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Colliers Buildings, 16 Devon Street West

c.1930

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

**Cultural heritage values:** historic, architectural, technical, townscape and group values.

**Not registered.**

**Owner**

MP & WM Sillifant  
46 Victoria Road, New Plymouth

**Title**

Pt Sec 908 Town of New Plymouth  
ID: 013571

**Use**

Retail

### **Description**

Colliers Buildings has a striking form, being narrow yet four storeys high in an area of predominantly two storey buildings; the height is emphasized by columns running unbroken through the full height, and the two outer columns continuing to give a broken silhouette to the top of the building. The design is severe and free of any decoration, the architectural interest of the building deriving from the proportions and the patterns of recessed spandrel panels. It is a reinforced concrete structure with timber floors, staircases and panelling, the panelling now mostly removed; the ground floor shop has the original and highly decorative plaster ceiling intact. The timber window joinery has been replaced in aluminium, otherwise exterior changes are few.

### **History**

The Council holds a copy of a "Plan of Piano and Music Warehouse Proposed to be Erected in Devon Street, New Plymouth, for Messrs H Collier and Co", signed by T H Bates but undated. There are subsequent documents relating to alterations made in 1965, 74, 77, 89 and 91. Colliers was the oldest music house in New Plymouth and reputedly the second oldest in the country, having been founded in 1875 on this same site.

### **Architect**

The architect was T H Bates.

### **Statement of Significance**

Colliers Buildings has architectural interest as a commercial building of the 1920s, unusual in being built to four storeys on a narrow site. The treatment of the main facade of unbroken vertical elements emphasizes its height, while the ground floor interior retains some original timber and plaster finishes. The building has townscape value as a landmark in the Devon Mall, and historical interest for its association with the very early music business of H Collier and Co.

### **Sources**

New Plymouth District Council building file 152/16.