



Mortlocks Building, Princes Street

1919

Use	Garage and Workshop	Historic Value	2 out of 5
Materials	Concrete frame, timber and steel roof trusses	Architectural Value	1 out of 4
NZHPT Registered	Not registered	Technical Value	1 out of 2
Valuation No	12340-626-00	Symbolic Value	- out of 3
Legal Description	Pt Lot 3 DP 2 Lot 1 DP 206 Lot 3 DP 336 44	Rarity	- out of 2
Map Reference	PE1	Townscape Value	1 out of 2
		Group Value	1 out of 2
		Overall Cultural Heritage Value	6 out of 20

Description

Repco Auto Parts is a large single storey industrial building with a concrete frame, and timber and steel roof trusses spanning approximately 23 metres. The gable end of the building that faces west onto Princes Street shows the concrete frame with textured stucco plaster in the panels between, and the top of the gable sports a geometric decorative device of unknown origin. Six bays have large plate glass windows with small light above; the office entrance door is from Princes Street and there are large workshop doors along the Rowe Street elevation. Skylights light the main interior workshop space, where the scale of the roof trusses is particularly impressive.

History

The Repco building was originally built as a cool store in 1919 for the West Coast Refrigerating Company. Later, the front part of the building was taken over by Mortlocks as their vehicle showroom, and later again by Repco Auto Parts as their warehouse and workshop.

The garage building next door was built by Robert and James Henry Mortlock, with the architectural drawings dated May 1919. It follows the general design of the corner building, although it is much smaller. (The garage building is outside the study area.)

Architect

Duffill and Gibson, Hawera, were the architects for both buildings.

Builder

Not known.

Statement of Significance

The building has some historical significance for its construction by the West Coast Refrigerating Company. It has architectural and townscape value as a large industrial building, but one designed with windows at pavement level and an articulated frame to give it a comfortable scale in an area bordering residential houses. It was designed by the important local architectural practice of Duffill and Gibson, and shows their capability with this building type.

Sources

Architectural drawings, Cowie Rockell Chong, Hawera

Date

June 1997