

**Hinemihi, Clandon Park, Surrey UK.
A Brief History in Pictures**



Hinemihi in Te Wairoa 1880. Burton Brothers, Dunedin, New Zealand: Photograph of Runanga [Hinemihi] meeting house, Wairoa (© the Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington).

In 1880 Chief Aporo Te Wharekaniwha commissioned and paid for the construction of “Hinemihi o te Ao Tawhito”, which took place in Te Wairoa, North Island, New Zealand. Hinemihi was planned as a cultural centre for Ngati Hinemihi and for Maori cultural performances (tourists paid to view the carvings, attend dances and to enjoy refreshments).



Paint analysis carried out recently at UCL suggests that the earliest painted decoration for Hinemihi (1880?) was a vibrant combination of orange, blue, white and black (photo: Emilia Ralston based on an 1880 photograph of Hinemihi)



Hinemihī soon after the Tarawera eruption of 1886. Wharepuni at Wairoa after eruption (©the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa).

On June 10th 1886, the eruption of Mount Tarawera destroyed Te Wairoa and the surrounding area. A number of people (30-50) were saved by sheltering inside Hinemihī during the eruption. In total 153 people died during the eruption. The local area was devastated and Hinemihī was left isolated



Hinemihī at Clandon Park pre-1914, from the photographic album of Harry William Blake, head gardener at Clandon Park, c.1886–1920 (© the Surrey History Centre).

William Hillier Onslow, fourth Earl of Onslow (1853-1911) - Governor of New Zealand from 1889 to 1892, purchased Hinemihī's 23 Carvings from Mika Aporo, son of the deceased Chief Aporo Te Wharekaniwha, for £50. Hinemihī's carvings arrived in the UK in April 1892

and Hinemihi was erected on the Clandon Park estate soon after.



Hinemihi in 1919 (photo: Alan Gallop).

In 1917 restoration work was conducted by recuperating WWI soldiers, including Maori National Expeditionary soldiers (Maori Pioneer Battalion).



Hinemihi prior to restoration in 1959 (photo: National Trust Photographic Library).

Between 1919 and 1945, a major reconstruction of Hinemihi took place (for which no records have yet been found) her front wall was removed and an open structure created. In 1956 Clandon Park and gardens– including Hinemihi - was donated to The National Trust.



Hinemihi in 1975 (photo: Alan Gallop).

In 1960 a major restoration of Hinemihi took place. In 1974 Bernard Kernot from Wellington's Victoria University, Department of Anthropology and Maori, reported that:
"The report of the English contractors shows little appreciation of the house as a cultural object with its own system of symbols, as distinct from a collection of carved posts and painted scroll designs to be restored"



Hinemihi after restoration in 1980 (photo: National Trust Photographic Library).

Following restoration by Draper & Sons, Mr Draper stated: "We consider that although there are some items that are incorrect, that we achieved, against some odds, a fair representation of the original building, which the National Trust appreciated".

In 1986 Ngāti Hinemihi made visits to Hinemihi, which has led to ongoing contact between The National Trust and members of Ngāti Hinemihi.



Hinemihī after 1995 (photo: Dean Sully).

In 1995 Thirty members of Ngāti Hinemihī travelled to Clandon Park to give newly created carvings to Hinemihī. Following a blessing ceremony, the new carvings, along with the recently discovered original carvings from around the window, were added to Hinemihī. The arrival of new carvings and the special ceremony to accept them created a new profile for Hinemihī both in the UK and New Zealand, particularly among the National Trust and UK based Maori community. Since then the National Trust has maintained direct contact with three Maori groups, Ngāti Hinemihī (Hinemihī's spiritual descendants) Ngāti Ranana (London Maori Club) and the Kohanga reo o Ranana (London Maori Language nest). This period has been one of re-appropriation by the Maori community in which Hinemihī has been re-imbued with a spiritual presence.



Ngāti Ranana performing during the Kohanga reo hangi at Hinemihī June 2006 (photo: Scott Boswell)



Kohanga Reo parents and children with UCL students during Hinemihi Maintenance days, June 2006 (photo: Liu Man-yee)

Hinemihi's future is being discussed by a Hinemihi Project Group set up in 2004 as part of a formal consultation process comprising representatives from the National Trust, Maori groups (Ngāti Hinemihi, Ngāti Ranana, Kohanga Reo, and Maramara Totara).

Should she be left as she is, or presented to reflect a previous state such as she was in back in 1886 before Mt Tarawera attempted to destroy her, or as she was when she first arrived at Clandon Park in 1892, or one of the other past configurations of her time at Clandon Park?

Hinemihi o te Ao Tawhito – Hinemihi of the Old World, conceived as a expression of tribal identity for Ngāti Hinemihi , has undergone many transitions in her 127 years from Hinemihi of the Golden Eyes, to a place of sanctuary and a survivor of the Tarawera eruption, as a burial ground, as a Souvenir, as a Summerhouse, providing comfort as a nurse, a Garden store, an Image on a Banknote, a goat-house, a children's playhouse, almost a Nightclub, a National Trust Property, A Grade II listed building, a meeting house for Ngāti Ranana (London Maori Club), a Maori Ambassador and increasingly the focus of a cross cultural partnership between Maori and National Trust that will hopefully see her transformed into an active marae and a cultural centre for Maori activities in the UK.



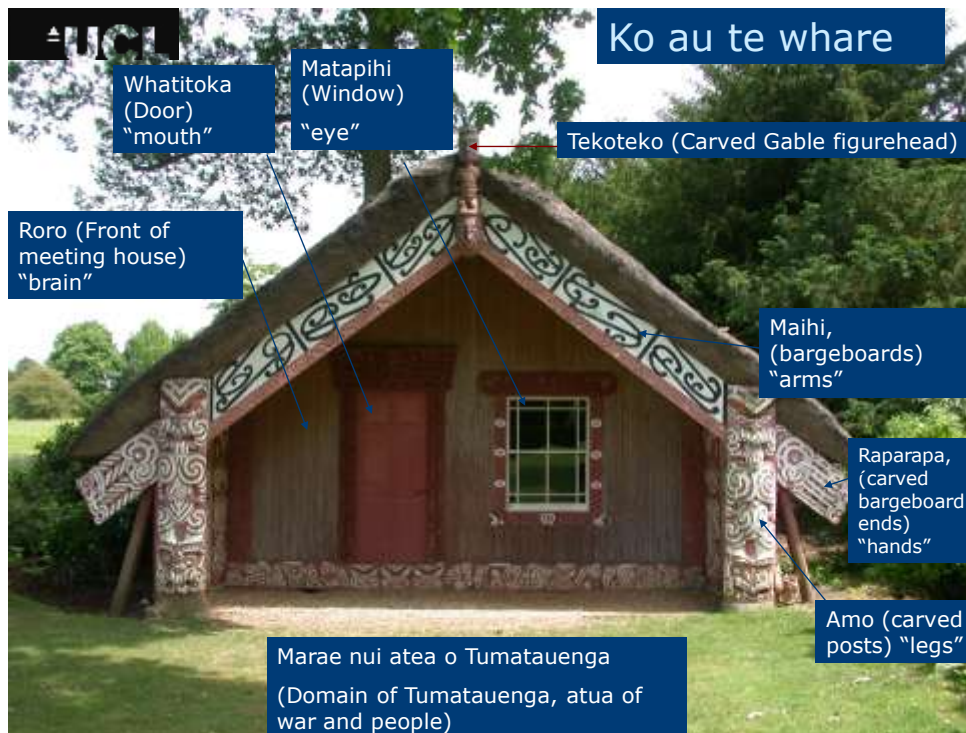
Postcard "Greetings from Hinemihi London" (WHAT_Architecture 2006)



"whare whakaruru + whare Wananga + whare Manaaki = Marae!"

Architectural concept drawings for the conservation of Hinemihi as an active marae and Centre for Maori cultural activity in the UK (WHAT_Architecture 2007)

"...changes to Hinemihi will act as a catalyst for Hinemihi's further development as a focus for Maori culture in the United Kingdom, and also as a centre of learning for anyone interested in Maori culture. "Hinemihi o te Ao Tawhito (Hinemihi of the Old World) A Vision for the Future" 2008.



Ko Au te Whare (I am the House) The named parts of Hinemihi prepared during "Being with Hinemihi" 2009 (image Dean Sully)

Please let us know your thoughts about Hinemihi's future
 By emailing: clandonpark@nationaltrust.org.uk or d.sully@ucl.ac.uk

For further information:

National Trust:

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-vh/w-visits/w-findaplace/w-clandonpark/w-clandonpark-maori-house.htm>

http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-chl/w-places_collections/w-architecture_buildings/w-architecture-buildings_conservation/w-architecture-buildings_conservation-maori_house.htm

UCL

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/news-articles/0606/06062702>

UK based Maori

<http://www.ngatiranana.co.uk>

<http://www.kohanga.co.uk>

Publications

Gallop, Alan, 1998 "The House With the Golden Eyes – Unlocking the secrets of Hinemihi, the Maori Meeting House from Te Wairoa (New Zealand) and Clandon Park (Surrey, England) " Running Horse Books.

Sully, Dean, 2007 "Decolonising Conservation: Caring for Maori Meeting Houses Outside New Zealand. Left Coast Press.