



New Plymouth Fire Station, 69 Liardet Street**1965**

Themes in development: civic.**Cultural heritage values:** architectural, technical and townscape values.**Not registered.**

Owner	Title	Use
NZ Fire Service Commission Central Region PO Box 11746 Wellington.	Pt Secs 944 & 945 Town of New Plymouth ID: 013883	Fire station

Description

The New Plymouth Central Fire Station is a two storey concrete framed building with concrete block infill panels, the concrete generally left "fair-faced" off the boxing. The floors are concrete and the roof timber-framed with long-run galvanised roofing. The ground floor contains appliance garage and sundry service rooms with recreation hall and bedrooms on the first floor. A detached building houses a fire training facility; this is all unpainted concrete.

The building is a good example of the functional ethic of modern architecture, with structure exposed and materials left in their natural state, the interest in the building resulting from the logic and visual clarity of the design.

History

As with all towns in colonial New Zealand, the fire risk associated with predominantly timber buildings in close proximity to each other was a major threat to life and property. A public meeting in 1866 resulted in the formation of the first fire-fighting body. It was reformed after the establishment of the Borough Council in 1877, when the station was located in Brougham Street.

The present station replaces an earlier brick building across the street, now demolished. It was built by Boon Bros Ltd and was opened and occupied on 1 September 1965 at a cost of \$228,000; it continues today in its original use.

Architect

The architect was Edgar T Collins, and the structural engineer W H S Nixon.

Statement of Significance

The New Plymouth Fire Station has some historic interest in representing today the continuation of a vitally important public service that began in the town in 1866. It is a good representative example of modern architecture of the 1960s, severe in its exposed concrete finishes, basic details and lack of decoration, and it has some townscape value on a prominent corner.

Sources

New Zealand Institute of Architects Journal, 20 October 1970, pp. 320-322.