



Former AMP Building

c.1916

90 Devon St West & 58 Egmont Street

Themes in development: transport and trade, cultural and social.

Cultural heritage values: historical, architectural, technical, townscape and group values.

Not registered.

Owner
Lynette Groot
58 Egmont Street
New Plymouth

Title
Lot 4 DP 970, Lot 6 DP 1969,
Lot 7 DP 2187
ID: 015121

Use
Bar, restaurant,
gymnasium

Simon P Groot
42 Sophia Street
Rotorua

Description

The former AMP building stands on the prominent Devon Street West / Egmont Street corner, now used by a mix of tenants. It is a three storeyed reinforced concrete building; the ground floor is rusticated with plain wall surfaces above, a cornice and parapet. The corner is emphasized with the main entrance and balcony above the first floor window; the statuary that traditionally adorns buildings of the AMP has now been removed. Some of the features of the main public office space, such as coffered beams, remain in place in Peggy Gordon's Celtic Bar.

History

The AMP Society occupied this building from the time of its completion until their present building in Powderham Street was completed. Various alterations were carried out during this time, including major work in 1966 to the design of M G B Harvey, architect.

Architect

The architect was F de J Clere, and supervision of construction was carried out by T H Bates. Copies of four original drawings are held by the Council and are dated February 1916; there is also an alteration drawing of May 1916 that shows a matai floor in the upper floor restaurant to be "prepared for dancing".

Statement of Significance

The building has importance as an example of the commercial architecture of F de J Clere, a prolific and respected New Zealand architect. It has very high townscape value as a well proportioned and prominent building on the important Devon Street West / Egmont Street corner. It is pivotal in connecting important groups of heritage buildings on the south side of Devon Street West and the west side of Egmont Street (see groups 1 and 3).

Sources

New Plymouth District Council building file 152/90.