



The proposed new hall, as it will appear from Powderham Street.

MODERN NEW CHURCH HALL TO BE BUILT

Presbyterian youth centre at New Plymouth.

An attractive and distinctive addition to New Plymouth's architectural assets will be a new youth centre of modern design, costing £17,000, to be erected by St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.

The proposed site is a section in Powderham Street between the church and the Trades hall. A permit for the erection of the building was granted last week, and clearing-up work on the section will begin shortly, although building operations are not likely to start for a few months.

The plan provides for a hall 50 feet by 40 feet, which may be extended a further 20 feet through folding doors, a stage, with dressing rooms which will also be used as classrooms, a large kitchen, a storeroom and a rear classroom measuring 28 feet by 25 feet.

Excavation of Bank

The front part of the high bank facing Powderham Street is to be excavated almost to the level of the road and to a depth of 50 feet. A lower classroom will be built there, and the main hall will form a second floor, continuing to the rear of the section.

Of the estimated cost of £17,000, nearly £9,000 is already in hand, a sum which should soon be augmented by a legacy of £1,000. A scheme of regular giving by the congregation is bringing in about £700 a year, which is usually increased by other donations to well over £1,000. The church managers expect that this will be still further improved on by an appeal which will soon be laid before the congregation.

It is over five years since the church sold its old hall in Devon Street, where until recently the New Plymouth egg floor was situated. During this time the church's central Sunday school has been meeting in the Whiteley Methodist hall, and other church groups have been hiring halls when they were needed.