



Welsh McCarthy, corner High & Albion Streets **c.1903**

Use	Legal Offices	Historic Value	3 out of 5
Materials	Plastered masonry, aluminium joinery, corrugated iron roof	Architectural Value	3 out of 4
NZHPT Registered	Not registered	Technical Value	1 out of 2
Valuation No	12340-213-00	Symbolic Value	- out of 3
Legal Description	Lot 2 DP 16882 Subject to interest in r/w	Rarity	- out of 2
		Townscape Value	1 out of 2
		Group Value	- out of 2
		Overall Cultural Heritage Value	8 out of 20
Map Reference	HiN1		

Description

The Welsh McCarthy building is a single-storey plastered masonry building. It is classical in design with the main facade to High Street divided into 5 bays by fluted pilasters; each bay has two windows except for the narrower second bay that contains the front door. The wall surface is heavily rusticated and the window openings have tall exaggerated keystones. Above a plain cornice is a balustrade, now filled in; the cornice may originally have been more ornate, and the balustrade was probably open originally.

History

The building has been continuously in use as the legal offices of Welsh McCarthy. The original partners were Richard Dawson Welsh (died 1925) and Bernard McCarthy (died 1948), who commenced business together in 1903. The building dates from close to this time, confirmed by the discovery, during building renovations, of a timber batten with the date 1901. Although photographs suggest the building was erected closer to 1915.

The firm has had a number of changes of partnership, with the McCarthy name being carried on by Bernard McCarthy's son Philip and Philip's son, John. Several partners have played significant roles in legal and social life: E M Beechey for instance was appointed a Maori Land Court Judge; John Houston was a noted scholar of Maori history, author of *Maori Life in Old Taranaki* and an OBE. Present partners are John McCarthy, Grant Cope, David Iggulden and Geoff Nicholas.

Architect

Not known.

Builder

Not known.

Statement of Significance

The Welsh McCarthy building has strong social history value for its continuous use over more than 90 years as the legal offices of Welsh McCarthy. This firm has had as partners a long succession of lawyers practising in Hawera, many of them well known in legal and other fields. The building occupies an important corner on the southern entrance to the town, and is a well ordered classical design, of modest scale and interesting detail, that contributes to the townscape qualities of the area.

Sources

Hawera Star, 12 June 1997

Date

June 1997