



Richmond Cottage, 2-6 Ariki Street**1853-54**

Themes in development: early settlement, cultural and social, civic.

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

Registered: Category II under the Historic Places Act, 1993.
Category I on the New Plymouth District Planning Scheme.

Owner

New Plymouth District Council
Private Bag 2025
New Plymouth

Title

CT 37/1000/13
Pt lots 16 and 17 DP 578
Property ID: 015102

Use

Originally a house,
now a museum

Description

Richmond Cottage is a stone building, the external walls built from local andesite. The internal walls and roof are timber framed, and the roof cladding is split totara shingles. The front (east) elevation has 8 closely spaced verandah posts with diagonal struts between them under the eaves.

The design is that of an early colonial cottage, with a gable roof over a simple rectangular plan of three rooms (now two as an internal wall has been removed) each with French doors opening onto the full-length verandah; there is a narrow lean-to along the back elevation which previously contained service rooms. Internal finishes and the concrete floor date from 1963. It is unusual for this early period for such a cottage to be built in stone – most early New Plymouth cottages were vertical board and batten or weatherboard.

History

Richmond Cottage was built in 1853-54 for Christopher and Emily (nee Atkinson) Richmond. Two family members, Henry Richmond and Arthur Atkinson, were responsible for the carpentry; the name of the stonemason is not recorded. It was known as Beach Cottage and was originally sited overlooking the foreshore near the former Tasman Hotel. The Richmonds lived in it for three years before moving to Auckland in 1856 where Christopher represented New Plymouth in the General Assembly. Other members of the family subsequently lived in the cottage: Arthur and Jane Maria Atkinson between 1862 and 1868, then Henry Richmond who opened a private school in the 1870s.

From the 1880s, the cottage was let by the adjacent Railway Terminus Hotel for guest or staff accommodation. The construction of the Tasman Hotel in St Aubyn Street resulted in the cottage being moved to its present site, where on 30 March 1963 it was officially opened by Henry Richmond's son, Howard Parris, who was born in the cottage in 1878. It continues in use today as a museum.

Architect

The architect or designer of the cottage is not known. The architect in charge of the re-location of the cottage was F John Bowering.

Statement of Significance

Richmond Cottage has very great historical importance as one of the homes of a family closely connected with the settlement and development of New Plymouth. It has architectural and technical interest as an early stone cottage retaining its original form and much original fabric. Its relationship to Pukeariki Landing gives it a townscape significance and emphasises its importance in early settlement history.

Sources

Richmond Cottage, NZHPT leaflet, 1963.

Historic Buildings of New Zealand North Island, Cassell New Zealand, 1979.

Photographs, drawings and documentation relating to the moving of the cottage in 1963, Taranaki Museum.