

LEISURE

Of passing interest

Historic features in our landscape observed by the director of Puke Ariki, **Kelvin Day.**

Devonport Flats, New Plymouth

On the corner of St Aubyn and Dawson streets are the Devonport Flats. These were designed by the New Plymouth architectural firm of Messenger, Griffiths and Taylor and were constructed in three stages between 1922 and 1924. The middle section was the first to be constructed followed by the Dawson St corner block. The final part of the complex to be built was the eastern block.

The four-storey buildings were constructed using reinforced concrete and have been described as a "unique local example of metropolitan-style residential accommodation". They were originally known as Waldie's Flats, after Mr A B Waldie the original



owner. The name Devonport commemorates the name of the block of land bounded by St Aubyn, Dawson, Young and Queen streets that was laid out by Plymouth Company chief surveyor, F A

Carrington in 1841. Thirty-three sections, each of just over 500 square metres, were provided under temporary leases for two years for new immigrants at a rental of sixpence per year. The name was

chosen because Devonport was the name of the naval port of Plymouth in the United Kingdom. The Devonport Flats are a Category 2 registered building with the New Zealand Historic Places Trust.