

# 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:** Masonic Cricket Club (MCC)

**Address:** Devonport Domain [Vauxhall Reserve] Vauxhall Road, Devonport

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ID: 574 Category: B Use: Community Building DP Map: 32

Material 1: Condition: Cultural Heritage:

Material 2: Integrity: Streetscape:

Construction Dates Late (19<sup>th</sup>) nineteenth century

From: To: Alteration Dates:

Legal Description: Part Allotment 39 of Section 2 of Takapuna Parish

Zoning: Recreation 4

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**Architect/Designer/Contractor:**

Not known

**Architectural Style:**

Victorian sports pavilion

**Reference Source:**

As footnoted below

**NZHPT Listing:**

Not registered by NZHPT

**Significant Elements:**

A rectangular pavilion with verandah across the front which once faced onto tennis courts. Gablet over main entry door, hipped roof with lean-tos over rear mens and ladies toilets. Timber construction, corrugated steel roof, verandah floor replaced with concrete slab.

Internally lounge area occupies entire front of club house, with bar area behind. Mens toilet and storeroom occupies one end of the floor, ladies toilets the other.

**Extent of Listing:**

Entire exterior of building.

**History:**

Originally swamp land, the Devonport Domain was granted to the Superintendent of the Province of Auckland under the Public Reserves Act 1854 for Harbour Improvement Works. In 1869 the area was changed to an endowment for educational purposes and in 1880 it became a recreation ground. In this year the Devonport Tennis Club was established, assisted by the efforts of lawyer JB Russell who was instrumental in getting the area transferred to Devonport Borough as a Domain.<sup>1</sup>

Initially only one court was formed, but as swamp drainage works continued three courts were in use by 1885. A pavilion was built in the late nineteenth century and the club expanded to 6 courts, looked after by 2 groundsmen in the 1930s when the club was at the height of its popularity.

Competition from the hard courts at the Vauxhall and Ngataranga clubs, together with the expense of maintaining grass courts was too much and the old club disbanded in October 1963. In the early 1970s the Masonic Cricket Club was formed and has occupied the building since then. It is a social Sunday club and uses the pavilion during games and for club functions<sup>2</sup>.

**Statement of Significance**

The former Devonport Tennis Club and the Masonic Cricket Club are important local sports clubs.

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<sup>1</sup> Holman, Dinah and Adam, John, North Shore City Parks Heritage Inventory Buildings and Structures, November 2001

<sup>2</sup> North Shore City Archives, Sale of Liquor Act Application

*Architecture:*

This purpose-built clubhouse is a simple pavilion and similar designs were used for sport clubs throughout New Zealand, the North Shore and Devonport

*History:*

This pavilion is significant for its associations with lawyer JB Russell and the disbanded Devonport Tennis Club and from the late 1970s onwards the Masonic Cricket Club. Lawn tennis became popular in England in the late nineteenth century and the game quickly swept the English speaking world. Many grand houses in Devonport and elsewhere sported their own courts and clubs were popular.

The Cricket Club is important in representing themes in the historic development of Devonport including Sport, Community Organizations and Facilities.

*Context:*

Located in the western portion of the Devonport Domain, known as the Vauxhall reserve, the club house is surrounded by the Domain itself, the North Shore Rugby Football Club to the east and by houses to its rear.