



Central Building, corner High & Union Streets

1913

Use	Retail	Historic Value	2 out of 5
Materials	Concrete, stucco plaster	Architectural Value	3 out of 4
		Technical Value	1 out of 2
NZHPT Registered	Not registered	Symbolic Value	1 out of 3
Valuation No	12340-147-00A	Rarity	- out of 2
Legal Description	Lot 42 DP 3064 - Part First Floor Bal	Townscape Value	2 out of 2
		Group Value	1 out of 2
		Overall Cultural Heritage Value	10 out of 20
Map Reference	HiN7		

Description

The Central Building is a two storey building of concrete construction with a stucco plaster finish. The design is ordered by prominent pilasters with flat and arched timber casement windows in between, while above is a cornice and parapet, the central bay of which has a scalloped top. The curved elements give the design a light Baroque touch, not uncommon in buildings of the Edwardian period. The plain verandah is held out from the building with tie rods; below, the shop fronts have all been modernised at various times.

History

The Central Building was built in 1913 after the hotel that previously occupied the site burnt down. It appears to have always contained a mix of retail and office uses; between 1938 and 1963 it was known as Patterson's Corner, and J H Buttress, Registered Surveyor, occupied the first floor during the 1960s.

Architect

Not known.

Builder

Not known.

Statement of Significance

Although the history of use of the Central Building is not well known at present, it has clearly played an important role in the commercial life of Hawera, occupying a prominent central site for some 84 years, with a mix of retail uses on the ground floor and offices above. It has high architectural value for the decorative patterns of pilasters, windows and parapet, in a style not otherwise represented in the town. The building is in original form above the verandah level, and it plays an important role in the townscape in conjunction with several other heritage buildings nearby.

Sources**Date**

June 1997