

Rangimarie

3 Rangiora Avenue, Palmerston North

NZHPT Registration Number: 1268
NZHPT Registration Type: Historic Place-Category II
NZHPT Registration Date: 02/07/82
City/District Council: Palmerston North
District Plan Status: Category II, House and stables, 1987



Brief History

A large section on Featherston Street was bought in 1902 by Charles M Ross, the founder of the department store Rosco in the Square, now the City Library. The house was built in 1908. Ross died in 1924 and the property passed to his widow Keren who lived there until her death in 1954. In 1940 Mrs Ross sold 20 acres (about 8 hectares) surrounding the house to the government, which was acquiring land for state housing, and the subsequent development of Rangiora and Moheke Avenues reduced the extensive grounds of the house. Other nearby land was purchased by the State and the whole area was called the Ross Block until in 1948 the suburb was named Roslyn. From 1959-1988 the house was used as a rest home and then bought by N Hope, J Johnson and M Le Fevre.

The distinguishing feature of the house is the symmetrical front elevation with a small flight of steps between two reception rooms with projecting, gabled bay windows set on the diagonal at each corner.

External decoration includes stickwork walls, ornate fretwork to the gables, porch and veranda, and brackets under the eaves. The small entrance leads to a study and the larger main entrance is to the left. The hall is panelled on walls and ceiling and ends with a fine arch leading to a side hall. The interior has been extensively altered from time to time and a new wing was added in the 1920s. Several of the old fireplaces retain the original surrounds. The original stables are listed on the NZHPT Register and are maintained.

Principal Sources:

Manawatu Branch NZHPT Record 010066.

Ian Matheson City Archives: CM Ross sub series 2/23/2.

Palmerston North City Library Photograph Collection: BUR 68, 273.

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