



The State Hotel, 160-162 Devon Street East

1865

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

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

Not registered.

Owner

Lion Liquor Retail Ltd
PO Box 4055
New Plymouth

Title

Pt Lot 1 DP 5585, Lot 3 DP 5605,
Lot 1 DP 8862, Lot 1 DP 9057
ID: 013818

Use

Tavern and hotel

Description

The State Hotel is a two-storeyed timber building, built as was common practice for hotels on a prominent corner site (Devon Street East and Gover Street). It is relatively plain, with rusticated weatherboard cladding and a regular arrangement of double-hung windows, bracketted cornice and solid parapet at first floor level. The ground floor has been extensively altered, and although some double-hung windows are still in place the walls have been rebuilt in concrete block. The interior has been modernised.

History

The State Hotel began its life as the Red House Hotel in 1865. It was built by Richard Sangman and the first licensee was Josiah Flower Carter, but on his bankruptcy a year later, Sangman took over the license. For 72 years it was the centre of social and sporting activities: the Star Rugby Club originated here, and it was used as a dressing room for the Starlight Club, later the Red House Club and then the Star Club. Practices were held in the hotel grounds. From 1937 to 1986, it was run by the Lile family as the State Hotel.

The building was originally a small timber one to which additions were made; the date of the main part of the existing building is not known. There have been a number of modern alterations to the fabric, most particularly in 1979/80 when Lion Breweries carried out major refurbishment, establishing the Cobb and Co restaurant on the ground floor. The verandah was altered in 1966, and other minor work was carried out in 1974, 1980 and 1982.

Architect

The architect is not known.

Statement of Significance

The State Hotel has historic interest for the social and sporting activities it has hosted over some 130 years. It is one of only two timber hotels left in the inner city, and has some rarity value therefore as a representative of this once common building type. It has technical and architectural value as a 19th century timber building, and townscape value for its scale and prominence on a corner site.

Sources

New Plymouth District Council building file 151/160.

The Industrial Heart, J S Tullett, 1981.