

Architectural Damage and Reconstruction of Hastings in 1931 Hawke's Bay Earthquake, New Zealand

ニュージーランド, 1931年ホークスベイ地震におけるヘイスティングスの被害と復興

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The 1931 Hawke's Bay Earthquake hit the urban areas of Napier and Hastings, twin town in Hawke's Bay and caused heavy damage of peoples and buildings. The damage and reconstruction process of Napier were discussed in detail by Conly(1980), McGregor(1989), Dowrick(1998), Wright(2001) and Uemura(2008), but on case of Hastings, there were a few attempts as Conly(1980), Wright(2001), and Fowler(2007). The author discusses the actual condition of damage and reconstruction of Hastings compared with the case of Napier.

1. Damage by 1931 Hawke's Bay Earthquake

Hastings is located on the fertile alluvial plain called Heretaunga and situated in 20km south from Napier. Agriculture, livestock and food processing are main economic activity in this area. Twenty four blocks of central Hastings should be examined for distribution of damage caused by 1931 earthquake. These blocks are bounded by Hastings St, Avenue Rd, Nelson St and Lyndon St each four sides, and is called as CBD of Hastings in the following. Ninety three peoples were killed and about two thousands were injured in Hastings area. The death rate is 0.8%. Distribution map of sixty two dead in CBD was made. Twenty seven in No 20, and ten each in No 6 and No18 were killed. In No 20, many employees and customers of Roach's depart, and readers of Public Library were died by collapse of buildings. In No 6, three peoples each were killed in Grand Hotel and Post office, and eight peoples in No18 were killed in Cozy theatre.

2. Reconstruction of CBD of Hastings

In February 24th, Hastings Earthquake Relief Committee was stood up and Mayor Roach was appointed a head. In March 11th, Hawke's Bay Rehabilitation Committee was established in Napier. Napier Borough Council decided to hand over the power and to be under control of the committee during two years. But, in case of Hastings, Business Restoration Committee, Borough Council and resident of Hastings supported the plan on widening of 3m width Heretaunga Street between Tomoana Street and Willow Park Street proposed by government. But, a group of property owner and proprietor along Heretaunga Street incited by Mr. Ebbett who was a former mayor and leading property owner objected to widening of the street. Further, Ebbett tried to persuade council from widening the street by political power. At end of July, the council gave up the plan of widening after all. Hastings had failed in widening and reform of streets, but Napier was a great success in widening and reform of streets. In CBD of Hastings, many one story new buildings of Spanish and Art Deco style were erected. Architectures of Westerman, Harvey and Villa d'Este etc are recognized as Spanish, and Holden, Nutter, Hurst and Clock Tower are as modernized Deco style. Landscape of CBD of Hastings is characterized by flattish and straight line of architecture symbolized as city of plain.