

Historic Heritage Inventory

Centennial Library (former), Paeroa (Paeroa & District Museum)



Location: 37 Belmont Road, Paeroa

Heritage Status

Historic Places Trust Registration Number:

Historic Places Trust Category:

HDC Heritage Category: **B** - Heritage Feature. Regional or Sub-Regional Significance

Other:

Physical Description: Single storey, four bay, brick facade with some internal brick walls. Four casement windows, whole pane lower sash, 6-pane upper sash. Quoins cement rendered and painted white, as with entrance portico, to appear as stone. The roof has two main and one smaller corrugated iron gables.

Other known names: Paeroa and District Museum

Notable features:

Style: Neo-Georgian

Materials: Brick, concrete, concrete block

Date of Construction: 1940

History: The section was set aside by the Ohinemuri County Council in the late 1890's for a library. There was a small building constructed on this section to house this amenity. In 1930 the Paeroa Borough Council constructed post-war memorial comprising a Ladies' Rest Room, Plunket

District Plan Schedule

Number: **HAU138**

Heritage Category: **B**

Heritage Type:

- Wahi Tapu
- Cultural Landscape
- Building
- Group of Buildings
- Structure
- Monument
- Historic Place
- Archaeological Site
- Other

Date Period:

1911-1940

Significance:

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

Thematic Context

- Maori
- Early Settlement
- Industry
- Extraction
- Forestry
- Agriculture
- Transport
- Communication
- Commerce
- Residential
- Social/Cultural
- Civic
- Health
- Educational
- Church/yard
- Other

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Room, public reading room and public library. The reading room and library were not new but a wooden structure incorporated so as to be hidden and the interior was renovated at a cost of £1,000. In 1939 the Paeroa Borough Council, with the help of a Government £350 subsidy, £250 raised from local subscriptions and the Council providing the shortfall for the estimated cost of £1400, completed the building as a memorial to mark the Centenary of New Zealand in 1940. The building was completed with the addition of a Ladies Rest Room.

When the Paeroa Plunket Society moved into its new building around 1964, the rest room with its basic kitchen, known as the Oasis Room, continued to serve the women of the district. For a short period the room was used by the Joint Borough and County Health Inspector until there were additions to the Ohinemuri County Council's Coronation Chambers. In 1978 the Paeroa Borough Council gave the Paeroa and District Historical Society permission to add the lean-to to the rear of the building to be used as a district museum. This was named the Fielden Thorp Museum and opened in April, 1979. Following the amalgamation of local authorities in 1989, the Hauraki District Council moved the Library into its present building and in 1993 the Paeroa and District Historical Society purchased the building and linked the main building and the lean-to by cutting a large hole in the rear wall of the library.

The museum contains a variety of exhibits from local residents and businesses. It also housed the Netherton Presbyterian Church organ.

Architect:

Designer:

Builder:

Engineer:

History of changes: Completed with addition of Ladies' Toilet in 1940. Museum lean-to was added in 1979.

Condition: Good

Integrity: Substantially intact

Current Uses: Paeroa and District Museum

Former Uses: Public library, Ladies Rest Room, Plunket Society Room

Registered owner: Paeroa and District Historical Society Inc.

Legal Description: Lot 65 DP 247

Reference Source: G Watton, H Haysom (pers. comm.); "Paeroa Museum" (1979) *Ohinemuri Regional History Journal* 23:39-40.

Associated Pictures: