



53 Devon Street East

1928

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

**Cultural heritage values:** historic, architectural, technical, townscape and group values.

**Not registered.**

**Owner**  
Peter Gunn  
92 Omata Road  
New Plymouth

**Title**  
Lot 2 Pt Lot 3 DP 3749,  
Lot 1 DP 4958  
ID: 013593

**Use**  
Retail

### **Description**

The building at 53 Devon Street East is three storeys high with basement and is built of reinforced concrete and structural steel. It is a highly abstracted and patterned classical design, with full height pilasters on either side supporting an entablature; the name of the original owners, Darby and Hannan Ltd, has been removed from the entablature. Within the pilasters there are five windows on each floor, the central three forming a shallow bay window which is supported on scrolls; a large keystone dominates the top of the bay.

### **History**

Tenders for the construction of the building closed on 27 March 1928 and it is presumed to have been built during that year. Various internal alterations have been made since then, including "Shop Office and Showroom Renovations" designed by R W Syme in 1958; "Alterations to Phillips and Impey Building" by Jones and Sandford in 1985, and there were further alterations designed by Ian Spiers in 1992. The suspended verandah is as shown on the original drawings, and the main facade above this level has been little altered.

The ground floor shop is presently vacant with a coffee lounge in the basement.

### **Architect**

The architect was T H Bates and copies of the drawings and specification are held by the District Council.

### **Statement of Significance**

The former Darby and Hannan building is an interesting piece of classical design, well modulated and detailed, and is the work of an important New Plymouth architect, T H Bates. Although slightly out of scale with its immediate neighbours, it has a strong architectural presence and contributes to the streetscape qualities of the area.

### **Sources**

New Plymouth District Council building file 151/53.