

Heritage Buildings Report

Site ID

Building/Site Name

Waldyve King Residence (Former)

Address

30 Brooklands Park Drive, New Plymouth



Statement of Significance

30 Brooklands Park Drive has historic significance for its association with prominent New Plymouth businessman Newton King and the development of his Brooklands Estate. From the 1930s it was occupied by New Plymouth City Council parks staff, with occupants including noted horticulturalists Alan Jellyman and Glyn Church. The house was designed by accomplished New Plymouth architect Thomas Herbert Bates and is an uncommon single-storey example of his domestic work. The building retains a high degree of integrity and is one of a number of features contributing to the special character of the wider Pukekura Park and Brooklands area.



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Legal Information and Heritage Status

Legal Description PT Section 34 Fitzroy DIST

District Plan Item/ Map No.

Heritage New Zealand List Not listed

Construction Information

Date of Construction 1925

Principal Materials Wooden framing, weatherboard, corrugated steel

Construction Professionals Thomas Herbert Bates (architect), F. D. Payne (builder)

History

Section 34 of Fitzroy District, later known as 'Brooklands', was allocated to Captain Henry King in the early 1840s.¹ The original homestead was first occupied by King and his family in March 1843 but was later abandoned during the First Taranaki War of 1860-61.² The house was burned by Māori forces in March 1861 and all that now remains is the stone chimney.³ In the 1880s New Plymouth businessman Newton King purchased the property and had a large two storied villa (since demolished) constructed approximately where the cyad garden is now.⁴

In 1925 Newton King had the present bungalow at 30 Brooklands Drive constructed on part of his estate for his son Waldyve. Born in 1888, Waldyve's head was severely damaged by a horse kick when he was in his late teens.⁵ He had a metal plate inserted into his skull, and spent some time recovering at his father's Nukuhakare Station north of Awakino.⁶ On his return, he became his father's chauffeur, living in this house from its completion.⁷

Newton King commissioned noted New Plymouth architect Thomas Herbert Bates to design the present house and he advertised for tenders for its construction in early August 1925.⁸ Thomas Bates arrived in New Plymouth in 1916, and from 1918 through to the 1920s and 1930s, was New Plymouth's foremost commercial architect.⁹ He was responsible for many reinforced concrete commercial buildings in New Plymouth's CBD, with his domestic work predominantly large homes in the English Domestic Revival style, and rarely, single-storey bungalows.¹⁰ Construction of the present bungalow appears to have been delayed for some months, with a building permit not granted by the Borough Council until 13 November 1925; F. D. Payne was the builder and the estimated construction cost was £1275.¹¹

¹ Scanlan, Arthur Brian. (1978). *Pukekura: A centennial history of Pukekura Park and Brooklands*. New Plymouth City Council, New Plymouth

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Tatham, Adrienne. "The House by the Zoo". *The Magazine of the Friends of Pukekura Park* 12, no. 2 (June 2010): 10-11.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ *Taranaki Herald*, 8 August 1925, page 7

⁹ Burgess, Robyn (1988). Thomas Herbert Bates, New Plymouth, Research Essay. Puke Ariki (ARC2001-468)

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ NPBC Building Register Book 1922-27, Puke Ariki Archives (ARC2011-204)



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Waldyve lived in the house until 1934, when Brooklands was gifted to New Plymouth as part of his father's deceased estate. Waldyve subsequently left New Plymouth to take up dairy farming near Otorohanga.¹² Upon Waldyve's departure, the house was occupied by parks staff. The first staff member to occupy the house appears to be Arthur Cleaver, who is listed as a gardener in Wise's Street Directories.¹³ Alex Dent and his family, as well as Albert James, are also thought to have occupied the house in the period prior to the Second World War; although neither appear in street directories for the area.¹⁴

Rae Esric occupied the house for a period until 1955, and was replaced by Tom and Shona Wagstaff later that year.¹⁵ The Wagstaffs resided at the house until Christmas 1961, with Alan and Gael Jellyman moving in the following year.¹⁶ Alan was at first an assistant to curator John Goodwin, later becoming deputy director, and then director of parks at the New Plymouth City Council; the Jellyman's remained in the house until about 1972.¹⁷ During the late 1970s, horticulturalist and plant breeder Glyn Church and his wife Gail lived in the house, with Ken and Adrienne Davy residing at the property sometime later.¹⁸ The house has latterly been rented out to non-parks staff.

Reference Sources

See footnotes.

Description

The former Waldyve King Residence is located within the Brooklands area of Pukekura Park on a plateau above the Bowl of Brooklands amphitheatre. The building is located between Brooklands Zoo and the former plant nursery site which is now a large grassed area. Surrounded by a variety of mature trees and shrubs the house is now somewhat obscured from public view. It is one of a number of built heritage features contributing to the special character of the wider Pukekura Park and Brooklands area.

This building is designed in the Californian bungalow style, with the western United States influence perhaps more overt than in other New Plymouth bungalows. As a complex yet well-proportioned bungalow, the skill of architect Thomas Bates is clearly evident. The main structure is a wide and asymmetrical shallow pitched NE-SW gable with low projecting wings. The timber framed structure is clad in horizontal bevel-back weatherboards, with the roof sheathed in mild corrugated steel and a two-flue brick chimney finished with dentil courses rising from the front centre ridge line.

The asymmetrical main front elevation faces northeast into Brooklands Park Drive. A deep off-centre entrance porch with sloping roof projects forward of the main house footprint and is supported by large timber posts finished with elegant geometric capitals. A low balustrade with simple angled timber balusters extends between the posts, whilst the upper eastern end is enclosed with clear-glazed timber casements.

The divided main entrance door fitted with patterned glass is located at the eastern end of the porch, whilst a set of three side-hinged timber casements with top-hinged fanlights incorporating patterned glass are fitted at the western end. At the western end of the northeast elevation is fitted a pair of larger

¹² Tatham, Adrienne. "The House by the Zoo". *The Magazine of the Friends of Pukekura Park* 12, no. 2 (June 2010): 10-11.

¹³ Wise's Street Directory, 1936

¹⁴ Tatham, Adrienne. "The House by the Zoo". *The Magazine of the Friends of Pukekura Park* 12, no. 2 (June 2010): 10-11.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.



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than usual timber casements with patterned glass fanlights above. An additional pair of casements are fitted on the northeast face of the eastern wing, whilst the upper gable end is bell cast and corbelled with exposed purlins.

An additional entrance porch is incorporated within the western wing, with a divided entrance door fitted with patterned glass and a set of casements positioned beneath. Similar detailing to that used on the front entrance porch, including timber posts finished with elegant geometric capitals, are also utilised on this elevation. A further set of casements with fanlights are positioned slightly forward of the porch.

Assessment:

Historical	This building has historic significance for its association with prominent New Plymouth businessman Newton King and the development of his Brooklands Estate. From the 1930s it was occupied by New Plymouth City Council parks staff, with occupants including noted horticulturalists Alan Jellyman and Glyn Church.	✓
Importance to Community	-	
Architecture & Construction	A particularly fine example of an architect-designed 1920s single-storey bungalow. Although constructed on a smaller scale, the western United States influence is more overt than in other New Plymouth bungalows; the wide shallow gable (accentuated by the low projecting wings), being a prominent feature of this building.	✓
Setting and Context	The house is one of a number of features contributing to the special character of the wider Pukekura Park area.	✓
Archaeology	-	
Representativeness, rarity and integrity	This house is an uncommon example of a single-storey domestic building designed by noted New Plymouth architect Thomas Herbert Bates. The building retains a relatively high degree of integrity, and the exterior remains much as it was when first constructed.	✓
Meets threshold for listing (three or more ticks, or two ticks in one criterion)		✓