

## BEAUCHAMP FUNERAL HOME – 280 Kimbolton Road, Feilding



**Architect:** E V West

**Construction date:** 1925

**Visible materials:** Brick walls, shingled gables, weatherboarded dormer, steel and leaded plain and coloured glass windows, timber entry door, tiled entry porch with rendered concrete columns, concrete tiles

**Architectural style:** Inter War English Domestic Revival

**Use/building type:** Residential

**Date and compiler:** Ian Bowman, December 2014

**Heritage New Zealand Registration:** -

**Proposed category:** B

### PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY

The house was constructed in 1925 for James Knight. James Knight served on the Council of the New Zealand Southdown Sheep Society from 1926-1950. He was one of the founders of the Feilding Agricultural High School, serving on the Board of Managers for 25 years and as Chairman from 1931-1946. After his death in 1950, the property was sold to the Presbyterian Church for use as a conference centre. Dr. and Mrs. Munro bought the property in 1967. It is now associated with funeral directors whose chapel and offices are adjacent.

### Architect<sup>1</sup>

Ernst Vilhem West (1886-1961) was the son of Danish architect, Ludolph Georg West who settled in New Zealand in 1868 and who began practising as an architect about 1880. E V West joined the firm in 1912. After the death of L G West in 1919, he entered into partnership with two other architects at various times. The practice changed its name several times during this period, the sequence being as follows: L.G. West & Son (1912-1931), L.G. West, Son & Hornibrook (1931-1939), L.G. West & Son (1939-1950), and L.G. West, Son & Callander (1950-1961). The firm was responsible for a large number of Palmerston North's buildings. Among those still standing designed by the practice are the Former

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<sup>1</sup> <http://thecommunityarchive.org.nz/node/72591/description>

Club Hotel (1905), the Manawatu–Kilwinning Masonic Lodge (1908), the Old Soldiers Club (1917), Carlton Hotel (1927), the Cosmopolitan Club (1928), the National Mutual Building (1929), the Church of Christ Scientist (1931) and Ward Brothers Building (1935). Ernst was a borough Councillor between 1921–25. He was a keen horseman and pilot.

### **ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION**

The house is two storeyed at the front and has a single storey wing at the rear. It is designed in the English Domestic revival style which is an amalgam of a number of revival styles and periods, as was popular in the Edwardian period. The overarching movement, which inspired the Domestic Revival style, was the Arts and Crafts Movement. Its guiding philosophy was to encourage traditional art and craftsmanship and its main contribution to architecture was a revival of vernacular English domestic architectural styles with a preference for Gothic. These styles collectively called the English Domestic Revival included 'Old English' and 'Queen Anne', both of which have elements of English Renaissance. Architects who explored the architectural possibilities of this period wished to find a purely English style without looking to other countries for inspiration and which also fulfilled a continuing desire for the picturesque of the Gothic movement.

The key elements of the style included informality in massing, asymmetrical plans, dominant roofs often gabled with tile, bay windows, tall chimneys, with rough cast, or natural earthy coloured materials such as brick.

The house has a gable extending the length of the house in the north south direction and has a shallow bow window on the ground floor. At right angles extending the width of the house is a pair of parallel gables, the northern most projecting beyond the southern most on the west elevation. The latter gable roof creates a catslide roof on the street elevation and has a dormer over the central, columned, entrance portico. A hip roofed wing extends to the rear from the north-west corner.

The house is constructed of double brick with a rusticated brick base. The gables are clad with shingles, which have bellcast or sprocketed eaves. Windows throughout are steel and many have diamond pattern leaded glass and there is a round-headed window on the west elevation that has painted and leaded glass. The main entry has plain geometric tiles on the floor. The dormer has shiplap weatherboard cladding. Roofing is concrete tiles with exposed timber rafters. There is a tall chimney at the rear of the main block with an ornate chimney head. The chimney to the single storey wing is plain.

The house is located in an outer suburb of Feilding and is set in expansive grounds with lawns and mature trees. To the east is a large funeral home and to the west is a building matching the house in materials and design with four garages and a car port. It has double dormers in the roof. There is extensive asphalt and concrete paving with parking spaces marked out. A fence of concrete posts and metal railings is located on the street boundary.

No plans of the building have been sighted and the interior could not be inspected.

### **REVIEW OF REPORT**

Based on a review of the report and viewing of Council files, the assessment undertaken in 2014 for this building is still applicable as at April 2021.

## SUMMARY OF HERITAGE VALUES

The building has **high local** significance for **physical, historic** and **cultural** heritage values.

The house has **high architectural** and **representative** values as its design has all the main characteristics of the English Domestic Revival style in its planning, materials, and detailing. The craftsmanship and materials are of a very high standard.

The house has **high rarity** values, as there are few English Domestic Revival houses in the district.

From the exterior, the building appears to have **high authenticity** in materials, design, and craftsmanship.

The house has **moderate associative** values, as its original owner, James Knight, was locally important for his work in agriculture and education. It also has values in its association with Ernst West, whose practice was well regarded in the period 1919 to 1961.

The house has **moderate educational** values as an example of a nationally popular, but locally rare architectural style and forms of construction for residential buildings of the era and as an example of the practice of Ernst West.

## SOURCES

Former NZHPT Manawatu Branch Committee file