

## Former Inter-denominational Church, Kaihere



**Location:** 1547 Kaihere Road, Kaihere

### Heritage Status

**Historic Places Trust Registration Number:**

**Historic Places Trust Category:**

**HDC Heritage Category:** C - Heritage Item. Local or Neighbourhood Significance

**Other:**

**Physical Description:** Steep pitched brick church, heavily modified inside (but not outside) during conversion into residence. The front and one side of the building retain the original brickwork and leadlight lancet windows. A conservatory has been added on the western side. Wooden floor for garden and fish pond added to the eastern side. A mezzanine floor was added, housing three bedrooms, bathroom and toilet facilities.

**Other known names:** Church of the Good Shepherd

**Notable features:**

**Style:** Neo-gothic

**Materials:** Brick

**Date of Construction:** 1956

**District Plan Schedule**

**Number:** HAU149

**Heritage Category:** C

**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

# Historic Heritage Inventory



## Former Inter-denominational Church, Kaihere

District Plan Schedule

Number: **HAU149**

Heritage Category: **C**

**History:** The Church of the Good Shepherd was built in 1956 and dedicated by Bishop John Simkin on 12th May 1957. Church services had been held in the local hall, until the community raised the funds to build the church.

Following poor attendances in the 1970's and the growth of the Inter-denominational Church in Ngatea, the decision was made to close the church.

The last service in the church was held on Sunday 14th December. In 1982, it was sold to a private buyer and converted into a house in 1984. The foundation stone and trowel used by Bishop John Simkin to perform the consecration service are on display at the Hauraki Plains Cooperating Parish Complex.

A brass memorial plaque to the Benny Family was removed from the church and placed on a nearby memorial cairn.

**Architect:** Converted by Murray Boyer

**Designer:**

**Builder:** Whiteman Brothers (local). Brickwork by Auckland tradesman.

**Engineer:**

**History of changes:** Converted to private residence

**Condition:** Unknown

**Integrity:** Substantially altered

**Current Uses:** Private Residential

**Former Uses:** Church

**Registered owner:** David and Elsie Mravicich

**Legal Description:** Lot 1 DPS 3687

**Reference Source:**

Kaihere School and District 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee (1984); Kaihere School and District 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee (1964)

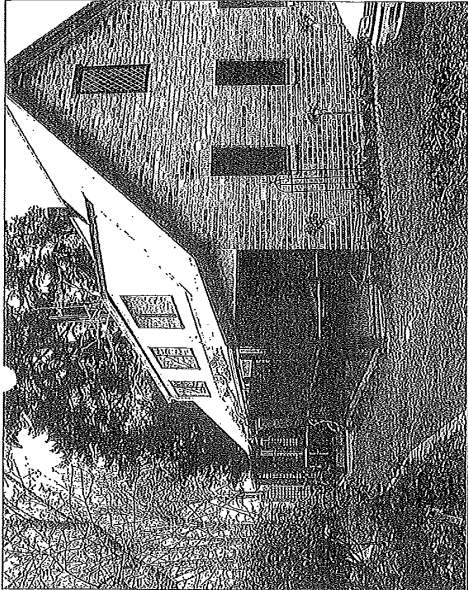
## Former Inter-denominational Church, Kaihere

District Plan Schedule

Number: **HAU149**

Heritage Category: **C**

Associated Pictures:



Kaihere Church as it appears today.

### Kaihere church - A History

In 1956, after many years of conducting church services at their local hall, the Kaihere community had raised enough money to build their own church. Local builders, the White-man brothers, built the church, contracting a tradesman from Auckland to do the brickwork.

The foundation stone and the trowel used by Bishop John Simba to perform the consecration services on chapel at Hauraki Plains Co-op. For many years, this new church has been a place for locals. Many times all took place at the church of the Good Shepherd.

Local ministers of different denominations took regular services at the church.

Longtime Kaihere residents, Freda and Jack Brooks and family have fond memories of the church.

"The fundraising went on for years, Freda participated in the

organ playing at every wedding funeral in the church community. That was the church's first wedding and Freda was disappointed not to be able to play, especially as the bride was a special friend. Freda and Jack's first child, Stuart was born on the day of that wedding, so Freda was to get him up to the home farm. Well what a performance! This built churches on the Plains, and moves were made to centralise church facilities in Ngaua.

It was a commentary on the social pattern of the times, Freda and Jack, small country communicants were looking their identity. Better roads meant that people travelled more often. What used to be a 4 hour trip to Ngaua became 10 minutes."

In 1984, the church was deconsecrated, and sold to Murray Boyer. Murray became an active member of the Hauraki Plains Co-op. He understood the special significance of Kaihere Church. He wanted to retain the character of the church within

his new home. Architects redesigned the church, adding a mezzanine floor housing 3 bedrooms, bathroom and toilet facilities. The eastern side windows were converted to ranch sliders to maximise the sun's warmth. "It's the warmest house we've ever lived in" present owner Jenny and Tom Murrain explain. "The sun streams in through the windows and the birds remain the birds. The walls have an inside air cavity for extra warmth."

Tom and Jenny dining tables were his. Their coats are still hanging in the home, making the home welcoming in keeping with the "community" church.

From the upstairs windows there are peaceful views of the road down to the Fika river one way, and bush on the western side. Even though the original church was well endowed with windows on both sides, parishioners in the church would certainly not have had such restful views!

Garaging has been added to the rear of the church, and the little "outdoors" only used in summer, and their garden promises to be the best in the area, in Freda Brooks' words.

The couple are planting extensively, and their garden promises to be the best in the area, in Freda Brooks' words.

The large trees are no longer there, but Kaihere's Church of the Good Shepherd is still a very picturesque setting, and holds treasured memories for local families.

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