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**White Hart Hotel, 124 Devon Street West**

**1887**

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**Themes in development:** early settlement, transport and trade, cultural and social, civic.

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

Registered: Category I under the Historic Places Act, 1993.  
Category I on the New Plymouth District Planning Scheme.

<b>Owner</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Use</b>
Terrence Wilson 124 Devon Street West New Plymouth	Sec 655 Town of New Plymouth White Hart Hotel ID: 015127	Hotel

### **Description**

The White Hart Hotel is an extremely good example of a 19th century two storeyed timber hotel building. It has a very handsome full-height verandah on cast iron ground floor columns with timber posts above; the turned timber balustrade to the first floor handrail is echoed by the balustrade at roof level. The corner, originally the entrance, is marked by a flagpole and the image of a stag standing atop the corner pediment. The sheathing is rusticated weatherboards; the joinery round and square-headed double-hung windows, and the roof sheathing corrugated iron, bull-nosed on the verandah roof. Inside various alterations have been carried out, particularly to the bars; the staircase to the bedrooms on the first floor is a fine piece of joinery in original condition.

### **History**

In 1859 the original private boarding house on this site was issued a liquor licence and the White Hart Hotel was established. In 1886 the original building was sold for removal and a new hotel, designed by James Sanderson, was constructed. It opened for business on 1 February 1887 and the first proprietor was Horatio Hammond. The owner in 1900 was Mrs R Tabor and it was she who made a substantial addition in the same style to the Queen Street frontage; at this time (and possibly as part of the same contract) the verandah was added around the full street frontage. The white stag, made by a Mr Andrews of Wanganui, was added later. "The Hart" became, and was for many years, the doyen of the city's hotels.

The three storey concrete addition on the Devon Street West frontage was designed by Bowering Thomson Boon and Associates and was built in 1969 for \$130,000.

### **Architect**

The architect was James Sanderson. The additions and verandah of 1900 were designed by Frank Messenger; his drawings for this work (5 in number, dated August 1900) are held in the Taranaki Museum.

### **Statement of Significance**

The White Hart Hotel is a very significant building for New Plymouth, and indeed for New Zealand, as a very good example of a 19th century timber hotel, a distinctive national building type. It combines all the attractive hallmarks of the type: prominent corner site; two storeyed verandah; carefully detailed timber finishes, balustrades and joinery, and architectural excellence in the overall form and design. The long history of a hotel on this site (over 130 years) and the social importance attached to it adds an important historical dimension to its architectural attributes. Finally the townscape value of the building is high given its prominent location and the proximity of other heritage buildings.

### Sources

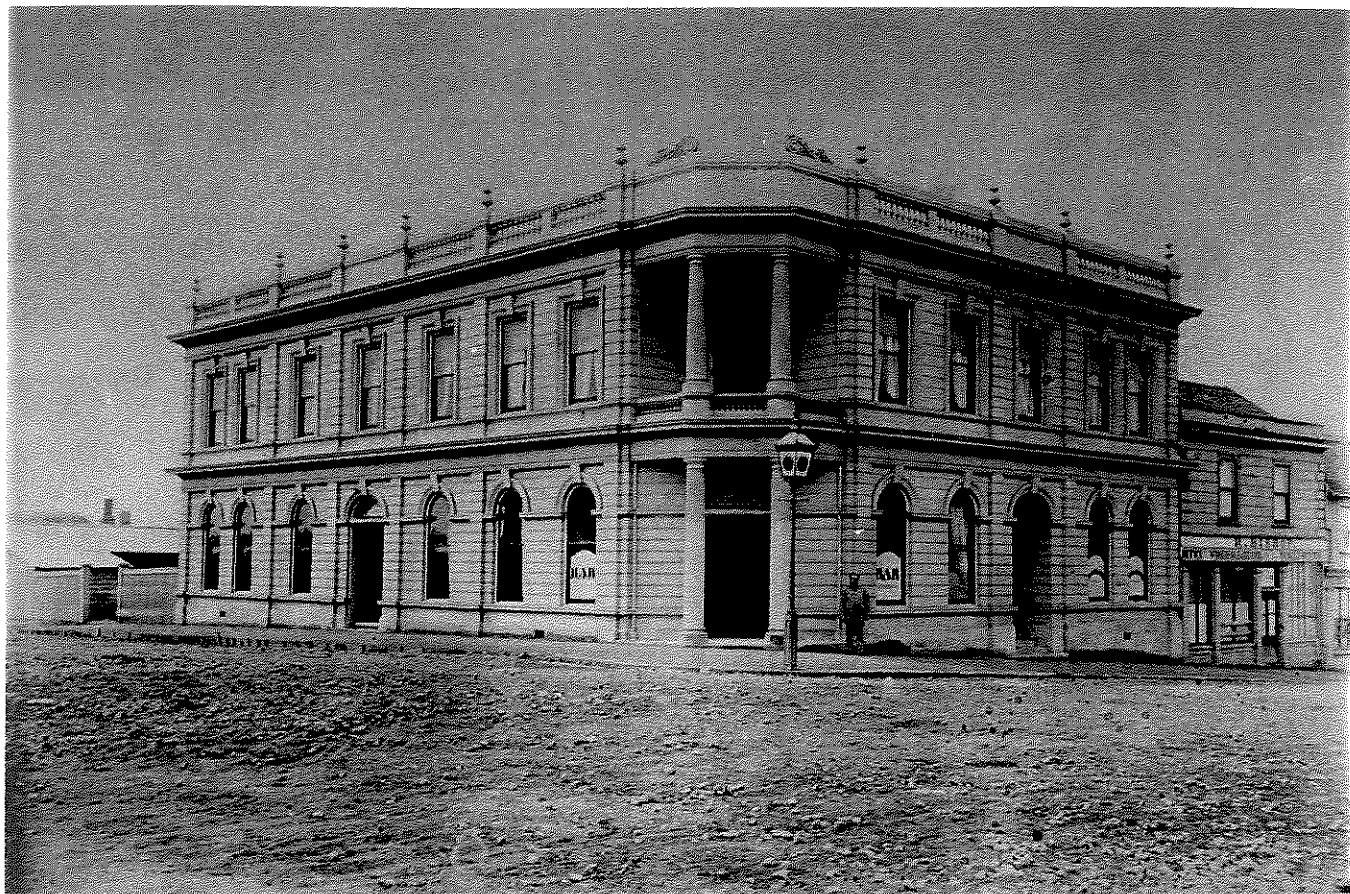
New Plymouth District Council building file 152/118.

Taranaki Museum, photos and architectural drawings by Frank Messenger.

Taranaki Museum, heritage trail file C7020048.

NZHPT building file no 149.

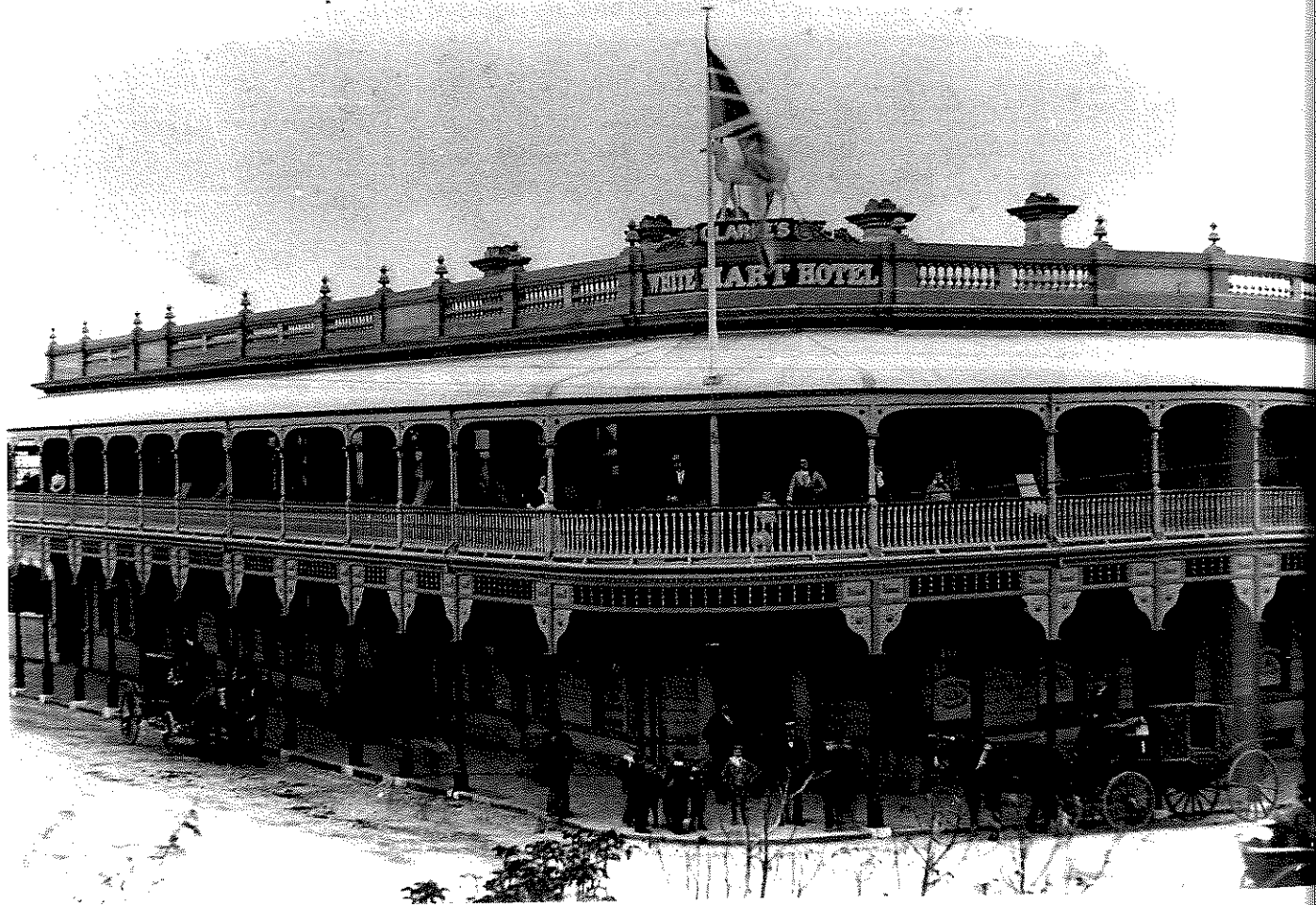
*Tales of Old New Plymouth*, Murray Moorhead.



### **White Hart Hotel, before the additions of 1900**

This is the building designed by James Sanderson; the columns are still intact on the first floor.

*Taranaki Museum photo.*



**White Hart Hotel, after the additions of 1900**  
The verandah was designed by Frank Messenger.  
*Taranaki Museum photo.*