

for a grand piano, a wardrobe area set on a mezzanine level, as well as artists' rooms and an open-plan assembly area.

Technically the Prince Edward Auditorium is fully equipped. The control room runs the full width of the building and is suspended above the two doors leading from the entrance foyer.

A fully integrated sound system is installed in the building, with microphone jacks recessed in the stage floor immediately above the orchestra pit. There is also an in-house intercom system from the control room to the assembly area.

Two lighting bridges, front-of-the-house spot bars and three stage spots bars accommodate the 12 x 1kW Harmony 15/28 Profile spots;

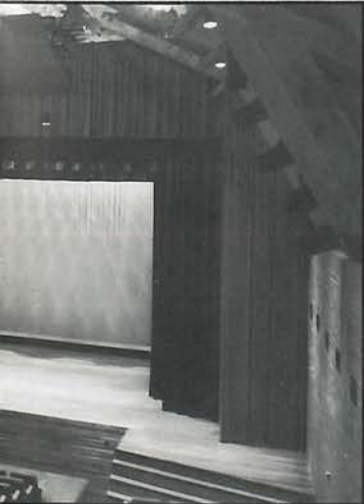
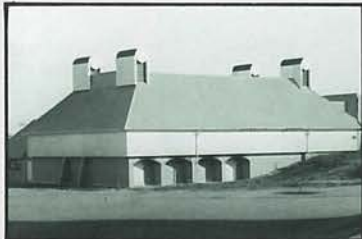
# ZEALAND

● Wanganui

the 12 x 1kW Harmony Fresnels and the 6 x 650W Prelude 16/30 Profile spots.

Opened in early August 1984, the Prince Edward Auditorium of Collegiate School, Wanganui will prove to be a great asset in the cultural side of the school's life. ■

*The unusual exterior of the Prince Edward auditorium.*



## WANGANUI OPERA HOUSE

by John & Penny Richardson

The Wanganui Opera House was built in 1899 and opened in 1900 at a cost of N.Z. £5,200 to commemorate the long reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen Victoria.

As the theatre was to be lit by electricity, the construction was of timber. The foundation stone was laid on the 13th July, 1899, and the building was finished in time for the opening in February, 1900.

The theatre had to supply its own

today. The Tramway has now gone as has the 16hp Crossley Bros. engine. D.C. was still used in the theatre until 1982 to feed two arcs. These lamps were still operating, but finally the supply of carbons ran out, and so they were replaced. The D.C. was provided by a 3 phase A.C. motor coupled to a Westinghouse D.C. Generator.

The original lighting in the theatre consisted of 3 x-rays, each containing 18 lamps, footlights containing 30 lamps and ground lamps containing 10 lamps. The theatre had five dimmers to cover these circuits.

*Below: The stately auditorium of the Wanganui Opera House.*



electricity, which was to be generated on the premises. A temporary gas engine, installed for the opening season, had to be supplemented by the Town Council's Traction Engine. Later, when a 16hp Crossley Brothers engine arrived, its noise was found to interfere with actors' voices. Gas lighting, which had already been installed for rehearsals, was therefore extended throughout the theatre. Finally the power supply problem was overcome when D.C. was supplied from the Town's Tramway System. The control board for the D.C. supply from the Tramway and the Generating Plant is still in existence in the theatre

Although the construction is of timber, the building has survived 3 fires: one in the refreshment booth and ceiling; one in a dressing room, which claimed the life of an actress and the most recent one was in the annexe, which was full of scenery for Peter Pan. This show opened a few days later with no loss of scenery.

The theatre currently seats 428 in the Dress Circle and 604 in the stalls.

The Stage is 50 feet wide and 44 feet deep.

The Proscenium is 28 feet wide and 26 feet high.

The Flyfloor is 20 feet above the stage, with the grid 25 feet higher. ■