



43-49 Devon Street East

c.1890?

Themes in development: transport and trade, cultural and social.

Cultural heritage values: historical, architectural, technical, rarity, townscape and group values.

Registered: Category III on the New Plymouth District Planning Scheme.

Owner	Title	Use
43 Devon Street East Gwyneth Greenhill PO Box 3017 Fitzroy, New Plymouth	Sub 3 DP 3598 ID: 013598	Retail
47 Devon Street East John Eagles c/- Mr B. Goldsack 58 Saxton Road, RD	Lots 1 & 2 DP 2343 ID: 013597	Retail

Description

The two-storey building at 43-49 Devon Street East is one of the rare 19th century timber buildings left in the CBD. It has masonry end walls with timber-framed and weatherboarded structure between. The first floor elevation is divided into four bays by fluted Corinthian pilasters, and in each bay there are two double-hung windows each framed with columns and triangular pediments complete with dentils. A bracketted cornice with dentils runs the full length of the building. This was originally topped with an open balustrade and a central pediment of considerable height, now removed - see the photo from the late 1930s on the opposite page.

History

The early history of the building is not known. In the late 1930s shops included Gadds Ltd, grocers, J S Wilson, butcher and the Egmont Fish and Chip shop. The present verandah has been added, probably in two distinct stages; it was supported originally on cast iron posts. In 1954 alterations, including structural work and the relocation of stairs etc, were carried out for Champions Ltd; the architect for this work was M G B Harvey.

Architect

The architect for the original building is not known.

Statement of Significance

This is an early timber commercial building, typical of many that once made up the fabric of the CBD, but which have now largely gone. It is a carefully executed classical design in timber, well proportioned and with the exterior above verandah level still in relatively original condition. It has townscape value as a well scaled building, interesting in its detail.

Sources

New Plymouth District Council building file 151/43.
Photos in the Taranaki Museum.