



Public Trust Building

Broadway

1924

Use: Church
Materials: Concrete
NZHPT Registered: Not registered
Legal Description: Pt Sec 286 Town of Stratford

Historic Value: 3 out of 5
Architectural Value: 2 out of 4
Technical Value: - out of 2
Symbolic Value: 1 out of 3
Rarity Value: - out of 2
Townscape Value: 1 out of 2
Group Value: 1 out of 2

Overall Heritage Value: 8 out of 20



The Public Trust was set up by the New Zealand Government in 1873, making it New Zealand's largest and oldest trustee organisation. Their mandate was and still is to protect the future of New Zealanders.

Public Trust Offices are unique in that the very large majority of them are of similar architectural style and a lot of cities and towns have them.

The Stratford Public Trust Building was officially opened on 20th June 1924 in a ceremony conducted by Prime Minister Hon. J.G. Coates, which also included the opening of Victoria Bridge and the new Post Office.

The architect of the building was T.H. Bates and originally the building had a larger, more grand façade and parapet. It is believed that Bates was responsible for the façade changes as well. They probably occurred in the 1930s, and the removal of the large top layer is likely to have been sparked by the Napier Earthquake.

Currently the Church of the Latter Day Saints occupies the whole building.

Although these buildings seem common around New Zealand, there is no disputing the importance a district placed upon such an office being opened in their town, nor the imposing beauty of the Grecian architecture.



Detail of architecture

Bibliography:

Pukeariki Image Record; D.2a.8

Stratford Jubilee: 1878-1928

Public Trust on New Zealand Government website: <http://www.govt.nz/record?recordid=144> [accessed 24 August 2005]