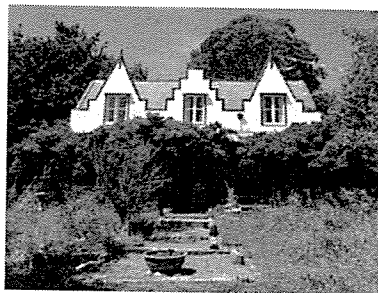


Notices continued...

Holton House – 150 years young

A landmark property at Ruby Bay Nelson, Holton House, (Category 2 listed), recently celebrated 150 years. Built in 1867, this Dutch-colonial style residence was originally a holiday home for a prominent Nelson merchant family, the Buxtons.



Edmund Buxton and his family, immigrated to Nelson in 1851. He ran a very successful merchant company E. Buxton and Company, and in 1867 he was able to retire in some style. It was then that his family's holiday home at Ruby Bay mid-way between Nelson and Motueka was constructed. At this time the roading infrastructure was such that road travel was difficult and most access to the area was by boat from Nelson. Following a family tragedy, the Buxtons leased the property to William Howard Stafford. Eventually buying the property, the Staffords are credited with the introduction of apples and apricots into the district, leading to the beginnings of export fruit production in the area and to the naming of Ruby Bay.

In the mid 20th century, the residence became a retirement retreat and its then owners, the Tyndale-Biscoes, made several additions to the house. It has continued to be used as a residence and for a short period in the late 20th century it was also used as a bed and breakfast.

Holton House is a two-stored, timber framed building, constructed around a lengthwise steep gable whose ends feature elegant bargeboards. The gable is punctuated by three dormers on its north face, and it is through their Dutch and Belgian Gothic inspired steep surrounds that the house is provided with its distinctive feature. The south side of the house has large additions dating from the late 20th century. The interior has been extensively modified but the upper levels still reflect the complex array of spaces created by interaction of the dormer windows and main gable.

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