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62 Powderham Street

1916

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**Themes in development:** cultural and social.

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

**Not registered.**

**Occupiers**

Pamela Burn and Mary Worsley  
PO Box 144, New Plymouth

**Title**

Lots 1 & 2 DP 9515  
ID: 015176

**Use**

Offices

### **Description**

Powderham House Business Centre, 62 Powderham Street, is finished in a rough-textured stucco, probably on a cast in-situ concrete structure. It is two storeys with shallow-pitch gables on either side of a central section of three shallow arches, a wide one on the ground floor sheltering the front entrance and two smaller ones above to an open loggia. The windows are timber casements, with four-pane fanlights above, and the roof corrugated iron with shingles in the gable ends.

### **History**

The building began life as a private boarding house, known as Chatsworth House; it was built about 1916 to replace the original timber boarding establishment which was destroyed by fire. On 28 October 1921 the building was officially opened by the Governor-General Lord Jellicoe as the Clarke Memorial YWCA Hostel. This was to commemorate James Clarke, mayor of New Plymouth, who was killed in a plane crash in November 1920. In 1976, and possibly for some time before that, it was in use as offices as it is today. Its appearance is little changed today from that showing in early photographs, although a matching stucco fence with scalloped top along the street boundary has been demolished, and first floor casements have been replaced with plate glass.

### **Architect**

The architect is not known.

### **Statement of Significance**

The building has historic interest as the site of boarding and hostel accommodation since the 1890s, and as a one-time memorial to a former mayor of the city. Its architecture, domestic in scale and character, is made interesting by the arched openings to porch and loggia, and these qualities give the building some townscape quality.

### **Sources**

New Plymouth District Council building file 441/...  
Taranaki Museum, photos and heritage trail file C7020048.