

Heritage Buildings Report

Site ID

Building/Site Name

Pukekura Park Ticket Boxes

Address

Pukekura Park Sports Ground, Liardet Street, New Plymouth



Statement of Significance

These two ticket boxes, located adjacent to Pukekura Park's Sports Ground, were constructed by the Sports Ground Committee in 1931. Set amongst picturesque mature gardens, these simple gabled wooden boxes are designed in the bungalow style popular at the time. They are part of a wider group of heritage structures located within Pukekura Park and Brooklands that contribute to the area's unique character and sense of identity. They are the only known ticket boxes of this style and age within New Plymouth.

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Legal Information and Heritage Status

Legal Description -

District Plan Item/ Map No.

Heritage New Zealand List Not listed

Construction Information

Date of Construction 1931

Principal Materials Wooden framing, weatherboard, corrugated steel

Construction Professionals Frank Amooore (presumed architect and builder)

History

New Plymouth's Pukekura Park, originally known as the Recreation Ground, was established in 1876. It was the vision of local lawyer Robert Clinton Hughes, who persuaded the Taranaki Provincial Government to dedicate 12 hectares of wasteland near New Plymouth as a recreational reserve.¹ The new reserve was officially opened on 29 May 1876 and was celebrated with the planting of the first four trees on Cannon Hill.²

The area now comprising the sportsground was initially a swamp, and was gradually filled between 1883 and 1885, and the first football (rugby) match was held at the ground in April 1885.³ In 1889, a Sports Ground Committee was formed with the aim of transforming the ground into a cricket venue.⁴ The first cricket match was held in December 1892, and from 1900, further works were undertaken to enlarge the grounds and provide more terraced seating.⁵ The ground became a popular spot for a variety of sports and public gatherings from rugby and cricket matches, to ... In order to raise funds for maintenance and development of the grounds, spectators were sometimes charged a small entrance fee, and this was initially collected by attendants standing at the entrances.

In 1931, it was agreed by the Sports Ground Committee to construct two ticket boxes to be placed at the inner entrances to the grounds. At the 25 March 1931 meeting of the Sports Ground Committee, it was moved by J. Garcia and F. J. Hill that Frank Amooore and L. Little procure the timber for two ticket boxes.⁶ It is probable that the ticket boxes were constructed by Amooore, who was a well-known New Plymouth builder. At the 12 May 1931 meeting of the Pukekura Park Board, it was resolved that "the new ticket boxes erected by the Sports Ground Committee be painted with some colour to harmonise with the surroundings".⁷

A further two ticket boxes were added to the sportsground in 1938 and are located within the main Liardet Street entrance gates, constructed following a bequest from the Estate of Charles Score Sanders.⁸

¹ *Taranaki Herald*, 3 August 1916, page 5

² Ibid

³ *Taranaki Herald*, 27 April 1885, page 2

⁴ *Taranaki Herald*, 3 August 1916, page 5

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Minutes of the New Plymouth Borough Council Sportsground Committee, Puke Ariki, ARC2010-158

⁷ Minutes of the Pukekura Park Board, Puke Ariki, ARC2001-515

⁸ *Taranaki Herald*, 7 July 1938, page 2

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Reference Sources

See footnotes.

Description

These two ticket boxes are located within New Plymouth's Pukekura Park, at the main Liardet Street carpark, and adjacent to the track entrances either side of the Brian Bellringer Pavilion. They are one of a number of heritage structures located within Pukekura Park and Brooklands that contribute to the area's unique character and sense of identity.

The ticket boxes are simple, yet attractive buildings, designed in the bungalow vernacular popular at the time. They are essentially square, gabled boxes with overhanging eaves; the latter featuring exposed rafters. Clad in horizontal bevel-back weatherboard, their moderately pitched roofs are sheathed in a mixture of corrugated steel and modern clear corrugated polycarbonate sheet to provide additional interior light.

The front elevations incorporate a small rectangular opening with sill and simple pedimented surround; when not in use, the opening is filled with a solid drop-down timber slab. The rear of ticket boxes are almost entirely occupied by a simple ledged and braced door clad in vertical tongue and groove timber.

Assessment:

Historical	These ticket boxes have heritage significance for their almost 90 years association with the Pukekura Park Sports Ground and the events held thereon.	✓
Importance to Community	Pukekura Park is held in high esteem by locals and visitors alike, and many people will have memories of attending events at the park, for which tickets were purchased from these buildings.	✓
Architecture & Construction	-	
Setting and Context	These two ticket boxes, along with those concealed within the nearby Sanders Entrance Gates, form a unique group of structures all serving a common purpose. They are part of a wider group of buildings and structures located throughout Pukekura Park, and which contribute positively to the area's special character.	✓
Archaeology	-	
Representativeness, rarity and integrity	These two buildings are the only known ticket boxes of this style and age within New Plymouth. They retain a high degree of integrity and remain much the same today as when they were first built.	✓
Meets threshold for listing (three or more ticks, or two ticks in one criterion)		✓