which was occupied for many years by the Anglican missionary Sister Elsie Smith. She became an important figure in the River valley and in 1955 was awarded the M.B.E. in recognition of her work among the Maori people. A memorial cairn of river stones erected to her memory stands within the church grounds..

Christianity has been preached at Koriniti since 1840. The first church was built in 1848 and was replaced by a larger building of more permanent materials in 1865 during the Rev Richard Taylor's incumbency. This building was seriously damaged in the 1918 Raetihi bush fire and was subsequently demolished being replaced two years later by the present church. Pepara Church is currently classified C but it is recommended that this be raised to B in recognition of Sister Elsie's influence on the Maori people and their religious strength.

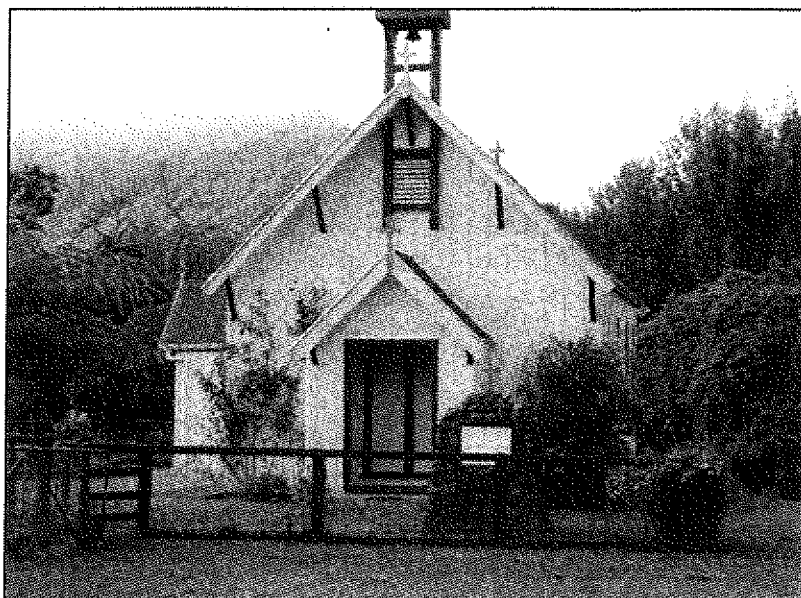
CRITERIA FOR CLASSIFICATION *(Please tick box or encircle letter as applicable. If necessary add brief (e.g. one word) explanation.)*

- 1 a b c [.....]
- 2 a b c d e f g [.....]
- 3 [.....]
- 4 a b c d e [.....]
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- 13 a b [.....]
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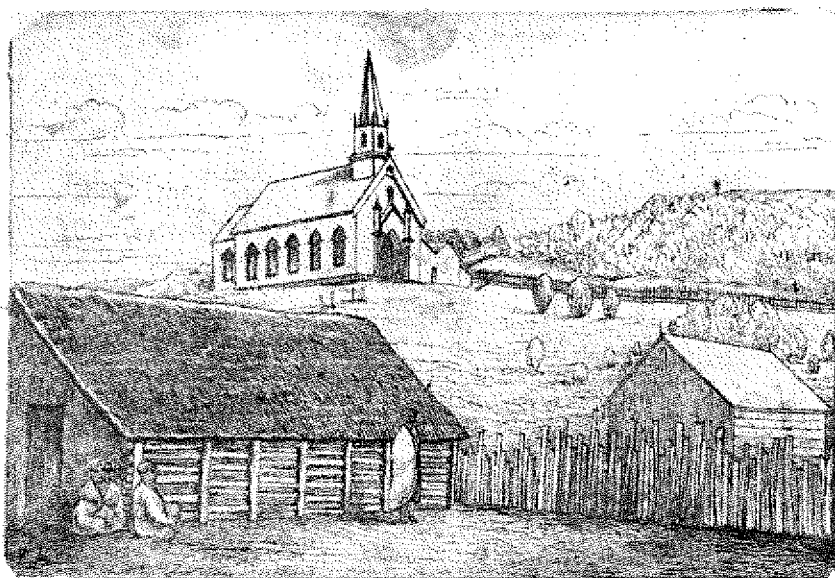
REFERENCES *(Write on separate sheets as necessary)*

Primary Sources Local knowledge
 Motorists Guide to the Wanganui River
 Road - Judith Crawley 1987.

Secondary Sources



The Pepara Church at Koriniti, the base for the Anglican mission in this part of the Whanganui River. This was built in 1920 by local Maori to the design of the Diocesan architect, Frederick de Jersey Clere. It cost £450, the funds contributed by each of the nine hapu within the Whanganui iwi as well as the Williams Trust and Pakeha church members. The pews and other pieces of furniture were given by different Pakeha parishes or individuals. Wilfred Williams recalled this history in the *Church Chronicle* in July 1931 when he also noted that the Nurse's cottage was built in 1925. This little cottage near the church became the home of Elsie Smith (see above) who was based here for 33 years from 1930. As well as providing nursing services, Sister Elsie was the resident missionary. She was awarded the MBE in 1955 and returned to England in 1963 where she died in 1968.



This Alexander Turnbull Library drawing shows the first Catholic church at Jerusalem which was built in 1885 but burnt down in 1888. The replacement church was opened in April 1893 and was also designed by Thomas Turnbull and built by Bett & McFadgen.

2010 Whanganui Summer Programme trip: River Road to Jerusalem

Notes prepared by Wendy Petryrew