

New city police station next year

A three-storey reinforced concrete building, expected to cost more than £60,000, is to be built next year to replace the present New Plymouth police headquarters in Powderham Street. It will be constructed on the same site as the present two-storey wooden structure.

Early next year, when construction is scheduled to begin, the existing building will be moved back practically intact on the Powderham Street section and lifted some feet on to flat land behind the Criminal Investigation Branch office in Robe Street. It may be necessary to shear off the rear of the Robe Street building, which was formerly a police residence.

In its new situation the existing building will continue in use while the new police station is being erected. Afterwards it will be demolished.

Complication

Complicating the search for foundations for the new building is the knowledge, obtained from a Carrington plan of 1847, that there was once a water-course on the police land. Subsequently retaining walls, now buried in filling, were built to confine the stream.

The Ministry of Works is to put down foundation test bores next week.

The police district headquarters at Lower Hutt, for which tenders are to be called towards the end of this year, will be the prototype of the New Plymouth building. The cost of the Lower Hutt building is estimated to be more than £60,000.

A feature of the prototype plan is the predominance of glass on the front walls of all floors. The building is to accommodate all divisions of the police force, and there will be separate entrances for the public, police and prisoners.

The internal design is in accordance with the most modern ideas for the efficiency and comfort of the people using the building.

Modern cell block

Joined to the main building at the back will be a modern cell block, 50 feet by 30 feet, with accommodation for male and female prisoners.

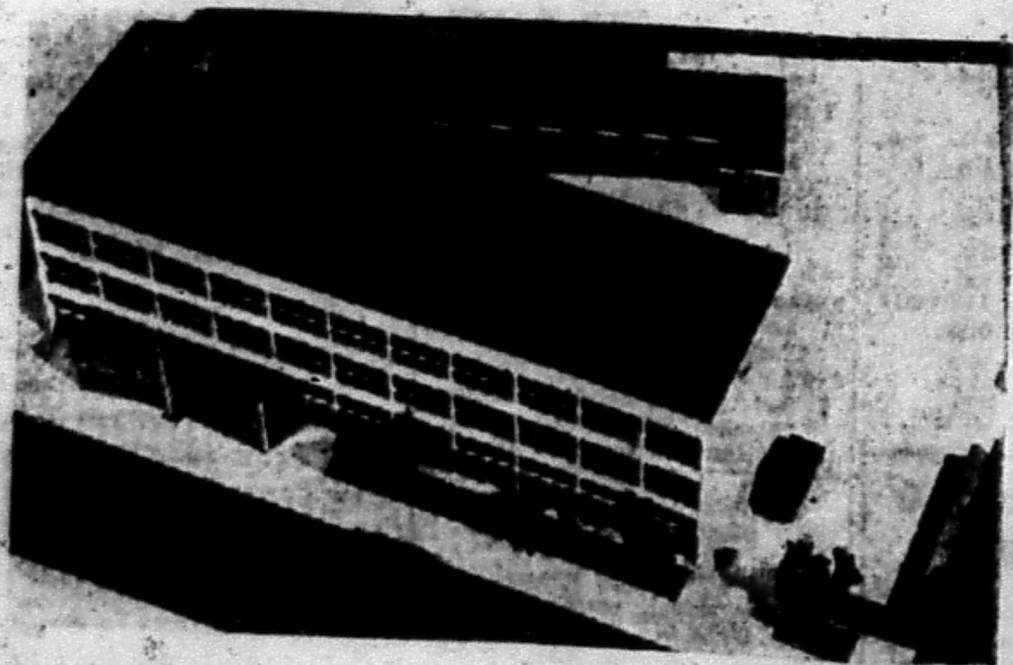
Set back from Powderham Street 26 feet to comply with the requirements of the city council town planning committee, the building will have a frontage of 200 feet.

Its eastern boundary will be only 14 feet from the existing Lands and Deeds Department office, and the police garage now on the back of the section will be removed and the area built over.

OFF-STREET PARKING

On the western side the building will extend across the vacant Police Department section to within 14 feet of the boundary, thus leaving space for a motor driveway into a courtyard farther back on the property. This will have space for off-street parking.

The ground floor of the building will include a watch-house, arms and aliens office, sergeants' offices and a staff messroom and kitchen. On the first floor will be office quarters for the criminal investigation branch offices for commissioned officers and for policewomen. The top storey will consist of a lecture hall, social room and living accommodation with amenities, for four men.



THIS SCALE MODEL of the police station, which is to be built at Lower Hutt, is a replica of the one to be constructed in Powderham Street, New Plymouth, next year. Within the next two years police stations in this style are to be built at Whangarei, Gisborne, Napier and New Plymouth, in addition to the one at Lower Hutt. Minor changes may be made in each of the cities to suit the sections available. At the rear of the main three-storey block can be seen a wing which will contain cells for both male and female prisoners.