

ACTION column

SHAW COTTAGE

Sir,

The late Dr Sidney Charles Allen, while he was on the old Library and Museum Committee, purchased for, I believe, £25, over 30 years ago, this old Shaw cottage which stood in the site of the present Post Office in Currie Street, back from the street, up a steep flight of stone or concrete steps. Being known as the oldest wooden building in New Plymouth, the late Dr Allen purchased it to preserve it, and it was demolished in sections and, I understand, stored in the basement of the then N.P. Borough Council building - now the city council chambers in Liardet St. In talking the matter over (and discussing many others with Dr Allen) it was his hope that it and any or all old buildings worth preserving should form a group around the "Gables" - thereby

requiring only one caretaker, and person to conduct tourists over them. He dearly loved the "Gables" I believe because he spent his honeymoon there Or his early married life there, his father-in-law having preserved that building for all time by removing it to the present site. The question I wish to ask of "Action" is this: Has the city council forgotten this building - and what does Dr Allen's son Dr E. P. Allen think of the apparent complete neglect of something his father purchased to preserve?

Yours etc,

Fred B. Butler,

Sentry Hill, 13 March, 1968.