

## Heritage Buildings Report

**Site ID**

**Building/Site Name**

W. J. Shaw Residence (Former)

**Address**

3 Rogan Street, New Plymouth



### Statement of Significance

This house was constructed circa 1890-91 for well-known local land and general commission agent William John Shaw. Following William's death in 1904, ownership of the house was retained by his widow Florence, who rented out the house to a succession of prominent local residents over the next two decades. These early tenants included successful farmer, local politician and philanthropist Isaac Bayly (1905-10); successful businessman Walter Ambury (1910-14); and Chief Taranaki Surveyor and Commissioner for Crown Lands George Henry Bullard (1914-21). Significant later owners included the Taranaki Hospital Board (1951-55), and respected paediatrician Leo Francis John Buchanan (1979-82). The house is an excellent and locally uncommon example of a late-Victorian two-storied villa with strong Gothic revival overtones. Although the subject of some alterations, the exterior of the house still retains a high degree of integrity and consequently conveys a strong sense of historical authenticity. The house is located in a prominent position and has contextual value for its association with the two-storied villa at neighbouring 3 Rogan Street, constructed for Florence Shaw in 1905.



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## Legal Information and Heritage Status

**Legal Description** PT Lot 12 DP 4140

**District Plan Item/ Map No.**

**Heritage New Zealand List** Not listed

## Construction Information

**Date of Construction** Circa 1890-91

**Principal Materials** Wooden framing, weatherboard, corrugated steel

**Construction Professionals** Unknown

## History

This house was very likely constructed for William John Shaw during 1890-91 as his family home. William Shaw had resided at New Plymouth for most of his life and was a well-known local land and general commission agent. He was a member of the Taranaki Scenery Preservation Society, secretary of the Mangorei Dairy Company, the Taranaki representative of the Public Trustee, and chairman of the Taranaki Fire Underwriters Association.<sup>1</sup> He was a devoted Christian (Anglican) who served as secretary of the St Mary's vestry, was a strong supporter of the Philharmonic Society, the Town Band and the St Mary's Choir.<sup>2</sup> Like many early settlers he was involved in the conflicts of the nineteenth century, being part of the lamentable march on Parihaka in November 1881.<sup>3</sup>

It seems likely that the present house was constructed soon after Shaw purchased this property from George E. Duncan in June 1890.<sup>4</sup> At the time of purchase the property was much larger than it is now, stretching along much of the eastern side upper Gover Street and incorporating parts of several Town Sections and closed roads.<sup>5</sup> The property was almost certainly vacant when acquired by Shaw, with no houses noted as being present in the 1888-89 New Plymouth Borough Council rating roll, the latest to survive under Duncan's period of ownership.<sup>6</sup> The present house was certainly complete by November 1892, as it is clearly marked on DP483 surveyed between March and November that year.<sup>7</sup> The earliest known rating roll to survive under Shaw's period of ownership is that for 1894-95, with a house noted as being present and the property valued at £30.<sup>8</sup> The architect and builder is presently unknown, with no tender notices located in newspapers of the period.

In the years following Shaw's purchase of the property, work was undertaken by the Borough Council to realign John Street (now Rogan Street). This undertaking required the purchase and exchange of a number of properties, including some owned by Shaw, who agreed to the exchanges during July 1890.<sup>9</sup> The exchanges were made under the Public Works Act 1882 and advertised during November 1891.<sup>10</sup> It doesn't however seem that the actual street formation works were made until at least 1897

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<sup>1</sup> *Taranaki Daily News*, 28 November 1904, page 2

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> Taranaki Land Deed Indexes (23516), c.1858 - c.1928, Archives New Zealand

<sup>5</sup> DP483, Land Information New Zealand

<sup>6</sup> New Plymouth Borough Council Rating Roll 1888-89, NPDC Archives

<sup>7</sup> DP483, Land Information New Zealand

<sup>8</sup> New Plymouth Borough Council Rating Roll 1894-95, NPDC Archives

<sup>9</sup> *Taranaki Herald*, 15 July 1890, page 2

<sup>10</sup> *Taranaki Herald*, 19 November 1891, page 3

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when a loan was raised to complete various street works in New Plymouth including the formation and gravelling of John Street between Eliot to Gover Streets.<sup>11</sup> It seems the decision to finally form John Street was a result of serious flooding which occurred during a heavy rain event the previous year, during which the properties of both Mr Shaw his neighbour, F. P. Corkill were severely damaged by overflowing stormwater drains.<sup>12</sup>



THE LATE MR. W. J. SHAW.

The Late Mr W. J. Shaw. The Cyclopedia Company Limited. (1908). The Cyclopedia of New Zealand: Taranaki, Hawke's Bay & Wellington Provincial Districts. Christchurch: The Cyclopedia Company Limited. Retrieved from <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz>

During February 1893, a strong south-east gale hit New Plymouth and caused considerable damage, including to Shaw's house where two chimneys were blown down and fell through the roof.<sup>13</sup> The house was connected to the Borough water supply in early-1894, with the Council granting Shaw the sum of £4 in aid of putting water to his house and premises.<sup>14</sup> William Shaw married Miss Florence Mary Anderson at St Paul's Church in Wellington on April 11<sup>th</sup> 1894.<sup>15</sup> Miss Shaw was the only daughter of Mr D. Anderson and a niece of the late Premier John Ballance.<sup>16</sup> Following their wedding the couple honeymooned at Paekakariki before proceeding on to New Plymouth where they would reside.<sup>17</sup> The house was connected to the telephone exchange in February 1897, the number being 119.<sup>18</sup> Further street lowering and forming works were undertaken on the Gover Street hill during 1901, and it is thought that the concrete retaining wall (of which only the entranceways remain), was erected at this time to retain the newly-formed embankment.<sup>19</sup>

William Shaw remained living at the house until his death on November 27<sup>th</sup> 1904.<sup>20</sup> Shaw was a long-time sufferer of Bright's Disease (inflammation of the kidneys), and it was perhaps remarkable

<sup>11</sup> *Taranaki Herald*, 30 September 1897, page 2

<sup>12</sup> *Taranaki Herald*, 13 October 1896, page 2

<sup>13</sup> *Taranaki Herald*, 24 February 1893, page 2

<sup>14</sup> *Taranaki Herald*, 13 February 1894, page 2

<sup>15</sup> *Taranaki Herald*, 13 April 1894, page 2

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> *Taranaki Herald*, 13 April 1894, page 2

<sup>18</sup> *Taranaki Herald*, 16 February 1897, page 2

<sup>19</sup> *Taranaki Daily News*, 5 March 1901, page 3

<sup>20</sup> *Taranaki Daily News*, 28 November 1904, page 2

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that he lived for as long as he did.<sup>21</sup> Following William's death, the newly-widowed Florence and her two children only resided at this house for a short period, with Mrs Shaw engaging local architect Frank Messenger to design a new family residence during early 1905.<sup>22</sup> This new house was constructed right next door to their old home, being the present two-storied dwelling at 5 Rogan Street. Interestingly, the new house seems to incorporate part of the outbuildings (possibly stables) from their old house. These are clearly marked on DP483 from 1892, and now likely form the single-storey eastern projecting hipped gable of 5 Rogan Street, which is noted as a washhouse on Messenger's 1905 plans.<sup>23</sup>



New Plymouth from near intersection of Leach and Eliot Streets, circa 1890s-1900s (pre-1905) [Detail showing house in original form with outbuildings/stable at left], Puke Ariki Collection, A.3.284

Upon relocating to their new house, Mrs Shaw let their old dwelling (this house) to retired farmer and businessman Isaac Bayly, who first appears as residing at this location in street directories for 1906.<sup>24</sup> Born at Devonshire, England in 1840, Mr Bayly was one of New Plymouth's earliest settlers, arriving at New Plymouth aboard the *Amelia Thompson* in September 1841.<sup>25</sup> He saw service during the Taranaki Wars, being engaged at the significant battle of Waireka in 1860.<sup>26</sup> After residing at Waitara during the early-1870s, the Bayly's relocated to Hawera in 1874, where several years later during 1880-81, Isaac would have the present house at 3 Puawai Street, now known as Tairoa Lodge, constructed as his family home.<sup>27</sup> In 1893 the Bayly's shifted again, this time taking up a large block

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> Crimp, Hamish, 'Mrs W. J. Shaw's Residence, 5 Rogan Street (1905)', *Kete New Plymouth*, <http://ketenewplymouth.peoplesnetworknz.info/en/site>; accessed 17 May 2019.

<sup>23</sup> DP483, Land Information New Zealand; NPDC Archives

<sup>24</sup> Stones Street Directory, 1906

<sup>25</sup> *New Zealand Herald*, 28 April 1927, page 12

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> *Hawera & Normanby Star*, 20 October 1880, page 3



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of 12,000 acres at Mahia, near Gisborne.<sup>28</sup> Giving up farming at Gisborne during 1901, the Bayly's took a trip to England, before returning to New Zealand and settling at New Plymouth about 1904.<sup>29</sup> After residing at Te Henui for a short period the Bayley's relocated to this house. Isaac Bayly seems to have accumulated a great deal of wealth and was a generous benefactor to a number of organisations. Of particular significance to New Plymouth was his donation of a considerable sum of money to enable the purchase of the New Plymouth Hospital's first X-Ray machine in 1906.<sup>30</sup>

The Bayly's relocated to Auckland during 1910, with the next tenants being Walter Ambury and his family, who are first listed as residing at the house during 1911.<sup>31</sup> Walter Ambury was born in Cheltenham, England, in 1858, and as a young man became involved in the drapery trade; firstly at Bristol, and later in London.<sup>32</sup> In 1883 he married Charity Ellen Hodges at Wells, Somerset, and the newly married couple soon emigrated to New Zealand aboard the *Northumberland*; arriving in Auckland on 18 March 1884.<sup>33</sup> First settling in Auckland, Walter was again engaged in the drapery trade, first with Mr J. Rattray, and later with Smith & Caughey.<sup>34</sup> In 1890, Ambury, along with fellow worker Mr Tring, relocated to New Plymouth and purchased the Devon Street shop lease and drapery stock of Walter Wright.<sup>35</sup> The pair traded under the name Ambury & Tring until 1893, when the original partnership was dissolved, and Walter entered into a new partnership with his brother Arthur.<sup>36</sup> The new partnership traded under the name Ambury Bros and appears to have been very successful, with their Devon Street store undergoing a large expansion in 1908.<sup>37</sup> Ambury Bros was purchased by Whites, another well-known local drapery firm, in late-1922.<sup>38</sup>

During late-1914, Ambury and his family relocated to the newly constructed transitional style house at present house at 98 Liardet Street.<sup>39</sup> Mrs Shaw subsequently let this house to George Henry Bullard who is first listed as residing at this address in the 1915 edition of Wises Post Office Directory.<sup>40</sup> George Bullard was a well-known local surveyor who in 1912 was appointed Chief Surveyor and Commissioner for Crown Lands in Taranaki.<sup>41</sup> It seems the property was known as 'Hillcrest' during the Bullard's occupation, with Mrs Bullard using this name when advertising for a young girl to assist with housework in July 1918.<sup>42</sup> The property was subdivided during 1920, with lot 12 and this house later purchased during January 1922 by Mary Elizabeth Riddle (nee Burgess), the wife of well-known Stratford decorator Eady Gerald Riddle.<sup>43</sup> Whilst the house continued to be rented under Riddle's ownership, The Bullard's appear to have moved out at the time of the sale, with street directories listing Mrs J. T. Campbell as residing at the house from 1922 until 1926.<sup>44</sup> Mrs Campbell was followed by carpenter Frederick Smith from 1927 until about 1929, Mrs Margaret Hains during

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<sup>28</sup> The Cyclopeda Company Limited. (1908). *The Cyclopeda of New Zealand: Taranaki, Hawke's Bay & Wellington Provincial Districts*. Christchurch: The Cyclopeda Company Limited. Retrieved from <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz>

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> *Taranaki Herald*, 19 February 1906, page 4

<sup>31</sup> Wises Post Office Directory, 1911

<sup>32</sup> Lilley, Chas, *The Ambury Story: 1733-2009* (New Plymouth: Chas Lilley, 2009).

<sup>33</sup> *Auckland Star*, 18 March 1884, page 3

<sup>34</sup> Lilley, Chas, *The Ambury Story: 1733-2009* (New Plymouth: Chas Lilley, 2009).

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> Crimp, Hamish, 'Ambury Residence, 98 Liardet Street (1914/1922)', *Kete New Plymouth*, <http://ketenewplymouth.peoplesnetworknz.info/en/site>; accessed 17 May 2019.

<sup>40</sup> Wises Post Office Directory, 1915

<sup>41</sup> *Taranaki Herald*, 3 February 1912, page 2

<sup>42</sup> *Taranaki Herald*, 6 July 1918, page 1

<sup>43</sup> DP4140, Land Information New Zealand; CT TN103/180, Land Information New Zealand

<sup>44</sup> Wises Post Office Directories, 1922-26



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1930, and Mrs A. J. Rutherford from 1931 until about 1935.<sup>45</sup> Mary Riddle passed away during 1936 and the house was transferred to the Public Trustee as part of her deceased estate, to be held in trust for her siblings and their children.<sup>46</sup> The Public Trustee rented the property to William F. Therkleson from 1936 until February 1940, when the property was sold and ownership transferred to George Knight.<sup>47</sup>

A well-known plasterer, George Knight and his family occupied this house themselves, having relocated from a bungalow formerly located at present 269 Courtenay Street.<sup>48</sup> Soon after purchasing the property George had some alterations made to the house, with two permits granted during July 1940 for 'plumbing' (£70) and 'alterations' (£350); A Lander is noted as the contractor for both permits.<sup>49</sup> Although NPDC doesn't seem to hold plans for this work, it very likely includes the construction of the enclosed first-floor porch/sunroom. George retained ownership until April 1951, when the house was purchased by the Taranaki Hospital Board.<sup>50</sup> It seems the house was purchased to accommodate hospital staff, with Dr L. C. McNickle noted as the occupier during 1955.<sup>51</sup> The Hospital Board only retained ownership until December 1955, when the property was purchased by George Leslie Stone.<sup>52</sup> Only retaining ownership for a few years, Stone sold the property to engineer Royden Joseph Burkitt during August 1958.<sup>53</sup> During March 1959 Royden and his wife Irene became joint owners under the provisions of the Joint Family Homes Act 1950.<sup>54</sup> The house remained the Burkitt family home until February 1970, when the property was purchased by Ronald Weston.<sup>55</sup> Weston held ownership until January 1976 when the property was purchased by Royden John Sommerville and his wife Lenore.<sup>56</sup>

The house was sold by the Sommerville's to Leo Francis John Buchanan and his wife Mary (nee English) in 1979.<sup>57</sup> Leo was one of New Zealand's most respected paediatricians of the second half of the twentieth century and helped thousands of Kiwi children flourish, particularly through his work to increase breastfeeding rates in Māori communities, save premature babies and help children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).<sup>58</sup> He worked at a number of Australian and New Zealand hospitals, with his New Plymouth association beginning in 1972 when he became the first paediatrician appointed to Taranaki Base Hospital.<sup>59</sup> The Buchanan's resided at the property until 1982 when they departed New Plymouth for Masterton; the house was purchased by Lloyd and Jennifer Gleeson at this time. In 1992 the Gleeson's engaged local architect Ian Speirs to design a small extension to the eastern end of the rear lean-to in a style sympathetic to the original dwelling.<sup>60</sup> As of 2019 the house remains in the Gleeson family.

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<sup>45</sup> Wises Post Office Directories, 1927-35

<sup>46</sup> Mary Riddle, 1936, probate file including will, New Plymouth Probate Files, 1867-1981, Archives New Zealand (21954)

<sup>47</sup> Wises Post Office Directories, 1936-40; CT TN103/180, Land Information New Zealand

<sup>48</sup> George had the Courtenay Street bungalow constructed in 1924; it was relocated to 10 Simons Street in 1971.

<sup>49</sup> NPBC Building Register Book 1938-46, Puke Ariki Archives (ARC2011-204)

<sup>50</sup> CT TN103/180, Land Information New Zealand

<sup>51</sup> Wises Post Office Directory, 1955

<sup>52</sup> CT TN103/180, Land Information New Zealand

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

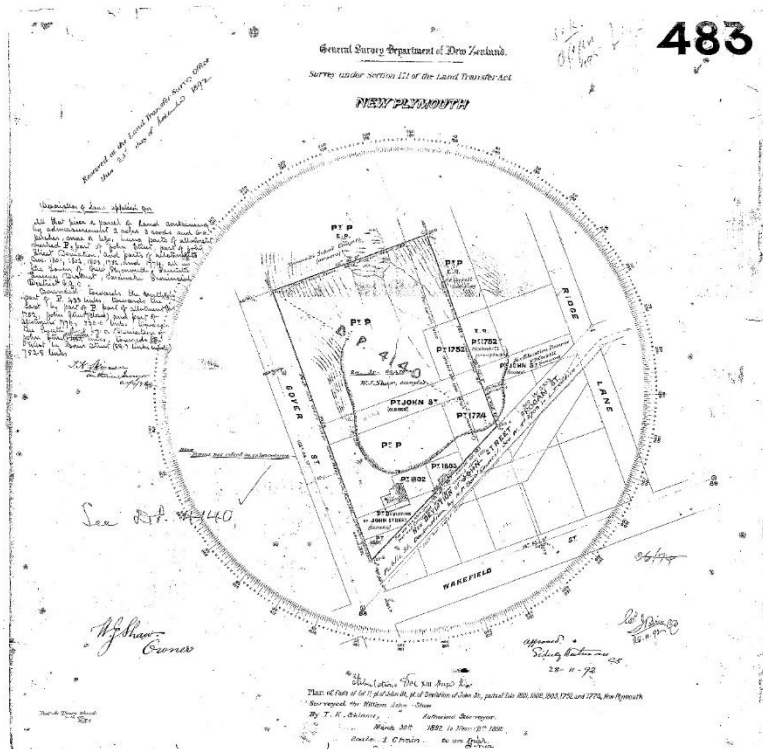
<sup>58</sup> *Taranaki Daily News*, 3 November 2017, page 2

<sup>59</sup> Ibid.

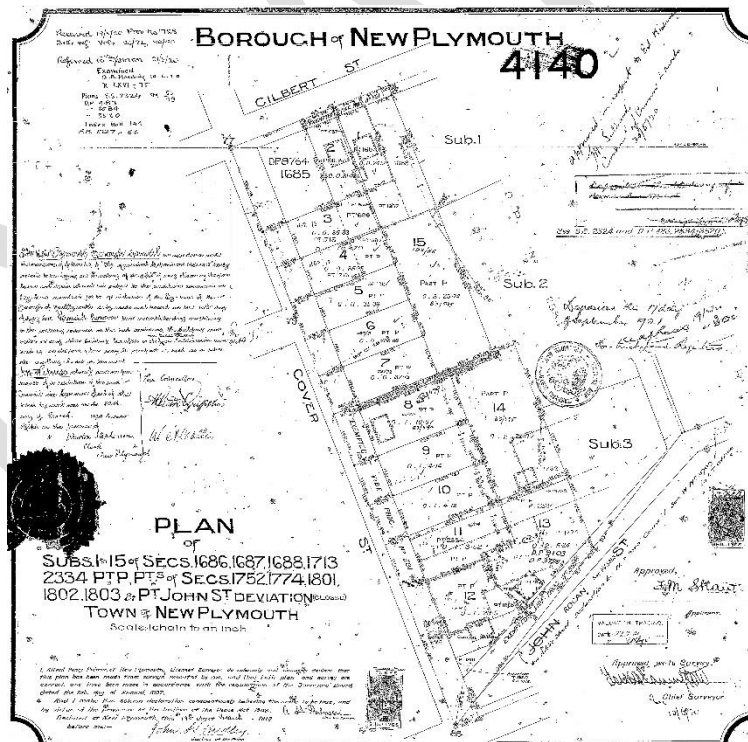
<sup>60</sup> NPDC Archives



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DP483, Land Information New Zealand



DP4140, Land Information New Zealand

Reference Sources

See footnotes.



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### Description

Positioned on a ridgeline overlooking central New Plymouth, this house is a prominent feature on the city's southern skyline. The surrounding area (Gover Street, Rogan Street and Ridge Lane), contain a number of high-quality older residences in the villa, English Domestic Revival, and bungalow styles which give this area a unique historic character now uncommon in New Plymouth.

The house is sited on a corner section at the junction of Gover and Rogan Streets, close to Pukekura Park and New Plymouth's racecourse. An embankment along the Gover Street frontage incorporates a gothic style arched gateway with wrought steel gates, this being a remnant of a now demolished concrete retaining wall. An open lawn is located at the front of the house, whilst a detached two-car timber garage fronts Rogan Street at the eastern boundary.

The main form of the building is a two-storey late-Victorian villa with strong Gothic revival overtones. The Gothic revival element is significant as buildings belonging to the style are particularly rare in New Plymouth District. A complex massing of steeply pitched gables, the timber-framed building is clad in horizontal rusticated weatherboard with the roof sheathed in mild corrugated steel. Two full-height double-flue brick chimneys with clay pots rise through the apex of the southern projecting gables.

An intriguing external decorative element repeated on all elevations and found on the window pediments, moulded bargeboards and veranda brackets, is a trefoil combined with an equilateral triangle. This design was a moderately common symbol of the Christian Trinity during the late Middle Ages in some parts of Europe, and its use on this building is likely related to William Shaw's strong Christian faith. It is a rare local example of overt religious symbolism on a domestic building in New Plymouth District.

The north-western elevation faces across the city towards the Tasman Sea and incorporates a full height projecting flush bay. At ground-floor level the bay is fitted with a projecting angled bay window with gabled roof; this is glazed with a standard front four-light double-hung sash with a further slender sash on each of the side returns. At first-floor level a central pair of four-light double-hung sashes are finished with a decorative pointed pediment incorporating a trefoil combined with an equilateral triangle. The upper gable end incorporates decorative pierced bargeboards where the trefoil combined with equilateral triangle design is again used to strong effect.

The panelled and glazed main front entrance door is located adjacent to the main projecting bay, above which is the first-floor sunroom added in 1940. The sunroom is glazed with a long row of divided timber casements with applied pediment shaped mouldings above. A sloping post and beam veranda extends along the remainder of the ground-floor frontage before returning along the south-western elevation; this is decorated with simple eaves brackets which again incorporate the trefoil combined with equilateral triangle design. Beneath the veranda is a pair of glazed French casements with transom.

Beneath the ground-floor veranda on the south-western elevation is a Chicago style double-hung sash window, with a pair of glazed French casements with transom located further south. A divided glazed window incorporating some coloured glass panes partially encloses the southern end of the veranda. At first floor level, an off-centre row of divided timber casements added in 1940 replace the original single sash window. The upper gable end again incorporates decorative bargeboards featuring the trefoil combined with equilateral triangle design.

The south-eastern elevation is comprised of two full-height projecting gables with ground-floor lean-to. The eastern portion of the lean-to was added in 1992 in a near identical style to the original dwelling and incorporates a number of timber casement windows. At first-floor level the gable ends are treated identically, each with a pair of timber sashes with pediment, finished with decorative bargeboards incorporating the trefoil combined with equilateral triangle design. A shallow projecting first-floor balcony is nestled between the gables and provides views across the racecourse towards Mt Taranaki. Access to the balcony is provided through a timber panelled and glazed door, with a double-hung sash adjacent.





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The north-eastern elevation is the least ornamental. At ground-floor level there is a Chicago window fitted with double-hung sashes, whilst at first-floor level a single double-hung sash is fitted to the gable end, which is finished with decorative bargeboards incorporating the trefoil combined with equilateral triangle design.

### Assessment:

<b>Historical</b>	This house has considerable historic significance as the residence of a number of prominent local residents including well-known local land and general commission agent William John Shaw (1891-1904); early settler, successful farmer, local politician and philanthropist Isaac Bayly (1905-10); successful businessman Walter Ambury (1910-14); Chief Taranaki Surveyor and Commissioner for Crown Lands George Henry Bullard (1914-21); and respected paediatrician Leo Francis John Buchanan (1979-82).	✓
<b>Importance to Community</b>	-	
<b>Architecture &amp; Construction</b>	This building is an excellent example of a two-storied late-Victorian villa with strong Gothic revival overtones and incorporating locally uncommon architectural features such as window pediments and heavy moulded bargeboards. The extensive use of a trefoil combined with an equilateral triangle as a decorative element is a rare local example of overt religious symbolism on a domestic building.	✓
<b>Setting and Context</b>	This landmark building has sat atop the Gover Street hill, adjacent to New Plymouth's racecourse, for more than a century. It is part of a wider group of interesting, large heritage residences sited along a ridgeline overlooking New Plymouth city.	✓
<b>Archaeology</b>	Constructed in circa 1890-91, the property likely has archaeological evidence relating to pre-1900 human activity and has the potential to reveal information about the past through archaeological investigation.	✓
<b>Representativeness, rarity and integrity</b>	A rather rare example of a nineteenth-century two-storied New Plymouth villa in an overtly Gothic-revival style. Although subject to some modification, overall the exterior retains a high degree of integrity and incorporates many original architectural elements.	✓
<b>Meets threshold for listing</b> (three or more ticks, or two ticks in one criterion)		✓