

Figure 1: Ponsonby Primary School, Curran Street frontage. Source: Graeme Burgess, May 2016

HISTORIC HERITAGE EVALUATION

Ponsonby Primary School

50 Curran Street, Herne Bay, Auckland

Document Status: Draft

Date Issued: June 27 2016

prepared by :

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1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to consider the Ponsonby Primary School Building located at 50 Curran St, Herne Bay, Auckland, against the criteria for evaluation of historic heritage in the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan.

The document has been prepared by Burgess Treep + Knight Architects on the specific instructions of our client, Auckland Council Heritage Unit, Auckland Council. It is solely for the use of Auckland Council for the purpose it is intended in accordance with the agreed scope of work.

2.0 Identification

Site address	50 Curran St	
Sile duriess		
	Herne Bay	
	Auckland 1011	
Legal description	Pt Allot 9 Section 8 Suburbs of Auckland	
and Certificate of		
Title identifier		
NZTM grid reference	1755066, 5921220	
Ownership	The Ministry of Education	
District/regional plan	Former Auckland City Isthmus District Plan: Special	
& zoning	Purpose 2	
Proposed Unitary	PAUP zoning: School Zone	
Plan zoning	Designations ID 4768, educational purpose-primary	
g	school	
	Built Environment: Air quality transport corridor	
	separation- motorway and strategic arterial routes	
	150m buffer	
	Historic Heritage: pre-1944 Building Demolition	
	Control	
	Natural Heritage: Notable trees- 72	
	Natural Hentage. Notable trees-72	
Existing scheduled	None	
item(s)	None	
Additional controls	None	
NZHPT registration	Not registered	
details		
uetalis		
Bro 1000 cito		
Pre-1900 site	Unknown.	
(HPA Section 2a(i)	The place is the site of human activity before 1900	
and 2b)	(Part of John Campbell's Farm + Chinese Gardens)	
	but is not recorded as an archaeological site and	
	has not been assessed to determine if it has	
	archaeological values.	
CHI reference/s	N/A	
NZAA site record	N/A	
number/s		
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3.0 Constraints

The evaluation does not address archaeological values or the importance of the place to Mana Whenua.

The building was seismically upgraded in 1990. This work was designed by the Ministry of Works. The architect for that project, Roger Paul, referred to a conservation plan that was used to guide the process in his letter of 23 October 1990 to the Auckland City Council.¹ The conservation plan is not on file. The seismic strength of the building has not been re-evaluated as part of this assessment.

The evaluation is based on the history summary provided, researched and written by Lisa Truttman, and on the Auckland Council property file information. In addition to this, we visited the school, on 9 May 2016 and were most generously shown around the building by school Principal, Dr Anne Malcolm.

4.0 Historical Summary

Background History of the Site



Figure 2: Sections for sale in the Campbellville Estate, Herne Bay1874. Source: Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, NZ Map 4495-41

Ngati Whatua, led by Åpihai Te Kawau, actively encouraged Governor Hobson to establish a strong presence in Tamaki, in order to protect their position on the isthmus following the upheavals of the musket wars. It was initially a very successful strategy.²

HISTORIC HERITAGE EVALUATION - Ponsonby Primary School, 50 Curran Street, Herne Bay Auckland. Burgess Treep + Knight Architects Ltd.

¹ Auckland Council Property File.

² P.26 Jenny Carlyon and Diana Morrow, A Fine Prospect; A History of Remuera, Meadowbank and St Johns, Random House 2011.

Herne Bay was part of the block of land offered by Ngati Whatua to Governor Hobson shortly after the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi. This initial land sale covered an area between Opou (Cox's Creek) and the creek at the base of Brighton Road, named Mataharehare, up to Maungawhau, Mt Eden.

The first Crown grant of the land at Curran St was in 1844 to a Mr Duffus. Duffus sold the property to Mr John Campbell (this was not the famous John Logan Campbell) in 1855. Campbell owned a lot of property in the area. Campbell lived at Point Erin, a place he had named in honour of his Irish heritage, and he called his surrounding estate 'Campbellville'.³ Campbell was protective of his property to the extent that he was prosecuted for setting a dog on a young man he claimed to have trespassed on his property. Newspapers of the day carried many threatening notices from Campbell warning the public to stay off his land.⁴ Campbell died in October 1871.⁵ Ownership of the property passed from the estate of John Campbell to Neill Campbell in 1872. The Point Erin property (noted to be suitable for the landing of cattle and stock at Shelly Beach) was offered for sale by the executor of Campbell's will in 1873. In 1874 John Campbell's estate, "Campbellville Ponsonby, consisting of 88 Allotments" was auctioned. The successful purchaser of the property at Curran St was a Mr Dignan. Dignan on-sold that same year to a Mr Maxwell.

The property was inherited by Mawell's sons in 1911. They sold the property to the Auckland Education Board on 24 March 1919. At that time the property was leased to market gardeners under an agreement that ran until 1921. The Education Board wrote to the Minister requesting funds to buy out the lease. The sum of £300 was offered to buy out the lease.⁶

Plans for the school (both the Infant Block and the senior school block) were prepared in 1919⁷ by John Farrell and funds granted in June 1919⁸. The tender for the school was won by Mr F. Goodman of Mangere Bridge, who offered to construct the school buildings for £21,345. 10s. This was the lowest tender received by £1,200. Mr Goodman was already at work on the property building retaining walls and laying drainage. ⁹ Correspondence from Mr Farrell to the Director of Education describe a negotiation with the Chinese gardeners later in 1919, in order to agree further compensation of £35 for immediate vacation of the site, as their house was in the way of the excavation works.

The school was not built until 1921-22. The buildings were completed by May 1922. Further landscaping and site works were required to make the grounds suitable for occupation as a school.¹⁰

History of the School

The Dedwood District Primary School was established in 1873 following the Auckland Provincial Act of 1872. This act allowed for a levy system to fund the establishment of a secular system of public primary schools in the Auckland Province.

³ http://timespanner.blogspot.co.nz/2011/01/too-many-john-campbells.html

Lisa Truttman, January 21, 2011

⁴ Auckland Star 3 April 1871, 11 April 1871, 7 April 1873

⁵ New Zealand Herald, Death Notices, 28 October 1871

⁶ Archives New Zealand, Ponsonby Primary School File. Letter from the Director of Education to the Secretary of the Auckland Education Board, 10 May 1919

⁷ Ibid. Letter from John Farrell to the Director of Education, dated 16 June 1919.

⁸ Ibid. Letter from the Secretary of the Auckland Education Board to the Director of Education, 17 June 1919.

⁹ Ibid. Letter from John Farrell to the Director of Education. Stamped 17 August 1920.

¹⁰ Ibid. Letter from the Secretary of the Auckland education Board to the Director of Education, Wellington, 25 May 1922.

The Deadwood School initially operated from the All Saints Church Hall on Ponsonby Road, and then from the Ponsonby Hall on Jervois Road. A purpose built school, designed by Edward Bartley, was opened in Church St (now Cowan St) in 1879. In 1881 new infant classrooms were added and the school was renamed the Ponsonby District School. The school population continued to grow. The school rented space at All Saints and the nearby Baptist Hall. In 1898 additional land was acquired on the opposite (southern) side of Ponsonby Terrace. The infant school was moved to the new site and expanded. The school, with 832 pupils by 1900, lacked grounds, and used fields in the local area for sport and play.¹¹

The property at Curran St was purchased by the Auckland Education Board in 1919.

The school was opened on the Curran St site on 11 September 1922. The new school had two buildings, the Infant block, now demolished, and the senior school building that is the subject of this assessment. Both buildings were designed by John Farrell, the Auckland Education Board Architect from 1907 - 1924. The earliest plan for the school on Council files, showing the layout of the two buildings and site drainage is dated 1919.

Part of the school continued to operate from Ponsonby Terrace until the early 1930s. In 1929 the senior school walked with desks and books from Ponsonby Terrace down to Curran St. The younger students moved three years later.

The senior school building at Curran St has been in almost continuous use since 1922, with the exception of the short period in the 1990s when structural upgrading work was carried out. It continues to be used as a classroom building and incorporates the Principal's office and the administration facilities for the school.



The building is held in high esteem by the school community.

A SEW PERSON ADDRESS A FRONT VIEW OF THE ACCOUNT OF

Figure 3: A new primary school for Auckland: A front view of the main building of Curran Street, School, Ponsonby, during the official opening. Source: Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, AWNS-19221012-37-2

The Architect – John Farrell

John Farrell was appointed as Auckland Education Board architect in 1907 and held that position until 1924. From 1925 he was architect to the Auckland Hospital Board.

¹¹ P.123-124 Urban Village-the story of Ponsonby, Freemans Bay and St Mary's Bay. Jenny Carlyon and Diana Morrow, Random House 2008

He was Mayor of the Grey Lynn Borough Council from 1904- 1907, when he resigned to take up the position of Education Board Architect¹²

During his time as Auckland Education Board Architect he was responsible for the design of a great many school buildings and also for additions and alterations to existing school buildings. These were built throughout the Auckland province, in country areas as well as urban centres. The list of tenders for these buildings covers Northland, the Bay of Plenty and the Waikato (Takapuna, Te Puke, Tautaui, Kawakawa, Whangarei, Tutukaka, Hamilton East, Mt Roskill, Grey Lynn, Opua, Kohimaramara, Manganui and Opotiki, to name a few).¹³ During Farrell's time as architect for the Education Board his work transformed from a floral Edwardian style through to the more restrained stripped classical modernism of the inter war period. The Ponsonby Primary School buildings were designed towards the end of his time as board architect.

The Infant Block, demolished in the 1970s, was built at the same time as the main block. This building was also designed by Farrell. The original plans are included in this report (refer appendix 5). The infant block was sited at the south western corner of the property. The northernmost end of the building was in line with the front of the main block. The infant block was not connected to the main block, both were standalone structures. It shared the same design vocabulary as the main block and had a similar formal appearance. This was also a two storied building.

5.0 Physical description

SITE CONTEXT

The site is on the western side of Curran St towards the bottom of the street. Curran St runs down to the north from Jervois Road down to Sarsfield St. The site falls down from the road frontage then rises behind the 1922 building to the west. It is a large site, 11761 sq m.

The pedestrian entry to the site is at the south eastern corner of the property on Curran St. The entry is defined by rusticated stone plinths and curviung pathways flanked by stone walls. The entry path and stone walls were constructed in 1922.

The main playing field is located between the main block and Curran St. The playground is below the roadway and is retained along the boundary. The area between the playing field and the main block is finished as a set of concrete terrace platforms. The terraces and playing field were constructed as part of landscaping for the 1922 development. Period photographs clearly show the terraces.

The Infant block was also constructed in 1922. This building, constructed of the same materials as the main block, and designed by John Farrell, was located at the south west corner of the site, with its long axis in line with the southern boundary. The Infant Block, constructed in 1922, was demolished in the 1970s.

Until the 1970s there was no further development of the site. The northern side and the road frontage area remained open.

¹² Papers past: N Z Herald volume LXXV, Issue 23173, 20 October 1938, p 17

¹³ Papers Past; search "John Farrell Architect"

HISTORIC HERITAGE EVALUATION - Ponsonby Primary School, 50 Curran Street, Herne Bay Auckland. Burgess Treep + Knight Architects Ltd.



Figure 4: Location Plan showing the school property highlighted. Source: Auckland Council GIS viewer 2016



Figure 5: Location Plan showing the original 1922 senior school building highlighted. Source: Auckland Council GIS viewer 2016

The site has been changed considerably in the last 40 years. Additional classrooms were constructed at the north western corner of the property. The staffroom, connected to the main block, was added at the north western corner of the building. A new classroom block has been constructed at the south west corner of the site. A classroom block has been constructed to the north of the main block, at the edge of the front playground. A new gymnasium block has been constructed at the north eastern corner of the site. Beside this, to the south, is a small timber building, the former dental clinic.

The 1922 building remains a significant feature of the property from the street as the new development has been carried out in a manner intended to defer to this building and to ensure that it remains the pre-eminent building on the school site. The gymnasium building at the south eastern corner of the site was constructed at the playground level, with the intention of retaining views over the roof of this building from the street to the 1922 block, in reality it does not entirely meet this intention, as this building has no common language of form or materials. The 1990s classroom block to the north of the 1922 block, was designed to reference the forms and finishes of the main block.

DESCRIPTION OF THE BUILDING

Exterior

The 1922 Ponsonby Primary School Building is a 'U' shaped, two storied building. It is a grand public building designed to address the street and to relate to the site and its topography.

The primary construction of the building is plastered brick masonry with a reinforced concrete post and beam structure.¹⁴ The exterior walls feature elements of expressed brickwork. The roof is clad in Marseilles tiles on a timber structure. The joinery facing Curran St and at the sides of the main wing of the building is steel framed. The joinery on the rest of the building is timber framed.

The principal wing of the building runs north/south, parallel to and facing Curran St. The design of this frontage is a well resolved formal composition, a balance between massing and form. The main roof of this wing is gabled down its length. At each end are cross gables. The end gables give the building its distinguishing formal appearance, framing the building. The end walls beneath the gables are slightly stepped out with flattened pilaster elements extending up to form the edges of the parapeted, stepped gable ends. At the centre of each gable are vertical, louvred slots each capped with a projecting hood element supported by stepped brackets. Between the pilasters, across the window lintels is a shallow projecting band set on dentils.

The Marseilles tiled roof is expressed between the end gables. There is a gabled dormer at the centre of the main roof, a ventilator for the roof space, and an element to give central focus to the architectural composition of the frontage. The eaves overhang the wall between the gable ends in a flat soffit. This is a strong element in the horizontal banding of the building. The mass of the wall is also strongly banded by the industrial scaled joinery elements on both levels. This is given further emphasis by the incorporation of decorative brickwork bands (5 rows deep) in line with the window openings, beneath the heads and above the cills on the major vertical elements, and by the banded spandrel across the wall between the joinery elements. The spandrel uses

¹⁴ Auckland Council Archive, Architectural Plans, Curran St School, Architect: John Farrell, dated April 1920.

brick bands to frame the school motto, formed in solid plaster and written in a beautiful period font.

On the secondary elements between the windows at the upper level, the brick detail is reduced to a single line with the centre highlighted by a single brick set on end above an end brick two rows below, forming a pseudo capital. The heads of the openings are flat to the wall surface, the cills are stepped out and feature a rectangular edge moulding to the leading edge and a stepped ¼ round moulding under. The wall surface has subtle shifts. On the lower level across the central section, the pilaster/post elements between the joinery units are slightly stepped forward, with the centre column given further emphasis. The smaller pilasters continue up to the underside of the spandrel band, and are finished in a blank medallion. The central pilaster is stepped in form back to the surface of the lower line of brickwork on the spandrel.

The joinery units on this frontage are, with the exception of the two entry doors, very large steel framed joinery. The units are divided into multiple panes with a vertical emphasis. Casement sashes are incorporated into the window units, and are almost seamless. At the ground level the steel units feature large doors, each with flat panels the height of the cill. The panels emphasise the overall horizontal banding of the building, the door units are also almost subliminal.

There is a paneled timber entry door with a cast concrete awning within the southern end gable section. This is fitted into an opening that matches the height of the other joinery openings.

At the northern end of this elevation the building steps back in plan to the intersection with the hip roofed northern wing. There is a very formal entry door at the base of the stepped wall facing the street, a double doorway with an occulus window above. The window is embellished with elaborate banded plaster work.

The northern side of the building, extending to the west, is the longest leg of the 'U' plan, At the rear face of the main block the form of the building steps out in plan and is visually distinguished. This Western wing has a hipped roof form. This section of the building is also two storied, however the lower storey is built partly into the ground. When first constructed the upper floor was designed as two classrooms with corridor, and the lower floor area was an open space designated 'Girls' Shelter'.

The openings on the lower floor area have been modified. The upper floor appears to be original. On the hip roofed section the joinery is painted timber. The openings are the full width of the rooms. Each opening is divided into four panels with the sashes divided into smaller lights in a similar manner to the steel joinery. The joinery on the sides of the main wing is steel.

The building does not open to the west, and on this side the lower level is set into the ground. The end gable of the southern end projects back on this side. The main wing is finished in a similar manner to its primary frontage. The top section of the end gable is rather more elaborate, with additional brick decorative banding and the same vertical ventilation element. The main roof also features a central gabled dormer for ventilation. The lower area of the end gable is plainer. The central section has been enclosed by later additions. The former cloakroom area at the side of the hip roofed wing remains clearly visible. The exterior of this element continues the decorative and formal style of the other sections of that wing. The joinery on this back side of the building is timber. Many of the openings are a great deal smaller in size as they light service spaces.

Interior

The modification descriptions that follow describe the changes made to the building over time, many of which relate to internal changes.

The building largely retains its original plan layout, with classrooms facing out to Curran St along the Curran St frontage at ground level and facing out to the east and the north at the upper level, with the 'L' shaped connecting corridor running across the back of the building on the southern and western side of the building. The main frontage, to the playground and facing Curran St, has three original classrooms, and a fourth classroom, constructed at the south east corner within the former head teacher's room. The corridor at the western side has been incorporated into the classroom space and the corridor has been extended to the west.

The primary stair between the levels is now at the south east corner of the building. This stair was constructed in 1990/1991.

Elements of the original interior including the general hard plaster finishes and the original connected casement windows have been retained in the interior walls of the classrooms. The original doors have also been retained on the remaining original rooms.

On the lower level, the former head teacher's room has been opened to become a class room and the original stairway at the southern end of the building has also been removed to allow for the creation of the new classroom. The existing exterior joinery including the former doorway into the head teacher's Room have been retained.

Within the northern wing of the building at the ground level the original plan had a single open room facing north, the Girl's Shelter Shed, accessed from the porch within the stepped section of the building at the north eastern corner. Behind this large room was an enclosed corridor with the Girls toilets on the south side. These areas within the northern wing have been reconfigured to create the new administration facilities for the school including the principal's office. These rooms are extended as a bay into the northern yard, within the loggia constructed on this side of the building in 1990/1991.

On the upper level the general plan arrangement remains as built in 1922. As below the removal of the stair has enabled the south east corner room to be enlarged to form a new classroom. The interior of this southern wing has been largely re-planned to allow for the relocation of the stair and the creation of the new classroom.

As below, the corridor space of the building has been extended out to the west and the former corridor space incorporated into the eastern classrooms.

Although modified the interior spaces retain spaces, finishes and details that have significant heritage character.

MODIFICATIONS TO THE BUILDING

Exterior Modifications

The overall mass and form of the original building is generally intact, apart from the addition of the canopy and bay at the lower level on the northern side and the extension of the corridor space on the western side of the building.

The details and finishes of the original building are largely unchanged on its primary frontage and are generally intact elsewhere. The two 'Juliet' balconies on the east

façade have been removed sometime before 1973 (Refer Historic Photographs – Appendix 1)

The steel window joinery on the building was repaired/replaced in 1937/1938. At that time the steel joinery was retained on the Curran St frontage and within the end gable sections of the building and replaced with timber joinery elsewhere.¹⁵

A corridor space on both levels has been added to the back of the building between the cloak rooms on the side of the western wing, and the side of the eastern gable wing. There is no record on the Council property file of when this change was made.

In 1990 the building was structurally upgraded. The upgrading works were designed by the Ministry of Works. The record of this work shows walls with additional thicknesses to create bracing and some indications of other structural interventions to upgrade the building. The Council record is not entirely clear with regard to what was done. Our observations of the place indicated that much of this work was concealed or within roof spaces.

A covered porch has been added down the northern side of the lower level of the west wing (hip roofed wing). At that time the exterior doors at the lower level were removed and bays created in the openings. The bay units are finished in aluminium joinery. These additions were designed by Jasmax Architects in 1998. The changes were carried out in 1999.

Interior Modifications

The plan form of the original classrooms is largely unchanged.

The circulation areas have been altered. The corridor space on the western side of the main wing has been extended on both levels. This change is not recorded in the Council property file. It appears to be an early change based on the type of joinery used in this area at the lower levels.

Structural strengthening works were carried out on the building in the 1990s. These works were designed by the Ministry of Works.

In 1999 the eastern end of the main block was adapted to create a new classroom. The stair and walls were removed, and a structural frame incorporated into the new design. A new stair was constructed as part of the changes. The alterations were designed by Jasmax in 1998.

The lower rooms on the northern side of the building, formerly the girls shelter shed, have been adapted to form offices for the school principal and administration. These changes were also designed by Jasmax in 1998.

The interior joinery, including connected multi sash window units in the former corridor space on what was the western side of the building, remains in place within the building.

The general volumes within the building, in particular the original classrooms, are relatively unchanged.

The service areas are generally new.

¹⁵ Archives New Zealand, Curran St School file, Memorandum for the Minister of Education, from Director of Education, 29 April 1937

CHRONOLOGY OF CHANGE

1938: Replacement of steel windows and installation of panel heating. The original steel windows were poor quality. The joinery was replaced with timber at the back of the building.¹⁶ It is not recorded whether the steel joinery at the front of the building was replaced. The existing joinery on the principal elevation and the sides of the front section of the building is steel.

Date Unknown: Corridor space extended at the back of the building between the wings

Date unknown: Juliet balconies on east façade removed some time before 1973 (refer historic photographs - Appendix 1)

1990: Structural strengthening works. Ministry of Works¹⁷

1999: Internal alterations at the southern end of the building to form a new classroom (internal partitions and stair demolished). Additions and alterations at the ground floor level at the northern end of the building; new canopy outside, internal changes to create the administration area. Jasmax¹⁸

2012-13: Full sprinkler system installed.¹⁹

KEY FEATURES

The original form and finishes of the building

The visual relationship of the building to Curran St

The large steel joinery and formal entryways on facing Curran St

The remaining original joinery on the northern and southern sides of the building, both steel and timber.

The stone and concrete terrace to the east of the building

The basalt stone entry + pathway walls from Curran St

The remaining original classroom spaces within the building.

6.0 Comparative analysis

A large number of the school buildings in the inner suburbs of Auckland, and the older settlements in the Auckland Province, were constructed before 1910, following the passing of the Education Act in 1877. The Act provided for free compulsory education for Pakeha children between the ages of seven and thirteen.²⁰

Early school buildings were large scale timber buildings, an amplified version of the timber houses around them. The architectural style of these flagship public buildings

 ¹⁶ Archives New Zealand, Curran St School file, Auckland Education Board Accounts, 28 February 1938
 ¹⁷ Auckland Council Property File: 1990

¹⁸ Auckland Council Property File: AC 98/1010319/28, 1998-99

¹⁹ Auckland Council Property File. 2012-13

²⁰ J.W.Kellaway, Education 150: From Schoolhouse to Classpace in the Waikato – Bay of Plenty, n.d., n.p., p.29

was the Queen Anne revival, a mix of the Gothic and the Italianate, popular at that time, and considered appropriate for institutional buildings. Examples of these grand timber school buildings are, the former Bayfield Primary School at 272 Jervois Road (by Mitchell + Watt with additions by Farrell), the former Ponsonby Primary School buildings at 20 + 22 Ponsonby Terrace, the Richmond Road School building at 113 Richmond Road, and the former Newmarket School at 6 Seccombes Road, and, as an example of a rural school, the Kohukohu District School (by Farrell 1915).

The large masonry school buildings constructed during the Farrell period have almost all been demolished. The newspaper record of the opening of the Edendale School in 1909 states that the Education Board had recently resolved that 'in future all city and suburban schools should be built in brick'.²¹ The newspaper description of Edendale also refers to the attention that had been given in the design to lighting and ventilation. Examples of this style and type, include: Remuera Primary School 1909, Edendale School 1909, Grey Lynn School 1910, Mt Eden Primary School 1912, New Lynn Primary School 1914 (not the building on the schedule), Meadowbank Primary School 1916, Te Papa School c.1920, Belmont School 1920, and the Curran St School (Ponsonby Primary) 1922. The Curran St school is the only known surviving masonry building in Auckland from the Farrell period.

The 1922 Ponsonby Primary School building demonstrates a fresh approach to the genre of school buildings, as part of the rapidly changing public and commercial architecture of that period. The building is formal and has a genuinely public scale, but is not overwhelmed by decorative treatment.

The building symbolizes the transition from the (not much) earlier highly decorative school buildings such as the Remuera Primary School 1909 to the plainer style that more clearly expressed the form and function of the school and its place in the community. This shift in design emphasis fits within the architectural debate of that time as set out by Bassett.²² Farrell's designs became much plainer from 1914. The New Lynn School 1914, Edendale School c. 1916, the Meadowbank School 1916 and the Belmont School 1920, demonstrate the shift by Farrell away from elaborate ornamentation and classical detailing.

The building fits clearly within the shifting changes to architecture and building that developed in the early years of the twentieth century. Architecture at this time was shifting away from set dressed period buildings towards functional space, and that transition is expressed in this building.²³ Traces of the Queen Anne style remain in the mass and form of the building with the main wing held at each end by cross gable elements. The end gables are stepped, and other minor detail and decorative elements are used on the building. The overall form of the building successfully demonstrates a style of public building that is not dependent on reference to historic precedents through decorative features.

The building was technically innovative. The period drawings show a reinforced concrete post and beam frame. This type of structure enables the building to have very generous openings. This form of construction, concrete post and beam, was about to become the standard form of construction for commercial, institutional and industrial building, making the Ponsonby Primary School, an early example of this form of construction. The records are not entirely clear with regard to the extent of the

²¹ Papers Past The Edendale School, Opening Ceremony, Auckland Star, Volume XL, Issue 127, 29 May 1909, p.9

²² Ibid.

²³ Bassett, Donald; Between the Edwardian and the Modern: Stylistic Debates in the New Zealand Architectural Press, 1905-1918. The Journal of New Zealand Art History, volume 31, 2010.

reinforced concrete structure. Steel joinery is also a defining feature of institutional, commercial and industrial buildings from that period.

The 1922 Ponsonby School building demonstrates the 'open air classroom' concept that evolved through this period. The 'open air classroom' was a concept developed during the first decades of the 20th century when it was considered that health giving sunlight and air flow would have an 'improving' effect on children's health, particularly against influenza and tuberculosis. The full 'open air' classrooms of the interwar period featured large areas of glazing facing north, broad verandah porches and sliding folding joinery that allowed the entire frontages of classrooms to be opened. The Ponsonby Primary School building has the large glazed areas facing north and the ability to create cross ventilation through banks of windows on the rear wall. It does not feature deep verandahs, and the walls do not completely open. As stated by Lisa Truttman in the research prepared for Council, the 1922 Curran St school building illustrates the shifts in design that were being explored at that time with regard to improving the physical environment of school buildings.

Scheduled School Buildings

Very few late nineteenth and early twentieth century public primary school buildings in the wider Auckland area are scheduled as 'Historic Heritages Places' by the Auckland Council, relative to the number of these buildings that were constructed. These are:

00123 The Oratia School, 1 Shaw Rd (1920s)	CAT B
00218 Glen Eden Primary School (1920s)	CAT B
00194 New Lynn Primary School ²⁴ (1924)	CAT B
00527 Waitakere School, former (1921)	CAT B
00582 Hoteo North School, former (1883)	CAT B
00842 Greenhithe School, former (1890s)	CAT B
01417 Old Mangere Central School (1880s)	CAT A*
01527 Maioro School (1923)	CAT B
01706 Bayfield Primary School, former (1904)	CAT B
01841 Onehunga School, former (1901)	CAT A
02254 Clevedon North School (1906)	CAT B
00083 Henderson Valley Primary School (1915)	CAT B
00091 Infant Block, Titirangi	CAT B
00495 Mahurangi West School	CAT B
00838 Albany School	CAT A*
0939 Birkdale Primary School, open air classroom	CAT B
01063 Takapuna Primary School, open air classroom	CAT B
01698 Beresford Street School, former (1879)	CAT B

Without visiting each of these places it is not possible to understand what they collectively represent. Most date from the Mitchell and Watt period, that is up to 1907, and most are modest timber buildings. The exceptions to the modesty aspect are the former Onehunga School and the Bayfield School, both very large and elaborate urban schools. Both of these schools were designed by Mitchell and Watt with later (minor) additions by Farrell.

None of the buildings on the schedule are similar in type to the 1922 Ponsonby School building. All these buildings are timber.

Grammar school buildings from that time have similarities in form, structure and design to the Ponsonby Primary School. These buildings are larger in scale and grander in style. Scheduled examples of these buildings are:

²⁴ Note this is not the Farrell designed masonry building which has been demolished.

HISTORIC HERITAGE EVALUATION - Ponsonby Primary School, 50 Curran Street, Herne Bay Auckland. Burgess Treep + Knight Architects Ltd.

Auckland Grammar, 1916, Atkinson and Abbott Architects. Scheduled by HNZ (CAT 1) and Auckland Council (CAT A, ID: 01731)

Mt Albert Grammar, 1922, Architect: W. A. Cumming. Scheduled by HNZ (CAT 2) and Auckland Council. (CAT B, ID: 01595)

Takapuna Grammar, 1926, Architect: W. A. Cumming. Scheduled by Auckland Council (CAT A*, ID:01111)

Auckland Girls Grammar School, 1906, Architects: Goldsbro' & Wade, and W A Cumming. Scheduled by HNZ (CAT 2) and Auckland Council (CAT B, ID 01699)

7.0 Significance criteria

(a) Historical

The place reflects important or representative aspects of national, regional or local history, or is associated with an important event, person, group of people or idea or early period of settlement within the nation, region or locality.

The 1922 Ponsonby Primary Senior School Block, as a critical component of the institutional infrastructure of the area, represents the growth of the Ponsonby/Herne Bay/St Mary's Bay area from the late nineteenth century into the twentieth century. The school was first established in the 1870s, and moved to this site when this building was opened in 1922.

The 1922 Ponsonby Primary School demonstrates the approach to educational buildings taken by the Auckland Education Board in the early 20th century. It is particularly important as a rare surviving masonry school building from that period.

The building is the focal building of the Ponsonby Primary School campus and remains in use as a classroom block.

The place has <u>considerable</u> historical significance at a <u>regional</u> level as an excellent example of a primary school building commissioned by the Auckland Education Board.

(b) Social

The place has a strong or special association with, or is held in high esteem by, a particular community or cultural group for its symbolic, spiritual, commemorative, traditional or other cultural value.

The school is a significant part of the story of development of the local community in the Ponsonby area, as the history of the school is a significant story with respect to the growth of the suburb and the changes that took place in those first decades of development to accommodate the changing educational needs of the community.

The building represents the development of the Ponsonby Primary School and the contribution made by the local community to the school, not only from 1922. The full school history connects this place to other places in Ponsonby (in particular the nineteenth century school buildings at 20 + 22 Ponsonby Terrace) that were also used by or built for the former Dedwood School.

The school has a complex history with connections to other places in Ponsonby, in particular to the former school on Ponsonby Terrace. The nineteenth century school buildings remain in place at 20 + 22 Ponsonby Terrace and are used as a kindergarten and a community building.

Figure 5: Bronze Plaque fixed to building. Photograph, Graeme Burgess 2016

The 1922 building is held in very high esteem by the school community. The school board and school principal were responsible for the building being retained and upgraded in the 1990s. The school board actively engaged with the Ministry of Education at that time to prevent the demolition of the building. A bronze plaque commemorating this was affixed to the building when it was re-opened following the 1991 seismic upgrade works. The building is considered to be symbolic of the long association of the school with the place, and is an icon in the area, that represents the community and their embrace of the heritage value of this place.

The Ponsonby School, in its various locations and built configurations, has been part of the development of this inner city community since the 1870s and this place represents the association of the local community with the school. It is a place of collective memory and it plays an important role in defining communal identity and distinctiveness of the community

The 1922 Ponsonby Primary School Building has **considerable local** social significance.

(c) Mana whenua

The place has a strong or special association with, or is held in high esteem by, mana whenua for its symbolic, spiritual, commemorative, traditional or other cultural value.

This evaluation does not include an assessment of the importance of the place to Mana Whenua.

(d) Knowledge

The place has potential to provide knowledge through scientific or scholarly study or to contribute to an understanding of the cultural or natural history of the nation, region or locality.

The potential of this place to contribute to an understanding or natural history of the nation, region or locality is addressed by assessment under other criteria.

(e) Technological

The place demonstrates technical accomplishment, innovation or achievement in its structure, construction, components or use of materials

The 1922 Ponsonby School Building is unusual for its period as a school building with a reinforced concrete frame. Reinforced concrete allowed for larger window openings. This system of construction, post and beam, with a reinforced concrete floor, became almost universal for all commercial, industrial and institutional buildings during the interwar period. No other state primary schools of this construction type have survived in Auckland.

The planning, construction and physical relationships, of the building demonstrate the philosophical approach to creating a good educational environment of that period. It embodies the ideas of its era and is particularly important as a place where natural light and ventilation underpin the design of the classrooms.

The building was designed for natural light and natural ventilation. The classroom windows were designed to flood the interior with natural light, and were also designed to allow for cross ventilation through the banks of interconnected casement windows on the corridor side of the classroom and on the outside wall of the corridor.

The ventilation aspect of this has been compromised by changes to the interior planning and to the type and location of joinery across the back (west side) of the building. The interconnected windows have largely been removed. A single bank of these windows is still in place, and functioning, at the corridor face of the central classroom facing the street on the ground floor. The classrooms retain the vast joinery elements facing to the east and north.

The 1922 building has <u>moderate</u> technological significance <u>regionally</u> as an early example of an institutional building constructed using reinforced concrete and as a good example of a building from this period that incorporated design elements to allow for natural air movement and lighting in the classrooms.

(f) Physical attributes

The place is a notable or representative example of a type, design or style, method of construction, craftsmanship or use of materials or the work of a notable architect, designer, engineer or builder.

The building was designed by Education Board architect John Farrell. It is one of few surviving examples of his large masonry school buildings. These buildings were the 'flagship' schools of the period intended to be places that represented the significance of education and schooling in the region.

The building clearly expresses the changing attitudes towards design and building technologies during that time, most clearly demonstrated by the shift away from ornamentation.

As the architect responsible for the design and construction of schools throughout the Auckland Province from 1907-1924 Farrell was an architect of regional significance. He was Mayor of Grey Lynn Borough between 1904 and 1907, and from 1925 was architect to the Auckland Hospital Board.

The building has <u>considerable regional</u> significance as one of the best surviving examples of architect John Farrell's work and the best surviving masonry school buildings of that period in Auckland.

(g) Aesthetic

The place is notable or distinctive for its aesthetic, visual, or landmark qualities.

The building has a formal appearance that refers back to the symmetrical compositions of earlier local schools, with a sense of balance and proportion. The building represents the shift away from decorative style towards the 'modern'²⁵ philosophy of construction that evolved between the wars. It is a very early, and rare surviving example of the plainer style of school building that evolved after 1916.

The school building is the principal building on the school campus and occupies the most important position on the site. It visually relates most strongly to the open area to the east towards Curran Street across the school grounds and to the tar sealed courtyard to the north. The eastern and northern frontages of the building have distinctive aesthetic significance and fit well within the context of the surrounding residential heritage development.

The place has **moderate regional** aesthetic significance.

(h) Context

The place contributes to or is associated with a wider historical or cultural context, streetscape, townscape, landscape or setting.

The 1922 Ponsonby Primary school building is an integral part of, and contributes to, the historic built environment in the area. The residential area around the place is zoned Residential 1, Isthmus A overlay. The built environment is primarily pre-1944 development. The building, as previously stated, has a strong visual relationship with Curran St.

The place is closely associated with the development of the surrounding area. The school reflects the intensification of Ponsonby as a residential suburb during the late 1910s, early 1920s. The Curran street school was constructed as a direct response to the increased population in Ponsonby and the need for a larger more modern school building.

The primary frontage of the building is open to Curran St. The building has townscape value for the part it plays in defining the site and for the strong presence it has in the local streetscape, particularly when viewed from Curran St and looking down Emmett

²⁵ Bassett, Donald; Between the Edwardian and the Modern: Stylistic Debates in the New Zealand Architectural Press, 1905-1918. The Journal of New Zealand Art History, volume 31, 2010.

Street. It is the anchor building on the site and is the visual focus of the Ponsonby Primary School property from Curran St.

The Curran Street school also has value as one of a dispersed group of masonry buildings erected by the Auckland Education Board during the early part of the 20th century. The school has further value for its historic associations with the of the open air classroom movement.

The place has **considerable local** significance in this context.

8.0 Statement of significance

The 1922 Ponsonby Primary School building has considerable historic and social significance in the Herne Bay/Ponsonby area, as a flagship local school building from the early 1920s. The place is intimately connected to the Ponsonby community as it has been a local school building for 98 years. The building is part of the historic development of the area and represents the story of development of the education system in Auckland and New Zealand.

The building is one of the best school buildings designed by Auckland Education Board architect, John Farrell. Farrell was the board architect from 1907-1924. During that time he designed and oversaw the construction of many school buildings. This building is one of very few masonry primary school buildings that has survived from that time. The form and appearance of this building represents a shift from the Italianate pre-war school buildings, to the plainer 'stripped classical modern' style of the interwar years. The design, form and scale of the building expresses the importance of the school to the community, and the significance of educational institutions at that time.

The building has some technological significance. The building was innovative for the early 1920s, utilising new technologies (reinforced concrete structure + large steel windows) and incorporating innovative methods for improving natural lighting and ventilation.

In the 1920s new approaches were made to school planning. There was a shift in the design philosophy from focusing on ornamentation to health and wellbeing for school architecture. It was thought that fresh air and open spaced classrooms allowed children to recover more quickly from disease. The Curran Street School is an example of an open air style school building, notable for its large windows which allow for maximum light and ventilation in the classrooms.

The building is the last remaining historic building on the school property. It was constructed to be clearly seen from the street. The building has considerable streetscape presence from Curran St and the building is closely associated with the historic development of the surrounding residential area.



9.0 Extent of the place for scheduling

Figure 6: Aerial view indicating the extent of place recommended for scheduling, cross hatched. The original 1922 school building is shaded purple. Exclusions are shaded yellow.

Extent of Place

The identified extent of the place for scheduling is the area that is integral to the function, meaning and relationships of the place. The identified extent of the place for scheduling includes the building (as identified in Figure 6) and surrounds on Pt Allot 9 Section 8 Suburbs of Auckland.

Building Interior

The interior of the building does retain some original spaces, in particular, the classrooms along the eastern side. These spaces assist the understanding of the place and its key values as a 1920s school building.

However, while the building does retain some original features and spaces, most of the interior has been altered, reducing the overall significance.

The interior of the south/east wing was re-planned in 1996. The former Girls shelter shed space within the ground floor of the northern wing was also altered at that time.

On walking through the 1922 Senior School it was found that the internal plan configuration of the building has changed considerably since it was first constructed. Many key components of the building still remain, but the integrity of the interior is compromised. Most of these changes were made in the 1990s when the stair at the southern end of the building was demolished and structural strengthening works were carried out. The classrooms on the eastern wing have been expanded into the former corridor space and a new corridor built across the western side of the building.

On the basis of our observations it is not appropriate to schedule the interior of the building.

Exclusions: It is recommended that the following elements are excluded from scheduling:

Interior: The Interior of the building

Exterior:

The side addition on the north frontage of the building

The infill addition between the wings of the building at the back of the west corridor space

The covered way addition at the side of the south gable.

The Staff Room extension to the western end of the North Gable.

10.0 Recommendations

Based on the preceding evaluation, it is considered that the Ponsonby Primary School building at 50 Curran Street, Herne Bay, Auckland, meets the threshold for scheduling as a Historic Heritage Place: Category B

The place is considered to be of *considerable regional heritage significance* in relation to the following values: (a) Historical, (f) Physical attributes

The place is considered to be of *considerable local heritage significance* in relation to the following values: (b) Social, (h) Context

The place is considered to be of *moderate regional heritage significance* in relation to (g) Aesthetic value

The place is considered to be of *moderate* (e) Technological value

Overall Ponsonby Primary School is considered to be of *considerable local and regional* heritage value.

Section 9.0 above describes the extent of the place for scheduling.

11.0 Table of Historic Heritage Values

Significance Criteria (A-H)	Value (None, Little, Moderate, Considerable, Exceptional)	Context (Local, Regional, National, International)
A- Historical	Considerable	Regional
B- Social	Considerable	Local
C- Mana Whenua	n/a	n/a
D- Knowledge	n/a	n/a
E- Technological	Moderate	National
F- Physical Attributes	Considerable	Regional
G- Aesthetic	Moderate	Regional
H- Context	Considerable	Local

Exceptional: of outstanding importance and interest; retention of the identified value(s)/significance is essential.

Considerable: of great importance and interest; retention of the identified value(s)/significance is very important.

Moderate: of some importance and interest; retention of the identified value(s)/significance is desirable.

Little: of limited importance and interest.

NA/None: none identified

12.0 Overall Significance

Place Name and/or Description	Ponsonby Primary School	
Category	В	
Primary Feature	Remaining section of the building as built 1922	
Known Heritage Values	A, B, F, H	
Extent of Place	Refer to planning maps	
Exclusions	 Exterior Any post 1922 building or structure or feature Interior Entire interior of the building 	
Additional Controls for Archaeological Sites or Features	-	
Place of Maori Interest or Significance	-	

Authors: Graeme Burgess, Lilli Knight

Date: June 2016

Reviewer: Rebecca Freeman

Date: August 2016

Appendix 1: Supporting Historic Research

THE SITE



Sections for sale in the Campbellville Estate, Herne Bay1874. Source: Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, NZ Map 4495-41



Sections for sale in Herne Bay, 1874. Source: Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, NZ Map 4456.



The manuscript state of sheet B8 of the 1908 Diagram Map of the City of Auckland. This shows part of St. Mary's Bay in Herne Bay. Source: Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, NZ Map 2674



Aerial Photograph, 1940. Source: Auckland Council GIS



Aerial Photograph, 1959. Source: Auckland Council GIS

HISTORIC HERITAGE EVALUATION - Ponsonby Primary School, 50 Curran Street, Herne Bay Auckland. Burgess Treep + Knight Architects Ltd.



Aerial Photograph, 1996. Source: Auckland Council GIS



Aerial Photograph, 2010. Source: Auckland Council GIS



An aerial photograph of part of Auckland City, over Ponsonby, c.1960s. Source: Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, NZ Map 7339

THE ORIGINAL PONSONBY SCHOOL BUILDING



Showing the front view of old Ponsonby School opened 1879, taken from the opposite side of Church Street, now Cowan Street, 1880. Source: Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, 7-A218



Old Ponsonby School, 1880s. Source: Auckland Museum, Reference Number: PH-NEG-C20312.



Old Ponsonby School, 1880s. Source: Auckland Museum, Reference Number: PH-PR-108



Showing some of the 2000 children from Ponsonby schools, Auckland, celebrating

Anzac day in the Church Street school grounds, 1916. Source: Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, AWNS-19160427-35-3



Looking down Ponsonby Terrace showing old Ponsonby School in 1964. Source: Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, 7-A1276



The Unfurling of the Flag at The Ponsonby (Auckland) Public School, 1900. Source: Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, NZG-19000804-210-1.

THE CURRAN STREET SCHOOL BUILDING



A new primary school for Auckland: A front view of the main building of Curran Street, School, Ponsonby, during the official opening, 1922. Source: Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, AWNS-19221012-37-2



Ponsonby School, Curran Street, date unknown. Source: Auckland Museum Reference Number PH-NEG-C33731



Ponsonby School, Curran Street, date unknown. Source: Auckland Museum Reference Number PH-NEG-C33730



Source: 1963 Star 10091963 p 17 (2)



Source: 1973 Star 03031973 p5 (2)

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"Notice."

TO THE IDLE AND DISSOLUTE.

IN consequence of the nefarious practices of some idle and dissolute parties who have latterly been in the habit of trespassing on my properties adjoining Freeman's Bay and Shelly Beach, and who have further been guilty of destroying, or seeking to destroy. by the aid of dogs and guns, both young and old Pheasants which there abound, I hereby give notice that I will prosecute with the full rigor of the law, all parties trespassing on said grounds under any pretence whatever in future, and that all dogs found on my property will be destroyed.

It being clearly the interest of all true colonists to foster and encourage the increase and introduction of all Birds, of an insectiverous nature, having been myself instrumental in so doing, and knowing full well that such efforts are duly appreciated by our agricul turists, I now issue the above notice, and warmly call on all public-spirited proprietors to be aiding and assisting in suppressing such murderous practices in future.

JOHN CAMPBELL.

March 10, 1862.

Source: Southern Cross 18 March 1862

CAUTION. S Parties visiting SHELLY BEACH have been known to Injure my Fencing, to STEAL parts of the PALING, and even take Boards from the Stable to use as targets, I hereby give notice that such offenders in future will be PROSECUTED with the utmost rigour of the law. JOHN CAMPBELL. November 9, 1565.

Source: Southern Cross, 11 November 1865

receive consideration. - Letter received.

CURRAN STREET GULLY DRAINAGE .- Mr Jas. Maxwell wrote drawing attention to the defective condition of drainage leading down the gully and through his property into Curran-street. He asked that as the drainage from eleven properties was laid down at the Corporation expense that the Council continue the same on through his property to Curran-street. The Engineer reported that the Council had no drainage flowing into the property, and that the gully was a natural water courso. Any drainage from properties named had been done by the owners at their own expense.--The Council resolved that a reply be sent to Mr Maxwell in accordance with the Engineer's report.

Source: 1896 Auckland Star 3 July p2

A site for a fourth public school in the Ponsonby district has been secured in Curran Street by the Education Board, which has notified the Ponsonby schools committee accordingly. An agitation for the establishment of another school for this thickly populated area has been on foot for some years. The accommodation at the existing three schools has been greatly overtaxed, and lately many children have been refused admission. The new site, which is now a market garden, is on the sunny northern slope of the district and close to the beach and Point Erin Park.

Source: 1919 NZ Herald 7 Feb p6
NEW SCHOOL AT PONSONBY.

CONTRACT LET AT £21,345.

BUILDING IN CURRAN STREET.

A tender for the new brick school to be erected in Curran Street, Ponsonby, a short distance from Point Erin Park, has been accepted by the Auckland Education Board, the amount of the contract being £21,345. This sum is covered by a grant authorised by Cabinet. An additional grant has been made toward the cost of ercavations and improvements to the ground, a work upon which the board has spent a considerable sum. A third grant has been authorised to cover the cost of furniture.

The new school will consist of a main building of eight classrooms, and an infant building of four classrooms, in addition to the headmaster's room, cloakrooms and common rooms. The school will be favoured with a sunny aspect, the site being one of the finest for school purposes in the city.

Source: 1920 NZH 4 Sep p6

Dealing first with the Poneonby schools, the Minister said the playground space at Church Street was being extended by the purchase of nearly four acres of land, costing £3700. At Richmond Road a similar extension was being made by the acquisition of one acre and a-half as an outlay of \$5000. At the same school \$500 was being expended on an open-air classroom. As Bayfield the site of four acres known as "Courtney's," opposite the pre-sent school, had been bought for about \$11,000, and it was intended to crect an up-to-date brick school there. The cost of the new Curran Street School, which would be the fourth school in Poissouby district, would be about \$16,000, and £4600 had been expanded on the site. In the Newton and Grey Lynn districts, the three overcrowded schools would be anlieved by a new school on the site known as "Monnie's" at Archhill, which had been acquired at a cost of several thousand portids. A grant for enlarging the Grey Lynn school had been made last month.

Source: 1920 NZH 21 May p6

BUIL 0. NEW SCHOO EXTENSION OF TIME. me for receiving Tenders for th ork has been EXTENDED uni FRIDAY, July 30, 1930. The time until Noon on JOHN FARRELL Architect

Source: 1920 NZH 27 July p.10



Source: 1921 NZH 20 Aug p1

BRICKLAYERS wanted.-F. Goodman, Curran St. School, Ponsonby.

DRICKLAYER to negist in erecture cavity Source: 1921 NZH 27 April p1

NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL

IN PONSONBY DISTRICT.

A SUBSTANTIAL GRANT.

By Telegraph.—Parliamentary Reporter.) WELLINGTON this day.

Cabinet has approved of a substantial grant for the erection of a new primary school in Curran Street to relieve the Bayfield, Ponsonby and Richmond Road schools.

The Education Board state that the new school is to be erected in brick with accommodation for some 600 children. It will consist of two buildings, an infant school and a main school building.

Source: 1920 Star 30 Aug p2

there is no comparison.

All the new buildings are on the new plan, which allows 100 per cent. air and almost the same amount of light. The new infant schools at Northcote and Birkenhead are so planned, and provide ideal conditions. Experts agree that in such schools the children need be given to half-day period in February. The Curran Street school in Fonsonby, and the Kowhai Street school in Kingsland, are also on the open-air principle, but these are not yet completed.

Source: 1922 NZH 8 Feb p8

215 203, Victoria Arcade. A UCKLAND EDUCATION BOARD. 5 -TENDERS FOR FURNITURE. Tenders for the Supply of Small Tables and Chairs for the lufant Department at the Curran Street (Ponsonby) District the Curran Street (Ponsonby) District School will be received at the Office of the Auckland Education Board, up till Noon on FRIDAY, June 22, 1022. Samples can be seen at the Offices of the Board, Shortland Street, Auckland. JOHN FARRELL, Architect. 556 F

Source: 1922 NZH 14 June p16

CURRAN STREET SCHOOL.

OPENING ON SEPTEMBER 11.

The new school erected in Curran Street, Ponsonby, is to be opened on Monday, September 11. It is a brick building consisting of a main school of eight classrooms and an infants' school of four classrooms. It provides up-to-date accommodation both for teachers and scholars. The playing grounds cover about four acres of land, which was once a Chinese garden and part of a rubbish tip, now laid out on modern lines. The school will accommodate about 600 pupils, thus relieving the congestion at the other three Ponsonby schools.

Mr. W. W. Hill, now headmaster at Mount Eden, has been appointed to a similar position at Curran Street, and his staff will be as follows:—Firat assistant, Mr. B. M. Green; second assistant, Mr. A. C. Price; third assistant, Mr. J. C. Whidley; infant mistress, Miss E. M. Murray; and Misses F. M. Waddingham, E. D. French, and K. B. Murray. Source: 1922 NZH 16 Aug p8

When Curran Street school was enlarged an ambitious scheme of open-air instruction in Point Erin Park, and swimming classes in the baths was outlined, but the proposal to establish a reformatory home with the consequent use of the park by the inmates will shatter all those ideas.

Source: 1922 Star 29 Nov p4

CURRAN ST. SCHOOL.

FUNDS FOR IMPROVEMENTS.

Funds being raised for improvements at the Curran St. School were considerably augmented by the results of a "Paddy's Market," held in the school and grounds last Siturday afternoon. With excellent weather and the loan of the elephant "Jamuna" as a special attraction, the attendance reached about two thousand. The sum of £162 was raised.

Selections by the Ponsonby Boys Brass Band enlivened the proceedings, and Irish dancing by pupils of Mr. McComb was keenly appreciated.

Source: 1923 Star 18 June p6



Source: 1930 Star 07051930 p35

90th anniversary of Ponsonby School on

soon

AN attendance of 1000 to 1500 seems likely for the 90th anniversary celebrationsnext month of the Ponsonby primary school in Curran Street. The school (shown in the picture) now has a roll of 400.

One of the aims of the re-tation committee is to set up a fund during the celebrations is be used for the acheol's centenary in 1973. Another is to set up an old pupils' as-sociation.

sociation. The reaction will begin un Saturday, October 15 with a gathering of former stäff members. In the alterizoon there will be a garden party in the school grounds, with a baffet dimen in the evening, followed by a social and dance.

EUGENE C

GRAYLAND

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Source: 1973 DSC07185



Televisio

Source: 1973 Star 03031973 p.5

weekender

Give and Take:

Re Aufland San bauritt Hant it 1879

-the star's news magazine and review

Youth scene:

At your lebure:

Demolition delayed



A school committee's battle against bureaucracy has delayed the demolition of of the Ponsonby Primary School's main building.

The committee refused to accept that the masonry and concrete block 5 building, erected in 1921, was unsafe enough to warrant destruction. The Auckland Education Board's building experts had recommended the building's replacement in the 1988/89

The school committee says it can be strengthened and remodelled as a significant part of old Ponsonby worth preserving and the Ponsonby Planning Group and the Historic Places Trust were showing an interest. The committee, led by architect John Hill and supported by the school staff, took its case to the board's works

The committee, led by architect John Hill and supported by the school staff, took its case to the board's works committee, which asked the full board to hold further talks with the committee. The board has agreed.

Source: 1988 ASB Star 13051988

building programme.

Appendix 2: Supplementary Research

MASONRY SCHOOL BUILDINGS DESIGNED BY JOHN FARRELL



OPENING THE NEW REMUERA SCHOOL.

Showing the opening of Remuera Primary School with the building decorated with flags and pupils in the grounds, 1909. Source: Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, 7-A7995



Children playing outside Edendale District School, 1934. Source: Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, 255a-12



A HANDSOME NEW AUCKLAND CITY SCHOOL: THE OPENING OF THE GREY LYNN SCHOOL. C. Clark, Photo.

Grey Lynn School, 23 February 1911. Source: Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, AWNS-19110223-10-5



Grey Lynn School as viewed from Surrey Crescent, c.1920. Source: livingheritage.org.nz



New Lynn School. Source: Auckland War Memorial Museum collection PH-NEG-C21515



PROGRESS OF EDUCATION IN AUCKLAND: THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE MEADOWBANK PUBLIC SCHOOL. REMUERA, ON APRIL 18, BY MR. G. J. GARLAND, CHAIRMAN OF THE AUCKLAND EDUCATION BOARD.

The official opening of the Meadowbank Public School, 1916. Source: Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, AWNS-19160427-35-1



Te Papapa School showing boys playing a game of cricket and two girls seated. Source: Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, 36-P157



Belmont School, Lake Road, Belmont (previously Victoria Road, Takapuna), showing pupils and teacher standing outside, 25 Jun 1920. Source: Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, 1-W1768



Appendix 3: Deeds/ Certificate(s) of Title

Source: LINZ Records



Source: Auckland Council Property File



Source: Auckland Council Property File



Source: Auckland Council Property File



Source: Auckland Council Property File



Source: LINZ Records

Appendix 4 Photographs



East/Street elevation as viewed from Curran Street. Photograph: Graeme Burgess 2016



East/Street elevation as viewed from school grounds. Photograph: Graeme Burgess 2016



South elevation. Photograph: Graeme Burgess 2016



South east corner. Photograph: Graeme Burgess 2016



West/courtyard elevation, left rear face of north wing (left) right gable end of South wing. Photographs: Graeme Burgess 2016.





Southern/courtyard face of north wing. Photograph: Graeme Burgess 2016



West end of north wing. Photographs: Graeme Burgess 2016



East end of north wing, note the step in form. Photograph: Graeme Burgess 2016



Views down Emmet Street (left) View from Curran St. Photographs: Graeme Burgess 2016



Windows with coloured green glass top lights (north façade) Photograph: Lilli Knight 2016



Stair to corridor space on western /rear side (left) exterior wall of filled in corridor space on west/ rear side (right). Photographs: Lilli Knight 2016



Sill remnant where window has been filled in on South elevation. Photograph: Lilli Knight 2016



Timber joinery, east façade (left) Steel joinery unit, east façade (right Photographs: Lilli Knight 2016



Terrace / steps detail, east elevation (left) Decorative oculus window over door, east elevation (right) Photographs: Lilli Knight 2016



Stepped terrace along east elevation. Photograph: Lilli Knight 2016



Linked casements, middle classroom (left) Ground floor orridor space (right) Photographs: Graeme Burgess



Ground Floor corridor space window. (original window relocated?) Photograph Graeme Burgess 2016



Corridor space, ground floor (left) Date sign over entry into former open area (right) Photographs: Lilli Knight 2016



Original ceiling in south end classroom. Photograph: Lilli Knight 2016



Upper floor hallway, showing non original partition walls Photograph: Lilli Knight 2016



Interior view of upper floor classroom showing where original west walls have been removed, and classrooms have expanded into former corridor space. Photograph: Lilli Knight 2016



View towards east wall in upper floor classroom. Photograph: Lilli Knight 2016



High windows in upper floor corridor, west wall. Photograph: Lilli Knight 2016

Appendix 5 Drawings



Drainage Plan 'Chinaman Gardens' 1904, Source: Auckland Council Property File {954015BD-6736-4892-9150-F6A8CF2CE4FD}



Site Plan, October 1919, Source: Auckland Council Property File 7A9CACC1-7B0A-4E4A-8640-12DB490BDC03



Site Plan by John Farrell, Education Board Architect, June 1919, Source: Archives NZ, Reference DSC06886



Drainage Plan, 1920s, Source: Auckland Council Property File

HISTORIC HERITAGE EVALUATION - Ponsonby Primary School, 50 Curran Street, Herne Bay Auckland. Burgess Treep + Knight Architects Ltd.



Site Plan 1920, Source: Auckland Council Property File 9D0A46DB-3EA5-4769-B5B5-5122057C77A4 page-001



Architectural Drawings by John Farrell Education Board Architect, April 1920, Source: Auckland Council Property File 9D0A46DB-3EA5-4769-B5B5-5122057C77A4



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Architectural Drawings by John Farrell Education Board Architect, April 1920. Source: Auckland Council Property File 9D0A46DB-3EA5-4769-B5B5-5122057C77A4



Architectural Drawings by John Farrell Education Board Architect, April 1920. Source: Auckland Council Property File 9D0A46DB-3EA5-4769-B5B5-5122057C77A4



Architectural Drawings for alterations by Education Board Architect, June 1970. Source: Auckland Council Property File A562FADB-0B0B-4FEC-96A1-7A8E5494F1F6



Engineers Drawings for Administration Upgrade by Jacob Consulting, December 1998. Source: Auckland Council Property File BCBE12FB-9AF5-4F35-A7D6-9CBF153E2F95



Engineers Drawings for Administration Upgrade by Jacob Consulting, December 1998. Source: Auckland Council Property File BCBE12FB-9AF5-4F35-A7D6-9CBF153E2F95



Architectural Drawings for Administration Upgrade by JASMAX, 1998. Source: Auckland Council Property File BCBE12FB-9AF5-4F35-A7D6-9CBF153E2F95



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Structural Strengthening, Drawings by Works Consultancy Services, October 1999. Source: C449983D-6CD0-434B-A31C-840E51E660C2



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