

Heritage Evaluation

Point Chevalier Fire Station (former)

59 Point Chevalier Road, Point Chevalier



Prepared by Auckland Council Heritage Unit June 2014

Heritage Evaluation	_
Former Fire Station, 59 Point Chevalier Road, Point Chevalier	
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June 2014	
Cover image: Taken by David Rade, Auckland Council, 12 May 2014	
Cover image: Taken by David Bade, Auckland Council, 13 May 2014.	

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this document is to consider the former Point Chevalier fire station located at 59 Point Chevalier Road, Point Chevalier, against the criteria for evaluation of historic heritage in the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan.

The document has been prepared by David Bade, Specialist Built Heritage, Heritage Unit, Auckland Council.

This report was completed in June 2014 however, minor modifications have been made to section 12 of this report in May 2017 to specify a primary feature and refine named exclusions.

2.0 Identification

Site address	59 Point Chevalier Road, Point Chevalier
Legal description	LOT 229 DP 8813
and Certificate of Title identifier	CT-343/147
NZTM grid reference	1752365.8833 (Easting); 5918291.7297 (Northing)
Ownership	A J Davies and Ernest Retirement Limited
District/regional	Auckland Council Operative DP: Isthmus Section
plan & zoning	Res 6a
Proposed Unitary	Mixed Use - Business
Plan zoning	
Existing scheduled item(s)	N/A
Additional controls	Pre-1944 Building Demolition Control Overlay
NZHPT registration details	N/A
Pre-1900 site	No. The place is not recorded as an archaeological site and has no identified archaeological values, but
(HNZ Section 6a(i)	it has some potential as a site of human activity
and 2b)	before 1900 resulting from former rural activity in the vicinity.
CHI reference/s	N/A

NZAA site record	N/A
number/s	

3.0 Constraints

- This evaluation is based on information available or able to be sourced at the time of writing. Information was gained from books on the history of Point Chevalier, the Auckland Council archives, the Point Chevalier Library archive, and Papers Past. Additional research may yield new information.
- The evaluation is based on historical research and does not address current structural integrity, a systematic assessment of archaeological values, or tangata whenua values.
- A site visit was undertaken on 13 May 2014. The interior was not viewed.

4.0 Historical summary

*PLEASE REFER TO APPENDIX 1 FOR A DETAILED HISTORIC OVERVIEW

By the early decades of the twentieth century, the Auckland Fire Brigade sought to extend their coverage over the Auckland isthmus. Point Chevalier was identified as a site for a new station. In December 1921, the land at 59 Point Chevalier Road was purchased by the Auckland Fire Board, and a fire shed was erected to house a hand pump. Plans were drawn up for the main fire station in April 1926 to a design by noted Auckland architect, Daniel Boys Patterson, during his tenure as Chief Architect for the Auckland Fire Board. J. W. Bambury Ltd were employed as builders, and largely completed its construction by September 1926. The fire station was first occupied on 11 October 1926.

The fire station was two storeys, constructed of plastered brick with a terracotta tile roof. The fire station itself (with engines, watch room, recreation and training area) was located on the ground floor with dwellings above and at the back (see Appendix for plans). Situated on the corner of Tui Road and Point Chevalier Road, it was ideally close to major transport routes.

It is likely that the site was also utilised by the St John's Ambulance Service during the 1920s and 1930s. Valuation records record the presence of a small team of St John's Ambulance staff operating from there (presumably volunteers) up until the mid-1930s.

The station was upgraded and modernised over the years – although alterations were minor. It had been designed prior to much of the intensive development around it in the 1930s and 1940s which meant that it was unable to accommodate up-to-date equipment.

By the 1980s, the New Zealand Fire Service sought ways to centralise resources by amalgamating a number of fire stations. The Point Chevalier station was earmarked for closure and reassignment of its equipment and staff to Avondale. During this time, there were many letters to the editor and articles in newspapers which expressed the concern of Point Chevalier residents over the closure of the station. Despite fierce protest, the station was officially closed on Monday 22 July 1985, after 60 years of service. Five months later, on 17 December 1985, the Allendale Trust bought the building for \$116,000, and turned it into a boarding house for students, due to its close proximity to Carrington Technical Institute (now UNITEC). Today, it is known as "unistay – student accommodation."

5.0 Physical description

Site and context:

As shown in

Figure 1. GIS map showing the age of dwellings in the neighbourhood.

Figure 1 and

Figure **2**, the area to the northwest of the former fire station at 59 Point Chevalier Road is dominated by pre-1940 residential buildings, with varying levels of alterations. The area southeast of the building is dominated by post-1940 buildings and commercial development. The building also has a strong landmark presence on Point Chevalier Road (Figure 3).



Figure 1. GIS map showing the age of dwellings in the neighbourhood. The red star indicates the location of the former Point Chevalier fire station.¹ The blank lots are ones that do not have any data.



Figure 2. Aerial photo showing the fire station and its surroundings. The building is a significant landmark on Point Chevalier Road.



Figure 3. The former fire station as seen from further north on Point Chevalier Road (David Bade, Auckland Council, 13 May 2014).



Figure 4 labels each feature of the property.

Figure 4. The layout of the property.

Design, fabric and any additions/modifications:

The fire station was built in 1926 as two storeys, constructed of plastered brick with a terracotta tile roof. The fire station itself (with engines, watch room, recreation and training area) was located on the ground floor, with dwellings above and in a one-storey wing at the rear (see Appendix for plans). Two chimneys are located on the southern and northern corner of the main station building. The upper storey of the main station building has six-pane sash windows to its main facades.

The Stripped Classical style of the former station is similar to other small suburban Auckland fire stations from the interwar period (see section 6.0). Some changes have occurred to the building; however, its form and detailing, as seen from Point Chevalier Road, remains largely intact. Additions or alterations to the building have included: a 1992 upper-level addition to the rear for student flats (there was an original ground floor rear wing) (**Figure 5**), changes to the interior to convert it into residential accommodation, the replacement of the old fire truck doors (Figure 6), and a new doorway (1943 – see appendix). The original signage band on the primary façade appears to be intact, although the dimensional lettering reading "Point

Chevalier Fire Station" was removed between 1986 and 2007. The existing frontage can still be clearly read as the entrance of a fire station.



Figure 5. The rear wing as seen from Tui Street. The ground floor was part of the original construction, while the first floor was added in 1992. (David Bade, Auckland Council, 13 May 2014).



Figure 6. The former fire truck entrance is now a front doorway (David Bade, Auckland Council, 13 May 2014).

A reel shed was built on the southeast portion of the property in 1922 before the fire station building was constructed (

Figure 7). This building still remains (Figure 8). The rectangular building appears to have been converted into use for the accommodation units. In the mid-1980s, when the station

was closed, a report in Auckland Council's File Net identified a 'large dilapidated storage shed between the main building and the southern side boundary', which would have been the former reel shed.



Figure 7. 1940 aerial photograph (left) and 2010 aerial photograph (right)²



Figure 8. View down the southeastern side of the property, showing the shed, that may be the original reel shed.

Condition and current use:

The building appears to have been recently painted, and is in very good condition (Figure 9, Figure 10, Figure 11).

Today, it is known as "unistay – student accommodation."



Figure 9. The Tui Street façade (David Bade, Auckland Council, 13 May 2014).



Figure 10. The corner of Tui Street and Point Chevalier Road (David Bade, Auckland Council, 13 May 2014).



Figure 11. View from Point Chevalier Road (David Bade, Auckland Council, 13 May 2014).

Key features:

- The former fire station building (including its stripped classical style, two-storeys, two
 chimneys, plastered brick construction, terracotta tile hipped roof, the resemblance of
 the former fire truck entranceway, and prominent corner location)
- The former reel shed

6.0 Comparative analysis

It is normal for fire stations to expand or relocate to accommodate technological changes and the needs of growing communities. As the following table shows, of the 13 fire stations built in the 1920s and 1930s in the Auckland region, only six remain (three of which are scheduled), and none have continued their use as a fire station. Most are re-used for residential units. The only early fire station to still function in its original use is the Auckland Central Fire Station in Pitt Street, built in 1944 (scheduled as a category B historic heritage place).

During the interwar period, Daniel Boys Patterson was the chief architect for the New Zealand Fire Service in the Auckland region, and was responsible for designing most of the Auckland region's fire stations in the 1920s-1940s, including the Point Chevalier station (as well as the Ponsonby, St Heliers, Avondale, Mount Albert [likely], Ellerslie [likely], Remuera [additions and alterations], and Auckland Central Fire Stations.³

As the table shows, the Point Chevalier station is a rare surviving example of a fire station from the 1920s-30s in Auckland and designed by Patterson, as most have been demolished. Notably, three stations from this period have been scheduled, indicating the heritage significance of the extant fire stations. The Point Chevalier station compares favourably in terms of architecture and historic integrity.

Fire stations built in the 1920s and 1930s in the Auckland region⁴

(refer to Appendix 2 for full table)

Mount Eden (1924) - Category B

Ponsonby (1924) - Demolished c. 1978

One Tree Hill (1925) - Not scheduled

Mount Albert (1925-6) - Not scheduled

Devonport (1926) - Category B

Onehunga (1926) – Demolished in 2003

Point Chevalier (1926) - Not scheduled

Mount Roskill (1927) - Category B

Remuera (1916/1928) - Demolished c. 2004

Avondale (1929) - Demolished in 1983

St Heliers (1930) - Demolished in 2009

Birkenhead (1932) - Demolished 1968

Ellerslie (1934) – Demolished in 1991

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 former Point Chevalier fire station has **considerable** local historical significance.

The former Point Chevalier fire station represents a time of expansion for the Auckland fire service. By the early decades of the twentieth century, the Auckland Fire Brigade sought to extend their coverage over the Auckland isthmus. New stations were established in growing localities, and Point Chevalier was identified as a site for a new station. As such, the former reel shed (1922) and main building (1926) are also directly associated with the emergence of Point Chevalier as a suburb of Auckland. In 1921, the Point Chevalier Road Board was amalgamated into Auckland City Council and over the next decade, Point Chevalier underwent considerable growth. The station is a tangible symbol of the amalgamation with Auckland City and the growth of the suburb during the interwar period.

The station also has historical significance for its association with the development of the modern motorised ambulance service. In its early years, the station was utilised by the St John's Ambulance Service. It was during this period that the organisation was beginning to take their first steps in the use of motorised services.

(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 former fire station has **considerable local** social value. The station provided a vital service for the community for almost 70 years (1926-1985) and its closure was in the face of stiff opposition from local residents.

The building was the focus of firefighting life for firemen who lived, worked, recreated and celebrated there. It is likely that members of the community and past members of the brigade hold strong associations with, and esteem for, the former fire station.

The formation of an Auckland Fire Brigade Historical Society in 2010 highlights the social esteem that particular members of the community have for former (and in some cases existing operational) stations across the Auckland region. A few photos of the Point Chevalier station are feature on their website.

(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.

An assessment of the place's value to mana whenua has not been undertaken as part of this evaluation.

(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 for the former fire station to provide new knowledge that could not be obtained from a similar structure or archival sources is minimal. It therefore has **little local** knowledge value.

(e) Technological

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

The former fire station is not unusual in its materials or construction method, and, therefore, does not demonstrate any particular technical accomplishment, innovation, or achievement. It is also no longer operational, and consequently does not house any equipment. Consequently, it has **little local** technological value.

(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 former Point Chevalier fire station has **considerable regional** physical attributes. The station was designed in 1926 by noted Auckland architect Daniel Boys Patterson during his tenure as Chief Architect for the Auckland Fire Board. Patterson's career reached its height in the early decades of the twentieth century, and the Point Chevalier fire station is a fine example of his work. As the chief architect for the New Zealand Fire Service in the Auckland Provincial region, he was responsible for designing most of the Auckland region's fire stations in the 1920s-1940s. He was also the architect for the Auckland Anglican Diocesan Trust Board, the Auckland Savings Bank (in the Auckland Provincial region), New Zealand Breweries Ltd, and Campbell & Erhenfried Co. Ltd, with multiple commissions from each Patterson also designed a number of prominent commercial buildings, including the Ellison Chambers, Queen Street, in 1914, reputedly the first ferro-concrete building in New Zealand.

The two-storeyed plastered brick fire station with terracotta tile roof is a representative example of a fire station from the 1920s and 1930s, and is largely intact. Of the 13 fire stations built in this period in Auckland, only six remain (three of which are scheduled). Of the seven designed by (or likely to have been designed by) Patterson, only three remain (one scheduled). The Point Chevalier station is therefore an important example of this significant property type, which is dwindling in number.

(g) Aesthetic

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

The former fire station has been a prominent landmark on its corner site on Point Chevalier Road since its erection in 1926. Due to its strong landmark value, the building contributes to a sense of place and familiarity with Point Chevalier from days gone by. The upper-level addition to the rear does not detract from its landmark quality. The building, therefore, has **considerable local** aesthetic significance.

(h) Context

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

The former fire station has collective value as part of a group of fire stations built in the 1920s and 1930s when the Auckland Fire Brigade was expanding service across the Auckland isthmus, many of which continued in service until the 1970s. Of the 13 stations from this period, only six remain today. The building has **moderate regional** context value as part of this network of fire stations. The building's importance as a fire station property type is better covered under criteria (a) and (f). The immediate context is a mixture of building types and ages, so the building is not significant under this criterion for its contribution to the streetscape or setting of the neighbourhood.

8.0 Statement of significance

The former Point Chevalier fire station (constructed 1926) is of considerable heritage significance for its historic, social, physical attributes, and aesthetic values. The building represents a time of expansion for the Auckland fire service in the early decades of the twentieth century. It was also built during a time when Point Chevalier emerged as a growing suburb of Auckland. As such, the fire station and its initial reel shed (1922) are a visual reminder of the development of Point Chevalier.

It is likely that members of the community and past members of the brigade hold strong esteem for the former fire station. The station provided a vital service for the community for almost 70 years (1926-1985) and its closure was in the face of stiff opposition from local residents. The building has also been a prominent landmark on its corner site on Point Chevalier Road since its construction.

The station was designed by noted Auckland architect Daniel Boys Patterson during his tenure as Chief Architect for the Auckland Fire Board. Patterson was responsible for designing most of the Auckland region's fire stations in the 1920s-1940s. He was

also the architect for a number of companies and designed a number of prominent buildings, including the Ellison Chambers, Queen Street, in 1914, reputedly the first ferro-concrete building in New Zealand.

The Point Chevalier station is largely intact and is an important example of a fire station in Auckland constructed during the 1920s and 1930s. Of the 13 fire stations built in this period in Auckland, only six remain (three of which are scheduled). Of the seven designed by (or likely to have been designed by) Patterson, only three remain (one scheduled). The Point Chevalier station is therefore an important example of this significant property type, which is dwindling in number.

9.0 Extent of the place for scheduling

The identified extent of the place for scheduling is the area that is integral to the function, meaning and relationships of the place. The extent of place for the former fire station at 59 Point Chevalier Road encompasses the entire certificate of title and extends to the kerb on Tui Street and Point Chevalier Road. The extent includes the kerb due to the front building being sited right on the property boundary, the historical association between the fire engine entrance and the footpath, and its considerable landmark value. The former reel shed building is included in this extent of place.

Below is a diagram showing the extent of place (red line), primary feature (green hashed area) and exclusions (blue hashed area):



KEY	:
	Primary feature
	Exclusions
	Extent of place

The ablution block and storage/utility buildings (as identified on page 7) should be excluded from the extent of place as they are not original to the former fire station complex and do not have considerable heritage value. The rear wing of the fire station is not an exclusion or a primary feature as the lower portion is original but the second story is a 1992 addition. The wing still contributes value to the historic heritage place but is not a primary feature. Likewise, the former reel shed is part of the original complex and contributes heritage value (so is not an exclusion) but is not the primary feature of the historic heritage place.

10.0 Recommendations

Based on the preceding evaluation, the former fire station at 59 Point Chevalier Road meets the threshold for scheduling as a Historic Heritage Place: Category B. See the table of historic heritage values below.

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	Local
B- Social	Considerable	Local
C- Mana Whenua	Not assessed in this evaluation	Not assessed in this evaluation
D- Knowledge	Little	Local
E- Technological	Little	Local
F- Physical Attributes	Considerable	Regional
G- Aesthetic	Considerable	Local
H- Context	Moderate	Regional

^{*}Levels of significance or value:

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

Updated May 2017

Place Name and/or Description	Point Chevalier Fire Station (former)
Verified Location	59 Point Chevalier Road, Point Chevalier
Verified Legal Description	LOT 229 DP 8813
Category	В
Primary Feature	Main two-storey former fire station building (Refer to section 9.0 for diagram for further clarification)
Known Heritage Values	A,B,F,G
Extent of Place	Refer to planning maps (Refer to section 9.0 for diagram for further clarification in relation to exclusions)

Exclusions	Interior of building(s); ablution block; storage/utility building
Additional Controls	
for Archaeological	
Sites or Features	
Place of Maori	
Interest or	
Significance	

13.0 Other matters

It is noted that the Point Chevalier fire station was previously considered for scheduling under the legacy Auckland City Council scoring system. The building was re-evaluated during this survey using the Proposed Auckland Unitary Plan criteria, a values-based approach that reflects a broader suite of reasons why a place might be significant. The PAUP criteria built upon the legacy system, allowing for additional focus on historical associations, context values, and significance to local communities.

Author: David Bade, Specialist Built Heritage

Date: June 2014 (updated May 2017)

Reviewer: Rebecca Fogel, Built Heritage Specialist (Point Chevalier HHS Project Lead)

Date: 20 June 2014

Further review comments: Cara Francesco (Principal Specialist Built Heritage – Policy)

Date: 19 May 2017

Appendices

Appendix 1 Historic research

In March 1921, the Point Chevalier Road Board was amalgamated into Auckland City Council.⁵ Over the next decade, Point Chevalier underwent considerable growth: large farming estates were subdivided, the tram line was extended, and essential facilities were built, including a bank, cinema, library and many shops.⁶ The establishment of the reel shed (1922) and the fire station (1926) on Point Chevalier Road was associated with this growth.

Background to the Point Chevalier fire station

By the early decades of the twentieth century, the Auckland Fire Brigade sought to extend their coverage over the Auckland isthmus. Up until then, fire brigade stations outside the inner city were near non-existent.⁷ Fire stations at Parnell (1913), Grey Lynn & Arch Hill (1914), Remuera & Eden Terrace (1915) and Epsom (1917) were all established at this time. This expansion continued into the 1920s, with fire stations at Ponsonby (1924), Point Chevalier (1926), Tamaki (1928), One Tree Hill (Greenlane) (1929), Avondale (1929) and St Heliers (1930).⁸ The 1920s and 1930s were decades of quiet progress for the Auckland Fire Board. Volunteers were increasingly replaced with permanent, professional firefighters.⁹

Up until 1926, when the fire station was constructed, fire cover for the district was provided by the Mount Albert Fire Brigade, but their fees (£10 per annum and £5 fee per fire they attended in the Point Chevalier area) were found to be too excessive. ¹⁰ Instead, the Superintendent recommended the purchase of a section and the erection of a hand reel (and sleeping accommodation for one man and a volunteer brigade of six men). ¹¹

The Superintendent's recommendations were carried out.¹² The property at 59 Point Chevalier Road was purchased by the Auckland Fire Board from James Cullen, a miner of Point Chevalier Road, and a shed was erected.¹³ The property cost £120 and the shed cost £153 13/-. The hand reel was transferred from the Eden Terrace Auxiliary Station. The Shed was commissioned on 24 May 1922 and was manned by Junior Station Officer Thomas W. Beech and six auxiliaries.¹⁴ A former fire officer at the station believes the original hand reel and pump were donated to MOTAT.¹⁵

Plans were drawn up for the fire station in April 1926 to a design by noted Auckland architect Daniel Boys Patterson, during his tenure as Chief Architect for the Auckland Fire Board. ¹⁶ J. W. Bambury Ltd were employed as builders, and largely completed the building by September 1926 (Figure 1). ¹⁷ Their work cost £2828-14-0. ¹⁸ The station was first occupied on 11 October 1926. The Board decided against a formal opening ceremony. ¹⁹

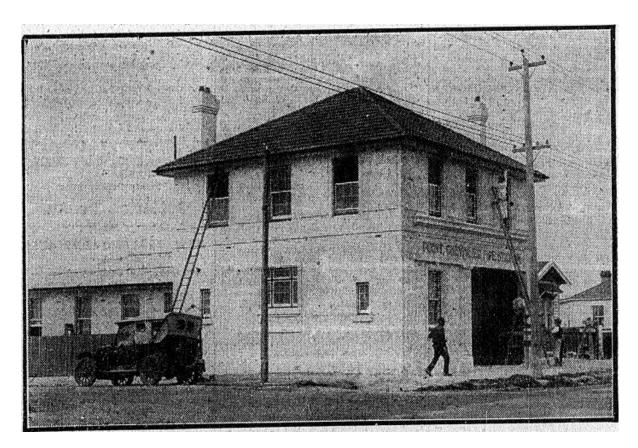


Figure 12. The Point Chevalier fire station in September 1926.²⁰

The building was two storeys, constructed of plastered brick with a terracotta tile roof. The fire station (with engines, watch room, recreation and training area) was located on the ground floor with dwellings above and in a one-storey wing at the rear (see Appendix for plans).²¹ Situated on the corner of Tui Road and Point Chevalier Road, it was ideally close to major transport routes.

D. B. Patterson background

Daniel Boys Patterson (1880-1962) was a notable Auckland architect whose career reached its height in the early decades of the twentieth century. The Point Chevalier fire station is a fine example of his work. As the chief architect for the New Zealand Fire Service in the Auckland Provincial region, he was responsible for designing most of the Auckland region's fire stations in the 1920s-40s. In addition to the Point Chevalier station, he designed the fire stations in Ponsonby, St Heliers, Avondale, Mount Albert (likely), Ellerslie (likely), Remuera (additions and alterations), and Auckland Central in Pitt St (and the fire service premises in Poynton Terrace). He was also the architect for the Auckland Anglican Diocesan Trust Board, the Auckland Savings Bank (in the Auckland Provincial region), New Zealand Breweries Ltd, and Campbell & Erhenfried Co. Ltd. Etd.

Patterson designed other prominent buildings, including: the Ellison Chambers, Queen St in 1914, reputedly the first ferro-concrete building in New Zealand; Mercy Hospital in Mountain Road, Epsom; the Auckland Star offices, LD Nathan offices and warehouse in Fort Street; Paykel's building; Mt Albert Borough Council Offices in New North Road; St James Church, Orakei; St Columba church, Grey Lynn; St Andrews Church, Kohimarama; St Davids

Church, Khyber Pass; the Roman Catholic School and Convent in Avondale; St Stephens (Māori) College in Bombay; and the Flying Angel Mission for Seamen Building.

The Fire Station from the 1920s to the 1980s

The first Superintendent of the new Point Chevalier fire station was Thomas W. Beech. He was put in charge of the reel shed, and oversaw six volunteers. It is noted on 23 October 1929, that the Point Chevalier station Junior Station Officers was being paid £265 per annum. He remained at the station until the early 1930s when he was replaced by James Maskell. Figure 13 shows the fire station in 1930.

The first engines attached to the new station in 1926 were old Halley Simonis pumps (examples are at MOTAT) which were replaced in the late 1920s – early 1930s by motorised vehicles, such as converted Model "T" Fords, which were introduced to many smaller brigades at this time.²⁸

It is likely that the site was also utilised by the St John's Ambulance Service during the 1920s and 1930s. ²⁹ Valuation Records record the presence of a small team of St John's Ambulance staff operating from there (presumably volunteers) until the mid-1930s. ³⁰ It was not uncommon for the ambulance service to share the facilities of fire stations where the need arose. In the early days of the Devonport fire station, built in 1926 (the same year as the Point Chevalier station), space for an ambulance was provided for. An article in the New Zealand Herald from 1924 sets out that, "The [Devonport] Borough Council was prepared to provide accommodation for the proposed ambulance in the fire brigade station, when the latter was ready". ³¹ This dual use found at Devonport and Point Chevalier lends greater significance to the Point Chevalier station, as it would have played a part in the development of the modern motorised ambulance service: it was this period, before the Auckland Hospital Board negotiated with St John to take over all ambulance work in the Auckland area in 1931, that the organisation was beginning to take their first steps in the use of motorised services. ³²

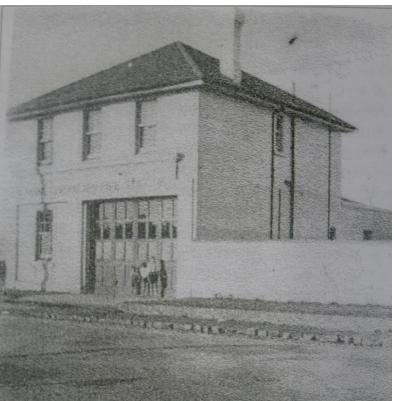


Figure 13. The Fire Station in 1930 (photo from Beech, former station master).³³

One of the most famous fires attended by engines from the Point Chevalier station was that of the Dixieland Cabaret.³⁴ The nightclub was opened in 1925 and was a well-known landmark. It was located at Point Chevalier Beach, featured a live orchestra and a large 330 square metre ballroom, and was popular all over Auckland.³⁵ The fire broke out on 11 September 1935 and was attended by fire brigades in surrounding districts. The Point Chevalier station was the closest to the fire and was the first one at the site. The fire took several hours to control. It so severely gutted the building that the Dixieland Cabaret never reopened – an estimated £3500 of damage.³⁶ The fire was likely to have been caused by a cigarette being left in a corner of one of the couches.³⁷

In the late 1930s, Peter Newton Healey took over the station and remained in charge for 14 years. He became the most well-known personality attached to the Point Chevalier fire station. Healey had joined the Auckland Metropolitan Fire Brigade in 1914 and served continuously until his death in 1951 at the age of 49. He received the United Fire Brigade Association's Gold Award and the Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board's Gold Star for 25 years' service.³⁸ A photo of the station in the mid- to late-1940s (during Healey's tenure) is shown in Figure 14 Figure 3. A new doorway had been constructed in 1943 (see Appendix).



Figure 14. The fire station in the mid- to late-1940s.³⁹

From the late 1940s to the mid-1960s, the station officer was Eric Bell. ⁴⁰ During this time, the early motorised vehicles from the early 1930s were replaced by Bedford and Daimler appliances. ⁴¹

From the late 1960s to the 1980s, Edward A Brown and Hank Van Den Brink were the station officers. ⁴² The old fire service vehicles and equipment were donated to MOTAT in the late 1960s to early 1970s. ⁴³ More modern appliances were brought in to the station in the 1970s and 1980s. ⁴⁴

The station was upgraded and modernised over the years, although alterations were minor. It had been designed prior to much of the intensive development around it in the 1930s and 1940s. This meant that it was unable to provide accommodation for up-to-date equipment, and was largely redundant long before the reorganisation of the service in the 1980s. 46

The closure of the station in the mid-1980s

By the 1980s, the New Zealand Fire Service sought ways to centralise resources by amalgamating a number of fire stations. ⁴⁷ As part of a five-year review of fire-fighting services, the Point Chevalier station was earmarked for closure and reassignment of its equipment and staff to Avondale. ⁴⁸

During this time, there were many letters to the editor and articles in newspapers which expressed the concern of Point Chevalier residents over the closure of the station.⁴⁹ One article read: 'Pt Chevalier residents want their 60-year-old fire station to remain operational even if they have to man it themselves.' ⁵⁰ The concern was mainly about the extra time needed to respond to fire call-outs in the area, rather than any attachment or historical interest. Although the New Zealand Historic Places Trust (now Heritage New Zealand) were asked whether it could be registered as a historic place. ⁵¹ L.A. Sutcliff, of the NZHPT, stated:

We are of the opinion that the Station Building is not of National interest but is of local interest and we should be pleased to meet the Pt Chevalier Community Committee or a representative, on the spot, to discuss the whole matter. It is of little use deciding that the building should be protected or saved unless there is a good proposal for its future use. ⁵²

Despite the fierce protest of local community committees, the closedown became inevitable because the station had been too uneconomical for too long. Commander Bob Grey of the Avondale fire station commented: "It had outlived its function really. It was designed sixty years ago for the fire engines used in those days and servicing the lower number of fire calls in those days.⁵³

Shortly before the station was to close, a local plan was suggested to pressure the Auckland City Council to buy the facility and convert it into a temporary library while the new Point Chevalier Library was under construction at Hall Corner. The Council thought seriously about the option, but eventually refused the offer to buy the station for \$100,000 for a temporary library as councillors expressed fears the station would be a liability.⁵⁴ The Council officially turned the offer down on 6 December 1985.⁵⁵ Instead the Coronation Hall was used as a temporary library.

After 60 years of service, the station was officially closed on Monday 22 July 1985.⁵⁶ As from 8am, the Point Chevalier appliance (RT call sign Avondale 331) became Avondale's No. 2 Pump, dispatched from the Avondale Fire Station. ⁵⁷ Commander Grey was the officer when the station was closed.⁵⁸

Five months later, on 17 December 1985, the Ministry of Works, acting on behalf of the fire service, auctioned the former fire station.⁵⁹ The Allendale Trust won the auction and bought the building for \$116,000, and planned to turn it into a boarding house for students, due to its close proximity to Carrington Technical Institute (now UNITEC).⁶⁰ It is still used as student accommodation today.

Use as student accommodation (1986 to present)

Figure 14 shows the building shortly after it was sold in 1986. According to documents in Filenet, there were proposals soon after the station was sold for a dental and physiotherapy clinic to be established on the ground floor and a residential unit on the first floor. This appears to not have occurred.



Figure 15. The station shortly after it was sold c.1986.⁶¹

The rear single storey part of the station, which appears to have been a single men's quarters, was added to in 1992 for more student flats. Another storey was put on top, with six square windows that do not quite align with the four original windows below. The storage shed is still in place.

The building became known as the "Station Lodge" at least until 2005.⁶² Today, it is known as "unistay – student accommodation" (Figure 16).



Figure 16. The rear wing as seen from Tui Street (David Bade, Auckland Council, 13 May 2014).

Construction chronology:

- 1921: Land acquired by Auckland Fire Brigade
- 1922: Reel shed constructed
- 1926: Fire station constructed (designed by D.B. Patterson)
- 1943: New doorway installed (also by D.B. Patterson)
- 1985: Point Chevalier fire station closed, and sold at auction.
- 1986: Original lettering likely removed around this time.
- 1992: Top floor added to rear residential wing. Converted to student boarding house.

Appendix 2 Supplementary research

Fire stations built in the 1920s and 1930s in the Auckland region⁶³

Name and Address	Date of construction	Photo (if extant) ⁶⁴ and description ⁶⁵	Status
Mount Eden 62-64 Valley Road, Mt Eden	1924	The Mt Eden Fire Brigade was certainly in existence prior to 1924 when the purpose-built station was erected beside the Municipal Building. Arthur Sinclair O'Connor was commissioned to design the new station, and the builder was Mr. C. A. Lee. Construction was of reinforced concrete throughout with brick curtain walls, built to accommodate two fire engines (there was only one at the time of completion). Provision had also been made for a library on the ground floor, and a social hall on the first floor. Italianate/classical style, likely designed to align to with the adjoining Mt Eden Borough Council Chambers (constructed circa 1911).	Category B historic heritage place UID#: 1895 Values: A,B,F,G,H

		In 1962, the land on the other side of the fire station was sold by the Borough to private owners, but in 1970 the Borough Council bought back the fire station building, and had a connecting two-storey link designed between the two buildings to utilise both as offices. The original fire station doors were donated to MOTAT in 1971.	
Ponsonby 182 Ponsonby Road, Ponsonby	1924	Amalgamating the fire stations at St Mary's Road in Ponsonby and Rose Road in Grey Lynn, the fire station at 182 Ponsonby Road, also known as West End Fire Station, was designed by Daniel B Patterson and built by Fletcher Construction in 1923/1924.	Demolished c. 1978.
One Tree Hill 174 Green Lane West, Greenlane	1925	The architect is uncertain, but a Mr Hollingsworth submitted plans and specifications to the One Tree Hill Road Board in September 1924. Today, it is the Jack Dickey Community Hall, owned by Auckland City Council.	Not scheduled

Mount Albert	1925-6		Not scheduled
516 New North Road, Kingsland		The brick fire station building was built by T McClements for the Mt Albert Borough Council. The architect is not known, but as the Borough Council commissioned Daniel B Patterson as the architect for their Council Chambers in 1926, and the toilet block in Kingsland in 1927, this may have also been one of his commissions for the Council. The station was replaced by a new station in Balmoral Road in 1972. Now used for boarding accommodation.	scheduled
Devonport 4-6 Calliope Road, Devonport	1926	DEVONPORT FIRE STATE	Category B historic heritage place (Auckland Council District Plan – North Shore Section) UID#: 595 (North Shore Section)
		A brick and concrete fire station. The design was by Norman Wade and A M Bartley, with the station built by J E Guthrie. Specifications for the project were drawn up by A T Griffith, the resident engineer, in September 1924. The station's ground floor area of 40 ft by 40 ft provided housing for the fire engine and other appliances, with a social room on the second	Values: A, B, F, G, H

Onehunga 408 Onehunga Mall, Onehunga	1926	floor large enough to accommodate 200 people. Living accommodation was also provided. The station building was put up for sale in 1993 after completion of a new station in Lake Road. Designed by local architect John Park and built by Methven & Foster. The station was rebuilt in 2003 on the same site.	Demolished in 2003.
Point Chevalier 59 Pt Chevalier Road, Point Chevalier	1926	Plans were drawn up in April 1926 for a 2-3 storeyed plastered brick fire station with terracotta tile roof, designed by noted architect D. B. Patterson. It was largely completed by September of that year. As part of a five-year review of fire-fighting services, the Point Chevalier station was earmarked for closure and reassignment of its equipment and staff to Avondale in 1984. It closed in July 1985, and sold by July 1986.	Not scheduled

Mount Roskill 504 Mt Albert Road, Three Kings	1927	In April 1927, the Mt Roskill Fire Board commissioned architects Gerald E. Jones and Arthur Palmer to design a purpose-built fire station, which was constructed later that year, and opened by Sir Maui Pomare on 3 December 1927. If the building had been planned just two years later, after amalgamation of the fire districts, D. B. Patterson could well have been the architect, and so the building wouldn't have had the distinctive Dutch gable at the front. The gable was the design of Gerald E. Jones, according to Arthur Palmer. The building appears to have been originally designed for two fire vehicles to be stationed there, judging by the two entrances in the Jones & Palmer plan; by 1980, the station doubled as an ambulance base as well. Alterations to the living area were made in 1959, and there may have also been an earlier extension to this part of the building. In 1970, the Auckland Metropolitan Fire Board subdivided the property, retaining less than half of the original site. The fire service moved from the old station in 2009, and the station was sold in 2011.	Category B historic heritage place UID#: 2546 Values: A, F, H
Remuera 287 Remuera Road,	1916/1928	In December 1915, plans for the purpose-built fire station were drawn up by noted architect Edward Bartley and submitted to Auckland City for approval. This was granted on 15 December	Demolished c. 2004.

Remuera		1915, and work was underway by 29 December that year. It was completed in 1916. The builder was E. Morris. This building was single-storey with a motor garage, watchroom, three bedrooms, store, dining area and equipment rooms. It occupied almost the entire width of the original section obtained by the Auckland Fire Board, save for a side passage beside the western face of the building. The adjoining section to the east was purchased in 1919, 105 and in January 1928 plans were submitted to Auckland City for additions to the original building. These alterations were designed by Daniel B. Patterson. While Bartley's design for the ground floor area on the western side of the building remained largely intact (apart from some alterations to the kitchen and sitting room areas to the rear), Patterson added another storey to the building, enlarged the now engine room, and added extra staff facilities, extending the building to the newer eastern boundary. The façade as can still be seen is Patterson's.	
Avondale 160-162 Blockhouse Bay Road, Avondale	1929	The station was designed by architect Daniel B. Patterson, and built by D. Jack. It was described as a "solid structure of brick with cement front", and included a social hall, three bedrooms on the ground floor and top storey living quarters for the permanent officer in charge. In 1983, plans were prepared to replace the building on the same site with a new fire station, and this was completed soon after. Designed by D. B. Patterson, the station is brick	Demolished in 1983.
179 Long Drive, St Heliers Bay	1930	and tile, incorporating living quarters with the station proper. At first it housed only one engine, but was backed up by the Remuera and Orakei brigades.	c. 2009.
Birkenhead Mokoia Road, Birkenhead	1932	It was described in the first annual report of the Fire Board as being of "reinforced concrete construction in accordance with the Government's earthquake ready regulations", providing sleeping accommodation for 3 men, with provision for nine in total. The engine room	Demolished in 1968.

		was sufficient for two engines.	
Ellerslie corner of Great South Road and Kalmia Street	1934	The architect is not known, but may have been Daniel B. Patterson, as with other stations in the Auckland Fire Board's area. The station was demolished in 1991, and replaced with a new building.	Demolished in 1991.



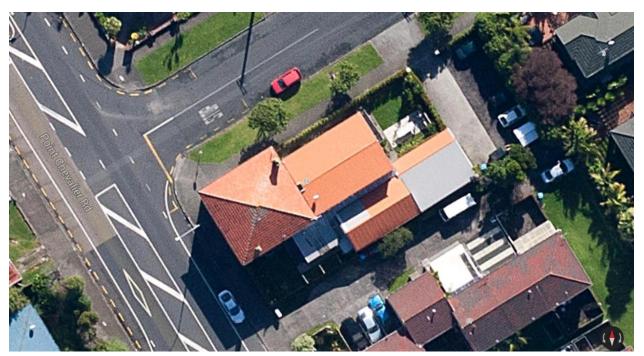
1940 Aerial



1959 Aerial



2010 aerial



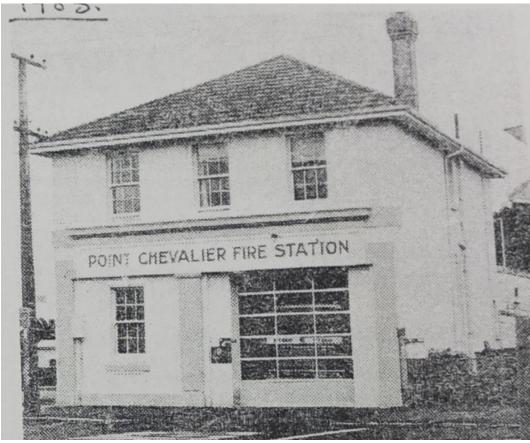
Aerial photo from google maps

Photographs from the mid-1980s when it was sold:66



Note that the dimensional lettering reading "Point Chevalier Fire Station" was removed from the signange band on the primary façade between 1986 and 2007. It is likely to have been removed soon after it was decommissioned.





The station in February 1985.⁶⁷

Photographs from 2007:⁶⁸













Point Chevalier Fire Station (former) Heritage Evaluation, June 2014



Below are a series of photos from google street view from 2008 to 2012:



February 2008



August 2008



November 2009



March 2012



An oblique aerial photograph from Google Maps.

Additional photographs from 13 May 2014 (David Bade, Auckland Council):









Point Chevalier Fire Station (former) Heritage Evaluation, June 2014

The rear of the property. Photos taken from the car park:

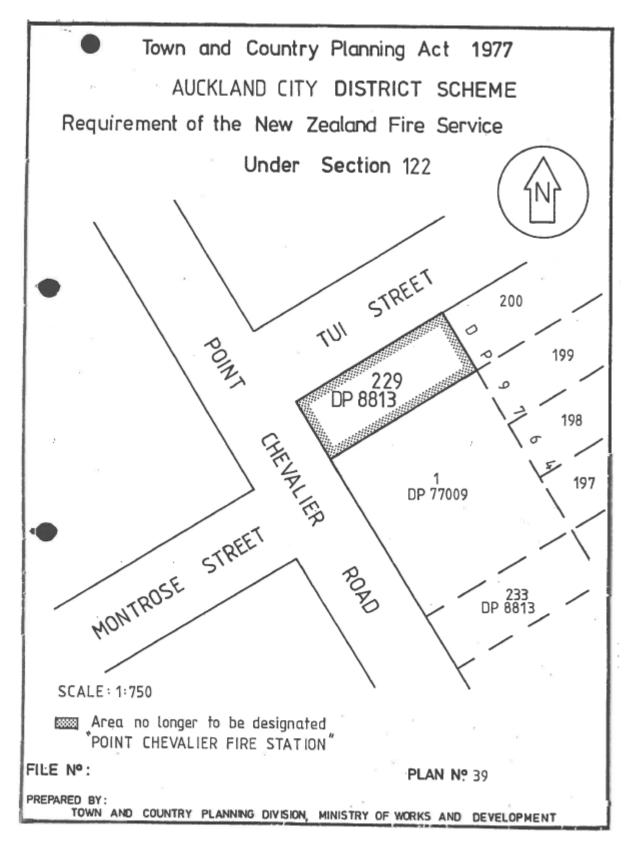




Wise's Auckland Street Directory:

1980 59 Pt. Chev. Rd 1975 57 " " "	Fire Station Fire Station Henk Van Den Brink
1970-1 55 " " "	Ed. A. Brown & Henk Van Den Brink, Station officer
1964-5 55 " " "	Fire Station, Point Chevalier Eric Bell, Station officer
1961 55 " " "	Eric Bell, Station officer
1949 " " "	Fire Station
	Peter Healey, Station officer
1944 " " "	Fire Station
	Peter Healey, Station officer
1940-1 " " "	Pt Chevalier Fire Station
	Peter Healey, Station Officer
1935-6 55 " " "	Fire Station
	Jas. Maskell, superintendent
1930 " " "	Point Chev. Fire Station
	Thos. W. Beech, superintendent
1926-7 """	James Mackey, saddler
	Point Chevalier Fire Station
	Tui Street intersects
1925 " " "	James Mackey, saddler Point Chevalier Fire Station
	Tui Street intersects

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Transfer No. 151187 Reference: Application No. Order for N/C No.	Register-book, Vol. 345 Julio 4	一是一
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or endorsed hereon, subject also to any existing right of the Grown to a of New Zealand) in the land hereinafter described, as the same is delined a little more or less, that is to say: All that parcel of land containing	ake and lay off reads under the provisions of any Act of the General code by the plan hereon bordered. Green the the several adme. "wenty-oight and one bouth (28 /10) Ferches for an devested in the Land Registry, Office at Alock."	asurementa /
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	A.L	<u></u>

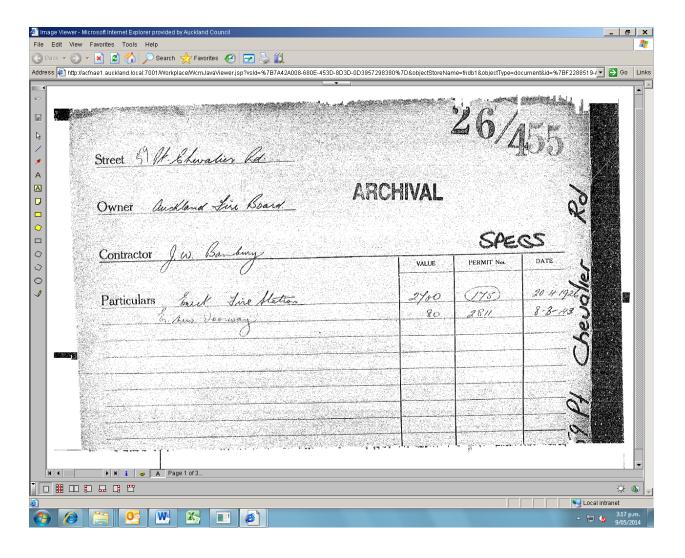


Removal of the Point Chevalier fire station under section 122 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 9 October 1985.

Owners of the site from 2001-2004:

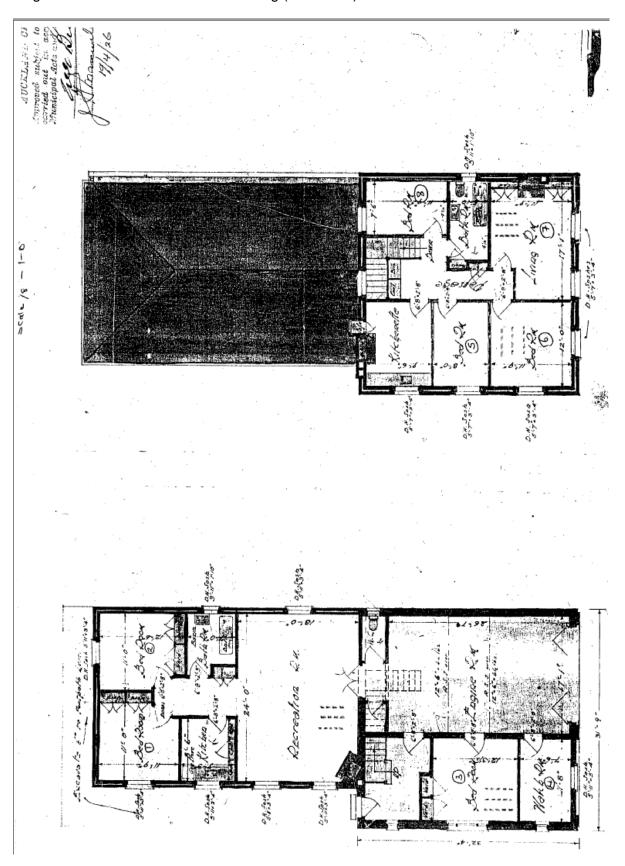
Interests

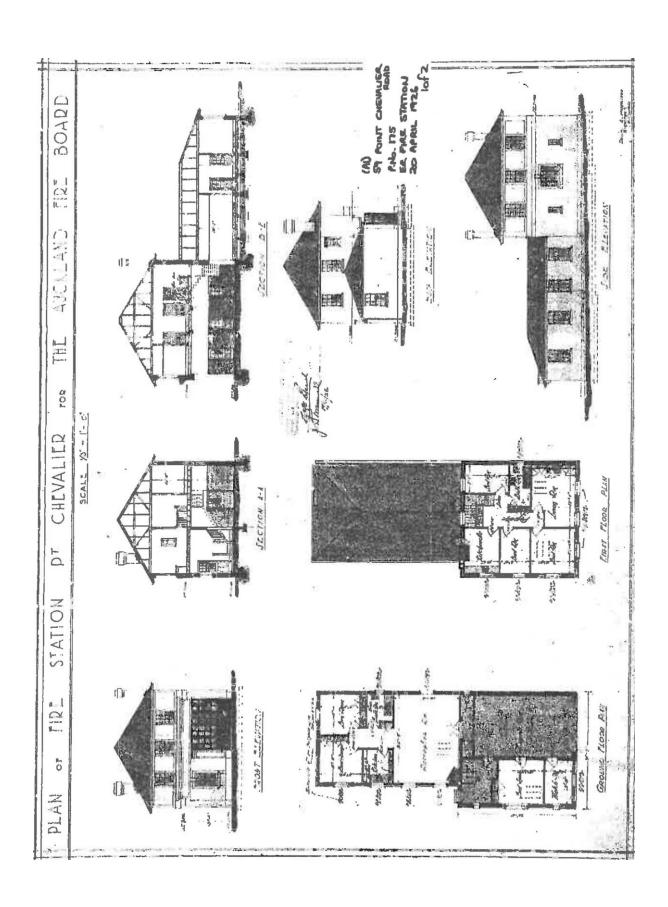
- D610133.3 Mortgage to Bank of New Zealand 5.6.2001 at 3.05 pm
- 5490698.1 Discharge of Mortgage D610133.3 17.2.2003 at 9:00 am
- 5490698.2 Transfer to Station Lodge Limited 17.2.2003 at 9:00 am
- 5490698.3 Mortgage to Public Nominees Limited 17.2.2003 at 9:00 am
- 5490698.4 Mortgage to Sandra Miriam McKechnie 17.2.2003 at 9:00 am
- 5608268.1 Departmental dealing correcting data supporting Instrument Number 5490698.2 3.6.2003 at 10:29 am
- 5931161.1 Discharge of Mortgage 5490698.3 12.3.2004 at 9:00 am
- 5931161.2 Discharge of Mortgage 5490698.4 12.3.2004 at 9:00 am
- 5931161.3 Transfer to Xavier Joseph Rush and Johnston Associates Trustees Limited 12.3.2004 at 9:00 am
- 5931161.4 Mortgage to The National Bank of New Zealand Limited 12.3.2004 at 9:00 am



Appendix 5 Drawings

Original Plans of the Fire Station building (19/4/1926) ⁶⁹

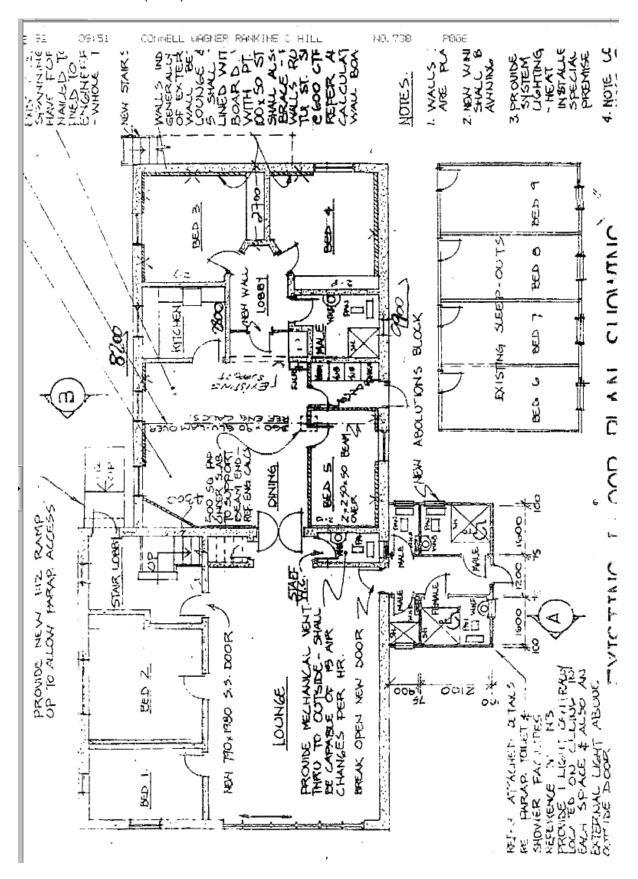




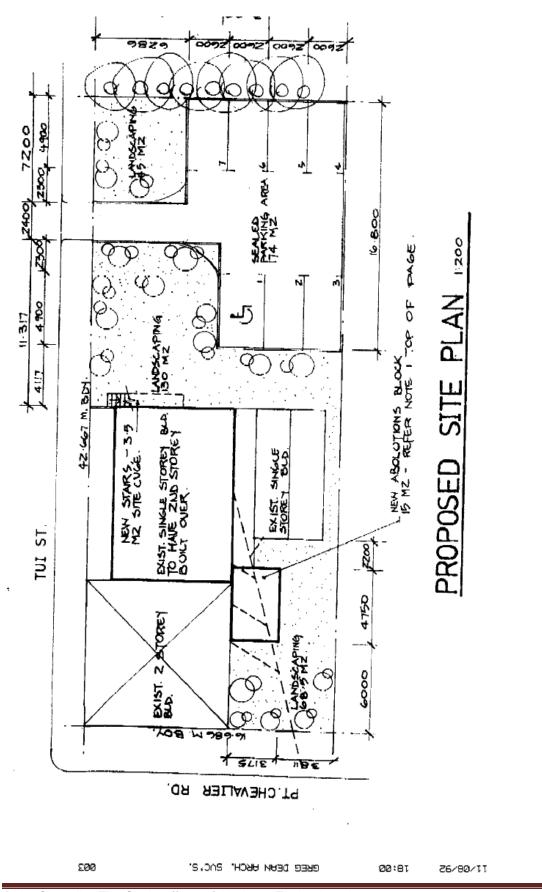
Permit History from Auckland Council FileNet, with two entries:

Erect fire station 20.11.1926- £2700

New doorway (station doors), 8 March 1943, £80, D. B. Patterson – Architect. 70

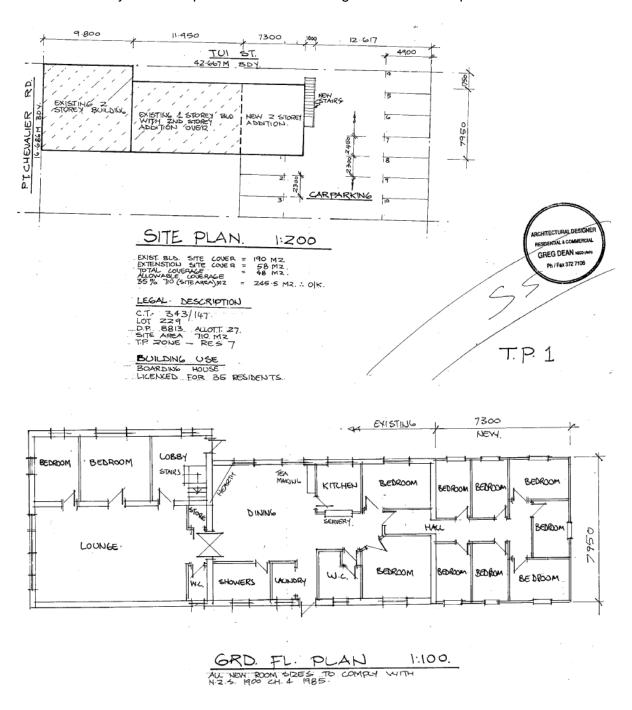


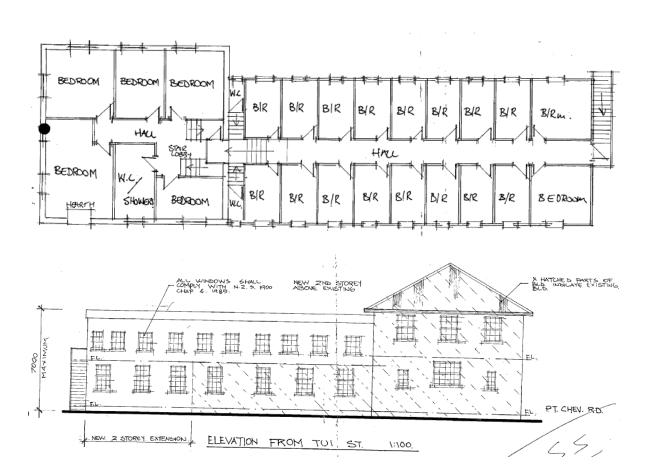
The rear existing single storey addition to have a second storey built over it – 1992 Auckland Council Filenet:



Plans for the 1992 addition - Auckland Council Filenet.

The new 2-storey extention portion of these drawings was never completed.





Endnotes

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<sup>1</sup> The Building Age data is based on Auckland Council rates information, and may be inaccurate. The map shows
an indicative pattern of dwelling ages. Blank lots are where there is no data.
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- ²⁰ New Zealand Herald, 'Fire Station for Point Chevalier', 16 September 1926, p. 11.
- ²¹ Jack Dragicevich, 2005. Assessment Checklist: Old Point Chevalier Fire Station, Isthmus Review site pack.
- ²² Jack Dragicevich, 2005. Assessment Checklist: Old Point Chevalier Fire Station, Isthmus Review site pack.
 ²³ Jack Dragicevich, 2005. Assessment Checklist: Old Point Chevalier Fire Station, Isthmus Review site pack.
- ²⁴ Jack Dragicevich, 2005. Assessment Checklist: Old Point Chevalier Fire Station, Isthmus Review site pack.
- ²⁵ Jack Dragicevich, 2005. Assessment Checklist: Old Point Chevalier Fire Station, Isthmus Review site pack.
- ²⁶ Gillan 1985: 64.
- ²⁷ Jack Dragicevich, 2005. Assessment Checklist: Old Point Chevalier Fire Station, Isthmus Review site pack.

 ²⁸ McLean, G. 1992. Fires and Fire Fighting, p. 141.
- ²⁹ Valuation records, reference to "photographs showing brick St Johns Ambulance Shed" on the site, City Archives.

 30 Jack Dragicevich, 2005. Assessment Checklist: Old Point Chevalier Fire Station, Isthmus Review – site pack.
- ³¹ Auckland Council, 2013. Former Devonport Fire Station Complex evaluation.
- ³² Truttman 2005; St John in New Zealand, 1885-1985, ed. by Rex Wright St-Claire, p. 66.
- ³³ Point Chevalier Times, No. 25 July 2012.
- ³⁴ Weekly News, 11 September 1935, p. 11.
- ³⁵ Jack Dragicevich, 2005. Assessment Checklist: Old Point Chevalier Fire Station, Isthmus Review site pack.
- ³⁶ Jack Dragicevich, 2005. Assessment Checklist: Old Point Chevalier Fire Station, Isthmus Review site pack.
- ³⁷ Weekly News, 'Fire Outbreak in Cabaret', 11 September 1935.
- ³⁸ New Zealand Herald, Obituary Mr P. N. Healey, 5 March 1951.
- ³⁹ Auckland Fire Brigade Historical Society (AFBHS)
- Jack Dragicevich, 2005. Assessment Checklist: Old Point Chevalier Fire Station, Isthmus Review site pack.
- ⁴¹ Jack Dragicevich, 2005. Assessment Checklist: Old Point Chevalier Fire Station, Isthmus Review site pack.
- ⁴² Jack Dragicevich, 2005. Assessment Checklist: Old Point Chevalier Fire Station, Isthmus Review site pack.
- ⁴³ Jack Dragicevich, 2005. Assessment Checklist: Old Point Chevalier Fire Station, Isthmus Review site pack.
- ⁴⁴ Jack Dragicevich, 2005. Assessment Checklist: Old Point Chevalier Fire Station, Isthmus Review site pack.
- ⁴⁵ Jack Dragicevich, 2005. Assessment Checklist: Old Point Chevalier Fire Station, Isthmus Review site pack.
- ⁴⁶ Truttman 2005.
- ⁴⁷ McLean 1992.
- 48 "Residents want to keep fire station", *Auckland Star*, 10 November 1984. P. A4.
- ⁴⁹ Auckland City Harbour News, 'Resident back on fire fighting campaign,' 18 August 1985; Auckland City Harbour News, Fire station 'must stay', 5 February 1985; Point Chevalier News, Issue 31 October 1983, Point Chevalier News, Issue 30 August 1983, Point Chevalier News, Issue 29 June 1983, Point Chevalier News, Issue 34 June-July 1984, *Point Chevalier News*, Issue 32 December 1983; Pt Chevalier News Issue 30 August 1983.
- Auckland Star, 'Residents want to keep fire station,' 10 November 1984, p. A4.
- ⁵¹ Auckland Star, 'Danger to life feared if fire station goes,' 1 September 1983.
- ⁵² Pt Chevalier News Issue 32 December 1983
- ⁵³ Auckland City Harbour News, 'Fire station closes,' 30 July 1985.
- ⁵⁴ Harbour News, 'Auction sets station fate', 11 December 1985.
- 55 Filenet

Auckland Council GIS viewer.

³ Jack Dragicevich, 2005. Assessment Checklist: Old Point Chevalier Fire Station, Isthmus Review – site pack.

Table based on evaluations of the former Devonport Fire Station and the former Mt Roskill Fire Station.

G W A Bush, Decently and in Order, 1971, p. 299.

⁶ The Point Chevalier Hub, https://sites.google.com/site/pointchev/home/history.

⁷ Jack Dragicevich, 2005. Assessment Checklist: Old Point Chevalier Fire Station, Isthmus Review – site pack.

⁸ McLean 1992: 144

⁹ McLean 1992: 59, 66.

¹⁰ Gillan, p. 58.

¹¹ Gillan 1985: 58.

¹² LINZ: CT 343/147; McLean, G., 1992, Fires and Fire Fighting p.144; Gillan, G. M., 1985, United to Protect: An Historical Account of the Auckland Fire Brigade 1848-1985, p.58.

¹³ Jack Dragicevich, 2005. Assessment Checklist: Old Point Chevalier Fire Station, Isthmus Review – site pack. ¹⁴ Gillan 1985: 58.

¹⁵ Jack Dragicevich, 2005. Assessment Checklist: Old Point Chevalier Fire Station, Isthmus Review – site pack.

Permit N. 175, City Archives; Truttman 2005.

¹⁷ New Zealand Building Record, 15 September 1926, p. 3; New Zealand Architecture and Building Review, July 1926, p. 26.

¹⁸ From Auckland Fire Brigade Historical Society (AFBHS).

¹⁹ From Auckland Fire Brigade Historical Society (AFBHS).

62 Truttman 2005.

⁵⁶ "Fire station closes", Auckland City Harbour News, 30 July 1985.

⁵⁷ Gillan 1985: 108.

⁵⁸ Jack Dragicevich, 2005. Assessment Checklist: Old Point Chevalier Fire Station, Isthmus Review – site pack.

⁵⁹ Harbour News, 'Auction sets station fate', 11 December 1985. 60 New Zealand Herald, 'Fire Station Sold,' 19 December 1985.

⁶¹ Auckland Fire Brigade Historical Society, http://afbhs.co.nz/2012/stations-and-equipment/pt-chev-station/

Table based on evaluations of the former Devonport Fire Station and the former Mt Roskill Fire Station.

64 All these photos are from google street view (May 2012)

⁶⁵ Based on research conducted by Lisa Truttman for Salmond Reed Architects, 2011. Former Mt Roskill Fire Station- Heritage Assessment.

66 Auckland Fire Brigade Historical Society, http://afbhs.co.nz/2012/stations-and-equipment/pt-chev-station/
67 Auckland City Harbour News, Fire station 'must stay', 5 February 1985.

⁶⁸ Isthmus Review – site pack, Auckland Council. 69 Isthmus Review – site pack, Auckland Council.

⁷⁰ ACC Archives Permit No. PN 2811.