



Practical Arts Centre, 39 King Street
c.1928?

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

Cultural heritage values: historical, architectural, technical, townscape and group values.

Not registered.

Owner

The Combined Taranaki Club
PO Box 168, New Plymouth

Title

Pt DP 3606 - Club
ID: 015110

Use

Teaching

Description

This is an office and warehouse building, more lively in design than some of its contemporaries because of the form, the arched windows in the ground floor and in particular the two prominent pediments with segmental tops that rise above the first floor parapet; these give the building a silhouette of some visual interest. The pediments rest on a moulded cornice and at first floor level is a bracketed string course, both of these stepping out to form a central bay on the main elevation. A stair rises from the splayed corner entrance directly to the first floor. It is two storied and built of reinforced concrete finished with plaster; timber windows have been replaced with aluminium.

History

James Ballantyne MacEwen was a Canadian and an expert in dairying; he came to New Zealand in 1894 to take up a post as Dairy Commissioner. He established the firm of J B McEwan and Co Ltd in 1896, specialising in dairy farm machinery, the firm being the first in New Zealand in 1908 to market proprietary milking machines. This King Street building served as their number 1 warehouse, and their crest is still over the corner entrance.

Architect

The architect is not known; it may be T H Bates.

Statement of Significance

The historic value of this building derives from its construction for J B MacEwen and Co, a company influential in the development of the dairying industry in Taranaki. It has architectural interest for its vigorous design, and its scale and decorative interest give it a townscape quality on a rising and curving part of King Street. It is part of a concentration of heritage buildings in Egmont, King and Queen Streets.

Sources

New Plymouth District Council building file 294/...