


AUCKLAND CITY STREETSCAPE STUDY RECORD FORM


Preliminary Information



LOCATION / ADDRESS: Potters Park ,Dominion Road, Corner of Balmoral Road.	ITEM NUMBER	CATEGORY (IF SCHEDULED)
		
NAME (IF ANY) NUMBER, STREET, LOCALITY, WARD Potters Park	LEGAL DESCRIPTION	
BUILDING / STRUCTURAL / OBJECT / SITE USE: <input type="checkbox"/> RESIDENTIAL <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> INSTITUTIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> RECREATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURAL	OTHER LISTINGS	
HISTORY & KNOWN ASSOCIATIONS <p>Potters Park was created on land gifted by Frederick Seymour Potter to the Mt Eden Borough Council in 1916, on the basis that it would be held in perpetuity as open space for the citizens of the area.</p> <p>Frederick Potter was born in England in 1857 and arrived in New Zealand with his family in 1858. He became a partner in his father's Coachbuilding and blacksmiths business; Gee and Potter, which was established in 1859. Frederick Potter acquired the title to the land now forming Potters Park shortly before his marriage to Ellen Barnes. Ellen was the granddaughter of James Paice who was a major early land owner in the Mt Eden area, and had purchased this land (allotment 107) in 1862, along with allotments 108 and 109 on the other side of Balmoral Road.</p> <p>Ellen and Frederick married in 1909 and Ellen died in 1912 shortly after the death of her first baby.</p> <p>The Potters lived in a substantial villa on the property, which was landscaped around the house with a sweeping driveway, shrubberies and statues. Having initially offered to sell the land to the Mt Eden Borough Council for a sum well below its market value Potter then offered to donate the land" in the interests of the residents and children of the Borough"</p> <p>Potter was a generous Auckland benefactor who also donated land to Takapuna Borough Council for as Park in 1929, as well as two properties to the Grand Masonic Lodge. He established a trust to ensure the maintenance of a boys home on one of these properties in Papakura.</p> <p>Potter died at Auckland Hospital at the age of 84 on March 29, 1941.</p> <p>The 7 ½ acre park was formally opened in 1921 by Governor General Lord Jellicoe. ¹ Potter retained the use of his family home which was eventually demolished in 1938 and the site amalgamated with the park. Immediately after World War I a contract was let for the laying out of the park. It was landscaped with trees, rockeries, and paths.</p> <p>An area of about 1acre was set aside fronting Balmoral Road to provide a Children's playground. Play equipment was provided, similar to that in Myers park and Victoria Park which were two of the first parks in Auckland to include children's playgrounds. The children's play equipment at Potters Park included "three sliding chutes, swings, see-saws, maypole and sand tray." A marble slab was presented by Parkinson's and Co. to note "these provisions for children's for children's amusement were donated by the residents of Mt Eden in recognition of the gift of the park by F S Potter Esq."</p> <p>Rockeries and flower beds along the Balmoral Road frontage were donated by a bequest from a Trust. Mr Oliver Nicholson, former Mayor of Mt Eden was one of the trustees. Shrubs and plants were donated by the Auckland Racing Club, as well as several residents. Other parts of the park were to be laid out for football fields and cricket pitches.</p> <p>The rockeries flower beds, and play equipment were designed by Mr J Rogers, the borough Engineer, who also supervised the works.²</p>	ZONING Open Space 2	

¹ DP 4042, LINZ records

² NZ Herald December 3 1921.page 10

<p>The stand of mature pines is thought to have remained for the previous use of the site. The park contains a number of rare palms .During the First World War the land was still unimproved and extensive ditches were dug within the area of Potters Park, which were covered with trap doors. In addition the park was used to grow vegetables for the Council run scheme to assist the Patriotic Fund. Beans, beetroot, lettuce, and potatoes grown at Potters Park were sold through the Patriotic shops in the area to raise funds for servicemen and their families.ⁱ</p>	
<p>REFERENCE SOURCES Changing Face of Mount Eden, page 32, page 64, page 68 NZ Herald 1 December 1921, page 9 NZ Herald December 3 1921.page 10 Potters Park Management Plan, approved by Mt Eden Borough Council in 1989.</p>	<p>REGISTERED OWNER</p>
<p>PHOTOGRAPHS (HISTORICAL)</p>  <p>View of Frederick Potters Farm which was located in Potters Park. The house was demolished in 1938. The pine trees in this photo may be those that are still in the park along its east boundary. AIM, scanned from Changing Face of Mount Eden, page 68.</p>	<p>ARCHITECT / DESIGNER Mr J Rogers, the Borough Engineer</p>
<p>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE</p> <p>Potters Park has been a significant landscaped park at the main intersection of Dominion Road and Balmoral Road since its opening in 1921.</p> <p>It is evidence of the generosity of Mr Frederick Seymour Potter, who donated the land in 1916 and was a generous benefactor in Auckland. It has important associations with the Potter family as well as James Paice who bought large areas of land in Mt Eden Borough in the 1860s.</p> <p>It has important associations with the Mt Eden Borough's efforts during the WWI, to support war efforts by growing vegetables here, and was also used for emergency trenches.</p> <p>The layout of the park was designed by the Mount Eden Borough Engineer Mr J Rogers. Plants and play equipment were donated by local residents as well as the Auckland Racing Club.</p> <p>The Balmoral shopping centre was substantially built during the 1920s when the tram line extended to this point in Dominion Road and the opening of the park is further evidence of the consolidation of this area as a commercial and community centre at this time.</p> <p>The large pine trees are thought to be part of the garden associated with the Potters home on the site prior to the forming of the park. The stone wall on the northern boundary of the park is located on the original lot boundary between lots 107 and 106 and is likely to be one of the earliest surviving stone boundary fences in the area.</p>	<p>PERIOD / DATE OF CONSTRUCTION Park opened in 1921</p> <p>MATERIALS</p> <p>INTEGRITY/ SIGNIFICANT ELEMENTS The pine trees and stone wall on the northern boundary of the park are thought to be remnants from Potters occupation of the site. Pine trees can be seen in historic photos which show the house on this site prior to its removal in 1938. The wall is on one of the original crown grant boundaries and is probably one of the earliest surviving walls along Dominion Road.</p>
<p>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE</p> <p> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> HISTORICAL <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURAL <input type="checkbox"/> TECHNOLOGICAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AESTHETIC <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC <input type="checkbox"/> SPIRITUAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRADITIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIAL <input type="checkbox"/> RARITY VALUE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GROUP VALUE <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER </p>	<p>STREETSCAPE VALUE Potters Park is a significant landscaped reserve in the area which has defined this corner for over eighty years. The mature pine trees are significant landmarks, visible from both the northern and southern ends of Dominion Road.</p>
	<p>CONTRIBUTION TO COLLECTIVE CHARACTER HERITAGE VALUE High</p> <p>DATE OF SURVEY September 2006</p> <p>EXTERIOR: INTERIOR:</p>
<p>PREPARED BY: Matthews & Matthews Architects Ltd and L.J.Truttman FOR: AUCKLAND CITY COUNCIL (Read in conjunction with Character Heritage Study)</p>	<p>BY: Matthews & Matthews Architects Ltd</p> <p>CHECKED:</p> <p>PHOTOGRAPHED:</p>

ⁱ Changing Face of Mount Eden, page 32, page 64, page 68