



One COURTHOUSE at New Plymouth Plus two more elsewhere

The Ministry of Works has entrusted Precast Concrete Panels with Humes for three Courthouses in the North Island.

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MET-DEK Roofing Profile is so designed that maximum strength over wide spans of purlins can be achieved.

MET-DEK Roofing is available in all types of metals and lengths.

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is a new metal wall cladding specialty machine moulded to ensure a watertight locking joint which is quickly fixed.

MET-PANEL

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is cheaper than timber cladding and is suitable for all commercial or private buildings.

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THE COMPLETE ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION THE NEW COURTHOUSE

WAS ENTRUSTED TO . . .

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 ELECTRICAL (N.P.) LTD.

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The new courthouse... IMPRESSIVE £129,480 BUILDING

A new chapter in the colourful history of law administration in Taranaki will begin on Monday with the first Supreme Court session to be held in New Plymouth's new £129,481 courthouse.

The austere lines of the two-storey building, faced with distinctive exposed aggregate panels, give the courthouse an impressive air of dignity and importance.

The building with a solicitor's robing room and smaller rooms for the Crown solicitor and law society secretary.

At the back of the first floor are the judge's and Justice's rooms, magistrate's room and jury room. These rooms link with the courtroom by a corridor designed to avoid embarrassment to contesting parties.

The foundations for the building were completed in 1964. Tenders were called in March 1965, and construction began in September 1965.

When tenders were called Mr. N. H. Moss, then Taranaki District Law Society's president, criticised one aspect of the proposed courthouse.

Mr. Moss said that a lift was not provided. Invalids, crippled people, the elderly and disabled would have to struggle up stairs to reach the courtroom.

New Plymouth has waited many years for a new courthouse to replace the Robe St. building, which was noisy, draughty and generally out of date.

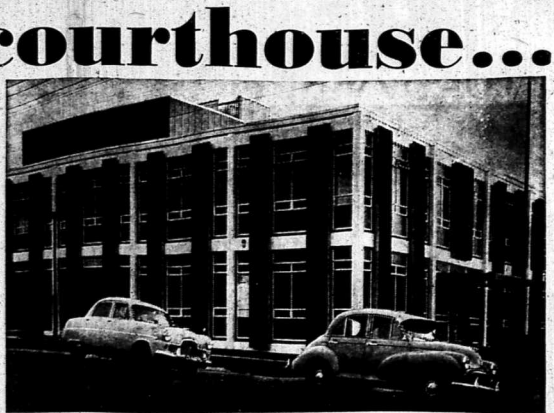
"As long ago as June 1935 a move was made by the Grand Jury to get a new courthouse," recalls a former registrar, Mr. L. W. Louison. "But there was a lot of talk about it before then."

In 1969 the New Plymouth project was further postponed because of the need to replace the Gisborne courthouse, which had been destroyed by fire.

DATES

The new courthouse opened for business just 72 days and a day after the opening of the immediate predecessor, the Robe St. building.

The Robe St. courthouse was opened on April 2, 1935. The new courthouse was opened on April 3, 1967.



THE AUSTERE yet imposing frontage of New Plymouth's new courthouse. Striking use has been made of exposed aggregate panels.

Born in New Plymouth LAW SOCIETY

New Plymouth-born Mr. Justice Wilson, Christchurch, will preside on Monday for the opening of the first Supreme Court session to be held in New Plymouth's new courthouse.

His Honour attended the New Plymouth Boys' High School.

He is the son of Mr. John Edward Wilson, who was Mayor of New Plymouth in 1914-15.

Mr. Wilson senior moved to Auckland, was appointed to the Bench and later became Chief Justice in Samoa.



THE SPACIOUS main office in New Plymouth's new courthouse.

REGISTRAR A BUSY MAN

The registrar of the New Plymouth courthouse, Mr. F. Newmarch, and his staff of 13 fill a variety of duties. And the man with the greatest number of official responsibilities is Mr. Newmarch himself.

Mr. Newmarch is registrar of the New Plymouth Supreme and Magistrate's Court, clerk of the liquor licensing committee, clerk of awards, registrar of electors, returning officer, registrar of births, deaths and marriages, registrar and marshal of the Admiralty Court, registrar of the Land Valuation Court and of the Compensation Court, sheriff and jury officer.

Mr. Newmarch's duties as

Not all hot air

When architects design a building, they often include sound-proofed chambers, it's quite a business to keep litigants and civil servants comfortable. Such was the function of F. D. McIntyre Ltd when it installed the plant for heating and ventilation in the new courthouse.

For such work they are well equipped with both skill and experience since they have been operating in New Plymouth for over 40 years.

There is a room in the courthouse which the public will never see housing the complex controls and apparatus for a three-fold system installed by Messrs McIntyre's craftsmen: a mass of gauges, coloured valves or taps and pipes from giant duct size to minis in shining copper. There are men from McIntyre's who are at home here and can tell you instantly which ones are related to the hot water convectors heaters which provide comfort for all the offices round the perimeter of the building, which serve the gas-fired warm air system for the courtroom, which belong to the thermostatically controlled reconditioning and control plant used for ventilation of the enclosed courtrooms. Remote from the main building is a chilling tower also equipped by Messrs F. D. McIntyre Ltd.

The same skill and attention to detail is available to anybody who would like to enjoy the comforts and convenience of central heating in home, office or factory. F. D. McIntyre Ltd will help you plan the installation, then install it, doing all necessary plumbing and draining as well — Adv. P.B.A.



THE REGISTRAR at the New Plymouth courthouse, Mr. F. Newmarch.

DID YOU KNOW

HOWARD WRIGHT LTD. made the steel framework for the COURTHOUSE.

DID YOU KNOW that their factory at Port View Crescent is especially equipped for this type of work?

DID YOU KNOW that they specialise in tube manufacturing, production engineering and industrial finishing?

DID YOU KNOW they are not limited to engineering for they are able to supply cabinet work finished in Formica etc. and manufacture sheet plastic products.

HOWARD WRIGHT LTD. make most of New Zealand's modern hospital beds and ward furniture and they specialise in precision manufacturing and high quality finishing.

HOWARD WRIGHT LTD. make a wide variety of other products such as hotel furniture, domestic and industrial boilers, milling machine components, conveyors and elevators, motor cycle components.

HOWARD WRIGHT LTD. are skilled at creating their own design and tools and that plant allows them to produce all types of light engineering and join societies as metal pressing, vacuum forming of sheet plastic and stove enamelling.

DO YOU KNOW that these facilities and such can be yours no matter what the job is or whether you want a thousand or just one.

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The VERDICT IS...

The action originates in tendering and success here indicates keen and competitive pricing to the advantage of business and community. Due weight also must be accorded to the matter of precedents for which one does not have far to seek since both the completed Police Station and a Government Departmental building are in close proximity to the Court and there could be a thousand witnesses daily to attest fair progress on the latter.

We have, therefore, no hesitation in declaring that the contractor must succeed with added lustre to their reputation as master builders. The verdict is for ROEBUCK CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD.

DECORATOR HOUSE are proud to be associated with the new New Plymouth Courthouse

JAPARA Drapes and TERYLENE Curtains

—were seen and furnished by DECORATOR HOUSE

You too can have your home completely decorated by DECORATOR HOUSE. Many outstanding fabrics to choose from, several services — Ask the specialists about your problem soon.

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 NEW PLYMOUTH

...and the end



THE ROBE ST COURTHOUSE AS IT IS TODAY.

Fascinating trials recalled

Justice in New Plymouth has been dispensed in a variety of buildings for more than 120 years. The new Powderham St Courthouse is only the latest — and it won't be the last — in a series of widely differing premises.

The early development of law administration in the growing town includes strange episodes: the trial of a highwayman, an Opunake murder... and many other stories.

It is believed that New Plymouth's first court cases were held in a courthouse on Mt. Eliot.

In his book, "A Poem in Stone," Mr. H. F. Carey writes that church services were held in the courthouse which stood on the western slope of Pukeariki, or Mt. Eliot.

The courthouse was used until St. Mary's was opened for worship. It has also been suggested that court cases were heard in a building at the corner of James Lane and Devon St.

The early administration of justice in Taranaki owed much to William Halse.

After entering the Criterion Hotel and bailing up the people he found there, the "highwayman" was charged by Mr. Harold Thomson, son of Inspector Thomson.

The "highwayman" shot the Herald later, "he" has and wounded Mr. Thomson. He was sentenced to three years' imprisonment with hard labour, to be served concurrently.

During his years heard in the Brougham St room until 1885 when the Robe St building was ready.

On his head, said the Herald, "he wore a high crowned peaked cap... rammed on top with a red cavalry plume."

Over his face he wore a piece of light blue material in which holes were cut for the eyesight, and on the lower part he wore a false beard—that is, a thin strip of black hair, which completely hid his throat, and which was fastened on by means of an elastic strap.

The coat he wore was made of red material, and looked like an old volunteer tunic, and his trousers were dark with a white stripe.

On the shoulders were blue spangles, which served the purpose of epaulettes. He also carried a number of bells and straps, and in his belt he carried a second revolver. Both weapons, which are of old make, were loaded with lead.

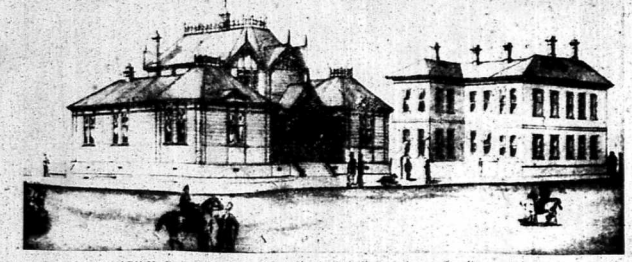
It is understood that the man in the dock was a "highwayman" who had operated in the district for 18 months.

The courthouse was crowded when the young man was formally charged on July 21 with being a revoler at Mr. Harold Thomson's house in New Plymouth.

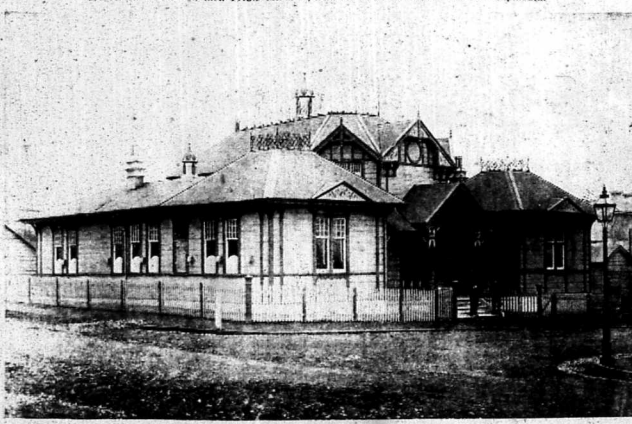
The demagogue of the accused was most calm, reported the Taranaki Herald. He tried to converse with persons standing near the dock.

The court was told the "highwayman's" last hold-up, which ended in his eight years' penal servitude.

BY MARK BIRCH



A PAINTING BY Mr. P. G. Smith of his design for the Robe St courthouse. Standing near the entrance are Mr. R. J. Seddon, then Prime Minister, and Mr. E. M. Smith, MP for New Plymouth.



SPRUCE AND TRIM was the Robe St courthouse in 1895, soon after its erection. The roof decoration was later removed.

Tender

A well-known builder, Mr. G. Cliff, won the Robe St contract with a tender of £1787.

As usual, commented Mr. Stansfield, the contract was carried out by his firm, but he was disappointed when one of his apprentices behaved his legs with a woman threw cold water over him.

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Library of 5000 books

The Taranaki District Law Society's library, which is housed in the new courthouse, is bigger than those of most other district societies. It comprises about 5000 books which are insured for £5000.

By the early 1920s complaints were heard that the courthouse should be replaced. By Mr. H. H. and the immediate post-war period passed before the project was revived.

On April 2, 1895, the first case was called in the new building.

Mr. Shaker Weston appeared for the plaintiff and asked for a withdrawal of the case, which was granted.

The following day Mr. Justice E. T. Conolly presided over a Supreme Court sitting. He congratulated the jury and the district in meeting for the first time in an appropriate building to conduct

the business of the court. As far as he could see, the building and conveniences were suitable for the court's business.

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Tom Tiddler's ground

Short thought
The railway tradesmen, if they like,
Can down their tools and go on strike.
And we may take a cold draught
In arguing who's wrong or right,
May wonder who will first relent—
The strikers or the Government.
But till our own supplies run short
We spare the strikers little thought.

The farmers' cup of woe is full—
Their butters' down and go on strike!
And we may take a cold draught
In arguing who's wrong or right,
May wonder who will first relent—
The strikers or the Government.
But till our own supplies run short
We spare the strikers little thought.

The rest of us may speculate
From time to time upon their fate
But still imported goods run short
We wonder it is hard to spare
A thought for burghers other bare.

Experience has always shown
The greatest troubles are our own,
And nowadays there's little doubt
We've much to make a moan about—
We've got to pinch on cigarettes,
On Sunday drives, on booze and betts—
No wonder it is hard to spare
A thought for burghers other bare.

Bridge Problem Swift Slam

This interesting deal comes from a local duplicate tournament.

South's bidding was somewhat unconventional but it resulted in the perfect contract.

North opened one diamond and South called six no trumps. West led the queen of diamonds.

How should declarer plan his play? He should definitely hold the ace of clubs.



THE ORIGINAL Mechanics' Institute building (right) in Brougham St, which was used as Provincial Council chamber, courthouse, town hall and library.



THIS BUILDING at the corner of James Lane and Devon St may once have been used for court sittings. The front part was the original storehouse and headquarters of the Plymouth Company. At the rear was the police station. Seen on duty in this 1880 photograph is Constable Roach.

It happened in New Zealand by ROSS GORE

MENACED BY FLOODS.
FIFTEEN MILES NORTH OF MILFORD SOUND IN MARTINS BAY, NEW ZEALAND'S MOST ISOLATED SETTLEMENT, HERE, IN 1872, THE MCKENZIE...

FAMILY WAITED.
AND FOR FOUR HOURS THE BOAT STEAMER MAORI TO CALL... MCKENZIE WAS EXPECTING A BABY... SO WAS GOING TO DUMMIND, BUT... THE BOAT WAS IN THE BAY... LANZA BOATS THE MAORI PASSED BY.

COVERING THE BEACH.
LIVING IN PITCH DARKNESS, HE FOUGHT HIS WAY THROUGH THE BUSH... THE ONLY WOMAN AVAILABLE.

ARRIVED AT MIDNIGHT.
THE FLOOD OF THE HOUSE GOT DEEP IN WATER... THE CHILDREN WERE TRAPPED ASLEEP... HIS WIFE WITH A TWO-HOUR-OLD...

BATH IN THE COLD FLOOD.
WATER, TO THEN MCKENZIE... THE OTHER CHILDREN... HIS WIFE REFUSED TO BE MOVED... REACHED THE WATER... LUCKILY IT DIDN'T... STOPPED... SUSPENDED... MCKENZIE'S WIFE WAS UP... ABOUT NONE... THE WIFE... FOR HER ORDER.

THE LATE SPRIAN ROBERTSON.
FIRST WHITE CHILD AT... HARBOR WAS BORN IN THE STONE... HE WAS 10 YEARS OLD IN 1876... HE DIED 1955, AGED 85.