

# Craiglockhart (Moginie House)

Massey University Campus, Tennent Drive, Palmerston North

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NZHPT Registration Number: 1185  
NZHPT Registration Type: Historic Place – Category II  
NZHPT Registration Date: 25/11/82  
City/District Council: Palmerston North City Council  
District Plan Status: Category 2



## Brief History

Craiglockhart was built around 1890 for Charles J Monro and Helena Monro (nee MacDonald) who had purchased the site of 51 acres a year earlier. The house was named Craiglockhart after the family estate in Scotland. Charles Monro was the son of Dr (later Sir) David Monro, who arrived in Nelson, New Zealand in 1842 where he subsequently owned a number of farms. David Monro was Speaker of the House of Representatives in 1861 and knighted in 1886. The architect is not known, but family sources remember he was Wanganui based and that construction was carried out by Palmerston North firm, Kibblewhite and Taylor. For part of his education, Charles Monro returned to England where he attended Christ College, Finchley. There he participated in the new game of rugby football, and on his return to New Zealand organised the first rugby match played in this country. This took place at Nelson on 14 May 1870, between the teams of Nelson College and Nelson town. A lookout, erected on Monro Hill along Bourke Road in 1970 by the New Zealand Rugby Football Union and the National Roads Board commemorates Charles Monro as the introducer of the game of rugby to New Zealand. Remnants of an extensive vinery and orchard established by the Monro family at the bottom of the Monro Hill cliff can still be found there today.

Craiglockhart was purchased by Massey Agricultural College in 1944 with a bequest from Mrs M Moginie of Auckland. Mrs Moginie held a particular interest in the provision of university training for women in agriculture and horticulture and hence the house became a women's hostel, which it remains today, and for some years was known as Moginie House.

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*Principal Sources:*

Palmerston North Heritage Trails Working Party, *Massey History Walk*, 1994.

Palmerston North City Library Photograph Collection Bur 16, 37; Ma4, 17, 54; Pi116, 118, 119; Ro21, 22.