



St Aubyn Chambers, 1-3 Queen Street
1927

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

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

Not registered.

Owner

of land

New Plymouth District Council
Private Bag 2025, New Plymouth

Title

Lot 1 DP 4787 Lots 1-4,
6-8 DP 6567
ID: 015078

Use

Offices

of building

Fidelity Holdings Ltd
15, The Crescent
Tindalls Bay
Whangaparoa

Description

St Aubyn Chambers has a wonderful townscape quality, the building line adopting the long curve of the junction of Queen Street and St Aubyn Street. It is a concrete framed building, three storeys high and divided into eight regular bays around the curve, the bays defined by columns that pierce the parapet with moulded cappings to give it a picturesque silhouette. The windows are timber casement with 6-pane fanlights above, generally three on each floor to each bay; a decorative band runs above the second floor windows. Large ground floor windows now replace entrances to the garage that originally occupied this floor.

History

St Aubyn Chambers was built for Messrs Jones and Sandford, the original uses being the unusual combination of service station on the ground floor with residential flats above. It was designed first as a two storey building (two drawings in the District Council are dated September 1927) with revised drawings a month later showing three storeys. The building today houses offices on all floors; the original timber staircase and panelling that was the ground floor entrance to the flats above is intact and now gives access to offices. Various alterations have been made, with six building permit applications between 1968 and 1983 in the Council records; the ground floor was closed in in 1982.

Architects

The architects were Messenger Griffiths and Taylor.

Statement of Significance

St Aubyn Chambers has two particular distinguishing features: its original use as a mix of service station and residential flats, rare anywhere in New Zealand, and its picturesque townscape quality on the long curve of the junction of two main streets. It is the work of an important local architectural firm, and remains in use today in a mix of office uses.

Sources

New Plymouth District Council building file 460/1.
Taranaki Museum, heritage trail file C7020048.