



Centennial Rest Rooms

Fenton

1948

Use:	Rest rooms	Historic Value:	2 out of 5
Materials:	Timber	Architectural Value:	2 out of 4
NZHPT Registered:	Not registered	Technical Value:	- out of 2
Legal Description:	Secs 125 126 470-484 508-518 781 858 935 936 1024 1036 1037 1038 Tn of Stratford Pt Sec 28 Blk I Ngaere SD (Sec 781)	Symbolic Value:	1 out of 3



Rarity Value:	- out of 2
Townscape Value:	1 out of 2
Group Value:	- out of 2
Overall Heritage Value:	6 out of 20

New Zealand celebrated its centennial in 1940, and as part of these commemorations, Stratford developed the Centennial Park – containing the facilities of a swing bridge, play area, the pools, and the rest rooms.

Before the rest rooms were built, women experienced difficult trips to Stratford. Coming with their husbands from out of town on sale days or business trips, they had no place in which they could care for the demands of their babies and young children. This was especially apparent when motor cars became the main mode of transport – before this; the stables had offered simple facilities for them. The mothers had to rely on relatives or friends living in Stratford to have somewhere to rest and look after their children; failing this, they had to use their own ingenuity.

The Centennial Rest Rooms building was officially opened in 1948, and its conveniences were (and still are) much used and enjoyed by the women of Stratford district. The rooms became not only an equipped and much needed area, but also a place where women could meet to gossip and socialise.

Bibliography

Stratford District Centenary 1878-1978