

LEISURE

Of passing interest

Kelvin Day

Situated on the corner of Princes and High Streets in Hawera is the White Hart Hotel, regarded as a fine example of a traditional New Zealand corner pub. It appears that a hotel was established on this corner section in 1877. In the early hours of July 5, 1884 a fire broke out in the hotel. A number of guests as well as the publican, Mr Cook, and his family were in the building and despite the flames and thick smoke only one life was lost. Following the fire the former publican, Mr T. Lloyd, started a major renovation/rebuilding of the hotel and it was reported that it would be "one of the most imposing structures in Hawera". On August 30, 1895 Hawera experienced a major fire which destroyed a number of commercial buildings on the southern side of the Empire Hotel. Fortunately, the hotel, which was continually sprayed with water during the blaze, was not damaged. In mid-1909



White Hart Hotel, Hawera

the Empire Hotel was completely rebuilt using designs from architect Mr J.E. Roe and the builder Messrs Haine and

McAneny. Joinery was supplied by Mr G. Syme and the cast columns supporting the balcony were supplied by Mr J. Hopkirk. A feature

on the ground floor was the patent Wunderlich steel ceiling which was supplied by Messrs Bennett and Sutton. In April 1923 the

publican, Mr J.N. Anderson, announced that he had renamed it the White Hart Hotel, a name it continues to be known by today.