



PHOTOS: MARK HARRIS AT OPENVIEW

Character and charm at Brixton

Barry Easton

Sited well back from the road at the end of a tree-lined driveway, there is a touch of stately old-world charm in the turn-of-the-century villa located at 129 Raleigh Street, Waitara.

Sitting on a 3793sqm section, it has been home to Florence and Colin for 45 years. They have raised six children here - two of whom later chose to be married on the property.

The 1901 four-bedroom villa is so perfectly suited to the site on which it sits that it comes as a surprise to learn that it did not start out life there. It was relocated to what was then 4 hectares of bare farm land which Florence and Colin had bought in 1970.

"It used to stand on the corner of Ngaio and Kowhai Streets, Strandon, New Plymouth, and had previously been owned by a Mr Len Lovell," recalls Florence.

"It was destined to be either demolished or relocated, because the plan was to build flats on the site. What appealed to us was the size of the home because we had six children.

"Relocating homes was a pretty rare phenomenon in 1970, but a Wanganui firm agreed to move it for us. Colin took out the front door plus all of the windows and it was cut down the centre and transported to the Brixton site in two pieces.

"In the meantime, we had shifted out of our home in Waitara, and lived in two caravans and a tent for three weeks on the Brixton site."

Substantial work had to be carried out before Florence, Colin and the children could move into their new home.

The villa had to be completely re-wired and eventually re-roofed; the scrim interior and wallpaper torn out and replaced, and a dividing wall inserted between the bathroom and toilet.

Colin built a china cabinet into the cavity where a fireplace had once stood in the living room, and one by one, took each of the painted doors down and restored them to their natural timber finish.

Over time, the kitchen would be modernised and all of the wooden-framed



QUICK LOOK

WHERE: 129 Raleigh Street, Brixton, Waitara.

HOW MUCH: Negotiable over \$539,000.

WHAT YOU GET: Charming 1901 four-bedroom villa set on a flat, 3793sqm section.

MARKETED BY: Wayne Beggs and Maxine Rogers of TSB Realty - 06 754 4195 or Maxine 027 687 2488, Wayne 027 453 5318.

ONLINE: open2view.com - ref 357730

SEE IT: Open home on Sunday, December 6, from 2.00pm till 2.45pm, or by appointment.



windows on the eastern side of the house were replaced by aluminium windows.

The home features a mix of New Zealand native timbers including rimu doors, other doors with kauri inserts, and polished matai flooring in the covered verandah, which runs nearly the full width of the front of the house.

All rooms are accessed by a central passage.

The self-contained formal lounge reflects the charm and character of a by-gone era. A wall-mounted heat pump is a concession to modern convenience.

The verandah, with its polished matai floor and folding windows spanning almost the full width of the home, is a feature of this character property. Sited to capture the sun, and offering an abundance of space, it was, perhaps, the Victorian version of the much smaller conservatories which have become a

popular feature in many of today's homes.

"They tell me that the former owners of this home, the Lovells, used to roll up all of the carpets and dance out here," says Colin.

The master bedroom is at the front of the house off the passage. A brick fireplace was removed and the space used to build a spacious double wardrobe.

Two additional double bedrooms are located back-to-back further along the passage, while a single bedroom is located adjacent the laundry. The laundry, which once served as the kitchen in earlier times, is lined with tongue-in-groove timber.

The bathroom features a bath, vanity unit and shower.

A single garage, which is one of four on the property, has been built on to the house. One of the three separate garages is sufficiently large to house a 7m motorhome.

There is a mix of heating throughout the home. A modern wood-burning fire with a wetback attached is located in the living-dining room, and there are heat pumps in both this room and the formal lounge.

Having enjoyed their home and its location for 45 years, Florence and Colin have reached an age when they now need to down-size, and they are building a new home in Waitara. They leave behind memories of happy family occasions and the richness of life in the country.

TSB Realty consultants Wayne Beggs and Maxine Rogers believe the property should appeal to a spectrum of buyers because of the large character residence and numerous sheds.

This gives options for home-business enterprises. Additionally, the locality is always popular and in demand.

