



St John's Methodist Church, 3 West Street

1911

<b>Use</b>	Church	<b>Historic Value</b>	1 out of 5
<b>Materials</b>	Timber, diamond-shaped shingles on roof, modern addition	<b>Architectural Value</b>	1 out of 4
<b>NZHPT Registered</b>	Category II Register Number 2720	<b>Technical Value</b>	1 out of 2
<b>Valuation No</b>	12190-014-00	<b>Symbolic Value</b>	1 out of 3
<b>Legal Description</b>	Lot 2 DP 5543	<b>Rarity</b>	- out of 2
		<b>Townscape Value</b>	1 out of 2
		<b>Group Value</b>	1 out of 2
		<b>Overall Cultural Heritage Value</b>	6 out of 20
<b>Reference</b>	W1		

### **Description**

St John's Methodist Church is a timber building with diamond shaped tiles on the roof. A modern foyer has been added to the north side of the building and the centre wall of the front façade features a round leadlight window depicting a yellow daisy-like flower. The building is one of a group of three church buildings situated on Egmont Street.

### **History**

The first St John's Methodist Church was erected by voluntary labourers, and opened on 30 May 1889. In 1892, the church was lined and seating put in, at a cost of £30. The addition of the front porch cost £32. In 1910 a tender of £596.15.0 from Mr C Walker was accepted to build a new church and the old church was sold for demolition for £25. While the new church was being built, services were held in the Parish Hall.

The foundations for this church building were laid on 29 June 1911, and shortly afterwards a residence for the minister was built at 23 Egmont Street. It was used until 1935 and then sold. In 1927, the Awatuna Methodist church was bought. This building was then cut in half to move it to Kaponga where it was attached to the west end of the church at a cost of £300.

In 1935, when people were still suffering from the economic depression, the Kaponga Methodists could not afford a minister so they combined with the Eltham Methodists. The last minister in Kaponga was Rev John Nelson, (who is also remembered because he had a brother who was a dwarf, standing at only three feet tall.)

In 1976 the Kaponga and Eltham Methodists amalgamated with the Presbyterians of both towns to form a co-operating parish, with the minister residing in Eltham. The present Methodist church has been altered, and a foyer built on the north side. The Sunday School area and the foyer have now become a gathering place.

### **Architect**

Not known.

### **Builder**

Mr C Walker

### **Statement of Significance**

St John's Church, built as the Methodist Church in Kaponga in 1911 (on a site first used by the congregation in 1889), has expanded its role over time to serve the Methodist and Presbyterian communities of both Kaponga and Eltham. It has strong religious and social value for this reason.

The building is architecturally plain, although its high gabled roof is embellished with a prominent round window with a hood mould, while the main door and lancet windows have gothic openings. A modern addition on the side, although different in architectural style, is relatively discreet in the front view of the church. St John's Church, along with St Mark's opposite, is one of a significant group of religious buildings in the main street of Kaponga.

### **Sources**

Harding G J, Harding J P, Eliason W A, and Law D M (1982), *The Kaponga Story*

### **Date**

January 2000