



St Mary's Peace Memorial Hall, Vivian St	1924
Community Centre, Vivian St	1888

Themes in development: cultural and social.

Cultural heritage values: historical, architectural, technical, townscape and group values.

Not registered.

Owner	Title	Use
Taranaki Anglican Trust Board 37 Vivian Street New Plymouth		Hall and Community Centre

Description

Two joined buildings are included here, the St Mary's Peace Memorial Hall on the left and the Community Centre on the right. The buildings share a similar form of high gabled roofs facing Vivian Street with a single storey porch projecting forward; they each contain one large open hall space with service rooms attached. The Peace Hall is a concrete structure with a textured stucco finish and roof of Marseilles tiles; the Community Centre is timber framed with rusticated weatherboard sheathing (covered on side elevations with flat sheet material) and corrugated iron on the roof. This building is Gothic in character with lancet windows and trussed gable ends, while the Peace Hall has a more domestic and quiet character.

History

The Community Centre, known also as the Badminton Hall, was built in 1888 for about £320 by R Earley. It was used as a Sunday school, and during the 1920s it housed a daily kindergarten. A classroom was added in 1902, and in 1979 a porch was added at the north-east corner.

The commemoration stone for the St Mary's Peace Hall was laid by Mayor F E Wilson on 1 June 1924. It was built by J and T Julian and Son Ltd for the sum of £3,550, and was opened by the Bishop Dr A W Averill on 7 November 1924.

Architects

The architect for the Community Centre was James Sanderson and for the Peace Hall, Messenger Griffiths and Taylor.

Statement of Significance

The Peace Hall and Community Centre both have some historic and architectural interest in their own right, but as with St Mary's Vicarage, their principal value is as an integral part of the St Mary's Church complex, where they add to the historical and visual richness of the place. They have a more urban streetscape quality than St Mary's, being built close to the street edge and without the benefit of trees and space around them they are highly visible.

Sources

New Plymouth District Council building file 628/...

Goodly Stones and Timbers. A History of St Mary's Church, New Plymouth, Margaret H Alington, New Plymouth, St Mary's Church, 1988.

Frank Messenger, Architect, Ian Pritchard, 1994.