

## Upokongaro Store



Register Item Number:

356

**Building Type:**

- Residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Recreation
- Institutional
- Agriculture
- Other

**Significance:**

- Archaeological
- Architectural
- Historic
- Scientific
- Technological
- Cultural

**Thematic Context**

- Early Settlement
- Residential
- Industry
- Agricultural
- Commerce
- Transport
- Civic/Admin
- Health
- Education
- Religion
- Recreation
- Community
- Memorials

**Location:** 444 State Hwy 4, **Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga**  
Upokongaro, Whanganui

**List Number:** Nil

**Physical Description:** the timber framed building has a central gabled two storey section facing the street with elongated single storey additions either side with lean-to roofs. There is a further southern extension clad in corrugated steel. A verandah extends from the northern corner of the two storey section to the southern lean-to extension.

The central section has symmetrically located four paned shop front windows either side the entry doors and the southern extension has double hung sash windows. The under verandah area is rendered while above it and to the north the building has rusticated weatherboards of different profiles. The northern extension has aluminium joinery. The verandah floor is concrete.

**Other known names:** Upokongaro Store, Kennedy's Store, Makirikiri Store, Makirikiri Post & Telegraph Office, Rowe's Store, Post Office Store, Missen's Store, Missen Trustees' Store, Garvie's Store, C.F. Whiting Ltd., and doubtless by the surnames of all the other storekeepers (including 'Muir & Bird', Newsham

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& Williams), APC Tearooms, Riviera Restaurant, Café Riva, and the current occupant: 4 Forty 4 Café.

**Current Use:** Cafe

**Former Uses:** Rural general store, district Post & Telegraph Office

**Heritage Status:**

**District Plan Class: Class C**

**Architectural Style:**

**Date of Construction: c1877**

**Materials:** timber weatherboards and joinery, corrugated steel roofing

**Registered owner:**

**Legal Description:**

## History:

Part of the old Upokongaro Store is said to date to 1866, although this was not confirmed on the information accessed during this limited study. This building accommodated the Makirikiri Post Office for most of, if not all of, that post office's 107-year life span. The town of Upokongaro was always listed in the Wisers' NZ Post Office Directories as 'Makirikiri' (until at least 1960 – the last sighted during this study), and consequently the store was frequently listed as the Makirikiri Store'. To confuse matters further, it was also frequently known by the surname of whoever currently owned or ran it. Despite that, the store was well known as the Upokongaro Store during and after the lifespan of the post office. Possibly the building has only 'officially' been 'Upokongaro Store' in recent decades – other than in the minds of everyone who identified it with the town it was located in for almost 150 years. Given its multiple identities, it is easy to understand the confusion.

The original Upokongaro/Makirikiri Store was built by local publican, John Kennedy. M.J.G. Smart & A.P. Bates, in *The Wanganui Story* (p. 143) wrote that in 1866, a country hotel had been established at Upokongaro by William Caines. He had erected a small lean-to building near the riverbank, and had furnished it with a heavy plank placed across two upright barrels – upon which stood a barrel of beer. Customers were served with a tin pannikin that held a quart of beer, for which he charged a shilling per pannikin. A few months later Caines sold out to John Kennedy, who subsequently built a substantial two-storied hotel to replace Caines' lean-to.<sup>1</sup> In 1867, the ferry service had also been established between Upokongaro and Aramoho, thereby providing access to more potential customers.<sup>2</sup>

In the early years, the hotel came to be known variously as Kennedy's Hotel and Kennedy's Upokongaro Hotel.<sup>3</sup> The Avoca Hotel, which now adjoins the store, is the current incarnation of Kennedy's early hotel. The town itself also came to be recognised simply as 'Kennedy's' – including well after John Kennedy's departure.<sup>4</sup> However, when Government Departments become involved with installing their facilities in small country districts, the authorities tend to make

<sup>1</sup> Rex H. Voelkerling & Kevin L. Stewart, *From Sand to Papa: A History of the Wanganui County* (Wanganui, 1986), p. 131

<sup>2</sup> Voelkerling & Stewart, p. 131

<sup>3</sup> For example, *Wanganui Herald*, 26 June 1869, p. 3, col. 2 (Kennedy's Upokongaro Hotel) & 10 June 1892, p. 3 (licensing of Thomas Rowe's Kennedy's Hotel, Upokongaro)

<sup>4</sup> Pettigrew, p. 5

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their own decisions about locality names. Although this aspect was not researched in any depth for this study, it seems likely that Upokongaro was deemed too hard to spell (or perhaps a word that means 'hidden head' was too much to deal with). Meanwhile, naming a school or an official post office after some storekeeper was evidently also not favoured. Thus Upokongaro's new school briefly became Makirikiri School when it opened in 1870, and the town's new post office became Makirikiri Post Office when that opened in 1872 – this being the name of the wider district.<sup>5</sup> However, 'Makirikiri School'<sup>6</sup> soon became 'Riverbank School' in about 1873 (due to the existence of Makirikiri South School), before becoming Upokongaro School by 1878.<sup>7</sup>

The Makirikiri Post Office opened for business on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1872.<sup>8</sup> There is no certainty as to what the original post office consisted of. What is certain, however, is that John Kennedy was appointed its postmaster from the date of opening, and that he was not paid by the Government for this work - at least not in the early days.<sup>9</sup>

The store was a community meeting place, and in January 1877 "*Kennedy's store, Upokongaro*" was being advertised as a polling place for a Wanganui County Council election.<sup>10</sup>

The *Wanganui Chronicle* of 18 July 1877 (p. 2) promoted a musical gathering to raise funds of the Upokongaro Cricket Club, which was to be held at "*Kennedy's new store, Upokongaro*." The programme of readings, musical selections and "*other intellectual attractions*" was expected to attract visitors from Wanganui. As the reference is to a 'new store', it is possible that even the oldest parts of the present building date to 1877. It also seems realistic that the groceries might not yet have been installed in the 'new building' when the function took place.

On 26<sup>th</sup> September 1877, a fundraiser in support of the Upokongaro Church also took place at Kennedy's store, which was "*tastefully decorated with flags and evergreens*." The place was reportedly "*packed*" with an attentive and appreciative audience.<sup>11</sup>

A robbery at Mr Kennedy's 'shop' at Upokongaro on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1880 provides an indication on the range of items (usually) sold at the store: one suit of boy's knickerbocker clothing, two pairs of trousers, six shirts, one bottle of citrate of magnesia, two rugs, one bottle of wizard oil, one bottle of scent, one bottle of hair oil, one bottle of eau-de-cologne, seven tins of sardines, five pairs of women's stockings, one bottle of chlorodyne and four sets of shirt studs. The culprit, Mark Toole, was sent for trial at the Supreme Court.<sup>12</sup>

At about 5:25 on Sunday morning, 26<sup>th</sup> June 1881, a significant earthquake struck Wanganui. "*The shock was (also) felt severely at Upokongaro. The chimney in the new portion of Mr Kennedy's Hotel was cracked and partially*

<sup>5</sup> Pettigrew, p. 4

<sup>6</sup> *Wanganui Herald*, 7 March 1871, p. 2

<sup>7</sup> Pettigrew, p. 5. The *Wanganui Chronicle* of 21 December 1876 (p. 3, col. 6) refers to a polling booth being sited at "Riverbank School, Kennedy's". The *Wanganui Chronicle* of 28 June 1878 (p. 2) refers to building a new Upokongaro schoolhouse and converting the old one into the teacher's house.

<sup>8</sup> R.M. Startup, *New Zealand Post Offices* (Auckland, 1997), p. 92

<sup>9</sup> *Appendices of the Journal of the House of Representatives*, 1873, H-24: p. 19

<sup>10</sup> *Wanganui Chronicle*, 22 January 1877, p. 2

<sup>11</sup> *Wanganui Chronicle*, 27 September 1877, p. 2

<sup>12</sup> *Wanganui Chronicle*, 1 April 1880, p. 2

*displaced, and some breakages occurred in the store.*<sup>13</sup>

The 1883-84 *Wises' Post Office Directory* lists John Kennedy, hotel and postmaster, and Henry W. Gouger, storekeeper, at Makirikiri. Henry Whitem Gouger, who was from Adelaide, was living in Upokongaro by December 1870, at which time he was appointed secretary of the newly-formed Upokongaro Light Horse Cavalry Corps.<sup>14</sup> In March 1871, he had been schoolmaster at the Makirikiri (Upokongaro) School, and was supervising the construction of the new school building.<sup>15</sup> However, he was storeman in Kennedy's store by the time the aforementioned Mark Toole robbery in March 1880.

In February 1887, John Kennedy sold his hotel and store and retired. He and his wife then headed away for a world tour, and to enjoy a change and a rest. However, prior to their departure, some forty-five members of the local community held a farewell banquet for Mr and Mrs Kennedy at the Upokongaro Hotel. At the event, held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 1887, an address signed by all the prominent local settlers of Upokongaro and Makirikiri, was presented to the Kennedys'. This refers to John Kennedy as having lived in the district for twenty years.<sup>16</sup> John Kennedy died in Picton on 18<sup>th</sup> July 1898, and was buried at Karori Cemetery.<sup>17</sup>

The new owner of the Upokongaro Hotel and store was Thomas Rowe<sup>18</sup>, a former commercial traveller for the firm Sargood, Son & Ewen. The *Wanganui Chronicle* of 17<sup>th</sup> February 1887 (p. 2) remarked that: "*Under Mr Rowe's management there is no danger of either hotel or store suffering in reputation or success.*"<sup>19</sup>

Thomas Rowe then married Celia Barr, daughter of John Barr of Wanganui, on 10 September 1889.<sup>20</sup> Thomas Rowe was listed as a storekeeper only, in his entry in the 1892/93 *Wises' Directory*.

On 29 May 1894, the *Wanganui Chronicle* (p. 2) published a lengthy article on 'Our Future Suburbs' and featured Upokongaro. After describing the scenery, the church and the school, the writer recorded that:

*"The guiding spirit of the little township is Mr Thomas Rowe, who, brought up in the soft goods trade at Home, left for Dunedin and entered the employ of Messrs Sargood, Son & Ewen, with whom he remained about 12 years, serving in various confidential capacities, and prior to leaving acting as the traveller of the firm at Dunedin, Christchurch, and then the North.*

*"Tiring of travelling, and having on one occasion visited Upokongaro, he, like all who have been to it, was very much struck with the beauty and homeliness of the place and at once determined to lease the property of 22 acres, with a store, a public house, and three pretty little cottages.*

*"After holding the property on lease for five years he acquired the title and now calls himself monarch of almost all he surveys.*

*"The store, like all country stores, possesses all the necessary articles*

<sup>13</sup> *Wanganui Herald*, 27 June 1881, p. 2

<sup>14</sup> *Wanganui Herald*, 22 December 1870, p. 2

<sup>15</sup> *Wanganui Herald*, 7 March 1871, p. 2. He still lived in the Upokongaro Schoolhouse in 1873 (WH: 8 May 1873, p. 3). He married Mary Webb at Wanganui in 1880 (WH: 9 July 1880, p. 2)

<sup>16</sup> *Wanganui Chronicle*, 17 February 1887, p. 2, 16 March 1887, p. 2; *Wanganui Herald*, 16 March 1887, p. 2

<sup>17</sup> *Wanganui Chronicle*, 21 July 1898, p. 2, 18 July 1900, p. 2 (memorial notice)

<sup>18</sup> *Wanganui Herald*, 8 February 1887, p. 3 (license transfer notice)

<sup>19</sup> *Wanganui Chronicle*, 1 March 1887, p. 3, col. 4 (public notice of sale)

<sup>20</sup> *Wanganui Chronicle*, 12 September 1889, p. 2

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from a 'needle to an anchor,' suitable for the requirements of the vicinity and travellers as well. The very large and varied stock proves that Mr Rowe's generalship and popularity have secured him the goodwill of all who have come in contact with him.

"Attached to the store is an hotel which by its appearance seems quite of a different character to the general run of the roadside houses. Thinking that the old portion of this historical house, which served as a living place for the Imperial troops, would be inadequate for his business, he put up additions, and judging from the finishing of the bedrooms and the many sitting rooms, I presume it is his belief that someday this house will become the summer resort for families and tourists..."

The article then went on to describe the hotel's facilities, the theatre on the property that was once the Native Land Court (now Upokongaro Memorial Hall, q.v.), and the hotel's garden.<sup>21</sup>

At 2:10 am on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1897, another large earthquake struck Wanganui causing significant damage. The damage at Upokongaro was duly described in the *Wanganui Herald* of 8 December 1897 (p. 2): "At Kennedy's the shock was also severely felt and chimneys suffered. At Rowe's Hotel crockery and mirrors were broken in all directions, and his store fared likewise. Cracks in the ground were noticeable hereabouts and down the River Bank on Kennedy's side."

Rowe died suddenly from heart disease at Upokongaro on 23 May 1901, leaving a widow and a young family.<sup>22</sup> In late 1901, Rowe's properties were offered for lease. These consisted of the hotel, "known as Kennedy's", along with about 17 acres upon which were – as well as the hotel – four cottages, commodious stables, large hall (known as the Theatre), billiard room and the usual outbuildings. Also included in the lease notice was the general store, with outbuildings, that was located on a separate block of land that adjoined the hotel. The leases were to be for a seven-year term.<sup>23</sup>

By February 1902, the store had a new owner, so the lease offer had evidently been unsuccessful. Mr P.J. Missen had purchased the store from the Public Trustee, and Celia Rowe was advertising to request that past customers support the new owner, Mr P.J. Missen.<sup>24</sup> The 1902 *Wises' Directory* lists him as running the Makirikiri store and post office. Percy James Missen also ran the general store at Kakatihi at the same time – although it possibly opened after he purchased the Upokongaro store.<sup>25</sup> Missen seems to have attempted to rename the store, as the 'Post Office Store, Upokongaro', but this soon gave way to 'Missen's Store, Upokongaro'<sup>26</sup>

The store also housed the telegraph office – a key factor in the decision in 1881 to establish the Native Land Court in Upokongaro.<sup>27</sup> In 1908 the town's telegraph office was used convey an important boat race result into Wanganui, which was duly announced from the steps of the Wanganui Post Office. The *Wanganui*

<sup>21</sup> *Wanganui Chronicle*, p. 29 May 1894, p. 2

<sup>22</sup> *Wanganui Chronicle*, 23 May 1901, p. 2, 24 May 1901, p. 2

<sup>23</sup> *Wanganui Chronicle*, 10 December 1901, p. 3, col. 3

<sup>24</sup> *Wanganui Chronicle*, 3 February 1902, p. 3, col 2

<sup>25</sup> For example, the *Wanganui Chronicle* of 8 September 1906, p. 7, col. 5, which refers to "Kakatihi (Missen's Store)" as a drop-off point for tender notices, was the earliest reference sighted.

<sup>26</sup> For example, *Wanganui Chronicle*, 24 April 1902, p. 3, col. 2 & 7 October 1909, p. 7 (both Mangawhero Road Board advertisements)

<sup>27</sup> *Wanganui Herald*, 14 July 1881, p. 2

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*Chronicle* of 26<sup>th</sup> February 1908 (p. 5) then announced that this information had been received by the staff at the telegraph office at Mr Missen's store at 4:48, and had then reached town at 4:50.

The store also played a 'minor supporting role' in a sensational incident in Upokongaro at about 3:30am on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1910, when a 'half-caste Mexican' bush-worker named George Laurent attempted to blow up the hotel. Two explosions, believed to be gelignite, had been set off near the building, shattering every window in the hotel, damaging some timberwork, and throwing some in the hotel's occupants out of their beds. Remarkably this did not injure the hotelkeepers and their family, or their guests. A skylight was also broken in Mr Missen's store two chain away – while the shockwave was also felt in Aramoho.<sup>28</sup>

Evidence pointing to Laurent<sup>29</sup> was found in his coat and vest. This suggested that he also planned to commit suicide. His body was found in the river a few days later, and he was declared temporarily insane at the resulting inquest. Until his body was found, it had been feared that he might make another attempt on the hotel. It was also noted that the explosives had been set some distance (14ft. and 21 ft.) from the hotel – without any obstruction to potentially having been placed against its walls. Therefore it was believed that his real intention might have been to give the inmates a "severe fright."<sup>30</sup> In this he succeeded.

Percy James Missen, the eldest son of Mr Missen of Hamilton, died at the Cambridge Sanatorium on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1910, aged 46 years.<sup>31</sup>

In January 1911, the *Wanganui Chronicle* announced that Missen's two stores at Makirikiri (Upokongaro) and Kakatihi were to be continued under new management. The new manager of the Makirikiri Store was Alexander Clark. The old business was also being wound up and accounts owed to the late Mr Missen were required to be paid by 31<sup>st</sup> January 1911. The Post Office and Telephone Bureau at the Makirikiri Store was, however, still being carried on by Mr H.C. Henderson. The announcement also added that there were to be drastic reductions in the prices of goods on offer at the stores.<sup>32</sup>

Clark was still there in December 1911, when one Albert Thomas Skallie broke into the store – for which he was fined £10 for wilful damage.<sup>33</sup>

By 1913, the store, described as a "*Missen trustees' store at Makirikiri*" was being managed by William McKettrick. In July 1913, McKettrick was taken to court by local Justice of the Peace, Herbert Vernon Hammond (described as a Wanganui farmer) on charges of assault. McKettrick had been dismissed as business had been falling off, and he had blamed Hammond, who was one of the store's largest customers. The court case was the result of McKettrick hitting him in an unprovoked attack while Hammond waited to use the store's telephone. Hammond hadn't known McKettrick had been sacked until then – but he had spoken to one of the trustees and did know the management was to be

<sup>28</sup> *Wanganui Chronicle*, 3 March 1910, p. 5

<sup>29</sup> See Voelkerling & Stewart (p. 131-132) for more information on the cause of this

<sup>30</sup> *Wanganui Chronicle*, 3 March 1910, p. 5, 14 March 1910, p. 4 (inquest); *Manawatu Standard*, 3 March 1910, p. 5; *Hawera & Normanby Star*, 7 March 1910, p. 5 ('Dynamitard's Suicide')

<sup>31</sup> Death Registration: 1910/6402: <https://bdmonline.dia.govt.nz/>; *Wanganui Chronicle*, 29 November 1910, p. 4

<sup>32</sup> *Wanganui Chronicle*, 17 January 1911, p. 8

<sup>33</sup> *Wanganui Chronicle*, 27 December 1911, p. 4; *Hawera & Normanby Star*, 29 December 1911, p. 7

altered.<sup>34</sup>

The 1913-1918 *Wises' Directories* list William John Garvie as operating the store, while only the 1914 issue still refers to "McKittick", who was the postmaster. The *Wanganui Chronicle* of 24 September 1913 (p. 4) reported that the Telephone Exchange had announced that Mr W.J. Garvie, storekeeper, Makirikiri, had installed a telephone, the number being 976 (being 2 rings on the party line phone). The hotel and another local person were also connected to the telephone at the same time.

The references in the *Wises' Directory* to Garvie himself running the store are incorrect. In fact his wife Maud Amelia Garvie was probably running it in his place, as Private William John Garvie of Makirikiri had embarked for overseas service with the NZEF on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1915. He was part of the Medical Corps, bound for Egypt.<sup>35</sup> He served in Gallipoli and Egypt, and was then wounded in Egypt by shell concussion in August 1916. After recovering, he spent a year in "all the big battles" in France, before injuries to his right knee saw him hospitalised in England (again).<sup>36</sup> A few days after the announcement of the injury, the *Wanganui Chronicle* of 23 January 1918 (p. 1, col. 7) advertised "Garvie's Store and Dwelling at Makirikiri" for lease for five years.<sup>37</sup> Maud Amelia Garvey (aged 39) died in Auckland in 1921. Her husband's fate was not located for this study.<sup>38</sup> The *Wanganui Chronicle* of 19 September 1918 (p. 5) subsequently listed Milhoutra Tarachand, a merchant connected with the Makirikiri Post Office, as having been called up for military service, and listed as 'Class B'. While he may have merely used the post office as his address, he may also have been the leaseholder of Garvie's store.

The 1920 *Wises' Directory* lists 'Muir & Bird' as operating the Makirikiri store and post office; and then William Porter Newsham operated both between (at least) 1925 and 1939. By 1943, Les Williams was storekeeper and postmaster, and he was listed as such until at least 1955. By 1957, Cyril F. Whiting (of C.F. Whiting Ltd.) was storekeeper and postmaster. He was still listed in the final *Directory* sighted for this study, that of 1959/60. Cyril Fauchelle Whiting, a storekeeper aged 66, died on 15 September 1975 and was buried at Aramoho Cemetery.<sup>39</sup>

Other snippets of history involving the Makirikiri Store included it being - on 13<sup>th</sup> August 1944 - the last place a local farmer, Robert William Orton, was seen alive before his car plunged into the river while en route home to his farm about 1½ miles from the store. The following afternoon, a New Plymouth diver, assisted by a police party and the *PS Waimarie*, located the car and it was towed deep underwater (in an area some 20 ft. deep at low tide) to a point where it and the deceased could be extracted.<sup>40</sup>

The date at which this building ceased to be used as a post office was not

<sup>34</sup> *Wanganui Chronicle*, 3 July 1913, p. 7

<sup>35</sup> Auckland War Memorial Museum: <http://muse.aucklandmuseum.com/databases/cenotaph/locations.aspx> search William John Garvie, Serial No. 3/1162

<sup>36</sup> *Wanganui Chronicle*, 17 January 1918, p. 4

<sup>37</sup> The *Wanganui Chronicle* of 27 January 1916, p. 4, refers to an earlier attempt to sell the store to a Miss McMenanin that had ended up in the Magistrate's Court. This presumably coincided with Garvie's departure with the NZEF.

<sup>38</sup> *Auckland Star*, 24 October 1921, p. 4 Her husband was not mentioned in the death notice.

<sup>39</sup> NZ Genealogical Society cemeteries microfiche, Aramoho Cemetery

<sup>40</sup> *Evening Post*, 14 August 1944, p. 3, & 15 August 1944, p. 4 (His marriage, *Wanganui Chronicle*, 20 February 1914, p. 4)

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located during this study. As R.M. Startup's book, *New Zealand Post Offices*, which was correct to 31<sup>st</sup> January 1977, does not mention a closure date for this post office, the closure date is almost certainly after that time. An online auction site advertising a postmarked item that had passed through this post office at some point, states that it operated between 1872 and 1979.<sup>41</sup> While additional research would clarify matters, it is also noteworthy that on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> February 1988, 432 post offices around the country closed down, and most of these were in small communities.<sup>42</sup>

In more recent years, the old store has served as a café. It has been the APC Tearooms, the Riviera Restaurant, the Café Riva<sup>43</sup>, and on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2012 it reopened as the 4 Forty 4 Café.<sup>44</sup>

The former Café Riva had been the subject of a mortgagee sale in October 2010. Although valued at \$135,000, the building had only attracted \$60,000 at auction.<sup>45</sup> The Upokongaro community had been hoping to attract custom from the riverboat tourism trade. However, the riverboat operators claimed that there was not enough in the town to attract their passengers to want disembark there. As a result, the *Waimarie* ceased stopping at the town on 24 October 2010. Instead the boat travelled upriver to the town, at which point it turned and went back to Wanganui.

By April 2012, in addition to the 4 Forty 4 Café opening in Upokongaro, the Whanganui Riverboat Restoration and Navigation Trust and the tourism group Journeys on the Whanganui, were planning to establish a museum in the historic Upokongaro Memorial Hall (q.v.), using historical material then in storage. The Whanganui District Council had agreed to allow the two groups to use the hall, and for it to be open during riverboat visits and by appointment. It was also hoped that once the museum and other attractions were ready, that the *Waimarie* would stop at Upokongaro again.<sup>46</sup>

A photo of Upokongaro in May 1885 appears in Pettigrew, p. 11. This shows the store to have the same central gabled portion, but with (seemingly) a different lean-to on the downstream side. In addition, the lean-to on the upstream side does not appear to be present in a 1901 photo in Pettigrew, p. 15. It is likely that the main (central) portion of the building is "*Kennedy's new store*" referred to in the *Wanganui Chronicle* of 18 July 1877 (p, 2).

## Archival Sources

The following archival sources relating to the Makirikiri Post Office are held by Archives New Zealand, Wellington, and were not sighted during this limited study:

<sup>41</sup> John Mowbray Collectibles: Lot 584 (webpage from 2008): "Postal History - New Zealand: Makirikiri (WG 1872-1979)" <http://www.artifact.com/auction-lot/postal-history-new-zealand:-makirikiri-wg-1-c-horwln8pio> :

<sup>42</sup> Te Papa website: February 1988: <http://blog.tepapa.govt.nz/2012/02/29/february-1988-this-month-last-century/> Note that this source gives the closure date of 8<sup>th</sup> February 1988 – which was a Monday. Also *Otago Daily Times*, 17 October 2011, which give the closure date of 5<sup>th</sup> February 1988, which was a Friday: <http://www.odt.co.nz/tags/reflecting-150-years/182529/1987-anger-sweeping-closures-post-offices>

<sup>43</sup> Café Reva, archived webpage showing its photo: <http://www.zenbu.co.nz/entry/1146393-cafe-riva#>

<sup>44</sup> *Wanganui Chronicle*, 19 April 2012: <http://www.wanganuichronicle.co.nz/news/village-has-more-to-offer2/1350256/>

<sup>45</sup> *Wanganui Chronicle*, 12 November 2010: <http://www.wanganuichronicle.co.nz/news/cheap-property-for-cash-but-risks-remain/1033842/>

<sup>46</sup> *Wanganui Chronicle*, 19 April 2012: <http://www.wanganuichronicle.co.nz/news/village-has-more-to-offer2/1350256/>

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AATC 5114 W3456 68/ PW39/28: Post Office – Makirikiri 1921-1945  
AAME 909 W3101 6/ 6/1593: Non Classified/Agency Post Offices – Makirikiri 1944-1979  
AFIE 619 W5683 98/ 8/5/114: Makirikiri Post Office Site 1945-1971  
ABWN 889 W5021 45/ 20/316/1 1: Post Office – Makirikiri Telephone Exchange

The Certificates of Title for the property would probably clarify who owned or leased the property over the years – and when these events occurred. Meanwhile the Caines Family Papers held at Whanganui Regional Museum might assist with the store's early years. The photographic record will also help establish when additions were made or altered. In addition, the oral history surrounding this building – which would have been a central meeting point for the district it served for generations – will provide an invaluable record of its history.

## Bibliography

*New Zealand Electoral Rolls* (various years)

Pettigrew, Wendy, *The Church by the River: St. Mary's Upokongaro: Serving country parishioners since 1877* (Wanganui, 2005)

Smart, M.J.G., & Bates, A.P., *The Wanganui Story* (Wanganui. 1972)

Startup, R.M., *New Zealand Post Offices* (Auckland, 1997)

Voelkerling, Rex H., & Stewart, Kevin L., *From Sand to Papa: A History of the Wanganui County* (Wanganui, 1986)

*Wises' NZ Post Office Directories* (various years)

Archival sources, newspapers and online articles as referred to in the footnotes

## Architect/Designer:

**History of changes:** various which have not been able to be identified.

**Date Period:** *ca 1877.*

## Rarity / Special Features:

**Representativeness:** *The building is representative of small rural stores with numerous extensions and additions to accommodate changing needs*

## Diversity (Form and Features):

## Summary of Significance:

**Archaeological Qualities**

**Integrity:** *The condition of the building was not inspected*

**Context/Group Value:** *the building is associated with the Upokongaro school, hotel (also built by John Kennedy) , Memorial Hall and church (the first services were held at the hotel) nearby.*

**Fragility / Vulnerability:** *As a timber building it is potentially vulnerable to fire.*

# Built Heritage Inventory



WHANGANUI  
DISTRICT COUNCIL  
Te Kaunihera a Rohe o Whanganui

As the building was constructed prior to 1900 it is deemed an archaeological site under the Historic Places Act

## **Architectural Qualities**

The building has an ad hoc character, which clearly reveals its history of many changes over time.

## **Historic Qualities**

The building is associated with the development of Upokongaro from the mid 1870s and the original owner, Mr John Kennedy. He was one of the first to settle in the area and was a driving force behind the construction of the church and who also built the hotel. The various early uses of the building including a store, a telegraph office, and Post Office reflect the needs of the nascent community. The telegraph office was a key factor in the location of the Native Land Court at Upokongaro in 1881.

## **Technical Qualities**

The building uses typical materials and building techniques for each of the periods of construction.

## **Cultural Qualities**

The building, in its various forms, has been an important part of a group of buildings, which reflect the early development of Upokongaro, which, with the other buildings, *provides a sense of historical continuity. The building has educative values in its various changes over time to suit the needs of the community.*

## **Reference Source:**

## **Associated Pictures:**

*Date of Survey: 2012*

*Prepared by: Val Burr*