



Sole Bros Building

1928

2 Devon Street West / 38 Currie Street

Themes in development: transport and trade, cultural and social.**Cultural heritage values:** historic, architectural, technical, townscape and group values.**Not registered.****Owner**J. L. Ngan Investments Ltd
PO Box 791
New Plymouth**Title**Pt A DP 873 Sec 6 Pt Sec 5
Storehouse Res in Town of
New Plymouth
ID: 013560**Use**

Retail and restaurant

Description

The Sole Bros Building is a two-storeyed reinforced concrete building on the prominent corner site of Devon Street West and Currie Street. It has a regular arrangement of square-headed windows on its long elevation to Currie Street and large windows on the corner splay and to Devon Street West. Some small diamond-shaped windows and a stylised cornice and parapet adds interest to a straightforward piece of commercial architecture of the 1920s. The first floor facade has remained unaltered (although some decorative brickwork has been painted) while shops on the ground have been modernised; the verandah has always been suspended as it is today.

History

A permit was issued for the construction of "Shops and Offices for Mssrs Sole Bros" on 20 April 1928. An early tenant of the main corner shop was Bamforths, fruiterer, with H W Frost, dentist, and a billiard saloon on the first floor.

Architect

The architect is not known. There is a set of five un-named drawings for the building in the Taranaki Museum

Statement of Significance

The Sole Bros Building has modest architectural interest as a typical commercial building of the 1920s, and some historical value for its mix of commercial uses over nearly 70 years. The townscape value of the building is high - it occupies an important corner site, it has visual interest in the design and detailing of the facades and the scale is appropriate for the location and use.

Sources

New Plymouth District Council building file 152/2.
Alexander Turnbull Library, photo no 21733 1/1.