

Ruahine Street

House Group Numbers 239 and 241

NZHPT Registration Number: 2854
NZHPT Registration Type: Historic Place- Category II
NZHPT Registration Date: 2/7/82
District Plan status: Category II



Brief History

A block of land on Ruahine Street was vested in the Borough Council in 1887 to help finance a hospital for Palmerston North and sold in 1893 for this purpose. Lot 8 on which the two houses were later built was bought by Thomas Edwards, sheep farmer, and passed on his death to Robert Edwards, architect, Mayor of Palmerston North 1892-93. He was well known for building the first public swimming pool in the city. The land was then bought by F J Hanlon, settler, in 1903 and passed to his son, Lawrence, bricklayer, who had the houses built in 1906.

After 1919 they were owned by a series of working people until 1970s when Alexander Clark Ltd bought them as rental properties. They were bought by the Palmerston North City Council in 1983 but have since been sold.

The two houses gain value by having been designed as a pair, a mirror image of each other. The design is similar to that of 40, 42 and 44 Ranfurly Street, which were built about the same time - narrow, one-room wide wooden cottages with corrugated iron roofs. They all have the same floor plan, typical of cottages designed to fit on narrow urban sections. Two bedrooms open off a short passage that leads to the living room and kitchen, which span the width of the house. The front windows are, however, slightly different in the two groups of houses. Both houses in Ruahine Street have a lean-to added to the back. The houses have an 11ft stud, wooden ceilings, original doors and skirting boards and are probably built of totara.

Principal Sources:

Manawatu Branch HPT Record 010028.

