



House, 150 Molesworth Street

c.1935

Themes in development: cultural and social.

Cultural heritage values: architectural and townscape values.

Not registered.

Owner
M T Blundell
PO Box 302
Hawera

Title
Pt Lot 1 DP 5696
ID 012466

Use
Dwelling

Description

The house at 150 Molesworth Street is in a style different from that of others in the Inventory, namely Moderne. This became popular in the 1930s, foreshadowing the arrival of modern architecture in New Zealand. The house has a strict geometric form with clean straight edges to the main volume of the house and the separate shapes of a chimney and front porch; the roof is hidden behind a parapet so that the silhouette is straight horizontal lines too. The construction material is probably stucco on timber frame, although sometimes these houses were built in concrete; joinery is now aluminium but would originally have been timber casements. Decoration is restricted to a relief pattern to the parapet and some smooth recessed panels in the textured finish of the plaster.

History

The date of construction of the house is not known, although judging from its style alone, it is likely to be c.1935. The exterior is in reasonably authentic form, with modern windows on the north (Molesworth Street) elevation.

Architect

The architect is not known.

Statement of Significance

This building has architectural interest as an authentic example of a Moderne style house, one of several styles of domestic architecture popular in New Zealand in the 1930s. It has townscape value being on a commanding corner site at the east end of Molesworth Street.

Sources

Old New Zealand Houses 1800 - 1940, Jeremy Salmond, Reed Methuen, 1986.