

# Auckland Council District Plan (North Shore Section)

## Proposed Plan Change 38

### Proposed New Item

#### Appendix 11A: Schedule of Buildings, Objects and Places of Heritage Significance



**Name:** Former Police Station  
**Address:** 11 Clarence Road, Northcote

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ID: 536	Category: B	Use: Residential	DP Map: 30
Material 1:	Condition:	Cultural Heritage:	
Material 2:	Integrity:	Streetscape:	
<u>Construction Dates</u>			
From: 1914-1915	To:	Alteration Dates:	
Legal Description: Lot 9 DP 4187		Zoning: Residential 3C	

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**Architect/Designer/Contractor:**

Possibly by Auckland District Engineer, Department of Public Works, Frederick Bigg-Wither (1852-1934).

**Architectural Style:**

The house is a single level Edwardian bay villa. It has been altered with the addition of a turret (date not known) as well as additions and alterations to provide a

bathroom at the rear of the house. It incorporates detailing in timber not typically found on most villas and more typical of Government buildings of the era such as the panel beneath the windows and base line that extends around the walls at the sill and head height of the windows. The windows are double hung sash windows with multi-paned upper sashes, rather than the more typical two-light sashes.

**Reference Source:**

NA 185/57, LINZ records

Frederick Bigg-Wither, 1852-1934", from [http://www.bigg-wither.com/People/Frederick\\_Bigg-Wither\\_1852-1934.htm](http://www.bigg-wither.com/People/Frederick_Bigg-Wither_1852-1934.htm), sighted 4 October 2010

"Police – Northcote Police Station", BBAD/1054/2034/a/17/11, Archives New Zealand NA 67C/914, LINZ records

Jack Ralston, *Northcote's Past*, p. 15

Syd Carter, *Northcote's Past*, p. 58

North Shore City Council Property records:

BA 13705 Alterations and additions for bathroom t rear

LD 13/12/2001 Small addition at the rear designed by Dingo Design. The floor plans suggest that the house has had several alterations including the lantern on the roof but drawings for this alteration were not located on Dataworks.

**NZHPT Listing:**

Not Registered by NZHPT.

**Significant Elements:**

**Extent of Listing:**

Entire exterior of building/dwelling.

**History:**

The site was purchased by the Crown from Auckland merchant Arthur Parsons O'Leary in 1913. <sup>1</sup> The building was possibly designed by Auckland District Engineer, Department of Public Works, Frederick Bigg-Wither (1852-1934). He worked with the Public Works Department and Survey Department from 1873, becoming Resident Engineer in Auckland in 1909, Acting District Engineer from 1912, and by the time of the building of the Northcote Police Station, District Engineer for the area. He retired in 1917. <sup>2</sup>

Tenders for the construction of the Northcote police station were advertised in July 1914, the lowest received being that of James Giles from Northcote. Unfortunately, due to a clerical error revealing a discrepancy in the totals, the tenders were advertised again in October 1914. Once again, James Giles provided the lowest tender, £771, which was accepted in November 1914. A number of local contractors worked on the building's construction and preparation: E Swindale of Hinemoa Road, Birkenhead (excavating, bricklaying and drainage); H J Pearce, Richmond Ave, Northcote (painting and decorating); A Warbrick, Hall's Corner, Takapuna (joinery); Herbert H Broady, Queen Street, Northcote (plumbing.) The building was completed in February 1915. <sup>3</sup>

Jack Ralston recalled: "First policeman was Mr [Denny] Rowl[e]s, then Sam Flavell (grandson – Arthur Williams is headmaster of Belmont School). Police station was in

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<sup>1</sup> NA 185/57, LINZ records

<sup>2</sup> "Frederick Bigg-Wither, 1852-1934", from [http://www.bigg-wither.com/People/Frederick\\_Bigg-Wither\\_1852-1934.htm](http://www.bigg-wither.com/People/Frederick_Bigg-Wither_1852-1934.htm), sighted 4 October 2010

<sup>3</sup> "Police – Northcote Police Station", BBAD/1054/2034/a/17/11, Archives New Zealand

Clarence Road. If one was arrested, usually taken over on ferry to the lock up in Princes Street near old barracks in City but if it was after the last boat locked up at police station here.”<sup>4</sup>

Syd Carter noted: “Dennie Rowles had quite a big district. He used to ride a horse and go out towards Glenfield which used to be called Mayfield in those days and round towards Takapuna.”<sup>5</sup>

The North Shore was policed from Auckland until 1869 when the first local policeman was appointed by the Flagstaff Highway Board.<sup>6</sup> In 1873 a special constable was appointed at Devonport and took over some of the duties of the existing policeman, including keeping the local pound and dealing with the rabbit nuisance on Mt Victoria.<sup>7</sup>

The police station was opened at 110 Hinemoa Street, Birkenhead, in 1905-6 followed by the one at 11 Clarence Street, Northcote in 1915.<sup>8</sup> During the late 1960s a national survey of the police department was carried out and this resulted in restructuring of the organisation. In an effort to improve efficiency many smaller stations were closed.<sup>9</sup> In 1969 the Northcote police station was closed and responsibility for the area was given to the Birkenhead mobile patrol with afterhours cover provided by Takapuna.<sup>10</sup> The building was sold by the Crown to private owners in 1992.<sup>11</sup>

## **Statement of Significance**

### **Architecture:**

The house is of value as an example of an Edwardian villa, thought to have been designed by Auckland District Engineer, Department of Public Works, Frederick Bigg-Wither (1852-1934). It includes timber detailing and joinery not typically found on villas in this area. This house has however been periodically altered including the addition of a glazed roof turret.

### **History:**

The house is significant as the purpose-built policeman's house for Northcote constructed in 1914-15.

The building is important in representing themes in the historic development of Birkenhead including Residential Architecture and Justice.

### **Context:**

The house is part of the substantial stock of villa type houses extant in Clarence Road and on Northcote Point which define the built character of the area.

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<sup>4</sup> Jack Ralston, *Northcote's Past*, p. 15

<sup>5</sup> Syd Carter, *Northcote's Past*, p. 58

<sup>6</sup> *North Shore Times Advertiser*, 28 January 1975, p.17.

<sup>7</sup> 'Takapuna H.Q. Northern Police Division: Souvenir Programme of 62<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Station Opening, 29 May 1912', Vertical File, Police, Takapuna Library, p.12.

<sup>8</sup> *Appendices to the Journals of the House of Representatives*, 1900, H-16, p.1 and 1906, H-16, p.8.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.* p.137.

<sup>10</sup> *North Shore Times Advertiser*, 3 July 1969, p.3.

<sup>11</sup> NA 67C/914, LINZ records