



## Heritage Buildings Report

Site ID

Building/Site Name

Bridger Residence (Former)

Address

96 Lemon Street, New Plymouth



### Statement of Significance

This bay villa was constructed for Edward Hunt during 1902-03. The house was sold to Mr James Bridger of Eltham in 1903, and it remained his residence until his death in 1939. The exterior of the house retains a high degree of integrity and has probably changed little since first constructed. The building has strong contextual value as both part of a continuous row of three single-storey wooden villas (including 92 and 96 Lemon Street) constructed between the 1880s and early 1900s, and as part of a wider group of interesting heritage buildings along Lemon, Eliot and Pendarves Streets.



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### Legal Information and Heritage Status

|                             |                                      |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Legal Description           | PT Section 1605 Town of New Plymouth |
| District Plan Item/ Map No. |                                      |
| Heritage New Zealand List   | Not listed                           |

### Construction Information

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Date of Construction       | Circa 1902-03                                  |
| Principal Materials        | Wooden framing, weatherboard, corrugated steel |
| Construction Professionals | Unknown  |

### History

In April 1897 Town Section 1605 was conveyed to Mary Jane Coleman (nee Coulthard), who was the wife of New Plymouth carpenter Arthur John Coleman.<sup>1</sup> At this time the present house at neighbouring 94 Lemon Street (western portion) was already in existence (constructed between 1882 and 1887), whilst the eastern half of the section was vacant. During the 1901-02 rating year Town Section 1605 was purchased by Edwin Barber Bates, the property was subdivided, and titles issued under the Land Transfer Act.<sup>2</sup> A Land Transfer Act Notice appearing in the Taranaki Herald during early February 1902 noted that Bates was the applicant, with Coleman listed as the occupier of the section.<sup>3</sup>

During the 1902-03 rating year, the eastern portion was sold to Edward Hunt, with Bates retaining ownership of the western portion with house.<sup>4</sup> Hunt had the present villa constructed soon after purchasing the section, and although a permit cannot be found for the construction of a full dwelling, a permit was issued on the 14th October 1902 for the construction of a brick chimney on Town Section 1605, and it's thought this probably relates to the construction of the present villa.<sup>5</sup>

Hunt is first listed as the ratepayer for Part Town Section 1605 during the 1903-04 rating year, and at this time a house is noted as being constructed on the section, with the property valued at £18.<sup>6</sup> In October 1903 it was reported that Messrs Carthew and Company had sold during the month of September "Mr E. Hunt's pretty residence situated in Lemon Street, to Mr Bridger, of Eltham".<sup>7</sup> James Bridger seems to have retired to New Plymouth, and remained living in the house until his death on 21 August 1939; he is buried in the nearby Te Henui Cemetery.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Taranaki Land Deed Indexes (23516), c.1858 - c.1928, Archives New Zealand

<sup>2</sup> DP1751, Land Information New Zealand

<sup>3</sup> *Taranaki Herald*, 1 February 1902, page 3

<sup>4</sup> New Plymouth Borough Council Rating Book 1902-03, NPDC Archives

<sup>5</sup> NPBC Building Register Book 1902-22, Puke Ariki Archives (ARC2011-204)

<sup>6</sup> New Plymouth Borough Council Rating Book 1903-04, NPDC Archives

<sup>7</sup> *Taranaki Daily News*, 10 October 1903, page 2

<sup>8</sup> NPDC Cemetery Search, <http://www.newplymouthnz.com/Residents/Facilities-and-Services/Cemeteries-and-Crematorium/Cemetery-Search>; Accessed 1 December 2018



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Detail from view of New Plymouth taken from Fort Niger showing 92 and 94 Lemon Street; 96 Lemon Street is yet to be constructed. *Supplement to the Auckland Weekly News*, 25 June 1898, page 2, Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries, AWNS-18980625-2-2



Detail from view of New Plymouth taken from Fort Niger showing 92, 94 and 96 Lemon Street all present, undated, (post-1909, circa early-1910s), Puke Ariki, A.3.299.

### Reference Sources

See footnotes.



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### Description

This building is located in a city fringe street several blocks from New Plymouth's CBD, and just east of New Plymouth's main southern entrance on Eliot Street/SH3. Located within Frederick Carrington's original Town of New Plymouth, this area was settled early in New Plymouth's history, and the surrounding blocks contain a number of pre-1900 dwellings. Whilst development pressures since the 1970s have resulted in an eclectic mix of architectural styles, the area still retains a sense of historical character now uncommon in New Plymouth.

96 Lemon Street is the youngest building in a continuous row of three single-storey wooden villas (including 92 and 94 Lemon Street) constructed between the 1880s and early 1900s. This row is part of a larger group of interesting heritage buildings along Lemon, Eliot and Pendarves Streets, with the HNZ listed 'Hen and Chickens' Historic Area (1860s) also located nearby on Pendarves Street.

The main form of this building is an L-plan villa, with a wide east-west gable intersected by a narrow north-south gable. The building is clad in horizontal weatherboard, the roof is sheathed in ridged steel, and the windows are mostly double-hung sashes. A brick chimney finished with dentil courses rises from the roof at the rear.

The main front (northern) elevation faces Lemon Street and is minimally decorated. A Chicago window is located on the gable end wall, above which is located a shallow bracketed hood. The gable end is finished with decorative fret-sawn stencil panels and a finial at the apex. A simple post and beam veranda with sloping roof extends along the remainder of the frontage, under which is a single double-hung sash and front entrance door. The door is timber, with two solid panels to the bottom, and a single glazed panel to the top. The door is flanked by narrow timber panelled and patterned glazed panels, with further glazed panels above.

### Assessment:

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>Historical</b>   | Whilst not known to have been occupied by any persons of particular note, the house was owned and occupied by the Bridger family for a considerable period.  | ✓ |
| <b>Importance to Community</b>  | -  |   |
| <b>Architecture &amp; Construction</b>  | Incorporates architectural features uncommon in New Plymouth including Chicago window and decorative fret-sawn panel.  | ✓ |
| <b>Setting and Context</b>  | This house has contextual value as part of a continuous row of three villas constructed between the 1880s and early-1900s. Both individually, and as part of a group, this building contributes positively to the surrounding streetscape. | ✓ |
| <b>Archaeology</b>  | -  |   |
| <b>Representativeness, rarity and integrity</b>   | The building is representative of early 1900s bay villas, and largely retains its original exterior form and key architectural details.  | ✓ |
| <b>Meets threshold for listing</b> (three or more ticks, or two ticks in one criterion) |  | ✓ |