



The former Noradene private hospital in Vivian St, New Plymouth, which was closed last year, could re-open as a headquarters for many of the city's clubs and organisations.

## PLAN FOR EMPTY HOSPITAL

The former Noradene private hospital in New Plymouth is being investigated as the possible venue for a community social centre involving various city clubs and organisations.

The building in Vivian St closed as a hospital in April last year.

The idea, put forward by a Jaycee club, involves purchasing the building as a centre, or base for the activities of many of the city's clubs.

Although only in its initial stages the scheme has gained the support of the Mayor of New Plymouth, Mr D. V. Sutherland.

### ORIGINAL IDEA

The president of the newly formed Pukekura Jaycee Chapter, Mr G. A. Gibson, said the original idea had come from his club when it was investigating suitable premises for its own use.

It was found by discussion that almost without exception, organisations in the city were saving money for future premises.

The basic idea was to get as many clubs together as possible, then split them into groups to buy their own premises.

The scheme was an attempt to get away from the present situation where all the clubs met in hired rooms throughout the city. One of the groups would be that controlling Noradene.

Noradene was "so admirably suited" for such a centre. It was a place which could be bought one day and moved into the next, he said.

Mr Gibson said all told, the building had about 30 rooms and would be able to handle eight or nine groups. It had kitchen and toilet facilities and ample parking.

The present owners of the building would like to see the scheme eventuate rather than have the building demolished to make land available.

The chapter planned to hold an inspection of Noradene on Sunday afternoon and would be contacting various clubs and invite them to come along.

It was hoped to hold a public meeting in several weeks time and the Mayor had offered to preside at this meeting, Mr Gibson said.

### 90 YEARS OLD

The building is thought to be about 90 years old. It was built as a family home by Mr W. V. Morey, draper and clothier, who founded his business in Devon St in 1872.

In 1922 Mrs Adams and Miss E. M. Livesey, later to become Mrs Whitcombe, who had been nursing overseas during World War I, purchased the property and converted the house into a private surgical hospital.

It was subsequently leased as a convalescent hospital until it was purchased by Mr and Mrs G. A. Adamson, and Miss N. E. McClurg in 1951. The two registered nurses and Mr Adamson formed a partnership and purchased Noradene, running it as a private hospital until its closure last year.