

Research Guide to the St James Theatre Complex

Introduction

The St James Theatre complex located between 304 and 328 Queen Street is often the subject of enquiries by customers at Auckland Council Archives. This guide outlines some resources we hold on the site.

Background

The St James Theatre was built in 1928 for John Fuller and Sons Limited and was used for both live theatre and cinema. The theatre was designed by architect Henry Eli White. Over time various additions and alterations were made to the building complex. The Odeon Cinema was added in 1957, followed by the Westend Cinema in 1966. The Regent Cinema was opened in 1982.

Resources held by Auckland Council Archives

- Building permit plans

The building permit plans are held in Series **AKC 305** and **AKC 336**.

AKC 305 consists of envelopes containing small building permit plans, permit applications, specifications and other documentation. The amount of information retained on file varies from property to property and some envelopes are empty.

AKC 336 these are large permit plans that are kept separately in rolled storage due to their size.

The key thing to note is that these series are arranged by street address, only occasionally details such as the name of a building are recorded. To search for building permit information it is necessary first to have an idea of the street address. For sites such as the St James, which cover multiple street numbers, the permits may be located under a variety of addresses as seen in the table below. Not all of the plans will be for the St James Theatre.

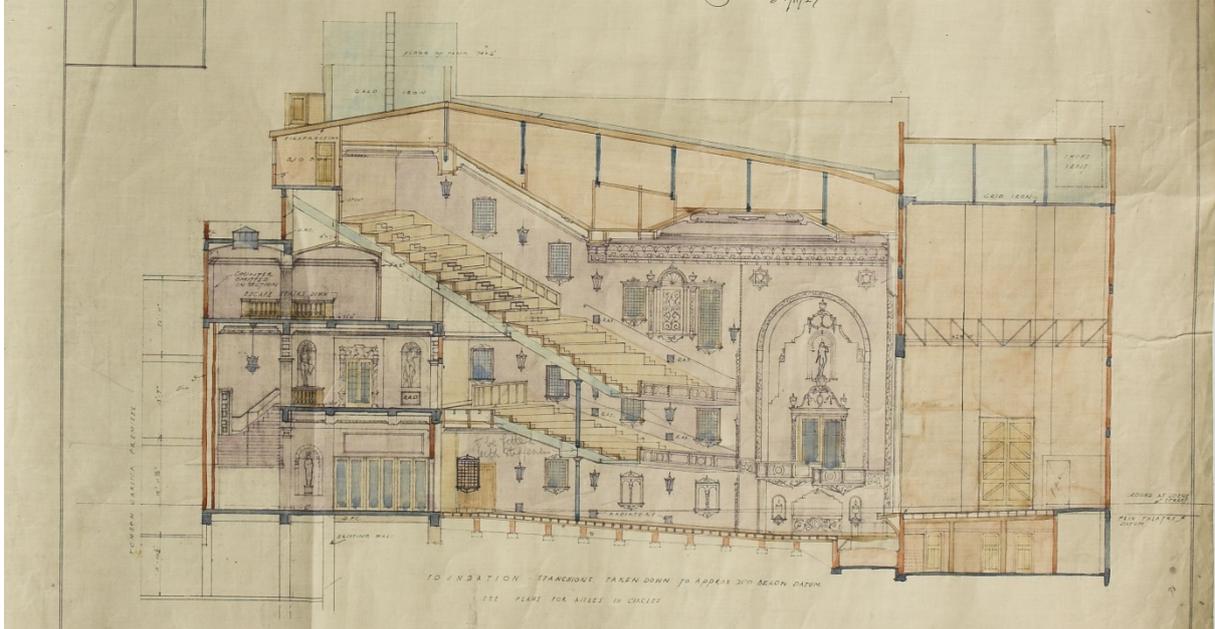
The plans in both AKC 305 and AKC 336 have been microfilmed. During microfilming, all plans were assigned current street addresses. The microfilm copies are held in series **AKC 339**. These are arranged in our database by street name only.

Address	Date	Archives Reference
304-310 Queen Street	-	AKC 336/266
304-314 Queen Street	-	AKC 336/1159
304-314 Queen Street	-	AKC 336/1245
310-312 Queen Street	-	AKC 336/597
312 Queen Street	-	AKC 336/595
316-320 Queen Street	-	AKC 336/628
316-320 Queen Street	-	AKC 336/632
316-320 Queen Street	-	AKC 336/635
316-328 Queen Street	-	AKC 336/626
322-324 Queen Street	-	AKC 336/593
326-328 Queen Street	-	AKC 336/583
304 Queen Street	1979-1979	AKC 305/15/Box 236
304-310 Queen Street	1991-1991	AKC 305/7/Box 236
304-314 Queen Street	1926-1951	AKC 305/10/Box 236
304-314 Queen Street	1927-1977	AKC 305/11/Box 236
304-314 Queen Street	1925-1925	AKC 305/16/Box 236
304-314 Queen Street	1946-1977	AKC 305/58/Box 236
312 Queen Street	1927-1982	AKC 305/14/Box 236
312 Queen Street	1957-1957	AKC 305/13/Box 529
314 Queen Street	1989-1989	AKC 305/12/Box 236
314 Queen Street	1978-1978	AKC 305/13/Box 236
314 Queen Street	1981-1981	AKC 305/27/Box 378
314 Queen Street	1992-1992	AKC 305/27/Box 546
316-320 Queen Street	1958-1963	AKC 305/23/Box 236
316-320 Queen Street	1927-1943	AKC 305/24/Box 236
316-320 Queen Street	1980-1982	AKC 305/25/Box 236
316-320 Queen Street	1983-1983	AKC 305/26/Box 236
316-320 Queen Street	1958-1981	AKC 305/14/Box 529
316-320 Queen Street	1992-1992	AKC 305/24/Box 546
316-320 Queen Street	1991-1991	AKC 305/25/Box 546
320 Queen Street	1982-1982	AKC 305/21/Box 378
320-322 Queen Street	n.d	AKC 305/32/Box 236
322-324 Queen Street	1922-1970	AKC 305/33/Box 236
322-324 Queen Street	1975-1975	AKC 305/57/Box 236
322-324 Queen Street	1950-1975	AKC 305/19/Box 529
324 Queen Street	1983-1983	AKC 305/36/Box 236
324 Queen Street	1983-1983	AKC 305/2/Box 529
326-328 Queen Street	1929-1955	AKC 305/37/Box 236
326-328 Queen Street	1982-1984	AKC 305/38/Box 236
326-328 Queen Street	1984-1984	AKC 305/23/Box 529

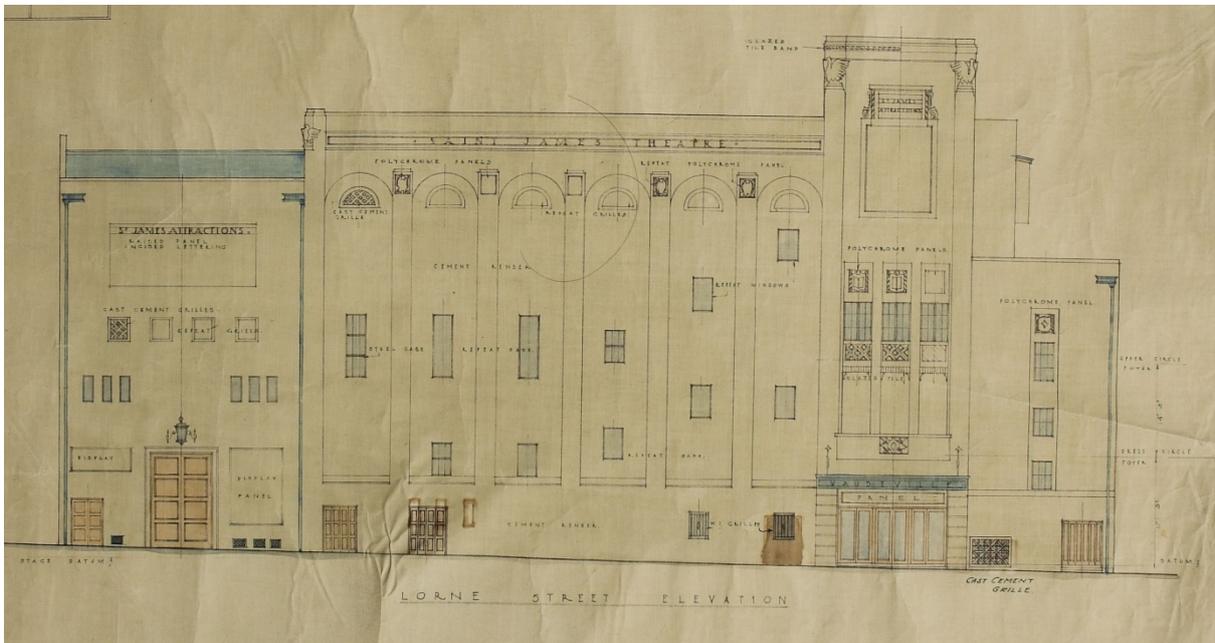
Copies of all known building permit plans should all be held on the digital Property File, which can be accessed at the Graham Street Service Centre. The property information link on the Auckland Council website is:

<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/ratesbuildingproperty/propertyinformation/Pages/home.aspx>

- Permit Plans from series AKC 336



St James Theatre Auckland for John Fuller and Sons, Longitudinal Section. Designed by Henry E. White. AKC 336 Item 1159 Permit Number 4554, sheet 12 of 34.



St James Theatre Auckland for John Fuller and Sons, Lorne Street Elevation. Designed by Henry E. White. AKC 336 Item 1159 Permit Number 4554, sheet 26 of 34.

Other Types of Files

- **Town Clerk's Department subject files – ACC 275**

These files cover a wide range of subjects and include correspondence, reports, newspaper clippings and a variety of other documents.

SAINT JAMES THEATRE - LORNE AND QUEEN STREETS, 1927, ACC 275/27-380/Box 126

- **Works Department subject files – ACC 219**

This series covers a wide range of topics that were the concern of the Works Department. Files include a variety of documents such as correspondence, reports, plans and legal documents.

LIGHT AND VENTILATION AREAS FOR ST JAMES THEATRE, QUEEN STREET. HENRY E WHITE - FULLER AND SONS LTD ALSO ODEON THEATRE AND PROPOSED SECOND ODEON THEATRE, WEST END THEATRE AND NEW EMBASSY THEATRE, 1927-1981, ACC 219/1094f/box 1094

SUBDIVISION LORNE STREET - ST JAMES THEATRE BLOCK, 1928, ACC 219/470b/Box 470

DISTRICT SCHEME -B5/197 BUILDING FOR PRESERVATION - ST JAMES THEATRE, 1978, ACC 219/73-105-25-57/Box 200

- **Seismic reports - ACC 024**

These files contain colour polaroid photographs of the building's exterior at the time of survey, survey notes, an inspection checklist regarding building structure, copies of aerial photographs showing building location and a copy of the certificate of title.

304-310 QUEEN STREET [ST JAMES THEATRE], 1982, ACC 024/10ae

316-328 QUEEN STREET [REGENT], 1982, ACC 024/10af

- **Valuation Department subject files - ACC 208**

The Valuation Department was responsible for the valuation of properties for rating purposes and when Council was buying or selling property.

RENTS AND SERVICES - QUEEN STREET BUILDINGS AND COMMERCIAL PREMISES - 304-320 QUEEN STREET, SAINT JAMES BUILDINGS - JOHN FULLER AND SONS LIMITED, SAINT JAMES THEATRE, ODEON / THEATRE, WESTEND THEATRE, 1947-1983, ACC 208/23p

RENTS AND SERVICES - QUEEN STREET BUILDINGS AND COMMERCIAL PREMISES - 327/328A QUEEN STREET AND KERRIDGE ODEON - REGENT THEATRE OFFICES AND BANK OF NEW ZEALAND, 1945-1983, ACC 208/23o

- **Valuation Department plans - ACC 470**

REGENT THEATRE 318 QUEEN STREET, 1969, ACC 470/8h

WESTEND & ODEON THEATRES, 1967, ACC 470/8i

- **Mayoral Office speeches and invites - ACC 447**

OPENING OF REGENT CINEMA - 25TH AUGUST, 1982, ACC 447/5i

- **Publications - ACC 398**

Publications issued by Auckland City Council on many different subjects.

ROYAL VARIETY PERFORMANCE ST JAMES THEATRE OCTOBER 16, 1981, ACC 398/13b

- **Public Hall, theatre and billiard hall licences - ACC 490**

The licence applications cover 1935 to 1985. Applications and licences include name of applicant, address of property being licenced; purpose of use; number of people allowed on property; date (of issue or application). Applications also include other details such as manager; description of building and signatures of city engineer and municipal fire chief.