

Heritage Buildings Report

Site ID

Building/Site Name

Carrington Street Horse Trough

Address

Lower Carrington Street, New Plymouth



Statement of Significance

Constructed in 1907, this drinking trough is a rare survivor of a once commonplace utilitarian structure, and has historical significance as a reminder of the importance of horse transport in the early development of New Plymouth. The trough is the only known remaining structure of its type in New Plymouth, and retains a high degree of integrity; surviving much as it was when originally constructed over one hundred years ago. The use of concrete in its construction provides some technical interest.



Heritage Buildings Report

Legal Information and Heritage Status

Legal Description NPDC Road Reserve

District Plan Item/ Map No.

Heritage New Zealand List Not listed

Construction Information

Date of Construction 1907

Principal Materials Concrete

Construction Professionals Unknown

History

This drinking trough was erected in 1907 to refresh horses on their arrival and departure to and from New Plymouth along the Carrington and Victoria Roads. Horse troughs were once important, and commonplace utilities in the period before motor vehicles were popular. It was common practice to erect horse troughs on main roads on the outskirts of towns and cities, with another horse trough known to have been situated near racecourse on Coronation Avenue (then Avenue Road).¹

The first reference to this horse trough is in late June 1907, when Christopher Carter, chairman of the Carrington Road Board, mentioned that “a drinking trough was to be erected at the borough boundary on the Victoria Road”.² In early October 1907, construction of the trough at the junction of Victoria and Carrington Roads had commenced.³ By early November 1907, construction of the trough was complete, and the water (presumably from the borough supply), had been turned on.⁴

It is unclear when use of the horse trough was discontinued, but given the continued reliance on horses in New Plymouth up until well after the introduction of the automobile, it was probably still in use up until the 1920-30s period. During the 1980s, a stone wall was constructed around the trough, a small plaque added, and a seat constructed nearby.

Reference Sources See footnotes.

¹ *Taranaki Herald*, 15 March 1892, p.2

² *Taranaki Herald*, 25 June 1907, p.4

³ *Taranaki Herald*, 7 October 1907, p.4

⁴ *Taranaki Herald*, 9 November 1907, p.4



Heritage Buildings Report

Description

This drinking trough remains in its original position facing Carrington Street, near the junction with Victoria Road. The trough is a simple and utilitarian structure that was designed to fulfil a specific purpose. It is constructed of in-situ concrete and designed to suit its position adjacent to a small clay bank. The trough is divided into two sections of differing dimensions and has sides which slope upwards towards a high back, which also functions as a retaining wall. The low frontage is finished in a bullnose design and adds a little elegance to an otherwise unelaborate structure.

The trough is visible from adjacent Carrington Street, and contributes to the overall historic character of the area. The addition of a rubble retaining wall, small interpretative plaque, paving, seat and maintained plantings has enhanced the amenity values of the immediate area and highlights the trough as a structure of historic importance.

Assessment:

Historical	This drinking trough has considerable historic significance for its association with the era of pre-motorised transport, and a reminder of the significance of horse transport in the early development of New Plymouth.	✓
Importance to Community	-	
Architecture & Construction	This drinking trough has technical interest for the use of concrete in its construction.	✓
Setting and Context	The trough remains on its original site, adjacent to one of the main roads leading into New Plymouth from outlying farms. It is visible from Carrington Street, and contributes positively to the historic character of the area.	✓
Archaeology	-	
Representativeness, rarity and integrity	This drinking trough is a rare surviving example of what was once an essential and common public amenity. The trough retains a high degree of integrity and remains much as it was when constructed more than one hundred years ago. It is the only known surviving historic drinking trough in New Plymouth.	✓✓
Meets threshold for listing (three or more ticks, or two ticks in one criterion)		✓