

16 Guy Avenue

NZHPT Registration Number: 2851
NZHPT Registration Type: Category II
NZHPT Registration Date: 02/07/82
District Plan status: Category II



Brief History

This property is a good example of a late nineteenth century middle class home, one of the first built on Rangitikei Street. It is also important for its links with the Guy family. Stafford and Milne (probably Wellington agents) are recorded in 1866 as the first owner of section 281, a ten-acre block fronting Rangitikei Street between Featherston St and Grey Streets. By 1879 the property had been acquired by G M Snelson along with the adjoining blocks, 280 and 282. It was tenanted in succession by Thomas Parkes, Thomas Stubbs and John Raily. In 1887 the land was sold to Joseph Beale who built the house in 1893 and sold it to Andrew Guy in 1899. Guy was a member of a prominent family in Buteshire, Scotland and became a well-known solicitor and founder of the legal firm now known as Cooper, Rapley, Bennett and Thomson.

Originally the property included the ten acres of land with a frontage on Rangitikei Street. Entry was by way of a tree-lined drive skirting a tennis court, shrubbery and gardens. On the opposite side a fine plantation of exotic trees gave shelter from the easterly winds. The Guy family was large and the house was the centre of social life, which included balls, musical evenings and tennis parties. After Guy's death his widow, Ellen, began subdivision in 1938, this leading to the formation of Guy Avenue.

The house was sold in the same year to Elizabeth Jane Duncan, spinster. It was transferred in July 1950 to John Henry Duncan, retired blacksmith. It was sold to Clarence Hunt in 1954 and to Ivan Moel Elliott in 1977.

The house is an example of a relatively plain square villa and is one of the few built in the 1890s to have two storeys. It is of weatherboard construction with an iron roof, which consists of four equal portions meeting at a central point. It has two bay windows with ornamental window hoods on the ground floor, separated by a small front porch. Kauri was used for much of the interior. There have been few changes though the kitchen was altered in 1960.

Principal Sources:

Manawatu Branch HPT Record 1010084.

Woodhouse ED, *Colonial Homes of Palmerston North*, Wellington, AH & AW Reed, 1975.

City Library Photograph Collection BUR 249,250,251,252,253,254,255,256.