

# New owners for old post office

## Pātea

Christina Persico

An almost 100-year-old landmark building in a South Taranaki town has sold after about five years on and off the market, but the new owners and their plans have not been revealed.

The Pātea Post Office, on Stafford St, was built in 1923 and at its peak had five switchboards for 744 people.

For the asking price of \$239,000, the building offered a 590-square metre space with five bedrooms, three bathrooms and an extra toilet, and huge living spaces that were once filled with customers, standing on a 1200sqm piece of land.

First National Mills and Gibbon real estate agent Kelly Baldwin, who sold the building, said the new owners were quite private people.

She said she had advised buyers to do their homework carefully and look into earthquake strengthening.

"There was a lot of interest," she said.

"There's not many of those buildings that come up in Pātea."

She was looking forward to seeing what became of the property, she said.

Farmlands agent Mark Nicholas said he had the property on his books for about 18 months to two years.

There was generally a lot of interest in old buildings, he said.

"I think, from a somewhat more philosophical view on it, that New Zealand is not an old country in terms of

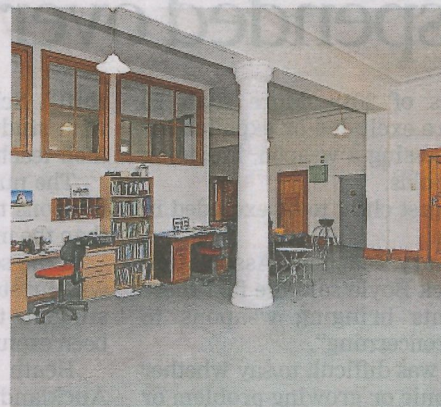


The former Pātea Post Office has been sold after about five years on and off the market.

buildings. Nothing's much older than 200 years. There's varying but equally strong feelings in one direction around sentiment, which brings in the whole heritage issue; then in the other direction the pure commerciality of it, the return on investment."

Of inquiries he had – some of which were a phone call that went no further – it was about half and half, he said.

Nicholas said people in Pātea were fond of the building and talked about it a lot, but Pātea was generally not a rich town.



The post office has five bedrooms and three bathrooms.