



This quaint gabled cottage, view from Vivian Street, stands on the section purchased by the New Plymouth City Council. The building and section are both closely associated with early New Plymouth.

Council Acquires Historic Section

A small section of land situated on the corner of Vivian and Carrington Streets has been purchased by the New Plymouth City Council from the estate of the late Miss M. Sutherland.

The section and the gabled cottage standing in its confines have considerable historic significance, dating back to the 1850's. The mayor of New Plymouth, Mr. A. G. Honnor, said that as yet the council had no specific idea of what the section would be used for.

Possible Uses.

"It may be used for off-street parking or it may be incorporated in the scheme to build a bridge from Leach Street to Vivian Street," he said.

If the area is used for parking it will be an extension of the adjoining tract of land behind the premises of the Farmers' Co-operative Organisation Society of New Zealand Ltd. This locality was set aside for parking purposes in the town plan, said Mr. Honnor.

Being situated on the corner of Vivian Street, the block would be of considerable importance if an overhead bridge was constructed, he said.

The section concerned with the transaction was acquired by Henry Govett, later Archdeacon Govett, in 1855. Stables were erected and among the animals sheltered there was a donkey. Mrs. Govett, an invalid, was a well-known personality at the time as she was often seen travelling about the town in a cart pulled by the donkey.

Once School.

Later, the section was the site of a school conducted by a Mr. Beardsworth. About 25 boys attended, and day and night schools were conducted with a secondary school curriculum.

In the late 1850's Mr. Beardsworth moved to Robe Street and a Mr. Murray, an inspector of schools, resided in the former school.

The cottage named Paltawa House, was built for the Hughes family and was originally situated on the present site of a two-

storeyed building three houses further along Vivian Street, and now owned by Mrs. D. Clarke.

When the Hughes family decided to build again, the cottage was moved to its present locality, opposite Baines Terrace, in 1896.

Court Action.

At that time, the railway line crossed Vivian Street—it was not changed until 1908—and in order to avoid the trains the contractors decided to complete the movement on a Sunday. The decision led to objections being raised. Because of this the contractor found himself in court. The magistrate apparently did not view the offence seriously as he fined the offender one shilling.

Since the death of the last resident, Miss Sutherland, about three years ago, the house has been unoccupied.