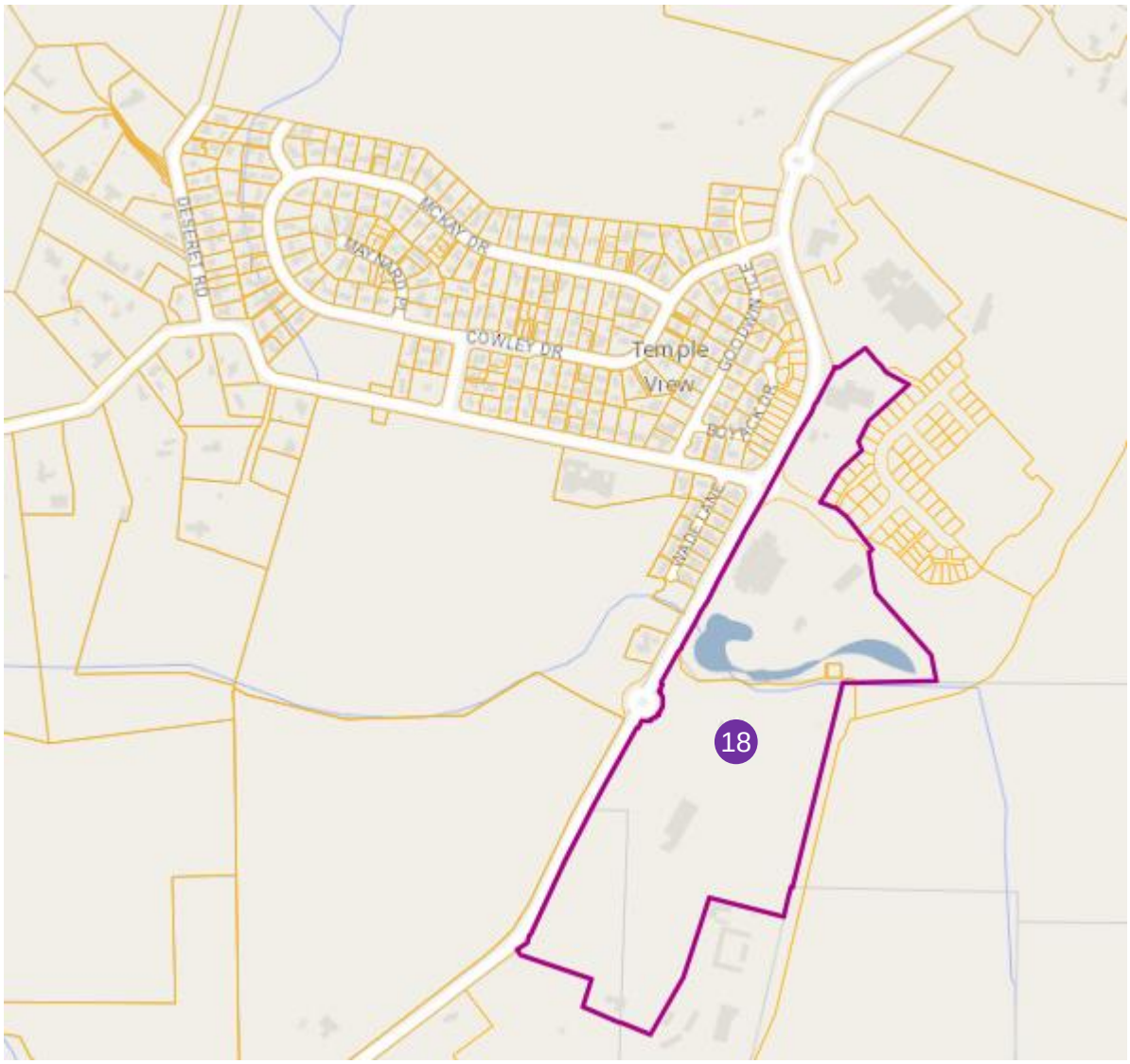
Temple View HHA – Full Statement



Development Dates

- The development to form the Temple and associated facilities began in 1955

City Extension

- Within the 11th extension to the city, July 2004.

Background

Background (Historic, Cultural and Archaeological Qualities)[1]

Construction had begun at Temple View, just west of Hamilton, in December 1955. The project included the building of the Temple, which was the first temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the southern hemisphere, and Church College, which was a private secondary school.

The project was overseen by George R. Biesinger, the general supervisor of Church building in the South Pacific.

The labour for the construction was performed by volunteer workers known as labour missionaries. The workers were given a small allowance of 10 shillings per week for basic necessities, and were called to serve for two years. However many extended their time upwards to between 8 and 10 years. Additional labour was supplied by church members from around New Zealand who visited for week-long assignments.

Overtime the project included other Church buildings such as the Wendell B Mendenhall Library, the G R Biesinger Hall, First House and Kai Hall, all of which are scheduled in their own right.

The development of the Temple encouraged the development of areas of housing to the west of Tuhikaramea Road, all beyond the boundaries of the city on previously undeveloped land.

In the past decade the area has been significantly altered with the demolition of the school buildings, block plant and housing; the redevelopments have refocused the campus on the centrepiece of the Temple.

However, the site remains in the ownership and use of the Church, and forms a clearly identifiable campus which shows overall design consistency and which illustrates the significant historical and social significance of the site to the history of Hamilton and the local area, particularly during the Early Post War Expansions (1950 to 1980) development period when the Temple, School and associated buildings were originally constructed.

Figure 72 The Temple during construction, 1958 (https://www.thechurchnews.com/temples/2022/8/25/23317710/hamilton-new-zealand-temple-compare-interior- exterior-photos-1950s-and-today)

Figure 49 Workers during construction 1957 (https://www.thechurchnews.com/temples/2022/8/25/23317710/hamilton-new-zealand-temple-compare-interior-exterior-photos- 1950s-and-today)

[1] Informed by https://nzhistory.govt.nz/mormon-temple-opens-in-hamilton

Figure 50 Temple View campus and the residential area to the west of Tuhikaramea Road in 1979

Buildings and Streetscape Elements (Architectural, Scientific and Technical Qualities)

The Temple, and other Church buildings, including the retained and conserved Wendell B Mendenhall Library, the G R Biesinger Hall, First House and Kai Hall, all utilise materials and finishes which ensure that they are viewed as a suite of related buildings. This extends to the replacement walls constructed along Tuhikaramea Road, and the common landscaping within the road reserve and wider Church campus.

The siting, design and landscape treatment of the Temple emphasise the vertical proportions of the building and create the impression of a monument. Landscaping and tree planting emphasises the dramatic and dominant position of the Temple in the local landscape and also includes trees that mark periods of occupation before development of the site by the Church.

Whilst located outside of the city when originally developed, as a whole, the campus retains sufficient original buildings, and displays sufficient design integrity, that it illustrates an important element of Hamilton's Early Post War Expansions (1950 to 1980) development period.

Whilst located outside of the city when originally developed, the Temple View area contributes to a clear understanding and appreciation of a historically and culturally significant development which played an important role in Hamilton's Early Post War Expansions (1950 to 1980) development period. Whilst the area has undergone significant change during the past decade, the alterations made have been sympathetic to the area as originally designed, it exhibits Outstanding heritage significance.

The Temple View area has significant historical, cultural and architectural significance, being the first Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the southern hemisphere, the former location of Church College, a range of other remaining church buildings and a rich social history of the labour missionaries and other volunteers who

moved from their usual home to live at the site to work on all aspect of the development, from brick making through to building construction.

The buildings all represent styles which are associated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Temple, and other Church buildings, including the retained and conserved Wendell B Mendenhall Library, the G R Biesinger Hall, First House and Kai Hall, all utilise materials and finishes which ensure that they are viewed as a suite of related buildings. This extends to the replacement walls constructed along Tuhikaramea Road, and the common landscaping within the road reserve and wider Church campus. The temple was the first Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints temple to be constructed in the southern hemisphere and has a direct association with George R. Biesinger, the general supervisor of Church building in the South Pacific. The blocks for the older buildings were manufactured on site, with an increasing degree of mechanisation over time.

In order for the existing values of the HHA to be maintained, it is important that future development incorporate the following features:

- The primacy of the Temple as the most dominant feature of the site should be respected and key viewpoints of the Temple from within and outside of the site should not be interrupted.
- The remaining original buildings should be retained.
- All new buildings and other structures should utilise materials and finishes which reflect those used for the remaining original buildings and which ensure that all the buildings on the site are viewed as a suite of related buildings.

Heritage Assessment Criteria:

a. Historic Qualities

The place or area is directly associated with, or has a direct relationship to, an important person, group, institution, event or activity, or reflects important aspects of local, regional or national history, including development and settlement patterns, transportation routes and social or economic trends.

The project includes the construction of the first temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the southern hemisphere and has a direct association with George R. Biesinger, the general supervisor of Church building in the South Pacific.

Construction had begun at Temple View, just west of Hamilton, in December 1955. The project included the building of the Temple, which was the first temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the southern hemisphere, and Church College, which was a private secondary school.

The project was overseen by George R. Biesinger, the general supervisor of Church building in the South Pacific.

The labour for the construction was performed by volunteer workers known as labour missionaries. The workers were given a small allowance of 10 shillings per week for basic necessities and were called to serve for two years. However, many extended their time upwards to between 8 and 10 years. Additional labour was supplied by church members from around New Zealand who visited for week-long assignments.

Overtime the project included other Church buildings such as the Wendell B Mendenhall Library, the G R Biesinger Hall, First House and Kai Hall, all of which are scheduled in their own right.

The development of the Temple encouraged the development of areas of housing to the west of Tuhikaramea Road, all beyond the boundaries of the city on previously undeveloped land.

In the past decade the area has been significantly altered with the demolition of the school buildings, block plant and housing; the redevelopments have refocused the campus on the centrepiece of the Temple.

However, the site remains in the ownership and use of the Church, and forms a clearly identifiable campus which shows overall design consistency and which illustrates the significant historical and social significance of the site to the history of Hamilton and the local area, particular during the Early Post War Expansions (1950 to 1980) development period when the Temple, School and associated buildings were originally constructed.

The place has **outstanding national** historic qualities.

b. Physical/Aesthetic/Architectural Qualities

The place or area is a notable or representative example of:

(i) A significant development period or activity; and/or

(ii) Distinctive or special attributes of an aesthetic or functional nature; and/or

(iii) The work of a notable architect, designer, engineer or builder.

The buildings all represent styles which are associated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter- day Saints.

The Temple, and other Church buildings, including the retained and conserved Wendell B Mendenhall Library, the G R Biesinger Hall, First House and Kai Hall, all utilise materials and finishes which ensure that they are viewed as a suite of related buildings. This extends to the replacement walls constructed along Tuhikaramea Road, and the common landscaping within the road reserve and wider Church campus.

The blocks for the older buildings were manufactured on site, with an increasing degree of mechanisation over time.

The siting, design and landscape treatment of the Temple emphasise the vertical proportions of the building and create the impression of a monument. Landscaping and tree planting emphasises the dramatic and dominant position of the Temple in the local landscape and also includes trees that mark periods of occupation before development of the site by the Church.

Whilst located outside of the city when originally developed, as a whole, the campus retains sufficient original buildings, and displays sufficient design integrity, that it illustrates an important element of Hamilton's Early Post War Expansions (1950 to 1980) development period.

The original buildings were constructed using blocks which were manufactured on site, with an increasing level of mechanisation over time.

The development of the buildings and site in general has a direct association with George R. Biesinger, the general supervisor of Church building in the South Pacific.

The place has **outstanding national** physical/aesthetic/archaeological qualities.

c. Context Qualities

The place or area is an important landmark or feature or contributes to or is associated with a wider historical theme, traditional, or cultural context, or physical setting.

The place has **unassessed** context qualities.

d. Technological Qualities

The place or area shows a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular time, is directly associated with scientific or technical innovations or achievements, or is associated with scientific "break-through". The place uses unique or uncommon building materials, or demonstrates an innovative method of construction, or is an early example of the use of a particular building technique.

The materials (blocks) for the buildings were made on site, with increasing mechanisation over time.

The place has **moderate national** technological qualities.

e. Archaeological Qualities

The potential of the place or area to define or expand knowledge of earlier human occupation, activities or events through investigation using archaeological methods, or to provide evidence to address archaeological research questions. For example, but not limited to: The place or area is registered by Heritage New Zealand for its archaeological values, or is recorded by the New Zealand Archaeological Association Site Recording Scheme, or is an 'archaeological site' as defined by the Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014.

Whilst subdivision in the local area did not occur until the mid 20th Century, there is a known archaeological site within the area. The potential for information regarding earlier human occupation is therefore high.

It is likely that the place could provide evidence to address archaeological research questions.

There are records which relate to the HHA.

The place has **high local** archaeological qualities.

f. Cultural Qualities

The place or area is important or significant:

(i) As a focus of cultural sentiment; and/or

(ii) As a context for community identity or sense of place, and provides evidence of social,

cultural or historical continuity; and/or

(iii) For having symbolic or commemorative significance to people who use or have used it, or to the descendants of such people. The place or area has a high degree of interpretative potential to increase understanding of past lifestyles or events.

The site has been, and remains, an important focus for members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter- day Saints in New Zealand and the southern hemisphere.

The area contributes to the overall sense of place of the Temple View area, and is evidence of cultural and historical continuity.

As the first temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the southern hemisphere the area has symbolic or commemorative significance to people who use or

have used it, or to the descendants of such people. This includes the labour missionaries, and their families and descendants, who assisted with the construction of the Temple and other buildings in the area. There is a museum and interpretive material which assists visitors to understand past lifestyles and events.

The place has **outstanding national** cultural qualities.

g. Scientific Qualities

The potential for the place or area to contribute scientific information about how the natural environment has influenced, events, phases or activities related to development.

The place has **no known** scientific qualities.

Summary Table of Heritage Values

The place is considered to have heritage significance in relation to the following criteria:

Heritage Criteria	Significance	Context
a) Historic Qualities	Outstanding	National
b) Physical/Aesthetic/ Architectural Qualities	Outstanding	National
c) Context Qualities	Not assessed	
d) Technological Qualities	Moderate	National
e) Archaeological Qualities	High	Local
f) Cultural Qualities	Outstanding	National
g) Scientific Qualities	None	

Statement of Significance

The Temple View area has significant historical, cultural and architectural significance, being the first Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the southern hemisphere, the former location of Church College, a range of other remaining church buildings and a rich social history of the labour missionaries and other volunteers who moved from their usual home to live at the site to work on all aspect of the development, from brick making through to building construction.

Overall, whilst located outside of the city when originally developed, the area contributes to a clear understanding and appreciation of a historically and culturally significant development which played an important role in Hamilton's Early Post War Expansions (1950 to 1980) development period.

Whilst the area has undergone significant change during the past decade, the alterations made have been sympathetic to the area as originally designed, it exhibits Outstanding heritage significance. The buildings all represent styles which are associated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The Temple, and other Church buildings, including the retained and conserved Wendell B Mendenhall Library, the G R Biesinger Hall, First House and Kai Hall, all utilise materials and finishes which ensure that they are viewed as a suite of related buildings. This extends to the replacement walls constructed along Tuhikaramea Road, and the common landscaping within the road reserve and wider Church campus. The temple was the first Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints temple to be constructed in the southern hemisphere and has a direct association with George R. Biesinger, the general supervisor of Church building in the South Pacific. The blocks for the older buildings were manufactured on site, with an increasing degree of mechanisation over time.